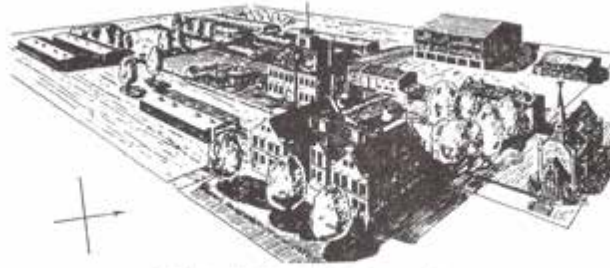


Post Oflag 64 Item



Artist's drawing of Oflag 64 without barbed wire fences or guard towers.
Drawn by Jim Backus

3RD QUARTER 2017

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The Oflag 64 "Living History" Reenactment held in Szubin Poland on September 16 was a HUGE success, as anyone who attended can attest. A representative from the US Embassy in Warsaw, Szubin's mayor and members of Szubin's town council, the director of MOAS (school for at risk youth), the curator of Szubin's museum, American visitors, reenactors, and many Szubin citizens were in attendance. Pictured above are a few of these people. Thanks to Mariusz Winięcki for his amazing ideas and for leading the charge to bring the history of Oflag 64 to the forefront. Thanks to his wife, Joanna, for her support through this process.

As you have probably read in previous editions of the ITEM, plans are underway for constructing an Oflag 64 Hall of Remembrance on the site of Oflag 64. The barracks in the background of the above photo will soon be renovated for this purpose. The US and Szubin Advisory Councils are working together to make this happen and we'll be providing more details as progress continues.

Best Regards,
Elodie and Bill Caldwell at elodie@oflag64.us

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.

**Anne Kreutzer
John R. Rodgers, Sr.**

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

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or

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APOLOGIESII

A few weeks after the last printed ITEM was sent out, we began receiving returns. As we opened them and looked through the copies, we became aware that the print quality was not up to par and in some cases was nearly unreadable.

We apologize for the difficulty you may have had reading it. We have contacted the printer and they have made amends. If this copy comes to you in poor quality, please let us know so we can contact the printer.

In the meantime, if you are able to access the last ITEM online at www.oflag64.us, you will be able to read it in color and in good quality.

Best to you,
Elodie and Bill 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, that works 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.





MAIL CALL



Pat Bender (daughter of the late Kriegy Vincent “Doc” DiFrancesco) wrote with the sad news that her father passed away. He was 100 and would’ve turned 101 in September. See the TAPS section in this ITEM for his obituary. Later, by US Mail, she and her sisters thanked the Oflag 64 family for the donation to the Riderwood Scholarship Fund, strongly supported by their dad. They commented that they are truly blessed to have the Oflag 64 family in their lives. In a separate email, we learned that Pat’s sister, Rosa, who lives in Florida was making evacuation plans during Hurricane Irma. Hopefully all is well. *Pat, thanks so much for writing to let us know about your dear father’s passing. He was a wonderful man, a great patriot and hero, and we will miss him dearly as we know you do. We thank him so much for his service during those days of WWII. Our thoughts, prayers, and sincere sympathies are sent to you, your sisters and families. Beautiful memories will strengthen and sustain you through difficult days ahead.*

Robert Blatherwick, Jr. (son of the late Kriegy Robert Blatherwick, Sr.) wrote thanking us for information about Doc DiFrancesco’s passing. He also asked if there are any doctors still living who were also held at Oflag 64. Robert stated: “My father, Dr. Robert Blatherwick, was there, and was left behind by the Germans when the camp was evacuated to care for soldiers who could not be transported (for what ever reasons). He and another doctor (I believe his name was Johnson) stayed until relieved by the Russians, then made their way on foot, by horse drawn cart, by truck, and many other conveyances, to the Suez Canal. On a return visit to Germany, many years later, Dad actually met a former German soldier who was a guard on the camp. Their reunion was “friendly”. The guard remembered Dad, who had treated him for something, although Dad did not remember the guard. Dad told me the SS or Gestapo were in the habit of treating the Wermacht almost as

badly as they treated prisoners. I’m not sure a reunion with me would have been friendly. Dad’s favorite television show was Hogan’s Heroes. Dad was with the 101st. I was with SF, and my sons are both 3rd generation paratroopers. We wrote that to our knowledge, out of the 10-12 who were held at Oflag 64, there are no longer any doctors still living. *Thank you so much, Robert, for sharing this very interesting information. Our fathers had such amazing experiences and we often wonder how they endured them all. They were such great men!*



Steven Burgauer (author and friend of Oflag 64) wrote in response to our query about recent disasters. At the time, Irma had not hit but he said he was in the path of the Hurricane. As of yet, I have not heard how or if he was affected. We hope all is well with him and his family. *Steven, thank you very much for letting us know about the situation you were preparing for with Hurricane Irma. Please let us know when you can if you sustained any damage to your property and if you were safe.*



Cindy Burgess (daughter of Kriegy Wilbur B. Sharpe) wrote not long ago that she had some new information from her dad. Apparently, Amon Carter’s dad visited him in the prison camp. Cindy’s dad attributes some of the perks to the prisoners resulted from the dad’s visit. She also learned of Charlie Eberle’s clandestine job at the camp and that Col. Alger was the contact for her dad’s secret packages. *Cindy, thanks so much for sharing this information. The bigger picture unfolds as we continue to learn something new.*

Susanna Connaughton (daughter of the late Kriegy Seymour Bolten) mentioned visiting the Szubin Museum while in Szubin recently. There she found a note from Col. Drake’s wife written



during a visit to the museum in 1985. See the Kriegy News and Information section. *Susanna, it's always fun to find these types of things from the past and knowing who the people are makes it even more interesting. Thanks so much for sharing.*



Susan Dana (daughter of the late Kriegy) wrote to let us know that there would be a public Celebration of Life for Herman and Lucy Littman on October 14 in Coeur d'Alene Idaho. As you may recall, Herm passed away in May. The family held a private gravesite memorial service at that time. Herm's obituary was published in the last ITEM. *Susan, thanks so much for sending the information about the Celebration of Life. Our loved ones who have gone before us definitely are deserving of a great celebration. We know you and your family enjoyed being together for this wonderful event.*

Tom Detmers (son of the late Kriegy Arthur V. Detmers) wrote in response to our query about recent disasters and said: "Thanks for asking about us! We in North-east Florida have been watching the disaster in Texas and praying for the people affected by Harvey. My boss received a video from one of the people in Houston that he works with, his neighborhood is about totally under water. We have a niece in the Houston area, we have not heard anything from her, so no news is good news at this point. Now we are watching and waiting for Irma, it looks like it will take the same track up the east coast as Mathew did last year, we are prepared as well as we can, my house is about 12 miles from the ocean, not far enough to suit me when storms are around." *Tom, thank you very much for informing us about things in Florida. We hope you and your family were safe and didn't lose any property.*

David Ferguson (nephew of the late Kriegy Clarence M. Ferguson) wrote in response to our request for someone who would be able and willing to translate the remaining French documents into English for Mariusz. He mentioned a close friend who might be able to help. We hope to hear from him soon. *Thanks, David, very much for your willingness to help*

find someone to translate. It takes many hands to accomplish great tasks and we appreciate yours and those of your friend.

Andrea Fisher (granddaughter of the late Kriegy Austin L. Knapp) wrote that she would be traveling to Poland to visit the site of Oflag 64 soon. *Andrea, thank you very much for contacting us. It's so exciting to hear when Kriegy family members travel to Szubin. There is so much history and so much to be learned. We'd love to hear of your experiences.*

Bruce Frey (son of the late Kriegy Gordon G. Frey) sent word of the passing of his father at age 93 earlier this summer and wrote: "I found a copy of your newsletter at their house which took me to your website. There (and from the links) I learned most of what I know about the ordeal of the Oflag 64 Kriegies as Dad never wanted to talk about his wartime experiences. Occasional snips are all I heard over the years and those were usually followed by periods of great sadness. At one point I offered to help him create a narrative of his experience through a program (the name of which escapes me), but he did not want to do it. In any case, I would be grateful if any of your readers has any knowledge, photos or remembrances of him. I would also like to be included on your e-mail distributions, if possible. See the TAPS section of this ITEM for Gordon's obituary. *Thank you Bruce for letting us know about your dear father's passing. It's always difficult to lose loved ones, but more difficult when their history, unknown to us, passes with them. We sent a request for information to our Oflag 64 family. Hopefully you have received a few responses. Our thoughts and prayers along with heartfelt condolences are sent to you and your family. We know he will be mightily missed. We thank him, a great patriot and hero, for his service and sacrifice. You have been added to our email list as requested.*

Jenny Gilmore (granddaughter of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. *Thanks, Jenny, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 Family. We have added you to our email list as requested and hope to hear from you again.*

Ann Hart-Otterbein (daughter-in-law of the late Kriegy Louis W. Otterbein) send 4th of July greetings and news of her family. She also sent a yummy recipe. Try this:

3 T. chopped onions

3. T. chicken fat or butter

sauté until clear, add 3 T. flour

1 tsp. ginger

3 T. curry powder

3 cups chicken broth

stir until it boils, then simmer 5 minutes.

