The

All the News That's Been Geprüft Nearly Everybody Reads THE ITEM

1st Quarter 2023

Good Ole USA

"Get Wise – ITEM-ize"

Of Undetermined Worth

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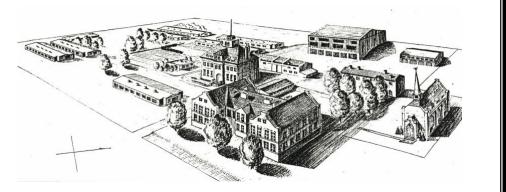
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We apologize to any others we may have overlooked and thank all who have contacted us.

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



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

"HELP OUR VISION BECOME A REALITY"

Dear Oflag 64 Family,

Past 21

You may have recently received an email from the non-profit Friends of Oflag 64, Inc., also called "Friends", asking for your financial support. Thanks to generous monetary and artifact donations already received, great progress is being made toward reaching the initial goal of establishing and <u>sustaining</u> an exhibition on the grounds of the former prison camp in Poland.

For the time being, the renovated POW **Tin Store** will provide a beautiful and secure space to share the remarkable donated artifacts and fascinating history. Planning for the exhibits is underway with an exhibition opening targeted for late 2023.

To make this a reality, "Friends" is launching a fundraising campaign with the goal of raising \$80,000 in 2023 to fund the design, setup and maintenance of the displays, as well as the operation of the exhibit space for visitors and historical researchers.

What a great opportunity to be a part of preserving history and educating future generations on the sacrifices made by the American POWs and Polish citizens to ensure continued freedom.

Please support this endeavor by accessing the Donate button on the "Friends" website by clicking on this link: www.friendsofoflag64.org/donate or sending a check to Friends of Oflag 64 – 12768 Turberville Lane, Oak Hill, VA 20171. Please invite your families and friends to participate as well.

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



A Little Company Business

Many Thanks

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

And <u>MANY THANKS</u> to **Ric Kolseth**, our POW Database manager, for uploading the changes we frequently send to him. Please check the website POW Database page to make sure your Kriegy's information is correct and as complete as possible.

Financial Contributions

There is now more than one way to contribute to Oflag 64 related funds.



For contributions to the **Postage Fund only** (which not only covers the cost

of printing and mailing the ITEM to our remaining Kriegies or their widows, but also **pays for running the Oflag 64 website**), please make your checks payable to <u>Oflag 64 Postage Fund</u>, and send them to:

<u>Bret Job</u> 2801 SW 46th St

Cape Coral FL 33914-6026

OR

Elodie Caldwell

2731 Terry Ave Longview WA 98632-4437

Postage Fund Contributions

E. Neal Cory II

* * *

For financial contributions to the **future museum only**, please write your check to:

<u>Friends of Oflag 64, Inc.</u> 12768 Turberville Lane Oak Hill VA 20171-2214

OR

donate **ONLINE** at: https://bit.ly/3Cgh4uJ

You can also access the donation page on the Polish-American Foundation website at: https://bit.ly/3Gx2JfZ

These funds are separate from the Postage Fund and will be used to help support the future Museum in many ways.

THANKS to all who donate to our various Oflag 64 funds.



Kriegy Research Group Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for a worthwhile project to engage in after retirement or even before? The Oflag 64 Kriegy Research Group (KRG) is always looking for people to devote a little of their time to help gain more information about our Kriegies. Help is urgently requested in the following areas:

- Writing Kriegy bios
- Writing artifact descriptions
- Proofreading bio and artifact descriptions

- Finding Kriegy obituaries and photos
- Finding online Kriegy video or written interviews
- Finding Kriegy articles written by or about them
- Researching commissioning locations/dates of Kriegies
- Researching Kriegy names on FindAGrave.com and/or BillionGraves.com
- Researching Ancestry.com for Kriegy information
- Researching Library of Congress Veterans History Project records for Kriegy information
- Researching other military websites for Kriegy information
- Locating Kriegy books or writings
- Locating more MIS-X information, finding families of known code users

If you are willing and able to devote <u>a little bit of time</u> to any one of these "projects", please contact me at:

elodie@oflag64.us

Looking for these

We're looking for <u>West Point</u> <u>Yearbooks</u> for the years 1920 through 1944. We currently have one each for 1940 and 1941. Please consider donating if you have one available..

We're also looking for additional Oflag 64 artifacts for our temporary and eventual permanent museum. Please consider donating these as well. Contact Dave Stewart, at <u>dslvtx@gmail.com</u> for more information.







It's always a great pleasure hearing from our Kriegies, Kriegy families and friends during each quarter. Some of the following were contacted by us initially, some were new to our Oflag 64 Family, some had information to share, some thanked us for our website and for providing a source of information for them, some had questions, and some just wanted to say hello and wish us well. Thanks so much to everyone for keeping us in "your" loop and for sending information. We love reading about how and what you are doing. Please stay safe and well!

<u>PATRICIA BOWERS, daughter of the late Kriegy James F. Callahan</u> – sent information regarding American Parcels for Prisoners of War dated September 1944. This information may be new since most parcel information previously received was from the Red Cross. (See the Kriegy News and Information section.)

<u>GLENN BURGESS</u>, son-in-law of the late Kriegy Wilbur B. Sharpe – recently visited the National Archives and was able to scan several Oflag 64 documents entitled "Morning Reports", from 1943 and 1944. The work goes on and we continue to learn more about life at Oflag 64. We hope to add these documents to our website archives soon.

<u>KAY GODFREY CRUISE</u>, daughter of the late Kriegy James T. Godfrey – wrote to update us on events in her life, also to thank Oflag 64 volunteers for the work they do to keep Oflag 64 history alive. Being Valentine's Day when she wrote, she spent time thinking about her father who was shipped out on Valentine's Day in 1942 and then was captured on Valentine's Day in 1943.

<u>E. NEAL CORY, son of the late Kriegy William R. Cory</u> – wrote that he had just read and enjoyed the ITEM. He also wrote that he'd love to have a copy of the John Waters story, as his dad and John Waters remained close friends for life. A copy was sent shortly thereafter.

