

Post Oflag 64 Item

3rd Quarter 2010

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2010 Oflag 64 Reunion
DALLAS TX
October 7 - October 10 2010

Time is fast approaching for our annual Oflag 64 Reunion in Dallas TX and we're looking forward to seeing you there. If you're planning to come but haven't yet registered, it's not too late, but please send in your registration form and registration payment as soon as possible. A reunion registration form is included on page 3 of this ITEM.

URGENT: The hotel is ready for your reservations – you can make them by telephone or online by following these steps:

1. Direct to Crowne Plaza Suites - 972-233-7600 option 2, please reference group code "OFL".
2. Hotel Website - www.cpdallas.com <<http://www.cpdallas.com/>>, Click on "Reservations" and enter their arrival and departure information. Then click on the "Corporate/Group" field. Under Group Code enter "OFL" and click "Check availability".

NOTE: The group cutoff date for reservations is Tuesday, 9/7/10.

We appreciate the hard work and leadership of the Lesters. Looking forward to seeing them and you soon.

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



A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

2010 Oflag 64 Reunion – Dallas TX

Thursday, October 7 – Sunday, October 10

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, October 7

12:00 – 5:00 Check in, hospitality room open all night

Friday, October 8

7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast on your own**

8:45 – 11:30 Business meeting

11:30 Board buses to Dallas

12:00- 1:30 Lunch on your own in the “West End”

1:30 -5:00 The Holocaust Museum presentation and the Sixth Floor Museum

5:00 Return to hotel

5:30 Dinner on your own and free time

Saturday, October 9

7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast on your own**

8:00 – 3:00 Tour of Fort Worth area, Amon Carter Museum – Lunch on your own at the Fort Worth Stock Yards

6:00 Drinks and social hour

7:00 – whenever Banquet and entertainment

Sunday, October 10

8:00 Breakfast (provided)

9:00 Memorial Service and good byes

The hospitality room will be open every day for those wishing to visit.

** Note: The hotel has a breakfast buffet in the restaurant daily. We have arranged for a special coupon to be added to your room for a nominal price if you desire. Sunday breakfast is plated.

2010 OFLAG 64 REUNION – DALLAS TX

Thursday, October 7 – Sunday, October 10

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION FEE: \$160 per person - This includes: a tour of Dallas including a visit to the Dallas Holocaust Center and the Sixth Floor Museum; an outing to Fort Worth, the Amon Carter Museum and other sites, the banquet, Sunday memorial breakfast, snacks, the photographer, the meeting rooms, a continuous Hospitality Room stocked with beverages & other goodies.

Remember to indicate your banquet choice below. [If you or your guest(s) plan to attend the **BANQUET ONLY**, the cost is \$30 per person.]

Banquet Choices (select one): (1) Steak (2) Chicken (3) Vegetarian

Registrant: _____ Kriegy Relationship: _____ Banquet Choice __

NOTE: If you are not a Kriegy, please let us know which Kriegy you're related to: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____

Email: _____

Guest: _____ Kriegy Relationship: _____ Banquet Choice __

Are special hotel/transportation accommodations needed? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, please specify _____

Please mail your completed registration form and check to:

Carole Lester

2501 Mollimar Drive

Plano TX 75075-5501

Email: philcareless@verizon.net (Ph 972-596-8756)

*Please make your check payable to Carole Lester and
write "Oflag 64 Reunion" on the memo line.*

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

Please make your Crowne Plaza Suites, Dallas – Park Central reservations by calling 1-972-233-7600 and referencing group code "OFL" or by visiting their website at: <http://www.cpdallas.com/index.php>

The group reservation is under "Oflag 64" at the rate of \$85+tax per night and applies 3 days prior to and 3 days following the reunion. Group Code is "OFL"



MAIL CALL



RICHARD BARON from New York NY (one of our Hammelburg Kriegies and co-writer of the RAID book) recently asked if we'd be having a reunion in New York soon. He would love to participate but is unable unless a reunion is held near where he lives. He also sent compliments about the work we're doing. *Thank you, Richard, for contacting us and for your kind words. We're looking for volunteers from all over the US to host upcoming Oflag 64 Reunions. We'll keep you posted as we learn where our 2011 Reunion will be held.*

ABE AND EILEEN BAUM from San Diego CA (Hammelburg Kriegy) sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a short note expressing regrets at not being able to attend the Dallas reunion. They said: "We will be thinking of all of you – have a great time." In a subsequent email, they expressed appreciation to all the Oflag people and sent thanks for their contributions to keep America free and said "it truly was/is the greatest generation!". *Thank you so much, Abe and Eileen, for your thoughtful and generous donation to the Postage Fund. It is very much appreciated. Thanks also for your expressions of appreciation to all our Oflagers for their service. We are sorry to hear that we won't see you in Dallas, but we will be thinking of you as well. Take care.*



ELEANOR BERTRAND from Baton Rouge LA (friend of Oflag 64) regularly sends emails of great significance relating to WWII. The most recent email included a link to a video entitled "Hitler's Children". It's a very powerful video about how the actions of Hitler and his henchmen have had long lasting effects on their children. If you are interested in seeing this video, please email me (Elodie) and I will send you the link. *Thank you very much, Ellie, for sending the video along. I agree, very powerful. And like others, I would never have given it a second thought. It is indeed very sad but with a potentially positive outcome.*



BARBARA BICKERS from Prospect Heights IL (daughter of the late Kriegy Jim Bickers) sent updates on her father's service at Arlington. She commented: "We have returned safely from DC. I haven't enough words to describe the grandeur of Dad's memorial service--from the caisson

processional with the honor guard, to the military band playing hymns, the seven riflemen firing three volleys, as twenty-one guns, and the Chaplain personalizing Dad's tremendous life story, and faith in God; also, to the bugler playing taps, the honor guard folding the flag, the Chaplain handing it to Mother, with words of thanksgiving for Dad's service, and, finally, to the Arlington Lady delivering condolences, with a card from the Army Chief of Staff.

Dad received full staffing of Army personnel to perform his service--quite a sight! So, now Dad is laid to rest in the beauty of Arlington Cemetery, his gravesite overlooking the Pentagon. We truly miss him, but feel great peace now. Mother is doing well, as are all members of our family, knowing this was Dad's desire.

It was a magnificent tribute in his honor, and we'll hold these memories forever. All those attending were deeply touched. We were delighted to have Wilbur Sharpe and his son-in-law, Glenn Burgess come, as well as Al Casner's daughter Judy, and her husband, Mark Fletcher. Judy recently buried her father in December.

I share one beautiful picture from my camera. I hope you enjoy seeing it. We have professional photos being sent to us, with a keepsake album. Thank you for your prayerful participation in behalf of my family. We are so grateful for you. Be well. *Thanks, Barbara, describing the beautiful ceremony that took place at Arlington. He, like our other Kriegy patriots and heroes, will not be forgotten. The photo you sent is included in the Information Station section of this ITEM.*

EMILY BICKERS from Wilmette IL (widow of the late Jim Bickers) along with their daughter Barbara, sent a contribution to the Postage Fund. *Thank you so much, Emily and Barbara for your thoughtful and generous contribution. It's difficult at a time when hearts are so tender to remember all the things we want to do but we know Jim would have been pleased to know of your contribution. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We know your dear husband will be greatly missed by all who knew him.*



VICKI FRODSHAM BROWN (daughter of the late Kriegy William C. Frodsham) wrote asking to be added to our mailing list. Until recently, she wasn't aware of our website and organization, but found it to be very impressive and interesting. She is hoping to

attend the Dallas reunion along with her son. *Thank you very much, Vicki, for writing. We welcome you to our Oflag 64 Family and are pleased that you have found us. We hope you'll be able to attend the reunion. We look forward to meeting you.*

STEVEN BURGAUER (author who has written a historical novel about the late Kriegy William C. Frodsham) would like to share his novel with our Oflag 64 Family. A display copy will be available for viewing at our October reunion with order forms for those who would like to receive a copy. He also sent a donation to the Postage Fund. *Thank you, Steven, for sharing your book and for your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. We appreciate the support and your generous offer to donate a portion of your book proceeds to the Postage Fund as well.*

CINDY BURGESS (daughter of Kriegy Wilbur Sharpe) sent a link to a recent online Memorial Day article and video of her dad. We have been trying to get permission to print the article in this issue of the ITEM but have as yet been unsuccessful. However, if you are able to access the Internet, please click on this link:



<http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0510/741392.html>
It's a great interview. Cindy also sent word of the passing of George Juskalian on July 4. *Thank you very much, Cindy, for sharing this link with us. What a great interview and story for all to hear! Thank you also for sending the news of George's passing. He was truly a great patriot and hero and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.*

