

Nearly Everybody
Reads THE ITEM

The Oflag 64 Item

Covers Oflag 64
Like the Dew

"One ITEM is Worth 10,000 Pictures"

No. 9

Alzburgund, Germany — July 1, 1944

Price: 50 Pfg

Fourth To Bring Carnival and Horse Races to Oflag

OFLAG NEWS — IN BRIEF —

One for Burbank...

John Jones was 'duly appointed gardner of Mess 82. He went forth and tilled the soil and sowed the seed... radishes... onions... lettuce... etc... then, his toil ended, he rested. Time passed. The seeds germinated and young tender plants sprang forth... and... Mess 32 now has a bumper crop of petunias and nasturtiums!

They Guessed It...

Luckiest prognosticators in camp last month were Fred Mitchell and Hugh Hogan, the big invasion date operators. Last December, each predicted the invasion date practically on the nose, in different camp pools. Takes were: Mitchell, 30 D-bars; Hogan, 28.

Unfortunately, Hogan had sold a half interest for three D-bars.

Classical Discs Expected...

Recording of the classics may reach Oflag 64 soon with the best wishes of Arturo Toscanini, famous symphony conductor.

Baritone Tom Holt wrote Toscanini several months ago, requesting some records. He has received a reply from the conductor's son, Walter.

If red tape can be slashed, classical recordings will be sent.

Ornithological Operations

Oflag 64 took on a new dependant recently when Roney-Dougal, a young crow, parachuted into camp from his nest on the roof of the main building. He (or she) was rescued by Amon Carter and is now residing in Barracks 8-A. Carter hopes to teach him (or her) to sprechen the deutsch in time.

Faithful Forever...

Herman Littman recently read in a letter from a friend, "I hope you are being faithful to your wife." Herman answered: "Among other things there's eight feet of barbed wire..."

All-Time Low...

Room 28's Commander Lee thinks he has a record of sorts. One day last month he got six letters — all over a year old.

Pretty Clouds, Aren't They?



The boss said these cut lines had to be written without looking at the picture more than 30 seconds. So what does he expect — a sonnet? It ain't right. L. B.

Invasion Reaction

By: Frank Hancock

"The INVASION 'has come!'" excitedly.

"No." unbelieving.

"No foolin'." convincingly.

And so the glad tidings reached the stately portals of Alzburgund College. Strange reactions took place. *

One poor hysterical kriegy, evidently in a super-exalted frame of mind, absent-mindedly traded a can of Nescafe for a Sweet Life Orange.

Fred Sommers joined the weight-lifting class... William Rudel was seen exercising on the Sportplatz.

Occupants of Room 28, who have not smiled for more than a year, came forth with warm sunshiny grins.

The kitchen force made good soup... Lt. Col. Van Vliet bashed two D-bars... Ormie Hessler quit reading for two hours... Billy Bingham declared that the war will end in 1950, instead of 1983 as he previously stated.

Amon Carter gave Benton Beasley a liver-paté — for free!... gamblers who lost heavily on invasion bets cried out in joy... and everyone has lived happily ever after.

"Boy Meets Girl" 3-Act Play Ends Fiesta

The 168th Anniversary of American Independence will be commemorated here on July 4th with all-star games, bashings, music, an outdoor carnival and a new three-act play.

The program:

Appel, with the band, followed by breakfast.

At 9:30, an All-Star Softball Game with ditto Basketball at 10:45.

In the afternoon, under the direction of F. G. Mitchell and Don Waful, a monster fair and carnival, featuring beer, beaucoup games of chance and an Honest-to-Gawd race meet with horses drawn from each room. (For details on entries, entrance fees, etc., see the sports bulletin board).

At 5:00 PM, formal retreat ceremony.

For evening chow, a special holiday banquet, with dinner music provided by Jack Marlowe's Orchestra in its debut performance.

Oflag 64 will wind up its safest, sanest Fourth in years with the explosion on the stage of The Little Theatre of "Boy Meets Girl" touched off by the able hand of John Hannan.

In this not always polite comedy of Hollywood manners, John Hannan and Larry Phelan play a team of zany script writers in and out of trouble.

In supporting roles are John Cramer, Dick Rossbach, Dick Van Syckle and Jack Carpenter.

The cast also includes: Carlos Burrows, Edwin Haggard, William Crain, Ken Goddard, Bill Swanson, Clyde Herring, Stanley Stetson, Lawrence Brant, Maurice Topping, Vito Fiorentino, Bob Kramer and Lou Otterbein.

