

# The

# Post Oflag 64 Item

All the News That's  
Been Geprüft

Nearly Everybody  
Reads THE ITEM

“Get Wise – ITEM-ize”

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2022

Good Ole USA

Of Undetermined Worth

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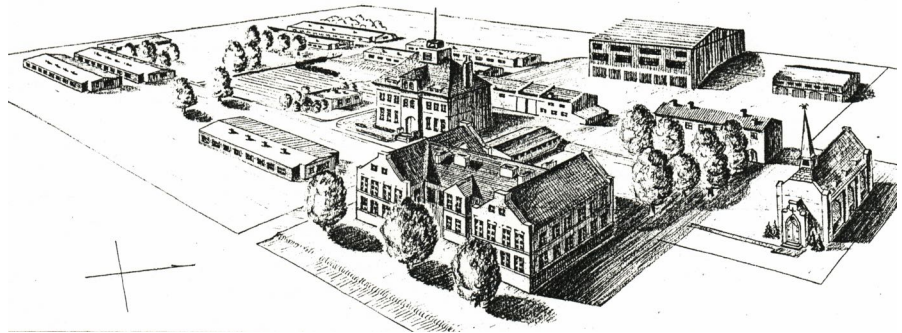
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Dave Stewart  
Kathy Zelazny Thomas  
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Marvin Williams  
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We apologize to any others we may have overlooked and thank all who have contacted us.

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



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

## Progress Continues at the Tin Store

These articles of donated POW clothing, and other military clothing worn by them, are being prepared for eventual display in the Tin Store, our temporary museum. We're excited at the progress being made each day and look forward to a future announcement of opening day.



If you have questions about donating items to the Tin Store, please email our Artifacts Committee Chairman, Dave Stewart, at [dslvtx@gmail.com](mailto:dslvtx@gmail.com).

Best to you,  
Elodie Caldwell, ITEM Editor, [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us)  
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# A Little Company Business

## Many Thanks

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



And MANY THANKS 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 Oflag 64 Postage Fund, and send them 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

## 3rd Qtr. PF Contributions

David Weinstein

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

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

OR

donate ONLINE at:

<https://friendsofotlag64.org/cont-act-us>

You can also access the donation page on the Polish-American Foundation website at:  
<http://www.szubinpowcamps.org/en/foundation/support-us>

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.

## Website Updates and Additions



If you haven't had an opportunity to visit our Oflag 64 Remembered website for a while, please visit it again at [www.oflag64.us](http://www.oflag64.us) and take a look at What's New!

We frequently receive notice that a Kriegy has passed away. The online TAPS list is updated each time we receive those notices. Please check to make sure your

Kriegy's name is there and that the information is correct.

If your Kriegy kept a journal that you're not yet ready to donate, we would appreciate having scans of the pages for future museum displays. These will help put pieces of the whole Kriegy puzzle together.

## Preparing Artifacts for Shipment

All donated artifacts will be scanned or photographed by Artifacts Committee personnel prior to being carefully packed for shipment to Szubin. Any written history of the artifact would be greatly appreciated, but please do not attach anything sticky (like a Post-It) to the artifact as the glue may damage the artifact. All artifacts will be appropriately packaged - for example, paper items are stored in clear acid-free plastic sleeves - and each artifact is given a unique inventory ID number which will also identify the donor. All donations must be accompanied by two copies of the donation form accessible at this link: <https://bit.ly/3yZcnBd>. If you have questions, please contact Dave Stewart, Artifacts Committee Chairman, at: [dslvtx@gmail.com](mailto:dslvtx@gmail.com).

\* \* \* \* \*

## Contact Us

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# MAIL CALL



*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!](#)*

MARILYN KANNERS BECKHAM, daughter of the late Kriegy Victor Kanners – responded to our request for a copy of her dad's diary, "Horseshit and Cobblestones". (Copies are available, see the Publications Section.) She also sent "POW & MIA NEVER FORGOTTEN" postcards. Additionally, she reported that her mom, Marcia Kanners, will be 102 in November.

CINDY SHARPE BURGESS, daughter of the late Kriegy Wilbur B. Sharpe – sent word that her dear father passed away 9 days after his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. See the TAPS section. (Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family Cindy.) She also sent thanks to the Oflag 64 Family for kind remembrances of him. Additionally, she sent updated information on some of our Kriegy Kids and recently learned the date her Dad's Arlington service will take place.

NEAL CORY, son of the late Kriegy William R. Cory – donated some of his father's Oflag 64 tunnel drawings for use in the future museum. They are being prepared for shipment to Poland.

