

# The

# Post Oflag 64 Item

All the News That's  
Been Geprüft

Nearly Everybody  
Reads THE ITEM

“Get Wise – ITEM-ize”

4th Quarter 2022

Good Ole USA

Of Undetermined Worth

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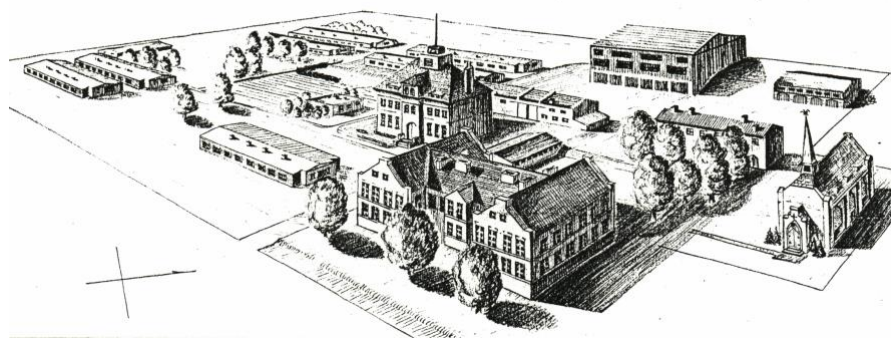
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We apologize to any others  
we may have overlooked  
and thank all who have  
contacted us.

*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

## OFLAG 64 MUSEUM UPDATES

You may remember at the beginning of 2022 that we made mention of what we might look forward to regarding the future Oflag 64 Museum. We mentioned that everything is still in the works and that the project has not been forgotten, but with COVID and other factors which have impacted the world, delays of one type or another have been encountered on several occasions. However, that hasn't stopped the work from continuing on. Our Polish-American Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin has continued to press forward and has been creative in finding ways of bringing the memories of our former Kriegies to life.

One of those ways has been the creation of the TIN STORE, which is our temporary museum, housed in one of the original buildings inside the Oflag 64 compound in Szubin. The building has been brought up to code and renovated to be able to house the library and artifacts that have been donated by our Kriegies, their families, and friends. Exhibit spaces are presently being designed to house the artifacts which have already been sent. The Tin Store is climate-controlled and all artifacts are being stored safely and securely during the design process.

We look forward to hearing more about the progress of the TIN STORE museum and its future opening. Wouldn't it be great to be there when it does? We'll let you know in plenty of time so you can make travel plans. It will be so worthwhile.

Best to you,  
Elodie Caldwell, ITEM Editor, [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us)  
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**Oflag 64**



# A Little Company Business

## Many Thanks

We wish to express our continued gratitude to Minuteman 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!!!



And MANY THANKS to Ric Kolseth, our POW Database manager, for uploading the changes we frequently send to him. Please check the website POW Database page to make sure your Kriegy's information is correct and as complete as possible.

## Financial Contributions

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



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

**Bret Job**

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

**OR**

**Elodie Caldwell**

2731 Terry Ave  
Longview WA 98632-4437

## Postage Fund Contributions

None this Quarter

\* \* \*

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

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

**OR**

donate **ONLINE** at:  
<https://bit.ly/3Cgh4uJ>

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

<https://bit.ly/3Gx2JfZ>

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

THANKS to all who donate to our various Oflag 64 funds.



## **Kriegy Research Group**

*The primary goal of the KRG is to keep the memories of our Kriegies alive by providing information for use in our future museum.*

*Meetings are held once a month on Zoom where coordination and updates take place. We would love to have you on our team.*

*Please let me know if you would like to serve our Kriegy Patriots and Heroes by joining our research group.*

[elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us)

## KRG Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for a worthwhile project to engage in after retirement or even before? The Oflag 64 Kriegy Research Group (KRG) is always looking for people to devote a little of their time to help gain more information about our Kriegies. Help is urgently requested in the following areas:

- Writing Kriegy bios
- Writing artifact descriptions
- Proofreading bio and artifact descriptions
- Finding Kriegy obituaries and photos
- Finding online Kriegy video or written interviews
- Finding Kriegy articles written by or about them
- Researching commissioning locations/dates of Kriegies
- Researching Kriegy names on FindAGrave.com and/or BillionGraves.com
- Researching Ancestry.com for Kriegy information
- Researching Library of Congress Veterans History Project records for Kriegy information
- Researching other military websites for Kriegy information
- Locating Kriegy books or writings
- Locating more MIS-X information, finding families of known code users

If you are willing and able to devote a little bit of time to any one of these "projects", please contact me at:

[elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us)

# Treasurer's Report

Month	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Website & Items	Misc	Ending Balance
Jan 1 2021	\$3,263.01	\$10.00	\$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	\$100.00	\$167.01	\$0.00	\$2,318.43
Nov 1 2021	\$2,318.43	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,343.43
Dec 1 2021	\$2,343.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,343.43
Jan 1 2022	\$2,343.43	\$167.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,510.43
Feb 1 2022	\$2,510.43	\$100.00	\$217.56	\$0.00	\$2,392.87
Mar 1 2022	\$2,392.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,392.87
Apr 1 2022	\$2,392.87	\$100.00	\$204.26	\$0.00	\$2,288.61
May 1 2022	\$2,288.61	\$815.99	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,104.60
Jun 1 2022	\$3,104.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,104.60
Jul 1 2022	\$3,104.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,104.60
Aug 1 2022	\$3,104.60	\$100.00	\$476.14	\$0.00	\$2,728.46
Sep 1 2022	\$2,728.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,728.46
Oct 1 2022	\$2,728.46	\$100.00	\$143.56	\$0.00	\$2,684.90
Nov 1 2022	\$2,684.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,684.90
Dec 1 2022	\$2,684.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,684.90
<b>2022 TOTALS</b>		\$1,382.99	\$1,041.52		\$341.47

Blue: 2021

Black: 2022

Thanks to Bret Job for maintaining our Postage Fund records and bank account over the years.



