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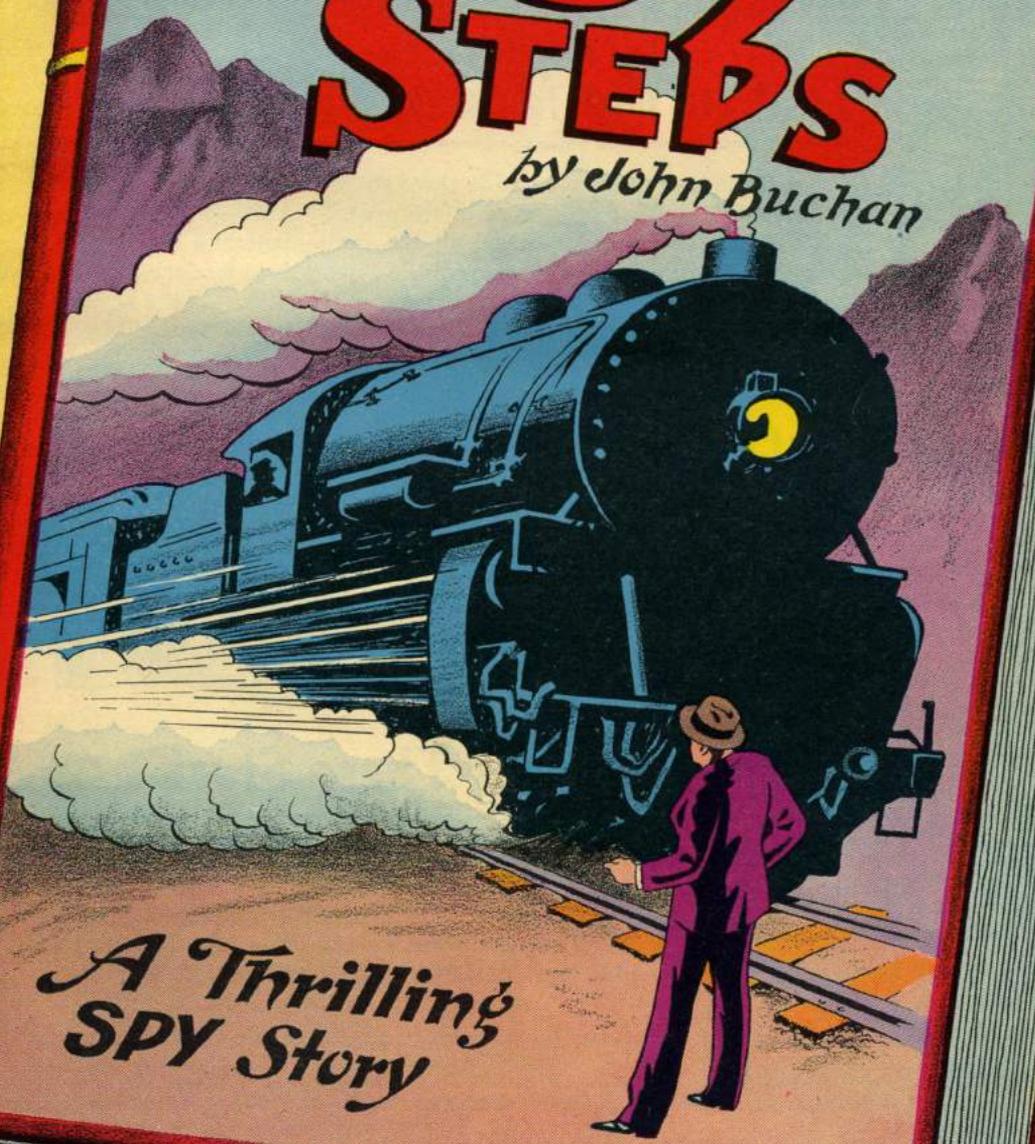
A TREASURY OF
CELEBRATED LITERATURE

NO. 4

10¢

The 39 STEPS

by John Buchan



A Thrilling
SPY Story

Why You'll Enjoy Stories

By FAMOUS AUTHORS ILLUSTRATED

Every Story a Masterpiece

Have you ever thought why certain books are read and re-read by countless millions — why every new generation discovers them all over again — why these stories are made as movies, not once but many times? Isn't it because these stories are really great stories—great enough to thrill you as they have so many others. In **FAMOUS AUTHORS ILLUSTRATED** you'll find only stories that are the imperishables of literature, stories that have stood the severest test of all—the test of time.



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FAST FICTION

The 39 Steps

by John Buchan



**THE WORLD IS UNDER
ATTACK! INTERNATIONAL
SPIES-KILLERS- PLOT TO
STEAL MILITARY SECRETS!
NATIONS WILL FALL! THEN
THE GREAT SPY RING PLANS
TO RULE THE WORLD!**

*Story Adaptation
by Dick Davis
Illustrated by Jim Lavery*

FAST FICTION

LONDON... THE TIME NOW!
RICHARD HANNAY, WAR HERO
AND SOUTH AFRICAN MINING
ENGINEER, IN LONDON FOR A
VACATION...

HOW BORED
I AM, NOW THAT
THE WAR IS
OVER.

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, OFF THE COAST
OF ENGLAND, TWO DANGEROUS MEN ARE
PREPARING TO LAND... INTERNATIONAL
SPIES WHO CLAIM NO COUNTRY AS THEIR
OWN AND DO THEIR DIRTY WORK FOR THE
HIGHEST BIDDER.

WILL YOU SUCCEED IN
YOUR MISSION, CLOCK?

MY MISSION IS THE BETRAYAL
AND DESTRUCTION OF
ENGLAND.--LET NO
FOOL STAND IN MY
WAY!

KELTZ--
GUNMAN AND
KNIFE HANDLER
FOR CLOCK.

SIDNEY CLOCK--
MASTER SPY OF
EUROPE.

WE MUST KILL THE CHAP WHO
STUMBLED ONTO OUR PLANS.

THE MAN WHO LIVES AT
2 REGENT PARK ROAD?
THE BUMBLING FOOL! HE
MUST DIE TONIGHT.

LATER
THAT EVENING,
HANNAY LEAVES
THE OPERA.

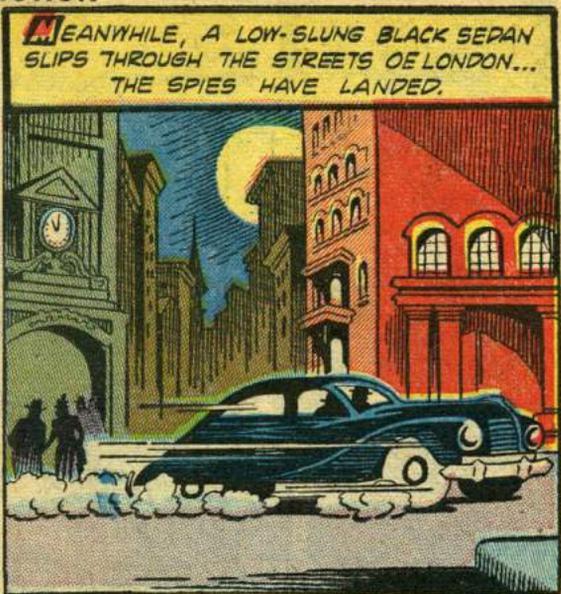
DRIVE TO MY
APARTMENT--
2 REGENT PARK
ROAD.

TAXI

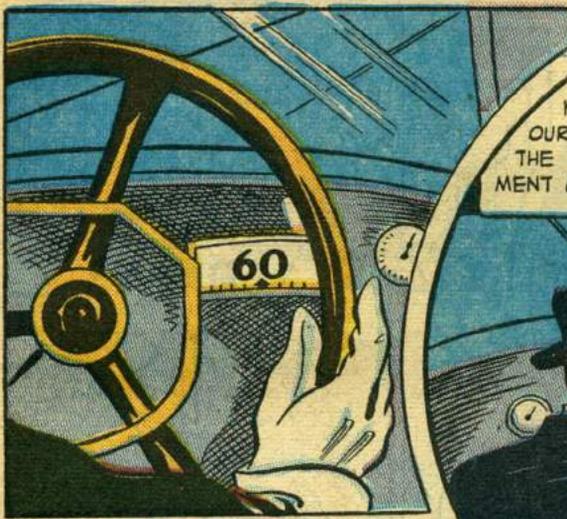


ANYTHING EXCITING EVER HAPPEN IN LONDON?

PRETTY DULL SINCE THE WAR, SIR. EXCEPT NOW AND THEN WE HAVE A MURDER!



MEANYWHILE, A LOW-SLUNG BLACK SEDAN SLIPS THROUGH THE STREETS OF LONDON... THE SPIES HAVE LANDED.

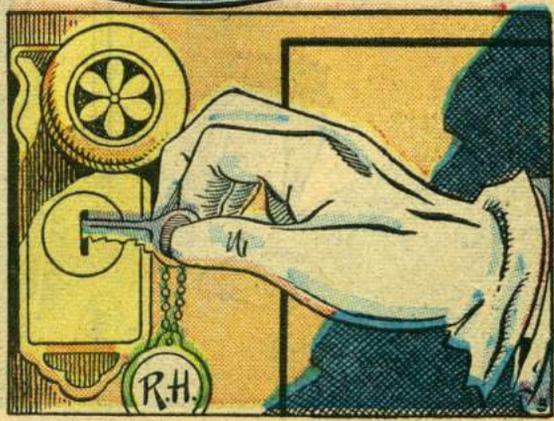


NO ONE SUSPECTS OUR PLANS EXCEPT THE FOOL IN THE APARTMENT ON REGENT PARK ROAD.

HE MUST DIE WITHIN THE HOUR!

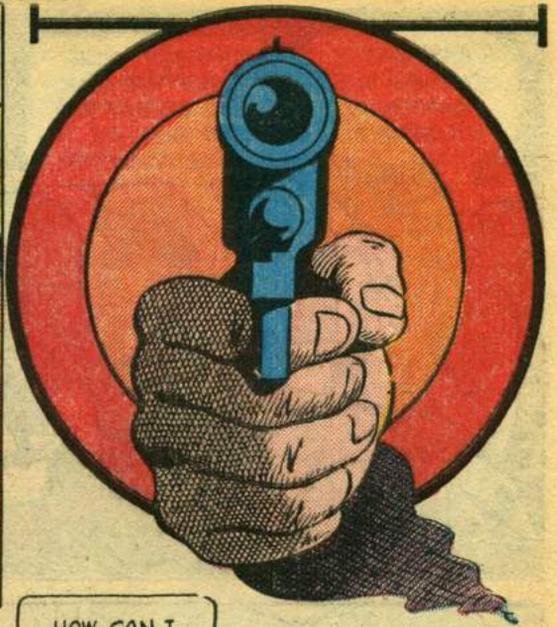


THIS PLACE IS AS QUIET AS THE GRAVE.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY APARTMENT?

REACH FOR THE CLOUDS, HANNAY! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!



FRANK SCUDDER IS THE NAME-- AMERICAN CITIZEN! I'VE STUMBLED ACROSS SOME TOP-SECRET MILITARY INFORMATION-- AND I NEED YOUR HELP.

HOW CAN I TRUST A MAN WHO THREATENS ME WITH A LUGER?

I CAN'T TAKE CHANCES. MY LIFE IS IN DANGER! AND I CAN'T GO TO THE POLICE! YOU SEE-- I'M **DEAD!**



I TRUST YOU, HANNAY, BECAUSE I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU SINCE YOUR ARRIVAL FROM SOUTH AFRICA. THE NEWSPAPER STORIES ABOUT YOUR WAR RECORD HAVE CONVINCED ME THAT YOU WERE A MAN WHO WOULD RISK HIS LIFE TO SAVE HIS COUNTRY. I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU BECAUSE I LIVE IN THIS BUILDING. MY FLAT IS ONE FLIGHT BELOW. WE'RE NEIGHBORS AT 2 REGENT PARK ROAD--A DANGEROUS ADDRESS! KILLERS ARE ON MY TRAIL AND I'VE BEEN FORCED TO TAKE DESPERATE STEPS...



