

The Oflag 64 Stem

Forecast for May:
We'd Rather Not Say

Our Forecast Before
Was Very Damn Poor

"Don't Wait — ITEM-ate"

No. 7

Alzburgund, Germany — May 1, 1944

Price: 50 Pfg.

OFLAG NEWS — IN BRIEF —

Frost Fouls up Fruit* . . .

A quirk in Alzburgund's weather — perennial 3-day frosts between May 10 and 20 — will hold up transplanting of the 1500 tomatoe* plants now in the greenhouse for three more weeks. So says Chief Farmer John Creech*.

This annual cold spell is known to the permanent residents here as the "Frost of the three saints."

*A tomatoe is a fruit, says Creech

Maternity Case . . .

The Oflag T. O. took another minor spurt upward early last month when "Sissie," 3-A's feline mascot, gave birth to two kittens.

It was the first recorded maternity case in Oflag history and took place, appropriately, in a Red Cross box. The kittens are now attached to the Parcel Hatch for rations.

Round Trip . . .

The Oflag's first alumnus, Lt. Robert Young, Air Corps, has arrived home.

Repatriated early this year, Bob arrived in Wooster, Ohio March 19. His first official act was to have a date with his fiancee.

First Degree . . .

First degree ever awarded to a student in residence at Alzburgund College was conferred last month to Capt. Maynard Files by the University of Maine.

Capt. Files learned in a letter in April that credit for work done here had been accepted, completing the requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Forestry degree. Files finished his mathematics requirements under Lt. Thomas Morse, a Maine alumnus.

Wrong year . . .

Vic Laughlin was bagged guess-where on February 15, 1943. On April 6 his mother learned his whereabouts. Overjoyed, she immediately wrote her son. He received the letter the same month — one year later. It showed up here April 6, 1944.

One for Emily . . .

This involves a bunk, an inmate and symptoms of Hansen's disease. The bunk was merely standing there in room 28 minding its own business. Then Russ Ford bumped into it. He turned about and politely baritone'd "Excuse me."

Fact or Fiction ???

To answer a current query, Chaplain Stanley Brach this month will give an informal talk on "The real story behind 'The Robe'."

The most read book in the Oflag library, Lloyd Douglas's "The Robe" is based largely on Biblical fact, according to Chaplain Brach. Many of its characters really existed.

Date of his talk will be announced.

New Yorkers Top List of New Officers from Southern Front



New Yorkers and Californians predominate in the 105 new officers added to the station complement here April 21.

This is the second largest group to arrive here, 156 arriving in June, 1943.

Transferred from units now fighting in Italy, they represent 37 states.

Thirteen are from New York, 8 from California, 7 from Texas, 6 from Massachusetts and 4 each are from Oklahoma, South Carolina and Pennsylvania.

The new group brings the total officer strength here to 460 and contains two majors, 12 captains, 34 first lieutenants and 57 second lieutenants.

Other states represented by the new arrivals are: 3 each from New Jersey, Georgia, Nebraska, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio and Minnesota; 2 each from New Hampshire, Oregon, Virginia, Connecticut, Kansas, Iowa and Kentucky; and one each from Maryland, Arizona, South Dakota, Wyoming, Washington, D. C., Idaho, North Carolina, Indiana, Wisconsin, Louisiana and Colorado.

Their names and addresses will appear in an early issue of the ITEM Directory.

3-Acter Due This Week

"Three Men on a Horse," previously scheduled for April, will be produced by John Hannan on May 4, 5 and 6.

Other entertainments during May include:

May 12, 13 — A variety show staged by Wilbur Sharpe;

May 19, 20 — Two one-act plays;

May 27 — Sid Thal's Bloody Gut.

Spirit of Spring Sweeps into Alzburgund

Comes May Day and a young kriegy's fancy is likely to turn to thoughts of you-know-what.

So THE ITEM herewith takes the bull by the horns and presents its idea of the Spirit of Spring, Alzburgund style:

Ah, spring, — beautiful spring!

