# LI'L ABNER

## The Birds and the Knees — by AL CAPP

**Our Story:** PRINCE VALIANT LEAVES CAMELOT IN SEARCH OF HIS SON, PRINCE ARN, REPORTED A CAPTIVE OF A SAXON WAR PARTY. HE HOLDS ARVAK TO A LEISURELY WALK SO ALETA WILL SEE THAT HE IS NOT AT ALL ANXIOUS.

BUT ONCE OUT OF SIGHT SETS A FURIOUS PACE, FOR WELL HE KNOWS THE SAXON WAY WITH PRISONERS.

OWEN GUIDES HIM TO WHERE THE THREE YOUNG KNIGHTS ARE KEEPING WATCH ON THE SAXONS FROM THE EDGE OF THE DOWNS THEY LOOK DOWN INTO THE VALE.....

.....AND THERE IS ARN IN ANIMATED CONVERSATION WITH THE CHIEFTAIN AND, AS THEY PUSH ON TO THE WEST, HE SEEMS TO BE POINTING OUT THE WAY.
A TERRIBLE THOUGHT COMES TO VAL. HAS ARN BEEN PUT TO TORTURE TO MAKE HIM ACT AS A GUIDE?

AS ARN WALKED INTO THEIR CAMP OF HIS OWN FREE WILL, CLAIMING TO BE THE SON OF BOLTAR THE VIKING SEA KING, AND SPEAKING THE NORTHMAN'S TONGUE, HE HAS NOT BEEN HARMED, THOUGH UNDER CONSTANT GUARD. HE KNOWS THE COUNTRY WELL, HAVING PASSED THIS WAY ON THE NORTH WALES CAMPAIGN.

*'WHAT LIES AHEAD, BOLTARSON?'* ASKS THE CHIEFTAIN. *'PERIL,'* ANSWERS ARN. *'TO THE NORTH A LAND LAID WASTE AND BARREN OF FOOD. TO THE SOUTH, THE HEARTLAND OF BRITAIN, BUT PROTECTED BY THE WANSDYKE.'*

ARN GUIDES THEM TO THE WANSDYKE. *'KING VORTIGERN BUILT THIS TO HOLD BACK THE FIERCE TRIBES OF THE NORTH. IT HAS NOT BEEN USED SINCE KING ARTHUR BROUGHT THEM UNDER HIS RULE.'*

COULD IT BE POSSIBLE THAT PRINCE ARN, SON OF SIR VALIANT, IS A TRAITOR, WILLINGLY SHOWING THEIR ENEMIES THE BEST WAY TO ATTACK CAMELOT?

NEXT WEEK- Arn's Price