

LOCAL NEWS

Times Herald

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Popeye Meets Admiral to Offer 'Me Humble Effers'

Henry Foster Welch, of New York, a World War veteran and impersonator of Popeye, called at the Secretary of Navy's office yesterday, met Admiral Stark, offered his two-fisted services to the Navy, and presented the Admiral with an original drawing of himself. Now, now, Popeye, where's Olive Oyl, and will she remain true if you enlist?

Popeye Offers Fists to Navy

Tells Admiral Stark
'We Can Lick 'Em'

Potential enemies of the United States are herewith warned—

That spinach-eating, pipe-chewing, fearless son of the sea, Popeye the Sailor, yesterday offered his two-fisted services to the U. S. Navy.

In a conference at the Navy Department, Popeye told Admiral Harold R. Stark, Chief of Naval Operations, and other ranking Navy officers, that he wished to contribute his bit toward keeping the Navy strong.

"I appreciate your great interest and patriotic enthusiasm in the Navy," Admiral Stark said. "Popeye has become a real symbol of strength to us."

To offer his services, Popeye came to Washington in the form of his living impersonator, Harry Foster Welch, a World War veteran, who portrays the Thimble Theater cartoon original to within an inch of his whiskers.

He presented Admiral Stark with an original color drawing of Popeye for such use as the Navy care to make of it. Attending the ceremony were Capt. Henry Williams, assistant chief of the Bureau of Ships, and Capt. M. A. Mitscher, assistant chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics.

"All the younger fens," Popeye said, "should be taught that the Navy has never lost for a enemy. It is the belt of the champion—never did a enemy pass her line."

"I has never knowed invasion any," he hopes an' prays that me humbly effers ter instill a love an' close affection fer the Navy will last forever."

Before conferring with Admiral Stark, Popeye visited the Naval Hospital, where he spent an hour and a half shaking hands with admirals and enlisted men.

22 *Asn. Register*

"POPEYE THE SAILOR"

The Navy Department issued the following memorandum on October 1:

Admiral Harold R. Stark, U. S. N., Chief of Naval Operations, received "Popeye the Sailor" at his office in the Navy Department at 4 p. m. this afternoon. Rear Admiral S. M. Robinson, U. S. N., Chief of the Bureau of Ships, and Rear Admiral J. H. Towers, U. S. N., Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics, were present during the meeting.

An original colored drawing of "Popeye the Sailor" was presented to Admiral Stark for such use as the Navy desired to make of the drawing or its transfer. "Popeye the Sailor" was enacted by Mr. Harry Foster Welch, who is the original "Popeye." Mr. Welch is a veteran of the World War and in presenting this drawing stated that he wished "to contribute his bit toward keeping the Navy strong."

"Popeye's" Statement

Popeye: "Admiral Stark, through you I wish to tell the millions of 'Popeye' readers that I am in the Navy and that I love it. I want every adult to realize that the Navy is our closest friend—the friend that we all look up to for protection as our first line of defense. I want the present generation to revere and honor the Navy and for what it stands. I want the next and the succeeding generations to love the Navy from their graduation from the cradle to their old age."

"Let the younger one know that the Navy has never lost to a foe. It wears the belt of the champion—never did a foe pass her line. We have never known invasion, and I hope and pray that my humble efforts to instill a love and close affection for the Navy will endure."

Admiral Stark's Reply

"I appreciate your interest and patriotic enthusiasm in the Navy, particularly in looking forward to the future and the future of the one hundred and thirty million Americans who comprise the United States. Such patriotic interest and enthusiasm on the part of every citizen is a great help to the Navy."