The Post Oflag 64 Item

All the News That's Been Geprüft

Nearly Everybody Reads THE ITEM

"Get Wise – ITEM-ize"

4th Quarter 2024 **Good Ole USA** **Of Undetermined Worth**

Editor/Printing and Mailing
Elodie Caldwell
2731 TERRY AVE
LONGVIEW WA
98632-4437
elodie@oflag64.us

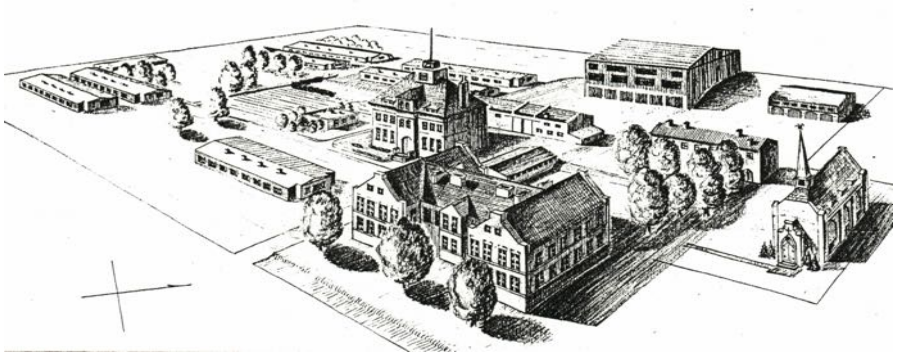
Treasurer
Bret Job
2801 SW 46th ST
CAPE CORAL FL
33914-6026
bretj@mac.com

Webmaster
Bill Caldwell
2731 TERRY AVE
LONGVIEW WA
98632-4437
webmaster@oflag64.us

Contributors to this issue
David R. Anderson
Cindy Sharpe Burgess
Barney Herrera
Suzan Kostiuck
Rosa Di Francesco Lee
David Little
Marianne Liggett Merriam
Ann Chapel Rogers
Dave Stewart
Anne Meltesen Trujillo
Nancy Thompson Wyatt

We apologize to any others we may have overlooked and thank all who have contacted us.

NOTE: The Oflag 64 Remembered website and the Post Oflag 64 ITEM are independent entities and do not operate under the auspices of any other organization.



Drawing by Jim Bickers, shown without barbed wire fences or guard towers

We wish everyone the very best in 2025. May we all find peace, joy, love, and contentment in our lives. May we commit to repairing broken relationships with family members and remember to show love and kindness in our dealings with those who need to be remembered and with everyone we meet. Let's reach out and serve one another.

Best to you,
Elodie Caldwell, ITEM Editor, elodie@oflag64.us
Bill Caldwell, Webmaster, webmaster@oflag64.us

A Little Company Business

Many Thanks

We wish to express our continued gratitude to ***Minuteman Press*** *for their ongoing excellent service in printing our ITEM each quarter. The quality of their printing and the timeliness in which the ITEM is printed is very much appreciated. Thank you Mike Vorse, Nate Howe, Samantha Lemire, and the entire team!!!*

And MANY THANKS to ***Ric Kolseth****, our POW Database manager, for uploading the updates we send. Please check the website POW Database page to make sure your Kriegy's information is correct and email us any changes at:*
elodie@oflag64.us

Postage Fund Contributions

For contributions to the **Postage Fund** (which not only covers the cost of printing and mailing the ITEM to our remaining Kriegies or their widows, but also **pays for running the Oflag 64 website**), please make your checks payable to Oflag 64 Postage Fund, and send them to:

Bret Job
2801 SW 46th St
Cape Coral FL 33914-6026

OR

Elodie Caldwell
2731 Terry Ave
Longview WA 98632-4437

Postage Fund Contributors

T. J. Bugg III

THANK YOU!!

* * * * * *

Veterans History Project

If your Kriegy participated in the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress, we would like permission to use his video interview and/or transcripts as we help prepare for displays for the museum. Please click on this link https://bit.ly/3Cbv7Sk and enter your Kriegy's name in the search bar at the top of the page to see if he participated. I entered my father's first and last name with the word "collection" after it and his interview came right up. See the last page of this ITEM for the Consent to Use Materials form. Please use the same form if your Kriegy participated in any other similar project.

