

The Oflag 64 Stem

RED STREAK
FINAL

48 — STAR
EDITION

"One ITEM is Worth 10,000 Pictures"

No. 11

Altburgund, Germany — September 1, 1944

Price: 50 Pfg.

First American Film To Be Shown Here Next Week; "You Cant Take It with You" Due to Hit Oflag Stage Soon

It Won't Be Long Now...



FOR INSIDE data on when the krieg will be over, these gates will be eased open and Gus will be hurled into the world of scotch, women and white bread, see "Itemizing" on Page Two.

Tricky Trade Tycoon Clears 1000 Points

Private enterprise swells the "point" purse quicker than any Mart trading, according to Trade Tycoon Horace Spaulding, of Barracks 8a.

A sharp trader of the old school, Spaulding recently kept an accurate record of all personal food exchanges for five weeks.

For weeks, he swapped Klim here, and liver pate there, dealing exclusively with underhand black market operators and picking up beaucoup points all along the line.

At the end of five weeks he realized for himself a net profit of no less than 1000 points, using Mart prices as his control.

Success of his deals, he says, proves that the average kriegie is swayed by his bashing desires rather than intrinsic point values.

Which is good for Capt. Spaulding, it seems.

53 New Arrivals Here Swell Oflag Rolls

New arrivals here this month are:

Lt. Cols. R. M. Cheal and W. V. Martz; Capts. L. J. Corley, M. E. Dowse, H. J. Leymarie, R. D. Prince, J. W. Simmons, W. C. Slanina, R. L. Thomas, M. A. Whitfield, W. C. Whorley and J. C. Wood, Jr.; 1st Lts. F. R. Baker, W. G. Browne, P. L. Clair, J. K. Davis, A. F. Dedecker, S. I. Fredrickson, D. O. Gaul, A. S. Heller, R. A. Henderson, A. J. Houle, C. J. McElligott, N. P. Monson, W. A. Nielson, L. Saint-Sauveur, R. E. Savage, R. C. Soliday, R. Whiting; 2nd Lts. J. M. Anastos, J. N. Bloch, J. S. Callopy, A. N. Cecil, Jr., D. M. Chappel, Jr., B. B. Everett, W. C. Frodsham, Jr., H. J. Harries, W. P. Hill, T. R. John, S. J. Kochy, P. D. Marable, Jr., A. G. McCormick, A. R. Mendenhall, T. A. Murphy, F. Moeller, Y. Poussier, H. L. Pritchett, R. K. Ringwald, L. B. Robbins, E. E. Rooney, L. G. Taulemesse, L. E. Vallette, and R. H. Wise.

"George Washington Slept Here" To Play Here Sept. 7, 8 and 9

"George Washington Slept Here," first American movie to hit the Oflag, starring Jack Benny and Ann Sheridan, will be shown here September 7th, 8th and 9th.

"Spring Parade" will follow later in the month.

Each showing will be preceded by a half hour "Swingland" concert.

Home grown entertainment for the month had it's preview last night with the opening of a fast moving revue, "Mostly Music," directed by Ken Goddard and Will Duckworth, and featuring Jack Cook, John Hannan, Bill Fabian, and ten of the Oflag's top vocalist.

The fall theatre season will be opened on September 21st with Russ Ford's production of "You Can't Take It With You" starring John Scully in the Jimmy Stewart role), Larry Phelan, Jim Koch and Ed Rinehart.

Others in the cast are: Howard Holder, John Glendinning, Dick van Syckle, Jack Carpenter, Dick Englehart, Ralph Crawford, Bill Korber, Charlie Jones, Richard Davis and Ken Gingrich.

Fortunes of War Postpone Gab Fest

Lt. Duane Smith had a job to do on the Anzio line.

Just before he left the bivouac he ran into Lt. Jack Tidwell.

"My God, man," said Smitty, "I haven't seen you since the old Cavalry days."

"Sit down," said Tidwell, "Let's talk."

"I can't," Smitty answered. "I'm going on a job. But it won't take long. We'll talk as soon as I'm back."

Tidwell waited and waited. That was seven months ago.

On August 27 the two men finally got around to that talk when Tidwell wandered into Oflag 64.

