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INTENSE HEAT

By R. H. WILKINSON
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"ALLESANDRO," said Major Manuel de los Rios, "we are investing you with the responsibility of this commission for two reasons. First, because you resemble a certain porter at the El Regio hotel who, we have very good reason to suspect, is a spy in the employ of the rebels, and secondly, because we have faith in your ability."

Allesandro's dark young face flushed with pride. "I'll do my best, sir."

"I'm sure of it," Major Rios permitted himself a warm and unofficial smile. "Please understand the importance of the commission. Success means a promotion for you. Failure—" he gestured,—"failure means that the rebels will come into possession of enough arms and ammunition to make likely the success of the insurrection."

"Is it as bad as that, sir?"
"Quite." The major rose. "The porter who is under suspicion at the El Regio has been removed. You will go there immediately and take his place. A certain Robert Cranston, an American business man, is staying at the hotel. We have reason to suppose that Cranston is trying secretly to provide the rebels with arms. Naturally his transaction with them must be conducted in secret. Somehow, we suspect, he will attempt to communicate with Rico Florit's army, apprising him of the rendezvous where the arms are to be delivered. It will be up to you to intercept that message. The porter whom you will impersonate we believe to be the go-between."

"I understand, sir," Allesandro saluted and went out into the hot tropical sunlight. Ten minutes later, attired in a porter's uniform, he was summoned to the desk of the El Regio.

"The American has rung," the clerk told him. "You will go and see what it is he desires."

Robert Cranston, middle-aged, fat, pompous, was standing by a window overlooking the patio when Allesandro entered. He turned and for a moment his eyes bored into those of the young secret agent. Allesandro permitted an eyelid to flutter ever so slightly.

The American muttered something in his throat and gestured toward the bed. "Have that dress shirt cleaned and return it to me in time for dinner."

Allesandro picked up the dress shirt, tucked it under his arm and returned to the door.

"Is that all, sir?"
The American seemed annoyed. "Of course it's all. Isn't it enough?"
Allesandro went out. He was dis-

appointed. Neither by sign nor manner had the American indicated he believed the youth to be a confederate. Somehow Cranston had been apprised of the government's artifice. Well, there may still be a chance.

With the shirt still tucked under his arm, Allesandro hurried down the corridor, passed by the elevator, turned left and pushed through a door that opened onto an outside balcony. He looked carefully around.

Cautiously Allesandro crept along the balcony until he was near the window that opened into the American's room. Here, for a full hour, suffering from the steady heat of the sun, he stood concealed by an ugly gargoyle and watched Cranston's movements. At the end of the hour the American lay down on his bed and went to sleep.

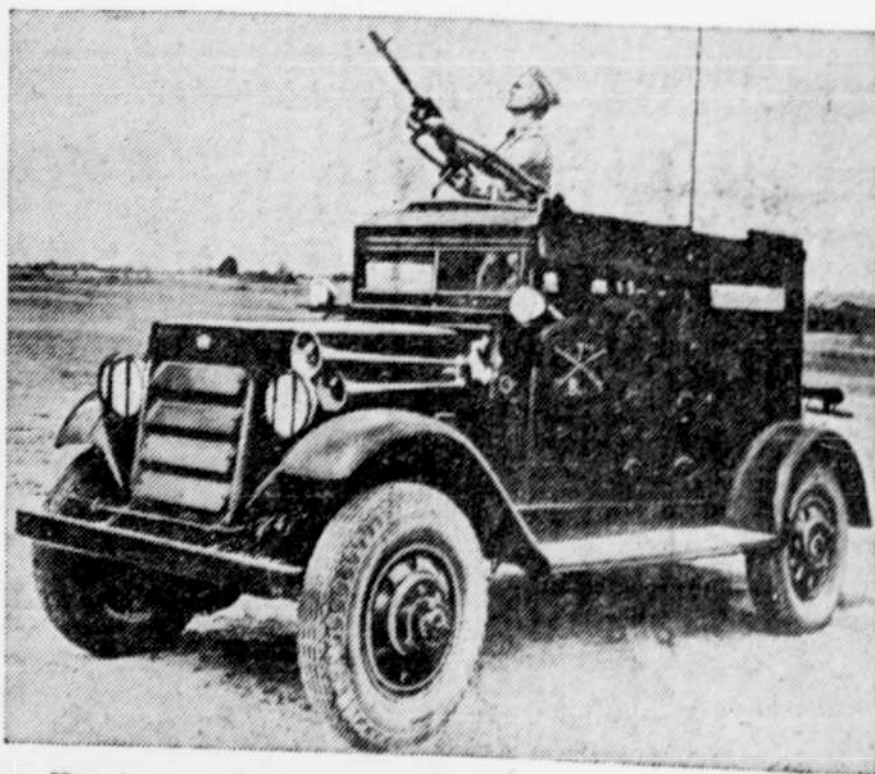
Bitterly disappointed, Allesandro turned away. Of a truth the American had been warned to take care. His movements during the past hour had been nothing to excite suspicion. On the contrary, he seemed quite confident and pleased with himself.

