

Exit Tony Blount

by Sydney Parkman

CHAPTER IV

Continued

It was not far enough away from his starting point to be the one he was looking for and he skirted it very carefully, keeping well in the shelter of the trees in case by some chance there should be a watcher posted there. He had calculated that his immediate goal lay some five miles from the point where he had made his escape, for Piccart had told him that it was about six kilometres north of the camp, and he was approaching it along the hypotenuse of a right angle triangle whose base was represented by the two miles which separated the camp from the scene of his late labours. No doubt there existed a road or track of some kind which had at one time connected the camp with the spot he was aiming at, but if his general direction was what it should be he was slowly converging upon it and would not actually strike it at all. The moon had climbed high into the sky, and its radiance flooded the open spaces with silver light and rendered the shadows inky black. Even under the trees, when his eyes had got used to the gloom, the going was very much easier and his progress correspondingly better. It was difficult to know how much ground he had covered since he had started out, but he relied upon being able to recognize the clearing when he came to it by the fact that the

stream ran through or near it. So far he had been travelling over comparatively level ground and though he had come upon several patches of marshy land he had not encountered anything in the nature of running water. Actually he missed the clearing altogether, and it was the stream which ultimately led him to it. It must have been well after midnight when he came upon it, and when at last he reached its bank and saw the occasional patches of bright moonlight reflected on the sparkling water between the dark shadows of the trees which pressed close in upon it on either hand, he was feeling bone weary, and could have dropped down and slept where he was. He could not doubt that this was the stream in question, however, and it seemed equally clear that he must be to the west of the clearing. Had he been to the eastward of it he must have come upon the track which formerly connected it with the camp, and he could hardly have failed to notice it. It meant, therefore, that he must now follow its course till it brought him to the clearing. The obvious plan was to take to the stream bed itself. The water was no more than a couple of feet deep, and it would save him a further struggle among the dense undergrowth which lined the banks. Even this was not quite so simple as it looked, however, for when he slid down the bank and waded into midstream he found that the water rose waist-high, for the stream bed consisted of about a foot of soft mud. He made progress almost as slow as if he had been fighting the undergrowth, and twice he lost one of his rope-soled shoes in the mud and had to scramble for it. The water was unexpectedly cold too, and before he had gone far he

could have wished that he had stuck to the known discomforts of land. However, it was not worth clanking out again, and he continued to wade downstream between the dark woods, avoiding the occasional patches of moonlight and keeping close in to one or other of the banks in the hope of finding shallower water and less mud. It seemed that his general line of direction till now had been more to the northward than he had realized, for it took him a good half-hour before he came in sight of a wide area of moonlight on the right-hand bank which seemed to indicate the clearing he was seeking, and by that time he was feeling ready to drop with fatigue. The sight of it revived him temporarily, and he approached it with caution. A line of trees still fringed the edge of the stream bank on that side, but between their trunks he could see that the timber had been cleared over a wide area. It was evidently an old clearing, and as he surveyed it from midstream, he felt convinced that it must be the place he was looking for. He could see no sign of the old

tool-hut, however, and he waded slowly forward again, searching the moonlight space with his eyes as he went. About half-way along the clearing, he suddenly saw it—a shapeless mound of palm thatch rising above the low flood of vegetation—and his heart rose at the sight. This was the place, sure enough, and it now remained to find the keg. Almost opposite the hut, Piccart had said; and he made his way over to the bank and waded slowly along, peering down into the dark water as he went. By good fortune, he literally stumbled upon it almost at once. It lay immediately under the bank at a spot where there was a break in the line of trees, and after a cautious glance over the moon-drenched clearing, he stooped down and lifted it out of the water on to the bank itself. To be continued

COPENHAGEN, (Reuters).—Hans Christensen, 43, a chemist recently freed from jail, killed his wife and two children with a hammer Monday night, then hanged himself.

