

# Gefangenen Gazette

## SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

Published by the American National Red Cross for the Relatives of American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees

Washington, D. C.

September 1944

Col. Delmar T. Spivey, senior American officer at Stalag Luft III, sent to the editor of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN a complete file of the *Gefangenen Gazette* from October 15, 1943, to April 9, 1944.

*Gefangenen* (Prisoners') *Gazette* is produced, by hand and typewriter, three times weekly, with a Sunday supplement of colored cartoons, by American airmen—prisoners at the Center Compound. When sending the file, Colonel Spivey wrote:

*Credit for this paper is given to 2nd Lt. Ronald T. Delaney, who, under most adverse circumstances as to material and subject matter, has shown persistence and initiative to a commendable degree.*

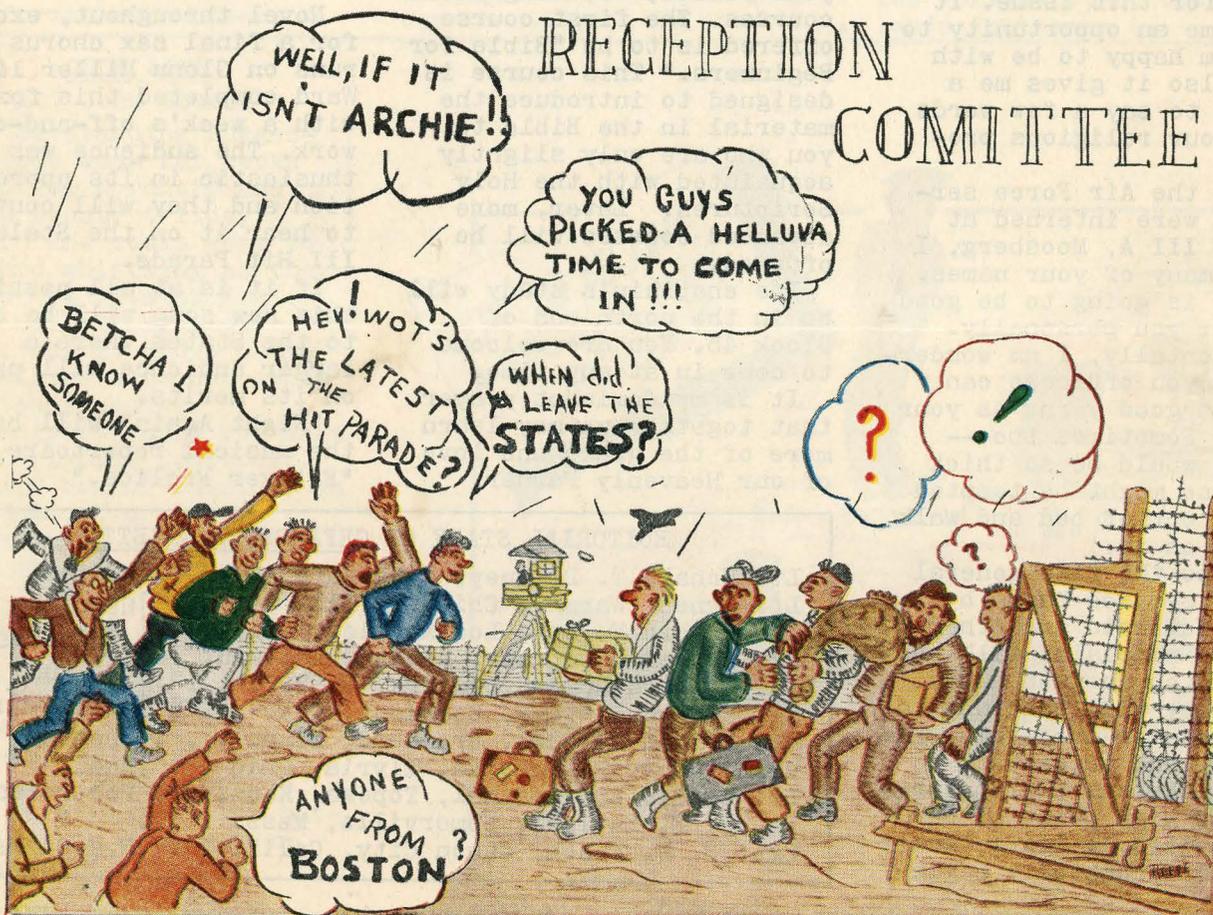
There are some 4,500 young American airmen at Luft III, and the articles and cartoons in the *Gazette* throw a vivid light on camp conditions and on how the men there are temporarily adapting their lives to an atmosphere that must be completely alien to them.

It is unfortunately a physical impossibility to make the complete file available to all families of the men at Luft III, and to the many other families of American prisoners of war who would surely find it intensely interesting. PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, however, has prepared this special supplement made up entirely

of extracts, drawings, and cartoons, taken more or less at random, from the *Gefangenen Gazette*. No editing has been done here, but, of course, every issue has to be approved by the German commander before it goes on the camp bulletin board.

Stalag Luft III, which, like all other camps for airmen, is under the control of the Luftwaffe, is probably the best established camp for Americans in Germany. Enlisted men in the Stalags, and especially on work detachments, have much less opportunity for study and play than officer-prisoners have.

GILBERT REDFERN, *Editor*  
*Prisoners of War Bulletin*



# Yes Ma! This is Sagan

## CREDITS

Tracy Strong Jr., American head of the European Students' Relief Fund, in a recent letter to Lt. Ray Brunn, education officer, expressed the possibility of college credits for prisoners of war in the near future.

Interpreting the letter, as he has expressed, "feeling reasonably sure of" means that some work is now being done on the situation and results may be forthcoming soon.

# "NIGHT AGAIN" a hit!

"As original as a new day," Johnny Ward's new love ballad "Night Again" had its premiere at Saturday afternoon's jam session in the theater.

Novel throughout, except for a final sax chorus that runs on Glenn Miller lines, Ward completed this foxtrot with a week's off-and-on work. The audience was enthusiastic in its appreciation and they will continue to hear it on the Stalag III Hit Parade.

