THE STORY SO FAR: More fan 200,000 foreign troops which had been secretly transported to Mexico suddenly invaded the United States. Intelligence Officer Benning had discovered their plans while a spy in Mexico City where he had gained the confidence of Fincke and Bravot, two enemy officers, but his

CHAPTER XIV

Benning left the hotel at nine o'clock and walked to the Empire State Building. During the night he had collected available information of the Andes Gold Mining and Milling Company. The firm had been operating in New York for ten years past. It was a small but regular dividend payer, was not listed on the stock exchange, and had conformed to all laws and requirements in regard to its operations and transactions. Simon Salvatore, a Chilean, had recently taken over as managing director.

On reaching the forty-fifth floor, Benning went direct to the company's offices and stepped inside.

A fat roly-poly of a man with catlike smirk stamped on his round face came up to Benning at once to search him with small round eyes that glinted suspicious appraisal through horn-rimmed glasses.

"I am Mr. Oldfer, office manager," he said in an ingratiating purr. "Is there something I can do for

"I am a stockholder," Benning said, intent on completing his reconnaissance of the room in the shortest possible time. "I wish to inquire if it is true the company is disposing of two mines, the Palacio Quatres and the Silver Sabers?"

Oldfers upper teeth gnawed nervously at his lower lip at this blunt identification of the visitor as a Van Hassek agent.

"Maybe," Oldfer hesitated, "you want to see Senor Salvatore?"

"Nonsense!" Benning said with authority. "You say you are the office manager and I have just introduced myself fully. I'm in a great hurry, Oldfer."

Benning stepped decisively past the fellow and went to the open "B" cabinet at which a ruddy clerk of Slav features was working. While Oldfer pattered up with muttered protests, Benning thumbed through the Baltimore entries. Ramsey, Ringold, Rosser, Rouse, Rumbolt. He noted that after each listed stockholder there were symbols purporting to show number of stock shares held, dates of dividend payment, and other littered data.

His eye caught the pertinent detail that in the Baltimore file, as compared with other files through which he hurriedly skimmed, there were many more entries on each card. Baltimore, headquarters of the Army's Third Corps Area, and flanked by some of the Army's important arsenals and secret proving grounds, was a logical beehive of espionage activity.

"Very good, your Baltimore file shows the proper activity," Benning announced, turning abruptly away to face Oldfer. "Thank you for your courtesy."

"Senor Salvatore will be here very soon," Oldfer said. "It is necessary that you talk with Mr. Salvatore before you leave."

"Tell Salvatore," Benning said, scowling at his watch, "that I'll be back by eleven at latest. Just now I'm in a hurry."

"Oh, no, but you will wait," Oldfer whined. "Ja, you will wait, or Senor Salvatore would never forgive me." He turned to one of his clerks keep the gentleman company until Mr. Salvatore arrives!"

A barrel-chested man whose squat legs, long angular face, and flaillike arms gave him the aspect of an orangutan, stepped forward with a nod. The others moved closer. Benning saw that only by force might he pass out the door of the Andes Gold Mining and Milling Company. Numbers were against him.

"All right, Oldfer," he yielded with annoyance, "I'll wait a reasonable time."

Backropp escorted Benning into the Salvatore private room behind the main office, where he indicated a seat in front of Salvatore's mahogany desk. Backropp sat down close by and folded his ponderous arms across his chest. Two others of Oldfer's men quit their work at the files to take position just outside the Salvatore door. Benning saw that he was as definitely a prisoner as if he had been bound and gagged.

Benning waited, impatiently consulting his watch from time to time. Barely fifteen minutes had passed before he heard someone enter the office from outside. He rose and walked to an open window, Backropp watching him narrowly. Casually he selected a cigarette from his case, lighted it, took two quick puffs and cast it out the window.

"It's a long way down to the street from here, Backropp," he said, leaning out for a brief survey below.

Benning saw a yellowish phosgene smudge trail out behind his falling cigarette and turned back to Back-

"It's not so far down," Backropp muttered, "if you don't wait to take a elevator."

