

MAJ George Juskalian

1914 - 2010

EARLY YEARS

George was born in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, on 7 June 1914, the youngest of four children: His father was Kevork Juskalian of Kharpert, Turkey and his mother, Maritza (Ferrahian) Juskalian of Kharpert, Turkey. Among the first Armenians to come to America according to George,

“They were at the forefront of the threshold generation which crossed over from the tyranny of the Old World to the promise of the New World. They came to start life over again in a new and strange land and to ensure that their children would enjoy the blessings of freedom and opportunity.” (Demirjian, p. 340)

Juskalian recalls that his father was a respected leader, an avid reader, a college graduate, and one (like many others) who emigrated to the to the U.S. for more rewarding opportunities. Later, he returned to Turkey, married Maritza (who excelled as a devoted wife and mother), and established a flourishing merchandising business. However,

“when uncertain conditions for Armenians and other minority people in Turkey forced him to leave the country in 1894, he returned to America. His wife and child followed a year later.” (Demirjian, pp. 340 – 341)

Establishing a home in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, George attended public schools there, graduating from the local high school in 1932. Continuing his education, he graduated from Boston University in 1936 with a degree in journalism from the College of Business Administration.

“Concurrently, he received a second lieutenant’s commission in the United States Army Reserve. Right after graduation he was assigned to Fort Devens, Massachusetts for a year of active duty with the regular Army’s 13th Infantry Regiment.”

“After his year at Fort Devens, Juskalian joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and served in a camp made up of World War I Veterans at East Brewster on Cape Cod. He remained there until October 1938, at which time he accepted a position with the FBI in Washington as a fingerprint classifier.” (Demirjian, p. 342)

Returning home after the death of his father in 1938, he arranged for the care of his mother, then volunteered and was called to active service as a first lieutenant in November 1940. *“He was assigned to the 26th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division (the Big Red One) as a rifle platoon leader in “G” Company. Shortly afterwards he was given command of the company and for*

the next year led it through an intensified training period culminating in the large-scale Carolina Maneuvers in the fall of 1941” (Demirjian, p. 343)

DEPLOYMENT

As Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., the oldest son of the President, became the regimental commander, rumors flourished that they would be deployed overseas soon. The date was July 1942 on the Queen Mary. Docking in Greenock, Scotland, then sent to Tidworth Barracks in southern England, the division returned to Scotland in early October for “dress rehearsal” training for the invasion of North Africa. Juskalian’s regiment bivouacked at Inverary, Scotland for *amphibious training along Loch Fyne. (Demirjian, p. 344)*

“In December 1942, the 1st Infantry Division, together with other U.S. Divisions which had landed at Algeria and Casablanca, began moving eastward to Tunisia. Their objective was to come to grips with Field Marshall Erwin Rommel’s desert-wise Afrika Korps and the Italian forces being driven west by Field Marshall Bernard L. Montgomery’s British Commonwealth forces charging out of Egypt.” (Demirjian, p. 344)

CAPTURE AND TRANSIENT CAMPS

“In mid-January, the regiment was ordered in the vicinity of Makthar in the Ousseltia Valley, north central Tunisia. It was during this fighting in the Ousseltia Valley that Juskalian was captured on January 28, 1943. He had rushed forward to help rescue the regimental S-2, Captain Howard Peter, who had been reported wounded somewhere on the front lines. Peter had left the regimental command post before dawn on a reconnaissance probe of the enemy’s positions and had apparently run into trouble. When Juskalian and Captain Henry “Red” Clisson reached Peter, they found him dead-shot squarely between the eyes. It was the first but not the last time Juskalian was to witness such deadly marksmanship.” (Demirjian, p. 345)

“They were forced to abandon the body and withdraw when they came under heavy enemy fire. Juskalian sent Clisson back to the command post on his own and proceeded laterally toward a 2nd Battalion company occupying a front-line position. Unknown to him, the company had been overrun earlier in the morning by a stronger German force. Consequently, instead of meeting up with friendly forces, Juskalian walked into an ambush and was captured.” (Demirjian, p. 345)

Major Juskalian received the Silver Star for his rescue attempt. In his absence (as he was now a POW), his mother received his medal, presented by the post commander at a special ceremony at Fort Devens. (Demirjian, p. 346)

Juskalian was then moved and kept with other POWs at Tunis for about 10 days. Later, recounting similar experiences of other Americans who had been interrogated by Germans, he spoke perfect English, did not pursue intelligence data, had studied in the U.S. and “*preferred to talk about life in America.*” (Demirjian, p. 346)

A transient camp near Naples, Italy, was their next stop, having been flown across the Mediterranean in a cargo aircraft. Isolated there for a month, Juskalian remembers filling out cards which would inform family members of their status. After a train trip through the Brenner Pass, they arrived at Moosburg, Germany, where the enlisted personnel were separated from the officers.

