

The Oflag 64 Stem

All the News That's
Been Geprüft

"Covers Drakeville
Like the Dew"

"Get Wise — ITEM-ize"

No. 2

Altburgund, Germany — December 1, 1943

Price: 50 Pfg.

Oflag's Six-Month Anniversary to be Celebrated With Ersatz Scotch, Films, Thunderous Oratory

Morning Report Rises As Mercury Drops

The morning report veered sharply upward again in November with the arrival here of 35 new officers.

Of the first group eleven are air corps men shot down over Germany.

Representing 22 states back in the old country, the new officers are:

Lt. Col. Charles Jones, Jr., Texas, Capt. William Jones, Tenn., Harold Craft, N. J., and William Yates, Texas, Lts. Holmes Penn, Va., Joseph O'Leary, Ill., Joseph Barrett, Pa., Burdette Berry, Ohio, Ray Goad, Texas, Charles Witt, W. Va., Raymond Steinke, Oregon, Louis DiBella, N. J., Auston Webb, Oklahoma, John Fontenrose, Cal., Robert Haley, Cal., Robert Erb, Pa., Gregory Montreuil, N. Y., Robert Payne, Mich., Milton Zahn, Wis., George Pero, N. Y., Harold Korger, Wis., Marvin Smith, Ark., David Feldman, N. Y., Warren Johnson, Cal., Robert Keith, Me., and Harold Tallman, Md.

Lt. Col. Max Gooler, N. D., Lt. Col. William Schaefer, Ill., Capt. Richard Rossbach, N. Y., and Thomas Rush, Mo., Lts. William Makepeace, N. C., Eugene Ball, Mo., Charles Eberle, N. J., James Kent, Ga., and Edward Yenco, Me.

Lt. Col. Gooler was captured at Tobruk, June 21, 1942, and was interned for more than a year by the Italians. In September, on his way to Germany, he escaped but was recaptured.

Lt. Col. Schaefer was captured in Sicily and Lt. Col. Jones was made prisoner at Salerno. Both commanded battalions.

FLASH BULLETIN!



"Whango!" Wails Lumpkin As Christmas Parcels Emit Blondes

Yes, it's a female! Stop whistling. This luscious morsel is one of the first parcels received here for Christmas issue to hungry gefangeners.

Notice her T.B.A.? Attached to the Oflag for rations, carloads of these beautiful babes are pouring into the parcel hatch every day now. Capt. Tony Lumpkin, commissary officer, comments, "My Gawd, I'm surrounded. Whango!"

Issue at one per inmate will be made from the canteen Christmas Eve. Be sure to get yours.

Oflag Hobby-Lobby Exhibit Scheduled for Dec. 6-7

The small dining salon will take on a gallery atmosphere on December 6-7 when hobbyists display their handiwork.

Included in the wide variety of exhibits will be drawings, tapestries, rugs, cross stitching, needlepoint, wood carvings, picture frames, and insignia fashioned from lead. A model house will be shown by Lt. Col. Gaines Barron.

On display also will be a humorous series of cartoons entitled "Doglandia," created by Lt. Col. Walter Oakes.

Capt. Clyde Herring is in charge of the exhibition.

Week-long Festivities Begin Tonite at 7:15

Gigantic celebrations this week will mark the first semi-annual anniversary of Offizierlager 64.

Gala ceremonies tonight conducted by Capt. Jim Barker in the mess hall will begin the six-day jubilee, commemorating six months at Altburgund and climaxing next Monday with solemn oratory by Lt. Col. John Van Vliet.

Included in the festivities will be nightly blackout bonfires, simulated fire-works, fish-less political fish-fries, conducted by Senator Roy (Texas) Chappell, of Texas, and mirage scotch parties given by Lt. Col. Louis Gershenow at the canteen.

Capt. Barker's talk tonight will be "Six Months at Oflag 64 Have Made Us What We Are Today," or "Home Was Never Like This."

Tomorrow and Friday, German films will feature, "A Boat Trip Down the Danube From Vienna" or "The Vistula Was Never Like This."

The Quiz Program Saturday night will feature questions relating to the camp's six-month history and other questions.

Col. Van Vliet on Monday will talk on "Where Could You Find a Better Climate than at Oflag 64?" or "Hawaii Was Never Like This."

Anti-climaxing the barbed-wire anniversary services, six of the more prosperous messes plan to light half-candles Monday night in memory of last June 6, when this camp was established for US ground force officer PoW's.

