THE STORY SO FAR: More than 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

CHAPTER XV-Continued The boat bobbed across the harbor; Benning decided that Bravot must be headed back for some secret rendezvous in New York, a part of some crafty maneuver to cover his littered trail. In that event Benning decided to strike in the dark-

ness the instant the launch reached

A few minutes later the launch swerved sharply out of its course and slowed down. Benning saw the massive shadow of a ship looming over his head. A voice called to have a victory." down from above. Bravot got to his feet, edged his way to the bow. A boatman made the launch fast to the ship's ladder. One by one the passengers swung onto the ladder and were swallowed up

by the night. "Go ahead, Bromlitz!" a voice commanded when Benning hesitat-

Fincke caught Benning's arm, gently forced him forward. Benning made a swift estimate as he stood in indecision. Quickly he saw that but one course lay ahead. In the bobbing little boat he knew he would stand no chance if he put up a fight for possession of the craft. As for swimming ashore, even the strongest swimmer could not expect success in that feat tonight.

Benning swung to the ladder and mounted to the deck. Close behind him came Fincke. On the deck there was a glow of light from an incandescent.

Inside the Austrian tossed off his coat and stretched himself. His face

now was exuberant. "Himmel, but what a comfort, Bromlitz!" he exclaimed with a vast sigh of relief. "Now a fellow can

take a free breath." Fincke paused to give Benning a

'What does it matter if we're sitting over a cargo of high explosives, eh, Bromlitz? It'll not blow up until we give the command-and that'll play the biggest card in the whole Van Hassek deck! Cheer up, Bromlitz, in ten days from now you'll be back with your girl in Mexico City!"

Now it was all to clear to Benning. Fincke at last had vitalized the meaning of this cruise, the reason for his own restless misapprehensions. This ship, with its cargo of explosives, clearing New York with papers for San Francisco, was part of an intricately laid plot to destroy the Panama Canal and strip the Atlantic seaboard of the protection of the United States fleet.

CHAPTER XVI

General Hague nervously paced the floor of his office despite the long days of driving toil and anxiety that had drained his energies to the point of exhaustion. The last troop trains had moved south with the force of fifty thousand men that was to stop Van Hassek on the Fort Worth-Dallas line. But reports from the south shook him with new misgivings and he had sent for Colonel Flagwill.

Young Benning got away this morning for Mexico City, didn't he?" Flagwill's face dropped. "Sorry, General. Benning has vanished in thin air. Not a word from him all

day." "Benning missing?" General Hague scowled incredulity. doesn't sound like Benning."

"I authorized him to follow a Van Hassek agent aboard a Norwegian tramp freighter, thinking we'd get a haul of spies. A destroyer overhauled the boat last night after it sailed, only to find Benning was not aboard as planned. The ship's captain claimed not to have seen anyone resembling Benning."

"Nothing should have prevented Benning's flight to Mexico City, Flagwill," Hague complained. "All

right, let's nope he 'urns up soon." Flagwill drove at once to Bolling Field where a fast new O-47 observation plane put him in the air shortly before dusk. Seven hours later, as the plane approached Dallas, a radio warning told the pilot to avoid the Dallas airport and put down at an emergency landing-field south of the city.

bombs caught Flagwill's eye as his plane drove past the city. No sooner had his plane roared to a stop in the emergency field than his ears rang with the bedlam of air bombardment over Dallas. A staff officer from Army headquarters was waiting for him.

"Dallas and Fort Worth are taking an awful beating tonight," the staff officer reported. "We're forced to detrain troops and impedimenta north of the city. An hour ago a bomber registered on one of our troop trains-three hundred men killed. Things are in a pretty bad jam here, sir.'

"I'll be frank with you, Flagwill!" General Lannes said in a peppery, overwrought voice. "If Van Hassek sizes up this mess and hits us promptly, he'll roll up my Third Army in spite-"

Lannes' voice was drowned by the mighty crash of a heavy bomb

INSTALLMENT FIFTEEN and Bravot, two enemy officers, but his warnings had gone unheeded. Foreign forces led by Van Hassek pushed relentlessly forward. His troops were vastly superior in numbers and equipment to the American forces which opposed him. Returning to New York, Benning

"In spite of hell and high water!" he concluded as the room cleared of vibrations. "It'll take me days to straighten out this tangle and it'll only take Van Hassek a few hours to run up here with his motorized and mechanized outfits!"

"General Hague probably has told you, sir," Flagwill said, "that we've got to hold on this line. The country is in an uproar and everyone in Washington, sir, feels we've got

"Sure we've got to hold!" Lannes raged. "But don't forget that fifty thousand men are fifty thousand soldiers only when they're shaken down, organized, supplied, and ready to fight."

