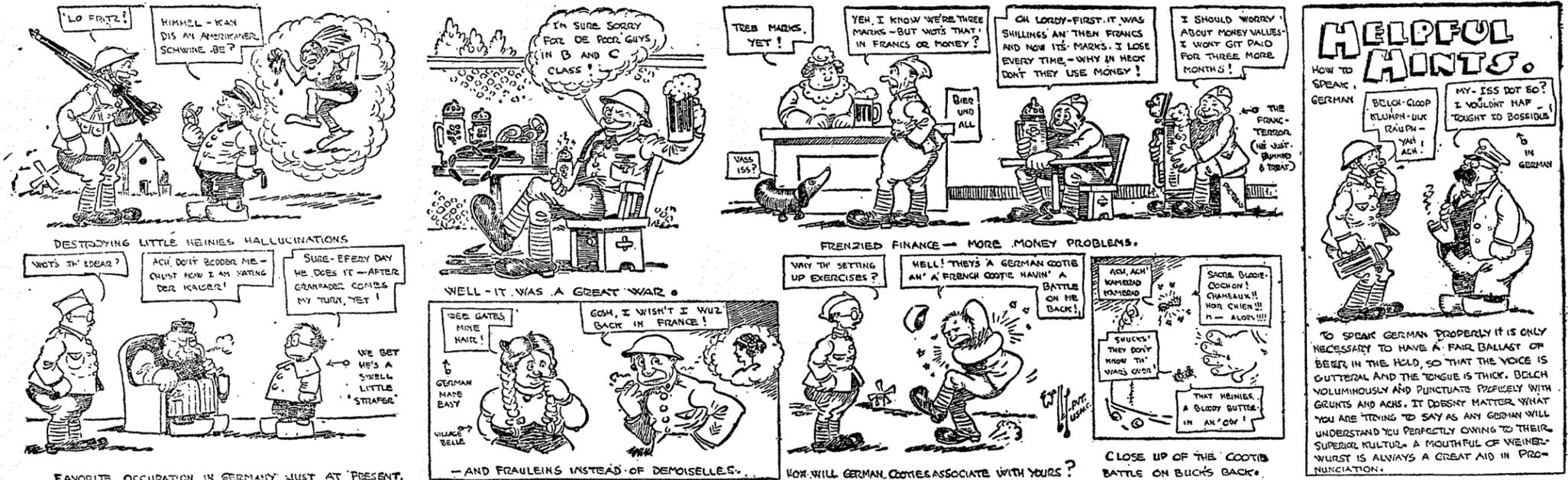


YANKS ON THE RHINE

—By WALLGREN



MANY AIR FIELDS TO HAVE LIBERTY CLUBS

Local Entertainment Center Idea Started With Motor Mechanics

O. D. AND BORROWED ACTS

Eats Follow Weekly Shows at Orly—Romorantin and Tours to Have Own Organizations

If you have not yet heard of the Liberty Club, the chances are that you soon will. The Liberty Club follows the Liberty Motor. This does not mean that to have a Liberty Club you must have a Liberty Motor; it means only that the Liberty Club already established, and those now being established, are located at important A.E.F. aviation centers.

The parent Liberty Club, at Orly Field, a few kilometers south of Paris, already numbers a thousand members, and clubs will soon be in operation at Romorantin, Tours and elsewhere. Later the idea will probably be carried to as many other fields as may want to adopt it, and the chances are most of them will.

The Liberty Club's aim is simple. It simply attempts to provide a good time. To join it you just chip in as much as you choose—say five francs. In return you get one weekly entertainment, followed by what used to be called a collation, consisting, in this case of sweetened cakes and coffee—served not in mess cups but in honest crockery mugs.

Runs Its Own Shows

The Orly Field Liberty Club, for instance, runs its own shows (that is the Liberty Club idea), securing its talent from a good-sized O.D. personnel and borrowing the rest from the Y.M.C.A., the Red Cross and the K. of C. When Lieut. George W. Fuller, who organized the club and the idea, wants a couple of outside acts, he simply runs into Paris and secures the loan of as many acts as they can spare.

