

Annual Minstrel, Swingland, Glee Club Program, Yule Festivities Celebrate Kriegy Christmas Season Here

OFLAG NEWS ● IN BRIEF ●

● In the midst of a global war, when kriegies were boiling their old shoes for soup, an outside civilian agency peered into the future last month and sent the Oflag — of all things — one each lawnmower and ice cream freezer!

● A firm believer in keeping warm at all costs, "Cheerful Charlie" Cheatham, of the White House, says appels are all the same to him now. He has to get up and dress for all of them.

● Lt. "Honest John" Rodgers, only American newsboy in Germany, has just been decorated. He has, since May 17, 1944, when he took over the job, distributed 300 German newspapers a day, or a total of 585,000 newspapers, to news-hungry kriegies.

● This really happened: The door to Alzburgund Academy banged open. Principal Gruenberg rubbed his hands in anticipation as he faced the new arrival:

"Ah! and which classroom are you looking for?"

"Classroom hell, buddy — where's the Mart? I want food!"

Girl of The Month



Gay Paree is no idle rumor, according to a newly-arrived Kriegie who was there and carried this away as evidence... We're convinced.

Oflag's Catholics Prepare Spiritual Scroll for Pope

An elaborate 40-inch hand-lettered spiritual scroll from the Catholic faith in the Oflag, has recently been completed for presentation to his Holiness, Pope Pius XII.

The Scroll, containing an official
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Revamped Minstrel Opens Monday

The second annual Robert E. Lee Minstrel, complete w/1 ea. steamboat captained by Russ Ford, will dock at the Little Theater for six nights starting December 4th, with a full cargo of dusky comedy and Stephen Foster melodies.

Howard Holder will again act as interlocutor, while last year's end men, Syd Thal and Bill Fabian, will be augmented by Don Wafal and Jack Cook, with the addition of four chocolate-colored beauties—Kermit Hansen, Keith Willis, Wilbur Sharpe and Leo Farber—the "Queenie" of last year's show.

Following the Minstrels, Bob Rankin will take over on the 16th with a four — night Swingland.

Christmas will be celebrated will carol singing by the Glee Club at the evening meal on Christmas Eve, and a musical program in the theater directed by Russ Ford and Bob Rankin to be presented continuously Christmas afternoon and evening for six performances.

The New Year will be ushered in on the 31st by the opening of John Hannan's production of the Broadway smash comedy hit "Room Service."

War's Coldest Rumor Brings Winter Olympics to Oflag's Sports

By: David Englander

According to the war's coldest rumor, plans are afoot — or underfoot — to bring the Winter Sports Festival to Alzburgund.

Our winter games experts are already drafting plans to prepare Oflag 64 as the scene of the great sports fete.

The athletic field will be converted into a skating rink. Supper coffee will be used to make the ice and special guards will be

mounted on the skates to keep the ice from cating into the steel.

The walk around camp will be prepared as a toboggan slide. This will be the damndest toboggan slide in the world, since it will follow the design of a four-wall handball court with several built-in roller coaster features.

Construction of a ski jump is under discussion, but will probably not be carried through because you know why.

Crackerjack, popcorn and peanut concessions will probably be assigned but transport problems may make supply questionable. Bring your own refreshments — black bread will do.

In case of inclement weather, the program will be adjourned indoors where seminars will be held around the stoves on popular novels like "Cold Journey" and "Life among the Eskimos."

The Oflag 64 Item

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

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

DECEMBER 1, 1944

« « ITEMIZING » »

It came to pass in the years of the great war that a shortage descended upon the people of Schubin.

And many Kriegies did weep and wail and there was great gnashing of teeth.

For, lo, there were no more red-crossboxes.

And the leader of the people looked to the land of Sweden and asked for a sign.

Then there came to the people a great noise and roaring of wind.

Behold, cried the kriegies, it gives a sign yet.

And there descended upon the place called Schubin a great monster of iron, casting forth the noise and much smoke and bearing with it many parcels.

The people did get hope, for their longing was indeed great.

Yea, verily, I hope they are number 10's. spake the kriegies.

And the parcels arrived and the people rejoiced and made a great noise.

Great was their rejoicing.

And lo, there appeared a traveler from a far country, which is called Texas, who did shout above the multitude and spake thus:

"Boyoboy, just lemme at that Nescafe!" — F. D.

Roney Is Tossed Out On His Tail Feathers

Roney-Dougal, Amon Carter's pet crow, has been evicted from Barracks 8-A and exiled to the green-house by order of. Roney was ranked out of his room by some of the new officers who objected to living with a crow. When interviewed, all Roney would say was, "C'est la guerre!"

