



THE O.S.S. SOCIETY, INC.

Summer 2004



OSS Society Celebrates Memorable 62nd Anniversary in Washington

It was a weekend of shared memories, renewed friendships, and mourning for our departed comrades. It was the 62nd anniversary of the founding of the Office of Strategic Services, which coincided with the dedication of the National World War II Memorial. More than 200 OSSers and families met at the Wardman Park Hotel in Washington for festivities from May 27 through 30.

The first get-together was held May 27 at the International Spy Museum. The moderator was Patrick O'Donnell, author of *Operatives, Spies and Saboteurs: The Unknown Story of the Men and Women of WWII's OSS*. The symposium, "Tales from the OSS, America's First Intelligence Agency," featured Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub, Fisher Howe, and Elizabeth P. McIntosh.

Among other wartime memories General Singlaub recalled liberating some 400 allied prisoners of war held on Hainan Island at the end of WWII. They had been beaten and starved by the Japanese captors and were close to execution when Singlaub and his Jedburgh team freed them. "It was a great way to end the war," he said.

Fisher Howe, special assistant to General William Donovan, described his boss as an engaging and powerful leader. "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 Donovan in spades." Howe opened the OSS London office and was later transferred to the OSS/CBI theater.

Elizabeth McIntosh, one of some 4,500 women to serve in OSS and author of *Sisterhood of Spies*, described her work in Morale Operations against the Japanese in Burma; also MO activity in Italy, New York, and London headquarters, including black radio operations featuring Marlene Dietrich.



Seen in the photos above: (a) Area C pistol training (b) General William Donovan (c) Jedburgh Team Frederick (d) Det. 101, Burma 1944 (e) Dan Pinck, China (f) Betty McIntosh, China (g) Scudder Georgia, China (h) Greek OGs Group II (i) Carpetbagger B-24 RAF, Harrington (j) Chandler, McGuire, France & Choper, Egypt (k) Joes in Dakota C-47, 1944 (l) Major William Colby & Herbert Helgesen (m) OG's Norso Group (n) David & Evangeline Bruce, London (o) Maritime Unit with the Duke of Windsor (p) Lt. Jack Singlaub at Milton Hall

Poster available from the OSS Society for a \$25 tax-deductible contribution. Special thanks to L. Michael Ledbetter who designed our poster.



Opening Event: Author Patrick O'Donnell (left) with OSSers Fisher Howe, Gen. John Singlaub, and Betty McIntosh present Tales of the OSS at Spy Museum.

Agency Celebrates with OSS Society at Headquarters Reunion

CIA hosted nearly 200 OSS veterans at a morning ceremony on May 28 honoring those members of OSS who perished in World War II. John McLaughlin, Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, and Ambassador Hugh Montgomery, the last CIA blue-badged OSS veteran, welcomed the OSS veterans to their Agency home. Noted intelligence historian Dr. David Kahn was the featured speaker, exploring the important role intelligence, particularly code breaking, played during World Wars I and II.

“In this national season of memory, we meet this morning to recall events of six decades ago,” McLaughlin said. “Then, as now, our country was at war, a war different in many ways from the present global battle against terrorism.

“It was a war of Americans from every part of the nation and every walk of life – of those who would go on to enrich their communities and their country for years to come—and of those who would never have the chance.”

In paying tribute to the role OSS veterans played in laying the foundation for the CIA, McLaughlin remarked, “What we do now, OSS did first. In operations, analysis, and technology. In bringing them together. In creating an organization that served the President with the capacity both to report on conditions overseas and to change them in favor of liberty.

“OSS is all around us,” he added. “In our history—in the artifacts shared by the veterans and families of OSS—priceless objects that communicate the sense of pride and achievement to new generations of American intelligence officers.”



Gen. William J. Donovan

McLaughlin concluded, “To those who made that possible—the men and women of the Office of Strategic Services—I say on behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency—thank you. We stand on your shoulders. And we will never forget you.”

The ceremony concluded with the laying of a wreath at the OSS Memorial of General Donovan in the headquarters atrium and the playing of Taps in honor of the 116 OSS members who lost their lives during World War II.

OSS Vets Join Memorial Services

OSSers joined the thousands of the WWII veterans on May 28 at the MCI Center, a large arena in downtown Washington. Members of all military services performed in a stirring musical and narrative tribute to men and women who fought for freedom over 60 years ago.

On the afternoon of May 29 the National World War II Memorial was dedicated. Pre-ceremony entertainment took the veterans back to the wartime era of big band swing music using video images and newsreel clips. President George Bush greeted veterans at a ceremony where sunlight reflected on the fountains and the white stone columns that represent America’s 50 states and territories. OSS vets who attended the ceremony were overwhelmed by the feeling of nostalgia and camaraderie radiated by the celebrants – handshakes, embraces, salutes, and responses of



OSS vets at the National World War II Memorial dedication.

gratitude from the younger generation. This same warm camaraderie could be felt that evening when OSS vets met for their reunion at the Wardman Park Hotel to celebrate those days of long ago when they had reported for duty in Washington headquarters, and served their country throughout the world. (The dinner was excellent: walnut raspberry salad, filet mignon, fine wine and a chocolate mousse worthy of our OSS comrade, Julia Child.)

After a presentation of colors William H. Pietsch Jr. read greetings from former President George H. W. Bush. Maj. Gen. John Singlaub presented the congratulatory message to OSS from General Bryan D. Brown, head of the Special Operations Command, today's offshoot of the original OSS operational groups. OSS Society president Charles Pinck presented the OSS Society Distinguished Service Award to Ambassador Hugh Montgomery who had served in X-2 in Europe, including an attempt to reconstitute a clandestine radio network established by the German SD in the Balkans.

After the war, Montgomery joined the CIA, later served with the State Department and was named U.S. Representative to the U.N. for Special Political Affairs with the rank of Ambassador. In accepting the OSS award the Ambassador said, "The impressive gathering here this evening appears eloquent testimony to your determination to preserve the lofty ideals so typical of the OSS men and women."

William Pietsch presented the William J. Donovan award to Ralph J. Bunche for his service to OSS in wartime, and for his courageous and selfless service to humanity. His daughter, Joan Bunche accepted the award on behalf of her late father and his family.

