

# "To the Unknown Dead!"

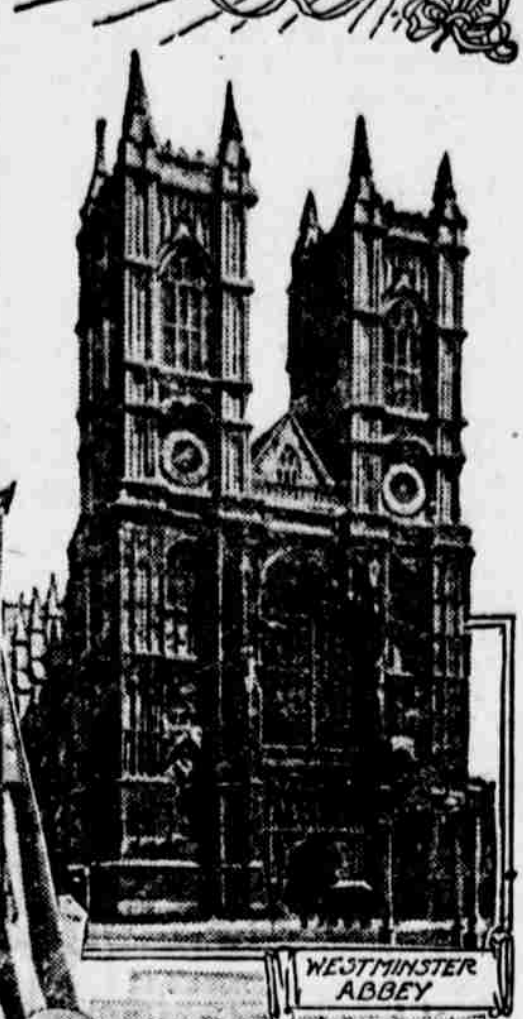
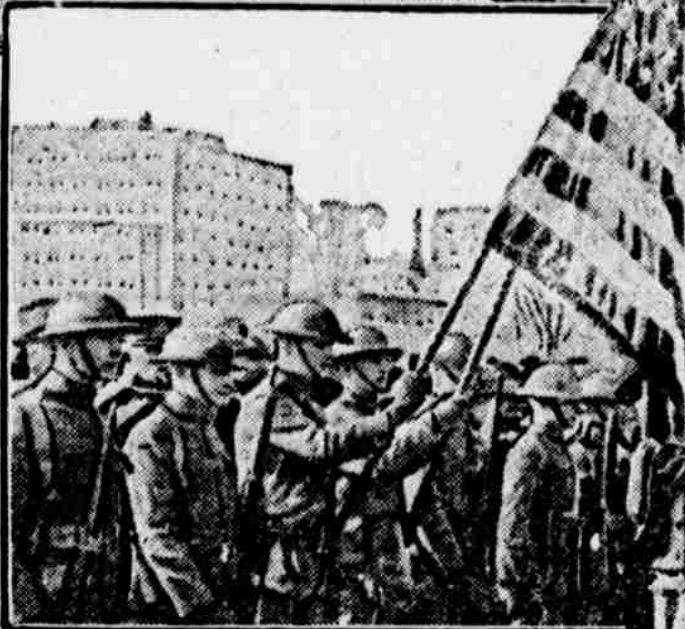
By John Dickinson Sherman



ARC DE TRIOMPHE

*Two soldier dead, picked in the dark  
From out of the untagged grave,  
Unknown, unsung, without a mark  
Of fame or glory of the brave—  
Genius or clod or knave,  
We know their all they gave;  
We know they died to save—  
And one shall sleep beneath the Arc  
And one in Abbey nave,  
With this to be by all men read:  
"In Honor of the Unknown Dead."  
—J. D. S.*

*Here to the Abbey, where all the greatest,  
All of England's greatest dead are put to lie—  
Here to the Abbey bring we this latest  
One who for England knew how to die.  
—Stanley Went.*



WESTMINSTER ABBEY

TAPS TO THE SOLDIER DEAD

Great Britain and France celebrated the second anniversary of the end of the Great War by paying tribute to the "Unknown Dead." In London the body of an unknown British soldier was buried in Westminister Abbey. In Paris the body of an unknown French soldier was laid at rest under the Arc de Triomphe.

land so bereft to place got it, but less than half the other applicants for seats were successful, owing to the lack of space.

