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STD VIII English II Lesson 3

—Alexander Baron

The Man Who Knew Too Much



Alexander Baron (1917-1999) was a British author and screen-writer. He began life as a clerk in a government department before becoming a journalist. He is best known for his novel entitled *From the City, from the Plough*.

'The Man Who Knew Too Much' is the story of Private Quelch, who knows a little too much, a little more than is good for himself. However, it is quite amusing how he is shown his place at the end of the story.

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Learn and write the meanings given below [page 2] in your English II notebook.

The Man Who Knew To Much

<i>Private</i>	soldier without rank
<i>stooping</i>	bending head and shoulders forward and downwards
<i>musketry</i>	art of using the infantry soldier's handgun
<i>commission</i>	the post of an army officer
<i>badgered</i>	harassed or pestered
<i>infuriated</i>	enraged
<i>droning</i>	dull, continuous monotonous sound
<i>condescending</i>	suggesting that the others are inferior, behaving in a patronising manner
<i>sprawling</i>	lying with arms and legs outstretched
<i>unabashed</i>	unashamed
<i>unexceptionable</i>	not bad
<i>abominably</i>	hatefully

A. Understanding the Text

1. Choose the correct options.

- a. Private Quelch was nicknamed 'Professor' because of...
- (i) his appearance ☒
 - (ii) his habit of instructing ☐
 - (iii) his fondness for reading ☐
- b. One could hammer nails into Corporal Turnbull without his noticing it because...
- (i) he was insensitive ☐
 - (ii) he was used to it ☐
 - (iii) he was a strong and sturdy man ☒
- c. Private Quelch was assigned cookhouse duties because...
- (i) he deserved to be put in his place ☒
 - (ii) he was an excellent cook ☐
 - (iii) he was hygiene-conscious ☐