

AUX AMERICAINS AVEC LES COMPLIMENTS DE TOUS LES POILUS

ADVICE FROM AN OLDER BROTHER

(For Use in the Next War)

Little brother of America, I love and admire thee. Thou art brave and hast fought admirably. But thou art reckless and thou neglectest sometimes thy comfort and thy security.

Certainly it is simpler to feed thy fire with the planks of thy modest shelter for the day than to fetch wood from a distance. But what will they say, comrades who follow thee, and what wilt thou say, thou, when thou returnest to find this cantonment in ruins?

Design thyself to a continued and far-seeing effort. It is as meritorious as the exaltation of battle. War, like peace, is one long patience. Care well for thyself. Care well for thy belly. Care for thy feet. Why dost thou not grease thy new shoes when they are given thee? Assuredly they would be less chic, but all the more supple and durable. They would not hurt as they often do. Care for thy belly. Since thou drinkest much water, why dost thou not add a few drops of alcohol or mint or tincture of iodine? Thou couldst find it good. And above all, O little brother of America, try to be more economical. Thou knowest that thy country is rich and prodigality doth not fright thee. But perhaps thou art wrong. Throw not away thy equipment before a forced march in the expectation that another will be given unto thee at the end of thy journey. And if thou wishest, when in a rest area, to



find that wine which thou rightly lovest so much, thou must not break our bottles nor burn our kegs. O terrible brother whom we love with all our heart.

And if thou art bored, our farsighted administration offers thee thousands of occasions to make merry at its expense. Our immeasurable love of red tape is an inexhaustible source of amusement for thee. It would make a man who was dying of ennui burst with laughter. Think often thereon and speak about it to amuse thy comrades. The inaccessible compartments which separate all our various services in the same office are sufficient also to put to rout the worst cares. But since thou art indulgent, thou wilt maintain that the compartments are good and thou wilt sustain thy reasoning in demonstrating that with the advance has never flinched before the tempest. Brother of America, so good, so generous, I admire and love thee.

GETTING A ROOM

Try This Scheme the Next Time Everything Is "Comple"

When you arrive in a place your first thought, I suppose, is to find a room and get a bite to eat. But that isn't always easy. You have to figure on the attitude of people who have been lodging soldiers for more than four years and who want a little legitimate rest.

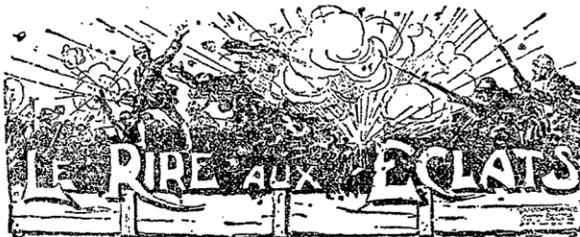
First, ask a shopkeeper in the locality for the names of several people who might be able to rent you a room, and go to one of the addresses indicated. Say to the person who opens the door for you, wiping your feet on the doormat all the time: "Madame, I am looking for a room, with electric light and overlooking the street."

"Three rooms! And three communicating rooms! Lord, no! My dear sir, you can't get them here. Why, imagine—all I have is one poor little room, and then that has no electric light, and then . . ."

"Ah that's too bad!" Then suddenly, seeming to obey another impulse, you should add: "At any rate, Madame, would you please be good enough to cook me up some calves' brains with browned butter and chopped herbs?"

"Calves' brains with brown butter! But where am I to find such a thing, my dear sir? Fried eggs, that's the way they are in the city. Now, if it were fried eggs, that would be a different thing. . . but calves' brains . . . calves' brains with brown butter . . . and with chopped herbs. . ."

"All right. Fried eggs; that's a good idea. The idea never occurred to me, and imagine, it was you who thought of it. As for the room, would you let me go up and look at it, for I think my friends will be able to find one somewhere else? It has a window, hasn't it?"



THIS page breaks all precedents of THE STARS AND STRIPES because it was not written by American soldiers. Every word of it comes from our friends the poilus. It was assembled and sent to us by the staff of that celebrated trench paper, "Le Rire aux Eclats" (which means "Explosions of Laughter" or "Laughter Amid the Explosions," just as you prefer).

"Le Rire aux Eclats" is the gay little journal produced from time to time by the famous 74th Division of French Infantry, veterans of Verdun, Soissons, the Thiescourt Massive and the Aisne, who fought shoulder to shoulder with us in the Argonne offensive in November and are commanded by General de Lardemelle, recently promoted Divisionnaire.