HELEN CHAPPELL from Kaufman TX (widow of the late Kriegy Roy "Tex" Chappell) recently sent the sad news that Roy passed away June 21. As you may remember, Roy had been in failing health for a period of time and was receiving round the clock medical care. We will miss another great Kriegy patriot and hero. Thoughts and prayers are sent to the family along with heartfelt condolences. See the TAPS section for Roy's obituary. In a subsequent email, Helen wrote briefly about Roy's funeral service (one of the dearest celebrations ever!, so inspirational) and that she hopes to be able to attend the Dallas Reunion with her daughter and son-in-law. *Helen, thank you very much for letting us know about Roy. Such sad news. We know that adjustments to life without him will be challenging but we hope that wonderful memories will sustain you and your family through the grieving process. We hope also to see you in Dallas if you're able to attend.*



MARIA CHRISTMANN from Silver Spring MD (daughter of Kriegy Vincent "Doc" Di Francesco) emailed that she and her family have made

reservations for the Dallas reunion and hope that all can make it. Her dad will be 94 by then. *Maria, thank you very much for your thoughtful email. It was good to hear from you again. We're looking forward to seeing everyone again soon as well, barring any unforeseen circumstances.*



GREG CLINGAN from Covington IN (son of Kriegy Lee Clingan) wrote to share a recent article about his dad who is now 88 years old. *Thanks, Greg, for sharing the article. We have contacted Commercial-News.com and they have given permission to reprint it in this ITEM. Please check the Information Station section for the complete article.*

RICHARD COFFMAN from Huntersville NC (nephew of the late Kriegy Frederic D. Sommers) has recently found our website and is interested in finding information relating to his uncle. If you are able to share information, please let me (Elodie) know and I will pass it on. *Thank you, Richard, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 Family. We hope you receive the information for which you are searching. It's great when connections can be made.*

NOAH COHEN (grandson of the late Kriegy Murray Mattleman) is looking for information on his grandfather. He passed away in 1983 in Florida. If you have information to share with Noah, please contact me (Elodie). If you have already done so as a result of our email query, we appreciate your help. *Thank you so much, Noah, for contacting us. We know that finding information is sometimes difficult, but we hope that you're receiving information from others about your grandfather.*

MICHAEL CONNELL from Georgia (distant relative of the late Father Stanley Brach), at the request of his mother, is searching for any information available about her cousin. An email query was sent and some have already responded with information. If you have information to share and have not already done so, please contact me (Elodie) and I will forward your information on. *Thank you, Michael, for writing. We know that Father Brach was beloved by those he served during those difficult years and since. We hope you have received many responses.*

BILL CORY from Louisville KY (one of the original Oflag 64 Kriegies) keeps in frequent touch either by phone or by mail. He has recently sent letters to some of the Kriegies he knew while at Oflag 64 and has already heard back from a few. He has also sent camp photos to us and has identified many of the men. Bill doesn't think he'll be able to attend this year's reunion; saying the last one he attended was in New Orleans. *We know, Bill,*



as the years pass that it gets more and more difficult to travel, but we will miss you if you're not able to attend. Meanwhile, thanks so much for your letters and for sending photos and information. Keeps the history alive.

JANE CRAMER from Kensington MD (daughter of the late John L. "Slick" Cramer) wrote recently to inform us of her father's passing. She stated: "He lived a long and happy life, and he passed on all his stories and information about his experiences in Oflag 64 to my brother and myself. He was a good man, a great dad and a good friend. He and my mother really enjoyed every reunion they attended." *Thanks, Jane, for letting us know about your dear father. It's so hard to lose these great patriots and heroes. Our heartfelt condolences go to you and your family. We know he will be greatly missed.*

ORETTA HAMBLIN from Lawton OK (widow of the late Kriegy O. B. Hamblin) sent a short note recently along with a contribution to the Postage Fund. She asked to remain on the mailing list for as long as we print the ITEM, which she said she enjoys reading. *Thank you very much, Oretta, for your note and for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. We so much appreciate the support we receive from our contributors.*

ANN HART-OTTERBEIN from Bremen ME (daughter-in-law of the late Kriegy Lou Otterbein) wrote to identify Lou in one of the recently posted photos on our website. *We're thankful to you, Ann, and all those who have been so diligent at helping us identify our Kriegies. Preserving this important part of history will also help preserve our Kriegies' legacies.*

SHARON HUTCHISON from Arlington TX (daughter of the late Kriegy Ike Franklin) recently sent the link to the obituary for Roy Chappell. Please see the TAPS section. She wrote: "He was a good friend of my dad. I wanted to attend the funeral but couldn't make it." *Thank you very much, Sharon, for sending the link. It's difficult to see our dear Kriegies go. They were such great, valiant men who served their country well. We miss them.*

WAYNE FIELDSMITH (son of the late Kriegy Hugo Fielschmidt) is another who has recognized his father in one of our newer website photos. He wrote: "He served as the regiment dentist before capture and as a combat medic in the 157th regiment. He was captured with Dr. Peter Carl Graffagnino at Anzio. Carl wrote about the rescue from the caves and their capture in the Doctors Lounge series." *Thank you very much, Wayne, for the information about your dad as well as identifying him in our website photo. We've been busy updating and labeling these new photos. Please let us know if we've missed anything.*

ROBERT GALLOWAY from Charleston SC (son-in-law of Pat Waters) wrote with a comment made by Chris Heisler during an interview for Robert's video. Robert stated: "Mr. Heisler's wonderful line to me in our interview was, "we're not heroes. The heroes are buried over there." A fine gentleman, scholar, and officer." *Thanks so much, Robert, for sharing Chris' comments with us. We appreciate all who serve(d) and sacrifice(d) for our freedoms and count them all as heroes. It was good to hear from you again.*



COLIN HARE (Veteran Liaison for the Mesothelioma Center (Asbestos.com) has written regarding veterans who have been exposed to asbestos. His organization is devoted to assisting veterans through their application processes for VA benefits, and helping them obtain the maximum benefits for which they are entitled. He wrote: "Countless veterans are currently suffering from life-threatening illnesses that are a result of exposure to asbestos, a material that was commonly used in hundreds of military applications, products, and ships primarily because of its resistance to fire. The Mesothelioma Center provides a complete list of occupations, ships, and shipyards that could have put veterans at risk for developing asbestos-related diseases. In addition, they have thousands of articles regarding asbestos and mesothelioma and we've even created a veterans-specific section on our website in order to help inform about the dangers of asbestos exposure." *Colin, thanks so much for writing and sharing this important information. We have linked your site on our website "Links" page under the heading "Related Websites" which can be found at: <http://www.oflag64.us/Oflag64/Links.html>*

DAVID HENRY from Ft. Worth TX (son of the late Kriegy Robert T. Henry, Jr.) has identified his father in one of our newly posted photos. He recognized the tinted prescription lenses his dad was wearing at the time. *Thank you so much, David, for claiming your dad in our new photo. Hopefully others will be able to identify their relatives soon as well. Little by little we're learning who everyone is.*

GLORIA HEISLER from Wakefield RI (widow of the late Kriegy Walter "Chris" Heisler) wrote to let us know of Chris' passing on D-Day (June 6) this year. She wrote that she would be sending an obituary (please see the TAPS section) along with an article of interest written by her favorite columnist. *Thank you very much, Gloria, for letting us know about Chris. How fitting that D-Day was the day. We mourn the death of another great Kriegy patriot and hero and know he will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers as well as heartfelt condolences are with you and your family. May*



wonderful memories sustain you through the difficult days ahead.

MICHAEL HIGGINS from Richmond Hill GA (son of the late Kriegy Martin J. Higgins) after reading of the passing of Lt. General A. P. Clark, sent the following link: http://www.france24.com/en/20100608-last-survivor-wwii-great-escape-dies?quicks&_r=0

It's an article about the passing of the last Great Escape survivor, Scotsman Jack Harrison. He was 97. *Thank you, Michael, for the link. Great article.*

BILL JONES (son of the late Kriegy William K. Jones) has recently identified several photos on our website that picture his dad. Some photos of him were previously unidentified and another was misidentified. *Thanks, Bill, for your help with identification. We're pleased to have the correct information on all our photos and without some keen observations, we'd be lost.*

ERIN JUSTINIANO from Raleigh NC (granddaughter of Kriegy Michael J. Calpin) wrote not long ago asking for information on her grandfather. She has recently returned from Mahumudiyah Iraq where she served with the Army National Guard and would love to learn more about her grandfather's story. If you have information to share, please let me (Elodie) know and I will put you in contact with Erin. *Thank you very much for writing, Erin. We know how difficult it sometimes is to get the information we want, but hopefully you will hear soon from those who remember your grandfather. An email query was sent a while back asking for information. Keep us posted on what you learn.*