<u>ALEX DRURY, law student and researcher of information on the 36th Infantry Division</u> – recently emailed us a copy of James F. Skells book, THE COLONEL, which he borrowed from the Skells family and scanned with their approval. He has written an article about Col. Skells' service which can be found at: <u>https://www.36thdivisionarchive.com/pa-36-skells</u>

<u>DAVID DURGIN, son of the late Kriegy George L. Durgin</u> – recently sent labeled group photos taken of our Kriegies while at Oflag 64. Several of them we didn't have, and others were of higher quality. All have been added to our website. They can be found at: <u>http://www.oflag64.us/wartime-kriegy-photos.html</u>

<u>SARA SHADE HAMILTON, granddaughter of the late Kriegy Wilbur W. Bishop</u> – wrote, after reading in the last ITEM that we needed volunteers. She was an editor in law school and continues to review legal documents before filing. Proofreading our Oflag 64 documents is a very special project for her and we appreciate her willingness to volunteer. She will also get together with her mom, aunts and uncles to see if they can put together a bio for her grandfather as well as locate possible artifacts to donate.

<u>SUSAN HINDS HARMS, daughter of the late Kriegy Howard K. Hinds</u> – wrote asking about books [listed on our website] that might be for sale through "Oflag 64 Remembered". We referred her to the two books listed later in this ITEM. She also commented that she really enjoyed the Oflag 64: A POW Odyssey video.

<u>NATHANIEL "NICK" HOSKOT, son of the late Kriegy Nathaniel R. Hoskot</u> – sent thanks for the ITEM and stated that he REALLY enjoyed reading it.

<u>WARREN JONES, son of the late Kriegy Charles L. Jones</u> – sent a generous donation to Friends of Oflag 64, Inc., the non-profit. Additionally, he commented that our last ITEM was so interesting. After reading the bio on my father, he wondered if our dads ever crossed paths at Oflag 64, having had similar interests and experiences. He also sent a nice email on January 21, the 78th anniversary of the day the Kriegies left Oflag 64 to begin the long march. What loving memories we have of our dads!! Lastly, he sent thoughts about Ed Graf and his association with him stating how kind, gentle, and down-to-earth he was.

LYNN KANAYA, widow of the late Kriegy Jimmie Kanaya – sent a lovely tribute to Jimmie entitled "Honoring A Hero's Legacy" done by the Japanese American Museum of Oregon. Jimmie was indeed one-of-a-kind and we honor him as a man of Japanese descent fighting a war in the midst of having his family interned in an American Internment Camp. (See the Kriegy News and Information section.)

<u>BRUCE KEISER, a new member of our Oflag 64 family</u> – wrote that he will be taking a trip to Europe in April and that he hopes to visit the site of Oflag 64 for the 2nd time. He sent a great story about a Polish gentleman by the name of Zenon Erdmann, and also asked to be added to our email list.

<u>JUDY GRAF KNIGHT, daughter of Kriegy Edward A. Graf</u> – wrote in mid-February that her wonderful father passed away at 101. We're always saddened at such news. Our thoughts, prayers, and heartfelt condolences go out to the family. We know he is greatly missed. (See the TAPS section for his obituary.)

<u>ANNE HOSKOT KREUTZER, daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel R. Hoskot</u> – wrote that she loved reading the last ITEM, especially the bio of my father that was included. She was intrigued with the information about him and another officer being trained in meteorology and being assigned to observe and make reports on the weather for the purpose of assisting possible future parachute landings or dropping of equipment and supplies. Amongst her dad's artifacts was a small piece of paper on which he had collected Szubin weather data for November and December 1944. (See the Kriegy News and Information section for the photo). It would be interesting to know if that other officer mentioned by my father was her dad.

<u>PAMELA SKELLS LADLEY, daughter of the late Kriegy James F. Skells</u> – was in recent contact with Alex Drury, a law student at the University of Kentucky, with a strong passion for military history particularly her dad's. She and her brother sent him photos and other information, even lent him her dad's book to scan. Pam and her husband Arthur emailed us a copy of the wonderful article written by Alex and also a copy of the book scan (See the previous entry on Alex Drury). You can read an excerpt from her dad's book by clicking on this link: <u>http://www.oflag64.us/ewExternalFiles/Skells.pdf</u>

DAVID LITTLE, grandson of the late Kriegy Thomas H. Wingate – after much research, recently sent a bio he wrote on the late Kriegy Thomas C. Piddington, who was a close friend of his grandfather's during WWII.

<u>DAVID OSHLO, son of the late Kriegy Robert J. Oshlo</u> – sent a copy of his father's biography written by him with assistance from his sister Kathy. (See the Kriegy Bios section.)

<u>DON PATTON, recent recipient of the Ultimate Patriot Award</u>, referenced in our last ITEM – sent an email with a link to one of his videos that has been uploaded to YouTube. The video includes information about

Abe Baum and the Baum Raid but also has information about our Kriegies Don Frederick and Milt Koshiol. You can view the video at: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plj_7jGj0L0</u>

<u>DAMON PERRY</u>, grandson of the late Kriegy Dalton Young Medlen – has published a 1500 word story about his grandfather's experiences. It was based on Dalton's hand-written journal and 1987 tape recorded interviews. It tells of his capture during the Allied Invasion at Salerno, Italy through his POW journey and liberation from Oflag 64 and ends with him in Berlin on VE Day. Damon graciously shared the document, which we have posted to POW stories on our website. You can read it by clicking on the following link: http://www.oflag64.us/capture-and-camp-life.html. We have also added him to our email list as requested.

DEBORAH SHEFRIN and SHARI SHEFRIN SHRYOCK, daughters of the late Kriegy Seymour D. Shefrin – sent us a copy of a letter they received from the WWII Museum in New Orleans regarding their dad. (See the Kriegy News and Information section.)

<u>ANN SHIELDS, researcher and presenter on Ft. Hunt's role in WWII</u> – wrote asking if we had information on tunnel excavations at Oflag 64 and possible discoveries of secret items from PO Box 1142. She sometimes gets bits of information from her audiences at presentations and will share with us as she does.

<u>CHERYL SIGLER, daughter-in-law of the late Kriegy Thornton V. Sigler</u> – responded to our email about securing rights to publishing Thornton's diary in book form. She and her son, Karl, will be working to make that happen very soon.

<u>FRANK VAN LUNTEREN, a WWII researcher and author</u> – has been interested in many of our Kriegies over the years. He recently wrote a book entitled BIRTH OF A REGIMENT which contains POW stories of Oflag 64 Kriegies Louis Otterbein, Charles Kouns, and Herman Littman. Information is available at: <u>https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Birth-of-a-Regiment/Frank-van-Lunteren/9781637583807</u>

<u>ROBERT VICEK</u>, son of the late Kriegy John W. Vicek – checked in regarding the use of Oflag 64 images for his new book. Most of the images he will use come from his dad's collection, but he was particularly interested in the Jim Bickers' drawing of the camp. We referred him to Barbara Bickers, Jim's daughter, and permission was given by her to use it. He also sent some Red Cross articles that his dad had kept following the march.

