

Post **Oflag 64** Item

1st Quarter 2010

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DALLAS TEXAS, HERE WE COME!!
Site of the 2010 Oflag 64 Reunion, Oct 7-10

It's time again to mark your calendars and reserve dates for the Oflag 64 Reunion in Dallas TX hosted by Carole and Phil Lester, daughter and son-in-law of Herm Littman. Great plans are already underway and we look forward to another wonderful event! On page 2 of this ITEM you will find a letter from Carole regarding reunion activities. Information can also be found on our website at www.oflag64.us

As soon as possible, please fill out and return to the Lesters the "2010 Reunion Survey" found on page 3. This does not commit anyone to attend at this time, but will give us an idea of who is planning to attend and how to organize. For those with email, you should have already received a link for the electronic version of this survey. Please feel free to respond by email if you prefer. Thank you in advance for providing the needed information.

Much appreciation goes to Carole and Phil for agreeing to host this year's reunion. If you are able to assist them in any aspect of the event, they would be pleased to have your help. Please contact them using the contact information in this ITEM.

Looking ahead, we are still in need of a volunteer to host the 2011 reunion as well as volunteers to host future reunions. If you are willing and able to host a reunion, please let us hear from you.

Best Regards,
Elodie Caldwell, ITEM Editor
(Daughter of Reid Ellsworth)



A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

Dear Oflag 64 Family,

The 2010 annual Oflag 64 reunion will be held in Dallas, Texas on October 7th to the 10th. Welcome to “Big D” - Dallas is the eighth-largest city and part of the fourth-largest metropolitan area in the nation; the city area covers approximately 343 square miles and has a population of 1,279,910. The ultra modern and sophisticated city attracts worldwide travelers, making the area the No. 1 visitor and leisure destination in Texas.

Dallas is centrally located and within a four-hour flight from most North American destinations. DFW International Airport is the world’s third busiest airport, offering nearly 1,800 flights per day and providing non-stop service to 134 domestic and 37 international destinations worldwide. In addition, Dallas Love Field Airport is conveniently located 10 minutes from downtown. Once here, visitors can ride one of the fastest-growing light rail systems in the nation or the historic, free McKinney Avenue Trolley from the Dallas Arts District throughout the Uptown area with its restaurants, pubs, boutique hotels and shops.



After your arrival and reunion registration on Thursday, you will be able to rest or explore the central Dallas area with dinner on your own. Friday’s activities include the morning business meeting followed by a tour of Dallas with visits to the Dallas Holocaust Center for Peace and Reconciliation, and the Sixth Floor Museum (the National Historical Landmark

located in the Texas Schoolbook Depository Building in Downtown Dallas, the site where President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963). The location and the building itself have been preserved and still look much like they did back in November of 1963. Lunch will be on your own in the Dallas historic “West End.” We will return to the hotel in the late afternoon. Dinner will be on your own.



Saturday’s outings will take us to Fort Worth and to other area sites of interest. We will return to the hotel by 4:00 pm to prepare for the banquet. The evening’s events will include a guest speaker (he is still working on his calendar), musical entertainment and by request – dancing.



Our hotel will be the [Crowne Plaza Suites, Dallas - Park Central](#), an award-winning Dallas all-suite hotel. The hotel rate is \$85.00/night plus taxes and fees and offers free high-speed Internet access, spacious rooms with special features developed by Dr. Michael Breus, Ph.D., to ensure peaceful slumber. The meeting space and special room they have reserved for the hospitality suite are ours at no charge if we fill our rooms. In addition, they have



reserved all of their accessible rooms for our reunion so register early and bring your families.

Looking forward to seeing you in Dallas in October.



Sincerely,
Carole and Phil Lester
2501 Mollimar Dr
Plano TX 75075-5501

To help us plan the next reunion, please let us know if you think you will be attending and state how many people might attend with you. Help make the 2010 Oflag 64 Reunion successful by inviting family members and friends. This is not a commitment on your part; it is just to give us a ballpark figure for planning purposes. Please fill out the form below and send it to us as soon as possible.

Detach below & send to: Carole and Phil Lester
2501 Mollimar Dr
Plano TX 75075-5501



Or email your response to Elodie Caldwell at: elodie@oflag64.us

2010 Reunion Survey



Dallas TX Reunion
Thursday, October 7 – Sunday, October 10

Crowne Plaza Suites
Dallas - Park Central
7800 Alpha Road
Dallas TX 75240

<http://www.cpdallas.com/index.php>

1-972-233-7600

- Yes, I hope to attend the 2010 Reunion
- I plan to invite (how many?) _____ family members and/or guests.
- No, I am unable to attend.
- I am unsure at this time.



Name _____



MAIL CALL



EDWARD BATTE from Southern Pines SC sent a donation to the Postage Fund. *Thanks, Ed, for your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. We greatly appreciate your support. Please keep in touch.*

ELEANOR BERTRAND from Baton Rouge LA (friend of Oflag 64) has sent some great emails relating to those who serve our country. She pays wonderful tribute to them for their service and sacrifices. *Thanks, Eleanor, once again for such thought-provoking emails reminding us about our military heroes. We are grateful for all our patriots and heroes. We hope you'll write again.*



MARK BYRUM (nephew-in-law of the late Kriegy Franklin H. Masonheimer), new to our Oflag 64 family, recently sent a photo of Frank along with a short note saying: "The family knows very little about his military experiences. He never talked about it. Frank is actually my wife's uncle but I'm doing the genealogy portion. One story that's been told throughout the years was Frank's liberation by the Russians. He spent some time in a hospital in Russia where he was treated for frostbite. During this time period, they suspected that he was a spy because of his last name being German. An army Chaplain, known by Frank was able to convince the Russians that he was an American. After returning to the states and recuperating from his wounds, he was subsequently promoted to major and reassigned to a language school to learn Russian. He was sent back to Russia, and there's where the story ends. He never would speak of his experiences in Russia and the family never asked." *Thank you, Mark, for writing and sharing what you know of Frank. Our Oflag 64 family is always willing to share information they have. We would be glad to send an email query if you'd like help with your search. Please write again.*

HELEN CHAPPELL from Kaufman TX (wife of Kriegy Roy "Tex" Chappell) wrote with an update on their health saying: "We are having Roy cared for by Hospice in hospital bed at home with nurses around the clock. I am home again after a month's hospitalization and Rehab. I am gaining strength gradually and am grateful to be walking again. We Kriegies have to hang on and keep the



prayers going." In a more recent email, Helen stated: "I am so hopeful of being able to attend the Dallas POW Reunion next year (with some of our offspring accompanying me). Roy would not be able to attend (much to my sorrow). You are so wonderful to keep us all in touch. We have become like "family" over the years, and we treasure each friendship. God bless you for all your dear efforts for our group." *Thank you so much, Helen, for the updates. We are sorry to hear about your hospitalization but are happy to hear that you are improving. We look forward to seeing you at the Dallas Reunion. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and Roy. Please keep us posted as time goes by.*

TOM COBB from Columbia SC (son of the late Kriegy George A. Cobb) recently wrote and expressed regrets that he and his wife Nancy weren't able to attend the reunion in Ft. Collins. They were visiting their son who lives in South Korea. *Tom, you and Nancy were definitely missed at the reunion this year but you would have definitely been missed by your son if you hadn't gone to visit him. We're happy you were able to take advantage of the opportunity, but also hope to see you next year. Please write again.*



BILL CORY from Naples FL sent a packet a few months back containing great information, correspondence, photos and photocopies, history of Oflag 64 Reunions, and MIS-X information. Unfortunately, we neglected to acknowledge this contribution in our last ITEM. Some of the information is already available on our website but we will be working over the next while to include more. *Thanks, Bill, for your continuous supply of information. It's important that none of this is lost, so we appreciate all information that is available. Best of health to you and thanks for your patience with us. Please write again.*

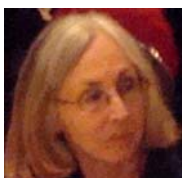


CAROLINE FENTON from Escondido CA (daughter of the late Kriegy Otho "Rolla" Williams Jr.) sent a power point presentation with photos of Normandy during the invasion in WWII with matched photographs of the sites and angles of the WWII photographs taken today. In a separate email she wrote: "I have to tell you that I had a LOVELY lunch

with Linda Krueger and her hubby, John. (Linda Krueger is the daughter of the late Kriegy Alfred C. Nelson.) They came into San Diego briefly and we were able to have lunch at a nice restaurant at the coast. Her father is inurned only about 5 or 6 spots up from my father, as they passed away very close together. There are lots of other similarities. In our discussions, we figure our fathers may have met on the Oflag 64 basketball court!! I gave her a few of my father's letters and some other material to give her some more info as she does not have too many personal items, other than military documents. *Thank you, Caroline, for those great photos. Amazing how much the same everything still looks. We will forward the presentation to anyone with email who requests it. Thanks also for sharing your visit with Linda. We hope you are able to have many more. Please keep us updated from time to time.*

