

CHAPTER 32

Visit to France

I have been fortunate to visit France, three times, to renew friendships made over many years since the cessation of hostilities. After the war, Pierre and Julienne Demarchez and family moved to Boulogne sur Mer, France and opened one of the best bakeries of breads and desserts in the country, supplying their products to the French railway system and to Air France, as well as to the local population. This is a great upgrade of the small bakery in Chaumuzy, well deserved for their fine products over which they heartily labor.

On one of the visits, Pierre handed me a key chain that General Charles de Gaulle had minted and handed to him in person, in honor of his Resistance efforts. I refused to accept it and told him to give it to his son, Didier, who was born after WWII. Pierre said he considered me his oldest son and insisted that I must accept it. I did accept the key chain and still treasure this great honor to this day. Pierre also presented me with a copy of a parchment that depicts his Croix de Guerre, France's highest award, and honors from the American government to him and his wife, Julienne for aiding dozens of Allied airmen and fighting for the liberation of France. USA President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and General Dwight D. Eisenhower signed these awards. Several of his mementos, identification documents and their FF armbands of their days with the Free French are in my possession for safe keeping, and perhaps one day they can be turned over to Pierre's grandchildren.

Years later, I asked Pierre if that suspected priest had turned us in for a reward of \$10,000.00. His answer was, "The person who turned us in no longer exists." Need I say more? Mary made two of the three trips with me during which time we visited Paris, Reims and Boulogne sur Mer. While in Paris, we paid a visit to Boulevard Davout where my friends and helpers, Marie and Gendarme Marcellin Villemont and their upstairs neighbors lived. (Their names remained unknown because of fear of retribution by the Gestapo).

Many years have passed since the war days and my running with the Resistance, and many of my friends who endangered their lives to shelter

me from the Gestapo, are long gone now but nostalgia drew me back to cherish that time, those friends and that place. Ted Krol, my bombardier, had told me about his bailout and the kind people who helped him in his hiding-out from the Gestapo, and in tending to his wounds, so Mary and I paid a call to Ted's helpers, Bertranne and her husband, Jean Auvert, where we got together like old friends.

Bertranne was a college student of medicine during the war and was assisted by Andre Molhos in the nursing of Ted Krol's leg, injured on contact with the ground after bail out. Bertranne was descended from royalty, and had royalty been in vogue, she would have been in line to be Queen of France. She became a Doctor in Ophthalmology, and her husband, Jean, a Doctor of Internal Medicine. Andre Molhos, a medical student at that time, became a Doctor of Medicine. Drs. Jean and Bertranne, with their son Geoffrey, paid several visits to our home in Haverhill. Sadly, Bertranne, Andre Molhos, and Mr. And Mrs. Ted Krol have now passed on.




The 401st donated this stained glass window to a Weldon, England church. Note our B-17 etched in the middle.



John with: Jean Joly, Julianne Demarchez, Madaleine Felix, & Pierre Demarchez, Photo taken at a 1987 reunion, City Hall, Reims.

**ASSOCIATION DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE
DU DÉPARTEMENT DE LA MARNE**




Nom Demarchez

Prénoms Pierre

Né le 8 août 1911

Profession Boulangier

Adresse 15 rue Gambetta Reims



Le Président : _____ Date : 19 AVR 1948

Prisonnier de Guerre }
Militaire interné en Suisse } (Rayer la mention inutile).

Capturé le 21 juin 1940

N° M^{le} _____

Stalag } FA
Oflag }
Évadé } 6 octobre 1942
Libéré le } _____

P. Bourgeois, Reims

Pierre Demarchez was issued this certificate in 1948 showing he was captured on June 21, 1940 and escaped on October 6, 1942.



1987 photo at John's dedication Mayor of Reims, France escorted by helpers, Chauvin, Demarchez, Joly & a female interpreter.



Helpers at dedication: Mr. & Mrs. Joly in fur coat & son, Mr. & Mrs. Demarchez, Madame Felix, Dr. Molho.



Henri in sweater, Mrs. Chauvin, John hugging Pierre, Frank Mastronardi on right.



A few of my French Resistance helpers at *La Bonne Maison* Farm reunion.



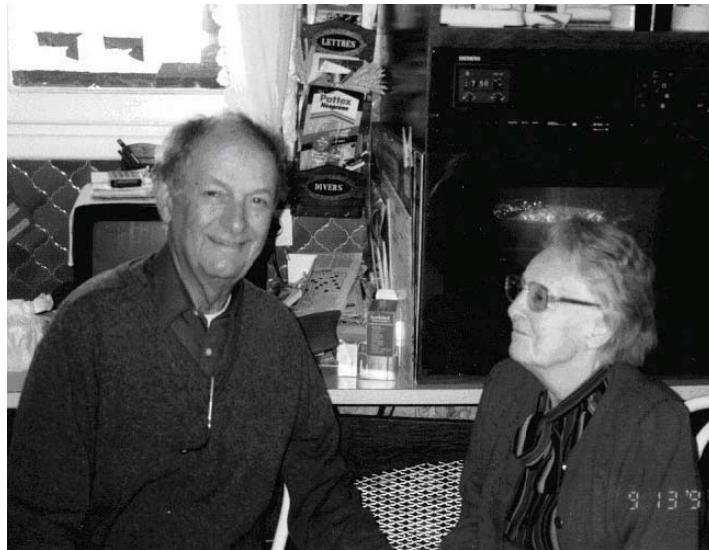
Julienne and Pierre Demarchez & I hugging, Henri in sweater.



John Katsaros with his helper, Madeliene Felix, taken at our B-17 *Man O' War* Crews, 1987 French Resistance Reunion at City Hall at Reims, France



My visit to Pierre, & Julienne Demarchez's home,
Boulogne ser Mer, France.



John & Julianne Demarchez



Jean Sirot



United States Reunion of John's French Resistance Helpers, the late, Julianne and Pierre Demarchez's son, daughter-in-law and grandson. Left to Right: Jonathan Cirome; the late Jacqueline Demarchez; John, Didier Demarchez; Atty. Alfred J. Cirome; Mary and Laurie Katsaros (John's wife and daughter); Frederic Demarchez and Cynthia Cirome.



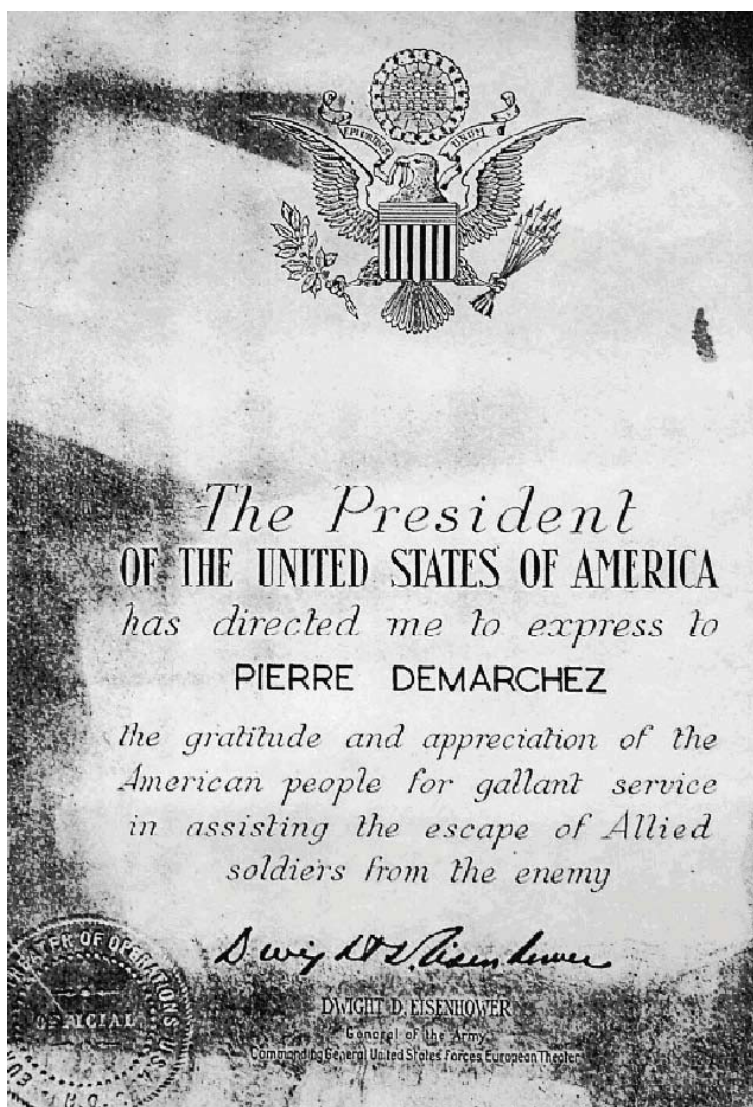
Didier Demarchez, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Pierre Demarchez, holds a German issued ration coupon required to purchase a loaf of bread. John hid out in the safe house above the bakery at Chaumuzy, France.



L to R: The late Jacqueline Demarchez, John, Didier Demarchez, son Fredric, and Mary Katsaros.



My reunion with Jean and Suzanne Joly and their son, Andre at their home in Reims, France.

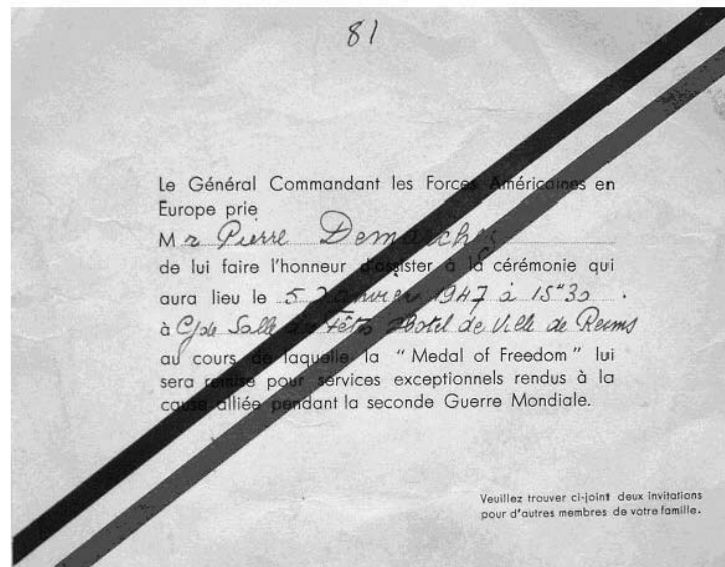




Awards presented to Mr. & Mrs. Pierre Demarchez from General Charles de Gaulle.



Armband Worn by Pierre Demarchez for French Resistance after D-Day.



Awards presented to Mr. & Mrs. Pierre Demarchez



I was honored by the leaders of the French Resistance with the medal of the French Resistance 18 Juin 1972, (*Les Medalles De La Resistance Francaise 18 Juin 1972*).



I was made a Honorary member of the “*11 Demi Brigade Parachutiste De Choc*” by Jean Joly, head of Reims Resistance & Pierre Demarchez.



John's wife, Mary, with arms around Pierre, Julianne and son, Didier, with his wife Jacqueline, son Frederic and interpreter.



Mary Katsaros standing with Jean Sirot and the homeowner beside *Man O' War* B-17 prop at Reims, France.

**CHAPTER 33 AFEES,
“Air Force Escape and Evasion Society”**

Those airmen who escaped and evaded capture by the enemy, upon return to base, were issued escape and evasion identification numbers by the 8th Air Force Intelligence. I belong to the 401st Bomb Group and the Air Force Escape and Evasion Society (AFEES). The Military Intelligence Service at Headquarters ETOUSA established a report file number for each escape and evasion returnee, my AFEES file number is EE755.

One AFEES reunion was held in Savannah, Georgia, the site of the 8th Air Force beginning. Wives were invited, and Mary and I visited the mighty 8th Air Force Museum. We were surprised to view a beautiful diorama of the 401st Bomb Group based at Deenethorpe, which had been selected for viewing of approximately forty WWII bomber bases in England.

A section of the museum is set aside, specifically, to honor AFEES members. Visitors to the museum learn that while some of our downed airmen escaped and evaded the enemy, others, not so fortunate, were shot on sight and/or interrogated before execution. On one such occasion, just two weeks after our boarding the train from Paris to Toulouse, two hundred Allied airmen, mostly American, were hunted down and shot in Paris. The Gestapo had infiltrated the French Resistance and used the valuable information, which proved fatal to cell activities and the Paris cell leaders including Jean Moulars, the Paris Chief of Police, who were apprehended, tortured and executed by the Gestapo during May of 1944. These are the brave people who helped me to escape and evade from enemy hands; they sacrificed their lives for mine.

Ted Krol, Bombardier of my crew revealed to me the existence of the Air Force Escape and Evasion Society (AFEES), and I quickly provided the documentation required to become a member.

I attended my first AFEES reunion at Pittsburgh, PA where I met Mr. Gil Millard, who had made a listing of all the society members on his computer. Gil introduced me to Leslie Atkinson of Banyuls -S/Mer, France, who had researched and located hundreds of names of aircrew members who were shot down over Europe, and the names and locations of those friends who helped our airmen to hide out and evade the enemy.