The Scudder Story...

"THIS MORNING I BOUGHT A BODY-- SAME HEIGHT AND WEIGHT AS MYSELF. IT'S EASY IN LONDON IF YOU KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND."



"I DRESSED THE BODY IN MY CLOTHES, PUT IT IN A CHAIR IN MY APARTMENT. BY TEA-TIME I WAS READY TO BLAST AWAY THE FACE TO MURDER MYSELF!"



FAST FICTION

SCUDDER
GOES ON WITH
HIS STORY...

NOW IT'S
YOUR TURN TO
REACH, SCUDDER!
START TELLING
THE TRUTH!

I'VE TOLD
THE TRUTH. I
HAD TO PRETEND
TO KILL MYSELF TO
SAVE MY LIFE-- TO
COVER MY TRAIL!
THE CLOCK GANG
ARE AFTER ME!

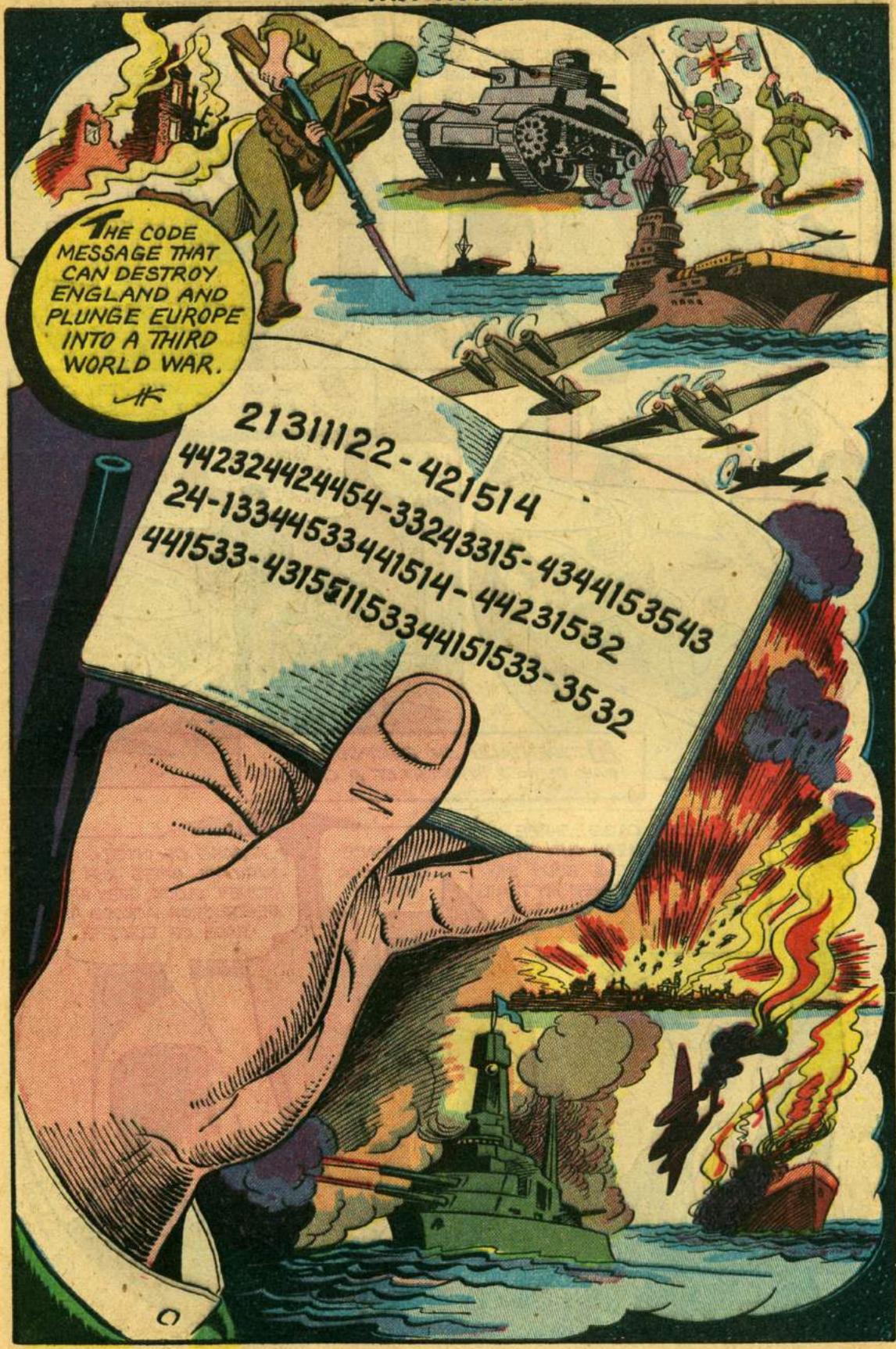
I'M AN AMERICAN
BUSINESSMAN ON A
TRIP TO VIENNA. I
CAME ACROSS A
PLOT TO START A
THIRD WORLD WAR...
WITHIN THE NEXT
TEN DAYS!

NOTIFY
THE BRITISH
FOREIGN
OFFICE.

THE BRITISH OFFICE WOULDN'T BELIEVE
ME. I DON'T HAVE THEIR KIND OF PROOF--
100 PERCENT EVIDENCE. SO I MUST LAY
LOW UNTIL I CAN GET SURE PROOF THAT
THEY WILL ACCEPT.

IN A CAFE IN VIENNA I FOUND THIS
LITTLE BLACK BOOK, A CODE MESSAGE
INSIDE. IF I CAN CRACK THE CODE, I'LL
HAVE MY PROOF AGAINST CLOCK!





THE CODE
MESSAGE THAT
CAN DESTROY
ENGLAND AND
PLUNGE EUROPE
INTO A THIRD
WORLD WAR.

AK

21311122 - 421514
442324424454 - 33243315 - 4344153543
24-13344533441514 - 44231532
441533 - 431551153344151533 - 3532

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THIS CODE'S MESSAGE IS RELIABLE?

TWICE WITHIN THE LAST TWO DAYS MEN HAVE TRIED TO MURDER ME FOR HAVING THE BOOK IN MY POSSESSION.



CUDDER RELATES HIS NARROW ESCAPES FROM DEATH.



LOOK OUT!



A MARBLE STATUE FELL OUT OF A WINDOW AS I PASSED BY..!!

I'M ALL RIGHT.

A MIRACLE YOU'RE NOT DEAD!

I HAD A NEW BRAKE PUT ON JUST THIS MORNING.



ACCIDENTALLY ON PURPOSE, I WAS PUSHED IN FRONT OF A CAB.

TWO CLOSE CALLS...THREE TIMES MAY MEAN OUT! THAT'S WHY I LEFT THE BODY BEHIND ME-- TO COVER MY TRAIL. THE CLOCK GANG WILL THINK I'M DEAD!

WHO ARE THE CLOCK GANG?

A GANG OF INTERNATIONAL SPIES RUN BY SIDNEY CLOCK. THEY SPREAD DESTRUCTION ACROSS THE FACE OF EUROPE!



MEANWHILE IN SCUDDER'S APARTMENT, ONE FLOOR BELOW...

SUICIDE!

WE CAN'T BE SURE WITH THE FACE SHOT AWAY. SEARCH THE BUILDING AND MAKE SURE SCUDDER HASN'T SWITCHED A BODY ON US.

WHILE ON THE FLOOR ABOVE, SCUDDER WINS A FRIEND.

I TRUST YOU, SCUDDER YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO HELP.

GOOD MAN. I DON'T KNOW MANY DETAILS YET. THE WHOLE DIRTY SCHEME TO START A NEW WAR WILL BEGIN WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF THE GREEK PREMIER - KAROLIDES - WHEN HE ARRIVES IN LONDON NEXT WEEK. WE CAN'T WARN HIM UNTIL WE GET PROOF.



A BALCONY LEADS INTO EACH FLAT. CRAWL UP THE WALL AND TAKE A LOOK WHERE YOU GEE A LIGHT. I WANT TO BE SURE ABOUT SCUDDER!

I'LL START NOW.



CLOCK'S PLAN WILL INCLUDE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BRITISH FLEET. THEN A SEA OF FLAME WILL ENGULF ENGLAND, EUROPE AND AMERICA.



RELTZ WORKS HIS WAY ALONG THE OUTSIDE OF THE BUILDING... CLOSER AND CLOSER TO HANNAY'S APARTMENT...



NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE! WE MUST CRACK THE CODE MESSAGE TONIGHT.

WE'LL BEAT CLOCK AT HIS OWN GAME!



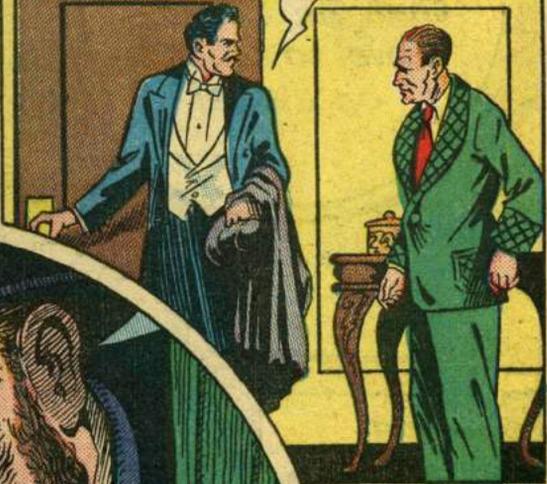
FAST FICTION

KELTZ
STALKS
HIS
PREY...



UNAWARE OF KELTZ, THE TWO MEN
PREPARE TO CRACK THE CODE...

YOU PUT THE CHAIN ON THE
OUTSIDE DOOR. WE DON'T WANT
ANY VISITORS. I'LL MAKE A POT
OF COFFEE TO KEEP US AWAKE.



A
PERFECT
TARGET!



A
PIERCING
SCREAM RINGS
OUT!
HR

SCUDDER!

WHAT WAS
THAT?



Scudder
was dead!
Hannay realized
that he would
have to fight
on alone!



FAST FICTION

BELOW IN THE ENTRANCE OF THE APARTMENT...

I DIDN'T GET THE CODE BOOK. THE OTHER FELLOW MUST HAVE IT.

THEN HE MUST DIE ALSO. WHAT WAS THE NUMBER OF THE APARTMENT?



I KILLED SCUDDER IN APARTMENT 4D.

HM-MM! MR. RICHARD HANNAY. HE MUST NOT LEAVE THE BUILDING ALIVE!



AWARE THAT HIS LIFE IS IN DANGER, RICHARD HANNAY PLANS TO ESCAPE AS A WORKINGMAN...

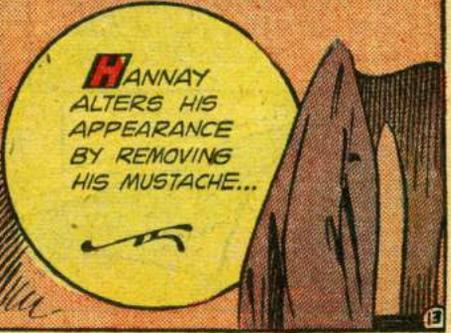
I CAN'T GO TO THE POLICE. THEY'LL ARREST ME FOR MURDER OF POOR SCUDDER AND NEVER BELIEVE MY STORY ABOUT SIDNEY CLOCK AND THE CODE MESSAGE.



I'LL CATCH A TRAIN FOR SCOTLAND. I CAN HIDE OUT IN THE WILD HILL COUNTRY UNTIL I'VE CRACKED THE CODE. THEN I CAN TAKE MY PROOF TO THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE.



