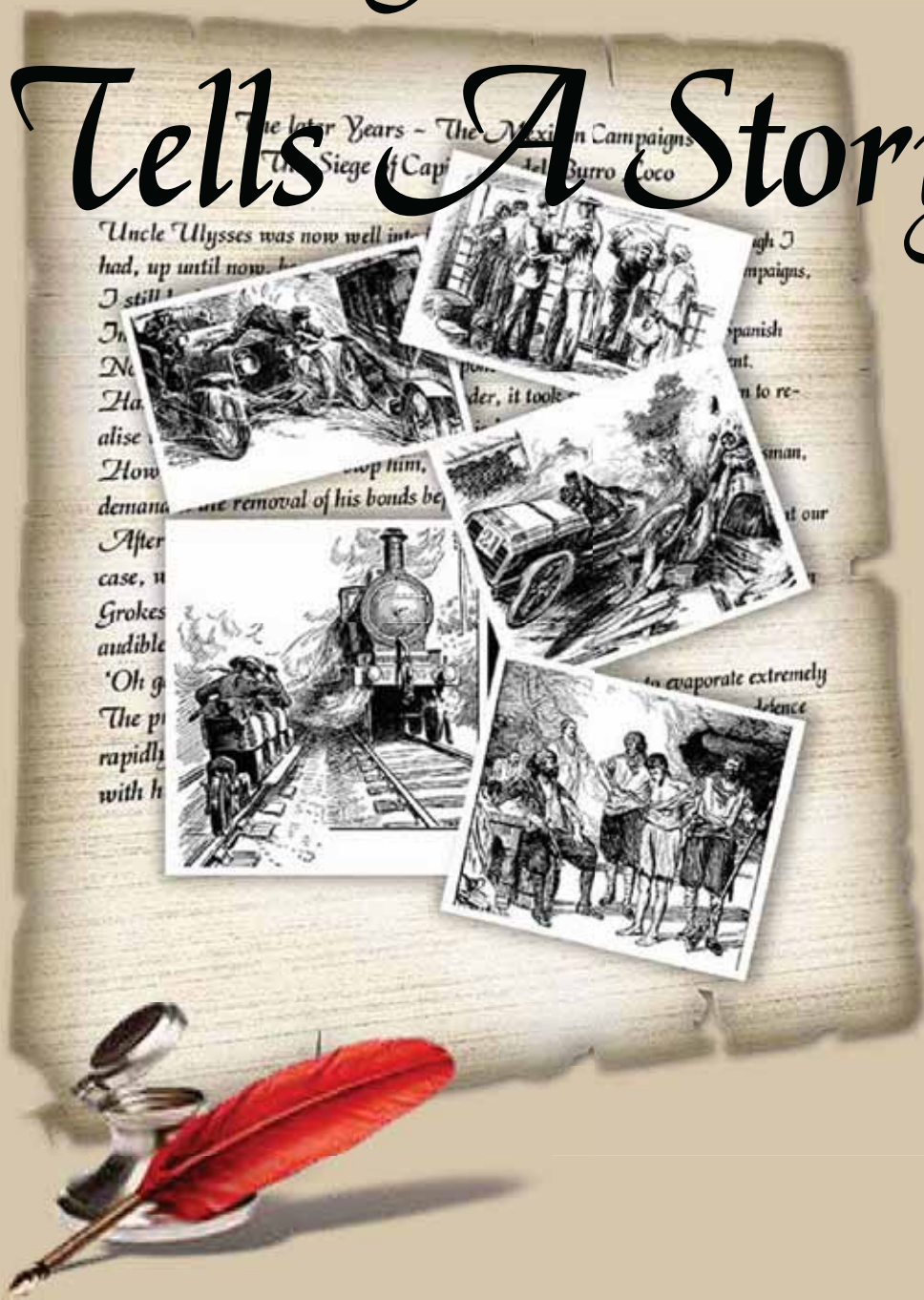


Every Picture Tells A Story



Roger Grigson

*Every Picture
Tells a Story*

by

Roger Grigson

First published

Every Picture Tells a Story
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Dedication



This book is dedicated to the talented and forgotten artists and illustrators whose splendid pictures appeared over many years in the pages of many publications, not the least of which was
CHUMS.

The pictures in this book are from that excellent Boys' Story Paper from the late 1800's through to the early 1900's. Their artwork inspired the interpreted stories which are now attributed to these wonderful illustrations.



Acknowledgements



The author would like to thank the following, without whom this book would never have been completed.

The artists, for their skills and artistry in their initial interpretation of the story to which they were attached,. Without their illustrations the concept of this book would never have been born.

It has not been possible to trace them to offer written thanks.

Anthony Gatford, for his initial help and input into the original concept and whose similar sense of humour helped in no small way with the original outlines.

Finally to myself, who has spent over twenty five years since first starting this book, to actually finishing it.



