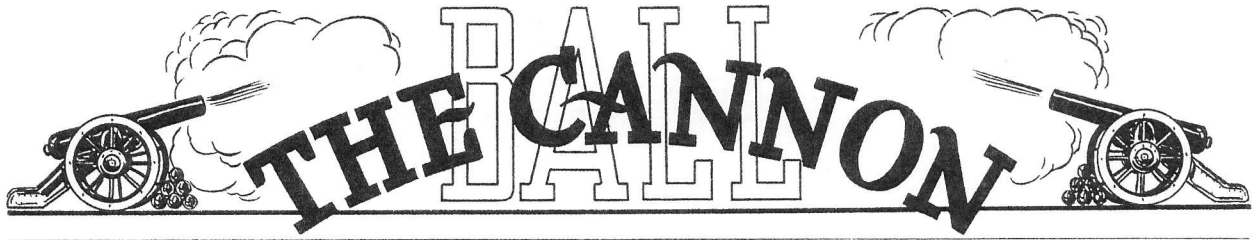


*Charles Robert Allen*

Born OCTOBER 8, 1920  
JACKSONVILLE, DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA

Died AUGUST 28, 1992  
SAN CARLOS, SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



## Allen Winner In Final Bout

Bob Allen was crowned king of the 160-pound novice division of the Tennessean Golden Gloves Tournament in February at the Hippodrome in Nashville.

Allen's first fight, with Sheler, of the East Nashville Athletic Club, lasted only a few seconds and was all Allen. The B. G. A. student received only one good blow. Quickly maneuvering his opponent into position for a K. O., Allen finished the fight within a minute with a left to Sheler's face.

Allen's second scheduled fight was with Scott, of Lawrence-  
(Continued on page 6, column 3)

### ALLEN WINNER

(Continued from page 1, column 4)

burg. Scott, however, failed to appear, and Allen advanced to the finals on a forfeit.

In his third and last fight, Allen faced Adamson, a clean-looking husky from Watertown. In the first round Allen kept his opponent covering, pumping numerous lefts to Adamson's face and winning the round by a wide margin.

The second round was more nearly even. Many exchanges of blows came during this round,

a fast, furious one but one in which both boys began to show signs of tiring. It was in this round that Bob, a left-hander, landed the only right-hand blow that he connected during the entire tournament. The round ended with Allen probably holding a slight advantage.

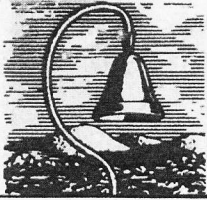
Both boys were obviously tired in the third. Only short jabs were landed, none of which carried any threat of a knockout, and both fighters eased up on their defense. The round went to Adamson. Immediately the judges were polled, the announcer's hand swung to Allen, and he was announced the winner.

When I was in Franklin in April 2012, I visited the campus of Battle Ground Academy where my uncle Charles Robert Allen and my father had attended.

I found this article about uncle Bob's Golden Gloves championship. My uncle had always scared me as a child due to his seemingly harsh character. As I grew older, I realized that his bark was worse than his bite (I could not say the same of my father). This crusty exterior was no doubt a result of their growing up away from home. Their mother had died when Bob was 8 and my dad was 6. My grandfather remarried and they were sent from Tucson, Arizona to school in Franklin, Tennessee.

I learned that my father left Battle Ground Academy at the end of his junior year. He returned to Tucson and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps serving several for months and then enlisting in the Navy just after his 18th birthday. After 6 years in the Navy, he married Phoebe Wooters and enrolled at UC Berkeley where he received a BS degree in electrical engineering.

Uncle Bob survived WW II and was in a German POW camp from June 21, 1944 until the end of the war. He had a lifelong career in city government and his early childhood and war experiences no doubt enabled him to survive the challenges of government management. He was a "crusty character" but a loveable one, a true patriot and a great American.