Optional: a handful of raisins and some chopped walnuts.

Makes a great side dish mixed with rice or shrimp or lobster in it, but it is a little spicy.

Thank you very much for your holiday wishes and for sharing the great recipe. I haven't tried it yet, but it sounds absolutely delicious. Hope you had a wonderful time with your extended family.

Mindy Hutchison (granddaughter of the late Kriegy Isaac E. Franklin) wrote that her mom, Sharon Franklin Hutchison, had recently fallen and broken her hip, had surgery and was undergoing physical therapy. You might recall that Sharon formerly maintained the POW Database on our website until her server could no longer process the information. *Mindy, thank you so much for letting us know about your mom's fall. We wish her well and hope that her recovery will be quick and complete. She's in our thoughts and prayers.*



Anne Kreutzer (daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel R. Hoskot) wrote recently that she and her husband were in France and had just spent two days with a guide/historical researcher who has been working with her to try to fill in the many gaps of her dad's D-Day story. She wrote: "While having lunch at a cafe in Ste Mere Eglise, I saw these reenactors with "Poland" on their sleeves so I waited until their lunch was over and went over and talked to them." She said one of them would be participating in the Sept 16 reenactment at Oflag 64! Anne also sent a donation to the Postage Fund. *Thank you so much, Anne, for your generous and thoughtful contribution to the PF and also for sharing these tidbits with us. We hope you had a wonderful and productive time in France. How interesting that you would come across some Polish reenactors.*

Bartek Kwasniewski (a researcher from Poland) contacted us recently regarding Ranger Battalion officers who were detained at prison camps in Poland in 1944. Our good friend, Mariusz Winiecki, came into recent contact with him and was given our contact information for help in answering this question. If you have information regarding Rangers held at Oflag 64, please let us know. *Thank you, Bartek, for contacting us. Hopefully, from the emails we sent to our group, you are receiving some helpful information. We are aware that there were approximately 32 Rangers held at Oflag 64 and we have contact with family members of 4 of them. It is our understanding that none of the Rangers are still living.*

Bill Lott (son of the late Kriegy Durward B Lott) found our website recently and sent information about his dad who was captured in July 1944, interned at Oflag 64 until the Long March in January 1945. His dad rarely talked about the war but increasingly so in later years. Bill is trying to compile some his dad's oral history for himself and his family. Additionally, he asked to be added to our email list. *Bill, thank you very much for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 Family. We're always happy when another family member finds us. Feel free to share any information you find about your dad at any time. You have been added to our email list as requested.*



Lucy Lussenden (widow of Donald Lussenden) wrote in response to our query regarding disasters. She wasn't affected by the hurricanes and hoped not to be bothered by ashfall or smoke from fires in the northwest. Her granddaughter in Denver, however, was experiencing smoke from fires in other states. *Lucy, thanks so much for writing. We were happy to learn that you and your granddaughter have remained safe through recent disasters. Let's hope they're coming to an end.*

Anne Matzelle (daughter of the late Kriegy James L. Cockrell) wrote with a request for copies of website photos which include her dad. We found 13 photos that we were able to share. *Thank you, Anne, for asking about the photos. It's nice to be able to find these things. Thanks*

to the ICRC and others at the time who took photos so we would have them today.

Rosemary Meacham (granddaughter of the late Kriegy Merle Meacham) took a trip to Szubin in 2016 and recently said she had photos and information to share. We have not yet received them, but are looking forward to having them soon. *Thanks, Rosemary, for contacting us and for volunteering to send information about your trip. More and more Kriegy family members are traveling to Poland to experience part of the history of their husbands, fathers, grandfathers, etc. Please send information when you're able.*

Marianne Liggett Merriam (daughter of Kriegy Francis Eugene Liggett) wrote to let us know that her father has moved. Still in Vancouver WA but at a different address. *Thank you, Marianne, for sending your dad's new address. It's difficult sometimes to keep up with all the changes so we always appreciate when we get updates from Kriegies or their family members.*

Bill Moore (nephew of the late Kriegy Louis E Moore) wrote not long ago about possibly attending the reenactment in Szubin. Unfortunately, he was unable to go. In response to our query regarding recent disasters, he was not affected by them where he lives but sent this: "God Bless all who have been negatively affected." *Thanks so much, Bill, for contacting us. A trip to Szubin and a visit to the site of the Oflag 64 camp will be well worth it. We know that other opportunities will present themselves in the future. Thanks also for your kind words to those affected by recent disasters.*

John Northcutt (son of the late Kriegy Enoch L. Northcutt, Jr.) wrote in response to Anna Weber's request for information about a group of 8 Kriegies who escaped from the Long March. Among them were Phil Wade, Charlie Eberle, and Bob Plummer. *Thank you very much, John, for responding so quickly to Anna's request. Every piece of information helps develop the entire picture of what our Kriegies experienced.*

James Olson (nephew of the late Kriegy Clayton V. Kallander) wrote to express sentiments and to honor Doc DiFrancesco after his passing. *Thank you so much, James for your thoughtful expressions. They have been passed on to the family.*



Gail Rahal (widow of the late Kriegy Nick Rahal) wrote in response to our recent query about anyone affected by our country's disasters. She reported that so far everything was fine where she lives.

Thanks very much, Gail, for letting us know that you were safe as hurricanes and other disasters hit one after another.



John R. Rodgers, Sr. (Kriegy) sent a nice note not long ago with a donation to our Postage Fund. In the note he related this story about Herm Littman: "I'm reminded of a story told me by my

brother-in-law Harry E. Evans. Harry and I were quartered together and he once told me that he and Herman were in the 82nd Airborne. Once on a training flight, everyone had hooked up their jump cords and jumped out. When they were all out, power was applied and the crew chief was pulling in the jump cords prior to closing the door. One cord appeared to have a weight on it and when he looked, he saw Herman pulling himself, hand over hand, back into the plane. It seems that when he jumped that in some way the cord looped around his neck." *Thanks so much for your thoughtful and generous donation to the PF. And thank you for sharing the amazing story about Herm. Our Kriegies had so many obstacles to overcome during the war. And this was just one such obstacle. We're so thankful for the service and sacrifice of all our Kriegies.*



Ted Roggen (Kriegy) sent greetings recently along with a photo of his 99th birthday cake from his San Jacinto High School paper, the CAMPUS CLUB. He graduated in 1936. See the "Birthday" section (immediately

following this section) for a photo of the cake. *Thank you, Ted, once again for sharing your birthday with us. Beautiful cake and what a nice memory. Looking forward to your 100th in February.*

Rudi Schmidt from Germany found our website and sent along some scans of a letter from Kriegy George Durgin to a friend in Atlantic City New Jersey in 1944. It was written on paper

originally stamped as Oflag XXIB, then was crossed out and 64 was put in it's place. *Thank you very much, Rudi, for sharing this information. We hope to be able to publish it online soon.*

Margie Slack (daughter of the late Kriegy John F. Slack) wrote in response to our query about anyone who might be in harms way during recent hurricanes and fires. She reported that all was well in Burke VA and wished us well. *Thank you so much, Margie, for your kind thoughts. We're very happy you weren't affected by recent disasters.*

Robert Slingluff (son of the late Kriegy John K. Slingluff) contacted us recently and asked the following: "Dad John K. Slingluff was at Oflag 64. Recently I found a metal tag from Stalag XII A in family items. I looked it up and think that camp was a sorting camp where POWs were sent to their ultimate destination. I wonder if anyone remembers that camp which was in Limberg. The site pertaining to that camp said that they sorted men captured on the western front (France/Normandy). We feel Dad went through that facility along with others. Dad was captured on June 13 with his Regimental CO, Paul Goode." *Thanks, Robert, for contacting us. We sent a query out to the Oflag 64 Association Family. Hopefully you received some responses with the information you've been looking for.*

