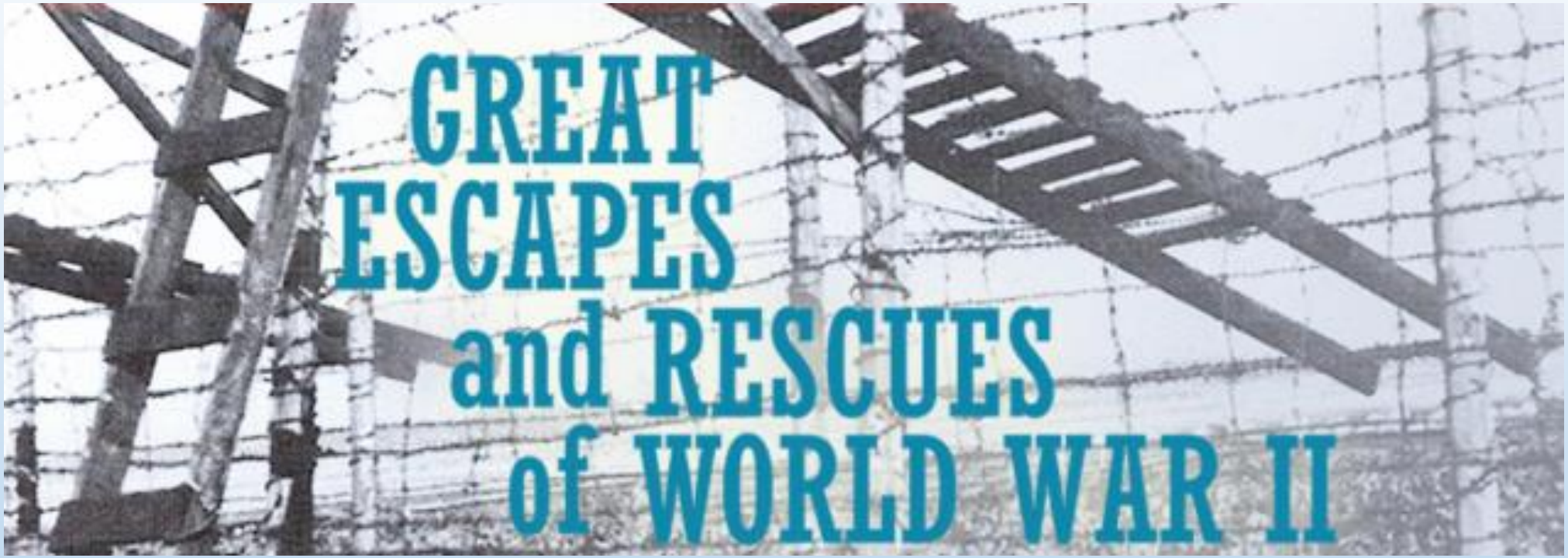


The Kansas City Public Library Signature Event

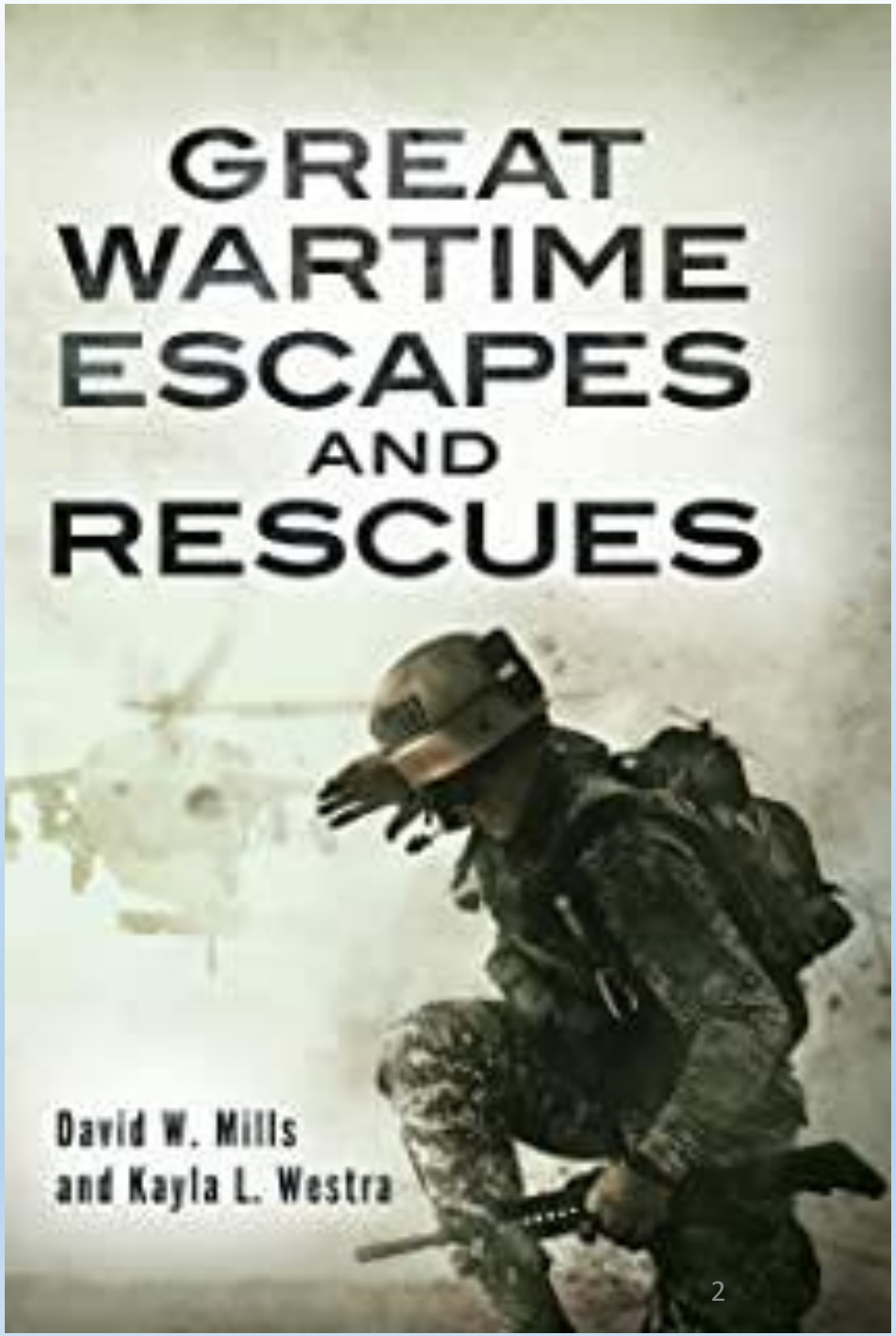
January 28, 2020

Dr. David W. Mills and

Dr. Kayla L. Westra

Welcome and Introductions

- Dr. Mills is a military historian at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.
- Dr. Westra is dean of institutional effectiveness and liberal arts at Minnesota West Community and Technical College.



