

An I Can Read Book®

CAPTAIN CAT

SYD HOFF

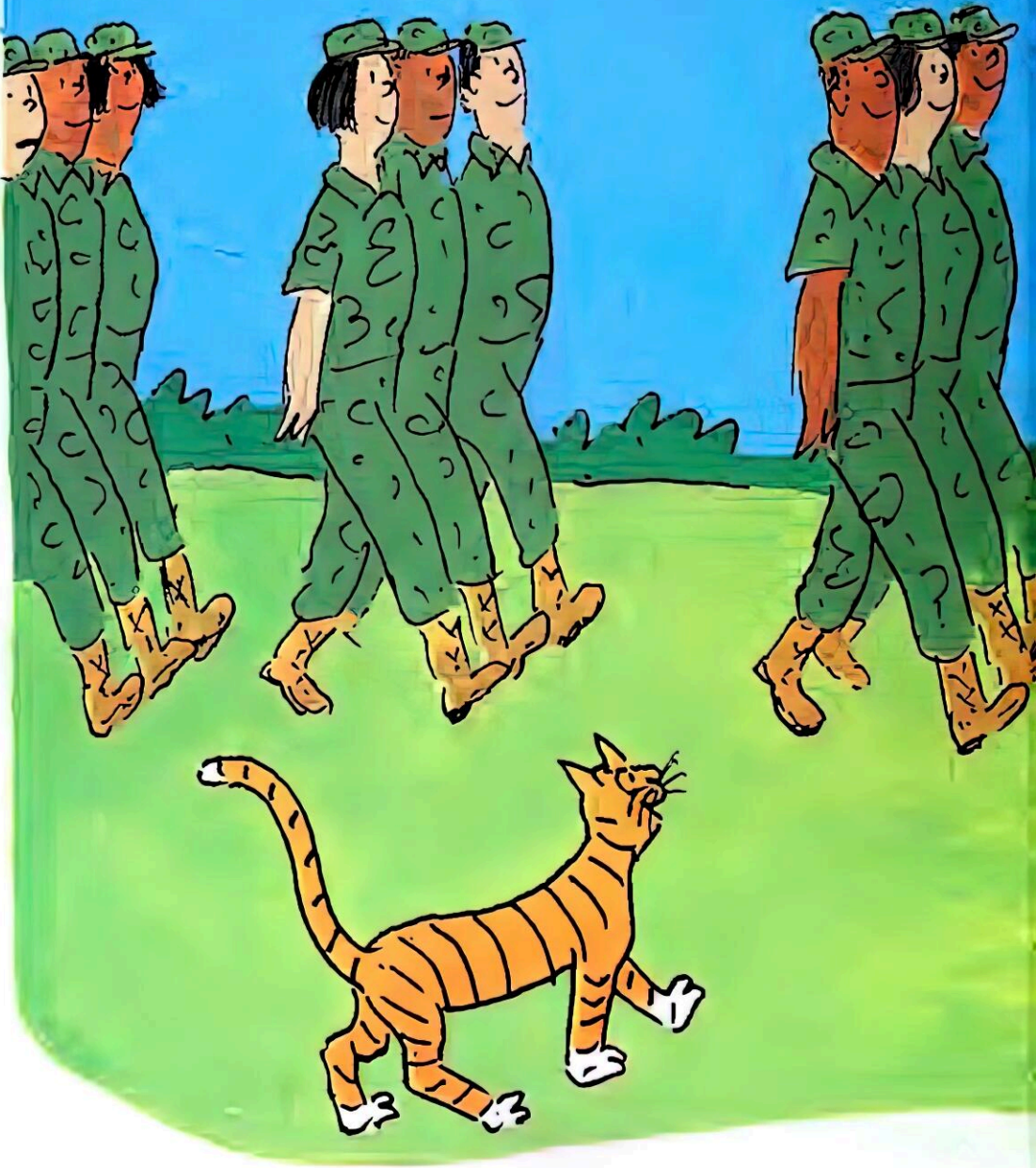






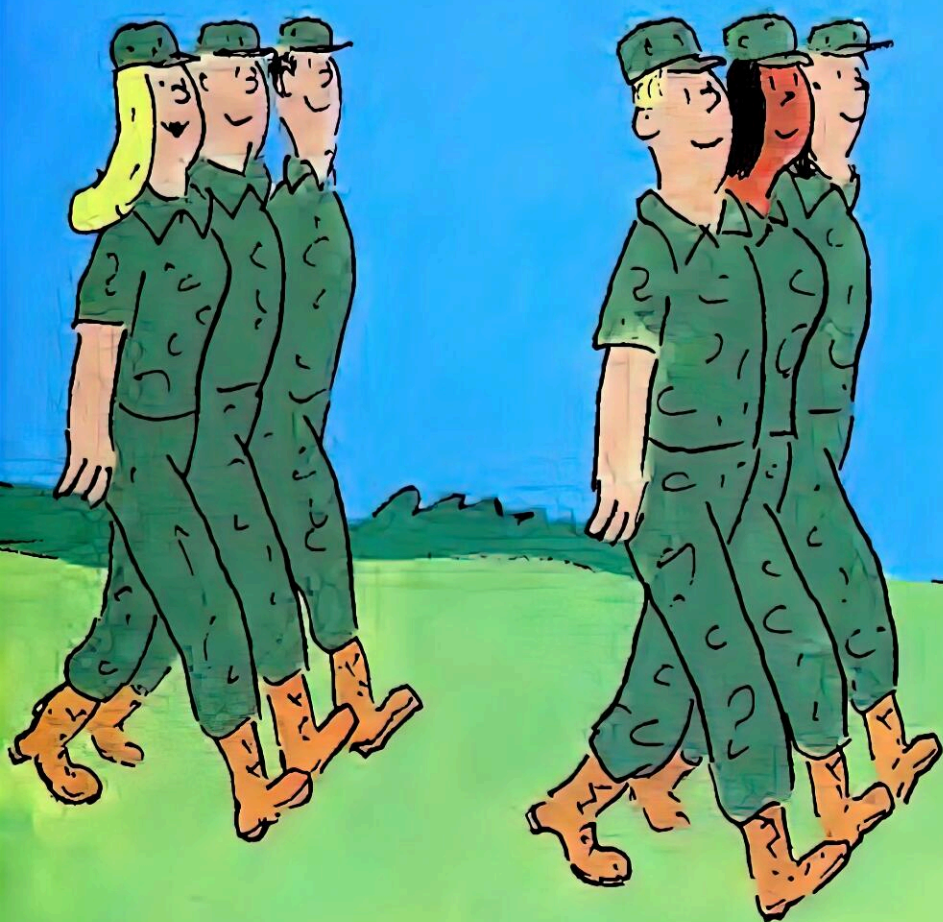
Captain Cat joined the army.

