Kent News.

VOL. 86. CHESTERTOWN, MD., SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1926

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Alice, the Color Blender

By DOROTHY PIPER

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ALMOST invariably, after every meal, Alice Day would take her work-basket to the living room where her clever fingers would ply a needle in and out of some sheer bit of material; and just now she was fashioning a beautiful spread for her brother's bed.

"Humph," exclaimed her brother Danny one evening. "Do I have to sleep under those lumps?"

Alice pretended to be greatly piqued. "These are not lumps, silly," she said, "they are French knots, and you will not sleep under them, you will fold back the spread carefully each night before retiring."

Again Danny voiced his disapproval. "These folderols may be all right, Alice," he declared, "but why don't you use your time to better advantage?"

"That's what I'd say," called an elder sister, Marion, from the kitchen. "Every day I have to scrub these greasy kettles, while Alice sits in the living room and blends colors.

"Now, children, don't quarrel. Alice has an artistic temperament, you know," observed their mother.

"Applesauce!" scoffed Danny, inelegantly. "Well, I hope dad'll always be able to hold down his job. I don't know what Alice could do if forced to support herself."

* * * * * * *

No one seemed to notice the look of extreme worry and anxiety upon the face of Mr. Day, as he returned from the office each evening. At last he was obliged to speak of his trouble, and Alice overheard him telling mother.

"Mary," he said brokenly, "I made an unsuccessful business deal last month and lost $1,000. I am afraid Danny will have to sacrifice his college year."

Alice, an innocent eavesdropper, turned pale. How selfish she had been to sit and blend silken threads while her father slaved to give them the luxuries of life!

She scanned the "Help Wanted" columns, and found that Danny spoke the truth when he said there was nothing she could do. Possibly she could be a waitress, so, unknown to the family, she donned a plain black dress, and appeared before the man who had advertised for a girl.

"Had any previous experience?" asked the restaurateur, doubting Alice's ability.

"Yes, sir," she fibbed, thinking of Danny. "I worked at Wilde's for six months."

"Good," said the man. "You may start immediately; begin with that customer in the corner."

Alice knew that a diner must have a glass of water and a pat of butter, so she procured those two articles and stood beside the gentleman, awaiting his order.

"I'll have a cup of coffee and filet mignon," he said in guttural tones.

Alice understood the word "coffee," but the others sounded like jargon. "Flee Meenya"—she passed the order on to the chef.

"What is 'Flee Meenya?'" the cook wanted to know, "meat or fish?"

"I don't know, just 'Flee Meenya,'" faltered Alice. But the chef was unable to grasp her meaning, and gave attention to the other waitresses.

Alice's customer sat before an empty plate for nearly 45 minutes, then he stalked from the cafe in disgust. The proprietor upbraided Alice and threatened to "fire" her.

Her next customer was a lady, who wanted a pot of tea and a chicken sandwich. This was easy, and Alice went to the kitchen with a smile on her lips, but on her return she slipped and spilled the entire contents of her tray over the woman she was serving.

Luckily, the lady wore a heavy coat and was not scalded, but her garments were saturated with milk and tea. Poor Alice! She sat down and wept. She scarcely heard her irate employer as he ordered her to leave ot once.

The woman was a kindly sort and assured Alice that no harm had been done. She displayed more interest in Alice's towel than she did in her soiled cloak.

"What an exquisite bit of embroidery," she remarked, examing the design, "the blending of colors is real artistry. May I ask who worked it?"

"I did," replied Alice, between sobs.

"Why, my dear girl," exclaimed the lady, "you shouldn't be working in a cafe. Your life work is cut out for you. For weeks I have been searching for an expert needlewoman to embroider a trousseau for my daughter. If you will accept my offer, I can give you work for six months. After that my friends will be glad to employ you, I know."

The lady was so anxious to secure Alice's services that she paid her in advance, and Alice forwarded the money to her parents. Danny was able to return to college, but it was several weeks before he knew how much he owed to his sister. Then one day he went to her and shyly expressed his gratitude.

