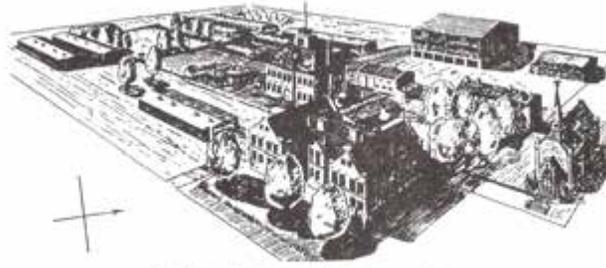


# Post Oflag 64 Item



Artist's drawing of Oflag 64 without barbed wire fences or guard towers.  
Drawn by Jim Backen.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2016

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### Contributors to this issue

Glenn Burgess  
Anne Kreutzer  
Szubin Mayor Artur Michalak  
Wilbur Sharpe  
Tom Sigler  
Dave Stewart  
Don Waful  
Mariusz Winiecki

Thank you for your valued input!!

### HALL OF REMEMBRANCE SURVEY

Hello Oflag 64 Families,

In the last ITEM, we made reference to the remaining barracks on the Oflag 64 site and the hope that it could be renovated and converted to a Hall of Remembrance. We also mentioned that there were a few things to do to prepare for that possibility. A preliminary request was made to our Oflag 64 family for information about the layout of the barracks, for written descriptions of the barracks in War Logs, etc., and for any memories Kriegies had of the barracks as they existed years ago. We need to tap into these memories while we still can.

We have received information and photos from Mariusz Winiecki regarding bunks and the layout of one of the barracks when the camp was named Oflag XXIB just prior to becoming Oflag 64. We welcome other drawings or descriptions as well.

We are now asking that you participate in our Hall of Remembrance Survey that will be posted online ASAP. For those without internet or computers, we are including it in this ITEM in a slightly different format. Find the survey on the last two printed pages.

Please help us by responding in one form or another. This will help us prepare for and set up exhibits at the Hall of Remembrance when it's time. The questions are all directed to our former Kriegies but may need to be answered by family members.

We welcome any ideas you would like to share that will help us in this effort. Thanks for providing information to help us prepare and be ready when the time comes.

Our best to you always,

Elodie Caldwell, ITEM Editor  
Bill Caldwell, Oflag 64 Webmaster  
Oflag 64 Association



## A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

### Postage Fund Donors

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

**Barbara & Emmy Lou Bickers**  
**Steven Burgauer**  
**Evie Dunbar**  
**Margie Slack**  
**Don Waful**  
**Connie Welch**  
**Anonymous Donor**

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 everyone who sent holiday greetings for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. What a wonderful time of year! We hope everyone had a great holiday season and joyous times with families and friends.

....to the anonymous Postage Fund donor, we greatly appreciate your thoughtful and very generous donations. What a wonderful gift!!

....to members of the Oflag 64 Advisory Group/Szubin Advisory Group who are working to secure transfer of ownership of the remaining barracks on the site of Oflag 64 from the provincial government to Szubin. (The advisory groups were established when the Oflag 64 traveling group visited Szubin in September of 2016.) Please let us know if you have questions about or interests in this group.

Best to you,  
Elodie Caldwell at [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us)



If you have anything to submit for print in the ITEM, please contact Elodie at the contact address on the front page of this publication. If you send photos, digital scans of original photos or anything that can be sent in .jpg format, that works great. If you are unable to scan photos, I would be glad to scan the originals and send them back to you. Documents can also be sent in .pdf format. Thank you very much.

Also, if you notice errors or omissions, or find links that don't work properly, please let us know at [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us). Thank you for your patience with this sometimes slow process.





# MAIL CALL



**DAVID R. ANDERSON** (son of the late Kriegy Everette Anderson) recently sent WWII photos of his dad and also a copy of his dad's POW card. It's always amazing to see how young our dear Kriegies were when they were in captivity. *David, we thank you so much for sharing the photos of your Dad. We will add what we can to our website ASAP. POW photos remind us that freedom isn't free. A price is always paid, in one way or another, by those who serve our country during wartime. We owe them so much.*

**PAUL AYLWIN** (son-in-law of the late Kriegy Allan Barton Ferry) recently found our website and noticed that his father-in-law's name wasn't on our online TAPS list. Allan died in 1996 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. *Paul, thank you very much for letting us know about your father-in-law's passing. We have added his name to our TAPS list as requested.*



**PAT BENDER** (daughter of Kriegy Vincent "Doc" Di Francesco) wrote following the notice we sent that Kriegy Bob O'Neill had passed away. Her family had a special connection with him and expressed that his death hit them hard and that they will miss him terribly. *Pat, good to hear from you again, even under the circumstances. Bob was indeed a dear man, a great Kriegy hero and patriot. We will all miss him. Our thoughts and prayers along with sincere sympathies were sent to his family. Thanks so much for writing.*



**EMMY LOU and BARBARA BICKERS** (widow and daughter of the late Kriegy Jim Bickers) recently sent a donation to the Postage Fund and also compliments on the ITEM. They recently celebrated Emmy Lou's 96<sup>th</sup> birthday and Barbara reported that her mom's health is generally good. They greatly miss Jim but are excellent companions for each other. *It was good to hear from you again. I loved the picture of you both. Thank you so much for your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund and also for your kind words about the ITEM. Much appreciated.*



**STEVEN BURGAUER** (author and friend of Oflag 64) sent a copy of two reviews of his book THE ROAD TO WAR, #16 listed in our Publications section. We will be adding a new page to our website soon which will include those reviews. We hope you'll read what the reviewers have to say. Steve also sent a donation to the Postage Fund. *Steve, thanks so much for writing and sharing your reviews with us. You have certainly earned those remarkable comments. Thanks also for your thoughtful donation to our Postage Fund. Always appreciated.*



