



# THE O.S.S. SOCIETY, INC.

Spring 2004



## OSS Members to Join Comrades of World War II at Memorial Dedication and Gala Society Reunion

Memorial Day weekend in Washington, D.C. this year will be a tribute to the generation who served in World War II, climaxing in the formal dedication of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall on Saturday, May 29. It will also mark the very special 62nd anniversary of OSS with a dinner at the historic Marriott Wardman Park Hotel on Woodley Road that evening.

Wardman Park, as it was known in wartime, is part of OSS history. It was there in Apartment 215 B that an OSS field photo unit set up a facility to copy top-secret ciphers stolen from the Vichy French Embassy. These were obtained by an OSS agent code-named Cynthia. Also living at the Wardman was Vice President Henry Wallace and family, which included his daughter Jean Wallace (Douglas) who worked for SI at OSS headquarters.

The OSS Reunion starts at with cocktails at 7 p.m., followed by dinner at 8 p.m. Several distinguished speakers have been invited to the banquet. The annual OSS Society meeting will be held Sunday, May 30 at 10 a.m., probably at the Wardman Park.

On Thursday, May 27 at 7 p.m., the OSS Society and the International Spy Museum will cosponsor a symposium and reception titled **Tales of OSS**. The moderator will be Patrick O'Donnell, author of *Operatives, Spies, and Saboteurs: the Unknown Story of the Men and Women of World War II*. Speakers will include Elizabeth McIntosh, author of *Sisterhood of Spies*, and Fisher Howe, OSS London Staff and Assistant to General Donovan. Transportation will be provided



*OSSers visit WWII Memorial: (Left to right) General John Singlaub and Anne Mary Ingraham, members of the OSS Society Board of Directors, with OSS President Charles Pinck at the memorial site on the Washington, D.C. Mall, where the four-day Tribute to a Generation will take place over the Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30, 2004.*

from the Marriott to the museum, located at 800 F Street, NW. A chartered bus will leave the hotel promptly at 6 p.m. Details are still being worked out for an OSS event on May 28, 2004.

OSS Society president Charles Pinck notes that he must receive dinner reservations and payment no later than March 15 in order to guarantee tickets to the dedication events. While the price of the dinner may seem high (\$150 per person), it also includes transportation to and from the hotel to the special events on the Mall and other expenditures. OSSers planning to stay at the Marriott Wardman Park can make reservations at 800-228-9290, mentioning the OSS Society for the special reunion rate.

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Festivities on the Mall run from Thurs., May 27 until Sat., May 29. World War II reunion events will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily in open-air tented locations from 3rd to 7th streets between the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum and the National Gallery of Art. In two pavilions visitors will once again hear sounds of the big bands and the swing music of that era. There will be a Wartime Stories Tent where narrative sessions, interviews, and workshops will be held with the visiting vets.

The Library of Congress will provide a Veterans History Project Tent where interviews, speakers, and exhibits will provide firsthand accounts of those who served in uniform and on the home front. Experts from the National Archives will be on hand in another tent to tell vets and families how to preserve World War II documents and memorabilia. There will also be displays of military equipment and a reunion hall where vets and their families can relax and get acquainted. Armed Forces band music will echo across the Mall and talented members of various armed services will perform narrative and musical tributes.

The actual dedication of the Memorial will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday. President Bush has been asked to speak, and other dignitaries will participate including former Sen. Robert Dole, Pacific war vet and chairman of the Memorial fund-raising campaign.

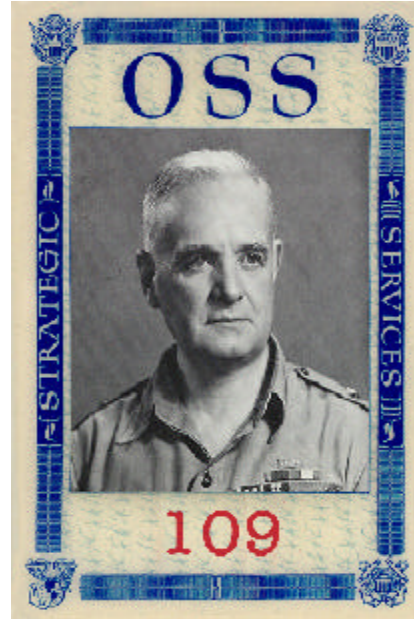
The OSS Society will be providing transportation from the hotel to one of several staging areas to take the Metrorail and/or a shuttle bus to the Mall. Chartered buses will leave the hotel at 10 a.m. and will return after the ceremony concludes. It is recommended that as many as possible take the Metrorail which is the easiest way to move about the city, is accessible to disabled people, and has a stop very close to the Marriott.

The WWII Memorial Commission has advised that people be prepared to walk several city blocks to reach the dedication site. As a large number of people are expected, there may be long lines at security checkpoints. Tickets and final details for the reunion will be mailed in early May. Please call Charles Pinck at 202-207-2915 if you have any questions.



