



THE O.S.S. SOCIETY, INC.

January, 2001



OSS Headquarters Rededicated

Now Counter Terrorism Office

In an impressive ceremony at the former OSS headquarters, 23rd and E streets, State Department officials dedicated the building to combating the new threat to America—Counter Terrorism. Ironically, many of the military personnel expected to attend were detained at the Pentagon because of the terrorist bombing of the Guided Missile Destroyer USS Cole that day in Yemen.

General Donovan's conference room was decorated for the occasion. An oil portrait of the General, painted by a former German prisoner of war, Will Williams, was donated to the new office by the Donovan Foundation. The General's Medal of Honor and World War I tunic were on temporary display having been brought from Donovan's 69th Regiment Headquarters by Ken Powers, Regimental Historian. Bagpiper Jack Amick played Irish songs beloved by the 69th, including Garyowen, the Regimental march.

Ambassador Michael Sheehan opened the ceremony and introduced John Waller, OSS Society Chairman, who recalled his memories of the General. Mark Pretzat, OSS Society President, commenting on the historic rededication noted that action against counter terrorism had its beginnings in that very building almost 60 years ago.

Pretzat continued: "This building is a veritable time capsule, returning us to the time of the Second World War, and the women and men who did their important work here. It requires little imagination to see images of General Donovan, flanked by his aides, Otto Doering, Ned Buxton and Edwin Putzell."

He concluded: "It is not too fanciful to suppose that the spirits of General Donovan, his chief lieutenants and others who created and defined American strategic intelligence, continue to inhabit these offices. I know that men and women who now serve in the same cause will be guided and inspired by their presence and imagination."



Chairman John Waller and President Mark Pretzat (left) unveil painting of General Donovan by Will Williams, German POW who worked for OSS in Italy, at Headquarters ceremony.

At the reception, a champagne and Irish whiskey cocktail was served, the official Regimental drink dating back to the Civil War. The beautiful flowers around the room came from florist and OSS Lineal, Sandra Vonetes, whose father served in OSS and took part in the Nuremberg Trials.

Millennium Message From The President

I am pleased to be able to report to you several initiatives of the Society which are under way for 2001 which will assist in preserving the legacy and enhancing public understanding of the role played by OSS and its veterans in World War II. They will provide new opportunities for social interaction among Society members as well as with members of other OSS veterans groups and assure the continued longevity of the organization.

These include: the establishment of a pilot oral history program to record and preserve the war-time experiences of OSS veterans; the organization of a Society-wide reunion in Washington, D.C. for 2002; the holding of joint events with the 101 Association; and the commencement of the Society's first membership campaign in several years.

On behalf of the Society's Board of Directors, I wish all of you a happy and prosperous New Year and look forward to your continued participation in the activities of the Society.

Mark F. Pretzat, President

The O.S.S. Society Newsletter is a production of the

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Oral History Program Starts in D.C. Area

Members of the OSS Society in Washington inaugurated the Oral History Program in December 2000, interviewing Harry Rositzke, who served with R&A in London and Paris, later in Wiesbaden.

The interview, which took place at the Rositzke home in Loudoun County, Virginia, was conducted by William Brown, a network television news veteran of 20 years. James DeSalvo, a lineal of an OG father and grandfather, received in-house training in the art of interviewing and use of the equipment.

Brown has volunteered to help in production of future oral history records in the local Washington area. He suggested that the interviews start with an identification of the person being questioned. "Ask about when and why the subject joined OSS and where he or she subsequently trained," he points out. "It is important that the questioner keep the questions very brief. Ask about the assignments and decorations. Sum up by asking what this service in OSS meant to the subject."

"If possible, obtain a wartime photo of the subject and a brief bio, listing the subject's education and career after OSS. These items should accompany the tape which will later be transcribed."

In the Rositzke interview it was noted that he had a degree from the University of Rochester, spoke German



William Brown, network television news veteran and James DeSalvo, OSS lineal, launch Society's Oral History Program in an interview with OSSer Harry Rositzke.

fluently, later joined CIA where he was chief of Soviet Operations with assignments in Munich, New Delhi and Washington. He is the author of *The CIA's Secret Operations; The Peterborough Chronicles, and The USSR Today*. He is presently writing a book: *The Talking Animals*.