David Terrenoire (son-in-law of the late Kriegy William A. Nielsen) contacted us recently saying that his father-in-law left currency, a theater ticket and most interesting, a 100 franc note with 17 or 18 names and addresses of other officers. Please see the Kriegy News and Information section for pictures of these items. *Thank you very much, David, for sharing these pieces of history. We would like to add some or all of them to our website as soon as possible.*

Susan Grisct van der Roest (daughter of the late Kriegy Lorin Grisct) wrote in response to Robert Slingluff's query regarding Stalag XII A. She reported: "My father, Lorin Grisct, passed through Stalag XII A. He was:

- 44th Infantry Division of the Army.
- Captured 11-24-44 Rauwiller, France.
- Taken to Stalag XII A to be processed.
- Sent to Oflag 64 in cattle car train.
- When Oflag 64 "closed", Dad did the brutal

winter march back to Germany - Oflag XIII B. Hammelburg." *Thank you very much, Susan, for sharing your father's POW history. Every little bit of information helps piece the whole picture together for many families.*

Ross Valles (possible relative of the late Kriegy James L. Sweeney) came across a large collection of letters written from James to his wife while he was at Oflag 64. Ross also found some newspaper articles and photos, including one we didn't have of the men standing or kneeling in rows in the snow at Oflag 64. *Thank you so much, Ross, for this very amazing and new (in some cases) information. We will post the Kriegy photo to our website along with other information as soon as we can.*



Jackie Van Vliet-Carnell (granddaughter of the late Kriegy John H. Van Vliet, Jr.) wrote following the passing of Doc DiFrancesco and thanked us for sending the information. She expressed: "What wonderful men we honor." *Jackie, thanks very much for sharing your thoughts with us. We definitely agree that we honor wonderful and great men. We're so thankful for their service.*



John Van Vliet III (son of the late Kriegy John H. Van Vliet, Jr.) sent scans of photos and documents that were kept by his dad. Some have been added to our website already and we are in the process of adding other information currently. See the Kriegy News and Information section for the scanned photos, etc. *John, thanks so much for sending the scans. We learn so much with each new bit of information. Much appreciated.*



Pat Waters (son of the late Kriegy John K. Waters) wrote in response to our query regarding anyone affected by recent disasters. At the time, in South Carolina where Pat lives, they weren't certain about how they might be affected. He expressed that it was good to be alive and free as Americans, thanks to our dads and moms and all others who cared. In a later email, Pat shared that through amazing luck he ended

up talking with Patrick Spaulding, son of the late Kriegy Horace M. Spaulding, regarding a matter totally unrelated to Oflag 64. *Pat, thank you so very much for sharing your thoughts. Yes, we sometimes forget when disasters hit that we are extremely blessed to be alive and free. We owe so much to our ancestors, past and present. And, regarding your phone conversation with Patrick Spaulding, that was a truly amazing connection. What are the chances of that happening normally?*



Anna Weber (granddaughter of the late Kriegy Philip M. Wade) since our last ITEM sent a request for information for her research. If you have information to share, please let me know and I will forward it on

to her. She asked: "Would anyone happen to know the story of a group of about eight men from the march between Szubin and Hammelburg? They escaped in some fashion -- I believe by hiding in hay, possibly in a barn -- and three of their names were Phil Wade (my grandfather), Charlie Eberle, and Bob Plummer. They escaped through Warsaw (I would love information about the camp in Rembertów), then were part of the last group of POWs to leave by sea from Odessa under British command, possibly passing through Port Said in Egypt, then Naples, then finally back to the US. Any details of this particular group would be tremendously helpful, although details about these three men (I understand that Charlie Eberle was well-known) would be helpful.

My second question is concerning interactions between American POWs and residents of Szubin. It is hard to figure out how often interactions happened, and with whom, other than with regards to escaping (though of course, I'm interested in which Szubin residents helped Kriegies escape, and who that might have been -- I did read *The Big Break* and got some ideas from that).....Would anyone happen to have letters in their possessions from residents of Szubin to Kriegies, for example? *Anna, thanks so much for writing again. We hope you have received much information since then and also from your recent trip back to Szubin. We are eager to hear how your research is coming along.*



David Weinstein (nephew of the late Kriegy Len Feldman is interested in finding out who did two different drawings of his uncle. It was first thought that Jim Bickers may have drawn them, but it is possible that they were drawn by Bill Fabian. Does anyone recognize whose works these are? Please see the Kriegy News and Information section for the drawings. Is anyone in contact with children of Bill Fabian? If so, please let me know. *Thanks very much, David, for sending copies of the drawings and for other photos you have sent as well. It's so interesting learning about who knew whom at Oflag 64 and who stayed in touch.*



Mariusz Winiiecki (our good friend and Oflag 64 family member from Poland) is such an amazing individual. We're continually in awe of all he accomplishes on behalf of the Oflag 64 Association, the town of Szubin, the Reenactment, his blog, just to name a few. He has been actively involved over the last year in the proposed creation of a Hall of Remembrance in the remaining red brick barrack at the camp site, and is a wonderful liaison and emissary for our Oflag 64 Association. He recently sent notice that he has added another post to his blog. If you haven't visited it yet, please click on this link to learn more about the history of the site: <http://oflag64altburgund.blogspot.com> A recent posting relates to a message from Kriegy Wilbur Sharpe to the people of Szubin, which was read by Wilbur's daughter at the recent reenactment in Szubin. Also, an even more recent posting is a video of the reenactment held at the site in September which can also be found on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/GSM7hVLB-P8> *Thank you, Mariusz, more than we can express, for the wonderful work you do for Oflag 64 and the history of the camp. You have given us so much!*



Nancy Thompson Wyatt (daughter of the late Kriegy Robert T. Thompson) wrote in response to our query about anyone affected by Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and any other storms or natural

disasters. She reported that where they live in Texas, not as many houses were affected by Hurricane Harvey, but she has co-workers and friends who were. All her family and close friends are fine. They feel truly blessed. *Thank you very much, Nancy, for checking in. We hope all others are doing well and were safe as storms hit areas where they live.*

Several of our Oflag 64 Association Family Members wrote to say they were safe and well during recent hurricanes, storms, floods, fires, etc. We are thankful that this is the case. We are truly experiencing more and more challenging and difficult times. Thank you to all who let us know you were safe.

* * * * *

Happy Birthday to our Amazing Kriegy Patriots and Heroes!!



Kriegies, please send a photo or photos of you on your birthday, no matter how old or young you are.
We would love to include them in the ITEM.

Oflag 64



KRIEGY NEWS & INFORMATION

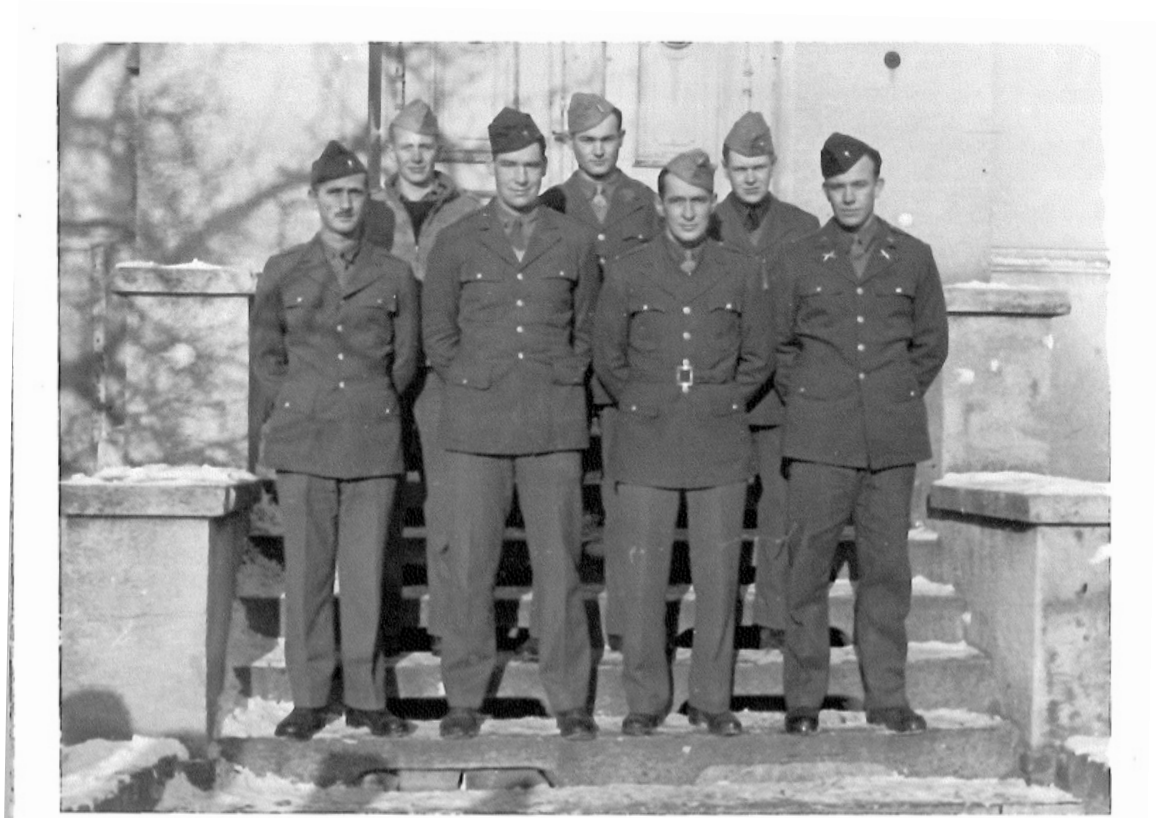
This photo was sent by Ross Valles and was found among the late Kriegy James L. Sweeney's possessions. It is new to us and will be posted to our website as is. We think we know who some of the Kriegies are but would appreciate identification of any others.



