

# "Over the Top"

By An American Soldier Who Went

ARTHUR GUY EMPEY  
Machine Gunner Serving in France

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## CHAPTER XII.

### Bombing.

The boys in the section welcomed me back, but there were many strange faces. Several of our men had gone West in that charge, and were lying "somewhere in France" with a little wooden cross at their heads. We were



Throwing Hand Grenades.

in rest billets. The next day our captain asked for volunteers for bombers' school. I gave my name and was accepted. I had joined the Suicide club, and my troubles commenced. Thirty-two men of the battalion, including myself, were sent to L., where we went through a course in bombing. Here we were instructed in the uses, methods of throwing and manufacture of various kinds of hand grenades, from the old "jam tin," now obsolete, to the present Mills bomb, the standard of the British army.

It all depends where you are as to what you are called. In France they call you a "bomber" and give you medals, while in neutral countries they call you an anarchist and give you "life."

From the very start the Germans were well equipped with effective bombs and trained bomb throwers, but the English army was as little prepared in this important department of fighting as in many others. At bombing school an old sergeant of the Grenadier guards, whom I had the good fortune to meet, told me of the discouragements this branch of the service suffered before they could meet the Germans on an equal footing. (Pacifists and small army people in the U. S. please read with care.) The first English expeditionary forces had no bombs at all, but had clicked a lot of casualties from those thrown by the Boches. One bright morning someone higher up had an idea and issued an order detailing two men from each platoon to go to bombing school to learn the duties of a bomber and how to manufacture bombs. Non-commissioned officers were generally selected for this course. After about two weeks at school they returned to their units in rest billets or in the fire trench, as the case might be, and got busy teaching their platoons how to make "jam tins."

Previously an order had been issued for all ranks to save empty jam tins for the manufacture of bombs. A professor of bombing would sit on the fire step in the front trench with the remainder of his section crowding around to see him work.

On his left would be a pile of empty and rusty jam tins, while beside him on the fire step would be a miscellaneous assortment of material used in the manufacture of the "jam tin."

Tommy would stoop down, get an empty "jam tin," take a handful of clayey mud from the parapet, and line the inside of the tin with this substance. Then he would reach over, pick up his detonator and explosive, and insert them in the tin, fuse protruding. On the fire step would be a pile of fragments of shell, shrapnel balls, bits of iron, nails, etc.—anything that was hard enough to send over to Fritz; he would scoop up a handful of this junk and put it in the bomb. Perhaps one of the platoon would ask him what he did this for, and he would explain that when the bomb exploded these bits would fly about and kill or wound any German hit by same; the questioner would immediately pull a button off his tunic and hand it to the bomb maker with, "Well, blame me, send this over as a souvenir," or another Tommy would volunteer an old rusty and broken jackknife; both would be accepted and inserted.

Then the professor would take another handful of mud and fill the tin, after which he would punch a hole in the lid of the tin and put it over the top of the bomb, the fuse sticking out. Then perhaps he would tightly wrap wire around the outside of the tin, and the bomb was ready to send over to Fritz with Tommy's compliments.

A piece of wood about four inches wide had been issued. This was to be strapped on the left forearm by means of two leather straps and was like the side of a match box; it was called a "striker." There was a tin like the

head of a match on the fuse of the bomb. To ignite the fuse, you had to rub it on the "striker," just the same as striking a match. The fuse was timed to five seconds or longer. Some of the fuses issued in those days would burn down in a second or two, while others would "sizz" for a week before exploding. Back in Blighty the munition workers weren't quite up to snuff, the way they are now. If the fuse took a notion to burn too quickly they generally buried the bomb maker next day. So making bombs could not be called a "cushy" or safe job.

After making several bombs the professor instructs the platoon in throwing them. He takes a "jam tin" from the fire step, trembling a little, because it is nervous work, especially when new at it, lights the fuse on his striker. The fuse begins to "sizz" and sputter and a spiral of smoke, like that from a smoldering spit, rises from it. The platoon splits in two and ducks around the traverse nearest to them. They don't like the looks and sound of the burning fuse. When that fuse begins to smoke and "sizz" you want to say good-by to it as soon as possible, so Tommy with all his might chucks it over the top and crouches against the parapet, waiting for the explosion.

Lots of times in bombing the "jam tin" would be picked up by the Germans, before it exploded, and thrown back at Tommy with dire results.

After a lot of men went West in this manner an order was issued, reading something like this:

"To all ranks in the British army: After igniting the fuse and before throwing the jam-tin bomb, count slowly one! two! three!"

This in order to give the fuse time enough to burn down, so that the bomb would explode before the Germans could throw it back.

Tommy read the order—he reads them all, but after he ignited the fuse and it began to smoke—orders were forgotten, and away she went in record time and back she came to the further discomfort of the thrower.

