

The

Post Oflag 64 Item

Nearly Everybody
Reads The ITEM

Your Quiet Hour
Companion

“Get Wise – ITEM-ize”

4th Quarter 2019

Good Ole USA

Of Undetermined Worth

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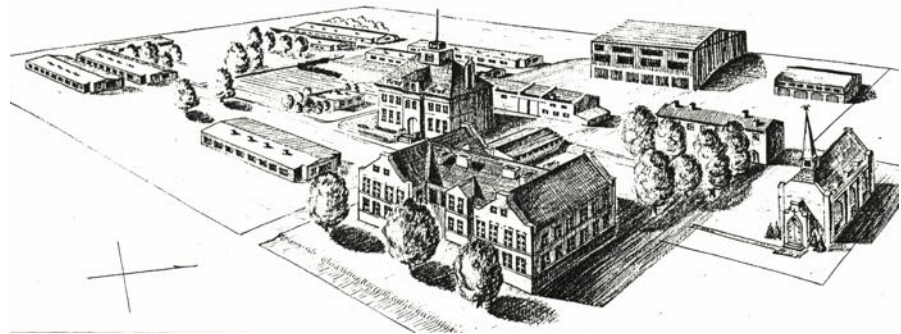
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We apologize to any others we may have overlooked but thank everyone who has contacted us.



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

Dear Oflag 64 Family,

HAPPY NEW YEAR and Happy New Decade! Wow, how swiftly the years seem to pass. We hope the wish for you as the year progresses.

In This Issue

Sections in this issue appear in a slightly different order than previous issues. Please take a look through each section for important information. Enjoy!!

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Our best to you always,
Elodie/Bill Caldwell
ITEM Editor/Webmaster
www.oflag64.us



A Little Company Business

Fund Donations

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

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

Bret Job

2801 SW 46th St
Cape Coral FL 33914-6026

OR

Elodie Caldwell

2731 Terry Ave
Longview WA 98632-4437

Thanks to **John Warthen and Annette Nelson** for their recent donations to the **Postage Fund**.



Friends of Oflag 64, Inc., our nonprofit, offers another way to make monetary donations but **ONLY** for the future Museum in Szubin. For contributions to this fund only, please write your checks and send them to the following address:

*Friends of Oflag 64, Inc.
12768 Turberville Lane
Oak Hill, VA 20171-2214*

OR

to donate ONLINE, visit the "Friends" new website at: <https://friendsof64.org/contact-us>

You can also access the donation page on the new 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 new Museum in various ways.

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

Requesting Expertise

Do you have marketing skills, are you skilled with IT, how about accounting, or grant writing? Maybe you are great at "spreading the word" through social media. "Friends" (our nonprofit) needs people with these skills. Please let Elodie know how you can help, even if it's limited.

Artifacts Needed



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

We know how difficult it is to part with cherished items owned by our Kriegy dads, grandfathers, brothers, and uncles but we appreciate your consideration of our request for artifacts. They will be valued and appreciated by those who visit the Museum for many years.

Thanks to all who have so far agreed to donate artifacts to the Museum of POW Camps in Szubin. Please see the Friends of Oflag 64 section on page 4 of this ITEM for more information about artifacts donations.

Historical Information and Feedback Are Always Welcome

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

If you notice Oflag 64 website errors, omissions, or links that don't work properly, please contact Bill Caldwell at: webmaster@oflag64.us

Thank You!



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

Wishing all members of the Oflag 64 *Item* readership a healthy and prosperous 2020!

Recap of a very productive 2019 regarding establishing a **Museum of POWs in Szubin.**

- April 2019 - The **Polish-American Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin** was officially registered in Poland and is making phenomenal progress. <http://www.szubinpowcamps.org/>
- June 2019 - **Friends of Oflag 64**, received an IRS Employee Identification Number and in August received a Letter of Determination establishing nonprofit status as a 501(c)(3)
 - A proposed budget was submitted from June 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019 with the expectation of \$25,000 in contributions.
 - The **Friends** established a Board of Directors to include Chairman Cindy Sharpe Burgess, Treasurer Anne Hoskot Kreutzer and Secretary Nancy Thompson Wyatt; all are relatives of ex POWs.
 - An Artifacts Committee was formed headed by Dave Stewart; son of an ex-POW
 - Began developing a Strategic Plan to span 4-5 years (2024)
- September 2019 – Commissioned a design expert to develop the **Friends** logo
- November 2019 – A significant number of artifacts were personally delivered to Szubin
 - ✓ Please consider sharing your family artifacts by completing the *Artifact Donation Form* on the next page
 - ✓ To enhance interest in the museum in Szubin, a mini-exhibit using recently donated artifacts is being designed for marketing purposes
- November 10, 2019 – the website for the nonprofit was launched www.friendsofotlag64.org
– To date over 400+ views have been made to the website
- December 31, 2019 – At the end of this fiscal year (12/31/19) \$51,000+ has been donated to the nonprofit. According to Strategic Plans, the goal is to amass \$400,000 by 2024.
- Based on the Strategic Plan we are actively seeking passionate and skilled members to join the Board of **Friends of Oflag 64** in the following areas: social media, marketing and accounting. Please share your skills with us.



Friends of Oflag 64, Inc., Artifact Donation Form

A 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization

EIN: #84-1889226

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

Donor name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Kriegy (POW) name:

Description of donated artifact:

Donor estimated total value:

Explanation or story of artifact:

(Attach more pages if needed)

Friends of Oflag 64 only accepts artifacts from donors who acknowledge they have full ownership status of the artifact at the time of donation. This document will serve as that acknowledgment and as substantiation of your donation. No goods or services were provided to you in return for your donation of the artifact. Please retain a copy of this document for your records and tax purposes. Also send a copy to accompany the artifact to:

Dave Stewart – dslvtx@gmail.com

7903 Diamond Trail

Lago Vista, TX 78645-4446

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

Donor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Artifacts Committee Signature: _____ Date: _____

Museum and Polish-American Foundation News

The next few pages provide information and updates about what has recently been done in Poland by our Polish-American Foundation Board. We appreciate and are excited about the tremendous work they and others are doing, both in the US and in Poland, for the furtherance of the Museum project.

* * * * *

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

UPDATE from the Board of the Polish-American Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps of Szubin:

The mission of the Foundation is to research, educate, and commemorate the people and history of these camps. Its cornerstone project is the building of a museum at the site of the last remaining brick barrack of Oflag 64. The Foundation is grateful to ex-POW Wilbur Sharpe for his founding donations of a generous cash contribution, and a myriad of treasured artifacts that helped launch this project.

In November 2019, Foundation Board President Mariusz Winięcki of Szubin, and Board Vice-President Susanna Connaughton (daughter of ex-POW 2nd Lt. Seymour R. Bolten) of Palo Alto, participated in a series of meetings in Poland to advance the work of the foundation and the development of the museum.

Museum of Armaments, Poznań



The pair started out the week in Poznań, where they took a behind-the-scenes tour of Poznań's Museum of Armaments. They met with Curator Krzysztof Jankowiak and Assistant Curator Miłosz Stroński. The curators gave advice on a range of guidance for collecting and displaying military artifacts and uniforms.

Mayor & City Officials, Szubin

The following day, in Szubin, was an exciting one for the Foundation. The day began with a meeting involving Mayor Mariusz Piotrkowski, Vice-Mayor Violetta Borys-Stachowiak, and several Town officials.

Mariusz and Susanna thanked the Mayor for the commitment of time and funds that he, the Vice-Mayor, staff, and other elected officials have devoted to the project. For example, last Spring, the Town hired a structural engineer to evaluate the brick barrack. Last Fall they hired an architect to create the museum's preliminary concept design. During the meeting, the Mayor announced that the town will be committing 2020 funds to pay for more detailed architectural designs, the next phase of the design process, and tending to the logistics and needed paperwork. Eventually, the town will be seeking funds via Polish and European grants.



Connaughton and Winiecki were pleased to tell the Mayor that the Friends of Oflag 64—the U.S. registered 501(c)3 created by the descendants of the POWs of Oflag 64--has already begun collecting artifacts, and raising funds for the museum.

The Mayor extended an invitation to all Oflag 64 descendants and friends to join the Town during the weekend of June 6-7 for Szubin Days 2020. Included in the summer festival, will be events telling the history and commemorating the men of Oflag 64. Details are in the next article. Additionally, updates which will provide news and more details regarding the event will be available on the Foundation's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/oflag64altburgund>

Museum Concept Design Architect, Szubin

Following this meeting, Winiecki and Connaughton joined the Vice-Mayor and other staffers, for a presentation by architect Janusz Pulikowski, on the preliminary concept design for the museum. After the presentation, Winiecki remarked, "Mr. Pulikowski is creating a moving tribute to the POWs. He has captured the essence of the barrack, created a memorial garden, and simultaneously provided us with a state-of-the art museum facility." The Foundation will be sharing the final concept designs with the Oflag 64 Family in early 2020.