After the 100 had been promised seats, the next to be considered were those mothers who lost their only sons, or all their sons, and then came women who lost their husbands only. They were given positions in accordance with the price they had paid during the war. A girl who wrote she had lost nine brothers killed or missing was given a ticket, as was also a twelve-year-old boy who wrote: "The man in the coffin might be my daddy."

As "Big Ben," the great clock in the tower of the parliament building, began to strike the hour of eleven, King George, facing the coffin of the unknown soldier, which was resting on a gun carriage, drew a cord that released the union jack draped about a cenotaph in Whitehall erected to the "Glorious Dead," and after the last stroke of the hour, thousands of people, who crowded Whitehall as far as one could see in either direction, remained absolutely silent for two minutes.

During the brief services in the nave of the abbey the king stood at the foot of the grave, the royal ladies and princes ranging themselves on either side. The casket was transferred from the carriage to the altar where the archbishop of Canterbury conducted the solemn funeral rite.

As the coffin finally was lowered into its crypt, a battery of artillery in the adjoining St. James park, fired a field marshal's salute of 19 guns—the highest military honor accorded anyone outside royal rank.

Official and civilian France paid honor to the memory of the nation's sons who fell during the Great War, the ceremonies lending a solemn atmosphere to the celebration of the second anniversary of the armistice. Paris, accustomed to observing its victory days and national fetes with rejoicing, turned aside this year and dedicated the day to memory and recognition of the sacrifice by hundreds of thousands of dead, who are sleeping in cemeteries along the battle lines.

Called from its grave on the field of Verdun, the body of an unidentified French "poulu" was carried with pomp and ceremony through the streets and reburied under the Arc de Triomphe.

The bodies of eight unidentified French soldiers, exhumed from as many sectors of the former battle line, from the Belgian frontier to the Vosges, arrived at the Verdun citadel the day before.

In a low casemate the eight bodies lay in state that night surrounded by a thousand lighted candles, while stern men and weeping women filed silently past. On a stand nearby were trophies from the City of Verdun which were to be deposited upon the coffin of the unknown soldier chosen and to accompany the body in its last journey to the Arc de Triomphe, there to remain throughout time.

The trophies were the Croix de Guerre, the insignia of the Legion of Honor, the Military Cross, the Order of Leopold, the Distinguished Service Medal, sabers of honor presented by China and Japan, the Greek War Cross, the Italian Military Medal and numerous others.

One body was chosen from among the eight by Private August Thin, a native of Caen, Brittany, who was a volunteer during the war. At the request of Andre Maginot, minister of pensions, the veteran placed his hand on one coffin and the veteran's choice was the "Unknown Dead" of a solemn and impressive ceremony.

In addition, France took occasion to remember that 50 years ago the country, defeated by Germany, owed its very existence for a time to Leon Gambetta, who took virtual control of affairs in Paris when the city was besieged by Germans and later succeeded in organizing armies to continue the futile struggle against the Teuton invaders.

The heart of Gambetta, which had been preserved since his death in 1882, was inurned in the Pantheon, the national shrine of France.

The procession formed in Place Denfert Rochereau at 8:30 o'clock, the head of the column standing in the shadow of the huge statue of the Lion of Belfort, which represents the spirit of the

city in offering bitterest resistance to the Germans in 1870.

First came muffled soldiers and veterans of the Great War, then troops from Alsace and Lorraine and then colonials. General Berdoulat, governor of Paris, followed, preceding flags used in the late war, behind which came General Falque and staff, bearing artillery flags, and General Derescau and staff, above whom waved cavalry standards.

Faded and shattered flags of 1870, recently retrieved from Potsdam and Berlin and carried by veterans of the Franco-Prussian war, escorted the car bearing the heart of Gambetta, who resisted desperately giving these very flags to Prussia in the hour of defeat.

A delegation of noncommissioned officers of all arms separated this car from the 155-gun carriage upon which lay the body of the unknown soldier. President Millerand and all members of his cabinet walked behind it, accompanied by the three French marshals—Joffre, the hero of the Marne; Foch, whose genius accomplished the final defeat of Germany, and Petain, whose defense of Verdun will forever live in French song and story.

The procession terminated with delegations from the St. Cyr and Polytechnic schools, republican guards, colonial infantry, Senegalese units, aviation officers, two batteries of 75's and one of 155's. As the procession entered Boulevard Saligny Michel there was heard in the distance, from the forts surrounding Paris, the first shot of a 100-gun salute.

