

Mingler, George T.

Bethlehem Soldier Slays Nazi Prison Guards—Had a Date!

Cpl. George T. Mingler, 23, was a prisoner of war 36 hours—and then he slit the throats of his three German captors, and made his escape at San Pedro, Italy. That's one of the incidents told by the Bethlehem Ranger with the U. S. Army Infantry, who is spending a three-day sick leave with his mother, Mrs. Mabel Varosmartis, 265 West Fairview Street.

The soldier, former crane operator with Bethlehem Steel Company, wears the Purple Heart ribbon for a wound which resulted in his hospitalization in Italy since Thanksgiving Day, and ribbons for action in the Mediterranean campaign, with stars for participation in three major campaigns: American Defense, and good conduct.

Five medals for expert marksmanship, a wound chevron, and two chevrons for service overseas further embellish the uniform. Corporal Mingler refused an honorable discharge. He will leave Bethlehem tonight to report to Ft. George T. Meade, Md. "But I was so glad to get home that I rolled down the gangplank when we landed!" he chuckled.

"One night we were waiting to attack, and the waiting was something terrific," he recalled during a visit to Selective Service Board No. 2 today. "So I said to my buddy, 'Let me have your harmonica a minute. I played some German songs, and soon, one—two—three—the Germans came out of hiding!'"

American soldiers were praised highly by the local soldier, who enlisted April, 1942. "They're extra swell. They go in fighting, and they know how to take it on the chin." A grim statement followed. "The Germans are good fighters."

Riding a camel in Africa was the only occurrence the soldier would mention about his stay on the continent. Killing three goats and making stew in helmets is a recollection that makes the food here so much tastier, the local hero said.



CPL. GEORGE T. MINGLER

"A language accomplishment," he asserted, "is learning to say 'Hiyah toots!'" in all the languages of the Allies. "A whistle is international," he informed a reporter.

And do you know why he made his escape from the Germans in San Pedro, Italy?

"I had a date, and I never yet kept a girl waiting!" he said.

Not dated 1945