

# When the Germans Were on the Roof of the World

*by* Jerry Ratch

Flew a Messerschmitt.  
Drove a tank over people in Poland  
though not in Prague,  
and claimed he was never a guard  
at the death camps.

Knew nothing about it.  
Didn't hear the rumors,  
knew nothing, saw less.  
Was afraid to stop,  
or turn and run,  
or simply say No, Nein,  
Never, never, never.

Learned Zen  
while driving his tank  
over people in Poland  
and anyway it was over  
so fast, it went by  
like a blitz,

and he could go back home  
until the bombs began  
raining down over Dresden  
and he could no longer  
get anywhere in his tank.

Then took to drinking. That way

didn't have to think.