MARVIN WILLIAMS, friend of Oflag 64 – sent an interesting article regarding the late Kriegy Kermit Hansen entitled "Omahan Meets Royalty In Eire". The subtitle read: "Lieut. Kermit Hansen Walked with King, Queen, 4 Hours." (See the Kriegy News and Information section.) Additionally, Marvin sent bio information on then Brigadier General Kermit Hansen.

* * * * * *

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





Kriegy News and Information



and best wishes to





our great KRIEGY





Robert Levin - 103 years

April 30, 1920

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SMorghed OFEA8 64 by Me Jan	Poland

Thanks to Anne At left: Hoskot Kreutzer, daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel R. Hoskot, for sending this photo of the small piece of paper her dad kept weather on durina records the months of November and December 1944. It was smuggled home by him from Oflag 64 at the time of his repatriation.

<u>At right:</u> Thanks to Marvin Williams for sending this very interesting article on the late Kriegy Kermit Hansen.

* * * * * *



Lieut. Kermit Hansen Walked with King, Queen, 4 Hours

Omaha. — (P) — First Lieut. Kermit Hansen, 25, former Omaha radio announcer, has met a few of the better people since he has been in England with the A. E. F. Among them, the king and queen. It happened this way, Lieut. Hansen said in a letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Hansen.

He had been assigned to announce a part of a demonstration for the king and queen in Northern Ireland. The night before the big demonstration Col. Folsom Everst of Council Bluffs, Ia., informed him that the British general had requested that Lieut. Hansen handle announcements also for an earlier part of the demonstration.

The royal party arrived in an antiquated black sedan that someone said had been borrowed from an undertaker's firm in Belfast. For four hours Lieut. Hansen walked beside the king and queen, explaining weapons and other equipment.

equipment. "They were both very gracious, quite friendly and the queen in particular was most charming," Lieut. Hansen wrote. Thanks to Lynn Kanaya for sending this tribute to her late husband, Kriegy Jimmie Kanaya.

COLLECTIONS

HONORING A

Retired U.S. Army Col. Jimmie Kanaya passed away on November 7, 2019. His military career spanned three decades and three wars. He was born in Clackamas, Oregan, in 1920 to issei parents and joined the Army in April 1941. After Pearl Harbor, he was moved further inland outside of the military's "exclusion zone" for people of Japanese descent. He was briefly allowed to return home to help his parents pack up and sell their belongings before their forced removal to the Portland temporary detention center and later the Minidoka concentration camp. Jimmie Kanaya continued his training at Camp Shelby, Missispipi, joining the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the military's segregated unit of Nisel soldiers.

The 442nd RCT were sent to Italy as replacements for the heavily wounded 100th Infantry Battalion In June 1944. The December 23, 1944, issue of the Minidoka Irrigator featured an article on Lt. Kanava's Silver Star award for bravery in saving the lives of his fellow soldiers while under enemy bombardment. At the time of the article, he had been a German prisoner of war for two months. During an escape attempt in April 1945, he smuggled these two butter knives through the gates of Oflag XIIB, a POW camp outside of Nuremberg, and burled them under a tree. When he was finally released after the end of World War II, Lt. Kanaya rejolned his parents in Chicago. In July 1953, he returned to Germany and retrieved the knives from where he had burled them.

In remembrance of her husband's heroic deeds, Lynn Kanaya, Jimmie's wife of 17 years, donated these knives and numerous other family and military records to the Japanese American Museum of Oregon. We thank her for this donation that honors the legacy of Jimmie Kanaya.

PAGE 10



Missing Lieutenant

Awarded Silver Star

Jimmie Kanaya is promoted to Second Lieutenant by Mark W. Clark, Lieutenant General, USA Commanding Fitth Army on September 2nd, 1944. *Gitt of Lynn Kanaya*

marte h Clark

Near left:

A December 23, 1944 article in the Minidoka Irrigator announcing that Lt. Jimmle Kanaya was taken prisoner while tighting in northeasiem France. Gift of Kiml Tambara

For left:

Jimmie Kanaya smuggied these knives out of Oftag XIIIB, a German prisoner of war camp, during an escape attempt. Gift of Lynn Kanaya

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Thanks to Deborah Shefrin and Shari Shryock, daughters of the late Kriegy Seymour D. Shefrin, for the following 2-page letter from the WWII Museum, which contains a brief military history of their dad.



Accession No. 2022.399

DEED OF GIFT AND GRATUITOUS DONATION

Donor's Name: Ms. Shari Shryock

Donot's Address: 6421 Geary Blvd. San Francisco, CA 94121

Donor's Phone:

Donor's Email:

I (we) irrevocably and unconditionally give, donate, deliver, transfer and assign to THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM, INC. (the "Museum") by way of gift and gratuitous donation all right, title, and interests (including, without limitation, all applicable copyright, trademark, and related intellectual property interests) in, to, and associated with the property hereinafter described (the "Property"), to be used by the Museum at its unrestricted discretion. I (we) affirm that I (we) own said property and that to the best of my (our) knowledge I (we) have good and complete right, title, and interest (including, without limitation, all applicable copyright, trademark, and related interests) to give.

I (we) agree that the object(s) will become part of the exclusive and absolute property of the Museum and that it (they) may be managed in any ethical manner consistent with established professional standards, Museum policy, and governmental regulations, with no restrictions on its (their) use or disposition.

Accession number and description of property:

2022.399

Items from the service of Jewish American US Army Captain Seymour David Shefrin with the 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division. Shefrin was born on July 22, 1918 in the Bronx, New York to Leo Shefrin and Rose Shifrin Shefrin. Shefrin enlisted in the Army in March 6, 1941. He made Corporal in December 1941 while in Hawaii (from December 1941-April 1942) and then 2nd Lieutenant in August 1942 after Officer Candidate School, when he entered active duty as a unit commander. He appears to have been at Ft. Benning from late 1942 to June 1944 when he was sent into the European Theater, arriving on June 29, 1944. On the night of October 4, 1944, he was wounded in action near Herbach, Germany. Lt. Shefrin was the sole observer of the 119th Infantry Regiment, Cannon Company, I Company. He refused to be evacuated and was helped by two men to an enemy troop shelter on a slight knoll in the woods. He remained there, directing fire throughout the night. At daybreak, the counterattack forced I Company to withdraw and Shefrin was left unprotected. The unit history notes that "The attack came over him and the last thing we heard was his voice over the radio

(check box if additional descriptive information is attached)

Donor's Signature:

Date:

Date:

The Property is hereby accepted by the Museum.

THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM, INC.

Authorized Ren sentative

1/31/2023

945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130 (504) 527-6012 <u>www.nationalww2museum.org</u> (504) 527-6088-Fax



Accession No. 2022.399

DEED OF GIFT AND GRATUITOUS DONATION

DEED OF GIFT AND GRATUITOUS DONATION calling for more fire on his position." Shefrin was taken prisoner and began POW life in Stalag XIIA before being moved to Oflag 64. From January 21-February 20, 1945 he was marched with other POWs 348 kilometers to Oflag IID. He was recovered on May 15 and returned to the US on May 29, 1945. While he was a POW, his mother, Rose Shefrin received his Silver Star in a presentation in New York. Prior to and following service he was in the plumbing business. He married Adele Davis and had two daughters Deborah and Shari. Shefrin passed away on October 28, 2000. The collection consists of citations, playbills and newspapers from Oflag 64, Shefrin's POW ID card which fists his religion as Protestant, photographs, general service and War Claims documents, a dress jacket with insignia, and Jewish War Veterans garrison cap with pins and ribbons.

	bon bars and shoulder insignia	
US service documents		17
Photographs		2
Oflag 64 theater programs		3
Christmas menu		1
ID cards and POW passes		3
Handwritten notes on march		1
VA/War claims documents		4
Garrison cap VA Jewish War Veb	rans	
(check box if additional descripti Donoe's Signature:	ve information is attached) Date:	
Donor's Signature:	Date:	
	Date:	
Donor's Signature: The Property is hereby accepted by	Date: the Museum. If MUSEUM, INC. 1/31/2023 Date:	

Thanks to Patricia Bowers, daughter of the late Kriegy James F. Callahan for sending the following three documents regarding American Parcels for Prisoners of War. They're not the same as the Red Cross Parcels that were normally distributed to POWs during the war.

THE	
	REGISTRATION No. 571 - THE PRESIDENT'S WAR RELIEF CONTROL BOARD, WASHINGTON, D. C. Phone MA. 4317
	RELIEF CONTROL STAND, D. C. Phone MA. 4317
	AMERICAN PARCELS FOR PRISONERS OF WAR ASS'N.
4	269 DELAWARE AVENUE
DIRECTORS Chairman:	BUFFALO 2, N. Y.
MRS. STDART C. A	Sentember
Vice-Chairman: MRS. LAWRENCE D. BELL	American Parcels for Prisone
	American Parcels for Prisoners of War was formed for the sole purpose of sending personal food and clothing parcels to American
MRS. EDGAR BECK	purpose of sending personal food and clothing parcels to American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees in German prison camps.
Asst. Treasurer: MISS M. GRACE SCHWINN	This organization is regist
Secretary:	This organization is registered with and authorized by the United States government to conduct this work. It is a volunteer, non-
MRS. JAMES J. WADSWORTH	profit organization. It is a volunteer, non-
Packing Supervisor: MRS. ALTON F. WOOD	American Parcels for Prisoners and
Executive Director:	American Parcels for Prisoners of War, offers free, personal service to relatives of American Prisoners of War or Civilian
MRS. HARRY E. MINER	Thernees by paoning onthe shiruping a 1 and clothing
Executive Committee: MRS. WARD A. WICKWIRE	
MRS. THOMAS LOCKWOOD MRS. LUTHER WOOD	TUL PUC THATATARAT PETDOMON GATA THOUSDARS SUPERIO SO MONTON
MRS. LOCKWOOD KRUGER	prisoner or his family, provided such articles are permitted by government shipping regulations. A free, personal, shopping ser-
MRS. WILLIAM VAN SCHOONHOVEN THE HON. WINIFRED STANLEY	vice is available for the purchase of articles not stocked by
Representative at Large, New York MRS. GILES BRAYDEN	this organization; these purchases being supplied at retail and
MRS. WILLIAM SHIRLEY	The next of kin may forward small articles of clothing, toilet
ADVISORY COMMITTEE	articles, or food to the committee to be included in their parcel.
Editor and Publisher, Buffalo Evening News EDGAR C. BECK, M.D.	All food items listed by American Parcels for Prisoners of War
COMMANDER WM. J. CONNERS, JR., U.S.N.R. Publisher, Buffalo Courier-Express	are supplied at wholesale cost and no ration points are required
RIGHT REVEREND CAMERON J. DAVIS, D.D. Bishop of the Diocese of Western New York	from the sender since this organization has priority ratings.
MR. CHARLES DIEFENDORF President, The Marine Trust Company DR. JOSEPH L. FINK, Ph.D.	American next of kin permit labels are issued once every 60 days
Robbi, Temple Beth Zion MR. GLEN FLICKINGER	to the person named by the prisoner as his beneficiary, by the
Vice-President, S. M. Flickinger & Company MR. LEWIS HARRIMAN	Office of the Provost Marshal General, Washington, D.C.
Chairman, Buffalo Chapter American Red Cross President, M & T Trust Company	
IVAN HEKIMIAN, M.D. THE HON. JOSEPH J. KELLY	Those relatives wishing to avail themselves of the free, personal
Mayor of the City of Buffalo MR. SEYMOUR H. KNOX Chairman of the Board of	services of American Parcels for Prisoners of War, should send their next of kin labels to the organization with their check or
The Marine Trust Company REVEREND BERNARD J. McLAUGHLIN	money order made payable to the organization. The following
Special Secretary to the Most Reverend John A. Duffy, D.D.	articles are stocked and supplied at cost price. Only 11 pounds
THE HONORABLE JAMES M. MEAD United States Senate	may be shipped, therefore, kindly last items which you especially
THE RIGHT REVEREND AUSTIN PARDUE, D.D. Bishop of Pittsburgh, Pa.	wish included in the order of your preference, keeping this list
MR. FRANK G. RAICHLE, JR. Raichle & Tucker, Attorneys at Law	for future reference.
MR. KENNETH STRACHAN Vice-President and Treasurer, Beldwin & Stracker Las	Prices and Brands are subject to change. Only the best brands stocked.
Baldwin & Strachan, Inc. LT. COL. STUART C. WELCH, C.A.P.	Nabisco Social Teas \$0.09
THE VERY REVEREND EDWARD R. WELLES Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral	Nabisco Butter Cookies 0.09
THE HONORABLE VICTOR B. WYLEGALA Judge of Children's Court of Eria County	webisco Type C. Ration Biscuita 0 13
JOHN W. PONTIUS General Secretary of YMCA	Penana Flakes 1/4 lb. 0.30
THE OPPORTUNITY SHOP	Tand Candy 1 1b. 0.65
269 Delaware Avenue	Peanuts 1 1D. 0.20
Chairman:	Rice 0.11
MRS. WILLIAM H. GURNEY	Cinnamon 0.08
Asst. Chairman:	Nutmeg Calt 0.08
MRS. WILLIAM M. DECKER, JR.	0.08 0.08 0.02
	601019 Salt 1/4 1b. 0.02