Three one-acters, including an original dramatic playlet by John Glendenning, "Nineteen Hand", will reach the Oflag Stage on July 27-28-29. "The Monkey's Paw" a short shocker directed by R. Van Syckle and "Hands Across the Sea", another Noel Coward comedy, directed by Larry Phelan are the others.

Theatre program

JULY	EVENT
2	Swingland
4-5-6	"Boy Meets Girl"
8	Symphony Concert, Bob Rankin, conducting
13-14-15	Sol Levy's Variety Show
18	Swingland
25	Fred Mitchell's Bloody Gut
27-8-9	Three One-Act Plays

The Oflag 64 Item

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

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2nd Lt. Frank Hancock,
2nd Lt. Frank Maxwell

Sports: 2nd Lt. Robert Cheatham

Art: 1st Lt. James Bickers, 2nd Lt. Alexander Ross

JULY 1, 1944

»» ITEMIZING ««

Our tin hat goes off to the lad who thought of gilding barbed wire and making it a bit of an athletic award instead of kriegy retainer.

Speaking of barbed wire, if all of it around here were stretched end to end, it would make things a helluva lot simpler.

Not that we don't like this place but, as Goddard puts it, there are so damn few yo-yo's here.

Or hangovers.

Stupendous Statistics

Lacking anything better to do, Oflag Engineers last month figured out that:

The Oflag kitchen has concocted 18,250 gallons of soup to date, enough to float a combat-loaded L. C. T.;

Six and a half miles of bread have been consumed at the same time; and —

There are 200 miles of barbed wire around camp---enough to stretch from here to Berlin, if you would care to go to Berlin. Around these miles of wire the guards have walked an aggregate total of 7,655 miles; nearly half-way around the earth!

At night, weary P. o. W.'s climbing into the top bunks expend over the period of a year 32,400 foot tons---enough to haul a medium tank to the top of the Empire State Building---and counting the energy expended in extra-curricular comfort trips during the night, a small cruiser could replace the tank in its spectacular climb.

Kriegy Sketches

LT. LeROY IHRIE

By: Lewis Bixby

When you volunteer for a job in the Army you very often get a job of very hard work. Lt. LeRoy Ihrie knew all about that in June of 1943 when he agreed to assume charge of Oflag 64's small library. Thirteen months later he finds himself charged with the task of handling nearly 4,000 volumes to the satisfaction of more than 500 residents of Oflag 64 and he is doing exactly that.

Chief Librarian Ihrie, native of Lincoln, Neb., came to the Army through R.O.T.C. work he undertook at the University of Nebraska while engaged in a pre-medical course at the Cornhusker school. Commissioned in 1941 he joined one of Uncle Sam's best infantry divisions and landed with his outfit as a rifle platoon leader in North Africa in November 1942.

Transferred to another division in early '43 he was in action until March when Rommel's forces made their last offensive of the campaign and bagged, among others, Oflag 64's present chief librarian. For him the war was over — they said.

Finally settled at Oflag VIIIB at Eichstädt, Lt. Ihrie took charge of a small library there and when he came to Oflag 64 with the group of 35 "pioneers" last June, 600 volumes came with him.

Carpenter, book-binder, "information Please" expert, janitor, and librarian. Lt. Ihrie likes all of his jobs. He doesn't mind when a disgruntled client has to be told why O. Henry's works are not stacked among the O's. But he has a few pet peeves.

For instance: If you would not incur the chief librarian's wrath do not toss books open, printed pages down, onto a table.

Ihrie's recreation: He reads books.



— Fourth of July — M E M O R I A M

By: James Godfrey

Silent in a chapel one moment we stood.
The trumpet spoke your benediction
Across this alien land,
And in the soul of every man
Came whispers from his God.

Briefly you lived, violently died...
You would not have us mourn for that;
But in some heart, fire-bright your love
Will live, a changeless thing.

We hallow those who sought our sacred soil
Strange centuries ago:
The gentle iron men shaping Truth
To a nation's fundament,
They who perished with the pangs of
her childbirth
At frozen Valley Forge or fabulous Alamo,
Or healing with their blood at Gettysburg
The mortal wound of brotherhood.
Or dying without doubt at Chateau-Thierry
When all the world was one dark dream,
Or writing now — and not in sand...
The epic tale of our people around the
shores of earth.
For ignominy and injustice are repellent
to the blood
Which bears the strong sweet substance
of America:
On this their spirit holds.