HANNAY ALTERS HIS APPEARANCE BY REMOVING HIS MUSTACHE...



THE
MURDERER
ATTACKS.

I'VE GOT YOU,
HANNAY!



I DON'T
GO DOWN
EASILY!

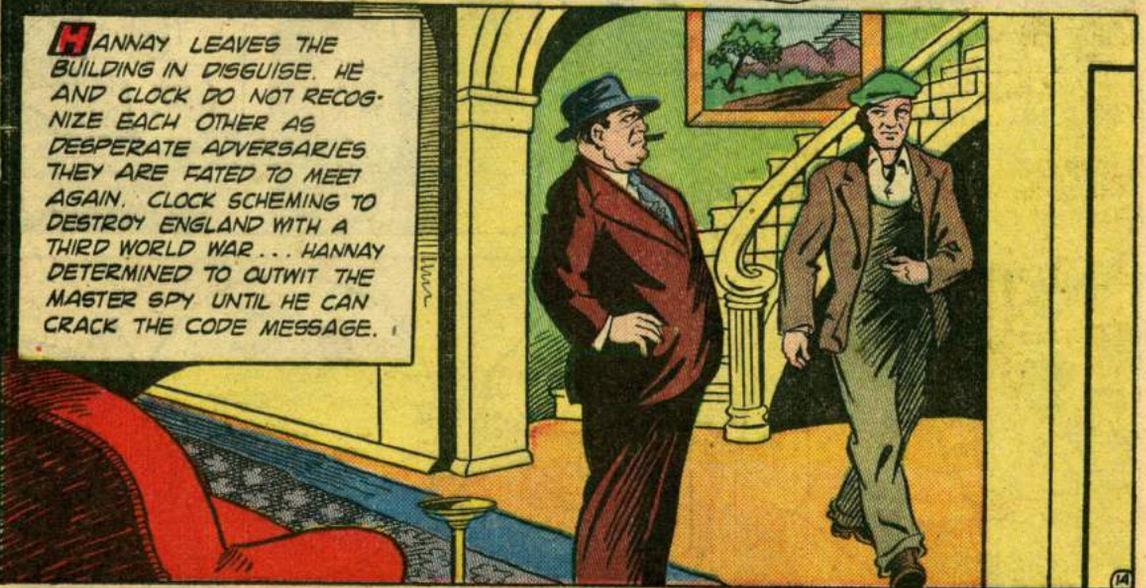


LISTEN TO
THE CHIMES ON
THAT ONE!

KELTZ IS
KNOCKED UN-
CONSCIOUS.



HANNAY LEAVES THE BUILDING IN DISGUISE. HE AND CLOCK DO NOT RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER AS DESPERATE ADVERSARIES THEY ARE FATED TO MEET AGAIN. CLOCK SCHEMING TO DESTROY ENGLAND WITH A THIRD WORLD WAR... HANNAY DETERMINED TO OUTWIT THE MASTER SPY UNTIL HE CAN CRACK THE CODE MESSAGE.



LATER THAT DAY...

THE ROYAL SCOT EXPRESS NORTH-BOUND INTO THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS, WHERE A HUNTED MAN CAN HIDE OUT FOR WEEKS IN THE TRACKLESS HEATHER.

A THIRD CLASS RAILWAY CARRIAGE...

I'LL GET OFF AT THE NEXT STATION. THEN I CAN HOLE UP AT A FRIENDLY INN AND CRACK THE CODE. NO ONE WILL RECOGNIZE ME IN THIS COUNTRY.

AT A RAILWAY STOP... BAD NEWS HAS TRAVELED FAST...

EXTRA!
EXTRA! READ ABOUT THE MURDER!

THE NEWSPAPERS!
IT'S ALL ABOUT ME!

TION

EXTRA!

EXTRA

DAILY M

LONDON

VOL. 24 No. 74

**REGENT PARK MAN
MURDERS AMERICAN**
RICHARD HANNAY STABS FRIEND



Richard Hannay

Mustached Mining Engineer
who knifed American friend,
believed bound for Scotland!
Railway employee recalls
seeing man in working clothes
board Royal Scot Express....



EXTRA

VOL. 24 No. 74

REGENT

MEANWHILE, AT A STRATEGY MEETING AT CLOCK'S HEADQUARTERS, SOMEWHERE IN SCOTLAND

ROBERT HANNAY IS IN SCOTLAND. HE KNOWS OUR PLANS OR HE WOULD GIVE HIMSELF UP TO THE POLICE ON THE MURDER CHARGE. BUT HE'S AFRAID THE POLICE WILL HOLD HIM AND PREVENT HIM FROM TRYING TO CRACK THE CODE MESSAGE WHICH HE OBTAINED FROM SCUDDER--THE MESSAGE HE WANTS FOR THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE.

THE POLICE HAVE FAILED TO FIND HANNAY. WE MUST DISCOVER HIM AND SHOOT HIM DOWN BEFORE HE FINDS OUT OUR PLANS AND SENDS US TO OUR DEATH!

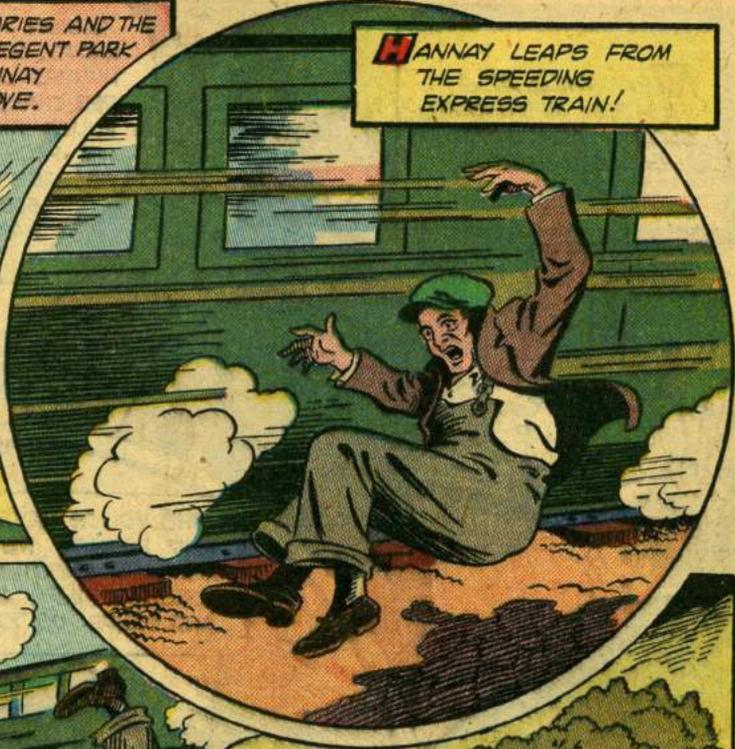
SEARCH SCOTLAND WITH A FINE TOOTH COMB! FIND HANNAY--DEAD OR ALIVE!

FAST FICTION

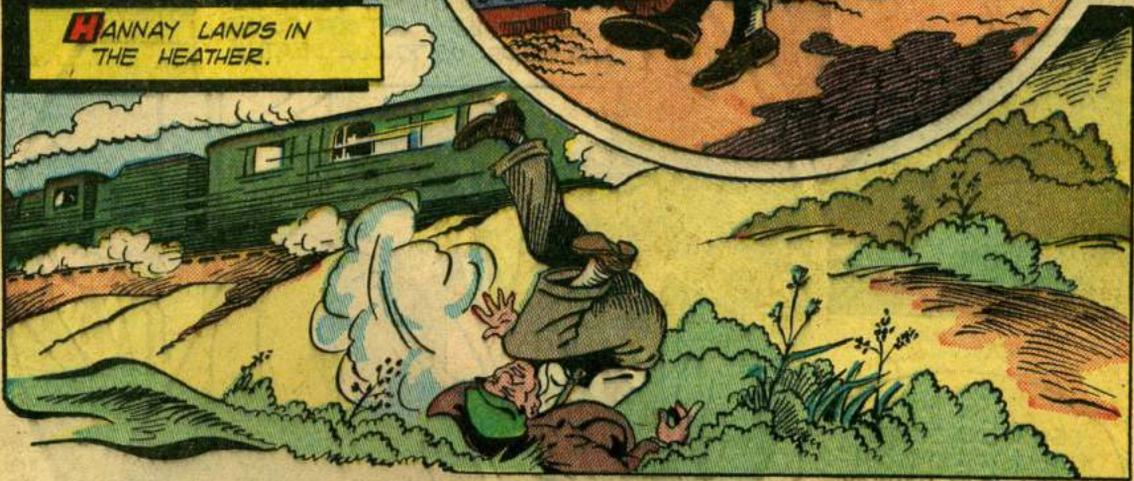
WORRIED BY NEWSPAPER STORIES AND THE CHANCE OF ARREST AS THE REGENT PARK ROAD MURDERER, ROBERT HANNAY DECIDES ON A DESPERATE MOVE.



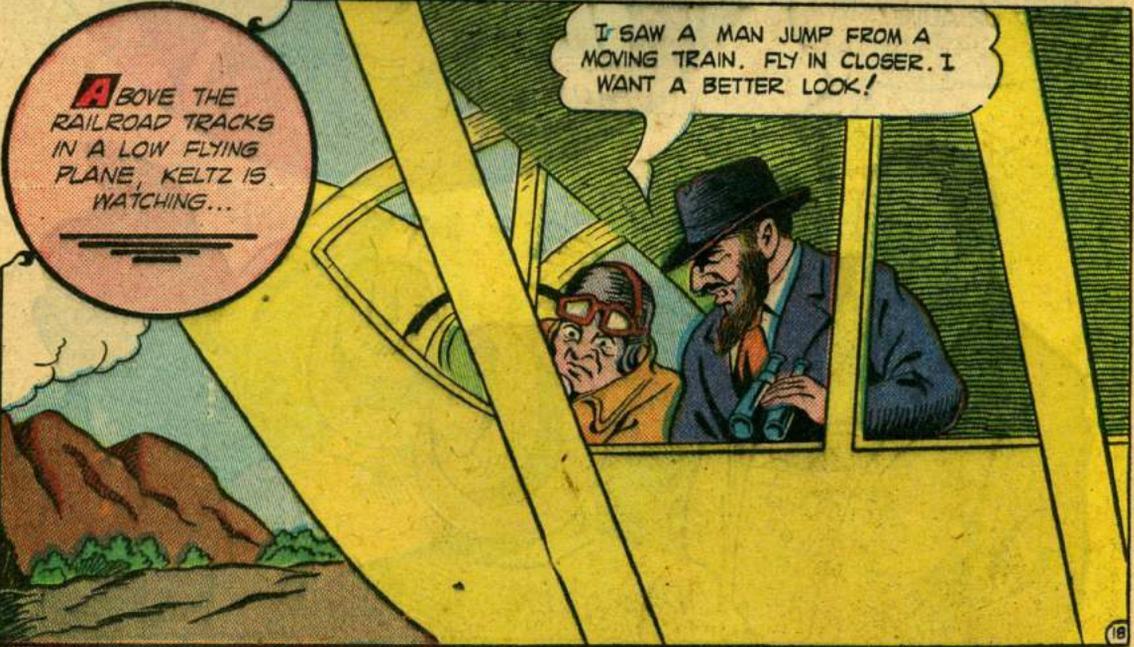
HANNAY LEAPS FROM THE SPEEDING EXPRESS TRAIN!



HANNAY LANDS IN THE HEATHER.



ABOVE THE RAILROAD TRACKS IN A LOW FLYING PLANE, KELTZ IS WATCHING...



I SAW A MAN JUMP FROM A MOVING TRAIN. FLY IN CLOSER. I WANT A BETTER LOOK!