JUDY KNIGHT from Naperville IL (daughter of Kriegy Ed Graf) sent a recent email stating "This is so sad to think that in a short time I think we have lost 4 of the men! I know it is inevitable, but it so hurts to see them all leaving us. I was just going to look up the information on the reunion in Dallas as I hope we still have some men able to travel. I know my dad and I are planning on it." *Thank you, Judy, for writing. It was good to hear from you again. Also hoping to see a good number of Kriegies at the Dallas Reunion. We'll see you and your dad in October.*



ROBERT LAPLANDER from Waterford WI (author and researcher) has recently found our website and has asked to be added to our email list. He has been a fascinated student of the POW experience and escapologist ever since his early teens. He would like to gather information for his next book, which will cover the tunnel escape made by the British from the latrine at Szubin prior to their evacuation. In 1980 he even dug a tunnel similar to those dug by tunnelers in various POW camps. He wrote the following: "For

the last 12 years, I have been involved mainly in WW1 studies - specifically the study of the famous 'Lost Battalion', on which I have published two books and done considerable battlefield archeology on. For the last three years I have been working on a book concerning the famous 'Wooden Horse' escape from Stalag Luft III in October 1943. This project is nearing completion and the result - 'Against the Odds: The Complete Story of the Legendary 'Wooden Horse' Escape And the Men That Made It Happen' - will be out in February. As I have been gathering research and information in on that subject, I have also been gathering research for the next book, which will cover the tunnel escape made by the British from the latrine at Schubin. That effort was headed by a former Spitfire pilot named Eddie Asselin. The working title of that project is 'Eddie's Exit'. To see more on me and who I am please refer to my website at www.lulu.com/lostbattalion *Welcome, Rob, to our Oflag 64 family and thank you for writing. Best wishes on your research. Looking forward to hearing more about future projects.*

HERMAN LITTMAN from Spokane WA (Oflag 64 Kriegy) sent an article that recently appeared in the Spokane Review. It was basically about wartime gardening but mentioned our own John Creech in the article. We have received permission to reprint the article and it is included in the Information Station of this ITEM. Herm also sent a Memorial Day photo that included him and the Governor of the State of Washington, Chris Gregoire. A POW-MIA flag was raised to begin the dedication ceremony, which honored POW-MIA veterans. See the photo in the Information Station section of this ITEM. *Thanks once again, Herm, for the information and photo you sent. We will never tire of hearing or reading about our wonderful Kriegy patriots and heroes.*



ANNE MATZELLE from Sugar Land TX (daughter of the late Kriegy Jim Cockrell) responded to our email query regarding Father Stanley Brach. She also sent compliments about the work we do. *It's great that even though many of our Kriegy fathers and grandfathers are no longer living, we still have information available through children and grandchildren. Thanks for being willing to share your information, Anne.*

CAROLYN CLARK MILLER (daughter of the late Stalag Luft III Kriegy, Lt. General Albert P. Clark) sent word that her dear father passed away on March 8 of this year in Colorado Springs CO. He was 96. She also sent a copy of a brief obituary, which is included in the TAPS section of this ITEM. You may remember that General Clark authored the book **33 MONTHS AS A POW IN STALAG LUFT III**. General Clark was known to many of our Oflag 64 Kriegies

and will be greatly missed. *Carolyn, thank you so much for letting us know about your dad. We mourn the loss of another great patriot and hero. We have added his obituary to the TAPS section in this ITEM.*

KENT OLINGER (associated with the Warren "Bing" Evans family) recently wrote to tell us of the passing of Warren's dear wife, Frances, last November. Please see the TAPS section for her obituary. He also sent photos of Warren and Frances and contact information on Warren's son, Mark. In addition, he sent the following: "Every author who writes a book on the Rangers eventually contacts Warren to get some of his memories and contacts to other Rangers. Robert Black has written of Warren in at least two books: "Rangers at War" and "Ranger Force"; as did H. Paul Jeffers while researching "Onward We Charge"; Tom Brokaw, re: "The Greatest Generation," and probably others. The History Channel has come to Huntingburg at least once to film a couple of interviews with Warren. One is under HC's "Suicide Missions" label. In it, Warren talks about the battle at Cisterna in which he was captured. In the other, he gives details of life in the Oflag." Lastly, Kent stated that Warren, now 91, is as healthy and active as can be. *Kent, we so much appreciate the information and updates you sent regarding Warren and Frances, along with photos. Every piece of new information helps us preserve history.*

JOHN H. POLK, JR. from Murfreesboro TN (son of the late Kriegy John H. Polk, Sr.) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. He also has a request for information. He wrote: "My father, now deceased, was a POW in Oflag 64. He escaped with Clarence Folz. My dad was captured in September 1944 leading a platoon across the Mozell River in Patton's roaring Third Army. He escaped with Folz and may have been apart of the 100 that escaped at that same time. He made it out through Odessa to Egypt. He received a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Presidential Citation for his action. Patton's entire 2nd Battalion was killed, wounded or captured during the Mozelle action. He was given a battlefield promotion to Captain during that action but was never elevated to that status for reasons I still am not aware of. Maybe someone on this site will remember and confirm....." *Thanks so much for contacting us, John, and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We have put your request out by email and hopefully you will receive an answer soon. We will let you know if we learn anything.*

ROCCO PRAVIDICA from Rockford IL (Oflag 64 Kriegy) recently requested a copy of Abe Baum's RAID book and subsequently sent a donation to the Postage Fund for his copy. He commented: "The book is very



interesting because I was at Oflag Hammelburg when this all took place." He also sent compliments on the ITEM. He is not certain at this point in time that he'll be able to be at the Dallas reunion. *Rocco, much thanks to you for your donation to the Postage Fund and for your kind words about the ITEM. It's a joint effort, as the ITEM wouldn't be the ITEM without the faithful and continued contributions of others. Hope to see you in Dallas if possible.*

DON AND GINNY REEVES from Tucson AZ (friends of the late Kriegy Jim Bickers) sent a contribution to our Postage Fund as a memorial to Jim. Don commented: "Jim was a friend and mentor to many of us at Donnelley during his long career. However, I know that his experiences in WWII and the prison camp were probably the most significant events of his life." *Thank you very much, Don and Ginny, for your thoughtful and generous contribution to our Postage Fund. What a nice tribute to Jim and very much appreciated!*

CINDY RHEINGRUBER from Glenview IL (friend of Barbara Bickers) sent a donation to the Postage Fund in memory of Jim Bickers. *Thank you very much, Cindy for your thoughtful donation. We greatly appreciate the support of all our contributors.*

JOHN R. RODGERS, SR. from Pensacola FL (Oflag 64 Kriegy) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. John found that he had a POW photo not in our collection and graciously sent us a copy. Interestingly, his now deceased brother-in-law, Harry E. Evans, is also included in the photo. *Thanks so much, John, for sharing your photo. It has been added to the website along with a couple of others. I suspect there are a few more out there waiting to be found.*

KAREN ROSSI from Panama City Beach FL (great niece of the late Kriegy Thomas D. Drake) recently responded to our query about who's who in one of the new photos posted on our website. She wrote that the last time she saw her uncle was in 1969 but he had a distinctive presence and she remembered him well. She also sent a contribution to the Postage Fund and plans to attend the Dallas reunion in October. Karen subsequently sent a copy of the obituary for George Juskalian, which was published in the Washington Post online. Please see the TAPS section and notice the future date of his service at Arlington. George had previously taken a fall and was quite weak and frail. He had just had his 96th birthday. *Thank you very much, Karen, for your help in identifying your great uncle in the photos and for keeping us up to date on George. He was a dear man who will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him. We appreciate his service and sacrifice. We also*



appreciate your thoughtful and generous donation to the Postage Fund. Looking forward to seeing you in October.

WILBUR SHARPE from Ashburn VA (Oflag 64 Kriegy) sent a nice note along with a contribution to the Postage Fund in memory of his good friend, Jim Bickers. He stated that he and Jim were captured the same day in North Africa. He also said that he and his wife, Mary, would be attending Jim's funeral and burial at Arlington on June 11. In a subsequent communication, Bill and Mary sent a second donation to the postage fund in memory of George Juskalian. *Thank you very much, Bill and Mary, for your thoughtful and generous contributions to the Postage Fund. What nice tributes to Jim Bickers and George Juskalian!! We were also pleased to hear that you would be able to attend Jim's service at Arlington. Lastly, thank you for your kind words about the ITEM. Very much appreciated.*



TOM SIGLER from Wilmington DE (son of the late Kriegy Thornton V. Sigler) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list and also to include a link to his father's online diary on our website. We've done so and have noted that the diary contains "tons" of information. Please check it out at: www.tvsigler.com. It can be downloaded in .pdf format. Tom also sent photos of his dad's dog tags, other POW photos, and copies of telegrams. *Welcome, Tom, to our Oflag 64 Family and thank you very much for sharing your dad's diary with us. We appreciate all the information you've sent and look forward to more information from you as time goes by.*

BOB THOMPSON from Tulsa OK (Oflag 64 Kriegy) recently wrote for help in contacting Don Patton who is looking for information. Bob also wrote: "I find it very difficult to write a letter. I have had two heart attacks and am losing my vision due to macular degeneration." *It was great to hear from you, Bob, but we were very sorry to hear about your heart attacks and that your vision is being affected by macular degeneration. There are great visual helps available these days for people suffering from this impairment. We wish you the best of health and hope that you're able to do those things you want to do.*



FRANK VAN LUNTEREN from The Netherlands (friend of Oflag 64) recently wrote to tell us of the passing of Oflag 64 Kriegy Bob Tiemstra. You may recall the interesting story in the 1st Quarter ITEM on Bob. Please see the TAPS section for more information. *Thanks so*



much, Frank, for letting us know about Bob. We are so appreciative of these great men and their sacrifices. Even though from a distant land, Bob was one of "ours". We know he will be greatly missed and we send sincere sympathies to his family.