York and Vicinity

Among those who attended Mr. Fulton Douglas' sale last week at Savoy Harbour were Messrs. Floyd Vessey, Roscoe McDonald, Ernest McDonald, Harry Lewis and Harold Watts, all of York. The Misses Olga and Christine Proud were visitors to the city on Saturday, March 7th. Mr. and Mrs. Allen Swan, City, spent Saturday afternoon, March 7th, at their home in York. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Vessey, Mr. and Mrs. Edison Hardy visited the City Saturday evening, March 7th. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Watts, Windsor, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Watts on Saturday, March 7th. A large number of York hockey fans attended the game at North River Rink on Friday evening, March 6th, between York Rankers and Covehead Flyers. Covehead

won 8-1. Mr. Willard McPherson, Orwell Cove, was the guest of his sister, Mrs. Will Crockett, on Friday evening, March 6th. Mrs. Gordon Crockett paid a short visit to the city on Friday, March 6th. Misses Eleanor Cook and Elizabeth McDonald attended the hockey game at North River rink on Friday evening, March 6th. Mrs. Peter Proud was a visitor to the city on Friday, March 6th. Mr. and Mrs. Alex Scott and son Preston were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Leith Brown on Sunday, March 8th. Miss Freda Newson was the guest of her parents on Sunday, March 8th. Mr. and Mrs. Leith Brown spent Saturday evening, March 7th, in the City. Mr. Ramsay Auld, Covehead, spent Sunday, March 8th, in York, the

guest of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Crockett. Miss Mary Watts of the Royal Bank, City, was the guest of her parents on Sunday, March 8th. Mr. and Mrs. Will Crockett and family spent Sunday, March 8th, at Orwell Cove, the guest of Mr. Willard McPherson. Her many friends in York are sorry to hear that Miss Marjorie Gill, formerly of York, had the misfortune to fall, breaking both legs. She is a patient in the P. E. Island Hospital. Her many friends wish her a speedy recovery. Mr. Norman Brown was a weekend guest at his home in York. Mr. Myron Ling of the P. E. I. Telephone Company was a weekend guest at his home in York. Mrs. Archie Vessey was hostess to the W. M. S. of York on Monday, March 9th, with fair attendance. A card game was held in York Hall on Monday evening, March

Indian River Farm Forum

—The closing meeting of the Indian River Farm Forum was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Hickey on Monday night, March 23rd. After completing the regular discussion period the plight of an Indian River man who lost his home by fire that morning was discussed. Messrs. Bernard McLellan, Elmer Mann and Andy Turner were named a committee to be in charge of a rehabilitation program which was planned for this unfortunate neighbor. Farm Forums are encouraged to sponsor community projects and Indian River Forum is to be commended for undertaking this worthy project. —K

9th. The score was as follows: High, ladies, Mrs. Lloyd Vessey, Mrs. Peter Proud; men, Mr. Lloyd Vessey, Mr. Raymond Vessey. Low score, ladies, Mrs. Leith Brown, Mrs. Frank Watts; men, Mr. Frank Watts, Mr. Frank Vessey. —B O.

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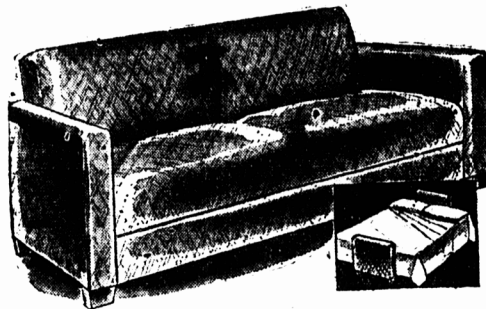
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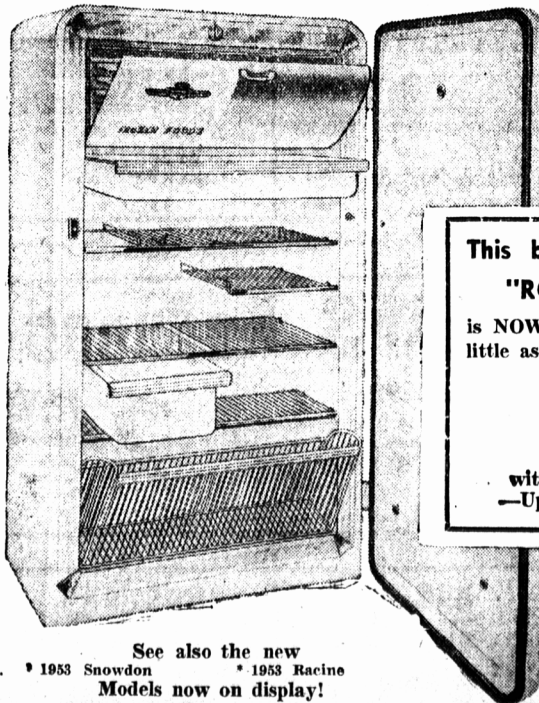


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