## OSS ID Cards Issued

*As Donovan wrote in a memorandum dated September 1945 to all former OSSers: "The credit for OSS accomplishments belongs to the superior personnel who made them possible. I am deeply grateful for your loyal and effective contribution."*



All members were sent new OSS Society ID cards in January. The design for our new ID card was taken from an original OSS identification card made for Allen Dulles. We replaced Dulles' photo with General Donovan's and Dulles' identification number (55) with Donovan's (109). We also added each member's name to the back of the card using a World War II-era font. If you received a card in the name of your spouse and would like another card in your name, please contact Society President Charles Pinck via email at [ossociety@aol.com](mailto:ossociety@aol.com) or at 202-207-2915. Many thanks to those members who made donations to The OSS Society after receiving their cards. The donations more than covered the cost of manufacturing them. Special thanks to L. Michael Ledbetter of Washington, DC for his help in designing our card.

## Memorial to Free Thais, Flying Tigers in Thailand

By Bob Bergin

On November 11, 2003, a memorial honoring the American Volunteer Group (AVG) Flying Tigers and the Free Thai was dedicated in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The memorial is a marble obelisk with inscriptions on four sides. The front states simply, "In Memory of the American Volunteer Group (AVG) Flying Tigers and Free Thais." The Free Thai, Thailand's anti-Japanese resistance movement during World War II, worked closely with the OSS, and rescued a number of American airmen during the last year of the war, including AVG pilot William "Black Mac" McGarry.

The dedication was attended by representatives from the AVG Flying Tiger Association, the American and British embassies, the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF), and the Free Thai Movement. The event was hosted by the Foundation for the Preservation and Development of Thai Aircraft.

It is significant that the Free Thai are included on the Memorial with the AVG. Flying Tiger pilot William "Black Mac" McGarry was brought down by ground fire Mar. 24, 1940 during an AVG raid on Japanese Air Force headquarters at Chiang Mai. In early 1945, OSS learned that McGarry was being held as a POW in Bangkok. Former AVG commander Maj. Gen. Claire Lee Chennault re-



*Flying Tiger Assoc. President Dick Rossi (left) and Chiang Mai Raider Maj. Gen. Charles Bond at memorial.*

quested OSS to secure McGarry's release. Free Thai officers located McGarry and took him by boat to the Gulf of Siam where they were met by two Catalina flying boats dispatched by OSS headquarters in Ceylon. McGarry was later flown to Kunming and reunited with Chennault. Another OSS mission accomplished!

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## Ralph Bunche Honored

In celebration of Black History Month, a U.S. Census Bureau study featured **Ralph Bunche**. He was an honor student and all-around athlete who maintained close ties with higher education for his entire life. During World War II, he had key assignments in the War and State departments and the Office of Strategic Services. In 1949, Bunche negotiated an Arab-Israeli truce in Palestine, an achievement that earned him the Nobel Peace Prize. For the rest of his life, he worked for the United Nations to solve problems in hot spots around the world, and became U.N. Undersecretary General in 1968. Black History Month was observed in February.

## Goehring Rebuffed

**John P. Dinwiddie** sends the following anecdote about his uncle, **Major Lemuel H. Matthews**, who served in OSS/X2 in Europe during World War II:

The major was Hermann Goehring's escort officer to Nuremberg. They were waiting at a railroad station en route to the trials, Goehring's baggage nearby. Several GIs were standing near them, mainly enlisted men. When the

train arrived, Goehring ordered one of them to carry his bags. The soldier turned to my uncle and angrily protested: "Sir, why should I carry the luggage of a POW?" My uncle answered, "You're right, soldier." He then turned to Goehring and said, "If you want your luggage, carry it yourself." Dinwiddie would like further information on his uncle from OSSers who may have served with him. Email: [jdinwiddie@mahinetworks.com](mailto:jdinwiddie@mahinetworks.com).

## OSS Still of Interest

**W. T. (Bill) Thompson**, one time member of the Jed team Novocaine, reports that OSS activities, even after all these years, still arouse interest.

"I was asked to talk about the Jeds at the Truman Memorial Library in Independence, Missouri, and specifically about my adventures in France and China. It was apparently well received. I had a number of people come up to me afterwards and tell me they had no idea about OSS and the Jeds. Since then, I have been asked to speak to our local Rotary Club, and as a member of the distinguished retirees who meet at Fort Leavenworth known as 'The Old Bastards,' have been invited to give the same talk there..."



## OSS Hero C.W. Hostler Receives Purple Heart

**C**ol. Charles W. Hostler, U.S. Air Force retired, was awarded the Purple Heart at an impressive ceremony on December 17, 2003 at the Coronado Naval Amphibious Base. Lt. Gen. Brian A. Arnold presented the award to Col. Hostler, an OSS/X2 agent who participated in the D-Day Normandy landing invasion, working covertly to turn German agents in the Allied effort to deceive the enemy in Europe.

After the war he became U.S. military attaché in Lebanon, Jordan, and Cyprus. On retirement he worked in private industry in the Middle East. His military background, public service, and linguistic capabilities led to his appointment as U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain (1989 to 1993).

Ambassador Hostler's memoirs, *Soldier to Ambassador*, were published in February by the San Diego State University Press. The book reviews a life rich in military and diplomatic service, travel, knowledge of cultures, and relationships that span the gamut from soldiers in many wars to kings, religious dignitaries, presidents, prime ministers, and scholars.

In a touching note at the end of a brilliant career, the ambassador writes us: "and if that wasn't enough excitement for an 84-year-old, I was married on February 1st to my beloved Chin-Yeh Rose who has been my cherished love and companion for eleven years..."

