

Post Oflag 64 Item

2008 – Winter

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2008 D.C. Reunion A GIGANTIC Success

KUDOS, KUDOS, and more KUDOS to Pat Bender and her family along with staff from Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. and a host of other volunteers for making this year's reunion a GIGANTIC success. Arrangements for the hotel, tours, meals, speakers, etc. were all top notch and we're grateful for the time and energy that was devoted to putting things together. (Please see Ellen Warthen's and Kathy Ezell's comprehensive report on pages 4 and 5 of this ITEM.)



Future Reunions	Hosted By	Year
Colorado (confirmed)	Julie Gionfriddo	2009
Dallas TX (unconfirmed)	Carole Lester	TBA
San Diego CA (unconfirmed)	Caroline Fenton	TBA



Watch for more information in the Spring 2009 ITEM about next year's Oflag 64 Reunion hosted by Julie, pictured above (daughter of the late Jack Rathbone).

Best Regards, *Elodie Caldwell* (daughter of Reid Ellsworth)

A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

There comes a time in every organization when responsibilities must be transferred, and the time for transferring the Oflag 64 Treasurer responsibilities has now arrived. Joe Seringer has stepped down and has handed over the reins to Bret Job, a long-time member of the group. We thank Joe for many years of wonderful and dedicated service and look forward to Bret's involvement as Treasurer. Bret's address and contact information can be found on the front page of this ITEM and also included in the Postage Fund information on page 12.



OFLAG 64 POSTAGE FUND

Joe Seringer Treasurer



Statement Of Cash Receipts and Disbursements For the period from September 15 2007 to September 30 2008

Receipts for the period:

Contributions to the Fund:	\$ 3477.50
Books	30.00
Interest earned	45.99
Return from 2007 Reunion	1961.72
Total Cash Received	\$ 5515.21

Disbursements for the Period:

Copies for the Item	\$4033.68
Postage for the Item	925.27
Supplies and miscellaneous	302.89
Total Cash Disbursed for the Period	\$ 5261.84
Receipts in excess of Disbursements	\$ 253.37
Bank Balance September 15 2007	\$ 12415.63
Bank Balance September 30 2008	\$ 12669.00

2008 Washington D.C. Reunion Attendees

Edwin "Jim" Betts**

Jeanie Cospers (daughter)**
Janice Turner (daughter)**
Clif Turner (grandson)**

O. L. "Brad" Bradford

Gail Brown (daughter)
Elodie Caldwell (daughter of R. Ellsworth)
Bill Caldwell (son-in-law)
Janet Ellsworth (daughter of Reid)
Jon Caldwell (grandson)**
Eve Speer (friend)**
Tom Cobb (son of George Cobb)
Nancy Cobb (daughter-in-law)**

Rolland "Bill" Corbin

Bette Corbin
Bill Corbin (son)
Terry Corbin (daughter-in-law)
Michael Corbin (grandson)**
Jessica Moore (friend)**
Dale Corbin

John Creech

Norma Kuhn

Vincent "Doc" Di Francesco

Pat Bender (daughter)
Tom Bender (son-in-law)
Jeff Bender (grandson)
Jessica Bender (granddaughter)
Rosa Lee (daughter)
Patrick Cochran (son-in-law)
Maria Christmann (daughter)
Wayne Christmann (son-in-law)
Brad Christmann (grandson)
Tim Christmann (grandson)
Judy Fletcher (daughter of Al Casner)**
Mark Fletcher (son-in-law)**
David Glendinning (son of John Glendinning)
Barbara Lundy (daughter of John Glendinning)**

Ed Graf

Judy Knight (daughter)
Tim Knight (son-in-law)
Ryan Tooker (grandson)**

Jimmie Kanaya

Lynn Kanaya

Marcia Kanners (widow of Victor Kanners)

Ray Klinkenborg

Nancy Klinkenborg
Anne Kreutzer (daughter of "Nat" Hoskot)**
Tom Kreutzer (son-in-law of Nat Hoskot)**
Maureen Linkovich (daughter of Patrick Quinn)**
Tom Linkovich (son-in-law of Patrick Quinn)**

George Myron

Susan Bonner (daughter)**
Lauren Hasko (granddaughter)**
Nancy Chard (daughter)**
Bob Chard (son-in-law)**

Boyce "Boo" Nunnally

Catherine "Kitty"

Robert "Bob" O'Neill

Suzy Parker (daughter of Chaplain Robert Scott)**
Carl Zegalia (friend)**

Nicholas Rahal**

Gail Rahal**

Edmon "Ted" Rinehart

Christine Taft
John Taft**
Stephen Taft**

George Rosenthal

Arlene Rosenthal

Joe Seringer

Phyllis Yardley

Wilbur "Bill" Sharpe

Mary Sharpe
Cindy Burgess (daughter)**
Glenn Burgess (son-in-law)**

Sidney Thal

William "Bill" Warthen

Dorothy "Dottie"
Kathy Ezell (daughter)
David Wahlstad (son-in-law)**
Ellen Warthen (daughter)

Special Guests

General Ben Hodges (US Army)
Master Sgt. James Boughner (US Army)
Martha Boughner
Kevin Hymel (Freedom Team Salute,
US Army)
Cynthia Houston (Freedom Team Salute,
US Army)
Chaplain John Logan (US Marines)
Karen McConnell (Metro Reporters, Inc.)
Nils Cowan (Henninger Productions)
David Taylor (MIS-X filmmaker)
Vincent Santucci (National Park Service)
Brandon Bies (National Park Service)

It was a great pleasure to welcome several first time attendees**, Kriegies and family members alike. We'd love to see you again next year.

We missed those who were unable to be with us this year. We know there were many extenuating circumstances that wouldn't allow attendance, but we hope to see you again in the future.

2008 Oflag 64 Reunion Report Washington, DC

The Kriegies of Oflag 64, along with their families and friends, gathered on Oct. 9-13, 2008 for their annual reunion at the Holiday Inn National Airport Hotel in Crystal City, VA near Washington, DC. Check-in, efficiently coordinated by Armed Forces Reunions, Inc., was held on Thursday and Friday. From the time of arrival and throughout the reunion the “hospitality room” was a popular gathering place for snacking, visiting, viewing books, photographs and documents, and of course, swapping stories.

On Friday morning, following a buffet breakfast, the annual business meeting was conducted by Elodie Caldwell. First time attendees were recognized. Joe Seringer provided his Treasurer’s Report (found on page 2 of this ITEM) and announced that he is retiring as Treasurer. Everyone enthusiastically thanked Joe for his many years of service keeping us solvent. Due to his frugality, accuracy, and sheer wizardry at managing our money, the group unanimously agreed that Joe should be nominated for the Federal Reserve Bank Board. Bret Job has consented to assume the responsibilities of Treasurer. There was discussion about next year’s reunion.

Following the meeting, Vincent Santucci, Chief Ranger and Brandon Bies, Cultural Resource Specialist of the National Park Service, presented a captivating program on “**MIS-X at PO BOX 1142**”. This highly secret project was established during World War II at Ft. Hunt just outside the District of Columbia. It was designed to aid American POWs by: 1) providing training to assist POWs with escape and evasion; 2) devising communication techniques, including coded messages; 3) designing and producing technological devices for hidden instruments storing coded messages; and 4) setting up fictitious non-profit organizations, such as the “Soldiers Aid Society” to distribute what appeared to be care packages but included “stuffed” items containing secret information. After the war, this program was dismantled and all participants were sworn to secrecy. The existence of a mysterious P.O. Box 1142 was known but its meaning and mission were only recently discovered. The Rangers are working to preserve this part of our history and were most interested in learning whether any of our Kriegies had any information or had received items from P.O. Box 1142. Some of our men shared their experiences and knowledge related to these kinds of activities. Naturally the “bird”, the Oflag 64 Kriegies’ secret radio, figured prominently in the discussion. The Rangers described their efforts at attempting to locate veterans who were involved with MIS-X to record their oral histories. (Should any readers know such persons, the Rangers would be most interested in talking to them.) Filmmaker David Taylor and producer Nils Cowan were introduced. They have just received funding to do a documentary on this fascinating and little-known project for National Geographic.

At noon on Friday, Reunion Chairman Pat DiFrancesco Bender and 16 Kriegies boarded a bus for a special tour of the White House. While there, they were accompanied by 10 White House staffers and 3 Homeland Security agents. The tour guide for the West Wing area was a secret service agent who has worked at the White House for 18 years. Our men were allowed to get much closer to the paintings and artifacts than ordinary tourists who usually have to view them from behind a security rope. In fact, it’s next to impossible to even get to tour the White House these days, so this was a special opportunity. In addition to Pat, we all thank Stacy Bolten for her assistance in making this very special tour possible.

