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Fragments from France. Vol. IV

Bairnsfather, Bruce. 1887-

London: "The Bystander" Tallis House, Whitefriars, & 190, Strand,
[s.d.]

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NUMBER FOUR

The Bystander's

FRAGMENTS
from **FRANCE**

New York Herald



"Keep away from the 'ive, Bert; 'e's goin' to sting yer!"

By

Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather.

1/-
NET



When he writes home—

The world is brighter, hearts are happier. And in his mind kind smiling faces are pictured as he writes. Opportunities for writing at the Front are fleeting. Many are lost for want of an every-ready pen. So a happy suggestion is, send him a "Swan" Fountpen.



"SWAN" FOUNTAINS

best stand the racket of Active Service. Simple and quick to use. No mechanism to wear or get out of order. Can be "loaded" with "Swan" Ink Tablets and water when fluid ink is unobtainable.

SOLD EVERYWHERE BY STATIONERS & JEWELLERS.

From **10/6** up.

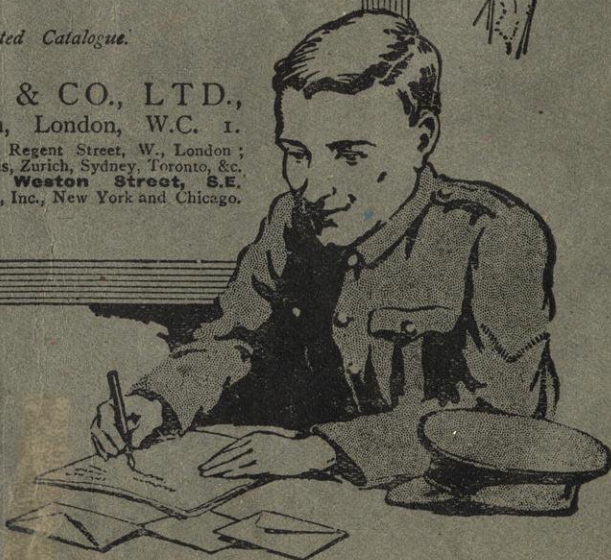
Write for Illustrated Catalogue.

MABIE, TODD & CO., LTD.,
79 & 80, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.
38, Cheapside, E.C.; 95A and 204, Regent Street, W., London;
3, Exchange Street, Manchester; Paris, Zurich, Sydney, Toronto, &c.
London Factory—319-329, Weston Street, S.E.
Associate House—Mabie, Todd & Co., Inc., New York and Chicago.



Extract from a letter from the firing-line :

"I have had the pen in constant use ever since the early days of the war; that it stood the rough usage without ever failing me, and was as smooth in writing at the end as when I first had it, bears evidence of 'Swan' excellence and utility for the soldier at the front."



FRAGMENTS FROM FRANCE

By
*CAPTAIN
BRUCE
BAIRNSFATHER*



Vol. IV

PUBLISHED BY
"THE BYSTANDER"
LONDON : TALLIS HOUSE, WHITEFRIARS, E.C. 4,
AND 190, STRAND, W.C. 2

“FRAGMENTS from FRANCE”

Foreword *to the* Fourth Volume

By the Editor of “*The Bystander*”



YES! MORE OF THEM!

Just as, umpty years ago, people used to look forward with an almost greedy anxiety to the day when the next monthly part of the “Pickwick Papers,” in its green paper cover, was due to appear, so now they worry the bookstall newsvendors to know when the next volume of FRAGMENTS will be ready.

Bairnsfather’s pictures they want to have always by them—and they can’t very well carry a file of THE BYSTANDER about with them. *Bairnsfather in a handy form is what they want.*

And here they have it.

That much-trying trio, “Old Bill,” “Alf” and “Bert”—as immortal through Bairnsfather’s pencil as other “Soldiers Three” are through Kipling’s pen—are here again to be found indulging in every variety of objurgation, but always recognising the ludicrous side of their *soi-disant* lamentations.

And since they can laugh at their labours, they make us all laugh with them.

They have their place in the gallery of the grotesque; but they have their place also in the hearts of their countrymen. For it is owing to them that their countrymen *have* a country.

And it is just because Bairnsfather has seen in them the simple man caught in the vortex of a war of unaccustomed complexity, and shown them to us in proof that human nature and humour survive in the heart of horrors, that, as in the three former volumes of “Fragments from France,” so in this, the fourth, lies the key to the proper understanding of the men who are beating the Boche.

So, if you want that key, you have only to turn the pages.



Camera Portrait.

E. O. Hoppé.

CAPTAIN BRUCE BAIRNSFATHER



Still Keeping His Hand In

Private Smith (late Shinio, the popular juggler) appreciably lowers the protective value of his section's shrapnel helmets by practising his celebrated plate and basin spinning act.