The key address was delivered by the acting director

of CIA, John E. McLaughlin, who shared some personal thoughts on the present state of American intelligence. He also praised the audience as unique. "You were not only present at the creation, you did the creating with your ideas, your actions, your examples."

He spoke of the task ahead for the intelligence community. "Intelligence officers have many important roles to play in the next momentous months. Among our tasks will be the imperative of ensuring that our policymakers get a clear-eyed and objective intelligence appraisal of the threats to U.S. forces and to the free elections that the United Nations now seeks to arrange."

McLaughlin will assume the role of Acting DCI upon George Tenet's resignation on July 11, 2004

Congressional Country Club Setting for Reunion Ending

The following day, The OSS Society held its annual meeting at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland, followed by a brunch and a trip down memory lane by OSSers who had received early training in guerrilla warfare, espionage, and sabotage at the club, which had been transformed then into a night-stalking area with sentry posts, simulated railway trestles, and power transformers. The manicured boxwood hedges were blown up with OSS-type baseball-shaped hand grenades, and the fairways were in shambles from hand-to-hand combat.

OSSers who trained at the club reminisced after lunch, shaking their heads as they looked out over the beautiful golf course that had required many years to recuperate. Buses took the OSS veterans and families back to the Wardman Park, marking the end of a happy 62nd reunion.



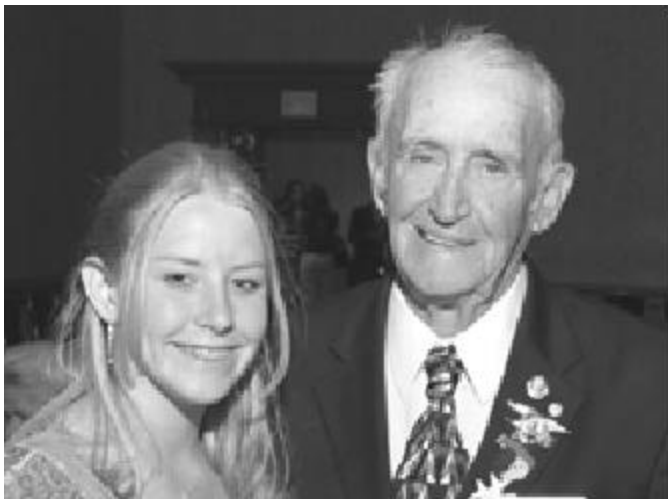
OSS Society President Charles Pinck (l) presents the Society's Distinguished Service Award to Amb. Hugh Montgomery.



Joan Bunche accepts the William J. Donovan award for her late father Ralph J. Bunche from Col. William Pietsch.



“You were not only present at the creation, you did the creating with your ideas, your actions, your examples.” - CIA’s John McLaughlin (left)



OSSer John Spence and great-granddaughter Lauren Foster.



Anita Garrett-Roe and family

At the end of the gala reunion at Wardman Park, where OSS had once set up a wartime office for reproducing operational materiel, OSS veterans from long ago posed for this picture that they will long remember.




Photographs available from dceventphoto.com



Friends forever:
(clockwise from left)
 Walter Mess and Bill Williams; Erasmus Kloman and Betty Lussier; Gary Kincaid and Alger (Ace) Ellis; John E. Turner and William P. Katsirubas





 GEORGE BUSH
 May 2004

On the occasion of the dedication of the World War II Memorial and the 62nd anniversary of the founding of the Office of Strategic Services, I send greetings to the OSS Society and their distinguished guests.

As a former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, I recognize the lasting legacy of OSS in setting high standards to duty, our national honor, and loyal service to our beloved country.

As Co-Chairman of the Ralph Bunche Centenary Committee, I salute the OSS for honoring Dr. Bunche with the William J. Donovan Award. Ralph Bunche served with distinction in OSS during World War II and was responsible for developing intelligence studies that enabled Allied commanders at all levels to achieve the first great successes of World War II against Axis powers. Dr. Bunche built upon his services in OSS when he joined the U.S. Department of State and, later, the United Nations.

In these troubled times, it is well that we remember these two great Americans: The Honorable Ralph J. Bunche, and the man who persuaded him to join the OSS, William J. Donovan.

Sincerely,




Proud to be Americans:
Left: The color guard and young admirer at the banquet.
Right: OSSers Colonel David Longacre (r) and Major General John Singlaub at dedication ceremony.



President's Message

I am pleased to report that our 62nd anniversary celebration was a great success. Our four-day celebration included a symposium at the International Spy Museum, a wreath-laying ceremony at CIA, a gala dinner at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, and a visit to Congressional Country Club for our annual meeting.

There I reported that our membership is growing, and now stands at 1033. We have added more than 30 new members, including many OSS veterans, since our last review. We hope to publish a new directory of all members soon. Recruiting new members, especially lineal descendants, is critical to the future of our society. I implore our members to recruit other family members to join. Application forms are available at our web site www.ossociety.org, by contacting us via e-mail ossociety@aol.com, or by calling our office at 703-356-6667.

We will soon mail 2004-2005 annual dues notices to all our members. Of our 1033 current members, 692 (67%) are life members. The remaining 341 members (33%) consist of regular dues-paying members who must contribute \$50 annually to stay on the rolls. Thus, our regular members shoulder the financial burden for the entire organization. In 2003 only 139 of the 692 life members (or 20%) made contributions to the OSS Society as contributing life members, the category we created to encourage life members to contribute.

The OSS Society was granted 501(c)(3) tax exempt status last year, which means that contributions to the Society are tax deductible. Please consider making a planned gift, including a codicil in your will, or giving a gift in someone's memory. If you need information about how to make such a gift, please contact our McLean office.

The OSS Society depends upon the generosity of its members to carry out our mission to preserve the legacy of OSS for future generations.

Sincerely,
Charles T. Pinck
President

OSSer Leads N.Y. Parade

Herbert Blum, 78, who has participated in military and covert operations in four wars, spanning three continents, led a more visible operation on May 24, 2004. He served as grand marshal of the Yonkers Memorial Day Parade. Blum was in North Africa and Europe from 1942-46 and parachuted into France in advance of the Allied invasion of Normandy. He gathered intelligence and mapped the coastline in preparation for the attack that turned the tide of the war.