Introduction

THROUGHOUT THIS BOOK VARIOUS characters and events are named and described and these as the reader will discover occur more than once. Therefore to give some continuity to some of the stories these characters and events are now introduced.

A well known author and traveller from Scandinavia spent many, many months travelling throughout England seeking out the more unusual and interesting people and events to be recorded in his massive two volume *Guide to England*. His name was Knut Vorgebrund.

Stubbington-Minge is the name of a long established county family and whose history is well recorded in the book by the same author, *The Life and Times of Wilberforce Stubbington-Minge*. There are several references to this family throughout. Associated and inextricably interwoven with the Stubbington-Minge name is that of the less aristocratic family of the Croakers, again the full history of these individuals can be found in the aforementioned book.

Within the world of Illusions and Magic, the Asquith Bothers are encountered quite frequently and always associated with less than memorable occasions.

In all ages there has been the entrepreneur, ready to take advantage of any situation and turn it to his advantage, a certain Earnest Wackwell is one of these characters and reference to his Emporium and its wares will be found throughout.

Insurance and Banking has long been part of any well ordered society and one of the insurance companies which appears in this book is that of *The Albatross Insurance & Disinterested Loan Company* a subsidiary of the more well known *Anglo-Bengalee Disinterested Loan and Life Assurance Company*.

Throughout the history of exploration and travel there have been many intrepid, and in some instances foolhardy characters who, despite the odds being heavily weighed against them, continue in their pursuit of the unobtainable. Murtley McWeaver and the Hon. Sebastian Quiller-ffinch being two of the more notable; they are joined in no lesser way by a young adventurer and his eccentric Uncle Ulysses.

The Military has always played a large part in history. Among the less well known historians is found Enoch Arkwright, a member of a fairly prominent family in the north of England. His monumental Encyclopedias appear throughout the Chapter on the Military.

Other characters and events fleetingly appear and leave a thin connecting thread between events and chapters, to say more would be unnecessary, therefore the reader is now left to enjoy the stories.



**A Concise History of
The Stubbington College for sons of Gentlefolk**
As recorded by Wilberforce Agamemnon Stubbington-Minge
Archivist & Editor of the Lower Stubbington Clarion & Bugle



WITH THE MEMBERS OF the various Houses gathering around, Mr Crudley the games master and this term's tournament adjudicator dramatically opened the purple velvet covered case revealing the famous *Stubbington Vase*. There were gasps of amazement from the junior school members present for whom this was the very first sight of the legendary vase. Ensuring the vase was in the exact prescribed position he handed the ancient competition medallions to the individual team captains for the Spring Term inter-house medallion flipping tournament. Armstrong-Brine, from Nelson House and Cudler-fforbes from Drake House stepped forward and positioned themselves at the predetermined distance and awaited the time honoured starting signal to be given. At the back of the hall, Grimes, captain of Magellan House and last year's winner quietly went through his routine in preparation for his turn.

The Annals of The Explorers Club Volume XII



The Early days of the African Sub-Continent

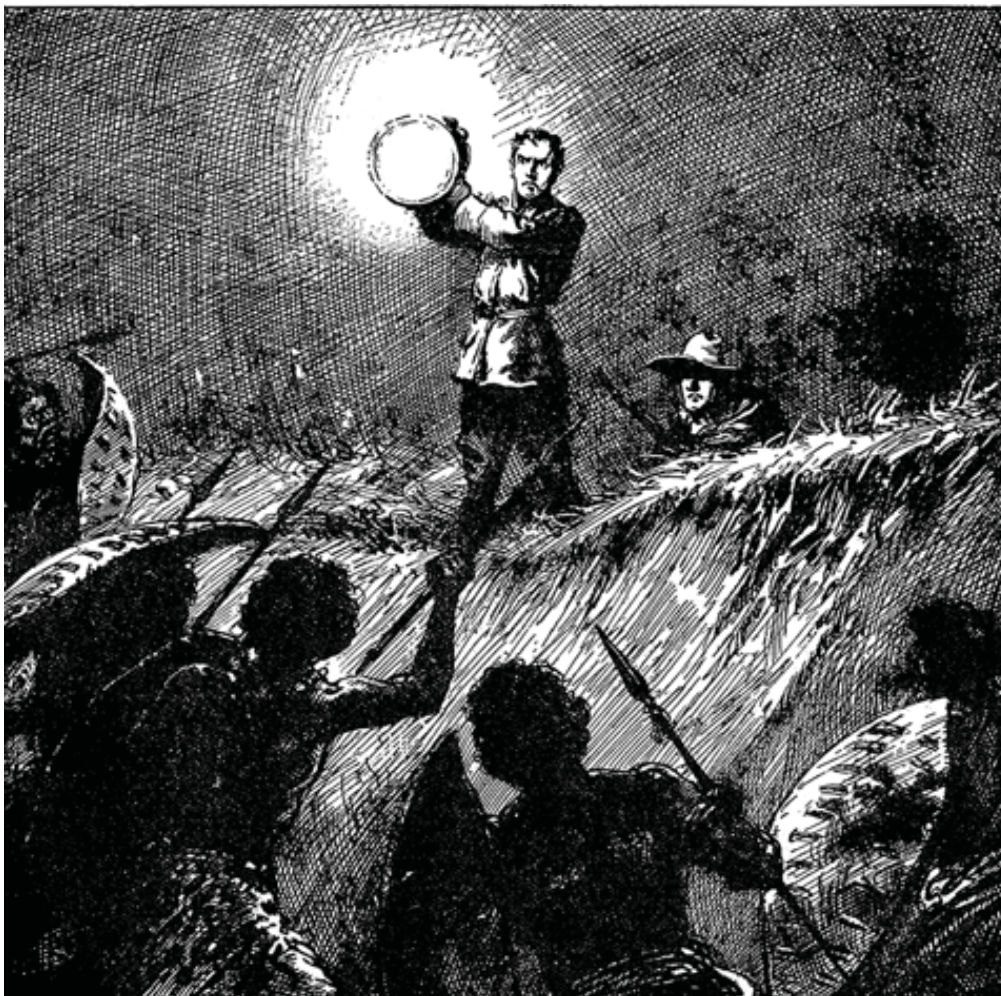
AS THE FINAL STAGES of preparation for departure were made, the two men made their farewells with, it must be said, mixed feelings. "Now don't go fretting yourself Maltravers old fellow," encouraged Brigadier Filpotte, the President of *The Explorers Club*, placing a reassuring hand on Maltravers' shoulder, "I assure you we are entirely confident the map is genuine and even if it is slightly inaccurate here and there, and you do manage to get lost, someone is bound to come looking for you".

