

# The

# Post Oflag 64 Item

All the News That's  
Been Geprüft

Your Quiet Hour  
Companion

“Get Wise – ITEM-ize”

3rd Quarter 2021

Good Ole USA

Of Undetermined Worth

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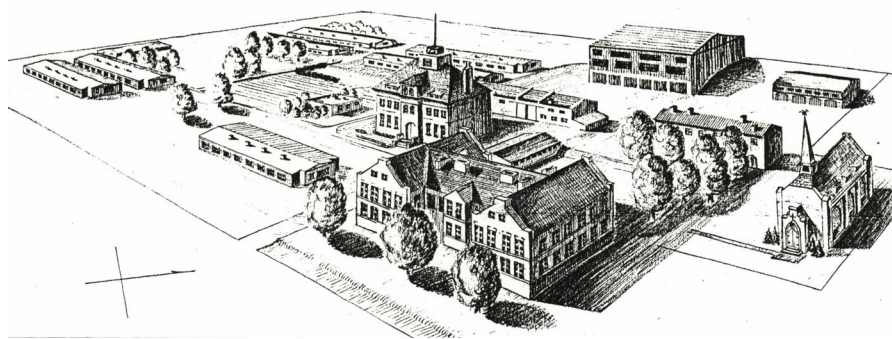
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## Contributors to this issue

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John Northcutt  
Ann Chappell Rogers  
Dave Stewart  
Paul Thriffiley III  
Anne Meltesen Trujillo

We apologize to any others we may have overlooked and thank all who have contacted us.

*NOTE: The Oflag 64 Remembered website and the Post Oflag 64 ITEM are independent entities and do not operate under the auspices of any other organization.*



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

## ITEM vs. BULLETIN

The ITEM, which is associated with the Oflag 64 Family and our website “Oflag 64 Remembered”, is a quarterly publication that deals primarily with historical-related information and honoring our Kriegies. Look for it at the end of March, June, September and December each year. The BULLETIN, which is associated with the Polish-American Foundation and with Friends of Oflag 64 (our non-profit), is a twice-yearly publication and deals more with Museum progress and updates. Please take time to read them both.

The Mission Statement below describes how the ITEM is associated with “Oflag 64 Remembered”.

### **Mission Statement for Oflag 64 Remembered**

*Oflag 64 Remembered is an informal organization dedicated to keeping the Oflag 64 family connected by sharing the history of Oflag 64 through newsletters, emails, and an in-depth website. It is dedicated to preserving the history of Oflag 64 Kriegies, through research, in preparation for the Museum of POWs in Szubin.*

We will continue to include historical and present-day information in the ITEM as it relates to our Kriegies, their captivity, post-war years, present-day information about them, and communications from them and their families. We hope the ITEM will continue to be of interest to our readers.

Our best to you always,  
Elodie Caldwell, ITEM Editor, [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us)  
Bill Caldwell, Webmaster, [webmaster@oflag64.us](mailto:webmaster@oflag64.us)



**Oflag 64**



# A Little Company Business

## Many Thanks

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to Minute-man Press for their ongoing excellent service in printing our ITEM each quarter. The quality of their printing and the timeliness in which the ITEM is printed is very much appreciated. Thank you Mike Vorse, Nate Howe, and Samantha Lemire!!!

thank  
you!

## Financial Contributions

There is now more than one way to contribute to Oflag 64 related funds.



For contributions to the Postage Fund ONLY (which not only covers the cost of printing and mailing the ITEM to our remaining Kriegies or their widows, but also pays for running the Oflag 64 website), 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

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. PF Contributions

None this quarter

For financial contributions to the future museum only, please write your check to:

## Friends of Oflag 64, Inc.

12768 Turberville Lane  
Oak Hill, VA 20171-2214

OR

donate **ONLINE** at:

<https://friendsofotlag64.org/contact-us>

You can also access the donation page on the Polish-American Foundation website at:

<http://www.szubinpowcamps.org/en/foundation/support-us>

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

THANKS to all who have so very generously donated to our various Oflag 64 funds over time.

## Researching Records



The *Oflag 64 Remembered Kriegy Research Group (KRG)* would like more information on *Oflag 64 Kriegies*, specifically about those who were captured together and/or marched out or escaped together. Some marched to Hammelburg, some to Luckenwalde, some to Moosburg, and possibly other places. Knowing the names of those who were together at different times will help create a more complete story. If you have a Kriegy diary, war log, journal, notebook or book written by your Kriegy which might tell his story more fully, please contact me at: [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us).

## Donating Artifacts

If you're looking for a place to donate Kriegy records and memorabilia, the Polish-American Foundation in Szubin would appreciate receiving them. Please contact Dave Stewart, our Friends of Oflag 64 Artifacts Committee Chairman, at: [dslvtx@gmail.com](mailto:dslvtx@gmail.com) for more information. Donations should be sent to him with two copies of the donation form which can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3yZcnBd> and then sent to the address listed on the form.

If you have already donated artifacts, thank you so much. Descriptions will be written for each of them (with your help regarding information about the artifacts). The artifacts and write-ups will eventually be used in displays in the future museum.

## Kriegy Medals

If you are looking to replace your Kriegy's medals or obtain medals he earned but never received, you can contact the following agencies.

National Archives:

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/replace-medals.html>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:

[https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book/benefits\\_chap15.asp](https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/benefits_chap15.asp)



Remember, your Kriegy was also eligible to receive the POW Medal.



