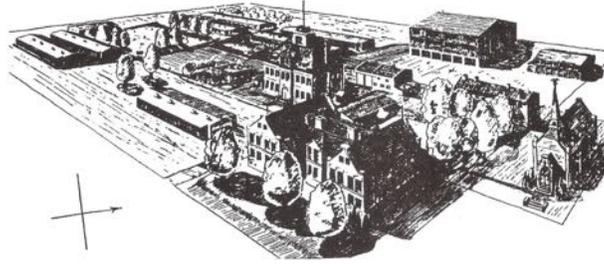


# Post Oflag 64 Item



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

## 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER 2018

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We apologize to any others we may have overlooked but thank everyone who has contacted us.



## TIME TO CHANGE IT UP A LITTLE

Dear Oflag 64 Association Family,

One of the most constant things in life is change. We change what we do, how we do it, when we do it, and why we do it many times throughout our lives. That being said, our thought is that it's now time for the ITEM to change somewhat as well. Beginning with this ITEM, the same types of information included in past issues, only condensed, will occupy the 1<sup>st</sup> section of each issue, and will then be followed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> section by Oflag 64 Advisory Council and Hall of Remembrance project information (which follows the Publications section).

Our goal is to keep everyone informed the best way possible, so please continue to send information that would be useful and of interest to our Oflag 64 Association Family. Please also feel free to send us your suggestions for other changes or additions to the ITEM as well as to our website which can be found at [www.oflag64.us](http://www.oflag64.us)

Presently there is much in the works regarding the "Hall of Remembrance". Barracks #9, the remaining barracks on the grounds, has officially been transferred to Gmina Szubin (the town of Szubin) and has been designated a NATIONAL MEMORY site. With this transfer, the project can now move forward at a faster rate. We will keep you informed of progress as time goes by through this ITEM. **See more Hall of Remembrance information beginning on page 14 of this issue.**

In mid-September, a delegation of Oflag 64 family members will travel to Warsaw to meet with the advisor to the Polish President, Professor Zybortowicz, as well as with representatives from the US Embassy in Warsaw. The goal is to provide greater awareness of the camp and to gain support of the Hall of Remembrance project.

One interesting bit of news: In early August, a Polish historian who produces a TV show for Poland's history channel about recent historical discoveries, and who has a ground-penetrating device, volunteered his time and located what are thought to be two tunnels that were dug by British POWs who were in the camp before it became Oflag 64. Tunnels dug by Americans have not yet been found but the search is still on. Stay tuned.

We are excited about these projects. If you would like to become involved, please let us know. We would love your support.

Best to you,  
Elodie and Bill Caldwell  
ITEM Editor and Webmaster



## A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

### Postage Fund Donors

THANKS to those who generously donate to the postage, reunion, or Hall of Remembrance funds. We appreciate your thoughtful contributions to any of these funds.

**Judith and Mark Fletcher  
Rosa Lee  
Harold Leigh  
The Loos/Becker Family  
Leonard and Colette Schrank**

If you would like to contribute to a specific fund, please make your check payable to Oflag 64 Postage Fund, write the intended fund on the memo line, and mail your donation to:

**Bret Job**  
2801 SW 46<sup>th</sup> St  
Cape Coral FL  
33914-6026

or

**Elodie Caldwell**  
2731 Terry Ave  
Longview WA  
98632-4437

You can also donate online through **VENMO** (like PayPal) if you have an account. Handheld devices do not work. Please ask us for details.



### SAVE THOSE ARTIFACTS

Now that the Hall of Remembrance project is moving forward, the US Oflag 64 Advisory Council is requesting that you save Oflag 64 memorabilia (war logs, photos, dog tags, clothing, and other such artifacts) and consider donating them to the future Hall of Remembrance displays.

We're currently in the process of establishing collection points that will keep items safe, clean, dry, protected from weather and critters, and are putting together an inventory sheet to catalog each item donated. We'll let you know when and where to send them as soon as we can.

Thanks to those who have committed items to this project already. Keep them safe until we're ready to collect them. Let us know if you have questions or concerns by contacting me.

Thank you all for your support of this historical project.

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



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

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





**Happy Birthday  
to our Amazing Kriegy Patriots and Heroes!!**  
(new ones and some we missed earlier this year)



**Happy Belated Birthday to**  
Ed Graf  
January 27 - 96 years



**Happy Belated Birthday to**  
John R. Rodgers, Sr.  
February 9 - 95 years



**Happy Belated Birthday to**  
F. Eugene Liggett  
February 19 - 98 years



**Happened Recently**  
Wilbur Sharpe  
June 24 - 96 years



**Coming Up**  
Jimmie Kanaya  
October 3 - 98 years



**Coming Up**  
Sidney Thal  
October 3 - 100 years

**Please let us know Kriegy ages and birthdates so we can wish all a well-deserved  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! Send birthday pictures too!**



# MAIL CALL



**MAIL CALL** is changing too. It will now contain primarily requests for information, answers to queries, and new information from members of our Oflag 64 Association Family (with little or no comment in this section from me other than a request to respond to me if you have information to share). Postage Fund Donors will continue to be acknowledged in the Postage Fund Section on the previous page. A big Thank You to the numerous people who contact us each month.

