

# The

# Post Oflag 64 Item

Nearly Everybody  
Reads The ITEM

Your Quiet Hour  
Companion

“Get Wise – ITEM-ize”

3rd Quarter 2019

Good Ole USA

Of Undetermined Worth

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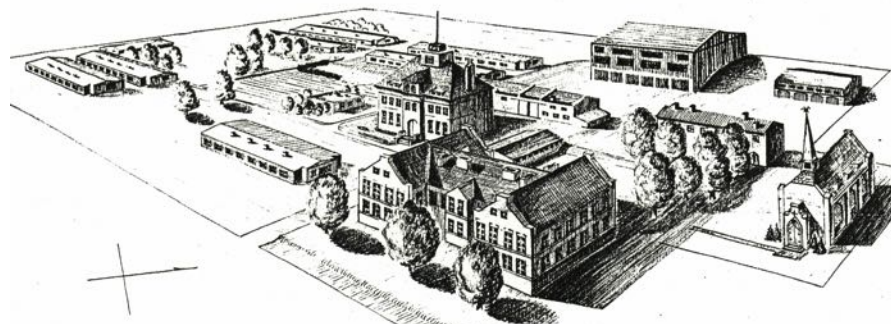
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We apologize to any others we may have overlooked but thank everyone who has contacted us.



Drawing by Jim Bickers, shown without barbed wire fences or guard towers

## Polish-American Foundation Launches Its New Website

We are pleased to announce that the Polish-American Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin was recently created and is now registered in Poland. Additionally, and equally important, is the creation of the Foundation's new website which you can access from this link:  
<http://www.szubinpowcamps.org/en/>

**Polsko-Amerykańska Fundacja**  **Polish-American Foundation**  
Upamiętnienia Obozów Jenieckich w Szubinie  for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin

Help us get the word out by visiting the Foundation's website (address above) and also their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/oflag64altburgund> and then like, share, comment, and ask friends to do the same for this ongoing project. There is also a link to the Foundation's website on the Oflag 64 Remembered home page.

We appreciate the support we have received thus far and the promises of support still to come. Please join us by donating your time, artifacts, or by providing monetary support. Our Oflag 64 Kriegies would be pleased to know that this great work is being done to preserve their WWII memories.

Our best to you always,  
Elodie/Bill Caldwell,  
ITEM Editor/Webmaster  
[www.oflag64.us](http://www.oflag64.us)



# A Little Company Business

## Fund Donations

There is now more than one way to contribute to Oflag 64 related funds. However, since our remaining Kriegies are usually not able to attend reunions, we are NOT encouraging donations to a Reunion Fund at this time.

For contributions to the Postage Fund **ONLY**, which covers the cost of mailing the printed ITEM to our remaining Kriegies or their widows, please make your checks payable to Oflag 64 Postage Fund, and send them to:

**Bret Job**

2801 SW 46<sup>th</sup> St  
Cape Coral FL 33914-6026

OR

**Elodie Caldwell**

2731 Terry Ave  
Longview WA 98632-4437

**Thanks to Lynn and Jimmie Kanaya for their recent contribution to the Postage Fund.**



And, now that we have non-profit status, the **Friends of Oflag 64, Inc.** is able to receive monetary donations for the new Museum at the Polish-American Foundation. For contributions to this fund **ONLY**, please temporarily write your checks and send them to the following address:

Friends of Oflag 64, Inc.  
12768 Turberville Lane  
Oak Hill, VA 20171

If you prefer to donate funds online, you can access the donation page on the new Polish-American Foundation website at:

<http://www.szubinpowcamps.org/en/foundation/u-s-501-c-3>

These funds are separate from the Postage Fund and will be used to help support the new Museum in various ways.

THANKS to all who have so very generously donated to our various Oflag 64 funds in the past. We are greatly appreciative.

## REQUESTING ARTIFACTS and EXPERTISE



Over the last few months we have been soliciting donations of artifacts for the future Museum in Szubin. Several shipments have already been sent and are being securely and safely stored until needed either for upcoming Oflag 64 exhibitions during 2020 in Szubin or awaiting the opening of the Museum. Other incoming artifacts are being securely and safely stored in the US in weather-controlled conditions until the Museum prepares to open.

We know how difficult it is to part with cherished items owned by our Kriegy dads, grandfathers, brothers, and uncles but we appreciate your consideration of our request for artifacts. They will

be valued and appreciated by those who visit the Museum for many years.

Thanks to all who have agreed to donate artifacts to the Museum of POW Camps in Szubin so far. **Out of interest sake, we have received artifact donations from more than 25 Kriegies or Kriegy families to date.**

For artifact donations, please see the Friends of Oflag 64 Update, on pages 18 and 19 of this ITEM.

One more request – “Friends of Oflag 64, Inc.” is also in need of support in other areas. If you can share your skills, help with publicity, communications, IT, finance, etc., we would be most grateful. Please let Elodie know how you can help.

*Thank You!*

## **Historical Information and Feedback Are Always Welcome**

If you have anything to submit for print in the ITEM, please contact Elodie at [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us). Digital scans of original photos or anything that can be sent in .jpg format, works great. If you are unable to scan photos, I would be glad to scan them and send them back to you. Documents can also be sent in .pdf format.

If you notice website errors, omissions, or links that don't work properly, please contact Bill Caldwell at: [webmaster@oflag64.us](mailto:webmaster@oflag64.us)



# MAIL CALL



**DAVID ANDERSON**, son of the late Kriegy Mays W. Anderson, and I have been in communication recently. We had not previously had the pleasure of talking, but while doing so found we have some things in common. I was able to find some photos of his dad (newspaper articles amongst some articles my father kept) and was able to send them to him. This was our first contact with a member of the Anderson family, so we look forward to learning more as time goes by. *David, thanks for sharing the bits of information you have on Mays.*



**NANCY ANDERSON**, daughter of the late Kriegy Floyd M. Burgeson, after receiving a copy from us of Henry Soderberg's "Oflag 64: As I Saw It", responded with the following:

"Thanks so very much for this. Henry and his wife were close friends of Dad and Mom. They visited each other. Our family visited Henry at his Stockholm home in summer of 1964. After that, my folks and Henry and his wife visited in Des Moines several times. Henry became part of SAS and my folks were treated to the maiden flight of the first SAS 747 flight in December 1972 - which coincided with the famous Swedish Santa Lucia celebration - Dec. 13 - first day of the Christmas season." *Nancy, thanks for sharing this tidbit. The more we know, the closer we become to all our Kriegies and those they came to know from their POW days.*

**BARBARA BAUMGARTNER**, daughter of the late Kriegy Ralph J. Ball, sent some information and a newspaper article about her dad's capture, which is included in the Kriegy News and Information section. She also updated her dad's database information for our website. *Barbara, seeing such articles brings history so much closer. Thanks for sharing.*



**PAT BENDER**, daughter of the late Kriegy Vincent "Doc" Di Francesco, wrote in response to an email I sent regarding a model of Oflag 64 that was displayed at a couple of reunions in the '90s. Although she

attended one of those two reunions, she wasn't aware of the model. She also sent news of her son Jeff and his family who returned to the Philadelphia area from Bellingham WA. Jeff attended several of Oflag 64 reunions over the years. *Thanks, Pat, for your updates and information about the model. Such a puzzlement.*



