

# The Pelham

SYNOPSIS.  
Captain Arthur Pelham, arriving in London from Bombay, India, after several years' absence, is told by a railway porter of his strong resemblance to Sir Arthur, who he says was killed in France.

Pelham recalls that his cousin is very much alive.  
Jenkins, the supposedly dying man, heard the supposedly dying man repeat and declares that these names have been seen signed to personal items in the "Agony Column" of a London newspaper.  
After going to a hotel, Captain Pelham decides to join in the fun and writes a personal address to "Matador" and "Vaquero" who had signed the ones which drew his attention. He warns both that "Bull" is after them.  
Scotland Yard will know of this in the morning, remarks one of the clerks in the advertising office.  
On a midnight walk Pelham walks through the gates of the family manor and immediately is set upon by another intruder, who attacks and kills him but allows his assailant to escape.  
After being questioned at police headquarters, Pelham returns to his lodgings.  
Next morning C. F. Prideaux of Scotland Yard calls upon him and leaves him with a note to be at a room in London to his fight of the following evening.  
When the official from the criminal investigation department hears that Pelham's capacity returns to the German, Prideaux, his interest in the case increases and he agrees to use the cooperation of Pelham in the clearing of the mystery.  
Phyllis Daint, fiancee of Sir Arthur Pelham, tells him of her father's death while Prideaux is with him. She tells of meeting the titled Englishman and of her suspicions. She feels in duty bound to marry the baronet. The army officer is impressed with the girl.

(Continued From Yesterday.)  
"My diminutive friend has been talking, eh?" laughed the other. "It is my only weakness. So he harps on it. No, Mr. Pelham, this is a lad year for small gardens. I bought these in a florist's."  
"So now you have met perfection, in an out size put in Prideaux."  
"I was prepared for something remarkable when you told me that Mr. Somers was twice your weight," said Pelham.  
"Yes," sighed Somers, "but it's a dreadful responsibility to have twice Prideaux's capacity. Sometimes I send under the load."  
"Bulge, not bend, you mean," snipped the little man.  
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# Hotel Loyal

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# Affair by Louis Tracy

I mean—and you, by chance, have supplied a sort of clue to their identity and whereabouts. Moreover, with better luck than ours, you have secured both names or may assume as much. Can you describe them?  
Pelham was good at that sort of thing. He supplied two very accurate "portraits" of one man, and a quite realistic sketch of the other, a stubby personage whom he had surprised in Dean street that afternoon.  
Neither of his hearers interrupted. When he made an end, Somers lifted a questioning eyebrow at Prideaux.  
"No," said the latter. "We have never come across them. If they operated in England it must have been during the early years of the war. Their intercepted letters were posted in New York. Brussels and Amsterdam—a few in Madrid. And the cypher they employed worried us for months."  
"How did you ascertain his name?" "I took it."  
"Yes, sir. Said it was all up with 'im, an', if I got through, ter write an' tell 'is people, as they'd like to know 'ad 'ad 'ad 'ad. Well, 'e was gorn next morning, so I s'posed 'e had pegged out afore daylight. Mind yer, they doped me when they took 'nt the bullets, so I wasn't 'er, you might call yer chippy neseef."  
"Did you write?"  
"Certainly I did, sir. Said nothink about the dirty work in the quarry, of course, as they read all letters, an' I would 'a' bin court-martialed for givin' that away—telling 'les about the great German Kultur they called it. So wasn't I the surprised lad w'en you said the gentleman was alive an' well?"  
"You received no answer to your letter?" put in Somers.  
"Not a word, sir."  
"Do you think Sir Arthur Pelham was struck by shrapnel, or a piece of shell?"  
"I met two men in the 'Rag' this afternoon who know my cousin well, and one has met him recently. His face is badly knocked about, so Major Drummer says. Therefore, it beats me how a porter in Victoria station, catching a glimpse of me through the window of a railway carriage, could possibly recognize a family likeness."  
"Jenkins will tell us now," said Prideaux, who sat near the window.  
"A Tommy in plain clothes is strolling up the street and examining the numbers over each doorway. The British army has its own order of Melchisedek. I don't know the early ranks, from a major general retired down to a pensioned private who for the last fourteen years of his service was either in the mess or acting as an officer's servant. Once I even made a happy guess at a colonel who held an acting brigadiership for three months. These old boys kick like a mule if you don't give them 'general' for it."  
"Oh, he's a brainy little chap," confessed Somers to Prideaux in a stage aside. "I have never known him confuse a cabinet minister with a taxi-driver."  
Pelham grinned. He was beginning to estimate these two correctly. In due course he would understand that when they were chaffing each other numerically some crime out of the common run was engaging their minds to the exclusion of all else.  
"Shall I give Jenkins a drink?" he inquired.  
"Certainly," said Prideaux, forestalling his chief. "A stiff tot of whisky will clear his wits. Mr. Somers, too, becomes mellow under such influences."  
Pelham had a hospitable parade of bottles and glasses on the table when Jenkins rang. The boy looked rather surprised at finding others present, but the innate self-possession of the born cockney came to his aid, and he cried cheerily:  
"Good evening, gentlemen. It looks like beln' fine weather for Awsoot 'er. Well, yes, sir, I don't mind it. I do. It like a drop of Scotch of a night, but Lord luv' a duck, the price nowadays is somethink crevel."  
While he was helping himself to a very small quantity of soda water from a siphon, Pelham caught Mr. Somers's eye, and was answered by a slight nod.  
"I happened to tell my friends," he began, "that you knew me in an instant the other evening at Victoria, though you and I had never met before, and I'm afraid they hardly believed me. It isn't a matter of any great importance, but would your mind explaining how you really came to recognize me?"  
"It was easy enough, sir," said Jenkins readily. "I thort I knew yer face, an' was sure when I saw yer nyme on a tag."  
"Of course. But I didn't gather that you were well acquainted with Sir Arthur Pelham."  
"Acquainted? I never set eyes on 'em afore we was stretched side by side in the quarry at Loos. D'ye want the whole story?"  
"I should like immensely to hear it."  
"Do you smoke?" broke in Somers. "Try one of these."  
The chief had summed up his man quickly. Given a glass of whisky and a cigar, Jenkins, he thought, in fact, he would delight in an audience while detailing what was probably the one great experience of his life. And that is just what happened. He gave a really vivid account of the initial advance on the shell-shattered mining village, not without some caustic comments on staff methods which insisted on ascertaining the effect of the first attack before the reserves were brought up.  
"If we had men enough we ought ter 'ave gone on," said Jenkins. "If we adn't we should never 'ave stowed. You can't ly telephones in a scrap like that an' 'ave one messenger in a dozen could get back. So, there you are! And there we was—the Highlanders an' ourselves being shot to pieces after a hammerin' the Boshes over nearly two miles of ground. No supports, no nothing, an' a counter-attack comin' along like a dust storm in 'em. That was 'it. The time I got nine—three machine-gun bullets through my left shoulder. Funny, isn't it, that they know you shif? I fell as if I'd bin bow-axed. A few of us was lifted into a small quarry, an' left there till we could be stretched to the ground. Next me was an officer, a captain in the Gawds, an' 'e was wuss ner me, cos they'd 'ave 'im lower down. In less'n an hour, or it might 'a' bin longer, the Boshes kear pettin' through, though I did hear afterwards as how a battalion of Jocks held 'em all off. Well—now, gentlemen, I s'pose you wants the reel facts?"  
Jenkins paused, and glowered at the three with fiery eyes. He was breathing again through his nostrils, and did not wish his truthfulness to be doubted.  
"Just so," said Pelham quietly. "You won't surprise any of us if you tell a strange story. We all know things that are not written in books." "I often speak about this part of the affair to my friends, an' it sounds like a fairy tale. Yer see, it was this way. Fritzke, as yer was, was rawther like other men, but some of his officers, an' specially 'is non-coms, were real brutes, an' one o' that sort got an order, so they began bayonettin' 'em on the ground. The Gawds captain got one, 'e did, an' it was that which put 'im on the blink. It fair beats me to know 'ow 'e ever recovered after that. A Rebel comes at me, an' I sez ter meself, 'E's where I 'op 'it, but I couldn't 'elp

