OFLAG NEWS
IN BRIEF
Frost Foul up Fruit*...

A quick in Altburgund's weather -- perennial 3-day frosts between May 10 and 20 -- will hold up transplanting of the 1500 tomato* plants now in the greenhouse for three more weeks. So says Chief Farmer John Creech.

This annual cold spell is known to the permanent residents here as the "Frost of the three saints."

* tomato = fruit, says Creech.

Maternity Case...
The Oflag T.O. took another minor spurt upward early last month when "Sisie," 3-A's feline mascot, gave birth to two kittens.

It was the first recorded maternity case in Oflag history and took place, appropriately, in a Red Cross box. The kittens are now attached to the Parcel Hatch for rations.

Round Trip...
The Ofl'g's first alumnus, Lt. Robert Young, Air Corps, has arrived home.

Repatriated early this year, Bob arrived in Wooster, Ohio March 19. His first official act was to have a date with his fiancée.

First Degree...

First degree ever awarded to a student in residence at Altburgund College was conferred last month to Capt. Maynard Files by the University of Maine.

Capt. Files learned in a letter in April that credit for work done here had been accepted, completing the requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Forestry degree. Files finished his mathematics requirements under Lt. Thomas Morse, a Maine alumnus.

Wrong year...

Vic Laughlin was bagged guess-when on February 15, 1943. On April 6 his mother learned his whereabouts. Overjoyed, she immediately wrote her son. He received the letter the same — one year later. It showed up here April 6, 1944.

One for Emily...

This involves a bunk, an inmate and symptoms of Hansen's disease. The bunk was merely standing there in room 28 — mincing its own business. Then Russ Ford jumped into it. He turned about and politely barracked "Excuse me."

Fact or Fiction??

To answer a current query, Chaplain Stanley Brench this month will give an informal talk on "The real story behind The Robe."

The most read book in the Oflag library, Lloyd Douglas's "The Robe" is based largely on Biblical fact, according to Chaplain Brench. Many of its characters really existed.

Date of his talk will be announced.

New Yorkers Top List of New Officers from Southern Front

New Yorkers and Californians predo- minate in the 105 new officers added to the station complement here April 21.

This is the second largest group to arrive here. 150 arriving in June, 1943. Transferred from units now fighting in Italy, they represent 37 states.

Thirteen are from New York; 8 from California; 7 from Texas; 6 from Massa- chusetts; and 4 each are from Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Pennsylvania.

The new group brings the total officer strength here to 460 and contains two majors, 12 captains, 34 first lieutenants and 57 second lieutenants.

Other states represented by the new arrivals are: 3 each from New Jersey, Georgia, Nebraska, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio and Minnesota; 2 each from New Hampshire, Oregon, Virginia, Connecticut, Kansas, Iowa, and Kentucky; and 1 each from Maryland, Arizona, South Dakota, Wyoming, Washington, D.C., Idaho, North Carolina, Indiana, Wisconsin, Louisiana and Colorado.

Their names and addresses will appear in an early issue of the ITEM Directory.

3-Acter Due This Week

"Three Men on a Horse," previously scheduled for April, will be produced by John Hannan on May 4, 5 and 6.

Other entertainments during May include:

May 12, 13 — A variety show staged by Wilbur Sharpe;
May 19, 20 — Two one-act plays;
May 27 — Sid Thal's Bloody Gut.

Oflag Mail Total Per Officer Shows a Steep, Steady Decline Since November

"We're hurtin' for mail," says Capt. John Kamps, camp postal officer.

Although the population of Oflag 64 has been steadily increasing for the past eight months, the number of incoming letters has remained approximately the same.

The number for March is actually less than that received in November.

A new record was made in the letter league last month. The speed title goes to Capt. Kenneth Johnson who received a letter from the States 17 days after it was postmarked.

