Salute To A Switchblade-Tom T. Hall

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C
Me and Yates an army buddy of mine
     F                    G7             C
Were doing three years in Germany at the time

We came upon these Frauleins in the bar
          F                 G7                C
Yates said darf isch zee be-gleit-en they said ya
    G7                             C
And darf isch zee be-gleit-en means can we sit with you all


Oh we must have drunk ten quarts of German beer
   F                  G7           C
My conscience and my sinuses were clear

I asked that Fraulein if she was a spy
         F           G7             C
She said nein but do bis ain bissel high
     G7                        C
A condition not uncommon to the American soldier


Well later on I went to be excused
     F            G7           C
When I returned I was a bit confused

Yates and his Fraulein had hit the air
        F       G7             C
Another guy was sitting in my chair
  G7                           C
A young soldier whom we shall get to know better


I said excuse me Mister that's my seat
    F                G7              C
I'd like to have it back sir if you please

That girl's a nurse and I've been awful sick
    F                 G7           C
The man looked up at me and said mox-nix
      G7                          C
Which means that he wad not overly concerned with my health


Next thing I knew he had a switchblade knife
     F                   G7              C
Lord I didn't know that Fraulein was his wife

I took off through that Gasthaus like a fool
       F          G7           C
Behind me I heard the crashing stools
       G7               C
As the police would say he was in hot pursuit


Well the waitress yelled there's MPs on the way
       F                G7               C
That's one more reason I didn't want to stay

As I went out the window something went swish
      F                  G7                 C
And I giggled all the way home knowing he missed
   G7                          C
At the time it seemed like a laughing matter


But next morning my coat was lying there on the bunk
    F                G7              C
And when I saw that coat it made me jump

That man had cut my coat right down the back
  F                   G7                      C
A little bit more and they'd been playing me taps
    G7                               C
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And knowing the sad nature of that song I would decline it

Well later on I heard that guy got stabbed
F G7 C
They sent him home and didn't that make me glad

On love and marriage I want to say one thing
F G7 C
Oh lady if you're married wear that ring

G7 C
And the army has a new policy if you can't move it paint it
G7
If it has a switchblade knife salute it
C
Not necessarily an incident one would want to write Mother about
G7 C
Germany being full of good soldiers good people

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