

# the dark ships

BY HULBERT FOOTNER

**SYNOPSIS:** When Neil, a young federal agent, gets to Baltimore for a week's vacation with his girl, he finds Janet won't break a dinner date with Prescott Fanning. Angri-ly Neil says Fanning is too old for Janet, too slick and spends too much money. They quarrel and part, Neil setting out to check up on Fanning. A strange little gray man, David Eyster, tells him Fanning is "a devil to women." Neil finds Fanning at his hotel and strikes up a bar friendship. Jovial chatter hides shrewd questions but Fanning discloses only that he made his money in Wall Street.

## Chapter Four In Fanning's Suite

"WHAT you doing tonight?" Fanning asked.

"Eating alone, worse luck," said Neil.

"Look, I'm having a little party, and I need another man. I'd be darn glad to have you join us. I like the cut of your jib, Patton. We must see more of each other."

Neil grinned inwardly at the thought of Janet's face when Fanning brought him to the party. It would be a pretty little revenge. "Certainly it's nice of you to ask me," he said. "I haven't my evening clothes with me."

"It doesn't matter, my boy! The girls will dress up, bless their hearts! But we don't have to. You're a good-looking young guy, Patton, damned if you're not, and you'll be a credit to my party just as you are."

"Well, thanks a lot," said Neil. "Let's go up to my suite and

"That you, Pres?"

Neil subdued his voice to a husky whisper. "Right."

"What's the matter?" asked the voice sharply.

"Nothing. There are others in the room here."

"Oh! I just wanted to tell you that everything is all right. The old girl hasn't squawked."

"Who did you say?"

"I say the old girl hasn't squawked."

"Good!"

"Shall I see you tomorrow as agreed?"

"Right. Where are you now?"

Again he drew a blank. "Read's drugstore. So long."

"So long."

Neil hung up. Eyster might be mad, but even the few words he had heard were enough to confirm the fact that Fanning was a crook! As yet however, he had secured no concrete evidence to lay before Janet. He looked around the room sharply. There was no time to make a search.

"One Last Spot"

FANNING returned with his made-to-order laugh saying: "These darn realtors call on you at all hours. It's almost impossible to get rid of them."

"That's right," agreed Neil. He was thinking: That was no realtor, old man!

Fanning fetched a sealed bottle of Scotch from a cabinet. "We must have one last shot before we go," he said.

"Just a short one for me."

"This is something special," said

Neil.

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# STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

For further proof address the author, inclosing a stamped envelope for reply. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.



COMMERCIAL "ANT EGGS," USED AS FOOD FOR GOLDFISH, TURTLES, ETC., ARE NOT EGGS... THEY ARE THE PUPAE OF THE LARGE RED ANT



**Largest Obelisk**  
Abandoned because of a flaw in the granite near its center, the largest obelisk in the world, a single piece of rock, has lain unfinished near Assuan, Egypt, for some 3,000 years.

**Largest of Egyptian obelisks ever erected** is the one now adorning the piazza of Saint John Lateran in Rome. It is 108 feet, seven inches high and weighs 455 tons—over 28 feet shorter and 715 tons lighter than the mighty unfinished obelisk in Assuan.

**Excavation of the Assuan obelisk** in 1922 brought to light many heretofore unknown facts about Egyptian

engineering. No chisels nor wedges were used in quarrying the huge granite monuments such as obelisks. They were smashed out of solid granite rather than carved. Great balls of dolerite, a form of igneous rock found in Egypt, were used for the "smashing" process.

**Sister Horseshoe Pitchers**  
Taking up horseshoes as a pastime in 1926, Caroline and Charlotte Schultz, of Harvey, Ill., sisters, won ratings as the two best women pitchers in the world in 1933 when Carolyn won the national horseshoe tournament and Charlotte finished in second place. Carolyn repeated her victory in 1934, but defaulted in

1935 when she refused to play because of weather conditions.

**Fame After Death**  
An English Non-Conformist clergyman and author, Philip Doddridge (1702-1751) was one of the most prolific of all hymnists. Yet strange as it seems, not a single one of his 364 hymns were published while he lived.

Written in connection with his sermons, some of the most famous of his hymns are: "Hark, the Glad Sound, the Saviour Comes," "O, God of Bethel, by Whose Hand," and "Awake, Ye Saints."

Tomorrow: What does "O. K." abbreviate?

**Klamath Schools Show No Big Gain**  
KLAMATH FALLS, Sept. 8.—(AP)—First-day enrollment at Klamath Falls grade and high schools Tuesday failed to show notable gains in student body numbers in spite of evident growth in the city's population.