He went in when nobody was looking.



The soldiers marched in a parade.

“Left, right—



left, right . . .”



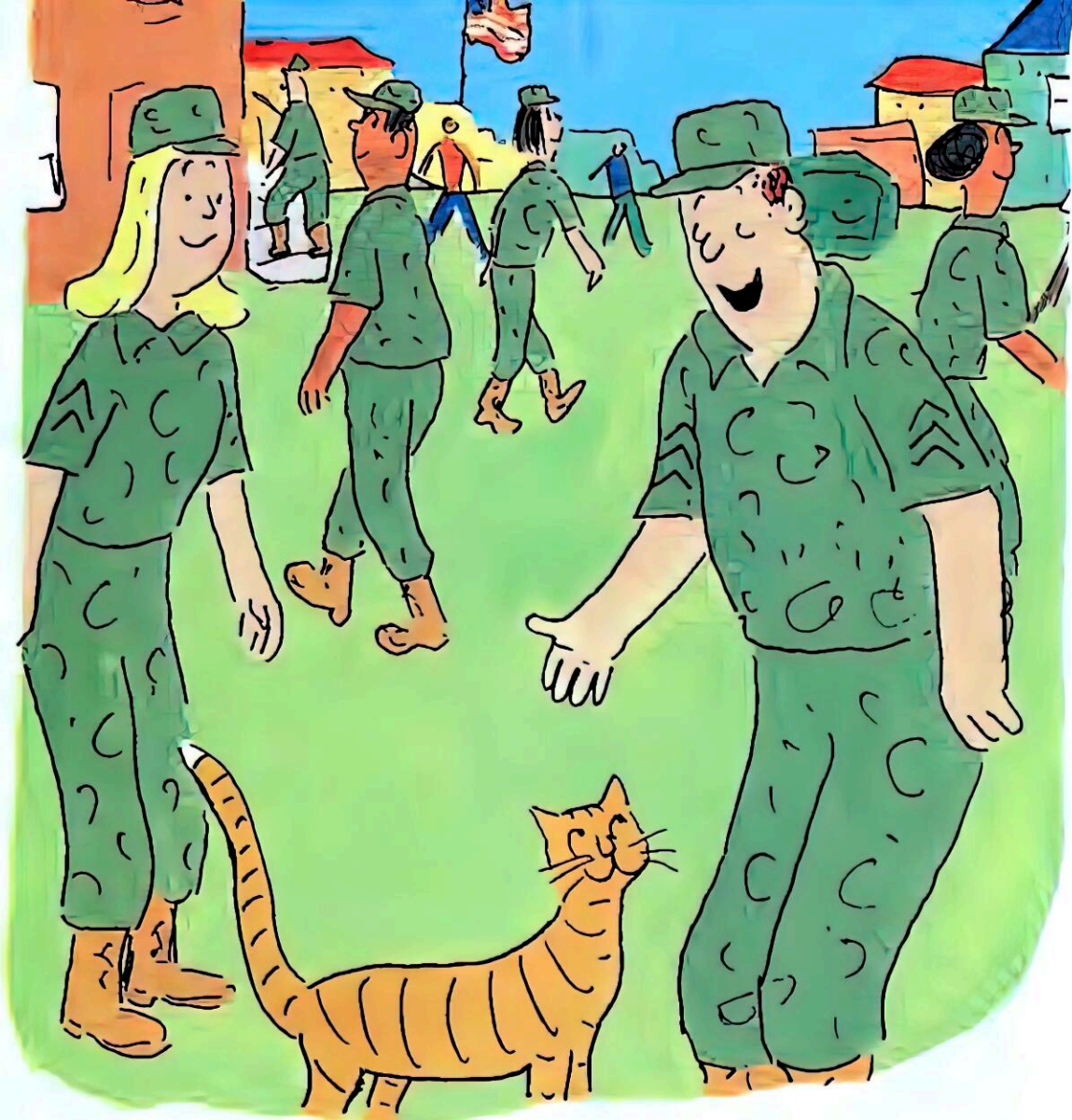
Captain Cat kept in step.



