

SERIAL STORY
SECRET VOYAGE
BY JOSEPH L. CHADWICK

YESTERDAY: The stranger of Jim Mallory's dream is still with him. He is a man of a quarter of a mile off. Curly had launched a small boat with one of the crew at the oars. Jim went over the side and stepped into the boat.

Hammond hailed him as his boat came alongside, then shook his hand as he stepped aboard. The man said, "Any luck, Mallory?"

"No luck at all," Jim said.

"Neither good nor bad," Hammond said.

Over Hammond's shoulder he saw Lois, darkly lovely, with excitement in her eyes. And beyond Lois he saw Mary Larsen. And that gave him a jolt. Mary met his gaze steadily, with laughter in her eyes.

(To Be Continued)

EMPTY HOLD

THE Aurora rode out a gale during the next three days. Jim made his second descent to the sunken ship when the sea calmed, and found that task had become more difficult.

Curly came down with him the following day. They began cutting huge holes in the hull. They were metal suits, with lines fastened to the Aurora's winches by a boom.

It was slow work, cutting through steel plates with torches, and they couldn't stay down long at a time. Finally Curly suggested they use dynamite to hasten the work. They planted the charge late that afternoon. They phoned the crew to hasten them to the surface then, and when they got out of their grotesque metal suits Jim set off the charge.

The water boiled as the blast went off, and the Aurora's hull gave a shudder. Bits of wreckage floated up.

Curly observed, "Now all we need is a bottom to put the ore in." And, as though in answer, one of the crew shouted, "Ship to starboard!"

Jim saw a ship, crawling like an insect across the horizon. He went to the chartroom and got binoculars. His face clouded as he examined the craft through the glasses.

He said, "It's that Cuban schooner, Curly. The one we met a couple of months ago, before we found the Sonora."

"And that means trouble, eh?" Curly asked.

"It's probably my careful-voiced friend," Jim kept watching the schooner. It was Diesel-engined, and it traveled fast. "It's keeping to its course, and it'll pass us by miles."

"It'll be back tonight, Spike. It'll be back. I'd suggest that you radio Coast Guard headquarters and let them know our position, just in case."

"No, not that. Hammond wanted this kept secret. We'll keep a double watch tonight. Whatever the play, it won't catch us napping."

He went to his cabin and took a revolver from the desk. He knew that Curly also had a gun, but the Aurora had no other arms. This wasn't a pleasant spot. Jim's face was darkly intent as he considered what might happen. He grew a little sore, thinking that he was about to be hijacked when his hands were all but tied.

THE more he thought about it, the more uneasy he became. He grew suspicious of Hammond. The man might have pulled a fast one on him. Hammond himself might have that schooner out, and Hammond might be back of the man with the careful voice and the careless money.

Jim thought a lot about that, during the night while he stood watch on the Aurora's bridge, but gradually Hammond's actions seemed less suspicious. The key was the girl, Mary Larsen.

She wasn't working with Hammond. Jim was sure she was in with the moneyed man. Jim's anger increased as he thought of Mary Larsen. She had tried to play him for a sucker; she was stringing along with that careful talker; she had fallen for Eric Forbes, was probably in New York now as his secretary. She wasn't worth being sore about, Jim tried to tell himself, but the trouble was he was in love with her.

"Which," he said aloud, "is one big laugh on me!"

The night passed without any visitors, and when the red sun came up over the horizon there was no sign of the schooner.

Curly went down to the Sonora at about eight o'clock. He reported over the phone that the dynamite charge had been efficient. They could easily salvage the manganese. He was going into the hold.

He was down an hour, then asked to be brought up. He was in a Trilian suit, so the winch brought him up without the pauses required by a rubber suit. The boom swung his huge, grotesque form onto the deck. Jim helped him out of the suit, and Curly's face wore a strained tight expression. He said nothing before the crew but jerked his head for Jim to follow him to the captain's cabin.

There, he said, "Spike, that forward hold is empty."

Enough had happened because of the Sonora that nothing more could be surprising. Jim Mallory's expression showed nothing.

"The after hold, then?"

"If the ore is there it's slim pickings. The Sonora is a small tub, and even a full cargo of manganese wouldn't have made you rich. Are you going to cut into the aft?"

"I'll tear the Sonora apart," Jim replied, "and if I don't get my money out of her I'll have a chat with Mr. Jeffrey Hammond."

