

# Africa Waits

by Achmed Abdullah  
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THE STORY: Lincoln Elliot, American, decides to have one last fling at the frontier before settling down to his important duties as the newly-appointed military governor of a French colony in Central Africa. Disguising himself as the Arab, Terek el-Medjidi, he leaves on a derelict ship against the government. He detests the army, and kills him. On the way to Lake Tchad, he meets a caravan of Bedawins who seem afraid of him.

## THE DESERT

RASHID went on to say that he and his companions had left Mounetville quite early this morning. They had traveled fast, anxious to return to their tents. The reason for their haste?

It seemed that a servant at the governor's palace had overheard a telephone conversation shortly after midnight of the preceding day. A prominent foreign official had arrived by plane from Dakar. He had wished to speak to the governor, but the latter had been informed by one of the Christian captives—Pelletier was his jaw-breaking, alien name—that the sidi had left town and was not expected back for quite a while.

Where, precisely, was the governor? Why was he not at his post at such a crucial time?

Well—Pelletier had said—the matter was too confidential to be discussed over the telephone. He was sending a car over to the airport to fetch the other. Then he would explain. . . .

Lincoln smiled. There was the note which he had tossed through Pelletier's window; and the latter had needed time to figure out a plausible cause or, rather, a plausible lie for his chief's absence.

But, judging from what Rashid related, in the meanwhile, thanks to the servant who had overheard the telephone conversation and promptly spread the news, gossip had been rife, speedily, in spite of the late hour; and—added the Bedawin—it was being whispered that the governor had been either kidnapped or murdered.

"Thus, surely," Rashid continued, "soon, soon, the feringhee police will be searching the town. They will be like mad, frightened jackals—biting right and left—suspecting everybody—suspecting honest, simple men like ourselves—suspecting, chiefly, men like you, O derwish! Men who are alone, unknown, and who can show no cause for their coming and going."

"The more reason for taking me with you," replied the American.

THEY made one of the camels kneel down, unloaded its pack of salt and printed cotton and dried apricot paste, distributed it among the other animals, and helped Lincoln mount.

It had been a good many years since he had ridden one, and the first sensation was not altogether pleasant; with himself in the hard, peaked saddle, and the camel, grunting pessimistically through its large-pored, fleshy Semitic nose, still kneeling on the ground, its gawky legs folded under its belly, occasionally turning and eyeing him with haughty, snobbish malevolence.

Then there was Rashid's piercing yell: "Arise, yah bint—O daughter! Arise, O princess in Islam!"

And, when the camel did not obey:

"Wah! Arise, O grandmother of 17 exceedingly evil odors! Arise and on your way, O twin-sister to an Egyptian harem!"

He whacked it across its lean flank. The other two Bedawins lent enthusiastic assistance. They pushed and shoved and kicked, with more shouts and highly spiced imprecations.

The camel snarled and spat. But, at last, after an unsuccessful attempt to bite the American in the hip, it got up suddenly on its hind legs, almost shooting him over its swanlike neck, then on its front legs, almost precipitating him across its moth-eaten tail.

Rashid tossed Lincoln a pointed thorn stick.

"Use it," he advised, "nor sparingly! This beast is devoid of both decency and manners."

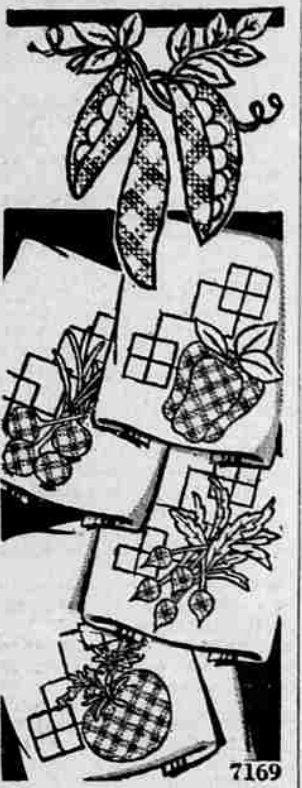
And so, stoutly belabored, the camel broke into the jambaz, the pacing, rolling gait which looks so slow and clumsy, but will, in the long run, outdistance anything on four feet.

A FEW hours later, the heart of the desert came to them with orange and purple, spawning its brittle eternities; with a carved aridity, an enormous, sterile monotony floating on vague horizons; with a profound, annihilating solitude and silence; with the formlessness of the illimitable.

It came with its sense that here was life, but never birth. It came with its desolate grandeur, its sublime austerities, its premonition of the disappearance of all existence from the face of the earth.

So insolently barren and naked it was. So completely lifeless.

## COLORFUL VEGETABLES FOR YOUR KITCHEN



by Alice Brooks

No, it's not quaint gingham applique . . . just easy outline and cross stitch to make your kitchen gay! One of the most charming ideas we know for your towels and other kitchen linens. Pattern 7169 contains a transfer pattern of six motifs averaging 6 1/2 by 7 1/2 inches; stitches; list of materials needed; color schemes.

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## HOLD EVERYTHING!



"I'm new in the Army—how's the grub here?"

Humanity and its endeavors—the four men trotting astride their shaggy mounts, the tinkle-tinkle of the camels' bells, the soft thud of the animals' padded feet, the creaking of the saddles—seemed like an intrusion, a trivial and futile challenge to the infinite, shivering wilderness.