Kriegy Sketches

COL. PAUL R. GOODE



Tough, pipe-smoking Col. Paul Goode, the Oflag's new S.A.O., has commanded more regiments than most Oflagites have toured.

The 52-year old West Pointer has led four infantry regiments, including a mountain infantry outfit, in his 30 years' army service.

The infantry and sports are the Colonel's life and hobby.

A native of Boston, he was graduated from the Academy in 1917 after "scrubbing" in football, track and boxing. He spent World War I in the infantry and tank corps.

Since then, he has soldiered in Alaska and at various posts in the States, picking up along the way a wife and a record for getting things done.

The wife he left behind in Oregon when he came overseas for this war. With her is his 19-year-old daughter, a student at Oregon State and the apple of his eye.

His record speaks for itself—just ask any kriegie in the Colonel's new command!

● Col. Paul Goode, camp S.A.O., says this appeared on one of his efficiency reports:

"He has a gruff manner, a violent temper and profane speech."

SCROLL...

(Continued from Page one)

message of thanks to the Pope for all his endeavors for P.o.W.'s was composed by Father Stanley Brach with all art work by Lt. James Cockrell.

Christmas New York: 1944

By: Ken Goddard

He looked down at the slush on the sidewalk, and the snowflakes that were taking the crease out of his trousers... the Santa Claus in Macy's window went thru another complete revolution, raising its arm to snap a whip over a pair of paper maché reindeer...

Laughing couples walked by carrying white parcels tied with red and blue ribbons... they were happy... happy... the snow was tickling as it melted on their faces...

She didn't look happy... her eyes were soft... too soft for happiness... or Christmas Eve... just the kind of eyes I like though, he thought... and his mind planned how he would say "Merry Christmas"... perhaps the soft eyes would like that...

Perhaps she'd accept an invitation for an egg nog... Christmas, and all that... come on Lochinvar, get on your horse... what the hell are you waiting for?

"Pardon me, miss, but would you care..."

The old man who bumped into her turned off down 6th Ave... the letter she had been holding; fluttered down into the slush... perfect... practically an introduction he thought, as he quickly reached down to pick it up...

His eyes caught the feminine handwriting on the face of the envelope... he stopped short as he read: "Lt. James Donner American Prisoner of War No..."

Home-coming Program Outlined for Ex-Kriegies

Ex-kriegies will spend approximately 2½ months in rehabilitation and care-free frittering, according to late mail.

Roughly this is it:

Two weeks at Camp Perry, Ohio, to straighten out back pay and other paper work;

One month at the General Hospital nearest one's home for physical check-up and diet readjustment. Man!

Thirty days' leave;

Reassignment-----or something.

Psychology Will Keep You Warm — or else, Says Prof. Shmirkaze

According to a new theory, sweated out by Professor Max Shmirkaze over a roaring fire, the feeling of cold is purely psychological — just like the feeling of heat at a Hedy Lamarr movie.

It is the professor's contention that the whole business of cold is a master propaganda scheme fostered by certain international interests like radiator manufacturers and bartenders who specialize in making hot toddies.

Training and discipline, says the professor, will enable one to ignore the bitterest weather and laugh merrily in the teeth of the wildest gale.

To develop this mental control over cold weather quickly, one should immediately plunge in and confront it at its alleged worst.

Pick a day when the temperature hovers around zero; anything above that is too trifling to bother with.

There should be an icy wind blowing from the direction of Barracks 9-B and lots of snow around to simulate a cold background.

Then the kriegie should back up against a hot stove and warm himself up old-style for the sake of contrast. When thoroughly heated, he dashes madly outside through an open door.

Now comes the crucial point of the exercise. Rhythmically, by the numbers, he proceeds to disrobe. Ideally he should strip to the buff, but for the sake of passing field officers, a pair of shorts should be left on.

Our hero now closes his eyes, and turns to face the wind head-on. Holding his arms aloft he cries "Oh wind, oh cold, I am your master. Shmirkaze has said so!"

This cry is repeated ringingly until, quite magically, a feeling of warmth steals over him. The icy wind seems to caress his skin like a balmy zephyr; the chilblains that appear tingle delightfully; any toes or fingers that drop off are kicked aside with a gay abandon.

In the triumphant words of Professor Shmirkaze, translated literally, "De shtudent shivers, yah; but his shivers are not from cold, no — dey are shivers of hot ecstasy, yes!"

The successful student should now be

'Twas the Night before Xmas And All through the Oflag



This might be taken as a picture of the night before Christmas at Oflag 64 — with the lads hanging around the chimney waiting for Santa to come down.

And if they wait long enough, someone will come down the chimney, even if it is a little guy in a black top hat who no spika da English.