OSS Vet Charles Hostler Receives French Legion of Honor

Charles Hostler, OSS Jedburgh, who landed in Normandy on D-Day in 1944, was presented the French Legion of Honor on D-Day, 2004 in the tiny village of Ammaranches, Normandy by President Jacques Chirac. Hostler's assignment 62 years ago was to confront enemy agents and force them to send false information to the Nazis. Although Hostler was wounded during this mis-



Ambassador Charles Hostler, left, who was awarded the French Legion of Honor by France, with Mrs. Hostler and Ambassador Julian Niemczyk at OSS dinner.

sion, his unit succeeded in deceiving and controlling the German espionage net in France during a critical part of the war.

In a pageant-like setting where huge panels represented a section of a carrier deck, Chirac presented medals to veteran representatives of 14 countries who had helped save France from the Nazis. In the audience was the British royal family headed by Queen Elizabeth II, Russia's Vladimir Putin, George and Laura Bush, and dignitaries from 14 European nations including, for the first time, Germany. During the ceremony Normandy landing scenes were projected on giant screens, French troops paraded, and a children's choir sang wartime songs.

Who Wrote That Poem?

George H. Moss, Jr., of Sea Bright, N.J. sends an anonymous, if somewhat irreverent, OSS poem which he received in Cairo in 1944 when he was an OSS cryptographer there. He'd like to know the author. A sample:

"Oh, the OSS, oh yes, yes, yes.

They make all the Axis partners guess;
they disguise themselves in a beard or a dress;
they pal around with kings and popes,
and pay baksheesh in scented soaps ..."

(The poem was addressed: "Secret: for Male Personnel only!")

Jeds Drop from North Africa into Southern France

OSSer Jack Berlin writes: Most of the discussion about Jed teams jumping into France concentrates on the teams from England. However, there were also six teams in North Africa in late April or early May of 1942 prepared to jump into France. Jed Team Ammonia was one of those teams. Capt. MacDonald Austin, French Capt. Ray Le Compte, and 1st Sgt. Jacob Berlin were members of the team. They boarded a plane that was to drop them with a Resistance group in Southern France on the night of June 5, 1942 but when the team arrived over the drop zone, the pilot refused to let them jump because he claimed that the code signals being flashed by the group on the ground were the wrong signals. He returned them to base that night.

An attempt was made the next night by the same team to the same area, and this time, the pilot could not find the drop zone and again refused to let them jump. The third night there was heavy rain coming from the North and we did not take off. The night of June 9, we finally were successfully dropped into the Dirdogne area of southwest France.

(Tragically, Jacob Berlin died May 29, 2004. His obituary will run in the fall issue of the newsletter.)



New OSS Society Members

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

Herbert Blum (OSS Veteran), Yonkers, NY
Thomas Farrow (OSS Veteran), New Market, VA
Wallace Fetterolf (OSS Veteran), McLean, VA
Don Feurig (OSS Veteran), Seymour, WI
Paul A. Fisher (OSS Veteran), Claremont, FL
Philip S. Fraulino, Silver Spring, MD
W. David Galione, Jacksonville, FL
Alexandra Gianinno, Washington, DC
Nick T. Glakas (OSS Veteran), Springfield, VA
Aaron A. Hafkin (OSS Veteran), New York, NY
Gayle B. Heinemann, Carlsbad, CA
Robert O. Hess (OSS Veteran), Wheeling, WV
Jane Shannon Hess, Edna, MN
David L. Hite (OSS Veteran), Utica, OH
Dennis Lee Hopper, Venice, CA
Stephen Powell Hudson, Spotsylvania, VA
Patricia Williams Hudson, Spotsylvania, VA
Eve Regis Kramer, Arlington, VA
E. Ruth Kramer, Arlington, VA
Col. David R. Longacre (OSS Veteran) Sanford, NC

Remembering 109 – Recollections of OSSers

By John Waller

I was stationed in Teheran after the war with the CIA when I received a message that General William J. Donovan was en route to Thailand, where he had been appointed ambassador by President Eisenhower. The message stated that the general wanted to meet the chief of staff of the Teheran army, and I was assigned the job.

During my OSS days I had never met our famous boss, and I was delighted to finally make his acquaintance. I picked him up at the American Embassy and drove him to the headquarters of the army, where I introduced him to the chief of staff.

As we were chatting, an aide came up to the Iranian officer and whispered in his ear in Persian (which I understood). He said: "General, sir, you asked me to find out about a famous American who is in town. Our intelligence states that there is no such person as William Donovan."

The Iranian general and I smiled, and he asked the aide to repeat what he had said, meanwhile translating it for 109! General Donovan burst out laughing, then introduced himself to the embarrassed aide!

(During WWII, John Waller was with X2 in the Middle East and is now chairman of the OSS Society. He lives in McLean, Virginia. His wife, the former Barbara Hans, served in OSS in the CBI theater.)

Paul J. Mackey (OSS Veteran), Bradenton, FL
Marisa Marchitelli, New York, NY
Nick Melehes, Greenville, SC
Nicholas Midelis (OSS Veteran), Fort Pierce, FL
Hiram J. Mills (OSS Veteran), Conyers, GA
Karl H. Norris (OSS Veteran), Beltsville, MD
Benjamin Rivlin (OSS Veteran), Brooklyn, NY
Robert A. Rupp, Hyattsville, MD
Dr. Robert E. Schaff, Raleigh, NC
Violet Todorovich, New York, NY
Amb. William J. vanden Heuvel, New York, NY
David N. Yerkes (OSS Veteran), Washington, DC

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Book Notes

You're Stepping on My Cloak and Dagger by Roger Hall. This is the book that OSSers have been treasuring for 50 years, and it is now out in reprint paperback for our lineals to enjoy. Hall's droll storytelling style, combined with his appreciation of OSS commitments and training, make for an excellent story of one man's introduction to a totally new way of fighting a war.

With irreverence, he describes the day he 'donned his cloak': "My orders were concise, with hygienic overtones: 'Report to the OSS. Wash.'"

