



NAXOS
AudioBooks

COMPLETE
CLASSICS
UNABRIDGED

Sapper

THE BLACK GANG

Read by **Roy McMillan**



A BULLDOG DRUMMOND ADVENTURE • 2

1	The Black Gang by Sapper –	
	Chapter 1: In which Things Happen near Barking Creek	5:44
2	Two candles guttered on a square table...	5:38
3	'Blimey!' muttered Flash Jim...	5:57
4	A man from behind stepped forward...	6:02
5	'Injudicious,' said the leader quietly...	3:36
6	Chapter 2: In which Scotland Yard Sits Up and Takes Notice	6:08
7	Involuntarily Sir Bryan smiled...	5:51
8	With a thoughtful look on his face...	5:24
9	'Great Scott! I hope not,' cried Hugh in alarm...	6:00
10	They were both looking out of the window...	6:32
11	'Under no circumstances, Hugh,' he remarked...	6:34
12	Chapter 3: In which Hugh Drummond Composes a Letter	4:04
13	'A snob, Denny; a snob,' said Drummond...	5:24
14	Chapter 4: In which Count Zadowa Gets a Shock	5:33
15	It was undoubtedly a house of surprises...	5:53
16	But the Count was speaking again...	6:19
17	He was frowning angrily...	5:35
18	Chapter 5: In which Charles Latter, M.P., Goes Mad	6:09
19	Mr Charles Latter was not a pleasant specimen...	4:52
20	And so, towards the end of dinner...	5:01

21	'All tucked up and comfy, old bean,' cried Drummond...	5:01
22	Latter felt the other's huge hands on him...	5:23
23	Chapter 6: In which an Effusion is Sent to the Newspapers	5:57
24	Thus was the ball started.	5:53
25	True, Mr Charles Latter, M.P., had been staying...	5:10
26	But on that subject John Smith knew nothing...	6:19
27	'Sorry to be so long.'	6:57
28	Chapter 7: In which a Bomb Bursts at Unpleasantly Close Quarters	6:59
29	'Blimey!' muttered the man, shrinking back...	7:01
30	Drummond switched on his electric torch...	6:57
31	Chapter 8: In which the Bag of Nuts is Found by Accident	6:37
32	'There was a big desk in the room...'	6:20
33	Chapter 9: In which there is a Stormy Supper at the Ritz	5:27
34	'What time do you expect Zadowa?'	5:06
35	He turned to the clergyman, still motionless...	6:43
36	Almost indifferently the clergyman turned back...	5:02
37	Chapter 10: In which Hugh Drummond Makes a Discovery	5:02
38	The Inspector was speaking...	4:56
39	He crossed over to the jagged hole in the wall...	5:53
40	'I ought to have a bit of paper to write it all down...'	6:43

41	The clergyman took off his spectacles...	2:39
2	Chapter 11: In which Hugh Drummond and the Reverend Theodosius Longmoor Take Lunch Together	6:23
43	He glanced at his watch and turned to Darrell.	6:00
44	'I believe he did,' answered Drummond...	5:44
45	Chapter 12: In which Count Zadowa is Introduced to Alice in Wonderland	5:03
46	'My dear little man,' said Hugh...	6:10
47	'And you really imagine,' said the hunchback...	4:29
48	'Can we come to an understanding, Captain Drummond?'	4:43
49	Chapter 13: In which Hugh Drummond and the Reverend Theodosius Have a Little Chat	5:12
50	Algy Longworth stood up, serious for once...	5:03
51	With a brief nod he was gone...	5:01
52	'I am going straight to Scotland Yard...'	6:46
53	Chapter 14: In which a Rolls-Royce Runs Amok	6:33
54	The man disappeared into the bathroom...	6:50
55	'Do you know, Theo,' he remarked...	6:31
56	He saw the men leave the room...	6:17
57	'I will ring later if I require it...'	5:51
58	'Yes, it could have waited...'	4:17
59	He could see nothing...	3:53

