



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

Fall 2004



## Famed French Chef Julia Child Remembered by Her OSS Colleagues

by Betty McIntosh

Julia McWilliams Child, celebrated cook, author, television personality, and our OSS colleague, died August 12<sup>th</sup>, two days before her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday, at her home in an assisted living center in Montecito, California.

Her niece, Philadelphia Cousins, said Julia passed away in her sleep. Several weeks before she died, Julia wrote me that she had a new kitten she called Mr. Minou, “a delightful companion who plays in the garden and sleeps with me at night.” Mr. Minou was with her when she died.

Julia’s passing was front-page news from coast-to-coast and also in France. She was hailed as a towering figure on the culinary front for more than 40 years. Most Americans knew her as the imperturbable host of the long-running PBS televi-



*Julia in her OSS days.*

sion series, *The French Chef*. She was respected for the clarity with which she translated French cuisine to an American audience and also in her books, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. Most of all she is remembered because—as the Los Angeles Times reported—“no other American before or after Julia has radiated such unadulterated joy straight from the TV studio into our homes.”

Julia Caroline McWilliams was born in Pasadena, California. Her father was a wealthy farm consultant and Julia was the eldest of three siblings, each so tall their mother boasted that she had given birth to 18 feet of children. Upon graduating from Smith College in 1934, Julia worked in New York City as a copywriter with an advertising firm until World War II broke out.

### The Story of Her OSS Career

After Pearl Harbor, Julia served a short tour of duty with the Office of War Information in Washington, D.C. but found it “too frenetic.” She then applied for a job with the mysterious Office of Strategic Services and was appointed research assistant to General William J. Donovan in the S.I. division. She was later head of Registry, a responsible assignment in top-secret operations. She also worked with the OSS Emergency Sea Rescue Equipment

Section in Washington: “I must say we had lots of fun,” she recalled once. “I was an executive administrator working with **Harold Coolidge**. We designed rescue kits and other agent paraphernalia. I understand the shark repellent we developed is still being used for downed space equipment—strapped around it so the sharks won’t attack it when it lands on the ocean...”

### Off to Ceylon

On February 22nd, 1944 Julia received travel orders: “The following named civilians of the Office of Strategic Services are authorized to proceed to Wilmington, Cal., port of embarkation for water transportation to IJ-770-CU to report to the commanding general for duty with the Office of Strategic Services: **Miss Cora Dubois, Miss Eleanor Helen Thiry, Miss Julia Caroline McWilliams.**” Julia was on her way Ceylon, now Sri Lanka.

Julia and seven other OSS women boarded the S.S. *Mariposa* on March 8, 1944 with bedrolls, canteens, gas masks, and pith helmets. With more than 3,000 men aboard, who greeted their arrival with wolf calls and whistles, the ship’s captain decided to set aside a portion of the deck strictly for the girls. Julia organized the women to spread

*continued on page 2*

the word that they were missionaries. The ploy never worked. In fact one OSSer, **Rosamond (Rosy) Frame**, met her husband-to-be on the ship. He was Jedburgh **Thibault de St. Phalle**, who described Julia as very tall and attractive and in search of adventure. Julia became a member of his bride team aboard ship together with Rosy, who tried to teach them all Chinese. She had grown up in China and spoke several dialects. De St. Phalle writes that at war's end, he met the troopship carrying Julia and his fiancée, Rosy Frame, when they arrived in New York. "They both looked tired and bedraggled," he said. "I picked up a phone on the pier, called Elizabeth Arden, and took them both there for a thorough beauty treatment as fast as I could."

Julia, with Dubois and Thiry, arrived in Colombo, Ceylon on April 25th and were met by **S. Dillon Ripley**, head of SI, later director of the Smithsonian. Fifty years later Julia donated her famous kitchen to the Smithsonian. At this time, I asked her what the late Dillon Ripley would have said, and she chortled: "Oh I know he would have been delighted."

Julia wrote of life in the tropical rear echelon: "I find Kandy is a delightful climate, skin-warm all the time. Life is pastoral. Our office is a series of palm-thatched huts connected by cement walks, surrounded by native workmen and barbed wire. It is somewhat primitive, but airy and far from dressy. There are movies and dances twice a week at the American officers' club, and walks in the moonlight. On Sundays there are picnics, golf, tennis, swimming, or a weekend down in Colombo, depending entirely upon the enterprise of yourself in enticing the enterprise of the other gender."

As all OSSers, Julia could not mention where she was stationed. However, she did find a way to outwit military censorship, which forbade any mention of location, in letters home. She quoted Dorothy Parker's famous quip in a note to friends saying, "Candy is dandy but liquor is quicker."

Though she knew more about golf clubs than international espionage, Julia was head of the OSS Registry in Ceylon, which processed all classified papers for the invasion of the Malay Peninsula. She had high security clearance. After spending the second day on the job putting out treatises, she wondered in her diary, "Why did I come over to Registry. I hate this work." She soon discovered that she was good at organizing the central headquarters for dispatches, sensitive orders and espionage/sabotage for the Southeast Asian Command (SEAC) headed by 44-year-old Lord Louis Mountbatten (Supremo in British shorthand).

## Over the Hump

In March 1945, Julia and I both received orders to report to Kunming, China to OSS detachment 404. On March 15 we flew the hump together from India to China.



*Julia and Paul in Paris.*

The plane, an unpressurized C54, was storm-tossed for three hours over the 15,000 ft. Himalayan peaks, sucked up and down hundreds of feet by air currents, flying through lightning and thunder, and engulfed in heavy clouds. There were occasional views of the snowfields far below where planes that hadn't made it were etched like crosses in the whiteness. Most of us were basket cases except Julia, who calmly read a book during the flight. When we finally flew into the blue skies of Kunming and landed at Roger Queen airport, Julia was the first on the ground. She stretched in the sunlight, looked around at the blue-coated coolies, and the pagodas in the distance and said "My, it looks just like China."

Julia assumed her duties as chief of the Registry in Kunming, serving all the intelligence branches. She was privy to all messages both incoming from the field or pouches from Washington and outgoing to OSS agents and operatives throughout the CBI. A study of the OSS documents that she sent back to Washington reveals an occasional refreshing break with the usual numbers and espionage codes. At the bottom of an official paper stamped confidential is typed her message, "If you don't send this Registry the report I requested, I shall fill the pouches with itching powder and virulent bacteriological diseases, and change all the numbers, as well as translate all the material into Singhalese, and destroy the English version."

## Fisher Howe Remembers

Another OSS colleague **Fisher Howe**, who started the OSS office in London and later transferred to Ceylon with the Maritime unit, recalls his friendship with Julia: "Julia was always great fun on picnics, riding elephants, and trying out the few restaurants in Kandy we were allowed to frequent. She met Paul Child in Ceylon; they were lifelong friends. Paul was a photographer of note, a black belt in karate, and later the 'producer' for Julia's public television shows. In her now-famous kitchen in Cambridge Mass., Paul drew an outline on the wall where every pot and utensil belonged and the motto was P.I.B. - put it back."