"Gee, Al," he said, "I'm awfully sorry for the way I have talked to you. I'll do anything if you'll only forgive me."

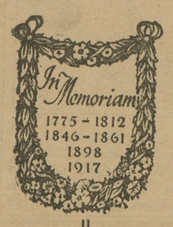
"Will you wear pink butterflies on your football suit?" asked Alice teasingly.

"Yep, I'll even do that," laughed Danny, and he kissed her on the nape of the neck.

KENT NEWS $1.50 PER YEAR.

Unsung Soldiers

With whom fighting men would gladly share tribute on Memorial Day



Flags are out, and bunting fresh and sweet
Decks every store and house upon the street.
It's very verve, the red, the white, and blue,
Flaunt to the breeze their message, ever true,
That men have given all, in peace or strife
With but one thought, to save the Nation's life.
These flags and flowers bespeak the real regard
In which a nation holds, as winning card,
Her patriots. They are the vital spark,
The clarion call, to which the worthy hark.
And so, today, as spring brings forth her flowers
And winter's wastes become emeraldic bowers,
Those men who love their country most outpour
Their tribute, all unmeasured, at the door
Of those who gave their best—their very all
In a quick answer to their Country's call.

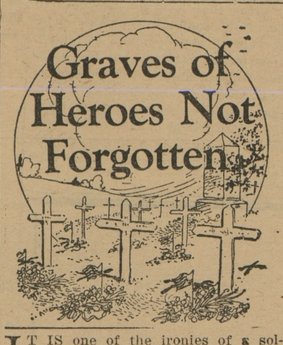
There are some soldiers who have never worn
An epaulet, or who have never borne
A sword in service, yet whose simple worth
Has been strong savor to a sordid earth;
Great souls, who, with an effort, have made gay
The simple callings, in their humble way,
And, who, perhaps, all unbeknown, have trod
With blindfold' eyes, in serving, close to God.

Let flowers, and flags, and bunting in the breeze
Mingle their tribute to such souls as these.
The noblest spirits of our soldier dead
Would crown with laurels such civilian's head,
And all would in their most befitting way
Render due tribute on Memorial day.



(©, 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

Graves of Heroes Not Forgotten



IT IS one of the ironies of a soldier's fate that he may be lionized in a moment of need, only to be utterly forgotten after the smoke of battle has cleared. Throughout the world the tragedy of the soldier ignored and neglected after he has given the best of his youth and vitality to his country is a spectacle which distresses the eye of even the most casual observer, ex-Major Namm of the Fifth division, A. E. F., writes, in the New York Herald-Tribune. And if it be so with the living, what must it be with the dead?

But the corollary does not necessarily follow. So far as America is concerned, the dead are being cared for. No one can visit the great cemeteries of the battle areas without realizing the sanctity that is being preserved about the graves of the fallen, without sensing the beauty of the tribute that is being paid by tender hands dedicated to that sole purpose. Row upon row they lie there, like men in a profound sleep, content with their martyrdom, yearning for no awakening.

Only one thought comes to disturb the peaceful picture. Unfortunately, not all of the dead are there. Some of the fallen have not had the grace of a decent burial. Of the seventy-odd thousand American soldiers who died overseas more than two thousand never have been located, and still are being carried on the records of the War department as "reported missing." And of all the phrases that were flung into circulation by the war none has been a more poignant source of pain, of hope, of doubt than those two words which announced the fate of a boy to be unknown. To thousands of American mothers and fathers that phrase "reported missing" has repeated itself almost daily for the last seven years, provoking all manner of speculation, yet forbidding any definite conclusion.

Tragedy of the "Missing."

What, after all, had become of him? If dead, why was his body never found? The vision of him lying in some shell hole, unseen, unguarded against the spoliation of earth and time, or cast up suddenly and sacrilegiously by some laborer's spade—that vision is not one to allay parental anguish. On the contrary, dead though that body be, so long as it has not been laid to rest it seems to have voice, a voice which cries out to loved ones at home.

