

IN THE TRENCHES

By Private John C. McElween

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McElween Returns to the Front—Administering First Aid to the Hun's Empty Stomachs—How the Funs Fought Amongst Themselves As Soon As They Were "Fed Up," Thrashing Their Officers in the Cage—One "Fritzie" Told Him the Fatherland Could Go to Hell So Far as He Was Concerned and That After the War—He Was Going to America Anyway—What the Fritzie Told Regarding the Affairs in the Fatherland—The Brazen Fraud of a Hun Detachment Who Left Their "Pill-Box" Under a Red Cross Flag—Battlefield Has No Horror for the Warriors Once They Enter the Thick of It—You Become So Engrossed in Your Work That You Pay No More Attention to Bullets Than if They Were Flies—"After All, What Can You Do?"—"You're Probably Just As Safe at the Spot You Are in As if You Shifted to Another, For You Never Know Where the Missiles Are Going to Land—So You Just Go Ahead and Chance It, As the Saying is."—"And Besides, You've So Much to Do That You Even Forget All About Your Chances"—Describes the Charge of the Highlanders From Shell-Hole to Shell-Hole—A Charge Against a Pill-Box—What is a German Pill-Box?

That wound of mine did not keep me away from our dear Fritzie very long. It only scratched the thick part of my right leg, and three days of recuperation at an improvised hospital behind the firing line fitted me up again. Really I could hardly keep quiet all night when the hospital orderly informed me that on the next day I would be permitted to return to my company.

What a Candid Fritz Told Him.

By the way, that night—the night before the morning on which I was due at the front, batches of Hun prisoners were brought in. One of hospital officials ordered about 30 of us to go out with sandwiches and coffee and administer the "first aid" to the Hun's empty stomachs. The poor devils! There were about a thousand in the hole, and the whole outfit looked starved.

We went out with the food, and what do you think the Fritzie did? Well, they made for us instantly, and we had our hands full in keeping the hungry Fritzie in line.

Huns Quarrel Among Themselves.

As soon as their stomachs were filled up with good British food, the Huns began to quarrel among themselves, and in another instant the Huns were fighting Huns.

Now these Huns would not mind us British privates. So I ran to the company headquarters and informed an officer that the Fritzie were scrapping amongst themselves, and that the presence of our officers was required.

It is in Him—The Hate

I will tell you it is in the nature of the Hun, he must hate, and unless he is having something or somebody he is never happy.

Chained to Machine Guns.

Sometimes they are chained to machine guns, but as a rule there is no need to take pains of that sort. Death finds you soon enough where the British guns are.

Men With One Eye in Firing Line.

The price that men will pay for immunity from service is going up. First it was a finger, then a hand, an arm next, now, where the commanding officer is very strict on every crucial, which is the same thing, men will gladly give an eye or a leg for the chance of being invalided out of the army.

Punishment for Mutineers.

"The result is that in the army we have had to establish a post of our own, and thus we obtain news of how our people are faring. What we hear is terrible.

A German Officer Badly Treated.

After the scrap we went inside the cage of an investigation tour. The whole trouble was this:

All in the Game.

But it was all in the game, and we could only be there and wait and figure out for ourselves how the obstacles would be reduced by the terrific artillery bombardment before we topped the bags and wallowed forward to our objective. It's an experience in itself to be out under that awful shelling, a big experience for us even.

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