

Pistols Down Jerry Plane

While riding a $\frac{1}{4}$ ton truck on road patrol, ~~the men of the~~ 78th Armored F. A. Bn. knocked down a German observation plane with a cone of fire from their 45 cal. pistols. The low-flying plane was at first mistaken for an Allied craft, but S/Sgt Ivan E. Polcen, T/5 John K. Raugstead and S/Sgt Victor F. Hitz saw an amber light under its left wing and realized our observation planes do not have this type light.

As soon as they opened fire the plane started down, landing behind a hill, out of sight. Proceeding across country they located the craft and the pilot and opened fire on him when he took cover. He promptly came out, hands above his head.

The pilot claimed to be a German infantryman. After a few days of front-line duty, he climbed in a poorly guarded plane and took off in the direction of his home which was only a short distance from where he was captured. Asked how he managed to fly over our track without being shot down, he said he flew very low and dipped his wings when over the guns and they held their fire.