

All the News That's  
Been Gephift

# The Oflag 64 Stem

Largest Circulation  
Inside the Wire

"Get Wise — ITEM-ize"

No. 1

Altburgund, Germany — November, 1943

Price: 50 Pfg.

## "Brother Orchid," Zippy 3-Acter, Hi-lites Thanksgiving

The first modern American three-act play to be presented at Oflag 64 will usher in the Thanksgiving holiday with a belly full of laughs in place of turkey.

"Brother Orchid" by Leo Brady is the name of the show.

Frank Maxwell hustles to perform the double duties of director and leading man, portraying Little John Sarto, big time gangster recently of Alcatraz.

Little John descends unceremoniously into the cloistered life of a monastery, where the pious Little Brothers of the Flowers, enacted by Lts. Casner, Sharpe, Hubbell and Bickers take up a tug of war against mobsters and racketeers for the soul of their new brother. Lts. Gever, Lobb, Hessler, Scherman and Koch provide worthy opposition as the gang element.

The show is tentatively scheduled to run November 25, 26, 27 inclusive.

## Five Officers Receive Silver Star Awards

Silver Star awards will decorate the brows of five more officers here, recent mail from the States reports. Post-capture citations have been made to Capt. Maynard Files and Lts. Milton Jellison, Herbert Johnson, John Creech and Anthony Cipriani.

These officers earned the "Gallantry in Action" award during the fight in which they were taken prisoners.

Capt. Files received his first Silver Star for gallantry during the landing operations at Oran. He won the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star for an attack at El Guettar, Tunisia, March 29, 1943, in which his company was in assault.

Lt. Jellison successfully evacuated the major portion of two platoons from an encircled position at Kassarine Pass, Tunisia, on February 19, 1943.

Lt. Creech was on a mission ten miles beyond his own lines observing enemy movements. He was captured in the El Guettar area March 24, 1943.

For leading an assault platoon in an attack at El Guettar on March 28, 1943, the Silver Star was awarded to Lt. Cipriani.

Lt. Johnson was captured near Ouseltia, Tunisia, while leading a support party to aid a company which was being cut off.

## Newest Arrivals Represent Twenty States, Mostly Texas

### 72 New Kriegies Report Here In October

The Oflag's Welcome Mat took a helluva beating last month when 72 new officers trudged through the gate.

Most of these are officers of a Texas regiment now fighting in Italy. Others include officers captured in Tunisia, an airborne battalion commander captured near Naples, an Associated Press correspondent with the British Royal Navy and a Catholic chaplain.

Lt. Col. Doyle Yardley was the first of the new comers, arriving here October 1. A paratrooper, he was captured before day break on September 15, having jumped at midnight with his battalion and landed near a panzer division command post.

On October 7, Capt. Newton Luntron and Joe Emerson, Lt. Dalton Medlen and W/O Roger Cannon, all of Texas, Lts. Theodore Pawloski and Steve Barcovic of Pennsylvania, and Lt. Wilbert Davis of Illinois arrived. They were captured near Naples.

They were followed on October 16 by Lt. P. D. Lampro.

Thirty officers arrived on October 19, including the new chaplain, Lt. S. Braeh of New Jersey, and three doctors, Capt. Wyson and Mackee of Ohio and Capt. T. E. Corcoran of Iowa.

With this group came AP correspondent and Pulitzer prize winner Larry Allen of West Virginia. Allen, in his three years as writer with the British Mediterranean fleet, had, up to the time of his capture, seen every naval operation in that sea and had been five times torpedoed, three times sunk.

Most of the officers in the October 19 group had been captured in Tunisia.

The group included:

Cpts. W. Walters, Ark., Yarock, Mass. and Hughes, Mass.; Lts. Straight, W. Va., Higgins, Ia., Jones, Pa., McLaughlin, N.Y., Weigand, Ohio, La Chance, Ala., Fitton, Ark., Hirt, Ill., Matton, Okla., Carnes, Ind., Denman, Ala., Feldman, Mass., Victor, Ill., Frazee, Ohio, Long, Va., Johnson, Pa.; Holt, N. C., Hooker, N. Y., Wafu, N. Y., Bryant, Ill., Lowe, Ariz., and Blevins, Okla.