MICHELLE CRAIG, daughter of the late Kriegy William F. Higgins – at our request, sent photos of her dad to add to his bio.

GEORGE CRESSMAN, Staff Historian at the Camp Blanding Museum in Florida – recently contacted us with an update to the late Kriegy Malcolm A. Baldwin's record on our database. Malcolm was with the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry instead of the 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

DAVID DOWSE, relative of the late Kriegy Milton E. Dowse – donated two copies of Milton's book to the Polish-American Foundation. We had been looking for the book for several months.

KATE KENNEDY HINES, daughter of the late Kriegy Gibson B. Kennedy – at our request gave permission for us to use her dad's family-written bio in this issue. (See the Kriegy News and Information section)

DAVID LITTLE, grandson of the late Kriegy Thomas H. Wingate – found and sent an obituary for one of our West Point kriegies, Richard Von Schrittz. David is also planning a trip to Szubin in 2023 and would like to take some time to follow the long march route during his trip.

BOB MACAREVEY, son of the late Kriegy Jim MacArevey – recently wrote a book about his father and mother entitled A TROJAN'S WAR. What a wonderful tribute to his parents! These stories need to be told.

MARIANNE LIGGETT MERRIAM, daughter of the late Kriegy F. Eugene Liggett – complimented us on the last ITEM and sent thanks for our hard work.

DAVE OSHLO, son of the late Kriegy Robert J. Oshlo – in response to an earlier request from us, wrote that he would like to write his dad's biography and, although daunting, is working on it and has a good start.

DAVID PALLUCONI, son of the late Kriegy Amelio B. Palluconi – read with interest the information about the Tin Store in the June BULLETIN. He mentioned that his dad spoke about the Red Cross parcels and that the Germans would take out the chocolate and cigarettes before giving them to the Kriegies; he also remembered hearing from his dad that the parcel boxes were used for storing tunnel dirt.

CLAIR SHOAF, daughter-in-law of the late Kriegy James R. Shoaf II – responded to our email regarding the bio our research team wrote on him. She also informed us that her husband, James R. Shoaf III passed away in 2018 and that her brother-in-law John R. Shoaf passed away this July. (See the TAPS section). She has a framed picture that one of our Kriegies drew of James II's wife while he was a POW, and is planning to donate it to the future museum. (See the Other News of Interest section.)

PAUL J. THRIFFILEY III, son of the late Kriegy Paul J. Thriffiley Jr. – as part of the Kriegy Research Group, has continued to locate information on our Kriegies to help us as we write bios. Recent finds include information for Kriegies Harry B. Long, Stephen B. Kochy, and John C. Culler, Jr.

PAT WATERS, son of the late Kriegy John K. Waters – wrote asking for any information we had on a possible Oflag 64 POW named William Linning. We're waiting on confirmation as to whether the Kriegy on our database is the same person he's asking about. Pat has been in contact with a man who may be William's son and who may have some items to donate to the new museum.

DAVID WEINSTEIN, nephew of the late Kriegy Len Feldman – wrote that he is still slowly putting together his uncle's story and will be sending information about his uncle's war experiences as soon as he can. He also sent a generous donation to the Postage Fund. (Thanks so much David)

MARVIN WILLIAMS, friend of Oflag 64 – wrote that he had an original campaign flyer for the late Kriegy, Dr. Floyd Burgeson who was running for Congress from Iowa, and will donate it to the Artifacts Committee. He also sent two articles written at Oflag 64 containing names of some of our Oflag 64 Kriegies. (See the Other News of Interest section for these articles.)

MARIUSZ WINIECKI, President of the Polish-American Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin – sent photos of the progress on the outdoor landscaping of The Tin Store, also photos of some original Oflag 64 barbed wire. Additionally, he let us know that the renovation of the former Oflag 64 Chapel is now complete. (See the Other News of Interest section.)

\* \* \* \* \*

*Please check the **Library of Congress** website at <https://bit.ly/356b4Hq> to see if your Kriegy participated in the Veterans History Project. If he did, we would like permission to use his video interview and/or transcripts as we help prepare for displays in the future museum. The above link takes you to my father's file (Reid Ellsworth). Just enter your Kriegy's name in his place and push enter. See the last page of this ITEM for the Consent to Use Materials form. Please use the same form if your Kriegy participated in any other similar project.*

# Kriegy News and Information



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



and best wishes to our great **KRIEGY PATRIOT AND HERO**



Orpha Ziegler - age 101

October 19

\*\*\*\*\*

## From Tunisia to the Brenner Pass

With the information found in Thomas Holt's and Joe Seringer's bios, the path of the Sidi Bou Zid POWs has now been traced with 99.9% accuracy. Please let us know if you have other supporting or additional information. Thanks to Dave Stewart for marking the path and providing the map.