# MAIL CALL



*It's always a great pleasure hearing from our Kriegies, Kriegy families and friends during each quarter. Some of the following were contacted by us initially, some 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 everyone 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!](#)*

STEVEN G. APPLEBY, Curator of Education & Programs at the Eldred WWII Museum in Pennsylvania – responded to our request for information and/or photos of the late Kriegy Jerry Alexis. He noted that they not only have his story but a diorama Jerry made depicting a typical prisoner barracks and individual room. We will be receiving more information soon.

MARILYN KANNERS BECKHAM, daughter of the late Kriegy Victor Kanners – notified us of the death of her dear mother, Marcia Kanners, just days before her 102 birthday. Marcia attended many of our Oflag 64 POW reunions over the years. See the TAPS section for her obituary.

JULIAN BOGGESS III, son of the late Kriegy Julian E. Boggess Jr. – sent a copy of his dad's statement of capture dated 4 August 1945. In his email, he also mentioned that he (Julian III) was one of nine children and was the only one of them to serve in the military, also one of three of his high school classmates, including 56 boys, to serve in the military. He also sent an article that mentioned his father and another former Kriegy, Mr. Ward.

CHRIS CIPRIANI, son of the late Kriegy Anthony J. Cipriani – after reading our last issue of the ITEM, noticed that he and David Oshlo (mentioned in Mail Call and the son of another Oflag 64 Kriegy), had something in common. Their dads were buddies at Oflag 64 and his dad always mentioned spending time with David's dad at reunions. Chris asked that we pass along his contact information to David.

NEAL CORY, son of the late Kriegy William R. Cory – reminded us of a fascinating book that contains information about the secret MIS-X project that took place during WWII, "The Escape Factory" by Lloyd Shoemaker. When the book was initially published, it was immediately censored by the government because of its secret nature. Some of his books are still available at on Amazon.

TOM DETMERS, son of the late Kriegy Arthur V. Detmers – wrote to wish us, and families of all our veterans, a happy and safe Thanksgiving adding that we wouldn't have this holiday without our veterans.

ALEX DRURY, researcher – contacted us regarding the late Kriegy James Skells who was one of the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's Distinguished Service Cross Recipients. Alex is writing an article about James' service. He has been in contact with James' daughter and has received much information from her. He will share his article when finished. We also added him to our email list at his request.

ROBERT GALLOWAY, creator of the "Oflag 64, A POW Odyssey" video – wrote to let us know that he has put the video on YouTube so that it can be enjoyed by everyone. Just enter the name of the video into the YouTube search bar and you can find it. Robert also wrote that he enjoys reading the ITEM.

BRET JOB, son-in-law of the late Kriegy Ray E. Holmquist – in response to our query about his well-being and that of his property in Hurricane Ian's path, let us know that although they had no internet and only limited cell phone service, that they were safe. There was quite a bit of damage to their home and property but their house stayed dry. They've been in the process of clean-up and helping friends and neighbors clean up as well. He also let us know that one of our Oflag 64 friends and patriots received a wonderful award recently. See the Other News of Interest section.

WARREN JONES, son of the late Kriegy Charles L. Jones – responded to an email we sent regarding the death of Marcia Kanners (widow of the late Kriegy Victor Kanners). He met Marcia on a tour of Poland and Germany back in 2007. He remembered her being such a lovely lady and was so glad to have met her. Warren would like to send a donation to our non-profit, Friends of Oflag 64, Inc. (Thanks so much Warren.)

SUSAN HOLMSTROM KOHNOWICH, daughter of the late Kriegy Carl H. E. Holmstrom – wrote that her new book "Great Escape Forger", which is an updated and edited version of her dad's book "Kriegie Life", is now available on Amazon at <https://amzn.to/3ZdGp2i>. Her dad was an Oflag 64 Kriegy for a short time before being transferred to Stalag Luft III where he was a forger for the Great Escape. There are many drawings of Oflag 64 contained in Susan's new book.

DAVID LITTLE, grandson of the late Kriegy Thomas H. Wingate – wrote about his recent trip to parts of Italy and Germany to learn more about his grandfather's POW experiences. He reported on a preservation project being done on one of the barracks at Stalag VIIA near Moosburg, where several of our Kriegies spent time. See the Other News of Interest section.

LUCY LUSSENDEN, widow of the late Kriegy Donald Lussenden – has been assisting in writing Don's bio and providing photos. Lucy recently turned 85 and celebrated with her family and close friends. She reported that she enjoyed a beautiful summer in Livonia Michigan and that she's doing fine.