Dehydrated Carrots 1/4 1b.			
Grapenuts Wheat Meal Cereal	\$0.14		\$0.08
H. O. Quick Cooking Oat Meal	0.13	Nutmeg	0.08
Bordens Chateau Cheese 1/2 1b.	0.13	Toilet Paper	0.04
Deliciona a late 1/2 -0.	0.10	Corn Cob Pipe	0.03
Delicious Sweet Chocolate 1 lb.	0.20	Chewing Gum - 1 box	
Nestle's Instant Cocoa 1/2 1b.	0.35	Shaving Brush	0.27
Barrington Hall Instant Coffee	0.17	Spaghetti Sauce	0.10
Muellers Macaroni	0.46	Prophylatic Tooth Brush	0.17
Horlicks Chocolate Malted Milk Tablets	0.09	Liptons Tea Bags	0.07
Powdered Milk 1 1b.	0.29	Cherrin G	0.07
Vaitine 1 1h	0.20	Page Culture 2 101	0.15
raising 1 1h	0.63	Razor Blades (18 to package)	0.17
Fhillips Milt of Maria Tour	0.11	Mixed Vegetable Flakes	0.10
Liptons Noodle Soup	0.17	Small Ivory Soap	0.05
pions per Ca	0.08	Plastic Fork	0.06 each
- Puons Bleak D	0.08	Plastic Table Spoon	0.06 "
Granulated Sugar 1/2 lb.	0.08	Plastic Dessert Spoon	0.03 "
Tomato Portingar 1/2 1b.	0.03	Waterd	0.08
	0.53	Pie Crust Mix-Flako	0.16
Vita Kap Vitamin Capsules (1 per day) Pre-cooked Beans	1.95	Discuick	0.17
Calumet Data	0.09	Cincer Bread Mix 14 oz.	0.20
Calumet Baking Powder 8 oz. Jello Chocolet	0.09	Fac Powder (When available)	and the second second
Jello Chocolate Pudding	0.07	Dried Apricots 1 1b. (when	available)
Jello Butterscotch Pudding Jello Vanille Pudding	0.07	Dried Prunes 1 1b.	0.10
Jello Vanilla Pudding Kraft Dime	0.07	Aunt Jemimas Pancake Flour	0.08
Diner	0.08	Delicious Fruit Cake, Wrap	ped
Life Savers	0.03	in Christmas Paper 1 1b.	1.00
Split Peas 1 lb.	0.10	Sauce-Kwik (dried apples)	0.15
	and the second		A CONTRACT OF A CONTRACT. CONTRACT OF A CONTRACT. CONTRACT OF A CONTRACT. CONTRACT OF A CONTRACT. CO

and breed

The AVERAGE cost of a box of food is \$5.50. Please remit this amount with your permit label. Any balance remaining will be oredited, or will gladly be refunded if you so desire. A deficit will be billed to you.

The vitamin tablets are most important. They are of the same multiple potency as those used by our Army men on active duty and if taken regularly they are a valuable supplement to a deficient diet. The foods shipped by this organization were selected after careful consideration of their nutritional value and non-perishable qualities. The average time required for the delivery of a parcel is from three to four months.

Unfortunately it is not possible at present to send any parcels to Americans held prisoner by the Japanese.

NO FOOD OR CLOTHING PARCEL MAY BE SHIPPED WITHOUT THE NEXT OF KIN PERMIT LABELS.

Please disregard previous lists when ordering.

September 1944

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Registration No. 571 - president's War Relief Control Board, Washington, D.C.

AMERICAN PARCELS FOR PRISONERS OF WAR 269 Delaware Avenue Buffalo 2, New York

The following articles may be ordered from us to be shipped from Canada to American and British P.O.W. and Civilian Internees held by Germany. NO PERMIT IS REQUIRED.

Due to war conditions, it is sometimes necessary to substitute merchandise for that ordered. Prices are subject to ohange. Please make checks payable to this organization. Games and sports equipment orders are limited to 11 pounds and may be sent once a month. Tobacco products are sent separately from the games and sports equipment and may be sent once every 2 weeks.

It takes from three to four months for the delivery of any parcel to the prison camps.

GAMES

DRAWING SUPPLIES

Bingo	1.00	Pencil	.05	
Cardboard Dominoes	.29	Drawing Pencil	.10	
Cross word puzzles	.29	Charcoal Pencil	.20	
Monaco	1.25	Colored Pencils (12)	1.35	
Five in a Row	1.00	Art Gum Eraser	.10	
Snake Eyes	1.00	Notebook	.10(3 for .25)	
Chess	2,95	Sketch Books	.50 & 1.15	
Ping Pong	7.95	Paint Bores	.60 & 3.25	
Jig Saw Puzzles	.50	Camel Hair Brushes	.40 to 2.00	
Playing cards	.55			
Checkers	1.25			
Cribbage	.75			
Chinese Checkers	.50			
Ring Toss	1.00			
Monopoly	2,95			
The second s				

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Set

STATE SIZES WHEN ORDERING CLOTHING

of 4	Boxing gloves	7.95	Only 1 garment of each kind may be
	Baseball mitt	3.95	included in 1 order.
	Baseball	2.00	Each order of clothing must be
	Softball	1.75	accompanied by a piece of sports
	Gym Shorts	2.95	equipment. (i. e. softball).
	Gym Shirt	1.00	

TOBACCO PRODUCTS - CANADIAN BRANDS ONLY - NO FERMIT REQUIRED

300 cigarettes.761,000 cigarettes1.903 pounds smoking tobacco2.28

<u>Please note</u>: Pipes may <u>not</u> be ordered. They must be sent in the next of kin permit parcel.

