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Opening extract from

Archie's War

Written by

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Archie invented me. I'm Dumpling.

He's right.

No he's left, stupid! Tom

IF FOUND PLEASE RETURN TO.

Archie invented me. I'm Gravy.

He's right!

Archie Albright,
33 Grove Road,
East London.

I award Archie and Tom a comic a week for life. HRH.

I wrote this in actual blue blood!

BUT... ONE PEEK AND I'LL SET OLD GEORGIE ON YOU— AND HE'S GOT TEETH AS SHARP AS RAZORS. MUNCH, MUNCH!

Yikes, I'm sorry. I'll never peek again!

good dog, MUNCH UP!

SRRRRR

OUCH!

A nosy nose!

WARNING!
← These are genuine cat's teeth, so just imagine a whole jaw full of dog's fangs sinking into your flesh!!!

SHARP!

Fido →

I love comics! This is Tiger Tim.

My nose tells me a young ruffians about.

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO ARCHIE ALBRIGHT

Oink!

PC Fairyfoot

He's All Trouble not Albright.

This is Tom, my best mate.

He's very holey!

He only wears shoes for best.

Old Georgie. My best dog.

PRIVATE
KEEP OUT!

PONG!

His tail never stops wagging.

I'M lucky, My dad works in a boot factory. I get to have toe-fluff!

I pulled this out of Tom's jumper. One more tug and he'd have been naked!!

Question: Who's the brightest kid around here?

Answer: ARCHIE ALBRIGHT!
AND HIS MATE TOM!
I had to write that ↗ or he'd have twisted my ear off!

What ho! More nesting material!

Joey ←

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LOOK FOR ARCHIE THE STAR COMIC!

THERE'S ENOUGH TO MAKE A CAT LAUGH

My Family

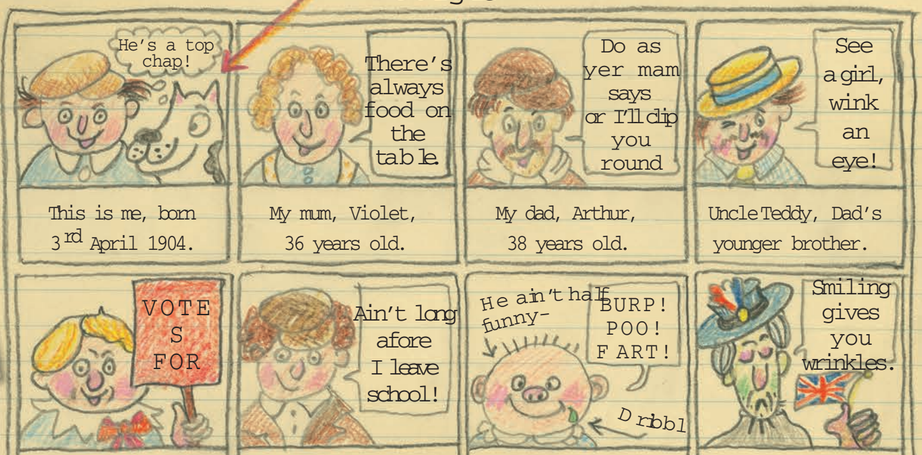
MAY 1914

1D 1/2

AND OTHER GREAT BRITISH COMICS!

My first and last curl

Old Georgie



I think Uncle Colin is about 40 years old. I don't know what he looks like, because he works as a gardener in Dorset. So he must have green fingers! Dad says we can visit him when we've saved the train fare. He's got a gammy leg because he broke it as a child and it was never right again. He must be nice because he sent me this book.



It cost Uncle Colin 2d - two pence! - to post my scrapbook.

Feathers are green, not fingers!

Dad borrowed this suit from his boss.



Mum and Dad's wedding

Ain't she a picture!



This is Baby Billy's footprint. If you ask me, it's the print of a little

MONSTER!



Ethel wears a ribbon like this to show she is a suffragette and wants the right to vote, like a man. Dad says she'll be wanting to wear trousers next.

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TOP SECRET

These are MY comic characters, Dumpling and Gravy.



SPECIAL EXTRA · HOME AND AWAY

CHAMPION CHUCKLES!

I might think it was the best house ... if Grandma Albright didn't live with us. She washes my mouth out with soap iff I tella whopper. She also whacks me with her hair brush. THE BEAST!



I live at 33 Grove Road, East London. Dad was born in this house. He says it's the best in the road.



My dad keeps his barrow out the back, next to the toilet. When there is no work in the boot factory, he buys and sells scrap.

MY BEST FOODS

Suet pudding with runny custard

Semolina with jam

Bread and dripping

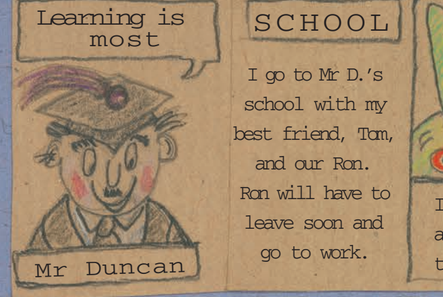
Sunday joint when we can afford it

Gravy, gravy gravy!