Those — Mouth-Organs

"Keep away from the 'ive, Bert; 'e's goin' to sting yer!"



Modern Topography

"Well, you see, here's the church and there's the post-office"



"There Was a Young Man of Cologne"

(I've forgotten the rest of the poem, but it's something about "a bomb" and
"If only he'd known")



Those Raiders at the Seat of War

"I wish the 'ell you'd put a cork on that blinkin' pin of yours, Bert!"



Romance, 1917

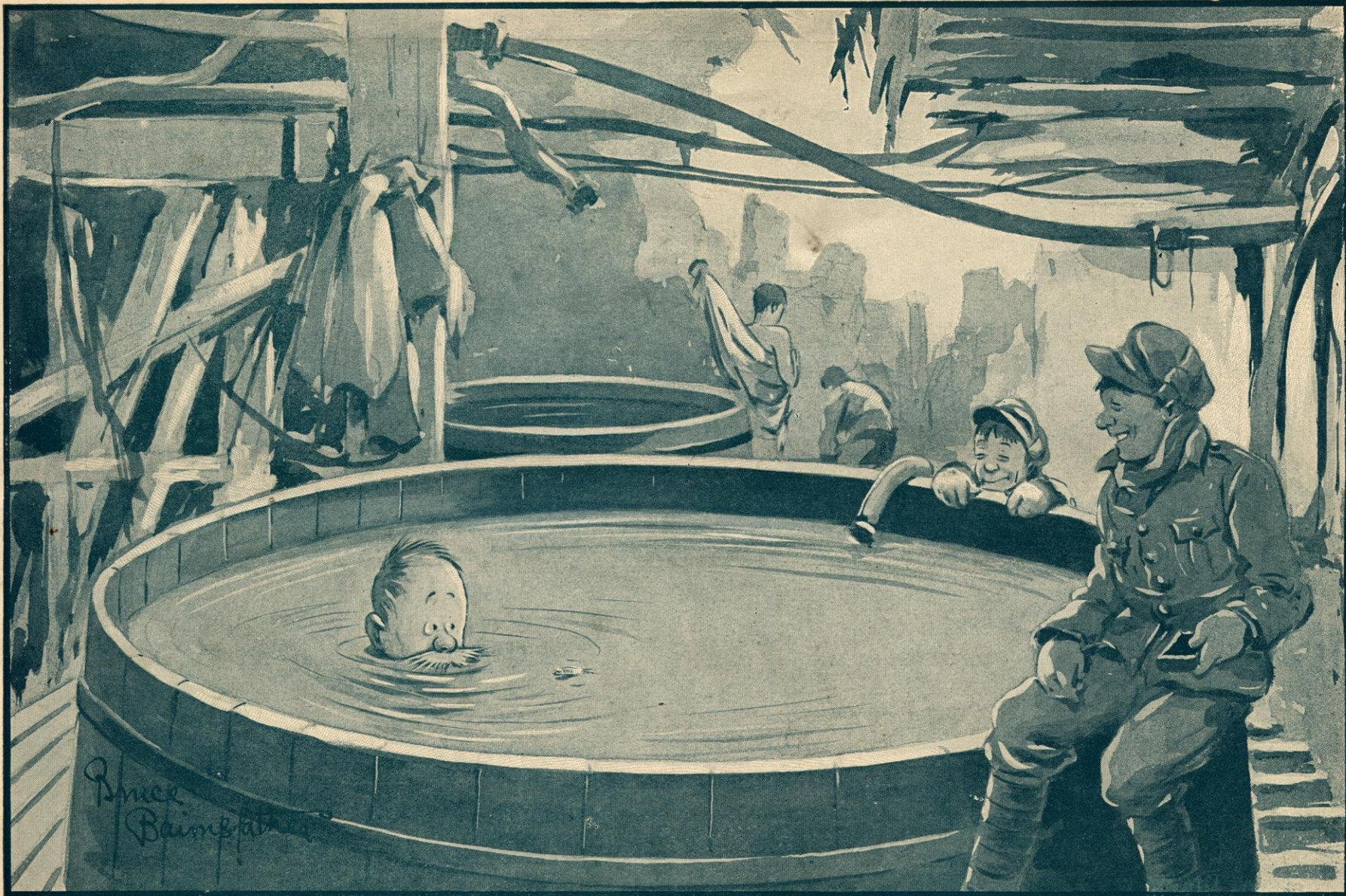
"Darling, every potato that I have is yours" (engaged).



That Periscope Sensation

"I wonder if I oughtn't to tell the captain about that thing sticking up in the sea over there."