**GLENN BURGESS** (son-in-law of Kriegy Wilbur "Bill" Sharpe) sent photos and articles that were sent by Don Waful to Bill. Bill wanted to share them with us as well. Please see the Kriegy News and Information section of this ITEM for photos and more information about Don. *Thanks so much Glenn, for scanning and sending the photos and articles. I had just looked online for information about Don and learned about his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. What an amazing milestone!!*



**KAY CRUISE** (daughter of the late Kriegy James T. Godfrey) wrote recently with compliments on what we do and to say thank you for sending "The Waters Story" which she is looking forward to reading. She also reported that her husband's health is improving a little but that they would not be going to Arizona for the winter this year. *Kay, it was good to hear from you again. Thank you so much for your kind words. We send our prayers and good wishes for Tony's continued health improvement and hope that you'll be able to travel to Arizona again next year.*



**STEVEN DANDO-COLLINS** (author and friend of Oflag 64) recently wrote to report that his new book will be published in hardback on January 10 in the US. (See #14 in the Publications Section of this ITEM.) You may recall from a past ITEM that his book deals primarily with escapes from the camp in Szubin. *Stephen, we're so happy to hear that your book will be available soon. I'm certain other Oflag 64 family members will find it as remarkably interesting and informative as I did. Thank you so much for inviting members of our Oflag 64 family to contribute information.*



**EVIE DUNBAR** (Widow of the late Kriegy Alan Dunbar) wrote to let us know how she was doing and that in October she took Alan's ashes to Arlington, feeling that he needed to be there. She said it was so beautiful. The scenery with all the fall colors and the ceremony was awesome. If all goes well, she plans to return this Spring. Additionally, she sent a donation to the Postage Fund. *Evie, it was good to hear from you again. It's great that you were able to be in Arlington to experience the beauty of the area as well as the wonderful ceremony that took place. Alan and our Kriegies all deserve the best. Thank you very much for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund.*

**CHERYL ELLIS** (daughter of Kriegy Sidney Thal) was recently instrumental in connecting her dad with Jackie Van Vliet-Carnell. After a few emails back and forth, they were finally able to make contact. *Thanks so much, Cheryl, for assisting in making the connection. What would we do without email and phones?*



**JULIE GIONFRIDDO** (daughter of the late Kriegy Jack Rathbone) wrote with compliments on the ITEM and to let us know that she has returned to the US (Colorado specifically) after retiring in Ecuador. *Julie, it was great to hear from you again. Thank you very much for your kind words. We're so glad you're back in Colorado; Ecuador is so far away. And we're happy you are doing well.*

**ANN HART-OTTERBEIN** (daughter-in-law of the late Kriegy Lou Otterbein) wrote regarding posting scanned photos of Lou Otterbein's memoirs to the Oflag 64 Facebook page. Check out The Oflag 64 Record on Facebook to see her posting. Hopefully there will be others to follow. *Thank you very much, Ann, for checking on posting the photos. We know they will be of great interest to those who are following Oflag 64 posts on Facebook.*



**JIMMIE KANAYA** (Kriegy) recently wrote in response to an email forwarded to him from Evie Dunbar. He said he passed his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday in October in is looking forward to a few more of them. He's still driving and attending the "Y" every day possible to keep his joints lubricated. He hopes to still be in shape to see another New Year. *Jimmie, thank you very much for writing and catching us up on your activities. Happy late birthday by the way. Every year passed 90 is a real milestone in my book. Keep up the good work. We'll have to get all of us Washingtonians together for a nice visit soon.*



**ANNE KREUTZER** (daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel R. Hoskot) wrote to say that she and her entire family (18 of them) were together in Cancun over Thanksgiving to celebrate her husband Tom's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. She also reported that her mother-in-law passed away suddenly a few days before Christmas. *What joy and what sadness so close together. It was great to hear of your family trip together, but sad to learn about Tom's mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.*



**HERM LITTMAN** (Kriegy) wrote recently with compliments on the ITEM and with news that he and his son Larry are doing well in their new environment (Bow WA). He expected to spend his holidays with his daughter Sue who always has a crowd for the holidays. *Herm, it's so good to hear from you. We're always happy to learn that you and Larry are doing*

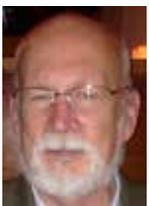
well. *It would be great if we could find a time to get together one day soon. I think you're about three and a half hours north of us. Thank you for your compliments on the ITEM.*



**LUCY LUSSENDEN** (widow of the late Kriegy Don Lussenden) also wrote following the notice that Kriegy Bob O'Neill had passed away. She, like others who have written, was sorry to hear of his passing and commented that he was such a nice person and that it was good that he was with loved ones when he passed. *Lucy, it was good to hear from you once more. It's always difficult to announce that another great Kriegy hero and patriot has passed, but we remember them with great love and great respect. They deserve it!*



**MARLENE MCALLISTER** (daughter of the late Kriegy Bob Thompson) wrote that her daughter Taylor had just scanned Bob's 52 page book. We now have a copy and will work on getting what we can posted on our website soon. *Thank you very much, Marlene, for sending me a copy of the book. And thanks to Taylor for scanning it. So much information is contained in our Kriegies' records and as they're all put together, we can gain a broader picture of what they went through during captivity and also during other periods of the war.*



**TOM SIGLER** (son of the late Kriegy Thornton V. Sigler) sent an interesting newspaper clipping that he recently found which tells about the "march" from the Oflag 64 camp in the winter of 1945. (See the Kriegy News and Information section of this ITEM). *Thanks very much Tom for sending the clipping. So interesting to "go back in time" and read what was reported then. It would be interesting to know how many ended up in Hammelburg and how many ended up in Luckenwald(e).*

**MARGIE SLACK** (daughter of the late Kriegy John Slack) recently sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a request for the 1947 Reunion photo. Unfortunately I had just mailed my last copy to another Oflag 64 family member. After receiving a digital copy instead, she mentioned that she thought she could identify her dad in the right rear. We also talked about the last ITEM and the 1971 photos which included photos of her dad. She was able to confirm that he was correctly identified in the photos. *Margie, thanks so much for contacting me and for the fun phone conversation. Wouldn't it be great if Kriegy descendants could all get together one day? Thanks also for your thoughtful contribution to our Postage Fund. Always appreciated.*