DOROTHY WARTHEN, ELLEN WARTHEN & KATHY EZELL from Vidalia GA, Atlanta GA, and Coral Gables FL respectively (widow and daughters of the late Bill Warthen) sent a short note along with Postage Fund checks in memory of Roy Chappell and Chris Heisler. Kathy wrote: "This is getting hard. What wonderful guys we are losing—and so fast now." *Thanks to each of you for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. It is always greatly appreciated. And yes, we agree, it's so difficult to hear of the passing of another dear Kriegy. What wonderful legacies they have left!*



BILL WENZEL from Prairie Du Sac WI (family roots from Szubin) recently found some interesting WWII memorabilia on E-bay. Among the items found was an envelope (presumably containing a letter) sent to Amon Carter from Mrs. Katrine Deakins of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. It was postmarked April 20 1943. *Thank you, Bill, for sharing your find. It's always interesting to find such memorabilia on the Internet. We hope you're soon able to make the trip to Szubin that you've been looking forward to taking with your daughter.*

LILLIAN WRIGHT from Catonsville MD (widow of the late Kriegy William E. Wright, Jr.) is trying to identify her husband in the group photo recently sent out by email and also included in the June ITEM. She's looking at the last row at one of the soldiers behind one wearing a light jacket. If you recognize William, please let me (Elodie) know. *Thanks, Lillian, for writing. We hope to be able to confirm your thought that one of these men is your dear husband. Usually, family members are the best at identifying each other so I'd bet that you've picked him out.*

From the Editor

Near July 4, I sent an email (to everyone on our Oflag 64 email address list) with a link to a 12-minute video about Francis Scott Key and the National Anthem. It was a great video and in general appropriate to the holiday. However, there was some incorrect information contained in the video. Thanks to some of our history buffs for the corrections that follow.

1. There was only one (1) person killed during the

bombardment of Ft. McHenry, which WAS a military fort. There were no women and children in the fort, as they knew what was about to take place. There was ample warning as a major attachment of British had just finished burning Washington DC after disembarking at Upper Marlboro, MD and re-embarking for a short sail to North Point. The plan was to disembark at North Point and march to Baltimore while destroying Fort McHenry from the water. The American Militia met the British forces at North Point, killed their General, General Ross, and forced them back to their ships. When the British Admiral heard of the retreat and the fact that they could not make Ft. McHenry capitulate, they withdrew. (My Great-Great Grandfather fought at North Point and my brother and I are members of the War of 1812 Society due to that involvement.) This action coupled with the failed attempt to enter the Mississippi River due to General Andrew Jackson's action concluded the War in 1814. (Robert "Dev" Slingluff)

2. As a history buff, I can say, though, that it's much like Washington and his cherry tree - a nice, but fanciful yarn. The one true part, of course, was that Francis Scott Key did witness the attack on Ft. McHenry, which inspired him to write a poem that became the national anthem! It does make us feel good about shared values, however, and that's a wonderful thing to keep in mind on the Fourth! (David Glendinning)

I also received some other very nice emails from folks with interesting bits of information. One of our Oflag 64 family members, Ann Hart-Otterbein is a descendant of Francis Scott Key's brother, John Martin Key; her great-great grandmother was Laura Ann Key.

Thanks to everyone who responded with information of any kind and with well wishes for the holiday both to me and to our Oflag 64 family as a whole. (Elodie Caldwell)

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.

Abe & Eileen Baum
Emily & Barbara Bickers
Steven Burgauer
Kathy Ezell

In memory of
Roy Chappell & Chris Heisler

Oretta Hamblin
Rocco Pravidica

Don & Virginia Reeves
In memory of
Jim Bickers

Cindy Rheingruber
In memory of
Jim Bickers

Karen Rossi
Wilbur & Mary Sharpe

In memory of
Jim Bickers and George Juskalian

Dorothy & Ellen Warthen
In memory of

Roy Chappell & Chris Heisler



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

SMILES from Robert O'Neill, Prescott AZ

A man was telling his neighbor, "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect."

"Really," answered the neighbor. "What kind is it?"

"Twelve thirty", he replied.

* * * * *

Maurice, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical. A few days later, the doctor saw Maurice walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm. After another couple of days, the doctor called Maurice and said, "You're really doing great, aren't you?"

Maurice replied, "Just doing what you said, Doc:

"Get a hot mamma and be cheerful."

The doctor said, "I didn't say that. I said, "You've got a heart murmur, be careful."

INFORMATION STATION

One of the lucky ones Poland Death March survivor recalls WWII experiences

BY TINA McGRADY

November 10, 2008

(Reprinted with permission)



COVINGTON, Ind. — Lee Clingan considers himself a lucky man. At age 87, the Covington, Ind., resident counts among his blessings his family and friends, a successful career in the insurance and auctioneering business, his 24 years in the Indiana state legislature, and his status as a World War II veteran and former prisoner of war.

“I often wonder how I’ve been so lucky,” he said. Off to war - Clingan entered the Army as a private in 1941, but was sent to officer candidate school to become an infantry platoon leader for the invasion of Normandy. “The average life expectancy of a platoon leader was seven days,” he said, referring to himself as a “replacement” for the many who died before him.

Clingan fought in the Netherlands, Central Europe and Normandy campaigns, leading his platoon through two major battles. Along the way he was captured Oct. 29, 1944, in Holland, when a Panzer tank division wiped out his unit. “At that point it was die or give up,” he said. “I hated that. We didn’t have a chance.”

The Germans put Clingan and the other survivors on a train destined for a POW camp in Poland. En route to the camp, British planes bombed the train’s engine, sparking chaos. Clingan and nine other officers were traveling in a boxcar sandwiched between two others, each filled with 75 infantrymen.

“The men in the car ahead of us were panicked,” he said. “You see, the car ahead of them was full of ammunition, and everyone was afraid the whole thing would go up.” Clingan defied orders from a German guard and jumped from the boxcar to help rescue the men. “I don’t know how I got that car open,” he said. “I guess luck was on my side that day.”

The Germans sent another engine and the train would eventually make its way to the POW camp designated as Oflag 64 in Szubin, Poland. The camp was established in June 1943 by the Germans to detain American officers. It initially held 150 prisoners. By the time the camp was evacuated in January 1945, their ranks had grown to 1,400.

The march begins - Clingan and the other prisoners would not stay at the camp much longer. On Jan. 21, 1945, they were sent on what was later termed the “Poland Death March” through Central Europe as the Germans tried to outpace the Russian forces on their tail. “We knew we’d be going,” he said. “We had a radio in the camp and we could pick up the BBC. We knew things weren’t going well for the Germans.” The Oflag 64 men were forced to march during the bitter winter. Clingan recalls marching about 10 miles a day during blistering cold weather. At night the men would sleep in barns, sheds or any other structure that could be found. “I’d try to find some hay and curl up,” Clingan said. “My feet were always so cold.” Each night he’d take off his wet boot, place them next to his stomach and wrap his body into a tight ball. “I was hoping my body heat would dry those boots.” Food also was scarce, which meant the men often had to fend for themselves.

Keep marching - By the time the Oflag 64 men made it to Hammelburg, German, their numbers had dwindled to half. Former POWs report German guards often shot and killed those who straggled during these marches, while other prisoners were simply tempted to escape along the way or hide. Most POWs figured their odds were better staying together as a group. For those who survived, it was difficult to overlook that each week of the march there were fewer POWs than when they started. “I really don’t know what happened to a lot of them,” Clingan said trailing off.

Among the many the prisoners at Hammelburg was Gen. George S. Patton’s son-in-law, Lt. Col. John Waters. Patton ordered a raid on the prison camp. He sent in members of a 300-man task force to liberate the POWs, but many were killed, wounded or recaptured after the raid. After the raid on Hammelburg, the remaining POWs were marched out on the second leg of their journey, farther south to Moosburg. The POWs had no way of knowing, but those who would finish the trip, start to finish, traveled about 450 miles. It was done in two stages, and took from Jan. 21 to April 20 to complete, about 90 days.