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## US-Free Thai Study Out

**T**he history of OSS and American intelligence in post-war Thailand is the topic of an article in the winter issue of *The Journal of Intelligence History*. The author, E. Bruce Reynolds, professor of history at San Jose State, tells the story of two OSS "stay behinds" in Bangkok, Alexander MacDonald and James Thompson, who had established strong contacts with the Free Thai movement during the war. With the change of government in 1947, these two men lost influence and the State Department/CIA opted to work with the new regime.

A complete study of this era in history will appear in Reynolds' upcoming book on OSS/Free Thai operations published by Cambridge University Press.

## Edwin (Ned) Putzell Dies: Helped 109 Set Up the OSS



**Edwin (Ned) Putzell**, 90, died in Naples, Florida December 23, 2003 of congestive heart failure. The Harvard-educated attorney served as Naples Mayor from 1986 to 1990.

He helped Gen. William J. Donovan set up the OSS and was his executive officer until 1945 when President Truman abolished the agency. Putzell's career in OSS included creating unusual explosives, some disguised as camel dung. He also brought convicted counterfeiters from prison to help doctor passports and currency. Fake Japanese currency was manufactured to deflate that country's money. Putzell's job as attorney for the firm of Donovan, Leisure, Newton, and Lombard in Washington, D.C. and New York City was his cover story when on official business as an operative.

Putzell described his life as both fabulous and fascinating, but he kept silent about most of his missions. He traveled the world, from the Soviet Union to Algiers to Great Britain. He met Queen Elizabeth, Lord Louis Mountbatten, and Andrei Gromyko.

Over 300 mourners attended Putzell's memorial service in Naples. His wife of 38 years, Dorothy Putzell, a son, a daughter, and four stepsons survive him.

## Did 109 Blow Their Covers?

**G**en. William Donovan received the following letter from Archibald MacLeish, head of the Library of Congress, dated December 23, 1942:

"Dear Bill:

I am eager indeed for the help of American representatives abroad in dealing with the library's acquisition problems. Our needs are rather different from those of the intelligence and information services. I would like to write, through you, to any OSS representatives where library material is available who might be able to help collect it for us. I'd appreciate it if someone in OSS would let me have the names of good people at key spots..."

His reply: "Dear Archie:

I would be delighted to help with the Congressional Library's acquisitions problems. We have in Switzerland Allen W. Dulles in Berne, chief OSS representative. In Stockholm there is Dr. Bruce Hopper of Harvard who may be reached at the American Legation. In London, Whitney Shepardson, care of the American Embassy. In addition, we have offices in Tangier, Algeria, Cairo, Turkey, Lisbon, and Chungking. You could address letters to 'OSS representatives' at these points where you desire services."

Source: John Taylor, archivist, National Archives.

## Remembering 109 – Recollections of OSSers

Donovan was a charming, daring, farsighted man. When I joined his New York law firm in 1941, he was already on leave from the office. I saw him occasionally when he came back for office dinners, where he was quite a star.

During my WWII career, on leave of absence from the Donovan firm, the general indirectly caused changes in my assignments. In one case, the Air Force had assigned eleven first lieutenants, all speaking European languages, to duty in the Pacific. Requests that they be transferred to OSS where the need was vital were turned down. Donovan happened to be at the meeting when Air Force Chief Gen. Hap Arnold complained to the Joint Chiefs of Staff that OSS had failed to pinpoint factories where Germany had started to make jet fighters. He responded by citing that the Air Force was keeping European linguists, whose language abilities were of no use in the Pacific, from OSS. The JCS ordered all of us transferred to OSS. In my case, I was just starting for Saipan with B-29s as a combat intelligence officer. I was reassigned to OSS/X2.

*Richard Cutler*

*Richard Cutler lives in Milwaukee, Wis. His wife, the former Elizabeth Fitzgerald, was with R&A/OSS. He*

*met her when she came to Berlin to obtain incriminating evidence against Rosenberg for the Nuremberg trial. He is the author of a book, upcoming this summer, Counterspy: Memoirs of a Counterintelligence Officer in World War Two and the Cold War. (Brassey)*



It was January, 1945, shortly after I'd returned from England en route to China. I was called to report to Area C for a demonstration of hand-to-hand combat by the legendary Major Fairbairn. With him was 109. I was pulled from the ranks by that famous cockney major to be his dummy, probably because I was five feet seven, no taller than the major, or 109 for that matter. He wouldn't have any trouble tossing me around. I was so awed coming face-to-face with 109 that I forgot to salute him. I don't think it really mattered. He was one of those rare officers who could be truly called a "Good Joe."

