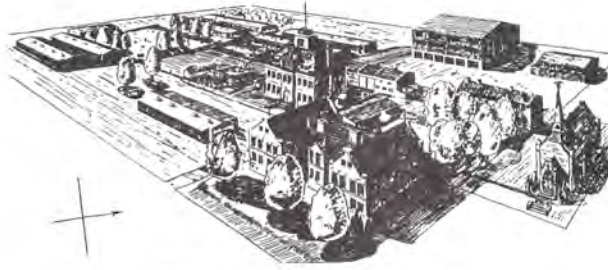


Post Oflag 64 Item



Artist's drawing of Oflag 64 without barbed-wire fences or guard towers
Drawing by Jim Bickers

3RD QUARTER 2016

Editor/Printing and Mailing

Elodie Caldwell
2731 TERRY AVE
LONGVIEW WA 98632-4437
elodie@oflag64.us

Treasurer

Bret Job
4240 TRAIL RIDGE LN
MINNETONKA MN 55345-2254
bretjob@heartlandamerica.com

Webmaster

Bill Caldwell
2731 TERRY AVE
LONGVIEW WA 98632-4437
webmaster@oflag64.us

Contributors to this issue

Tom Cobb
Kay Cruise
Janet Ellsworth
Bret Job
Anne & Tom Kreutzer
Marlene & Taylor McAllister
John Rodgers, Sr.
Tom Sigler
Dave Steward
Pat Waters
Nancy Wyatt
Mariusz Winiecki

Oflag 64

Descendants of American Kriegies visit Poland

Hello Oflag 64 Families,

Please forgive the delay in publishing the ITEM this quarter. Our trip to Poland delayed efforts to publish it on schedule, but please enjoy the reports and photos that are contained within this issue of the ITEM.

Marlene McAllister and Anne Kreutzer wrote: We are so excited to report on our trip to Oflag 64 in Szubin Poland! Although we visited many places of great interest and historical significance, in this issue we will concentrate primarily on the events of two days; the wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw and the day we spent in Szubin, from beginning to end.

But first, we want to thank Krystyna Piórkowska, a historical researcher and author of "English-speaking Witnesses to Katyń", who coordinated our trip. She was instrumental in introducing us to Polish leadership both in Warsaw and in Szubin. We had amazing access to experts at each museum and venue. We would not have had the opportunity to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw without Krystyna and her status in the community. We learned so much from her about the Katyń massacre and Polish history in general. As many of you are aware, John Van Vliet II and Donald B. Stewart, late Oflag 64 Kriegies, were the two English-speaking witnesses to the site of the Katyń massacre. Krystyna spent countless hours contacting people in Poland to arrange for hotels, vans, tours, tour guides, transportation, water, meals, flower wreaths, and most importantly press coverage at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. She also served as our interpreter in many instances. We are very grateful for the time she spent doing these things.

We also must thank Mariusz Winiecki for his coordination of official events in Szubin. Mariusz is a private citizen of Szubin and a historian. He is a professional engineer but has a keen interest in the history of his home city and nation. The day in Szubin was very special. As you will see from the photos, there were many, many Szubin people at the events. The city was so enthusiastic about our visit from the grandson of the printer finding the printing press to show us, to the large scouting troop participating in the wreath ceremony! We will be working with Mariusz and Szubin leadership to provide any assistance possible to preserve Oflag 64 history.

Please let any of us know if you have questions or comments! We considered it an honor to represent not only our Dads but our wonderful Association as well.

Best Regards,
Tom Cobb
Elodie Ellsworth Caldwell & Janet Ellsworth
Anne Hoskot Kreutzer & Tom Kreutzer
Marlene Thompson McAllister & Taylor McAllister
Nancy Thompson Wyatt
George Patton "Pat" Waters



A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

Postage Fund Donors

THANKS to all who have generously donated to the postage and/or reunion funds. Without such thoughtful contributions, mailing the ITEM and other materials or information would not be possible.

Kay Cruise
Anne Kreutzer
Anonymous Donors

If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to Oflag 64 Postage Fund and mail your donation to:

Bret Job or **Elodie Caldwell**
4240 Trail Ridge Ln 2731 Terry Ave
Minnetonka MN Longview WA
55345-2554 98632-4437



Do you know why?

After leaving Oflag 64, several of our Kriegies ended up in different places. When it was time to return home, some departed from Hammelburg, some from Luckenwalde, others escaped to Odessa, Russia or other places, and some were repatriated.

Other than those who escaped to Odessa, etc., do you know why some went to Hammelburg and some to Luckenwalde? The list below shows where Kriegies ended up after leaving Oflag 64 or Oflag 64Z.

Kriegies departing from Hammelburg:	269
Kriegies departing from Luckenwald(e):	279
Kriegies departing from Odessa:	1698
Kriegies departing from Unknown:	122

According to our database, the total Kriegies to depart from the above-listed places, 1548 were residents of Oflag 64 and 236 were residents of Oflag 64Z. Others unknown.

Did those from Oflag 64Z all go to Luckenwalde? Why were some of the Oflag 64 Kriegies moved to Oflag 64Z. Questions, questions.

Thanks for your help,
Elodie Caldwell at elodie@oflag64.us



If you have anything to submit for print in the ITEM, please contact Elodie at the contact address on the front page of this publication. If you send photos, digital scans of original photos or anything that can be sent in .jpg format is great. If you are unable to scan photos, I would be glad to scan the originals and send them back to you. Documents can also be sent in .pdf format. Thank you very much.

Also, if you notice errors or omissions, or find links that don't work properly, please let us know at elodie@oflag64.us. Thank you for your patience with this sometimes slow process.



Thanks to **Bret Job**, our Oflag 64 Association Treasurer, for providing the following information on expenses from September 2014 to September 2016. Expenses include printing and mailing of the ITEM and purchase of other miscellaneous supplies or services on occasion.

Begin Month	Begin. Bal.	Contrib.	Expend.	Ending Bal.	End Month
Sep 1 2014	\$11,807.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,807.85	Sep 30 2014
Oct 1 2014	\$11,807.85	\$50.00	\$753.94	\$11,103.91	Oct 31 2014
Nov 1 2014	\$11,103.91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,103.91	Nov 30 2014
Dec 1 2014	\$11,103.91	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$11,353.91	Dec 31 2014
Jan 1 2015	\$11,353.91	\$230.00	\$427.62	\$11,156.29	Jan 31 2015
Feb 1 2015	\$11,156.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,156.29	Feb 29 2015
Mar 1 2015	\$11,156.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,156.29	Mar 31 2015
Apr 1 2015	\$11,156.29	\$325.00	\$661.25	\$10,820.04	Apr 30 2015
May 1 2015	\$10,820.04	\$310.00	\$0.00	\$11,130.04	May 31 2015
Jun 1 2015	\$11,130.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,130.04	Jun 30 2015
Jul 1 2015	\$11,130.04	\$200.00	\$423.14	\$10,906.90	Jul 31 2015
Aug 1 2015	\$10,906.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,906.90	Aug 31 2015
Sep 1 2015	\$10,906.90	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$11,106.90	Sep 30 2015
Oct 1 2015	\$11,106.90	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$11,456.90	Oct 31 2015
Nov 1 2015	\$11,456.90	\$0.00	\$817.05	\$10,639.85	Nov 30 2015
Dec 1 2015	\$10,639.85	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$11,039.85	Dec 30 2015
Jan 1 2016	\$11,039.85	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$11,339.85	Jan 30 2016
Feb 1 2016	\$11,339.85	\$0.00	\$597.62	\$10,742.23	Feb 28 2016
Mar 1 2016	\$10,742.23	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$11,042.23	Mar 31 2016
Apr 1 2016	\$11,042.23	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$11,242.23	Apr 30 2016
May 1 2016	\$11,242.23	\$120.00	\$343.96	\$11,018.27	May 31 2016
Jun 1 2016	\$11,018.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,018.27	Jun 30 2016
Jul 1 2016	\$11,018.27	\$300.00	\$421.48	\$10,896.79	Jul 31 2016
Aug 1 2016	\$10,896.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,896.79	Aug 31 2016
Sep 1 2016	\$10,896.79	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$11,096.79	Sep 30 2016





MAIL CALL



Glenn Burgess (son-in-law of Kriegy Wilbur “Bill” Sharpe) has been helping us by having Bill identify Kriegies in a 1971 photo. He wrote that that Bill was able to identify at least 12 Kriegies at first glance. *Glenn, thank you very much, and Cindy too for being the messengers for us. We know Bill has a good memory and also much information to share, so we appreciate what you all do to help us.*

Amon Carter III (son of the late Kriegy Amon Carter, Jr.) has recently contacted us asking for any information we have about his father during his stay at Oflag 64. If you have information to share, please let us know and we will send Amon your contact information. *Thank you, Amon, for contacting us. We know that information you’re looking for is out there. Hopefully we will hear from others and then can put them in contact with you.*



Susanna Connaughton (daughter of the late Kriegy Seymour Bolten) wrote that she would be thinking of us in Poland and reading our updates. She also wrote that she would miss travelling with us. In a subsequent email she asked if anyone has a mailing address or an email address for any of Joe Friedman’s descendants. Joe and his wife, Sylvia, were friends of her father’s during college and are mentioned in some of his letters. If you have information to share, please let us know and we’ll give Susanna your contact information. *Susanna, thanks for your well wishes for our Poland trip. We know you would’ve enjoyed making the trip again and we would have enjoyed having you along too, but perhaps next time? How’s the book research coming along? You must be doing a ton of reading.*