FAST FICTION

KELTZ SCANS THE HEATHER WITH POWERFUL GLASSES...

I WONDER IF THAT PLANE IS LOOKING FOR ME?

I SEE HANNY!

THAT'S HANNAY, SURE!

RADIO CLOCK'S HEADQUARTERS, SAY...
"PREPARE TO SEND SEARCHING PARTY BY AUTOMOBILE. SURROUND THE AREA. POSITION TEN MILES SOUTH-WEST OF ST. ANDREWS KIRK. HANNAY IS ABOUT TO BE CAUGHT LIKE A RABBIT IN A TRAP!"

FAST FICTION

UNWARE THAT HE HAS BEEN SPOTTED FROM THE PLANE, HANNAY HAS TRAVELED TO AN ANCIENT SCOTTISH INN. NO CUSTOMERS ARE TO BE SEEN.



WITHOUT WARNING, A FAST SPORT CAR APPEARS WITH KELTZ DRIVING...



WHILE KELTZ SEARCHED THE INN, HANNAY GETS AN IDEA.

I'LL JUST BORROW HIS CAR.

FAST FICTION

AH! A SPECIAL JOB!
CRUISING SPEED 120! TOP
SPEED 155! I'LL GET OUT
OF HERE IN A HURRY.

A RIFLE SHOT! I'VE BEEN
SPOTTED! BUT I'M GOING TO
TAKE A CHANCE.



HANNAY SHIFTS THE
BIG JOB INTO HIGH...
LEAVES KELTZ BEHIND!



YOU WON'T GET
TEN MILES AWAY
BEFORE YOU'RE
CAUGHT, HANNAY!

ONCE AGAIN HANNAY
HAS OUTWITTED SIDNEY
CLOCK'S AGENT. AS HE
SENDS THE GREAT CAR
ROARING OVER THE STEEP
SCOTTISH ROADS, THE
DARING HANNAY WONDERS
HOW LONG HIS LUCK WILL
LAST. THEN A MESSAGE
ON THE CAR RADIO...

"A RADIO BULLETIN FROM THE BRITISH
BROADCASTING-- THE REGENT PARK PLACE
MURDERER IS AT LARGE IN A SPECIAL
SPORTS CAR IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS.
AN INNKEEPER REPORTED TO SCOTLAND
YARD, JUST FIVE MINUTES AGO. RICHARD
HANNAY IS SPEEDING TOWARD ST. ANDREWS.
LOCAL POLICE ARE BUILDING ROADBLOCKS!"



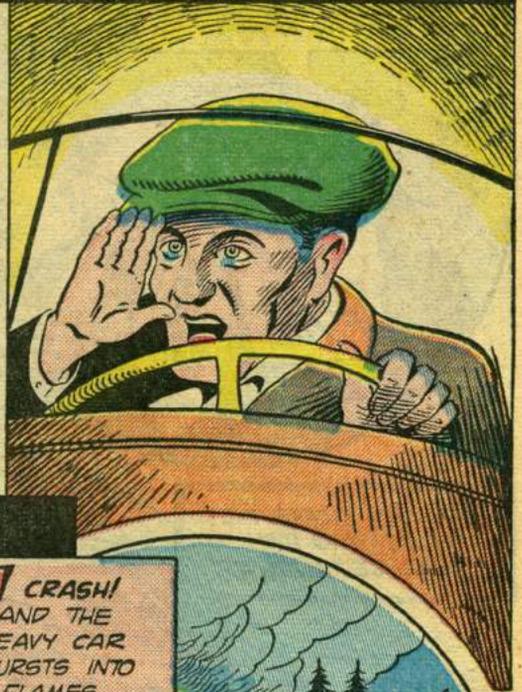
FAST FICTION

AS KELTZ PREDICTED, HANNAY IS BEING SQUEEZED IN A TRAP.

THE LOCAL POLICE ARE AFTER ME, AND THEY'LL NEVER BELIEVE MY STORY. I BETTER DOUSE MY LIGHTS.



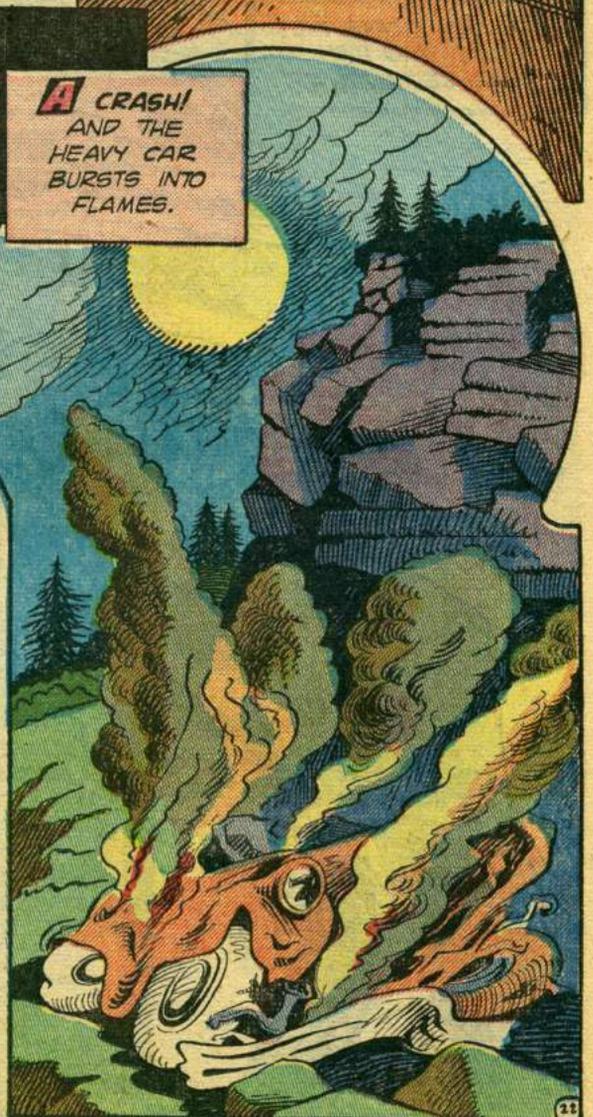
HANNAY IS BLINDED BY THE LIGHTS OF ANOTHER CAR. THE POWERFUL ROAD-STER GOES OUT OF CONTROL...



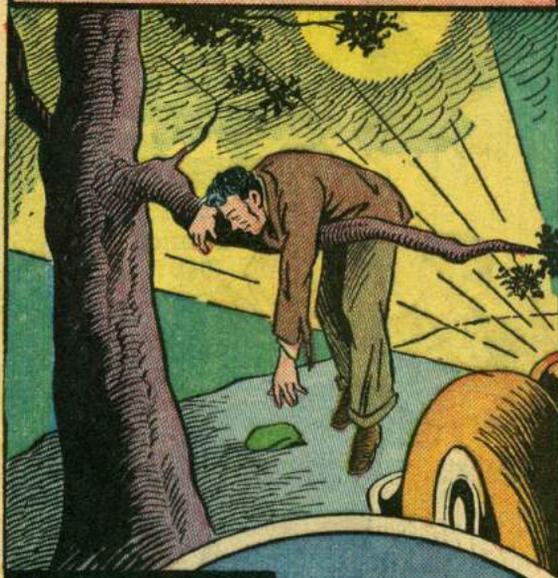
HE CANNOT STOP IN TIME AS THE HEAVY CAR PLUNGES INTO THE RAVINE!



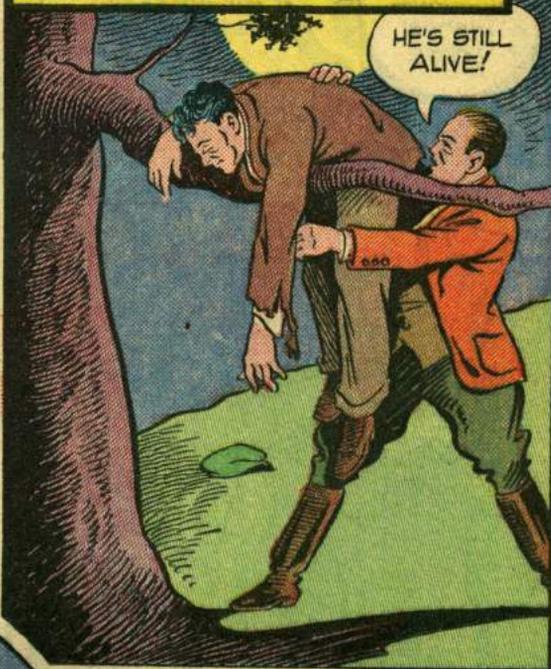
A CRASH! AND THE HEAVY CAR BURSTS INTO FLAMES.



THE UNCONSCIOUS BODY OF HANNAY HANGS FROM A LOW BRANCH THAT CAUGHT HIM UP AS THE CAR DROPPED FROM UNDER HIM.



THE DRIVER OF THE OTHER CAR LOWERS THE UNCONSCIOUS HANNAY FROM THE TREE.



THE DRIVER RECOGNIZES HANNAY.

WE WERE IN THE R. A. F. TOGETHER! HE SAVED MY LIFE... PULLED ME OUT OF A PLANE CRASH AT ST. LO!

HARRY GORDON, IS THAT YOU?

THAT IT IS, LADDIE. LUCKY YOU ARE TO BE ALIVE TO KNOW ME. YOU DRIVE AS RECKLESSLY AS YOU FLEW IN THE WAR. I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU BACK TO MY HUNTING LODGE NEARBY, AND MAKE SURE YOU ARE ALL IN ONE PIECE.



AT
SIR HARRY
GORDON'S
HUNTING
LODGE.

NOT A BONE BROKEN.
HANNAY, YOU'VE GOT
A CHARMED LIFE!

I HOPE YOU'RE
RIGHT. THE POLICE WANT
ME FOR MURDER, AND
AN INTERNATIONAL SPY
RING WANTS TO
MURDER ME.

HANNAY
EXPLAINS

THE PLOT TO START A
THIRD WORLD WAR WILL
BEGIN WITH THE ASSASS-
INATION OF KAROLIDES,
THE GREEK PREMIER.
HE'S WORKING TO KEEP
PEACE IN THE WORLD
AND HE'S MARKED FOR
DEATH!

ARE YOU
SURE OF
THIS?

I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT CODES.
I'LL HELP YOU. WE WILL WORK IN THE
ATTIC. IF THE CLOCK GANG OR THE
POLICE COME HERE LOOKING FOR YOU,
I'LL SAY YOU AREN'T HERE AND SUG-
GEST THEY LOOK AT THE SCENE OF
THE ACCIDENT.

I AM SURE OF
NOTHING UNTIL I
CRACK THE CODE MESSAGE.
I'VE BEEN SO BUSY DUCKING
BULLETS, THERE'S BEEN NO
TIME TO GET AT IT.

IN THE ATTIC...

HANNAY, THIS REMINDS ME OF THE NUMERAL CODE USED BY THE BRITISH INTELLIGENCE OFFICE.

SIDNEY CLOCK'S CODE MESSAGE...

21311122 421514
442324424454--33293315
4344153543
24 13344533441514
44231532 441533
431551153344151533
3532



SAMPLE SKETCH...

A -- 1
B -- 2
C -- 3
D -- 4
414
DAD

YOU MEAN A NUMBER STANDS FOR A LETTER OF THE ALPHABET?

YES, FOR EXAMPLE-- A MIGHT BE 1 AND SO ON.



A HUNCH! THE NUMBERS ARE LONG, BUT NO SINGLE NUMBER IS GREATER THAN 5. LOOK FOR YOURSELF! THIS IS THE SIMPLE BLOCK CODE, HANNAY.