Oflag Mail Total Per Officer Shows a Steep, Steady Decline Since November

"We're hurtin' for mail," says Capt. John Kamps, camp postal officer.

Although the population of Oflag 64 has been steadily increasing for the past eight months, the number of incoming letters has remained approximately the same.

The number for March is actually less than that received in November.

A new record was made in the letter league last month. The speed title goes to Capt. Kenneth Johnson who received a letter from the States 17 days after it was postmarked.

Lt. Stanley Stetson still leads the Big Ten with 334 letters. Close behind are: Lts. Amon Carter, 330, William Rudel, 302, John Scully, 290, Bob Rankin, 285, Henry Perry, 275, Robert Lobb, 267, Capt. George Juskalian, 264, Lts.

Earl Buckley, 254 and Francis Roy, 251.

The total number of letters received monthly since the establishment of this camp and the average days in transit are as follows:

MONTH	Total No. letters received	Average No. days in transit
July	505	59
August	1587	100
September	3152	95
October	2907	99
November	4450	91
December	3128	89
January	3302	88
February	3050	94
March	3669	84

The Oflag 64 Item

Published monthly by and for American officers temporarily detained in Offizierlager 64, Altburgund (Schubin), Germany.

Editor: Capt. George Juskalian
Ass't. Editor: 2nd Lt. Frank Diggs

Staff

1st Lt. Willard Duckworth
1st Lt. Larry Phelan
2nd Lt. Bob Bonomi
2nd Lt. Frank Maxwell
2nd Lt. Frank Hancock
2nd Lt. Alexander Ross
2nd Lt. Leo Fisher
Larry Allen, A.P. Correspondent.

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MAY 1, 1944

Versatorials

Spot Check

The fly will try
To multiply
A thousand fold before July;
But if you swat
And make a spot,
A spot is better than a lot
Of flies!

Post War Planning

The Maxwellian craze,
A family to raise,
Puts bachelors' backs to the wall;
For the kiddies we show
In THE ITEM, page fo',
Should make bachelors benedicts all.

For Kriegies in Action

Too bad there weren't plenty,
There were only twenty
Of sport badges to go' round;
But be of good cheer,
A new season is here,
New chances are bound to abound.

Tale of Two Horses

Three men on a horse
In racing, of course,
May not be a sure bet, you know;
But the same quartet
With the stage all set
Makes a rip-roaring comedy show.

Trade Policy

He who is ridden by a conscience
Worries about a lot of nonscience;
He without benefit of scruples
His bashing soon quadruples.

CORRECTION

Lt. Paul Lampru, who was reported incorrectly in last month's ITEM as being captured in Tunisia, was captured in Sicily.

Praise the Lord and Pass the Canopener



By: Willard Duckworth

For "Oscar of the Waldorf" the preparation of food is a pleasure, but that's the Waldorf.

For Lt. Col. Walter Oakes of Oflag 64 it is a task, sans glamour, sans romance, often monotonous, more often damn difficult.

Lts. Bob Aschim and Jim Sherman assist Lt. Col. Oakes. They see to it that menus are maintained a week in advance. This entails close figuring on the amount of food which must be saved from the American parcels to compensate for the lack of solid food in the British parcels.

Occasionally they serve up an extra-special dish such as "Breaded Prem"—prem dipped in powdered eggs and yorkshire pudding and cooked in deep fat, or a disguised meatroll hashed up with German margarine, spices and onions.

"When," says Aschim, "a period of what you call a 'lull' comes along we start to prepare for the next day's soup."

Seven enlisted men make up the kitchen complement: four cooks, Sgt. Bird, Pvts. Kakac, Gould, and Read; two KP's, Pvts. Blusius, and Ferguson; and one "spud peeler," Pvt. Griffin.

The three officers have all had culinary experience at one time or another. Lt. Col. Oakes often recalls his days as a mess sergeant. Bob Aschim cooked for a restaurant. And Jim Sherman was a soda-jerker at the corner drug store.