He knew one foot from the other.



“That cat has more stripes
than we have,”
said a corporal to a sergeant.



“Meow,” said Captain Cat.

Another sergeant looked at the cat.

“Yes sir!” he said and laughed.

From then on
everybody started saying,
“Here, Captain Cat,”
when they wanted him,
instead of
“Here, kitty kitty.”





But sometimes the soldiers
had no time for Captain Cat.



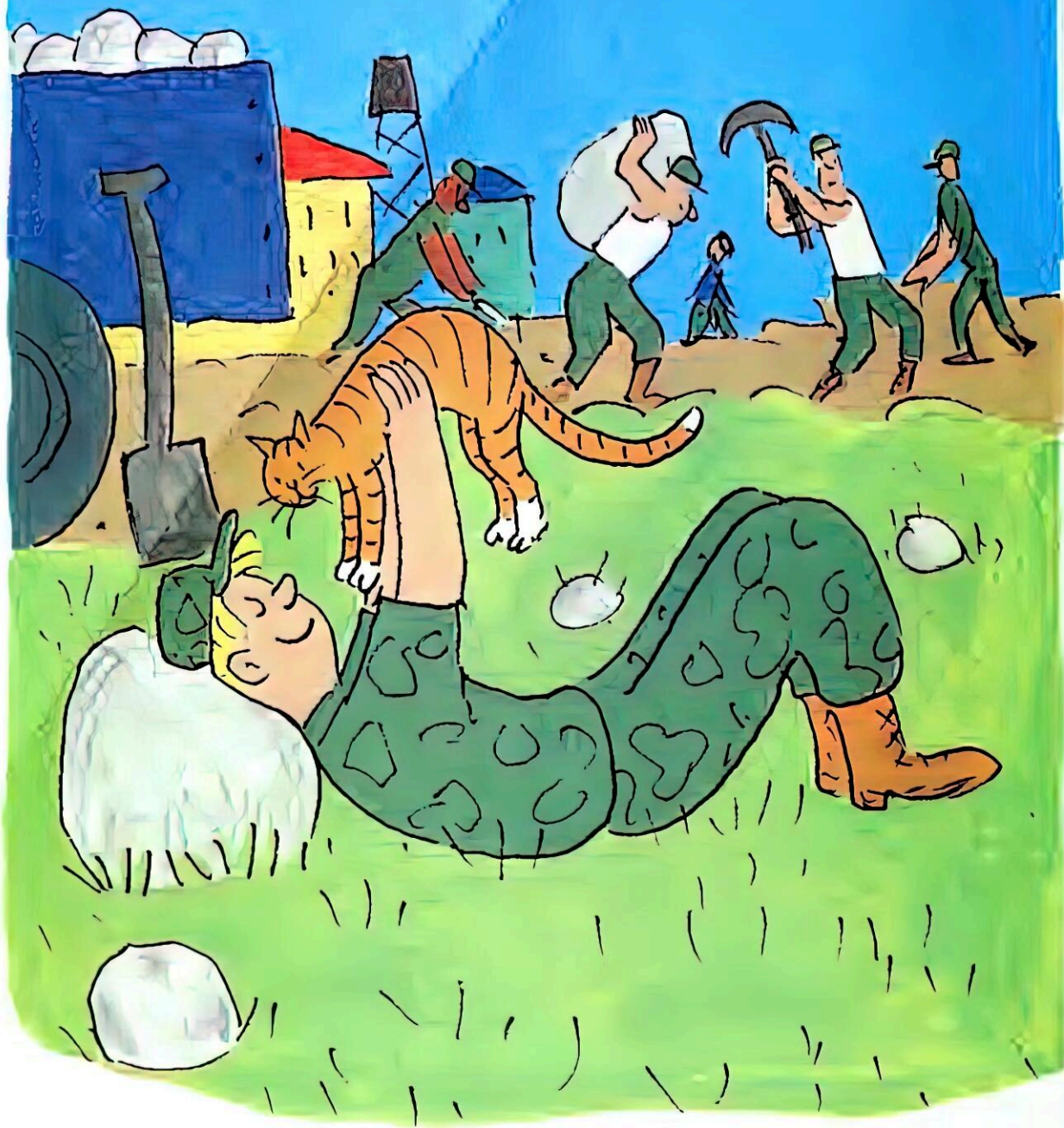
“I have to clean the bathrooms,”
said one soldier.



