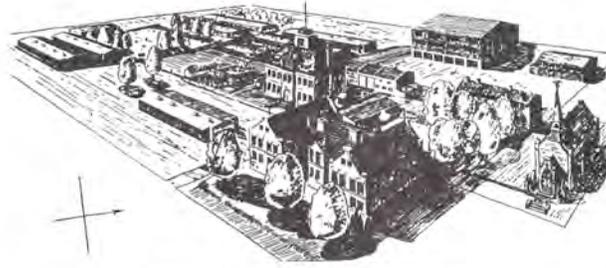


# Post Oflag 64 Item



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

## 1ST QUARTER 2015

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**Oflag 64**

## OFLAG 64 2015 NEW ORLEANS REUNION "It's A Go!"

Dear Oflag 64 Family,

We are extremely happy to announce that another Oflag 64 Reunion in New Orleans is in planning stages. YES, IT'S A GO!! So, mark your calendars for September 10-13. As soon as we have specifics regarding activities, hotel, etc. we'll send that information along. None of those particulars are yet set in stone.

Please help us with our planning by filling out and returning the little "questionnaire" at the end of the Mail Call section of this ITEM. Or you may email your response to me at [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us). Please do so ASAP as time is of the essence in reserving a block of hotel rooms.

Thanks to Pat Waters for suggesting another NOLA reunion and for being willing to make it possible. Thanks also to his committee for being willing to step in and help see it happen.

If you have questions or if you would like to help with anything reunion related, please contact us using the contact information at the left of this section.

Our best to you always,  
Elodie and Bill Caldwell



## A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

### 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.

**Jim Bates**  
**Karen Rossi**  
**Lisa Sinclair Smith & Isabelle Smith**  
**Linda Slack**

And an anonymous donor

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

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or

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### SZUBIN TOUR

Thanks to everyone who responded to the survey regarding a tour to Szubin. We had really hoped to put together a tour this year but due to a number of factors, primarily expense, common schedules, and timing, we were not able to do so.

We have encouraged individuals or small groups to contact their local travel agencies to plan for future trips. We hope this will become a reality for all who would like to visit.

We thank the people at Military History Tours and Kensington Travel for working with us and being willing to accommodate our wishes to the extent they were able. We also thank Mariusz Winiecki for being willing to guide us once we would have arrived at "Oflag 64".

Mariusz would still like to assist with a visit that any of our Oflag 64 family would like to make. Please contact me if you would like to reach him.

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



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





# MAIL CALL



**Shelly Adasko** (daughter of the late Kriegy Sid Waldman) recently found our website and asked that her father's name be added to our online TAPS list. He passed away on December 12, 2014. Subsequently she sent a link to Sid's online obituary, which is included in the TAPS section of this ITEM. *Thank you, Shelly, for sending us your father's obituary and death dates. We are always so saddened when we hear of the passing of another great Kriegy hero and patriot. Our thoughts and prayers are sent to you along with sincere sympathies. We know he will be greatly missed.*

**Ty Ankrom** (nephew of the late Kriegy Ernest "Snap" Ankrom) sent a link to a heart-wrenching story about a missing Nazi flag heirloom missing from the Pickaway County Veterans Office in Circleville Ohio. The flag was previously owned by Snap Ankrom and was donated to the veterans office. Please click on this link to hear the story: [Nazi flag heirloom missing from Pickaway County veterans office.](#) Please see the Kriegy News and Information page of this ITEM for a photo of the signatures on the flag and a portion of the interview. *Ty, we were sorry to hear of the missing flag but thank you for bringing it to our attention. It's our greatest wish that it be returned in a timely manner.*

**Richard Baron** (Hammelburg Kriegy and co-author of the book "RAID") posed a question to other Kriegies: "How did we heat water? Our meals were brought in from a kitchen. I have no idea of it's location, but that's not the question. The Yugoslavs in the next compound made coffee. I went into their compound a few times, using a hole in the latrine wall. I was usually given a cup of their wonderful coffee, so they had heat. When we were with the British, they made tea. Usually on Sundays. I know they heated a barrel of water for that purpose. I don't want to describe the method here, but, I know there was a source of the necessary heat, and that's what I need to know." In a subsequent email he stated: "I wrote a précis of our recipe, using our waste barrels, which were used at night, when we were locked in the barrack,

unable to go out to the latrine." Once we sent the query to our Oflag 64 Family, Jimmie Kanaya quickly responded and brought everything back to Richard's remembrance. *Thanks Richard for your emails and for pursuing the answer to your question. We're happy to hear that Jimmie had the answer for you. We're curious as to what the answer was.*

**James Bates** (Kriegy) sent a donation to the Postage Fund. *Thanks, Jim (and Terry) for the thoughtful contribution. We very much appreciate your support.*



**Eleanor Bertrand** (Oflag 64 family member living in Baton Rouge LA), after receiving an email from Pat Waters, called to chat about preliminary planning of a reunion in NOLA later this year. We had a great chat, brainstormed many ideas, discussed possible contacts, then sent the results of our chat to Pat in a follow-up email. Pat is reviewing notes, and survey results to come up with just the right "plan" for a reunion. *Eleanor, thanks for the phone call and for your emails and for doing the preliminary leg work for a NOLA Reunion. We're happy that the reunion is now a reality. Excitement is high amongst those who have given us a positive response.*



**T. J. Bugg III** (son of Kriegy Thomas J. Bugg Jr.) wrote in response to Richard Baron's query about heating water beginning with information about his dad. "Dad is currently 2 months short of being 95 years old and lives in Charlottesville, Virginia.

He was indeed a prisoner @ Oflag 64 Szubin, Poland and was one of those who marched that ill-fated journey from January 20<sup>th</sup> 1945 throughout Germany with the other ~1,500 officers and one of those (along with two other men marching with him) that were of the ~400 who made it to the end in Moosburg, Germany. He was also one who was briefly (2 days) liberated by Patton's direction to Abe Baum in Hammelburg, Germany "Task Force Baum" and

then immediately recaptured. Here is a link to a bit more of my Dad's History - <http://scottsvillemuseum.com/wwii/veterans/thomasjbugg.html>.

I asked Dad how did they "Heat Water" and he shared that at Oflag 64 that was basically done by the Germans for their food, however they would have a very small amount of heat in the barracks and some did heat water on them. Not very much available there.

Dad went on to share that while they were on the march that they would stop at night and start fires (they had matches) using wood from the woodpiles they found along the way as most families along the way would have woodpiles stacked near their homes. All of their heated water and food was cooked over the fire they made from the wood they got from the woodpiles. They had a little sled they pulled along with their cooking tools. Any food that they were able to have and cook came from their "scavenging" from fields they passed through or other means to have anything to eat. Dad loves to tell the story that one of his three other officers was the "scrounger", Dad was the cook and the third guy was the "complainer"! If they were fortunate, they would find a barn to sleep in overnight and as it was so brutally cold Dad would try to find a cow to sleep next to for heat, but if not the guys slept three abreast with a cover over them and the outside guy shifted to the inside each hour to keep from freezing." *Thank you, T.J., for sharing this information. It's so hard to comprehend just what our Kriegies had to endure during their POW days, but we're endlessly grateful for their unselfish service and sacrifice. They were and are truly great Kriegie heroes and patriots.*

**Frances Marks Buck** (daughter of the late Kriegie Frederick Smith Marks) has been searching for information about her father and his connections to a Polish family following the war. We contacted Mariusz Winiecki for suggestions since he is familiar with the area and many of its residents. At this point without more clues, we have been unable to help. We're hoping for a "miracle". *Frances, it's been a while since we've corresponded but it was good to hear from you again. We're sorry that we've been unable to assist you with information so far. Never give up. It's out there somewhere.*



**Steven Burgauer** (author and Oflag 64 family member) wrote in response to Richard Baron's request for information about heating water. From William Frodsham's notes, he recalled that in the barracks candles

were used, animal fat melted down. *Thank you, Steven, very much for responding so quickly to the request for information. It's interesting to read all the different ways heat was generated throughout the various POW camps during WWII.*

