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Desert Destiny

By Joseph Chadwick

CHAPTER XXII

That afternoon, when the doctor came to see the Senora, he was amazed to find her so much better. Taking Tracy aside, he said, "It's as though she has taken a new lease on life. Three days ago, I feared she wasn't going to recover. She seemed then not to want to live. Do you suppose...?" He broke off with a shake of his head.

The unfinished question left Tracy uneasy. He started to say, "Do you suppose there was some reason why she did not care to live?" Had he been about to suggest that illness was caused by something besides physical frailty?

After dinner that evening, when Tracy went to the Senora's room, she found Jim there. He and the lady were laughing merrily. Tracy halted just inside the door, feeling almost like an intruder.

Jim said, "The Senora was just telling me when a rustler bushwhacked Grandfather Garrison. The rustler made the mistake of missing with his first shot. He didn't get a second. Grandfather had him ridden out of the country on a rail."

"I was telling this young rascal," the Senora said, "that his grandfather would have hunted down the man who amoussed him this morning. But he says Jose is not that important. Ah, he will know how important that Jose is if Jose shoots at him again!"

"I think that that Phil is right," Tracy said. "It's best that he should be reckless. Clint Hanlon took Pete Saba and some other men to hunt for Jose. They have been gone since morning."

"The Senora said, 'It is easy to hide among those rock hills.'"

"It is not found," Tracy continued earnestly. "I think it would be best for Philip to go away. We do not want anything to happen to him. It really is dangerous for him, Senora."

The old lady frowned. "It would not be good for a Garrison to run from a man. This is strange talk from you, my child. Why would you make a coward of Philip?"

Tracy could not answer. She was afraid for Jim, but she knew there was more than that behind her anxiety to have him depart. The truth was that his presence at the ranch upset her. Though she hated him for having deceived her and hated herself for having loved him, yet she still had the power to stir her. She could not forget the flash of angry jealousy she had felt in seeing him kiss Ruth Garrison that morning.

She felt suddenly unstrung. Rising, she walked to a window and stood staring out into the night.

The Senora looked from her to Jim. "What is wrong between you two? I brought you together with the hope that you would love each other. But in your eyes, Philip, there is a coldness when you look at Tracy. And you, Tracy, scarcely look at Philip at all."

Jim, do not make me feel such disappointment. Tracy swung around. She saw that in Jim's eyes, there was a hint of amusement. So he was laughing at her!

He said, "Senora, love is a thing no one can force—not even you. Suppose Tracy loves another man?"

"Nonsense! What other man could she love? Just Phil? Clint Hanlon? He is too grim. Pete Donohue? Or the other men Ruth kind?"

"Perhaps she has a picture of a man in her heart."

"She has—but it is a picture of you!" the Senora exclaimed. "Go and take her in your arms, Philip. Do as I say. I am still mistress here—still to be obeyed!"

Tracy stiffened. She felt she could not bear it if Jim did take her in his arms, could not bear such mockery after the bitter disillusionment he had caused her. However, he made no move to touch her.

"Senora, you are a veritable dictator," he said. He turned to Tracy, and she saw that the amusement was now gone from his eyes. "Tell her, Tracy, that we are not for each other."

Before she could speak, a clatter of hoofs outside arrested her attention. Clint Hanlon and his posse must be back from their man hunt. She looked out the window and saw six men riding toward the corral, but it was too dark to see whether one of them was Jose.

Jim swung toward the door. "I have a little business with Jose—if they have brought him. He left the room."

Tracy started to follow him. She wanted to see what was going on. She talked to Jose—wanted to know whether anything more than a grudge behind the Mexican's behavior. As she reached the door, the Senora called to her. She stopped and faced the old lady.

Rome had been "neutralized" but would take steps to see that the conditions were fulfilled. So far as is known to London Italy has taken no steps toward making Rome an open city and therefore the Allies exact conditions were not known.

"Yes, Senora?"

"Do not be a fool, Tracy. Philip is a man in a thousand. If you are not careful, you will lose him. Make him see how desirable you are. Do not waste time, for he is restless by nature—he will not stay here forever!"

Without answering, Tracy hurried away.

A few minutes later, she was outside. She saw Jim talking to Clint Hanlon over by the corral, but saw no sign of Jose. She approached the two men.

As she came up behind Jim, she heard him say, "So you didn't find the fellow?" He paused, then added with an edge to his voice, "Maybe you didn't look in the right places."

Clint's face darkened. "What do you mean by that?"

"Just this," Jim said slowly. "Jose is just a stooge, and the person who put him up to gunning for the doctor wants him to be found. You take orders around here—just as Jose does."

Clint clenched his first and took a quick step forward.

"Why, you—"

Tracy hastily slipped between the two men. Feeling the threat of trouble she used the way she knew to keep them from quarrelling.

She smiled up at Clint. "Oh, Clint, I'm so glad you've come back—I was worried about you," she said breathlessly. "I was afraid that, if you found Jose, he might start a gun fight..." She let her face fade away.

She saw Clint's face lose its hardness—saw a glow of pleasure appear in his eyes. He seemed to be breathing again. He gave her a reply to the question he had implied in his talk with her that morning. She had averted trouble between him and Jose—but she knew she had made trouble for herself.

(To be Continued)

Island Air Gunner Graduates

MAODONALD, Man., July 23 — (CP)—Gunner graduates from No. 3 Bombing and Gunnery School here today included:

New Brunswick—A. Burchell, F. Harvey, both of Saint John; C. Butcher, Sackville; L. Crowther, Bathurst; G. Ryan, Fredericton; J. Smythe, St. Stephen; T. Winstanley, Sydney Mines.