*The French Chef*

## In the Kitchen

Julia and Paul's friendship continued to grow into romance in Kunming where they enjoyed trips to the hot springs spa outside the city, and the social activities of the small group of OSS colleagues, men and women, at dances, dinners, parties, boat trips on the Kunming Lake that was part of the beauty of that mountainous town. They were married in Stockton, N.J. on September 1, 1946 and spent 48 wonderful years working together, particularly in France, where Julia was learning to cook. Fisher Howe

recalls: "In the late 50s we all served together in Oslo, Norway, where I was with the State Department and Paul was Cultural Attaché. Happily they had the house next door to us. Julia was busy on her first now-classic cookbook, and we helped to test the recipes. We knew each other as the 'Barns,' Norwegian for child and the 'Hvordans,' Norwegian for how." Paul died in 1994 after a long hospitalization.

During her lifetime Julia won many awards for her culinary prowess. In 1966 she became the first PBS personality to win an Emmy award. She was awarded a George Foster Peabody award in 1965, The National Book Award for *Julia Child and More Company* in 1980, and the Legion d'Honneur from the French government in 2000.

## Praise From the President

On the day after she died, the White House issued the following statement by the President George W. Bush:

"Julia Child enriched America with her optimism and enthusiasm for life. She worked with the Office of Strategic Services to protect freedom during World War II. She taught millions to enjoy cooking, and her legacy will continue through her books and videos. She was a pioneer in the early television age who made great strides for women. For her many contributions, she was honored in 2003 with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civil honor. Laura and I send our prayers and condolences to her family and friends."

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## Remember Those Early OSS Days? Bob Hess Recalls His Initiation

After arriving at the training facility outside Washington, I was ushered to an outside small camp for our security check. I learned after the war that the FBI had visited my neighbors and local stores, etc. to check me out. We ended up with about six or seven being taken up to the big house to start training. There was a large amount of plastic explosive on a table when entering.

I went under intensive schooling of all sorts: how to pick a lock, how to use timed fuses, etc., all kinds of radio training, in addition to using one-time pads for enciphering, and everything else that an agent would need. Pistol and machine-gun firing was most fun (45 Colt auto and a Sten gun auto 9 mm.) Our instructor Col. Rex Applegate was there for two days. After the war we corresponded and he sent an autographed picture with his knives and books and said he remembered me. I was very good at "point shooting." Afterward we shipped out to England!

## AFIO Symposium Planned

The fall national intelligence symposium of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers (AFIO) will be held October 29-31 in three areas: NSA; the National Cryptologic Museum; and the conference center at the Maritime Institute, Linthicum Heights, Md. Restructuring plans for the intelligence community, law enforcement, and homeland security will be among the topics discussed.

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## Tenet Departs CIA Amid Praise and Cheers

In a rousing valedictory address on July 8, 2004 before cheering colleagues and friends at CIA headquarters, departing **DCI George Tenet** “defended the embattled organization he has run for seven years,” *The Washington Post* reported on July 9, 2004.

“The American people know about your honesty and integrity, of your commitment to truth,” the Post reported Tenet as saying. Predicting that the public will recognize and honor the CIA’s overall record, Tenet added, “My only wish is that those whose job it is to help us do better, show the same balance and care; in recognizing how far we have come; in recognizing how bold we have been; in recognizing what the full balance sheet says.”

(President Bush named Florida Republican Porter J. Goss to head the CIA. Goss served as a CIA case officer for nine years beginning in 1962 and has been in Congress since 1989, serving as chairman of the House Per-



*George Tenet*

manent Select Committee on Intelligence.)

At a two-hour ceremony, during which his tenure was hailed by senior colleagues for raising the agency from the doldrums when he took over in 1997, Tenet said: “We have rebuilt every aspect of our business.

“If people or leaders want to take you back in a different direction,” Tenet told agency officials, “then it is your voices that must be heard to say—we know better and we’re not going to put up with it.

“History,” Tenet said, “may bring additional perspective, additional clarity to the current debate on intelligence. But this much is clear right now—your work is far too important for distractions.” The last was an apparent allusion to the severe criticism of the agency in a Senate report of July 9, 2004.

Tenet has said he is stepping down for personal reasons, and in particular to spend more time with his family, including his only son, who will be a high school senior next year and who was in second grade when his father began work at the CIA in 1995. Tenet also plans to write a book.

Tenet’s length of service as DCI was second only to that of Allen Dulles, who held the job under Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy.

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Hon. George J. Tenet  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Tenet:

On behalf of The OSS Society and its members, we are writing to thank you for your distinguished service to our nation. Your leadership of the Central Intelligence Agency during a period in which the United States has faced unprecedented threats follows in the finest tradition established by OSS.

We are also grateful for the support you have generously offered our organization, particularly for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration that was held in 2002 and our recent 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary.

We wish you and your family the very best and hope that you will continue your involvement with the The OSS Society.

Warm regards,

John Waller  
Chairman

## Jedburgh Reunion in England Recalls WWII Memories

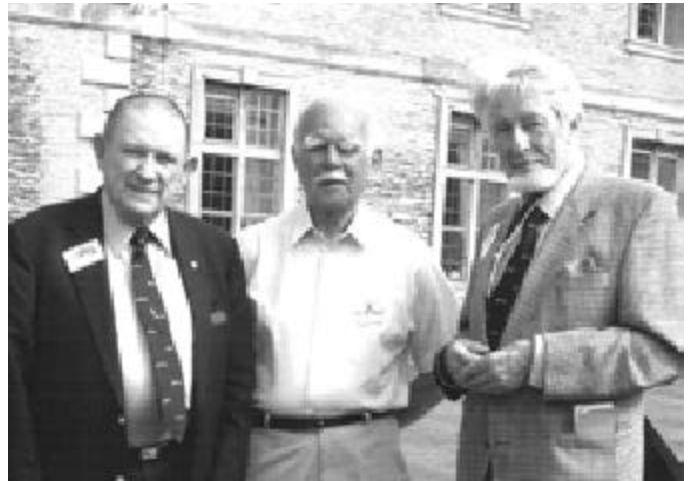
by Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub

The Jedburgh decade reunion took place in Peterborough, U.K. from June 11 to 13, 2004. The Jedburgh program was a combined British SOE and American OSS effort to “set Europe ablaze” in preparation for the major Allied landings in France which opened a second front against Nazi Germany in 1944. The concept was to introduce small Allied teams into areas where human intelligence agents reported a resistance potential. These teams would recruit, organize, supply, train, and lead French Forces of the Interior in attacks against the German occupation.

A Jedburgh team consisted of three men: an English-speaking officer, either British or American, and a second officer, normally French. The third member of the team was a very highly trained radio operator, either American, British, or French. The training and psychological assessment of three hundred Jeds took place in many locations and culminated in their final organization into teams at Milton Hall on the enormous estate of the Earl of Fitzwilliam near the city of Peterborough, north of London.

