

Kriegies Accidentally Celebrate D-Day Invasion

On May 30, 1944 (Decoration Day) the Kriegies of Oflag 64 had been in the Szubin camp for nearly a year, the first POWs having arrived on June 6, 1943. Boredom was quickly becoming a problem for all the Americans POWs. According to exKriegy George Juskalian, "Prisoners of War seize any opportunity to relieve the humdrum of prison life." "I can't recall whose weird idea it was to observe our first anniversary in Schubin, but it appealed to all of us despite the fact we would be celebrating our own incarceration! At least it would give us something to look forward to, something different to do." (See front page of Camp newspaper below)

Little did the Kriegies know that their planned Anniversary Party (June 6, 1944) would coincide with the date of the D-Day invasion. Their German captors were convinced that "all of us POWs - isolated behind barbed wire and heavy guard in the middle of Poland, some 1000 miles from the staging areas in England had somehow known the exact date of the invasion a month earlier! The pretext that we would be observing our first anniversary at Oflag 64 had been nothing less than a diabolical trick!"

In the end, the POWs decided to let the Germans believe they had a direct line to Supreme Headquarters and it drove them crazy. (You can read Juskalian's full account at www.friendsofotlag64.org/news)

The Oflag 64 Item

"Greetings on the Camp's First — and Last — Anniversary"

No. 8 Altburgund, Germany — June 1, 1944 Price: 50 Pfg.

The World's Greatest
PoW Newspaper

Over 500 Guaranteed Net Circulation

Gala Program of Sports, Entertainment Planned As Kriegies Observe First Anniversary Tuesday

OFLAG NEWS — IN BRIEF —

Anniversary Program...

0900 — Morning Appell and Presentation of YMCA Sport Badges
1000 — Hobby Show Opening in the School Building
1330 — All Star Softball Game
1430 — All Star Basketball Game
1530 — All Star Volleyball Game
1930 — Anniversary Revue, First Showing
2100 — Anniversary Revue, Second Showing

Music for all events will be provided by Bob Rankin's Band.

Mail Call...

Two records fell when Lt. Col. John Waters received eight parcels and Lt. Amos Carter received 70 letters in April. Carter forged ahead of Lt. Stanley Stetson's 355 with a total of 400 letters received. Lts. William Rudel and Bob Rankin with 323 and John Scully with 322 complete the top five.

April total of letters was 4406. Average transit time per letter was 105 days, five days slower than the slowest month to date.

AP Goes to NY...

Larry Allen, ace AP writer who until May 7 edited the Oflag's daily news service, is due to hit New York today.

His plans on leaving Altburgund, were to get back to the job as soon as possible and get another foreign assignment.

Larry had been in the bag 21 months, eight of them spent at Oflag 64.



**Hedy, Garbo and Ike Wire
Anniversary Greetings**

Cables from world figures and other figures (see above) began to pour into camp last week as the Oflag anniversary drew near.

Samples of the deluge are:

ONE YEAR OF BOYER AND SIN-
ATRA IS ENOUGH STOP HURRY
HOME LOVE HEDY

CANT HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER
STOP NEED HELP STOP COME
BACK SINATRA

RESERVING ROOMS FOR YOUR
HOMECOMING STOP FEEL SURE
YOU WILL BE AT HOME HERE
LEWIS E LAWES

CONGRATULATIONS STOP DO YOU
KNOW WHAT I MEAN YET GARBO
HOLD TIGHT IKE

First Year Develops Boom Town

June 6 is a Red-Letter day!

Just a year ago next Tuesday, a hardy band of 35 American officers settled Oflag 64 as a home for those who lost their liberty but were lucky enough to save their lives.

Today, it's like a "Boom Town."

The population now has reached 514, and the peak is not yet in sight.

New residential areas — more of those red-brick barracks — are flinging open their doors to accommodate the flow of "guests for the duration."

The "pioneers" lacked Red Cross food parcels, clothing, places to go — within limits — and things to do.

One year under the aggressive administration of blue-eyed, determined 43-year-old Colonel Thomas D. Drake has substituted that with conditions of comparative prosperity and comfort.

New lockers — with more room than a steamer trunk — already adorn the "living spaces" of prisoners of war.

United States Army clothing supplies have rolled in via the Red Cross, so Uncle Sam's "unfortunates" now present a snappy, up-to-the-minute appearance on parade and in their strolls about this pine — and barbed-wire — surrounded encampment.

Recreations and sports spread out like a bursting sunflower with the arrival of athletic equipment from the YMCA.

A gymnasium is operating, with ping pong, handball, badminton, and a little bit of everything on the exercise calendar.

This is all duplicated on the outside by the American favorites of softball, basketball and volleyball.

The camp library, which already had a good start of hundreds of books — mostly by British authors — has grown like a mushroom — and with the American flavor.

Private book parcels from the United States and donations from the YMCA, European Students Relief Fund and British PoW Books and Games Fund of all types of volumes have pushed reading opportunities into a frontline of recreation.

In the spotlight of things that have come shines brilliantly the Little Theater group.

What a prisoner of war now sees in the Little Theater often rates an equality with professional shows and entertainments back home. The orchestra and melody singers have kept fresh memories of the sweethearts, wives, mothers and fathers on the other side of the water.

(See ANNIVERSARY Page 2)