Kriegy Bios, Artifacts, Artifact Descriptions

The following family-written Kriegy bio of Robert J. Oshlo was sent by his son David Oshlo. We thank him and those who assisted him in this great work.

Robert J. Oshlo

1915-1999

Early Years

Robert James Oshlo was born on May 25, 1915, the son of Charles and Catherine Oshlo of rural Council Bluffs, Iowa. He was the middle of three children in the family, all boys. He grew up farming with a team of mules and learned the value of hard work. This served to shape one of his life-long defining characteristics: He was not afraid of work. He was also known for his magnetic personality, infectious laugh, and quiet leadership.



Bob as a Young Man

Robert (Bob) attended Council sports. As a senior, he was named due to his prowess in basketball, Creighton University where he University of Iowa where he career-ending knee injuries playing Omaha/Council Bluffs area. While

Military Life



Lieutenant in the Second Battalion of the 168th.

Bluffs public schools and excelled in the Council Bluffs athlete of the year

Bob enlisted in the Army in August 1942. Assigned to the 168th Infantry Regiment, 34th Division, he was shipped to Scotland to train for an amphibious assault. That invasion occurred in November 1942 when he was part of Operation Torch which was America's first major foray into WW2. His leadership earned him a battlefield commission to 2nd

football, and track. After high school, he first attended played football as a freshman. He then transferred to the competed in football and track. Unfortunately, he suffered football and ultimately left college to return to work in the working for Roberts Dairy as a delivery man, he met his future

wife Evelyn where she was working for the Union Pacific Railroad.



Bob in Dress Uniform

Capture and Internment

On February 14, 1943, the Second Battalion was in position at Tissouda, just in front of Faid Pass and was attacked by three German Divisions in what became known as the Battle of Kassarine Pass. By the evening of the following day, they were surrounded by German forces. At dusk the same day, a friendly plane dropped orders to evacuate the area and return to American lines. Bob and others snuck through and then walked about two hours when they ran into German resistance. He and several other men were quickly pinned down by enemy fire. They managed to crawl into a deep wash which provided some cover. Other Americans trickled in and joined them in the cover. Two attempts



Bob's POW Identification Card

were made to escape to the American line and failed. As dawn of the 16th approached Bob picked out what appeared to be the line of least resistance through the encircling German forces. During the day, the plan was solidified. At dusk on the 16th, Bob and about 40 men executed their plan and got through the German line without a mishap. They were cold, tired, hungry, and thirsty. They had few arms and ammunition. They headed northwest because the belief was that there would be fewer Germans in that direction. After ~20 miles of nighttime march under forced march conditions, a tank was blown up in front of them and they sought cover. They had no more than gotten situated when the Germans opened fire on their position. They were surrounded, out of ammunition, out of water, tending to wounded, and exhausted. The only option was surrender. In addition to Bob and the men with him, Colonel Thomas D. Drake was also captured in this battle.

Bob would spend the rest of the war primarily at Oflag 64 in Szubin Poland. He would later speak little about his time as a POW but would comment that he was always glad he was a prisoner of the Germans rather than the Japanese. As an officer, he would simply say that his treatment was reasonable. He worked to learn enough German to converse with the



Bob (2nd from right) and others at Oflag 64

German guards. Conversations that would humanize the situation and perhaps (he hoped) would lead to better treatment and more rations. He found that walking was his best therapy so he would endlessly walk the perimeter of the camp. Almost two years of his life were spent here under conditions that Americans today cannot fathom or understand.



Szubin Water Tower circa 2020. Likely the first thing prisoners saw upon arrival

Escape

By January 1945 the Russian Army had destroyed Warsaw and what was left of the Polish Army and headed west. This prompted the Germans to begin marching the POWs, under guard, west towards Germany. Conditions were brutal: No food with long days of marching. The nights were worse with no place to bed down in the bitter cold January weather. In these conditions, there was no chance for the men to recuperate for the next day's march. As they walked, some of the men began to think that the Germans would probably

line up them up and shoot them as the Russians got closer. They wanted to escape but had been told to not go east because the Russians would shoot them. However, after over two years of the Germans, they thought that they would rather be shot by the Russians on the move than be shot by the Germans up against a wall. They walked for three days and considered three different plans for escape. Opportunity then knocked on the door. The prisoners were put up in a big Polish farmyard for the night. Bob and three of his fellow officers got into a barn to sleep in the warm cow manure. They looked up and discovered that the hay loft floor above them was composed of concrete. There were openings in the floor for hay to be dropped to the cattle below. They decided that if they could sneak into the hay loft



Model of Oflag 64 displayed at MOAS, a boys' school located on the former site of Oflag 64

without being seen, the Germans wouldn't be able to shoot them with small arms from below when they discovered they were gone. Bob, and three of his fellow 2nd Lieutenants (Duane Johnson, Arthur Detmers, and Lt. Spaulding), seized that opportunity and snuck into the hay loft. The Germans left without them but soon sent patrols back to search for the escapees. They shot up the barn, but the concrete floor saved the four Lieutenants.

The men hid in the barn for the next seven days, befriended by the Polish farm family. A Russian patrol entered the barnyard and eventually, the barn. The Americans dropped through the hay chutes and grabbed a few of the Russians so they couldn't be shot. They shouted they were American Officers but were not believed by the Russians. The Poles told them that they were Americans and probably saved the men's lives. The escapees asked for a ride, food and clothing and were given nothing. They were called "capitalists" and told to walk. They were forced to join the Russians who were marching east into Russia. They were moved from one Russian Company to another as they advanced toward the Elbe River. The Russians were relentlessly brutally antagonistic. Bob and his companions steadily made their southward along the bloody trail the Russians were carving with the goal of reaching Odessa which they knew to be a warm-weather port. They eventually reached their destination goal where they boarded a British ship to Istanbul, Turkey and, eventually, to Naples, Italy where they were repatriated into the American Forces.

Post War

Bob left the Army in 1945 and in the same year he was married to his sweetheart Evelyn who had waited years for his return. His early married life took him from Texas to Indiana to Idaho where they initially settled. There they owned and operated an Automobile Garage. Bob also spent some time working in Uranium mines in northern Idaho helping to find the necessary ingredient for the fledgling Uranium industry that would fuel the commercial nuclear power industry.



