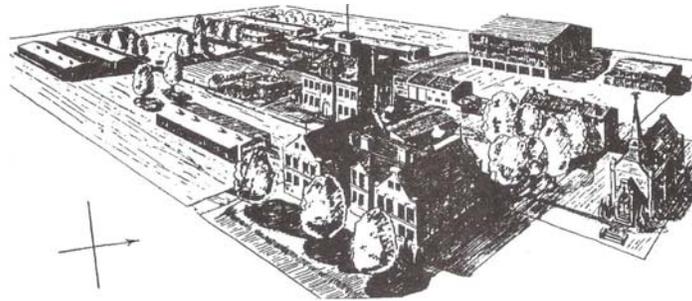


# Post Oflag 64 Item



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

## 1ST QUARTER 2012

### Editor/Printing and Mailing

Elodie Caldwell  
2731 TERRY AVE  
LONGVIEW WA 98632-4437  
[elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us)

### Treasurer

Bret Job  
4240 TRAIL RIDGE LN  
MINNETONKA MN 55345-2254  
[bretjob@heartlandamerica.com](mailto:bretjob@heartlandamerica.com)

### Webmaster

Bill Caldwell  
2731 TERRY AVE  
LONGVIEW WA 98632-4437  
[webmaster@oflag64.us](mailto:webmaster@oflag64.us)

### 2012 Reunion Hostess

Tiffany Skidmore  
(granddaughter of Herm Littman)  
1730 GRAHAM AVE APT 215  
ST. PAUL MN 55116-3267  
509-218-0347  
[tiffanyskidmore@yahoo.com](mailto:tiffanyskidmore@yahoo.com)



### Contributors to this issue

Paige Calhoun – WDIO TV  
Bob Fleege  
Tillson Galloway  
Eugene Liggett  
Robert O'Neill  
Renee Passal – WDIO TV

## MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

### Tentative Site of the 2012 Oflag 64 Reunion

August 9-12



It's time once again to mark your calendars and reserve dates for a possible Oflag 64 Reunion in Minneapolis MN hosted by Tiffany Skidmore, granddaughter of our own Kriegy Herm Littman. At this point in time, Tiffany is in planning stages, securing a site for lodging as well as organizing possible sight-seeing trips or events that would be meaningful to everyone. On page 2 of this ITEM you will find a reunion survey. If you have already received an electronic survey by email and have responded, please don't respond again to this survey. However, if you missed the deadline to respond to the online survey, please respond to this one. The survey does not commit anyone to attend, but will give us an idea of who is planning to attend and how to organize.

The June 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter ITEM will include a letter from Tiffany outlining details of reunion activities; lodging, trips, banquet plans, etc. There will also be a reunion registration form and information on hotel reservations, etc.

Much appreciation goes to Tiffany for volunteering to host this reunion. If you are able to assist her with any aspect of the event, she would be pleased to have your help. Please contact her using the contact information on this page.

Looking ahead, we are searching for a volunteer to host the 2013 reunion as well as volunteers to host future reunions. If you are willing and able to host a future reunion, please let us hear from you.

Best Regards,

*Elodie Caldwell*, ITEM Editor  
(Daughter of the late Kriegy Reid Ellsworth)



# A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

## REUNION SURVEY

Tentative 2012 Oflag 64 Reunion  
Minneapolis MN  
August 9-12, 2012

In order for Tiffany Skidmore to plan efficiently for this year's reunion, she needs to know how many might be able to attend. Your help in completing an informational survey will be invaluable for her. This is not a commitment to attend. **Please complete the survey below even if you will be unable to attend or are unsure.** Thank You.

**1. Will you be able to attend the Oflag 64 Reunion tentatively planned for August 9-12, 2012 in Minneapolis MN?**

- I will not be attending.
- I plan to attend.
- I would like to attend but am unsure at this time.
- I hope to attend.

**2. If you do attend, how many will be in your party?**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5-10
- 11-15

**3. Please tell us who you are.**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this survey or email your survey response to Tiffany Skidmore at:  
1730 GRAHAM AVE APT 215  
ST. PAUL MN 55116-3267  
509-218-0347  
tiffanyskidmore@yahoo.com



**OR** to Elodie Caldwell at:  
2731 TERRY AVE  
LONGVIEW WA 98632-4437  
360-577-5699  
elodie@oflag64.us



# MAIL CALL



**JOHN ALBREE from Columbus NC** (Aide-de-Camp to GEN John K Waters) wrote recently with news of Norma Kuhn who attended some of the Oflag 64 Reunions with John Creech. He reported that she is now in the medical portion of Tryon Estates. Her address is: 619 Laurel Lake Dr, OBT 236, Columbus NC 28722. She is able to receive mail and would love to hear from members of the Oflag 64 family. John also sent a donation to the Postage Fund. *Thanks so much, John for the information about Norma and for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. We appreciate your continued communications with us. Best to you.*

**DAVID ANDERSON from Albuquerque NM** (son of the late Kriegy Everette Anderson) wrote regarding the eBay offering of the January 1945 ITEM and volunteered to help pay for it, if need be, in order that one of our Oflag 64 family members could win it. *Thank you very much, David, for volunteering to help secure the ITEM. We'll have to keep a keen eye out for future offerings. Members of our group would love to have related memorabilia, I'm sure.*

**TY ANKROM from Circleville OH** (grandson of the late Kriegy Ernest "Snap" Ankrom) recently wrote concerning the January 1945 ITEM offered on eBay. He was able to read the copy we have posted on our website and commented that it was an interesting read. *Thank you, Ty, for contacting us again. It's been a while since we've heard from you. We're happy you enjoyed reading the January 1945 ITEM online. Those were certainly amazing writings.*

**RICHARD BARON from New York NY** (co-author of the book "RAID") wrote to say that he was bidding on the eBay offering of the January 1945 ITEM and was prepared to match a high figure to acquire it. He planned to put it with the first edition copy of "Raid" and eventually donate them to the "Kriegy Library". *Thank you, Richard, for writing. We are so disappointed that one of our Oflag 64 family didn't win the bidding. Your plan to donate it to the "Kriegy Library" was very thoughtful and would have*

*been most welcomed. Hopefully, there will be another out there somewhere eventually.*



**PAT BENDER from Philadelphia PA** (daughter of Kriegy Vincent "Doc" DiFrancesco) recently found an original January 1945 ITEM being offered on eBay. We contacted everyone on our email list, several subsequently joined in the bidding. Unfortunately it didn't go to one of our Oflag 64 family members. *Thank you very much, Pat, for keeping an eye out for such offerings. It was a good effort on the part of our group to try to win it. Hopefully next time one of us will be successful.*

**LESLIE FORD BESTULIC from Treasure Island FL** (daughter of the late Kriegy Russell Ford) was asked through Cindy Burgess, Wilbur Sharpe's daughter, to contact him. Wilbur and Russ spent a great deal of time performing together at the Little Theater at Oflag 64 during WWII. *Thank you very much, Leslie, for contacting Cindy and subsequently Wilbur. We hope that communications went well and that you had a great chat.*