**GAIL BROWN**, daughter of the late Kriegy O. L. "Brad" Bradford, wrote to catch us up on how things are in her life. She is spending winters in Osprey FL and living at Buckeye Lake OH the rest of the year. She has 6 grandchildren, all great students and great athletes. She often finds herself talking about the reunions she took her dad to and said she always had good memories traveling with him and of the fun they had with everyone. *Gail, thanks for catching us up. Always fun to reminisce about those great reunion days.*

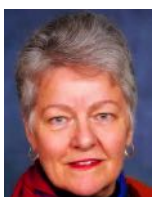
**MICHELLE CRAIG**, daughter of the late Bill Higgins, responded to an email sent about a story that included her father. It was entitled "Escaping is the Greatest Sport" and was written by Alan "Chum" Williamson. I had never seen the story before but found it recently among my father's belongings so I sent a copy to the families of all who were mentioned if I had email addresses. Michelle responded that "every time I read this, I think how Col. Drake saved my dad's life." The article seemed to be a publication of some sort, one in a series of stories, but there was no indication at the beginning or end of the article about who published it or where. *Thanks, Michelle, for responding. Such an interesting story.*

**DAVID DURGIN**, son of the late Kriegy George L. Durgin responded to my email request about a copy of Henry Soderberg's "Oflag 64: As I Saw It". In reading old ITEMS, I ran across mention of the article but didn't have a copy myself. Within an hour of my request, David sent it to me digitally. The plan is to put this most interesting document on the website as soon as we can. *David, thanks so much for providing the copy and so quickly as well.*

**JANIS HALES**, daughter of the late Kriegy Roy "Tex" Chappell, emailed a note from her dear mother **Helen Chappell** asking that I give her a call. That I did and what a delightful conversation we had! Helen has moved to an assisted living facility where she plays the piano for the folks there. At 98 years young, she is still active, very lucid and enjoys often spending time with family at the "Big House" she still owns in Kauffman TX. She has 52 descendants – 5 living children, several grandchildren, and many great-grands. We can see by her recent photo that she hasn't changed over the years. *Helen, thanks for reaching out and for the great conversation.*



**DAVID HENRY**, son of the late Kriegy Robert T. Henry, after receiving word from me that our fathers knew each other wrote: "I've only read one reference to my father in Oflag 64 from a fellow prisoner who later published an account. His first encounter was w/my father who 'interrogated' him while they walked the circuit. The new POW claimed he was from Marshall, TX (my Dad's hometown) ... so only logical that my father was designated to interrogate him. If only (what a wish) these old guys would have shared more with us! ... alas, but they didn't (our loss and the loss to history). BTW, my Dad was a 1st Lt. (he thought when captured); in truth, he would learn after his release he was a Capt. (battlefield promotion on the day of his capture - losses in the Texas 36th were so extreme that first day of Monte Cassino). Bronze Star, 2 Purple Hearts, and the POW medal - must have been one helluva' day!" *David, thanks for sharing with us. We love learning new things and hope to learn more about the battlefield promotion so we can update our site.*



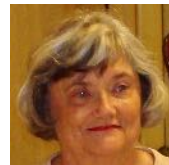
**VICTORIA HERRING**, daughter of the late Kriegy Clyde Herring, has been in contact with us recently about artifacts to donate to the museum. While going through her father's mementos, she found his dog tags. At least one of them, along with a jacket

he wore, will be donated to our Museum. *Victoria, thanks for generously donating these artifacts and for keeping in touch.*



**LUCY LUSSENDEN**, widow of the late Kriegy Don Lussenden emails me from time to time. She wrote with compliments on the last ITEM and in another email reported on her granddaughter's Ironman Triathlon experience. We talked about Don's book, other Kriegies who have passed, and even a little about the weather. *Thanks Lucy for staying in contact. Always good to hear from you.*

**DAVID PALLUCONI**, son of the late Kriegy Amelio Palluconi, in response to a report by John Rodgers, wrote John with an interesting story about his dad. He also provided a couple of reports and photos of needlepoint work his dad did while at Oflag 64. They're included in the Kriegy News and Information section. *David, thanks so much for sharing this information.*



**GAIL RAHAL**, widow of the late Kriegy Nick Rahal, responded to a recent mini-survey sent to Kriegies and Kriegy widows. We are always interested in hearing how they are doing and what they enjoy doing. Gail keeps busy with book club, Scrabble group, exercise/dance classes, hiking with friends and family, visiting with friends and relatives, and taking classes for seniors at UCONN in Waterbury Connecticut. She has two grand-nephews and 3 grand-nieces. *Gail, thanks for responding to our request Keep up the good work.*



**JOHN RODGERS**, Kriegy, sends me information from time to time regarding his Oflag 64 memories. I don't believe I had heard this story before. He wrote: "...there was another small compound within the main compound with a single barrack surrounded by a wire fence. I heard that it contained Russian POWs. There was one that was allowed out occasionally, I suppose to do menial tasks. From him we learned he did not want to return to Russia. I did hear that at one time the Germans had turned loose a guard dog within their building. Never learned the results though. *John, thanks for sharing this memory. It would be interesting to*

hear the rest of the story. If anyone else is aware, please pass the information along.



**MARGIE SLACK**, daughter of the late Kriegy John F. Slack, wrote with information about her dad and later called with exciting news about artifacts she is planning to donate to the future Museum. We had a delightful conversation and have been in phone contact a number of times since. Please see the Kriegy News and Information section for photos of one of the artifacts she's donating. Margie, thanks for your incredible donation and for the great conversations.

**AL SOKERKA**, son of the late Kriegy Andrew R. Sokerka, sent an email with the following information about his dad.

*My father Lieutenant Andrew R. Sokerka  
Passed away June 17, 1968.  
He was the father of 5 children.  
I would be interested in any info you may  
have. All I know is that he was an escapee.  
I was 10 when he passed.  
As with many other veterans, dad never  
discussed the war.*

We, up until this contact, had not had contact with anyone from the Sokerka family. If anyone has information to share, the family would be very grateful. Al, thanks for contacting us and providing information about your dad, which was previously unknown to us. We have added his name to our website TAPS page.

**JOE ZELAZNY**, son of the late Kriegy Joseph Zelazny, Jr., wrote asking about Szubin because he and his wife planned a trip to Poland in September. Happy to say that he and Mariusz Winiacki connected and arrangements were made for his visit. Joe, thanks for contacting us. We hope your visit to Poland was memorable and we look forward to photos and a report of your trip.

\* \* \* \* \*

**HURRICANE DORIAN** - We reached out to as many Kriegy families as possible who might be affected by the hurricane. We heard back from a few. At the time many folks were probably making preparations and couldn't respond, but we did hear back from the following:

Gail Brown, daughter of the late Kriegy "Brad" Bradford, has a vacation home on Fripp Island

FL. She reported no major damage but that no one was allowed back on the island as of the day she emailed. While in Bar Harbor Maine, she said the hurricane moved through producing a lot of wind and a wind chill of 45 in the afternoon.

Tom Cobb in Columbia SC, son of the late Kriegy George Cobb, lives a little further inland said the storm was a non-event where he lives and that they were lucky.

Tom Detmers in Jacksonville FL, son of the late Kriegy Arthur Detmers was watching and waiting.

