VALIANT DUST

by Percival Christopher Wren *Author of "BEAU GESTE"*

SYNOPSIS: Lieut. Napoleon Riccoli, who has ambitions to follow the path of the greater Napoleon, has been tested by Le Sage of the French Secret Service, and found wanting. He has had to resign his army commission, and enlist in the Foreign Legion. There he has risen to the rank of Major, and now he is leading a column of troops over freezing mountain paths into the "hottest land on earth"; the territory of the Sultan of Mekazzen. He dreams of becoming an emperor.

Chapter 4

"FORWARD, MARCH"

"En avant! Marche!"

And once more the little column staggers forward, Major Riccoli rides back to his place at its head, thrusts his right hand inside his cloak and brooks Napoleonically.

Napoleon the Fourth?

But why be Fourth to anybody? Why not Riccoli the First? Or perhaps just Napoleon Riccoli, like Gustavus Adolphus, Ghengis Kahn or Attila the Hun.

But, after all, the world would choose for itself. These names are given, not chosen. It would be for History to name him Napoleon the Fourth, Riccoli the Redeemer—or just plain simple Napoleon Riccoli like plain simple Julius Ceasar—greatness unadorned.

Meanwhile the first step. It is the first step that counts.

The first step—the capture of the impregnable stronghold, perhaps in these days tho last truly impregnable stronghold, the great citadel of Mekazzen.

If a barbarous uncivilized bandit like the Kaid of Mekazzen could defy and defeat a Great Power—not only a Great Power but a combination of Great Powers—what could not a high trained, widely experienced, and brilliantly clever modern soldier do? And not only soldier, but diplomat, statesman, and born leader of men.

Might and power and glory.

Power.

The things one could do to one's enemies!

That fellow Le Sage, rival and enemy, the only man who had ever made Napoleon Riccoli fel small and look ridiculous. . . . Le Sage and his empty revolver! A damned rascally trick to play, on a gentleman.

What should Napoleon the Fourth do to Le Sage?

Capture him, put him in a cell, and go in with a revolver. Give him the revolver and say:

"Look here, Le Sage—that bright and clever duel-idea of yours, in which you ran no danger, because it was a rascally trick! We're going to fight that duel now, and fight it properly, for there is a cartridge in the revolver, this time. I give you my word of honor there is. And as the brilliant idea was yours, you shall have the first turn."

And, banking on his luck, the good Le Sage would grin and take the revolver, and put it to his thick head and pull the trigger.

And that would be the end of the good Le Sage, for there would be, as he told him, a cartridge in the revolver—and it would have five companions. In fact the pistol would be fully loaded! Ha, ha, the good Le Sage. Such a clever man. Such a rising star in the Secret Service.

Yes, that would do. That would dispose of Le Sage.

And meanwhile how to dispose of oneself now for the night? The other Napoleon had a carriage in which to sleep. . . .

* * * * *

A week later. Blistering, blasting, devastating heat.

"Have you ever known anything like this before, Joe?" asked Otho Belleme, moistening dry lips with sticky tongue, as he turned to his right-hand man.

"No, mate, never," replied Joe Mummery, shifting his rifle from one sore shoulder to the other. "Never. And I've bin up the Persian Gulf in a tin gun-boat all one summer."

"Wish I could die now and go straight to 'ell for a little coolness," observed Sailor Harris, marching—or rather staggering—on Otho's left hand.

"Well, you will soon, I should think, very probably," comforted Joe Mummery.

What struck Otha Belleme as being entirely wrong, contrary to common sense, sound theory, and all that he had ever been taught on the subject, was the fact that old Tant de Soif, who appeared to live chiefly upon wine, beer, absinthe, and other alcohol that he could get hold off, was undoubtedly the most cheerful, spry and active member of the whole section.

"Hot, my child?" he would reply to a grumbling observation of Pere Poussin. "You drink too much That is why you feel what you call the heat. It'll be hot later on, I grant you, when we get nearer to the Mekazzen country. . . . Nice deep stone defiles between nice high stone mountains. . . . No air. . . . Stone hotter than the sun. . . Everything almost white."

"White lime-stone?" inquired Otho Belleme.

"No, white-hot," replied Tant de Soif succinctly.

And in the fullness of time and the emptiness of the great desert, the section of the Legion halted, piled its arms, threw down its knapsacks, and instantly set to work to erect the four walls of the square perimeter camp in which it would build a fortified post, and these sojourn at the orders of Sergeant-Major Vittorelli.