“Juskalian and the other 10 officers were sent to a POW camp for British Commonwealth officers at Rotenburg au Fulda. They were probably the first U.S. ground force officers to enter Germany. By now it was late February 1943.” (Demirjian, p. 346)

Received courteously at Oflag IX A/Z, the newcomers were nevertheless questioned thoroughly about their nationality. Cleared now, they spoke openly about an existing tunnel. Juskalian volunteered as a digger, describing their ingenious method for gathering tunnel dirt and spreading it through the attic. The most usable information, he remembers, however, was the British way of handling the German guards.

‘Years of experience had endowed the British with “prison smarts” and they were willing to share their techniques with us, all of which came in handy when we were placed later in our own camp in Poland. They also shared their British Red Cross food parcels and clothing. Many of us, myself included, ended up in British battle dress, which we wore throughout.’ (Demirjian, p. 347)

OFLAG 64 ‘A SELF-SUFFICIENT COMMUNITY’

Before the tunnel was complete, the American officers, now numbering around 50, were transferred. The Germans had decided to establish a separate American ground force officers camps. The group was shipped east by train to Szubin, a small town in Poland about 140 miles west of Warsaw, arriving there on June 6, 1943. Juskalian was to spend the next 20 months at Oflag 64, the camp’s official designation. There were about 30 Russian soldiers present in the camp when the Americans arrived. They were billeted in a separate small compound and worked in the village at all kinds of menial tasks. On that day they were cleaning the barracks to be occupied by the Americans. Juskalian guessed that one of the soldiers was Armenian by his appearance. Sure enough, he was Armenian! (Demirjian, p. 348)

His name was Khazaros Der Kevorkian and as their friendship developed, Juskalian was truly grateful that his parents had taught their children to speak their first language at home. (Demirjian, p. 348)

Juskalian had also learned observing skills from his parents as noted by the following comments:

'We became an amazingly self-sufficient community considering the circumstances under which we lived. We set up our own education center and library, our own orchestra and drama group, and our own athletic program. A variety of subjects, including languages, were taught by officers who in civilian life had been educators. The drama group presented a number of Broadway hits, with the female roles being taken by the more photogenic males. Softball, touch football, basketball and volleyball were all played in season. We all planted our own vegetable gardens, our own doctors took care of our health needs, and our own chaplains took care of our spiritual needs. We had two or three officers who could sew; they were our tailors. We had a few who could cut hair; they manned the barbershop. We also had a monthly newspaper put together by a couple of journalists.' (Demirjian, p. 350)

Juskalian neglected to mention his “editor” contributions concerning *The Item*, even though he had a journalism degree from Boston University—but another Kriegy, J. Frank Diggs, did it for him.

“Shortly before I arrived in camp, I found my own project for forgetting about hunger pangs and staving off boredom. Another older kriegy, Major George Juskalian, and I decided to start a camp newspaper to be turned out monthly, if possible. I laid out a dummy much like the college paper I had once edited and we got together a staff of 10 others with some journalistic experience. To our great surprise, the Germans agreed not only to let us have it but also to have it printed professionally. Thus, Oflag 64 became the only prison camp in the history of the world to have its own printed newspaper.”

*“So, *The Item* was started with its November 1943 issue as a 4-to-8-page monthly, designed to tell what was going on and maybe help morale in the camp a bit. It was informative, often funny, and with heavy emphasis on news from home, theatrical productions held and planned in the camp, sports events, and upcoming camp projects. The paper was censored, of course, and each issue had to be marked “Geprüft” by the German translator assigned to keep an eye on such things. Not one word was ever changed, even in sly pieces that depicted the Germans as goons or harped on the persistent shortages of food, heat, and mail.” (Diggs, pp. 53-55)*

A first page copy of the first *Oflag 64 Item* is displayed below.

