

Nearly Everybody  
Reads THE ITEM

# The Oflag 64 Stem

Covers Oflag 64  
Like the Dew

"One ITEM is Worth 10,000 Pictures"

No. 10

Altburgund, Germany — August 1, 1944

Price: 50 Pfg

## "Front Page" To Headline Oflag Theater Schedule; 75 New Oflagites Arrive Here During Month

Beauty...



This young lady is, we believe, from Hollywood. Note the pouting expression, the graceful pose, the well-groomed hair.

### OFLAG NEWS — IN BRIEF —

#### Report From The Home Front

Mrs. James Shoaf has a neat way of charting Baby Shoaf's growth for Lt. Papa Shoaf. At intervals she sends the babe's hand and foot prints. This method also keeps Papa up to date on Baby's character and future.

#### Balanced (?) Nature...

There are three qualified obstetricians in this he-man harem of over five hundred males, yet our multi-mother cat must bear litters alone and like it. Is there a Vet in the house?

#### Too Subtle, Perhaps...

Wishing to imply certain things, Lt. Amon Carter wrote to his father: "I just finished the best meal I've had since becoming a kriegie — sauerkraut and potatoes." Pop, evidently not getting the drift of the conversation, answered: "You sure made me hungry talking about sauerkraut and potatoes. I love 'em but can't eat them now because of a bad stomach."

### Four Shows Scheduled This Month

Biggest scoop of the theatrical season will be John Glendinning's presentation of the Hecht-MacArthur smash hit "The Front Page," due here on August 17, 18 and 19.

This boisterous comedy-drama of the golden days of the American press, took Broadway by storm back in '28 and established itself as one of the best and raciest stage vehicles in the American language.

The story concerns an ace reporter faced with the problem of losing his girl and a good job, or giving up the biggest scoop of the year, and his struggle to break away from the newspaper business against the wily efforts of a fast-talking, hard-hitting managing editor.

Hildy Johnson, the reporter, will be played by Bill Farrell while Dick Van Dyke follows Osgood Perkins and Adolphe Menjou as Walter Burns, the managing editor. Others in the cast include Clyde Herring as the Mayor of Chicago, Dick Rossbach as the Sheriff, Russ Ford "a Clark Street tart," Jerry Long, as Jennie, a scrubwoman; Jim Koch, Larry Phelan, Bill Swanson, Bob Kramer, John Cramer, Jim Young and Alex Ross as reporters; Charles Eberle, an escaped murderer; Charley Jones, a wife; Bob Watt, a flatfoot; Frank Hancock, Hildy's fiancé; Len Warren, her mother; Lumund Wilcox, a man with a reprieve, and Bob Langley and Gerry Mohler.

Carlos Burrows assists Glendinning in direction, with Bob Bonomi as stage manager, assisted by Victor Danylik, John Green and Duane Smith. The set is by Wilbert Davis.

### New Arrivals

New Arrivals here this Month are:

Cpl. G. V. Milleit, Lt. Col. N. R. Hoskot, R. S. Palmer, J. E. Skell, Majors N. R. Cole and J. M. Sugi; Capt. R. Blatherwick, I. Cholinas, J. G. Evans, R. M. Heenan, M. J. Lawler, H. O. Machas, J. M. Mann, J. T. McKnight, M. M. More, J. H. Moorman, Jr., J. M. Morford, Jr., J. C. Morrissey, Jr., C. W. Nelson, M. A. Parrott, J. J. Paull, J. F. Pfeiffer, W. L. Pickhardt, C. B. Russell, P. P. Scott, J. K. Stigluff, and J. L. Wood; 1st Lts. G. Baum, P. C. Callahan, R. W. Carrier, A. J. Casper, J. E. Cook, T. B. Corney, J. T. Daniels, W. C. Heister, E. W. Helwig, A. E. Hoell, C. B. Hughes, E. P. Koll, J. P. Liekar, J. W. McKay, C. H. Posa, W. E. Reid, D. T. Ruby, S. J. Rydzewski, H. S. Schumelster, J. M. Stevens, R. H. Sumner, A. H. Townsend, E. J. Verge, J. M. Weston, Jr., 2nd Lts. G. R. Britto, G. Chapman, W. C. Comstock, E. D. DiBerto, J. T. Heard, H. L. Huggitt, B. E. Kearlas, G. B. Kennedy, L. L. LeClair, E. E. Loper, G. H. Matthews, G. Myron, C. Pennington, R. A. Perrelli, G. H. Schneider, H. V. Schusseman, J. M. Wade, J. C. Weekley, H. D. White, R. C. White, Jr., C. A. Winton, and A. R. Young; and W.O.s C. E. Cobb, E. L. Dilburn and F. W. Hoffman.

...And the Beast



How would you like this for a pet? People who know say she's very fine specimen — lovable and affectionate.

