

CHAPTER XI

ADDITION TO THE CREW Several bullets had drilled their way of the seamen who had been tortured voyage without a mate, so I couldn't

them were above the water line. The down three of the enemy,

to the trawler without a catastrophe. Crockett came running across the deck but it was obvious that the bullets wor- | you knew anything of navigation-even and leaned over the side.

cried excitedly.

batter get down to the engine room | thought batter of it. don to help you.

spected the shore. The Arabs were com- but there was very little danger. ing down the coast just on the fringe trawler.

"I expect they think we're aground," | more. he remarked. Then he turned to the Russian girl. "Is that what happened to your ship?" he asked.

"Yes. I think they must have been slipping away inland. He fired after shore watching us during the storm. No sooner had our boats landed than they attacked us."

"I see. By the way, what were you on the ship-a passenger?" Alla shook her head.

"I was the cook," she explained. "That's interesting." Wicks said in a casual tone. "Maybe you wouldn't mind ship. We lost a hand in crossing the

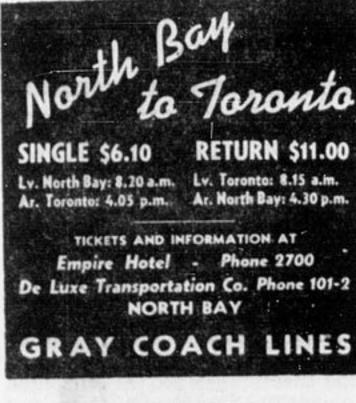
a little difficult."

direction. prove a very valuable ally in the event called.

of trouble.

presty soon. But I'd like to give the pensed with.

It was not long before the Arabs sleep there. came running along the beach, firing



set face started to shoot at the Arabs. "It was rather unexpected," he said Peter realized that she was thinking hurriedly. "I can't very well make this through the sides of the dinghy during by these same Arabs. He sympathized put him ashore. At least-I could; but the fight with the Arabs, but most of with her savage delight as she shot, I couldn't spare him."

others had been roughly plugged, and After a few seconds of this the Arabs your trawler." Alla approved. "That has left you to the Arabs." it was possible to make the journey | fled to the safety of the dunes. Crockett to come first with a captain." amused himself by firing every time a Wicks nodded his head. As they reached the "Lucky Lady" head appeared. He was a rotten shot, ried the hidden men. Wicks moved for- though it was only a little, I might be "There must be dozens of them!" he ward and deliberately shot down the able to land Drew somewhere. Then wounded Arabs as they tried to crawl we should both be satisfied." Captain Wicks was perfectly calm. out of range. Peter took a step forward He turned to Gallop and said: "You'd as though to remonstrate with him, but

The girl shook her head.

"All right," he said. "You can go

this she prepared a meal. Gallop and

food and it was not unlike a picnic-

"What time shall you be finished?"

Gallop scratched the back of hi

"Another couple of hours should see

"Weather conditions seem favour-

"Then we can put to sea this after-

able," he commented. "There shouldn't

noon, I should think," Gallop said. "I

wasn't as long a job as I thought

"You'd better for your own sake,

"I think we'd better have a talk," he

"Very good," said Peter. "Shall

"You might as well," said Wicks.

Alla had gone aft to the galley, and

told her. "That's the first decent meal

in the face and shuffling his feet.

help you with your engines, you know,

"I'm not so sure that I wouldn't," h

"That's right. I was the cook."

have women officers, don't they?"

"No need to shout this all over the

"Not a thing," she said decidedly.

pity. I'm not sure about this, but the

should learn if I were you. Only don't

trust the captain too much. He's been

a bit of an adventurer in his time and

deesn't always run a dead straight

"I don't quite-but thank you very much for warning me. I'll be careful

and-watch my step. Is that the right

thing to say? My English is not always

just now, because it's all untidy."

with your work." He turned away, but

"I'll be very careful," she assured

When he had gone she frowned.

