

Memphian Wrote This Yarn Because Nazi Bomb Was Dud

How the Germans have been trying a "homesickness barrage" on American soldiers in North Africa was told in a letter received by The Commercial Appeal yesterday from Pvt. Nicholas H. Davis, for 17 years a Memphis salesman prior to his entry into the Army last year.

"They have a special radio program, in English, for the Yanks in North Africa," Davis wrote. "They play a lot of records and it seems they try to pick out the songs they think will make us homesick. A woman announcer, who speaks splendid English, will start out by saying 'Hello, all you boys. Isn't it a beautiful evening? Wouldn't it be lovely if you were back home in the park with your best girl friend, eating a hamburger and drinking a Coca-Cola?'"

Here Until It's Over

"They seem to be trying everything possible to make us homesick, but our morale is good and we intend to stay here and fight until it is all over—and the quicker the better."

In recounting his experience Private Davis said he was one of the first American soldiers in Tunis and declared the French populace welcomed them enthusiastically. He told of visiting the old Roman ruins at Carthage with Bob Waggener, one of his buddies.

"I also was one of the first American soldiers to enter Bizerte, and when we got there the town was still pretty well filled up with Germans," he wrote. "They waited until we were in the city before they opened fire on us, their bullets coming from alleys and bombed buildings. We spent the night at a Germain airport that must have been evacuated in a hurry, as they left all sorts of supplies behind."

In Bizerte, he said, two Germans who spoke excellent English surrendered to him. They said they had been students in Berlin and were eager to get out of the war.

Saved By a Dod

Private Davis said his narrowest escape from death came while he was eating chow one evening near El Guitar when German planes opened up on his outfit with machine guns.

"I jumped into a foxhole that already was occupied by a captain, but I would not have left this hole even if he had been a general," the soldier wrote. "First one Stuka dive-bombed us, then 14 Junkers light bombers came over and dropped 500-pound bombs all around us. One of these 500-pound bombs landed about 25 feet from my foxhole, but thank goodness it was a dud and didn't go off. If it had, I wouldn't be writing this now."