

"I NEVER GOT OVER."

by

F. Scott Fitzgerald

I was in the class of '16 at college and this year was our twentieth reunion. We always thought of ourselves as the "War Babies" ~~(though I also claimed that honor)~~—anyhow we were all in it and ~~after those ten decades~~ ^{this time} I believe there was more talk about the war than at any previous reunion. Perhaps because ~~war is~~ ^{war is} in the air once more.

^{Three} Some of us were being voluble on the subject in ~~Spooey~~ Pete's back room, ^{on} the night after commencement, when a classmate came in and ~~got~~ ^{got} ~~down with~~ ^{down with} ~~him~~ ^{him}. We knew he was a classmate because we remembered his face and name vaguely and he marched with us in the alumni parade, but he had left college as a junior, and hadn't been back ^{these} twenty years.

"Hello there--Hib," I said after a moment's hesitation, and the others took the cue, ~~and~~ we ordered a round of beer and went on with what we were talking about.

"I tell you it was kind of moving laying that wreath ~~there~~ this afternoon," ~~Somebody~~ ^{Some one} was ~~saying~~ ^{referring} to a bronze plaque ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~the names of~~ ^{the names of} the sixteeners who died in the war, "To read the names of

Abe Dwyer and ~~Phil Cory~~ ^{Pop} and ~~Ed~~ ^{the rest and to} McGowan and think they've been
dead for twenty years and we've been ~~going on~~ getting old."

"I'd take a chance on another way to be that young again," I
said, "Did you get over, Hib?"

"No," he said ~~asologetically~~, "I was in the army but I didn't
get over."

The war and the beer and the hours flowed along. Each of us
shot off our mouths about something amusing or ~~quintic~~ or terrible--all
except Hib.

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when a silence fell and he say ~~rather~~ almost
~~kindly~~ apologetically

"I would have gotten over except that I
was supposed to ^{have} stop a little ^{long} ~~fast~~."

We looked at him inquiringly, and
~~was~~ ~~with~~ ~~him~~

~~of course I didn't~~ he said harshly
"But there was a row about
it." His voice died away but we encouraged
him ~~we~~ ~~to~~ ~~talk~~ ~~to~~ ~~us~~ ~~about~~ ~~it~~.

~~It didn't sound very interesting but~~
~~and~~ talked a lot and he seemed to
rate his chance.

"Nothing much to tell. The little
boy said some ^{officer} with a blue band ^{M.P.}
had slapped him in a crowd and
then ^{he told his father} it was me. ^{at the time} a month
~~soon~~ ~~was~~ But afterwards they
found he was always accusing
soldiers of slapping him, and
they let me go. What made us
think of it was Abe Danger's name on

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that pleaze this afternoon. ~~That's how~~
~~shopped to see how for it~~ They
put me in Leavenworth for a couple of
weeks while they investigated and
he was in the next cell to mine?"

"Abc Danger!" ~~is a boy from~~
~~my and Jacey~~ ^{is a class here}
and ~~let all~~ ^{discussed about in the} ~~the~~ ^{months.}

"Why he was recommended for the
D.P.C." I said.

"I knowet," ~~said Hibben.~~

"~~What~~ What on earth was Abc
Danger doing in Leavenworth?"

Again Hibben became apologetic.
"Strangely enough I was the year
~~with~~ ~~him~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~year~~ ~~1911~~

~~who~~ ~~was~~ I arrested him. But ~~he~~
he ~~did not~~ ^{didn't} blame me because it was
all in line of duty and when
I turned up in the next cell a few

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months later ~~we were~~ ^{he was} laughing about it."

We were all interested now.

"What did you have to wrest him for?"