**Lynn Kanaya**, wife of Kriegy Jimmie Kanaya, sent us a link to a wonderful story about Jimmie that appeared in a publication by the YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties. This is the link: <https://www.ymcapkc.org/ystories/story/jimmie-k/> See Jimmie's accompanying photo in the Kriegy News and Information section. Lynn wrote that "Jimmie is working towards 100 years of age. (He is nearly 98.) She also mentioned that for the story, he wrote about how the Y sent sports equipment and about the value of physical fitness that kept him going during the long march. He is in good spirits and looks forward to going out for a good buffet. He did a pod cast last fall about his POW experience. We have the link to that podcast.

**Anne Hoskot Kreutzer**, daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel R. Hoskot, has been researching the D-Day of her father and would like more information. This is the story. "Part of the 82nd A/B, he was re-assigned a few days before D-Day to jump as a liaison with a stick from the 101st which was carrying in some of Gen Taylor's communication equipment. I believe his plane took off from Welford, in southern England. Off-course, they jumped about 0125 on June 6, and he and 6-7 others were captured later on D-Day. I am trying to figure out where he landed, and where he was captured. His unmarked POW convoy of 150 men left from around Etienville the next day and after a couple of hours was strafed three times by Allied planes, resulting in the deaths of 19 American POWs, many from the 82nd's 508 PIR. Dad and some of the other officers in the convoy ended up in OFLAG-64 mid July -

among them were 2nd Lt Adam B. Young and 1st Lt. Charles R. Hughes, who are listed in our database."

**Lynn Meltesen**, daughter of the late Kriegy Clarence Meltesen, has a few more copies of her dad's book "Roads to Liberation". If you would like a copy, she would be happy to pay shipping to get the book to you. Please contact Elodie for contact information.

**Toni Reavis**, son of the late Kriegy Isham Reavis, responded to our request for contact after we found some articles he wrote about his dad. This is a brief story about his dad. "After my dad escaped from the forced march out of Oflag 64, he and his buddy made their way toward Russia in search of an American mission to repatriate. But on February 14th in Lublin, Poland, he met a member of the Polish Home Army, and eleven days later they were married. Quite a coda to his stay at Oflag 64 as they stayed married 64 years. Pop was also repatriated through Odessa after marrying Mom. She spent most of 1945 trying to escape Soviet-occupied Poland in her attempt to reach Pop in St. Louis, Missouri. It's quite a story. Pop was born 11 Oct. 1911 in Falls City, Nebraska and died 10 May 2010 in St. Louis. Mom preceded him on April 20, 2009, though born 10 years after him on 4 Nov. 1921. He spent his career as a gemologist for the major jewelry store in St. Louis, but remained in the Army reserves after the war until mid 1970s, reaching the grade of Lt. Colonel. He earned a silver star for the battle north of the Po Valley in Italy in September 1944 that led to his capture. [I have included] a mock up cover of a book I've written about my parents (Bisia is the Polish equivalent of Betty, as her maiden name was Elsbietta Krasicka). The picture was the only one taken at the time of their wedding. I am looking for a publisher."

**Ted Roggen**, Kriegy, after reading of our request for Oflag 64 artifacts, sent us his small YMCA diary. See the Kriegy News and Information section for more information.

**Gordon Valentine**, grandson of the late Kriegy John Lewis Peyton, is looking for information about his grandfather's war experiences, in particular, his time as a POW. John was captured at the Battle of Kasserine Pass in Tunisia in February 1943. Gordon has heard from a few folks already but if you have information to share, please let us know.

## NEW CONTACTS

### **Claire Anderson, granddaughter of a POW**

I am a PhD student at George Mason University. I saw your story in the Washington Post article that was published today, and I wanted to reach out...I'm not sure why, exactly, other than the fact that I was incredibly moved by your efforts. I currently study how collective memory impacts post-conflict policy making, particularly in the Balkans, and understanding why and how people from later generations work to preserve the memories of the experiences of those that came before them is so important to me. My own grandpa was a PoW in Europe during WWII and was held in a camp in Germany after his capture during the Battle of the Bulge. He never really opened up to us about his experience, but he shared his story with a university oral history project in Minnesota before he passed away. I am so moved by your efforts and I was wondering if there was any way that I could work with and learn from your work. Is there a way that I could volunteer my research or writing skills, or in some other way contribute to and support? I would love to come to future meetings and just learn from your experiences - I feel so compelled to reach out. I understand there may not be any such opportunity, but wanted to check just in case. Thank you so much for your work and your efforts - it's so important and so moving to me, as the granddaughter of a PoW.

