

The

Post Oflag 64 Item

All the News That's
Been Geprüft

Your Quiet Hour
Companion

“Get Wise – ITEM-ize”

4th Quarter 2021

Good Ole USA

Of Undetermined Worth

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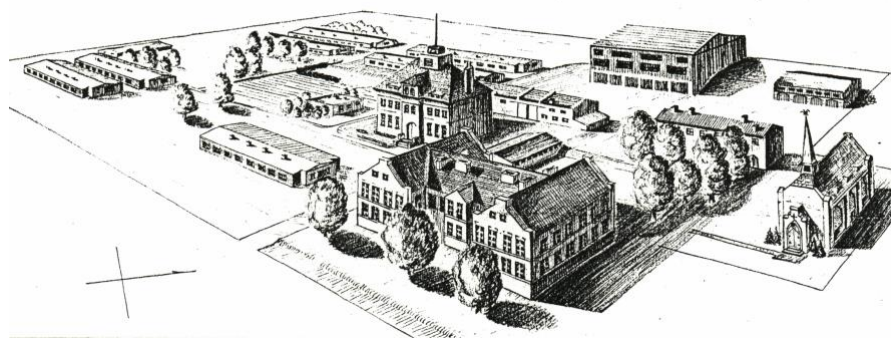
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We apologize to any others we may have overlooked and thank all who have contacted us.

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



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

New Year's Resolutions

Over the last almost two years, we have in many instances, due to COVID, found ourselves spending more time at home, sometimes wondering what to do. But having this time and opportunity has given many of us the desire to learn more about our families and do a little research. Families are so important, and by doing family history research we have an opportunity to connect both with those who are living and those who have gone before us. You've undoubtedly seen the commercials about connecting families.

We frequently get email from Kriegy families who are looking for more information about their Kriegy family members. It's exciting and rewarding to be able to find information for someone who didn't have it previously. And it's always appreciated by those who receive it. Wouldn't it be great to be able to serve others in this way? Why not make a resolution this year to serve someone else by volunteering to help find information for their Kriegy family member and other Kriegies?

The Kriegy Research Group meets on Zoom twice monthly for an hour. Everyone works at their own pace. Please email us if you'd be willing to join the KRG not only to help connect families, but to be a part of the effort of preparing information for the future museum in Szubin Poland. Try it, you'll like it!

Our best to you always,
Elodie Caldwell, ITEM Editor, elodie@oflag64.us
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Oflag 64



A Little Company Business

Many Thanks

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

thank
you!

Financial Contributions

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



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

Bret Job

2801 SW 46th St
Cape Coral FL 33914-6026

OR

Elodie Caldwell

2731 Terry Ave
Longview WA 98632-4437

4th Qtr. PF Contributions

Steven Burgauer

Warren Jones in memory
of his dad

Anne Kreutzer

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

Friends of Oflag 64, Inc.

12768 Turberville Lane
Oak Hill VA 20171-2214

OR

donate **ONLINE** at:

<https://friendsofotlag64.org/cont-act-us>

You can also access the donation page on the Polish-American Foundation website at:
<http://www.szubinpowcamps.org/en/foundation/support-us>

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

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

Researching Records



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

Donating Artifacts

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

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



May the new year bring you peace, happiness, and hope!

"Hope is the one thing that can help us get through the darkest of times." ~ Author Unknown

"Once you choose hope, anything's possible." ~ Christopher Reeve

Treasurer's Report

Thanks to Bret Job, son-in-law of Kriegy Ray Holmquist, for keeping our books and finances straight.

Month	Beginning Balance	Deposits	ITEM, Postage, Renewals	Misc	Ending Balance
Jan 1 2021	\$3,263.01	\$10	\$297.77	\$0.00	\$2,975.24
Feb 1 2021	\$2,975.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,975.24
Mar 1 2021	\$2,975.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,975.24
Apr 1 2021	\$2,975.24	\$0.00	\$209.75	\$0.00	\$2,765.49
May 1 2021	\$2,765.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,765.49
Jun 1 2021	\$2,765.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,765.49
Jul 1 2021	\$2,765.49	\$0.00	\$380.05	\$0.00	\$2,385.44
Aug 1 2021	\$2,385.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,385.44
Sep 1 2021	\$2,385.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,385.44
Oct 1 2021	\$2,385.44	\$100	\$167.01	\$0.00	\$2,318.43
Nov 1 2021	\$2,318.43	\$25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,343.43
Dec 1 2021	\$2,343.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,343.43



MAIL CALL



It's always a great pleasure hearing from our Kriegies, Kriegy families and friends during each quarter. Some who contacted us recently were new to our Oflag 64 Family, some had information to share, some thanked us for our website and for providing a source of information for them, some had questions, and some just wanted to say hello and wish us well. Thanks so much to the following for keeping us in "your" loop and for sending information. We love reading about how and what you are doing. Please stay safe and well!