If it is at all possible, this new song will be sent to the States where a larger audience will pass on its merits.

"Night Again" will be on the musical repertoire of "Flieger Frolics."



## PULPIT

By CHAPLAIN DANIEL

I am glad the editor asked me to write a few lines for this issue. It gives me an opportunity to say I'm happy to be with you. Also it gives me a chance to say a few words about our religious program.

When the Air Force sergeants were interned at Stalag III A, Moosberg, I heard many of your names. Now it is going to be good to know you personally. (Incidentally, I am wondering if you officers can tell as good yarns as your crews: Sometimes the--- "flak" would be so thick that one might be tempted to get out of bed and walk around on it.)

I hope the fine general Sunday service begun by Padre McDonald and other British chaplains will be carried on in such a way that they will continue to grow in ever-increasing influence and enjoyment. Let's make our church service the high point of our week's life. A little later we will undoubtedly begin

Sunday evening song services.

In the immediate future, I will join the faculty of your school, teaching Bible courses. The first course offered is to be "Bible for Beginners." This course is designed to introduce the material in the Bible to you who are only slightly acquainted with the Holy Scriptures. Later, more advanced courses will be offered.

The chaplain's study will be in the north end of Block 45. You are welcome to come in at any time.

It is my dominant prayer that together we may learn more of the grace and love of our Heavenly Father.

## EDITORIAL STAFF OF GEFANGENEN GAZETTE

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Lt. J. E. Zavisho, Somerville, Mass. . . .	} Portraits
Sgt. C. W. Roach, Canon City, Calif. . . .	} " "
	} N.C.O. News

# FULL HOUSE

"It just doesn't pay to get sick in Stalag Luft III." Tuesday, March 7th, at seven in the morning, five men: Lts. Porter and McCain and three men from the east camp departed in the custody of Medical Sergeant Sanders for the hospital at Lamsdorf. They arrived there at three in the afternoon only to be denied entrance as patients due to an already overcrowded condition. The hospital there had its full capacity of four hundred and ninety patients, and another trainload of POWs from Italy was expected on the 13th of March.

Due to traveling conditions, the men stayed there overnite and gained a bit of information concerning kriegies from Stalag Luft III.

Unable to see Lt. Robin Taber, Sergeant Sanders managed to gain a few bits of information concerning

his welfare. The doctor there said that Lt. Taber's condition was still the same and plans were being formulated to send him to a sanitorium someplace in Germany.

Operations were being performed there at the rate of one hundred and twenty-five a month, related Sergeant Sanders, all performed by a medical staff of fifteen British doctors. The doctors had been complimented on the quality of their work there amongst Americans, Canadians, British, Indians, and Afrikaners.

Of the five men sent there, Lt. McCain was the only one that was sent to another hospital; his condition warranted the services of good medical treatment.

At present Lamsdorf has a Lager nearby that has a strength of (CENSORED) prisoners—nationality unknown.

## GOSSIP AND RUMORS

In recent news comes the tale of a repatriated kriegie. This POW said that the thing which struck him most when he returned home was the way his wife had aged!

Ran into a heated discussion as to whether or not Lt. Taber resembled a Scotch terrier or a French poodle. Members of the argument refuse to attach him to their nationality!

Lt. Stanhope, after his petite role of a cigarette girl in the recent radio show, isn't alone too much anymore.

It's alleged that a certain kriegie here received a letter from his wife which read as follows: "Darling, I'm having a baby but it's not yours. He is an airman too and he's very nice about it. He promises to send you cigarettes while you're there."

We know of at least three shows which are in preparation for presentation early in the New Year.

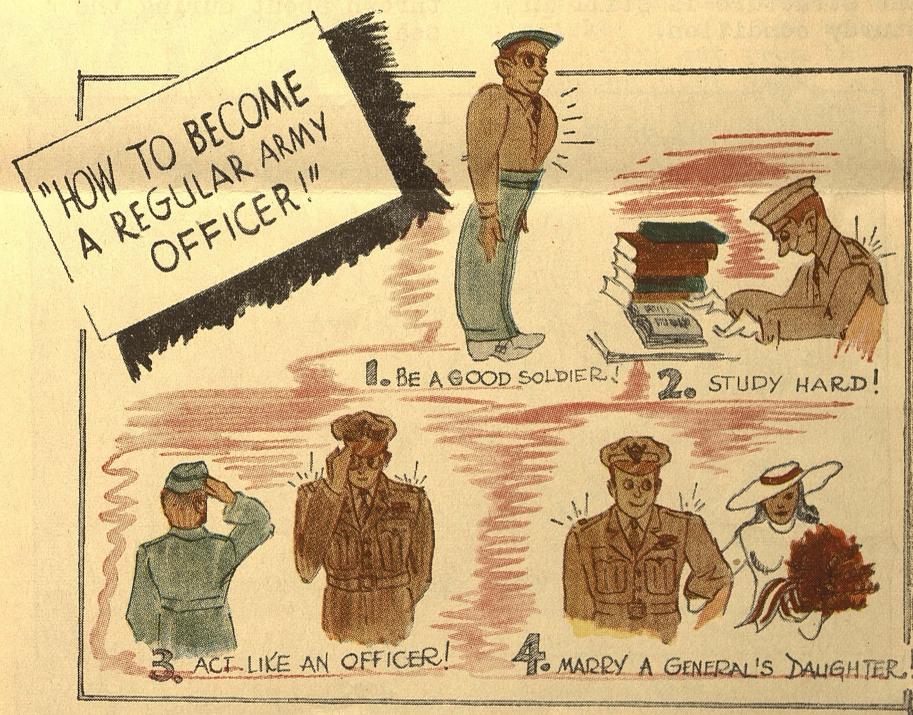
Many Red Cross parcels in the Vorlager. Fourteen carloads just came in.