**Susanna Connaughton** (daughter of the late



Kriegie Seymour Robert Bolten) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. She also stated that she would be taking a trip to Szubin in

late January to visit the site of Oflag 64 and asked for directions. In an email after her trip, she reported "I had a fascinating visit to Szubin with Mariusz.....My father and his family kept all of the letters that they exchanged during the war, so I have been sorting through all of them. There are also some great exchanges between my grandparents and Leo Fisher; and between my father and his former choir director at NYU who helped to send sheet music to the Oflag 64 choir.....In going through this trunk, I've also come upon a cartoon/map drawn by Billy Bingham, illustrating the battle at Sidi Bou Zid".....She added that she will be scanning her dad's photos and letters from his time at Oflag 64 and would be very happy to share with the Association when it's pulled together. *Susanna, thank you for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 Family. We are thrilled that you had such a nice visit in Szubin. Thanks for sharing the information about other ex-Kriegies at Oflag 64. We're looking forward to receiving scans of old documents and other memorabilia. We hope to add more photos to our website soon.*

**William Dohoney** (Hammelburg Kriegie and Oflag 64 family member) emailed that he has moved to another location in Pennsylvania. *Thanks, William, for letting us know of your move and how to reach you. We have updated our records and all future ITEMS will all be sent to your new address. We hope you enjoy your new surroundings.*

**Erick Eastes** (Oflag 64 family member, and member of the Association of American Military Uniform Collectors) responded to Richard Baron's query about heating water. He wrote not specifically about water but shared: "In the 1980's, I was stationed in Schweinfurt and your book began my interest in the Raid. Living near Hammelburg, I spent many weekends following the route and walking the Reussenburg. Several years ago, I started an email group that was for the Hammelburg vets. Members of the list included Major Baum, Don Prell, Pat Waters, Bill Warthen, and many others. Although, I can't answer your specific questions, please let me know if there is anything I can do to be of assistance. As a side note, when I was walking the Reussenburg, I found some remnants from the battle, mostly shrapnel." *Erick, thank you very much for responding so quickly. It's so nice to know that others are so willing to share information and help when needed. We appreciate the work you do for the Hammelburg vets. Many of our Oflag 64 Kriegies were also at Hammelburg.*



**Mark Evans and his dad, Warren "Bing" Evans** (Kriegy) sent a nice note not long ago with Bing's address change information, with thanks to

those who have stayed in contact with him, with thanks to his Ranger buddies, and with other news of day-to-day life including celebrating his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. A few weeks after receiving the letter, Bing and Mark took a short trip across the Columbia River from Oregon (where they live) to Washington (where I live) to pay me a visit and gift me with a book about Bing entitled "HEROES CRY TOO". What a nice surprise! Unfortunately I wasn't home when they stopped by, a great disappointment for me for sure. But they took a moment to pose for a "selfie" in front of my home. See the Kriegy News and Information section of this ITEM for the photo. *Bing and Mark, I am so grateful to you for stopping by and for leaving me with such a nice gift. I only wish I had been home when you came. Hoping to visit one day soon.*

**Kathy Ezell** (daughter of the late Kriegy Bill Warthen and the late Dorothy Warthen) wrote in response to our Szubin survey, that she would



not be able to go to Szubin this year. She also sent the sad news that her dear mother had passed away. She shared that her family was grateful to have had her for so long. *Kathy, thanks so much for writing. We were so saddened to hear of your mother's passing. She was a lovely lady and we certainly enjoyed knowing her. Our thoughts and prayers and heartfelt condolences are sent to you and your family. We know she will be tremendously missed. We have included her obituary in the TAPS section of this ITEM.*

**Pat Grove** (daughter of Kriegy Joe Seringer) wrote to let us know Joe has moved to an assisted living facility not far from his previous living quarters, and has a new address. *Thanks Pat, for updating us on your dad's move. We're happy to hear he is doing well after surgery and hope he enjoys his new place.*

**Col. Greg Hapgood** (US Army National Guard in Iowa) upon our request, sent photos of an Oflag 64 display at the Iowa Gold Star Museum on Camp Dodge, in Johnston Iowa. Until now, we had only a small photo of this display. We are indebted to Robert Eckman who built the display and to Col. Hapgood and the Iowa Gold Star Museum for sharing these photos with us. Please see the Kriegy News and Information section of this ITEM for photos. They will soon also appear on our website. *Thank you so much, Col. Hapgood, for honoring our request for photos. They mean so much to us as members of the Oflag 64 Family.*

**David Harlow** (nephew of the late Kriegy William L. Harlow) recently sent some information about his uncle who was "captured in France, taken to Poland, then marched to Hammelburg. When Patton's convoy arrived, he joined the rescuing troops as Major Baum's Task Force attempted to return to the American lines. He was subsequently wounded in the ensuing battle, taken to the POW Hospital, and died there on April 3, 1945." *David, thank you so much for sending records, correspondence, and newspaper articles regarding your uncle, his service and his death. We're thankful for his unselfish service and sacrifice. Our Kriegies were/are great patriots and heroes.*

**Norman Hoffner, Jr.** (son of the late Kriegy Norman Hoffner, Sr. held at another location than Oflag 64) found our website and asked to be added to our email list. He stated that he has telegrams from when his father was captured while serving under General Patton. He is also looking for any plaques that might have his father's information on it. His father was from New Jersey. *Thank you Norman for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We have added you to our email list as requested. We hope you are able to locate other information on your dad from his war years.*

**Marjory Holder** (daughter of the late Kriegy H. Randolph "Boomer" Holder) wrote in reference to the information we sent regarding lost letters being found in the walls at Szubin during renovations 30 years after the war. She shared that George Durgin and her father hid letters they had received from their wives in the walls when the camp was evacuated and before the two of them escaped. She also commented that families interested in having a safe place to keep their Kriegies' war-time papers should look into donating them to a local University library with similar collections. They are usually thrilled to receive them! Separately she was able to give us contact information for George Durgin's daughter. We made contact and the found letters have been sent. *Thanks so much, Marjory, for the information you sent about the letters and the suggestion of a safe place to keep similar items. It's amazing to hear these stories after all these years. And thank you for connecting us with Beth. We had a very nice conversation.*

**Mary Hopper** (daughter of the late Kriegy Bill Shular) wrote to say that she hadn't heard from us in a while. Unfortunately, we were trying to contact her at an old email address, but it is now updated and all is well. Mary now lives in Cornelius NC and is retired. She would eventually like to visit Szubin and is hoping that a NOLA reunion will take place this year. *Mary, it was good hearing from you again. Thank goodness you emailed your concerns. We apologize for not catching the new email address sooner. Thanks for being so patient. We're happy to say that a NOLA Reunion is in the works. Everyone seems very excited to have it happen.*

**Anne Hornbeak** (stepdaughter of the late Kriegy Robert P. Breazeale) notified us that a correction to the spelling of his name on our website was needed. *Thanks, Anne, for letting us know about the correct spelling of your stepfather's name. We were able to correct the spelling on the website immediately.*

**Mike Johnson** (son of the late Kriegy Duane "Andy" Johnson) found our website recently and asked to be added to our email list. *Thank you, Mike, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We have added you to our email list as requested.*



**Lynn Kanaya** (wife of Kriegy Jimmie Kanaya) sent the following: "I wanted to share the WWII Dog Tag Experience that includes Jimmie's Story. The address is:

<http://www.dogtagexperience.org/>  
When it asks you to log in use the number 0000081a13. The page should open with Jimmie's picture. Click his picture and the story comes up. The process is slow." Lynn suggested checking out the whole site and seeing if there might be other Kriegies who have had their experiences shared. *Lynn, it was good to hear from you again. Thanks for sending the information about the Dog Tag Experience. Hopefully many of our other Kriegies will be able to share their experiences as well.*

**Adam P. Kennedy** (journalist and publisher of the American Heroes of War Interview Book Series and new Oflag 64 family member) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. He also sent information describing his book series along with a request to interview any of our living Kriegies: "This series introduces the youth of America to the remarkable military service and the life of the American soldier from World War II to the present day. Our goal is to document and preserve the stories of the American soldier and educate and inspire our young people. So many of the freedoms they enjoy today are due to those heroic men. The books are distributed to schools and libraries for free.

With so many veterans passing away every day, I would greatly appreciate your urgent help to save these remarkable stories. I would be honored to interview any surviving

members of Oflag 64.

We have conducted over 50 full length interviews with American servicemen from World War II through Vietnam, including 3 Medal of Honor Recipients and numerous Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipients who landed and fought in every major battle during World War II from North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Normandy, Battle of the Bulge, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Coral Sea and Midway.

Each interview is a minimum of 45 minutes and it covers their growing up, service and life after service. The interview would take place at their earliest convenience over the phone. I look forward to hearing from you and any assistance you can provide.”