THIS CODE COULD WORK WITH THE SAME NUMBER IDEA, BUT MORE COMPLICATED. THERE ARE SO MANY NUMBERS AND THE WORDS SEEM TO BE SO LONG.



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

GORDON
EXPLAINS

THE 26 LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET, LESS K, LEAVES 25. K IS USED VERY LITTLE AND C CAN BE USED IN ITS PLACE.

NOW PUT THE LETTERS IN ROWS OF 5. LIKE THIS--

ABCDE
FGHIJ
LMNOP
QRSTU
VWXYZ

THEN NUMBER THE ROWS ACROSS AND NUMBER THE ROWS UP AND DOWN.

THE CODE NUMBER IS MADE BY COMBINING THE NUMBER TO THE LEFT OF THE LETTER, WITH THE NUMBER ABOVE THE LETTER. FOR EXAMPLE "A" HAS "1" TO THE LEFT AND "1" ABOVE. 11 IS THE CODE NUMBER FOR "A". "X" HAS "5" TO THE LEFT AND "3" ABOVE. 53 IS THE NUMBER FOR X... TO SPELL THE WORD **SPY**, WE NEED S-P AND Y-- THEIR CODE NUMBERS WOULD BE S-43, P-35, Y-54. **SPY** IN CODE LOOKS LIKE 433554.

1	2	3	4	5	
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	F	G	H	I	J
3	L	M	N	O	P
4	Q	R	S	T	U
5	V	W	X	Y	Z

FAST FICTION

1	2	3	4	5	
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	F	G	H	I	J
3	L	M	N	O	P
4	Q	R	S	T	U
5	V	W	X	Y	Z

LET'S TRY IT WITH THE MESSAGE IN THE BLACK BOOK.

THE MESSAGE IN SIDNEY CLOCK'S BLACK BOOK.



21311122 421514
 442324424454 33243315 4344153543
 24 13344533441514 44231532
 23242223 44241415
 441533 431551153344151533 3532

GORDON AND HANNAY DECIPHER THE MESSAGE IN THE BLACK BOOK.

HANNAY, WE HAVE SOMETHING HERE.

NOTE...

THE READER CAN WORK OUT THIS SECRET MESSAGE WITH THE AID OF THE SQUARE CODE BOX.



FLAG RED
21-31-11-22 42-15-14

THIRTY NINE STEPS
44-23-24-42-44-54---33-24-33-15----- 43-44-15-35-43

I COUNTED THEM
24 13-34-45-33-44-15-14 44-23-15-32

HIGH TIDE
23-24-22-23 44-24-14-15

TEN SEVENTEEN P M
44-15-33 43-15-51-15-33-44-15-15-33 35-32

FLAG RED
THIRTY-NINE STEPS
I COUNTED THEM
HIGH TIDE
TEN SEVENTEEN P.M.
-- WHAT DOES
IT MEAN?

IT HAS A SECRET
MEANING OF ITS OWN.
THAT'S WHY IT WAS
IN SUCH AN EASY CODE.
I'D GUESS THAT SOME-
WHERE IN ENGLAND HIGH
TIDE COMES IN AT 10:17
AT A POINT WHERE
THERE MIGHT BE THIRTY-
NINE STEPS LEADING
DOWN TO THE SEA. BUT
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW
IS WHAT THAT HAS TO
DO WITH STARTING A
THIRD WORLD WAR?



FAST FICTION

YOU CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER, HANNAY. YOU'VE GOT TO GO TO THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE.

BUT I'VE GOT TO HAVE PROOF. WHAT KIND OF PROOF IS THIS MESSAGE? IT'S ALL SCRAMBLED.

IT MAY MEAN SOMETHING TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE. THEY MAY UNDERSTAND.

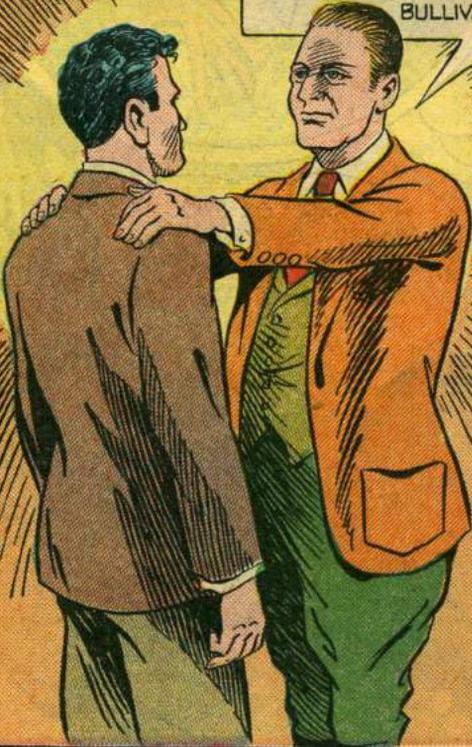


THEY WON'T EVEN SEE ME.

YES, THEY WILL. MY UNCLE IS THE SECRETARY OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE. I WILL WIRE HIM YOU'RE COMING. IT'LL BE UP TO YOU AFTER THAT. HIS NAME IS SIR WALTER BULLIVANT.

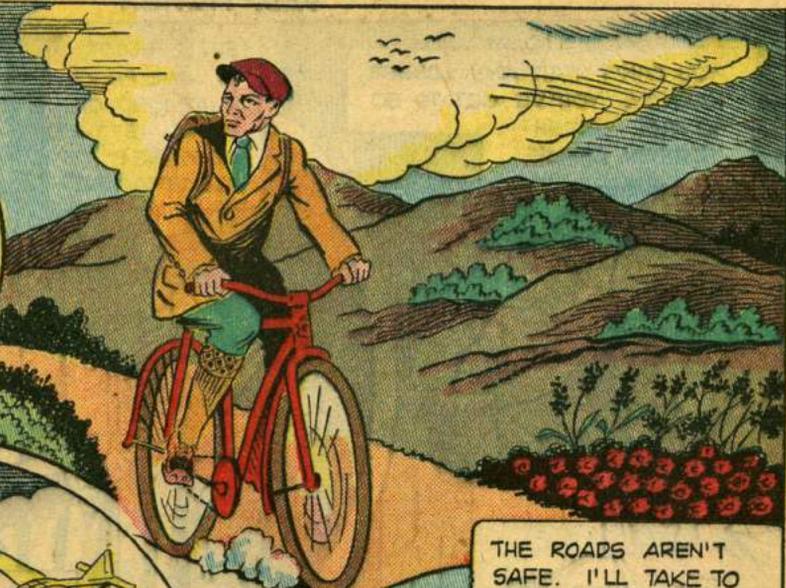
I WONDER IF SIR WALTER BULLIVANT WILL KNOW THE SECRET MEANING OF THE THIRTY-NINE STEPS?

YOU CAN START, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.



THE NEXT MORNING...

DISGUISED AS A TOURING CYCLIST, HANNAY MAKES HIS WAY THROUGH THE SCOTTISH HILLS... PLANNING TO BOARD A TRAIN AT THE FIRST RAILWAY STATION.

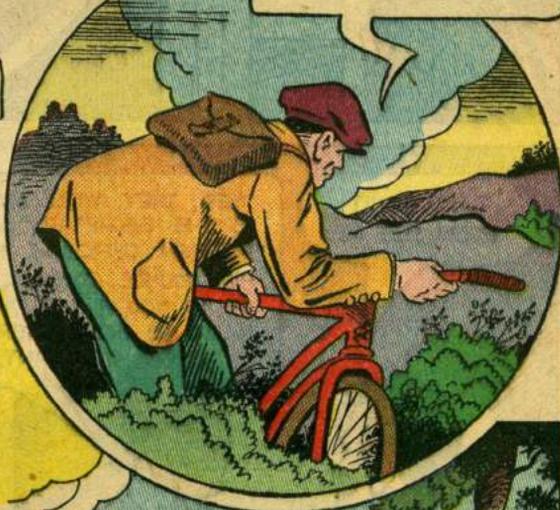
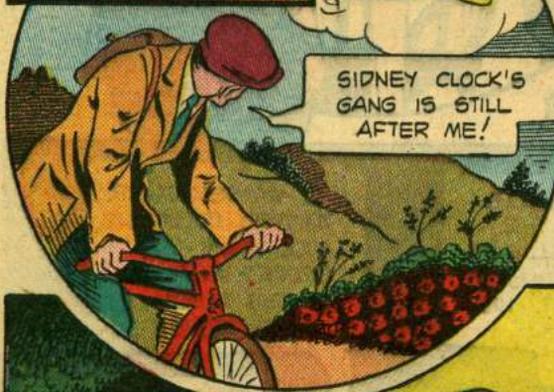


ONCE AGAIN THE PLANE, LIKE A PORTENT OF EVIL, APPEARS ON THE HORIZON...



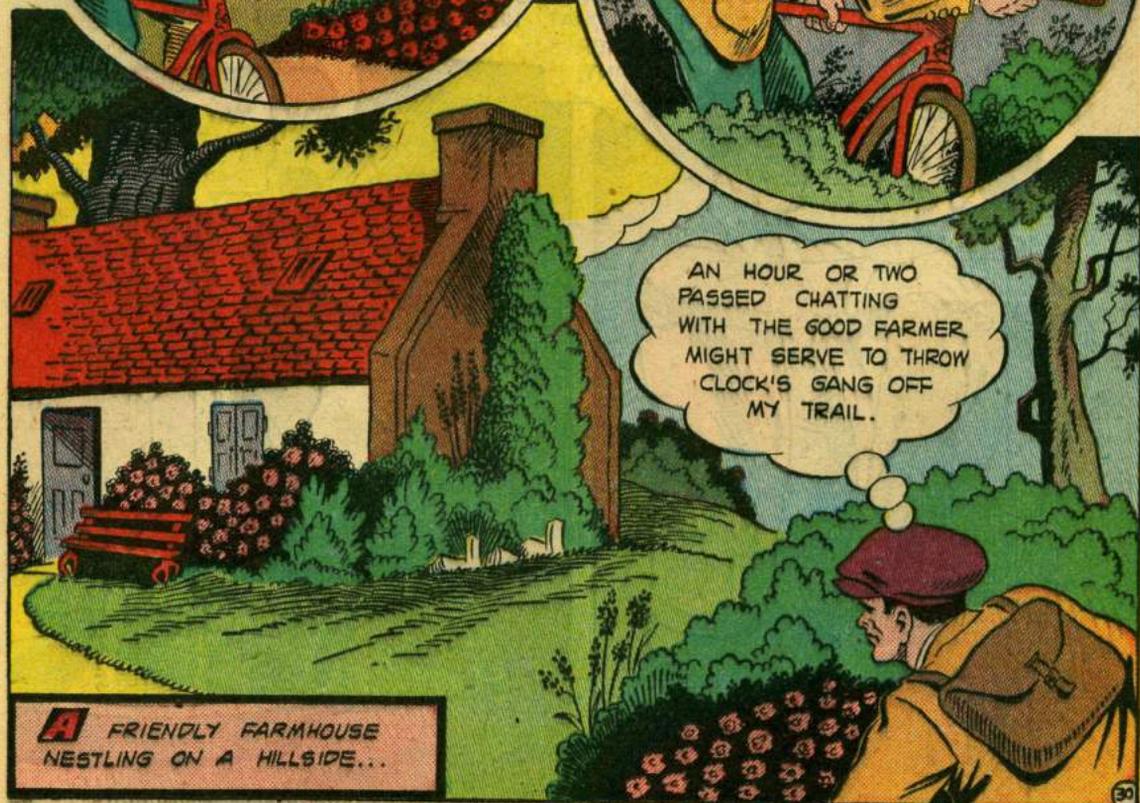
SIDNEY CLOCK'S GANG IS STILL AFTER ME!

THE ROADS AREN'T SAFE. I'LL TAKE TO THE HEATHER.

