

Twenty-Four Hour Leave

BY RENEE SHANN
Author of "Student Nurse", "War Wife", "Air Force Girl"

Judging from the sound of tinkling glasses and popping corks and laughter that greeted them as they were ushered into Mrs. Hampden's long, low drawing room, Cherry decided she's been right in her supposition. Valerie had told her that in prewar days, when her aunt had lived in London, she's been quite famous for her parties. Now it would seem she was going all out to recapture that prewar party spirit for her favorite niece. There were champagne cocktails and later there was to be a buffet supper. There was a small but excellent dance band playing in the library, which had been cleared for dancing. Cherry smiled over her shoulder at Simon as they made their way through the press of people to where Valerie was standing with her aunt.

"I'd no idea this was going to be such a big party," Simon laughed. "I'd say your friend Valerie has invited the entire Air Force."

"Hardly that. But there seems to be a crowd of people here from our station."

Lane touched Cherry on the shoulder. She too had just arrived. "Hello! What a scrum! Look! Valerie's got our new Controller here. She told me she was going to invite him. That's why I didn't bring my own boy friend."

Cherry laughed. "Well, I wish you luck. Oh, Lane, I don't think you've met my husband yet, have you?"

Simon and Lane shook hands. Then Cherry tugged at his arm. "Come along, darling. I'm not leaving you with Lane's other glamour girl. No man's safe within miles of her."

Lane chuckled. "What a reputation to give me. Don't you believe her, Mr. Lindon. That's sheer jealousy."

There were others now wanting to meet Simon. All Cherry's watch was there. Cherry introduced him proudly, then saw Valerie pushing her way toward them. "I was wondering when you were coming, Cherry. How do you do, Mr. Lindon. How nice to see you again! Cherry, darling, will you and your husband grab yourselves cocktails? Heavens, there are still more people arriving."

She moved away to meet her other guests. An elderly manservant paused beside them with a tray laden with glasses. Cherry and Simon toasted each other. As their eyes met Cherry's heart leaped. Oh, Simon, Simon! She wanted suddenly to tell him how terribly she loved him, how happy she was to be married to him. But this was neither the time nor the place. Afterward, though, when they were home again...

Later they were dancing together. Valerie had greeted all her guests and was free to enjoy herself. As the music stopped and Cherry saw her beside them she whispered to Simon, "Dance this with Valerie, darling. I think I can spare you just for a few moments."

He smiled and turned to Valerie. "Shall we dance this?"

"Why, yes, I'd love to." Cherry watched them move away. Her heart sang with happiness. Simon was easily the most attractive man in the room, and Simon was here and he loved her. She thought of the time when the party would be over. Simon's car was outside. They'd get into it together and drive through the still, clear night to the city. Were they snatching just a little more from life than other people? It seemed to her that they must be.

She saw her hostess come and stand in the doorway, looking around at her guests. She made her way toward her. "It's such a lovely party, Mrs. Hampden. I do think it's so kind of you to have us all."

Mrs. Hampden smiled on her warmly. "My dear, I'm only too delighted that so many of you were able to come. But this won't do! Why aren't you dancing?" She turned around as she spoke, glancing around the room for a possible partner for Cherry, and now suddenly seeing one: "Ah, Mr. Miller, come here and dance with Miss—Miss? I'm so sorry, I forget your name. I've met so many new friends of Valerie's this evening. Yes, Edwards, do you remember me?" She moved away to speak to the butler who was hovering nearby obviously waiting for a word with her.

CHAPTER VIII
Cherry drew a slight breath. She felt the color drain from her cheeks. Jerry Miller! Next to Denise he was the one person she had no wish ever to meet again. She'd been trying so hard to forget. She'd been succeeding, too. And now he stood smiling at her. He hadn't altered in the least. He still had that rather lean, ruthless look about him, a look that was doubtless attractive to many

women. Only Cherry didn't happen to be one of them. He said with evident pleasure, "Well! So we meet again. You know, I always felt that one day we'd run into each other again. In fact, one of the reasons I came to this party was because I hoped you might possibly be here, too. For once the gods have been kind to me."

They were dancing now, not that Cherry wanted to dance with him. She wanted to flee from the party, to grab Simon, who was passing at this moment with Valerie, and say that she was sorry but she wanted to leave. That she didn't feel well and hoped Valerie would excuse her. She was trying desperately hard not to let her feelings of panic overwhelm her. She was asking herself what she could do, what she should say. For Mrs. Hampden, in introducing her to Jerry Miller, had forgotten that she was married and so far he was unaware of it. Would it be possible to avoid introducing him to Simon and leave quickly so that he, Jerry, shouldn't know it? But even if she did this, the chances were someone would mention it to him. Somehow she must keep from him the fact that she was married to Denise's husband.

