

Between Us

IT IS with pleasure that we announce the reappearance of *Fantastic Novels* as a bi-monthly magazine, alternating with *Famous Fantastic Mysteries*. We know that readers of Fantasy all over the world will be pleased to see F. N. on the newsstands again. They will realize immediately upon seeing A. Merritt's "The Ship of Ishtar" featured on the cover, that the treasure house of the classics acquired by Popular Publications has been opened once more to those who care for the best in "fantastic" literature.

We have thousands of requests that this, the companion magazine of your beloved *Famous Fantastic Mysteries*, be used as a vehicle for the great stories from the renowned Munsey group of magazines, now owned by this company, the republication of which was discontinued in F. F. M. in 1942.

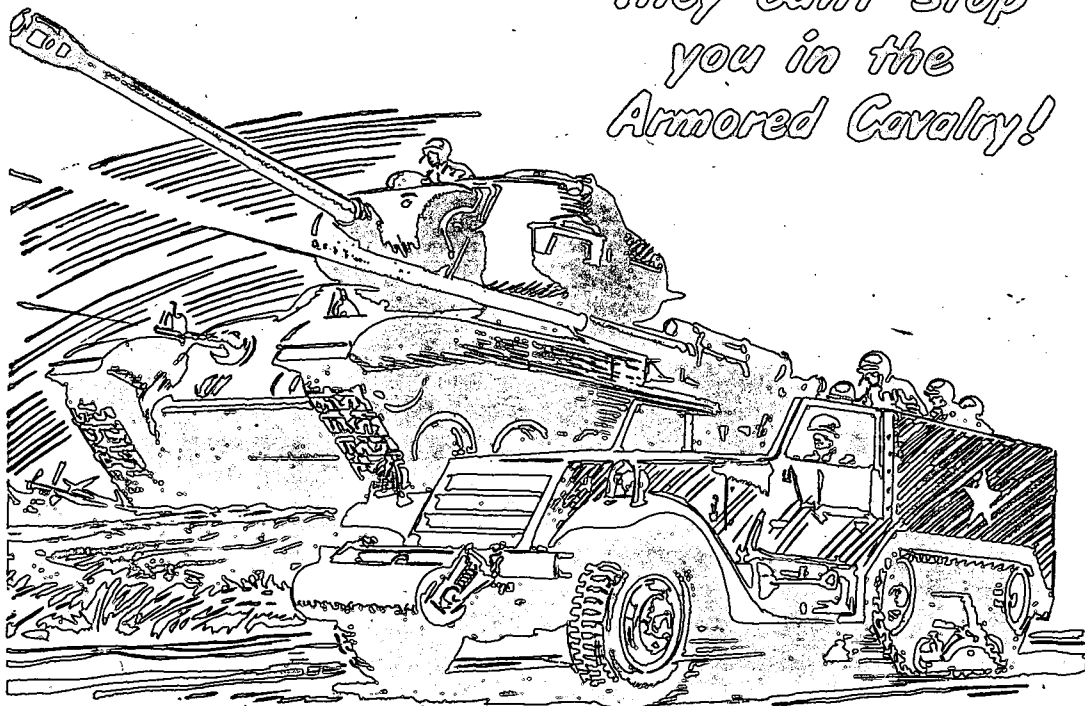
Well, fantasy readers, here it is! So write in and tell us which of the old favorites you want to read, and tell us what you think of the present issue. Help us get the "What Do You Think?" department launched with the next issue—May, 1948, on the newsstands March 19. Address your comments to the Letter Editor, *Fantastic Novels*, 210 E. 43rd St., New York, 17, New York.

The May issue will feature "Jason, Son of Jason," by J. U. Giesy. This is a complete novel in the "Palos" series, and a very glamorous one. Another gem of fantasy history will appear in the May issue. This is "The Moon Pool", by A. Merritt, which preceded the full novel-sized "The Conquest of the Moon Pool", a story which, incidentally, we plan to publish soon in the pages of this magazine. Both stories will be illustrated by your favorite F. F. M. artists.

Famous Fantastic Mysteries will continue with its present policy. The April issue will be on sale February 20, featuring "City of the Dead" by Augusta Groner.

Mary Gruedinger

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you in the
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HISTORY's greatest heroes ride with you in spirit in the U. S. Army's glory-covered Armored Cavalry. It's the fastest moving, hardest hitting combat team in the world.

