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Ashes of Lightning

by Vincent Cornier

Author of "The Steel Dutchman," "The Flying Hat," Etc.

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS GILES MORETON: Twenty-five, handsome but temperamental. Reputed to be a former R.A.F. pilot, invalided out. Now works as an inspector in the Lowood tank plant.

CAROL GILROY: Daughter of local solicitor, who has taken up war work as a viewer in the Lowood plant. She is interested in Moreton, who mystifies

HECTOR FLANAGAN: Works superintendent. Hostile to Moreton, "RATTY" HELME: Progress clerk,

who toadies to Flanagan. MAJOR - GENERAL SIR ALBERT H.RDISTY: General-Officer Comanding the district in which the Lowood works are situated.

CAPTAIN CALTHROP: Intelligence Officer on Hardisty's staff, specially interested in security questions.

"She she's a fool! She simply must be! I never heard of such a terrible accusation. She ought to be locked up. Moreton sighed and wearily smiled at her vehemence. Then his face hardened and his whole bearing took on that held-in quality which Carol formerly, disliked so much. He was baffling and remote-the old Giles

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"Carol, I can't tell you more. I must ask you only to trust me. An-an enormous request, when you come to think of it . . . I'm in a terrible quandary. All I can ask you to do is to cast your mind back across recent events-recall to mind my conduct at Calthrop's inquiry; search across your memory for any act or word of mine which might raise a doubt about my bona fides . . . I'm prepared to stand or fall, in your estimation, by the conclusion you arrive at. I-I simply cannot be fairer, nor can I tell you more.'

After a while Carol's fingers closed softly, on his wrist. Behind a shimmer of sudden tears she serenely looked at

"You know I trust you dear," she

There was a sudden stirring and a confusion at the door. Voices muttered, then grew in volume and shriller in pitch. Dancing stopped. A police officer wearing a steel helmet

stalked in and impatiently waved the band to silence. "Any N.F.S. men here?" he called. I'd feel a soug if I let them down."

"If so, tumble out at the double and report for duty."

The throbbing of cars and rapidly running trailer-pumps came clearly from the main road. Everywhere there was Babel. People rushed for the cloakrooms. Moreton made inquiries. "What's matter, lad. Why haven't is?"

y'heard? The moors have got on fire Lowood! The ling and heather's as dry as snuff-it's blazing in an almost complete circle right round the Tractor own affairs. "Thank the lord we don't get many raids in this quarter. . . . If butting in, won't you?" Jerry came over to-night-"

his lips. He shouted:

toms in the night, keening for deaths- of re-assuring nod ... snore of aircraft moved across the city; Hardisty-" deadly Valkyries, riding the English winds and heading for the blazing message, 'just plain Albert'!" Loodwood hills.

In one vast crash the guns of the crimsoned. "I-I'm afraid I was very throp. ringed batteries began their barrage.

CHAPTER IX END OF A PARTY

Moreton was nonplussed. Carol was thunderous roar succeeded it...

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"But its my duty Carol," he told her, "Cross-section of an English home works and report. I'm not going to "An illuminating lesson for the-ahdawdle around here while the rest are Eidenhausens of this world, what?" fighting that fire under bombs, may- "Most illuminating, sir," Moreton be! Good heavens, girl, be sensible! stiffly replied.

I'm saying is-I'll come with you. It's move. He savoured the moment of being so sticky about?" my duty, too!"

bled with laughter. "It's not chiffon,-"

A lonely wailing took the words from General Hardisty stood in a doorway, ence in the air. Carol's face flamed. spy . . . whereupon twenty-seven "A set-up! That's what it is! Some in her somewhat bewildered plight, was an oddly challenging timble in twenty-seven detonators-and the firefoul, Fifth Column work in this, or Carol could not help noticing that his Moreton's answer. "Miss Gilroy, also bugs vanished into the surrounding Corner, Welsh. I'm a Dutchman. . . . Listen, the sirens, mein was different. He had shed the is to be trusted." and-and Lowood works lit up like chilly and distant attitude of their last "I am sure she is." The General After a time Captain Calthrop made The excited man was gone. Moreton courteous and pleasant-faced Cal- lady," to her relief Carol saw he was "I will admit I've often been taught throp of their first meeting.