Check this link to read Adam's new e-magazine: <http://online.3dpageflip.com/wjhm/oxhr/> *Thank you, Adam, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. What a great work you are doing! We commend you for your efforts and hope that many of our living Kriegies will contact you for an interview. We are providing them with the following contact information from your email: 757-345-0626 or [apkwoe@gmail.com](mailto:apkwoe@gmail.com) We will be interested to learn about your interviews with our Kriegies*



**Judy Knight** (daughter of Kriegy Ed Graf) wrote to let us know that her dad recently had his 93 birthday. She reported that he still drives and goes to church, to the store and to visit family members. He is still active in Kiwanis club and enjoys watching TV. He's really doing great! He now has 17 great grandchildren and another to come in April. *Judy, it was good hearing from you again. It's been a while. Thanks so much for the updates on your dad. We love to hear about our Kriegies.*

**Marek Kowski** (from Poland) recently found our website and is looking for information regarding other Oflag camps and prisoners. He wrote that his grandfather was in Oflag XB in Nienburg/Weser. He is hoping to reach authorities that might have information concerning this camp. *Marek, thank you for contacting us. We emailed you some suggestions on beginning your search. We hope you are successful in finding the information you seek.*



**Rosa Lee** (daughter of Kriegy Vincent “Doc” Di Francesco) on behalf of herself, her sisters Maria Christmann and Pat Bender, and also her dad “Doc”, sent a nice note earlier this year. She reported that the family had all been together for Christmas and that “Doc” is doing ok, keeping busy socially with his many friends, and loving where he lives (still in his 2-bedroom apartment). She hopes to hear more about our reunion this year. *Rosa, Maria, Pat, and Doc, thanks so much for your nice note and news updates. We will be sending reunion updates and posting information on our website.*



**Herm Littman** (Kriegy) keeps in contact on a regular basis and we're always very happy to hear from him. Although we don't hear much about his past experiences with the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR, we are learning more and more from our Oflag 64 family member in Holland, Frank van Lunteren. *Thank you, Herm, for keeping in contact. We love hearing from you. Let us hear more about your 504<sup>th</sup> PIR experiences. It's been interesting learning that other Oflag 64 Kriegies were also part of the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR group.*



**Lucy Lussenden** (widow of the late Kriegy Don Lussenden) recently heard from Julie Gionfriddo by email. We had lost contact with Julie when she retired and moved. We now have a new email address and are happy to be able to contact her once again. *Lucy, it was great hearing from you. Sure would be good to see you again. Thanks so much for writing and letting us know how to contact Julie once more.*

**Ginger Baldwin Montuoro** (daughter of the late Kriegy Malcolm Aubry Baldwin) found our website about a year ago. She, along with her sister, Maxine Baldwin Hall, continue their search for information regarding their father. They would like to know if anyone knew him. Please contact me if you have information to share. *Ginger, it was good to hear from you again. We hope the query sent to our Oflag 64 family yielded, or soon will yield, some helpful information.*

**Bill Moore** (nephew of the late Kriegy Lewis E. Moore) responded to our request for information

about signatories on the missing Nazi Flag Heirloom. He was not able to identify a signature from his uncle but wondered if there might be a connection since his uncle was also from Ohio. *Thank you very much, Bill for your response to our query. We have not yet heard from anyone who signed the flag. We're still hoping to hear from someone who did or knows of someone who did.*

**James C. Nesbit II** (son of the late Kriegy James C. Nesbit Sr.) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. He is also looking for any information about his father. If you have information that can help James, please let me know. I can pass it on to him. *Thank you, James, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We have sent an email query to our group. Hopefully you have had or soon will have contact with someone who knew your father.*



**Doug O'Dell** (Major General, USMC-Ret. and Oflag 64 family member) contacted us recently with information about his father and also a proposal for a future reunion. He wrote: "My father, Captain Douglas

V. O'Dell, Sr. was a Hammelburg "Kriegy" having been captured on the Belgian-German border in December, 1944. He was present for the Baum raid, and subsequently lost his leg while the POWs were being marched toward Bavaria in mid-April. Happily, he survived another 40 years. He was also at Walter Reed with John Waters for almost 16 months.

The reason for my note is a modest proposal. I am on the Board of the Freedoms Foundation [www.freedomsfoundation.org](http://www.freedomsfoundation.org) located at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. We were founded by Dwight Eisenhower and E F Hutton in 1949 with the mission of educating Americans on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Our 72 acre campus, immediately adjacent to the National Historic Site, has meeting space, dining facilities, and dormitories which can hold up to 200 persons. A short trip from the Philadelphia airport and all of the historic sites, museums, and other attractions in and around Philadelphia, it might be an ideal locale for an Oflag 64 reunion. We would be delighted to host such an event, and the Fall in suburban Philly is a great time of year.

Even if you decided to do it this year at Valley Forge, since we host large groups of students and teachers, as well as veterans groups from all over the country for our various education programs, we have our system in place to manage this on a turnkey basis. Very little effort on your end. I would also propose to ask Valley Forge Military Academy to provide volunteer "aides de camp" to help the Kreigies and their families to get around.

Let me know if this would be of interest to you, all of the Kreigies and their families. *General O'Dell, we remember you from our previous New Orleans reunion and thank you for facilitating some of the events at the WWII Museum. Thank you also for sharing information about your father and recommending a future reunion at the Valley Forge facility. What a great idea! That possibility will definitely be a topic of discussion soon, as we know decisions need to be made quickly.*



**John Rodgers** (Kriegy) keeps in contact with us on a regular basis and recently wrote: "This may seem a little strange to you, but I think that my time as a POW was not a total

loss. For one thing I made a few lasting friends there. Another thing is a matter of health. I know none of us thought we had enough to eat, but during that period we didn't put on weight either. After being on that long trek from Szubin to Moosburg and return to US control, I weighed in at 134 pounds....I consider that my relative good health today is partially a result of losing a lot of weight during a period of life when it's easy to gain weight....Also as I recall, there were four of us who were from the Air Force. First was Willie Higgins who was captured in North Africa. The rest of us, James Sparkman, Wm. Korber and myself were from the 27th Lt. Bomb Gp. in Sicily. Sparky was later transferred to one of the German air force camps, Stalag Luft 1 likely. Among what we used to refer to as ground pounders were those other airborne troops known as paratroopers. Among them was Herman Littman, Lou Otterbein and Harry E. Evans. Harry and I became the best of friends and when we returned to the States he arranged for me to have a blind date with him, his sister Faye and his lady friend. That night I asked Faye to marry me. This was June 5, 1945 and we tied the knot the following July 29th. We

were wed for 62 years until she passed away on July 1, 2007....In spite of all the recent bad publicity, I want to put in a good word for the Veterans Administration. I began losing my hearing about 30 years ago. Since then the VA has kept me among the hearing with hearing aids. I am totally deaf now and the VA has equipped me with a Cochlear Implant. Now I hear even better than I did with the old aids." Lastly, he responded to the query about heating water saying: "In Oflag 64 the kitchen was in either a basement or a lower floor. I never went there myself but understand our one meal per day was prepared there. We had a Lt. Col. whose name I don't recall, served as our mess officer and oversaw the preparation of our food. On the upper floor we had one of those tile stoves that was common in Germany in those days. It was fueled with a kind of brick (not coal) that I think was something like peat. Fuel was limited so we didn't waste it just to heat water. Some of us had small heaters made from tin cans fueled by wood shavings which we used to heat a cup of water for coffee powder from Red Cross package. I wasn't in Hammelburg long enough to see how water was heated." *John, it's always good to hear from you. Thanks for sharing your thoughts and information about fellow Kriegies and days as a POW. We never tire of hearing of experiences and life events. Thanks also for sharing your VA experience with us. It's unfortunate when a few "bad apples" spoil things for so many. Thank goodness for the "good apples". Glad your experience was a positive one.*



**Ted Roggen** (Kriegy) wrote to compliment us on the inclusion of his escape stories in the last ITEM. He also shared "I recommend New Orleans as a great place for our reunion. NO is a premier convention city." His recommendations were passed on to Pat Waters. We'll see what happens in the near future. Separately, Ted sent a lovely gift of almond toffee petites/milk chocolates. *Ted, it was good to hear from you again. Thank you for your reunion recommendations and thank you especially for the thoughtful gift. Chocolates are always a favorite.*

