



# "OVER THE TOP"

## AN AMERICAN SOLDIER WHO WENT

### ARTHUR GUY EMPY

MACHINE GUNNER, SERVING IN FRANCE

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#### TWO ARTILLERYMEN "PUT ONE OVER" ON OLD PEPPER, REGIMENTAL COMMANDER.

**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 short experience as a recruiting officer in London, he is sent to training quarters in France, where he first hears the sound of big guns and makes the acquaintance of "cooties." 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 in No Man's Land. Exciting experience on listening post detail. Exciting work on observation post duty.

#### CHAPTER XVI—Continued.

"Cassell had a fancy for that particular blonde. The answer came back in the shape of a volley of curses. I changed the subject.

"After a while our talk veered round to the way the Boches had been exposing themselves on the road down on the chart as Target 17. What he said about those Boches would never have passed the reichstag, though I believe it would have gone through our censor easily enough.

"The bursting shells were making such a din that I packed up talking and took to watching the captain. He was fidgeting around on an old sandbag with the glass to his eye. Occasionally he would let out a grunt, and make some remark I couldn't hear on account of the noise, but I guessed what it was all right. Fritz was getting fresh again on that road.

"Cassell had been sending in the 'tap code' to me, but I was fed up and didn't bother with it. Then he sent O. S., and I was all attention, for this was a call used between us which meant that something important was on. I was all ears in an instant. Then Cassell turned loose.

"You blankety blank dud, I have been trying to raise you for fifteen minutes. What's the matter, are you asleep? (Just as if anyone could have slept in that infernal racket!) Never mind framing a nasty answer. Just listen."

"Are you game for putting something over on the Boches and Old Pepper all in one?"

"I answered that I was game enough when it came to putting it over the Boches, but confessed that I had a weakening of the spine, even at the mention of Old Pepper's name.

"He came back with, 'It's so absurdly easy and simple that there is no chance of the old heathen rumbering it. Anyway, if we're caught, I'll take the blame.'

"Under these conditions I told him to spit out his scheme. It was so daring and simple that it took my breath away. This is what he proposed:

"If the Boches should use that road again, to send by the tap system the target and range. I had previously told him about our captain talking out loud as if he were sending through orders. Well, if this happened, I was to send the dope to Cassell and he would transmit it to the battery commander as officially coming through the observation post. Then the battery would open up. Afterwards, during the investigation, Cassell would swear he received it direct. They would have to relieve him, because it was impossible from his post in the battery dugout to know that the road was being used at that time by the Germans. And also it was impossible for him to give the target, range and degrees. You know a battery chart is not passed around among the men like a newspaper from Blighty. From him the investigation would go to the observation post, and the observing officer could truthfully swear that I had not sent the message by phone, and that no orders to fire had been issued by him. The investigators would then be up in the air, we would be safe, the Boches would receive a good bashing, and we would get our own back on Old Pepper. It was too good to be true. I gleefully fell in with the scheme, and told Cassell I was his man.

"Then I waited with beating heart and watched the captain like a hawk. "He was beginning to fidget again and was drumming on the sandbags

with his feet. At last, turning to me, he said:

"Wilson, this army is a blankety blank washout. What's the use of having artillery if it is not allowed to fire? The government at home ought to be hanged with some of their red tape. It's through them that we have no shells."

"I answered, 'Yes, sir,' and started sending this opinion over the wire to Cassell, but the captain interrupted me with:

"Keep those infernal fingers still. What's the matter, getting the nerves? When I'm talking to you, pay attention."

"My heart sank. Supposing he had rumbled that tapping, then all would be up with our plan. I stopped drumming with my fingers and said:

"Beg your pardon, sir, just a habit with me."

"And a d—d silly one, too," he answered, turning to his glasses again, and I knew I was safe. He had not tumbled to the meaning of that tapping.

"All at once, without turning round, he exclaimed:

"Well, of all the nerve I've ever run across, this takes the cake. Those

Boches are using that road again. Blind my eyes, this time it is a whole brigade of them, transports and all. What a pretty target for our '4.5's.' The beggars know that we won't fire. A d—d shame, I call it. Oh, just for a chance to turn D 238 loose on them."

"I was trembling with excitement. From repeated stolen glances at the captain's range chart, that road with its range was burned into my mind.

"Over the wire I tapped, 'D 238 battery, Target 17, Range 6000, 3 degrees 30 minutes, left, salvo, fire.' Cassell O. K'd my message, and with the receiver pressed against my ear, I waited and listened. In a couple of minutes very faintly over the wire came the voice of our battery commander issuing the order: 'D 238 battery. Salvo! Fire!'

"Then a roar through the receiver as the four guns belched forth, a screaming and whistling overhead, and the shells were on their way.

"The captain jumped as if he were shot, and let out a great big expressive d—n, and eagerly turned his glasses in the direction of the German road. I also strained my eyes watching that target. Four black clouds of dust rose up right in the middle of the German column. Four direct hits—another record for D 238.

"The shells kept on whistling overhead, and I had counted twenty-four of them when the firing suddenly ceased. When the smoke and dust clouds lifted the destruction on that road was awful. Overturned limbers and guns, wagons smashed up, troops fleeing in all directions. The road and roadside were spotted all over with little field gray dots, the toll of our guns.