The Army commander stalked to a wall map and pointed to his dispositions and immediate plan of ac-

"Mole is taking an artillery lacing at this minute, which means attack on him at daybreak. With the reinforcements I've sent up, he must hold on the Colorado as long as possible. Then he's got to fight delaying actions and make another desperate stand behind the Brazos. Somehow Mole must delay Van Hassek at least three days, maybe for a week, until I can get in shape to take the enemy on here in front of Dallas. It's going to cost us a lot



"Take your hands off my coat."

of men, Flagwill, a lot of men! But I want you to go out and see the situation for yourself - and tell Hague why I'm forced into these desperate delaying actions out in front!"

An hour of patient driving put Flagwill down the Army's projected front. Whole regiments stood about in the dawn, still waiting for orders and supplies. The men were tired and hungry. Shortage of ammunition was general, even in the infantry. Ammunition was reported available at the railhead, but the railhead was swamped with demands and there were insufficient truck trains at present for all purposes.

As the sun shot over the horizon, Flagwill turned back to the Lannes command post. Squadrons of American combat planes had combed the air of Van Hassek's night hawks and the day had quieted down to a rumble of artillery columns and hum of friendly planes.

Given a day or two, Flagwill concluded, the hastily assembled Third Army would shake itself down. American ingenuity somehow would overcome the shortages of supplies. motor vehicles, the obsolescent organization tables, the unco-ordinated staffs, outmoded weapons, the lack of training in team-play of higher units. At least the officers had sound academic training in the science of war.

General Lannes, his face flushed and harried, his eyes distended, sat feverishly at the end of a field telephone as Flagwill re-entered the command post. After a staccato, The savage winks of detonation | fretted exchange he hung up the re-

ceiver and got to his feet. 'Van Hassek is driving at Mole with everything he's got this morning!" Lannes roared. "Only the regiments I sent up to him last night kept Mole from being cracked up early this morning. Says he'll be lucky to hold on till nine. My God. Flagwill, this mess is going to cost us five thousand men, maybe ten!" By eight o'clock, Mole saw he could hold no longer. Ghastly losses were multiplying, his flanks were threatened. Now the American air sérvice held the supremacy of the

Mole's troops, which made possible the dangerous operation of daylight withdrawal. "I'm pulling out of here now,

air immediately over the heads of

NEXT WEEK Another Absorbing Installment

Lannes!" he shouted fiercely over

tinued to pose as a friend when he unexpectedly met Fincke in Washington, and accompanied him on a mysterious mission which took them aboard a small boat in the New York harbor.

that set the earth shaking under the field telephone. "I can't hold another minute! I hope you have strong reinforcements for me at the Brazos."

Now continue with the story.

"All right, Mole, use your own judgment," Lannes retorted. "But no matter what it costs, we've got to delay Van Hassek until I can get my Third Army ready to stop him!"

CHAPTER XVII

Benning woke from a brief fretful sleep and went to a porthole. There was a bright sun rising across a smooth sea. He calculated from the speed of the freighter that the craft must be well down the coast of Virginia, perhaps off North Carolina and not far from Cape Hatteras. For a time last night he had flirted with the desperation of jumping overboard on the chance of making shore. Now he had given up hopes of being rescued by the

He was mulling at the porthole when a figure passed along the boat deck close to his eyes. The fellow wore a black mustache, dark hornrimmed glasses; his clothes were seedy and his shoulders sagged. But the profile was not to be mistaken.

"You knew Bravot was aboard?" Benning said to Fincke.

The Austrian hotly admonished, "Don't talk so much, Bromlitz! How many times have I got to tell you not to mention names?" "I thought we were clear of all

that trouble," Benning retorted. "Not with a brand-new crew on the boat. We still got to watch our

tongues." "You think these sailors aren't

Bravot's men?"

"Just use your bean, Bromlitz. bailors wouldn't hardly sign up to get blown to hell, if they knew

the score." "I presume," Benning sneered, "the captain and crew don't even know what their cargo is?"

"The skipper knows, and a few of his good men. For two years Schmolz has been laying his plans for just this cruise."

The door of their cabin banged suddenly open. A chunky man with a squarish, rough-hewn, leering face include Dutch, Belgians, Norweswaggered in. The fellow wore a dirty cotton suit and an officer's Frenchmen, and goodness knows cap, and bristled with authority and

"Who are you two?" he demanded, searching first Fincke's face, then Benning's.

