Little Clair

TWO WEEK SERIAL

by MARIE BOWERS

he story thus far: Clair Free- falls in love with Mev Stan- young artist whose country llo is just across the road from little cottage where Clair lives her grandparents. Mev treats always as a child, but she n't find that disagreeable be- se it makes her frequent visits the studio less open to the icism of Mev's friends. She n't care for these friends— Caldwells, Cleon Pearson, Tim an, Tess Devlin—because when e is with them he is callous, d, "modern." Riding horseback ether one day, Mev and Clair r a collision on the highway r by. Some vague premonition ges a scream to Clair's lips.

CHAPTER V

"What's the matter, Clair?" Mev his voice shaking in spite of elf. There was something about having her scream like way up here in the quiet ds. Clair felt it, too, and the of her voice in the woods e her feel suddenly frightened. ost panicky.

"I don't know, Mev. Let's go n the road."

hat was all she could say and didn't even wait for him to e. She touched her heels to horse and rode off along the ich of the bridle path that led ard the road. Mev caught up her in a moment and they along at a fast trot, not say- anything. Clair knew some- that he had gotten a touch of same feeling that ran all ugh her; a feeling that they e going to something that was ible and that was going to them to see.

ey came out on the road about arter mile from where the ac- nt occurred. They could see e or four cars parked along shoulders now with people mbling out of them and run- down into the ditch along- . On the other side of the road could see as they approached men standing on either side of ttle boy, bending over him and arently asking him questions. n, as they swung down from r horses, they saw the cars in ditch. One of them, its top a nbles of torn canvas and bro- steel rods, its body a shapeless s of metal, was Roger Cald- 's convertible sedan.

lair felt her pounding heart down almost to normal. Her cles, tensed to tautness on ride down from the spring, denly relaxed and she laid her d of Mev's arm. For an in- it she thought she was going to t, but then it was over and she as if she had been expecting ething like this, and now it happened.

he and Mev could not have n standing there staring at the for more than a moment, but eemed like an hour. She saw jaw drop as he recognized the and she saw his face turn very te. It was almost as if his whis- grew at the same time, they denly seemed so dark against whiteness of his skin. And n he was brushing her hand off arm and pushing her back, as telling her to stay there, and was running down into the ditch where Roger's car lay. She saw him push through the people who were struggling to open the doors and then very quietly she turned away.

She looked both ways along the highway and then crossed over to where the two men stood with the little boy. The boy watched her with frightened eyes as she crossed toward them and the two men looked up.

"Has anyone gone for a doctor?" she said.

"No—no, I'd better go," one of the men said, and he ran to his car, started it, and shot off down the road.

Clair disregarded the other man and took the little boy's hand and led him over to a low fence that ran along the road on that side and made him sit down. "Poor little fellow, you're scared, aren't you?" she said, sitting down beside him.

"I almost got kilt," he said in a high-pitched, shaky little voice.

"Let's not talk about it," Clair said. "Where do you live?"

"Right down there," the boy said, pointing down the road.

"Are you going to the store?"

"Comin' from." He reached under his oversized blue sweater and pulled out a carton of butter. "Gee," he said, squeezing it with soiled and pudgy fingers, "it's gittin' soft!"

Clair laughed and the boy looked up and grinned. Then he looked back toward the wrecked cars The second one, not so badly damaged, had plunged all the way across the ditch and lay on its side in the field beyond. "They—they can't git 'em out, hunh?" he said.

"They will," Clair said. "You're not hurt, are you?" She laid her hand on the boy's shoulder and he looked up at her again.

"Naw! I jumped—just in time." He seemed to feel that he could tell her the whole story then. "I seen that car," pointing to the one in the field, "just as it was comin' up behind me so I crossed over to this side. An' then, just when I was in the middle of the street. I seen this one——" he pointed to Roger's car "an' I jumped. But he seen me, too, an' he was goin' like the dickens and he just kind of jumped, too, across to the other side and smack into the other guy—head on!"

Clair thought for a minute she was going to be sick but she bit her lip hard and the feeling passed. She squeezed the boy's hand and told him to stay there and then she crossed the road again.

The front door of Roger's car was opened and she saw Mev pulling someone out from under the steering column. She went up behind him with her hands stretched out as if to help and when he turned around with the limp figure in his arms he saw her and said, "Tim."