*Crossing the English Channel
to France.*



At the Brewery Baths

“ You chuck another sardine at me, my lad, and you’ll hear from my solicitors ”

(LAWYER)



In the Support Trench

Old Bill has practically decided to get Private Shinio (the ex-comedy-juggler and hand-balancer) transferred to another platoon



It's the Little Things that Worry

What is so particularly annoying to Private Lovebird is, that he would not have had this bother with his dug-out if his leave had not been postponed



If Only They'd Make "Old Bill" President of Those Tribunals

"Well, what's your job, me lad?"
"Making spots for rocking-horses, sir"
"Three months"
"Exemption, sir?"
"Nao, exemption be ——d! Three months' hard!"



The Stargazers

—and their return to earth



A Miner Success

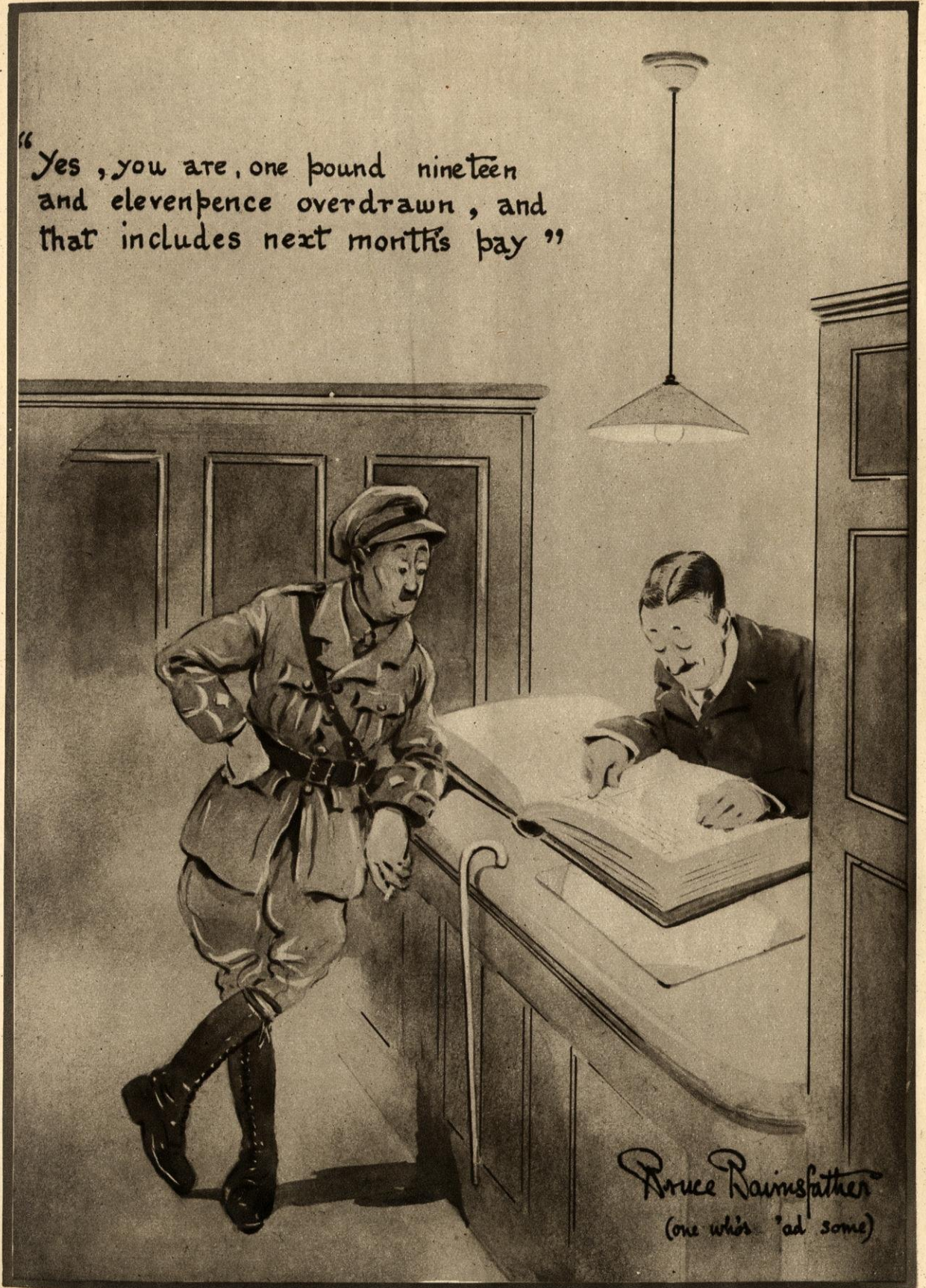
"They must 'ave 'ad some good news or somethin', Alf; you can 'ear 'em cheerin' quite plain"