### **Hugh Drescher, film producer**

Interested in making a short documentary about Oflag 64

### **Eileen, cousin of the late Kriegy Oscar J. H. Thomas**

My Cousin, Oscar J.H. Thomas was in that POW camp. He wrote a book that had some memories of the camp and his escape. He had two brothers in the war and one also escaped from the POW camp he was in. Oscar and his brother

met up after their respective escapes. My dad, Roy Thomas and Uncle Ted Thomas were Oscar's uncles, who also served in WWII.

### **Stephen Gunn - Leonard W. Schrank**

How do I donate to your museum? - I'd like to make a donation.

### **John Howell, son of the late Kriegy Charles H. Howell, Jr.**

Thank you for your website. My father, Charles H. Howell Jr., was a POW at Oflag 64 after he was captured at the Bulge. He was "liberated" by the Soviets, meaning he either stayed behind in the escape tunnel as the Red Army approached or escaped the German column. Although he is listed in your database, he is not listed among those who have passed away. He died in 1996. He was a lifelong baseball fan and I'm guessing he was in some of your baseball photos. Thanks again for your website.

### **Bob MacArevey, son of the late Kriegy James J. MacArevey**

Dad left the forced march out of OFLAG 64 on the second night. I have a transcript of his presentation to my niece's middle school class in 1989. I'd like to provide it to the website.

### **Eric L. Ritchie**

Please add me to your mailing list.

### **Ann Rogers, niece of the late Kriegy Frank N. Aten**

My name is Ann Rogers and Frank N. Aten was my uncle—my mother's brother. What a wonderful Texan he was. We connected at a family gathering years ago and I learned that notes about his experiences as a POW were floating around the family. For the next two years, we met and as he dictated, we put these experiences into a reading format which became a book he entitled THE NAME ON THE WALL. Unfortunately, he died in 1987, but was able to see the final draft before he died. Anyway, using your format, I am able to tell you that his POW# was 4166 No 5 Company, that he arrived at Oflag 64 on 9 June 1943. He was initially captured at Faid Pass Tunisia. He was truly an escape artist as he escaped from the Germans 5 times—liberated by the Russians. Many thanks for making this information available.

# Oflag 64



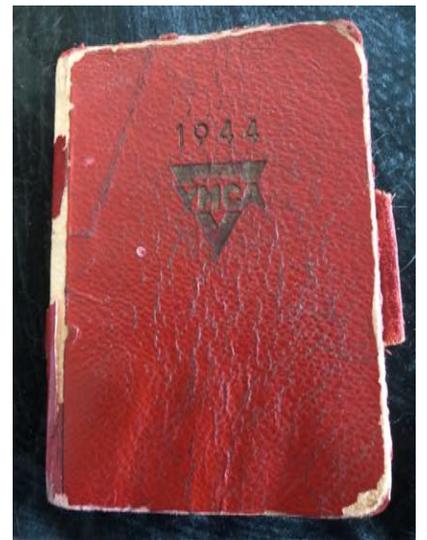
## KRIEGY NEWS & INFORMATION

This photo (right) was sent by Marlene McAllister, daughter of the late Kriegy Bob Thompson. Pictured are four previous ITEM Editors. Standing from l-r are: Bob Thompson, Herb Garris, Frank Diggs and seated is John Slack. What a legacy they left!! We honor them still.



This photo (left) is the one that accompanied the YMCA article about Kriegy Jimmie Kanaya referred to earlier in this ITEM.

This little hand-held war diary (right), provided by the YMCA, accompanied Kriegy Ted Roggen on his journeys while a POW during his war years.



These photos (left) were sent by John Glendinning. They are monetary notes signed by other Kriegies and are part of his dad's collection. Amazing memorabilia.