Late arrivals last week were:

Lt. Col. H. W. Sweeting; Capts. H. E. Donaho and F. S. Marks; 1st Lts. A. Evans, J. K. Glendinning, T. E. Grooks, R. Kozuch, B. Goldmann, L. Moore, N. Munson, R. C. Miles, A. Nelson, H. Page, R. C. Reynolds, J. Savage, G. Tate, J. Tidwell, S. Thompson, T. Wingate and E. Wisniewski; 2nd Lts. P. DeToskey, R. L. Frazier, J. Gleason, W. Leitsch, A. F. Miller, Jr., C. A. Ryan, W. Reeves, J. Tyrell, J. F. Schildt, O. R. Salmons and W. Wall.

The Oflag 64 Item

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

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SEPTEMBER 1, 1944

»» ITEMIZING ««

Last January, if you remember, some 87,500 dollars worth of military brains then composing Oflag 64 were polled by THE ITEM to get the inside dope on when the war would end.

The date, as decided then: September 30, 1944.

And that, chain, isn't very far away—30 days to be exact.

Since then, an additional 37,500 dollars of army leadership has arrived and predicted November.

So if it's not over this month, stick around for couple more months, brother.

And then—look out!

Kriegies Leave Something For Posterity, It Says Here

Offalagburg, Germany, October 30, 1993. Semi-wild tribes did exist in Offalagburg, Germany, according to scientific authorities who have recently begun to excavate the ruins of this ancient city.

In a report to the Geological Institute of America, Professor N. C. Mentus stated that great quantities of paper boxes bearing the red "crusader" emblem, and many different types of metal tubing thought to have contained foodstuffs were recently unearthed from a prehistoric brick building.

One of the metal tubes bore the print of a maid on it. A reddishbrown substance scraped from the inside, thought at first to be a form of potassium permanganate, showed a small caffeine content.

Another metal cylinder contained a few drams of yellowish, pasty grease. Professor Mentus, thinking it might be a primitive butter preparation tasted it. He quickly spat it out, however, and proclaimed it to be either axle grease or shoe-polish.

One of the most significant articles to reveal the complex psychology of these old-world nomads was a battered, weather-sodden manuscript. Hieroglyphic authority Leeva Loophole stated that one page was filled with column after column of the same phrase. When deciphered, that phrase read, "It can't be long. It can't be long. It can't be long now..."

Local Gal



This lovely creature is a German peacetime product, a nice contrast to such local wartime items as barbed wire, black bread and 88's. Peace it's wonderful. We don't know her name. Does it matter?

Kriegy Sketches

COL. GEORGE MILLETT

Boss and new S. A. O. of the Altburgund Advance Guard is an optimistic, well-liked West Pointer, Col. George Millett.

Born in Missouri 40 years ago, Col. Millett hails from Kansas City and attended Wentworth Military Academy, in Lexington, in the 20's.

He was graduated from the Point in '29, got married and began his military life in the infantry.

This was changed in July, '41, when the pipe-smoking, sports-loving Missourian joined a newly-organized paratroop outfit.

Then for two years, says the Colonel, he fought the Battle of Phoenix City.

He came overseas last December and led his paratroop regiment into Normandy on "D" Day. Three days later he was transferred in grade to Kriegy Command A.

Col. Millett has one comment on life behind barbed wire: "Captivity certainly makes a man pessimistic."

But it hasn't hit the Colonel yet—he thinks the war will end by November.



Have You Heard?

By: Howard Holder

Billy Bingham said to me
 How much longer will it be?
 I wonder if?
 I wonder why?
 I wonder if it's all a lie?

To "Red" LaSage I went then
 Tho he couldn't tell exactly when:
 It would be soon!
 It would be quick!
 And pessimists made him very sick!

Then the oldest Kriegy I approached
 He cursed me for I had encroached:
 "Twill never end"
 (He tore his locks)
 I'll bet my Xmas Red Cross box.

On a brand new captive, I did call
 Without a pause, he told me all
 In two short weeks —
 A month at most —
 I've money here to back my boast.

This chitter-chat I copied down,
 and then continued on my round.
 It will! It won't!

Or Sic et Non
 I listened with an inward groan.
 For where does all this leave us friend
 You've guessed it right, —
 [still in the pen.

Oflag Band Grows

To Bob Rankin and his Orchestra, grateful fellow kriegies say in chorus, "Play a few thousand notes."

The orchestra began a year ago as one young man with a horn — Rankin himself. His red hot trumpet was heard in solos during the summer weeks of '43. Then came large parcels containing an accordion, a guitar, and a set of drums.

Goddard grabbed the sticks, Saxton the squeeze box and Johnny Alred the guitar.