At 9:30 o'clock the procession reached the Pantheon, where President Millerand made a short address. It then continued down Boulevard St. Michel and Boulevard St. Germain, crossing the Seine by the Chamber of Deputies bridge. It circled Place de la Concorde, passing the statues of Lillie and Straussburg, and proceeded up the Champs Elysees. It reached the Arc de Triomphe at noon.

Armistice day was observed all over the United States and in many ways. No national celebration was held where the buglers blew taps to American dead it was to the "Soldier Dead" and not to the "Unknown Dead."

Secretary of War Baker was asked to authorize the removal of the body of an unidentified American soldier from France for interment in the planned Victory hall, Pershing square, New York city. He refused the authorization.

Mr. Baker said that if the United States were to follow the example of Great Britain and France such burial of an American soldier should be in the amphitheater at Arlington or in some of the government public buildings. He said that the removal of a body to the planned Victory hall in New York would set a precedent and that many other cities and towns would "not be contented to be denied the same opportunity to show reverence and respect."

Whatever the result, an American precedent has been already set. In fact, America set it for the world. In Arlington rises a monument, dedicated more than half a century ago with ceremony, on which is this inscription:

"Beneath this stone repose the bones of two thousand one hundred and eleven unknown soldiers gathered after the war from the fields of Bull Run and the route to the Rappahannock. Their remains could not be identified, but their names and death are recorded in the archives of their country and its grateful citizens honor them as of their noble army of martyrs. May they rest in peace. Sept. A. D. 1863."

Armistice day seems destined to come to mean to the whole world what Independence day means to America.

How better express that meaning than through honors to the "Unknown Dead?"

## The AMERICAN LEGION

(Copy for this Department Supplied by the American Legion News Service.)

### HONOR TO MINNESOTA WOMAN

**Dr. Helen Hughes Hielscher Is Chosen State President of Women's Auxiliary of Legion.**

Approximately four hundred delegates from all parts of Minnesota attended the first state convention of the women's auxiliary of the American Legion in Minneapolis.



The meeting marked the beginning of the national organization of the auxiliary, which is expected ultimately to bind together about ten million women, the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of former service men of the World War. The delegates at the Minnesota conference represented about 6,000 members of the 113 units of the auxiliary in that state.

The convention adopted a state constitution modeled after the tentative constitution previously used by auxiliary units, and voted to "dedicate themselves to the cardinal principles of the Legion."

Officers elected were: Dr. Helen Hielscher, president; Mrs. E. A. Lewis, first vice president; Mrs. Myrtle Getz, second vice president; Mrs. O. R. De Laurier, historian; Mrs. George H. Barber, representative on the national executive committee.

Miss Pauline Curnick, representing the organization division of national headquarters, addressed the convention, outlining the plans and aims of the organization.

Kansas members of the women's auxiliary will hold their state convention January 10 and 11, and other states are expected to take similar action in the near future.

### WARSAW, POLAND, HAS POST

All Members Are Ex-Service Men Now on Duty With the American Red Cross.

A post of the American Legion with 40 members has been formed in Warsaw, Poland. All the members are ex-service men who are now on duty with the American Red Cross.

The post was organized by Charles Phillips of New Richmond, Wis., head of the publicity department of the Red Cross in Warsaw, and has the following officers: H. H. Hall of McDonald, Pa., commander; Lee D. Rowe of McAllen, Tex., adjutant; Frank R. McKenney of Richmond, Mo., treasurer.

Commander Hall, who served in France with the Three Hundred and Seventh supply train, is chief of stores for the Red Cross in Poland. Rowe, who was in the medical detachment of medical supply train No. 412 in France, went to Poland a year ago with the United States army typhus expedition.

Posts of the Legion also are now being formed in Jerusalem, Palestine and in Peking, China.

### MOST POPULAR AT CARNIVAL

Marie Balzarini Carries Off Honors at Contest Conducted by Windsor Terrace Post, Brooklyn.

Miss Marie Balzarini of Brooklyn, N. Y., was voted the most popular girl in a contest held during a week's carnival of Windsor Terrace post of the American Legion.



The popularity contest, which is becoming a favorite pastime among Eastern posts of the American Legion, has been the means of boosting the financial standing of several posts as well as affording amusement for the members and their friends.

### NO TIME FOR "BLUE LAWS"

Indications Are That Legion National Officers Will Not Take "Positive Stand."