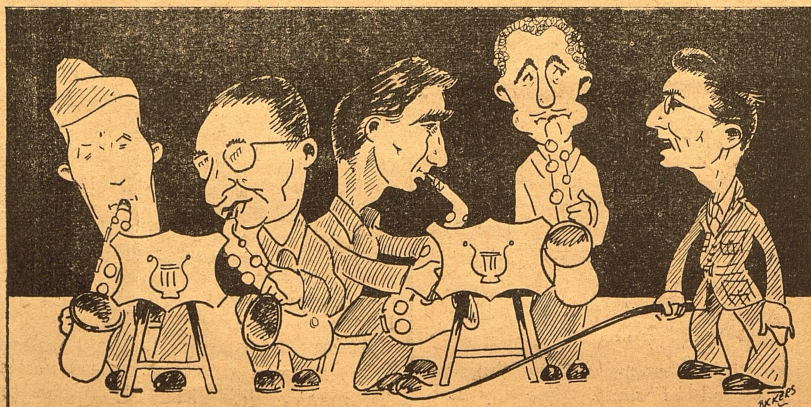
We hallow those who make our heritage
more noble,
Who fail us not in whatever
Final, terrible, tempestuous hour —
You, the legendary figure,
You, the fallen of our day:
Receive our tribute and our thanks.

Rankin's Rangers Ride Rhythm

The lads pictured down below are unique among the students of Altburgund Academy. Never have so few blown their brains out for so many temporarily detained American officers. No group inside barbed wire has fought so valiantly in the battle of boredom.

The Band at Work...

By Bickers





OFLAG SPORTS



Oflag H. E. Thunderbolts Will Skyrocket In A Fiery All Star, All Sports Exhibit To Salute July 4th

Oflag Abounds with Ex-Sports Operators

By: Robert Cheatham

A galaxy of stars, including four footballers of All-American calibre, two pro baseball players, two golden gloves champs, and an All-American lacrosse player, are enrolled at Altburgund College.

Bing Evans was named little All-American tackle while attending South Dakota State.

Grantland Rice picked Eddie Berlinsky, ex-N.C. State back, on his national all-star team of '38.

Big John Shirk, after topping off three years on the gridiron at Oklahoma U. with an appearance in Miami's Orange Bowl, made second-all-America selection.

Bill Luttrell, who opposed Shirk in the Oflag Bowl in '39, went on to participate in the Sugar Bowl in '40 and the Rose Bowl in '41 as a powerful tackle on three great Tennessee teams.

Jack Dobson played a rugged end for the West Point Cadets.

Leo Farber, ex-Dayton U. guard and back, Vic Laughlin, former blocking back at U. of Akron, and Moe Moss, who piloted Georgia's eleven from 37 to '39, complete Altburgund's grid roster.

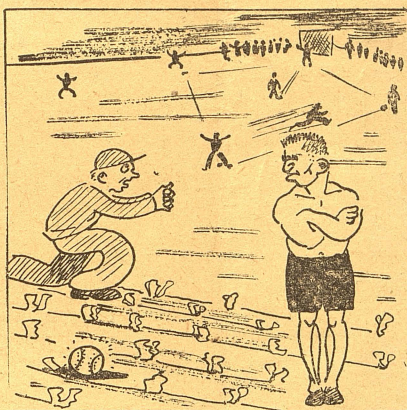
Frank Aten played in the East Texas league after catching Dizzy Dean when both were G. I.'s.

Lloyd Taylor cavorted at shortstop in the Class C Kitty League.

Lou Dibella and Tony Libertore tried out in pro baseball, becoming heroes in khaki league.

The New Hampshire U. diamond teams of '38, '39 and '40 boasted neat first sacker Herb Johnson.

(To be continued next month)



SPORTS SIDELIGHTS

Tooth carpenter Hugo Fieldschmidt is the spectator's new favorite right fielder, replacing twinkletoes Joe Friedman. . . . The white house majors challenge all comers to a tennis-quoits match. . . . Bob Bonner's softball team played 16 innings before beating Bill Bingham's squad, 2-1, in the longest game on record. . . . George Muehlbauer fanned 22 batters in this marathon. . . . The new volleyball league promises to be a big success under Edgar Spicher's direction. . . . John Glendenning played a brilliant center in the Anniversary Day Basketball game. . . . Bill Farrell's quintet looks like a winner in the current court schedule. . . . Local weather has caused postponement of an estimated 25% of softball games scheduled. . . . Barracks 6 leads the inter-barracks exhibition league. . . . Paddles for paddle tennis are being made by Dick Secor. . . . The best exercise available in Oflag 64 is sweeping the gym! R. C.