O FLAG CALENDAR

Dec.	Event	Time
1	"Wednesday at 7:15"	7:15 p
2,3	German Silent Films	7:15 p
4	Quiz Program: 26 vs 27	7:15 p
6	Travel Talk, "Hawaii," Col. Van Vliet	7:15 p
8	"Wednesday at 7:15"	7:15 p
9,10	Orchestra Concert	7:00 p
11	Quiz Program: 28 vs 29	7:15 p
13	Lecture, "Raising Money," Lt. Waful	7:15 p
15	"Wednesday at 7:15"	7:15 p
16,17	Hooker-Waful Revue	7:00 p
18	Quiz Program: 30 vs 31	7:15 p
20	Travel Talk, "Mexico," Lt. J. T. Jones	7:15 p
22	"Wednesday at 7:15"	7:15 p
23,24,25	Christmas Show, Duckworth	7:00 p
Sundays	Catholic services	9:30 a
	General church services	10:30 a

CONCERT DEC. 9-10

Harry Korger, Conductor

Part One

Light Cavalry — Franz von Suppé
Venetian Boat

Song — Mendelssohn

Andante (from Bell
Symphony) — Haydn

Fantasia from Wil-
liam Tell (Part 2) — Rossini

Part Two

Our Love Affair — Vocal by
Wilbur Sharpe

Maracay — (Tango)
Minnie the Mermaid
If You're Ever in My Arms Again
Spirit of Yuletide

The Oflag 64 Item

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

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Ass't. Editor: 2nd Lt. Frank Diggs
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1st Lt. Jim Bickers
2nd Lt. Bob Bonomi
2nd Lt. Frank Maxwell
2nd Lt. Frank Hancock
2nd Lt. Larry Phelan
Larry Allen, A.P. Correspondent

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DECEMBER 1, 1943

From a Shoestring

Six months ago — June 6 — Oflag 64, originally Oflag XXI B, was established with the arrival at Altburgund of 35 American officers, headed by Col. Thomas D. Drake.

Today it is the temporary residence of more than 300 American officers and some 40 American and British enlisted men.

The half-year period thru which we have passed has seen the building from nothing of a camp life which includes a fun-packed, diversified program of entertainment, a helpful school set-up, a spirited sports schedule, a well-stocked library, an efficient canteen, a satisfying mess, a model barber shop, a combination tailor-cobbler shop, and a smooth-running tin store.

This building of a fuller camp life has been the work of many. It has been and is for the benefit of all.

An Orchid for Brother

Future productions in The Little Theater have something to shoot at. "Brother Orchid" in three successive nightly performances earned bouquets of flowers of the same name.

Frank Maxwell, who double-did it as director and lead role, and a competent cast won for "Brother Orchid" its place on THE ITEM's four star listing.