**JACKIE VAN VLIET-CARNELL** (daughter of the late Kriegy John Van Vliet II) wrote hoping to connect with Sidney Thal. After a few emails back and forth, a connection was finally made. Thanks to Cheryl Ellis, Sid's daughter, for facilitating the connection. *Jackie, thank you very much for making the request to connect with Sid. It's always so heartwarming to know that connections are still being made.*



**JANE VRIESACKER** (daughter of the late Kriegy Otto Amerell) found our website recently and asked to be added to our email list. *Jane, thank you for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We are always happy when another Kriegy descendant finds us. Expect to hear from us from time to time.*



**DON WAFUL** (Kriegy) recently sent a donation to the Postage Fund. By the way, Don turned 100 last April and was honored by Syracuse University as its oldest surviving Wartime Veteran alumni. He was honored in a ceremony in the end zone at the Carrier Dome. See his photo in the Kriegy News and Information section of this ITEM. We found several other great photos and articles about Don by doing an internet search using his name. Check out this story: <http://dailyorange.com/2015/11/syracuse-university-alumnus-reflects-on-time-as-prisoner-of-war-during-world-war-ii-lost-love/> *Thanks so much, Don, for your thoughtful and generous contribution. Greatly appreciated. Congratulations on your awards and recognitions and on turning 100. You must have found the key to longevity. We'd love to hear from you*

*from time to time and also get a copy of the POW photo you were holding during your interview last March.*

**ANITA WADE and ANNA WEBER** (daughter and granddaughter of the late Kriegy Philip M. Wade) sent compliments to us on the work that we do for the Oflag 64 Association which has been helpful to them as they've followed up on the experiences of Philip. *Anita and Anna, thanks so much for your kind words. We love serving our Oflag 64 Association family.*



**CONNIE WELCH** (daughter of the late Kriegy Austin L. Knapp) recently wrote with a request for the last copy we had of the 1947 Reunion photo. We're happy to say that we were able to deliver. Connie also donated to our Postage Fund. *Thank you very much Connie for your thoughtful and generous contribution to the Postage Fund. We hope you found your father in and amongst the Kriegies and their wives in the 1947 Reunion photo. It's fun to look at the photo even if our dads weren't there.*



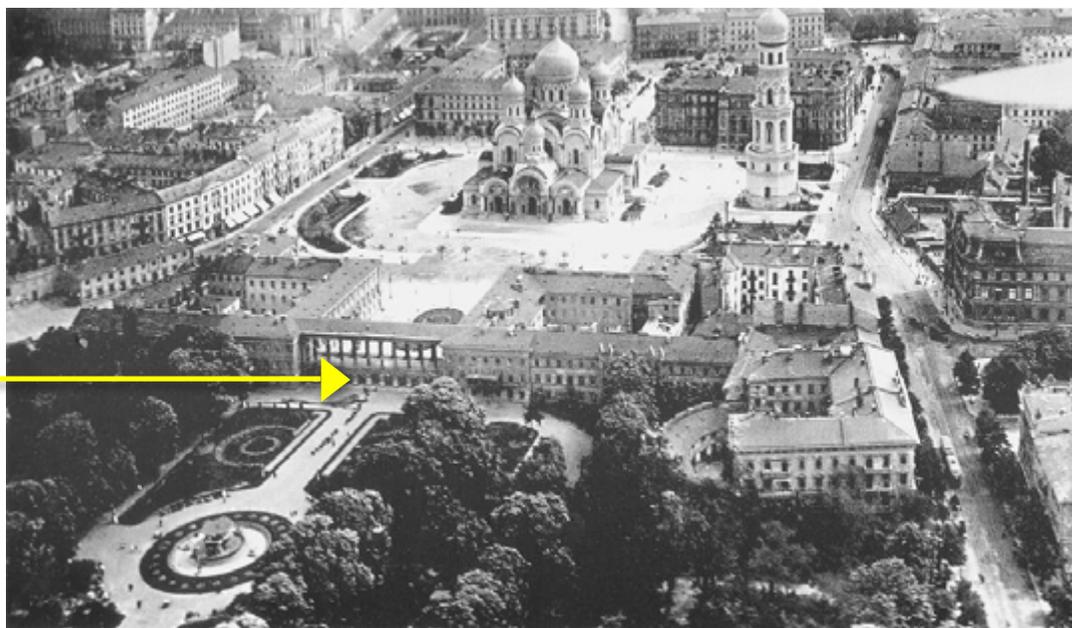
**MARIUSZ WINIECKI** (good friend of our Oflag 64 family) recently sent photos of the Saxon Palace in Warsaw dated 1919. The remains of the palace now house the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. See the following photos. He also sent some interesting barracks photos. (See the Kriegy News and Information Section of this ITEM.) *Thank you very much Mariusz for sending the photos and information on the Saxon Palace. They are of great interest to our Oflag 64 family members who have visited Warsaw and have been to the Tomb of the Unknown. Keep the information coming, in your "spare" time of course. And thank you for all the other information you have sent. We have learned so much from you.*