Archeological Dig at Oflag 64

The following day, on the former grounds of Oflag 64, next to the site of the future museum, Bydgoszcz archeologist Robert Grochowski began excavations to search for one of the tunnel shafts dug by the Allied



POWs. Local print and television covered the activity, and neighbors came out to watch. The team also used metal detectors to search for artifacts.

Early in 2020, the Foundation will post photos and excerpts of Mr. Grochowski analyses on their website at:

<http://www.szubinpowcamps.org/en>

The Board hopes to do more archeological research in the Spring of 2020. Foundation historian and Board member Dr. Jan Daniluk of Gdańsk, notes that this research is “a rare chance for us to scientifically excavate where no one has

previously explored. We can verify mentions in documents, confirm some of our assumptions, and find new items to display at our future exhibitions. If we don't do this, nobody will.”

Here's a link to one of the news stories: <http://movie.palukitygodnik.pl/2018-04/oflag1f.mp4>

U.S. Embassy, Warsaw

Later in the week, Connaughton and Winiecki travelled to Warsaw where they met with officials from the U.S. Embassy sections of Public Affairs, Culture, and Military-Political. The group discussed opportunities for the Foundation to highlight Oflag 64's stories of Polish-American collaboration, and to fulfill its Polish Charter to educate and inform.

The Embassy is favorably inclined towards the Foundation's projects and is looking forward to supporting it. The Board will be submitting to the Embassy various educational outreach ideas to use around Poland.

Board Meeting, Gdansk

The two then joined Dr. Daniluk in Gdańsk, for an all-day Board Meeting. The group discussed a range of operational and strategic plans. The Foundation is fast becoming an intriguing new participant in the community of museums and researchers in Poland. Its unique roots as an unaffiliated NGO, with deep connections to family histories, has created a strong interest in the museum and academic communities.

Volunteers Welcome

The Foundation is making steady progress. We are seeking volunteers with experience in accounting, social media, and strategic planning. If you would like to contribute your skills in these areas, please contact either Mariusz Winiecki (mariusz.winiecki@szubinpowcamps.org) or Susanna Connaughton (susanna.connaughton@szubinpowcamps.org).

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to support the work of the Foundation, please visit [Friends of Oflag 64](#).

The photos below are of the archeological dig that took place in November at the site of Oflag 64.



Sectioned-off area of the former barrack where the dig took place.

Point-of-view from inside the dig area.



Dig progress by noon. "Our" red brick barrack is in the background.

Barrack's concrete floor is discovered and measured.



Barrack's concrete floor is discovered and measured.

More measuring and plotting.
Photo by: Maja Stankiewicz





This is a close-up of the concrete floor of the barrack immediately in front of “our” barrack. Several artifacts were found during the dig.

Archeologist explains archeology to Mariusz Winiecki, Susanna Connaughton, and Kamila Czechowska, the curator of the Museum of Szubin.

Although there was no evidence found of any tunnels that may have been dug by our Kriegies, it was a worthwhile and informative dig.

Thanks to Susanna for sending these photos.



This is our barrack, #9, the only remaining red brick barrack from Oflag 64 during WWII. The dig took place on grounds shown at the left side of this photo beyond the trees.

Join us June 6-7 in Szubin for “Szubin Days 2020”

Oflag 64 Family! Join Kriegy descendants and friends for Szubin’s annual summer celebration. This year’s event will include the following events in honor of the men of Oflag 64. Watch for more updates about events and accommodations!

Friday, June 5th

Late afternoon/early evening, Bydgoszcz (30 minutes north of Szubin)
Reunion of Descendants of POWs of Oflag 64. Location TBD.

Saturday, June 6th

2pm: Guided tour with Mariusz Winiiecki at the site of Oflag 64.

Mr. Winiiecki, President of the Board of the Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps of Szubin is a lifelong Szubin resident, and a driving force and source of expertise behind the commemoration of the camps.

4pm: Preview Exhibit for the Museum of POWs of Szubin.

An introductory sampler of museum artifacts, and live music in the style of Oflag 64’s Bob Rankin and his Swing Band.

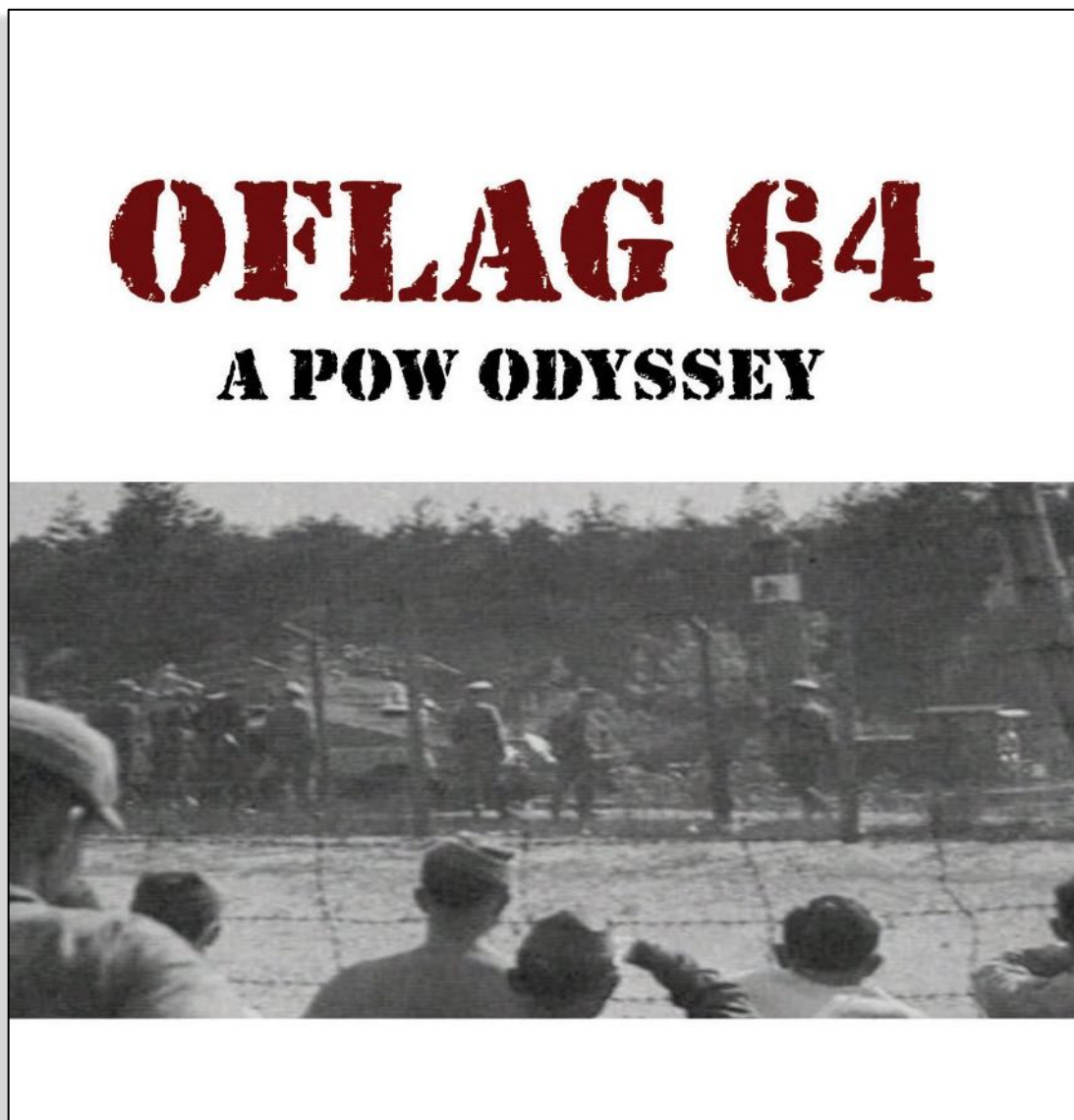
Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Foundation and the City of Szubin. The MOU honors the partnership that began in 1943, and continues today in the creation of the future museum.