# MAIL CALL



*It was a great pleasure hearing from our Kriegies, Kriegy families and friends during this last quarter. Some who contacted us were new to our Oflag 64 Family, some had information to share, some thanked us for our website and for providing a source of information for them, some had questions, and some just wanted to say hello and wish us well. [Thanks so much to the following for keeping us in “your” loop and for sending information. We love reading about how and what you are doing. Please stay safe and well!](#)*

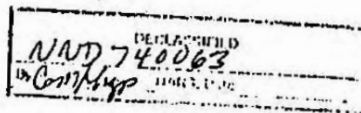
- **Ty Ankrom**, nephew of the late Kriegy Ernest “Snap” Ankrom – responded to our email about his uncle’s bio; his cousin Sandy, “Snap’s” daughter, said she’s grateful he is being remembered.
- **Cindy Sharpe Burgess**, daughter of Kriegy Wilbur Sharpe – wrote to let us know that Joseph E. Seringer III, son of the late Kriegy Joseph E. Seringer, Jr., passed away recently (See TAPS)
- **Terence Babcock**, son-in-law of the late Kriegy Robert Hazlett – wrote to thank us for sending information found recently about Robert, especially a copy of Robert’s obituary which he didn’t have
- **Susanna Bolten Connaughton**, daughter of the late Kriegy Seymour Bolten – has moved, her new address was included in her email; she is also assisting Mariusz Winiecki with information for future books to be published by the Polish-American Foundation
- **Tom Detmers**, son of the late Kriegy Arthur Detmers – reviewed his dad’s bio with photos and sent thanks for putting them together in the document
- **Judy Casner Fletcher**, daughter of the late Kriegy Al Casner – sent updates to her dad’s POW Database record on our website; commented on placing flags and daisies on Kriegy graves at Arlington National Cemetery on POW/MIA Recognition Day
- **Pat Seringer Grove**, daughter of the late Kriegy Joe Seringer – is looking for a 2008 MIS-X interview that was done with her dad for a past National Geographic documentary; also sent photos of her dad’s artifacts
- **Daniel Habig**, son of the late Kriegy Francis Habig – sent family updates, is writing his dad’s bio and taking pictures of his dad’s artifacts
- **Anne Hart-Otterbein**, daughter-in-law of the late Kriegy Louis Otterbein – asked for Mariusz Winiecki’s current contact information
- **Bret Job**, son-in-law of the late Kriegy Ray Holmquist – answered some of our questions, caught a beautiful barracuda in Florida
- **Lynn Kanaya**, widow of the late Kriegy Jimmie Kanaya – shared a wonderful video of Jimmie’s Arlington service and has given us permission to share the link to his service here; she also sent a photo of our Oflag 64 family members who were able to attend Jimmie’s burial (See the Kriegy News and Information section.) <https://vimeo.com/593713227/a630fafbc6>
- **Ron Karelse**, son-in-law of Kriegy Ed Graf – sent us Ed’s Veteran’s History Project consent form
- **Anne Kreutzer**, daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel Hoskot – wrote regarding her visit to Arlington on National POW/MIA Recognition Day again this year to place flags and daisies on Kriegy graves
- **Rosa Di Francesco Lee**, daughter of the late Kriegy “Doc” Di Francesco – sent greetings and reminisced about old times, shared thoughts about our freedoms
- **Bob Levin, Jr.**, son of Kriegy Robert E. Levin, Sr. – sent a copy of an interview his daughter did with his father
- **David Little**, grandson of the late Kriegy Thomas Wingate – is working on his grandfather’s bio and is still looking for information on the late Kriegy Albert F. Miller, Jr. who was one of his grandfather’s buddies

- **Marlene Thompson McAllister**, daughter of the late Kriegy Robert Thompson – sent greetings and gave us a call with updates on her and her family; chatted about current events
- **Marianne Merriam**, daughter of the late Kriegy Eugene “Gene” Liggett – wrote that her father’s artifacts are nearly ready to be shipped to Szubin for the future Museum; updated us regarding the wildfires around her
- **John Northcutt**, son of the late Kriegy Enoch Northcutt – sent us a link to an article which included a photo of his father’s march to a ship waiting to leave Odessa Russia after the war; also sent photos of his dad and other Kriegies after their escape from the march (See the Kriegy News and Information section.) <http://www.westalabamawatchman.com/northcutts-research-on-pow-father-ends-in-surprise-discovery/>
- **Tracy Robin**, son of the late Kriegy Alvin Robin – sent us Alvin’s Veteran’s History Project consent form
- **Ann Chappell Rogers**, niece of the late Kriegy Frank Aten – sent greetings and thanks for birthday wishes
- **Karl Sigler**, grandson of the late Kriegy Thornton Sigler – sent artifact information with more to come at a later date
- **Dave Stewart**, son of the late Kriegy Donald Stewart – sends ongoing Oflag 64 information; took a trip to Poland mid-September to hand deliver various donated artifacts; shared some information about the book “Patton’s Last Gamble”; found another Kriegy interview on the Library of Congress Veteran’s History Project site
- **Christine Rinehart Taft**, daughter of the late Kriegy Edmon Rinehart – expressed appreciation for POWs and their courage under unbearable circumstances, plus thanks for reunion photos of her dad
- **Kathy Zelazny Thomas**, daughter of the late Kriegy Joseph Zelazny, Jr. – sent a DVD of her dad’s interview with the Tacoma Elks; also sent an article about her dad in the Spokane WA newspaper; placed 237 US flags and daisies on POW gravesites at two different cemeteries in Washington State on September 17, POW/MIA Recognition Day
- **Paul Thriffiley III**, son of the late Kriegy Paul Thriffiley Jr. – researched several Kriegies with approximately 100 new pieces of information for the Kriegy Research Committee (KRG); reported that he was safe after Hurricane Ida hit New Orleans, where he lives
- **Anne Meltesen Trujillo**, daughter of the late Kriegy Clarence R. Meltesen – wrote to let us know that her brother, Jay Meltesen, recently passed away (See TAPS)
- **Tim Turner**, godson of the late Kriegy Loyd Taylor – sent video interviews and photos of his godfather
- **John M. Savage**, cousin of the late Kriegy Joseph P. Savage – sent us Joseph’s Veterans History Project consent form
- **Robert Vicek**, son of the late Kriegy John Vicek – wrote to follow up with information about a book he has written about his dad and his uncle who fought on different sides during the war; the manuscript will hopefully be submitted to the publisher soon; an amazing story
- **Linda Levin Vitale**, daughter of Kriegy Robert E. Levin, Sr. – sent information about her father’s video interview done by her niece who now lives in Australia
- **Pat Waters**, son of the late Kriegy John K. Waters – had contact with another Kriegy Kid, Kay Cruise who was visiting in the area; also shared information about the book “Patton’s Last Gamble”
- **Mariusz Winiiecki**, President of the Polish-American Foundation – is working on the next book to be published by the foundation and working on the Polish translation of others; keeping everyone informed on Instagram and various platforms as to other things taking place regarding former POW camps
- **Nancy Wyatt**, daughter of the late Kriegy Robert Thompson – found some great information on Fold3.com and asked if anyone has thought of writing a story and posting it there; asked about obtaining copies of “Oflag 64: A POW Odyssey” which is now available to view on YouTube

# Kriegy News and Information

What do you know about the "Long, Cold March"? Although we have learned quite a bit about it through the years, we found the following "dispatch" quite interesting (published previously in the Summer 2000 ITEM). Towards the end of this page, reference is made to a daily ration. However, we don't currently have that attachment at our disposal.