**LYNNE FORD BRONSON from Ft. Collins CO** (daughter of the late Kriegy Russell Ford) has been in communication with Wilbur Sharpe recently. Wilbur and her dad spent much time performing together during Oflag 64 days. *Thank you so much Lynne, for contacting Wilbur. I'll bet you had some wonderful conversations.*

**T. J. BUGG from West Chester OH** (son of Kriegy Thomas Bugg Jr.) wrote to say that he was bidding on the eBay ITEM and hoped to acquire it for his father who is 92. Unfortunately, it was won by someone not yet affiliated with our association. *Thank you, TJ for writing. That would've been a wonderful gift for your dad. We are disappointed that it didn't work out. Hopefully there will be another opportunity in the future.*



**CINDY SHARPE BURGESS**

(daughter of Kriegy Wilbur Sharpe) has been helping Mariusz Winiecki from Poland contact her dad to answer some questions about the Little Theater at Oflag 64 during

the war. *Thank you very much Cindy, for being willing to help Mariusz. He has been working very hard on his project for the museum in Szubin and has been very appreciative of all the help he has been given.*

**CHRISTOPHER CARDONI** recently wrote to introduce himself and share a little information about the camp in Szubin. He also asked to be added to our email list. He shared: "My name is Christopher Cardoni and I am a Lieutenant Colonel. I currently command the 1st Bn, 77th Field Artillery in Afghanistan. I was joy of being assigned to a NATO HQs in Bydgoszcz, Poland from 2007-10, which is about 20 miles from Szubin. While there I met my wife who is from Kcynia. That was the town you marched to on the first night. I did a professional development day at the OFLAG for all the US Officers where I was assigned. Some of the fence is still standing. There is one barracks building left, but it might be torn down. I will do my best through my wife to keep it up as a tribute to all of you. I anticipate going back to Kcynia/Szubin many times in the future, so if there is anything I can do, let me know. I have updated pictures at home of the OFLAG but I can't get to them while deployed. I can send them when I redeploy so you can use them at your reunion. Thanks for all you have done, and you have not been forgotten." *Thank you so much, Christopher, for writing and for all the information you shared. I'm sure there will be much more information to share one way or the other as time goes by. We have added you to our email list. Please contact us again any time.*



**HELEN CHAPPELL from Kaufman TX**

(widow of the late Kriegy Roy "Tex" Chappell) sent Christmas and New Year's greetings to everyone. She says her family is well and growing in

health and numbers. *It was so good to hear from you again, Helen, and to hear that you are doing well. Thanks so much for writing.*



**TOM COBB from Columbia SC**

(son of the late Kriegy George Cobb) wrote to say that he would be bidding on the eBay 1945 ITEM. *It's unfortunate that there weren't a dozen of them out there*

*to bid on. It would've been great if one of our members had won it.*

**DONALD COHN from Bellaire TX** (great nephew of the late Kriegy Thurston "Ted" Q. Garrett, Jr.) emailed that he and his wife have various artifacts of his late uncle's tour of duty during WWII. He also stated: "We have various other items and one day we wish to donate them to a "good home" at a museum or research institution so that we can preserve them for generations to come and honor the memory of Uncle Ted and Aunt Ann and their service to this great country, The USA." *Thank you, Donald, for writing about your uncle's memorabilia. What a treasure! It's sometimes hard to understand just what our dear Kriegies endured during the war, but seeing and handling memorabilia brings the past to the present.*

**LARRY COPES** (son of the late Kriegy James Copes) wrote to say that he has a new email address. *Thank you, Larry, for keeping us updated. As our Oflag 54 family members move or change contact information, we sometimes lose contact, so we appreciate hearing of changes.*



**NEAL CORY from Louisville KY**

(son of the late Kriegy Bill Cory) recently wrote and asked to be added to the email list. He spoke about attending the post-Katrina Oflag 64 Reunion in New Orleans. *Thanks so much for*

*writing, Neal, and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We have added you to our email list and you should be hearing from us in the near future. We miss your dad and are so appreciative of all his informational contributions to the association. He was a great record keeper.*

**CHERYL ELLIS from Bryn Mawr PA** (daughter of Kriegy Sid Thal) has also been in contact with Mariusz Winiecki from Poland regarding his research for the museum in Szubin. Sid was one of the Kriegies who performed in the Little Theater at Oflag 64 and will have information

that will be helpful to Mariusz. *Thank you so much, Cheryl, for your help in connecting your dad with Mariusz. We're looking forward to reading all about Mariusz' project when it's completed.*

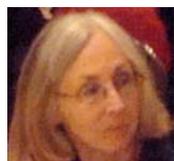


**KATHY EZELL from Miami FL** (daughter of the late Kriegy William "Bill" Warthen) wrote while the Oflag 64 eBay offering was taking place with a great suggestion and well wishes. She wrote: "You should let them know that they should use an eBay sniper to ensure they get it. Something like eSnipe would do (<http://esnipe.com>). *Thanks so much, Kathy, for the great advice and well wishes. Although one of our Oflag 64 family did not win the offering this time around, your information might be very helpful the next time.*



**BOB FLEEGE from Ames IA** (possibly a distant relative of the late Kriegy Robert Fleege) has written about a new project he's undertaken, that of making handcrafted, custom walking canes for disabled veterans.

Each cane has a hand carved eagle head on it. Depending on reunion plans, he may have some available later this summer. *Bob, thank you so much for writing and what a wonderful project. We will keep in touch regarding reunion plans.*



**JUDY FLETCHER from Woodbridge VA** (daughter of the late Kriegy Al Casner) recently wrote to say that she has a new email address. *Thank you very much, Judy, for letting us know about your new email address. We have updated our records and all emails will now be sent to the new address. It's important for us not to lose contact with our Oflag 64 family members.*



**IDEN FORD from Toronto Canada** (professional photographer and son of the late Kriegy Russell Ford) recently wrote saying that he would love to hear from anyone who knew his father at Oflag 64. He also

asked to be added to our email list. *Thank you, Iden, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We have a great "family" and all are willing to share information they may have about*

*our Kriegies. We sent out an email query and hope you received many responses. We have visited your website and see that you have inherited some of the passion for your work from your dad.*

**ROBERT GALLOWAY from Charleston SC** (son-in-law of Pat Waters) sent compliments and



appreciation through Pat on keeping the Oflag 64 group together. *Thank you very much, Robert, for such kind words. We are very appreciative of your support and thank you for helping to keep the memory of Oflag 64 alive by teaching your sons about the service and sacrifice of our great Kriegies, their great grandfather included.*

**CATHERINE GHYLIN from Washington State** (friend of Oflag 64 working with Dale Nitz and his travelling WWII museum) recently wrote about Dale's display, and the rave reviews he received while in Puyallup WA. During the time they were with the display, Leroy Petry, Medal of Honor recipient at Fort Lewis (now called JBLM or Joint Base Lewis McChord) stopped by and spent time with them. They felt it a great honor to be able to spend time with him. *Thank you, Catherine, for contacting us and for updating us on Dale's display and on the visit by the MOH recipient. Would have loved to see the display in Puyallup. Keep up the good work*