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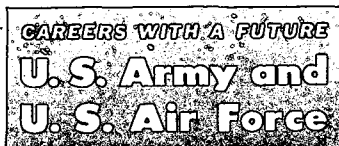
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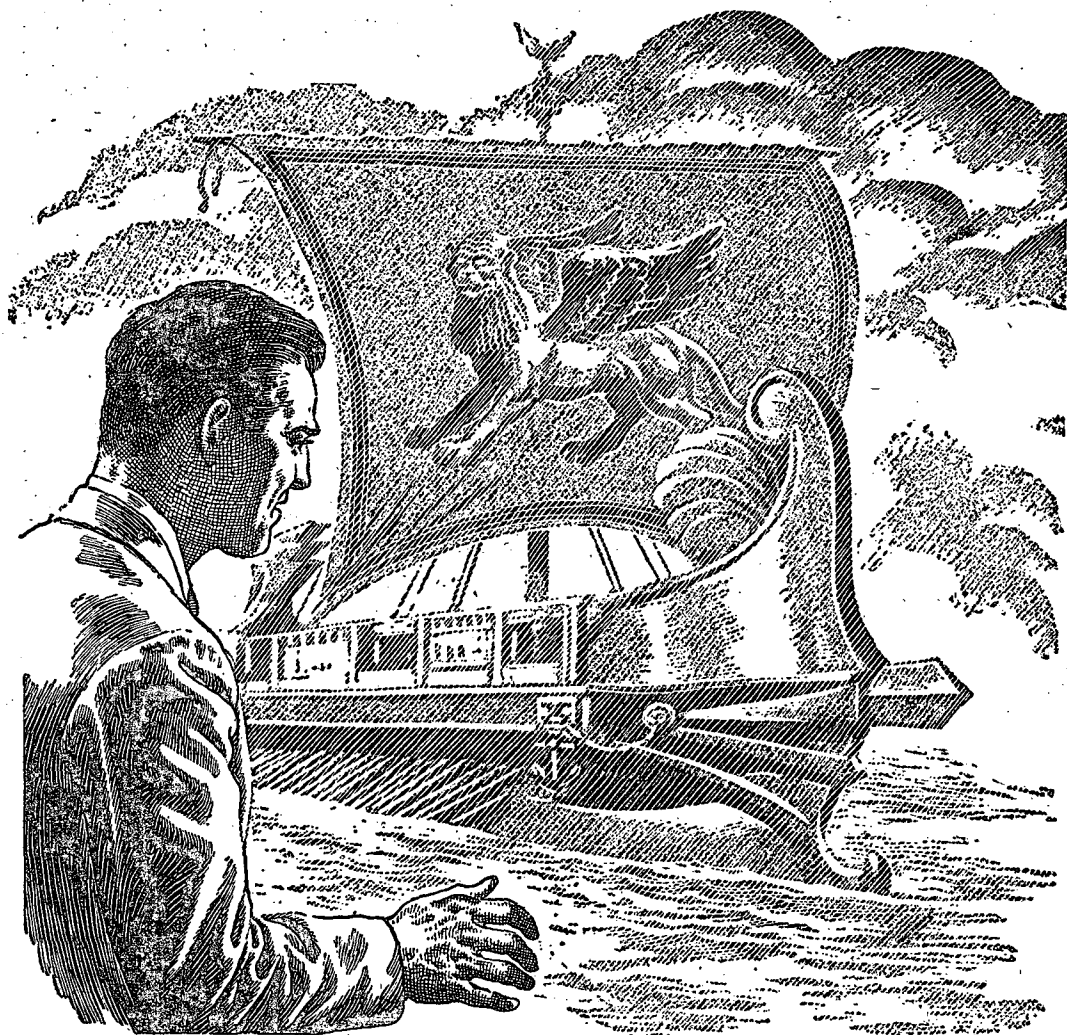
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A queer, inscribed block of stone found in the ruins of Babylon! And out of it came a call, strong across the centuries, from an ancient, enchanted sea, where sailed —The Ship of Ishtar!



CHAPTER I

THE BLOCK FROM BABYLON

JOHN KENTON stared down at the great block, vaguely puzzled, vaguely disturbed. Strange, he thought, yes, strange, indeed, how all his unrest, his formless longings, his haunting unhappiness seemed to center upon it. It was as though the block drew them to it—like a magnet of stone. And was there subtle

promise in that inexplicable focusing?

He stirred impatiently; drew out again Forsyth's letter. It had come to him three days before, that message from the old archaeologist who, by means of Kenton's wealth, was sifting for its age-long-lost secrets the dust of what had once been all-conquering Babylon.

Eagerly had Kenton desired, eagerly had he planned, to go with that expedition. All his life the past had called to him. During all his years he had hearkened to