60	Chapter 15: In which Hugh Drummond Arrives at Maybrick Hall	5:51
61	And then Drummond deliberately decided...	6:15
62	Suddenly he stiffened and crouched motionless...	6:44
63	He glanced into the room underneath hers...	7:17
64	He was examining the steel chain as he spoke...	6:05
65	He rose and paced softly up and down the room...	6:13
66	Chapter 16: In which Things Happen at Maybrick Hall	7:17
67	The brain moves rapidly at times...	6:48
68	Certain it is that the next quarter of an hour...	5:01
69	He had got the start he wanted for Phyllis...	4:52
70	And then suddenly he again saw a man approaching...	5:56
71	Chapter 17: In which a Murderer is Murdered at Maybrick Hall	6:57
72	'Nothing is easier,' he remarked suavely...	6:58
73	'Go on,' said Drummond quietly...	6:47
74	'The man,' continued Peterson...	6:18
74	The room was spinning round...	7:10
76	Chapter 18: In which the Home Secretary is Taught the Fox-trot	6:07
77	Sir Bryan leaned back in his chair and lit a cigarette...	6:13
78	'But, my dear fellow,' spluttered the Cabinet minister...	6:01
79	'To return to the island. McIver went there...'	4:48
80	'You've been in Deauville, haven't you...?'	6:24

Total time: 7:48:00

Sapper

(1888–1937)

THE BLACK GANG

For Bulldog Drummond, ‘clubbing’ always had two meanings. On the one hand, there was the affable, cocktail-sipping, upper-middle-class chumminess between himself and his friends, full of jocular bonhomie; and on the other, there was biffing the bad guy with whatever came to hand. Both were key to the morals and mores of one of England’s more contentious literary heroes, one whose forebears include Baroness Orczy, Conan Doyle, Kipling and Buchan, and who inspired the likes of Leslie Charteris’s *The Saint* and Ian Fleming’s *James Bond*.

The Black Gang (published in 1922) is Drummond’s second outing, and it pits him once more against his magnificent adversary, Carl Peterson, the model for Fleming’s suavely evil Blofeld. He is the evil mastermind who plans global domination, of course, with a selection of vicious henchmen; there are chases and gunfights and fist-fights and last-

minute escapes, naturally, with a beautiful heroine to be saved. There is also a corrupt MP, a Bolshevik uprising and – slightly less predictably – a poisoned doily. And at the centre of it all is the dauntless (indeed undauntable) Bulldog Drummond himself. Muscular if unattractive, he is a charming, big-hearted man-of-action who after service in the First World War found life dull and wanted a bit of adventure to spice things up a bit. Peterson is at the head of a monstrous plot to bring a Communist revolution to England, but it is not his Bolshevik friends who are the Black Gang. That honour goes to Drummond and his public-school colleagues, who have adopted the role of gentlemanly vigilantes and have taken the punishing of thoroughly bad types into their own hands, thereby stumbling across Peterson’s plans.

The Bulldog Drummond stories are straightforward thrillers, unashamed

adventure stories, with all the action on the surface. The villains are bad, the hero good, and the distinction is not hard to draw. There is almost no sub-text, no tortured psychology, no strutting and fretting. The attitudes and language are of their time, with no attempt to consider their implications. This is where the contention arises. Drummond, and presumably Sapper as well, clearly did not feel there was any need for temporising – the issues were clear and unquestionable. References to Jews, for example, are almost invariably associated with criminality; anyone whom the gang capture is sent to a remote island to be subjected to a physically forceful regime to correct behaviour. Most foreigners are dubious types at best, and referred to in derogatory terms. The legitimate fears and concerns of the working class are dismissed. The England (and it is England rather than Great Britain) that Drummond is desperate to preserve is the kind of class-ridden, exploitative, unjust one most don't want at all.

And yet, and yet ... it is also the world that Wodehouse described, the one in which Agatha Christie flourishes,

a post-War version of that of Lord Peter Wimsey and Raffles, the Gentleman Thief. Bulldog Drummond manages to suggest the carefree attitude of these times whilst touching upon the real and deep concerns of the public at large. Communist revolution was hardly an idle threat just five years after the Revolution in Russia. And, if the idea of seeking a means to keep the thrill of wartime action alive once there is peace seems far-fetched, it was clearly true to Sapper and to his thousands of readers.