Saturday was a beautiful day--perfect for our “City Bus Tour” of Washington, DC. Accompanied by knowledgeable guides and skilled and extremely patient drivers, we were taken to see sights such as the magnificent Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, The Capitol Building, Washington Monument, White House, DAR building, Justice Building, the Treasury, the Pentagon, many Smithsonian buildings along the Mall, the Viet Nam Memorial, Iwo Jima/USMC Memorial, the Korean Memorial, and the Holocaust Museum—to name a few. Somewhere in all this sightseeing there was a stop for lunch at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. Afterwards a special stop was made at the World War II Memorial where we disembarked. Ted Rinehart offered remarks on behalf of our veterans and a memorial wreath was placed and dedicated by our group. We were given plenty of time to walk around the vast memorial site, and of course cameras were snapping. A very moving sight was the arrival of a group of handicapped veterans, each accompanied by a “buddy”, who were brought to see the Memorial as part of the Honor Flight program. The goal of this organization is to make it possible for every WWII veteran to travel, at no expense, to our Nation’s capital to see the beautiful memorial honoring their service.

We were left to our own devices Sunday morning. Some went to church, while others squeezed in a little touring or just used the time to visit and relax. About 30 attendees met at noon for a second bus tour. The first stop was an opportunity to grab a bite of lunch at the Pentagon City Food Court. (Naturally, some—who shall remain nameless--would rather shop than eat, and this was their chance!) Soon we headed for Arlington National Cemetery where we could view Arlington House, which was the home of General Robert E. Lee and his wife Mary Parke Custis Lee at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War. We were told poignantly that the 1,000-acre cemetery built in their very yard after the war ensured that they would never be able to return there to live but was the start of what is now our national cemetery. We stopped for a short hike up a hill to the eternal flame and gravesites of President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy and found nearby the grave of Senator Robert Kennedy, which was marked with a simple cross. The next stop was for an extremely impressive ringside view of the changing of the guard at

the Tomb of the Unknown. This intricate 20-minute procedure occurs every hour on the hour, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. We understand that Kriegy Bud Bolling's father assisted in "designing" this ceremonial procedure over 70 years ago. Upon our return to the hotel, Mark Berman, a Washington Post staff writer, interviewed several of the Kriegies for an article which subsequently appeared in the Washington Post.

Sunday night marked the occasion of the annual reception and banquet at the hotel. Elodie Caldwell was the Mistress of Ceremonies. Thanks to Judy Casner Fletcher and Karen McConnell with Metro Reporters, we didn't miss a thing. Judy had arranged for Karen to provide translation of every word spoken to on-screen captions for all to read. After the presentation of Colors, we learned about "The Freedom Team Salute", a program established to recognize United States Army Veterans for their service to the nation, no matter where or when they served, or for how long. Appreciating the essential bond between soldiers, their families and their communities, Freedom Team Salute celebrates the sacrifices made by all. They especially honor the veterans who served and who remain our living connection to generations of duty, honor, and patriotism. As a representative of this group, Kevin M. Hymel, a writer/editor with Summit Marketing, read the names of the Kriegy attendees and MSG James Boughner, Soldier Outreach, Freedom Team Salute, presented each honoree with an official commendation package, including a certificate of appreciation, a personalized letter signed by the Secretary of the Army and Army Chief of Staff thanking them for their support, an official U.S. Army lapel pin, and two Army decals.

Tom Cobb, son of the late Kriegy George Cobb, and Tom's Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina were responsible for arranging for the keynote speaker, Brigadier General Ben Hodges. Tom located the OFLAG 64 group through the website and attended his first reunion last year in Tulsa. He personally arranged a surprise for each Kriegy attendee. After Gen. Hodges' inspiring address, Tom presented each a US Flag that had been flown over either The Capitol Building or the Pentagon. Gen. Hodges was presented with a copy of "Roads to Liberation from Oflag 64" written by the late Kriegy Clarence Meltesen, then graciously went from table to table getting the autographs of each Kriegy present.

Judy Casner Fletcher, daughter of Alexander Casner, one of our Kriegies who was unable to attend the reunion, brought a wonderful photograph of the first Oflag 64 reunion held in 1947. She thoughtfully provided copies that could be purchased for \$5.00 in the hospitality room. All proceeds from these sales will be added to the OFLAG Treasury. Thank you, Judy!

On Monday, a breakfast and Memorial Service were held. The Colors were presented. Lt. John R. Logan, Chaplain, of the MBW Religious Ministries Team, conducted a moving service especially honoring our beloved Kriegies who have passed on. Originally from Puerto Rico, John is a Chaplain in the US Navy assigned to the Marines. Following this service were hugs, fond farewells and promises to gather again next year, as attendees disbursed for their trips back home.

There are not enough words to express our thanks to Pat DiFrancesco Bender and her entire family for their hard work in planning and arranging this wonderfully eventful weekend! As always, Elodie Caldwell was present to guide us in each meeting. We are grateful for her selfless and tireless work, a gift to us all in memory of her father Reid Ellsworth. Elodie continues to make it possible for this group of dear comrades and families to stay in touch.

Looking forward to our gathering next year! Warm regards, Ellen Warthen and Kathy Warthen Ezell



Standing Left to Right

Edwin "Jim" Betts, Robert O'Neill, Jimmie Kanaya, George Rosenthal, Vincent "Doc" DiFrancesco, Bill Warthen, Ray Klinkenborg, George Myron, Sidney Thal, Boyce "Boo" Nunnally, Edmon "Ted" Rinehart, Joe Seringer, John Creech, and MSG James Boughner from Freedom Team Salute

Seated Left to Right

O. L. "Brad" Bradford, Bill Corbin, Ed Graf, Wilbur "Bill" Sharpe, Nick Rahal



MAIL CALL



LTC John A. Albree USA (Ret.) from Columbus NC sent a note a while back along with a contribution to the Postage Fund. He and John Creech see each other every day and he reported that John Creech is fine and very active and excited about attending the reunion in Washington D.C. You may remember that John had knee surgery earlier in the year. In an email sent separately, he reported: "Both knees are doing well and my golf game is better than ever. Shot a 78 yesterday." *Thanks, John, for writing and for your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. What would we do without such great support from our Oflag 64 families and friends? It's always good to hear from you and about your communications with John Creech. Glad to hear that your knees and golf game are doing well. We hope you'll write again soon.*

James Bates from Brentwood TN sent a nice note about the ITEM along with a contribution to the Postage Fund. *Thanks, Jim, for your kind words and for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. It is very much appreciated. We were happy to hear from you and hope you'll keep in touch.*



Eleanor Bertrand from Baton Rouge LA (friend of Pat Waters and Oflag 64) received an interesting request regarding her book "Tours of Duty", which you might recall features Jimmie Kanaya, L. Martin Jones, Abe Baum, and other POWs from various theaters. The Youngstown State University BookStore requested the use of Eleanor's book for a Life-Writing class taught by a professor who saw the book on Amazon.com and thought it would work for the new class she's teaching called War (and Peace): Myths, Memories, and Realities in American Literature and Film. The professor stated: "I'm glad to know that two of your stories are from Ohio vets as that may stimulate my students to gather stories from people in their communities." Ellie followed with an email to the vets: "I am so thrilled that your experiences will be shared with the youth of America who need to know all you did for our country - and at the college level!" *Thanks, Ellie, for including the Oflag 64 organization in your communications. We agree that the stories need to be shared and heard by all. We hope you'll keep us posted on further developments. We also hope that you remained safe during the recent hurricane.*

Edwin J. "Jim" Betts from Clifton TX noticed the obituary of Charles Wilkinson in the Fall ITEM and wrote: "I certainly was sorry to read of Charles Wilkinson's death on June 21, 2008. At Oflag 64 the bunks were stacked two high, one on top of the other. I had the top bunk and Charles had the one below me. Charles Wilkinson was an excellent officer. He was intelligent, kind, well informed, thoughtful of others, and better yet, he was an Aggie. I know he will be greatly missed." *Thanks, Jim, for writing and for sharing information about POW days with Charles Wilkinson. We are always saddened by the death of another Kriegy and hero, but are very grateful for the exemplary lives they led and for the honor with which they served. We enjoyed meeting you and your family at the reunion and hope to see you again.*



Barbara Bickers from Prospect Heights IL (daughter of Jim and Emmy Lou Bickers pictured here) a while back emailed compliments on the ITEM and regrets that she and her folks would not be able to attend the D.C. reunion. She expressed: "hope to be remembered by all of Dad's buddies! Both my parents and I wish you all well for the event. Godspeed." *Barbara, thanks so much for writing and for the kind comments about the ITEM. You can be sure that you and your folks were remembered and missed at the reunion this year. Best wishes to you all. Please write again soon.*