Birds of Ill Omen

"There's evidently goin' to be an offensive around 'ere, Bert"

"Yes, you are, one pound nineteen
and elevenpence overdrawn, and
that includes next month's pay"



Cox's *(BANK through which
British officers are paid)*

When one feels rather in favour of floating a War Loan of one's own



This Muddy War

"These 'ere staff cars do splash a lot, don't they Bill?" (No answer)



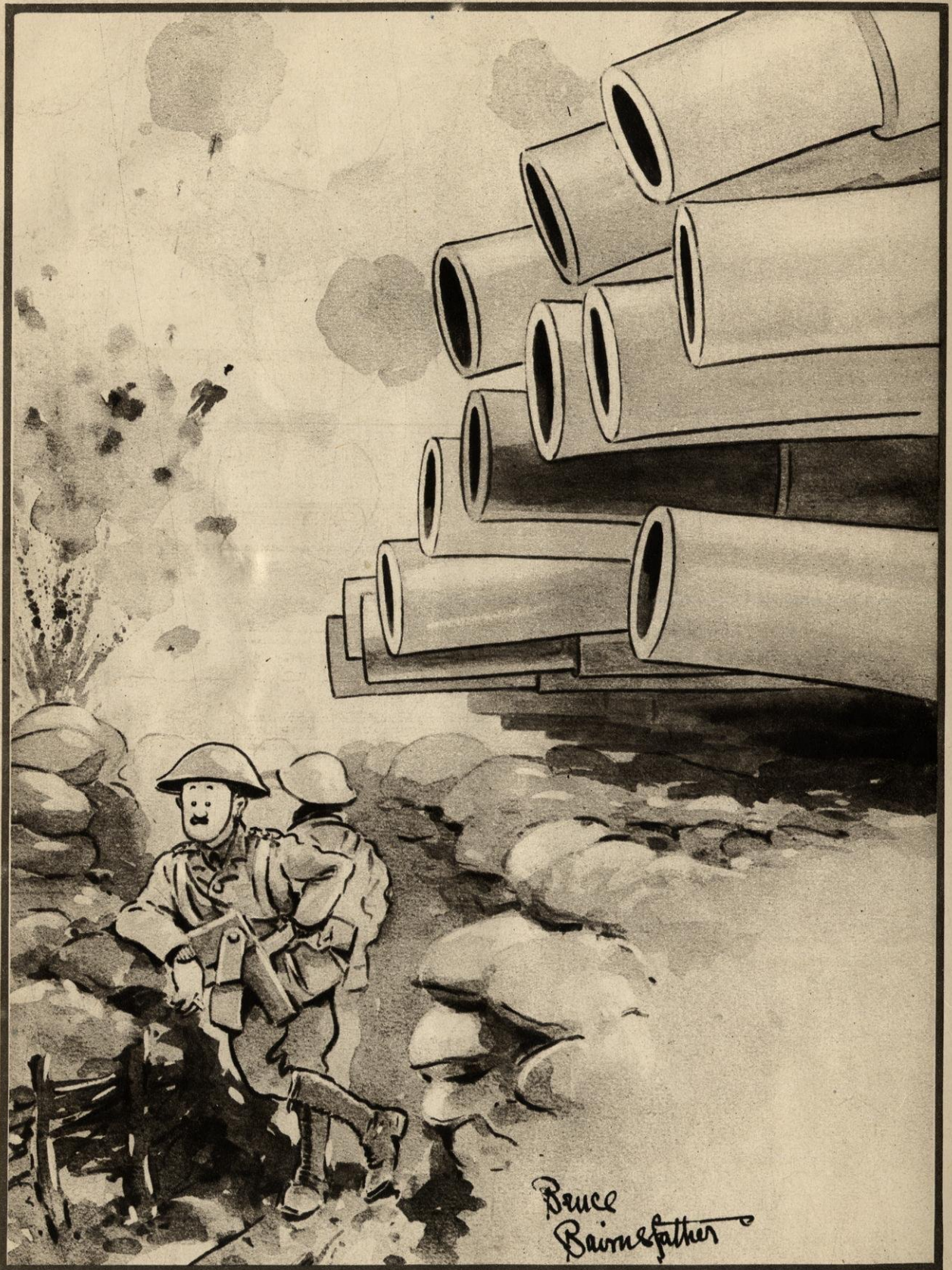
Down at the Ration Dump

"Call me a Tank again, my lad, and I'll knock yer — 'ead off!"



The Glorious Fifth

"'Ere, Guy Fawkes—buzz off!"