Clair nodded, almost as if she had known it would be. Timothy Bryan and not Roger Caldwell. But she couldn't have known; it was just that something inside her had worked it all out beforehand.

She couldn't see Tim's face, it was so covered with blood, but she heard a moan from inside the car. "It's Tess," Mev said. Then he turned to one of the men standing around staring at Tim. "Get her out. Hurry." He spoke quietly with no show of nerves, although he looked a wreck.

Clair stood by the car until Tess had been pulled out and laid beside Tim on the ground. She didn't seem badly hurt, just thoroughly dazed. But Tim was unconscious and both legs lay in unnatural positions. Mev sat beside him staring at the gash in his forehead and holding a handkerchief in his hand. Several times he moved as if to wipe away the blood, but each time he hesitated. When a siren sounded down the highway Mev put his handkerchief back in his pocket and continued to sit there staring at Tim.

Clair sat beside Tess and rubbed her wrists and after a few minutes she opened her eyes. She looked at Clair without surprise, but there was horror in her eyes and she said feebly, "Tim—Tim—dead——"

"No, Tess," Clair said softly. "Tim is all right. He's hurt, but he'll be all right."

And all the time Clair herself was in a bewildering daze. She could think clearly about the accident and about Tim and Tess, and she knew nothing could be done for them until the doctor arrived. And she knew the doctor was practically there—there was a last little gasp of a siren and then the sound of a car pulling up close by. But she was in a daze about Mev. Something was happening to him and she didn't know what it was. He seemed to be fighting something out in his mind as he sat there staring at Tim—Tim who was his best friend and who was so badly hurt, and who might die.

Then she saw Mev get up and move aside as two policemen picked up Tim and carried him to the ambulance. A man carrying a small bag directed them and climbed in after Tim. Then one of the policemen returned and picked up Tess who was rubbing her forehead as if she couldn't quite understand what it was all about, and carried her to the ambulance, too. The driver of the other car, Claire realized, was one of the men who had been talking to the little boy. He wasn't hurt.

Only then did Mev turn to Clair. He laid his hand on her arm and looked at her out of dull eyes. His face fas terribly drawn and Clair felt an impulse to put her arms around him and hold him close to her, but she didn't dare.

"I'd better go with them," he said. "You take the horses back to the stable and get my car, will you please, Clair, and drive over to Woodside Hospital? That's where they'll take them."

"Yes, Mev," she said.

He walked over to the ambulance and climbed in with the driver and they drove away. Clair called to the little boy who still sat on the fence across the road and when he came to her she patted him on the head and told him to go on home. Then she untied the horses, climbed onto hers and led Mev's by the bridle as she went down the road toward the cinder path.

It was nearly an hour before she got to the hospital and when she came in Mev was standing in the lobby, smoking a cigarette. He grinned when he saw her and seemed to be quite his old self again. He tossed his cigarette into a sandbox and came to meet her.

"He's still under ether," he said, "but the doc says he's going to live. The head injury wasn't too serious. It's the legs that are bad. Compound fractures in both of them."

"Poor Tim." Clair said. She couldn't think of anything else to say. It was still incredible that Tim, of all people, should be in a hospital like this, all his vitality gone, lying stretched out on a bed, unable to move or to laugh. Tim, who had always seemed the very essence of strength and vigor and robust living.

"How is Tess?"

"It's just shock with her, I think," Mev replied. "She wouldn't go to bed until they brought Tim out of the operating room. I waited outside with her but she hardly seemed to know who I was."

"I wonder——"

Clair started to say she wondered what Tim would have done if it were Tess in the operating room and himself outside waiting. Somehow, despite the things Mev had said just that morning, she thought that Tim would have been just as stunned as Tess was.

"You wonder what, little Clair?" Mev said, taking her arm and leading her toward the waiting room just off the lobby. It seemed to her that his chin lifted a trifle as he said it and that stern, cold look came into his eyes again. It hadn't taken long for him to recover his self-control. He was beginning to see this accident to his best friend in that artificial light he had made and with which he was so satisfied.

"Nothing. I guess." Clair said smiling up at him to take the edge out of her words. "Do you think Tim will—will ever be the same again? I mean, will he be crippled, do you think?"

"He might be. Tough break for a guy like Tim."

(Continued tomorrow.)

