

## **DRASS-TIC MEASURES**

**By A. Edward Pierce, A/56**



**The time is either late May but more likely early June 1945. The 56<sup>th</sup> has departed Dillingen for the Bopfingen/Schlossburg area and has taken up residence in an unoccupied grade school. Only remnants of the 56<sup>th</sup>**

**remain because many have moved on to other units for ultimate redeployment to the Pacific Theater and to eventually battle the Japanese.**



**Captain Francis "Fritz" Drass who was Able Company's Commander when we were in training, sailed from the United States for Europe, and engaged in the various E.T.O. battles remained with us. He supplied his charges with some most sage**

**advice relative to the no fraternization issues and he deserves everyone's praise for having been so forthright. Captain Drass was an inspirational leader who was wounded at least three times. Thanks**

**be to God that although his injuries were more than just scratches, none were**



*life threatening. He was able to rejoin the unit after each occurrence.*

*Now to the gist of the narrative that has waited so long to be unveiled. About a week or so after our settling in to our new surroundings, Captain Drass announced that he would be scheduling an inspection and that he wanted everyone spic and span with shoes shined. One must bear in mind that the combat boots that we were issued had the rough side of the leather on the outside and were not to be shined or polished. After learning of the scheduled inspection and the order to have shined shoes (little or no shoe polish was available), what began as minimal grumbling among the troops turned into outright rebellion. One man stated that he was refusing to comply with the shining edict. The next said he wouldn't either until it became unanimous that none would be in compliance.*

*Well, the inspection day and morning arrived. Captain Drass called those assembled to attention. He took one glaring look at everyone's footwear at which time his eyes visibly teared-up, and he said, "I have trained you well. You sure as hell stick together and support one another. God bless you. Dismissed!!!!"*

*He respected us and we certainly respected and revered him. He was an outstanding individual, a dedicated officer and a gentleman, and what is known in today's vernacular as a class act.*

*Captain, we salute you.*