

MY FOURTEEN MONTHS AT THE FRONT

An American Boy's Baptism of Fire

By WILLIAM J. ROBINSON

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When he left the car he mounted the beautiful horse that was waiting for him, and, escorted by the guard, he rode out to the reviewing stand. He made a speech to the men, who were formed up on the parade, and he thanked them for their loyalty and devotion to England in her time of need.



The King Mounted the Beautiful Horse That Was Waiting For Him.

When he threw their hats into the air and let out a mighty cheer. When this happened every horse on the ground, including my own, stood right up on its hind legs and reared for the blue sky above.

The king was thrown in some way and sustained injuries that were rather serious. The accident acted as a dampener to the enthusiasm, and the king's visit ended much differently than was expected.

CHAPTER XII. Last Day at the Front.

THE last engagement of any importance that I was in was the big attack at Loos in September. It was a big attack like this no one knows of at the front. Several attacks are made, and for all we knew ours might be the real one, or the real one might be twenty miles away from us.

It happened that at the time of the last attack we were almost sure that the big drive was coming through us. We were ordered to be ready to move at a moment's notice, and all preparations were made for a big fight.

When the attack came we thought that we were on our way at last, and everybody was "counting chickens."

There certainly was some terrible fighting, and if all we were supposed to do was to keep the Germans interested on our front we were very successful. Several things in this engagement deserve mention, and among the first is the famous charge of the London Irish.

They had not been heard of very much up to this time, but I don't think there are many who don't know of them now. They received orders to take certain trenches at a certain time, and on the face of it the thing looked impossible. The odds were all against them, and they knew it, but there was nothing for it but to obey their orders.

Nearly all the regiments have footballs with which they amuse themselves while in rest camp, and when they go into action these footballs are taken right along with them. When the whistle blew for the London Irish to charge they threw their footballs over the parapet and made their charge dribbling the footballs in front of them.

It was the most reckless, darddevil thing I ever saw, and it accomplished the impossible for them. As I said, by all rights the entire regiment should have been wiped out, as the odds were against them and they were running right into a death trap. The fact that they went at it in such a devil may care way as to joke and play with footballs in the very face of certain death broke the Germans' nerve, and they gave way with practically no resistance at all. Instead of the regiment being wiped out, as it should have been, the men took the trenches with losses of under 100. It was wonderful

I have referred to the work of our aeroplanes in various parts of this story, but I think that noncombatants sometimes fail to realize what an important and effective part the Royal Flying Corps is playing in this war. Aeroplanes themselves are still pretty dangerous modes of locomotion, and when it comes to running other risks for the sake of gaining information or doing material damage it needs a man who does not know what the slightest quiver of fear is and who is cool and ready for action in the case of emergency to make a good military aviator.

We have several aviators in our squadrons who have made big names for themselves. Among them are Captain Strange, D. S. O.; Lieutenant Hawker, V. C., D. S. O., M. C., and also Robert Lorraine, the popular actor, who is commonly known as the "actor-airman."

These three in particular have distinguished themselves on our little front. Captain Strange has a lame foot, but he has done some of the finest work of the war. In three days he destroyed three stations or big rail centers which were of great importance to the Germans. In each case he employed the same methods. He flew over the point he was aiming for, stopped his engine, did a nose dive to within a few hundred feet of the place, dropped his bomb and got away safely. Each time he came back with the planes of his machine riddled with bullets. It takes an awful lot of nerve to do a thing like that.

Lieutenant Hawker was the terror of the "Aviatiks" and taubes, and he has been known to fight three of these big machines single handed, destroying two and putting the other one to flight. Mr. Hawker longed for a chance to get mixed up with a Zeppelin, and on one occasion he nearly realized his wish.

It was a bright moonlight night last summer when everything was as quiet and peaceful as one could wish it to be. A scattering rifle fire could be heard from the trenches, but there was really nothing doing at all. About 9 or 10 o'clock we heard the hum of an engine away above us, and we thought, of course, it was an aeroplane. As it came nearer we realized that no aeroplane engine could make so much noise as that, and very soon word was passed around that there was a Zeppelin above us.

