

MRS. MURDOCK TAKES A CASE

by George Harmon Cox

Chapter 44 The Plot Doesn't Jell

"Why, Ward?" Dean Thorndike asked. "Why?"

"I should think you might guess. I was short in my account. I needed the bonds and I delivered them late, knowing Clarke couldn't get to a safe deposit box."

"You took them back to the office?"

"That same night," Ward answered. "That was what made the plan so safe. I stole the bonds but I did not keep them, nor attempt to use them. I simply took them back and substituted them for the ones I had sold."

"Wait a minute," Fenner pushed away from the wall and his voice rasped like a file. "How did you know Della Stewart had the envelope?"

"I saw her."

"What?" Joyce gasped the word.

"I can even tell you what she did when she came out. Clarke had a front apartment. After I'd shot him I stepped to the front window. I just happened to notice her cross the street. She went to her car, then stepped out in the street and went along to mine which I'd parked a few cars behind, not seeing her at the time. He glanced at Della. That's right, isn't it?"

The girl nodded, but kept her head bowed.

"That's what made it so hard," Allen said. "I had to save my own neck, and I didn't want to involve her if I could help it. She had the envelope but I thought she loved me enough to overlook the things it told about me; I was sure she would not go to the police with it. But Hardacker—when he came it changed everything."

He paused and wet his lips.

"The rest of it you guessed, Joyce. I had a gun on him when he opened the office door. I knew I had to kill him but I had to work myself up to it. I made him sit down on the leather couch while I told him what I wanted. I decided, since it could be had, I should get the envelope. That way Della would never suspect me, because she would be sure I would never do anything like that to her. Oh, it was rotten I know, but—"

He broke off. He was still watching Joyce, his eyes hot and pleading.

Request For Time

"It was the only way," he said. "I made him go to the desk and telephone her, told him what to say. He must have known what was coming. He tried to get his gun out. I shot him."

"Through the head," Fenner said.

"Yes. He fell forward, his face on the desk. I couldn't bring myself to touch him for a minute and then I knew I'd have to because of Della. I picked him up and carried him to the closet; then I did what you said, Joyce. I didn't dare wait there, I hid by the s—"

"When I heard someone coming I decided to let her go to the office and then be ready to grab her when she came out—I didn't think she'd find Hardacker." He paused, continued hopelessly. "Only it was Raeburn instead of Della. When he went inside I knew I had to get out. I couldn't run the risk of having to do any more killing."

He took out a handkerchief and wiped his forehead. His face was gaunt and heavy. Joyce looked at

Fenner and the things she saw in his face scared her.

"So that's it?" he said, his lips flat against his teeth.

Murdoch rose from the arm of her chair and Joyce stood up with him. Ward Allen put his handkerchief away.

"I've made it easier for you," he said. "I wish you'd give me a little time."

"Well," Hester stood up. "You certainly fixed things up for me." She eyed Joyce resentfully. "Between the two of you, you certainly did. . . . How much have I left, Dean? Fifty thousand?"

"About that," Thorndike said. "Lucky for me that I'm well stocked up with jewelry. She adjusted the collar of her coat and started for the door.

Allen had paid no attention to her; he was still watching Fenner.

"I'll only need a few minutes. There are some things I'd like to say to Della—and to Dean."

—He Lied!

MURDOCK went over to Fenner.

"Listen on, Jack."

"You never learn, do you?" the detective said, not looking at him. "It doesn't matter that he's a killer, huh? You can still feel sorry for him."

Joyce went over to him. "What good can it do, Jack?" She put her hand on his arm, fighting to control her voice. "He's told you the story. What difference can a few minutes make?"

John Nason moved past Hester and opened the door. Hesitating to see if she was coming with him, he found her watching Ward Allen and went out.

"I'll tell you how much time you'll get from me," Fenner said. "Until I can get downstairs and find a telephone. Nick Hardacker was a nice little guy. I only hope you try to take a powder while I'm outside waiting for Bacon."

Hester gave Allen a final look and went out. Murdoch pulled Fenner's arm and they followed her. Joyce stopped with her hand on the edge of the door.

Della started to rise. "Oh, Ward! I can't—"

"I'm sorry," Allen cut in sharply. "There's another way."