Headed for home - At Moosburg, Clingan and a few other men decided to liberate themselves. They walked

away from the camp and began to hitchhike their way home. Clingan eventually made it to France, where he boarded a Liberty ship bound for New York City. Once in New York, he took the train to Indianapolis, where met up with his family. He made the last leg of his journey to the family farm in Kingman. When Clingan arrived home, he had dropped from 170 pounds to 135. He was released from active duty as a first lieutenant in June 1945. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Home front - Clingan then pursued a career in the insurance and auctioneering businesses. He was elected to the Indiana State Senate and served from 1960 to 1968. He was then elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 1972 and served until his retirement in 1988. "He has really seen it all," said his eldest son, Greg Clingan. "He didn't really talk about his war experiences much." While serving as a legislator, Clingan often helped veterans find needed resources. He also has participated as a member of the military honor guard. "I've seen a lot of death on the battlefield, and it's a shame people have to fight, but it happens," he said.

Clingan hopes for a speedy end to the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. "We need to bring those men and women home," he said. "I feel sorry for them." When the country's newest veterans arrive home, Clingan is confident America and its fellow veterans will be there to support the troops. "Our numbers may be falling," he said of WWII veterans, "but we'll be there to look out for them."

Submitted by Lee's son, Greg Clingan

Soldiers turn to gardens for peace of mind

Dean Fosdick - Associated Press

March 6, 2010

(Reprinted with permission)



This photo released by Kenneth Helphand shows a garden constructed by Japanese-Americans while interned at the Manzanar Relocation Center in California.

On the Web: Learn more about wartime gardens at <http://defiantgardens.com>.

Gardening can be comforting – even therapeutic – for troops trying to shake the stresses of war.

There's a long history of soldiers growing plants in the extreme conditions of a war zone.

"Trench gardens" produced needed food as well as healing diversion for soldiers mired in the muck on both sides of the Western Front in World War I.

American prisoners of war cultivated "barbed wire gardens" to augment starvation rations and provide some mental escape during World War II.

Most recently, such "defiant gardens" have cropped up at isolated combat outposts in Iraq and Afghanistan, much as they did around GI Quonset huts in the Vietnam of four decades ago.

"Such gardens stand not in harmony with but in opposition to their locations, asserting their presence," writes Kenneth Helphand, a professor of landscape architecture at the University of Oregon, in his "Defiant Gardens: Making

Gardens in Wartime" (Trinity University Press, 2006).

The late **John Creech**, a World War II infantry officer who survived several German prisoner of war camps to become director of the U.S. National Arboretum in the 1970s, jokingly introduced himself to Helphand as "the only soldier ever awarded a medal for gardening."

After being moved to a camp in Poland that had an unused greenhouse, Creech talked his captors into letting him operate it, supplementing a moldy bread and watered-down-soup diet for 1,500 fellow prisoners.

That earned him a Bronze Star for merit – which he was said to have valued more than the Silver Star won earlier for gallantry in action.

Submitted by Herm Littman

In reference to the previous article printed in this ITEM which mentions John Creech's garden, Herm Littman tells us: "I volunteered to help John. John said OK but he knew I didn't know beans about what was a veggie and what was a weed. So, he was always on my tail, yelling 'no, don't pull that, Herm, that's not a weed.'" At our reunion in New Orleans, we took a picture together with a picture of his greenhouse in the background. That shot was taken by a German Capt. who took a lot of pictures of our activities in the camp.



Submitted by Herm Littman

**Washington State Veterans Cemetery
Dedication Ceremony
Medical Lake WA
May 31, 2010**



This photo was taken at the opening ceremony of the State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake WA on Memorial Day. Mike Gregoire, Governor Gregoire's husband, brought the POW-MIA flag, which had flown over the capital in Olympia and presented it to us to raise on a flagpole at the cemetery. Pictured from left are Mike, who is a Viet Nam combat vet, the head of the Cemetery Advisory Board who is a retired Major General and served with the 82nd AB in Viet Nam, Don Head who was captured in the Bulge and is retired from the FBI, Governor Gregoire, Jack Donohoe who was captured in the Philippines and survived the death march, and Herm

Littman. Herm says: "We were treated like VIPs, which was a little uncomfortable, but they did put on a great show with a military band, the commander from Fairchild, a Washington Congresswoman and senator, and all the military and veteran organizations in the area represented. About three thousand people also showed up on a rainy day.

Submitted by Herm Littman



The above photo, sent by Barbara Bickers, was taken at the funeral service for her father, Jim Bickers, at Arlington on June 11. What an impressive sight and one Jim would have been touched to see.

American life ends on perfect day

The Providence Journal - Providence, R.I.

Date: Jun 13, 2010
 Start Page: A.5
 Section: Local News

A rich and generous American life, the likes of which we will never see again, came to an end at a perfectly improbable time. [...] Gloria Heisler is hearing from those who were part of it -- from students Heisler taught at the University of Rhode Island, from men he served with, from the people in France for whom he was the American face of liberation. Gloria admits to a certain partiality for the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA playoffs because of Lamar Odom.

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The above excerpt came from an article written by Bob Kerr of The Providence Journal shortly after Chris Heisler's passing. The entire article can be purchased online at:

<http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/projo/offers.html?url=%2Fprojo%2Faccess%2F2057234251.html%3FFMT%3DFT%26FMTS%3DABS%3AFT%26type%3Dcurrent%26date%3DJun%2B13%252C%2B2010%26author%3DAnonymous%26pub%3DThe%2BProvidence%2BJournal%26desc%3DAmerican%2Blife%2Bends%2Bon%2Bperfect%2Bday>

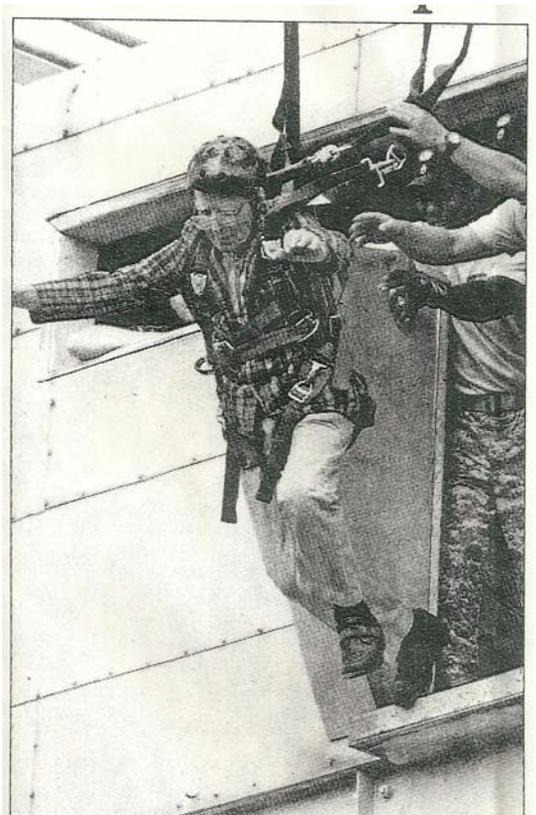


PHOTO COURTESY OF GLORIA HEISLER

Walter Heisler makes a parachute jump from a training platform at Fort Benning, Ga. His wife thinks he was close to 90 at the time.

D-Day hero, school official dead at 93

By Mark N. Schieldrop, Staff Writer
South County Independent

(Copyrighted material used by permission)

MATUNUCK — Sixty-six years to the day after he leapt from a C-47 as a member of the 507th Parachute Infantry into the bullet-filled sky over Normandy, France, Walter “Chris” Heisler, war hero, professor, dahlia grower, died at his home in Matunuck.

He was 93.

If the community were ever to name someone as its one and only hero, Heisler, who spent his time in World War II in a prison camp with fellow soldiers, would be that man.

“He was a great ambassador for what D-Day was both here and in France,” said Tim Gray, a filmmaker who featured Heisler in a documentary about six war veterans returning to Normandy in the spring of 2006. “He felt a responsibility to tell people about what June 6, 1944 was all about, and he did that here and over in Normandy. He felt the responsibility to do it for the guys who didn’t make it back to be that voice.”

In the last few years of his life, friends were sad to see Heisler’s health decline. A tall, imposing man, Heisler frequently instilled a sense of fear in people he had just met. But anyone who knew him quickly realized he was kind, generous and infinitely passionate about what he believed in.

“He was just a tremendous guy,” said John Tarasevich, the owner of Clipper Seafood in Narragansett.

“He was a war hero and someone everyone had to look up to. We lost a great leader, a fellow humanitarian. He might have been a war hero but he took the underdog’s side every time.”