JUDY CASNER FLETCHER from Woodbridge VA

(daughter of the late Kriegy "Al" Casner wrote about her father's funeral at Arlington in late December saying: "We had a beautiful sunny day with no wind for Dad's funeral. Almost everyone walked behind the caisson to the burial site. The weather was warm enough for the military band to play and the whole ceremony was quite impressive. We could not have asked for anything better. Both Wilbur Sharpe and Doc DiFrancesco and their families were also there for my dad. That meant a lot to us." *Thanks, Judy, for making us a part of that special day by sharing your experience. What a beautiful memory! Please keep n touch.*



RENEE and BILL GEBHART from Syracuse NY (friends of Kriegy Donald R. Waful) emailed on Don's behalf to say "he is so happy to see all these pictures on the POW web site" and also to provide information for the website database. *We appreciate your email, Renee and Bill and are very thankful to Don for his great service and sacrifice during the War. Our best to you all. Please contact us again at any time.*

DAVID HARLOW from Wagoner OK (nephew of the late Kriegy William Harlow) recently emailed the following information for the website database: "My Uncle William Lailer Harlow, was in Poland then in Hammelburg as a POW. When the attempt to rescue the POWs was made, he decided to go with the escaping column of vehicles, was wounded, returned to the POW hospital and died there a couple of days later. One of the members of the group indicated he remembered my Uncle being at the hospital. Lt. William L. Harlow had been in the 317th Infantry, and was wounded then captured near the Mozelle River area. He left a wife and three children, my cousins. David also offered to send a photo of his uncle from those days. *Thank you, David, for sharing this*

information and for helping us know your uncle a bit better. We would love to have a photo of him to add to our website photos. Please write again.

LIBBY HIGGINS from Greenville SC (daughter of the late Kriegy George Wilson Tate) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. She is also looking for information about her father. If you are able to share, please contact me (Elodie) at one of the addresses on the front page of this ITEM and I will pass it along to Libby. *Thank you, Libby, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. Members of our group are always so willing to share the information they have. We hope you will be able to find the information you seek. Please let us hear from you again.*

JONEL HILL from Pasadena CA

sent a contribution to the Postage Fund. *Thanks, so much, Jonel, for your thoughtful and generous contribution to the Postage Fund. They are always very much appreciated. We missed you at this year's reunion but hope to see you again in the future. Please contact us again.*



HERNDON INGE from Mobile AL

not long ago wrote and sent a great packet of information containing articles he's written, photos, and also a contribution to the Postage Fund to defray costs of printing and mailing the ITEM. In his letter, he mentioned that he is a survivor of Hammelburg, arriving at Hammelburg the same day the men from Oflag 64 arrived. When the tanks arrived, he hung on the back of a halftrack for several miles before giving up. He is now retired after 60 years of being a lawyer—10 of those as a circuit judge. *Thanks so much, Herndon, for the great information you have shared. We also greatly appreciate your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund and are happy to continue sending you the ITEM. Best wishes to you. Hope to hear from you again soon.*



JULIE JOHNSON from Bend OR (daughter of the late Kriegy Carmen F. Clawson) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. She and her husband recently took a trip to Szubin and with Jackie Pettigrew's help, had a wonderful time. You may remember that Jackie took a trip to Szubin a few years back. Some of Jackie's pictures and narrative are in our website gallery. *Thank you, Julie, for contacting us. We are happy to welcome you to our Oflag 64 family. Thank you for sharing a portion of your experience in Szubin. We hope to hear from you from time to time.*

WILLIAM F. JONES from Knoxville TN (son of the late Kriegy William K. Jones) sent information he recently found regarding his father's escape: "As you may recall from my earlier emails to you, my father, William King Jones, was an officer in the US Army. He was wounded and captured on 17-Feb-1943 during the battle of Faid Pass in Tunisia. Eventually he arrived as a POW in Oflag 64 "sometime toward the last of November" 1943. As reported, he passed away in 1994. For general reference, I am currently reading for the first time the book, *Roads to Liberation from Oflag 64*, by Clarence R. Meltesen. I feel so fortunate to have access to this book with so much detail of that time. My father participated in the now famous, Long, Cold March described by Mr. Meltesen. As is known, this forced march was from Oflag 64 at Szubin, Poland to various destinations west starting 20-Jan-1945 and for most spanned hundreds of miles in winter conditions with little food. According to my father's personal account, in his wounded, still-disabled state he was directed to leave the march (in the bitter cold after perhaps 200 miles by foot) to board a train. "The point of entrainage was somewhere in the vicinity of Stettin, Germany." So, thanks to this book, I now feel sure that my father likely left the Long, Cold March sometime around 14-Feb-1945 near Stolpe. In regards to this train trip, my father went on to say: "We were in the box cars with the doors nailed shut for approximately two weeks." "Some where around the 20th of March, 1945, we were in the railroad yards of Western Berlin, when it was raided by Allied Air Forces. We begged the German guards to allow us to leave the boxcars and go to an air raid shelter only a short distance away. We were refused. We sat in this box car during the entire raid which lasted several hours and which blew the last four cars of our train up."

Anyway, these now so interested to know from this book some of the routes take me cold, starving POWs during that awful time. If it helps other members of the Oflag 64 community, I've taken the notations from Chapters 12 & 13 of this book to roughly prepare some route maps using [maps.google](https://www.google.com/maps).

[Maps.google route map from Szubin to Swinemunde](https://www.google.com/maps)
[Maps.google route map from Swinemunde to Parchim](https://www.google.com/maps)

[Maps.google route map from Parchim to Hammelburg](https://www.google.com/maps)

So, I hope that others find this useful. I am always eager to hear back from anyone who might provide further information regarding these events. And I am grateful for the wonderful feedback I've received so far from so many helpful members of the extended Oflag 64 family. Thanks again for all that you are doing to keep alive the sacrifice made by so many to help keep our great nation free and the world safe from tyranny. We are forever in their debt." *Thank you so much, Bill, for sharing such helpful information. And thanks to Clarence Meltesen, we*

have the information you shared. Best wishes to you in your continued search for information. Please keep in touch.

GEORGE JUSKALIAN not long ago forwarded to us a copy of the obituary of the late Kriegy, Herbert A. Johnson, Jr. Along with it he sent a nice tribute to Herb. (see the TAPS section for both) *We're so appreciative, George, of your sweet tribute and information about Herbert Johnson. For those of us who didn't have the opportunity to meet him, it gives us a glimpse of the wonderful person he was. Please write again.*



RODNEY KITCHENS from Lawrenceville GA (son of the late Edward B. Kitchens, Jr.) recently contacted us through our website. He wrote: "My father was BG Edward B Kitchens Jr (US Army Retired). He passed away on July 25 2009 at the age of 90. We always knew he was a former POW but not until his death did we find all of his POW papers, including his Oflag 64 ID card. This prompted me to find out more about the history of Oflag 64. I found your web site and wish to add his name to the TAPS page." *Thanks so much, Rodney, for contacting us and letting us know more about your dear father. We have added him to our online TAPS list as requested. We hope you'll keep in touch.*

JUDY KNIGHT from Naperville IL (daughter of Kriegy Ed Graf) recently updated us with information about her family. She wrote: "Katie (Judy's daughter) finished her radiation and will have follow up for the next 20 years. Everything that I have read about this form of cancer is that it doesn't usually reappear in the same place and it usually doesn't reappear for 7 to 14 years. This is where the doctors and I are in total disagreement. I have read up on this and they are learning right with me. Her oncologist is the one that admitted he had never seen this before so he called MD Anderson in Houston for their advice. I want to have Katie go there and get this second opinion. Pray that Katie will go with me for the second opinion down to MD Anderson.



I was thinking that all of us should keep you posted on the surviving people. I would like to know how they all are and don't have the time to write everyone.

I will tell you that my dad is going to be 87 on January 7 and doing well. His eyesight isn't the best but so far he is still driving. He actually went out when everything in Grand Rapids was shut down due to snow and took a friend with his walker to the doctor. Leave it to Ed to help someone out no matter the weather. Dad use to be the guy who would snow blow half the neighbors' driveways in a snowstorm and then he would actually do the street in front of

our house so we could get in and out easily. He doesn't always seem like it but he is a really caring and sharing kind of person.