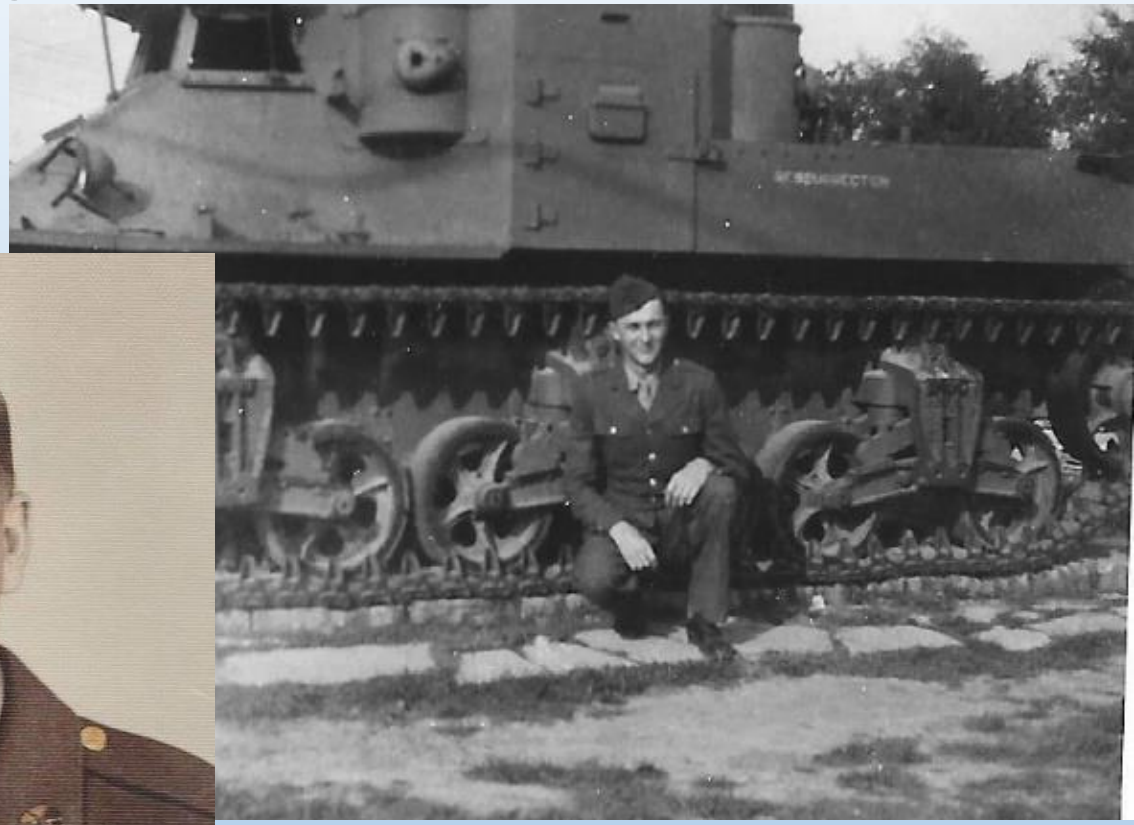
Agenda

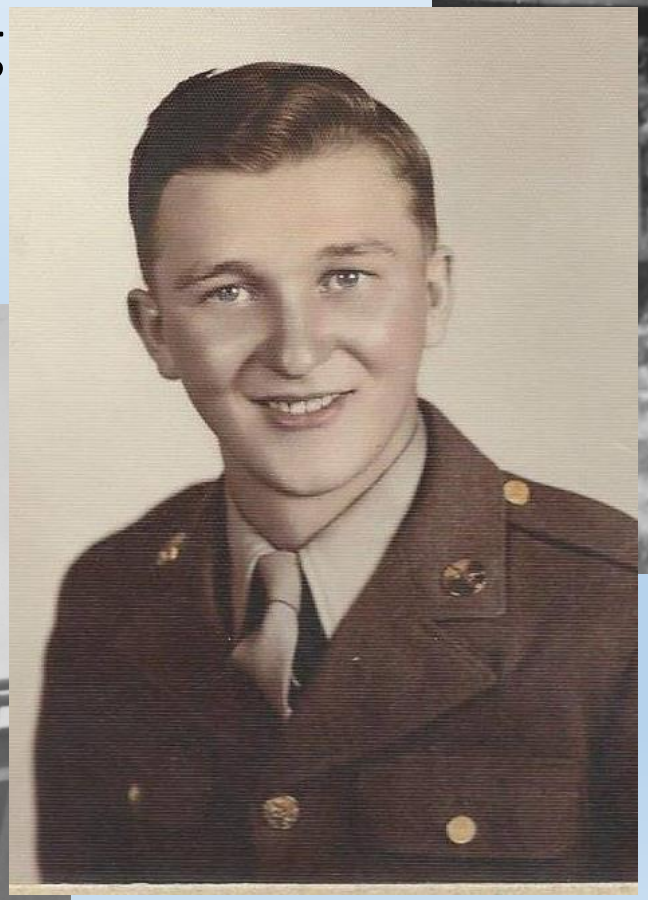
- History and Problems of Escape
- Escapes and Rescues
  - The Great Escape - Kayla
  - William Ash – Kayla
  - George Grimson - Dave
  - Franz von Werra – Dave
  - Henri Honoré Giraud – Kayla
  - Sobibor – Kayla
  - Cabanatuan – Dave
- Conclusion

Gaunt allied prisoners of war at Aomori camp near Yokohama

Great Escapes and Rescues

- Greatest Generation
- Hollywood Romanticizing
- Reality versus History





PFC Gordon Grupe
Source: family photos

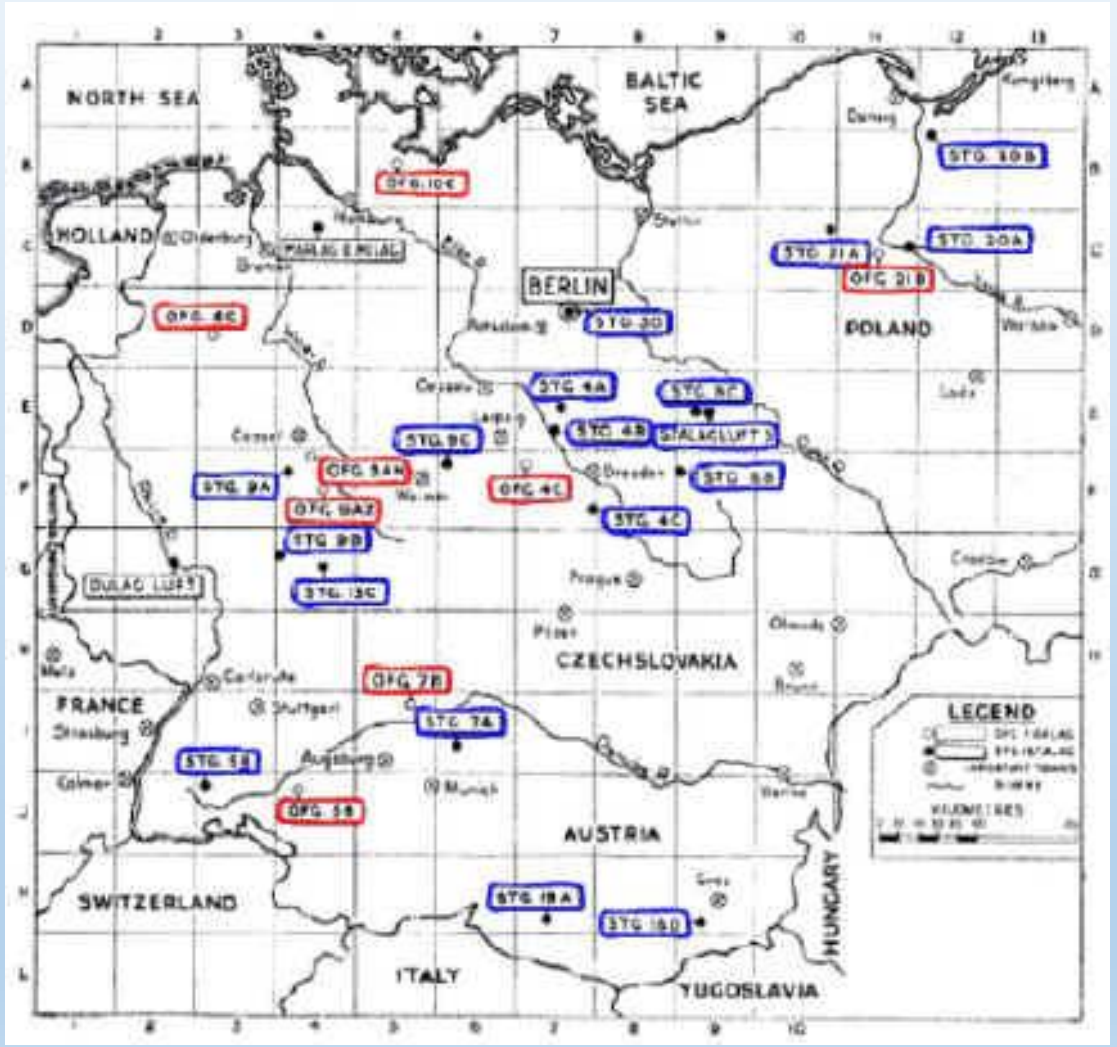
POW Treatment in the Middle Ages

POW Treatment 18th Century and Beyond

Source:
Wikimedia

Escape – What is Your Plan?

