

# SWIMS ENGLISH CHANNEL AFTER 22-HOUR BATTLE

DEAL, England, Sept. 6.—After a swimmer and it is estimated that lapse of 36 years Captain Matthew Webb's feat of swimming the English Channel has been duplicated by William T. Burgess, a Yorkshire man by birth and a naturalized Frenchman. It was Burgess's 16th attempt he having first essayed the task in 1904. Burgess started from South Foreland, Dover, at 11.15 o'clock Tuesday morning. He landed at LeChatet, a little village two miles east of Cape Gris Nez., at 9.50 o'clock this morning, accomplishing the passage in 22 hours 35 minutes. A motor boat accompanied the

strongest will power and the encouraging words of the men in the boat. He remained on the French soil just long enough to telegraph word of his success to his wife and partake of refreshments in a bathing box. Then he returned by motor boat to rest and sleep. When he landed at Deal Burgess received a tremendous ovation, and with difficulty made his way through the cheering throng to a hotel. Speaking of his great achievement he said: "In the time the swim occupied I should have been able to cross the channel twice but for the adverse currents. Against these I had a terrific fight and again came within an ace of falling when approaching Cape Gris Nez the strong outward set of the current forced me to alter my course three times. I was held up a some time, but when I had rounded the corner I found slack water and then knew that I was assured of

success. "It was just in the slack of the tide that I got in. If I had not managed it then I might have drifted to Calais. It took three full tides and two part tides to bring me over. "I was severely stung several times by jelly fish, and while in mid-channel, after a sick spell, I felt heart-broken. For a while I was almost delirious, but my pilots began to sing, persevere." It was seven o'clock in the morning when the swimmer sighted Gris Nez semaphore. He was then two miles to the west-southwest. In those two miles it was a battle with the currents, but when Burgess got within the shelter of the cape he swam easily ashore. He stumbled for two or three steps, then walked without assistance. He looked remarkably fresh, considering his immersion. The keeper of the lighthouse first caught sight of two boats approaching the shore, a motor boat and a Deal pilot boat. He then made out a figure in the water about half a mile away struggling against the fierce cross-currents. He saw Burgess with a last great effort, reach the beach at Le Chatet and drag himself ashore. At the same time the bathers also caught sight of the swimmer and word was passed rapidly that it was Burgess finishing his long swim. A large throng assembled at the water's edge and many persons plunged in and conveyed the plucky swimmer ashore, encouraging cheers. When Burgess regained his feet he was seized, raised shoulder high and carried to a bath house to the strains of "Marsellaise," sung wildly by the excited crowd. After a rub-down and stimulants, Burgess did not appear much the worse for the ordeal. For the greater part of the journey, the sea was exceptionally calm which enabled Burgess to swim easily and husband his strength. But in the last two miles which proved the most trying of all, again and again out of his course. For the trip across the Channel Burgess was well greased. He wore a pair of goggles and a rubber bathing cap. A party of 11 accompanied him in the motor boat. At 11.15 the wind freshened and for some time the swimmer had a bad experience in a lumpy sea. The water penetrated his goggles and especially affected the right eye. Finally both eyes became badly inflamed. Altogether, according to Burgess, he never suffered so much from salt water, and during the first few hours the chances of a successful issue seemed remote. After four hours the wind began to drop and with this change, the sea fell smooth again. By midnight the wind had subsided altogether and there was an oily calm on the water. Burgess had completely recovered and was swimming powerfully. The swimmer Weldman dived in and accompanied Burgess from nine o'clock until after midnight. The night was hazy on the water. Burgess took hot milk, grapes and chocolate at half hour intervals. At 4.20 o'clock in the morning, the dawn light showed them Sangatte, three miles distant. Burgess, bright and happy, was weak and light-headed. He said he could see mirages and had a fit of the blues and if the boys didn't sing to him he should soon "chuck it." The party thereupon cheered him, singing the Marsellaise with songs. He had an attack of muscular cramps in the region of the heart, which he attributed to the exertion of the over-arm action, but he continued swimming wearily. Very soon afterward another attack of stomach cramps weakened him. He made no headway and the situation became critical. The westward tide was sweeping him off shore and he decided to change his course and make a dash for the nose of Gris Nez. He followed this determination and made better progress, but was greatly handicapped by illness. At 8.30 the point of the cape was straight ahead, but he had missed it by a quarter of a mile. Many on board thought that he had failed, but he pluckily persevered. He said he had had, but would make a dash for the shore. The party again sang the Marsellaise as Burgess fought his way inch by inch into the bay east of Gris Nez. It was dramatic race with the tide. Excitement on the boat was intense as Burgess forced himself into fresh water, another 15 minutes of pain, but plucky swimming brought his gigantic task to a conclusion. Burgess' success today in swimming the English Channel which is 20 miles wide where he crossed it followed nine plucky but unsuccessful attempts to navigate the narrow span of water between the French and English coasts. Numerous attempts have been made to swim the Channel since 1875 when Captain Matthew Webb swam from Dover to Calais in 21 hours and 45 minutes, but no one has been able to

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duplicate Captain Webb's feat until today. Burgess has been trying for years to emulate the feat of Captain Webb in 1875, having first tried on Sept. 6, 1904. Several times he got within a mile of the goal, only to be swept away by the receding tide. St. Isidore, P. Q., Aug. 18, 1904. Minard's Liniment Co., Limited. Gentlemen,—I have frequently used MINARD'S LINIMENT and also prescribe it for my patients always with the most gratifying results, and I consider it the best all-round Liniment extant. Yours truly, DR. JOS. AUG. SIROIS.

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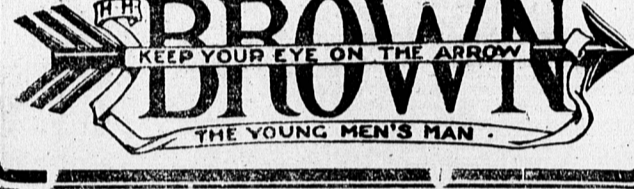
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