



OVER THE TOP AN AMERICAN SOLDIER WHO WENT ARTHUR GUY EMPEY MACHINE GUNNER, SERVING IN FRANCE

©1917 BY ARTHUR GUY EMPEY

FOREWORD

"Over the Top" is a true story of trench warfare on the French front, written by an American soldier who got into the great war two years ahead of his country.

CHAPTER I

From Mufti to Khaki.

It was in an office in Jersey City. I was sitting at my desk talking to a lieutenant of the Jersey National Guard.

LUSITANIA SUNK! AMERICAN LIVES LOST!

The windows were open and a feeling of spring pervaded the air. Through the open windows came the strains of a hurdy-gurdy playing in the street.

"Lusitania Sunk! American Lives Lost!" "I Didn't Raise My Boy to Be a Soldier." To us these did not seem to jibe.

The lieutenant in silence opened one of the lower drawers of his desk and took from it an American flag which he solemnly draped over the war map on the wall.

"How about it, sergeant? You'd better get out the muster roll of the Mounted Scouts, as I think they will be needed in the course of a few days."

We busied ourselves till late in the evening writing out emergency telegrams for the men to report when the call should come from Washington.

I crossed over to New York, and as I went up Fulton street to take the subway to Brooklyn, the lights in the tall buildings of New York seemed to be burning brighter than usual.

Months passed, the telegrams lying handy, but covered with dust. Then, one morning the lieutenant with a sigh of disgust removed the flag from the war map and returned to his desk.

The telephone rang and I answered it. It was a business call for me, requesting my services for an out-of-town assignment.

After listening to the proposition I seemed to be swayed by a peculiarly strong force within me, and answered, "I am sorry that I cannot accept your offer, but I am leaving for England next week," and hung up the receiver.

The lieutenant swung around in his chair, and stared at me in blank astonishment. A sinking sensation came over me, but I defiantly answered his look with, "Well, it's so. I'm going."

The trip across was uneventful. I landed at Tilbury, England, then got into a string of matchbox cars and proceeded to London, arriving there about 10 p. m.

"Before going further I wish to state that I am an American, not too proud to fight, and want to join your army."

He looked at me in a nonchalant manner, and answered, "That's all right; we take anything over here."

I looked at him kind of hard and replied, "So I notice," but it went over his head.

He got out an enlistment blank, and placing his finger on a blank line said, "Sign here."

I answered, "Not on your tintype." "I beg your pardon?"

Then I explained to him that I would not sign it without first reading it. I read it over and signed for duration of war.

Then he asked me my birthplace. I answered, "Ogden, Utah."

He said, "Oh, yes, just outside of Newport News."

With a wink he replied: "There was no damage; we missed them again."

After several fruitless inquiries of the passersby, I decided to go on my own in search of ruined buildings and scenes of destruction.

Presently I came to a recruiting office. Inside, sitting at a desk was a lonely Tommy Atkins.

Without the aid of an interpreter, I found out that Tommy wanted to know if I cared to join the British army.

I looked at him and answered, "Well, whatever that is, I'll take a chance at it."

After listening for one half-hour to Tommy's tale of their exploits on the firing line, I decided to join.

I recruited for three weeks and nearly got one recruit.

This perhaps was not the greatest stunt in the world, but it got back at the officer who had told me, "Yes, we take anything over here."

Down at the end of the bar was a young fellow in mufti who was very patriotic—he had about four "Old Six" ales aboard.

I took the applicant over to headquarters, where he was hurriedly examined. Recruiting surgeons were busy in those days and did not have much time for thorough physical examinations.

The doctor came over and exploded, "What do you mean by bringing in a man in this condition?"

I think they called it "Yankee impudence," anyhow it ended my recruiting.

In training quarters, "somewhere in France," Empey hears the big guns booming and makes the acquaintance of the "cooties."

(TO BE CONTINUED)

"Newport News."

In Virginia's early days communication with the mother country was, of course, wholly by ships, and when one was expected the colonists were all eagerness for the news from home.

On the occasion of one, it may have been the first of a certain Captain Newport's expected return from England, at or near the place now bearing his name, a large number of persons collected to receive "Newport's news."

Hence the name, now shortened to its present form.

With a smile, I replied, "Well, it's up the state a little."

Then I was taken before the doctor and passed as physically fit, and was issued a uniform.

"All you have to do," he said, "is to go out on the street, and when you see a young fellow in mufti who looks physically fit, just stop him and give him this kind of a talk: 'Aren't you ashamed of yourself, a Britisher, physically fit, and in mufti when your king and country need you?'"

Armed with a swagger stick and my patriotic rosette, I went out into Tottenham Court road in quest of cannon fodder.