and moved-wavering and giant phan- ning his neck, to give Moreton a kind hold on to that like grim death-and compounds. And I agree that it's senseto-be. Before they ended, the sullen "Of-of course! Your Sir Albert delighted to see you down to the hotel ferent-

rude. I apologize, sir." was swinging his monocle now, and head. The noise of the raid grew to terri- blandess again. "You've so well and "from what Calthrop has told me, swerve from Calthrop's suddenly exfying proportions. The mighty stone truely kicked over the kettle of fish you've done excellently up to now. I'll cited twist on the steering. "These hill

structure of the old Royal George that I'm at a loss to decide on a have to have a long talk with you roads are far too treacherous for carequivered under the vibrant thunder of course of action." Far away, from later." the guns. Waiters had to act like the direction of Lowood, arose an "Thank you for your approval, sir. don't forget that one which shot off jugglers to secure dancing glasses, and ever-increasing whine that seemed, And, I think a discussion will help, this very road, hereabouts, taking its curtains billowed, confusingly, upon a for a moment or two, to agonize hea- I've got two definite suspects-one load of gear-boxes with it . . . another myraid differing currents of blast. ven and earth. It stopped, and a Hector Flanagan, another called thirty tanks held up." proving difficult. She refused to go to "That's finis for one German bomber, ness up to their necks."

shelter. She refused to cross to her anyway," Sir Albert calmly interpolnear-by home in the Cathedral Close- ated. "Perhaps, Moreton, it would be the General grimly stated, "they'll do. ton pointed to a gap in the stone walland she refused to be parted from as well if you stayed where you are." | We'll want those necks for ropes." "But, sir, I really ought to be-"

"That, I should explain, was an order," said the General curtly. Instantly, Carol understood ... She saw Moreton's eyes widen, then close you'll remember." on their astonishment. She saw him

come an automaton.

her like a genii-and Calthrop, trying his utmost to send her cryptic signs little smile.

cocked an iron-grey eyebrow, quizzic- Wiedersehen, Karl Eidenhausen!"

you of your escort."

"In that case I'll go down to the shelter. If I go into the street alone, the police will only send me to another shelter."

that I am allowed to use the 'phone in which was bent above Lowood. a blitz."

bert. I will give you a message for Daddy. But he won't be worrying." "He sounds positively inhuman!"

half years to blot us all out. He works their destination. out his personal risk from that basis!"

excellent hearing! Civilian moral at activities. The moors were deliberately its best! This raid won't bother him, fired, I was told. Anything in that?"

"As for the rest of the household-

our cat will be under an upturned coalscuttle in the cellar. Sitting on the scuttle will be Hannah, our housekeeper. The cash box containing her savings, will be on top of the gas meter and she'll have the wood- electron flares, if you like that better. chopper in her lap, ready for any Each had been spaced exactly two stray parachutists!"

impatiently. "I've got to get out to the at war." He was watching Moreton, there's proof?" "If," Calthrop patiently returned

> Like a first-class chess player, Har- vices can't be considered as proof, well, blankness and dismay on Carol's part

Exasperatedly he pointed to her frock. "Um! Isee you have been the-ah- electron. A blow on a detonating cap-"How can you go fire-fighting in a-a recipient of certain confidences, Miss sule is needed. And yet you confront whirl of chiffon, or whatever stuff it Gilroy. 'The name 'Eidenhausen' con- me with the picture of a horseshoe veys a lot to you, it appears."

at about ten different points up at be considered certainly. But she bub- interjection, "it was-it was vitally firing having taken place at twentynecessary for Miss Gilroy to know-" seven equidistant points. Twaddle!" "My boy, I have a great deal of "But-but that actually happened!" "Well, whatever it is Miss Gilroy," a trust in you," Hardisty remarked. "Then, at each of those points," works!" The fellow moved off on his decisive voice uttered behind her, "it's "Yet it was necessary for me to un- Moreton sweetly countered, "I am to too delightful to spoil. Forgive my derstand in what relation Miss Gilroy assume a Fifth Columnist was standstood..."

Captain Calthrop was with him. Even "Well sir, now you see!" and there simultaneous blows were struck on

encounter. He was, once more, the bowed, curtly. "So, my dear young a concession; smiling, "if you'll take my advice, slip that the closure of an electrical circuit St. Pierre, Moscarello, Lucciantonio. One after another the sirens waked She saw him go out of his way cra- off those pearls, pop them in your bay; cannot be employed to agitate thermite I'm sure that Captain Calthrop will be less to speculate on twenty-seven dif-

> her father's telephone number and her which was shaken out of that lorry; "You must forgive me," Moreton message to him, then went with Cal- the semi-transparent tube of bottled

Calthrop remarked on his dangerous "Now Giles," snapped Hardisty, "Steady!" The car took a distinct

Helme. They're in this sabotage busi- The moon, late risen, was giving light

He glanced at his watch.

"It's getting on for midnight, boy studded ravine. "No, sir. I'm a night-shift worker, "Poor devils."