Hot Bovril

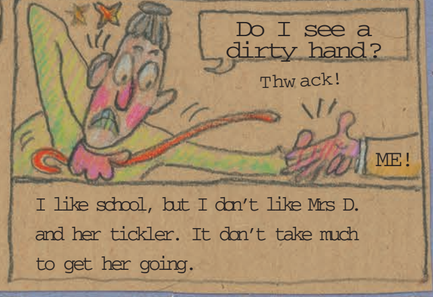
Hot cocoa

AD



SCHOOL

I go to Mr D.'s school with my best friend, Tom, and our Ron. Ron will have to leave soon and go to work.



I like school, but I don't like Mrs D. and her tickler. It don't take much to get her going.



Tom says I got to write that this don't look like him. EXCEPT IT DOES!



This is my best friend, Tom, his sister, Lily, and his mum and dad. They live in the road behind ours.



Me and Tom like making our own comics, reading comics, talking about comics, collecting comics and playing Cowboys.

TOM'S BEST FOOD is a marrow bone because he's barking mad... woof, woof!

SWEETS Give me more!



Sherbet dip



Jelly babies (not the green ones)



Hum bugs

HAPPY SQUAWK DAY!

GRAND BIRTHDAY NUMBER 1 AUGUST

THE FINEST STORY

BABY BILLY'S FIRST BIRTHDAY AND THE FIRST TALK OF WAR!

Dad made Baby Billy a shoe doll at the factory. He's ever so good at them. Ethel's still got six! He made me this little paper one to stick in my scrapbook. Good old Dad!

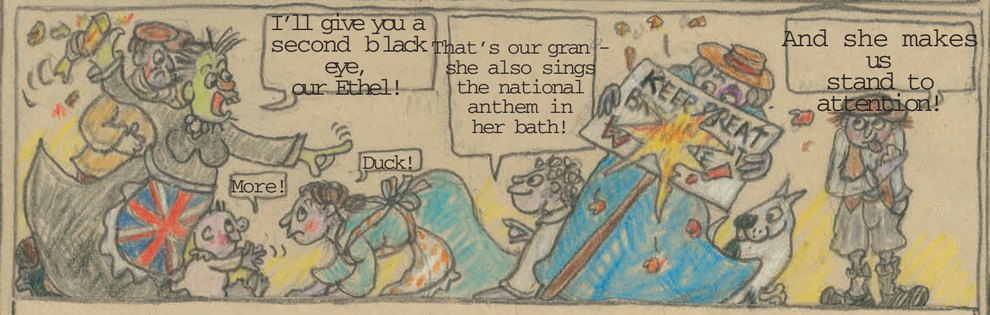
Mum's cake had real butter and strawberries in it. RIPPING!



It was Baby Billy's first birthday. We had just cut the cake and were about to sing "Happy Birthday".

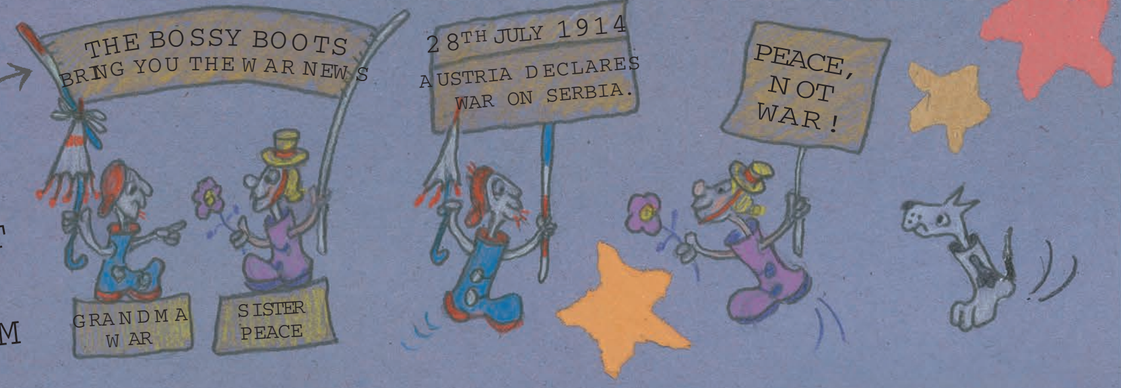


Then in walks Ethel with a whopping shiner. She'd been on a peace march to stop Britain joining the war in Europe.



Grandma Albright is very patriotic. She thinks that Great Britain has a duty to sort out the troubles of the world, even if it means going to war. She picked up her cake and threw it at Ethel and her banner.

Tom's idea. Well ... sort of. YES, IT WAS! – TOM







Dad is very patriotic too. He didn't just throw a slice of cake at Ethel – he grabbed her banner, whacked her with it and made her chop it up.



Baby Billy isn't at all patriotic. He thought it was a birthday show just for him. He got so excited he chewed Old Georgie's tail!



Dad came back in and told us that if there was a war, we all had to do our bit or leave home! We cheered and stood to attention ...



while Mum played the national anthem. I could hear Ethel sobbing upstairs. We never did finish singing "Happy Birthday" to Baby Billy.







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