For further information on oral history projects with OSS veterans, call the Society Office in McLean. Nothing can replace the first-person human narrative of an OSS career and the Oral History Program is designed to capture for all time these personal recollections.

The only equipment necessary is a tape recorder equipped with a microphone. Eventually these tapes will be deposited at the National Archives.

Treasurer Reports: OSS Society Financial Situation

At the turn of the year, the OSS Society had little more than \$11,300 in the bank. This is not much for a national organization with over 1,100 members, but it looks pretty good when we remember that in March 2000, when the Society transferred its home to McLean, Virginia, the new headquarters had no money at all.

Since then, contributions and dues from members have enabled the Society to maintain a small, but useful, office, begin this

newsletter, launch a membership drive, and initiate an oral history program. Also, we have enough money to cover anticipated expenditures until Spring, when dues and contributions for 2001 will start coming in.



Joseph A. Yager, Treasurer

The year 2000 was one of survival and new beginnings. In 2001, we hope to make the Society a more effective national organization. We plan to recruit new members, assist in creation of new chapters, expand the oral history program and activate a web site. All this may require a modest increase in financial support from members.

A final note: Quite a few regular members have still not paid their dues for 2000. Please pay up. We need your support, and we don't want to lose your affiliation.

Spook Web Sitings Anyone?

While the OSS Society web site is still in the planning stages, we offer you comparable "spook" sites as reported recently in the New York Times. "MI5 on the web?" the Times exclaims. "Enough to leave one shaken." But here it is: w.w.w.mi5.gov.uk. And you can get the Spi-Fi Archives over CIA's www.cia.gov.

The National Security Agency, US code maker and breaker, reveals all in the Cuban Missile Crisis: www.nsa.gov/docs/cuba/index.html. If you are in the mood for some Mata Haridan exploits, you'll find her in photos at the Frisian Museum, Netherlands at w.w.w.friesmuseum.nl/e/e.htm.

Remembering 109

By E. Howard Hunt, prominent author who served with OSS in China.



Like most men prominent on the public stage and all actors, General Donovan had a sense of the dramatic. In Kunming, the late Robert G. North described his seduction into OSS to me later.

Stationed at Pearl Harbor with an Army psywar group in 1943, Bob North encountered old acquaintance Ned Putzell, who said he was assigned to OSS and offered to introduce North to General Donovan, then visiting Hawaii.

Ushered into the General's presence, Bob received a warm handshake, cordial smile and an invitation to tell the General about himself. North rambled on about his Stanford years, work for Herbert Hoover, and his profession as a screen writer, feeling increasingly inadequate in front of this world-famous figure. Finally, he asked the General what kind of action OSS was involved in.

The General leaned forward, fixed Bob with a penetrating gaze and said, "Tell me, Captain North, are you a strong swimmer?" That told Bob all he needed to know about OSS and its leader. He volunteered to go to China for MO, and for the rest of his life, Bob remembered the way Donovan's Irish blue eyes had matched the blue of the General's Medal of Honor.

In Bangkok, when Donovan was Ambassador to Thailand (and North was working under cover for CIA) they renewed their war-time acquaintanceship. Soon afterward both men died.

(Ed. Note: OSS veterans are invited to write in their own special memories of General Donovan for this newsletter vignette.)

International Spy Museum to Open in Washington

An international spy museum is scheduled to open in February, 2001, in Washington, D.C. at 800 "F" Street, across from the the National Portrait Gallery. The intelligence museum will be publically accessible and is being organized by a Cleveland corporation, Malrite.

Linda McCarthy, former curator of the CIA Exhibit Center, will serve as liaison between OSS/CIA retirees and Malrite, soliciting artifacts and photos for this project. Let Linda know if you'd like to contribute, on a loan or permanent basis. She can be reached through the Society office.



At 101 YULE PARTY; Major General John Singlaub, former Jed, with 101er Ace Ellis (right) celebrating a jolly get-together of some fifty 101 and OSS Society members at Ft. Meyer, Virginia.

A special OSS/101 luncheon will be held March 30, 2001 at noon at the Fort Myers Officers Club. Mark Pretzat, Society President, and Ace Ellis of 101 are urging a good turnout when colleagues can meet and exchange OSS war stories. For reservations call the society office in McLean, VA 703-356-6667

Anyone Remember The Wi-Wi Line?