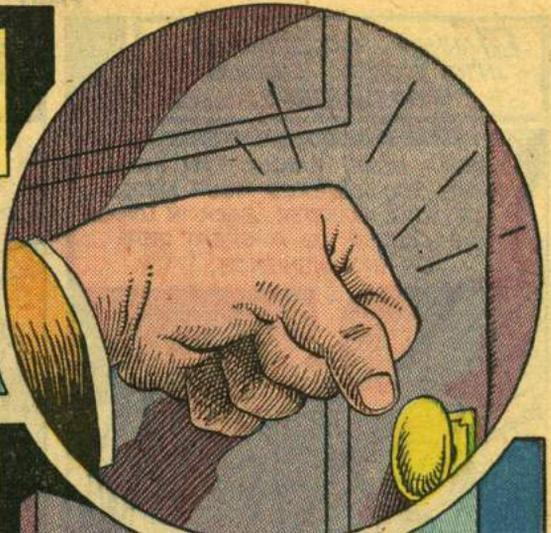


AN HOUR OR TWO PASSED CHATTING WITH THE GOOD FARMER, MIGHT SERVE TO THROW CLOCK'S GANG OFF MY TRAIL.

A FRIENDLY FARMHOUSE NESTLING ON A HILLSIDE...



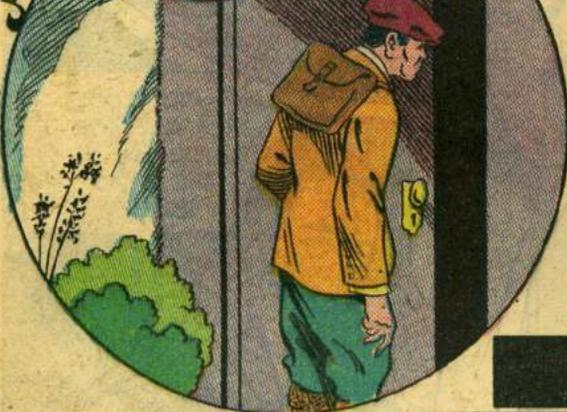
IF HANNAY HAD LOOKED CLOSELY, HE WOULD HAVE NOTICED THAT NO SMOKE CAME FROM THE CHIMNEYS. THE SHUTTERS WERE CLOSED. THE PLACE HAD A CURIOUS LOOK TO IT.



COME IN,
COME IN!



HOW DARK
IT IS.



AS HANNAY STEPS INTO THE FARMHOUSE, A LARGE FIGURE STEPS BEHIND HIM AND BLOCKS THE DOOR.

WELCOME,
MR. HANNAY!



HANNAY HAD STUMBLED INTO SIDNEY CLOCK'S HEADQUARTERS...

DON'T MOVE, HANNAY. MY MEN HAVE YOU COVERED YOUR MEDDLING WITH SCUDDER BACK IN LONDON HAS CAUSED US A GREAT DEAL OF INCONVENIENCE.



HANNAY PLAYS FOR TIME.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. MY NAME IS GEORGE HENRY. I'M ON A CYCLING TOUR OF SCOTLAND.

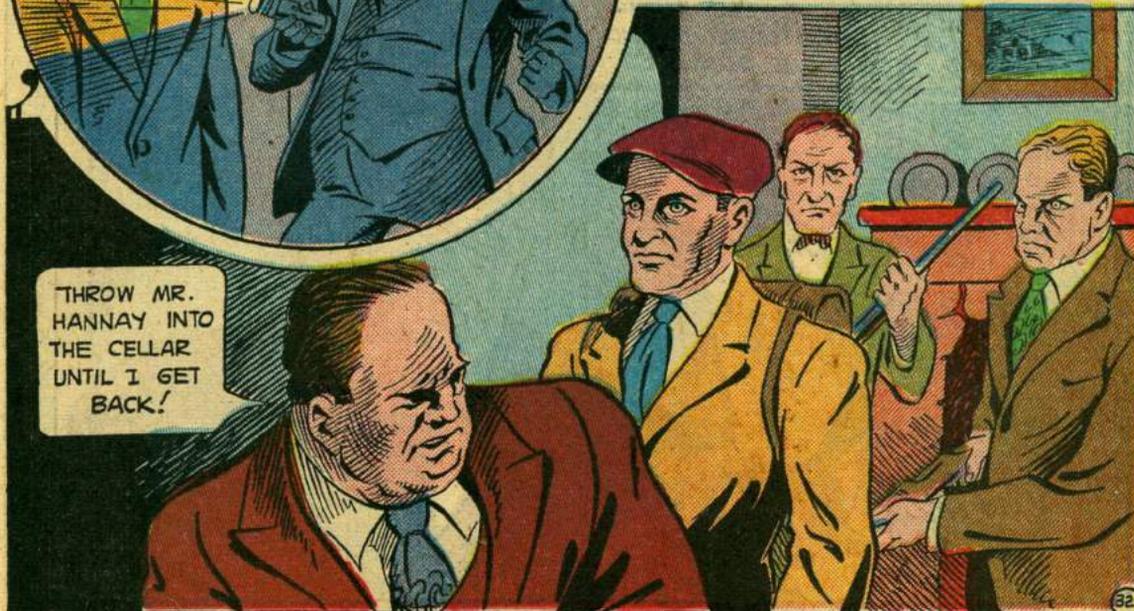


YOU ARE RICHARD HANNAY, AND I'LL MAKE YOU CONFESS IF I HAVE TO BREAK EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY!

MR. CLOCK, A MESSAGE FOR YOU IN THE RADIO ROOM!



THROW MR. HANNAY INTO THE CELLAR UNTIL I GET BACK!



FAST FICTION

A WORLD WAR MAY BREAK OUT ANY MINUTE AND I'M SITTING IN A CELLAR IN SCOTLAND.

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE CLOCK COMES BACK.

HANNAY PREPARES TO TAKE A DESPERATE CHANCE, HOPING TO BLAST HIS WAY TO FREEDOM WITH HIGH EXPLOSIVE.

MY FAVORITE DISH! I GUESS THEY FORGOT ABOUT THAT ONE STICK. OR MAYBE CLOCK DOESN'T KNOW THAT I SPENT TEN YEARS AS A MINING ENGINEER.

TNT
HIGH
EXPLOSIVE

FOOTSTEPS!
CLOCK'S GANG WAS COMING BACK! IT WAS NOW OR NEVER!

FAST FICTION

HANNAY LIGHTS THE TNT FUSE.



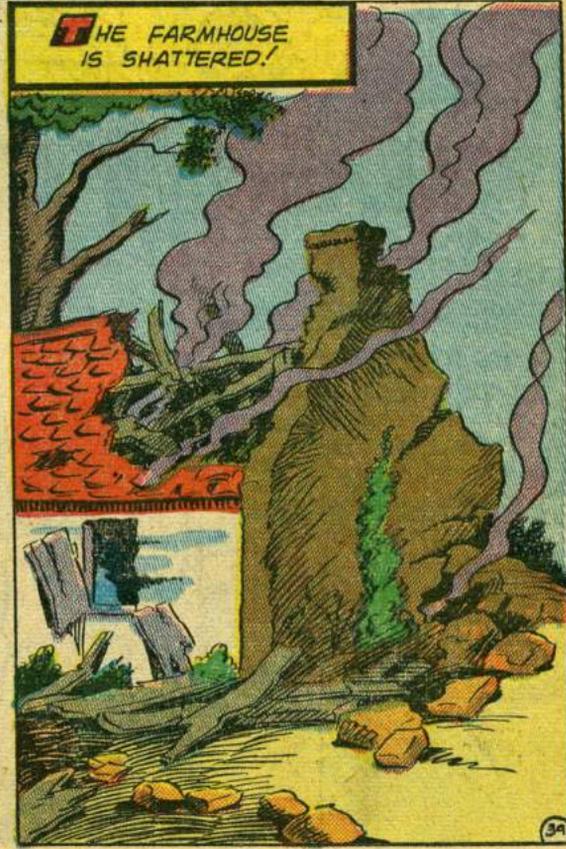
HANNAY THROWS HIMSELF INTO THE FAR CORNER OF THE CELLAR TO ESCAPE THE BLAST!



THE TNT ROCKED THE CELLAR!



THE FARMHOUSE IS SHATTERED!



FAST FICTION

BATTERED BUT SAFE, THE DOUGHTY HANNAY CLIMBS FROM THE CELLAR. HIS ENGINEER'S TRAINING PLUS THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES AND HOW TO USE THEM HAS SAVED HIS LIFE.



TAKING REFUGE IN A DENSE WOODS, HANNAY IS HALTED BY A RIFLE TOTTING SCOTTISH HIGHLANDER.— ONE OF CLOCK'S GANG.



WHAT'S YOUR HURRY, LADDIE?

IT IS LIFE OR DEATH ---- HANNAY ATTACKS!



IN THE ENSUING STRUGGLE, THE RIFLE IS DISCHARGED AND CLOCK'S HIGHLAND HENCHMAN FALLS TO THE GROUND MORTALLY WOUNDED.



LUCK IS WITH ME! NOW I'LL JUST BORROW THIS LAD'S KILT AND TARTAN ----- MY CLOTHES ARE RUINED.

WHILE CLOCK AND HIS GANG ARE STUNNED FROM THE EXPLOSION, HANNAY GETS HIS BEARING.



A TRAIN! AT THE RATE THE ENGINE IS TRAVELING I SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLIMB ABOARD.

HANNAY SWINGS ABOARD A SOUTH BOUND TRAIN FOR LONDON.



I JUST MADE IT!

FAST FICTION

TEN HOURS LATER -- SIR WALTER BULLIVANT, PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE, WELCOMES HANNAY.

WELCOME I WAS NOTIFIED OF YOUR COMING BY MY NEPHEW, HARRY GORDON.

HE SAVED MY LIFE AFTER A CAR CRASH.



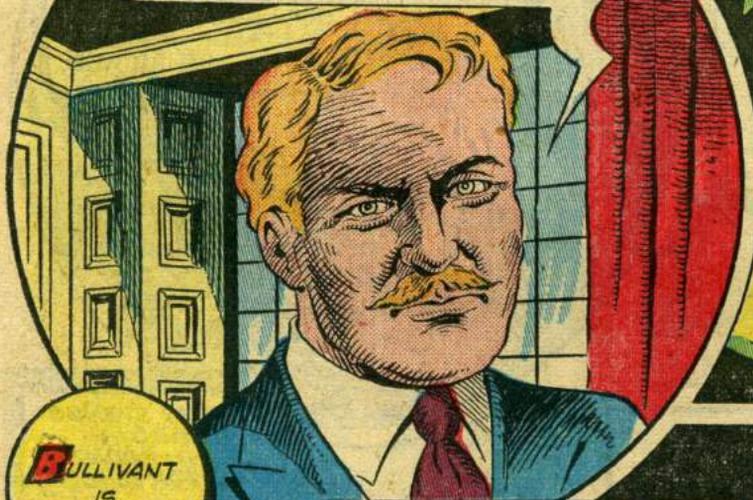
HANNAY TELLS SIR WALTER THE STORY OF HIS ADVENTURES...

AMAZING! SIDNEY CLOCK IS SCHEMING TO SET OFF A WORLD WAR! HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE?

THE SIGNAL FOR THE TROUBLE IS THE ASSASSINATION OF KAROLIDES, THE GREEK PREMIER, WHEN DOES HE ARRIVE IN LONDON?



KAROLIDES ARRIVED IN LONDON YESTERDAY. I TALKED TO HIM ON THE PHONE TEN MINUTES AGO. WE ARE TAKING EVERY PRECAUTION. NOW LET ME SEE THE CODE MESSAGE.



FLAG
21-31-11-22
RED
42-15-14

BULLIVANT IS STUNNED!