In-camp photo of Bob Rankin third row, seated far left, playing trombone

Sunday, June 7th, 4pm

Screening of the PBS-aired documentary, "Oflag 64: A POW Odyssey," with Polish subtitles. Thanks to the generosity of film director and producer Robert Galloway and Foundation Council member Pat Waters, we now have the first historical presentation available with a Polish language translation. The film tells the story of the final days of Oflag 64 and the Long March, as told by the ex-POWs of Oflag 64.



Throughout the weekend, visit the site of Oflag 64, preview the designs for the museum, and reunite and meet fellow Kriegy descendants.

[Follow us on Facebook](#) for updates.

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



MAIL CALL



Joseph Ball, grandson of the late Kriegy Ralph J. Ball, is looking for photos of his grandfather. If you are aware of any that you can share with Joseph, please let us know. *Thanks, Joseph, for contacting us. We hope some of those photos will show themselves soon. Your name has been added to our email list as requested.*



Susanna Connaughton, daughter of the late Kriegy Seymour Bolten, and member of the Polish-American Foundation Board wrote to let us know that [War History Online](#) posted the Foundation's press release to their site on September 24. They also added more photos. Take a look when you get a chance. *Susanna, thank you for keeping us informed of these bits of information. It's great to see the word getting out.*

Conlon Doran, grandson of the late Kriegy John H. Doran, recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list, which we have done. He is looking for any one of our remaining Kriegies who may have known his grandfather, who was captured in France in August 1944. Conlon stated that his grandfather didn't talk about the war so he is just learning about Oflag 64 and some of those experiences our Kriegies shared. *Conlon, we're so happy you found our site. Welcome to our Oflag 64 Family. We hope to hear soon that one of our living Kriegies knew your grandfather or has some information to share. We have added you to our email list as requested.*

Peter P. Gaich, son of the late Kriegy Peter N. Gaich, wrote after reading another one of our "Oflag 64 Sad News" emails. A book he read recently by an author in his 30s impressed him to share with us this passage: *"You grew up in poverty. You understand the impact it has on people. On families. The needless suffering. The revulsion you feel at the waste, the squandered resources; that never goes away. You will always remember. Your children, if you choose to have any, they'll hear your stories and take them to heart, but it will be less immediate, less real. Their children won't have any idea and won't care. They'll believe their inherited wealth is the natural*

order of the universe, right along with their positions in it." Peter then added: This guy gets it. I wrote him and asked him where he got this insight. From being a home healthcare worker, seeing all three generations from his contact with his patients. Our Kriegies, their Brothers and Sisters from all branches of the Services from that era, will soon be part of the past. The world will be a lesser place for their passing. *Thanks, Peter, for your insight and thoughts. Well said.*

Henry Haynes, Jr., son of the late Kriegy Henry William Haynes, contacted us regarding one of our website photos in which he was able to identify his dad. He also sent information regarding correspondence he has had with some of our other Oflag 64 Family members. He wrote: "One individual was the grandson (or maybe granddaughter) of an Oflag 64 POW who had kept a daily diary of his wartime experiences which including his incarceration. He told me that he had seen the name "Haynes" in reading through the diary, and that he would get back to me - which he did. He told me of one occasion when my Dad had received a package from my family which was a big deal not just for Dad, but many of his friends in the compound. Another time Dad and another officer met with a German officer to complain about missing Red Cross packages. Unfortunately, I cannot put names to these individuals because I have misplaced the correspondence. But I gather that this must have been the grandchildren of Tony Lumpkin (Dr. E, Noel Lumpkin and Tony B. Lumpkin III) who recently published the WWII diary "Captured Yesterday." I just received this a couple of days ago, and have only red Chapter 1 - Destination Ireland. I am determined to read about Captain Lumpkin's experiences in their entirety before getting to Oflag 64 without skipping ahead to find references to my Dad. It will take Will Power!.....Another contact that was provided was an Army Historian, Richard (Dick) Whitaker who sent me a copy of a paper he wrote for Armor magazine in 1996. The title is "Task Force Baum and the Hammelburg Raid." This was a story of a failed raid sent by Patton to rescue many of the men from Oflag 64 that had survived the march of POWs ahead of the Russian advance from the East. My Dad did not make it that far. He told me

that they were being held by the Russians, but security was lax and he swam a river in the bitter cold to meet troop trucks that were waiting on the other side of the river." *Thanks so much, Henry, for the information you sent about your dad. We love hearing the stories of our Kriegies and enjoyed hearing from you again.*



Kathleen Stewart Herrera, daughter of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart, shared information about a project her first-grade students did on Veteran's Day. On November 12, she wrote:

"Yesterday veterans were honored at schools across the nation. My first-grade students have a deep respect and love for our military. They each wrote a letter to a veteran thanking them for their service and for keeping our country safe. The letters were placed on the seats of the veterans who attended our ceremony." *Kathleen, that was such a heartwarming story. Thank you for taking the time to teach your students about their importance. And because of teachers and others like you, our Veterans will not be forgotten.*

Sharon Hutchison, daughter of the late Kriegy Isaac "Ike" Franklin, has recently finished a story she wrote about her dad for a DAR project about POWs. In it is a section where her dad described his capture. In a subsequent email, Sharon included a Facebook post she had written just before Veteran's Day, included here: "I don't like cold, nasty weather with gray skies and a cloud of gloom. I need sunshine. But for the last few days, in all kinds of weather, I've been reading about prisoners of war in WWII. My dad was one of them, and when I think of him on "The Long Cold March" through Poland and Germany in January, 1945 through April, when the Russian Army liberated many Allied POWs, I see things in a different perspective. At least I'm not carrying all my possessions in sub-zero weather, thinly clad, weak and hungry, for hundreds of miles. This is just something to think about as Veterans Day approaches. Many survived The Long Cold March, but many didn't. All of them deserve our respect and appreciation for their part in keeping us free." *Thank you, Sharon, for sharing your father's story with us and for permission to include it in our future museum. Thanks also for your thoughtful post on Veteran's Day.*

Lynn Kanaya, widow of the late Kriegy Jimmie Kanaya, sent a beautiful program from Jimmie's



Celebration of Life which was held at the Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall in Seattle WA on December 20. The photo of Jimmie in the TAPS section is from his printed program.

We wish we could've been there to honor him that day. Jimmie will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. *Lynn, thanks so much for sharing Jimmie's Celebration with us. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you grieve. We know he is greatly missed.*



Ed Marek, creator of the Talking Proud website, let us know that his site is currently "Off the Air". We have likewise removed it from our website Links page but will be happy to re-add it if it goes live

again. *Ed, thanks for letting us know about your website. We've enjoyed visiting your site and have appreciated the information you provided for our website. We hope to see your site again in the future.*

Jim Marrow, grandson in law of the late Kriegy Paul Goode, has communicated with us by phone. We've been trying to get information about a story we heard regarding one of the camp radios being hidden in bagpipes carried across Poland to Hammelburg in Germany after Oflag 64 was evacuated. Jim has not been able to confirm the story but will do some more searching. Since the phone conversation, he sent several documents and photos relating to Col. Goode. *Jim, I enjoyed getting to know you a bit over the phone. Thanks so much for being willing to look into the "bagpipe and radio" story further. We have added you and family members to our email list as requested.*

Marianne Merriam, daughter of the late Kriegy F. Eugene "Gene" Liggett, wrote to let us know of the passing of her dear father on November 27 (see the TAPS section). His memorial has been scheduled in Vancouver WA on February 19, 2020, the day he would have turned 100. Our sincere sympathies along with our thoughts and prayers were sent to the family. *Marianne, we thank you for informing us of your Dad's passing. It's so difficult to see our dear Kriegies leave us. We know he is greatly missed.*

Annette Secor Nelson, widow of the late Kriegy Richard Secor sent donations to our Postage Fund along with Christmas Greetings. *Annette,*



it's always good to hear from you. Thanks so much for remembering us at Christmas and for your thoughtful contributions to the Postage Fund.