* * * * * *

Kriegy Publications

With a fair amount of frequency, we become aware of books, autobiographies, or papers written by our Kriegies. We also learn of online interviews. If we don't have them currently showing on our website "Books and Other Publications" page, our "Biographies" page, or our "Links" page, we would love to add them. Please let us know if your Kriegy fits into any of these categories.

We are also collecting Kriegy publications for the Tin Store Museum, on the site of Oflag 64, to open in Szubin in the future. Please contact us regarding your Kriegy's publications.

* * * * * *

What Do You Think?

When I began producing the ITEM at the end of 2006, we mailed it to over 225 individuals, some were Kriegies and some were Kriegy widows and families. Our list is now at 18 with 3 living Kriegies (as far as we know) and approximately 7 widows. There are about 8 others who have requested hard copies.

With all this in mind, if you are receiving a hard copy but also have email, our list can be cut down more by sending electronic versions as opposed to hardcopies and we can save monies from the Postage Fund for operation of the Oflag 64 website. It costs approximately $350 per year to run our website. We would continue to email the ITEM as a .pdf and post the ITEM online. What do you think?

Also, with dwindling actual Kriegy News and Information, the ITEM is shrinking in size. We would like to continue producing the ITEM but perhaps just twice a year. That would also save postage. What do you think?

Please send your feedback to me at the street address on the front page of this ITEM or email me at elodie@oflag64.us.

2024 Treasurer's Report

	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Debits	Ending Balance
2023 Totals	$2,684.90	$515.99	**$985.50**	$2,215.39
1/1/2024	$2,215.39	$500.00	**$184.98**	$2,530.41
2/1/2024	$2,530.41	$0.00	**$0.00**	$2,530.41
3/1/2024	$2,530.41	$100.00	**$0.00**	$2,630.41
4/1/2024	$2,630.41	$15.99	**$168.38**	$2,478.02
5/1/2024	$2,478.02	$0.00	**$0.00**	$2,478.02
6/1/2024	$2,478.02	$0.00	**$0.00**	$2,478.02
7/1/2024	$2,478.02	$100.00	**$127.35**	$2,450.67
8/1/2024	$2,450.67	$0.00	**$0.00**	$2,450.67
9/1/2024	$2,450.67	$0.00	**$0.00**	$2,450.67
10/1/2024	$2,450.67	$100.00	**$0.00**	$2,550.67
11/1/2024	$2,550.67	$0.00	**$373.40**	$2,177.27
12/1/2024	$2,177.27	$0.00	**$0.00**	$2,177.27
2024 Totals	$2,215.39	$815.99	**$854.11**	$2,177.27

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To John R. Rodgers, Sr.

102 years old

Born on February 9, 1923

MAIL CALL

It's always a great pleasure hearing from our Oflag 64 families. Thanks for keeping us in "your" loop and for sending information. We love reading about how and what you are doing. Please stay in touch!

David R. Anderson, son of the late Kriegy Everette R. Anderson – sent the following message: "Thanks for keeping The POW Memories alive". He also thanked us for posting his Dad's POW ID card on our site, commenting "This is incredible. I will share it with family and friends." We lost contact with Dave for a while due to his change of email address but we're thankful to have his new one now. (See the Kriegy News and Information section for Before and After photos.)

T. J. Bugg III, son of the late Kriegy Thomas J. Bugg, Jr. – emailed a request for a copy of Clarence Meltesen's book, "Roads to Liberation". We actually had two copies left so were happy to send one to him. He also sent a generous and thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. (Thank you so much, T. J.)

Cindy Sharpe Burgess, daughter of the late Kriegy Wilbur B. Sharpe – wrote to thank us for dedicating a page to the POW/MIA Recognition Day excursion. She hoped it brought a smile to the faces of the readers. Separately, she and her husband on a recent trip to France found some WWII "crickets", one of which she sent to me. Thank you Cindy for your thoughtfulness. (See the Topics of Interest Section.)

Becky-Ann Corcoran, daughter of the late Kriegy Thomas E. Corcoran – wrote after we forwarded an email to her from our Oflag 64 research friend, Marvin Williams. He had quite a bit of information to share. In Becky's response, she thanked us for making the connection and remembered having some of the men Marvin referred to in her parents' home when she was growing up. Specifically, they were Major Beaumont and Chaplain Kane.