OFLAG DIRECTORY

MONTANA

Allen White
Bozeman

NEBRASKA

Earl Hoffman
R. F. D. 1, Bee
LeRoy Ihrle
2112 "J" St., Lincoln
Bernard Opitz
72nd & "L" St., Omaha
John Rathbone
3067 Stratford Ave., Lincoln
Emanuel Robertson
1601 N. 35th St., Omaha

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Ormond Roberts
R. F. D. 1, Dover

NEW JERSEY

James Bancker
133 Hobart Ave., Summit
Ellis Beesley
41 Highland Ave., Kearney
Edward Berlinsky
95 Carpenter St., Belleville
Robert Bonner
Senator Apts., Riverside
Stanley Brach
58 Atlantic Ave., E. Keansburg
Charles Brocker
1431 N. Arkansas Ave., Atlantic City
Joseph Brown
18 Woodland Ave., East Orange
Harold Craft
18 Olcott Ave., Bernardsville
Louis DiBella
97 Glenridge Ave., Glenridge
George Durgin
303 N. Broad St., Palmyra
Charles Eberle
521 Willow Ave., Roselle Park
Blondell Fenton
521 DeKlyn Ave., Trenton
Joseph Friedman
60 Hadley Ave., Clifton
Vincent Grimes
901 Hudson St., Hoboken
John Hannan
Bedminister
Duane Kennedy
102 Washington St., Deepwater
Frank Maxwell
203 Jewett Ave., Jersey City
Thomas Mitchell, Jr.
317 S. Cook Ave., Trenton
Louis Otterbein
26 Fairview Place, Bloomfield
Lawrence Phelan
28 Harrison Ave., Montclair
Louis Salerno
4 Althea St., Clifton
Zoltan Takacs
73 French St., New Brunswick
Francis Tripp
Stokes Terrace, Moorestown
Richard Van Syckle
Cliff Road, Sewaren
John Van Vliet
58 W. Front St., Red Bank

NEW MEXICO

William Ellermeyer
503 N. 5th, Belen

NEW YORK

Harry Abrahams
80 East Chester St., Long Beach
James Alger
c/o Alan Sutherland
National City Bank, New York
Larry Allen
c/o Associated Press
50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York

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Kriegy Sketches

Lt. FRANK MAXWELL

By: Larry Allen

The Boss in Oflag 64's Theater Guild intends to show prisoners something to remember him by before the day of Freedom arrives.

Frank Maxwell says the Little Theater Group is planning to put on a musical comedy a la Broadway that will "lay 'em in the aisles."

Being chairman of the production unit — with a long string of successes behind him — is Maxwell's guarantee of bigger and better entertainment.

In his role as the power behind the scenes, Maxwell looks back over an interesting five-year background of hobnobbing with people who do things that keep their names on the public lip.

He worked for "Believe It Or Not" Bob Ripley and King Features Syndicate for two years, was a radio programs contact man for three more — from 1936 to 1941.

Maxwell, a shade under six feet, is twenty-seven and comes from Jersey City. There he graduated at Lincoln High school and went on for a two-year course in business administration at Hudson college.

He enlisted in the National Guard in 1940, and went into the Army in February 1941.

He emerged from Fort Benning, Ga., with a second-lieutenant's commission in his pocket in August, 1942, going overseas a month later.

Army service took him into Scotland, England and Ireland, thence back to Scotland to hook-up with the famous 168th infantry.

Maxwell shoved off with that outfit for the wilds of North Africa, where he scampered about until February 17, 1943. On that red-letter day he fell into the clutches of der Deutschen Soldaten at Ksaira, near epical Sidi Bou Sid.

He's married, and says he'd like to work for the Federal Housing Administration — if that fails, then television.

"A lot of officers in this camp," he said, "want to get out to raise a lot of hell. I just want to raise a family."

Believe It, or Not.

Twenty To Receive YMCA Sport Badge for '43 Season

YMCA sports badges will be awarded to 20 officers of Oflag 64 for promotion of and participation in athletics during the calendar year 1943, according to a recent announcement by Col. Thomas D. Drake.