Life in the post was about as dull, monotonous, and wearisome as life could well be. The heat was terific, food as monotonous as the work, and less plentiful though not more attractive; water scanty and bad; and diversions non-existent.

"Might as well be in prison," grumbled Sailor Harris to William Bossum.

"You mean 'in prison again,' I s'pose," growled William.

"No, mate, not me. I ain't bin in prison."

"Ho! Some's lucky," observed William Bossum.

"And you wasn't, I s'pose?"

Wot d'you mean?" asked William truculently, raising a large fist.

"That's enough,' interposed Joe Mummery. "We're all in prison, aren't we? Wonder how long we sit in this salubrious spot?"

"How long?' replied Otha Belleme. "Until Major Riccoli has got his Senegalese and Trailleurs Alberiens up. From what I heard Sergeant-Major Vittorelli saying to Sergeant Tomaso, we took a short cut and a big change across those mountains, in March. Good old Legion. The other detachments are either marching a few hundred miles farther round or waiting for warmer weather up there. No good at winter sports."

"What's the idea when Ole Man Ricketty does get 'em 'ere, I wonder," speculated William Bossum.

"Chain of posts like this one, I suppose," replied Otha Belleme. "With Major Riccoli in command of the lot."

(To be Continued)

SUNDOWN STORIES

THE STRANGERS

By Mary Graham Bonner

"I didn't make any headway with my list yesterday," began Willy Nilly. "I had to stop so many times."

"You'd better finish it today," replied Rip, the dog. I am going to run out for a whiff of air but I won't be long." So Willy Nilly took out his paper and pencil and started his list once more.

"Maybe I'd better fix my automobile, Two-Ways," he said to himself "the weather will be nice soon and I will find it so useful. Oh, it was such a nice car. I never had to turn it around as it would go just as well forward as backward. But it's of no use when it won't go at all."

"Oh, dear, I simply mustn't let anything stand in the way of doing my chores. I have no more backbone than the petals of full-blown rose when someone hits it if I don't do my own work from now on.

"But, oh," he continued, as he thought about life in the repair shop and of the animals who called it home and of the jolly times they had in Puddle Muddle, "no one could be any happier than I am. How glad I am that I am blessed so that I can understand the language of all animals and so htey can understand me." He forgot about the time only a little while ago when he had felt so lonely and blue. Now he was very cheerful.

"Dear me," he said briskly, "here I am just thinking pleasant thoughts and I'm not even making my list. Now, what shall I decide to put down first?"

As he put the pencil to the paper he heard sound outside—not only the animal friends but some people were talking and they were asking for Willy Nilly. What did this mean? What could these strangers want of im?

Tomorrow—"Asking a Favor"

Church Renovated By Willing Workers

Hubbard—Mrs. Wilma Leffler led a small army of volunteer cleaners in scrubbing and shining up the interior of the recently renovated Congregational church now used by the Federated church groups. The first day 60 gallons of boiling water were used and the second day 40. Services were held there Sunday but further renovations such as painting and varnishing will be continued next week. This work is done through the efforts of the Woman's community guild. Both cleaning days a pot-luck luncheon was the noon feature of the day. Women asisting Mrs. Leffler were Mrs. Neva McKenzie, Mrs. May Hampton, Mrs. Cobie de Lespinasse, Mrs. Ellen Carl, Mrs. Mina DeWolf, Mrs. Winnie Brown, Mrs. Edith Painter, Mrs. Marie Claypool and Mrs. Vera Boje

Pink and Lavendar Club Entertained

Hubbard—The Pink and Lavender club met at the home of Mrs. Edith Painter and her mother, Mrs. Susie Ott, for the Valentine meeting. The program opened with singing, followed by readings by Mrs. Mary Kidston, Mrs. Ave Malone and Mrs. Susie Ott. A feature of the meeting was the prize recipe directions, each member giving one or more favorite recipes. These may be compiled into a community cook book later. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Meta Friend.

Guests at the Painter home were Mrs. Mattie Crocker, Mrs. Meta Friend, Mrs. Kathryn Will, Mrs. Laura Jackson, Mrs. Alice Weaver, Mrs. Nettie Mayhew, Mrs. Rilla Zeek, Mrs. Anna Bevens, Mrs. Elizabeth Grimm, Mrs. Gertrude Rowan, Mrs. Ava Malone, Mrs. Mary Kidston, Mrs. Mignon Kimes, Miss Rose Jordan, Mrs. Anna Scholl, Mrs. Lucy Sewell, Mrs. Edith Painter and Mrs. Susie Ott.