Dave Palluconi, son of the late Kriegy Amelio Palluconi, sent a copy of the interview he had with his dad between 1987-1989. It's great to have the histories of our Kriegies in their own voice. *Thanks, Dave, for sending the DVD and war documents. Again, hoping to be able to add a section to our website one day to include DVD interviews with our men. Due to limited space in the last ITEM, a couple of other submissions from Dave were not included. Please see the Kriegy News and Information section of this issue for these documents.*

Deborah Shefrin, daughter of the late Kriegy Seymour Shefrin, contacted Cindy Burgess after looking through our website and finding information about submitting artifacts, several of which she and her sister have. We have learned from Deborah that her father passed away in 2000, but at his request, there was no obituary. Deborah sent a photo of him along with his date of death, which is included in the TAPS section. *Thank you, Deborah, for contacting us and especially for the information and photo you've sent. We are so thankful to our Kriegies for their service during the dark days of war. We have added your name to our email list as requested.*

Shari Shefrin Shryock, daughter of the late Kriegy Seymour Shefrin, also contacted us about submitting information for our website. We noticed that his name was not showing on our online TAPS list. We now have that information and it has been posted to our site. *Thanks, Shari, for being willing to send information for our website. We look forward to seeing what you have soon. Your name has been added to our email list as requested.*

Cheryl "Sheree" Thal-Ellis, daughter of the late Kriegy Sidney Thal, sent information about the passing on December 9 of her dear father who had lived with her the last five years of his life (see the TAPS section). Our heartfelt condolences along with our thoughts and prayers were sent to the family. *Sheree, thanks so much for letting us know about the passing of your Dad. We have fond memories of him from reunions years ago. We know he is mightily missed.*

John Warthen, son of the late Kriegy Bill Warthen sent a nice note and contribution to our Postage Fund and asked to be added to our email list. *Thank you very much, John, for your thoughtful contribution and welcome to our Oflag 64 Family. We look forward to hearing from you again. We have added your name to our email list as requested.*

Merrill Watt, Fellow with the Society of American Military Engineers, after chatting with Cindy Burgess about our 501(c)(3), passed along information about Oflag 64 and our nonprofit to his key military friends as well as his private sector friends. He commented on the ITEM and asked that they keep coming, so we have added Merrill to our email list. *Thanks, Cindy, for sharing this information with us. We love hearing the interest that others are gaining in our cause.*



Judy Whorley Winkle, daughter of the late Kriegy William Whorley, after receiving emails from a possible long, lost relative, learned that although they shared a last name, they weren't related at all.

Judy is looking forward to attending a future gathering, noting that it would probably just be us "kids" now. *Judy, it was great hearing from you again. Thanks for sharing what you learned about your possible connection.*

* * * * *



We communicate with many Kriegy family members each week and would like to add photos when names are printed in the ITEM.

Please send us a photo of you if you haven't sent one previously. We can crop photos for head shots if you don't have a head-shot photo already.

Thanks to all for being so willing to share your stories with us. Over time we have been able to help others make connections or fill in pieces of their puzzles. For many, their Kriegies didn't talk about the war or their experiences, so being able to share through the ITEM and through emails has been very helpful to them.

Blessings and love to all in the New Year!!



Kriegy News and Information



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



to our GREAT KRIEGY HEROES and PATRIOTS

Happening Soon

Ed Graf – 1/7
98 years



John Rodgers – 2/9
97 years



Ted Roggen – 2/22
102 years



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

Send birthday pictures too!

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

* * * * *

Treasurer's Report for 2019

<u>Begin Date</u>	<u>Begin Bal.</u>	<u>Dep.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>End Bal.</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Jan 1 2019	\$8,240.78	\$0.00	\$483.88	ITEM publication	\$7,756.90	Jan 31 2019
Feb 1 2019	\$7,756.90	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$7,756.90	Feb 28,2019
Mar 1 2019	\$7,756.90	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$7,756.90	Mar 31,2019
Apr 1 2019	\$7,756.90	\$0.00	\$353.10	ITEM publication	\$7,403.80	Apr 30,2019
May 1 2019	\$7,403.80	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$7,403.80	May 31,2019
Jun 1 2019	\$7,403.80	\$0.00	\$2,750.00	'Friends of Oflag 64' setup	\$4,653.80	Jun 30,2019
Jul 1 2019	\$4,653.80	\$0.00	\$222.14	ITEM publication	\$4,431.66	Jul 31,2019
Aug 1 2019	\$4,431.66	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$4,431.66	Aug 31,2019
Sep 1 2019	\$4,431.66	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$4,431.66	Sep 30,2019
Oct 1 2019	\$4,431.66	\$60.00	\$520.97	ITEM pub + website expenses	\$3,970.69	Oct 31,2019
Nov 1 2019	\$3,970.69	\$50.00	\$0.00	Postage fund donation	\$4,020.69	Nov 30,2019
Dec 1 2019	\$4,020.69	\$50.00	\$0.00	Postage fund donation	\$4,070.69	Dec 31,2019

The following story was sent by Nancy Wyatt, daughter of the late Kriegy Robert T. "Bob" Thompson, and was the speech she gave at a Toastmaster meeting in March of 2007. What a great story! Thanks Nancy for sharing.

When We Get Rich. . .

. . .My father used to say this when I was a little girl. My father was 'self-employed'. He worked so hard and knew that if he worked hard enough, we would be rich.

But there's more to that story.

My fellow Toastmasters and guests, my father had a secret. You see, he was a POW in World War II. He was captured September of 1944 in France. They transferred him to Poland to a POW camp called Oflag 64. This is short for Offizierslager.

In January 1945, the Russians were on their way west, so the German officers lined up all the prisoners and began to march back toward Germany. It was about 15 degrees with snow on the ground. They marched 400 miles into Germany. It took about 6 weeks. There were 1300 soldiers at the beginning of the march, but only 450 men finished. They would march all day and search for barns before darkness fell. Food was scarce and many soldiers died or escaped along the way.

Finally, they made it to Hammelburg, Germany to another POW camp.

In this huge group of men were some famous soldiers. Amon Carter, Jr., John Hemingway, Ernest's son, and John Waters. John Waters was George S. Patton's son-in-law.

General Patton discovered that his son-in-law was in this camp, which was about 30 miles behind enemy lines. He decided to try and rescue the soldiers at this POW camp. He called this mission Task Force Baum, named after the man who led the mission.

Col. Baum took jeeps, tanks, half-tracks under the cover of darkness toward Hammelburg. They made it there, loaded up as many men as possible and tried to make it back. The easy part was getting there but the Germans were waiting for them when they tried to get back out. All hell broke loose and the Americans did not make it out. They had to retreat back into the camp.

This is where my dad's secret comes in.

During the few hours of freedom, my dad and the others were let loose. What did they do when they were loose? Look for food! My dad saw a truck and jumped in the back to search for food. He reached under the seat and found a small box. He opened it and it was not food, it was diamonds! (I sat down in a chair, searched under the seat and pulled out a small box filled with fake diamonds.) Wow! He stuffed them in his pocket and continued to look for food.

After the miserable retreat, the Germans took over the POW camp again. My dad was afraid to be caught with the diamonds, so he buried them in the dirt in a stone building.

Fast forward to 1967. My father kept saying, 'When we get rich.' He planned a trip to Germany to find those diamonds. He went with his business partner and a young boy and they flew to Germany. He found the stone building but it was filled with coal. He had to hire a bulldozer to unload the coal from the building. As they were working, someone came by, heard what my dad was doing and told him that a fireman had found the diamonds about 10 years prior and was living in Chicago.

What a disappointment! Well, my dad took the news well. He returned to Oklahoma, with a story to tell.

But that's not the end of the story. My dad IS rich. You see, he worked all his life, self-employed, put all his children through college. He meets weekly with his WWII buddies, friends he didn't know from that time, but there is a bond since they were in the same war. These men talk about everything and rarely about the war itself. They told my dad how to get disability insurance, total disability insurance.

Since my dad has a heart condition and was a POW, he received total disability for himself and my mother if he should pass away. He had to quit working at 75 years old. But he is rich, just not from diamonds but from his hard work as a young man.

POST SCRIPT -

In a letter written by Bob Thompson to John Slack in 1967, he reported that the person who is now living in Chicago was contacted by his Hammelburg friend and was told about the Americans returning to Germany after 22 years to look for the diamonds. As of 1967, no one had heard from the man in Chicago.

The next two documents (4 pages) were sent by Dave Palluconi, son of the late Kriegy Amelio Palluconi.

STATEMENT OF REPORT OF INTERVIEW OF RECOVERED PERSONNEL

At approximately 2330 hours on the night of 9 July 1943 I landed in Sicily by parachute and landed on top of a barbed wire entanglement. I was immediately brought under fire by two enemy machine guns. One of which was approximately fifty to seventy-five yards from me and the other about one hundred yards. After about five or six minutes I cut the chute harness from me and rolled off of the wire with only a few minor scratches.

I took one of my hand grenades and crawled toward the nearest machine gun guided by its flash and got to within thirty or forty yards of it. From this position I threw one grenade and the machine gun ceased firing. Whether or not I actually knocked this gun out I do not know. The other machine gun continued firing. At this time the small kroll that I was on came under mortar fire and I crawled back toward a dirt road. After approximately thirty minutes three American Medics came by looking for a Medical Supply Bundle. We searched a small area where they thought the bundle would be but we did not find it.

