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How Twenty-Nine British Officers Escaped From Holzminden

PART I.

How a group of British officers, prisoners of war, confined in the military prison at Holzminden, burrowed under the prison walls and constructed a tunnel three hundred feet in length, lighting it with current taken from the prison circuit and ventilating it by means of air pumps procured in the prison store room, is related by Lieutenant Edgar H. Garland, of the Royal Air Force.

Lieutenant Garland was a member of what was known as the Officers' Escape Committee, and contributed his share to the tedious work of digging the tunnel. With twelve different attempts to escape from captivity to his credit on the records of the German War Office, he was regarded as one of the most dangerous and elusive British fighting men held prisoner.

He enrolled in the British air service soon after the declaration of war in 1914, and it was in 1917 that he was taken prisoner. His squadron was sent to intercept a flight of Gothas that had been reported over England, bombing small towns. Lieutenant Garland, flying an 80-h.p. Le Rhone, accompanied the squadron to a position high over Ostend.

His engine "went dead" while he was manoeuvring at an altitude of 17,000 feet, and he was forced to descend. German troops immediately surrounded him. He was subjected to the usual questions, told the customary military lies about the disposition of the British forces and was sent to the civil prison at Brugge.

From Brugge he was taken to Courtrai and from Courtrai he was moved to Karlsruhe—a prison remembered for the treatment its officials accorded to allied prisoners. There the first serious consideration was given the tunnel scheme. Other officers who had been in Karlsruhe for several months had been busy choosing a spot from which the tunnel could be begun. In November, 1917, before they could undertake the work, Lieutenant Garland and the others were transferred to the Holzminden prison.

There a tunnel similar to that which had been planned at Karlsruhe was begun. Under the eyes of scores of armed guards its head was pushed further toward freedom every day. For nine months the digging continued.

Twelve officers whose work in the British army had familiarized them with the details of tunnel construction were chosen as directors of the task. Regular hours of work were allotted to them, and their companions in the prison were assigned to certain hours of work each day.

Long and careful search was then made for a location at which the digging could be begun. The entire prison was inspected and it was not until many likely spots had been considered that a tiny, triangular-shaped lumber room under a staircase in one of the buildings was chosen. It never was inspected by the Germans because its door was protected with a huge padlock.

The lock resisted the efforts of the British officers not more than a day. It was successfully picked by one of them. It may interest Hauptmann Neimeyer, commandant of the prison, to know that he was present when the job was done.

And with the first step taken, preparations were made for the taking out of the first shovelful of earth. Uniforms were procured from British privates, prisoners detailed as orderlies for the British officers. The officers who composed the working parties each day wore the orderlies' uniforms and mingled with the officers so that the German sentries might not notice the absence of the tunnel workers.

Floor boards were pried loose in the lumber room and in the middle of December the digging began. It was not difficult at first to remove the earth with the tools at hand, but as the shaft went deeper the task became harder.

The hole was dug straight down at first. The earth, stones and roots of trees that had stood on the site of the prison were carefully concealed in small bags. These were piled in the lumber room until opportunity was offered for their removal.

Whenever it became impossible to store more bags of earth and stone in the room the officers carried what had accumulated to the borders of the tennis courts where thick shrubbery offered a place of concealment.

It was not until several weeks had passed that the direction of the tunnel was changed and the work of pushing it toward the boundary line of the camp attempted. It was thought best by engineering officers to work as far underground as possible.

The entrance was four feet across and down at the base of the shaft, the tunnel was rounded out so that a man might change his direction without becoming jammed. But from that point on economy was resorted to so that no more digging than was absolutely necessary would have to be done. The tunnel proper was barely large enough to permit the passage of a man's body. It was planned that packs should be pushed ahead of the officers when they began their escape.

Shovels such as the Germans used to "dig themselves in" along the different fronts were unceremoniously abstracted from the storehouse in the prison yard. A supply of jackknives, intended for the prison garrison, was sampled soon after its arrival, and enough of the knives were obtained to reinforce the supply of tools.