- **Deb Altimus**, daughter of the late Kriegy John Mohn – new to our Oflag 64 family, responded to our request for more information about her dad; she shared a documentary video of him at https://youtu.be/MGqfKwX9a_w and information about a book regarding his experiences
- **Richard Brooks**, grandson of the late Kriegy John Terrence Maquire – wrote wanting to know more about what is still on the Oflag 64 site today and asked to be added to our email list
- **T.J. Bugg III**, son of the late Kriegy Thomas J. Bugg, Jr. – inquired about sending a donation in memory of his father; commented that he wished our country today could remember and appreciate those who gave so much so we would have the freedoms we enjoy today
- **Steve Burgauer**, author and friend of Oflag 64 – has written another book, this one is entitled FLIGHTS FOR FREEDOM, about a brave WWI American pilot – check these websites for more information: <https://sites.google.com/site/stevenburgauer/> and https://www.amazon.com/Flights-Freedom-Steven-Burgauer/dp/108798310X/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=flights+for+freedom+by+steven+burgauer&qid=1634861034&sr=8-1; also sent a donation to the Postage Fund (Thanks so much Steve!)

- **Neal Cory**, son of the late Kriegy William Cory – agreed to donate some of his dad’s documents and photos digitally when not able to donate the actual artifacts to the future museum project
- **Lynn Alexis Doyle**, daughter of the late Kriegy Jerry Alexis – responded to our request for a bio on her dad which she is willing to write; also asked to be added to our email list
- **Susan Hinds Harms**, daughter of the late Kriegy Howard Hinds – updated her dad’s bio and sent it to us; gave us permission to print it in this issue of the ITEM
- **Warren Jones**, son of the late Kriegy Charles L. Jones – shared a portion of a book written by his dad; he has written his dad’s biography and added some great photos (see Kriegy News and Information section for photos); also sent a donation to the Postage Fund (Thanks so much Warren!)
- **Ric Kolseth (Lost Province Productions)** and manager of our website **POW Database page** – continues to update our database page as we send changes to him; we thank him for his diligence
- **Slawomir Kowalczyk**, grandson of a Pole who helped our POWs – new to our Oflag 64 family, recently contacted us asking for information on Kriegy Maurice Topping, who was hidden by his grandfather after escaping the march
- **Anne Hoskot Kreutzer**, daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel R. Hoskot – sent a donation to the Postage Fund (Thanks so much Anne!)
- **Pamela Skells Ladley**, daughter of the late Kriegy James Skells – answered our request to share her contact information with a new Kriegy family member; also provided several pages of information about her father’s capture and escape, which can now be found on our website at www.oflag64.us
- **David Little**, grandson of the late Kriegy Thomas Wingate – sent a photo of his grandfather standing next to a re-creation of a “smokey joe” stove sent to him after he returned from the war (see Kriegy News and Information section); also is sharing his research related to Oflag 64
- **Keith Lucey**, son of the late George Lucey – new to our Oflag 64 family, responded to our request for information on his dad; he’ll also work on writing his dad’s bio
- **Lucy Lussenden**, widow of the late Kriegy Donald Lussenden – donated five books to the museum project
- **Kevin Morrisey**, grandson of the late Kriegy John C. Morrisey – found our website recently and asked for information that would help him learn more about his grandfather; he’s also looking for a copy of “The Colonel” by Kriegy James Skells
- **John Northcutt**, son of the late Kriegy Enoch Northcutt – phoned to get more information about Oflag 64; also sent information about the manor house his father and other Kriegies stayed in after escaping from the long march (see Kriegy News and Information section)
- **Peter Notbohm**, son of the late Kriegy William Notbohm – shared a beautiful photo of his dad’s final resting place with a flag and red, white, and blue carnations, located in Fond Du Lac WI
- **Gail Rahal**, widow of the late Kriegy Nicholas Rahal – contacted us asking about adding her husband’s name to the **POW virtual cemetery page** of Find-a-Grave when he already had a memorial on Find-a-Grave (new instructions at the end of this ITEM)
- **Karl Sigler**, grandson of the late Kriegy Thornton Sigler – previously scanned a copy of his grandfather’s POW diary and put it online at <https://archive.org/details/WwiiPowJournalOfThorntonV.Sigler>; please take a look at his thorough record of POW days and experiences – it’s very enlightening
- **Kathy Zelazny Thomas**, daughter of the late Kriegy Joseph Zelazny – joined our Kriegy Research Group offering to help find Kriegy-related information on and for the Oflag 64 POW Virtual Cemetery Find-a-Grave page
- **Robert Thomas**, son of the late Kriegy Murrell E. Thomas – called for information regarding his dad and whether or not he was mentioned in any books or publications regarding his capture; he mentioned that many of his dad’s WWII artifacts are in the Cloud County Museum in Concordia KS

- **Paul Thriffiley III**, son of the late Kriegy Paul Thriffiley, Jr. – at our request, for purposes of writing bios, was able to locate several articles and photos of two different Kriegies; is working on another
- **Robert Vicek**, son of the late Kriegy John Vicek – wrote to thank us for the last ITEM which gave him more information about his dad’s POW story; also sent a photo of his father’s WWII map gauge which he still has in his possession and used while orienteering as he was growing up (see Kriegy News and Information section); also sending a donation to the museum project (Thanks so much Robert!)
- **Marvin Williams**, son of WWII vet Marvin Williams (not from Oflag 64) – new to our Oflag 64 family, contacted us regarding the models of the camp, also sent copies of correspondence his dad received from Col. Thomas Drake after the war

Kriegy News and Information



and best wishes to our great **KRIEGY PATRIOTS AND HEROES**



Ed Graf
January 7 – Age 100



John R. Rodgers, Sr.
February 9 – Age 99



Ted Roggen
February 22 – Age 104

* * * * *

When our Kriegies were marched out of Oflag 64 on their way to Hammelburg Germany, approximately 350 miles away, they ended up spending the night at different locations, many of them were large hay barns. Several Kriegies were successful at concealing themselves from their German captors in order to escape the march the next day. Some ended up at the manor houses pictured below. The photo on the left, provided by John Northcutt, son of the late Kriegy Enoch Northcutt shows the Grocholin Manor House that was located on the Baron von Rosen Estate where Enoch stayed. The photo on the right, provided by Polish-American Foundation President Mariusz Winiecki, shows the Wegheim Manor House, located on the same estate, about a mile away. Kriegies listed on the back of the Grocholin photo with Enoch are DeMott, Carpenter, Sito, Kennedy, Townsend, Topping, Murphy, Collopy, Chofnas, and Comstock.



