

A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

By William S. Dorn



**The Casebook of Sherlock
Holmes
Adventure LVI -- The
Adventure of the
Blanched Soldier**

THE BLANCHED SOLDIER DATE OF THE ADVENTURE*

(Date when Godfrey Emsworth met Holmes and Dodd)

CLUES:

1. Holmes says, “ ... it was in January 1903, ... “ (1000)
2. Dodd says, “That was what took me down (to Tuxbury Old Park) on Monday.”
3. There were four Mondays in January 1903: 5, 12, 19, 26
4. Dodd says, “ ... it was a fine night with a bright half-moon.” (1003)
5. There was a half-moon on January 6, 1903 and January 20, 1903
6. Dodd says, “ ... it was nearly dark before I arrived.” (1002)
7. Darkness arrives in England in January before 5 pm.
8. Dodd says, “After dinner ... I made an excuse as soon as I decently could and returned to my bedroom” (1003)
9. When Dodd looked out of his bedroom window, he saw the moon (see 4 above)
10. On January 5, 1903 the moon set at about 11:30 pm
11. On January 19, 1903 the moon rose at about 11:45 pm
12. Dodd says, “Next day I found the colonel rather more conciliatory ... “ (1004)
13. Dodd says, “ ... (I) left the following morning on the 8:30 train” (1006)
14. Dodd says, “I took the train ... with the ... intentions of coming straight to you ... “ (1006)
15. Holmes says, “ ... it was ... the beginning of the next week ... that I was able to start forth on my mission to Bedfordshire ... “ (1007)

*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.

16. The case concluded on the day of Holmes visit to Bedfordshire.

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. 1, 2, and 3 imply Dodd visited Tuxbury Old Park on one of January 5, 12, 19, or 26 in 1903
- B. A, 4 and 5 imply that the visit was either January 5 or January 19 of 1903
- C. 6 and 7 imply that Dodd arrived before 5 pm
- D. C and 8 imply Dodd retired to his bedroom well before 10 pm
- E. D, 9, 10, and 11 imply that Dodd visited Tuxbury Old Park on Monday, January 5, 1903
- F. E, 12, and 13 imply that Dodd left on the morning of Wednesday, January 7, 1903
- G. F and 14 imply that Dodd visited Holmes on Wednesday, January 7, 1903
- H. G, 15 and 16 imply that the case was concluded on Monday, January 12, 1903

**Godfrey Emsworth met with Holmes and Dodd on
Monday, January 12, 1903**

THE BLANCHED SOLDIER VOCABULARY WORDS

- pertinacious (1000) – **stubbornly persistent**
pandering (1000) – **catering to the lower tastes and desires**
caprice (1000) – **an impulsive change of mind**
riding-man (1000) – **bow-legged**
martinet (1001) – **a rigid military disciplinarian**
V.C. (1001) – **the Victoria Cross, a military decoration awarded for acts of conspicuous bravery in the face of the enemy**
elephant gun (1001) – **large gun used to hunt elephants**
portico (1002) – **a porch or walkway with a roof supported by columns**
barney (1002) – **a fight in which there is some unfairness**
pertinacity (1002) – **being stubbornly or perversely persistent**
impertinence (1002) – **being improperly forward or bold**
morose (1003) – **melancholy; gloomy**
veldt (1003) – **a tract of grassland that has no higher vegetation**
furtive (1004) – **surreptitious, shifty**
outhouses (1005) – **buildings separated from the main building**
bowler hat (1005) – **stiff, round, low-crowned felt hat**
propitious (1005) – **displaying favorable circumstances**
audacious (1005) – **recklessly daring; bold**
trap (1006) – **two-wheeled, open carriage**
pepper-and-salt trousers (1007) – **black and white checked trousers**
meretricious (1008) – **attracting attention in a vulgar way**
mottled (1009) – **spotted with different shades or colors**
elephant bullet (1009) – **bullet used in a gun used to hunt elephants**
stoep (1009) – **a raised verandah running along the front and sometimes the sides of a house**
bulbous (1009) – **rounded or swollen**

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subaltern (1011) – **lower in position or rank**

dermatologist (1012) – **a physician who specializes in diseases of the skin**

ichthyosis (1012) – **also called *fish-skin disease*, a congenital disease of the skin in which whitened, hard, dry scales appear**

THE BLANCHED SOLDIER SOME OPEN QUESTIONS

1. On page 1007 Holmes says, "... I was clearing up the case which my friend Watson has described as that of the Abbey School, in which the Duke of Greyminster was so deeply involved." What case was that?

