

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

## 4TH QUARTER 2012

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## THE REUNION QUESTION..... DO WE OR DON'T WE?

In order to make a decision about a reunion this year, we must ask and answer several questions....

1. Is there enough interest to plan and carry one out?
2. Where is the best place to hold one?
3. Who will host?
4. What month of the year is best?
5. Where should we stay?
6. How many days should be involved?
7. What activities should be planned?

The feeling in the past has been that everyone enjoys the reunions and wants to see them continue. However, over the last few years, our Kriegies who are able to attend are getting fewer in number and fewer family members are attending as well. Here are the numbers of Kriegies who attended the last 6 reunions:

2006	New Orleans = 23
2007	Tulsa = 19
2008	Washington D.C. = 18
2009	Ft. Collins = 9
2010	Dallas = 8
2011	St. Petersburg = 6

No reunion was held in 2012 due to a lack of firm commitments to attend. However, many have since said that they missed not having a reunion to attend. So, what is everyone's feeling for this year?

We will be sending an email soon regarding a survey to be posted on our website at [www.oflag64.us](http://www.oflag64.us). Please check the website periodically as surveys only last 2-3 weeks. Otherwise, feel free to email or write to me at any time using the contact information at the left of this page.

If we are to go ahead with a reunion this year, planning needs to begin fairly soon. We thank you for helping us make this important decision.

Best Regards,

*Elodie Caldwell*, ITEM Editor  
(Daughter of the late Kriegie Reid Ellsworth)





# MAIL CALL



After Hurricane Sandy, we sent an email to find out how our east coast Oflag 64 family members were doing. Here is what we asked followed by the responses we received:

*Dear Oflag 64 Family,*

*With the widespread affects Hurricane Sandy has had this week, we have been concerned about how our Oflag 64 family members in the eastern part of the country are doing. A few of our Oflag 64 family have been in contact with each other just to check in and make sure everyone is okay. Although there has been a lot of wind and rain and in some cases power outages and flooding, most of those who have had contact with each other and who have reported to me tell us they are all fine.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with all who have suffered losses of any kind as a result of this hurricane. If you have been in contact with any of our group living in the east or if you have been impacted by this storm, let us know how you are doing and if things are all right.*

*Our best to you all,  
Elodie Caldwell  
Daughter of the late Kriegy Reid Ellsworth  
ITEM Editor, Oflag 64 Association*

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Dear Elodie & Oflag Family,

I am happy to report that the DiFrancesco family: (Rosa and Pat Cochran in Ft Pierce, FL; Dad {Doc} and Maria & Wayne & children in Silver Spring, MD, and in Washington, DC; and Pat and Tom & children in Philadelphia, PA) came through this terrible storm unscathed. There were many trees and power lines down all around us, but we were fortunate, unlike many others in our immediate areas. Bob O'Neill called from Prescott, AZ to make sure that we were all OK. We are praying for our neighbors in the North and East, specifically, New Jersey and New York. The photos from these areas are devastating.

Pat Bender (daughter of Kriegy "Doc" DiFrancesco)

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*Thank God we are fine in Maryland.*

*Leslie Sullam (daughter of the late Kriegy Sol Levy)*

Hey all,

I visited my dad, Edward Batte, who was a Kriegie in Oflag 64 from Texas A&M. He lives in Penick Village in Southern Pines, NC He is doing fine.

Margaret B. Moore (daughter of Kriegy Edward Batte)

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*Hi Elodie,*

*Thanks for the lovely message. All is well with Wilbur Sharpe and his family.*

*Best to you,  
Cindy Burgess (daughter of Kriegy Wilbur Sharpe)*

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Elodie

Thanks for the update. I'm glad to hear that everybody in our Oflag family is safe and well. We all feel such empathy for all those folks impacted by the storm. Unbelievable! We in Michigan suffered mostly high winds, loss of power for many, downed trees, and flooding for those living near our Great Lakes' shorelines.

I hope you are well and happy. All is good here. Charlene is fine, also. She is getting a 3-year-old tiny Yorkie today who is a NOT HOUSE BROKEN. I hope she is able to get it trained real soon. Poor Bandit will have to adjust to sharing his family's love with another dog. We'll see how that works out. He's still going to be my favorite---no question about that!

Take care,  
Lucy Lussenden (widow of the late Kriegy Don Lussenden)

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*Hi, Elodie*

*I was very lucky, no power loss or damage even though people in many towns around here are without power. Thank you very much for checking up on everyone.*

*Gail Rahal (widow of Kriegy Nick Rahal)*

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Elodie,

For once Florida--at least our area of Ft. Pierce--was spared. We had a lot of rain, high winds, beach erosion, and flooded streets--but nothing close to Frances and Jeanne in 2004. Even though I'm still piling up palm fronds to be hauled away, I'm very grateful.

We thank you for your continuous thoughts and caring for each of us, and for the excellent job you and our Webmaster do all year to keep our Oflag Family informed and close. We miss seeing everyone.

Rosa Lee (daughter of Kriegy "Doc" DiFrancesco)

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Dear Elodie,

*It was so thoughtful of you to send the email about the effect of Superstorm Sandy on people we might know through Oflag 64. I am so relieved the news is good so far.*

*Thank you for all you do to keep us connected. I think fondly of the wonderful reunion my husband and I attended about this time two years ago in Dallas. It was so good to touch base with the Oflag 64 family.*

Sincerely,  
Ann Sudduth (daughter of Kriegy Tony Lumpkin)

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Hello Elodie,

Back in the UK I have watched Hurricane Sandy from a safe distance. On the other hand we have had many floods in the UK this year, often several times in the same place. Climate change does appear to have altered weather patterns enormously.

Thank you for keeping me in touch with Oflag 64. Though not an active person due to lack of knowledge, I am gradually working through my Uncle's papers and photos (Kenneth Murdoch Finlayson) and scanning them in the hope I can find a good home for them, and eventually have them put in general circulation on the web.

Attached is a concert programme you might like to circulate to your members in case any of the concert cast are members and still alive. It is the only hand made concert programme I have found to date and is particularly unusual because it is signed by the cast. Do you know if hand made programmes are unusual?

Regards and best wishes, Jim Wignall (Oflag 64 friend from England)

*Regarding Hurricane Sandy....All is well here. Living in western NC we only had some rain and 30-40 mph winds. Kind of you to check. Hope you are well.*

John Albee, LT, USA (Ret)

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Now begins our regular "Mail Call" correspondence...



**GAIL BRADFORD BROWN from Millersport OH** (daughter of the late Kriegy O. L. "Brad" Bradford) sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a nice note and copy of her dear husband's obituary. See the TAPS

section. She commented that Parkinson's is, indeed, a horrendous disease...and Dan was, indeed, a wonderful man. *Thank you so much, Gail, for your thoughtful contribution to our Postage Fund and for sending Dan's obituary. It was so good to hear from you even under the circumstances. We send our thoughts and prayers to you along with our sincere sympathies. We know that he will be mightily missed but that you have wonderful memories to help sustain and strengthen you through difficult times.*

**JANICE BROWN from Austin TX** (daughter of the late Kriegy Walter S. Parks, Jr.) sent word recently that her father passed away last June. See the TAPS section. She had the wonderful experience of typing his diary from his time as a POW and said that he read it to her as she would never have been able to interpret the faded pencil. She also asked to be added to our mailing list. *Janice, thank you for sending your father's obituary and for sharing a little about his diary. His name has been added to our online TAPS page as well. Even at this late date, we know he is missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. You have been added to our mailing list as requested.*

**STEVE BURGAUER from Lady Lake FL** (author and friend of Oflag 64 send a donation to the Postage Fund. *We thank you very much, Steve, for your thoughtful contribution to our Postage Fund. The wonderful support from others helps insure the continuance of the ITEM.*



**CINDY BURGESS from Herndon VA** (daughter of Kriegy Wilbur "Bill" Sharpe) wrote to ask for contact information for Deborah Churchman, daughter of the late Frank Diggs. Only an address was found. If anyone has a

phone number, please let me know. *Cindy, thanks for writing. It's always good to hear from you. We would love to add Deborah Churchman to our contact list. If you find a phone number and email address, we would be happy to have those as well.*

**ANN HART-OTTERBEIN from Bremen ME** (daughter-in-law of the late Kriegy Louis Otterbein) sent a request for prayers for our nation. At all times, but especially in these troubled times, a prayer for our nation, its leaders, our military, and citizens would be more than welcome. *Thanks, Ann, for contacting us with your timely request.*

**HENRY WILLIAM HAYNES, JR. from Laramie WY** (son of the late Kriegy Henry William Haynes, Sr.) identified his father in one of our website photos. He wrote: "The man in the gallery pictures with Herm Littman and Bill Cory located middle row, 7th l-r, is my father, Henry William Haynes, from Lumberton, MS. I am counting the individual on his right midway between the middle and last row. Unfortunately he died of a heart attack in 1978. He was captured in North Africa very early in the war (US involvement). He was missing in action when I was born, August, 1942. Like many WWII veterans he did not talk much about the war, but he opened a bit in his latter years after he and my mother started going to Company and POW meetings in Iowa. His commander was a gentleman named Lou Wilcox who he always held in high regard. I would be pleased and honored to correspond with anyone who may have known him. Thank you so much for putting this website together. It means so much to our family." *Henry, thanks so much for identifying your father in our gallery photo. Slowly, slowly we're getting more and more of our Kriegies identified.*



**MARCIA KANNERS from Beverly Hills MI** (widow of the late Kriegy Victor Kanners) sent a nice letter and contribution to the Postage Fund. Marcia just turned 92 and is keeping busy but says at her age, she's finding that whatever she does is done in slow motion! In addition to spending time with family, she recently called Lucy Lussenden. She says Lucy is well and that they would like to meet for lunch some time after the holidays. Ellen and Dot Warthen have also been in contact with her recently. She expressed a hope that we will have a 2013 reunion and missed not having one in 2012. *Marcia, how wonderful it was to hear from you! Thanks so much for writing and for your thoughtful and generous contribution to our Postage Fund; greatly appreciated. We hope you stay well and agree that a reunion this year would be great.*



**JUDY KNIGHT from Naperville IL** (daughter of Kriegy Ed Graf) emailed good news about her dad. She said that will be celebrating his 91st birthday on Monday and still lives in his condo! He's doing great! *Judy, it was great to hear from you again. That*

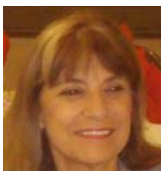
*truly is good news about your dad. Our best to you and to him.*



**ROBERT J. LAPLANDER from Waterford WI** (author and friend of Oflag 64) recently emailed about the progress of his book, stating: "Say, what ever happened to that Yank who was writing the book on the Wooden Horse escape?"