WHAT THE POILUS THINK—

Of President Wilson

The Germans used to laugh at the notes sent by President Wilson. They did not spare him their jokes or sarcasms. In their heavy gait the Boches neglected to foresee one thing: That the President, determined to have his notes paid, would send, armed to the teeth, two million collectors.—GANNUSKAU, Cdt. of Chasseurs.

We have often noticed that the names of great men end in N. Note the three greatest American Presidents—Washington, Lincoln, Wilson. And who was the greatest French genius of recent ages but Napoleon?—Cpl. MONMAYRON.

We who have fought, suffered and won guard in our hearts an infinite gratitude for President Wilson. Isn't it he who, in a great measure, discovered the famous machine for suspending . . . hostilities?—Sgt. MARIN LEON.

Although smooth-shaven, President Wilson has the tactility of the poilu. Uncle Sam can be proud of his nephew.—N. B. Machine Gunner.

The great triumph of President Wilson will prove to have been the enlisting of millions and millions of beings in the cause of the war in thought and heart before enlisting them in actuality.—2nd Lt. X.

It is to fertile and generous America that ten million French—so say statistics—have owed their daily bread for more than a year. It, absorbed in Right and Justice, President Wilson is a great idealist. In the presence of the above figures it must be admitted that he does not seem entirely without interest in material considerations.—JEN DEON.

What do I think of him? I can't do any more than say my wife is expecting someone. If it's a boy, we'll call him Wilson.—Pvt. DUMONDREY.

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ON THE COLORADO FRONT

Did you know, O Comrades in Arms, that the idea of publishing newspapers at the front in the midst of thousands of obstacles is of American origin—or almost. Judge for yourselves.

In the Colorado desert, where it is usually 95 in the shade, one of your fellow countrymen edits a paper, "The Imperial Press" of which he is himself business manager, editor-in-chief, typesetter, proofreader, etc. This valiant publication appears as regularly as the cyclones will permit. From time to time a storm comes along and carries off everything, leaving a chaos of stones, broken cactuses, snakes, tarantulas and scorpions.

The persevering publisher who has passed his time during the tempest in his cyclone cellar is not the least discouraged by so small a matter. He has his building put up again, cleans his presses, and recommences. And he says: "You see, dear comrades, that we have invented nothing new."

PITY THE POOR MARSHAL

I don't know how they do it in the American Army, but in ours it's this way: The Poilus of the various regiments have their evening mess about 5 o'clock. Very good. In the various headquarters services the privates and lower non-coms don't eat before 6. The other non-coms dine at 6:30. When 7 o'clock strikes, the officers sit down to table. But at the Colonel's Popote, they aren't served before 7:30.

Finally, the General does not commence his dinner before 8. And we wonder, not without a certain anguish, until what unearthly hour poor Marshal Etain and Foch must have to wait to satisfy their appetites.

PAS SAMMY

On your arrival they would to nickname you Amex. And later, Sammy was preferred, but it had to be renounced, because it did not suit you. Then the word Yanks was coined, but that name did not seem to clear. But what are we going to call you, then? What nickname can we give you? None is necessary. We can call you simply and purely by your heroic and generous name, Americans.

THE LOST SUIT OF PVT. X, A.E.F.

(He Wanted to Fight)

The case of American soldiers who came to France to fight and who arrived after the suspension of hostilities raises a curious legal question. In tearing citizens from the peaceable joys of their families and business, the American Government asked to them in substance as follows: "The honor and interest of the country demand that you go fight against the Central Powers. Depart, my children, and may God protect you." And the valiant citizens accepting with a generous heart the tax of blood demanded of them by the country, the agreement became legally binding between them and their government.

But the armistice intervening impeded the contract in spirit and fact. Beginning with that date, in fact, the American Government was no longer capable of letting its thousands and



thousands of men fight, who had come for that purpose. And that's where the problem arises.