"The captain, in his excitement, had slipped off the sandbag, and was on his knees in the mud, the glass still at his eye. He was muttering to himself and slapping his thigh with his disengaged hand. At every slap a big round juicy cuss word would escape from his lips followed by:

"Good! Fine! Marvelous! Pretty Work! Direct hits all!"

"Then he turned to me and shouted: "Wilson, what do you think of it? Did you ever see the like of it in your life? D—n fine work, I call it."

"Pretty soon a look of wonder stole over his face and he exclaimed:

"But who in h—l gave them the

order to fire. Range and everything correct, too. I know I didn't. Wilson, did I give you any order for the battery to open up? Of course I didn't, did I?"

"I answered very emphatically, 'No, sir, you gave no command. Nothing went through this post. I am absolutely certain on that point, sir.'

"Of course nothing went through," he replied. Then his face fell, and he muttered out loud:

"But, by Jove, wait till Old Pepper gets wind of this. There'll be fur flying."

Just then Bombardier Cassell cut in on the wire:

"General's compliments to Captain A—. He directs that officer and signaler report at the double to brigade headquarters as soon as relieved. Relief now on the way."

"In an undertone to me, 'Keep a brass front, Wilson, and for God's sake, stick.' I answered with, 'Rely on me, mate,' but I was trembling all over.

"I gave the general's message to the captain, and started packing up.

"The relief arrived, and as we left the post the captain said:

"Now for the fireworks, and I know they'll be good and plenty. They were."

"When we arrived at the gun pits the battery commander, the sergeant major and Cassell were waiting for us. We fell in line and the funeral march to brigade headquarters started.

"Arriving at headquarters the battery commander was the first to be interviewed. This was behind closed doors. From the roaring and explosions of Old Pepper it sounded as if raw meat was being thrown to the lions. Cassell, later, described it as sounding like a bombing raid. In about two minutes the officer reappeared.

The sweat was pouring from his forehead, and his face was the color of a beet. He was speechless. As he passed the captain he jerked his thumb in the direction of the lion's den and went out. Then the captain went in, and the lions were once again fed. The captain stayed about twenty minutes and came out. I couldn't see his face, but the droop in his shoulders was enough. He looked like a wet hen.

"The door of the general's room opened and Old Pepper stood in the doorway. With a roar he shouted:

"Which one of you is Cassell? D—n me, get your heels together when I speak! Come in here!"

"Cassell started to say, 'Yes sir,'

"But Old Pepper roared, 'Shut up!'

"Cassell came out in five minutes. He said nothing, but as he passed me he put his tongue into his cheek and winked, then, turning to the closed door, he stuck his thumb to his nose and left.

"Then the sergeant major's turn came. He didn't come out our way. Judging by the roaring, Old Pepper must have eaten him.

"When the door opened and the general beckoned to me, my knees started to play 'Home, Sweet Home' against each other.

"My interview was very short.

"Old Pepper glared at me when I entered, and then let loose.

"Of course you don't know anything about it. You're just like the rest. Ought to have a nursing bottle around your neck and a nipple in your teeth. Soldiers—by gad, you turn my stomach to look at you. Win this war, when England sends out such samples as I have in my brigade! Not likely! Now, sir, tell me what you don't know about this affair. Speak up, out with

it. Don't be gaping at me like a fish. Spit it out."

"I stammered, 'Sir, I know absolutely nothing.'

"That's easy to see,' he roared; 'that stupid face tells me that. Shut up. Get out; but I think you are a d—d liar just the same. Back to your battery.'

"I saluted and made my exit.

"That night the captain sent for us. With fear and trembling we went to his dugout. He was alone. After saluting we stood at attention in front of him and waited. His say was short.

"Don't you two ever get it into your heads that Morse is a dead language. I've known it for years. The two of you had better get rid of that nervous habit of tapping transmitters; it's dangerous. That's all."

"We saluted, and were just going out the door of the dugout when the captain called up back and said:

"Smoke Goldflakes? Yes? Well, there are two tins of them on my table. Go back to the battery, and keep your tongues between your teeth. Understand?"

"We understood.

"For five weeks afterwards our battery did nothing but extra fatigues. We were satisfied and so were the men. It was worth it to put one over on Old Pepper, to say nothing of the injury caused to Fritz' feelings."

When Wilson had finished his story I looked up and the dugout was jammed. An artillery captain and two officers had also entered and stayed for the finish. Wilson spat out an enormous quid of tobacco, looked up, saw the captain, and got as red as a carnation. The captain smiled and left. Wilson whispered to me:

"Blime me, Yank, I see where I click for crucifixion. That captain is the same one that chucked us Goldflakes in his dugout and here I have been 'chucking me weight about in his hearing.'"

Wilson never clicked his crucifixion.

Empey tells of a narrow escape in the next installment.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

#### JOKE ON SCHOOL VISITOR

Fortunately Hamilton Mable Was Well Able to Appreciate Unconscious Humor of the Children.