We came back to the dirt road and decided to circle to the left in order to get to our D. Z. During this hike I found Pvt. Bradley an Indian from "A" Co., 505th with a broken leg. The Medics gave him first aid and a hypo, and I gave him a few instructions and we left him there.

About five to six hundred yards further on I met Lt. DeMasi from "A" Co., 505th with approximately twenty men. I gave him orders to pick up as many men as possible and to head for our D. Z. in one half an hour. I also showed him the place where we would meet. I left the Lt. and continued on my circle and from then on we ran into enemy machine gun fire quite often. Whenever I tried to get on course I was turned back by Machine Gun Fire.

The Medics were still with me. During the night we tried to get to our D. Z. and failing in this we cut every communications line that we ran into. This continued all night long.

When daylight came we found ourselves in a very large field. We got to a couple of small hills on one end of it by approximately 0930 hours. Here we hid in some brush and grass. At approximately 1530 hours one of the Medics poked his head over the rise of the small hill and was immediately brought under fire, by an enemy machine gun but was not hit. He quickly rolled down the hill.

At about 1830 hours the German Machine Gun crew which had fired at the Medics came up the trail that we had used. They seemed to be looking for something. I let them walk past me and when all three of them had passed me I stepped out and took them prisoners. They belonged to the Herman Goering Luftwaffe Troops.

The three Medics ran up to the prisoners and started disarming them. While this was going on a German Reconnaissance Car came across the field from a patch of woods about three or four hundred yards away. There were six or seven Germans in the car and all were armed with machine pistols.

I made the prisoners lie down and threatened them with a hand grenade. The Germans coming up got out of their car and spread out to both sides of the two small hills and covered the three Medics and I with their weapons and ordered us out of the bushes. This was at approximately 1900 hours.

We were taken prisoners between the towns of Mesciru and Catalgerane, but nearer to the latter on 10 July 1943.

Amelio B. Palluconi
AMELIO B. PALLUCONI
Capt., U. S. Army

STATEMENT OF REPORT OF INTERVIEW OF RECOVERED PERSONNEL

January 19, 1945.

The Germans had informed us that we would be moved back to Germany because of the Russian situation. Most of the Americans that were in this Camp had just arrived from the Battle of the Bulge and were in very bad condition. Most of them had no socks, overcoats, gloves or underwear.

I was able to bribe the German Interpreter with cigarettes and a promise of protection if overtaken by the Russians. This was done with Col. Fullers' permission. Because of this bribe we received extra clothing, shoes, underwear, matches, etc., out of a German Supply Room which had to be broken into. I also insisted that during the march I wanted hot meals whenever possible and hot milk. Also that at anytime that we stopped for the night I wanted the Americans quartered in a cow barr rather than a hay or horse barn.

During this march, through the efforts of the German I had bribed, we did get two hot meals (soup) and one cup of hot milk each. We were also quartered in cow barns twice where we were able to get fresh milk by milking the cows ourselves. It was also much more comfortable because of the additional warmth.

Our rations otherwise consisted of German black bread and an occasional piece of cheese which was frozen solid. During the eight days that we marched the temperature stayed at 10 to 15 degrees below zero. Most of the Americans were suffering from dysentery and frost bite.

During this march fourteen of the Americans managed to escape.

Throughout the march sounds of battle could be clearly heard to the rear and to our flanks. At times Russian reconnaissance groups were in front of us which caused much delay and confusion in the refugee column that we were with. At no time were we fired upon either by Russian Troops or their planes which were over our column several times.

I also tried bribing the German Captain with the column. I wanted him to abandon the Americans in an evacuated village. He would have willingly accepted, but was afraid of the Senior German Captain whom he had approached once on the subject and was almost shot for his pains.

We arrived at the town of Wurgarten on the night of January 28. We were quartered in a Nazi Hall but were later moved to the School House.

The German Interpreter and I walked to a house and with two bars of soap I got enough ersatz coffee to give all of the Americans about a quart each. I made the coffee in a shed behind the school which had a large vat in it. At midnight I also got two bushels of boiled potatoes.

At 5:30AM the morning of the 29th the Senior German Captain came into the School House and woke me up. (At this time I was being used as an interpreter,

being the only one left that could speak German). He told me that we were now free because Russian Tanks had broken through on both flanks. He gave me a note stating that we were American Prisoners of War who had been abandoned by the Germans and told me to present it to any other Germans that came through. I awakened Colonel Fuller and explained the situation to him. He immediately got in touch with the Italian General Geloso and set up an allied Headquarters. (I also acted as Italian Interpreter). We contacted the Russians on the morning of the 30th and they gave us control of the town.

From then on I took over the feeding and supplying of eighty (80) Americans, sixty-five (65) French, thirty-eight (38) Canadians, and twelve (12) Yugoslavs. The one hundred and ninety-nine (199) Italians set up their own kitchen and supply room. We ordered the German Civilians, through their Burgemeister, to supply us with one pound of bread, one pound of potatoes, one pound of meat, milk, and other items every day, for each person then under our control. This was supplied to us in bulk. Colonel Fuller and I supplemented these rations by killing several deer in the near by woods. I broke down the rations for these people and had them distributed with the help of several American Officers. I personally cooked for the Americans for the entire five (5) weeks that we remained in this town.

I had charge of all weapons and ammunition that we had picked up. They consisted of about fifty (50) German Rifles and some Tommy Guns.

The Americans and Canadians patrolled the town and near by woods.. I took one German Prisoner in the School House and turned him over to Headquarters.

When the Russians finally moved us to Odessa I did not have very much to do. In Odessa I took over the kitchen again and with the help of Russian Cooks and Women turned out meals for approximately one hundred (100) Americans and about thirty-five (35) English Officers and a few English Civilians. Our rations were greatly improved by adding to them from the stores of an American Supply Ship that was in the Harbor. At this time we came under the control of the American Military Mission in Moscow.

We stayed there for approximately seven (7) days. When we boarded an English Boat headed for Naples my duties ended.

Amelio B. Palluconi
AMELIO B. PALLUCONI
Capt., U. S. Army



Members of the Foundation Council, as well as members of the "Friends" nonprofit have been contacting descendants of Oflag 64 Kriegies regarding artifacts for possible donation to the future Museum in Szubin.

Nancy Thompson Wyatt, board member of Friends of Oflag 64, Inc. and daughter of the late Kriegy Robert T. Thompson recently visited with Anne Cockrell Matzelle and her husband Wayne. Anne is the daughter of the late Kriegy James L. Cockrell and we thank her for donating a copy of her father's diary for display in the future Museum. It was a great meeting and bonding experience one Kriegy Kid to another.

Nancy also met with Kriegy Ted Roggen on December 20, 2019. Her mission was to meet an Oflag 64 ex-POW and to have him sign a copy of his latest book – YOU TOO CAN LIVE TO BE A HUNDRED. Ted lives in Houston, TX and will celebrate his 102nd birthday on February 22.

When asked for his thoughts about the future museum, he said, *"It's great, it's wonderful. Down the line, (he hopes) that something can be organized to send the ex-POWs to the opening."*

Ted also had a quote for the board and committee member volunteers who are working so hard to develop the future museum: *"Here is a group that will lead the Oflag 64 Museum to great heights and prestige."*

Ted donated his diary to the future museum earlier this year. The Friends of Oflag 64 thank Ted for this treasured donation! The Friends of Oflag 64 continue to search for artifacts and donations. Please go to www.friendsof64.org if you have any artifacts, or would like to donate to this worthy cause.