Why? Allesandro scowled. Why was the American pleased? Had he already succeeded in conveying the message? If so, how?

Still puzzling over the problem, Allesandro re-entered the hotel, descended to the lobby and passed through it toward the laundry. He would have the shirt cleaned as directed and return with it to the American's room on the bare hope—Allesandro came abruptly to a halt. He stared, and his eyes bulged. Suddenly he turned and retraced his steps...

"You see, sir," he explained to Major Rios later, "I couldn't understand how the American's mind could be so much at ease that he could sleep. Unless, of course, he had sent the message. I was watching him from the balcony outside. The heat there was terrific, hot enough, in fact, to reproduce faintly the tracing of invisible ink. The message, sir, was written on the shirt in invisible ink. The real rebel spy was in the laundry. Having received the shirt he would run a hot iron over it, bring out the writing, memorize the message and then clean the shirt. A very neat idea. Fortunately, Senor Cranston is not used to the high temperature of our climate, and could not be expected to know that the heat of the atmosphere would be intense enough to develop the message... The vessel carrying the arms is located in a bay fifty miles south of here. It will be child's play to confiscate that ship, thereby suppressing the revolution."

How Modern Cavalrymen Ride



Here is one of the combat cars of the mechanized force of the United States army participating in extensive maneuvers in the Middle West. In time these cars, capable of great speed and heavily armed, will displace cavalry in war. All the cars are equipped with two-way radio for keeping in constant touch. The "cavalryman" shown here is operating an anti-aircraft gun.

POULTRY FACTS

GROWING PULLETS NEED MORE GRAIN

Mash Is Not So Important, Poultryman Says.

By C. S. PLATT, Professor of Poultry Husbandry, New Jersey College of Agriculture.—WNU Service.

When pullets are from 12 to 24 weeks old, it is best to feed them two or three times as much grain as mash because birds at this stage of growth require considerably less protein for good development than do younger birds.

This change in ration may be made easily, for if birds of this age are allowed free access to both grain and mash at all times, they will adjust their feeding habits to suit their needs.

Allowing pullets to make their own choice about the amount of mash and grain they eat, especially when they are from 12 to 24 weeks of age, has proven desirable from many standpoints. It encourages the development of normal body weight and good health, and it promotes normal egg production with the least number of pee-wee and pullet-size eggs. This method of feeding may be continued until egg production exceeds 50 per cent.

Too much mash in the ration caused by restricting the grain supply, makes a bird consume more protein than she needs with the result that the surplus quantity must be eliminated from her system. While heavy feeding of mash during the latter period of body development stimulates egg production earlier than when heavy grain feeding is practiced, the birds will produce small eggs for a longer period of time.

Change in Management Is Cure for Pullet-Picking

When prolapsus and cannibalism or pick-outs occur in poultry flocks, a change in management practices is usually in order, regardless of what the cause of the trouble may be, says J. C. Taylor, associate extension poultryman at the New Jersey College of Agriculture, Rutgers University.

In helping to overcome cannibalism, which is often a problem with new pullets that have just been housed, Mr. Taylor makes the following suggestions:

1. Provide four square feet of floor space for each bird.
2. Allow each bird two inches of hopper space.
3. Provide a deep litter of straw.
4. Feed some grain in the litter.
5. Darken the nests.

Should these changes in management fail to solve the problem, metal beaks, "specs" and shields are recommended. The beaks and "specs," however, are more effective than the shields.

Testing for Pullorum

There are several methods of testing birds for pullorum disease. In all cases the basic principle involved is the same as in the test for avian or bovine tuberculosis infectious abortion in cattle typhoid in humans etc. In the case of pullorum testing, says a writer in the Montreal Herald, the procedure is briefly this. A sample of blood of a bird is brought into contact with a standardized suspension of Salmonella Pullorum organisms in a saline solution. This liquid is called antigen. When antigen comes into contact either with the blood or serum of the infected bird a definite reaction takes place which can be easily observed by an experienced technician. If properly conducted the test is very effective in detecting the reactors, which should then be immediately culled out and sent to market.

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