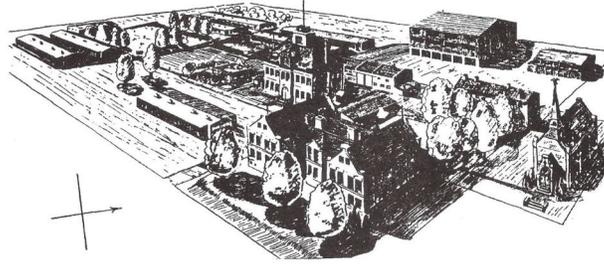


Post Oflag 64 Item



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

MID-2ND QUARTER 2018

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

Oflag 64

News Flash!!!!

Great strides are in the works as we continue to plan for the future.

Members of the Oflag 64 Advisory Council are pleased to announce that our Polish advocate, friend and research expert Mariusz Winiecki and his lovely wife Joanna will be traveling to Washington, DC, July 22nd - 29th to attend meetings with the Council to kick off plans to establish a Hall of Remembrance Museum on the grounds of Oflag 64 in Szubin, Poland. (Read more about them on the next two pages of this mini-ITEM.)

Keeping the history of the life as prisoners that our fathers, grandfathers, uncles and others endured during their captivity is of the utmost importance, and we are thrilled to announce this significant meeting.

For those of you who are close in proximity to Washington, DC, please join us for a reception on the 28th of July at the Doubletree by Hilton Sterling Dulles Airport from 4-7p.m. (Of course anyone else interested is also invited to attend.) At this time, Mariusz will be sharing our progress, vision and the plans for the future. This is a wonderful opportunity to ask questions and share your input. In addition, Wilbur Sharpe, Prisoner # 1573 will be in attendance and is anxious to share his story. Wilbur will celebrate his 96th birthday in June of 2018!

Please RSVP as we hope many will join us to not only reconnect but to begin to recreate the lives our loved ones experienced over 70 years ago.

The reception will be held in the Shenandoah/Chesapeake Room at the Doubletree by Hilton

21611 Atlantic Blvd., Sterling, VA 2016

In close proximity to Dulles International Airport

Heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be provided.

RSVP: burgessgl@verizon.net or 703-758-8454

If interested in donating to Oflag 64 to help offset the costs of this meeting, please submit your donations to the Postage Fund in care of Bret Job (address on the left side of this page). Please mark "Washington DC Meeting" on the memo line. We greatly appreciate your support.

MARIUSZ WINIECKI



A little about Mariusz and his family - He is a young father of two, a boy and a girl. As of this June, his daughter Gabrysia (Gabriella) will be 7 and his son Mateusz (Matthew) is 13. Mariusz and his wife Joanna have been married for 15 years. Joanna is a grammar school teacher and is also a very creative cook, photographer, and blogger. She has her own blog called Delicious Titbits which covers crafts to foods and everything else you can think of.

Mariusz received his PhD in Mechanical Engineering. He currently teaches and carries out his research at Casimir the Great University in Bydgoszcz and at Poznan University of Technology. Mariusz loves to bike and hike and spend time with his family as often as he can. He is also an avid and skilled photographer. At his wedding reception he played the keyboard and guitar but says he's not good at playing either anymore. As a youngster, he was a part of the scout program in Szubin.

A little about his Oflag 64 research - Gathering historical information about "Oflag 64" is Mariusz' passion and because of his research, he is considered "the expert" on Oflag 64 history in Poland. He is our primary source of information regarding the history of the camp and he hopes to underline its history for both the US and Poland. Since most of the eyewitnesses to WWII have passed away and due to post WWII migration/resettlements of people in Poland, the history of Oflag 64 is little known in Szubin.

A little about his achievements - Because of his Oflag 64 research Mariusz has been asked to give presentations on several occasions. He has done presentations with an audience at the local library and museum, one-on-one radio and television interviews, and has been a contributing part of all things "Oflag 64" related both in Poland and in the US. He wrote a general history of Oflag 64, about 1000 words in length, to be used in a presentation at the Warsaw Military Attaché's office to secure funding for a language lab at MOAS; he was invited to recapitulate the events relating to the Katyn memorial ceremony held in April of 2015. That interview was subsequently broadcast on Polish Radio PIK. In February of this year, he was the invited guest of "Evening Meetings" broadcast on Polish Radio PIK. It was an hour-long interview about the history of POW camps in Szubin. One of Mariusz' ideas and hopes has been that the city of Szubin would be able to secure ownership of the remaining original barrack on the campsite, renovate it and turn it into a Hall of Remembrance. He and others in Poland have worked very hard to make this happen. At this point, the transfer of the barrack is very near and plans are in place to create the museum. Mariusz has been the official liaison between the Oflag 64 US Advisory Council and the Szubin Advisory Council on this project.

His research (photos and information) has been published in our ITEMS over the past few years. He was the impetus behind the scale model of the camp now housed in the main hall of MOAS, he was the one

who translated and sent us the 1971 radio interview of the Kriegies who returned to Szubin for a visit, he was the one who sent us historical photos of the campsite dating back to the late 1800s and the one who let us know about the letters originally sent to Kriegy George Durgin but hidden by George in the walls of one of the buildings at Oflag 64, and just recently found.