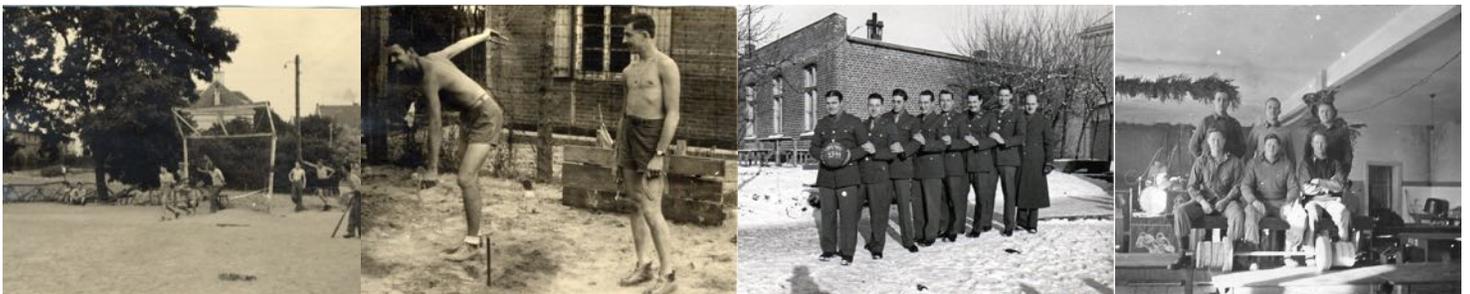
We're excited to let you know that American Games will return to Oflag 64 Sportplatz, pinch hitting for the Oflag 64 Living History that had to be postponed earlier this year. It will be a festive event with American tunes from the past playing throughout the day. Please check the program below.

If you were originally planning to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Living History reenactment for this year, please don't cancel your plans. Instead, plan to attend the Oflag 64 Sport Day. You won't be disappointed.

When: Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 2 pm to approximately 5 pm

Program:

- Demonstration of American football by Archers Bydgoszcz (<http://www.archersfootball.pl/https://www.facebook.com/BydgoszczArchers/>)
- American football tournaments for the Mayor of Szubin Cup
- Demonstration of softball/baseball by Dęby Osielsko (<http://debyosielsko.pl/baseball/> <https://www.facebook.com/debyosielsko/>)
- Horseshoe Tournament organized by TKKF Szubin
- Outdoor Exhibition by Szubin Muzeum: "Sports in Szubin POW camps 1940-1944"
- Club of Photography Lovers "Flesz" exhibition "Oflag 64. Pictures from Lives of American POWs" (photos from Reenactment 2017)
- Exhibition of students' works presenting Szubin POW camps.
- Showing of the 2017 Reenactment footage
- Skill games for children
- First Aid training from Szubin's Volunteer Fire Brigade



*John A. Albree*  
1928 ~ 2016

**John Allen Albree**, LTC, US Army (Ret), Aide-de-Camp to General John K. Waters, died on Friday, October 14, 2016 at the age of 88 at Tryon Estates. LTC Albree was born September 20, 1928 in Boston, MA, the son of the late Grace Mara and George Norman Albree. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis H. Albree of Tryon Estates, Columbus, NC.



The complete obituary was published in Spartanburg Herald-Journal from Oct. 23 to Oct. 24, 2016. See more at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/spartanburg/obituary.aspx?n=john-allen-albree&pid=182065692&fhid=26860>

*William "Pat" Dohoney*  
1923 ~ 2018



**Dr. William "Pat" Dohoney**, 94, of Carlisle, and formerly of Mechanicsburg, passed away on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at Cumberland Crossings Retirement Community, Carlisle.

Pat was born on October 23, 1923 in Harrisburg. He was the son of the late William D. and Eva E. (Selheimer) Dohoney.

Pat was a POW Veteran (Hammelburg) of the US Army. During his military service he was awarded the Prisoner of War Medal, a Purple Heart, and a Bronze Star. He was also an officer in the US Air Force and served both domestically and abroad.



He is survived by his wife, Josephine M. (Straley) Dohoney, of Carlisle; a daughter, Susan L. Elicker and her husband Dan, of Camp Hill; a granddaughter, Danielle Rosensweig and her husband Dr. Jon, of Delray Beach, FL; and

two great-granddaughters, Addison and Alexis Rosensweig.

The complete obituary was published on Pennlive.com and in The Patriot-News from May 5 to May 6, 2018. See more at:

<http://obits.pennlive.com/obituaries/pennlive/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=188928873>

[https://cumberlink.com/lifestyles/announcements/obituaries/dr-william-pat-dohoney/article\\_45582e62-ce60-5850-8e0a-214d884baf22.html](https://cumberlink.com/lifestyles/announcements/obituaries/dr-william-pat-dohoney/article_45582e62-ce60-5850-8e0a-214d884baf22.html)

*Samuel N. Hodges, Jr.*  
1922 ~ 2018



**Sam N. Hodges Jr.**, 95, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on July 26, 2018. Sam, an Atlanta native, was born on Sept. 16, 1922, the son of Sam N. Hodges Sr. and Marian Wells Hodges.

Sam was a World War II veteran, where he earned two bronze stars, two purple hearts and the combat infantry badge.