T.J. Bugg from Cincinnati OH (son of Thomas J. Bugg, Jr. pictured here) sent an email just prior to the D.C. reunion expressing regrets that his dad would not be able to attend the reunion as previously planned due to some health complications. He said: "Dad sends his warmest regards on to his fellow Kriegies and we all pray for their good health as well. I personally will pray for all of you attending and very much wish we were joining you! Please pass on my genuine and sincere appreciation for what was given by these humble but honorable and courageous men." By way of information, T.J. further stated: "Here is a recent verbal autobiography that was given by my father to the Scottsville Museum when they learned his recorded history had never been "captured". I



conferred and collaborated with the writer to fill in the gaps. He did a great job on the presentation and it includes pictures! Here is the "interview" for the Scottsville Museum relative to Dad's service. When I came down for the 4th of July parade and visited the Museum I noticed that Dad was NOT in their book. I then contacted them and put them in touch with Dad. They did a really good job including pictures!" See the link on page 16 of this ITEM to learn more. *Thanks, T.J., for writing and sharing this information with us. We were sorry to hear about your dad's health concerns and that he wouldn't be able to attend the reunion. We wish him and you the best. Please write again.*

Binnie S. Burke from Berkeley Heights NJ (daughter of the late John Solensky) requested a copy of the "Tribute to Task Force Baum" as her father participated with Abe Baum in the Raid. She said: "My father died at 54 of a heart attack when I was pregnant with our first son. He would have loved to have seen the Task Force Baum web site and all the other books/literature that have been published about it. Would you believe the shock and surprise of my life when I discovered his picture on your site at: <http://www.taskforcebaum.de/index1.html>." In a subsequent email and after receiving the "Tribute", Binnie wrote the following: I was on my way out to do some gardening this morning and the mailman was coming up the driveway with a nice big package for me -- the Tribute to TFB. I forgot about the weeding and sat down on the steps just inside my front door and started to read some of the letters. They brought tears to my eyes. And even now writing this I find myself tearing up just thinking of what my father and so many other men went through during the war and especially on TFB and the Battle of the Bulge, which my father was also a part of. They were all courageous, selfless, patriotic men (as are all the men and women who now serve in our military). *Thanks, Binnie, for writing and for sharing your discovery and feelings as you read the Tribute. We know it will be a treasured addition to your library. You're right about our military personnel. We have much to thank them for. Please keep in touch.*



Helen (and Roy "Tex") Chappell from Kaufman TX emailed a short time ago: "Thanks so much for the article from the Washington Post about the Reunion. It was wonderful to read. Our

thoughts and very souls were there with all of you as you continued to celebrate and be grateful for gathering again. Roy has been in Hospital with an infection, but is home and recovering. All of you dear people will never know how much we miss being among you to re-live and thank God for surviving an experience that has colored our lives. We love all of

you----and God Bless you. Please give our very deepest Love to all the "Kriegies" and wives and families." *Thanks, Helen, for your sweet note and for sending well wishes to Kriegies and families. We were sorry to learn of Roy's infection but hope he is on the mend soon. Best wishes for a memorable 90th birthday party for Roy. Sounds like it will be wonderful event. Our best to you both. Please write again.*

Nils Cowan from Arlington VA

(television producer) recently emailed: "I just wanted to give you a quick update on our project. We've finally cleared the hurdle of contractual negotiation, so we're expecting to receive the start-up funding very shortly. Obviously the huge amount of time that has elapsed has been frustrating for us, but it has allowed us some additional research time and now we'll actually still be in production during the time of the reunion here in DC." As you may remember, Nils, along with Brandon Bies and Vincent Santucci from the National Park Service, is working on a project regarding PO Box 1142, which was a secret project designed to provide escape aids to POWs during the War. Nils and his production company hope to have their documentary ready for television in Spring of 2009. More information will be available as time draws near. *Thanks, Nils, for keeping us in the loop of information. We appreciate your presentation at the Reunion business meeting and look forward to hearing from you again soon.*



John Creech from Columbus NC

sent a donation to the Postage Fund and sent word to his good friend, LTC John Albree, that he planned to attend the Reunion in October. *Thanks, John, for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. We greatly appreciate the support of our Oflag 64 families and friends. We enjoyed seeing you and Norma at the reunion in D.C. this year. We had a great time, didn't we? Hope to hear from you again.*

Bill Cory from Naples FL recently

wrote expressing regrets for not making it to the D.C. Reunion. He reminisced a little about past reunions and a previous trip to D.C. and mentioned that his grandparents on the Cory side are buried at Arlington, down the hill from the Lee Mansion. He also noted that he will be 89 come January 3. *Thanks, Bill, for writing. What a milestone...soon to reach 89. We missed you at the reunion but understand that what we want to do and what we can do are not always the same thing. Hope all is well and that you'll write again.*



Barb Fleege of Colorado (wife of new Oflag 64 member, Bob Fleege) has written that her husband was in a serious motorcycle accident on July 4. She started an online journal and not long ago reported that he was recently released from the hospital and is on the mend but has quite a bit of recovery still ahead of him. In a subsequent email Barb wrote: "he is really doing quite well, it is amazing!" *Thanks, Barb, for letting us know of Bob's accident. We hope he continues to improve daily. Our thoughts and prayers will be with him. And we send our best to you as well.*

Gary N. Fox from Tiffin OH has sent an email with updates for our website database on officers that were part of the 507th PIR. You'll probably remember that Gary is doing research for a book that he is writing about the 507th which includes Kriegies from Oflag 64. Gary also sent a donation to the Postage Fund. *Thanks, Gary, for your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. We so much appreciate your support. Hope your research project goes well. Please keep in touch.*

Robert Galloway from Mt. Pleasant SC recently emailed to say that his video is no longer available on Amazon.com. It is now available from another source and is listed in the Publications list (#11) at the end of this ITEM. Robert also mentioned: "I have been trying to finish my latest documentary about Patton's last week of the war and its effect on the country of Czechoslovakia. I'm now over 1.5 years into it, so I need to finish it! My best to all." *Thanks, Robert, for writing. It was good to hear from you again. Success to you on your new documentary. Keep us posted as to its progress and please write again.*

Herb Garris from Pinehurst NC sent a nice letter along with some sad news about Carl Bedient. He wrote: "What a nice copy of the latest Oflag 64 ITEM. It so well covered with great detail the oncoming week of the reunion. Two of our daughters live in nearby Fairfax VA and Brookeville MD. They have plenty of room for us but some conflicts appeared here and it is not possible to attend, which I regret deeply. Please give our best wishes for a very successful meeting." When he receives more information about Carl's death, he will forward it on. *Thanks so much, Herb, for your kind words about the ITEM and for the copy of your "Grand Tour" publication. We were sorry you were unable to attend the reunion in D.C. but we know that circumstances sometimes don't allow. We appreciate the news of your get togethers with Bob Leven, Ed Batte and Glenn Brooks and also for making us aware of the passing of another great man, Carl G. Bedient. We look forward to more information. Please write again.*

Don Graul from Springfield VA wrote that he had a

stroke on Oct 2 and was still recovering while the reunion was going on. Pat Bender spoke with him, said he sounded fine, and that he has not lost anything except the ability to drive. He sends his regards to everyone and said he was sorry to have missed the reunion. *Thanks, Don (and Pat), for the updates. We missed you at the reunion this year, but hope you continue to do well and that we'll see you again at future reunions.*



David Harlow from Wagoner OK (nephew of the late William "Jerry" Harlow) emailed recently asking for information about his uncle. He wrote: "My Uncle Jerry (317th Infantry) was with the Abe Baum Task Force when it left the POW camp. It is my understanding that he was wounded early the next morning and then returned to the camp hospital where it was reported he died. If James Yamazaki or any others remember him I'd really like to hear from them!" *Thanks, David, for writing. We hope you will soon receive the information you're seeking regarding your uncle. Please keep us posted.*

David Henry (son of the late Robert T. Henry) recently emailed the following request: "Would you write the group with the Official site of Oflag64.org and the Texas Military Museum. I think many don't know these resources exist. None of the folks I talked to or wrote yesterday had knowledge of such. I'm sure it was distributed when new but it seems there is a renewed interest and the new folks (I'll include myself here) don't know it exists. They probably try the dot com and stop there." *Thanks David for writing and for the suggestion to publish web addresses once more. Please see the Information Station section for the links you suggested as well as some other links of interest. Please keep in touch.*



Jonel Hill from Pasadena CA sent a couple of donations to the Postage Fund along with a short note expressing thanks. In a separate note, he wrote that he very much enjoyed the Fall ITEM. He also stated that he wouldn't be attending the Washington D.C. Reunion due to attending the 1st Infantry Division Reunion in Colorado Springs during the Summer. *Thanks so much, Jonel, for your very generous and thoughtful contributions to the Postage Fund. We greatly appreciate your support. Thanks also for your expression of thanks and compliments on the ITEM. It's a pleasure to serve our dear Kriegies as much as possible. We missed you in Washington D.C. this year but hope to see you at our next Reunion. Please write again.*

Mary Shular Hopper (daughter of William "Bill"



