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GOAT AS A MASCOT.

Billy Got "Cigarette Habit" From
the Tommies.

Billy, a goat, mascot of the 83rd Flying Squadron in France, is a wonderful animal, if he is alive. Should Billy be dead, an "ally" has been lost. But he will always live in the minds of many men who fought in France, particularly those of the 83rd Squadron. An interesting tale of the animal's life and experiences is told by Lieut. Noel S. Jones, of the Royal Air Force, recently arrived home.

When Billy was a kid, probably about three or four weeks old, he was bought for 10 francs by flying men from a peasant at Franqueville, and was turned loose among men of the 83rd Squadron for bringing up. In every sense of the statement Billy was a "high flyer." He didn't think anything of "stunts" at an altitude of 10,000 feet, he was horribly addicted to cigarettes, and ate chocolates in as great quantities as a girl, and the story has it that he had a fondness for liquor. But Billy, so the story goes, could "always keep on his feet."

Billy wouldn't accept a cigarette from the hand. That goat demanded he be allowed to accept a fag from a silver and initialed case, or from a box. He was a positive "fiend," having been known to eat as many as 50 cigarettes at one time.

When the squadron moved Billy was strapped in a plane and taken along. Arriving at the destination the goat was lifted from the plane and would commence eating grass or wandering about in a matter of fact manner. The shelling of the squadron by enemy craft had no terrors for him.

"Dowdy" or "Doughty."

The danger of using a word that sounds very much like another word that has a less flattering meaning was amazingly illustrated in Toronto recently, when an eminent judge who loves to make speeches was widely misquoted. Then it turned out that he had said something entirely different from what people thought. Towards the close of his speech at the Ontario Bar Association, Mr. Justice Riddell spoke appreciatively of the King and Queen, but in doing so applied an epithet to Queen Mary which was widely commented on. The phrase, as understood by practically everyone present, was as follows:

"Dear King George V—a plain man, a plain sailor, with a dowdy wife, who minds her business, looks after her children and her household, and sees that the smaller children succeed to the old clothes of the older as they grow up; a man and a woman like other men and women, who know their duties and devote themselves to their duties, and work hard in the position in life to which it has pleased God to call them."

One man who was in an excellent place to hear, and was very attentive to what was being said, declared that Mr. Justice Riddell did not say "dowdy," but that he used the word "doughty." It proved that this man was right. The word used in the speech was "doughty."

The word "dowdy" is an unfortunate one in that it has meanings which are complimentary, and other meanings which are the reverse. Here is what several dictionaries say:

Murray: "Shabbily dull in color or appearance; without brightness, smartness or freshness."

Wright's English Dialect Dictionary: "Slovenly, untidy in dress; dark, dull in color, faded; of quiet, homely habits, old-fashioned; stunted in growth."

Worcester's Dictionary: "Awkward, ill-dressed."—Applied to women.

Webster's New International Dictionary: "Dressed in a manner neither neat nor becoming; untidily shabby; wearing dingy or cheap finery; awkward and slovenly in dress; slatternly."

Beaverbrook and Nebuchadnezzar.

Lord Beaverbrook has been troubled with his throat for a long time, but is now making satisfactory progress toward recovery. A recent despatch represents it as a distemper, which may have been caused originally "by putting a few blades of grass in the mouth when walking in the fields."

This reminds us that there was once a prize poem competition at Oxford, for which one of the aspirants chose "Nebuchadnezzar" as his subject, and he wrote that the monarch, when turned out to grass,

"Exclaimed as he ate the unwanted foods,
It may be wholesome, but it isn't good."

But Beaverbrook is neither Thames nor Cherwell, and so far as Oxford is concerned he can prove an sibil.

Shorthorns Took First.

In the block test at the last fat stock show, held at Buenos Aires by the Rural Society of Argentina, animals of the Shorthorn breed were first and third in a class of 13, while second and third places were taken by an Angus cross and a pure-bred Angus respectively.



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