Unappetising

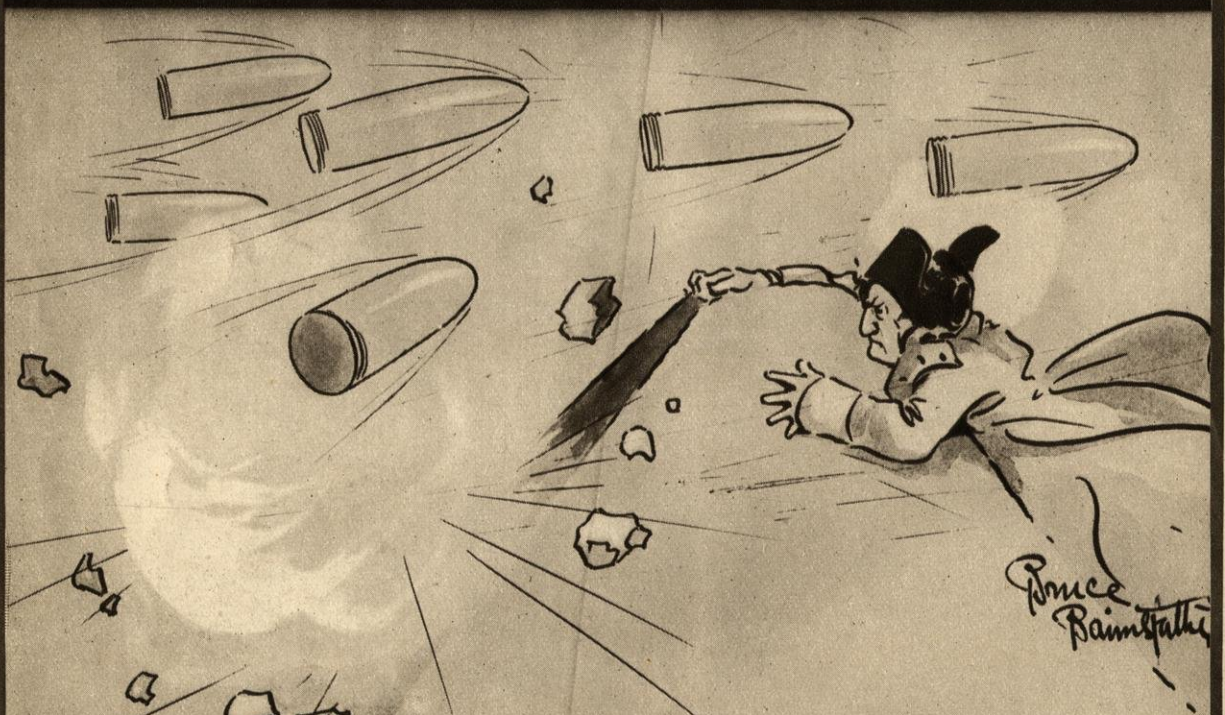
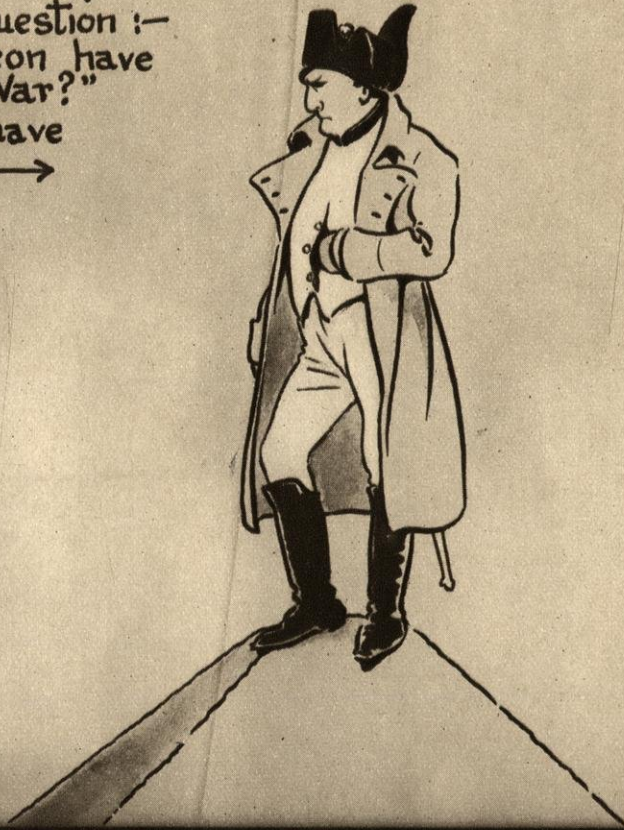
*Amusement Hours
in London*

Moments when the Savoy, the Alhambra, and the Piccadilly Grill seem very far away (the offensive starts in half an hour)



That "Leave" Train

One often hears the question :-
"what could Napoleon have
done in the Great War?"
He could certainly not have
gone in for this »————»



Prince Rainald

It would have to be this, or nothing

Other Times—Other Manners



The Tourists, 19...?