**Karen Rossi** (great niece of the late Kriegy Thomas Drake) sent a donation to the Postage



Fund, identified her uncle in one of our online photos, reported that her husband recently had back surgery but was recovering comfortably at home, and lastly spoke about the upcoming Oflag 64 Reunion in NOLA and her hope to see everyone again. *First of all, Karen, thanks for your thoughtful and generous contribution to the Postage Fund. And thanks for identifying your uncle, sending us updates on Jon's back surgery, and for the feedback on a reunion in NOLA. We're pretty much of the same mind that we should go ahead and get together at least one more time.*

**Linda Slack** (daughter of the late Kriegy John Slack) recently sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a note that she now has low vision and is unable to read the ITEM any longer. As a result, she regrettably asked to be removed from the mailing list, but wished us well in our continued efforts. *Linda, thank you so much for your thoughtful and generous contribution to the Postage Fund. It is very much appreciated. We were saddened to hear about your reduced vision and have taken your name off the mailing list as requested. We hope all goes well for you now and in the future.*

**John Simcik III** (son of the late Kriegy John Cecil Simcik II) found our website recently and asked to be added to our email list. Additionally, he sent news of the recent passing of his dear father along with the obituary. (See the TAPS section of this ITEM.) We were saddened to hear of his loss, but we extend our heartfelt condolences and send our thoughts and prayers to him and his family. *Thank you John for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. Thank you also for sending your dad's obituary. We hope you're able to find comfort in the beautiful memories you have of him.. We know he will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.*

**Lisa Sinclair Smith and Isabelle Smith** (daughter and widow of the late Kriegy Matthew Smith) sent a nice letter along with a contribution to the Postage Fund. Lisa reports that she and Bel now share a home but at 89 Bel is doing well, goes to a personal trainer three times a week, and is fit as a fiddle. *Lisa and Bel, thanks so much for your thoughtful and generous*

*donation to the Postage Fund. It was great hearing from you. Thanks for the updated address and news. We're happy to continue sending the ITEM your way.*



**Frank van Lunteren** (Oflag 64 family member living in Holland) has done much research and study of the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR over the last several years and has recently had published the first of three books. It covers the Holland Campaign (September-November 1944) and includes information on how 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Lloyd McCullough of G Company was captured and sent to Oflag 64. The next one due for publication later this year covers the Battle of the Bulge, and the last one will hopefully be the manuscript he has on the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR in the States and Sicily (where Lou Otterbein was captured). In April last year, Frank was invited to attend an international historians conference at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst (UK) where he presented a paper and spoke on the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR POWS in WWII. It was interesting to read the history, contained in that account, of some of our other Kriegies (Charles Kouns, Herm Littman, Lou Otterbein). In September of last year Frank was appointed Lifetime Honorary Member of the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR Association for all his research on the 504<sup>th</sup>. *Thank you, Frank, for sharing information of our Oflag 64 Kriegies of the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR with us. Congratulations on having your paper chosen for presentation at Sandhurst! What an honor!*

**Ed Ward Jr.** (son of the late Kriegy Edwin O. Ward, Sr.) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. He also noted that we had made an error in the spelling of his father's name on our website photo gallery. *Thank you so much, Ed, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. Thanks also for letting us know about the correct spelling of your father's name. We're happy to make corrections whenever they're needed. We were able to update the spelling on the website immediately.*



**Ellen Warthen** (daughter of the late Kriegy Bill Warthen and the late Dorothy Warthen) sent us the link to the obituary of her dear mother, which is included, along with the written obituary, in the TAPS section of this ITEM. She shared that the family is

obviously saddened at her passing but that they (Dorothy's children) were all with her and they know she is at a better place. The felt so fortunate to have had both of their parents for so many years. *Ellen, thank you very much for writing and thanks for sending your mother's obituary. It's so hard to lose our loved ones, but with time hearts heal, although we never forgot them. Our thoughts and prayers and heartfelt condolences are sent to you and your family. Your mother was a lovely lady. We know she'll be mightily missed.*



**Pat Waters** (son of the late Kriegy John K. Waters) has been working hard on arranging for a NOLA reunion later this year. His committee has done much research on hotels, activities, etc. and as soon as we get concrete information to send, we will let everyone know so they will know how to plan. *Pat, thank you, thank you for being willing to host another reunion in NOLA. We're so looking forward to this event. We hope all works out and that we can proceed with plans quickly. Thank you for suggesting we have this reunion and for doing what it will take to pull it off.*

**Diane Watson** (daughter of the late Kriegy William M. Hammer) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. In addition she sent a photo of her dad along with a short history of his military service. In her email, she wrote: "Some years ago I ran into a VHS called Oflag 64, it was shown on PBS. I ordered a copy. I was watching it one day, and froze in my steps; there was my father walking with another officer in the camp. For a long time I had a strong desire to meet and talk to one of my dad's fellow POW's, but time has passed and that probably won't happen. I will look forward to receiving emails in the future. Thank you so much!" *Diane, thank you very much for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 Family. We have added the photo of your dad to our website gallery and look forward to learning more about him as time goes by.*



**PJ Wilcox** (author and Oflag 64 family member) recently wrote that he has made copies of the late Kriegy "Diamond Jim Forsyth's little bible containing his experiences."

Once the writings are transcribed (they are very small), hopefully PJ will be able to share them with us. *Thank you PJ for keeping us in the loop regarding Col. Forsyth's experiences. Our Kriegies led such amazing lives during those WWII years.*



**Mariusz Winięcki** (Oflag 64 family member living in Poland) regularly keeps in contact with us regarding new information he finds as he researches Oflag 64 from records and documents he continues to find in Poland. We are so grateful to him for his unselfish service in this regard. He has also been an invaluable support to visitors to Oflag 64 and to the community of Szubin. Recently, he sent photos of the meeting he had with Susanna Connaughton when she travelled to Szubin. They are included in the Kriegy News and Information section of this ITEM....Regarding contact information Frances Marks Buck has been looking for, Mariusz wrote: I'm afraid that there is no way to find the family. It might be if we have, for example, the name of the family. The location would be also very helpful, but even with this information after so many years this is extremely hard. If there is any additional information, for example, about the circumstances of the meeting of Major Frederic Marks with the family, this would be helpful to give the advertisement in the paper. With low probability, if someone of next generations of the family will read it and recognize the story as familiar, they might reply. Sometimes it works. People are looking for other people through press, TV or internet by telling original stories and I believe the response sometimes happens. Maybe there is hope. So, I believe that sending of unique ad with the story to Polish national daily paper, may be a good way to start."....Regarding the "possible Szubin trip" that didn't come to fruition, Mariusz wrote: I'm sad that the traveling of a group of visitors won't be possible this year. I was so excited and I have expected this will happen anyway. I believe that I will meet some of the 'Oflag 64 Travel Respondents' in Szubin soon as they will decide to travel as individuals. I understand that the expense of such travel is a huge factor. Timing is always the same problem when one wants to coordinate a lot of people. Maybe simplifying the

route of traveling would be more effective. I understand that most of you would prefer to visit all of the places where you fathers were fighting during WWII and were captured, then imprisoned, etc., but maybe you can remove some places from the "wanted to see" list... Traveling to Poland and optionally to Germany might be cheaper....And lastly, Mariusz has discovered that a small group of Americans arrived at Oflag 64 in October 1942, 6-8 months prior to what current records show. If any living Kriegies or family members of deceased Kriegies know more about these early months, or of prisoners arriving in early May 1943 instead of June 1943, please contact us. *Thanks, once again, Mariusz for all you do. You are invaluable to us and we appreciate all your efforts and information. Please be sure to thank your family for sharing you with us also.*

**Holly Zachariah** (reporter for the Columbus Dispatch newspaper in Columbus Ohio) is hoping to get information on the signatories of the missing Nazi Flag Heirloom. If you are able to help in this regard, please contact her at: [hzachariah@dispatch.com](mailto:hzachariah@dispatch.com) or at 614-374-9582. *Thank you, Holly, along with Ty Ankrom for making us aware of this story. We hope the flag is found soon and that you're able to connect with some of the men who signed it.*

Please let us know your intentions regarding attending the NOLA Reunion, Sept. 10-13, so we know how many hotel rooms to block.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I will attend \_\_\_\_\_

# of Guests/Rooms Needed \_\_\_\_\_

I will not be attending \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond by sending this box to:

Elodie Caldwell  
2731 Terry Avenue  
Longview WA 98632-4437

Or email Elodie at: [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us)

## COMMENTS

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

Thank you both for all you do for all of us in the OFLAG Association. ~ **Di Francesco Family**

Thanks for your hard work and dedication. ~ **Mark Evans**

Thank you for another great ITEM! ~ **Marjory Holder**

Thank you so much for all you do. ~ **Ginger Baldwin Montuoro**

Allow me to thank you for the great job you and Bill do in putting out the Oflag 64 Item! ~ **Major General Doug O'Dell, USMC (Ret.)**

I just received the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter ITEM and I think you did a great job with it. All of the pictures really brought back a lot of memories. Many thanks for all you have done for all of us. ~ **John Rodgers Sr.**

Thank you very much for your efforts towards Oflag 64. ~ **Captain Ted Roggen**

Thank you for your hard work in preparing "The ITEM". I always look forward to it. ~ **Karen Rossi**

Your publication is terrific! ~ **Mary Wing Soares**

Congrats on keeping the memory of the veterans who were at Oflag 64 alive! ~ **Frank Van Lunteren**



THANK  
YOU!

