

# The Oflag 64 Item

FRAU EDITION

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"One ITEM is Worth 10,000 Pictures"

No. 12

Altburgund, Germany — October 1, 1944

Price: 50 Pfg.

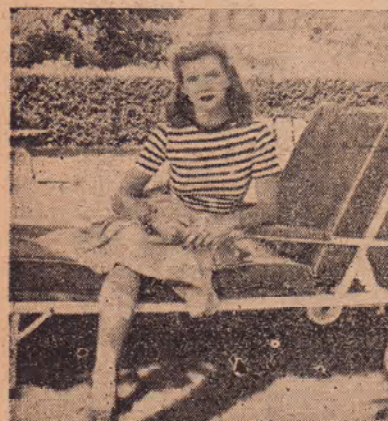
## The Gals We Left Behind...



Nancy Reid, winner of the ITEM Picture Contest.



Marie Benzel, 2nd place



Clare Van Syckle, 3rd place

## Oflag's First All-Original Show To Open Fall Entertainment Program

### Illinois Beauty Wins Item Picture Contest

Nancy Reid, of Evanston, Ill., personal property of Lt. John Glendinning, is the beautiful winner of THE ITEM'S Gal Picture Contest.

A close second is Marie Benzel, left behind by Capt. Paul Miller, once of Lincoln, Nebr.

Gorgeous winner of third place is Dick Van Syckle's wife Clare.

In case there are any questions, the distinguished, well-qualified judges were Col. George Millett, Major Jerry Sage, and Lt. Tom Mitchell.

Other winners are pictured on page six.

### "Man Who Came To Dinner" Returns

Timed to open the fall theater program, the Oflag's first all-original show will hit the Little Theater on October 26.

"Full Swing," a three-act musical comedy written and produced by Dick Van Syckle and Larry Phelan, has original music by Vic Danylik, Sammy Saxton and Jack Cook.

The show will star Russ Ford, supported by Len Vaden, Dick Rossbach, Craig Campbell, Al Bohny, Frank Maxwell, Fred Somers, Jim Koch, Jack Cook, Carl Borrows, Don Wafal and Howard Holder.

Scheduled for a five-day run starting October 12th is a revival of Jim Koch's spring success, "The Man Who Came to Dinner" with the original cast and new sets, costumes and props.

In the serious vein, Tom Holt will give his second operatic concert on October 20 and 21st, accompanied by Sammy Saxton.

Also scheduled for the month is a Swingland concert for five nights starting tonight.

### New Sports Stars Appear

Late arrivals Bernie Goldman, Tom Murphy, Whit Whitfield, Don Graul, Bill Everett and Jim Weekly of the Barracks 7 softball and basketball teams bolster the Oflag's athletic front.

Whitfield and Graul formerly performed for semi-pro fives and Murphy was a member of the Westminster College Cagers. Goldman, who was looked over by Pittsburgh's Pirates, and Weekly played semi-pro baseball around Pittsburgh.

### Something Different Today

After viewing the menu for 15 minutes, one of the new officers was heard to remark, "Good God! Nothing but soup today for dinner!"

## TIME STAGGERS ON

As it must to all kriegies, hope came this week to time-marking, soup-eating, double-ugly Gefangener Gus, who long had thought some day war would end. No pessimist, he.

To Gus, war and redcrossboxes were one. Now with but one week's supply, it followed war must fold.

Said Gus "No boxes, no war."  
Maybe.

## OFLAG NEWS IN BRIEF

● After six months of constant appeals for pictures from home, Capt. Dick Rossbach was finally successful. He just received a snapshot of part of the apartment house in which he lives, and the back end of somebody else's car, sitting at an approximate angle of 45 degrees.

● Keith "Romco" Willis has received one of the hottest of cupid's messages yet written to a kriegy. The young lady is unknown to him, unfortunately.

● Sid "Mouse" Waldman is now a big real estate operator. In a recent letter from his spouse, he finds he is the proud owner of a fifteen thousand dollar home. But he is still quartered in a bottom bunk of Zimmer 28.