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 11619  
dated April 30, 1945 from the American  
Legation, Bern.



CONFIDENTIAL

No. 755

AMERICAN

## SPECIAL REPORT ON CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER OF AMERICAN OFFICERS FROM OFLAG 64 - ALTBURGUND TO OFLAG XIIIB HANMELBURG.

On January 21st, 1945, 1471 Officers and Enlisted Men left Oflag 64, Altburgund, Germany, under the Command of Oberst Fritz Schneider to march to Exin where they were to entrain and go to a new camp in the province Brandenburg. In the ensuing 45 days this group marched 553 kms. or 345 miles.

The weather was below freezing the first 10 days and the ground covered with snow so that more than 100 officers suffered from frozen members, frostbite, or chilblains.

The quarters were, with few exceptions, hay barns, stables, cow sheds, or machine shacks. They were often overcrowded, many were lofts with only one ladder for entrance and exit, thus presenting a great hazard in case of fire. Despite continued protests it was not until February 2nd, 1945, that the Germans sent a quartering party forward in advance of their arrival, so that prior to this time they would arrive at their destination as dark was falling, feet wet from tramping through deep snow, and be forced to stand around while hasty arrangements were made for quartering. Frequently fires were not permitted so that shoes and socks could be dried or food cooked.

Camp sites often lacked adequate drinking water. Absolutely no shaving or washing facilities were available. No provisions for baths were made during the entire period.

Until February 17th, 1945, the Germans provided no medical supplies or attention. After that date only a very limited amount was given. There had been continuous trouble in procuring transportation for the sick or for the packs of the walking sick. No effort was generally made to provide proper places for sick call.

The ration provided on the march was inadequate. Hauptmann Doring, the Stabsintendant, made the statement that they were receiving the same ration as the German guard company but this is not true. Attached is a breakdown of the daily ration.

This document contains information concerning the following:  
1. The "Special Service of the..."  
2. The "..." of the Espionage...  
3. The "..." as amended. Its...  
4. The "..." of its content...  
Unauthorized person is prohibited from...  
Following

The report continues with this information which accounts for the number of men who left the march, and ended up at various locations. We know that some ended up at Hammelburg, some eventually at Luckenwalde, and some eventually at Moosburg.

-2-

Following is an analysis of losses of personnel during the march:

86 left in hospital at Oflag 64, Alzburgund,  
Colonel F. W. Drury,  
186 sick or escaped between Alzburgund  
and Exin,  
171 left at Wegheim, Colonel E. Gans,  
4 left at Netzthal, Major A. Grandall  
26th January, 90 by rail from Flatow to Grosbane or  
Luckenwalde, Lt. Col. Oates,  
27th January, 119 by rail from Jastrow, Lt. Col. Jones,  
30th January, 68 left at Oflag IID, Westphalenhof,  
Capt. C. E. Dunn,  
30th January, 4 left at Heinrichsdorf,  
5th January, 176 by rail from Zeitlitz to Luckenwalde,  
Lt. Col. Cross,  
13th February, 4 left at Swinemunde, Lt. Col. Alger,  
14th February, 100 by rail from Stolpe (Usedum) to  
Luckenwalde, Lt. Col. Van Vliet,  
15th February, 18 British to join another column.

1023

Column arrived at Oflag XIII B on March 9, 1945, with 423 Officers, 67 Enlisted Men. The difference of 42 is accounted for by the Officers and men who joined the column en route.

Chart of Ration breakdown and servings attached.

1 encl.

(Sgt.) Albert A. Kadler.

Berlin, April 3rd, 1945.

A KRIEGY AT OFLAG 64 SPENT HIS DAYS IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. Did you know that several of our Kriegies were quite artistically talented? These photos, showcasing their talents, were from an event called Hobby Lobby which was held in December of 1943. Some of your dads had their works displayed there.

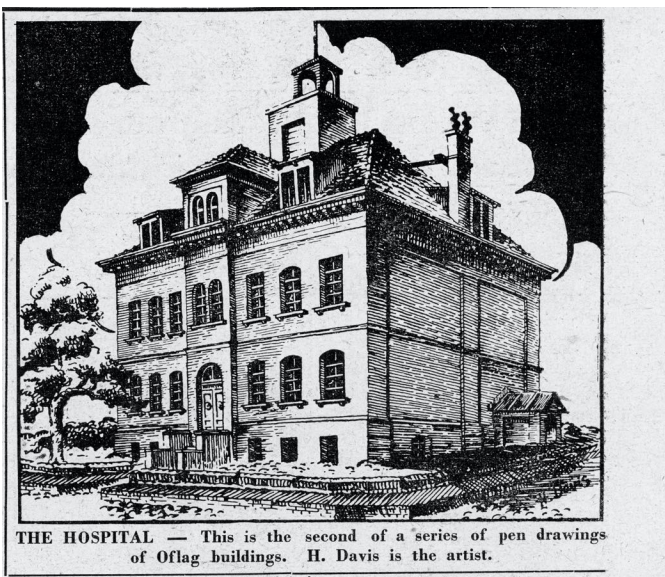


Nearly all of the following drawings, done by our Kriegies at one time or another, were pictured in original Oflag 64 ITEMS.



This drawing of Barracks 7A was done by Kriegy Carl H. E. Holmstrom while he was held temporarily at Oflag 64 before being transferred to Stalag Luft III. This is just one of many he drew.

Do you recognize any of these Kriegy band members drawn by Kriegy James F. "Jim" Bickers? Jim also drew the picture of the camp that appears on the front page of this ITEM, and many others.



Depicted in this drawing by Kriegy Harvey C. Davis is the hospital at Oflag 64 as it was then. For anyone who has traveled to the site of Oflag 64 since WWII, they've noticed that it still looks pretty much the same outside. It has undergone some significant changes inside.





