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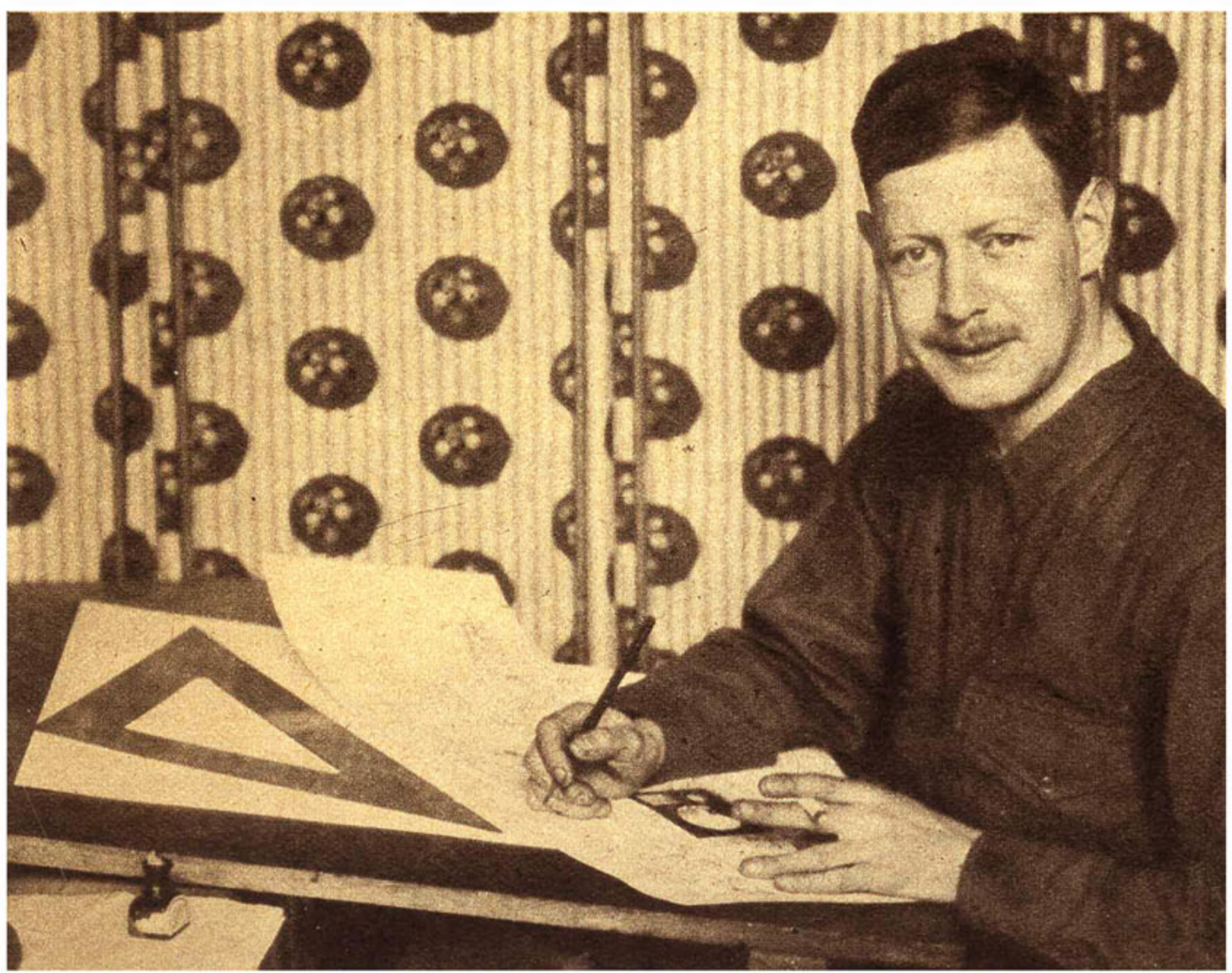
THE NATIONAL PICTURE MONTHLY
NOVEMBER, 1938

THE A. E. F.'S FAMOUS CARTOONIST LOOKS BACK 20 YEARS

ARMISTICE DAY, 1918, WAS ONLY
A HEADACHE TO WALLGREN OF
"THE STARS AND STRIPES"



"AS ODD a squad of warriors as ever sickened a drill sergeant" was Alexander Woolcott's tart survey of his rowdy pals on *The Stars and Stripes*, official newspaper of our two million saviors of democracy in France. Though the staff sparkled with star names, Cartoonist Abian Wallgren became the pet of the A. E. F. as his pen punctured the military stuffed shirts and let the hot air out. In these cartoons, drawn exclusively for *CLICK*, Wally brings back war days in a way that makes every veteran guffaw.



WALLY enlisted in the Marines. Tossed in the guardhouse for military infractions, he made money by drawing pictures of pals.



"IN FEBRUARY, 1918, I was ordered to Paris, to do cartoons for the new Army newspaper, The Stars and Stripes, as part of my military duty. After days of hitch-hiking I finally got there, and drew my first strips on a tilted beer table in the Rue Ste. Anne . . .