Sam is predeceased by his parents, Marian and Sam N. Hodges Sr.; his wife Anita; his daughter Adele (Dell) Hodges Curlee; his sister Caroline Hodges Roberts and her husband L. Marvin Roberts Jr.; and many cousins.

Sam is survived by four children: Nan Eberly (husband Ray); Sam (Butch) Hodges III (wife Linda); Pam Jones (husband Ed); and Jane Hodges; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

The complete obituary was published in the gainesvilletimes.com on Aug. 7, 2018. See more at:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/gainesvilletimes/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=189832602>

## Isham Reavis

1911 ~ 2010



**Isham Reavis** of St. Louis, Missouri, died on Monday May 10, 2010 at the age of 98. Dearest husband of the late Elzbieta Krasicka Reavis; beloved father of Teresa (Peter)

Wetzel, Toni (Toya) Reavis, and Marek Reavis; dear grandfather of seven; great-grandfather of ten. Retired Lt. Col., USAR, served with distinction during WWII, awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action. 

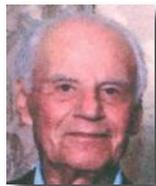
The complete obituary was published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on May 16, 2010. See more at:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/stltoday/obituary.aspx?n=isham-reavis&pid=142791309>

[Isham Reavis Obituary -#58A72DC](#)

## George J. Rosenthal

1925 ~ 2018



**George J. Rosenthal**, 93, of Oldsmar passed away May 14, 2018. He was born on April 27, 1925 in Amityville, NY. A decorated WWII Army veteran, George was the recipient of two 

Purple Hearts and many other medals.

Survivors include his loving wife of 15 years, Arlene; children, Laurie (David) Harmer, Nancy (David) Jensen, Dan (Pam) Rosenthal, Lisa (Joel) Levinson, Elaine (John) Schaefer, and Alec (Donna) Paul; and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

See more at:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/tampa-fl/george-rosenthal-7850304>

## Harry A. Thompson

1914 ~ 2011



**Harry A. Thompson**, 97, of Wolfe City died Aug. 2, 2011, at Legend Healthcare of Greenville following a two-month illness.

Born May 5, 1914, in Dallas, he was the son of Henry A. and Audry Hathaway Thompson. He married Virginia M. Wiley on Sept. 12, 1944, in Rockwall. Mr. Thompson served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was a POW at Hammelburg. 

Surviving are a daughter, Pamela London and fiancé Tim London, and granddaughters Jessica London, Monica London and Katy London and fiancé Tony Castro. His wife preceded him in death.

See more at:

<http://www.owensandsonfh.com/obituary/1228895>

## Gloria Heisler

2017



**Gloria Heisler**, 89 of Providence passed peacefully in her sleep on Sunday, December 3rd, 2017.

She was a daughter of the late Florence (Nane) Simmons, beloved wife of the late Kriegy W. Chris Heisler, loving mother of Jill Heisler and her husband Joseph Stand of Florida, Walter Heisler, and the late Jack Heisler.

See more at:

<https://obitree.com/obituary/us/rhode-island/woonsocket/berarducci-funeral-home--cremation-care-center/gloria-heisler/3363136/>

# *Evelyn F. Korber*

1921 ~ 2018



**Evelyn F. Korber**, 96, of Cheyenne died Jan. 29 at her home. She was born Feb. 24, 1921.

She was the wife of the late Kriegy William B. Korber and is survived by a daughter, Mary Mason (Jim) of Neola, Iowa; two sons, Robert and Michael Korber, both of Cheyenne; nine grandchildren, Tracey, Deborah, Terry, David, Michael, Jaime, Jordan, Kelsey and Bryant; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

See more at:

[https://www.wyomingnews.com/milestones/obituaries/evelyn-korber/article\\_079ba5bc-0656-11e8-9f28-1befbbc3c8e8.html](https://www.wyomingnews.com/milestones/obituaries/evelyn-korber/article_079ba5bc-0656-11e8-9f28-1befbbc3c8e8.html)

[https://www.wrcfuneral.com/obituaries/Evelyn-Korber/?wms\\_redirected=1 - !/Obituary](https://www.wrcfuneral.com/obituaries/Evelyn-Korber/?wms_redirected=1 - !/Obituary)

# *Aloha Maxine Lisenbe*

1928 ~ 2018



Aloha Maxine Lisenbe entered in to the kingdom of heaven joining her Lord Jesus Christ on Thursday, April 12, 2018.

She was born on January 29, 1928 in Lakeside WA and was a member of Temple Bible Church. She celebrated her 90th birthday this year.