## CHOW LINE

Lt. John Eberle

The outstanding suggestion this week for cooks comes from Nordhoff and Hall's Bounty trilogy. Quote, "The cooks were to be heard whistling as they seeded the raisins for duff, not out of good cheer, but to prove that the raisins were not going into their mouths."

So whistle while you make this Christmas fruitcake. One-half box of raisins, an equal amount of pitted prunes and a package of dates should soak overnight. Then stew the fruit and add a can of rolled oats, a box of ground ginger biscuits if available, several spoonfuls of margarine, and half a can of condensed milk. Add bread crumbs and prune kernels until it forms a thick batter. Bake in a slow oven. Serves eight.



# BLOCK 44 SEARCHED

## Gazette Files Examined

Starting the week in the right manner, German authorities made a detailed search of the Gazette office in Block 44, Monday morning. The search began at Appell time, with between eight and ten Jerries making up the three-hour search detail.

The materials sought were not known, but mostly contraband articles were picked up by the searchers. Several of the party were observed closely scrutinizing the Gefangenen Gazette files.

This is the first time that Block 44 has been rifled since complete American occupation in July. No signs were found that in any way pointed to "luft-rodents." Unlike Block 43, the structure is still in sturdy condition.

From an inside source, a few facts as to the extent of the search were revealed. Several (CENSORED) pored over the Gazette file and came across the cartoon of "Herman," who appeared in last week's issue. One was heard to remark, "I haft found it, Herman." After that elaborate conversation, the search came to a halt. The Germans then departed with the contraband loot.

Bundles of booty, such as iron bars, unopened food, oleo lamps, and other miscellaneous articles were carted away by the Germans.

After the block was vacated, Oberfeldwebel Sholz gave the men five minutes to inspect their property for loss of personal articles, reporting loss of such to him. Very few articles were on the missing list. It did take hours to reassemble the materials thrown about during the search.



# TEMPO

—Nik Nagorka

A new ultra musical show centered around the dance band is now in progress. It will give you many a minute of sheer enjoyment. You will also see the inner workings of musical secrets and styles graphically displayed.

Lts. Ward Schank and Brady are writing and arranging most of the numbers. The writer is also contributing a few phrases.

The new hotel style "Society Band" will tease you with sweet rhythmic interpretations of erstwhile popular tunes...new to the center camp theater audiences.

By way of other musical activities, "Delta Delights," an all American minstrel show, is well into the casting stage.

The nostalgic black-face songs will include such old favorites as "Sleepy Time Down South," "Old Black Joe," and even the "Darktown Strutters' Ball." Lt. Moore, who has tackled the job, is doing an admirable task on it. The show will appeal especially to those lovers of folk choral music in the American way.

Thru the untiring efforts of our staunch Sgt. Elliot, it has become possible to arrange in advance six recorded symphony concerts. The theater management has also cooperated splendidly in relegating to us a definite time for the programs. As was so last week, they will be henceforth heard from six to eight, every Sunday.

The very limited file of records makes impossible the playing of request programs. However, if you would like to hear any se-

lections repeated in the future, it will be arranged to give a whole concert of such compositions.

New symphonic music is arriving surely, but slowly. At the conclusion of the scheduled series of programs, the supply will undoubtedly suffice for a few more concerts.

Just about enough till "THE DAY."

#### CHOW LINE

Lt. John Eberle

A powerful brew of coffee can be used as flavoring for cakes and also added to the custard received in the British parcels.

Mashed turnips covered with a bit of Sweet Life orange powder covers up the turnip taste wonderfully. By the way, Sweet Life orange powder is good for anything except as an orange drink.

How about your recipes? Bring the darned things in to us. We can use all you've got.

# CONFERENCE!

Affairs concerning kriegie welfare received an airing Tuesday, in the Kommandantur. A meeting of all compound senior officers and their adjutants was presided over by Kommandant von Lindeiner, Cols. Spivey and Stillman, and adjutant Capt. Bentley represented the center camp. Air raid alarms, slit trenches, workshops, and fire safety were the main points of discussion by the group. The Kommandant set a practice air raid for eleven o'clock today.

Slit trenches are to be dug five meters from the side of the barracks. No revetment material was mentioned.

Case of Air Raid:

1. Siren will sound in outer Lager.
2. Posterns will shout "Flieger alarm."
3. Camp bugler will blow "Call to Quarters."

4. Stay there until bugler blows release from quarters.

A camp workshop will be established in the near future. It will contain a cobbler shop, a tailor shop, and a carpenter and repair shop. It is the desire of the Kommandant that we do our own work here. The administration will find the equipment.

One of the most valuable points to come out of the meeting in the Kommandantur is the one concerning fire. Should there be a fire during the day or night kriegies will be allowed to save themselves and equipment, even after lockup. The posterns have been instructed in the details concerning a compound fire, and will not fire upon fire-fleeing personnel.

Question of who is to get the west camp is still unknown.

North camp put in a bid to obtain enough cement for a cricket pitch; the only answer they got from the Kommandant...We shall see.

#### BAGS "O" STUFF

Captain Lishon, Camp Canteen Officer, has just received a new shipment of useful articles for distribution in the near future.

Among the many items, there are 480 tubes of tooth paste, French brand, 180 jars of skin cream, almost two hundred cigarette rolling machines, writing blocks, scratch pads, 5600 boxes of matches. Also there are Dutch razor blades and several blade sharpeners.

Forty-six states, Washington, D. C., and three foreign schools are represented in the survey.

Information on all fields is available from 3 to 4.

# JOB SERVICE!

Cols. Spivey and Kennedy, speaking about the educational program here, mentioned that if the government follows the same policy this war as last, all qualified men will be able to go to college at the government's expense.

From reports, it is alleged that a bill is now in Congress that would give all men with six months of foreign duty an opportunity to attend college for a year. This training would be for all men, qualified or otherwise.

The Vocational Service survey, recently conducted amongst the men here, re-

veals the following standards:

Of 573 men surveyed, 366 or 64% have had some college training such as engineering school, business college, but not including army training.

72% of the men who have gone to college have had two years or more.