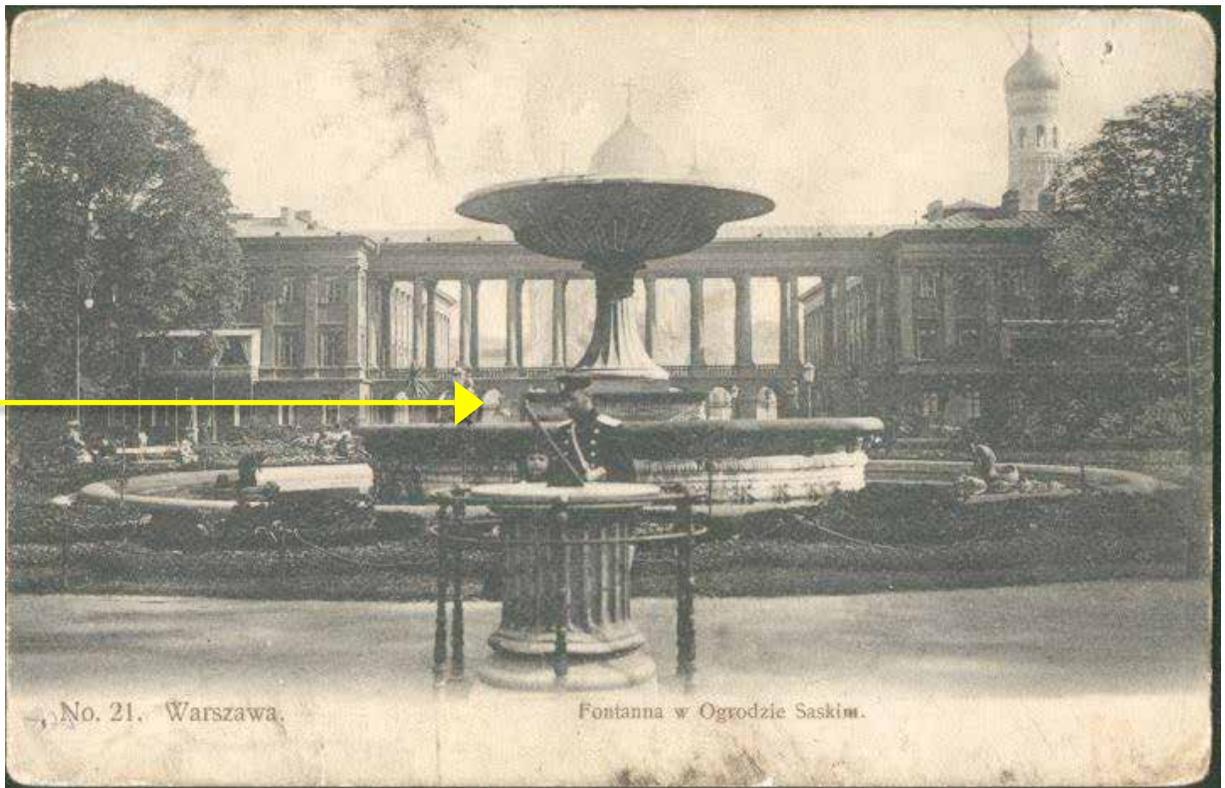


**JUDY WINKLE** (daughter of the late Kriegy William Whorley) recently wrote to let us know that our website server wasn't responding using the browsers and devices she had. If you also experienced this issue, we are now using a different server and should no longer have the problem. However, if you ever find that such an issue exists (or any others on our website for that matter), please let us know so we can find a resolution. Judy also thanked us for sending the ITEM. *Thank you so much Judy for your kind words and for letting us know about the server problem. Sometimes it takes extra eyes to make sure everything works as it should.*

\* \* \* \* \*

This is the area of the Saxon Palace in Warsaw where the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is presently located. All other buildings in the square, among others, were destroyed during World War II. The Oflag 64 traveling group visited the Tomb during their trip to Poland in September of 2016.





The arrows show where the present Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw is located. Top photo was taken between 1924 and 1926. The bottom photo was taken a few years ago.



## COMMENTS

Let us know how we are doing. Constructive comments and criticisms are always appreciated.

Thanks for all your work for Oflag 64. ~ **Nancy Anderson**

We delighted in the rich content of the latest edition of Post Oflag 64 Item. The reporting of the visit to Poland was excellent. Most certainly, Mom and I are thrilled to see the valued use of Dad's camp drawing! We are proud to support all your hard work for such an inspiring newsletter. ~ **Barbara Bickers**

Keep up the good work! I love reading the e-version of your publication. ~ **Steven Burgauer**

Thank you again for your wonderful leadership of the Oflag 64 Association family. ~ **Susanna Connaughton**

I along with so many others appreciate yours and Bill's efforts more than can be expressed. ~ **Kay Cruise**

Thanks for what you do. ~ **Terrence Dooley**

I enjoy reading the Oflag 64 ITEM, so keep me on your list. ~ **Evie Dunbar**

Thank you very much for doing this. It is so interesting and is probably a labor of love for you. I look forward to the ITEM each quarter. ~ **Julie Gionfriddo**

I loved the last ITEM. I hope it was as interesting to those who weren't on the [Szubin] trip as it was to me! Very well done! ~ **Anne Kreutzer**

The best ITEM ever! You folks are doing so well on an ITEM we Kriegies always looked forward to. ~ **Herm Littman**

You folks are doing a super job, just keep it up. ~ **John Paull**

Thank you so much for ALL you do. ~ **Susan Griset van der Roest**

Thank you for your Oflag 64 website and all of the information you give to us. ~ **Diane Watson**

Thank you for being our contact and connection to others whose parents and grandparents were part of the Oflag experience. Your continual guidance and oversight of all matters pertaining to Oflag has helped so many of us to be successful in following up on the experiences of our loved ones. Thank you for all that you do. ~ **Anita Wade and Anna Weber**

Thanks so much for sending the ITEM. I really enjoy reading them. ~ **Judy Winkle**

## WEB VISITORS

We welcome you to our Oflag 64 Association family. Please visit our website often.

