

SERIAL STORY

MURDER IN CONVOY

BY A. W. O'BRIEN

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YESTERDAY, Miley and Rollins go back to Greg's cabin where Miley insists on asking more questions about Greg's activities the night of the murder. He also inquires about Greg's interest in Joan Davaar. Greg contains himself until Miley makes an unpleasant suggestion about him and Joan, and then he attacks Miley. After fighting for a while, they call it quits. Miley apologizes for any implication he may have made. Greg sits alone for a long time after that, concluding that he alone knows about the mysterious light signals.

CAUGHT RED-HANDED

CHAPTER IX

EARLY afternoon of the next day found the convoy riding a heavy after-storm swell, but the sun was shining again and Gregory Rollins felt it was a happy omen. For the first time in what seemed ages he was cheerful. The old feeling of helplessness had been replaced by the quickening excitement that comes to a man on the verge of a dangerous adventure.

While directing a Bren gun crew in anti-aircraft drill atop the roof of the captain's bridge, Rollins studied the "A" deck immediately below him and mentally drew up a plan for that night.

Greg was a new man when he met Joan Davaar at the Officers' Dance that evening. He had mentally paraded every suspicion about her and found harmless explanations for everything. Besides, he felt that he had grown to know the girl—really know her—and if, for no other reason, the prospect of bagging the real murderer and clearing any possible suspicion from the girl's name held tremendous appeal.

It was a bit difficult dancing on the rolling floor, but holding Joan in his arms paid its own way. Joan squeezed his hand. "Do you plan to go to London—with all the bombing going on?"

"I plan"—he spoke deliberately—"to go wherever you'll be."

Joan's face lighted. "I've got it! We're due for a special gas course in a hospital on the outskirts of London. I understand we are to have most evenings free during the course. Perhaps I could meet you on the 11th night after landing at a little restaurant on Greek street in the Soho. I used to adore it... the name is 'Welcome Snail' and it fairly reeks of bygone centuries."

"Sold!" agreed Greg enthusiastically. "It's a date followed by the Palladium—if it's still on Oxford Circus..."

He paused abruptly. The regimental orchestra had started a "Lucky Spotlight" scheme whereby a pocket searchlight beam flitted around the dimly lighted lounge near the end of each dance and rested upon some nurse who was then permitted to suggest her favorite number for the next dance. The beam had rested directly on Joan's blond hair.

THERE was a blanket of moonless black over "A" deck and a growling nor'wester was roaring endlessly through the rigging. Salty spray bit into Rollins' eyes as he furtively watched the sentry shuffle along the slippery deck toward the stern. Quickly he slipped across to the lifeboat he had already selected, loosened a tarpaulin rope, and crawled under the canvas. The illuminated dial on his watch told him it was 12:25 p. m. He settled himself as comfortably as possible in the cramped quarters.

A dark figure slipped out and glued itself like a dark smudge against the deck wall for a minute. Then it moved like a cat to the rail.

From his inch of aperture between canvas and boat edge, Rollins saw brief light flashes. He waited no longer. . . . He flipped back the canvas with one hand and pulled out his service revolver with the other, but even as he vaulted from the lifeboat onto the deck he saw from a corner of his eye a second dark figure break from the shadow of an emergency raft and rush toward the other at the rail!

For the merest fraction of a moment his view was cut off by a section of the lifeboat. A revolver shot cut through the howling wind! Rollins streaked around the lifeboat. One of the figures was sprawled on the deck—the other bending over.

"Reach!" snarled Rollins, holding hands outward. In one was a small silver-plated revolver. Greg snatched it and wheeled the figure around.

It was Joan Davaar!

WITHOUT saying a word, he smelled the barrel of the silver-plated revolver. It had just been fired. He slipped it into a pocket and motioned for her to hand him the contents of the other hand. Silently, she gave him a small flashlight, curiously shaped. He pushed her aside and bent over the sprawled figure.

Even in the meager light, Rollins could see the face quite plainly. Lieutenant Harry Miley was very dead. The bullet must have hit him squarely in the forehead, and his features twisted into a crazy smile.

He gripped Joan by the arm and led her through the door. Inside, he spoke to her for the first time. "You are under arrest. Anything you say shall be held against you."

Joan's face was white. She didn't answer.

Colonel Stephenson listened attentively to Rollins' report, glancing frequently in the direction of the girl who sat with eyes on the carpet.