Plotting the 64% as one group, the years attended college have been broken down to the following parts:

Four years or more: 12½%  
Three years: 7½%  
Two years: 25%  
One year: 15%  
Less than one year: 1%

# "I'M GOING HOME" Last Minute Rush For Repatriates Move

Last minute kriegie repats injected strange atmosphere into the life that usually predominates here. Monday nite, in almost every block in the center camp, the quotation "I'm goin' home" came from at least one member. Hurried packings and logbook entries for the folks at home were in order.

This case of repatriation was the most unusual to take place here yet. Many of the men had been refused repatriation before and the hurry call set them off.

Close as facts can be gathered, the orders for the move came thru from OKW. It was mentioned that they were seeking as many as possible, for there would then be an equal number of Germans repatriated. The normal repat procedure takes considerable time. Doctors of a neutral country and the Detaining Power sit in on the proceedings. The board this time was made up of Germans entirely.

Some mention has been made of the men gathering at one point, and there to be examined. But interpreting the Geneva regulation, the men have been passed by German doctors and released. A release of this kind, even without a certificate, should be adhered to. So no returns are expected,——(CENSORED)

There were twelve men who left for home Monday nite. The route taken was not specified. It is believed the men will go to Lisbon, to the States and Walter Reed hospital. The men are: Maj. Post, Capt. Kennedy, Lts. Barton, Young, Philpitt, Jansen, Dumont, Means,

Marshall, Jones, Baxter, and Harness.

The men were allowed to take a logbook and one notebook full of addresses. Much of their last few hours was occupied in taking down names and messages to the folks at home.

## Sheer LUXURY

Meals the way you like 'em, beds that lull you to sleep are all new items of luxury that now make up the Center Compound sick bay.

Over a month ago, Col. Spivey found that conditions in the Lager sick quarters were not up to par for the care of sick men and so set about to rectify the conditions. First move that came about was the shifting of several Scotch kriegies into the hospital as orderlies and cooks.

Since then, the meals have been cooked the way patients ask and they are served by a group of efficient orderlies.

The beds in the hospital are now completely rope-strung. Viewing the remains of mattress stuffing from the hospital reveals but a mess of sawdust. There had been no change since '42 in the mattress fillings.

Group Capt. Massey saw the changes made in the center camp sick bay--had the same process repeated in the North Compound sick bay.

The new group that now is at work in the sick bay in-

### PARADE OF EXTREMES

Twice a day, at Appell, the parade of extremes takes place. In mental actions, youth inhabits the extremes. But with regard to personal cleanliness and decorum, the reference now goes. Upon observation eighty-five percent of this compound shows a decent respect for neat appearances and general good manners. In this greater portion, halfway cases are admitted.

But with the latter fifteen percent, come those devoid of the aforementioned facts. These are supposedly officers and enlisted men of good calibre. They appear unshaved thru sheer neglect, unwashed due to laziness and personal nature.

The larger group shows respect thru their cleaner appearing clothing. They have learned enough about sewing to change odd bits of cloth into suitable garments. The minority come out unshaved, dirty, hair uncombed, filthy towels and socks around their heads, and all looking as tho' they were outcasts from a bum's "squatter camp."

One has no lack of these "characters" about Stalag III. Would you say to your friends proudly, "These men are officers of the Air Corps and the Air Forces"?

### DWINDLING STOCK OF TOWELS

One hundred and nine towels have been confiscated by the Germans and will not be replaced. In the future, do not hand in towels that are grimy, damp, torn or burnt, as they will be taken. Wash them yourselves and you will be assured of a decent supply.

cludes American, English, and Scotch. And they are all doing a swell job making the hospital the best place to live in, bar none.

# KRIEGIES BEWARE

In a recent message to compound commanders, the Kommandant and Oberst, von Lindeiner, set forth certain disregards as to the conduct of PW's. It is as follows:

To Senior Officers:

(1) It was pointed out some time ago that it is forbidden to PW's to throw things over the warning wire in the direction of the barb wire. In spite of this warning, cigarettes and other things have been thrown over the barb wire repeatedly by PW's, appar-

ently for the purpose of giving them to persons working outside of the wire.

In the future I am going to punish PW's for disobedience to this order.

(2) I beg you to inform PW's of all ranks that the postern is making use of his weapon according to his orders if his orders are not followed. One of these orders is, "Halt or I shoot." (Halt oder Ich schiesse.)

I remark again, that according to well known regu-

lations, posterns will shoot without warning if prisoners cross the Warning Rail.

von Lindeiner  
Oberst und Kommandant.

The Kommandant in another letter to the SAO mentioned that the light bulbs in the compound would have to suffice. There will be no replacement of broken or burned-out bulbs.

## HELP WANTED DEPARTMENT

Musicians or aspirants with a bit of technique on any instrument adaptable for concert or dance music. See Wally Kinnan or John Ward. No union card required.

## Cult Notings

One of the latest popular songs has the appropriate and enticing heading, "I Wish I Could Hide Inside This Letter."

.....  
That American "shot in the arm," the hamburger, is still on the market.

.....  
Angelo Rossi was defeated in the last election. So the long-time mayor of San Francisco is now an "ex."

.....  
Automobiles are still evidently driven with the same reckless abandon on the West Coast. No difficulty obtaining gas.

.....  
Everyone here enjoys snowball fights. To everyone it's a big joke--especially when windows are broken and cannot be replaced.

.....  
The Red Cross is really a wonderful organization. Everyone was fairly well pleased with the special Christmas parcels that were  
(Continued on page 10)

## THE WINNAH!



This is the glamorous winner of the Gazette's second round Snapshot Beauty Contest—Mrs. Marsha Charlton, wife of Lt. Charlton of Block 39. This attractive and young wife was selected from quite a large group by Colonels Spivey, Kennedy, and Jenkins.

Last and final period of the contest begins this Sunday and ends on April 2nd.