Front Row: second from left is James L. Cockrell, Second Row: third from left possibly Frank Maxwell, far right possibly Doyle Yardley.

These next few photos were sent to us by John H. Van Vliet III. Some have already been posted online and some aren't there yet. Again, if you can help with identification of any whose names are missing, we would greatly appreciate it.

This next one is labeled CLUB 19. Front Row l-r: Edgar P. Moschel, William W. Luttrell, John B. Shinn Jr., Robert S. Hutchison. Back Row l-r: James W. Barnes, Woodley C. Warrick, William H. Angevine.

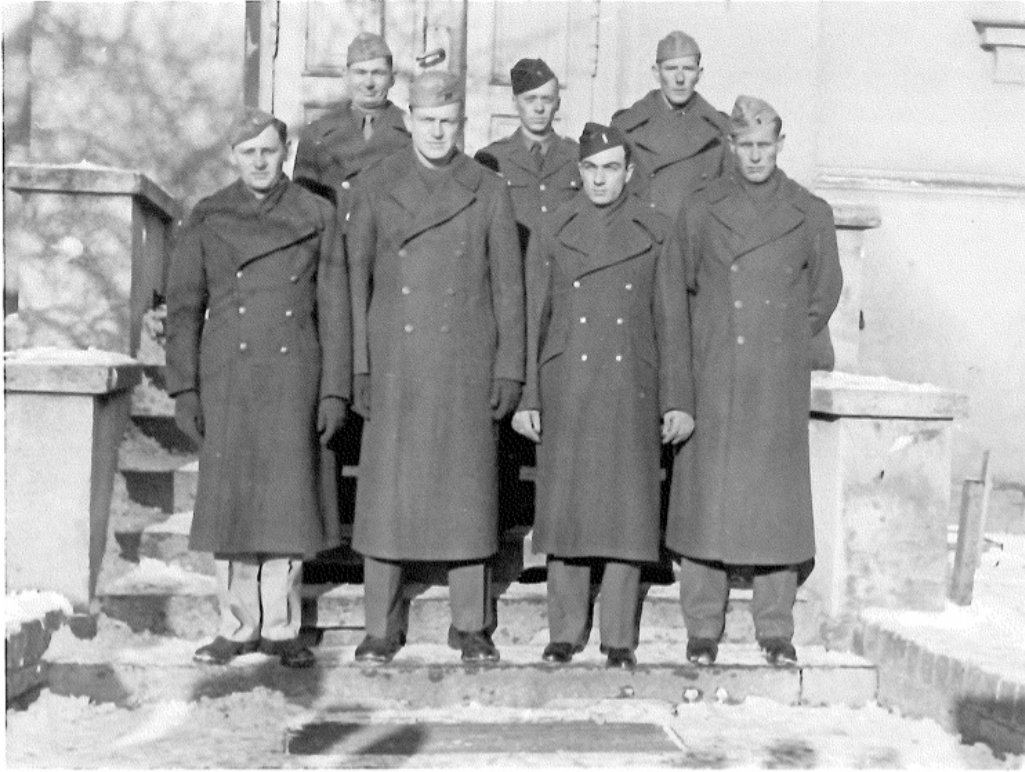


This next photo is labeled with these names. Front Row l-r: James W. Sherman, Robinson (not sure which Robinson), Johnson (not sure which Johnson). Back Row l-r: Roberts (not sure which Roberts), Bingham (not sure which Bingham), Jerome R. Hatch.

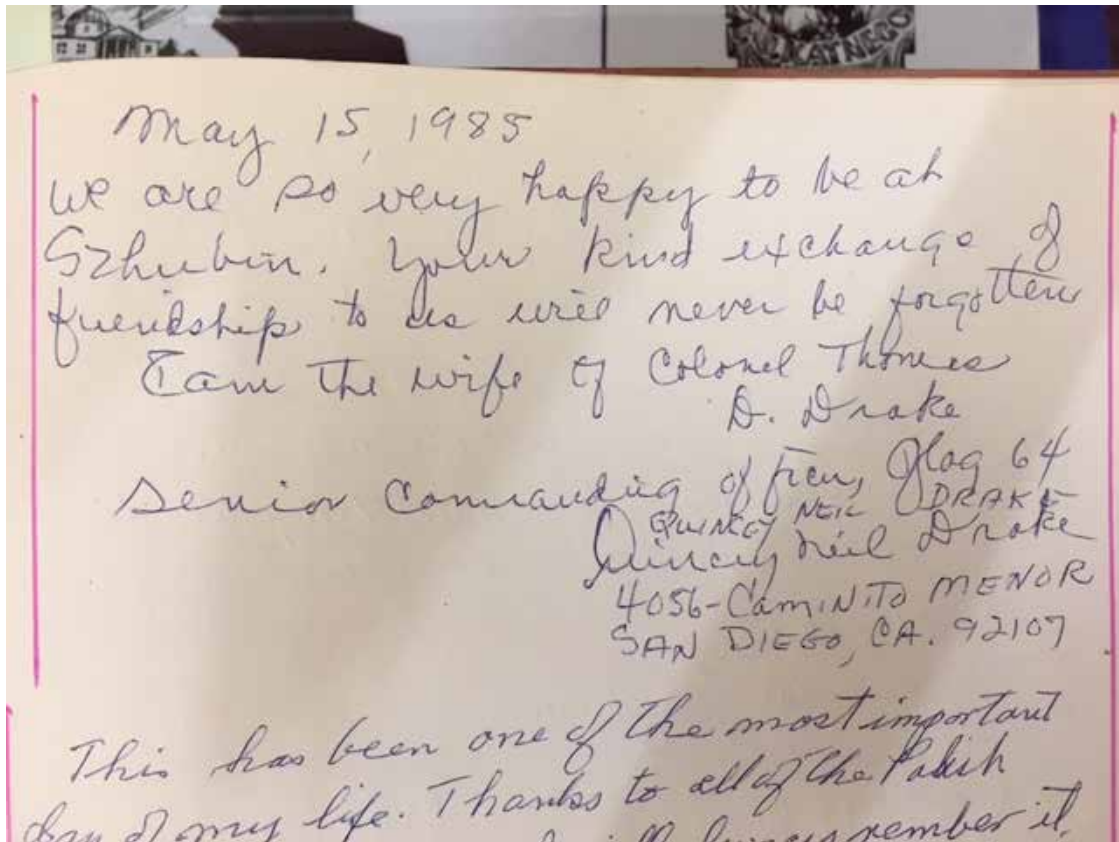


The top photo is labeled as follows: Front Row l-r: Charles W. Freeman, Jones (not sure which Jones), Delbert Dorman, Hill T. Murphy. Back Row l-r: John J. Hasson Jr., Donald L. Rockwell, Frederic D. Summers.

The bottom photo is labeled as follows: Front Row l-r: unknown, Robert P. Milligan, Frank Maxwell. Back Row l-r: Robert Bingham, Bob ??, Robert W. Lobb, Verris C. Hubbell.