The British Reunion Committee originally planned to follow the tradition of having a decade reunion in France, as in 1984 and 1994, to join the D-Day and Liberation celebrations scheduled for the first week of June. Instead, the British hosted a low-key get-together at the magnificent Bull Hotel in Peterborough, where a memorial service was held in the Peterborough Cathedral, a short walk from the hotel. The cathedral contains the Sprite Chapel, where a memorial stone lists the thirty-seven names and nationalities of the Jedburghs killed in action.

After dinner, remarks were made by representatives of the three countries. **General Paul Aussaresses** expressed appreciation that the British Reunion Committee had not given up the idea of a 60<sup>th</sup> year celebration. I spoke on behalf of the Americans and thanked **Ron Brierley** for the magnificent job he performed in organizing the reunion. I also reported on the recent dedication of the World War II



Left to Right: Jack Singlaub with British Jeds John Sharp and Tom Carew on back lawn of Milton Hall.

Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC, and the OSS reunion held in Washington in conjunction with the dedication of the memorial. **Sir Thomas Macpherson** welcomed us all and noted the significance of the Jedburgh contribution to the winning of the war.

Of the 54 in attendance, there were 22 Jedburghs, including two Americans (**Jack Singlaub and Bob Kehoe**) and two French (**General Paul Aussaresses and Michel de Bourbon-Parme**). The rest were wives, lineal descendants, historians, and other support personnel with a close relationship to the Jedburgh legacy. Mary Dickinson, an OSS lineal descendant, attended as a part of her research of Special Operations activities of OSS during World War II. She plans a production “From the Files of the OSS.”

It was determined that only one Jedburgh team is intact, with all members still alive. That is Team Quinine, consisting of Sir Thomas Macpherson (Brit), Michel de Bourbon-Parme (French), and Arthur Brown (Brit). The team was seated together at the head table. Quinine was inserted into southern France on 8 July 1944 from Algiers to prevent the Das Reich Panzer SS Division from reaching the Normandy beachhead.

The reunion was a great success, even if there seemed some doubt that there would ever be another one.

## POW Reunion

The 21<sup>st</sup> reunion of Mukden Prisoners of War will be held Sept. 16, 2004 in Missoula, Montana. More than 25 former POWs are expected to attend the reunion, celebrating their rescue from the Japanese camp in Shen Yang. In August 1945, there were about 1,600 American, English, Dutch, and Australians in the camp. **Hal Leith**, one of the OSSers who rescued the POWs, will attend the reunion and will be one of the guest speakers. The affair is being planned by Glenda Elliott of Missoula.

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## 109 Replica Statues

Is anyone interested in ordering a 12 inch or 24 inch replica of the statue of General Donovan on display at the CIA? We would have to share the cost of the mold (12”/ \$320 or 24”/\$500) plus the cost of the statue (12”/\$65 or 24”/\$200). You can see the statue at the following URL: [http://www.cia.gov/cia/information/tour/oss\\_memorial.html](http://www.cia.gov/cia/information/tour/oss_memorial.html). If you’re interested please send an e-mail to [ossociety@aol.com](mailto:ossociety@aol.com).



# O.S.S. Cited as Model for Overall Intelligence Agency

After almost half a century, OSS is breaking out in print, radio and television from coast to coast! Author Patrick K. O'Donnell may have summed it all up in a by-line article in the *Washington Times* titled "Intelligence on the Offensive: Bring Back Spirit of the Office of Strategic Services."

He cited intelligence failures highlighted by 9/11 and the embarrassing search for WMD, and described the start of OSS: "Built overnight, the OSS was America's first national centralized intelligence agency. It was the birthplace of U.S. Special Operational Forces, psych ops, strategic bombing analysis, foreign intelligence, and counterintelligence. OSS teams hunted and found Nazi Germany's weapons of mass destruction. The success of the OSS depended on the quality of people it recruited: Rhodes scholars, lawyers, paratroopers, and debutantes. For special skills, safecrackers were sprung from prisons, German POW's were recruited to penetrate the Reich . . .

"The bottom line is that our intelligence community needs to become more like OSS: break down bureaucratic barriers and mindset, and take the fight more aggressively to the terrorists."

O'Donnell is the author of *Operatives, Spies and Saboteurs: The Unknown Story of the Men and Women of WWII's OSS*.

A similar message comes from Max Boot, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations who writes a weekly column for *The Los Angeles Times*: "What's needed is not another organizational re-shuffle, but a time machine that would return the CIA to the glory days when it was young and frisky. OSS's founder, "Wild" Bill Donovan molded the OSS into his own image: dashing, slightly madcap, and highly effective..."

Stories of OSS heroism have recently appeared in

many newspapers and magazines. *The Virginia Pilot* (Norfolk) told the story of Charles B. Wagner, an OSS operative who spent about six months before D-Day in Northern France, hiding out in basements and attics by day, scoping out targets and rigging explosions by night.

An article by Peter Lucas, a Boston newspaperman, in the July *Leatherneck*, described the adventures of **Lt. Nick Kukich**, USMC, who set up an intelligence network in Albania to monitor Nazi activities for the OSS headquarters in Bari, Italy. He also aided in the escape of Allied airmen forced to bail out over the Balkans. Lucas is currently writing a book about the OSS in Albania.

OSS was also featured on radio programs. On radio station WABC, **Fisher**

**Howe**, executive officer who opened the London office in 1942, told of the early days when Donovan established liaison with the British intelligence operations. And **Barbara Podoski**, assigned to MO in Italy, recounted how she recruited German POWs to infiltrate Nazi lines in Northern Italy to spread disinformation. On the TV History Project, **Eliza-**



Fisher Howe

**beth McIntosh** was featured with "Government Girls of WWII," in which she recounted her OSS recruitment in Washington and MO assignments overseas.



Barbara Podoski

OSS book signings are also in the news. **Roger Hall's** classic memoir of his adventures in OSS, *You're Stepping on my Cloak and Dagger*,

will keep the author busy signing books in September and October, both at the Spy Museum and at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md., and the Airborne Specials Ops Museum in Fayetteville, N.C. Elsewhere, **Ambassador Charles H. Hostler**, author of *Soldier to Ambassador*, signed books at the San Diego State University in August, and **Rene Defourneaux** met with a CIC group to autograph his book, *The Winking Fox: Adventures behind the lines in France and SEA*. In Missoula, Montana, **Hal Leith** will be autographing his book, *POW's of Japanese Rescued*, when POW's from Mukden prison camp meet for a reunion in September.

POW Camp Averso from which German prisoners were recruited by OSS/MO



## Remembering 109 – Recollections of OSSers

by Betty Lussier



Betty Lussier

In the fall of 1942, when I first met Colonel William Donovan, I had no idea what service he was in. I assumed it was war-related and maybe even intelligence, because I met him in Sir William Stephenson's suite at the Claridge Hotel in London. He and I coincided there while visiting Sir William (in 1942, not yet knighted by Queen Elizabeth).