Apart from Oflag 64 but related to his employment, Mariusz has co-written a 65-page chapter for WILEY-Scrivener (an American book). This book, Advanced Surface Engineering Materials has been published, with Mariusz' Chapter 5 found on pages 175-240. The content of the chapter recapitulated a research project finished at Poznan University of Technology in June of 2015. Additionally, if that's not enough, he is the co-author of at least nine papers published from 2008 through 2017 in scientific journals indexed in Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports. Mariusz is very humble and doesn't like to talk about himself but he is widely recognized for his works in his educational field as well as in his private endeavors.

In June of 2016, after 10 years of research, Mariusz was recognized by the Szubin Cultural Society for his persistent scientific activity propagating knowledge about Oflag 64 and other former POW camps located in Szubin during WWII. The prestigious Priest Jan Klein Medal presented to Mariusz has only been presented to 32 or so previous recipients over the past 8 years and Mariusz was honored to be added to that number.

In September 2017, the first annual Oflag 64 Living History reenactment took place in Szubin at the site of Oflag 64. Mariusz was the driving force behind the event but was supported by Szubin's mayor, members of the Szubin Town Council, the director of MOAS, the curator of Szubin's Museum and others. It was a huge success, so much so that the second annual reenactment will take place in September this year. Again, Mariusz will play a part.

A little about his future plans - In addition to continuing his efforts to save the remaining barrack, and being present when members of the US Embassy visited the site, he has begun "The Oflag 64 Record" blog. Initially he was hoping to write a book which included all his research, but has found that he might more effectively share information by blogging and using Facebook, etc. instead. If you've been able to visit his blog page, you've seen the type of information he is posting. By the way, his blog is not a competing endeavor with the Oflag 64 website. It is a joint venture with collaboration. Mariusz continues to write and submit research proposals. We'll learn more about these projects at a future date.

Due to the collaborative efforts between many of our Oflag 64 family members and Mariusz, much information has already been shared, but there is more that he needs. He would like to ask us to further support his research by sharing what we can from our Kriegies, such as digital copies of photos, documents, memories, etc.!! When the Hall of Remembrance materializes in the future, these things plus any mementos that our Kriegies would like to donate could then be placed in the museum.

Lastly, Mariusz is always excited about individual or group visits to Szubin. He has always greeted visitors with warmth and friendliness, and with a great smile. For anyone who has traveled to Szubin in the last little while, Mariusz has usually been their contact person and in many cases their guide.

We all love Mariusz (our own Oflag 64 super-hero) and we invite you to come to our meet-and-greet reception in Washington DC and get to know him and his wife, like many others who have been able to meet him in Szubin in the past.



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.

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 46th St
Cape Coral FL
33914-6026

or

Elodie Caldwell
2731 Terry Ave
Longview WA
98632-4437

You can also donate using your smart phone, through **VENMO** (like PayPal) if you have an account. Please ask us for details.



ITEM Publication & War Mementos

This mid-2nd quarter ITEM is the only one coming out between now and the 3rd quarter issue, which will be published hopefully in September. Look for the regular Mail Call, Kriegy News and Information Section, and TAPS, etc. at that time.

What will happen to our Kriegies' war memorabilia once they are no longer with us? Consider asking your Kriegy dad/grandfather/uncle if he would like to donate his memorabilia to the Hall of Remembrance. More information about donating will be available soon.



Questions??

Please contact us at: 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. Thank you for your patience with this sometimes slow process.





MAIL CALL



Thanks to all who contact us and send notes or contributions for inclusion in our regular quarterly ITEMS. Please look for this information next time around. In the mean time, best wishes to all and thank you for contributing when you can.

* * * * *

Happy Birthday to our Amazing Kriegy Patriots and Heroes!!

Coming Up...

Wilbur Sharpe

June 24

96 years



KRIEGIES, please let us know your age and birthdate so we can wish all a well-deserved **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

AND, please send a photo or photos of you on your birthday, no matter how old or young you are. We would love to include them in the ITEM.

* * * * *



Congratulations to Don Waful on 102 years!!! Please check out the first link below for a wonderful video of Don being interviewed by Spectrum News and the second link with information about a reception and exhibit which honors him. The exhibit will be open through November.

<http://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/news/2018/04/11/don-waful-world-war-two-veteran-honored>

<https://www.cnyhistory.org/programs/don-waful/>

Living history = Oflag 64



Save The Date

We now have confirmation that the **2nd Annual “Living History” Reenactment** in Szubin will take place on Saturday, September 22, 2018. Details will be sent by email as we get them. A few of our Oflag 64 Association family members attended last year and are planning to attend again this year. Yes, it was that good!!

There is no organized trip planned. Everyone attending makes their own flight arrangements, hotel arrangements, and transportation arrangements from place to place. However, it would be great if we knew who was going so that everyone could make connections and eventually meet up in Szubin before the reenactment begins. Please let us know if you are thinking about attending this event. We know that time is of the essence for you to begin making arrangements. We can help provide information as needed.

If you decide you'd like to attend, please let me know at elodie@oflag64.us, or contact me at the address on the front page of this mini-ITEM, so we can coordinate with each other.



2017 Reenactment Photo