



THE O.S.S. SOCIETY, INC.

Winter 2004-05



OSS Society Chairman John H. Waller Dies: Former CIA Inspector General

John H. Waller, 81, OSS Society chairman and a former high-ranking official in the CIA who also wrote a half-dozen books on espionage and other topics, died from complications of pneumonia Nov. 4 at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington. Mr. Waller was a historian who wrote full time after retiring from the CIA as its inspector general in 1980. Perhaps best known among his writings was *Beyond the Khyber Pass: The Road to British Disaster in the First Afghan War*, published by Random House in 1990. The book examines 19th century war and international intrigue

in India and Afghanistan as Queen Victoria's Britain and czarist Russia struggled for strategic advantage in the region. Mr. Waller, who spent time in Central Asia during his years as a CIA operative, detailed the 1840s siege of Kabul and the deaths of thousands of British soldiers. He also wrote *The Devil's Doctor: Felix Kersten and the Secret Plot to Turn Himmler Against Hitler* (2002), *The Unseen War in Europe: Espionage and Conspiracy in the Second World War* (1996) and *Gordon of Khartoum: The Saga of a Victorian Hero* (1988). Mr. Waller, who had lived in McLean since 1978, was born in Paw Paw, Mich., and raised in Detroit. He graduated from the University of Michigan and worked briefly in banking. Unable to join



the military during World War II because of an ear disorder, he got a job overseas as a diplomatic courier for the Foreign Service. In 1943, he joined the Office of Strategic Services, and worked in counterespionage in the Middle East. Later, with the CIA, he served in Iran, Sudan and India. He was deputy chief of the Africa division at CIA headquarters from 1964 to 1968 and chief of the Near East division from 1971 to 1975. He wrapped up his government career after a four-year stint as CIA inspector general. John was the consummate mediator, often chosen to analyze and solve complex, contentious issues. He was able to remain above the fray. He gave tactful, dispassionate advice to both sides in a way that avoided rancor and

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John Waller was my friend and mentor. I met him in Delhi. He was chief, primarily an operator but a diplomat and charmer—charm is needed in both operations and diplomacy. He was a man of the world. I was a China Hand.

Then I began to encounter his other dimensions—author, historian, intellectual in the best sense of the word. *The Unseen War in Europe* and his masterpiece *Beyond the Kyber Pass*, which documented the disastrous British invasion of Afghanistan. If the Russians had paid attention to his book, the Soviet empire may not have collapsed so soon. John understood the “Great Game.”

When I remember John I recall these lines from Shakespeare's *Henry V*:

*“And gentlemen in England now a-bed,
Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here;
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks
That fought with us upon St. Crispin's Day.”*

John fought the battle in World War II in OSS and we prevailed, and in the protracted battles of the Cold War we prevailed. Were he with us today in full armor, he would help us to prevail again. We need him and miss him.

James Lilley

held the greatest hope of leading to equitable resolutions. These traits were well-displayed in a number of major issues that arose during his term as Inspector General at the CIA. He brought those same skills to AFIO (Association of Former Intelligence Officers) of which he was past president, and the OSS Society. He retained a quiet optimistic unflappability even while trying to overcome the illness that finally took his life.

Among his professional honors were the Distinguished Intelligence Medal and the National Civil Service Award. He also was a member of the Cosmos Club, the Institute of Foreign Affairs and Diplomatic and Counselor Officers Retired. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Barbara Hans Waller of McLean, also OSS.

Remembering John Waller

In one of our last conversations before he died, a bemused John Waller told me a story about being one of several OSS trainees dispatched to Philadelphia to infiltrate a building. Security guys grabbed John and beat the daylight out of him overnight, either trying to break his

cover story or because they thought he was a real spy. John said naught, despite hours of pain. Trainee friends finally got his release. They were so angered that they went back and used their unarmed combat training to, well...let's say that the security guys ended up worse than John.

Another Waller story I love concerned his services as a State Department courier before joining OSS. He flew out to Ankara and told the cabdriver, "Take me to the embassy." It was night, and John paid little attention to the location as he paid off the driver and went into the building, a briefcase crammed with classified documents in hand. As he approached the receptionist he glanced down the hall and saw a dozen or more swastika flags flying. Ooops! Wrong embassy! John said he did an about-face and got out of the place, hailed another cab, and made sure the driver knew which embassy he wanted. "Five more seconds," he said, "and my career would have been at an end, and perhaps my life as well."

A great man.

He is missed.

Joe Goulden, Washington D.C.

Claire Chennault and the OSS: A Favor Done—and Returned

By Bob Bergin

Major General Claire Lee Chennault, commander of the American Volunteer Group (AVG) Flying Tigers was a good friend of the OSS. In late 1944, when OSS was attempting to infiltrate agents into Thailand from China, OSS officer Nicol Smith called on Chennault for help with establishing a radio station and jump zone for Free Thai agents. Chennault had just built an airfield at Szemao on China's border with Laos. He offered use of the base to OSS, and then had his aircraft fly the team and its equipment there. Chennault then told Smith he had a favor to ask.

Chennault showed him a map of North Thailand where one of this AVG pilots, William "Black Mac" McGarry, had gone down on 24 March 1942. Because other AVG pilots had seen him after he bailed out, Chennault thought there was a chance he was still alive. He asked the OSS to locate McGarry.

Chennault had his answer four days later. The Free Thai learned that "Black Mac" was being held in a small POW compound on the grounds of Thammasat University. He asked if OSS and the Free Thai could arrange McGarry's escape and exfiltration.

A Free Thai officer, Wimon Wirayawit, was put in charge of the operation. Wimon was the first OSS-trained Free Thai officer to be successfully inserted back into Thailand. He had been studying at MIT in May of 1942 when he volunteered to serve with the Free Thai. On the night of

9 September 1944 he parachuted into Thailand from a B-24. Working through collaborators, the Free Thai arranged for the Thai commandant of the POW compound to move McGarry to a Free Thai-controlled building on the banks of the Chao Phya, the river that skirts the edge of Bangkok. The commandant then reported to the Japanese that McGarry had died of natural causes and had been cremated.

Once McGarry was in Free Thai hands, OSS dispatched two Catalina flying boats from Ceylon to the Gulf of Siam to pick up McGarry, as well as two OSS officers and 5 Free Thai agents. Wimon obtained use of a Thai Customs Department boat to take McGarry and the others down the river and through the network of canals to the Gulf of Siam. One of the OSS officers was ill, and in his delirium would shout out in English. Whenever Japanese patrol boat approached, Free Thai officers would go up on deck to dance a Ramwong, the traditional dance in which singing and enthusiastic musical accompaniment of the boat crew would drown out the man's shouts.

Wimon's after-dark rendezvous with the two Catalinas in the Gulf of Siam was successful. McGarry and the others were flown to OSS headquarters in Ceylon. McGarry was later flown over the hump to Kunming where he was happily reunited with Chennault and other AVG pilots.

Bob Bergin is the author of the upcoming book *When Tigers Fly* published by Impact Publications (see book section).

POW Reunion in Missoula, Montana Brings Back Bitter Memories

Thirteen former prisoners of war from the infamous Mukden prison in Shan Yang, Manchuria met September 16 in Missoula, Montana to recall the horrors of Japanese prison life and their rescue by OSS Team Cardinal in August 1945.