Shular pictured here) sent the following message: "Just wanted to share some news with you and the Oflag 64 family. My parents, Bill and Mary Shular, just celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. They were

married in New Jersey on October 8, 1943, not long before Dad shipped off to Europe -- where he was captured at the Battle of Anzio." Please see their wedding photo in the Information Station section of this ITEM. *Thanks Mary for sharing such wonderful news. What a great milestone! Best wishes to them and to you Hope to hear from you again soon.*

David Ihrie from Lincoln NE (son of the late LeRoy Ihrie) recently found our website and wrote: "My interest in your site comes from my father, LeRoy Ihrie who spent approximately 2 years as a Kriegie after being captured in North Africa. He and another escaped during the march I believe. I need to freshen up on my details again...I do have a few of his mementos and a few pictures of his time in the camp. We still keep his wooden suitcase provided by the Red Cross that he carried with him and had written "AMEPNKNACHNE" in big letters on the side...I have the original newsletters from the camp that he must have carried in the box when he escaped. My father was the camp librarian while at Oflag 64. We do have a tape done by the Nebraska Historical Society when they interviewed him for a WWII project they did in about 1990 and a transcription of the interview also; a couple programs for the plays they put on during their internment; a book called "The Welcome Swede" I believe; and his diary if my memory serves me correctly; the telegram Leilabeth got to notify her he was captured...I do hate to report that my father passed away on August 29, 1999 after suffering from Alzheimers for a few years. His wife Leilabeth has also passed away. They attended many of the reunions and the return trip to Poland in the 1970's and enjoyed them very much. They lived here in Lincoln, NE all their lives, and so do I...Another funny thing is that my wife's grandparents lived outside of Red Oak, IA and just a mile away from them lived another Soldier from Oflag 64, Andy Johnson. In fact he is buried just a little ways from my wife's grandparents. My father was able to visit with Andy one time when they went back to Iowa with us and both of the men enjoyed seeing each other again. *We are so happy, David, that you found our website and we welcome you to our Oflag 64 family. Thanks for writing and filling us in on some of the details of your father's life. We are sorry to hear about the passing of your parents. We hope good memories will sustain you. We continue to have yearly reunions at different locations around the country. We hope you'll be able to join us at a reunion in the future. Please write again.*

Bret Job from Minnetonka MN (son-in-law of the

late Ray Holmquist) sent a recent email and included a link to a story in the Minneapolis Star and Tribune about one of our dear Kriegies, Edor Nelson, 94, who is also living in Minnesota. See the article beginning



on page 16 of this ITEM. *Thanks, Bret, for sharing this wonderful story with us. Thanks also for accepting the responsibility of Oflag 64 Treasurer. Hope to hear from you again soon.*

George Juskalian from Centreville VA recently



wrote: "I can't begin to tell you how disappointed I am to have missed the reunion. I had looked forward with great anticipation at revisiting with old friends, friends with whom I had endured the most trying period of my life and whose collective will and esprit de corps sustained us to the end. No other reason would have kept me from the reunion except for the inflexible coincidence of my daughter's wedding on October 12. It was a joyous affair, but every now and then my thoughts were with you and the impossible wish that I could be at both places at the same time! My apologies to you and to old friends who came from afar and had every right to expect me present. *Thanks, George, for writing. We certainly missed seeing you at the reunion in Washington D.C. this year, but supporting your daughter at her wedding was far more important. We hope to see you in the future. Best wishes to you and your family.*

David Kanners from Columbiaville MI (son of the late Victor Kanners) recently wrote to Kathy Ezell thanking her for "keeping the ball rolling with the Oflag ITEM paper". He also shared a letter from a man by the name of Boomer Mitzel in Pennsylvania who is writing letters to WWII veterans thanking them for their service. Dave plans to send Mr. Mitzel a copy of Victor Kanners' Diary and an Oflag 64 Video or DVD. Dave mentioned that his cancer had come back but that he had surgery, is on Chemo and doing well. *Thanks, Dave, for sharing the letter from Mr. Mitzel. We certainly hope your chemo treatments continue to go well and that you're able to do what you want to do. Please keep in touch.*

Linda Nelson Krueger (daughter of the late Alfred C. Nelson) recently emailed: My father, at the time he was in Oflag 64, was a 1st Lt. in the US Army. He is one of the prisoners who escaped during the march out of Oflag 64 in January 1945. He and another prisoner found a loose board in a barn they were spending the night in during the march and escaped. He said he didn't know the other man's name, but they disagreed on which way to go, so split up. My father made his way to Russian troops; however, they stripped him down and prepared to execute him. They were stopped by a Russian officer who

then imprisoned my father in the cellar of the mayor's house in whatever village he was in. When the guard was either away from his post or sleeping, my father escaped again. This time he made his way to nicer allied troops. He asked to be returned to the front, but the general in charge sent him home to the USA. My father never trusted the Russians and never talked about his war experience until he was over 80 yrs old. Then he told the above story just once. He had retired from the US Army as a Lt. Colonel. He received many war medals, also from the Korean conflict, and at retirement received the Legion of Merit. One thing that puzzles me is that he apparently received the Purple Heart for an event that occurred while he was in Oflag 64. I base this on the military documents that record the date of the incident as November 1944. He had been captured in July 1944. I wondered if he had tried to escape and was shot?"...In a subsequent email, Linda wrote: "I've found additional information about my father's service during WWII. He was an Armored Reconnaissance Unit Commander (1204) in the 13th Arm. Regiment, 1st Arm. Div. He served in Tunisia, Naples-Foggia and Rome-Arno. He went overseas on May 18, 1942 and returned to the US on 9 Apr. 1945. Captured 6 July 1944. Maybe someone else was in this same unit. My father: 1st. Lt. Alfred Cecil Nelson, was born in Spooner WI and lived in East Jordan MI. He expired in February 2004.. *Thanks, Linda, for sharing some of your father's story with us. We hope you hear soon from others who may have known him. Please keep in touch.*

Peggy Lawler from Geneva NY (daughter of the late Martin "Mart" Lawler) recently emailed the following: "I just wanted to let you know that my Dad, Mart Lawler, passed away last month. He had a stroke this past July and had to move (from the home he had lived in since he was 4 years old) to a Nursing Home. He passed away on Sept. 12th. He and my Mom (Joan Lawler) would have celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary this Dec. 27th. Mom wanted me to let you know how much Dad enjoyed receiving the Oflag 64 newsletter. I would also print any of the news items for Dad that you emailed. I just received your email about the latest reunion which I have shared with my family." *Peggy, we mourn the passing of your father, another great man. (see the TAPS section for his obituary) Our Kriegies were/are such heroes and we tremendously appreciate their service and sacrifice. We know your Dad will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Royal Lee from Mankato MN sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with compliments to Joe Seringer on the great job he has always done. *Thanks, Royal, for your thoughtful and generous donation to the Postage Fund. We were also pleased to hear of your compliments to Joe who has served faithfully as Oflag 64 Treasurer for many*

years. We hope you'll continue to write. We always love hearing from our dear Kriegies.



Herman Littman from Spokane WA

recently emailed the following: "First, I want to thank the Oflag 64 family for their condolences regarding Lucy's passing. Secondly, I want to correct an article by a Dutch historian printed in the Item. I never was put in solitary

for trying to escape. I was sent up to Luckenwalde and put in solitary by the Krauts in order to extract information about my unit. When I wouldn't answer his questions day by day he blew his stack and yelled: "You think you're going to win this war?" "You're damned right!" I shouted back. "Then you can stay and rot in that cell until your army liberates you!" But after a few days I was sent back to Oflag 64. That's the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

Thanks, Herm, for writing and correcting the error that was previously reported. It's amazing to hear story after story about the brave and courageous actions of our Kriegies. We wish you and your family well. You'll be in our thoughts and prayers. We hope to see you at future reunions and would love to hear from you again.