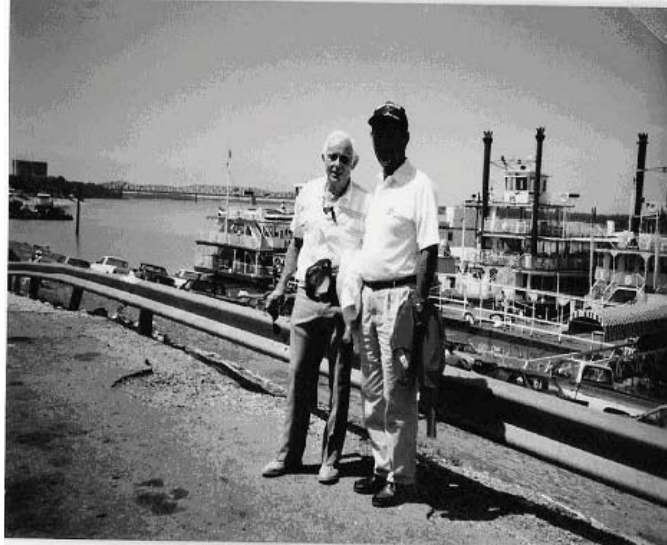
Mr. Louis Collard was among the Chiefs of the Underground that I met in Reims, France. Now deceased, he was President of Daro -Voyages in Canada and helped the U.S. airmen to organize the AFEES's on their visit to Canada in 1969, and hosted a wonderful reception in Epernay -Champagne, France. I regret not being a member at that time and missing out on that get together.



Virginia Krol, John & Mary Katsaros & Leslie Atkinson.



Leslie Atkinson & John at AFEES reunion Savannah, GA



Jack Stead & John at AFEES Reunion, Pittsburgh, Pa.

My meeting up with Leslie Atkinson produced the full names of all the Americans in my escape group.

EE 752	Charles J. McLain, Lt. Col. (Ret.) 359B Squadron 303 BG MIA 28 February 1944
EE 743	Royston T. Covington, Lt. 544 B Squadron 384 BG MIA 8 February 1944
EE 754	Jack Stead, S/Sgt. 709 B Squadron 447 BG MIA 22 April 1944
EE 755	John Katsaros, S/Sgt. 612 B Squadron 401st BG MIA 20 March 1944
EE 756	Merlin K. Burgess, Lt. 575 B Squadron 391 BG MIA 26 April 1944
EE 757	Bufor Thacker, Major 479 F Squadron 474 FG MIA 7 May 1944
EE 805	Raymond K. Holtz, Lt. 359 F Squadron 356 FG MIA 27 April 1944

Dear John and Henry

11th July 1959

I'm sorry that we couldn't talk more in Pittsburgh, it is the trouble with these meetings, too much good things in too short a time.

You were in the hands of 'Néau Breugnot' and the 'Genevieve' you mention is Mrs Genevieve CAMUS-SOULIER, 260 Boulevard VOLTAIRE, 75011. Paris. France, Mr Georges BROUSSINE, 40 Rue VANEAU, 75007. PARIS was her chief and the head of 'BOUGOCNE', both were guest of AFEES in the CHANTRELLY's meeting of 1935 and Mr Broussine attended the ORLANDO's meeting.

In Reims, among the chief of underground you met was Mr Louis COLLARD, deceased who was, in 1969, President of DARGO-Voyages in CANADA, he organized a part of the Affair visit in 1969 and a wonderful reception in EPERNAY - Champagne -

Mr Brown the owner of the safe house in the forest was Mr BERNICE CARRAN, the owner of the cafe in the village near Brangy was Mr BERNARD GOVIN?

For the gentlemen who helped you and Jack I shall write to the Genevieve Head-Quarters in Paris and will write to Mr Camus-Soulier to know if she remembers, and still knows some of your helpers.

The US women who carried the Priests with you and Jack stood was:

E/E 752 Lt-Col. CHARLES J. McCLAIN - Affee. Worcester 305-639007?
6265 ANCHORAGE, ROCKLEDGE, FL 32755, Tel 355-53300?

E/E - RAYSTON T. CONINGTON - 544 84, 384 86. MIA 8 Feb 1944

E/E - MERLIN K. BURGESS - 57584 39186. MIA 26 April 1944

E/E - BUFORD THACKER - 473 54 446 54. MIA 7 May 1944

E/E - RAYMOND K. HOLTZ - 354 54 356 54. MIA 27 April 1944

Mr Gil Millard can have received more details on them since May 1944

In your talk with Mr J. Stead and with Lt-Col C. McClaine, if you can get more detail for me it'll help my research.

PS and please, pointing out the people you specially want and give the address of the ones with whom you are already in touch. Thanks, 14

Warm regards to you and Henry

Leslie

Sadly, both Gil Millard & Leslie Atkinson, two wonderful gentlemen and AFEES members have passed away.

4-30-94

Dear John and Mary;

We certainly enjoyed our stay in Fort Worth and the opportunity to see both of you again. After what happened to us in the war we have a common bond that lasts forever. After all how many people could you share an experience like that with. Each passing year makes the old bonds more precious and even though we spend such few hours together it is well worth it.

As you can see, I am enclosing the badges and the map of the area the air bases were located, as I promised. I had to reject the first badges because they spelled your name Katsraus and had them do them over. I just picked them up an hour ago and I want to get them in the mail for you when you get home.

I hope all went well with your guests and you were able to keep Jean occupied and I know that was a real task. He is bright beyond belief and has the energy of an 18 year old. Jane hopes you got the bag holder in Florida in time to use and she also said to say hello.

Take care, have a good summer, and know that we think of you folks often.

Sincerely yours,

Jack & Jane Stead

Letter from Jack Stead

Dec 6, 06

I grant Mr. Katsaros permission to quote my father or use any material that pertains to my father's experiences during World War II and after.

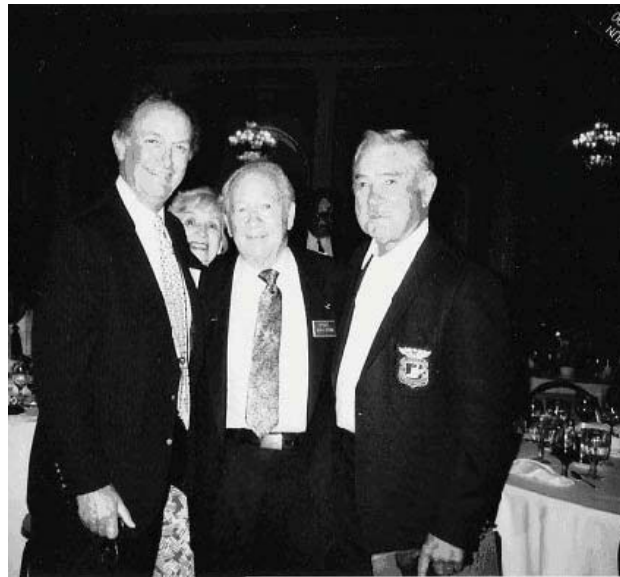
My father, Jack W. Stead is deceased and my mother is now in memory care in an assisted living facility. I, therefore, am acting as their representative. I know that both of my parents would whole heartedly approve of this venture.

Sincerely
Maggie Hunt
Maggie Hunt
(daughter)

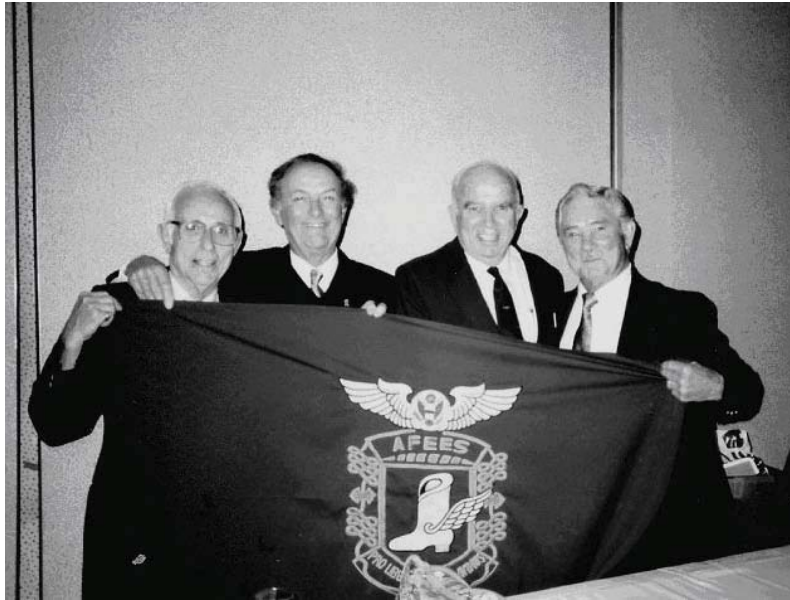
Release from Jack Stead's daughter.



Ted Krol, Bertranne Auvert, AFEES President Ralph Patton .



John, AFEES President Ralph Patton, M/M Ted Krol.



Jack Stead, John, Unknown & Ted Krol at AFEES Reunion.

Origin of AFEES Excerpt from “History of AFEES”

During WWII, thousands of pilots and aircrew members were reported Missing In Action; more than half of those MIA's from the 8th Air Force were finally reported killed in action. Those that survived became Prisoners Of War for the duration.

A small percentage of those who survived in enemy territory Evaded or Escaped capture to eventually return to their units.

When they returned they were debriefed and “Sworn to Keep Secret” the details of their experiences and identification of those who helped them Escape and/or Evade. No notification was ever sent to these men and women lifting their “Pledge To Secrecy”. Some individuals, for love of country, carried that pledge to their grave.

Many persons resisted the enemy by helping downed flyers. If caught, they stood to be executed or sent to prison where survival was most difficult. A number of American Airmen lost their lives attempting to escape from capture; but that was all in the line of duty, as they were under military orders to attempt Escape if downed behind enemy lines.

When an individual walks the fine line between life and death, with a Helper or a fellow flyer, a bond develops between them which is never severed in his mind. It is that bond which brought the AFEES Society into existence and perpetuates it today through those Escapers and Evaders and Helpers who still live, the spouse's offspring and new friends dedicated to keeping the spirit alive and well.

Prior to 1961, Leslie Atkinson, a Captain in the French Air Forces Reserve, inspired by the work of the British Royal Air Force, organized the Air Force Rescue Association in France in order to bring together Escaped American Aviators with their European Helpers. Many American names and addresses of Escapees by way of Operation Bonaparte was provided by Mathurin Branchous, a Resistance Leader, to Ralph Patton, who became the chairman of the AFEES Board. Patton, with two men, John T. Emery and Fred T. Schmitt, planned the first reunion in Buffalo, N.Y., 15-16 May 1964. The U.S. Air Force Escape And Evasion Society was born.

Leslie Atkinson plowed ahead with making contacts throughout Europe, into France, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Italy, and beyond. Thanks to Belgium's WWII Comete Escape and Evasion Line sent a delegation of 61 to the 1974 celebrations in Detroit, Washington D.C., and New York City. Gill Millar, a professional computer programmer, took the information available about individual Escapers, Evaders and Helpers, and entered it into a database to help the AFEES, until his death.

AFEES Membership Chairman Clayton C. David and his wife "Scotty" by 1986 had located 400 members. The current list of Helpers exceeds 600.

The 2006 roster shows 288 members from the 8th AF, 93 the 15th , 29 the 9th , 9 the 12th , 5 the 14th , one from each of the 5th , 10th , 13th AF, The British Royal Air Force (RAF) and the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCFA).

For a group of pilots and aircrew who have had trouble getting any official recognition from the U.S. Congress, AFEES continues to achieve much, just as the members did when they served their country during WWII by Escaping or Evading.

THE FAMILY

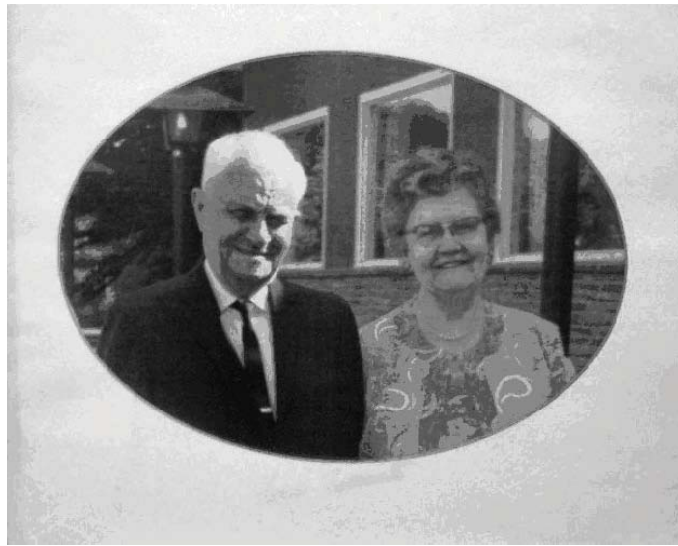
John Katsaros, 109 Crosby Street, Haverhill Massachusetts 01830
U.S.A. Telephone 978-374-7357.

Mother, Eleni Helen Christos Christopoulos, born in 1891, immigrated at age seventeen to the United States of America in 1908 with port of entry at Boston, Massachusetts. She settled in Peabody, Massachusetts with her family about twenty miles northeast of Boston. Dad had entered the U.S. at Boston in 1894 at age twelve traveling with Mrs. Schinopoulos and put down in Haverhill, Massachusetts about thirty miles due north of Boston. All these families were acquaintances in their hometown of Patras, Greece.

Dad, as a teenager, had a fire for business in his blood, and after three restless years in Haverhill, at age fifteen, he returned to his beloved Patras to open a grocery store. During these early years he became acquainted with Mr. Claus, a German expatriate, maker of wines who recognized Dad's acumen for business and invited him to come work at the winery. Dad saw his opportunity, and after eighteen months with the grocery, passed off the business to his brother, and went to work in the wine business where he soon became the head vineyard master of Greek fine wines, i.e., Demesticas and Mavrodaphne, and other brands of Archia Claus Winery. The name Archia Claus wines flourishes to this day. While working at the winery, Dad was stricken with malaria which caused a severe nose bleeding problem, and was advised by his Doctor Uncle to seek treatment in America where he would also find a better environment for recuperation. Mr. Claus was heartbroken to learn that Dad, the only son and family he had ever known, was to leave him and would pass up the promised inheritance of the winery. It was a tearful goodbye.