This unusual query is addressed to any OSS veteran who was stationed in occupied southern France during World War II and is familiar with the Wi-Wi Line, an OSS escape operation.

A professional writer, Scott Goodall, who lives in the French Pyrenees, writes that he made a study of the many escape routes used to reach Spain by refugees fleeing the Nazis and Vichy French. He says that one long forgotten route is about to be opened up for hikers called the Wi-Wi Line. This was organized by OSS and designed to smuggle secret intelligence across the Pyrenees to Barcelona and Madrid.

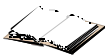
Around the town of Saints-Giron there were 22 couriers involved, only one of whom has survived. His name is **Marcel Carere**, then a 12-year-old boy who smuggled OSS material in a fake dental plate while bicycling to school through the German 'forbidden' zone.

Goodall says he knows the route of the Wi-Wi, but does not have the name of a single American officer or the OSS command structure behind the lines, although a plaque was recently dedicated to this *Chemin de la Liberte*. He is hoping that OSS Society participants of this particular operation might be alive who will remember those far off days in the French Pyrenees.

Write to Society Headquarters in McLean, or to Goodall's OSS contact: Ralph Vollono, 14109 28th Ave., Apt. 5D, Flushing, N.Y. 11354.

Book Notes

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.'s memoir, *A Life In The Twentieth Century* (Houghton Mifflin) has received rave reviews in the press this holiday season. Subtitled Innocent Beginnings, 1917-1950, the book has been heralded as "...the Age of Schlesinger" in which the historian-author and his friends enter the Establishment. Schlesinger served in the OSS in London and Paris.



Michael Warner of the CIA history staff has produced a booklet *The Office of Strategic Services: America's First Intelligence Agency*. It is a 50 page illustrated history of OSS which includes all areas of operations. The agency has provided the Society with copies for distribution to members under separate cover. To obtain additional copies, write to Public Affairs, CIA, Washington, D.C. 20505.



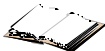
An amusing but educational book, *Spies, Pop Flies, and French Fries*, by **Linda McCarthy**, is a series of stories Linda told her favorite visitors to the CIA Exhibit Center. A 24 year veteran of CIA she is now lecturing in the Washington area on her experiences. There is a great deal in the book about OSS and some of the legends such as Moe Berg, John Ford, Virginia Hall and Sterling Hayden. The book can be obtained by writing Linda's publishing company, History Is A Hoot, Inc., PO Box 285, Markham, VA 22643.



Green Hell by **Harry "Skittles" Hengshoon**, is just out, capturing legendary exploits of Detachment 101 in Burma.



Bill Fuchs, OSS from Seminole, Florida recommends *Battle Ground Berlin* by David Murphy, Sergei Kondrashev and George Bailey. It is the history of the Berlin Station starting with the Allen Dulles era.



Erasmus Klomen, OSS/Caserta, Italy 1944-45, and his wife, Suzanne, have written a witty book about life in La Belle France: *Apartment in Paris*.

OSS veterans who served in London will enjoy *A Spy In London* by Roy Berkeley. He describes OSS intelligence activities there during the war, as well as some 136 sites in Central London once Top Secret.



And on a more esoteric note, word from OSSer **John Norman** in Ridgefield, Conn., who writes that he has just published a volume of verse entitled *Life Lines!* Congratulations John.



Alvah W. Sulloway's book, *Put It In Writing* is of interest to OSSers. The New Hampshire Historical Society sponsored the publication, a three generational compilation of the Sulloway-Thayer family letters and journals from 1892-1997. Material includes her years with the OSS Secretariat, and observations of OSSers such as Edward Buxton and Walter Mansfield.



Carrolle J. Carter's *Mission to Yenan, American Liaison With The Chinese Communists, 1944-47* is the story of the Dixie Mission with a significant OSS component. It is published by the University of Kentucky Press. Carrolle is also author of *The Shamrock and The Swastika: German Espionage in Ireland in WWII*.



Soon to be published, OSSer **Frank Mills'** book, *North of the Yangtse: OSS Special Operations in China*. Frank spent his war years in the China Theater with Special Operations. The book is being published by Phillips Publications, Inc.