BOB MACAREVEY, son of the late Kriegy Jim MacArevey – updated some of the information we've had about his dad. He also sent us more information regarding the book he wrote about his parents' experiences during WWII, "A Trojan's War". The book can be found on Amazon at: <https://amzn.to/3WEqgRB>

WALTER G. NORTHCUTT, nephew of the late Kriegy L. Enoch – contacted us recently and asked to be added to our email list.

DON PATTON, one of our great Oflag 64 friends and the creator of the WWII History Round Table – after sending him our Congratulations on his recent Ultimate Patriot award, replied to our email that there other great people here and abroad keeping the Oflag 64 story alive. See more about Don's award in the Other News of Interest section.

TONI REAVIS, son of the late Kriegy Isham Reavis – informed us that he recently completed a book about his parents, including their momentous meeting and marriage during WWII. Isham was transferred from Stalag VIIA to Oflag 64 and began the long march in January 1945, eventually escaped and met his wife in Lublin Poland. She didn't speak English and he didn't speak Polish but they made it work and were married for 64 years. The book "Bisia & Isham: The Countess and the POW" can be found on the Barnes & Noble website at: <https://bit.ly/3WTZXqn>

FRED SCORDO, son-in-law of the late Kriegy Edward T. Berlinski – phoned with a request that we resend any information we had on Eddie so he could share it with family members. With the help of one of our researchers, we were able to send newspaper articles and also a recently written biography.

CHERYL SIGLER, daughter-in-law of the late Kriegy Thornton V. Sigler – recently sent to The Friends of Oflag 64 Artifacts Committee some miscellaneous Oflag 64 artifacts that belonged to Thornton. She hopes one day to travel to Poland.

MARGIE SLACK, daughter of the late Kriegy John F. Slack – responded to our email regarding her dad's bio. She hopes to be able to send photos soon. She also noted that our website POW Database record needed to be updated with his correct place of capture.

PAUL THRIFFILEY III, son of the late Kriegy Paul Thriffiley, Jr. – continues to find information on our late Kriegies for purposes of writing their bios. He recently sent 9 different articles or bits of information for our files.

ROBERT VICEK, son of the late Kriegy John W. Vicek – wrote to let us know that he's found a publisher for the book he's written about his dad and his uncle, both WWII POWs, his dad an American held by the Germans and his uncle a German held by the Americans. A very interesting story.

MARIUSZ WINIECKI, President of the Polish-American Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin – sent a photo of a preliminary uniform display at the Tin Store, our temporary museum. See the Other News of Interest section for the photo and explanation.

BOB WINTON, son of the late Kriegy Clifford A. Winton – in response to our request, sent a copy of his father's obituary. Obituaries aid in the development of Kriegy bios being written for the future museum.

ANNE MARIE ZALECKY, niece of the late Kriegy Bob Moorhead – wrote to let us know that her aunt Joan, Bob's widow, is now in a skilled nursing facility and unable to enjoy reading further issues of the ITEM. For that reason, she requested that we remove her aunt from our mailing list.

NANCY WYATT, daughter of the late Kriegy Robert T. Thompson – wrote to let us know about her contact with Stephanie Kochy Roberson, the daughter of one of our late Kriegies, who had previously been unaware of our Oflag 64 family.

\* \* \* \* \*

*If your Kriegy participated in the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress, we would like permission to use his video interview and/or transcripts as we help prepare for displays in the future museum. If you aren't certain, click on this link <https://bit.ly/3Cbv7Sk> and enter your Kriegy's name in the search bar at the top of the page (see below). I entered my father's first and last name with the word "collection" after it and his interview came right up. See the last page of this ITEM for the Consent to Use Materials form. Please use the same form if your Kriegy participated in any other similar project.*



# Kriegy News and Information



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



and best wishes to

our great **KRIEGY**

**PATRIOTS AND HEROES**



Ed Grant — 101 years  
January 7, 1922



John Rodgers, Sr. — 100 years  
February 9, 1923

## Kriegy Bios, Artifacts, Artifact Descriptions

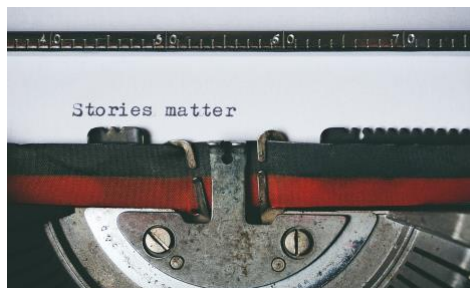
### Family-Written Biographies

*Please consider writing a biography for your Kriegy. Biographies will be used in the future museum as part of an interactive display for each Kriegy.*

*The task sometimes seems daunting but we have bio writers who are willing to help you get started. There is no length requirement, any length works just fine. We have some that are shorter and some that are quite a bit longer. We would love to know about your Kriegy's early life, if he graduated from a military school, if he was part of an ROTC program, when and where he received his first commission. We'd also be interested in learning*

*what outfit he was with, some of his military experiences, his capture, his escape, military awards, and later life experiences. Please also include photos if available. We realize that all this information might not be at your disposal, so just include what you can. If you need examples to give you more ideas, we can provide them for you.*

*To date, we have received family-written bios from 13 families. Some were written by an individual and some were written by group effort among family members. Do what works best for you. Please let us know if you have questions.*



This family-written bio is of my father, Reid Flamm Ellsworth. Thanks to those who assisted me in writing it. Photos are from family files.