More instruments began to drift in. Lobb taught himself to play the sax, Oughton learned the guitar and Cockrell and Laughlin slapped that bass. Other guitarists were Ed Wiergate from the orderlies barracks and Charley Carlton.

More or less experienced musicians include Pianist Mitchell, Trombonist Waful, and Carnes, Lucey, Feldman, and Yarrock on the saxophones.

Somewhat more serious musical efforts was forthcoming when Conductor Rankin presented a symphony concert, but plenty of swing will still be heard.



OFLAG SPORTS



Bachelors to Battle Benedicts in Ball Game Sunday; Second Volleyball League To Begin Play This Week

SPORTS SIDELIGHTS

By: Robert Cheatham

Jottings...

Two unsung Oflag heroes are Obie O'Brien and Gerry Ullery, softball and basketball scorers, who do a bang-up job day in and day out... Bob Aschim, possessor of the largest hands in camp, knocked out four home runs in his first three games with the White House team... Eddie Berlinsky's class for future football coaches is underway... Outstanding throughout the season has been Timber Luttrell's consistently effective hurling... Ted Gorney and George Schneider, Barracks 7 and 8 diamond stars, excel among the late arrivals... After nosing out the Field Officers in the last inning of the first game, the Captains walloped them to the tune of 18-6 in the return game... Bill Bingham's softball team boasts a brassy infield with Col. Alger on first, Major Robertson on second and Major Irwin on third... The camp softball league is a hitter's paradise... Johnny Sims replaces repatriated Walt Werner as horse shoe tourney director...

Oddities...

Rodger Cannon scored a field goal for the wrong side when an attempted pass hit the opponent's basket net and flipped up, over and through the hoop... In his team's first game, Col. Waters bunted, advanced to second on a wild throw to first and to third on a bad peg to second, then raced across the plate on a throw to unguarded third base to complete a home run!! ...The first two weeks of play in the reorganized softball league saw two triple plays and one quadruple play.

Home Sports...

The Navy grabbed Frank Leahy, former Boston College and Notre Dame grid mentor, May 1 ...Only 5½ games separated the leading St. Louis Browns and the cellar dwelling Washington Senators in the hotly contested American league race on June 7. ...Ford Garrison and Bill Voiselle are rookie flashes of the current major league season.

Haggard Holds Camp Record For Fast Trip from N. Y. Here

Camp record for the fastest trip from New York to Germany was made by Major Edwin Haggard, who left the States Jan. 4 and became a guest of the Reich on Jan. 30.

He caught a quick glimpse of Italy on the way.

Gefangener Gus... On the Sportplatz



Thal Gives Softball Sideshow

A recent Captains vs. Field Officers ball game was enlivened more than somewhat by an aerial trapeze act by Muscle Operator Sidney Thal.

Swinging gracefully to and fro on the trapeze along the 3rd base line, 200-lb. Sidney suddenly lost his hold and landed flat on his back.

Whereupon both he and the spectators ceased to have any interest in the game for several minutes.

He has refused all requests for a return performance.

Krall and Evans Grab Top Court Honors

The time-honored struggle of bachelors versus benedicts will reach a decision as far as the Oflag is concerned in an exhibition softball game at 2:30 P.M. Sunday on Johnson Field.

Ed Berlinsky will lead the married men while Jake Taylor captains the lone wolves in the fracas.

The White House, starring Bill Luttrell's hurling and Bob Aschim, Leo Farber and Vic Laughlin's consistent slugging, holds first place in the barracks softball league with four victories and one loss.

Barracks Three, with 3 and 2, Six, 2 and 4, and Seven and Eight, 2 and 4, complete the loop standings.

After a wild and woolly start, the camp league has settled down to well-played games and a hotly contested race.

"Pop" Noonan's diamond squad leads the camp league with 5 wins and one loss while Bill Bingham's, Wayne Immekus and Charlie Brocker's clubs are tied for the runner up position with four successes and one failure.

With a record of four victories in five games, "Indian Joe" Hoffman's YMCA and Ted White's basketball teams battle it out for first place in the home stretch of the current basketball schedule. Major Sage's American Legion quintet follow closely in third place, winning three and losing one.

Bobby Krall, Gulf Refinery forward, with 75 points, and Bing Evans, Universal guard, with 47, top the scoring list, followed by Lee LeClair, Ted White and Rocco Pravidica.

A second volleyball league, raising the total number of participating teams to 16, will begin play this week with teams composed of late arrivals as well as veteran combinations.