Class Has Frolic

Turner—Pupils of the primary Sunday school department of the Christian church were entertained with a Valentine party by their teacher, Mrs Jay Cook and Mrs. Margaret Gilstrap and Mrs Ellmore J. Gilstrap, superintendent of the department. Games were played and refreshments served to Betty Jean Peetz, Fernel Gilstrap, Melvin Baker, Gertrude Cook, Shirley Baker, Doris Webb, Mary Peterson, Bonnie Webb, Ella Peterson, Beverly Webb, Margaret Mortimer, Mary Anderson, Rose Davis, Melvin Mortimer and Anna Mae Davis.

CLUB WILL SEW

Silverton Hills—The Home Economics club will meet Thursday of this week at the home of Mrs. Milton Knauf with Lois and Fern Alexander as assistant hostesses with Mrs. Knauf. This is to be an all-day session and the group will sew and quilt.

Scotland's first municipal airdrome will be opened shortly at Falkirk.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

By Frederic J. Haskin

Write your question plainly, and send with three cents in coin or stamps. Do not use postcards. Address the Capital Journal Information Bureau, Frederic J. Haskin, Director, Washington, D. C.

Q. When was the precedent established of the president's wife's riding with him in the inaugural parade? T.C.

A. In 1909, when Mrs. Taft accompanied her husband.

Q. Please explain how an airplane lays a smoke screen. G.W.W.

A. There are two distinct types of smoke apparatus which have been developed for airplanes. The smoke material used in both types is titanium tetrachloride. One method of generating smoke is known as the "curtain type" of apparatus in which the smoke material is discharged from the plane toward the rear at the same velocity as the forward speed of the plane. This results in the formation of large liquid drops at approximately the altitude of the plane. As these drops fall toward the earth, they slowly evaporate and react with the moisture of the air to form a dense white smoke which presents the appearance of a falling curtain. A plane of the Martin Bomber type can lay a curtain approximately a mile long and 400 feet high.

Q. In what language are the children in Russia taught? C.M.E.

A. In the teaching in various schools throughout the country a total of seventy national tongues is used. Out of every 1000 pupils 624 are taught in the Russian language, 175 in Ukrainian, 36 in White Russian, 27 in Tartar, 19 in Georgian, 14 in Armenian, 10 in Azerbaijan-Turkish, 9 in Uzbek, the rest scattered.

Q. Is the New York stock exchange an incorporated body? H.H.

A. It is a voluntary unincorporated association. It originated in an agreement among 24 brokers, dated May 17, 1792.

Q. How many policemen and firemen are there in the United States? C.H.

A. According to the census of 1930 there are 121,687 policemen in the United States and 73,008 firemen.

Q. What liquors are mixed in the drink called half-and-half? V.C.

A. The name is applied especially to porter and ale in equal quantities.

Q. Is the process of naturalization the same in all the states? R.W.

A. Naturalization procedure is the same in all states since it is provided for by federal law. Each court, however, is the judge of whether the applicant appearing before it has met the requirements of the law.

Q. Is the monument on the Gettysburg battlefield erected to the memory of the North Carolina troops, standing on the section where the North Carolina troops fought? E.W.B.

A. The North Carolina monument stands on a spot occupied by some of the North Carolina troops in the battle of Gettysburg. While this site is not the place at which the majority of the troops from that state took part in the battle it does represent the scene of action of some of the North Carolina troops. The site was selected by a monument commission from the state of North Carolina and approved by the assistant secretary of war.

Q. Who invented the Sestina? G.

A. This French verse form was invented by Arnaut Daniel. Because of its development by Dante and Petrarch it is usually considered an Italian rather than a French form.

Q. How much did the Florentine diamond weigh? M.H.

A. It weighed 133 carats and formed part of the Austrian Crown jewels. It had previously belonged to Charles, Duke of Burgundy. Tradition relates that it was picked up by a peasant and sold for half a crown.

Q. What is the explanation offered for the disappearance of the "Cyclops?" W.M.J.

A. The most probable theory as to the disappearance of the U.S.S. Cyclops is that it was sunk by her own cargo, according to a theory advanced by an officer of a merchant ship. At the time, the Cyclops was carrying a load of manganese ore, which is difficult to handle. Manganese ore has a tendency to settle down, grinding away whatever is below it, and as the Cyclops was a twin deck ship, and the cargo loaded in the lower hold, the end could have come suddenly, when the bottom gave away. The Cyclops left Yorktown on its last trip on December 8, 1917. As far as the United States government is concerned there is no explanation for the disappearance of the United States fuel ship Cyclops.