# Kriegy Bios, Artifacts, Artifact Descriptions

We're happy to include the following family-written bio in this issue of the ITEM. It was written and submitted by Kate Kennedy Hines and her siblings. Photos are from their family files.

## 2LT Gibson Bell Kennedy 1920 – 1971



Gibson Bell Kennedy, a World War II prisoner of war and later a successful businessman, was born in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia September 1, 1920.

The second of three boys, he was the son of Elizabeth Wheeler Kennedy and Albert Edward Kennedy, Jr., both of Philadelphia. By agreement, when the three boys were still young, their parents left them in the care of their maternal grandmother, widow Laetitia Wheeler Bell, and her second husband, The Rev. Dr. Gibson Bell, after whom Mr. Kennedy was named.

Dr. Bell was founder and headmaster of the Montgomery School, a private preparatory boy's school, at the time located in Wynnewood, PA. Mr. Kennedy attended the school, graduating in 1938 and joined Harvard College's Class of 1942.

He left Harvard midway through his sophomore year and joined the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, a National Guard unit tracing its history back to 1774 and the American Revolution.

Mr. Kennedy entered active service in February, 1941, serving both domestically and abroad. He was a Second Lieutenant assigned to the 326th Engineer Battalion of the 101st Army Airborne Division when he parachuted into Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and was captured by German troops.

He was sent to Oflag 64, a German prisoner-of-war camp for American officers located in Szubin, Poland. In 1945, he escaped either from the camp itself or during the forced march to German soil, resulting from German fears the camp would be liberated by advancing Russian troops.



*Gibson Bell Kennedy (center) with his brothers and their wives*

He made his way to safety and returned to American soil September 4, 1945 and was honorably discharged the following December 8.

During those three months of domestic duty Mr. Kennedy promoted War Bonds and made condolence calls to the families of servicemen killed in action.

One of those was Marine Sergeant William Henry Palmer Townsend, of Philadelphia, an acquaintance of Mr. Kennedy's, who was killed during the assault on Iwo Jima February 19, 1945. During his call on Sergeant Townsend's family, Mr. Kennedy met the elder of his two sisters, Mona Townsend. The two were married November 15, 1946 in Philadelphia.

After the war, Mr. Kennedy was employed by the Philco Corporation, at the time a leading manufacturer of consumer electronics. He worked in sales for the company in Philadelphia, Dallas, Boston, and Philadelphia again, returning there in 1957.

He rose to become Vice President in charge of Sales and Marketing for the company until it was acquired by the Ford Motor Company in 1961.

He subsequently worked as a consultant for TRW, an Ohio-based automotive and aerospace engineering concern and in 1963 moved with his family to England for an executive role with Standard Electric Corp., a UK-based consumer product company owned by ITT.

In 1964, Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy's marriage ended in divorce. He subsequently married Kay Doherty, of London.

He died May 12, 1971 in a swimming accident off the coast of Majorca, a Spanish island in the Mediterranean, and was buried in a London England cemetery.

At the time of his death, Mr. Kennedy was survived by his wife, Kay, and four children: William Townsend Kennedy; Gibson Bell Kennedy, Jr.; Laetitia Elizabeth Kennedy and Katherine Culzean Kennedy.



### Family-Written Biographies

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

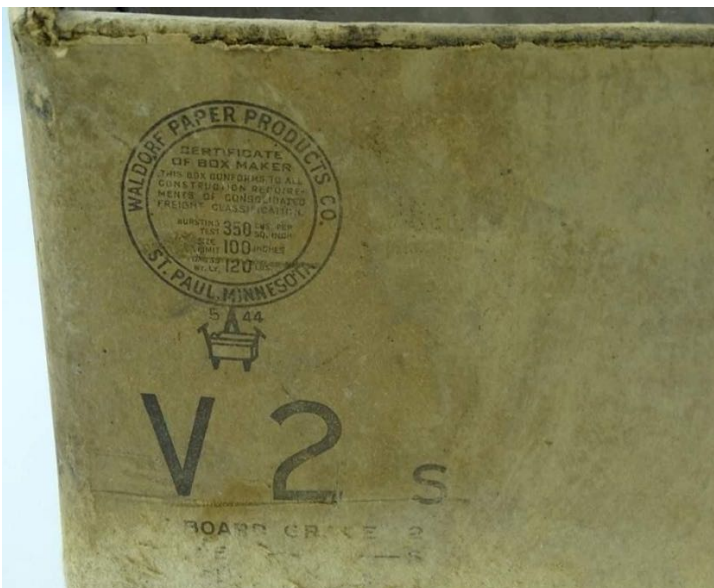
*The task sometimes seems daunting but we have bio writers who are willing to help you get started. There is no length requirement, any length works just fine. We have some that are shorter and some that are quite a bit longer. We would love to know about your Kriegy's early life, if he graduated from 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 13 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.*