"Now, now," Thorndike said, restraining her. "You can't let it get you."

Joyce went out hurriedly and closed the door. Hester was waiting at the stairs and Murdoch and Fenner had stopped just outside the door.

"I'm a sap," Fenner said. "It's no good. I tell you, letting a guy like that stay around loose."

Murdoch's face was warped in thought and his eyes were brooding. "Something's wrong," he said. "I can't figure it. Was there any blood on Hardacker's desk? You didn't—"

He got that far before he noticed Joyce's face. She was close to him now, her hand on his arm. Her cheeks were chalk-white and her eyes were sick with fear.

"He's lying," she said, trying to fight her panic and keep her voice a whisper. "Oh, don't you see? He said he saw Della from the window of Perry Clarke's apartment. He couldn't have. That apartment was not at the front. You said so yourself. There was no leather couch in Hardacker's office! He lied and he wanted me to know he lied!"

Fenner sucked in his breath. "Hardacker wasn't carried in the closet, he was dragged!"

Murdoch grabbed Joyce's shoulder and she ached long afterwards. "That's what I mean. He said Hardacker's face fell on his desk—but you never mentioned blood on the desk!"

To be continued

Russian Oil Field Defenses Crack



Red army defenses before the oil fields of Maikop appeared to be cracking and dispatches told of expositions indicative of the "scorched earth" policy. Black arrows show course of German drives, including one which Nazis said led to the capture of Pyatigorsk, midway between the Black and Caspian seas. Russians were counter-attacking (white arrows), in Kotelnikovsk area southwest of Stalingrad.

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:

Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:

KALE (MBS) 1330, Portland. KEX (NBC-Blue) 1190, Portland. KGA (NBC-Blue & MBS) 1210, Spokane. KGO (NBC-Blue) 810, San Francisco. KGW (NBC-Red) 850, Portland. KJR (NBC-Blue) 1000, Seattle. KJL (CBS) 1070, Los Angeles. KJA (NBC-Red) 830, Denver. KOIN (CBS) 970, Portland. KOMO (NBC-Red) 830, Seattle. KPO (NBC-Blue) 680, San Francisco. KSL (CBS) 1160, Salt Lake City.

Time Shown is PST

Wednesday

5:00—H. V. Kaltenborn, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Nelson Eddy, KXN, KOIN, KSL; Flying Patrol, KEX, KGO, KJR; Stars of Today, KGW; Walte Rhythm, KPO.

5:30—It Happened in the Service, KOMO, KGW; Dr. Christian, KSL; Harry W. Plannery, KXN, KOIN; Polk Music from many Lands, KJR; Passing Parade, KPO.

6:00—Shirley Temple in Junior Mink, KXN, KOIN; Those We Love, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Basin Street, KGW; Chamber Music Society, KGO, KEX; Popular Music, KJR; Sports, KSL.

6:30—Mr. District Attorney, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Goldman Band Concert, KGO, KJR; Suspense, KXN, KOIN, KSL; News, KEX.

7:00—Your Blind Date, KGO, KEX, KJR; Great Moments in Music, KOIN, KXN, KSL; Kay Kyser's Musical Quiz, KPO, KGW, KOMO.

7:30—Lighting Jim, KGO, KJR, KEX; 22nd Letter, KXN, KOIN; Army Recruiting, KSL.

8:00—Earl Godwin, KGO, KEX, KJR; Amos 'n' Andy, KXN, KOIN, KSL; Point Sublime, KPO, KGW, KOMO.

8:15—Glenn Miller's Orch., KXN, KSL, KOIN; Lum and Abner, KGO, KJR, KEX.

8:30—Dr. Christian, KXN, KOIN; Paul Martin's Orch., KGW, KPO; Manhattan at Midnight, KGO, KJR, KEX; News, KSL.

9:00—News, KGW; News Here and Abroad, KGO; William Winter, KXN; News, KOIN; Down Memory Lane, KEX; Studio Party, KJR; Highlight Hour, KOMO; Light and Mellow, KPO.

9:30—Lyrics and Lullabies, KGO; News, KJR, KSL, KEX; Northwest Neighbors, KOIN; Your Mayor Speaks, KGW; Lum Gluckin's Orch., KXN; Who's Who on the Home Front, KOMO; On Our Bandstand, KPO.