The day following, the latest batch of kriegies from the Italian front arrived. They were:

Lt. Col. Gaines Barron, Maj. Roy Irving, Cpts. Robinson, Ferguson, Torrence and Bond, all Texans, Cpts. Brown, Ill., and Candiff, Okla., Lts. Williamson, Carlisle and Vaden, Texas, Lts. O'Brien, Haag, and Haman, N. Y., Lts. Shirk, Okla., Young, Ohio, Hart, S. C., Livingston, Miss., Graham, Pa., Grimes and Brocker, N.J., Morrow, Wash., and Swanson, Calif.

OFLAG CALENDAR		
Nov.	Event	Time
3	"Wednesday at 7:15"	7:15 p
4,5	German Silent Films	7:00 p
6	Quiz Program: 20 VS 21	7:00 p
8	Lecture, Larry Allen	7:00 p
11,12	Bingo	7:00 p
13	Quiz Program: 22 VS. 23	7:00 p
15	Lecture, Capt. Wilcox, "Law"	7:00 p
16	Book Review	7:00 p
17	"Wednesdays at 7:15"	7:15 p
18,19	Minstel Show-Ford	7:00 p
20	Quiz Program: 24 VS. 25	7:00 p
22	Travel Talk, Col. Alger	7:00 p
24	"Wednesdays at 7:15"	7:15 p
25	Thanksgiving	
25,26,27	"Brother Orchid", Maxwell	7:00 p
Sundays	Catholic services	9:30 a
	General church services	10:30 a

## Prem to Pinch-Hit For Turkey

All-American chow in large quantities will overload the Oflag tables on Thanksgiving, according to Lt. Col. W. M. Oakes, mess officer.

No, it isn't turkey, but the menu still looks mighty good. Look:

Breakfast: American Oatmeal.  
Dinner: Meat and Vegetable hash à la Oakes.  
Supper: Prem, mashed potatoes, peas, carrots — and may be dessert, depending on what shows up.

## Minstrel Due Nov. 18-19

Blackface will take the spotlight when Russ (Al Jolson) Ford brings his twenty-odd minstrels to the footlights of The Little Theatre on November 18-19.

Howard Holder plays the dual role of scriptwriter and interlocuter.

End men: Messrs. Thal, Fabian, Wafu and Cipriani.

Scharpe, Marlowe, Willis and Fabian, supply special numbers.

## Lt. Straight Awarded DSC

For continuing a counterattack after his commanding officer had been put out of action, Lt. Fay Straight has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, it was learned this week.

During the course of the battle, Lt. Straight and his men were caught under heavy fire. Straight was able to evacuate most of his command but was unable to escape himself.

He was captured near Tebourba, Tunisia on December 6, 1942.

## The Oflag 64 Item

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

Editor: Capt., George Juskalian  
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1st Lt. Bob Wick  
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2nd Lt. Larry Phelan  
Larry Allen, A.P. Correspondent

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NOVEMBER 1943

## AMERICANISM

By: Colonel Thomas D. Drake U. S. A.

This edition of the "Lager" paper marks the birth of an effort to disseminate camp news of interest to all Prisoners-of-War located here, and is prompted by the American spirit of helpfulness.

In becoming a Prisoner-of-War we have been suddenly uprooted from our various walks of life and cast into the strangest, hardest, and most pathetic roll that ever confronts Freemen.

Whether we surrender to the roll of a "has-been, a down-and-outer" or develop and maintain character that will stand us in good stead all of our lives depends upon the individual and the attitude of his comrades.

