



MAJOR
MERIAN C.
COOPER

AFTER ACTING AS A PHRENOLOGIST'S ASSISTANT, HE BECAME A REPORTER ON THE MINNEAPOLIS NEWS. LATER, COOPER DID A TRACTION SCANDAL YARN WITH SUCH TELLING EFFECT FOR ANOTHER WESTERN PAPER THAT HE WAS LET OUT. THE POLICE CHIEF TOLD HIM TO LEAVE TOWN FOR HIS OWN SAFETY. HE JOURNEYED DOWN TO TEXAS AND SAW SERVICE IN THE MEXICAN BORDER TROUBLE OF 1916.

MEN of

(by) STOOKIE

A BORN ADVENTURER

Major Merian C. Cooper has been hobnobbing with death for a score of years. His exploits as a fighting ace of two armies were notable, and he has risked his life a dozen times a day in filming jungle pictures.




COOPER, A SOUTHERNER, IS A DESCENDANT OF JOHN COOPER, COMMANDER OF A CAVALRY OUTFIT IN THE REVOLUTION. BORN IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA IN 1893, HE ENTERED ANNAPOLIS IN 1911. AS A CHAMPION WRESTLER AND DEVOTEE OF OTHER SPORTS HE WAS VERY POPULAR WITH THE CADETS. IN LONDON, ON A CRUISE, HE OVERSTAYED A LEAVE AND HAD TO RESIGN FROM THE ACADEMY. HE ENTERED THE MERCHANT MARINE AND SAILED THE SEVEN SEAS.

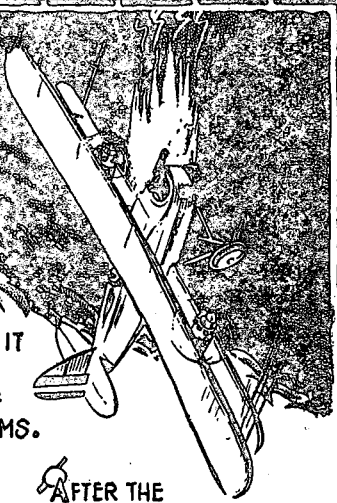


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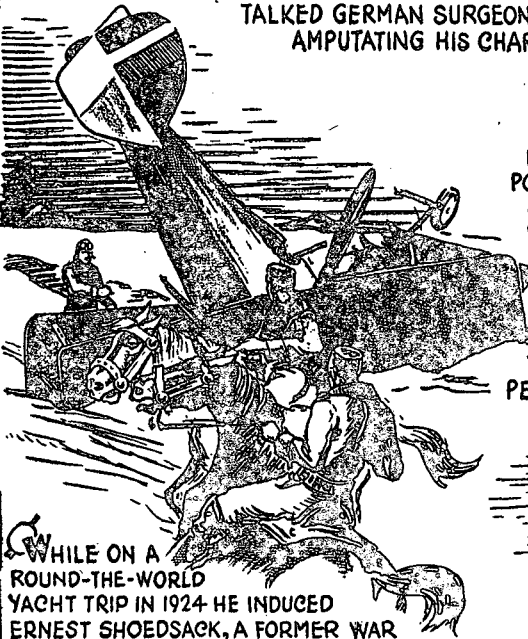
ALLEN  IN THE WORLD

WAR COOPER SERVED IN FRANCE WITH THE 20TH AIR SQUADRON. IN 1918 LT. COOPER WAS UP IN A BOMBER RETURNING UNDER ESCORT OF A LONE SPAD FROM AN AMMUNITION DUMP BOMBING. TWELVE FOKKERS ATTACKED HIM. HIS PLANE TOOK FIRE AND FELL, DESCRIBING A SMOKING CORKSCREW. AS IT NEARED THE EARTH HE SIDE-SLIPPED IT AND MADE A PANCAKE LANDING. TAKEN PRISONER, HE TALKED GERMAN SURGEONS OUT OF AMPUTATING HIS CHARRED ARMS.



AFTER THE WAR COOPER HELPED ORGANIZE THE KOSCIUSKO SQUADRON, TO FIGHT FOR THE POLES AGAINST THE BOLSHEVIKI. WHEN BUDENNY'S COSSACKS SWEEP TOWARD WARSAW, HE FLEW LOW OVER THE HORDE, SPRAYING THEM WITH MACHINE GUN BULLETS—BUT THEY SHOT HIM DOWN.

HELD IN A VILE MOSCOW PRISON CAMP, MAJOR COOPER WAS DUE FOR THE FIRING SQUAD, BUT HE CONTRIVED A PERILOUS ESCAPE AFOOT TO POLAND.



