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"Kriegie Life: The Words and Artwork of Lieutenant Carl H. Holmstrom, Prisoner of War"

When Lt. Carl Holmstrom's widow donated her husband's artwork to the Military History Institute in 1980, she said that although Carl had mailed some drawings from Germany to his mother, he carried the rest all over Europe, even during forced marches. "He thought that he had something that he could give to this country," she said.



Thursday, Nov. 7 at 4:30 p.m., the Army Heritage and Education Center will open a new exhibit and share his work with the country.

Portrait of a fellow POW, Second Lieutenant Frank M. "Hoss" Newton from Cameron, Texas by Lt. Carl Holmstrom.

The Kriegie Life exhibit, on display until June 2014, features drawings and watercolors that capture prison life during two years as a World War II POW in Germany. After storage for more than 30 years, Holmstrom's collection of prison camp life in Stalag Luft III will be the inaugural exhibition in the newly created General Omar Nelson Bradley Memorial Art Gallery in the Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle Pa.

Born in Branford, Conn., Holmstrom studied art and graduated from the Pratt Institute in New York in 1940. After enlisting in the United States Army Air Corps on March 6, 1941 and completing his training as a bombardier at Midland, Texas, he was commissioned a lieutenant and sent overseas. On January 3, 1943, he was taken prisoner by the Germans on a Tunisian desert in Africa when his plane crashed landed. He was shipped to Frankfurt, Germany and then to the Stalag Luft III prison camp in Sagan, Germany, finally being liberated by Gen. George Patton's Third Army on April 29, 1945.