Michael Connell (2nd cousin of the late Father Brach) is looking for photos of him. If you have photos other than what are found on our

website, please let us know and we will send Mike your contact information. *Thanks, Mike, for writing. We have sent a query to our group with your request. Hopefully you will hear from them before long, if you haven’t already.*



Kay Cruise (daughter of the late Kriegy James Godfrey) wrote that she was so excited for the travelling group’s trip to visit Szubin and Oflag 64. She wished everyone a safe and wonderful trip and has been looking forward to hearing about it in the ITEM. Kay had hoped to go as well but had to cancel due to some health problems her husband has been experiencing. Perhaps a visit in the future? In a later email Kay wrote of several war stories she has recently run across. Please see the Kriegy News and Information section. Additionally, Kay sent a check for a copy of the book: John K. Waters’ Story, an Oral History with the remainder to go to the Postage Fund. *Thanks very much, Kay, for sharing the stories you just found. Amazing history! And thanks also for your well wishes for the group. We definitely had a wonderful time in Poland. We send well wishes to you and to your husband. We hope his recovery is progressing in a positive direction. We know that challenges can persist but our thoughts and prayers are with you both. The book has been sent and your check deposited.*



Kathleen Stewart Herrera (daughter of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart) contacted us recently and asked to be added to our email list. *Thanks, Kathleen, for contacting us. We are happy you found us and welcome you to our Oflag 64 Association Family. We have added you to our email list as requested.*

Nick Hoskot Jr. (son of the late Kriegy Nathaniel “Nat” Hoskot) recently wrote requesting that we add him to our email list. He

also sent compliments on the ITEM and wished the Poland travelling group well on the trip. *Nick, thanks so much for writing and for your kind words. We welcome you to our Oflag 64 Association family and have added you to our email list as requested.*



Anne Kreutzer (daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel "Nat" Hoskot) wrote not long ago with compliments and deep appreciation for the work that is done to inform, update and connect our Oflag 64 community. She also recently sent a contribution to our Postage Fund. *Thanks very much, Anne, for your thoughtful and generous contribution to the Postage Fund. Your contributions are always very much appreciated. And thanks, as well, for your kind words. It takes all of us pulling together to get the job done, and what we do couldn't be done without our Oflag 64 Association Family. I loved being with you and the others on our Poland trip. It was great returning home, but it was great being there as well.*

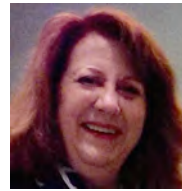


Herm Littman (Kriegy) wrote a nice letter not long ago complimenting us on the ITEM and correctly identifying some of our Kriegies in a photo that appeared in the last ITEM. We thought we might have made an error, but it takes printing it to find out for certain sometimes. Additionally, he sent photos and reported on where he and Larry are now living (on Samish Island in Washington state) and what they are doing. *Herm, it's always a joy hearing from you and learning about what's going on in yours and Larry's lives. We think of you often. Thank you always for thinking of us.*



Lucy Lussenden (widow of the late Kriegy Don Lussenden) sent greetings and comments about our trip to Poland. She commented that it is a very interesting country with so much interesting history. She had originally hoped to go on the trip, but wasn't able to make it this time around. *Lucy, it's always good to hear from you. We delivered Don's book to Mariusz (who was grateful to receive it) and we definitely enjoyed our trip.*

You're right about Poland and its history. It was absolutely beautiful there and we were amazed at how rich the history was.



Marlene McAllister (daughter of the late Kriegy Robert Thompson) after going through her father's papers, etc. found and provided Mariusz Winiacki with photos from the 1971 Kriegy return trip to Szubin. She also found a VHS tape of the trip. She is working on getting the tape converted to a DVD and will be able to share that with us in the future. *Yay, Marlene! Thanks so much for sharing your findings. We just love getting new photos and information. Keep them coming.*

Linda Rayfield (daughter of the late Kriegy Niram J. Meadows) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. She is looking for information about her father while he was at Oflag 64, so if you have any information to share, please let us know and we will give her your contact information. She shared that he worked with the garden, so that might be a good start. *Thanks so much, Linda, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 Association family. We have sent a query to our group. Hopefully you will hear something about your dad soon. You have been added to our email list as requested.*



John Rogers Sr. (Kriegy) emails regularly and shares lots of beautiful photos and philosophies, but he recently sent a letter by regular mail that included a story about how he met his wife after the war. Please see the Kriegy News and Information section for his story. He also sent a report of his POW experiences, which will be added to our website ASAP (we're always trying to catch up). *John, it's always a pleasure to receive your emails and also your letters/reports. Thank you for sharing how you met and married your wife and for sending your POW report.*

Tom Sigler (son of the late Kriegy Thornton Sigler) at our request sent a photo of Oflag 64 kept by his father in his war log, which identified buildings at the camp. We're so thankful for the

records our men kept. See the Kriegy News and Information section. Separately, Tom wrote that he hasn't been very active for a while, but feels he is on the repair road and well on his way to feeling better. *Thanks so much, Tom, for being willing to share the photo as well as others you sent. For those who recently traveled to Szubin to see the camp site, seeing the labeled photo helped put things in perspective for us. We hope you continue to feel well day to day. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

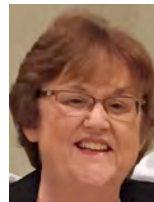


Dave Stewart (son of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart) after learning that a small group of Oflag 64 Association members would soon be travelling to Poland and having been there recently himself, sent some great ideas on how to blend in while in Poland, where to go to get the best chocolates, where to find good restaurants, etc. In one email, he told us to "plan on walking a lot." Was that ever true! *Thanks so much, Dave, for your great ideas. It's always good to learn from others. And now we know just what you were talking about when you said to plan on "walking a lot".*



Robert Stewart (son of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart) wrote with compliments on our ITEM coverage of his family's visits to Poland in 2015. You will probably remember that the Stewart and Van Vliet families participated in an observance of the 75th anniversary of the Katyn massacre at that time. He reported that the Polish people treated their family exceptionally well and that their presence was very much appreciated. He also recommended that we visit some of their very excellent museums, saying that each was well worth the time to visit. *Thank you very much, Bob, for writing and for sending compliments on the ITEM. Very much appreciated. We will keep everyone posted about future reunions. The next one won't be until 2018, a decision that was made at the 2015 reunion.*

Kathy Seringer Stokes (daughter of the late Kriegy Joe Seringer) wrote with an idea that it would be fun to publish the birthdays of our remaining living Kriegies so that we could send



them birthday cards. (How old are our guys now, anyway?) So, if you are a Kriegy reading this, please send us your birthday and we'll see how this works out. *Thanks very much, Kathy, for the great idea. I agree that all our Kriegies would love to hear from us.*

Linda Sutherland (daughter of the late Kriegy "Jock" Sutherland) and her husband Michael had originally intended on making the trip to Poland with our small group, but wrote that Michael began to experience some health problems that needed immediate attention, and that their trip would have to be cancelled. *Linda, thanks so much for writing. We certainly missed having you both with us in Poland. We hope that Michael is improving daily and that everything is progressing well. Our thoughts and prayers are with you both. We'll look forward to another trip in the future.*



John Van Vliet III (son of the late Kriegy John Van Vliet II) has been in communication with us and would like to be added to our email list. He and his family, along with the Stewart family went to Szubin last year for the observance of the 75th anniversary of the Katyn massacre. John has been sharing information as he's found it about his father's release from captivity. *Thank you very much, John for sharing the information you find. Please feel free to share whatever information or photos you may find as time goes by. We've added your name to our email list as requested.*



Bill Wenzel (Oflag 64 Association family member) has connections to Szubin where some of his family's ancestral homes are. He is still looking for someone he can pay to take photos and send them back to him. *Thanks, Bill, for writing. Good to hear from you. Hopefully a connection will be made and someone reading this will be able to help soon.*

W. Alexander Williams (son of the late Kriegy Thomas J. C. Williams) recently shared another interesting story about his dad and Lt. Col.

Waters. "Waters mentioned that he had been stationed in Charleston. My father asked if Waters knew a cousin, Miss Ferdinand (sic) Williams, nicknamed "Ferd." Our cousin Ferd was quite a character. Waters met not only her, he had escorted her to some sort of fancy party – full dress uniform and ball gown. After the party (in the wee hours of the morning, they went to a diner for something to eat. According to Waters, when Ferd saw the donuts in a display case, she asked Waters, "Do people actually eat those things?" Imagine my father hearing this tale about his eccentric cousin somewhere in the boondocks of Poland." *Thanks, W. Alexander, for sharing that story. Reading such stories brings our Kriegies to life and we enjoy when that happens.*



Paul Warczynski (curator of the new Katyń Museum in Warsaw) contacted us recently and asked to be added to our email list. *Paul, thank you very much for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 Association family. We*

enjoyed meeting you while we were in Warsaw. We have added you to our email list and would consider it an honor to be in regular contact with you as well.



Mariusz Winiecki (researcher and our good friend in Poland) recently shared copies of photos that were given to him by the Robert Thompson family. We previously sent some of them out asking for identification of

individuals. We are including them in this ITEM as well so if you are able to put names to the unidentified faces, please let us know. (Thanks to Robert Galloway, Sharon Franklin Hutchison, Margaret Batte Moore, Stephanie Phelan for your help so far.) See the Kriegy News and Information section. *Thanks so much, Mariusz, for your continuous supply of photos and information relating to Oflag 64. We have learned so much from you. It was an incredible experience for all of us who recently travelled to Poland to meet you and spend time with you. Looking forward to doing it again when the Hall of Remembrance is ready to open.*

COMMENTS

Let us know how we are doing. Constructive comments and criticisms are always appreciated.