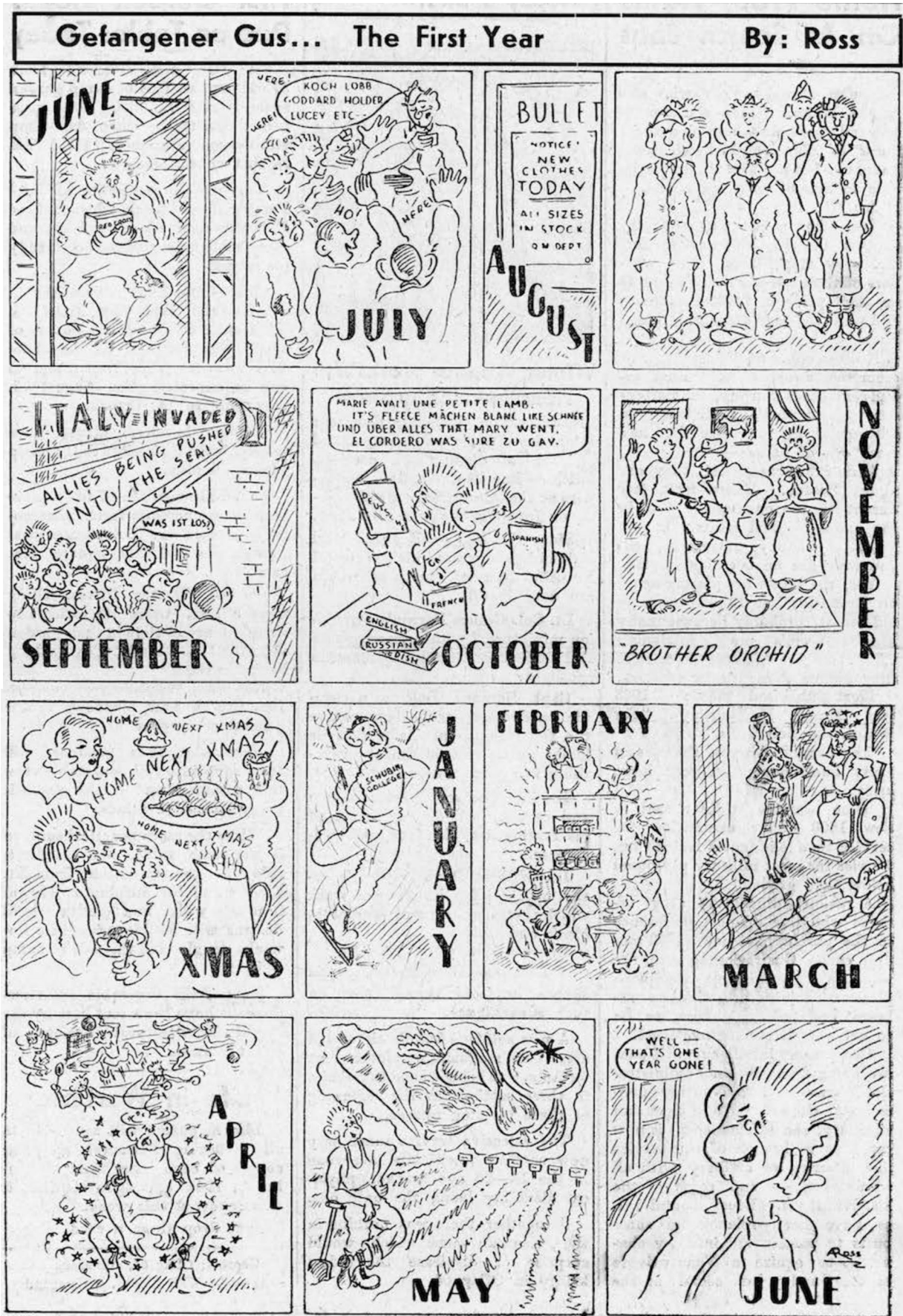
Beat It! Heat It! Throw it away! is the suggestion given in this drawing done by Kriegy William E. "Bill" Fabian.

A meager Christmas - Nothing more needs to be said about this drawing by Kriegy John C. Reed.



Kriegy Dallas B. Smith is pictured in this drawing by fellow Kriegy Jay A. Drake while "on the march from 64".

These comics were done by Kriegy Alexander Ross as part of the "Gefangener Gus" series depicting experiences of some of our Kriegies during their first year of captivity.



Thanks to John Northcutt for sending this photo which included his father, Enoch Northcutt and other Kriegies after their escape from the long march and on their way home. It was taken on 13 March 1945 at Port Said, Egypt. Along with their driver, the soldiers pictured are Enoch Northcutt, "Red" Maguire, James Carpenter, Carey DeMott, and a British soldier, CPT Cameron.



Thanks to Lynn Kanaya, widow of the late Kriegy Jimmie Kanaya for sharing this photo of our Oflag 64 family members who attended Jimmie's burial. Pictured from left to right are: Glenn Burgess, Cindy Burgess (daughter of Kriegy Wilbur "Bill" Sharpe), Lynn Kanaya, Pat Bender and Maria Christmann (daughters of the late Kriegy Vincent "Doc" Di Francesco, Anne Hoskot Kreutzer (daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel Hoskot), and Tom Kreutzer.



## Kriegy Bios, Artifacts, Artifact Descriptions

*Progress towards the future Museum in Szubin is being made daily both in Poland and in the US. Helping in that effort are families who are contributing information for or who are writing their dad's bios. We thank everyone for their contributions and will try to highlight at least one family-written bio each quarter, with permission of course. Those who have sent us family-written bios or their dad's autobiographies in recent months are named below. Approximately 22 other families or individual family members are in the process of collecting information for writing bios as well. We're looking forward to reading them soon. WAY TO GO EVERYONE!! (And by way of other information, the Kriegy Research Group collectively has written an additional 46 bios – Good Work Team!!)*

**Frank Aten** – written by his niece Ann Rogers

**James “Lee” Clingan** – compiled by his son Greg Clingan

**James Cockrell** – autobiography sent by his daughter Anne Matzelle

**Arthur Detmers** – written by his son Tom Detmers

**Reid Ellsworth** – written by his daughter Elodie Caldwell with contributions by family members

**Isaac “Ike” Franklin** – written by his daughter Susan Hutchison

**John Glendinning** – written by his son David Glendinning

**Howard Hinds** – written by his family and submitted by his daughter Susan Harms

**Thomas Holt** – autobiography sent by his nephew Wistar Holt

**Nathaniel Hoskot** – written by his daughter Anne Hoskot

**Gibson Kennedy** – written by his family but submitted by his daughter Kate Hines

**F. Gene Liggett** – autobiography found online

**Joseph Seringer** – autobiography sent by his daughter Carrie Seringer

**Bertram Wheeler** – online biography shared by his daughter Pam Waters

\* \* \* \* \*

We're happy to include the following family-written bio in this issue of the ITEM. It was written and submitted, along with accompanying photos, by the late Kriegy Arthur Detmers' son, Tom Detmers.

