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THE SNIPING OF A SNIPER

How Scrubby Stones Put End To One of Them

A Story of the Front Trenches and No Man's Land—German Lay Hidden Behind Dead Comrades

(By Rifleman Pat MacGill, Author of "The Great Push" etc. Special Correspondent of the Toronto Star.)
London, July 22.—Scrubby Stones bent his head under the shelter of the parapet as the glass of his periscope fell to the ground in shattered fragments. Then he looked at his mate, who was sitting at the door of the dug-out opposite.

"That was a near go!" he said. "A mighty near go!"

No wonder! said the man opposite. "If you go poking your head up like that what can you expect, Scrubby?"

"Wasn't expectin' this, anyway, Bill," said Scrubby. "It's no bloomin' quiet 'ere and as well as two under and fifty away from the other trenches."

"Snipen, I bet," said Bill. "One of our blokes in Company A got a pocket this mornin' and him in a mob that's a good three hunner away from the Germans."

Scrubby felt in his pocket, brought out a shaving mirror and fixed it to the point of his bayonet. This he held up to face to No Man's Land, and looked in it.

"Nothin' to be seen," he said. "Umpteen shells 'oles, half a dozen dead German stumps o' trees, barbed wire and mud. I don't envy a bloomin' sniper as lies out there."

"If there is one he's well camouflaged," said Bill, lighting a cigarette as he spoke. "They can't see us, can they themselves, the swine?"

"Ere I see somethin'," shouted Scrubby. "Out in No Man's Land. Come up 'ere, Bill, and 'ave a peep."

The soldier by the dug-out door got to his feet, blew the ash from his cigarette and mounted the freestep. Scrubby handed him the periscope.

"It's half left. Two dead uns lyin' together. In front of them a tree stump!" said Scrubby.

"I see it," said Bill excitedly. "At the foot of the tree a head or something that looks like a head. That's what you mean, ain't it?"

"To the left of the three stump three dead uns, lyin' in a bloomin' 'cap, and behind them somethin' moved," said Scrubby, taking no heed to Bill's remark. "That's where the bloke, as tried to knock me out and bashed my periscope, is lyin'!"

"That black lump at the foot of the tree stump is what I'd put my money on," said Bill. "It's no more like a sniper than anything else out there."

"That ain't no sniper, no more than is your grandmother," said Scrubby, with an air of certainty. "It's a camouflage. Bet you that it's a cap put there by Jerry to throw us off the scent."

"They're up to somethin'," said Scrubby. "But I saw somethin' more out behind the dead uns. Bet that it's the sniper, out there, lookin' for his prey. Let me 'ave another peep at him."

The periscope changed hands, and Scrubby looked in it. For a while he kept silence, his body rigid, his mouth a little open. As he looked a rifle shot rang out clear and sharp across the low-lying bay. Scrubby brought his bayonet and glass down and looked at Bill.

"Got 'im that time," he said. "Saw the bloomin' smoke just where I said. He lyin' there behind the dead uns, and I'm going to see that 'e'll be there for duration."

"And 'ere's the bloke comin' along. I'll speak to him and ask him about it."

"An officer, a young man wearing the D. S. O. ribbon, came round the traverse into the bay. Opposite Scrubby and Bill he stopped."

"Anything doing out there?" he enquired.

"Ehenty, sir," said Scrubby. "I've got my eye on one o' them, and 'im camouflaged behind a 'cap o' dead uns. It's that there sniper that's been troublein' us since we've come in 'ere. 'Just 'ave a look, sir, and see."

The officer got up on the freestep, looked into the periscope and saw the head of dead which Scrubby indicated.

"Out there?" he enquired.

"That's the spot, sir," said Scrubby. "He's lyin' back o' them dead uns, and if you keep a sharp lookout you'll see the smoke if 'e fires."

The officer saw the spurt of smoke even as Scrubby spoke, and at the same moment the glass in which he was looking was smashed to pieces above his head.

"I saw where he is," he remarked. "Saw the smoke, so we've got to get the man by the heels. I'm glad my head wasn't in line with the mirror."

"And it was a handy one for shavin', sir," said Scrubby. "Then, after a moment's silence: 'I know wot to do, sir. If I can have a free 'and I'll put the snipin' bloke out o' business for good.'"

"What do you propose to do?" asked the officer.

"This is my plan, sir," said Scrubby. "There's a wood behind this 'ere trench, so I'll get back there. I can camouflage and 'ide myself. The wood is lighter ground than No Man's Land, so I can lie behind a tree and let rip whenever I see this bloke up 'is game. 'All an hour will do for the job, sir, if you'll give me permission."

The officer recollected Scrubby's deeds of old, his cool confidence in the tightest corner and his skill with the rifle. This skill was vouched for by the cross rifles on the soldier's sleeve. If any man was suitable for the job it was Scrubby Stones. Fifteen minutes later he left the trench and crawled back through a sap towards the wood at the rear of the line.