## 2LT Reid Flamm Ellsworth

(346<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron, 99<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force)

1915 - 2007

### EARLY YEARS

Reid Flamm Ellsworth was born in a little house built by his father and grandfather in Rexburg, Idaho on 13 November 1915 to Claude William Ellsworth and Matilda Ann Flamm Ellsworth. He was the third child of ten and had interesting boyhood experiences, one of which was returning to Rexburg in a covered wagon from Montana, where his father thought he had found new employment. The job in Montana unfortunately didn't pan out, so after 23 days of traveling in a covered wagon, the family returned to Idaho, and his previous life resumed. Reid was a brilliant student, skipping two grades in elementary school.

After graduating from high school in Pocatello, Idaho, he attended Idaho State University where he studied engineering. He later served a Spanish-speaking mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints which terminated just prior to US involvement during World War II.



### MILITARY YEARS



U.S. Army Air Corps and  
U.S. 15<sup>th</sup> Army Air Corps Patches

After a year of preflight training and navigation school, Reid began his military service in May of 1943 as a 2LT in the US Army Air Corps. Although beginning his training as a pilot, he retrained and ultimately served his country as a B-17 navigator with the 346<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron, 99<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force-Africa. On 10 November 1943 during his last bombing mission, his plane was shot down over Italy, at which time he was injured by flying shrapnel, earning him the Purple Heart. He parachuted safely just before his plane exploded. After a 3-mile freefall before his parachute finally

opened, leaving him short of oxygen, he was able to land safely but was unable to locate the other seven crew members who had jumped before him.

In his own words Reid recalled the experience:

*The next forty-eight hours had their own stresses, German soldiers were almost immediately in the area. Friendly Italians were helpful to me as much as they could be. Immediately after hitting the ground, one man came from a nearby road and motioned for me to follow him, which I did. But by reason of lack of oxygen for a time, I was unable to keep up, though he was probably ten years older than I. Eventually he and another had to leave me to do my best alone. In one situation a few minutes later a German soldier walked within ten feet of where I had concealed myself. After dark I sought out an isolated farmhouse where I identified myself as an American soldier needing assistance, which was cautiously but willingly given. Some way during the late evening or night the man acquired for me civilian clothing large enough to fit me. During the next day I tried unsuccessfully to cross the Po river in an attempt to get into neutral Switzerland but decided to not cross a*



*long bridge at the middle of which a German soldier stood near a guard hut. An additional factor convinced me that such an attempt would be folly since I was conspicuously though not seriously burned before the plane blew up in the air, and which explosion he had undoubtedly seen.*

For five weeks Reid hid out in various locations, wandering through northern Italy, finding berries to temporarily satisfy his hunger, and occasionally obtaining clothing, meals, and lodging from Italian families, but relying mostly on them for protection and sustenance. They didn't have much to give but shared what they had freely. During all this time, he had to trust that they would not turn him in for a reward. Thankfully, because of the similarities between Italian and the Spanish he had learned on his church mission, he was able to communicate fairly easily and received the help he needed.

After walking for five weeks, Reid arrived at the home of a sympathetic Italian family, the Cenciottis, who sheltered him for five additional weeks. By then, he had suffered from hunger, diarrhea, stress and exposure to cold, even trying occasionally to sleep burrowed into straw stacks for protection. At the family's insistence, he stayed at their home in Rocca Sinibalda until he was caught in their shed during a house-to-house search by the Germans.



*Shed where Reid was captured*

## **CAPTURE**

Once captured, Reid was transported to Rieti, Italy where he was jailed, given almost no food, threatened and beaten. After a week he was transported to a temporary transient POW camp in Spoleto, Italy, was interrogated and threatened again this time with being shot as a spy. Eventually he and a number of other POWs were loaded onto a box car with no toilet facilities except a small keg and straw on the floor. Due to extremely limited space and the number of POWs crowded into it, sleeping was done in shifts as they traveled over the next several days.

Being transported through Germany during the bitter cold at the end of January was enough to discourage most escape attempts, but to ensure no escapes were successful, shoes were taken from the POWs by the Germans. With no shoes on his feet, only thin socks, and with very little food for several days, Reid was taken to Stalag IV-B at Mühlberg where he remained for about 10 days. He was eventually transported to Szubin, Poland where he was interned as a POW, spending his first six weeks in the infirmary due to frostbitten toes and raw feet.

## **LIFE AT OFLAG 64**

While at Oflag 64, he was always cold which resulted in continued problems with frostbite, and was always hungry, but he was forever grateful for the American Red Cross Parcels that contained badly-needed rations to supplement his diet. He, at first, received those on a fairly regular basis, but this ceased after allied bombings of the railroad yards prevented parcels from getting through any longer. Meager German rations were far less adequate in quality and quantity and as a result, he and the other POWs lost significant amounts of weight and suffered malnutrition. During the two months before his capture, his parents didn't hear from him but were later notified by telegram that he was Missing in Action. Nearly three months later, in March 1944, after being already held captive for a few weeks, Reid's parents were finally informed that he was a Prisoner of War.

Reid described the educational program at Oflag 64 as *being very broad, with other POWs already well-educated in their respective fields*. Some held doctorates in their fields, some had considerable experience in their fields. He and another officer who had previous training in meteorology were assigned the

responsibility of observing and making reports on the weather. The purpose for this was to be ready to assist possible future American parachute landings or to have equipment and supplies dropped to them.