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"No, sir. I believed the same man-side of him were you lying in the quarry."  
"On 'is left side, an' in the scapular as well. I don't pretend to remember every officer's face I saw in France an' Germany, but I've read some-where as 'ow some things photograph themselves in yer mind, an' them twelve hours stick out so clear that I'll never forget 'em as long as I live."  
"No, of course not. The puzzle is that Sir Arthur Pelham's face is now somewhat disfigured. On which side of him were you lying in the quarry?"  
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"No, of course not. The puzzle is that Sir Arthur Pelham's face is now somewhat disfigured. On which side of him were you lying in the quarry?"

By his buttons an' badges, of course," said Jenkins, smiling at this amateurish question, and little realizing that he had said exactly what the detective hoped he would say.  
"Excellent!" announced Somers, lighting a new cigar. "You have settled a heated argument once and for all, Mr. Jenkins. I am sure Captain Pelham would like you to have another drink."  
Pelham gathered that his official visitors were not anxious to discuss the advertisements which had attracted Jenkins's notice; the man himself did not mention them, as he was led to talk of this subsequent adventures in Germany and return home after the Armistice. Indeed, attention was so focused on his personal experiences that when he went away he was convinced he had been brought in simply to determine a dispute between friends.  
The door had hardly closed on him before Prideaux drew a chair up to the table, propped his chin on his clenched fists, and said:  
(Continued in The Morning Bee)



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We have installed a few tables for your convenience. We ask you to try one of our sandwiches.  
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(The Ham With the Chicken Flavor)  
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Hot Barbecued Ribs Sandwich for ..... 15c  
Hot Barbecued Pork Sandwich for ..... 15c  
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Hand made gifts are always appreciated. These stamped pieces make attractive Christmas gifts at small cost. Make your selections now.  
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Women's Union Suits  
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Third Floor—East

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Bea'n Bath Robes—Children's bathrobes of heavy Beacon material. In blue, red, pink, brown or tan. Silk cord ties and collars finished with binding. Each ..... 3.98  
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—Four styles. All wool with full knitted frills, plain turnbacks, fur or pop-corn stitch borders. Many are silk, finished in pretty colors. Each ..... 1.00  
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Natural gray; fine, hygienic knit, made of combed yarn; gusseted, drop seat style, with feet; button back. Sizes 0 to 8; each, 69c  
Third Floor—East

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