Lt. Stanley Stetson still leads the Big Ten with 334 letters. Close behind are: Lts. Amon Carter, 330; William Rudel, 326; John Scully, 290; Bob Rankin, 285; Henry Perry, 275; Robert Lobb, 267; Capt. George Juskalian, 264, Lts.
Versatorial

Spot Check

The fly will try
To multiply
A thousand fold before July;
But if you swat
And make a spot,
A spot is better than a lot
Of flies!

Post War Planning

The Maxwellian craze,
A family to raise,
Puts bachelors’ backs to the wall;
For the kiddies we show
In THE ITEM, page fo’,
Should make bachelors benefit all.

For Kriegies in Action

Too bad there weren’t plenty,
There were only twenty
Of sport badges to go round;
But be of good cheer,
A new season is here,
New chances are bound to abound.

Tale of Two Horses

Three men on a horse
In racing, of course,
May not be a sure bet, you know;
But the same quartet
With the stage all set
Makes a rip-roaring comedy show.

Trade Policy

He who is ridden by a conscience
Worries about a lot of nonsense;
He without benefit of scruples
His bashing soon quadruples.

Correction

Lt. Paul Lampru, who was reported incorrectly in last month’s ITEM as being captured in Tunisia, was captured in Sicily.

By: Willard Duckworth

For “Oscar of the Waldorf” the preparation of food is a pleasure, but that’s the Waldorf.

For Lt. Col. Walter Oakes of Oflag 64 it is a task, sans glamour, sans romance, often monotonous, more often damn difficult.

Lts. Bob Aschim and Jim Sherman assist Lt. Col. Oakes. They see to it that menus are maintained a week in advance. This entails close figuring on the amount of food which must be saved from the American parcels to compensate for the lack of solid food in the British parcels.

Occasionally they serve up an extra-special dish such as “Breadcrum Pemm”—pemm dipped in powdered eggs and Yorkshire pudding and cooked in deep fat, or a disguised meatroll hushed up with German margarine, spices and onions.

“When,” says Aschim, “a period of what you call a ‘lull’ comes along we start to prepare for the next day’s soup.”


The three officers have all had culinary experience at one time or another. Lt. Col. Oakes often recalls his days as a mess sergeant. Bob Aschim cooked for a restaurant. And Jim Sherman was a soda-jerker at the corner drug store.
Kriegy Sketches

Lt. FRANK MAXWELL

By Larry Allen

The Boss in Oflag 61's Theater Guild intends to show prisoners something to remember him by before the day of freedom arrives.

Frank Maxwell says the Little Theater Group is planning to put on a musical comedy a la Broadway that will "lay 'em in the aisles."

Being chairman of the production unit — with a long string of successes behind him — is Maxwell's guarantee of bigger and better entertainment.

His role behind the scenes, Maxwell looks back over an interesting five-year background of hob-nobbing with people who do things that keep their names on the public lip.

He worked for "Believe It Or Not!"

Bob Ripley and

King Features Syndicate for two years, was a comics syndicate columnist for three more from 1936 to 1941. Maxwell, a shade under six feet, is twenty-seven and comes from Jersey City. There he graduated at Lincoln High School and went on for a two-year course in business administration at Hudson college.

He enlisted in the National Guard in 1940, and went into the Army in February 1941.

He emerged from Fort Benning, Ga., with a second-lieutenant's commission in his pocket in August, 1942, going overseas a month later.

He served in Scotland, England and Ireland, thence back to Scotland to hook-up with the famous 188th infantry.

Maxwell shone off with that outfit for the desert of North Africa, where he scammed about until February 17, 1943. On that red-letter day he fell into the clutches of Deutscher Soldaten at Ksarai, near epic site Bouda. He's married, and says he'd like to work for the Federal Housing Administration — if that falls, then television.

A lot of officers in this camp," he said, "want to get out to raise a lot of hell. I just want to raise a family."

Believe it, or not.

Twenty To Receive YMCA Sport Badges for '43 Season

YMCA sport badges will be awarded to 20 officers of Oflag 64 for promotion of and participation in athletics during the calendar year 1943, according to a recent announcement by Col. Thomas D. Drake.