*David A. Kenney*

*Dave Kenney lives in Palos Verdes Estates, Cal.*

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## New OSS Society Members

We welcome these OSS vets and lineals who have joined the Society:

**Amy Thurston Berthouex** (Arthur McCaslin Thurston), Memphis, TN

**Vincent T. Catalano** (OSS veteran), La Quinta, CA

**William B. Collard** (Joseph D. Obucina Jr.), Apopka, FL

**Nicholas J. D'Annunzio** (OSS veteran), Springfield, PA

**Donald H. Ellison** (OSS veteran), Xenia, OH

**Robert Feher** (Otto Feher), Columbia Station, OH

**Joseph J. Fredericks** (OSS veteran), Weehawken, NJ

**Lisa Froug-Hirano** (Betty T. Oppenheim), Honolulu, HI

**Dr. Lawrence J. Gianinno** (Victor J. Gianinno), Stamford, CT

**Lawrence Gray** (Charles P. Cabell), Pharr, TX

**Alan R. Holtz** (Irving Holtz), Orlando, FL

**Adam J. Lacy** (James Anderson Brown Sr.), N. Charleston, SC

**Daniel Metraux** (Dr. Rhonda Metraux), Staunton, VA

**Joseph D. Obucina IV**, (Joseph D. Obucina Jr.), Wellington, FL

**Penn Sicre** (Betty Lussier), Santa Monica, CA

**Joseph W. Smith** (OSS veteran), Bethesda, MD

**Dr. John A. Snyder** (Jacques F. Snyder), New Bern, NC

**Katherine Wallace Stevenson** (John Wallace), Buffalo, NY

**Andrew W. Tisch** (Laurence Tisch), New York, NY

**Toni Weingarten** (Max Weingarten), Greenbrae, CA

**Dorothy Shackleton Whitehurst** (Charles Whitehurst), Bethesda, MD

**David M. Yorck USN** (David Yorck Sr.), Annapolis, MD

*Errata: In the last newsletter, we incorrectly reported that James A. Stewart is a descendant of Shirley Spears. Mr. Stewart is the descendant of William Cochrane. Shirley Spears is an OSS veteran who served in Washington, DC and now lives in The Woodlands, TX. We apologize for the error.*

The O.S.S. Society Newsletter is published quarterly by:

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# Book Notes

*Saints, Sinners and Scalawags: A Lifetime in Stories* by Thibaut de Saint Phalle is a beautifully-written collection of memories which mirror the author's life and the people and places that were important to him. His life has spanned a number of careers— he has been a lawyer, investment banker, corporate executive, educator, government official, political activist and also a naval officer on duty with the Office of Strategic Services.

His OSS career took him behind the lines in China. De Saint Phalle's style of writing introduces the reader to the people who were creating history as well as to those OSS men whose assignments were to blow up bridges, ambush Japanese soldiers, and report back by radio to headquarters. The reader shares these adventures vividly with the writer. As de Saint Phalle notes: "If this book is a hymn to anything, it is to the glorification of individual initiative, rather than the deadliness of group decision-making."

The book brings past history to life and gives the reader a deeper understanding of the places and motives of people who created history.



*Operatives, Spies, and Saboteurs: The Unknown History of the Men and Women of World War II's OSS* by Patrick O'Donnell is a lively recounting of America's Shadow War against the Axis powers. Gen. William Donovan, as OSS chief, originated the concept of integration of shadow war techniques, as well as sharpening OSS skills in the fine arts of persuasion, penetration, and intimidation. (Free Press)



*A Secret Life* by Benjamin Weiser, is an epic spy story of the Cold War depicted in the life of Polish officer Ryszard Kuklinski, who defected from the Polish Defense Ministry in defiance of Cold War principles and became an informer for the CIA. He was described at the time as being the best-placed source available to the American government in the Soviet bloc. (Perseus Books)



OSS Society members are asked to send news items, obit notices, and wartime memories to the editor:

**Elizabeth McIntosh**

42485 Cochran Mill Rd.

Leesburg, VA 20175

**Next Newsletter Deadline - May 15, 2004**

*The Main Enemy: The Inside Story of the CIA's Final Showdown with the KGB* by Milt Bearden and James Risen is the first comprehensive history of the secret battles between the CIA and the KGB at the end of the Cold War. The book traces intelligence intrigues that attended the downfall of the Soviet Union and the subsequent development of a new and different relationship between the U.S. and Russia. (Random House)



*And the Code Word is Mozambique Mystique* by George H. Morales is the story of a little-known OSS/ONI mission to acquire a source of sisal vital to the war effort. Action took place on a large plantation in Mozambique, Portuguese East Africa, where the OSS author describes the dangerous adventures he encountered on this mission. (1stBooks Library)



*Hidden in Plain View: The Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad* by Howard University professor Raymond Doebler. This book reveals one of the little-known secrets of the Civil War Underground Railroad. At family quilting bees, the seamstress-spies wove clues into the patterns of the quilts. By interpreting the pictures and codes on the quilts, slaves were aided in their migration north to escape to freedom. (Random House)



## William Colby Writers' Symposium Slated for April in Vermont

This year's William E. Colby Military Writers' Symposium will be held on the campus of Norwich University, Northfield, Vt., April 7 through 9. **The New Face of War** will be the theme of the ninth annual meeting, which includes book signings, special sessions for the public, and a meet-the-authors dinner.

The authors are W.E.B. Griffin (*Retreat, Hell!*); Carlo D'Este (*Eisenhower, A Soldier's Story*); Joseph Galloway (*We were Soldiers Once...and Young*); H.R. Masters (*Dereliction of Duty*); Geoffrey Perret (*Lincoln's War*); William Murray (*The Iraq War: A Military History*); and Robert Clasby (*Gettysburg: You are There*). The symposium is named for the late OSSer and CIA director William Colby.