The Van Hassek spy leaped to his feet and gave the identification formula. Benning was more leisurely in rising to identify himself. He guessed that the intruder was Schmolz, skipper of the ship.

"I don't like your looks!" the fellow blurted, fixing Benning with glinting green eyes.

"Don't worry about him, Captain," Fincke promptly intervened. "He's a major—the two of us been working together in the United States.'

Schmolz rubbed a cauliflowered ear ruminatively and gave Benning a parting glare in which there was mingled distrust and dislike.

"Major or no major, there's something about your looks I don't like," he grumbled.

Their noon meal was brought in by an American deckhand, Grimes. After luncheon, Fincke went out on the composite army of the late ladeck for exercise. With the complication of Bravot's presence on the ship, Benning knew he must keep are in London or Bristol, as well to cover during daylight. Also that as their armed representatives. The he must strike against the Van Has- king of Norway and the queen of sek spymaster without delay if he Holland are among the foreign-leexpected to survive this cruise for gion rulers in the British isles, as many days.

Benning sweltered in the torrid little cabin through an insufferable day. With full darkness he examined the mechanism of his automatic pistol and went out on deck. As he suspected, Bravot was living in the captain's quarters. Looking in the porthole he saw Bravot sitting alone on his berth, his face cold and imperturbable as he listened to the news from the Texas front.

Blare of the radio blotted out other sounds on the deck and Benning was not conscious of the figure driving down on him along the dimly lighted deck until stout fingers closed on the lapel of his coat.

He turned to see Schmolz glaring at him out of eyes that seethed with

"See here, Schmolz!" Benning shot back hotly, "I'm not one of your deckhands. Take your hands off my coat! If you object to my listening to the war news over your radio, why don't you post an order to that effect?"

"Listen all you want to," Schmolz mumbled, cooling perceptibly at the rebuff and releasing Benning's collar. "But keep away from in front of my stateroom after this. I don't allow nobedy to do that."

As Sohmolz swaggered into his room with a muttered imprecation, Benning returned to his cabin. For some time Benning waited in

tense readiness for eventuality. He knew that if Schmolz communicated his suspicions to Bravot, prompt and disastrous investigation was sure to follow.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Motley Army Joins English Fighting Force

unearthed a vast spy ring. Benning con- Men From Many Nations Leave Homes to War Against Germany.

By ROGER SHAW

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.) WASHINGTON.-When the British beat Napoleon-the Hitler of his time-at Waterloo, only about half of the British army was actually British. The rest of Wellington's outfit was a strange mixture of peoples who thought they were fighting for their freedom. The list was a long one. It took in Dutchmen, Belgians, Hanoverians, Prussians, and men from Brunswick, Nassau, and Saxe-Weimar. The Hanoverians did well in the battle, but the Dutch, Belgians, and men of Nassau did very badly. After the battle, large groups of the latter were found playing cards miles back of the field of honor.

The King's German Legion was the best, and best known, of these foreign outfits under British leadership. The Legion was made up of refugees from all over the Germanies-a hodgepodge then under Napoleonic domination. The Legion served on every sort of front during the long war cycle, even acting as marines in various naval operations. They fought from the North Cape to the North African coastline, and campaigned against the Americans in 1812 and after. They were "owned," payed, and equipped by the British government, and they burned with hatred of the Hitler-like Bonaparte, who had turned their fatherlands into a "new order." The Legion, which made a specially distinguished record at Waterloo, contained Austrians and Netherlanders, as well as natives of the various little Germanies.

History tends to repeat itself, and in the year 1941 the King's Legion has come to life again in various forms. The old Legion was predominantly Germanic. The new Legion, or legions, are politically anti-Germanic, but they take in a wide variety of peoples. This time they gians, Danes, Poles, Czechs, "free" what else. In such cases, their countries have been overrun, and England has become the refuge-the last white hope or chance. In fighting for England, these people feel they are fighting for their own lost countries, and against the common tyrant. Today the tyrant is A. H. and not N. B., but otherwise things are much as they were a century and a third ago. In England today, there are also anti-Fascist Germans, Italians, and Austrians, who swell the alien ranks of the King's Foreign Legion. This is not an innovation, either. Anti - Fascist Frenchmen served England against Napoleonic France in the early 1800s. In short, what we are witnessing-now as then-is an international civil war.

50,000 Foreign Fighters.

Today there are something like 50,000 foreign legionaries serving the British empire. Strangely enough, this is just about the same size as the King's German Legion of antiquity. These foreign legionaries might, in a sense, be considered mented League of Nations. In many cases, their dummy governments was the black Ethiopian Lion of Ju-



His country was seized by the Nazis in March, 1939, but this Czechoslovakian aviator fights on as a valuable member of the Royal Air Force.