## OFLAG 64 WEB CONNECTION

Thank you so much for maintaining the website. ~ **Susanna Connaughton**

Thank you for creating this page and keeping the memory of World War II times. ~ **Marek Kowski**

### **New visitors to our website –**

Shelly Adasko – daughter of the late Kriegy Sid Waldman

Susanna Connaughton – daughter of the late Kriegy Seymour Robert Bolten

Norman Hoffner – son of the late Kriegy Norman Hoffner, Sr. (not Oflag 64)

Anne Hornbeak – step daughter of the late Kriegy Robert P. Breazeale

Mike D. Johnson – son of the late Kriegy Duane A. "Andy" Johnson

Adam P. Kennedy – journalist/publisher of the American Heroes of War Interview Book Series

Marek Kowski – looking for information regarding other Oflag POW Camp Prisoners

James C. Nesbit II – son of the late Kriegy James C. Nesbit, Sr.

John C. Simcik – son of the late Kriegy John Cecil Simcik

Holly Zachariah – reporter at The Columbus Dispatcher newspaper in Columbus Ohio

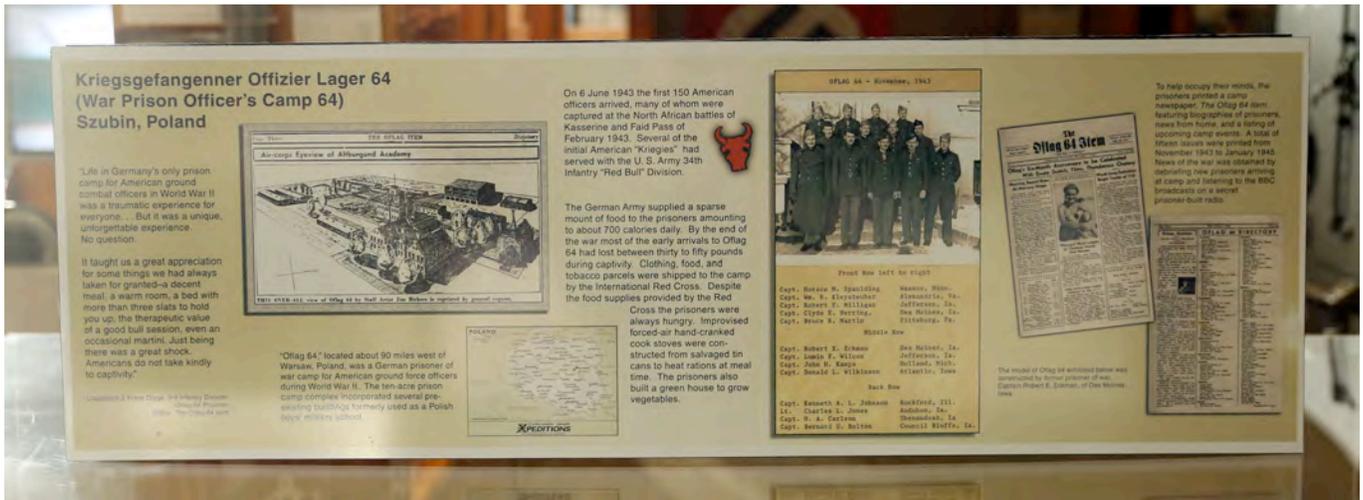


## KRIEGY NEWS & INFORMATION

The following photos were sent to us from Col. Greg Hapgood, US Army National Guard, upon our request. This Oflag 64 display created by the late Kriegy Robert Eckman is housed at the Iowa Gold Star Museum on Camp Dodge in Johnston Iowa. We are looking for more information about the display and of Robert Eckman.







\*\*\*\*\*

The following is from an email sent to members of our Oflag 64 family who have email addresses, and relates to a missing Nazi Flag Heirloom.

[The family of the late Kriegy Ernest "Snap" Ankrom is in need of our help](#)

Please read the following portions of an interview with Snap's daughter, Sandy Ankrom Williams, contained in an article written by Holly Zachariah from The Columbus Dispatch. It's entitled **Nazi flag heirloom missing from Pickaway County veterans office - Flag became an unlikely symbol of endurance for POWs**, and was published online on Monday, January 26.

*Holly wrote: "But while going through some old things nearly 20 years ago, Sandy pulled a Nazi swastika flag from a long-forgotten box. It had been tucked away in a closet for decades, and she had never even known it existed. It was big — probably more than 3 feet wide and 2 feet tall — with its bold red barely faded and its gold fringe unfrayed. What stood out, though, were the signatures. Maybe as many as two dozen men had scribbled their names, ranks and hometowns on the fabric.*

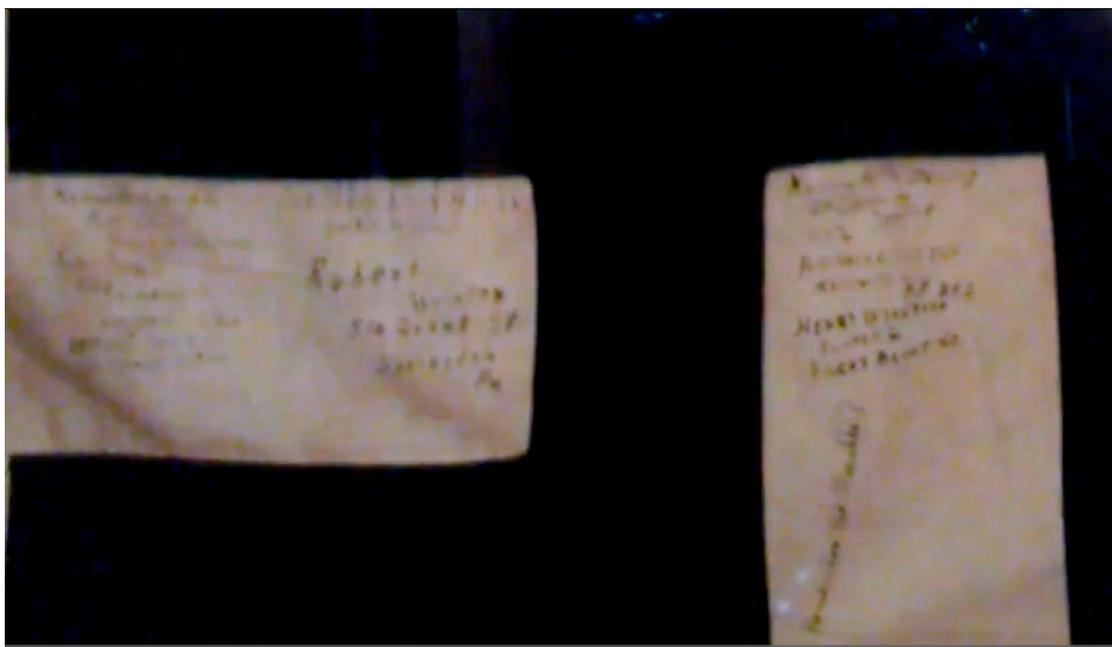
*She asked her dad about it, and he told her part of his story.*

*As an officer and an infantry-unit commander, he had the duty to try to keep these POWs safe, to shield them as much as he could from the dangers thrown their way. And to show their gratitude, when liberated somewhere in the Germany countryside at the end of the war, the men had ripped down that*

*flag, signed it and presented it to Ankrom.*

*"That flag stood for the struggle that my dad and all those men — those heroes — had gone through," Williams said. "It's our history."*

As you have probably guessed from the title of the article, the flag is now missing. Snap's family and Holly are interested in learning the names of the men who signed the missing flag and if any are still living, they would like to find these men. This "still" photo was taken as a screen shot from the video link about the missing Nazi Flag Heirloom. If you are able to decipher any of the signatures or are one of the signatories, please contact me, Elodie, at the email address on the front page.



