

Errand for Q-74

By Malcolm Taylor

THE STORY: Capt. Raymond Imhof, U. S. Army Intelligence, is about to parachute into German territory from an RAF observation plane when there is a cascade of tracer bullets and Pilot Officer Danforth slumps over the wheel.

WHAT WENT BEFORE

CHAPTER III
THE secret mission on which Imhof had been bound was one that came into his cognizance for the first time only a week earlier. On that day he, as everyone else at the U. S. Intelligence Headquarters in England, had perceived that something important was in the wind. The offices of the higher-ups had buzzed with activity. There were lengthy conferences of the chiefs, the code experts were called in, heads were laid together. Finally things settled down and Imhof was summoned to Colonel Halleck's room.

"We've received a message from Enzell," the latter said, going to the heart of matters without preface. Imhof pricked up his ears. Enzell was Q-49 and, since Hitler came to power, had been the department's most reliable source of secret information about the Nazis, his data, however surprising, always proving accurate. Imhof had met him once, just before the war began, during one of the latter's rare departures from Germany, and had been deeply impressed by the man at their interview.

"Enzell needs help," the colonel went on, "and we're sending you." Imhof looked his satisfaction. It was the reaction the colonel had expected. He had a great deal of confidence in Imhof, who as Q-74 had done some excellent work under difficult conditions. He had proved himself to be a man of daring and resource. He was in love with his work and had a native talent for it. He knew Germany and the Germans more than well, and he spoke the language, including several of the dialects, like a native.

"I can't tell you much about this job," Colonel Halleck explained. "We only know what little Enzell says in his message. Here's a copy of it, decoded."

Imhof reached for the slip of paper and glanced at the typewritten words:
GOT IMPORTANT STUFF CANT DELIVER. GESTAPO AFTER ME. FORCED PARK DOPE. RUSH MAN GET IT. LEAD IN LETTER ADDRESSED HANS ZELLEN, POSTE RESTANTE, BOPPARD, Q-49.

"Important, eh?" said Imhof. "It would be if Enzell said so. 'How did this come, sir?' 'That's one of the things I don't altogether like about it,' Colonel Halleck replied. 'Radio—from Cats and Van Kleeft in Holland. The whole thing may turn out to be a plant, a trap. You've got to be prepared for that.' 'You mean, sir, that Station Free Holland 2 may now be under Nazi management?' 'Exactly. But we'll have to take our chances. In any case, you're to get to Germany fast. Submarine to the Dutch coast is out—take you too long to reach that letter. We'll have to drop you by night somewhere in the Rhine-land close to the thing. Any ideas?' 'Yes, sir," said Imhof eagerly, and proceeded to describe the plan that had brought him so near his goal, only to leave him, at the supreme moment, plummeting down toward destruction.

"When I've landed," Imhof wound up, "I mingle unobtrusively with the stream of refugees that will be piling out of the bombed area. Everything will be panic and confusion. The setup will be ideal for my purpose. I ought to reach Boppard in short order. It's not far from Coblenz." "I think it's a good scheme," Colonel Halleck approved, after a moment's reflection. "I'll see if I can put it through."

The very next day, Imhof was called in again. "I've got news for you," was Colonel Halleck's greeting. "The RAF is raiding Coblenz with several hundred bombers the night after tomorrow, weather permitting."

"Coblenz!" Imhof exclaimed. "What luck! I'll be able to land within a few miles of Boppard."

"They're lending us a long-range observation plane," the other resumed, "together with a pilot from the Night Fighter Command. Name of—" he consulted memoranda—"Danforth, Patrick Danforth."

"The plan," he's to fly for you," Halleck continued, "is at Stansbury. That's in Kent, too. The RAF will let you know the hour and minute of your takeoff. Here are your instructions."

He checked the papers and gave them to Imhof, who inspected them curiously a moment and then pocketed them. "As soon as you've got Enzell's stuff," the colonel went on, "tactically taking Imhof's success for granted, I guess you'd better duck over the Swiss border and give it to our Minister there for transmission. But that's not an order. You're free to do what you think best."

"This Danforth—" put in Imhof, "backtracking a bit before the colonel's rapid progress from theory to accomplishment."

"Danforth, yes..." took up the officer. "He has a pretty fair idea of what he has to do—but you'll want to go over things carefully with him yourself. He's stationed at Skipford. That's in Kent, about an hour from London. Here's the address."