Each page gets better. At training school he successfully infiltrates a Philadelphia circuit breaker plant by posing as a parachuter wounded in Sicily and so impresses the owner that he is invited to speak at a company bond rally. Assigned to Special Operations, he excelled in parachuting, later in training agents, and eventually, assignment behind the lines in Norway with Bill Colby. The book is laced with wry humor, but still reflects the stories of brave and gallant men.

(However, in mentioning one famous OSS woman, Virginia Hall, who organized French resistance, he repeats the common error that she was parachuted into France with her wooden leg. Instead, a British torpedo boat put her ashore on the Cotentin Peninsula.)

By the way, he dedicated *Cloak and Dagger* "to whom it may concern." (Naval Institute Press: Blue Jacket Books)



POWs of Japanese Rescued: General J. M. Wainwright by Hal Leith. This book, partially in diary form, tells the story of the heroic rescue of General Jonathan Wainwright and other Allied prisoners from remote POW camps in Mukden by the Cardinal Mission in August, 1945. Author Hal Leith was eminently qualified. He spoke fluent French, German, Russian, and Chinese.

Lieth, together with Major Robert Lamarr, an OSS doctor, were the first Americans to meet Wainwright at the POW camp at Hsian. He had been captured in the Phillippines. As quoted from Wainwright's own story: "They were the first free Americans I had seen since May 6, 1942. Both were airborne troops, an arm of our services I had never seen. What is more they were connected with the Office of Strategic Services, equally mystifying." (Trafford Publishing)



The Freedom Line: The Brave Men and Women who Rescued Allied Airmen from the Nazis During WWII by Roger Eisner. The Freedom Line is a rescue story, an account of courageous acts by otherwise ordinary civilians risking their lives to save Allied airmen from the Gestapo.

Code-named Comet Line, this Belgian and Basque operation used shifting safe houses, and death-defying 600-mile hikes over the Pyrenees into Spain. More than 800 airmen, mostly Americans, were rescued. This book will especially interest OSSers stationed in the area who also took part in similar rescue operations. One of those rescued was OSS operator Virginia Hall, who painfully crossed the Pyrenees with her wooden leg. (Morrow)



Parachutes, Patriots, and Partisans: The Special Operations Executive and Yugoslavia 1941-1945 by Heather Williams is an account of political and military activities of the SOE, especially pertaining to relationships with British policy makers, the Foreign Office, and military high command.

It also deals with rivalries between the SOE counterpart, the OSS, including the early support of Draza Mihailovic, and the British switch-over to communist partisan leader Marshal Tito. Williams is a specialist in Balkan and Russian history. (University of Wisconsin Press)



In Disguise: Stories of Real Women Spies by Ryan Ann Hunter is an engrossing book about lady spies, written for children. The author notes that the spies in the book were chosen for their daring deeds — going back from the Anglo-Dutch wars in the 1600s to the Cold War and CIA.

OSS heroines Virginia Hall, Gertrude Legendre, Maria Gulovich, and Betty Pack (Cynthia) are all included. The spy stories will appeal to youngsters; they are full of excitement, spy lore, secret messages, and daring adventures. (Beyond Words Publishing)

Spy Plays of Charles Evered

Yale in the 1940s, a contemporary college chemistry class, and the court of King Charles II provide the settings for award-winning playwright and journalist Charles Evered's new spy trilogy. At the International Spy Museum on Monday, July 26, at 7 p.m., Evered will discuss the origins of his timely new play, *Clouds Hill*, in which two professors suspect a student of being a terrorist; how he created the heroine of *Celadine*, a woman spy and author during the Restoration; and how he transformed spy recruitment at elite college campuses into the Pulitzer-nominated *Wilderness of Mirrors*. Well-known actors will read scenes from all three plays. Discussion and book-signing will follow.

OSS Get-Together at Fort Myer



Admiral D.M. Showers

Members of Detachment 101 Association and the OSS Society met for luncheon at the Fort Myer Officers Club, Arlington, Virginia on April 23. Those attending were: John Waller, Charles Pinck and guest, Ambassador Hugh Montgomery, Joe Lazarsky, Bill McGhee, Walter

Mess, Ed Milligan, Jack Singlaub, John Turner, David Boak, Willis Georgia, James Smith, Art Reinhardt, Dan Weinstein, and guest of honor, Admiral D.M. Showers, USN Retired.

Complimenting a very enjoyable buffet lunch, Admiral Showers spoke of his experience as a young communications intelligence officer on Admiral Nimitz's CINCPAC staff in Honolulu during April and May of 1942. This was a very interesting brief in signal intelligence support to CINCPAC and its impact on planning and operations of naval forces at the battle of Midway Island in May 1942.

The next luncheon will be the Christmas get-together with family and friends of the Detachment 101 Association and the OSS Society on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2004 at Fort Myer.



Government Girls Documentary

The Historical Society of Washington has sponsored a documentary *Government Girls of World War II*, featuring spies, counterfeit ring breakers, and codebreakers "who changed the world." It was written by Leslie Sewell and narrated by Cokie Roberts. OSS is included. A preview was held in Washington on June 15.

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

Elizabeth McIntosh
42485 Cochran Mill Rd.
Leesburg, VA 20175

Next Newsletter Deadline - August 15, 2004

Behind Enemy Lines by Steve Sysko



Sgt. Steve Sysko

August 15, 1945

Heard the news today that the Japanese have unconditionally surrendered after the second atom bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. It will be a while before the Japs in Thailand will lay down their arms, so we are still training the men and staying on the alert.

August 16, 1945

We were supposed to get an air drop of guns, ammo, and supplies tonight. On the way to the drop zone we ran into some wild elephants. In order to escape from them, we ran down the hill. Elephants cannot go down hill very fast because they have to feel with their front feet. We escaped and returned to camp. We did not get the drop.

August 18, 1945

We have moved to Prae and have been here three weeks. Trained and outfitted three hundred men. Some Thai leaders came to our camp after supper and we had a little celebration. We were taught Thai dancing and we all sang songs. We sang the Star Spangled Banner as well as God Bless America. Thailand's national anthem is written/composed to the tune of God Bless America. This was a fun night.

August 19, 1945

I took the men out to the range today and showed them how a hand grenade spreads by tossing it into a clump of bamboo. One of the men got excited and accidentally pulled the trigger of his carbine and the bullet passed over my head. This is our fourth Sunday in Thailand and I read mass to myself from my prayer book.