Sapper was the pseudonym of Herman Cyril McNeile, a career soldier who was born in Cornwall and served with the Royal Engineers from 1907 until the end of the First War. He served with considerable distinction, too, gaining a Military Cross for his bravery and seeing action at (among other places) the first and second battles of Ypres. He had started writing before the War and continued during it, producing stories that were enormously popular. This was because they had unquestionable authenticity while maintaining a sense of adventure rather than horrific despair. McNeile had to write under a false name,

as officers were not permitted to write under their own, and he chose Sapper – the slang term for an Army engineer.

Once demobbed, his short stories continued to sell extremely well, and McNeile moved to Sussex, where he remained for the rest of his life. He married and had two sons, wrote a great many short stories for magazines (generally of the twist-in-the-tail variety), and other adventure stories and thrillers; but his reputation now rests almost entirely on Bulldog Drummond. Drummond was a huge success, and was turned into equally successful plays, radio adaptations and films, with the likes of Ralph Richardson, Ronald Coleman and Ray Milland playing him. There was just something about his dedicated yet cavalier attitude, his grim-faced determination allied to his dashing charm. Like many a boy (and man) dreams of being, he was a dead-shot, a prize-fighter and a dab-hand with a cocktail shaker. Debonair and deadly with no need for doubt, surrounded by like-minded chums and with an easily identifiable enemy, Drummond was so popular he continued to appear well after his creator's death. His friend

and collaborator, writer Gerard Fairlie, continued the stories until 1954, and two more novels by different hands appeared thereafter in the late 60s, and as recently as 2004 Drummond was reinvented for the American comic market.

Of all those who either played or adapted the character, Fairlie has by far the best claim, even without the fact that he continued writing the stories at McNeile's request Fairlie can be said to have an even better claim to the character of Drummond than McNeile himself, for while it is always tempting to ascribe heroes to the authors' view of themselves, Fairlie was in fact the model. During his time in the Scots Guards, he captained the Army in golf and rugby as well as being a champion boxer, went on to be a member of the British bobsleigh team at the 1924 Olympics, and may possibly have been a secret agent as well. This sporting prowess, military dedication and clarity of thought, this bravery and modesty, are absolutely the hallmarks of Drummond's nature.

Notes by Roy McMillan



Roy McMillan is a director, writer, actor and abridger. For Naxos Audiobooks he has read *The Body Snatcher and Other Stories*, *Bulldog Drummond*, *The French Revolution – In a Nutshell*, *Cathedrals – In a Nutshell* and the introductions to works by Nietzsche and the Ancient Greeks. He has directed readings of Hardy, Hopkins, Kipling, Milton and Blake; Austen, Murakami, Conrad and Bulgakov, among many others; and has written podcasts and sleevenotes, as well as biographies of Milton and Poe. He has also directed plays for Radio 3 and Radio 4.

Credits

Produced by Roy McMillan
Edited by Dan King
Mastered by Mike Shah

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE, BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF THESE COMPACT DISCS PROHIBITED.

Cover Design: Hannah Whale, Fruition – Creative Concepts, using images from dreamstime.com

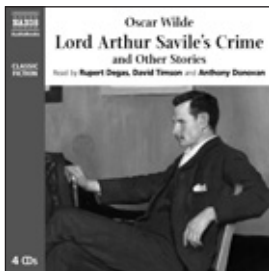
Other works on Naxos AudioBooks



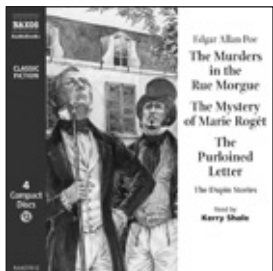
The Innocence of Father Brown, Vol. 1
(Chesterton) ISBN: 9789626349632
Read by David Timson



The Innocence of Father Brown, Vol. 2
(Chesterton) ISBN: 9789626349731
Read by David Timson



Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories
(Wilde) ISBN: 9789626348833
Read by Rupert Degas, David Timson and
Anthony Donovan



The Murders in the Rue Morgue
(Poe) ISBN: 9789626342763
Read by Kerry Shale

Other works on Naxos AudioBooks



The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, Vols. 1–6

(Conan Doyle) ISBN: 9789626343531
Read by David Timson



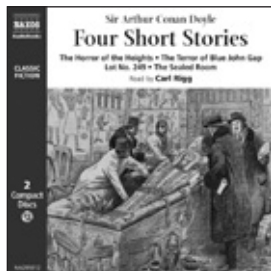
The Complete Casebook of Sherlock Holmes