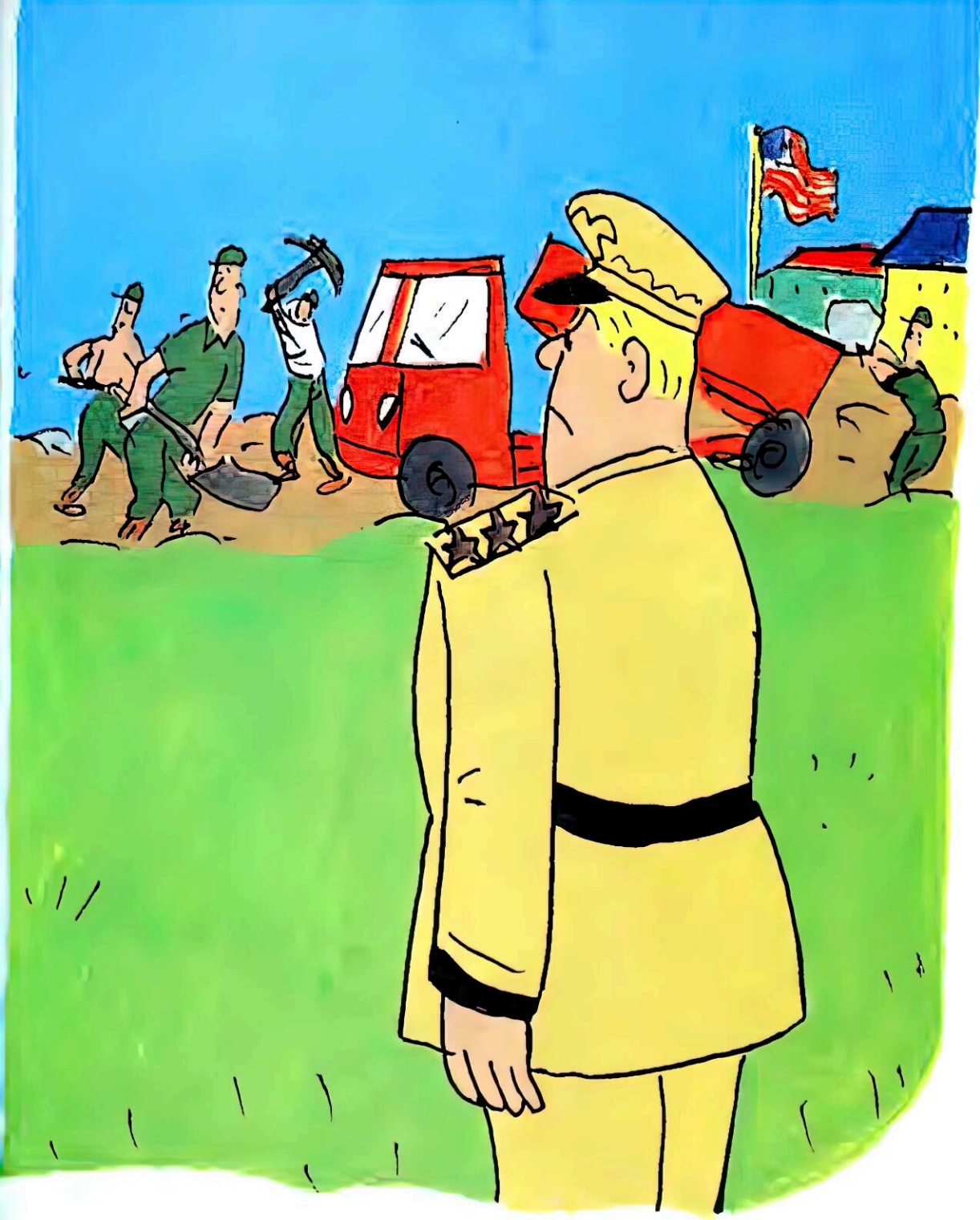
“I have to sweep the grounds,”
said another soldier.



One soldier named Pete
always found time for Captain Cat,
even when he was on guard duty.
“You remind me of a cat back home,”