He and Evelyn and their still growing family of four children left the mountains of Idaho for the plains of Nebraska and settled in Grand Island where they owned and operated

Bob & Evelyn

a motel while Bob continued to work other jobs to help fund the needs of their family which would ultimately reach six children: Four sons and two daughters. His professional career culminated with a job with the United States Postal Service and Bob retired in the late 1970s with 20 years of service.



Bob in his famous Iris Garden

Bob and Evelyn retired to southern Missouri where they raised horses and welcomed family visits. Along with the horses, Bob continued his life-long hobby of raising and cultivating Iris. An avid gardener, his flower gardens were the marvel of any who were fortunate enough to see them and give Bob a chance to talk about the many different varieties he was growing.

He was initially reluctant to attend the POW reunions but was ultimately drawn to them to re-connect with his fellow Kriegies. Over time, he began to look forward to these get-togethers and the camaraderie that they fostered.

Bob was not defined by his military experience, but it was a shaping factor in his post-war life. A private man, he seldom discussed his war-time experience. However, he often said that he never wanted to be hungry again and his mantra regarding the family budget priority system was, "first we eat". An efficacious man, he did whatever he had to do to provide for his family. He held his family close and in the highest regard. Bob's biggest love was always his family. "Can't" was a word that he never used when

encouraging his children and his many grandchildren. A selfless man, he would always put the needs of his family above his. His sincerest desire was for his children to have a better life than his.

Bob passed in February 1999 and was buried with full U.S. Army Military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. He was decorated with the European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal along with two Bronze Stars and the World War II Victory Medal. In his lifetime, Bob Oshlo's personality, trust, leadership, integrity, work ethic, and love for his family defined him. His was a life well-lived. For all these reasons, he will be forever remembered by those who were fortunate enough to know and love him.



Written by Dave Oshlo with assistance from Kathy (Oshlo) Beauchamp. Special acknowledgement goes to Captain Travis W. Hill, U.S. Army, for the 2020 photos of the Szubin water tower and the OFLAG 64 model located on the MOAS campus.

Family-Written Biographies

<u>Please consider writing a biography for your</u> <u>Kriegy.</u> Biographies will be used in the future museum as part of an interactive display for each Kriegy.

The task sometimes seems daunting but we have bio writers who are willing to help you get started. There is no length requirement, any length works just fine. We have some that are shorter and some that are quite a bit longer. We would love to know about your Kriegy's early life, if he graduated from a military school, if he was part of an ROTC program, when and where he received his first commission. We'd also be interested in learning what outfit he was with, some of his military experiences, his capture, his escape, military awards, and later life experiences. Please also include photos if available. We realize that all this information might not be at your disposal, so just include what you can. If you need examples to give you more ideas, we can provide them for you.

To date, we have received family-written bios from 14 families. Some were written by an individual and some were written by group effort among family members. Do what works best for you. Please let us know if you have questions.



Publications

We're always looking for a hard copy of books written by or about our Kriegies and their experiences during the war. Please check the website at <u>http://www.oflag64.us/books-etc.html</u> for a list of books we currently have. If your Kriegy has written a book we don't yet have or if you have a publication that contains information about any our Kriegies, please let us know.

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

Are you looking for these? Please contact.....

<u>Marilyn Kanners Beckham</u> (Vic's daughter) for a copy of **Vic Kanners' Diary "Horseshit and Cobblestones"**, 3608 W BRADFORD DR, BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48301-3353. <u>marilynkbeckham@gmail.com</u> (new email address)



Lynne Meltesen, daughter of the late Kriegy Clarence Meltesen, has sent us a few more copies of his fantastic resource book, "**Roads to Liberation**". If you would like a copy, please contact <u>Elodie Caldwell</u>

at <u>elodie@oflag64.us</u>. The book is available at no charge but you are asked to pay for S & H. (Thank you, Meltesen family, for making these available.)



Pat Waters, son of the late Kriegy John Waters, sent several copies of the "John K. Waters Story" which can be purchased by contacting <u>Cindy</u> <u>Burgess</u> at <u>cindyburgess92@gmail.com</u>.

The price of \$15.99 includes S&H. (Thank you, Pat, for making these available.)





We have recently learned of the passing of the following Kriegy and honor him for his great service and sacrifice. He was a true patriot and hero. We know he will be greatly missed.

Edward A. Graf

1922 ~ 2023



Honorable, hardworking, and devoted, Edward Arnold Graf will long be remembered as a man of strong family values. A Patriot, who cherished American Values and the singing of the national anthem, Ed never shied away from serving others. He lived a full and successful life of service to his family, his community, his church, and his country. Ed led by example, embodying the principles he believed in and consciously building his life on the firm foundation of faith, family, and service. Husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Ed inspired all who were blessed to know him. Cherished by many, he will long be remembered and so very missed.

The 1920s were an age of dramatic social and political change. Post-war peace, a booming economy, rising wages for most Americans, and falling consumer prices resulted in a higher standard of living for most. Tremendous confidence, prosperity, and previously unknown comforts marked this roaring decade when a person's success was largely determined by their ability to identify their desires and then work to make them a reality. For Fred and Marie (Pagel) Graf, this vibrant decade grew even brighter on January 7, 1922, when they welcomed their son Edward into their hearts and Chicago home.

With his older brother Fred "Bud," Ed spent much time going to Lake Michigan and fishing with their father, whom he deeply loved and respected. Best of friends, he and Fred also spent their young years during the prosperous 1920s doing what young boys did in that era. When the stock market crashed in November of 1929, the Grafs, like most families, experienced significant changes to their lifestyle. They moved several times, which meant Ed had to change schools often. Despite the changes, Ed was always a good student. He participated in ROTC and served as a class officer. He and Bud enjoyed adventuring at the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago, and Ed proudly graduated from Sullivan High School with the class of 1940.

Three years older than Ed, Fred had already enlisted in the military and was a crew member serving in the U.S. Army Air Force. While in downtown Chicago, Ed read the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, on the ticker tape at Macy's department store, realizing that many people didn't even know where Pearl Harbor was. The national mood prompted Ed to enlist in the Army: however, he was rejected. Sadly, the Graf family learned that Fred was missing in action after his plane was shot down during missions in North Africa and the Mediterranean. Fred's death deeply impacted Ed for the rest of his life. He often recalled fond memories of their time together and never forgot their bond or Fred's sacrifice for his country.