Malek ben Ahmin, a recently signed-on expedition porter pricked up his ears as he overheard this conversation and in particular the mention of a map. Whist on his last ship he had encountered a very gullible Sir Percival Bolingthorpe, the secretary of *The Explorers Club*. Having supplied him throughout that voyage in his capacity as steward, with copious quantities of Madeira, Sir Percival had been more than willing to part with a not insignificant sum of money, for the self-same map now referred to by Brigadier Filpotte.

With a faint smile playing around his dusky features Malek recalled how he had removed it from an episode of Evans the Explorer in the *Boys Adventures* story magazine in the ship's library.

Picking up his meagre belongings he hurriedly prepared to disembark.

Overseas Trade Missions The early Entrepreneurs Central Africa



DURING THE EARLY YEARS of trading in some of the more remote areas of Africa, product orders were not always that easy to obtain by the intrepid sales representatives venturing to seek their fortunes.

For the second time that week Grymsdyke's efforts in presenting his well rehearsed sales pitch did not elicit the response his twelve-guinea course at the *Potters Products & School of Marketing Techniques* had led him to expect.

Despite his sterling attempts to promote the *Potters Patent Pot Polisher*, the shining results on the well worn tribal cooking pot did not prompt the eagerly anticipated response from the assembled company. It soon became fairly obvious that orders, were not immediately forthcoming.

Vernon, another budding salesman on the course, cautiously slipped back down the embankment and hurriedly began dismantling the *Potters Portable Vacuum Cleaner* he had eagerly assembled earlier.

**An Account of the Life and Times of
The Hon. Sebastian Quiller-finch
Deputy Acting Vice-President of the RSPB (Hackney Branch)**



**The North Pacific Expeditions 1934-36
The Third Expedition**

INCHING HIMSELF EVER UPWARDS clutching the nest of the Pygmy Rock-Throwing Crested Petrel, Quiller-finch suddenly heard the unmistakable screech of an approaching feathered attacker. With the wings beating him about his ears he frantically called out to the members of his expeditionary group to pull him up without further delay.

High above in the comparative safety of their cliff top refuge, Jollop, a new recruit to this expedition, recalled only too vividly the destructive power of this bird as graphically described in *The Quiller-finch Expeditions-Volume 1*.

As their native guide frantically pointed into the distance he and the other members of the expedition slowly withdrew as quietly as possible hoping to avoid the attention of the fast approaching bird which looked awfully like the Giant Rock-Throwing Crested Petrel.

The Crime Prevention & Local Burglar Watch Handbook Second Edition 1920



The Buford Burglar Deterrent Mk IV

THE MYSTERIOUS BURGLAR, LATER identified as Bert "The Toff" Jagglers, who up to now had repeatedly eluded the local constabulary, was finally apprehended at the home of the Chairman of the *Buford Burglar Deterrent & Self Preservation Supplies Co. Inc.* Unbeknownst to Jagglers, the latest Mark IV version of the company's latest product had been recently installed in the silver pantry of Buford Towers, - a constant target for burglars.