The officers are: Frank Aten, Ed Berlinsky, Billy Bingham, Bob Conwell, Dick Englehart, Leo Farber, Earl Hoffman, Howard Holder, Verris Hubbell, Herb Johnson, John Kamps, Pete Knapp, Vic Laughlin, Bill Luttrell, Jim Mac-Arevey, Frank Maxwell, Bob Oshlo, Henry Perry, Rocco Pravidica and John Shinn.



SPORTS



First Phase of Softball Tourney Ends, Winning Teams Announced

Victors in the first phase of the Oflag softball series were announced yesterday by High Commissioner Leo Farber. They are: American League — Tigers, Red Sox, Senators, Browns and Saints; National League — Cubs (2 games), Reds, Braves, Orioles and Phillies.

Teams and players are:

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit Tigers: Luttrell, captain, Penn, Wernette, Walters, W. E., Carlisle, Irvin, Scully, Batte, Jones, C. S., Young and Henry.

New York Yanks: Berlinsky, captain, Peters, Keith, Ward, Hirt, Holder, Mac-Arevey, Detmers, Livingston, Foster and Snider.

Chicago White Sox: Langley, captain, Hubbell, Tschantz, Vaden, Maxwell, Bancker, Gray, Thomas, Lantron, Ranck and Alger.

St. Paul Saints: Evans, captain, De Martino, Bond, Reid, Sito, Raffetto, Alloway, Kendrick, Roberts, Dimling and Chrzanowski.

Philadelphia Athletics: Seringer, captain, Makepeace, Cable, Bedwell, Wick, Pawloski, Hannan, Martin, Rossbach, Truett and Lorenzen.

St. Louis Browns: Johnson, D. A., captain, Emerson, Hoffman, Waters, Winwood, Cramer, Conwell, Frazee, Kley-stebeuer, Long and Lampru.

Teapot Dome Pales Before Big Powdered Milk Swindle

The old Brooklyn Bridge game took a new twist here recently.

Lt. "Honest John" Rodgers, fresh from the open plains of Texas was taken in by a couple of slick Easterners, Frank "Lucky Pierre" Colley and William "Slippery" Rudel.

It seems that Honest John admired a very fine old Bavarian pipe belonging to Slippery. Lucky then took him off to a far corner and whispered thus:

"This very fine genuine Bavarian merchandise, my friend, is about to go the mart for an exorbitant price, but for you I will try to get it away from Slippery Rudel for a pittance."

"Oh boy!" said Honest John. So they made a deal.

The price: SEVEN cans of powdered milk.

Repercussions were: John Peyton, Oflag milk mogul, suffered a stroke; the Mart seriously considered point revision, and Ormond "Holier-than-Thou" Roberts, who might have made the deal, charged the Rudel-Colley combine with sharp practices.

Out of Uniform

There was a young kriegy from Natchez, Whose garments were always in patchez, When comment arose

On the state of his clothes, He drawled, "When ah itches, ah scratches!"

— *With apologies to Ogden Nash*



Boston Red Sox: Murphy, H.T., captain, Creech, Eberle, Warren, L. C., Lisenbee, Pravidica, Habig, Gever, Dunn, Friedman, Craft, Hancock, Norwood and Schaefer.

Cleveland: Cory, captain, Haynes, Dicks, Charlton, Aschim, Spicher, Drewry, Roggen, Spence, Leming, Beesley and White, T. L.

Washington: DiBella, captain, Desmond, Otterbein, Jones, C. L., Smith, M. C., Curtis, Barnes, Jones, W. K., Bires, Kwolek McCarver and Hogan.

Kansas City Blues: Niffenegger, captain Granberry, Levy, Le Sage, Goodman, Betts, Rinehart, Johnson, T. R., Kasper and Watt.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Philadelphia Phillies: Grimes captain, Shirk, Upperco, Keck, Yates, Warren, L. H., Perry, Rodgers, Littman, Slack and Rush.

Brooklyn: Tripp, captain, Kent, Aten, Miller, J.W., Schmitz, Farber, Sherman, Elmer, Crocker, Carter, Cipriani and Barkovic.