Lucy Lussenden from Livonia MI

(widow of the late Don Lussenden) has recently written that she wouldn't be able to attend the reunion this year due to her daughter Debbie's health problems. In a previous communication Lucy wrote of her daughter's Leukemia and the need for a bone marrow transplant. Since the reunion Lucy wrote: Thanks for sending [the link to the Reunion article]. It is a good article and I loved the photos, too. I missed you all. Debra will be receiving another round of chemo before the doctors do the stem cell transplant. She will be hospitalized for a month, given the stem cells, and kept for another 2 weeks, I think, while her body builds her white blood count and stem cells, I guess. She and her husband, Regis, met with the cancer specialists today in downtown Detroit. That's where she'll be receiving these latest treatments. *Thanks, Lucy, for sharing the news of your daughter. We are so sorry to hear about her continued health challenges. We hope for success in future treatments and/or transplants and will keep you, your daughter, and other family members in our thoughts and prayers. Please send updates on her condition. We missed you at the Reunion, but hope to see you again in the future.*



Susan Calpin Nalley from Potomac MD (daughter of Michael Calpin) recently emailed: "Unfortunately, my dad, Michael J. Calpin, will be unable to attend the reunion. He is well, but has decided with regret to not travel at that time. He looks forward to reading

about the reunion in the Oflag 64 newsletter. Hope all goes well for everyone attending!" *Thanks, Susan, for writing and for letting us know about your father's plans for this year. We're sorry he wasn't able to attend the reunion, but hope to see him in the future. Please keep in touch.*

Elizabeth "Betsy" Owen from Lynchburg VA (daughter of the late Col. Paul R. Goode pictured



here) sent a donation to the Postage Fund a while back along with a note which said: "So sorry I can't be there— (Washington being the one place I could get to!) A tumor behind my eye is keeping me from doing some things I would really love to do—this being at the top of the list. Have a wonderful reunion. I will be thinking about you." *Thanks, Betsy, for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund and for your note. We're so sorry to hear about the tumor behind your eye. Please update us from time to time on how you're doing. We wish you well and will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.*

Richard "Dick" B. Parker from Washington D.C. emailed recently



that he and his wife have moved to an assisted living facility and have a new mailing address and email address. He said that he hoped to make the White House Tour but would have to skip the rest of the reunion because his wife's illness required him to be with her most of the day. He could get away for a few hours now and then, but prolonged absence was out. *Thanks, Dick, for writing and sending updated contact information. We're sorry to hear about your wife's illness and missed you at the reunion but we wish the best of health to you both. We hope to hear from you again soon.*

Robert Rivers from Orcutt CA sent a donation to the Postage Fund recently. *Thanks, Bob, for your thoughtful donation. We so appreciate the support of our Oflag 64 family members and friends. With such contributions, we are able to continue sending the ITEM by mail. (See more information about Bob in the Information Station section of this ITEM.)*

Karen Granberry Smith (daughter of the late James W. Granberry) is new to our Oflag 64 family and has written: "I finally found the website which confirmed where my dad had been held as a POW. My father retired from the army in 1962. He died April 7th, 1968. My mother told my sister and me Dad wouldn't eat cabbage or potatoes for years after he returned home. She also told us he said they were told not to look at the children while they were being transported by train, since the children were starving. Mom told us he tried to escape with Patton's son in law. I knew he received a Purple Heart for phosphorus burns

while at Monte Casino which is where he was captured. Probably more information than you hoped to receive, but it felt good to share it. Thank you so much for maintaining this website." *Welcome, Karen, to our Oflag 64 family and thanks for sharing information about your father. We're happy you have found our website and hope you'll be able to find other information you might be seeking. We'll be adding his name to our TAPS list as soon as possible. We hope you'll write again soon.*

Katherine Robinson Stevenson from Fernandina Beach FL (daughter of Hervey H. Robinson) is

looking for anyone who has memories of her father. She wrote: "My father took part in the Nov 8, 1942 landing in North Africa and subsequently was taken prisoner on Feb 17, 1943 in the Faid Pass in Tunisia. (as one German said to him "For you, the war is over".) He was eventually taken to Oflag 64 where he was put on the tunnel committee and worked in the tunnel. He was one of the four who climbed into the tunnel and stayed for several days upon the evacuation of the camp by the Germans as the Russians were coming thru Poland. Dad is now 89 years old and in failing health. His mind is still very sharp and he says those days as a POW shaped his life. I was wondering if any of the "Kriegies" had memories of my father. He has told me about his experiences, but very few details. He did say one day Col. John Waters asked him if he had ever ice skated. "No" was my dad's reply. Col Waters had some ice skates and told him to put them on and give it a try." *We're happy you have found our website, Katherine. It was good to hear from you and to learn more about your dad. We hope you'll soon hear from those who remember him. It's always great to make those connections. Thanks also for sharing information about his war days. Please keep in touch.*

Bob Thompson from Tulsa OK writes

that he and his wife, once they "clean out their house of about 60 yrs. accumulation of stuff", plan to move to an assisted living facility. Bob asks that we share his new email address as follows: tho1921@gmail.com *Thanks, Bob, for writing. Good to hear from you again. Best wishes for your upcoming move. That accumulation of stuff will get you every time. Please keep us posted on your move and new address.*



Michele Waters (oldest granddaughter of Herm Littman) is new to our Oflag 64 family and recently wrote: "I have been hearing about your organization for years and was able to attend the 2007 reunion in Tulsa with my husband Robert. We really enjoyed ourselves and know that this group has meant a lot to both my grandparents. Thanks so much for your kind welcome." *Thanks,*

Michele, for writing. We're so happy you have found us. Our Oflag 64 family is very warm and welcoming and we know you'll enjoy your association with them. We hope to see you again at future reunions. Please write again.

Judy Winkle from Gallatin TN

(daughter of the late William Whorley) sent compliments on the ITEM and wrote that she would not be able to attend the Reunion this year due to having company during that time. She hopes to see everyone next year.



Thanks, Judy, for writing and for your kind words about the ITEM. We missed you at the reunion this year, but will look forward to seeing you at the next one. It was good to hear from you again. Please keep in touch.

James Yamazaki from White Salmon WA recently emailed asking: "Do you know of any one else who rode out of Hammelburg with Baum that is still with us? I still find it remarkable -- Baum's Armored Task force and their exploit to come to our rescue. Is there any record of the POWs that rode out with Baum's armored vehicle?" *It was great to hear from you, James. We hope our email query yielded many responses to your questions. For those without email, we are including the address and phone number you listed in your email as follows: P.O. Box 796, White Salmon WA 98672-0796 and phone number 509-493-4292. We hope to hear from you again.*

Nancy Millett Zelenack from Escondido CA



(daughter of the late George and Sally Millett pictured here) recently sent us a corrected address for Gordon K. Smith. After speaking with him not long ago, she shared the

following: "He sounded in good spirits when I spoke to him after he came back from Normandy for the D-Day ceremony. He told me of all the men he has known that he felt the closest to my Dad. He said it was probably because they both went to "Wentworth Military Academy". Not too many people I can talk to are able to tell me how Gordon's daughter, Sandy, and I used to dance together at Ft. Benning when we all lived there. He's 92 years young. If my Dad were alive he'd be 104 years old. It could have happened as longevity runs in my family. His Mother lived to be 102. I have just recently received many things of my Dad's stored for years in the attic of his family home. The letters he wrote home from Oflag 64 on the special little papers. Many pictures of my Dad and paper clippings. It was a wonderful surprise given to me by my cousin. *Nancy, it was great hearing from*

you and learning of your recent acquisition. What a wonderful gift and a great remembrance of your Dad. Thanks also for the corrected address for Gordon Smith. We appreciate it when we're able to reconnect with those whose addresses have changed. We hope to see you at a future reunion. Please write again.

John Zelazny from Ft. Lewis WA (grandson of Joseph Zelazny) has recently emailed a link to a wonderful article about his grandfather. Limitations regarding republication permission keep us from including the text of the article and accompanying pictures in the ITEM, but you can find the link to his story on page 16 of this ITEM. John shared: "This link takes you to a Tacoma News Tribune article published about my Grandfather LTC (R) Joseph Zelazny and his work in Tacoma Washington building a POW/MIA memorial. He was a guest of Oflag 64 in 1945 and liberated with everyone on May 25. I am so proud of him. This is only one of many memorials he has established in Washington State and Southern California." *Thanks, John, for sharing this information about your grandfather with us. We'd love to hear more as time goes by. Hope to meet you at a future Oflag 64 Reunion.*

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.

LTC John A. Albree USA (Ret.)

**James Bates
Gary and Dianne Bond
Binnie S. Burke
Terry Corbin
John Creech
Gary N. Fox
Jonel C. Hill
Marcia Kanners
Anne Kreutzer
Royal Lee
George Myron
Betsy Owen
Ted Rinehart
Robert Rivers
Bill Warthen**

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

INFORMATION STATION

40% increase in living costs

Property (personal)	E. 3 foot lockers	G. Radio, key
1 Toilet kit bag zipper:	2 duffle bags	2 rifles
Schick razor, 2 safety razors	3 barracks bags	2 field phones
Toiletries, paste, hls	Val Pak, liner	Tipewriter (with)
Cuticle clipper, nail clipper	4 pr. jump boots	medicine ball
Soap, container	2 standard G.I. shoes	4 tinny baskets
Washcloth	2 pr. low quarters	altaz. drape (2)
2 socks. 50¢, 30¢	Arctic	Chaplain flag
1 Jewel Baylow watch, band	2 pr. bed slippers	commission set
3 Cigarettes lighters	1 pr. combat boots	Sleeping bag
Compass	6 doz. handkerchiefs	Bin mattress
Sun Glasses - Rayban	3 doz. pr. socks	Trench coat
O.D. Pants, shirt, sweater	10 wool shirts	5 padlocks
Long handles	7 trousers - 3 dress	Tennis racket
Com. fan, pillow, case	1 blouse, 1 jacket	Tennis racket
2 pocket knives 60¢, 20¢	4 field jackets	Steno stone
Books, "The Hootle,"	1 Combat "	Magic tricks
"Book Nobody Knows"	3 pairs of uniforms, combat	Volleyball net
Flesh light	2 jump suits, old style	Soccer ball
Gloves - 2 pr.	3 pr. dress gloves	4 Chaplain Scarfs
4 large cans, fruit juice	overalls	stick
12 candy bars	2 skin suits	
can opener	2 canteen gum	
gem	4 boxes candy	
Big Cans		
Raincoat		
35 m.m. camera, case		
9 rolls film (Kodachrome)		
Pen & pencil (Parker)		
Overalls Cap, hatcap		
tooth u. cloth, handkerchiefs		
underwear		