At age twenty-three, Dad immigrated back to Haverhill, Massachusetts where he sought the medical attention he so desperately needed. After two years of medical treatment, and restless again, Dad went to Providence, Rhode Island and ventured into the restaurant business. Whatever his dissatisfaction or yearnings, Dad, after two years returned to Haverhill to learn the flourishing shoe business. In 1912, at age 30, he started his own

shoe factory, until the “bust” of the world depression during the “20s” brought closure to many factories. Dad’s knowledge and exceptional skill earned him managerial positions with Greenstein and Brindis, two local large shoe manufacturers where Dad continued to work until his retirement in 1960 at age 78.



John’s mother & father, Eleni Helen & Spiros S. Katsaros.

Mother and Dad married on 18 December 1915, ages 24 and 33 respectively, at Peabody, Massachusetts, and established their home in Haverhill where Dad had to look after his shoe factory. Soon, their happiness was fulfilled with Dad operating the shoe manufacturing business and a home filling with children. Six children, two girls and four boys were born to Spiros and Eleni Helen Katsaros: Sotiris, “Sot”, the first was born in 1917; George in 1919; Ann in 1920; Madalene in 1921; John in 1923, named after his maternal Uncle John, an officer in the Greek Army, killed by a German sniper bullet one week before the ending of hostilities in World War I; and S. Charles “Chuck”, the youngest, entered the world in 1932.

Mother passed away at the age of 78. Dad lived a vigorous and enjoyable life until the ripe old age of 100.

Regretfully, Chuck and Madalene are the only family members to learn of my story at this late date; U.S. Military Intelligence did not release me from the Secrecy oath until 1986, years after most of the family had passed away.

Now, I have been requested to write and lecture this story for the benefit of those that had not known of its existence and for the records in our national archives. POW Groups at Boston and Lowell, MA. and friends Capt. Joe Lovoi, author, 'Listen My Children,' and Colonel Steve Chirigotis, editor, both of whom served with the U.S. Army Air Force during WWII, prompted me to write the book. The book, *Code Burgundy – The Long Escape* reflects the code name given to me by S.O.E. British Intelligence, who also established 'Burgundy', as the name of the escape line for downed allied airmen, and spies from the Toulouse French Resistance.



Front row: My wife, Mary, my sisters, Ann & Madalene. Second row: grandchildren Corey, Caroline, Cameron. Back row: daughters Lynne & Laurie, grandson Craig, son-in-law Christian, brother Chuck & John. Photo taken 2003.

Below are recently obtained secret German and American Intelligence reports by Michael and Joseph Belmonte, brothers of Reading, Massachusetts from the US Government, on "what happened to our *Man O' War* crew after bailout."

On 20 March 1944 at 1300	RANK	NAME	ASN	STATUS
PLACE: Between GOUV. ANDON & HENRIEL	2nd Lt.	MOCK, WILLIAM G.	ASN- 0-811778	dead
25 Km W of RHINE		buried on 31 March 44. COMMUNIT GOUNLONDON.		
TYPE: FORTRESS	2nd Lt.	DUNAWAY, JOHN ANDREW	ASN- 0-742084	.
Identifications: 238033	2nd Lt.	KANE, HENRY	ASN- 0-890106	.
612 H.B. Sqd.	2nd Lt.	KRUL, (at large)		
401 Group	Sgt.	CHOWLEY, JOHN W.	ASN- 34601000	dead
TARGET: AIR BASE RHINE		24 March 1944 WEST /, GERTY RHINE		
	1st Sgt.	RENS, H.H.	ASN- 37321127	dead
		21 March 1944 COMMUNIT GERTY RHINE		
	2nd Sgt.	WERT, HARRY G. Jr.	ASN- 33285777	dead
		20 March 1944 COMMUNIT GERTY RHINE		
	7th Sgt.	WATSONKARDI, FRANCIS JOSEPH	ASN- 34613320	.
	Sgt.	KATHAKOS (at large)		
	Sgt.	HUSCH, WALTER R.	ASN- 30128747	.
		HOSPITAL RHINE		

3 dead

On the 20th of March 1904 Enroute to the briefed target our formation was flown directly into a deep overcast over France. Flying directly at slow speeds it was difficult if not impossible to stay with the formation in the tail position. Falling out we continued alone to the target and bombed as briefed. In an attempt to rejoin the formation we flew the prescribed course keeping to the overcast for protection. Approximately 12 miles northeast of Rheims France at 1800hrs, we broke out of the overcast and were immediately attacked by lurking enemy aircraft. Our ship was disabled and set on fire, forcing the remaining live men to abandon it in midair. As a result of the encounter four men have been reported killed. One man's death was witnessed by me. The bombardier and one waist gunner managed to return to allied control without internment. Four men including myself were captured immediately and interned in Prisoner of War Camps.

Henry Kane
 HENRY KANE
 1st Lt. AC

FORM LEAF 51		ED 1274	
STATEMENT ON CAPTURE OR RECOVERY OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES			
REPORT IS MADE THROUGH:		DISTRIBUTION:	
OFFICE OR STATION: Air Base Headquarters A 35/11		Air District Headquarters, Belgium-North France to Transit Camp, Oostersel Air Base Headquarters Ber.	
LOCATION: Reims		OFFICE OR APPRAISAL VALUES:	
PILOTED			
REGARDING: EMERGENCY LANDING: 1 B-17-F		DATE AND TIME: 20 March 1944 1800	
CRASH			
AT: REIMS: between Courlandon and Beuil (23 Kilometer West of Reims)			
PERSONAL RECORD OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES			
SERIAL			
FAMILY NAME: LAST NAME		S a s s	
CHRISTIAN NAME:			
FIRST NAME: GIVEN NAME		M.H.	
RANK: unknown			
IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:		SERIAL	
SERVICE		37231127 T43 D	
NATIONALITY: U.S.			
STATEMENTS MADE AT TIME OF CAPTURE:		STATEMENT MADE AT RECOVERY OF DEAD:	
DATE OF CAPTURE:		DATE & TIME & PLACE OF RECOVERY: 20 March 44	
EXACT LOCATION OF CAPTURE:		CONDITION OF BODY: destruction of the body	
CAPTURE EFFECTED BY:			
THE PRISONER WORE (UNIFORM):		DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFICATION TAG:	
		HOW WERE PERSONAL RECORDS OF DEAD	
		ASCERTAINED: by Identification Tag	
		DATE AND TIME OF BURIAL: 21 March 1944	
		GRAVE LOCATION: Community Cemetery of Courlandon	
POSSIBLE IMPUTATION (PLACING) UNDER SERVICE OF THE G.F.P. OR S.O., FOR PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING ENEMY <u>Inventory of Personnel Property:</u>			
PATRONAGE OR FAVOR:			
DELIVERED TO HOSPITAL:		6 Passes (Note)	
DATE:		1 Dictionary	
DATE AND TIME OF TRANSPORTATION TO PRISONER CONCENTRATION POINT:		Deutschbein S/Sgt. and Commander of Receiving Unit.	
REMARKS:			
(ATTEMPTED ESCAPE. PECULIARITIES IN BEHAVIOR OF PRISONER, ETC.)			
INVENTORY OF SECURED, PERSONAL EFFECTS OF PRISONER OR DEAD:			
INVENTORY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND EQUIPMENT OF PRISONER OR DEAD:			

FORM 1047-1

EU 1474

STATEMENT ON CAPTURE OR RECOVERY OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

REPORT IS MADE THROUGH: Air Base Headquarters TRANSIT CAMP, OBERURPEL
 OFFICE OR STATION: A 93/XI Air Base Headquarters
 LOCATION: Reims Reims OFFICE OF APPROVAL-VALUATION

REMARKS: 1 R-17-J DATE AND TIME: 20 March 1944 1200
 REGARDING: EMERGENCY LANDINGS CRASH

AT: NEAR, between Courlandon and Erenil (25 kilometer west of Reims)

PERSONAL RECORDS OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

BURIAL
 FAMILY NAME: LAST NAME MOORE JR
CHRISTIAN NAME
 FIRST NAME: GIVEN NAME William S.

RANK: Officer

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: SERIAL 0-611776 2 43 A
SERVICE

NATIONALITY: USA

STATEMENTS MADE AT TIME OF CAPTURE: STATEMENT MADE AT RECOVERY OF DEAD:
 DATE OF CAPTURE: DATE & TIME & PLACE OF RECOVERY: 21 March 44
 EXACT LOCATION OF CAPTURE: CONDITION OF BODY: destruction of the body
 CAPTURE EFFECTED BY:

THE PRISONER WORE (UNIFORM): DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFICATION TAG:
HOW WERE PERSONAL RECORDS OF DEAD
ASSEMBLED: by identification tag

DATE AND TIME OF BURIAL: 21 March 1944
GRAVE LOCATION: Community Cemetery of
Courlandon

POSSIBLE IMPUTATION (PLACING) UNDER SERVICE OF THE Inventory of Personnel Property:
 G.P.P. OR S.O., FOR PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING ENEMY 2 engl. Pound Bills
 PATRAGE OR FAVOR: 1 engl. Coin
1 foto sketch
1 journal leaf
1 Dictionary

DELIVERED TO HOSPITAL:
 DATE:

DATE AND TIME OF TRANSPORTATION TO Deutschbein
 PRISONER CONCENTRATION POINT: S/Sgt. and Commander of
Receiving Unit.

REMARKS:

(ATTEMPTED ESCAPE, PECULIARITIES IN BEHAVIOR OF PRISONER, ETC.)

INVENTORY OF SECURED, PERSONAL EFFECTS OF PRISONER OR DEAD:

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND EQUIPMENT OF PRISONER OR DEAD:

6-3234-AP(3)

BY 1234

TELEGRAM FORM

DISTANCE - MESSAGE **-OBERURSEL-**

NAME OF DISTANCE-MESSAGE WRITER: WD-Oberursel
LPOU 17

ACCEPTED: RECEIVED: DATE: 3 April 1944 TIME: 1620 FROM: LMKO THROUGH: Koegler	DELIVERED: DATE: TIME: TO: THROUGH: ROLL:
--	--

REMARKS:

S LLVL JNST XR 101 21 March 1944 2205
 TO Transit Camp Air Oberursel.
 On 20 March 1944, 1300, crash of 1 Bessan N 177 at Sreuil (23 kilometer west of
 Beims) on returning flight by fighter. Letter marks on fuselage: M-U Utera, on
 side stabilizer - 238033. M yellow writing on horizontal rudder blue S.- Crashed
 and burned 100%. - 2 dead: Bess M.H. Serial Nr. 37231127 T 43. Mock William G.
 Serial Nr. 811775 T 43 A P. 5 prisoner: Sgt. Gortley John W. Serial Nr.
 34601869. McWhille died at Field Hospital Beims from lung and stomach gunshot
 wound; Sgt. Busch Walter R. Serial Nr. 391257 T 43. With eye and calf injuries at
 Field Hospital Beims; Sgt. Mastronardy J.G. Serial Nr. 34613370 T 43, Officer
 Kane, Henry. Serial Nr. -0-690106 T 43 A / Officer Dunaway, John A. Serial Nr.
 0-745054. Rest of the crew probably escaped. To date search without result.

Air Base Headquarters Ber. 11/Rom six Rom one Co P.A.

6-3224, AP(1)

-26-

FORM LEAF #1 CU 1274

STATEMENT ON CAPTURE OR RECOVERY OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

REPORT IS MADE THROUGH: Sgt. and substituted leader of operation Dist. 101: Headqu. Belgium-North France
Office or Station: E 231/II Transit Camp, Orléans
Air Base Headquarter Juvincourt Air Base Headquarter Ber.
Location: Juvincourt Office or Appraisal-Values:

REGARDING: DOWNED } 1 Boeing
 (EMERGENCY LANDINGS) } 17 F DATE AND TIME: 20 March 1944 1800
 CRASH }

AT: NEAR: Breuil 20 kilometer West of Reims

PERSONAL RECORD OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

SURNAME } H O R N E Jr
 FAMILY NAME: LAST NAME }
CHRISTIAN NAME } Harry C
 FIRST NAME: GIVEN NAME }

RANK: _____

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: SERIAL 38289777 T 42-5 0
SERVICE

NATIONALITY: USA

STATEMENTS MADE AT TIME OF CAPTURE: STATEMENT MADE AT RECOVERY OF DEAD:
DATE OF CAPTURE: DATE & TIME & PLACE OF RECOVERY: 27 March 44
EXACT LOCATION OF CAPTURE: CONDITION OF BODY: compound fracture of
CAPTURE EFFECTED BY: the skull

THE PRISONER WORE (UNIFORM): _____ DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFICATION TAG:
HOW WERE PERSONAL RECORDS OF DEAD
ASCERTAINED: by identification tag
DATE AND TIME OF BURIAL: 30 March 1944 1600
GRAVE LOCATION: Community Cemetery Breuil

POSSIBLE IMPUTATION (PLACING) UNDER SERVICE OF THE
 G.F.P. OR S.O., FOR PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING ENEMY
 PATRONAGE OR FAVOR: _____

DELIVERED TO HOSPITAL: _____
 DATE: _____

DATE AND TIME OF TRANSPORTATION TO
 PRISONER CONCENTRATION POINT: _____

REMARKS:
 (ATTEMPTED ESCAPE. PECULIARITIES IN BEHAVIOR OF PRISONER, ETC.)
 INVENTORY OF SECURED, PERSONAL EFFECTS OF PRISONER OR DEAD:
 INVENTORY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND EQUIPMENT OF PRISONER OR DEAD:

-27-

6-3224, AF(3)

ADDENDUM #1

What Happened to the Crew-Members of
“Man-O’-War” After Bailout 20 March 1944?