Things were becoming very complicat-

required. So he wanted to teach her so

came back to grin at her and whisper:

'Don't forget to watch your step."

course-if you understand what

captain might offer to teach you.

Gallop rubbed his neck.

Gallop's eyes narrowed.

Alla shook her head.

Gallop scowled.

navigation?"

perfect.

us through," he announced. "But

for a little while."

Wicks studied the sky.

be the need for any strain."

Gallop sent Gordon up to say that don't think I could learn very easily in rather a hurry. You can have Gor- they were having trouble with the en- I'm rather slow at picking things up. gine. Wicks nodded his head and fum- I'm afraid." Once on deck, after supervising kled in his pockets for his pipe. A few Wicks looked at her suspiciously an stowing away the dinghy, Wicks in- stray shots whistled through the air, then gave her a curt nod.

"Evidently they realize they've bitten along to the galley now." of the main line of dunes. Those near- off more than they can chew," Wicks | She wanted to get word to Peter o er to the ship were much smaller, and commented, puffing out a cloud of what had happened, but there was no there were not many of them, so that smoke. "It will be interesting to see if opportunity, because Wicks was hover-Wicks realized they would not offer their leader gets a bright idea about ing round all the time. So she gave i much shelter for an attack on the anything. I'd like to do a bit more up for the moment and set to work camage before we put out to sea once to tidy things up in the galley. After

But it soon became obvious that the Gordon came up on deck to have their Arabs had had enough. Crockett gave a shout when he noticed that they were except for the grim reminders on the them and, by some fluke, managed to bring down a man who was just slip- Wicks wanted to know. ring from a place of concealment. Wicks gave a sardonic grin.

"I bagged him!" Crockett called out. Howe spat over the side.

"He wasn't the one you aimed at," he shouldn't want to use her too much

said in disgust.

"There's no need to waste any furperforming similar duties on board this ther ammunition," Wicks told them. "You can see about repairing the din-Bay of Biscay, and it's made things ghy now. And tell the engineer that it's quite all right. He can get on with his "I'd be only too glad to help," the repairs. We shall not be bothered by girl said, and gave a sly wink in Peter's Arabs again to-day." He looked shorewards. "Beastly unpleasant coast," he would be. Gordon's becoming really He realized the cleverness of her an- commented. "I think we accounted for useful. I'll make an engineer out of swer. As cook she would be perfectly about seven more Arabs though. So him before the voyage is over." free to wander about at will, and thus perhaps it was just as well that we

across in order to prevent Alla from He turned away and went down to talking to Peter. He sat next to the Crocket and Howe had already se- his cabin. After a time he returned mate and looked at him thoughtfully lected rifles from those brought from and ordered Peter to supervise the rethe shore. They moved forward and pairs to the dinghy. Fortunately Peter looked eagerly at the advancing Arabs. still had the plugs in his pocket, so that said slowly. ed. "All the same, we're leaving here inserted in their place could be dis- come to your cabin?"

"Itching for a fight," Wicks mutter- the very rough ones which had been Arabs a bit more of a lesson-just to Wicks offered Alla his cabin, but she teach them not to take liberties with declined it, saying that she had seen was surprised when Gallop came along the galley and could well manage to to her.

ALLA IS QUESTIONED

as they charged. The shots spattered "Suit yourself," said Wicks. "As a I've had since the voyage started. How against the side of the trawler. Wicks matter of fact there is supposed to be I can be expected to do my jcb on an started to shoot back. The motion of room for the cook to sleep there. You empty stomach I don't know." . the ship made it a little difficult to see, when this trawler was built I had take effective aim, but a steady fusilade an idea that I might want to take her the meal," she said lightly, going about did much to cool the ardour of the at- for a long voyage some time. We're her work. tackers. Alla took a gun, and with a going on one now. Do you have any

objections?" She shook her head.

