

# Tampa Colonel Safe After Escape From German Camp

Lt. Col. T. Paine Kelly Jr., previously reported missing, then a prisoner of war in Germany, has now returned to safety, he cabled his wife, Mrs. Jean Baughman Kelly, 1603 Virginia St., and will see her soon.

Another Tampan, Lt. Col. Julian Lane, wrote his wife here that he saw Colonel Kelly April 5 in a cafe in a German town. He said the Colonel had escaped the night before from Oflag 13B German prison camp, and made the 70 miles to town in 24 hours. He also advised that the Colonel had lost 30 pounds and was weak but in good spirits. After a few weeks rest, he will be returned to the States.

Headquarters of the 106th Infantry Division also advised that the Silver Star "for gallantry in action in Germany on Dec. 16," had been awarded to Colonel Kelly.

He was commanding the 589th Field Artillery Battalion, a component of the 106th Division, when the Germans began their mighty counter-offensive in the Ardennes, the citation said.

"The 589th Battalion sustained the initial impact of the German thrust, but Colonel Kelly so effectively supervised the utilization of his howitzers and support-

ing weapons that vicious enemy tank and infantry assaults were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. This holding action by the 589th permitted other division units to take up more advantageous positions.

"Finally, when his own battalion was forced to displace to an alternate position, all but the foremost battery was able to withdraw. Under severe enemy artillery and small arms fire, Colonel Kelly was last seen voluntarily returning to his foremost battery, in an attempt to extricate the battery from its extremely precarious position, which was rapidly being encircled by outflanking and infiltrating enemy infantry."

A native Tampan, Coloney Kelly was associated with the law firm of McKay, Macfarlane, Jackson & Ferguson until he entered the service in November, 1940, with Tampa's 116th Field Artillery. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. Paine Kelly, live at 1603 Virginia St.

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## 1945-04-14 Col Kelly exploits

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