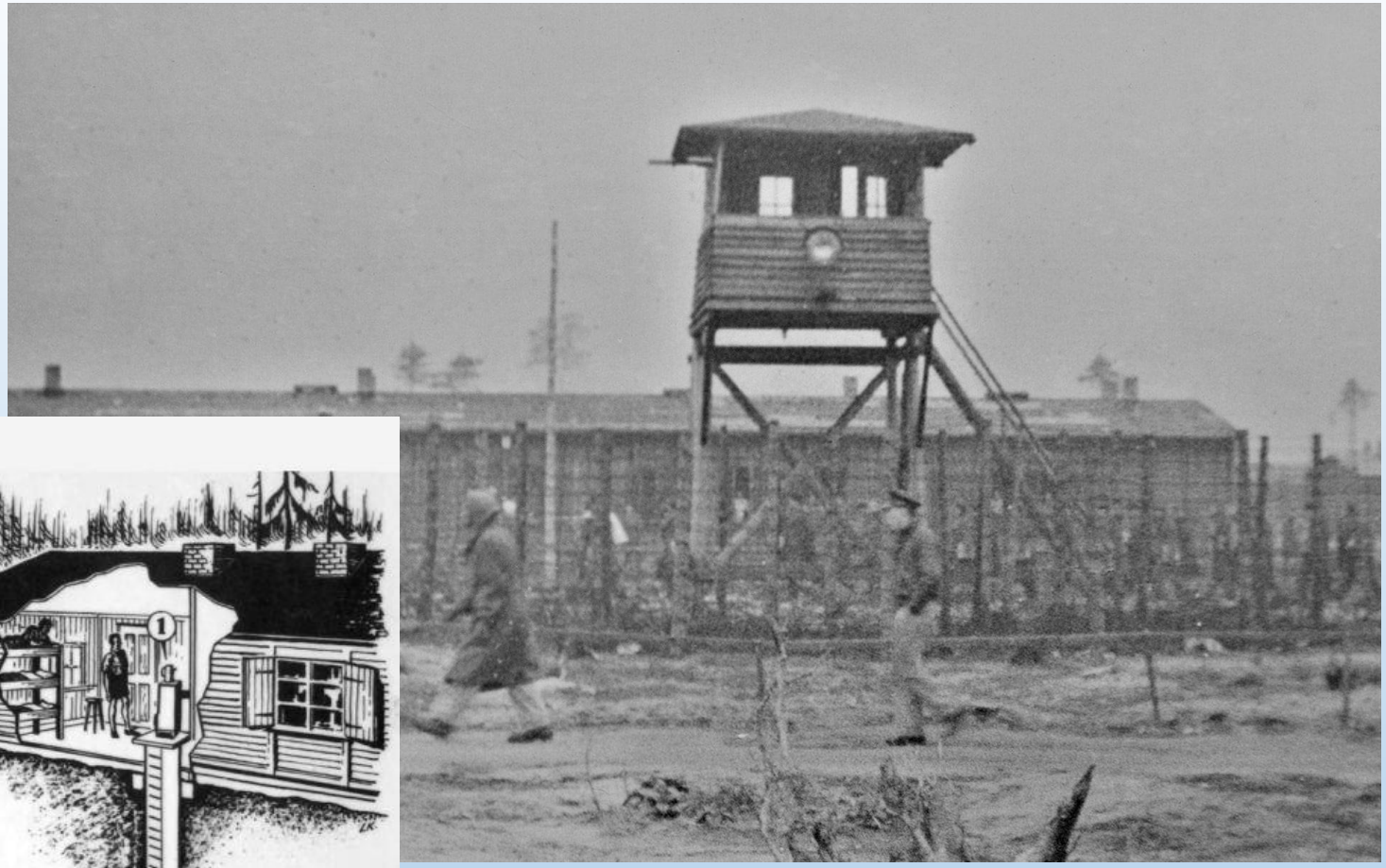
Prisoners of the Japanese - Pacific



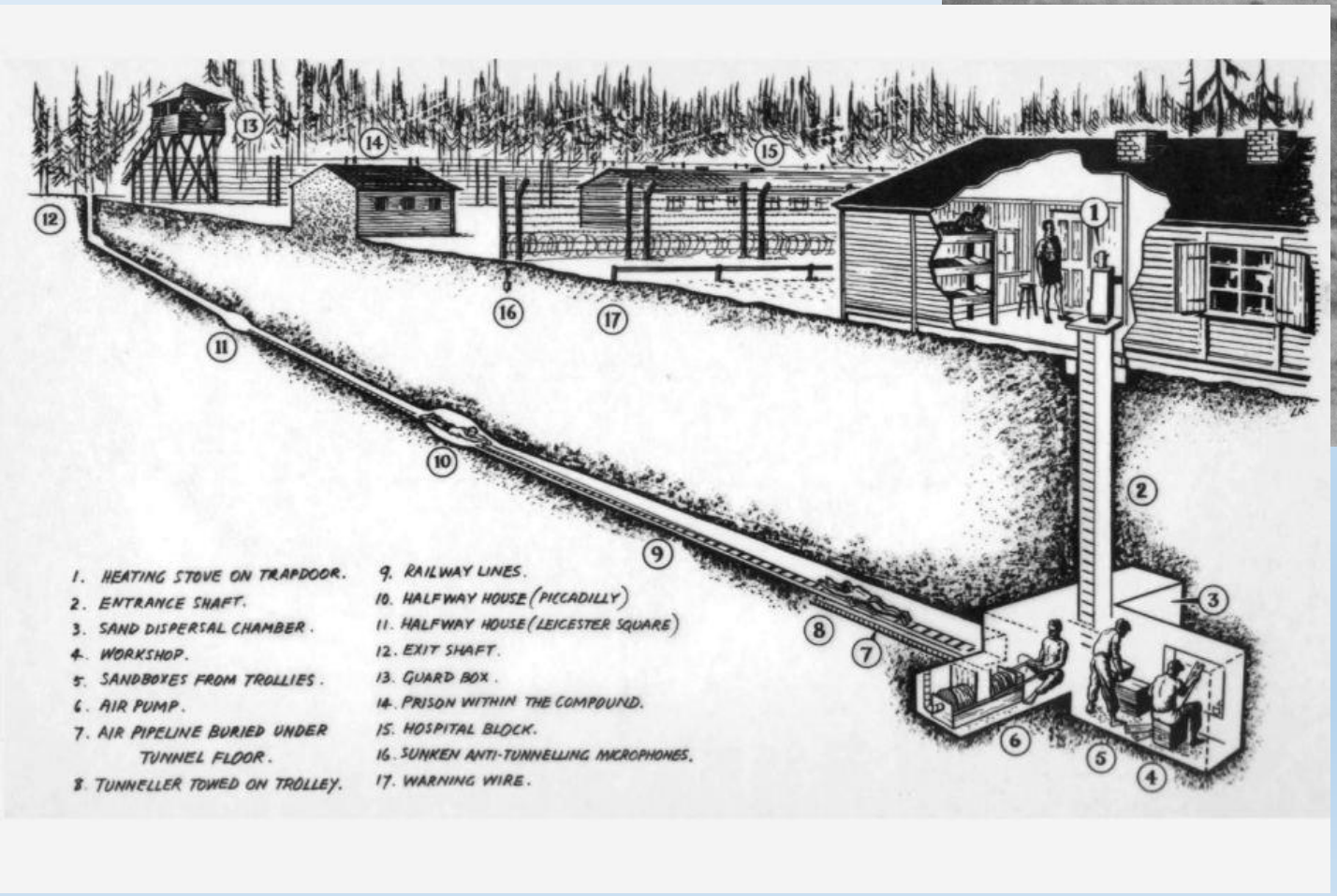
POW Camps - Germany

Escape – With a Little Help From My Friends

