"OVER THE TOP"

BY

AN AMERICAN SOLDIER

WHO WENT

ARTHUR GUY EMPEY

MACHINE GUNNER, SERVING IN FRANCE

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EMPEY HEARS THE STORY OF THE TOMMY WHO HAD A BROAD STREAK OF YELLOW.

Synopsis.—Fired by the sinking of the Lusitania, with the loss of American lives, Arthur Guy Empey, an American living in Jersey City, goes to England and enlists as a private in the British army. After a preliminary training period in Canada, he is sent to the front in the trenches in France, where he first hears the sound of big guns and makes the acquaintance of "cootie." After a brief period of training Empey's company is sent into the front-line trenches, where he takes his first turn on the fire step while the bullets whiz overhead. Empey learns, as comrade falls, that death lurks always in the trenches. Chaplain distinguishes himself by rescuing wounded men under hot fire. With pick and shovel Empey has experience as a trench digger. Off to No Man's Land. Exciting experience in listening post. Empey has narrow escape from a bullet. Back to the trenches. Empey is wounded and sings a successful play. Once more in the front trenches. Empey goes "over the top" in a successful but costly attack on the German lines. Soon afterwards Empey and his comrades repulse a determined gas attack launched by the Germans. His next experience is as a member of a firing squad which exercises a sentence of death.

CHAPTER XXIV—Continued.

—The—

After sounding at "attention" for what seemed a week, though in reality it could not have been over five minutes, we heard a low whispering in our rear and footsteps on the stone floor of the courtyard.

The door was unbolted and in a low, but firm voice, ordered:

"About—Turn!"

We turned about. In the gray light of dawn, a few yards in front of me, I could make out a brick wall. Against this wall was a dark form with a white spot pinned on its breast. We were supposed to aim at this square. To the right of the square was the white spot on the wall. This would be our target.

"Ready! Aim! Fire!"

The dark form sank into a huddled heap. My bullet spat on its way, and hit the whitish spot on the wall. I could see the splinters fly. Some one else had squeezed a bit too much and the black cartridge, but my mind was made up. I was not going to be "one of a Tommy on my hands."

"Order—Arms! About—Turn! Prisoner! Stand—Close!"

The marks were re-formed.

"Quick—March! Right—Wheel!" And we left the scene of execution behind us.

It was now daylight. As we marched through the streets, we were dismissed with the following instructions from the officer in command:

"Sirrom, alone, to your respective companies, and remember, no talking about this affair, or else I will go hard with the guilty ones."

We needed no urging to get away. I did not recognize any of the men on the firing squad, save the officer was a stranger to me.

The victim's relations and friends in Blighty will never know, in charge of a sergeant, to the training depot at Etaples, where he was given a good spell of khaki, and drew his other equipment. Then he was attached to Kemp's camp for the slight shivering in his system to subside, and get back in his normal form.

At the training depot it does not take long for a man to get back into the line, and to keep a still longer in the head.

Exercises are a part of the day's work, but the part we hated most of all, I think—certainly the noisiest. The British war department is thought by some to be very much behind the times in regulations still wrapped around the old tape. But it has a heart, and one of the weaknesses of this is its constitutional way in which an exception is conceived and received to the practice of the ordinary run of things. They never know the touch. So the bayonet drill was done away with "accidentally killed."

Some of the drills I have several times read stories in magazines of the awards changing, in a charge, to bayonets. I found myself in several encounters, but I said, "Mon sieur! mon ami!" but—I was not in the ranks and was carried to base hospital with a bullet in my leg.

That night was an agony of misery for me. Every time I closed my eyes I pictured the man, the officer, the sergeant on the morrow the stroll was to be taken. I could see the white spot on his breast, but after a week of Lavengro from it stood out as fresh in my mind as the memories of my native Nevil in the Jersey City. Memory does not work as much—but I never in my years of hard blows on scraps of odd paper. The incidents are as fresh in my mind as the feelings of the men are true.

I have been all of this afternoon in the fighting over in France.

We will return home, but it will do.

Let us hope that it will be the world before a reward.

In London they called him a slacker. His country said he was a coward, and spat on—spelled and pointed by general consensus of opinion.

He had no good reason for not enlisting, being alone in the world, but had been educated in an orphan asylum, and had a sense of honor and duty impressed upon him for support. He had no good position in town, and there was no sweetheart to tell him to work her up to go, while her eyes pleaded for him to stay.

Every time he saw a recruiting sergeant or a khaki uniform he cursed under his breath, with a terrible fear gnawing at his heart. He was afraid of the recruiting sergeant, and on his way to business and back he passed many, he would pull down his cap and hurry the other way from that awful finger of pointing at him, under the caption, "Your King and Country Need You!" and he hailed per second." The last with a contemptuous sneer.

