

the sun was streaming in through the porthole next morning.

"Effendi, someone calls you by name from the shore. Will I take the dinghy across for him? He asks to come aboard," explained the Egyptian.

Paul Terhune scrambled into a dressing-gown and hurried on deck. A thickset man was waving and shouting from the bank.

"Is Mr Terhune aboard? I've a message for Mr Terhune! Can't someone answer me?"

Terhune recognised him at once as a policeman in plain clothes, and knew the message must be from Scotland Yard.

He had told Sergeant Woods where he was going, otherwise no one else knew.

"Wait a moment and I'll be ashore," called the detective, and climbed into the dinghy, refusing Mamoud's offer to row him across the creek.

The police officer gave him a hand up the bank a few moments later.

"It's Detective - Sergeant Woods, of Scotland Yard, sir. He wants you as soon as possible at the Southampton Hospital," he said.

"At the hospital, eh? Is he injured or hurt in some way?"

"No, sir, it's not him, but someone else. He says you must come quickly. I've a car waiting for you on the road over there."

"Give me five minutes to dress, and I'll be with you,"

"Not now! He landed from the trans-Atlantic liner last evening and took the boat train for London. At Eastleigh, only a little distance outside Southampton, he was found strangled in his compartment."

Terhune gripped the edge of the table nearby.

"Dead?" he asked in a strange voice.

"Not quite." It was one of the other men who spoke. "His neck is badly crushed,

was brought here," said the medical man.

Paul Terhune frowned. An exactly similar pattern had been found on Sir Andrew Fothergill and Warren Demster.

Having arranged for a police officer to sit near the patient with a notebook, in case he recovered sufficiently to make a statement, the two detectives hurried off to examine the railway compartment in which the discovery had been made.

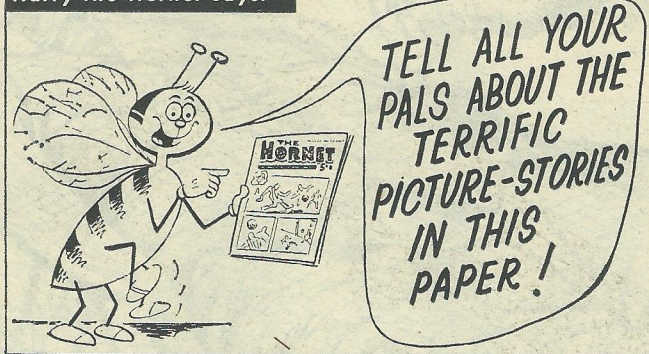
The coach had been detached at Eastleigh and brought back to Southampton.

The communication cord had been pulled just before Eastleigh was reached.

The compartment had been left untouched. Burton's baggage was still on the racks. The labels on the bags showed he had just returned from extensive travels.

Newly purchased papers and magazines told he had intended reading throughout the journey to Waterloo. A packet of

Harry the Hornet says:—



replied the detective, wondering and there is injury at the base of the skull. He's unconscious

Rather to his surprise, Max Hargreaves did not make a scene when told the detective had to go into the city on business.

"I feel safer here than anywhere else," explained Hargreaves. "I will remain in the cabin while Mamoud stays on deck. Those fiends can't get at me without crossing the water. So when you cross to the bank Mamoud will bring back the dinghy."

Within a short time Terhune and the plain-clothes policeman were speeding along the road to Southampton.

In reply to Terhune's questions, the police officer said he did not know why Woods had sent for Terhune, but believed there had been some trouble on the London train the night before.

Greatly mystified, Terhune arrived at the hospital and was shown into a room where Woods and some of the Southampton police officers were waiting him.

"Sorry to have dragged you out so early, Terhune," said the detective-sergeant, "but didn't you say there was a man called Keith Burton on that expedition to the Mempho Temple in 1962?"

"Yes. I believe he's a well-to-do young sportsman, and is big-game hunting somewhere or other."

and there is injury at the base of the skull. He's unconscious now, and the doctors say it's touch and go whether he will ever recover his senses again."

Woods held out something in the palm of his hand.

"This was found tucked into his waistcoat pocket."

It was a scarab made of china, and had four legs more than the average beetle. It was a scarab similar to those sent to Hargreaves and left at the scenes of the other murders.

The Colonel's Clue

THE two detectives were soon in the room of the injured man. They had to speak in whispers. A nurse and a doctor were in attendance.

Keith Burton was a powerfully built young fellow, very bronzed. His neck was cased in bandages and plaster of paris.

"But for his health and physique he would have been dead," explained the doctor. "Some of the bones and muscles of the neck were completely crushed. There was internal crushing and bleeding. One would almost think his neck had been held in a vice."

"Any outward marks?" asked Terhune.

"No finger-marks or rope-marks, but a strange diamond-shaped pattern pressed into the skin. It faded soon after he

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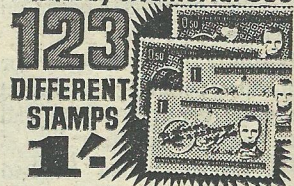
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