

Errand for Q-74

By Malcolm Taylor

THE STORY: Capt. Raymond Imhof, Q-74, U. S. Army intelligence, has been assigned to follow down-river of the Mississippi, leading to certain important information which would be of great value to the U. S. Army. Imhof is to be in the area of the Mississippi River, leading to certain important information which would be of great value to the U. S. Army.

DANFORTH CHAPTER IV

Imhof lost no time in going to Skipford, where he found Danforth in the pilot's quarters. As they talked Imhof carefully sized up his partner in the coming venture. So much would depend on his pilot's character and ability that, at first, Imhof had experienced some misgivings on account of Danforth's undeniable youth. But the feeling soon passed. Imhof was a good judge of men and Danforth impressed him as being unusually steady, reliable and mature for his years. The pilot possessed courage and ability, his record amply showed. But Imhof sensed the presence of two other qualities— even more valuable in his purposes—qualities that were largely responsible for Danforth's piling up that record: coolness and the gift of making split-second decisions, and making them right.

"I hope you don't mind being assigned to do this job for me," he remarked as they concluded their conference. They had risen and Imhof looked down at the pilot. For Danforth was short— Imhof towered over him by a full head. He was also small-boned, slight of build and slender. The little wiry kind, mostly whiskered and grumpy, Imhof judged, and quick. All Danforth's movements were swift—and unerring, as those Nazi planes on record had discovered.

"Mind!" Danforth's tone left no doubt of his surprise. "I wouldn't miss it for anything. I've never been over enemy territory at night. I've never seen our bombers put on a show—only the Nazis putting on their shows here. I'm awfully lucky to get the job. Probably only did because I used to fly the type of plane they're giving you. Everybody here would envy me the job if they knew of it. Hope I'm up to handling it."

"I'm not worried," smiled Imhof. "I'll do my very best," said Danforth earnestly. "I must say, though," he added inconspicuously, with a wondering glance at Imhof, "you've got plenty of nerve. I shouldn't like to land in Germany, I can tell you."

"It's a risk you'll be running yourself," Imhof pointed out. Imhof chafed miserably when the weather proved unfavorable. But presently conditions improved and he impatiently awaited word that he would be taking off. A Stansbury at 9 sharp the following evening.

He had long completed all preparations. His parachute had been dyed black, he had received his issue of flying clothes and equipment, he had studied maps and gone over his plans again and again. He could scarcely wait to get to Stansbury, where he arrived in good time. His pass gained him admission to the field and he reported to the C. O.

"Nonsense!" said the latter, when Imhof spoke of dining at the inn in Stansbury. "Nonsense! You'll dine here in the mess with us. Much better pack in a good meal. It's the last you'll have till you return from Germany. And you wouldn't get a square feed at the inn, with all this rationing. Pilot Officer Danforth from Skipford will probably be with us, too."

But by 8 o'clock, when the mess was over, Danforth had failed to put in an appearance. "The fellow's better show up if he wants to eat before the takeoff—unless he's stopped to feed on the way," remarked the C. O.

At 8:15 there was still no Danforth. "He ought to be here any minute now," the C. O. frowned. "If he doesn't, I'll telephone Skipford."

Representing his anxiety, Imhof went to change into flying gear. In a minute or two the C. O. reported having telephoned to Skipford, where they said that Danforth had left on his motorcycle after tea.

"It's only a run of 45 minutes or so," said the C. O. with a worried look. "He ought to have made it long ago. I hope nothing's happened to him on the road."

Imhof rapidly completed changing into flying kit and began shuttling back and forth nervously between the waiting plane and the office of the C. O., who was now telephoning urgently to Skipford for another pilot.

Skipford was willing to send another man, by plane, if Stansbury would get the necessary authorization.

"Can't you let me have one of your men here?" Imhof pleaded. "None of them's done any night flying," the C. O. answered. "If I let you have one, it wouldn't do you any good. And I haven't the authority, either."

He took up the telephone to call headquarters. Imhof resolutely kept cool. The situation, he told himself, was not hopeless yet. If he could get a pilot, he could still go with one of the later waves of bombers. He had given up hope of Danforth, to whom something serious must have happened. Otherwise he would certainly have sent some word.

As the hands of the clock crept on toward 9, a motorcycle roared up outside and braked to a rapid halt. A small, slender shape in the uniform of an RAF pilot officer burst into the building, carrying a bag, passed by like a projectile with a breathless "Be with you in a jiffy," and shot out towards the dressing rooms.

"Danforth!" Imhof cried.