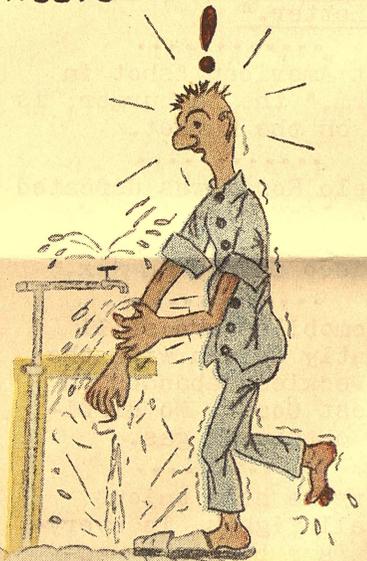
Final judgment of the three periods' first and second placers will come off at the end of April.

# THE EVOLUTION of the STALAG SACK REEVE

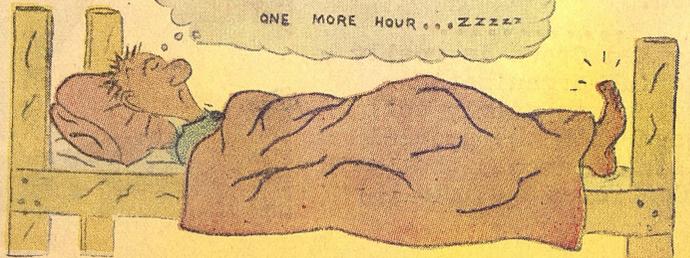


## THE STALAG SACK

By Reeve



GOOD OLE SUNDAY MORNING  
ELEVEN O'CLOCK APPEL....  
ONE MORE HOUR...ZZZZZ



# THE SACK in "OUR KITCHEN" by Reeve



# THE STALAG SACK by Reeve



# Curtain

BY D.M. CLIBO

Our theater, with curtailment of several programs, carries on this week despite alteration work. Church services will hold true today as usual. Monday evening brings us another recorded program of the classics. As previously mentioned, Mondays are now the permanent time for these record playings.

On Wednesday next, the Debate Hour in beginning will feature members of our administrative staff, Cols. Spivey, Kennedy, versus Stillman and Aring on the question of their own choosing: Resolved "The Refusal To Participate in a Public Debate Indicates a Lack of Community Spirit."

The Serenaders plus Block 44 show on Friday and Saturday will conclude the week's entertainment, with definite promise of increasing activity following the conclusion of improvements within the showhouse.

.....

Two variety shows, "Charlie's Aunt," two classics programs and weekly forum lectures have been the record of our entertainment since the English left us the first of January. There's been a lot accomplished since that time--changes and innovations which may not be immediately noticeable, but which will become very evident soon.

Firstly, there is the policy of ticket distribution. The securing of tickets is now made quite easy for all of us by the block distribution method, and business manager Capt. Adams hopes to improve even further on this system. Also, the new policy of reserved seats for the Col-

onel's staff, and the standing of the audience at their departure are, we believe, improvements.

Of equal importance are the changes and alterations in production facilities. An entire new lighting board has been constructed by our theater electricians, complete with "home-made" rheostats. New rows of border lights are installed, the orchestra pit enlarged and a second curtain hung. Designs for stage settings include use of sectional sets, permitting considerable freedom of changes, variations of scenes, and effecting a great increase in material's economy.

Consideration of these things must increase our regards for our theater staff--particularly when this work is done under very difficult tool and supplies conditions.

Lt. Col. Saltzman wishes to thank his staff for their cooperation and work to date. The Colonel says each man is efficient in his department, and in that we certainly agree.

## CUFF JOTTINGS

(Continued from page 7)

sent here. The puzzles and other games provide many a nite's entertainment...especially in way of musical joy...Have you ever listened to a wind-bound kriegie play the ocarina? Good and bad, the Red Cross helps all.

.....

According to Pom. Zeit., the English fashions are copying the American army uniform. The smart thing to wear is the feminine version of the short, camel hair coat worn by U. S. Army officers, a hat like a baseball cap, and an olive drab dress.

.....

Letter--"I hope you are getting enough money where you are; if not wire me and I'll send a check to you."

## THEORY OR PRACTICE

In our own Kriegie Kollege, we have in the curriculum almost every subject desired by the kriegies themselves. Many subjects are in the practical arts section. Scientific studies are pursued. Groups have formed to discuss all available information abroad on sciences. Every kriegie desires a brushup class on arts and crafts they have had previous workings of. The majority desire study and research on subjects of all natures; the minority do the practical work. Are we but a group of mere students? Why not a bit of the useful side of study?

Many problems about the compound could stand practical enlightenment from our science societies. Every integral unit of our meagre existence here could be alleviated by actual aid from all of these men. Every man here has some little aid that he can contribute to the effort. Are you doing your share? Are you fond of lying to yourself, with your braggings of what have been your accomplishments?

Can you convince anyone, even some of the morons about here, that you have done anything past or present, when you speak from the depths of your bunk, or favorite seat?

## SWAP...

Foodacco, represented by Capt. McKesson, made a visit to the east camp Friday. Negotiations were completed for the swapping of center camp raisins, English cigarettes and tea for east camp coffee, chocolate, and cocoa.

The east campers have many intoxicating ideas concerning the use of raisins now. Exchange of tea for coffee shows that nationalistic tendencies still hold true.

## INEQUALITY OF MAN!!!!!!

The debate in the theater Sunday nite entitled "Men Are Not Equal, Never Have Been, Never Will Be," was a lopsided victory for the supporters of the contention. The audience vote was 105-38. Supporting the proposal were F/L Cheshire and Lt. Burbank while Lts. Riley and Tabor rebutted them.

We can take F/L Cheshire's opening speech for granted but it also can be used as a measure. He spoke of the inequality of intellect amongst those in the theater. Not so long after that speech, even those who may have imagined themselves inferior in intellect, could laugh at those supposedly superior on certain subjects. That came with Lt. Tabor's rebuttal. He admitted all inequalities to the present day. His animated talk lacked no humor. He gestured to that phase, then swayed from the point often. In conclusions: there were none.