VALLEY APPOINTED TO HARVARD POST

George E. Valley Jr. of Flushing, who was awarded a national research fellowship last month, has been appointed to the teaching staff at Harvard University. It was announced today at the university. He will assume his duties in September.

Valley, a son of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Valley of 149-60 45th avenue, has been doing research work at Harvard since July, 1939.

Only a few fellowships are awarded annually by the National Research Council at Washington, D. C.

An honor graduate of the class of 1931 at Flushing High School, Valley attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and completed the course in 1935 with high honors.

During the next few years he did research in civics for the firm of Bausch and Lamb at Rochester. He then went to the University of Rochester, where he became a teacher of physics while studying for his Ph. D. degree, which he received in June 1939.

PARTY WILL RAISE FUND FOR PARADE

Members of all war veteran organizations in Queens will attend a card party tomorrow in Jamaica High School to raise funds for a Memorial Day parade and exercises.

More than 1,000 persons are expected to attend the party, sponsored by the United War Veterans of Queens. The United Veterans include the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Catholic War Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, Polish-American Veterans of the World War, Order of the Purple Heart, Spanish-American War Veterans and auxiliaries of these groups.

Bands from the three Spanish-American Veteran camps in Queens will play at the party.

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FE CITIES INVASION

t Rotterdam d, Dutch Say

ay's air armada dropped hundreds of fully- nd today in a gigantic aerial invasion of

ed by fast Allied mechanized columns— attack along their frontiers, but Nazi air- designed to break resistance by bombard- centers.

rlands, and Rotterdam, important seaport, jectives, but five German bombs landed in reported German bombing planes active

ed down this afternoon, possibly due to an

THE SITUATION

e war raged in the air and on the ground to- m Holland's Zuyder Zee to the French Alps. sels, Belgium, and Amsterdam, Holland, mbed.

ed troops pouring into Belgium from France afed by German aerial machine-gunners on ds.

nan land forces apparently were well into but had made little progress crossing the border.

an and French troops were fighting in Lux- g.

rman parachute troops dropped into Hol- the light of flares during the night intending Rotterdam.

sels reported that German parachutists ding in Belgian military areas.

nce said 100 civilians including women and were killed or wounded in yesterday's Ger- raids and that in retaliation, French planes nbed German air fields.

nce claimed that she was holding her ground nbourg.

Dutch claimed to have shot down 100 Ger- nes yesterday; the Belgians claimed 15 Ger- nes and the French 44.

RAIDERS BOMB 72 AIR FIELDS, GERMANS CLAIM

400 Planes Destroyed, Land Troops Advance, Berlin Asserts

BERLIN (U.P.)—A High Command communique issued from Adolph Hitler's headquarters in the field said today that German forces were advancing rapidly after defeating frontier troops in Belgium and Holland.

The communique said that 72 air fields in France, Belgium and Holland had been bombed and 300 to 400 airplanes destroyed on the ground.

The communique said that airfields at Metz, Nancy, Reims, Romilly, Dijon and Lyon, all in France, had been severely damaged.

BERLIN (U.P.) — German troops were expected to assail the first main line of resistance in Holland today in the first big scale ground fighting of this war.

This line, which the Germans claimed already to have reached in places, runs from the coast of the Zuyder Zee, down the Yssel River to the Maas River, thence to the Belgian frontier opposite Aachen, Germany. The area east of this line, which Germans were said to have penetrated, is a strip approximately 40 miles wide in the north, narrowing to less than 10 miles in the south. It takes in Limburg Province, the finger-like projection of Holland lying between Belgium and Germany in the south.

Behind this line the Dutch have inundated vast areas to protect their big cities, but reports reaching here indicated that the Germans had met little resistance east of the line which, although it includes the city of Maastricht, was loosely guarded.

The Dutch line connects with the Belgian which begins on the German-Belgian frontier, and it was believed that progress in Belgium would be slower than in Holland. The Belgians also have a second defense line, behind their "Little Maginot Line," following the Maas River, running southwest of Liege to the French frontier.