# Artifact Inventory ID No. 13.171

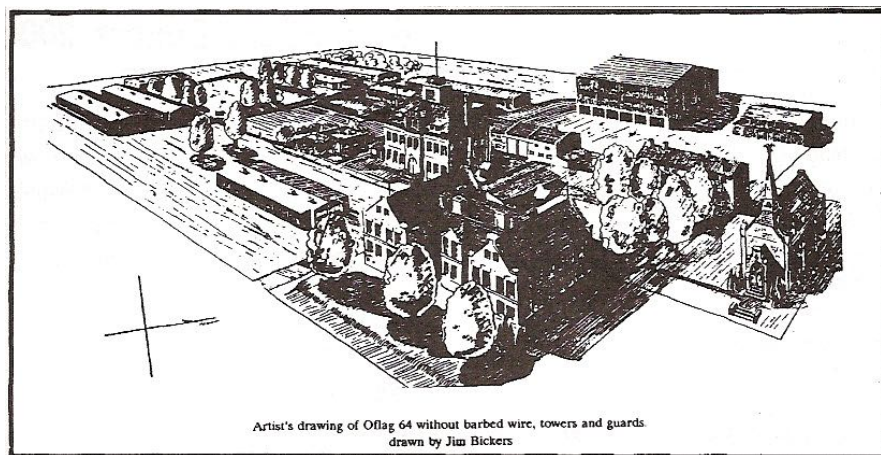
## (Class III Artifact)



Donated by David A. Stewart (photos by Mariusz Winiecki)

**Artifact Description:** Original American Red Cross Parcel Box (Food Package No. 10)

**Artifact History:** This American Red Cross Food Package No. 10 box manufactured in May 1944 once held 4 individual Red Cross food parcels. American Red Cross parcel boxes were critical to supplementing the diets of the Oflag 64 Kriegies. The German ration for the Oflag 64 Kriegies was about 1,200 calories per day, and without the supplemental calories from the food in the American Red Cross parcels and personal food parcels sent by the families of the Kriegies, many of the Kriegies could have developed very serious health issues.



Artist's drawing of Oflag 64 without barbed wire, towers and guards  
drawn by Jim Bickers

1LT James Franklin Bickers Jr's drawing of Oflag 64 (image from *Oflag 64 Remembered files*)



# Artifact Inventory ID No. 13.161 (Class II Artifact)



Donated by the Francis Eugene Liggett family: his wife, Rosalie Liggett and their children James Liggett, Dorothy Tilka, Ronald Liggett and Marianne Merriam (*photo by Marianne Liggett Merriam*)

**Artifact Description:** Special Supplement by the American Red Cross: "Gefangenen Gazette"; Prisoner of War Bulletin, September 1944

**Artifact History:** The American National Red Cross for the Relatives of American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees published a special supplement to the September 1944 "Prisoner of War Bulletin" called the "Gefangenen Gazette".

**Photo of Oflag 64 POW:**



2LT Francis Eugene Liggett (*photo from Liggett Family Archives*)

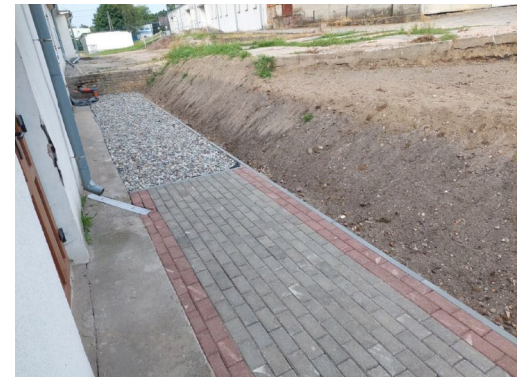
## Other News of Interest

In the last two issues of the ITEM, mention was made of Tin Store renovations and readiness for an eventual opening. Things are moving along but it's not ready to open just yet. We will let you know as time draws near.