Of his camp experiences, Reid early on wrote this to his parents:

*We have the opportunity for an excellent education—I study university courses in foreign languages, philosophy, business, and law. And we are allowed to organize softball teams, have weekly movies, lectures, and church services.*

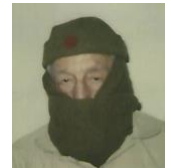
Reid was able to participate in most of these camp activities. Outside of education, he was particularly interested in keeping himself in good physical condition which also helped him keep his morale up. He participated in organized team competitions including football, baseball, basketball, volleyball, group walks around the inside perimeter of the camp, and track and field. In football, he played end opposite Major John Dobson. In a track and field relay race, he and Major Jerry Sage ran anchor legs for their separate teams, after which he disappointedly reported that Jerry's team won. In a track meet held in 1944, Reid placed first in broad jump and was awarded a small wooden box with the words "Broad Jump, First Place, 1944".



*1<sup>st</sup> Place Award*

He was able to assist with the tunnel project, which many other POWs were involved in as well. His own responsibility was that of storing dirt above the barracks' ceiling. A crew of eight worked together passing dirt-filled boxes from one to another until such time as a signal was given that the camp guards were approaching. Another signal was given when it was all clear. Storing dirt in this manner continued until a creak was heard and the ceiling dropped about thirteen inches. It was decided around that time to discontinue the tunnel project.

While in the camp, it became Reid's goal to either escape or be repatriated. After the tunnel project was discontinued, he figured escape wasn't the best option but repatriation was. All escape or repatriation plans had to be submitted to the camp escape committee, so after his plan was approved, Reid began the lonely task of faking insanity and alienating all others to whom he might otherwise have become close while there. Reid later wrote this about his insanity project:



*Replication of  
Insanity Project*

*At the mess hall, where we had one meal a day, I would sit on one side of the table and stare right through the person sitting opposite to me. I would raise a spoonful of food straight up from the plate, hold it out in the air in front of my face sixteen or eighteen inches away and just hold it there for a time before bringing the spoonful of food into my mouth, all the time staring through the person opposite me.....Dr. Abrams bunked in the cubicle immediately opposite the one where I had first been and began to observe things about me that caused him to ask me to go for a walk with him around the camp perimeter. He asked if there was something bothering me.....He was convinced I was having real trouble and referred me to Dr. Gruenberg who had some psychiatric experience. Sometime later I was referred to still another doctor who had been a division psychiatrist.....As time went on, I needed to continue doing things that would draw attention to me. I would stay awake at night, I would moan or cry or make some moanful plea for someone to leave me alone. I undertook efforts to indicate that I was giving serious thought to suicide.....gathering up pieces of strings and shoelaces to begin braiding a cord. I would also stand for hours at a time with my back to a locker looking up at the crossbeams of the barracks, supposedly considering that I would hang myself.*

## ESCAPE AND RETURN HOME

As time passed and as Reid and one of the other POWs were taking a walk one day, they encountered Colonel John Waters coming from the opposite direction. He stopped them for just a moment and said: *"Ellsworth, apparently it's all successful. You are scheduled to be sent to Sweden on 17 March 1945 to be returned to America on an exchange of prisoners."* However, due to the Russian advance, the Germans marched him and nearly everyone else out of the camp on 21 January 1945, and what was known as "the long, cold march" to Hammelburg began. Reid took a blanket and wrapped as many supplies as he could in it and tied it in a knot to be slung over his shoulder as a rather large bundle. On the first night, after arriving at a large barn near Exin, Poland where the POWs would stay the night, he and two other POWs hatched a plan to escape from the column of marchers. The next morning when the guards awakened the troops, he and his companions concealed themselves in a place where they wouldn't be found. Not wanting to be caught, they remained there the majority of the day until they were certain that the Germans had left. They subsequently spent several days in the area, encountering Poles, Russians, and other Americans, and enjoyed hearty meals and a variety of activities, including singing and dancing with some young Polish women.

While on the way to Odessa, Major Merle Meacham, one of the camp escape committee members who had escaped from the march with Reid and several others, announced to the group that Reid's insanity project had been an approved project. Dr. Gruenberg, who was with them and upon hearing this announcement, said, *"I'll be damned. The only thing that would have gotten you out of the camp faster would have been a sloppy suicide attempt."* Reid informed him that such plans had been in process and that he was satisfied that this had not actually been necessary.

Over the next few weeks, Reid was able to make his way to Odessa, Russia where he acquired a complete Russian uniform and Russian trinkets. In the end, he boarded a British ship and arrived back in the States in April 1945, a month after his original scheduled repatriation. Following processing, he returned home to his family in Idaho. After the war, Reid was heard to say, *"It wasn't an experience I'd ever want to repeat, but I'm thankful for the experiences that helped me grow and made me who I am."*



## LATER YEARS



*Reid and Lela on their wedding day*

Within a year after returning home, Reid met and married Lela Young in Salt Lake City, Utah. They moved to Provo, Utah for schooling but eventually relocated to Tucson, Arizona where he entered law school and earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Arizona. Soon thereafter they moved to Phoenix where he set up a law practice. He and Lela were eventually blessed with six children: five daughters, and one son who suffered a severe and profound brain injury at birth which permanently disabled him. Because of this, Reid became an active advocate for mentally retarded citizens and remained so for nearly fifty years, working tirelessly to protect the rights of citizens who couldn't speak for themselves.