1. Lt. Jack Dunaway Pilot, with two engines lost and the wing on fire gave the signal to bailout, and put the B-17 on automatic pilot before bailing out himself. Dunaway was captured near Breuell, France, held as a POW until liberated by the American Army.
2. Lt. Henry Kane Co-Pilot, bailed out near Breuell, France, held as a POW and liberated by the American Army. He remained in the Air Force, attaining the rank of Lt. Colonel, flying the “Berlin Airlift” during the cold war of the June 1948 to September 1949, transporting food, clothing and medical supplies to the West Berliners, crashed and died in an aircraft accident.
3. Lt. William Mock Navigator, wounded, and assisted by Lt. Ted Krol to bail-out, died on ground impact as his chute “candled.”
4. Lt. Ted Krol, Bombardier, bailed out near Courville, France and fractured his left foot on landing. He dragged his disabled foot south to the town of Goussancourt where he knocked on a door, seeking assistance for his pain and injuries. Luckily he happened on a door of friends of the Resistance who treated his injuries and put his foot in a cast. Ted was turned over to the French underground that secreted him in Paris, right under the Gestapo noses. He moved out of Paris to work with the Marquis wreaking havoc on German resources. Contact with American patrols of the invasion forces provided Ted with transportation back to England where his story of the fate of “Man-O-War” and crew corroborated the story of S/Sgt. John Katsaros. This had to be an eye opener for Division Intelligence.

5. T/Sgt. Harry Horst, Top-Turret Gunner killed-in-action at his station by enemy fighter 20mm cannon fire.
6. T/Sgt. Marvin Benz, Tail-Gunner, killed-in-action at his post by enemy fighter 20 mm cannon fire.
7. T/Sgt. Frank Mastronardi Radio/Gunner held in solitary confinement in this Reims, France prison (pictured below). Mastronardi was wounded and the last one to bailout. German soldiers operating an 88MM, anti-aircraft gun emplacement saw Frank's parachute and they waited, open arms to capture him. He was given a hasty physical examination and taken to a German Prison in Reims, where a German medic treated him for his combat wounds. Three flak fragments were extracted from his right side, his wounds were bandaged and he was given needle injections. He was temporarily placed in solitary confinement before transfer to Frankfurt, Germany for interrogation where again he was placed in solitary. His final prison location was Stalag #1, Barth, Germany on the Baltic Sea. The Russian Army overran the prison in the spring of 1945, saving Frank the experience of a "forced" death march by the Germans. Along with 9,000 POWs, B-17 aircraft from the German built runway nearby, to the American camp "Lucky Strike", at Le Harve, France, transported him. Several days later, he endured a three-week ship ocean crossing to Newport News, Virginia.



8. S/Sgt. Walter Rusch, Ball-Turret Gunner was trapped in his turret by spent .50 cal machine-gun shells locked in the gear track. Frank with John set Walter free, John bailed out. Walter not quite free was again assisted by Frank to extricate himself only to snag his parachute, which blossomed in the planes waist section. Frank helped Walter to gather the chute and to bail out. Walter landed on a picket fence piercing his stomach. A young garcon carried Walter in a wheelbarrow some 50 yards to a nearby woodshed where he was quickly taken into custody and transported by the Gestapo on a motorcycle sidecar to a French hospital in Reims.

Walter viewed Jack Crowley, the left waist gunner, in surgery and was later told by a Russian (prisoner) medical aid that Jack did not survive the surgery. The Luftwaffe preferred that French doctors rather than their own treat the Allies in that bomber flyers may have been responsible for the deaths of their family members. Walter remained in the Reims, France hospital for 52 days then escorted to *Stalag Luft* prison at Frankfurt Germany, to be confined and interrogated for two days, after which he was sent to Buchenwald to be exterminated. Walter was deloused, head shaven and stripped to shower when it was discovered that he was an uncircumcised man and not a Jew, as previously identified by his name. Unfortunately, the German authorities notified the USAAF that Walter was Killed in Action and Walter's father received notification from the Chief of Staff, War Department. The USAAF paid his dad the proceeds of a \$10,000.00 insurance policy that all KIA families received, and a funeral was held for Walter at his hometown. There still exists a monument to Walter bearing his name in the local cemetery. Upon his return home from captivity, Walter probably was the only POW to grow up to six feet and gained so many pounds that he was not recognized by the local natives. After all he was a small boy of 17 years old at enlistment and returned a grown man. For many years thereafter, Walter had trouble proving his identity that included loss of his Social Security number. An article appeared in the Reader's Digest entitled, "A Man without a Country", explaining his dilemma. By the end of May he with other prisoners, was put into a boxcar for shipment to Stalag 17B near Krems, Austria. Walter made an attempt to escape, apprehended by a guard and received a rifle butt to the nose for his efforts. With the help of Joseph and Michael Belmonte, researchers of our ill fated bombing mission to Frankfurt, Germany, newly obtained German Intelligence report on 20 March 1944; was reported that Walter was captured near Unchair, France 23 Km west of Reims and being treated by German medical staff for wounds received in combat. Unfortunately, the next German report stated "he was dead, Killed In Action". Yet, a German document dated 20 July 1944 that was recently declassified and in my possession, is a copy sent by the International Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland to German Authorities, stating: We received a request to investigate the case of the American flier, Walter R. Rusch who was reported dead in your telegram 21 April 1944 and in your casualty report 10 June 1944. We received, however, a PW-Card from the above named dated 20 May 1944 that he was a Prisoner of War in *Stalag Luft*. Besides, we received word from France (by our delegate in Paris) on 23 May 1944, that Walter Rusch left the war-hospital in Reims. We beg you politely to check on this case and to inform us about the fate and remains of Sgt. Walter Rusch. On 7 October 1944, the German Lt. Col and Vice-Commander in charge sent a document to the International Red Cross. The above named American is stationed in Stalag V-II B at the Krems Compound of the Air Force. Rusch, Walter is in good health.



L. to R. - T/Sgt. Frank Mastronardi, Lt. Ted Krol, S/Sgt. Walter Rusch S/Sgt. John Katsaros at 401st Bomb Group Reunion, England.

According to Walter, his POW friend Ben Phelper, the author of the book *Kriege Memories* that was made into the academy award winning movie *Stalag 17* was given a signed copy, at the movie premier with the inscription; "Walt may you always be free and happy, Good Luck, Ben." Walter has one of only five books that were published. On 8 April 1945, 4,000 of the POW's at Stalag 17-B endured an 18 day forced march of 281 miles from Krems, Austria to Braunau, Austria to evade the coming Russians, to the west across Europe, in the ice and snow in bitter weather. Old German soldiers guarded the prisoners. They were liberated by the American Army, 13th Armored Division on 3 May 1945, and flown in C47's to camp "Lucky Strike" where they met General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Several days later, they boarded the ship *Marine Dragon* and left Le Harve, France for Boston. Many of the prisoners,

including Walter still carried shrapnel in their bodies. 900 prisoners too ill to make the march were left behind in the hospitals. The Russians liberated these POW'S on 9 May 1945. In 1955, two years after the release of his movie "Stalag 17", Ben Phelper died. According to T/Sgt Elmer "Bud" Lincoln, also a POW at Stalag 17-B, a radio operator with the 8th Air Force 453rd BG (H) 733rd Sqdn., two Stalag 17-B POW's have writing credits of the "play"; Stalag 17 (1953), Donald Bevan and Edmund Trzcenski.

9. S/Sgt. John Katsaros, Right Waist-Gunner - Wounded, captured and twice escaped from Gestapo. His story is written in these pages.

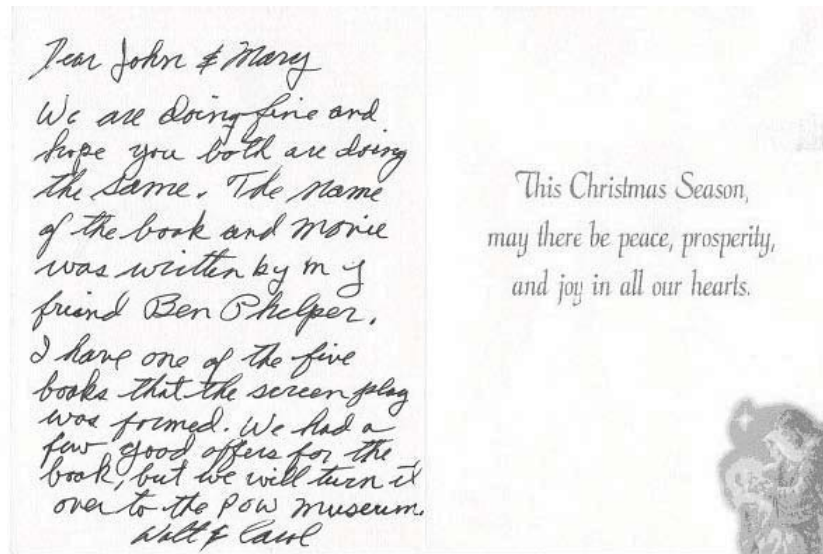
10. S/Sgt. John Crowley, Left Waist-Gunner -Serious shrapnel wound to neck, John wrapped scarf around wound and the bleeding stopped. The bleeding quickly coagulated because of freezing temperature; helped to bailout, captured by enemy and died in surgery in a French hospital at Reims, France.



John and Mary Katsaros pictured in front of the replaced picket fence. The lady in the middle still lives in the house. She was a child in 1944 and remembers Walter's landing.



Walter remained in the Reims, France hospital.



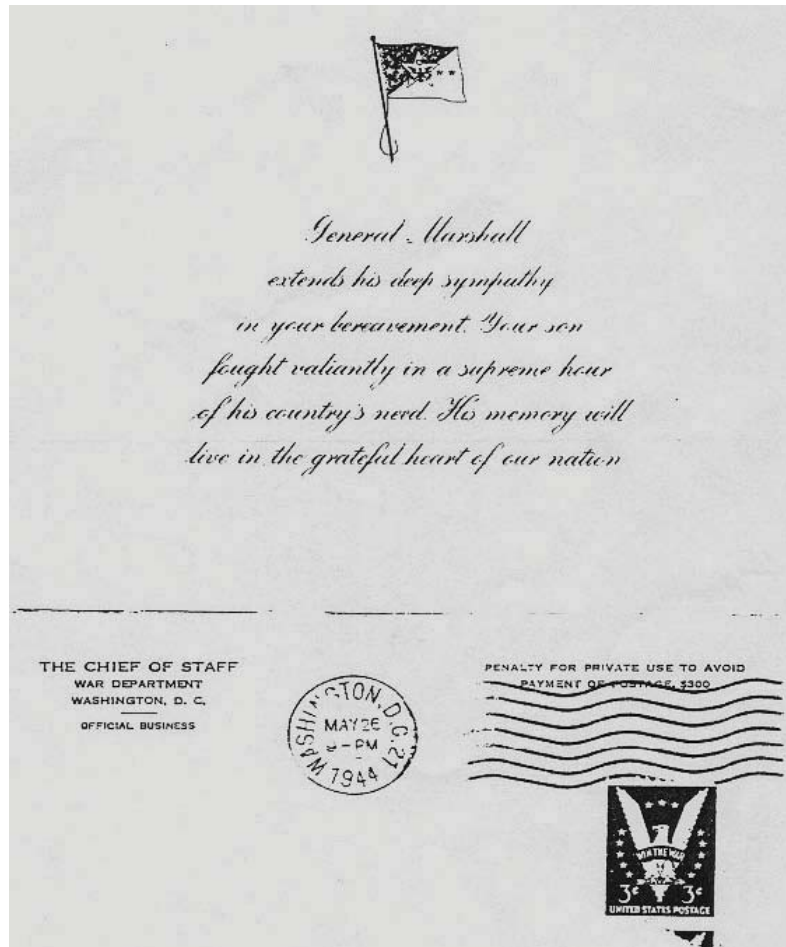
According to Walter, his POW friend Ben Phelper, the author the book *Kriege Memories* that was made into the academy award winning movie *Stalag 17* was given a signed copy, at the movie premier with the inscription; "Walt may you always be free and happy, Good Luck, Ben." Walter has one of only five books that were published.