German newspapers said the German advance guard consisting of several air reconnaissance squadrons, sappers, anti-aircraft gunners and infantry shock troops, had driven across the Maastricht "finger" and

(Continued on Next Page)

PPLAUDS K ON ALLIES

.P.) — Premier Benito the applause today l Domenico Cavagnari, y of navy, told the Italy's position in the n must be changed. Allied blockade, and

hat France and Eng- ne all in their power maximum of damage y while Germany on nd has not yet em- aximum of her air and

described the Allied contraband control as a "great disturbance" to those states bordering on the Mediterranean and especially to Italy."

Because of the present situation, Cavagnari said, the naval war was likely to be intensified later.

"Grave" disturbance of maritime traffic by the Allied blockade was felt foremost by Italy, he said, owing to her geographical, strategic and economic position. This position, he said, must of necessity be changed because "it was contrary to the natural rights of the people."

The Senate approved without discussion army and navy budgets. Amounts and other details were not disclosed.

CABINET RESIGNS IN BUCHAREST

BUCHAREST, RUMANIA (U.P.) —The cabinet of Premier George Tatarescu resigned today.

Tatarescu handed his resignation to King Carol who again charged the premier with the task of forming a new government

The resignation was not considered to represent a crisis since reorganization of the government had been under consideration for some time. It was expected that a new government would be formed by tonight

Pope Tells Netherlands Their Cause Is Just

VATICAN CITY (U.P.) — Pope Pius has sent a message to King Leopold of Belgium, Queens Wilhelmina of Holland and Grand Duchess Charlotte of Luxembourg that their cause is the cause of right and justice, the Vatican announced today.

Fair Program

2:45-3:50 P. M.—Dedication ceremonies: Court of Peace.
4:10 P. M.—Air Thrill Circus; Over Court of Peace.
5:00 P. M.—Dedication of Homes for Typical Families.
7:45 P. M.—Patriotic Concert: Court of Peace.
8:15 P. M.—Concert: Lagoon of Nations.
8:30 P. M.—Ballet, fountain display: Lagoon of Nations.
8:45 P. M.—"Washington" water, flame and music symphony.
9:15 P. M.—Carnival Parade, starting at Court of Peace.
9:50 P. M.—Great White Way Dedication.
10:00 P. M.—Opening of Amusement Area.
10:00 P. M.—Fireworks Display.
10:30 P. M.—Golden Key Contest Auto Award.
Midnight—Award of six cars in Limerick Contest.
2:00 A. M.—Lights out.

Thomas of that troop was given the honor of escorting the mayor's children through the camp and explaining its layout and equipment.

President Roosevelt, in a message of greeting to the Fair, said that the 1940 exhibition was a "symbol of international common sense that deserves to have every success."

"No one has ever yet come to an international fair without appreciating the genius of other countries and because of that he is able to have a greater respect foro the accomplishments of his own," the President said.

A huge aerial cavalcade arrived with the opening, bringing women delegates from all parts of the country with messages on "Peace and Freedom," while radio stations carried the greeting, "Hello, folks" to every section of the world.

The principal ceremony of the

(Continued on Next Page)

how William Gerald Bishop, former Astorian accused of being a ringleader, had gained his confidence and convinced him that he was a former officer in the British army.

Bishop frequently asked him for ammunition, Prout testified, but told him that he wanted it for a rifle club he had formed.

Three sergeants in Prout's outfit, the 165th Regiment, have testified they saw Bishop and Prout in the supply room of their armory and that 1,500 rounds from there found its way into Bishop's hands.

In relating his background, Prout declared his mother died in 1916 while his father, Captain John T. Prout Sr., was with the army on the Mexican border. Later he went to live in an upstate convent before his father went overseas to serve in the World War.

In 1919, Prout said, he went to Ireland with his father, who joined the Irish Republican Army there.

Attention apparently was concentrated with painstaking interest on the formulae records which include the trade secrets of the company and would be of great value to any government or organization interested in improving lubricants for aviation uses.

The Black Bear's bulk station and refining plant are elsewhere in Long Island City. From this location, shipments of lubricating oil are made to flying fields designated by the U. S. government and other purchasers which include passenger airlines operating on both cross-country and ocean flight routes.

Boy Accused Of Burglary Is Sent To Hospital

Charged with breaking into a lunch wagon at 49-20 23rd street, Long Island City, last night, William Hartman, 16, of 53-53 64th street, Maspeth, was sent to Kings County Hospital for observation today by Magistrate Henry A. Soffer of Ridgewood Felony Court.

