SAYS PHILADELPHIAN FIRED FIRST U. S. SHOT

Overbrook Man Declares Description Exactly Fits Cousin of Wife

LIEUT. HARRY B. WHITNEY

A former resident of Philadelphia was in command of the American battery which fired the famous first shell at the German lines.

He is Lieutenant Harry B. Whitney, former Philadelphia representative of the Read Machinery Company, of York, Pa., manufacturers of bakery machinery. The claim that he is undoubtedly the man who deserves the honor of being called the one to launch Uncle Sam's first shell at the Kaiser is put forward by G. F. Stanton, of Overbrook, who came to the conclusion, after reading cabled accounts of the opening battery fire against the Boches, that Whitney, to whom he is related by marriage, was in command of the big gun which announced Uncle Sam's debut in the war.

The account which Mr. Stanton read came today from the correspondent of the United Press with the American army in France and was as follows:

X battery asserts that Y battery "fudged" in firing that first shell at the Boches.

They came back to their training center from the front with a hot feud flaming between them.

Men of Y battery laugh sneeringly at X battery's charge—"just sorehead," they say.

Proponents of both sides told their story today. It seems both dragged out their guns by hand across the muddy valley, through hundreds of shell holes, in a race to have the honor of firing America's first shot.

"We began a fair race to fire the first shot," said an "X" battery gunner today. "We were in position first—but we played the game according to the rules. Although we could have wheeled the gun around and fired as soon as we got there, our battery was determined not to fire until we had a gun in its regular emplacement.

"The description of the officer in command of 'X' battery undoubtedly fits Harry Whitney," said Mr. Stanton. "He is a cousin of mine by marriage, being a nephew of Robert Springsteen, postmaster at Indianapolis. He is also a cousin of John Gordon, of the United States Bureau of Naturalization here. Whitney's parents live in Springfield, O., where the elder Whitney is manager of the Ohio State Electric Railways Company.

"As the dispatch says, Whitney is a young machinery specialist, who gave up his post as manager of the London office of his company to enlist. He had been a member of the Indiana National Guard battery at Indianapolis, commanded by Captain Robert H. Tindall, now Colonel Tindall, who is in France. He came East to enter the employ of the Read Machinery Company and was made its Philadelphia representative, living while in this city at 1732 Spruce street with his cousin, Mr. Gordon. He was here about two years, from early in 1915 until late in 1916. He was then transferred to the company's New York office.

"Shortly before Christmas last year he was asked to take charge of the company's London office. He made a flying visit to his parents in Springfield, O., and sailed for England on the first steamship after getting his orders. He had not been in London long before he was eager to get into the war, although the United States had not then entered it, and he attempted to enlist. He was informed that he would have to renounce his American citizenship, but he was unwilling to do that. But when the United States entered the war he enlisted immediately. His training in the artillery stood him in good stead, and he quickly was placed in charge of a battery. He is only about thirty-four years old now, and he is certainly entitled to be proud of having fired the first shot for the United States."

THINK WILSON WON'T NAME RAILROAD CZAR

May Appoint Officer to Settle Disputes Over Preferred Shipments

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.

The railroad investigation was the subject of discussion between President Wilson and Senator Newlands at the White House this afternoon. The President's railway program, postponed until after Congress reconvenes on January 2, may be affected by developments in the investigation opening next week. Presumably he advised Chairman Newlands on the leads the probers should follow up.

Incidentally, confidence is growing in railroad circles that the President will not order Government control.

Appointment of a Government transportation administrator, with general priority powers to dispel present conflicts between various war-making branches over preferential shipments, is expected to be the extent of the President's immediate steps. The roads look for financial relief also.

READING GIVES PASSES TO ITS OLD EMPLOYES

Clerks in employ of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway are being notified through the heads of the various departments that they are to receive railroad passes for themselves and their wives, the scope depending upon the number of years they have been in the service.

The announcement means a substantial Christmas present for the wives, who heretofore have not been included in issuance of passes.

"While it cannot be called a Christmas present," an official of the company said today, "it will nevertheless be received as such by many of the women. We simply adjusted our regulations to include certain classes of our employes and their wives.

Clerks who have been in the employ of the Reading for twenty-five years will receive passes over the entire system for themselves and wives. Fifteen-year men will receive passes anywhere on the system and those who have served ten years will receive division passes. The passes go into effect January 1st.

WOMAN KILLS HERSELF AFTER BURNING MONEY

Worried Over Fear That Son Would Be Called to War, Relatives Believe

Fear that her son would be sent to war so preyed upon the mind of Mrs. Minnie Ratowsky, 75 years old, of 414 North Second street, that she went insane, threw her money and jewels in the fire and cut her throat.

Portions of burned bank notes and pieces of earrings and jewelry found in the stove indicate that Mrs. Ratowsky had lost her mind before ending her life.

Mrs. Ratowsky was found dead by her husband on his return from work. There was every indication of robbery until the discovery of the burned money in the stove.