Lt. Burbank, by simple enumeration of facts and concise theory was the only one close to pointedness. He had no need to work any harder.

Upon questioning the audience, the opinion was: future debates should be labeled: educational or comic.

## GARDEN SPOT

"This camp will be the garden spot of Germany"—At least that's what Feldwebel Strangherner—Popeye—has to say about it.

He has visions of flourishing garden patches, enhanced by artistic borders of spring and summer flowers. The work involved will be hard, he says, but those who work hard will be rewarded. They shall be able to go on a paroled walk.



**Everybody's doin' it!**  
"Or, at least a few"



**PRESENT STYLES**



**SUGGESTED STYLES**

## HIT SHOW

"Strictly From Hunger" lifted the first curtain on the South camps New Theater. This musical review in three acts, featured the band of Major Diamond, who, during the show, introduced a new song that was the hit of the evening. Lt. Biers, director of the show, did wonders combatting costume troubles, finally receiving shipment from Berlin.

A vaudeville act, "Crowley & Shea" slapsticked the audience to hominess, with plenty of shuffle and "corn." Their act was by far one of the hits of the show.

"Honey Wagon Blues" the new song hit, is a takeoff on the "panzer wagon" so well known to Luft III.

A negro chorus, rolling out "Ole Man River" proved to be one of the best choral numbers put on during the review. Excellent, presentable direction was a continuous feature, for the whole ensemble reacted wholeheartedly.

About fifteen kriegies from the Center camp attended the show Friday nite. Most of them feel that the show is a mark to shoot at. Fleiger Frolics will tell.

## SWING AND SWAY

One of the kriegies who recently spent a bit of time in the Sick Bay, complained of the bumpy hardness of the beds there. Being a worker in the Vorlager, he mentioned that the beds could be made considerably softer on the body if they were made of rope lacework. Also that it would cut down on the number of changes in mattress stuffing. The German in charge answered that he thought it an excellent idea and was sorry that he had not thought of it himself.

So within a short while all of the beds will be strung with rope and any stays there will be more comfortable. The rope comes from the Red Cross parcels and the work is being done by men in the Vorlager.

## LOSS OF MAIL

Many infractions of mail regulations have caused countless letters to be thrown out by the German censors. Check your mail for compliance with the regulations.

# BLOCK 43 CONDEMMED

## UNDERMINED! By "Luftrodents"

Monday afternoon Barracks 43 was condemned for further occupancy by order of the German Kommandant. He substantiated the preliminary inspections made earlier in the day by members of the Abwehr. They, during their course of daily inspection, had come on many signs of structural fatigue and sublevel underminings.

Viewing the building, the Kommandant was outwardly quite perturbed. He took keen note of the building's dilapidated state. A note was made on the shortage of nails and bolts holding the structure together. The floor of the barrack revealed excessive wear and several points revealed insufficient joists and beams.

Rounding the barrack, the Kommandant from a standoff position sighted several points settling below normal ground level. At certain vantage positions, underground burrowings could be distinguished. These no doubt, were due to the tunneling activities of "luftrodents" seeking haven in the warm earth beneath the barrack.

This "luftrodent" is of enormous proportions and the specie is quite native to this part of the country.

Ever cautious in the care of the men under his charge, the Kommandant hastened to have the men evacuated to a safer structure. A few minutes after Appell was dismissed, Block 43 disgorged men, bunks, and cabinets as ants from a crumbling anthill.

Even the German soldiers hastily abetted the men in their flight. The entire move was but a matter of an hour, CENSORED.

There is no doubt that the interrupting inspection by the German authorities saved the men from a cruel fate.

Tuesday afternoon an aftermath to the situation developed in the German's quest to exterminate the tunneling "luftrodents." They dug down to subterranean levels and poured vast amounts of water into the tunnels. By this move they collapsed the diggings. They had hopes that the animals were drowned in the process.

One person in charge of the detail was heard to mention, "At least we caught them before they got too far. Terrible how these unforeseen events pop up."

### TOC H

With intolerance one of the main characteristics of Stalag III, there is one organization here which has done more than its bit to fight it. Fighting intolerance, Toc H fills that bill nobly.

Founded at Ypres in 1915 by two chaplains, it is now a world-wide organization of powerful peaceful repute. Its quarters in Ypres were a peaceful retreat for those who wished to forget the war even tho' they were in it fully. Nonsectarian, interracial, and nonpolitical, it has done its work here in Stalag III, quietly and successfully. With its fostering of practical ideals rather than preaching them, many tasks here in Stalag have been completed.

Rank in Toc H is nonex-  
(Continued on page 13)

## "Press" Meeting

Col. Spivey, in his bi-weekly press interview, mentioned that the plans for reconstruction of the northwest latrine to a workshop and the plans regarding slit trenches are now in the hands of the Germans. It is expected that they will be approved immediately and the actual converting work started.

When questioned on disposition of the west camp, he mentioned that as yet there has been no indication of what will happen.

During the interview the question of a contribution to the Red Cross came up. He stated that he was not trying in anyway to enforce contribution, but to sound out the kriegie populace on donating their subsistence allowance. And the situation is strictly up to the kriegie as to whether or not he wants to contribute. His feelings are, that he feels the same now as he did when he first came here.

All kriegies, when they initially landed here would have given any amount to the Red Cross. Now that they are sleek and well fed, the thought is no longer present.

Col. Spivey says his feelings are still the same now as then, and some sort of contribution should be made.

His final say in the matter was that a survey would be made and those who felt inclined to give, could do so. The list of contributors would then be forwarded to the Red Cross.

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As the Christmas season approaches, we can do well to reflect that it is only the weak and unprincipled man who cannot rise above his adversity and be thankful for the blessings of preservation and health. In a world scourged with suffering and unhappiness, we are existing in comparative comfort and good health. During the Christmas season we should give thanks to God for these blessings. We must face the future, not with limp resignation, but with faith, hope, and determination. Every man should resolve at this time to live unselfishly with his comrades in a spirit of mutual help and confidence. Christmas reminds us of the enduring principles laid down by our Saviour. They will remain forever the qualities in man which are admired and respected by all thinking people.