This photo was taken by Susanna Connaughton during her recent visit to the Museum in Szubin. What a great find!!



These photos represent the front and back of the challenge coin Pat Waters had produced for distribution to Polish citizens in September. Members of our US travelling group handed them out to visitors attending the "Living History" reenactment in Szubin.



These drawings of the late Kriegy Len Feldman were sent by David Weinstein, Len's nephew. David would like to know who the artist was. They are thought to have been done by either Jim Bickers or Bill Fabian, but David would like to know for sure. Any ideas?

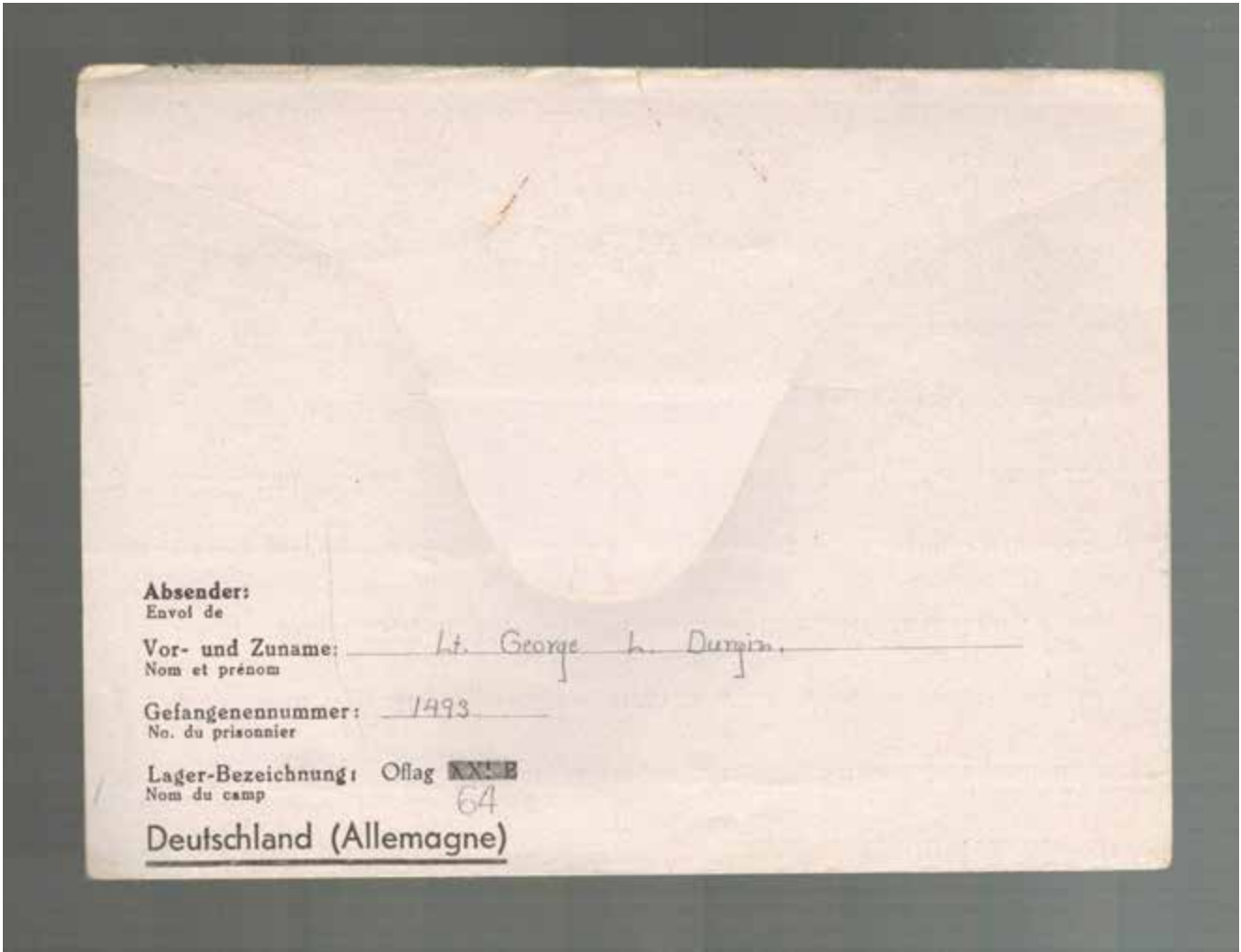


These next two photos were sent to us by David Terrenoire who is the son-in-law of the late Kriegy William A. Nielsen. Great memorabilia, signed by Oflag 64 Kriegies!!





This envelope photo was sent by Rudi Schmidt from Germany. It was something he found online written by George Durgin to a friend. Notice that Oflag XXIB was crossed out and 64 written immediately below. It was somewhat rare that the older envelopes were used.



This debriefing notice was sent to us by John H. VanVliet III, son of the late Kriegy John H. VanVliet, Jr. It is one of 11 pages containing information about his capture, moves from camp to camp, camp conditions, experiences with the Germans and the Russians, escape attempts, tunnel digging, escape food, phony drunk party, and various other things. The entire document is quite interesting to read.

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

645

United States SECRET
British SECRET

EX Report No. 645
Date 11 May 1945

SECRET

By Auth. A. C./S., G-2

WAR DEPARTMENT
War Department General Staff G-2
Military Intelligence Service
Washington

Date 9 July 45
Initials [Signature]

Prepared by
CPM BRANCH

ESCAPE) VAN VLIET, John H. Jr., Lt. Col., O-20828, 168th Inf.
EVASION) (Name) (OPLNG 81, SCHUBEN, POLAND) group, or unit
LIBERATION) From STALAG 3A, LUCKENWALD, GERMANY
Camp and/or country

Missing in action 17 Feb 43
Date of capture 17 Feb 43
~~Reported POW~~ 16 Jul 45
~~Escaped~~ 5 May 45
Escaped 5 May 45
Rejoined Allied forces
At Dabon, Germany
Previous interrogation MIS-X, Paris
Camp Lucky Strike
Arrived in USA 16 Mar 45, Presque Isle, Maine
Home address Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas
Age 30 yrs.
Length of Service 7 yrs., 11 mos.

SZUBIN VISIT & "LIVING HISTORY" REENACTMENT

A few of our Oflag 64 family members had the opportunity to travel to Poland in September to experience the Oflag 64 Living History Reenactment. All gave great reports of their experiences while there. The next few pages will tell a little about their time spent in Szubin. Various photos of the reenactment are included and will be posted online soon. Please be sure to click on the following link for a wonderfully detailed photo essay posted by Mariusz Winiecki on his blog. [The Oflag 64 Record- Fo#3E7039F](#)

* * * * *



"No way this was a POW camp," I thought the first time we drove by the buildings. I'm not entirely sure what I expected, but it certainly wasn't the well-kept buildings and landscapes in Szubin. Perhaps it is because I had spent the previous morning looking at the brutal black-and-white photos at the World War II Museum in Gdansk. Or perhaps it is because I had spent the previous Sunday at Auschwitz and Birkenau learning about how the Nazis treated Polish and Soviet POWs (spoiler alert: there weren't many by 1944). Perhaps I have just seen too many episodes of *Hogan's Heroes*. Whatever the reason, the neatly painted buildings did not fit with the mental image I had of Oflag 64.

It sneaks up on you when you drive into town. As you drive along one of the main roads towards the camp, it seems like a regular town – shops line the street with a lovely church at a crossroads. Then, there it is on the right hand side: a collection of buildings, all with renewed purpose, that used to house the Allies. A tiny church, being lovingly restored, that has the remains of deceased POWs around its foundations. If I didn't know any better, I would have never guessed its history.

I'm going to repeat that. If I didn't know any better, I would have never guessed its history. And that is what struck me the most about my time in Szubin and the impression that followed me home: the citizens of Szubin are incorporating their past into their future. The town put together a ceremony and reenactment to ensure that the next generations remember their history. We ran across a woman working in a soup kitchen in the basement of the old barracks who remembered when it was the kitchen for the POWs and told us her story. It might not be pretty (most Polish history isn't), but it is important.