(Final excerpts from the daily diary of Sgt. Sysko of Springfield, Vermont. More OSS diary accounts in the next newsletter.)

Poet Turned Spy

A poet turned spy in WWII, **Edward Weismiller**, told an audience at the Maryland State Library of his adventures as an X-2 operative in OSS. When war broke out, Weismiller was teaching English at Harvard and writing poetry when he was recruited. He believes he is the only living American poet to run X-2 ops in Europe, working out of Paris. He had also been one of the few Americans involved in the use of Ultra, the British top-secret decoding machine. Weismiller is now a professor emeritus at George Washington University, teaching poetry.

Italian-American OGS Attend Memorial Ceremony in Ameglia

by Al Materazzi

In 1990, the town of Ameglia in Northern Italy placed a plaque in the main town square commemorating members of the OSS Ginny Mission murdered by Germans. They also placed bronze markers at Punta Bianca where the team had been executed after capture, and at Ferrara where they are buried.

Recently, Caesar (Red) Daraio, First Sergeant with the Italian OGS, visited Ameglia, and noticed that the marker at Punta Bianca had been vandalized. He contacted Pierangelo Caiti, a journalist who had written extensively about Ginny and Donovan's Devils, as the American OGS are called. Caiti suggested that marble markers should be erected at the sites, which Donovan's Devils agreed to underwrite. He also proposed that there be a ceremony for the dedication of these monuments. I agreed and asked OSSers Dr. Luigi Sartori and Tiziano Palandri to assist Caiti in preparing a program.

The ceremony was held in the main square of the town on March 24, 2004, the 60th anniversary of the execution of the Ginny team. The weather on the day of the ceremony was beautiful. Many of my friends were there. Among them: OSSers Ennio Tassinari and Tiziano Palandri. Also there were Tom Marelli of Milan, partisan commander who served with our Spokane Mission, historian Manlio Calegari, and Gen. Michele Campannella from Genoa. Also attending was Nancy Schiesari, niece of a partisan courier now working on a documentary on the Italian OGS.

As a bugler played the Italian version of Pomp and Circumstance, several partisan units marched in with banners flying, followed by the mayor of Ameglia, Dr. Francesco Pisani. At the ceremony the mayor said the town never forgot the sacrifice of the American soldiers. He presented me with an engraved brass plaque with the words in Italian: "Comune of Ameglia, Province of La Spezia, to the OSS Society in eternal recognition for the help given to the Italian people during the Resistance, (1943-1945)."

Former member of Parliament, Giuseppe Fasoli, read the names on the plaque pointing to their Italian origins. Ex-partisan commander Paolino Ranieri told of the assistance Italy received from Allied missions, including the OSS Fifth Army Detachment.

I spoke next, thanking the mayor not only for the gift, but for having kept the memory of my comrades alive.



Ginny Mission Memorial: Paying tribute to the OSS/OG Mission murdered by Nazis in Punta Bianca during WWII were (l to r) Giuseppe Ricciardi, president of La Spezia province; Al Materazzi, OSS/OG; Dr. Francesco Pisani, Mayor of Ameglia.

I presented a certificate of appreciation from the OSS Society, a framed picture of some of the mission members and special OSS medals to Fasoli and General Bocchioni who, during the war, operated an escape route across the Gothic Line for POWs and downed airmen. Moving to the site of the 1990 plaque, the bugler played "Silenzio," the Italian version of Taps.

From there we moved to Punta Bianca where the execution had occurred. The marker high on the town wall was draped with an American flag; it stated, in Italian: "At this place on the 26th of March, 1944 were executed fifteen Italian-American soldiers of the Ginny Mission. The OSS Veterans remember them on the anniversary, March 26, 2004." Finally, at Ferrara on the 60th anniversary of the burial of the Ginny heroes, I placed a wreath from Donovan's Devils as Tiziano Palandri placed one for the Italian Pippo Brigade.

Al Materazzi served as Operations Officer, 2671st Special Reconnaissance Battalion, Company A. He spent 29 months in Italy. He now lives in Bethesda, Md.

OSS Society Officers

John H. Waller: Chairman
Charles T. Pinck: President
Willis S. Georgia III: Treasurer
Aloysia P. Hamalainen: Secretary



In Memoriam

Joseph L. Blahunka died Mar. 24, 2004 in Lockport, Ill. of cardiac arrest. During WWII he served in OSS with Commo. His ham friends with OSS Commvets remember his radio schedules, the call number was W9RCJ. He is survived by his wife, Ethel.

Blakely Goddard Burke, daughter of Lt. Quayle B. Smith, and longtime member of the OSS Society, died Mar. 8 in Bethesda, Md. Her father was radio operator for the OG Walla Walla Mission which parachuted into Liguria, Italy in August, 1944 to assist resistance forces and was forced out by intensive enemy action Dec. 26, 1944.

William L. Calfee, 86, who died May 13, 2004 at his Huntingdon Valley, Ohio home, was a lawyer who forged labor agreements that helped keep peace in the fractious construction industry and pioneered the creation of pension, health and welfare plans for construction workers. Calfee was in the Army Reserve when he married Eleanor Bliss on December 6, 1941. He checked in with the authorities after Pearl Harbor but was allowed to complete his honeymoon before reporting to duty. He served in counter-espionage with the OSS.

Madeline A. Drendel (nee Burke), 85, died April 29, 2004 in Naperville, Ill. She worked for OSS at Camp McDowell in Naperville during WWII. She is survived by her husband, Harold, whom she married in 1941, and four children.

Charles de Limur, 81, banker, winemaker, and member of an old California family, died in San Francisco Mar. 12. He was the great-grandson of Charles Crocker, one of the "Big Four" founders of modern California. During WWII he was recruited by OSS. Private funeral services were held at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco.

James R. Eubank, 87, died Mar. 7, 2004 in Oceanside, Cal. He was a champion swimmer, real estate developer, and pioneering WWII underwater demolition and reconnaissance expert with the OSS maritime unit, which set the stage for the modern Navy Seals and Army Special Forces.

Nathan L. Halpern, died April 3, 2004 in New York City. During WWII he served with OSS, participating in the D-Day planning in London. He went behind the lines in Belgium, and later, with advancing Russian troops. After the war he became a leader in

television development as head of Theater Network Television.

