The Flying Courier

by Boyd Cable

SYNOPSIS

Glynn Elliman, a pilot of Imperial Airways is travelling as a special "Flying Courier" by the Air Mail to India, carrying two copies of a talking film of the Prince of Napalata, which it is most urgent shall reach there safely.

The Prince is in London, too ill to travel and the talking film is sent to foil the efforts of THE VULTURE, his half-brother, in India.

On the same Mail line travels Norah Seaman, a girl Glynn had met only a week before. Stefan, Max and Da[illegible], agents of the Vauture are foiled in several attempts, but at Galilee the attache case in which Glynn carries one film is stolen. Next morning after the liner has left Galilee, Stefan and Max, who have stayed behind, thinking their work finished, learn that two copies are carried by the Courier. Stefan hires a small plane and hopes to catch the liner, but engine trouble developes and they leave without him.

Glynn is again attacked in Basra.

Chapter XI—(Cont'd)

Glynn and the pilot discussed plans and as soon as they arrived at Basra where they were to stay the night, Glynn proceeded to put them in operation. He had written as briefly as possible an account of the attacks made upon him and added that he was taking suitable precautions, and this message to London was sent off from the liner's wireless to be relayed on from Bagdad by cable.

At Basra he went to the hotel closely surrounded by a watchful bodyguard of the two pilots and Jimmy Doyle, Norah this time being sent off with the other passengers and a promise that Glynn would meet her at the hotel later for dinner. To the Airways manager of the big depot there he explained some of the dangers he feared and his plans to beat any further attempts. Word in advance had again reached the depot to give Glynn all assistance and consideration and the manager did everything in his power to give what help he could.

He put Glynn in his own car with his escort to drive to the hotel and arranged for a couple of stalwart policemen to attend the hotel and be at his orders. Glynn after a conference with the hotel manager, got into the car taking the two policemen with him and arranging with Jimmy Doyle to go ahead in a cab with the pilot and wait in hiding outside the shop of which the hotel manager had given the address.

"I want you to watch and see whether I am followed if possible," explained Glynn, "and especially if that Indian passenger of ours is sneaking after me."

He gave the two sufficient time to go ahead and find a hiding place and then set out in the car for the address of a native metal worker. The car had to halt at the end of a narrow street, and Glynn with his hand on his pistol and a policeman in front and behind him, moved down the street to the shop he wanted.

He explained his needs to the smith, produced his cigarette tin and sat down while the man took measurements, produced a stout sheet of brass and set to work to make a case that would just hold the tin. One end was shaped as a lid which hinged down over two stout hasps projecting up through the side edges of the lid. When the case was ready, the cigarette tin was fitted in, the lid closed and through the hasps a length of light but strong steel chain was passed and the two ends brought round Glynn's waist and fastened together by a stout padlock. With the case in his hip pocket and the chain fitting snugly around his waist and secured in front it was impossible to open the case so long as the chain ends remained together.

Glynn paid the man well for his work took the key to the padlock, called in one of the policemen who had been left on guard outside gave him the key and told him to pocket it; and then with the same precautions against any sudden attack he moved out and keeping to the middle of the narrow street, regained the waiting car and drove back to the hotel.

He found Norah waiting for him, worried and anxious over the time he had been away and wondered what had delayed him. But now Glynn was really cheerful and confident, satisfied that with the key tucked away in an inner pocket, no such surprise attack as he had been experiencing could possibly succeed. Even if he were knocked down and stunned or were doped as he had been in the hotel at Athens, it would take a smith with a kit of tools many minutes of hard and noisy work to cut the chain or open the metal case, and he could take good care that no such long time would be left to any robbers to work at it.

He had dinner, and as they were finishing it Jimmy Doyle and the pilot came in, Jimmy in great humour, the pilot looking pleased but a little serious. When they left the table and went out to the lounge to have coffee the pilot drew Glynn aside leaving Doyle chatting with Norah.

"You were wise about looking out for being followed Glynn," he said. A cab drove up seconds after you had left the car to come down the lane there, and three men hopped out in time to see you go into that shop. We were planted in another little shop near the corner and where we had a good look-out on your car and on the shop entrance. One of the men stopped and spoke to the policeman at the door, and while he did, the other two went [illegible] and disappeared in the shadows of doors just beyond. The first man went on, but a bit later another brace of tough looking customers slid along and vanished into the shadows.

"We thought you were for it when you came out, but we were all set to break in, and the three of you coming out with guns at the ready evidently scared them, and they didn't show a nose until your car started—when one ran along to see it cleared off I suppose."

"That's all right then," said Glynn "I dunno if they'll guess what I was doing in that shop, or if they'll try to find out."