Tarasevich was about 10 years old when he first met Heisler, who was the school superintendent in Westerly at the time. On snowy days, Tarasevich recalls seeing Heisler amble up the road in the morning and hoping that the tall school leader would crash his car.

Many years later, Tarasevich was in the office of his seafood company when a woman in the lobby was hammering away on a bell to get the attention of an employee. Tarasevich came down the stairs and saw a woman whose face was “as red as a fire engine.”

“Are you out of your mind?” she screamed.

“I don’t know what you’re talking about,” Tarasevich said.

“You’ve got that old man out there planting in the garden in this awful heat!”

Sure enough, Heisler had chosen one of the hottest days of the year to plant dahlias outside the shop. It was a deal the two men had worked out. In exchange for flowers and gardening, Heisler walked away with free lobsters.

“The lady thought I was abusing the guy and I didn’t even know he was out there working,” Tarasevich said.

A passionate Democrat, Heisler was liberal to the core, which surprised many friends who expect members of the military to lean conservatively.

“He could come across as gruff, but he was passionate about what he believed in,” Tarasevich said. “If he held a belief, you weren’t going to change his mind. He was open-minded in many ways but once he came to a conclusion, he stuck with it.”

The casualty rates in the 507th were staggering. Of the 2,200 paratroopers, 835 were lost in the early days of the Norman invasion. Four men who jumped out of Heisler’s plane had faulty chutes. The plane itself was shot down shortly after the jump.

Alone, Heisler was determined to find some of his men. He landed with his toes just scraping the ground, his parachute caught in a large tree. He cut himself loose and noticed a house about 200 yards away. He crept on his elbows as he heard voices nearby. There were many Germans in the area, shouting. The sound of machine guns firing at Allied planes could be heard. He tried to ambush a slow-moving truck, throwing grenades into it until the shouting stopped.

In a 2005 interview with *The Independent*, Heisler said he was at first unable to come to terms with the war.

Eager to fight, he was frustrated by the feeling that his division failed to land and assemble properly.

“I blamed the Air Force for squandering our chances,” Heisler said. “I felt that if only the planes hadn’t scattered and we had landed where we should have, things would have been different.”

But Heisler soon learned that his division managed to complete its objectives in spite of being one-third as powerful.

During his trips to France, which began in 1999 and continued regularly after that, he realized that the Air Force planes were under orders to keep audio silence. Lack of communication made flying difficult. Many planes also either had no navigators, or navigators who were inexperienced with night flying.

“I finally realized that the bitterness that I had carried for over 50 years was questionable, to say the least.”

The subsequent visits defined the final chapters of his life. He met with countless citizens and schoolchildren to tell his story. He visited monuments and attended ceremonies.

“In Normandy, he was energized,” Gray said. “He was all about letting people know that the real heroes are the guys who are still buried over there.”

In France, Heisler was treated like a hero. Wearing his 82nd Airborne neck emblem and a blue D-Day cap, he was showered with affection. In a place where the scars of war can still be seen in the bullet holes pocking village walls, Heisler was a living symbol of freedom.

“... It was amazing to watch the people who would come up and say, ‘thank you,’” Gray said.

Heisler died peacefully at home, wearing that blue D-Day cap.

Submitted by Gloria Heisler

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.

You are doing an outstanding work with the newsletter!! We are all so appreciative. ~ **Barbara Bickers, Wilmette IL**

FABULOUS Item as usual!! You all do such an incredibly professional job; it is something I really look forward to reading. ~ **Anne Kreutzer, Woodbridge VA**

Just enjoyed your newsy Item. You continue to produce a first class product. ~ **Herm Littman, Spokane WA**

I enjoy everything about the bulletin. Keep up the good work. ~ **Rocco Pravidica, Rockford IL**

Thanks again for doing a GREAT job on the ITEM, 2nd qtr. 2010. ~ **Karen Rossi, Panama City Beach FL**

You continue to do a wonderful job producing the ITEM. Mary and I enjoy reading them very much. Keep the ITEM coming. ~ **Wilbur Sharpe, Ashburn VA**

Thank you very much for your e-mail with news from Oflag 64. I appreciated the 2nd Quarter ITEM, which has brought me some very interesting suggestions for my further research of American WW II POW's. Much obliged to you for thinking of me and keeping me informed! ~ **René Tesar, Czechoslovakia**

OFLAG 64 WEB CONNECTION

Was not aware of your site and organization. Very impressive and interesting. ~ **Vicki Frodsham Brown**

While I was browsing through a number of Veterans sites I came across your website and was very impressed by the information you have listed. ~ **Colin Hare, Veteran Liaison for the Mesothelioma Center (Asbestos.com)**

The web site has become just an amazing source of information - I haven't even had time to go through all the new stuff, but I love knowing it's there when I'm ready. Your hard work on this web site is PHENOMENAL!!! ~ **Anne Kreutzer, Woodbridge VA**

* * * * *

New Visitors to our Oflag 64 Web Site

Vicki Brown – Daughter of the late Kriegy William C. Frodsham
Noah Cohen – Grandson of the late Kriegy Murray Mattleman
Michael Connell – Distant relative of the late Kriegy, Father Stanley Brach
Erin Justiniano – Granddaughter of Kriegy Michael J. Calpin
Robert J. Laplander – Author/Researcher WWI & WWII History
John H. Polk, Jr. – Son of the late Kriegy John H. Polk, Sr.
John R. Rogers, Sr. – Oflag 64 Kriegy
Tom Sigler – Son of the late Kriegy Thornton V. Sigler



PUBLICATIONS

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

1. **Americans Behind the Barbed Wire** by Frank Diggs, Story of Frank's trip across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Vandemere Press, P. O. Box 5243, Clearwater FL 22205 (New price is \$24.95/Hardcover) <http://www.vandamere.com/diggs.htm> or <http://www.amazon.ca/Americans-Behind-Barbed-Wire-Inside/dp/0743474821>
2. **Diary of A Kriegie** by Ed Beattie. Diary of Ed Beattie, A UPI Correspondent captured near the Moselle River in Sept '44. Publisher: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York NY <http://www.amazon.com/Diary-kriegie-Edward-W-Beattie/dp/B0007E4AUA>
3. **Escape to Russia** by Howard "BOOMER" Holder. Story of Boomer Holder as he went across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Iberian Publishing Co., Athens GA http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Russia-Howard-Randolph-Holder/dp/B0006F7X72/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226549191&sr=1-1
4. **Home Was Never Like This.** Diary of Col Yardley. Publisher: Yardley Enterprises. Evergreen, CO. http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this&x=0&y=0
5. **Justifiable Pride** by William D. Stevens, Jamal Books, 2340 Devoe Drive, Lincoln NE 68506, 402-488-6005 http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Justifiable+Pride&x=13&y=17
6. **Katyn Forest Video** (Beta or VHS). Ray Towers, Jr., 25105 Vista Greens Court, Hayward CA 94541, 415-582-4871
7. **Kriegie** by Kenneth Simmons. Diary of an Air Force Pilot. Publisher: Thomas Nelson and Sons. New York NY. http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Kriegie+by+Kenneth+Simmons&x=0&y=0
8. **Kriegsgefangener 3074 (Prisoner of War)** by Clarence Ferguson. Publisher: Texan Press, Waco TX http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Prisoner+of+War+by+Clarence+Ferguson&x=16&y=17 or occasionally available at: <http://www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?an=Clarence+Ferguson&sts=t&tn=Kriegsgefangener&x=43&y=14>
9. **OFLAG 64, 50th Anniversary Book.** Anniversary Committee. Publisher: Evanston Publishing Co., Evanston IL. http://www.amazon.com/Oflag-64-fiftieth-anniversary-book/dp/1879260239/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1226550698&sr=1-1
10. **Passages to Freedom**, Joseph Frelinghuysen, 1990, Publisher: Sunflower University Press, 1531 Yuma (Box 1009), Manhattan KS 66502-4228, 800-258-1232 (\$17.95, includes S & H) http://www.amazon.com/Passages-Freedom-Story-Capture-Escape/dp/0897451317/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550856&sr=1-1
11. **Oflag 64: A P.O.W. Odyssey**, DVD, Robert Galloway, Osprey HD, 192 E Bay St, Ste 300A, Charleston SC 29401-2701, (\$29.95 plus \$5 S&H - Please make checks payable to Robert Galloway, Osprey HD)
12. **Raid! The Untold Story of Patton's Secret Mission** by Richard Baron, Major Abe Baum, and Richard Goldhurst (paperback) http://www.amazon.com/Raid-Untold-Pattons-Secret-Mission/dp/0440236096/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1254190748&sr=1-1