(To Be Continued)

KITCHEN GAIETY



Does your kitchen morale need a lift? Then embroider these laugh-provoking happy bluebird towels for your rack. Match their colors to your decorative scheme. "Quick" is the word for the time you'll take with this easy stitchery. Pattern 7492 contains a transfer pattern of 6 motifs averaging 5 1/2 x 7 1/2 inches; stitches; list of materials needed.

To obtain this pattern send 11 cents in coin to The Herald and News, Household Arts Dept., Klamath Falls. Do not send this pattern, but keep it and the number for reference. Be sure to wrap coin securely, as a loose coin often slips out of the envelope. Requests for patterns should read, "Send pattern No. _____ to _____ followed by your name and address."

Because of the slowness of the mails, delivery of Herald and News Household Arts patterns may take two weeks to reach you after your order is mailed in. We're sorry.

RATIONED LOBSTERS
Lobsters once were used as fertilizer in Gaspe, Quebec, Canada, but now are so scarce that fishermen are permitted to catch them only during June and July.

FUNNY BUSINESS



"We're on our way to start an account at the Second National, Officer!"

'Baby' Bonds



It'll take twice as many war bonds to fill that safety deposit box now. New paper-conserving war bond certificates, rolling off government printing presses to meet increasing orders in Third War Loan Drive, are just half their former size.

REFORM ADMINISTRATION

PHOENIX, (P)—A 17-year-old youth charged with disorderly conduct was taken before Juvenile Court Judge Harold R. Scoville.

"Get him a GI haircut," the jurist ordered. Tonsured army style, the defendant made his second trip to court.

Said Judge Scoville: "Now shed the zoot suit and see if you can hold down a job!"

INDIFFERENCE

LOS ANGELES, (P)—J. B. Church, service station operator, is especially busy these days because of the manpower shortage. Two gunmen entered his station, he told police, but he continued arranging his stock. They insisted it was a hold-up, but he ignored them.

"Aw nuts," one of the gunmen said—and they departed.

If you want to sell it—phone The Herald and News "want-ads," 3124.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



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KWZKORER



IF THE ARMY TURNS YOU DOWN BECAUSE OF HYPEROPIA, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

ANSWER: You're farsighted.

NEXT: Why we can't afford to waste gasoline.

NAVAL AIR UNIT INSIGNE

HORIZONTAL

- 1 Depicted in insignia of Squadron 3, U. S. naval aviation
- 2 Highest village in Indiana
- 3 Incursionist
- 4 Sulted
- 5 English account money
- 6 Spread
- 7 Two (Roman)
- 8 Steamship (abbr.)
- 9 Opera (abbr.)
- 10 Music note
- 11 Perceive
- 12 English statesman
- 13 Assent
- 14 Horses' gaits
- 15 Area measure
- 16 Symbol for acetyl
- 17 Babbie
- 18 Parent
- 19 Asiatic plant
- 20 Interpreter
- 21 Melody
- 22 Animal
- 23 Deponent (abbr.)
- 24 Fish eggs
- 25 Tierce (abbr.)
- 26 John (Gaelic)
- 27 Color
- 28 Hawaiian wreath
- 29 Ridge of mountains
- 30 Burles
- 31 City in Indiana
- 32 This — is part of the

VERTICAL

- 1 Russian vehicle
- 2 Rowing
- 3 Narrow inlet
- 4 Paid (abbr.)
- 5 Lamprays
- 6 Doctor (abbr.)
- 7 Symbol for
- 8 Pertaining to aircraft
- 9 Red Cross (abbr.)
- 10 Pillar
- 11 Egg dish
- 12 Cars
- 13 Perspired
- 14 Cotton fabric
- 15 Either
- 16 Perform
- 17 Before
- 18 Sailor
- 19 Commend
- 20 Opposed to wholesale
- 21 Paid notice
- 22 Missouri (abbr.)
- 23 Any
- 24 Belonging to me
- 25 Resident physician of hospital
- 26 Inland duty
- 27 Advantage
- 28 Body part
- 29 Fire (comb. form)
- 30 Possesses
- 31 Novel
- 32 Lower limb
- 33 Universal language
- 34 Palm lily

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Hold Everything!



"The boss sure is proud of his son in the Army!"

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Red Ryder

By Fred Harmon



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Freckles and His Friends

By Blosser

COPE, 1943 BY NEA SERVICE, INC. T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

Wash Tubbs

By Crane

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Boots and Mer Buddies

By V. T. Hamlin

COPE, 1943 BY NEA SERVICE, INC. T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

Allep Oop

By Martin

COPE, 1943 BY NEA SERVICE, INC. T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

Little Orphan Annie

By Harold Gray

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Our Boarding House

With Major Hoopla

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Out Our Way

By J. R. Williams

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THE 'EXPERT'

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EVERYBODY HAPPY

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