"Well, ~~he~~ ^{you} I'd been put on M.P. duty in Kansas City and

~~was~~ almost the first
I was to take a detail of men with ^{been} ~~to~~ the big
hotel there--I forgot the name--and go to a certain room. When I

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"I wonder about it" too

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Leaven will be looking like I was looking at him & just he was there still there.

tapped on the door I ~~thought~~ never saw so many stars and leaves in my life. There were at least a brace apiece of generals and colonels. And in the center stood Abe ~~and~~ and a girl--a tart--both of them drunk as monkeys. But it took me a minute's blinking before I realized what else was the matter: The girl had on Abe's uniform ^{overcoat} and hat and Abe had on her dress and hat. They had gone down in the lobby like that and run straight into the divisional commander."

We ^{three} ^{just} looked at him, incredulous, ^{then} shocked, ^{finally} then believing. We started to laugh but couldn't quite laugh, only looked at Hibbing with silly half smiles on our faces, imagining ourselves in Abe's position.

"Did he recognize you?" I asked finally.

"Vaguely"

"Then what happened?"

"It was short and sweet. We changed the clothes on them, put their heads in cold water, then I stood them between two files of bayonets and said, 'Forward march.'"

We gasped again.

"And marched old Abe off to prison! It must have been a crazy feeling."

"It was. From the expression in that general's face I thought they'd probably shoot him. When they put me into

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"I can't understand it," Joe Boone said, "He never drank in college."

"~~That~~ That all goes back to his ~~time at D.C.A. for~~ D. S. C." said Hibbing, ~~finally that would get straightened out.~~

"~~Yes~~ You were in on that too?"

"~~Yes, Dr.~~ ^{Dr.} we were in the same division - we ~~all thought we were~~ ^{were} from the same ~~state~~ ^{state} you see."

"I thought you didn't get overseas."

"I didn't. ~~Higher~~ did ABC. But ~~things seemed to happen to~~ ~~him~~ ~~up~~ ~~at~~ ~~that~~ ~~time~~ ~~for~~ ~~him~~. Of course nothing like what you fellows must have seen ~~from~~ ~~you~~ ~~with~~ ~~you~~." How did he

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get recommended for the D.S.C. ^{"Diploma"}
^{and} ^{what} did it have to do with his
^{suppl.} ~~drinking~~ ^{drinking} taking to drink?"

~~It's sort of a long story.~~

~~Let's hear it maybe we get~~
~~his nerves and he used to dream~~
^{Well, those} ^{used to get}
~~his~~ ^{his} ^{on} ^{his} ^{his}
his nerves and he used to dream
about it —

"What drownings? For God's
sake, man, you're driving
us crazy. It's like that story
about 'what killed the dog'."

^{By} ^{lot} ^{of} ^{peeps} ^{thought} ^{it} ^{had}
~~he~~ ~~had~~ ~~nothing~~ ~~to~~ ~~do~~ ~~with~~
the drownings. ^{They} ^{blamed}
~~It~~ ^{It} ^{was} ^{the} ^{trunk}
matter."

We groaned — but there

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was willing to do but
let him tell it his own
way.

"~~What~~ ^{Just what} trench mortar?" I
asked patiently.

"Rather I mean a

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going around

a slow cable. You could carry above
in. When ~~the~~ ^{the} 'battalion' got
Stokes mortar. Remember those old stove-pipes set
the third ~~part~~ " You dropped a shell ~~down~~ ^{the water,}

(10) Abe commanded
the company but on
the day most of the

We remembered.
"Well, the day this happened ^{Abe} was in command of what ^{They}
call the 'fourth battalion.' It wasn't really a battalion--it was the
machine gun company, supply company, medical detachment and Headquarters
Company. The Hq. Company had two trench mortars and the one-

Handwriting of end of paper indicates
the end of the paper.