he said, and scratched Captain Cat
behind the ears.



Pete played with Captain Cat so much,



he got into trouble.

The general made Pete
do kitchen duty.

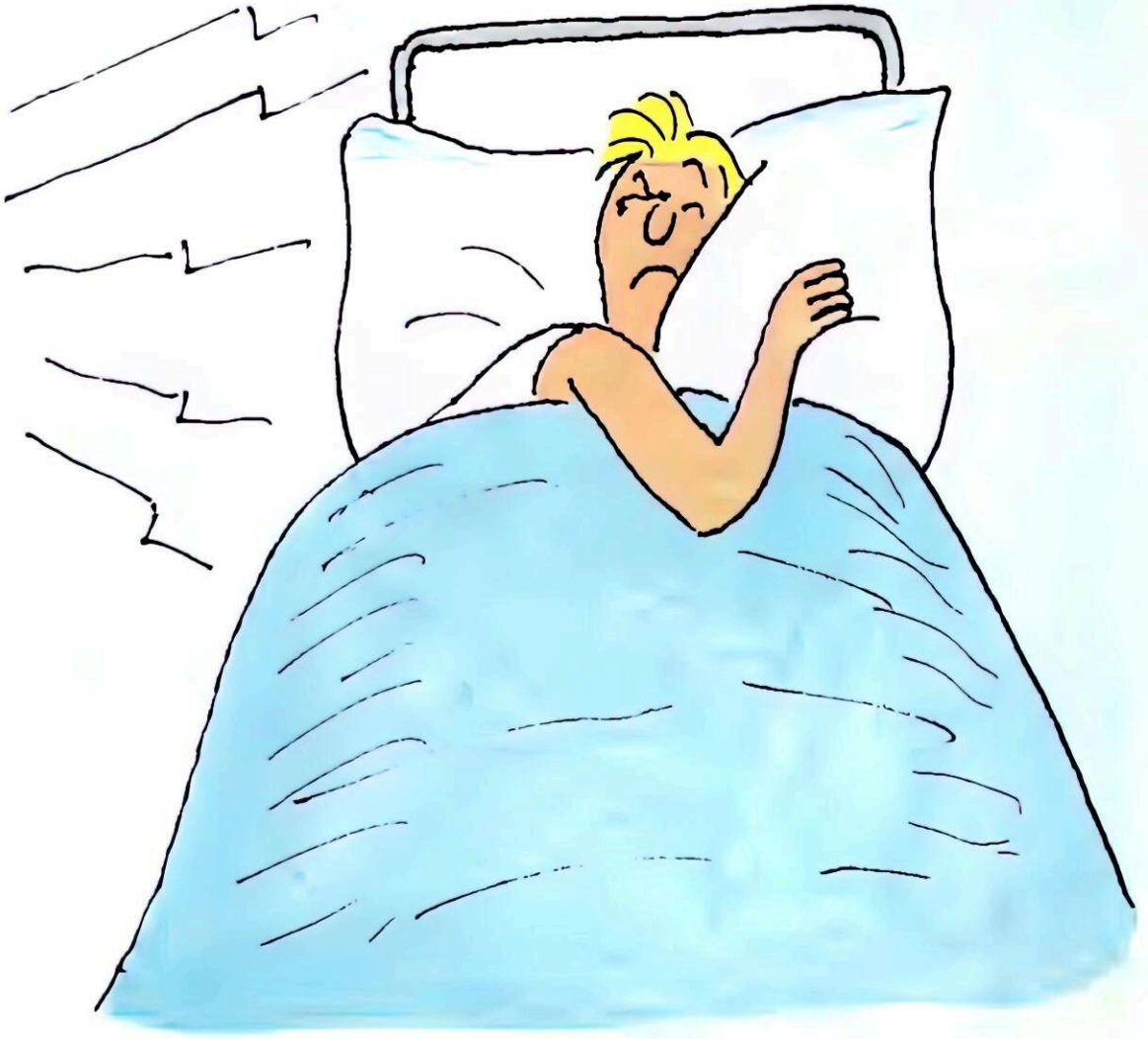
Captain Cat kept him company.