The Senior American Officer, Col. Spivey, and the Senior British Officer, S/L Pritchard, extend to all Allies here a merry Christmas and hopes of good fortune during the New Year.

# GEN. SCANS CAMP

High ranking observers, a German Lieutenant General and officers of both Luftwaffe and Wehrmacht, made an inspection of the center camp Friday morning. The general is stationed at Breslau, and is a member of the Inspector General's Department. Col. Spivey, SAO, and his adjutant, Capt. Bentley, conducted the inspecting party throughout the camp.

On his tour, the Wehrmacht general took keen observance of all athletics; his first move on entering the compound was to inquire as to who the master was that was teaching the men fencing. The General wanted to see a fencing match, but due to suitable fencers being absent, he said that he would like to see a match on his return.

Passing thru the theater, the group proceeded to the athletic field to watch the softball game in progress. The side lines were cleared for view, as the General

was quite interested in the American sport.

On his way out, the General paused to observe the fencing match that had been arranged for his benefit. Two of the camp's fencers staged a clever match, the General observing the duel from all vantage points with the apparent eye of an expert! At the end of the match, he saluted the two combatants for the show of skill.

Taking one of the fencing sabres, and with gesticulations and talk, he explained the use of a military sabre to the party.

The party, following the guidance of Lt. Shafer, kitchen officer, made an inspection trip thru the west cookhouse.

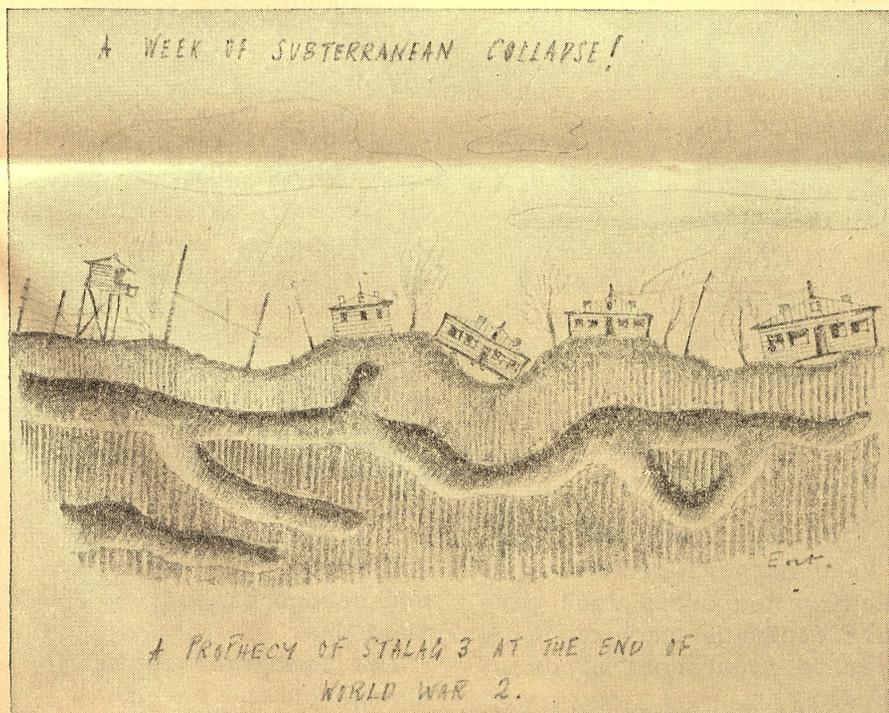
## TOC H

(Continued from page 12)

istent and class consciousness is averted at all times. Its large following here have pledged themselves to social service thru their acts and do not preach about it. Toc H has the one tiny but valiant flag that waves in the faces of the tongue-wagging intolerants.

Composed of all allied kriegies, there is little preponderance of any one nationality. British, Americans, Canadians, Australians, and others all have a hand in the affairs of Toc H. It would do everyone a lot of good if he were to take a good view of the structure and makeup of Toc H.

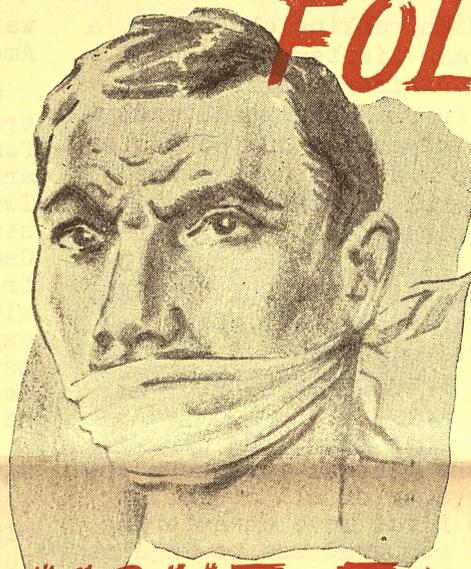
Folks at home think that we go about our camps with a huge PW emblazoned across the back of our clothing. This is true in England and Canada too.



## SECURITY

Security, to every group in time of war or stress, is a vital need. Regardless of the circumstances of any group, pertinent factors of security must be present. If there were no security in prisons, there would be no use for "stoolies." That case is fairly irrelevant here; the sentence is but an illustration. We do have a worrisome factor here, tho'. The cases of idle talk and general carelessness in speech here go on each and every day. These cases of

# SOME FOLK



# ought to be GAGGED!

"general blating" must come to a halt or else.

To remedy these cases, it is alleged that a series of actions will be taken. Those apprehended in the act of loose talking will be liable to certain actions. To those outstanding cases, the culprits will have the honor of seeing their names in print upon these pages. A space will be allotted each week for those offenders.

It will be well in the future to keep a close rein on galloping tongues. This is a precaution we can all take.

