

## Salute To A Switchblade

Tom T. Hall

Me and Yates an army buddy o'mine were doin' three years in Ger  
many 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 abou  
t  
Germany being full of good soldiers good people)