10:00—Reporter News, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Garry Moore Show, KGO, KEX; News, KXN, KOIN; Chamber Music Society, KJR; Masterworks of Music, KSL.

10:30—Freddie Martin's Orch., KGO, KJR; Harry Owens' Hawaiians, KSL, KOIN; Sports, Woody Herman's Orch., KXN, KSL; Moonlight Sonata, KGW; The World Today, KOIN; Broadway Bandwagon, KEX.

11:00—Lud Gluckin's Orch., KXN, KSL; Organ, KPO; This Moving World, KEX; News, KGO, KXN; Dance Orch., KGW; Folk Music, KJR; Evening Reveries, KOMO.

Thursday

5:00 p. m.—Thirty Minutes To Play, KSL, KOIN; Maurice's Orch., KPO, KGW; Flying Patrol, KGO, KEX, KJR; Stars of Today, KGW; Thirty Seconds To Go, KXN; Dance Orch., KOMO.

5:30 p. m.—Masters of Music, KOMO, KGW; Death Valley Days, KEX; Clete Roberts Reports, KGO, KEX; Harry W. Plannery, KXN, KOIN; Polk Music from Many Lands, KJR; Afternoon Dances, KXN; The Parade, KPO.

6:00 p. m.—Major Bowes Original Amateur Hour, KXN, KSL, KOIN; Major Hall, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Sur Les Boulevards, KEX, KJR; Voice of Victory, KGO.

6:30 p. m.—Stage Door Canteen, KXN, KOIN; Fifteen Minutes From Broadway, KGO; News, KEX; Armchair Cruise, KJR.

7:00 p. m.—How 'n' I Do It? KPO, KOMO, KGW; Rudy Vallee Show, KGO, KEX, KJR; The First Line, KXN, KOIN, KSL.

7:30 p. m.—Talks, KSL; Red Ryder, KGO, KJR, KEX; March of Time, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Time Out for Melody, KXN; Leon F. Drews, KXN.

8:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, KXN, KSL, KOIN; Fred Waring in Pleasure Time, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Earl Godwin, KGO, KJR, KEX.

8:15 p. m.—Glenn Miller's Orch., KXN, KOIN, KSL; Lum and Abner, KGO, KJR, KEX; News, KOMO; Mylan Sisters, KGW; On Our Bandstand, KPO.

8:30 p. m.—Death Valley Days, KXN, KOIN; Frank Morgan, KPO, KOMO, KGW; This Nation at War, KGO; News, KSL; Flowers for the Living, KEX.

9:00 p. m.—News Here and Abroad, KGO; United We Sing, KXN; Adrich Family, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Down Memory Lane, KEX; Concert Hall, KJR; Company at Ease, KOIN; Maudie's Diary, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Moon River, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Freddie Martin's Orch., KGO; Maudie's Diary, KXN, KOIN; News, KJR, KSL, KEX; Words and Music, KGO.

10:00 p. m.—America's Town Meeting of the Air, KGO, KJR, KEX; Reporter News, KPO, KGW, KOMO; News, KXN, KSL; Five Star Final, KOIN; Masterworks of Music, KSL.

BUSINESS BOOST RESULT OF CAMP ACTIVITIES HERE

Public Relations Officer Informed by C. of C. Trade Increased 40 Per Cent.

Savings and Loans Suffer During War

Washington, Aug. 12.—(P)—Insured savings and loan associations in Oregon and Washington reported declines in home loans made during June compared with June 1941 it was announced today by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation.

The statement said the loans in Oregon for June totaled \$195,400 compared with \$644,173 in June of last year.

War time restriction held new construction loans in Oregon to \$37,700 during June in Oregon.

A business increase of more than 40 per cent among Medford merchants since the activation of Camp White was reported today to the camp public relations officer by Frank Hull, manager of the Jackson county chamber of commerce.

Mr. Hull informed that officer that there had been a doubling of residential home building since last year and that there is now in preparation a plan for expanding the city school system if the influx of soldiers' families make it necessary. Mr. Hull predicted a continuing economic boom for the city as the camp gets into full swing.

