

# Trapped in an Upset Tank, 4 GIs Sweat It Out 56 Hrs.

## Cramped Quartet Plays Possum in Hideaway After Spill Until Rescue by U.S. Doughboys Near Brest

By Morrow Davis  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer.

WITH U.S. TROOPS OUTSIDE BREST, Aug. 31 (delayed).

Trapped in a tank which had overturned on its side into a 12-foot hole, four Americans sweated out 56 hours of cramped confinement with Jerries atop and all around

hem like ants, worrying a locust suddenly sweated out call after call for their surrender.

They sweated out the 56-hour eternity helplessly ignorant of the general situation outside and their chances of being freed. But they're back in their unit with nothing more than bruises and the memory of a bad experience.

### Feared Nazi Mines

I kept thinking they would come the tank," said T/4 Bruno Norkus, of Chicago, driver in the tank which included 1/Lt. Gregory Wilnitz of Elgin, Ill., platoon leader; Pvt. John Mana, assistant driver and tank gunner, from the 2nd, and Pvt. Dick

Our friend Mana, it seems, is a snorer.

"We were up most of the god-damn night keeping Mana awake," said Norkus smiling.

"One thing good, Muller's feet kicking me kept me awake so I could keep Mana awake."

### One D-Ration

The boys ate but one D-ration apiece all that time. They drank no water, mainly because they'd have to relieve themselves too often. As it was, they each had to use a little tin can once. This Norkus would empty through his door at night.

"Once," he said, "I rattled the steering lever doing it and the god-damn Germans were up on the tank again."

Liberation came late Sunday afternoon. The Jerries had been firing continuously over the tank. Half an hour after they ceased two doughboys, part of the original assault force, came upon it. The occupants heard them try the door.

"When they started that," said Norkus. "I thought: 'Goddamn, they're gonna let us have it now.'"

"We listened hard. They fiddled around about ten minutes and then we heard a voice say: 'Let's take this gun off.'"

"Sounded like our guys, so we yelled: 'Are you GIs?'"

"Yeah, we're GIs," they answered. And, boy! Did we tumble outa that tank!"

The Germans had played cat-and-mouse. The tankers won by playing possum.

### HOME FRONT ADVERTISING

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Sept. 10.—A want ad in the Kansas City Star apparently was after the female trade when it advertised, "Nice room; excellent meals; transportation; men."

### Tells of Overturning

He described the spill. "We tumbled out at one o'clock and at 1:10 we were in the hole. The crew went lopsy-turvy. I got off the ignition. Gas was leaking and the flames were pretty bad. Lt. Wilnitz radioed back to the platoon sergeant that the tank was out of action and for him to take over. Then he shut off the radio. He shut everything off."

The Germans' first move was to get up automatic pistols on each side of the tank, and from these positions they poured fire into the trapped doughboys. This went on the rest of the day. Strangely enough they didn't bother the trapped crew until after midnight.

"They let us alone till about 1 a.m.," said Norkus. "Then they called 'Hallo, Hallo, Kamerad. Are you ready to surrender? The war is over for you!'"

"We kept quiet and after a while they'd go away. We could hear them jabbering. They only bothered us at night and when our artillery was quiet. But every so often they'd pound and knock and ask us to give up and come out."

### Calm, and No Noise

Meanwhile, the crew was sweating out their little living problem. Immediately after the fall Wilnitz motioned the others to keep cool, to stay quiet and get as comfortable as possible. They were calm, they were quiet.

Ever been in a light tank, pal? This one, on its side, with its four occupants packed as sardines can look like a chocolate. Wilnitz and Muller were leaning snugglers, 185 pounds; Norkus is five-eight, 180; Mana weighed 160. Wilnitz had to sit on the edge of a turned seat, his feet in the gunner's stomach. The other was on his back in the driver's compartment.

Norkus was in a sitting position. Mana sat on a hand fire extinguisher, his legs over the transfer unit.

Complicated? Right! And dark! It was dark as ten feet up a chimney most of the time. There was another complication.

# Dinah 'Gives Out' With a Pen



Dinah Shore trades an autograph for some chow with a KP while an amazed mess sergeant looks on.

# Yanks' Bridge Across Seine Is Named for Dinah Shore

By Jules B. Grad

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer.

Dinah Shore, radio songstress who has become the Elsie Janis of World War II, was honored as the new "Sweetheart of the AEF" last week when 70,000 combat troops named the longest American-built bridge in France in her honor.

When an Engineer Combat Group heard she was over here, they told 1/Lt. Woody Shurtleff, of Lincoln, Neb.: "Give us Dinah and we'll build a bridge from France to Brooklyn." They never reached the States, but they spanned the Seine with 510 feet of steel, then tacked up a sign proclaiming: "The Dinah Shore Bridge—Longest and Strongest."

The night before the scheduled christening, 20 German bombers almost beat her to it. They dived low, dropped bunches of high explosives, but missed the bridge. The next day, ceremonies went according to schedule.

Seconds after the new Bolt-Up Girl cut a cord at the bridge's entrance while Lt. Col. Charles Grennan, of Rhode Island, the engineer's CO, watched, 2,000 GIs presented

Dinah with a huge bouquet of flowers. For the next 40 minutes they listened to their own "Hit Parade" while German machine pistols furnished a completely unplanned accompaniment.

