

OBITUARIES

James Caparell, POW in WWII, Ex-City Detective

By Mitchell Freedman
STAFF WRITER

James P. Caparell, 79, of Middle Village, Queens, who died of cancer Sunday at his daughter's East Northport house, was the only link to home for hundreds of Allied soldiers in a German prisoner of war camp for more than two years during World War II.

Although only a corporal, he was given the codes needed to become a "man of confidence," the prisoner in a camp who was able to meet with Red Cross representatives and transact the tiny, vital bits of personal business allowed under the Geneva Convention.

After the war, Mr. Caparell testified against American-turned-Nazi radio propagandist Axis Sally and later became a New York City police detective, arresting mobsters as part of a police intelligence unit and helping to track down the killer Elmer (Trigger) Burke.

Mr. Caparell was born in Mason City, Iowa, the son of Greek immigrants who returned to their home country before the outbreak of World War II, while he and his two brothers remained in the United States.

After he was drafted, Mr. Caparell became a medic and trained in Northern Ireland before being shipped to North Africa, where he was captured on Valentine's Day in 1943, just before the battle of Kasserine Pass.

Mr. Caparell was moved to several stalags in Germany during the roughly 2½ years he was a prisoner, and at one point — as a camp leader — was taken to meet with Mildred Gillars, who broadcast propaganda under the name Axis Sally. She wanted him and others in the camp to take part in her broadcasts, but they refused.

He was awarded numerous medals,

including a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. Mr. Caparell was also decorated by the Greek government for help he gave Greek soldiers in the prison camp.

After the war, he testified in Washington against Gillars, who was convicted of treason.

Mr. Caparell was liberated in April, 1945, soon after the train he and other prisoners were on was stopped near Dresden, Germany. "He was down to 102 pounds and near starvation," said his son-in-law, Doug Wolfson, a senior news editor at Newsday.

Mr. Caparell went into the florist business in Queens. In 1946, he married his wife, Helen.

Mr. Caparell took the New York City police exam and served in the police department for 28 years, retiring in 1980.

He became a detective within two years, working in narcotics, forgery and homicide, as well as for the district attorneys of Queens and Manhattan.

He twice arrested John (Sonny) Franzese, going with a team of police to the mobster's Roslyn home. Franzese, the father of mobster Michael Franzese — who plotted to cheat the government out of \$1 billion in gasoline excise taxes — was once head enforcer for the Colombo crime family.

One of Mr. Caparell's informants also provided the key information that led Boston police to the hideout of Burke — a hit man for New England gangsters. Burke was electrocuted in Sing Sing prison.

Mr. Caparell returned to Greece several times to visit his parents after the war. On one trip, he and his wife adopted their daughter, Jayme, from an Athens orphanage. "Many daughters may think their father was the best, but my father picked me out especially and



James P. Caparell in 1981



Caparell, right front, was a New York City police detective assigned to security for Queen Frederika of Greece, left, on her visit to Eleanor Roosevelt, center, in Hyde Park about 1960.

gave me the best life one could ever hope to have," she said.

In addition to his wife and daughter, a former New York Newsday copy editor, Mr. Caparell's survivors include two brothers, Theodore of Boynton Beach, Fla., and Thomas Caparol of Nyack.

Visiting will be today and tomorrow from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. at the Fox Funeral Home in Forest Hills. A Masonic service will be held there tomorrow night, followed by interment Thursday at Lutheran Cemetery in Middle Village.

Norman Harry Hollow, 76, American Indian Leader

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fort Kipp, Mont. — Former Fort Peck tribal leader Norman Harry Hollow died Saturday at his ranch near Fort Kipp in northeastern Montana. He was 76.

Hollow received many awards for his work on behalf of American Indians, including a 1982 award from the Interior Department as an outstanding Indian leader.

"He had a great sense for reading people," said

his grandson, Spike Bighorn of Brockton. "He always looked for what was right for the tribe and the majority of people."

Bighorn said his grandfather's health had been failing since he had a heart surgery earlier this year. Hollow died in his sleep.

A prayer service will be held tomorrow evening in Wolf Point, with the funeral Thursday morning in the Norman Hollow Brockton High School Gym-

nasium, which was named in his honor in 1980.

Hollow was born in Fort Kipp on Dec. 22, 1919. He attended high school in nearby Culbertson.

He married Vera Bertelsen of Culbertson on Nov. 25, 1938, and they made their home three miles north of Fort Kipp.

Among Hollow's early jobs was working in construction at the Fort Peck Dam, under the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Hollow also worked as a farmhand, then went into the cattle business in 1943. In 1946, he started a farm operation.

Hollow was elected to the Fort Peck Tribe's executive board in 1947 to represent the Fort Kipp district. He served as a board member until he was elected tribal chairman in 1973.

He served a dozen years before stepping down to let a new leader take the reins and to spend more time with his family and on leisure activities, Bighorn said.

During his tenure as a tribal official, Hollow helped negotiate a water-rights compact with the state that quantified the Fort Peck Reservation's water rights. It was the first Montana compact that resulted from negotiations rather than court battles.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Christine Pascal, 42, Actress, Director

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris — Actress and film director Christine Pascal, who made her movie acting debut at 21 and directed her first film at 25, has died at the age of 42, her husband's production agency said yesterday.

The agency, Armedia, founded by Pascal's husband, Richard Boner, did not give the cause of death. The newspaper Le Monde said it was suicide.

Pascal began her film career in 1974 and directed her first film four years later. She won the 1992 Louis Delluc Prize for directing "Le Petit Prince a Dit" (The Little Prince Said).

Her last film, "Adultere, Mode d'Emploi" (Adulterer, Operating Instructions) came out last year.

"I'm completely in shock, I can't believe it," said Bertrand Tavernier, who directed Pascal in her first film, "L'Horloger de Saint Paul" (The Watchmaker of Saint Paul), as well as in four other movies.

"She was someone who doubted herself, who experienced depression, whom you had to encourage constantly because she was afraid," Tavernier told the radio network RTL. "She was extraordinarily sensitive, and she showed it in the films she made as a director and as an actress."