

Three Englishmen Saved from Boiling Pot By Cannibal Chief, Who Was Friend at Oxford

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By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—An amazing story—which may or may not be true—of how three young Oxford graduates were “plucked from the boiling” at the hands of cannibals is related in this week’s “Truth.”

Three men who were engaged in missionary work in Borneo, or Papua, were captured by the natives who trussed them up and prepared to make a feast of them. Three large fires were being started. Three pots were produced, and knives sharpened, when suddenly there arrived on the scene a huge negro more elaborately apparelled than the others. He was evidently the chief of the tribe. He seemed at first much pleased at the situation, says the story, but after examining the captives he called a palaver

at which it was clear he was objecting to their being cooked.

He silenced the opposition to his views by bludgeoning the dissenters and finally secured the release of the missionaries.

The narrative proceeds:

“Then the chief said in good English with a slight Oxford drawl:

“‘I am very sorry you have been inconvenienced gentlemen, but all is well now. These warriors will see you safely back to your missionary station. And so good-bye.’”

“Then he whispered aside:

“‘I’m dressed so differently that probably you do not recognize me, but I recognize you well enough. You were along with me at Balliol three years ago, and of course no Balliol man could think of eating a fellow Balliol man.’”