All the News That's
Been Gephrit

The Oflag 64 Stem

Largest Circulation
Inside the Wire

"Get Wise — ITEM-ize"

No. 1

Altburgund, Germany — November, 1943

Price: 50 Pfg.

"Brother Orchid," Zippy 3-Acter, Hi-lites Thanksgiving

The first modern American three-act play to be presented at Oflag 64 will usher in the Thanksgiving holiday with a belly full of laughs in place of turkey.

"Brother Orchid" by Leo Brady is the name of the show. Frank Maxwell hustles to perform the double duties of director and leading man, portraying Little John Sarfo, big time gangster recently of Alcatraz. Little John descends unceremoniously into the cloistered life of a monastery, where the pious Little Brothers of the Flowers, enacted by Lts. Casner, Sharpe, Hubbell and Bickers take up a tug of war against mobsters and racketeers for the soul of their new leader. Lts. Gever, Lobb, Hessler, Scherman and Koch provide worthy opposition as the gang element.

The show is tentatively scheduled to run November 25, 26, 27 inclusive.

Five Officers Receive Silver Star Awards

Silver Star awards will decorate the bosoms of five more officers here, recent mail from the States reports. Post-capture citations have been made to Capt. Maynard Files and Lts. Milton Jellison, Herbert Johnson, John Creech and Anthony Opietani.

These officers earned the "Gallantry in Action" award during the fight in which they were taken prisoners.

Capt. Files received his first Silver Star for gallantry during the landing operations at Oran. He won the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star for an attack at El Guetter, Tunisia, March 29, 1943, in which his company was in assault.

Lt. Jellison successfully evacuated the major portion of two platoons from an encircled position at Kasserine Pass, Tunisia, on February 19, 1943.

Lt. Creech was on a mission ten miles beyond his own lines, observing enemy movements. He was captured in the El Guetter area March 24, 1943.

For leading an assault platoon in an attack at El Guetter on March 20, 1943, the Silver Star was awarded to Lt. Opietani.

Lt. Johnson was captured near Ousselita, Tunisia, while leading a support party to aid a company which was being cut off.

Newest Arrivals Represent Twenty States, Mostly Texas

OFLAG CALENDAR

No.	Event	Time
3	"Wednesday at 7:15"	7:15 p
4,5	German Silent Films	7:00 p
6	Quiz Program: 20VS.21	7:00 p
8	Lecture, Larry Allen	7:00 p
11,12	Diago	7:00 p
13	Quiz Program: 22VS.23	7:00 p
15	Lecture, Capt. Wilcox, "Law"	7:00 p
16	Book Review	7:00 p
17	"Wednesdays at 7:15"	7:15 p
18,19	Minstrel Show-Fund	7:00 p
20	Quiz Program: 24VS.25	7:00 p
22	Travel Talk, Col. Alger	7:00 p
24	"Wednesdays at 7:15"	7:15 p
25	Thanksgiving	
25,26,27	"Brother Orchid," Maxwell	7:00 p
Sundays	Catholic services	9:30 a
	General church services	10:30 a

Prem to Pinch-Hit For Turkey

All-American chow in large quantities will overload the Oflag tables on Thanksgiving, according to Lt. Col. W. M. Oakes, mess officer.

No, it isn't turkey, but the menu still looks mighty good. Look:

Breakfast: American Oatmeal.

Dinner: Meat and Vegetable hash

3 in Oakes.

Supper: Prem, mashed potatoes, peas, carrots — and may be dessert, depending on what shows up.

Minstrel Due Nov. 18—19

Blackface will take the spotlight when Ruf (Al Johnson) Ford brings his twenty-odd minstrels in the footlights of The Little Theatre on November 18—19.

Howard Holder plays the dual role of scriptwriter and interlocuter.

End men: Messrs. Thal, Fabian, Wafal and Captains Schlarpe, Marlowe, Willis and Fabian, supply special numbers.

Lt. Straight Awarded DSC

For continuing a counterattack after his commanding officer had been put out of action, Lt. Fay Straight has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, it was learned this week.

During the course of the battle, Lt. Straight and his men were caught under heavy fire. Straight was able to evacuate most of his command but was unable to escape himself.