As soon as Jagglers had forced open the silver pantry door he was confronted with the waxwork figures of two CID Police Officers armed with (imitation) Webley revolvers. At the same moment, a prerecorded gramophonic voice was triggered, booming out (from the speaker concealed in the coal scuttle), a warning to whoever was there to 'Stand still'. Almost instantaneously a warning light was activated at the local constabulary office alerting them to the activation of the Buford system.

Jagglers was taken completely by surprise and by the time he had recovered his composure he had been taken into custody. "Bleedin' scared the life aht of me guvnor. Fought I was a gonna" he was quoted as saying as the handcuffs were placed around his wrists. "This sneaky mechanical stuff 'll finish us orf from makin' a livin'. Not bleedin' right."

Memorable Individuals & Events of Note

by

Knut Vorgebrund

Murtley McWeaver - First Entry



January 1904

The Second North Sea Attempt

AFTER WEIGHING UP ALL the considerations McWeaver's assistant Hanley, still harboured certain misgivings about this second attempt at a solo crossing of the North Sea in the *Pounder's Patent Bathyscaphe & Observation Submersible*.

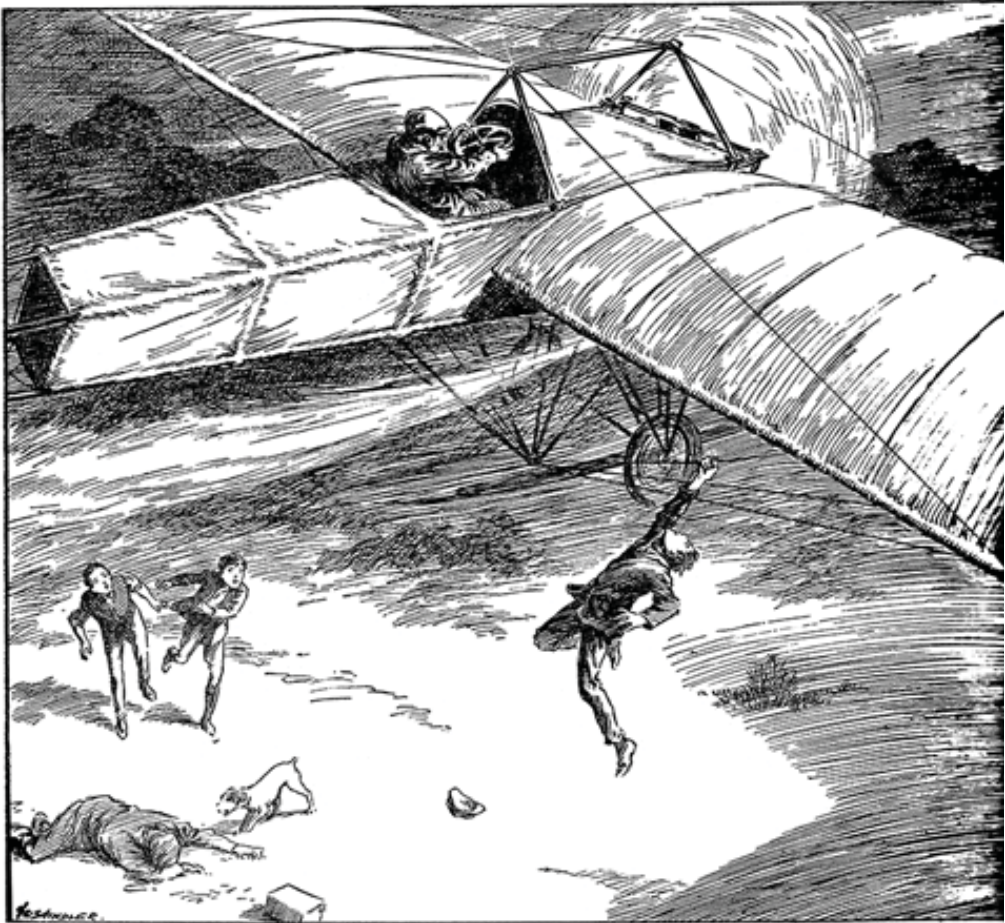
As he prepared to push McWeaver's submersible away from the quay-side these misgivings were exacerbated by the nagging thought in the back of his mind concerning certain recently added clauses in the *Albatross Insurance & Disinterested Loan Company's* policy.

Notwithstanding the considerable, so far unspent, sponsorship monies, Stavley Pounder, the designer and builder of McWeaver's craft, nervously leant forward concentrating his attention on the re-designed MkVb lid hinges. Clutching his *Wackwell's Lucky Stick (Super De Luxe Model)* he nervously gave the go ahead for the launch.

‘The Stenchurch & Whitley Weekly Echo’

October 23rd 1919

From our Aviation & Entertainments Correspondent
SWAW’s Second Attempt results in Disaster



AS THE REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT screamed by overhead, with Pilot Officer Smudley-Jones RFC (ret) desperately trying to follow the prearranged flight routine, Crammer the Number Two of the *Stenchurch & Whitley Aerial Acrobatic & Wing Walking Team* hung on to the undercarriage for dear life wondering what he was going to do when the aircraft came into land.

