

Saluting German Prisoners

Dear YANK:
According to a March issue of YANK we are now supposed to salute German officers! [YANK quoted the Provost Marshal General's Office as saying GIs had to salute Nazi officer prisoners of war.—Ed.] I've seen a lot of things happen in this Army in the past 3½ years, but do you think for one damned minute that I will ever salute a German in a Nazi uniform while the United States is at war with Germany? It may be a regulation where some people come from, but I still have some sense of pride left for the flag under which I fought those sons-of-bitches, and I don't put any Nazi on an equal basis with the flag of the United States.

According to old Army traditions, when you salute an officer you are not saluting the man, but the rank and the uniform. The uniform of a Nazi is supposed to stand for just the reverse of what our uniform and Old Glory stand for, and if I'm to have as much respect for the Nazi, or the Jap principles, as I have for the principles of freedom, then why the hell do I fight?

It is true that I could probably be tried by court martial for refusing to salute a German officer. I am not surprised that the Army is coming around to such as that, but you can bet your bottom dollar that I'll see myself in hell before I ever give such a salute, so long as we are at war with that country.

Winter Gen. Hosp., Topeka, Kans. —Sgt. WILLIAM F. WENZEL

Dear YANK:

It is said that we salute the uniform, which stands for the government, not the man himself. Will you please tell me why an American serviceman should salute the German Government?

Camp Robinson, Ark. —Pvt. WALLIS R. SPRAGUE

Dear YANK:

If this lost my rank or any other privilege, I and thousands upon thousands of soldiers in the United States Army would refuse to salute any enemy. No man on earth could say we, as freemen, shall salute an enemy, or force us in doing so. I wish some provisions would be made in regard to this disgraceful matter.

Camp McCain, Miss. —5/Sgt. STANLEY SZWED

Dear YANK:

This isn't a war where the white flag means surrender; in this war it means that some crafty rat is waiting to knife a soldier in the back, or else it's a booby trap. Are soldiers, then, to salute (as a form of respect which we tender our own officers) the same officers who encourage their men to deeds of violence as well as bravery, to cruel viciousness as well as acts of courage? Are we to recognize these officers as gentlemen, disregarding the hatred and contempt that they have for us and the rest of the world? Shall we salute pilots who have machine-gunned lifeboats? It's all guesswork on our part concerning these officers. They may have helped devise the time bombs which destroyed the Naples Post Office needlessly; certainly they are now helping to devise some plan whereby the foolish sentimental Americans can be made to taste defeat in the future.

Ann Savage's Stockings

Dear YANK:

That pin-up of Ann Savage in a recent issue of YANK is a Lulu, but I wish to bring a slight discrepancy to your attention. If you'll look closely at the net stockings that adorn those wonderful gams you'll discover that they aren't mates.

Britain —DUKE

Dear YANK:

Though not a hose enthusiast, even I can see that Ann Savage's stockings do not match—or am I poor at perspective and shapely legs? Any man will agree that the above is secondary; I like those legs with or without stockings, matched or unmatched, cotton or nylon, painted or unpainted, tanned or lily white, etc.

Stout Field, Ind. —T/Sgt. WALTER J. HELBLING



■ You're both right. YANK showed Sgt. Helbling's letter to Ann Savage and she replied: "Mairzy dotes and dozy dotes; you can't buy onions, no one can figure his income tax, all the clocks run an hour fast (if you can get a clock), Sinatra plugs for vitamins but needs 'em worse than listeners do, ma—can marry ma—and now Sgt. wants to my stock-t match. geant, I'm even have



And what, we want to know, are we to do about Japanese officers? Is there someone who is going to insist that we salute them, too!

We're doing our duty up here for all it's worth, because we believe that the little we do is helping to destroy a bogey of cruelty and mass hatred which would like to see the world destroyed and itself master of the remains. We think that some of the articles [Geneva Convention Rules of War.—Ed.] could stand changing, or be disregarded, as certainly the Germans must be disregarding them.

Alaska —T/Sgt. ALVIN T. WEINBERG*
*Signed also by Sgt. A. V. Ryan; Cpls. John W. Gary Jr., Cunio O. Mastori, Sam Spragis and Nick Graur; Pfc. Robert D. West, and Pvts. Richard W. Cheatham and George Maxham.