**DAVID GLENDINNING from Washington DC** (son of the late Kriegy John Glendinning) wrote with compliments and thanks for the work being done on behalf of all the Kriegies and their family members. *David, thank you very much for your kind words. The work we do couldn't be done without the support of our Oflag 64 family members. We love doing what we do and are very appreciative of the sacrifices made by our wonderful Kriegies and their families.*

**DAVID HARLOW from Wagoner OK** (nephew of the late Kriegy William Harlow who was killed in action) wrote about the eBay offering of the ITEM. He volunteered to pay for it outright. It's so heartwarming to know that so many were so willing to help. *Thank you, Dave, for volunteering to help secure the e-Bay ITEM for our organization. We'll have to look for future related offerings.*



**VICTORIA HERRING from Des Moines IA** (daughter of the late Kriegy Clyde Herring) answered our email query regarding Will Wenzel's planned trip to Szubin this summer. She made the trip in

2009 and had pictures to share with Bill. She also sent pictures she recently found of her dad and other Kriegies standing on the steps of the hospital. In another email contact, Victoria wrote: "I have been going through my Dad's papers [Clyde E. Herring] and found several papers ref. planning of a Kriegie Reunion in the early 1970's = I would be glad to upload these to you = I'm going to put all the WWII stuff at the Iowa Gold Star Museum but thought someone here might appreciate the info. And pictures [scanned]". *We're so thankful to you, Victoria, for your help to Bill and also for sending pictures that we didn't have on our website. They have now been posted and hopefully others will recognize their loved ones and help us identify the other men. We look forward to receiving the notes for the 1970 reunion.*



**JONEL HILL from Pasadena CA** (Kriegy) sent a postage fund check shortly before we printed and mailed the last ITEM but unfortunately we were unable to get the acknowledgment in the ITEM before printing. *Thank you,*

*Jonel, for your generous and thoughtful contribution. We are always appreciative of the donations to our funds.*

**SUSAN HOLT from Duluth MN** (graphic supervisor from station WDIO-TV) recently wrote for permission to use photos from our website for a video and related story the station was doing on Kriegy Arthur LeSage. Of course, we gave permission. Click on the following links to see the stories:

<http://www.wdio.com/article/stories/S2490337.shtml?cat=0>

<http://www.wdio.com/article/stories/S2493175.shtml?cat=0>

*Thank you, Susan, for writing and letting us know about the stories you were doing on one of our Kriegies. We have since viewed your video online and enjoyed it very much.*

**MARY HOPPER from Conway SC** (daughter of Kriegy William Shular) wrote regarding her dad's

deteriorating health but also to say: "thanks to you for all the hard work you do to keep the Oflag 64 families together. Did anyone ever get *The ITEM* from eBay. What a treasure!" *Thanks so much, Mary, for your kind words and for the update on your dad. We are sorry to hear that he is not doing well. We're disappointed that one of our Oflag 64 family members did not win the eBay offering. Maybe next time. Like you said, it definitely would've been a treasure!*

**DAVID HUGHES** (son of the late Kriegy Fredrick Hughes) wrote asking to be added to our email list. He also wrote: "I have his records; among them a document from Col. Paul Goode, listing officers he deemed deserving of commendation. If you haven't a copy of this, would you like to have a transcription? My father continued in service and retired 1962 as a Lt. Col. He died at Letterman in 1976 subsequent to a cardiac bypass operation." *David, thank you for writing and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We have a warm and friendly group and all would love to share what information they have about our Kriegies and their days at Oflag 64. Thanks for the information you sent. We have added your father's name to our online TAPS list.*

**SHARON HUTCHISON from Arlington TX** (daughter of the late Kriegy Isaac "Ike" Franklin) also wrote about the eBay offering. She stated that she wouldn't be bidding but hoped that one of our Oflag 64 family members would win it. *Thanks so much for writing, Sharon. It was great hearing from you again. Our best to you.*



**BRET JOB from Minnetonka MN** (son-in-law of the late Kriegy Ray Holmquist) has been on the go with his job, frequently visiting one place or another. He's hoping to visit some of our Kriegies in his travels.

*Thanks Bret for writing and for keeping track of our Postage and Reunion Funds. Please let us know about your visits with our Kriegies.*



**WARREN JONES from Los Angeles CA** (son of the late Kriegy Charles Jones) wrote concerning the eBay offering stating that it would've been nice if an Oflag 64 family member could

have won it since the January 45 edition was the

very last one published while the Kriegies were in captivity. He also sent compliments on the website. *Thank you so much, Warren, for your kind words. Offerings like the 1945 ITEM are often "one of a kind" and we may not see anything like that again at least not for a while, but we'll be keeping our eyes open.*

**WILLIAM F. JONES from Knoxville TN** (son of the late Kriegy William K. Jones) answered our email query regarding Bill Wenzel's planned trip to Szubin this summer. He recently made the trip and will be organizing photos and writing a report to share. He also wrote: "Did you know that the framed wooden double door visible in the background of so many of the Oflag 64 posed photos from WW2 (i.e. officers standing in rows on the steps and – as I understand – the photos were taken by the Red Cross) is the door to "The Hospital." That same building is still in use today as a private residence. In addition, this original door still exists today – although the steps and side columns have been replaced. I got to have my photo taken standing in front of that same door – where my father (and so many other tough, brave people) stood all those years ago. For me this small thing alone was worth the whole trip. Thanks so much for the great work you are doing. I appreciate the Oflag 64 Association now more than ever. *Thank you very much, Bill, for the information you shared with Bill Wenzel and for the information about the hospital doors. What a beautiful piece of history in itself. Thank you also for your kind words. It's a great pleasure to serve the Kriegies and their families in whatever ways we can.*

**JAMES KLUG** (winner of the eBay offering) emailed to say: "I am the National Historian for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. I have just purchased a January 1945 issue of "THE OFLAG 64 ITEM". I see that there is one in your archives, which is good. Does your association have a historian? Also, are you planning a reunion for 2012 for those survivors of the OFLAG 64 camp? If so, where will it be held? How many members are in your organization? As a historian and Purple Heart recipient, I am very thankful for all your efforts." *Thank you, James, for contacting us and congratulations on winning the January 1945 ITEM. It was interesting to watch the auction progress to the end. We've noted on the eBay site that you have an interest in other WWII memorabilia as well.*

*Thank you for your kind words. An email has been sent with answers to your questions.*

**REX KUMMER** (son of the late Kriegy Edgar H. Kummer) recently wrote to inform us of the passing of his dear father. See the TAPS section for his obituary. Rex wrote: "He was interred with military honors in Fulton, MO." In a subsequent email, he shared: "While we all grew up knowing he had been a POW, he didn't talk much about the experience until very late in life. It is only as I went through his papers and then saw the 1945 Oflag 64 photos on your website that his experience became more real for me." *Thank you, Rex, for letting us know about the passing of your dear father. It's difficult to hear that our great Kriegy patriots and heroes are passing. We know he will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