● Boxing classes have now been opened to all bridge players. Two of the latest applicants come from barracks 8A.

● An article in the Oflag Daily Bulletin last month aroused such ire in the breast of a Barracks 7B stalwart, that he went around accusing all Texans within reach of being war profiteers.

● James Shoaf III has just joined the new car owner ranks of the camp with a sixteen hundred dollar Hudson. Ford, Diggs and Durgin, (and a good many others who are keeping it quiet) have found a friend indeed.



## 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. Howard Holder  
2nd Lt. Frank Maxwell

Sports: 2nd Lt. Robert Cheatham

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

OCTOBER 1, 1944

## «« ITEMIZING »»»

We want to go on record as being only luke-warm toward the grandfather clock which has set itself up in the main building dispensing time in competition with all these nifty new Rolexes.

To begin with, we pre-expended Oflagites already have entirely too damn much time on our hands.

For instance, we've already served collectively something like five hundred years in this glorified hoosegow, and we don't like being reminded of it so much.

Then, too, grandfather ticks away deliberately in a tone of voice that says: "No rush, no rush."

Whereas those slick little Rolexes whisper shrilly "Let's get going-let's get going."

We second the motion. We think it's high time we got back to the eager young ladies on the front and back pages of this issue, who are doing a little clock-watching of their own.

## Scotch Takes 2nd Place In Post-War Plans

Kriegies are the greatest dreamers in the world.

Now they have become more practical, to hell with the FAR future. How about that first moment of freedom?

Lt. Col. Schaefer, we understand, will make straight for a hidden cache of Scotch. He will use cover and concealment all the way to shake off any human parasites.

Lt. Red Banker will storm the

## RETROSPECT

By: Willard Duckworth

Looking back across the endless months

Of isolation from the outside world and untold boredom...

Petty selfishness... gray, introspective thought...

Vain dreams of a country bounded by two seas

Whose visions faded with the wash of Time

Until their moments of dazzling clarity

Darkened to elusive shades...

Remembering Kriegy evenings... soft... desolate... cold... bleak (Countless now)

When the same old sun (Although he sometimes changed his face and temperament)

Dropped from sight into a longed-for West

Patterned by a reach Of rusty, jagged wire... eyes eternally watching it...

Trying to reckon on the times That "when" was asked and "How long"...

What kept the mind and heart together

Through it all? Secured each man's identity to himself

Lest blind desolation rip it from his grasp?

Simple words... forsaken... overlooked...

The same which guided Columbus to his shore...

Pluck Life from the with'ring touch of Death...

Halted floods... lifted famines... Won wars and will win...

Enough. There is no riddle. You know as well as I

What bright flame has held you to the path...

And even now flares up to light The whole, wide world.

Yale Club and order eight steaks two inches thick, a bushel of French fries and three quarts of milk.

Capt. John Peyton will hie to the nearest Walgreens and issue a field order for immediate action on a quadruple chocolate malted.

And Lt. Col. Gershenow... well we couldn't get much out of him. He merely said:

"Taking off my pack is the second thing I'll do."

## In Sheep's Clothes...



"I say, Lieutenant, your stay in Germany didn't affect you any, did it?"

## Kriegy Sketches

LT. LOUIS OTTERBEIN

Chief Carpenter and handiest man in camp is 6-foot Paratrooper Lou Otterbein of Bloomfield, N.J., who can do anything with a Klim tin except make it talk.

The man who built the stage of the Oflag Little Theater and who is responsible for most of the sets, furniture, props, and sound effects for the productions of the past year, was a big pigskin operator in pre-war days.

In 1935 he was capt. of Bloomfield's unbeaten, untied and unscored upon eleven and was All-Metropolitan center for New York and New Jersey that year. He received the Upson Memorial Scholarship to Rutgers where he played on the freshman team.