## Donovan Committee Investigates Bio Warfare in 1948: Deja Vu?

The following is a fascinating archives article on America's defense program against an unconventional attack on this country, dated 1948, during the Cold War:

James Forrestal, Secretary of Defense under President Truman, invited Gen. William J. Donovan to serve on a small secret committee along with Dr. Vannevar Bush, Admiral Sydney S. Souers, and Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther to study the problems of defense against unconventional warfare aimed at the United States.

The program was divided into seven subjects for investigation, among which were clandestine attacks employing biological weapons, atomic explosives, chemical weapons, or radiological weapons. Also studied were attacks on key individuals, groups, or installations; certain aspects of psychological warfare or disinformation; and unconventional methods of economic warfare.

Donovan formed a small committee, all members of OSS, to study the problems. Committee members were Otto C. Doering and T.J. McFadden, Donovan law firm staffers who worked stateside with OSS during the war; Richard P. Heppner, OSS chief, China Theater, later a deputy director for international security affairs with the Defense Department; and William Colby, OSS Jedburgh and CIA director.

Donovan and his colleagues were cleared to read top-secret material. Donovan believed that the United States was vulnerable to a number of operations in which the Russians had displayed expertise during the Cold War.

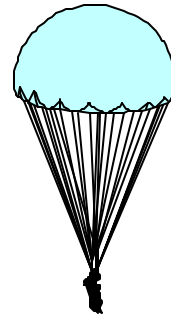


## OSS Plaque Available

Two types of OSS stainless-steel plaques are available for mounting on the wall or for a grave marker. The flat-backed version is six inches in diameter and is priced at \$95 plus \$10 shipping. It can be used as a wall decoration or a paperweight. The grave marker, designed with a 24-inch stainless steel rod and flag holder, costs \$159 plus \$20 shipping. To order call: CR Bronze Works, at 866-681-3352. The address is 1142 East 135 South, Lindon, UT 84042. Web site: [www.crbronzeworks.com](http://www.crbronzeworks.com)

## Planning a London Trip?

The Imperial War Museum in London is having a new major exhibition entitled **Women and War**, which was opened by Her Majesty the Queen and runs through April 18. An audio guide enables visitors to listen to women describing their wartime experiences. There are also exhibits of wartime wedding dresses, diaries kept by secret agents, letters to lovers, and the uniforms of Capt. Pat Tattersall, the only woman to wear the coveted Green Beret. Check the museum website: [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk).



## Behind Enemy Lines by Steve Sysko

*(Further pages from the daily diary of Sgt. Sysko of Springfield, Vermont will appear in upcoming newsletters.)*

It was called Freedom Operation into Thailand in 1945 to establish a rebel force that would rise up with the Thai army and drive out the Japanese. There were four of us - Lieut. Walter Kuzmuck, Corporal William Grant, Sgt. Stephen J. Sysko, and a radio operator-interpreter, code-named Mike.

### July 27

On two previous nights, July 25-26, we could not find a drop zone because the bonfires that were supposed to direct us were not visible. On the third attempt, we left Rangoon on the 27th of July 1945 on a C-47 cargo plane. It took off at 22:20 for Thailand where we spotted the fires for our drop zone at 00:10 and were surprised at the terrain we were to parachute into - heavily wooded with many rocks. We jumped at 00:20 and all landed safely. We met our contact agent and signaled back to the C-47 by flashlight that everything was okay and to drop the equipment. One chute malfunctioned and the container was smashed, but nothing inside was seriously damaged. We then proceeded to camp, which we reached 05:30. We must have hiked at least ten miles.

### July 28

Awoke around 08:00 and had a delicious Thai breakfast of eggs as large as my fist, toast, and coffee which was delivered by two beautiful girls. The rest of the day we spent cleaning our weapons and talking with the Thai leaders about our mission.

*To be continued...*

## In Memoriam

**Donald Barr**, 82, an educator, writer, and former headmaster of the Dalton School in Manhattan and the Hackley School in Tarrytown, N.Y., died Feb. 5, 2004 in Colebrook, Conn. He was born in Manhattan and majored in mathematics and anthropology at Columbia, graduating in 1941. He went into the Army and served with the OSS in Washington and Europe.

**James K.D. Becker**, 82, retired CIA intelligence officer who served in the OSS in Switzerland during WWII, died July 20, 2004 in Leesburg, Va. He was a decorated Air Corps combat veteran who was shot down over France on an 8th Air Force bombing mission. He made his way to Switzerland where he worked for the OSS. After the war he joined the Strategic Services Unit and then the CIA.

**George A. Bernat**, 87, a retired CIA cartographer died Jan. 3, 2004 at Mount Vernon, Va. He earned his master's degree in geography from the University of Wisconsin and was recruited by the OSS where he worked as a cartographer.

**Raymond L. Brittenham**, 87, died in November of 2003 in New York City. After graduating from Yale Law School, he was a major in the Army, serving with the OSS in London, Brussels, and later France. He received a Bronze Star, Croix de Guerre, and Belgium's Chevalier Ordre de Leopold. After the war he worked for ITT where he was senior vice president, general counsel, and director. Subsequently, he joined Lazard Freres, investment bankers, as a consultant until he retired in 1989. His wife, Mary Ann Brittenham, writes that his memories of the OSS were rich and important to him.