Rosa Lee in Ft. Pierce FL, daughter of the late Kriegy Vincent "Doc" Di Francesco, evacuated to central Florida. When they returned, they had had a loss of power and palm fronds were scattered all over, but all was well otherwise.

Bret Job in Cape Coral FL, son-in-law of the late Kriegy Ray Holmquist, said "so far we should be fine. We are on the Gulf Coast so no direct hit. We have a generator which powers our entire house in case we lose power. Just waiting to see Darion's path, but we are prepared for whatever comes our way."

Pat Waters in Mt. Pleasant SC, son of the late Kriegy John Waters, wrote: "Hello from the dryland of South Carolina. We had nothing but a lot of wind and rain. No damage just more leaves than you can imagine fell....We are well."

Some folks we didn't have email addresses for and others were bounce backs. We apologize to those who were not contacted, but we hope they were kept safe and their property spared. To our knowledge, there are about 40 families on the east coast who may have been affected by Dorian. If you were one of them, please let us know how you are doing.

\* \* \* \* \*

We have, over the past few months, become aware of the following websites. We are not adding them to our website Links Page, but thank the senders for the information and hope you'll find them as interesting as we have.

[12 Amazing Facts You Probably Didn't Know About WWII Jeeps](#)

[Vehicles Used in WWII – The Importance of Mobility and Transportation](#)

# Kriegy News and Information



to our GREAT KRIEGY HEROES and PATRIOTS



## Happening



Jimmie Kanaya – 10/3  
99 years

Sidney Thal – 10/3  
**101 years**

Joe Barrett – 10/24  
**101 years**



Please let us know Kriegy ages and birthdates so we can wish all a well-deserved **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

Send birthday pictures too!

(We would love photos and stories of any of these milestone celebrations!!)

\* \* \* \* \*



In the TAPS section of this ITEM you will see an obituary for Kriegy Don Waful. We were so saddened to hear of his passing. In recent weeks we have learned that he was honored as a superfan at Syracuse University and is considered a local legend. For information about his story (one of several on the 11 o'clock news on WSYR-TV), please click on this link: <https://www.localsyr.com/news/local-news/local-legend-to-be-honored-on-college-colors-day/> It plays quickly, so don't miss it. Thanks to Susanna Connaughton for sharing his story with us.

We also learned that during the Syracuse-Clemson football game on Saturday, September 14, Don was also honored. At that time, ABC aired a short interview previously done with Don. Hopefully you were able to see it. I have a short video clip, provided by Robert Galloway, of that interview. If you would like a copy emailed to you, please contact me.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are looking for information about the Oflag 64 model below. It was displayed at the 1995 Atlanta and 1999 Charleston Reunions. If you know anything about this model, please contact Marlene McAllister at: [marlene-mcallister@att.net](mailto:marlene-mcallister@att.net) This is the third model we're aware of.



Two other models are shown below and although the one on the left built by the late Kriegy Robert Eckman (displayed at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum) is very similar, it's not quite the same. The one on the right was built by the carpentry students at MOAS in Szubin and has since been displayed in the main hall of the school.



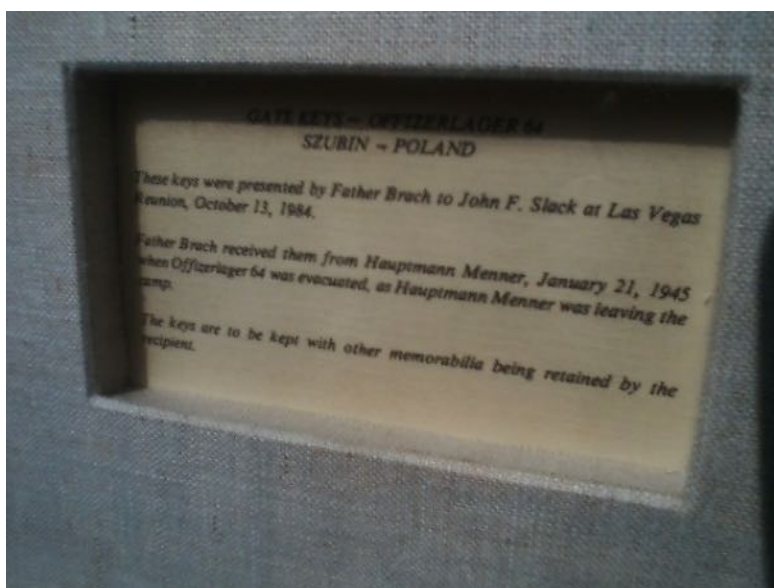
## Newly Donated Artifact

Over the last few months, we have been collecting Kriegy artifacts from our living Kriegies and Kriegy Kids. Thanks to so many of you who have already donated. This one, pictured below, may be of great interest to all, and we give many thanks to **Margie Slack**, daughter of the late Kriegy John Slack, who willingly agreed to share this precious and valuable memento. It's difficult to part with such cherished possessions, but as time passes we become aware that the next generation may not be as interested in WWII history as the "older" generation is today. Preserving them and donating them to a museum that will insure their safety and longevity for years to come has become a priority for our Oflag 64 families and for the Museum as well.



These are the actual gate keys to Oflag 64 which were given to John Slack by Father Brach. The insert below the keys reads: "GATE KEYS – OFFIZERLAGER 64 SZUBIN – POLAND These keys were presented by Father Brach to John F. Slack at Las Vegas Reunion, October 13, 1984. Father Brach received them from Hauptmann Menner, January 21, 1945 when Officerlager 64 was evacuated, as Hauptmann Menner was leaving the camp. The keys are to be kept with other memorabilia being retained by the recipient."

Margie says it's her understanding, from her folks, that her dad received the keys in appreciation for all he did to keep the Kriegies in touch through the years.





David Palluconi, sent photos of the next few items regarding his father's service during WWII. We don't see many of these Statements of Recovered Personnel. On the next page, are photos of needlepoint work his dad did while in the camp. What treasured mementos and quite beautiful pieces of art!

STATEMENT OF REPORT OF INTERVIEW OF RECOVERED PERSONNEL		
LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL	ARMY SERIAL NUMBER	GRADE
PALLUCONI, AMELIO B.	[REDACTED]	Capt.
AS OF DATE OF LOSS TO UNITED STATES MILITARY CONTROL		
Under "Remarks" on reverse side give signed, complete statement in narrative form of the circumstances leading up to and immediately following his capture or other separation from his unit or organization.		
UNIT OR ORGANIZATION		
505th Parachute Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division.		
Name and Grade of Immediate Commanding Officer and any other members of his Organization who are familiar with the circumstances.		
Col. James J. Gavin, (Now Major General Gavin, Commanding the 82nd Airborne Div.)		
Position occupied or duty being performed		
Bn. S-3.		
FOR PERIOD OF ABSENCE FROM UNITED STATES MILITARY CONTROL		
If Taken Prisoner Of War		
Name of Prisoner of War Camp or Camps in which imprisoned, and length of time served in each. Capua, Italy-2 Weeks; Oflag 64, Germany-17½ Months; Concentration Camp Luckenwalde, Germany-23 days; Oflag 64Z, Germany-1 Week.		
Names of Senior United States Army Officer in each such Prisoner of War Camp		
1. Capua, Italy--Lt. Col. Schaeffer. 2. Oflag 64, Germany--Col. Thomas D. Drake, Col. George V. Millett, Col. Paul R. Gooie. 3. Concentrating Camp Luckenwalde, Germany--Capt. Amelio B. Palluconi. 4. Oflag 64Z, Germany--Col. Fuller.		
Duties performed while in Prisoner of War Camp or Camps		
1. Capua, Italy--Spokesman. 2. Oflag 64, Germany--Lookout & Italian Instructor. 3. Concentration Camp Luckenwalde--Senior American Officer in charge. 4. Oflag 64Z, Germany--Supply Officer, Italian and German Interpreter.		
IF EVADING CAPTURE IN ENEMY-HELD TERRITORY OR IF ESCAPING FROM IMPRISONMENT		
Under "Remarks" on reverse side give signed, complete statement in narrative form of experiences and movements while escaping or evading capture, including circumstances leading to his return to military control.		
Names of Companions or others who assisted in evading capture or escape		
If An Internee		
Name of Internment Camp or Camps in which interned, and length of time served in each.		
Names of Senior United States Army Officers in each such internment camp		
Duties performed while in internment Camp or Camps		

