

PUP TENT EDITION

CHAINS AND PAINS

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The Rooster belonged to the Sgts girl friend. He tried to take it from the greedy hands of two starving privates who already had a pot ready. "But we're hungry" the privates argued. "She's my girl and that's my rooster" he insisted, and took it into the loving platoon leader. "Well" says the platoon leader faced with a Solomon duty--"Let me see..." He owed it to his privates not to let them starve. He owed it to his Sgt to save sweet romance. He talked the privates out of their last chance for a full belly. A private hasn't got a chance.

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The fraulins say the Russians are nicht good. "Ya, the Rusky's are nicht good," Too many GIs agree just to please their girls and make the going easier. In Thuringia and other provinces where the Russians follow the Americans as Occupation troops, these same women will repeat to the Russians, "The Americanos say you are not good."

The women can be had easy enough without stirring up the Russians. Imagine a GIs thoughts if a German fraulien said. "The Russians say you are not good."

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HAITCH AND HESS.

"Bismarck" the Medics mascot, and Postroznik's most decent female companion, came down to tent city too. "She made a mistake and went in the next tent but saw she was in the wrong one right away", said Henry, if pleased at her sense and half annoyed that she had made a mistake. "Even a man has enough trouble finding his own tent," said Rice.

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"And they called Bavaria a fine place for summer tourists," said Hyde shivering. What did they bring with them? Fur coats and long underwear?

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"Send him to the burgomeister" said Petrillo as a bandaged Kraut unburdened his troubles. It's an injustice when a Pole who used to work for you as slave labor, gets drunk and looks you up and gives you a beating. Something ought to be done about it.

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One GI offered fifty dollars for a down quilt but was refused by the Chainster snuggling happily in it's warmth. Electric light bulbs and gasoline stoves could have brought equally high prices--and with food so low and no cellars or gardens to raid, a K ration was worth it's weight in paper marks. But he thathad, held on because body comforts were everyones only thoughts when living in tents.

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Americans thought they were the only circus-goers. But a European circus showed them other people had the same soft spot for animals, trapezes, juggling and clowning.

The wild horseplay of the G.I. is a trademark of the American Army. As amateur clowns the G.I.'s had fun enjoying the perfection of the professional circus fools. And they lost their hearts to the fake G.I. donkey rider. He was a European trick-rider but he was an honorary G.I. that night.

RAISING CAIN IN ABLE COMPANY

Schofield missed his cigarettes. The only people he had checked since he had last smoked were the four young men already way down the road. He hailed them, with a leveled rifle, and brought them back.

"Were you messing around my raincoat over there?", he asked.

"Nein" they all denied it.

He began to search them - and found his cigarettes and a P38 too. "Going to shoot a dog", the German youth explained. The pistol belonged to the next young Kraut, he admitted. All four knew they had it.

What is proper justice for these possible "Dog Killers"? MG Gothe had them in jail awaiting trial before Division pulled out of Thuringa - and it looked like sentences for all.

But there is a GI named Schofield who thought he had a P38 at last - and now it is "evidence" somewhere. The only satisfaction he can have is that it will shoot no more "dogs".

Spray, who was feeling soft hearted said, "The Burgermeister's life is hard. People get out of jail then we tell him, "Get them back or we'll lock you up."

When Socash heard of fish dynamiting he shook his head sadly. "Not for a game fish like a trout. Why, when we would take an undersized trout back in the States, we used to wet our hands so we wouldn't hurt him when we put him back. He'd die if you hurt his skin." To Socash, a German trout is a game fish - not a damn Heinie fish.

"I spent over 200 dollars at Nice and I'd have spent more if I could have gotten it. "Do you know what? Because I had no more money, the last day I was there, I went on a sight-seeing trip." And an expression of complete disgust came over Burke's face at the thought of that new law for him.

For three weeks, the coming and going of Montesi's pet ghost has interested the men of Macknowski's squad. Burhop was almost shot one night when Montesi mistook him for a Ghost when Burhop was only picking cherries in the moonlight outside his window. Montesi admitted the Ghosts were getting the best of him and locked his door nightly. But just before leaving Bischleben, he claimed he wasn't scared anymore - "when somebody was with me. At that rate in another month Montesi would have had the Ghost house broken and had dog tags made for it.

SEE HISTORIC GERMANY!

"We ain't tourists", said the Chainster when it was argued that tourists spent thousands of dollars to see historic places such as they could now see on company tours. "I went on a tour of Erfurt once and the German guide seemed to be selling Germany to us. Someone could have told him that all this hero worship of Germany's past played right into Hitler's hands and helped get the damn war started. "To hell with Historical Germany".

AFTER I GET HOME!

Sometimes me and the wife will get into an argument. Then I'll remember those days in Germany and she can do anything she wants. She can burn the house down and it'll be all right with me.

It illustrates GI ingenuity. He found some silk stockings. He gave one single stocking to his new DP girl and told her she could have the other one when she came back to him again. She came back.

THE BEE STINGER

The trucks stopped before a house neatly burned out. "I guess they burnt it for the insurance", said Zambito dryly.

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If you were a girl you would want to know Vanni but the chances are you wouldn't see him in a crowd because he's not big and he's very, very, very shy. His buddies went to his rescue when they saw him eyeing the orange haired young girl coming toward them.