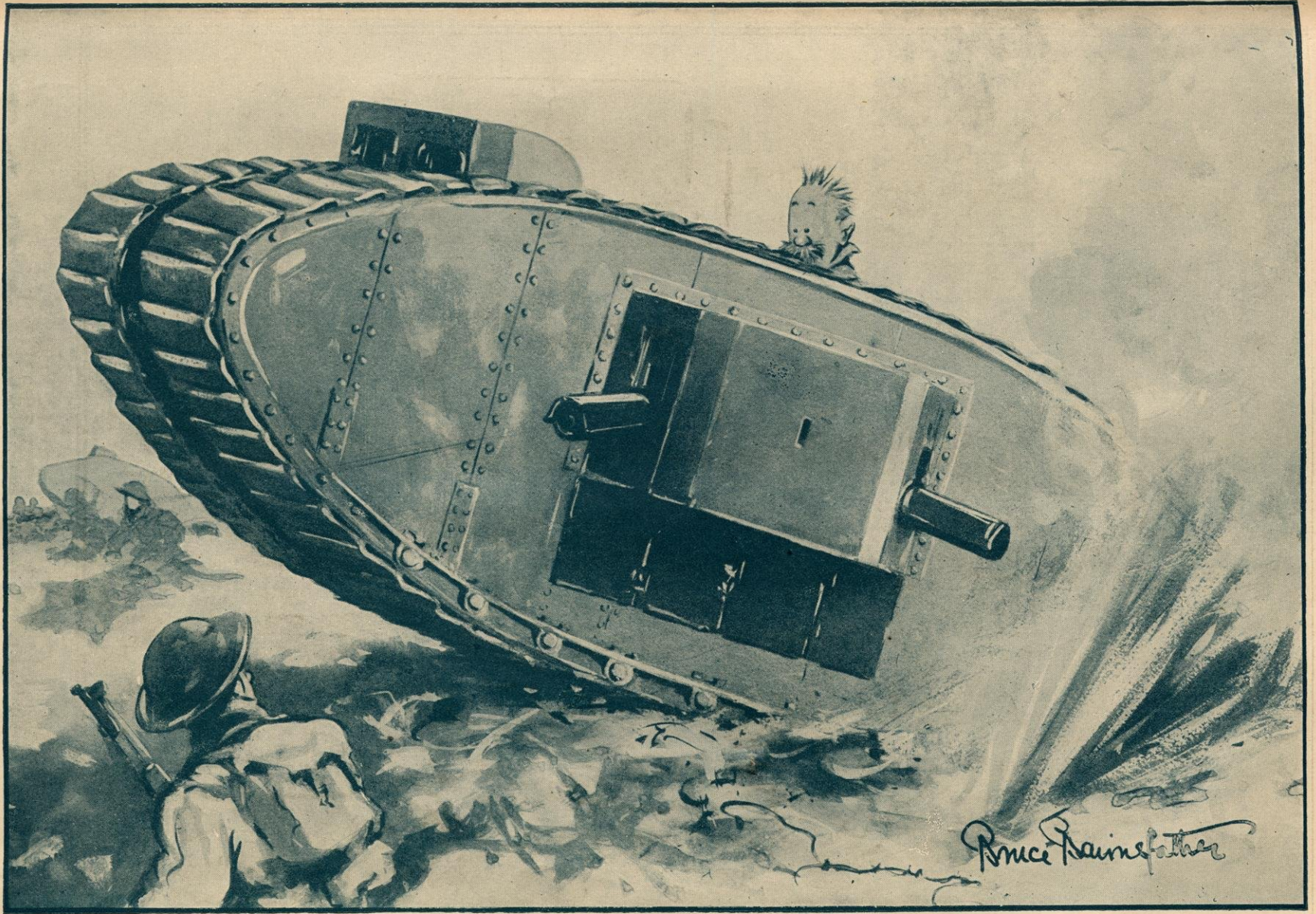
"Remember this place, Bert?"

"Yes, it's where we used to chuck the fish to you, ain't it, Bill?"