**ROBERT J. LAPLANDER from Waterford WI** (author of a new book *Against the Odds: The Complete Story of the Legendary "Wooden Horse" Escape And The Men Who Made It Happen*) has written that it is nearly ready for print and will be available soon. *Thanks, Robert, for letting us know about the availability of your book. I'm sure it will be of great interest to all who read it. We definitely hope your health continues to improve after your stroke.*



**EUGENE LIGGETT from Vancouver WA** (Kriegy) sent a copy of his Christmas letter to his family in 1944. It is included in the Kriegy Information section of this newsletter. *Thank you very much, Gene, for sharing a copy of your letter to us. Everything seems so much more real when we can see with our own eyes bits and pieces of POW life during WWII.*

**MARGARET BATTE MOORE from Sanford NC** (daughter of Kriegy Ed Batte) wrote that her dad's mailing address has changed even though he has not moved. She said it would change again to a regular street address some time this summer. All his important mail should be sent to him at her address. Please contact Elodie for his current address. *Margaret, thank you so much for the updated address information on your dad. We will mail future ITEMS to him at your mailing address until otherwise notified.*



**ROBERT O'NEILL from Prescott AZ** (Kriegy) recently wrote to tell us of the passing of one of our dear Kriegies, Robert Rivers. See the TAPS section of this ITEM for Robert Rivers' obituary. *Thank you very much, Bob, for sending the news of Robert's death. It's hard to hear such news. We send our thoughts and to his family.*

**RICK PACKARD from Clermont FL** (son-in-law of the late Kriegy Charles Rex Allison) recently wrote that his father-in-law passed away in 1982. He also asked to be added to our email list. *Thanks, Rick, for writing and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. Please contact us anytime if there is information you're still looking for. Our group is so willing to share. We also appreciate receiving the death date of Rex Allison and have added him to our online TAPS list.*

**RENEE PASSAL from Duluth MN** (reporter from WDIO-TV) shared the video and story she did on one of our own Kriegies, Arthur LeSage. The link to her story entitled Medals and Memories aired February 9 of this year. (Please see the Mail Call entry for Susan Holt for the links to Arthur's story.) Renee also helped us contact Mr. LeSage as we had lost contact with him over the years. *Thank you, Renee, for contacting us and also for sending a copy of the video and related stories of Mr. LeSage. What a wonderful tribute! We also appreciate being able to contact him now.*

**JOHN PAULL from Ridgecrest CA** (nephew of the late Kriegy Julius Paull) wrote regarding the e-Bay offering of the ITEM. As soon as he placed his bid, he was immediately out-bid. He subsequently bid \$100 and was again under, so he quit bidding, it became too pricy. *Thanks for writing, John. We're sorry one of our Oflag 64 family members didn't win the ITEM. The winning bid was \$202.50 and was won within the last few seconds of the auction's end time.*

**ALBERT PIERCE SR. from Beaumont TX** recently wrote to say: "I was my grandfathers listener, up until the Lord took him home, when I was seven. I'm 32 now served 10 years as an Infantry soldier for the Army. I remember his stories of his capture and escape and for years I've tried finding something with no avail. So tonight while researching Audie Murphy, I found

possible traces of them being in close proximity in theater. As I dug deeper it brought me to this sight and low and behold I found pictures of him here, thank you so much, you don't realize how much one glimpse of his existence in sight brings back the memory of him for me, cant wait to show my mother." He also asked to be added to our email list. *Thank you, Albert, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. Feel free to contact us any time regarding information about your grandfather. Please also let us know which Kriegy he is and we would be glad to add him to our online TAPS list.*

**CHARLOTTE PRICE from Naples FL** (fiancé of the late Kriegy Bill Cory) wrote with contact information for Bill's son, Neal. She expressed how much she misses Bill and shared an amusing experience Bill had with her late husband Charlie Price during the war. *Toddy, thank you so much for writing and for sharing information about Bill with us. We know how difficult it is to lose a loved one. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*



**GAIL RAHAL from Oakville CT** (widow of the late Kriegy Nick Rahal) recently sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a nice letter and photographs of Nick during his military years, one before capture and then his POW ID card. She believes she has identified Nick in one of our website photos. Gail mentioned that she's has some health issues recently and hasn't been able to attend the last couple of reunions but hopes to be able to attend our reunion this year. *Gail, thank you very much for your thoughtful and generous donation to our Postage Fund. Thank you as well for the photos of Nick. We agree that the person you have identified is Nick. We will update the photo on our site to include his name along with others. We hope your health continues to improve and that we'll see you again at a future reunion.*

**FRANCIS ROBICHAUD from Jupiter FL** (nephew of the late Kriegy Rodney Cloutman) wrote saying that he intended to bid on the eBay offering. He hoped to be able to give the ITEM to his cousin because her father survived the death march to later get captured in Korea and survive another death march and then die at the

hands of the Chinese. *Thank you very much for writing, Francis. It would have been great to be able to give such a gift to your cousin. We hope there will be other opportunities in the future to obtain Oflag 64 memorabilia.*



**WILBUR SHARPE from Ashburn VA** (Kriegy) asked to be put in contact with members of Russell Ford's family regarding Oflag 64 experiences he and Russ shared.

Contact has been made and we're eager to hear what transpired. *Thank you so much, Wilbur, for contacting us. You are always so willing to share information and many have benefitted from your contacts with them. What a wonderful service to them!*



**TIFFANY SKIDMORE from St. Paul MN** (granddaughter of Kriegy Herm Littman) has volunteered to host an Oflag 64 Reunion in Minneapolis this year. She is

gathering information and if things can come together as needed, she will host an August reunion due to her educational program interfering at a later date. *Tiffany, thank you very much for volunteering to host our next reunion. We're eager to see the final tally from the survey on whether or not folks will be able to attend.*

**JANET SMITH** (daughter of the late Kriegy Robert Smith) recently contacted us and asked to be added to our email list. She also informed us of her father's death date. *Thank you, Janet, for writing and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. All are so warm and friendly and willing to share information they have about the Kriegies of Oflag 64. We appreciate receiving the death date of your father. His name has been added to our online TAPS list.*

**MICHAEL SMITH from Boulevard CA** (son of the late Kriegy Leland Smith) recently contacted us and asked to be added to our email list. He also sent his father's death date and a little bit of information about him. He wrote: "My father 1st Lt L.V. Smith died Dec. 1948. Never had the chance to get to know him, but I know that he had gone through hell at the expense of the 2nd world war." *Thank you very much, Michael for writing and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We have a wonderful group of Kriegies and families.*

*We appreciate the information about your father and have added his name to our TAPS list online.*

**FRANCIS SOULIE-DE-MORANT from France**

(friend of Oflag 64) emailed not long ago that his father survived 3 Oflags including Oflag IVC (Colditz) and eventually returned home in 1945. He stated: "May I suggest that, with the dwindling population of former war prisoners, you could enlarge the members of the Oflag family to other Oflags and other nations than the US? Colditz held officers of Britain, Poland, the Netherlands, and France. I still keep all the letters my father sent to my mother. They recall those painful years of separation, when starving, dirty and idle men only thought of evasion."