Thank you for everything you all do for the ITEM; it is great. ~ **Bret Job**

Thanks for doing the newsletter....great work! ~ **Nick Hoskot, Jr.**

You do an excellent job and you have my gratitude! ~ **Anne Kreutzer**

Just got the ITEM and it is excellent as usual. ~ **Herm Littman**

Your coverage in the ITEM of our visits to Poland is excellent and is appreciated by all of us. ~ **Bob Stewart**

WEB VISITORS

We welcome you to our Oflag 64 Association family. Please visit our website often.



Amon Carter III - son of the late Kriegy Amon Carter, Jr.

Ron Hardy - returning visitor and son of the late Kriegy Ronald R. Hardy

Kathleen Stewart Herrera - daughter of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart

Nick Hoskot Jr. - son of the late Kriegy Nathaniel "Nat" R. Hoskot, Sr.

Linda Rayfield - daughter of the late Kriegy Nirman J. Meadows

John Van Vliet III - son of the late Kriegy John H. Van Vliet II

Paul Warczynski – curator of the new Katyń Museum in Warsaw

The logo for Oflag 64, featuring the text "Oflag 64" in a stylized yellow font on a dark green background.

KRIEGY NEWS & INFORMATION

Kay Cruise, daughter of the late Kriegy James T. Godfrey, shared the following information she found while going through her dad's papers. We would love to know more about the "50 men".

I have been going through more papers and found a letter written by my mother about an Oflag 64 reunion in 1986 in Orlando, Florida. That was the only one they attended. I did not see anything about this reunion on the website.

Following are some facts she relayed I thought you would find of interest. Perhaps you have heard of some of these. The one about the 50 men being shot who were in the tunnel digging when the Germans discovered it, was awful. The fact that they were cremated and the remains were on the shelf in the infirmary was especially interesting to me since Daddy was one of the physicians in the infirmary.

"A Dick Rossbach (who is listed in the POW database) wrote many letters to every James Godfrey and finally found my father. Dick was an avid fisherman and send my father a book on fishing and life. He had many medical issues in 1986 but when he found out my father and mother were going to attend the 1986 reunion he decided to attend with a friend (Joe Frelinghuysen). They both lived in New York and had escaped together from the camp and made it through the woods – crawling – and avoiding the Germans –till they got to Italy. They were taken in by a very poor Italian family – a hovel, they said . The family shared what food they had and they stayed there 2 days – always on the lookout for Germans. While there the daughter (married, but whose husband was at war) delivered a son. They helped all they could and kept guard. The Germans would have probably killed the family – probably the men too. Anyway, after the war was over Joe went back to Italy and found the family. Sponsored them and brought them back to the U.S., helping them in every way. The infant has since graduated from Rutgers University with a PhD in Economics.

Another man escaped and joined up with some Prussian soldiers, fighting alongside them until the Germans captured them and sent them to Belsen, one of the gas chambers camps. The Prussians were executed and he was scheduled to die the next day. Max Schmelling (the heavyweight boxer – and of German nationality) came into the camp with some storm troopers and said, "I hear you have an American here – I want to see him." They brought him out and Max Schmelling took him from the camp, saving his life.

One other doctor told of the tunnel they had dug for years being found by the Germans and 50 men taken out and shot. Cremated. Their ashes brought back into camp. The ashes stayed on a shelf in the infirmary until the prisoners were released.

The whole experience made me think what life is all about. Enduring friendships, overcoming terrible odds, thinking of others – Love in the deepest sense – a real caring."

In another note, my mother mentioned Odessa where my father was brought by Russian cattle train when released. When he was in Odessa he attended a Russian ballet while waiting for a British Red Cross ship to come home. During the show someone called for a doctor and he went out to find a wall had fallen on some of his "boys", killing them. And they were almost home after all those years. (I recall her mentioning that those soldiers had built a fire next to the wall to keep warm, but the wall was so old it collapsed).

The following photos were given to Mariusz Winiiecki by Marlene McAllister (daughter of Robert Thompson) while the travelling group was in Poland. Most, if not all of the photos, have not previously been seen by the majority of our Oflag 64 Association family. They were taken in 1971 when several of our Kriegies and their wives visited Poland. Many of the people have been identified, but some not. Please help us fill in the gaps if you know who they are or can confirm the information we show already.



1st row – l-r: Amon Carter, Irv Yarock, Leroy Ihrle, Jim Bancker, Jim Fraser, Col. William Schaefer, Peter Graffagnino, Don Waful, Roy Chappell, ??
 2nd row – l-r: Leonard Feldman, ??, Joe Friedman, Frank Maxwell, ??, ??, Ed Batte
 3rd row – l-r: Bob Thompson, Charlie Eberle, Ray Klinkenborg, Frank Diggs, tall man next to the monument, Larry Phelan (dark sunglasses), Tony Lumpkin, Gardner Simes, John Slack

Unidentified but not necessarily in the photo: Daniel Lewandowski, Brooks Kleber, Wright Bryan, Lewis Lowe, Gardner Simes, Jack Rathbone, Carl Hunsinger, Ed Moschel, Bill Bingham, Emmet Shaughnessy, Len Vaden



Left: Len Vaden
 Back a ways: Bob Thompson (dark jacket)
 Middle: Ed Bancker
 Right: Ed Moschel

Others too small to see:
 Billy Bingham
 Dr. Peter Graffagnino
 Leroy Ihrle



L-R: Top Photo - Charlie Eberle, John Slack, Frank Maxwell, laying a large wreath of red roses at the flame memorial just outside the camp. Note the scouts standing at attention in the foreground and at the far right. Photo at right - Same Kriegies after the wreath laying ceremony.



L-R: John Slack, Don Wafu?

L-R: Eugenia Grecka, Amon Carter, Jr.



Color photos taken of the camp while Kriegies and wives visited in 1971.
 (l-r: White House, hospital, hospital, one-story building, latrine, chapel)

The following story was sent by Kriegy John R. Rodgers, Sr. along with an account of his time spent at Oflag 64. The account will be added to our website. We wanted to share his “love story” with you here.

“One other aspect of my account is what happened after we were released. On leaving Camp Dix, Harry [Kriegy Harry E. Evans] and I were on our way home. Harry’s home was in Harrisburg PA and mine in Paris TX. Harry invited me to spend a day or two with him before heading home and I agreed. When we reached Trenton, he called home and I think it was his sister that answered, for he said “What are you doing tonight Sis? Well cancel it, I’m bringing a friend home.

That night we went out on a double date. Her name was Faye and I really liked her. That night I got her alone and asked her if she would wear my wings. Her reply was “Does this mean anything?” and I answered, “Yes will you marry me?” She didn’t then say yes and she didn’t say no. After several more visits we were married on July 29, 1945. She was my Sweetheart for 62 years and passed away July 1, 2007.

A TRUE
love story
 NEVER ENDS

2016 TRIP TO POLAND

One of our first “official” experiences in Poland was at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Our experience here was humbling.

Elodie Caldwell shares this information: *For the ceremony, the group walked the short distance from the hotel to the Tomb in “Piłsudski” Square. It is one of the many national tombs of unknowns which were erected after WWI and is the most important such monument in Poland. It happens to be the only surviving part of the Saxon Palace that occupied that spot until WWII. (Obviously, the rest of the Palace didn’t survive the bombings.)*

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier houses an unidentified body of a young soldier that fell during the Defense of Lwów. Also interned there is earth from numerous battlefields where Polish soldiers



fought. Those remains are housed in the surviving pillars of the Saxon Palace. The Tomb is constantly lit by an eternal flame and guarded by a representative battalion of the Polish Army. It’s where official military commemorations take place in Poland and where foreign representatives lay wreaths when visiting Poland. We participated in a short ceremony where Tom Cobb spoke. He was followed by other members of our group who laid a wreath on the Tomb. After the wreath laying, we were fortunate to be invited into the structure to witness a bit of Polish war history. Accompanying us and lending support to our visit, were Aaron Fishman and Colonel Barlow from the US Embassy.

Click on this link for Associated Press coverage of the event:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3774257/Children-US-World-War-II-POWs-emotional-Poland-visit.html>

The last stop on Monday was to the Katyń Museum where we had a private tour. Pawel “Paul” Warszynski was our guide, just a young man of 29. The museum is fairly new and contains objects, documents and personal effects from the site of the Katyń Massacre. In May 1943, Oflag 64 Kriegies Lt. Col. John H. Van Vliet II and Capt. Donald B. Stewart were forced by the Germans to be witnesses to the massacre site investigation in their efforts to prove the executions were carried out by the Soviets and not the Germans. By way of historical background, the massacre was a series of mass executions of Polish nationals carried out by a Soviet



secret police organization in April and May of 1940. Though the killings took place at several different locations, the massacre is named after the Katyń Forest where some of the mass graves were first discovered. The number of victims is estimated to be about 22,000. Among those who died at Katyń were soldiers (an admiral, two generals, 24 colonels, 79 lieutenant colonels, 25 majors, 654 captains, 17 naval captains, 85 privates, 3,420 non-commissioned officers, and seven chaplains), 200 pilots, government representatives and royalty (a prince, 43 officials), and civilians (three landowners, 131 refugees, 20 university professors, 300 physicians; several hundred lawyers, engineers, and teachers; and more than 100 writers and journalists). In all, the Soviets executed almost half of the Polish officer corps and altogether, during the massacre, they executed 14 Polish generals. The last stop at the museum was to a memorial wall, where the names of those who died have been painstakingly and carefully engraved, individually by hand, into metal.