A blast from the past.....For anyone not familiar with professions or activities of our Oflag 64 Kriegies, check out these clippings that were published in original ITEMS in 1944.

Lagerites Once Built Rigs, Watches, Planes

Nearly every profession from accountant to zoologist is represented by the 300-odd officers here, according to an ITEM survey last month.

More than 70 civil occupations were listed including baby specialists and morticians.

There are, for instance, 7 doctors, 12 engineers, 7 lawyers, 5 chemists, 5 newspapermen, and 9 professors.

One fourth of the officers in camp are listed as students, clerks, salesmen and farmers.

Some of the more unusual occupations revealed are:

Professional Fund Raiser, Lt. Donald Waful.

Fingerprint Classifier, Lt. Sid Waldman.

Broker, Capt. James Fraser.

Commandant of Cadets, Capt. Tony Lumpkin.

Jeweler, Lt. Ed Hirt.

Cotton Merchant, Lt. Col. Charles Jones.

Golf Pro, Lt. Gerald Long.

Winter Sports Instructor, Lt. William Burghardt.

YMCA Secretary, Capt. Ellsworth Cundiff.

Oil Rig Builder, Lt. Floyd Leming.

Fire Insurance Inspector, Lt. Bob Aschim.

Other fields include: 7 business managers, 3 machinists, 11 accountants, 2 aircraftsmen, an instrument maker, a pay master, 3 steel workers, a statistician, 3 railroadmen, a restaurant operator and two petroleum engineers.

ITEM, March 2, 1944

Twenty To Receive YMCA Sport Badge for '43 Season

YMCA sports badges will be awarded to 20 officers of Oflag 64 for promotion of and participation in athletics during the calendar year 1943, according to a recent announcement by Col. Thomas D. Drake.

The officers are: Frank Aten, Ed Berlinsky, Billy Bingham, Bob Conwell, Dick Englehart, Leo Farber, Earl Hoffman, Howard Holder, Verris Hubbell, Herb Johnson, John Kamps, Pete Knapp, Vic Laughlin, Bill Luttrell, Jim Mac-Arevey, Frank Maxwell, Bob Oshlo, Henry Perry, Rocco Pravidica and John Shinn.

ITEM, May 1, 1944



GLEE CLUB, left to right — Front row: Sharpe, Johnson, Jones, Boltan, Carlson, Waful, Cipriani, Ford, director. Second row: Carpenter, Willis, Thal, Holt, Holder, Stetson, Truett, Fraser, Campbell. Third Row: Hooker, Maxwell, Farber, Davis, Fabian.

ITEM, June 1, 1944

(It's also interesting to note how few Kriegies were held in the camp during those early months of 1944.)

November 1944 marked the 1st anniversary of the printing of the ITEM while at Oflag 64. These two clippings came from the November 1, 1944 issue.

BARBED WIRE HOBBIES

Kriegies do the damndest things!

In a recent ITEM survey of hobbies, Oflag inmates were discovered to be doing everything from making badges to learning the latest dance steps, in an all-out effort to make time fly. For instance:

Red Bancker says you can't ever tell, so he's studying Russian diligently.

Hugh Gilmore Hogan, the smiling paratrooper, is an expert at designing the latest type homes.

Harry Frazee receives lots of pictures, so his pet hobby is making frames.

Sports Operator Ed Spicher's greatest enjoyment is saving German cartoons and confiscating all German pictures of American troops and tanks.

If you smell a delicious aroma of stew or chocolate pie, the man behind it is big John Truett.

Bill Swanson, of Dixieland Swing, spends plenty of hrs working out intricate Arthur Murray dance steps.

Harold Craft wants something to laugh about so he clips all Deutsch political cartoons.

Lt. Col. Max Gooler guarantees smokeless heaters that are flawless.

Horticulturist John Creech is occupying himself by collecting data on the classification of flowers.

Amon Carter has a sample of every cigarette cover that has ever hit the Oflag.

All-round Lou Otterbein makes badges that would put some of the commercial firms to shame.

Ed Kitchens uses Ranger tactics to embroider some classy organizational insignia.

John Patterson just "asks questions."

Lt. Col. Charles Jones notifies the folks at home that he has mastered the German language by sending out postal cards in German, and printing them in old German script.

Sgt John O'Donnell has been working over a year designing and embroidering division insignia of Uncle Sam's troops.

Richard Ortiz, barber orderly, makes watch bands, leather cigarette cases, insignia, and carves and whittles wooden chains. Ortiz also goes a step further and whips out leather gloves and jackets, as well as hand-made overseas caps.



This is the house that the Kriegies lived in.

This is the gate that led to the house that the Kriegies lived in.



This is the lock that they put on the gate that led to the house that the Kriegies lived in.