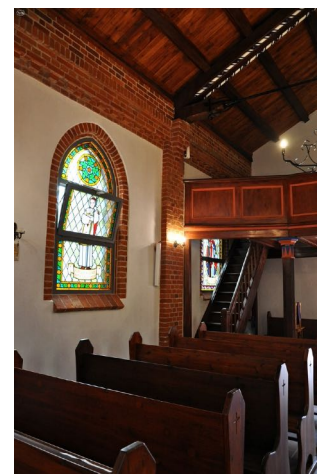
Mariusz Winiecki is always on the lookout for things that might have been part of Oflag 64's history. Recently he noticed that the original Oflag 64 barbed wire, between the White House and the Kommandant's house, was still there but in jeopardy of being scrapped due to renovations on the White House and Hospital nearby. So he rescued it for the museum. We appreciate his keen observation.

These photos show work being done outside the Tin Store, landscaping, etc. Notice the cobblestones at the top left of the photo on the far right. They were discovered when the renovations began and were most likely originally placed where they were found, but there's no information



yet as to whether placement was prewar or postwar. Grass will be planted on the slope which was recently formed. More photos will be forthcoming as changes or improvements take place.

Lastly, as was mentioned earlier in this issue, the renovations to the former Oflag 64 Chapel have been completed. As reported on the Facebook page of the Polish-American Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin <https://www.facebook.com/oflag64altburgund/>, St. Anne's Church was consecrated on July 27<sup>th</sup> and is once again serving the faithful. For those who have visited the former chapel in Szubin, you'll agree that this is truly a remarkable and beautiful transformation.



The following two articles, written while our Kriegies were at Oflag 64, were sent to us by Marvin Williams, whose father was a Kriegy at another POW camp. Note the names of our Kriegies mentioned in the articles.

Oflag 64  
February 14, 1944

Dear Folks:

As requested I am sending tidbits of POW activity. Our "Kriegy College of Greater Knowledge" is very fortunate in having enrolled several officers of note from the field of entertainment. While they are not professional artists, they all have experience of college entertainment. Most say they hope someday to make entertaining their careers. Our choral group has progressed under the able direction of 1st Lt. Russell Ford, who hails from East Orange, N. J., and who sang as soloist in Grace Church, N. Y. Featured as baritone soloist in our choral group is 1st Lt. Tom Holt, a student of U. of North Carolina. Holt's ambition is to sing at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. The choral group has 21 mixed voices and an accompanist. On Sundays they sing in the chapel during services. The three most popular books in camp are: Low Man on a Totem Pole, Epic of America, and The Robe (story of Jesus). Reading is our greatest diversion.

If any reader of the Bulletin knows the correct address of Mrs. Muck Kahn, will he please get in touch with Miss Ahuvah M. Gershater, 1540 Willis Ave., No. 9, Omaha 10, Nebraska. Mrs. Kahn's address had been incorrectly given as Orthopedic Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska. Miss Gershater has a message for Mrs. Kahn from her brother, a prisoner in Stalag 344.

## Thirty Men Pass College Entrance Exams At Oflag 64; 40 Courses Are Offered

Three hundred American officers held at Oflag 64 are attending 40 different educational courses running a 12-hour day starting at 8:40 a.m., Henry Soederberg, neutral Y.M.C.A. worker, reported following a visit he made to the camp on November 20, traveling by automobile over bad roads and through heavy snow and rain storms.

New school rooms have greatly helped the holding of formal classes at the camp, and 30 students recently passed college entrance examinations. The faculty, under the direction of Captain H. D. Eldridge of Denver, Col., consists of 35 well qualified teachers, Soederberg said. Among the courses offered are three in law, seven foreign languages, six in mathematics, five in English grammar, four in social science and three in science.

The hospital attached to the camp has received consignments of plates

and cooking utensils from the Y.M.C.A., and the patients are very pleased with them, it was stated. A large shipment of lumber, a precious item in prison camps, has arrived from the "Y" in Sweden. The men use lumber to build chapels, school rooms, theatrical stages, furniture, book shelves and many other things they otherwise might do without.

There was great excitement for some of the officers when Soederberg presented them with a hare that had just been shot in the fields outside the camp. The Y.M.C.A. worker had lunch with Col. Schaefer and Capt. Floyd Burgeson, and brought a new pair of eyeglasses to Col. Paul Goode, the Senior American Officer who has replaced Col. Thomas Drake, repatriated with the last exchange of prisoners.

Morale at the camp is good, Soederberg said, adding that he had a long conference with the six chaplains.

This drawing of Doris Shoaf was sent by her daughter-in-law, Clair Shoaf. It was drawn from a photo received by Doris' husband, James R. Shoaf II, while a POW. What a beautiful drawing by Kriegy Clarence E. Simmons, who also ended up at Oflag 64!!



