

Kriegy Robert T. Thompson's Capture and Family's Donation Story



The children of Robert T Thompson have agreed to donate at the major donor level of \$10,000 to Friends of Oflag 64. Each child will contribute $\frac{1}{4}$ of the \$10,000. We decided to make the donation on the same day that our father walked into the Oflag 64 POW camp which was December 1, 1944.

To prepare for the date in 2020, we met via a Zoom call on what would have been our father's 99th birthday which was November 29. Of course, some of us started telling 'Daddy' stories. The most significant stories had to do with the

capture, oddly enough. Nancy said that when she took Daddy to a doctor's appointment in 2012, the pond outside the doctor's office prompted another war story. This setting reminded Daddy of the mountains in France, where he was captured. At dawn one morning, he woke up and all the soldiers were standing by a lake, pointing their guns across the lake. Someone said, "FIRE!", and everybody shot the ducks. Daddy said he only had 4 rounds left in his gun when he was captured later that day.

Robert, my brother, had accompanied our father many years later, back to the same area of France with the goal of finding the place of capture. The two Roberts were not successful in finding the location on the first try. They decided to try one more time. They stopped for gas, and a topographical map was posted inside the gas station. Daddy surveyed the map and found a reservoir. From this body of water on the map, he was able to plot the most likely direction they would have marched so many years ago.

Sure enough, they drove right to the place where he was captured in the fall of 1944. They took a picture of the area. The road was a logging road, and it looked the same. Daddy framed that picture and placed it in his office, where it hung the rest of his life.

We are thankful that, as a family, we can help to preserve the memories of the soldiers who were 'guests' of the Germans during World War II. We encourage other families to consider becoming a major donor.