“For me, visiting the museums that have become memorials for the victims of atrocities such as this, has been emotional at times. It’s beyond belief that human life can be so disregarded and unimportant to the perpetrators. What horrible experiences for those victims and their families! Pawel “Paul” then escorted us to our vehicle, but before leaving Pat Waters gave him a “Patton” medallion. The surprise and joy that was expressed in Paul’s face was priceless”. ~ Elodie Caldwell



Our next “official” experience began in Szubin with a stop at the train station near the Oflag 64 camp site. All Kriegies started their time in Szubin here. We had some time to walk around and reflect on this experience in the life of our fathers.

Anne Kreutzer had these thoughts while at the train station: *“For me, this was a sobering sight - it is now an abandoned, dilapidated, desolate place, which suited all the more to let my imagination go back to the day in mid-July of 1944 when my father arrived at this very site with other Kriegies. Did they know that this was to be their permanent POW camp? Had they been given any information about what to expect in Szubin? Were they curious, exhausted, hungry, frightened”?*

Our next stop was the Museum Ziemi Szubinskief where we met Director Kamila Czechowska. The Regional Museum housed exhibits about the general history of Kriegy camps in Szubin. Following a photo opportunity at the statue of the pelican wounding its breast to feed it chicks (the official coat of arms or crest of Szubin) we were ecstatic to see the former printing house! The camp newspaper, The ITEM, was printed here and we saw the actual print press. Józef Kapsa’s grandson, Marek Kapsa was there to welcome us and show us the press. He had



just found it a few days before! The ITEM was a tremendous morale booster for the Oflag 64 Kriegies, and it is a historical treasure that some of the Kriegies who escaped out through Russia were able to bring copies of the camp newspaper back to the US. We are indebted to them for their efforts.

From the printing house, we made our way to the Old Town, to the 14th century medieval castle ruins and to the Church of St. Martin The Bishop founded at the same time. The Szubin cemetery was close by where Kriegies of other nationalities, who died while in camp, were buried. Capt. Richard H. Torrence, the only American to die while at Oflag 64, was also buried there. His remains have since been re-interred at Waco Memorial Park in Texas.

We had hoped to visit the movie theatre 'Balten-Lichtsplete' where Kriegies were allowed to see German movies at times, under guard, but only had time to take a quick look as we drove by.



We were honored to meet with the Szubin City Council in their offices to discuss the city's plans to create a Hall of Remembrance in one of the remaining original barracks. Pictures of Barrack #9 are included at the end of this section. The City officials included the President of the Council Remigiusz Kasprzak, Mayor Artur Michalak, and Vice-Mayor Krystyna Sichel. Tom Cobb made some introductory remarks in support of the Hall of Remembrance and several of us made brief remarks as well. We exchanged gifts and well wishes

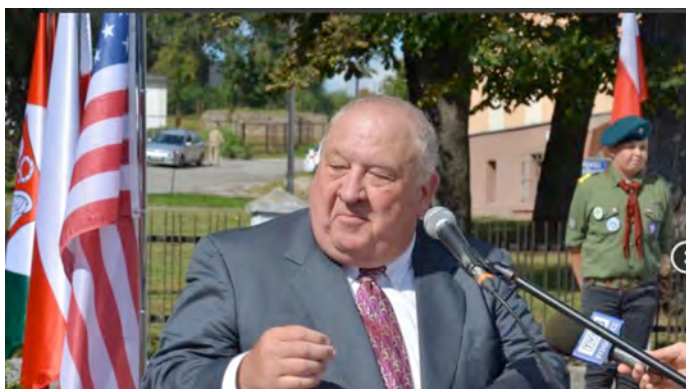
then went straight to the Flame Memorial for the wreath laying.

"Oflag 64 represents a very personal place in my life. My father, George Cobb, was captured on February 12, 1944 at Anzio Beach, Italy and was at Oflag 64 until the march from the camp in January 1945. He remained in the service, fought in Korea and retired as a major. He died at the age of 49, I had just turned 16. Like most veterans, my father rarely spoke about his experience in the wars that he fought or the time he spent as a POW. The one time he did speak about any of his experiences was to express his appreciation for the kindnesses and help he received from the Polish citizens after his escape from the march in January 1945, and as he walked his way through the countryside. (...) we know that many Polish citizens put their own lives in jeopardy during the war as they assisted POWs with escapes and shared what little food they had. We, as descendants of American POWs are very grateful for the sacrifices of your forefathers and would like to say thank you Poland, then and now, for your support and continued interest". ~ Excerpt from presentation by Tom Cobb



At last we were on the camp site at the Flame Memorial for a brief ceremony to honor and commemorate Polish civilians, the Polish, French and Commonwealth of Nations Kriegies, and the American Kriegies

held at the camp. We have seen many photos of former Kriegies pictured in front of the Flame Memorial on post-war trips they made to revisit Oflag 64 with their families.

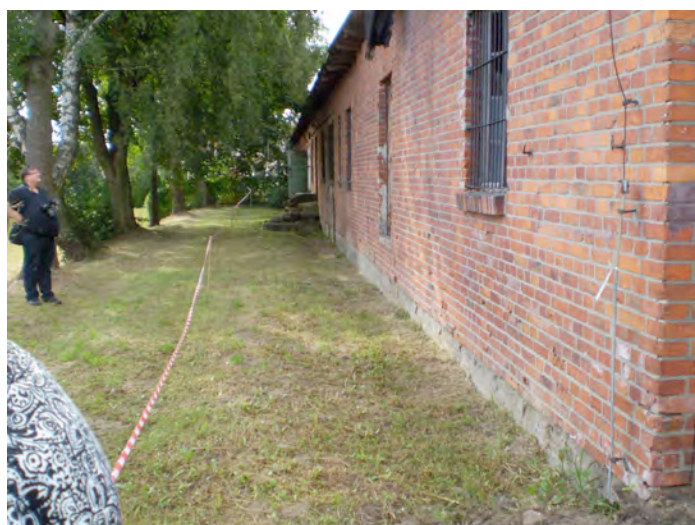


"We were instructed that Tom Cobb would speak and then Tom and Pat Waters would lay the wreath at the base of the monument. However, since we, the kids of the Kriegies had bonded, we ALL decided to walk with Tom and Pat to lay the wreath. We were being rebels and our father's would have been so proud!" ~ Nancy Thompson Wyatt

Tours of the camp hospital, the former Brig, the Chapel, and the "White House" where the senior officers were housed followed.



The Director of MOAS, Wiesław Guzinski, then invited us inside his school to see the very large table model of Oflag 64 that his students have made over the course of the past few years. The key that they provided along with it was a great help for us to get a good feel for the layout of how the camp looked when our fathers were imprisoned here. The present-day school building has been built over the site where several of the Kriegy barracks were originally located, but there are still a few original buildings standing. After a lovely lunch, we were treated to a tour of the MOAS facility, which is quite impressive with class and dormitory rooms as well as athletic and recreational areas.



After touring the school, we made our way to the remaining barracks and other buildings on the campsite, guided by Mariusz Winiecki, a local resident and camp historian. Anne Kreutzer shares her memory of this part of the day: *“We then toured the rest of the former Kriegy site, which for me was quite meaningful and helped me make a connection with my Dad and the whole property. There is only one brick barracks remaining, and it is in pretty bad shape, but it is the one that if plans work out, will be renovated to become the Hall of Remembrance. Even though the entrance was closed off with caution tape, they removed it so that we were able to go inside the dilapidated building for a look around”.*



Before leaving the camp site, we gathered together on the steps of the “hospital” to have our picture taken together, just as some of our fathers had done in 1944. It was definitely another reflective moment as we thought about how the Kriegies were grouped, what they were thinking, how long they had been standing in the cold, and if they were warm enough.

On our way out of town at the end of our day, we stopped at the Sierniki Farmhouse. This was the first overnight stop after the Kriegies started their march on January 21, 1945 to Hammelburg or other camps.

Nancy Thompson Wyatt wrote this in her diary: *“One of the other highlights was our visit to the first stop on the Kriegies’ march toward Germany. It was out in the country. I had heard from my father, Robert Thompson, they slept in barns several times during their march. I always wondered how many hundreds of men could fit in a barn. Then, when I saw the barn on the first stop, I was amazed at how large it was. It was about 1 football field long”!*



“It was strange in that there was the barn in the distance, a house which looked abandoned, and two dogs that were chained to a dog house. One dog was dying to play and the other just looked at us. Screams and cackles were coming from the barn. I think wild roosters and chickens lived in the barn. We didn't even go close to the barn, because there wasn't a path and the weeds were waist high. Plus the noises coming from the barn were a bit unnerving”.

While our main purpose for going on this trip to Szubin was to visit the camp where our fathers were held prisoner, we happened to be the group to meet with the Szubin leadership on the development of a permanent Oflag 64 facility and program. The Hall of Remembrance is a planned development project in Szubin. The Szubin City Council meeting we attended was to discuss and learn about the project and how we could help.