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Every time there was a knock at the door he trembled all over, imagining it was a policeman who had come to take him to the front. Stand—Close!"

One morning his fears were realized. There came a knock, and a policeman with the fatal paper. Taking it in his trembling hand he read that he, Albert Lloyd, was ordered to report himself at the nearest recruiting station for service in the British army.

He was dazed. He was stupefied. He was mesmerized. He reported immediately. Lloyd had no friends to whom he was afraid to go.

The doctor looked with approval about this effect, or else it will go hard with the guilty ones."

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UNITED APPEAL FOR FUNDS

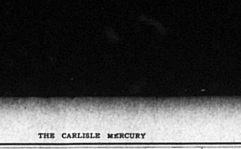
President Would Have Army Welfare Agencies Get Save Date for Subscription of Contributions.

President Wilson in a letter to Raymond B. Fosdick, chairman of the commission on training camp activities, urges that all American army welfare agencies recognized in Europe by the war department combine in their joint appeal for funds.

The organizations referred to are the Young Men's Christian association, the National Catholic War council, which includes the Knights of Columbus; the Young Women's Christian association; the Jewish Welfare board; the War Camp Community Service; the American Library association, and the Salvation Army.

The amount of funds needed by these organizations aggregates $170,000,000, which the committee hopes will be asked in subscriptions beginning December 11.

PEANUTS VALUABLE AS FEED FOR LIVE STOCK IN MOST SECTIONS OF THE SOUTH



FIELD OF PEANUTS GROWN FOR FORAGE IN TEXAS.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The peanut is one of the more important forage crops grown in the South for feeding to hogs, thousands of acres being grown for that purpose. From 25 to 40 bushels per acre, and, if hogs are turned into the fields to harvest the crop, the value per acre of land is increased by it at a lower cost per pound. A good crop of peanuts will produce from 400 to 600 pounds of pork per acre, and, if the hay is harvested before turning the hogs into the patch it will more than repay the cost of growing. In addition to the hogs, the vines are a valuable producing capacity of the soil will be increased from the decay of the vines. Inoculation of bunches and nitrogen. This is a very important matter in the case of the cotton farmer, for the presence of nitrogen in the soil is necessary to the production of a good crop of cotton. Not a shot was fired from the trenches, but a single one paid any attention to him directed on the parapet.

On the first time in a week, a number of men were able to look at the sky and "never the sky looked so beautiful to me as while the order soon keep watch.

At about ten o'clock of a sunday, he thought had had broken loose, and rumbled and shook and trembled and parapet. Shells started bursting, as he afterwards learned, on Kitchener, which burned into his very soul, causing him to shudder.

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CALL TO EMPLOYERS

Paramount Duty to Aid Work of Selective Boards.

Can Perform Great Service to Country by Helping Work of Classifying Registrants Under the Selective Service Act.

President Marshal General Crowder has made public a statement addressed to employers of labor and citizens generally, urging co-operation and the ensuring concerning their share of responsibility in the classification of men registrants under the selective service act.

General Crowder says:

I have noticed, in the general expressions of the press and public, much this effect, two frequent features of the work of the local boards and district boards. One of these features is the belief that the process of awarding deferred classification to a registrant requires merely the filling out of the questionnaire, and that the selective service boards will perform the principal part of making the deferment, with the assistance furnished by the registrant in the filling out of the questionnaire deemed. The other feature is the employer's failure to realize his responsibility in the matter. In aiding the board's determination, and his failure to perform fully his part in the considerations which should affect deferred classification.

2. As to the first mentioned belief: The questionnaire is merely a necessarily introductory step. Upon it no classification would be ordinarily based. Its purpose is to bring to the board's attention the fact that the individual case is one which should receive the special consideration of the boards in respect to the registrant's occupational status. The boards do not possess a superhuman knowledge.

Boards Will Make Examination.

The boards will do all that they possibly can to ensure thorough study to reach a fair decision by a complete examination of the questionnaire and of other facts as there is expressly made. A registrant is therefore advised by the war department that the boards will not be furnished by the indication of a claim made for deferment. With this and the process will become a simple matter.

3. Why should the employer, or citizen generally, have any responsibility in the claim? Because the employer is the one who knows best the needs of his business. He knows the maintenance of the military establishments and the industries supporting the emergency" requires that the number of men withdrawn from industry be limited to the number that can be withdrawn without detriment to the essential industries and services. Somewhere it must be determined how many men can be withdrawn from industry