Albert W. Henning, 87, retired foreign service officer, died in Leesburg, Va. Feb. 23, 2004. During WWII he was in China with the OSS. After the war he served over 34 years for the State Dept. in Iraq, West Germany, Turkey, and China. He retired in 1989.

James Edward Herbert, 94, of Rancho Mirage, Cal. died February 25, 2004 at his home. He served in OSS during the war and was national sales manager at Motorola Corps for 20 years. He is survived by a brother, Clarence Herbert of Miami, Fla.

Jerry Latos, 82, retired founder of Latos Dental Laboratories, died May 1, 2004 in Olney, Md. He was born in Athens and moved to New York as a child. During WWII he was an Army staff sergeant with the OSS. He served in Greece and the Balkans where his language skills proved invaluable.

Melanie Pflaum, 94, died in Spain March 4, 2004. She lived in Spain with her husband, then a United Press correspondent, through the beginning of the Spanish Civil War. She later returned to Washington as head of the Iberian division, Board of Economic Warfare. Her husband joined OSS, and was based in London.

Adele Rossi, 85, of Medford Ore., died March 31, 2004 following a brief illness. Born in New York City, she moved to Italy at age 3 and during WWII she worked for the OSS in northern Italy helping to determine the location of German troops in Milan. She is survived by her husband, Oscar Rossi, and two children.

Anthony Scarino, 86, died in Chicago April 17, 2004 after a stroke. He was an attorney who served as an Illinois state representative, federal prosecutor, and appellate judge. During WWII he was an intelligence officer with OSS in northern Italy. "I was a young Italian-American looking for adventure," Mr. Scarino once said in an interview. "We were conducting what was known as dirty tricks: blowing up tunnels, convoys, barracks, all behind German and Italian fascist lines. As Italians we felt we really had to prove ourselves."

Joseph R. Schurman, 80, formerly general counsel for The National Endowment for the Humanities, died April 11, 2004 in Mitchelville, Md. During WWII he served as a cryptographer with the OSS in England



In Memoriam

and France. Survivors include his wife of 54 years, four children, and six grandchildren.

Robert Snyder, who won the Academy Award for the documentary "The Story of Michelangelo," died March 21, 2004 at his home in Pacific Palisades, Cal. He was 88. During WWII he served in the OSS, analyzing propaganda in enemy films.

Georgiana Gerlinger Stevens, who was with OSS during WWII, and later became a writer and expert on the Middle East, died May 1 in San Francisco at age 99. She was the widow of Harley Stevens, an OSS officer in Kunming, China. Mrs. Stevens did behavioral studies of the enemy, primarily German. In this work she also became a friend of anthropologist Margaret Meade who was doing similar work on Asian targets for OSS. After the war she became a columnist for the Atlanta Monthly and The Economist.

Julian C. Suso, 81, who served as Akron, Ohio planning director in the early years of urban renewal, died April 18, 2004. During WWII he served with the OSS in Portugal, where he was with the field photo unit. He is survived by his wife of 56 years and three children.

Paul M. Sweezy, a Harvard University economist and a leading Marxist intellectual during the Cold War, died in Larchmont, NY in February of 2004 of congestive heart failure. During WWII he spent four years with the OSS.

George B. Winer, an optometrist, died at home in Portland, Ore., March 28, 2004. He was 83. During WWII he served with the OSS. Survivors include a step-daughter and a son.



Free Thai Movement Gets Recognition for War Service

by Bob Bergin

Political circumstances in Thailand following World War II drew attention from contributions made by the Free Thai Movement during WWII. As time passed, the Free Thai were all but forgotten, until very recently.

In August 2003 a Free Thai museum was opened in Bangkok. The museum is situated in a reproduction of the house in which Free Thai leader Pridi Panomyong lived and worked during World War II. Codenamed "Ruth" (for General William Donovan's wife), Pridi was a government Minister and Regent while he clandestinely led the Free Thai Movement. As the war ended, the contributions of Pridi and the Free Thai led to Allied recognition of Thailand as a country under occupation rather than as a belligerent state. In recent years there has been a resurgence of Thai interest in Pridi and a recognition that the contributions made by Free Thai assured that Thailand was not treated as an enemy nation after World War II.

The Free Thai had several branches. Two were composed of Thai students abroad, trained in the USA by the OSS, and in England by SOE-5. The third branch grew independently inside Thailand without outside help. Free Thai officers trained outside were infiltrated back into Thailand by parachute drop, by submarine, and by walking in



New Free Thai Museum

from China. Thanks to Pridi, OSS teams were able to work with the Free Thai and operate inside Japanese-occupied Thailand. In Bangkok, OSS was housed within 100 meters of the Japanese Headquarters in Thailand.

Although the Free Thai Museum is looking for items that might be useful, current displays reflect assistance provided by OSS. Many Free Thai rose to prominence in Thai society as leaders in business and government, but later political circumstances required that Free Thai affiliation be forgotten. The new Free Thai Museum goes a long way toward acknowledging the contribution made by the Free Thai in World War II.

Col. Aaron Bank, U.S. Special Forces Founder, Dies

Retired Army Colonel Aaron Bank, who led a number of daring OSS missions during WWII, died at his home at Dana Point, California on April 1, 2004 at the age of 101. Remembered as founder of the U.S. Army Special Forces, he was buried with full military honors at Riverside National Cemetery, California. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Aaron Bank was born in New York City. Before entering the US Army in 1939, he traveled extensively in Europe, becoming fluent in French and German. In 1943, after completing Officer Candidate School, Bank volunteered for the OSS and was assigned to a Jedburgh team. Col. Bank and his team made a combat parachute jump into southern France in August 1944 where they used hit-and-run tactics to harass the Germans as they withdrew up the Rhone River.

Later, Col. Bank was chosen as the commanding officer for OSS Operation Cross, a high-risk plan to snatch Hitler and key members of his inner circle should they retreat to the “National Redoubt” in the Bavarian Alps. From French POW camps, Bank recruited a company-size unit of anti-Nazi Germans, most of whom were POWs and Communist sympathizers. They were to operate as an ersatz German mountain infantry company. All training was done in German and the men all wore German uniforms and carried German weapons. The mission was never launched. Bank got word that the operation was aborted while he and his unit were on the tarmac in Austria waiting to board the C-47s that were to drop them into the target area.