At the time of the rescue there were about 1600 American, British, Dutch, and Australian POWs in the camp. The Americans had been captured at Bataan in the Philippines. General Jonathan M. Wainwright was among the prisoners rescued. The former prisoners remembered the horrors of the camp. The Japanese guards tormented them, especially one American-educated officer known as The Bull of the Woods. After living in the Philippines, the Manchurian weather was bitter—sometimes 50 below. The prisoners had no warm clothes, only Japanese summer uniform issues, made of lightweight cotton. Their prison was an old mud-roofed Chinese army camp. Food was minimal—blue maize, corn-stalks, garlic, and occasionally soybeans.

One of the OSSers who rescued the men, Hal Leith, joined the reminiscing, recalling how he first entered the prison grounds after parachuting with his OSS team, “I ran outside into the courtyard where the prisoners were waiting. They were almost afraid to speak. I was the first free American they’d seen since Bataan. I waved at them and told them the war was over. Soon I was surrounded by a crowd of the happiest guys I’ve ever seen in my life. They asked questions—how did the 1943-44 Rose Bowl end? Who won the last World Series? Is Shirley Temple alive and President Roosevelt dead?”

Inside, conditions were poor, crowded, full of fleas, with beds of straw mattresses on long flat boards. Within days, the prisoners were rescued and the OSS team proceeded to the next camp to free General Wainwright, together with British and Dutch dignitaries. Most of the men were in rags and Gen. Albert Wedemeyer, U.S. CO in Chungking, sent his own uniform so that Wainwright could be presentable. The OSS team members with the rescue mission were Major James Hennessy, Major Dr. Robert Lamar, Sgt. Edward Starz, Sgt. Fumio Kido of Hawaii who spoke Japanese and S.Sgt. Hal Leith who spoke Chinese and Russian.

The Mukden Reunion this year was held at the home of Glenda Elliott, widow of Louis Elliott, a former POW.



Survivors of the Mukden Prison of War Camp are: seated (l-r): Chuck Dragich, John Krebs, Bob Rosendahl, Joe Brasel; standing: Bill Templeton, Jim Bogart, Glenn Stewart, John Nichols, George Edwards, Hal Leith, Edward Holt, and Hershel Boushey.

A few of the local POWs did not attend the reunion. Instead they went to Shen Yang, to attend the dedication of the old POW Camp Hoten.

Greek OSS Team Honored

When Andrew Mousalimas, Nick Cominos, and Angelo Lygizos first saw the stranger, they couldn’t help patting his back. They looked right into his face, saying, “Uh-huh, Uh-huh.” It was as if he’d been right along with them in the battlefields. His ragged face looked as theirs had after days of fighting, and his uniform—down to the canteen, the style of boots, the gun holster—was the same. The man they had come to see at artist Andrew Saffra’s Concord, Cal. home was a statue—a one-meter-tall bronze sculpture of a Greek soldier, painstakingly molded over the course of months in honor of these men.

It was a way for Saffras, 81, to thank the many Greeks who were part of a little-known ground operation unit during World War II. Known as the 2671st Special Reconnaissance Battalion of the Office of Strategic Service, the group was instrumental in driving the Nazis out of Greece with approximately 241 volunteers, though no one knew about them for decades. The secret was revealed after classified records were opened to the public through the Freedom of Information Act in 1986.

“I’ve known these guys for 50 years, but never knew the details of what they did,” said Saffras, a Greek American, of the many friends who served during the war and then returned to Northern California afterward. The statue, which looks uncannily human except for its bronze sheen, will be placed next to the Greek War Museum in Athens, Greece, in 2005. Its creator hopes it will serve as a remembrance of the survivors of the Greek resistance.

OSS Detachment 101 Veterans Hold Annual Christmas Luncheon

On 8 December, 50 members and associates of OSS Detachment 101, including members of The OSS Society, met at the Fort Myer Officer's Club for the annual Christmas luncheon hosted by 101er Col. Ace Ellis.

The luncheon started out with a short time for everyone to meet or get reacquainted. Following lunch, as there was not a scheduled speaker, Ace invited several attendees to come up to the podium to speak. Ambassador Jay Niemczyk thanked the group for attending and Charlie Pinck asked everyone to give a round of thanks to Ace for hosting the event. Troy Sacquety spoke briefly about the recent trip to Burma he made with several OSS Detachment 101 veterans to dedicate a memorial statue to the Kachin Rangers. (See story below.)

Emma Valeriano expressed the thanks of the Filipino people for the help American soldiers gave to them during the war.



101 vets at holiday reunion: A goodly crowd gathered at Fort Myer to celebrate the holidays and exchange war stories. Among them, left to right: Ambassador Julian M. Niemczyk, Col. William Pietsch, Ambassador Hugh Montgomery and Alger Ellis, 101 host.

On the 2005 calendar: 101 Men's spring lunch at Fort Myer on April 29 and Christmas lunch Dec.7 and in September, the 101 Association plans their annual reunion in Washington, D.C.

101 Members Dedicate Kachin Statue in Burma

By Troy Sacquety

Five members of the OSS Detachment 101 Association flew to Rangoon, Burma to formally dedicate a statue honoring the American Kachin Rangers in November. Those who made the trip were OSS veterans Allen Richter, John Dempsey, and Sam Spector. Sam's wife and OSS 101 Association historian Troy Sacquety also accompanied the group. Allen is one of the original members of Detachment 101 and helped design the long-range radio used by the group. Both John and Sam were 101 field radio operators.

After a lengthy flight, the group landed in Bangkok, Thailand. While in Bangkok, the group met several OSS 101-trained Free Thai. With Free Thai veterans Pisoot "Pete" Sudsana, we toured the new Free Thai museum, showing the development, training, and operations of the Free Thai. Upstairs, the Free Thai museum has a small library for OSS research. Our last trip in Bangkok was to visit Jim Thompson's silk shop. Thompson was also an OSS member and served in Thailand with Alex MacDonald, founder of the Bangkok Post.

We flew to Rangoon early the next morning to Minglagoon International Airport. The group went to the home of U.S. defense attaché Col. Michael Norton, where several Kachin Ranger veterans met them. That night the 101 group, along with several hundred other attendees, OSS Society - Winter 2004-05

were guests at the U.S. Marine Corps ball.

A luncheon hosted by the Chief of Mission, the Honorable Carmen Martinez, and her husband, Mr. Victor Reimer, was held the next day at their residence to dedicate a statue to Kachin Rangers. The Marine Corps guard presented the flag, after which Chief of Mission Martinez spoke. Kachin Ranger Veteran Dawa Howa, Zau Gam, Sam, John, and Allen said a few words.

The next day the group flew to Myitkyina where they stayed on the banks of the Irrawaddy River, and met more Ranger veterans. A highlight of our stay was an elaborate welcoming ceremony put on by the Kachins, which started with dancers representing the six different tribes of the Kachin nation. Each member of the 101 delegation was presented with a Kachin dha (sword).

In Myitkyina, the representatives of the 101 Association met with more Kachins and explored the feasibility of hiring teachers for lessons in English and Burmese at the numerous Kachin orphanages, as well as setting up a fund to help medical needs of Kachin Ranger veterans.

OSS Society Newsletter
Elizabeth P. McIntosh, Editor
Sally and Milt Collins, Layout and art work
Send news items, obit notices, photos, and
wartime memories to the editor at:
42485 Cochran Mill Rd.
Leesburg, VA 20175
Next Newsletter Deadline - March 15, 2005

OSS Society Meeting Held at Congressional Country Club



OSS Society members in front of the flagpole at the Congressional Country Club are (l. to r.) Charles Pinck, Joseph Yager, Mark Pretzat, Anne Mary Ingraham, Cos Georgia, Col. William Pietsch, Nini Hamalainen, Betty McIntosh, Capt. Jeff Georgia, and Col. Alger Ellis.