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115 Charter Street, Redwood City, CA 94063

Wednesday, April 14, 1982

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4 The Carlmont Enquirer-Bulletin

Wednesday, April 14, 1982

## RUNNING SAN CARLOS

**An Interview  
With  
City Manager  
Bob Allen**

**By Kimberly Pesavento**

City Hall was a condemned school building, the police department was housed in a converted garage, Melendy Drive ended in the 400 block, and fox and deer roamed the canyons of what is now Brittan Heights when Bob Allen arrived as the city manager of San Carlos.

Nineteen years later Allen leans back in his leather chair in his second-story office in the modern city hall building and surveys from his window the community he helped mold.

The City Council has changed in 10 elections since 1963, but every other Monday night Allen has taken his place at the staff table.

*(Continued on page 4.)*

SAN CARLOS CITY HALL



# For 19 Years Bob Allen Has Been a Pivotal Force in Shaping San Carlos

## An Interview with the Man in Charge

(Continued from cover page.)

Long-winded speeches is not one of his traits, yet people are reminded of his presence by the frequent clicking of his cigarette lighter and the sound of his raspy voice when he offers advice to the council. His firm style makes it clear he is at the hub directing the business of the city through the careful management of his staff.

Allen's physical presence reinforces the authority of his position. The thick-barreled man can cut an imposing figure, but while his face can tighten into a scowl, his eyes and cheeks can also crinkle into a lively grin.

This veteran administrator commands strong reaction of either respect or dislike from others. By his own admission he is hard headed. Yet he attributes a city manager's effectiveness to the ability to make decisions that necessarily cannot please everyone.

"I started making some of my own decisions when I was 12 years old, and I guess through life I have continued that," he said.

Allen has lived life hard and with zest by packing a lot into his 61 years.

Born in Jackson, Florida, he moved with his family to Arizona when his mother contracted tuberculosis. After her death, he was enrolled in a boarding school in Tennessee.

At the age of 19 towards the end of the Depression, Allen discovered the meaning of hard physical labor when he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and spent 18 months chopping trees, building dams, and fighting forest fires.

He enlisted in the Air Force during World War II and flew 20 missions over Germany and France in B-17 bombers before being shot down over Berlin and spending almost a year as a prisoner of war.

He turned his attention to more intellectual pursuits after the war and earned a degree in architecture and city planning from the University of Colorado in Denver by squeezing five years of course work into three years and nine months.

A series of city planning jobs across the country followed. Allen worked as a planner for the cities of Pasadena, Colorado Springs, Atlanta, and Glendora in Southern California.

He later became the city manager of Glendora and filled that position in the

city of Baldwin, California, before he was chosen from about 50 applicants to head the city of San Carlos in 1963.

Because of his long tenure Allen has watched many major projects actually completed. Some of the programs started back in the early 1960s are just now coming to fruition.

One of those those projects that Allen cited as one of his major contributions to San Carlos was the formation of the South Bayside Sanitary Authority and the construction of the new waste water treatment plant in Redwood Shores. In 1963 when San Mateo County proposed a bond issue to construct a sewer line from Menlo Park to South San Francisco, Allen initiated with the city council a study by a consulting firm to determine that San Carlos, Belmont, and Redwood City could build a system of their own at less expense. Allen said the \$50 million system, now in partial operation, is the largest public works project the county has ever seen.

A continuing concern of Allen's has been the storm drainage system. He worked successfully for the passage of a \$2.5 million sewer and storm bond issue in February of 1967, yet his efforts to improve the system have not stopped, "It

was the beginning of the modernization of the trunk line sewer system and drainage system. We have added to it over the years, but neither system is adequate," he said.

The industrial and residential areas of San Carlos have developed considerably under Allen's direction. The industrial district east of the Bayshore Freeway has provided a solid tax base for the city's budget and the western bills have been the site of housing expansion to accommodate the increase in population from 21,000 in 1963 to 24,500 in 1980.

"The growth in San Carlos has been very orderly, very gradual, and very consistent. There has been no population explosion," Allen said.

The young and the old have been a favorite focus of Allen's public service. As a charter member of the Criminal Justice Commission of San Mateo County, Allen was particularly interested in helping juvenile offenders. He developed a program in San Carlos putting adolescent offenders to work as an alternative to incarceration. When the YMCA started a similar but more extensive program called Whole Earth, Allen diverted the city funds into that program.