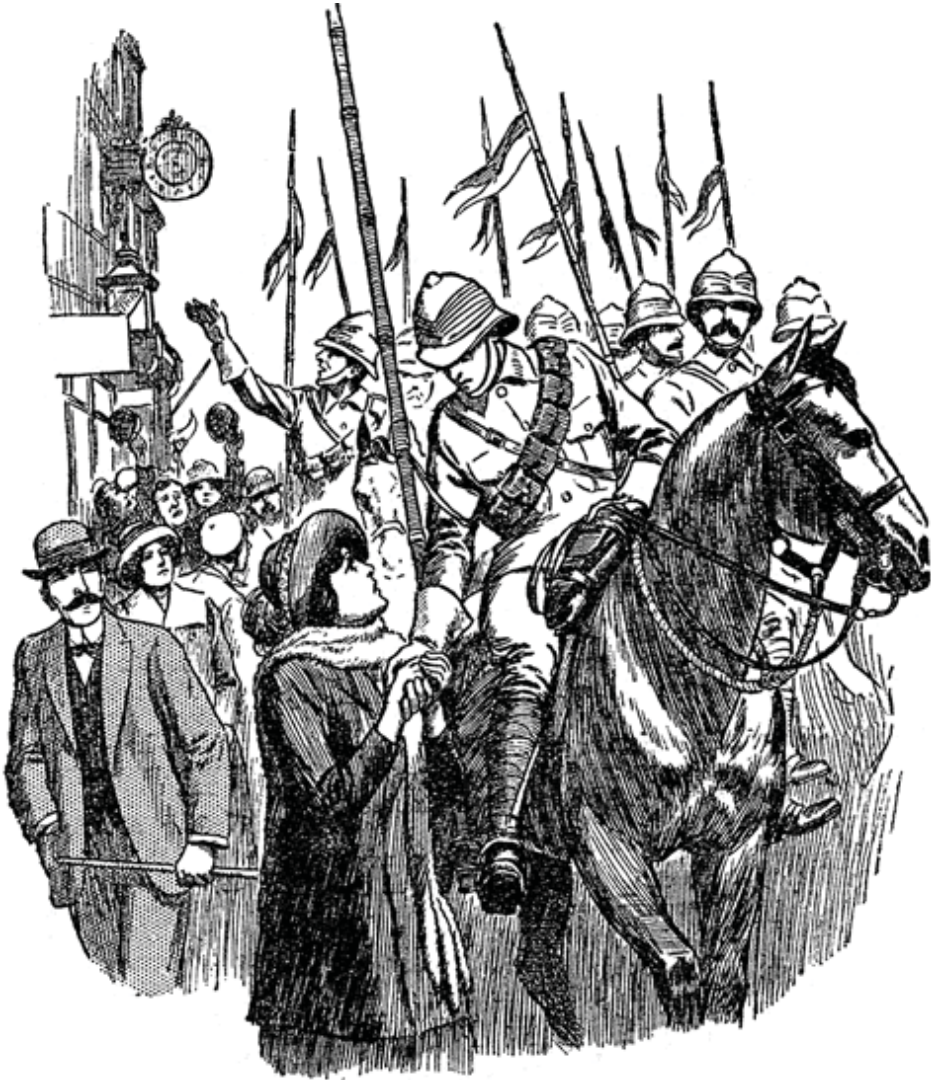
At this point our assistant reporters and unofficial observers, Craddock and Eames, urgently rushed forward to see what they could salvage from the latest display presentation.

From first observations it seemed unlikely that the team would ever be able to regroup in time for the *Crumlington All comers Air Show* which was due to be held next week.

With Kennington, the team leader and principal stunt acrobat, lying motionless on the ground amidst his accoutrements his Jack Russell terrier, an integral part of the display, stood by his prostrate master still barking out the routine numbers.

The 43rd Carlisle & Penrith Light Lancers

The 1st Indian Campaign - The Sepoy Riots
Embarkation Day - Friday, August 13th, 1858



AMID THE TUMULTUOUS CHEERING of the crowd as it bade an enthusiastic and patriotic farewell to the Lancers making its departure for the conflict overseas, Trooper Albert Mulligan leant forward on his horse to speak to his fiancée of just twenty-four hours. "It's alright Mildred my love, please don't worry yourself" he comforted "I'm sure I'll find the lucky rabbit's foot you gave me. It's bound to be somewhere in my kit. Anyway I really don't think I'll have need of it".

Earnest Wackwell (ever the entrepreneur and currently sole proprietor of the recently opened *Wackwell's Lucky Charms & Talismans Emporium*) overhearing this conversation, quickly stepped forward clutching his newly designed, patented, and recently catalogued, *Wackwell's Lucky Stick (Military Model)*.