Tim (Judy's husband) had emergency back surgery last Monday night and isn't doing the best. He was in a lot of pain last night so we have a call into the doctor right now. He is sleeping now because he couldn't sleep last night so I am doing a lot of work from home right now. He can't drive for a while and really is flat on his back for at least another week. *We appreciate all the information you have shared, Judy. Life seems to be continually full of one kind of challenge or another. We wish you and your family the best of health. Please keep us updated as time goes by.*

SUSAN BARNUM KOPROWSKI from Boulder CO (daughter of the late Kriegy William H. Barnum III) recently wrote of her father's passing. (see the **TAPS section**). *We were so sorry, Susie, to hear of your father's death. It's always difficult to lose our loved ones. We extend to your family heartfelt condolences and will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. We know another great Kriegy patriot and hero will be missed. We hope to hear from you again.*

ANNE KRUEZTER from Woodbridge VA (daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel Hoskot) emailed recently about her visit to Andersonville and to the D-Day Museum in New Orleans. She shared: "Tom and I stopped in



New Orleans on our drive east, and spent hours at the D-Day, now World War II Museum. It is very well done - we had attended a lecture on D-Day by a British author there the night before, which we thoroughly enjoyed. This weekend they are opening an addition to the museum, which is across the street --- big doings, with Tom Hanks and I think Tom Brokaw, etc, coming. They call it a 4-dimensional exhibit---with smells, noises, jiggling floors, and I don't know what else - smoke is in there somewhere, I think. They also have a "Stage Door Canteen" which will have 1940's singing acts and I guess you can get food---though one review I read said it would be food from the 40's---Spam and Cracker Jacks! Yum yum!

Not sure if you have heard from Karen Rossi, but we met up at Andersonville a couple of weeks ago, and had a great visit to the National POW Museum, also visiting the Andersonville prison exhibit - outdoors, all 26 acres of the original prison "yard", with a couple of reconstructed sections of the stockade, the 'dead line' staked out, and a small display of tents, etc. 42,000 Union POWs processed through Andersonville in I think 14 months, with 32,000 there at the most, and 13,000 died, almost all of whom are buried in the adjacent National Cemetery. There was little food, shelter or clean

water - very grim circumstances, and the Confederate commander of the POW camp, Capt. Wirz, was tried and hung shortly after the war's end. The cemetery is still an active one, and veterans can choose to be buried there. The POW Museum was fascinating - we only found two artifacts from OFLAG 64 - but we were happy to find the large plaque in the courtyard. I believe there were only 6 out there, so it was nice to have OFLAG-64 represented. *Thank you, Anne, for sharing your experiences with us. For Kriegy families who haven't been able to participate in our reunions or visit these sites, it helps give us a better idea of what the facilities have on/to display. Please write again any time.*

NORMA KUHN from Columbus NC

(friend of the late Kriegy John Creech and Oflag 64) wrote to thank our Oflag 64 Association for joining her in sorrow at losing John. She wrote: "I am glad he took me to some of the meetings." *Thank you, Norma, for writing. We all miss John and know that he is missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We wish you well and hope you'll write again.*



ROYAL LEE from Mankato MN wrote

not long ago to share information about his part in the MIS-X project during his time at Oflag 64. At a later date, he shared further information by phone. We hope to add an MIS-X section to our website soon and would like to add his account and those of any others who also participated. *Thank you very much, Royal, for sharing your experience. We have added it to the Information Station section of this ITEM. We would love to hear from you again.*



HERM LITTMAN from Spokane WA

not long ago sent photos of the Ft. Collins reunion and also of his weight lifting group at Oflag 64. It's the first such photo we've received and has now been added to our website photo gallery. *Thank you so much, Herm, for the photos. We always appreciate those little bits of photo history that we have not yet seen. Please keep them coming and let us hear from you again.*



LUCY LUSSENDEN from Livonia MI

(widow of the late Kriegy Donald Lussenden) commented on the WWII in HD programs that were aired on the History Channel in November. She wrote: "I think it's fabulous and possibly the best one on the war that I have ever seen!" *Good to hear from you again, Lucy. We agree wholeheartedly that the WWII in HD was one of the best. And wasn't it great to see and hear Jimmie Kanaya? Please keep in touch.*



PEGGY MARLATT from Flagstaff AZ

(daughter of Bob Thompson) recently emailed updates on her parents. She wrote: "Our family has really missed seeing you all the past couple of years at the reunions. Mother and Daddy (Robert and Gladys Thompson) have been adjusting to changes in their lives related to health issues. They are both home and independent. Daddy recently suffered a heart attack and was in the hospital for about a week. They were able to get the blockage opened with a stent and he is home recuperating from that...Daddy is having trouble with his eyesight so it is difficult for him to correspond or use the computer." In a subsequent email, she wrote: "He is feeling stronger and the doctor was happy with his progress." *Thanks for your email and updates on your parents. Please know that we have really missed seeing you the last couple of years as well. It's amazing what can be done with stents these days. Hope your dad's recovery is quick. Our best to your family and to your mom and dad. They will be in our thoughts and prayers. Please keep us posted as time goes by.*



CHRIS MCCAIN from Brenham TX (grandson-in-law of the late Kriegy Charlie Buerger) wrote to let us know of Charlie's passing on December 10. **(see the TAPS section)**. A few months earlier, Chris mentioned in an email: "Charlie is still living and was in relatively good health until a few weeks ago, he had major surgery (colon) that he is still trying to get over. Up until then he was still very active, still doing farm work in his tractor and tending to his cattle even after two broken hips....He is now in a nursing home." In an email sent since Charlie's passing, Chris stated: "Things are going OK, it will be different this Christmas, but we will manage." ...And since then, we have received digital copies of a number of pages from Charlie's war diary and hope to post them to our website or include them in a future ITEM. *We were saddened, Chris, to hear of Charlie's passing. It's very difficult to lose loved ones, but time heals and wonderful memories help sustain us. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. We know he'll be greatly missed. We also want to send our appreciation for all the information you've sent. There is a lot of work involved in scanning and sending pages from the diary and we thank you. Please keep in touch.*

GEORGE MYRON from Little Egg Harbor NJ

sent greetings recently and expressed: "Thank you for all you do for us Kriegies. Still on the blood thinner and nursing a wound on the top of my right foot--skin cancer surgery. Looking forward to seeing the gang in Dallas. *It was so good to hear from you again George. We hope your foot heals quickly and that you are in good*



health otherwise. Looking forward to seeing you at our next Reunion in Dallas. We hope you'll stay in touch.

ROBERT O'NEILL from Prescott AZ

has been working hard to get copies of the TV interviews done with our Kriegies at the Ft. Collins Reunion. It is in raw stages and is unedited. More information will be available in the future regarding possible edited copies. *Thank you, Bob, for your tireless work on this project. We hope we're able to get the desired results soon with copies available for interviewees. Please keep us updated as time goes by.*



KRYSZYNA PIORKOWSKA from New York City NY (friend of Oflag 64) found our website recently and asked to be added to our email list. She is working on an exhibit with The Muzeum Wojska Polskiego. Her focus is on Katyn and John Van Vliet who was taken to the Katyn Massacre site on May 12-15, 1943. She wrote: "As for the project, I am looking for information/recollections, etc. about John Van Vliet (am already in contact with his daughter) as well as information/contact with Donald Stewart about whom I know almost nothing as well as recollections about the Scottish POW Stanley Gilder, who was a physician in the Oflag's hospital and who together with the 2 Americans was taken to Katyn in May 1943. This work is all being conducted in light of two upcoming items:

1- April 2010 will be the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Massacre and the museum will be presenting a large exhibit in which we wish to also focus on these individuals.

2- the Katyn Museum, which is a subdivision of the MWP, will be relocating to significantly larger and newly designed quarters in the Caponierre of the Warsaw Cytadel, thus we have an opportunity to present new information on the Katyn Massacre. *Thank you, Krystyna, for contacting us. We have added you to our email list and have forwarded information as requested. We wish you success on your project. Please keep us updated on the exhibit and let us know if we can help further.*

SUSAN RICHARDSON from Jefferson IA (daughter of the late Kriegy Lumund F. Wilcox) has recently sent us a copy of her dad's POW history entitled: "Life in Prisoner of War Camp" and we will be uploading it soon to our website. In our search for information on a Kriegy, at times referred to as "Lummy", we ran across Susan's dad's name and contacted her to see if she might know of this reference. We have not yet confirmed a connection, but hope to be able to do so soon. In this process, Susan said she would like to be added to our email list. *Susan, welcome to our Oflag 64 family and thank you so much for sending the camp history*

written by your father. We are always thrilled to hear of connections being made and hope the "Lummy" connection can be confirmed soon. Please write again.