"Blue law" agitation is apparently obnoxious to a large number of members of the American Legion, according to expressions of opinion received in letters at national headquarters.

National officers have been called upon to take a "positive stand," particularly against those who would do away with the cigarette.

"As individual citizens and voters our membership can support or oppose what it sees fit," said one national officer of the Legion, "so long as they conform to our national constitution. I think the veteran, however, is against intolerance. The national organization of the Legion has no time for this controversy, however. We have our hands full in our effort to make life what it should be for the disabled."

### NEGLECT OF DISABLED MEN

Legion's Investigation Shows Lack of Attention to Men Who Suffered Terrors of War.

Investigations by the American Legion reveal shocking conditions of mismanagement and neglect in the government's treatment of disabled veterans, according to reports of the Legion's findings made public by F. W. Galbraith, Jr., national commander.

The Legion has launched a nation-wide fight for the correction of these conditions, which Mr. Galbraith has described as "a blot and a disgrace on the name of our country."

More than 20,000 veterans are still in hospitals suffering from wounds and infirmities suffered in their country's service. Many of them have been there since they were brought back from France, on the hospital ships.

Their number is increasing at the rate of 2,500 a month, due mostly to the development of tuberculosis among men who were gassed. Statistics show that more than 500,000 men were discharged with disability rated higher than 10 per cent. Experts agree that the peak in hospitalization will not come for five or ten years. Yet, government hospitals at present are filled to overflowing and even contract arrangements are not being made rapidly enough to care for the ever rising tide of disabled men whose conditions demand hospitalization.

Certainly, there is no lack of willingness on the part of the American public to do all in human power to aid those who paid the price for the victory. The same experts who estimate that the peak of the problem will not come for five or ten years say in the meantime \$5,000,000,000 must be spent in its solution. The government has not been niggardly. More than \$500,000,000 already has been spent. Mismanagement is the gist of the Legion's charge.

Lack of vision and foresight and the ever-present governmental red tape is blamed as responsible for the death of disabled men before aid could reach them, for the incarceration of disabled in jails and insane asylums, and the charity wards of public hospitals where they received the same treatment as paupers.

In addition to its activities in advocating reform in the conduct of the government bureaus, the American Legion has dedicated itself to the tremendous task of "humanizing" the dreary lives of 20,000 disabled buddies who are patients in the hospitals all over the country.

Every Legion post in this country has been assigned to the definite job of taking care of a certain hospital where former service men are patients.

The Women's auxiliary also will be mobilized to share in the work and civic and philanthropic organizations in the hospital towns will be enlisted.

There is also the dangerous possibility that the hospital patients, remaining day after day with no interest other than their physical condition, will become bitter against the country which once honored them and which apparently has cast them aside. In several hospitals, Bolshevik agents have distributed inflammatory literature by ingenious methods, of which an example is the inclosure of the printed matter in bouquets of flowers.

In one case discovered by Legion investigators the propaganda was entitled: "You fought for America and what did you get out of it?" And indeed, it does seem that the sick veteran got little out of it except a short period of popularity, the consciousness of having done his duty and a maimed and diseased body.

"The 2,000,000 who are our buddies," said the Legion's national commander, "and are banded together in the American Legion, are determined that the hundred million shall not forget. In this work of giving the disabled man a fair deal and making him content we shall ask the co-operation of every loyal American. We fought together and we will stick together."

### WOULD STEER SHY OF CAMERA

Colonel Whittlesey, Leader of "Lost Battalion," Backs Off From Motion Picture Machine.

Although Colonel Whittlesey, an active member of the American Legion, led the famous "lost battalion" through the Argonne and was one of the 54 Americans who won the blue rosette of the congressional medal of honor, he told "Fatty" Arbuckle that he would be "scared to death" if placed before a motion picture camera.

"You can starve a man; you can wound him with bullets," said Colonel Whittlesey during a recent visit to a Hollywood movie studio with the portly comedian, "but you can't dim his love for the movies. Just a few hours after my boys of the Three Hundred and Eighth infantry had landed in a safe billeting area on being relieved from their perilous position, the whole bunch were in a 'Y' hut watching a five-reel comedy."

In These Days.

"Who's the boss here?" asked a traveling salesman as he stopped at a farm with a set of the World's Best Literature in 12 volumes.

"He is," replied the man at the door wearily, pointing to the hired man loading hard in a field. "I'm only his employer."—American Legion Weekly.