Reid remained in the U.S. Air Force Reserves for twenty years following WWII and retired as a LT COL. During the war and remaining years, he earned several military awards and honors but service to his country was what he was most proud of. He loved his country, its flag, served with honor, and was a true American patriot and hero in all respects.

He always tremendously enjoyed serving others and looked for opportunities to serve whether it was serving his family, his church, his country, or anyone in need. Reid served in his community, as years

passed, as a Precinct Committeeman during several elections, school board member, youth leader, temporary foster parent. Service—what an important value to pass down to his children!



*As missionaries in Italy*

In later years, Reid and Lela served a two-year, Italian-speaking mission in Italy for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. During that time, he was able to reunite with the Cenciotti family, the Italian family that was so helpful to him prior to his capture, having provided food, clothing, and shelter. They remained in contact for many years thereafter and his capture story is still known today amongst the people of Rocca Sinibalda, Italy.

Good health and fitness were important to Reid and he remained physically fit throughout his life. As a young man he played on a city baseball league, with his team earning top honors. On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his forced parachute jump, and at the age of 80, he duplicated his original jump by skydiving at a local airfield. At age 83, he participated in the Senior Olympics in track and field events (long jump, discus, javelin and shot put) both on a local and national level and won three Gold Medals and one Silver Medal in his age bracket.



*Skydiving on his 80th birthday*

Reid loved his family tremendously, and was always willing to listen to and support them. He was very much involved in his children's activities and always encouraged them to do their best in everything they did. Hard work was not a stranger to him; he was a good provider and his family never went without. He was a very patient person, never raised his voice, taught by his good example, was kind and compassionate, and served others until he could no longer do so.

## TAPS



Reid Flamm Ellsworth, 91, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend died peacefully at the home he shared with his daughter Janet Ellsworth on Wednesday, 4 July 2007 in Farmington, Utah. He was preceded in death by his parents, several siblings, and his beloved wife of 54 years. He was buried with full military honors next to his wife Lela at

Larkin Sunset Gardens in Sandy, Utah on 9 July 2007.

## AFTER THOUGHTS

Pictured here is the Cenciotti family in Rocca Sinibalda, Italy between 1986-1988. Reid is third from the left, back row. Lela is fourth from the right (in red), back row. Behind her is the shed, which still stood, where Reid was found and captured in January 1944.



*Text written by Elodie Caldwell with contributions by Bill Caldwell, Diane Hill and Cecily Weatherford, photos are from family files— ©9/14/22*

*Italicized phrases and sections are from letters and quotes in Reid's book:*

**THE REID F. ELLSWORTH STORY, AN ACCOUNT OF WAR AND DIVINE INTERPOSITION**

# Artifact Inventory ID No. 10.01

(Class I Artifact)



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

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

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

# Artifact Inventory ID No. 16.28

(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 David Stewart)*

Artifact Description: German silverware stamped with the Nazi Reichsadler.

Artifact History: 2LT Howard Randolph Holder acquired this Nazi silverware stamped with the Nazi Reichsadler while interned at Oflag 64.

## Other News of Interest

Thanks to Bret Job for letting us know about the Ultimate Patriot Award that was presented to our friend and newest recipient, Don Patton, at the Fox Nation Patriot Awards program recently. Don is the creator of the WWII History Round Table and presented information about his work at the 2003 Minneapolis Oflag 64 POW Reunion. Since its beginning in 1987, the purpose of the Round Table has been to teach WWII history and bring prominent historians together to reach out to students and schools in order to teach them more about WWII history. Learn more from the following videos:

<https://www.foxnews.com/video/6315757106112>

<https://www.foxnews.com/video/6315787511112>

<https://www.yahoo.com/video/don-patton-awarded-ultimate-patriot-013612529.html>

Thanks to Don and all the work he and his Round Table team do to preserve the history of our WWII veterans and Kriegies. And CONGRATULATIONS to him on the well-deserved Ultimate Patriot award.



Don Patton receiving the award from Dan Bongino from Fox News.

## TIN STORE EXHIBITION

Thanks to Mariusz Winiecki for sending this photo which was also posted on Instagram and Facebook. The Polish-American Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin explains the following:

We are organizing the artifacts for our upcoming TIN STORE EXHIBITION. Can you identify the different Allied nations that outfitted a Szubin POW?

Below far left: Polish eagle buttons adorn the British Battledress jacket worn by U.S. Capt. Clyde Herring of Oflag 64. The Red Army Ushanka hat was worn by U.S. Lt. Walter Parks, who fashioned his 1st Lt. bar from an empty food tin.

Many thanks to our advisors Miłosz Stroński and @Krzysztof Jankowiak from the Museum of Armament in Poznan; our tailors from the Hero Collections who are widely known in uniform production and have participated in more than 200 internationally renowned films including Valkyrie, The Pianist, Tarzan, Monuments Men, Fury, Everest, Lincoln, Outlander, Star Wars and many others; and our mannequin manufacturers Antares Manekiny. We are grateful to the Herring and Parks families and to our partner the [Friends of Oflag 64](#) for their ongoing artifact collecting and support.