### BEHIND BARBED — WIRE —

#### Utopia Minus...

There are more than 70 trees, one half block of hedges, two fire plugs and innumerable posts in this Oflag — and not a single dog.

#### New Classics...

New semi-classical platters received recently by Capt. Wilcox include an album of Strauss waltzes by Andre Kostelanetz and another of selections from "The Chocolate Soldier" sung by Nelson Eddy and Rise Stevens.

#### Itsa' Good Deal...

Jim Barnes has a new angle in trading these days. He will give you two cans of Elgin margarine for one can of Elgin margarine. Jim Barnes doesn't like Elgin margarine.

#### Good News Is This News...

First Sergeant Carl Godsey reports from a letter from home: "The taxes have been cut to such an extent that we put on a new porch roof with the savings."

## The Oflag 64 Item

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

Editor: 2nd Lt. Frank Diggs  
Associate Editors: 1st Lt. Larry Phelan,  
2nd Lt. Lewis Bixby

News: 1st Lt. Willard Duckworth,  
2nd Lt. Leo Fisher,  
2nd Lt. Frank Hancock,  
2nd Lt. Frank Maxwell

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

AUGUST 1, 1944

## »» ITEMIZING ««

A palpable silence descended on Oflag 64 on July 7th, as 500-odd inmates struggled for expression in a new medium — the King's English sans salty Elizabethan expletives. (Pronounced expletives).

The accustomed monosyllabic Anglo-Saxonisms, which have done yeoman service as nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs, were swept away in one swell foop, leaving most kriegies breathless, inarticulate and, conversationally speaking, all fouled up.

As a professional bundier of words, we laud the step that makes a search for synonyms obligatory — so many colorful words in this language of ours have been neglected.

As a kriegie easily irked, however, (and what kriegie isn't) we were considerably relieved at the out offered in paragraph 4 of the subject proclamation.

We think the Father of Our Country would have approved of it, too. We can see him, in a fit of pique, slapping his tri-cornered chapeau on a field desk and shouting: "D... it to H... Lieutenant, let's get on the ball!"

L. P.

### Mess Magic

THE ITEM bows its mast head to the officers responsible for the Oflag's culinary revolution.

They have worked mess miracles. They are: Major Harold Spurgin, Captains Al White, George Lucey and Bob Walters, and Lt. Bob Ashim.

## Birds of a Feather



Don't be hasty, Murgatroyd — mebbe a horse'll come by!

## Kriegy Sketches

CHAPLAIN STANLEY BRACH  
LT. PAUL N. CARNES

Father Stanley C. Brach, Chaplain of Oflag 64, is one of the oldest American prisoners on record. He was captured at Mateur, Tunisia on Thanksgiving Day, 1942.

He worked as a parish priest in both Jersey City and Hoboken, where he also acted as spiritual advisor at Steven's Institute of Technology.

Along with daily mass and services, Father Brach spends most of his time helping kriegies over the bumps. His room is rarely without someone seeking advice, help with hobbies (at which he is something of a specialist) or just a good old-fashioned bull-session.

Since Easter Sunday, Lt. Paul N. Carnes of Ellettsville, Ind. has conducted the general Protestant service each Sunday.

Lt. Carnes, whose father is a Methodist minister, received his degree at Indiana University where he won his Phi Beta Kappa key. He was preparing for the seminary at Boston U. when he was commissioned in the Army in May of '42.

He was wounded and captured at Medjez el Bab on Christmas Day of 1942 and arrived here last October by way of Chieti.

Paul's idea, as developed by his weekly sermons, is to make each man his own theologian — with a personal religion, compatible with modern progress.



## "MY DAY"

By: Howard Holder

I awakened this morning to the joyous and melodious ringing of a nearby bell. I yawned... stretched... and somebody shouted, "Get the hell outa bed or you'll be late!"

After a short tete-a-tete, I rushed off to the fashionable and popular "28 Breakfast Club," where we discussed various interesting topics such as women, their anatomy, and the especially intriguing subject of the unmarried father.

On questioning the members of the club, I ascertained that perhaps 25% were not sure as to their status. These are interesting facts indeed. I must remember to tell them to George.

At 12 I dined in the quaint "Oakes Tea Room" where I met such personalities as Mr. "No No Mr. Ump" B. and Mr. Joe "Stradivarius" F. They spoke of many things as we sipped our delicious soup.

I immediately regained my sunny attitude when at 3, my secretary reminded me of my conference with the Hon. John Peyton, from Virginia. We talked of this and that in Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German, French, Sanskrit and Esperanto. It was an extremely enlightening hour.

I passed thru the music conservatory from 4 to 5 and I must say I was quite chilled or — thrilled to the very core as I heard the students diligently practicing. It was an experience which I shall never forget.