And in the world of cyberspace, a two hour program about **Marlene Dietrich** is being produced for video detailing the part she played in shattering German morale with such songs as Lili Marlene. The show will appear in February, produced by Associated Producers Group (APG). OSSer Betty McIntosh outlines, in the film, the part OSS played in Dietrich's career.



Social Notes From All Over

"At 81, I am still able to serve as the interim pastor of our parish church," writes **Canon Ward McCabe** of San Jose, California. "I also work with a study committee on the impact of high tech on Silicon Valley culture."

Richard Crooks, 6252 Gilbert Circle, West End, WI 53095, is interested in hearing from anyone who served with his uncle, **Jack Barron**, in England, France, Yugoslavia or Wiesbaden. Barron held several NCO ranks and was in the ETO from 1943-1946.

DreamWorks Contributes

The OSS Society received a special Christmas bonus in the mail from Scott Langteau, one of the directors of Spielberg's DreamWorks: a check for \$1,000.

During the summer, several OSS veterans worked with a DreamWorks team in Washington on a new WWII computer game, *Medal of Honor: Underground*. They were Helene Deschamps, French underground; Ann Mary Ingraham, London; Betty McIntosh, China; Barbara Podoski, Italy; and Barbara Waller, Ceylon.

In his note, Langteau said he hoped for "...an on-going relationship between DreamWorks and the OSS Society. Thank you all for your help and sincere contribution to the work of the *Medal of Honor*. It (has) been a fantastic journey."

UK Museum Features OSS

OSS history lives on in England, where Clive and Mary Bassett run a Carpet Bagger-Special Forces Museum in Harrington dedicated in part to displays of war time OSS memorabilia. The Bassetts are honorary members of OSS.

Recently Clive has been hosting weekend events for the Hilton Hotel Group in London, **Secret War**, which might be of interest to OSSers visiting the UK. The tour includes Paris House, Woburn, home of black propaganda; Bletchley Park, the 10,000 member spy unit so secret Churchill called members "...the geese that laid the golden eggs and never cackled;" Milton Hall, home of the Jedburghs; and key note speakers such as Nigel West.

Each May, the Bassetts lay wreaths on the graves of five OSS men buried at the Cambridge American Cemetery among the 3,812 Americans who died overseas during World War II and were buried in English soil.

OSSers interested in obtaining more information can write them at: Welwyn, 84 Northampton Road, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 3LS England.

OSS Wartime Operations at Ohio Museum

Commemorating OSS wartime operations behind the enemy lines in Europe and the Far East, officials at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Museum are planning to devote a special exhibit at a new museum building now under construction there. The project will depict the work of OSS teams and the air units that flew them. Wright-Pat has the largest military aviation museum in the world, with over 200 aircraft and missiles on display, plus artifacts of historical importance, and a research facility. Over one and one-half million visitors come to the museum each year. The museum may also be visited at the Internet web site: <http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum>.



Julia and Paul in Paris, where she began her fabulous career as America's favorite television cook.

Vive Julia!

It was a festive evening in Boston, November 19 when Julia Child received the Legion of Honor from the French government, and 200 friends gave her a standing ovation at the ballroom of Le Meridien.

The Legion of Honor, established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte to honor military heroism, is the highest award given by the French government. It rarely goes to a chef and has never gone to an American-born cook.

Julia's culinary career began in Paris at age 37 when her late husband and OSS colleague, Paul Child, was sent to France for the U.S. Information Service. Julia attended the Cordon Bleu School and began writing *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. Her fantastic public television success launched her career across America and the world.

Senator Andre Maman of the French Senate told Julia that she was an American icon to the French people and helped the French themselves understand their own cuisine.

Julia served OSS in the CBI theater.

101 REUNION

The OSS-Detachment 101 reunion committee is planning a get together of 101 members in October, 2001, in Atlanta, Georgia. The meeting is open to all OSS Society members.

Currently, 101 has a number of projects of interest to the Society. They include a crop substitution program for northern Burma that provides agricultural training for hundreds of Kachin villages, a book translation program providing rural medical information in the Kachin language, establishment of a scholarship program for qualified descendants of Kachin Scouts with OSS, and plans for establishment of an agricultural school near the Kachin area of North Burma.

In Memoriam

Moses Abramovitz, 88, history professor at Stanford, died at Stanford Hospital. During WW II he worked for the War Production Board and the OSS where he became head of the European Industry and Trade unit.