Then another order was issued to count, "one hundred! two hundred! three hundred!" But Tommy didn't care if the order read to count up to a thousand by quarters, he was going to get rid of that "jam tin," because from experience he had learned not to trust it.

When the powers that be realized that they could not change Tommy they decided to change the type of bomb and did so—substituting the "hair brush," the "cricket ball," and later the Mills bomb.

The standard bomb used in the British army is the "Mills." It is about the shape and size of a large lemon. Although not actually a lemon, Fritz insists that it is; perhaps he judges it by the havoc caused by its explosion. The Mills bomb is made of steel, the outside of which is corrugated into 48 small squares, which, upon the explosion of the bomb, scatter in a wide area, wounding or killing any Fritz who is unfortunate enough to be hit by one of the flying fragments.

Although a very destructive and efficient bomb the "Mills" has the confidence of the thrower, in that he knows it will not explode until released from his grip.

It is a mechanical device, with a lever, fitted into a slot at the top, which extends half way around the circumference and is held in place at the bottom by a fixing pin. In this pin there is a small metal ring, for the purpose of extracting the pin when ready to throw.

You do not throw a bomb the way a baseball is thrown, because, when in a narrow trench, your hand is liable to strike against the parapet, traverse or parapet, and then down goes the bomb, and, in a couple of seconds or so, up goes Tommy.

In throwing, the bomb and lever are grasped in the right hand, the left foot is advanced, knee stiff, about one and a half its length to the front, while the right leg, knee bent, is carried slightly to the right. The left arm is extended at an angle of 45 degrees, pointing in the direction the bomb is to be thrown. This position is similar to that of shot putting, only that the right arm is extended downward. Then you hurl the bomb from you with an overhead bowling motion, the same as in cricket, throwing it fairly high in the air, this in order to give the fuse a chance to burn down so that when the bomb lands, it immediately explodes and gives the Germans no time to scamper out of its range or to return it.

As the bomb leaves your hand, the lever, by means of a spring, is projected into the air and falls harmlessly to the ground a few feet in front of the bomber.

When the lever flies off it releases a strong spring, which forces the firing pin into a percussion cap. This ignites the fuse, which burns down and sets off the detonator, charged with fulminate of mercury, which explodes the main charge of ammonal.

The average British soldier is not an expert at throwing; it is a new game to him, therefore the Canadians and Americans, who have played baseball from the kindergarten up, take naturally to bomb throwing and excel in this act. A six-foot English bomber will stand in awed silence when he sees a little five-foot-nothing Canadian outdistance his throw by several yards. I have read a few war stories of bombing, where baseball pitchers curved their bombs when throwing them, but a pitcher who can do this would make "Christy" Mathewson look like a piker, and is losing valuable time playing in the European War bush league, when he would be able to set the "big league" on fire.

We had a cushy time while at this school. In fact, to us it was a regular vacation, and we were very sorry when

one morning the adjutant ordered us to report at headquarters for transportation and rations to return to our units on the line.

Arriving at our section, the boys once again tendered us the glad mitt, but looked askance at us out of the corners of their eyes. They could not conceive, as they expressed it, how a man could be such a blinking idiot as to join the Suicide club. I was beginning to feel sorry that I had become a member of said club, and my life to me appeared doubly precious.

Now that I was a sure-enough bomber I was praying for peace and hoping that my services as such would not be required.

(To Be Continued.)

## MILICAN

(Continued from Page Two.)

The children of the West End school will clean up the school yard this afternoon for Arbor day celebration, today being Arbor day.

Mrs. Leo Keller and children were over Sunday visitors at the F. Taucher home, leaving for Bend Tuesday to join her husband for a short visit.

Don Conaway is on the sick list. Rev. Sheehan held mass at the J. Holland home one day this week. Mary and Joseph Holland have been suffering with la grippe this week.

Tom Going spent Saturday at the J. J. Holland home.

Benny Grafenberger was a Sunday caller at the R. R. Keller home. Mrs. R. R. Keller spent Monday with Mrs. J. J. Holland.

Elmer Dyer left for Bend Tuesday, where he will be employed.

Mr. and Mrs. Dykstra stayed at the P. B. Johnson home Monday night and went to Bend with Mr. Johnson Tuesday as witnesses in the Warren case, P. B. Johnson having served a subpoena Monday.

B. B. Conaway went to Bend on business this week.

Mrs. Egbert Dyer will leave for her former home in Washington Monday to spend the summer.

Mrs. Chas. Grafenberger is on the sick list.

Mrs. Feeal and son Lawrence joined Mr. Feeal at Bend Tuesday for a short visit.

Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Johnson visited with Mrs. Cliff Evans Sunday evening.

