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we turned up our haughty English noses; if we heard the bagpipes wailing, we wished the division had been supplied with proper soldiers, English soldiers. But Scotsmen! How should we show up in respectable society in years to come when we confessed that we went to the front with a Scottish division? To be English among Scottish was surely a bitter fate.

But, believe me, as the months sped by and the time for embarkation drew nearer, we began to think that, after all, we shouldn't do so badly with Jock as a travelling companion. We began to boast in our letters home that we were on the eve of departure for France—in a Scottish division.

#### A Charge at Loos

In the firing line the spirit of mutual friendship grew apace. If I live to be a hundred, I shall never see a sight so fine as the Scotsmen's charge at Loos. That day a strong link was forged in the chain of the love that Tommy bears for Jock. We saw the Scotsmen leave their trenches with an alacrity that Englishmen can hardly equal. Intoxicated with the frenzy of battle, they swept on in a rush so irresistible that the German troops fell back two miles in less than thirty minutes. We of the artillery, following in their wake, traversed a stretch of open country littered with killed bodies; at three o'clock next morning, in a field behind the battery, I saw the remains of a battalion of Royal Scots Fusiliers falling in for roll-call. It was the same old story of decimation. The "battalion" numbered considerably less than a hundred. These are the things that thrill you and heighten your love for your comrades. It is not until the war-clamour has died away that you can sum them up.

#### The Scottish Temperament

The Scotsman in battle has a great advantage over the Englishman in that he is less emotional. In this respect, in fact, there is as much difference between the two nationalities as there is between English and French. In peace time the Scotsman's imperturbability is less noticeable. But automatically with the assumption of kilt and Glengarry somehow he seems to don a still more placid bearing. Compare Englishmen and Scotsmen at the moment when both are waiting to mount the parapet and take part in a charge. Of all moments in a soldier's career, that surely is the one when he

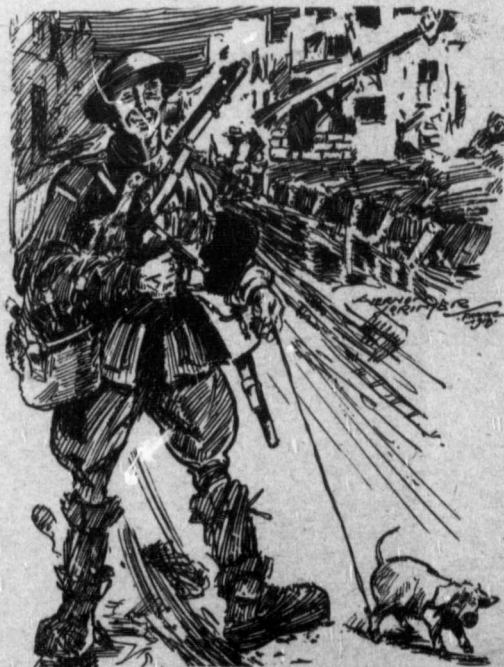
sheds completely any artificiality that formerly cloaked his soul. I have seen the Englishman both at that moment. The Englishman is no longer his typical self; he carries no characteristic swagger, no self-satisfied expression on his face. He loses all his outward nationality, and becomes, but for his khaki, a nondescript human being, believing in his luck and anxious, desperately anxious, to put it to the test.

But the Scotsman's behavior is altogether different. There he stands with bayonet fixed, and, as you watch him, you cannot help noticing that at this supreme moment his nationality, outwardly expressed, is uppermost among his feelings. A Scotsman through and through, more so now than ever he was before. If he turns to right or left in his impatience, he will swing that kilt of his as he used to do in the streets of Edinburgh, though he may be painfully aware of the change in his surroundings. The chances are that his last coherent thought before the charge is one of pride in his native land and of his own responsibility for its fair name and reputation.

#### Clags to the Picturesque

Again, it is of no concern to the Englishman that the old-time bugle call no longer sounds the charge. He does not regret the change from the picturesque to the colorless; rather he makes the worst of it by using for the words of command a plain "Go over" or "Get over." Not so the Scotsman. If he cannot have a bugle call, he will at least cling to the old resounding "Charge" as the best available substitute. And in that thought you may read a better comparison of the two nationalities at war than was possible by any other means.

This partiality for the picturesque, distinguishing him as it does from his English brother, is the chief cause of his popularity with men of English regiments. Jock is inordinately proud of his distinctive uniform. It is no uncommon thing in the trenches to see a Scotsman, though caked in mud from head to foot, and wearing such self-effacing articles of clothing as fur coat, woolen cap, and waders, flaunting a dirty ribbon or two to let you know his regiment. Everyone is dirty in the trenches, but it takes a Scotsman to defy the fashion of "nondescriptness," and, for love of regiment and nationality, to hoist his colors in a land of mud.—N.R. Simmons.



#### A MESSAGE FROM THE BOYS

"Don't worry—we're all right! We are now on a little fishing excursion to the Rhine and the folks on the way are sure treating us white. Good luck and a Merry Christmas to all at home!"

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