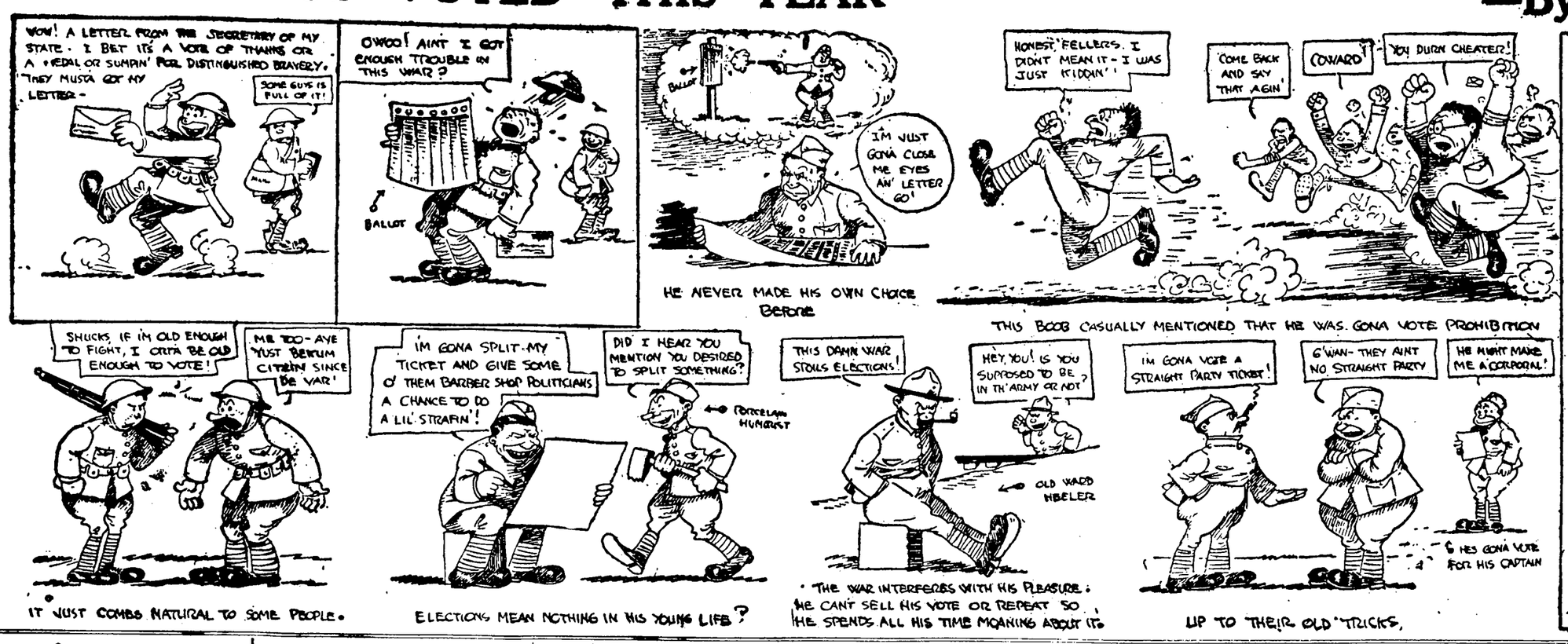
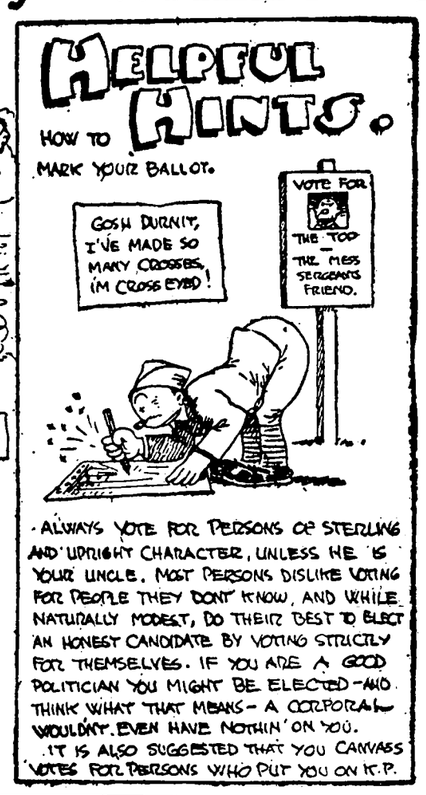
IF ALL OF US VOTED THIS YEAR —By WALLGREN





MUSICAL PARROT FINE BIRD UNTIL---

Barracks Tragedy Almost Ends in Murder, but Not Quite

UNLUCKY CANTEEN DID IT

Feathered Battleship Sails Smoothly as Long as Seas Remain Calm—Then Comes Trouble

"I went down town last night," said the man who had just come over, "and as I was having a glass of coffee in —"

"Glass of what?" interrupted the two stripe man.