Out in the office Oldfer was speak-

ing in a tremulous voice. "Ja, Senor Salvatore, he may be all right," Oldfer said anxiously. "He introduced himself, but I don't INSTALLMENT THIRTEEN

ington, Benning met Fincke who had

come there to do espionage work for his

government. Benning continued to pose

as a friend, and proceeded to investi-

gate a mysterious gold mining company

was a "front" for a vast spy ring.

Now continue with the story.

a dead man in a tomb.

four glum prisoners.

operating in New York. He believed it

was as completely sealed away as

Out in the offices of the Andes

Gold Mining and Milling Company a

blunt new crew had taken over, head-

ed by Lieutenant Colonel Wallace,

corps area Intelligence officer. Three

of Wallace's officers were checking

through the company records, three

others were standing guard over

This sharp transfer of authority

had been accompanied by a brief,

tragic violence. In a corner of the

body of Backropp. A bullet from

Wallace's pistol had been needed to

"All right, Oldfer," Wallace

threatened the cowering fat man

who sat in front of him. "I'll give

you one more chance to remember

the combination to that safe. If you

do remember, I'll make it an intern-

ment camp, if you don't I'll have you

He lifted his wrist to his eyes and

glanced at the time. "I'll give you

exactly thirty seconds more to de-

Ten seconds had passed when the

office door opened. Safe experts re-

ported in to tackle the job of open-

ing the vault. Oldfer was jolted into

decision by knowledge that if the

"I'll open it!" he cried, leaping

to his feet. "Ja, I'll open the safe,

if you promise me I don't hang for

Oldfer fairly raced to the steel

doors and nervously fingered the

combination. In his excitement three

trials were necessary to complete

the combination. Colonel Wallace

seized the door and pulled it open.

Benning was lying on the floor, his

right hand clutching a small pocket

Wallace lifted the unconscious man

to a sofa in the Salvatore room. A

medical officer, who had been hur-

ried in from Governor's Island, took

mind to the whirling gray world

out of there without much more de-

Half an hour later Benning in-

legs were wobbly under him, the

slow, steady throb of his pulse re-

verberated in aching temples. But

"Here, Benning, you'd better take

it easy," the corps area G-2 chief

"I'm feeling better," Benning an-

swered. "What's the score now,

Colonel Wallace was effervescent.

"The Andes Gold Mining and Mill-

ing Company," he exclaimed, "is

the most valuable mine in the world

right now. No question about it,

we're headed for the biggest spy

ed to know. "Bravot, alias Salva-

The glow of Wallace's face van-

ished into gloom. "Pretty bad luck,

Benning," he said heavily. "He man-

aged to slip out his private door as

we entered. I had Lieutenant Crane

guarding the hall. Salvatore killed

him with a small automatic and was

lucky enough to catch a cage down

before we could get out there. By

the way, Benning, when you feel up

to it, Colonel Flagwill wishes you

to call him at the War Department."

of records. There was no need of

cryptographers on the job. In a false

bottom of Bravot's desk, Wallace

had unearthed a code book which un-

The first estimates showed seven-

teen thousand cards of stockholders.

Many of these were innocent pur-

chasers, Wallace thought from the

first results of his check, but there

was evidence of thousands of ene-

my agents, scattered in important

posts and positions throughout the

An hour later Benning went to

the McAlpin. His legs still lacked

strength and he took a cab for the

short ride. Upstairs in his room he

called Flagwill, who was on the line

"Glad you're all right, Benning,

you had us worried!" Flagwill ex-

claimed. "A great piece of work.

simply great! Report back as soon

as you feel like traveling, Benning."

right now-and we've got to find out

what's ahead of us. General Hague

suggested-well, if you think you've

a chance at it—thought you might

(TO BE CONTINUED)

learn something-in Mexico.

course, we'll let you decide."

locked the symbols.

United States.

promptly.

Benning checked through the haul

"Where's Bravot?" Benning want-

men were working.

roundup in history."

admonished.

Colonel?"

tore."