The youth was arrested at about 11 o'clock last night by Patrolman Samuel J. Orr of the Hunters Point Precinct who said he saw a prowler in the lunch wagon and found Hartman inside. He said a side window had been broken and a cigarette vending machine opened.

TAKING NO CHANCES

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL (U.P.)—Extra police were assigned to the offices of the Belgian and German embassies, which occupy different floors of the same building.

cern over the possibility of extension of hostilities to the Dutch East Indies.

The Italian ambassador also was notified.

Before making the communications, Arita received the Netherlands minister, General J. C. Pabst, and reminded him that Japan hoped earnestly that the Netherlands would retain the present state in the Netherlands East Indies.

The decision to communicate to belligerents and others interested in the East Indies was made at a cabinet meeting today.

The cabinet position was that Japan was determined to insist on the maintenance of the present state.

communique said.

"Overnight German parachutists descended at many points but a majority were captured. German bombers were active and many places were bombed.

"Fifteen German planes were shot down."

An earlier Belgian communique had announced that Belgian Army units were fighting German invaders along the Albert Canal, the River Meuse and in the Ardennes.

Three air raid alarms sounded in Brussels this morning and five bombs fell in a German airplane attack at dawn.

Clipper Steward Fears For Parents In Holland

High in the skies as a steward aboard the Yankee Clipper en route from Horta in the Azores, Aldert Tuinman of 22-06 78th street, Jackson Heights, learned by radio of the invasion of Holland and Belgium by Germany.

It didn't help Tuinman's equilibrium any as he soared through the clouds, anxious to set foot at La-Guardia Field.

Tuinman is a native of the town of Breda, Holland, where his father and mother are still living. He had reason to believe their home was right in the path of invading hordes.

"I was badly upset, but went on with my work," Tuinman said when the clipper plane finally landed. "The only thing I could do was worry—and I could do that just as well while serving breakfast."

The Jackson Heights air steward explained that Breda is on the Belgium-Holland border, a heavily garrisoned town of about 30,000 inhabitants. He added that it is on an elevation and hence lacks the protection of the flood waters let in by the open dikes.

Tuinman feared the worst—that his family has by this time been placed under close German "protection," if not already victims of bombing attacks.

He said he last heard from his relatives about a month ago, when they gave little indication of any serious tension in Holland. He last visited his homeland six years ago.

CHURCHILL FORMS HARMONY CABINET

LONDON (U.P.)—Britons watched the blue spring sky for Blitzkrieg German bombing planes today while Winston Churchill, called to lead the government at one of the gravest times in the country's history, organized a truly national cabinet.

Allied response to the appeal for aid from German-invaded Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg had been prompt. Allied staff officers already were working with the Belgian High Command at Brussels, a British Expeditionary Force column, completely motorized, was on its way to the Belgian first defense line; French troops had contacted the Germans in Luxembourg and the British Royal Air Force had blasted Germans in Holland.

U. S. Speeds Defense Plans; Weighs Huge New Outlay

WASHINGTON (U.P.— President Roosevelt's warning that Western culture is menaced by forces bent ultimately on world-wide conquest turned the nation today toward a costly speedup in national defense.

He uttered the warning last night in an address before the Eighth American Scientific Congress.

He said he thought our way of life could not survive in this hemisphere an extension of a wholly different principle of living to all other continents.

Congress is ready to receive new requests for immediate national defense funds—perhaps for as much as $500,000,000 more.

White House proclamations extending the neutrality act to Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg are expected shortly. It will be cash and carry, then, for them.

There is some talk of holding Congress in session for the emergency period, but majority judgment seems to be against it as of today.

Twenty-four hours of tension and spectacular government pronouncements and conferences ended last night with Mr. Roosevelt's address.

It was a stern and somber Chief Executive who addressed the scientists. He always speaks slowly but last night he spoke more slowly than usual in gloomy emphasis upon the dangers with which the world is faced.

But he said, in effect: It shall not happen here.

Shocked and angered, as he said he and the American people were by the invasion of the low countries and Luxembourg, Mr. Roosevelt stated his opposition to the totalitarian ideology in vigorous language but within the limits of the methods short of war by which he long has opposed it. He warned of a "definite challenge" to the American type of civilization. He decried any mistaken sense of physical, economic and social safety from attacks on civilization anywhere.