Mary B. Crew, daughter of the late Kriegy Morgan A. Whitfield – contacted us regarding a photo on our site that she thought might be mislabeled. We learned that her dad didn't arrive at Oflag 64 until August of 1944. The camp photos on our site were taken in January and February of 1944. We had to unfortunately report that the photo didn't include her dad. We added her to our email list as requested and hope to hear from her again soon with photos of her dad and perhaps also a family-written bio.

Kay Godfrey Cruise, daughter of the late Kriegy James T. Godfrey, Jr. – wrote to let us know that she and her brother are considering a visit to the "camp" and to the Tin Store museum next year. She also has a number of things that might be of interest to the museum and will check to see what might still be needed. There are a few other items that might be appropriate for our website.

John N. Dimling III, son of the late Kriegy John N. Dimling Jr. – responded to our email asking about his mother. We had not heard of her passing but learned that she passed away in 2017. No matter when and how long it's been, it's hard losing our parents. We know she is still missed. (See the TAPS section.)

Ann Hart, associated with the late Kriegy Louis W. Otterbein – wrote to let us know of another platform for posting pictures and comments, called GAB. She said a lot of veterans post there and she thought it might be a good way to share information about Kriegies and Oflag 64.

Mary Shular Hopper, daughter of the late Kriegy William A. Shular Jr. – in response to our request for POW ID cards, emailed a copy of her dad's card. It has been posted to the POW ID cards page on our site.

Bret Job, son-in-law of the late Kriegy Ray E. Holmquist – following the hurricanes in the Florida area, wrote to ask if there was another Oflag 64 family that lived in Cape Coral to make sure everything was okay and to offer help if needed. We checked our list and didn't find any other Kriegy families living in

Cape Coral. Separately, Bret keeps our Oflag 64 Postage Fund intact and we're thankful to him for his expertise in that area. (See the Treasurer's Report for 2024 in this ITEM.)

Suzan Kostiuck, step-granddaughter of the late Kriegy James W. Bancker – is looking for the online interview of James. We have searched and can't find it. If you have a copy or know where to find it, the family would like to have one. (See the Kriegy News and Information section.)

Anne Hoskot Kreutzer, daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel R. Hoskot – reported that placing flags and POW/MIA messages on Kriegy graves at Arlington National Cemetery on POW/MIA Recognition Day, September 20, was very successful. A few days earlier one of the team members found another late Kriegy who had been buried there, so the Kriegy's daughter and granddaughter who live in the area joined the team that day. Anne says "We are up to honoring 48 men now – 46 Oflag 64, and two others we've been asked to add to our ceremony over the years. (See the previous ITEM, page 7 for more information.)

Art Ladley, son-in-law of the late Kriegy James F. Skells – wrote to let us know that he and his wife, Pam, now have a new email address.

Bill Lott, son of the late Kriegy Durward B. Lott – wrote to let us know that he has a video interview of his Dad and his war experiences done by a middle schooler for a history project. He also has his dad's dog tags which he'd like to donate to the museum. We've asked him for more information about the interview, if it's online or on CD. We'd love to link it to our site if online already or upload it to our videos page.

Keith Lucey, son of the late Kriegy George A. Lucey – wrote after receiving the last ITEM that he remembered watching all the Hogan's Heroes episodes with his dad so long ago and has been rewatching them while he's been in recovery. He hopes to be in better communication once well again but until then is "thinking about our cause and the great efforts we are making".

Marlene McAllister, daughter of the late Kriegy Robert T. Thompson – wrote a "wonderful as usual" compliment on our last ITEM.

Susan Wilcox Richardson, daughter of the late Kriegy Lumund Wilcox – wrote to say that she and her husband and two sons are planning a trip to Poland next fall. She would like to visit the camp and also the Tin Store if open at that time. She also mentioned she has some of her dad's items to donate. Her email address had changed so we now have her new one. She also commented: "All the hard work that you and the others have put into keeping their stories alive is a real treasure. Thank you."

Ann Chapel Rogers, niece of the late Kriegy Frank N. Aten – sent us word that some very active arthritis in both hands and the repetitive actions of placing fingers on computer keys has caused them to react with increased pain, so she will no longer be able to write Kriegy biographies. Ann has very diligently and committedly written a number of the biographies on our Kriegy biographies webpage. Our Kriegy Research Group (KRG) has benefitted greatly from her skills. We were sad to learn of her pain and discomfort but thrilled to learn that she will continue to help with research in other ways as she can.