TEXANS		
211. Philip D. McIntyre	1705 Montana,	El Paso
H. Orr R. Salmons	418 Galan,	Dallas
Capt. O.C. Hart	608 E. 17th,	Big Springs
H. Hubert M. Pike	622 Indiana Ave,	Weslaco
1st. Fred L. Ostrander	219 Carl Ave.	San Antonio
H. Claude H. Brown	2102 Duicell	Houston
H. O.T. Ziegler	Box 1276	Hooks
1st. L. Doyle R. Yardley		Raymondville
1st. L. James Barron		Waco
Capt. Jas. B. Bond		Waco
1st. Roger Cannon		Waco
1st. Col. Chas. H. Jones		Temple
Capt. Wm. Yates		"
H. J.C. Lichenko	1309 S. 25th St.	"
Raymond G. Ford		"
1st. Mj. Ray D. Swain		Snyder
H. Leonard Spence		"
H. Floyd Vaden	2611 Wadlington	Dallas
H. Ralph Crawford		Dallas
Capt. Cecil B. Embanks		San Antonio
H. Frank H. Hton		"
H. Col. Walter Oakes		"
H. John H. Jones		Houston

H. Teddy Poygan		Houston
✓ Lt. Amor Carter		✓ Fort Worth
✓ Philip J. Pate	901 - 5th Ave	✓ "
✓ Rbt. T. Henry	2604 Bellwin	✓ "
Capt. Claude Ferguson		Quasbeck
H. Lloyd Taylor	Box 84	Canton
✓ Craig Campbell		Houston (Houston)
Capt. N. W. Hanton		Breckinridge
✓ Ralph Robinson		Eureka
✓ Jno. Emerson		✓ Etaska (Fort Worth)
H. C. A. Williamson	1725 Pennsylvania	Beaumont
Capt. D.K. Madlin		Bonham
H. Boyd Denny		Denison
✓ Marion Matheson		Denison
✓ Roy Chappell, Jr.		✓ Kaufman (Tyler)
✓ Hollis Wood		Longview
✓ Ivan C. Caliele	517 Vance St.	Taylor
Capt. Chas. Wilkerson Jr.		Mansfield
H. Stansell		✓ Waxahachie
✓ Elwood Batts		Kempes
✓ Chester Warren		Pais
✓ John R. Rogers		Ennis
✓ Geo. Basely		Hilene
✓ Floyd Lanning		

✓ J. Volck		Gonzales
Jack Montgomery		San Angelo
T. H. White		Colman
✓ Vic White		Harris
Henry Patchard, Jr.		Dallas
Capt. Monroe		Dallas
H. Tatum		Houston
Roger Whiting		Houston
P.D. Mosable		Clarksville
Capt. Ben Burqman		Clifton
Horace Downes	Talbot Sta 20163	Stephenville
H. Calvin Reeves	Route 1	Kerrville
Hully H. Buhl	3508 Asbury	Dallas
John T. Williams	Box 21	Galveston
Morris Thompson	700 E. 29th St.	Bryan
✓ Raymond B. Parsons		Nacadorches
✓ Roy H. Slickland	129 Tompkins	San Antonio
✓ Frank M. Vinson Jr.	110 Fair Oaks	Houston
✓ Chaplain Robert S. Scott	First Christian Church	La Marque
H. Stockton		
✓ Kader, John	607 Pearce Ave,	Jones Creek

More Lists Submitted by Suzy Parker (daughter of the late Chaplain Robert S. Scott)



This picture of Lt. Robert Rivers was taken at San Louis Obispo CA in 1946, on his wedding day to Elinor. Bob was then in the US Air Force Reserve.

Bob was at Oflag 64 after being shot down over North Africa early in the war. Later, the Germans moved the Air Force Officers to a Stalag Luft and used Oflag 64 only for ground force officers.

Bob's Birthday Party was November 16 when he turned 91 years.

Submitted by Robert O'Neill, Prescott AZ

This a copy of the Jordan, Keeler, and Myron "bash we dreamt about" during our sojourn in Luckenwalde, where food was pretty scarce. The first meal we had was a cup of pea soup – the bugs floating on top and in the peas, were free, and I did not see anyone picking them out and throwing them away. **Submitted by George Myron, Little Egg Harbor NJ**

Breakfast 87¢
 Large glass Orange juice (To be served in room.)
 Corn flakes, cream & fruit
 6 Fried eggs, Bacon, Canadian bacon, Fresh fried potatoes - hot biscuits
 3 Hot cakes, Farmer sausage, maple syrup, butter
 Hot toast - jam - milk - coffee.

Mid-morning lunch (10¢)
 Extra heavy malted milk with eggs
 Telled donuts, Hot toast, jam - butter - coffee.

Lunch (noon) (16¢)
 Cocktail
 Cream of split pea soup
 Fried Shrimp
 Sirloin steak - mushrooms, Fresh eggs, onions, shoestring potatoes
 Lettuce
 Deep dish apple pie a la mode
 Coffee, Swedish rolls, butter, jam.

Mid-afternoon lunch (16¢)
 Beer
 Tuna-fish sandwiches on toast
 Cheese " " "
 Chicken pot pie
 French + assorted pastries
 Coffee - cake, butter, jam + coffee

Dinner (193¢)
 Cocktails
 Clam chowder
 Pork roast with filling
 Mashed buttered potatoes + gravy
 Creamed asparagus tips
 Apple + cranberry sauce
 Celery, radishes, sauer niblets
 Fruity cornstarch pudding
 Devils food cake
 Bread, butter, jam + coffee.

Supper (24¢) or later
 Cold roast chicken
 Cold cuts + cheeses
 Assorted seasonings
 Potato chips, assorted breads + toasts.
 Graham cracker pie - Devils food cake
 Assorted jams, butter
 Coffee, milk.

Available in Room at all times.
 Pretzels Candy Bars Cigars Cocoa Cola
 saltines Assorted Nuts Cigaretts Soda
 Peanut butter Chocolates Beer
 mints



Just wanted to share some news with you and the Oflag 64 family. My parents, **Bill and Mary Shular**, just **celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary**. They were married in New Jersey on October 8, 1943, not long before Dad shipped off to Europe -- where he was captured at the Battle of Anzio. This is their war-time wedding photo.

**Mary Shular Hopper
Conway SC**

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF POW EDWIN "JIM" BETTS



I joined the Army at Syracuse, New York, on June 6, 1936. The pay was \$21.00 per month. After hitches in Panama; Fort Ontario, New York; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Benning, Georgia; Camp Atterbury, Indiana; I was in the mountains near Venafro, Italy; and after the war, Adak in the Aleutian Chain,

On the Anzio beachhead, we were given orders to hold at all costs. Hold we did until we were overrun by stronger German forces.

Becoming POW's, we spent days walking with very little to eat. My normal weight was 170 pounds. At liberation it was 136 pounds. A bit skinny for 6' 2". We walked from January 21, 1944, out of Schubin and were liberated by American troops at the entrance of Mooseburg on April 26, 1945. OH HAPPY DAY!

Mooseburg was another POW camp where officers of several countries were incarcerated. There were about 6,000 officers at Moosburg. When leaving Oflag 64, about 1,500 marched out. With the "sick, lame, and lazy" falling out along the way, we were down to about 300 on our arrival at Moosburg.

I certainly was sorry to read of Charles Wilkinson's death on June 21, 2008. At Oflag 64 the bunks were stacked two high, one on top of the other. I had the top bunk and Charles had the one below me.

Charles Wilkinson was an excellent officer. He was intelligent, kind, well informed, thoughtful of others, and better yet, he was an Aggie. I know he will be greatly missed.

SOME NEW INFORMATION ON CHARLIE TURNBO

Many of you know Charlie Turnbo, nephew of the late Col. Doyle Yardley of Oflag 64 and Oflag 64Z. Charlie edited Col. Yardley's diaries into a very informative book entitled "Home Was Never Like This", published a few years ago.

In recent weeks, Charlie was diagnosed with stage 4 squamous cell carcinoma of the lung (a type of cancer) and he also has bone cancer which has spread to several locations. This cancer is not curable, but it is treatable. They are first treating the bone cancer with radiation therapy for 3 weeks. His only source of pain is from the bone cancer and the doctor is sure that he'll be mostly pain free after the radiation treatments shrink the tumors. After that... Chemotherapy. No surgery needed. - Brain scan was good.