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Red Bread Endangered



Swift German advances are enveloping the vast grainlands of Soviet Russia, whence comes the bread to feed her millions. Some grain has been harvested, but much is being burned in front of the Nazi advance. Map shows extent of grain areas in Russia.

MOVIE STAR

Answer to Previous Puzzle

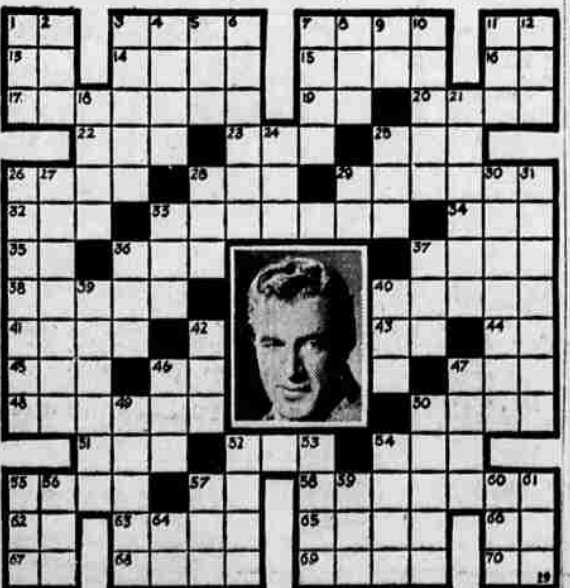
HORIZONTAL

1 Exclamation.
3 Rudder.
7 First name of 29 horizontal.
11 Exclamation.
13 Pronoun.
14 Medicinal plant.
15 Operatic solo.
16 Behold.
17 Ornament.
19 State (abbr.).
20 Retained.
22 Even (poet.).
23 The first woman.
25 Kind of dog (abbr.).
26 Molts.
28 Serpent.
29 Hero of "Sergeant York".
32 Leavings.
33 Talking birds.
34 Suffix.
35 Musical note.
36 Move back and forth.
37 Journey.
38 Either compound.
40 Belief.
41 Certain.
43 Forever.
44 Expression of hesitation.

VERTICAL

15 Prefix.
46 Iron.
47 Entomology (abbr.).
48 Hidden.
50 Used in baseball.
51 Bring forth young.
52 Call at sea.
54 Sloth (pl.).
55 Mohammedan judge.
57 Compass point.
58 Embers.
62 Birthplace of Abraham.
63 Purpose.
65 Term in poker.

11 Addition to a house.
12 Coal scuttle.
18 Et.
21 Nickname for N. Y. state.
24 Variant (abbr.).
25 Positive (abbr.).
26 Annoys.
27 Obliteration.
28 Sack.
29 Cent (abbr.).
30 Obvious.
31 Rumors.
33 Market value.
36 Tiny.
37 Attempt.
39 Secured with rope.
40 Rotating part.
42 Very black.
46 Marsh.
47 Relieve.
49 Elevate.
50 Waited.
52 Plant.
53 Blenish.
54 Against.
55 Drinking vessel.
56 Branch.
57 Used in winter in air.
59 Girl's name.
60 Beam.
61 Female saint (abbr.).
64 Article.



OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



OUR BOARDING HOUSE, with Major Hoople



RED RYDER



By Fred Harman



LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE



By Harold Gray



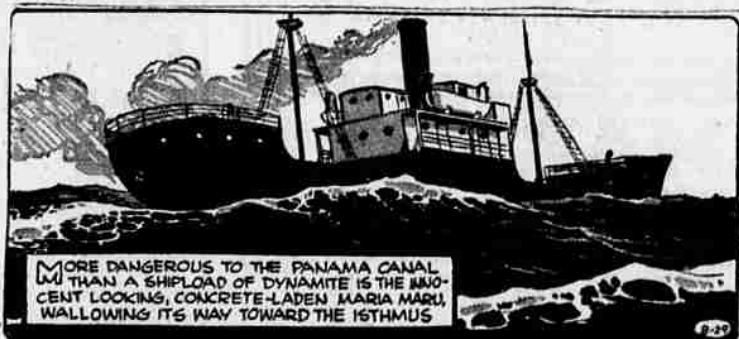
BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



By Martin



WASH TUBBS



By Crane



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



By Blosser



ALLEY OOP



By V. T. Hamlin