"I guess that'll be found out," said the pilot quietly. "We thought of that and hung on watching. Sure enough two of them went along and a few miutes later went in. They were there a good tewenty minutes—long enough for anyone with cash to buy every scrap of information about what you had done. We waited until they came out and gave them time to get away; then we slid out and back here."

"Was that Indian wallah amongst the lot you saw?" asked Glynn quickly.

"Not that one could be sure of," said the pilot, "but you know how dark it was down there, and with turbans shading their faces, it was hard to tell."

"Well, come along to my room and see my thief-resister," said Glynn and led the way to his room.

The pilot examined the chain and case closely and agree it would take time and hard work to break either.

"And if those fellows went to my smith and found out just what he had made," said Glynn cheerfully, "the gang will know they haven't a chance of any more grab-and-run bandit raid business, and will leave me alone."

"They certainly can't do much to that so long as you're alive and kicking," said the pilot gravely, "but isn't that a darn good reason for them having you laid out stiff with a cracked skull or a knife in your gizzard."

"Hmmm! That might be true," admitted Glynn, "but we can't have everything just as we want it in this life."

"I don't like it," said the pilot uneasily, "dashed if I do."

Chapter XII—Norah Holds the Key

A fairly early start was made from Basra next morning. Glynn had got the hotel people to have the straps of his binocular case mended and he again carried them slung over his shoulder, now taking care to carry the glasses in them, and to be seen taking them out and putting them back on every occasion he could use them. Whether this was wise or not he could not be very certain, but he thought perhaps it might indicate he was no longer carrying the film, and this might stave off any further attempts at molestation. But if, Joe, the pilot, had guessed right and his tormentors had been informed about the nef metal case that had been chained to his waist, this might invite them if he placed himself in any position where plenty of ime could be taken to remove the case from him—dead or alive.

Norah was still worried and ill at ease about the mysterious attacks and the risks he was encountering, and he decided it would be best to tell her something of the duties he had undertaken, although he still felt felt bound by the promise he had given to divulge to nobody that he carried a film for the purpose of it at Napalata.

He could see that he was going to be faced with difficulty at Karachi, From there he had to take train to Hydrapore, the city of Napalata outside of which was the Prince's palace and the Vidier or Prime Minister to whom he was to deliver the film. Norah's destination lay a few hour's journey beyond Hydrapore. It was certain she would take the first train, and this he must also do since it was of the greatest urgency he should place his packet in the hands of the Prince's people without loss of an hour.

If he travelled on the same train with her, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to avoid being seen by her, and in any case it would mean all sorts of lies and deceit he could not bring himself to use with her. So he decided to tell her so much of his plans and his errand.

He waited until the liner landed them at Bahrein, a station of the air route not long taken over by Airways off Arabia. They lunched there, and as there had been a favouring wind, the liner had made good time and they were allowed to dally over lunch, and to get a glimpse of the pearl fishing industry of which the considerable town is the centre in the Persian gulf

But Glynn did not join the others in their look round. It was a good opportunity to have a quiet talk to Norah, and he had no great fancy for offering himself to any further scrimmages in native quarters and Arab streets or bazaars.

To be continued.

RECORDED FACT.

The New Yorker says a photographer who had taken the picture of a young lady on her wedding day four years ago recently phoned her home in Scarsdale. He said he would like to have her pose for him with her children. The young matron said she couldn't do that because she didn't have any children. The photographer was adamant. "Madam," he said, with firm politeness, "our records show that you have."

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94,000 Autos In February

About 25,000 More Sold In U.S. Than Month Of Last Year

Detroit.—With reports tabulated from 47 States, R. L. Polk & Co. estimates that total passenger car sales for February reached 94,000 units, which is 34.18 per cent. more passenger car registrations than February of last year.

In the 47 states from which Polk has already received total registrations, 91,714 passenger cars were sold during February, as compared with 63,353 units in the same month last year. This also compared with 59,077 units registered in the same 47 states during January, 1934, an increase of 55,24 per cent.

Commercial and truck sales continued their gain during February, Polk figures revealed, with an estimated registration of 24,300 units. In the 47 states, 23,666 trucks were sold during February, as compared with 9,575 in the same month last year, an increase of 147,16 per cent.

In January and February of 1934, Polk reported, passenger car registrations totalled 155,242 units, as compared with 149,309 units for the same two months in 1933. Truck registrations for the two months total 46,403 units.

A Surplus

THREE RIVERS, Que.—There is no wolf howling at the door of the city treasury here. The city council can snap their fingers at talk of hard times and depression, for they have approved the 1933 financial report with a surplus of $101,506 and set apart $99,[illegible]3 of it for their reserve fund.

The budget for 1934 estimates revenue at $1,607,593 and estimated expenditures at $1,483,536, which would leave a surplus next year of $124,056. The 1934 budget was also unanimously approved.

