

"Outwitting the Hun"

By Lieutenant Pat O'Brien

(Copyright, 1918, by Pat Alva O'Brien.)

"Good Heavens, Leftenant!" he exclaimed, as he pumped my hand up and down, "how did you ever get away?" and I had to sit right down and tell him and half a dozen other people in the bank all about my experiences.

I had been in England about five days when I received a telegram which, at first occasioned me almost as much concern as the unexpected sight of a German spiked helmet had caused me in Belgium. It read as follows:

Lieutenant P. A. O'Brien, Royal Flying Corps, Regent's Palace Hotel, London.

The King is very glad to hear of your escape from Germany. If you are to be in London on Friday next, December 7, His Majesty will receive you at Buckingham Palace at 10.30 a. m. Please acknowledge.

CROMER.

Of course, there was only one thing to do and that was to obey orders. I was an officer in the army and the King was my commander-in-chief. I had to go and so I sat down and sent off the following answer:

Earl Cromer, Buckingham Palace, London.

I will attend Buckingham Palace as directed, Friday, December 7, at 10.30.

LIEUTENANT PAT O'BRIEN.

In the interval that elapsed, I must confess, the ordeal of calling on the King of England loomed up more dreadfully every day, and I really believe I would rather have spent another day in that empty house in the big city in Belgium, or say two more days at Courtrai, than go through what I believed to be in store for me.

Orders were orders, however, and there was no way of getting out of it. As it turned out, it wasn't half as bad as I had feared—on the contrary, it was one of the most agreeable experiences of my life.

CHAPTER XIX

I Am Presented to the King

When the dreaded 7th of December arrived, I hailed a taxi and in a matter-of-fact tone of voice as I could command, directed the chauffeur to drive to Buckingham Palace, as though I were paying my regular morning call on the King.

My friends' version of this incident, I have since heard, is that I seated myself in the taxi and leaning through the window, said: "Buckingham Palace!" whereupon the taxi driver got down, opened the door and exclaimed threateningly:

"If you don't get out quietly and chuck your drunken talk, I'll jolly quick call a bobby, bil' me, if I won't!"

But I can only give my word that nothing of the kind occurred.

When I arrived at the Palace gate, the sentry on guard asked me who I was and then let me pass at once up to the front entrance of the Palace.

There I was met by an elaborately uniformed and equally elaborately decorated personage, who, judging by the long row of medals he wore, must have seen long and distinguished service for the King.

I was relieved of my overcoat, hat and stick and conducted up a long stairway, where I was turned over to another functionary, who led me to the reception room of Earl Cromer, the King's secretary.

There I was introduced to another Earl and Duke, whose names I do not remember. I was becoming so bewildered, in fact, that it is a wonder that I remember as much as I do of this event.

I had heard many times that before being presented to the King a man is coached carefully as to just how he should behave. He is to say and do, and all this time I was wondering when this drilling would commence.

I certainly had no idea that the august presence of the King without some preliminary instruction.

Earl Cromer and the other noblemen talked to me for a while and got me to relate in brief the story of my experience, and they appeared to be very much interested. Perhaps they did it only to give me confidence and as a sort of rehearsal for the main performance, which was scheduled to take place much sooner than I expected.

I had barely completed my story when the door opened and an attendant entered and announced:

"The King will receive Lieutenant O'Brien."

Life Had No Charms For Him

"Oh what a difference in the morning," says Mr. W. Lesnevski, of 729 Lehman street, Lebanon, Pa. I have had Stomach and Kidney trouble for years. I could not sleep, but just roll and toss and wait for daylight. I had no appetite and I was existing on my ambition for I had to work. I heard so much about Tonnal and that it contained so many different herbs, roots and barks and so small amount of alcohol that I thought I would try it.

I began to take Tonnal and the results I have received have been wonderful. I eat and sleep fine and my nervousness is fast disappearing.

Tonnal is sold at Gorges' Drug Store, Harrisburg, where his merits will be explained by the Tonnal chemist, and also at Hershey's Drug Store, Hershey, Pa.

Glasses for Office Workers

Typists, stenographers, bookkeepers, draughtsmen and accountants are prone to abuse their eyes by close application to their work.

Our Glasses relieve and rest weary, strained eyes.

W. J. Pike, Artificial Limb Shop

Abdominal Supporters and Appendicitis Belts Made to Order

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If he had announced that the Kaiser was outside with a squad of German guards to take me back to Courtrai my heart could not have sunk deeper.

In the Presence of the King

Earl Cromer beckoned me to follow him and we went into a large room, where I supposed I was at last to receive my coaching, but I observed the Earl bow to a man standing there and realized that I was standing in the presence of the King of England!

"Your Majesty, Leftenant O'Brien," the Earl announced and then immediately backed from the room. I believed I would have followed right behind him, but by that time the king had me by the hand and was congratulating me, and he spoke so very cordially and democratically that he put me at my ease at once.

He then asked me how I felt and whether I was on condition to converse, and when I told him I was, he said he would be very much pleased to hear my story in detail.

"Were you treated any worse by the Germans, Leftenant," he asked, "on account of being an American?"

I've heard that the Germans had treated them in the British army if they were, classing them as murderers because America was a neutral country and Americans had no right to mix in the war. Did you find that to be the case?"

I told him that I had heard similar reports, but that I did not notice any appreciable difference in my treatment from that accorded Britishers.

The King declared that he believed my escape was due to my pluck and will power and that it was one of

the most remarkable escapes he had ever heard of, which I thought was quite a compliment, coming as it did from the King of England.