## The Kriegy Mind Turns to Travel

The average kriegie has eased up considerably on his reading due to the hot weather, according to Leroy Ibric, librarian and well-known radio Thespian.

"Most in demand" books are fiction with themes that Will Hays doesn't read.

Two stories that have topped the most popular list for the longest time, are "Kitty Foyle" and "Randon Harvest." However, "The Robe" and "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" are the most read.

On the autobiography ladder, "The Americanization of Edward Bok" has taken the lead and LeRoy predicts it will stay on the top rung.

Travel books have come to the fore. Stories on canoe and sailboat trips are extremely popular. "This may indicate that readers are making plans," says our librarian.

In the latest Red Cross News, thirty-one books were mentioned as being best sellers in the States. Thirteen of these thirty-one are on the shelves of the Oflag 64 library.



# OFLAG SPORTS



## Three Major Sports Regroup for Big Mid-Summer Offensive at Oflag Sportsplatz Sector This Week

### SPORTS SIDELIGHTS

By: Robert Cheatham

Cheers to the enlisted men for presenting the classiest sports event to date, their July 4th softball game... The teams participating in the all-star basketball game compare favorably with top flight college squads... Berlinsky's team eked out a 29-25 victory. It might have been another story if "Iron Mike" Farrell hadn't been on the bench with an injury... Rarity — Johnny Kamps made an unassisted double play while playing left field... Lawson and J. Cox lead the orderlies' league in hitting. Matty Smith and "Blue" Gever are the most improved court performers in the loop... League teams play faster basketball as the season progresses... Faster base running and smoother fielding are the results of more than a dozen loads of top soil on Johnson Field... By administering a 22-0 shellacking in five innings, the Lucky Strike All-Stars sent Pop Noonan's ersatz allstars back to the bushes to stay... The top set-up man in Spicher's volleyball league is little Laurence Brant. With Brant passing to spiker's Don May and Ellsworth Cundiff, they are hard to lick... Walt Werner directs the horse-shoe tournament which began July 20... Luigi Salerno is in there chunking again this summer...



### Oflag Operator in Sports

(Continued from last month)

Pat Teal and Charles Eberle are ex-golden gloves boxing champs. Teal on the Pacific Coast and Eberle in New Jersey.

Sid Thal and Herm Littman are ex-professional pugilists.

Bill Bond received All-American lacrosse honors while wearing Maryland's colors.

Jim Dew graced the Madison Square Garden's basketball court while at West Kentucky State Teachers College.

Bill Farrell and Bill Jones were heroes of the hardwood at Penn Military College and Tennessee respectively.

Tom Miller, Maryland, and

### New Schedules Go Into Effect

Re-shuffled leagues in the three major sports will begin play this week as Oflag's sports leaders Leo Farber, Bob Bonner and Ed Spicher regroup their forces for the mid-season drive.

The new softball set-up includes two leagues, one composed of barrack teams and the other made up of a dozen diamond combinations selected from the camp as a whole.

Bill Luttrell, White House; Eddie Berlinsky, Barracks 3; Lynn Hunsaker, Barracks 6! and James Jordan, Barracks 7 and 8, captain the barracks teams.

Hutch Hutchinson's Celtics lead the basketball circuit into the final stretch, followed by the YMCA and Denver Legion teams.

The Celtics face two hurdles in Berlinsky's Legion team and Hubbell and Maxwell's Olympic squad in their fight for the title.

The new basketball schedule opens the second week in August with new combinations battling for honors in the third round of the season.

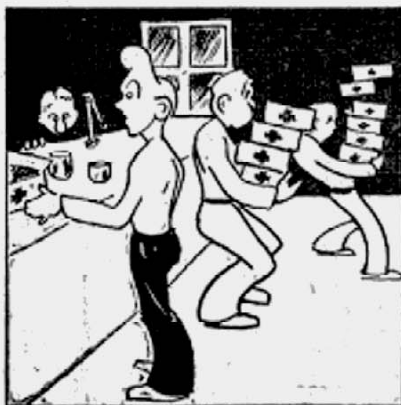
Twelve strong volleyball teams open the new league today under the direction of Ed Spicher. This is the second schedule in the season's play.

Ellsworth Cundiff, Oklahoma A & M, won conference track titles, Miller winning the high jump in the Southern Conference and Cundiff taking this event in the Southwestern Conference.

Bob Osblo scored points in the discus, hurdles, and quarter mile for Iowa U. and Bertie Rinehart was a Princeton middle distance man. John Creech prepped for hiking on the Rhode Island State cross country team.

### Prison Daze...

By Bickers



## Kriegig of Tomorrow To Get Rocket Mail And Powdered Likker

By: Leo Fisher

While the outside world is knocking itself out with post-war planning, Whitehouse kriegies this month did a little post-peace planning and figured out that:

The kriegig of tomorrow will be captured by soldiers dressed in combat suits of lead and beryllium.

