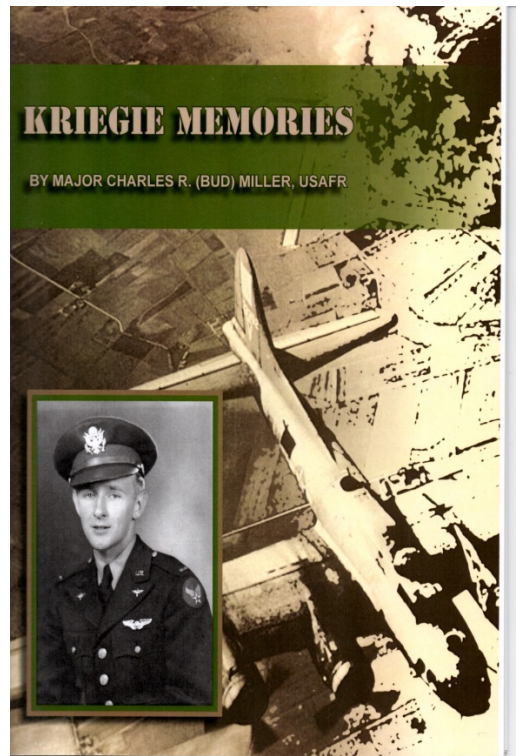


CHARLES R. MILLER
1924 - 2003

"My story starts on December 7, 1942, the first anniversary of Pearl Harbor. I left Elmira Free Academy in the middle of my senior year to enlist in the Army Air Corps for aerial gunnery. Being a high school dropout was not looked upon with the same disdain during World War II as it is today when a high school education is a basic requirement. Needless to say, my parents were not happy about my decision."

Excerpt from **KRIEGIE MEMORIES - 1997**, Charles R. Miller's memoir.

This book is available in the *M-E HS Donald Marr Memorial Library*.





This flag pole with the two flags was put out every morning on the Miller home at 721 W. Church St. in Elmira, New York and was taken down every evening during World War II.



This flag, known as the *Blue Star Service Banner*, hung in the front window of the living room. The number of stars on the flag indicated the number of sons and daughters in the family that were serving in the United States Armed Forces.

EDUCATION AND CAREER

Charles R. Miller's life of public service began in earnest when he answered the call to serve his country in 1942. His memoir, ***KRIEGIE MEMORIES***, gives a firsthand look at his time as a *Prisoner of War* in a German concentration camp; however, the 16 months spent as a *POW* are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to his life of service to his fellow man.

CLASS OF SERVICE
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION
A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS
DL=Day Letter
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C=Deferred Cable
T=Cable Night Letter
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The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

VNA165 35 GOVT=WUX WASHINGTON DC 14 325P 1941 APR 13 PM 3 38

CHARLES H MILLER=

721 WEST CHURCH ST ELMIRA NY=

REPORT JUST RECEIVED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS STATES THAT YOUR SON FLIGHT OFFICER CHARLES R MILLER IS A PRISONER OF WAR OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT PERIOD LETTER OF INFORMATION FOLLOWS FROM PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL=

DUNLOP ACTING THE ADJUTANT (GENERAL)

"STALAG LUFT I WAS NOT A SUMMER CAMP. As no work for the Reich could be required of the officer prisoners at Stalag Luft I, each day was born only to be killed, a slow, agonizing process in a prison well guarded by barbed wire and Germans."

"P.O.W. W.O.W. PRISONERS OF WAR, WAITING ON WINNING

The BBC (shortwave radio) report was taken down in shorthand and transcribed onto toilet paper, rolled into a small ball and taken to the Commander's office inside a hollow wrist watch. There, the BBC news became the most reliable basis for reports to be printed in a professional clandestine newspaper right in the heart of Germany."

Excerpts from ***KRIEGIE MEMORIES***

Book available in M-E HS Library

THE DAY OF FREEDOM

"An American flag, made with pride and hidden for this day, was flying over Stalag Luft I...This was a United States camp...The feeling is in your heart. It can't be explained. We all felt that way when we saw our flag for the first time since our capture...Incidentally, the date was May 1, 1945. My 21st birthday. I had grown up."