*This is the Kriegie who sighed and sighed
When he saw the lock that they put on the gate
That led to the house that the Kriegies lived in.*



*These are the Kriegies who tried and tried
To help the Kriegie who sighed and sighed
When he saw the lock that they put on the gate
That led to the house that the Kriegies lived in.*



*These are the things of reason and rhyme
Designed for pleasure and passing time
By all the Kriegies who tried and tried etc.*



*Today is the birthday first and last
Of the monthly paper (you might remember)
We started to publish last November
To tell of the things of reason and rhyme
Designed for pleasure and passing time
By all the Kriegies who tried and tried*



*To help the Kriegie who sighed and sighed
When he saw the lock that they put on the gate
That led to the house that the Kriegies lived in.*



Happy Birthday, Item!



The photo of this map gauge, also called a curvimeter, was **sent to us by Robert Vicek**. It was used by his father, the late **Kriegy John Vicek**, during the war and then given to him and used in orienteering as he was growing up. We're now aware of two kriegies who possessed these while at Oflag 64. Any others?

The Friends of Oflag 64 Artifacts Committee and Oflag 64 Remembered Kriegy Research Group are interested in learning what other types of artifacts used at Oflag 64 are still in possession of Kriegy families.

This photo was sent by **David Little**, grandson of the late **Kriegy Thomas H. Wingate**. Pictured is Thomas standing behind a recreation of a camp stove used during WWII. It was based on letters and instructions by POWs from different camps.

Thomas gave demonstrations periodically and the stove got quite a bit of attention.

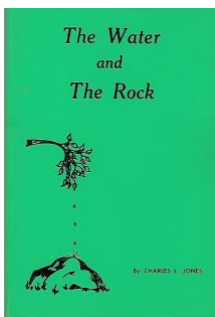
For anyone interested, David has instructions and a blueprint for the stove. Let us know if you would like more information.



The photos below were sent by **Warren Jones, son of the late Kriegy Charles L. Jones**. While in the camp and in order to maintain his sanity, Charlie learned how to embroider. He asked his fiancé to send him a tablecloth. It was in the Spring of 1944 that he finished the embroidery on the tablecloth. Charlie also embroidered a colorful cloth of a house built into a hillside with trees around it, a cornucopia and the words "For these we give thanks". This embroidery hung on the wall of Charlie's home until it was given to Warren for safekeeping and to honor the memory of Charlie in Warren's home.



In his book "The Water and the Rock", Charlie wrote about learning to embroider and how he came up with embroidery hoops. Ingenious.



"There were small groups organized in discussions, card games, knitting or embroidering and even a Shakespearean group who read the plays of The Bard in character. It all seemed like a far cry from the much more active and physical time fillers which might be expected from an American group. But it was soon learned that something to do with your hands was as important as occupation of your mind. In his first letter home to [Myrtle], [Charlie] asked for something in this area to be sent him, and he suggested he might want to try embroidering. He could hardly believe he would be up to the challenge of cross stitching the large tablecloth which he received from her some four months later. There it was complete with thread and needles. But he quickly learned that one of the vital tools in embroidering was embroidery hoops. He also learned that German needles, which he could get from the canteen, were superior to American needles. He cut the top out of a powdered milk tin can lid with his pocket knife and fitted it over the detached rim of the can and found this to make an ideal set of embroidery hoops. He spent hundreds of quiet hours on his task over the next several months and was rewarded with the satisfaction of creating his own contribution to beauty".

Kriegy Bios, Artifacts, Artifact Descriptions

Thanks to **Susan Hinds Harms** for providing this family-written bio on her dad.

2nd Lt. Howard Kenneth Hinds **104th Inf Div, 414th Inf. Co. E**

1914 - 1979

Howard Kenneth Hinds was born October 10, 1914, to William Timothy Hinds and Algia Jane Holder Hinds in Loving, Oklahoma. He was the eighth child and fourth son of W.T. and Algia. He graduated from Poteau High School, Poteau, Oklahoma, in 1933. He worked briefly as a cook, then at a car dealership in Tulsa, but in 1936 he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was sent to Camp Jackson, South Carolina, for Basic Training.



Howard at Basic Training in Camp Jackson. Howard is 2nd row from the top, 5th from left

During his training, he qualified Expert with the M1, Expert with a carbine, MM with a pistol, and MM with the BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle).

Between 1937 and 1942, Hinds had two major duty assignments. First he served with the Quartermaster Training Center, C Co, 20th INF. in Ft Francis Warren, Wyoming.

By 1941, Hinds was in Ft. Ray, Sitka, Alaska, with the Alaska Harbor Defense. Sitka was the site of a radar aircraft spotting station and anti-aircraft defense group. Due to service in Alaska during the Japanese attacks and occupation of Attu and Kiska, Hinds was awarded the American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star.



In 1943, Hinds was assigned to Ft Benning, Georgia, to Officer Candidate School. Subsequently, he served as Training Officer in Camp Adair, Oregon with the 104th INF Div., 414th Inf., before transferring to Ft Carson, Colorado, for training prior to deployment. The 104th had been activated on Sept 15, 1942, and arrived in the European Theatre through Cherbourg on Sept 7, 1944, that is D+91 after D-Day. If they had arrived on continent within 90 days of D- Day, the 104th would have received a D-Day Medal.