Well, he's still at it! Right after we released the book it was brought to my attention that a glaring error had been made, and I was further contacted by a fellow in the Netherlands who had additional information concerning Williams' shoot down, capture and first escape. Needless to say, the book was immediately pulled back for 'repair'. A whole slew of fresh photographs have been discovered as well (though none of the original wooden horse, worse luck). I'd like to be able to include these! Further, a major publisher in the UK is taking a look at it and may want to pick it up. With that all in mind, we've taken the project back to the drawing board. Nothing new will change the story much at all - it will still be essentially the same book, just with some added detail concerning Williams and the times that the horse was taken out for use each day. Fortunately, only about ten or fifteen copies went out, and those mostly to individuals involved with the project.

We are close to getting it all in place again now - after another couple months of work - but it will all be worth it as the story will be told and told correctly, and *that's* the most important thing! More soon!" *Robert, thank you for your book updates. You certainly deserve the award for patience and endurance. You've done a marvelous work!*



**ROSA LEE from Ft. Pierce, FL** (daughter of Kriegy Vincent "Doc" DiFrancesco) wrote that the family is together for the holidays. She reports that her Dad is doing okay and loves being with everyone. She would like to see everyone again at some point. *Rosa, it great hearing from you again and learning that everyone was together for the holidays. We would like to see everyone at a future reunion as well. Hopefully that will become a reality.*



**EUGENE LIGGETT from Vancouver WA** (Kriegy) updated us on his new address. He stated: "We have a real nice 2 bedroom apartment with a large living room, kitchen and bath. We use one bedroom for the computer desk and bookcases etc. It is nice to have someone clean the house and do the cooking. We eat in the large dining area with others. It is just like in a restaurant with the waiters etc. and we can order what we want. There are a lot of activities every day

to keep us busy if we want to participate. This is truly RETIREMENT at it's best! Give us a call (same phone number) and come see us." Gene is nearly 93 (February) and Rosalie turned 89 last September. They will celebrate their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in February also. *Thanks, Gene, for your information. It was good to hear from you again. We have updated our address book. We'll have folks call to get your address.*

**MARY MEACHAM** (daughter of the late Kriegy Merle A. Meacham) identified her father in one of our website gallery photos. She also identified one of the Kriegies standing next to her father. *Thanks very much, Mary, for your information. It's great to be able to put names to faces.*

**MARYELLEN PAULL** (daughter of the late Kriegy Tony Cipriani) wrote to tell us of the passing of her dear mother, Rose Cipriani of West Virginia. She commented that Rose so enjoyed attending the POW reunions and always spoke with such respect and admiration for everyone, but quit attending when Tony passed away. MaryEllen stated in a separate email that the family was so fortunate to have her for so long. *Thank you, MaryEllen, for contacting us. We were certainly saddened to hear of your dear mother's passing. We know she will be greatly missed. Her obituary has been included in the TAPS section.*

**CHARLOTTE "TODDY" PRICE** (long-time close friend of the late Kriegy Bill Cory) wrote to thank us for continuing to send the ITEM. She is currently in FL but when she gets back home, she will be moving to a smaller place in compound of retirees. *Thank you, Toddy, for your email. We hope your move goes well and that you'll keep in contact.*

**BRIAN ROSE** (grandson of the late Kriegy Robert J. Rose) while going through his grandfather's extensive war years scrapbook, found a notebook containing names of fellow prisoners. Four names were in question regarding whether they were living or not. We have checked records and have determined that they are no longer living. Their obituaries have been included in the TAPS section. *Thank you so much, Brian, for contacting us. We're always pleased when we can make connections. We have now added these four names to our online TAPS list.*



**KAREN ROSSI from Panama City Beach FL** (great niece of the late Kriegy Thomas D. Drake) recently wrote to confirm the identity of her great uncle in one of our website gallery photos which has since been updated. *Thank you very much, Karen, for writing*

*and for confirming your uncle's identify. It's always good to hear from you.*



**WILBUR & MARY SHARPE** (Kriegy & Wife) sent a nice note regarding a connection they have made with Deborah Churchman who is the daughter of

the late Kriegy, Frank Diggs. Deborah is "excited about assisting us in our conversations with Mariusz Winiecki concerning the history of OFLAG 64." *Thanks so much, Sharpes for finding Deborah. We are happy to hear about the work you are doing with her. As requested, her name has been added to our mailing list.*

**EVELYN SLAGTER from Orland Park IL** (widow of the late Kriegy Ira R. "Ike" Slagter) sent recent notification that her husband passed away in October. She also sent a note and copy of his funeral program. See the TAPS section for the obituary. *Thank you, Evelyn, for contacting us. We were so sorry to hear about the passing of your dear husband. Our thoughts and prayers are sent to you and your family. May you feel the love and support of others as you grieve. We miss our great Kriegy heroes and patriots.*



**PAT WATERS from Mt. Pleasant SC** (son of the late Kriegy John K. Waters) sent his updated address to us. Seems like we got confused for a bit and were sending his mail to the wrong address. *It was great to hear from you Pat.*

*Thanks for updating your address for us. That would certainly explain why mail was being returned.*



**PJ WILCOX** (author and friend of Oflag 64) wrote early in December that one of our dear Kriegies, James Forsyth was still living but not doing well. Within about 2 days, Col. Forsyth had passed away. We are always saddened at such news, but we have

joy in the memories of such great men. PJ was proud to have rubbed shoulders with him. He also sent a link to the obituary, which is included in our TAPS section along with a wonderful article found in The Hartford Courant on December 20. We don't have permission to reprint the article as of yet, but you can access the article at:

<http://www.courant.com/community/manchester/hc-mx-obit-of-the-week-1220-20121212,0,6576356.story>  
*Thank you very much, PJ for keeping us updated on Col. Forsyth. Our thoughts and prayers and heartfelt condolences go to his family. We know he will be greatly missed.*

## KRIEGER NEWS AND INFORMATION

At 92 Dad was recently honored in a feature story written in a local paper - Fluvanna Review in Virginia. Here is that story along with some slight corrections and additional details. Love you always Dad!



### “I’m proud to have served”

BY VALERIE DAVIS, CORRESPONDENT

Submitted by T. J. Bugg, III - (Note: slightly corrected with some added details)

Thomas Bugg, Jr. was a newlywed and had just completed his junior year at Virginia Polytechnic Institute when the war in Europe turned his world upside down. Bugg was 22. His bride, Dorothy Graham, was 20. Even as they celebrated their wedding day on Feb. 26, 1943, thoughts of inevitable separation loomed in their minds. “We knew I was going to get called to serve, we just didn’t know when,” said Bugg, who enlisted in the Army Reserves and was a member of the Corps of Cadets at VPI (now Virginia Tech).

“When the time came, they called up the entire junior and senior classes.” That was April 7. Thomas left for basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, followed by infantry officer candidate school in Fort Benning, Georgia. A year later, he received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Army Officer Reserve Corps. From Georgia, Bugg was transferred to Camp Robertson in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he commanded a platoon and trained soldiers in combat tactics and maneuvers. In June 1944, he and his platoon deployed to the European Theater of Operations aboard the *USS Argentina*. After debarking in England, they crossed the English Channel into Normandy and landed on Omaha Beach July 10, just five weeks after the initial D-Day invasion. His platoon was assigned to the 30th Division of the 119th Regiment.

Their mission – to join with other American troops in pushing the Nazis back into Germany. Three months of marching took the platoon through northern France, Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany. Some of the countryside reminded Bugg of his childhood home in Shores, a tiny community along the James River in southern Fluvanna County Virginia.

His unit sustained heavy casualties along the way. By the time they crossed the Siegfried Line (the famous defensive line of bunkers and tank traps built by Germany along its western border), 23 of the 37 men in his original platoon had been killed in action.

While extensive training taught Bugg basic combat techniques, nothing could completely prepare him for the events of October 6, 1944:

“We got to the Siegfried Line, and I guess we made a mistake. We had gotten into a Pillbox (concrete bunker) thinking we would be safe there. It was the worst place in the world to be. We got in there and couldn’t get out. The Germans knew we were hiding in there and came up on our blind side,” recalled Bugg. “We had been in the Pillbox maybe an hour or so and they surrounded us. We had to come out. My company commander was killed just before we were captured. Practically my whole company was destroyed.” “I guess it was the worst day of my life,” Bugg said.

After several weeks as a prisoner of the elite SS German group, Bugg and other captured American officers made a difficult journey in overcrowded railroad cars to the camp Oflag 64 in Schubin, Poland ([www.oflag64.us/](http://www.oflag64.us/)).

Bugg said the German guards treated their American captors well. Some of the guards had lived in the United States and returned to Germany to fight for their homeland when war broke out in Europe.

The imprisoned soldiers were permitted to write letters to loved ones back home in the United States and receive care packages from the American Red Cross. The packages included candy bars, cigarettes, powdered milk, and other items. Bugg mailed several letters from Oflag 64 to his wife, Dorothy, who was staying with his parents in Richmond. In an excerpt from a letter dated Dec. 25, 1944, he wrote:

*"I sure would like to be with you today. It would be a Merry Christmas for me if I didn't have anything else in the world. Still, we have a lot of things to be thankful for as it is. We received Christmas Red Cross parcels and they are surely nice. ... I hope Sis got home for Christmas. Also Wave. Next Christmas I hope we are all at home. That will be a happy event for me. ... Honey, you are living a life of great suspense. I hope you heard where I was before too long. I know you and the family were awful worried.*

*Well, don't worry about me now. I am ok. Take care of yourself. Keep up the chin. With all my love, Tommy."*

Living conditions were primitive. There was no heat and no hot water in the barracks. Their only clothes were the uniforms they wore on the day of their capture. The men were marched outside once a month for showers and de-licing.

Bugg recalled taking off his shirt one night before going to bed and painstakingly pulling off the tiny brown nits. "It's amazing what you can take when you have to," he said.

Hunger was the worst part of Bugg's experience at the Oflag POW camp. At one point, his weight dropped to 128 pounds.

"They didn't treat us bad physically, but we didn't have much to eat. The German soldiers didn't have much either," he said.

The harshest period of Bugg's captivity was still to come, however. Russian forces were pushing the Germans out of Poland, and the camp at Oflag would have to be abandoned as the Nazis retreated back to Germany.