Q. What is the composition of the gum used on postage stamps? N.P.

A. The gum consists of 58 percent dextrine, 38 percent water, and 4 percent glucose.

Valentine Party Given At Quinaby

Quinaby—Edith Manning entertained the fifth and sixth grades at the schoolhouse with a valentine party. A short program was held after which refreshments were served. The evening was planned by the following committee: Games, Rosie Franke, Donald and Catherine Dien; eats, Bobbie Beckner, Elsie Diem and Agnes Ricketts; decorations, Lola Weese, Robert Zielinski and Wayne Weese; program, Robert Zielinski, Meryln Zigger and Leroy Toonkin.

Comstock's Honor Daughter At Party

Waldo Hhills—Mrs. Edson Comstock entertained at her country home in honor of her daughter, Janet, for a valentine party Friday night, with members of the Little Boosters Sunday school class of the Methodist church as special guests and a number of friends assisting. Mrs. George Miles is teacher. Assisting Mrs Comstock were Betty Morley and Mrs. Lee Alfred. Mrs. Henry Hutton, A. H. Smith and I. B. Alfred furnished transportation. Mrs. A. H. Smith, former teacher of the group, was a special guest.

Others present were Joyce Vance, Dorothy Parker, Phyllis Tweedie, Marie Hall, June Baker, Julia Hutton, Mary Miles and Mildred Dak Phyllis Tweedie won first prize in composing a valentine and Janet Comstock for drawing a valentine.

CALLED TO FUNERAL

Lyons—Mrs. Mattie Spinler, Mrs. Emma Thompson and Burton Spinler of Portland and Mrs. Flora Ryle of Metzger spent Wednesday and Thursday night here with their sister, Mrs. Clara Brown. They all went to Eugene Wednesday where they attended the funeral of another sister, Mrs. Jennie Vogl, who died at her home there Monday morning. Mrs. Vogl was born in Taylor Falls, Minn., December 1, 1867, coming to Oregon in her girlhood. She is survived by her widower, one daughter, one son and four sisters.

February Forum Meeting Passed

Silverton—The president of the chamber of commerce, Ernest Starr, announced that no meeting would be held in February as the business did not warrant it, but there will be two sessions in March. During the first of the month the definite date to be set later, the Cherrians and families of Salem are to be special guests. The affair is to be staged at the armory, and a dance will follow. A banquet will be one feature of the evening.

Mrs. Tofte Hostess

Jefferson—Mrs. O. J. Tofte entertained at her home on Second street Friday afternoon, honoring Mrs. Florence Bowron of Marshfield. Two tables of bridge were ni play during the afternoon Mrs. Phillip Hult won high score and Mrs. C. E. Jordon low. Present were Mesdames Florence Bowron, Earl Phelps, H. D. Mars, Phillip Hult, C. E. Jordon, Fred Brana, O. J. Tofte and Miss Margaret Wall.

Birthday Observed

Bethel—A group of high school students were guests at the J. G. Lauderback home Friday night when Mrs. Lauderback entertained in honor of the birthday anniversary of James, Jr. Games were played until the late supper hour. Those present included the honor guest, James Lauderback, Jr., Inabelle Creech, Evelyn Boles, Helen Schulz, Lorraine Strawn, Mary and Paul Hamrick, Joseph and Laurence Bernardi, Clarence Page, Harry Martin, Jr., Dean and Mr. and Mrs. Lauderback.

ACROSS

1. Collection of facts
4. Serpent
7. Dishonor
12. Masculine name
13. Sick
14. More crippled
15. Top piece of a spire
16. Apprehending clearly
18. Epic poem
20. Public storehouse
21. Made a casual observation
23. Having little velocity
27. Hail and farewell
28. Dry
30. Before
31. Eucharistic plates
34. Obstinately determined or persistent
36. Yale
37. Faucet
39. Liquor
40. Agreement
42. That which is contained
46. Gum resin
48. Paradise
49. Wandering
52. South American river
54. 14th century playing card
55. English river
56. Corded cloth
57. Commence
58. Compass point
59. Affirmative

DOWN

1. Eastern potentate
2. Geometrical surface or sheet
3. Self-evident
4. Ventilate
5. Smooth and glossy
6. Coats with metal
7. Slide
8. Initiates into college
9. Friend: French
10. Adult boys
11. Unit of work
17. Loaded a ship
19. Preserve
22. Lease
24. Traditional
25. Native metal
26. Marry
29. Outer garment
31. Vigor: slang
32. Wing
33. Falcon
35. Mirth
38. Hair ointment
41. Singing voice
42. Baseball teams
44. Wigwam
45. Breaks without warning
47. Northern European
49. Pronoun
50. Make lace
51. Masculine name
52. Small peg used in golf