SPORTS

First Phase of Softball Tourney Ends, Winning Teams Announced

Victors in the first phase of the Oflag softball series were announced yesterday by High Commissioner Leo Farber. They are: American League — Tigers, Red Sox, Senators, Browns and Saints; National League — Cubs (2 games), Reds, Braves, Orioles and Phillies.

Teams and players are:

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit Tigers: Littrell, captain, Penn, Wernette, Walters, W. E., Carlisle, Irvin, Scully, Butte, Jones, S. C., Young and Henny.


NATIONAL LEAGUE


Cleveland: Cory, captain, Haynes, Dice, Charlton, Aschill, Spichler, Drewry, Roggen, Spence, Leming, Beesley and White.

Washington: DiBella, captain, Desmond, Otterbein, Jones, C. L., Smith, M. C., Curtis, Barnes, Jones, W. K., Bires, Kwolek McCarver and Hogan.


Brooklyn: Trip, captain, Kent, Atten, Miller, J. W., Schmitt, Farber, Sherman, Elmer, Crocker, Carter, Giprani and Barkovic.


Pittsburgh: Schneider, captain, Cheate, Hutchinson, Cannon, Ellsworth, Cheatham, Sharpe, Hughes, M. C., Yenco, Haag and Severson.


Oflag Offspring Analyzed, Reveal Heredity on the Job

But Juniors All Take After Mothers for Looks

Kriegieitis isn't hereditary, apparently.

According to an exhaustive survey of Oflag offspring conducted by THE ITEM, kriegy fathers can stop worrying—Junior shows no symptoms.

Inside dope on the Junior Kriegy League came from sample snapshots analyzed by Face-reader Will Duckworth.

Will says that even if you can't actually read a small child's face, you can tell plenty by the old man's and so:

F/O James Sparkman's young daughter, for instance, excels in optimism and patience—traits obviously inherited from her mother. She will never make a kriegy.

Capt. Dick Rosbach's youngest, says Will, is the executive type, tending toward hashomania and big theater operations. A beautiful child—takes after her mother.

Capt. Harold Craft's daughter takes after the old man and so will probably grow up to be a big deutsch linguist. But the sweet smile must come from her mother.

Lt. Russ Ford's little girl, as you can see, is a miniature Lily Pons, getting her beauty from Mrs. F.

Lt. Col. Louis Gersonow's daughter reveals a tendency toward big powder and newspaper deals. She likes to travel, according to Will, in automobiles.

Lt. James Shoaf's little boy shows promise of great executive ability, probably inherited from his Zimmermann father.

His good looks, though, must be from his mother's side of the family.

CHARTER MEMBERS OF the Oflag Junior League are, left to right—
Top: F/O James Sparkman's daughter, Rebecca; Capt. Richard Rosbach's daughter, Cynthia; and Capt. Harold Craft's daughter, Patricia.
Bottom: Lt. Russell Ford's daughter, Linda; Lt. Col. Louis Gersonow's daughter, Andrea; and Lt. James Shoaf's son, John Richard.

Kriegies Utilize Enforced Hibernation
By Making Puppets, Portraits, Purses

Purses, picture frames, mugs, watch bands, jewelry cases, portraits, puppets...

These are only a few of the articles made by kriegy hobbyists during the winter months.

Capt. Bernard Bolton spent more than two months completing a loom, and has already woven half of a colored bedspread.

Capt. Al White is working on a "duration tapestry", as he calls it. He figures it will take that long to finish it.

Lt. Hervey Robinson has completed a purse and a rug. He is now working on a sport jacket.

Bill Fabian, who never worked with oils before, has done a number of portraits, among them one of Chaplain Stanley Brach.

Then there is the puppet factory. Ideas are by Ken Goddard, bodies by Wilbert Davis, clothing by Don Lussenden with Carlos Burrows as test pilot.

Gefangener Gus... At the Mart

By: Ross