So don't give up hope, guys, and a really merry Xmas to you next year.

● Lt. Bill Oughton, needing some musical instrument parts and not being able to procure them here because of German shortages, wrote home for them. They arrived in course, both parts being stamped in bold letters, "Made in Germany."

led away before the heat he throws off melts the snow and floods the camp by unseasonal thaw.

A dash of cold water will help bring him around. If not, the remains should be carefully preserved in their natural coating of ice for the repatriation board.

Versatile Red Cross Parcel Charms Users Item Research Shows

Many and rapturous are the claims made by kriegies for the versatility of the Red Cross package.

In the interests of science, the ITEM has polled Oflag enthusiasts who have volunteered — from memory — the following varied uses for its contents:

Powdered milk: May be substituted for a hair dye to whiten the locks of those who think their hair isn't graying fast enough.

Margarine: Useful as an ointment to soothe the joints whose creaking betrays signs of old age.

Sugar: Ground fine, in quantity, it will serve on improvised sandtables for post-mortems on how "we shouldha done it."

Raisins: A delight for frisky kriegies who use them to pelt one another with in barracks, now that outdoor sports are no longer feasible.

Crackers: Crushed and sprinkled in your sack, the crumbs are a quaint reminder of home in bed.

Coffee: Excellent for an aromatic footbath, if you like that sort of thing.

D-Bars: Of little value except as tokens of good will for the editors of the ITEM — who use them as toy building blocks.

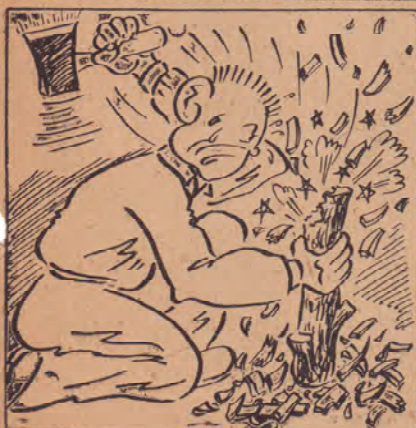
The above named articles might also be taken as food — if you had any.

● Kitchen utensils which arrived in camp last month from the YMCA include such badly-needed articles as: 20 cocktail trays, a "one family" potato masher, a meat cleaver and other meat carving utensils, several cake pans, individual muffin tins, double boilers, and last but not least a spatula for turning pancakes!

● Lt. "Pop" Noonan, who has been in the bag a long, long time, was overheard last week carrying on an animated conversation with the Barracks 3 cat.

Gefangener Gus...

By Ross



"Altburgund Academy" Opens With Full Curriculum

Experienced Teachers Staff Faculty of 30

With a modest bow in the direction of Harvard, Yale and other mighty seats of learning, Altburgund Academy opened its doors to approximately 350 eager students on November 8th.

The newly created Academy boasts a faculty of 30 experienced instructors from colleges and universities in God's Country and even an "exchange professor" from French Morocco.

Captain Hubert Eldridge, M. S., Colorado State, who has had 22 years' experience as a teacher and superintendent of public schools, is the principal dean and head proctor.

Capt. Lumund Wilcox is dean of the college department and Capt. Ernest Gruenberg dean of the high school.

Fourteen courses are offered in the kriegy curriculum, which has three purposes:

1. To enable officers who have not completed high school to finish that part of their education here.
2. To prepare those who so desire to enter college after the war.
3. To benefit those kriegies who wish to brush up their education by taking up new studies or reviewing subjects they have studied in the past.

A semester of 18 weeks is planned, according to Captain Eldridge who, of course, hopes that it will not be completed before the end of the war.

A list of subjects, with the instructors, follows:

German 1-Lt. George Ellis, B.A., Yale University

Spanish 1-Capt. George Thomas, B.A., Wheaton College.

French 1 and 2-Warrant Officer Gilbert Eberart, who holds a law degree in French Morocco, and formerly taught in the college of Oujda.

Speech-Capt. Jean Wood, B.A., University of Washington.

Elementary Literature-Lt. Frank Colley, M.A., Duke University, and for four years a Fellow in the Department of History at that school.

Advanced Literature. Lt. Kenneth Goddard, B.A., Norwich University.

Elementary English Lt. Paul Hadnette, B.A., Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, formerly an instructor in Onachita Parish, Louisiana.

Social Science Capt. Bruce Martin, LL. B., University of Pittsburg, and Capt. Eldridge.

American History Capt. Clyde Herring, LL.B., Drake University, Lt. Col. Robert Cheal, and Capt. Bruce Martin.

Advanced Science Lt. Frank Garrett, B.S., V.P.I.
Chemistry Maj. Newton Cole, B.S., Norwich University.