**1LT Arthur V. Detmers**  
**34<sup>th</sup> Infantry,**  
**133<sup>rd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, Company L**  
**168<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team, Company A**



Arthur V. Detmers was born to Arthur and Helma Detmers on January 5, 1918 in Davenport, Iowa. He graduated from Davenport High School, Class of 1936, worked for a local veterinarian until he was employed as a service manager by the Toledo Scale Company.

He was a member of the Iowa National Guard, until being inducted into the army on April 14, 1941 at Fort Des Moines Iowa, and participated in the Louisiana Maneuvers of 1941 being assigned to the 34<sup>th</sup> Division, 133<sup>rd</sup> Regimental Combat Team Co. L. From a letter home, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1941: "Camp Claiborne must be some of the country that God forgot. I never saw so much red mud in all my life." The mud, and pine trees so tall that he was in disbelief, were his introduction to the South.



Arthur with WWI Era Gear - LA Maneuvers

He departed for the European Theater on February 19, 1942. First stop, Castle Rock, Northern Ireland where the U.S. Army Rangers were being formed, for some "Commando Training" (as he called it) and later on to England before being deployed to North Africa.

He participated in the Tunisia and Naples-Foggia Campaigns and received the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with two bronze battle stars, and was awarded the Bronze Star. It was not all over the top glory for him; after one battle he was tasked with clearing the field of all unspent munitions. It was a sizable hill of unexploded items, and the Sergeant promptly set it ablaze, the detonations were massive. The Colonel was not in the least amused.

The 133<sup>rd</sup> and other combat teams were involved in the battle for Hill 609 in Tunisia, April and May 1943. It has been said that the American Army came of age at this battle. "I was in the last hole on the left, the Germans were shooting and throwing grenades at me all day trying to get me out of my hole. I left a lot of friends there."

Sergeant Detmers was discharged from the 133<sup>rd</sup> RCT on August 12, 1943 by reason of desire to accept a battlefield commission. From the Recommendation for Appointment, June 9, 1943:

*"Sergeant Detmers, serving as Platoon Guide, has at all times been an example to, not only the men of that platoon, but the entire company. During days of actual combat, his coolness under fire was especially noteworthy."*

<p><b>Lt. A. V. Detmers, Escaped Prisoner, Home Looking Fit</b></p> <p>Recently escaped from OFLAG 64, a Nazi prison camp in Poland,</p>	<p>where Lt. Richard Englehart was also detained, Lt. Arthur V. Detmers, son of Mr and Mrs Arthur H. Detmers, 1324 Belle avenue, arrived in Davenport at 1:30 a. m. today from St. Louis, the next to the last stop on the long route home.</p> <p>Lt. Detmers and his family talked until 5:30 a. m. today and he was sleeping when a Times representative called for an interview. His mother said that he was tired but that he was looking extremely fit and that in reviewing his experiences as a prisoner, he said that he could not complain of the treatment received. Food rations, greatly supplemented by the Red Cross, were short during the last month or so of his detention, but by the time he escaped and crossed the border into Russia, he was still in fair physical condition.</p> <p>In his conversation with his</p>	<p><b>AMUSEMENT CALENDAR</b></p> <p><b>STAGE AND SCREEN</b> Capitol—Mickey Rooney in "National Velvet." Orpheum—Abbott and Costello in "Here Come the Co-eds," and "The Power of the Whistler." Esquire—Dorothy McGuire in "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." State—"Four Jills in a Jeep." Garden—"Maisie Goes to Reno," and "The Fighting Lady." Uptown—"The Great Moment" and "Take It Big." Sunset—"Babes on Swing Street" and "Phantom Lady."</p> <p><b>DANCING</b> Coliseum—Dancing, every Saturday.</p> <p>family he mentioned the good treatment he received from the Russians and he commented on</p>	<p>the fact that the Russian women he saw were cheerfully performing the heaviest kind of labor in the absence of the men at the front.</p> <p>Lt. Detmers will have a 60-day leave at home before reassignment.</p> <p>He received his basic training at Camp Claiborne, La., and from there went to Ft. Dix, N. J., after which he was sent overseas, first to northern Ireland and then to England. He was in the battle of Tunisia and the battle of North Africa and later went to Italy.</p> <p>He was cited for bravery during his service in Italy and was reported missing in action in November, 1943. Taken prisoner he was liberated by the Russians last December and he arrived in the United States four weeks ago today.</p> <p>Prior to entering the army, Lt. Detmers was service manager of the Toledo Scales Co. He is a graduate of Davenport high school</p>
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He was then transferred to the 34<sup>th</sup> Division's 168<sup>th</sup> RCT 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Co. A as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

As the 1943 Italian campaign's 3<sup>rd</sup> crossing of the Vulturno River got underway, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 168<sup>th</sup> with Co. A at point on November 4<sup>th</sup> began the advance to Hills No. 518 and 558 to the west of Roccaravindola. Lt. Detmers and his patrol were captured by the Germans around sunup on November 5<sup>th</sup>, "3 klicks E of Venefro" (time from him, date and location from his diary).

Arrived Stalag III A, Luckenwalde on November 19, departed from there on December 14<sup>th</sup>. (from his diary). His entire time at that POW camp was spent in solitary confinement. The VA psychiatric doctors later told him that his sheer hatred of his captors was what kept him alive.