The buildings continue to thrive with their renewed purpose to provide a service to the next generation – the original buildings house a special education office and a police station. The town comes out by the hundreds to attend a reenactment of actual events that happened in those now innocuous looking buildings. The new buildings on the grounds contain a reform school led by a principal who encourages his students to embrace, honor, and remember the past. Thank you Szubin for being part of our history and letting us be part of yours. ~ **Lauren Burgess, granddaughter of Kriegy Wilbur "Bill" Sharpe**

Living History – Oflag 64

As experienced by Dave Stewart, son of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart

Historical events depicting the daily life as well as escape attempts of former WWII American POWs held at the former Oflag 64 POW camp in Szubin were re-enacted on Saturday, September 16, 2017.

This unique event was organized by the Mayor of Szubin Artur Michalak, the Municipal Office of Szubin, the Regional Museum of Szubin and the Historical Re-enactment Group “*Green Light*” in conjunction with the MOAS Reform School in Szubin, the Szubin Culture Hall, the Schools Complex in Szubin, the Club of Photography Lovers “Flesz”, and Mariusz Winiecki, the local historical researcher of the Szubin WWII POW camp for allied forces and author of “*The Oflag 64 Record*” blog. Besides the Historical Re-enactment Group “*Green Light*” members, approximately 70 re-enactors from many other Poland-based re-enactment groups attended the event.

The first historical show entitled “*Arrival of American POWs*” presented the arrival of US Army officers to Oflag 64 in June 1943. The second historical show entitled “*The Fake Drunk Party*” presented the clever escape plan in the middle of May 1944 masterminded and carried out by Lt. Col. John H. Van Vliet II, 2nd Lt. Frank N. Aten, 1st Lt. Roy J. Chappell Jr., 2nd Lt. William F. Higgins and 1st Lt. Richard W. Secor. Four of the five officers escaped, but were recaptured a short time later. The third historical show entitled “*The Escape of a British Aviator*” dates back to the time when the site was called Oflag XXI-B and held the POW officers of the Commonwealth Air Forces who were later moved to Stalag Luft 3 in Sagan in April 1943.

Five members of the Oflag 64 Association attended the “*Living History – Oflag 64*”. They were: Susanna Connaughton, daughter of the late 2nd Lt. Seymour R. Bolten, Dave Stewart, son of the late Capt. Donald B. Stewart, Cindy Sharpe Burgess, daughter of 2nd Lt. Wilbur B. Sharpe, Lauren Burgess, granddaughter of Sharpe, and Glenn Burgess, son-in-law of Sharpe.

Producer David “Wino” Weinstein, the great-nephew of 2nd LT. Leonard Feldman, filmed the reenactment event for an upcoming documentary entitled “*Feldman, Portrait of a POW*” that he plans to release in the US in the near future.



Historical Re-enactment Group “*Green Light*” (Photo courtesy Dorota Maik vel ‘Winnie – the photographer’)

As experienced by Cindy Burgess, daughter of Kriegy Wilbur B. "Bill" Sharpe

As we made our way to Szubin anticipating the Reenactment Event, we wondered what to expect once we arrived at the former prison camp site in the charming town of Szubin. Because we had visited the location 4 years earlier we had no idea how our attendance and participation would be received by the citizens of the community.

Suffice it to say, we were overwhelmed by the warm and welcome greeting we received by the many in attendance and were thrilled to witness the support of the community which included many community dignitaries, museum curators, local educators, teens, young children and their parents and a representative from the US Embassy in Warsaw and his family. We were especially happy to see familiar faces we had met 4 years prior.

We arrived in Szubin at 10 a.m. as requested by Mariusz Winiecki. He had made arrangements to have the White House opened for us by the Administrator of the Special Education School which is located at that site. Our tour was amazing as we envisioned our fathers as they lived during their incarceration. An emotional moment for me was climbing the very stairs my father had taken many times during his 2 plus year imprisonment. We had a number of questions regarding certain locations of activities and had the wonderful opportunity to call my father, Wilbur, to ask for clarification. Again, another emotional moment as he spoke with Susanna Bolten Connaughton and Mariusz. It was great for all of us!!!

Mariusz also made arrangements through the parish to have the chapel opened for touring. A truly lovely and intimate setting which is currently being renovated.

At noon we were ushered into the school conference room and treated to a beautiful bounty of Polish food compliments of the Head of the Reform School. The scale model of the prison site (constructed by the students) was perfectly placed in the main hall of the school and looks amazing.

Outside the school a Gastronomic Area was available providing, kielbasa, kebabs, breads, popcorn, pickles and beverages. Tents and picnic tables were positioned for those enjoying lunch in that location. I was approached by a local TV reporter and cameraman then answered a number of questions related to the event. Apparently, this was aired on Polish TV!

We observed the reenactors preparing for the day's events which were quite authentic. They were very proud of their research and looked forward to bringing history alive for those in attendance. Our daughter remarked they walked and slouched like so many Americans during that time! Their many vignettes which were begun at 1 p.m. were well performed and enjoyed by all. They included not only lounging in the camp, but the welcoming of new prisoners by the current prisoners and the roughing up by the German guards; the RAF officer who tried to escape and was shot on the spot; the drunken party; baseball game and of course the authentic bread fed to the prisoners was available for tasting (the filler was actually sawdust!)

Of special importance to me was the performance of "Brother Orchid" in which my dad, Wilbur, performed. The actors were local teens who had been coached by a local drama teacher who was quite proud of them. It appeared they were having the time of their lives. Unfortunately for us, it was spoken in Polish. I brought an original picture (to include Wilbur) of one of the scenes to share with the actors. Big smiles all around!

The dignitaries spoke and presented Mariusz with commendations and many thanks and congratulations. There was a master of ceremonies who announced all the events and of course, the opening of the day and throughout there was 30's-40's music playing and the actual Glee Club singing in the background.

The Szubin museum had a tent and tables set-up which provided items to purchase highlighting the town of Szubin; mugs, lanyards, coasters, key chains, T-shirts, books and mouse pads. We left with a bag full

of memorabilia. The young girls staffing this venue were delightful, welcoming and excited by the event. The museum also provided a watercolor and photo display of the history of the camp to include the British, the French and the Americans.

The day concluded much to our dismay but on an optimistic tone. Dave Stewart presented Mariusz with an attractive plaque of appreciation from the Americans highlighting his determination and passion to keep this part of history accurate and alive in Poland. The dignitaries remained in attendance to the very end and did witness this gesture of appreciation which is so well deserved. The Americans were also presented with special gifts of appreciation by the Mayor; a true surprise!

The reenactment was more than we ever imagined it to be and we look forward to future trips to Szubin to witness continued expansion and knowledge of the Oflag 64 site and those who were incarcerated at that location.

I am so proud of my dad, Wilbur, who came out of prison a stronger and more determined man to live his life to the fullest. He continues to this day at age 95 to maintain a positive spirit and I can't help but believe his experiences at Oflag 64 influenced him to embrace that approach to life.

"A Day At Oflag 64"

As experienced by Susanna Bolten Connaughton, daughter of the late Kriegy Seymour R. Bolten

When my father, ex-Kriegy 2nd Lieutenant Seymour Bolten, left Oflag 64 on January 28, 1945, he packed-up the hundreds of letters and documents he had saved over the past two years. He hauled these papers with him on his three-thousand mile, two-and-a-half-month journey: trucked to Rembertów refugee camp, sent by box car to Odessa, and then aboard ship to Egypt. Though I didn't discover this treasure chest until long after he had passed away--and POWs were great hoarders--I believe that part of the reason he saved this time capsule for the rest of his life was so that the history of this experience would never be forgotten.

He would have been delighted with Oflag 64's first Living History event, "A Day at Oflag 64." The event brought the camp to life with vivid and keen attention to historical detail.

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend, and to be one of the recipients of the extraordinary warmth and hospitality of the organizers.

I was just as fortunate to be there with fellow "Kriegy Kids" Glenn and Cindy Sharpe Burgess and Dave Stewart, as well as the Burgess's daughter, Lauren, and David Weinstein, Leonard Feldman's nephew, who was there to film a documentary about his uncle's experience. It truly felt like the "Oflag 64 Family" that Elodie Caldwell has referenced in the informative Oflag 64 Association website.

The day before the reenactment, we were touring Barrack #9, the future home of the Hall of Remembrance. On the field in front of us, about a dozen of the [Green Light Historical Group](#) reenactors, wearing the khaki and the drab green wool I'd only seen in photographs, were erecting a barbed wire fence for the next day's vignettes. As they worked and chatted, they shared slices of the infamous heavy-as-a-brick German black bread--made from the original recipe, sawdust included. I hope my hosts will not be offended if I say that, at best, it was tasteless.