powder and the signal corps ~~and~~ and mounted orderlies--
a whole managerial itself. ^{was} ~~was~~ ~~commanding~~ ~~the~~
~~company~~ ~~that~~ ~~day~~ ~~twenty-one~~ ~~and~~ ~~commanding~~ ~~a~~ ~~battalion~~. I tell you ^{he} ~~was~~ ~~in~~ ~~charge~~

being proud

*
~~commanded~~ ~~the~~ ~~company~~ ~~that~~ ~~day~~ ~~twenty-one~~ ~~and~~ ~~commanding~~ ~~a~~ ~~battalion~~. I tell you ^{he} ~~was~~ ~~in~~ ~~charge~~
~~commanded~~ ~~the~~ ~~company~~ ~~that~~ ~~day~~ ~~twenty-one~~ ~~and~~ ~~commanding~~ ~~a~~ ~~battalion~~. I tell you ^{he} ~~was~~ ~~in~~ ~~charge~~
~~commanded~~ ~~the~~ ~~company~~ ~~that~~ ~~day~~ ~~twenty-one~~ ~~and~~ ~~commanding~~ ~~a~~ ~~battalion~~. I tell you ^{he} ~~was~~ ~~in~~ ~~charge~~

pretended to

^{all the time} ~~was~~ ~~Stonesall~~ ~~Jackman~~. Say, ~~what~~ ~~was~~ ~~it~~ ~~like~~ ~~for~~ ~~you~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~in~~ ~~charge~~

~~happened~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~safe~~ ~~side~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~ocean~~."

"of course not," ch. ~~What~~ ~~was~~ ~~it~~ ~~like~~ ~~for~~ ~~you~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~in~~ ~~charge~~

^{was} "Well, it ~~was~~ ~~in~~ ~~Georgia~~ ~~and~~ ~~there~~ ~~were~~ ~~a~~ ~~lot~~ ~~of~~ ~~these~~

little muddy rivers with big old rafts that were pulled across ~~and~~ on

He was in charge of the company for a week and a half and I was in charge of the company for a week and a half.

the company
for the

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going around

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the company?

"Right here, sir--and next is the supply and next, the medical--
I was just going to let them eat--"

"At the look in his eye ^{Ab.} shot up. ^{Dr. Captain} He wasn't going to let them
eat yet and ^{probably} ~~wasn't~~ for no more reason than to show off his
authority. He wasn't going to let them rest either--he wanted to
see what his company looked like (~~it wasn't~~ ^{maybe} he'd ~~seen~~ ^{seen} a
Headquarters company except on paper). He thought for a long time and
then he decided that he'd have the ^{trunk} ~~trunk~~ ^{throw some shells}
across the river for practice. He gave ^{Ab.} ~~of~~ ^{evil} the ~~company~~ eye again when
^{Ab.} ~~he~~ ^{he} said his ~~company~~ only had live shells ~~left~~ ^{left}

~~own--this was a little funny as we were going to lose it~~
~~it should be accepted~~ ^{The way} ~~it should be accepted~~ ^{accepted} ~~it should be accepted~~ ^{accepted}
idea to send over a couple of signal men to wigwag if ^{any} ~~any~~ farmers
~~were~~ ^{were} ~~beaten~~ ^{beaten} ~~trounced~~ ^{trounced} ~~off~~ ^{off} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~signal~~ ^{signal} ~~men~~ ^{men} ~~on~~ ^{on} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~bank~~ ^{bank}
~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~river~~ ^{river}, and when they had
wigwaged all clear, ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~ran~~ ^{ran} for cover themselves because a
Stokes mortar wasn't the most accurate thing in the world. ^{Then} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~fun~~ ^{fun}
began.

"The shells worked on a time fuse and the river was much too
wide so the first one only made a nice little crater under water."

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going around

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~~was~~ ~~believed~~ ~~and~~ ~~heard~~ ~~they'd~~ ~~all~~ ~~go~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~way~~. But the second
 one just hit the shore with a crash and ~~then~~ a couple of horses began
 to stampede on the ferry boat in midstream only fifty yards down. *Abc*
 thought this might hold his majesty ^{the captain but} but he only said: "Run!!"
~~They'd~~ have to get used to shell fire. ^{and} ~~and~~ ordered another
 shot. He was like a spoiled kid with an annoying toy.