Stephenson was my father's old buddy from WW I, when they served together in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Squadron of the Royal Air Force and saved each other's life on more than one occasion.

During WW II, Stephenson was charged by Churchill to head up British Intelligence in the USA. His service, British Security Coordination, was located in New York City. He had frequent contact with President Roosevelt, various Cabinet members, and the President's special emissaries, including William Donovan. Donovan and Stephenson had met briefly in 1916 in England when Donovan was on an investigative mission regarding war damage conditions in Europe. They had liked each other then and it was natural to renew their friendship in 1940, especially since their paths kept crossing.

As I entered the room, Stephenson was saying goodbye to the colonel and I remember being surprised by the difference in their height. Stephenson was a slender five feet seven inches. Donovan towered over him at six

or more feet, and I noticed his lively blue eyes. The Colonel departed and I launched into a complaint to Stephenson that the flying service I served in had announced a new ruling prohibiting women pilots from flying to the continent after the invasion took place. Suddenly Stephenson's eyes lit up. He told me, "I know what you can do. Go take a walk in the park and think about making a change. Come back in two hours and if you still want to go to the continent, I have a job in mind that will get you there."

I took my walk and returned still resolute to change. Stephenson made a call and launched into a brief, but fascinating description of the nature of counter-intelligence work. He handed me a piece of paper with a name and an address.

A few weeks after my brief encounter with General Donovan, I reported to Jimmy Murphy, the new X-2 chief, and joined the first X-2 unit to be trained in England. I can only imagine that it had been Donovan to whom Stephenson directed his telephone call.

At the end of the war, when I was having difficulty getting passage back to the States, General Donovan sent me a telegram graciously offering me a ride home on his plane. But a berth opened up on a Liberty ship and I took this more conventional way home. I never saw General Donovan again after the war, but I followed his career for the rest of his life and continued to admire him as a brilliant person.

*Betty Lussier flew with the Air Transport Auxiliary, RAF, collecting planes in the US and flying them to the UK. She later joined X-2 and operated on the French-Spanish border turning Nazi agents. She now lives in Pacific Palisades, California.*

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## Sherman Kent's Analysis Cited in The New York Times

Intelligence, as **Sherman Kent** interpreted it, was recently reported on in *The New York Times*. Kent was a colorful character, his colleagues say, a master of barnyard language and bawdy jokes who wore bright red suspenders, chewed tobacco, and was known as "Buffalo Bill, the Cultured Cowboy."

His earthiness aside, Mr. Kent, a onetime history professor at Yale, did more than anyone else to establish intelligence analysis as an important discipline. In three decades as an intelligence analyst, including 17 years at the C.I.A., he set standards that guide the profession to this day.

His early training in intelligence began when he joined OSS after Pearl Harbor. His legacy looms large in the scathing new Senate assessment of intelligence failures leading up to the war against Iraq. In its report last month, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence singled out Mr. Kent as a professional paragon and said that intelligence analysis had violated his admonitions in recent years.

Mr. Kent repeatedly advised analysts to challenge assumptions, to acknowledge uncertainty and ambiguity, to watch for their own biases, and to meet the needs of policy makers without being seduced by them.

# Book Notes



*French President Chirac (right) personally awards the Legion of Honor on June 6, 2004 at Arromanche, Normandy to Ambassador Charles Hostler.*

***Soldier to Ambassador: From the D-Day Normandy Operation to the Persian Gulf War*** by Ambassador Charles W. Hostler, Ph.D. This fascinating book is a memoir of a most remarkable man whose adventures started in WWII when he was a lieutenant in the Air Corps, recruited by OSS and assigned to X-2. His mission—to force German spies along the French coast to send their spymasters false reports on Allied troop movements. This was part of a massive deception campaign that accompanied the Normandy landings and often succeeded in keeping Hitler's forces off balance and in the wrong places. Eventually, Hostler and his OSS colleagues, along with British teams, forced 43 of these agents to defect. Hostler's role was so sensitive that officials kept it classified until the late 1990's.

His amazing life continued after the war. He trained Turkey's air intelligence during the Cold War build-up. As air attache, he worked in Lebanon, Jordan and Cyprus. His extensive residence of over 20 years in the Middle East, plus his mastery of languages, eventually resulted in his appointment as ambassador to Bahrain (1989-93).

Recipient of many decorations from nine countries, Hostler brings to his book the reflections of an exciting life in military and diplomatic service. He writes in an easy flowing style, with anecdotes about the famous and infamous, spanning the gamut from soldiers in several wars, to kings, presidents, prime ministers, and scholars. On D-Day 2004 he was presented with the Legion of Honor by French President Jacques Chirac at ceremonies in Normandy. (San Diego University Press) Copies can be obtained from the University Press, 5500 Campanile Dr., San Diego, CA 92182.



***The International Spy Museum's Handbook of Practical Spying: Learning the Tricks of the Spy Trade and How to Use Them in Everyday Life.*** This book will bring

back memories to OSSers, especially those in Ops. It looks into the intrigues of espionage and shows how spy techniques can be incorporated into ev-

eryday life in surprising ways, including guarding against common crimes.

This fascinating and amusingly written book of the tricks of the spy trade, with an introduction by International Spy Museum executive director and former CIA operative Peter Earnest, is filled with useful information from the museum's team of experts. By showing readers how to get into the spy mind-set of assessing and analyzing people, dealing with the unexpected, and reacting effectively, the *Handbook of Practical Spying* teaches ways to employ spy craft in everyday life.

Learn the best places to hide valuables in your home and how to shake a tail if you're being followed in a dark street. Find out the best way to protect your identity – from not giving out too much information over the telephone to shredding personal documents in order to thwart “dumpster divers.” Convinced your neighbors are stealing your newspapers, picking your roses, or using your trash can? Learn how to set a trap to catch them in the act.

The book is illustrated by Stephen Guamaccia, art director of the op-ed page of *The New York Times*, whose distinctive and quirky style is well-known. (National Geographic Books)



***The Great Game: The Myth and Reality of Espionage*** by Frederick P. Hitz. This book takes an interesting approach to espionage operations. It compares actual espionage operations

to some of the most famous works of spy fiction. The author, a Princeton professor, explains that its “methodology” is to “isolate the prominent elements of espionage operations, to observe how the subject is treated in spy literature and then to analyze the particulars of actual espionage cases.” (Alfred A. Knopf)



And speaking of spies, the International Spy Museum is holding a discussion of the Swiss Intelligence Service in WWII and its connection with Nazi Germany. This involves the activities of OSS agent **Allen Dulles** as well as other Allied intel operations in Switzerland. Swiss historian Dr. Peter Th. Braunschweig, author of *Secret Channel to Berlin*, James Strodes, author of *Allen Dulles, Master of Spies*, and Dr. Joseph Hayes, CIA officer, will discuss this subject, with an introduction by Switzerland's ambassador to the United States, H.E. Christian Blickenstorfer. The date: Tuesday, 21 September at 6:30 at the Spy Museum, 800 F. St., NW, Washington, DC.