**Paul Aylwin** – son-in-law of the late Kriegy Allan B. Ferry

**Susan Moss** – granddaughter of the late Kriegy Alfred Moss

**David Palluconi** – son of the late Kriegy Amelio Palluconi

**Jane E. Vriesacker** – daughter of the late Kriegy Otto Amerell



**Oflag 64**



## KRIEGY NEWS & INFORMATION

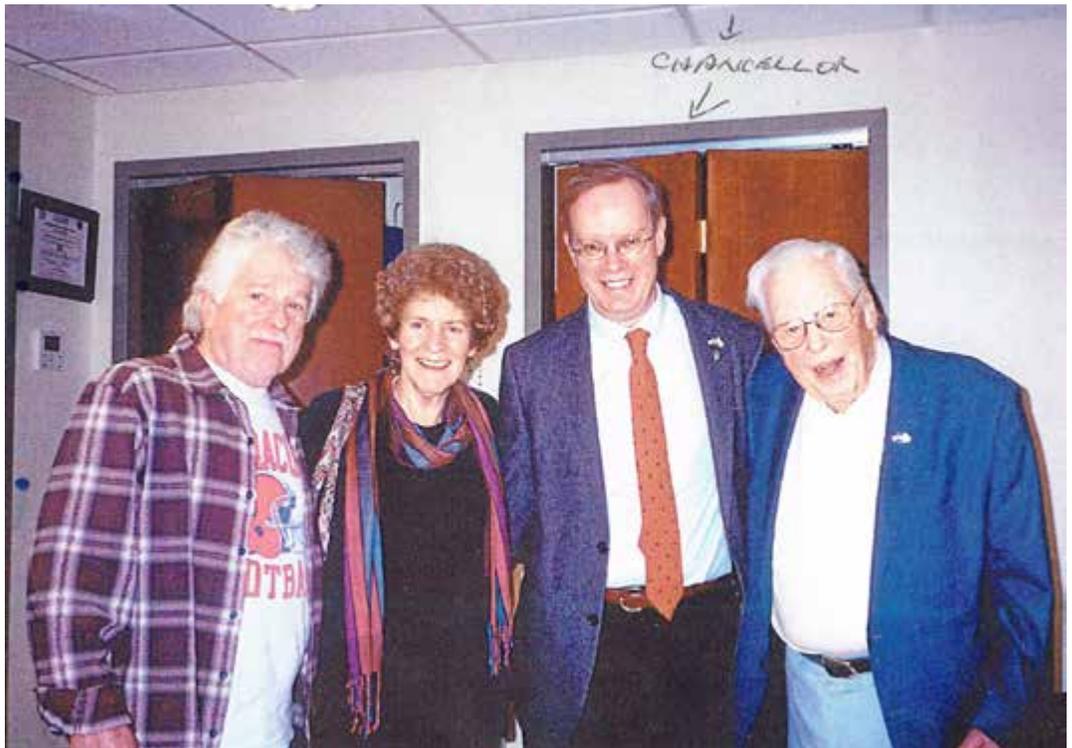


These photos were sent to Bill Sharpe by **Don Wafel**. Bill thought they should be shared with us as well. We agree!!

Don is in the middle, son Peter is to his left followed by Peter's wife Dana. Others in the photo are unknown.

This photo is of Don (far right) in the Chancellor's box, to his right is the chancellor, Dana, and Peter.

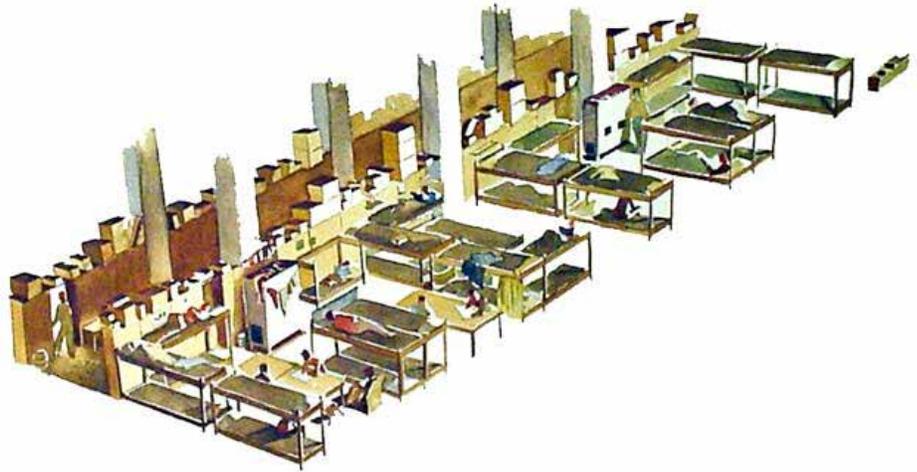
Also sent were articles written for Military Appreciation Day (which we are not able to reprint without permission) and a Bio of Don printed for the occasion. Check Google for more information.



**Mariusz Winiecki sent these photographs** in response to our request for barracks photos. As we prepare for the creation of a Hall of Remembrance on the former Oflag 64 site, we want to make sure we get everything right. The photo at the right is a painting by Carl Holmstrom who was a POW at Oflag 21B in Szubin in 1942/1943. This copy of the painting was found at:

<http://www.kriegielife.com/index.html>.

The artist describes the interior: The brick barracks were open bays containing stone floors. The sketch shows a quarter of one with lockers and beds arranged to form a hall and rooms. Four stoves were used mainly to dry laundry as heating the bay was impossible. Mariusz says: I'm sure the interiors of barracks in Oflag 21B and Oflag 64 were the same.



The next two photographs show the RAF officers dormitory at POW camp Oflag 21B before it was Oflag 64. They were taken from the Red Cross Library and were captioned: "War 1939-1945. Schokken. Oflag XXI B, prisoners of war camp. RAF officer's dormitory". Although some Red Cross photos have been improperly captioned in the past, Mariusz' research has found that there was Oflag 21A in Schokken which later became Oflag 64Z, but comparing these photos to the painting, most probably they were from the camp in Szubin Oflag 21B/Oflag 64 rather than Oflag 21A/Oflag 64Z.