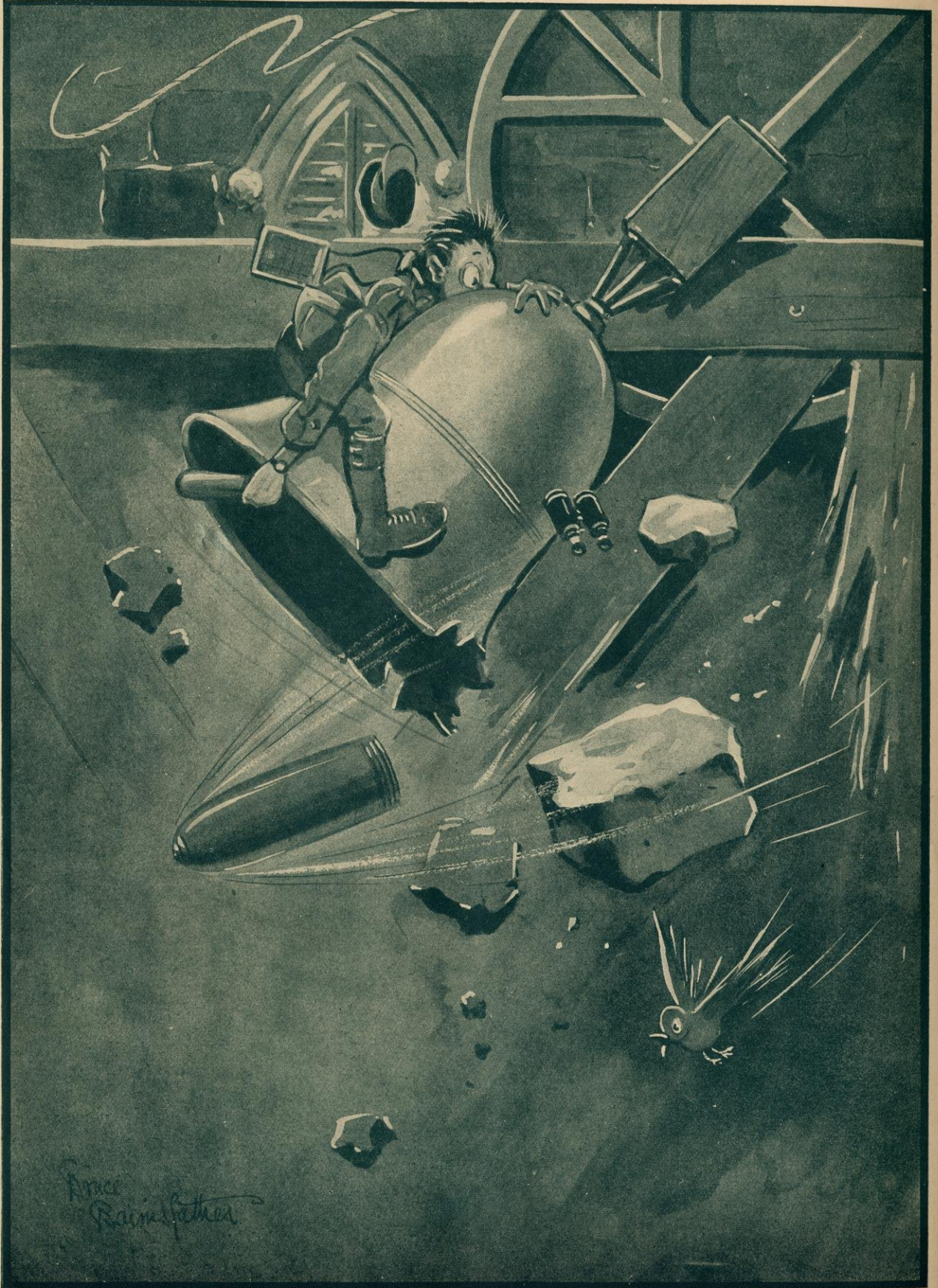
Alas! My poor Brother!

(In this cartoon Captain Bairnsfather refers to the report that the corpses of German soldiers fallen in battle were utilised in a Corpse-Conversion Factory for the purpose of providing fats for the Fatherland)



Can - Tank - erous

“ 'Ere ! Where the 'ell are ye comin' with that Turkish bath o' yours ? ”



Curfew

What particularly annoys Lieutenant Jones, R.F.A. (who thought he could get a better view from the belfry), is that irritating prediction which keeps passing through his head, "The curfew shall not ring to-night"



On the "Leave" Train

You will never quite realise how closely we are bound to our French Ally until you have had the good fortune to travel on one of those "leave" trains —six a side, windows shut, fifty miles to go, and eighteen hours to do it!



Getting the Local Colour

In that rare and elusive period known as "Leave" it is necessary to reconstruct the "Atmosphere" of the front as far as possible in order to produce the weekly "Fragment"



The Ghost of Dead Pig Farm—19 . . . ?

At midnight, an indignant, husky voice is heard to say: “B—— these blinkin’ sandbags”



George versus Germany

Noted English Vaudeville Comedian
 Should Mr. Robey be at any time called upon to go to the Front, he must be careful how he does this: "I'm surprised at you, Ludendorff!"