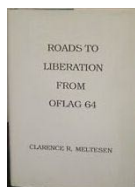
# Publications

**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 <http://www.oflag64.us/books-etc.html> 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 36<sup>th</sup> 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.....**

Marilyn Kanners Beckham (Vic's daughter) for a copy of **Vic Kanners' Diary "Horseshit and Cobblestones"**, 3608 W BRADFORD DR, BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48301-3353. [marilynbeckham@gmail.com](mailto:marilynbeckham@gmail.com) (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 Elodie Caldwell at [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us). 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 Elodie Caldwell, \$15.99 includes S&H. Please write your check to the Oflag 64 Postage Fund. (Thank you, Pat, for making these available.)

# TAPS



In recent months we have learned of the deaths of the following Kriegy patriots and heroes. We mourn their passing and honor them for their great service and sacrifice during WWII. We have also learned of the passing of a Kriegy Widow and three Kriegy Kids. We know they are all mightily missed.

*Stephen B. Kochy*

1920 ~ 2005



Stephen B. Kochy, 84, of Houston, Texas died March 7, 2005.

Maj. Kochy was born July 29, 1920 in Gary, W.Va. He fought in two wars. During World War II,

he was a member of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division that parachuted into Normandy on D-Day. He was captured by the Germans and was a POW for eight months. Later, he won the Bronze Star during the Korean conflict.



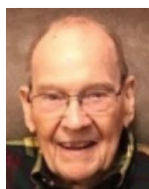
Survivors include a daughter, Stephanie Kochy Roberson (Tom) of Houston; two granddaughters, Meredith Roberson and Lauren Roberson, both of Houston, Texas; a sister, Elizabeth Wittenburg of New Jersey; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Flo Kochy; and a grandson, Whitney Roberson

Stephen's information was found at: <https://www.geni.com/people/Steve-Kochy/5265354898940022395>

## *Wilbur B. Sharpe*

1922 ~ 2022



Wilbur "Bill" Blaine Sharpe, Jr., of Ashburn, VA, and previously of Bethesda, MD, passed on Sunday, July 3, 2022. Born June 24, 1922, in Lebanon, IN. Bill was a U.S. Army veteran of both WWII and Korea. During WWII, Bill was a POW at Oflag 64 in Szubin, Poland, from 1943 to 1945. Bill married the love of his life, Mary Eileen Glenn, in 1946 and the couple soon welcomed their daughter, Cynthia Louise. During his 40+ year civilian career, Bill lent his retail management talents to Kay Jewelers, Woodward and Lothrop Department Stores, and Burberrys of London. He was a devoted community service participant in Chambers of Commerce, Rotary International as a Paul Harris fellow, and as the founder of the first Polish American non-profit, the Polish-American Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin. Bill was an unflagging optimist, a classic gentleman, and admired by all those who knew him.



Bill is survived by his daughter, Cynthia Burgess (husband, Glenn) and granddaughter Lauren Burgess. Bill was preceded by his parents, Hattie Olive Shaw and Wilbur Blaine Sharpe, Sr., two brothers, three sisters, and his cherished wife, Mary, who passed away in September 2020.

A joint funeral service with his beloved Mary will be held at a later date and will take place at the Fort Myer Old Post Chapel with a burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Friends of Oflag 64 by accessing the following link: (<https://friendsofflag64.org/>)

Obituary found at:

<https://www.pumphreyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Wilbur-Blaine-Sharpe-Jr?obId=25311638#/obituaryInfo>

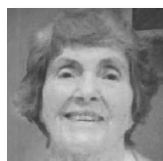
Please also see Bill's Tribute Wall at:

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/SKQXG7XZPJ5BB48>

## *Kriegy Widow*

### *Helen R. "Wodie" Monaghan*

1923 ~ 2022



Helen Rosa "Wodie" Coleman Monaghan born November 19, 1923 died July 9, 2022. Her parents were Judge Stephen Beasley Coleman and Marietta Randolph Coleman.