It was the officer who saw how the deed was done, as he stood, twenty minutes later, on the freestep looking at the field in front. A rifle shot rang out and a bullet whizzed past his head out to No Man's Land. Scrubby's rifle had spoken and it spoke with effect. The officer heard a screech in front and saw a form in field grey rise from behind a pile of dead men, clay at the air for a space and sink to the ground again. The sniper had been hit, mortally perhaps, but for the moment that was the effect. Only when night fell was the effect of Scrubby's shot known. A search party found the German sniper lying on the ground beside his rifle, a hole in his breast, and dead.

Lord Lansdowne is another reason why the British House of Lords has been made merely ornamental—Chicago Daily News.

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Nobody Allowed To Dodge Their Duty

How An Arkansas County Made Everybody Get Into Harness for War Work—Sixty-Seven Clubs Formed

(American Lumberman.)
Early in the work of obtaining money for the Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A., as well as in selling Liberty bonds and Thrift stamps, it was learned that the Arkansas county to provide an example of thorough and effective organization including every community in the county and covering its entire territory was the Phillips county organization. At each new call made upon these communities for war work of one kind or another the need of more perfect organization is seen and the need is met; but it has remained for an Arkansas county to provide an example of thorough and effective organization including every community in the county and covering its entire territory. And while the Phillips county organization was designed primarily for war work, the direction that that work took was such as to operate to the permanent benefit of the county. At the same time it served to provide the government with the means of war it eliminated all slackers and made every resident of the county a loyal and enterprising citizen. The organization of the county began with the forming of the Phillips County Central War Club under the auspices of the local Business Men's League. This central war club was subdivided into two parts or sections, one at Helena and the other at Marvel, twenty miles away; the idea being that by this form of organization all the communities of the county could be covered more systematically. When the two divisions had been formed the business men of each immediately organized groups and teams of speakers who each Sunday afternoon traveled over their respective sections of the county and organized local community war clubs. Thus sixty-seven clubs were formed with memberships all the way from 20 to 500. Phillips was one of many counties in the south whose people could think of agriculture in terms of cotton only; and the principal problem of the war club was to convert them to thinking of farming in terms of food and feed. Therefore, each member was required to take this pledge: "I agree to plant not more than 40 per cent of all my cultivated land in cotton for the year 1918, and I further agree to plant the remaining 60 per cent in food and feed crops." That was a pretty hard pill for many of them to swallow, considering the prevailing market prices of cotton. But it went down and the effects produced this year have demonstrated the wisdom of the physicians and the efficacy of their prescription. At the same time that the farmer signed a pledge to plant food and feed crops he gave on his card particulars regarding his acreage in cotton, in garden, corn, sorghum, hay and sweet potatoes; as well as the number of sows, pigs, cows, calves and work stock. He tells how many persons are in his family and whether he has enough seed to plant the

Hint That Gov't May Take C.P.R.

Significant Remark by Premier Borden—175,000 Canadians at Front

Toronto, Sept. 2.—Sir Robert Borden was the principal speaker at the Labor Day directors' luncheon at the Canadian National Exhibition today, and late in the afternoon addressed an immense gathering of the general public in open air from the main bandstand. Probably fifteen to twenty thousand people listened to what was essentially an appeal to labor not to subtract from the national effort to win the war by controversy or discord. Sir Robert declared his belief that the Canadian board of adjustment, consisting of six members representing the Canada railway board and as many representatives of the various organizations of railway employees would be able to adjust all differences promptly and satisfactorily and might continue after the conclusion of the war as a permanent arrangement. Out of 384,750 Canadian troops overseas, he told them, more than 227,000 had been classed as "working men." Railway Ownership. At the directors' luncheon the premier devoted some time to the question of government ownership and operation of railways. "With one exception," he declared, "the largest railway proprietor in Canada is the Canadian people," and he added, significantly, "the day may come when there will be no exception." The premier said that Canada had 175,000 troops in France and Belgium. Up to August nearly 414,000 men had gone overseas. This was made possible by Canada's resolve to stand by her army and provide adequate reinforcements. Jewett-King. Miss Faye Alma King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allen King of Woodstock was united in marriage to David Budge Jewett of Burrill's Corner on Aug. 27 by Rev. Frank Baird.



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"We have 100,000 colored troops in the United States army at the present time," Thomas L. Jones of Washington, D. C., stated to the Toronto Star. "We have 100,000 colored troops in the actual fighting zone in France at the present time, and they are to be found throughout the various cantonments in the United States," stated Mr. Jones. "At Camp Meade alone there are 80,000 colored troops."

Mr. Jones stated that when the French and British missions visited the United States they made a special request that colored troops be sent to France. "They make the very best of fighting troops," he said. "We fully believe that those who go to fight the battle of freedom and represent the 15,000,000 colored people of the United States will maintain the record for bravery and heroism which they have always displayed in any engagements in which they have participated in the past."

At the present time 4,000 of Canada's colored population of 47,000 are in arms.

Spreading brown sugar on his brown bread, the patient consumer can scarcely be blamed if he falls occasionally these days into a brown study.—Toronto Star.



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