**Salvatore Caimano, Sr.**, a retired plumbing service owner, died Jan. 4, 2004 at the Kent Memorial Hospital in Pennsylvania. A staff sergeant with OSS, he was in charge of all supplies and equipment in his company of 130 men for 22 months while serving in Italy. He also was assigned to Africa and the Middle East.

**Gene Allen Carr**, 83, died Jan. 30, 2004 in Richmond, Mo. During WWII he was a member of OSS, serving as intelligence officer in Southeast Asia. After the war he followed a varied career, becoming program director in several Missouri stations. He also wrote, produced, and directed award-winning industrial films and commercials, using such well-known newsmen and

actors as Walter Cronkite, E.G. Marshall, and John Carridine. He is survived by his wife and four children.

**Evelyn Chen**, a librarian at CIA, died Feb. 12, 2004 in Rockville, Md. Born in China, she came to the United States in 1936 with her husband and two sons and received a masters degree at Columbia University. Unable to return to her home in Canton due to the war, she joined the OSS as a China analyst.

**Muriel Coleman**, 86, died of complications from pneumonia in Oakland, Cal. December 20, 2003. She was a painter, sculptor, and furniture designer, and during World War II she worked with the OSS in New York. She was educated in Paris and received a degree in fine arts from Columbia University, New York. Before the Normandy invasion, Coleman helped plot the coastline of France from reconnaissance photos taken by the RAF.

**Nicholas Richard Doman**, 90, a New York lawyer who wrote about international law, died at his home on the upper east side of Manhattan Jan. 24, 2004. Mr. Doman specialized in restitution of property seized in Europe, particularly in eastern Germany under the Nazi and Communist regimes. In WWII he was in the U.S. Army, attached to the OSS. He was then assigned to the legal staff of Robert H. Jackson, the United States' chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trial.

**Samuel Michael Fraulino**, 88, of Middletown Conn., died Feb 9, 2004. Due to his fluency in Italian, Fraulino was recruited by OSS and participated in missions throughout Italy. Led by Max Corvo, the team produced the most meaningful intelligence behind enemy lines in Italy during that time.

**Chauncey Dennison Harris**, 89, a geographer who helped put the Soviet Union on maps when the Kremlin sought to keep it *terra incognita* to prying foreigners, died December 26, 2003 at his home in Chicago, Ill. Commissioned an Army first lieutenant in World War II, he was detached to the OSS just as the war and mutual suspicions began to shut off the Soviet society to Western scrutiny.

**Thomas T. Helde**, 83, a Georgetown University history professor, died Dec. 7, 2003 in West Falls Church, Va. Born in Chengdu, China of missionary parents, he received a degree in history from Yale. His



## In Memoriam

specialty was history and he worked for the OSS during World War II as an analyst.

**Rafael D. Hirtz**, 81, a retired grain exporter, died July 4, 2003 in Towson, Md. Born in Buenos Aires, he was raised in Europe and California. World War II interrupted his studies at Pomona College in California. He enlisted in the Army and served with OSS behind the lines in France and later in China. He attained the rank of captain and was awarded two Bronze Stars with arrowheads.

**Elmer Kaplan**, 87, of Northbrook, Ill. died Feb. 13, 2004. He served with the OSS during WWII. After the war he worked for The Briskin Manufacturing Co., Chicago, retiring in 2000 as executive vice president.

**Clement J. Kosela**, 85, died June 17, 2003 at his home in Virginia Beach, Va. He was a U.S. Army veteran assigned to the OSS in World War II. His service included tours of duty on New Guinea, Leyte, and Luzon.

**Dan Kiley**, 91, a seminal landscape architect, who combined modernist functionalism with classical design principles in more than 1,000 projects, died Sat. Feb 21, 2004 at his home in Charlotte, Vt. During the war he served in the field artillery before transferring to OSS. There he took over Eero Saarinen's work in headquarters.

**Miriam Paul Leslie**, 86, died of a cerebral hemorrhage Jan. 13, 2004 in Rockville, Md. A graduate of Smith College, she later attended the Columbia University business school, and during WWII she served overseas with the OSS in North Africa and Italy. After the war she managed Newsweek Magazine's Rome office before returning to New York where she worked for the foreign marketing offices of Philco and Ford International. Her husband, the late John Leslie, was chairman and chief executive of Bach & Co., a New York securities brokerage. Survivors include her twin sister, OSS member, Ruth U. Paul of Gaithersburg.

**Harry Lubansky**, 81, died Jan. 10, 2004 in Somerville, New Jersey. He graduated from Rutgers University with a master's degree in microbiology, and served in WWII with the OSS. After more than 30 years employment with Ortho Diagnostics in Raritan, N.J., he retired as a director of quality control.

**Frank J. Martell**, 81, died Feb. 16, 2004 in St. Leonard, Md. During WWII he served as a member of the American Military Mission to Marshall Tito. A lawyer, he was a former president of the bar association of the District of Columbia.

**Sarah (Sabow) Mero**, 96, died in December of 2003 in Winnetka, Ill. The daughter of Hungarian immigrants, she grew up in the midwest where her father was posted as a priest. She spent five years in France at the University of Paris and returned home to work for the Red Cross when World War II broke out. Recruited by the OSS and trained as a cipher clerk, she was one of six women sent to OSS at Allied Forces Headquarters in Algiers. She handled top-secret radio transmissions and knew about D-Day before it happened. She also handled the radio message in which the commander of German forces in Italy formally surrendered. Mero's boss was Hungarian-born Lt. Col. Peter Mero who was in charge of OSS comms from Casablanca to Cairo. They were married after the war in 1947.