The end of December saw the digging temporarily halted. Captain Gray, of the Indian forces, and Lieutenant Murdoch, his aid in directing the excavating, were told at four o'clock one morning that a huge lump of sandstone had been uncovered immediately in the path of the tunnel's progress. Examination by the officers in the hole at the time proved the obstruction too big to be moved back to the shaft and thence to the surface. It could not have been disposed of had it been brought to the lumber room.

Captain Gray, Captain Garland relates, crept from his cot, and clad in his underclothing only, made his way to the lumber room. He descended into the tunnel proper, first having called the men at work back to the lumber room. He examined the position of the rock, and noted its size and approximate weight.

Returning, he declared that the direction of the tunnel would have to be changed so that it would pass around the obstruction. His announcement created consternation for a moment because the officers at once realized just how much work and time had been wasted. But the turn was made and the rock was passed.

(To be continued.)

FISHING BY AIRPLANE

Aviators Can Signal the Whereabouts of Shoals of Fish to Trawlers.

Of the many uses to which aviation can be put, there is one which is at present engaging official attention.

As we all know, aviators when flying over the sea in fine weather can see a long way down into the water, a fact which was made full use of in the course of submarine hunting.

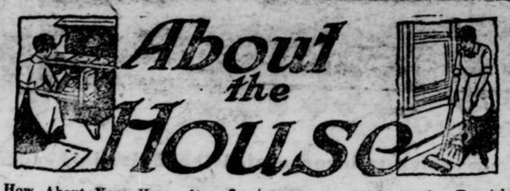
From an airplane shoals of fish can be observed, when their presence is unnoticeable from the surface, and the suggestion is that trained observers should be employed on the principal fishery grounds to signal the presence and whereabouts of these shoals to the waiting trawlers below.

Quebec's Forest Expenditure.

The legislature of Quebec has appropriated $100,000 for the provincial forest service and the inspection of lands for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920; also $7,000 for the maintenance of the provincial forest nursery at Berthierville. These amounts are very materially supplemented by the expenditures on forest fire protection incurred by the Ottawa River, St. Maurice, Laurentian and Southern St. Lawrence forest protective associations, which patrol the great bulk of the licensed and privately owned timber lands in the province. The expenditures of these four associations on fire protection during the past year total $177,729.

One of Canada's most prominent women lawyers is Miss Winifred Wilton, of Manitoba, who took up her brother's practice when he went to the war.

"Cheerfulness is the daughter of employment. I have known men to come home from a funeral in great spirits, just because they have had the management of it."—Horne.



How About Your House Dress?

Dark dresses breed carelessness; light ones, carefulness.

A dark cotton dress catches and retains as much dirt as a light one.

Don't use your dress as a towel. Have a towel always handy near the sink, and wash and wipe your hands frequently while about your housework or cooking. Dirty hands are a very frequent cause of dirty dresses.

If you have a loop on your dish towels and pin one to your belt when cooking, it will always be handy when the oven door has to be opened or hot dishes handled. It is dangerous to use your skirt or apron, and results in unsightly smutches besides. Train yourself to stand at least an inch away from sink or stove when washing dishes or cooking. Nothing so quickly soils the front of the dress as the habit of constant leaning while at work. If you are too tired to stand on two feet with your chest out, rest a few minutes before beginning the task.

Little aprons, with bibs attached, may be made either to tie around the waist or fasten by buttonholes to buttons correspondingly placed on the waistband of the house dress. They are simple to wash and iron, and since they may be made from the unworn parts of old sheets, house dresses, aprons, etc., a good supply should be always on hand, from dark ones to use doing dirty work, to white ones to slip on when cooking or when the doorbell rings.

For washing, an oilcloth or a rubber-lined apron, or one made from a cast-off raincoat, is indispensable. One cut like a grocer's apron, with a strap to go around the neck and laps to keep it in place over the hips, is best.

When scrubbing floors have a thick pad of old carpet to kneel on. It will save both knees and clothes.

