

## MURPHY

Given names: **Wilfred Lawrence**

born: Kingston, Ontario 2 July 1916

Father: **Lawrence Wilfred Murphy**, cheese exporter, born Brewer's Mills, Ontario, 1864. Died suddenly 30 Apr 1926, age 62, Kingston.

married: 7 Sep 1908

Mother: **Elizabeth (Bessie) Euphemia West**, born Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, 6 Feb 1880. Died 23 Mar 1956, Kingston, Ontario.

1 Sibling: **Dorothy** died 5 Jul 1992, Rochester, New York.

Stepfather: **Major Frederick Patrick Vokes**, born Ireland. Died at age 88 in Edmonton, Alberta Apr 1957. Vokes was made a member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1944. (Father of Major-General Christopher Vokes b. 1904 in Ireland, the youngest general in the CAF in 1943 and, before the end of the war, held the position of Commander of the Canadian Army in NW Europe. Spud's step-brother. 2nd stepbrother, Lt. Col. Frederick Alexander Vokes, KIA, Italy, 1944.)

After the Halifax crashed Wilfred was listed as missing and then presumed dead. His death was registered in Ontario in 1943, the date listed as 3 Apr "presumed killed after air operations". The news that he was alive arrived in November 1943.

He spent the rest of the war at Stalag Luft No. 3, **POW No. 2480**, the scene of what came to be known as The Great Escape. He was not one of the men tapped to escape which probably saved his life.

Murphy married **Margaret Elizabeth McCoy** of Kingston 5 Jun 1946. His wife is not mentioned in his mother Bessie's obituary and I haven't found a death notice so divorce is presumed. There was one son who IS named in Bessie's obit: **Edward Lawrence Murphy**, born between 1946 and 1956, more likely by 1950.

WL's sister **Dorothy** married **John Harper Bushfield** who died in March 2003 of Rochester, New York. They had two children: **Lynda**, b. circa 1945 and **John Jr.**

**Lynda** married **Timothy Donahue** of Webster, New York. This may be a second marriage as there is a grandson to Dorothy - **Andrew Hoffman**.

**John A. (Bushy)** married **Nora Lee** \_\_\_\_\_ and was living in Atlanta, Georgia in 2003. One daughter: **Jolie Bushfield**.

Between landing and being captured, we also discovered that he had found refuge at the Poel's farm, and that the Poel family, through the local priest, put Murphy in touch with The Resistance, who facilitated his escape. He went first to Belgium and then into France. He was almost to the border with Spain, heading for Portugal, when he was captured.

### **Wilf 'Spud' Murphy's route after capture:**

After capture, Spud was taken to **Fresnes Prison** not far south of **Paris, France**. He had destroyed his ID and was wearing civilian clothing when captured and was not treated as a POW. He arrived in Fresnes 2 Jun 1943 (evading capture for 2 months) and was transferred to the **dulag** at **Frankfurt** 14 Sep. On 16 Sep he was sent to **Stalag Luft 3**, at **Sagan** (now Zagan, Poland) arriving 20 Sep, where he remained until 27 Jan 1945. At that time he was one of the 10 thousand Stalag Luft POWs who were force marched a distance of 150kms - on 6 Feb Murphy lists his camp as **Westertimke** where he stayed until 10 Apr 45. This is interesting because the POW camp here was never a luft stalag but rather a marine camp. And it doesn't appear to have been given a number; all references I've found refer to them (there were actually 2 camps) as **Marlag** and **Milag Nord**. In his newspaper interview, Spud gives the location as 'near Bremen'; my research shows that camp was **Stalag X-B** at **Sandbostel**, and may have been where he was taken rather than Westertimke. His last entry is **Lubeck** 24 Apr 1945. Again referring to his newspaper interview, the men were being housed in an artillery barracks north of Lubeck and were liberated by the British Army. The city of Lubeck was occupied by the British (no resistance) on 2 May 1945.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fresnes\\_Prison](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fresnes_Prison)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dulag\\_Luft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dulag_Luft)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalag\\_Luft\\_III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalag_Luft_III)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marlag\\_und\\_Milag\\_Nord](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marlag_und_Milag_Nord)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalag\\_X-B](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalag_X-B)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%C3%BCbeck>