The first elements of the 104th entered combat on Oct 23, 1944. Only 27 members of the 104th suffered capture by the enemy, Howard was one of those 27. The 104th suffered over 7,000

casualties, with 1294 killed and 5,305 wounded. Men missing totaled 385. The Bronze Star was awarded to 1,869 men of the 104th; Howard received a Bronze Star.



104th Timberwolf Patch

After arrival in Theatre, they were transported by rail car to company Headquarters; the command post was at Westmalle or Oostmalle, Antwerp, Belgium.

Lt. Hinds was assigned to night fighting and reconnaissance as platoon leader, Co. E. On or about October 24, 1944, Lt. Hinds and Co. E was sent out on a mission to find, and place the location of the German Nazi Troops in the Belgium countryside near Antwerp. Lt. Hinds and his platoon came back and reported the enemy was well hidden in the timber just beyond the Wurstwezel - Breda main road. The 104th, though an American infantry, was under the British Field Marshal Montgomery. The Brits had reported no German troops were close to the area. So instead of believing Lt. Hinds and Co. E, the commander of the 414th believed British intelligence. Co E was ordered out again the next night October 25, 1944. The first attack took place near the customs house on the Wurstwezel - Breda road.

In the ditches on the side of the road during the first attack, Lt. Hinds spent much of his time crawling back and forth reassuring the younger soldiers that re-enforcements were coming and they would all be ok. The machine gun fire was so intense and the roar of the artillery barrage kept the soldiers low. They could see the fire power coming from the tree line, right where Co. E had reported their position on the 24th, Lt. Hinds was knocked unconscious by an exploding artillery shell. He was awakened the next morning by the butt of a Nazi K-98. Some of the young soldiers were killed, some were wounded, a few escaped, and Lt. Hinds and a few others were taken prisoner. Indeed, Lt. Hinds and his Co E had been correct. The enemy was close at hand.

This photo of a photo in the 104th Timberwolves Museum in Breda, Belgium, depicts what the ditch may have looked like in 1944; the photo on the right shows what the exact ditch looked like in 2011.



Hinds was taken first to Amersfoort Camp in Belgium and quickly transferred to Fallingbostal Camp in Germany, where he was interrogated for 2 weeks. From Fallingbostal he was taken by rail car to Oflag 64 in Poland. Due to a Polish coin found in his possession at the time of capture, the Germans thought Lt. Hinds was a Polish spy. After arriving in Oflag 64 he was kept in solitary confinement and was not released until just before Christmas. There is little information of his stay at Oflag 64, except that he lost approximately 50 lbs. in 6 months.

There were occasional Red Cross supplies – in one instance, the Red Cross sent ice skates – not exactly needed. The German guards as a joke removed all the right foot skates before giving them to the prisoners. The fact that the Red Cross sent ice skates to POWs was a joke in itself.

January 1945, was the coldest winter on record. The Russian Army was closing in on Poland from the east. Starting on January 21, 1945, seven columns of POWs were marched from Oflag 64 west to various Stalags in East Germany, over 350 miles. Through the deep winter snow, sleeping in hay barns, cow sheds, or on frozen ground, they marched not knowing their fate. They often lacked adequate drinking water and rations were sparse. Lt. Hinds' column was marched to Stalag III A near Luckenwalde, Germany.

After arrival at Stalag IIIA, Hinds understood that the Russians would soon overtake the camp. When they did, the Russian army commandeered all the rations and any blankets/clothing for their troops. The POWs were not released; the area was in chaos and possibly such a large release of unarmed men could have doomed most of them to death. The Russians informed the Senior American officer that all prisoners would be kept in the compound, not liberated, and if any tried to escape they would be shot. He was also informed that the POWs were soon to be evacuated to the Port of Odessa on the Black Sea to be released to the American government there. Hinds made the decision that he did not want to remain in Russian custody and certainly did not want to go east to Odessa. At an opportune moment, Hinds recognized a gap in a fence and ran for freedom. He said later he could hear footfalls behind him and thought surely he would be shot or at least tackled. After scurrying under the fence, he found that he was followed by a French Lieutenant, also not wanting to be in Russian custody and seizing the same opportunity to escape the camp. This was April 1945. After a good run, they were able to steal some bicycles. Daddy had never ridden a bicycle but quickly learned. He and the Frenchman could not communicate except by hand gestures. They traveled by night to evade both Germans and Russians. To the delight of Lt. Hinds, the first American troops he came across were members of the 104th infantry. He was repatriated near Leipzig, Germany on May 5 1945. At the time of his repatriation, the Command Post for the 104th was at Delitz, Westphalia, Germany.



Lt. Hinds soon after rejoining his unit.

Lt Hinds was promoted to Capt. later in 1945, and subsequently to Major. During Hinds Army service he was awarded the following:

- Bronze Star
- Good Conduct Medal with Clasp
- Presidential Unit Emblem
- American Defense Service Medal
- American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star
- European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Three Bronze Service Stars
- WW II Victory Medal

- National Defense Service Medal
- Korean Service Medal With Two Bronze Service Stars
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- United Nations Service Medal
- Honorable Service Lapel Button WW II
- Expert Badge with Rifle Bar
- POW Medal

Following is the repatriation de-brief, taken in August 1945, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, after Lt. Hinds was stateside.