Vera Atkins, Britain's spy master, died at age 92 in London, June 24. Atkins coordinated a network of nearly 5,000 agents across France. On retiring, Atkins was decorated by the French with their Legion of Honor, and Queen Elizabeth II made her a Commander of the British Empire.

Lois Marie Beckett, 91, a translator for OSS in South America and Spain, died October 1, 2000, of cardiovascular disease at the Bedford Retirement Home in Silver Spring, Maryland. Ms. Beckett also assisted the Primary Day School in Bethesda.

Sophia Casey, 91, widow of the late William Casey, CIA chief and OSS officer engaged in penetration operations in Germany, died October 4, 1000, of congestive heart failure in Glen Cove, N.Y.

Phillip H. Chadbourn Jr., 83, OSS member who parachuted into Nazi controlled territory in France, died March 29, 2000, in a San Diego hospital. Post-war assignments in the Foreign Service included India, Germany and Asiatic posts.

Robert Dospil, 77, died Aug. 9, 2000, of injuries sustained in an auto accident. An Army reservist he served in OSS and then joined CIA from 1947 to 1984. A graduate of Georgetown University he held a degree in International Relations.

Services for **Larry A. Drew** were held at Black Oaks National Cemetery, Sturgis, South Dakota, September 13, 2000. Drew was at Pearl Harbor with the Navy on December 7, 1941, fought at Guadalcanal, and later joined the OSS Second Commandos in China and Burma with Operation Blueberry.

John M. Fearing, Washington area psychiatrist, died of cancer at his home in Leesburg, Virginia. A graduate of Duke Medical School, he entered the Army Medical Corps and was assigned to OSS.

Sherwood Fine, an economist who served with the OSS in Turkey during the war, died November 23, 2000 at the age of 86. He served as economic planning director on General MacArthur's staff in Japan and from 1954 to 1962 was with the State Department (AID) in Laos, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Thailand.

Sophie Chang Fitz, 84, passed away on October 1, 2000, in Newport News, Virginia. Born in Rangoon, Burma, she served with the OSS in the CBI frequently assisting General Claire Chennault.

Willis T. Gehrke died at age 84 on October 2, 2000 at the Greenville, South Carolina Memorial Hospital. During the war, Mr. Gehrke served in OSS research and climatology and transportation in Washington, D.C. He later joined CIA as a mapping specialist.

W. Scudder George, a covert communications officer, who trained radio operators for clandestine operations behind the lines for OSS, died of cancer in Bethesda, Maryland. He was 86. George attended Hobart college and was recruited by OSS for wartime service as a teacher of radio operators in North Africa, Italy, Greece and China. He received the Medal of Freedom for his OSS work.

James Frederick Green, 89, an international relations specialist was teaching political science at Mount Holyoke College when he joined the OSS in WW II. An extensive diplomatic career followed the war including service in the United Nations and various commissions in which the State Department was involved. Dr. Green passed away from hepatitis on April 10, 2000 at Silver Spring, Maryland.

Charles J. Greene, retired lithographer, who also worked for OSS as a lithographer during the war, died October 25, 2000, in El Paso, Texas.

Al Gross successfully developed the agent-to-aircraft radio system code named Joan-Eleanor that permitted OSS agents to communicate with a receiving aircraft overhead thus minimizing the possibility of Nazi interception of their messages as well as tracking the agent's location. This accomplishment was cited by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gross passed away after a short illness in Sun City, Arizona, at the age of 82.

Huber H. Heintzellman, 76, native of Chambersberg, Pennsylvania, served in the war with the OSS as a cryptographic technician.

After the war, he graduated from Dartmouth and Columbia Universities and worked later for CIA as an analyst.

Memorialservices for **John Hemingway** who died December 1, 2000, were held at the Explorers Club, New York City, December 9, with Tom Brokaw officiating. Hemingway, son of Ernest Hemingway was a member of the OSS team that parachuted behind German lines in France and was subsequently wounded and captured by Nazis. Jeff Jones, former OSS Society chief, and the Countess Romananes were among the OSSers and others who attended the services.



In Memoriam

John Kobler, 90, an author of biographies of Al Capone, John Barrymore, Henry Luce and others, died in New York City. During the war he served with the Office of Strategic Services.