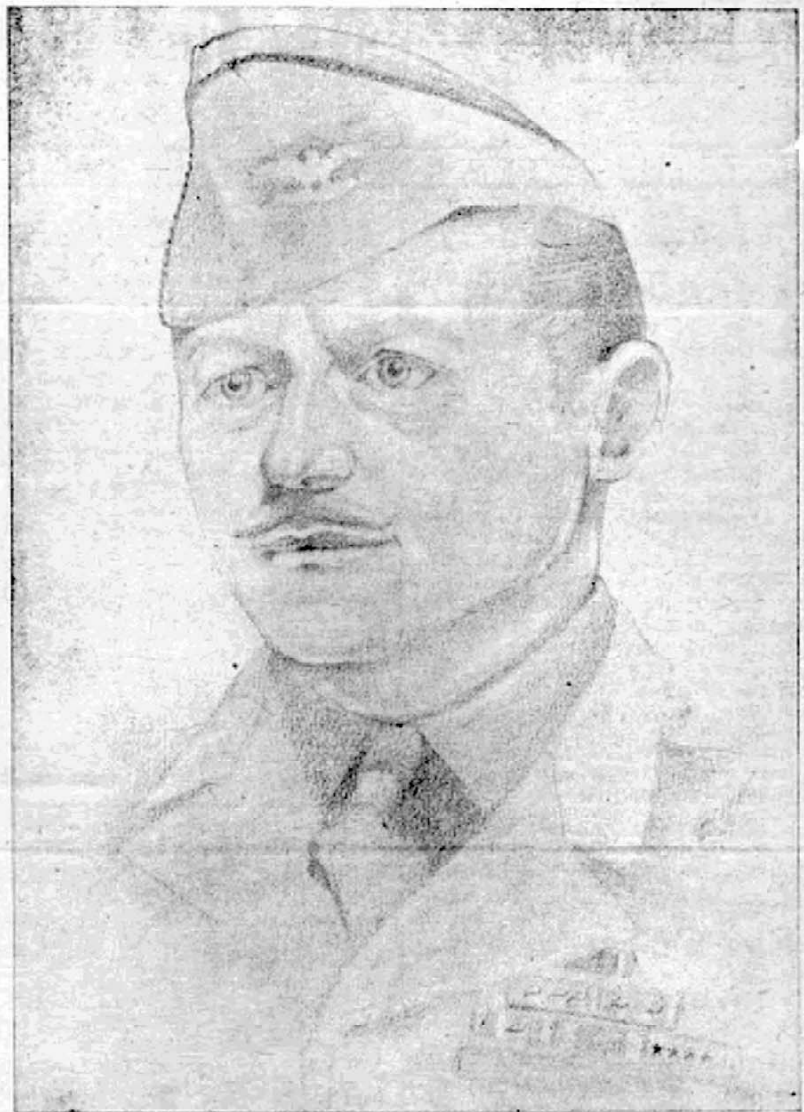
As Americans we have more to be thankful for than any peoples upon the earth. We have a nation that gives to every man the right to live decently and to prosper according to his deserts. This has been won for us by the sacrifice of American Men. It will be maintained by our broad spirit of understanding and thankfulness for the ability to 'Carry-on' and to be of good to our countrymen.

We should remember that all difficulties and trouble, whether between individuals or nations, comes from misunderstanding. Our daily lives should be lived, in our heart and in our actions, on that broad enlightened policy toward our fellow men of meeting on the level and parting on the square.

### Something for Nothing

It used to be you'd get what you'd paid for. The war has changed that. Now it's the usual thing to get something for nothing. And something good at that. Take the Red Cross parcel for example. Something for

## Senior American Officer, Oflag 64



Colonel Thomas D. Drake

nothing and good. Or "Wednesday at 7:15". Something of nothing and definitely good. And now take THE ITEM. Go on take it; the Canteen's already paid for it. Isn't it good?

Well, if you really like it drop around anytime and give us a pat on the back. It's the least you can do. After all, we're working for nothing.

And if you don't like it, come in and work for nothing yourself.

That last about working for nothing is true, believe us. We even have to pay for the beer we drink. Once in a while, tho. Elegantes are passed around and there is that to look forward to.

All this is by way of saying that altho we know THE ITEM is good, if you think you can make it better don't stand off on the side lines. Join in. Whether yours is a flair for lite-

ratura or just a plain garden variety nose for news, there's a place for it in THE ITEM.

THE ITEM is starting out as a monthly. Later on we may grind it out more frequently. That all depends. Mostly it depends upon you. Will you co-operate?

Stories are made to be passed around. If you run across a tidbit in a letter from home or chance upon a fascinating yarn don't confuse it with a D ration bar and hoard it. Turn it in to THE ITEM and let THE ITEM give it a splash. O. K? Thanks. We're off!

### Good Show

Good show VV! You and your team played heads up ball against tough odds and bad breaks. You deserved to win. Better luck next time.

## Kriegy Sketches

Col. T. D. Drake

By: Larry Allen

A hard-fighting "go-getter" who learned about war in the last one and topped it off by helping to lead the big Allied assault on North Africa is the "Boss" of Prisoner of War Camp Number 64 in Germany.

He is able, determined, 42-year old, clean-cut, blue-eyed Colonel Thomas D. Drake, with a reputation of knowing what he wants and usually getting it.

A native of Clarksburg, West Virginia, he started on the ground floor of the United States Army and was commissioned on April 7, 1917, two days after America entered the war.

Gallantry in action brought him quick recognition along with the Distinguished Service Cross and rapid promotions.

He went through the thrill of all major operations in France with the Fourth Division for 18 months.

Later he was assigned to the Army of Occupation in Germany for nine months at Coblenz.