Very few of us had ever seen a Zeppelin, and we were more than straining our eyes to catch a glimpse of this one. Judging from the noise of the engine, it seemed as though the thing kept circling around over our encampment; but, try as hard as we could, we were unable to catch sight of it.

It had not been over us so very long before we heard a motor engine start up at the flying grounds, and word came around that Lieutenant Hawker was going up after it. Soon we saw an aeroplane shoot up over the tree tops and commence to circle around, gaining altitude every moment. It was quickly lost to view, though, and soon the engines of the Zeppelin could be heard no longer, so we concluded that it had made off. Lieutenant Hawker flew until daylight; but, much to his disappointment, he failed to find the Zeppelin.

Another aviator who became famous was Commander Sampson of the Royal Naval Air Service. At the beginning of the war he did so much damage with his aeroplane that a price was put upon his head by the German authorities. We heard that the sum of £1,000 was offered for Commander Sampson, dead or alive. This did not make any difference to him so far as his work was concerned, and he did just as much damage after the fact became known as he did before.

Nor was his activity confined to air work. He had an armored car that he used to go out in, and the exciting event of the day used to be to watch Commander Sampson's return. He seldom failed to bring back prisoners, and the damage he did to the Germans with the machine gun was fearful.

Last spring we had a new type of aeroplane come out, and it was a beauty. It became known as the "British Scout," and it was in this type of machine that Lieutenant Hawker defeated three big German battle planes. It has a very high powered, high speed engine and can pull right away from any other type of machine that flies. It carries one man only, who runs the machine and works the gun too, so he has his work cut out for him.

Before I ever saw a bomb dropping aeroplane in action I used to imagine that the bombs were dropped by hand.



The Regiment Has Footballs With Which to Amuse Themselves While in Rest Camp.

I was much surprised to find that such is not the case. The bombs are hung on little clips under the body of the machine and are released by a foot pedal arrangement. It is a much quicker and less dangerous method.

The bombs dropped from the machines vary in size and weight, and they run all the way from ten pounds to one hundred pounds. Each bomb has a little propeller at the tail of it. This keeps the bomb nose down in falling and insures its landing on the percussion cap. As the bomb falls through the air this little propeller whirrs at a tremendous speed and makes the weirdest whistling noise one could imagine.

During the summer months a great many air raids were made on moonlight nights. The machines are practically invisible when they reach any great height, and they can get back home and make their landing without very great danger.

When aeroplanes are late coming in it is very interesting to watch the rockets being sent up to guide them to their landing grounds. These rockets are of different colors and are sent up at regular intervals until the machine is either safely back or is given up for lost. When the machine is sighted and is circling down toward the ground big flares are lighted, so as to enable the aviator to pick his spot for landing. The whole thing is scientifically arranged, and there are not many accidents in this part of the work.

One of the most daring parts of the air work is the dropping of spies behind the enemy's lines. I believe this goes on on both sides and in many cases is successful. The second time I was going on leave to England I had made arrangements to go with one of our fellows from the flying corps. We were to start on a Monday morning, and on the Friday before he told me that he was going to make his last flight before going to England on the following morning, Saturday.

He started out at 4 o'clock Saturday morning with a man and a crate of carrier pigeons in his machine, and he had orders to drop both behind the German lines and return to his headquarters as quickly as possible.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

A STITCH IN TIME.

Booze People Should Not Neglect Their Kidneys.

No kidney ailment is unimportant. Don't overlook the slightest backache or urinary irregularity. Nature may be warning you of approaching dropsy, gravel or Bright's disease. Kidney disease is seldom fatal if treated in time, but neglect may pave the way. Don't neglect a lame or aching back another day. Don't ignore dizzy spells, irregular or discolored urine, headaches, weariness or depression. If you feel you need kidney help begin to use the reliable, time-tried remedy, Doan's Kidney Pills. For 50 years, Doan's have been found effective. Endorsed by grateful people.

Doan Munday, carpenter, N. Main St., Lenoir, N. C., says: My kidneys were disordered and I suffered from pains in my back. It was hard for me to stoop or bend my body. When a friend recommended Doan's Kidney Pills I used some. One box removed the pains and fixed me in good shape.

Price 60c. at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Munday has publicly recommended. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. York.

Notice of Service by Publication.