\*\*\*\*\*

The paragraphs below describe the meeting between Susanna Connaughton and Mariusz Winiecki in January of this year. Photos follow.

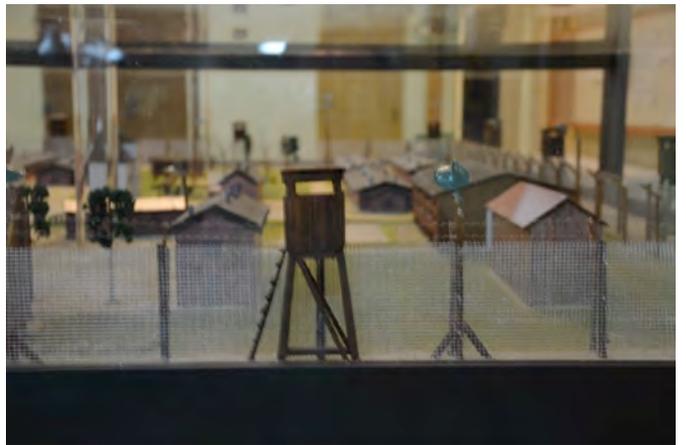
The meeting with Susanna was really exciting. I was not able to remember before her arrival who her father (Seymour Bolten) actually was during the camp days, but when we were chatting, it appeared that I already knew his story quite well.

We have started at the Railway Station (now abandoned), where every POW arriving to Szubin has visited. On the wall of the water tower, which is very close to collapse, because it is in ruin, the name "Alzburgund" can be still visible behind the name "Szubin". In the next step we have spontaneously visited the Municipal Council of Szubin, to shake hands with the Mayor of Szubin. Szubin celebrates this year the jubilee - 650th Anniversary of Granting of the Town Privileges in 1365. On the first photo below, from left to right is Agnes (the friend and the supporting interpreter), the vice-mayor of Szubin, Susanna, the secretary of Municipal Council and myself. After that we went to the Szubin Museum, to see the permanent exhibitions about history of Szubin, camp and the presentation about the camp history. The rest of time we have spent in the Reform School. We had a walk around all the buildings, which were inside the barbed wire fence: The White House, the appell area, the chapel, the hospital and the barracks. We also saw the almost ready scale model of the camp. The last hour we spent in the office of the Director of the Reform School. This part was a treat for me, because Susanna showed us some of her father's memorabilia from the camp. She has also donated to me an original issue of The Oflag 64 Item - the first number (November 1943) - Susanna's father together with Ken Goddard and Frank Diggs every month used to go to the Szubin Center to the Printing House. The printing house does not exist anymore, and we were only able to see the land where it was. The weather was on our side.



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The next series of photos are the most recent ones taken of the Scale Model of Oflag XXIB/64 in Szubin Poland. The completed display is now on exhibit in the main hall of the Reform School. Regarding the exhibit, Mariusz reports: "I was asked to provide the historical description that will be included with the model in the glass case." Thank you, Mariusz, for sharing the photos and for always keeping us informed of the progress of the exhibit. We appreciate the work done by all who were involved at the Reform School. Look for photos of the exhibit on our website soon.





\* \* \* \* \*

Last August, Cindy and Glenn Burgess took a trip to Szubin to visit the site of Oflag 64. They had a wonderful visit and upon returning, they wrote the following commentary of their trip.

Commentary of trip to Szubin, Poland  
Cindy and Glenn Burgess  
(Daughter and son-in-law of Kriegy Wilbur Sharpe)  
August 2013

Almost two years ago our family made contact with Dr. Mariusz Winiecki, a resident of Szubin, Poland, through a letter written to Wilbur Sharpe (my father) inquiring about Oflag 64. Dad, at first, was overwhelmed with the number of questions posed to him in the letter and was puzzled as to why there was interest in his incarceration at Oflag 64. We began the process, as father and daughter, to answer Mariusz' questions via e-mail and Skype sessions, and through this effort we understood the intense interest of Mariusz regarding Oflag 64.

Mariusz, as a young boy, passed the site of Oflag 64 on his way to school and often wondered about the history of the location. As he became an adult and an accomplished academic, he pursued his curiosity by inquiring within his community and subsequently searched and found the Oflag 64 website. Through this website, he was able to acquire information on the surviving Kriegies and thus began sending letters to a number of the survivors.

As a result of this connection with Mariusz, we have learned a great deal about life in the prison camp. Mariusz' passion for learning as much as possible regarding Oflag 64 and sharing his findings with the community is commendable. The Kriegies and families of the Kriegies owe a debt of gratitude to Mariusz. He has not only tapped the memories of my father, in particular, but has enlightened our family to life in Szubin over 70 years ago. Our interest in seeing Szubin was piqued and we planned our trip to

see as much of Poland as possible. We, of course, arranged our trip around Mariusz' university schedule as our primary focus was to visit Szubin and learn as much as possible.

Our trip began in Gdansk, Poland, continued to Bydgoszcz, Szubin, and Warsaw and ended in Krakow. Of course our stay in Szubin was emotional, memorable and enlightening. We were greeted at the abandoned train station where the Kriegies arrived via Bydgoszcz. We met the Principal of the Reform School, Wiesław Guziński, which is located on the site of the Oflag 64 prison camp (and the exact grounds of the location of the Little Theater) and were given quite a thorough tour of the grounds. We also met Tomasz Kmiec, the instructor to the young men, who designed and erected the scale model of the camp. Mariusz asked a good friend, Agnieszka Jakielek, to accompany us as an interpreter. What a delightful woman. We enjoyed her company but Mariusz speaks beautiful English!

We could write volumes regarding our trip but know that space in the *Item* is limited. We welcome any contact with those interested in our trip. Please contact us at [burgessgl@verizon.net](mailto:burgessgl@verizon.net).

\* \* \* \* \*



The left photo, sent by Frank van Lunteren shows him at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst England presenting his paper on the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR. The right photo shows him receiving Lifetime Honorary Membership in the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR Association.



Pictured in this photo is Warren "Bing" Evans and his son Mark Evans, who stopped by my house to visit one day earlier this month. Unfortunately I wasn't home, but they left me with a gift and sent this "selfie" shortly thereafter. I am grateful for both.

Diane Watson, daughter of the late Kriegy William M. Hammer, sent this photo of her father and wrote: "My dad enlisted in the Army and went to Los Angeles, Camp Cooke, I believe for training (boot) camp. That is where my mom and he were married. In 1942, as a Corporal he was sent to A.F. Officer Candidate School, Fort Knox, Kentucky, and appointed a 2nd Lt. He received a field promotion in Infantry, Company A, 756th Tank Battalion to 1st Lt just before he was captured in southern France. Then Captain in 1945. He joined the reserves after the war, and when he passed away in 1969, he was a Major."



## PUBLICATIONS

The following publications might be of interest to you. Many of them were written by our men. Your local library is a good place to check for availability. If you can't find what you're looking for there, write to the author or publisher or click on the links below. New and used copies are often available from online sites. If you become aware that any of these publications are no longer available, please let us know.