FLAG RED IS THE TOP-SECRET CODE PASSWORD FOR THE LONDON NAVAL CONFERENCE. THE MAN WHO HAS THIS PASSWORD IN HIS POSSESSION CAN WALK INTO GREAT BRITAIN'S MOST SECRET COUNCIL OF WAR DEFENSE!



FAST FICTION

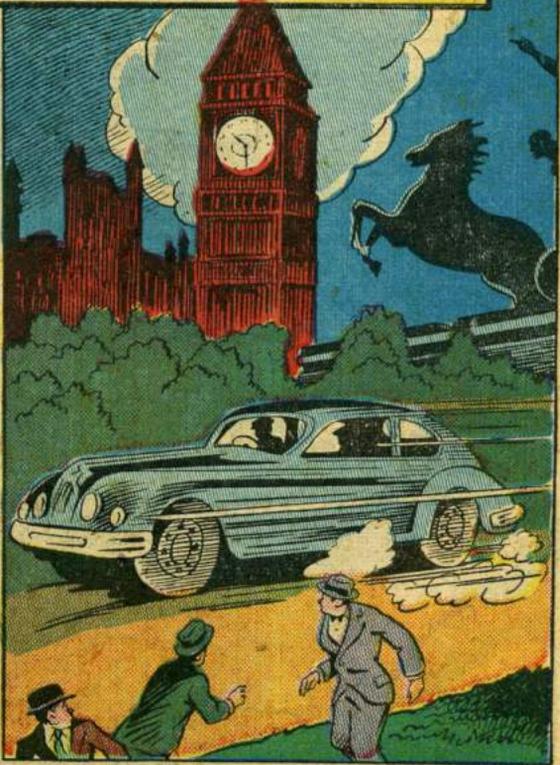
SIDNEY CLOCK'S ASSASSINS HAVE STRUCK!

WHAT IS IT, SIR WALTER?

KAROLIDES HAS JUST BEEN MURDERED ON HIS WAY TO THE NAVAL CONFERENCE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT, BUT I'M CALLING OUT THE HOME GUARD! YOU'RE GOING TO THE NAVAL CONFERENCE!



AN OFFICIAL CAR CARRIES HANNAY TO THE SECRET CONFERENCE...



AT THE NAVAL CONFERENCE HEAD-QUARTERS...

AN ADMIRAL LEAVES AS HANNAY IS ABOUT TO ENTER...

I KNOW THAT MAN FROM SOMEWHERE... THE BEARD IS WRONG, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIS EYES...



**A BOMB BURST!
IT'S SIDNEY CLOCK!
STOP HIM!**



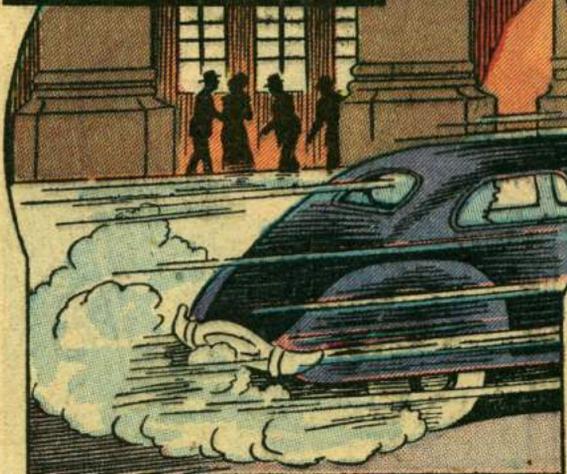
FAST FICTION



THE BEARD IS FALSE! THE MAN IS SIDNEY CLOCK, THE SPY! HE'S STOLEN SECRETS FROM THE LONDON NAVAL CONFERENCE! I'D KNOW CLOCK'S EVIL EYES ANYWHERE!



CLOCK'S CAR ROARS OFF TO BE LOST IN THE HEAVY LONDON TRAFFIC.



FAST FICTION

THE WAR CHIEFS ARE STARTLED BY THE ABRUPT APPEARANCE OF HANNAY.

THE FATE OF ENGLAND HANGS IN THE BALANCE. YOUR DEFENSE PLANS HAVE JUST BEEN STOLEN BY A MASTER SPY MASQUERADING AS SEA LORD ALLOA.

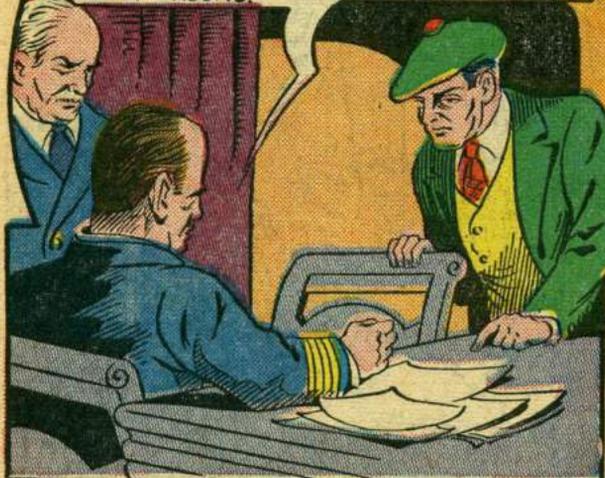


HANNAY TAKES COMMAND OF THE SHOCKED NAVAL CONFERENCE.

CALL LORD ALLOA AT HOME. ASK IF HE'S BEEN HERE TODAY!



WE DISCUSSED THE SECRET POSITION OF THE BRITISH FLEET GUARDING ENGLAND. IF A SPY GOT HOLD OF THAT INFORMATION AND GAVE IT TO OUR ENEMIES, THE ENTIRE BRITISH NAVY COULD BE SUNK WITHIN A MATTER OF HOURS.



SEA LORD ALLOA WAS JUST FOUND IN HIS CELLAR--
MURDERED!



ENGLAND IS DOOMED! BY THIS TIME CLOCK HAS RADIOED THE POSITION OF OUR BATTLE CRUISERS--



HANNAY RALLIES THE MILITARY LEADERS.

I DON'T AGREE. I SAY THE INFORMATION IS STILL IN ENGLAND, AND THAT GIVES US TIME TO ACT. A MASTER SPY DOES NOT RISK PRICELESS INFORMATION IN A RADIO MESSAGE. HE DELIVERS HIS INFORMATION IN PERSON AND IS PAID IN GOLD ON DELIVERY.



CLOCK KNOWS I SUSPECT HIM. HE WON'T TAKE A CHANCE ON BEING PICKED UP AT AN AIRPORT. SIDNEY CLOCK WILL LEAVE BY SEA. I HAVE A SECRET CODE MESSAGE THAT READS "THIRTY-NINE STEPS, HIGH TIDE, TEN SEVENTEEN PM"... THAT MESSAGE WILL TRAP SIDNEY CLOCK!

BUT HOW CAN WE TRACE SIDNEY CLOCK? HOW CAN WE KEEP HIM FROM LEAVING ENGLAND? HE CAN FLY TO FRANCE IN LESS THAN AN HOUR-- AMSTERDAM THREE HOURS -- ROME--



WHAT ARE THE THIRTY-NINE STEPS?

I BELIEVE THERE ARE THIRTY-NINE STEPS CUT INTO ONE OF THE STEEP CLIFFS ON THE SEA SOUTH OF LONDON... THIRTY-NINE STEPS LEADING TO A DOCK WHERE A SMALL BOAT WILL CARRY SIDNEY CLOCK OUT TO A FOREIGN VESSEL AT HIGH TIDE 10:17 THIS EVENING.

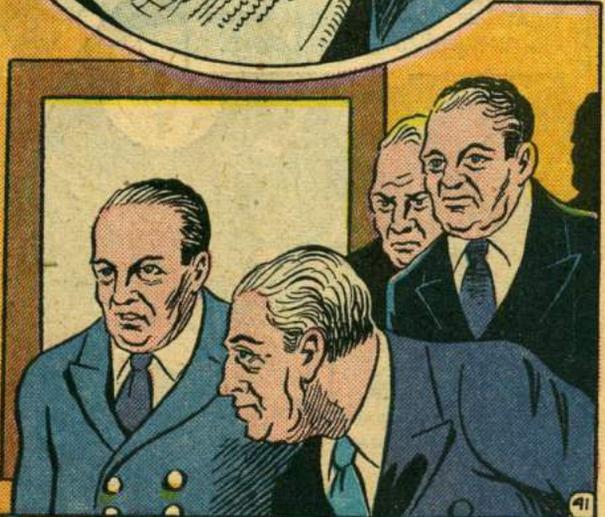
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST, HANNAY?

FIND ME A SPOT ON THE COAST WHERE HIGH TIDE COMES IN TONIGHT AT 10:17 AND THERE YOU WILL FIND SIDNEY CLOCK!

OUR COASTAL TIDE CHART TELLS US THAT AT 10:17 HIGH TIDE WILL BE EXPECTED IN THE BRADGATE AREA.

COASTAL CHART
HIGH TIDE
BRADGATE AREA
10:17

CALL SCOTLAND YARD, GENTLEMEN. WE'LL RUN A DRAGNET OVER THE BRADGATE AREA. IF WE'RE LUCKY, WE'LL CATCH A FAT SHARK-- SIDNEY CLOCK!



FAST FICTION

THAT EVENING-- BRADGATE AREA... HANNAY WAITS WITH A POLICE INSPECTOR AS SCOTLAND YARD SEARCHES.

GO AHEAD HANNAY. IT'S SAFE ENOUGH. THE BRADGATE AREA IS ALIVE WITH OUR MEN.

WE HAVE LOCATED FIFTEEN STAIRWAYS LEADING DOWN TO THE WATER. BUT NONE HAS 39 STEPS AND NO SIGNS OF SPIES.

I'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK FOR MYSELF.

500 YARDS FROM THE POLICE CAR.

HERE'S A STAIR I DIDN'T SEE BEFORE!

I'LL COUNT THE STEPS.

39 STEPS EXACTLY! AND A BOAT AT THE BOTTOM. THIS IS WHERE THEY'LL LEAVE.

MEDDLING FOOL! COME UP HERE, HANNAY, BEFORE I BLOW OUT YOUR BRAINS WHERE YOU STAND!

FAST FICTION

HANNAY, YOU HAVE NINE LIVES. I HAD HOPED YOU WERE DEAD IN SCOTLAND. NOW I MUST KILL YOU MYSELF!



TAKE THIS ROPE AND TIE MR. HANNAY TO THAT PILLAR! WHEN THE TIDE COMES IN, I WILL STAND OFFSHORE IN A BOAT AND BLOW HIM TO BITS WITH HAND GRENADES!



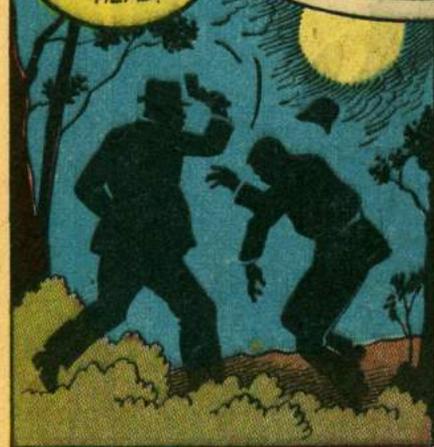
THE ROPE IS TIED LOOSELY BY THE QUICK-THINKING CONSTABLE.

WHERE'S YOUR GANG, CLOCK?

DEAD. THAT'S MY SYSTEM. I WORK A JOB WITH A GANG AND THEN MURDER THEM. IT'S A NEAT SYSTEM... IT KEEPS THEM FROM TALKING AND I REAP ALL THE REWARDS!



CLOCK FELS THE POLICEMAN WITH A BLOW ON THE HEAD.



STARSHHELL FLOODS THE AREA.