She was the wife of the late Kriegy James C. Lisenbe and is survived by a son, a daughter, four grandchildren, five great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

See more at:

<http://www.harperalasek.com/memorialpage.asp?page=odetail&id=87519&locid=33>

<https://www.everhere.com/us/obituary-temple-alo-ha-maxine-lisenbe-7246942>

<https://texas.funeral.com/2018/04/14/alo-ha-maxine-lisenbe-90-of-temple-died-thursday/>

# *Karen Rossi*

1954 ~ 2016



**Karen P. Rossi** went to be with THE LORD on Sunday, June 19, 2016.

Born in San Diego, she was raised outside Boston, Mass.

Karen was the wife of Jon Rossi (who also recently passed away) and the late Michael Daly. She is survived by her children, Michael Daly and his wife Courtney of Paxton, Michelle Rooney and her husband Anthony and Erin Daly all of Acton. She is the daughter of the late William and Kathleen Atwood. Sister of John Atwood and his wife Bette-Ann of Reading and Rick Atwood of Haverhill. Grandmother of Liam, Bronwyn, Hudson, Lars, Mikey and Billy.

Karen was the great niece of the late Kriegy Thomas Drake.

See more at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/karen-rossi-obituary?pid=180534044&view=guestbook>

<https://www.cotafuneralhomes.com/notices/Karen-Rossi>



Please inform us of any other Kriegies, Kriegy widows, or family members you know who have passed away recently. We will do our best to include them all.

## 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. **Captured Yesterday: The WWII Diary of Tony B. Lumpkin** (Kindle Edition but also available in paperback), edited by Tony Lumpkin III and Elizabeth Lumpkin. **This publication was just released on October 19, 2017.** [https://www.amazon.com/Captured-Yesterday-WWII-Diary-Lumpkin-ebook/dp/B076MGBWFK/ref=sr\\_1\\_fkmr0\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1509400350&sr=8-1-fkmr0&keywords=captured+again+by+Tony+Lumpkin+III](https://www.amazon.com/Captured-Yesterday-WWII-Diary-Lumpkin-ebook/dp/B076MGBWFK/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1509400350&sr=8-1-fkmr0&keywords=captured+again+by+Tony+Lumpkin+III)
3. **Diary of A Kriegie** by Ed Beattie. Diary of Ed Beattie, A UPI Correspondent captured near the Moselle River in Sept '44. Publisher: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York NY <http://www.amazon.com/Diary-kriegie-Edward-W-Beattie/dp/B0007E4AUA>
4. **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)
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27. **Vic Kanners Diary** – Contact Don Kanners, 3205 Jennella Dr, Commerce TWP MI 48390-1619, [dkanners@comcast.net](mailto:dkanners@comcast.net)
28. **Yank: Memoir of a World War II Soldier** by Ted Ellsworth. Publisher: Da Capo Press, 2009. Various prices. [https://www.amazon.com/Yank-Memoir-Soldier-1941-1945-Desert-ebook/dp/B00A8SIASS/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1498257241&sr=8-1&keywords=yank%3A+Memoir+of+a+World+War+II+Soldier](https://www.amazon.com/Yank-Memoir-Soldier-1941-1945-Desert-ebook/dp/B00A8SIASS/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1498257241&sr=8-1&keywords=yank%3A+Memoir+of+a+World+War+II+Soldier)



# Oflag 64 US Advisory Council/Hall of Remembrance

## HALL OF REMEMBRANCE UPDATE!

The Oflag 64 Advisory Council, including our friend and advocate Mariusz Winiecki and his charming wife Joanna from Szubin, Poland, met during the week of July 22 – 29<sup>th</sup> in Metropolitan Washington, DC. This was a wonderful and very productive week as we decided what steps are needed to move toward accomplishing our stated mission:

***The Oflag 64 Association, a group of American ex-Kriegies, their families, and interested parties, have a mission to assist in the development of historical museums/centers and the preservation of the history of their experience by highlighting the camp itself, its internees, and the role and support of the Polish people. The vision of the Oflag 64 Association is to support the citizens of Szubin and their governmental entities in the creation of an Oflag 64 museum within the framework of a Hall of Remembrance for the Nazi German Camps located in Szubin.***

Barracks #9, the last remaining barracks, is now the property of the City of Szubin. The deed designates the site as a National Memory Site. This is comparable to a National Historic Site in the US. This designation is an honor and a result of the enthusiasm our group is generating in Szubin.



