

SERIAL STORY

MURDER IN CONVOY

BY A. W. O'BRIEN

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YESTERDAY, Lieutenant Rollins reacted to get better acquainted with the pretty nurse, Isadora, her name is Joan Davar. He became her partner in a bridge tournament aboard ship. Later they were introduced to the deck, meet Rollins' friend, Captain Tees, who is introduced by an orderly, told to report to the colonel's quarters at once. There he is told that Captain Tees has just been murdered.

LIEUTENANT ROLLINS LIES

CHAPTER V

THE COURT of Investigation got underway in "B" lounge at 9 o'clock the morning of Captain Tees' murder.

Colonel Stephenson himself presided and, upon his invitation, the tribunal was completed with Captain Vincent Murdoch, a former senior crown prosecutor of Toronto, and Lieutenant Harry Milroy, who had also been a lawyer.

Captain de Watt, medical officer, testified that he had been summoned to "A" deck about 3 o'clock that morning.

"I found Captain Tees lying just inside a door under a corridor light. I was informed by the orderly officer then on duty, Lieutenant Timmins, that he had found the captain on the deck. It was pitch black and due to black-out regulations he could not use his torch. They carried the captain inside and summoned me.

"It was almost immediately evident that Captain Tees was dead. The deceased had been stabbed in the throat. It was a strong plunge and . . .

Captain Murdoch interjected a query: "How did you establish the time of death?"

"Oh, pardon me," The M. O. lapsed from his dull professional monotone and displayed enthusiasm for the first time. "I had reported verbally to the colonel shortly after the body was discovered and forgot that you were not aware of the details. I arrived at the conclusion from two findings. In the first place there was an absence of post-mortem lividity.

"Please explain," interrupted Lieutenant Milroy.

"By post-mortem lividity I mean the ashen tint of death which would normally be evident in such a cold temperature within approximately four hours after death . . . Captain de Watt looked at Milroy who nodded.

"The absence of that lividity indicated that the deceased had died some time less than four hours before. My second finding was made after the orderly officer described the position of the body as he found it. The deceased was lying face down on the deck with his arms beneath him.

"I tested the armpits and found definite traces of warmth although the rest of the body was cold, quite cold. The armpit warmth, in view of the body's general coldness, told me the deceased had been dead quite some time less than four hours. The total absence of post-mortem lividity made the opinion definite. The stiffening would indicate about two hours. So, putting everything together, I can positively state that the murder must have occurred at or close to 1 o'clock—or two hours previous to my being summoned.

CAPTAIN DE WATT paused and looked at the three officers with a tinge of professional pride.

"Your conclusion seems entirely logical," commented the colonel. "Now did you, by any chance, think of testing the victim to determine whether he had been drinking?"

"Yes, Sir, I conducted a test shortly afterwards in the surgery of the ship's hospital . . .

"Please describe that test, Doctor."

Captain de Watt shifted his position and began to describe in minute detail the pathological tests he conducted to ascertain whether the victim had been drinking. Even some of the more seasoned officers in the room were forced to wince occasionally.

When he had finished his vivid description, the colonel inquired, "As a result of these tests, were you able to arrive at any definite conclusion?"

"Yes, Sir."

"What was that conclusion?"

"The deceased had positively not been intoxicated nor was there any evidence of his having taken any alcoholic drink for several hours previously."

Lance Corporal Slater, officer of the bayonet that had figured in the killing, told his story in forthright fashion. He had been on sentry duty on "A" deck until midnight. About 11:20 the ship's roll was sickening him, and he had taken off his overcoat, hanging his belt with scabbard and bayonet attached over the deck railing. In plain battle dress, he had walked to the fore end where the lashing spray seemed to help him. He stood there for about 30 minutes before returning to where he had left his equipment.

Then he noticed the bayonet was missing. Thinking it had slid across the deck into the trough by the rail, he went to look there, noticed, for the first time, a man's figure in the shadow of a lifeboat. The wind was howling loudly and apparently the man—hadn't noticed the sentry. Slater, on the other hand, figured he might have to explain the lost bayonet by admitting he hadn't been doing his full "rounds" and decided to let the bayonet go until first thing next morning.

LIEUTENANT GREGORY ROLLINS was haggard—his usual rip seemed to have gone from his step as he marched into the lounge and saluted the court.

"You were speaking to the late Captain Tees about 11:30 o'clock last night, right?" the tough colonel spoke with astonishing gentleness.

"Yes, Sir. I was getting a breath of air at the stern after playing in the bridge tournament and Captain Tees came along, jokingly asking whether I had ever heard of 'Lights Out.' We walked together to the nearest door and stood inside chatting for a couple of minutes before I left him . . .

"Pardon me, Mr. Rollins," Murdoch interrupted, "but were you standing in the shadow of a lifeboat?"

"No, Captain, I walked directly from the door to the open space of 'A' deck at the stern. And Captain Tees and I walked directly from the stern to the door."