He was captured near Tebourba, Tunisia on December 6, 1942.

72 New Kriegies Report Here In October

The Oflag's Welcome Mat took a helluva beating last month when 72 new officers trudged through the gate.

Most of these are officers of a Texas regiment now fighting in Italy. Others include officers captured in Tunisia, an airborne battalion commander captured near Naples, an Associated Press correspondent with the British Royal Navy and a Catholic chaplain.

Lt. Col. Doyle Yardley was the first of the new comers, arriving here October 1. A paratrooper, he was captured before day break on September 15, having jumped at midnight with his battalion and landed near a panzer division command post.

On October 7, Capt. Newton Linton and Joe Emerson, Lt. Dalton Medlen and W O Roger Cannon, all of Texas, Lts. Theodore Pawloski and Steve Barovic of Pennsylvania, and Lt. Willert Davis of Illinois arrived. They were captured near Naples.

They were followed on October 16 by Lt. P. D. Lamprus.

Thirty officers arrived on October 19, including the new chaplain, Lt. S. Bruch of New Jersey, and three doctors, Capt. Wyson and Mackee of Ohio and Capt. T. E. Corozan of Iowa.

With this group came AP correspondent and Pulitzer prize winner Larry Allen of West Virginia. Allen, in his three years as writer with the British Mediterranean fleet, had, up to the time of his capture, seen every naval operation in that sea and had been five times torpedoed, three times sunk.

Most of the officers in the October 19 group had been captured in Tunisia.

The group included:

Capt. W. Walters, Ark., Yarock, Mass. and Hughes, Mass. Lts. Straight, W. Va., Higgins, Ia., Jones, Pa., McLaughlin, N. Y., Weigand, Ohio, La Chance, Ala., Fitton, Ark., Hirt, Ill., Matton, Okla., Carnes, Ind., Denman, Ala., Feldman, Mass., Victor, Ill., Frazee, Ohio, Long, Va., Johnson, Pa., Holt, N. C., Hooker, N. Y., Wafal, N. Y., Bryant, Ill., Lowe, Ariz., and Blevins, Okla.

The day following, the latest batch of Kriegies from the Italian front arrived.

They were:

Lt. Col. Gaines Barron, Maj. Roy Irving, Capt. Robinson, Ferguson, Torrence and Bond, all Texans, Capt. Brown, Ill., and Candiff, Okla., Lts. Williamson, Garfield and Yaden, Texas, Lts. O'Brien, Haag, and Hanson, N. Y., Lts. Shirk, Okla., Young, Ohio, Hart, S. C., Livingston, Miss., Graham, Pa., Grimes and Brooker, N. J., Morrow, Wash., and Swanson, Calif.

Juskalian also mentions the items provided by the International YMCA and the International Red Cross parcels:

'Without them we could not have survived with rations provided by the Germans.' (Demirjian, p. 350)

His lists continued with the day's activities, starting with Reveille at 0600 and ending with supper at 1800 plus night activities, if any were planned. In early June, camp preparations for the Oflag 64 first anniversary were in full mode until the greatest of all surprises happened.

'We were ready when the fifth of June rolled around. That night we turned in with the same kind of expectancy a kid has before birthday. Dawn broke clear the next morning to the loud and brassy blare of our band. We assembled for the appell. Midway through the roll call we sensed an air of excitement among the guards. The roll call finished faster than usual. The German duty officer and his entourage hurried out of the camp. Something definitely was astir! Soon the electric phrase was on everyone's

lips, being passed back and forth with a layer of misbelief: The invasion has started!'

'Finally Operation OVERLORD had come to pass. During the heavy hours of the morning, while we had slept, the invasion force had slipped across the English Channel and had started to scale the walls of Fortress Europe all along the storm-swept coast of Normandy.'

'We POWs could not fathom their reaction. They, like us, had been expecting the invasion in the West since the previous summer when the Allies landed in Italy. Their newspapers had regularly speculated as to "when" and "where" it would take place. Surprise on the part of the Germans we could understand, for we ourselves were surprised. But this outbreak of hysteria had us puzzled. It didn't fit the pattern.'

