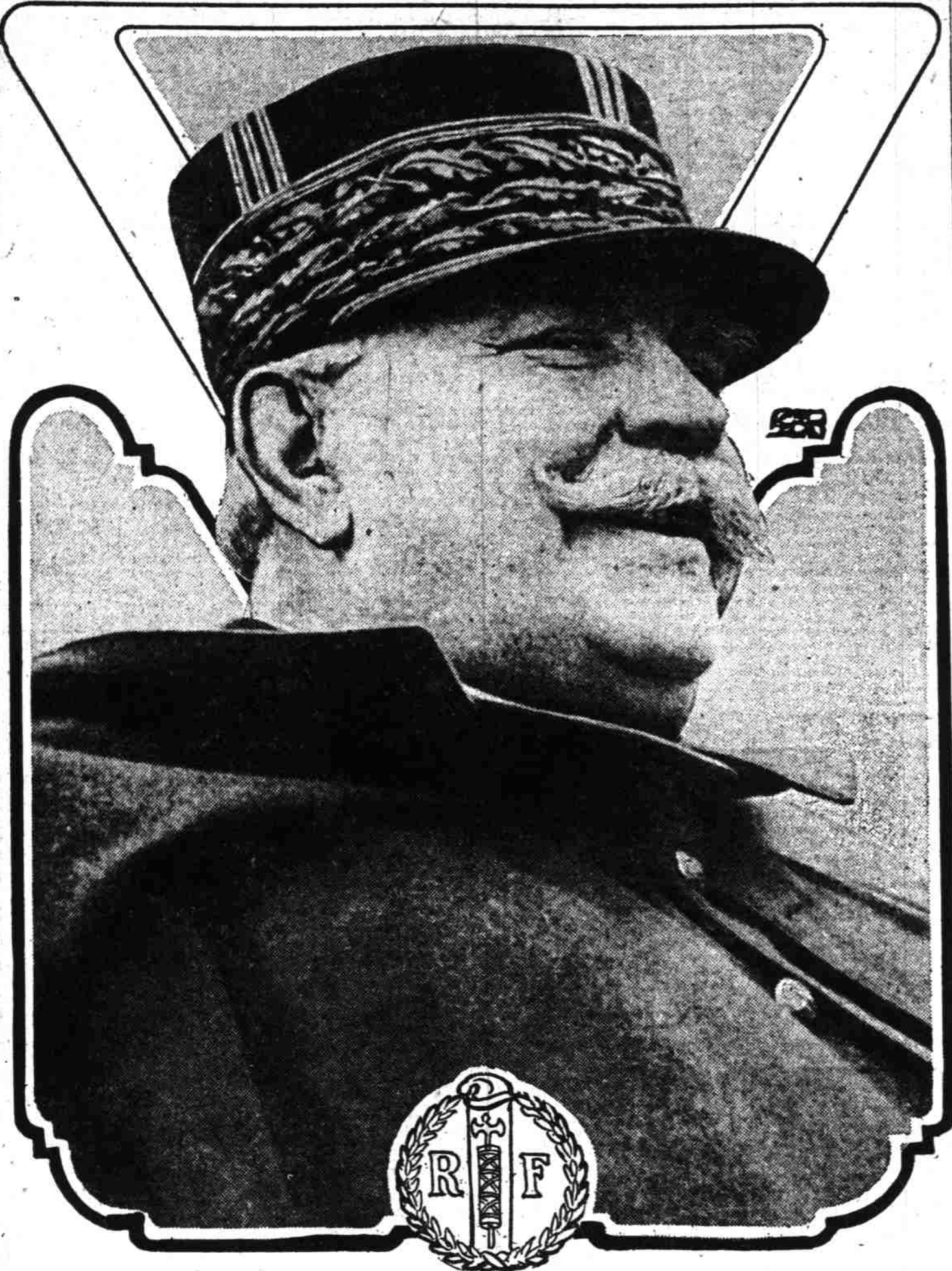


## MARSHAL JOFFRE--HERO OF THE MARNE



Marshal Joseph Jacques Cosmaire Joffre, beloved by all Frenchmen as "Papa" Joffre, whose feat in turning back the German hordes at the battle of the Marne is one of history's great military achievements, from a photograph taken in Washington upon his arrival with the other members of the French commission.

