

"The Road is our Shepherd"

The title of this ~~paragraph~~ ^{story} has nothing to do with the plot or climax, but to the men of the Red. Ph. it is locked in their hearts and the key has been thrown away.

It is Memorial Day and we have all gathered to pay tribute to all the men that we had lost in battle. As we looked around us our minds wandered back to the night we made the patrol to Bitchosen. The ground was covered with snow and it was very cold but our mission had to be accomplished. Four of us volunteered to go. There was Sgt. Elisha Gibson,

1/5 Austin Johnson, PFC. Thomas Phillips-2-
and myself, at that time a PFC
now Sgt. Thomas Ingram.)

After we were oriented we
started down the hill to Bitchofen
Every bit of the way was open
terrain. we had to advance in
leaps and bounds and be very
cautious because we were in enemy
territory. we must have been
seen or heard because the Krauts
shot several flares above our
heads and as the flares lit up
we layed very quiet because usu-
ally when the Krauts shot up flares
they shot a burst of deadly mac-
hine gun fire, and which if they
had we had no cover and would
have been wiped out. our mission
was accomplished, but only because
"The Lord is our Shepherd"

~~but for that we were we made~~

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Then our minds wandered back to
the night we made the raid on
Bitchofer. There was thirty-two
of us. And in each man's heart
he felt that some of us ~~was~~ ^{were}
not coming back. Again we start-
ed the long journey down the
hill to Bitchofer - this time the
Krauts did not ~~shoot~~ ^{shoot} flares but
on each man's lip there was a silent
prayer that they didn't. As we
advanced to one of the houses in
the town. Sgt. Samuel Booker heard
the clicking of a Kraut gun and he
hollered halt but received no reply.
Sgt. Booker tried to fire his gun but
his gun failed to fire. BUT PER HEE
O. Greer's gun didn't fail to fire. He
killed one Kraut and wounded another.
By that time the Krauts broke
loose with all hell. There was quiet

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A lot of exchanging fire but suddenly
the tanks stopped firing and six of
them came toward us crying "Comrade"
Eight of their men were killed. One
of them had his head blown off
from a hand grenade thrown by
one of our pl. leaders, 1st Lt. Joseph
L. Keeby. There was a quick count of
our men all thirty-two of us were
there, - none wounded - none killed. And
as we walked back up the hill

I thought - "The Lord is our Shepher-
d"

And as the Chaplain was read-
ing off the names of the men
that were killed we all remembered
May the 1st when we were nearing
the Austrian Border. We received
orders from Cpt. Dorant of the 103rd
Inf. Div. Recon Troop that we were to
cross the Austrian Border and to
proceed on to Italy. Suddenly we
came to a halt and received orders
to send two of our armored cars

ON A LAST FORCE RUN, ACROSS THE
AUSTRIAN BORDER. AS OUR ARMORED
CARS CROSSED THE AUSTRIAN BORDER
THEY RAN UPON A KRAUT ANTI-TANK
GUNT CREW. S/SGT HEROY WILLIAMS
FIRED THREE ROUNDS FROM HIS 37 mm GUN
BUT WAS UNABLE TO KNOCK OUT THE
KRAUT GUN. BUT IN THE MEANTIME
1ST LT. JOSEPH H. KEELY WHO WAS IN
THE OTHER ARMORED CAR RAN UPON
A MINE. HIS ARMORED CAR WAS KNOCKED
OUT WHEN THE MINE EXPLODED. LT.
KEELY WAS WOUNDED IN THE RIGHT
HIP. HE RAN FROM HIS ARMORED
CAR TO THE ONE OF SGT. WILLIAMS
AND TRIED TO CALL FOR HELP OVER
HIS 608 SHORT WAVE SET. AS HE CLIMBED
TO THE TOP OF THE CAR HE
WAS SHOT IN THE HEAD BY A SNIPER.
SNIPER FIRE ALSO SHOT AND KILLED
S/SGT HEROY WILLIAMS, T/S ROBERT H. SMITH,
T/S AUSTIN JOHNSON, PFC. JAMES HARPER,
+ PFC SERGE WHITFIELD, PFC. THOMAS PHILLIPS
WAS SHOT IN THE LEG AND ARM. AND
PFC. CLIFTON MOODY WAS CAPTURED

then I began to wonder whether or not my comrades or myself would be next, but I seem to have forgotten that - The Lord is our Shepherd.

As the Chaplain finished reading of the names of the men killed ^{and} wounded in action, our thoughts again began to wander back to the day when the Rev. Pts. were leading a task force to Worgel Austria, to make contact with the 36th Int. Div. and the 21st Corp.

As the leading armored car was coming around a curve, they met three SS men on a motorcycle armed with Burp guns and pistols. Before the armored car crew could get their 82mm gun in action, the Krauts swung around behind the car and began to shoot at the crew, but by that time the following armored car came

AROUND THE CURVE AND BEGAN
TO SHOOT AT THE KRAUTS. IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE BATTLE SGT. SAMUEL
BOOKER WAS WOUNDED AND
WYLLON DAVIS WAS ALSO WOUNDED. BUT
AGAIN WE WON OUT BECAUSE THE
THREE KRAUTS WERE KILLED BY
S/SGT JOHN O WEIR, TS GEORGE OGL
ETREE, AND PFC JOHN STRAYHORNE.

AS THE MEMORIAL SERVICE ENDED
WE ALL STOOD AND SANG GOD
BLESS AMERICA, YES EVEN IN
AUSTRIA WE REALIZED THAT "THE
LORD IS OUR SHEPHERD"

Sgt. Thomas Ingram

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