



THE 1918 SERIES

GARRY HERRMANN: Gentlemen, we have met here to discuss plans for the world's series. Ordinarily, this would be a subject of routine business—a case of tossing a coin to see whether the annual classic should start in the American League city or the National League town, but things have changed—the times have altered. I understand there will be quite a debate as to the clubs entitled to contend, and the place where the show should be. Yes—I'll take the same.

BAN JOHNSON; Um—ah—I cannot

know why there should be any difference, Garry. Just the same old stuff—National vs. American League, with the American, as usual, grabbing four out of six. Isn't that correct?

GEN. PERSHING: Excuse me, gentlemen! I am here as chief executive of the Army League. Its championship club is made up of men who were champions in the earlier days—stars of both the National and American Leagues. Its calibre is as great as that of your two top-notch clubs, and when it comes to a question of the world's championship, we are right in it. Gentlemen, the U.S.A. champions, Col. Huston, backer; Capt. Gowdy, manager, demand recognition and a chance to participate in your series!

JOHN HEYDLER: Well spoken, General. I agree with you that the Army team is entitled to a fair show for the big honors.

SECRETARY DANIELS: And I, gentlemen, am here to speak for the Navy's champion club. Manager Maranville, who piloted the team to victory, believes that it can whip the Army Club, and also beat both your National and American League leaders. I shall gladly grant the jackies furloughs for such time as may be needed to play the series, and I am entirely with them when it comes to asking recognition in this great annual event.

GARRY HERRMANN: Mr. Secretary, your point is well taken. It would be disloyal and unpatriotic to refuse the representatives of our fighting forces a fair chance to show their baseball skill. Moreover, they surely have plenty of ability, and class right up with the best of the major leaguers of today. Now that peace has come, honorable, glorious peace, and the American public has rallied once more to its national pastime, that pastime must be placed on a loftier plane than ever, and in what better way can this be done than by admitting the champions of the Army and Navy as participants?

BAN JOHNSON: Um. Ah. Very good. But how can a four-cornered series be arranged!

JOHN HEYDLEE: Gentlemen, permit me to suggest an idea: Let the Army and Navy clubs play each other a seven-game series, while the American and National League leaders simultaneously play seven games—then let the two winners meet each other.

GENERAL PERSHING: Very satisfactory, sir, very satisfactory. Of course, this will compel the Army team to whip two adversaries, but that will be only a bagatelle.

SECRETARY DANIELS: What's that, General, what's that? Why, sir, your club won't win a single game! Gentlemen, if it wasn't for the mere formality of playing the games being essential, you could save much worry and expense right now



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by awarding the championship to the Navy team.

JOHN HEYDLER: As you say, Secretary, the formalities are essential. Quite an essential occupation, you might say. It is, apparently, unanimously agreed that we shall proceed with the series in the fashion I suggested!

SECRETARY DANIELS: Suits me, gentlemen. Um, yes—I'll take grape-juice.

GARRY HERMANN: Same as before! The two major league clubs shall play according to established custom, a seven-game series, alternating between the cities involved. The Army and Navy clubs shall play a seven game series at places to be mutually agreed upon by Gen. Pershing and Mr. Daniels. Then, gentlemen, comes the great question: Where shall the playoff games be staged? BAN JOHNSON: Um — ahem - - where shall the American League team meet the—

GEN. PERSHING: The Army Club, Mr. Johnson.

JOHN HEYDLER: You mean, Mr. Herrmann, at what spot shall the National League club play the—

SECRETARY DANIELS: The unconquerable club that represents the Navy.

GARRY HERRMANN: Order, gentlemen, order!

GEN. PERSHING: I have a suggestion to make: Why not play the final series IN BERLIN? What could be more fitting or appropriate commemoration of our victory than a world's series staged in Berlin! The audience would comprise the occupation-garrison of American, French, British, Italian, Portuguese, Cuban and Belgian troops; the military and civil dignitaries assembled from all the world—and, gentlemen, think of the lesson, in honest sportsmanship and fair play, which would be given to the German populace!

SECRETARY DANIELS: Gentlemen, what think you? I believe Gen. Pershing has the real idea.

GARRY HERRMANN: The Chair waits for motions.

BAN JOHNSON: Moved, that the final, decisive world's series be played off in Berlin.

JOHN HEYDLER: Second the motion.

GARRY HERRMANN: It's a vote, Somebody go dig up old Frank Bancroft and have him arrange routing and such things—can we run special excursions to Berlin?

GEN. PERSHING: Dead easy. Use the convoy-ships that took our gallant boys across—they are just pining into rustiness for something to do!

GARRY HERRMANN: Very good. Mr. Daniels, I suggest that you arrange details for the Army-Navy series at once: the Commission will help where desired, and will also arrange the major league contests. General and Mr. Secretary—I shall soon see both of you again—IN BERLIN.

CURTAIN.



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