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Death in Disguise



One of the executed German commandos who were caught wearing G.I. uniforms during the Battle of the Bulge.

Several Sherman tanks crunched to a stop on a Belgian road. A soldier dressed in an American Tanker's uniform popped out of a turret. "Come here!" he shouted. Some GI's walked toward him. Suddenly the tanks opened up with machine guns.

That occurrence was repeated frequently last week. To kill unwary Americans, the Germans used many types of captured equipment. Some were in Wehrmacht uniforms. Some wore civilian clothes and posed as natives. Those dressed in United States uniforms spoke English well and were adept at slang. They carried genuine identification cards and dogtags which had belonged to captured or dead Americans. Many were dropped by parachute.

Under international law soldiers captured in enemy uniforms or civilian clothes are spies and can be executed legally as such (the use of captured equipment is legal). Supreme headquarters announced that three Germans caught wearing United States uniforms had been lined up and shot by a firing squad.

(image added)