"Coffee," continued the man who had just come over, "in that little café with 'Au Bon Sergeant' on the window — I don't see why they have to go around naming their cafés after sergeants—I saw the funniest parrot I ever saw."

"Must have been Henry," said the two stripe man. "Battleship gray kind of a bird, with no color except his tail feathers, which were red? Yep, that was Henry."

"Henry?" inquired the man who had just come over. "hyever is he called Henry? You mean Ongri, don't you?"

"I do not," said the two stripe man. "I mean Henry. Nobody ever told you the story of Henry, then?'

"Never in all my years in France," said the man who had just come over. "Shoot."

Not Strictly a Parrot

"Henry," began the two stripe man, "is not strictly a parrot. He is what they call in France a parrokay. He has all the earmarks and bad habits of a parrot except his uniform, which isn't quite so gaudy as that of the well-known Iceland variety of parrot, which is the kind you see at home.

"What he lacks in feathers, though, he makes up for in voice. He can say anything, in any language you give him a chance in, and he can whistle like a locomotive.

"I never did know just how we acquired Henry. I think somebody bought him for a souvenir and then found he couldn't be sent home.

"Anyhow, Henry first entered my young life when the company clerk adopted him and began to teach him English and a few other things. Henry progressed rapidly, and in a few days was able to call the roll. For a time he would wake up in the middle of the night and call 'Orderly!', but we gave him a week's K.P. and that cured him.

"Then the bugler got a bright idea.

A Job for Henry

"'Why couldn't Henry sound the calls?' he said. 'He's got a natural whistle that beats anything I can do, and the boys would be so anxious to see him in action that they'd all be in formation for reveille five minutes ahead of time. Besides, I could sleep longer.'

"So he started to teach Henry all there was to know about bugle calls. Say, maybe Henry wasn't some bright pupil! He was terrible keen for sick call, and sounded it instead of mess for a couple of days, but by that time the bugler had him kidded out of his mistake.

"The bugler was having an easy time of it. C Company's promptness in answering every call on the book made us famous throughout the regiment. There was a move on foot to get Henry on the company roll and have him make an allotment in favor of the family he must have left behind him in Madagascar, or wherever he came from, when something happened.

"The bugler went down town to a café —just like you did last night. He must have had a stand in, because they sold him cognac, a whole canteenful of it. He brought it back to the barracks—it was nearly midnight, long after Henry had blown taps and tucked his head under his wing till morning.

Cold Feet at Last

"Somehow that bugler got by all the guards and reached the barracks without being challenged. Then his feet got cold. He didn't dare take the canteen inside. You see, the pump's quite a way off, and the boys just borrow one another's canteens without asking if there's anything tinkling inside. And if they ever found that canteen—

"'I'll give it to Henry,' said the bugler to himself. So over to Henry's perch he went, woke him up, filled his mess cup full of the stuff, and let him go to it.

"Henry didn't have to be asked twice. He made funny noises in his throat, and in two minutes his beak was denting the bottom of the cup. So the bugler filled 'em up again.

"It took three cups to empty the canteen. Henry was still coming back for more and threatening to make a row if he didn't get it, so the bugler scratched his head—that is, Henry's—and made him feel so good that he finally had him kidded into falling asleep.

"Henry must have slept it off quick, or else something was worrying him; anyway about half past two that whole barracks was waked up by as shrill and clear a first call as ever come out of an army sleep dispeller. Only this one was coming out of Henry's parched throat.

"There was a council of war right away, and it was decided to massacre Henry then and there. But the bugler, with tears in his eyes, pleaded for mercy. So we decided that if he'd take Henry back where he belonged, we'd spare them both. That's why Henry's at the Bon Sergeant again now."

"He didn't sound any calls while I was there last night," said the man who had just come over.

"Course not," said the two stripe man. "He's too ashamed of himself to speak. Henry's a changed bird now.

WEEKLY NEWS REEL TO BRING HOME OVER

Battle Line, Mary Pickford and Charlie Chaplin Also Booked

State Street, Chicago; Market Street, San Francisco; Canal Street, New Orleans; Broad Street, Philadelphia, and Fifth Avenue, New York, with all their dens and denizons, are now being shown on the screen to as much of the Army as they can possibly be shown to, in France and England and Italy, through the medium of the Overseas Weekly, a news film being gotten out over here by the Community Motion Picture Bureau for distribution through the huts of the Y.M.C.A.