He was talking to her now and she could hardly answer him. She tried to pull herself together. Yes, it was quite a long while since they'd met. No, she didn't know exactly how many months.

"I do, nearly fifteen." He held her more closely. "Far too long to my way of thinking. I often wondered what had become of you."

"Did you?"

"I take it you never wondered what had become of me?"

"No."

"Heartless girl! And I thought I'd made an ineffaceable impression on you. That's the sort of thing to put a chap in his place, isn't it?"

(To be Continued)

ORWELL COVE SCHOOL
Report for March.
Grade X Sr.—1, Beverly MacLeod.

Grade K Jr.—1, Laurina Rooney; 2, Beatrice McKenna and Mary Rooney, equal.

Grade VII—1, Clifford MacLeod; 2, Marie Rooney; 3, Pauline Grant.

Grade VI—1, Patrick McKenna; 2, Michael McKenna.

Grade IV—1, Kenneth MacLeod; 2, Joseph Rooney; 3, Annie Grant.

Grade III—1, Eileen Rooney.

Grade II—1, Mildred MacLeod; 2, Charles Grant.

Grade I—1, Georgina McKenna. Perfect attendance—Beverly MacLeod, Laurena Rooney, Clifford MacLeod, Eileen Rooney, Mildred MacLeod. Teacher—Celle T. Rooney.

HERMITAGE W. I.
The regular monthly meeting of Hermitage Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Leonard Murphy Tuesday evening April 4th. The president occupied the chair and the members responded to a Roll call with a grab bag. Several visitors were also present.

No reports from committees. It was decided to continue quilt making. Secretary to order more balsa A quilt top and lining were donated by Mr. Percy Acon. For Red Cross two pairs of socks were also handed in.



A MINUTE TO GO..

If you had the power To shorten the war By a day Or an hour Or even a minute...

Would you balk at the task Would you grumble And ask "What's there in it?"

Would you stop to ask "why" When a dozen will die In the tenth of a moment It takes you to sigh?

You can shorten the war By a minute or more With a magical wand Called a Victory Bond

Get ready to Buy...

VICTORY BONDS

NATIONAL WAR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Sailing Vessels WANTED

We are in the market to purchase five schooners—various tonnages. Write details and prices at once.

H. R. Large & Co.

GASPERSAUX SCHOOL

The following is the standing of the pupils of Gaspersaux School for the month of March. Grade X—1 Katherine Steele.

Grade IX—1 Jean Graham. Grade VIII—1 Anna Graham. Grade VII—1 Leo French. Grade VI—1 Cecila O'Connor.

Grade V—1 Doris Jamieson and Lulu Graham (equal). Grade IV—1 Lorraine Graham. Grade III—1 Margaret French. Grade II Sr.—1 Ida Campbell, 2 Eugene O'Connor, 3 Jean Jamieson.

Grade I Sr.—1 Wilfred McGee, 3 Billy Steele, 3 Jackie McGulgan. Grade I Jr.—1 Rita Steele, 2 Roy Jamieson, 3 Billy Dixon. W. P. Cairns Teacher.

MT. MELLICK W. I. The March meeting of the Mt. Mellick W. I. was held Wednesday evening March 8th at the home of Edna Robertson. There were nine members and three visitors in attendance. One member joined. The minutes of the

TRAVELLERS REST SCHOOL

Grade X—1, Emmeline Rayner. Grade IX A—1, Selma Perry. Grade IX B—1, Loretta Hogg.

Grade VIII—1, Florence MacInnis; 2, Virginia Mose; 3, Marjorie MacDonald. Grade VII—1, Norma Woodside; 2, Helen Simmons; 3, George Mose.

Grade VI—1, Ralph MacInnis; 2, Wesley Gunning. Grade V—1, Earl Rayner. Grade IV—1, Lilly Gunning; 2, Irene Perry; 3, David Schurman.

Grade III A—1, Thelma Mose. Grade III B—1, Jean Haffel; 2, Emma Rayner; 3, Wallace Mont-Somery. Grade II A—1, Herbert Mose; 2, Eilon Gunning; 3, Arthur Blanchard. Grade II B—1, David Walker; 2, Charlotte Hogg.

Grade I—1, Edward Perry; 2, Claude Perry. War Savings Stamps in Senior Room \$44.00. War Savings Stamps in Primary Room \$32.25. Total—\$122.25. Principal—Doris Horne. Assistant—Mrs. Ailsa Champion.

This War—Four Years Ago

APRIL 17, 1940—British fleet bombarded Stavanger as Allied and Norwegian troops battled Germans above Arctic Circle. United States warned all nations that status quo of Dutch East Indies must be preserved regardless of what might occur in the Netherlands.



By GEORGE McMANUS