Left: The plaque at the base of the flagpole.

Above: Barbara Colby and Linda and Roger Hall at the book signing.



General John Singlaub Honored at Receptions

Maj. Gen. John Singlaub, who served in OSS during WWII, was guest speaker at the 10th annual Pearl Harbor Day dinner given by the prestigious Institute of World Politics at the Institute campus at Marlatt Mansion, D.C. Gen. Singlaub stressed the difference in psychological unpreparedness between the Pearl Harbor attack and the tragedy of 9/11.

“America is still not mobilized against terrorism. Our mental outlook is far too complacent. What this country needs is an intelligence head who is a born leader, a person who can make all intelligence systems work together. We need a man with the mental outlook of our founder, Wild Bill Donovan, who combined brilliance with a daring leadership that will make the new intelligence system credible and efficient.”

General Singlaub’s 35 years in military service won him 33 decorations. After serving behind enemy lines with the OSS, he did two tours in the Korean War and commanded the joint unconventional warfare task force in Vietnam.

General Singlaub was also among those honored at a reception at the Czech Embassy recently in support of the Victims of Communism Memorial to be erected near the Supreme Court. Authorized by Congress more than a decade ago, the Memorial is dedicated to an estimated 100 million victims of Communism.

George Tenet Named Professor at Georgetown University

Former Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet will become a professor at Georgetown beginning this semester, the university announced.

Tenet’s three-year term as a distinguished professor in the practice of diplomacy in the School of Foreign Service starts this academic year. Tenet will also serve as a senior research associate in the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy.

While at Georgetown, Tenet will lead and speak at lectures, seminars and meetings with students and faculty, and he is set to begin teaching courses on security studies in the School of Foreign Service in fall 2005.

OSS Neckties Here

New OSS neckties are available again. If you didn’t get your full quota of ties for Christmas, order a handsome OSS tie now. They cost \$45.00 each. Make checks payable to Employee Activity Association, but send your checks to Charles Pinck, Global Operations, Inc., 1615 L Street NW #300, Washington, D.C. 20036. The ties are blue, the eagle logo is gold and the OSS letters are red.

OSS Legacy Cited in N.Y. Times Story

The following op-ed article captioned “The Best Spies Didn’t Wear Suits” appeared in the New York Times on Dec. 10, 2004. It was written by OSS Society President **Charles Pinck** and his father, **Dan**, author of *Journey to Peking: A Secret Agent in Wartime China*.

For those who have been around long enough, the debate over the reorganization of the United States intelligence community has a familiar air. The issues and arguments are similar to those hashed out in 1942 during the creation of America’s first “central intelligence” agency: the Office of Strategic Services, or the O.S.S. As policy makers move ahead with reforms, they should consider the lessons that can be drawn from the past.

Before America entered World War II, the intelligence being given to President Franklin D. Roosevelt was incomplete and poorly analyzed by several independent agencies. These included the Office of Naval Intelligence; the Army’s intelligence agency, called G2; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the intelligence services at the State Department. Much like today’s bureaucracies, these agencies did not share information well. But unlike today, there was no centralized intelligence effort focused on foreign threats.

Enter William J. Donovan, known as Wild Bill, who was a World War I Medal of Honor winner, Wall Street lawyer, former United States attorney in Buffalo and 1932 Republican candidate for governor of New York. Although a member of the opposition party, Donovan got along well with Roosevelt, and the men shared an unfashionable belief that America’s liberty was threatened by foreign powers.

In the late 30’s, Donovan began traveling abroad and informally reporting his findings directly to Roosevelt. Eventually he convinced the president of the need for a centralized spying agency, and in July 1941 Roosevelt created a civilian agency within the White House to oversee American intelligence, naming Donovan to the new post of “coordinator of information.”

Eleven months later, and half a year after Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt converted Donovan’s group into the O.S.S. under a presidential order. In this the two faced great opposition, particularly from J. Edgar Hoover. (Donovan was later quoted as saying that his “greatest enemies were in Washington, not in Europe.”)

Donovan reported directly to the president, even once bringing a silent pistol invented by the O.S.S. into the Oval Office and firing it. Roosevelt responded by telling Donovan he was the only Republican who would be allowed in the Oval Office with a gun.

Perhaps Donovan’s greatest skill was his ability to recruit talented men and women from other fields, whether they came from the Ivy League, Wall Street or, believe it

or not, prison. (After the war, Gen. William Quinn, then running the Strategic Services Unit, an interim organization created after the dissolution of the O.S.S. in 1945, was alerted by Treasury agents to the presence of master forgers in his ranks. Unknown to Quinn, Donovan had arranged for the release of these men from prison during the war to work for the O.S.S.)

Donovan was willing to try any ideas that he thought had potential and, what was more important, he had the power to act on them. He understood and accepted the inherent risks associated with intelligence work—often telling O.S.S. personnel that “you can’t succeed without taking chances”—and was as willing to take responsibility for failures as for successes.

The O.S.S. under Donovan was not an insipid bureaucracy of career-minded professionals. It was a free-wheeling organization devoted to finding effective ways of winning a war that imperiled the nation’s future, a situation we find ourselves in once again. Donovan found formal decision-making and committees anathema to accomplishing his mission. Rather, he operated on good sense, instincts and experience—and gave the members of his staff great latitude to accomplish their missions as they saw fit.

Another unique feature of the organization was that it encompassed nearly all of the concerns that the C.I.A. and other intelligence organizations are engaged in today. For instance, the special operations branch, which would eventually be the model for the military’s Special Forces, was then fully integrated into the other intelligence components. Donovan was also one of the first spy chiefs to recognize the importance of covert action and the need for “actionable intelligence” (information gathered and interpreted quickly enough that action can still be taken to change the situation).

When the war ended, President Harry Truman, who knew little about intelligence issues, disbanded the O.S.S.—only to realize his mistake two years later and create the Central Intelligence Agency. The new agency was different in several important ways, however. The O.S.S. had been an ad hoc group, what Donovan called “an unusual experiment” in unconventional means and methods against the enemy. From its very beginning, however, the C.I.A. was designed not as an experiment but as a permanent government institution. Many of its early leaders, excepting Walter Bedell Smith and Allen Dulles, were distinguished not for their intelligence experience but for their knack for political infighting.

As a peacetime organization, it was often compelled to pursue efficiency rather than effectiveness - it tended to play it safe when picking employees and projects. While

Remembering 109 – Recollections of OSSers

By Al Materazzi



I had the pleasure of meeting the General only once, but I remember it as if it was yesterday. It occurred on January 24, two days after the Anzio landings. I was stationed as the OG operations officer with Co. C, 2677th regiment in Bastia. Corsica is located only six miles from Elba, easy to get to the Tuscan Islands, two of which were

occupied by OGs only two hours from the Italian coast. Based in the harbor was an American PT squadron with four Italian MAS attached and a British MTB squadron. We were housed in a gated villa, designated as “Station C,” on a hill overlooking the city.

I was OD that morning, and around 0600 was on my way to the radio room for latest news of the OG Alpha mission on the beachhead when the phone rang. It was the PT base advising me that the General was there needing to be picked up. I begged them to give him a cup of coffee and entertain him for about a half-hour until I could get everyone up and the kitchen started.

Within a half-hour everyone was ready and the car was sent to pick him up. Major Nathan (Bo) Wentworth, the exec, met him at the gate and introduced him to the officers lined up along the walk to the door. Accompanying him was Lieutenant Mike Jiminez, one of the Spanish War vets whom the general had personally recruited.