Chicago Cubs: Johnson, H.A., captain, Oshlo, Abrahams, Mitchell, F.G., Slinkard, Brown, Bingham, R., Cockrell, Juskalian, Noonan and Denman.

St. Louis Cards: Thal, captain, Kader, Korber, Englehart, Taylor, Wood, Ellermeyer, Steinke, Feldman, Sager, Tallman and Secor.

Pittsburgh: Schneider, captain, Cheatle, Hutchison, Cannon, Ellsworth, Cheatham, Sharpe, Hughes, M.C., Yenco, Haag and Swanson.

Cincinnati: Walters, R. L., captain, Muehlbauer, Guest, Bingham, B., Brockner, Demott, Bergman, Robinson, H.H., Waldman, Bond and Fiorentino.

Boston Braves: Medlén, captain, Barrett, Poteet, Kamps, Shimatsu, Files, Hessler, Weigand, Wilson, Burrows and Goad.

New York Giants: Sims and Beasley, co-captains, Graham, Frederick, Straight, Bonner, Knapp, Ford, R. H., Danylik, Smith, F. M., Krepla and Kennedy.

Newark Bears: Taylor L. A. captain, Hauschild, Ullerly, Crandall, Speas, Cobb, Marcisak, Corbin, F., Picou, Perkins and Cool.

Baltimore Orioles: Miller, captain, Hunsaker, Libertore, Turner, Lohrengel, Young, Mallory, Smith, D., Stansell, Hanley and Piecuch.

Oflag Offspring Analyzed, Reveal Heredity on the Job

But Juniors All Take After Mothers for Looks

Kriegieitis isn't hereditary, apparently.

According to an exhaustive survey of Oflag offspring conducted by THE ITEM, kriegy fathers can stop worrying—Junior shows no symptoms.

Inside dope on the Junior Kriegy League came from sample snapshots analyzed by Face-reader Will Duckworth.

Will says that even if you can't actually read a small child's face, you can tell plenty by the old man's and so:

F/O James Sparkman's young daughter, for instance, excels in optimism and patience — traits obviously inherited from her mother. She will never make a kriegy.

Capt. Dick Rossbach's youngster, says Will, is the executive type, tending toward bashomania and big theater operations. A beautiful child — takes after her mother.

Capt. Harold Craft's daughter takes after the old man and so will probably grow up to be a big deutsch linguist. But the sweet smile must come from her mother.

Lt. Russ Ford's little girl, as you can see, is a miniature Lily Pons, getting her beauty from Mrs. F.

Lt. Col. Louis Gershenow's daughter reveals a tendency toward big powder and newspaper deals. She likes to travel, according to Will, in automobiles.

Lt. James Shoaf's little boy shows promise of great executive ability, probably inherited from his Zimmerführer father.

His good looks, though, must be from his mother's side of the family.



CHARTER MEMBERS OF the Oflag Junior League are, left to right—
Top: F/O James Sparkman's daughter, Rebecca; Capt. Richard Rossbach's daughter, Cynthia; and Capt. Harold Craft's daughter, Patricia.
Bottom: Lt. Russell Ford's daughter, Linda, Lt. Col. Louis Gershenow's daughter, Andrea; and Lt. James Shoaf's son, John Richard.

Kriegies Utilize Enforced Hibernation By Making Puppets, Portraits, Purses

Purses, picture frames, mats, watch bands, jewelry cases, portraits, puppets....

These are only a few of the articles made by kriegy hobbyists during the winter months.

Capt. Bernard Bolton spent more than two months completing a loom, and has already woven half of a colored bed spread.

Capt. Al White is working on a "duration tapestry", as he calls it. He figures it will take that long to finish it.

Lt. Hervey Robinson has completed a purse and a rug. He is now working on a sport jacket.

Bill Fabian, who never worked with oils before, has done a number of portraits, among them one of Chaplain Stanley Brach.

Then there is the puppet factory. Ideas are by Ken Goddard, bodies by Wilbert Davis, clothing by Don Lussenden with Carlos Burrows as test pilot.

Gefangener Gus... At the Mart

By: Ross