13. **A Ramble Through My War** by Charles T. Marshall, Publisher: Louisiana State University Press, 1999. (\$29.95) http://www.amazon.com/Ramble-Through-My-War-Anzio/dp/0807126365/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550977&sr=1-1
14. **The Escape Factory** by Lloyd Shoemaker. Story of a secret organization in Wash DC that maintained contact with all POWs in WWII. St Martins Press. New York NY (A few are available on Amazon.com) http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1
15. **The 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. (Available on Amazon.com) http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_2_15?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer&prefix=The+Road+to+War
16. **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
17. **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
18. **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
19. **Tours of Duty: World War II Veterans Personal Stories** by Eleanor Bertrand. Includes stories of Jimmie Kanaya from Oflag 64, Martin Jones from Hammelburg, and Oscar Richard from Stalag I. Publisher: BookSurge Publishing (2/22/08). \$17.99 from Amazon.com, 1-800-201-7575 http://www.amazon.com/Tours-Duty-Veterans-Personal-Stories/dp/141968728X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551561&sr=1-1

Other Publications

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

**Original Roster-Oflag 64
The Oflag 64 Directory
The Men of Oflag 64**

**Database
Database
Database**

**Hammelburg Roster
Tribute to TF Baum**

**Database
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. Now available on the Oflag 64 website.

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

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

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

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

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

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

TAPS

Albert P. Clark

1913 - 2010



Lt Gen Albert P. Clark, USAF - Retired

Albert P. Clark died on March 8, 2010 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Services will be held at the Air Force Academy Cadet

Catholic Chapel on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., followed by burial in the Academy Cemetery. A reception will be held afterwards at the Air Force Academy Officers Club.

General Clark was born at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii on 27 August, 1913. His father, Albert P. Clark, was a Colonel in the US Army Medical Corps. His mother was Mary Catherine Gannon Clark. Both parents were born and raised in Washington, D.C. General Clark's father served on General Pershing's staff in France in World War I.

Albert, whose lifelong nickname was "Bub" graduated from Main Ave. High School in San Antonio, Texas in 1931 and after studies at Columbia Preparatory School in Washington, DC, he entered West Point in 1932. He was appointed from the District of Columbia and graduated in 1936.

Clark graduated as a pilot from The Army Flying School in early October, 1937 and married Carolyn Pierpont Wilbourn on October 8, 1937. Carolyn's father, Colonel Arthur E. Wilbourn, was a graduate of West Point in the class of 1908.

On July 26 1942 Gen. Clark was shot down in combat over France flying a Spitfire with the RAF. He was taken prisoner by the Germans and held in Stalag Luft III for the duration of the War. During his thirty-three months of imprisonment, he directed security activities in preparation for "The Great Escape."



He has written of his experiences as a POW in a

book entitled, "33 Months in Stalag Luft III: A World War II Airman Tells His Story." General Clark was liberated from the camp at Moosburg in Bavaria on April 29, 1945.

After the war he served in various staff and command positions and was a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College, and the National War College. He commanded the 48th Fighter-Bomber Wing in France and was promoted to Brigadier General in 1956. He commanded the US Military Training Mission in Saudi

Arabia and the 313th Air Division in Okinawa. He was promoted to Lieutenant General in 1965 and served as the Vice Commander of the Tactical Air Command, Commander of the Air University and as Superintendent of the Air Force Academy, retiring on 31 July 1974. His decorations include the US Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Air Medal and various service medals.

Gen. Clark and his wife, Carolyn, made their retirement home in Colorado Springs, Colorado. After retirement Gen. Clark served on the Board of the US Olympic Committee, the National Board of the Boy Scout of America, as President of the Pikes Peak Council of the Boy Scouts, as the Secretary of the Falcon Foundation, and as the President of The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library.

Gen. Clark's wife died in 2002, and his son, Albert P. Clark, Jr., died in 2005. He is survived by two daughters, Carolyn Clark Miller of Alexandria, Virginia, Mary Gannon Walker of Kansas City, Missouri, eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Memorial donations, in lieu of flowers, may be addressed to The Friends Of the Air Force Academy Library, Box 188, Air Force Academy, Colorado 80840, or the American Red Cross.

Arrangements under the direction of Swan-Law Funeral Directors, Colorado Springs, CO.

<http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Albert-Clark&lc=2325&mid=4165972>

The following brief obituary was sent by General Clark's daughter, Carolyn Clark Miller:

ALBERT PATTON CLARK, 1913 - 2010

Albert Patton Clark died on 8 March 2010 and is buried at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. Clark, whose lifelong nickname was "Bub," graduated from West Point in 1936, joined the Army Air Corps, and was assigned to the 31st Pursuit Group at Selfridge Field, Michigan. He deployed to England with the 31st as the Group's Executive Officer in June 1942. Flying a Spitfire with the RAF, he came under enemy fire and crash landed in France in July making him the first USAAF fighter pilot taken prisoner of war in Germany. He was held at Stalag Luft III near Sagan, Poland, where he was designated "Big S," head of security for the tunnel builders who later participated in the now famous "Great Escape." In December 1944 he left with fellow POWs on the Forced Evacuation March to Spremburg, where most of the POWs boarded boxcars to continue to Stalag VIIA in Moosburg. Clark recently completed a memoir of his experiences entitled, "33 Months in Stalag Luft III: A WWII Airman Tells His Story." After the war, Clark served in various staff and command positions eventually completing his Air Force career as Superintendent of the Air Force Academy from 1970 to 1974. A Command Pilot, he retired as a Lt. General after 38 years of service and he and his wife, Carolyn, made their home in Colorado Springs. After retiring, he served on the boards of the U.S. Olympic Committee, the Boy Scouts of America, and Stalag Luft III Former POWs, was president of the Pikes Peak Council of the Boy Scouts, secretary of the Falcon Foundation, and president of the Friends of the Air Force Academy Library. Bub lost his wife in 2002, and his son, Maj. Albert P. Clark, Jr., USAF, Ret. in 2005. He is survived by two daughters, Carolyn Clark Miller and Mary Gannon Walker, eight grandchildren, and nine-great-grandchildren. He wished to be remembered as a man who served his God, his country, and his family to the best of his ability.



Roy J. "Tex" Chappell, Jr.

1919 - 2010



Roy Jesse Chappell, Jr., passed into Heaven on June 21, 2010. He was born Jan. 24, 1919, to Roy Jesse Chappell and Neelie Nash Chappell of Kaufman, Texas.

Roy J. grew up in Kaufman, graduating from Kaufman High School as the class valedictorian in the mid-term class of 1936. He attended Allen Academy in Bryan, Texas, and then Texas A&M College, where he graduated in 1941 with a degree in Petroleum Engineering.

A lifelong died-in-the-wool Aggie, he was Captain of the Field Artillery Band in his senior year, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army upon graduation.

The day after Roy J.'s graduation, he entered active duty in training assignments building up to World War II.

In 1942, he shipped out of New York Harbor on the Queen Mary en route to England via Ireland and Scotland, ending in Chester, England, where he joined other Allied forces for the invasion of North Africa.

While serving as a forward artillery reconnaissance officer in Oran, North Africa, he was captured on Jan. 26, 1943, by elements of the German African Corps under the command of General Erwin Rommel.

For several months, he was reported as Missing In Action, leading to a memorial service in Kaufman before a War Department telegram broke the news that he was a prisoner of war of the German army. He was taken through Italy and Germany before being imprisoned in Oflag 64 in Schubin, Poland, for more than two years.



Written accounts from fellow POWs and the documentary by Robert Galloway, Oflag 64, A POW Odyssey, suggest that no POW spent more time in solitary confinement for repeated escape attempts than did Roy J. His escape attempts by underground tunnel and through barbwire fences got him out of the camp on more than one occasion, but he was always recaptured and punished.

Late in the war, the camp commandant gave orders that any escape attempts would be punished by death, and Roy J. and two other

undeterred POWs were charged after a subsequent attempt, only to have their trial dismissed as the war began to turn against the German army.

In 1945, with the Russian army advancing from the east, Roy J. and a handful of other POWs successfully escaped by hiding in a barn as the Germans were transferring the prisoners westward. He made his way by rail to Odessa, Russia, on the Black Sea, where he rejoined Allied forces and sailed back to America, arriving on April 9, 1945, at Camp Miles Standish in Boston, Massachusetts.

By May 12th, he was saying "I do" to Helen Ruth Moore in the First Baptist Church of Kemp, Texas. Their marriage was to last 65 years.

Roy J. was employed by Gulf Oil Corporation (now Chevron), with multiple assignments in Texas and Oklahoma. He later worked in real estate development with Belin Development Company in Conroe and Elkins Lake, Texas, and with Buckner Benevolences in El Paso.

Through all these years, he remained in the U. S. Army Reserves, ultimately attaining the rank of full Colonel.

He was a Master Mason, a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, and a Noble of Arabia Shrine. He was a Rotarian for all of his adult life, and served with the Texas Aggie Band Association and Kaufman County Friends of the Library.

For all his accomplishments, Roy J.'s greatest passion was focused on his faith and his family.