EDMON "TED" RINEHART from **Montgomery AL** sent two separate letters and donations to the Postage Fund. He had earlier requested a photocopy of the congressional report by Col. Van Vliet regarding the Katyn Forest Massacre and wrote to express thanks. He also wrote thanks to all those who are helping keep the Oflag 64 Association alive and running. *Thanks very much, Ted, for your kind words and also for your thoughtful and generous donations to the Postage Fund. We are happy to serve you dear Kriegies who gave so much to bring peace to our lives. Please write again.*



ROBERT RIVERS from **Orcutt CA** sent a short note, a donation to the Postage Fund, and compliments on the ITEM. He stated that he would be 92 before the end of the year and said: "I hope I can go on a little longer and still get the ITEM." *Bob, it was such a pleasure to hear from you. Thanks so much for your donation to the Postage Fund and for your kind words about the ITEM. Congratulations also on 92 years. We wish you many more. Please keep in touch.*



KAREN ROSSI from **Panama City Beach FL** (great niece of Thomas Drake) attended our Oflag 64 Reunion for the first time last year. In a recent email, she expressed: "I am very thankful to have found my new family, Oflag 64. Attending the reunion in Colorado will remain one of the highlights of my life and I look forward to attending many more. Meeting the men who knew my great uncle, Colonel Drake, and listening to their stories made me feel proud, not only for myself, but for them, their families and our country.



I am thankful for the Internet. I know that sounds corny, but I would have never been able to gather this information from relatives because they have all passed on. My Mom and Dad passed away in the early 90's and I only have one aunt remaining in my family. It is because of the Internet, I have finally found Colonel Drake's grandchildren. They live in the San Diego area and so another adventure continues.

I will let them know about the Oflag 64 Family and hope they will attend future reunions.

Oflag 64 is my window into the past and ironically, will be my window into the future. I am truly thankful to have met such a wonderful group of people. Please pass my thanks on to those I may have forgotten in this email, you are in my thoughts.

Karen, it was a pleasure to meet you in Ft. Collins and to welcome you to our Oflag 64 Family. We wish you well in your continued search for information and relatives. Please write again.

JOE SERINGER from **Cape Canaveral FL** recently sent a donation to the Postage Fund. *Thanks, Joe, for your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. As the former Treasurer, we know how aware you are of expenses and we tremendously appreciate your support. Please let us hear from you again.*



JAMES SHOAF III from **Morgantown WV** (son of the late Kriegy James Shoaf II) sent word recently that his dear mother had also passed away. He also sent the following information: "My father, James R. Shoaf II, (now deceased) was a POW in Oflag 64 during WWII. He was the "author" of "The Bird". During his stay there, a co-POW drew a picture of my mother, Doris R. Shoaf, from a small photo my father carried. My mother just passed away on 11/16 of this year, and I found this lifelike drawing among her belongings. **(see the TAPS section for the obituary and copy of the drawing)** *Thanks, Jim, for sharing the beautiful drawing of your mother and "Ode to Mamma" written by your wife. What a beautiful tribute. Those tributes are so helpful to the grieving process. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Please keep in touch.*

COLIN STAINFIELD from **CA** (friend of the late Kriegy James W. Sherman) contacted us through our website and asked to be added to our email list. He shared: "I am a junior in high school and I am writing a report on Jim Sherman (formerly of Oakland, CA) and his experiences serving during WWII, specifically, the time Jim spent in prison camp(s). I lived across the street from Jim until I was about 7, and have great memories of him. I am hoping that someone would be able to give me some information about Jim and what he was like during the War, or share some memories of Jim with me. Lucy Lussenden was able to respond to Colin through one of our queries and shared that "Jim attended our Oflag 64 POW Reunions until a few years ago when he became too ill to travel. He passed away not many years ago, but I don't remember how many. There are Kriegies attending our reunions who remember Jim and his son. Jim was always full of life and kidding and easy to remember. *Thanks, Colin, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We have added your name to our email list and hope you receive more responses to your recent request for information. Please keep in touch.*

BOB TIEMSTRA from **Holland** (listed as Gerhardus Terpstra in our database) recently wrote to update us on his experiences as an Oflag 64 POW during

WWII. (see the Information Station for his letter)
We're thankful to you, Bob, for the information you've shared. Each new experience gives us a clearer picture of all that happened during those difficult days. Please write again.

DOROTHY WARTHEN from Vidalia GA (widow of the late Kriegy Bill Warthen) recently wrote to express regrets at not being able to attend the Ft. Collins Reunion in September. She said the family's hearts and minds would be with us, however. She has 6-12 books written by or about POWs and has given away many but still has some to share. If there is any of our group who would like them, please contact Elodie at one of the contact addresses on the front page of this ITEM. Contact will then be made with Dorothy and books, etc. not yet claimed will be shipped at your request. The following books/DVDs/videotapes are available:



BOB'S STORY (Robert Moranda and George Moranda)

THE BRIGADE (Howard Blum)

ALAN'S WAR: THE MEMORIES OF G.I. ALAN COPE (graphic narrative illus. by Emmanuel Guibert)

BERGA: SOLDIERS OF ANOTHER WAR (videotape)

DVD) D-DAY: DOWN TO EARTH-- RETURN OF THE 507th

WE WERE EACH OTHERS PRISONERS (Lewis Carlson)

ROADS TO LIBERATION FROM OFLAG 64 (Clarence Meltesen)

MY WORLD WAR II EXPERIENCES (Don Lussenden)

SAGE: THE MAN THEY CALLED 'DAGGER' OF THE O.S.S. (Col. Jerry Sage)

FOLLOW ME AND DIE: THE DESTRUCTION OF AN AMERICAN DIVISION IN WWII (Cecil Currey)

THE LAST ESCAPE: THE UNTOLD STORY OF ALLIED POW'S IN EUROPE 1944-45 (John Nichol and Tony Rennell)

KRIEGSGEFANGENER (PRISONER OF WAR) (Clarence Ferguson)

Thanks so much, Dorothy, for the gift of books to our group. We appreciate being able to make information available to our Oflag 64 family and we know that your dear husband, Bill, always had much information to share. Our best wishes to you and your family. We would love to hear from you again.

Occasionally we receive email from folks who are looking for information not specifically related to Oflag 64 but that might have a distant connection. We have received two such requests for information. If you are able to help, please contact the following people:

Francis Soulie-de-Morant who states: "I knew there was a code used between my mother and my father (OFLAGS XB, IVC and IVD). I just found 250 letters my father wrote her between 1940 and 1945, some of them being written in an unusual way corresponding to the little I know of this code (split words). Can anyone help?" You may send email to: francis.soulie-de-morant@wanadoo.fr or phone internationally at: (33) 6 87 07 35 56

Dave Whittaker has also written requesting information on Jane Walker M.B.E. He would like any information or photos related to her life. She was a pen pal of Mr. Whittaker's wife's late mother. He stated: "I was fascinated to read of her exploits on a page of Nazi extermination camp by Bob Keith Charleston. She was a member of the Polish Underground Movement and died in a Bexhill nursing home in the UK in 1962. I would love to know more about this brave woman. Hoping you can help." Please send email to: davewhittaker1@hotmail.com

Dear Oflag 64 Family,



As you may have noticed from the Treasurer's Report in the last ITEM, our Postage Fund has been dwindling rapidly due to the high cost of printing and mailing the ITEM. I have been in touch with Kathy Ezell and Bret Job regarding finding a new source that might fit better within our budget. As of now, we have found that source in Longview WA, and will be able to print and mail the ITEM for just a third of what it was costing previously. This is good news and is agreeable to both Kathy and Bret, and I'm sure to you as well.

Much appreciation goes to Kathy Ezell for her diligent efforts in getting the ITEM printed and mailed in a timely manner in the past. It was through her efforts that we also became aware of Kriegies who had either moved or passed away, and for this information we are grateful. As always, Kathy, a job well done.

Due to the reduction in available funds in the Postage Fund over the last couple of years, a decision has been made to modify our distribution policy: We will now mail hardcopies only to Kriegies (Oflag 64, Hammelburg, etc.), to Kriegy widows, and to Kriegy family members without email. We will discontinue hardcopy mailings to business organizations and to families and friends of Oflag 64 Kriegies who do have email addresses. The ITEM will continue to be available online (and in color!) for all those with Internet access. If this presents a problem of any kind, please let me know so that adjustments can be made. Thank you very much for your understanding.

Best Regards, Elodie Caldwell, ITEM Editor

INFORMATION STATION

MIS-X and PO Box 1142 Reported by Royal Lee



I recently received the Oflag 64 Item and will give some information I have about the MIS-X project.

Shortly after I arrived at Oflag 64, I was contacted by Capt. Jim Dicks whom I had known in North Africa. He asked if I would be willing to work in the Tin Stores, the name we got from the British. I agreed to work there. At first we worked on Red Cross parcels. We would open them and remove the cans of spam, corned beef, and salmon, which was stored at the Tin Stores until used to feed those of Oflag 64 from the kitchen. All food that left the Tin Stores was opened so it could not be used for escape purposes. And then the remaining food and the Red Cross boxes were distributed to the POWs.

In the late spring of 1943 the War Dept. sent to the prisoners' next of kin a label and information on how to send parcels to the POWs, what to send, size of the packages, weight, etc. That was the beginning of MIS-X.

