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"Over the Top" By An American Soldier

ARTHUR GUY- EMPEY lachine Gunner Serging in France

ogright, 1911, by Arthur Gay Me

SYNOPSIS.

APTER I-Fired by the news of the ag of the Lastiania by a Gorness series, Arthur Guy Empey, as Ameri-leaves his oritor in Jersey City and to Engiand where he enforts in the

CHAPTER VII—Empey learns how the british moldlers are feed. CHAPTER VIII—Back in the front-line treache. Empey sees his first friend of the treaches "To West." CHAPTER IX—Empey makes his first that to a disput in "Buicks Ditch."

HAPTER X—Empey learns what con-utes a "day's work" in the front-line

CHAPTER XIV—Empey helps dig an advanced trench under German firs. CHAPTER XV—On "fistening post" in to Man's Land.

"I stammered, 'Sir, I know absolute-

by 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 list just the same. Back to your battery."

your battery."
"I sainted 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.
"Ton'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 sainted, and were just going out

"We saluted, and were just going out the door of the dugout when the cap-tain called up back and said: "Smoke Goldfiakes? Tes? Well, there are two tins of them on my table.

Go back to the battery, and keep your longnes between your teeth. Under

"For five weeks afterwards our bat-tery 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 Frits' feelings."

When Wilson had finished his story I looked up and the dupout 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 get as red as a carnation. The captain smiled and left. Wilson whispered to me:

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

Wilson never clicked his crucifixion.

had served in the Northwest Mounted police. He was a typical cowpuncher and Indian fighter and was a dead shot with the rifle, and took no pains to diaguise this fact from us. He used to take care of his rifle as if it were a baby. In his spare moments you could always see him cleaning it or polishing the stock. Woe betide the man who by mistake happened to get hold of this rifle; he soon found out his error. Scott was as deaf as a mule, and it was amusing at parade to watch him in the manual of arms, styly glancing out of the corner of his aye at the man next to him to see what the order was. How he passed the doctor was a mystery to us; he must have bluffed his way through, because he certainly was independent. Beside him the Fourth of July looked like Good Priday. He were at the time a large sombrero, had a Mexican stock saddle over his shoulder, a larket on his arm, and a "forty-five" hanging from his hip. Dumping this paraphermila on the floor he went up to the recruiting officer and shouted: "I'm from America, west of the Rockies, and want to join your d——d army. I've got no use for a German and can shoot some. At Scotland Yard they turned me down; said I was deaf and so I am. I don't hanker to ship in with a d——d mud-crunching outfit, but the cavairy's full, so I guess this regiment's better than uone, so trot out your papers and I'll sign 'em." He told them he was forty and slipped by. I was on recruiting service at the time he applied for enlistment.

It was Old Scotty's great ambitton to be a aniper or "body smatcher," as Mr. Atkins calle it. The day that he was dearlied as brigade super he celebrated his appointment by blowing the whole platoon would drink these in and ask for more. Ananias was a rookie compared with him.

The ex-plainsman and discipline

The ex-plainsman and discipline could not agree, but the officers all liked him, even if he was hard to manage, so when he was detailed as a sniper a sigh of relief went up from the officers' mess.

But after a few months Father. Rheumatian got him and he was sent to Blighty; the air in the wake of his stretcher was blue with curses. Old fleetty surely could swear; some of his outbursts actually hursed you.

*No doubt, at this writing, he is "nomewhere in Blighty" pussy footing it on a bridge or along the wall of some munition plant with the "G. R." or Home Defense corps.

CHAPTER XVII.

After ten Lieutenant Stores of our section came into the dugout and informed me that I was "for" a reconnutering patrol and would carry siz Mills bombs.

bombs.

At 11:80 that night twelve men, our lieutenant and myself went out in front on a pairot in Ne Man's Land.

We cruised around in the dark for about two hours, just knocking about looking for trouble, on the lookout for Boche working parties to see what they were doing.

Around two in the morning we were eareruily picking our way about thirty yards in front of the German barbed wire, when we walked into a Boche covering party nearly thirty strong. Then the music started, the fiddler rendered his bill, and we paid.