Pete let Captain Cat play
with the potato peels.

“Are you my buddy?”
asked Pete.

“Me-ow,” said Captain Cat.





The next morning
a bugle blew.

Oh, how Pete hated to get up!



But Captain Cat
sprang right out of bed.



He had to check out the garbage



before it was taken away.



Then it was time for inspection.
Everybody lined up.



Captain Cat lined up, too.

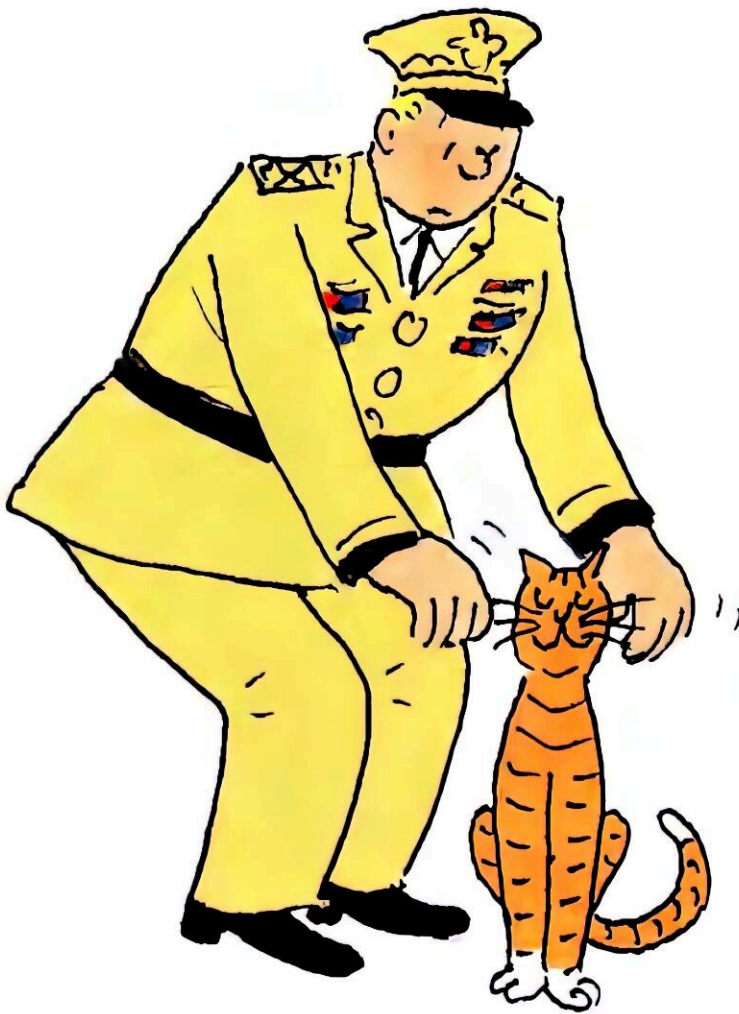


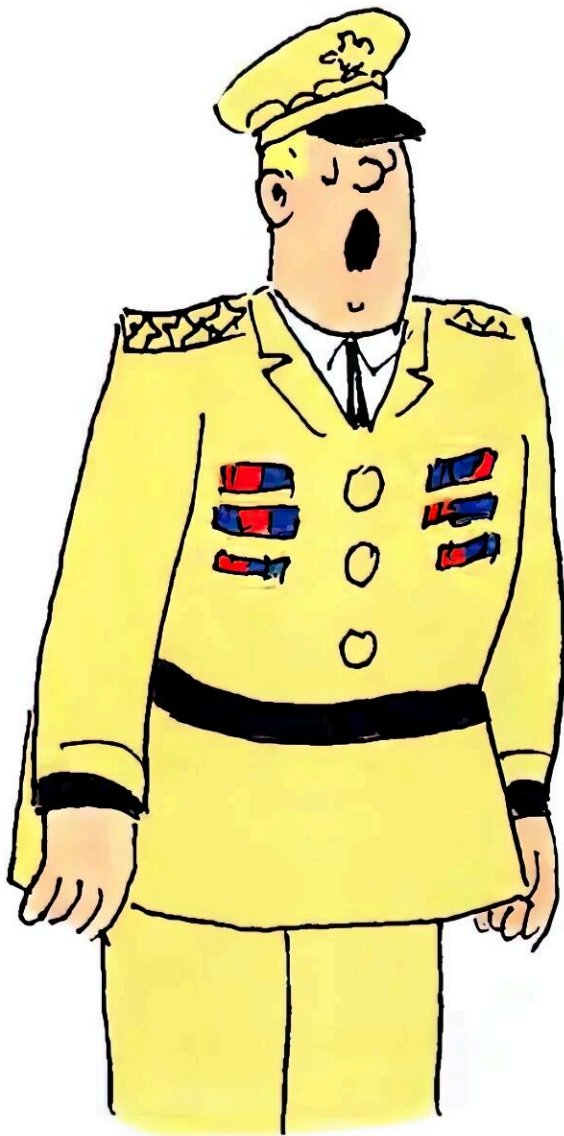
The general fixed a soldier's gun.



He fixed Pete's hat.

All he could fix for Captain Cat
were his whiskers.





“Forward march!” said the general.



The soldiers went one way.

Captain Cat went the other way.



He had to chase some birds.



The soldiers crawled
in the mud.



They hiked
through rain and sleet.

But not Captain Cat!
He was taking a nap
on Pete's bed.







Time for chow!

Pete and the other soldiers
rushed into the mess hall
to get plates of nice, hot food.