## By-A-Nose

Nosing a potato along at the rate of sixteen feet a minute, Lt. McKeegan paid off his bet and gained a new position as a champion. Sunday's derby began at mid-day, from the serried ranks of Block 39. He nosed the potato to the static water supply, a distance of two hundred and fifty feet in sixteen minutes.

The derby held the attention of the entire camp, the most people to attend any single event at one performance. If the inva-

sion had come off during the month of March, all seven of Lt. McKeegan's roomies would have pushed potatoes with their nose. But as fortune, or as the Allies had it, Lt. McKeegan bore the brunt—as well as a sore nose.

At times, his speed was cut down due to the soft shifting sand, but he gained momentum as he hit a hard level stretch.

Lt. McKeegan thought it rather strange that the only potatoes he could find were small ones.

### NOTE FROM HOME

Many mothers of POWs are packing Red Cross food parcels... Maybe they won't seem so impersonal after this.

### BRIDGE

The camp-wide bridge tournament, the bridge playoff to determine the Center compound champs, is now on.

To date, over one hundred teams have entered the meet, each entry donating one package of American cigarettes as an entry fee. At present, round-robin play goes on in each block. With the completion of this initial play two teams will be entered from each block.

The final championship is to be determined by duplicate play. Winners of first place are to receive four thousand cigarettes and second place gets two thousand.

Lt. Dolberger is in charge of the match.

# New Colonel Says: BARTH OPTIMISTIC!

Midweek, and the center camp added another full colonel to its growing roster. Col. W. A. Hatcher, senior American officer at Stalag Luft I, (Barth) was transferred to Luft III, where he may join the present administration staff. Col. Hatcher, when interviewed by the Gazette reporter, gave a glowing picture of morale and high optimism at Barth.

Barth at present is composed of several camps; the position of senior American officer going to Col. Byerly, who is now in charge of American forces, and the British under the control of Wing Commander Hilton.

As Col. Hatcher explained, the nucleus of Barth's administration was made up of old RAF personnel, and gradually developed into all American with the arrival of more and more American forces. The American strength is now between 1600 and 1700 men. One British camp there lists 190 officers and 190 NCOs.

The number of downed flying personnel arriving at Barth has little effect on the POW's. Their view, as the Colonel explains, has an eye to the growing potentialities rather than one of loss without replacement. The more men they see entering the gates of Barth, the more they believe the forces over Germany are growing. Every man speaks glowingly of the high morale in England.

(Paragraph CENSORED)

Educationally, the boys at Barth are doing all right, mentioned the Colonel, but they are hampered by the incoming purges and a lack of material. As it is, the educational program

is one of interest to every man there and they are doing the best they can under such circumstances.

Activity in the theater is growing daily in Barth, the chief trouble coming from a lack of material. They have successfully produced several plays, one of the most recent being, "The Man Who Came to Dinner." "A little more time," added the Colonel, "and a few good three-act plays will do wonders."

Bad weather at Barth hampered the sporting activities, for the field is composed of mud and sand soaking wet part of the time, for outside sports. In spite of this drawback, continuous tournaments were held in football, basketball, baseball and volleyball. Again a lack of equipment entered into accounts.

## 'GEN ROOM'

The "Gen Room," the newsroom covering the world fronts with maps and latest dispatches, will open sometime this week in the theater annex. Lt. Ray Brunn is in charge of the project.

Featuring frontline news of the Russian, Italian, Jugoslavian, and Pacific theaters, the news will be gathered from the German press. Operational movements of the fronts will be tallied daily on large situation maps, giving a combination mental and graphic picture of the trends of battle.

Thus far the news gathered concerning the fronts has been spasmodic and not very clear. By combining all efforts the project

"But," as the Colonel related further, "things there look good; the health is up, the men are optimistic and cheerful, so what more can be said."

## RATIONS CUT!

Commencing in a short time, the present potato ration will be cut by 100 grams. Macaroni and sauerkraut will no longer be included as staples issued by the Germans.

To cheer everyone up, however, there will be an increase of 120 grams of kohlrabi. Just as soon as the present supply of dried spinach is exhausted, it will be replaced by dried kohlrabi.

Red beets will be given out in the near future. No other changes have been made.

This cut goes for the whole of Germany, including all camps around here.

will bring a welcome addition of educational news.

The staff which will keep the news posted includes: Capt. Sam Magee and Lt. Pinkerton, Pacific theater; Lt. William Moore, Russian front; Lt. George A. Couch, second front; Lt. T. G. Wilson, United States and German news; Lt. Robert Gluck, occupied countries, neutral countries, and South America; Lt. Wolison, propaganda and feature articles; Maj. Clevan and Lt. Robert Mason, situation maps.

Lt. Ernest Warsaw will work on the art and headlines with Lts. David Solomon and Otto Kuhlmann handling the Italian situation.

# "Vorlager" (One-Act).

# School

Subject: Personal Parcels.

Time: March 30, 1944.

Place: Vorlager.

Persons: One lieutenant, parcel sergeant, German parcel inspector.

Sergeant: We have a parcel for you Lieutenant.

Lieutenant: Good.

Sergeant: I'll check it over with the German inspector.

German inspector: (Looks over parcel, notes box containing trick flashlight) What ist? Ah flashlight, verboten, verboten. (German continues to inspect flashlight for workability.) It is kaput, kaput, no work. (Continues to fuss with it, and the cover of the flashlight pops off and a long snake



springs up in front of his eyes. Said German rose three feet off ground. Scene ends after German reenacts the flashlight act several more times.) It is goot!

Within a few days, all of the new kriegies in the Center camp will have a new educational program at hand. Lt. Ray Brunn, camp educational officer, mentioned that the program has to be new, to prevent break-ins on established classes.

Of the new classes, Spanish and German, math of elementary and advanced stages, and accounting, will begin at once.

German class will be taught from a new textbook, and is conversationally styled.

At present, the Army lectures are made up of older students, but any of the new men are requested to join them if they see fit.

Books for the future may be a long while in coming, according to the News Room story, concerning the loss by fire of the entire stock of books on hand at Geneva. Thousands of victrola machines were also destroyed.

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