On December 18, 1943 he arrived at Oflag 64, and his life as a Kriegie began. (date from diary). Part of his upbringing in Iowa was working on a family farm. Milking and feeding the cows, collecting eggs from the chickens all had to be done before school every morning. So, since the POW camp had a garden, it was natural for him to work in it. From his diary, May 13, 1943: "planted 5 rows radishes, 3 rows carrots, 4 rows onions." Gardening and playing handball, until he was too weak from low rations, was a definite improvement from Luckenwalde. But the inner fire of being captured was burning.

January 21, 1945 began the long and bitterly cold march of the Kriegies towards Germany. Wednesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of January, "left column at 0900 hours CHARLOTTENBURG (GER)" (diary) after asking permission to escape from Lt. Colonel John Waters, General George Patton's son-in-law. Lt. Detmers, another Kriegie (probably Robert Oshlo) and a German guard took off into the snow, moving back towards Szubin, and the advancing Russians.

Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup>. they arrived at Wirsitz and were given shelter by a Polish farming family. There were other U.S. Soldiers there that were not familiar with the warmth that live cows and hay would provide. My father reflected later that they must have been city folk. At "1500 hours contacted reds" (diary), Lt. Detmers and others were liberated by a Russian Army patrol.

By truck and railroad boxcar the Lt. with other soldiers and officers were gradually moved towards Odessa. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of March of 1945, his diary says:

*"arrived in Odessa 0800 hrs. Left train and marched 3 hrs. to billets on sea. On to Circassia, Istanbul, the Straights of Messina then on Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April the Port of Naples 0630 hrs. Disemb. approx. 1100 hrs. Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April at the Hotel Terme in Naples. Finally, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 1945, home."*



Arthur on leave after captivity

It was a quiet and uneventful 2 months, no doubt very much appreciated by the soldier and his family, and after leave was finished, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Detmers went on to his next assignment at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock Arkansas.

He assumed his duties as an Infantry Unit Commander of the 186 1<sup>st</sup> SCU, training 35 men for over eight months. His responsibilities included administration, supply and employment of unit for combat. The theater of war they were preparing for was revealed years later, the Pacific, invasion of Japan. He was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant on September 18, 1945.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Detmers was separated from the Army with an Honorable Discharge on December 9, 1945 at Camp Robinson. He was offered a permanent rank of Captain if he would agree to stay, but he felt his luck had run out, and it was time to leave.

(Writers note: When he recounted the time after capture that he was packed shoulder to shoulder in a railroad cattle car with scores of officers and enlisted men, and the car was strafed by Allied

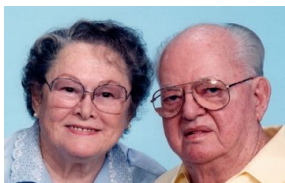
aircraft, it left a definite impression. Also, he was engaged at this time, and there were numerous family pressures from each side concerning the future goings-on.)



Arthur & Jean on Wedding Day

Back in Davenport the now civilian Arthur “Art” Detmers went back to work for the Toledo Scale Company and resumed a more normal, and much quieter life. On May 28, 1946 he married the girl next door Miss Jean R. Winegar. Actually, she was the girl across the street, but close enough. After the honeymoon the newlyweds relocated to Jacksonville, Florida.

The first of three children, Kathleen, was born there. A transfer to Tampa a few years later was where they had me, Thomas, then back to Jacksonville and Eric, the baby of the family, was born. One thing the war did, it made a generation willing and able to move around the country and see new places.

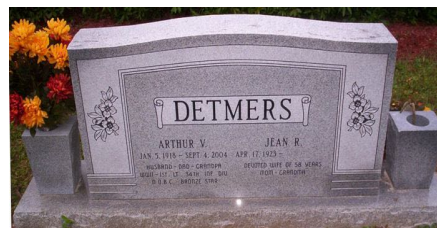


Arthur & Jean – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Art spent his entire career with Toledo Scales. Those were the days of loyalty upwards as well as downwards (mostly anyway). He was a technician, sales manager, office manager, distributor, a district and then a regional manager for Toledo Scales. A much higher promotion was derailed due to his wife having a serious illness.

Transfers moved Jean, Art and Eric to Atlanta, Georgia and finally to the home office in Toledo, Ohio where he would retire in November of 1983. They would return to the warmer climate of Jacksonville and rejoin myself and my sister in 1985, where they would live out the rest of their lives.

Art would go on to meet his comrades of Company L, 133<sup>rd</sup> RCT in September 2004. Those were the soldiers he most wanted to be remembered with, “every one of them should have received a Silver Star” he once told me. Jean would rejoin him in April 2011. Over half a century of marriage with all the “Better or Worse” they could desire, they would be both an inspiration and a trial to their children. And that is all anyone could ask.



#### Writers note:

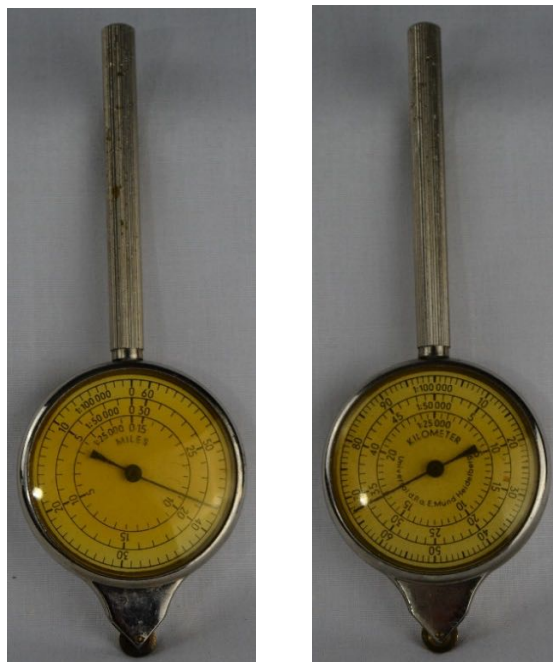
On behalf of my brother and sister I would like to thank the Polish People for their bravery and fortitude in extending shelter to the Allied soldiers, and more personally our father, during World War II. Faced with extreme retribution if caught, they nonetheless did what was necessary to give aid where it was needed at a time when it was needed most.