Let the house dress be simply and becomingly cut, preferably in one piece. There should be no tight waistline to restrict the freedom of the arms; neither should the dress hang wrapper fashion from the shoulders. The elastic belted style or the bungalow apron type, with adjustable belt of same or contrasting material, is becoming, comfortable and serviceable.

The skirt should be short, and only full enough to allow a full-length stride. Too narrow skirts many times are the cause of falls, inconvenience and embarrassment, while too wide ones are so much added weight and mere dust collectors. Let keeping your house dress clean mean as much to you as keeping your floor clean.

Of course, the described costume is not for barn or garden work. Don't use if for such. Don overalls.

Springtime Dishes.

Dandelions—Gather only young, freshly grown plants. Wash thoroughly and boil until tender. Drain, chop finely, and mix with the following sauce: One-fourth cup vinegar, one-fourth cup water, one tablespoon butter, one tablespoon flour, one scant teaspoon salt, and a dash of pepper. Garnish with hard-boiled egg slices.

Baked Rhubarb—Bake as for plain baked rhubarb, adding two or three layers of raisins or some stoned dates. Raisins or dates must be washed and stoned, covered with boiling water, and simmered till the water is almost absorbed, before adding to the uncooked rhubarb. On top sprinkle stale bread crumbs or chopped nuts and cracker crumbs. Candied orange or lemon peel or ginger may be used in place of the raisins or dates.

Asparagus Soup—Boil one quart asparagus, cut in inch lengths, in one quart water until tender. Rub through a colander, and return to the water in which it was boiled. Heat one pint of milk, and thicken it with one tablespoon butter rubbed to a cream with one tablespoon flour. Season with salt and pepper, and pour into the asparagus. When boiling hot serve with toasted bread sticks.

Springtime Carrots—Dice eight young carrots, cover over with boiling water, and cook slowly until tender. Drain, saving the water for the sauce. Mix together one tablespoon butter with two tablespoons flour, and add one cup meat stock. Season with pepper and salt, and add one cup of the water in which the carrots were boiled. Let it come to a boil, pour over the carrots, and serve hot.

Eggs in Spinach Nest—Boil six eggs hard the day before wanted for use. Drop them into the vinegar with beet pickles to color. Cook the spinach in the usual way, drain, season with salt, pepper, and lemon juice; place on a flat dish, and arrange the eggs on it.

Rhubarb Custard Pie—Beat an egg with three-fourths cup sugar and one tablespoon flour. To this add one cup rhubarb, chopped or cut fine, and one-fourth cup water. Bake with one crust. When done, cover the pie with the beaten white of an egg, flavored to taste, and let it brown in the oven.

How to Keep Your Silver Shiny.

It is not such a difficult matter to keep silver from tarnishing if the causes are understood. Tarnish is the result of the combination of the silver from sulphur, but this occurs only in moist air. Tarnish will never appear in silverware that is kept where the air is perfectly dry.

Air contains hydrosulphuric acid, which comes from burning fuels, from cooking, from lighting gases, and from decaying organic matter. For this reason, silverware should be kept out of the kitchen, as vegetables and meats in the process of cooking give off sulphur gases.

Jewelers often use a thin coating of shellac on their displays in order to keep the silver from contact with the air. Trays, candlesticks, cake and fruit stands, and other pieces not frequently used may be treated in this way, as the shellac does not chip off easily.

Wool should not be used for wrapping silver, as animal fibre contains a large amount of sulphur. White cloth is often bleached with sulphur, and will tarnish silver wrapped in it.

Soft, bleaching cotton cloth is best for wrapping silverware, which should then be kept in a dry place.

Kitchen Walls.

After struggling for years to keep my kitchen walls in good condition, I finally discovered that an unexpensive table oilcloth was an excellent wall finish to waiscot height. The paperhanger put it on for me over the painted wall, using the width of the oilcloth, which was one and a half yards wide. A cheap picture moulding was used as a finish. In its place a narrow oilcloth border might be used. Above the base we used a white paper to match the oilcloth. The oilcloth base can be wiped off every week with a damp cloth, and after five years of wear my kitchen looks well. Many of our friends have copied the idea of this oilcloth base with papered walls above.