We were told the British designed the code system and gave it to the US Army after we entered the war. The Army then selected certain individuals to learn the code. They were called Code users. When "Hot Boxes" were sent (from PO Box 1142 at Ft. Hunt VA), the code users were notified and the name on the box would not be for anyone in the camp. When the packages arrived at Oflag 64, Capt. Dicks, Amon Carter, Harry Schultz and myself would be transported to the railroad station. We would go in the boxcar, pick up a package, come out and call the name to Capt. Dicks who would write it down. When we found a Hot Box, with the name that been given to us, we would go out and call the name, but Capt. would not write it down. When we got back to Oflag 64, we would unload them and start to open them, being sure to save the name. We would open them so quickly; the German guards couldn't keep up. Then someone would suggest we have a break and have a cigarette. The German guards would like that because they liked our coffee and cigarettes. During the break, the Hot Boxes would be smuggled to the wagon where the censored boxes were. After all boxes had been checked by the German guards, they were taken to the main bldg. and distributed. The hot boxes went to Col. Algers and Col. Waters.

In a later telephone conversation, Royal reported that the "Code Users" were Col. Algers, Col. Waters, and Col. Van Vliet. Tony Lumpkin also manned the Tin Stores. "Hot Boxes" might have contained a wire cutter, file, hack saw blades, .22 caliber automatic pistol, camera, film, developer, maps and/or radio parts.

As this was a highly secret project, stooges were positioned 50 feet apart and used a signaling system to alert those who possessed the package contents that the German guards were in the vicinity.

Thanks so much, Royal, for sharing this information with us. We hope to receive more reports from others who were also involved in some way with the project. Thank you again for previously sharing your MIS-X Certificates.

Experiences of Kriegy Bob Tiemstra, also known as Gerhardus Terpstra while at Oflag 64



It took me some time to sit down quietly to think over the information Frank (van Lunteren) gave me about the contacts with you concerning Schubin. I never had any idea about the intense interest, which your people have for Veterans during the last century, and what's going on now. I think it's because of the minor interest in the Netherlands for Veterans (der Mohr hat seine tat getan, der Mohr kann gehen), that was till the start of the 21st. century, but now the tide seems to be turning, thanks to widely spread commemorations of the liberation in 1944/45 and the interest of the third generation, those of my grandchildren.

Indeed, I was imprisoned by the Germans running into an ambush directly south of the Arnhem Bridge at 06-10-'44, some GIs and a good friend of mine were k.i.a. I had luck to slip into a foxhole, but was made P.O.W. in the afternoon, too early to escape during the night.

As an interpreter and guide, completely dressed/attired as a USA soldier, with a SHAEF patch on my jacket, I impressed the Germans by speaking, being interpreter, their language, as instructed by the liaison officer Harry Bestebreurtje (Jedburghteam) gave my (fake) serial number, name and rank (1st Lt.!!!!) because I did not want to be employed for forced labor, as I had been avoiding during the occupation and knew that the Germans used P.O.W. noncoms and soldiers as such.

After at least 3 weeks of interrogations, Stalag Limburg a/d/Lahn, Dietzcastle and numerous railway kilometers in heavy guarded cattle cars, I, with some 100 officers, arrived in Schubin.

During the whole period, I had been speaking with the German guards their native language, during interrogations and especially during the "cattle car railroad trips" to obtain some food for my hungry, and almost starving, companions, trading cigarettes etc.

Arrived in Oflag 64, the staff under Col. Goode did not trust me, which was understandable as I found out later; there was something to hide. After having told my whole story and some more interrogations and conversations, my position was saved by witness of Ltn. Harvey Todd who was a Jedburgh team member together with Harry Bestebreurtje, and was made a P.O.W. as USA liaison officer at the Arnhem bridge, and spoke out that my "story" could certainly be acceptable. After some days, evidently there had been contact by vhf, I was trusted, and your people vouched for me, even when some notorious German secret search tried to collect some more information about my status.

The story of the population of Oflag 64 from 21-01-'45 is well known by now, most of them, under command of Col. Goode were driven by the "boche" to southern Germany, Camp Hammelburg. Lt. Harvey Todd, who actually saved my life between Schubin and Usedom, was within that group. But one aspect is not highlighted enough. There was a group of about 100 sick and poor P.O.W.s which, under command of Lt. Col. Van Vliet stayed behind a couple of days at the German marine establishment Usedom, and was transported to Luckenwalde Stalag IIIA in 3 open coal wagons by rail, a nasty trip that took about a week during which week I acted as interpreter, caretaker etc. to help the poorest and most sickened men. Luckenwalde was liberated by the Russians. Lt. Col Van Vliet gave me a compliment for the caretaking during the "railway trip".

I gave Frank van Lunteren a little booklet with names of people I met during my P.O.W. period; most of them don't live anymore. Some time ago, after the fall of the Berlin wall, I paid a visit to Schubin, met the "museum director" over there (he belonged in '44 to the Polish resistance), and found out that a group ex-P.O.W.s had also been over there some time before. With them was Amon Carter Jr., a publisher. I tried then to contact him but never received any answer, pity, but our lives, completely filled with business and social activities and directed at the future, did not give us much time to cherish the past.

And that is why I admire your exertion to keep the past living for coming generations to teach them that freedom and democracy does not come easy.

With my best greetings and hope to hear from you, Bob G.J.Tiemstra

Thank you very much, Bob, for sharing your war experience with us. We are so happy that, through Frank van Lunteren, you have found us. This is exciting for us as well, as we are interested in all the stories of Oflag 64 Kriegies. We have also recently heard from Krystyna Piorkowska who is working on a project relating to Col. Van Vliet for the Muzeum Wojska Polskiego. She will be contacting you for any clarification that might be needed. We hope you will write again.



ITEM COMMENTS

Let us know how we are doing. Constructive comments and criticisms are welcomed and appreciated. Here are some nice comments from some nice folks.



I finally got to sit down and read the ITEM last night. You do such a good job! Thank you so much. ~ **Kathy Ezell, Coral Gables FL**

The last ITEM was just terrific. Lucy did a great write-up on the reunion, and this is such a wonderful thing you do for the Oflag family. Thank you, thank you, thank you! ~ **Anne Kreutzer, Woodbridge VA**

Please accept this \$\$ for the fine work you do on the Item. Yours is a first class newsletter of a veteran group. ~ **Bob Rivers, Orcott CA**

I thank you for the newest ITEM information and I appreciate very much your attention. You are doing a wonderful job to keep the past memories alive for the future. Wishing you all the best ~ **Rene Tesar, Czech Republic**

OFLAG 64 WEB CONNECTION

Thank you for everything you have done for all the fellows still with us and the families of those not here. ~ **Donald R. Wafu/Renee and Bill Gebhart, Syracuse NY**

New Visitors to our Oflag 64 Web Site

- Mark Byrum – nephew-in-law of the late Kriegy Franklin H. Masonheimer
- Libby Higgins – daughter of the late Kriegy George W. Tate
- Julie Johnson – daughter of the late Kriegy Carmen F. Clawson
- Rodney Kitchens – son of the late Kriegy Edward B. Kitchens, Jr.
- William R. Makepeace, IV – Grandson of the late Kriegy William R. Makepeace, Jr.
- Krystyna Piorkowska – working on a project for the Muzeum Wojska Polskiego on John Van Vliet
- Susan Richardson – daughter of the late Kriegy Lumund F. Wilcox
- James R. Shoaf III – son of the late Kriegy James R. Shoaf II
- Colin Stainfield – high school junior working on a report about Kriegy Jim Sherman



* * * * *

Postage Fund Donors

THANKS to all who have generously donated to the postage fund. Without such thoughtful contributions, mailing the ITEM and other materials or information would not be possible.



- EDWARD G. BATTE
- JONEL HILL
- HERNDON INGE JR.
- EDMON "TED" RINEHART (2)
- ROBERT W. RIVERS
- JOE SERINGER



If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to Oflag 64 Postage Fund and mail your donation to:

Bret Job
4240 Trail Ridge Ln
Minnetonka MN
55345-2554

or

Elodie Caldwell
2731 Terry Ave
Longview WA
98632-4437

Thanks to all for the many expressions of warmth, love and holiday wishes. Elodie

- Kathy Ezell
- Caroline Fenton
- David Henry
- Libby Higgins
- Michael Higgins
- David Ihrie
- Julie Johnson
- Jimmie Kanaya
- Rodney Kitchens
- Judy Knight

- Susie Koprowski
- Rosa Lee & DiFrancescos
- Royal Lee
- Gene & Rosalie Liggett
- Lucy Lussenden
- Peggy Marlatt
- George Myron
- Bob O'Neill
- Mike & Janice Turner



PUBLICATIONS

The following publications might be of interest to you. Many of them were written by our men. Your local library is a good place to check for availability. If you can't find what you're looking for there, write to the author or publisher or click on the links below. New and used copies are often available from online sites.