REMARKS (Use additional sheets if necessary)

On 26 Oct 44, my platoon was given a reconnaissance mission to determine the strength and location of enemy in the northeastern part of Belgium and western Holland near the small town of Breda. The mission was completed and the information returned to my battalion headquarters. On the night of 26 Oct, my battalion received the order to make a night attack on the positions which I had reconnoitered. The route of approach was selected by the battalion commander who disregarded the information that I had brought back from the reconnaissance. The route he selected was directly into the most heavily fortified sector of the enemy line and even though I tried to argue a change of course, I could not persuade him to change the route he had selected. The enemy was estimated at one company of infantry which was deployed under good cover and in prepared positions on flat ground. Their machine guns were arranged to form an interlacing path of fire in the sector we were attacking. My platoon led the attack at 2300 hours 26 Oct 44 and upon approaching the enemy lines we received heavy small arms fire. My platoon suffered heavy casualties and the remainder was kept pinned down by continuous fire. Our supporting artillery opened fire on the enemy positions and I was within the impact area. I was dazed by the concussion of our artillery and sometime before daybreak, I was picked up by two enemy riflemen. I was taken to their regimental CP for interrogation and later transferred to concentration camps further inside Germany. Five enlisted men, the only remaining members of my platoon, were captured with me. Liberated 21 Apr 45 by the Russians at Luckenwalde. Returned to US control 6 May 45 when we contacted Co A, 47 Inf, 9 Div.

This is a complete statement of all the pertinent facts of the circumstances surrounding my capture and return to military control, and I have no further information to offer in this connection.

Howard K. Hinds

ENDORSEMENTS HOWARD K. HINDS, 2d Lt., Inf
 1st Indorsement AG&SF REDIST STATION, Hot Springs, Ark. 23 Aug 45.
 TO: COMMANDING GENERAL, 8th SvC, Dallas 2, Texas.
 Forwarded.
 FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER: *Robert A. Barr*
 ROBERT A. BARR, 1st Lt., AUS
 Adjutant

2nd Indorsement Hq, Eighth Service Command, ASF, Dallas 2, Texas
 TO: The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.
 Approved in compliance with par 18 1/2 WD Ltr AG 383.6 (31 May 45), GRS-A-SF&AM-M,
 22 Jun 45, subject: Change No. 2 to POW, as amended.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

On Dec 8, 1945, Lt. Hinds married Mattye Gwendolyn Butler Hinds in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Together they raised 5 children, 4 girls and one boy.



Hinds completed a 27-yr. commitment to the U.S. Army. After service in Europe, Hinds was sent to Japan with the Army of Occupation. From the end of the Japanese occupation of Korea until the official start of the Korean War, hostile engagements were taking place between South Korea and communists from the north. Capt. Hinds was deployed from Japan to Korea in 1948, with the 129 Trng BN 23rd INF Reg. He was there with a group of several hundred U.S. advisers and training officers to train the South Korean Army. These are photos from service in Korea. The patch he is wearing is that of the 1st Corps (I Corps);

concentric circles black, then white with a black center circle. The photo was probably winter 1948.



Other assignments during his 27 year career included Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, Ft. Bliss, Texas, Ft Hood, Texas, and Ft. Chaffee, Arkansas as well as an additional deployment to Germany in 1960, with the 45th INF Div. in Ulm, Germany.

The deployment to Germany was just a short 15 years after the end of WWII, and that was still fresh in Hinds memory. In mid-August 1961, the Autobahn was clogged with convoys of U.S. troops and materiel heading east from Ulm and all parts of West Germany; Hinds spent 3 weeks during the summer of 1961, at the East German border when the Berlin Wall was built. This was a defining event of the Cold War.

After retirement from the Army in November, 1962, Hinds served his fellow veterans as the American Legion Service Officer at the V.A. Hospital in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He earned a college degree during that period from Rose State College.

Howard K. Hinds loved to fish; he died on 29 June 1979, drowned while fishing at his lake house on Lake Eufaula, Oklahoma. He is buried, with his wife Mattye, at Post Cemetery on Ft. Sill, Lawton, Oklahoma.

Howard served proudly and with honor.



* * * * *

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

**Artifact Inventory ID No. 16.12
(Class I Artifact)**



Donated by Janice, Susan, Marjory, and Randolph Holder, children of Howard Randolph (Boomer) Holder and his wife Clementi L. Holder (*photo by Marjory Holder*)

Artifact Description: Y.M.C.A. Medal No. 2

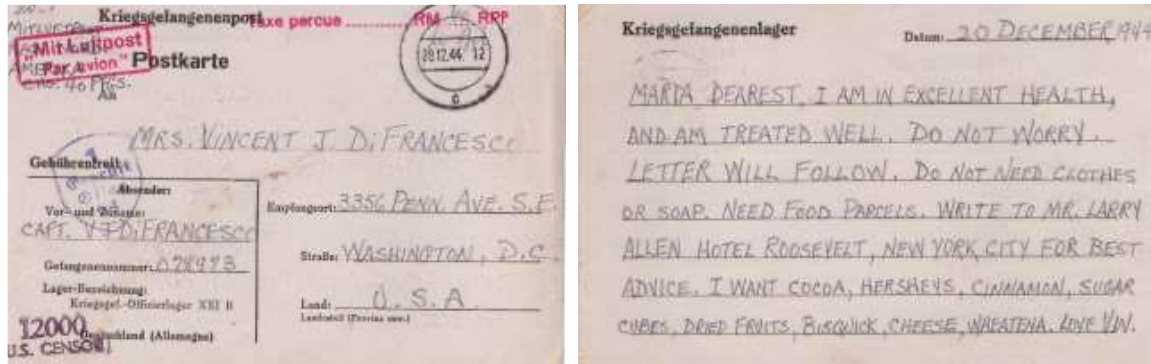
Artifact History: 2LT Howard Randolph Holder received this medal for coming in 2nd Place in a track meet in Oflag 64 during September 1944 (See *Escape to Russia*, Pages xii & 127).