Gertrude Sheva Lum, 76, a graduate of the College of Wooster, Ohio with a doctorate in chemistry from George Washington, served in India with the OSS.

Edgar Prichard, 80, did OSS intelligence work under cover as the representative of Pan American Airways in North Africa. A successful politician, after the war he held positions in the Fairfax City, Virginia council and later served as mayor. He was 80 years old at time of death.

R. Whitney Tucker, Interpreter and analyst of intelligence reports, died November 8, 2000, at George Washington University Hospital at age 94. Fluent in a number of languages, he worked for the CIA with assignments in Germany after WW II.

Ada Ulam died of cancer March 28, 2000, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was a leading authority on Russia and the former Soviet Union as well as professor emeritus of history and political science at Harvard. Born in Poland, Ulam and his older brother escaped the Nazi onslaught and came to America where he was graduated from Brown.

T. Graydon Upton, 92, a retired Treasury Department and World Bank official who served in the OSS London and War Department budget offices, died May 15, 2000, at his home in Hartland, Vermont after suffering a heart attack

Lazar V. Vracarich, retired Army major, served with OSS Egypt during the war. He died at the age of 84 at the Bethesda Suburban Hospital.

Ed. Note: Our thanks to Carlotta Johnston Fendig of Washington, D.C. who has, over the years, supplied the OSS newsletters with obituaries of departed colleagues. Lotte served in OSS/Italy during WW II.

WWII Museum Opens in Boston

A collection of rare World War II memorabilia assembled by Ken Rendell found a permanent home this fall in Boston. His private Museum of World War II has more than 10,000 square feet of exhibition space, chronologically arranged, containing more than 3,500 displays including five Enigma code machines, hundreds of spy weapons (many of them OSS), radios and sabotage equipment.

Largest artifacts range from a Sherman tank from the North African campaign to a LCVP (landing craft) from the Pacific. Plus such things as Hitler's draft of the Munich agreement, his reading glasses, George Patton's battle helmet and swagger stick, letters from world leaders, and uniforms from all theaters including a Buchenwald survivor.

It is a private museum, not open to the public. If you visit Boston, call Dan Miller, curator, at 508-651-7695, or Dan Pinck at 617-423-0278 for admittance. A luncheon, hosted by Ken Rendell, for members of the New England OSS Assembly is tentatively planned for the Spring.

Women in WWII Exhibit

The world-renowned Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute is collecting photographs and other material for a show about women in World War II. Joan Pinck and Patricia Warner, members of The New England OSS Assembly who shared an X-2 office with James Angleton in London are working on the project.

Donovan Remembered at USSOCOM Ceremony

Caeser J. Civitella, Italian OG, attended the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) change of command ceremony in Tampa, Florida last October for departing U.S. Army General Peter J. Schoonmaker and incoming Air Force General Charles R. Holland.

During his speech, General Holland singled out our own General Donovan as one of America's leading pioneers in US special operations.

Caeser later talked with General Holland who indicated he was interested in OSS history. The USSOCOM official patch is a modified version of the unofficial OSS patch, designed to strengthen the ties between USSOCOM and its lineal predecessor.

Also of interest is the donation to USSOCOM by Jeff Jones of a copy of the original full length painting of General Donovan which hangs in the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters and is now prominently displayed in USSOCOM Headquarters, McDill Air Force Base.

Correction: The late James Ward was incorrectly cited in the last Newsletter as CO of 101 Field Ops. He was a 101 platoon commander

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Reunions, Social Events . . .

Atlanta, Georgia, October 2001 see page 5

OSS/101 Luncheon
Fort Myers, VA, March 2001 see page 3

Inside . . .

OSS Headquarters Rededicated 1
Oral History Program Starts 2
Remembering 109 3
Book Notes 4
In Memoriam 7

In the Next Issue . . .

Julia Child Remembers 109 - her days in the front office and in China.

The story of Antoinette, the baby thrown from a train near Kunming, China and rescued by an OSS GI just before the Communists took over.

OSS members are asked to send news items, obit notices, wartime memories to Newsletter Editor, **Elizabeth McIntosh**, 42485 Cochran Mill Rd. Leesburg, VA 20175.

***Next Newsletter Deadline
April 1, 2001***