Dave Stewart, son of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart – has been working tirelessly to find the names of any and all Kriegies who participated in the MIS-X program as code users, code writers, and other related personnel while at Oflag 64. If your Kriegy participated in the MIS-X program, please let us know. We're specifically looking for code letters/postcards. Separately, Dave traveled to Szubin again this past September. He shared photos that he took of the bookshelf his mom donated and how many books and other resources are in it. If your Kriegy wrote a book or report of his war experiences which included experiences at Oflag 64, please let us know. (See the Kriegy News and Information section.)

Paul J. Thriffiley III, son of the late Kriegy Paul J. Thriffiley, Jr. – responded to our request for POW ID cards, attaching his dad's card. He also thanked us for including the obituaries of his mother and sister in the last ITEM. Separately, Paul's dad was the recipient of several awards after the war, but there was

some confusion about being awarded the Silver Star. Paul wrote to the National Personnel Records Center inquiring as to which awards his father actually received and he was indeed awarded the Silver Star in addition to the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Pam Waters, daughter of the late Kriegy Bertrum A. Wheeler – emailed a request for Clarence Meltesen's book, "Roads to Liberation". We were happy we had one more copy to send her.

Pat Waters, son of the late Kriegy John K. Waters – wrote "wonderful" after receiving the last ITEM and said that he prefers receiving the electronic version...."it is so great!!"

Marvin Williams, researcher and friend of Oflag 64 – thanked us for putting him in contact with Becky Corcoran. Marvin has helped us connect other Kriegy family members with information he has sent and we were happy to return the favor. Because of the stories Becky remembered about Chaplain Kane, Marvin has shared that information with Alex Solsma who is doing research on Chaplain Kane. Marvin has connected Becky with Susan Linton who is searching through her dad's Stalag 17B files for mention of Captain Corcoran. They both served with the 34th Division under Col. Drake. Separately, Marvin sent information on the late Kriegy Robert Eckman. Robert was the designer of the model of Oflag 64 now in the IOWA Gold Star Museum.

Nancy Thompson Wyatt, daughter of the late Kriegy Robert T. Thompson – recently had a visit with Anne Cockrell Matzelle, daughter of the late Kriegy James L. Cockrell, and wrote the following short report of their visit.

Daughters of Oflag 64 Ex-POWs James Cockrell and Robert Thompson meet for lunch in Houston

Anne Cockrell Matzelle and Nancy Thompson Wyatt met in Houston this November. Houston is a huge city, so they met halfway in between their houses.

They had a nice visit and enjoyed talking about their shared hometown -Tulsa, Oklahoma. They realized they lived less than a mile away from each other in Tulsa, but not at the same time.

Nancy showed Anne the video of the Tin Store artifacts and displays that Mariusz Winiecki made prior to the National World War II Museum tour group visit this summer. Anne stated she would love to go to the opening with her siblings. Anne also shared some of her father's recollections of his stay at the Oflag 64 POW camp.

She said he really didn't talk about his experience often, but in his later years, she urged him to write down his story, which he did. Anne donated a copy of his journal to Friends of Oflag 64 in 2019 and the journal is now at the Tin Store.

Left: Nancy Wyatt
Right: Anne Matzelle

Kriegy News and Information

These photos, sent by David R. Anderson, were taken of his dad before, during, and after WWII. His dad's POW ID card can be found on our website POW ID page. What a nice historical presentation!

Suzan Kostiuck is looking for the Interview of James W. Bancker. She has found reference to it on the U.S. Militaria Forum website. If you have a copy of the CDs with the interview and can make a copy for Suzan, she would appreciate it (Contact me at elodie@oflag64.us.). She would like to keep a copy for the family. The CD's look like what follows.

The following photo was taken by Dave Stewart during his recent visit to the site of Oflag 64 in Szubin Poland. The bookshelf was donated by Dave's mom (the wife of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart) and the family and is located in the new Tin Store which will open hopefully before the end of 2025. Watch for the DAILY BULLETIN EXTRA that is put out twice a year by the Polish-American Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin and the Friends of Oflag 64, Inc. (the non-profit). They will have the latest information on the Tin Store.

Topics of Interest

Do you remember playing with these as a child? When I received this from Cindy Burgess who was in France where she obtained it, I was taken right back to my childhood. I probably drove my parents nuts with the clic-clac, but I remember it being fun to play with. Our soldiers who used them were not only amazing, but “courageous and brilliant”, as well stated by Cindy in her email to me.