In the dead of winter with sub-zero temperatures, some 1,500 POWs left Oflag 64, Poland, on January 21, 1945, to begin what would become a 350-mile march to a camp in Moosburg, Germany. Only about 400 men would reach this destination, and Thomas Bugg was one of them.

Both the American prisoners and their German guards lived on what they could – usually potatoes and turnips they found in the fields. Villages in the Polish countryside had turned into ghost towns, and Bugg said the men slept in barns to seek refuge from the subzero temperatures three abreast rotating the outside man in every hour to avoid freezing.

"I slept in the hay beside an old cow one night. She was nice and warm," he said.

It would be seven long months before Bugg would taste freedom – and a good meal – again. The guards overseeing the Moosburg camp had already fled when American troops liberated Bugg and the other POWs on April 28, 1945. Nine days later, the Western Axis countries surrendered to the Allies.

"I made a promise to myself one day in the POW camp that if I got out, I was going to eat anything and never complain anymore," said Bugg. "The first morning after I was liberated, I was in an American camp, and wouldn't you know, they served sunny-side-up eggs and sweet milk. I have never liked either!" "I reasoned with myself and thought, 'Well, I'm liberated now, and I don't have to eat those eggs.' So I didn't," he said.

Bugg left Europe on the same ship that brought him there, the *USS Argentina*. During a two-week respite in a North Carolina hospital, he heard the news of Japan's surrender. In late August 1945, Bugg went to Texas to oversee the deactivation of his company. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army on January 15, 1946. His brother, Waverly, who fought in the Pacific Theater, and his sister, Virginia, an Army nurse who served with the 68<sup>th</sup> General Hospital in England, also made it home safe and sound.

Bugg was reunited at last with his beloved Dorothy and returned to VPI to complete his degree in animal husbandry.

They moved to Fluvanna, where Bugg accepted a job as a county extension agent for a year before becoming a fulltime dairy farmer. The couple had three children. Dorothy passed away in 2007.

At 92, the Scottsville resident is the oldest living member of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post. Bugg served on the county board of supervisors from 1987 to 2002, and on the Central Virginia Regional Jail Board for several years, but his greatest source of pride comes from being a World War II veteran.

"I don't like war, but I'm proud to have served," he said. "I have had a good life."

**Addition** - Another interesting point during the infamous march was the Hammelburg raid, an event called the where they were actually liberated for a brief 2 day period – here is a link to that story as well:

<http://www.taskforcebaum.de/main1.html>



**Thanks Dad and all other veterans for yours and their service in WWII and to our country!!**

## “GUESTS OF THE THIRD REICH” EXHIBIT



Jimmie and Lynn Kanaya as well as Susan van der Roest (daughter of the late Kriegy Lorin Grisct) contacted us recently about a current exhibit at the National WWII Museum, entitled "Guests of the Third Reich: American POWs in Europe". They wrote: "The Website for the exhibit can be seen here:

<http://www.guestsofthethirdreich.org/home/>

There is an audio loop in the exhibition gallery that includes 11 guest speakers of whom Jimmie Kanaya, 442nd RCT Oflag 64 is one. He speaks of cutting their daily loaf of bread into six slices and creating a small stove/heater. He goes on to describe the barracks and living

conditions in Oflag 64. There is a segment of oral greetings from Oflag 64 prisoners to their families. Jimmie has already identified one of the oral greeters as an old Kriegy friend. The exhibit debuted on November 11 and will be featured through July 2013. I will try to figure out a way to copy the audio loop to share with others!" Warmest personal greetings for the holidays. Lynn and Jimmie **NOTE:** If the link doesn't work by clicking on it, type the address in by hand and see if that makes a difference. You can also click on this link and then the "third reich link half-way down the page:

<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/media/press-releases/third-reich-exhibit.html>

The menu for different stories is at the top of the "third reich" page.

Related to this is a very interesting article entitled "Fighting Boredom, Not the Nazis", which was published on page D7 in the U.S. edition of The Wall Street Journal on November 8, 2012 and sent to us by Ellen Warthen (daughter of the late Kriegy Bill Warthen) and also by Victoria Herring (daughter of the late Kriegy Clyde Herring). A similar article written by Mark Yost was also published on November 7, 2012 under the title "Guests of the Third Reich, The National WWII Museum. We have not been given permission to reprint either article in our ITEM, but you can access the online article by clicking on this link:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204349404578103031712916830.html?KEYWORDS=Fighting+Bo+redom+not+the+Nazis>

## NEWS FROM POLAND

Dear Elodie,

I'm just writing to let you know about the latest event in Szubin related to the history of Oflag 64.

On September, the 28th, I was the co-organizer of the conference dedicated to two ex-Kriegies of Oflag 64: Capt. Donald B. Stewart and Lt. Col. John H. Van Vliet Jr. and their story. As you might know, together with group of British POWs, were taken against their will by their German captors to witness of the massacre in Katyn Forrest. The conference was organized and held at the Reform School, which is now on the terrains, which used to be during the II World War the POW camp called Oflag 64.

Mrs. Krystyna Piorkowska who wrote a book about the English-Speaking Witnesses to Katyn has visited on that day these terrains and she gave the lecture in the Reform School.

Following the link you'll find news from local TV regarding this event.

[http://www.tvp.pl/bydgoszcz/informacja/zblizenia/wideo/2809-g1830/865027\\_4](http://www.tvp.pl/bydgoszcz/informacja/zblizenia/wideo/2809-g1830/865027_4)

It starts from fifth minute and the fifty-sixth second.

Below there is short description with some translation of the TV news: The first comment from the reporter: "And now little known story concerning the Katyn Massacre. Two American officers who reported to their government the information about the Russian responsibility for the massacre were imprisoned in the Nazi German POW camp in Szubin. During the war they, as POWs of Oflag 64, used to send coded letters to USA. This confirms that allies knew about the Russian responsibility for the massacre. Today their fate was reminded during the conference in Szubin."



Next is interview with director of the Reform School, Mr. Guzinski, who hosted the conference: The comment from the narrator: "The story begins here, within these walls... the walls of the former German POW camp for American officers known as Oflag 64. Now there is the Reform School in Szubin" - as you can see this is filmed in front of the last barracks 9A & 9B. For me the former White House building would be better choice, because all the officers from the first group were billeted there, but TV team have chosen the barrack, which was not occupied at this time.

The comment from the head of the Reform School: "It was vast terrain; more than thousand prisoners were imprisoned here." The comment from the narrator: "Here, in June 1943, Germans brought about 150 American officers including Van Vliet and Stewart. From the archives and POW stories one can learn that it was unique camp."

And then is my comment: "The POW were allowed to organize their daily life inside the camp, they were allowed to write letters home and to receive parcels from home..."

Well, I was telling for about three minutes about various camp activities including the Little Theater, Orchestra, Swing band, camp college, camp newspaper, camp library, garden, etc. as well as about the escape attempts, but TV took only the quarter of my first sentence(!). This made me a little disappointed, because the most interesting facts were cut off. Fortunately, I was able to present more during launching of the conference.

Let's jump back to the reportage: Mrs. Piorkowska shows on map the route of Van Vliet and Stewart from Rotemburg am Fulda to Katyn and the narrator speaks about her new book.

Her comments: "The fact about the coded correspondence from the American POWs to their headquarters is little known. It was classified because of various reasons. The knowledge about MIS-X, the secret Pentagon organization, was destroyed shortly after Japan's surrender in August."

The reportage finishes with the promise of mayor of Szubin, Mr. Pogodzinski, to commemorate the memory of these two American POWs near the monument of the Szubin camps.

When you follow the link, you'll find a gallery with photos from this event in Szubin.

<http://www.itvszubin.home.pl/?p=46005#more-46005>

In the afternoon there was the second lecture by Ms. Piorkowska, in our local library.

Here is another link to the gallery; some pictures were taken by me:

<http://www.muzeum.szubin.net/index.php?d=wiecej&d1=galeria&d2=487>

In the attachment I enclosed the article, which was printed in regional paper called "Paluki".

<http://palukitv.pl/teksty/karty-kultury/17476-szubin-a-katyn.html>

The article is about the story regarding the lecture we organized in Szubin on September, 28th, and the book by Ms. Piorkowska. I'm sorry that I'm not able to provide you the translation of it – the article is too difficult for me to translate it into English.

In the attachment I have also enclosed several pictures taken by me on September the 28th, during Ms. Piorkowska's visit at the Post Oflag 64 terrains.

My Best Regards,  
Mariusz Winiecki

\* \* \* \* \*

*I would urge everyone to go to the links above and check out the information. Writings are in Polish but the photos on the various links will help explain, to some extent, the nature of the conference. Both Mariusz Winiecki and Krystyna Piórkowska are part of our Oflag 64 Family.*

The following photos were sent to us by Mariusz. We thank him very much for sharing them with us, especially those of us who have not yet had the opportunity to visit Szubin and the site of "Oflag 64".



Camp hospital



White House from the appel area



Camp hospital and fragment of the White House viewed from the location of the former barracks of Russian POWs (in June 1943)



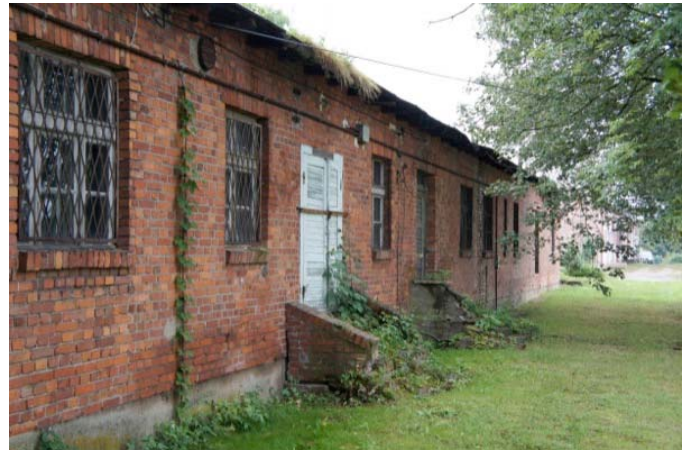
German Commandant House – THE BARBED WIRE FENCE IS ORIGINAL (the same as 70 years ago)



One-story building near the camp hospital



Camp hospital and one-story building viewed from the greenhouse and garden area



Pictures of the last survived barracks – 9A & 9B



Porcelain stove inside barracks 9A & 9B



View from barracks 9A & 9B looking towards the backside of the camp hospital and the White House



Copy of the Polish newspaper covering events surrounding the presentation by Krystyna Piórkowska

Dear Elodie,

I hope you have read my previous email, sent at November 10th, concerning some news from Szubin. For today I would like to share with you, as well as with the Oflag 64 community, another part of my project commemorating of Oflag 64.