**Rhoda (Bubendey) Metraux**, 89, died in Vermont Nov. 26, 2003. An anthropologist and close collaborator with Margaret Mead, she spent World War II with the OSS, evaluating morale in the Armed Forces in Japan and Germany. Mead also worked for OSS as a consultant.

**Lt. Col. (USAF Ret) Ralph E. "Roger" Monroe**, 84, died Jan. 7, 2004 at home in Newburgh, Ore. During WWII he flew 52 combat missions in B-24 Liberators and participated in campaigns in Italy, southern France, Germany, the Balkans, the northern Apennines, and central Europe. He was in charge of flight operations for project Javaman and worked closely with OSS operatives. The Javaman project involved a missile craft, disguised as an ordinary boat normal to the area of operation. Remote control from U.S. aircraft aimed the craft loaded with explosives at target enemy ships in the Japan area. Col. Monroe developed a lasting friendship with his OSS colleagues and became a member of The OSS Society.

**Dr. Cecil F. Mynatt**, died Nov. 6, 2003, following a lengthy illness in Oklahoma City, Okla. Stationed as a forward artillery observer in North Africa in World War II, he later joined OSS and parachuted into France for D-Day. He was interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

**Henry "Hank" Oosthoek, Jr.**, 80, died December 15, 2003 in Walkertown, Va. He served in WWII, spending two years overseas with the OSS. He worked as a radio operator and cryptographer and served in both the European and Southeast Asian theaters of operations. He later worked for the CIA in England, India, Sri Lanka, China, and Egypt. In Beijing he met and

*continued on page 10*

## In Memoriam

married his wife, Georgia Ferrish, also from Walkertown, who was working there as a missionary.

**Teresa Soracco Rogers**, 77, was found dead in her home in Roanoke, Va. on Jan. 13, 2004, the victim of a homicide. To date, police have not found a suspect, nor any sign of forced entry or burglary. Mrs. Rogers and her late husband, Robert Rogers, a radio executive and composer, first met when they were serving with OSS during World War II. After her husband died in 1991, Mrs. Rogers bought the seven-acre farm and moved there in 2001. Police had been alerted of her death by a 911 call but declined to say who placed the call.

**Maj. Gen. (Ret) Amato "Matty" Semenza**, 84, died in Clifton Park, NY in February of 2004. General Semenza dedicated his life to church and country. In 1942, he began his military career, enlisting in the Army Reserve Corps. Fluent in Italian, he was on active duty from 1943 to 1945 serving as an intelligence officer with the OSS in North Africa and Italy.

**Robert J. Schmitz**, 88, died Jan. 10, 2004 in Kerrville, Texas. He enlisted in the Army in 1942 where he was commissioned and joined the OSS. He served in Egypt, Italy, Yugoslavia, Algeria, Burma, and China. Recruited by CIA in 1949, he remained there until retirement.

**Arthur M. Thurston**, 89, former superintendent of the Shelbyville, Ind. police, died December 29, 2003 in Shelbyville. A Navy veteran of WWII, he served with the OSS. After the war he worked with occupation forces in Japan and helped organize the Japanese Imperial Police Force. He was the widower of Suzanne Thurston.

**John William Wallace**, 85, died Jan. 12, 2004 in Indianapolis. After attending the University of Minnesota, he served as an Army specialist in Japanese and Chinese studies with the OSS. After the war he entered the insurance industry. His wife, Jean, and two children survive him.

**Abbott McConnell Washburn**, 88, a former public relations official who became deputy director of the U.S. Information Agency, died December 11, 2003 in Washington, D.C. A native of Duluth, he graduated magna cum laude in 1937 from Harvard and served in the Navy in WWII and with OSS in Europe.

**Dr. Eugene J. Zdrojewski** of Marilla, N.Y., a retired optometrist, died Feb. 11, 2004. A WWII Army vet, he worked as a photographer for the OSS Field Service in the CBI theater.



## OSS Still Lives in Kachin Memory

OSSer **Sam Spector** submits a memo from Major James McAndrew, Defense Attaché in Rangoon, Burma, who has been visiting Kachin territory looking for downed WWII aircraft.

Major McAndrew writes, "Please tell your OSS members that 101 remains an important part of Kachin society. Every time I go to Myitkina I am amazed that nearly every person I meet will mention OSS/101 in our conversation. Even young people, probably great-grandchildren of your comrades, know the exploits of 101. I've had vets proudly show me documents and photos, and tell me epic stories of 101, now part of their folklore. Vets tell me they were always eager to serve with the Americans because you always treated them with honor and dignity worthy of their warrior race. You guys did a hell of a job..."