From The Archives of The Consumers Association
'A Purchasers' Guide to Modern Household Equipment'
Practical Household Appliances No. 76



IN THE FORMATIVE DAYS of the newly-launched monthly publication, *A Purchasers' Guide to Modern Household Equipment*, the newly-established teams of examiners and investigators went to extraordinary lengths to test and validate new consumer products, before giving them the final mark of approval.

Here, an example of the rigorous, and sometimes hazardous, proving conditions, constructed by the investigators in their pursuance of results, is evidenced.

In this particular case the preliminary testing of the *Pounders Combined Pressurised Soup Flask & Sandwich Container* failed the depth pressure trial.

A Short history of Mid-West America

Asylums for the Criminally Insane

Volume 18 - Colorado 1900 to 1930 - Section iv(b)

The advent of Marvel Comics and their effects on the Asylum Population



The Clint Wilkins Syndrome (aka Bruce Wayne, Clark Kent)

RECENTLY DISCHARGED FROM THE infirmary, having recovered from injuries sustained during his Batman interlude, Wilkins made good his escape, yet again, from the outside working party.

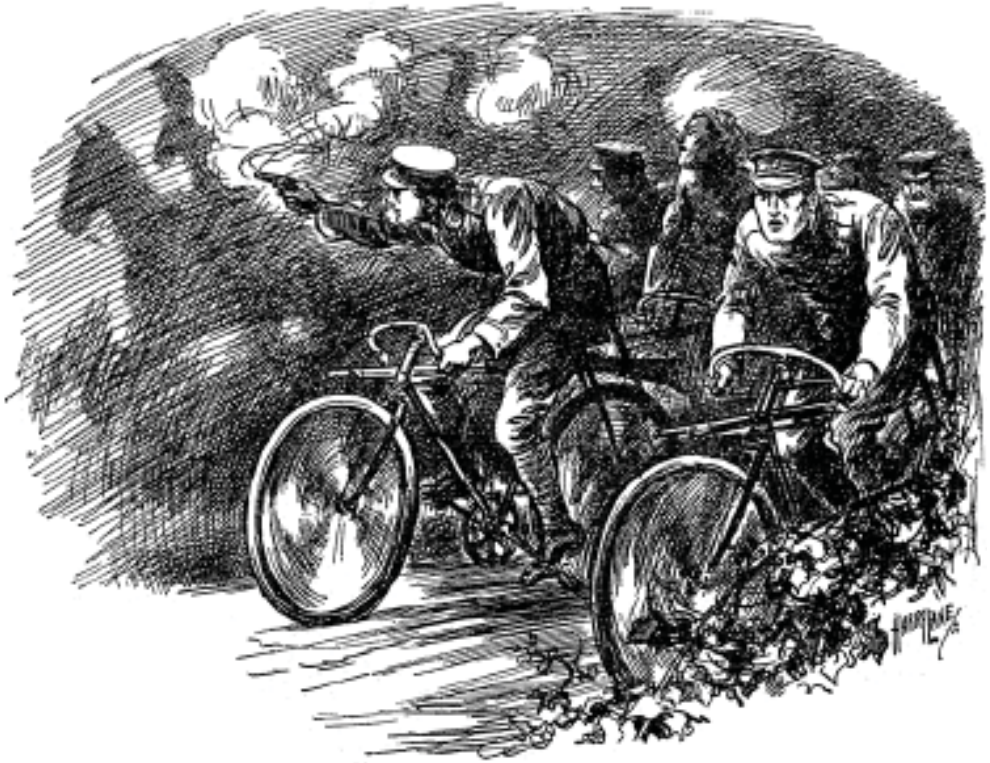
During the resultant internal investigation into the escape and its subsequent unfortunate culmination, it was discovered this sudden quest for freedom had been triggered off when Orderly Jarbold offered Wilkins a lump of blue cheese for his lunch.

Screaming 'Kryptonite!!' Wilkins was last seen racing off down the nearby *Achison Topeka & Santa Fe Railway* tracks.

From the statements of nearby witnesses a few miles further down the track, it transpired that the poor Wilkins' first, and as it transpired only attempt to emulate Superman, as vividly portrayed in a copy of *Superman and The Black Avenger* later found in his pocket, had thundered inexorably to its inevitable conclusion.

North Rutlingham Light Machine Gun Bicycle Company

From the Regimental History
Volume 1



THE NEWLY-FORMED NORTH RUTLINGHAM Light Machine Gun Bicycle Company, entered into their first skirmish amid certain reservations expressed by Lance Corporal Gorbers, a recent replacement from the hastily disbanded South Rutlingham Heavy Machine Gun Bicycle Company, concerning the somewhat limited scope of the crossbar-mounted machine guns.

