

LI'L ABNER

Cuckoo's
Tour —

by AL CAPP



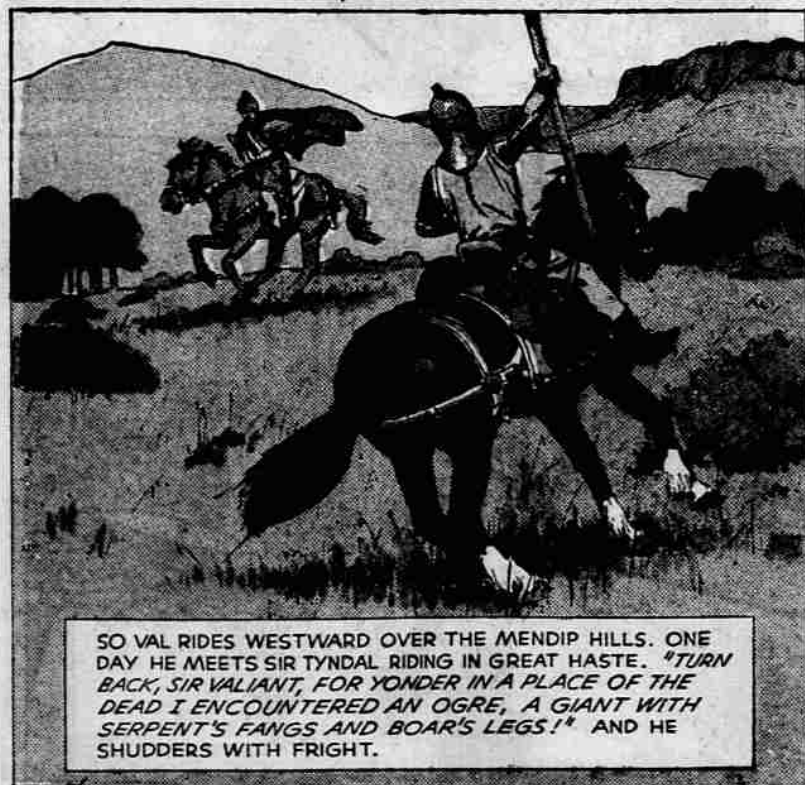
Our Story: IN THE SHADOW OF MYSTERIOUS STONEHENGE PRINCE VALIANT LISTENS AS THE HIGH PRIEST OF AN ANCIENT CULT TELLS HIM WHAT HE KNOWS OF THE HOLY GRAIL: "FOUR CENTURIES AGO THE CHRISTIANS CAME ACROSS THE SEA TO BRITAIN. THEIR LEADER WAS SAID TO BE JOSEPH OF ARIMATHAEA, A DISCIPLE OF HIM YOU CALL CHRIST."



"FAR BEYOND THE MENDIP HILLS ON AN ISLAND CALLED AVOLON THEY BUILT THEIR FIRST CHURCH AND IN IT PLACED A SYMBOL THEY THOUGHT HOLY. SOME SAY IT WAS A GRAIL OR DISH UPON WHICH FOOD IS SERVED, OTHERS THAT IT WAS A CHALICE, OR WINE CUP."



"FIND THAT ISLAND OF AVOLON; THE CHURCH THERE MAY HAVE RECORDS OF THAT WHICH YOU SEEK. NOW TELL NO ONE OF OUR EXISTENCE HERE THAT MY TRIBE MAY LIVE OUT ITS REMAINING DAYS IN PEACE." VAL PROMISES, AND THE HIDDEN BOWMEN LOWER THEIR WEAPONS.



SO VAL RIDES WESTWARD OVER THE MENDIP HILLS. ONE DAY HE MEETS SIR TYNDAL RIDING IN GREAT HASTE. "TURN BACK, SIR VALIANT, FOR YONDER IN A PLACE OF THE DEAD I ENCOUNTERED AN OGRE, A GIANT WITH SERPENT'S FANGS AND BOAR'S LEGS!" AND HE SHUDDERS WITH FRIGHT.



HE DESCRIBES A MONSTER MORE HORRIBLE THAN 'THORG OF THE MARSHES' AND VAL FEELS A SHUDDER OF FEAR. IN AN AGE WHEN ALL MANKIND ARE DEEPLY SUPERSTITIOUS AND BELIEVE IN THE SUPERNATURAL, IT IS HARD FOR VAL TO TRUST IN MERLIN'S TEACHINGS.



BUT HE HAS FELT FEAR, AND NOW, FOR HIS OWN SELF RESPECT, HE MUST FACE THIS THING TO PROVE HIS COURAGE. "TELL ME, SIR TYNDAL, WHERE CAN I FIND THIS MONSTER?"

NEXT WEEK—Guardian of the Dead.