Miss Shore, not content to wait for stages, has gone up to the front with combat troops. Several times she sang within 2,000 yards of the enemy.

She stumped the Army brass when she arrived in France last month. They'd planned to take the diminutive singer on a tour of service group installations far behind the front lines, but Dinah swiftly squelched the offer.

"Don't combat troops pay the highest price for admission?" she asked.

They told her the front-line infantrymen wouldn't have time to listen. Miss Shore was firm.

"Give me ten combat troops to start with and I'll be satisfied," she answered.

In the last few weeks she played to even fewer at the beginning but by the time she'd reached the final notes of such heart-twisters as "I'll Be Seeing You," a couple of thousand front-liners had surrounded her.

And that's where Dinah goes into her act most of the time. Her stage is any narrow, dusty road. One afternoon, she arrived in the tiny village of Barbizon long before the MPs had had a chance to tack up "Off Limits To All Troops" signs. Spotting a couple of GIs walking aimlessly down the main street, she stood up on the rear seat of a command car, sang "You'll Never Know" and before she knew it, 400 doughboys had run up.

The music charmed a lonesome German sniper a few hundred yards away. He waved a white flag, surrendered and then standing alongside some GIs applauded the new AEF songstress—without understanding a word she sang.

## First New Cars Will Follow Pre-War Style

CHICAGO, Sept. 10.—American post-war automobiles will be streamlined, but the first cars to come off the assembly lines will be revamped 1942 models, Alfred P. Sloan, chairman of General Motors' board, declared.

Sloan said reconversion of the company's plants to peacetime production would require about four months, with two more months to gain any capacity.

Prices will be no lower, and probably somewhat higher, than pre-war, Sloan said.

### NO POLITICS IN PEACE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—Support from the Democratic and Republican members of the House of Representatives foreign affairs committee was reported today for a joint resolution offered to Congress to keep politics out of the peace planning. It specified that all legislation regarding the establishment and maintenance of peace shall be the joint responsibility of majority and minority parties.

# August Raids By 9th AF Hit Enemy Hard

## Over 24,000 Sorties Are Flown; 339 German Planes Destroyed

NINTH AIR FORCE HQ, France, Sept. 10.—Non-stop raids from the air in support of the American break-through at St. Lo boosted the number of sorties flown in August by the Ninth and 19th Tactical Air Commands to more than 24,000.

The Ninth and 19th, respectively providing close cover for the First and Third U.S. Armies, destroyed 339 enemy aircraft—231 in the air and 108 on the ground—as they turned Nazi transport into useless wrecks.

Prey of the bombs and guns of the Ninth Air Force fighter-bombers were more than 8,330 motor transport units, 468 tanks, 2,010 railroad cars, 204 locomotives, 792 horse-drawn vehicles, 221 boats and barges, 32 fuel, ammunition and supply dumps, 115 bridges and 116 buildings.

In addition, railroad tracks were cut in 263 places and 449 guns were silenced. Flak, aerial combat and all other causes accounted for the loss of 219 U.S. planes.

The famous Pioneer Mustang Group, commanded by Col. George R. Bickett, of Nutley, N.J., shot down 44 enemy for the loss of six P51s in spectacular dog fights against heavy odds in the vicinity of Rheims, Grandvilliers, Amiens and Bernay. The impressive victories were scored shortly before it was announced that the group had received a Presidential Unit Citation. The group is in the 19th TAC, which has been operating since April under Brig. Gen. O. P. Weyland.

In another large-scale engagement, the P38 group of Lt. Col. Clinton C. Wasem, of Dover, Ohio, outnumbered five to one near Soissons, shot down nine Luftwaffe craft. Near Rouen, the Lightnings took a toll of 12 more planes despite more than two-to-one odds. Eleven P38s were lost in both engagements.

The Lightning group headed by Lt. Col. Charles M. Young, of Newburgh, N.Y., destroyed 77 Germans in two encounters. Seven enemy were shot down without loss near Laon and 20 were shot down for the loss of one P38 at Archery.

## 4 of 8th Infantry Commissioned As Battle Shavetails

Four enlisted men and one warrant officer, representing four Eighth Infantry Division units, have been given battlefield appointments as second lieutenants.

They are: T/Sgt. Joseph J. of Millbury, Mass.; S/Sgt. Benjamin F. Troy, of Berlin, N.Y.; S/Sgt. Marcus L. Dyke of Atlanta, Ga.; S/Sgt. Peter Tarazevits, of Southampton, N.Y., and W/O David J. Cohen, of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Maj. Gen. Donald A. Stroh, divisional commander, awarded the commissions in a ceremony at which he said the men had won their bars in "the hardest game in the hardest way."

## Jet Propulsion Units Cut Aircraft's Take-Off Run

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—The Navy disclosed today that jet propulsion devices using a rocket-like thrust of massive power have been perfected for use by carrier-based planes and flying boats. The craft are shot into the air with a minimum take-off run.

Use of the device, the Navy said, would reduce a plane's take-off run from 33 to 60 per cent or greatly increase a plane's load.

Jet units, known as "jetos," can be dismounted and can be quickly attached under a plane's wings. After hurling a plane into the air they may be dropped to prevent interference with speed and maneuverability.

# Ike 'Shoots' German Tank



A disabled tank, abandoned by the fleeing Germans, is photographed by Gen. Eisenbower. The Supreme Allied Commander registers glee as he records with his miniature camera a token of the enemy rout.