"The best product for the future are our kids. Through my life and my experience in the CCC I saw young people who needed help but weren't getting it. This was an opportunity for San Carlos to help youngsters of their city find a way to straighten out," Allen explained.

Nearing completion at the corner of Chestnut Street and San Carlos Avenue is the Senior Citizens Center, a project of which Allen is particularly fond. His affection for the building is based on about 15 years of planning for the dedication day anticipated this June.

"The city over the years has had an extremely fine recreation program for the youth of the community. Because of the demography of San Carlos we have a higher number of senior citizens. It seemed like the seniors in our community were being ignored, so the city there felt there was a need of the center," he said.

While the attention of city administration in the past has been on problems of orderly growth, now the focus is more on problems of the limits of growth. Allen mentioned traffic congestion at the Holly Street interchange, lack of affordable housing for seniors and young people, drainage, and shortages of recreation facilities and open space as the current issues requiring solutions.

Any future growth of San Carlos probably lies in multi-story buildings according to Allen's forecast.

"Because of the urban land economy, the city will eventually require re-evaluation of the building height limits in the downtown and surrounding area," he said.

"San Carlos is located on the main transportation corridor between San Francisco and San Jose. That corridor is going to create more demand for business and industrial activity, so San Carlos is going to have to start looking at going up instead of out," he predicted.

Allen has a personal interest in the health of San Carlos. Besides being the site of his job, he has made San Carlos his home.

Allen and his wife of 40 years, Gerry, have raised a son and two daughters here. The attachment the family felt for the town was what kept Allen from seeking other city management jobs in a larger, more urban location.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working in San Carlos. It's a fine community to raise children, it has a fine climate, and it's a town of nice people. There was no reason to move," he said.



# Allen Honored for Twenty Years of Service

## Lantos presents retiring city administrator with service medals

A crowd of more than 300 people turned out last Thursday night to honor retiring San Carlos City Administrator Bob Allen for his 20 years of service to the city.

The loudest ovation of the evening, however, came when Congressman Tom Lantos presented Allen with an award for something he did 19 years before he ever set foot in San Carlos. Lantos, at the direction of Congress and "on behalf of a grateful nation," presented Allen with a Purple Heart and an Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters for his heroic action as a bomber pilot in 1944.

Lantos told the hushed crowd that Allen had volunteered for a hazardous mission over Berlin that year and was subsequently shot down. With a piece of shrapnel lodged in the back of his head, Allen was sent to a prisoner of war camp. Since there were no physicians available for treatment of P.O.W.'s, the shrapnel was eventually removed by a dentist. It wasn't until 10 months later that the camp in which Allen was interred was liberated.

Lantos called Allen "an authentic war hero" and termed his 39-year wait for

recognition "a classic case of bureaucratic bumbling."

While Lantos' presentation was the emotional highlight of the program which was held at the Villa Hotel in San Mateo, a parade of other speakers praised Allen for his performance as city administrator and for his involvement in other government organizations. The praise, however, was mixed with a liberal dose of needling about Allen's legendary closeness with a dollar.

Gary Schmitz told how Allen invited him out to lunch when he was about to be hired as chief of the South County Fire District. "When the check arrived," Schmitz said, "Bob told me that San Carlos didn't have the money to spend on this kind of thing so we'd have to split the check."

Schmitz then presented Allen with a fire helmet, explaining that Allen had always wanted to be a firefighter "because their pensions are better than city administrators."

Judge Tom Jenkins, the former San Carlos Mayor, who was responsible for hiring Allen in 1963, said that the city administrator's first salary was extremely

low but that he was promised an additional \$1,000 for every city job he could eliminate through consolidation. "By the end of the year, Bob had another \$10,000," Jenkins added.

Among the plaques and awards presented to Allen at his retirement dinner were resolutions from the California

Legislature, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and San Carlos City Council commending him for the length and quality of his service.

Allen's last day as city administrator is April 15. He will be succeeded by Warren Shafer who is currently the assistant city administrator.



# CHARLES ROBERT ALLEN

City Manager, San Carlos, California

1963 - 1983

After decades, they meet again...