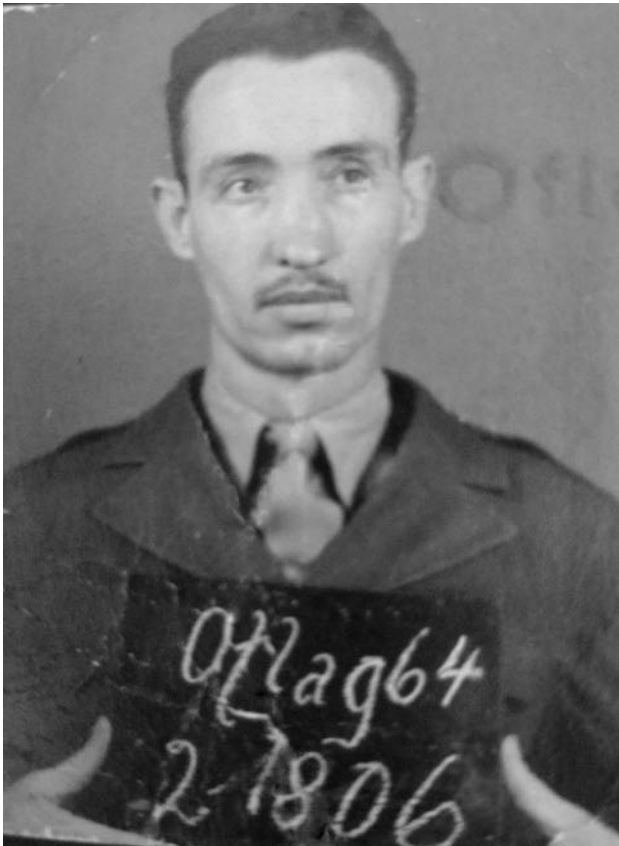
Separate from Nancy's visit, Ted sent us an article entitled "Perfect pitch – Ted Roggen, a 101-year old publicist, still puts in the hours" which was published Monday, September 16, 2019. We weren't able to get permission to reprint the article but you can access the same story entitled "101-year-old Houstonian embodies a century of Houston history" from the Houston Chronicle's website at:

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/article/101-year-old-Houstonian-embodies-a-century-of-14432388.php#photo-18246831>

There are 13 photos on the site chronicling some of Ted's experiences as a publicist. THANK YOU TED!!

* * * * *

The following photo and article of the late Kriegy Isaac E. Franklin were sent by his daughter Sharon Hutchison and were included in her recent story about him. THANK YOU, Sharon for giving permission for his story to be used for historical purposes as the future Museum is being created.



PHOTOS SHOW DIFFERENCE—Pfc. I. Earl Franklin of Fort Worth, left, as he appeared shortly before going overseas with the 36th Division, and at right, as he was photographed in a Nazi prisoner of war camp.

Prison Camp Thanksgiving Of Starving Men Is Recalled

On Thanksgiving of 1944, Pfc. I. Earl Franklin and his buddies in a German prison camp were so near starvation they roasted a cat and called it rabbit; they ate stale bread and called it plum pudding.

On Thanksgiving Day 1945, Franklin, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Franklin and husband of Mrs. Mamie Ruth Franklin, 2402 NW 27th, ate real turkey at William Beaumont General Hospital, El Paso, where he is recovering.

Of that prison camp Thanksgiving, Franklin said that he and his buddies, though faint from hunger, carried out their observance as best they could.

"Out of starvation and suffering, freedom took on a new light," he said. "We were thankful for the feeble spark of life left us. The experience will forever make us thankful for simple things we used to take for granted—the right to eat, to work and to sleep."

Franklin served with the 11th Medical Detachment of the 36th Division, and was captured in Italy in September 1943. For 20 months

he was imprisoned in various German camps. Shortly after his capture, Nazi officers suggested to Franklin that he join the "Free Americans" group, composed of Americans of German descent, to assist the enemy on the Eastern Front.

"They told me they knew my maternal grandmother was German-born, and they accused me of fighting her people and said I was ashamed of my heritage," Franklin said.

"I refused to join the group. I told them I was not ashamed of my heritage, but proud that my ancestors had had sense enough to go to America."

That remark cost Franklin. The angry Gestapo beat him, knocked out his teeth and crushed his nose. He was treated in a German hospital where the diagnosis on his chart was "bronchitis."

"This Thanksgiving I am just thankful to be alive," he said, "and grateful that my two children, Morton Lee and Sharon Ruth, and my wife and parents, live in a country where there is liberty to believe and speak freely."



You may remember seeing this box on our website before. Sharon wrote: "This hand-carved wooden box was made by a fellow POW at Oflag 64 and given to Ike Franklin. The design is made of thinly sliced match sticks. It was probably made in an "Arts and Crafts" activity, closely supervised by German guards."

TAPS

The following Kriegies either passed away during 2019 or we learned about them during the year. They were all great patriots and heroes. We honor them and are grateful for their service and sacrifice during those dark days of war.

1960 Hollis B. Wood (not 1993)
1968 Andrew R. Sokerka
1985 John H. Doran
2000 Seymour Shefrin
2016 Marvin Shelley (Hammelburg)
2017 Robert Alday
2018 James Kent
2018 William Paty
2019 Jimmie Kanaya
2019 Francis Eugene Liggett
2019 Jack Monaghan
2019 Nathan Sachnowitz
2019 Sidney Thal
2019 Donald R. Waful

* * * * *

John H. Doran 1916 ~ 1985



John H. Doran, 69, of Molloy Rd, Mattydale, died Wednesday at St. Joseph's Hospital.

A native of Syracuse, Mr. Doran lived in Mattydale for 35 years. and

retired after 26 years with the U.S. Postal Service. Mr. Doran was a communicant of St. Margaret's Church, Mattydale, and a member of the Third Ward Men's Club and the Calvary Club. He served in World War II and was a member of Mattydale Post 3146, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mattydale Post 1832, American Legion, the Syracuse Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners



of War and Chapter 167, Disabled American Veterans.

Surviving are his wife, Bernadine; a daughter, Maureen Doran of Swampscott, Mass.; two sons, Michael J. and John H. Jr., both of Syracuse; a sister, Kathleen Burroughs of Seneca Falls; three brothers, Henry M. of Cicero, Monsignor Thomas M. of Chadwicks and the Rev. Matthew J. of Oswego; and four grandchildren.

His obituary was found in the Syracuse (NY) Herald-Journal; Thursday, October 24, 1985; Page Br, Column 4 and on the Find A Grave website.

Jimmie Kanaya 1920 ~ 2019

Jimmie Kanaya passed away peacefully after a long fight with cancer. He was 99 years old.

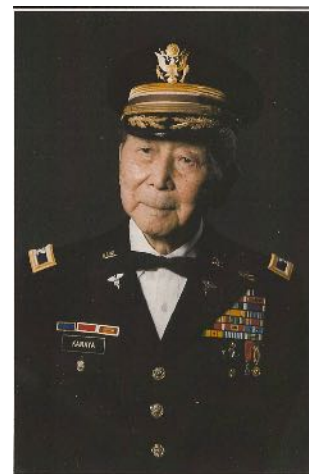
Jimmie served in WWII, The Korean and Vietnam Wars. He was captured in Northern France and was sent to Oflag 64 where he made many lifetime friends

even though he tried to escape three times.



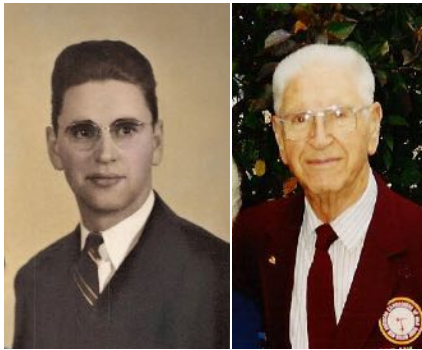
His service would pave the way for future generations of Japanese Americans serving in the military. He rose through the ranks and received many medals and commendations: Silver Star, Bronze Star with 2 oak leaf clusters, French Croix de Gere, and the Congressional Gold Medal as a member of the Nisei 442 Regimental Combat Team. He was humble, proud, generous with his time and loved by those who knew him. A patriot and hero.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a scholarship fund in honor of Col. Jimmie Kanaya set up at the Japanese American Veterans



Francis Eugene Liggett

1920 ~ 2019



Born Feb. 19, 1920 in Alma, KS, Gene grew up on ranches around Flagler CO and Shelton, NE. He graduated from Shelton High School in

1938 and the University of Nebraska in Jan. 1943. He served in the US Army in World War II, European Theater with the 45th Infantry Division, directing artillery as a Forward Observer. In Italy he was wounded twice. In southern France he was captured by the Germans. He spent 8 months as a German Prisoner of War in Poland. He also served during the Korean War, 1951-1952.



He was a County Agricultural Extension Agent and later a District Conservationist with the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Nebraska, where he was responsible for the design and implementation of thousands of acres of contour farming, retiring in March 1975.

He has been a resident of Vancouver, WA since 1979 and was active in the Master Gardening Program. Gene also helped organize and was President of the Ft. Vancouver Chapter of American Ex-POWs. He was a lifetime member of Disabled American Veterans, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his beloved and devoted wife of almost 74 years, Rosalie (Wiese) Liggett; a sister, Freda Hanke of Ballwin, MO; two sons, James Raymond of Cornish, NH, Ronald Dale of Littleton, CO and two daughters, Dorothy Jean Tilka of Vancouver, WA and Marianne Liggett Merriam of Reno, NV. He also leaves six grandsons, two granddaughters and ten great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his oldest son, Joseph Wayne; his parents James Ross and Mary Estella; and two brothers Harold and Robert Liggett.

