



ARROGANT, HARDHEADED, POMPOUS AND
 SOMETIMES PLAIN STUPID, THE "GOONS" HELD
 US IN WHIP HAND. THE EVER PRESENT RIFLE, PLUS
 VICIOUS WATCH DOGS SERVED AS
 BARRIERS TO THOSE WHO MIGHT SEEK
 ESCAPE.

Most of his crewmembers were immediately captured by the German troops stationed in that area. Nine of the ten crewmembers parachuted to safety from the bomber. Frank Hokr and seven crewmates became prisoners of war. A ninth crewman avoided capture. The tenth flier, gunner Sgt Roland Morin, died in the barrage of anti-aircraft flak. He went down with the plane in a Czechoslovakian field.

Frank Hokr's war continued in a prison camp in Germany. Hokr was treated humanely in Staling Luft 1. On the day of April 30, 1945, the German guards vanished and the Russian soldiers poured in, setting them free. Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945.

After spending over half a year as a POW in a German prison camp, Frank Hokr eventually returned to the States. After World War II, Frank Hokr joined the Air Force Reserves. The Korean War called for the flying experience of Hokr and he returned to the battlefields of the Korean War. There he flew 67 missions. None of which left him



with the emotional punch of parachuting out of a B-24 and being a prison of war in Germany.

In the year 2000, Frank Hokr and four of the B-24 Liberator Tenmenak crew members traveled to Trencineska Treplice, Czechoslovak to visit the crash site.

On a beautiful hill overlooking the town of Trencineska Treplice, Czechoslovak, the townspeople had built a memorial at the crash site nearly 10 years earlier. It was made from the remains of the B-24 "Tenmenbak" Bomber. The words on the memorial includes only one name from the crew: "In memory and honor of Corporal Roland W. Morin." Morin's body and dog tags were the only one found in the B-24 crash.

The people in this town held a special ceremony and embraced the B-24 crewmembers. Frank Hokr is fluent in the local tongue and was the interpreter for his crew members. Hokr talked the mayor into playing traditional songs on an accordion. Hokr gathered iron and copper shards of the aircraft, holding onto the memories of a day that redefined him as one of a crew of ten.





was, and still is, in the unselfish spirit of her people. How otherwise, can you explain that once more the boys of that overseas country marched over here to fight; yes, but for whom did they come to fight?


It remains a historical fact that it was America who helped and assisted our first President Liberator, Thomas Masaryk to establish our country, the Czechoslovak Republic. This was not only in that great Hall of Independence in Philadelphia, where Masaryk signed our Czech Declaration of Independence, but also the American boys who fought with arms to free us from the German/Austrian tyranny.

How much more do we still owe you for the years of 1914-1918! And, now, thirty years later, again you American boys came over here - this time to defend and guard our liberty, the same liberty your boys helped us to put into existence more than thirty years ago. One of these friends was you, and you came to us in a Liberator, as one of our Liberators. This is significant for us, but also for you.

But, did you ever think that the very moment you were mounting the Liberator, you virtually might have to give your life for those you were going to liberate?

There is a verse in the Bible which says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend" (John 15:13).

My dear friend, when you were pressed to the floor of your bomber, unable to move, when you thought it was all over, then, in that moment you already laid down your life for friends you did not even know.

Of course, you did not lose your life in that awful dramatic moment, but that was no merit of yours, but the grace of God who saved you, even out of the greatest danger." 

Let me now cite your own words from your letter, where, as you wrote, you were our debtor. 'You gave so much when you had so little, and now the least I can do is try to repay some of it. I know I can never repay you for what you did for me.'

Well, let us examine these statements of yours a little. First of all, what did make you come to Europe and finally to our country? And why did you come over here? Was it only because you were commanded to go? And, did you need to go? America was not endangered. You could have stayed home and lived in peace in your great country. I say "great country," but the greatness of America was never in her territorial largeness or beautiful country. Her greatness

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL

The Main attraction at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is the Memorial Wall. The wall was designed by an undergraduate at Yale University, Maya Ying Lin, born in Athens, Ohio in 1959 who participated in a design contest and won. She acted as a consultant with the architectural firm of Cooper- Lecky Partnership on the construction of the Memorial. Ground breaking began in March of 1982, and it was finished in November of the same year. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. (VVMF) raised nearly \$9,000,000 entirely through private contributions from corporations, foundations, unions, veterans and civic organizations and more than 275,000 individual Americans. No Federal funds were needed. Each of the walls is 246.75 feet long, composed of 70 separate inscribed granite panels, plus 4 at the end without names. There are a total of 58,249 names inscribed on the granite.