Great Escape

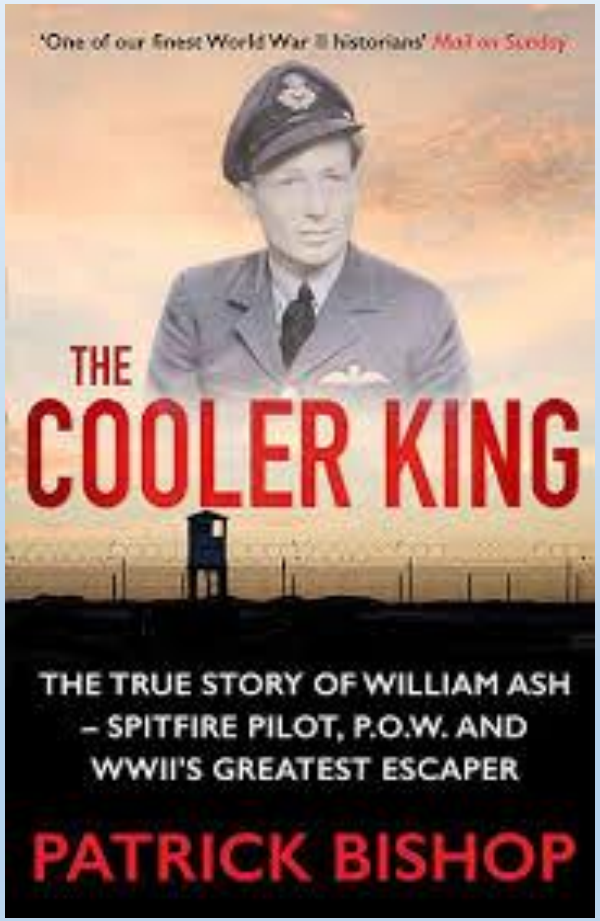


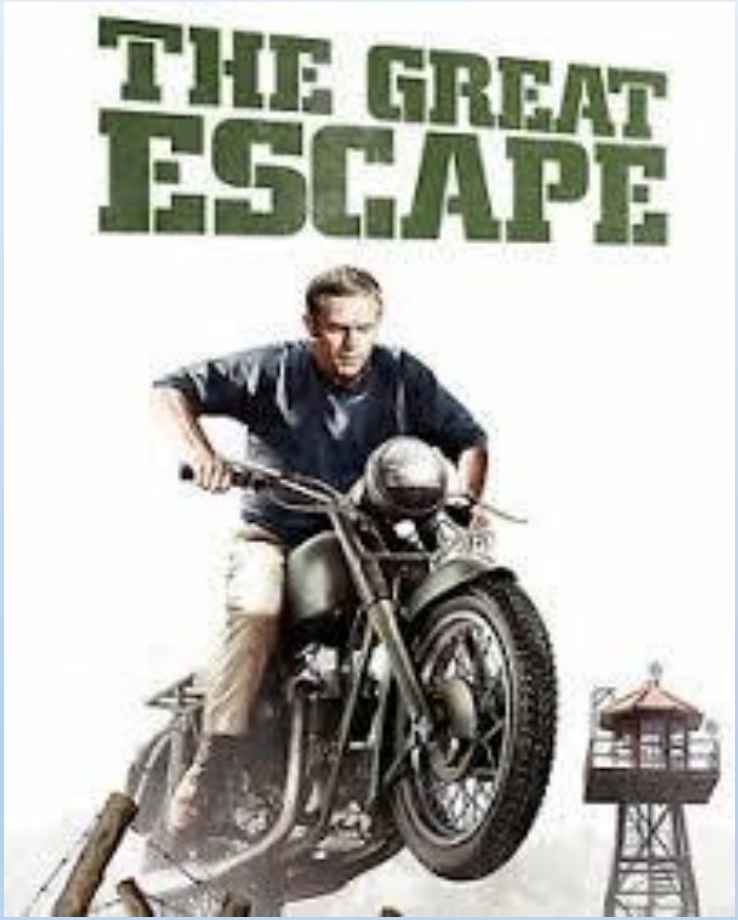
Stalag Luft III Credit: CEN/P.O.W. Camps Museum