In addition to live news scenes from American cities, the weekly includes views of wheat harvesting in the Middle West, salmon runs in Washington, and lumbering in Maine. It aims to bring home to the A.E.F. through the medium of the movies.

Supplementing the scenes from the States, the bureau's service includes new pictures taken with the French, British and Australian forces, and it also has the pick of the United States Army Signal Corps films, including many scenes of actual combat filmed in the forward areas.

From Monday to Saturday

These war views are gotten out and around in the minimum time required to develop and edit them, and it is therefore quite possible for Lieutenant Snookums, Inf., to lead a charge on Monday and on Saturday evening, in a rest area hut, to see himself leading the charge, thus giving him valuable opportunity to note professional defects in charge leading.

At present the bureau has three separate shows running every evening, multiplied by duplicate films to cover not only the A.E.F., but the movie-loving populace of the British, French and Italian forces. With 300 film projectors here in France now and in working order, there should not a week pass by without every man's having a chance to see what home looks like, what the front looks like, if he hasn't been to the front, or what other people's fronts look like.

The last includes the famous front of Mary Pickford and that of Charlie Chaplin, for, with the single exception of one big film, the Community Motion Picture Bureau has been given the refusal of every picture made in the States.

CITY OF BAR-LE-DUC CONGRATULATES A.E.F.

Old Home Department Is Stage for Two American Victories

Bar-le-Duc, chef-lieu or capital of the department of Meuse, has sent to General Pershing, with the simple signature of "The Mayor," the following message:

Bar-le-Duc, capital of the department in which the A.E.F. held their first cantonments, and where they have just gained a victory which opens in this great war the final era of the triumph of the Allied nations over the barbarians, begs to convey to General Pershing and his superb troops its heartiest congratulations.

Both of the First Army's recent major operations have been fought chiefly in the Meuse department. The easternmost points in the St. Mihiel fight were in the department of Meuse and Moselle. The new advance east of the Argonne and northwest of Verdun, which began on the soil of Meuse, has been carried into the Ardennes department.

With the recovery of ground in the latter department which had been held by the enemy for more than four years, there is now no department in all France which the Germans hold in its entirety.

Intelligence Officer: You say you were very well treated in the line. Did you have plenty to eat?

German Prisoner: No, but they issued each of us an extra suit of clothes.

$18,000,000 SAVING ON EAST'S RAILROADS

July Figures Show Best Earnings Yet Under Nation's Control

[By Cable to THE STARS AND STRIPES]

AMERICA, Oct. 10.—The Regional Director of Railroads has published a statement to the effect that through consolidation and co-ordination of the railway facilities in the East a saving of more than $18,000,000 has been accomplished.

Most of these changes are already in force or are to take effect at an early date.

Complete figures for July, recently announced, show the best earnings yet under government control.

We are now assembling shipments in solid trains and so routing them as to make highly efficient movement from the shipping points to the steamers. These great train movements are apportioned for certain specific days over the roads best fitted for handling them.

The interchange of railroad labor as needed and the quick transfers of power and surplus equipment as a need appears are part of the new system, with standardization of railroad purchases, repair facilities and other operative tasks.

PIGEONS FROM TANKS AND AIRPLANES, TOO

Quartet That Strayed from Boche Is Ostracized by Yankee Brood

Sending pigeons back as messengers from tanks is a new wrinkle in the gentle art of liaison that has already been tried out with success by the American forces. The sending of the birds down from airplanes, though not so new, has been perfected in practice, and at present one loft of at least 100 birds is working on that interesting problem.

The pigeon more than proved his worth as a runner in the operations preceding the recent drives. At 5:10 one morning one of the brood was let loose at the very front to fly back with a message to a fort loft. The bird flew eight miles in 20 minutes through a heavy fog, a drizzling rain and against a strong headwind, bearing back the news of a successful raid on the now-no-more Toul front. As a reward not the D.S.C., but an extra mess of hardtack crumbs, awaited him.

The using of carrier pigeons is, however, a game that both sides can play at, as some wary pigeon fanciers of the A.E.F. found out not long ago. During a raid four birds that didn't seem quite sure of their bearings came flopping into a trench basket on our front. Although they did not bear the Maltese cross marking employed by their latter-day rivals, the German airplanes, they were quickly discovered to be German, and as such discreetly ostracized by the other inmates of the loft they had blundered into.

About the same time, another bird of suspicious actions was seen hovering around one of the A.E.F.'s mobile lofts in the forward zone. A Yank pigeoner spied him, didn't like his looks, picked up a rifle and shot him on sight. Sure enough, when he came down he was found to have a German message, all in code, tied to his leg. And the code message made interesting reading for the Intelligence officers when they received it from the claws of a loyal pigeon soon after.

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