"Then it happened, as it did once in a while with those mortars
 no matter what you did--the shell stuck in the gun ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~fuse~~

~~about~~ ^{people} ~~about~~ ~~dozen~~ ~~of~~ ~~it~~ ~~fell~~, "Scatter!" all at once ~~the~~ ~~same~~
~~instructions~~ and I scattered as far as anybody and lay down flat,
 and what did that damn fool ^{Abc} ~~captain~~ ~~do~~, ~~shoot~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~gun~~

~~but~~ ~~he~~ ~~got~~ ~~up~~ ~~and~~ ~~tilt~~ ~~the~~ ~~barrel~~ ~~and~~ ~~spill~~ ~~out~~ ~~the~~
 shell ~~and~~ ~~shoot~~ ~~it~~ ~~away~~. He'd saved ~~just~~ ~~seconds~~. The mortar
 but here were just few seconds between him and eternity and how he got
 away before the explosion is a mystery to me.

space
line

At this point I interrupted Sibbing:

"I thought you said there were some people killed."
 Oh yes--oh but that was later. ^{The 3rd Battalion} You see, ^{had crossed} ~~after~~ ~~this~~ ~~action~~ ~~could~~
~~had~~ ~~crossed~~ ~~the~~ ~~river~~ ~~by~~ ~~now~~ ~~so~~ ~~Captain~~
~~old~~ ~~Captain~~ ~~down~~. ~~So~~ ~~later~~ ~~the~~ ~~rest~~ ~~of~~ ~~our~~ ~~shell~~ ~~was~~ ~~hit~~

you were not about it.

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going around

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^{Bones}
into the silver and then he formed the companies and we marched off
to the ferry boat and began embarking.

"The second lieutenant in charge of that spoke to ~~me~~ ^{the captain:}

"^{eddy's} This ~~is~~ kind of tired," he said, "It's been over-worked

all day. Don't try to pack them in too tight."

"^{The} ~~But~~ ^{wouldn't listen} ~~captain~~ ^{listen}

He sent them over like sardines and each time ^{Ab} stood on the rail and
shouted:

"Unbuckle your belts and sling your packs light on your shoulders--"

"This without looking at the Captain because ^{he} knew by this time

^{that he superior}
he didn't like anybody giving orders except himself.

"The embarking officer spoke to ^{Ab} ~~me~~ ^{this time.}"

"That raft's low in the water," he said, "I don't like it. When
you started shooting off that cannon the horses began jumping and the
men ran around and unbalanced it." ~~Looked ~~the~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~raft~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~men~~ ~~ran~~ ~~around~~ ~~and~~ ~~unbalanced~~ ~~it~~~~

"Tell the Captain," ^{Ab} said, "He knows everything."

~~The Captain overheard this but this ~~was~~ but~~
~~he only said 'There's just~~

~~only one more load.~~ ^{and I lost what ~~any~~}
~~more discussion about it.~~

~~The men took it well but you could almost tell from their~~
faces which ones could swim and which couldn't.

"The next dawn with a big ~~wind~~ ^{whunk} just twenty yards from shore,
her nose ground ~~ed~~ in a mud bank five feet under water.

"I don't remember much about the next fifteen minutes. I dove and
swam out into the river a few yards for a ~~broader~~ ^{wide} view but it all
looked like a mass of khaki and water with some sound over it that I
remember as a ~~sound~~ ^{unpleasant} was ~~of~~ ^{Diagrams of Cussing,}
~~the~~ ^{Yells of fear} and even a little kidding and laughter. I swam in
and helped pull people to shore ~~and~~ ^{the} ~~ones who~~ ^{could} ~~swim~~

~~was~~ ^{but} ~~it~~ ^{was} a slow business in our shoes...

"When there was nothing here in sight in the river ~~except~~ ^{up} ~~one~~ ^{of}
corner of the large which had perversely decided to bob ~~in~~ ^{up} ~~the~~ ^{of} ~~water~~ ^{Caplan}
and left ~~met~~. ~~The~~ ~~captain~~ ~~was~~ ~~swim~~ ^{and} ~~was~~ ~~swim~~ ^{away}
twin brown ^{and} ~~and~~ ~~shading~~ ~~and~~ ~~every~~ ~~trace~~ ~~of~~ ~~existence~~
was gone.

