

Robert Williams

Professor Facer

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YOUR FLAG AND MY FLAG

Your flag and my flag,
 And how it flies today
 In your land and my land
 And half a world away!
 Rose-red and blood-red
 The stripes forever gleam;
 Snow-white and soul-white—
 The good forefathers' dream;
 Sky-blue and true-blue, with stars to gleam aright—
 The gloried guidon of the day, a shelter through the night.

Your flag and my flag!
 And, oh, how much it holds—
 Your land and my land—
 Secure within its folds!
 Your heart and my heart
 Beat quicker at the sight;
 Sun-kissed and wind-tossed—
 Red and blue and white;
 The one flag—the great flag—the flag for me and you—
 Glorified all else beside—the red and white and blue!
 By Wilbur D. Nesbit, in Watchman Examiner.

PROFESSOR FOSTER'S FRENCH LESSON

Voila la gare.
 Vvaiah lah gar.
 There is the railway station.

La gare est au bout de boulevard a
 droite.
 Lah gar ay toh boo duh boovlar ah
 drwaht.
 The station is at the end of the boule-
 vard to the right.

Ou prend-on les billets pour Paris?
 O prahng tang lay beeyay poor P'aree?
 Where do we get tickets for Paris?

Au premier guichet, au bout du hall, a
 droite.
 Oh prummeey geeshay oh boo du ahi
 ah drwaht.
 At the first window at the end of the
 room to the right.

Donnez-moi une deuxieme pour Paris,
 s'il vous plait.
 Donnay mwaa een durzee-em poor Paris
 seel voo play.
 Give me a second-class ticket for Paris,
 please.

Une premier Lyons, aller et retour, s'il
 vous plait.
 Een pruhmeear Leeong, alay ay ruh-
 tour, seel voo play.
 A first class round trip ticket to Lyons,
 please.

Ou est notre train?
 Ou ay notr trang?
 Where is our train?

Avez-vous achete vos billets?
 Ahvay voo zashtay voh beeyay?
 Have you bought your tickets?

Ou allons-nous d'ici?
 Ou along noo deesee?
 Where do we go from here?

Faut-il changer de train?
 Foh teel shanzhay duh trang?
 Must we change cars?

Non, restez dans ce train jusqu'a l'ar-
 rivee a Paris.
 Nong, rustay dang suh trang zheeskah
 larivay ah P'aree.

SOLDIER WRITES OF HIS TIME IN FRANCE

"I hope you are not worried about me.
 I never was having a better time in my
 life and am always seeing and doing
 new things."

This is not from the journal of a school
 boy's holiday. It is from a letter writ-
 ten by an American soldier, a man in
 the Rainbow Division. He is Joseph Mc-
 Kinney, Jr., whose father is a New York
 police captain. Originally he was enlist-
 ed in the Seventh New York, but was
 transferred to the new 165th, the basis of
 which is the Fighting Sixty-ninth.

His letter also says:
 "Dear Mother—This is the first oppor-
 tunity I have had to write to you. In
 the first place, I have been on the go all
 of the time since I left you. Everything
 and everybody is on the go all of the
 time.

"There is no stop to anything, but I
 nevertheless have suffered very little in
 this long journey. I have not lost a
 night's sleep nor one meal, except when
 I was seasick. I was sick twice and,
 believe me, some sickness.

"I think you will have to come over
 here to live when the war is over, for I
 dread that one awful trip across the
 ocean back home.

"The only trouble is that I have money
 but no cigarettes. The cigarettes they
 sell here are terrible. They are either
 English or French make and nothing
 like—(deleted by censor).

"I had a safe and speedy journey across
 and I will write often. I will close now
 as I hear the mess call blowing.
 Your loving son,
 "JOE."

No, stay on this train until you reach
 Paris.

Comment s'appelle cette ville?
 Kommong sappell set veel?
 What is the name of this city?

Ou est la salle d'attente?
 Ou ay lah sail datant?
 Where is the waiting-room?

Missionary—A little contribution for
 the heathen, sir.
 Gotrox—How are you going to get it
 into Germany?

Professor Foster's French Lesson

While researching letters from American soldiers in the First World War for my HIST201 class, I found an issue of "Trench and Camp", a trench journal or newspaper that was issued among military camps during the war. This issue was from December 17, 1917 (102 years ago). I took a screenshot rather than showing the whole page as some of the contents explained tragic details of the war that are better not shared here. In the large box on the top, there is a nice patriotic poem. Below and to the right of the box, you can see a letter from a soldier named Joe who had recently been transferred from New York to France. To the left of and below that letter is Professor Foster's French Lesson. Here, there are useful phrases for American soldiers deployed to France. These phrases are presented in three ways: first in French, next in a breakdown of the French pronunciation, and lastly in English. They are useful phrases for getting around France by train. I do not know the background of this or who Professor Foster is, but I assume that he or she wrote in multiple issues of "Trench and Camp" to give English-speaking Americans the knowledge they needed to get around France during the Great War. I found some of the phrases easy to understand, while others were more difficult. It is interesting to find publications like this that were written over a hundred years ago when the world was much different than it is now. It really puts things into perspective seeing a newspaper containing vital information American soldiers needed to get around France in 1917, while I am here in 2020 using the internet and writing about it on my smartphone.

I accessed this page from "Trench and Camp" using the ODU library resource ProQuest.