"The captain will be all right

about him, attempted to sit up.

cide whether you live or hang."

end Backropp's resistance.

hanged inside a week!"

jig was up with him.

notebook.

lay."

warnings had gone unheeded. The President was killed when Washington was bombed. General Brill, commander of the U. S. army in Texas, was opposed by greatly superior forces led by Van Hassek. In spite of Brill's desperate resistance, Van Hassek's troops pushed relentlessly forward. Returning to Wash-

like the way he nosed about into our | to him that in the heart of a great things, so I have him waiting for

Salvatore strode into the room, an erect, saturnine man in morning coat, striped trousers, and lurid neckwear. Even in the shock of recognition, Benning's startled mind flashed to a whim of professional observation. This man's presence confirmed his every suspicion of the Andes Gold Mining and Milling Company. Salvatore was Gaujos, the masquerader with whom he had traded shots at San Antonio, the man who as Colonel Bravot had been his chief of section in Van Hassek espionage service at the Palacio Na-

Bravot sat down at his desk and fixed his gaze on his visitor. In his cold, blunt eyes there showed no recognition of the American agent whom he had glimpsed at San Antonio and failed to recognize in Mex-

"What explanation have you to offer of your visit here?" Bravot in-

"I'm here from Mexico City, Colonel Bravot," Benning answered with



"A ponderous hand closed over Benning's mouth."

calm assurance. "I have identified my. If and am prepared to do so again. The precise nature of my mission I am not permitted to disclose to you. Beyond that I've nothing to say."

Without taking his eyes from Benning, Bravot slowly opened a drawer of his desk and brought out an automatic pistol.

As he leveled the weapon across the desk Bravot's left hand went to a call button which sent a rasping summons into the outer office. Oldfer came in at once.

"We have had a close call, Oldfer," Bravot said. He passed his left hand across his forehead, now wet with perspiration. "This man is an Army Intelligence agent who shot at me once, and whom I stupidly overlooked in Mexico due to and cried, "Here, Backropp, you will my preoccupation with other mat-

Benning heard the outer door open. Oldfer, terror leaping into his little eyes, jumped across the room and slammed Bravot's door. Benning sprang to his feet, but the apelike arms of Backropp were about him in an instant with all the crushing force of motor-driven prongs. A ponderous hand closed over Benning's mouth and shut off articula-

Benning felt himself lifted clear of the floor by a strength against which his own sinews were powerless. Backropp carried him across the room to the Bravot concrete vault that lay open behind heavy steel doors. The ape-man hurled him inside with a stunning violence and heaved the doors shut.

Benning picked himself up and shook his head to clear his wits from the shock of his fall. Only the habit of self-discipline saved him from panic as he found himself engulfed in this black, steel-encased void. He heard the vague click of bolts as the door was locked, then silence.

He felt about the interior of his prison and estimated its dimensions as some six feet wide by ten feet in depth.

He knew that rescue depended largely upon that phosgene cigarette he had tossed out the window as a signal to Intelligence operatives below. He argued that they had caught the signal; it must have been G-2 men who invaded the Andes office at the critical instant of his imprisonment.

His ears strained for sound, but there was only silence. He tried kicking at the foot-thick steel doors, but there was no response. It came

"Very good, sir," Benning assented. "I'll report in Washington on **NEXT WEEK** the next available plane." Another Absorbing Installment

Tailored Silk Suits, Dresses Reflect Beau Brummel Styles

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



a refinement and ladylikeness about these tailleurs that women

There is a patrician look about the suavely fitted, smartly detailed silk costumes in the illustration. You will be hearing much during the coming weeks about the Regency period fashions to which contemporary designers are turning for ideas or new inspiration. Our style creators are translating these costumes of the "dandies," who gloried in molded waistlines, peplum flared coatees, wide picturesque cuffs, fastidiously frilled waistcoats and wrist lingerie frills, into practical contemporary fashions, such as are

pulse and temperature and applied here shown. stimulants. In a minute Benning opened his eyes and, on orienting his gency influences of the Beau Brummels of the past in its neat slender waistline, accented by a peplum silshortly," the doctor predicted. "It's houette, flared collar and cuffs and just as well, however, you got him beruffled lingerie accents. The enormous felt hat is especially chic in that it typifies a smart, new millinery trend. These hats are parsisted on getting to his feet. His ticularly pretty in pastels, worn with either navy or black spring cos-

The simplicity of the silk crepe dress to the right in the trio is a he waved the medico aside and went master stroke in costume design as into the office where Wallace and his interpreted this season by foremost designers. Note the new longer

dress that invites lingerie accents. With a gown or coat dress of this sort, you can change it entirely with new accessories. Note the white frills in the sleeves.