North Carolina, Watauga county. In the superior court. Ardelia Carroll and husband B. F. Carroll; Dora Wilcox and husband Vance Wilcox; Minnie Miller and husband B. F. Miller, VS. Fred Parsons, Wade Parsons, Mrs. Lloyd Parsons, minors; Lloyd Parsons, Clifford Parsons, and wife Sadie Parsons, Maclora Phillips and husband H. H. Phillips.

The defendants above named will take notice that a summons in the above entitled action was issued against said defendants on the 20th day of Feb. 1918 by the Clerk of the Superior Court of Watauga county, State of North Carolina, in the above entitled action for the partition of and, which summons is returnable before the clerk of the superior court of said county, at his office on the 22nd day of March 1918. The defendants will also take notice that a petition has been filed by the plaintiffs for the partition of the lands described in the petition in which both the plaintiffs and defendants are tenants in common at which time the defendants are required to appear and answer or demur to said petition or the relief demanded will be granted. This Feb. 25, 1918.

W. D. FARTHING, C. S. C. LOVILL & BROWN, Att'y's.

NOTICE.

North Carolina, Watauga county. In the Superior Court, Spring term 1918. Frank L. Henson vs Belle Henson.

The defendant above named will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the superior court of Watauga county by the plaintiff against the defendant for divorce from the bonds of matrimony; and the said defendant will further take notice that she is required to appear at the next term of the Watauga Superior Court to be held on the 3rd Monday after the first Monday in March 1918 at the court house in said county, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action or the relief therein asked will be granted. This Jan. 29, 1918. W. D. FARTHING, C. S. C.

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION.

North Carolina, Watauga county. In the Superior court. Ardelia Carroll and husband B. F. Carroll; Dora Wilcox and husband Vance Wilcox; Minnie Miller and husband B. F. Miller; M. E. Honeck and husband F. J. Honeck; J. M. McGuire and wife Laura Davis; and husband E. S. Davis VS. Fred Parsons, Wade Parsons, Mrs. Lloyd Parsons, Clifford Parsons, and wife Sadie Parsons; Maclora Phillips and husband H. H. Phillips.

The defendants above named will take notice that a summons in the above entitled action was issued against said defendants on the 20th day of February 1918 by the clerk of the superior court for Watauga county, State of North Carolina, in the above entitled action for the partition of land, which summons is returnable before the clerk of the superior court of said county at his office on the 22nd day of March 1918. The defendants will also take notice that a petition has been filed by the plaintiffs for the partition of the lands described in the petition in which both the plaintiffs and defendants are tenants in common at which time the defendants are required to appear and answer or demur to said petition or the relief demanded will be granted. This February 25, 1918.

W. D. FARTHING, C. S. C. Lovill & Brown, Attorneys.

DR. ALFRED W. DULA EYE SPECIALIST TO SEE BETTER SEE DULA 17 Year's Experience The Best Equipment Obtainable. Glasses Fitted Exclusively MARTIN BLOCK, LENOIR, N. C. If you got it from DULA, it's All Right. WATCH PAPER FOR DATES. LENSES GRIND & DUPLICATED Repair Dept. Box 127 Charlotte, N. C.

Life Was a Misery Mrs. F. M. Jones, of Palmer, Okla., writes: "From the time I entered into womanhood . . . I looked with dread from one month to the next. I suffered with my back and bearing-down pain, until life to me was a misery. I would think I could not endure the pain any longer, and I gradually got worse. . . Nothing seemed to help me until, one day, . . . I decided to

TAKE CARDUI The Woman's Tonic

"I took four bottles," Mrs. Jones goes on to say, "and was not only greatly relieved, but can truthfully say that I have not a pain. . . It has now been two years since I took Cardui, and I am still in good health. . . I would advise any woman or girl to use Cardui who is a sufferer from any female trouble." If you suffer pain caused from womanly trouble, or if you feel the need of a good strengthening tonic to build up your run-down system, take the advice of Mrs. Jones. Try Cardui. It helped her. We believe it will help you. All Druggists

Children Cry for Fletcher's CASTORIA The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment. What is CASTORIA Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. For more than thirty years it has been in constant use for the relief of Constipation, Flatulency, Wind Colic and Diarrhoea; Hay Feverishness arising therefrom, and by regulating the Stomach and Bowels, aids the assimilation of Food; giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend. GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher In Use For Over 30 Years The Kind You Have Always Bought THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

Virginia-Carolina Railway Company

TIME TABLE NO. 58 In Effect 12:01 A. M., Monday, Sept. 11, 1918 For Government of Employees Only.

