

Donchess, Eugene

## **Local Soldier Plays Dead As Nazi Tanks Roll By**

THE 123RD GENERAL HOSPITAL, ENGLAND—Playing dead for two hours saved the life of Sergeant Eugene Donchess, 27, 716 East Fifth Street, Bethlehem, Pa., now recuperating at this United States Army general hospital in England, from a machine gun bullet wound of the foot.

As squad leader, the sergeant had just finished placing his men for the night when he saw six Nazi Tiger tanks bearing down. "I went to warn the command post," he said, "and as I came out, a machine gun bullet from one of the tanks hit me in the left foot. I tried to give myself first aid but everytime I moved one of the tanks shot at me. There was nothing else to do but play dead. After a couple of hours the tanks moved to another position, then I was able to get back to the command post., where the medics fixed me up."

"The patients' wounds are healing nicely and he will soon be able to return to duty," said Captain Richard G. Barker of Montclair, New Jersey, his ward officer.

The sergeant was formerly an army musician in the West Indies and in civil life, a member of several bands in Bethlehem. His father, Frank Donchess, lives at the Fifth Street address. The soldier graduated from Allentown High School.

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