Colonel Stephenson turned to the girl.

"Did you kill Lieutenant Miley?"

She lifted her eyes to his. "Yes."

"Why?"

"I do not wish to answer at the present."

"Very well," commented the colonel. "Did you also kill Tees?"

Joan paused. "Confession to one killing should be sufficient for you."

The colonel grunted. "Undoubtedly it will be." He turned to Rollins. "You mentioned that your suspicion became definite tonight. Why?"

Rollins spoke without emotion. "I was going to put that in my

POOLE'S

222 S. 7th

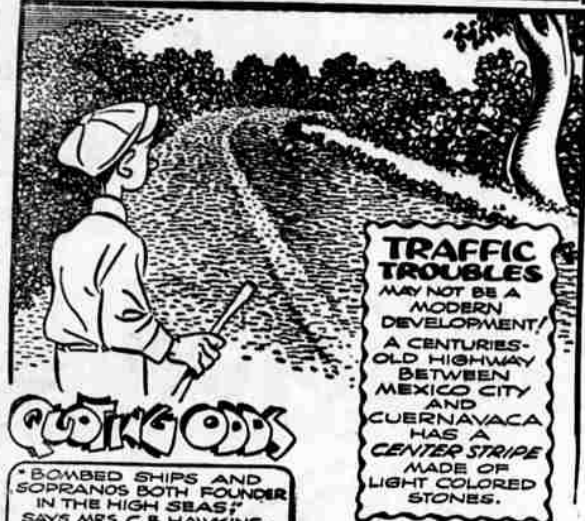
Headquarters for
BICYCLES

\$5 Down

- Baby Walkers
- Wagons
- Tricycles

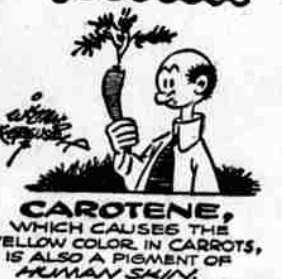
Lawn Mowers
Sharpened, \$1

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William
Ferguson

"BOMBED SHIPS AND SOPRANOS BOTH FOUNDER IN THE HIGH SEAS," SAYS MRS. C. B. HAWKINS, FOUNTAIN CITY, IND.

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CROWN PRINCESS

HORIZONTAL

1 Crown Princess of the Netherlands.

7 She formerly lived in.

13 To disarm.

14 Honey gatherer.

16 Viler.

17 Unit.

18 Pertaining to the cheek.

20 Tiny vegetable.

21 Fish.

22 Wanted.

23 Circle part.

25 New England (abbr.).

26 Morsel.

28 Therefore.

29 Celebrated.

30 Sound of pleasure.

32 Maltreated.

33 Tidings.

34 Insect's egg.

36 Upon.

37 Electrical unit.

39 Bird's home.

41 Credit (abbr.).

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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42 Diamond cutter's cup.

44 Rail transportation.

45 Period.

48 Thing.

51 Degree of scale.

52 In what way?

53 Goat antelope.

55 Senselessness.

58 She now lives in America in.

59 She has two young.

60 Musical note.

61 White.

62 Musical note.

63 White.

64 Musical note.

65 White.

66 Musical note.

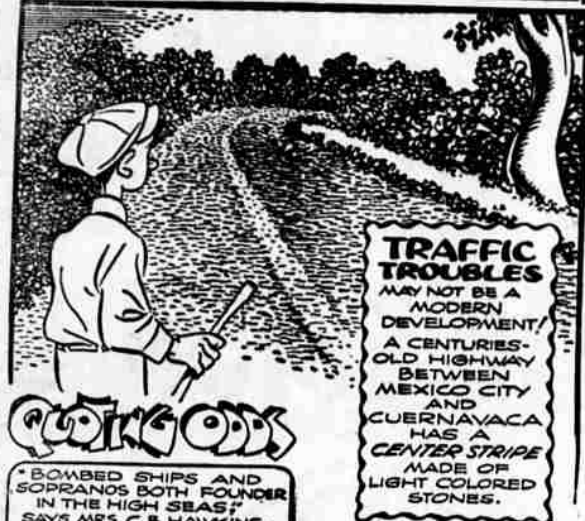
67 White.

No Torch Carrier



Winston Churchill does a good job of carrying the troubles of British Empire. But he can't seem to budge this Canadian Victory Loan torch, recently presented him.

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OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



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