In the ensuing years he saw long service in The Philippines and China and at army posts in Southern United States.

Colonel Drake commanded the 168th infantry regiment and was attached to the divisional staff on plans and training for the eastern assault force in the invasion of North Africa. He was captured last February 17 near El Hammar in Tunisia.

The Colonel's favorite sports are football and boxing. He is married and his son is a cadet at West Point.

He says his principal job here is: "To see that every man maintains himself in a fit mental and physical condition for future duty."

His policy on camp administration:

"We must willingly carry out all orders the Germans may give in the running of the camp because it is for our own benefit.

"In turn, we require the Germans to treat us decently and we have been getting that kind of treatment."

On the ever-present, burning question on "When do you think the war will end?" the Colonel says:

"The war, I think, should end next Fall. I base that primarily on the supposition that big things will happen next Spring."

# SPORTS

## Big Pre-War Sports Operators Discovered on Oflag Sportplatz

### Our Brawn Trusters Reveal Lurid Pasts

By: Frank Maxwell

Big-time sports scouts could have a field day here. The camp's roster is lousy with names that once made big-league line ups. For instance:

**ON THE GRIDIRON:** Ed Berlinsky played fullback at North Carolina State in '36, '37 and '38. Walter Camps picked this hard-running back on his All-American club.

Moe Moss piloted Georgia U at quarter back in '36, '37 and '38.

Big Bill Luttrell was a power house in the line at Tennessee in '38, '39 and '40. Bill played in three Bowl spectacles! In '39 against Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl, in '40 against Southern California in the Rose Bowl, and in '41 against Boston College in the Sugar Bowl.

Long John Meadows, who isn't very active these days because of poor health, played on Auburn's frosh team of '37.

Leo Farber played guard for Dayton U in '38 and '39, changed over to quarterback in '40.

Vic Laughlin was blocking half back on the University of Akron eleven in '38 and '39.

**ON THE DIAMOND:** Herb Johnson held down first for New Hampshire U in '37, '38, '39 and '40.

Ted Pawloski starred at short on East Stroudsburg Teachers nine in '40 and '41.

**ON THE BASKETBALL COURT:** Bill Farrell tossed in pivot shots for Penn Military College in '36, '37, '38 and '39.

**TRACK:** Bob Oshlo in '34 and '35 was a big pointer winner for Iowa U in discus, hurdles and quarter mile.

Johnny Creech plodded cross-country for Rhode Island State in '40 and '41.

**ON THE LINKS:** Stud Beasley was varsity golfer for Texas Christian in '39, '40 and '41.

Frank Tripp did some noteworthy driving and putting for Duke in '35.

### Diamond May Be Flooded For Winter Skating

Flooding of the baseball diamond for skating may be done again this winter if skates are available, according to Herb Johnson, Oflag sports officer.

The diamond was flooded last year by British P.O.W.'s and reputedly made a darn good rink.

### More PP Tables Planned

Three more ping-pong tables will be constructed, pending the arrival of enough lumber.

Plans for a winter ping-pong tournament will be announced later.

### Softball

With the windup of the third series of games in the softball tournament, we salute those responsible for making it the camp's major sport.

Barrels of ersatz orchids, then, to — Herb Johnson, originator and director of the team system and star infield performer...

Johnny Sims, a sharp player and Herb's second-in-command...

Berlinsky, who could cop a double with "one on" to win his own ball game...

Jim Alger, a dangerous hitter and a topnotch first baseman...

Charley Jones, with a batting average thru the season of better than 400...

Bob Aschlim, who constituted the pitcher's nightmare and played third like an old-timer...

Bill Luttrell, whose versatile arm brought Team 6 from bottom to first place tie...

Leo Farber, Joe Schneider and "Doc" Salerno for some top-drawer ball-playing.

**ON THE MAT:** Red Bancker, Phi Beta Kappa and Jiu Jitsu instructor, was a Yale wrestler in '40, '41 and '42.

Bill Cory practiced half-nelsons at Washington and Lee in '40.

**IN THE SHELL:** Orm Hessler was No. 1 on varsity crew at Cornell in '42.

**ON THE TENNIS COURT:** Maurice Bedwell served them up for Florida U's team in '38, '39 and '40.

**IN THE RING:** Sid Thal fought pro from '37 to '40 when he enlisted.

**WINTER SPORTS:** Bill Burkhardt in '39 and '40 was coach of Montana U's skiing team.

## Kriegieitis Test

By: Prof. C. V. Hansen

Do you have kriegieitis? Do you bash between meals? Do you wake up screaming?