Photo of Oflag 64 POW:



2LT Howard Randolph Holder shortly after being captured (*photo from Holder Family Archives*)

Artifact Inventory ID No. 15.10 (Class I Artifact)



Donated by Pat Bender (photos by David Stewart)

Artifact Description: 20 December 1944 POW postcard from Di Francesco to Mrs. Di Francesco

Artifact History: On 20 December 1944, CPT Vincent J. Di Francesco MD sent a postcard to his wife Mrs. Maria A. Di Francesco which was postmarked on 28 December 1944. While the postcard was issued to Oflag XXI-B, the censor's stamp indicates that the postcard was sent from Oflag 64. Di Francesco asked his wife to send food and contact Lawrence "Larry" Edmond Allen (a former Oflag 64 Krieger) to get advice on shipping a parcel.

Photo of Oflag 64 POW:



CPT Vincent J. Di Francesco MD circa 1942 (photo from Di Francesco Family Archives)

Do you have one of these? This 1940's Rolex watch was made in the 1940s and was designed for use by military personnel for training exercises and combat operations. In August 1943, a representative from Montreux Rolex visited Oflag 64 and sold quite a few of these Rolex watches to possibly 300+ Kriegies at that time. We're not sure how many purchased them, but of those who did, some may have worn them while in the camp, and Kriegy families may still be in possession of them. The Artifacts Committee in association with the Friends of Oflag 64 non-profit is looking for one. If you have one you would be willing to donate, they would be most appreciative. Please email Dave Stewart at dslvtx@gmail.com if you have questions and/or would be willing to donate.



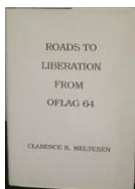
Publications

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

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

Looking for these? Please contact.....

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



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



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

TAPS




Over the last year we have learned of the deaths of the following Kriegy Patriots and Heroes. We mourn their passing and honor them for their great service and sacrifice during WWII.

- 1982 George A. Lucey
- 1985 John W. Vicek
- 1987 Richard M. Rossbach
- 2003 Marvin R. Drum
- 2005 John J. Mohn
- 2008 James F. Ralstin
- 2014 John C. Morrissey, Jr.
- 2015 James A. Rightley
- 2021 Richard W. Baron
- 2021 Warren R. Ohlhorst
- 2021 James N. Yamazaki

George A. Lucey

1917 ~ 1982



Col. George A. Lucey, (USA retired), 65, of Clearwater, died Friday (Jan. 1, 1982). Born in Swampscott, Mass., he came here in 1975 from Boston and retired as a colonel in the U.S. Army. He was a  prisoner of war for two years, escaping through Russia. His military decorations include Legion of Merit and Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters. He attended Espiritu Santo Catholic Church, Safety Harbor, was a 1938 graduate of Norwich University in Vermont, a member of the Military Order of World Wars, Retired Officers Association, Norwich University Florida Club, First Armoured Division Association and the Florida Chapter, and a

member of Graduate Command and General Staff College. Survivors include his wife Elvinia L. "Bitsy"; a son Keith E., Miami Beach, and his aunt Ruth Mitchell, Westwood Mass. Moss Dunedin Chapel.

Originally printed in the Tampa Bay Times (St. Petersburg Florida) on Sunday, January 3, 1982.

John J. Mohn 1919 ~ 2005



John J. Mohn, 85, of 12691 South Ave., passed away Tuesday morning at his residence, following an extended illness.

He was born June 17, 1919 in Akron, the son of John A. and Birdie Pauline Isenhour Mohn. He moved to the local area in 1957.

Mr. Mohn was a clinical psychologist who taught at several universities, including Youngstown State University and Mount Union College. He was also guidance director for the Poland schools. He retired in 1990 after 40 years working in his field. He had received his undergraduate degree from Akron University and his master's degree from Case Western Reserve University.

He was a Purple Heart recipient having served in WWII as a U.S. Army Major in the 106th Infantry Division. He was captured in Belgium at the Battle of the Bulge and was a P.O.W. for five months before he was liberated by U.S. Forces at Gars Inn in Germany. He was one of 100 who survived out of a total of 7,000 who were captured. He was a member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, V.F.W, the 106th Division Association, Phi Kappa Tau and Psi Chi.

Survivors include his wife, the former Cheri Roberts, whom he married August 30, 1954, a daughter, Mrs. Richard (Debora) Altimus of Massillon; a sister-in-law, Mrs. Robert (Helen) Mohn; two grandchildren, Mandy Altimus and Marc Altimus; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert Mohn and Earl Horton, and a sister, Ella Bellamy.

Friends may call from 7 to 9 pm. Today at the Seederly-Mong & Beck Funeral Home in North Lima, where there will be services at 1 p.m. Friday with the Rev. Barry Stirbens officiating.

A full military service will be conducted by American Legion Benjamin Post No. 290 of Columbiana.

Burial will be at North Lima Cemetery.