Cooking Weights and Measures.

One-half kitchen cup equals one gill.

One kitchen cup equals one-half pint or two gills.

Four kitchen cups equal one quart.

Two cups of granulated sugar equal one pound.

Two and one-half cups of powdered sugar equal one pound.

One heaping tablespoon of sugar equals one ounce.

One heaping tablespoon of butter equals two ounces or one-quarter cup.

One cup of butter equals one-half pound.

Four cups of flour (one heaping quart) equals one pound.

Eight round tablespoons of dry material equals one cup.

Proportions to Remember.

Four eggs to one quart of milk for custards.

One teaspoon of vanilla to one quart of milk for custard.

Two quarts of gelatin to 1¾ quarts of liquid.

Four heaping tablespoons of cornstarch to one quart of milk.

One even tablespoon of baking powder to one cup of flower.

One tablespoon of soda to one pint of sour milk. One teaspoon of soda to one pint of molasses.

One teaspoon of baking powder is equal to ½ teaspoon of soda, and one teaspoon of cream of tartar.

In preparing for baking mix dry materials in one bowl and liquids in another, combine them quickly and put at once into the oven.

The oven for baking bread should be hot enough to brown a teaspoon of flour in five minutes. For biscuits it should brown in one minute.

Rubbing a piecrust with butter a few minutes before it is time to take it from the oven will make it crisp.

Blackboard Charades.

A new variation of the familiar game of charades requires for equipment a wall blackboard and some crayons, cards for the players, and slips of paper on which to write the names of songs, poems or books. It creates a great deal of fun, as amateur attempts at drawing always do.

On the cards place a row of numbers, one for each song, poem or story. Give one of the cards and a pencil to each player, and let him draw a numbered slip of paper that bears the name of a song, poem or story. The player who draws No. 1 goes to the blackboard and makes the first attempt at illustrating his song, of course without letting the others know what the song is. As soon as he has finished, the players write down their guesses opposite the figure 1, and the next person takes his turn at the blackboard, and so on.

If, for example, a player receives a slip that bears the words "O Canada," he may either attempt to draw a map of Canada, a picture of Jack Canuck, or anything that will indicate the song. In illustrating "Where Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone," the amateur artist might show the tracks of the dog, and at the end of the board a few inches of his tail.

Following the custom of such games, when all the songs have been illustrated the players exchange cards and mark the guesses as some one reads the correct title for each number.

It is fine for cleaning cans - says the dairyman
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In Memoriam.

Only a slender maple tree
I planted for his sake;
There every day before my shrine
I bow a prayer to make.

His every deed my rosary,
I count them as I kneel;
My heart is sore, my eyes are dim,
Because his pain I feel.

Sometimes at eve the murmuring
Of leaves so soft and green
Makes voices in my heart of days
And times that might have been.

Only a slender maple tree
I planted for his sake;
There every day before my shrine
I bow a prayer to make.

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My Garden Fair.

I planted some seed in my garden fair,
And watched it with eagerness,
Nor grudged the measure of time and care
Bestowed thereon, if it did but bear
Return for my toil and stress.

And in the soul of a youth was sown
Some seed that might germinate,
But I watched not how it had later grown,
Nor seemed to think of it as my own,
Till I found it was all too late.
Shall plants and gardens be more than a youth
And tended with constant care,
And he with a soul of wondrous worth
Be left to himself, while things of earth
Are counted beyond compare?

O Soul, grant not that my garden's share
Be all that my eye can see,
But symbol rather of what were fair
That I should render those in my care,
For time and eternity!

Women have been permitted to practice law in Denmark since 1906.

Imports into Canada from the United States, for which payment must be made some time or other, continue to be on almost a wartime scale, the Canadian Trade Commission points out.

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HEMMED IN BY ALIGATORS

ADVENTURE IN A RIVER IN BRITISH GUIANA.

While Rescuing a Dog Mr. Robinson, The Noted Traveller, Has Narrow Escape.