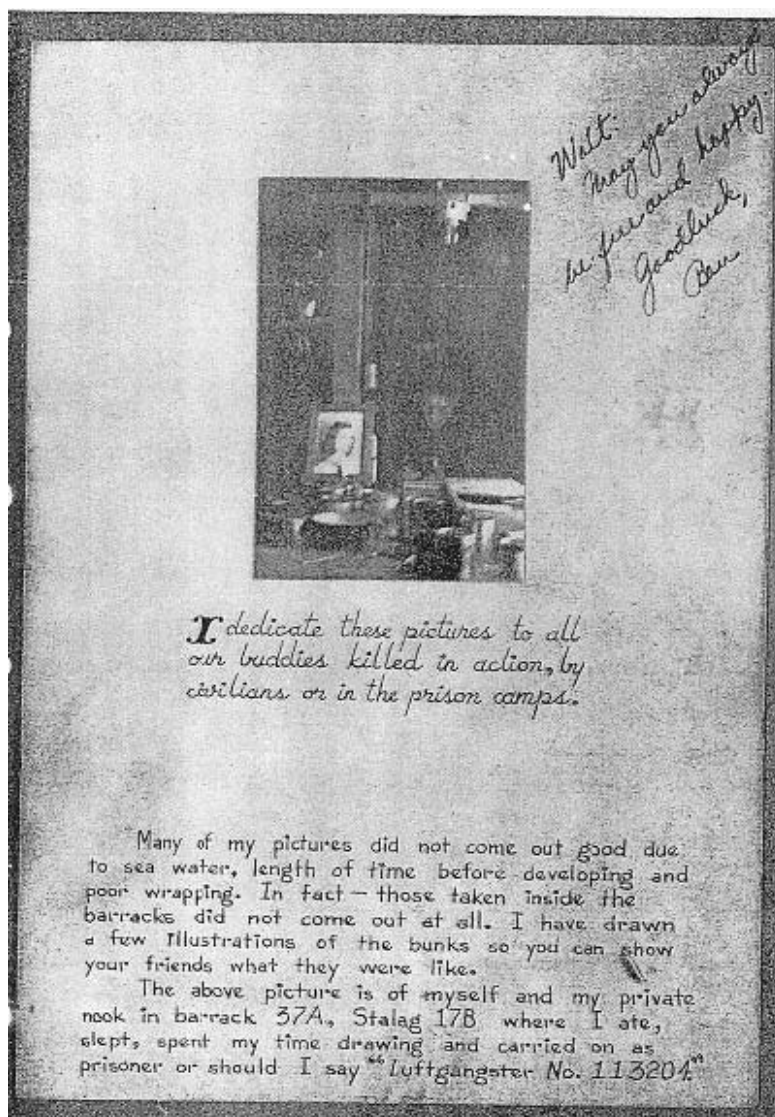
L/R. Virginia Krol, Mary Katsaros, Walter Rusch Major/Gen. "Hal" Bowman, John Katsaros, Bertranne Auvert, Ted Krol at Savannah, Ga. 401st reunion.



Joe Lovoi, Capt. USAAF (Ret) EX-POW Radar Navigator; Monti Basbas Capt. USAAF (Ret) Former Mayor of Newton, MA with John.



This is the copy of the original letter Walter's folks received from General Marshall, "extending his deep sympathy in their bereavement. Your son fought valiantly in a supreme hour of his county's need. His memory will live in the grateful heart of our nation". The letter was dated on May 26, 1944 while Walter was alive and a prisoner of war, in Germany.



Ben Phelper, author of *Stalag 17*, signed the cover of Walter Rusch's book.

ADDENDUM #2

Andre Molhos, a Greek by birth, was a student of medicine during WWII, as was Bertranne Auvert (Later married to Dr. Jean Auvert). Bertranne, of royal blood, was in line to be a future Queen of France, had royalty prospered. Ted Krol, with Bertranne bicycled to a “safe haven” in a forest controlled by the French Resistance, where Ted was liberated by American forces during the invasion of Europe.

Ted Krol hobbled fifteen kilometers on a broken foot, sustained on the hard parachute landing, before he was forced to seek help. By good fortune, heedless of the danger, he knocked on the friendly door of a Resistance member who gave him safe comfort, food, clothing and contacted two medical students, Bertranne and Andre, who gave the medical help needed. At this safe-house and later at a safe-house secreted in the forest, Ted was able to avoid detection by the Gestapo until his repatriation by American military forces.



Bertranne Auvert helped Ted Krol to evade - pictured with Ted's wife Virginia.

Accomplishments of the 401st Heavy Bomb Group:

The 401st Bomb Group opened the base at Deenethorpe, England and flew its first mission on 26 November 1943. In May 1945, the 401st left England to return to America. The war was over. The base was shut down and officially closed on 17 June 1945. The 401st Heavy Bomb Group, in its seventeen months of operation, flew 254 missions of destruction to the Axis powers.

1. Combat Missions Flown - 254
2. Two Presidential, Distinguished Unit Citations
3. Aircraft loss on operational missions: 94
4. Tons of bombs dropped (all Targets): 17,784
5. Enemy aircraft claimed (confirmed): 193
6. Total battle casualties (KIA, MIA, wounded): 1078
7. Individual awards and decorations: 11,884
8. Total airmen entering enemy air territory: 69,910
9. Rounds of ammunition fired: 916,920
10. Aircraft returning with battle damage: 1872
11. Accredited Sorties: 7,413
12. Best bombing accuracy record among B-17 groups in the 8th Air Force
13. Second lowest loss ratio among B-17 groups in the Eight Air Force
14. First group in the ETO to complete 100 combat missions in 7 months
15. Percentage of aircraft available for each mission: 95.6%

Lt.. Dunaway and Crew Citation

Lt. Jack Dunaway and crew, 612th Squadron, 401st Bomb Group (H), 94th Wing, 1st Air Division, 8th Air Force.

“For outstanding performance of duty in armed combat against the enemy. During the intense campaign against the Axis resources, the Group was ordered to attack and destroy the ME-109 Aircraft Factory at Frankfurt, Germany. A successful completion of this important mission would inhibit the enemy of its offensive and defensive capabilities affecting air superiority over Europe, and allow the Allies an air-free invasion of Europe. On 20 March 1944, thirty-five Bombers heavily loaded with maximum tonnage, arose out of England, in lousy weather, to accompany a formation totaling 500 B-17 Aircraft, set on a course to their destination. The huge formation, flying in heavily overcast skies, was having difficulty with the aircraft keeping in formation. Suddenly, within minutes of the I.P., a bomb-loaded aircraft, out of control, fell from the formation above, endangering Man O’ War. Pilot, Lt. Jack Dunaway, exhibiting outstanding professionalism to avert collision with the falling aircraft and other aircraft adjacent and below, put his plane in a precipitate dive and pull to the left. This maneuver put the plane in a rough turbulent downdraft and the plane dropped over a thousand feet before the pilot recovered control. The lost altitude was regained to return the ship to formation; it was nowhere to be found. Unaware of the Group recall, because of radio silence, due to bad weather conditions, the pilot decided to continue on to target, expecting to meet up with the Group. The Navigator set the course to target, where the cloud cover cleared; the Bombardier viewed the target through his Norden bomb sight, steadied the plane run and dropped the bombs for a direct hit on target. Unmindful of the heavy concentration of the anti-aircraft barrage, which inflicted severe damage to the aircraft, the courageous crew brought their aircraft through the flak for a highly successful bombing run, razing grave damage to the vital enemy aircraft factory. Turning off target, the plane was aggressively attacked by four to five enemy fighters. The gallant gunners fought off the brutal attack by the fighters who dogged the plane all the way back to Reims, France where the gunners ran out of ammunition and the fighters used them for

target practice. The gunners accounted for two probable and the battered aircraft had two engines knocked out with the wing on fire. The navigator and three gunners were killed in action and the crew sustaining multiple wounds, were forced to abandon Man O' War. By outstanding gallantry, airmanship and grim determination of the combat crew, the 612th Squadron, 401st Bomb Group has reflected great credit upon itself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Now, I give recognition to those individuals, groups of individuals and organizations without whose help I could not have survived the day-to-day living on my journey through France.

Level 1: Pierre Demarchez - Leader of the Resistance at Chaumuzy, France.

Julienne Demarchez – Co-Leader of the Resistance at Chaumuzy, France.

Who, when captured, survived the Gestapo's favorite means of torture, the pulling out the finger nails with a pair of pliers. A loud, noisy cement mixer was activated out front of Gestapo Headquarters to muffle the howls and screams of the torture. Julienne Demarchez is a brave woman and told them nothing. Captured at the bakery and was held prisoner at Ravensbrück for one and one half years until she was liberated by American troops at the end of WWII. Her health deteriorated in prison camp but she survived to tell her story. She never complained about the misfortunes of war or her personal tragedy, and stated that she would, if needed, for liberty, do the same thing again.

Jean and Suzanne Joly - Head of the Resistance at Reims, France.

René and Madeline Felix - Members of the Resistance at Reims, France.

Special recognition is given to Pierre, Jean and René who, in a bold plan, stormed the farm home *La Bonne Maison* where I was held prisoner, shot the German military guards, and spirited me away to the safety of the French Underground.

At an honors ceremony, after the war, accompanied by English Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, General Dwight David Eisenhower, and General Charles De Gaulle honored Pierre and Julienne Demarchez, leaders of the Resistance during the war with France's *Ceux De La Resistance* (1941-1945) and *Le Croix de Guerre*, France's highest "award for bravery in action on their heroic work for France and the Allies."

Prime Minister Churchill, paid tribute to the honorees with a Certificate of Commendation, from the English Parliament and the King of England, in gratitude and appreciation of the English people for gallant services in assisting the escape of Allied soldiers from the enemy

General Eisenhower praised the honorees with a written commendation from the President of the United States, expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the American people for gallant services in assisting the escape of Allied soldiers from the enemy.

Doctor Levy and his wife – A French nurse. The surgeon, a Jew, in hiding from the Gestapo, assisted by his wife, performed three surgeries on my arm to save it and my life.

Chief of Police, Reims, France - Engineered my second escape from the hands of the Gestapo, while in transit during station transfer by overcoming the guards without firing a shot. A very clever plan!

Level 2: Mr. And Mrs. Erhard Govin, (alias Gerhart) - Owner of Café de Bourgogne where I stayed a couple of days. My dog tag is still affixed to the mirror back of the bar. He sacrificed his life to free the French and France.

Gendarme Marcellin and Marie Villemont - Safe-housed two days with them in Paris and accompanied him wearing one of his gendarme uniforms; was often stopped by German soldiers asking for directions to the pissoire or a light for a cigarette.

Jewish Photographer - Recommended by Paris Chief of Police, Jean Moulars; she provided me a new photograph and ID. Her information about the Holocaust was passed on to Allied Intelligence on my return to England.

Mademoiselle Ferands Moulis (Madame Francoise) - gave me a night's shelter at Toulouse, France on my travels to the Pyrenees.

Jean Moulars - Paris Chief of Gendarmes and head of the Paris Resistance, who arranged for proper photograph identification and guide escort.

Geneviève Camus Soulié - 260 Boulevard Voltaire, 75011 Paris, France. Resistance Cell Leader. English-speaking guide who took me to the home of Gendarme Marcellin and Marie Villemont in Paris.

Basque guide - He quickly and skillfully guided my escape group of seventeen individuals from the foothills and over the Pyrenees Mountains from France to Spain, avoiding detection from enemy hunting parties and air search planes.

Henri - Farm worker who witnessed my parachute landing at *La Bonne Maison*, and secreted me in the farmhouse.

Jean and Yvonne Chauvin and daughter, owner of the farm, *La Bonne Maison*; scene of my first capture and shoot-out to rescue and escape.

Madame Ramoge - The teacher/English translator who muzzled my loud groaning at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Felix. Overnighted at her home where she gave me a warm water bath.

Mother of Julienne Demarchez -Captured by the Gestapo along with Julienne and me. After interrogation she was released.

Polo - The driver of the horse and buggy taxi, provided transportation to the medical clinic at Reims, France; to Ste. Jean Le Baptiste on Easter Sunday morning, 9 April 1944 to receive Communion; and to the “safe -house” of Rene and Madaleine Felix.

Robert Billion and female friend - Lifted me out of the gutter at the Reims clinic to take me to safe hiding at “The Circus”.

Mr. And Mrs. Bronis Korach and son - The owners of the farm where Jack Hoad and I were secreted from the Gestapo by hiding in a dry well.

Guides – All members of the French Resistance. The many dedicated men and women who placed their lives in peril to direct us through Reims, Epernay, Paris, Montauban, Toulouse and the little town of St. Girons at the Pyrenees Mountains foothills.

Gaby - Guide directed Jack Hoad and me to the Jewess' photographer studio in Paris, then escorted us to the Electric building.

Level 3: Jack Hoad - British Lancaster bombardier. We met at the Korach farm and journeyed together through France, over the Pyrenees, to Gibraltar and back to England.

The old Gendarme (Mr. Dumas) - Guarded me at "The Circus" where my identity was questioned.

Old Woman - She, daily, brought me a sparse meal and water while at "The Circus".

Le Butcher (Petitbon) - Provided my hosts, and me, with small portions of welcomed meat provisions.

"The Wrestler" - A body guard who accompanied me to church on Easter Sunday and later to dinner at the Felix house.

ME-110 Luftwaffe Colonel - Good stories and drinks at "Café de Bourgogne".

Owner of the Champagne factory at Reims - Toured the factory while the marshaling yards were under air raid by the 8th Air Force.

Georges Broussine - 40 Rue Vansau, 75007 Paris, France. Head of the Resistance Cell, Bourgogne, France. On March 25, 2007 Elizabeth McDade of Rochester, NY contacted me. She met Drue Tartiere 25 years ago living in Valencia, Spain a member of the French Underground and the Burgundy Network who aided flyers shot down during WWII. She is the author of the book "A House Near Paris", that mentions the name of two-dozen airmen she helped. Ms. McDade, in her research, learned that Georges Broussine authored a book named, *L'évade de la France Libre: Le réseau Bourgogne* that mentions a flyer with my last name, was assisted by the Burgundy network. At Elizabeth McDade's recommendation to read Mr. Broussine's book *L'évade de la France Libre*, he indeed mentions six USAAF Pyrenees climbers and me, that he helped, along with the Burgundy Network and Genèvieve Soulié Camus, Marcellin, Marie Villemont and Drue Tartiere, to escape and evade from the enemy in France over the Pyrenees mountains into Spain.

Martin Caidin - Great insight into the airman's life in combat and the great B-17 flying machine in his book *Flying Forts*.

