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Montana's Most Decorated War Hero Was Porcupine Old-Timer

Robert A. Simpson, Formerly of Timmins, Publicly Recognized and Praised by the Legislature of the State of Montana in Session Assembled. Bravery of Private Simpson Reviewed.

All old-timers here will remember Mr. Robert A. Simpson, one of the popular early residents of the Porcupine. He is a brother of Mrs. A. Roberts and of Mrs. James Cowan, and a son of Mrs. Simpson who some years ago was a highly esteemed resident of town, but who returned to Scotland a couple of years ago. Mr. Robert A. Simpson, or "Bobby," or "Robbie," as he was called by his hosts of friends here, was one of the early residents of the Porcupine, living here with Mr. A. Roberts. He left here and took up residence in Shelby, Montana, U.S.A. There he enlisted for the Great War, and won high honours overseas with the American Expeditionary Force. Today, he is hailed as "Montana's Most Decorated War Hero." The recognition given him comes late all right, but it has come. At a recent session of the Montana Legislature the War Record of Pte. Simpson was publicly recognized and appreciation expressed for the honour conferred on the State by his war record.

A recent issue of the newspaper published at Shelby, Montana, U.S.A. makes the following extended reference to Pte. Simpson's War Record and to the recognition of the Legislature:—

"Montana gave homage Thursday to a private soldier. Infirmities born of wounds in battle and of the hardships of heroism afflicted him after he had come to the capitol to hear from the legislature in joint assembly the words of appreciation, the sentiments of gratitude, given in the name of all the people of the Treasure state.

"So Robert A. Simpson of Great Falls, private in Company A, Sixteenth Infantry, First division, had to return to his hotel and was not to hear these expressions of love formally made by the legislature.

"It was the tribute of Montana to a private soldier, to the valor, the gallantry, of this state's most decorated war hero. He wears the Belgian Croix de Guerre, the American Distinguished Service cross and in ad-

dition has six citations from the United States.

"The day early in 1918 came when the first American troops moved up to the lines. Private Simpson, whose home had been at Shelby, was with these first. Wires flashed to the people of America and the allies the news of that first baptism of fire of the Yankee doughboys. But the wires did not tell of a scene enacted silently under the heavens of night.

"On that scene the private soldier Robert A. Simpson, was the actor. From 9 o'clock of the night of February 9 until 3 o'clock the next morning he remained on the field of carnage, taking to safety wounded comrades. The cables across the Atlantic did not bring that story. But in the great annals of nations recording the heroism of the lowly as well as of the great, was the story. The Belgian high command paid its homage to the brave Montanan.

"It was at Mount See that Private Simpson many times that night imperiled his life to save others. Thursday the hearts of Montana were stirred in the emotions of affection as the minds of Montanans visualized the nocturnal gloom when a private soldier risked all that he possessed or could hope to possess so that his brotherly love might serve those in need.

"Then came July 22, 1918. It was a day of virtual annihilation as company A of the Sixteenth infantry went into the conflict near Soissons, France. That morning a bullet tore its gash in Private Simpson's body. The captain ordered him back. Simpson would not go. Then he was assigned as a runner, and all day he carried the wounded back to a more probable protection. Three men of the company survived that day—Private Simpson was one of them. But he was wounded again before the day ended. For this he received the service cross of the United States.

"And this scene was recalled Thursday as legislators of Montana assembled jointly to honor him to adopt resolutions of gratitude, resolutions which will be engrossed upon the records of state even as much as they are engraved on the hearts of grateful Montanans.

"Six other times the high power of the government at Washington cited him for gallantry. What these narratives are, what these heroisms were, and the sacrifices he made in serving his country as a private soldier,—these matters were not told to the lawmakers of a thankful state. But the state was thankful.

"Robert A. Simpson, now employed in a Great Falls office, did not come to Helena to receive this honor. As well it would have been had he remained at home. For, when he had come to the capitol Thursday morning, the wounds and the hardships he had endured, touched him again, and he had to depart before he could hear the voice of grateful Montana through ordained spokesmen.

"He had come to Helena, at the request of his friends and former comrades, to seek from the government of the United States some help. Physically impaired, suffering in body for the reckless gallantry on many a field in France and Flanders, he comes now, humbly, to see whether perhaps the country which he served as a private soldier will not aid him now.

"N. J. Gilliland of Forsyth, state commander of the American legion, believes that Robert A. Simpson's belated application to the country he suffered gladly for will receive a favourable response. Never before had he asked for anything.

"It was Mr. Gilliland who announced to the assembled house of the legislature in the house chamber Thursday morning the purpose of the gathering.

"Senator Harry M. Shelver of Park county, a World War veteran, presented Mr. Gilliland pointing to Montana's singular war record and recalling the days of struggle when on the battlefield of Europe it was determined that right should prevail. "Lieutenant Governor W. S. McCormack presided over the joint session. A committee of White, Patterson and Shields of the house and Shelver, Garber and Kane of the senate was appointed to escort the legion commander into the assembly."

JOCK'S DEDUCTION.

Two Scotchmen met on a country road after a long absence. "Hae a cigar," said Sandy, in the large manner. Jock thanked him and lighted it. "Gosh," he said, after along while, "these smokes maun hae cost you a deal." "Nae sae muckle," replied Sandy expansively. "A matter of five shillings the twa maybe." For a time the twa smoked away, talking of this and that. Then came a pause, "Sandy" said Jock at last, in tones of one who had made a great discovery, "Ah'm thinking your cigar is the four-and-ninepenny one."

SHORT CIRCUIT CAUSE OF FIRE LAST THURSDAY

The fire brigade had a run just after one o'clock on Thursday last, the fire being at 104 Cedar Street, south, the home of Mr. Barrette. The fire was caused, it is thought, by a short circuit of the electric light wiring, the blaze catching on the ceiling. Short work was made of the fire, and all danger was removed, the loss not being more than \$5.00 or \$10.00. After the fire truck had reached the scene of the fire, someone sent in a second alarm from the same box, with the result that the fire team started out after the fire truck, the firemen naturally thinking that extra hose was desired or that for some other cause the team-drawn wagon was required in addition to the motor truck. This was not the case, however, the second alarm being sent in carelessly or thoughtlessly by someone outside of the firebrigade. While returning to the hall, with the fire all out, the motor truck met the fire team on the way to answer the second call. The Chief explained that the second call had been sent in by the mistake of someone, and the fire team followed the motor fire truck back to the hall.

A.S.D. CLUB RE-OPENS FOR SEASON ON SEPTEMBER 2nd

The fall and winter season of the A.S.D. Social Club opens again on Wednesday evening, September 2nd, when the regular dances in the Oddfellow's Hall will be resumed. All members of the Club are requested to remember Wednesday, September 2nd, when the Club dances will be resumed.

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