*Thank you very much, Francis, for writing and for your suggestion. This would be a great project. Hopefully, this will be an option for someone else who can make such a project happen.*

**LESLIE LEVY SULLAM from Frederick MD**

(daughter of the late Kriegy Sol Levy) wrote regarding the eBay offering of the January 1945 ITEM. She expressed hopes that a member of our Oflag 64 family would win it. *Thank you, Leslie for writing. Thank you also for your suggestions about trying to secure the ITEM.*

**JENNIFER VAN HAAFTEN** (granddaughter of the late Kriegy Laurence B. Higgins) wrote asking: "I am curious if any of the Kriegies alive would remember Lt. Laurence B. Higgins and what he was like. This is very late in the game, I know the gentlemen are very old. He is my grandfather, and I'd like to hear other people's reminiscences about him." If anyone has information, you can contact me (Elodie) and I will connect you with Jennifer. *Thank you, Jennifer, for contacting us. We have sent an email query out to our group and hear that you have received several responses. We hope you will receive many others as time goes by.*



**PAT WATERS from Mt. Pleasant SC** (son of the late Kriegy John K. Waters) sent photos of his grandsons along with an essay written by his grandson Tillson Galloway. See the Kriegy

information section of this ITEM for the essay. Pat also sent a contribution to the Postage Fund

and compliments for the work that is being done on behalf of the Kriegies and their families. *First of all, thank you very much, Pat, for your very generous and thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. So much appreciated. And thank you also for your kind words and for the essay and photos. Tillson did a wonderful job expressing himself in his essay, a born writer I would say...just like his dad.*



**PJ WILCOX from NY** (author working with Kriegy James Forsyth on a book) writes periodically with WWII information. All is very interesting and thought provoking. *Thank you, PJ, for writing and sharing the new information that comes your way. Looking forward to continued communications.*



**WILLIAM WENZEL from Prairie du Sac WI** (a fairly new member of our Oflag 64 family) wrote to ask about Szubin. His German roots are there. He is planning a trip with his daughter this summer if possible and would like to know if others are also planning a trip to Szubin. He can be contacted through me, Elodie, if you would like to do so. He also wrote: "I am so thankful that you helped me out. I've had a lot of responses, including from Victoria Herring, a most excellent photographer. Photos are a powerful medium, especially of one's ancestral home. My family has been looking at a lot of those buildings since the 1820s. My great great grandfather and namesake was the King's Forester in Schubin in the 1860's. I have only one civil record of his existence, from the LDS films. They are all lost, and I am really just trying to fill that loss somehow. I know that the Polish people and the Germans have had their issues through the years, but there have been happy times, and I wish that we'd never see unhappy ones ever again. I still hope that someone will take a short trip and photo the family homes for Lexy and me." *Thank you very much, Bill, for contacting us. We are very hopeful that you will be able to make the trip this summer. Keep us posted.*

**MARIUSZ WINIECKI from Szubin Poland** (friend of Oflag 64 and researcher) has been

working on a huge historical project for the museum in Szubin. He has contacted several of our living Kriegies who shared experiences, one way or the other, with the Little Theater at Oflag 64. He hopes to have his project done fairly soon and will share what he can with us when it's completed. At this point, we have an essay but it's entirely in Polish and we have as yet been unable to translate it using traditional translation software. When we are able to make the translation, and with Mariusz's permission, we will include it on our website. *Thank you, Mariusz, for your hard work on this project and for sharing it with us. Two parts of the world are connected at once by your great project!*

**GEORGE WILLIAMS from Pueblo CO** (affiliated with the Pueblo County Historical Society) wrote asking permission to use some of our website photos in their next monthly publication featuring one of our own Kriegies, the late William Korber. He stated: "One of our founders-John Korber has authorized us to print information from the diary his brother, William Korber, kept while he was a prisoner at Oflag 64. We would like to include several photographs of the POW camp and the one of him with the cast of the "Brother Orchid" Little Theater production." Permission was granted and the publication "Pueblo Lore" we have received a copy. *Thank you very much, George, for including us in your recently mailing. William Korber's story with photos included was nicely done.*

**NANCY THOMPSON WYATT from The Woodlands TX** (daughter of Kriegy Bob Thompson) wrote to say: "Here is an update about Robert T. Thompson: He and his wife, Gladys, have temporarily moved to The Woodlands TX, to be near two of their children, Nancy and Robert. They are living in an assisted living facility. The kids think it is wonderful, but he prefers Oklahoma! They are in fairly good health, but needed some extra help with daily activities. He turned 90 years old last November! He has attended a 36th division luncheon and plans to attend more. The meetings are in Houston. His cell phone # is 918-894-7639. Email: [rthompson90@att.net](mailto:rthompson90@att.net) *Thank you very much, Nancy, for updating us. We are happy to hear that your folks are doing well. We can certainly understand how much they miss their home of many years in Oklahoma. Our best to you all.*

# KRIEGER NEWS AND INFORMATION

## Oflag 64

Valentine's Day, 1943, Lt. Colonel John Waters was told that the German Army would not attack at Kasserine Pass in North Africa. He and his men would soon find out that this was not true. "There is someone coming!" said one of the soldiers.

They all thought that the people walking were Americans, but the people walking were not on their side, they were actually Germans. The group was captured by the Germans, and began a two-month journey, covering over 400 miles, to Oflag 64, a prisoner of war camp in Poland. For the next two years, my great grandfather, John Waters, would be a German POW. A POW is a Prisoner of War.

Oflag 64 was the only prisoner of war camp for American ground force officers. It was unlike any other camp. It was not as harsh as most POW camps. The prisoners were serviced by the Red Cross. They would receive food, mail, cigarettes, and sometimes even Hershey bars. They set up their own radio, newspaper, and sports teams. At Christmas, they had celebrations. They all made the best of a terrible situation. John Waters kept a daily log of everything he did and wrote letters to his wife and two young sons.

Oflag 64 only had a few hundred POWs until the invasion at Normandy in June 1944. The number of POWs grew to about 1500 men by the end of 1944.

On January 22, 1945, the Americans were told to pack their things and get ready to march on foot to an unknown location. John Waters and many other soldiers used their bed boards to make sleds to carry their things in the below freezing temperatures.

On the first night of the march, many Americans escaped. The others continued for what must have felt like years, marching through blizzard conditions. At night they rested in barns. John Waters said that he could have escaped, but he knew that he needed to stay with his men. In early March, after three months of walking, they finally arrived in Hammelburg, Germany. By then they had walked over 3000 kilometers.

Hammelburg camp had thousands of POWs, including men from other countries. It was not run well by the Americans, until Waters and his superiors changed that.

On March 27, 1945, General George Patton, my great great grandfather, sent 300 of his best troops to go and liberate the camp. When they were 60 miles into enemy territory, the courageous men arrived at Hammelburg.

Waters came out of the camp to tell the liberators that the Germans were surrendering, and a German soldier shot him. Luckily, he was quickly rushed to a hospital where a Serbian POW doctor removed the bullet, which saved his life.

The following morning, most of the POWs and Patton's force were ready to return to the American lines. But that morning, the Germans launched a massive attack. The Americans were either killed, or wounded and recaptured. The following week, the prison camp was finally liberated.