We buy all kinds of hides, pelts, furs, wool. Briggs' Second Hand Store. 37tc

## RED CROSS WORK PROGRESSING

CLOVERDALE, April 16.—Geo. Cyrus, Ray Abbey, Harold Klien, Verne Skelton and A. E. Peterson attended the prizefight at Bend last Friday night.

M. Forham and his mother have moved to Redmond. Jessie Roy of Tekoa, Washington, is visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Green Beard.

Dean Van Matre and Idella Miller spent Sunday evening in Sisters. Mary Fryrear spent Sunday with home folks.

Guy E. Dobson passed through here Sunday evening on Liberty loan business.

Ladonna Cyrus and Gladys Parberry were shopping in Sisters Saturday afternoon.

Arvilla Wilson was a guest of Fay and Viola Miller Sunday.

Mrs. Geo. Parten of Sisk, Oregon, has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Green Beard.

The Junior Red Cross is progressing nicely. Every Friday afternoon after recess they hold the meeting. Friday Ladonna Cyrus, Lillian Van Matre, Nellie and Thelma Zumwalt and Louise Andrus knitted, Howard Matthews, Wayne Cyrus and Marlon Van Matre made boxes to ship the goods in, while the remainder of the school cut and strung gun wipers.

Lillian Van Matre was calling on Mrs. Mabel Klien Sunday afternoon.

The Red Cross was held at the home of Mrs. H. C. Miller last week with a fair attendance. It will also meet there this week. The Kelley house, where the Red Cross auxiliary has been taking place, is occupied now.

Harvey Vincent of Bend was in this neighborhood one day last week.

Mrs. W. R. Abbey was calling on Mrs. Mable Kline one day last week.

All kinds of hides, furs, pelts, wool bought at Briggs' Second Hand Store.

## MOUNTAIN VIEW EXCEEDS ITS QUOTA

BEND R. F. D. No 1, April 15.—Mrs. John Carson and children have gone to their new home at Springfield, Oregon, where Mr. Carson is employed in a sawmill.

Mrs. E. E. Stowe has sold her place here to a Bend party.

The Mountain View school district made more than its quota in the recent Liberty loan drive.

Mrs. G. L. Moore returned from Portland recently without having seen her son Chester, who was under quarantine at Camp Lewis. Mrs. Moore, however, visited her daughter, Mrs. Fern Henderson, who resides in Portland, and also her son Alonzo, who is farming at Vancouver, Wash.

Mrs. Phil Denner and Mrs. Ira Eagles returned from Portland after spending a week there, having foregone the pleasure of seeing their brother, Arthur Cook, who was held in quarantine at Camp Lewis, at that time.

At the last meeting of the Farmers' Union Local No. 83 at the Mountain View school Mrs. C. H. Wigmore was elected organizer for this local.

Mrs. J. W. Wornstaff taught a week in the Bend schools as a substitute teacher two weeks ago.

The Mountain View public school will close April 26.

A birthday party was given at the home of Lee Young Saturday night,

April 13, in honor of Elmer Young's 12th birthday. The evening was pleasantly spent in playing games, after which all participated in a taffy pull. Those present at the party were: Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Young, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Coffey, Roy Neff, Roy Cook, LeRoy Smith, and Misses Myrtle, Eunice and Ruth Neff, Mary Linsler, Dona Cook, Isabel and Fay Smith and Fannie and Dorothy Moore and Cecil Moore.

There were no church services at the Mountain View school Sunday other than Sunday school, as Rev. Hartranft had not returned from Portland, where he had gone to attend a pro-synod.

Mr. and Mrs. Elgin Stookey were guests at the Elmer and Joe Wornstaff home Sunday.

Little Marlon Stookey is recovering from a serious siege of the la grippe.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Young and sons Ceell and Elmer were visitors at the Neff home Sunday.

Otis Moore has taken up his duties as ditch rider again for this locality for this season.

It is expected that Arthur Cook and Chester Moore will be granted a brief furlough from military drill at Camp Lewis soon in order to attend to some business matters here.

Almus Neff and W. L. Coffey attended a cattle meeting in Bend Saturday.

There will be a meeting of the Ladies' Aid of the First United church at the home of Mrs. Ralph Grimes Thursday afternoon for the purpose of considering the purchase of a Liberty bond with some of the money in the treasury.

The following were dinner guests at the Newberry home Sunday evening: Misses Anna Dunsmore, Myrtle, Eunice and Ruth Neff and Vivian and Mildred Ledman.

The little son of Joe Acree is staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Denner at present.

The C. L. Smith family is in our midst again, having recently moved from their Powell Butte home to their homestead here.

Mr. Helgeson is doing jury service in the county seat again this week.

See J. Ryan & Co., for farm land loans.—Adv.