And here it must be remembered that "reported missing" does not necessarily mean that the soldier has been killed. It yields room for hope, but hope mingled with grave concern. He may have survived, although badly hurt, and that conjecture suggests the possibility of his lying helpless in some hospital or wandering around Europe bereft of strength and reason. Again, he may have been neither killed nor hurt, which opens up a new field for speculation and the fear of something worse than death—desertion.

What is being done to lift the veil of mystery which enshrouds the missing? Are they to remain officially forgotten? On the contrary, although it requires time, skill and unremitting effort, the work of tracing the names, of recovering the bodies, of replacing in some cases members that had been scattered by shell bursts, of establishing the identity of the whole and of burying it finally alongside of the comrades with whom the "missing" one had fought and died—all that is being done quietly and diligently by the American Graves Registration service in France. Each month brings the recovery of more bodies; each week brings a reduction, even though slight, in the number of missing, and with the continuance of this work under direction as intelligent and conscientious as it has had in the past the time may yet come when most of the missing will have been accounted for and the fears and doubts concerning them will have been stilled.

Many "Unknown."

The important work of searching and accounting for the missing was begun by the fields units section of the Graves Registration service immediately after the close of the war. The task proved to be extremely difficult. Records of burial made under battle conditions were not complete, for bodies had been hastily interred under fire and the terrain had been subject to many transformations. The first search of the battle zone in the fall of 1918 and in the spring of 1919, therefore, met with but little success.

It was not until November, 1923, that the Graves Registration service became free to resume an organized and systematic effort to search the records for the missing, to recover unlocated bodies. At that time an officer who had seen four years of service in the field was detailed to the Paris office and placed in charge of the records, investigation and research department. He was especially equipped for the task in that he had served in the infantry and was thoroughly familiar with battle terrain, and also because he had a knowledge of anatomy which was exceedingly useful in the work of establishing identity between dismembered parts, where a shell, as often happened, had played particular havoc with the victim.

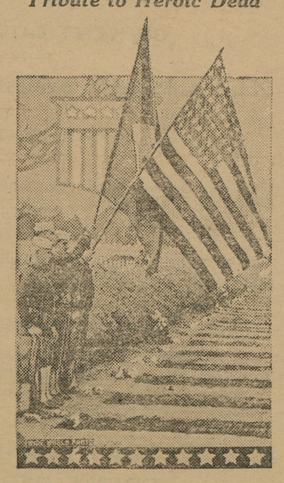
Good Work Going On.

That officer organized a series of units which are now serving in all the battle zones where Americans fought, and under his direction the work has progressed steadily and successfully. Unfortunately for the service, under the operation of the "Manchu law" which requires every officer to serve one year out of five with troops, the man who until recently was in charge of the task has been compelled to return to America. The work, however, will be carried on by his successor.

From January 1 to July 1 of 1924 the units engaged in the search recovered and established the identity of 125 bodies, or at the rate of 5 a week. They also recovered 29 bodies on which identification could not be established owing to mutilation and corrosion that had taken place with the passing of time.

These results can only be regarded as remarkable and foster the belief that the time is not far distant when the search for missing heroes of the World war will be crowned with complete success.

Tribute to Heroic Dead



The last ceremonies, at the graves of the overseas dead of the navy and marine corps, when the heroic dead of the war time are laid to rest at Arlington cemetery. Photo shows the colors dipped as the resounding notes of "Taps" are played.

NOTICE

All persons having bills against Kent county must present them properly vouched for before June 5th or they will be paid by certificate without interest. due January 31, 1928. The law is positive that no interest may be paid. We will treat all alike. It is your duty to see that your bill is in this office by June 5th. By order of the Commissioners.
m1-ft JOHN MEDDERS, Clerk.

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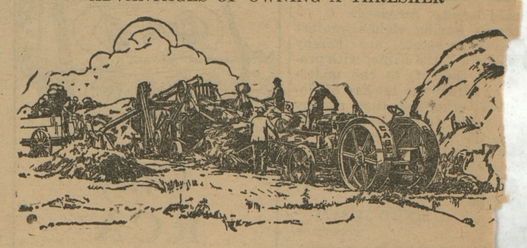
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