The elementary schools reported 1913 first-day students, a gain of

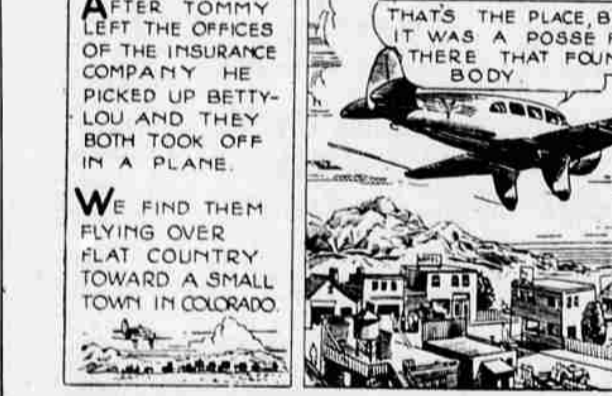
one pupil over the 1936 figure. Klamath union high school had 983, considerably under last year's total, due largely to the opening of a junior high school in the thickly-settled suburban area south of the city.

**Bellot Strait Run By Arctic Patrol**  
Strait, Sept. 8.—(Canadian Press)—Strait, Sept. 7.—(Canadian Press)—

Seventy-nine years after Admiral McClintock made the first attempt to navigate Bellot Strait, Maj. D. L. McKeand, leader of the eastern Arctic patrol, led a party today through a new northwest passage across the top of Canada.

McClintock, who was searching for the lost Franklin expedition, took his ship only partly through the strait September 7, 1848, but today the motor schooner Akhvik navigated the strait from east to west.

## TAILSPIN TOMMY—Aerial Reconnaissance!



## BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Quick Thinking?



## THE NEBBES—



## GAME CALLED: RAIN By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



GLUYAS WILLIAMS 9-2 (Copyright, 1937, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

## S'MATTER POF By O. M. PAYNE



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## By HAL FORREST

## By EDWIN ALGER

## By SOL HESS

I saw a dangerous glitter in Fanning's dark eyes.

wash. We can start out from here." "Okay."

They paid for their drinks and went up in an elevator, Fanning talking and laughing. At the same time there was a glitter in his black eyes that spelled danger. Neil's job had accustomed him to that. He was armed.

Fanning's suite was one of the most expensive in the hotel. High above the street it looked over the lower part of town and across the harbor to Federal hill. Neil noted that though Fanning presumably had occupied it for several weeks, there were no photographs or knick-knacks, no personal belongings of any kind on display; nothing to give a line on the man's past.

They made themselves ready for the party, Fanning keeping up a running fire of humorous stories. As they were slipping into their coats again, there was a knock at the door of the parlor. Fanning went to answer it, but held the door in such a manner that Neil could not see who was outside. A whispered conversation took place.

**Mysterious Phone Call**  
PRESENTLY Fanning opened the door further, but still Neil could not see who was on the other side of it. As the crack between door and frame widened, he had a sense that somebody was giving him the once over.

The conversation continued. Though the voices were low, Neil suspected that they were disputing. Finally he heard Fanning say: "Well, you'll have to lump it then!"

"Ash! I never thought to get this from you," rumbled the other voice sullenly. "Shit!" said Fanning.

He went out, pulling the door almost to behind him, and Neil heard the two of them walking away. Tiptoeing to the door, he put an eye to the crack and saw the two figures moving in close converse towards the elevator. They were gesticulating angrily. Fanning's visitor was a rough-looking man of enormous physical strength. His shoulders were heavy they were bowed forward, and his big hands hung almost to his knees.

Neil retired from the door, leaving it exactly as he had found it. The telephone rang, and he picked it up. A man's voice said cautiously over the wire:

## Spoils System Hit By Civil Service

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Sept. 8.—(AP)—The convention of the National Federation of Federal Employees adopted a resolution today authorizing its officers to investigate the advisability of a constitutional amendment to enlarge the scope of civil service.

The resolution also pledged the federation to continue "with increased vigor" its campaign in favor of the merit system.

The resolution charged the "spoils system" was costing American taxpayers \$1,000,000,000 a year, "which might be saved by substituting the merit system."

NEW YORK Sept. 8.—(A.P.)—Today is J. P. Morgan's 70th birthday. The banker marked the event at Gan-nock, his lodge at Fortlanshire, Scotland, where he has been since August 12 for the grouse season

## 400 Bodies Found In Hongkonw Ruin

HONGKONG, Sept. 8.—(AP)—Four hundred bodies have been found along the wreck-strewn trail of last Thursday's typhoon and today's estimates placed fatalities well over 200.

The harbor and seacoast for miles hereabouts is a scene of jumbled debris. Losses run into many millions.

Two great liners still are aground. A Japanese salvage vessel arrived from Moji today to salvage the Asama Maru. Two attempts to refloat the Italian Conte Verdi failed.

**Fumes Hurt Snake**  
PUEBLO, Colo. —(U.P.)— Exhaust fumes were used to dislodge a stubborn snake from an automobile here. A hose attached to the exhaust and run into the car did the work. The snake promptly scrambled out and was killed.