## **The State of the Remaining Barracks and the Hall of Remembrance**

**Artur Michalak** (Mayor of the town of Szubin) and Szubin's Town Council, with assistance from the MOAS School Director Wiesław Guziński and Mariusz Winięcki, are working with our Oflag 64 Association to save the remaining barracks at the site of Oflag 64 and convert it to a Hall of Remembrance. There is much to be done before that can happen. First, ownership of the property and building needs to be transferred to Szubin. An initial letter to County officials was sent and a reply expected promptly granting transfer of the property and remaining building to Szubin. We recently learned that the process isn't as easy as that and that a number of other things need to happen, starting at the provincial level, before a transfer can be made. That wasn't great news, but we're hoping that a reasonable solution can be found in a timely manner. Essentially, there are three levels involved in this process in Poland – the Province, the County, and the Town of Szubin. Szubin officials continue to work on the process from their end.

A recent letter from the Mayor of Szubin explained the following:

*1. A letter was received in mid December from the County regarding the request to transfer the property to Szubin. The request was refused due to the somewhat confused legal status of the remaining inhabited portion of the property and the adjoining plot.*

*2. The formal separation of the plots took place in 1999. The State Treasury who controls the uninhabited section of the building initially planned to demolish it. Due to demolition costs, the Ministry of Justice, previous owner of the property, didn't follow through. Also the Housing Community, the owner of the inhabited section, had planned to demolish that section but also didn't follow through. Because neither party followed through, the present legal status of the building is in limbo. (That greatly benefits us at this point because the historical building is still available as a potential location for the Hall of Remembrance.)*

3. To rectify this legal defect, a physical separation of the two parts of the building has to take place. This will necessitate building a wall, a separation of the rafter framing, and demolition of the inhabited portion of the building while conserving the remaining parts after the demolition.

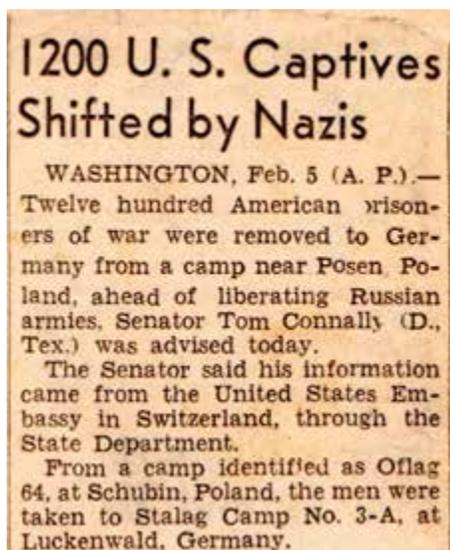
4. After the separation takes place the Province, which is responsible for the remaining structure, could proceed with the transfer process. However, they don't feel invested in the project, so Szubin officials have vowed to take whatever steps necessary to secure the transfer of ownership from the Province to the City of Szubin for the purpose of creating a Hall of Remembrance on the property, using the remaining building.

As you can see, there are several things to consider just to begin. If approval to transfer the land property and building is granted, next steps will then take place which will entail other considerations such as funding, renovation, plumbing, electricity, permits, access roads, parking, etc. But one step at a time and first things first.

We are hopeful that the process will move forward in a timely manner and that the necessary transfers, permissions, etc. will be granted. The Mayor is committed to this project. We will keep you posted as to progress as decisions are made and actions taken.



\*\*\*\*\*



This newspaper clipping was sent by **Tom Sigler**. It would be interesting to learn how many Kriegies, who were marched out, ended up at Luckenwald(e) and how many ended up at Hammelburg.

## 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. If you become aware that any of these publications are no longer available, please let us know.

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](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. **Dr. Graff Remembers: World War II Reflections**, a collection of editorials by Peter Carl Graffagnino, M.D., Publisher: Grateful Steps (Micki Cabaniss Eutsler), 828-277-0998. [http://www.amazon.com/Dr-Graff-Remembers-World-Reflections/dp/1935130544/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=undefined&sr=8-1&keywords=Dr.+Graffagnino+Remembers%3A++World+War+II+Reflections](http://www.amazon.com/Dr-Graff-Remembers-World-Reflections/dp/1935130544/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=undefined&sr=8-1&keywords=Dr.+Graffagnino+Remembers%3A++World+War+II+Reflections)
5. **Home Was Never Like This**. Diary of Col Yardley. Publisher: Yardley Enterprises. Evergreen, CO. [http://www.amazon.com/Home-Was-Never-Like-This/dp/0971743908/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411079953&sr=1-1&keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this](http://www.amazon.com/Home-Was-Never-Like-This/dp/0971743908/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411079953&sr=1-1&keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this)
6. **Justifiable Pride** by William D. Stevens, Jamal Books, 2340 Devoe Drive, Lincoln NE 68506, 402-488-6005 [http://www.amazon.com/Justifiable-Pride--Memoir-William-Stevens/dp/096732954X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411080041&sr=1-1&keywords=Justifiable+Pride](http://www.amazon.com/Justifiable-Pride--Memoir-William-Stevens/dp/096732954X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411080041&sr=1-1&keywords=Justifiable+Pride)
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](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](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. (12 currently available online from \$14.99 to \$122.39) [https://www.amazon.com/gp/offer-listing/1879260239/ref=tmm\\_other\\_meta\\_binding\\_used\\_olp\\_sr?ie=UTF8&condition=used&qid=1476590613&sr=8-1-fkmr0](https://www.amazon.com/gp/offer-listing/1879260239/ref=tmm_other_meta_binding_used_olp_sr?ie=UTF8&condition=used&qid=1476590613&sr=8-1-fkmr0)
10. **Oflag 64: A POW Odyssey**, Robert Galloway, 2001. Instant Amazon Video to rent or buy at: [https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B00WGYXZTG?ie=UTF8&keywords=OFLAG&qid=1442345037&ref=sr\\_1\\_1&s=instant-video&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B00WGYXZTG?ie=UTF8&keywords=OFLAG&qid=1442345037&ref=sr_1_1&s=instant-video&sr=1-1)
11. **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](http://www.amazon.com/Passages-Freedom-Story-Capture-Escape/dp/0897451317/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550856&sr=1-1)