This is a needle point on a piece of burlap that my dad was working on while in Oflag 64. He said he got it from the Swiss Red Cross.

He was working in the garage one day and pulled out the needle point that was rolled up like an old rag in the back of a tool drawer. He hands it to me and said, you might like to have this since he knew I was interested in his WWII service. This was back in the 1980's. Years later I took it and had it dry mounted and framed. The 82nd patch is one of his original patches that I added when I framed it.

It's unfinished on the left side where you'll notice there's a pencil outline where it was going to be finished. My dad said he didn't finish it because that's when the camp was evacuated by the Germans because of the Russian army approaching from the east. He kept it with him during the long winter march of January 1945.

The flag is from his funeral service back in 2002.

~ David Palluconi ~



Above: Needlepoint purse done by Kriegy Amelio Palluconi while at Oflag 64.

Right: Russian cap given to Amelio on the march in trade for crossed-rifle insignia. Given to him by an 18-year old Russian soldier.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Wilbur Blaine Sharpe's Heart-Shield Bible

By Claire Anderson Bowlby



2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Wilbur Blaine Sharpe carried this Bible with him when he was deployed during World War II and it remained on his person for the entirety of his wartime service. Sharpe was captured by General Erwin Rommel's forces during Operation Torch, the Allied invasion of North Africa, in February 1943, and spent 19 months as a prisoner-of-war (POW) in Occupied Poland before escaping and making his way to freedom in January 1945.

Known as a Heart-Shield Bible, this Bible was sized to fit in the left breast-pocket of U.S. Army uniforms, where it could be carried over the owner's heart. The steel cover was said to be able to stop bullets and the item was meant to provide both spiritual and physical protection for U.S. servicemen. There are in fact stories of the Heart-Shield Bible providing that ultimate protection: infantryman George Ferris was shot by a German sniper in April 1945, and in an interview with the 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Legacy Association, he recounted that "The medics showed me the Bible that my oldest sister sent me...

There was a bullet hole in it. The medics said that the bullet had been slowed, and deflected so it went across my body...and out the other side instead of through my heart."<sup>i</sup>

The engraving on the front of Sharpe's Bible reads "To my dear boy" and an inscription in the front cover reveals that his parents gifted it to him in December 1942, three months after his initial deployment and two months before his capture.

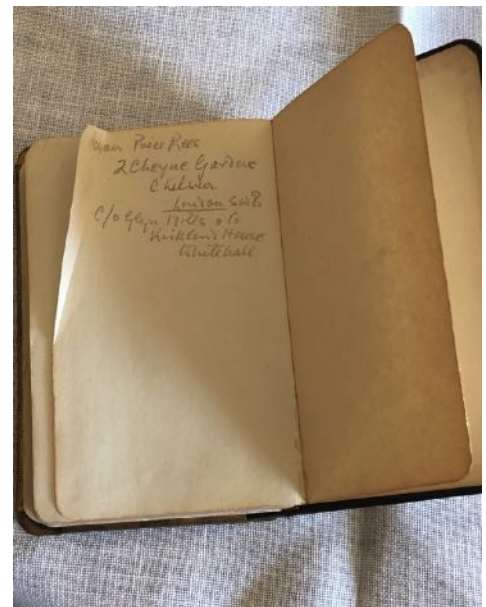


The stamp on the first page reveals that the Bible was inspected during Sharpe's initial processing as a POW, which took place in the German POW camp Oflag IX A/Z.

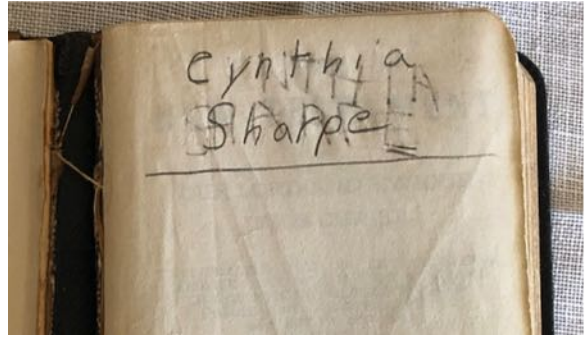
During his time in Oflag IX A/Z, Sharpe was held with other British and American POWs. He met one British officer, Rogan Price Rees, whose name and London address is written in

pencil inside the back cover.

Sharpe's father received a letter from Rees, written from Oflag IX A/Z on June 14, 1943, in which he writes: "I feel sure that you would like a letter from a stranger giving news of your boy. He is in perfect health, and in irresistible high spirits, taking part in the concerts and in games." Rees was housed with a group of American officers, all of whom "overwhelmed [him] with their kindness and courtesy", particularly Wilbur Sharpe. Rees wrote: "I feel it is the least I can do to write to the father of one of those [Americans] who were nicest to me."



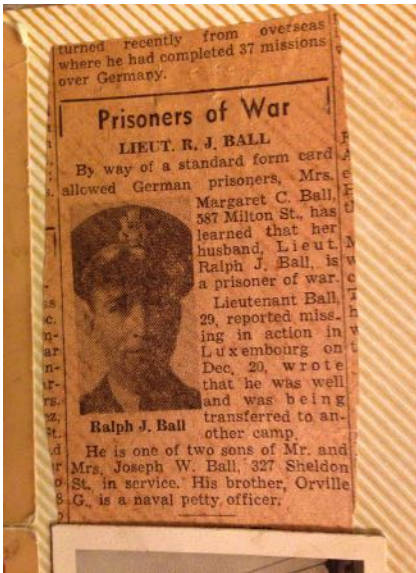
Perhaps most endearing is the name written in child's handwriting on the inside cover: "Cynthia Sharpe," 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Sharpe's daughter (now Cindy Burgess), a foundational member of the Friends of Oflag 64 and a leader of the Oflag 64 Museum project.



i "George Ferris's WWII Heart-Shield Bible" in *Saved by the Good Book*. <https://www.guideposts.org/inspiration/miracles/gods-grace/saved-by-the-good-book>

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This article about Kriegy Ralph Ball's capture and the framed photo/story were sent by his daughter, **Barbara Baumgartner**.