When Ed tried to enlist again, he successfully joined the U.S. Army. After basic training, he was elected to Officer Candidate School, graduated as a 2nd lieutenant, and was sent to England in preparation for the eventual invasion. During his time away, he and Peg kept up their romance by writing often. About a week after D-Day, Ed landed on Utah Beach in Normandy, France, and was soon involved in reconnaissance and eventually fighting through the hedgerows of French farms. Within weeks, he was wounded and captured by the Germans on July 6. After some initial medical treatment, he and fellow POWs were eventually located in various camps throughout Europe, finally arriving in Oflag 64 in Schubin, Poland, on September 15, 1944. While held in the camp, Ed always felt he could escape and silently prepared to do so. He made a warm hood and a small American



flag, and acquired a compass while waiting for the best possible opportunity. Finally, in January of 1945, as the Germans were evacuating Poland and transporting prisoners to Germany, he was able to escape. After initially hiding, he carefully moved throughout Poland and Russia, keeping away from the Germans until he met up with Russian troops in March. Afterward, he met up with American troops, and on March 30, 1945, boarded an American Ship and headed back to the United States.

Following his safe return home, he and Peg joyfully married on June 16, 1945. As a result of the wounds Ed sustained in war, the newlyweds honeymooned in Miami, Florida, to be close to a military hospital for his continuing care. While there, they experienced a hurricane. Ed's military responsibilities took the couple to various military posts throughout the U.S. until they eventually ended up in Miles Standish, New Jersey.

After his honorable discharge from the Army a couple of years later, Ed and Peg returned to Jackson, moved into a home they purchased, and Ed began his career as a salesman for Nabisco Baking Company. Another big change was that the family grew with the births of their first two children, daughters Priscilla and Suzette. In 1953, Ed was transferred to Grand Rapids, and the family was also completed there with the birth of daughter Judy. The family first lived on Almont Street S.E. before eventually moving to their longtime home on Lotus Street.

While Peg devoted herself to the care of the children and home, Ed was dedicated to providing for his family. His work took him away from home most weeks, and he was rather regimented, with firm ideas on how things should be done properly. He often returned home from work with extra boxes of cookies and crackers to share with neighbors and family. The family explored and celebrated their faith as members of the South Congregational Church. In addition to regular attendance, Ed was an active member, serving as a Sunday School teacher and deacon. Ed also enjoyed lending his beautiful tenor voice to the collective singing of inspiring hymns.

Understanding the value of restorative time together, Ed and Peg made sure their family enjoyed many summer weekends at various beaches and parks, most notably Holland State Park and Dutton Park. The weekends were filled with quality time together, with Ed cooking breakfast on the Coleman stove and full days fishing, being on the beach, and lying in the sun. Ed particularly enjoyed trout fishing, teaching daughters the fine art of fishing, and enjoying the outdoors. He really liked fishing on the Pere Marquette River. The family enjoyed vacationing in various parts of Michigan, renting cottages and later camping with their travel trailer. They also traveled as far as the New York World Fair and then a long trip to the western U.S.

Ed and Peg eagerly welcomed grandchildren and were always happy to see them. They spent a lot of time caring for grandchildren and entertaining the family. His grandchildren will long treasure Ed's ready smile and active play. After missing holidays with his family while a POW, Ed never lost sight of the blessings of being able to celebrate the holidays with family.

In his guiet time, Ed loved to sit in his recliner in the knotty pine living room each day, reading and working crossword puzzles. In January of 2000, he and Peg made a big change when they moved to Cook Valley Retirement Community. They quickly made friends and participated in many activities. After Peg passed away in 2005, Ed struggled in a cloud of grief but determinedly continued on. He attended several Oflag 64 reunions and, at one time, traveled with a group accompanied by his granddaughter Katie to Germany to visit the prison camp site and neighboring communities. He also enjoyed spending time with family in the Grand Rapids area and traveled to visit his daughter, who had settled in the Chicago area. On one of those trips. he and his son-in-law were able to travel around the city, visiting places of significance and reliving some of his childhood memories.

At age 95, Ed's eyesight deteriorated with macular degeneration, and he realized he needed to give up driving as he didn't want to be responsible for an accident. Despite the challenges, he made the best of the situation, using Cook Valley transportation services to go grocery shopping and attend church services. Ed thoughtfully never wanted to be a burden, but his family was always willing to ensure his needs were well met. Always willing to go with family members for meals, holidays, birthdays, and other special occasions, Ed continued to enjoy every moment spent with loved ones. His greatgrandchildren were especially important to him, and he always had a good time participating in family gatherings and watching them grow. He lit up when they were around, loved to hear about them, and played with them with the same enthusiasm he had when his grandchildren were younger.

When Ed's health required additional care, he moved to Porter Hills in 2020 during the pandemic. The social constraints imposed by the pandemic proved daunting as he became quite reclusive. While he could talk to his family on the phone, he could not leave, nor could family visit him except for talking to him from below his balcony. While he found solace in watching the news and old movies, and also in some reading, after months of isolation and loneliness, when visits were finally allowed, he was delighted to be with family for short visits.

Ed celebrated his 100th birthday, receiving many birthday cards, congratulations, and best wishes. A few short weeks after celebrating his 101st birthday, he passed away on February 17, 2023. Though life feels less certain in the absence of Ed's steadfast companionship, may we find much comfort in knowing he is reunited with his beloved and in the privilege of carrying his honorable legacy forward in our own lives.

Edward Arnold Graf passed away on Friday, February 17, 2023, at the age of 101. He is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law Priscilla & Ronald Karelse, Suzette & David Meyer, Judy & Timothy Knight; grandchildren Lisa (Joel) DeVries, Lee (Kelli) Karelse, Becky (Brian) Tubergen, Beth (Dan) Triezenberg, Courtney (Ben) VandeWege, Ashley (Doug) Slot, Pautlitz. Jennifer (Matt) Katie (Shaun) Rezaiefard, Ryan (Chelsea) Tooker; and 22 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret "Peg" Graf, in 2005, as well as his brother. Fred Graf.

A service to celebrate Edward's life was held on March 8, 2023.

Ed's complete obituary can be found at: <u>https://heritagelifestory.com/obituaries/edward-graf.14274</u>





Oflag 64 Remembered

Honoring our Kriegy Patriots and Heroes

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

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