1. **Americans Behind the Barbed Wire** by Frank Diggs, Story of Frank's trip across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Vandemere Press, P. O. Box 5243, Clearwater FL 22205 (New price is \$24.95/Hardcover) <http://www.vandamere.com/diggs.htm> or <http://www.amazon.ca/Americans-Behind-Barbed-Wire-Inside/dp/0743474821>
2. **Diary of A Kriegie** by Ed Beattie. Diary of Ed Beattie, A UPI Correspondent captured near the Moselle River in Sept '44. Publisher: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York NY <http://www.amazon.com/Diary-kriegie-Edward-W-Beattie/dp/B0007E4AUA>
3. **Escape to Russia** by Howard "BOOMER" Holder. Story of Boomer Holder as he went across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Iberian Publishing Co., Athens GA http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Russia-Howard-Randolph-Holder/dp/B0006F7X72/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226549191&sr=1-1
4. **Home Was Never Like This**. Diary of Col Yardley. Publisher: Yardley Enterprises. Evergreen, CO. http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this&x=0&y=0
5. **Justifiable Pride** by William D. Stevens, Jamal Books, 2340 Devoe Drive, Lincoln NE 68506, 402-488-6005 http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Justifiable+Pride&x=13&y=17
6. **Katyn Forest Video** (Beta or VHS). Ray Towers, Jr., 25105 Vista Greens Court, Hayward CA 94541, 415-582-4871
7. **Kriegie** by Kenneth Simmons. Diary of an Air Force Pilot. Publisher: Thomas Nelson and Sons. New York NY. http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Kriegie+by+Kenneth+Simmons&x=0&y=0
8. **Kriegsgefangener 3074 (Prisoner of War)** by Clarence Ferguson. Publisher: Texan Press, Waco TX http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Prisoner+of+War+by+Clarence+Ferguson&x=16&y=17 or occasionally available at: <http://www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?an=Clarence+Ferguson&sts=t&tn=Kriegsgefangener&x=43&y=14>
9. **OFLAG 64, 50th Anniversary Book**. Anniversary Committee. Publisher: Evanston Publishing Co., Evanston IL. http://www.amazon.com/Oflag-64-fiftieth-anniversary-book/dp/1879260239/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1226550698&sr=1-1
10. **Passages to Freedom**, Joseph Frelinghuysen, 1990, Publisher: Sunflower University Press, 1531 Yuma (Box 1009), Manhattan KS 66502-4228, 800-258-1232 (\$17.95, includes S & H) http://www.amazon.com/Passages-Freedom-Story-Capture-Escape/dp/0897451317/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550856&sr=1-1
11. **Oflag 64: A P.O.W. Odyssey**, DVD, Robert Galloway Media, LLC; 900 Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, Suite 108; Mount Pleasant SC 29464 (\$29.95 plus \$5 S&H - Please make checks payable to Robert Galloway Media, LLC)
12. **Raid! The Untold Story of Patton's Secret Mission** by Richard Baron, Major Abe Baum, and Richard Goldhurst (paperback) http://www.amazon.com/Raid-Untold-Pattons-Secret-Mission/dp/0440236096/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1254190748&sr=1-1

13. **A Ramble Through My War** by Charles T. Marshall, Publisher: Louisiana State University Press, 1999. (\$29.95) http://www.amazon.com/Ramble-Through-My-War-Anzio/dp/0807126365/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550977&sr=1-1
14. **The Escape Factory** by Lloyd Shoemaker. Story of a secret organization in Wash DC that maintained contact with all POWs in WWII. St Martins Press. New York NY (A few are available on Amazon.com) http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1
15. **The Water and The Rock** by Charles Jones. Diary of a man captured in Africa. Publisher: Anchor Publishing Co., Northwood, IA http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1
16. **The Welcome Swede** by Frank Diggs. Publisher: Vantage Press, New York NY (\$11.00) http://www.amazon.com/Welcome-Swede-Thousands-Germans-Prisoners/dp/0533078180/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551448&sr=1-1
17. **33 Months as a POW in Stalag Luft III** by Albert P. Clark. Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing, 16100 Table Mountain Parkway, Suite 300, Golden CO 80403, 800-992-2908 (17.95 pb) http://www.amazon.com/Months-POW-Stalag-Luft-III/dp/1555915361/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551497&sr=1-1
18. **Tours of Duty: World War II Veterans Personal Stories** by Eleanor Bertrand. Includes stories of Jimmie Kanaya from Oflag 64, Martin Jones from Hammelburg, and Oscar Richard from Stalag I. Publisher: BookSurge Publishing (2/22/08). \$17.99 from Amazon.com, 1-800-201-7575 http://www.amazon.com/Tours-Duty-Veterans-Personal-Stories/dp/141968728X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551561&sr=1-1

Other Publications

The publications listed immediately below are out of print but the online versions can now be accessed by logging onto our website at www.oflag64.us. Click on the [Looking for Lost Men](#) link at the lower left of the Database page or click on the [Brave Young Men](#) link on the POW Accounts page.

Original Roster-Oflag 64	Database
The Oflag 64 Directory	Database
The Men of Oflag 64	Database
Hammelburg Roster	Database
Tribute to TF Baum	POW Accounts

WRITE DIRECTLY TO THESE CONTACTS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

A Grand Tour of Russia to Odessa, Winter ~ 1945 by Herb Garris, edited by Clarence Meltesen. Will soon be available on the Oflag 64 website.

My Tour of Russia by Herb Garris, P. O. Box 1693, Pinehurst NC 28370-1693

Press Releases by Ted Roggen, 101 Westcott, Houston TX 77007 (\$10.95)

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

Roads to Liberation by Clarence R. Meltesen is available free of charge except for a \$5 per copy shipping fee. Please contact Elodie Caldwell at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. (Thank you Meltesen family.)

The Waters Story. Contact Pat Waters, 412 Rice Hope Drive, Mt. Pleasant SC 29464-9273

A 1947 Oflag 64 Reunion Photo is available for a \$5 donation to the Postage Fund. Send your donation and request to Elodie Caldwell at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. (Thank you Judy Fletcher.)

TAPS

William H. "Bus" Barnum 1917 - 2009



Meredith, NH. - William H. "Bus" Barnum III, 92, passed away Friday, Dec. 18, 2009 at Lakes Region General Hospital in Laconia, NH.

William was born in Lime Rock, Connecticut on Dec. 8, 1917, the son of Richard Nicholls Barnum and Marion (Cocks) Barnum. He was a graduate of Milford Academy and Kent School in Kent, CT. (where he remained an active alumnus for many years). He also attended Yale University where he remained active on the Executive Committee for many years. He enlisted in the US Army and proudly served his country during World War II as a 1st Lieutenant. Captured and held POW at OFLAG 64 in Germany, he escaped to freedom, with his comrades, in February 1945. Mr. Barnum was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, POW medal and three Battle Stars.



In 1946, he married his life-long partner, Mary Ann "Sis" (Ainsworth) Barnum. They resided in Redding, CT for many years where he was a Warden of Christ Episcopal Church, a member of the Board of Education, director and football coach of the Redding Boys Club and Chairman of the Enrollment and Scholarship Committee of the Yale Club of Eastern Fairfield County.

For 41 years, the Barnums resided in Cazenovia, N.Y. where, in addition to many dear friends, Bus enjoyed a successful career with National Distillers and Chemical Corporation as Sales Manager for upstate New York. During his years in Cazenovia, he was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church and the Cazenovia Club.

Surviving him are his loving wife of 63 years, Mary Ann; two daughters, Susan (Mike) Koprowski of Boulder, Colorado, Sally (Reginald) Oak of Orleans, Massachusetts; two sons, Peter (Joan) Barnum of Holderness, New Hampshire and Seth (Sherry) Barnum of Halfmoon, New York; 8 grandchildren, Seth Barnum, Sam Barnum, Faith Barnum, Whitney Koprowski, Brion Koprowski, Brittany Phillips, Andrea Cooper and Sarah Barnum. He is survived by many nieces and nephews. He was pre-deceased by his parents, two brothers, Richard and John Barnum and one sister, Eleanor (Barnum) Walbridge.

The family wishes to sincerely thank the entire staff of Forestview Manor Assisted Living Facility in Meredith, New Hampshire for the exceptional and

loving care provided to "Bus" (and his wife, Mary Ann) where he enjoyed the last three years of his life.

Private burial services in Lime Rock, Connecticut will be held at a later date.

Memorial donations, in his name, may be made to the Kent School Alumni Fund, Kent School, Kent CT 06757

Charlie Buerger 1921 - 2009



Charlie Buerger, 88, of Brenham, widower of Mildred (Rodenbeck) Buerger, died December 10, 2009 in Gazebo Terrace Convalescent Center.