Seymour Shefrin

1918 ~ 2000



No obituary was published at his request.

Sidney Thal

1918 ~ 2019



Sid passed away peacefully at home early Monday morning, December 9, 2019. He was born October 3, 1918 and turned 101 his last birthday. He lived with his daughter Sheree and her husband Ted for the last five years of his life and

had a long, wonderful, full life.

In addition to Sheree and her family, he is survived by a son Andy and another daughter Debbie.



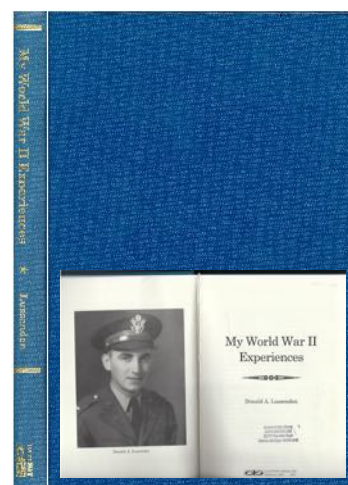
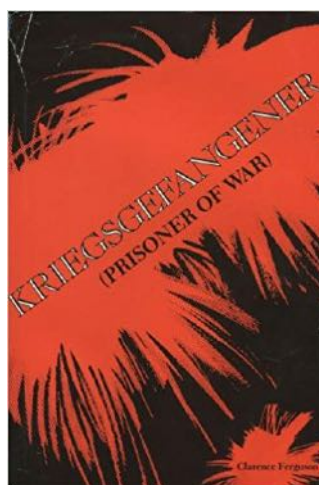
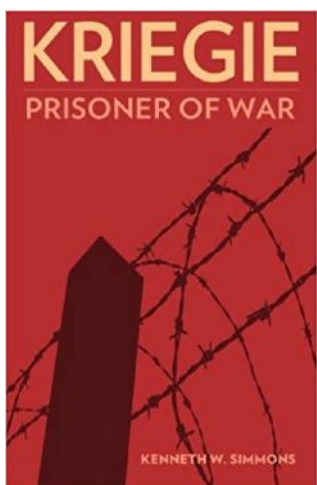
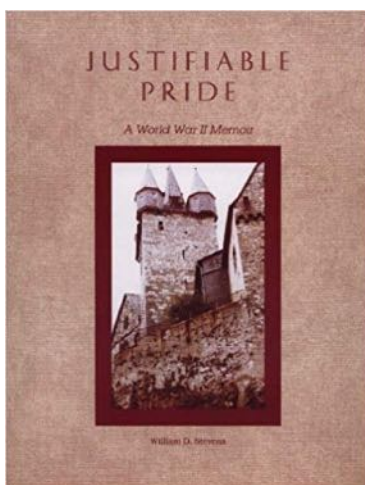
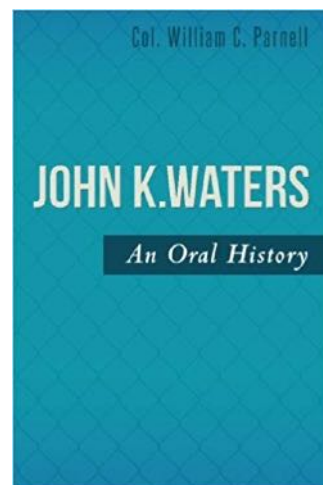
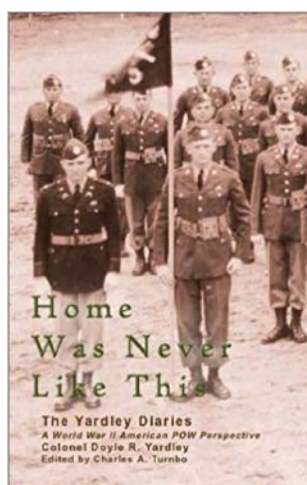
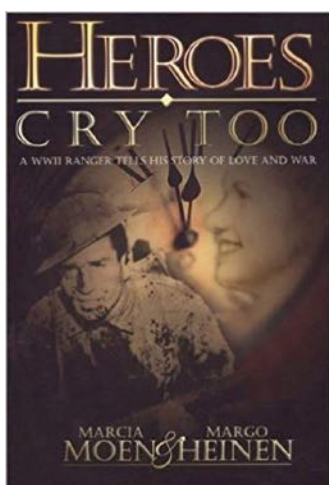
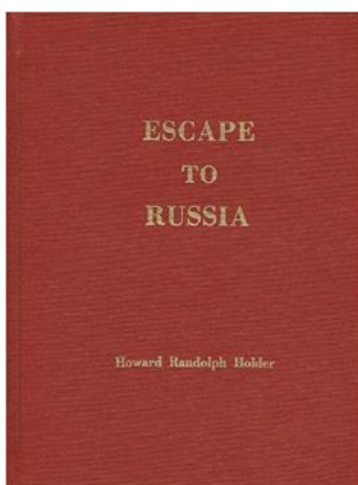
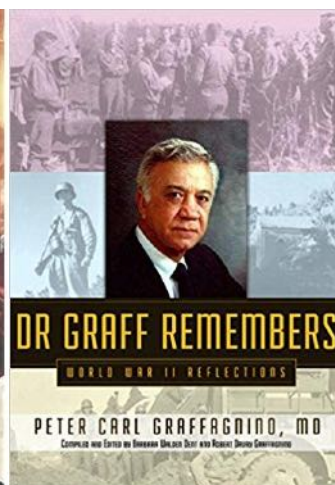
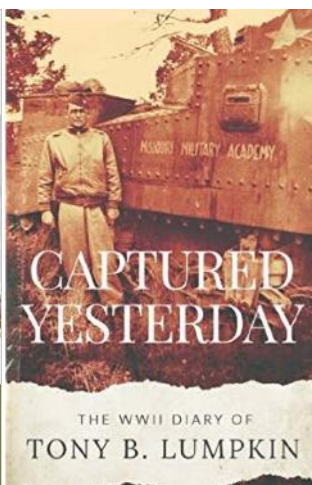
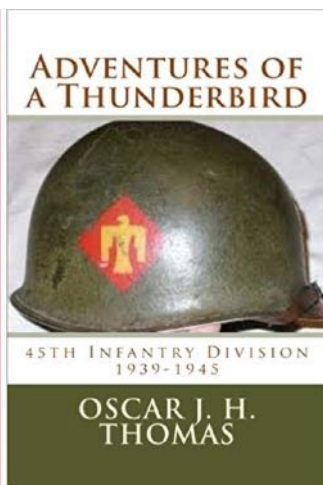
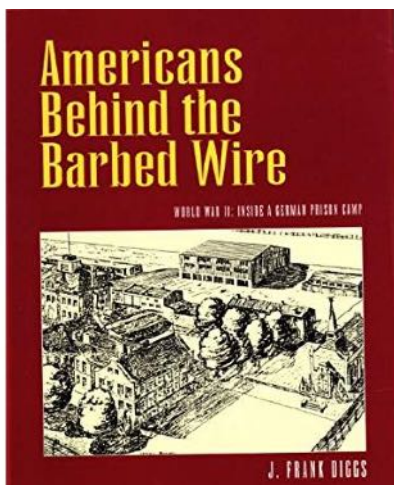
Sid had three grandchildren (Jordan, Beth and Zachary) and three great-grandchildren (Theo Ray, Beth and Brandon's son) and just born twins on November 22 (great-granddaughter Camryn Sidney and great-grandson Brooks Arthur, Jordan and Tiffany's children). He was thrilled to have his great-grandchildren.