On August 31, 2019, she and her dearly beloved husband, [the late Kriegy] Col. James Jackson Monaghan, would have celebrated 75 years of marriage. Their six children are: Dr. Marietta Coleman Monaghan, Catherine Beverly Monaghan Joyner, Anne Frances Monaghan Frost (David Wesley Frost), Helen Rosa Monaghan Read, James Jackson Monaghan, Jr. (Dr. Barbara Ann Findlen Monaghan), and Barney Andrew Monaghan (Virginia Paige Ponder Monaghan). Grandchildren are Meghan Coleman Frost, Marian Peyton Frost, David Monaghan Joyner, William Randolph Joyner, Mimi Elizabeth Joyner McCauley, Daniel Monaghan Read, Catherine Elizabeth Read, James Jackson Monaghan III, Austin Thomas Monaghan, Caroline Scott Monaghan, and Kelley Anne Monaghan. Great-grandchildren are Payton Savannah Moore, William Henry Joyner, and Allison Claire McCauley. She is deceased by her cousin Thomas Wilkes Coleman, who was raised by her parents as a younger brother to her. She is also survived by her brother Stephen Beasley Coleman, Jr. (Dr. Sumter Miller Carmichael Coleman) and nephews are Stephen Beasley Coleman III (Jana Hejdukova Coleman), Sammons Randolph Coleman (Rebecca LaVoune O'Neal Coleman), and William Wilkes Young Coleman.

Mrs. Monaghan attended Mountain Brook Elementary, Phillips High School, Sweet Brier College, and graduated from the University of Alabama where she received her B.A. degree and was a member of Kappa Delta. Wodie also enjoyed connecting with her friends in The Sewing Club, Grapevine Garden Club, New Era Study Club, Music and Art Club, Linly Heflin, and Colonial Dames. She was a long time member of St. Mary's on the Highlands Episcopal Church, the Junior League, and was a member of the Junior League Choral Group for over forty years, the Civic Chorus, and a member of the Shook Hill

Painters, The Village Painters, Maskers and Gaieties dance clubs.

Obituary found at:

<https://obits.al.com/us/obituaries/birmingham/name/helen-monaghan-obituary?id=35738691>

## *Kriegy Kids*

### *James R. Shoaf III* 1939 ~ 2018



James Riley Shoaf III "Jim" 79, died Saturday, May 19, 2018 at Kaiser Hospital in Santa Clara. He was born in Morgantown, W. Virginia, February 14, 1939. He was one of two sons born to the late Doris Runner Shoaf and [the late Kriegy] James Riley Shoaf II. Jim was employed at Lockheed Missiles and Space in Sunnyvale, CA as a Computer Engineer for 26 years. He attended W. Virginia University, and was in the ROTC. He graduated from San Jose State with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in June 1977. He also served 4 years in the United States Air Force.



Jim is survived by his loving wife Claire Shoaf of 32 years, and is also survived by his Brother, John Richard Shoaf, of Morgantown, W. Virginia.

Jim was a loving caring man and shared a special and close relationship with his wife, Claire. They were soulmates and enjoyed their many timeshare vacations, theater, YMCA, walks, and just being together.

Jim touched the lives of many people with his smile and generosity and maintained his trademark sense of humor till the end. He was loved by all who knew him, and will be forever remembered. Claire would like to thank the Doctors, Nurses and staff at Kaiser Hospital for their care of Jim.

Obituary found at:

<https://www.funeralcremation.com/obituary/james-jim-shoaf-iii>

## *John R. Shoaf*

1942 ~ 2022



John Richard Shoaf passed away on July 1, 2022, at WVU Hospital Hospice. Although John was suffering from Stage 4 Kidney Disease, he succumbed to complications from a stroke suffered on June 23.

John was born on October 30, 1942, in the upper bedroom of his grandparents' home on Jones Avenue in Morgantown, WV, to Doris Runner Shoaf and [Kriegy] James (Jimmy) Riley Shoaf II.

Following his father's release from a German POW camp in 1945, Doris and Jim along with their two sons, James (Skip) and John, moved to Collingswood, NJ. John graduated from Collingswood High School in 1960; but he spent his summers in both Morgantown, WV, and on the Runner farm on Tom Cat Hollow near Pt. Marion, PA. John graduated from WVU with a B.S. and M.A. in Secondary Education (Science and Social Studies). John continued his education by taking college and technical courses and received several additional certifications.

After college graduation, John stayed in Morgantown, WV. His first teaching job was at Tunnelton (WV) School. For his second year and several more years, he was at Bruceton Mills (WV) School. He then transferred to Morgantown Junior High and later to the new South Middle School when it opened. At each school he taught 8th grade science. John loved teaching 8th grade, which he called "the quiet years." He loved his students, and he loved science. He respected almost all of the administrators. He retired with 39 years teaching experience.