Dear YANK:

That was too much! Isn't it high time some of our prisoner-of-war Emily Post mannerisms are changed? Can't you just see the Nazis saluting our officers in their concentration camps? They are singing and goose-stepping around their enclosure here, too, but God knows what they are chirping about! Is there anything being done about it? If not, why not?

Fort Lewis, Wash. —Sgt. VERNE A. NELSON

Dear YANK:

On page 11 of the *Soldiers' Handbook* (Section II, Paragraph 31, Subparagraph b) you will find that the only officers we are to salute are officers of Allied countries only.

Brazil —5/Sgt. SIMON BOUNAN

■ "It is also customary to salute officers of friendly foreign countries," is the way it reads.

Dear YANK:

It is a damned shame that we should salute those — Nazis. It makes our blood boil to think that we have to salute our own prisoners! Just imagine. We capture them, and then we salute them! What a joke!

—Private, Corps of Military Police
PW Camp, Camp Phillips, Kans.

Perpetual Pfc.

Dear YANK:

This boy Pfc. M. A. Sanders (who claimed he had been a pfc. longer than any other GI) is just a newcomer. I am the oldest pfc. in the battery and there are four or five older than he is. I am not sure of the correct date I made pfc.; it was in late '39 or early '40. . . . I now have 31 months' overseas duty on top of that.

The Aleutians —Pfc. H. W. HOSKINS

Dear YANK:

A pfc. for two years and two months, Sanders? The ink isn't even dry on your service record since they made the change. From 1926 to 1935 I was just a plain private. From 1935 to 1943 I was pfc. Eight years. Was just recently made a T-5, through no fault of my own. Can you or anyone else top this?

Presidio, San Francisco, Calif. —T-5 FARIS S. KING

Letter

Dear YANK:

Here is a copy of a letter I received from my brother. Dear Bill—From my last letter to you, you can see why we went on the first invasion of Jap territory. . . . I went to the islands in the South Pacific when I left the States. The whole bunch thought we were getting something the other guy wasn't, and that was true. All the way over we talked about what we were going to do, never giving a thought to what the Japs were going to do. But we soon found that this is a game for keeps. You may get the first chance, and you may not. If you do, make sure that the shots are in; if you miss, it's his chance and nine times out of 10 he will not miss. I found that out from being there.

The Jap material is as good as ours, but the only thing is we have more of it than they. I saw the stuff they have; it looks like junk, but we left some of our boys back on the islands. It's true, not as many as the Japs did, but we did leave some. You can tell all the boys with you that when they get going don't wait till you see their tonsils. It's too late then, because he already has seen yours. Just give it to him in the guts and let him lay. . . . If you wait too long the little rat will let you have a volley of shots or a hand bomb. Either is not so good. Don't be too fast and don't be too slow. Don't fight the battle all alone. The other fellows are in it, too. But don't let the other guy do it all, either. In this mess we have to fight and work as a unit and not as a single person. We never think like that till we are over in the battle and find out your worst buddy will help you and you will help him. It's just the nature of us. Tojo did us a favor; he gave us back our unity. I didn't like the way he did it, but neither did anyone else. . . . Take care of yourself, until we meet again at Mom's. Chuck.

I think it has a thought behind it.
Foster Field, Tex. —Cpl. WILLIAM SCHWARTZ

Mechanics in Sardinia

Dear YANK:

In a March issue of YANK there was an article written by Sgt. Burt Evans with the heading "Air Force Mechanics." I want to take exception to one statement and to correct the impression in a couple of others. The statement that we straightened a propeller with a two-by-four and a jeep is a hell of a statement to be made for mechanics to read. Sgt. Evans may have been misinformed, or he may have got his squadrons mixed, but this organization has never straightened a propeller in the method described in his account of our activities.

In February 1943 we did make the parachute table he described, but the legs were not fence posts but

were made out of angle iron purchased from the French Army that was garrisoned at Taza, French Morocco, at that time. The complete table frame was made of this angle iron and, while we did have to use fence wire in place of a welding rod, we did not use any French generators to do our welding but used American welding gas and breathing oxygen, with American gauges, tips, hoses, etc. On the statement of packing chutes at the rate of 8 to 10 a day I want to say that in one month we inspected, repaired and packed 525 parachutes, sometimes at the rate of 40 a day. . . . Having got my growl off my chest I will close with the best of wishes for YANK.

