

Earl recognized the anxious little face of "Private Smif" and elbowing his way to the side of the constable he said, "I do not own the boy, but I know where he belongs and will take him home."

Bobbie gave a squeal of delight as he recognized the "Commanding Ossifer" and said, "There he ith, he'th my 'Commanding Ossifer'!"

Calling a taxi, Earl and Bobbie were soon at the Leslie home, Earl much surprised at the news given him by the governess, which was to the effect that Bobbie had been taken away by Dorothy, who refused to tell where they were going.

Laying the very tired Private Smif on the nursery lounge, Earl smiled as sleep quickly claimed the infant warrior. "It is a mean thing to do," thought Earl, "but this little soldier will be held for ransom. Dorothy will miss him and her first thought will be that he has found his way here, and will come after him. Then, well, we will wait and see what happens." A broad smile came to Earl's lips as he thought of a plan to make the meeting with Dorothy an impressive one, one that would recall their first meeting.

Taking the governess into his confidence, he prepared for the expected arrival of Dorothy.

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Dorothy came as expected, Earl heard her tell of Bobbie running away, and ask if he were there, the governess carrying out her instructions by telling Dorothy to "go right up to the nursery, he is alone playing with his old friends, the toys."

Private "Smif" had also received "orders" and impressed with the fact that "orders is orders." From his hiding place back of the curtains of the double windows, Earl heard Dorothy ascend the stairs and enter the nursery, heard Bobbie run to meet her, and her words, "Oh, brother-man, why did you run away from poor sister Dorothy?"

"Cause me wanted my 'Commanding Ossifer,'" replied Private Smif.

"Brother-man was naughty," said Dorothy, "and the Commanding Officer is far, far away, and we must never see him again."

Earl noticed the plaintive note in her voice and felt like rushing to her to contradict the statement she had made, but Bobby's next words held him back.

"Ain't far away, shall see him again."

"Yes he is, brother-man, and you must not contradict sister."