After they had been taken to their rooms and given time to cleanup, we assembled in the spacious dining room. The general was at the head of the table. He helped himself to some flapjacks and bacon. He looked up and asked each, one at a time, to tell them what he had been doing, problems we were encountering. During the afternoon Mike told us that the landings had caught the Germans completely by surprise. Their PT boat lay offshore; the General was on deck sunning himself when all of a sudden shells started coming over. The enemy had unleashed Anzio Annie, the largest weapon used in the war. Everyone ducked for cover, but the general remained seated, unperturbed, and asked “Mike, what is it that they are throwing at us?” Once the allies had decided to dig in, the general got bored and decided to visit Corsica.

That evening after dinner we sat by the fireplace, told anecdotes, and sang Irish and World War I songs. I was surprised by the fine Irish tenor of the general. Early the next morning they left.

I did not participate in any of the ceremonies at the Q building after the war, because I was immediately transferred back to army service and shortly afterwards called back to testify in the trial of German General Anton Dostler who had ordered the execution of the members of the Ginny mission. I greatly regretted that I did not have my Legion of Merit pinned on me by the General. Instead it was done by the JAG in Naples.

Al Materazzi was operations officer for OGs in Corsica.

this wasn't necessarily a fatal flaw during the cold war, a war of diplomacy and proxy armies in which data collection was often more important than covert action, it would be crippling in the hot war against terrorism.

Thus in the future our agencies should consider the somewhat haphazard way the O.S.S. chose people -unconventional warfare requires unconventional people. In addition, granting tremendous new powers to a “terrorism czar” will work only if that person is, like Donovan, truly independent and above the infighting we will certainly see from the Pentagon and other departments. And last, the new leader must have great leadership ability, intelligence experience and imagination.

Fisher Howe, a leading O.S.S. officer, once said that “if you define leadership as having a vision for an organization, and the ability to attract, motivate and guide followers to fulfill that mission, you have Bill Donovan in spades.” In that sense, all the bureaucratic and legislative changes in the world won't matter if we don't find the right person for the job.



Please Contribute

The OSS Society, Inc. a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, depends upon the generosity of its members to carry out its important mission of preserving the memory of OSS and educating the public regarding the historic role OSS played as America's first strategic intelligence agency. The following items are not for sale, but are offered only in exchange for tax-deductible contributions to The OSS Society:

- OSS 62nd Anniversary Poster\$25 donation
- OSS Lapel Pin\$20 donation
- OSS Baseball Hat\$25 donation
- OSS Bumper Sticker\$15 donation
- 24" Replica of Gen. Donovan Statue
from CIA/OSS Memorial\$500 donation

Book Notes



When Tigers Fly by Bob Bergin

OSSers who served in the CBI will always remember the Flying Tigers, the American Volunteer Group, who protected us from Burma to the China Coast. The history of the Tigers is

skillfully woven into Bergin's fictionalized account of an adventure of two Asia hands in search of a rare WWII Tomahawk aircraft sighted in the Burma jungles.

The search is juxtaposed against the background of Burma's remote warlord-ruled jungles. Primitive tribes, devious antiquities hunters, scam artists, and millionaire aircraft collectors all enter into this adventure story.

Bergin is a former U.S. Foreign Service officer and Southeast Asia specialist, who today deals in Asian art and antiquities. (Impact Publications)

Enigma: How the Poles Broke the Nazi Code by Wladyslaw Kosaczuk and Jerzy Straszak

In 1923, a German engineer began to manufacture and market an enciphering machine called Enigma.

Within years, the German army was using a military version. Until the end of World War I, part of Poland was ruled by the Germans and the newly-independent Poles took an interest in what the German army was up to.

In 1929, a Polish cipher bureau was set up in Potznam staffed by German-speaking mathematicians from the local university. By January 1933, the Poles were able to read Enigma messages and in 1938, with the war clouds once again gathering over Poland, Warsaw shared its ability to decipher Enigma with the British and French intelligence services. OSS also profited from Enigma. When war came the following year and the British set up their decoding center at Bletchley Park, the knowledge provided by the Poles enabled Britain to know German plans and intentions. In the words of cryptology expert David Hatch, "the breaking of Enigma by the Poles was one of the cornerstones of the Allied victory over Germany." (Hippocrene Books)



Company of Spies: Code Name Jama by Dr. Margaret S. Emanuelson

This is an intriguing novel about espionage and the operations of OSS during World War II. It's a book that will appeal especially to women be-

cause of the adventures of the heroine, Abby, whose clandestine life starts with training, and ends up in a spectacular coup.

Abby's training will take OSS women back in time to those exciting days when they were being initiated into the OSS mystique—tailing, using forged names, entering forbidden areas, living our false identities.

Company of Spies especially highlights the roles women played in OSS, serving equally with men as saboteurs, cryptographers, propagandists, research analysts, even recruiters of double agents. The war thrust America's women into roles heretofore unaccepted in what was once a man's world's. This fast-moving story is an account of just such a woman.

The author draws from her past experience as a clinical, forensic psychologist and veteran of OSS. She relates a tale of audacious and heroic exploits of OSS operatives, especially the heroine whose basic good sense, training, and courage make for an exciting read. (Author House, Bloomington, Indiana)



At the Dragon's Gate: With the OSS in the Far East by Charles Fenn

This book is an absorbing story of one man's crusade on two fronts—subverting the Japanese enemy through propaganda methods (Morale Operations) and battling the bureaucracy that fettered OSS and most other government representatives in the China-Burma-India Theatre. Fenn's recollections of his wartime experiences are witty and insightful—a story of real-life espionage.

The author, who died before publication of this book, was born in England and became an American citizen. He covered the Far East for Life magazine, later became a lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps when he joined OSS. He recruited Ho Chi Minh to work for OSS in rescuing downed airmen, launched successful MO campaigns, and brought an insider's understanding of the country and people of the CBI. Fenn's skill as a spy is matched by his talent as a storyteller, and his unusual experiences not only contribute to the historical records of World War II, but also make for an entertaining read. (Naval Institute Press)



Counterspy: Memoirs of a Counterintelligence Officer in World War II and the Cold War by Richard W. Cutler

During World War II and the beginning of the Cold War, Richard W. Cutler was an officer with the elite X-2 counterintelligence branch of the OSS and its successor the Strategic Services Unit (SSU). *Counterspy* offers a rare firsthand account of the secret war against Hitler and the postwar competition with the Soviets for German intelligence assets.

Book Notes

While in X-2, Cutler analyzed the super-secret Ultra intercepts and dispatched agents into Germany. Cutler provides an insightful overview of OSS operations during WWII and their contribution to the Allies' victory. He also describes the role of OSS and its temporary successor the SSU in the postwar occupation of Germany. Cutler's first job after the German surrender was to interview Allan Dulles' wartime sources inside Germany.

Cutler is a retired lawyer living in Milwaukee. After graduating from Yale Law School, he worked for Maj. Gen. William Donovan's New York law firm before serving in the U.S. Army Air Forces. (Brassey's Inc.)



