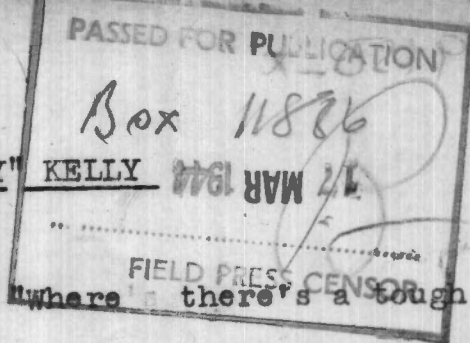


BACKGROUND ON "ONE-MAN ARMY" KELLY



WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, ITALY - "where there's a tough

battle there is Kelly" is a proven fact of the combat record of lithe, amiable Technical Sergeant Charles E. Kelly, holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor. This 36th "Texas" Division infantry platoon sergeant has gone thru the Hell of Salerno beachhead, San Pietro hill fighting, attempted Rapido River crossings and Cassino Abbey hill combat.

Yet the nervy Irishman has gone through these operations with injuries no more serious than a scar on the nose caused by a stray piece of shell fragment which clipped off a patch of skin, and several tiny "freckle" scars on his hands which were sprayed by minute shell fragments. Buddy 36th Division doughboys who slept in the same foxhole with him were killed by hostile artillery somehow always when Sergeant Kelly was away -- and closer, while on patrols into enemy territory. During some 100 days of active combat every action of the Pittsburgh soldier put him in the right place at the right time.

Even though his has been the lion's share of military endeavor, Sergeant Kelly's family has seven sons in the Armed Forces. The 23-year-old doughfoot is the only one serving in Italy. One is stationed in England, one in the South Pacific, one in the Merchant Marines "somewhere" and the others in the States. His mother, Mrs. Irene Kelly, resides at 532 Shawano Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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Kelly, a typical American boy if ever there was one, is the kind of a son mothers back home speak of proudly as having in Uncle Sam's forces. All his 23 years of life, Kelly has been a devoted son to his widowed mother. Mrs. Kelly, a hard working Irishwoman, has been partially deaf and almost blind for years, and she has found it necessary to lean hard on her boy, Charlie, who has always come through for her as he has for his buddies of the 36th Division.

The early life of Kelly is devoid of the usual avocations of a young man in his teens. He never had time to play football, basket-ball, or to take part in the other sports his friends did. As soon as the classes terminated while he was attending grammar school at the East Park Grade School, Pittsburgh, Kelly rushed to the Pittsburgh bottling works to earn some money to help his mother.

During these lean years in the Kelly Household, Charlie found it difficult to continue his school life and hold down a job at the bottling works. He was making only \$18.00 a week, \$15.00 of which he turned over to his mother, and he had high hopes of increasing his meager earnings for the comfort of his blind mother. For this reason he found it necessary to suspend his studies at Pittsburgh's North Side Lattimer High School.

While he was still working for the bottling concern, the Pearl Harbor attack took place and Kelly

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volunteered his services. He joined the 36th "Texas" Division shortly before the unit came overseas a year ago.

The action-packed military career of Sergeant Kelly, who enlisted in the Army on May 26, 1942, began with the historic invasion of Italy by the Fifth Army below Salerno

Early in September, Kelly landed as Private First Class B(rowning) A(utomatic) R(ifle)man with the 36th Division reserve infantry regiment near Paestum, Italy.

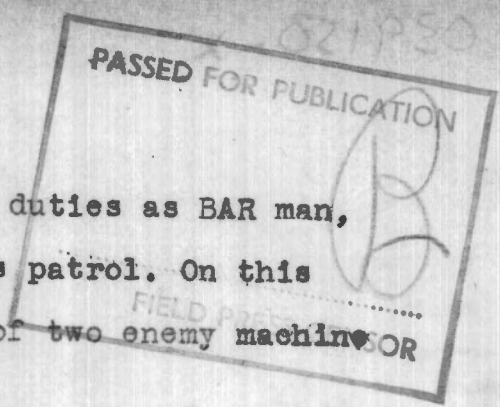
During the initial stages of establishing the Salerno beachhead, Kelly's battalion was in position above the mountain city of Altavilla and was gradually being encircled by the stubborn Boche who had orders to retake the city "at all costs." By early morning of "Black Monday," September 13, Kelly had already performed dangerous reconnaissance and combat missions and had participated as a volunteer in a patrol which located and destroyed enemy machine gun emplacements endangering his company.

By mid-morning he had volunteered for a second patrol which was to locate a supporting 36th Division battalion on a neighboring hill. Under sniper fire, mortar and artillery fire he completed the reconnaissance and reported that the friendly troops were not on the hill and that the Germans were occupying the hill in organized positions. Later events proved this information to be correct.

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One-Man Army Kelly # 4

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Before he could return to his duties as BAR man, he had volunteered for a third dangerous patrol. On this mission he assisted in the destruction of two enemy machine gun nests.

That night Kelly's Company "L" was withdrawing through Altavilla. During fierce hand-to-hand fighting as he passed the outskirts of the city, he expended all of his BAR ammunition. The ammunition dump was located near a storehouse on the extreme flank of the position, where German action was particularly determined and strong.

Kelly crawled his way to the storehouse through enemy positions and heavy fire. Resupplied with ammunition, he took up a protective position in the rear of the storehouse where he stood guard all night.

On the Morning of September 14, he was directed to take a position at an open window inside the house. Using field glasses he located enemy positions and delivered accurate and continued fire from his BAR on them. He handed the Germans a deadly fire until he had burned out four BAR's and used all the storehouse's BAR ammunition. During this action one machine gunner was killed at Kelly's window position and several other members of the detachment had been wounded.

Only supply of ammunition left in the room was that of 60 mm mortar shells. When the Germans were on the street directly below his window, Kelly pulled the safety pins from these and threw them down on the Krauts as

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hand grenades. One shell killed five Germans.

Meanwhile the Germans were edging up on the house and the detachment decided to evacuate their position. Despite his Sergeant's injunctions, Kelly volunteered to hold the position to cover the withdrawal. As they moved out, his doughboy buddies saw Kelly deliberately loading and firing a bazooka gun from the window.

When he had fired the last three remaining bazooka shells, he slipped out of the storehouse and down the hill until he came upon an abandoned 37 mm antitank gun. This weapon he also fired on German personnel advancing through the streets of Altavilla. Subsequently, he was successful in evading the surrounding enemy force and rejoining his company.

During this heroic Altavilla action he had killed an estimated number of at least 35 Germans. A few days later he was promoted to Corporal.

In the struggle for Mount Camino and Mount Maggiore, Kelly fought as a squad corporal and then section sergeant in battles of his infantry battalion for strongly contested heights around San Pietro. He went out on every combat patrol sent out by his battalion during this operation. During close-on and scouting-mission combat he killed five more Germans, bringing his total to 40. His promotion to Sergeant came during this period.

More recently Kelly fought in the Rapido River "Battle of Guts." He crossed the river three times as platoon sergeant but was forced to withdraw each time because

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of overwhelming enemy positions and personnel. He was one of the few non-commissioned officers in his company to come back unscathed after the deadly river combat and for a while served as Acting First Sergeant of his company. Kelly was in position with his company off the banks of the Rapido River first and then near the heights of Monte Cassino and Monte Cairo.

Of medium build and modest nature, the spectacular is not in the line of Sergeant Kelly. His eyes are a good Irish blue and anything but warlike. Although he does not smoke, Kelly does like an occasional chew of tobacco. He says he has no particular girl friend since he is devoting most of his attention to his "number-one girl friend" his mother.

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