After the aborted Cross mission, Bank was transferred to Indochina to search for Japanese POW camps around the Vientiane-Laos area. His team located 143 French civilian internees at Naung Kai, 14 more at Tientiane, and eight at Thakhek, supplying all with medical supplies and special food items for the numerous children held in the camps.

Later it was Aaron Bank’s assignment as Chief of the Special Operations Branch, under the Office of the Chief of Psychological Warfare, that had a profound impact on Special Operations Force history. Bank was instructed to staff and obtain Army approval for the creation of an OSS-style Operational Group unit.

The broad mission of the new unit was to infiltrate, by land, sea, or air, deep into enemy-occupied territory and organize the resistance/guerilla potential to conduct Special Forces operations with an emphasis on guerilla training. Bank assumed command of a hand-picked staff



Col. Bank on his 100th birthday

of eight men at Fort Bragg, North Carolina on June 19, 1952. The 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) [SFG (A)] was activated the next day. “We had no precedent, no manuals,” Bank said in an interview in 1982. “We developed our own program — the Army left us alone. We didn’t just take the Airborne, but the cream of the Airborne — the hard-bitten troopers who were willing to take calculated risks and face challenges that conventional units need never be concerned with.” Many of the volunteers came from the OSS, Merrill’s Marauders, or the Airborne Ranger Companies.

Col Bank was named Honorary Colonel of the 1st Special Forces Regiment on December 1, 1986, and remained its Honorary Colonel until his death. During his last 20 years he wrote two books: *From the OSS to Green Berets*, a non-fictional account of his career, and a novel, *Knight’s Cross* with E.M. Nathanson, the author of *The Dirty Dozen*.

Over his illustrious military career, Col. Bank earned the following awards and decorations: The Soldier’s Medal, Bronze Star Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asia-Pacific Campaign Medal with bronze campaign star, Europe-Asia-Middle East Campaign Medal with bronze campaign star, World War Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, China War Memorial Badge and ribbon, Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge with combat star, and Special Forces Tab. He was also awarded the British Bronze Oak Leaf Emblem and the French Croix de Guerre.

Help Wanted – by OSSers and Others

D.P. Dumas is looking for anyone who served with **S.J. Crough**, a member of Team Betsy in France and Team Apricot in China. Dumas has a photo of Crough at a ceremony in Kunming where he was given the Bronze Star by Col. Richard Heppner, OSS/China head. If Crough is still alive or if anyone knows his family whereabouts, Dumas would like to forward this picture to them. Email: prisonerexpress98@yahoo.com.

My father, **Staff Sgt. Jules Andrew Heinemann**, was in the OSS during WWII. He died in 1957. Where could we look for more info on him? He trained at Ft. Devin, Maryland, and studied at Boston University (language brush-up) in late 1943. He was in Germany and France between March 1944 and September 1945. He masqueraded as a Nazi officer and toured an active concentration camp. He participated in one of the attempts on Hitler's life. He was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star, and left the service in Sept. 1945. Thank you in advance for any help. Gayle Heinemann. Email: gheinemann11@yahoo.com.

I am searching for information about my uncle, **John Losinski** from Duluth, Minnesota. He may have been assigned to Detachment 101. He said very little about his wartime experience, and died two years ago. However, he did mention that he was in the OSS in Burma during the war. Any assistance I can receive will be appreciated. Jim Losinski. Phone: 651-215-8825.

I'm looking for information about **Leland Lasell Rounds**, born in New York City in 1891. He joined the OSS after serving as a vice consul in Casablanca and Algiers in 1941. Pam Zimmerman. Email: ciantro@rcn.com.

My uncle, **Lewis Ruzich**, was a member of Detachment 101 in Burma during WWII. He passed away in 1954. I am wondering if any surviving members remember him. Judy Beziek, Lemont, IL. Email: judyb4440@aol.com.

The Bangkok Post is interested in trying to find out what really happened to our fellow OSS agent and silk king **Jim Thompson** on Easter morning in 1967. Anyone who has any information, innuendo, hint, idea, theory, background info, off the record or otherwise is asked to contact winwin@post.harvard.edu. Anonymity guaranteed.

I teach preparation for law enforcement assessment centers used for police promotions. The concept was refined by **Dr. Bray** in the 1950s, based largely on the book, *Assessment of Men*, published in 1948. It details the OSS experiences with assessment centers (ACs). 5,391 candidates participated in the centers and 1,187 were accepted by the OSS. I would very much like to hear from anyone who helped in the development or implementation of the ACs. My focus is to gain a perspective on how unique the concept was at the time

Two OSSers Recall Days Behind the Lines

Two OSS veterans of covert WWII operations against the Nazis in Greece met at a book signing at Chicago's Pritzker Military library in April. Author Patrick O'Donnell, who wrote *Operatives, Spies and Saboteurs: The Unknown Story of the Men and Women of World War II's OSS*, introduced the vets, **John Giannaris**, 83, and **Spiro Cappony**, 80, who shared their own recollections of their sneak attacks against the Nazis in the rugged mountains of Greece.

As part of the program Giannaris presented the Bronze Star to his colleague 60 years after a fateful mercy mission they had carried out in Greece against the Nazis. The two men reminisced about crawling for four hours at night toward German encampment with a mix of Greek guerillas and Greek-Americans. Their orders were to blow up bridges that carried German shipments of chrome

for airplane parts in 1944.

"We were young and really didn't know what we were getting ourselves into, but we knew we had a job to do," Cappony recalled. "Along with destroying bridges and other structures, our team fought German soldiers, escorted refugees to safety..."

Both men are now retired. Cappony had returned to Indiana to run his family restaurant; Giannaris went to private business and even spent ten years as a professional gambler. The article of their exploits appeared in the Chicago Tribune.

OSS Veteran Graduates at Ripe Old Age of 84

An OSS veteran, 84-year-old **Nicholas Midelis**, is rated by his alma mater, the Indian River Community College, Fort Pierce, Florida as possibly the oldest student the college has ever graduated.