Milroy dropped a question. "You were alone at the time Captain Tees found you?"

Rollins paused for a split second. "I was alone," he lied.

(To Be Continued)

As the nights grow longer that unhappy province of Germany which used to be called Italy will have its fair share (of air attacks).—Winston Churchill, British prime minister.

What goes up must come down—and every time taxes take a jump they land on the consumer's neck.

A 312-pound crystal of corundum, largest ever found, was mined in Macon county, N. C.

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"The absence of that lividity indicated that the deceased had died some time less than four hours before. My second finding was made after the orderly officer described the position of the body as he found it. The deceased was lying face down on the deck with his arms beneath him.

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GOULASH
WENATCHEE, Wash., (AP)—A truck turned over and spilled seven tins of peas—fresh frozen—onto the pavement. The highway department, resourceful in an emergency, trundled out its snow blow and saved the mushy mess—fast turning into soup under a 90-degree sun.

POWERFUL
Eight pounds of uranium contains enough atomic energy to drive the liner Queen Mary across the Atlantic, if the energy could be released by neutron bombardment.

As a matter of fact, I have never heard Lindbergh say a word for democracy itself. Has any one of you?—Secretary of the Interior Ickes.

★ POOLE'S
222 S. 7th
Headquarters for
BICYCLES
\$5 Down

- Baby Walkers
- Wagons
- Tricycles
- Lawn Mowers
- Sharpened. \$1

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



ANSWER: Sheep, goats and oxen do.

GREAT ACTRESS

HORIZONTAL

1, 6 Former popular actress.

10 Diminutive being.

12 Sheep's cry.

13 Sea call for help.

14 Not healthy.

16 Russian mountains.

18 Intelligence.

19 Coffeehouse.

21 Golf device.

23 God of love.

25 Time gone by.

28 And.

30 Head of a republic.

33 Musical term.

34 Grass.

36 Business men.

37 Gibbon.

38 Courtesy titles.

40 Swift.

41 Mathematical term.

42 Exultant.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

FLOYD BENNETT

1. Partial.

17 Sweet secretion.

20 To classify.

22 Without.

24 Slave.

26 Street (abbr.).

27 She stopped acting at the height of her.

29 Labor.

31 Fashionable assembly.

32 Actions.

33 Long tooth.

35 Sketched.

37 Climbing plant.

39 To tolerate.

41 Stimulates.

43 Watercrest.

45 Ketch.

47 Age.

49 Fish.

50 Neuter pronoun.

52 Doctor (abbr.).

VERTICAL

2 An assembly.

3 Not safe.

4 To suffice.

5 Movable apple.

6 Valuable property.

7 To maltreat.

8 Horse's neck hair.

9 Sorrowful.

11 Being.

13 As "Peter Pan" she achieved her



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OUT OUR WAY

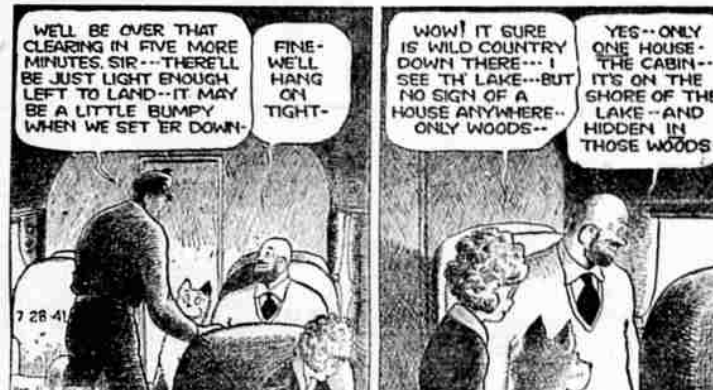
By J. R. Williams



RED RYDER



LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE



BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



WASH TUBBS



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



ALLEY OOP



OUR BOARDING HOUSE, with Major Hoople



By Fred Harman



By Harold Gray



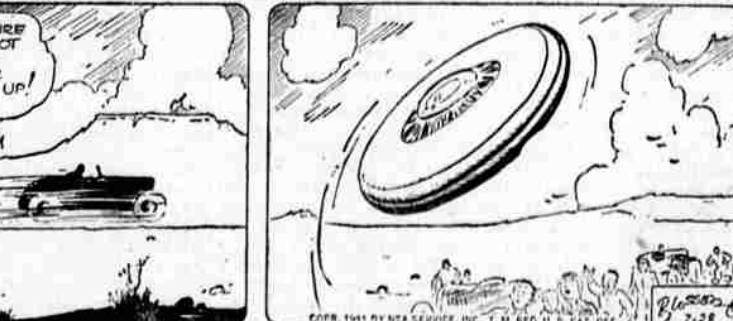
By Martin



By Crane



By Blosser



By V. T. Hamlin