Major Arbuthknot, full of enthusiasm and thoughts of a Victoria Cross, whilst enthusiastically discharging his side-arm at the advancing enemy cavalry, urged his men on with yells of..“Tally ho chaps.”

Lance Corporal Gorbers, closely followed by Private Smawks, fixed his gaze on the distant wood and pedalled furiously on.

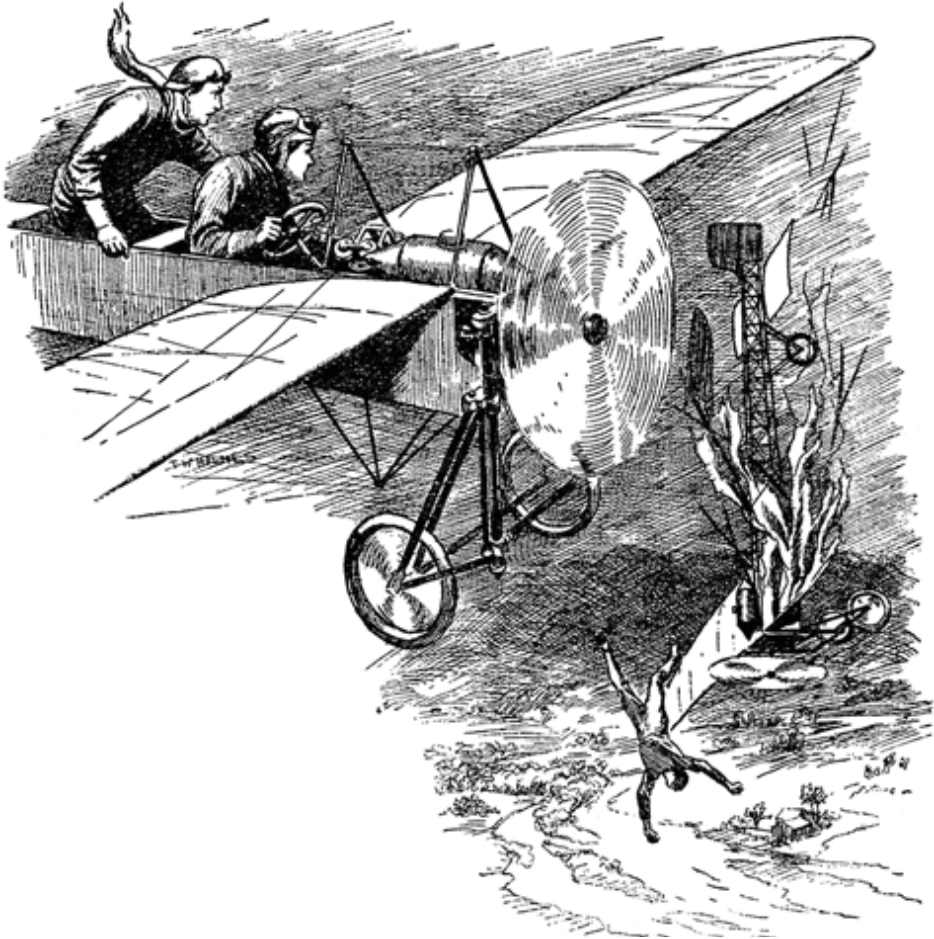
Exciting Tales from The Seven Seas
Famous Shipwrecks No 52
SS Achilles Voyager



WITH THE LAST LIFEBOAT pulling away from the doomed steamer *SS Achilles Voyager* leaving the remainder of the crew with little hope of salvation, Grimwood the ship's entertainments officer, stepped forward. He cleared his throat a couple of times, hummed a couple of notes, cleared his throat again and then enthusiastically burst into a rousing chorus of, *A Life on the Ocean Waves*.

Slowly, Haddock the coxswain and survivor of many a shipwreck and not always an aficionado of the performing arts, bent down and picked up a heavy lump of wood, muttering under his breath "*For Those in Peril on the Sea* would be more appropriate matey".

Arkwright's Great Encyclopaedias
Military War Engines & Inventions (Unsuccessful)
Volume 9 - 1915 (June)



The Wadkins Self-Preservator Escape Canopy MkII

CAPTAIN CRAWKINS RFC PUT the test aeroplane into a steep dive, locked the controls and hurled himself from the cockpit. As he hurtled headfirst toward the ground, clutching his *Wackwell's Lucky Stick (Military Model)* in one hand and the newly designed release mechanism for the *MK II Wadkins Self-Preservator Escape Canopy* in the other, he began slowly counting to five.

From the observation aircraft, Professor Wadkins started his stop watch and looked on expectantly.