SOUTHBOUND		STATIONS		NORTHBOUND	
Daily Except Sunday	Miles from Abingdon and Station No.	Eastern Standard Time	Length of Run in Clear	Daily Except Sunday	Station No.
1st Class				1st Class	
No. 1				No. 2	
A.M.				P.M.	
7:30		Lv. Abingdon (W.C.).....Ar.		8:15	
8:05	0.5	Lv. Yard.....Ar.	1138	8:45	
8:22	4	Lv. Watauga.....Ar.	400	9:00	
8:45	9	Lv. Barron.....Ar.	460	9:45	
9:12	12	Lv. Cedarville (W).....Ar.	125		
9:13	13	Lv. Drowning Ford.....Ar.	140		
9:14	14	Lv. Falls Mill.....Ar.	140		
Pass.				Pass.	
No. 13				No. 12	
8:12	16	Lv. Damascus (W) (T).....Ar.	820	4:18	
8:20	18	Lv. Laureldale (G.C.).....Ar.	400	4:11	
8:29	23	Lv. Taylor's Valley (W).....Ar.	600	3:58	
8:54	27	Ar. Creek Junction.....Lv.	375	3:48	
9:48	31	Lv. Callahan Crossing (G.C.).....Lv.			
Meet		Lv. Green Cove (W).....Lv.	380	3:00	
No. 14				Meet	
9:58	34	Lv. White Top Gap (W.T.).....Lv.	380	3:50	
10:00	40	Lv. Nella.....Lv.	200	3:28	
10:27	44	Lv. Tuckerdale (W).....Lv.	480	3:18	
10:38	46	Lv. Lansing.....Lv.	280	3:10	
10:38	48	Lv. Berlin.....Lv.	195	3:04	
10:45	50	Lv. Warrentonville.....Lv.	390	1:50	
11:04	53	Lv. Smethport.....Lv.	451	1:40	
11:04	56	Ar. West Jefferson (W.C.).....Ar.	800		
11:05	56	Lv. West Jefferson (W.C.).....Ar.	800	1:30	
11:05	58	Lv. Hamilton, N. C.....Ar.		1:14	
11:24	61	Lv. Donation.....Ar.	160	1:06	
11:54	65	Lv. Bowie (W).....Ar.	360	1:00	
12:04	71	Lv. Riverside.....Ar.	320	12:45	
12:06	74	Ar. Elkland, N. C. (W.C.).....Lv.	1310	12:30	
P.M.				P.M.	
Daily Except Sunday				Daily Except Sunday	
First Class				First Class	
No. 5				No. 6	
P.M.				A.M.	
8:13	8:55	Lv. Creek Junction.....Ar.	375	9:26	8:43
11:34	61	Lv. Grassy Ridge (:) Ar.		9:34	8:43
3:28	9:10	Ar. Konnarock (WYO) Lv.	20	9:34	8:28
P.M.	A.M.			A.M.	P.M.

*Stop on Signal. s—Regular Stop. G. C.—Grade Crossing. W.—Water. C.—Coal. O.—Scales. T.—Turntable. Y.—Wye. (:) Jct. W. T. Ry.

Used 40 Years NOTICE North Carolina, Watauga County, in the Superior Court, Spring term, 1918. W. J. Thomas vs. Ida Thomas. The defendant above named, will take notice that a summons in the above entitled action was issued against the said defendant on the 24th day of January, 1918, and was returned endorsed by the Sheriff, defendant not to be found in the County of Watauga, and affidavit having been filed by W. J. Thomas, setting that said defendant can not, after due diligence be found in the State of North Carolina, said cause of action being for divorce from the bonds of matrimony. Defendant is hereby notified to appear at the next term of the Superior Court of said county, to be held on the 25th day of March, 1918, to answer or demur to the complaint in said cause, or judgment will be entered against her in said action. This the 11th day of February, 1918. W. D. FARTHING, C. S. C. Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA FOLEY KIDNEY PILLS