Source: Ley Kenyon

William Ash – Cooler King

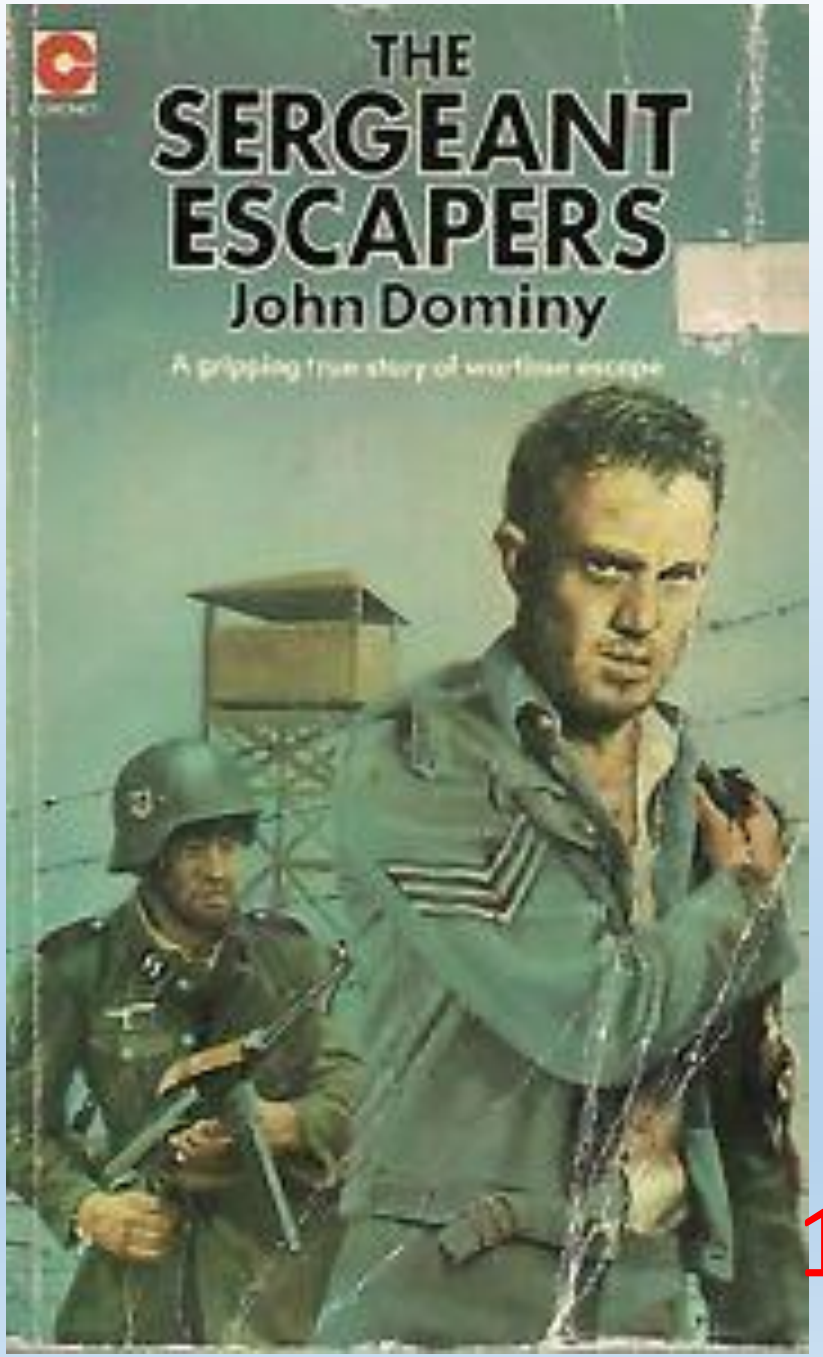




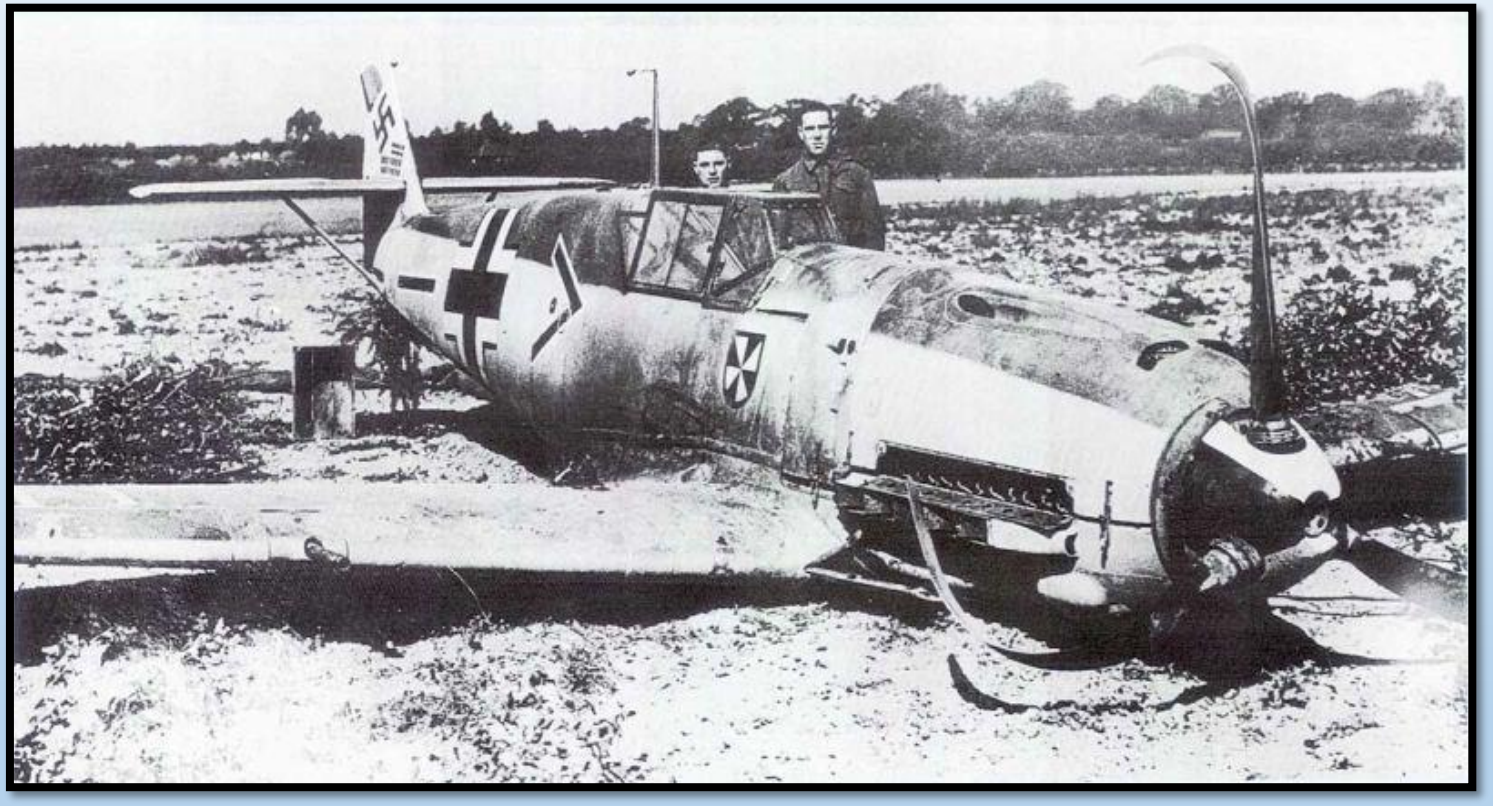
George Grimson

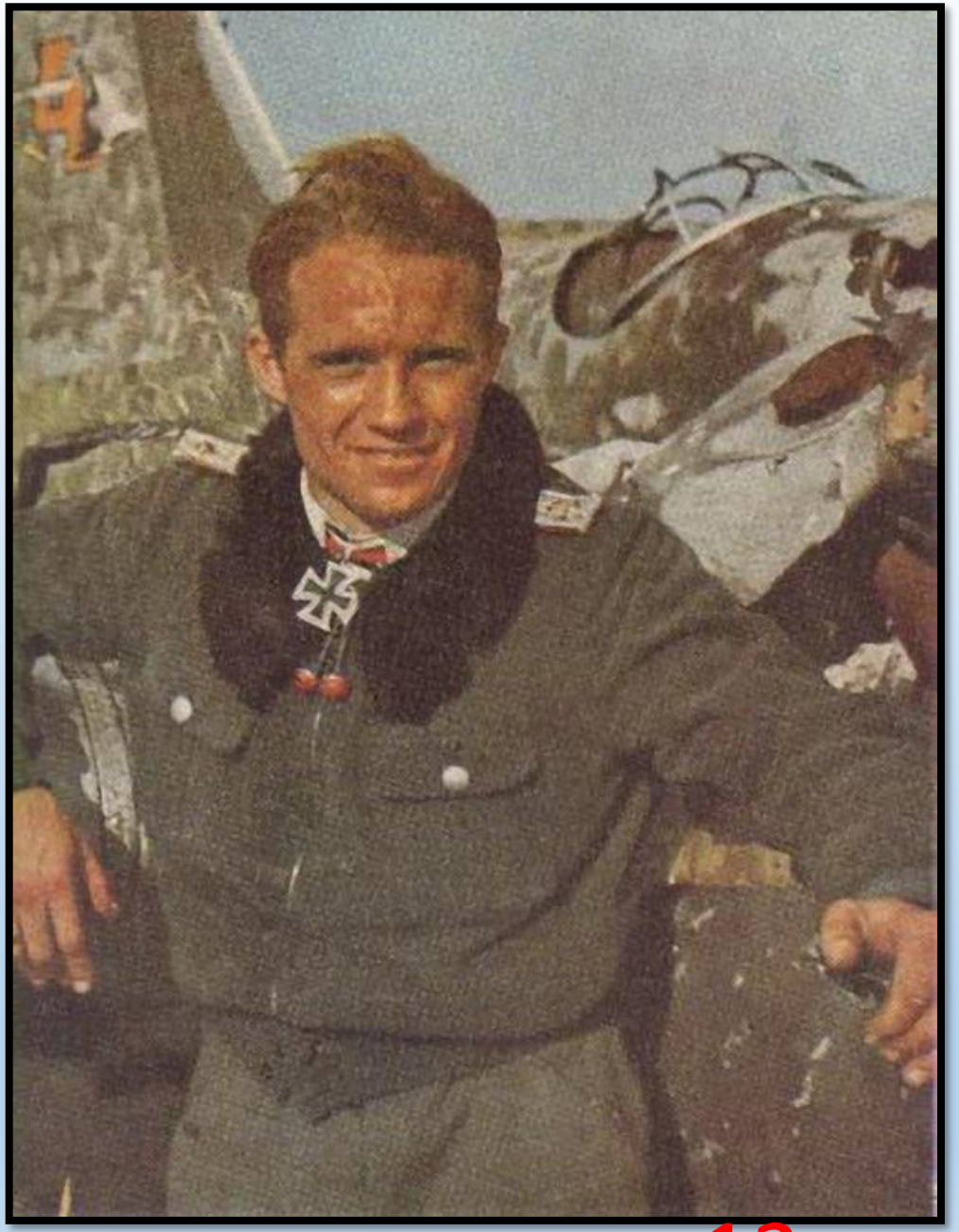
Sometimes You Just Need to Say, "What the Heck!"