Pighting in the dark with a beyonet

Fighting in the dark with a beyone Fighting in the dark with a bayonel is not very pleasant. The Germans took it on the run, but our officer was no novice at the game and didn't follow them. He gave the order "down on the ground, hug it close."

Just in time, too, because a volley skimmed over our heads. Then in low tones we were told to separate and crawl back to our trenches, each man on his own.

erawl back to our treaches, each man on his own.

We could see the flashes of their rifles in the darkness, but the bullets were going over our heads.

We lost three men killed and one wounded in the arm. If it hadn't been tor our officer's quick thinking the whole patrol would have probably heen wiped out.

After about twenty minutes' wait we went out again and discovered that the Germans had a wiring party working on their barbed wire. We returned to our trenches unobserved with the information and our machine guns im-

mediately, got busy.

The next night four men were sent out to go over and examine the German barbed wire and see if they had



A Hidden Gun.

nt lance through it; if no, this pro-

aged an early morning attack on our trenches.

Of course I had to be one of the four selected for the job. It was just like sending a fellow to the andertaker's to order his own coffin.

At ten o'clock we started out, armed with three bombe, a hayonet and revolver. After getting into No Men's Land we separated. Crawling four or five feet at a time, ducting star shells, with strays cracking overhead. I reached their wire. I secured along this toch by inch, scarcely breathing. I could hear them talking in their trench, my heart was pounding against my rits. One false move or the least noise from me meant discovery and almost certain death.

After covering my sector I quietly crawled back. I had gotten about half way when I noticed that my revolver was missing. It was pitch dark. I turned about to see if I could find it; it couldn't be far away, because about three or four minutes previously I had felt the butt in the heister. I crawled around in circles and at last found it. then started on my way back to our trenches, as I thought.

Pretty soon I reached barbed wire, and was just going to give the password when something told me not to. I put out my hand and touched one of

ripping noise.

A sharp challenge rang out. I sprang to my feet, ducking low, and ran madiy back toward our lines. The Germans started firing. The bullets were biting all around me, when baug! I ran amash into our wire, and a sharp shallenge, "'Ait, who comes there?' rang out. I gasped out the pussword, and, groping my way through the lane in the wire, tearing my hands and uniform, I tumbled into our treach and was safe, but I was a nerrous wreck for an hour, until a drink of rum brought me round.

CHAPTER XVIII.

our full strength by drafts of recruits from Blighty.

Everyone was happy and contented at these tidings; all you could hear around the billets was whistling and singing. The day after the receipt of the order we hiked for five days, making an average of about tweive kilos per day until we arrived at the small town of O'—.

It took us about three days to get settled, and from then on our cushy time started. We would parade from 8:45 in the morning until 12 noon. Then except for an occasional billet or brigade guard we were on our own. For the first four or five afternoons I spent my time in bringing up to date my neglected correspondence.

Tommy loves to be amused, and beling a Yank, they turned to me for something new in this line. I taught them how to pitch horseshoes, and this game made a great hit for about ten days. Then Tommy turned to America for a new diversion. I was up in the air until a happy thought came to me. Why not write a sketch and break Tommy is as an actor?

One evening after "lights out," when you are not supposed to talk, I imparted my scheme in whispers to the section. They eagerly accepted the idea of forming a stock company and could hardly wait until the morning for further details.

of forming a stock company and could hardly wait until the more for further details.

After parade, the next afternoon I was almost mobbed. Everyone in the section wanted a part in the proposed sketch. When I informed them that it would take at least ten days of hard work to write the plot, they were bitterly disappointed. I immediately got busy, made a desk out of biscuit time in the corner of the billet, and put up a sign "Empey & Wallace Theatrical Co." About twenty of the section, upon reading this sign, immediately applied for the position of office boy. I accepted the twenty applicants, and sent them on scouting parties throughout the deserted French village. These parties were to search all the attics for discarded civilian clothes, and anything that we could use in the prope

About five that night they recovered with grime and dust, bed down with a miscellaneous ment of everything under to They must have thought that going to start a department judging from the different this brought back from their pillag

(To Be Continued)

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