Zero Hour Scheduled For 9:30 A.M

Oflag 64's first wrestling match; the play-off of the first half of the orderlies soft ball season and an all star basketball game will headline the Camp's July 4th Sports Program, according to athletic director Herb Johnson.

The softball game will begin at 9:30, followed by the basketball tilt at 10:45, while the wrestling match is scheduled as part of the Holiday Carnival.

Harry Evans and Paul Miller, both former amateur grapplers in the 165-lb class will tangle in a five-minute wrestling exhibition.

Two stars, one-time American Legion junior pitcher Oskerson and short stop Lawson, who played with the Kansas City Blues before Der Krieg, will perform in the championship softball game.

Tentative lineups are:

Conquerors: Allen, P., Dotson, C., Ferguson, 1B, Laudig, 2B, Druckmaon, 3B, Read, S. S., Sevta S. C. V., Gallis, L. F., Olson, C. F., Lentz, R. F.

Invaders: Oskerson, P., Wierzgac, C., Blusius, 1B, Lewin, 2B, Estroda, 3B, Lawson, S. S., O'Donnell, S. C. F., Cox, C. F., Billmer, L. F., and Fuller R. F.

Bill Farrell and Eddie Berlinsky will captain teams composed of the cream of the Oflag's court crop.

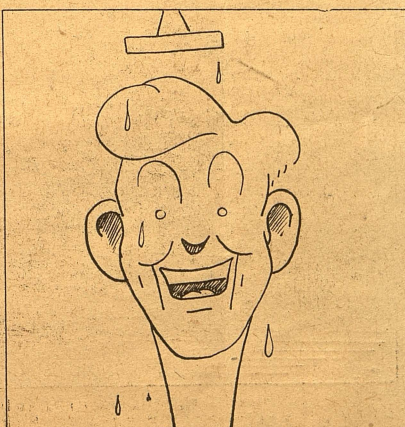
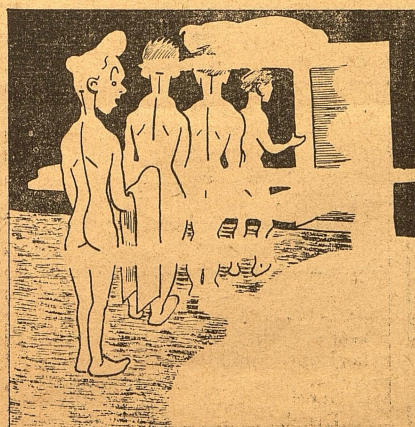
Officials for the fracas will be Col. Alger and Capt. Lucey.

Maurice Bedwell earned his letter by playing tennis for Florida.

Bill Burkhardt was Montana U.'s skiing mentor in '39 and '40.

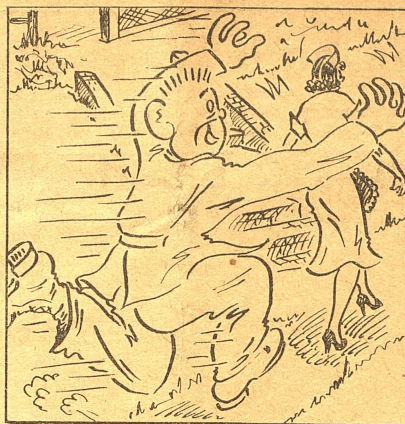
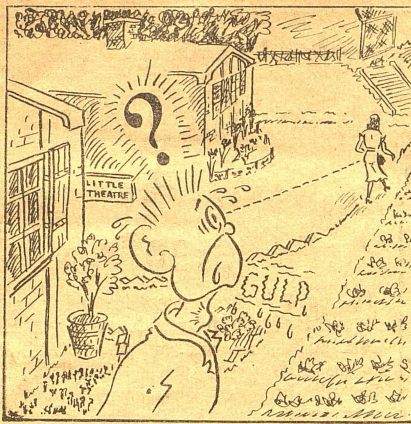
Prison Daze...

By Bickers



Gefangener Gus...

By Ross



"Betty" Keeps Busy At Home But She'd Be Mighty Glad To See Us

By: Leo Fisher

Here's prima poop from the home group as delivered by Major Edwin C. Haggard, latest departee from the old country.