"Of course. Well, when Calthrop dashboard Calthrop studied Moreton's stiffen and, for a second or so, be- gets back, he'll take you on a jaunt by sad and tired profile. car. He has all his orders, so please "Y'know, old man, you're letting all Away, like bats scattered out of listen to him and let him follow them this get under your skin."

from behind the General's broad back heads in a nasty tangle like this. . . . side it all, Calthrop. As a workman, made comic nodding-doll motions, Ah, here he comes. Until I tell you I'm in it body, heart, and soul. That which she acknowledged with a happy differently, you're under his orders, so" much! -and the General's right eye perpe- "One watches metal coming up from Hardisty noticed her again and trated a most distinct wink-"auf the rough bar, through operation after

"The same to you, Sir Albert!" "So you won't go into the hotel "My wife," said the General slowly, folk who have, dimly or clearly some shelter, young woman, and you won't as he turned to go, "will never be con- picture in mind of a world released go home? Well, what d'you intend to vinced that you aren't. . . . Dammit, from impending doom and hideous do now? You see I want to deprive I-I see some dirty weather piling up slavery-and, dimly realized, they find for you m'lad!"

CHAPTER X TO BLAZING LOWOOD

"That's awfully kind of you, Sir Al- the sirens sounded for raiders passed. hammerings of Thor.

"I heard some kind of yarn," he The General was amused. "That's ventured, "about Fifth Columnist

"Only too true, old chap! As bare-"No. I can almost see him; sitting faced a bit of work as ever I've known; by the fire, tickling the ears of our not even in France before Dunkirk. the raiders appeared. Talk about during the war.

synchronization!" "Is that official, Calthrop? Incend-

"Well, some such gear. Magnesiumhundred yards from its neighbors, des-When he had finished laughing Sir cribing a sort of horseshoe formation about the factory."

magnesia and metal, undoubtedly the residue of burned-out incendiary de-

"I don't want you to do that. All disty had accomplished a lightning I give up." He grunted. "What are you Just wondering. . . . The thermites Carol! Don't be so dumb!" of feigned indifference from Moreton, employed for firing magnesium-

bend, three miles long from beginning Carol hesitated. That was a point to "General," Moreton made a fierce to end, and talk about 'synchronised'

ing, hammer in hand, waiting for a Erect and infinitely sure of himself, He left the remainder of the sent- pre-arranged signal from some mastercountryside! Again I say, twaddle."

"I'm remembering," Moreton inter-"I am-or according to your recent Carol bade them all good-night, left rupted, "that delightful contrivance lightning which was tickled up by my The barrage had ceased. The swift mug of tea."

"Y'know, young man," the General sweep of night-fighters roared over- "Of course! I had almost forgot-

less driving. And, talking about lorries,

enough to pierce the acrid smoke pall "So long as they don't dip deeper," which hung about the district. Moreing of the road. Beyond it was a fearsome wedge of gloom-a narrow, rock-

"Just there," he soemnly whispered.

In the upcast radiance from the

darkness by wide light and sunny out without interference." He grinned, "I suppose you're right. Yet, how wind, flew the last dim doubts which bleakly. "Apparently you've touched can I help it?" Moreton stared had lurked, tormentingly, in the secret him on the raw a little by overwhelm- straight in front of him, thinking. recesses of her soul. Intuition served ing him on the explosion inquiry." Then, with a truly surprising out-"I'll promise to be very careful, sir." burst of passion, he raced into speech. "Good! It's no use being at logger- "An an Intelligence Officer, you're out-

operation-through wearisome hours of labour; the earnest labour of humble pride. Pride in achievement; pride in thestrength of their ultimate flexion of the fighting arm. . . . And that rough steel becomes shining and silken. It is The little Army-grey car buckeled made obedient to limits of thousandths "Any message we can send to your along the steep and cobbled roads lead- of an inch—the intolerance of a split people? Won't they be worrying about ing out to Hellersfield. Calthrop head- hair, either way, is not allowed. That you?" Hardisty chuckled. "It happens ed for that ruddy are in the night steel takes on a certain investment of majesty. . . . It becomes an instrument As they cleared the city boundaries of man's salvation; a shield against the

"That'ss a relief," the Security Of- "Assembled, living, moving, it is ficer exulted. "Can't say I relished made exactly ready for its place in war. messing about in the works area with Then, Calthrop, all the intricate "No, he's far from that! But once sweet little Jerry sitting aloft. I won- labours and all the ponderous hours he calculated that if the Germans der if there's been much damage?" which have been devoted to its perdropped a bomb a minute, night and Moreton smiled, secretly, to himself fection are wasted." His voice became day, on every seperate acre of this one in the darknes. Calthrop had so much a throbbing snarl, "by traitors. And, of country, they would take nine and a tclearn . . . so the "works' area" was the sins, I rate treachery as the foulest -in peace or war."