The city fathers have reported handsome surpluses for the past three years and have added substantial sums to the reserve fund for five years running.

Farmers to be Aided In Purchasing Seed By Ontario Govt.

To assist farmers in the purchase of seed grain, the Ontario Government is prepared to accept two-thirds of the responsibility for loans for that purpose according to Hon. T. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, who made the following statement:

"The representatives of the Department of Agriculture in practically every county in the province have been approached in reference to the purchase of seed grain. In quite a number of counties there is a scarcity of seed grain and in practically every county there are farmers without seed grain and without sufficient credit to enable them to secure it.

"Due to these extraordinary 'conditions it is proposed to ask the county councils to appeal to the banks, and to secure loans under section 88 of the Banking Act for the purchase of seed grain in order to assist those farmers within their municipality who apply to them for help.

"In the event of the counties losing any money in connection with the repayment of these loans, the Government is prepared to accept two-thirds of the responsibility, providing the municipalities accept one-third."

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Issue No. 17—'34

Loveliest Girl in Ziegfeld Follies, 1934 Gives Beauty Advice

"Make the Most of Your Type," Says Leone Sousa

Almost any woman may be interesting, perhaps even beautiful, if she'll figure out her type and then play up to it, according to Leone Sousa, recently chosen the most beautiful girl in the Ziegfeld Follies of 1934.

"Type," said the tall brunette with flashing black eyes and hair that is as smooth and shiny as polished ebony, "is the password to beauty and personality. The angelic-faced girl with straight brown hair should realize that she is the Madonna type and, no matter how much she longs to be dashing, should arrange her makeup and hair to suit. The same applies to the Spanish type of beauty. And to the wan willowy miss. Even girls with pug noses and freckles may be attractive if they'll only admit to being in the 'cute' category and carry out that line of thought when they decide on a coiffure, a lipstick, a new frock.

"When I came to New York six years ago," Miss Sousa said, "I looked exactly like hundreds of other aspirants to the stage. I couldn't even get a job modelling clothes, to say nothing of one in the theatre. So I decided to make the most of my statuesque appearance, bought a stick of orchid grease paint to make me look pale and interesting, pinned a large bun on the back of my bobbed head and tucked my short locks up under it. Almost immediately I became a type and was flooded with offers from commercial photographers. Later, I was able to get on the stage, and now I've won a beauty prize."

Miss Sousa believes that exercise is important to one who wishes to be healthy and beautiful. She, herself, takes long walks in the park, rides, swims and plays tennis.

Hair is another important consideration with her. She uses a hair brush just as the average person uses a comb. Instead of setting aside fifteen minutes for a brushing ritual, she does it while she is putting on makeup, when removing it—any time at all.

Miss Sousa washes her face with soap and water, twice a day, and uses a cleansing cream afterward. her nails are perfectly manicured and she uses cosmetics sparingly though she thoroughly approves of them for all women. "The trouble with most girls," she said, "is that they use too much makeup and often the wrong shades, at that."

A CRISP SALAD

Salad should never stand for a long time after preparing it. If it must be arranged in advance, put the plates right back in the refrigerator until mealtime. There is nothing so uninteresting as a warm, wilted salad.

Trade in Furs Is Still Lively

North Ontario Trappers Get $1,566.055 Worth of Pelts in Year

Toronto — Trappers in Northern Ontario during Ontario's past fiscal year took pelts worth $1,566,055, the report of the Legislature's standing committee on fish and game reveals. In addition fur farmers sold skins of silver and black foxes worth $570,360.

Profit of the game and fisheries department, administered by Hon. George H. Challies, increased by $25,000 despite a decline in revenue derived from licenses and royalties. The increase was made possible through curtailment of expenditure, the report said.

It asserted a study of conditions affecting fur-bearing animals reveals the necessity of maintaining existing closed seasons on animals if the resources of the province are to be maintained.

Ladak Alfalfa

The Dominion Experimental Farms throughout Canada have been testing a new variety of alfalfa known as Ladak. This is a hardy variety grown on the high dry plateaus of Ladak in Northern India where the summers are extremely hot and the winters are cold. Ladak alfalfa has also been tested in different parts of the United States. While definite conclusions from a single year's results cannot be drawn, the tests indicate that Ladak is a very promising variety for the Prairie Provinces at least, and that it is deserving of further trials. At present the seed is not available in Canada.

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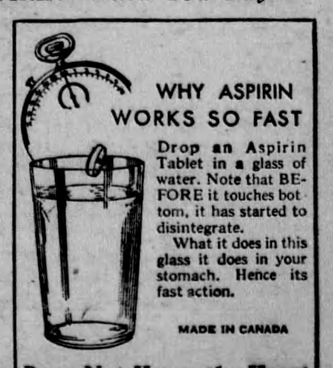

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