Mr. Buerger was born January 9, 1921 in the Sandy Hill Community of Washington County to Willie and Hattie (Kankel) Buerger. On February 13, 1921, he was baptized in St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Sandy Hill, and later confirmed there on March 21, 1937. He graduated from Brenham High School in 1940, and attended Blinn College. On December 1, 1942, he married Mildred Rodenbeck in St. Peter Lutheran Church of Gay Hill.

Charlie attained the rank of First Lieutenant in the U. S. Army during World War II in the 124th Cavalry, 45th Infantry Division. He was a POW, imprisoned by the Germans in Warsaw, Poland. In 2008, accompanied by his brother, he made a memorable trip with the Freedom Flight Group to the World War II Veterans' Memorial in Washington, D. C.



A self-employed electrical contractor, Charlie was a member of the American Legion, VFW, Salem Lutheran Church, and the Brenham Cemetery Association. He loved to farm, work his cattle, and hunt deer. Most of all, he loved his family, especially his great-grandchildren, who were his pride and joy.

Survivors include his daughter and son-in-law, Shirley and Arthur (Mickey) Hueske; grandchildren: Jason Hueske and wife Julie, and Jamie McCain and husband Chris; great-grandchildren: Claire Elizabeth Hueske, Addison Alyse, Braden Charles, and Kade William McCain; sisters Anita Oberhoff and Helen Jacob; sisters-in-law Dottie Buerger, Irene Busse, and Ruth Rodenbeck; brother-in-law Calvin Rodenbeck; sister-in-law and brothers-in-law Gilbert and Kathryn Janner, and Alfred and Helen Rodenbeck. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mildred Rodenbeck Buerger; son Charles Buerger; parents, Willie and Hattie Buerger; brothers: Lonnie, Walter and Bill

Buerger; brothers-in-law Erich Oberhoff, Gilbert, Edward and Wilburn Rodenbeck; sisters-in-law Virginia Buerger and Lilly Smith, and brother-in-law and sister-in-law Bill and Esther Walker.

Funeral services for Charlie Buerger will be held at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, December 13, 2009 at Salem Lutheran Church of Salem, with Pastor Charles Parnell officiating. Burial will follow in the Prairie Lea Cemetery. The family will receive friends and family at Memorial Oaks Chapel from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday evening.

Serving as pallbearers are Michael Dye, Gene Gray, Gil Janner, John Haarmeyer, Bobbie Oberhoff, and Ronnie Holle. Honorary pallbearers are Walter Thielemann, Earl Bright, Patrick Dye, Terry Buerger, Jim Humphrey, Eldon Mikeska, and all the Harper Hunting Buddies.

Memorials may be directed to Salem Lutheran Church or to Hospice Brazos Valley.

An online obituary and guestbook can be found at: <http://obit.memorialoakschapel.com/obit-734754>

Horace Alexander "Al" Casner *1917-2009*



Horace Alexander Casner, a Systems Analyst for Federal Agencies died October 16, 2009 just 10 days short of his 92nd birthday, at his daughter's home in Woodbridge, VA. He was a resident of Falls Church, VA for 54 years.

Al, as he was known by family and friends, was born in Philadelphia on October 26, 1917 and graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1934. He was a 1938 graduate from University of Pennsylvania Wharton School with a B.S. in Economics. He also was a member of Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity.

After Graduation, he sold real estate as well as fire and property insurance until he joined the U.S. Army in 1941. During WWII, Al served in the U.S. Army as a First Lieutenant. He was an Infantry line officer in the 168th infantry, 34th division in Tunisia, North Africa. He was captured in 1943 by Germans while leading a group of 40 men fighting against German Field Marshall Erwin Rommel in the *Battle of Sidi Bou Zid* near Faid Pass. He was taken to Oflag 64, a German POW Camp for American Officers located in Szubin, Poland. He was a POW for 29 months until the war ended in 1945.



After WWII, Al worked at the Veterans Administration in the Philadelphia Regional Office. He was responsible for vocational rehabilitation training of veterans.

In 1951, Al was recalled back to active duty

in the U.S. Army as a Captain during the Korean War. He was assigned to the General Staff Headquarters of the Far East Command in the office of the Comptroller General in Japan. In 1952, his wife and daughter were able to join him in Japan. He received a Bronze Star Medal in 1953 for "his achievements in Ground Operations against the enemy in the Far East Command". He was promoted to a Major in 1954 and retired from the Army Reserves in 1961.

After the Korean Operation, he and his family returned to Philadelphia. From 1954 to 1955 he worked at the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot as an Organization and Methods Examiner in Personnel.

In 1955, Al his wife and daughter moved to the Washington area where Al was employed as a chief auditor in the Offices of the Comptroller at the U.S. Army Audit Agency Headquarters until 1964.

In 1964, Al served as the assistant to the Assistant Inspector General in the Office of the Inspector General at the Dept. of Agriculture until 1967.

From 1967 until his retirement in 1980, Al worked in the Internal and External Audit Division of the Office of Economic Opportunity and then the Community Service Administration as a chief systems analyst.

He was a member of the Oflag 64 Association and organizer of an early Oflag 64 reunion in Washington, DC in 1968.

Al was a dedicated and supportive husband, father, and grandfather who was loved and admired by all who were close to him. In his retirement years, he liked to play golf, especially at the Army Navy Country Club where he was a member for many years. Al, a history buff, was an avid reader who enjoyed reading about WWII and the Civil War. As a younger man, he liked to ride horses in Rock Creek Park with his wife and daughter. He also enjoyed ice skating, which he did for many years with his daughter and grandchildren, up until he was 78 years old.

His wife of 65 years, Louanna Mathews Casner died in Jan. of 2008. Survivors include his daughter and son-in-law Judy and Mark Fletcher of Woodbridge VA, two grandsons, Ryan Fletcher of Washington, DC and Wade Fletcher of Falls Church, VA. He also has one great-grandson, Denver Casner Fletcher.

Al Casner was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with Military Honors on December 23, 2009 at 12:30pm.

– Obituary by Judith Fletcher and Ryan Fletcher

Herbert A. Johnson, Jr.

1915 - 2009

Lieutenant Colonel Herbert A. Johnson, Jr., 94, of Mechanicsburg, died Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at Holy Spirit Hospital, Camp Hill.

Born October 30, 1915 in Putnam, Conn., he was a son of Herbert A. and Lillian A. (Johnson) Johnson, Sr.

Lt. Col. Johnson served in and retired from the U.S. Army during World War II and the Korean conflict. He was a P.O.W. for two years during WWII. He was a Purple Heart recipient.



Surviving is his wife, Sara M. Johnson; a son, Scott Johnson and wife Cathy; a daughter, Nancy Koontz and husband Brian; and 3 grandchildren, Alyssa and Mark Johnson, and Morgan Koontz.

A committal service will be held for at 1 p.m. on Tuesday at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to Army Emergency Relief, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332.

Arrangements by Auer Cremation Services of Pennsylvania, Inc., Harrisburg.
www.pennlive.com/obits

Published in Patriot-News on November 21, 2009

His online obituary was also available at:

<http://obits.pennlive.com/obituaries/pennlive/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=136212539>

Tribute to Herbert A. Johnson by George Juskalian

Herb and I served together in the 1st Division and were captured on the same day (January 28, 1943) in Tunisia, North Africa by Rommel's forces. We spent the next 27 months together as POWs, mostly at Oflag 64.

Herb was an outstanding athlete and as such Col. Drake appointed him camp athletic officer. He took on the job with ingenuity and zeal, resulting in a well-organized and diversified program which included basketball, softball, touch (more often shove) football, volleyball, and such less vigorous sports as horseshoes and a golf putting "green". The program was a great morale and fitness factor; participation was high. And where did all the sporting equipment come from? Thankfully, from the International YMCA via that amiable and dedicated Swede, Henry Soderberg.

Herb made the Army his career and went on to serve in combat in the Korean War. His decorations included two Silver Stars, two Bronze

Star Medals, two Purple Hearts and the Combat Infantryman Badge with Star.

He was a superb soldier and a true friend. I shall miss our telephone calls sorely.

Herbert's passing was **also reported by William Pat Dohoney**, one of our Oflag 64 family members. He stated: "Herb and I were often in telephone correspondence with one another."

Edward B. Kitchens, Jr.

1918 - 2009



Edward Bartley Kitchens, Jr., Brigadier General, U.S. Army Retired, age 90, of Biloxi, died Saturday, July 25, 2009 at Greenbriar Nursing Center.