The Advisory Council is in the process of establishing a Polish-American Foundation which will be the vehicle supporting the establishment of a Hall of Remembrance on the grounds of the former Oflag 64 site. The Polish-American Foundation for the Commemoration of the POW camps in Szubin is honored that Wilbur “Bill” Sharpe is the founder on behalf of all the men at Oflag 64

As a reminder, the Oflag 64 individuals and families volunteering to serve on the team working toward the creation of the Hall of Remembrance include: Cindy and Glenn Burgess, Elodie Caldwell, Tom Cobb, Susanna Connaughton, Janet Ellsworth, Bret Job, Rosa Lee, Marlene McAllister, Taylor McAllister, Dave Stewart, Pat Waters, and Nancy Wyatt.

Decisions made in DC are as follows:

- The Council is in the process of establishing a Polish-American Foundation which will be the vehicle supporting the establishment of a Hall of Remembrance on the grounds of the former Oflag 64 site.
- We will seek nonprofit status [501(c)(3)] for future fundraising opportunities as we continue to market our very important endeavor.

Following our meetings, we hosted a reception for family and friends of the POW’s during which we had the opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new connections. An inspiring get together was enjoyed by all. In addition, a reporter and a photographer from the Washington Post covered the reception. The article is reprinted with permission by the Washington Post at the end of this ITEM. You may also access the article at this link: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/americans-poles-meet-in-va-hotel-in-plot-to-save-nearly-forgotten-nazi-pow-camp-in-small-polish-town/2018/07/29/563203c2-932a-11e8-810c-5fa705927d54\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.89ce3cf22476](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/americans-poles-meet-in-va-hotel-in-plot-to-save-nearly-forgotten-nazi-pow-camp-in-small-polish-town/2018/07/29/563203c2-932a-11e8-810c-5fa705927d54_story.html?utm_term=.89ce3cf22476)

Thank you to so many who traveled and participated in our reception. What a fabulous mini reunion that in some respects mirrored the past reunions in which our relatives participated!!!! They would applaud us.

We appreciate your support and urge you to inventory any Kriegy artifacts you might have in your possession for donation to our endeavor in Szubin.

Please contact us if you have questions or would like to become involved with this effort.

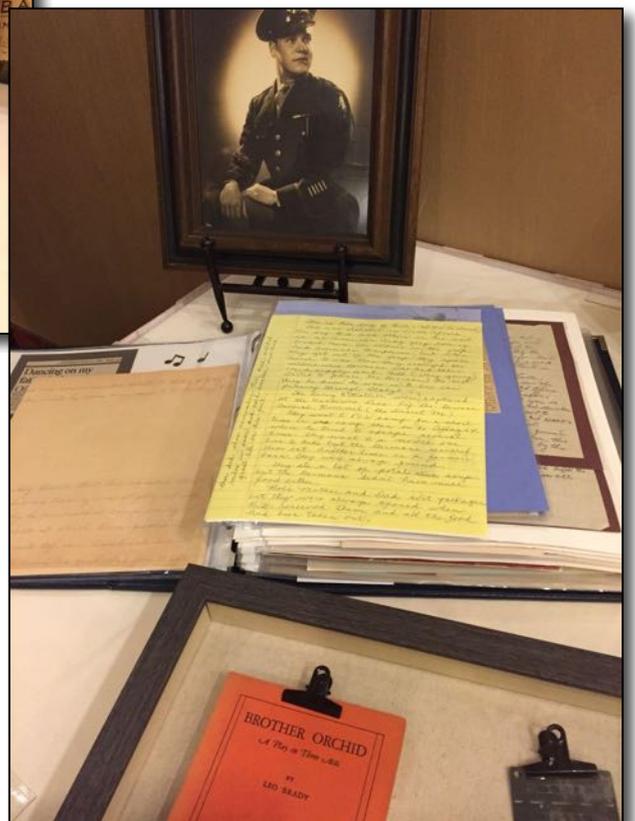
The following photos come from a collection of photos taken by those who attended the Washington DC reception.

# July 29, 2018 - Oflag 64 DC Reception









# Americans, Poles meet in Va. hotel in plot to save nearly forgotten Nazi POW camp in small Polish town

By Hannah Natanson - July 29, 2018

Washington Post

(Text and photos are reprinted with permission)

For four hours Saturday night, an event space in a DoubleTree Hilton near Dulles International Airport became a war room in the fight against forgetting.

The people came from as near as Ashburn, Va., and as far as Szubin, Poland. They came because they are descendants of American officers once imprisoned in Oflag 64, a small Nazi prisoner-of-war camp that was located in Szubin during World War II. They came because their grandfathers had spoken fondly about the place — or because their grandfathers had always refused to discuss it. Some Szubin residents came because they had walked by the prison site for years without knowing what it was. All came to remember.

Ninety-six-year-old [Wilbur Blaine Sharpe](#) was the sole “Kriegy” — a nickname for the officers kept in Oflag 64 and an abbreviation of *kriegsgefangenen*, the German word for prisoners of war — who was able to attend. He came because, well, how could he not?