The Bedawins felt it, as nomads do. They were bred to the sterile desert. They knew no other life; wished for no other life. Yet they hated it, feared it. And so they were brooding and morose; were silent.

So was the American. He was occupied with his reflections. More than ever was he convinced that he had chosen the right, indeed the only path: he must seek out the hykmoot ameez, the Man of Mystery, and kill him. (To Be Continued)

## FIRST LUNG SURGERY

First lung removal in the annals of surgery was performed by Dr. Everts Graham, at Barnes hospital, St. Louis, Mo., in 1933.

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## THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson

**THE PLANET NEPTUNE**  
HAS A YEAR THAT IS  
59,860 DAYS LONG!  
MERCURY'S YEAR  
IS ONLY 87 DAYS IN LENGTH.

**KITZKOR**  
SALLY BROWN SAID: "I MANAGED TO CAREFULLY SPLIT THE DOSE OF A PEACH. WHAT TWO THINGS DID SALLY SPLIT?"

**CENTURY PLANTS**  
(ASIAN AMERICA)  
USUALLY BLOOM WITHIN 15 TO 20 YEARS THEN DIE.



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ANSWER: An infinitive and a peach stone.

NEXT: Did the torpedo plane originate in this war?

## EGYPTIAN QUEEN

|                           |                       |                     |                  |                  |                        |                  |                  |                 |                  |                          |           |                      |                    |                   |                |                     |               |               |                               |                  |                  |                 |                    |                    |                     |                |          |                        |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------|------------------------|
| 1 Pictured queen          | 6 Her husband is King | 11 Indian mulberry  | 12 Short letter  | 14 Ago           | 15 Symbol for selenium | 16 Corded fabric | 18 Thoroughfares | 20 Writing tool | 21 Part of "be"  | 23 Not suitable          | 24 Toward | 25 Small oblong cake | 28 Electrical term | 30 One who gleans | 32 Circle part | 33 Biblical pronoun | 34 Possessive | 35 Heathenish | 38 Striped camel's hair cloth | 41 Bartens       |                  |                 |                    |                    |                     |                |          |                        |
| Answer to Previous Puzzle | 17 Wan                | 19 Babylonian deity | 20 Italian river | 22 Sheep's bleat | 25 She is queen of     | 26 Unclouded     | 27 Silly         | 29 Fragment     | 31 Sinbad's bird | 32 Collection of sayings | 36 Plucky | 37 Stir              | 38 Girl's name     | 40 Advantage      | 45 Wager       | 46 Near             | 47 Steamer    | 49 Upward     | 50 Not on                     | 51 English river | 52 Constellation | 53 Royal Marine | 54 Cookery utensil | 57 Symbol for iron | 58 Weight allowance | 59 Rough sport | 61 Exist | 62 Her oldest child is |

**Little Orphan Annie**

SUCH A BIG GIANT! LIKE IN DER CIRCUS—AND DO YOU DO TRICKS, MAYBE?

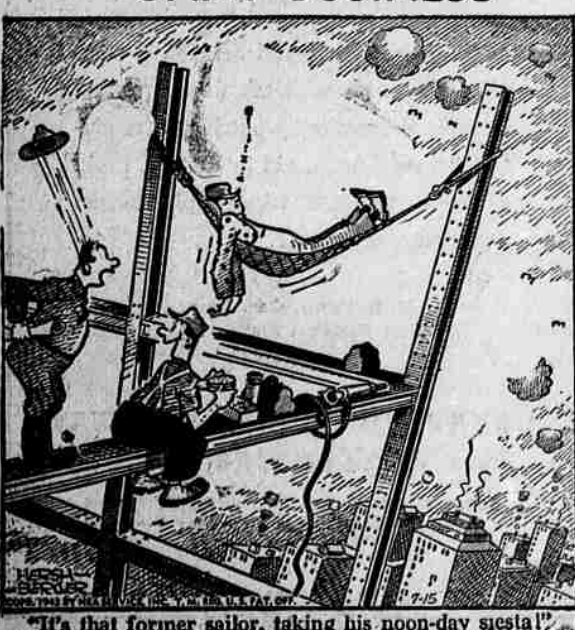
FROM MY FATHERS, I HAVE ACQUIRED SOME SMALL FEATS OF MAGIC—

GOOT! GOOT! PERHAPS YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO SHOW US SOME TRICKS, EH? TO PASS DER TIME—

I, PUKLAB, AM HAPPY TO PERFORM ONE FEAT OF MAGIC—IT REQUIRES ONE ADMIRAL—AND ONE MAGIC CAPE—THIS BLANKET WILL DO—

ADMIRAL SCHMIDT! YOU WILL ASSIST THE FAIRY! HO! HO! GATHER AROUND, POYS! THIS SHOULD BE GOOT!

## FUNNY BUSINESS



"It's that former sailor, taking his noon-day siesta!"

## Out Our Way

By J. R. Williams



## McKINLEY HONOR GUARD

United States marines guarded the body of President William McKinley, assassinated in 1901, while lying in state at Washington, D. C.

## CHRISTMAS "OUTLAWED"

The English Parliament passed an act forbidding Christmas observance in 1644 and some of the New England colonies adhered to the rule for a time.

## Our Boarding House

With Major Hoople



## Red Ryder

By Fred Harmon



## Freckles and His Friends

By Blosser



## Wash Tubbs

By Crow



## Boots and Her Buddies

By V. T. Hamlin



## Allep Oop

By Martin



## Little Orphan Annie

By Harold Gray