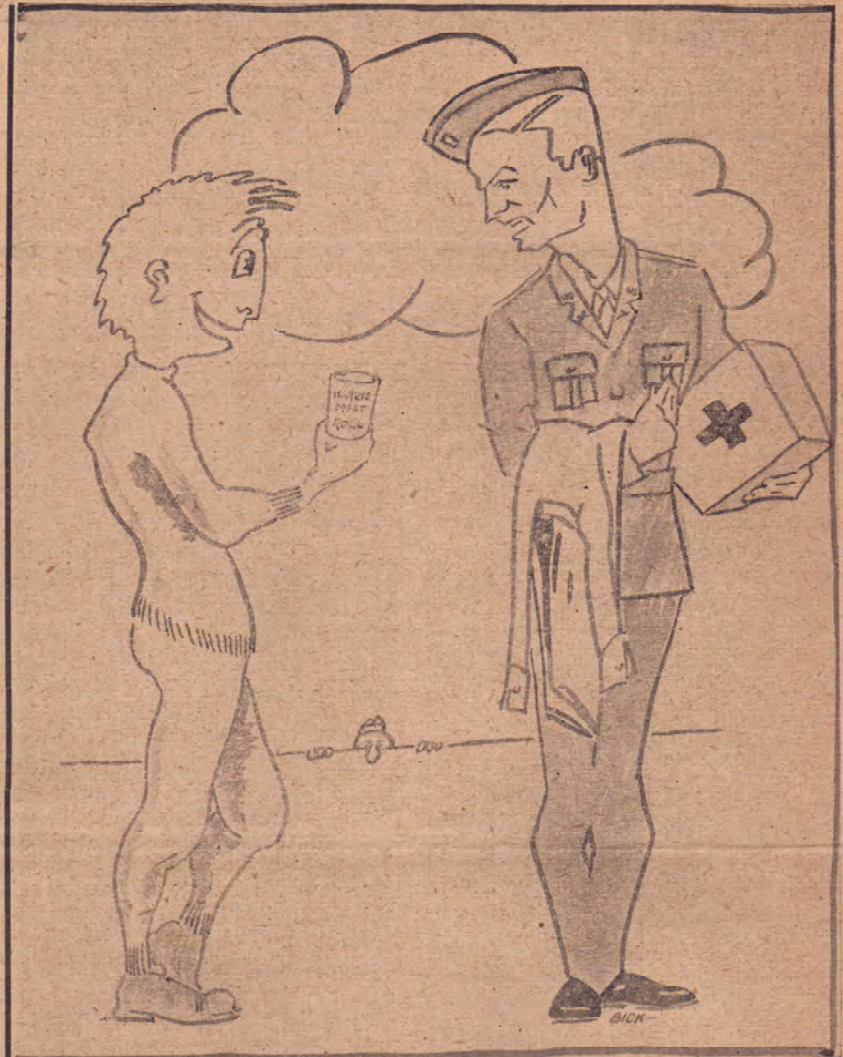
Right Man — Right Job

It was a case of the right man being assigned the right job when Herb Johnson was appointed camp athletic officer.

Result: A well-rounded, fun-packed sports program. A job well done.

The Big Operator...

By Bickers



"I hope you realize you got the best of the bargain."

Mail Operations Hit New Highs In Volume, Speed and Output

Next to a good serviceable passport to the States, fast mail from home seems to be most in demand around these parts.

Although the average time of transit for letters received is 99 days, some officers have received letters that can be classed as current.

Lt. James Shoaf received a letter on the 26th of May which was posted on the 29th of April from Morgantown, W. Va., a total of only 28 days in transit.

Lt. J. L. Cockrell received two letters on Sept. 10th mailed from the states on August 6th and 12th for a total of 36 and 30 days respectively.

Letters from England seem to be making the trip in from two to three weeks. Lt. J. L. Creech and Lt.

R. J. Oshlo have letters from there in 14 days.

The "Big Ten" operators through November 1 were Lt. Col. James Alger with 117 letters; Lt. Amon Carter, 114; Capt. Stephan Kane, 110; Capt. George Juskalian, 106; Lts. Earl Buckley and John Scully with 105 each; Lt. Lloyd Warren, 104; Lt. Col. John Waters and Lt. William Rudel, 103 each; and Capt. Lumund Wilcox and Lt. Robert Hutchison with 101 each.

Total letters received during the past four months with their average transit times were 505 in July with an average of 59 days, 1587 in August with an average of 100 days, 3152 in September with a 95 day average, and 2907 in October in an average of 99 days.

Kriegy Sketches

Lt. Herb Johnson

By: Larry Allen

This camp isn't St. Moritz, but if the plans of Herb Johnson, athletic director, materialize, cries of "Oh, Letty, Oo-Oh!" will echo from the snowclad hills around Altburgund this winter.

The 27-year old, lithe, blond, sports fan is trying to get skis and snowshoes so American officers can go places and play things amid wintry blasts near camp.

During his incumbency here, Johnson has promoted a vigorous calendar of softball, basketball, volley-ball and "touch" football.

A native of Putnam, Conn., Herb was graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a B. S. degree in economics in 1940. Having had reserve training there, he entered the army as a shave-tail in July 1940, was promoted to first in November 1941, and was sent overseas in August 1942. He received the Silver Star in his last engagement.

Herb is unmarried but still eligible and is undecided after the war whether to stay in the army or start a chicken farm back home.

He is quite decided, tho, on his coming winter sports carnival. Says Johnson, "Every man in camp should go in for some sport for his mental as well as physical well being."

Kriegies Are Bookworms, Survey Shows

More than 100 books daily are being digested here, or about one per man every three days.

Historical novels of early America are most popular reading according to Lt. LeRoy Ihrie, librarian, with Walter Edmonds, "Drums Along the Mohawk" leading, while "Epic of America" by James Truslow Adams tops the non-fiction list.

Perry Mason, Philo Vance and Ellery Queen are the fiction "dicks" with the largest followings.