Publications

We're always looking for a hard copy of books written by or about our Kriegies and their experiences during the war.

Currently we're looking for **The Fighting 36th Historical Quarterly**, volume 1 (#1-3), volume 2 (#1, 2, 4), volume 3 (#4), volume 4 (#1), volume 12 (#2). If you have any of these issues and would be willing to donate them, please let us know.

Are you looking for these? Please contact……

Vic Kanners' Diary "Horseshit and Cobblestones" is available through Marilyn Kanners Beckham (Vic's daughter). You can write to her at: 3608 W BRADFORD DR, BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48301-3353. New email address is: marilynkbeckham@gmail.com

TAPS

Kriegy Wives

Lillian H. Dimling
1922 ~ 2017

Lillian Hamiter Dimling, 94, passed away peacefully on May 30, 2017. She was born to Sarah Fellers Hamiter and Stanley McCain Hamiter, Sr. of Columbia, S.C. on October 27, 1922. She is preceded by her husband, [the late Kriegy] John Nicholas Dimling, Jr.; daughter Sarah Karen Dimling; sister Katherine Bone and brother Stanley M. Hamiter, Jr., both of South Carolina. Temperence ("Temp") was a devoted wife, mother, sister, and friend. She was kind, beautiful, gracious, and as described recently, Temp saw beauty in everything and was a joy to visit. She was a member of Augsburg Lutheran Church, where she had been active in Mary's Ministries and was also a past member of the Winston-Salem Women's Club. She would often say, "I love my church." She is survived by her son, John N. Dimling III; daughter, Kathryn Dimling Kornegay and son-in-law Jim Kornegay of Winston-Salem; grandson John N. Dimling IV (Nick) and his wife, Anna Grace Dimling, and their sons Emory, Jack, and Michael of Greenville, S.C.; and brother William L. Hamiter formally of Statesville. A memorial service was held at Augsburg Lutheran Church.

Lillian's complete obituary can be found at: https://journalnow.com/obituaries/dimling-lillian-hamiter/article_cbf22e42-6628-520c-ab29-791d924538e4.html

* * * * * *

During 2024, we learned of the death of the following Kriegy who passed away several years ago. Even though time has passed, we know he is still missed by his family and those who knew him.

1985 William G. Yates

If your Kriegy participated in a WWII history project of any kind, we would love to have permission to use the contents of his interview or report or other project. Please fill out the following form and return it to one of the people whose addresses appear at the bottom of the form. US Mail and email both work well.

Oflag 64 Remembered

Honoring our Kriegy Patriots and Heroes

Consent to Use Materials

I, (please print name) _____, authorize the entities checked below to release videos, transcripts, and any other POW-related information pertaining to the following named individual (please print name) _____ to the publishers of the *Oflag 64 Remembered* website, to *the Oflag 64 Kriegy Research Group*, and to the *Polish-American Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin*.

The materials may be used by the parties mentioned above to create a history of Oflag 64 POWs as they work to create a new museum in Szubin, Poland where the POWs were interned during WWII. (Please check at least one.)

_____Hometown Heroes
_____Oral History Project/National WWII Museum
_____National Home Front Project
_____New Oral History Project/Smithsonian Magazine
_____The Memory Project
_____Veterans History Project
_____Veterans Testimonial Project
_____Witness to War Project
_____WWII Oral History
_____Other (please specify)_____

These permissions shall remain in effect until revoked in writing, and notification made to Oflag 64 Remembered, Saving the Memory of Oflag 64 Kriegies research group (addresses below).

Signature _____
Address _____
Phone(s) _____
Date _____

Please return this signed Consent by email or U.S. Mail to:

Elodie Caldwell
2731 Terry Avenue
Longview WA 98631-4437
elodie@oflag64.us

Rosa Lee
600 S Dixie Hwy, Apt 755
West Palm Beach FL 33401-5858
Roytree50@comcast.net

Saving the Memory of Oflag 64 Kriegies
Oflag 64
www.oflag64.us

Dave Stewart
7903 Diamond Trail
Lago Vista TX 78645-4446
dslvtx@gmail.com

Ann Rogers
2105 Tennyson Dr
Flower Mound TX 75028-3736
arogersxi@yahoo.com