Pat Waters, Elodie Caldwell, and Marlene McAllister will be our representatives as honorary committee members on the Szubin Poland committee to steer the project. Tom Cobb, Dave Stewart, Anne and Tom Kreutzer, Taylor McAllister, Nancy Wyatt, and Janet Ellsworth join Pat, Elodie and Marlene to form a small steering committee. We will reach out to any and all Oflag 64 Association Kriegies and families or interested parties to further the project.

Another important project we learned about was the creation of a Language Lab at MOAS or the school for boys. The US Embassy, if approved, will fund this lab. It is important to the Hall of Remembrance, as the boys would provide some of the skill sets and hands-on labor needed to renovate and furnish the Hall of Remembrance.



Janet Ellsworth expressed her feelings about the trip to Poland like this: *“My experience in Poland, and more specifically Szubin, was very pleasant. The citizens were very hospitable throughout our trip. Along with our desire to support the Hall of Remembrance, the citizenry of Szubin were excited to support us as well. It felt like an effort of mutual support. We have a great group of leaders in our efforts, ones who know how to and are willing to carry our torch forward. I am in full support of these projects.*

Thank you to our leaders and the leaders in Szubin for their leadership and support! Our fathers experienced the hospitality of the people of Szubin as much as was safe for them. We have experienced it as well. What a beautiful country with such rich history and equally lovely people.” We echo her feelings!

What Can We Do Now?

We are very excited about the development of a permanent exhibit and museum for Oflag 64. The remaining barracks will need to be completely repaired and renovated if possible. The pictures included at the end of this report show the deteriorating condition of the building.

We want the building to be accurate. There will be future needs for uniforms, gifts of pictures, tapes, written diaries, and other items you may want to donate to the Hall of Remembrance. We will keep you informed through The ITEM of updates and requests as the project develops.

HELP! We need Your Information about Oflag 64 Barracks

Right now, we need your help gathering information about the barracks at Oflag 64 in order to be able to reconstruct the interior of a typical barracks when the Hall of Remembrance becomes a reality. The only barracks still standing is #9 (see Map and Key below), but the representative model can be re-created with the information we learn from our Kriegies about all of the barracks at Oflag 64.

If any of our Kriegies or their family members have written descriptions of the barracks from War Logs, personal journals, publications, oral histories, newspaper clippings or drawings, can you please share them with us? We want to be as accurate as possible in any reconstruction.

We're hoping to learn about the room layouts, the bunk beds, what was in the rooms, what the stoves looked like, did the brick barracks have attics, were there showers or a lavatory sink inside each barracks, what personal possessions did the Kriegies have, or any other information we can gather about the design, windows, doors, and furnishings. We embrace all memories!

We thank you in advance for any information you can share that will help visitors to the Hall of Remembrance get a realistic feel for how our Kriegies lived day in and day out.

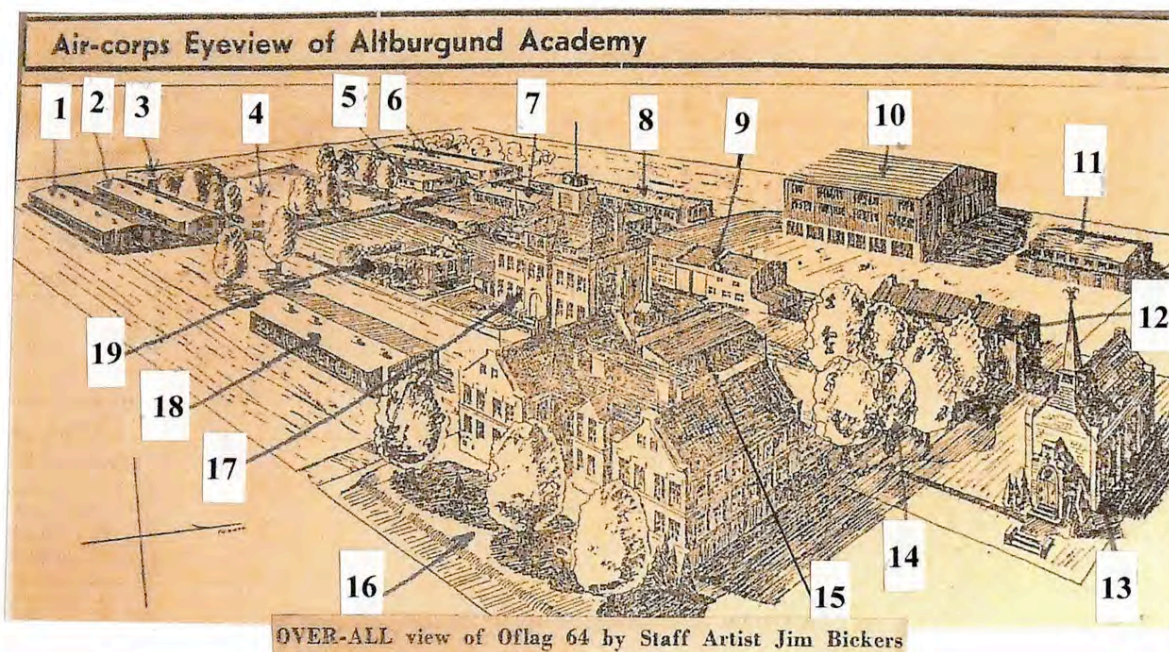
Please email or snail mail any information to:

Anne Hoskot Kreutzer
annekreuter@hotmail.com

11955 Governors Ct, Woodbridge, VA 22192

Dave Stewart
DSLVTX@aol.com

7903 Diamond Trail, Lago Vista, TX 78645



- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 1) Theater | 6) Barracks 9A & 9 B | 11) Storehouse (pumphouse) | 16) "White House" - quarters, library, mess halls, kitchen, office, newspaper, staff |
| 2) Barracks 3A & 3B | 7) Barracks 6A & 6B | 12) Tailor, cobbler, Q.M. | |
| 3) Latrine | 8) Barracks 7A & 7B | 13) Chapel | 17) Hospital |
| 4) Sports fields | 9) Orderlies' Qtrs | 14) Appel Area | 18) tin store, parcel hatch, tobacco store, Red Cross |
| 5) Barracks 8A & 8B | 10) Storehouse | 15) Latrine | 19) School - also PX, mart |

This camp key has been taken from the files of three Oflag 64 Kriegies - Newton Cole, Nat Hoskot, and Thornton Sigler. We welcome clarification on any of the buildings' identifications - some had several different uses during the period the American officers were imprisoned. Buildings not shown include the greenhouse and laundry, and buildings used by the Germans are outside of this area.

Remaining Barracks

crumbling steps, roof, ceiling, walls, floor



PUBLICATIONS

The following publications might be of interest to you. Many of them were written by our men. Your local library is a good place to check for availability. If you can't find what you're looking for there, write to the author or publisher or click on the links below. New and used copies are often available from online sites.

If you become aware that any of these publications are no longer available, please let us know.

1. **Americans Behind the Barbed Wire** by Frank Diggs, Story of Frank's trip across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Vandemere Press, P. O. Box 5243, Clearwater FL 22205 (New price is \$24.95/Hardcover) <http://www.vandemere.com/diggs.htm> or <http://www.amazon.ca/Americans-Behind-Barbed-Wire-Inside/dp/0743474821>
2. **Diary of A Kriegie** by Ed Beattie. Diary of Ed Beattie, A UPI Correspondent captured near the Moselle River in Sept '44. Publisher: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York NY <http://www.amazon.com/Diary-Kriegie-Edward-W-Beattie/dp/B0007E4UAU>
3. **Escape to Russia** by Howard "BOOMER" Holder. Story of Boomer Holder as he went across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Iberian Publishing Co., Athens GA http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Russia-Howard-Randolph-Holder/dp/B0006F7X72/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226549191&sr=1-1
4. **Dr. Graff Remembers: World War II Reflections**, a collection of editorials by Peter Carl Graffagnino, M.D., Publisher: Grateful Steps (Micki Cabaniss Eutsler), 828-277-0998. http://www.amazon.com/Dr-Graff-Remembers-World-Reflections/dp/1935130544/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=undefined&sr=8-1&keywords=Dr.+Graffagnino+Remembers%3A++World+War+II+Reflections
5. **Home Was Never Like This**. Diary of Col Yardley. Publisher: Yardley Enterprises. Evergreen, CO. http://www.amazon.com/Home-Was-Never-Like-This/dp/0971743908/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411079953&sr=1-1&keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this
6. **Justifiable Pride** by William D. Stevens, Jamal Books, 2340 Devoe Drive, Lincoln NE 68506, 402-488-6005 http://www.amazon.com/Justifiable-Pride--Memoir-William-Stevens/dp/096732954X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411080041&sr=1-1&keywords=Justifiable+Pride
7. **Kriegie** by Kenneth Simmons. Diary of an Air Force Pilot. Publisher: Thomas Nelson and Sons. New York NY. http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Kriegie+by+Kenneth+Simmons&x=0&y=0
8. **Kriegsgefangener 3074 (Prisoner of War)** by Clarence Ferguson. Publisher: Texan Press, Waco TX http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Prisoner+of+War+by+Clarence+Ferguson&x=16&y=17
9. **OFLAG 64, 50th Anniversary Book**. Anniversary Committee. Publisher: Evanston Publishing Co., Evanston IL. (12 currently available online from \$14.99 to \$122.39) https://www.amazon.com/gp/offer-listing/1879260239/ref=tmm_other_meta_binding_used_olp_sr?ie=UTF8&condition=used&qid=1476590613&sr=8-1-fkmr0
10. **Oflag 64: A POW Odyssey**, Robert Galloway, 2001. Instant Amazon Video to rent or buy at: https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B00WGYXZTG?ie=UTF8&keywords=OFLAG&qid=1442345037&ref=sr_1_1&s=instant-video&sr=1-1
11. **Passages to Freedom**, Joseph Frelinghuysen, 1990, Publisher: Sunflower University Press, 1531 Yuma (Box 1009), Manhattan KS 66502-4228, 800-258-1232 (\$17.95, includes S & H) http://www.amazon.com/Passages-Freedom-Story-Capture-Escape/dp/0897451317/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550856&sr=1-1