New Scotia—W. Bennett, E. Delaney, both of Halifax; P. Brittain, Yarmouth; T. Hebb, Bedford; K. MacMillan, New Glasgow; W. Mader, Park, both of Sydney; F. Tristie, New Waterford.

Prince Edward Island—J. McNeill, South West.

What Campaign In Sicily Shows

By DANIEL DE LUCE (Associated Press War Correspondent)

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, NORTH AFRICA, July 23—(AP)—In the hoarse roar of tanks and the crunching tread of infantry filing through Palermo today, the free world can hear the operating strains of a dirge for Axis power over Europe.

Sicilian campaign proved these things—

The Italian army fights no more bravely or skillfully at home than it does abroad.

War weariness and discouragement run through almost all classes of the Italian nation.

Allied Generals know as much about lightning war today as their German teachers.

British, American and Canadian divisions that never have been seen before can be hurled into action at least a par with experienced enemy armies—thanks to a training program that kept pace with the latest lessons of the 1943 war program.

The Allies have all the essentials for the conquest of Europe.

Canuck Sailors To See Movies

OTTAWA, July 23—(CP)—The navy announced tonight the formation of the Royal Canadian naval film society through which Canadian sailors will see their favorite movie stars in the latest motion picture—even though smashing on at sea for months at a time.

The announcement revealed that many professors are already aboard Canadian warships at sea, and that movies showing currently in leading theatres across Canada are being seen in navy messdecks on lonely convoy routes.

It said the step is one which senior naval officers have long sought to promote, for entertainment for men at sea is difficult and often impossible. Navy ships frequently must run many months without coming into port where men may see a show or enjoy other recreational facilities.

Now, it is hoped, all navy ships, whether on the North Atlantic, the Mediterranean, the Caribbean or in the Aleutians, will be supplied with at least one up-to-date show every week.

Axis Reports On Events In Sicily

LONDON, July 23—(CP)—The Axis reported today the triple loss of Palermo, Marsala and Trapani but sought to mask defeat by presenting movements of their forces as planned concentration in the northeast part of Sicily.

Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels in his weekly article in Das Reich blamed "acts of God" for recent Axis reversals, but at the same time endeavored to reassure the German people that victory was guaranteed.

Goebbels belittled the importance of the Allied thrust through Sicily, classing the invasion as a "modest first installment" on an Allied second front.

So far, he said, "the enemy has not achieved any victories of real size and presumably will not do so in the further course of the war, and nothing will come of any Allied-American promenade through Europe."

Goebbels said the Allies had little more reason now for their "noisy propaganda" than they had after the retreat from Dunkerque. In the area of the western Catania plain the German news agency D. N. B. reported "temporarily" broken 8th army had "temporarily" broken through the main German defence line.

Balkan repercussions to the Allied advance in Sicily were acknowledged by the Berlin radio, which said fresh disturbances had broken out and that Axis troops had fought a violent battle with Yugoslav partisans in Montenegro, resulting in 10,000 guerrillas being killed.

Our Boarding House

By J. R. Williams

IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE WASTING A LOT OF SPRAY—YOU DON'T EXPECT A FRAIL LITTLE PLANT LIKE THAT TO PULL THROUGH, DO YOU?

OH, SURE! PLANTS ARE JUST LIKE A MAN BEING—THE ONE THAT HAVE THE HARDEST TIME GETTING STARTED USUALLY GROW UP TO BE THE STRONGEST!

THE BATTLE OF LIFE

Our Boarding House

By Major Hoople

IF WE CAN SHOW THE OLD FIRE LESS COOKER OVER THE HILL I FIGURE WE CAN COAST TO THE NEXT PEAK!

UFF! WHEN YOU FIGURED THE GAS SUPPLY FOR THIS TRIP YOU MISSED BY SEVEN MILES—YOU'LL NEVER WIN THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR ARITHMETIC!

MY GUESS IS YOU SKIPPED THE LAST FIVE GRADES IN GRAMMAR SCHOOL BY OUTGROWING THE DESKS! COURAGE, MY HEARTIES! CARRY ON!

PUSHING ON TO UNCLE ROGERS

Gordon Discusses Farm Prices

LETHBRIDGE, Alta., July 23 — (CP)—Donald Gordon, chairman of the Prices Board, said in an address prepared for delivery to the Alberta Federation of Agriculture here today that the production of food ranks in importance "with that of guns and tanks and planes," and that the total volume of food production last year was more than 25 per cent above pre-war levels.

The record was "all striking" because manpower short-

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You'll find there's long-lasting chewing satisfaction in every stick of Wrigley's!

Pressure Grows To Declare Rome An Open City

LONDON, July 23—(AP)—A Madrid dispatch to the Daily Mail said today "pressure was growing in the Spanish Capital that Rome may yet be declared an open city."

The correspondent wrote that Hitler is reported to be urging Mussolini to move and there is talk in Rome of transferring the government and military staffs to Verona.

"Particular attention is paid to the passage in the Pope's letter (concerning the bombing of Rome) in which his holiness referred to his negotiations on behalf of the Italian Capital," the Madrid dispatch said.

Verona is an inland northern Italian city, some 65 miles west of Venice.

Meanwhile an authoritative source in London said that Rome would be spared from bombing immediately if made an open city, but that it would be up to the United Nations to set conditions for an open city.

The procedure would have to be initiated by Italy through a third party, asking for the Allied conditions.

Generally, this source said, the disarmament of the city and removal of every military "object or person."

It was added that the Allies would not rely on the enemy's word that

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