

# NAZI OFFICER'S HOUSE OF CARDS ON RHINE FALLS

BY SEYMOUR KORMAN

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WITH THE U. S. 70TH INFANTRY DIVISION, Germany, April 6—

"Until two weeks ago I sincerely felt that Germany could still win the war," said the captain, taken prisoner from the enemy's once top fight of an infantry division. "But now I am equally convinced that the war will be over within 30 days. I don't know how or when the end will come, but Germany is beaten."

The captain, whose name cannot be used, is a slim, erect man, born to wealth, and with a good command of English. He had gone thru the routine processing and his captors were eager to hear more of his story, as it was evident he felt differently from the other wehrmacht officers, who have been scornful toward the Americans.

## Pulled Out of Russia

The captain had commanded an elite battalion with the 212th, which had participated in some notable German triumphs in France and Russia early in the war. It was pulled out of Russia last November to join in Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's Ardennes counter-offensive.

"Our west wall was impregnable," he said. "I am still convinced it was. I couldn't see how the Americans could break thru. And they wouldn't have done so if some of our units had been tenacious enough."

"Now, with American armor slashing and cutting, with your dive bombers wreaking sheer carnage upon our slow columns moving to the rear . . ." He didn't finish the sentence.

## Caught by Bombers in Valley

He told, then, how the 212th was forced to fall back continually, and how it and two other German divisions were caught by strafing Thunderbolts in a narrow valley, and how only 400 men from the three divisions got to the west bank of the Rhine. And not many of those made it over the river, he added.

Concerning the fighting in eastern Europe he said: "There are no rules on the Russian front. You either do or die."

"Russian infantry attacks in three massed skirmish waves. The first wave is completely armed. The second is only partly so. The third wave goes into action without any weapons, counting on finding them on the battle field."

"In Russia we usually knew where the front was and, even though encircled, we could fight our way out and back to our units. The American army moves too fast and the front is too fluid for that."

The captain said he was convinced Russian communism and American democracy will not be able to mix in the post-war world.