12. **Raid! The Untold Story of Patton's Secret Mission** by Richard Baron, Major Abe Baum, and Richard Goldhurst (paperback) http://www.amazon.com/Raid-Untold-Pattons-Secret-Mission/dp/0440236096/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1254190748&sr=1-1
13. **A Ramble Through My War** by Charles F. Marshall, Publisher: Louisiana State University Press, 1999. (\$29.95) http://www.amazon.com/Ramble-Through-My-War-Anzio/dp/0807126365/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550977&sr=1-1
14. **The Escape Factory** by Lloyd Shoemaker. Story of a secret organization in Wash DC that maintained contact with all POWs in WWII. St Martins Press. New York NY http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1
15. **The Road To War** by Steven Burgauer. Based on the diary and notes of Captain William C. Frodsham, Jr.: a riveting first-person account of duty and drill, courage and capture. http://www.amazon.com/Road-War-Drill-Courage-Capture/dp/1450218806/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411081108&sr=1-1&keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer
16. **The Water and The Rock** by Charles Jones. Diary of a man captured in Africa. Publisher: Anchor Publishing Co., Northwood, IA (CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE-9/18/14) http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1
17. **The Welcome Swede** by Frank Diggs. Publisher: Vantage Press, New York NY (\$11.00) http://www.amazon.com/Welcome-Swede-Thousands-Germans-Prisoners/dp/0533078180/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551448&sr=1-1
18. **33 Months as a POW in Stalag Luft III** by Albert P. Clark. Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing, 16100 Table Mountain Parkway, Suite 300, Golden CO 80403, 800-992-2908 (17.95 pb) http://www.amazon.com/Months-POW-Stalag-Luft-III/dp/1555915361/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551497&sr=1-1
19. **Tours of Duty: World War II Veterans Personal Stories** by Eleanor Bertrand. Includes stories of Jimmie Kanaya from Oflag 64, Martin Jones from Hammelburg, and Oscar Richard from Stalag I. Publisher: BookSurge Publishing (2/22/08). \$17.99 from Amazon.com, 1-800-201-7575 http://www.amazon.com/Tours-Duty-Veterans-Personal-Stories/dp/141968728X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551561&sr=1-1

Other Publications

WRITE DIRECTLY TO THESE CONTACTS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Press Releases by Ted Roggen, 101 Westcott, Houston TX 77007 (\$10.95)

Vic Kanners Diary - Don Kanners, 3205 Jennella Dr, Commerce TWP MI 48390-1619, dkanners@comcast.net

Roads to Liberation by Clarence R. Meltesen is available free of charge except for approximately \$6 per copy shipping fee (ONE COPY LEFT). Please contact Elodie Caldwell at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. (Thank you Meltesen family.) Also available on www.Amazon.com

John K. Waters: An Oral History (The Waters Story) by William C. Parnell - Contact Elodie Caldwell using contact information on the front page of this ITEM, \$15.99 includes S & H, write your check to the Oflag 64 Postage Fund. (Thank you Pat Waters for making copies available.)

A **1947 Oflag 64 Reunion Photo** is available for a \$5 donation to the Postage Fund (ONE COPY LEFT). Send your donation and request to Elodie Caldwell at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. (Thank you Judy Fletcher.)

Carey E. Ashcraft ~ 1922-2014



Carey E. Ashcraft of Clinton, MS departed this earth to be with the Lord on Friday morning May 2, 2014 at the VA Nursing Home in Jackson, MS. at the age of 92. Visitation is 9:30 am Monday, May 5, 2014 at Lakewood Funeral Home. Chapel services are 11am Monday at Lakewood with interment to follow in Lakewood Memorial Park.

Carey was born on January 12, 1922 in Meridian, MS. He was a graduate of New Hope High School and a proud 1943 graduate of Mississippi State University with a degree in

Agriculture.

He served his country and he served it well. He enlisted in the [Army](#) on February 5, 1943 and served with the 88th Infantry Division entering combat with his unit in Minturno, Italy in March of 1944. Carey became a prisoner of war on September 21, 1944 in Florence, Italy. He was liberated on April 29, 1945 and was released from active duty on February 2, 1946 having been awarded the [Bronze Star](#) and the [Purple Heart](#). His military career also involved 25 years in the National Guard and Reserves retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He served as the Commander of the Department of Mississippi American Ex-Prisoners of War.



His vocational career was spent with the Mississippi Employment Security Commission for over 40 years. While there, he held various positions. At the time of his retirement, he was the Chief Administrative Law Judge retiring July 1, 1986.

Wherever the Ashcrafts lived, they were active in a local church. For many years Carey was a Deacon of Morrison Heights Baptist Church and served as the Sunday School Director. He attended Day Spring Community Church in the later years of his life.

He will be missed by his wife of 68 years, Delva Ashcraft of Clinton. He also leaves a void in the lives of his three daughters, Phyllis Blake of Vicksburg, MS, Faith Joyce of Clinton, MS, and Joyce Snyder of Batesville, MS. Six grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren also survive him. A sister, Thelma Eaves of Daphne, Alabama, survives him. He was preceded in death by his father George Ashcraft and his mother Effie Ashcraft; his brother Ira Ashcraft and sisters Murlee Stricker, Mozelle Jones, Zeddie Tilley, Yvonne Linville. He is also welcomed into Heaven by a daughter Joan Roberson and a grandson Jordan Snyder.

Published in Clarion Ledger from May 4 to May 5, 2014,

Glenn D. Chapman ~ 1921-2012



GLENN DALE CHAPMAN (91) born in Wisconsin and passed away peacefully in his sleep on October 18, 2012 in Spring, Texas. Preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Mary Muhasky Chapman.

He is survived by his daughter, Julie; his sons, David and wife, Pat; Tom and wife, Deb; his grandchildren, Melanie & Jim Richards, Chris & Crystal Chapman, Jeff & Shelby Chapman, and Nick Chapman; his great grandchildren, Caden, Mark, and Kimberly Chapman; and his brother, Don Chapman of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

Glenn was a POW veteran of World War II, a long-time resident of Dallas, Texas, member of Sunrise Optimist Club, Walnut Hill Methodist Church and he enjoyed his retirement years in Hot Springs Village with his sweetheart, Mary. He lived the past seven years in Plano with his daughter.



Visitation was Monday, October 22nd from 6-8 pm at Restland Funeral Home in Dallas. Funeral services were held Tuesday, October 23rd at 12:30 pm at Restland Wildwood Chapel.

Information from: www.restland.tributes.com

James "Lee" Clingan ~ 1921-2011



COVINGTON - The conclusion of a long and fascinating life journey arrived for former state senator and state representative Lee Clingan of Covington, Ind., who died peacefully surrounded by his family at the VA Illiana Health Care Hospital in Danville, Ill. at the age of 89 on Saturday, January 15, 2011.

Lee was a well-known area auctioneer, farmer, legislator, realtor, insurance agency owner and Fountain County gentleman.

Lee was born near Kingman on Oct. 11, 1921, the fourth of six children of Roy and Edna Shelton Clingan.

He graduated from Kingman High School in 1939. As a boy he worked on the Clingan family farm until his father's death in 1938. He later worked as a farm laborer, in a coal mine, at the Coffing Brothers' apple orchard and as a ticket taker at the Indiana State Fair. Lee's experiences growing up on a farm during the depression provided him with extraordinary measures of resourcefulness, frugality and practicality, as well as a deep respect for hard work.

Lee enlisted in the Army in April 1941 as a private; he quickly rose to the rank of first lieutenant and led an infantry platoon through two major battles in Holland, earning the [Purple Heart](#), [Bronze Star](#) and Combat Infantryman Badge. Lee arrived at Omaha Beach in late June 1944, when the devastation brought by the June 6 D-Day invasion was still evident. Lee was a German prisoner of war at Oflag 64 in Poland for three months. Toward the end of the war, from January to April 1945, the camp of more than 1,000 prisoners was forced to march over 300 miles back to Germany on the infamous Poland death march. Lee escaped briefly during Patton's Hammelburg Raid of Oflag XIII-B.



After discharge Lee returned to Kingman and drove a stock truck then graduated from Reppert's School of Auctioneering in Decatur, and attended life insurance and marketing classes at [Purdue University](#). He went to work as an insurance salesman for Carl Songer and eventually built his own insurance and real estate agency, which he ran from 1946 to 1995. Lee often referred to himself as a jack-of-all-trades and a master of none, and some of his other businesses included suit salesman, bail bondsman, auctioneer, livestock buyer and truck driver. Since 1953 Lee had the pleasure of entertaining thousands of people in western Indiana and eastern Illinois at his many farm, cattle, antique and land auctions. Lee's deep voice, cadenced auctioneering chant and colorful local stories never failed to entertain his crowd.

