

# “SHORT WALK”

## FORTY-SIX YEARS FROM HOME

In a tiny, ivy-bound cottage at Sutton Veny (Wilts.), England, George Musselwite is being welcomed home after having just returned from a “short walk” which lasted for 46 years. He has come home a grey haired old man of 64, to look after his 'Mummie,' but his 90-year-old mother is too ill to be informed of his arrival. He left home in 1880 to go for a short walk to Warminster, a distance of three miles, saying he would not be long, but he never returned.

Instead he embarked on a series of travels that have taken him round half the world, and have brought with them hundreds of adventures, in which he has faced death in many of its hideous forms.

He met two friends and they walked to Devizes to join the army. For two terrible days they managed to exist on crusts of bread, turnips picked from fields, and other food given to them. They had no money and at night slept under hedges, in empty carts, or in anything that provided a shelter.

### Forty Years In India.

“These were the two worst days I have ever spent,” said Mr Musselwite, “and they nearly put an end to my adventure. I always wanted to join the army, but it nearly broke my heart to leave my happy home.”

After serving several years in Malta and Egypt, Mr Musselwite was drafted to India (says the *London Chronicle*).

“My real life started in that country,” he said. “I spent forty years in India, and it was there that I met my wife.”

He went through the terrible Burmese war. The heat was terrific; men who escaped the foe's bullets and spear thrusts died of dysentery and diseases.

The war ended, and back to barracks he went, but India is for ever a land seething with intrigue and minor quarrels, so that as often as not he was in forces sent to quell outbreaks.

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