He served as a Deacon in Baptist churches in each city where he and the family lived, a Sunday School teacher for many age groups, and the Lay Minister for the mission group from Memorial Drive Baptist Church in Houston, which began what is today Tallowood Baptist Church.

He and Helen were blessed with seven children: Roy Jesse Chappell III (Jay) who died as an infant, Roy Jesse Chappell IV who passed away in 2002, William Garfield Chappell, Benjamin Russell Chappell, Carol Ann Chappell Ross, Nancy Helen Chappell Green, and Janis Lee Chappell Hales. He is also survived by eleven grandchildren (including Roy Jesse Chappell V) and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church, Kaufman, on Friday, June 25th. Persons desiring to make

donations are encouraged to make them to The Visiting Nurse Association, 1440 West Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, Texas 75247.

Published: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 9:14 AM CDT in The Kaufman Herald

This obituary can be found online at:

<http://www.kaufmanherald.com/articles/2010/06/30/obituaries/doc4c2b5118893e3897556454.txt>

John L. Cramer

1916 - 2010

John L. Cramer, age 94, of Penn Hills; passed away on Tuesday March 30, 2010; Beloved husband of the late Dorothy H. Cramer; Loving father of David P. Cramer (Diane) and Jane L. Cramer; Grandfather of Megan and Kendra Cramer; Brother of Mildred Bergstrom; John was a WWII Army Veteran and retired after 42 years with Fisher Scientific; A Memorial Service will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, 11609 Frankstown Road, Penn Hills (15235), on Saturday April 3, 2010 at 11 a.m.; Memorials may be made to Lutheran Service Society, 3171 Babcock Blvd., Pgh 15237 or Zion Church; Arrangements entrusted to: TRENZ FUNERAL HOME, INC.



Send condolences: post-gazette.com/gb

Walter "Chris" Heisler

1916 - 2010



A member of *The Greatest Generation*, Walter "Chris" Heisler, 93, of Matunuck, passed away Sunday, June 6, 2010. He was the husband of Gloria (deCastro) Heisler.

Born in Albion, Mich., he was the first son of the last Chris and Jessie Heisler. He received a bachelor's degree in education from Western Michigan University before being drafted into the army to serve during WWII. As a member of the 507th Parachute Infantry, 82nd Division, Lt. Heisler jumped with his troops into the night sky over Normandy, France the night before D-Day. Captured three days later, he became a prisoner of war at



OFLAG64 camp until the end of the war. He received several awards for his service including the Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal and the Purple Heart.

Upon returning stateside, he earned Masters and Doctorate Degrees from Michigan State University. In 1950 he became Superintendent of Schools in Kingsley, Mich. In January 1954, he moved to Hebron, Conn. to become Superintendent of Schools in Westerly RI.

He moved to his current residence in Matunuck in 1958 and in 1964 he began teaching in the Department of Education at the University of Rhode Island until retiring as a Professor Emeritus in 1988.

He had a busy retirement enjoying travel with his wife, gardening, and fishing in Potter's Pond. He was active in the Democratic Party and was a big fan and season ticket holder or 40 years of URI basketball and football. In 2007, he and his wife were honored as the *URI Fans of the Year*.

That he passed away on June 6, the anniversary of D-Day, is not lost to those who knew him. Mr. Heisler may be best known for his role as an American representative of the fallen Allied troops in Normandy, France. In his later years, Lt. Heisler and his family visited Normandy for D-Day celebrations eight times in seven years, spreading the message that the real heroes of WWII were not the men who came home but those men and women who were buried under the white crosses in Normandy. Because of this work, he was one of four men featured in the documentary D-Day plus 62 years: Rhode Island Veterans Return to Normandy, produced by Tim Gray.

Last year, he was awarded the French Medal of Honor, the highest medal awarded by the French Government, in a ceremony at URI.

Besides his wife, Heisler is survived by his daughter, Jill, her partner Joe Stand, son Walter Jr., daughter-in-law Kim, and grandson Kyle Liverios. He is the brother of the late Robert Heisler and is survived by his sisters, Evelyn Tanner, Joyce Knauer and Rosaline Cline.

His family will honor his wishes with a return to Normandy in the near future where his ashes will be buried at a site in Ampreville, near where his plane crashed the night before D-Day.

A celebration of life will be held on June 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the URI University Club, 95 Upper College Road, Kingston RI

Despite his love of flowers, his wish was to have donations sent to Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island (South Team), 143 Main St., Wakefield RI 02879

Published in The Providence Journal on 6/15/10

George Juskalian

1914 – 2010



COL. GEORGE JUSKALIAN, USA (Ret.) Age 96 Col. George Juskalian, USA (Ret.), of Centreville, VA passed away on July 4, 2010 at Fair Oaks Hospital. Loving

husband of Lucine Juskalian; devoted father of Kevork (Tanya) Juskalian, Elissa (Joe) Jamaldinian and Gregory Juskalian; cherished grandfather of Lara Juskalian. Relatives and friends are invited to George's Life Celebration at Money and King Funeral Home, 171 W. Maple Ave, Vienna, VA on Friday, July 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. A Memorial Service will be held at St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church, 4125 Fessenden St., NW, Washington, DC 20016, on Saturday, July 10, at 10 a.m. A Graveside Service with full Military Honors will be held at Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday, October 19 at 1 p.m. (Please assemble at the Memorial Gate of Arlington National Cemetery). In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be made to St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church. Please view and sign the family's guestbook at: www.moneyandking.com



Published in The Washington Post on July 7, 2010

Gatse J. (Bob) Tiemstra

1923 - 2010



Gatse Jacobus (Bob) Tiemstra was born in Nijmegen on 14 May 1923 and died February 14, 2010 in his hometown of Sneek. He has been cremated. He is survived by his children and grandchildren, and his wife Hannie. Hannie Tiemstra's address is:

Brekkenweg 10
8531 PM Lemmer
The Netherlands

Sorry to bring you this sad news. I only knew Bob for six months, but from the start he was very kind. Willing to share his wartime memories and trying to get in touch with his wartime buddies. It wasn't until after he died that I learned he was battling cancer...



Sent by Frank van Lunteren, The Netherlands

Frances A. Evans
1920 – 2009



Frances A. Evans, 89, Huntingburg, died at 1:54 a.m. Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at The Waters of Huntingburg in Huntingburg.

She was born in Brookings, SD, March 17, 1920 to Charles and Hulda (Krall) Wheeler. She married

Warren E. Evans August 5, 1945 in United Methodist Church in Brookings.

Surviving are her husband, Warren E. Evans; a son, Mark Evans, Portland OR; a sister, Phyllis bunkers, Dell Rapids, SD; and four grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Brad and Bruce Evans; a brother, Kennis Wheeler; two sisters, Marge Swanson and a sister who died in childhood; and two grandsons.

Mrs. Evans was a court reporter for the Louisville court system. She was a member of Huntingburg United Methodist Church, Eastern Star and Huntingburg Study Club.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday in Huntingburg United Methodist Church, Huntingburg. The Rev. Allen Phillips will officiate. Burial of the cremains will be in South Dakota at a later date.

Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at Nass and Son Funeral Home in Huntingburg.

Memorial contributions may be made to Huntingburg United Methodist Church Building Fund.

Submitted by Mark Evans

**JUST A COMMON SOLDIER
(A Soldier Died Today)**



He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had
done, In his exploits with his
buddies; They were heroes,
every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors His tales
became a joke, All his buddies listened quietly For
they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer, For ol' Bob has

passed away, And the world's a little poorer For a
Soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many, Just his children and
his wife. For he lived an ordinary, Very quiet sort of
life.. He held a job and raised a family, Going quietly
on his way; And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, Their bodies lie in
state, While thousands note their passing, And
proclaim that they were great. Papers tell of their life
stories From the time that they were young But the
passing of a Soldier Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise And cons his
fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend And the style in which he
lives, Are often disproportionate, To the service that
he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier, Who offered up his all, Is
paid off with a medal And perhaps a pension, small.
It's so easy to forget them, For it is so many times
That our Bob's and Jim's and Johnny's, Went to
battle, but we know,

It is not the politicians With their compromise and
ploys, Who won for us the freedom That our country
now enjoys. Should you find yourself in danger, With
your enemies at hand, Would you really want some
cop-out, With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier-- His home, his country,
his kin, Just a common Soldier, Who would fight until
the end.

He was just a common Soldier, And his ranks are
growing thin, But his presence should remind us We
may need his like again. For when countries are in
conflict, We find the Soldier's part Is to clean up all
the troubles That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor While he's here to hear the
praise, Then at least let's give him homage At the
ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline In the paper that
might say: "OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, A
SOLDIER DIED TODAY." ~ **A. Lawrence Vaincourt**

A veteran is someone who, at one point in his life,
wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United
States of America' for an amount "up to and including
my life". **(Both submitted by John Rodgers, Sr.)**