John Waters was transported by airplane to a hospital in Heidelberg where he recovered from the bullet. He then spent a few days at Walter Reid Hospital in Washington.

He stayed in the army his entire career. He also attended the Oflag 64 reunion each year to be with the men he was captured with.

He retired in 1968 as a four star general, commander in chief of the US Army Pacific.

I never met him, but my grandfather said that he did not talk very much about his POW experience. A few years ago, my dad did a documentary on the camp. One quote from the documentary was when my dad told a man from POW who lives in Rhode Island that he was a hero, he responded by saying "I'm a survivor. The heroes are buried over there." To me, the survivors are heroes too.

THE END



Tillson Galloway, grandson of Pat Waters

Sent to Pat for Christmas in honor of  
Tillson's great-grandfather John K. Waters  
and the men of Oflag 64

# Medals and Memories

by Renee Passal, posted 2/9/2012  
Printed with permission from Station WDIO, Duluth MN

Story and Video available online at: <http://www.wdio.com/article/stories/S2490337.shtml?cat=0>



Art LeSage was a 16-year-old farm boy from Morris, Minnesota, who decided to join the Minnesota National Guard. It was 1938, and he told us it was because there was a little money in it. So he enlisted, and through training, became a paratrooper and a second lieutenant. Then WWII hit. He was eventually assigned to the 82nd Airborne, and shipped overseas. His first mission was jumping into Sicily.

"We didn't know what was going on. Hadn't been in combat in our life. Our plane was being hit. We were lucky. There was 27 or 29 planes knocked down by our own navy," he remembers.

He made it, and the troops advanced through Sicily. Then he went in on landing crafts in Anzio, which is up in Italy. It was there, in January of 1944, he was wounded and captured. He said he was taken to a prisoner of war camp in Germany first, then to a different one in Poland. It was for officers.

"They treated us OK. They didn't torture us. But there was never enough food. I lost 30 pounds or so. And it was cold. There was no heat in the buildings. Many men froze their feet," he said.

He figured they would have really starved if they didn't get the Red Cross parcels. "I'd trade out the cigarettes for a candy bar," he said with a smile.

The camp was called Oflag 64, and held about 1400 men. A year after he was sent there, the Germans decided to march the prisoners out.

"We figured it was because the Russians were advancing," he said. So the group was marched out. They stayed the first night in a farming community in Poland. They were to sleep outside. That's when LeSage teamed up with a buddy, named Lt. Goman. "We both said, we gotta get out of here. So in the middle of the night, we snuck out," he said.



They stayed with a Polish family, who he recalled was wonderful. Then, a few days later, they heard Russians were marching up the road. He and Lt. Goman went out to meet them, figuring they were allies. But they did not get a warm welcome.

"Their guns were drawn, and we tried to explain we were Americans. I saw a Studebaker truck, and started yelling, Studebaker! American! Roosevelt!" LeSage remembered.

Finally, comprehension dawns, and everyone calmed down. The Russians took them to Warsaw, where they saw the total destruction of the city. Again, they stayed with Polish families. It was still several months later before he was able to make it back home in Minnesota, in April of 1945. He's very proud of his military background, and is involved in various groups like the VFW.

LeSage said he was still having problems with his feet, from when they were so cold in Poland, and was getting help from a veteran's service officer in Alexandria. It came up that LeSage never got his medals. The officer said he wanted to make it right. So with help from the army, LeSage finally received his medals late last year.

"It really brought back memories. I've been able to share more with my kids now, than I ever had before," he said.

LeSage now lives in Duluth, to be closer to his daughter.

The army is honoring his service with a medals ceremony on Saturday, at the armory on Airpark Boulevard. The event will be at 2pm.

## 'Arthur LeSage Day' Declared in Duluth

by Paige Calhoun, posted 2/11/2012

Printed with permission from Station WDIO, Duluth MN

Story available online at: <http://www.wdio.com/article/stories/S2493175.shtml?cat=0>



"It got me a little bit weak in the knees," A beaming 89-year-old Arthur LeSage finally got the recognition he deserved, Saturday. Duluth Mayor Don Ness declared Feb. 11th in his name, something LeSage never expected.

"No way, no I never thought. It was really fantastic," LeSage said.

The humbled vet also received seven medals: the Purple Heart, the Prisoner of War Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the World War II

Victory Medal, the Parachuters Badge, and the Honorable Service Lapel Pin.

All presented by Brigadier General Ostapenko, for LeSage's duty, courage, and selfless service more than 65 years ago, "What a story, what an example, what a great American," Ostapenko said.

LeSage served as a paratrooper and a Lieutenant during World War II. He was wounded and captured in 1944 and sent to the Oflag 64 prison camp. He managed to escape and eventually made his way back home in 1945.

These are old memories for LeSage that the ceremony brings top-of-mind, "It's taking me back a little, you know."

LeSage's family came from all over for the ceremony. His son Richard said his father's story is one that wasn't often told, "We've been with dad a long time. For 55 years he never said a word. We knew he was a prisoner of war but he never ever talked about it."

The presentation of medals helped get that conversation going, and gave the family a better insight into the root of LeSage's warm personality.

"I think because of his experiences, he has a zest for life that very few people have. To him laughter is the key to life," Richard said.

Which is easy to see. General Ostapenko said he would like to take down LeSage's stories to help preserve them in history. LeSage responded jokingly, "I'll tell him a few things. I'm not going to tell him everything. I mean, I'll try."

But he's not holding back when it comes to his gratitude, "They've done a wonderful job here on this and I really didn't expect to see this many people out and get as much recognition as I did. Thank you very much," LeSage said.

General Ostapenko said if he does get the chance to take down LeSage's stories, he plans to give them to the Minnesota Historical Society, so they'll be around for many generations to come.



DEAR FOLKS, 25 DECEMBER 1944  
I AM HAVING A VERY ENJOYABLE CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR IN SPITE OF WHERE I AM. WE GOT OUR RED CROSS CHRISTMAS PARCELS WHICH INCLUDED PLUM PUDDING, TURKEY, CANDY, NUTS, GUM, GAMES, PIPE AND TOBACCO, CIGARETTES, HONEY, DATES, BUTTER ETC. I AM FULL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS AS WE SAVED UP TO HAVE A BIG FEED TODAY - WHAT A GORGEOUS FEELING! BEING HERE GIVES A PERSON THE ENVIRONMENT AND TIME TO LOOK BACK AND THINK MORE WHAT A REAL CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE AND WHAT IT MEANS. WE MAY BE BETTER FOR THE EXPERIENCE AFTER WE GET BACK. WE HAVE A WHOLE BUNCH OF CHAPLAINS HERE SO WE ARE HAVING SOME VERY GOOD CHRISTMAS SERVICES. IT HAS BEEN TERRIBLY COLD LATELY BUT WARMED UP LAST NIGHT AND IS SNOWING SOME TODAY. NATURALLY I CAN'T HELP THINKING OF ALL THE CHRISTMASSES SPENT AT HOME AND WONDERING HOW YOU ARE SPENDING THIS ONE. I HOPE FREDA GOT HOME TO BE WITH YOU AND THAT NEXT YEAR WE CAN ALL BE THERE. I THOUGHT PERHAPS BY THIS TIME I WOULD HAVE RECEIVED SOME MAIL BUT ITS THE SAME AS EVERYTHING ELSE ILL EXPECT IT WHEN I GET IT. THATS OUR SENTIMENTS ON EVERYTHING. I'VE QUIT WISHING, WORDBRING AND WORRYING AS IT DOES ABSOLUTELY NO GOOD SO THERE IS NO REASON FOR YOU TO AT ALL - AT LEAST ABOUT ME. MY THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU ALL AND GIVE MY BEST REGARDS TO ALL. LOVE, GENE