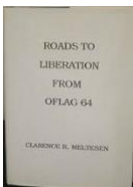
# Publications

We're always looking for a hard copy of books written by or about our Kriegies and their experiences during the war. Please check the website at <http://www.oflag64.us/books-etc.html> for a list of books we currently have. If your Kriegy has written a book we don't yet have or if you have a publication that contains information about any our Kriegies, please let us know.

Currently we're looking for The Fighting 36<sup>th</sup> Historical Quarterly, volume 1 (#1-3), volume 2 (#1, 2, 4), volume 3 (#4), volume 4 (#1), volume 12 (#2). If you have any of these issues and would be willing to donate them, please let us know.

## Are you looking for these? Please contact.....

Marilyn Kanners Beckham (Vic's daughter) for a copy of **Vic Kanners' Diary "Horseshit and Cobblestones"**, 3608 W BRADFORD DR, BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48301-3353. [marilynbeckham@gmail.com](mailto:marilynbeckham@gmail.com) (new email address)



Lynne Meltesen, daughter of the late Kriegy Clarence Meltesen, has sent us a few more copies of his fantastic resource book, "**Roads to Liberation**". If you would like a copy, please contact Elodie Caldwell at [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us). The

book is available at no charge but you are asked to pay for S & H. (Thank you, Meltesen family, for making these available.)



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 making these available.)

# TAPS



Since last December, we have learned of the deaths of the following Kriegies. Some were from years ago and others more recently. We honor them all for their great service and sacrifice.

1962 Patrick A. Teel  
1970 William R. Bond  
1974 Vernon L. Blank, Sr.  
1975 Laurence E. Allen  
1975 Clifford A. Winton  
1979 James R. Schmitz  
1983 John H. Scully, Jr.  
1989 Irving Chofnas  
1992 Raymond D. Prince  
2005 Frank W. Bell  
2005 Stephen B. Kochy  
2008 Hugh G. Muldrow  
2009 Harry B. Long

2022 Ted Roggen  
2022 Wilbur B. Sharpe

\* \* \* \* \*

We recently learned of the deaths of the following Kriegy widows. Our thoughts, prayers and sincere sympathies are sent to their families. We know they are mightily missed.

**Helen M. Chappell**  
1921 – 2022

**Helen Ruth Moore Chappell, the Great Encourager, passed on through to her Loving God and Savior on November 11th. She was 101 years young; and somehow her passing still feels too soon.**



Helen grew up in Kemp, Kaufman County, Texas, the first daughter of Garfield and Faye Moore (“Beebo and Granny”). At the time of her death, she was handwriting a second book, entitled “The Feast”, which was her way of describing how richly she experienced the simple, God and family focused life of the 1920s and 30s in Kemp. She always saw the glass half full; it was her fundamental orientation to affirm life and people. In the late 30s, ‘opposites attracted’ as she met [the late Kriegy] Roy J. Chappell, Jr., the love of her life and husband of 65 years. They were part of what has been aptly called ‘the Greatest Generation’. In World War II, Roy was captured in North Africa and served two and a half years as a POW of the German army. He was presumed killed in action, and a memorial service was held in Kaufman.

Helen, of course, never believed he was dead; and they celebrated their marriage within a month of his return to the U.S. They were blessed with seven children, four boys and then three girls.

Helen was preceded in death by Roy, her first three sons (Roy J. Chappell III (Jay), Roy J. Chappell IV (Dicky) and Billy Garfield and her daughter in law, Gayla. She is survived by her son, Ben, and her daughters Carol, Nancy and Janis, their spouses JoAnn, Dale, Ken and Alan; by her sister, Dottie, and niece, Anita Gail; by her ‘daughters-in-love’ Barbara and Tamie; and by 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren, who every last one adore her. She could tell you the name, birthday and her current kind word about all of them to the day she died.

Helen was as smart as she was loving. She graduated from Texas State College for Women (now TWU) in 1941, and taught school in all the locations in Texas and Oklahoma where Roy was assigned in his jobs with Gulf Oil Corporation. In addition to raising six children and teaching, she served faithfully in every church the family attended throughout no less than 15 relocations during her marriage. No matter where she and the family lived, holiday celebrations were always at the ‘Big House’, the 122 year old family home in Kaufman, where Helen would play the grand piano for literally hours at a time. Any song you could sing, she could play by ear; and this continued through her last holiday there at Thanksgiving in 2021, when she was 100. But as much as she ‘delivered and produced’ in so many ways, her greatest legacy was not so much what

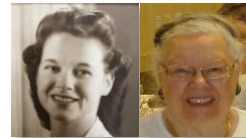
she accomplished, but instead who she was. Her large family and a century of friends know this.

Rising out of her rock solid faith, Helen genuinely saw the very best in every person she met and came to know; and it was her gift to communicate affirmation in a way that left all who received it seeing themselves more as God intends. The world is such a better place because this special woman spent her long life loving and affirming family and friends. Heaven and her loved ones there are doubtless celebrating her arrival, while she sits down at another grand piano to start up the singing again.

Helen’s online obituary can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/3WYhL3w>

## Marcia H. Kanners 1920 ~ 2022



Marcia Kay Hockstad Kanners passed away peacefully October 28, 2022 less than a month before her 102nd birthday.