During his summers in Morgantown and his college years he enjoyed hanging out with the Velveten's Band and working at Jordan's Gulf. Later interests were cars and more cars. He liked photography, mostly talking photos of cars. John loved taking his Sunbeam Tigers to car shows, attending swap meets, and telling anyone who asks anything they wanted to know about Sunbeam cars. He was proud of working with Insane Cycles to rebuild a 1965 Sunbeam Tiger in Playboy Pink as a tribute to the pink Sunbeam Tiger given to the 1965 Playmate of the Year. In addition he enjoyed listening and dancing to Reggae music (especially Small Axe), locating and eating at metal diners (he was a diner-holic),

collecting WV-made glass and chinaware, mowing his lawn, and washing his cars. He and Melodie liked to ride around both far and wide, visiting different places and attending different activities. He always took Melodie places she wanted to go and/or see. They may not be places he would choose, but he went and made certain she had a great time. During and post-pandemic the two of them were happy to just sit and watch t.v., listen to golden oldies, and spoil the cats. They enjoyed doing all kinds of things together and being in each other's company was enough to make them happy. They both had a great sense of humor; but sometimes only they got the joke.

John was a co-founder and member of Dream Machines Car Club. He was a member of Tigers East / Alpines East, California Association of Tiger Owners, American Diner Museum, Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor, and WV Science Teacher Association.

John is preceded by his parents, Doris (Runner) and James Shoaf II, his brother James III (Skip), and his grandparents Sylvia and Phillip Runner. He is survived by his life partner (girlfriend, significant other, soulmate) Melodie DeWitt of 42 years. Also surviving are his sister-in-law Claire Shoaf of Santa Clara, CA, several cousins, and his precious feline, Whitey.

If so inclined, memorial contributions may be made to Shack Neighborhood House, PO Box 600, Pursglove, WV 26546 for its Summer Camp Program so Mon County kids have a safe place to have fun and learn. In the memo line, write: Summer Camp in memory of John Shoaf.

Friends and family were received at Hastings Funeral Home, 153 Spruce St., Morgantown, on Thursday, July 7, from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm. A private graveside service was held at Beverly Hills Memorial Gardens.

Obituary found at:

<https://hastingsfuneralhome.com/tribute-ajax/print-obituary.html?id=3954>

## *Janice Betts Turner*

*1950 ~ 2017*



Janice Diane Turner, age 66 of Meridian, passed away on Thursday, January 12, 2017 in Clifton, Texas.

Funeral services will be 2:00 P.M., Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at the Church of Christ in Clifton with Minister Steve Countryman officiating. Visitation will be from 5:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M., Monday, January 16, 2017 at Lawson Funeral Home in Meridian. Burial will be at the Meridian Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Casey Cospers, Jared Cospers, Jeremy Leverett, Justin Leverett, Mike St. Clair, and Wilford Don Roberts.

Janice Diane Betts was born on June 10, 1950 to [the late Kriegy] Jim Edwin and Mary Jo St. Clair Betts. She graduated from Goddard High School in Goddard, Kansas. After graduating from high school she attended Abilene Christian University. She graduated from Tarleton State University in 1972 with a B.S. in English and Art. Janice taught school for several years in various school districts in Texas. Also, she was employed at Sherwood and Myrtie Foster's Home for Children in Stephenville, Texas as a houseparent at the Brummett Youth Ranch near Fairy, Texas.

She was a devoted mother and enjoyed life. In her spare time Janice loved gardening, being around animals (especially horses), arts & crafts, traveling on countryside roads, and enjoying nature and its beauty.

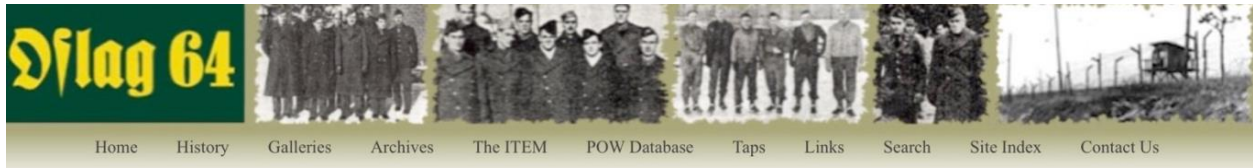
She is survived by her husband, Michael Dan Turner of Meridian; son, Clifton Dan Turner and wife, Liz, of San Marcos; sisters, Jeanie Cospers and husband, Jimmy, of Clifton, Jo Ann Leverett and husband, Jimmy, of Farmington, New Mexico; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Preceded in death by her parents, Jim Edwin and Mary Jo St. Clair Betts.

Obituary found at:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/175301564/janice-diane-turner>





**Oflag 64 Remembered**  
 Honoring our Kriegy Patriots and Heroes

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