"I hope that all the Americans will give as good an account of themselves as you have, Leftenant," he said, "and I feel quite sure they will. I fully appreciate all the service rendered us by Americans before the States entered the war."

At this point I asked him if I was taking too much time, as I was "Not at all, Leftenant, not at all!" he replied, most cordially. "I was extremely interested in the brief report that came to me of your wonderful escape and I sent for you because I wanted to hear the whole story first hand, and I am very glad you were able to come."

"Not at all, Leftenant, not at all!" he replied, most cordially. "I was extremely interested in the brief report that came to me of your wonderful escape and I sent for you because I wanted to hear the whole story first hand, and I am very glad you were able to come."

I had not expected to remain more than a few minutes, as I understood that four minutes is considered a long audience with the King. Fifty-two minutes elapsed before I finally left there!

During all this time I must have done most of the talking, in response to the king's request to tell my story. Occasionally he interrupted to ask a question about a point he wanted me to make clear, but for the most part he was content to play the part of listener.

Genial and Gracious Sovereign

He seemed to be very keen on everything and when I described some of the tight holes I got into during my escape he evinced his sympathy. Occasionally I introduced some of the few humorous incidents of my adventure and in every instance he laughed heartily.

Altogether the impression I got of him was that he is a very genial, gracious, and able sovereign. I know I have felt more ill at ease when talking to a major than when speaking to the King—but perhaps I had more cause to.

During the whole interview we were left entirely alone, which impressed me as significant of the democratic manner of the present King of England, and I certainly came away with the utmost respect for him.

In all of my conversation, I recalled afterward, I never addressed the King as "Your Majesty," but used the military "sir." As I was a British officer and he was the head of the army, he probably appreciated this manner of address more than I had used the usual "Your Majesty." Perhaps he attributed it to the fact that I was an American. At any rate, he didn't evince any displeasure at my departure from what I understand is the usual form of address.

Before I left he asked me what my plans for the future were.

"Why, sir, I hope to rejoin my squadron at the earliest possible moment," I replied.

"No, Leftenant," he rejoined, "that is out of the question. We can't risk losing you for good by sending you back to a part of the front opposed by Germany, because if you were unfortunate enough to be captured again they would undoubtedly shoot you."

"Well, if I can't serve in France, sir," I suggested, "wouldn't it be feasible for me to fly in Italy or Salonica?"

"No," he replied, "that would be almost as bad. The only thing that I can suggest for you to do is either to take up instruction—a very valuable form of service—or perhaps it might be safe enough for protection I decide to leave London."

Moreover, my thoughts and my heart were turning back to the land of my birth, where I knew there was a loving old mother who was longing for more substantial evidence of my safe escape than the cable and letters she had received.

In the adjoining room I met Earl Cromer again, and as he accompanied me to the door he seemed to be surprised at the length of my visit.

"His Majesty must have been very much interested in your story," he said.

As I left the palace a policeman and a sentry came smartly to attention. Perhaps they figured I had been made a general.

I was riding back to the hotel in a taxi I reflected on the remarkable course of events which in the short space of nine months had taken me through so much and ended up

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CHAPTER XX

Home Again!

That same day, in the evening, I was tendered a banquet at the Hotel Savoy by a fellow officer who had but three other friends of mine that I would be home by Christmas. This was made at the time he heard that I was a prisoner of war, and the dinner was the stake.

The first intimation he had of my safe return from Germany and the fact that he had won his bet was a telegram I sent him reading as follows:

"Lieutenant Louis Grand: 'War bread bad, so I came home.'"

He said he would not part with that message for a thousand dollars.

Other banquets followed in fast succession. After I had survived nine of them I figured that I was now in as much danger of succumbing to a surfeit of rich food as I had previously been of dying from starvation in their bare feet. The question of price is the all prevailing angle that the consumer is looking at, the question of delivery is what the merchant is looking at. The latter is serious angles in today's food question. Can the manufacturer make the delivery of goods? There should be every reason to believe that there is full and plenty of everything in the food line because of the bumper crops of 1917. So it is but the problem of putting the goods in the hands of the consumer demands it to-day, on the market is a serious one.

However, be that as it may, the person who is assured of anything they want in the grocery line. Staple and fancy groceries of all kinds, fresh and smoked meats, vegetables and fruits, cakes, crackers, candies, in fact an entire full line.

A delivery service second to none is maintained, whereby you simply have to telephone in your order and you get it almost before you are aware that it should be there. Mr. Deppen's store is located at Sixth and Emerald streets. If you want first quality goods, first quality service, courteous treatment and a surety that you will get what you want, try I. E. Deppen's store.

Up-Town Grocery Store

Does Large Business

One of the progressive grocery stores of the uptown district is located at Seventh and Maclay. This store is owned and managed by Meyer Marcus, who has had a large experience in the grocery business.

Anything in staple and fancy groceries can be secured at this store. Quality brands of goods that heretofore could only be secured at the downtown stores can now be secured strictly fresh and guaranteed to give entire satisfaction.

Fresh vegetables and fruits in season are handled. This is a specialty that Mr. Spurrier has recently added to his increasing restaurant business. To those who are acquainted with this restaurant, this is a big piece of news.

Spurrier's Restaurant is one of the better kind, and while not so large, it serves the best quality and best prepared food to be had. They make a specialty of home cooked meals and short orders. They maintain quick service at all times. A specialty is chicken and waffle dinners at moderate prices. Any club or lodge thinking of banqueting at a reasonable price will find Mr. Spurrier to be the man they are looking for.

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