Sardinia —M/Sgt. PAUL E. DILTS

Gen. Tito

Dear YANK:

Your article on Tito's army was further evidence that you offer a lot more to your GI fandom than just gags and bare lasses. If you don't think your readers want more such enlightenment on worldly doings, just look at your *Mail Call*, which is becoming your most popular page in this neck of the woods.

There were a couple of interesting notes which your "Tito" author left hanging in his typewriter. He made no reference to the much-ballyhooed [Gen. Draja] Mikhailovitch [war minister of the Yugoslav Government in Exile] or to the exiled Yugoslav Government, which took a powder while the people under Tito were taking arms. The fact appears to be that the newly formed united-front government was established to replace the bankrupt exiled royalty, and the "Mythical Mikhailovitch," who is King Peter's pet, openly fought on the side of the German and Italian fascists against Tito's forces. Prime Minister Churchill, in a recent address, spoke in glowing praise of Tito and made known his knowledge of the Chetniks [Mikhailovitch's troops] double dealing, but still reserved a soothing word or two for the Boy King, who appears to be up the creek without a paddle. It is beyond this GI why we pamper such fishy characters instead of giving the new Yugoslav Government the full recognition it has earned with blood and so justly deserves.

Camp Polk, La. —Sgt. PETE MCGOVERN

Lou Diamond Again

Dear YANK:

I've just read an article [in a November issue of YANK] about a Marine master sergeant, Lou Diamond, who is supposed to be 200 years old. . . . A few of my buddies and myself do not believe this Lou Diamond to be anywhere near 200 years old. . . . Another point that seems odd is this: Why, after 168 years of active duty, is this man only a sergeant? A man of such service surely must be worth a commission? . . . Our reasons for doubting this article is a Marine regulation requiring retirement at 62. . . .

Guadalcanal —Pvt. WILLIAM C. HARRIS*
*Also signed by Pfc. M. Lupin and Pvt. Art Hawkins.



K. IRVIN KAPLAN, once in Theta Chapter, Sigma Alpha Rho Fraternity, Philadelphia, Pa.: write Pvt. S. J. Orlove, Btry. B, 31st CA, Fort Taylor, Key West, Fla. . . . Pvt. JOHN KILLORAN, Sig. Corps: write Cpl. Gerald Donovan, 22d AW Comm. Sq., RAAF, Rome, N. Y. . . . Cpl. RAYMOND KONOPKA, in the SWPA: write Pfc. Stephen Konopka, Btry. D, 2d CA, Fort Monroe, Va. . . . LOUIS KUNINACH, last heard from in Colon, C. Z.: write John Mroz BKR3c, Hq. Co., AB, 136 Batt., Quoddy Village, Eastport, Maine. . . . Wac MARY KURKL: write Cpl. Bette Bartlett, WAC Det., AAF, Gunter Field, Ala.

M. Cpl. BILL MCNEAL, at Camp Callan, Calif., Det. M, 323d Sq., MAAF, Muroc, Calif. . . . Maj. JOHN MCSWEENEY of Wooster, Ohio, now overseas: write Sgt. Dean Lucas, Co. L, 801st STR, Camp Murphy, Fla. . . . Pvt. CHARLES MACFAIN of North Carolina: write Cpl. Matthew F. McDonnell, 323d Ftr. Sq., AAB, Richmond, Va. . . . Pvt. WOODROW MACPHERSON of Jersey City, N. J., at Camp Wheeler, Ga., '42: write Cpl. Leonard Kaplonski, Serv. Co., 254th Inf., Camp Van Dorn, Miss. . . . Sgt. NELSON MALONE, once at Fort Belvoir, Va., & Camp Claiborne, La.: write Pfc. William O. Craig, Hq. Co., OCR, Fort Belvoir, Va. . . . WARREN (PEPPER) MARTIN Slc, Australia: write Paul Young RM3c, Lion 4, Div. X, USNABD, San Bruno, Calif. . . . Lt. CHARLES A. MELTON, last in 458th Bomb. Gp.: write S/Sgt. Louis R. Price, 1518 North 10th, Boise, Idaho. . . . Lt. J. D. METTAS, once at the Air Base, Portland, Oreg.: write Pfc. H. Warren Willhoite, Avn. Trainee Det., Sq. A, BAAF, Bainbridge, Ga. . . . ROGER CHARBOR MNEAU, once at Tech. Sch. of Commerce, Montreal, Canada: write Sgt. Philip J. Schacca, Co. D, 424 Inf., Fort Jackson, S. C. . . . Sgt. LUCIEN MORNEAU, once in 4th Bn., MRTC, Camp Pickett, Va.: write Pvt. E. A. Shlivek, DMD, Sta. Hosp., Fort Benning, Ga. . . . Pvt. RALPH MUETSCHLER, once in Texas: write Cpl. Gerald Edgar, Hq. Btry., 547th AAA Bn., Sta. 1, Muroc, Calif. . . . Cpl. MIKE MURRAY, USMC, of Gary, Ind., & San Diego, Calif.: write Sgt. George Murray, Hq. Btry., HDLA, Fort MacArthur, Calif.