1. **Americans Behind the Barbed Wire** by Frank Diggs, Story of Frank's trip across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Vandemere Press, P. O. Box 5243, Clearwater FL 22205 (New price is \$24.95/Hardcover) <http://www.vandamere.com/diggs.htm> or <http://www.amazon.ca/Americans-Behind-Barbed-Wire-Inside/dp/0743474821>
2. **Diary of A Kriegie** by Ed Beattie. Diary of Ed Beattie, A UPI Correspondent captured near the Moselle River in Sept '44. Publisher: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York NY <http://www.amazon.com/Diary-kriegie-Edward-W-Beattie/dp/B0007E4UAU>
3. **Escape to Russia** by Howard "BOOMER" Holder. Story of Boomer Holder as he went across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Iberian Publishing Co., Athens GA [http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Russia-Howard-Randolph-Holder/dp/B0006F7X72/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226549191&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Russia-Howard-Randolph-Holder/dp/B0006F7X72/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226549191&sr=1-1)
4. **Dr. Graff Remembers: World War II Reflections**, a collection of editorials by Peter Carl Graffagnino, M.D., Publisher: Grateful Steps (Micki Cabaniss Eutsler), 828-277-0998. [http://www.amazon.com/Dr-Graff-Remembers-World-Reflections/dp/1935130544/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=undefined&sr=8-1&keywords=Dr.+Graffagnino+Remembers%3A++World+War+II+Reflections](http://www.amazon.com/Dr-Graff-Remembers-World-Reflections/dp/1935130544/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=undefined&sr=8-1&keywords=Dr.+Graffagnino+Remembers%3A++World+War+II+Reflections)
5. **Home Was Never Like This**. Diary of Col Yardley. Publisher: Yardley Enterprises. Evergreen, CO. [http://www.amazon.com/Home-Was-Never-Like-This/dp/0971743908/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411079953&sr=1-1&keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this](http://www.amazon.com/Home-Was-Never-Like-This/dp/0971743908/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411079953&sr=1-1&keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this)
6. **Justifiable Pride** by William D. Stevens, Jamal Books, 2340 Devoe Drive, Lincoln NE 68506, 402-488-6005 [http://www.amazon.com/Justifiable-Pride--Memoir-William-Stevens/dp/096732954X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411080041&sr=1-1&keywords=Justifiable+Pride](http://www.amazon.com/Justifiable-Pride--Memoir-William-Stevens/dp/096732954X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411080041&sr=1-1&keywords=Justifiable+Pride)
7. **Kriegie** by Kenneth Simmons. Diary of an Air Force Pilot. Publisher: Thomas Nelson and Sons. New York NY. [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_ss\\_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Kriegie+by+Kenneth+Simmons&x=0&y=0](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Kriegie+by+Kenneth+Simmons&x=0&y=0)
8. **Kriegsgefangener 3074 (Prisoner of War)** by Clarence Ferguson. Publisher: Texan Press, Waco TX [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_ss\\_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Prisoner+of+War+by+Clarence+Ferguson&x=16&y=17](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Prisoner+of+War+by+Clarence+Ferguson&x=16&y=17)
9. **OFLAG 64, 50th Anniversary Book**. Anniversary Committee. Publisher: Evanston Publishing Co., Evanston IL. [http://www.amazon.com/Oflag-64-fiftieth-anniversary-book/dp/1879260239/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1226550698&sr=1-1](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](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. **Raid! The Untold Story of Patton's Secret Mission** by Richard Baron, Major Abe Baum, and Richard Goldhurst (paperback) [http://www.amazon.com/Raid-Untold-Pattons-Secret-Mission/dp/0440236096/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1254190748&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Raid-Untold-Pattons-Secret-Mission/dp/0440236096/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1254190748&sr=1-1)

12. **A Ramble Through My War** by Charles F. Marshall, Publisher: Louisiana State University Press, 1999. (\$29.95) [http://www.amazon.com/Ramble-Through-My-War-Anzio/dp/0807126365/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550977&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Ramble-Through-My-War-Anzio/dp/0807126365/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550977&sr=1-1)
13. **The Escape Factory** by Lloyd Shoemaker. Story of a secret organization in Wash DC that maintained contact with all POWs in WWII. St Martins Press. New York NY [http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1)
14. **The Road To War** by Steven Burgauer. Based on the diary and notes of Captain William C. Frodsham, Jr.: a riveting first-person account of duty and drill, courage and capture. [http://www.amazon.com/Road-War-Drill-Courage-Capture/dp/1450218806/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411081108&sr=1-1&keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer](http://www.amazon.com/Road-War-Drill-Courage-Capture/dp/1450218806/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411081108&sr=1-1&keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer)
15. **The Water and The Rock** by Charles Jones. Diary of a man captured in Africa. Publisher: Anchor Publishing Co., Northwood, IA (CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE-9/18/14) [http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1)
16. **The Welcome Swede** by Frank Diggs. Publisher: Vantage Press, New York NY (\$11.00) [http://www.amazon.com/Welcome-Swede-Thousands-Germanys-Prisoners/dp/0533078180/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551448&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Welcome-Swede-Thousands-Germanys-Prisoners/dp/0533078180/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551448&sr=1-1)
17. **33 Months as a POW in Stalag Luft III** by Albert P. Clark. Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing, 16100 Table Mountain Parkway, Suite 300, Golden CO 80403, 800-992-2908 (17.95 pb) [http://www.amazon.com/Months-POW-Stalag-Luft-III/dp/1555915361/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551497&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Months-POW-Stalag-Luft-III/dp/1555915361/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551497&sr=1-1)
18. **Tours of Duty: World War II Veterans Personal Stories** by Eleanor Bertrand. Includes stories of Jimmie Kanaya from Oflag 64, Martin Jones from Hammelburg, and Oscar Richard from Stalag I. Publisher: BookSurge Publishing (2/22/08). \$17.99 from Amazon.com, 1-800-201-7575 [http://www.amazon.com/Tours-Duty-Veterans-Personal-Stories/dp/141968728X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551561&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Tours-Duty-Veterans-Personal-Stories/dp/141968728X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551561&sr=1-1)

## Other Publications

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

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

**Vic Kanners Diary.** Don Kanners, 3205 Jennella Dr, Commerce TWP MI 48390-1619, [dkanners@comcast.net](mailto:dkanners@comcast.net)

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

**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.)

## *Herndon Inge, Jr.*

*1920 ~ 2014*



Herndon Inge, Jr ("Wank") age 94, a well respected and distinguished Mobile attorney and judge, WW II veteran member of the Greatest Generation, died peacefully December 17, 2014.

Inge was a wise counselor, principled, irreproachable, and a bright light who touched countless people from all walks of life during his career. He was preceded in death by his parents, Margaret Erwin Inge and Herndon Inge, Sr.; his wife of 49 years and mother of his three sons, Eleanor Unger Inge; his sisters, Imogen and Molly; and three brothers, Zeb, Sam and John. He is survived by his beloved wife, Alice Williams Inge, three sons, David U. Inge (Katherine KD Wright), Herndon Inge, III (Amanda Hunter), and George B. Inge (Jane Carter); and his brother, Coleman (Jean) Also eight grandchildren; Katherine Hinson (Alex); Richard Inge (Ann); David Inge (Mindy); Eleanor Baker (Stephen) Elizabeth Ridgdell (Josh); Virginia Inge; Edward Inge (Marisa) and Caroline McDonald (Will) and 12 great grandchildren.

Inge was born on March 4, 1920 in Chickasaw, Alabama the third of seven children. During the Great Depression, he dropped out of Murphy High School to help support his family. He returned to his education later and worked his way through Spring Hill College and the University of Alabama majoring in commerce and business administration. He was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity.

During World War II he was an Infantry lieutenant and platoon leader in the 94th Infantry Division in General George Patton's famous Third Army and participated in the Normandy, Brittany, Andennes, and Central Europe campaigns. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and spent three months as a German prisoner of War. Inge was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, and Bronze Star.



After World War II he completed his education at the University of Alabama Law School. He returned to Mobile and was appointed Juvenile Court Judge, a position he held for 17 years. He was later elected circuit court judge in domestic relations and was president of the Young Lawyers and the Mobile Bar Association. Inge founded the legal aid program in Mobile County and was appointed by President John F. Kennedy to the Youth Crime Commission and appointed by Gov. George Wallace to Alabama State Library Board where he served as chairman. Inge retired from the bench after practicing law until he was 88 years old. In 2009 he was awarded supernumerary judge in Mobile County.

He wrote a book, ORSCHOLZ BARRIER, his account of his experiences in World War II, written in the 1950's but not published until 2013. In 2007 he was celebrated in the highly acclaimed Ken Burns WW II documentary also honoring other heroes from Mobile.

Inge was a member of numerous civic clubs, and several mystic societies, and a long time member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. We are so grateful for the love and devotion of his caregivers, Mary Gray, Sharoka Stadmire, and Blanche Taylor. Inge was a model father and had a very strong work ethic that he imparted to his three sons. Yet, above all of his professional, personal, and civic accomplishments, Inge was the most proud of his three boys and the men they have become.

Known as, "Granddad" to his grand and great-grand children he was our beloved patriarch and a man of exemplary character. He was a born optimist, always positive and soft spoken with a smile on his face. He brought joy to each of us through the years by his kindness, sweetness and very gentle nature. Our whole extended family is so grateful for his life, for his service to our country, and for his life long example of honesty, fair-mindedness, humility and graciousness. While his physical presence will be greatly missed, he leaves for all of us an incredibly honorable legacy. He was our hero.