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

M	A	I	M	S		C	H	A		B	A	T
E	G	R	E	T		L	O	P		E	R	E
W	E	A	R	I	S	O	M	E		T	I	N
			E	R	O	S	E		T	R	E	E
R	I	D		S	U	E		T	O	A	S	T
O	D	O	R		S	T	E	A	D	Y		
D	E	N	O	T	E		S	T	A	I	N	S
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D	A	T	E	D		R	E	T		G	E	T
E	L	I	S		C	A	N	O	E			
C	O	O		R	E	S	E	N	T	F	U	L
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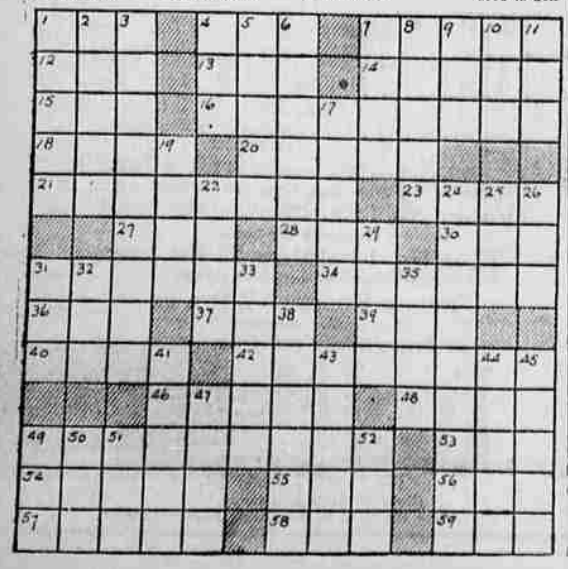


While Pancho is plotting poor Pete's and Puff's fate,

Our two friends are having a whispered debate.

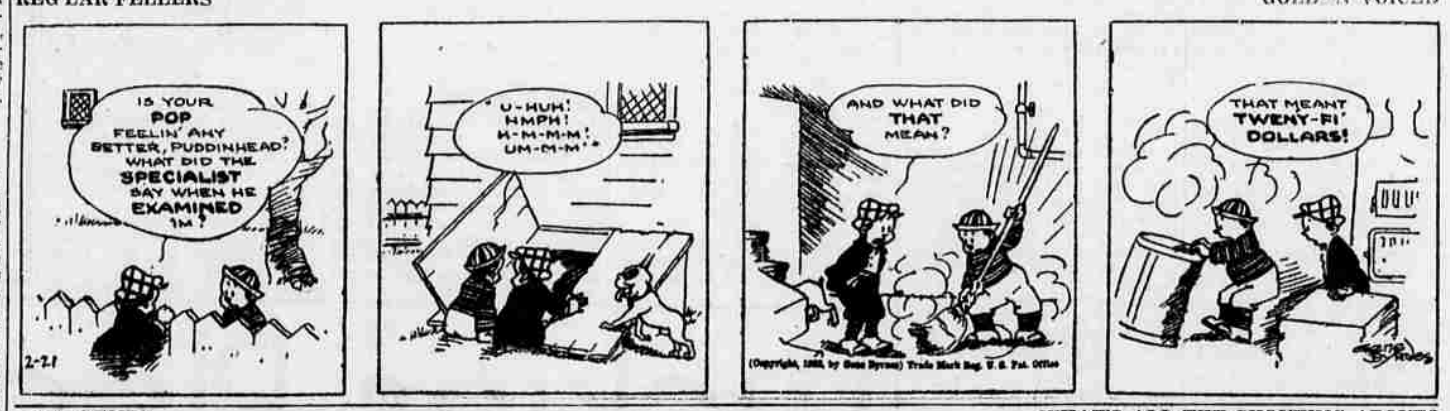
"We'll run," murmurs Puff, "but we don't stand a chance,

"They'd be on our necks like a flock of red ants!"

I.LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

BE NONCHALANT

REG'LAR FELLERS



GOLDEN VOICED

THE GUMPS

WHAT'S ALL THE SHOUTING ABOUT?

TAILSPIN TOMMY By Glenn Chaffin and Hal Forrest **SKEETER "GROUNDS" THE BANDITS!**

MUTT AND JEFF **THE MACHINE AGE**