

# AAA Men Get Ahead of War

*KISSICK & HEMSTREET STILL WITH US*

Four men listed as missing in action turned up at their company after spending five days traveling from one uncaptured German town to another in a German staff sedan, fighting off one enemy patrol and narrowly missing being blown to bits by fire from a German tank.

Pvt. Loren D. Kissick, Tacoma, Washington, Cpl. Wilbert G. Kriger, Mannington, Va., Pfc. William H. Buzzard, Marlinton, W. Va., and Pvt. Bob L. Hemstreet of Milwaukee, Ore., of Battery A, 453rd AAA were left behind in the Hasserode Forest when the German truck in which they were riding broke down.

"It was a question of who was more upset, the Germans or us," said Kissick. "We knew from the towns that we had previously passed through that the Germans were trying to get away; so we decided that if we travelled during the day time we might be able to brazen the thing out."

In order to get moving, the men needed a vehicle, so they calmly walked to the nearest town and commandeered a German staff sedan from astonished civilians.

"We played hide and seek with the Wehrmacht for the next five days," related Hemstreet. "We drove through towns as though we were the advance party for a large number of advancing infantry. We figured that the Heinies would make themselves scarce during the day, but we were extremely careful at night because we didn't want to run into any large number of German soldiers trying to escape."

The closest shave the men ran into was the second night when they did run into just such a patrol which they fought off in a brisk fire fight. A couple of grenades served to disperse the enemy.

The afternoon of the third day they almost met with disaster when they rounded a corner and came face to face with a German tank. But the Nazi tanker was taken so by surprise by the sight of four GIs in a German command car that before he fired his first shell they had put several hundred yards between themselves and him. One shell exploded near enough to put a couple of shrapnel holes in the body of the car, but otherwise no harm was done.

Copied from the  
MAY 12<sup>TH</sup> 1945  
83<sup>RD</sup> DIV THUNDER BOLT