Allan Noyes - USAAF friend. (Retired as a Brig. General, and Asst. Adj. General for Air, Vermont National Guard. Presently he is Executive Director of Vermont Association of Broadcasters. Allan's son is now the Deputy Adj. Gen. for Air, Vermont National Guard.

Jean Sirot - a French citizen from Reims, who independently researched the flight and ill-fated crash of our B-17 and recorded the parachute landing of Lts. Dunaway, Kane, Mock and Krol and Sergeants Crowley, Mastronardi, Rusch and Katsaros.

Joseph Lovoi, Capt. USAF (Ret.) - Author, *Listen My Children*, encouraged me to write my story for posterity; and for the children of today's and future generations to have some insight as to what happened in the European Theater of Operation during World War Two. Also what a group of American Army Air Force, Bomber Crew-Members, had to struggle and endure to keep our Freedom.

Atty. Alfred J. Cirome – Capt. U.S. Army Reserve (Ret.) Legal Advisor, Researcher/ Friend.

Henri Ronald Albert – French Language Interpreter.

Salah Hamani – French and German Language Translator

Frank Consentino - U.S. Navy Radar man SN (Ret.), Author

401st Bomb Group (H) 612th Squadron (H), 8th Air Force - For photos and research

Haverhill Gazette and Eagle Tribune, Newspapers –Bernard “Barney” Gallagher, William “Bill” Cantwell and Tom Vartabedian.

Book, *Bombers of WWII over Germany*



EX-POW Boston Group and their VA representatives.



Credit is given to those individuals who assisted in accumulation of data and materials in preparation of the manuscript.

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Kumar Persad and Tri-State Litho, Kingston, NY 12401, for exceptional service in the 1st and 2nd printing of my book, *Code Burgundy-The Long Escape*.

William “Bill” Bond, introduced me to Kumar Persad and Tri-State Litho and encouraged me to complete my book and go on a successful speaking tour, making presentations of *Code Burgundy-The Long Escape*.

Dr. Leonard Popowitz, Captain US Army (Ret) - Photography Edit, friend

Michael and Joseph Belmonte brothers, for their research and obtaining the declassified secret German and American intelligence documents from the US government on "What happened to the *Man O' War* crew after bailout", and for presenting me with an exact model they built of a two foot wing span B-17 *Man O' War* we were shot down in on 20 March 1944.

Atty. Jay Cleary, host of the Haverhill, MA. Cable TV (HCTV) who has an interest in WWII, interviewed me on several occasions regarding my book, *Code Burgundy-The Long Escape*, and produced the programs on CD's for viewing. Jay's father Atty. James Cleary, was a classmate of mine at Haverhill High School.

Bonnie Coltin, Chairperson of the Haverhill High School French Department, (Ret); Interpreter of names, places, assistance and my honoring of over 200 French Resistance Helpers, who provided the resources to nurse me back to health, saved my life and assisted in my long escapes; for her translation of *Code Burgundy-The Long Escape* from English to French, for the WWII Liberation Museum of France.

Colonel Richard 'Rick' Martell, Commander of 157 ARW Wing Pease Air National Guard Base Portsmouth, NH; KC135 Boom Operators, M/Sgt John E. Lennon; for arranging presentations with the Operations Group and Air Refueling Wing and assistance from M/Sgt Elaina M. D'Orto

American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), Haverhill, MA President James Tzitzon, VP Dimitri Miras, Treasurer, James Antonopoulos, Past President Dr. Byron Chupas, Governor Alex Geourantas, Lt. Governor John Tationos, International President, Nicholas Karacostas, International Vice President, Dr. John Grossomanides and Executive Director, Basil N. Mossaidis; for their encouragement and interest to leave a legacy of WWII stories that provided us with "Freedom".

Level 4: Those that who contributed to the presentations of *Code Burgundy - The Long Escape*.

Lt General Duncan J. McNabb Commander United States Transportation Command, Scott Field AFB, IL. An honored friend of (AFEES) Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society.

Brig. General Albin F. Irzyk, USA (Ret.) Author of *He Rode Up Front For General Patton*, WWII Fourth Armored Division.

Colonel Steve MacIssac USAF (Ret.) For his help and contributions to the (AFEES) Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society and the retired Air Force Pilot's, the Daedalian Group.

Major Peter J. Vergados, USAF (Ret.) Viet Nam combat Pilot, 2500 hours; B-52, F-100, C-97. L-19, F-84F; for book presentations and promotions with the help of his wife Angelica

Homer Helter, owner of "Antique and Military Mall", Naples, Florida - his dedication and support of all Veterans and arranging my presentation and book signings with the Naples, FL Museum, and his Military Mall.

Kenneth O. Killilea, WWII Marine, 4th Division Machine Gunner, Squad Leader , Five Pacific Island Invasions, wounded in Iwo Jima; for arranging my many book presentations, with the help of his wife Marilyn, my Haverhill High School , classmate.

Albert Grant, Producer of the Veterans Program, *Call to Serve* for The Library of Congress and (MCTV) Methuen, MA Community TV and staff.

Corinne La Charitie, Co-Producer of the Veterans Program, *Call to Serve* for The Library of Congress and (MCTV) Methuen, MA Community TV and staff.

Katheleen Corey Rhame, Interviewer of the Veterans Program, *Call to Serve* for The Library of Congress and (MCTV)Methuen, MA Community TV

Dave Hartnett, Assistant Coordinator, Headquarters Veterans Administration, Boston

Charles J. Walsh, EX-POW Coordinator, Veterans Administration, Boston, MA

Robert Daniels, EX-POW Coordinator, Veterans Administration, Lowell, MA

Michael Larson, Medical Director and staff, Veterans Administration Boston, MA
Healthcare System

Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), B-17 Flying Fortress and crew, Oshkosh,
WI and Lawrence, MA Municipal Airport

Collings Foundation (Robert Collings) Stow, MA. Restore and fly WWII Combat
Airplanes B-17 Flying Fortress, B-24 Liberator Bombers, P-51 Mustang Fighters and
many others.

Liberty Bell, B-17 Flying Fortress and crew

Robert Worden, owner of Pinnacle Therapy, Plaistow, NH; for help in book
promotion

Charles Coco and Betty Ann McCarthy; for their patience in providing me with
computer help

Robert Roche; for the countless of pertinent information and photos included in my
2nd edition of *Code Burgundy-The Long Escape*

Claudine Thibault Phillipe Barriere, Claude Phillipe Barriere, residence of Paris,
France and son Narayan Sengupta of the USA; my English/French connection with
WWII Resistance Helpers in the Paris, France region.

Thank you to my wife Mary, daughters Laurie and Lynne for your help and understanding amidst all the distractions while writing my story. I regret having kept you in the dark all these years of my “Long Escape.”

MY GRATITUDE TO THE FRENCH RESISTANCE

I will forever be grateful to the French Resistance for my first escape and evasion from the Gestapo. Once taken under the wings of Pierre Demarchez, Jean Joly and René Felix, their families and members of the “Underground” cell, I felt great confidence in their ability to provide safe harbor for me. My sense of security was shattered when the Gestapo, informed by unknown betrayers, hungry for a \$10,000.00 reward, stormed the bakery where I was hidden to take me prisoner again, along with Julianne Demarchez. The rule, a fugitive airman is to be secreted at a safe-house for a day or two, at the most; my prolong stay for several weeks at the bakery broke the rules, placing me and my host in severe danger of being exposed. That same day of my recapture I was scheduled for relocation; bad timing was injurious to the cause; the Resistance Cell was found out by the Gestapo and dissolved.

My faith in the French Resistance was not shaken, however, because I believe in their courage, their bravery and their daring; I looked up to them as my leaders.

The French Resistance was at war with the enemy; they fought in their way, disrupting troop movements, derailing train cars, blowing up bridges; everything to wreak havoc on the enemy. This same people created a net work of Resistance Cells throughout France to organize their activities with leadership and purpose – for France. They selected their targets with thoughtful planning and execution, rescuing downed airmen, to secret them throughout networks of safe-houses, to feed, clothe and nurse them and pass them on their way to eventually be returned to England through the Pyrenees Mountains, by boat and aircraft. The Chief of Police, head of the Resistance at Reims, planned and executed my second escape from the convoy. Not a shot was fired; the Gestapo was taken by surprise and was left dumbfounded as we sped away.

There were also Resistance cells in Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway and Italy.

I, John Katsaros, Staff Sergeant USAAF am proud to be an adopted citizen of France. My adopted family and friends de Resistance gave me hope without them there would be no life for me.

REIMS

Ceux de la résistance : disparition de Jean Joly



Jean Joly, résistant émérite.

«C'était un homme parfait. Il s'est toujours beaucoup dépensé pour les autres». Jean Joly vient de disparaître à l'âge de 89 ans. Il était président de l'association «Ceux de la résistance», fonction qu'il occupait depuis la mort du colonel Bouchez en 1982. Rémois de souche, M. Joly fonda son entreprise de pneumatiques en 1942. Il en fut le PDG jusqu'au jour de sa retraite, qu'il prit à l'âge de 75 ans.

Mais c'est surtout pour son action de résistant que Jean Joly se distingue. En 1943, il fut nommé chef d'Etat-major FFI pour l'arrondissement de Reims, où il mit en place l'ensemble des actions de la Résistance. Recherché par la Gestapo, il vécut dans la clandestinité avec sa famille. Devenu capitaine FFI, il fut incorporé à la Libération au 4ème Cuirassier jusqu'à la fin des hostilités.

Pour l'ensemble de ses actions, Jean Joly a reçu la médaille de la Résistance; la Croix de guerre 39/45; la croix de Combattant volontaire de la Résistance. Il était également chevalier de la Légion d'honneur.

A Suzanne Joly son épouse, et à ses enfants André et Jacqueline, l'uniforme présente ses condoléances les plus sincères.

Reims, April 16th

Dear Friends,

This short letter to let you know about M. Joly's death on April 11th.

A lot of thanks for the pictures you sent to me: I think that, at last, I'll write soon.

Best regards

J. Joly

Madame Jean JOLY, son épouse ;
Monsieur et Madame Daniel MARQUET,
Monsieur André JOLY,
ses enfants :
Eric et Laure, Florence et Laurent,
Christophe, Philippe,
ses petits-enfants :
Aymeric, Natacha, Océane,
ses arrière-petits-enfants :
Madame Marthe BILLARD, sa sœur
Et toute la famille
ont la douleur de vous faire part du décès de

Monsieur Jean JOLY

Président honoraire de «Ceux de la Résistance»
Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur
Médaille de la Résistance
Croix de guerre 1939-1945
Croix du combattant volontaire de la Résistance
survenu le lundi 11 avril 1994.
Selon la volonté du défunt, l'inhumation a eu lieu dans la plus stricte intimité.
REIMS. - 15, boulevard du Général-Leclerc.

THOSE OF THE RESISTANCE DEPARTED

JEAN JOLY

Jean Joly Honored Resistance.

This was a perfect gentleman who always gave a great deal for others.

Jean Joly died at the age of 89. He was President of the resistance organization.

A position he occupied since the death of Colonel Bouche in 1982.

Joly founded Pneumatics in 1942; he was a PDG to the day of retirement

At 75 years old. But it is above all for his action in the resistance that he is

Distinguished.

In 1943 he was named officer of the FFI for the surrounding area of Reims, France,

Where he created the framework of the resistance in Reims and sought out by the German Gestapo.

He lived a clandestine life with his family. He became Captain of the FFI and

Was incorporated with the liberation 4th Paratroopers right up to the end of the Hostilities. As a result of his actions:

He received the Medal Of Resistance, Croix De Guerre 1939/45; also the

Croix De Combatant for voluntary service for the Resistance during WWII.

He was also a Knight Of The Legion Of Honor.

Suzanne Joly, his wife and his children Andre and Jacqueline, the union presents its sincere condolences.

PLEASE NOTE: Jean Joly, Pierre DerMarchez and Rene Felix, were the three leaders of the Reims Resistance that rescued John Katsaros of Haverhill, Ma. From the Gestapo two times. They saved his life by arranging three operations on the critically combat Wounded Katsaros and arranged for his escape and evasion over the Pyrenees Mountains To Spain where he was once again held Prisoner Of War and released a few days after D-Day.

Jean Joly's Obituary and Awards

Jean Joly in 1943, was named as an officer of the FFI, Reims, France where he had created the framework of the resistance. He rose to Captain of the FFI, and he became a member of the liberation 4th Paratroopers to the end of hostilities. For his gallant services to France and his bravery in rescue of Allied Airmen, Jean Joly was awarded the *Medal de Resistance*, *Croix de Guerre 1939/45*, *The Croix de Combatant WWII* and The Knight of the Legion of Honor.

In my research, I was not able to determine the honors bestowed upon Suzanne Joly, René and Madaleine Felix, Marcellin and Marie Villemont, or others of the resistance.

Julienne Demarchez Memoirs

Julienne Dermarchez wrote the following memoirs while awaiting execution for harboring me at her home. Because of me and a collaborator who was paid \$10,000.00 for my 2nd capture, she was also taken prisoner and tortured. These words she wrote were translated from French to English and sent to me by her son Didier. Because of me she had to endure the thought of death, hunger, humiliation, etc., but she never held this against me or the other downed airmen she and her husband helped. In fact she told me when Mary and I paid our visits to their home a few years ago, that she would have again done the same in similar circumstances. Eventually, the Germans realized her worth as a baker of bread, deserts and office/clerical help, that helped her survive. She wrote this book in prison and if caught would have been executed.

“A new supervisor (a fat woman) who looked like a devil to all of us, arrived ...with anger showing me the supervisor.

