

## THE SHRAPNEL ROSARY OR THE UNFINISHED ROSARY

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A handsome carved chest is in the recess of the room and here it is that Barr places the crucifix and starts to erect an altar. He takes the table cover for an altar cloth and one of the candelabre from the mantle. In his search about the room he pulls two red cross flags from beneath a pile of debris, these he casts aside near the altar. When the altar is complete Barr looks at the soldier's uniform and registers a longing for his robes. His eyes alight upon the red cross flags and a smile illumines his face. Picking up the flags he rips them from their staff and ties them together; he slips them over his head and they fall in the effect of a surplice with a huge cross ornamenting his back and breast.

Barr designates that all is ready and the men prepare to say mass; a guard enters hurriedly and announces that a party of the enemy is approaching. All is confusion. Barr takes command and assists Clyde and De Phelan to move the general and at the same time gives orders for all the party to enter the panel. As the last man enters Barr slides the panel shut and kneels before the altar.

The doors are thrown open and the enemy enters the room. All that is to be seen is Barr kneeling in front of the improvised altar. The captain enters with drawn sword; Barr takes the crucifix from its resting place, turns, and crossing himself reverently, stands with upheld crucifix before the captain, his breast open for the fatal thrust. The captain stands in awe of such bravery; the men retreat step by step until they stand almost in a huddled heap in the doorway. Verily, "The Cross is Mightier than the Sword."

The captain is unequal to the situation; Barr in his improvised robes with the emblem of his faith, is master of the situation, for suddenly the captain sheathes his sword, wheels and says, "Attention! Right about face, forward march."

The captain and his men are seen coming from the house and making their way over the hills and out of sight. Once sure of the enemy's departure Barr opens the panel and calls his own party back into the room where silently and reverently they completed the saying of Mass.

All through the night, Barr, De Phelan, and Clyde keep watch and as the first streak of dawn appears in the sky they make their way into the passage and out of the entrance beyond the hill, and are seen hurrying across a wooded field which adjoins a small farmhouse and outbuildings. They are assisting a wounded man. On