

When the roll for "endurance" is called, there is one pair of mere men who should be allotted a substantial share of credit for the extraordinary nerve and pluck they added to an unusually successful and picturesque act overseas. These are Harry H. Perry and Frank A. Vardon, two Denver boys, who went over in October, 1918, and in 175 days of practically continuous entertaining gave 335 performances, each packed full of an hour of live-wire music and singing. Vardon and Perry were true troubadours—wandering minstrels. They produced the music by means of two instruments slung over their backs, a little guitar and a big bull guitar, but every boy will testify that those instruments certainly did create harmony. Vardon and Perry played to the American troops in England, France, Luxemburg, Germany, Belgium, and even in Holland. Their enthusiasm was so great that the strain and hardships were too much for Harry Perry. He developed a very serious throat disorder on his way home, and the ship's surgeon declared that only by means of an immediate operation could his voice be saved. The operation was successful, and Perry and Vardon came home in June, 1919, a tired but thoroughly rewarded pair of full-time entertainers.

The unit which went with them through the war zone was known as "The Live Wires." It included Helen Colley as accompanist, who had accompanied the well-known baritone, Henri Scott; Dora Robeni, vaudeville and stock company actress in the Middle West; and the charming little Kentuckian, Margot Williams, whose over-night success in the first production of "Experience" established her on Broadway some years ago.