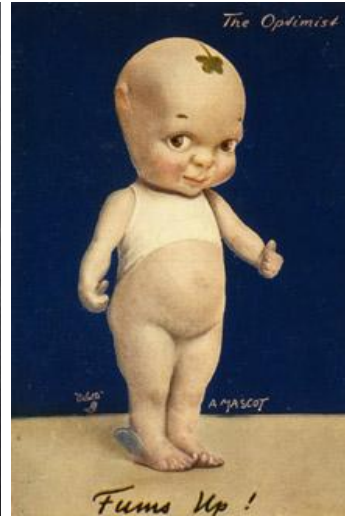


Fumsup! - a First World War lucky mascot



As lucky mascots go, Fumsup is an endearing one, and was familiar to thousands of British soldiers. He first began to surface around the end of the 19th century, but enjoyed a heightened popularity during the Great War when charms and mascots to bring the owner some mystical luck at the Front proliferated.

Fumsup came in various forms but the majority had a body formed of brass or silver (sometimes with moveable limbs) and an acorn-like head made from wood, either featureless or with a cherubic expression, marrying two of the most commonly used forms of luck-bringing superstitions - touching wood and the thumbs up sign.

Fumsup was small enough to be secreted away upon one's person and sweet enough to bring a little cheer to those serving in the armed forces.

This poem often accompanied the tokens, reminding readers of Fumsup's powers:

***My head is made
Of wood most rare
My thumbs turn up
To touch me there.
To speed my feet
They've Cupid's wings:
They'll help true love
'Mongst other things.
Proverbial is
My power to bring
Good luck to you
In everything.
I'll bring good luck
To all away -
Just send me to
A friend to-day.***