A Life Without Borders: A Memoire by Maurits E. Eldersheim. In this book, the author recalls his remarkable journey through life, starting in the Netherlands when Hitler was coming into power, escape to the United

States when persecution of the Jews in Europe started, and later his work with OSS during the war years. He comes

from a Dutch Jewish family of bankers, manufacturers, and global planners. He brought his expertise to R&A when he joined OSS. His account of his invaluable input into operations involving the Netherlands makes interesting reading. It is an area of OSS activities in that vital area of wartime Europe that has not been adequately covered to date. After a postwar career in global investing, Mr. Eldersheim remains, in his eighties, active in international money management. He is also active in economic issues facing Israel. (John Glick)



The Literary Spy: the Ultimate Sourcebook for Quotations on Espionage and Intelligence, compiled by Charles E. Lathrop (the pseudonym for a CIA analyst and speechwriter for a DCI). This is a delightful compila-

tion of more than 3000 quotations from sources ranging from the Bible to spy novels and declassified government documents. It is a serious source text, sprinkled generously with great humor. (Yale University Press)

Wartime Exploits of OSS Jed Revealed in New Publication

For nearly 45 years, Lucien Lajeunesse of Plainfield, Conn. kept his heroic exploits during World War II to himself. Even his close friends knew few details of how he worked behind German lines for four months with French Resistance fighters to disrupt the German war effort following the D-Day invasion. But he is about to receive national exposure.

Lajeunesse's battlefield experiences will be included in a book by historian Colin Beavan, to be published next year by Viking-Penguin Books. "I was encouraged by officials of the Central Intelligence Agency to tell my experiences during the war," Lajeunesse said. His efforts were of particular interest to the agency because he served with the OSS. Lajeunesse said he was selected for the OSS because he spoke fluent French. After more than eight months of grueling training he was deployed to the European theater during the Normandy invasion.

Lajeunesse, a radio operator in a three-man Jedburgh team, spent four months behind enemy lines carrying out hit-and-run attacks on convoys, destroying bridges and disrupting German communications. Capture would have meant instant death. Each member of the unit carried a cyanide or L pill taped to his uniform to use if captured. The lethal pill was their defense against being tortured and divulging crucial information to the Germans. "I used to practice with an aspirin," Lajeunesse recalled. "Thank God,

I never had to take the real pill."

He recalled one instance when he was broadcasting information from the basement of a home in the French countryside. As he transmitted his report he heard the drone of a dive bomber approaching. Realizing his radio frequency was being targeted, Lajeunesse dove through a window to escape the house only seconds before a bomb shattered the building.

After the Allied armies bypassed his position, Lajeunesse and his unit returned to England. He was later awarded the French Croix de Guerre. He spent the rest of the war in Fort Benning, Ga., where he helped train 445 OSSers in commo procedures.

Board Encourages Formation of Additional OSS Chapters

The OSS Society Board of Directors at its October meeting encouraged formation of additional chapters of the OSS Society. Any group of members of the society who believe they can organize such a chapter should contact Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub USA (Ret.) at P.O. Box 2603, Arlington, VA 22202. The chapter should consist of at least 40 OSS vets and lineal descendants living within a defined area. Gen. Singlaub is prepared to let you know what you can do to obtain the necessary approvals by the Board of Directors for your new chapter. Anyone interested in forming a local chapter can also contact Charles Pinck at ossociety@aol.com for further details.

In Memoriam

Lee H. Clayman, 80, passed away in Albuquerque, N.M. Nov. 10, 2004. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. During WWII, he served in the Army's elite first regular all-parachute tactical outfit, the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. After being wounded during the D-Day invasion of Normandy, Lee joined The Office of Strategic Services. When the U.S. Army special forces was formed in 1952, he joined the 10th Special Forces Group. Later, he went on to serve in the Fifth Special Forces Group in Vietnam. He retired from the U.S. Army after 29 years of service. Among Lee's many decorations are the Silver Star and Bronze Star awards for heroism and the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat.

Edward Toner Cone, musicologist, pianist, and composer was born in Greensboro, N.C. May 4, 1917. He was Professor, Department of Music, Princeton University from 1960 to 1985 and Andrew D. White Professor-at-Large, Cornell University from 1979 to 1985. He died in Princeton, N.J., Oct 23, 2004. Cone served with OSS during WWII.

Mary A. (Donovan) Corvo, 87, wife of the late Max Corvo passed away Nov. 24, 2004 in Middletown, Conn. She is survived by her three children and seven grandchildren. She enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 where she was transferred to the Office of Strategic Services. She served in the OSS office in London, England during WWII and returned to the United States to attend Officers Candidate School. She achieved the rank of 1st Lieutenant and was named to head the Review Office of Awards and Decorations under the direction of General William "Wild Bill" Donovan (no direct relation) in Washington, D.C.

In 1945 she met and married Major Max (Biagio) Corvo who had served as Chief of Operations of the Secret Intelligence Section for OSS Italy from 1942 to 1945. After the war they moved to Rome, Italy and established an international business-consulting firm. They returned to Middletown in 1948 where they established The Middletown Bulletin, Inc., a newspaper publishing company that published a number of weekly bi-lingual Italian and English newspapers in Connecticut. In 1962 she moved with her husband to Catania, Italy where they worked until 1967. In Italy, Mary Corvo was actively involved in the American Friends Services Organization, which engaged in numerous



charitable activities within the community. Politically active upon their return to the United States, Mary Corvo worked with her husband to help establish an effective Republican Party organization in the Middletown community.

Stephen Dedijer, 92, founder of the Research Policy Institute, at Sweden's Lund University, died June 14, 2004 in Dubrovnik, Croatia. He did pioneering work in business intelligence, on which he published more than 250 academic papers. Born in Sarajevo, Dedijer spent much of his early childhood on the run. His father belonged to the inner circle of the Black Hand, the Serbian organization behind the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand II, which triggered the First World War.

Dedijer went to school in Rome and Princeton University, where he read mathematical physics. He then moved to Pittsburgh and for eight years edited a communist weekly targeted at Western Pennsylvania's large population of Serbian steelworkers. At the start of the Second World War he joined the OSS. His communist sympathies and early cooperation with the KGB meant that he did not last long. Dedijer then enrolled in the U.S. Army, served with 101st Airborne Division as bodyguard to the division commander. He later worked for General Tito in Yugoslavia.

Jordan C. Gallos, 82, passed away suddenly Oct. 11, 2004, at his home in Sparta, N.C. Mr. Gallos was born Aug. 26, 1922, in Cleveland, Ohio. He and his family moved to Winston-Salem. He was a member and past-president of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. He attended Reynolds High School and N.C. State University, studied architecture and fine arts and played saxophone with various bands. He volunteered in the U.S. Army and honorably served as a member of the Office of Strategic Services in World War II as a cartographer.

Harry E. Johns died August 14, 2004, in Tavares, Fla. just four days before his 85th birthday. During World War II, he was an operative for the Office of Strategic Services serving in Burma, China and India. He earned numerous medals including the Distinguished Flying Cross with three oak clusters, two Bronze Service Stars, an Air Medal with clusters and was recognized by the Emperor of China for training Chinese paratroopers. He was a life member of the 101 Association.

Whether driving a car or flying a plane, **Norbert R. Kazmier** loved the sense of freedom, the feeling of

In Memoriam

control he felt every time he got behind the wheel. "His love for cars goes all the way back to the first time he ever laid eyes on one," said his childhood sweetheart and wife of 56 years, Val. Mr. Kazmier, 80, of Glen Ellyn, Ill. former owner of Kazmier Lincoln-Mercury in Lombard and Kazmier Volkswagen of Downers Grove, died Tuesday, Oct. 12, in Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital. In World War II, Mr. Kazmier, at age 19, joined the Army as a paratrooper with OSS. He participated in more than 30 campaigns in Europe and Africa.

Anna M. Kwedar, 91, of Springfield, Ill., formerly of Washington D.C., died Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2004, at St. Joseph's Home. She was born April 12, 1913. Miss Kwedar graduated from Pana High School and attended Bradley University in Peoria. She was employed by the National Archives in Washington, D.C. in 1940 and the Office of Strategic Services.