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The photo below of Kriegy Clyde Herring's dog tags was sent by his daughter, **Victoria Herring**. They are early WWII Army dog tags showing the next of kin's address on the dog tag. Later, the next of kin was deleted and replaced with blood type and religious preference. Thanks to Dave Stewart for sharing dog tag history.




## James W. Kent

1922 ~ 2018



James William Kent, 96 of Talladega passed away November 2, 2018. Funeral Service will be held 11:00 am Wednesday November 7, 2018 at Ridgeview Baptist Church with Military Honors

at Pine Hill Cemetery.

The Rev. Tommy Strickland will officiate the service. Family will receive friends from 5-7 on Tuesday at Usrey Funeral Home. 

He was preceded in death by his mother, Annie May Elrod Kent, his wife, Helen Geneva "Gen" Kent and his sisters Georgia Edna Boggs, Ann Curls and brother Wiley J. Kent.

He is survived by his daughters Patricia Quinn (Gary) of Freeport IL., Beverly Acton (Richard) of Birmingham Al., grandchildren Sally Quinn, Doug Quinn (Brandy), Jennifer Cotton (Robert), great-grandchildren Gabrielle and Noah Summers, McKinley and Callum Quinn, Christina Vogt and Tylar and Ashlynn Cotton.

James' complete obituary can be found at: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dailyhome/obituary.aspx?n=james-william-kent&pid=190652492&fhid=8346>

Published in The Daily Home on Nov. 4, 2018

## Donald R. Waful


1916 ~ 2019



Donald R. Waful September 12, 2019 Donald R. Waful died Thursday September 12th at the VA Hospital in Syracuse, NY at the age of 103. Don was born in Newark, NY in 1916. His family moved to

Syracuse when he was three. He became a member of the Reformed Church at the age of

five and remained a member for 98 years. He graduated from Syracuse in 1937 and received his Master's degree from the Maxwell School of Political Science in 1939. He enlisted in the US Army in 1942 and was stationed in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

While playing his trombone in a military band he spotted the love of his life, Lt. Olga Casciolini, an army nurse. They fell in love during a whirlwind 6-week courtship. Don was deployed with the 1st Armored Division to North Africa where he was captured by the German Army. After 28 months in prison camp, he was reunited with Cassie and they were married in the mayor's office in a small French village. After the war they came back and lived in Syracuse and had two sons, Peter and Donald. 

He worked as an independent insurance agent until his retirement while serving his community in a variety of ways, most notably as President of the Syracuse Chiefs for 35 years. Don was active in the Reformed Church in myriad ways throughout his life including chairman of the building committee for the current church. Since 1945 Don has missed only 3 SU home football games, once for a friend's wedding and twice for P.O.W. reunions, but never in the Carrier Dome until yesterday's Clemson game.

Cassie died in 1998 after 53 years of marriage. Later, Don married his college sweetheart, Virginia, who died in 2010. Don was also predeceased by his son Donald in 2005. Don is survived by son Peter and his wife Dana of Brewster, MA; granddaughter Allison Cunningham of Stoneham, MA; grandson Jefferson Waful and his fiancé Brooke Everett of Philadelphia, PA and great grandchildren Emily, Maya and Tyler Cunningham of Stoneham, MA. Calling hours will be on Friday, September 20 from 3-7 pm at Burns-Garfield Funeral Home, 3175 East Genesee St Syracuse.

Donald's complete obituary can be found at: <https://newyork.funeral.com/2019/09/14/waful-donald/>

Published Syracuse Post Standard from Sept. 14 to Sept. 15, 2019

Another article on Don:  
<https://www.syracuse.com/orangefootball/2019/09/don-waful-wwii-veteran-former-syracuse-chiefs-president-and-sus-oldest-alum-dies-at-103.html>


\*\*\*\*\*

The following men were associated with Hammelburg and the "Raid", not Oflag 64, but were known to Oflag 64 Kriegies and families through the years.

## Marvin Shelley

1916 ~ 2016



Marvin Shelley, age 100, passed away on October 16, 2016. He was born in Mooreland, Indiana. He served with the  US Army for five years during World War II as a Company Executive Officer; Marvin was captured by the Germans and was liberated in 1945.

He received his Civil Engineering Degree in 1949. He was in the Steel Sales Business in Indianapolis, Indiana and Chicago, Illinois.

His wife, Liz preceeded him in death in 1998. He is survived by one daughter Candis Schoenberger, two sons, Dr. Terry Shelley and Dr. Dane Shelley, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.


Marvin's complete obituary can be found at:  
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/azcentral/obituary.aspx?n=marvin-shelley&pid=182046356&fhid=2645>

Published in The Arizona Republic on 10/21/16

## Robert "Bob" Zawada

2026 ~ 2014



Robert S. Zawada passed away on May 4, 2014 at the age of 88. He was a native of Cleveland, OH and a longtime resident of Metairie, LA. He proudly served in the army during World War II  in the 4th Armored Division and

continued honoring his country by volunteering at the National WWII.

His complete obituary was not available due to the length of time since his passing but this was found at:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/robert-zawada-obituary?pid=170923028>