What stunned them was -

'the suspicion that all of us POWs, isolated behind barbed wire and heavy guard in far-off Poland, a thousand miles from the troop staging areas in England, had somehow known the exact date for the past month or so. The pretext that we would be celebrating on our first anniversary at Oflag 64 had been nothing less than a devilish trick.' (Demirjian, pp. 352 - 353)

The invasion pieces fit together when a German officer confided this information with Colonel Drake and for a while, it was decided that the Americans would allow the mirage to continue—letting the Germans

'stew in their own juice—let them think that we had a supersecret means of contacting General Eisenhower's headquarters and that we were considered important enough to be kept posted.' (Demirjian, p. 353)

Eventually, most camp routines returned to normal activity, but the ruse, if it was one, remained a mystery and the American reveled in it. Meanwhile, as more POWs arrived from the Western Front, the camp grew to 1400 men, but another life-changing event was evolving as stated by Major Juskalian:

'We were hoping that we would be liberated by the advancing Russian Army, but Hitler had other plans for us POWs. We were to be used as hostages (bargaining chips). Before the Russian forward element could reach Szubin, the Germans had moved us out on foot on January 21, 1945 for a march that would last 40 days and end about 400 miles to the west in Germany proper. The weather was severe, unbearable for the first ten days as snow blanketed the countryside. Wind chill, frozen hands and feet, hunger and exhaustion stalked us every step of the way. Many were incapacitated and had to be sent by truck or train into Germany proper.' (Demirjian, p. 354)

Because the surviving marchers were housed at night in various barns, schools, churches, etc., some were able to escape successfully, but most who attempted were either killed or threatened with sprayed bullets if they did not rejoin the march.

Finally reaching Parchim, 80 miles northwest of Berlin around March first, the remaining numbers were greatly diminished: Of the original 1400 men who started the trek, less than 500 were still present. Next stop by boxcars was Oflag XIII B in Hammelburg, which included the memorable Baum Task Force sent by General George Patton. Although this brave group of men penetrated 60 miles through enemy territory, they were underprepared both for the trip and the number of POWs who needed assistance. (Demirjian, p. 356)

Juskalian and others escaped in the confusion, were recaptured, and rejoined the group near Nuremberg. A bombing raid which targeted areas with alacrity, also bombed an unaware group of Americans, killing 40 and injuring others; this event was to be remembered by Juskalian as a tragic irony. Returned to the POW camp at Nuremberg, they were liberated days later by the U.S. 45th Infantry Division and sent to Camp Luck Strike, a RAMP (Recovered Allied Military Personnel) assembly area near Le Havre, France. Deciding to visit France before returning to the U.S., Juskalian and his friend, Mirakian, completed a short but grand tour of the city and returned to the camp, where they boarded a slow-moving troop ship toward Boston Harbor. (Demirjian, pp. 355 – 359)

HOME IN THE USA WITH NEW ORDERS

After returning to his family for a grand reunion, he was ordered to Fort Benning, Georgia “to undergo refresher training in preparation for an assignment to the Pacific.” His orders changed, however, when Japan surrendered, sending Juskalian, instead, to the Pentagon. (Demirjian, p. 360)

“Now wearing the insignia of a lieutenant colonel, Juskalian was assigned as an assistant secretary in the Secretariat of the War Department General Staff [from 1945 – 1948]. This comprised the immediate offices of the Chief of Staff of the Army who at that time was General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower. Juskalian was responsible for ensuring proper staffing of Joint Chiefs of Staff and U.S. British Combined Chiefs of Staffs papers and preparing briefs for General Eisenhower’s perusal and decision.” (Demirjian, p. 361)

“Juskalian’s next assignment was with the staff and faculty of The Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He remained there for three years until the summer of 1952. While at the school, he availed himself of the opportunity of taking airborne training and qualifying as a parachutist. His next assignment was to have been to Alaska as Commandant of the Arctic Warfare School.

However, still rankled by the memory of having spent most of World War II as a POW, he requested that his orders be changed from Alaska to Korea where the war was still going on. The request approved, the summer of 1952 found him on his way to the combat zone. After a flight across the Pacific, Juskalian made the rest of the trip to Korea by troop ship, arriving at Incheon on August 31, 1952. After a brief stopover in Seoul, he proceeded by jeep to his assignment with the G-3 (Operations) Section of the U.S. X Army Corps which occupied the easternmost flank of the front lines.” (Demirjian, p. 363)

Juskalian’s military leadership in Korea is expressed in the following citation.