Wilfred "Alkie" Lailes died October 5, 2004 in Denver, Col. A veteran of WWII, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. His unit was one of the first to cross the bridge at Remagen into Germany. His unit liberated the infamous death camp at Dachau. He was one of only two New Mexicans who served with the Office of Strategic Services. He fought with the Belgian and French underground.

Maynard W. Mewis, 84, died Dec. 11, 2004 just short of his 85th birthday in Mineral Point, Wis. During World War II he was assigned to the Signal Corps at Fort Monmouth N.J. where he caught cryptography. He later served with OSS in Africa and throughout the Middle East. After the war he worked for the Internal Revenue Service, later setting up his own tax accounting service.

George H. O'Connor Jr., 85, an advertising agency director and coordinator of special events, died Oct. 2 at Georgetown University Hospital in D.C. He graduated from Gonzaga College High School and Georgetown University. He joined the Navy during World War II and served with the OSS. O'Connor was fluent in Spanish, Italian and French and could also speak German and Arabic.

James Ball Opsata, 96, who worked for the U.S. Information Agency from 1953 to 1968 and who later co-owned an antique shop in Annapolis, died Nov. 14 in Silver Spring. Mr. Opsata was a native of St. Joseph, Mich., and a graduate of what is now Western Michigan University. He received a master's degree in public affairs from American University. During WWII he was acting personnel director of the Office of Strategic Services from 1942 to 1943. He served in the Navy as an

intelligence officer in Brazil for the rest of the war.

Dr. Arthur H. Robinson, 89, a geographer who improved on the venerable Mercator projection for drawing the round earth on a flat map, died Oct. 10 in Madison, Wis. His death, after a brief illness, was announced by the University of Wisconsin where he was an emeritus professor of geography and cartography. During WWII Dr. Roberson was director of the map division of the Office of Strategic Services.

Shirley S. Rosenblatt, 83, passed away August 5, 2004 in Woodlands, Tex. She married Leslie Rosenblatt (Maj., USAFR) and worked for the Office of Strategic Services during World War II. She was a lifetime member of the Military Officers Association and a member of The OSS Society. She supported various World War II memorial groups and other veterans programs, as well as numerous environmental and wildlife organizations.

Harry Schwartz, 85, an editorial writer for The New York Times from 1951 to 1979 and a specialist in Soviet and East European affairs died of heart failure at his home in New Rochelle N.Y. In a career that began in World War II and spanned nearly half a century, Mr. Schwartz was a government economist, a military intelligence analyst, a professor of economics and international affairs at several universities and the author of 22 books and thousands of editorials and interpretive articles for The New York Times.

He was drafted into the Army in 1943 and after basic training was transferred to the OSS and sent to Europe as a specialist in Soviet economic intelligence. He taught himself Russian during his tour overseas. He was discharged as a first lieutenant in 1945.

At just over five feet tall, **Cpl. Hercules Sembrakis** wasn't much larger than the bazooka he toted through the mountains of Nazi-occupied Greece in the summer of 1944. His work with that weapon, though, helped save the lives of 200 refugees under fire from German troops, who were beaten back by Mr. Sembrakis' unit of a top-secret U.S. military operatives, his commanding officer remembered. "He was very short, but rugged-tough," Mr. Sembrakis' commander, Captain John Giannaris. "He could endure." Five months after receiving the Bronze Star for his World War II heroism, Mr. Sembrakis, 88, died of leukemia, Sept. 10, 2004 in his Chicago home.

A native of Greece, Mr. Sembrakis served behind enemy lines about 90 miles north of Athens for four months in 1944 as a member of the OSS. The unit blew up thousands of miles of Nazi railroad tracks, disrupted telegraph service and stalled supply trains

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before the beleaguered German army left Greece that year. Giannaris remembered that the unit's greatest act occurred one hot, bright morning, after the OSS operatives saw about 40 fires in several Greek hamlets in the night. "It was a true holocaust," Giannaris said, remembering how villagers ran in the morning light from shooting Nazis. Mr. Sembrakis and the others attacked the Nazis from higher ground and whisked the refugees to safety. "We saved those women and children from death," Giannaris said. In April, after Giannaris had worked for several years to gain Bronze Stars for his men, he pinned the medal on Mr. Sembrakis at a ceremony in Chicago's Pritzker Military Library.

Howard Ernest Smith, 84, passed away peacefully at home Nov. 2, 2004. During World War II, Smith joined the U.S. Army and obtained the rank of sergeant, serving in Newfoundland and India. As the war ended, he was on a mission through India en route to China as member of the Office of Strategic Services.

John Vincent Truden, formerly of Forest Lake, Mich., Omaha, Neb. and Marquette, Mich., died Dec. 4, 2004 in Marquette, following a year-long battle with cancer. John briefly attended the University of Michigan before entering the military service in 1943 during World War II. John was in the OSS. He served as a radio operator and cryptographer in the CBI theater of operations. John received the Bronze Star and Good Conduct Medal in addition to the Asiatic Pacific Theater Service Ribbon and the World War II Victory Ribbon.

John Tyson, 100, a brokerage firm executive and World War II spymaster, died of kidney failure Sept. 30 at Waverly Heights in Gladwyne, Pa. Mr. Tyson was born in Oxford, England. He played football at Princeton University and dropped out to work on the docks in Philadelphia and as a fireman on the Pennsylvania Railroad. During World War II, Mr. Tyson joined the Army and was assigned to the Office of Strategic Services. For his services he was awarded the Order of the British Empire and the Croix de Guerre from the French government.

G.V. "Bus" Wadsworth, 86, of Ellenton, N.Y. died September 4, 2004 after an extended illness. Born in Mount Upton, N.Y., he earned a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan. He served with OSS Detachment 101. After returning from World War II, Bus was co-owner of a family-owned heating, plumbing, air-conditioning business. In later years he was an associate professor of physics and thermodynamics at the State University of New York.

Services for **Charles S. (Sam) Walker, Jr.**, 86, of Monroe, La. were held Dec. 10, 2004 at the First Methodist Church of Monroe. Mr. Walker graduated from La. Tech University in 1941 with a degree in Business Administration. He was president of his senior class and was the first president of La. Tech's chapter of Kappa Sigma fraternity. He was a WWII veteran of the US Army, having served with the Army Artillery and later with the OSS in the Far East.

Robert F. Weingartner, a retired lawyer and former Greece resident, died Sept. 1 in Rochester, NY. He had had Parkinson's disease since 1987. He grew up in Rochester's 19th Ward during the depression and graduated from West High School. He went on to the University of Rochester and eventually earned a master's degree in philology in French from the Universite de Bordeaux. From there he went to Harvard Law School, graduating in 1941. Mr. Weingartner served during World War II with the Office of Strategic Services.

Maynard W. Wells, 81, died December 11, 2004 just short of his 85th birthday in Mineral Point, Wis. During World War II he was assigned to the Signal Corps, Fort Monmouth, N.J. where he taught cryptography. He later served with the OSS in Africa and throughout the Middle East. After the war he worked for the Internal Revenue Service and later set up his own tax accounting service.

The deaths of two OSS spouses occurred this fall. **Edith Gould Martin**, wife of **Guy Martin**, OSS/CBI died in August at their country residence in Arkville, N.Y. She attended Barnard College and joined the Navy during World War II, later working with ONI. She was married for 58 years. The couple lived in Washington, D.C.