Physics Lt. James Sherrick, B. Ed., Eastern State Teachers College, who has taught school three years in Litchfield, Illinois

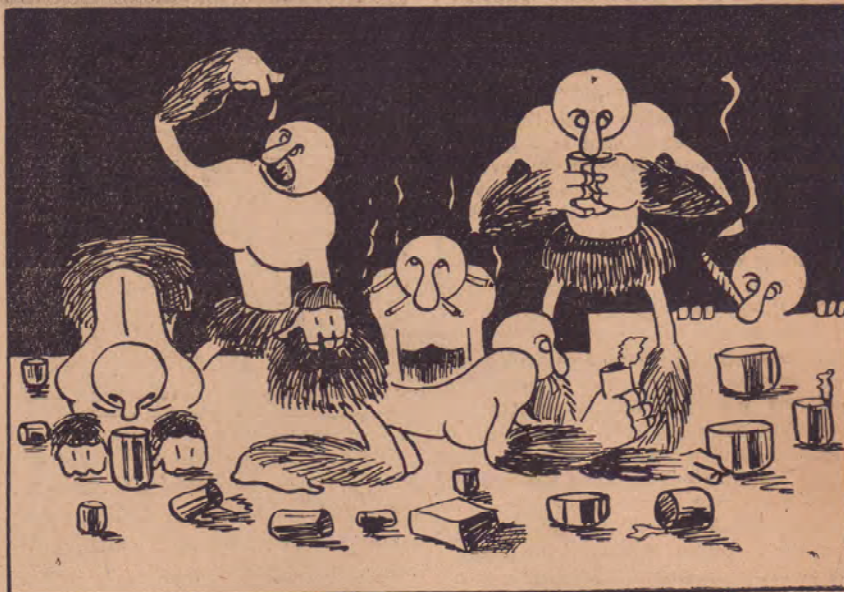
Algebra Lt. Col. James Skells, B. S., U.S.M.A.

Geometry Maj. Edwin Haggard, B.M.S., U.S.M.A.

Advanced learning is furthered by

Chow Call...

By: Bickers



Camp Bridge Tourney Leads Indoor Sports

Headlined by the Oflag's first bridge tournament and challenge chess ladder, the indoor recreation program roars into high gear this month.

Burly Grimes and Obie O'Brien, 3B; Ed Ward and Cactus Tripp, 3A; Gabby Gever and Dick Englehart, White House; and Pat Wart and Norman Spitzer, 9A, winning teams in the 48-hand duplicate bridge semi-final over other barracks champs, will vie for camp honors in a 14-hand tourney scheduled for this weekend.

Leading the inter-barracks chess competition for the four positions in the final round-robins to be held in December are: Bruce Martin, 7, Ossie Turner, 6, Lucian Saint-Sauveur, 7, Chum Williamson, 3, Jon Creech, 9, and Ormond Roberts, White House.

three new classes of college calibre, all of which have large enrollments. These are: Salesmanship, taught by Maj. Jerry Sage, B.A., Washington State, in civilian life a senior salesman for Proctor and Gamble; Security Analysis and Investment Banking taught by Lt. George Seeman, M.A., Columbia University, and Physiology, by Lt. Harry Abrahams, M.D., who attended Washington University.

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Religious Services Lift Oflag Morale

Religion makes prison life bearable for a large percentage of Oflag 64's inmates, according to attendance figures at the 21 religious services conducted here each week.

More than 75 Oflagites attend the two daily Catholic masses conducted by Chaplains Charles Glennon and Stanley Brach.

Other Catholic services include an Evening Prayer service and a twice-weekly-course in Christian Apologetics, both conducted by Father Brach, plus an additional mass on Sundays.

In the past month, the Kriegy Catholic congregation conducted a Requiem Mass for the dead of the war and special masses for the dead of each army unit represented here.

A 12-voice Catholic choir is led by Lt. Anthony Cipriani.

The camp's Protestant majority is attended by four Protestant chaplains.

Two services on Sunday morning, communion service twice a month and a Bible class conducted semi-weekly by Chaplain Gunnar Teilmann round out a well-diversified camp service.

Sunday services are held at 9:30 and 10:10 a.m., assisted by two choirs — one led by Maj. Kermit Hansen and the other by Lt. Tom Holt.

Chaplain Hennon explains the unusual interest in religion here like this:

"In normal life, we take our religion ready made; in life here in camp one sees a vitalized expression of the sincerity of Christianity."

● Lt. Richard Mason is getting suspicious of his job as laundry officer for Barrack 3-A. Dick sent his shirt to the laundry two months ago — and he's still waiting for it to come back!