Don May, "Hot" Cool, Fred Mitchell and Bill Farrell lead their netters as they struggle for top honors in the old circuit.

BIG SALE

Canadian Club

BONDED
WHISKEY

2000 MARKS
OR
1 "D" BAR

Tuesday at GERSHENOW'S GIFT SHOPPE

Ban on Rumors Is Campaigned by Sanity Retainers

Favorite Indoor Camp Sport Damned

Rumors — the Oflag's new favorite indoor sport — were scientifically traced this month by ITEM Rumor Expert Will Duckworth, who discovered that:

Fifty per-cent of the local inmates, are of the opinion that rumors, being the product of warped, criminal minds, should be squelched.

Thirty-five per-cent of the inmates take to rumors as an Arab takes kief-kief. They believe not only in passing them on but distorting them and expanding them to the greatest magnitude.

Fifteen per-cent of the inmates were found to be so "kriegie" — fogged that they cannot concentrate long enough to hear a rumor through to it's finish. They just don't give a damn.

Some of the more vicious rumors which occurred through the fiscal year are reprinted herein for posterity:

"We will be sent to Sweden for the duration of the war."

"Each 'kriegie' will be granted three months leave".

"We will soon be moved to a large, modern hotel in southern Bavaria."

"Thibedeau has been promoted from 1st Lt. to Lt. Col."

"A peace treaty is being drawn up in Spain."

"We will have one week in England in which to get into shape. Then we will go to the Far East by way of Suez."

Good God!

Gnome Bookbinders Open Literary Clinic

Until the coming of the "Gnomes," damaged and dilapidated books have long provided the library with one large and chronic headache.

But that's all changed now.

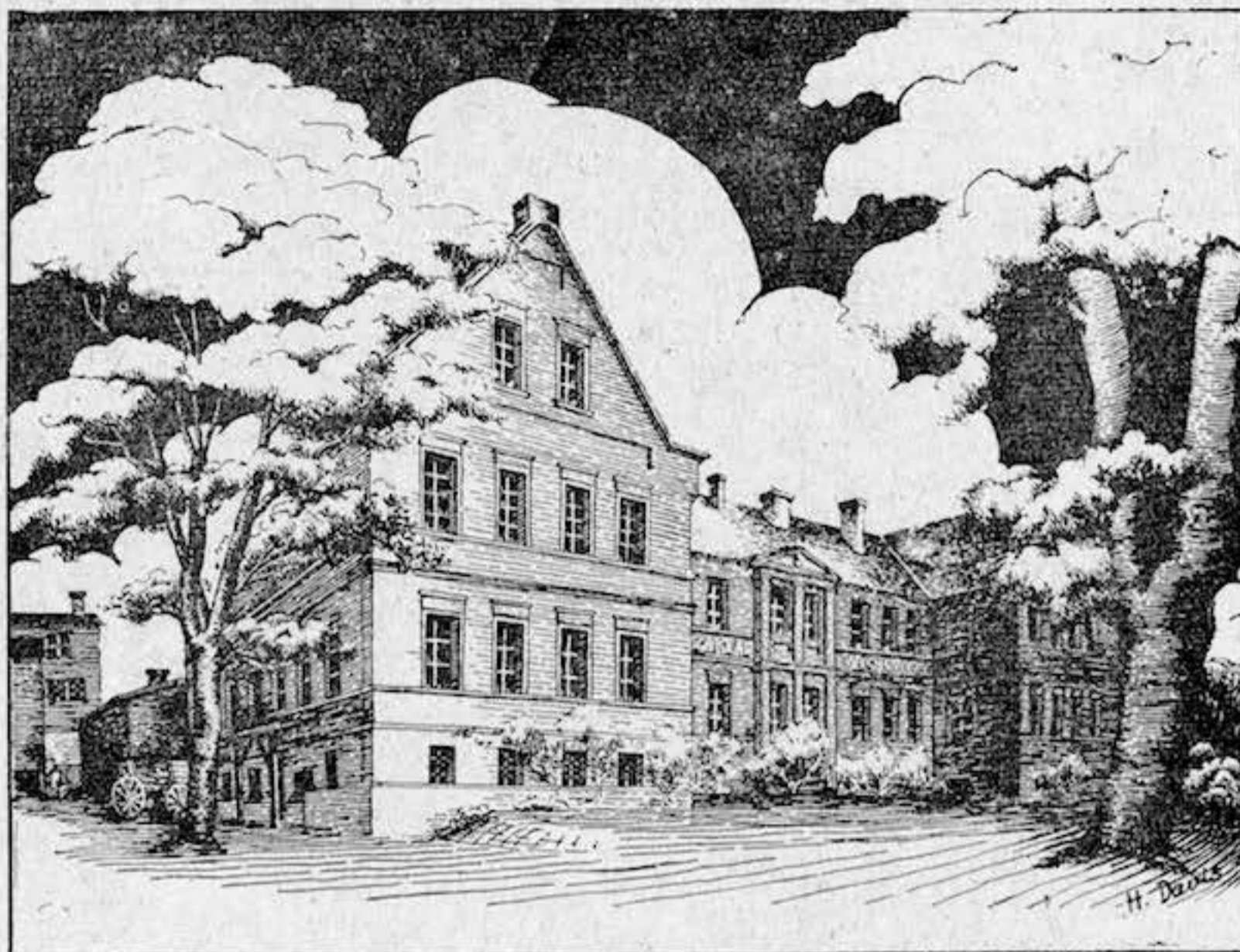
With the inception of "Gnome Bookbinderie" operated by Lts. Donald Lussenden and Harry Hauseild, the "kopfschmerz" has become a pleasure — for the gnomes.