Citation For Gallantry

“For his conduct of the operation in the face of severe odds, Juskalian was awarded his second Silver Star medal. His citation, published in General Orders 41, Headquarters 7th Infantry Division, 18 July 1953, reads as follows:

Lieutenant Colonel GEORGE JUSKALIAN, 032371, Infantry United States Army, a member of Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry distinguished himself by gallantry in action near Chorwon, Korea. During the time period 24 March 1953 to 26 March 1953, Colonel JUSKALIAN led his battalion in a counterattack against strong enemy positions. Colonel JUSKALIAN advanced with the foremost elements of his battalion during the entire conflict. During the attack the battalion encountered a mine field blocking the only route of approach, but Colonel JUSKALIAN, with complete disregard for his personal safety, placed himself in front of his unit and led them through the field. Colonel JUSKALIAN continued to lead his forward elements toward the objective through withering enemy artillery, mortar, and small-arms fire into fighting positions on the objective and established his command post. After setting up the command post, Colonel JUSKALIAN, often exposed himself to the enemy, moved from position to position to maintain direct and personal control of his men. Colonel JUSKALIAN remained on the position to direct the operations and finally led the last element of his command from the position. The gallantry displayed by Colonel JUSKALIAN reflects great credit upon himself and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the Federal service from Massachusetts.” (Demirjian, p. 368)

“At the end of the war in June 1953, Juskalian was transferred to Eight Army Headquarters in Seoul where he helped plan and carry out the exchange of prisoners of war at Panmunjom.” (Demirjian, p. 368)

MORE POST ASSIGNMENTS

“In the years between Korea and Vietnam, Juskalian was posted successively at Fort Monroe, Virginia (1953), Norfolk Virginia

(1954), the Pentagon (1954-55), Fort Devens, Massachusetts (1956 – 57), Tehran, Iran (1957 – 58), Governors Island, New York (1959 – 61) and Poitiers and Verdun France (1961 – 63).” (Demirjian, p. 369)

Colonel Juskalian’s assignment in Iran was very memorable, partly because of his linguistic abilities. Having been emersed in the Armenian language became a useful resource, particularly as he worked with personnel in powerful positions, including the Armenian community.

“He was sent to the United States Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) in Tehran, Iran, where he served as Logistics Advisor to the Imperial Iranian Army. As principal logistics staff officer, he supervised all the U.S. Army advisors to the Iranian Army’s technical service department chiefs, all of whom were general officers. In addition his office was responsible for preparing the annual program for the input of military materiel and construction from U.S. resources to the Iranian Armed Forces, a program which ran into millions of dollars annually.” (Demirjian, p. 370)

“The years I served in Iran, 1957 and 1958, were fairy-tale years for me. Everything seemed to come together to make my tour there the most satisfying of all my peacetime assignments. My fellow officers in the MAGG were seasoned team players. Our counterparts to the Imperial Iranian Army were on the whole competent and easy to work with. The Iranian people were courteous and friendly. And the Armenian Community was, by and large, cultured, affluent and hospitable.” (Demirjian, pp. 370)

Yet another overseas assignment loomed on his professional horizons—this one in South East Asia. *“Juskalian arrived in Saigon in August 1963 and was assigned to the IV Republic of Vietnam (RVN) Army Corps as deputy corps advisor with a station in Camtho, provincial capital of the Mekong Delta.”* When asked about his scariest adventure, Juskalian recalled a helicopter ride which landed on the enemy side of a canal. When no friendly troops were evident, he immediately ordered the helicopter airborne, then evaluated the situation from a safe position of 1000 feet. A few minutes of hesitation could have cost the lives of all onboard. (Juskalian, p. 374)

“After six months in the Mekong Delta, Juskalian was assigned to Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) to serve as the MACV inspector general directly under Commander General William Westmoreland. In that capacity, he traveled throughout South Vietnam on inspection visits to many military installations. Because of the danger of frequent flights into and out of outlying, enemy-infested areas, he was awarded the Air Medal and a Bronze Star.” (Demirjian, pp. 374 – 375)