George Grimson



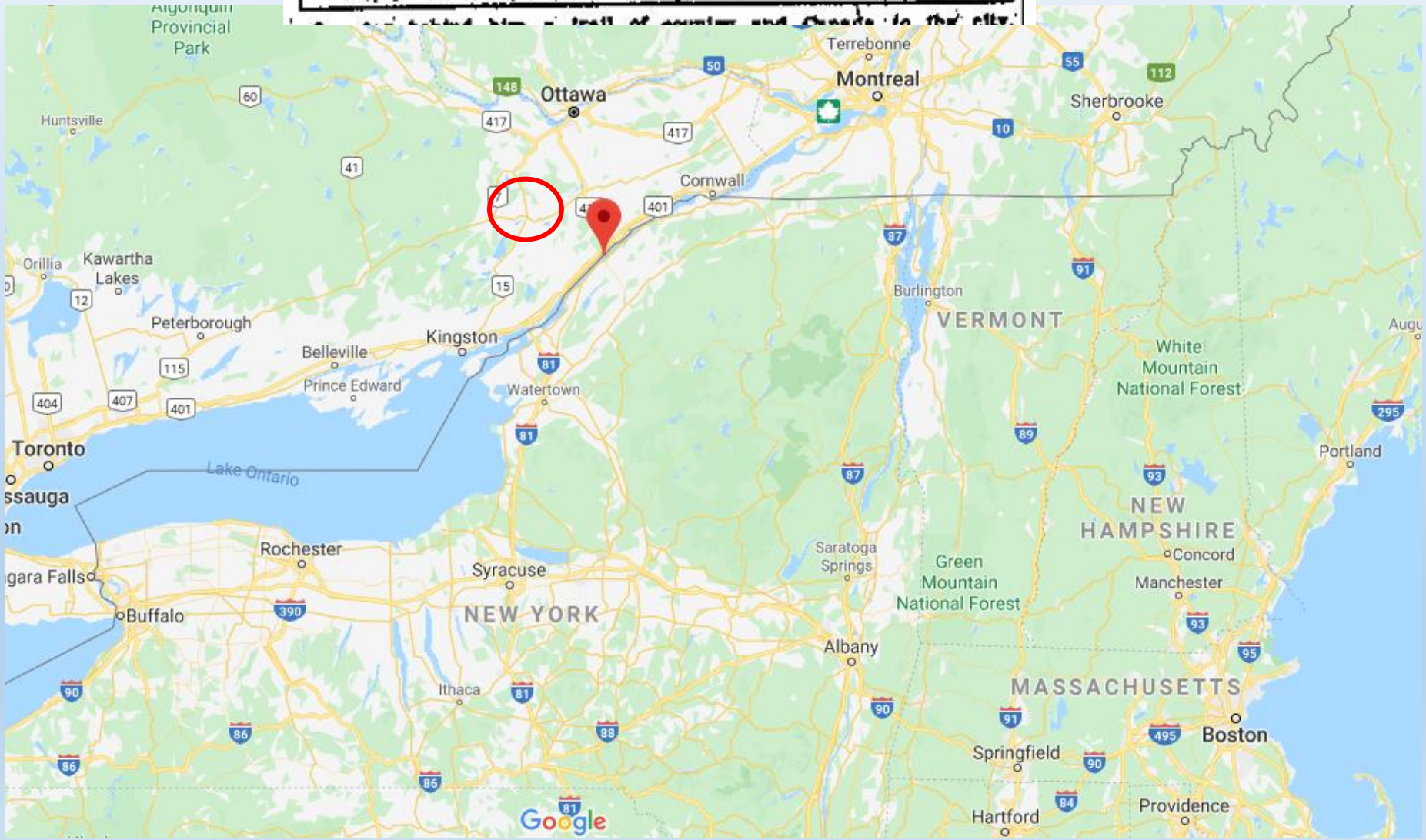
Franz von Werra





MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1941

Barron Von Werra Begins Tour of "Sights" After Arrival In New York City



Nazi Flyer, Ears Frozen, Arrives After His Escape From Canada

Whisked Off by His Consul; 2 Breaks in England Vain, Hitch Hikes Aid Third

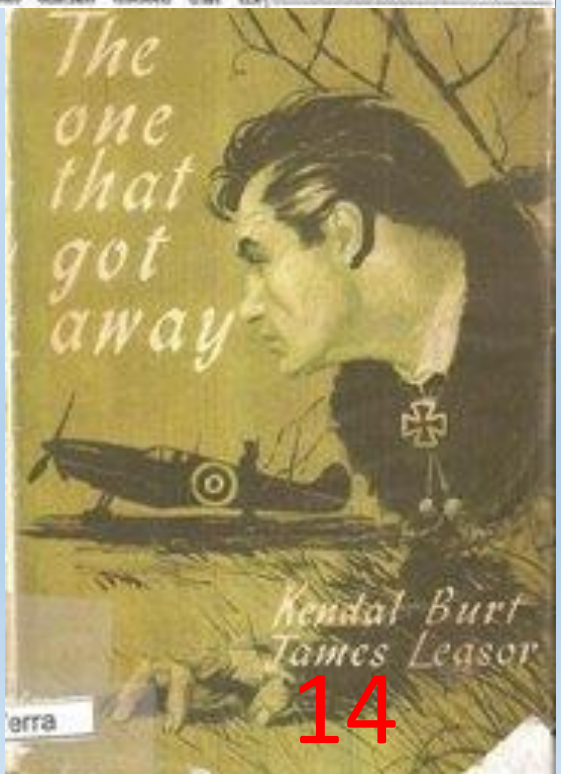
By Homer Bigart

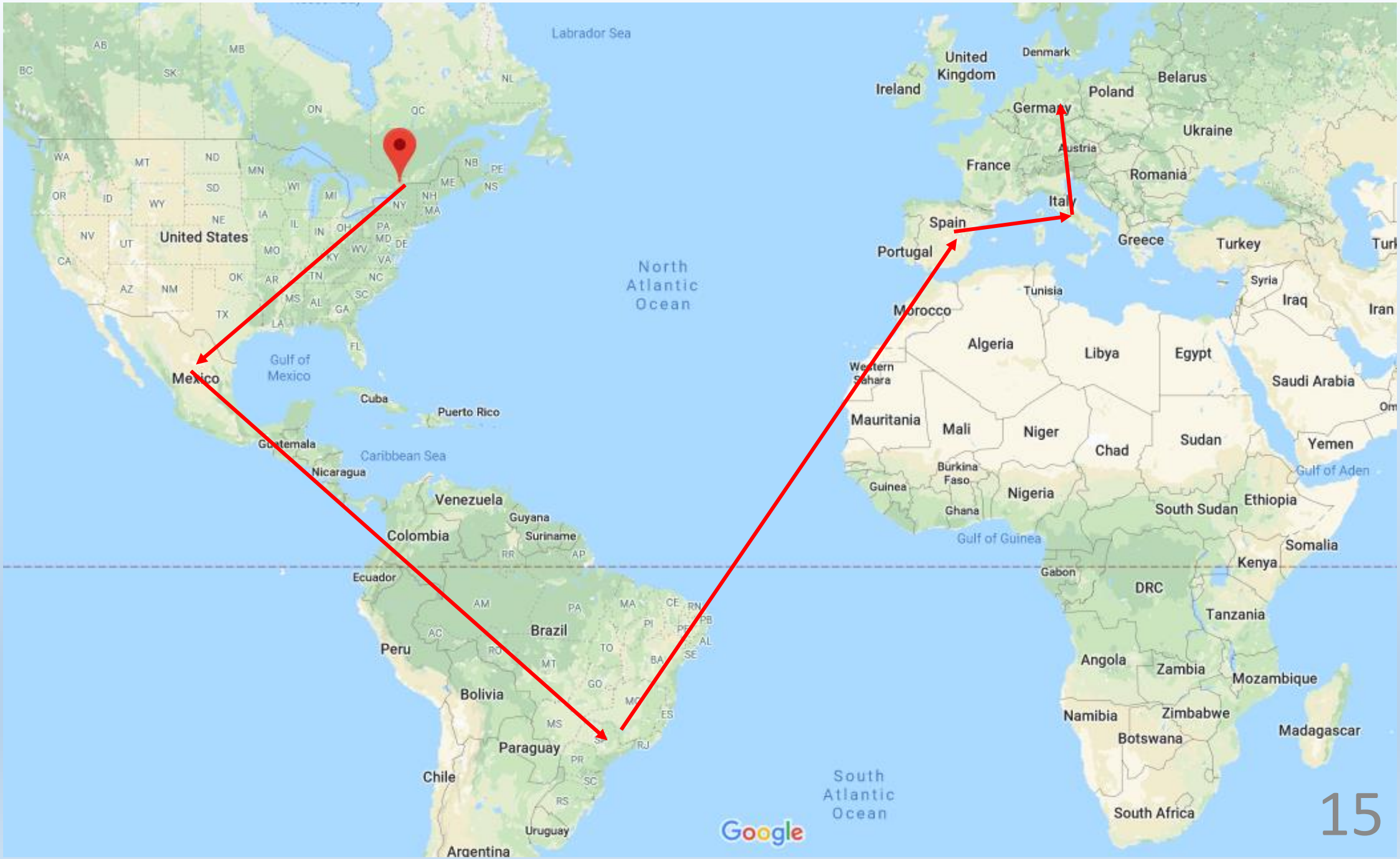
A gangling young German aviator with taped ears and an embarrassed grin arrived in Grand Central Terminal early yesterday, eager to tell the world how he escaped from a Canadian prison train, hitchhiked across the Laurentian Mountains, did a bit of sightseeing on Ottawa's Parliament Hill and wound up in Ogdensburg, N. Y., after rowing across the St. Lawrence River.