We would also like to thank Bill and Elodie Caldwell, Lórien Kelly and Chris Weatherford for preserving the Kriegies story, and Mariusz Winiecki and the City of Szubin for their untiring help in making sure that this small piece of history does not fade into the past.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Artifacts/Descriptions:** *As Artifacts are received by the Friends of Oflag 64 Artifacts Committee, the Chairman and members of the Kriegy Research Group write descriptions. These will be sent to Szubin along with their associated artifacts for display in the future Museum. if you have information about the artifacts you donate, where they were used, found, obtained, or any other information that will help make the descriptions more interesting, please share when you send artifacts to the Artifacts Chairman. The following are examples of artifact descriptions written to accompany artifacts.*

## Artifact Inventory ID No. 61.01 (Class I Artifact)

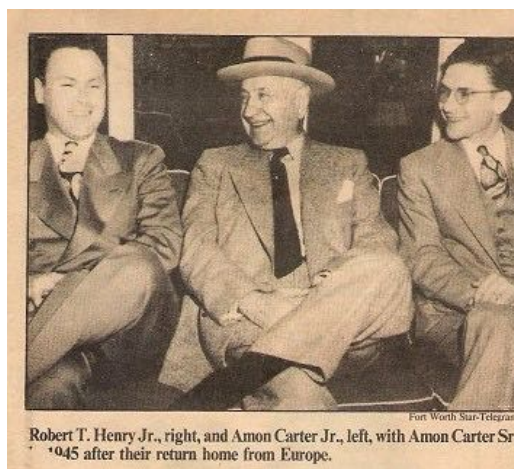


Donated by Jon David Henry (*photos by David Stewart*)

**Artifact Description:** Universal d.P.a E. Mund Heidelberg curvimeter (Opisometer) manufactured in Germany pre-WWII (1938-1939).

**Artifact History:** This curvimeter is a hand-held mechanical instrument which was used to measure distances on a map in either feet or meters. In WWII, it was used by the Artillery Forward Observer to radio corrections for an artillery barrage to the artillery battery so it could hit the desired impact zone accurately. Forward Observer Captain Robert Thompson Henry (36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division) hid his curvimeter in the lining of his coat at the time of his capture during the Battle of Monte Cassino, one of the bloodiest battles of the Italian Campaign. It was not discovered by his German captors during his 15 months of captivity.

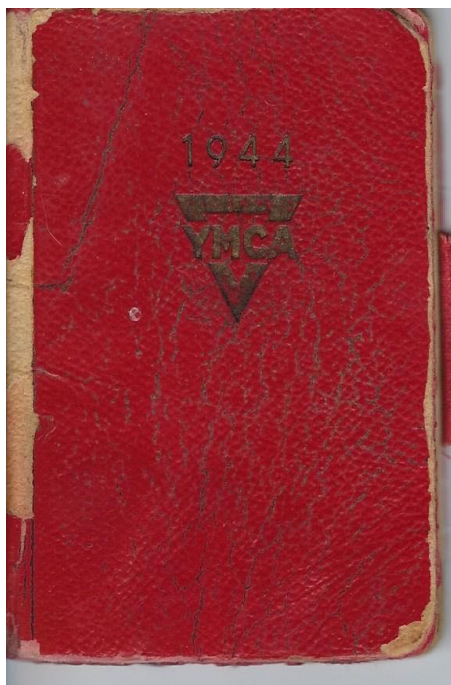
**Photo of Oflag 64 POW:**



(*Newspaper clipping photo courtesy of Jon David Henry*)



## Artifact Inventory ID No. 10.01 (Class I Artifact)



Donated by Ted Roggen (*photo by Elodie Caldwell*)

**Artifact Description:** Roggen's daily diary written while interned at Oflag 64.

**Artifact History:** Personal diary of 2LT Ted Roggen recorded in a 1944 palm-sized calendar book provided by the Y.M.C.A. to Oflag 64 Kriegies.

**Photo of Oflag 64 POW:**



1 /

2LT Ted Roggen is standing on the far right (*photo from Oflag 64 Remembered files*)

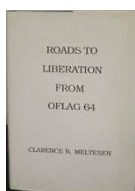
# Publications

**We're always looking for a hard copy of each of the following.** Please let us know if you find one or have one to donate.

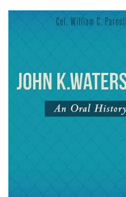
- "Country boy infantry: "The Blue Devils" 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 1944-1945" by the late Kriegy Carey E. Ashcraft, Jan. 1, 1987
- "My World War II Experiences" by the late Kriegy Donald Lussenden
- "People Too" by the late Kriegy William H. Schaefer
- "The Colonel" by the late Kriegy James F. Skells
- Milton E. Dowse – 3D copy of online publication

**If you are looking for any of the following, please contact.....**

Marilyn Kanners Beckham (Vic's daughter) for a copy of **Vic Kanners Diary**, 3608 W BRADFORD DR, BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48301-3353. [beckhammarilyn@hotmail.com](mailto:beckhammarilyn@hotmail.com)



Lynne Meltesen, daughter of the late Kriegy Clarence Meltesen, has sent us a few more copies of his fantastic resource book, **"Roads to Liberation"**. If you would like a copy, please contact Elodie Caldwell at [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us). The book is available at no charge but you are asked to pay for S & H. (Thank you Meltesen family for this service.)



Pat Waters, son of the late Kriegy John Waters, sent several copies of the **"John K. Waters Story"** which can be purchased by contacting Elodie Caldwell, \$15.99 includes S&H. Please write your check to the Oflag 64 Postage Fund. (Thank you, Pat, for sending these copies.)

# TAPS

## Richard Baron (Hammelburg)

1923 ~ 2021



Richard Warren Baron, the renowned sixties owner and publisher of The Dial Press, where he presided over works by James Baldwin and Norman Mailer, and hired E.L. Doctorow as Editor-in-Chief, died on Sunday, May 9 of natural causes at his home in New York City. He was 98.

His death was announced by Carole Baron, his wife of 45 years, an editor at Alfred A. Knopf.

A World War Two combat veteran and POW, lifelong fighter for social justice, who participated in the March on Washington led by

Martin Luther King, and a pilot well into his eighties of his Cessna 182 plane, Baron lived on Shelter Island and in Manhattan.