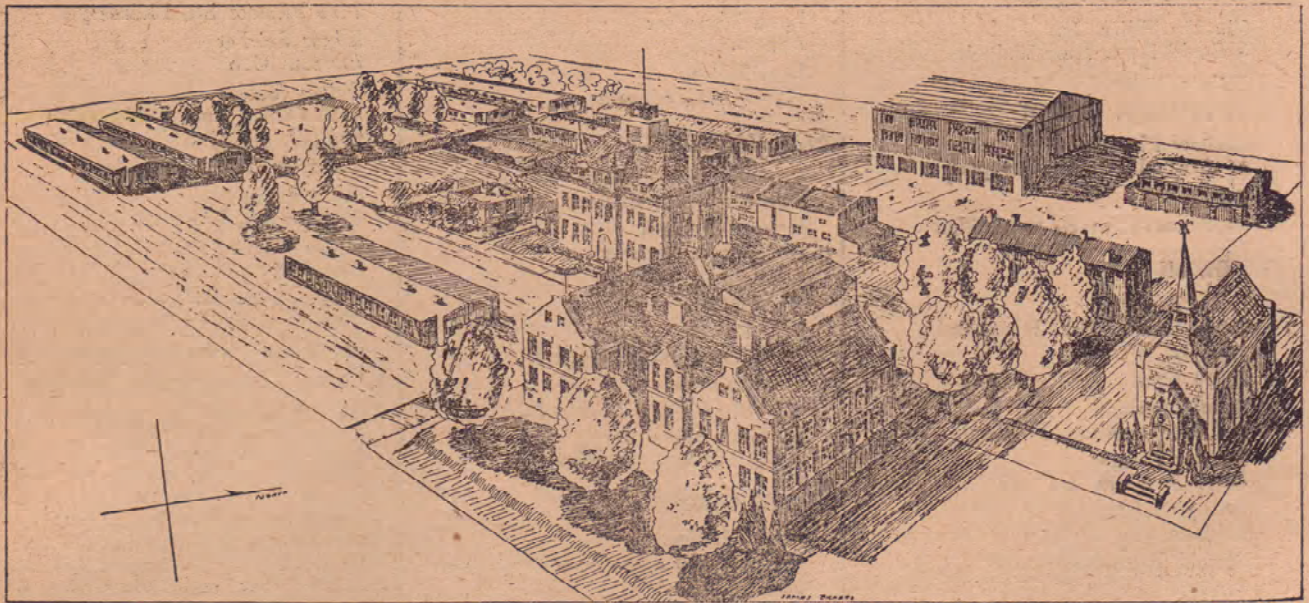


Lou got his jump training and his commission at Fort Benning where he had been a G.I. with the famed 29th Infantry. For him the war was over on July 10th last year when he jumped into the bag in Sicily.

Lou has a wife and two children waiting for him but is pessimistic about seeing them. He expects things to drag on for two weeks or more.



## Air-corps Eyevue of Altburgund Academy



THIS OVER-ALL view of Oflag 64 by Staff Artist Jim Bickers is reprinted by general request.

# OFLAG DIRECTORY

Continued from previous issues

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Albert Winwood  
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## Oflag Strength Jumps as 101 Arrive in September