WHAT WAS THAT?

YOUR DEATH NOTICE!



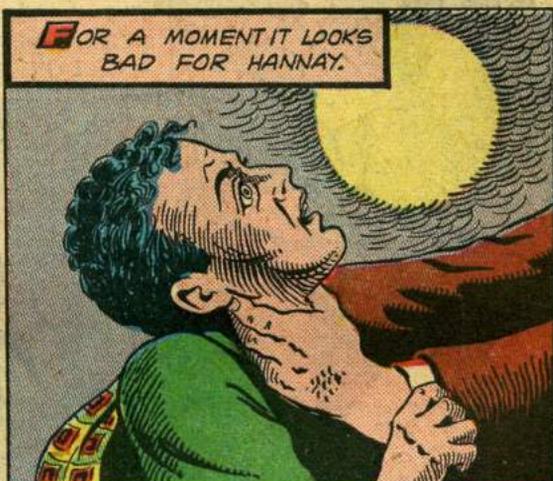
HANNAY SLIPS FROM THE LOOSELY TIED ROPE AND LEAPS ON THE BACK OF CLOCK, AS THE SPY LEADER TURNS TO GLANCE AT THE ILLUMINATED SKY.



IN THE STRUGGLE, CLOCK DROPS HIS GUN.



FOR A MOMENT IT LOOKS BAD FOR HANNAY.



BUT WITH A BURST OF STRENGTH, HANNAY THROWS THE MASTER SPY!



GETTING TO HIS FEET, CLOCK HURRIES DOWN THE THIRTY-NINE STEPS TO THE SEA.

YOU'LL NEVER GET ME!



HANNAY PICKS UP CLOCK'S GUN AND FOLLOWS THE SPY AND RUTHLESS KILLER.

HALT!
CLOCK, I HAVE YOU CORNERED!



CLICK TURNS QUICKLY TO TOSS A GRENADE AT THE PURSUING HANNAY. CLOCK STUMBLES AND MAKES A WILD THROW -- THE GRENADE FOLLOWS HIS FALL.

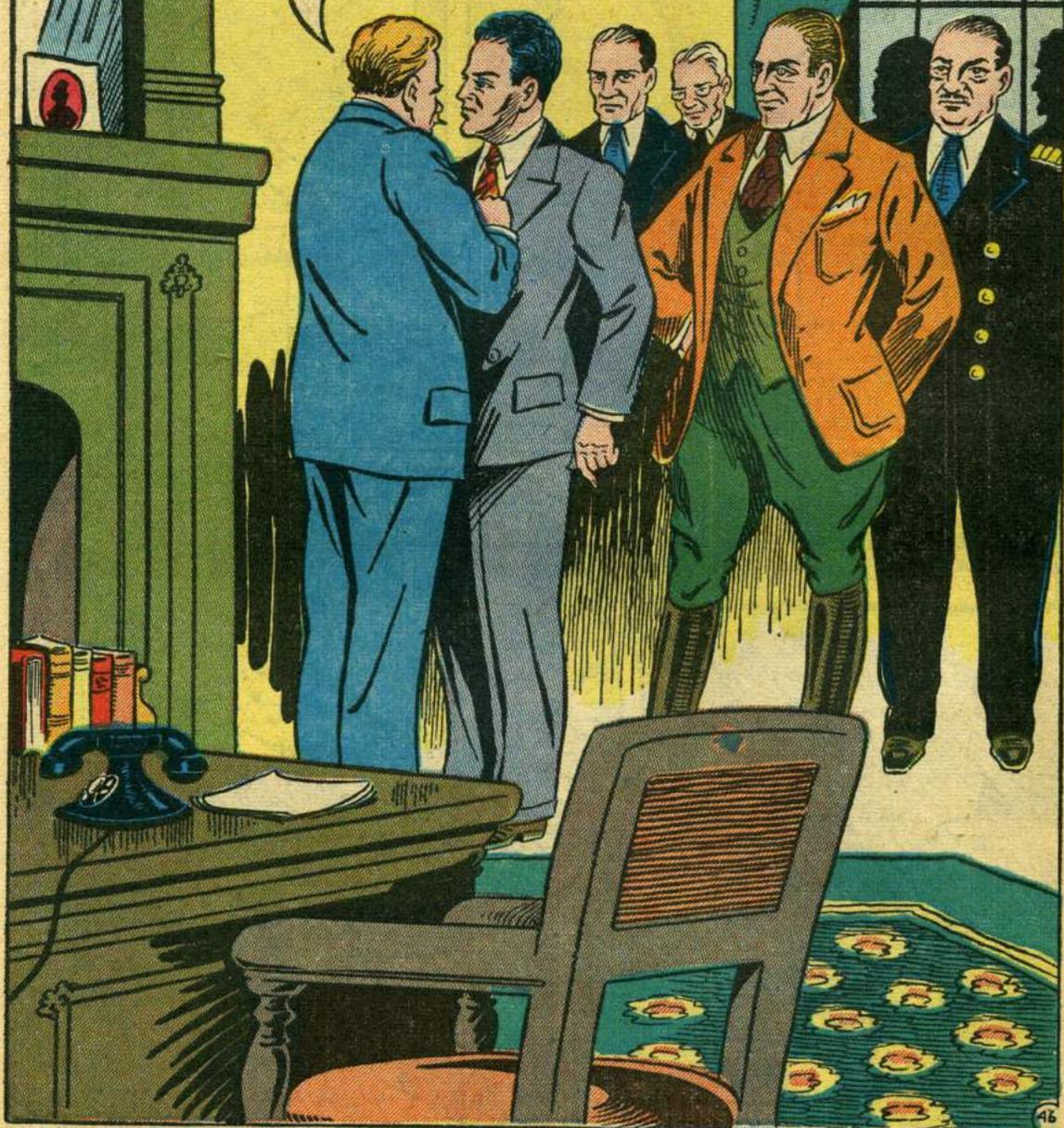


AN EXPLOSION!--
AND CLOCK DIES ON THE THIRTY-NINTH STEP!



THE NEXT DAY AT THE OFFICE OF SIR WALTER BULLIVANT, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE.

WHEN SIDNEY CLOCK DESTROYED HIMSELF WITH HIS OWN GRENADE-- OUR NAVAL DEFENSE SECRETS WERE KEPT SAFE FOR ETERNITY. WE ARE POSITIVE CLOCK NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO SEND THEM OUT OF ENGLAND. CONGRATULATIONS, RICHARD HANNAY. YOU'VE SAVED US FROM A THIRD WORLD WAR -- AT THE RISK OF YOUR OWN LIFE!



SPIES

THE slinking mysterious shadow of the spy has fallen across every page in history. For the story of war is the history of the men and women who fought secretly behind the lines of battle!

The Egyptians had a well-organized spy system over 5,000 years ago! And the Bible tells of nine separate spy cases!

Moses sent twelve spies into Canaan!

But spy rings as we know them today did not come into being until the 1600's under Oliver Cromwell in England and the masterful Richelieu in France. That was the beginning. Napoleon threw a net of spies over Europe. A steady stream of information was sent each day to the Little Corporal, and many of his greatest military victories were planned with the assistance of information sent to his headquarters by the Imperial Spy Service.

Today, all governments buy the services of spies, informers, and secret agents who operate in peace as well as war. The pay is often good but the risks are too great. Under law the spy can be offered no protection by his government. Death by the firing squad or by hanging is the reward for failure!

Mata Hari will go down in



history as one of the most famous and glamorous spies ever to turn in a military report. A daughter of the East and West, Mata Hari was half Dutch and half Javanese, and performed beautiful and exotic dances in the famous night clubs of Paris during the First World War. But it was discovered that Mata

Hari who had danced to the applause of the British and French troops in Paris on leave, sent these same brave men to their deaths on the battlefields of France when she gathered secret military information and turned it over to the German agents in Paris! The agents, in turn, sent it on to the Chief of the German General Staff in Berlin!

After she had been captured by the French, Mata Hari protested her innocence bitterly, but she was executed as scheduled, early in the morning by a

French firing squad. As the

rifles cracked and the bullets thudded into the lithe brown body that had danced before hundreds of Allied soldiers, a very old French Colonel was heard to mutter,

"She played at a spy's game and has been given payment in full. Not in

gold—or silver—but in lead!"



JOHN BUCHAN, LORD TWEEDSMUIR

JOHN BUCHAN whose magic pen gave us "The Thirty-Nine Steps," knew at first hand the inner dealings of Europe's master spy rings. For John



Buchan was a high-ranking member of the British Government during the First World War. The Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George, appointed John Buchan Director of Information, a post the author filled with great skill and daring. And when Germany plunged the world into a Second Great War in 1939, it was John

Buchan, by that time elevated to the rank of Baron Tweedsmuir, who read Canada's declaration of war against Hitler's Legions.

Yes, little Johnny Buchan who began life in the City of Perth, Scotland, August 26, 1875, made a real success of his life. His father was a clergyman. That meant there were few extra pennies in the Buchan household. A scholarship saw the young man through Oxford where he studied law so successfully that he was appointed at the age of just 28, Assistant to the High Commissioner for South Africa. This was the beginning of a career of public service that won for John Buchan the title, Baron Tweedsmuir and the King's appointment as Governor General of Canada!

The thrilling plot of "The Thirty-Nine Steps" came to the author while he was recovering from an illness. John Buchan invented the plot to occupy his mind! He chose for his background the Scottish Highlands which he had come to know during his boyhood in Perth.

Richard Hannay is a man whom Buchan created from the characters of various men who were serving with him in the British Service. "The Thirty-Nine Steps" was so successful that the author followed it with two more Hannay adventure stories; they are "Greenmantle" and "Mr. Standfast." Ask for them at your local library. You'll thrill to the magic pen of the master story teller—John Buchan!

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

FAMED in story, song, and legend, the Scottish Highlands have been used as a hiding-out place since men can remember! The rough, rocky glens, and deceptive heather have given many a hunted man protection and another chance for life!

It's been just during the past one hundred years that roads and highways have been built into the wild Scottish hills that stand so stern and forbidding but a few hours' journey north from the heart of the City of London.

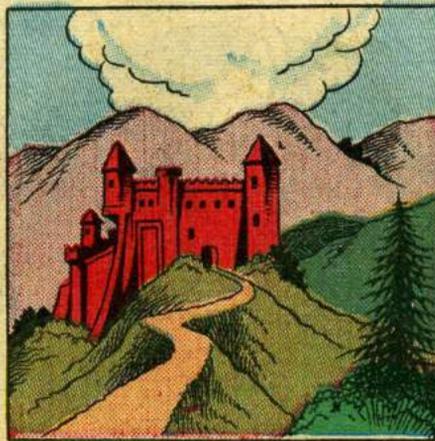
The people of the Highlands are a great and proud race, strong in family ties. The family groups are called **CLANS**. There are a great many of these clans and their names are famous the world over. Here are the names of just a few: MacGregor, MacTavish, Campbell, and MacDonald.

For centuries these families lived secluded lives in the Highlands, making their

own laws and obeying no king. Even their dress was different from that of their lowland brothers. The men wore a skirt called a kilt, and for a coat, several yards of woolen plaid material which they wore cape-fashion. The color and design of the plaid identified each clan. When the lowland people saw the highlanders come marching down out of the hills, their plaids swirling and their famous bagpipes skirling out the war chant—well, the lowlanders learned to make tracks to the nearest castle!

In our own day the kilted regiments of Scotland have covered themselves with glory. The Germans called them, "The Ladies from Hell!"

Many authors have written of the Highlands. Sir Walter Scott wrote a score of novels, and his great ballad, "The Lady of the Lake" is a masterful telling of warfare between the clans.



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Some editions of FAMOUS AUTHORS ILLUSTRATED have been entitled FAST FICTION to indicate that these books can be read quickly and easily.

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