Richard Baron was born on April 4, 1923 to Samuel T. Baron, owner of the Royal Paper Corporation, and Mabel Levy Baron, and grew up on New York's Upper West Side. After a scuffle with a fellow student at PS 166, he was enrolled in Manlius Military Academy, near Syracuse. Having attended the University of North Carolina, early in World War II he joined the Army Infantry. His armed-forces education and training had him sent to North Africa in 1943 as a lieutenant. He saw combat at Anzio, after which he was wounded. Before he returned to the war in Germany, he and a few other Jewish soldiers changed the H (for Hebrew) on their dog tags to P (Protestant). This saved his life when he was

surrounded by SS units, captured and imprisoned in a POW camp [Hammelburg] for the war's final four months. Baron recounted his experiences in "Raid," a book that was published in 1981.

Baron retired from book publishing in 1980, dividing his time between Manhattan and his beloved Shelter Island, where well into his eighties, he sailed his boat and flew his retractable Cessna 182.

Richard Baron is survived by Carole; his children Amy and Tom from his second marriage to Virginia Olsen; children Susan, Wendy and Vicki from marriage to his late first wife Pamela Stearns; three step-children; 17 grandchildren; and great-grandson Asher.

Baron will be buried on Shelter Island in a private ceremony. Memorial contributions can be made to the Shelter Island Friends of the Library. [www.shelterislandpubliclibrary.org/friend-sof-the-shelter-island-library](http://www.shelterislandpubliclibrary.org/friend-sof-the-shelter-island-library).

Richard's complete obituary can be found at: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/new-york-ny/richard-baron-10186365>

## *Kriegy Widows & Kids*

*We are losing Kriegy family members all too quickly these days. We have just learned that Helen E. Fowler, widow of the late Kriegy Charles E. Fowler, passed away a few years ago. No obituary is available.*

## *Lillian L. Wright*

1925 ~ 2021



On August 9, 2021, Lillian Lockett Wright, age 96, of Catonsville passed away; Lillian was born January 28, 1925 in Kentucky; Beloved wife of the late William E. Wright [former Kriegy];

Loving mother of Lillian Sue Schadle and husband Clark, and William Stewart Wright and wife Carol; Cherished grandmother of Larry Clark Schadle and wife Laura S., and Jason M. Wright; and great-grandmother of Landry Kate Schadle; Also survived by a collection of nieces and nephews; Lillian was predeceased by her

parents, William Soaper Lockett and Leonora Lockett (nee Manion); and by her siblings, Mary Frances Schoenly, and William S. "Pete" Lockett.

A Burial at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Lillian's obituary can be found at:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/catonville-md/lillian-wright-10301587>

## *Jay H. Meltesen*

1952 ~ 2021

Jay H. Meltesen, 69, passed away on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at his home. He was a Camas, Washington resident since 2015.

Jay was born on June 26, 1952 in Augusta, Georgia to his parents, Clarence R. Meltesen and Mary Helena Briggs. He earned his Bachelor's Degree at the University of California Berkley. He worked in the Food Industry as a Purchasing Agent. He loved the outdoors, gardening and reading.

Jay is survived by his daughters, Simone Meltesen of Queens, New York, Julia Meltesen of Camas, Washington; sisters, Anne Trujillo of Rohnert Park, California, Gayle Meltesen of Vancouver, Washington, Lynne Meltesen of Lakewood, Colorado.

Jay was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Susan. Per the family no service will be scheduled. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown's Funeral Home in Camas, Washington. To send condolences to the family, please visit Jay's guest book at [www.brownsfh.com](http://www.brownsfh.com).

Jay's obituary can be found at:

<https://brownsfh.com/tribute/details/2071/Jay-Meltesen/obituary.html>

## *Joseph E. Seringer III*

1948 ~ 2021



Joseph Edward Seringer III, CEO, father, grandfather, sailor and lover of wine, died unexpectedly on July 21, 2021 at the age of 73. Joe lived life his way. He could never sit still and did not shy away from taking risks. Recently, he flew to Martinique,

bought a sailboat and hired a captain to help sail to Florida. He sailed the high seas to Hilton Head, SC where he spent a week with his brother, three sisters and their families.

Joe founded and was CEO of ORION Marketing Group, Inc., a San Antonio-based marketing firm that employed over 5,000 people since its inception in 1995. After retiring, he left Texas for a sandy hillside in the Russian River Valley of California. Joe and his daughter Kellie planned to build a family compound among the giant eucalyptus, oak and apple trees. After several years battling the local gopher population, he gave up on his dream of making artisan pinot noir, answered the salty call of the sea and set off to the Lesser Antilles.

Joe was an avid Buckeyes football fan, a U.S. Army veteran and a life-long Democrat. He was raised in Wooster, Ohio, and was the eldest of five siblings. Joe earned his degree in

accounting and an MBA from The Ohio State University.

Joe was married to Linda M. Seringer for 52 years. Joe's son and daughter were at his bedside when he took his final journey. Joe is survived by his son Michael Seringer, daughter-in-law Kate Hunger and granddaughters Rita, Stella and Vera Seringer; daughter Kellie Seringer and granddaughters Ariel and Amari Seringer; brother Tom Seringer, sisters Kathy Stokes, Pat Grove and Carrie Seringer, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Joe was preceded in death by his mother Rita Hagan Seringer and father Joseph Edward Seringer II.

Joseph's obituary can be found at:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/pressdemocrat/name/joseph-seringer-obituary?n=joseph-seringer&pid=199772846&fhid=38500>

\* \* \* \* \*

While looking for information on some of our Kriegies on the Find a Grave website, I stumbled onto this page entitled "A Virtual Cemetery-Oflag 64 POWs, which lists 179 of our Oflag 64 Kriegies.

<https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/932587?page=1#sr-40534852>

Some entries show gravestones, some show articles or photos of our POWs and nearly all include the name of the cemetery at which they are interred (and occasionally show plot locations) or indicate that ashes were scattered. In some cases there is no information listed. If you would like to add your Kriegy to the site, you must have a Find a Grave account. Once you have an account, go to the menu bar where it says "Contribute". You should be able to upload information and photos from there.

Approximately 1500 of our Kriegies were held captive at Oflag 64, so there is a lot of work to do to get them all eventually added to this site. If you would like to help in this endeavor, please let me know at: [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us).



Add Memorials



Upload Photos



Transcribe Photos



Photo Requests



Suggested Edits



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