According to Lussenden, whose office is next door to the library, the majority of books sent in require only minor repairs such as a page to be glued in or a cover to be patched up. Usually they can handle six to eight of these a day, which is pretty good for a couple of amateurs.

Occasionally they receive an order for the clinical treatment of a really large tome. Hauseild spent a total of fifty hours repairing "Anthony Adverse."

Lussenden believes that even though many of the books were carelessly bound by the publishers and would have come apart sooner or later he can still G-2 what the average Oflag citizen is reading. He referred to three copies of "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" looking fatigued, anaemic and just as if they had come out of the front lines.

The YMCA is responsible for the greater quantity of repair material.



MAIN BUILDING — The White House, G.H.Q. of Oflag 64, drawn by H. Davis

Oflag Softball Freak Play Puts Four Out

A one-in-a-million softball freak with four put-outs on one play, confused and amused both spectators and players last month in a Barracks "3" — White House league game.

Barracks 3's John Shirk, with the bases FULL and no outs, rapped a sharp line to short stop Herb Johnson who snagged the ball inches from the ground. Assuming that the ball had been trapped, Lou DiBella and Birly Grimes advanced and were doubled off first and second and Ed Ward was tagged crossing the plate for the fourth out of the quadruple play.

Doc Salerno administered first-aid to stop Berlinsky's bleeding and he led his "3" team to a 5-3 victory.

What's in a Name, Ask Oflag Literati

ITEM Research Experts this month stumbled upon the following illuminating group of words in Section 876 of Roget's Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases:

"peasant, coutryman, boor, carle, churl, vill-ain, -ein; serf, kern, tyke, tike, chuff, ryot, fellah; long-shoreman; swain, clown, hind; clod, -hopper; hobnail, yokel, hick, rube, cider squeezer, bog-trotter, bumpkin; ploughman, -boy; rustic, chawbacon, tiller of the soil; hewers of wood and drawers of water, groundling; gaffer, loon, put, cub, TONY LUMPKIN, looby, lout, underling; gamin, guttersnipe, street arab, mudlark; rough, rowdy, ruffian, rough-neck; pot-walloper, slubberdegullion; vulgar-, low-, fellow; cad, curmudgeon."

Look it up, if you don't believe us—Section 876.

Li'l Abner Still Going Strong Despite War With Daisy Mae, Ever a Designing Female

Latest ITEM report from the Dog-patch front:

"...As for Lil' Abner, he is still age 18, free from Daisy Mae and still signs his letters 'writ by hand'.

"The prediction in the stars that Daisy Mae would catch him was all wrong and Marryin' Sam was gipped out of 200 dollars.

"Last Sunday Daisy and Abner were marooned on an island and expected to spend the rest of their lives there. Just then Marryin' Sam, cruising by in a canoe, was forced ashore by inclement weather, and decided to perform their wedding ceremony.

"The only witnesses were two apes.

Abner objected to using them on the grounds that they couldn't write. Daisy retorted with, 'well, kin your relatives? That stopped him cold; Sam opened his book and began the ceremony.

"Just as Abner opened his mouth to repeat the vows, a tragedy occurred. The part of the island upon which Marryin' Sam stood broke off and started to float away. You see, they were on 'Unpredictable Island'.

"So Abner was saved again..."

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