

A Gentleman and a Hero

(Concluded from page 8.)

up and said, "Boys, we will have to swim it." To do this I had to take my men about a mile above the ordinary ford or drift. We crossed successfully and succeeded in dragging the pom-pom over, too. We fell in with about two hundred of the Second New Zealanders. We managed to drag the pom-pom into a position where it was workable. It was difficult; sometimes we had to lift it bodily, and I noticed that Spion did more than his share.

Poor old Spion; he and I sat down, and while the gun was working he told me of his ambition to be promoted. He said that he would rather have a cross than a crown.

I was not in command, a Major was with us, and he told me that if we did not receive reinforcements, our position would be untenable. The reinforcements were slow, and arrived a little too late for poor Spion. The Boers charged in overwhelming numbers. Being an officer in a mounted infantry corps, I did not carry a rifle. I had a revolver, but it jammed. They rushed us. We managed to save the gun. It was the fiercest thing I was ever in; cold steel and no mercy. I had a heavy cherry stick and I used it as best I could, but I would not write this tale were it not for my old friend, Spion. A bearded Boer came at me with a bayonet. I parried his thrust with my left hand, and struck him over the head with my stick. Spion saw it and rushed to my assistance. He drove the bayonet to the rifle barrel in my opponent's chest, but at that moment the Boer fired. Spion got it. As he fell I grasped him. I knew he was done. He looked up at me and said, "Do you think they will get the gun?"

Poor old Spion. As he lay dying I stooped over him. "Say, old chap, you are all in and there must be someone with whom you would like me to communicate. I have never asked your name, but don't you think you had better tell me now?"

He pressed my hand, and with a whimsical smile that I will never forget, answered, simply, "Spion Kop—good-bye."

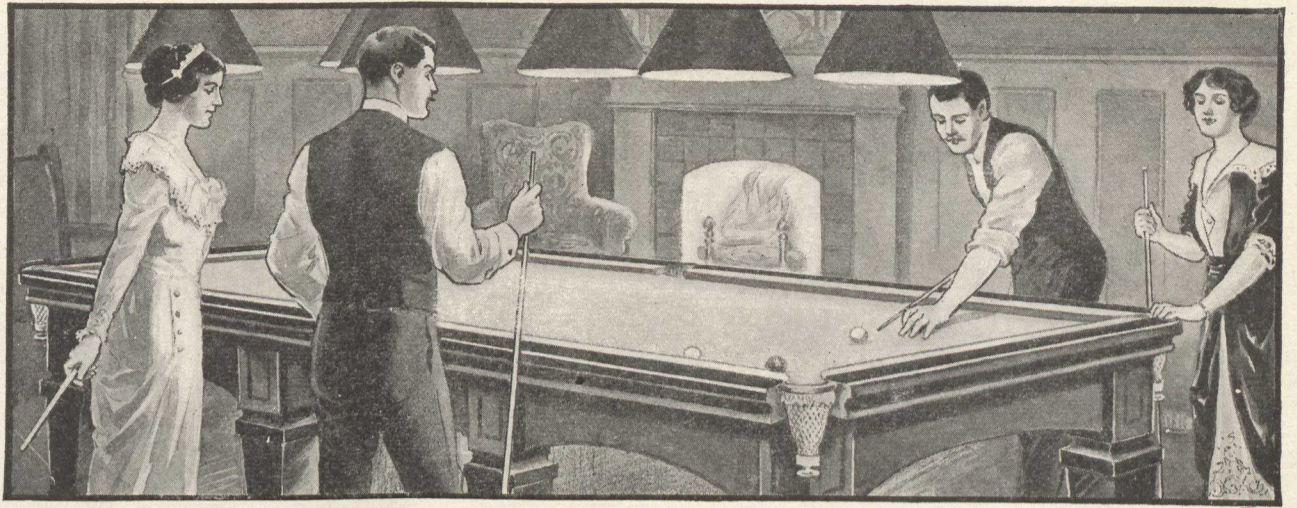
Next morning we reverently laid him on the gun that he had helped to save. The whole regiment followed him to his last resting place at the foot of the hill where he fell. We wrapped him in a Jack, and buried him with full military honours.

On his grave we placed the inscription—

Here Lies "Spion Kop."
In Life a Gentleman; In Death a Hero.

The Philosopher of Konigsberg

KONIGSBERG, capital of East Prussia, recently the main objective of the north division of the Russian army, is famous as the home of Immanuel Kant, the great philosopher and professor of almost everything, the little mummified man who by some is regarded as the original of Carlyle's Teufelsdröckh in "Sartor Resartus." Kant was a great philosopher. He lived in the latter part of the eighteenth century and died before the battle of Waterloo. He taught that the human mind does not need actual matter for its sensations. In fact, he could conceive it possible to abolish weight, tone, noise, colour, and most other properties of objects, reducing them all to states of the human mind. He was the greatest philosopher in Germany, and one of the greatest in the world. His "Critique of Pure Reason" is the germ of all modern new thought, and lies at the root of German culture. If Kant were living today he would probably argue that there were no red blood at Charleroi when 60,000 were killed in one battle, no noise in the North Sea when five German warships were sunk, and no real weight in a ton of explosives dropped from a German dirigible.



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