This test will tell whether you are a victim of the greatest mental menace known to modern war fare. Try it and see where you stand:

### Part One (4 hour limit)

#### 1. Match correctly:

- |           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1. Big    | 1. Wire      |
| 2. Barbed | 2. Operator  |
| 3. Red    | 3. Mess Hall |
| 4. Bush   | 4. Cross     |
| 5. Base   | 5. Rhoades   |
| 6. Dusty  | 6. Ball      |

#### 2. If that one is too tough, try this:

- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| 1. Colonel  | 1. Drake |
| 2. S. A. O. | 2. Drake |

#### 3. List in order of your preference:

- D Ration chocolate.
- A picture of your girl.
- Your girl.
- Any girl.
- A whole lot of girls.

### Part Two (8 hour limit)

- Kriegies have ice cream for dessert once a week. TRUE: FALSE
- Twice a week. TRUE: FALSE
- Your wife is just as true to you as you are to her. FALSE: FALSE
- George Lucey is a hungry baseball player. TRUE: FALSE
- No one in the Oflag makes any noise after lights out. TRUE: FALSE.
- Everyone else has kriegieitis but you are o.k. TRUE: FALSE.

### Part Three (no limit)

Following are the names of some of our better known inmates. Underline any or all monikers which you think apply to each:

- Amon Carter
  - Big Operator
  - Cigar Smoker
  - Beardless
- Jim Bickers
  - Artist
  - Linguist
  - Bashomaniac
- John Cramer
  - Slick
  - Thespian
  - Hot Water Operator
- Ken Goddard
  - Big Operator
  - Big Operator
  - Big Operator

#### Correct Answer

If you've read this far you have kriegieitis allright, but there is still hope. If you thought there was any sense to it, the boys with the white coats will be looking for you. Don't say I didn't warn you.

## They Call Him Andy...



## Never Have Your Picture Taken with a Nurse, Says Johnson

"Here's a picture of my fiancee — I don't know who the rat with her is".

Don Waful, a newcomer, handed a snap to Eddie Berlinsky. Ed took a look and whooped:

"Hey, fellas, look! It's Andy Johnson!"

"Do you know him?" growled Waful. "I've been looking for that guy. I want to talk to him and find out how he wormed his way into that picture".

"Know him? He's here!" Berlinsky replied.

Waful soon cornered Johnson behind a stove. After a little bleeding, Andy spilled this story:

While a G. I., he met Lt. Olga Casciolini, Army Nurse Corps, in a hospital in Ireland. Later he saw her in a railroad station and asked to have her picture taken with him. She did.

Then Waful himself met Miss Casciolini and dated her. They soon became engaged.

Just before travel orders separated the couple, Miss Casciolini gave her fiance several photographs. Among them was the one of herself and Andy.

Andy will recuperate, the Doc says.

## Remember

for your

Advertisements

# "Item-ize"

## The Ravin's

By: Frank Hancock

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I sat there, eyes all bleary  
From the many empty bottles scattered on the floor;  
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,  
As of some one gently rapping, rapping at the barroom door.  
"It'sh shum dirty drunk," I muttered, beatin' on the barroom door,  
Only thish and nothing more"

Presently, I heard some talking and the sound of someone walking,  
And suddenly my wife was standing, there before me on the floor,  
While I gazed at her uncertain, she said, "Buddy, you're ahurtin";  
Your drunkenness is starting to become a frightful bore.  
You're from hunger "quothe she, "Henceforth, don't you dare to cross my door"  
This she said and nothing more.

Presently, my soul grew stronger, hesitating then no longer,  
"Your attichude," I said to her, "is something I abhor,  
You kin go home to your mother. I kin always find another  
To replace you very nishely when you're here no more".  
Quothe my Myrtle, "Nevermore".

"Ever since you're back from Schubin, you've been crazy as a Cuban,  
With your smokeless heaters and your bashing on the floor;  
And from the things that you've been cooking, anyone can tell by looking,  
That you're not the husband that you were in days of yore.  
So now I'm gonna take a powder." Here she opened wide the door,  
Only this and nothing more.

Back into the barroom turning, all my soul within me burning,  
Free to drink and dream again of kriegy days of yore.  
Then my bleary face beguiling the weary barman into smiling,  
I said to him (recalling drinkless nites at 64),  
"If it isn't too much trouble, pour me out another double;  
I'll drink this—forevermore!"