Excerpt from **KRIEGIE MEMORIES**

After the war, Charlie earned a B.A. in *Psychology* from *Hobart College* (1949) in Geneva, NY, a *Masters in Education* from *St. Lawrence University* (1953) and began his career in public education. For nine years he worked at both *Elmira Free Academy* and *Elmira Southside*, going from *teaching* and *guidance counselor* positions to *vice-principal*. It was during this time, at the age of 33, that Charlie was named *Young Man of the Year*.

It was on to being *Supervisor of Safety Education* at the *New York State Education Department* before he accepted the job as the *founding Principal* of *Maine-Endwell Senior High*. Regarding his work at M-E, Charlie wrote, ***"I always felt M-E Senior High had the best teachers to be found. I hired them all and we were friends."*** In the 1964 yearbook, Mr. Miller wrote this to the graduates, ***"...make the most of what you have to offer. If graduating classes throughout the country achieve equal success, the world will be improved."***

Miller then became the *Superintendent of Schools* in Sodus, NY, where his biggest victory was sending school buses to pick up the 600 migrant children who were not coming to school. His plan to pick the children up one hour early, provide a shower and hot breakfast, produced results--the children came to school, behavior improved; the children learned, and the district was no longer being penalized by losing state aid.

Charlie's next career move was the *Superintendent* of the *American overseas schools* in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, where in one year Charlie oversaw the building of a new elementary school, upgraded the curriculum and traveled throughout the states to hire the best teachers possible.

Back in Elmira, Charlie became the *Director of Admissions* at *Elmira College* and rose to the position of *Dean* and then *Assistant to the President*. Miller was at the helm when *Elmira College* was first recruiting men to the formerly all-women's college. Recruiting *David Matthau*, son of the famous actor *Walter Matthau*, was a real coup for Charlie. In gratitude to Charlie, Walter cut a tape for him entitled ***"Mark Twain's Elmira"***. This was successfully used to recruit new students for several years.

RETIREMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE

A heart attack in 1980 forced Charlie into retirement, with a move to Florida followed by 23 years of public service in his new home.

From Ft. Myers, Florida to Sri Lanka, Charlie continued to volunteer in his community and serve his fellow man. Here is a portion of his lifetime volunteer record.

Volunteer, Chemung County Sheriff's Department, Accident Investigation Unit

County Legislator, Elmira, New York, 1970's

Active Community Leader, established the first Safety Squad in Sun City Center, Florida, to be the ears and eyes of the community – 1980s

Member, Greater Tampa Bay Chapter of American Ex-POWs

"Man of the Year" – 1984 - Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce

Board Member, Southwest Florida Blood Bank

Administrative Board Member, Sun Bank

Vice-President, Sun City Center Shrine Club

President, Sun City Center Homeowners Association

Guardian ad Litem, Florida Court System – a voice for children going through the court system

Emergency Room Volunteer, Lee Memorial Hospital, Ft. Myers, Florida–10 years

Driver (weekly) of 15-passenger van taking over 400 Veterans from Ft. Myers to Bay Pines VA Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida

Volunteer, delivered groceries for *Wake-Up America* to soup kitchens, the *Salvation Army*, *Big-Brothers*, *Big Sisters*

Patient Advocate for *Angel Flight*, volunteer pilots taking ill people all over the U.S.