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](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 F. 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](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 Big Break: The Greatest American WWII POW Escape Story Never Told** by Stephen Dando-Collins, Publisher: St. Martin's Press, 2017. (\$25.64) [https://www.amazon.com/Big-Break-Greatest-American-Escape/dp/1250087562/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1483492130&sr=8-1&keywords=the+big+break+the+greatest+american+wwii+pow+escape+story+never+told](https://www.amazon.com/Big-Break-Greatest-American-Escape/dp/1250087562/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1483492130&sr=8-1&keywords=the+big+break+the+greatest+american+wwii+pow+escape+story+never+told)
15. **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 [http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1)
16. **The Road To War** by Steven Burgauer. Based on the diary and notes of Captain William C. Frodsham, Jr.: a riveting first-person account of duty and drill, courage and capture. [http://www.amazon.com/Road-War-Drill-Courage-Capture/dp/1450218806/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411081108&sr=1-1&keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer](http://www.amazon.com/Road-War-Drill-Courage-Capture/dp/1450218806/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411081108&sr=1-1&keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer)
17. **The Water and The Rock** by Charles Jones. Diary of a man captured in Africa. Publisher: Anchor Publishing Co., Northwood, IA (CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE-9/18/14) [http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1)
18. **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](http://www.amazon.com/Welcome-Swede-Thousands-Germans-Prisoners/dp/0533078180/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551448&sr=1-1)
19. **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](http://www.amazon.com/Months-POW-Stalag-Luft-III/dp/1555915361/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551497&sr=1-1)
20. **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](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

### **WRITE DIRECTLY TO THESE CONTACTS FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

**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](mailto:dkanners@comcast.net)

**Roads to Liberation** by Clarence R. Meltesen is available free of charge except for approximately \$6 per copy shipping fee (ONE COPY LEFT). Please contact Elodie Caldwell at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. (Thank you Meltesen family.) Also available on [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)

**John K. Waters: An Oral History (The Waters Story)** by William C. Parnell - Contact Elodie Caldwell using contact information on the front page of this ITEM, \$15.99 includes S & H, write your check to the Oflag 64 Postage Fund. (Thank you Pat Waters for making copies available.)

## John M. Dimling, Jr.

1914 ~ 2014

Mr. John Nicholas Dimling, Jr., 100 years old, died on May 5, 2014 at his home. Nick was born in Baltimore, Maryland to the late John N. Dimling, Sr. and Mabel Gary Dimling.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Judson G. Dimling, and his daughter, Sara Karen Dimling. Surviving are his wife of 69 years, Lillian Hamiter Dimling; his son, John N. Dimling, III, and wife, Carol Ann; his daughter, Kathryn Dimling Kornegay, and husband, James B. Kornegay, all of Winston-Salem; his grandson, John N. Dimling IV and wife, Anna Grace, and his great grandsons, Emory Nicholas Dimling and John Patterson Dimling of Greenville, S.C.

He was an Army Lieutenant in WWII and was awarded the Bronze Star. In 1944, Nick was taken prisoner by the Germans at Anzio. After one year, he escaped from Oflag 64 and traveled to the Moscow Embassy.



He was the former owner of Zesto Products and a member of Augsburg Lutheran Church since 1945.

Nick Dimling was a loving and devoted son, husband, father, and friend during his entire life. At Mr. Dimling's request, a private family service will be held. If anyone wishes to memorialize Nick, please do so by sending your gift to Augsburg Lutheran Church, 845 W. 5th St., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101.

holding his hand. Bob was born in Winnipeg, Canada, on July 6, 1923. He immigrated with his family to California when he was a boy and received his citizenship in the United States.

Bob became a member of the U.S. Army while an undergraduate at ULA and was captured by the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. He escaped from the Germans in January 1945, while being held by them at Oflag 64 in Poland. Bob attended reunions of the survivors of Oflag 64 well into his eighties.



Bob married the love of his life, Katheryne (O'Kane) in 1946 and they adopted two children, Dennis and Diane. His distinguished career as a Manager/Commercial Banker with Santa Monica Bank and an Executive with Wells Fargo Bank included a stint with Litton Industries as a business manager in the early 1960s that involved the family residing in West Germany for three years.

Bob made Prescott his home in 1990 and, with the exception of a few years living in California and then Scottsdale, resided there until death. He was pre-deceased by his parents and his wife Katheryne.

The family would like to give special thanks to the VA Medical Center in Prescott for Bob's medical care at the CLC and Hero's Way Hospice.

Bob is survived by his children, Dennis and Diane, and his daughter-in-law, Barbara.

There are no services planned. A burial at sea will be held at a later date.

Information provided by survivors.

Online obituaries can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.dcourier.com/news/2016/oct/28/obituary-robert-mcleod-oneill/>

<http://www.dcourier.com/news/2016/nov/13/obituary-robert-mcleod-oneill/>

## Robert M. O'Neill

1924 ~ 2016



Robert McLeod O'Neill passed away at sunset on October 24, 2016, at the age of 93 with his daughter, Diane,

# James J. Sims, Jr.

1919 ~ 2015

Mr. James Johnson Sims, Jr., formerly of Lenhardt Road, Easley, passed away Friday, May 22, 2015 at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston.

Mr. Sims was born in Easley on November 29, 1919 to the late James Johnson Sims, Sr. and Jessie Hamilton Sims. He was an accountant for the Hammer Mill Corporation and was a member of Easley First United Methodist Church. Mr. Sims was a U.S. [Army](#) Veteran, having served in [WWII](#) and was an Ex-POW.



He is survived by two daughters; Elizabeth McDonald Whitt of Charlotte, NC, and Claire Hamilton Grubb (James) of Conway, SC; and two grandsons; Rob and James Whitt of Charlotte.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Sims was predeceased by his wife of seventy-one years, Emily Capers McDonald Sims, and his sister Claire Hamilton Sims.

The family will receive friends from 11:30am until 12:30pm on Friday May 29, 2015, at Robinson Funeral Home - Downtown.

