

# A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

By William S. Dorn



His Last Bow Adventure  
XLII -- The Adventure of  
the Bruce-Partington  
Plans

## THE BRUCE-PARTINGTON PLANS DATE OF THE ADVENTURE\*

(Date on which Colonel Valentine Walter was captured)

### CLUES:

1. Watson says that it was “ ... the third week of November, in the year 1895 ...” (913)
2. In 1895 the first day of November was a Friday.
3. Watson says “From Monday to Thursday I doubt whether ... (we could see through the fog) ...” (913)
4. Watson says “... on the fourth (day of the fog) after pushing our chairs back from breakfast ...” (913)
5. Watson says, “Mycroft Holmes and Lestrade had come round ... after breakfast the next day ...” (928)

### CONCLUSIONS:

- A. 1 and 2 imply the case took place during the week that started Sunday, November 17, 1895
- B. A, 3, and 4 imply that the case started on Thursday, November 21, 1895
- C. B and 5 imply the case closed on Friday, November 22, 1895 with the capture of Col Walter

**Colonel Valentine Walter was captured on  
Friday, November 22, 1895**

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\*The story may contain other clues to the date of the adventure. However, use only the clues shown here. Your only goal should be to use logical reasoning to find a date based on the clues shown here.

**BRUCE-PARTINGTON PLANS  
VOCABULARY WORDS**

metals (915) – **rails**

métier (917) – **forte, field of specialty**

points (919) – **switches**

foolscap (925) – **A sheet of writing paper measuring approximately 13 by 16 inches with a watermark of a fool's cap with bells**

domiciliary (926) – **home**

## THE BRUCE-PARTINGTON PLANS OPEN QUESTIONS

1. On page 931 Watson says, "... Oberstein ... was safely engulfed for fifteen years in a British prison." What is unusual about that sentence?

**He received a 15 year sentence but was guilty of the murder of Cadogan West.**

2. On page 929 when Colonel Valentine Walter was captured, Holmes says, "This was not the bird I was looking for." For whom was he looking?

**Probably Sidney Johnson.**

3. On page 923 Sidney Johnson says, "I am always the last man out." Later on that same page he says, "I had no keys of the doors – only the safe." How can both of these statements be true?

**It could have been a self-locking door, but that is not likely for such a secure office.**

3. On page 916 Mycroft Holmes says, "I thought everyone had heard of it (the submarine plans)." He goes on to say, "It has been the most jealously guarded of all government secrets." How can both of these claims be correct?

**Just because it was a well guarded secret doesn't mean that there weren't leaks.**

## THE BRUCE-PARTINGTON PLANS SIMPLE QUIZ

1. The Bruce-Partington Plans were
  - a. plans for a submarine
  - b. plans for an airgun
  - c. plans for invading Germany
  - d. none of the above
  
2. Cadogan West's body was found
  - a. in the river
  - b. on the underground tracks
  - c. in a foggy street
  - d. none of the above
  
3. The person who stole the Bruce-Partington Plans was
  - a. Colonel Valentine Walter
  - b. Oberstein
  - c. Cadogan West
  - d. none of the above

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\* The Simple Quiz is designed to determine if the student has read the story. Anyone who has read the story through should have no trouble in completing this quiz. The Intermediate and Advanced Quizzes are more challenging.

## THE BRUCE-PARTINGTON PLANS INTERMEDIATE QUIZ<sup>#</sup>

1. What was the name of Cadogan West's fiancée?
  - a. Violet Hunter
  - b. Violet Smith
  - c. Violet Westbury
  - d. none of the above
  
2. What was Holmes surprised to learn was not found in Cadogan West's pockets?
  - a. theatre tickets
  - b. a train schedule
  - c. an underground ticket
  - d. none of the above
  
3. What was the relationship between Sir James Walter and Colonel Valentine Walter?
  - a. they were brothers
  - b. they were cousins
  - c. they were uncle and nephew
  - d. they were not related
  
4. What happened to Sir James Walter during the story?
  - a. he was arrested
  - b. he died
  - c. he vanished
  - d. none of the above

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<sup>#</sup> The Intermediate Quiz is designed to test whether the student has read the story with reasonable attention to detail. The Simple Quiz is an easier test while the Advanced Quiz is much more challenging.

## THE BRUCE-PARTINGTON PLANS ADVANCED QUIZ <sup>&</sup>

1. Where was Sir James Walter on the night Cadogan West was killed?
  - a. at the house of Admiral Sinclair
  - b. playing billiards with Commodore Barclay
  - c. at his office in Woolwich
  - d. none of the above
  
2. Outside which station did Mycroft and Lestrade meet Holmes and Watson en route to Caulfield Gardens?
  - a. Charing Cross Station
  - b. Gloucester Road Station
  - c. London Bridge Station
  - d. none of the above
  
3. How many papers relating to the Bruce-Partington submarine were found in Cadogan West's pockets?
  - a. 7
  - b. 10
  - c. 12
  - d. none of the above
  
4. How many messages, not including the one Holmes wrote, appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* from Pierrot?
  - a. 4
  - b. 5
  - c. 6
  - d. none of the above

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<sup>&</sup> The Advanced Quiz is designed for aficionados of the Canon. The questions are quite challenging. The Intermediate and Simple Quizzes are designed for the more casual reader of the stories.

## ANSWERS TO QUIZZES FOR HIS LAST BOW

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
<b>Wisteria Lodge</b>				
Simple	b	a	a	xx
Intermediate	a	b	a	b
Advanced	b	c	c	a
<b>Cardboard Box</b>				
Simple	b	b	a	xx
Intermediate	b	c	c	a
Advanced	a	b	b	a
<b>Red Circle</b>				
Simple	b	b	a	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	a
Advanced	b	c	c	a
<b>Bruce Partington Plans</b>				
Simple	a	b	a	xx
Intermediate	c	c	a	b
Advanced	a	b	a	a
<b>Dying Detective</b>				
Simple	d	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	c
Advanced	a	b	c	c
<b>Lady Frances Carfax</b>				
Simple	c	a	b	xx
Intermediate	a	b	b	c
Advanced	b	c	b	a



<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Devil's Foot</b>				
Simple	c	c	b	xx
Intermediate	b	a	c	b
Advanced	b	c	c	a
<b>His Last Bow</b>				
Simple	b	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	a	a	b
Advanced	a	d	c	a