**Christmas Letter Submitted by Eugene Liggett,**  
dated 25 December 1944, and reads:

Dear Folks,  
I am having a very enjoyable Christmas this year in spite of where I am. We got our Red Cross Christmas parcels, which included plum pudding, turkey, candy, nuts, gum, games, pipe and tobacco, cigarettes, honey, dates, butter, etc. I am full for the first time in months as we saved up to have a big feed today – what a gorgeous feeling! Being here gives a person the environment and time to look back and think more about a real Christmas should be and what it means. We may be better for the experience after we get back. We have a whole bunch of Chaplains here so we are having some very good Christmas services. It has been terribly cold lately but warmed up last night and is snowing some today. Naturally I can't help thinking of all the Christmases spent at home and wondering how you are spending this one. I hope Freda got home to be with you and that next year we can all be there. I thought perhaps by this time I would have received some mail but it's the same as everything else. I'll expect it when I get it. That's our sentiments on everything. I've quit wishing, wondering, and worrying as it does absolutely no good so there is no reason for you to at all – at least about me. My thoughts are with you all and give my best regards to all.

Love, Gene

### CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES NEEDED

If you are on our email list but haven't been receiving our email queries or notices, please make sure we have your updated contact information.

If you know of someone without email who is no longer receiving the ITEM by U.S. Mail, please let me know.

You can contact me (Elodie) by email at [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us) or by using the contact information on the front page of this ITEM. We appreciate your help.

### Postage Fund Donors

THANKS to all who have generously donated to the postage fund. Without such thoughtful contributions, mailing the ITEM and other materials or information would not be possible.

**John Albee**  
**Jonel Hill (4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. 2011)**  
**Gail Rahal**  
**G. Pat Waters**

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

**Bret Job**  
4240 Trail Ridge Ln  
Minnetonka MN  
55345-2554

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

## ITEM COMMENTS

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



THANK  
YOU!

Thank you for the work you put into producing the Post Oflag 64 ITEM. I really enjoy reading it. ~ **Wilbur Sharpe, VA**

Your email reminded me to write and just say thank you for the absolutely wonderful job you do keeping the Item and email communications going! Your efforts on behalf of all the great Kriegies and us family members is most appreciated ~ **David Glendinning**

## OFLAG 64 WEB CONNECTION

I am just great full that I found your website and my Dads picture. It still amazes me. My Dad would have loved your website. ~ **David R. Anderson, Albuquerque NM**

My father was at Oflag 64. I have found two mentions of him on your fine website. ~ **David Hughes**

You do a great job of coordinating this website. I know it takes a lot of management and commitment of time. All your efforts are much appreciated. ~ **Warren Jones, Los Angeles CA.**

While we all grew up knowing he (Edgar H. Kummer) had been a POW, he didn't talk much about the experience until very late in life. It is only as I went through his papers and then saw the 1945 Oflag 64 photos on your website that his experience became more real for me." ~ **Rex Kummer**

### New Visitors to our Oflag 64 Web Site

Christopher Cardoni – friend of Oflag 64

Iden Ford – son of the late Kriegy Russell M. Ford

Catherine Ghylin – Living History Museum (on wheels near Port Orchard WA)

David Hughes – son of the late Kriegy Fredrick K. Hughes

Rex Kummer – son of the late Kriegy Edgar H. Kummer

Rick Packard – so-in-law of the late Kriegy C. Rex Allison

Renee Passal – video reporter for WDIO TV in Duluth MN (story on Kriegy Arthur LeSage)

Albert W. Pierce Sr. – grandson of one of our late Kriegies

Janet Smith – daughter of the late Kriegy Robert L. Smith

Michael Seth Smith – son of the late Kriegy Leland V. Smith

Jennifer Van Haften – granddaughter of the late Kriegy Laurence B. Higgins

George Williams – Pueblo County Historical Society



# 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.

1. **Americans Behind the Barbed Wire** by Frank Diggs, Story of Frank's trip across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Vandemere Press, P. O. Box 5243, Clearwater FL 22205 (New price is \$24.95/Hardcover) <http://www.vandamere.com/diggs.htm> or <http://www.amazon.ca/Americans-Behind-Barbed-Wire-Inside/dp/0743474821>
2. **Diary of A Kriegie** by Ed Beattie. Diary of Ed Beattie, A UPI Correspondent captured near the Moselle River in Sept '44. Publisher: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York NY <http://www.amazon.com/Diary-kriegie-Edward-W-Beattie/dp/B0007E4UAU>
3. **Escape to Russia** by Howard "BOOMER" Holder. Story of Boomer Holder as he went across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Iberian Publishing Co., Athens GA [http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Russia-Howard-Randolph-Holder/dp/B0006F7X72/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226549191&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Russia-Howard-Randolph-Holder/dp/B0006F7X72/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226549191&sr=1-1)
4. **Home Was Never Like This.** Diary of Col Yardley. Publisher: Yardley Enterprises. Evergreen, CO. [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_ss\\_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this&x=0&y=0](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this&x=0&y=0)
5. **Justifiable Pride** by William D. Stevens, Jamal Books, 2340 Devoe Drive, Lincoln NE 68506, 402-488-6005 [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_ss\\_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Justifiable+Pride&x=13&y=17](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Justifiable+Pride&x=13&y=17)
6. **Katyn Forest Video** (Beta or VHS). Ray Towers, Jr., 25105 Vista Greens Court, Hayward CA 94541, 415-582-4871
7. **Kriegie** by Kenneth Simmons. Diary of an Air Force Pilot. Publisher: Thomas Nelson and Sons. New York NY. [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_ss\\_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Kriegie+by+Kenneth+Simmons&x=0&y=0](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Kriegie+by+Kenneth+Simmons&x=0&y=0)
8. **Kriegsgefangener 3074 (Prisoner of War)** by Clarence Ferguson. Publisher: Texan Press, Waco TX [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_ss\\_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Prisoner+of+War+by+Clarence+Ferguson&x=16&y=17](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Prisoner+of+War+by+Clarence+Ferguson&x=16&y=17) or occasionally available at: <http://www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?an=Clarence+Ferguson&sts=t&tn=Kriegsgefangener&x=43&y=14>
9. **OFLAG 64, 50th Anniversary Book.** Anniversary Committee. Publisher: Evanston Publishing Co., Evanston IL. [http://www.amazon.com/Oflag-64-fiftieth-anniversary-book/dp/1879260239/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1226550698&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Oflag-64-fiftieth-anniversary-book/dp/1879260239/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1226550698&sr=1-1)
10. **Passages to Freedom**, Joseph Frelinghuysen, 1990, Publisher: Sunflower University Press, 1531 Yuma (Box 1009), Manhattan KS 66502-4228, 800-258-1232 (\$17.95, includes S & H) [http://www.amazon.com/Passages-Freedom-Story-Capture-Escape/dp/0897451317/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550856&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Passages-Freedom-Story-Capture-Escape/dp/0897451317/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550856&sr=1-1)
11. **Oflag 64: A P.O.W. Odyssey**, DVD, Robert Galloway, Osprey HD, 192 E Bay St, Ste 300A, Charleston SC 29401-2701, (\$29.95 plus \$5 S&H - Please make checks payable to Robert Galloway, Osprey HD)
12. **Raid! The Untold Story of Patton's Secret Mission** by Richard Baron, Major Abe Baum, and Richard Goldhurst (paperback) [http://www.amazon.com/Raid-Untold-Pattons-Secret-Mission/dp/0440236096/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1254190748&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Raid-Untold-Pattons-Secret-Mission/dp/0440236096/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1254190748&sr=1-1)