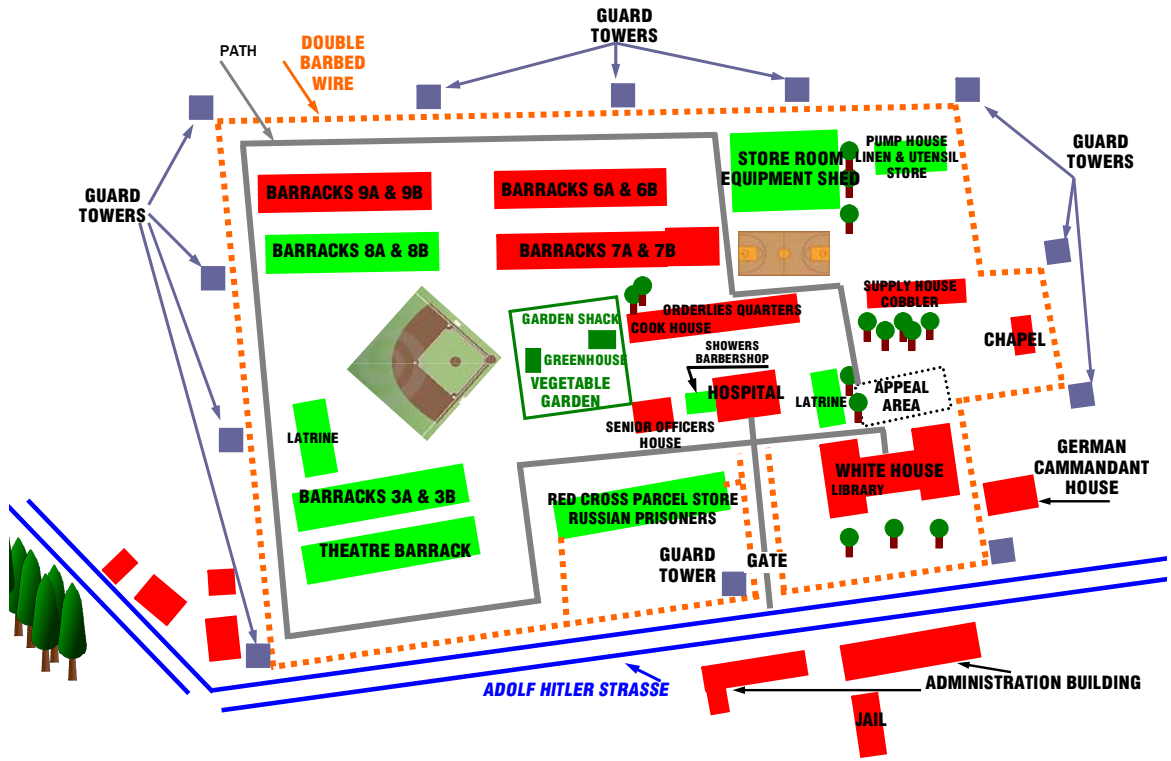
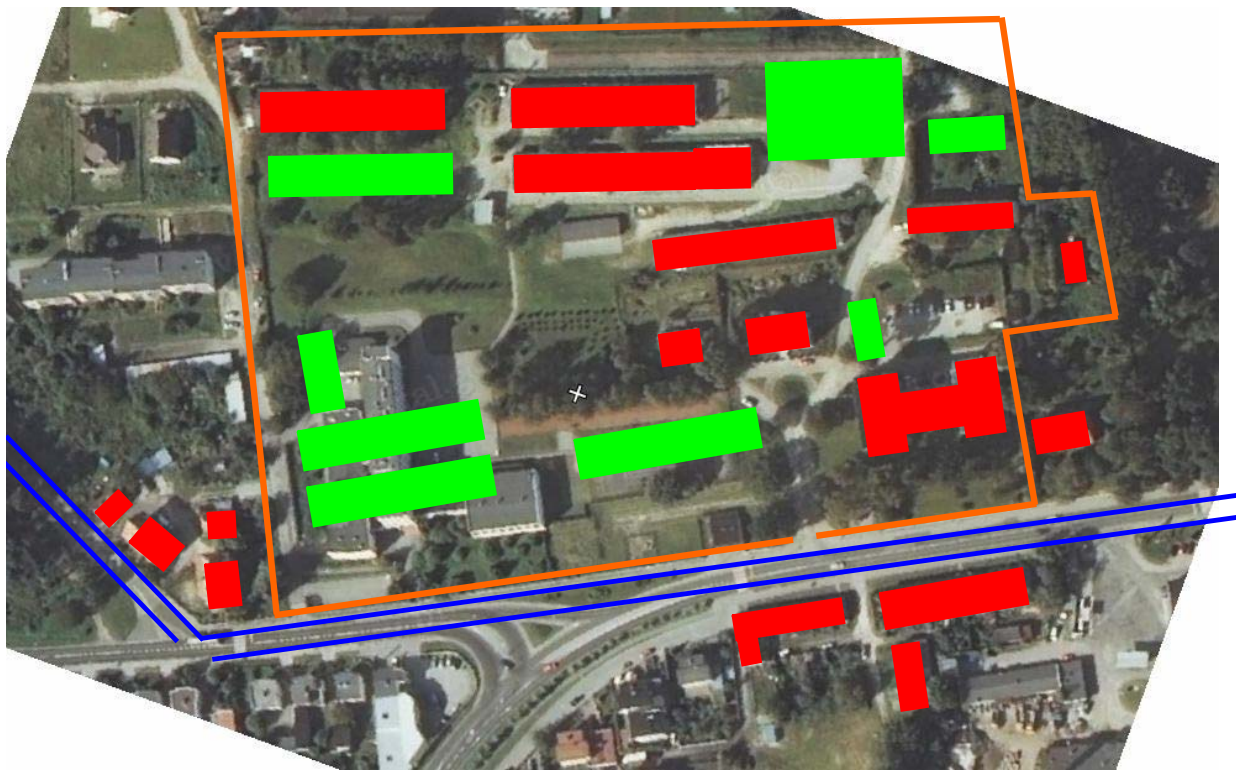
Some time ago I have suggested to friend of mine, who is teacher in the Reform School, the institution localized on the terrain of previous Oflag 64 camp, that the convicted young boys could build the scale model of the camp. I have also personally talked with the Principal of the School and I have informed him about our correspondence and any correspondence with few ex-POWs and my project to commemorate Oflag 64 here in Szubin.

I have worked on some sketches and have used the sketches by Jim Bickers and the scale model from Iowa Gold Star Military Museum for my inspiration. For several weeks my friend, Mieczyslaw Luchowski, and his workmate, Tomasz Kmiec, have worked out the scale model of Oflag 64. We have done some measurements on the terrains where the Oflag 64 used to be, we have also taken the actual satellite photograph of this terrain and matched it with the current cartographic map. Then we have drawn the buildings of Oflag 64 as it is shown on the James Bickers sketch. The red color on the sketch is for buildings, which have survived more or less in original form. Most of them were converted or rebuilt. The most original is "Barrack 9B". The green color is for the buildings, which no longer exist. The orange line is the barbed wire. The other "pdf file" presents the same but without the cartographic map to be clearer. The third attached pdf file identifies the buildings.

In another email I'll show you several pictures showing the progress on the scale model of Oflag 64.

Best Regards,  
Mariusz Winiecki





Maps of Oflag 64 identified and matched with satellite photos.

Hi Again Elodie,

As I have mentioned in my previous email in the attachment I have enclosed photos showing the progress in building the scale model of Oflag 64. I have encouraged my friend, Mieczyslaw Luchowski, who is a teacher in the Reform School, to do it. Then he has encouraged his mate, Tomasz Kmiec, who teaches the boys carpentry. Mieczyslaw has done the pictures. Tomasz together with the boys is in one of the pictures. Tomasz is the second one from the left.

**I have a courteous request of the Oflag 64 community.** We need some help to finish the project. If anyone has any sketches from the Ex-Kriegies' War Logs, like the one presented on page15 below (taken from the War Log of Major Newton Cole found at: <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/visit/exhibits/special-exhibits.html>, please scan them for us and send to my email at: [mariusz.winiecki@interia.pl](mailto:mariusz.winiecki@interia.pl) It will be very helpful when we paint the buildings.

There is also an idea to have an exhibit of the scale model, when it is finished, with the exhibition of the sent sketches and pictures. I would also like to give a lecture based on some memories of ex-Kriegies who occupied or worked in particular buildings. **It would be great if you and the Oflag 64 community could find in the war logs of the ex-Kriegies written memories concerning it.** If someone's father was working in Hospital, or had duties in tailor shop, barbershop, kitchen, mess hall, library, storage, any other functional building, and has written anything about it, share it with me, please. The concept of the lecture is to present the particular buildings at the scale model, and to tell what was in it and enrich it with the original memories from someone who had something to do with it. The same request is for the ex-residents of particular barracks and the white house, as well as those who have attended the chapel, school, mart, canteen, theatre barrack or even were confined in jail outside the camp.

My best regards,  
Mariusz Winiecki





Sketch from the War Log of Newton Cole



# Katyn Forest Controversy

## Email and Article sent by William Jones

Elodie,

Hope you are well. I am not quite sure what to make of this recently published news story - written in Polish. But this article mentions both Oflag 64 and Col. John Van Vliet, Jr. Something about information related to the [Katyn Massacre of 1943](#), which Van Vliet may have learned about (or witnessed?). And then, something about whether this information might have been passed on by him to US Forces via encoded letters home from Oflag 64.

If it helps, I've taken a few extra moments to use a free web-based robot translator to generate the imperfect English version below.

My father, Captain William K. Jones, served with (or near) Col. John Van Vliet, Jr. in Tunisia when they were both captured - perhaps at the same time and place. Eventually they both ended up together at Oflag 64. I am unaware if there is any connection between my father and the Captain John B. Stewart mentioned. [And I have no suspicion that my father was in any way involved with any encoded letters or had any knowledge of this massacre.]

I can only make garbled sense of this article. And with so much worthless junk to be found on the web these days, I also have no idea if any of this is correct. This article seems to be an attempt by the author to claim that the US knew of war crimes - and then perhaps did nothing. Hard to be sure. I have not carefully studied this article, so you can't go by my first impression here. Even so, I felt compelled to pass this along.

To be sure, I am also somewhat uncertain which of the two Katyn Massacres ([1943 Katyn Massacre](#) or [1940 Katyn Massacre](#)) is the focus in this article. They are both mentioned. Note that the English translation below contains this line,

"... the crime in the summer of 1943." So from this I think the focus is most likely on the 1943 event. Hope this is not a waste of your time. Thanks for all you are doing.