Next day, the Komando 453 was all briefed at the Sprafkolone. We were replaced by Jewish women from Hungary who were evacuated from Auschwitz via Nuremberg who doubled production. Soon the factory was bombarded and the train of ammunition that was waiting for a month for its departure exploded - breaking all the windows and destroying most of the ceiling.

We arrived May 5th. We did not have time to enjoy the countryside. When in the month of June, we were informed that the following Sunday the arrival of a convoy of French women - we were overcome with anxiety because of the death of the flowers in the beautiful forest. We wanted badly to offer our friends the beauty and the comfort of the nature to offset the despair which was inevitable working for the German war.

Little by little we learned always to overcome abuse and humiliation that were inflicted on us.

We were always taking into consideration what was happening to our friends at the concentration camp - we were waiting for the allied victory and the end of Germany. We have to save our integrity and our morality,

and reiterate the fight for our cause and the little importance to our personality.

Despite the fatigue and the threat a few of us sang at night before going to bed. Others compose or learn poetry during their twelve hours of work. On Sunday we debate books that we read and countries we dream of.

The crazy behavior of the Nazis became so intolerable that we cannot have any dialogue between us or being to pay attention to anything. We became very incoherent -the little strength left is to fight against the cold, the exhaustion, and the hunger.

At that moment, the only conversation we have is about the distribution of bread and soup. We try to avoid the humiliation and degradation of the feeling of hunger that invades us at dinnertime. It is possible to overcome one's suffering by being altruistic.

At this moment where the struggle to live became very harsh - the selfishness with shame - yes at this time of suffering of everyone is incremented in comparison to others - we did not pretend to be better than others or being heroes.

We know very much more than those people who did not know the camps - that we are ordinary people. But we have learned something that will remain with us forever. During hard moments, it seems impossible for us to hold our tears and face our destiny."

YEAR 1944.

MATHAUSEN Report.	67000	MARKS a MONTH.
DACHAU Report.	80500	MARKS a MONTH.
TREBLINKA Report.	56000	MARKS a MONTH.
RAVENSBROCK Report	59000	MARKS a MONTH.
BERGEN BELSEN Repor	69600	MARKS a MONTH.
SACHSENHAUSEN Repor	56000	MARKS a MONTH.
AUSCHWITZ Repor	96000	MARKS a MONTH.

Goering RECEIVED ONE FOURTH OF THE PROFIT
 HIMMLER A LANDLORD WHO LEASED HIS
 LAND TO THE GOVERNMENT WAS
 THE PRINCIPAL EXPLOITER. AT ONE
 TIME HE REALIZED THAT IT WAS BETTER
 OVERWORKED THE PRISONERS THAN
 KILLING THEM.

Julienne Demarchez found records of Himmler's remunerations as land owner, in the year 1944 of seven German concentration camps. Goering received 25% of the profits.

**S/Sgt. John Katsaros 401st Heavy Bomb Group, 612th Heavy Bomb Sqdn.
94th Wing, 1st Air Division, 8th Air Force, Combat Missions. (Including two
flown as a replacement crew-member).**

1. 11 FEBRUARY 1944 – FRANKFURT, GERMANY
2. 20 FEBRUARY 1944 – LEIPZIG, GERMANY (PART OF BIG
WEEK 20-25 FEBRUARY, 1944)
3. 21 FEBRUARY 1944 – LIPPSTADT, GERMANY
4. 2 MARCH 1944 – FRANKFURT, GERMANY
5. 3 MARCH 1944 – WILHELMSHAVEN, GERMANY
6. 4 MARCH 1944 – COLOGNE, GERMANY
7. 6 MARCH 1944 – BERLIN, GERMANY. (GROUP'S
1ST MISSION TO BERLIN)
8. 9 MARCH 1944- BERLIN/ERKNER, GERMANY
9. 16 MARCH 1944 – AUGSBURG, GERMANY
10. 18 MARCH 1944 – LANDSBURG AM LECH, GERMANY
11. 20 MARCH 1944 – FRANKFURT, GERMANY (LAST AND
FATAL MISSION)

Café de Bourgogne: Connection

In the spring of 2006, Beth Evers of Charlotte, North Carolina and her Husband Jerry, a flight attendant for US Air, traveled to France to search out the exact location where her maternal uncle, Jack McCollum, a B-24 Liberator radio operator, assigned to the 93rd Bomb Group 8th Air Force, was shot down 1 April 1944 over Bourgogne, France. His crew was flying on a bombing mission over Ludwigshaven, Germany. He did not survive his injuries on their hunting expedition. They ran into Linette Deletang, the daughter of Erhard Govin of Café de Bourgogne, an 8 year old back in April 1944. She and her husband Lucien live in the area and provided Jerry Evers enough information about me, and my flying background to cause Jerry to call me from N.C. to learn if I had any association with Beth's uncle.

Strange how we all continue to relive those years over and over again in ways unimaginable.

Linette's father, the real Erhard Govin, was previously reported as having been executed by the Gestapo after being caught cutting telephone cables. She passed the information that her dad was shot escaping from the act of sabotage and went into hiding. He died of his wounds later, on 23 August 1944. The Mr. and Mrs. Evers were shown the plaque of names and their pictures dedicated of all the British Royal Air Force who were supported by Govin.

According to Jack McCollum, Linette told him that, John Katsaros was the only American that her father helped.

Linette Govin Deletang's letter

Bourgogne le 6 - 01 - 07

John, Mary,

Your card surprised me pleasantly. I thank you for your best wishes. I send good wishes to you and your wife for a very happy and healthy New Year.

Mam didn't speak to us about a Luftwaffe pilot to fly allied soldiers back to England. Can you tell me more?

You could cross France and over the Pyrenees mountains into Spain, it is an extraordinary story. Certainly, it was difficult and dangerous. I would like you told me your adventure.

I know my parents had harboured 48 parachuted allied soldiers during the war. I only was 8 years old. I remember Jack, an English pilot.

He came back and visited Mam with his wife, Betty, several times. He also received Mam twice or three times.

I also saw a Canadian, Vic. He went at Bourgogne with his wife and his daughter several times. Mam went to his home, in Canada, where she was received by government with Mr and Mrs BILLON, Dad's friends who, also, harboured parachuted allied soldiers.

I remember an American Soldier who called John. He was wounded. His arm was plastered. Dad cut the plaster with a pruning shears, it was very difficult! I was a little girl and for me, John was a tall young man. I believe his hair was frizzled.

I don't know Mr. and Mrs. EVERS. Had they given you my name and my address? Was he harboured by Dad?

When Dad was killed by German soldiers, Mom was pregnant. My little sister, Claudine, is born on December 1944. She died on 2000. My brothers, Claude and Janick, also died. Three all were married and each of them had 2 daughters. My 3^e brother, Dany, is married and has 2 sons. He lives near Toulouse. I am married with Lucien who was agriculturist at Bourgogne. I was a teacher at Bourgogne until 1988. Then I was the mayor for 12 years. Now, we are retired. We have 4 daughters and 1 son. It's a beautiful family. All the children are married and we have 11 grand-children. On 2007, there will be 2 big events: in April, we shall celebrate our gold-wedding and in June, we shall be great-grand-parents.

I wrote to Linette Govin Deletang, at her home and on 28 February 2007. Linette responded with an interesting letter and three photos, depicting her father's funeral procession, a copy of la Café de Bourgogne and the third one a picture taken of her mother, two year old brother Danny, Jack Hoad, Bronis Korach, a Canadian Victor McCreight and several friends and me. Also many relatives.

Below is a copy of Linette Govin Deletang's letter. Linette is a retired school teacher who has a wonderful command of the English language, and in her own words, I have typed her letter exactly as she has written it. Linette retired after serving 12 years as Mayor of Bourgogne, France.

Orbey le 28-02-2007

John,

What a joy when I received your long letter with pictures. Now, we stay in the Vosges, (mountains in the east of France) with two grandchildren, Coralie (she is nineteen on next month) and Thomas (he is 15). It snowed when we arrived so we can ski. But this year, it's not very good.

The story of your mission in Deutschland is very interesting and sharp, it was a difficult and extremely dangerous mission on account of the clouds, the excessive loading of the B-17 and also the great number of planes. A formation of 500 B-17's, certainly that was very impressive. The Allies had put the most for destroying this airplane factory in Germany. What place did you hold in your crew? It's incredible that you could survive all your wounds, escape the Gestapo several times, bear fatigue of a so long travel and climb the Pyrenees when you were so weak. You have shown proof of much determination, bearing and courage.

I remember Dr. Levy who was reputed in Reims. Sometimes, Mom spoke about Jean Joly or René Felix but never about Pierre Demarchez, I think she didn't know him. I phoned to the Mayor of Chaumuzy to take indications about Pierre Dermarchez and, perhaps, to meet him. But he doesn't live in Chaumuzy. After the war, he bought a baker's shop at Reims and another at Boulogne.

You speak about Bronis Korach. I knew him very well because he was Dad's friend. After the war, he lived at Bourgogne until he dies on, (the date is at home). He 'lended' to me the photo that Lucien, my husband, made for you.

After the war Mr. and Mrs. Korach had a son, they called him Erhard in remembrance of my father. On the photo, I know, from left to right, Vic (Canadian), Mrs. Job, (a neighbor), my mother, a client, and behind him my brother Danny (3 years old), you John and Simone (my parent's servant), Jack Hoad, and Bronis Korach. When you were hidden in the forest, near Bronis's house, it was in a buried Blockhouse, which was built during the First World War.

The Canadian was called Victor McCreight, we said Vic. He often came to visit Mom and her friends, also members of the French Resistance, (Mr. and Mrs. Robert Billion). Do you meet them? When they went to Canada, Vic had sent a message on TV for trying to meet again other persons who were harbored by my parents or Mr. Billion. Vic had explained that, during the war, for security, the harbored allies only knew and called their surname and Vic remembered Sam, William, Bond, Albert, and John.

Jack Hoad wrote to Mom until she died, on 1980. My sister, Claudine, who lived with Mom, wrote to him once or twice then she stopped. Jack and his wife, Betty, lived at Solihull. There is their address.

*Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hoad
The White Cottage
Ullenhall Solihull
Warwicks (England)*

I don't know if they are always alive. The story with the German Colonel didn't surprise me very much because Mom told that Dad looked to play tricks, to enjoy one's self with his friends, to make the feast. She liked to tell that, once, Dad had opened a champagne bottle at the bar, so called for his birthday, but it was an Allied parachutist and a German officer drink together. Then he laughed when he told it to his friends. In the village, people didn't understand why Dad offered champagne to German officer? (He's my father-in-law who told me). To travel in train dressed as a Gendarme in order to be unseen, it's extraordinary. It's true, the German soldiers couldn't imagine your nationality, and the risk was really enormous for you and your accompanist.

The postal card shows the café-bar where you had been harbored but the front has changed. In 1944, there are little glasses and iron shutters as you can see in the enclosed pictures.

When Dad was denounced to the Gestapo, we had time enough for leaving off Bourgogne and we have been received by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Camelin that Dad knew. (After Dad's death, they always were very sure and very faithful friends for our family and my brother, Claude, married her daughter).

When we were harbored at Reims Mom wished that Dad stops his activities in the resistance during some time but Dad wished to displace very quickly the Allies harbored by his cell, for security. Then he continued. By night, he has cut phone wires to stop communications 'Commandantur', but he has been called upon by a German patrol. Dad chose to escape but a soldier shot with grapeshot and Dad has been wounded. In spite of his wounds (36 perforations in the intestines), he went to a friend's house who conducted him at the clinic with a false name because the Gestapo always sought him. Dad has been operated but the dog-days heat caused an infection and Dad died on August 23, 1944, (he was 33). The American Army liberated Reims on August 30, just a week between these 2 dates.

When the Gestapo arrived at the bar, in Bourgogne, they met my maternal grandmother. She lived in Bourgogne but in another house. She had refused to set off with us. The Gestapo has taken her away to the 'Commandantur' to question her. She has answered that she didn't know where Dad stayed "because she was displeased with him". The German soldiers had beaten her but she always answered the same one. They had taken all the money in the cash-drawer of the bar and the grocery. Before my grandmother, they put this money in an envelope and wrote on it [Mr. Erhard Govin]. The officer said to my grandmother: "We only wish and question your son-in-law. When he will have answered to us, we shall give back this money to him". My grandmother asked to the officer, "A little money for paying a ticket and going back to Bourgogne by train?" The officer answered, "Seek very well, madam, certainly you will find an American taxicab which will go back with you to your home".

Until the liberation, we did not walk out very much in the streets of Reims because the Gestapo had taken my brother and mine's pictures which were set on the furniture, in the kitchen.

Dad was buried a first time in Reims, with a false name, then a second time at Bourgogne, after the liberation. On that day, they were very much people: the Prefect, soldiers, Resistance, policemen, all the inhabitants of Bourgogne and children. Six soldiers bore his coffin. All the persons have done homage to him. In Bourgogne, a street bears his name.

We are proud about him. John, you give thanks to France and to Resistance because they help you. But it's to me and to all the French people to say thank you. You went and had delivered us against the German occupation. We didn't know how to defend us and the French government had capitulated. Thank you, John, for your participation to our fight.

I regret very much that Mr. Joly and Mr. Felix didn't accompanied you to Bourgogne; I had liked to see you again. When did you come in France? Friendships to Mary and to you. Linette



Linette, Claude and Danny, pictured with their father, Gerhard Govin - April 1944

John,

I send you a few pictures, they are copies, my husband made them for you.