A Puzzle for Paderewski

"It's a pity Alf ain't 'ere, Bert ; 'e can play the piana wonderful"



"Substitutes" in the Field

"I thought you said your uncle was a sending you an umbrella"



Leave

Dep. : Paddington 2.15. Arr. Home 4

Merely a Warning

To those who may be contemplating picking up a Government car cheaply after the war. Insist on seeing photograph. Don't be satisfied by just reading the advertisements.



Bruce Barnfather

ROLLS-DAIMLER, 1917.—Four-seated Coupé body (très coupé). Hardly been used, beautifully finished (almost completely). One dickey seat (*very dickey*), detachable rims (two already detached). Only driven 10 miles (Albert to Gommecourt). Excellent shock absorber (has absorbed any amount). In exceptional condition. £650 (or good bath chair). **BARGAIN.**—Captain Somepush, No. 2, Red Cross, Rouen.



You dirty dog

Bruce Barnfather



**A Good
Pen at a
Low Price.**

Price **6/-**

With Pocket Clip, 6/6

You cannot buy a fountain pen for 6/- that writes so well and is so reliable as the "Blackbird." It has a strong gold nib, excellent ink feed, and in every other respect is up to a high standard. Although not so good as the "SWAN" it is the best in its class. A splendid pen to have for home or business use.

THE "BLACKBIRD" FOUNT PEN

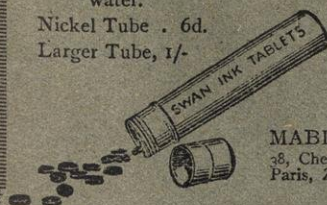
A Useful Pen for Active Service Men.

A Corporal writes (August, 1916):—"While on leave in Cairo, I decided to buy a pen, so walked into a stationers' shop. They recommended a 'Blackbird.' I discovered it was a Mabie Todd, so bought one. That was over twelve months ago, and it has never given me the slightest trouble. It writes as it did when purchased."

SOLD BY ALL STATIONERS AND JEWELLERS.

"SWAN" INK TABLETS

To make ink with water.
Nickel Tube . 6d.
Larger Tube, 1/-



Or by post from the Makers.

In United Kingdom 3d. extra. To Expeditionary Force, and Imperial Postage, 4d. extra.

Illustrated Catalogue post free on request.

MABIE, TODD & CO., Ltd., 79-80, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.
38, Cheapside, E.C. 4; 95A and 204, Regent Street, W., London; 3, Exchange Street, Manchester;
Paris, Zurich, Sydney, Toronto, &c. London Factory—319-329, Weston Street, S.E.
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THE FINISHING TOUCH.



ROYAL VINOLIA SOLIDIFIED BRILLIANTINE

THE ideal Brilliantine for the use of Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of His Majesty's Forces, and for all who appreciate a smart appearance. It contains no heavy grease, and is applied by means of the brush direct to the hair—thus obviating the necessity of soiling the hands, as being in a solidified form and put up in a metal box, it can be safely carried in the kit without fear of leakage.

Royal Vinolia Solidified Brilliantine strengthens and improves the growth of the hair, and prevents dandruff. After its use the hair is easily dressed and keeps in position.

In
Metal Box - 1/-
VINOLIA COMPANY LTD.



Royal Vinolia Shaving Stick.
The soldier's shaving soap
in metal case 1/-

LONDON & PARIS

R.V. 124-286



Bruce Bairnsfather

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THE TACTLESS TEUTON

A member of the Gravediggers' Corps joking with a private in the Orphans' Battalion, prior to a frontal attack.

POST CARD.

The Address only to be here.

"Bystander" Copyright.

Printed in
England.



Bystander copyright.

SITUATION SHORTLY VACANT

In an old-fashioned house in France an opening will shortly occur for a young man, with good prospects of getting a rise.

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England



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DIRECTING THE WAY AT THE FRONT

"Yer knows the dead 'orse 'cross the road? Well, keep straight on till yer comes to a p'rambulator 'longside a Johnson 'ole.

SHELL

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England.



"We shall attack at Dawn"



We do



"Never mind about that now, drink this"

Bruce
Raimelther

Bystander copyright.

"THE PUSH"—IN THREE CHAPTERS
By one who's been "Pushed."

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England.



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OUR DEMOCRATIC ARMY

Member of Navvies' Battalion (to Colonel): "I say, yer mate's dropped 'is cane."

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England.



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THOROUGHNESS

"What time shall I call you in the morning, sir?"

(Colonel Chutney, V.C., home on short leave, decides to keep in touch with dug-out life.)

"Bystander's" Fragments from France, Series 8

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