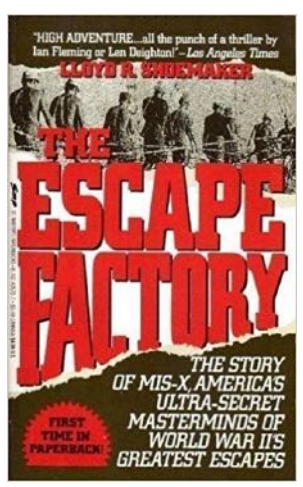
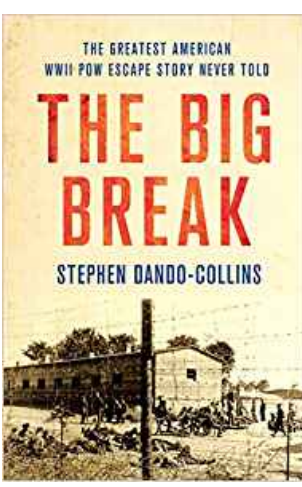
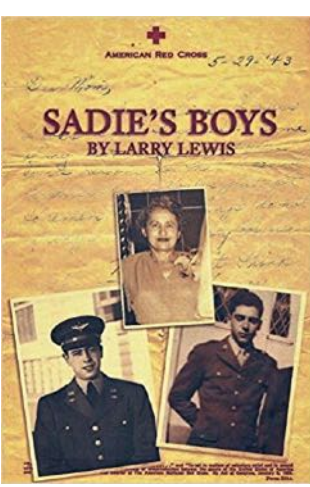
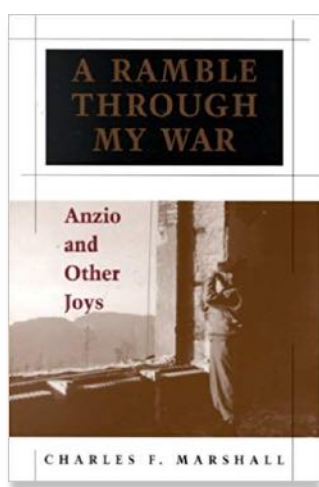
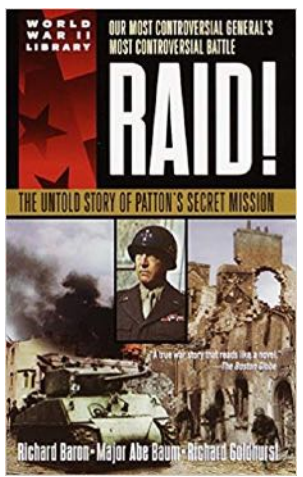
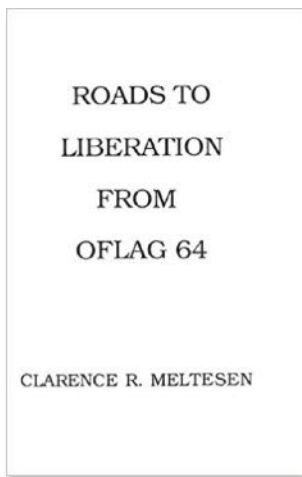
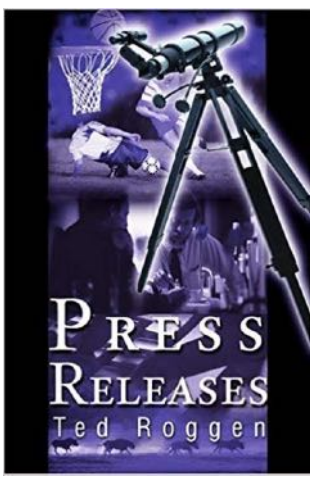
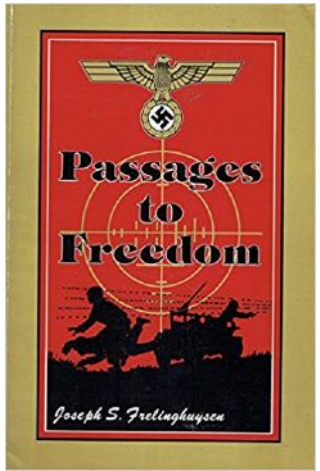
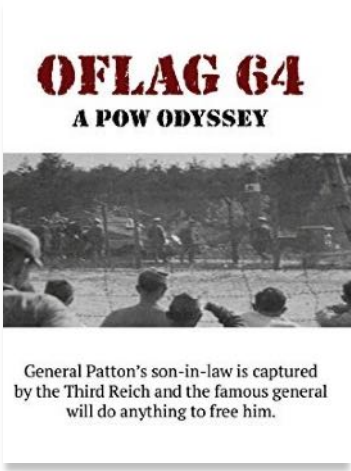
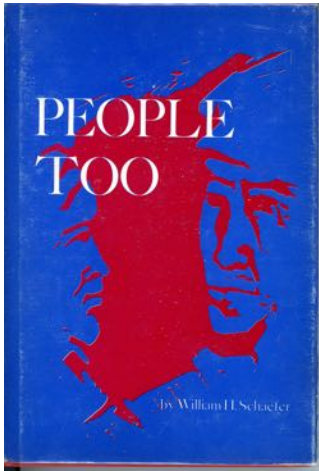
A graveside service was held Thursday, December 12.

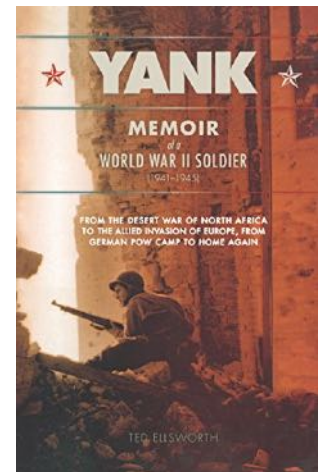
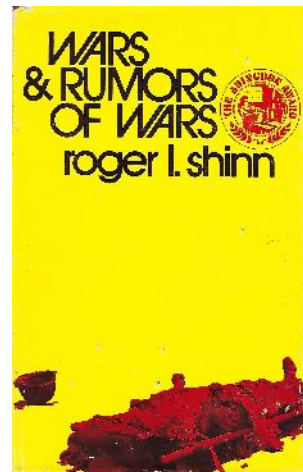
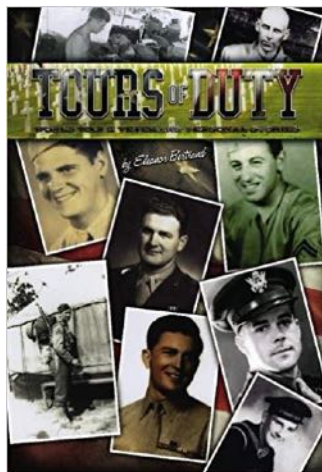
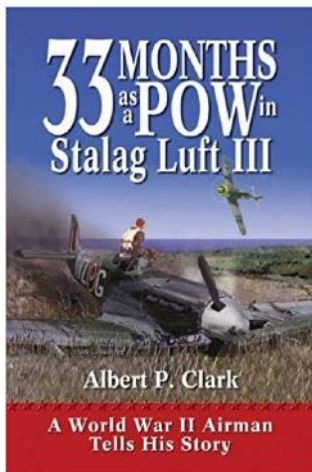
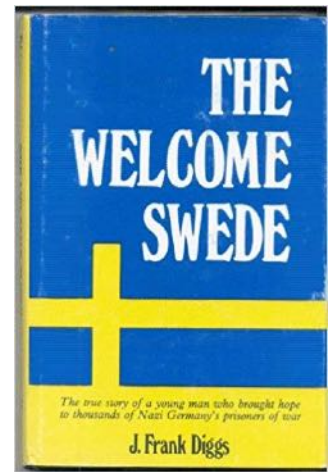
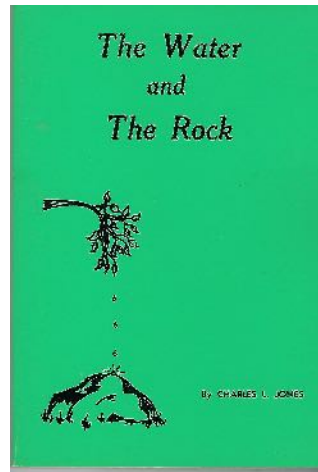
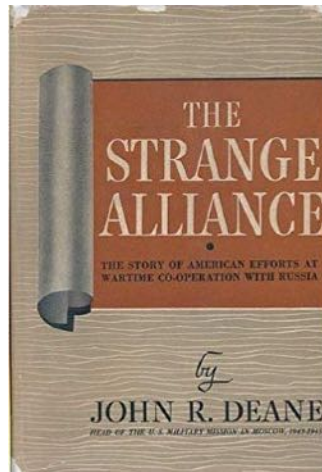
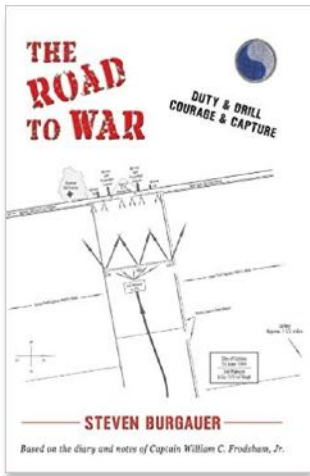


Publications

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







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

Additionally....

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

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

Finally....

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

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