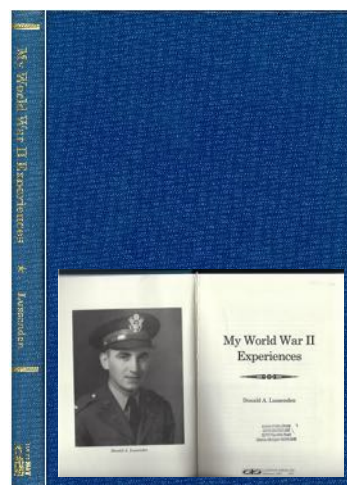
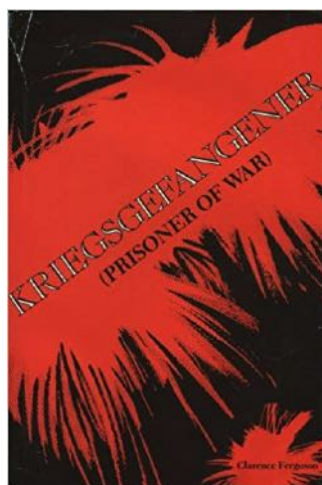
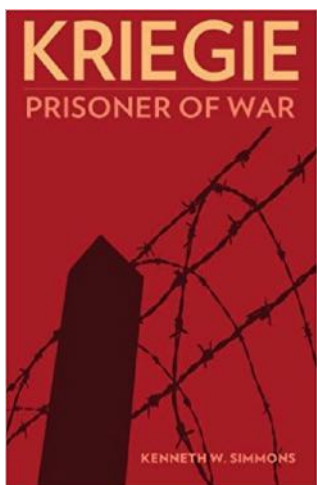
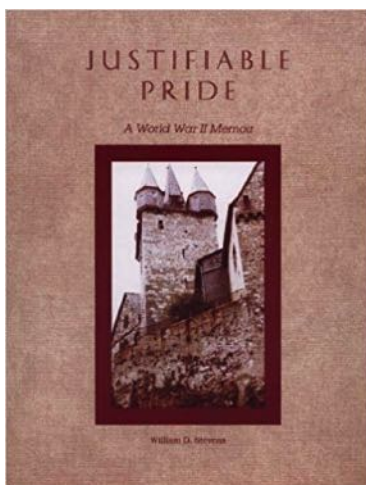
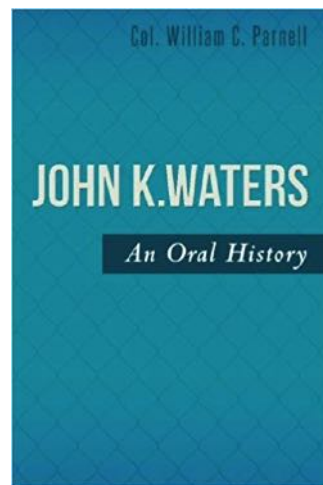
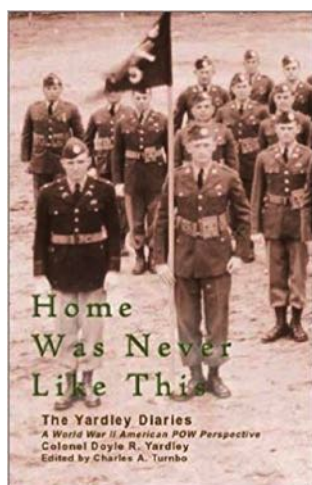
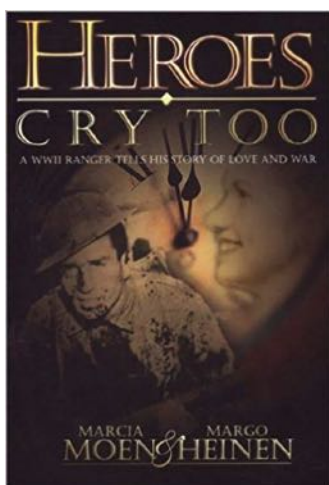
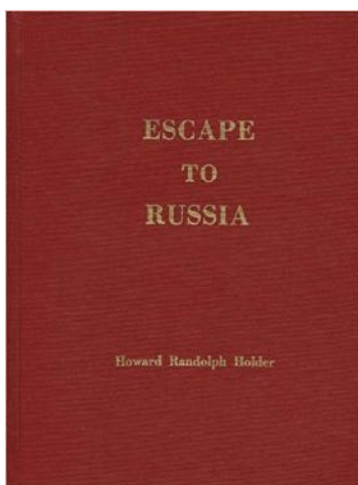
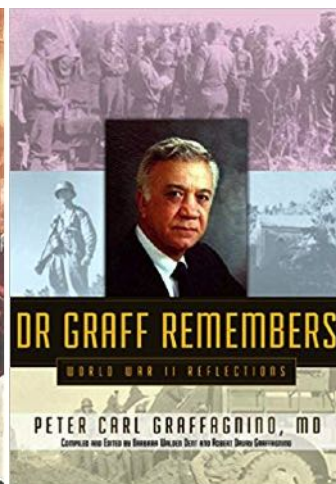
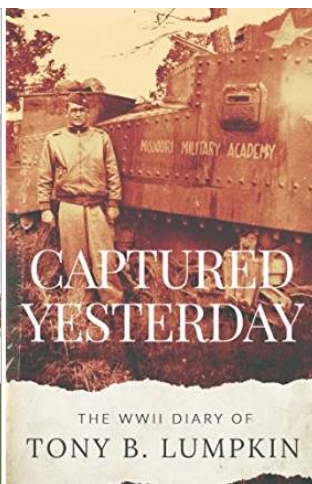
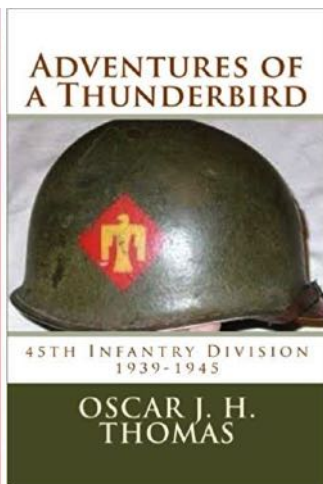
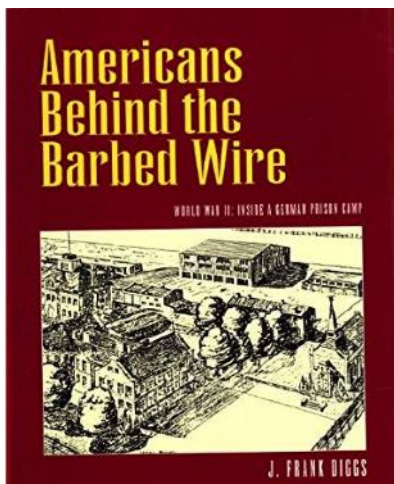
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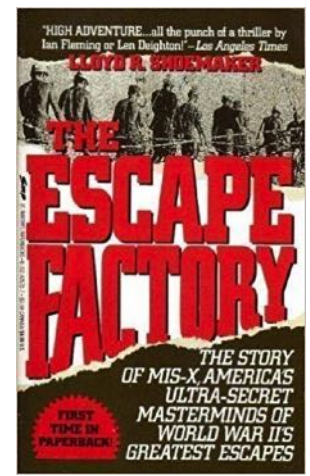
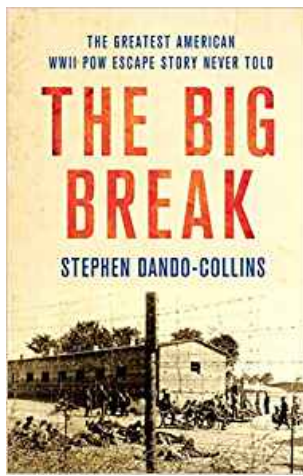
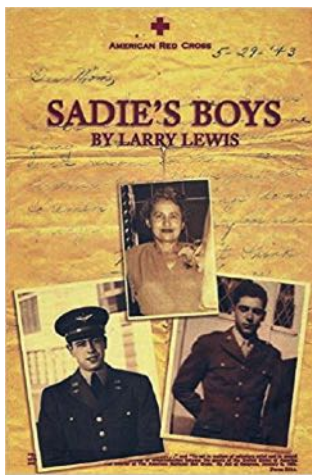
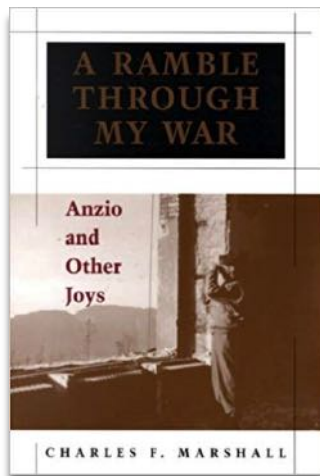
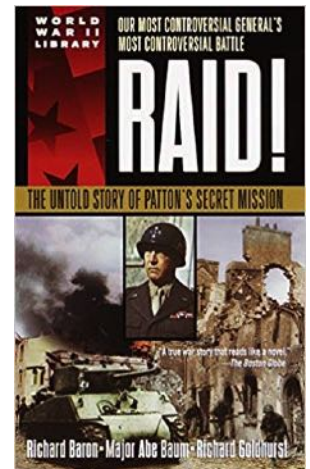
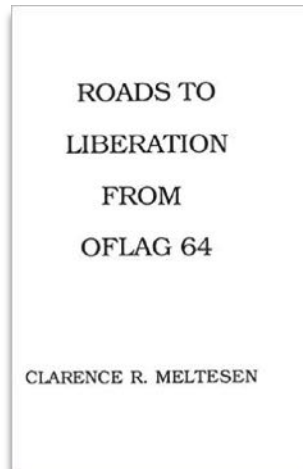
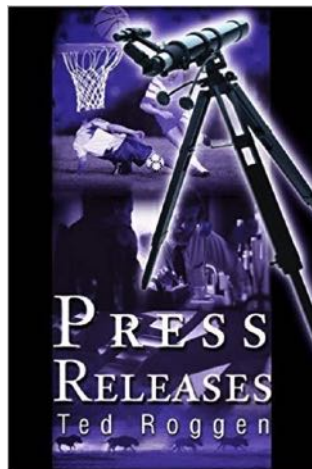
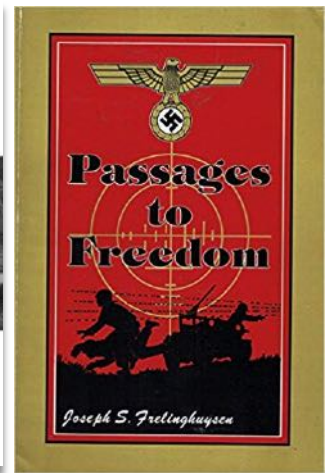
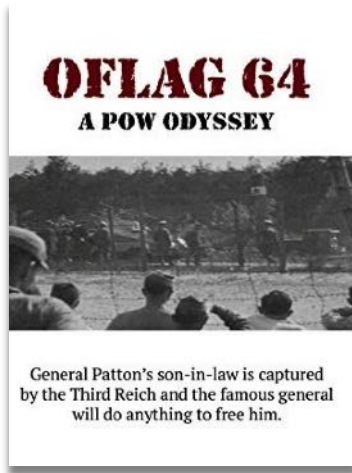
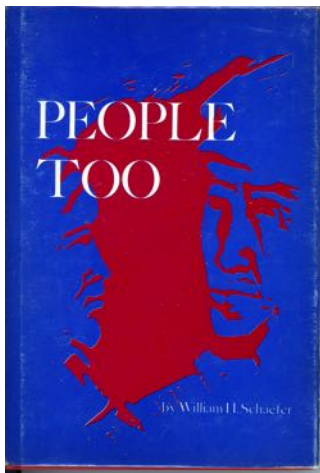
For some time now, we have been searching obituary sites and newspapers for information on some of our Kriegies. If you can verify the status of any of the following, we would appreciate receiving the information, as well as an obituary if you have one.