"I'll go and see him this afternoon," said Imhof.

"Good," said the colonel. He stood up, shook hands with Imhof, and the interview was over. (To Be Continued)

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WINE WISDOM

Dry wines are those which contain little or no sugar, and fortified wines are those in which the proportion of alcohol and sugar is higher.

FUNNY BUSINESS



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Pickled pigs' feet is a traditional gift to women who have been visited by the stork in China. Being rich in calcium, needed before and after childbirth, the gift is a practical one.

BARRELS OF FUN
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FLORA AND FAUNA
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THIS CURIOUS WORLD



Leonardo da VINCI DREW PLANS FOR A HELICOPTER MORE THAN FOUR CENTURIES AGO!

QUIDING ODDS
A SWARM OF BEES HELD UP A BRITISH FLIGHT MISSION WHEN THEY SETTLED INSIDE A BOMBING PLANE.

WE SOMETIMES FILL PILLOWS UP WITH DOWN? Says MARY CHICCARIELLO, Pittsburgh, Penna.

NEXT: Does sagebrush indicate a barren soil?

SCREEN STAR

HORIZONTAL

- 1 Pictured character actor.
- 9 Males
- 10 Short letter.
- 11 Mineral rock
- 13 Small body of water
- 14 Transpose (abbr.)
- 15 Dwindle
- 17 Long stick
- 18 Fish eggs
- 19 Tellurium
- 21 Sacred Theologian Doctor (abbr.)
- 22 Either
- 23 Samaritan (symbol)
- 24 Tantalum (symbol)
- 26 Electrical engineer (abbr.)
- 27 Hymn
- 29 Seed of oak tree
- 31 Long Island (abbr.)
- 32 Palm lily
- 33 Burdens
- 36 Bends
- 39 Epistle (abbr.)
- 40 East Indies (abbr.)
- 41 Railroad (abbr.)
- 42 Rhode Island (abbr.)
- 43 Turkish hat
- 45 Music note
- 47 Attempt
- 49 Sailor
- 50 Journey
- 51 One (Scott.)
- 53 Os

VERTICAL

- 2 Loan
- 2 Finish
- 3 To the inside
- 4 Painful
- 5 Street (abbr.)
- 6 Canvas shelter
- 7 At present
- 8 Ages
- 9 Natives of Morocco
- 12 Come in
- 13 Support
- 16 Paradise
- 18 Male sheep
- 20 Greek letter
- 23 Slip
- 25 He is a favorite
- 28 Winglike part
- 30 Lubricant
- 32 Departed
- 34 Musical drama
- 35 Title of respect
- 36 Cook in fats
- 37 Consumed liquid
- 38 Father
- 44 Metal
- 45 Always
- 47 Soft mineral
- 48 Relax
- 49 Throw
- 51 Exclamation of disgust
- 53 Prevent
- 56 Each (abbr.)

Out Our Way



THE CAT AND MICE



HOLD EVERYTHING!



THIS CURIOUS WORLD



WINE WISDOM



FUNNY BUSINESS

By J. R. Williams



THE CAT AND MICE



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WINE WISDOM



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Our Boarding House



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WINE WISDOM



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With Major Hoopla



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WINE WISDOM



FUNNY BUSINESS

Red Ryder



Red Ryder



Red Ryder



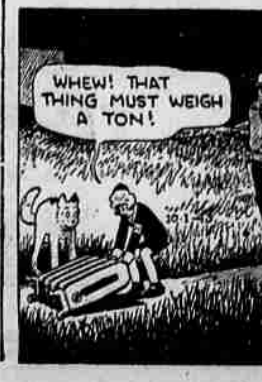
Red Ryder



Red Ryder



Red Ryder



Red Ryder

Freckles and His Friends



Freckles and His Friends



Freckles and His Friends



Freckles and His Friends



Freckles and His Friends



Freckles and His Friends



Freckles and His Friends

Wash Tubbs



Wash Tubbs



Wash Tubbs



Wash Tubbs



Wash Tubbs



Wash Tubbs



Wash Tubbs

Boots and Her Buddies



Boots and Her Buddies



Boots and Her Buddies



Boots and Her Buddies



Boots and Her Buddies



Boots and Her Buddies



Boots and Her Buddies

Little Orphan Annie



Little Orphan Annie



Little Orphan Annie



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