Volume 8
'Lee Fong & The Asquith Brothers'
The Disappearing Grand Piano Illusion

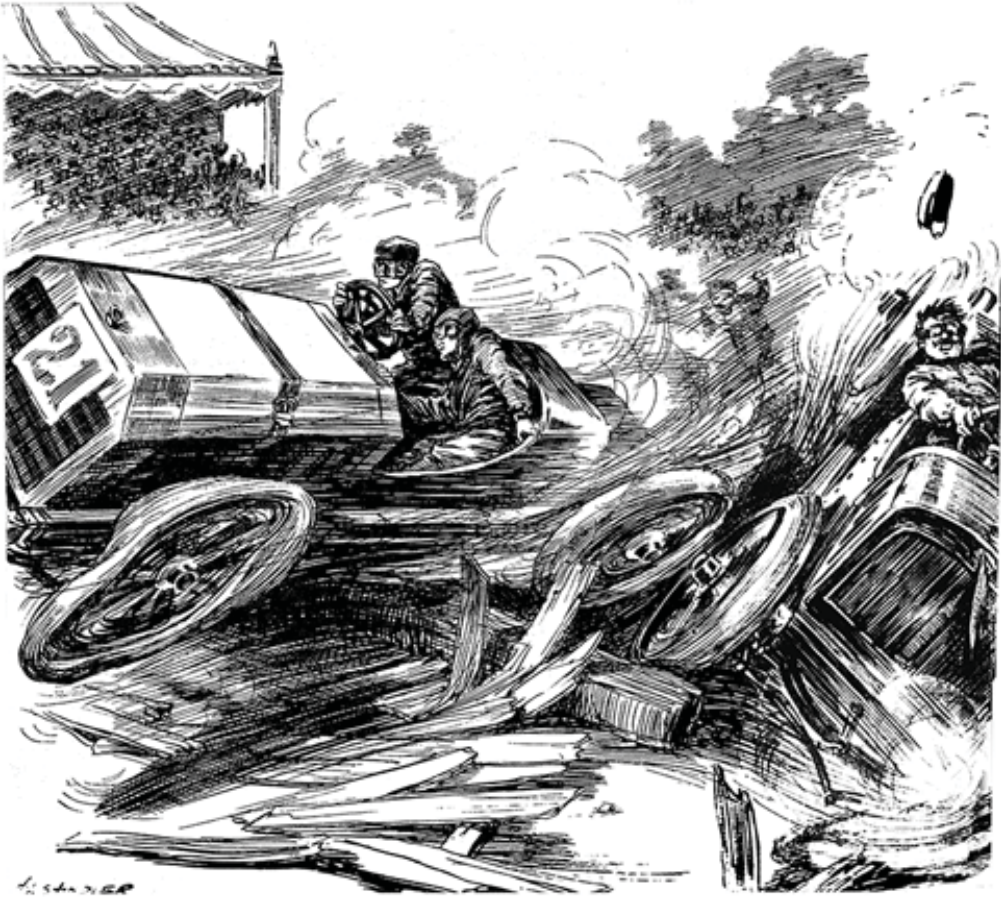


THE 'DISAPPEARING GRAND PIANO' routine (which, up to half an hour ago, had had the crew and passengers of the SS *Aberystwyth Princess* enthralled) had taken a very unexpected and sudden turn, resulting in the Asquiths, along with Lee Fong, now finding themselves adrift amongst various pieces of wreckage.

As Fred Asquith tried to keep his balance on the swaying animal cage, he gave an encouraging wave to his brother Arthur and Lee Fong, "Hold on. I'm sure the rescue boats will be here soon." In the back of his mind he was trying to recall exactly why he had hired Lee Fong. Readjusting his grip on the cage roof, he made a mental note to try and find the references pertaining to Fong's expertise, particularly with gunpowder.

Inside the cage, the recently purchased chimpanzee clung to the roof, still holding what remained of the *Lee Fong Patented Magic Fuse* .

Tales of the Great Racetracks of the World
Brookmoor Flats - Surrey, England
Volume Three - The Early Years
The Hyde-Browne Legend



TOTALLY OBLIVIOUS OF HIS surroundings and the pursuing motors, Hyde-Brown left it to the last possible moment before veering across the track and hurling his *Granling-Webb Straight Twelve* into the pit lane at a speed approaching some eighty-five miles an hour. At this point Ampleforth, his replacement co-driver, speculated on the confident reassurances he had been given earlier, “...bin takin’ part in these competitions for years old bean, know every inch of the track, what! Nothin’ to it” Von Beughal, who was by now careering towards the rather deep perimeter ditch, had visions of *déjà vu* from the previous week’s race at the Alpenberghoft circuit in Austria.

THE PICTURES IN THIS book are from that excellent boys' story paper, CHUMS, and are from volumes of the late 1800's through to the early 1900's. The artwork of the talented and forgotten artists whose splendid pictures appeared over many years in these pages, vividly illustrating the tales of adventure and 'daring do' inspired the new stories which are now attributed to these wonderful illustrations.

They span topics ranging from Adventure and Exploration, Maritime and Military, through to Local History and Miscellaneous events and People.

Each Picture is now a Story on its Own