WHILE ON A ROUND-THE-WORLD YACHT TRIP IN 1924 HE INDUCED ERNEST SHOEDSACK, A FORMER WAR PHOTOGRAPHER, TO JOIN HIM AS A MOTION PICTURE CAMERAMAN. THEY FILMED THE ANNUAL MIGRATION OF BAKTYARI TRIBESMEN OVER DANGEROUS PERSIAN MOUNTAINS IN SEARCH OF GRASS FOR THEIR FLOCKS.



ERNEST B. SHOEDSACK

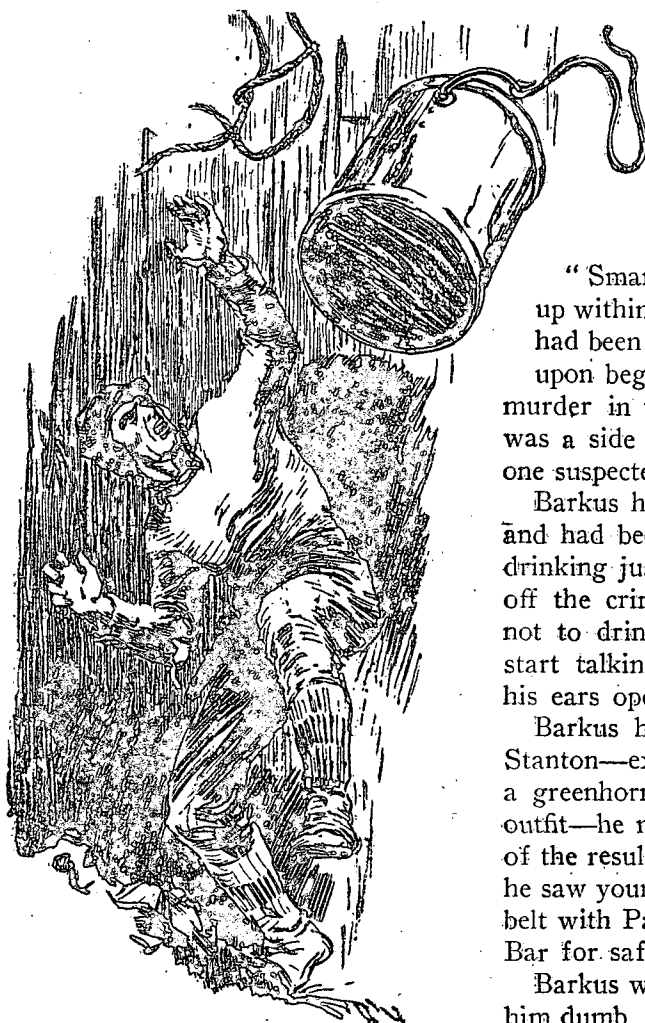
ON THE TRAIL OF NATURE'S THRILLS, IN 1926 THEY WENT DEEP INTO THE WORST TIGER COUNTRY OF SIAM. EXPLAINING THE SEQUENCE IN "CHANG" WHERE THE TIGERS APPEAR TO BOUND RIGHT AT THE CAMERA, COOPER SAID: "WE SHOT THE DANGEROUS SCENES FROM CAMOUFLAGED TRAPS IN THE GROUND, BUT HAD TO SHOOT SEVERAL TIGERS THAT GOT TOO CLOSE BEFORE WE GOT THE PICTURES WE WANTED." HE IS NOW A MOTION PICTURE EXECUTIVE.



Next Week: Allan J. Villiers; "Down to the Sea Under Sail"

Thread of Life

By CLIFF FARRELL



A piece of yarn and a bucket were the only weapons of a trapped man against his would-be murderer

"Smart" Barkus had him sized up within an hour as just the type he had been looking for. Barkus thereupon began planning Ken Stanton's murder in a fishy, offhand way that was a side of his character which no one suspected.

Barkus had already killed one man, and had been summering in Reelfoot, drinking just enough to keep his mind off the crime, and still being careful not to drink so much that he would start talking about it. He had kept his ears open, too.

Barkus had nothing against young Stanton—except perhaps that he was a greenhorn. But Barkus needed an outfit—he needed it to take advantage of the results of his other killing—and he saw young Stanton deposit a money belt with Pat Murphy in the Killarney Bar for safe keeping.

Barkus was aware that men thought him dumb. He was a warped, squatty individual with long arms that dangled loosely as he shambled with a tired forward slant. He had small, dull eyes, a sharp mouth—and the remainder of his face was lost in an inch-long mess of greasy whiskers that were never trimmed, and yet never seemed to increase their length.

They had tacked that nickname—Smart—on him because Barkus, in an

His partner was trying to kill him

KEN STANTON, wearing a gray wool sweater and socks that his mother had knitted for him on a farm back in Ohio, was as raw a chechacko as ever had hit Reelfoot on the Koyukuk, the day he landed on the last boat to run the river before the freeze-up.