Men have come thousands of miles to fight beside the British in their war against the Axis powers. The Arab soldiers (left) are helping to defend Egypt, while the American aviators (center) and the gunner from India (right) do their part in England to keep Hitler's "luftwaffe" in check.

dah until recently-i.e. Haile Selas- | vengeful of the King's foreign lesie. Poland and Belgium have ambassadors to the British government, and vice versa, while Norway, Holland, and the Czechs still maintain official ministers to the Court of St. James. General De Gaulle represents the "free" Frenchman, but he has no official standing with the French Vichy government.

The foreign troops in England wear British uniforms and use British equipment, except for the officers on leave in London. They wear their fancy native garb, which seems to bore the Londoners, to a marked degree.

The Dutch are really considered the most useful, and best liked, of England's exiled allies. The English and Dutch peoples are closely akin, and follow much the same pattern of behavior. The Dutch have presented the British government with close to a million tons of commercial shipping, and some small warships to boot. The Dutch East Indies, with their oil, rubber and tin, are still independent, and they have perhaps 60,000,000 inhabitants. There are very few Dutch soldiers in England-the Dutch army lasted only four days-but the merchant fleet and colonies make up the difference. Another 2,000,000 tons of Dutch shipping are now trading on their own in the faraway Pacific

Norwegians Popular.

Second most popular with the English people are the Norwegians. Like the "Dutchies," they, too, are chiefly nautical in their contributions. Norway has supplied England with close to 1,000 ships-something like three or four million tons of shipping. Some lesser Norwewarcrait also are c with the British navy. These are mostly destroyers, minesweepers and armed whalers with perhaps the world's best crews, The Poles, "free" French, Belgians, and Czechs are not as popular in England as the kindred Dutch and Norwegians.

The Poles are the most numerous of the alien lot, and the most boastful. They have garrisoned Scotland, and are also serving in the royal air force. They have some ships with the royal navy, and a puppet government at London. Their commander has been Gen. Wladislaus Sikorski, a good man of comparatively liberal convictions, who was on bad terms with the reckless Polish dictatorship which reigned at the beginning of the war. The Czechs, close kith and kin of the Poles, are not very many. They are largely college men and armed intellectuals-as brainy as the Poles are militaristic. Just the same, the exiled Polish and Czech governments are planning a Czech-Polish federation for the sweet bye and bye after the war. Some of the Belgian politicos are actually petitioning to be taken into the British empire, with dominion status, after the

shooting is shot! These Belgians are very angry at their King, Leo, who is still in Belgium. They think, some of them, that he sold the Allies down the river-a claim which history may have a pretty hard time to substantiate. There are some Belgians in the royal air force, and elsewhere, including a few ultra-rich playboys. The "free" Frenchies are another story. The tactful British government has never known quite what to do with

If England is too kind to De Gaulle, who is none too popular at home, it may drive Vichy into the arms of Berlin. De Gaulle's Dakar expedition to West Africa was a terrible flasco. De Gaulle himself is persona grata with Churchill, but not with many other Englishmen. At the same time, he tends to serve as a useful brake on the politicians and generals of Vichy. Further, the French colonies of Syria. North Africa, and Martinique, with their important armed forces, continue to be against De Gaulle, and for old Petain.

The Poles and Norwegians are reported as the toughest and most to imitate wood or wallpaper.

wegians, and carry this hatred to a degree. The other exiled groups seem somewhat surprisingly indifferent at times, when viewed through excited American spectacles. Just ever comes, these motley groups Send order to: may be counted on to fight fiercely -and no holds barred. It's their last chance this side of paradise. "Paradise," in this case, means America. Plastics of Coffee Bring New Hope

gionaries. The Polish attitude is per-

fectly understandable. Poland has

been very badly treated. In the

Norse case, the pro-English Nor-

wegians hate the pro-German Nor-

To Troubled Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO. - Brazil's greatest new industry is a demonstration of the world's most amazing scientific solution to an overproduction problem. "Coffee plastics" from which Brazil may make homes and schools, war planes and even the industrial machinery of the future, is the answer of modern science to a surplus crop problem which threatened to engulf the whole economy of Brazil and impoverish millions of her peoples!

While all Europe goes coffee-less, Brazil's great coffee industry has warehouses bulging with the 198,-000,000-pound surplus left over from last year. The National Coffee department also has on hand 1,436,-160,000 pounds more, purchased 132-pound sacks for 10 cents each! Brazil has watched a total "sacrifice quota" of 9,280,811,892 pounds of coffee go up in smoke (1930-40) in a desperate effort to stabilize her most important industry. Only a scientific miracle, such as "Cafelite" will save the bumper 1940 and the greater 1941 crops from the same disastrous end.