Ganging up, they pushed Vanni out to meet her. "Come on, see, she likes you!" "Look how he's chasing her" they yelled as they all pushed him.

The orange haired girl couldn't keep from tittering as she tried not to notice. "See, Vanni, she likes you", the men cried but Vanni only blushed.

SOMEDAY IT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU!

The men who were going home were in high spirits. Dunkly bragged cockily "It Schpolsky can come back now, I've left. "Simmons hopped someone would take care of Dora and Lena, the sisters who wouldn't speak to each other because he "liked " them both. "Lena's a ball of fire" he added confidentially--"but Dora knew where to get hold of Schnapps," he winked as he passed a bottle around.

Line up with your bags, commanded the R.C. Sgt. on their arrival and the process every man waits for had begun.

"We're SUCKERS IF WE DO"

"Europe must be fed and rebuilt" who will do it? Asked the orientation leader. "You suckers will," one man tells the class. "I mean help rehabilitate and reconstruct Europe but not Germany says the leader, "We must help them" "We're suckers if we do" comes another answer. "Look" says the leader, "It means trade for us and jobs and more money for us if we fix it so they can buy from the U.S. and they can't buy from us unless they're back on their feet again. It won't cost much, for a whole year it will be the cost of one day of war. "O K thats a pretty good bargain", the men agree--provided you're sure it's not just helping them but will pay off for us in jobs and bigger money." "It says so here in the army pamphlet", answered the leader. "Dismissed", finished after one hour of this. No one thought men were brothers showed a responsibility to each other. More money was their idea. Christian ideals took a beating that day.

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Don't dig there the excited Germans told Lewis and Miller. When that only encouraged them to dig more, the Jerries decided they might as well spill the beans to the Americanish Commandent. Guns, knives and documents were buried there. Lewis and Miller dug up enough stuff to encourage the officers to start a Heinie digging party with 30 PW's manning the shovels.

From the headquarters came a scientific Intelligence Officer to Neudietendorf. The papers were part of the milk, fat and egg capacity records of all Germany which they had been hunting for.

Lewis and Miller were heroes. If they hadn't misbehaved and been ordered to dig holes for punishment the whereabouts of the documents might have baffled the Allies for years.

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The two drunken GI's telling how mad they were at the Sgt who stopped them from knocking out windows: "It was all right" they claimed. "The window just wouldn't break, so we would bring it back and try knocking it out again".

Someone always takes the joy out of a drunken man's life.

A HORSE ON CHARLIE

What excitement! What bravery! Klackivitz and C.M. Brown, though too modest to ride the bucking mule at the circus, are proving they have the skill and courage necessary and are riding a cow near the guardpost. "And I stayed on better than Brown did", the prize animal trainer of C Co said modestly, but carefully being sure his greater skill was recognized.

When men are comfortable, they tease Germans out of mischief and desire for fun. Like Potter, Johnson and Fatterson did. Get out your watch, stay on the outskirts of Muhlberg. Keep your motor running. Turn the corner and rush into town just as the hands turn to 9:30 curfew. "We got two drunks with a bottle and two other people nearby. We were on the ball, nobody got away, in fact, we were perfect", Potter explained. How the Krauts swore they were good and were about to go into their house. But a curfew is a curfew and orders are orders. The curfew breakers spent a night in the smelly onion cellar, and the Chainsters impressed the importance of strict obedience on the Krauts - and pleasantly pestered a few more Germans.

When Napeto pulled out papa Dean's chair and Dean sat on the floor everyone swore Dean was drunk. Those were the good old days when Chainsters not only had houses and beds, but beer and chairs.

"The suns up! Now it's down! Toler watched it hopefully. Will the parade be called off? If only the damned rain would come and the sun go down - plenty of rain so there couldn't possibly be a parade. Costello was more resigned. "Might as well get it over with", he said, breaking in on his afternoon nap. That was when Chain was in houses. But in the field, which is worse, parades, or rain? The GI's bivouaced outside of Bayreuth looked up at the sky and begged, "Rain, Damn it, let it rain!", when a parade was scheduled. The men hated rain but hated parades more.

Division sent down for stories of what men thought was the greatest difference between the days before VE day and the time since. "Too much GI rot now" boiled down all the views Mc Creery collected in "C" company. After the men went into the field, the question was asked again, this time answers came back thick and fast. "Before the war ended, we thought we would beat Germany. Look at us in tents and rain and cold,. Now we know that Germany beat us.

"Me and the guard had to talk Grassi into chasing him", said Borten. "Grassi didn't want to leave his patrol route and take off after the German who stole a GI guards bicycle when the guard wasn't looking", Borten continued. "We are on patrol and not supposed to go off our route", Grassi defended himself. "Grassi, you'd let me steal your best girl if it was off your patrol route". "That's different", said Grassi, who was born in Italy along with that other great lover, Rudolf Valentino.

THE AMERICAN WAY

If you're on guard and so many kinds of cockeyed official American passes make you wonder if MG is worth a damn - explain it to the confused Germans: "It is our system, by issuing passes that contradict each other, we can accept the easy ones when the Germans in the kreis are good, and when they are misbehaving all we need to do is honor the hard passes only." Trenary and Harper tried it. The Germans smiled happily. "Ja, Ja, verstehe".