A son of the couple works in the Philadelphia Navy Yard, and although he is beyond the draft age Mrs. Ratowsky frequently expressed fear that he would be called into war service.

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Girls' Combination Waterproof Raincoat

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Sizes 3 years to 16 years.

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Boys' Raincoat

$3.00

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Made of English Cantona; double texture; handsome plaid lining; military collar; tan and olive shades.

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$1.98

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Rubber Toys, 25c & 50c

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3 Molleen Muffs	$8.00
1 Near Seal Muff	9.00
1 White Mouffion Muff	7.95
1 Black Wolf Scarf	10.00
2 Gray Mouffion Scarfs	8.50
11 Black Wolf Scarfs	5.00
1 White Coney Set	5.95
1 Dyed Oppossum Scarf	5.00

	Formerly Priced
1 Molleen Muff	$5.00
1 Black Coney Scarf	9.95
1 Opossum Cape	5.00
2 Black Coney Scarfs	5.00
1 Nutria Collar	5.00
1 Black Coney Scarf	4.95
1 Dyed Skunk Scarf	10.00
3 Dyed Skunk Scarfs	5.00

$3.00

	Formerly Priced
2 Red Fox Scarfs	10.95
1 Black Wolf Muff	12.95
1 Black Pointed Wolf Scarf	15.00
2 Red Fox Scarfs	10.95
1 Black Wolf Scarf	10.00
1 Black Wolf Muff	12.00
1 Black Wolf Muff	12.00
1 Black Wolf Muff	12.00
5 Raccoon Scarfs	10.00
1 Black Wolf Muff	12.00
1 Black Coney Muff	10.50
4 Black Wolf Muffs	10.00
1 Black Wolf Muff	15.00
1 White Coney Muff	9.95
1 Black Wolf Muff	10.95
1 Nutria Collar	10.00
1 Beaver Collar	12.50
1 Beaver Collar	12.50
3 Raccoon Scarfs	14.95
1 Kid Fox Scarf	10.00
1 Molleen Cape	12.00
1 Black Wolf Muff	13.50
1 Black Pointed Wolf Muff	12.95
1 Black Fox Scarf	18.50

Choice $5.00

	Formerly Priced
1 White Coney Cape	17.50
1 Black Pointed Wolf Scarf	18.00
1 Taupe Wolf Scarf	32.50
1 Raccoon Muff	14.50
1 Natural Skunk Scarf	13.95
1 Hudson Seal Muff	19.25
2 Dyed Skunk Scarfs	14.50
1 Black Coney and Nutria Muff	12.95
1 Black Coney and Fitch Scarf	12.00
1 Raccoon Scarf	12.95
1 Natural Skunk Collar	15.00
1 Black Wolf Muff	15.00
2 Near Seal Collars	12.00

Choice $10.00

	Formerly Priced
1 Black Lynx Scarf	25.00
1 Red Fox Scarf	19.95
1 Black Wolf Muff	16.50
1 Dyed Opossum Muff	25.00
1 Red Fox Scarf	19.95
3 White Coney Capes	18.50
1 Dyed Skunk Scarf	15.00
1 Black Wolf Muff	16.50

Choice $12.00

	Formerly Priced
1 Taupe Wolf Scarf	25.00
2 Black Wolf Scarfs	15.00
1 Poiret Wolf Scarf	25.00
1 Taupe Fox Scarf	25.00
1 Poiret Wolf Scarf	25.00
1 White Coney Sets	12.95
1 Taupe Fox Scarf	12.95
1 Natural Skunk Scarf	12.95

Choice $12.50

	Formerly Priced
1 Near Seal Scarf	23.75
1 Near Seal Scarf	23.75
1 White Coney Scarf	32.50
1 White Coney Scarf	27.50
1 Hudson Seal Collar	22.50
1 Hudson Seal Collar	22.50

Choice $17.50

	Formerly Priced
1 Fitch Scarf	16.50
1 Dyed Skunk Muff	22.50
1 Black Coney Cape	13.50
1 Red Fox Scarf	13.50
1 Fitch Scarf	16.50
1 Hudson Seal Muff	15.00
1 White Coney Muff	18.50
1 Black Coney Cape	13.50
1 Black Wolf Muff	21.50
1 Black Wolf Muff	19.95
2 Raccoon Muffs	16.50
2 Black Wolf Scarfs	16.50
1 Mink Scarf	25.00