He will be transported to a ZOFLAG in a rocket wagon moving faster than a woman can change her mind.

His mail will arrive by Rocket Post and he will raise hell if it is fifteen minutes late.

The Red Cross will send a month's ration of food in a small 2 x 2 box of capsules the size of today's Carter's Little Liver Pills.

This kriegig will never suffer from the blues because each day he will be allotted a five minute period on his private television set to chat with the folks.

If he longs for a shot of Grandpap's "Four Roses", he will drop two grams of powdered rye into a prepared solution and — HIC — there he ish.

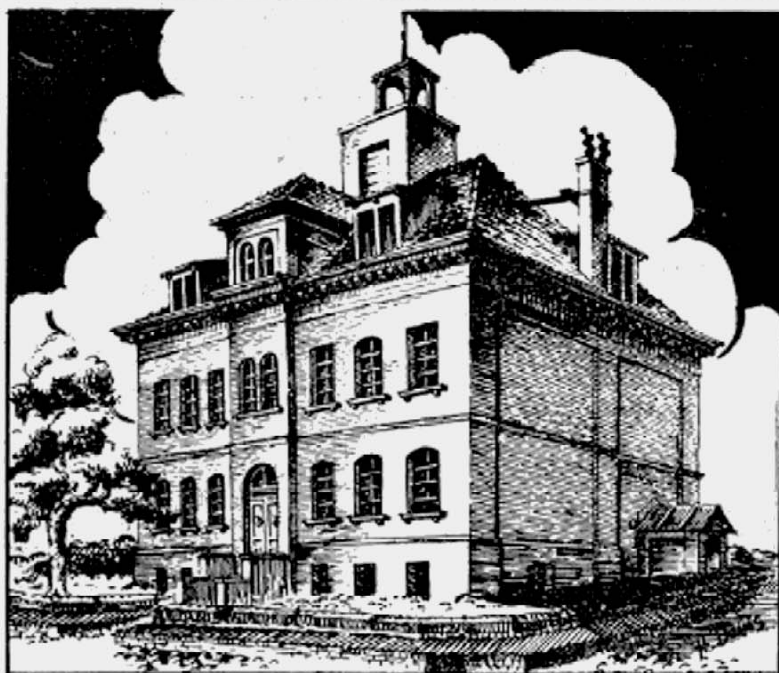
He will not play sports but his body beautiful will not suffer. Electrical therapy will keep his boyish biceps bulging. For mental calisthenics he will antagonize atoms and muscle molecules in the ZOFLAG laboratories.

His Little Theater will bring him nightly television of drama, sports and the "Grand Old Opere, Nashville, Tenn." His news will be televised in three dimensions direct from the front lines where he will see dog fights 40 miles up; gigantic battles between 200 ton tanks; and sea battles between battleships escorted by cruisers of the Queen Mary class.

He will not feel that he is "wasting the best years of his wife," for scientific control of his glands will permit him to preserve his youth at any desired age.

This is your kriegig of tomorrow.

And a sad life he will lead. No D-bars — no orange concentrate — no liver pate — no nuthin' —



THE HOSPITAL — This is the second of a series of pen drawings of Oflag buildings. H. Davis is the artist.

## Oflag Orderlies A Varied Lot

A village within a village is the Oflag "Orderlyville". Its 56 inhabitants represent more than one tenth of the Oflag population and they migrated from more than 30 states in America.

They came from varied occupations; farmers, oil processors, bakers, loggers, bookkeepers, tree surgeons, bartenders — even an embalmer.

Eleven of them are married, seven engaged — 38 holding out.

Their "On Duty" life here is occupied with tasks designed to keep the Oflag engine functioning smoothly. Off duty they have jam sessions with trombones and Guitars — and tonettes. After a hard battle on the ball field, they relax with card games and needlework.

They don't mind their work, but they say the shoe really pinches when they hear the daily song hit — "You're It For Tomorrow," by their Top Kick, First Sergeant Carn A. Godsey.

## Legal Eagles Open Law School Here

Four of Oflag 64's "Legal Eagles" have combined their talents and set up what is probably the most outstanding course of instruction in camp — a Law School.

The school was organized by Capt. Clarence Ferguson, assisted by his collaborators, Capts. Lumund Wilcox, Garvin Fitton and Leonard Warren. All four were lawyers before der Krieg.

The purpose of the school, says Capt. Wilcox, is to refresh old law students and to prepare new ones for preliminary law exams.

The class, which has an enrolment of 16 ardent enthusiasts, (they even attend class during this hot weather) meets for a two-hour period four times a week to hear Ferguson on Criminal Law, Wilcox on Torts, Fitton on Bailments and Carriers and Warren on Real Property.

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## Gefangener Gus... Midsummer Night's Dream...

By: Ross