Born to Georga M. Hans & Harry H. Hockstad, she and her brother grew up in Detroit and lived in the area their entire lives.

She found the perfect partner in [the late Kriegy] Victor Kanners, marrying shortly after he was liberated from a German POW camp in 1945. Their happy marriage lasted 52 years until his death in 1998, and they lovingly raised five children together in Beverly Hills. She was born November 26, 1920, the month and year that women got the right to vote, and voted every election until this year.

She was an avid reader, well-informed and interested in everything and everybody. Among her great pleasures were art, history, attending lectures, theatre, fine dining clubs, and being a world class shopper.

She and Victor travelled extensively, and Marcia didn’t stop after his death, visiting all 50 states and 67 countries, making her last overseas trip solo to Australia & New Zealand in 2008. Her many friends and family were delighted to receive postcards from every trip.

Mother of five, Marcia is survived by her daughters Carol Kanners and Marilyn Beckham, son Donald Kanners, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Her son David Kanners, daughter Gail Wickens, and brother James Hockstad preceded her.

Per her wishes, she was cremated, with no service planned. Her family hopes that she will be fondly remembered for her extraordinary kindness, and that a toast will be made in her memory whenever you are enjoying a fine meal. Tributes may be made to the Detroit Institute of Arts, Forgotten Harvest, or charity of choice.

Marcia's online obituary can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/3Z1mZ0k>

## Karin Z. White 1927 - 2022

Karin Zumsteg White, formerly of New Canaan, CT, died peacefully in her sleep on November 9, 2022, one week before her 95th birthday.

Mrs. White was born on November 15, 1927 in New York City. She was the daughter of the late Robert E. Zumsteg and Kathryn Belcher Zumsteg. She attended Metairie Park Country Day School in New Orleans, LA and Riverdale Country School in Riverdale, New York. In 1947, Mrs. White received her BA from Sarah Lawrence College and completed three years of graduate school at Columbia University. After leaving school in 1951, Mrs. White acted as Sponsorship Director for Save the Children. It was through her work there that she met her future husband, [the late Kriegy] Roger Crawford White, Jr. After their marriage in 1956, the family resided in Monroe, LA until 1963 at which time they relocated to New Canaan, CT. Mrs. White's husband passed away in 1968.

Mrs. White was active in community service. In New Canaan she focused on low-income housing, tax relief and transportation for the elderly. She was the Director of the Interchurch Service Committee which provided transportation for the elderly for two years, and served on its board for several years. She coordinated and co-authored an "Older Residents Survey" for the town of New Canaan, serving as Vice President Commissioner for the Housing

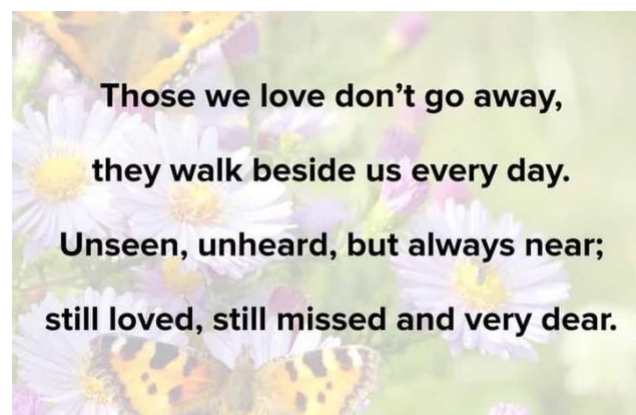
Authority of the Town of New Canaan, and was a member of the League of Women Voters. Mrs. White relocated to Annapolis, Maryland in 1986 and continued her association with the League of Women Voters, serving on its Chair, Planning and Growth Management Committee for Anne Arundel County, Maryland. When she relocated to Centreville on Maryland's eastern shore to be closer to her daughter, Mrs. White volunteered weekly at Queen Anne's County Hospice. She was also very active in the Queen Anne's County Historical Society and served as Chair of the Collections Committee.

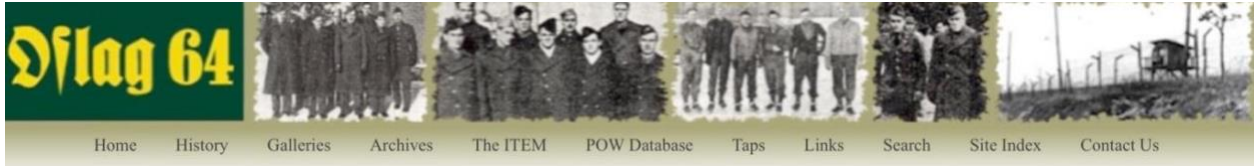
Karin White resided in Easton, Maryland at the time of her death. She is survived by her daughter, Melissa White Gerber, and son-in-law, John E. Gerber, III; and her son, Crawford White, and daughter-in-law, Lane Owens White.

Published by New Canaan Advertiser on Nov. 28, 2022.

Karin's online obituary can be found at:

<https://legcy.co/3Gallja>





**Oflag 64 Remembered**  
Honoring our Kriegy Patriots and Heroes

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The materials may be used by the parties mentioned above to create a history of Oflag 64 POWs as they work to create a new museum in Szubin, Poland where the POWs were interned during WWII. (Please check at least one.)

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