

Tom T. Hall**"Salute To A Swithblade"**

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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
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 good people)

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