Charlie has shared the following web address: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/charleturnbo> Please look through the entire site for more information and pictures and sign his guestbook if you'd like. We've appreciated and enjoyed Charlie's association with Oflag 64 over the years along with his helpful advice to those with email queries. He and the family would appreciate the thoughts and prayers of our Oflag 64 family.



Patrick Reusse: Augsburg owes debt to Nelson

After surviving captivity during World War II, Edor Nelson returned to Minneapolis and made a name for himself as a coach at Augsburg College.

By PATRICK REUSSE, Minneapolis Star Tribune
Last update: October 26, 2008 - 9:24 AM

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The United States instituted a peacetime military draft for the first time in September 1940. Edor Nelson was teaching and coaching in the bustling burg of Lamberton, Minn.

"My hometown was Dawson and you had to register in that county," Nelson said. "You received a number when you registered and mine was 58. And when they drew for the draft, the first number was 58.

"That made me the first guy drafted in Lac qui Parle County."

Nelson was inducted in August 1941, around his 27th birthday and also shortly after his marriage to Dorothy, the young lady he had been dating since high school.

"It didn't happen until Pearl Harbor, but we knew there was a war coming," Nelson said. "There was a song then about GIs with the line, 'I'll be back in a year.' It didn't turn out that way."

When the war started, he went through training and arrived in Europe a couple of days after D-Day as a member of the 43rd Reconnaissance Cavalry. He was assigned to Gen. George Patton's Third Army.

"On Oct. 22, there were seven of us trying to find a place to cross the Moselle River in France," he said. "The Germans came on us very fast ... like they knew we were coming."

Five of the seven Yanks were killed. Nelson, a major, and another officer he called Col. Cross were captured.

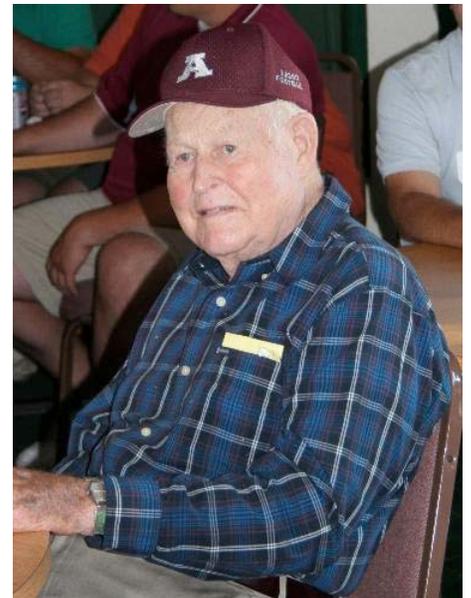
"We wound up in the POW camp in Szubin, Poland," he said. "Harold Van Avery was also in that camp. I knew he was there, but I never was able to find him for a conversation."

Van Avery was a Gophers backfield star for Bernie Bierman from 1937 through 1939.

"I escaped with four other guys [in April 1945], although it was more a case of just walking away," Nelson said.

Edor and his group spent the next three months making their way through Poland, into Russia and across the Black Sea.

"We spent a lot of time in boxcars and stowed away on boats," he said. "By then, we were trying to avoid the Russians more than the Germans. We wound up at Port Said in Egypt, then across



the sea to a military camp in Naples."

That was the first time that Dorothy received confirmation that her husband had survived.

Edor came home and found a job as an instructor and coach at Augsburg. The Nelsons bought a home in south Minneapolis in 1946, raised two boys and still live there.

Last week, the Nelson family celebrated Dorothy's 93rd birthday, which fell on the same day as the 64th anniversary of Edor's capture.

"I don't celebrate that one," he said.

Nelson, 94, coached football for 23 seasons (1947-1969) and coached baseball for 34 seasons (1946-1979) at Augsburg. And that wasn't all:

He was the first coach of the Augsburg wrestling program from 1949 through 1963 -- a sport in which the Auggies still are a dominant force in NCAA Division III. And he brought back hockey as the coach in the winter of 1956-57.

The MIAC schedule was generally a struggle for the Auggies in the '50s and the '60s, and for good reason:

The competition included legendary coaches Lloyd Hollingsworth at Gustavus, Jake Christiansen at Concordia, Jim Malosky at Minnesota-Duluth and John Gagliardi at St. John's.

"Holly and I were very good friends," Nelson said. "I never did get close to John."

Edor permitted himself a small laugh and said: "I don't know if Gagliardi still does as much coaching, but he's still there. I remember when he came into the league [1953], there were a few of us coaches saying, 'We'll show that young whippersnapper.'"

Nelson was able to get to a couple of Augsburg home games earlier this fall -- at Edor Nelson Field. He's also connected to the MIAC by his grand-nephew, Jesse Nelson, the Concordia quarterback.

Frank Haege, the Augsburg coach, comes out of the Arena Football League. The Auggies are basically the MIAC version of Texas Tech -- throw, throw some more and see what happens.

"I started off coaching the single wing, then the split-T and then the wing-T," Nelson said. "We thought the wing-T was wide-open stuff.

"The way they play now ... I guess that spread offense is fine, if the weather's nice. I still think you need a running game this time of year in Minnesota."

Patrick Reusse can be heard weekdays on AM-1500 KSTP at 6:45 and 7:45 a.m. and 4:40 p.m.

• preusse@startribune.com

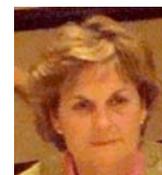
http://www.startribune.com/sports/gophers/33313179.html?elr=KArksi8cyaiUo8cyaiUiD3aPc_Yyc:aUU

DC REUNION PHOTOS CAN BE ACCESSED ONLINE

At the DC Reunion this year, several folks took digital photos. Anne Hoskot Kreutzer has set up an account through the Kodak Gallery which will provide a way for others to view these photos. Anyone who took digital photos and would like to upload them to another album at this same site can do so, and they can then be viewed by any who go online to the same site. You can name your photo album anything you'd like.

Just follow these instructions to access the site:

- 1) go to: www.kodakgallery.com
- 2) sign in with ID: oflag64photos@yahoo.com (all lower case)
- 3) use password: POW1945 (no space between them)
- 4) go to album: "Oflag-64 October 2008 Reunion-Anne"
- 5) View slideshow, or view photos one at a time.



If anyone would like prints, they can be ordered from the site and shipped to your home. (Visit the site periodically as other photos may, at different times, be uploaded for viewing.) *Thanks, Anne, for facilitating this process. We appreciate all you did at the Reunion to help things run smoothly.*

LINKS TO SOME INTERESTING SITES

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/15/AR2008101500957.html?nav=emailpage>

An article about the Washington D.C. Reunion (with photos). If you don't have access to the internet, perhaps a friend or family member will be able to print this story for you. (Apologies for not being able to reprint the article in this ITEM.)

<http://www.oflag64.org>

Official website of the Oflag 64 organization. Updates to the site will be available ASAP.

[POW/MIA stories wanted for park <http://www.thenewtribune.com/news/local/story/471096.html>](http://www.thenewtribune.com/news/local/story/471096.html)

Not quite a year after an engraved slab of granite was dedicated honoring Pierce County residents who died in World War II, another monument is about to debut at Tacoma's War Memorial Park. (A great article about our own Joseph Zelazny....Apologies for not being able to reprint the article in this ITEM.)

http://www.startribune.com/sports/gophers/33313179.html?elr=KArksi8cyaiUo8cyaiUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUU

Another great story of one of our own, Edor Nelson, now living in Minnesota (See the article in this ITEM.)

<http://scottsvillemuseum.com/wwii/veterans/thomasjbugg.html>

A verbal autobiography, complete with pictures, done by the Scottsville Museum with our own Thomas J. Bugg, Jr. When the page opens, click on Thomas Bugg's name at the bottom for the whole story.

"Veteran Tells Of War - Video - WRC | Washington" This story of the late Samuel Carlick was previously available on NBC.com but is no longer accessible.

<http://oldbluejacket.com/AudieMurphy.htm>

Read about the war accomplishments of one of the most decorated American War Heroes to fight in WWII – Audie Murphy (Those who were able to visit Arlington National Cemetery at the Reunion this year may have seen Audie Murphy's headstone.)

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/oct/29/couple-share-war-love-story/>

This inspirational WWII love story was sent by Eugene Liggett of Vancouver WA

<http://www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org/>

Recommended by one of our new Oflag 64 members, David Henry of Ft. Worth TX

OFLAG 64 FLAG DONATION

We have been fortunate over the years to have a beautiful Oflag 64 flag displayed at many of our reunions. The current flag was purchased and donated to the Oflag 64 organization by Alan Dunbar of Las Vegas NV. The photo below shows the flag displayed in the Hospitality Room at the Washington D.C. Reunion. *We tremendously appreciate your donation and support, Alan. What a thoughtful gift!*



CONTACT INFORMATION NEEDED

We have lost contact with the men listed below. If you know where they are and/or can confirm death dates, please send updates to Elodie Caldwell at one of the addresses on the front page of this ITEM.