In 1958 Lee married the lovely and lively Thelma Tucker Tyhurst of Danville, and he raised her daughter, Lynne Suzanne "Suzie" Tyhurst, as his own from when Suzie was nine years old. That same year the newly created Clingan family moved to Covington to start a new life at 121 Elm Dr. in the brand-new Beck Addition. Thelma T. served as Lee's chief advisor and supporter until her death in 1987 after 29 years of marriage and partnership.

Lee entered the Indiana State Senate in 1960 and served for eight years until his seat was reapportioned in 1968. In 1972 he ran for the House of Representatives and won, serving for 16 years. Every year of the 24 years that Lee served in the General Assembly he was a member of the Agriculture and Insurance Committees of the chamber in which he served, and he was at one time the chairman of the Insurance Committee of each chamber. During Lee's 24 years in the legislature he represented districts that included all or parts of Fountain, Vermillion, Warren, Vigo, Benton and Parke counties.

Generous of heart and spirit, Lee was committed to his community. He was a past president of the Kingman High School Alumni Association; member of the Indiana Auctioneer's association, American Legion and past commander of the Kingman American Legion Post; past commander of firing squads and colors for many military funerals; member of the V.F.W; former member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, Zorah Temple and Elks Lodge; and member of the Fountain County draft board for 25 years. He was also instrumental in moving the Ernie Pyle home to Dana, Ind., in the mid-1970s in order to establish the Ernie Pyle State Historic Site.

In 1985 Lee's 99 colleagues in the Indiana House of Representatives rated him as "Best Liked" in Indianapolis Monthly magazine. Other honors include a certificate of merit awarded by the Department of Indiana Disabled American Veterans, a service award by the Department of Indiana [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#), and a service award from the Fountain County office of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. In 1989 Gov. Evan Bayh awarded Lee the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash award, bestowing upon him the state's highest award for a citizen and honoring him for his many years of service to the State of Indiana. In 1988 Lee was honored by House Concurrent Resolution No. 97, praising his 24 years of service to the Indiana General Assembly.

Lee is survived by his two sons, Gregory Lee (Pam) of Covington and David William of Indianapolis; four grandchildren, R. Chadwick (Jennifer) Armstrong of Nolensville, Tenn., Shannon Lyn (Curt) Bogue of West Lafayette, Amanda Lee (Allen) Strawser of Covington and Hannah Marie Clingan of Greencastle; and six great-grandchildren, Jackson and Tucker Bogue of West Lafayette, Reece Lynne and Bricyn Elaine Armstrong of Nolensville and Reis Lauren Lewsader and Remi Lynn Strawser of Covington. Lee was preceded in death by his wife, Thelma T.; daughter, Lynne Suzanne Tyhurst Armstrong; brothers, Gordon, Fred and Bert; sisters, Alberta Holland and Almeda Samuels; and parents, Roy and Edna Shelton Clingan.

Lee's great passions were the Chicago Cubs, poker and politics. Known for his trademark Stetson hat, pipe and booming voice, he never knew a stranger, was loved and respected by many and will be missed by all who knew him. His generosity, sense of humor and patriotism were appreciated by countless friends and loved ones.

The life of this extraordinary gentleman was celebrated at the Covington United Methodist Church, 419 Washington Street, with Pastor Tom Hoehner and Pastor Kenneth Majors officiating on Saturday, January 22 beginning at noon. Burial followed with military honors held at the Mount Hope Cemetery in Covington.

In lieu of flowers and in tribute to Lee's 53 years in the Covington community, Lee's family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Covington Community Foundation, 135 South Stringtown Rd., P.O. Box 175, Covington, IN 47932-0175, www.wicf-inc.org.

Published in Fountain County Neighbor from Jan. 22 to Feb. 22, 2011

Richard W. Covert ~ 1923-2010



Richard was born on August 11, 1923 and passed away on Sunday, July 25, 2010 and was a resident of Omak, Washington. Information from: Social Security Death Index.

Roger S. Euler ~ 1921-2015



Roger S. Euler, 94, passed away on Monday, October 5, 2015, at his home in Columbus.

Roger was a truly remarkable man. He was born to Stewart and Frieda Euler on their farm August 6, 1921. He graduated from Vernon High School in 1939 and was then on to Purdue University where he obtained his degree in Agriculture Education. Immediately following graduation Roger went to serve in WW II as a field artillery officer, which included suffering nine months as a POW. After the war Roger continued his education at Purdue gaining a master's degree in Ag Economics, and then his Ph.D. in the same field.



From here Roger dedicated his life to the diplomatic corps of the United States, serving many years as agricultural attaché in Warsaw, Poland, Moscow, Soviet Union and then Brussels, Belgium.

He was married to Jeanne Wecker from 1965 until her passing and then years later met Betty Simmons, whom he married in 1998.

Roger was active in the Baptist church throughout his life, from the Baptist Student Foundation at Purdue University, continuing after his retirement in several service positions with the First Baptist Church in Columbus.

Roger is survived by his wife, Betty Euler; sister, Irma Pocock; brother, Herbert Euler; stepson, Michael Simmons; and his grandson, James Simmons. He is preceded in death by his brothers, George Euler and Robert Euler.

The MEMORIAL SERVICE was at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 10, 2015 at First Baptist Church, 3300 Fairlawn Drive Columbus, IN 47203 with Rev. Daniel Cash officiating.

INURNMENT: Vernon Cemetery, Vernon, IN with military honors.

MEMORIALS: Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church of Columbus, 3300 Fairlawn Drive, Columbus, Indiana 47203.

Information from: www.jewellrittman.com

Alfred R. Fratzke ~ 1918-2015



Alfred Richard Fratzke, 97, of Staunton, Ill., died peacefully at home on Saturday morning, Oct. 31, 2015. He was born on Feb. 19, 1918, on a farm in Buchanan County. He attended a one room country school house for eight years and then went to and graduated from Jesup High School. He then attended and graduated from Wartburg College in Waverly.

He entered the [Army](#) in August of 1941. During [World War II](#), he served as a first lieutenant with the 1st Infantry Division and was a photo interpreter for Army Intelligence. He served in Africa and Sicily for a year before returning to England to participate in the D-Day Invasion on June 6, 1944. He was wounded and captured by the Germans and was a POW for ten months. He was a [Purple Heart](#) recipient.



When the war ended, he served as a teacher and later an elementary school administrator at various schools in Iowa, including Elkport, Vinton and Mt. Pleasant. He was principal at Monroe School in Davenport for 24 years. During his retirement in Arizona, he was employed as a starter at Pebblebrook Golf Course in Sun City West for 10 years. He was a former member of Oflag 64 and a life member of [VFW](#) Post 1241. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Mt. Olive.

Throughout his life, he enjoyed gardening, golfing, traveling, music, and reading. He especially believed in the importance of volunteering and volunteered many hours of service to the Sun City Library in Arizona. He also volunteered at the gift shop at Community Memorial Hospital in Staunton until his health declined. He believed in the importance of belonging to a church family and honoring that commitment with participation and regular church attendance.

He was preceded in death by his parents Richard and Anna Fratzke, by his first wife Dorothy Pichelmeyer Troxell, the mother of his children and by his two brothers Martin and Richard "Bud" Fratzke.

He is survived by his wife Anne whom he married on April 23, 1983, at Grace Lutheran Church in Davenport. He is also survived by his son Alfred Fratzke (Darlene), of Ames; two daughters Jacque (Robert) Holdorf, of Waverly, and Carol (George) Keech, of Altamont, Tenn.; a sister Ruth Hofstetter, of Oro Valley, Ariz.; grandchildren, Susan (Shane) Brucker, of Alexandria, Va., Devon (Lisa) Holdorf, of Irmo, S.C., Andrea (Brian) Martz, of Iowa City, Ryan (Misun) Holdorf, of San Diego, Nathan (Marissa) Holdorf, of Tampa, Fla., Danielle (Clint) Wilkie, of Chattanooga, Tenn., Shannon McKinley (Glenn Wontor), of Stevens Point, Wis., Allen McKinley, of Charlotte, N.C., James McKinley (Marty), of Bay Minette, Ala., Jackie Wojnowiak, of Clarksville, Tenn., Beca Wojnowiak, of Stevens Point, Wis., Jeremy (Leah) Wojnowiak, of Clintonville, Wis., and Toni Littlefield of Marion, Wis.; and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were held on Friday, Nov. 6, 2015, at 11 a.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church located at 500 S. Old Route 66 in Mt. Olive, Ill., with the Rev. Ben Fiore officiating.

Visitation was held on Friday, Nov. 6, 2015, from 10 to 10:45 a.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church in Mt. Olive.

Military honors at the church were provided by the Staunton Veteran's Honor Guard.

Published in Waverly Democrat on Nov. 12, 2015

George F. Heidt, Jr ~ 1920-2011

NEWPORT NEWS - Lt. Col. George Frank Heidt Jr., U.S. Army retired, born in Charleston, S.C., on Dec. 5, 1920, died on Monday, Feb. 14, 2011.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was a POW. After the war, he met his future wife Ruth Moore on a blind date. Six weeks later they started a marriage that lasted more than 65 years.



Frank was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. He will always be remembered for being a loving husband, father, and grandfather. There was nothing more important to him than his family.

Survivors include his loving wife, Ruth Heidt; son, Breck Heidt and his wife, Pat; daughter, Susan Siegel and her husband, Bob; daughter-in-law, Carla Heidt; grandsons, Preston Heidt, Travis Heidt,

Chris Heidt and his wife, Amanda, and Jeff Heidt; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by sons, Johnny Heidt and George Frank Heidt III.