Best regards,

Bill (William F. Jones)  
1936 Hickory Glen Rd.  
Knoxville, TN 37932-1952  
865 690 1418 (home)  
865 218 2254 (work)  
[wfjones99@yahoo.com](mailto:wfjones99@yahoo.com)

**PLEASE NOTE: According to recent word from Krystyna Piórkowska, the interviewee, the rough Google translation below is quite inaccurate and she does NOT stand by the contents.**

### Rough English Translation:

Piórkowska: encrypted list of sources of information about Katyn for the U.S. Government, 2012-09-15, last modified 2012-09-15 8:05

Encrypted list of American prisoners of war were sent from Oflags own first source of information for U.S. authorities vs. Katyn massacre - said Krystyna Piórkowska PAP, a historian of New York, author of "English-speaking witnesses Katyn".

PAP: Among disclosed on September 10 archives are documents indicating that American prisoners of war, Captain Donald B. Stewart and Col. John Van Vliet, Jr., passed to U.S. authorities encrypted information against the Soviet Union for the massacre of Katyn. How important were these letters to the rulers' knowledge about the Katyn massacre?

Krystyna Piórkowska: It's not just Americans, officers, or even the military, but the issue is much more complicated. In short, I can say that my research indicated that initially the Germans wanted to send to Katyn 16 prisoners. To Berlin arrived at 12, and from there the categorical refusal by the whole group together with Germany and sign a pledge that they would not try to escape, eventually managed to Katyn with eight of them guards. There are the



names of five men transported to Katyn, and the identity of the three British privates is trying to establish.

In the course of research in the archives of materials checked from New Zealand to California. Eighteen months ago I found in the U.S. Air Force Academy Library (Library of the Academy of Aviation USA) and a book about the history of MIS-X (the agency responsible for contacts and assistance to prisoners of war, similar to MI9) documents indicating that it was Van Vliet and Stewart were called. "Codeusers registered," or that they wrote to their families encrypted list.

Van Vliet was taken prisoner after the defeat at Kasserine Pass in Africa (Sidi bou Sid) in mid-February 1943.

Because it was the first battle, after which the Germans were so many American prisoners of war, they had yet to have a separate 'national' camp. Therefore Americans were sent to different locations. Van Vliet and Stewart came to Oflag IX A / Z in Rotenburg on the Fulda.

PAP: Do prisoners of war previously undergo training on how to proceed in the event of getting into bondage?

K.P.: We know that the British were skilled at camp life, or rather "underground". There were proving structure. Some people lead encrypted communications. To reach different camps such prohibited materials part of the radio. American officers were not prepared to camp life as the British. Not established yet whether learned of corresponding encrypted by the British in the camp, and it happened a little later.

In May 1943, the Germans changed their camp located in Szubin camp near Bydgoszcz on "American", known as Oflag 64, and soon after his return from Katyn, as early as June, he was transported to the officers, as well as other Americans of different camps. I thought sitting in the archives of College Park and searching for documents, that if I find any trace of the prisoners actually provided information about Katyn, this is undeniable proof that the U.S. and probably the UK are aware of the crime in the summer of 1943. They were the officers - their people.

PAP: How did the American prisoners of war contacts with the outside world?

K.P.: -mail correspondence reaches around Washington, DC, where he was a list of names of those "registered users cipher." Each letter from a person on this list has been deposited and transferred to the MIS-X, whose headquarters were at Fort Henry. Opened there, photocopying, lakes list and only then passed to families, which of course were not aware of anything.

Some of the correspondence was conducted with the "imaginary relatives" and "girlfriends", which were actually men, officers of the U.S. Army. That's how Van Vliet, already in Oflag 64, where he was a Big-X, the Head of the emergency escape, he asked the spring of 1944 with a handgun, and when he arrived, he began to plan the escape of all the prisoners. Aircraft had to land on the nearby fields.

Escape plans were confirmed at meetings at which the highest degree was General Clayton Lawrence Bissell. In the spring of 1943, the U.S. Army Intelligence (military intelligence), Navy Intelligence (Naval Intelligence) and OSS (the forerunner of the CIA) created the interagency team JANIS to share the information sent from Oflags. It is highly likely that they were placed in all of these agencies.

PAP: What are the implications for the U.S. authorities that the information reaches of their own witnesses, their own officers?

K.P.: It was a credible witness testimony of their own, and not a bystander.

PAP: Where did you hit on some interesting information on the encrypted letters that prisoners send to the U.S. intelligence?

K.P.: After many hours of research at the Washington National Archives (National Archives), where he studied the "archival boxes" and the State Department did not find anything, I asked for four other briefcases that declassified a few days ago. One of them has been subject to a special "protection". It was there that I came across what I was looking for.

PAP: What exactly was it?

K.P.: The materials found in modest, as containing less than 10 pages of notes powołującymi folder to another folder, which still existed in the year 1949, where there were letters from Stewart and Van Vliet about Katyn, or rather photocopies of letters, which pegged MIS-X, the institution, which has been written that the facilities at the end of the war in the Pacific razed to the ground and everything was burned.

Also got a briefcase, where she found a telegram from Stewart in 1950 corresponding to the question of whether

the list of encrypted on Katyn were sent by him to a POW camp. He confirmed that certainly has questions during the summer, probably in July 1943, and replied to the questions in the letters that he sent to his mother, living in Detroit. Stewart believed that the letters were taken over by the MIS-X, and if you cannot find them, send letters, which were still in the mother. Twenty days after the telegram was sent to Stewart with an order that he cannot speak about the Katyn letters as it comes to encrypted communications.

The last thing I managed to find was airmail Stewart sent to his mother in April 1944. There are words that I managed to decipher or understand the context of the "Russians", "Gory Goat", "trips", etc. There are some things I could deduce, but not all. This is not a cipher using the Bible or any other book. I can now confirm that the lists probably were sent to Washington. Stewart's family told me a few days ago, it does not have any letters addressed to their grandmother, but only to his uncle.

PAP

Letters Van Vliet has not yet found it. One document from his briefcase to be published on the pages of the National Archives, but I have not had a chance to check it out.

PAP: What is the reason that not all documents are available? Whether this is due solely to mess if there are other reasons, such as the Soviet infiltration of American institutions?

K.P.: creates difficulties researchers especially the fact that most of the material is arranged thematically. The documents were prepared in multiple copies and, therefore, repeated in multiple folders, not just those that are directly related to Katyn for example. The difficulty makes it unique cataloging of materials used by the Department of State in those years (it was abandoned about 50 years ago), which does not facilitate the retrieval of documents.

If you add the "fellow travelers", the followers of the communist working for the Department of State, the material can actually be used by them, rather than destroyed, pushed to one of the thousands of files.

PAP: Does it seem to you that in the wake of the U.S. decision to publish the Katyn archives should do the British like?

K.P.: I'm waiting for it with bated breath. When Eugenia Maresch, author of the volume "Katyn 1940" published in 2010, worked on his book and looking for a fourth report, an officer of that group, that is, Colonel. Stevenson, she was told that the report does not exist. I found I did in South Africa. I wrote on the subject, as well as other related material to the British Archives, but they sent me to their website, where - as you know - these materials do not appear.

We know for example that the captain Dr. G. Gorrie, Dr. inmate. Gilder drew up, as I mentioned earlier, in the camp of Rottweil encrypted list. For some time, I wonder why Gilder wrote his report to the MI9 stressed that Gorrie wrote letters encrypted. I began to suspect that maybe Gilder wanted to leave a trail. I believe that just as Van Vliet and Stewart to America by Gorriego Gilder sent a message to England.

I have many questions for the English. Perhaps they are not convenient for them. At the same time it seems to me that the Professor Anna Cienciala, Mrs. Maresch, the British professor. George Sanford, author of "Katyn and the Soviet Massacre of 1940", we would sit at adjacent desks reviewing these materials. I now have incontrovertible evidence: correspondence and reports, and Englishmen go after all these years, it's not there.

PAP: If the ad archives helped to clarify some of the problems encountered are you writing a book?

K.P.: My main question concerned the encrypted letters. Written anywhere that any material MIS-X was at the end of the Pacific War destroyed completely. I was hoping, but no evidence that copies of these materials have been preserved somewhere ... and make it happen. I cannot even describe how a man feels when it is finally document the existence of which is contrary to popular opinion believes.

PAP: Would you like to have in connection with the published material to draw attention to some issues that have not been said?

K.P.: I would like to fix, and this is probably only possible in the British media, the identity of the three privates of said group of prisoners sent by the Germans to Katyn. About one know that he was a New Zealander, and I suppose it could be David Suttie, but I have no evidence. I would like to know their names and the story because I think that they could testify in hearings through which every former prisoner passed after leaving the camp. This could be a confirmation that the British received information from various sources Katyn.

Please also note that each of the prisoners-officers, the Germans ordered in writing, that they were going to Katyn,

consisted of a written protest to the Puissance Protectrice (office of, among others, according to the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war complaints). The British Foreign Office and the U.S. Department of State, received a copy of the complaint. Foreign Office and the State Department turned to his officers to ask you to describe the procedure, during which they were forced to go to Katyn. Answer Gilder is unknown - but the answer is not known Stewart or Van Vliet, although the State Department admitted with a delay that is the answer of the latter.

But a number of British soldiers and a group of four "would-be" witnesses consisted of American protest is not known. We are faced with a vague image of cracked varnish stained with paint and canvas. Now you have to somehow clean up and try to understand. The first layer of varnish has been removed, but it was still a lot of work before I can say that we have a full image.