Imagine one of them suing the state for damages and interest, and basing his claim as follows:

"Whereas the plaintiff consented to leave his wife to whom he is attached by infinite love, only to fight the Germans on the field of battle;

"Whereas the moral suffering caused him by this separation and the harm done his business might have been compensated in part by the glory he might have won on the battlefield fighting the enemy of his country and by the obtaining of stripes and decorations;

"Whereas it is not denied by the defendant that the plaintiff landed in France the day before the signing of the armistice;

"Whereas it is the duty of the state to compensate the plaintiff for not executing the clauses of the verbal contract as well as for the mental and material damage caused him by their non-execution;

"Whereas the plaintiff, in order to satisfy this legitimate curiosity, wouldn't it be a good idea to indicate by a definite design, on an arm band, the part that was hurt? A soldier wounded in the neck would wear on his arm some cervical emblem; for another, wounded in the foot, the insignia of a chiropodist could be copied, etc., etc. As for those who, none-the-less glorious, unfortunately had their wound situated in the—how shall I say it?—posterior of their person, a portrait of the author of this ridiculous proposal would do. Very simple.

"Whereas the plaintiff, in order to satisfy this legitimate curiosity, wouldn't it be a good idea to indicate by a definite design, on an arm band, the part that was hurt? A soldier wounded in the neck would wear on his arm some cervical emblem; for another, wounded in the foot, the insignia of a chiropodist could be copied, etc., etc. As for those who, none-the-less glorious, unfortunately had their wound situated in the—how shall I say it?—posterior of their person, a portrait of the author of this ridiculous proposal would do. Very simple.

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A POILU (three years in the trenches)

WHO has maintained in his flannels a nursery for the raising of cooties of all sizes wishes to exchange several dozen for some American varieties, preferably young.

Address all communications to OFFICE of RIRE AUX ECLATS DISCRETION ASSURED

the risk for seven days of being torpedoed by enemy submarines;

"Whereas, judging from the prodigious imagination of the Plaintiff as witnessed in his plea, it is justifiable to believe that he will exploit to the limit the unburied dangers he ran during the seven days and eight nights of this voyage;

"Whereas under any other circumstances a trip to France would have cost him hundreds of dollars, while the expenses of travel, lodging, clothes, etc. have been generously assumed by the government in this instance;

"Whereas in spite of the incontestable suffering he felt in being separated from his wife this was more than made up for by the pleasure of being rid, during an equal period, of his mother-in-law;

"For these reasons, the court is requested to reject the demand of Mr. X and charge him the costs of the present procedure."

A L'AMERICAINE

The day of the signing of the armistice in Paris. Indescribable enthusiasm on the boulevards. A pleasant young American soldier is posted in front of the entrance of the Café de la Paix. Every time a pretty girl tries to go in or out he blocks the passage, like a good sentinel, and says, with a charming foreign accent, "War tax, please; kiss me."

The girls thus singled out carried out their part in good grace. Doubtless, it was the first time they had ever taken pleasure in paying a war tax.

Can any one say that the American soldier lacks qualities of decision and a certain practical spirit?

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(And No Admission Charged)

Your officers have probably given you, like ours, frequent witness of their solicitude for you. With us, examples abound. Here is one among many others:

One of the few amusements at the front is watching shots of the anti-aircraft artillery at the Boche planes which cross the lines. Every one, his nose in the air, has his little say. "Ah!

He's coming over this way! . . . Just imagine; buried in our dugouts and billets, isolate from the outside world, we would have invariably missed this one enjoyment if it were not prescribed by military authority that the bugle should sound to warn us immediately. You will admit, dear comrades, that our chiefs gave here an eloquent proof of their solicitude for our welfare.

FINI Here we are, dear comrades, at the end of the page written in your honor. Will it please you? We hope so, with all our heart. Allow us to add these few last lines which may bring in a few extra bank notes for you. That certainly won't do any harm.

Cut out the price list below and send it home to your father or to that Uncle whom nature has been good enough to give you to be your banker:

Food prices on the 31st of December, 1918.

France: Cheese (per pound) 15 Fols. Jam 25 Fols. Fole gras (can of 200 grams) 35 Chocolate (per kilogram) 25 Ham (per pound) 40 Sausage 40 Apples (per kilogram) 6 Oranges (each) 2

In the fact of these exorbitant prices your honorary banker, overwhelmed with pity, will be greatly touched—to the extent of several dollars extra a month! But when you go home, promise us to explain that it was the malicious poilus who drew up that fantastic price list in order to help you improve on your mess.

And the old man or the Uncle will laugh till he cries, in the happy and poignant delight at your return, crowned with victory.

BONNE CHANCE!

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