

Golfing Eccentrics.

What did you do in the war Harry?

Harry Gonder was a professional golfer in America. Throughout his career he had been always believed one thing. That getting a hole-in-one was just a matter of trying over and over again.

Now one day in 1940 Harry decided to put his belief to the test. He wanted to see how long it would take him to get a 160-yard hole. He was sure that a golfer of his standard should only take a couple of hours at the most. However, his guess proved to be a little hopeful.

He hit ball after ball towards the flag. And on his eighty-sixth attempt he ended up just fifteen inches short. But as the hours ticked by, Harry started to feel hungry and after 941 balls he stopped to have a bit of refreshment. He hoped he might do better after some food. The idea seemed to have been a good one and his 996th shot hit the pin and bounced three inches away. At 8.10pm his 1162nd shot stopped six inches short and with his 1184th he missed by just three inches.

But as the church bells struck midnight, Harry struck his 1600th ball and it finished nowhere near the target. By now, he was getting tired and he had a nasty blister on his hand. But still he battled on and both his 1755th and the next one ended up no more than an inch from the hole. This seemed to convince Harry that it was simply not his day – or night. So at 2.40 am, 16 hours and 25 minutes after he first began, Harry's 1817th shot finished ten feet from the flag and he gave up.