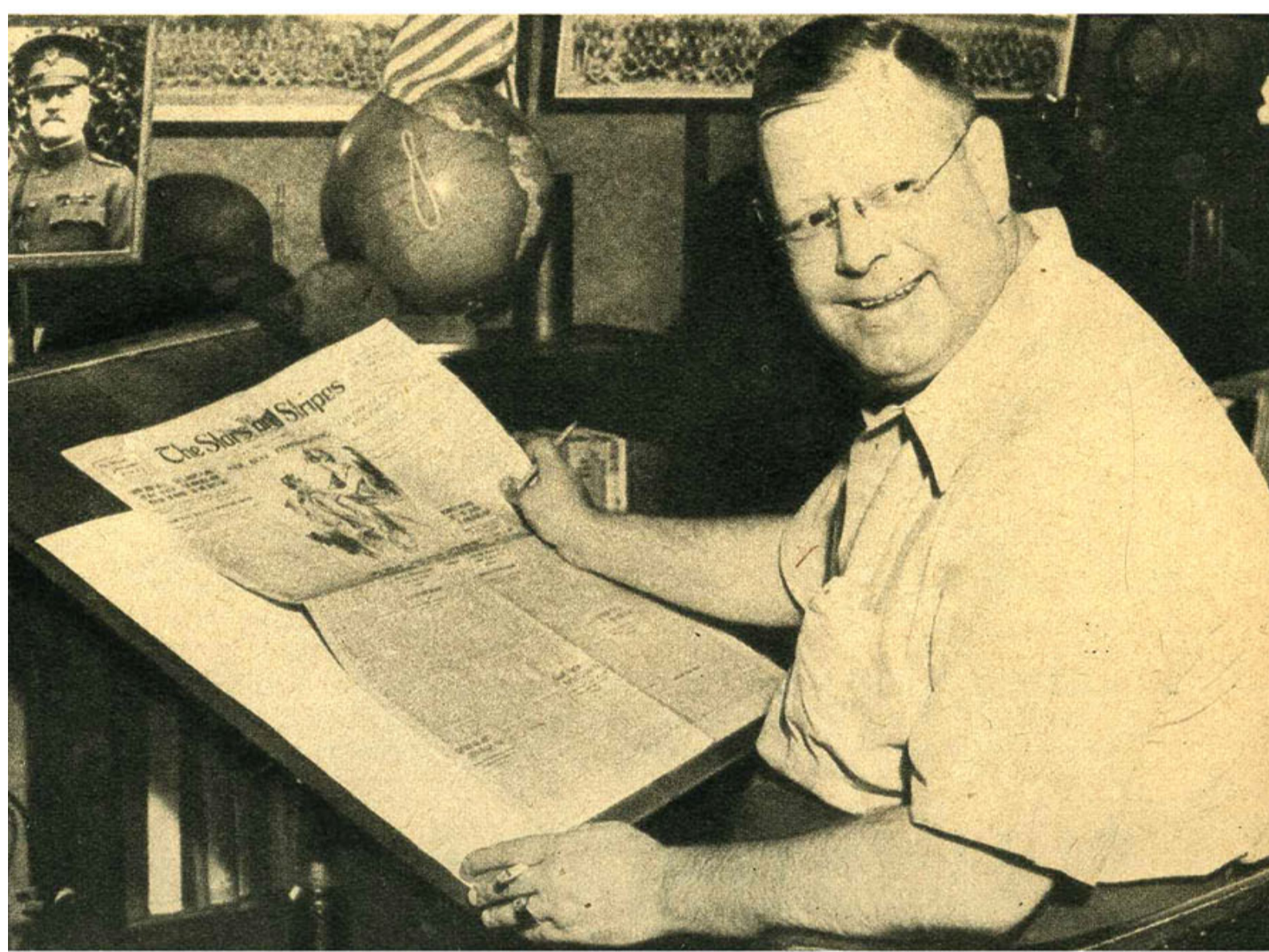
COULD ANYONE IMAGINE a goofier or more delightful military assignment? I drew soldiers aplenty for The Stars and Stripes—young men and old, from every State of the Union. I drew pictures of the lads at drill, work and play—in camps, barracks and hoosegows—and then I was ordered to go to the front to get more ideas for funny pictures. I went, time and again, to see for myself . . . But a lot of it wasn't funny."



THE STARS and Stripes editor kidded the war and military caste system while the officers writhed. At the right is Hudson Hawley, often cartooned by Wally as the "saluting demon" of the A. E. F.