## Marshal Joffre Radiates Real Leadership Mastery of the Man Makes Striking Appeal

By Carl Smith.

Washington, May 5.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL.)—The great Marshal Joffre gives one, above all, the impression of solidarity. The impression comes not so much from his physical frame, which is ample, as from his firm and quiet manner and from his speech.

He talks readily, yet chooses his words. He hesitates not at all, yet there is deliberation in his tone, and evenness in his expression. While the aides about him betray in their quick glances and vivacity of manner something of the traditional traits of the French, Joffre remains always in a calm of his own.

Here, one can say, is a man far removed from emotional strain. Evidently he was master of himself before he became master of the Marne. Here is

a man who can weigh conclusions under any stress of circumstances, yet calculate quickly what is to be done. Plainly he would do nothing for the effect of the play. He would not turn his hand for a thing sensational, unless that thing were already a part of a plan to achieve.

### Grooms Newspapermen.

It was a calm Sunday morning when the press correspondents in Washington gathered at the mansion of Henry White, former ambassador to France, and the headquarters of the French mission in America, for an audience with Marshal Joffre. Given the word, they marched up the driveway and through to the work room of the Frenchmen.

Here M. Hovalacque of the French ministry of education, welcomed the press and gave preliminary information. M. Hovalacque is a heavily bearded man, evidently long accustomed to conference with newspapermen, and with full command of English.

Marshal Joffre, he explained, had a prepared statement, which would be read, and after that the marshal would answer any questions that might be asked. His answers would be taken down, and the press would be under obligation to put nothing in his mouth that had not been first submitted and found to be correct. Impressions could be stated, the ideas given could be used as matters informing the people, but extreme care must be used in attempting to repeat what might be said as coming from the members of the mission. And first of all the marshal desired to shake hands with each press representative, the name of the paper to be given as introductions were made.

### Reception Is Cordial.

Marshal Joffre entered, and there was no question of heartiness in the applause. The marshal came to salute, and bowed. And he smiled—portly. He is cordial, not effusive. He never smiles long at a time. One might almost think that suffering France is ever in his mind, the welfare of her armies and her cause.

Joffre speaks only a few words of English. He attempted one sentence, and by some it was understood. But the names of journalists, as brought out in naming newspapers of different cities, for the most part evidently conveyed no meaning to him.

Not so with his chief military aide, Lieutenant de Tessen, who stood at the marshal's right and caught the moving line of correspondents as it passed the marshal. At the mention of Portland as the home of the Oregon Journal he exclaimed:

"Ah! I know Portland, the Rose City. It is a beautiful place, and I know its festival."

One of the women correspondents spoke French, and she received special attention from the marshal, as he said a word of appreciation for the women of America. The seemingly Germanic name of Karger possessed by one of the correspondents caused a laugh as explanation was made of its ownership.

### "Speaks From the Heart."

Introductions over, the correspondents stood about the great work table, littered with documents, and Marshal Joffre began reading his prepared

statement. He spoke in an even tone, much in the manner of ordinary conversation, with an inflection here and there, which told the meaning of what M. Hovalacque earlier had said:

"He speaks from the heart."

Lieutenant de Tessen interpreted the statement, which has been published as Joffre's message to the American people. Applause turned to cheers as the marshal's words were read which told of the welcome awaiting American troops in France. Joffre was greatly pleased by this demonstration. He smiled broadly and glanced about in keen appreciation of the compliment to France.

### Perfect Poise Manifest.

For 20 minutes after that Joffre answered questions that came from different parts of the room. As the interpreter repeated the questions the marshal seldom paused more than a moment before answering. Beginning with arms folded, he soon unlimbered for gestures that conveyed the emphasis of the man. But his tone was ever under control, and as soon as the interpretation began, the perfect poise of the great soldier was manifest.