Born in Greenville, Mississippi, August 19, 1918, he attended Gulf Coast Military Academy in Gulfport and was graduated from its High School Division in 1936. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Louisiana State University in 1941. Entering the Army as a Second Lieutenant in 1942, he served initially as a platoon leader and company commander in the Infantry Training Center, Camp Wheeler, Georgia. He was transferred to North Africa in early 1943, where he participated in the activation of the 3rd Ranger Battalion. He served with Darby's Rangers as a company commander and battalion operations officer in Africa, Sicily and Italy until the loss of the 1st and 3rd Ranger Battalions during the ill-fated attack on Cisterna de Littoria on the Anzio Beachhead in early 1944. He was a prisoner of war of the Germans until the camp was overrun by Russian forces on the Eastern Front in April 1945.



Upon his return to the United States in mid-1945, he was assigned to the Infantry Training Center, Camp Robinson, Arkansas, as the Director of Schools. In March 1946, he was transferred to Fort Benning, Georgia, where he served for over three years as a member of the faculty of the Infantry School. In mid-1950, he was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as a battalion operations officer, executive officer and battalion commander in the 504th Airborne Infantry Regiment. In late 1951, he was reassigned to the 187th Airborne Regiment Combat Team in the Far East, again assuming duties as battalion operations officer, executive officer and battalion commander. The regiment served in Korea and also was stationed in Japan as the Far East Command airborne reserve during his tour.

Returning to the United States in 1952, he attended the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and, upon graduation,

was assigned to the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff G1 (redesignated Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel), Department of the Army, Washington, D.C.

In 1972, he retired to Biloxi and was very active in the community.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Naomi Hamley Kitchens; and his parents, Cleta P. Kitchens of Greenville and Edward B. Kitchens, Sr. of Tulsa OK.

Survivors include his two sons; son, Rodney Kitchens and wife, Linda of Lawrenceville, Georgia, and their two children, Brendan of Honolulu and Virginia of Houston, Texas; and son, William Kitchens and wife, Rebecca of New Orleans, and their two children, Emmett and Owen, both also of New Orleans; and also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Friends may visit the Kitchens family from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon on Thursday, July 30, 2009 at the RIEMANN FAMILY FUNERAL HOME, 274 Beauvoir Road, Biloxi. The funeral service will be at 12 noon in the funeral home chapel. Interment with full military honors provided by the U.S. Army will follow at Floral Hills Memorial Gardens in Gulfport.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the National Parkinson Foundation, in memory of his wife, Naomi Kitchens.

The guestbook may be signed at www.riemannfamily.com.

Published on line at www.legacy.com. Also published in The Times-Picayune on July 27, 2009 and in The Sun Herald on 7/27/2009.

Gordon K. Smith

1915 - 2009



LTC (ret) Gordon Kenneth Smith passed away September 21, 2009 in San Antonio, TX. He was born July 2, 1915 in Waukesha, WI. Gordon earned his BS at the University of Wisconsin and then entered the U.S. Army in 1938 joining the Paratroopers earning his Master Wings. He was the

last surviving member of the Original 82nd Airborne 507th PIR Command. His assignments were with the 501st PB, 507th PIR, 325th AIR, and the 511th PIR. He also had tours of duty in Venezuela, Korea and several in Panama. He jumped into Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944, was wounded and captured. His last assignment was Chief Instructor of ROTC at LSU. Gordon received the French Legion d'honneur, Bronze Star, Purple Heart and the French Croix du Guerre. He loved golfing, gardening and cooking. He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Martha



LeBleu Smith and his parents Edwin and Jennie Lewis Smith. Survived by his children: Sandra Rodgers, Margo Shallcross, Mark Smith, Jilray Launay, and 10 Grandchildren and 7 Great-Grandchildren. Memorial Service, Oct. 1st at 4 PM, Spring Hill Event Center, 2455 Celebration Drive, San Antonio TX. Funeral Service, Oct. 5th at 1 PM. Masonic Service at 1:30 PM with full Military Honors at Resthaven Gardens of Memory, 11817 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge LA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Disabled American Veteran's.

Published in Express-News on September 27, 2009

His online obituary was also available at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sanantonio/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=133521082>

George W. Tate

1921 - 2009



Mr. Tate, 87, of Charlotte, NC, died Saturday, March 21, 2009, at his residence. A native Charlottean, he was born May 9, 1921, son of the late John Austin Tate and

Sarah Wilson Tate. George grew up at the corner of Hopedale and Queens Road, his family having moved there in the early 20's from downtown Charlotte.

He was one of four children, and is survived by his younger sister, Sarah Lindsay Tate of Raleigh. His older siblings, Betsy Tate Freeman and John Austin Tate, Jr. predeceased him. His formative years were spent in what was the developing southeast Charlotte.

In his early teens, George left Charlotte for Culver Military Academy in northern Indiana. He returned to North Carolina to attend Davidson College. His education was interrupted by World War II when he chose to enlist in the U.S. Army. As he made this decision, he also made one of the most important decisions of his life: to marry his childhood sweetheart. On September 9, 1943, George married Elizabeth Robinson Hoppe. Libby and George would spend 65 wonderful years together.

George shipped out in 1944 to join his comrades-in-arms in the European theatre. Soon after arriving in Italy, he was captured by the Germans and remained a prisoner of war until liberated at war's end.

George and Libby were blessed with three children: George 'Pudge' Wilson Tate, Jr. and his



wife, Jane of Spartanburg, SC; William 'Billy' Hoppe Tate of Charlotte and Elizabeth 'Libby' Tate Higgins of Greenville, SC, and subsequently, four grandchildren: Mary Austin Tate Bolin and her husband, Rob, Jane Wilson Snyder and her husband, William, John 'Tate' Higgins and David William Higgins and one great-grandchild, Will Bolin.

George loved his family and George loved life. He started his career at Hoppe Motors, an early Chrysler franchise for the Charlotte Area. Later he worked with Freeman and McClintock in the real estate business.

In addition to his family, he loved his church. He and Libby joined St. Martin's Episcopal after marrying, where he would be the Sunday School Superintendent and a member of the vestry. The family would like to express appreciation and gratitude to Maria Dobbins, Char Pryce, Tiffany Wright and Kim Walden of Hospice and to Teddi McMillian for the loving and gentle care that they provided to George.

In lieu of flowers, the family extends its appreciation for any memorial gifts and asks that they be directed to Hospice and Palliative Care Charlotte Region, 1420 East 7th Street, Charlotte, NC 28204; The Resident's Assistance Fund at Sharon Towers, 5100 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28210; St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 1510 East 7th Street, Charlotte, NC 28204; or the charity of the donor's choice.

A service to give thanks and celebrate George W. Tate's life will be held Wednesday, March 25, at 11:00 AM at St. Martin's Episcopal Church. The family will receive friends following the service in the fellowship hall.

Arrangements are in the care of Hankins & Whittington Funeral Service 1111 East Blvd. online www.hankinsandwhittington.com.

Gladys L. Aschim

1919 – 2009

We have just learned that Gladys L. Aschim passed away earlier this year. **She was the widow of the late Kriegy Robert L. Aschim.** A portion of her obituary notice is available on line at:

<https://www.legacy.com/Obituaries.asp?Page=ObitFinderOrder&PersonID=128763563> and reads: Gladys L. Aschim, 90, loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Rockford - Gladys L. Aschim, 90, of Rockford died Friday, June 19, 2009, in Provena ...

Published in the rstar.com (Rockford Register Star) from 6/22/2009 - 6/28/2009

Doris Runner "Mamma" Shoaf

1918 - 2009



Funeral services for Doris Runner "Mamma" Shoaf, 91, Palm Coast, will be held on Friday, November 20, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the Craig-Flagler Palms Funeral

Home, 511 Old Kings Rd. S., Flagler Beach. Her family will receive friends today (Friday) from 1:00 p.m. until the 2:00 p.m. service in the chapel of the funeral home. Burial will be in Beverly Hills Memorial Gardens, Morgantown, WV. Mrs. Shoaf passed away on Monday, November 16, 2009 at her apartment in the Sterling House of Palm Coast. Doris was born on November 12, 1918, in Morgantown, WV, and had lived in Palm Coast since 1981, coming from Ft. Lee, NJ. **She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 69 years, James Riley Shoaf II.** Mamma leaves two loving sons, James R. Shoaf III, and his wife, Claire, Santa Clara, CA, and John R. Shoaf, Morgantown, WV. Doris was predeceased by three brothers, John, Richard and Philip Ronald and two sisters, Virginia "Jean" Runner Fullmer and Jacqueline Runner Del Signore and has one surviving sister, Donaldeen Marie Welch, Morgantown, WV. Doris was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Flagler/Palm Coast and a long time Director of the Palm Club Association in Palm Coast. She was called Mamma by all of her family and friends because she had the first child of all her siblings. The family would like to thank Hospice and in lieu of flowers memorial donations maybe made to the Hospice, Odyssey Health Care, 149 South Ridgewood Ave., Suite 600, Daytona Beach, FL 32114. For on-line condolences go to: www.craigflaglerpalms.com "On-Line Obituaries". Arrangements are in the care and trust of Craig-Flagler Palms Funeral Home.