Black wool and silk faille adapt well to the lines of the dressmaker suit centered in the group. The jacket features the new dropped shoulder yoke, with bracelet length sleeves and unpressed pleated peplum. Unpressed front pleats introduce new skirt interest. The blouse is of white mousseline de soie.

Another type of silk costume suit that is a leading fashion is the red-The black silk faille suit to the tage is that the redingote can be worn either with its companion dress of faille or crepe or with print frocks. Many of the new redingotes are strictly tailored in straight slim lines. Others depart from the straight and narrow path by introducing front pleats and sometimes the shoulders.

Very smart, too, are black or navy silk coats, elaborately braided down the fronts. Also, a striking new note are glittering jeweled buttons, fastening the jacket of simple black or navy silks. Many flower buttons in realistic colorings are used on the new silk tailleurs.

waistline. It is just this type of | (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Print-Bow Trim



The ingenious use of print with plain is outstanding fashion news for spring. Especially attractive and chic is a new print silk bow tech-Flagwill's voice trailed into gravity. nique used in jacket and bodice "Things are looking pretty black fastenings, as illustrated. The black, white and golden yellow silk print is striped horizontally for the dress, with the stripes applied in bands to the black wool jacket. Unpressed pleats give subtle fullness to the skirt. This model shows that the idea of print with plain is being used with refreshing originality.

Shades of Deep Purple

Seen in Spring Fashions Purple and violet and kindred shades are color features being highlighted this spring. Many suits and cape costumes are tailored of purple or violet-toned tweeds this spring. Topped with a fetching little straw chapeau, trimmed in violet, with violet boutonniere to match, this ensemble sings fashion's spring song.

The new lavenders and purples go charmingly with navy. Lots of white frills on a navy suit, navy or violet felt hat with violet flower trim and you're ready for the sun! Lavender veils or light green ones are accessory "musts" with purple ensembles.

Bright Red Colors

Red is registering one of the biggest color triumphs of the season. warning had been a true one. The coats and jackets, some of which fasten with military brass buttons.

creating a sensation. Some are patterned with navy or black or beige have a red print frock.

touch to your new beige outfit.

Chinese Hats

A custom among Chinese maidens is to wear clusters of flowers at each combs. This is a real help to those 140 others were sent to Oklahoma who prefer to go hatless.

Massacre in Modoc-Land IN Crown Hill cemetery in Indianapolis, Ind., stands a massive monument which bears this simple inscription: "Edward Richard Sprigg Canby, Brigadier General and Brevet Major General, U. S. Army." This grassy wooded hillside in the Middle West is a far cry from a wild and desolate region out on the Pacific coast—the Lava Beds of southern Oregon. Yet there is a connection between these two widely separated places.

In 1872 a little band of Modoc Indians, led by Chief Kei-in-to-poses, commonly known as Captain Jack, left the reservation because the Klamath Indians there refused to let them live in peace. They returned to their ancestral homes on the Lost river and when the military was called upon to drive them back, they fled to the Lava Beds, where they inflicted heavy losses upon the soldiers in several engagements.

For several months this "war" dragged along until the government, having failed to whip the Modocs, decided to try another method of conquering them. A peace commis-

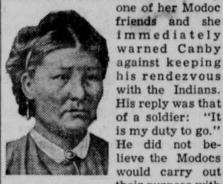


GEN. E. R. S. CANBY

sion, composed of General Canby, commander of the Department of the Pacific, Rev. Eleazer Thomas, a Methodist minister, and two former Indian agents, A. B. Meacham and L. S. Dyar, was sent to settle ingote ensemble. The great advanthe difficulties. After several unsatisfactory conferences, another meetwas arranged for April 11. 1873, to be held in the Modoc stronghold near Tule lake.

