

THE DIGGER

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AFTERMATH.

Have you forgotten yet?
For the world's events have rumbled
on, since those ragged days,
Like traffic checked awhile at the cross-
ing of city-ways;
And in the haunted gap in your mind
has filled with thoughts that flow
Like clouds in the heavens of life; and
you're a man reprieved to go,
Taking your peaceful share of Time,
with joy to spare.
But the past is just the same— and
War's a bloody game.
Have you forgotten yet?
Look down, and swear by the slain of
The war that you'll never forget.

Do you remember the dark months you
held the sector at Mametz—
The nights you watched and wired and
dug and piled sandbags on parapets?
Do you remember the rats, and the
stench
Of corpses rotting in front of the front-
line trench—
And dawn coming, dirty white, and
chill with a hopeless rain?
Do you ever stop and ask, "Is it all
going to happen again?"

Do you remember that hour of din
before the attack—
And the anger, the blind compassion
that seized and shook you then
As you peered at the doomed and hag-
gard faces of your men?
Do you remember the stretcher-cases
lurching back
With dying eyes and rolling heads—
those ashen-grey
Masks of the lads who once were keen
and kind and gay?

Have you forgotten yet?
Look up, and swear by the green of the
spring that you'll never forget.

—Siegfried Sassoon, in "The Nation."

HE NEVER GOT TIRED.

A very seedy individual applied for a
job to a farmer, whom he assured most
emphatically that he never got tired. La-
ter on in the day, when the farmer went
to the field where he had put the man to
work, he found him lolling on his back
under a tree.

"What does this mean?" he asked. "I
thought you said you were a man who
never got tired?"

"I don't," was the calm reply. "This
doesn't tire me."

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