Promoted to the Rank of Engineer Lieutenant

(To be Continued.)

Announcement was made this week dog and reading some old book." Her Twenty-seven incendiary bombs were from Ottawa that James Cowan, of eyes glanced twinkling, at the Gen- touched off, all together, and they fired Timmins, has ben promoted to the the moor at as many different points Timmins, has been promoted to the -in that quarter of an hour before R.C.N., in recognition of his services

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Timmins, Ontario

All-Star Porcupine Team Wins from the ner, Welsh. Navy Bulidogs High-Grade Samples from

Navy Lads Defeat the Combines Seven to Three

The well trained Navy Bulldog team Sounds darn queer to me! Of course, defeated the Porcupine Combines at the McIntyre Arena on Thursday night by a score of seven to three. "twenty-seven separate heaps of The Combines played much better than they did in the Senior league

> First Period 1. Navy-Love (Curry, Barker), 1:36 2. Combines-Dedmonte (Curik).

2:45. 3. Navy-Davey (Curry). 5:35. Penalties: Dillon, McKay.

Second Period 4. Navy-Love 13:18. 5. Navy-Love. 19:08

6. Combines-Curik (Delmonte)

Penalty: Love. Third Period

19:35.

7. Navy-Barker. 2:03 8. Combines-Costello (McKay) 4 9. Navy-Barker, 10:56

10. Navy-Davey (Grivel). 12:26 Toronto Navy Bulldogs: goal, Wilson: defence, Olinski, Dillon; centre, Love; wings, Curry, Barker; alternates, Schnurr, Davey, Armstrong, of Private Jacob Shelby Bant, a great-

defence, Zeidel, B. Barilko; centre Delmonte; wings, Wilkes, Curik; alternates, A. Barilko, McKay, Costello,

The Porcupine All-Stars outplayed and outskated the Navy Bulldogs on Friday night at the McIntyre Arena to win by a score of five to three. The game was never dull, with lefty wilson in goal for Navy and L. Porter in goal for the All-Stars putting in good per-

First Period

1. Navy-Barker, 5:50. 2. Stars-Wilson (Guidilon). 6:26. Penalties: none.

Second Period 3. Stars-Baker (Guidilon). 2:54 4. Stars-Wilson (Guidilon), 12:05.

6. Stars-Wilkes (Lortie). 14:19. Penalties: none. Third Period 7. Stars-Wilson, 15:25.

5. Navy-Love (Curry). 13:48.

8. Navy-Barker (Curry), 18:16. Penalty: Dillon. Porcupine All-Stars: goal, L. Porter defence, Dorar, Lortie; centre, Guidilon; wings, Wilson, Baker; alternates, Telkinen, Kosick, Gordon, Wilkes, E. Porter, Schwab, Mallox.

Toronto Navy Bulldogs; goal, Wilson; defence, Mackie, Grivel; centre,

Armstrong; wings, Davey, Schnurr; alternates, Love, Curry, Barker Cor-

Week's Run of the Press North Bay Nugget:-When peace is finally framed let is hope it remains

Exchange:-The modern girl is khaki happy. That is, she has a soldier on each arm.

a permanent picture

Pembroke Bulletin -To the bachelor life is just one uncarned thing after another.

St. Thomas Times-Journal:-Practically everything Mackenie King has done towards the war efort he has been forced to do by pulic opinion. But he never failed to tak full credit to himself and his government for the country's accomplishment

Globe and Mail: Brant County has many patriotic sons, bu few have rendered more notable serice to King and country than the family established by the celebrated Indian dief Captain Joseph Brant. Six generations have served the King. The Gand River countryside has now been saddened by news of the death in action in Belgium great-great-grandson of the principal Porcupine Combines: goal, Pirie; chief of the Six Nations indians who fought on the British side in the war of the American Revolution

THURSDAY-8.30 p.m. Liblic Skat-FRIDAY-2.00 p.m. Puble Skating: 7.30 Juvenile Hocky, South

9.00 p.m. Sea Cadet vs Cana-SATURDAY-8.30 p.m. lublic Skat-

Porcupine vs United Movers;

MONDAY - 8.15 am. Senior Hockey, Falls vs Tinmins.

TUESDAY-Skating Club all day. WEDNESDAY-2 p.m. Public Skating; 8.15 p.m. Senior Hockey, Schumacher vs Combines.

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