For example inasmuch as the organization tables of Motor Mechanic outfits do not provide for any feminine membership, the lieutenant one night recently brought out to the field a dancing, singing, story telling, piano playing quartet known as the Yankkee Gals—the Misses Blanche Savoie, Louise Coffey, Eva Lee Bowcock and Frances Trevett—who had just come over from the States (a region west of Orly) as Y.M. entertainers.

Orly's Liberty Club holds its big nights—they come every Thursday—in the mess hall. This makes the eats more readily available after the show. Orly has a 15 piece orchestra, but at the last performance several members were suffering from arthritis.

Messhall Orchestra Pit

Those who were able to play occupied the orchestra pit, which is a marvel itself. It is dug down some four feet deep, four wide, and the length of the regulation Adrian barracks messhall, and in the day time it is covered over so that Motor Mechanic troops in mess shall not be precipitated therefrom.

With its mixture of O.D. and loaned acts, all directed and put on by the organizations themselves, the Liberty Club idea may be regarded as a good sample of what the Army can do when it manages its own entertainment. The other clubs will be patterned after the Orly idea. The one now starting at Romorantin already has 200 members, and has yet to give its first entertainment.

HUMOROUS WALL STREET

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, Dec. 5.—Wall Street is still laboring under the Money Board's restriction on speculative accounts, and has to let all sorts of good chances pass without succeeding in making an old-time market. Therefore, while there is considerable dealing, prices keep teetering without any killing for bears or bulls.

The daily output of Wall Street's best minds on the future and on reconstruction makes the best humorous matter now appearing. The wisest remark was made last week by a prominent banker, who said:

"I won't make any statement about the world's future because I don't want to look back a year from now and read what a darned fool I made of myself."

PHYSICAL EXAM FOR ALL

All officers and men of the A.E.F. who are ordered home will be physically examined before the day set for departure, and those afflicted with venereal disease in a communicable stage will be retained in France and placed in segregated camps, says G.O. 215.

AT THE BASE PORTS

There may not have been any turkey for Thanksgiving, except in a few isolated instances, but there were slathers of mince pies.

"We had 50 of 'em," said a cook in an M.P. outfit reminiscently. "Fifty made out of the regulation fixings, with five gallons of boiled-down cider and two quarts of cognac."

"Where'd you get the cognac?"

"Took it off the prisoners," explained the cook.

Most of the Army in France sees most of the country, or at least much of it. But in the base ports you will find men who got off the boat there, have been on duty there up to 17 months ever since, and who are now looking forward to the day when they will set sail from there for home. Some of them have not even been outside the city limits of the port they were set down in. The war has been no tourist stunt for them.

The A.E.F. has not been small town stuff for a long while. Also, France is as big as Texas. But there are people who forget we are still two million strong.

A lady who had just arrived as a member of an auxiliary organization stepped up to an M.P. in a base port.

"I have you seen Pvt. Brown of the 5th Division?" she inquired.

"Don't know him, ma'am," answered the M.P.

"That's funny," said the lady. "His division landed here only three weeks ago."

Then there is the story of the officer, fresh from America, who stepped up to another M.P. and asked if there was a store in town that sold Sam Browne belts.

"Yes, sir," said the M.P. "Several."

"But where can I find the cheapest?"

"I don't know, sir," said the M.P. "I've never had occasion to buy one."

Frequently among the new arrivals, especially if they have come through England, you will find officers with canes, in open contravention of some general order or other that is posted in most A.P.M. offices throughout France. It is betraying no one's confidence to state that it is the M.P.'s special delight to confiscate this contraband equipment.

And if you think this touch of vanity is confined to officers, let it be known that six stick-swinging buck privates were recently rounded up from one boat.

Speaking of canes, there is the story of the colored soldier who was caught playing a game of cards before the provost. What persuasive charms he exercised is not known, but he emerged a few minutes later with the cane still in his possession. This time, however, it was wrapped up in a piece of newspaper.

One member of an outfit that is doing M.P. work at a base port decided that, as the war was about over, it was a good time to go home. Somehow he got aboard a transport and smuggled a sailor's suit. That wasn't camouflage enough, however. He forgot his face. So when he went up into town again, an M.P. simply said, "Hello, Bill. Where'd you get the disguise?" and led him docilely away, but not toward the transport.