Leonard Feldman
Joseph S. Friedman
Hugh G. Hogan
Francis B. Stevens

Anthony L. Vetrano, Jr.
Henry J. Weintraub
James C. Young

FOR TAPS

If you become aware of any of our dear Kriegies who have passed away, please let me know ASAP. I would appreciate knowing the name, the date of death, where the obituary can be found, contact information for the family, etc. Please use one of my contact addresses on the front page of this ITEM. (Elodie)

FOR THE ITEM

I would love to have photos of all our Kriegies and of any family members, friends, or associates who write. If you have a photo that you would like me to include with your note when I print it in the ITEM, please either email a copy or send a copy to me at one of the contact addresses on the front page of this ITEM. I am able to edit photos to fit the space on the page. Thanks very much for your help. (Elodie)

“FREE” MILITARY HANDBOOKS

(Information submitted by Bob Thompson)

Military Handbooks

E-mail: info@militaryhandbooks.com

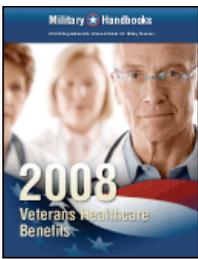
<http://www.militaryhandbooks.com>

FREE Military Handbooks and Guides - Since 2001

Three NEW Military Handbooks Available

ARLINGTON, VA Military Handbooks has announced the release of three new 2008 FREE handbooks for military personnel, the 2008 After the Military Handbook, 2008 Veterans Healthcare Benefits Handbook, and 2008 Base Installation Directory.

These handbooks, written specifically for military service members, include a variety of information about benefits, education and transitioning from the military. To receive your own copies of these handbooks, simply go to our Web site - www.militaryhandbooks.com. Don't forget to tell all of your military colleagues about these free handbooks too!

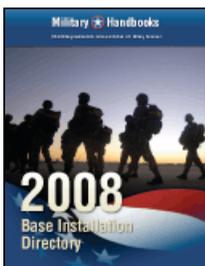
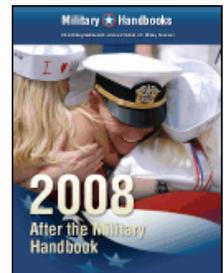


2008 Veterans Healthcare Handbook

This unique handbook, written for veterans, gives you everything you need to know about: how to apply for healthcare, veterans service centers, choosing a facility, changing a facility, second opinions, prescriptions, dental care, chiropractic care, non-VA care, travel, POW benefits, appeals, grievances, confidentiality, financial issues, means testing, hardship determinations, waivers, medication co-payments, health insurance, listing of VA facilities, and much, much more!

2008 After the Military Handbook (good resource for young veterans)

This unique handbook, written for military veterans, covers: transitioning to the private sector, supporting your family, finding a job that pays "top dollar", choosing between jobs with large or small companies, deciding to start your own company, maximizing the benefits of a military career, medical benefits and life insurance in the private sector, how to pay for college after you leave military service, how to retire successfully, and more.



In mid-October, Military Handbooks released an updated version of the 2008 Base Installation Directory. The October Military Handbooks' newsletter will contain more details about these updates.

To download your own FREE copies of the 2008 Military Handbooks, please visit: <http://www.militaryhandbooks.com>.

Please note that if you received an error message while attempting to download the handbooks, it is due to the large volume of requests we are receiving. Simply try your request again in a few hours.

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.



Always enjoy the newsletter. Thanks. ~ **Jim Bates, Brentwood TN**

Good job with the Item. ~ **Pat Bender, Philadelphia PA**

May I say how outstanding the newsletter is looking! You and all the contributors are doing an outstanding job. Mother and I, and certainly Dad see the expansion and creativity monthly, and read The ITEM with enthusiasm. Thank you for all your organizational efforts. The Reunion highlights will be the next great read! ~ **Barbara Bickers, Prospect Heights IL**

Great O-Flag Item as usual. Thank you! ~ **Bill Cory, Louisville KY**

What a nice copy of the latest Oflag 64 Item. It so well covered with great detail the oncoming week of the reunion. ~ **Herb Garris, Pinehurst SC**

You are doing a wonderful job with the Item. Thanks so much. ~ **Lucy Lussenden, Livonia MI**

Thanks for your great work publishing the ITEM!! ~ **Bob O'Neill, Prescott AZ**

I love the look of the new Item. Thanks so much for the good work. The photos make it easier to put names and faces together. ~ **Judy Winkle, Gallatin TN**

I enjoy receiving the updates you provide about Oflag 64 survivors. ~ **John Zelazny, Ft. Lewis WA**

OFLAG 64 WEB CONNECTION

I will watch the site and appreciate all the work done to remember these men. ~ **David Ihrle, Lincoln NE**

We've been fascinated with the website and all the work you do since we were made aware of it a little over a year ago. Our family is grateful to you and to the sweet lady who led us to the site. I can't imagine the work involved in putting it all together, but you do a wonderful job! On behalf of the Edwin J. Betts family, thank you so much!! ~ **Janice S. Turner**

New Visitors to our Oflag 64 Web Site

Jessica Bender – granddaughter of Vincent Di Francesco

Caroline Giblin – daughter of Norman M. Barker

Charles Graul – son of Donald Graul

David Ihrle – son of LeRoy Ihrle

Linda Nelson Krueger – daughter of Alfred C. Nelson

Michael Oakes –

Katherine Robinson Stevenson – daughter of Hervey H. Robinson

Skip Slack – nephew of Jack Slack

Karen Granberry Smith – daughter of James W. Granberry

Michele Waters – oldest granddaughter of Herman Littman



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.

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.vandemere.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. **Kriegsgefangenen** (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
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. **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
13. **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

14. **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
15. **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
16. **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
17. **Tours of Duty: World War II Veterans Personal Stories** by Eleanor Bertrand. Includes stories of Jimmie Kanaya and Martin Jones from Oflag 64 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

NEW INFORMATION: 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.org. Click on the Looking for Lost Men link at the top 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. Contact Dave Kanners, 5479 Sandy Lane, Columbiaville MI 48421, 810-793-2719 (NO CHARGE)

Raid. The story of the Task Force Baum raid on the Hammelburg POW Camp. Publisher: Dell Publishing Co. (A few copies are available at \$8 each through our organization. Please make checks payable to the Oflag 64 Postage Fund c/o Elodie Caldwell.)

Roads to Liberation by Clarence R. Meltesen is available free of charge except for a \$5 per copy shipping fee. Please contact:
Lynne Meltesen
12163 West Exposition Drive
Lakewood CO 80228-3300
Phone: 303-987-1833
Email: meltelee@q.com

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.

TAPS

Carl G. Bedient

1917 – 2007

Carl G. Bedient passed away on March 28, 2007 in Alamo TX. An obituary was previously accessible online but is no longer available.



when he was discharged, he left with the rank of major. He worked for Hang Distributors as a beer salesman for many years and also served as an Ontario County supervisor for 12 years. He was a member of Winnek Post 396 American legion, VFW Post 2670, Knights of Columbus Geneva Council 272, Seneca Lake Country Club, Our Lady of Peace Parish and was a member of the Geneva City Democratic Committee.

Lucyl A. Shirk

1919-2008

Lucyl A. Shirk, widow of John F. Shirk (Oflag 64 Kriegy) passed away April 16, 2008 in Oklahoma City OK. No other information was available online.

He is survived by his wife, Joan; his daughters Anne (Alex) Onorato and Peggy Lawler, both of Geneva; his sons, Michael (Catherine) Lawler of Geneva, William (Marcia) Lawler of Florida, Timothy (Bernardo Siles) Lawler of Washington, D.C., and John Watson of Geneva; 11 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Martin J. Lawler, Jr.

1916-2008



GENEVA – Martin J. Lawler Jr., 92, of 24 Lyceum St., passed away Friday (September 12, 2008) at the Geneva Living Center North.

There will be no prior calling hours. A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10 a.m. Monday (Sept. 15) at St. Stephen's Church. Burial, with full military honors, will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to DeSales High School.

Marty was born in Geneva and was a lifelong resident. He was the son of the late Martin and Anna Gannon Lawler Sr. He was a graduate of DeSales High School, Class of 1935, and of St. Bonaventure University, Class of 1939. Following graduation, he enlisted in the Army and served for seven years, 29 months as a prisoner of war. He received the Silver Star and the Purple Heart, and



He was predeceased by his son, Martin J. Lawler III, who died in 1956.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Finger Lakes Family Funeral Home.

Originally published in the Finger Lakes Times online (9/18/08) but is now archived and no longer available.