“I just figured it would be nice to preserve it even though it was a place of adversity,” Sharpe said. “We had a lot of pleasant experiences there, like the theater and the music; all the adults tried to take care of each other. They just didn’t feed us.”

Sharpe, an artillery officer captured by Erwin Rommel’s Panzer division in World War II, spent 19 months as Prisoner 1,573 in Oflag 64 before escaping. His weight sank from its initial 150 to a measly 96 pounds. But he found the strength to take leading parts in musicals the roughly 1,500 incarcerated officers staged, often wearing women’s clothes, in an effort to keep up morale.

More than seven decades later, Sharpe is again taking a starring role — this time as the founder of a Polish American foundation seeking to build a commemorative museum at the site of Oflag 64 in Szubin. Saturday’s gathering was to announce the establishment of that foundation, as well as a U.S.-based nonprofit group that will raise funds for the museum.

“My generation does not know what happened in the camp,” said Mariusz Winiecki, 42, a Szubin resident and university professor who began researching Oflag 64 more than a decade ago. “Our purpose is to make people aware of WWII and the atrocity that war can cause.” Only a handful of original Oflag 64 buildings remain standing on the site, which now houses a reform school.

As a boy, Winiecki used to walk through the dilapidated campus on the way to school. In 2007, he started googling the German name of his hometown and “Oflag 64” and discovered the [Oflag 64 Association](#), a long-standing American group comprising Kriegies and their families. He eventually began corresponding with several Kriegies, including Sharpe. One former prisoner of war sent Winiecki a 17-page handwritten letter detailing his experiences in the camp. Then several members of the Oflag 64 Association visited Szubin to see the site.

Winiecki began working with Szubin’s mayor, Artur Michalak; the head of the reform school, Wiesław Gusińzki; and the curator of Szubin’s museum, Kamila Czechowski, to figure out how to save Building 9, a former prison barracks that is one of the few original structures still standing. This June, the Polish government officially signed over ownership of the building to the “community of Szubin,” Winiecki said. Now they must raise an estimated \$1 million to restore the building. Winiecki said it will be at least three to four years before the museum can open its doors. The Americans are determined to help.

“It would mean so much to help honor [my father’s] memory and his experience, to help keep the memory alive of that experience,” said Oflag 64 Association member Nancy Wyatt, whose late father, Robert Thompson, was imprisoned in Szubin.

In September, several members of the association’s advisory council will travel to Warsaw to meet with Winiecki and Polish officials in an attempt to secure government funding for the project. Cindy Burgess, Sharpe’s daughter and a council member, said all are hopeful for the future. But on Saturday night, attendees focused only on the 20th-century past. Most did not mention Poland’s [far-right](#)

government or a recently modified law that made it illegal to suggest Poland was complicit in Nazi atrocities committed during the Holocaust. Asked by a reporter about those events, Winiecki reemphasized the importance of educating Poland’s “youngest generation” about World War II.

Sharpe, who wore a pin bearing entwined Polish and American flags on his shirt collar, spoke for roughly half an hour about his time in the camp. He had to sit down halfway through and sometimes needed prompts from relatives, but his voice was clear and loud as he recounted memories of foiled escape attempts, secret radios and dreadful food – but also theatrical productions, friendship and laughter. “I think that’s what kept us alive, frankly . . . that’s what kept us going,” he said.

Winiecki spoke next, offering the audience a peek into life at Oflag 64. He showcased the results of painstaking research: photos of American POWs frolicking in a field, skating on a frozen fish pond, standing in the theater barracks dressed as women in bras and skirts, sheltering under scraggly trees as they read books or wrote letters home.

Descendants of Kriegies paid close attention. “I want to tell your stories, your fathers’ stories,” Winiecki told the room.

Anna Weber, whose grandfather, Phillip Wade, was imprisoned in Oflag 64, is writing her master’s thesis at the University of Pittsburgh about the camp and his time there. She said she is partly inspired to write by the current political situation in Poland and by rising far-right sympathies and neo-Nazism in the United States. “The deeper and deeper I dive into what I’m doing, the more it feels relevant to what is going on today,” Weber said. “It’s intense.”

Not so for Sharpe. Asked about the rise of the far right, he shook his head. “Nazism doesn’t have any meaning for me at all,” Sharpe said. “I guess I’ve chosen to forget.”



Top Left – Top Left – Cindy Burgess with her dad, Wilbur Sharpe, looking over archival exhibits

Top Right – Wilbur Sharpe holding a photo of himself as a young soldier during World War II

Bottom Left – Standing ovation by attendees for Wilbur Sharpe after addressing the group

Bottom Right – Table centerpiece featuring both the US and Polish flags