Interviewed by Andrzej Dobrowolski, New York  
PAP

## Krystyna Piórkowska's Email

**REMOVED AT AUTHOR'S REQUEST**

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Email and Reprint of Extraction from the Introduction of Krystyna's Book

**REMOVED AT AUTHOR'S REQUEST**

**REMOVED AT AUTHOR'S REQUEST**

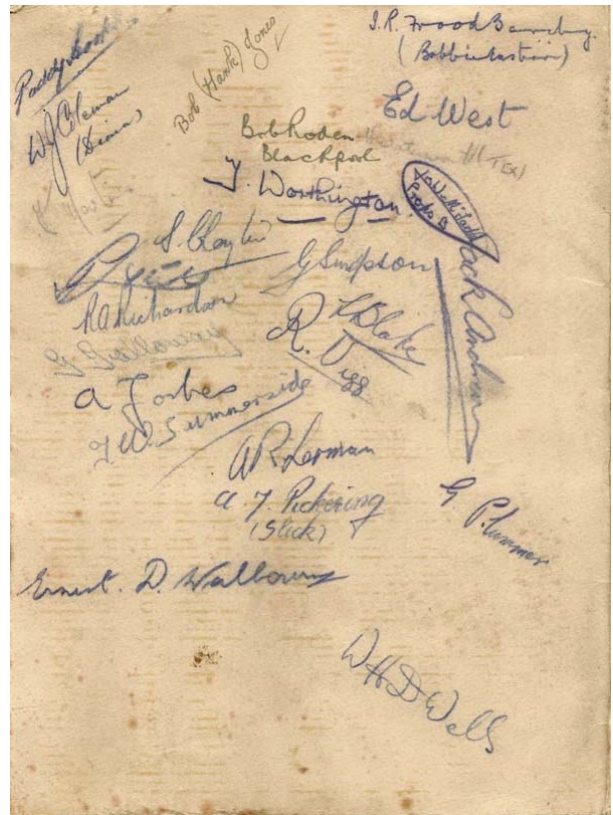
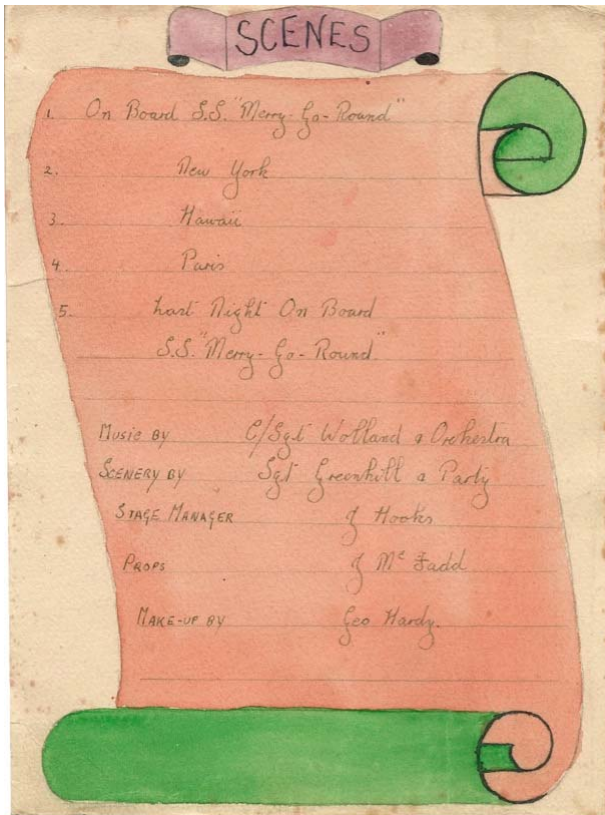
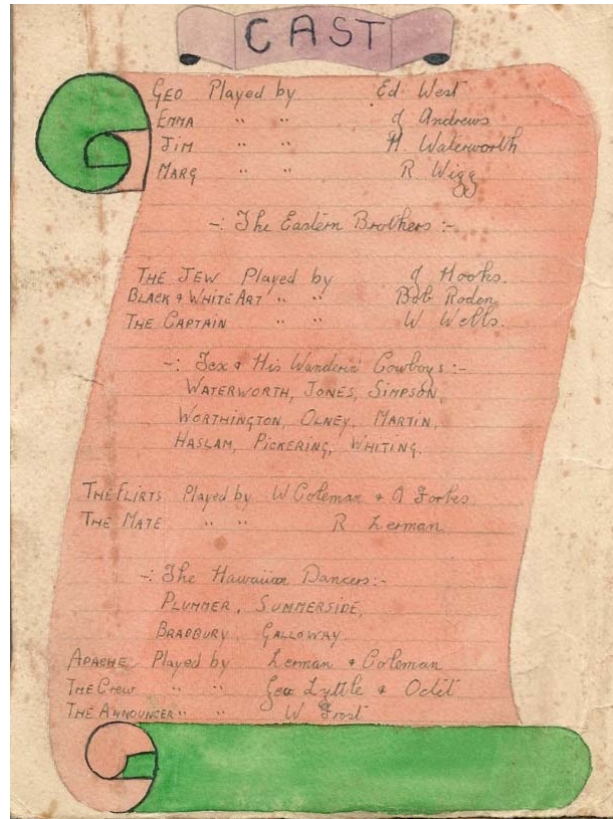


*There is much information available online regarding the Katyn Massacre. We thank Krystyna for her research and willingness to share it. Go to the following Google page link and you'll find several other links to Katyn information.*

[http://www.google.com/#hl=en&tbo=d&sclient=psy-ab&q=AP+article+Van+vliet+Katyn&oq=AP+article+Van+vliet+Katyn&gs\\_l=hp.3...2272.7406.4.8169.6.6.0.0.0.100.379.5j1.6.0.les%3B..0.0...1c.1.HsZJixWInYQ&pbx=1&fp=1&bpcl=40096503&biw=1247&bih=918&bav=on.2,or.r\\_gc.r\\_pw.r\\_qf.&cad=b](http://www.google.com/#hl=en&tbo=d&sclient=psy-ab&q=AP+article+Van+vliet+Katyn&oq=AP+article+Van+vliet+Katyn&gs_l=hp.3...2272.7406.4.8169.6.6.0.0.0.100.379.5j1.6.0.les%3B..0.0...1c.1.HsZJixWInYQ&pbx=1&fp=1&bpcl=40096503&biw=1247&bih=918&bav=on.2,or.r_gc.r_pw.r_qf.&cad=b)

# HANDMADE CONCERT PROGRAM

Sent to us by Jim Wignall  
Nephew of the late Kenneth Murdoch Finlayson from Stalag XXI



## ITEM COMMENTS

Let us know how we are doing. Constructive comments and criticisms are welcomed and appreciated. Here are some nice comments from some nice folks.

THANK  
YOU!

I received The Item today. It is a wonderful publication and it was great to see the picture of JKW and company on page 15. ~ **John Albree, Columbus NC**

Thank you for all you do to keep us connected. You keep the memory of our family members alive. Your efforts honor them. Thank you! **Susan Griset van der Roest (Daughter of Lorin Griset)**

Thank you so much for the wonderful job you do of putting out the newsletter. ~ **Marcia Kanners, Beverly Hills MI**

## OFLAG 64 WEB CONNECTION

Thank you so much for putting this website together. It means so much to our family. ~ **Henry William Haynes, Jr., Laramie WY**



We are grateful to all who send photos, stories, and other memorabilia to post to our website. We receive quite a few of these each month. Our hope is to add whatever we can to the website and to do so in a timely manner. Occasionally, we may overlook (unintentionally) submissions that should be added to our site. If you have sent information to add and find after a period of time that it has not been added, please contact us again. We appreciate your patience in the mean time.

We're looking for camp stories, escape stories, articles reflecting the author's feelings while in captivity, photos and any other information related to our Kriegies. Please send information to Elodie Caldwell either by email at [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us) or at the street address on the front page of this ITEM.

### Postage Fund Donors

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

Gail Bradford Brown  
Steve Burgauer  
Marcia Kanners

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

**Bret Job**  
4240 Trail Ridge Ln  
Minnetonka MN  
55345-2554

or

**Elodie Caldwell**  
2731 Terry Ave  
Longview WA  
98632-4437

## PUBLICATIONS

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

1. **Americans Behind the Barbed Wire** by Frank Diggs, Story of Frank's trip across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Vandemere Press, P. O. Box 5243, Clearwater FL 22205 (New price is \$24.95/Hardcover) <http://www.vandamere.com/diggs.htm> or <http://www.amazon.ca/Americans-Behind-Barbed-Wire-Inside/dp/0743474821>
2. **Diary of A Kriegie** by Ed Beattie. Diary of Ed Beattie, A UPI Correspondent captured near the Moselle River in Sept '44. Publisher: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York NY <http://www.amazon.com/Diary-kriegie-Edward-W-Beattie/dp/B0007E4UAU>
3. **Escape to Russia** by Howard "BOOMER" Holder. Story of Boomer Holder as he went across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Iberian Publishing Co., Athens GA [http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Russia-Howard-Randolph-Holder/dp/B0006F7X72/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226549191&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Russia-Howard-Randolph-Holder/dp/B0006F7X72/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226549191&sr=1-1)
4. **Home Was Never Like This.** Diary of Col Yardley. Publisher: Yardley Enterprises. Evergreen, CO. [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_ss\\_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this&x=0&y=0](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this&x=0&y=0)
5. **Justifiable Pride** by William D. Stevens, Jamal Books, 2340 Devoe Drive, Lincoln NE 68506, 402-488-6005 [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_ss\\_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Justifiable+Pride&x=13&y=17](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Justifiable+Pride&x=13&y=17)
6. **Katyn Forest Video** (Beta or VHS). Ray Towers, Jr., 25105 Vista Greens Court, Hayward CA 94541, 415-582-4871
7. **Kriegie** by Kenneth Simmons. Diary of an Air Force Pilot. Publisher: Thomas Nelson and Sons. New York NY. [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_ss\\_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Kriegie+by+Kenneth+Simmons&x=0&y=0](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Kriegie+by+Kenneth+Simmons&x=0&y=0)
8. **Kriegsgefangener 3074 (Prisoner of War)** by Clarence Ferguson. Publisher: Texan Press, Waco TX [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_ss\\_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Prisoner+of+War+by+Clarence+Ferguson&x=16&y=17](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Prisoner+of+War+by+Clarence+Ferguson&x=16&y=17) or occasionally available at: <http://www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?an=Clarence+Ferguson&sts=t&tn=Kriegsgefangener&x=43&y=14>
9. **OFLAG 64, 50th Anniversary Book.** Anniversary Committee. Publisher: Evanston Publishing Co., Evanston IL. [http://www.amazon.com/Oflag-64-fiftieth-anniversary-book/dp/1879260239/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1226550698&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Oflag-64-fiftieth-anniversary-book/dp/1879260239/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1226550698&sr=1-1)
10. **Passages to Freedom**, Joseph Frelinghuysen, 1990, Publisher: Sunflower University Press, 1531 Yuma (Box 1009), Manhattan KS 66502-4228, 800-258-1232 (\$17.95, includes S & H) [http://www.amazon.com/Passages-Freedom-Story-Capture-Escape/dp/0897451317/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550856&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Passages-Freedom-Story-Capture-Escape/dp/0897451317/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550856&sr=1-1)
11. **Oflag 64: A P.O.W. Odyssey**, DVD, Robert Galloway, Osprey HD, 192 E Bay St, Ste 300A, Charleston SC 29401-2701, (\$29.95 plus \$5 S&H - Please make checks payable to Robert Galloway, Osprey HD)
12. **Raid! The Untold Story of Patton's Secret Mission** by Richard Baron, Major Abe Baum, and Richard Goldhurst (paperback) [http://www.amazon.com/Raid-Untold-Pattons-Secret-Mission/dp/0440236096/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1254190748&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Raid-Untold-Pattons-Secret-Mission/dp/0440236096/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1254190748&sr=1-1)