They also took time to show us the coats and boots that our POWs wore in the photos I showed them that came from my father's trunk. Pulling from their boxes of original and reproduction World War II gear, they described the evolution of each article, and its pros and cons of utility and durability.

The reenactors' own youthful and indefatigable energy reminded me that the Germans like *Oberst* Schneider and *Hauptman* Zimmerman did not stand a chance with our Kriegies. I also thought how my father would have liked each of them—for their hospitality, their energy, and their respect for the details of history.

The next day, a few hundred people arrived for “A Day at Oflag 64.” Thirty-Five Polish reenactors—British flyers, Russian orderlies, and American Army officers—portrayed the six-year span of the camp. During the opening moments, an original recording of the Oflag 64 Glee Club (my father sang tenor) floated over the camp loudspeakers.

[The recording](#) had been made by Henry Söderberg, the beloved International YMCA Representative, during his June 1944 visit. With the steady electronic hum of Söderberg's portable recording equipment in the background, the men's harmony sailed across the field.

After the opening ceremonies, adults and children of all ages, watched the vignettes unfold behind the barbed wire. In the first one, the “Arrival of American POWs,” we watched the exhausted prisoners shuffle through the wooden gates, cheered in by the fellow Kriegies who had arrived earlier. The German guards—well-armed, and attired in the intimidating tall boots—searched them. The new arrivals shifted from foot-to-foot as one of the welcoming POWs, wearing a long wool military coat, read them the (original) rules of the camp from a single sheet of paper.

Between vignettes, participants could view a replica of the White House's Bulletin Board that all Kriegies (and German guards, according to my father) checked at least twice a day to read the “Daily Bulletin,” or take in the historical display of camp photographs that were taken by representatives of the International Red Cross during their visits to Szubin between 1940-1944.

The participants transported us to the world of Oflag 64. The event's success is a result of months of detailed planning by the multitude of collaborators, and the leadership of the always patient, always diplomatic, always historically attentive Mariusz Winięcki. At the end of the event, attending members of the Oflag 64 Association Family presented Mariusz with a plaque thanking him for his “tireless efforts and unwavering commitment in researching the history” of the camp.

My father, ex-Kriegy #1477, and fellow archivist, would have agreed. This history should not be forgotten. And, events like this one, and the future Hall of Remembrance, ensure that it will not be forgotten. I am looking forward to enjoying the next Reenactment event at Oflag 64, even if it includes the black bread.



Special Presentation to Mariusz Winiecki by members of the
Oflag 64 Association Family



This photo shows the Oflag 64 flag that has been present at many or most of our Oflag 64 Reunions. We felt it appropriate to have it present at this very important event. Thanks to Susanna Connaughton for transporting it there and back. How proudly it waved!!



© 2017 Susanna B. Connaughton

The following 9 reenactment photos were taken by Mirosław Rzeszowski and are used with permission





OFLAG 64 HALL OF REMEMBRANCE

The following letter was recently sent by US Mail to our remaining living Kriegies and living widows of our deceased Kriegies. It is printed here for your information as well. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Elodie at the email address on the front page of this ITEM.

12 October 2017

Dear Members of the Oflag 64 Association Family,

You are receiving this letter because you are either a past Kriegy, family member of a past Kriegy, or a friend or interested party of the Oflag 64 Association.

Over the past few years a number of members of our loose association have visited Szubin and the Oflag 64 POW Camp. During the course of the visits we have developed a close relationship with city officials, and in fact, last September we met with the Mayor and City Council. Out of this meeting the idea to turn the last existing barracks into a Hall of Remembrance became a goal and a plan was set in place.

The city has worked through various levels of red tape at both the regional and national levels but has acquired the rights to the barracks. Sadly the barracks are in great disrepair and the city is in the process of winterizing the building so there will be no further damage as the city moves forward with the Hall of Remembrance.

Coinciding with the work on the physical structure the city of Szubin is establishing a Foundation to operate and maintain the Hall as it is completed. This foundation Board will consist of both Polish and US citizens. Members of our association (to be named at a later date) have been asked to be a part of this foundation.

It is gratifying to know the leadership of Szubin is so supportive of this project. And we wish to be as much a part of making this Hall a reality.

The Oflag 64 Association has over the years grown the postage fund to a point where it has excess funds that should cover the cost of mailing the newsletter for a number of years into the future. We believe those excess funds should, at the point of time when the foundation becomes a reality, be donated to the Hall of Remembrance Foundation.

We believe there is no better way to honor our great Kreigies than to help with the creation and continuance of this Hall of Remembrance.

Sincerely,

Bret Job, Oflag 64 Treasurer
And members of the Oflag 64 Advisory Council

* * * * *

Comment: I received the letter today suggesting using part of the postage fund to support the Hall of Remembrance. I'm for it 100%. I haven't sent money for the fund for sometime because I believed that there was an excess of funds there already. This is a good idea. ~ Lucy Lussenden

Treasurer's Report for 2017 (Jan 2016-Oct 2017)

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	Sept 30 2016
Oct 1 2016	\$11,096.79	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$11,216.79	Oct 31 2016
Nov 1 2016	\$11,216.79	\$350.00	\$600.46	\$10,966.33	Nov 30 2016
Dec 1 2016	\$10,966.33	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$11,066.33	Dec 31 2016
Jan 1 2017	\$11,066.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,066.33	Jan 31 2017
Feb 1 2017	\$11,066.33	\$200.00	\$300.62	\$10,965.71	Feb 28 2017
Mar 1 2017	\$10,965.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,965.71	Mar 31 2017
Apr 1 2017	\$10,965.71	\$500.00	\$42.81	\$11,422.90	Apr 30 2017
May 1 2017	\$11,422.90	\$150.00	\$298.97	\$11,273.93	May 31 2017
Jun 1 2017	\$11,273.93	\$85.00	\$164.50	\$11,194.43	Jun 30 2017
Jul 1 2017	\$11,194.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,194.43	Jul 31 2017
Aug 1 2017	\$11,194.43	\$0.00	\$437.38	\$10,757.05	Aug 31 2017
Sep 1 2017	\$10,757.05	\$100.00	\$300.00	\$10,557.05	Sept 30 2017
Oct 1 2017	\$10,557.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,557.05	Oct 30 2017

Oflag 64 Postage Fund Bank Statement 9/1/17 through 9/30/17

Account Summary

	# Items		
Beginning Balance on Sep 1		\$	10,757.05
Customer Deposits	1		100.00
Checks Paid	2		300.00-
Ending Balance on Sep 30, 2017		\$	10,557.05

Customer Deposits

Number	Date	Ref Number	Amount
	Sep 5	8358358948	100.00

Total Customer Deposits \$ **100.00**

Checks Presented Conventionally

Check	Date	Ref Number	Amount	Check	Date	Ref Number	Amount
5067	Sep 27	8653222079	150.00	5068	Sep 19	8355847102	150.00

Conventional Checks Paid (2) \$ **300.00-**

Balance Summary

Date	Ending Balance	Date	Ending Balance	Date	Ending Balance
Sep 5	10,857.05	Sep 19	10,707.05	Sep 27	10,557.05

Balances only appear for days reflecting change.

Vincent J. Di Francesco, M.D.

1916 ~ 2017



Vincent J DiFrancesco, MD died Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at Riderwood Retirement Community after a brief illness.

He was born and raised on Independence Avenue in Capitol Hill, one block from the Library of Congress. He graduated from Eastern High School and was in the High School Cadet Corps as well as on its championship football team.

Dr DiFrancesco graduated from George Washington University in 1936, and received a medical degree from its Medical School in 1940. He served his medical internship at Providence Hospital on Capitol Hill, and received a Fellowship in Internal Medicine at George Washington University Hospital in 1941.

He was commissioned 1st Lieutenant in the US Army Medical Corps in 1940 and entered the Army on January 2, 1942, three weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He served at the Fort Eustis Station Hospital in Virginia, and then was named Commanding Officer, Medical Detachment, 1st Battalion, 33rd Armored Regiment, 3rd Armored Division.

After a year of preparation on the Salisbury Plain, Dr DiFrancesco landed in Normandy with his tank division in June 1944. He took part in the Battle of St Lo, and traveled through France and Belgium, entering Germany three months before Patton's Third Army.

In October 1944, Dr DiFrancesco was captured in Germany and sent to Oflag 64, a prison camp in Poland. He escaped in January 1945 during a forced march toward Hammelburg, Germany. He found his way to Odessa, Russia, and was repatriated to the United States via Constantinople, Egypt, and Italy in the Spring of 1945.