Baron Franz von Werra found no time for conversation, however. A brusque German consular attache shouldered his way down platform 32 when the train from Ogdensburg pulled in at 6:45 a. m. and collared the twenty-six-year-old pursuit pilot as soon as he alighted. They entered a taxicab and drove to the Hotel Astor, which is the residence of Gustav A. Mueller, German Consul. Reporters watched the lobby in vain the rest of the day, although hotel officials insisted that the

Associated Press

Baron Franz von Werra, with tape on frozen ears, leaving Grand Central Terminal yesterday



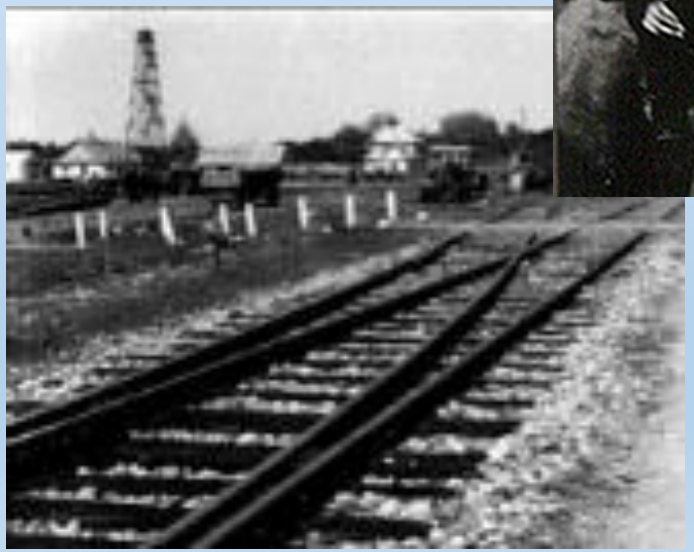

Labrador Sea
North Atlantic Ocean
South Atlantic Ocean
Gulf of Mexico
Caribbean Sea
Gulf of Guinea
Gulf of Aden
United States
Mexico
Cuba
Puerto Rico
Guatemala
Nicaragua
Venezuela
Guyana
Suriname
Colombia
Ecuador
Peru
Brazil
Bolivia
Paraguay
Chile
Uruguay
Argentina
Ireland
United Kingdom
Denmark
Belarus
Poland
Germany
Ukraine
Austria
France
Romania
Italy
Spain
Portugal
Greece
Turkey
Syria
Iraq
Iran
Tunisia
Morocco
Algeria
Libya
Egypt
Western Sahara
Saudi Arabia
Mauritania
Mali
Niger
Chad
Sudan
Yemen
Burkina Faso
Guinea
Nigeria
Ghana
South Sudan
Ethiopia
Somalia
Kenya
Gabon
DRC
Tanzania
Angola
Zambia
Mozambique
Namibia
Zimbabwe
Botswana
Madagascar
South Africa
Google

Henri Honoré Giraud

Casablanca Conference; Allied leaders: Giraud, Henri; Roosevelt, Franklin D.; Gaulle, Charles de; Churchill, Winston

U.S. Army Photo

Sobibor



Source: YNETNEWS

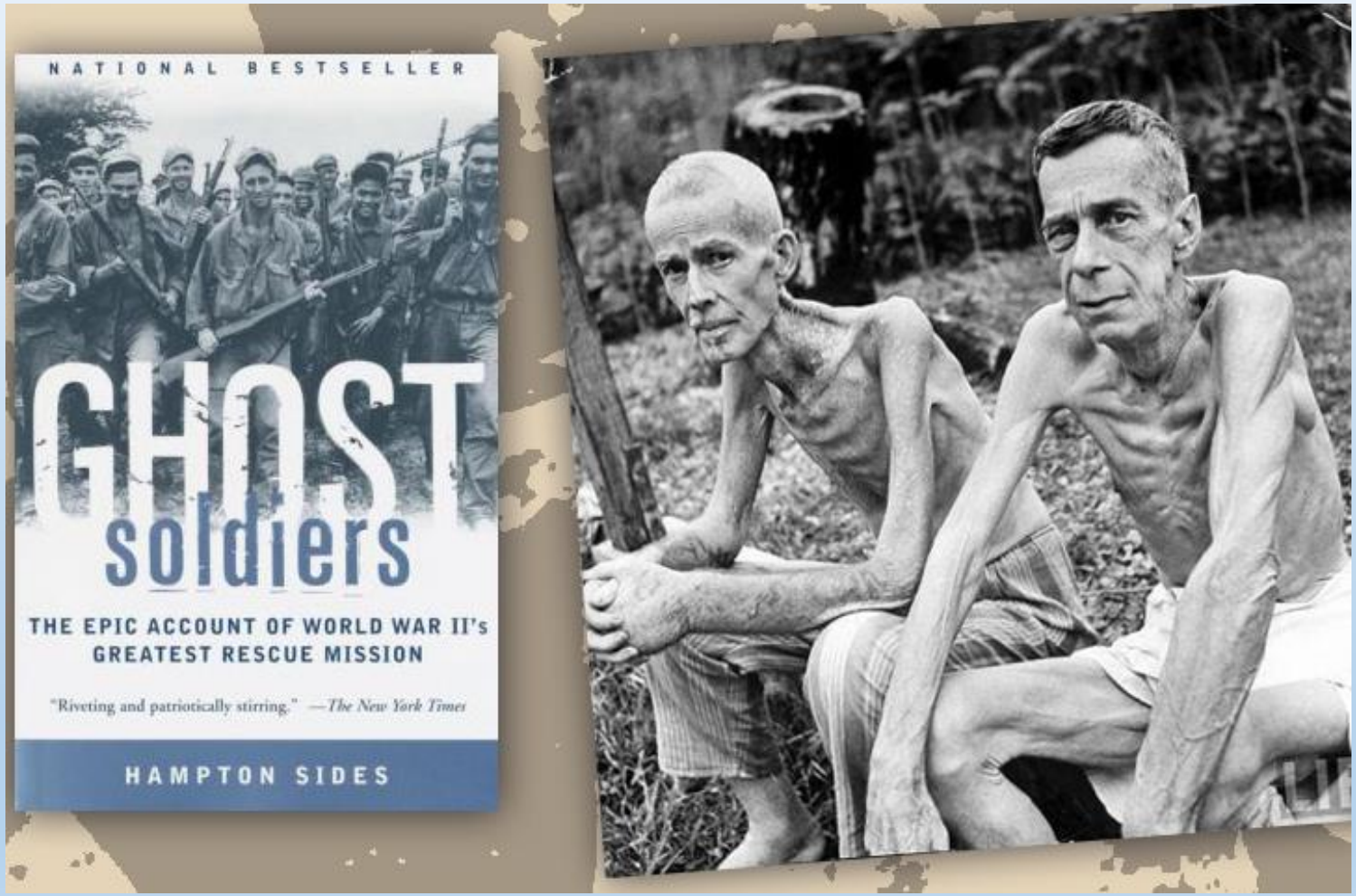
Images above from Holocaust Research Project