Betty Co-Ed is still wearing screwy hats. Sleazy sweaters emphasize her swing and sway. Her skirts fall in voluminous folds — to the bend of her knees. Her shoes (all 4 pair per annum) are coyly fashioned of colorful cloth and simple straw. Her morale is tops but her morals — "Well, a gal's gotta have some fun." C'est la guerre!

Marriage and birth rates are on the up-swing. Miss Betty isn't, however, all play girl and passion. She's playing a splendid character bit as the original gal behind the guy behind the gun. She's soldiering in the WAACS, WAVES, WOOFES, and WOWS; she drives street cars and taxis and does many other man-size jobs. And Betty makes good money. She needs it too, for the cost of living is going steadily up.

Betty can't get a new car, although her brother who is a commuting Army officer can. She bought a used car at a price set by Uncle Sam's BLUE BOOK.

The folks in Betty's neighborhood expect the war to be finished in '44, but her Army brother is less optimistic.

In downtown, hometown, things are much the same as before. Store windows are well stocked and well groomed. Many articles, previously scarce, are now reappearing, ie. — watches, fountain pens and other luxury items. The Army and Navy have released many articles. Public utilities are functioning normally, although a long distance telephone call can still give Betty a pain in her — patience.

Betty drove out to visit the folks in the country. She saw some kriegies at work in the fields. Crops were good and Grandpap said he was getting mighty fine prices for his produce. While out there, Betty took some color photos of the place. She has plenty of film but her camera is a hand-me-down. She can also get ample movie film for home movies. She will have lots of pictures to show Johnny on "H" Day.

Radio programs are very much the same. The kid cousins still soak up

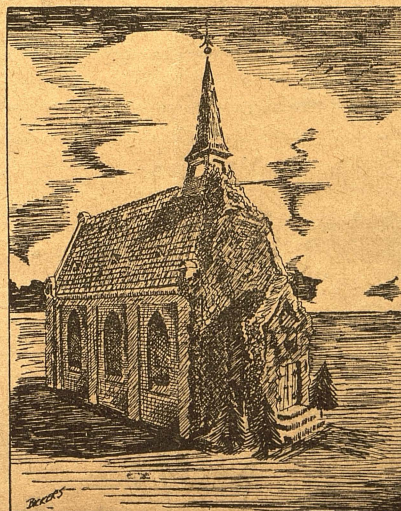
The Lone Ranger, Chipso still grinds out "Linda's First Love" GE has a gold mine in the all — girl orchestra — the only program on the air unaffected by the draft board. On the stage Betty saw an ultra version of "Carmen" with all-colored cast.

In spite of her many and varied diversions Betty is a lonely gal. "The home fires are burning, lads, hurry home and get warm."

Dyer Meets Tank In German Paper

Just before "Der Angriff" arrived in camp with a page one photo of a knocked-out light tank, Lt. Olin Dyer also arrived from a hospital in Italy.

One look at the picture and he collapsed, requiring further hospitalization. The serial number proved it to be his own tank.



THE CHAPEL

This is the first of a series of pen drawings of Oflag buildings by staff Artist Jim Bickers

Biggest Operators Exposed by Poll

THE ITEM, via Frank Maxwell, has polled the poll to end all polls, to find who's who at Oflag 64. The results, just as we suspected, are:

Best dressed — Jim Norwood with Leo Farber a sartorial second.

Best athlete — Ed Berlinsky — the big baseball operator.

Lady killer — par excellence — Andy Johnson, but how can it be proven?

Biggest Operator — Amon Carter, the non pareil.

Model Kriegy — Carl Hansen, professor of kriegyitis.

Most Pessimistic — Billy Bingham, the G-2 expert.

Most optimistic — Fred Sommers, who lets Ike do the worrying.

Prima horizontomaniac — William Rudel — and it was a tough decision.

It also came out that the average Kriegy's favorite dish is Prem, his favorite sport is softball, his choice of indoor games is bridge and he likes Luckies if he can get 'em.

You Can't Fool All the People

Some time ago, Hank Perry's father wrote asking him where he was located. Hank replied that he couldn't tell him but followed up with a remark about a non-existent guy named Vowski, hoping that this would reveal the general locality.

Pop (who catches on fast) wrote back: "I bought a puppy and named him Vowski. I paid old Mr. Schubin to train him and one day he bit old man Bromberg..."

The Censor had the last word. Underscoring Schubin and Bromberg, he wrote in the margin: "The best joke dear old Dad ever made."

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