"Oh God," he said, "What'll I do, ~~what'll~~ ^{we}
Abie took control of things - he pulled ~~the~~ ^{we} ~~and~~ ^{we} ~~got~~ ^{got}
~~to~~ ^{to} ~~see~~ ^{see} if any ^{of} ~~any~~ ~~one~~ ^{was} ~~was~~ ~~missing~~ ^{missing}."

"There were three missing in the first squad alone and ~~we~~ ^{we} ~~didn't~~ ^{didn't}
wait for the rest--we called for twenty good swimmers to strip and start
diving and as fast as they pulled in a body we started a radio ~~and~~

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(17)
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working at. We pulled out twenty-eight bodies and revived seven.
One of the divers didn't come up--he was found floating down the river
next day and ~~he was given~~ ^{They gave} a medal and ^a pension
~~to~~ his widow."

Hebbing panned thoughtfully; then he said, "But I know that's
small potatoes to you fellows in the big time."

"Sounds pretty valuable to me," said Joe Brown ~~laughing~~
smiling, "I had a good time in 'thrice but I spent most of
~~it~~ ^{guarding prisoners} near Port."

"~~But~~ How about ~~that~~ ^{himself}?" I demanded, "Why did this
drive Abe to drink?"

"That was the Captain," said
Hebbing, ^{slowly,} "A couple of ^{years} ~~ago~~ I tried to
get Abe a ~~damnation~~ ^{cut for a yelling} for the trench
work as thing. The captain didn't

like that, and he began ~~to say~~ ^{going around}
~~and saying that when Abe jumped~~
~~the ^{up} jumping up on the~~
 side ~~to~~ ^{of the} ~~board~~ ^{of the} ~~to~~
 give ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{usling order, that} ~~had~~
~~been used~~

had hung on to the ferry cable ~~and~~
 pulled it out of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~stake~~. The
^{captain} found a couple of ~~non-coms~~ ^{people}
 who agreed with him ~~and~~ ^{but}
~~just might have been true. But~~
~~they were others, though~~
~~and~~ ^{it was} ~~the~~
 unloading and ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{some} ~~connection~~
~~after the~~ ^{the} ~~was~~ ^{the} ~~shell~~ ^{burst}.
 But Abe was never very happy in
^{the army}
 after that.

~~long distance~~

There was an emphatic interruption in the person of Pete himself who said in no uncertain words:

"Mr. Tomlinson and Mr. Boone. Your wives say they called ^{for the} ~~for the~~ last time. They say this has been ^{night} ~~one~~ too ^{often} ~~often~~ and if you don't get back to the Inn in ten minutes they driving to Philadelphia."

Tommy and Jge Boone arose reluctantly.

"I'm afraid I've monopolized the evening," said Bibbing, ^{And after} ~~concluding~~

~~calling~~ ^{after} what you fellows must have seen."

When

~~when~~ they had gone I lingered for a minute.

So are we not

~~So are we not~~ was killed in France."

"So--you'll notice all that tablet says is 'died in service.'"

"What did he die of?"

Bibbing hesitated.

by a guard
"He was shot trying to escape ^{from} ~~from~~ Leavenworth."

God! And what a great guy he was in college!
"Many things he never ~~rank~~ ~~in~~ ~~college~~."

~~all I could see of it was the top of it and some~~
~~over here. That is all I could see. I shouldn't say that.~~

~~because not in the same way, I wanted to see it myself~~

"I suppose he was his friends. But he
~~was~~ he was ~~friend~~ of
 something of
 a snob wasn't he?"

"Maybe to some people."

"He didn't seem to ^{even recognize} ~~know~~ a
 lot of his class mates when he
 met them afterwards in the
 army."

"What do you mean?"

"Just what I say. I told you
 something ^{that was 4 times} ~~in my~~ ^{in my} ~~that~~ ^{that}
 Captain's name wasn't you
 Brown."

Again I asked him what
 he meant.

"The Captain's name was
 Hibbins," he said. "Good night."