# Book Notes



***Jack in the Box*** by John Weisman. This is a spook thriller - the quest for a mole. A defrocked CIA Moscow station chief, Sam Waterman, is alerted to the return to Washington of

CIA officer Edward Lee Howard, who defected to the USSR years earlier. (The title derives from the pop-up device Howard used to simulate a passenger in his car, thus deceiving watching FBI agents.) Howard's story is that the White House knew in advance of the 9/11 attack, and that a mole kept the information from the President. Howard then vanishes again, and Waterman is off on a mole chase made all the more interesting by Weisman's wide use of spy lore, references to actual cases, and detailed tradecraft. There is even the occasional blacked-out word, as if the manuscript went through a security vet.

Weisman is a writer who has made the best-seller list in both fiction and non-fiction categories. *Jack in the Box* bolsters his growing stature.



***Fatal Crossroads: a Novel of Vietnam 1945*** by Seymour Topping, is a book all OSSers who served in the CBI theater during World War II will understand. It brings out all the bitter

irony of a war that should never have been fought and which ended in the deaths of more than 50,000 Americans.

Seymour Topping, who was the first American correspondent in Vietnam in 1950 to set up the Associated Press bureau in Saigon, knows his territory well. His remarkable novel brings alive the strange and inexcusable failure of American policymakers to understand Vietnam and its leader, Ho Chi Minh, America's friend and OSS collaborator during World War II.

With all the controversy in the news these days about who did what in combat in Vietnam, it would be worth reading Topping's story of intrigue, love, and conflict around that pivotal moment in history, a moment when America might have avoided a tragic war in Vietnam. (EastBridge Books)



***Doctor to the Resistance*** by Hal Vaughan has just been released. Vaughan, a Paris-based author, writes of the harrowing story of an American surgeon who used his office at the American Hospital in Paris, to

hide downed Allied fliers. In addition, his wife and son set up a French resistance cell in the family apartment to convey intelligence messages and maps to London. Sadly, just before D-Day, the entire family disappeared.

## New Tourist Guide Lists WWII Sites in Virginia

The Northern Virginia Visitors Consortium has developed a self-guided tour of the area's many historic sites connected to World War II. The Cradle of Victory World War II Heritage Trail highlights 17 places in the city of Alexandria and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William. Included are familiar tourist stops such as Arlington National Cemetery and the United States Marine Corps War Memorial.



*OSS dining hall cabin at Prince William Park.*

But the guide also points out less familiar places such as Fort Hunt Park, which was a prisoner-of-war interrogation camp during World War II, and Prince William Forest Park, the wartime training area for the Office of Strategic Services.

The guide lists each site with a brief description noting its importance in World War II, along with practical information such as hours and admission costs.

The guide is available on the Internet at [www.visitnorthernvirginia.com](http://www.visitnorthernvirginia.com) or at (800) 422-1742.

Newsletter Staff:

**Elizabeth P. McIntosh**, Editor  
**Sally and Milt Collins**, Layout and art work

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

42485 Cochran Mill Rd.  
Leesburg, VA 20175

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

## In Memoriam

**Herbert Avedon** died May 20, 2004 in Rockville, Maryland. Avedon, senior vice president of The OSS Society, was operational officer with the 2671st Special Reconnaissance Battalion and served with OSS for 23 months in Italy. A memorial service was held at Fort Meyer in the Old Post Chapel, with burial at Arlington National Cemetery on July 21st.

**The Rev. Dr. Jacob Boris Berlin**, 80, died May 29, 2004, in Augusta, Georgia. During World War II he served with OSS as a Jedburgh and was a member of the Ammonia Mission dropped into southern France to report on the 2nd SS Panzer Division. For the next two weeks in the town of St. Natharene, the team was hidden in a secret wall of the home of a French family until the Nazis left the area. They then begin their mission training local men in sabotage delaying the panzers advance towards Normandy by several weeks. For his work he was awarded the Croix de Guerre. Berlin was sent to China behind the lines where he was captured and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner of the Japanese. After the war he became an Episcopalian minister.

**Patricia D. Bethke**, 87, of Sarasota Fla., died August 13, 2004. She was born in Chicago and came to Sarasota three years ago from Vail Colorado. She was a graduate of the University of Chicago. During World War II she worked encoding secret messages for the OSS in New York City. She was an honorary member of the Mortarboard Society, and a member of the League of Women Voters, the Cub Scouts and other organizations. Survivors include sons Robert D. of Nokomis and William M. of Mountain Lakes, N.J.

**Joseph (Joe) de Francesco** died July 24, 2004 in Dublin, Ohio from a massive stroke. His wife, Florence and a daughter survive him. Joe was originally in the French army, later moved to South Carolina. During World War II he was a member of the OSS Jedburgh team stationed in France near the Swiss border. Two other members of his team, Phil Donovan and Mike Hanley, are still alive and attended the June Jed reunion in England with de Francesco.



**Charles Fenn**, 97, died May 29, 2004 at his home in Schull, Ireland. In various stages of his life he was a bell-boy on the Cunard Line, a press photographer in China, a textile salesman, a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, an OSS agent in China, a successful businessman in Hong Kong, and later in the UK, a novelist and playwright. His latest book, *At the Dragon's Gate*, will be published posthumously. Fenn joined the OSS in 1943 as a Marine Corps captain and worked in Vietnam. During this time he recruited Ho Chi Minh, with whom he became close friends. Ho was instrumental in rescuing 17 U.S. pilots in Vietnam before the war ended. Fenn is survived by two daughters Alyn and Kathy, and son Kerry.

**William Henry Green Jr.**, 83, died June 27, 2004 in Corpus Christi Tex. As a young man, Green broke horses for the Army and as a member of the Texas National Guard. Later he joined the Army and was assigned to the CBI theater with the OSS. He was injured during the war and was awarded the Purple Heart. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, and two children.

**Russell Ingman Hare Jr.** died in August 2004 in San Jose, Cal. He was born in Paris, France and attended the American School of Paris. He entered Harvard University in September 1940 and left to join the U.S. Army in 1943. Due to his fluency in the French language, he was assigned to the OSS and returned to Europe as a cryptographer. He saw duty in France, Algiers, Italy, and China. His first wife, Jaqueline Borre, was an OSS counterintelligence agent. Following his discharge from the OSS in late 1945, he returned to Harvard and graduated in 1947. Hare moved to Southern California where he formed his own consulting firm.

**Paul M. Kattenburg**, 81, a retired career foreign service agent, who since 1973 had taught political science and international studies at the University of South Carolina, died June 12 while aboard a cruise ship in Moscow. Dr. Kattenburg, who lived in Columbia, South Carolina, had been vacationing in Russia and was about to embark on a tour of the Volga River when he was stricken by a heart attack. Dr. Kattenburg was born in Belgium, graduated from

## In Memoriam

the University of North Carolina in 1943, and served in the U.S. Army during World War II, detailed to the OSS. He received a master's degree in international relations from George Washington University in 1946 and a doctorate in the same discipline from Yale University in 1949. He spent about a year engaged in postdoctoral field research in Indonesia before joining the State Department in 1950 as a research specialist on Southeast Asia. He later joined the foreign service and received assignments as a political officer in Saigon, Vietnam, Manila, and Germany.