SPORTS



Touch Football Season Ends As Reds and Whites Fight to 6-6 Tie

Sport Briefs From Home

It was Captain Terry Moore of the Cardinals in 1942 but it's Private Terry Moore of the U.S. Air Force now... Terry, after a term as a civilian physical instructor in Panama, joined the Air Corps.

Jimmy Brown, captain of the 1943 Cardinals, is also a private, stationed at the moment at Jefferson Barracks.

The Dodgers have sold Joe Medwick to the New York Giants and have sent Dee Moore to the Philadelphia Phils.

YMCA Rep Walks Out With Big Sports List

Into the hands of the "Y" representative who visited us a few weeks ago was placed the following requisition for sports equipment:

Baseball-bats, balls, mits, shin guards, chest protectors and masks. Softball-bats, basketballs, volley balls, soccer balls, horseshoes, and badminton sets.

Indoor Sports: handballs, gloves, ping-pong sets, rowing machines, boxing gloves, and punching bags.

Winter sports: hockey-skates, sticks, gloves, puck and goals, skis and snowshoes.

Cundiff Tops Barnes Two Straight for Shoe Title

Ellsworth Cundiff pitched 'em with a veteran's ease Monday, Nov. 15, and became King of the Horseshoes. He defeated Jim Barnes in two straight games in the finals of the camp tournament to win the title.

A native of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, he states he's "fooled around" with tossing horseshoes all his life. In 1934 he "fooled around" enough to become State DeMolay champ.

Cundiff is an alumnus of Oklahoma A & M where he was a member of the track team.

Aten, Scully Teams Tie For Football Laurels With 2 Wins Each

A 6-6 tie between Ed Berlinsky's "Reds" and Bill Luttrell's "Whites" on Saturday, November 13, ended the short, snappy touch football season. More than 50 of the Oflag's sport fans witnessed the classic.

Both team captains did spectacular passing. Outstanding on the receiving end were Lou Otterbein for the "Reds" and Dave Feldman for the "Whites."

Sid Thal and Al Winwood officiated with George Lucey as head linesman.

Final team standings:

TEAM	WON	LOST	TIED
ATEN	2	0	0
SCULLY	2	0	0
LUTTRELL	2	0	1
BERLINSKY	2	0	1
WARD	1	2	0
SHIRK	0	2	0
WITT	0	2	0
THAL	0	3	0

Ice Hockey — Ersatzed

Ice hockey games will be played each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 2pm., the ersatz rink being available to all on other days, according to Bill Burghardt.

"Grow Old Gracefully" Club Is Chartered

Formation of an exclusive "Grow Old Gracefully" Club was announced this week by the anti-athletic faction here.

Dedicated to the horizontal view, the club is open only to officers over 25 who feel at least 60 and swear to participate in no exercise more strenuous than cribbage.

President Hill Murphy, who himself feels over 80, says "Let's Sleep on It," is our motto. Jim Norwood is vice president in charge of blanket-pressing.

No members of the Home-by-Christmas Club are eligible, according to Norwood.

Subscriptions to the Old Soldiers' Home are to be handled thru the club exclusively.

Repatriates Will Raise Hell With N. Y. Nite Life, Preview Indicates

Food, Liquor Stocks Vanish As Kriegies Hit City

By: Larry Phelan

New York, December 1, 1944. With the arrival here yesterday of 300 American army officers from a PoW camp in Germany, the city faced a major crisis.

The Colony, LaRue and other swank eateries experienced food and liquor consumption six times normal.

Night club boom was unparalleled in cafe society history.

"It's incredible," said Sherman Billingsley. "We ran out of Scotch and hat-check girls at the same time."

Arrest of 153 self-termed "Kriegies" on charges of disorderly conduct, assault, battery and attempted rape brought to a climax a dinner in which 36 people were injured and damage was done in the luxuriously appointed Wedgewood Room of the Waldorf-Astoria estimated at 10,000 dollars.

According to Ivan Rachamanicho, maitre d'hotel, 150 of these repatriates entered the dining room shortly after 8:00 P. M. Each carried a cardboard box and a small stove constructed of rusted tins. All were inebriated.

They abused waiters because the soup was not on the tables, flung glasses of iced water onto the floor and shouted for hot water, while some sat on the dance floor and kindled fires in their improvised stoves. At this point most of the patrons left hastily.

They then demanded a dish called "Prem" and when informed that this was not available proceeded to overturn tables, throw silverware and threaten the few remaining customers.

The police arrived and after a half hour battle in which 36 policemen sustained injuries, the party was arrested and brought to the East 47th St. Precinct.