While going to the rescue of a pet dog in a river in British Guiana Mr. C. H. Robinson suddenly found himself surrounded by alligators. He tells in the Wide World how he managed to escape from this unpleasant situation.

One afternoon I had returned from the field, says Mr. Robinson, and was about to indulge myself in a siesta in my hammock when Barclay, a strapping negro boy, came running excitedly into my room to tell me that a flock of ducks had alighted on the lagoon about half a mile away. Hurriedly snatching up my gun and cartridge belt, I made for the spot, accompanied by the boy, and had gone some distance when I became aware that a small dog, named Dally, a pretty Swedish terrier, was following me. Dally belonged to a fellow overseer, by whom he was much prized, and indeed he was a great pet with the whole household. I did not wish him to go with me on this occasion, however, for I feared that he would scare the birds. I tried to drive him back again, but he was not to be denied; and so I allowed him to follow.

I reached the piece of water and, after a little stalking, managed to shoot two ducks, one of which was only wounded and fluttered away some twenty yards, where it floated and struggled.

At that moment Dally jumped into the water and swam toward the disabled duck. The brave little dog had reached it and was returning with it when Barclay suddenly cut:

"Look, baas! A 'gator! Going for Dally!"

Sure enough, about fifty feet away was an alligator swimming rapidly toward the dog.

"Quick, Barclay!" I said, "Jump in and frighten the brute away!"

But Barclay objected. "No, baas, I 'fraid!" he said resolutely.

There was no time to be lost in argument. The reptile was approaching the game little dog, which, burdened by the flapping duck, nearly as large as himself, was making slow progress. Dropping my gun, I jumped into the water and, half wading, half swimming, soon reached the dog, and then, placing him, duck and all, under my arm, I started to return to the shore.

The only point on the bank at which I could land for some distance round the lagoon was immediately behind the evil-looking brute; so I splashed the water and shouted at him, but without effect. There he continued to keep watch and ward, and it dawned upon me that he intended to make a dash for the dog if I ventured to approach him.

Poor Dally by now perceived his enemy, and was evidently terrified, for he set up a piteous howl. I am bound to admit that I was beginning to feel somewhat apprehensive myself, for I had never known an alligator to act with such boldness before, and my uneasiness increased when the boy on the bank shouted:

"Take care, master; whole lot 'gators dere behind!"

I glanced round and saw at least four or five of the uncanny reptiles swimming in my direction, doubtless attracted by the howling of the dog. For the first time I was thoroughly scared, and am ashamed to say that for a moment I entertained the thought of flinging Dally to the brutes and securing my own safety.

I was at a loss to know how to act circumstances. But Barclay, who had been gazing open-mouthed and inactive at the scene, suddenly pulled himself together and, seizing my gun and ramming in two cartridges, let drive both barrels at the eye of the sentinel alligator. The result was instantaneous. With a loud hiss and a great swirl, the brute sank out of sight, leaving a gradually widening stain of blood on the surface of the water.

Making a slight detour so as not to come in contact with the body, I dashed for the bank and, to my enexpressible relief, scrambled out to safety.

Were You Born in May?

If so, you may be a writer. Many of the great men whose birthdays are in May were writers. May seems to be short on birthdays of great men and women. Here is our list; how many of the names do you recognize?

Ralph W. Emerson, poet, b. May 25, 1803.
Walt Whitman poet, b. May 31, 1819.
Robert Browning, poet, b. May 7, 1812.
Alexander Pope, poet, b. May 21, 1688.
Thomas Moore, poet, b. May 28, 1779.
Joseph Addison, b. May 1, 1672.
Horace Mann, educator, b. May 4, 1796.

"Most men call fretting a minor fault—a foible, and not a vice. But there is no vice, except it be drunkenness, which can so utterly destroy the peace and happiness of a home."—Helen Hunt.

The Trade Commission is taking up a policy which may be stated as follows: First, to encourage consumption in Canada of Canadian produce and products to a much greater extent; second, to increase the exports, particularly of manufactured articles.

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