N°1 Dad on his moto (about 1940)

N°2 Dad with my brothers (Claude and Dany) and me in 1942. Perhaps you recognize our house (the bar and the grocery).

N°3 A photo made in the cemetery, near the Dad's tomb, in 1945: Mam with her 5 children. Do you remember that my youngest brother, Janick, sucked his thumb? He is before Claude, on the right.

Mam is very sad and emaciated. She was depressed and stood during many hours in the cemetery and she was crying.

Happily, our motherly grand-mother lived with us to help Mam and to be occupied with the business. In 1946, the doctor said Mam should go away during 2 or 3 weeks.

She should go away from the cemetery and come back to life. So my grand-mother let a house on the sea-side and we were going in Cayeux-sur-Mer with Mam and a girl who helped her. It was the first time I saw the sea and I was astonished. I always like the sea, above all the Breton coast. Linette



Gerhard Govin, my Cafe de Bourgogne helper. Mr. Govin was shot and killed by the Germans a few weeks after I left his safe-house.



1945 photo of Mrs. Govin, the sad wife of Gerhard, visiting his grave
at the local cemetery and five children



Linette (daughter of Gerhard Govin) and her husband, Lucien Deletang



Victor McCreigh a Canadian MIA, Govin Family, John. Jack Hoad and Bronis Korach at the Café Bourgogne safe-house, April 1944.



Gerhard Govin's funeral passing by his home and Café Bourgogne.

March 13, 2007

Linnette,

It certainly was a pleasure to receive your letter and pictures. Also, to bring me up to date on the many questions I have had over these many years. I take it that the picture of the procession was taken at your father's second funeral. Also, I was very pleased to receive the picture with your mother, brother, Jack Hoad, Bronos, myself, etc. I will try to include them in my book. Were the pictures taken in front of your parents' home? I would like to include pictures your mother and father and you, if you have copies could you mail copies to me? Please excuse my typing, as I am learning to write this letter as well as my book on a computer.

It is interesting to learn that your family skis. I recently stopped skiing after 75 years, and my two daughters Lynne 45 years old Laurie 43 years old, granddaughter Caroline 16, grandson's Craig 15, Cameron 13, Corey 11, along with my wife Mary all skied.

Thanks for Jack Hoad's address. Unfortunately, it was not given to me in 1944, apparently for security reasons. Jack wrote me years ago but did not include his address. I will write him at that address and hope he still lives there.

You asked what my position was on our airplane; I was a right waist gunner, assistant engineer, Photographer.

I shall forever feel grateful to all the members of the French Resistance in the Reims, Bourgogne, Chaumazy, Bonne Maison Erpany, Paris, Toulouse, etc. areas. It took such dedicated people to save the lives of the allied airmen and to help liberate France. Without their sacrifice I would not be alive today. It was interesting to note that you knew Dr. and Mrs. Levy, M/M Bronos Korach, M/M Jean Joly (she still lives in Reims), M/M Rene Felix (she lives in Bordeaux). Were M/M Robert Billon the two Resistance members who picked me out of the gutter after I was forced to leave the Reims Clinic, because a collaborator ~~was~~ had been placed in the clinic, by the Nazis? A young girl and man by the name of Robert brought me to the safe house, referred to by the name "The Circus", (I believe it was a WWII Calvary Training Center).

I do not recall Victor McCreight, Sam, William, Bob or Albert. I probably was the John you mention.

M/M Pierre Dermarchez, both are deceased. Their son Didier and grandson Frederic continue to operate the bakery in Boulange Ser Mer.

Your father introduced me to a German officer, the Colonel, and we drank Champagne in the bar. Your father-in-law was correct.

I visited Reims three times. Once around 15 years ago, with my three living crew members, Ted Krol, bombardier, who evaded with the Resistance in Gausancourt, was liberated by the US Army in June 1944, Frank Mastronardi, radio and Walter Rusch, ball turret gunner, both captured by the Germans and became prisoners of war. They were liberated by US Army and the Russians in the Spring of 1945. The Reims Vice-Mayor honored us at the City Hall. I requested information about your folks, but told they were deceased. I am sorry that you were not advised by Jean Joly.

My wife Mary and I made two trips to France and Reims, 10 years ago and 5 years ago. I would have loved to have met so many of my helpers but they did not appear.

I plan to have my book published within the next 3 months, if possible.

Thank you for your letter and pictures. I am forever grateful for the so many French people that helped me feed, clothe and made my escape possible, and I am saddened that so many suffered, to help us. I feel

sorry that you lost your father at the age of 33. It must have been a great loss to your mother as well as you and your brothers.

Best regards ^{to} you, your husband and all your family.

Your friends in the U.S.A. Mary and John

John



Photo of Mary and John Katsaros

March 15, 2007

Jack and Betty Hoad,

The White Cottage, Ullenhall

Solihull, Warwicks (England)

I am John Katsaros, the American airman that was shot down near Reims, France on March 20, 1944. After a long search, I finally was able to get your address from Linette Deletang the daughter of Mr. and Mrs Erhard Govin. (I believe that is his name) She lives at 5 av.de la Gare, 51110 Bourgogne, France.

Jack, I was never given your address. You wrote to me many years ago and were disappointed that I had not written. I am deeply sorry. Jack, when I received your letter, you did not include your mailing address. Nor was I able to obtain it from any military sources. That is the reason you have not heard from me in 63 long years, until now.

Hopefully, you and your family are in good health, and able to respond to this letter.

Not a day has gone by, without thoughts of you and our helpers that helped us to escape and evade the enemy. I would be very thankful to receive a letter from either of you, saying that all is well, along with any change of address you may have.

Regards from my wife Mary and, John Katsaros 109 Crosby St. Ext.

Haverhill, Ma. 01830. Phone 978-374-7357. We will be at my winter home in Florida until May 15.

Apt. 305 6530 North Ocean Blvd., Ocean Ridge, Florida 33435 Home Tel. 1-561-737-8341

I am sending three pictures sent to me by Linette, with you, me and others as depicted on the picture. Mr. Govin's funeral procession, and picture of the bar of Govin's safe house.


JOHN

Unhappily, this letter to Jack Hoad was returned to me undelivered.



Genèvieve Soulié Camus and husband, Jean Camus

M. Mme Jean CAMUS
260 boulevard Voltaire
75011 PARIS

21st. June 2009

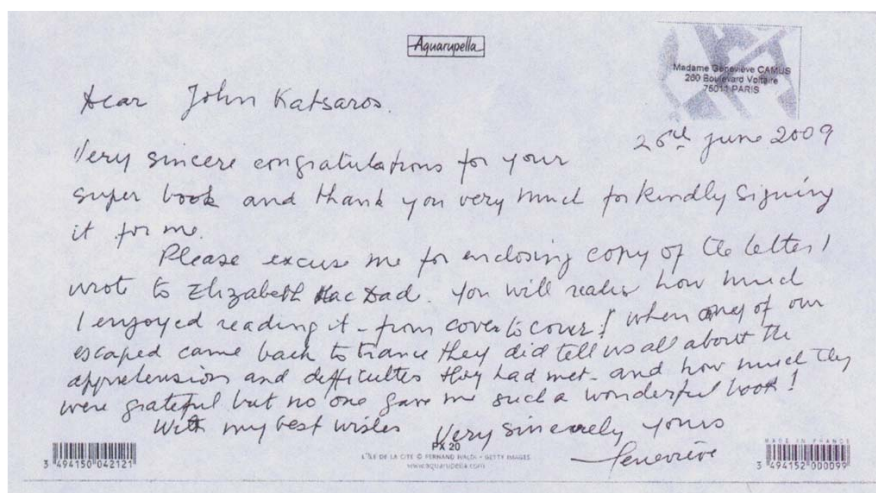
Dear Elizabeth

I am awfully sorry to be so late to thank you for your kind letter and John Katsaros' book. In fact I did write a letter but never sent it because I started reading the book and was fascinated and couldn't stop! It is so very beautiful and precise after all these years! He must have kept a "memory diary"! A wonderful story!

Yes I am the Genevieve he mentions on page 160¹⁶² (thank you for the mark). I was the only Genevieve in the group and the only one bilingual, being half British on my mother's side. Georges Broussins found that very useful for questioning the aviators and also ^{to} visited them at the lodges if they needed something or ask them to be patient if they found the waiting too long and thought they could try the evasion on their own! J.K. mentions the fact

The only mistake is that I wasn't a "brunette" but as fair as could be! I probably wore a hat or beret. In those days you didn't go out bareheaded!

Genève Soulié Camus' letter to Elizabeth McDade with copy to me. Ms. McDade, a director of AFEES (Air Force Escape and Evasion Society, provided me with my April 1944 Paris guide, Genève's, address.



A card that Genèvieve Soulié Camus sent me from Paris, France

Jean et Genevieve CAMUS
200, boulevard Voltaire
75011 PARIS
☎ 01 43 71 71 90 ou 01 64 04 28 09

Tarmonthen, 10th August 2009

Dear John, and Mary

I postponed my farm making to have a chat with you.

First of all, thank you ever so much for your kind and interesting letter and the photos. I hope you have kept this lovely smile of yours! Congratulations also for all the work you do in schools, museums & veterans' groups. Yes I have done my share in schools and we are faithful veterans and members of several vet. associations. My husband Jean (John) is President of the veterans association in our village. I am a member of R.A.F.A. and also receive the A.F.E.E.S. bulletin. The last one had a very good article about your wonderful book. Would you like me to ~~send~~ ^{pass} a copy of ~~book~~ "Le Code Burgundy - The Long Escape" to the Royal Air Force in Paris or have you done so? And perhaps, if you can spare one, I could put it in the library of the Free French Club. The members who can read English would certainly appreciate it. Of course not compulsory!

I will write again - very soon I hope -; Something interesting is to take place in a village, a few miles away from where we have our country cottage.

x More details about "when" if ever! will be sent to you.

during the WWII - as you say: 65 years ago -
 a plane was shot down near this small
 village called Saints and one of the crew was
 found dead. His name was ROOSEVELT
 After all these years the town council are
 planning ^{TO} have a memorial monument or
 a ^{COMMEMORATION} tablet ^{THAT} settled in the village ^{VILLAGE}
 of Saints. Jean ^{JEAN} has heard no more details
 except that the poor aviator was the son of
 Franklin? (could be Theodore's)
 We are expecting more details and hoping to
 be ^{INVITED} invited to the ceremony, ^{PROBABLY} probably very modest
 but well deserved!
 If - you are ^{LOOKING} looking forward to a visit to France
 try and enclose this rather exceptional day
 and we shall be very happy to put you up ^{BOTH} both

To you and Mary our very best wishes
 Be sure that "we shall never forget"

Genevieve + Jean.

PS. We are spending the summer holidays in our
 cottage, about 30 miles East of Paris - We shall
 go to Paris for the "Libération de Paris" on the 25th August
 Come ^{BACK} back again here, September will be very busy,
 a lot of trips and settle for the winter in Paris,
 (week-ends - in FAREMOUTIERS (Seine et Marne)
 No place for USA I am afraid!

Yours sincerely Genev.

Faremontiers

24th August 2009

Dear John,

Thank you so much for your letter and the two copies of "Cod. Burgundy - The long to cap". They arrived safely. How very kind of you!

I shall meet RAFA members on 15th September "Remembrance Day of the Battle of Britain" and I shall give them their dedicated one - Thank you again the Free French Club will reopen in September. I will then put ^{them} one in the library.

I will try to get on the phone the Winchester group on 8th September - en l'air - It sounds interesting.

What you mention about Col. Elliot Roosevelt's death sounds more plausible - but !...

As soon as we get more details, I shall write again. Jean was interested by your statement and will meet the Mayor when he comes back from holiday. : August = no work!

Very sincerely yours

Faremontiers



Front left to right: Bertranne, a Greek resistance helper I believe to be Dr. Moulis, directly behind Bertranne is my bombardier, Ted Krol, and two other evaders at her Paris apartment. Circa 1944

Freedom

I learned from the POW's imprisoned in Stalags that they felt fortunate to be with their military comrades to share despondent moments. Yes, they were imprisoned, but they found comfort in companionship and never felt like lost souls.

The POW's envied the G.I. on the run for his freedom from the barbed wire fences, traveling at night to avoid capture by the Gestapo, and the challenge to survive as a fugitive. Yet, they felt disconsolate for the fugitive being alone, hunted like an animal and being without friend or country.

In many cases of the fugitive, this may be true, however, I was fortunate to be picked up by the French Resistance who dressed my wounds, provided surgery to save my arm and my life, put their own lives on the line in two daring rescues and escapes from the Gestapo; and gave me food, warmth, comfort and the love of family. I became family and never thought of loneliness. How could I? I learned to imitate their thoughts and their thinking - to plan, to avoid, to escape and evade - that was my life on the run, moving discreetly from safe-house to safe-house, but that also was the clandestine life of the French Resistance. This was not just my war; it was our war and we fought it together, side by side as best we could, until it was my time to depart. That was their self-appointed duty, to protect and preserve me and to send me on my way.

I cherish all the French Resistance, the French people including those who gave of themselves but could not afford to be exposed for the sake of the lives of their families; and especially to my heroes, my rescuers Pierre Demarchez, Jean Joly and René Felix who in my first escape rescued me in a firefight with the Gestapo in a well executed plan; and the Reims Chief of Police in my second escape, who set a clever ambush of the German convoy, in my transfer, and it came off so well not a shot was fired. The Nazi military was trumped and was left dumb-founded as we rapidly sped away.

I experienced freedom while on the run, and it tasted great in every close call. On the ground as a fugitive a taste of that freedom came often, just like the feel of freedom on the bomb run.

John Katsaros

Cherish Your Freedom



The End