JUSKALIAN'S MILITARY RECORD

Service

June, 1936 – June, 1937

CCC – June, 1937 – October, 1938

November 1940 – May, 1967

98 Months Overseas

30 Years Active Duty

Battles and Campaigns

Algeria- French Morocco, Tunisia

Korea Summer – Fall 1952

3rd Korean Winter

Korea Summer – Fall 1953

Vietnam Advisory Campaign

Decorations and Awards

Silver Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Prisoner of War Medal, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle East Campaign Medal with 2 Campaign Stars and Arrowhead, World War II Victory Service Medal with 3 Campaign Stars, Vietnam Service Medal with 1 Campaign Star, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, United Nations Korea Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Korea War Service Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation Combat Infantry Badge with Star, War Department General Staff Device, Parachutist Badge

Military Schools

Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, 1948 – 1949

The Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia 1953 – 1954

(Demirjian, p. 338)

RETIREMENT YEARS AND PERSONAL LIFE

“Juskalian retired from the Army on April 30, 1967. He settled in Arlington, Virginia and worked as a graduate admissions director at the Southeastern University of Washington, D. C. for eight years, obtaining a master’s degree in business and public administration with honors in 1977 at the age of 60.” (Demirjian, p. 378)

Many of Juskalian’s family, friends and colleagues believed that he never really retired—he just changed from military uniforms to civilian dress and stayed active well into his 90s.

“Apart from his family duties, Juskalian devoted much of his retirement years to veterans affairs, community activities, the Armenian Church and the Armenian Community in general.”
(Demirjian, p. 378)

A relevant example of Juskalian’s endeavors to communicate with young people about this nation’s history was sponsored through the Veterans History Project. This interview was recorded at the Rocky Run Middle School with several students participating in the question/answer format. As an astute communicator, Juskalian was very engaged with each participant and replied to comments with honest, thoughtful insights.

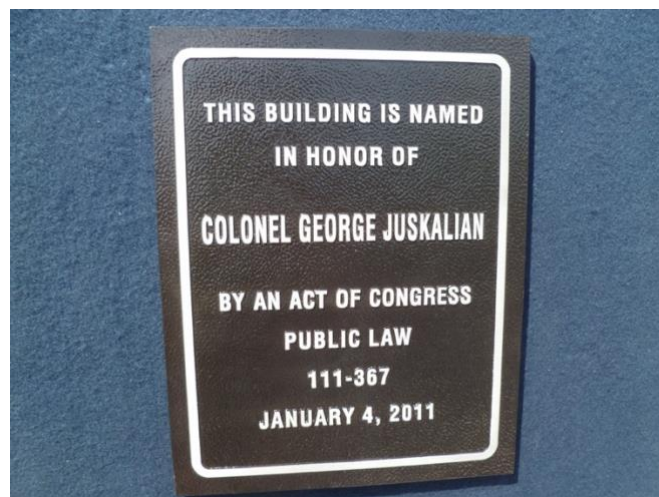
Juskalian’s marriage with his first wife, Beatrice MacDougall, ended in divorce in 1958. In 1970, he married Lucine Baroumian and they shared two children, son, Kevork and daughter, Elissa.

In 1989, the family moved to Centerville, Virginia, where he remained for the rest of his life. Juskalian died on July 4, 2010 and is buried in the Prisoner of War Section of the Arlington National Cemetery.”

A WELL-DESERVED TRIBUTE

“On May 21, 2010, President Barack Obama signed Resolution 6392 of the 2nd Session of the 111th Congress which designated the U.S. Post Office on 5003 Westfields Boulevard in Centerville, Virginia, as the Colonel George Juskalian Post Office Building.”
(MASSIPOST.com)

A plaque with his name, COLONEL GEORGE JUSKALIAN, and the date, JANUARY 4, 2011, has been placed outside the front entrance of the building.





The following sources have been used in this biography:

TRIUMPH AND GLORY—AMERICAN WORLD WAR II HEROES by Richard N. Demirjian, Ararat Heritage Printing Company, Copyright, 1996

AMERICANS BEHIND THE BARBED WIRE by J. Frank Diggs, Vandamere Press, Copyright 2000

“US Post Office Building Named After Colonel George Juskalian”
(<https://massipost.com/2015/11/us-post-office-building-named-after-colonel-george-juskalian/>)

[George Juskalian Collection \(AFC/2001/001/51295\), Veterans History project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress](#)