John C. Morrissey, Jr. 1916 ~ 2014



John "Bud" Morrissey, Jr., of Orlando, Florida, passed September 9th, 2014, peacefully and comforted by his wife. "Bud" was 97 years old and is survived by his wife Margaret, daughter

Janet, two sons John and Bill, seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. A retired army officer, he fought in World War II and the Korean War, earning two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star, and Purple Heart. Bud loved his family, his fishing, and a good poker game. He was a constant in his family's life, always supportive and encouraging them to be their best. The love Bud had for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren assures that his legacy will live on.

John's full obituary can be found at:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/winter-park-fl/john-morrissey-6115888>



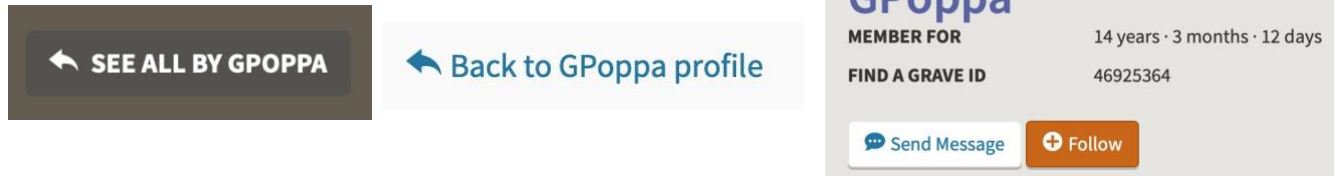
Oflag 64 POW Virtual Cemetery

Last ITEM, we mentioned finding the Oflag 64 POW Memorial page on Find-A-Grave. We have since discovered that if a Kriegy already has a memorial on Find-a-Grave, to have him also showing on the Oflag

64 POW virtual cemetery, you must email the POW's Find-a-Grave number (found on the memorial page) to the creator of the virtual cemetery page and he will add the Kriegy to the list. If you don't have a burial location or number, send him the Kriegy's name and he will try to locate the Kriegy in one of the various resources at his disposal. You can reach the creator by accessing the following link.

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

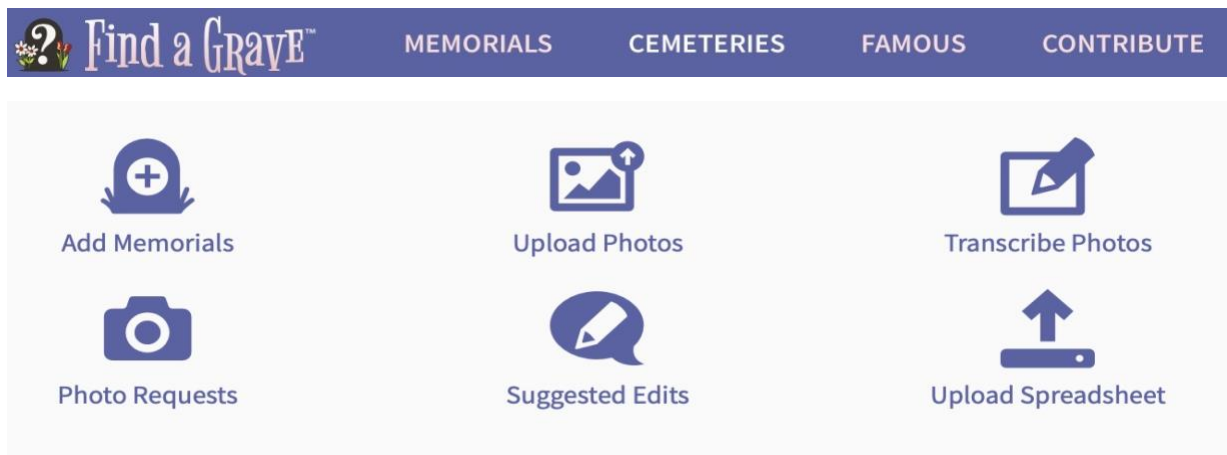
Then click on the following:



The screenshot shows two buttons on the left: a dark grey button with a left arrow and the text "SEE ALL BY GPOPPA", and a light grey button with a left arrow and the text "Back to GPoppa profile". To the right is a user profile card for "GPoppa". The card includes the text "MEMBER FOR 14 years · 3 months · 12 days" and "FIND A GRAVE ID 46925364". At the bottom of the card are two buttons: "Send Message" and "Follow".

If your Kriegy isn't listed on Find-A-Grave at all, please add him to the Oflag 64 POW Memorial page by clicking on the virtual-cemetery link above.

Approximately 1500 of our Kriegies were held captive at Oflag 64, so there is a lot of work to do to get them all eventually added to this site. Thanks to Kathy Zelazny Thomas for volunteering her time to help honor our Kriegies. If you would also like to help in this endeavor, please let me know at: elodie@oflag64.us.



The image shows the top navigation bar of the Find a Grave website. The bar is dark blue with the "Find a Grave" logo on the left and the words "MEMORIALS", "CEMETERIES", "FAMOUS", and "CONTRIBUTE" in white capital letters. Below the bar is a light grey area containing six icons with labels: "Add Memorials" (a blue icon of a headstone with a plus sign), "Upload Photos" (a blue icon of a photo with an upload arrow), "Transcribe Photos" (a blue icon of a photo with a pencil), "Photo Requests" (a blue camera icon), "Suggested Edits" (a blue icon of a speech bubble with a pencil), and "Upload Spreadsheet" (a blue icon of a document with an upload arrow).