Miss Sadie Schling, cigarette girl at the Wedgewood Room, was interviewed at her home in Flatbush, where she is recovering from minor cuts, bruises and shock.

"I'm a good gurl," said Miss Schling. "It was orful."

Xmas Show in Rehearsal

The largest cast yet to be used on the stage of The Little Theater goes into rehearsal this week for the Christmas show.

Included in the program are classic and popular music by Russ Ford's choral group, a one act play, and several pageant-tableaux.

Willard Duckworth is in charge of staging.

ONLY **21** MORE
SHOPPING DAYS
UNTIL **XMAS!**

Geprüft: Oflag 64, Abteilung I d.
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"Your Kind Indulgence" Features Posen Pretties

The Don Waful-Bill Hooker theatrical combine will present on December 16-17 a bubbly, satirical review entitled "Your Kind Indulgence," featuring those delightful tid-bits of femininity, the Posen Pretties.

Baritone Tom Holt, who rang the bell in the recent minstrel show, wows 'em again with a famous American popular-classic.

Larry Allen leaves his one-man copy desk to write and act in a comedy monologue.

Reappearing by popular demand, Ken Goddard beats out a solo swing number on the drums.

Frank Maxwell and Jim Koch lead the supporting cast.

Believe Me...

The ITEM's Rumor Department

From the Big CP: Dear Vic, We know you are sweating out THE Miracle. So here's a bit of dream stuff. Twenty-one days quarantine, your choice of (1) non-combat duty or (2) discharge. P.S. If in doubt flip a coin.

Gastronomic Massage: Unlimited carloads of sugar are now enroute to this lager from Portugal. Mrs. Campbell whipped up the job. Not to be outdone by herself, she now adopts the slogan "a ham a man", and supervises the local Abbatoir.

Love and Kisses: Nine WAACs, WAAF's, or what have you in skirts now reported enroute here. Captured in the land of grapes and wrath where their mission was to relieve wasted virility, they were victimized by a "hit and fun" enemy patrol.

New Records Contributed

More than 100 new records, both classical and modern, have been loaned to Lt. Howard Holder's tri-weekly "Schubin Serenade," ersatz radio concert series.

Sgt. Charles Greenhill, British soldier recently attached to the Oflag, owns the records.

Arabs Sure Are The Damndest People

By: Willard Duckworth

You can't trust anybody these days. Take Bill Stotts, for instance.

One day back in Tunisia, Bill, an Arkansas lad, temporary address Room 11, volunteered to don Arab garb and mosey down into the enemy lines for a brief artillery reconnaissance.

The Tunisian terrain disclosed many interesting items, Bill duly noted.

On his travels he passed a couple of Arabs. In the best Arab tradition they paid no attention to the Arkansas traveler, nor he to them.

Suddenly Bill stopped. Something off to the left arrested his attention. A gun emplacement perhaps. He looked hard. No good. Couldn't see a thing. Well, that's what field glasses are for. So Bill boldly drew a pair from underneath his robe.

Hm. Interesting.

So was the sharp, short Italian command "Hands up."

Bill turned and stared into the muzzle of a machine pistol held by one of the Arabs he'd just passed.

Mussolini's boys were also masquerading that day.

CLASSIFIED ADS

LOST AND FOUND

Lost... The unfinished manuscript of a book... "20,000 Years in Oflag 64". Billy Bingham.

Lost... In the Shower Room, Frank Maxwell.

REAL ESTATE

Wanted... Vine-covered cottage near liquor store anywhere in New Jersey. Will trade present residence, a large, historic, air-cooled edifice. George Durgin.

EMPLOYMENT

Wanted... Woman Secretary for interesting work. Age 18-25. Must have blond hair, blue eyes, and nice figure. No secretarial qualifications necessary. Apply at the Office. Major Meacham.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Are you tired of working? Do you find your present job boring? Do you need a vacation? If so, why not retire? Bring your accumulated "D" Bars, etc. Let me invest them for you while you sit back and enjoy life to the utmost. Ken Goddard, Big Operations, Inc.

FOR SALE

For assorted Foot Powders, Washing Powders, etc., visit Gershenow's Gaudy Gadget Shoppe on Schubert Boulevard. "When you think of Powder, think of Gershenow's."

WANTED

Wanted... Name and home address of the man who said "Stone walls do not a prison make." Bob Oshlo.

Wanted... A machine capable of taking off from a small confined space and travelling 4,000 miles without refuelling. "Casey" Koch.