German Ace Killed After 51st Victory

London, Aug. 12.—(P)—The air ministry news service said tonight Major Rudolph Pfalz, ace German fighter pilot, was killed in combat with RAF fighters over France on July 31, the day after the Germans announced he had scored his 51st success.

Pfalz was one of eleven shot down in fierce dogfights between more than 100 RAF and German fighters over the Somme area. The RAF lost eight spitfires.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX



ALASKAN HALIBUT FISHERMEN OFTEN USE LINES OVER 42,000 FEET LONG... WITH A HOOK EVERY 13 FEET!

TOY DRUM RETREAT!

BRITISH GENERAL TOM BRIDGES AT THE RETREAT FROM LE CATEAU, FRANCE, 1914, ORGANIZED THE FATIGUED TROOPS AND STARTED AN ORDERLY MARCH WITH A TOY DRUM AND A PENNY WHISTLE BOUGHT AT A VILLAGE SHOP! World War I...

TOMMORROW—BEAUTY FROM THE FLOOR!

INSPIRED GENERAL.

In August, 1914, at Le Cateau, in France's valley of the Sells, British troops, trapped by a sudden shift of the German attackers, were forced to retreat. Weary and hungry, the men slogged through a rainstorm in disorder, their morale at low ebb. General Tom Bridges, later governor of South Australia knew the men needed only an inspiration to form an orderly retreat instead of a rout. He picked up a toy drum and a penny whistle at a small French shop. Soon the hopeful rattle of the drum and the reedy shrill of the pipe echoed through the rain. The Tommies took heart and their faltering ranks assumed a martial appearance.

MEDFORD MEN AT FORT WARREN IN DOUBLE TRAINING

Ft. Warren, Wyo., Aug. 12.—(Sp.)—Ten soldiers from Medford and vicinity were among the recent arrivals at the quartermaster replacement training center here where they have started a dual training program combining military with specialist school instruction.

The men here include: Neill H. Neill, a transplant from Oregon; W. Lutterbeck from St. Marys, Ohio, who was employed by C. M. Kidd company in Medford; Walter R. Hahn, John H. English, Lowell V. Pratt, son of Owen C. Pratt of route 2, box 389; Philip C. Hannaford, son of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Hannaford of box 727, Eagle Point; William C. Strahan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl R. Strahan, Rogue River; Charles R. Lundy, son of Mrs. Nellie R. Willey, route 1, box 169, Central Point; Manley J. Porter, son of Mrs. Lela E. Porter of Chico, Cal., whose wife lives at route 2, box 422, Grants Pass; John L. Loper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Loper, route 2, box 78, Ashland.

This quartermaster replacement training center is one of the two in the United States (the other is a Camp Lee, Va.), and transforms raw recruits into the famed "fighting quartermasters" who have made a name for themselves on Bataan and other fronts of the world.

Here at the QMRTC these 10 southern Oregon men first will receive thorough training in basic military subjects (first aid, map reading, squad drill, use of the rifle, etc.), and then will be enrolled in one of the many specialist schools here which teach the quartermaster corps

functions of feeding, clothing and transporting the army.

Steel-Nerved Woman Hacks Off Leg When Tangled In Machine

Jacksonville, N. C., Aug. 12.—(P)—When Mrs. C. F. Thompson's slacks caught in the drive shaft of the motor of her fishing boat and pulled her foot into the motor's set screw, she calmly amputation the foot at the ankle with a fish knife. A strip of cloth from her blouse served as a tourniquet.

A nearby boat towed her craft 16 miles and coast guardsmen rushed her to a field hospital. A blood transfusion was given her there and another amputation was made to correct some muscular trouble.

Hospital attendants said an orderly amputation was planned in an effort to remedy a gangrenous condition resulting from the tight tourniquet on her leg. It was there almost three hours. Her condition was termed critical.

Mrs. Thompson, 32, earned her living as a fisherman. With her when her foot was caught was a 16-year-old boy whom she hired to handle the boat. When the accident happened she gave directions to the boy about handling the boat and proceeded to cut off her foot. She used a jagged-edged knife with a blade about six inches long.

DEER HUNTING BANNED FOR NORTH CALIFORNIA

Sacramento, Aug. 12.—(P)—Governor Culbert L. Olson today signed the order closing immediately all of the districts in Northern California which are now open to deer hunting as requested by Western Defense Commander J. L. Dewitt.