<p>Lawrence Allen          Edward Anthony          James W. Barker          James W. Barnes          Maurice D. Bedwell          Robert Bingham          Julian E. Boggess          William R. Bond          Wilfred M. Boucher          Francis D. Burdick          John E. Cannon          Paul N. Carnes          Leonard F. Cheadle          Rodney L. Cloutman          Robert W. Crandall          David E. Crocker          Mervin G. Danielson          Carey L. DeMott          Louis J. DiBella          Delbert Dorman          Theodore R. Ellsworth          Wilfred F. Farrell          Harvey S. Ford          Charles A. Free          Joseph S. Friedman          Edgar A. Gans          Richard D. Heil          Roy J. Herte          Roy T. Huber          Carl J. Hunsinger          Robert S. Hutchison          Jerome Jacobs          Stephen W. Kane          Steven J. Kochy          Robert P. Milligan          George W. Monaghan          George Myron          James L. Norwood</p>	<p>Robert W. Oker          John H. Polk, Sr.          John C. Reed          Harold V. Richard          Richard M. Rossbach          John J. Scully          John B. Secor          George Seemen          Frederic D. Sommers, Jr.          Frank Smith          William Smith          James L. Sweeney          Zoltan W. Takacs          Russell L. Thomas          Frank H. Tripp          Richard P. Van Syckle          Richard S. Von Shritz          Anthony L. Vetrano          C. Robert Weimer          Henry J. Weintraub          James C. Young</p>
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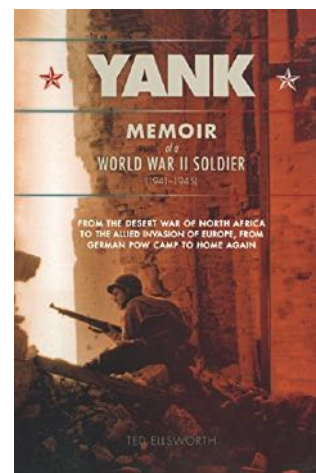
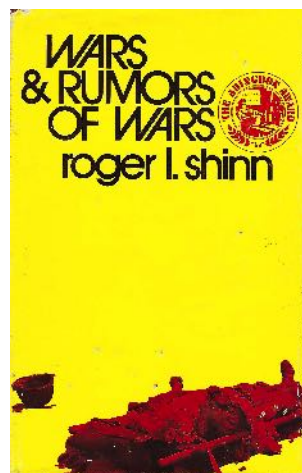
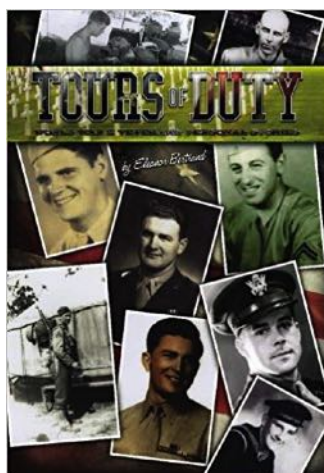
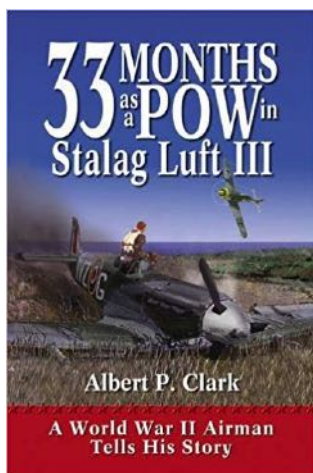
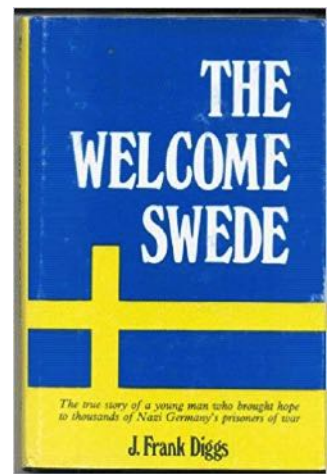
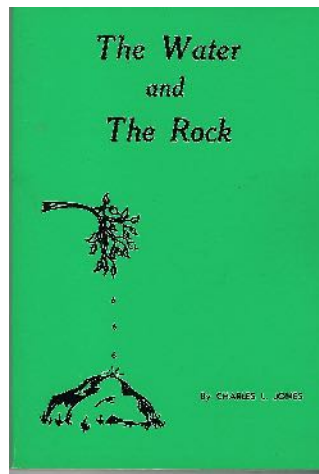
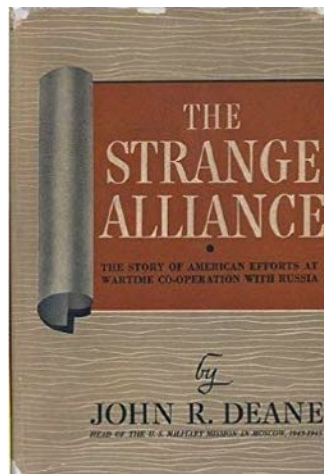
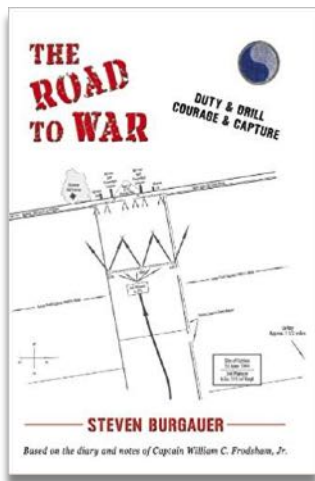
# Publications

The following publications or videos might be of interest to you (images were captured from online search engines). Most of them were written by or feature our Kriegies. You may be able find many of them by entering their titles into your favorite search engines or checking the online book sites. You can check your local library for availability as well.