**Wilbert Hiroshi Kishinami**, 91, died June 7, 2004 in Waialua, Hi. He was a member of the OSS and served in the CBI theater. After the war he was founder of the Waialua Federal Credit Union. He is survived by his wife, Edythe, and one son.

**Col. James R. "Jim" Locke** (USAF ret.) died July 20, 2004 at age 87 in San Antonio, Tex. Col. Locke attended St. Mary's University in San Antonio from 1939-41 on a football/basketball scholarship. His military service included Army intelligence, OSS, Chief of the Interrogation Branch for the War Crimes Commission in the Pacific Theater, Military Police, Provost Marshal, and Air Police/Security Police Squadron Commander until his retirement from Kelly Air Force Base in 1970.

**Paul J. Mackey**, 82, died August 13, 2004, at Blake Medical Center, Bradenton, Florida. He retired from Dale Carnegie and Associates, Inc., Garden City, N.Y. in 1987, where he served as Vice President of Instruction International. During World War II he was an infantry officer and served with the OSS. He spent six months in the mountains of Greece during the German occupation of that country. He also served in the 513th Parachute Infantry, 17th Airborne Division, during the crossing of the Rhine River and the final weeks of World War II in Europe. Dr. Mackey was discharged from the service as a captain, Parachute Infantry. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

**George W. Overton**, who dedicated his career to professional ethics, died June 16, 2004 at age 86 in Chicago, Ill. Born and raised in privilege, he had an abiding concern for those caught behind economic, gender, and racial barriers. World War II interrupted his studies at the University of Chicago Law School. He was drafted into the Army and trans-

ferred to the OSS. He spent the war years monitoring German communications to identify sabotage targets. After the war he earned his law degree and spent the next five decades working on commercial litigation. He is survived by his wife and three children.

**Bruce E. Saunders**, 87, died in Orlando, Florida, Aug. 24, 2004. He was inducted into the U.S. Army in 1941 and trained as a radio operator. He completed officer candidate school and was commissioned as a communications officer. In 1944 he served as a radio operator for OSS detachment 101 in Burma, behind Japanese lines. After the war he was stationed in Shanghai and eventually joined CIA, serving in Cyprus and Taiwan. Internment will be held at Arlington National Cemetery.

**Gordon Shepard**, 90, longtime St. Paul, Minn. lawyer who served on the boards of a number of civic organizations, died June 29, 2004 in St. Paul. Shepard collapsed June 23 while walking the family dog and was hospitalized until his death. He was a graduate of Williams College in Mass., Yale Law School, and Harvard Business School.

During the war, Shepard served as a first lieutenant with Detachment 101 behind Japanese lines in Burma. In his role, Gordon Shepard recruited various Kachin tribesmen, hiding for months in the mountains with an interpreter. He and a small number of other 101ers won over many thousands of Burmese in the campaign.

In Shepard's own words, "It was our function with native troops to find where [the Japanese] might be and get in touch with the Air Force and bomb them." In one particular battle, Shepard and the Kachins were under assault by Japanese machine gun fire and heavy artillery. Yet, while repeatedly outnumbered and fighting against the better-equipped forces, Detachment 101 and its tribal partners helped rout the Japanese from 10,000 square miles in Burma. Soon afterward, Shepard received the Bronze Star for meritorious service in action.



## Flying Tiger Pilot Dies; Rescued by Det. 101

**F**lying Tiger pilot **Charles D. Mott**, one of the first to bring war to the Japanese when he led an American Volunteer Group (AVG) against their airfields in Thailand, died at his home in Vienna, Va., July 30, 2004. Mott was the also the first American airman to be captured by the Japanese on the Southeast Asian mainland



*AVG Pilot Charles Mott*

when his plane crashed during an attack on a Japanese airbase in Thailand. He spent three years in a Japanese POW camp.

Shortly before the war ended, with the help of Free Thai guerillas, Mott walked out of the infamous POW camp on the River Kwai and joined a small Thai and American team at an OSS strip in the jungle. There he found 300 Free Thai and three OSS officers who named Mott the unit's "airdrome officer." Mott stayed with the OSS until he was evacuated three months after the war ended.

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## OSS Veteran Paratrooper Honored at Special Ops Meet

**F**ort Bragg paratroopers celebrated the creation of the Army's airborne forces on August 16 with a ceremony at the Airborne & Special Operations Museum, Fayetteville, North Carolina. After the ceremony, paratroopers thanked Louie Davis, 82, of Columbus, Georgia, who participated in the Army's first official parachute jump on August 16, 1940.

Davis, who was 19 at the time, almost didn't jump. "Every time I would see someone jump out, my stomach would come up," he said. So he turned to tell the jumpmaster that he wasn't going to jump when the instructor hit him on the back and knocked him out of the plane. Once the parachute opened, Davis said, he relaxed and enjoyed the view. "I know I had a grin on my face from ear to ear," he said.

Davis went on to join the Office of Strategic Services, a precursor to the Special Operations Command that performed special operations missions during World War II. He said, "It means a lot. It is one of the highlights of my life. I am thankful to be here."

## American Volunteer Group Tigers Fly Again

**F**ive American Volunteer Group (AVG) Flying Tiger pilots flew again the shark-nosed P-40 aircraft in which they fought the Japanese Air Force in the skies over China, Burma, and Thailand and protected OSS detachments throughout China more than 60 years ago. The five Tigers agreed that it was great to get back into the cockpit, and wonderful to be able to take the controls and fly the P-40. "Like a bicycle," Flying Tiger Association President Dick Rossi said, "it all seemed natural after a short while."

Rossi last flew a P-40 in July 1942, when the AVG was disbanded. "The airplane looked great and sounded great," Peter Wright said. "The most evocative thing was the old airplane smell—gasoline, hot metal, and paint. It was just right. It was what brought back the memories."

The occasion was the AVG Flying Tiger Association reunion in Central Florida in April 2004. The event was attended by 21 of the 36 surviving AVG members. When it went into action after 7 December 1941, the AVG was comprised of less than 100 pilots and 200 ground crew. The AVG was disbanded on 4 July 1942.

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## OSS "Spook's" Heroism Cited in Balkans Conflict

**T**he Columbus, Ohio, Dispatch ran the following story of an OSS operator, **Art Jibilian**:

In the vernacular of espionage, he was a "spook," a World War II shadow soldier whose field of operations knew neither front lines nor rear. In 1943, a recruiter in the Office of Strategic Services told Art Jibilian, "Sometimes we will drop you by parachute. Sometime you will go by submarine. You'll have a 50-50 chance of making it back." Today Jibilian recalls, "He didn't pull any punches. He told me that the OSS desperately needed radio operators."