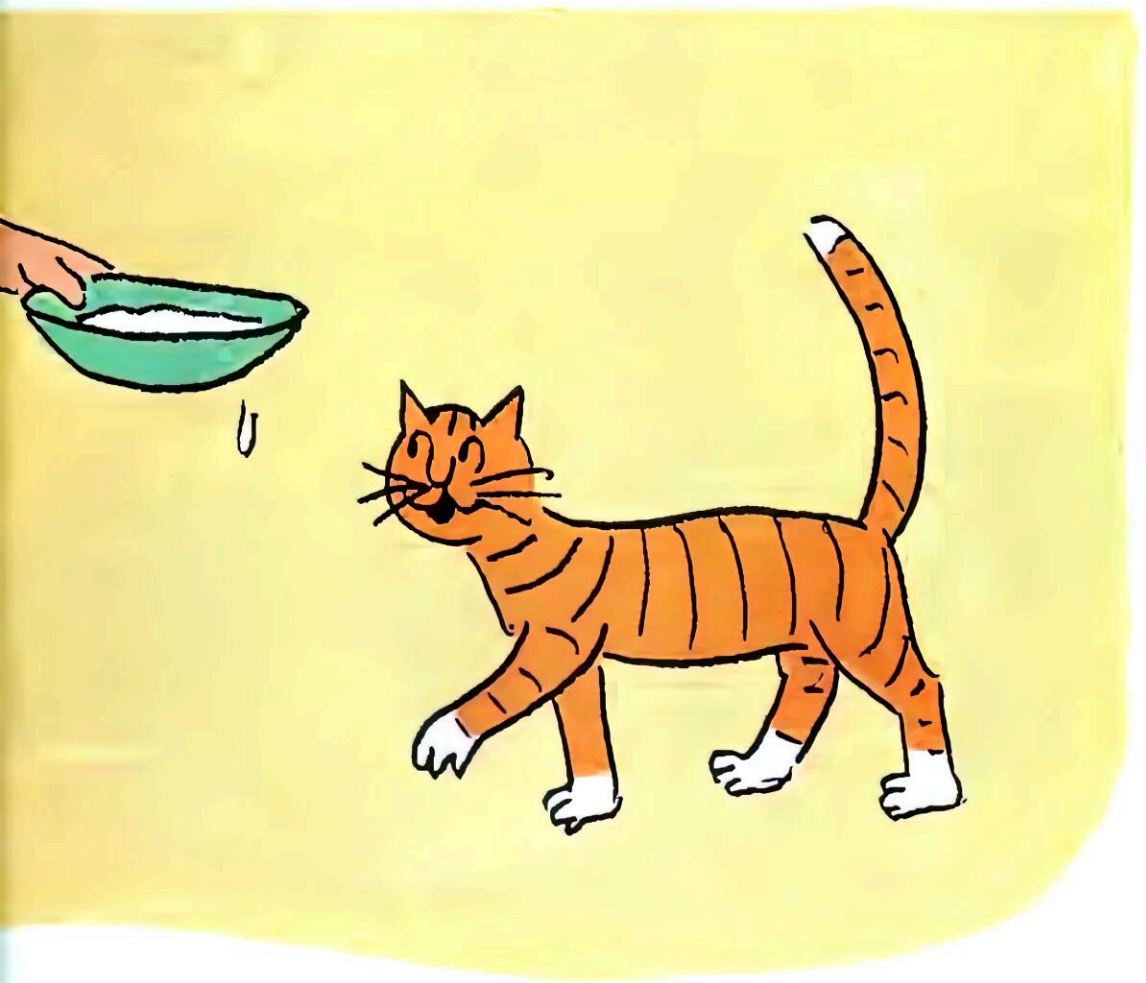


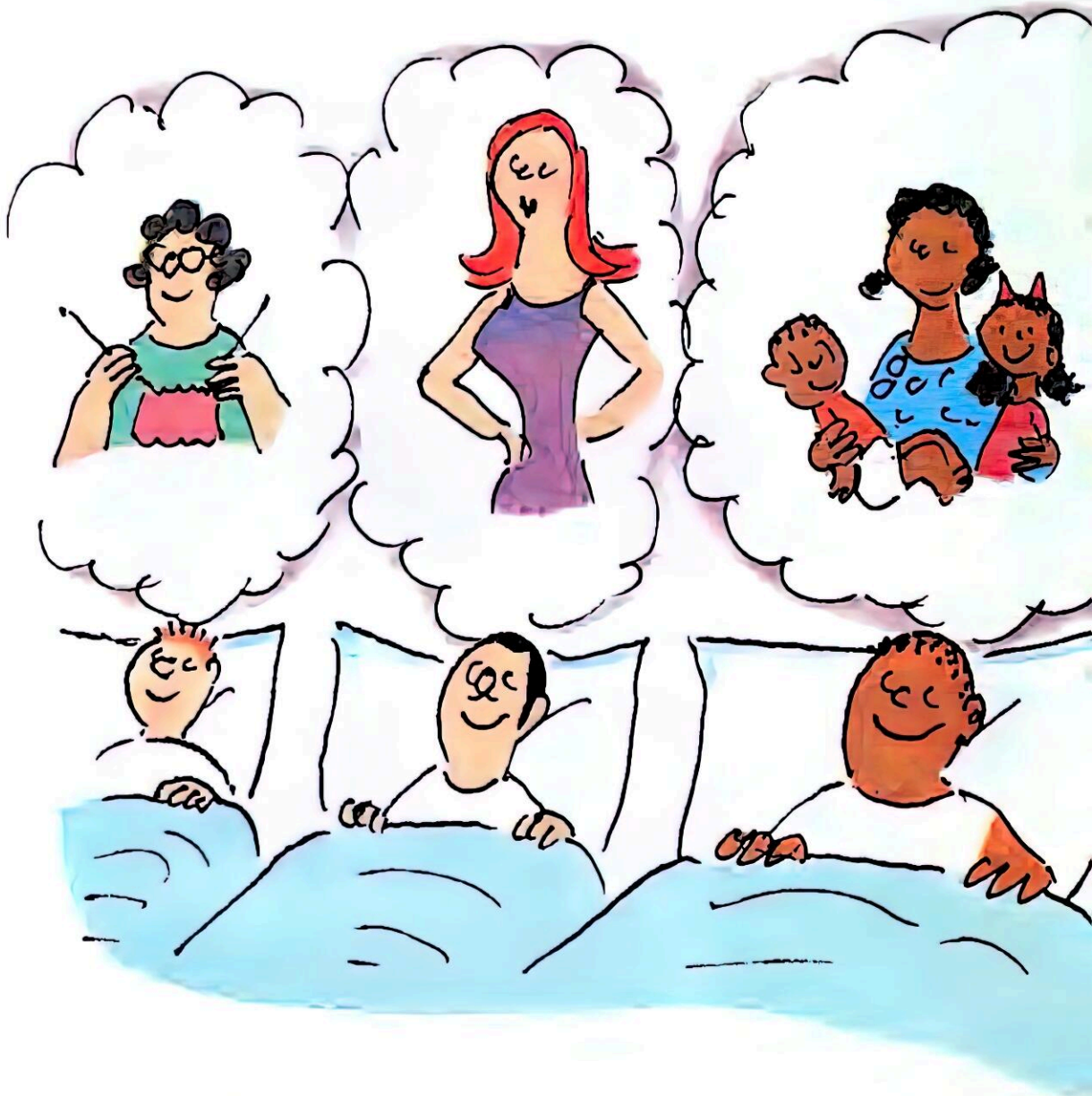
Captain Cat wished
Pete would get him
a plate with a mouse.



“Are you my buddy?” asked Pete.