Another death occurred in October. **Frederick B. McIntosh**, husband of **Elizabeth McIntosh**, OSS/CBI, and *OSS Newsletter* editor, died of a heart attack in Leesburg, Va. He was a fighter pilot in World War II, with 104 missions over Germany. He later was operations officer with the National Business Aircraft Association, Washington. The couple was married for 42 years. They lived in Leesburg, Va.

Correction

The Fall 2004 issue of the *Newsletter* incorrectly stated that **Herbert Avedon** served in Italy as operational officer of the 2671st Special Reconnaissance Battalion. Herb's correct service in Italy was with Headquarters Company of Darby's Rangers. After his service with the Rangers, Herb was recruited by OSS and served with MO in the CBI theater.

Washington Hostess Gracious to the End

Bette Williams Quinn, 86, a hostess and the wife of Army Lt. Gen. William W. Quinn, died Sept. 26 at her home in Arlington after a series of strokes. Mrs. Quinn came to Washington in 1945 with her husband, who played a key role in the transition of the wartime Office of Strategic Services into the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mrs. Quinn was born in Savannah, Ga., the daughter of a doctor. In her teens, she was named queen of the city's Paper Festival. She graduated from what is now Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah. After marrying in 1939, she lived on Army posts throughout the world. Her husband was an intelligence officer and, from 1964 to 1966, commander of the 7th Army in Germany.

The Washington Post writes: When Bette Williams Quinn died, she insisted that her family mark the occasion her way. The mother of writer Sally Quinn and widow of Army Gen. William "Buffalo Bill" Quinn, Bette banned any religious observance. She asked to be cremated, her ashes placed in a Perrier Jouet champagne bottle, and that buried at Arlington National Cemetery next to her husband. Bette Quinn told her children not to hold a funeral service. Instead, friends were invited to the Georgetown home of Sally Quinn and Ben Bradlee. The champagne bottle with Bette's ashes sat on the mantle as her grandchildren rose to talk about the woman once voted to have the "best legs in Savannah." They said none had ever dared to call her "Grandma." Then Sally Quinn asked the mourners to raise their champagne glasses in a toast and to join in the singing of her mother's favorite song, "Because of You."

The buffet supper that followed featured Bette's southern Maryland specialties—including black-eyed peas and a spaghetti dish called Johnny Marzetti.



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

Sam Drakulich Dies: Hero in OSS-Italy Ops

Sam J. Drakulich passed away November 8, 2004 at his home in McLean, Virginia. He was born Nov. 2, 1920 in Kenelworth, Utah. During WWII First Lieutenant Drakulich received this Citation For Bronze Star Medal:

"Sam J. Drakulich, 529111, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company D, 2677th Regiment, Office of Strategic Services, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy in Italy from 21 March to 29 April, 1945.

"As a member of a liaison and operational team of five men, First Lieutenant Drakulich parachuted into enemy-held territory, near Moritirolo, Italy, where his team organized the Partisans and harassed the enemy in such a telling manner that they became the object of an enemy mopping-up operations. They blew up road 39, at the Aprica Pass, thus closing one main enemy escape route to the Brenner. Surrounded on the Moritirolo plateau, which was swept constantly by snow and rain storms, with two hundred and ten Partisans, they withstood artillery and mortar fire (with direct hits on the command post) for twenty days.

"After escaping the prolonged attack of approximately three thousand of the enemy, First Lieutenant Drakulich was dispatched by his commanding officer to aid another Partisan unit, near Monno. Attacked by the enemy, this unit moved its wounded to a building not marked by the Red Cross. To divert enemy fire from this infirmary, First Lt. Drakulich ran from the building through withering fire and rejoined his unit. The enemy followed, but the wounded were saved. In addition to his other achievements, First Lt. Drakulich disguised as a Polish patriot, made contact with Todt workers and secured enemy fortification plans for the Tonale Pass, as well as much other tactical intelligence which proved valuable to the Fifteenth Army Group and subsequent Allied operations.

"Entered Service from Kimberly, Nevada."

Burial was held December 20, 2004 in Arlington National Cemetery, with full military honors.

OSS Memorial Fund

The OSS Society has established a memorial fund to honor deceased OSS veterans. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution in honor of an OSS veteran, please send it to the McLean office and include the name of the veteran you would like to honor.

The OSS Society, Inc.
6723 Whittier Avenue, Suite 303A
McLean, Virginia 22101-4533

Help Wanted – by OSSers and Others

- Can you tell me where I can find out more on **Leon Ball**? He is in some photographs of the liberation of Annecy, France, 1944 and is identified as an OSS officer.

Caroline Dyer - GO4BAROAK@aol.com.

- I'm a closed-captioner for History Television in Canada. I'm doing a show on World War II, but I have a big problem. In the show a few references are made to an American liaison officer for Tito in Yugoslavia, who worked for the OSS and ran supplies to Tito's partisans. His name is—**Lin Farrish**—at least that's exactly what it sounds like. I need to verify the spelling. Does anyone have any idea who he is?

"wolfman" wolfspill@yahoo.com

- My name is Whitney Gafford. I am an eighth grader from Lorena Middle School in Lorena, Tex. I am putting together a ten-minute individual performance for the National History Day competition. This year's theme is "Communications in History: The Key to Understanding." I want to focus on the involvement of the OSS during World War II, especially the woman's role. I would really love to ask a few questions to anyone who has a little time and would be willing to help me create the best project ever. The OSS is so fascinating. Creating a new way of spying had to be exciting.

Whitney Gafford,

*1260 No. Houston Street, Lorena, Texas 76655
phone 254-857-3506 wag-ken-1@yahoo.com.*

- I am trying to research a technical sergeant named **Marlin J. Corne**, DET 101. I first purchased the garrison cap and four-pocket tunic with U.S.-issued CBI patch in the breast pocket. On the back of the patch on the white stripe is printed "M.Corne DET 101 OSS" I have recently purchased a Burma DET 101 campaign silver bar/medal from the same person—and I feel it has to go with the coat. The coat had no sergeant stripes attached or a name anywhere—the same for the hat. Only a four-ribbon bar, lapel brass (infantry), a theater-made CBI patch on the left shoulder, and a theater Merrill's Marauders/Mars Task Force patch on the right, plus ruptured duck.

Steve Balaza - vbalaza@ccr.net

- I am researching information concerning **Harrington and Richardson Arms Co.** revolvers used by the OSS during World War II. I have found several listings from Springfield Arsenal that refer to specific revolvers. On Oct. 3, 1944 there is a listing for serial number of 508907-source Operation Eagle. On March 11, 1944 there is a listing for serial number 509043-source listed as Lieut. C.N. Fisher. Is there any way of learning more about Lt. Fisher and Operation Eagle and what happened to the firearms assigned to OSS at the end of World War II?

Bill Goforth bgoforth@evl.net.

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- Can you point me in the right direction for a biography of a distant relative of mine? **Saul K. Padover** was with OSS and a constitutional scholar in the 50s through 80s, teaching in New York City. He has an absolutely fascinating personal history. He lived in Central Europe at the turn of the century, spoke many languages and worked in intelligence/OSS after the Normandy invasion.

Craig Padover, 27 Campbell Ave.

Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677.

- The National Park Service has requested me to write an historical resource study of the **three OSS training camps** in the eastern United States in World War II. They are Camps A and C in the Chopawamisc Recreational Demonstration area, now Prince William Forest Park near Quantico, and Camp C at Catoctin Mountain Park north of Frederick, Maryland. I have gathered information through the National Archives records but would also like to hear from OSS personnel of their memories or knowledge of these camps.