For these answers told of clear grasp of what he was about. He was there to tell America, through the press, what America may do in the aid of the common cause. There was no evasiveness about him, and he dealt with unexpected frankness with military problems. Once a question was asked that touched too closely upon detail as to how American troops should be handled on the soil of France. He conferred for a moment with his aide, who shook their heads.

"I think you had better say nothing about that," said M. Hovalacque, and Joffre smiled again his brief smile, in which there is often much more than a morsel of meaning.

### What Women Can Do.

One of the women wanted an expression on the part women can do, and what American women have done in France. The response was instant, and the marshal framed his answer with characteristic point. Women can be of great moral help, by giving cheering messages to the men in the field. They can be, and have been, of great practical help in preparing and sending articles of need and comfort to the front. American women have done much already, and France will always remember these things.

What experiences could the marshal give of observations of Americans now engaged in the combat in France? It would be invidious, came the answer, to single out incidents of heroism and fortitude and service, but one thing could be mentioned. American aviators have rendered distinguished service, and are among the most valued of the flying corps. They, along with the French, rendered a great service when they distributed into the German trenches copies in German of President Wilson's message, so that German soldiers might know what the president really said.

The marshal explained that one of the governing principles of German military policy is to keep the men at the front ignorant of what is going on in all the rest of the world.

Thus Joffre went on with the answers until the supply was exhausted. With a final word of appreciation for

the opportunity to meet representatives of the press of all the country, he gave a parting salute, and the audience was over.

Oh, yes! Pronounce it Zhjoff. That is about as close as the English spelling will permit.

### Decorated by Kaiser.

Berlin, May 5.—First Lieutenant Baron Manfred von Richtofen, a brilliant and daring German aviator, has been decorated with the order "Pour le Merite" by the Kaiser. He is the youngest man who has ever received this distinction, being 24 years old.

### American Aviators Do Noble Service

San Francisco, May 5.—It is the American aviator who is doing the big things in Europe, in the opinion of K. S. Wheeler, chief machinist's mate, U. S. N., who has just returned from a year's service with the American aviation squad on the French front.

"The French aviators are cautious; the Americans daring and with nerves of iron," said Wheeler.

Wheeler, with a party of American

fliers, including Thaw, Rockwell, Rogers and Neuriot, was standing in La Pere station in Paris when the station was bombed by a Zeppelin last January. The raiders, Wheeler said, apparently attempted to destroy a troop train about to depart for Verdun. Instead the bombs fell in the residence sections, resulting in numerous deaths.

"Time and again," said Wheeler, "I have seen the American aviators return to the aviation base, their machines riddled with machine gun bullets. The French furnished the Americans particularly speedy machines

and it is seldom the Germans succeed in downing one."