Auschwitz – 75th Anniversary

The former Auschwitz-Birkenau premises today.
Source: Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

Young survivors at Auschwitz
Source: Wikipedia Commons

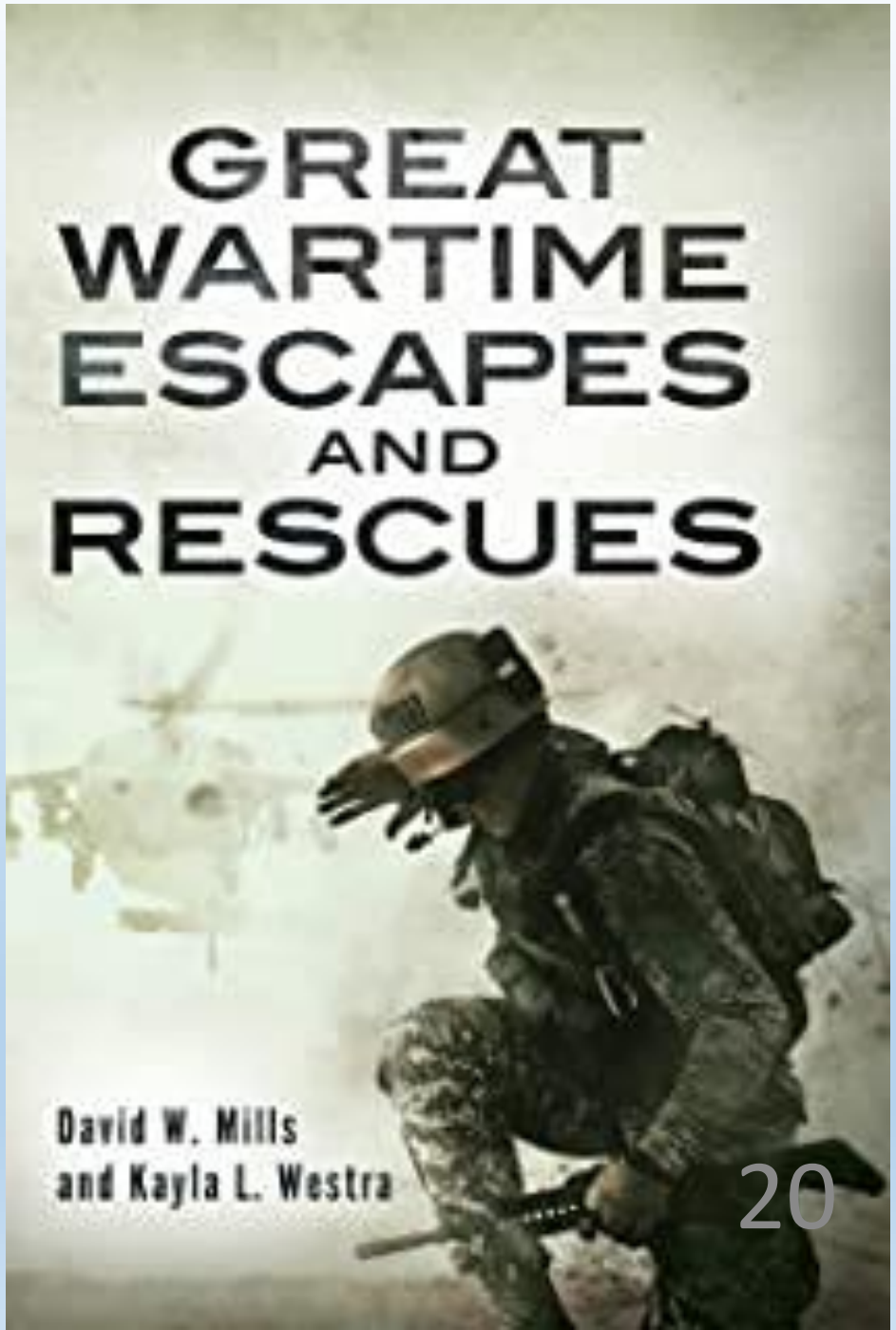
Cabanatuan Prison Rescue – January 30, 1945



LTC Henry Mucci

Wrap Up

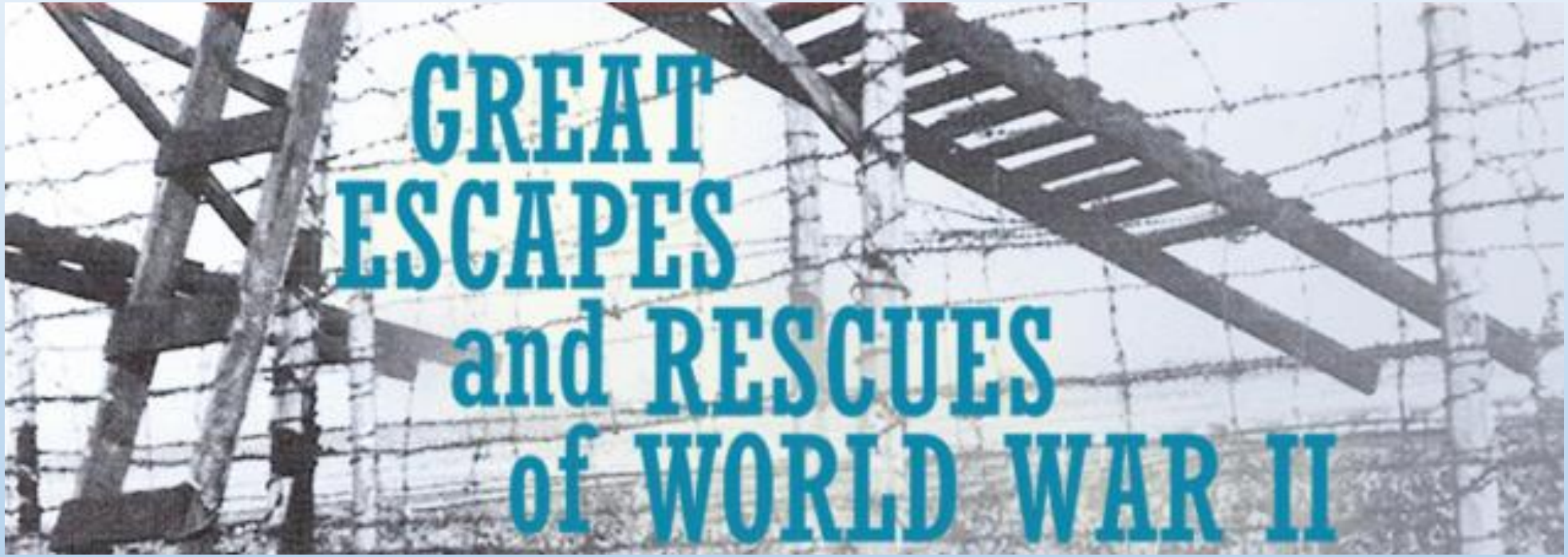
- Summary – just a glimpse at rescues and escapes at WWII
- Greatest Generation
- Courage
- Confidence



Future CGSC Lectures at KCPL

- Feb 25 – Dr. John Curatola – Iwo Jima
- Mar 24 – Dr. Lou Dimarco – Liberation of Manilla
- Apr 21 – Dr. Gates Brown – Death of FDR, Rise of Truman
- May 6 – Dr. Mark Hull – Death of Hitler, Germany Surrenders
- Jun 9 – Dr. Dave Mills – Occupation of Germany
- Jul 8 – Dr. John Kuehn/Mr. Dave Cotter – Nimitz vs MacArthur

Thank You!



Dr. David Mills

Dr. Kayla Westra