SHOULDER PATCH EXCHANGE

A mimeographed list of shoulder-patch collectors' names will be sent on request. Write to Shoulder Patch Exchange, c/o YANK, 205 East 42d Street, New York 17, N. Y.



New Georgia Sketches

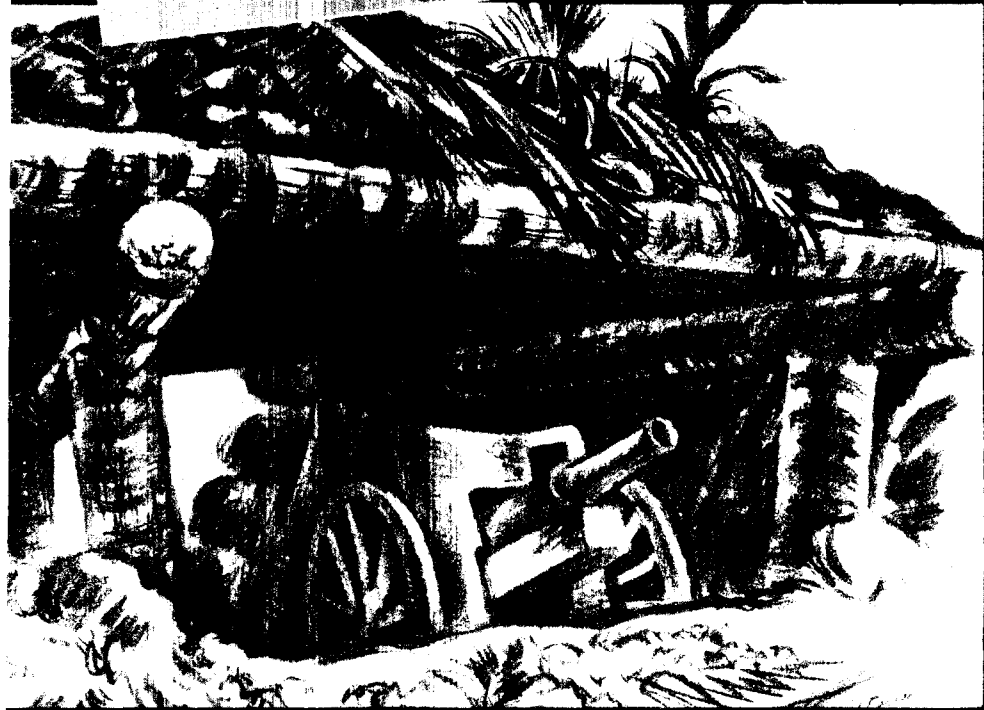
S/Sgt. Keith Crown of Gary, Ind., made these sketches in New Georgia where his Infantry outfit fought in the Munda airfield battle. Now a noncom in regimental intelligence, Sgt. Crown was an instructor of fine arts at Luther College, Iowa, as a civilian.

Observation tower at Kakengolo Hill on edge of Munda's airstrip.

Billy, one of the native guides.



Here is Sgt. Crown's impression of a GI fishing from a beached Higgins boat with a canopy on its top.



Note how the Japs protected this 75-mm fieldpiece from our bombing attacks.

The Japs used this 77-mm anti-aircraft gun as a Field Artillery weapon in Munda.