Probably "The Adventure of the Priory School". Holmes has replaced Priory with Abbey and Holderness with Greyminster. Watson was prone to substitute names to disguise times and locations so it may be that Abbey and Greyminster are the correct names.

2. Why didn't Watson write this story?

Watson may have listened once too often to Holmes's criticism of his (Watson's) writing and said, "Why don't you try writing one yourself?"

THE BLANCHED SOLDIER SIMPLE QUIZ*

1. What disease did Godfrey Emsworth's family suspect that Godfrey had contracted?
 - a. leprosy
 - b. small pox
 - c. syphilis
 - d. none of the above

2. Who wrote the story?
 - a. Holmes
 - b. Watson
 - c. an unknown third person
 - d. none of the above

3. What kind of physician did Holmes take with him when he visited Tuxbury Old Park?
 - a. a cardiologist
 - b. a dermatologist
 - c. a surgeon
 - d. none of the above

* 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 BLANCHED SOLDIER INTERMEDIATE QUIZ[#]

1. Which corps did James Dodd join?
 - a. Berkshire Corps
 - b. Middlesex Corps
 - c. Northumberland Corps
 - d. none of the above

2. Ralph said that Godfrey Emsworth had climbed every
 - a. fence in the neighborhood
 - b. hill in the county
 - c. tree in the park
 - d. none of the above

3. How many servants were at Tuxbury Old Park?
 - a. one
 - b. two
 - c. half a dozen
 - d. none of the above

4. Watson says, "The prospect of an interview with Lord Roberts would not have excited greater wonder and pleasure in a raw subaltern than was now reflected upon the face of Mr. Kent." What is the meaning of the word 'subaltern' in this sentence?
 - a. lower in rank
 - b. young member of the clergy
 - c. novice altar boy
 - d. none of the above

[#] 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 BLANCHED SOLDIER ADVANCED QUIZ[&]

1. In addition to a black coat and pepper-and-sale trousers what was Ralph wearing when Holmes and James Dodd visited Tuxbury Old Hall?
 - a. a black hat
 - b. brown leather gloves
 - c. a white vest
 - d. none of the above

2. James Dodd received two letters from Godfrey Emsworth before Emsworth stopped writing. Which one of the following was one of the two cities where the letters were posted?
 - a. Cape Town, South Africa
 - b. Liverpool, England
 - c. Calais, France
 - d. Her Majesty's Armed Forces, Crimea

3. In what month and year did James M. Dodd join the British armed forces?
 - a. November 1895
 - b. January 1901
 - c. January 1903
 - d. none of the above

4. What was Mr. Kent's profession?
 - a. a gardener
 - b. a psychologist
 - c. a surgeon (physician)
 - d. none of the above

[&] 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 THE CASEBOOK

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Illustrious Client				
Simple	c	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	c	a	b	c
Blanched Soldier				
Simple	a	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	b	a	b	c
Mazarin Stone				
Simple	c	a	c	xx
Intermediate	c	c	b	a
Advanced	a	b	b	c
Three Gables				
Simple	b	b	c	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	b
Advanced	b	c	a	b
Sussex Vampire				
Simple	b	c	b	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	c
Advanced	a	b	c	c
Three Garridebs				
Simple	a	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	b	a	a
Advanced	b	a	a	c

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Thor Bridge				
Simple	b	a	b	xx
Intermediate	a	a	c	c
Advanced	a	b	a	b
Creeping Man				
Simple	b	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	a	c	b
Advanced	d	a	b	c
Lion's Mane				
Simple	b	c	b	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	a
Advanced	c	a	a	a
Veiled Lodger				
Simple	a	a	c	xx
Intermediate	c	b	b	c
Advanced	c	b	b	a
Shoscombe Old Place				
Simple	c	a	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	a	a
Advanced	b	a	a	a
Retired Colourman				
Simple	a	a	a	xx
Intermediate	a	c	b	b
Advanced	b	c	a	b