## VERDICT RENDERED AGAINST D. DUNN

Found Guilty of Charge of Attempting Life of Grover Caldwell Last March.

(From Monday's Daily.)

David Dunn, charged with attempting the life of Grover Caldwell in this city last March, was found guilty by a jury in the district court here yesterday after a sensational trial which lasted over the greater part of two days. It is understood that the attorneys for Dunn will make a motion for a new trial.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### CALL COUNTY WARRANTS.

Notice is hereby given that Deschutes county registered warrants on the general fund number 250 to 248, inclusive, are called for payment at the county treasurer's office. Interest stops on and after April 5th, 1918.

Adv. CLYDE M. McKAY, Deschutes County Treasurer.

### SUMMONS.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Deschutes.

Tony Zomprelli, plaintiff, vs. Annunziata Zomprelli, defendant.

To Annunziata Zomprelli, the above named defendant:

In the Name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint in the above entitled suit on or before May 16, 1918, that date being six weeks from the first publication of this summons, or for want thereof the plaintiff will apply to the above entitled court for and take a decree against you for a divorce forever dissolving the bonds of matrimony existing between you and the plaintiff.

This summons is served upon you by publication thereof once a week for six consecutive weeks in the Bend Bulletin, pursuant to an order of the Hon. T. E. J. Duffy, judge of said court, dated April 2nd, 1918.

First publication, April 4th, 1918. 5-11c ARTHUR J. MOORE, Attorney for Plaintiff.

### SUMMONS.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Deschutes.

A. N. Lyons, plaintiff, vs. Myrtle Lyons, defendant.

To Myrtle Lyons, the above named defendant:

In the Name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint in the above entitled suit on or before May 16, 1918, that date being six weeks from the first publication of this summons, or for want thereof the plaintiff will apply to the above entitled court for and take a decree against you for a divorce forever dissolving the bonds of matrimony existing between you and the plaintiff, and for the sole care, custody and control of the minor child of said marriage, namely, Earl Lyons. This summons is served upon you by publication thereof once a week for six consecutive weeks, pursuant to an order of the Hon. T. E. J. Duffy, judge of said court, dated March 28th, 1918.

First publication, April 4th, 1918. 5-11c ARTHUR J. MOORE, Attorney for Plaintiff.

### 014743.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. Department of the Interior, United States Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, March 11, 1918.

Notice is hereby given that Alva

Kirkpatrick, of Bend, Oregon, who, on April 26, 1915, made Homestead Entry No. 014743, for E½, section 21, township 19 south, range 14 east, Willamette meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final three-year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before H. C. Ellis, United States commissioner, at Bend, Oregon, on the 7th day of May, 1918.

Claimant names as witnesses:

David C. Rogers, of Millican, Oregon; Howard F. Dyer, of Millican, Oregon; William A. Golden, of Millican, Oregon; Jackson C. Cilligan, of Millican, Oregon.

3-7p H. FRANK WOODCOCK, Register.

Serial No. 010048

Contest No. 1803

## NOTICE OF CONTEST.

Department of the Interior, United States Land Office, The Dalles, Oregon, March 23, 1918.

To Robert Du Bois, of Whitaker, Oregon, contestee:

You are hereby notified that Clyde M. Shaffer, who gives Millican, Oregon, as his postoffice address, did on March 21, 1918, file in this office his duly corroborated application to contest and secure the cancellation of your homestead entry, serial No. 010048, made March 11, 1912, for NE¼, N¼ SE¼, sec. 33; NW¼ SW¼ and SW¼ NW¼, sec. 34, township 16 south, range 19 east, Willamette meridian, and as grounds for his contest he alleges that said Robert Du Bois has never established his residence or resided upon said claim; that he has wholly abandoned said claim for more than six months last past; that he has never made

any improvements upon said land, nor cultivated the same nor any part thereof; that said entryman's alleged absence from and failure to cultivate said land was not due to his employment in military service rendered in connection with operations in Mexico, section with operations in Mexico, or along the borders thereof, or in mobilization camps elsewhere in the military or naval organizations of the United States, or the National Guard of any of the several states; that said entryman's alleged absence from and failure to cultivate said land was not due to his employment in the army, navy or Marine Corps, or other organization described in the Act of July 28, 1917, or elsewhere.

You are, therefore, further notified that the said allegations will be taken as confessed, and your said entry will be cancelled without further right to be heard, either before this office or on appeal, if you fail to file in this office within twenty days after the FOURTH publication of this notice, as shown below, your answer, under oath, specifically responding to these allegations of contest, together with due proof that you served a copy of your answer on the said contestant either in person or by registered mail.

You should state in your answer the name of the postoffice to which you desire future notices to be sent to you.

L. A. BOOTH, Receiver.

Date of first publication, March 28, 1918.

Date of last publication, April 18, 1918.

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