13. **A Ramble Through My War** by Charles T. Marshall, Publisher: Louisiana State University Press, 1999. (\$29.95) [http://www.amazon.com/Ramble-Through-My-War-Anzio/dp/0807126365/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550977&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Ramble-Through-My-War-Anzio/dp/0807126365/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550977&sr=1-1)
14. **The Escape Factory** by Lloyd Shoemaker. Story of a secret organization in Wash DC that maintained contact with all POWs in WWII. St Martins Press. New York NY (A few are available on Amazon.com) [http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1)
15. **The Road To War** by Steven Burgauer. Based on the diary and notes of Captain William C. Frodsham, Jr.: a riveting first-person account of duty and drill, courage and capture. (Available on Amazon.com) [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_ss\\_i\\_2\\_15?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer&prefix=The+Road+to+War](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_2_15?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer&prefix=The+Road+to+War)
16. **The Water and The Rock** by Charles Jones. Diary of a man captured in Africa. Publisher: Anchor Publishing Co., Northwood, IA [http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1)
17. **The Welcome Swede** by Frank Diggs. Publisher: Vantage Press, New York NY (\$11.00) [http://www.amazon.com/Welcome-Swede-Thousands-Germans-Prisoners/dp/0533078180/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551448&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Welcome-Swede-Thousands-Germans-Prisoners/dp/0533078180/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551448&sr=1-1)
18. **33 Months as a POW in Stalag Luft III** by Albert P. Clark. Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing, 16100 Table Mountain Parkway, Suite 300, Golden CO 80403, 800-992-2908 (17.95 pb) [http://www.amazon.com/Months-POW-Stalag-Luft-III/dp/1555915361/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551497&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Months-POW-Stalag-Luft-III/dp/1555915361/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551497&sr=1-1)
19. **Tours of Duty: World War II Veterans Personal Stories** by Eleanor Bertrand. Includes stories of Jimmie Kanaya from Oflag 64, Martin Jones from Hammelburg, and Oscar Richard from Stalag I. Publisher: BookSurge Publishing (2/22/08). \$17.99 from Amazon.com, 1-800-201-7575 [http://www.amazon.com/Tours-Duty-Veterans-Personal-Stories/dp/141968728X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551561&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Tours-Duty-Veterans-Personal-Stories/dp/141968728X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551561&sr=1-1)

## Other Publications

### WRITE DIRECTLY TO THESE CONTACTS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**A Grand Tour of Russia to Odessa, Winter ~ 1945** by Herb Garris, edited by Clarence Meltesen. Now available on the Oflag 64 website.

**My Tour of Russia** by Herb Garris, P. O. Box 1693, Pinehurst NC 28370-1693

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

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

**Roads to Liberation** by Clarence R. Meltesen is available free of charge except for a \$5 per copy shipping fee. Please contact Elodie Caldwell at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. (Thank you Meltesen family.)

**The Waters Story.** Contact Pat Waters, 412 Rice Hope Drive, Mt. Pleasant SC 29464-9273

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



*James P. Forsyth*  
1916 ~ 2012



James P. Forsyth, LTC US Army (Ret.), 96 of Manchester, CT, formerly of Windsor, CT, husband of the late Stella (Plocharczyk) Forsyth and the late Ruth (Noffs) Forsyth, died Wednesday, December 5, 2012 in Manchester.

He was born in Leavenworth, KS on November 23, 1916, son of James West Forsyth and Lilly (Jost) Forsyth and was raised in Leavenworth. He was a graduate of West Point Academy, Class of 1941, and had a twenty-seven year career in the military, retiring as an acting Inspector General of the US Army in 1968. He was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, a WW II POW, and earned a Bronze Star, a Legion of Merit, and received two Purple Hearts.



After retiring from the Army he lived in Virginia, moved to Windsor where he became a member of the former Wilson Congregational Church, and had been a Manchester resident since 1989. He was employed at the Aetna Insurance Company in Hartford for over twenty years, and was a member of the Manchester and Windsor golf leagues, playing two rounds a week up to the age of 92. Jim enjoyed playing his piano, stamp collecting, and loved and cherished his family and friends.

He is survived by his daughter and son, Pamela D. Forsyth and her husband Kenneth Hankinson of Tolland, and James P. Forsyth Jr. and his wife Nancy of Woburn, MA; four grandchildren, Jennifer and Emily Forsyth, and Brian and Michael Hankinson; three great-grandsons, Daniel, Noah, and Mason Hankinson. He was pre-deceased by a sister, Mary Forsyth of Arizona.

Visiting hours are Saturday, Dec. 8, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM followed by a service at 11:00 AM at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main Street, Manchester. A graveside committal service with military honors will be at 12:30 PM in the Windsor Veterans Cemetery, 101 East St., Windsor. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Program ([www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org)) or the American Cancer Society.

*Larry M. Hewin*  
1924 ~ 2011



Dr. Larry M. Hewin, 86, of Williamsburg, Virginia, passed away Monday, April 12, 2011 in Riverside Walter Reed Hospital in Gloucester, VA. He was born in Ware Shoals, SC, and a resident of the Virginia Peninsula area since 1948.

Dr. Hewin was a graduate of Clemson University, received his Masters Degree in Management Engineering from George Washington University, and went on to receive his PhD in Education from the College of William and Mary.

He served as a 2nd Lt. in the Army Air Corps as a pilot, in [WWII](#), flying B-24's in the 8th AF's 2nd Air Division. He was shot down over Holland during Operation Market Garden, and was a POW of the Germans for ten months until the Liberation. His decorations include a [Purple Heart](#), Air Medal, European Theater Campaign with four battle stars, and the POW Medal. He remained active as a Major in the Air Force Reserve until 1957, serving in piloting and engineering assignments.



Dr. Hewin was employed as an Aeronautical Engineer with NACA in Hampton beginning in 1948, and then with Army Aviation Laboratories at Ft. Eustis, working primarily in research and development in helicopters and other vertical takeoff aircraft. He was appointed Technical Director of AVLABS, and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1974. He received the Army's Meritorious Civilian Service Award and fourteen other awards recognizing his contributions during his Civil Service career. After his retirement he was a partner in F.P. McCourt & Associates Aviation Safety Consultants, and created and was President of VolksMicro Computer Systems. Throughout his life, he was active in a number of civic and community organizations, including the Hidenwood Civic and Recreation Associations, the Peninsula Civic Opera, the Kingsmill Community Services Association and Kingsmill Yacht Club, and a number of engineering and aeronautics professional societies. Dr. Hewin was preceded in death by his parents, J.B. and Agnes (Cook) Hewin of Greenville, SC and Cornelia, GA, and his son, James Bryant Hewin, of Virginia Beach, VA. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Barbara McKay (Woods) Hewin, of Williamsburg; his sister, Wilma (Cook) Dingley and brother-in-law, John Dingley, of Taylors, SC.; daughter, Julie McKay Hewin Baldwin and son-in-law Duane Baldwin, of

West Point, VA; and one granddaughter, Cameron Alison McKay and her wife, Michelle Marie (Hodges) McKay, also of Williamsburg, VA.

He will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery with a graveside military service, the date to be announced later. In lieu of flowers, anyone wishing to make a memorial contribution may do so to the Heritage SPCA of Williamsburg, or the [Alzheimer's Association](#) or Veterans' services charity of their choice.

Published in The Greenville News on April 19, 2011

## *Walter J. Kwolek*

*1914 ~ 2005*

On Monday, Oct. 10, 2005, Walter, age 91. Beloved husband of the late Margaret (Thomas) Kwolek; father of Margaret Kennedy, Richard, Walter R., and Michael Kwolek; also survived by six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; brother of Estelle Phillips, Helen Przybyla, Lorraine Greb, Sister Mary Philip Kwolek, O.S.F. and Theresa Jaczesko and the late Bruno and Jerry Kwolek.

Friends and Veterans received Thursday 1-9 at JOHN J. GMITER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd. 119 S. 15th St. (S.S.). Funeral Friday at 9 A.M. Mass of Christian Burial St. Adalbert Church, Prince of Peace Parish at 10 A.M.

Mr. Kwolek was an Army Lieutenant, a Prisoner of War during WWII and a US Postal Carrier for BonAire for many years.



Send condolences at [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)

Published in Pittsburgh Post-Gazette from October 12 to October 13, 2005

## *Walter S. Parks, Jr. M.D.*

*1919 - 2012*



Longtime physician Walter Samuel Parks, Jr. M.D. passed away June 4, 2012 at the age of 92. He leaves behind his loving wife of 68 years, Jeanie Wilson Tennant Parks. Walter started his life in Galveston, Texas as the son of Mamie (Walker) Parks, a schoolteacher, and Walter Parks, Sr. His father was a medical student, later to become the beloved Dr. Walter S. Parks, Sr. of Breckenridge, Texas.

Walter attended The [University of Texas](#) at Austin, where he graduated with a B.A. in Chemistry.

He was a member of the University of Texas Longhorn Band and marched with the Longhorn Alumni Band every year until last year. Walter was a member of the honorary societies Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Epsilon Delta, and Alpha Omega Alpha, and the social fraternity Phi Rho Sigma. Walter then attended The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas where he graduated in December 1942 with his M.D. degree, a few days after he turned twenty-two years of age. Walter afterward interned at Philadelphia Graduate Hospital, there meeting his wife-to-be, Jeanie Wilson Tennant, who was a teacher of surgical nursing. One year later, he and Jeanie were married in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

[World War II](#) interrupted life with Walter's active duty in the U.S Army Medical Corp from 1944 to 1946. He was a battalion surgeon as a member of the European Theatre 1041h Infantry Division, and he held the rank of Captain. Life moved quickly when his unit left for Europe. Walter was captured by the Germans, spent the winter at Oflag64 in Poland, was liberated by the Russians, and returned to Fort Worth, Texas just in time for the birth of their first son.