New arrivals here this month include: Lt. Cols. E.A. Cummings, E. G. Hardaway, W. G. Hopkins, Jr.; Majors G. M. Simes, G.K. Smith; Capt. E. Anthony, W.W. Bishop, A.O. Dyroff, J.T. Eichnor, H.D. Eldridge, J.P. Forsyth, J.N. Harris, O.C. Hart, F.C. Healy, L.L. Moore, W.W. Paty, Jr., W.L. Schoener, T. V. Sigler, R.J. Smith, B.C. Swaim, W.R. Sweeney; 1st Lts. R. N. Alday, B. V. Amato, G.R. Barfoot, A. R. Blanchard, S. A. Bradley, C. H. Brown, D. E. Brown, L. A. Brown, H. H. Bush, S. Carlick, J. W. Carlson, H. P. Claus, J. H. Doran, H. L. Garris, W. R. Harrell, E. P. Harrison, P. W. Hodnette, B. E. Kleber, Leon E. Lavender, W.R. Lee, J. B. Mattingly, J. E. Mazoroff, M.N. McArthur, J.B. McDonald, E. L. Miller, I. R. Miller, T. O. Morton, J.J. O'Connor, Jr., R.W. Oker, H.M. Pike, H.V. Richard, J.A. Rightley, J.H. Rogers, G. Seeman, T. W. Silva, R. D. Tedeschi, E.M. Vinson, P.B. Ward, O.R. Williams, Jr., O. T. Ziegler; 2nd Lts. A. G. Alderton, S. Bacchus, Jr., S. Bailin, W.H. Beemer, C.G. Bedient, F.J. Bova, J.L. Boyd, H.J. Carroll, C.F. Clawson, G.L. Daubenspeck, J.N. Fahey, J.T. Feilan, E.A. Graf, G. I. Greene, S. Gwosden, C.F. Hansen, H.W. Hayes, R.D. Heil, J.F. Hinchcliffe, R.E. Holmquist, R.L. Jenkins, O.K. Kirkpatrick, D. B. Lott, P. D. McIntyre, H. J. O'Connor, F. C. Ostrander, G. B. Powell, C. Scherer, S.J. Segal, L. L. V. Smith, W.W. Smith, N.H. Spitzer, C.M. Stocher, C. F. Sullivan, Jr., R. L. Whiteturkey, D. G. Williams, H. J. Wright, E.W. Dingledine, and D. B. Streett.

## Altburgund Skyline...







# OFLAG SPORTS



## Soccer, Football Head Extensive Fall Sports Program, Planned by New 15-Man Oflag Recreation Staff

### SPORTS SIDELIGHTS

By: Robert Cheatham

Retiring 21 consecutive batters, Major Jerry Sage pitched the Oflag's first perfect game, a 9-0 victory over "Hot" Cool's team last month in the camp softball league.

While his club scored nine runs on 12 hits and opponent's miscues, the blonde major allowed no hits, no walks and received perfect support to keep Cool's batters from reaching first base.

Focal point of enlisted men's sports activities has shifted to the basketball court after three months on the diamond. Ferguson, Herrington and Lescanec, ex-high school and semi-pro performers, stand out in spirited after-appell games.

Exhibition basketball games between barracks, initiated last month, will continue each Saturday throughout the fall according to court mentor Bob Bonner.

Paced by Bill Luttrell's Room 9 team, the select teams offer fast tilts for kriegy kabitzers.

### Joffings...

Lee LeClaire, American Legion forward dropped three shots through the hoop, to score 6 points in 30 seconds against the YMCA quintet... Whit Whitfield racked up 24 points in his first game in gefangenschaft... Don May's volleyball squad required an hour and 45 minutes to lick Bill Farrell's team in the season's longest two-game match... "Leaping Leebo" Lee, internationally famous trick shot artist, performs daily on the local basketball court... Long John Scully played his first basketball here last summer... Davis to Soliday to Moller doubled Kent off second, Sims off first and put out batter Lohrengal, who had lined to Davis in shortfield to start the ball rolling, for the fourth triple play in the camp softball league!!!

### New Sports Program Includes Boxing, Deck Tennis, Wrestling, Handball

Indoor and outdoor sports designed for participation by every officer are planned for the fall and winter season by Major John Dobson, newly-appointed camp recreation officer.

Soccer and touch-football leagues will begin play at the end of the current softball schedule, while basketball will continue under the present set-up.

### Nice Work

For doing a swell job in directing the Oflag sports program, THE ITEM awards the official Block "S" to retiring Athletics Officer Herb Johnson, and assistants Leo Farber, Bob Bonner and Ed Spicher.

Johnson became sports director in July, '43, while Farber, Spicher and Bonner have been in charge of the three major sports throughout the summer.

Plans for the indoor season include chess, ping-pong and bridge tournaments and a chess ladder.