Some A.E.F. brigades are notoriously comfortable, and the prisoners therein are messed accordingly. Officers in one port woke up to this fact when a man attached to a neighboring hospital where the living conditions were not to his liking got himself arrested six times.

He rather gave things away the last time by calling up the M.P. office from the hospital.

"I'm going AWOL again," he said. "Send up a couple of guards."

Some of those games of poker or black jack which helped make life worth while at the club back home aren't in it with that game of chance which is participated in by every man, from buck private to general, when an outfit moves in the A.E.F.

Maybe a man will get his equipment when he reaches his destination and maybe he won't. It is more likely the case that the colonel will be trying to make out with some private's wardrobe, while the private may be smoking the colonel's best cigars.

At any rate, all these things, or at least similar ones, happened the other day when 12,000 stevedores were suddenly put on the march, 4,000 men vacating one camp near Bordeaux and being replaced by 8,000 others.

One captain gushed all over the new camp hunting his pet stove, but if it was still on the premises it had been skillfully camouflaged. A lieutenant saw his whole outfit dumped in front of the new headquarters and went up to survey his domicile. When he returned his pile of belongings had shrunk alarmingly.

On the other hand, another officer in some mysterious way is richer than before moving, for in his old quarters he nightly slept in an ordinary cot. Now he reposes in a nice French bed, and his only explanation is that Santa Claus brought it.

EVERYBODY TO RATE EVERYBODY BELOW

Colonels and Less to Be Written Up by Their Bosses Dec. 15

A new rating of all officers of the A.E.F. below the grade of brigadier general will be made on December 15, in accordance with the provisions of G.O. 85, War Department, 1918, under the rating scale system adopted by the War Department and now used by the Army in the United States. G.O. 210, G.H.Q., which covers this new rating, says that after December 15, ratings will be made quarterly commencing April 15, 1919.

Lieutenants are to be rated by the captains under whom they serve, the captains entering the ratings on the rating report sheet and forwarding them to the major of their battalion. The major is then directed to approve or revise each rating and to forward the forms through channels to division headquarters, from where it will be sent to G.H.Q.

Major and lieutenant colonels will be rated by the colonel of the regiment in which they are serving, and the brigade commander will approve or revise the ratings of his colonels, to be approved or revised by the division commander.

The intent of this rating process is to

provide that each officer shall be rated by those of his superiors who are most intimately acquainted with his accomplishments. Division commanders and chiefs of staff corps and bureaus are directed to see that this purpose is fulfilled even though in exceptional cases the ratings may be made by officers other than those indicated. The aim is to secure a just and equitable rating for all officers, as each rating will serve as a permanent record of the efficiency and duty of each officer while serving with the A.E.F.

Another paragraph of G.O. 210 amends a previous general order, making the rule now read that officers will wear the insignia of their rank on all occasions, and that the Sam Browne belt will be dispensed with only while on duty requiring the wearing of side arms, such as guard of prisoner convoy.

MORMON PRESIDENT DEAD

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, Dec. 5.—Joseph H. Smith, president of the Mormon church, has died at the age of 80 years. He was the Mormons' "prophet, seer and revelator."

As a child he passed through the persecutions in Missouri and Illinois when his father and uncle were shot in jail, and he was a scout in the famous Mormon army when the United States invaded Utah.

He had a remarkable career, and played a great part in creating the present mighty Mormon community.

The Allies' victory will very soon allow Mr. Lott, who has been unduly stung by the beginning of the war, to resume the management of his hotel—"THE LOTT," rue de Castiglione, Paris—which has been known since its opening in 1913 as the "Paris lounge for the best society."

CHANCE TO STAY OVER HERE

French-speaking officers of units ordered back to the United States are to have a chance to remain in France for a few months, if they desire. All units going home are ordered, in Bulletin No. 14, Hq., S.O.S., to submit a list of officers who parley-vo and want to, who, if qualified, will be assigned to the Requisition and Claims Service to assist in disposing of claims from French inhabitants.

GETTING LOCAL COLOR

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, Dec. 5.—Two Gothamite authoresses recently tried their hands at shoplifting, in order to get punch into their literary work. Now the unitary laws of New York will give them further realistic experience in the workhouse.

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