**Vic Kanners Diary** – Contact Don Kanners, 3205 Jennella Dr, Commerce TWP MI 48390-1619.  
[dkanners@comcast.net](mailto:dkanners@comcast.net)

**Additionally....**

If you are a Kriegy or descendant of a Kriegy who has published a book, diary, memoirs about WWII experiences in relation to Oflag 64, we would love to include them in this grouping or on our website. We're currently looking for a copy of "The Colonel" written by the late Kriegy James F. Skells, also a copy of the late Kriegy Donald Lussenden's book "My World War II Experiences.

As you become aware of other books or publications written by any of our Oflag 64 Kriegies, please let us know.

**Finally....**

Lynne Meltesen, daughter of the late Kriegy Clarence Meltesen, has a few more copies of his book, "Roads to Liberation". If you are interested, she would be happy to pay shipping to get the book to you. Please contact Elodie for Lynne's contact information. (Thank you Lynne and Meltesen family for this service.)

A copy of the "John K. Waters Story" can be purchased by contacting Elodie Caldwell OR Cindy Burgess, \$15.99 includes S&H, write your check to the Oflag 64 Postage Fund. (Thank you Pat Waters for making several copies available.

# Friends of Oflag 64, Inc.

## Update

501 (c) (3) nonprofit  
EIN: 84 -1889226

**Friends of Oflag 64, Inc.** has been officially recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit and is listed under the Guidestar website with the NTEE code of History and Museums! [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org)

### **The Board of Directors:**

Cindy Burgess (daughter of ex-Kriegy Wilbur Sharpe) Chairman  
Nancy Wyatt (daughter of ex-Kriegy Robert Thompson) Secretary  
Anne Kreutzer (daughter of ex-Kriegy Nathaniel Hoskot) Treasurer

### **The Artifacts Committee:**

Dave Stewart (son of ex-Kriegy Don Stewart)  
Claire Anderson Bowlby (PhD student at George Mason University)  
Rosa Lee (daughter of ex-Kriegy Vincent Di Francesco)

A professional strategic planner has been working with the group for several months to guide us as we move forward with our initiatives. The following mission and vision statements have been approved. We are continuing to focus on our goals and strategies which has been exhilarating to say the very least. All this to honor the courageous Kriegies!

## **Mission**

*Friends of Oflag 64 supports the Polish American Foundation by fundraising, collecting artifacts, publicizing and promoting the museum of POWs, so that the history of the POW camps in Szubin and the courageous Polish citizens who assisted them will be preserved for generations to come.*

## **Vision**

*To help the Museum of POWs commemorate and preserve the history of POWs in Szubin, Poland.*

*By working with the Polish American Foundation and through partnership with the Town of Szubin, we will assist the museum to provide the rich historical and cultural heritage of the POW camp by means of education, research and exhibits of original artifacts. A unique aspect will be to show how the POWs of Oflag 64 remained a functioning military unit through strict discipline, organization and ingenuity.*

Donated artifacts have been sent to Dave Stewart. Both he and Claire Bowlby have hand carried them to Szubin and they are safely in the hands of the curators. Dave is diligent with his inventory and labels each and every artifact. Please view the picture on the next page as an example.

We continue to request artifacts and the stories that accompany them to aid the curators as they begin to design and plan the Museum of POWs in Szubin. Refer to the donation document example on the next page for your guidance and records. ([A fillable document](#) which you may complete and send to Dave via email or snail mail with your artifacts **has been sent to you by email.**)

We thank so many who have not only donated artifacts but have also made generous monetary donations. Heartfelt thanks for your continued interest and support!

**Friends of Oflag 64**  
Artifacts Donation Form  
A 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization  
EIN: #84-1889226

**MISSION:**

**Friends of Oflag 64** supports the Polish American Foundation by fundraising, collecting artifacts, publicizing and promoting the museum of POWs, so that the history of the POW camps in Szubin and the courageous Polish citizens who assisted them will be preserved for generations to come.

Donor name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Kriegy (POW) name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor relationship to Kriegy (POW): \_\_\_\_\_

Description of artifact(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Donor estimated total value: \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation or story of artifact(s):  
(Attach more pages if needed)

**Please retain a copy of this document for your records and tax purposes. Also send a copy to accompany the artifacts to:**

Dave Stewart – dslvtx@gmail.com  
7903 Diamond Trail  
Lago Vista, TX 78645-4446

All donated artifacts will become the property of the **Friends of Oflag 64**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Oflag 64 Connections

## [Oflag 64 Remembered](http://oflag64.us) (oflag64.us)

The Oflag 64 Remembered website brings together the families, friends, and researchers who share a passion about the experiences of the POWs of Oflag 64. The website's in-depth historical information and newsletters, and the group's reunions, help to maintain the spirit of the Oflag 64 family that the POWs established back in 1943. The POWs of Oflag 64 and their families have been gathering at regular reunions since 1947: Oflag 64 Remembered is an extension of that decades-long tradition. The site is maintained by Bill and Elodie Caldwell.

## [Friends of Oflag 64, Inc.](#)

The Friends of Oflag 64 is a U.S. registered 501(c)(3). It raises funds, collects artifacts, and increases awareness to support the mission of the Foundation and the creation and maintenance of the future Museum of POWs in Szubin. To make a donation or to learn more, please visit the Foundation's webpage or contact [Cindy Sharpe Burgess](#), Chairman.

## [Polish-American Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin](http://szubinpowcamps.org)

(szubinpowcamps.org)

The Foundation contributes to the knowledge of World War II by studying and commemorating the experiences of Allied prisoners-of-war. Its programs focus on the thousands of POWs who the Germans incarcerated in Szubin, Poland, and the brave Polish citizens who assisted those prisoners. The cornerstone project will be the creation of a museum, in Szubin, at the original site of one of the camp's barracks.

For more information, visit [www.szubinpowcamps.org](http://www.szubinpowcamps.org) or contact:

Mariusz Winięcki  
[Mariusz.Winięcki@szubinpowcamps.org](mailto:Mariusz.Winięcki@szubinpowcamps.org)  
+48 601476866

Susanna Bolten Connaughton  
[Susanna.Connaughton@szubinpowcamps.org](mailto:Susanna.Connaughton@szubinpowcamps.org)  
+1 202 256 9285