The new sports staff is:

Maj. J.W. Dobson	Sports Officer
Capt. W.R. Bond	Assistant
Lt. W.E. Evans	Basketball
Lt. W.W. Luttrell	Touch Football
Lt. R.L. Marnien	Soccer
Capt. D.L. May	Volleyball
Lt. J.W. Banker	Wrestling
Lt. P.A. Teel	Boxing
Lt. J.J. Hasson	Gymnasium
Lt. J.J. Hasson	Ping-Pong
Lt. Col. H.W. Sweet-	ing Chess
Lt. J.L. Cockrell	Bridge
Lt. G. Long	Golf
Maj. M.A. Meacham	Deck Tennis
Lt. H.A. Casner	Handball

### Barracks Three Wins '44 Oflag Olympics

Jerry Long's Barracks "3" squad scored 49 points to win the fastest relays (outside of God's country) since the '36 Olympic, at the Altburgund Track and Field Meet, held here last month.

The White House took second place with 39 points followed by Barracks "6", Barracks "8", 21 and Barracks "7", 17.

Ellsworth Cundiff, Barracks "3" 's ex-collegiate star, chalked up 13 points with two first and one second place to win high-scoring honors. Another "3" star, John Shirk, was runner-up with 8½ points.

John Creech, Leo Farber and Cundiff turned in top records of the meet in winning the cross-country, 100-Yd. dash and high jump events.

Geprüft: Oflag 64, Abteilung I d.  
Druck: Willi Kricks, Altburgund

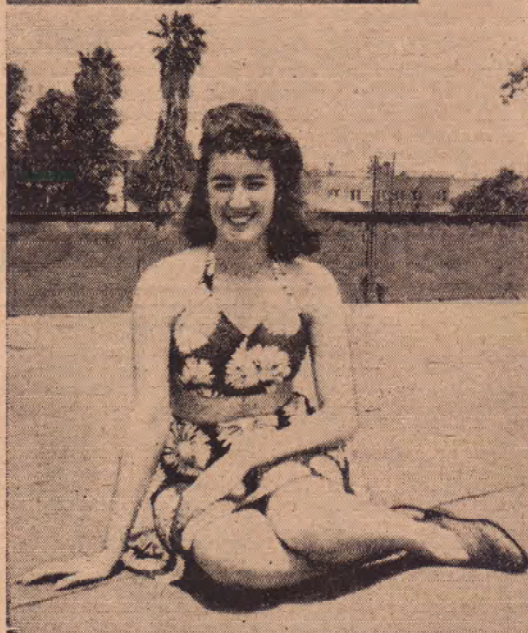
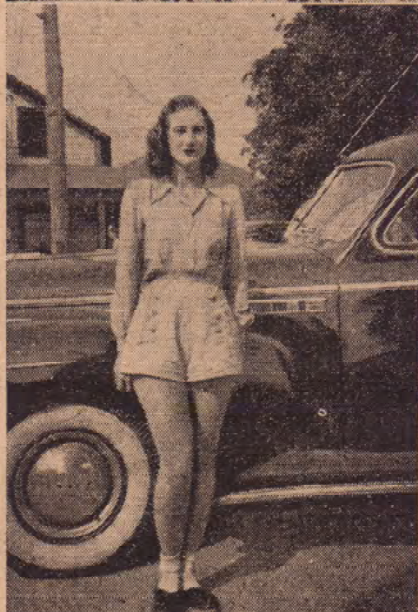
### Prison Daze ...

By: Bickers





The Gals We'd Like To Go Home To...



HERE ARE SIX of the Oflag's smoothest gefangen-widows, greatly admired by the ITEM'S Picture-Contest judges. (SEE PAGE ONE) They are: TOP (L) Helen Moore, Kemp, Texas; (R) Mary Louise Falls, Oakland City, Ind; MIDDLE (L) Carolyn McDonald, Albany, N. Y.; (R) Neenie Miller, Fort Knox, Ky.; BOTTOM (L) Myrtle Polson, Creston, Iowa; (R) Gladys Graham, Wilkinburg, Pa. (who won 4th place).