The late Hamilton W. Mable, the well-known American essayist, was one of those genial men who enjoyed a joke on themselves. Illustrating this phase of Mr. Mable's character, it is told that when he was a student Mr. Mable made an address in which he told this story:

He had visited a school in Philadelphia in which there was a daily fire drill. The teacher regularly asked the students, "Children, what would you do if fire were to break out in this building?" The children all repeated in chorus, "We would rise in our places, step into the aisle, and march quietly out of the building." On the morning when Mr. Mable visited the school, while he was sitting quietly on the platform, the teacher stepped before the pupils and said, "Children, what would you say if I were to tell you that Mr. Mable is to speak to you this morning?" The children promptly replied in chorus, "We would rise in our places, step into the aisle, and march quietly out of the building."

#### CHINA LOSING TRADE IN TEA

General Opinion That Scientific Cultivation of the Plant Has Begun Too Late.

China's tea trade is not keeping pace with the world's consumption of tea. Scientific cultivation instead of old-time methods and the use of machinery are being used in the effort to regain the lost commercial ground. The ministry of agriculture has established a model farm, and the first tea grown on it was sent to market this year. It is said to have been of good quality, but no details are yet available of the equipment and methods employed. Foreign tea men seem to have little faith in the results of this attempted reform and consider it unlikely that Chinese teas will ever regain the leading place in the markets of the world. It is said that Chinese teas have less tannin than other teas, and that the finer grades are unsurpassed in delicacy of flavor; but the average tea drinker seems to find the teas of India and Ceylon satisfactory.

#### They Sure Would.

Homer V. Winn was talking before the Indianapolis Advertisers' club about salesmanship, recently, and commented on the fact that salespeople were too often unnatural.

"Even the merchant himself is often unnatural," the speaker said. "He does not act in his store as he does at home."

"And if some of them did," commented one of the women members of the club, "they'd drive their last customer away."

#### Advice to an Author.

The author who writes that he likes "the man or woman crammed with animal spirits, who isn't afraid to make motions, to laugh out loud, to run, to jump, to climb, to make a lot of noise," ought to trade flats with one who lives under a pair who are rehearsing for an imitation animal vaudeville stunt.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

**Your Eyes** Granulated Eyelids, Eyes inflamed by exposure to Sun, Dust and Wind quickly relieved by Murine Eye Remedy. No Smarting, just Eye Comfort. At Your Druggists or by mail 60c per Bottle. For Book of the Eye free write Murine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago.

**Truck, Automobile and Touring Trailers** Double Your Efficiency at a Single Cost. State St. WATT SHIPP TRAILER CO., SALEM, ORE.

**Chinese Signal.** The Chinese do not beckon, as we do, with the palm of the hand turned up, the fingers curled and the index finger successively bending and straightening. They beckon with the fingers curled downward, sweeping the whole hand vigorously back and forth.

**Uncle Eben.** "Too much of de gift of prophecy," said Uncle Eben, "is dangerous. De man dat knows in advance whut hand he's gwine ter git in a poker game ain't no fit associate."

**The Old Order Changeth.** The old-fashioned lover who used to plunk a guitar under his sweetheart's window new has a son who phones to his girl to meet him at the drug store.—Dallas News.

**Cuticura Stops Itching.** The Soap to cleanse and Ointment to soothe and heal most forms of itching, burning skin and scalp affections. Ideal for toilet use. For free samples address, "Cuticura, Dept. X, Boston." Sold by druggists and by mail. Soap 25, Ointment 25 and 50.—Adv.

**To Clear Bluing.** The several thicknesses of cotton over the mouth of a bluing bottle if you would have the bluing flow smoothly and without dark particles.

**Best of Rewards.** The best reward for any faithful work is the privilege of going on and proving our faithfulness with more difficult tasks.—Lucy Larcom.

**ALLEN'S FOOT EASE FOR THE TROOPS.** Shaken in the shoes and sprinkled in the foot-bath it gives rest and comfort, takes the friction from the shoe and prevents blisters and sore spots. Makes walking easy. Accept no substitute. Sold everywhere, 25c.

**Enameled Ware.** The best way to clean enameled ware is to use a little ordinary salt and no soda; this will keep it in new condition.

**Can't Do It Alone.** If a man ever becomes truly great it is usually the help of a devoted wife that is responsible for it.—Chicago Daily News.

**Gangway.** Sign in Main: Bumpus and Catchell.—Boston Transcript.

**Daily Thought.** In general, pride is at the bottom of all great mistakes.—Ruskin.

## A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

Miss Kelly Tells How Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Restored Her Health.

Newark, N. J.—"For about three years I suffered from nervous breakdown and got so weak I could hardly stand, and had headaches every day. I tried everything I could think of and was under a physician's care for two years. A girl friend had used Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and she told me about it. From the first day I took it I began to feel better and now I am well and able to do most any kind of work. I have been recommending the Compound ever since and give you my permission to publish this letter."—Miss FLO KELLY, 476 So. 14th St., Newark, N. J.



The reason this famous root and herb remedy, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, was so successful in Miss Kelly's case was because it went to the root of her trouble, restored her to a normal healthy condition and as a result her nervousness disappeared.

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