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AN AMERICAN SOLDIER WHO WENT

Arthur Guy Empey

limber wheel.

Next comes "C. B." meaning "confined to barracks." This consists of staying in billets of barracks for twenty-four hours to seven days. You also get an occasional defaulters' parade and district to be severed the constant. and dirty jobs around the quarters.

The sergeant major keeps what is known as the crime sheet. When a man commits an offense, he is "crimed," that is, his name, number "crimed," that is, his name, number and offense is entered on the crime sheet. Next day at 9 a. m. he goes to the "orderly room" before the captain, who either punishes him with "C. B." or sends him before the O. C. (officer commanding battallon). The captain of the company can only award "C. B." Tommy many a time has thanked the king for making that provision in his regulations.

To gain the title of a "smart soldier," Tommy has to keep clear of the crime sheet, and you have to be darned smart

I have been on it a few times, mostly for "Yankee impudence."

During our stay of two weeks in rest billets our captain put us through a course of machine-gun drills, trying out new stunts and theories.

After parades were over, our guns crews got together and also tried out some theories of their own in reference to handling guns. These courses had nothing to do with the advancement of the war, consisted mostly of causing tricky jams in the gun, and then the rest of the crew would endeavor to locate as quickly as possible the cause of the stoppage. This amused them for a few days and then things came to

One of the boys on my gun claimed that he could play a tune while the gun was actually firing, and demon-strated this fact one day on the target range. We were very enthusiastic and decided to become musicians.

After constant practice I became quite expert in the tune entitled "All Conductors Have Big Feet."

When I had mastered this tune, our two weeks' rest came to an end, and once again we went up the line and took over the sector in front of G

At this point the German trenches ran around the base of a hill, on the top of which was a dense wood. This wood was infested with machine guns, which used to traverse our lines at will, and sweep the streets of a little village, where we were billeted while

There was one gun in particular which used to get our goats, it had the exact range of our "elephant" dugout entrance, and every morning, about the time rations were being brought up, its bullets would knock up the dust on the road; more than one Tommy went West or to Blighty by running into

This gun got our nerves on edge, and Fritz seemed to know it, because

he never gave us an hour's rest. Our reputation as machine gunners was at stake; we tried various ruses to locate and put this gun out of action, but each one proved to be a failure, and Fritz became a worse nulsance than ever. He was getting fresher and more careless every day, took all kinds of liberties with us-thought he was in-

Then one of our crew got a brilliant idea and we were all enthusiastic to put it to the test. Here was his scheme:

When firing my gun, I was to play my tune, and Fritz, no doubt, would fall for it, try to imitate me as an added insult. This gunner and two others would try, by the sound, to locate Fritz and his gun. After having got the location, they would mount two machine guns in trees, in a little clump of woods to the left of our cemetery, and while Fritz was in the middle of his lesson, would open up and trust to luck. By our calculations, it would take at least a week to pull off the

If Fritz refused to swallow our balt, it would be impossible to locate his special gun, and that's the one we were cause they all sound slike, a slow pup-pup-pup.

Our prestige was hanging by a thread. In the battalion we had to endure all kinds of insults and fresh remarks as to our ability in silencing Fritz. Even to the battallon that German gun was a sore spot.

Next day, Fritz opened up as usual I let him fire away for a while and then butted in with my "pup-pup-pup-pup-pup-pup." I kept this up quite a while, used two belts of ammunition. Fritz had stopped firing to listen. Then he started in; sure enough, he had fallen for our game, his gun was trying to imitate mine, but, at first he made a horrible mess of that tune. Again I butted in with a few bars and stopped. Then he tried to copy what I had played. He was a rood sport all right, because his bullets were going away over our heads, must have been firing into the air. I commenced to feel friendly toward him.

This duet went on for five days. Fritz was a good pupil and learned rapidly, in fact, got better than his teacher. I commenced to feel jealous.
When he had completely mastered the tune, he started aweeping the road again and we elicised it worse than ever. But he signed his death warrant by doing so, because my friendship

turned to hate. Every time he fired be played that tune and we danced. The boys in the battalion gave us the "Ha!" . They weren't in on

our little frameup.

The originator o? the ruse and the other two gunners had Fritz's location taped to the minute; they mounted their two guns, and also gave me the range. The next afternoon was set for the grand finale.

Our three guns, with different eleva-tions, had their fire so arranged, that, opening up together, their bullets would suddenly drop on Fritz like a

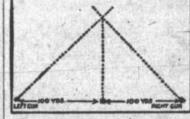
About three the next day, Fritz start-ed "pup-pupping" that tune. I blew a sharp blast on a whistle, it was the sig-nal agreed upon; we turned loose and Fritz's gun suddenly stopped in the middle of a bar. We had cooked his goose, and our ruse had worked. After firing two belts each, to make sure of our tob, we hurriedly dismounted our our job, we hurriedly dismounted our guns and took cover in the dugout. We guns and took cover in the dugout. We knew what to expect soon. We didn't have to wait long, three salvos of "whiss-bangs" came over from Frits's artillery, a further confirmation that we had sent that musical machine-gunaer on his Westward-bound journey. That gun never bothered us again. We were the heroes of the battalion, our captain congratulated us, said it was a neat piece of work, and, consequently, we were all puffed up over the stunt.