For more information about Inge visit his web site [herndoningejr.com](http://herndoningejr.com) A visitation will be at 10 AM in St. Paul's Episcopal Parish Hall followed by a Memorial service at 11:30 AM,

Saturday December 20, 2014. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church 4051 Old Shell Road Mobile, AL 36608 or the charity of your choice .  
logo

Published in the Mobile Register and Baldwin County from Dec. 19 to Dec. 21, 2014

See more at:

<http://obits.al.com/obituaries/mobile/obituary.aspx?n=Herndon-Inge&pid=173527826#sthash.C1MKNnIE.dpuf>

## *Sid Waldman*

1914 ~ 2014



Sid was born on September 15, 1914 to Joseph a Glenville High School and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Reserve University. Sid served on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1946 and earned a

Purple Heart for injuries sustained in Tunisia. He spent 22 months in a Nazi prisoner of war camp, Oflag-64 in Poland, where he taught himself Russian that he then taught to his fellow POWs. Together with another officer, he bravely escaped from the Germans during a winter march toward Germany, hiking the countryside for two months before being reunited with British troops in Odessa. He retired from the Army Reserves as a lieutenant colonel.



Sid worked as an adjudication officer for the Veterans Administration. He was a member of Park Synagogue. Sid enjoyed playing golf and bridge well into his 90s. He religiously completed the crossword puzzle every day. He tremendously enjoyed his grandchildren and great-grandchildren and proudly taught them magic tricks, card games and shuffleboard. All of Sid's children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews gathered in September to celebrate his 100th birthday.

Sid is survived by his children, Shelly (Hardy) Adasko of Brooklyn, N.Y., Cyndie (Phillip) O'Bryon of Shaker Heights, and Gary (Debbie) Waldman of Danville, V.A.; stepchildren, Harlan (Barbara) Abramson of

University Heights and Debby (Leo Lee) Abramson of Russell Township; 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife of 35 years, Mae Waldman; his wife of 19 years, Elaine (Abramson) Waldman; and brothers, Bernard Waldman and Eugene Waldman.

A funeral with military honors was held on Dec. 14, 2014. Interment at Bet Olam Cemetery.

Contributions are suggested to Menorah Park Foundation.

Published online at:

[http://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/life\\_cycles/deaths/obituaries/article\\_b7531066-8aea-11e4-af93-67764c7f61c3.html#.VJtzFxcAAg.mailto](http://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/life_cycles/deaths/obituaries/article_b7531066-8aea-11e4-af93-67764c7f61c3.html#.VJtzFxcAAg.mailto)

<http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?pid=173457416>

<http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Sid-Waldman&lc=4246&pid=173450463&uuid=9871ccd3-e053-4708-9ed7-4219f8dfda0f>

## *Joseph P. Savage*

2014



Joseph P. Savage of Lancaster, NY, August 6, 2014; beloved husband of the late Vera (Szczeny); loving father of the late Carol Sue Savage; also survived by nieces, nephews and many dear friends.

Funeral from the FUNERAL HOME OF WENDEL & LOECHER, INC., 27 Aurora St. Lancaster, Monday morning at 9:30 and at St. Mary's R.C. Church at 10. Family present Sunday from 1-5 PM.

Joseph retired from the Postal Service in 1984 as a Postal Supervisor and retired from the tavern business in 1987. He operated Vee-Jay Lounge with his wife Vera T. He served with the 174th NYNG from November 1938 - August 29, 1942, after which he was commissioned 2nd Lt. and joined the 34th Infantry Division in Ireland.

He also served time in England and North Africa with the 34th as security personnel

for General Eisenhower's headquarters. He was a P.O.W. of WW II. Joe was a life member of Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the [Purple Heart](#), [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#) and the American Legion.



Online Obituary:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/buffalonews/obituary.aspx?n=Joseph-P-SAVAGE&pid=172022451>

## *John Cecil Simcik*

1921 ~ 2015



John Cecil Simcik, 94, slipped his earthly bonds on March 11, 2015. Rosary will be recited at 10 a.m. prior to Funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 21, 2015 at St. Louis Catholic Church with Father Cyril Ejaidu officiating.

Burial will be private.

He was born in Waco on February 4, 1921 to Czech Moravian immigrants John and Mary (Hanak) Simcik. He attended Waco schools and graduated from Waco High in 1939. He was a member of St Louis Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus 1358. John was an Eagle Sea Scout and prepared for service to his country at Civilian Military Training Camps prior to enlisting in the US Army in 1942.

Combat Engineer 1st Lieutenant Simcik was a member of Patton's 3rd Army. He was wounded twice, captured outside of Troyes, France in August 1944 and liberated in Germany in April 1945. Following WWII John declined other opportunities and remained in Waco to support family.

He partnered with his father as John Simcik Plumbers retiring in 1990. He joined the US Army reserves in 1945 and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel and Commanding Officer of the 343rd Transportation Detachment in 1969.

John married Mary Lee Marak in May 1946, a loving and devoted union which endured for nearly 69 years.

He is preceded in death by his parents, a



son, Paul Noel Simcik (Forever four) and his partner in mischief O.C. Brooks.

He is survived by his wife, sons John Cecil Simcik III (Darlene), and Charles Marak Simcik (Tracy), daughters Mary Beth Simcik (Tim Pankratz) and Elaine Renee Simcik (Brian Henry), six grandchildren Natalie Bentz (Brock), Valerie Simcik, John Paul Simcik (Angie), Heather Cooper, Stephanie Marquez (Matt) and Kathryn Simcik. Four great-grandsons Evan Cooper, Grant and Luke Bentz, and John Allen Simcik, brothers Ernest Simcik and Carroll Simcik and crony Andy Skop.

Pop was an affable rascal who never met a stranger. He was a man of faith and determination - "in the bright lexicon of my youth (life) there is no such word as fail". S Panem Bohem, Pop - you have righteously earned the golden key that opens the palace of eternity.

Memorial donations may be made to any hospice or a favorite charity.

Online Obituary:

<http://www.oakcrestwaco.com/services.asp?page=odetail&id=25782&locid=>

Online Guestbook:

<http://www.oakcrestwaco.com/guestbook.asp?page=guestbook&id=25782&locid=1>

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## *Dorothy L. Warthen*

1923 ~ 2015



Dorothy Amanda Lewis Warthen, "Dot" to friends and family, 91, passed away at home early Saturday morning, January 2. Her children and caretakers were with her through the final stages of Alzheimer's.

Dorothy Lewis was born in Stapleton GA July 1, 1923, daughter to Jacob and Ida (Reeves) Lewis. She was the fifth of six children. Her father's job as a railroad telegrapher brought the Lewis' to Vidalia as Dottie began fifth grade, and they resided on Church Street. Dot graduated from Vidalia High School in 1940 and from Georgia State College for Women in

Milledgeville in 1944, and married William Donovan (Bill) Warthen in August 1945 soon after his return from POW captivity at Oflag 64 in Poland and Germany. They had been married 63 years when Bill predeceased her in February 2009.

Dot's working life was primarily as a second grade teacher in Vidalia's public schools, on First Street and then at Dickerson Elementary. She remained an enthusiastic supporter of the schools even when arthritis forced retirement after 24 classroom years. To the end of her days, nothing enlivened her more than the presence of a small child. She also worked regularly as business manager for Bill's GA Pecan Auctions, where her classic calligraphy compensated for his ambidextrous scrawling, and for years as a volunteer "Pink Lady" in Vidalia's hospitals.

Dot's surviving direct relatives include daughter Katherine Ezell of Miami (husband David Wahlstad), son John Benton Warthen of Vidalia, daughter Ellen Warthen of Atlanta (husband J. Christian Grabbe), grandsons Boyce (Beau) F. Ezell IV of Miami and William Donovan Ezell (wife Jenny) of Andover MA, and great-children Owen Donovan, Georgia Katherine, and Robert Benton Ezell of Andover MA. She also maintained ties with nieces and nephews who live in Savannah, Atlanta, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania.

The Warthen family wants to thank Ava Jordan and Angie Stanfield, home caregivers who assisted their mother in her final months, and also the services of Community Hospice and its staff.

A graveside service will be held at Pinecrest Cemetery on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 12:00 noon with Reverend Don Moye officiating.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Monday from 6:00 until 8:00

Those wishing to recognize Dot's passing may designate donations to the Warthen Scholarship for VCHS graduates through the Kiwanis Club of Vidalia, PO Box 1183, Vidalia 30475, or to the Vidalia Boys and Girls Club of Toombs County, PO Box 324, Vidalia 30475.

Dorothy's Online Obituary and Guest Book can be found at:

[Dorothy \(Lewis\) Warthen Obituary - Ronald V. Hall Funeral Home](#)