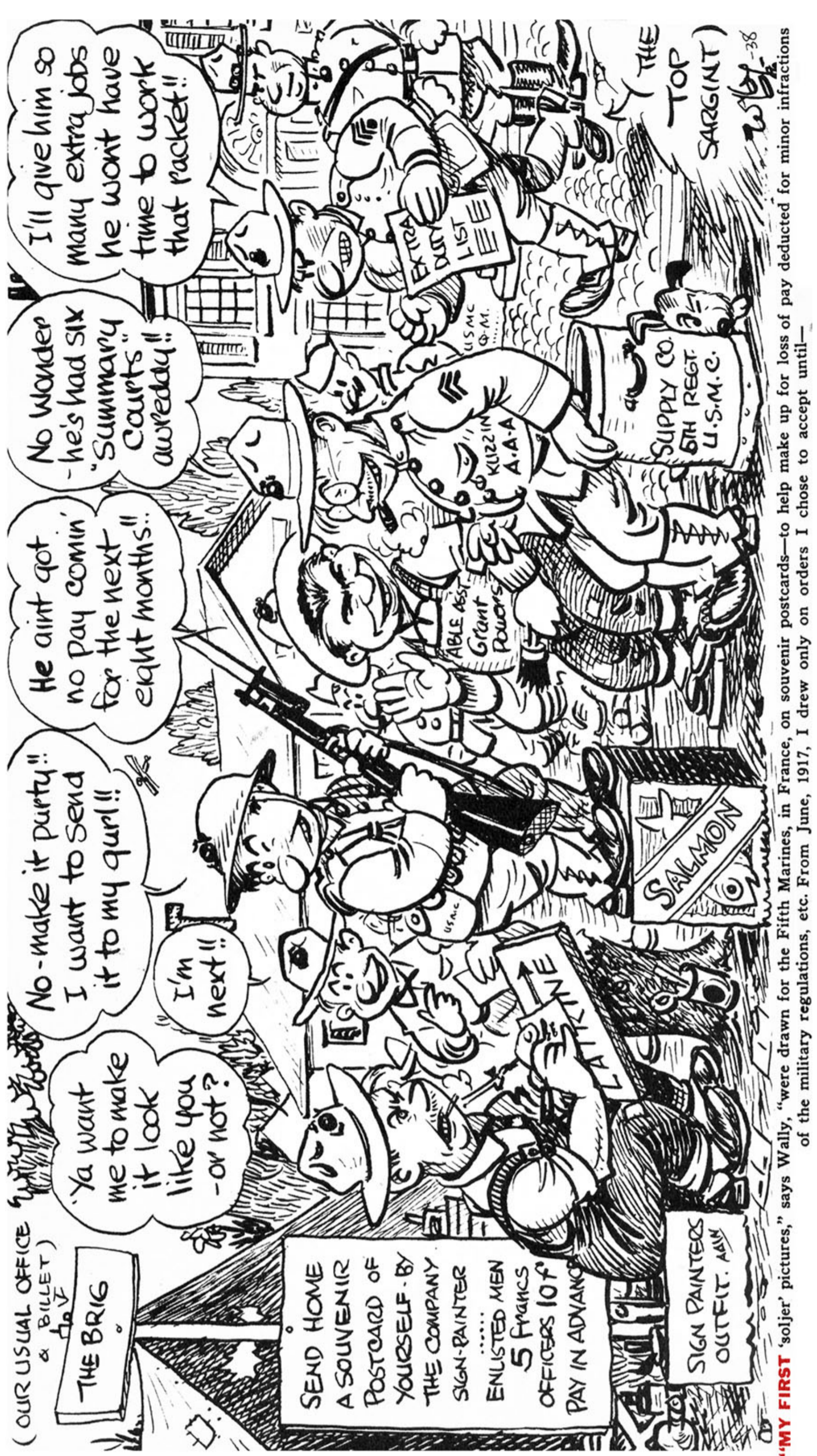
ARMY TRUCKS rushed The Stars and Stripes even to the front-line trenches. The lampooned "brass hats" tried to suppress the weekly, but Pershing wisely vetoed the move, knowing that it exerted a powerful influence on the A. E. F. morale.



TODAY Wally's a little heftier, but his Army cartoons are still streamlined. At his home in Philadelphia he keeps busy at entertaining every World War veteran.



"CAME the Armistice—but I 'carried on' until June, 1919 . . . Back home and out of uniform again, I discovered that I was still 'the A. E. F. cartoonist,' regardless—and was expected to draw more 'soljers' and nuthin' else. But indefinitely—which I have happily continued to do, for my buddies, etc., ever since."



"MY FIRST 'soljer' pictures," says Wally, "were drawn for the Fifth Marines, in France, on souvenir postcards—to help make up for loss of pay deducted for minor infractions of the military regulations, etc. From June, 1917, I drew only on orders I chose to accept until—"



"FINI LA GUERRE!" But The Stars and Stripes staff didn't get excited over the war's end, and gave it only a one-column headline. Harold Ross was editor of the weekly, aided by such brilliants as Woolcott, John T. Winterich, Hawley, Tip Bliss, Grant Powers and C. Le Roy Baldrige. None of these men won an Army commission. In fact, they thought that was their greatest attainment!