"The Man Who Wouldn't Be Licked!"

Judge Theodore Rosen
1895–1940

When General Smedley Butler called Theodore Rosen "the man who wouldn't be licked," he was referring to his remarkable heroism in World War I—but the battlefront wasn't the scene of Teddy Rosen's first victory over heavy odds.

The war department awarded him the highest military honors given by the U.S.—the Distinguished Service Cross.

Son, I've tried my best to send you to college, but I don't think I can afford it!

I think I can swing it myself, Dad!

While working on his father's farm, he decided to study scientific farming.
DETERMINED TO GO TO COLLEGE, YOUNG ROSEN TOOK AN EXAMINATION FOR A COUNTY SCHOLARSHIP.

CONGRATULATIONS, MY BOY, YOU'VE WON THE SCHOLARSHIP!

ON ENTERING RUTGERS UNIVERSITY TO STUDY AGRICULTURE, HE SUPPORTED HIMSELF DOING ODD JOBS AROUND THE UNIVERSITY.

GRADUATION CAME WITH THEODORE ROSEN READY TO GO TO WORK AS MANAGER OF AN ORCHARD OF 17,000 TREES.

THEY LOOK FINE, TED!

EXTRA! UNITED STATES ENTERS WAR!

I'M GOING TO MISS YOU ROSEN, BUT MY TREES WILL MISS YOU MORE!

I'VE GOT A LITTLE JOB TO DO FOR UNCLE SAM FIRST!

REGISTRATION

I'D LIKE TO ENLIST, SIR!
17 MONTHS DELAY FOR TRAINING WAS TRYING TO A SOLDIER EAGER TO GET TO FRANCE...

YOU'VE A GOOD RECORD IN CHEMISTRY! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRAIN FOR A COMMISSION IN THE GAS DIVISION?

THE SECOND, AND MOST DANGEROUS, STRUGGLE IN WHICH THEODORE ROSEN REFUSED TO BE LIKED WAS FOUGHT OUT IN A SHELL HOLE ON A BATTLEFIELD IN FRANCE. THE WAY IT HAPPENED WAS THIS....

SEPTEMBER, 1918.... TEDDY ROSEN FOUND HIMSELF AT THE FRONT AS REGIMENTAL GAS OFFICER WITH THE 315TH INFANTRY 79TH DIVISION.

ONE NIGHT A SCOUTING TRIP INTO NO-MAN'S LAND WAS ORDERED. THE COLONEL NEEDED TWO MEN TO ACCOMPANY HIM....

COLONEL, THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN AVAILABLE TO GO WITH YOU!

I'LL CALL FOR A VOLUNTEER!
ROSEN VOLUNTEERED, BUT IT TOOK ALL THE YOUNG LIEUTENANT'S PERSISTENCE TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER TO GO ON THIS DANGEROUS MISSION.

COLONEL, I'D LIKE TO GO WITH YOU, SIR!

THE C.O. MAY OBJECT TO LETTING HIS GAS OFFICER GO! I'LL LET YOU ASK HIM YOURSELF.

VERY WELL ROSEN, BUT TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION... IT ISN'T EASY TO REPLACE AN OFFICER!

THE THREE MEN STARTED OUT ACROSS THE SAVAGELY GUN-SWEEP WASTELAND. THEY HADN'T GONE FAR WHEN THEY RAN INTO CLOSE-UP MACHINE GUN FIRE...

CAUTION, MEN!

WE'VE GOT TO PROCEED... HEADQUARTERS MUST KNOW WHERE THE ENEMY LINE RUNS!

I'LL GO ON ALONE, SIR... THERE WON'T BE AS MUCH CHANCE OF THEIR SPOTTING ONE MAN!

... AND ROSEN AGAIN VOLUNTEERED FOR A DANGEROUS MISSION AND PROCEEDED ALONE.
CRAWLING FROM SHELL HOLE TO SHELL HOLE... LIEUTENANT ROSEN KEPT ON UNTIL HE ALMOST STUMBLED INTO A GERMAN MACHINE GUN NEST.... BULLETS PIERCED HIS RIGHT ARM...

MY ARM!

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT

THERE HE HEARD THE ENEMY APPROACHING TO CAPTURE HIM!

DOT YANKEE MUST BE DEAD, YAH?

FINALLY, HE SLUMPED OVER INTO A SHELL HOLE...

BUT EVEN WHEN THREE ENEMY GUNNERS ADVANCED TO TAKE HIM PRISONER, ROSEN HAD NO THOUGHT OF SURRENDER... HE KEPT THEM OFF WITH HIS AUTOMATIC AND...

BACK-UP! ALL THE WAY BACK!

ACH! HE STILL LIVES!

STAY BACK, YOU HEINIES!

THEN THE ENEMY BEGAN TO TOSS HAND GRENADES INTO ROSEN'S SHELTER... WITH HIS BATTERED RIGHT ARM HE CAUGHT THEM AND THREW THEM BACK!

YAH! YAH!

...THEY RETREATED!
REACHING UP WITH HIS LAST BIT OF STRENGTH TO THROW BACK A BALL OF DEATH IT EXPLODED IN HIS HAND. HE SANK BACK UNCONSCIOUS...

HE WAS LATER RESCUED FROM THE SHELL HOLE AND RUSHED BACK TO A BASE HOSPITAL...

HE'S LOST ONE ARM, HAS A SHATTERED JAW AND HAS FOURTEEN WOUNDS IN HIS BODY!

EACH TIME THE FEARLESS ROSEN LIFTED HIS ARM TO CATCH A MISSILE MACHINE GUNS SPIT FIRE INTO HIS BODY...

I THINK HE'S DYING... BETTER SEND FOR A RABBI!

YES, DOCTOR!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEND FOR ANYONE... I'M NOT GOING TO DIE!

IT'S MIRACULOUS ROSEN... YOU JUST WOULDN'T DIE... WHAT DO YOU PLAN DOING NOW?

BUT THE MAN WHO WOULDN'T BE LICKED PULLED THROUGH AND SURVIVED...

BACK HOME AT THE WALTER REED HOSPITAL IN WASHINGTON D.C. HE WAS LISTED AS 'IRRETRIEVABLY WOUNDED'... BUT THE DOCTORS DIDN'T KNOW ROSEN!

I CAN'T BE A FARMER, WITH ONLY ONE ARM BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE IN A HOSPITAL.

HE GAVE HIS FUTURE DEEP-THOUGHT.
Doctor, I've decided to study law!

Why not take it easy for a few years... get your strength back first!

But there was no stopping him... he spent his vacations back at the Army hospital hoarding his strength to pass the bar examination, which he did after two years of study instead of the usual three.

Hi, there, Judge!

I'll give you all my business when I get out of here!

There was one final field in which Rosen refused to be licked... public service... he became a civilian aide to the Secretary of War in 1922... in 1926, assistant district attorney... then in 1931, as judge of the municipal court he became interested in child welfare.

You took this child into your home and now you say you can't afford to raise him... do you think that fair to the child to be sent from one home to another?

Before Rosen began his reforms in Philadelphia, orphans had been turned over to foster parents without sufficient investigation.

You're going to have a good home now!

Many a Philadelphia home owed its happiness to Judge Rosen.

He was a remarkable one armed golfer... shooting in the nineties...

He was five times commander of his American Legion post.

And so Theodore Rosen lived a happy and useful life because he was a man who wouldn't be licked!