There are several ways Tommy uses te disguise the location of his machine gun and get his range. Some of the most commonly used stunts are as foi-

At night, when he mounts his gus over the top of his trench and wants to get the range of Frits's trench he adopts the method of what he term "getting the sparks." This consists o firing bursts from his gun until the bullets hit the German barbed wire. He can tell when they are cutting the wire, because a bullet when it hits a wire throws out a blue electric spark. Machine-gun fire is very damaging to wire and causes many a wiring party to go out at night when it is quiet to repair the damage

repair the damage.

To disguise the flare of his gun at night when firing. Tommy uses what is called a flare protector. This is a stove-pipe arrangement which fits over the barrel casing of the gun and screens the sparks from the right and left, but not from the front. So Tommy, always resourceful, adopts this scheme: About three feet or less in front of the gun he three feet or less in front of the gun he



Showing How Titz le Fooled.

drives two stakes into the ground about five feet apart. Across these stakes he stretches a curtain made ou of empty sandbags ripped open. soaks this curtain in water and fires through it. The water prevents it catching fire and effectively screens the flare of the fling gun from the

Sound is a valuable asset in locating a machine gun, but Tommy surmounts this obstacle by placing two machin guns about one hundred to one hundred and fifty yards apart. The gun on the right to cover with its fire the sector of the left gun and the gun on the left to cover that of the right This makes their fire cross; they are fired simultaneously.

By this method it sounds like one gun firing and gives the Germans the impression that the gun is firing from a point midway between the gun which are actually firing, and they accordingly shell that particular spot. The machine gunners chuckle and say, "Fritz is a brainy boy, not 'alf he sin't."

But the men in our lines at the spot being shelled curse Fritz for his ignorance and pass a few pert remarks down the line in reference to the magunners being "windy" afraid to take their medicine.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Gas Attacks and Spies

Three days after we had silene Fritz, the Germans sent over gas, did not catch us unawares, because the wind had been made to order, that is, it was blowing from the German trenches toward ours at the rate of

about five miles per hour.

Warnings had been passed down the trench to keep a sharp lookout for gas. We had a new man at the periscope, on this afternoon in question; I was sitting on the fire step, cleaning my

rifle, when he called out to me:
"There's a sort of greenish, yellow cloud rolling along the ground out in

front, it's coming—"
But I waited for no more, grabbing the rifle, I gave the alarm by banging an empty shell case, which was hanging near the periscope. At the same instant, googs started ringing down the trench, the signal for Tommy to don his respirator, or smoke helmet, as we call it.

Gas travels quickly, so you must not lose any time; you generally have about eighteen or twenty seconds in which to adjust your gas helmet.

A gas helmet is made of cloth, treated with chemicals. There are two win-

my head began to swim, throat got dry, and a heavy pressure on the lungs warned me that my helmet was leaking. Turning by gun over to No. 2, I changed helmets The trench started to wind like a

snake, and sandbags appeared to be floating in the air. The noise was horrible; I sank onto the fire step, needles seemed to be pricking my flesh, then I was awakened by one of my mates

removing my smoke helmet. How delicious that cool, fresh air felt in my A strong wind had arisen and dis

persed the gas. for three hours; they thought I was dead.

dead.

The attack had been repulsed after a hard fight. Twice the Germans had gained a foothold in our treach, but had been driven out by counter-attacks. The trench was filled with their dead and ours. Through a periscope I counted eighteen dead Germans in our wire; they were a ghastly sight in their horrible-looking respirators.

I examined my first smoke belimet.

A bullet had gone through it on the

A bullet had gone through it on the left side, just graving my ear. The gas had penetrated through the hole made in the cloth. Out of our crew of six we lost two

killed and two wounded.

That night we buried all of the dead, excepting those in No Man's Land. In death there is not much distinction; friend and foe are treated alike.

After the wind had dispersed the gas the R. A. M. C. got busy with their

chemical sprayers, spraying out the dugouts and low parts of the trenches to dissipate any fumes of the German gas which may have been lurking in

same.

Two days after the gas attack I was sent to division headquarters, in answer to an order requesting that captains of units should detail a man whom they thought capable of passing an examination for the divisional intelligence department.

Before leaving for this assignment I went along the front-line trench saying good by to we make and leading the

ing good-by to my mates and lord over them, telling them that I had

Continued next week.

The Quinine That Does Not Affect the Head