

# Salute to a Switchblade

## Tom T. Hall

Me and Yates an army buddy o'mine  
Were doin' three years in Germany at the time

We came upon these Frauleins in the bar  
Yates said, "Darf isch zee be-gleit-en?", they said "Ya"

And 'Darf isch zee be-gleit-en means?', 'Can we sit with you all?' Oh we must have drunk ten quarts of German beer

My conscience and my sinuses were clear  
I asked that Fraulein if she was a spy  
She said, "Nein but do bis ain bissel high"

A condition not uncommon to the American soldier Well, later on I went to be excused

When I returned I was a bit confused  
Yates and his Fraulein had hit the air  
Another guy was sittin' in my chair

A young soldier whom we shall get to know better I said, "Excuse me mister that's my seat

I'd like to have it back sir if you please  
That girl's a nurse and I've been awful sick"  
The man looked up at me and said, "Mox-nix"

Which means that he was not overly concerned with my health Next thing I knew he had a switchblade knife  
Oh Lord, I didn't know that Fraulein was his wife

I took off through that Gasthaus like a fool  
Behind me I heard the crashing stools

As the police would say, he was in hot pursuit Well, the waitress yelled there's MPs on the way  
That's one more reason I didn't want to stay

As I went out the window somethin' went switch  
And I giggled all the way home knowin' he missed

At the time it seemed like a laughing matter But next morning my coat was lyin' there on the bunk

And when I saw that coat it made me jump  
That man had cut my coat right down the back  
A little bit more and they'd been playin' me taps

And knowin' the sad nature of that song I would decline it Well, later on I heard that guy got stabbed  
They sent him home and didn't that make me glad

On love and marriage I want to say one thing  
Oh lady, if you're married wear that ring

And the army has a new policy if you can't move it, paint it  
If it has a switchblade knife, salute it

Not necessarily an incident one would want to write mother about  
Germany being full of good soldiers and good people

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