Help Wanted – by OSSers and Others

and how it was to be part of that truly revolutionary OSS experience. Dr. Bray has probably done more to change the nature of law-enforcement command than anyone. Thanks for any input. Tina Lewis Rowe, Capt., Denver PD (ret); U.S. Marshal, Colorado (ret). Email: trowetraining@Comcast.net.

I would like to hear from anyone who served with me on the island of Cyprus from December 1943 to October 1944. **Nick D'Annunzio**, 1578 Palmer Dr., Springfield, Pa. Phone: 610-690-0387.

I am looking for anyone who knew my father, **Norman J. Thibodeau**. He served with the 110th Anti-aircraft Artillery between March 1943 and December 1945. He told us he worked with the French Resistance and was in Paris when the Allies arrived. He was of French descent and fluent in the language. He assisted in intelligence ops. Renee M. Wilson, 8550 Crooked Tree Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32256. Also: ossinfo@ws4r.com.

I am looking for the personal papers of **Brigadier General John McGruder**. In particular, I am seeking any papers that document his career prior to OSS. Al Lathrop, MS Division, Anderson Library, University of Minnesota, MN 55455; Phone: 612-624-7953. Fax: 612-626-7953.

I am a banknote engraving historian researching an article on the counterfeiting by American Bank Note Co. in 1942-43 of Chinese banknotes of the Central Reserve

Bank of China, and the Federal Reserve Bank of China, (Japanese “puppet” banks). I have information on American Bank Note engraving, but nothing on the OSS involvement or who printed the notes. Any leads would be appreciated. Mark D. Tomasko. Email: mntomasko@att.net.

I am looking for any OSS member who served with my father or knew of him. His name was **Lt. Vincent P. Ralph**, 82nd Airborne, 2871st Special Reconnaissance Battalion: Operational Group Helen. I am piecing together his service record to tell the story to my children, and his grandchildren. So far, I have the stories he told me, the stories he told my relatives when he returned from the war, and a wealth of artifacts including pictures, postcards, and more. I would be honored to speak with any service member who knew the “Irishman in the Italian atmosphere,” and could connect more dots for me. Elizabeth Ralph Doyle. Email: erdoyle1@yahoo.com.

I am working on historical research of the OSS during the Second World War and need biographical information on **1st Lt. Frederick B. Johnston** (chemist) who worked in the Research & Development Branch of OSS in Washington, DC. What was Lt. Johnston's middle name? What did the B. stand for? Kerry Thompson. Email: alpha@cyberiantiger.biz.

Retired from his restaurant business, with time on his hands and a head packed with memories Midelis decided to write about them. He also thought it would be a good idea to be a college-educated author. He was born in Brooklyn and grew up in New York City where his father, son of Greek immigrants, was in the restaurant business.

“I went to school with Jimmy Cagney,” he remembered. After Pearl Harbor, Midelis enlisted in the Marines but was rejected because of poor eyesight. When the Marines found out that he'd been building radios since a child, they turned him over to OSS where he served in England until the end of the war. He was on his way to the Far East when the A-bomb was dropped. During the next 45 years he helped his father run a restaurant, The Hilltop, which became an institution in South Florida for fine food and hospitality. It has taken Midelis almost ten years to earn his IRCC diploma. He is now working on his bachelor's degree. And then — his memoirs.

General Wingate Remembered

Veterans of OSS and the Detachment 101 Association joined other senior American political and military groups to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the death of **General Orde Charles Wingate**, the famous World War II British Chindit commander in Burma. The memorial was held on April 25 at Arlington Cemetery where Wingate is buried with members of his British and American aircrew that crashed in Burma in March, 1944. The affair was sponsored by the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, and was supported by Jewish labor organizations and veterans.

After the ceremony, a stone of remembrance was laid on the general's grave. Wingate remains a hero to the Jewish community as a seminal figure in modern unconventional warfare, as the leader of the Chindits in Burma, and as a fervent supporter of Israel's independence.

FDR and 109 on German Agent Problem

The following memoranda between General Donovan and President Roosevelt evoke similar problems now evolving in the Middle East.

Memorandum for President Roosevelt: "Our office in Sweden has raised for immediate decision a question which will arise with increasing frequency in connection with those of German nationality who work for us behind German lines. We are asked specifically what we are prepared to do on their behalf in regard to offering firm guarantees for protection and post-armistice privileges to Germans we recruit, and who work loyally for our organization. Among those privileges would be permission for entry into the United States after the war, the placing of their earnings on deposit in American banks, etc. We shall of course institute proper controls." Signed, *William J. Donovan*.

Memorandum for General Donovan: "I do not believe that we should offer any guarantees of protection in the post-hostilities period to Germans who are working for your organization. I think that the carrying out of any such guarantees would be difficult and probably misunderstood both in this country and abroad. We may expect the number of Germans are anxious to save their skins and property by coming over to the side of the United States at the last minute will rapidly increase. Among them may be some who should properly be tried for war crimes or at least arrested for participation in Nazi activities. Even with the necessary controls you mention I am not prepared to authorize the giving of guarantees." Signed, *Franklin D. Roosevelt*.

(This information comes via our stalwart colleague, John Taylor, National Archives.)

Letter from Special Operations Commander Gen. Bryan Brown

The OSS Society received the following letter from Gen. Bryan D. Brown, Commander, United States Special Operations Command, which was read by Major Gen. John Singlaub at our dinner:

On the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary reunion of the OSS and the dedication of the World War II Memorial, please extend my deepest appreciation and respect to this remarkable group of American patriots.

The OSS and Special Operations share a long, illustrious history. In World War II, men and women from all the Services joined OSS and served with distinction behind enemy lines. Today in the Global War on Terrorism, your courage, daring and indomitable spirit serve as a role model for our men and women on the frontlines of freedom.

Again, congratulations on the special day. We are proud of our lineage with you.

Kudos for Charles Pinck and Crew

Above all, I believe we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Charles Pinck and his silent partners who have by their Herculean efforts put together an imaginative series of activities for all OSSers on the occasion of these concurrent anniversaries. *(Excerpt from Amb. Hugh Montgomery's award acceptance speech.)*

Reunion Photos Available

Photographs from our reunion dinner are available online at www.dceventphoto.com. Special thanks to Ben Zweig of Zweig Photography for his outstanding photos.



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