Both Douglas Raymond and David Larkman were hired as consultants on the South Bay Sewage Authority project mentioned in uncle Bob's obituary. As I recall my uncle telling the story, he and one of these gentlemen (I do not remember which one) were having dinner and discussing their past when they discovered that they both had been in the same German POW camp during WW II.

Thursday, September 3, 1992

A-4 TimesTribune

PENINSULA NEWS

## Ex-San Carlos administrator dies at 71

Alex Valdes

PENINSULA TIMES TRIBUNE

Charles R. "Bob" Allen, who oversaw the construction of several key projects in San Carlos during his 20-year tenure as city administrator, died Friday at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City following a long illness. He was 71.

Allen, who served as administrator from 1963 to 1983, witnessed the construction of several of San Carlos' key buildings after calling for stricter enforcement of building codes and permit procedures.

In 1969, the new City Hall replaced a condemned school building that had housed city offices. In the 1980s, the opulent Senior Center and the waste water treatment plant at Redwood Shores

were both constructed.

The Circle Star Center, South Bayside Sewer System and the Browning-Ferris Industries transfer station were also built during Allen's term of office.

In the late 1970s, Allen helped merge the Belmont and San Carlos fire departments into the South County Fire District.

He served as acting fire chief of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District and interim city manager of East Palo Alto.

Allen, a San Carlos resident known for his gruff demeanor and devotion to the city, was born in Jacksonville, Fla. His most dangerous adventure happened during World War II, when he flew 20 bomber missions over Western Europe.

On one sortie, he was shot down over Berlin, Germany, and spent a year in the Stalag 7 prison camp.

Allen many years later ran into two other American members of the camp, Douglas Raymond and David Larkman, while all three were working on the South Bay Sewage Authority project.

After the war, Allen earned his bachelor's degree in architecture and city planning at the University of Denver. He later worked as a planning technician in Pasadena and held city manager positions in Glendora and Baldwin Park.

Allen is survived by his wife of 50 years, Gerry Allen of San Carlos; a son, Bill Allen of Santa Clara; two daughters, Jan Warren of San Jose and Sue Schleiger of Clayton; and five grandchildren.

Services were held. The family prefers that memorials be made as donations to Friends of the San Carlos Senior Center, 601 Chestnut Street, San Carlos 94070.



Charles R. "Bob" Allen oversaw 20 years of growth in San Carlos.

### OBITUARIES

As a result of their work on the project, a second consultant was hired and again, over dinner, they discussed their capture by the German's during the war. As it turns out, all three men had been in Stalag Luft 7A at the same time! In fact, one of these men had removed a piece of shrapnel from the back of uncle Bob's head. He had received this minor wound when his B17 was hit on June 21, 1944 on a mission over Berlin, Germany.



#1

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

1201

SYMBOLS  
 DL = Day Letter  
 NL = Night Letter  
 LC = Deferred Cable  
 NLT = Cable Night Letter  
 Ship Radiogram

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

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

V. CD231

1944 JUL 1 PM 4 44

WUWA500C 44 GOVT=WUX WASHINGTON DC 1 549P

MRS GERALDINE M ALLEN=

3026 WEST 39 ST (DVR)=

*copy  
for  
did not  
print*

THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET  
 THAT YOUR HUSBAND FIRST LIEUTENANT CHARLES R ALLEN HAS BEEN  
 REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION SINCE TWENTY ONE JUNE OVER GERMANY  
 IF FURTHER DETAILS OR OTHER INFORMATION ARE RECEIVED YOU  
 WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED=

LULIO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

Telegram received by Geraldine Allen regarding  
 MIA status of her husband, Lt. Charles Allen  
 July 1, 1944

**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 (55)

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

**SYMBOLS**  
DL=Day Letter  
NL=Night Letter  
LC=Deferred Cable  
NLT=Cable Night Letter  
Ship Radiogram

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

AA06

WA5 34 GOVT=WUX WASHINGTON DC 19 106A

MRS GERALDINE M ALLEN=

5026 WEST 39 ST DVER

REPORT JUST RECEIVED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS STATES THAT YOUR HUSBAND FIRST LIEUTENANT CHARLES B ALLEN IS A PRISONER OF WAR OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT LETTER OF INFORMATION FOLLOWS FROM PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL FULIO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

Telegram received by Geraldine Allen regarding  
POW Status of Lt. Charles Allen

MIT LUFT POST Nach Nord Amerika Par Avion Air Mail  
Kriegsgefangenenpost

Mit Luftpost  
Par Avion  
Postkarte



An  
James W. Allen

Gebührenfrei!