*Maj. McAndrew has been helpful in trying to establish a monument to the Detachment 101-Kachin Rangers, as well as a children's library and schoolroom in the Kachin country.*



*101 Celebrants - Among those attending the 101 Christmas party at Ft. Meyer in December were (Left to Right) Ambassador Jay Niemczyk, Kyaw Win, Myanmar America Trade and Investment, and Oliver Treachter, 101 President*

In 1996, members of 101 started "Project Old Soldier," a crop substitution program to stop the growing of opium. The program presently covers over 135 villages. The U.S. State Department, Texas A&M, and OSS vets are sponsoring the movement which now includes 2500 participants, according to 101 President Oliver Trechter.

## Help Wanted – by OSSers and Others

- Mrs. Joseph Czechlewski of New York City would like to get in touch with anyone who served with her husband who died in 1994. **Lieut. Czechlewski** was stationed in London during World War II with OSS as the Polish liaison officer. After the war he spent the next 50 years fighting for a “free Poland” with headquarters at 10 Eaton Place, London. He was decorated by President Zaleski with Poland’s highest honor, the Commanders Cross. Mrs. Czechlewski’s address is: 445 14th St., Apt. 9B, New York, NY 10009.

- Rich Kelly wants to contact anyone in OSS who knew **Major Dermot O’Neil**, a training officer. Kelly is particularly interested in anyone who trained in his combative methods or has materials on the subject. Send info to [RichKelly3@Hotmail.com](mailto:RichKelly3@Hotmail.com)

- Mike Gesker writes: I would like information about my father’s career in the OSS. He died in 1996, and never spoke much about his work. I would love to learn more about his life and times in the OSS. From the sketchy details, I know he was in Scotland, England, and Germany. I believe he was across the channel before D-Day. He retired as a captain, and his name was **Mitchell Edwin Gesker**, although he may have used the name Kobielka, too. Email: [mpgesker@comcast.net](mailto:mpgesker@comcast.net)

- Bob Tyson wants to locate the **Carpetbagger unit** using a Lockheed Ventura to supply Italian partisans/OSS in northern Italy during the last months of the war. He writes, “I can provide a specific date on which an experienced crew from our squadron – No600RAF was grounded for refusing to shoot down the Ventura. Ground control insisted, despite its identification, that the plane was hostile, as no friendly aircraft were listed airborne in that sector. As a result of the crew’s refusal to shoot, they were grounded upon return to base. I am interested in identifying the operation even though it is now too late to amend the records of the aircrew flying a Beau-fighter at the time.” [FirstAux@aol.com](mailto:FirstAux@aol.com)

- I am a Canadian historian who needs help from your members. I am working on a paper on Hungary, the activities of the OSS in Hungary, including the activities of the Research and Analysis Branch, agents who worked in Hungary in 1944, and analysts at the Hungarian desk in Washington at that time. Dr. Peter I. Hidas, historian, Canada [peterhidas@yahoo.com](mailto:peterhidas@yahoo.com) [www3.sympatico.ca/thidas](http://www3.sympatico.ca/thidas)

- Freelance magazine writer and author Carl White is interested in hearing from anyone who participated in operations with or trained with the late **Tom Chamales**, a First Lieut. with Detachment 101 in Burma and author of “*Never So Few*.” Contact Carl @ [carlwhite@carlwhite.com](mailto:carlwhite@carlwhite.com)

- The following letter is printed verbatim as received from Ludovic Gavignet, 3 Rue Du Mont, 25270 Montmahoux, France:

“I am a French student living in Montmahoux. In order to well understand my village history, I would like you to help me in my information retrieve. I’ve discovered that my village was in the French liberation with a team **Jedburgh** code name Brian 27-28 August 1944. I know who composed the team: **F.p.c. Johnstone, Sgt. N.A. Smith (English) and a French Cdt. R. Cretin**. To succeed in my research I would delight if you could give me information or documents (for free) about this team. If you know any other organization who could give me information, please to transmit me its address. Thank you for the help you’ll give me.”

- I am Kassie Kohler, the political/military officer at the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava. In preparation for the 60th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising in August, our embassy is making plans to participate in this year’s commemoration. I am looking for members of OSS who may have been involved with the Uprising. I realize that only a very few people survived the actual operation here, but I was curious if any of your members might have been involved in support roles. I would appreciate if you could pass along my name and request to those who might be interested. My e-mail is [kohlerkl@state.gov](mailto:kohlerkl@state.gov). My fax: 4212-5922-3026.



Dear OSS Society Members:

In the winter 2003-2004 edition of our newsletter, I incorrectly reported that our 2003 \$50 annual dues are not tax-deductible. In fact, \$40 of this amount *is* tax-deductible. If, in addition to paying your \$50 annual dues, you make a donation, be sure to add this amount to the \$40 figure and deduct the total as a charitable contribution to the OSS Society, Inc. Life members who made donations during 2003 (thus earning recognition as contributing life members) may deduct them as charitable contributions.

Please accept my apologies. The OSS Society depends upon its members’ generosity to carry out its mission. We deeply appreciate your financial support.  
Charles Pinck  
President, OSS Society



**The OSS Society, Inc.**  
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## *Join us for the World War II Memorial Dedicaton*

### **Do you remember?**



*At "Red Gate" OSS Headquarters, Chunking, China, (left to right) Peachy Doran, attractive office manager, with Col. Willis A. Bird, who later led the OSS Mercy Mission to Mukden to rescue American and allied POWs, and Paul Child, who worked on presentations for staff meetings and later married Julia McWilliams.*



### **OSS Society Officers**

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