Visitation will be from 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21, at W. J. Smith & Son Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, at Trinity Lutheran Church with the Rev. Frederick P. Guy officiating. Burial will follow in Peninsula Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Peninsula SPCA, 523 J. Clyde Morris Blvd., Newport News, VA 23601.

Published in Daily Press from February 18 to February 19, 2011

Ormond Hessler

U.S., Obituary Collection from 1930-2015

Name:	Ormond Hessler	
Age at Death:	90	
Birth Date:	13 October 1920	
Birth Place:	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	
Residence at time of death:	Charlotte, North Carolina	
Death Date:	31 August 2011	
Spouse:	Constance Bond	
Parents:	Elizabeth McLanahan Hessler and Elmer H. Hessler	
Children:	Ashley and Dana of Pinkney, Herbert and his wife Janice of Memphis, Lee Herbert and his wife Sherry of Charlotte, David Herbert and his wife Joan of Charlotte, and John Herbert and his wife Kathy of Houston, Terry Elizabeth Randlett and her husband Royce of Bath, Maine.	
Sibling:	Robert Louis Hessler	

Edward O. Hirt ~ 1920-2008



Edward was born on June 9, 1920 and passed away on Friday, August 15, 2008. He was a resident of Penrose, Colorado.

Information from: www.tributes.com

Duane S. Kennedy Sr. ~ 2011

Duane Straley Kennedy, Sr., 89, passed away December 16, 2011. He is the son of the late Alfred and Louise Kennedy, and was the widower of Mildred Jean Kennedy. He was a member of the [V.F.W.](#) and V.F.W. for POW's , and a former POW of World War II. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge in AZ and NJ, and was a past Master Mason. He was also a member of the Shriners of AZ.



Surviving are his daughter, Dorothy Shaffer; one son, Duane Straley Kennedy, Jr.; two grandchildren: Patience Phillips and Timothy Kennedy; and six great-grandchildren.

All services will be private with burial in Arlington National Cemetery. Arrangements are being handled by Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home, Bayside Chapel.

Published in Daily News-Sun on Dec. 21, 2011

Donald E. McAlpine ~ 1922-2016



Donald Eugene McAlpine, 94, died peacefully Thursday (June 9, 2016) at The Homestead in Rochester.

Donald was born May 4, 1922, in Bock, Minn., to Harry and Harriet McAlpine. He graduated from Milaca High School and in 1941 entered the [Army](#), becoming a Second Lieutenant in the 9th Armored Division. On Dec. 21, 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge, Don was captured by the Germans near St. Vith, Belgium. He was awarded a Silver Star for "intrepid daring and outstanding courage" during this battle. He was held as a prisoner of war in Poland until, during a nighttime march through Luxembourg, he and a fellow soldier escaped their captors.



Don returned to Milaca at the end of [WWII](#) and soon married Katherine Elizabeth Nyquist at the Milaca Evangelical Free Church, of which he was a lifetime member. Together they raised three children, Susan, Donald and Dorothea. Don was an insurance and real estate broker in Milaca until 1962, when the District Evangelical Free Church asked him to manage the Elim Home in Princeton. In the ensuing 20 years, Don started three new Elim Homes in Milaca and Watertown, Minn., and in Fargo, N.D., serving as executive director of these homes until his retirement. He also served as board member of the North Central District Board for 25 years and on the MN Board of Nursing Homes and the MN Hospital Association. Don was an early adopter of the "retirement career" and became a licensed stock and securities broker after leaving the Elim Homes.

Don and Katherine spent winters in Sun City, Ariz., for the past 20 years, and summers at their beloved lake home on Mille Lacs. Don's life outside work was filled with golf, travel, fishing and family. He is fondly remembered by his family as a storyteller, hard worker and a positive thinker who encouraged his family to do their best and make a positive difference in the world. He was a lover of family gatherings, Dairy Queen, Snickers bars, popcorn and Nut Goodies. Challenged by the ever-changing world of technology, he often texted with his family and checked on their Facebook postings from his iPhone 6.

Donald is survived by Katherine, his wife of 70 years; his children, Susan Bourgerie (Larry), Donald McAlpine (Mary) and Dorothea McAlpine; grandchildren, Amelia Seraphia Derr (Steve Stapleton), Allie Swartzner (Chris), Michaela McAlpine, Megan Osterlund (Jon), David McAlpine (Brooke); and great-

grandchildren Tyler, Emma, Jackson, Ava, Jessie, Aubrey, Ainsley, Elsie, Rowan, Paisley, and Brooklyn and his sister Lillian.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Harriet McAlpine, sisters, Dorothy and Helen, and grandson, Aaron.

A memorial service was scheduled for June 24 at the Milaca Evangelical Free Church. The family welcomed visitors from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. with the service at 3 p.m. A reception followed. Internment was at Forest Hills Cemetery and, in a later ceremony, at Arlington National Cemetery.

Published in The Post-Bulletin on June 15, 2016

Darrell A. Russel ~ 1921-2010

Dr. Darrell Arden Russel, a noted soil scientist and genealogist, passed away Friday, December 24 at his home in Florence.

Time of visitation was Monday, December 27, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Elkins Funeral Home Florence. The funeral service was held on Tuesday, December 28 at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel of the funeral home. Brother David Gregg officiated. Burial followed in Greenview Memorial Gardens.

Dr. Russel was born on May 26, 1921 in McPherson, Kansas. He served with the 36th Division in World War II on the front lines of Europe and was a Prisoner of War in Poland and Germany. He earned his Ph. D. in Soil Fertility and Analytical Chemistry. He retired from TVA with 23 years of service.



He was a founder of the Natchez Trace Genealogical Society. He was a volunteer for the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library and Lauderdale County Courthouse.

Dr. Russel is survived by his wife of 60 years, Avice Marion Hanline Russel. Other survivors include nine children: Duane Russel and wife Leslie of Prairie Village, KS; Phyllis Russel of Knoxville, TN; Dale Russel and wife Debra of Florence; Beverly Russel Robertson and husband Sam of Killen; Paul Russel and wife Sheila of Killen; Floyd Russel and wife Martha of Fayetteville, NC; Keith Russel and wife Tonya of Killen; Rebecca Russel Robertson and husband Terry of Pueblo West, CO; and Juanita Russel Williams and husband Keith of Florence; 19 grandchildren, Kristopher Robertson, Melissa Blankenship, Michele Wilkinson, Sabian Russel, Andrew Russel, Anthony Russel, Jessica Woods, Lyle Robertson, Darcy Russel, Audra Robertson, Camille Russel, Amy Russel, Leanne McLaughlin, Marcie Lauth, Justin Teal, Rachel Williams, Adrian Russel, Mariana Russel, and Zachary Russel. 7 great-grandchildren: Kanyon Robertson, Samuel Blankenship, Paige Wilkinson, Foster Robertson, Emma Ruth Blankenship, Avery Russel, and Ellie Robertson.

Pallbearers were Sabian Russel, Andrew Russel, Anthony Russel, Justin Teal, Adrian Russel, Lincoln Woods, Kris Robertson, and Robert Blankenship.

Information from: www.obittree.com

John T. Vollentine - 1918-2009

SAN DIEGO, CA— John T. Vollentine, 91, of San Diego, CA died Tuesday, December 15, 2009 in San Diego, CA. A memorial service will be held 4:00 p.m. Saturday, January 9, 2010 at McMullen Funeral

Home Chapel. The family will receive friends 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, January 9, 2010 according to the funeral home, 3874 Gentian Blvd., Columbus, GA 31907.

Mr. Vollentine grew up in Gonzales, TX and graduated from Texas A & M before joining the Army. He served in Europe during WWII where he was captured and held in a POW camp in Szubin, Poland until the end of the war. He also served in Korea during the Korean War and retired from the military in 1961.



After he retired, he was in real estate for over 40 years, before moving to San Diego, CA in 2008. He always had a positive outlook on life and loved to entertain family and friends with his wife, Shirley. He was loved by and will be truly missed by all his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his daughter, Vickie Vollentine Holland; brothers, William Vollentine and Henry Vollentine; and sister-in-law, Mernie Vollentine. Survivors include his wife, Shirley Ann Lane of San Diego, CA; sons, David Vollentine (Renee'), Steve Vollentine (Glynis) and Jim Vollentine (Vicky); daughters, Ann Vollentine Cooper (Leo) and Valerie Vollentine Hilton (Ken); son-in-law, Don Holland; sister-in-law, Genevieve Vollentine; granddaughters, Sharon Cooper, Melissa Cooper, Laura Cooper, and Kirsten Vollentine.

Published by FindAGrave 2010

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After reporting on the passing of the Kriegies listed in this ITEM, there are now, as far as we know, approximately 36 living Kriegies, plus or minus a few.

We have also recently become aware that the following Kriegy widows have passed away:

Stacy Bolten – (Analouise Clissold Bolten), widow of the late Kriegy Seymour Bolten
DOD: 9/22/09, Washington Post, 9/2/2010

Margaret Fabian – widow of the late Kriegy Bill Fabian
DOD: 9/21/14, Kansas City Star, 10/25/14

Oretta Hamblin – widow of the late Kriegy O.B. Hamblin
DOD: 4/2/14, Gray Funeral Home, Oklahoma

Norma Jones – widow of the late Kriegy Curtis Jones
DOD: 8/28/15, Martha's Vineyard Times, 9/2/15