Dr DiFrancesco was wounded in action and received a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, the Belgian Croix de Guerre, and several other combat medals. In 2007, he attended a ceremony at the French Embassy where he was named Chevalier Ordre National de la Légion d'honneur, France's highest honor, for treating French soldiers during combat.

After the war, Dr DiFrancesco practiced anesthesiology at the Old Episcopal Hospital. In 1948, he opened an office for the General Practice of Medicine in Southeast Washington, DC. He was a family doctor in Southeast and in Bethesda, Maryland for forty years. In addition to Providence and Episcopal Hospitals, Dr DiFrancesco was affiliated with Children's, Casualty, Sibley, Suburban Hospitals and the Washington Hospital Center.

He received the Providence Hospital Abraham Lincoln Award and was the first Chairman of the Family Practice Department at Providence Hospital. He was a member of the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Practice, and the Medical Society of Washington, DC as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and the American Legion.

His wife, Maria, predeceased him in 2006. He is survived by his three daughters: Rosa T. Lee of Ft. Pierce, FL, Patricia Bender of Philadelphia, PA, Maria Christmann of Annapolis, MD, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at the Chapel at Riderwood Village, 3110 Gracefield Road, Silver Spring, MD on Saturday, July 29, 2017 from 2:30-3:00 PM with a Mass of Christian Burial beginning at 3 PM.

Interment with full military honors will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to The Riderwood Scholarship Fund or the Riderwood Benevolent Fund, Riderwood Philanthropy, 3110 Gracefield Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20904.

* * * * *

Gordon G. Frey

1923 ~ 2017



Gordon George Frey, 93, passed away on July 22, 2017, after a full and productive life. He was born Oct. 5, 1923 to Julius and Frieda (Elfring) Frey in Oak Park, Illinois, and spent his early life in Bensenville, Illinois.

He studied civil engineering at North Central College in [Naperville](#), where he met his future wife, June Hatch. Gordon served with the [Army](#) Corps of Engineers (US 3rd Army) during [WWII](#), locating land mines in France. He was captured and sent to Oflag 64 in Szubin, Poland. As the Russians advanced, he and the other prisoners were forced to march hundreds of miles, in freezing temperatures, to other camps in Poland and Germany and was finally liberated at Moosberg in April, 1945.



He and June married on May 29, 1947. He ran his land surveying company from the home that he and June built themselves, on land adjacent to June's family farm, in Lisle, Illinois. He helped establish the Lisle school districts, and was a member of the elementary and high school boards in the 1950's. He and June worked tirelessly to provide a good life for their family.

They retired to Geneva, Illinois, in 1984, spending the next 30 years doing home improvements, landscaping, gardening, and enjoying the company of many wonderful neighbors, who became family.

Gordon's greatest joy was seeing his family and friends succeed. Gordon is survived by his loving wife, June; children, Bruce (Becky) Frey, Barry (Colleen) Frey, Beth (Paul) Von Driska; grandchildren, Audra (Byron) Hudson, Benjamin Frey, Michael Von Driska, Ken Biewer, and Kevin Biewer; great-grandchild Cyrus Hudson. He also leaves behind his beloved cat, Cat 2, who he and June saved from the streets. Gordon was predeceased by his daughter, Barbara Brodski.

Gordon's family would like to thank the staff at Greenfields of Geneva for their continuous loving support and care, and JourneyCare hospice for helping him go gently from this life. Also a heartfelt thank you to his doctors and their staff, particularly Drs. Amani, Mackin, Becker, and Morawski, that have helped him all these years, and always treated him with kindness and respect.

A private memorial service is planned. Arrangements by DuPage Cremations. In lieu of flowers, please consider sending a memorial to the American Legion Post 75, 22 South Second St., Geneva, IL 60134; Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, www.helpaveteran.org; or Greenfields Associates Appreciation fund, c/o Greenfields of Geneva, 0N801 Friendship Way, Geneva, IL 60134.

Published in Chicago Suburban Daily Herald from July 27 to July 28, 2017

Jean M Christensen

1920 ~ 2016



Jean M. Christensen, 96, of Loveland passed away on Sunday, November 20, 2016 at the Loveland Good Samaritan Village where she resided for many years.

Jean Marie Christensen was born April 18, 1920 in Battle Creek, Iowa to Charles L. and Esther (Nadelhoffer) Davenport. She grew up on a farm near Odebolt Iowa, graduated from high school there, and received a RN degree from the University of Iowa. After graduation, Jean worked as a nurse in the University of Iowa hospitals.

Jean and Robert Carl Christensen were married in Tallahassee, Florida on May 19, 1943 while Robert was serving in the military. Following military service, Robert and Jean moved to Loveland in 1945 where Robert would establish his law practice and Jean became a community volunteer for organizations including the House of Neighborly Service, the Loveland Public Library and the Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Jean was a member of Mountain View Presbyterian Church, Philo, PEO Chapter FL, and the Foothills Audubon Club. She was a birdwatcher and wildflower enthusiast, and she and Robert were enthusiastic hikers and campers, with a special fondness for Moraine Park in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Jean's husband [the late Kriegy] Robert C. Christensen passed away on October 4, 1995. She is survived by her daughter Ann Marie Obarski and husband Dr. Gregory E. Obarski of Louisville and son Brian Christensen of Loveland, her sister-in-law Margery Christensen of Rockford, Illinois, her cousin Nancy Gunn of Naples, Florida, and her nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank the staff at the Loveland Good Samaritan Society for their assistance and care through the years. Memorials can be made in Jean's memory to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, rmconservancy.org, 970-586-0108 or the House of Neighborly Service, honservice.org, 970-667-4939.

Private family cremation services have been conducted and no further services are scheduled at this time. Kibbey Fishburn Funeral Home in Loveland was in charge of arrangements.

Published in Loveland Reporter-Herald on Nov. 28, 2016



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.vandamere.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/B0007E4AUA>
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. **John K. Waters: An Oral History** (The Waters Story) by William C. Parnell. Available on Amazon.com <https://www.amazon.com/John-K-Waters-Oral-History/dp/1480073997> OR 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 several copies available.)
7. **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
8. **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
9. **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

10. **OFLAG 64, 50th Anniversary Book.** Anniversary Committee. Publisher: Evanston Publishing Co., Evanston IL. (several currently available online, various prices)
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
11. **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
12. **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
13. **People Too** by William H. Schaefer. Publisher: Pageant Press International Corp, 1971.
<https://www.amazon.com/People-too-William-H-Schaefer/dp/B0006XT1O2> (unavailable)
14. **Press Releases**, Ted Roggen, Publisher: iUniverse, November 2001. Contact Ted Roggen at 101 Westcott, Houston TX 77007 (\$10.95) Includes a section on Oflag 64 or
https://www.amazon.com/Press-Releases-Ted-Roggen/dp/0595203590/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1485299818&sr=1-1&keywords=press+releases+roggen or
15. **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
16. **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
17. **Roads to Liberation** by Clarence R. Meltesen, self published, May 2004. (Various prices from different 3rd party sellers through Amazon.com <https://www.amazon.com/Roads-Liberation-Oflag-Clarence-Meltesen/dp/0962700509> or 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.)
18. **The Big Break: The Greatest American WWII POW Escape Story Never Told** by Stephen Dando-Collins, Publisher: St. Martin's Press, 2017. (\$25.64)
https://www.amazon.com/Big-Break-Greatest-American-Escape/dp/1250087562/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1483492130&sr=8-1&keywords=the+big+break+the+greatest+american+wwii+pow+escape+story+never+told
19. **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
20. **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

21. **The Strange Alliance** by John R Deane. Publisher: Viking Press; Book club, 1947, various prices.
https://www.amazon.com/Strange-Alliance-Efforts-Wartime-Cooperation/dp/B0006D8NXM/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1498257854&sr=1-1&keywords=the+strange+alliance
22. **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
23. **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
24. **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
25. **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
26. **Vic Kanners Diary** – Contact Don Kanners, 3205 Jennella Dr, Commerce TWP MI 48390-1619, dkanners@comcast.net
27. **Yank: Memoir of a World War II Soldier** by Ted Ellsworth. Publisher: Da Capo Press, 2009. Various prices. https://www.amazon.com/Yank-Memoir-Soldier-1941-1945-Desert-ebook/dp/B00A8SIASS/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1498257241&sr=8-1&keywords=yank%3A+Memoir+of+a+World+War+II+Soldier