Member, Cape Coral High School mentoring program "*Take Stock in Children*"

Usher, Covenant Presbyterian Church

Board Member, Crime Stoppers, Ft. Myers, Florida

Rotarian, Paul Harris Fellow

Volunteer, Rotary International, with his wife *Gwen*, spent 3 months in Sri Lanka

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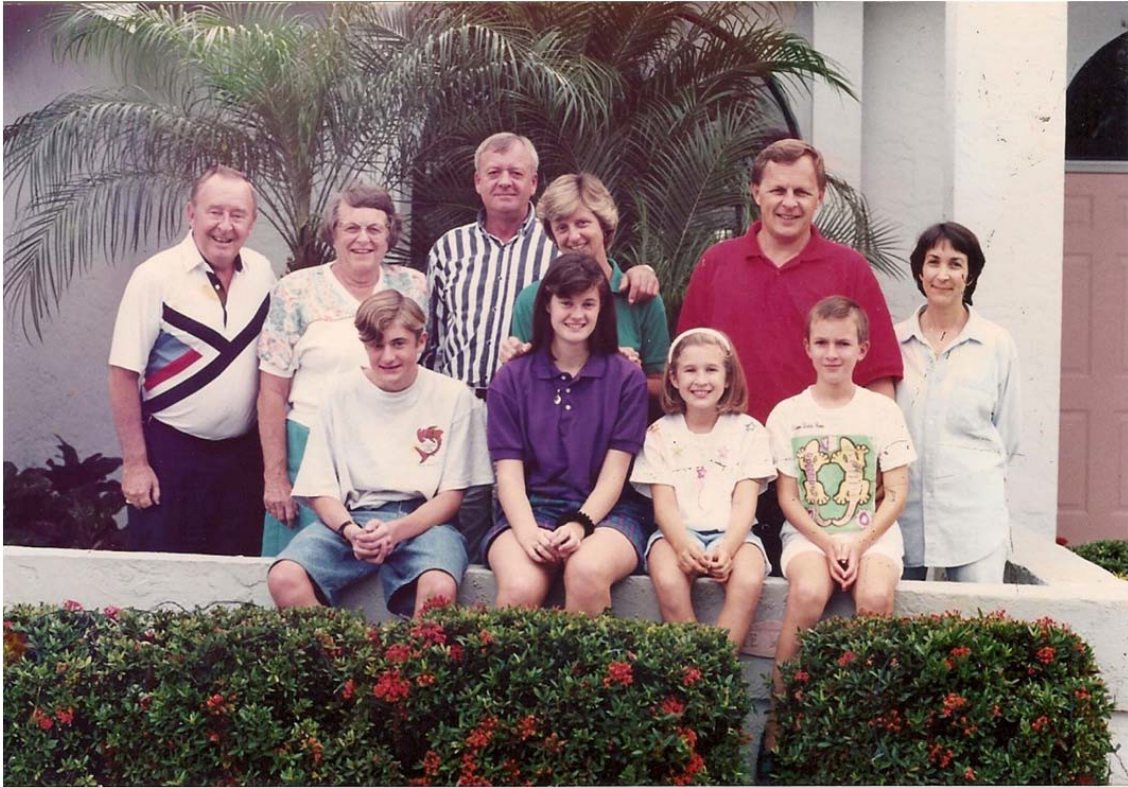
THE MILLER FAMILY

Charlie, also known as *Bud*, married the girl he met in 9th grade Algebra class. He reconnected with *Gwen* after the war when she was a senior at *Cortland State*. He recalled driving down Main Street in Cortland with *Gwen* and a few of her sorority sisters from *Nu Sigma Phi*. They were driving the yellow 1942 Dodge convertible his Dad had purchased for him using the back pay *Charlie* had earned while a *POW*. It was the day the Japanese surrendered at the end of the war.



Charlie dedicated his *memoir* to Gwen. ***“Thanks for a wonderful life. We’ve been a great team. I love you.” Bud, 1998***

1993 photo of the Miller Family. Son Ched (red shirt) and daughter Carol (green shirt). Ched graduated from Maine-Endwell Senior High.



"After more than fifty years, I've decided to record my memories. My Dad never asked questions. My mother never mentioned my war days. My brother told me, too late, that they were interested but waited for me to talk. I never did. I never talked about my Kriegie days. I should have. At least, now I have left a record for my children and grandchildren. They should know. I hope they will be proud of me."

Excerpt from **KRIEGIE MEMORIES - 1997**, Charles R. Miller's memoir.
This memoir is available in the M-E HS Donald Marr Memorial Library.