

SLAPPER OF NAZIS GETS A NEW TERM

Private McGee Is Sentenced to Six Months by Army for AWOL, Drunkenness

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FORT DEVENS, Mass., July 10
—Pvt. Joseph V. McGee, who was released from a two-year sentence for slapping a German prisoner-of-war in France, was stripped of a hero's role today as a court-martial sentenced him to six months at hard labor.

The Army tribunal which deliberated for about ten minutes, also ordered the deduction of \$35 a month from his pay during incarceration. The conviction was on three counts: absent without leave, being drunk in uniform in a public place, and making a false statement in an affidavit.

The court-martial, which considered his third case of being AWOL in the less than six weeks he had been assigned to this post, developed that it was the thirteenth time he had been convicted by the military.

It also was disclosed that he had admitted in a sworn statement that he was not entitled to the combat awards he wore, including the Silver Star and the Purple Heart, that he had never been in combat and never had been wounded.

The 25-year-old private drew countrywide attention in April when Representative John McCormack, House Majority Leader, and veterans' organizations sought his release and reinstatement in the Army after his conviction on the Nazi-slapping charges. Under-Secretary Robert P. Patterson rescinded the sentence.

Charges at other military-court hearings included AWOL, drunkenness, fighting, disrespect to a superior officer and using a military half-track without permission.

Maj. Leon A. McCarthy, the post's judge advocate here, testified that, in a sworn statement, McGee said that he was a member of Company B, First Battalion, Eighteenth Infantry Regiment of the First Infantry Division on Oct. 1, 1944, before the Siegfried Line, that he and a sergeant had attempted to knock out a German pillbox with hand grenades. He said he was wounded during the action. Records show he had never been in the First Division. Later, McGee admitted he had lied, Major McCarthy said.

Maj. Charles A. Angelo, Army psychiatrist, said he rated McGee as the equal of a person 11 years and 6 months old by Army tests.

McGee testified he believed that some form of amnesia made him do the things that led to his military trials. He said he had gone to school until he was 16 years old. His latest arrest by military police was on June 30 in Worcester. The military police officers testified they had found him intoxicated without a pass or furlough papers and that he had resisted.