"Of course not. And, even if I had, I'm not in a position to start grum-

Wicks favoured her with a smile. "You look at things from the right angle," he said approvingly. "I suppose you don't know anything of navigation aren't you?"

y any chance?" She shook her head.

"I'm afraid not," she told him. "That's a pity. The mate has had a rather trying time of late and really wanted to leave the ship when he somebody else."

knew we were making a long voyage." ticned, with a fine show of innocence.

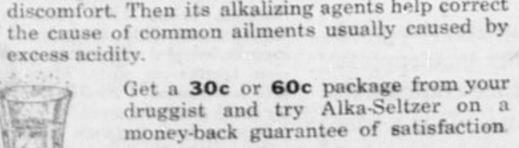
"Didn't he know at first?" Alla ques-Wicks pulled at his beard.

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ed. She could tell what Wicks wanted to do. The mate was in the way and should be removed. But that was not practicable because of a navigator being

that he could get rid of the man who had rescued her. She shook her head.

"No. Captain Wicks, we shall not be caught that way," she said to herself. Then there was Gallop. Evidently he did not feel that he could work on his own. He wanted somebody who could attend to the navigation part. And he would prefer her to the mate.

It was a situation fraught with danger. Once they realized that she was capable of taking charge of the trawler both parties could unite and get rid of Drew

But so long as Drew was a useful ally there was something to keep the two sides working against one another. She didn't know what Howe felt about the matter, but it was quite plain to whom Gordon and Crockett would give sup-

She decided that it would be a good thing to get into conversation with Howe. With this intention she left the galley.

CHAPTER XII "YOU LOOK AFTER THE GIRL" In the cabin Wicks leaned against

his bunk and stared at Peter. "You've given me a fair amount of trcuble," he said slowly. "It would "Naturally, you had to safeguard serve you right if I put you ashore and

Peter contented himself with a shrug of the shoulders. He knew that Wicks "Of ccurse," he said quickly. "But could not dispense with his services. "Yes," the captain said thoughtfully. "You realize that you're useful to me. ing, Mr. Drew. I take it that you haven't changed your mind about com-

ing into partnership with me?" thing about it," she confessed. "And I make that offer to me. You want me one who has gone through the horrors to help you to take the ship across to and the bravery of war. America. After that-well, how do I know that I should receive a share of the gold? I haven't any guarantee."

> Wicks stroked his beard. "I can see your point," he admitted. "On the other hand I don't see what security I can give you. And I think, Legless, sewn short at elbow. Through maybe, that you have the wrong idea, Mr. Drew. I am the captain. It so hap- | Voices of boys rang saddening like a pens that you are in my hands. don't propose to leave you behind because you will be useful to me. And when the voyage is over I shall not knock you over the head for the very c'ovious reason that you would still be useful. There isn't sufficient money for us to be able to retire for life. The When glow-lamps budded in the lightmain point about this money is that there is sufficient for us to earn more with it. Money really does make money You can't get away from that. And I know scores of ways of making money -given the required capital. You're Now he will never feel again how slim For daggers in plaid socks; of smart

going to help me." "I don't seem to have any optionat the moment," Peter said quietly. Wicks stepped forward and clapped

him on the shoulder. "You'll be all right," he encouraged. As the days go by you'll begin to realize that your wisest plan will be to fall in with my suggestions." He cocked his head slightly on one side and his eyes screwed up slightly. Then he leaned nearer to Peter. "I'd better warn Wicks said shortly. Then he moved you about one thing," he said in little more than a whisper. "We've extra trouble now-because of the girl you rescued. It's going to be a hard crossing for us all. We may have to protect her from the crew. There's no knowing what ideas they may get when they've spent several days in midocean and it's too hot to do any work. So you might as well bear in mind the thought that you are sharing a certain

"You seem to be very competent," he responsibility with me." Peter was taken somewhat by surprise. He hadn't expected Wicks to adopt this attitude.