A memorial graveside service for Mr. Sims will be held at 1pm on Friday, at Westview Cemetery.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to Easley First United Methodist Church, PO Box 589, Easley, SC 29641.

Condolences may be expressed online at [www.robinsonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.robinsonfuneralhomes.com) or in person at Robinson Funeral Home - Downtown, which is assisting the family.

Published in The Greenville News on May 24, 2015

# Francis B. Stevens

2008

Francis B. Stevens passed away on Tuesday, September 2, 2008 in Bethesda, MD. He is

survived by his wife of 66 years, Ann Stevens, Bethesda, MD, his son and daughter, and two grandchildren.

A memorial service will be conducted on Saturday, September 6, at 2 p.m. at Concord-St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 5910 Goldsboro Road, Bethesda, MD, 20817, followed by a reception at 3 p.m. at Maplewood Park Place, 9707 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to the Alzheimer's Association, National Capital Area, 11240 Waples Mill Road, Suite 401, Fairfax, VA 22030.



Published in The Washington Post on Sept. 5, 2008

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Since the 2015 Oflag 64 Reunion held in New Orleans, when memorial names were last read, we have learned of the following Kriegy deaths. Those who had published obituaries were included in past ITEMS separately from those included in this ITEM. We honor them for their great sacrifices during WWII.

- |       |                       |      |                    |
|-------|-----------------------|------|--------------------|
| 1984  | Joseph L. Dooley      | 2016 | Donald E. McAlpine |
| 1990s | Leonard Feldman       | 2016 | Robert M. O'Neill  |
| 1993  | Lark O. Daniel III    |      |                    |
| 1995  | Paul V. Lowell, Jr.   |      |                    |
| 1996  | Allan B. Ferry        |      |                    |
| 1999  | Edgar E. Joiner       |      |                    |
| 2001  | Thomas J. C. Williams |      |                    |
| 2008  | Edward O. Hirt        |      |                    |
| 2008  | Francis B. Stevens    |      |                    |
| 2009  | John T. Vollentine    |      |                    |
| 2010  | Richard W. Covert     |      |                    |
| 2010  | Darrell A. Russel     |      |                    |
| 2010  | Donald R. Wernette    |      |                    |
| 2011  | James "Lee" Clingan   |      |                    |
| 2011  | George F. Heidt, Jr.  |      |                    |
| 2011  | Ormond Hessler        |      |                    |
| 2011  | Duane S. Kennedy      |      |                    |
| 2012  | Glenn D. Chapman      |      |                    |
| 2013  | Glenn P. Brooks       |      |                    |
| 2013  | Paul D. Marable       |      |                    |
| 2014  | Carey E. Ashcraft     |      |                    |
| 2014  | Edward G. Batte       |      |                    |
| 2014  | John N. Dimling, Jr.  |      |                    |
| 2014  | Daniel F. O'Leary     |      |                    |
| 2015  | Thomas J. Bugg, Jr.   |      |                    |
| 2015  | Alan Dunbar           |      |                    |
| 2015  | Roger S. Euler        |      |                    |
| 2015  | Alfred R. Fratzke     |      |                    |
| 2015  | James J. Sims         |      |                    |
| 2016  | Jonel C. Hill         |      |                    |



## Hall of Remembrance Survey

This survey is to help us gather information regarding the POW barracks at Oflag 64 in order to be able to reconstruct a typical barracks when the Hall of Remembrance becomes a reality.

Please answer the following questions which are all directed to the former POW, but obviously may need to be answered by others. If you need more room, feel free to use a separate sheet of paper for your answers.

POW Name:

Date of Capture:

Place of Capture:

Date of Arrival at Oflag 64: (Approximate date:                      Exact date:                      )

1) What barracks # were you in?

1a) Was it wooden, brick, stone? Did it have a single or double set of windows?

1b) If you are not sure of the barracks #, can you describe its location in camp?

1c) Can you list your: Bunkmate(s)? Barracks mates? Barracks commander?

1d) Were the walls of your barracks wooden? Plaster?

2) What was the format of the individual rooms in your barracks?

2a) Was your barracks one story, two story or more?

2b) Approximately how many rooms were in your barracks?

2c) Were the rooms interconnected or did you enter each room from the outside?

2d) Did the barracks have a shower?

2e) How many bunks per room?

2f) Were the bunks double, triple,? (i.e. how many beds to one bunk?)

2g) What were the bunks made of? Did you donate mattress slats for the tunnels?

2h) Was there an attic in your barracks? What was it used for?

2i) What was provided with the bunk? How thick was the mattress? Was there a blanket?

3) Was there a stove in each of the bunk rooms?

3a) If it was not in the center of the room, where was it?

3b) Any description of the stove will be helpful - size, flue?

- 3c) How efficient was the stove in heating the room?
- 3d) What fuel was used for the stove?
- 3e) How was it obtained?
- 3f) How plentiful was the fuel?
- 3g) Was the stove utilized for any cooking?
- 3h) Does anyone have a photo or a drawing of one of the stoves?

4) What possessions did you have?

- 4a) One uniform, two?
- 4b) Did you rely on clothing sent by YMCA, Red Cross, from home?
- 4c) Where did you store your possessions?

5) If you did not spend much of each day in your room, how did you occupy your time?

Any other comments that would help in reconstructing a typical room would be greatly appreciated.

Survey completed by:

If not the former POW's name, relationship to the former POW (wife, widow, son, daughter, list other)

Contact info for survey responder:

If not the former POW, are the answers based on:

A current oral interview with the POW?

A previous oral interview with the POW?

Written records by the POW?

Other?

Please share your responses, as well as written descriptions of the Oflag 64 barracks' rooms you may have access to from a Wartime Log, personal journals, published books, newspaper clippings, etc, with:

Dave Stewart, 7903 Diamond Trail, Lago Vista TX 78645-4446 OR [dslvtx@aol.com](mailto:dslvtx@aol.com) AND/OR

Elodie Caldwell, 2731 Terry Avenue, Longview WA 98632-4437 OR [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us)