OWA

Absender:  
Vor- und Zuname:  
Pfc. Charles R. Allen, 0-77450  
Gefangenennummer: 6511  
Lager-Bezeichnung:  
Kriegsgefangenenlager der Luftwaffe Nr. 3  
12249  
U.S. CENSOR Land (Allemagne)

Empfangsort: 2710 E. Adams St.  
Straße: Tucson, Arizona  
Land: U.S. America  
Landesteil (Provinz usw.)

Kriegsgefangenenlager

Datum: Aug. 15, 1944

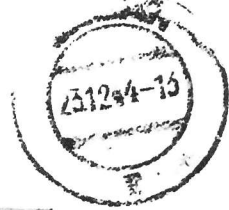
Dear Bill, This is the first good opportunity  
to drop you a line. I guess by the time you  
receive this you will be married. In either  
case I send you my love and sincerest wishes  
to you both. Please send a picture of you & Phoebe  
and write a letter now & then. I'm well and  
get out without injury. Best of Luck - Bob.

Post cards from Charles to his brother James

Luft Post Nach Nordamerika, Per. Ad. usw. Via Airmail

**Kriegsgefangenenpost**

**GEPROBT**  
**Postkarte**  
28  
Luftpost



James W. Allen

Tucson 27.10 E. Adams St.

Gebührenfrei!

Absender:	
Vor- und Zuname:	
Pfc. Charles R. Allen O-72453	
Gefangenennummer: 6511	
Lager-Bezeichnung:	
Kriegsgefangenenlager der Luftwaffe Nr. 3	
Deutschland (Allemaagne)	

Empfangsort: TUCSON,

Straße: ARIZONA

Land: U.S. America  
Landesteil (Provinz usw.)

**Kriegsgefangenenlager**

Datum: Nov. 17 1944

Dear Bill, how are you getting along? In it  
 and it's all as usual as can be expected.  
 I've been in a suit as usual. I've have  
 nothing in an one and some in evening  
 mail. Please write us soon in back with some  
 love. Hope to see a line well scrapped  
 guess I'll close for now. Love, Bob

Mit Luft Post Nach Nord Amerika

**Kriegsgefangenenpost**

Airmail

**GEPRÜFT**  
141

An Mr. James William Allen

2710 E. Adams St.

Mit Luftpost  
par Avion  
11331  
U.S. CENSOR  
Taxe perçue  
R.M. 40%

Empfangsort: Tucson

Straße: Arizona

Kreis: \_\_\_\_\_

Land: U.S. America

Landesteil (Provinz usw.) \_\_\_\_\_

Gebührenfrei

Absender:

Vor- und Zuname: 1st Lt. Charles R. Allen, O-724503

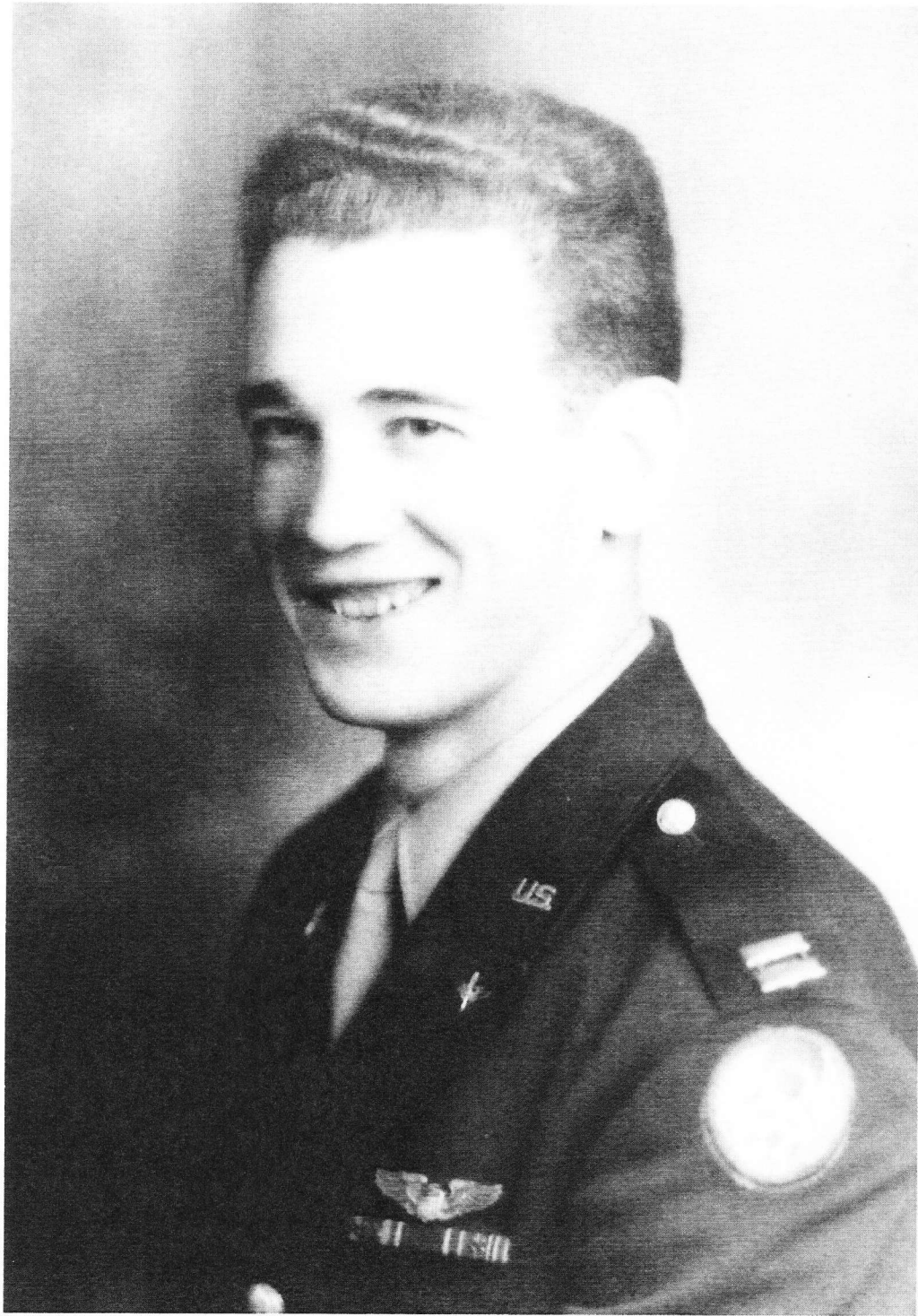
Gefangenenummer: 6511

Lager-Bezeichnung: Kriegsgefangenenlager der Luftwaffe Nr. 3

Deutschland (Allemagne)

Sept. 29, 1944 Dear Bill - What do you  
know fella - Here I am as usual in  
the same old place doing the same old  
things. I hope you received my  
card ok. You know there's not a  
heck of a lot I can say so don't  
get sore. Say I guess by the time  
you get this you'll be hitched up with  
the femme from Frisco. Just hope so for  
I'm really anticipating being the bride  
anyway. Bill I sure do hope that you  
do what's best and I'm all for you. Gerry  
said if you married she couldn't wolf  
you - naturally its all in fun. Best of  
luck to you and lots of happiness.  
I'm framing to cook here as we take turns at  
it.

All nice fellas and good jobs  
taking a few classes namely two -  
Celestial Navigation & Home planning  
Both are good. Play soft ball & basketball  
and a lot of bridge. Read a little too  
but not as much as I used to. Well adios  
for now scrape you write me love - Bob.



Captain Charles R. Allen  
1945