(Conan Doyle) ISBN: 9789626348888
Read by David Timson



The Essential Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

(Conan Doyle) ISBN: 9789626349557
Read by David Timson, Tim Pigott-Smith,
Crawford Logan and others



Four Short Stories

(Conan Doyle) ISBN: 9789626340509
Read by Carl Rigg

Other works on Naxos AudioBooks



The Sign of Four

(Conan Doyle) ISBN: 9789626342961
Read by David Timson



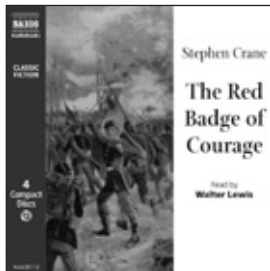
A Study in Scarlet

(Conan Doyle) ISBN: 9789626342497
Read by David Timson



The Valley of Fear

(Conan Doyle) ISBN: 9789626344248
Read by David Timson



The Red Badge of Courage

(Crane) ISBN: 9789626343913
Read by Walter Lewis

For a complete catalogue and details of how to order other
Naxos AudioBooks titles please contact:

In the UK: Naxos AudioBooks, Select Music & Video Distribution,
3 Wells Place, Redhill, Surrey RH1 3SL.
Tel: 01737 645600.

In the USA: Naxos of America Inc.,
1810 Columbia Ave., Suite 28, Franklin, TN37064.
Tel: +1 615 771 9393

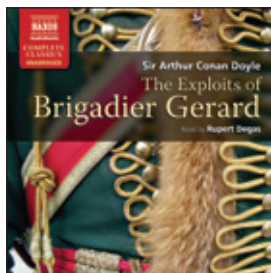
In Australia: Select Audio/Visual Distribution Pty. Ltd.,
PO Box 691, Brookvale, NSW 2100.
Tel: +61 299481811

order online at
www.naxosaudiobooks.com

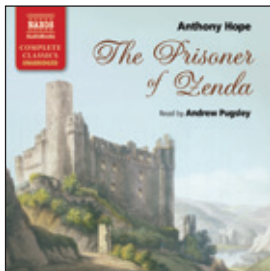
Other works on Naxos AudioBooks



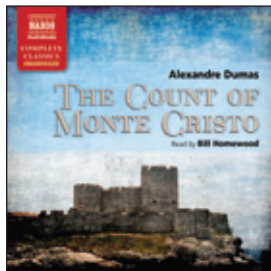
Bulldog Drummond
(Sapper) ISBN: 9789626341292
Read by Roy McMillan



The Exploits of Brigadier Gerard
(Conan Doyle) ISBN: 9781843793854
Read by Rupert Degas



The Prisoner of Zenda
(Hope) ISBN: 9789626341353
Read by Andrew Pugsley



The Count of Monte Cristo
(Dumas) ISBN: 9789626341346
Read by Bill Homewood

Sapper

THE BLACK GANG

Read by **Roy McMillan**

Bulldog's back! This time, there is a plot to foment a revolution in England, a plot that has left the Police baffled and the nation at the mercy of a master criminal. A disguised clergyman, a beautiful sidekick, an arcane poison, car chases and abductions all fail to see off Hugh Drummond and his gang of ex-Army friends. But when the plotters capture Drummond's wife, the game is up... isn't it?

Undaunted, charming, brave and resourceful, Bulldog Drummond is an archetypal English adventure hero, and the forerunner of The Saint and James Bond.



Roy McMillan is a director, writer, actor and abridger. For Naxos AudioBooks he has directed many readings, written podcasts and sleeve notes, and read titles such as *The Body Snatcher and Other Stories* and *Bulldog Drummond*.

NAXOS
AudioBooks

COMPLETE
CLASSICS
UNABRIDGED

© 2010 Naxos
AudioBooks Ltd.
© 2010 Naxos
AudioBooks Ltd.
Made in the Germany.

Total time
7:48:00

NA639112D

CD ISBN:
978-184-379-391-5

View our catalogue online at
www.naxosaudiobooks.com