The commissioners, accompanied by Frank Riddle, a frontiersman, and his Modoc wife, Tobey Riddle back yokes to give freedom across (Wi-ne-ma, the "Woman Chief"), as interpreters, were to meet Captain Jack and his warriors, unarmed and under a flag of truce. Meanwhile a plot had been hatched among the Modocs to murder the peace commissioners. At first, Captain Jack refused to have anything to do with the scheme. But when his warriors put a woman's hat and shawl on him and taunted him for being a coward, he finally consented.

No sooner was the plot laid than it was betrayed to Tobey Riddle by



their purpose with so many soldiers near at hand. The other commissioners were not so sure and one of them proposed that they go to the meeting armed. This Canby also refused to do.

He did not be-

lieve the Modocs

would carry out

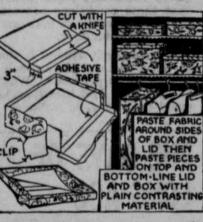
So they set out for the Indian stronghold. The insolent behavior of the warriors soon convinced the commissioners that Tobey Riddle's Young girls "dote" on the new red climax came when one of the Modocs demanded that all the soldiers be removed from the country and Prints with red backgrounds are Canby refused to grant the demand.

A moment later the Indians drew concealed weapons and opened fire. and green motifs. You really must Canby, Thomas and Meacham were shot down. Dyar and Riddle fled It's the fashion to match hat and for their lives with the bullets whishandbag this season. Try carrying tling around them. Tobey Riddle out the idea in red straw or fabric, was clubbed to the ground but Capand don't forget to add a reti veil. tain Jack intervened to save her life. You will like red accents with your When a warrior started to scalp navy suit or redingote ensemble, and Meacham, who was still alive, she red accessories will add an exotic cried out "Soldiers coming!" Her quick wit saved Meacham's life, for the murderers immediately fled. The tragedy of the Lava Beds was

Later Captain Jack and his warside of the head. It is this pretty riors were captured when some of headdress which has given inspira- the very Indians, who had called tion for a new fashion that some him a coward and forced him to conpredict will develop into an impor- sent to the attack on the commistant vogue during the coming sioners, turned traitor and revealed months. A noted American mil- his hiding place in the Lava Beds linery designer has devised a band to the soldiers. He and three oththat curves to fit the head. This is ers named Schonchin John, Black covered with ribbon, and at each Jim and Boston Charley were placed side flowers or ribbon bows are at- on trial for the murder of Canby and tached. You wear this fitted bandeau Thomas. On October 3, 1873, they like little girls used to wear round were hanged at Fort Klamath and as prisoners of war.

NEW IDEAS For Home-mohers By RUTH WYETH SPEARS

THE pink and green chintz covered boxes on these closet shelves are lined with plain green cambric and they are hinged so that the front may be opened without taking off the lid. Any box of good stiff cardboard may be hinged and covered in this way. Library paste may be used or wall paper paste mixed with as little water as possible to make it spread smoothly with a paint



brush. Adhesive tape or other strong gummed fabric tape will be needed to hinge the boxes. Cut the box lid straight across

with a sharp knife three inches in from the front edge. Cut out the front of the box and hinge the pieces in place. Now, cut and paste the covering pieces, as directed in the sketch. Apply the paste on both the back of the fabric and the box and smooth the material in place with a dry, clean cloth. Cover sides first with fabric straight around and about 1/2 inch over edges; then cover top and bottom; then the inner sides with the plain fabric 1/4 inch below the edges and 1/2 inch over the top and bottom; then cover the top and bottom inside.

NOTE: Complete directions for making a zipper garment bag similar to the one illustrated will be found in Book 6. You may also want to make a matching door pocket. Complete directions for cutting and making are in Book 4. If you do not have these useful booklets, send order to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS Drawer 10 Enclose 10 cents for Book 6, and 10 cents for Book 4. Address

the found a BARTHELEMY INVENTED THE SEWING-MACHINE IN 1830. A MOB, RESENTING HIS BETTER WAY, DESTROYED IT. one of her Modoc friends and she immediately THE BETTER WAY TO TREAT warned Canby CONSTIPATION DUE TO LACK OF against keeping PROPER "BULK" IN THE DIET IS TO

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