Silkworm eggs are distributed free by the government of Brazil to encourage silk cultivation.

THE WORLD AT ITS WORST



HAVING GOT BLUE ON YOUR FINGERS IN OPENING THE TUBE, YOU TRY TO GET YOUR HANDKERCHIEF OUT OF THE RIGHT-HAND POCKET WITH YOUR LEFT HAND, WHICH YOU BEGIN TO SUSPECT WAS ALSO GOT BLUE ON IT

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Chart

4. Hawaiian salutation

9. Make a mistake

13. Desires

14. Palm leaf

15. Unpleasant

16. Biblical lower

17. Horn

18. Hurry

20. One supposed to bring good luck

22. Organ of hearing

23. Rounder

24. Form of security

25. Chum

27. Vase

28. Skill

31. Self-styled

32. Caper

33. Thru

34. Between

35. Accomplish

36. Point of intake

39. Wrath

40. Read covering

41. Pillage

42. Writing fluid

43. Sanguine

44. In operation

45. Robust

46. Money paid for use of another's property

48. Huge mythical bird

49. Former Hawaiian leader

50. Before

51. The herb eve

52. Unseen

53. Long narrow inlet

54. Old-time lingo

55. Dummy

56. Scatter

57. Short sleep

DOWN

1. Opening in a net

2. Gifts

3. Color

4. Not fat

5. Spheres

6. Belonging to winter

7. Book of maps

8. Musical entertainment

9. Butter substitute

10. Vegetable

11. Deaths

12. Unusual personification

13. Amiable point

14. Town in Maine

15. Spider's nest

16. Tail

17. Blazed trail

18. Kind of coin

19. Amos

20. Despicable

21. Bird of the heron family

22. Pail

23. Sanguine

24. Date slightly

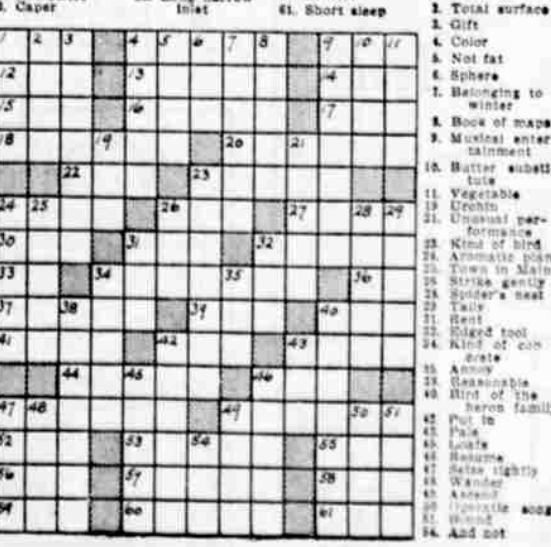
25. Wander

26. A small

27. Unpleasant mood

28. Wind

29. And not



HAP HOPPER, Washington Correspondent—Bottleneck



THAT'S HIM, RIGHT? THE HAZZARD WHO BLEW UP THE CITY OF ROSTOV. HE'S THE ONE WHO FOLLOWED HIS PALE!



WHAT CLOUT!!



LIL ABNER—Theme Song For A Murder!



THAT'S HIM, RIGHT? THE HAZZARD WHO BLEW UP THE CITY OF ROSTOV. HE'S THE ONE WHO FOLLOWED HIS PALE!



WHAT CLOUT!!



THE NEBBS—On His Way



YOU'RE LIKE ONLY THE WAR COULD TAKE ME FROM ME—I WATE TO SEE YOU GO



WE'D SEE YOU OFF BUT I KNOW THAT'S SOME ONE ELSE'S PRIVILEGE



BY AI CAPP



AMH DON'T IT NOW? BUT ON AUNT BESSIE LET'S GET OUTA TOWN—IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT—AN' YOU KNOWS WHAT HAPPENS THEN—



SHO' NUFF! TH' MOST BOOTFUL GAL IN TOWN GITS MURDERED! (GIGGLES) AH DON'T WANTA DIE!!



By Hess



THAT MUSIC—IT'S THE FUNERAL MARCH!



THE LIGHTS HAVE GONE OUT!!