Postwar, Walter had a general practice in Slaton, Texas and Breckenridge, Texas, followed by an OB-GYN residency at University Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio from 1947 to 1950. After a short practice in Fort Worth, Texas, Walter moved his family to Midland, Texas where he established the Midland Women's Clinic, which is still active today and is known for its quality of care. He was instrumental in pioneering the use of the Pap Smear in 1951, the laparoscopy in 1965, the electronic fetal monitoring system, and many surgical techniques. He was a Director on the Board of Trustees of the Midland County Hospital District and remains a Governor of the hospital's foundation. He also served as an elder in the First Presbyterian Church and taught Sunday School classes. He was an instructor of Human Growth classes at the YMCA. He was a member of the Optimist Club and served on the Board of the Midland-Odessa Symphony.

After practicing in Midland for years, Walter semi-retired in 1989 to be with his children and grandchildren in Austin, Texas. He continued to practice gynecology at Bergstrom Air Force Base. He retired from medical practice at the age of 91. He was a member of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Fellow of American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, The Texas Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology, International Society of the Laparoscopic, The American Medical Tennis Association, past President of the Midland County Medical Society, The Texas Medical Association; and The American Medical Association.

Walter was first and foremost dedicated to his family and friends. He leaves behind his loving wife Jeanie Wilson Tennant Parks, and their children: Walter S. Parks III and his wife Linda of Durango,

CO; Robert C. Parks of Aspen, CO; Janice and her husband Frank Brown of Austin; and Vivian and her husband Larry David of Georgetown. He is also survived by his brother William H. Parks of Jayton, Texas; six grandchildren: Brian and Laura David, Parks and Paige Brown, Justin and Clayton Parks; and two great-grandchildren: Lucien David and Nadia Griswold. He was preceded in death by his sister Mary Katherine (Parks) Sloan and his beloved grandson Wesley Parks. There was not a more patient and loving husband, father, and grandfather. He will be greatly missed by all the people whose lives he touched.

A memorial service to honor his life will be held at Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Caves Road, Austin, TX 78746. The service will be held Saturday, June 9th at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to The University of Texas Longhorn Alumni Band. Obituary and memorial guestbook available online at [www.wcfish.com](http://www.wcfish.com)

Published in Austin American-Statesman from June 6 to June 8, 2012

*Ira R. "Ike" Slagter*  
1921 ~ 2012

Slagter, Ira R. "Ike" Age 90, [WWII](#) and [Korean War](#) US [Army](#) Veteran, Prisoner Of War and [Purple Heart](#) recipient. Beloved husband of Evelyn G. (nee Zeilstra) for 68 years; Loving father of Ira Jr. (Judy), Robert (Daeng), Sandra (Rev. Carl) Kromminga Jr., and Sheila (William) Olson; Cherished grandfather of 14; Dearest great-grandfather of 7; Dear brother of Dorothy (the late Arend) Overbeek and the late Sydney (the late Nina) Slagter; Fond brother-in-law of John (Evelyn) Zeilstra and Donald (Verna) Zeilstra; Dear uncle of many nieces and nephews. Former Vice President of Time Inc. Former Executive Director of the Back to God Hour.



Visitation Tuesday from 3-9PM at Colonial Chapel 15525 S. 73rd Ave. (155th/Wheeler Drive & Harlem) Orland Park, IL 60462. Lying in State Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. until time of Funeral Service 11:00 a.m. at Palos Heights Christian Reformed Church 7059 W. 127th Street, Palos Heights, IL 60463. Interment private at Fairmount-Willow Hills Cemetery, Willow Springs, IL.

Memorials to Trinity Christian College or Back to God Hour preferred. Express your thoughts and condolences at [www.colonialchapel.com](http://www.colonialchapel.com) 708-

Published in SouthtownStar on October 8, 2012

*Lloyd C. Warren*  
1920 ~ 2010



Lloyd Chester Warren, 90, of Austin TX, passed away, Friday, May 21, 2010. Mr. Warren was born February 29, 1920 in Reno OK, son of the late Oscar Herbert and Nettie Elsie (Slough) Warren. The family moved to Lampasas TX in 1927

and he graduated from high school in Lampasas and also from Mrs. Jackson's Business College. He attended Tarlatan College in Stephenville TX and graduated from the Army's Command and General College.

He married Margaret Lucille Elder on August 17, 1940. Mr. Warren retired from the United States Army after 38 years and one day as a full Colonel. He went into the Army on February 1, 1942. He was overseas for over three years. He was captured in North Africa on February 14, 1943 and spent over 27 months in German prison camps. Most of the time was spent in Szubin, Poland in camp Oflag 64. Shortly before the war was over, the Russians overran the camp and took command. He said the Russians were harder on them than the Germans. He escaped from the Russians at night. He said the Russians would not trade them back to the US according to the Geneva Treaty. Some went to Siberia to the salt mines. He had two Purple Hearts. He was reported to have saved Amon Carter's life on one of the marches they were on after they were captured.



He was an active member of the Loyal Order of Ruptured Ducks, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, numerous military organizations, Elks, Masons, Shriners, ExPOWs and was Commander of the Tulsa ExPOWs in 1979.

He retired from Gulf Oil with 29 years of service. Mr. Warren was preceded in death by his son, Lloyd Charles Warren, in 2001. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Margaret Warren of the home. Services will be held 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 26, 2010 in Mabry Chapel at Camp Mabry, Austin TX. Graveside service with full Military Honors will follow at 2:30 p.m. in Oak Hill Cemetery in Lampasas TX under the direction of Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home. Obituary and guestbook available online at [www.wcfish.com](http://www.wcfish.com)

Published in Austin American-Statesman on May 25, 2010

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**The following two obituaries are those of beloved family members of our former Kriegies.**

*Dan Lee Brown*  
1939 ~ 2012

Dan Lee Brown, 73, of Millersport, formerly of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, peacefully passed away June 17, 2012 at his home on Buckeye Lake with his wife, son and daughter by his side. Without complaint and with great courage, he battled an aggressive form of Parkinson's disease.

Dan was born April 23, 1939, at his family's home, Lone Oak Farm, in Quaker City, Ohio. A basketball star and 1957 Quaker City valedictorian, Dan was the first in his family to attend college. He received a B.S. in mathematics from Ohio University and a M.A. in educational administration from the [Ohio State University](#).

Dan served two years active duty in Korea as a Captain in the U.S. Army and was also an instructor in officer training in Texas. He was a mathematics teacher and the head varsity baseball and cross-country coach at Reynoldsburg High School. Dan then served as an Assistant Director at the Ohio Department of Education until his retirement. He was a forty-year member of the Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church and choir.

Dan loved golf, Buckeye Lake, his Ohio sports teams and his friends and family. He was a man respected for his integrity and gentle spirit. He was preceded in death by parents Clarence C. and Ruth Robinson Brown, brother Robert Brown, brother-in-law Robert Bradford and sister-in-law Judy Bradford.

Dan is survived by his wife of 43 years, [Gail Bradford](#) [daughter of the late [Kriegy Otis L. "Brad" Bradford](#)]; son, S. Randall Brown, M.D.(Emily) of Columbus; daughter, Marcy Jean Gurd (David Gurd, M.D.) of Chagrin Falls, Ohio; brother, Kenneth Brown (Lynne) of London, Ohio; sisters-in-law, Evelyn Brown and Anne Bradford; and brother-in-law, David Bradford; grandchildren, Adam and Wes Brown and Sean, Ben and Molly Gurd.

Family will receive friends 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at COTNER FUNERAL HOME, 7369 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg and 1 hour prior to the funeral at the church. Funeral Service 11 a.m. Thursday at Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church Chapel, 1636 Graham Rd., Reynoldsburg. Graveside service 2:30 p.m. at Friends Cemetery, Quaker City, Ohio.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Dan's memory to Pickering House Hospice or Michael J. Fox Foundation For Parkinson's Research. Messages may be sent to his family by visiting [www.cotnerfuneralhome.com](http://www.cotnerfuneralhome.com)

Published in The Columbus Dispatch from June 19 to June 20, 2012

*Rose Mary C. Cipriani*  
1921 ~ 2012



CIPRIANI, Rose Mary (Cipoletti), 91, passed away Thursday, September 6, 2012, at home, with her family at her side. She was born August 31, 1921, in Wellsburg, WV, to the late Giulio and Asunta Cipoletti.

In addition to her parents, Rose was preceded in death by her beloved husband Anthony J. Cipriani, Sr., (2001), with whom she shared 55 years of marriage, and brothers John Cipoletti, Patsy P. Cipoletti, James Cipoletti, Sam Cipoletti, and Paul Cipoletti.

Rose was co-owner of the former Community TV and Appliance in Wellsburg with her husband for 40 years. She was a member of St. John Church, the Altar Rosary Society, and Brooke County Easter Seals. Remarkably, she served as a volunteer at Wheeling Hospital beyond her 90th birthday.

While barely a teenager, she began working in her brother's grocery store in Wellsburg. She later worked at the G.C. Murphy Store in Wellsburg. After marrying the love of her life on July 5, 1945, she dedicated her life to making those around her happy. A devoted homemaker, Rose will be remembered for hosting regular Sunday morning gatherings and holidays in her home for nearly 50 years.

She is survived by her children Anthony "Butch" (Angela) Cipriani, Jr., of Wellsburg, George (Annette) Cipriani, of South Charleston, WV, Susan (Les) Grimm, of Paducah, KY, Mary Ellen (Chris) Paull, of Wellsburg, Bill (Cathy) Cipriani, of Wellsburg, Chris (Cindy) Cipriani, of Wheeling; two brothers, Jules "Boots" (Jean) Cipoletti and Frank "Red" (Mary Margaret) Cipoletti both of Wellsburg, WV. 12 grandchildren Jay Cipriani, Michael Cipriani, Allan Grimm, Andy Grimm, Brian Paull, Lauren Paull, Vincent Cipriani, Eric Cipriani, Kristin Cipriani Moody, Kara Cipriani, Dominic Cipriani, Gianna Cipriani and six great-grandchildren. Many nieces and nephews also survive.

Friends will be received on Saturday, September 8th from 6-8 P.M. and again on Sunday, September 9th from 12:00-2:00 P.M. and 5:00-7:00 P.M. at the Mullenbach Funeral Home 669 Main St. Follansbee, WV. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Monday, September 10th at 10:00 A.M. at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Wellsburg, WV with the Rev. Fr. Dan Pisano as celebrant. Vigil services will be held on Sunday evening at 6:00 P.M. at the funeral home. Interment will follow in Franklin Cemetery in Wellsburg, WV. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to St. John Church 1300 Charles St. Wellsburg, WV 26070 or Valley Hospice at 10686 State Route 150 Rayland, OH 43943.