"Surprised, eh? You shouldn't be. I'm looking after the gold, man! I don't "I'm glad you feel all the better for want the added responsibility of a woman on my hands. I think the best "I suppose there isn't anything I can thing that you can do is to look after do to help you?" he offered, going red her. And in order that there isn't any trouble which we cannot manage, those "No, thanks," she said with a smile. rifles must be dropped over the side when we leave here. I don't believe in "This is my job. You wouldn't let me the crew having weapons. It might put wrong notions into their heads.

"The guns might come in useful for when we get across to the other side, said, "You're from a Russian ship, Peter reminded him. "It's just possible that we might get off our course and land along a coast just as wild "Hm! Some of the Russian ships as this one."

"You mean the Guiana coast? I've "That's right. We had one last trip. heard that it is bad in parts. But that Only she was taken ill and so we had is not our destination." Wicks shook his head. "I think I prefer to run the risk," he declared. "It will not be nearly so great as the risk of having rifles ship," he said in little more than a which might be obtained by a disconwhisper. "This is confidential, mind. Do tented crew. I've heard of locks being you happen to know anything about broken more than once." He shook his head again. "They go over the side tonight," he said. "I'll see to it when Crockett is on deck. I can trust him more than the others." "That's a pity," he declared. "A great

So it came about that as the trawler left the inlet and made her way southwards once more, the guns taken from the Arabs were dropped over the side. The following merning found Drew ence more a prisoner in his cabin. He began to worry about Alla, but she came to the cabin in order to bring him some food, and stayed for a second or

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Midland Free Press:-"As we slipped "Your English is wonderful," Gallop and slid down the hill to the office the told her. "Remember that you can al- other day when the whole town was one ways come to me if there is any trou- sheet of ice, we wondered why some ble. I'd like you to have a look at the bright young fellow had not invented a engine-room one of these days. Not personal sanding device. Just think how much safer we should all be if we "I'd like to very much," Alla assured could carry a pail fastened somewhere out in front which would drop a steady "Splendid. Now I'll let you get on stream of sand on the ice in front of us. Equipped with this and a cushion tied on our rear we should be ready for all emergencies."

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(By A. H.)

Disabled (By Wildred Owen)

He sat in a wheeled chair, waiting for And shivered in his ghastly suit

the park

Voices of play and pleasure after day, Till gathering sleep had mothered them from him.

grew dim.

away his knees.

Girls' waists are, or how warm their subtle hands. All of them touch him like some queer

There was an artist silly for his face, For it was younger than his youth, last

Now he is old; his back will never He's lost his colour very far from here, Poured it down shell-holes till the veins

And half his lifetime lapsed in the hot And leap of purple spurted from his

One time he liked a bloodsmear down his leg.

It was after football, when he'd drunk

Someone had said he'd lock a god in

That's why; and maybe, too, to please his Meg. Aye, that was it, to please the giddy About this time Town used to swing He asked to join. He didn't have to sore throat.

Smiling they wrote his lie, aged nineteen years. And girls danced lovelier as the air Germans he scarcely thought of; and no fears -In the old times, before he threw Of Fear came yet. He thought of jewelled hilts

And care of arms; and leave; and pay arrears;

Esprit de corps; and hims for young recruits And soon, he was drafted out with drums and cheers.

Some cheered him home, but not as crowds cheer Goal. Only a solemn man who brought him

Thanked him; and then inchired about Now, he will spend a few sick years in

Institutes, And do what things the rules consider

And take whatever pity they may dole. After the matches carried shoulder- Tc-night he noticed how the women's Passed from him to the strong men

that were whole. He thought he'd better join. He wonders How cold and late it is! Why don't they come And put him into bed? Why don't they

Globe and Mail:-Sympathy even of

those with bad colds should go out to that seven-foot-necked giraffe in the Chicago Zoo that is suffering with a



In our Interest—and Yours! The Brewing Industry has a selfish reason for the that law can make men temperate.

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