World Market Reduced.

With an annual production of 21/2 billion pounds, and a normal overproduction of 720 million pounds, the war has reduced world markets until the United States is now Brazil's only substantial customer. Add to this surplus the 805 million pounds which Europe would normally have bought this year, and you have a coffee problem that would give any country a headache!

Conditions in Brazil's great coffee states have been desperate. Groups of coffee planters petitioned for the right to uproot whole orchards of fine coffee trees, and coffee was selling on the New York Coffee exchange at lowest prices in history. Looking ahead gloomily to the

best coffee crop in years, Brazil may be literally drugged by her own coffee. What is Brazil going to do?

Plastics Possible Solution.

While secret preparations have gone on for months, in a "toogood-to-be-true" atmosphere, hope, doubt, and hope again has grown that the coffee plastics will really make all the magic things science

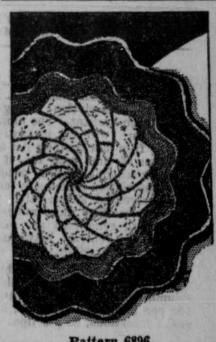
That the miracle of coffee plastics will save this wanton destruction of coffee money, has been the hope of every coffee planter and laborer. watching the great barn-like buildings rise on barren lands outside Sao Paulo, seeing great crates of machinery arrive from the U.S.

The new Cafelite is heat-resisting, and thus excellent for Brazil's warmer climate. It is noise-proof. and may save the nerves of Brazilians from the increasing racket of city traffic. It is proof against termites and other pests who destroy homes and furniture in warmer climates. It may be made in a whole range of lovely "bathroom" colors. or combined with other substances

It was discovered by a clever young North American, Herbert Spencer Polin, while doing research for the American Coffee corporation, in his floating yacht laboratory and rushed to Brazil.

Plumbing fixtures made of coffee plastics would be a God-send for millions of Brazilians living in the far interior, and for cheap apartment homes too. Cabinets, electrical appliances, kitchen equipment, furniture, school and hospital equipment, perhaps whole homes and apartments of the future will be made out of surplus coffee!





Pattern 6896.

BRIGHT decoration in any room, this rug crocheted in four strands of string, candlewick or rags looks like a large chrysanthemum. Use two shades of a color, with white, gray, tan or three colors.

Pattern 6896 contains instructions for making rug; illustrations of it and the same, if the invasion of England stitches; materials needed; color schemes.

Sewing Circle Needleeraft Dept. Enclose 15 cents in coins for Pat-

Where Days Are Born

The International Date Line, which, like the Equator, is an imaginary line, runs between two islands known as Big Diomedes and Little Diomedes, situated almost halfway between the mainlands of Asia and Alaska. It is here, between the Old World and the New, that each new day is born, and when it is New Year's day on Big Diomedes, it is still a full 24 hours behind on Little Diomedes.

The selection of this particular spot to decide the beginning of each day was decided by an international committee of scien-tists, who took every other possible site into consideration.



A Good Book

As good almost kill a man as kill a good book; who kills a man kills a reasonable creature, God's image; but he who destroys a good book, kills the image of God, as it were, in the eye.-Milton.

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It is a good habit to form, the habit of consulting the advertisements every time we make a purchase, though we have already decided just what we want and where we are going to buy It. It gives us the most priceless feeling In the world: the feeling of being adequately prepared.

 When we go into a store, prepared beforehand with knowledge of what is offered and at what price, we go as an expert buyer, filled with self-confidence. It is a pleasant feeling to have, the feeling of adequacy. Most of the unhappiness in the world can be traced to a lack of this feeling. Thus advertising shows another of its manifold facets—shows Itself as an aid toward making all our business relation

more secure and pleasant. 5555555555555555555

World's Largest Island Placed Under U. S. Protection WASHINGTON.-When President | among the 18,000 persons living in

Roosevelt announced that the United States would defend Greenland, he extended the scope of the Monroe Doctrine to the largest island in the world. With a total area of 850,000 square

miles, it is almost as large as the United States east of the Mississippi. More than three-fourths of this area is covered by an immense ice field. Eskimos greatly predominate shipped first to Denmark.

Greenland. Some English is spoken, but the vast majority know only Greenlandic, a dialect of the Eskimo language. The general standard of living is still primitive, with most needs for food and clothing being satisfied by hunting and fishing.

Until the war started, the Government monopolized the foreign trade requiring almost all exports to be