John W. Chambers II, Rutgers State University,

*16 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ 0691-1109
(732-932-3813)*

- My late father, **Gilbert Simons** (1900 to 1973), served in the OSS in Washington, D.C. from its inception until the end of World War II, working with Bill Donovan. I would be grateful for any information in the OSS archives that you might have about my father. He was an officer in the Navy during the war.

Victoria Simons Secunda, .vhsecunda@snet.net

- My uncle, **Lt. Melvin Hjeltness**, served in the OSS during World War II. He spoke Norwegian and I believe he trained at Camp Hale in Colorado. I think he was involved in missions in France. How can I find out more information about his OSS service?

Scoppegard@aol.com.

- I am looking for information on an OSS training project that occurred off Florida in 1943-44. The project was the development of radio-controlled vessels that could be used as guided missiles against enemy shipping. The merchant ship **SS San Pablo** was sunk when another vessel armed with explosives was guided into her hull and detonated. This was featured in an OSS training film titled "Sleeping Beauty." The San Pablo wreck is now a popular dive spot off Florida.

Michael C. Barnette, Shipwrecks of the Sunshine

State: Florida's Submerged History

http:uwex.us/shipwreckbook.htm

- I am a research scholar working on early "**JE-Land**" operations targeting Soviet zones in 1944 and 1945. I am especially interested in missions originating at Brindisi and

Help Wanted

Turkey to support nationalist guerillas in southeastern Europe.

Dr. Jeffrey Burds, Assoc. Prof. of History (Yale)
jburds@aya.yale.edu

- I am a student at Mercyhurst College of Erie, Pennsylvania currently enrolled in the Research and Intelligence Analyst Program (R/IAP). I am taking a History of United States Intelligence course and the final project is **the role of and effectiveness of the OSS** during World War II. I would like to have more evidence that OSS was essential for the Allied effort. Is there any pertinent information such as statistics, examples or specific case studies?

Matt Talkish,
mtalki96@mercyhurst.edu.

- I am a U.S. Air Force intelligence officer attending the Joint Military Intelligence College in Washington D.C. The topic I chose to research deals with **intelligence operations in China** during World War II. It would be a great benefit if I could talk to any veterans who served in the intelligence field in China between the years 1942 and 1947 to gain perspective on intelligence activities and events leading up to the Communist takeover in 1949.

Capt Steven M. Smith, USAF,
Joint Military Intelligence College,
7838 Butterfield Ln, Annandale, VA 22003
Home: (703) 573-4426
Cell Phone: (202) 256-9314
E-mail: stsmith70@yahoo.com

- My grandfather **Charles Lieberfarb** passed away last year and I found some memorabilia from when he served in OSS London. I was wondering if you had any more information about his service. I believe he was a radio operator.

Andrew Silverman
andrew_silverman@ml.com

Memoirs of an Odd OSS Odyssey

I was at Camp Chenango, Pa. waiting to be shipped to Europe, when I received orders to report to OSS. The orders stated that I was to be assigned to the Reproduction Branch. I had graduated from Notre Dame about four months earlier, and knew little about reproduction, except I heard that it was involved in bringing babies into the world.

Also, I was informed that OSS was some sort of secret organization, and later learned that OSS stood for "Oh, So Social," and that it was loaded with Ivy Leaguers. With that background, I mused over whether I was being assigned to a stud farm.

I was assigned to an editing office. On my first day in the office, I was sitting at my desk typing, when a young civilian Italian female employee in the same room, jumped on my lap and began kissing me. Was this the opening shot of the stud farm? Not long after that I was sent to Area C which was all male.

From "C" I was sent to Algiers, traveling via Casablanca on a presidential plane filled with some people of note: John Osborne of *Time* magazine, and a woman who later became ambassador to Norway, a couple of generals, among others. After about three months in Algiers I was sent to OSS at AFFHQ, Casserta, Italy, and worked in the royal palace.

Six months later my assignment was Rome. Apparently the Italians heard I was moving up the Peninsula, and decided to surrender. V-E Day followed not long afterward, and I was discharged from OSS at the Congressional Country Club. It is good to be back with the old outfit! Paul A. Fisher, crowkeergh@earthlink.net.

New National Archives Exhibit Includes OSS Operation

The National Archives in Washington has dramatically changed its presentation of its historic collection of letters, films, maps, recordings, and photographs that are the underpinnings of American history. The new \$7 million initiative makes the work of the archives more accessible—and makes history more interesting.

In this 1,100 item display of the more than 10 billion items housed by the archives, visitors will see and hear, probably for the first time, such items as a wax cylinder recording of a campaign speech by Theodore Roosevelt, a handwritten text of an 1865 telegram from Abraham Lincoln to Gen. Ulysses Grant, and ship records showing the immigration of Leslie Hope (later entertainer Bob Hope) from Britain in 1908. The visitor is taken on a backstage history tour, enhanced by computer technology and careful preservation of unique documents.

Of interest to OSSers is the presentation of the Morale Operation Cornflake Project. OSS operators prepared anti-Nazi propaganda designed to break Axis morale and dropped hundreds of these leaflets on German railroad stations.

The OSS Society Newsletter is published quarterly by:

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Web: www.osssociety.org
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New OSS Society Members

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

Rebecca M. Andros (Kingston, WA)
Alan F. Bala (San Clemente, CA)
Edward Brittenham (Brooklyn, NY)
Myra F. Burton (Rockville, MD)
Dee Ann Cedarleaf (Rockford, IL)
Louie Davis, OSS veteran (Columbus, GA)
Karen Adamson Deloache (Mt. Airy, MD)
James R. Dempsey (McLean, VA)
Edward T. Dickinson (Malvern, PA)
James S. Ecker (Terrace Park, OH)
Thomas E. Healey (New York, NY)
William A. Hilsman (Haworth, NJ)
A. Georgia Hopkins (Dallas, TX)

William Conkling Ladd Jr. (Brewster, MA)
Vincent J. LePore III (Corona Del Mar, CA)
Maria Gulovich Liu (Oxnard, CA)
Betty B. Manning (Chapel Hill, NC)
K. Melisa Martell (Poolesville, MD)
Vivian Mattox (Washington, DC)
Harry Miller (Fallbrook, CA)
Audrey C. Smith (Alexandria, VA)
Alan N. Snyder (Wilmington, NC)
John Suggs (Washington, DC)
Kerry Thompson (Melrose, MA)
Carolyn Trechter (Dallas, TX)
Sherry Lee Trechter (Washington, DC)

OSSer Recalls WWII Service

It's been 50 years since 82-year-old Edwin Poitras leaped into the night sky over France and effectively vanished into thin air. As reported in the Boston Herald, he said: "I didn't do it for the glory. After all, somebody had to do it." When he was 19, he enlisted in the Navy, but was eventually recruited by the Office of Strategic Services. The son of a French mother and Canadian father, Poitras had grown up speaking French at home, making him an ideal candidate to help the resistance. So he was packed off to train in Britain, where he was one of 34 recruits, all of whom knew each other only by code. Edwin Poitras ceased to exist. To the OSS, he was simply "X471."

"We were told if we got caught, we were on our own," he said. "The United States government didn't know us." With that ominous warning, "X471" parachuted alone behind enemy lines into northern France on May 2, 1944, five weeks before the D-Day invasion, and spent the next



Edwin Poitras views a painting in his honor accompanied by Middlesex Community College President Carole Cowan in Lowell, Mass.

four months gathering intelligence and helping train resistance fighters. He is the recipient of the Navy Cross and the United Kingdom's Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.



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