

UNLOCKING ADVENTURE

By Charles Courtney

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Charles Courtney is the world's highest paid legal Jimmy Valentine. This is the true story of his many adventures unlocking safes around the earth and under the sea.

CHAPTER XVIII

RETURNING TO Bremen, I met Frederick Krupp, president of the great Krupp shipbuilding plant at Kiel; Johan George Stein, with whom he had worked out the Stein-Krupp method of submarine gold mining; Sir Basil Zaharoff; and several other international financiers who were interested in undersea hunting. Sir Basil invited several of us to spend a few days in Elaritz.

On the first night Sir Basil gave a dinner party for me. Around the table was a group of impressive, graying, sometimes paunchy financiers of many nationalities—Greek, Rumanian, French, German—and expensively gowned girls of as many races. Sir Basil was able to talk to each one of them fluently in his own language. My partner, a blond English girl in a scarlet dress, kept shaking her curls in my face like a feather duster as she chattered rapidly in a sort of cooing baby talk. Sir Basil was a good host. When he saw that I was more interested in talking to him than in squiring the blond, he produced a partner for Barbara.

As the evening wore on, we talked quietly. Sir Basil had a mobile dark face, the olive skin of the Levantine, I guessed, and a way of making every subject he touched upon sound like a colossal adventure.

Above the noise of the orchestra and the shuffle of feet, he talked about treasure hunting in the 17th century, when it was one of the world's major financial businesses for governments as well as private individuals. Gold hunters were licensed by the crown and called with a great hullabaloo.

"In this age when there is more treasure than ever on the coasts of the world's principal seaways," Sir Basil went on, "and modern engineering has made salvaging much more profitable, it is a business that is looked upon as a cross between piracy and pure speculation."

IN the morning, while his other guests were asleep, Sir Basil and I had breakfast on a terrace overlooking the Mediterranean. He told me that Prince Oskar of Hohenzollern, who had a palace at Kiel, wanted me to open a safe which had remained closed since the death of his father, Prince Heinrich, in 1918. But before I returned to Bremen he wanted to engage me for a salvaging venture for next season.

In confidence, he told me that a syndicate of which he was a member had discovered the wreck of H. M. S. Hampshire, the British cruiser that went down off the Orkneys in 1916 while it was carrying Lord Kitchener and about 1000 men to some unknown rendezvous. It was never acknowledged by the Admiralty and was known to but few people. The Hampshire was carrying not only the war lord but \$2,000,000 of gold to Russia to bolster up the czar's waning army. That gold was what they were after—\$10,000,000 in bullion of the Bank of England. Already a sand sucker was at work digging at the eight feet of sand that buried part of the wreck, and the salvaging could begin in the spring as soon as the weather permitted.

Sir Basil's brown eyes grew darker and brighter as he talked, and the color flushed his cheeks. He was so persuasive that he fired me with excitement. At first, I said that I would make up my mind and let him know, but before we had finished a second cup of coffee, I had promised that I would join.

All the way to Bremen, then to Kiel, my mind was assailed with doubts, and, as if to shake my confidence still further, I noticed that I was being followed by secret service men.

WHEN I reached Kiel and presented myself at the palace, I was taken to a dungeon-like basement where Prince Oskar and a group of men were waiting for me, all of them in opera capes, tall hats, and masks. I wondered why all the drama. Disliking to work with these masked men at my back, I insisted that we have a city official present and waited until the prince telephoned for a

member of the police. The safe was concealed behind packing cases. After they were pulled away, I found that the safe was a familiar American make and comparatively easy to open but, out of perversity, I took a long time at it, enjoying the impatience of the masked witnesses.

When I pulled back the door, I stepped away and did not see what was inside. However, Prince Oskar was so pleased that he took from his finger a diamond ring and presented it to me, the ring which I wear today. He also gave me seven old Gothic keys from the palace.

Returning to Bremen, I talked again with Sir Basil, who would listen to none of my misgivings. He promised that the salvaging equipment would be the best obtainable and the plans so carefully laid that there was practically no chance of failure. Two internationally famous divers were working out preliminary details already and would get in touch with me. The fee was staggering.

Having committed myself to join one of the greatest treasure hunts of modern times, I took a North German Lloyd liner for New York. As Sir Basil said, the thought of it did undoubtedly quicken the pulse, but my doubts were so lively that I did not tell my wife and daughter.

(To Be Continued)

(From the book of the same name written in collaboration with Thomas M. Johnson and published by Whittlesley House, New York City.)

RAG DOLL TWINS



7627

Their chubby little cheeks make them look plump all over. Yet, only the head is in three pieces... the body is made of but two. Your useless scraps become the stylish clothes. Patterns for these, also, are included. Remember, every little girl "wants twins"! Pattern 7627 contains a transfer pattern of doll and clothes; instructions.

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Paddle your own canoe and it goes farther. Doing the same with your own kids often has the same effect.

FUNNY BUSINESS



"He's always mulling two-minute eggs, so I had a sure-shot timer rigged up!"

SOUND SLEEPER
NEW YORK, (AP)—Passengers waiting on the platform of the 14th street subway station gulped when they saw a man's body lying between two tracks, trains whizzing by within a few inches of either side.

Several men stopped the next train and jumped to the tracks to investigate.

They found Max Rydcwaki, 59, snoring blissfully — unhurt except for a minor bruise or two. He was sent to Columbus hospital to finish his nap.

CANCER VS. WAR
Cancer, during the past 15 years, has taken a greater toll of human life than have 15 years of major wars in which the United States engaged. Toll of the wars has been 244,357; that of cancer 2,250,000 deaths.

Whalebone once sold for \$10,000 a ton.

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THIS CURIOUS WORLD



SOME OF THE LARGEST KNOWN METEORITES FALL TO EARTH WITHOUT EVEN BURNING THEMSELVES! METEORS APPROACHING THE EARTH FROM BEHIND AS IT SPEEDS THROUGH SPACE STRIKE WITH DIMINISHED FORCE.

PENICILLIN, THE NEW RIVAL OF THE SULFA DRUGS, STILL COSTS ABOUT \$60 PER GRAM TO PRODUCE, BUT THE FIRST GRAM PRODUCED IN THE U.S. COST \$6,000.

ANSWER: New York City.

NEXT: How winter shortens rail distances.

GREAT LAKE

HORIZONTAL

1,5 Depicted body of water

10 Dishhearten

11 Fanciful

13 Man's name

14 Blackbird

15 Vegetable

17 Sustain

18 Tapped lightly

21 Near

22 Even (poet.)

23 Born

25 Pull

27 God

28 Doctor (abbr.)

29 Radix (abbr.)

30 Insect

31 Swimming bird

34 Weight

37 An

39 Short-napped fabric

40 Exclamation

42 Improves

44 Norse god

45 Affirmative

47 Footlike part

48 Idolize

49 Regular

52 Color

53 Quiet

54 Narrative

VERTICAL

1 Drinks made of lemons

2 On the summit

3 Cognizance

4 Symbol for erbium

5 Seek

Our Boarding House

With Major Hoopie



THE MUD BANKS



PREPARE FOR CRASH LANDING

Hold Everything!



"Is the lady of the house in?"

Red Ryder



Freckles and His Friends



Wash Tubbs



Boots and Her Buddies



Allep Oop



Little Orphan Annie