Dispatched to the Balkans after jump school, Jibilian was dropped into German-occupied Yugoslavia in the spring of 1944. He ran headlong into a German offensive to wipe out resistance fighters and Allied intelligence operatives. Jibilian and partisan soldiers, retreating before the enemy advance, fought an 11-day gun battle to try to seek cover in mountain forests with a small group of downed U.S. fliers.

After two months of hiding, he and his companions made it to the safety of friendly forces. Jibilian was awarded the Silver Star for his role in the operation.



## Stories of Slovakian Tragedy Described in Cleveland Plain Dealer

by Elizabeth Sullivan

This is the saga of the doomed U.S. Office of Strategic Services mission in the mountains of Slovakia, the months-long flight through the mountains, shoes falling off frostbitten feet and subsequent capture, execution, and incineration at the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria of the rest of team.

The OSS mission was led by South Carolina cotton magnate Holt Green, and accompanied by Associated Press correspondent Joe Morton. It is one of the most extraordinary, least-known episodes of the waning days of World War II in Europe and the start of the Cold War.

In a way, the Cold War was born in central Slovakia, where a nationalist rebellion briefly flared and died as Soviets and Ukrainian operatives vied with Americans and Brits to win the fealty of the people in terrain already ceded to Moscow.

The Slovak uprising that started 60 years ago in the town of Banska Bystrica sputtered badly by October as German forces closed in, and the OSS mission found itself cut off and forced to flee into the mountains.

"They didn't anticipate the furious German reaction," says author Jim Downs who researched the events. "The Germans brought in elements of five divisions. They were so well equipped and disciplined, they just crushed the Slovak opposition." SS units prowled the countryside, executing whole villages of suspected partisan sympathizers and families sheltering Jews while looking for the Allied mission.

The OSS team included Clevelander Joe Horvath, whose family had moved from Polomka when he was nine years old. Twenty-five years later, he was back, spending Christmas in a hunting shack, which was the OSS headquarters, in the hills above the war-torn village. There the mission was betrayed to the Nazis and the bulk of its participants were captured as they tarried an extra day, waiting for an overdue airdrop of provisions.

Horvath's younger brother Rudy, now retired and living in Arkansas, says his cousin in Polomka later told the family he had wanted Joe to move on, that the shack wasn't safe because too many people knew the soldiers were there.

Another who was worried about security, according to the team survivors was Joe Morton, AP reporter who



*Maria Gulovich Liu stands beside the cabin in the Tatra mountains, Slovakia, where the OSS team was captured by the Nazis. The occasion was an OSS memorial visit to the scene in 1994.*

had talked his way onto the OSS mission at the last minute, carrying his typewriter on the run for weeks before having to abandon it.

Maria Gulovich Liu, the blue-eyed daughter of a Greek Catholic village priest who later won a Bronze Star for bravery for her assistance to the mission, had left the hut Christmas afternoon with a group returning to set flares for the expected supply drop.

"Joe Morton walked with us half an hour or longer, and then he said, 'Well, I have to go back,' and we hugged. And he looked so sad," recalls Liu, now 83 and living in California. That was the last time she saw him.

She later helped the rest of the team to a Soviet encampment from which they were rescued by Allied forces.





# New OSS Society Members

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

Kenneth Bailey (OSS veteran), Atlantic Highlands, NJ  
Thomas J. Bennett, N. Vernon, IL  
Anne Robichaud Black, Charlotte, NC  
Elizabeth Boody, Washington, DC  
Francis J. Derocher (OSS veteran), Bark River, MI  
Patricia Ely, Wilton, CT  
Thomas R. Elliott, Plano, TX  
Camella Gaglioti-Beiter, Hopedale, MA  
Christine Colby Giraudo, Washington, DC  
Christina Sophia Hart, Bainbridge Island, WA  
Karina Winifred Hart, Seattle, WA  
Karl Kalassay (OSS veteran), Palm Beach, FL  
David J. Kalassay, Virginia Beach, VA  
Victoria E. Williams, Falls Church, VA  
Mary M. Gardiner, Charlottesville, VA  
Kathleen Gibboney, Cincinnati, OH  
Hon. Marcy Kaptur, Toledo, OH  
Joan Lindley Kimmel, Greensboro, NC  
Worth Pendleton Lindley Kimmel, Reidsville, NC  
Jefrey A. Kos, Park Ridge, IL

Brenda Gardner Lalonde, Ogdensburg, NY  
Roger C. L'Hereault (OSS veteran), Sun City West, AZ  
Ben K. Luck (OSS veteran), Portales, NM  
Diana Luck, Aztec, NM  
Deanna Mandel, Dixon, IL  
Susan Smith McConnell, Richmond, VA  
Leon C. Messenger (OSS veteran), Oakton, VA  
Josephine Amico Messina, West End, NC  
Victor Miller (OSS veteran), Jacksonville, AL  
Michael P. Paris, McLean, VA  
Armand R. Poyant (OSS veteran), McLean, VA  
G. Amaris Price, Manassas Park, VA  
Martha B. Ransom, Alexandria, VA  
Chadd Rupp, Tampa, FL  
Jeffrey W. Russell, Roy, UT  
Mike Simon, Louisville, OH  
Anthony Sirtaut (OSS veteran), Wheaton, IL  
Barbara Anne Smith, St. Louis, MO  
Susan M. Suso, Akron, OH  
Charles B. Wagner (OSS veteran), Norfolk, VA

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## Poem from Young OSS Fan

Just thought I'd write about how I feel about the OSS. I wish my papa who served in OSS had shared more, but that was not to be.

The OSS

They now have a place in history,  
Although many of their exploits are still a mystery  
They were and are our nation's best.

We will never forget the men and women of the OSS.  
Maria Melenzio Kensey

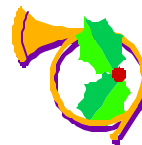


## OSS Society Officers

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

## OSS Board Meeting/Reunion at Congressional Country Club

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of The OSS Society is scheduled Sunday, Sept. 26, 2004 at 10 a.m. followed by a reunion of Society members living in the area. It will be at the Congressional Country Club, 8500 River Road, Bethesda, Md., the wartime setting for OSS training, including blowing up the golf course greens. A brunch will be served at noon. The cost is \$18.50 per person. Two authors will be signing their books at the club: **Elizabeth McIntosh**, *Sisterhood of Spies* and **Roger Hall**, *You're Stepping on My Cloak and Dagger*.



## 101 Holiday Lunch

Detachment 101 and The OSS Society will hold their Annual Christmas get-together with family and friends on Wednesday, 8 December, 2004 at 1200 hours at the Ft. Myer Officer's Club. For further information, check with Alger Ellis at 703-243-4052.

