

# 2LT Edmon “Ted” Loftin Rinehart

1920 – 2013

## EARLY LIFE AND WWII MILITARY SERVICE



1937 Princeton Yearbook

*Edmon Rinehart, the son of Robert Ernest and Elizabeth Lyles Rinehart, was born in New York City in 1920 and spent his childhood in Indianapolis, Indiana. A talented student, he completed his secondary education at Andover Academy in Massachusetts and graduated from Princeton in 1942.*

Source:

(<http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/142515948/edmon-loftin-rinehart>)

The attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 which committed his country to war prompted Rinehart to seek and receive his commission in OCS as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

His country at war, 2LT Rinehart became a field artillery officer in the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and joined the battle arenas taking place in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. As an artillery field observer, he was attached to a Ranger force of three battalions assigned to take the outlying areas of Cisterna, Italy. After initial success, they were surrounded by units from four German divisions. *Roads To Liberation From Oflag 64* by Clarence Meltesen describes this desperate situation:

*He marched in with Patterson’s A/3 and when the fire fight started, his observer party was pinned down and the radio damaged. This crippled efforts to patch through Division to obtain Corps artillery fire support that could reach our encircled position.*

When two support infantry units were unable to break through the engagement, more than 700 Rangers were killed, wounded or captured, including Rinehart on 30 January 1944.

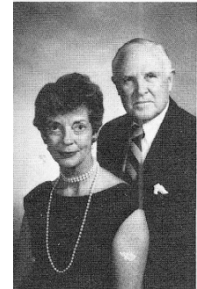
*At Oflag 64 [following his arrival on 21 April 1944], he performed lookout duty for “the Bird”, helped dispense dirt from the tunnel, read a lot, took daily walks around the perimeter, sparred with Pat Teel and played touch football. But his finest hour came when he played the ingenue in *You Can’t Take It With You* in a camp Little Theatre production and acquired the name “Rosie” from “Rosie the Riveter.”*

(Source: *OFLAG 64 The Fiftieth Anniversary Book*, pp. 116, 117)

Information from Meltesen's book also confirmed that Rinehart became a member of Colonel Drury's group as they made their way to Odessa, then home to the USA.

## HOME AGAIN WITH PLANS

After his arrival at Odessa, Russia, with other American soldiers returning to the U.S., Ted Rinehart sailed home on a Liberty ship to continue his life. This included attendance and graduation from Harvard Law School and marriage to Barbara Young Lutz Rinehart in the Princeton Chapel on November 17, 1945.



1987 Oflag 64 Reunion

Mrs. Rinehart was also a scholar and a dedicated spouse.

*Barbara attended Miss Fine's School in Princeton, New Jersey (now Princeton Day School) for 12 years and was president of her class, graduating in 1942. She attended Wellesley College and received an A.A. degree from Finch College in New York City in 1944. After her marriage, she accompanied her husband on his travels in both his career as a lawyer and a soldier, living in Germany 1951-1953 and settling in Montgomery in 1955.*

She was also interested in the arts, service auxiliaries and boards and as a couple, they attended four Oflag 64 Reunions: 1987, 1993, 1994, 2004. He was present in 2008. After 60 years of marriage and preceding her husband in death in 2007, she is remembered for her generous contributions to family and community activities.

Source: (<http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/142515989/barbara-young-rinehart>)

## KOREAN WAR AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

*During the Korean War, he returned to active duty, serving in Germany with the first U.S. Army units to be dispatched under NATO to protect from Warsaw Pact aggression, and he remained in the Army Reserve for 30 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.*

*He moved to Montgomery in 1955 to become an assistant attorney general working with his friend and former Army colleague, newly elected Alabama Attorney General John Patterson. In 1958 he represented Alabama before the U.S. Supreme Court in the very important First Amendment case, *NAACP v. Alabama*. He went on to serve as Governor Patterson's Commissioner of Insurance for three years before joining the Birmingham law firm Deramus*

*& Johnson. Several years later, he and Governor Patterson formed a law partnership and practiced together for over 20 years. In retirement Mr. Rinehart was active in the English-Speaking Union, serving as its president for several years.*

According to the Veterans History Project, LTC Rinehart served at the following locations: Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Camp Blanding, Florida; North Africa; Sicily; Italy, Poland; European Theatre.

## **IN MEMORY**



At the age of 93, Edmon “Ted” Rinehart died on June 11, 2013. Burial followed at Saint John’s Episcopal Church Columbarium in Montgomery, Alabama. Survivors include son, Robert Bruce Rinehart; daughter, Christine Rinehart Taft; and four grandchildren

Source:

(<http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/142515948/edmon-loftin-rinehart>)

Biography written by Kriegy Research Group writer Ann C. Rogers