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A DEAF MUTE

By JOHN Y. LARNED

Dan Goodwin, an American globe trotter, when the big European war broke out was in Brussels. Dan always wanted to be in everything, but in an independent capacity. As for seeing the fight in the ranks, that was not to his taste. He had no mind to be bossed, and, as for living in a trench, he infinitely preferred a front room in a hotel.

Leaving Brussels, he went to Liege, then to the top of a high hill and watched the Germans smash the works defending that city. He found it very pleasant looking on from a safe distance, watching successive missiles and noting the damage they did or their failure to do damage. He enjoyed the bombardment for some time without getting into any danger, then one morning woke up to find the city in possession of the Germans. This was getting too near to the other side, and, availing himself of his American passport, he withdrew to Brussels.

One morning Dan went to the front to look for a good place from which to see a battle. Suddenly a troop of uhlans came down on him. Seeing their approach, he felt in his pocket for his passport. It was gone.

Though the uhlans when he made this discovery were but a few hundred yards away, Dan did a large job of thinking before they reached him. He had heard a great deal of the looking

out for spies on both sides, and it occurred to him that he would be mistaken for one. What should he do? A spy must be able to see. If he couldn't see he couldn't be a spy. He would pretend to be blind.

Fortunately he carried a cane and began at once to tap the ground before him with the evident intent to feel his way. The Germans, seeing this when they reached him, drew aside to let him pass, but the captain of the troop pulled up and said in German: "Who are you, and where are you going?"

Dan understood enough German to know the question he had been asked, but it occurred to him to pretend that he didn't. He walked right on till he ran against the captain's horse, then started back, imitating the action of a blind man.

"He's a deaf mute, captain," suggested a lieutenant.

"Deaf mute be hanged!" replied the captain. "He can hear and see as well as any of us."

This gave Dan the idea to play that he could neither see, hear nor speak, and he decided to play the three cards instead of one. He made the throat sounds of a mute.

"Bring him along," said the captain. "They can find out about him at headquarters."

The captain ordered a couple of men to dismount and put Dan upon a horse behind a third man. This was done, Dan making sounds as if in protest, and when he was in position the troop moved on.

When they reached headquarters Dan was taken before an officer whose mustaches alone were fierce enough to strike terror. He heard those who took him there say that he was either a deaf mute or a spy—they did not know which—whereupon the officer said he

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would soon find out. Dan expected to be searched, but the officer evidently preferred to test him first. Taking a cigar out of his mouth, he extended the lighted end toward Dan's nose. Dan had the nerve to wait till the fire touched the skin, then jumped.

"That will do," said the officer. "He's shamming. He must have felt the heat before the fire touched his nose, but he showed no sign till it burned him."

Dan saw his mistake, but said nothing, keeping up the vacant stare of a blind man. The officer looked doubtful of his discovery and, drawing his sword, brought it to a level with Dan's face and slowly moved it toward his right eye. Dan found that a more trying ordeal than the other test. But he had excellent nerve and did not budge till he saw the point so near his eye that the officer could not be sure he had not touched it. Then he sprang back, with grimaces and guttural sounds in his throat.

The officer, whether convinced or not of his prisoner being a deaf mute, ordered him to be searched. From a hip pocket his passport was taken. When Dan saw it an expression of mingled relief and joy passed over his face, which betrayed him. While those standing about him were still looking at him curiously he broke into a laugh.

"Heaven be praised!" he exclaimed in German. "I thought I had been robbed of it."

The officer opened the passport, saw the seal of the United States, compared the description with the original and, finding that they agreed, was much puzzled.

"What did you pretend to be a deaf mute for?" he asked sternly.

Dan explained the matter, but the German refused to believe him. Instead of freeing him he sent him to the general, who asked him a great many questions which would prove or disprove that he was the original of the passport. Dan spent a month in limbo, every day fearful that he would be shot as a spy, but in time the Germans became satisfied that he was what he pretended to be and released him. Had he been any but an American he would doubtless have been shot.

SUBMERGED SUBMARINES.

Signs by Which They May Be Located From an Aeroplane.

In answer to a correspondent who asks to what extent a man in an aeroplane can watch the movements of a submerged submarine boat the Scientific American replies:

"We have consulted a naval aeronautic expert on the visibility of submarines from an aeroplane. He states that if the surface of the water is smooth and the water is fairly clear a submarine can ordinarily be observed visually from an aeroplane at any depth the submarine is likely to travel, which is usually not over 100 feet. Experiments have been made at Guantanamo, Cuba, and Annapolis, Md., and in the latter case the submarines were able to avoid observation at first by sinking to a muddy bottom. But the aviators soon learned to pick them out by some sign, such, for example, as escape of air bubbles."

In another article on the subject the Scientific American says that when the sea is rough it is much more difficult to discern a submarine. The captain of a warship can watch the course of a submarine by the bubbles it sends to the surface when the sea is smooth, but these bubbles are scarcely discernible when the sea is choppy. The disturbed surface inevitably makes it more difficult for an observer in an aeroplane to see what is going on below.

Punch and Judy.

Turkey is far from being the only oriental land in which a performance very like the English Punch and Judy can be found. Travelers have described entertainments of the kind in Persia, Japan, Kamchatka, India, Egypt, Syria, Nubia, Siam, Pegu, Ava, Cochin-China, China and Tartary. Mr. Villiers Stuart observed the Egyptian Punch flooring the mameur (chief magistrate) and his cavasses quite in the style of the British Punch's conduct toward beadies and policemen, though in the Egyptian version the play ended morally with the hanging of Punch. The hero belongs to all ages as well as to most lands. Some have traced him to the Atellan farces of early Italy, and he has even been recognized in ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics—London Standard.

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