Choice $13.50

	Formerly Priced
1 Black Lynx Muff	25.00
1 Black Fox Scarf	19.95
1 Nutria Muff	19.95
1 Nutria Cape	39.75
1 Raccoon Fox Muff	22.50
2 Marabou Capes	35.00
1 Dyed Skunk Muff	19.95
1 Hudson Seal Collar	19.50
1 Dyed Skunk Muff	24.95
2 Black Fox Scarfs	16.50
1 Poiret Wolf Muff	25.00
1 White Coney Muff	25.00
1 Dyed Skunk Muff	27.50
1 Dyed Skunk Scarf	17.50
1 Black Lynx Muff	25.00
1 Hudson Seal Muff	16.50
2 Squirrel Muffs	18.50
1 Dyed Skunk Muff	32.00
2 Molleen Muffs	16.50
1 Dyed Skunk Muff	25.00
1 Black Fox Scarf	19.95
1 Near Seal Scarf	21.50
1 Raccoon Muff	22.95
1 Red Fox Set	16.50
1 Dyed Skunk Muff	19.50
1 Hudson Seal Collar	19.50
1 Dyed Skunk Muff	25.00
1 Natural Skunk Muff	33.50
1 Natural Skunk Muff	35.00
1 Dyed Skunk Scarf	25.00
2 Skunk Scarfs	25.00
1 Black Lynx Muff	21.50
2 Raccoon Muffs	18.50
1 Raccoon Scarf	19.95
2 White Coney Scarfs	25.00
1 Dyed Skunk Muff	24.95

Choice $15.00

	Formerly Priced
1 Black Lynx Scarf	19.95
1 Black Fox Muff	19.95
1 Black Wolf Muff	32.50
1 Gray Fox Scarf	27.50
1 Civit Cat Scarf	19.50
1 Dyed Skunk Muff	35.00
1 Black Lynx Muff	35.00
1 Dyed Skunk Muff	25.00
1 Poiret Fox Muff	27.50
1 Black Pointed Coney Set	16.50
1 Natural Skunk Muff	29.75
1 Natural Skunk Muff	21.50
2 Dyed Skunk Muffs	22.50
1 Dyed Skunk Muff	22.50
1 Black Fox Muff	25.00
1 Black Fox Muff	33.00
1 Natural Skunk Muff	35.00

Choice $16.50

	Formerly Priced	Sale Price
1 Black Wolf Muff	$35.50	$19.50
1 Black Lynx Muff	19.50	16.50
1 Raccoon Muff	27.50	19.95
1 Black Fox Muff	19.95	16.50

	Formerly Priced
1 Nearseal Scarf	$35.00
1 Chin Squirrel Muff	27.50
1 Ringtail Mink Scarf	55.00

Choice $21.00

	Formerly Priced
1 Black Fox Muff	$32.50
1 Taupe Fox Muff	39.75
1 Taupe Fox Muff	32.50
1 Taupe Fox Muff	45.00
1 Raccoon Collar	27.50
1 Raccoon Collar	29.75
1 Civet Cat Muff	27.50

Choice $23.50

	Formerly Priced
1 Jap Kolinsky Mink Muff	$32.50
1 Jap Mink Muff	32.50
1 Mink Muff	32.50
1 Raccoon Scarf	35.00
1 Cross Fox Scarf	45.00
1 Raccoon Muff	35.00
1 Jap Kolinsky Mink Muff	32.50
1 Gray Wolf Scarf	35.00
1 Red Squirrel Muff	45.00
1 Mink Muff	35.00
1 Red Fox Muff	35.00
1 Mink Muff	35.00
1 Squirrel Muff	37.50
1 Natural Skunk Cape	35.00

Choice $25.00

These Higher Priced Furs Also Reduced

	Formerly Priced	Sale Price
1 Black Fox Set	$41.00	$32.50
1 Taupe Fox Set	45.00	32.50
1 Natural Lynx Set	75.00	35.00
1 Red Fox Set	42.95	35.00
1 Ringtail Mink Muff	65.00	35.00
1 Black Lynx Set	47.50	35.50
1 Red Fox Set	42.95	37.50
1 Black Fox Set	47.50	38.50
1 Black Lynx Set	49.50	39.50
1 Black Lynx Set	49.50	39.50
1 Lynx Cat Set	42.95	39.50
1 Black Fox Set	49.50	41.50
1 Opossum Set	65.00	45.00
1 Natural Skunk Set	55.00	45.00
1 Black Fox Set	68.50	48.50
1 Fischer Scarf	95.00	50.00
1 Pointed Fox Muff	75.00	50.00
1 Squirrel Cape	75.00	55.00
1 Pointed Poiret Fox Set	75.00	55.00
1 Hudson Seal Scarf	89.95	59.00
1 Jap Cross Fox Set	95.00	59.00
1 Jap Mink Scarf	75.00	65.00
1 Jap Kolinsky Mink Cape	75.00	65.00
1 Hudson Seal and Fitch Cape	85.00	65.00
2 Red Fox Sets	75.00	65.00
1 Fitch Kolinsky Scarf	95.00	75.00
1 Jap Kolinsky Mink Cape	85.00	75.00
1 Red Fox Set	95.00	75.00
1 Poiret Fox Set	95.00	75.00
1 Pointed Fox Set	175.00	85.00
1 Mole Scarf	125.00	65.00
1 Blended Squirrel Set	75.00	65.00
1 Mink Scarf	145.00	123.00
1 Hudson Seal Coat	165.00	145.00
1 Hudson Seal and Fitch Cape	195.00	150.00
1 Kolinsky Set	195.00	150.00

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