

thing about a gorilla. I didn't pay much attention, but——"

"Then pay attention to me now, Harris, if you value your life!" roared Terhune. "You are in danger. The same ones who killed Cyrano are probably on their way to kill you now, because you know this secret."

"I'm serious in this, Harris. I believe you're in danger. We're coming over as fast as we possibly can, and in the meantime, the local police will help protect you. Hurry and bolt all your doors! Hurry!"

He heard the receiver hurriedly replaced, then turned to Staunton, who was already on his feet.

"Uttley was Brogan Carr's twin brother. He must know his brother's brain is in that gorilla. That's why he sticks with it. He considers it part of his dead brother."

"You really think they'll head for Reading?"

"I do. I think Uttley found out Cyrano had been in touch with Sam Harris. That's why Cyrano was killed. I wouldn't mind betting that Uttley and the gorilla are even now heading across country for the Lavington Boarding House. We've got to get there first or another tragedy will occur!"

Uttley's Shield

THE powerful car was fully extended once they were clear of the town, and the miles slipped away beneath their wheels.

They neared Reading at last, and stopped to ask a patrol man the way to the Lavington Boarding House.

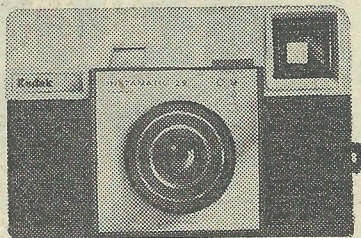
It proved to be a collection of ramshackle buildings on the farther edge of the town.

A dozen police were in position, and some of these stopped the car. Staunton saw their leader, and everyone assured the newcomers that nobody had entered or left the boarding house since the order to keep watch on it had been given.

The building was in darkness. Harris had evidently obeyed instructions and shut himself and his lodgers in an innermost chamber.

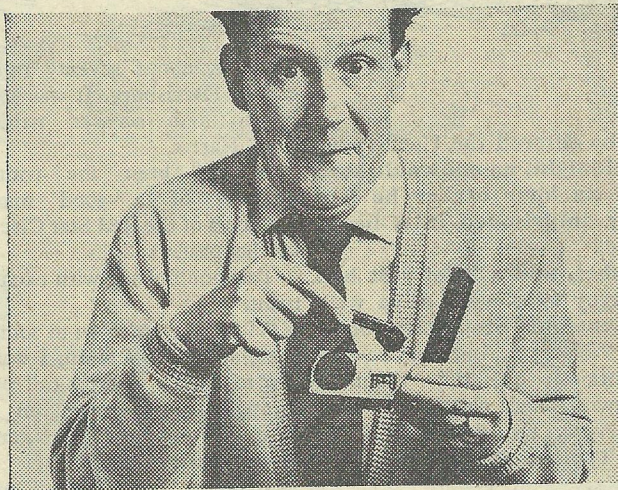
Inside it was close and stuffy. There were two staircases, and they could hear creaking and muttering on the first floor. It sounded as though several people were together in the one room.

Terhune crept up, and saw



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light coming from under one door. He pressed closer, and heard the same voice he had heard on the telephone.

He returned to the others to make a report, and to arrange for the protection of the house from inside. Besides Staunton and himself, six other men were let inside. They were posted in pairs on all sides, some on the ground floor, some on the first floor.

There were no windows to the room chosen by Sam Harris, which was all to the good, but there were plenty of other windows overlooking the grounds.

These were the weak points. Terhune remembered how Chako could climb anywhere with Uttley on his back.

Time passed. Those outside had their instructions. If they spotted anyone coming towards the house they were to let them pass, then close in behind them and prevent their escape.

Two hours went by, and every second seemed like a minute.

The watchers settled down. They did not even whisper. The rain began to patter, but presently there was a sound which made Terhune grip Staunton's arm.

Somewhere a window had opened!

The windows at Lavington opened outwards. One of them had creaked slightly. The sound came from the back of the house. Paul Terhune crept to the corner of a passageway and looked along this towards the faintly-lit square which was the window.

A great figure was outlined beyond the window, a figure that appeared to have two heads. There was a squat, furry head with small ears and a human head. They appeared to grow from the same massive shoulders.

It was obvious to Terhune that Uttley was perched on Chako's shoulders. The gorilla had climbed the outside of the house and had brought the man with him.

Uttley had unfastened the window and had opened one half of it. He was now opening the other half.

The entire window had not been thrown wide, and there was room for Uttley to clamber from the gorilla's shoulders across the sill.

The gorilla heaved himself