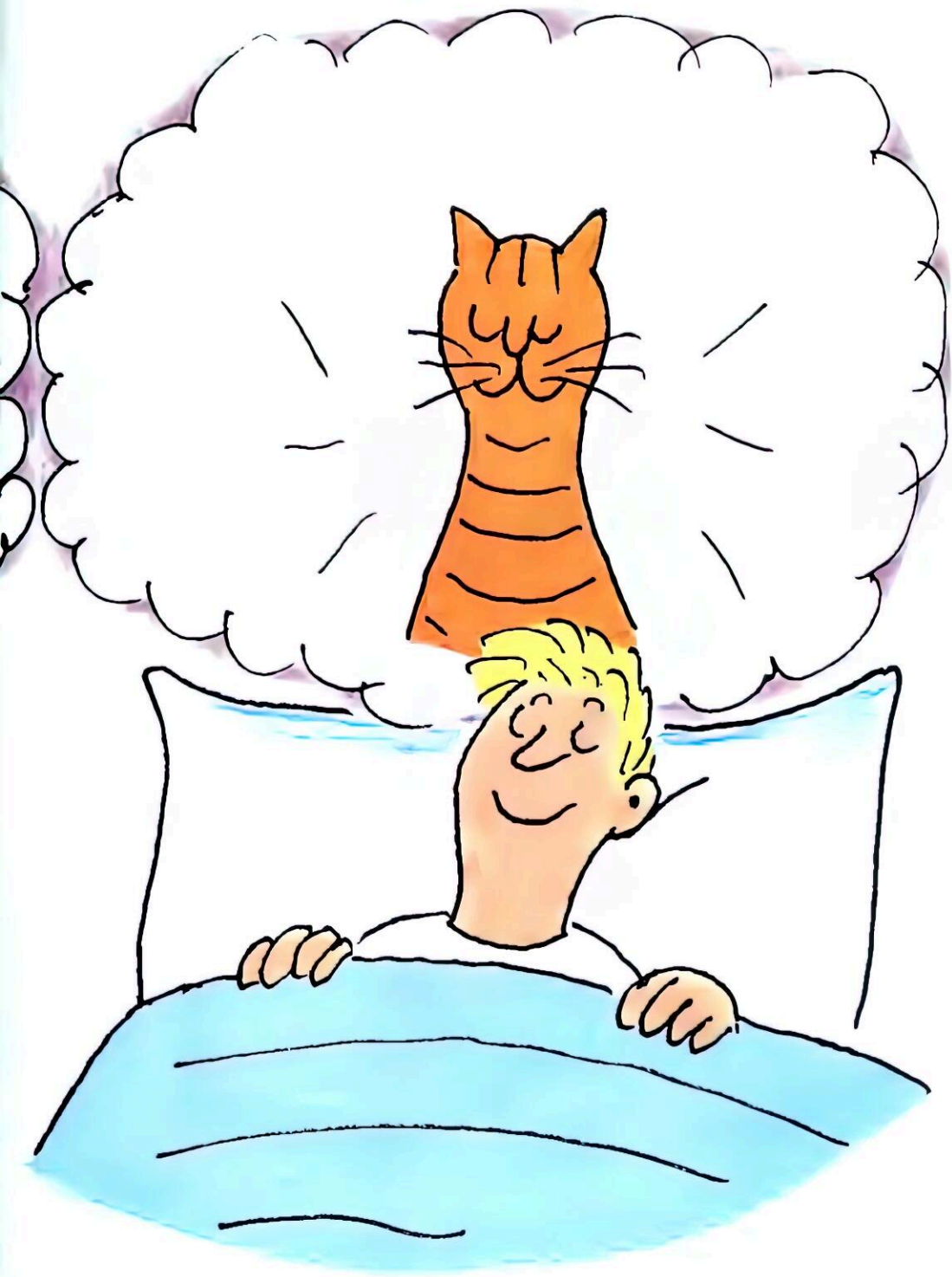
“Me-ow,” said Captain Cat.





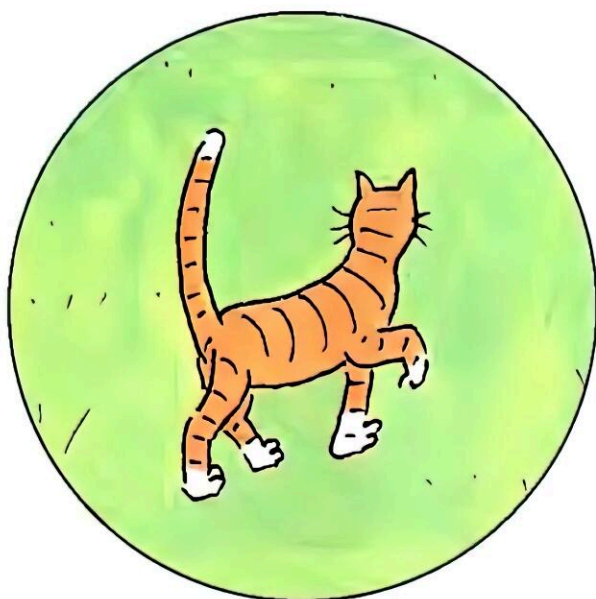
Lights out!

Everyone went to sleep
and dreamed of loved ones.





Captain Cat dreamed
of his loved one, too.



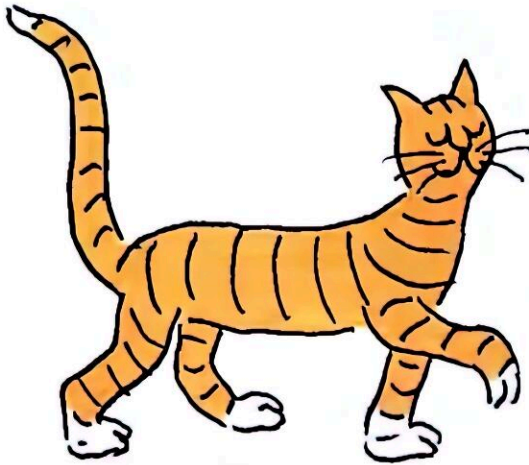


Guess who has joined the army!
Captain Cat, of course.

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**Story and pictures by
SYD HOFF**



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