Two or three poorly dressed civilians passed me, and although they appeared physically fit, I said to myself, "They don't want to join the army; perhaps they have someone dependent on them for support," so I did not accost them.

Coming down the street I saw a young dandy, top hat and all, with a fashionably dressed girl walking beside him.

I looked at him and answered, "I don't care if you came forty thousand miles, no one asked you to," and he walked on.

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Horticultural Advice

RAISE CROP OF RASPBERRIES

Yields in Different Sections Vary Greatly—Secure Plants From Reliable Nurseryman.

Yields from raspberry plantations vary greatly according to the varieties raised, the care given them, and the conditions under which they are grown.

Plants of the different varieties of raspberries may be secured from any reliable nursery and usually in starting a new plantation this is done.

To propagate new plants, the tips of the new canes of black raspberries and of the purple varieties now under cultivation should be buried in moist soil in late summer.

Turn raspberries send up new canes from the base of the old canes, as do black and purple varieties. In addition, they send up suckers from underground roots at various distances from the crown of the parent plant.



Harvesting Berries for a Cannery.

When these are dug and the ground is rich, another stand will grow for the following year. If this practice is followed, the fruiting plantation need not be disturbed by digging up sucker plants.

Raspberries may be propagated also by cuttings of the roots or canes if necessary. In ordinary practice, however, cuttings of either roots or canes are rarely used.

ERADICATE APPLE TREE PEST

Best Wash for Borers is Thick Coat of Paint Applied Before Egg-Laying Season.

Probably the best wash for apple-tree borers is a thick coat of paint, made from raw linseed oil and pure white lead.

THE SOLDIER'S MOTHER

He was so beautiful—my baby son! His sun-kissed curls hung close around his head.

He was so strong and well, my little son! I gave my days and nights to keep him well.

He was so bright and clever, my big son! I sent him to the very best of schools.

And yet—now—my well-beloved son! For your perfection can I pay the price?

Nay, I would have you honorable, my son—Just, loyal, brave, and truthful, scorning fear.

POULTRY IN BACK YARDS

Poultry and eggs have never been cheap food for the city dweller, and there is no hope that they can be, during the continuance of the war and its necessarily attendant high prices.

What may be done with fowls in a back yard depends upon the size of the yard, the character of the soil, the conditions of sunlight, shade and ventilation, and the interest and skill of the poultry keeper.

A coop for a flock of four hens should have an area of about 20 square feet, or about five feet per hen.

With proper care the back-yard poultry keeper can keep hens, for laying only, confining them continuously to their coops, and have them lay well nearly as long as they would be profitable layers under natural conditions.

If the space admits of giving the little back-yard flock more room than a coop of the minimum size required, the condition of the land will determine the form in which the additional space should be given.

If the soil is poorly drained and foul, the hens will thrive and lay better if not allowed to be at all. In that case, the best way to give them some benefit of the extra space available is to build adjoining the coop a shed covering about the same amount of ground and having the front enclosed only with wire netting.

Where Conservation Fails.

The great manufacturing plants of today waste nothing. In the lumber mills even the sawdust is burned and the scraps become fuel for furniture and rugs and process silk for neckwear and hosiery.

FARM STOCK

RAISING ANIMALS FOR ARMY

Government and Farmers Co-operate in Production of Cavalry and Artillery Remounts.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In order to encourage the production of horses suitable for cavalry and light artillery uses, the United States Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with the war department, has placed in selected localities government-owned stallions of proper type and caliber.

The plan, made possible by a provision of congress in 1913, grew out of the difficulty the government has had in securing a sufficient number of army remounts. Light-horse stock had deteriorated, due to the curtailed demand as a result of the growing popularity of motor vehicles, and farmers had turned their attention to improving the heavier draft horse.

This means that practically no money is invested in service fees. The colt is purchased by the government no fee is charged, nor is there any charge if the colt is offered to the government and purchase refused because it does not qualify.



Morgan Stallion Owned by Government—This is the Type Being Used to Breed Army Remounts.

farmers. The brood mares are usually farm work animals which generally pay for their feed by doing farm work, and the colts are brought up to high without cost.

Community breeding, which is of inestimable value, is encouraged. The object of the remount breeding work is to select for and breed sound horses possessing quality, stamina and endurance which conform to the army needs, and such animals will also be useful for general farm work especially in mountainous sections.

The government's plan of aiding farmers in producing army horses is giving them material as well as educational aid in developing an important phase of their farming operations. Good horse power is indispensable to successful farming and good horses cannot be produced without good sires.

BREEDING OF BEEF ANIMALS

Aim to Develop to Greatest Extent Portions of Body From Which Are Secured Choice Cuts.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In the improvement of beef cattle care has been taken to develop to the greatest extent those portions of the body from which are secured the highest priced cuts of beef.