## Help Wanted – by OSSers and Others

- I AM TRYING TO LOCATE information on my father, **Donato F. Lavanga**, a member of the U.S. Army and the OSS, stationed in France. I do not have information as to his company while overseas. He was born in Italy and became a U.S. citizen prior to his signing up for military service. I would like to put together information about his military service. P.D. Lavanga, Yardley, PA - [patlav@aol.com](mailto:patlav@aol.com).
- LOOKING TO SEE if my late father-in-law was OSS or if my imagination is just too vivid. His name was **Major Alfred August Kohler**, USAAF, from Texas. He was supposed to have been stationed in the CBI theater as a commissary officer. Post-war, he was assigned to Munich. Does he sound familiar to any members? John Tindall - [phredclick@aol.com](mailto:phredclick@aol.com)
- I AM DOING RESEARCH on women that served in the OSS during WWII in the European theater, and particularly D-Day. I would love to hear any personal stories from those **women in the OSS** or from family members or friends. Nicki Kurfman - [ngaskurf@msn.com](mailto:ngaskurf@msn.com)
- I AM TRYING TO GET INFORMATION about my grandfather, **Lt. Col. Raymond George Doucett**, who was a member of OSS (he was a major at the time) and his military career. Elizabeth Dozier - 714-736-0870.
- DOES ANYONE REMEMBER a **Col. Hutton** from the Burma campaign? John Anest - [8000017@att.net](mailto:8000017@att.net)
- I AM LOOKING FOR INFORMATION regarding my great-uncle **Max S. Polin**. He was the President of Cathay Oil Company and a member of the Board of Directors of the China National Aircraft Corp. prior to WWII. He was interned by the Japanese early in WWII, but was later exchanged aboard the SS Gripsholm. I have been told that he became a member of the OSS due to his extensive knowledge of Asia and because he spoke multiple Chinese dialects. I am also trying to determine the camp in which he was interned. Packard Polin - [pacjan@comcast.net](mailto:pacjan@comcast.net)
- I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE to hear from - or about - any veterans of the **Deer Team**, or any members of OSS who worked either in Vietnam or in China. I'm particularly interested in anything about Ho Chi Minh. Steve Haisman - [stevehaisman@aol.com](mailto:stevehaisman@aol.com).
- I AM WRITING A PAPER on the Danish Jedsburgh Mission in 1945, and would appreciate any information on **Major Riis OSS and Major Verschoor OSS** who were mentioned in the SOE files on the mission. Original Milton Hall-trained Jeds who were involved were **LTC Hod Fuller USMC, Capt Doug Bazata, and Capt Bill Pietsch**. The files also mention OSS W/T operators, but cannot identify them by name; possibly **Poitras, Larosse, and Litallan**. Only one team was deployed under the **British Lt. Col. Andrew Croft** and this was to observe the German surrender. Training of the Danish Jeds was carried out at Hatherop Castle STS 45 near Fairford in Gloucestershire. Steven Kippax - [stevenkippax@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stevenkippax@yahoo.co.uk)
- I AM A STUDENT AT DENISON UNIVERSITY. I am writing to request interviews with any individuals who had contact in the war with partisans in France, Yugoslavia, or the Soviet Union. This is for a major research project and I would appreciate any help. Brendon Corcoran - [corcorb@denison.edu](mailto:corcorb@denison.edu).
- JOANNA MENDEZ IS ASSEMBLING a life story of **Eloise Randolph Page**, whose intelligence career spanned half a century, starting as special secretary to General Donovan, and ending in CIA as one of the agency's top operations executives and first woman chief of station in Athens. Joanna is looking for early photographs of Page, from her childhood to OSS days. Contact her at [pleasantvalley@erols.com](mailto:pleasantvalley@erols.com).
- I AM BEGINNING RESEARCH on the **OSS Operational Groups**, and I would love to hear from all OGs (including family members) regardless of the geographical location where they served, be it China, Burma, France, Italy, Yugoslavia, or Greece. Troy Sacquety - 703-669-5369.
- I AM TRYING TO LOCATE information about my grandfather, **Robert Melvin Simpson**, and his service during WWII. According to his memoirs, he served in the OSS in the China/Burma/India theatre from 1943 to November 1945. He was a recipient of the Silver Star. Thank you in advance for any help you might be able to provide. Laura Hardenbrook@[yahoo.com](mailto:yahoo.com).
- I AM A FRENCH REPORTER and writer, based in Paris, France looking for contacts and information about the life and missions of OSS agent **Virginia Hall** during World War II, helping French Resistance and serving both British SOE and American OSS. I would be very interested if anybody—OSSers, Hall's relatives, friends or historians could provide me some help, some materials, or suggest any contacts for my international research. With great thanks in advance, please contact me at: [vincent.nouzille@wanadoo.fr](mailto:vincent.nouzille@wanadoo.fr).
- CAN YOU HELP ME RESEARCH the OSS contribution of my grandfather, **Lt. Col. Charles H. Race**, Chemical Warfare Service? I believe he was on the initial staff established in Ireland. - [herbert.race@navy.mil](mailto:herbert.race@navy.mil).

## OSS Mission to Haute Savoie Honored at Ceremony in France

A ceremony commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OSS Union II Mission to the Haute Savoie in August 1944 was held at the Col D'Saisies, France, followed by a memorial ceremony at Centron. Here an OSS mission comprised of **Major Peter J. Ortiz, Sgt. Major John P. Bodnar, and Jack Risler** "saved" the town when they agreed to surrender to a German company on the gentleman's agreement that no harm would come to the town or its inhabitants.

At the ceremony at Col D'Saisies, the two surviving members of the mission, Bodnar and Risler, were awarded the Legion D'Honneur for their heroic actions. Highlights included a French jet flyover, and a re-creation of their parachute jump by a platoon of French paratroopers.

*Our correspondent, Major Steven L. White (USMC) with Marine Forces, Europe, writes:*

We were successful in getting Col. Peter J. Ortiz' widow, Lt. Col. P.J. Ortiz Jr., (USMC Ret.) and his wife, Sgt. Maj. and Mrs. John Bodnar, and Jack Risler, his son

Neil and his wife to attend the event. The award of the Legion d'Honneur to Bodnar and Risler was kept a secret from them until the morning of the event. The surprise was wonderful! In addition to the ceremony on the Col



*Two OSS Heros: Jack Risler (left) and Sgt. Maj. John Bodnar at the 60th anniversary of their mission to Haute Savoie.*

D'Saisies where a crowd of 2,500 turned up, we organized a dinner cruise for the veterans and the Marine Forces, Europe. Following the ceremony all proceeded to Centron, the town Union II members saved. Marine Forces, Europe presented a plaque to the town mayor in honor of Colonel Ortiz and the mission. The mayor of Centron opened his town hall to us, and Sgt. Maj. Bodnar and Mr. Risler gave a summary of their wartime activities for our Marines. On Sunday I was privileged to take Mrs. Ortiz and veterans and their families back to Centron where Mrs. Ortiz threw seven white roses into the Isere River in honor of the seven members of the

mission. For me personally meeting some of my heroes and their families was a wonderful experience, and I am truly honored to have been able to play the role of "traffic cop" in helping organize this event.



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