13. **A Ramble Through My War** by Charles T. Marshall, Publisher: Louisiana State University Press, 1999. (\$29.95) [http://www.amazon.com/Ramble-Through-My-War-Anzio/dp/0807126365/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550977&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Ramble-Through-My-War-Anzio/dp/0807126365/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550977&sr=1-1)
14. **The Escape Factory** by Lloyd Shoemaker. Story of a secret organization in Wash DC that maintained contact with all POWs in WWII. St Martins Press. New York NY (A few are available on Amazon.com) [http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1)
15. **The Road To War** by Steven Burgauer. Based on the diary and notes of Captain William C. Frodsham, Jr.; a riveting first-person account of duty and drill, courage and capture. (Available on Amazon.com) [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_ss\\_i\\_2\\_15?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer&prefix=The+Road+to+War](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_2_15?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer&prefix=The+Road+to+War)
16. **The Water and The Rock** by Charles Jones. Diary of a man captured in Africa. Publisher: Anchor Publishing Co., Northwood, IA [http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1)
17. **The Welcome Swede** by Frank Diggs. Publisher: Vantage Press, New York NY (\$11.00) [http://www.amazon.com/Welcome-Swede-Thousands-Germans-Prisoners/dp/0533078180/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551448&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Welcome-Swede-Thousands-Germans-Prisoners/dp/0533078180/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551448&sr=1-1)
18. **33 Months as a POW in Stalag Luft III** by Albert P. Clark. Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing, 16100 Table Mountain Parkway, Suite 300, Golden CO 80403, 800-992-2908 (17.95 pb) [http://www.amazon.com/Months-POW-Stalag-Luft-III/dp/1555915361/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551497&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Months-POW-Stalag-Luft-III/dp/1555915361/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551497&sr=1-1)
19. **Tours of Duty: World War II Veterans Personal Stories** by Eleanor Bertrand. Includes stories of Jimmie Kanaya from Oflag 64, Martin Jones from Hammelburg, and Oscar Richard from Stalag I. Publisher: BookSurge Publishing (2/22/08). \$17.99 from Amazon.com, 1-800-201-7575 [http://www.amazon.com/Tours-Duty-Veterans-Personal-Stories/dp/141968728X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551561&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Tours-Duty-Veterans-Personal-Stories/dp/141968728X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551561&sr=1-1)

## Other Publications

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

**A Grand Tour of Russia to Odessa, Winter ~ 1945** by Herb Garris, edited by Clarence Meltesen. Now available on the Oflag 64 website.

**My Tour of Russia** by Herb Garris, P. O. Box 1693, Pinehurst NC 28370-1693

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

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

**Roads to Liberation** by Clarence R. Meltesen is available free of charge except for a \$5 per copy shipping fee. Please contact Elodie Caldwell at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. (Thank you Meltesen family.)

**The Waters Story.** Contact Pat Waters, 412 Rice Hope Drive, Mt. Pleasant SC 29464-9273

A **1947 Oflag 64 Reunion Photo** is available for a \$5 donation to the Postage Fund. Send your donation and request to Elodie Caldwell at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. (Thank you Judy Fletcher.)

**EDGAR H. KUMMER**  
1925 ~ 2012



Kummer, Edgar Henry 87, formerly of St. Louis, passed away in Columbia, Mo. on January 6, 2012. Ed was born in St. Louis in 1924 to Paul E. and Mathilde B. Kummer. He attended Western Military Academy and enlisted in the US [Army](#) in 1942. He saw action in Italy and France prior to being taken prisoner and spending nine months as a POW in Poland and Germany. He received the [Bronze Star](#) and the [Purple Heart](#) for his service. After returning home, he married Margaret Ruth Toogood in July 1945. He joined his father and brother at Paul E. Kummer Realty in Baden and rose to become President of the St. Louis Real Estate Salesmen's Association. Along the way Ed was active in the Optimist International organization serving as the Governor for Eastern Missouri. In later life, he was active with the American Legion and the [VFW](#). Ed was a longtime member of Unity Lutheran Church in Bel-Nor and, later, Callaway Christian Church in Fulton, Mo. He is survived by his sister, Doris Witte, and her family; his sister-in-law, Betty, and her family; his children Paula, Alexa, Rex, Mark, Joanne, Beth, and Lisa, their mother Margaret, and their families. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Paul H. Kummer. Services: Interment, with military honors, was at Callaway Memorial Gardens, Fulton, Mo.



**Published in St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Jan. 15, 2012**

Online:  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/stltoday/obituary.aspx?n=Edgar-Kummer&pid=155464697>



**ROBERT W. "BOB" RIVERS**  
1918 ~ 2012



MR ROBERT W. "BOB" RIVERS, 94, of Orcutt, CA., passed away January 29, 2012. Arrangements

are under the direction of Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory and Memory Gardens

**Published in Santa Maria Times on February 1, 2012**

Online:  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/santamariatimes/obituary.aspx?n=ROBERT-RIVERS&pid=155722868>

**Tribute From Robert O'Neill ~**

Bob Rivers was the person who first informed me of the Oflag 64 organization back in 1998 or 1999. We happened to sit together at the annual tribute to POW's at Vandenberg AFB near both our residences.

I was a recent homeowner and he had lived close by all of his life (excluding WW2). The ex-POWs were seated together. I was seated next to Bob. I asked Bob where he was held as a prisoner. He answered Oflag 64. However, he was there prior to officers from the ground forces who were captured and sent to Schubin, Poland.

Bob was a pilot in the US Army Air Corps. He was shot down in the initial invasion of No. Africa and sent to Oflag 64. With all the Air Force pilots and other crewmembers, he was moved to another German Oflag when the ground offensive started in 1944.

Actually, if it wasn't for Bob, I might never have ever known of our organization. Bob was a great friend over the years and a Great American.

(Bob requested no funeral or service. The family will oblige. I do know that Bob was active in the local VFW. It has been their practice to have quarterly memorial programs honoring members who have died during the preceding period. He will be remembered by the VFW later this year.)