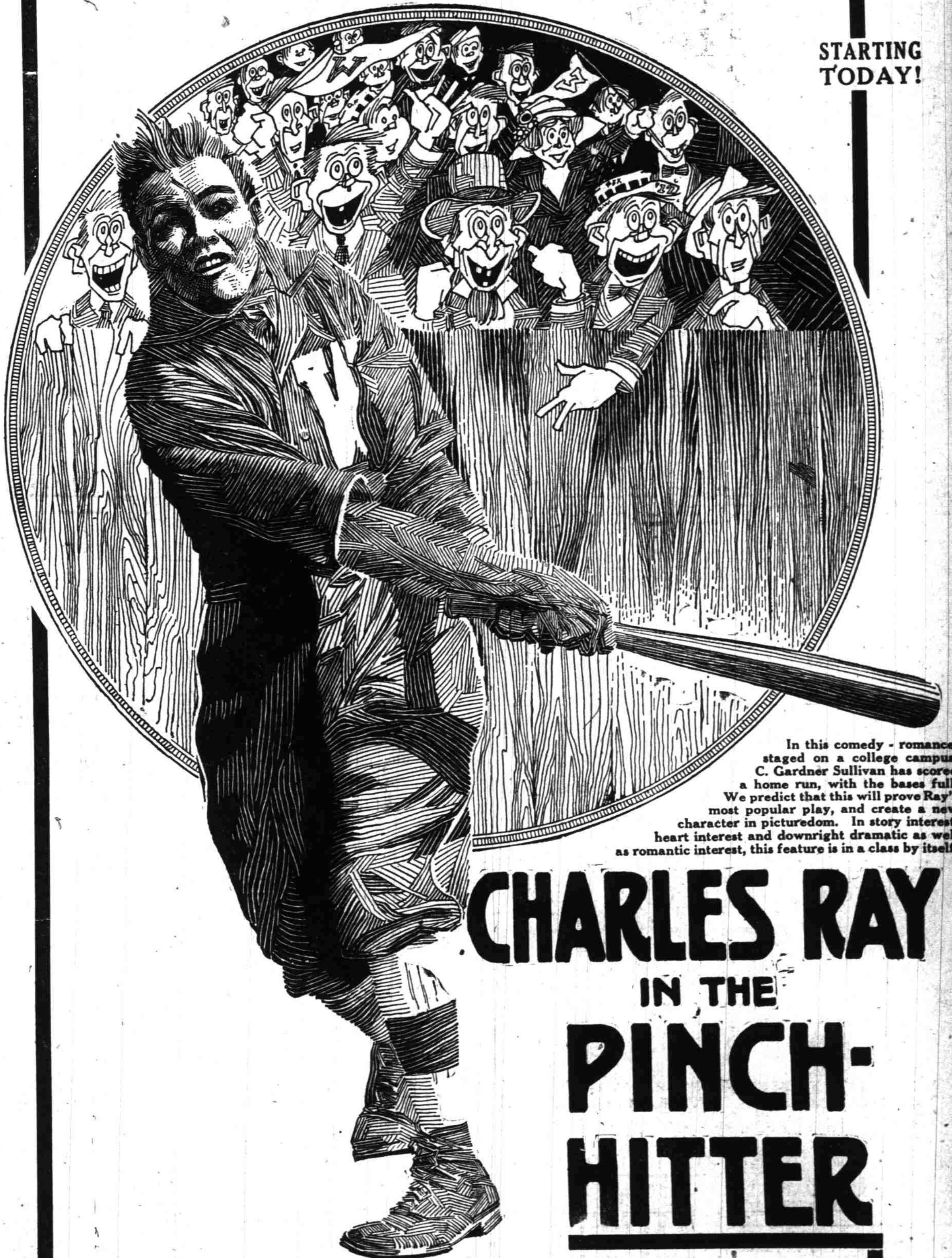
All the Americans have records of bringing down three or more "Taubes." The impression exists among the French that the Germans are running short of ammunition. While at times, said Wheeler, the bombardment of the French positions is terrible, it is not so furious or so general as early in the war.

New York Agriculturists Mobilize. Buffalo, May 5.—War mobilization of western New York agriculturists has been accomplished and is already producing desired results.

### Uncle Sam Places 80 Men on Farms

Detroit, May 5.—More than 80 men have accepted positions on Michigan farms as a result of the campaign conducted by the federal employment bureau connected with the Detroit office of the United States immigration inspection service. G. Oliver Frick, chief immigration inspector, believes that hundreds of men will accept positions later, many through appeals to their patriotism.

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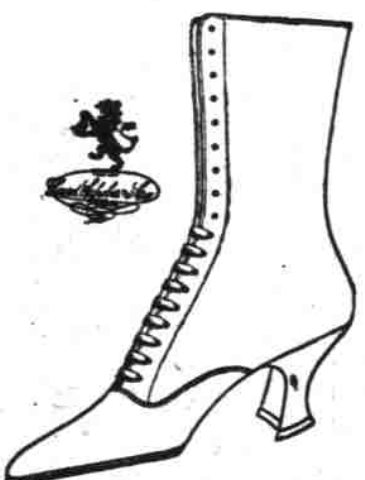
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