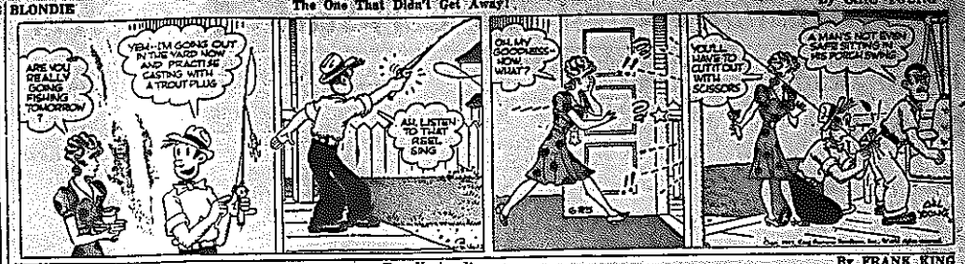
With MAJOR HOOPLE

BLONDIE — The One That Didn't Get Away! — By CHIC YOUNG



GASOLINE ALLEY — Tag You're It — By FRANK KING

RED RYDER — A Slim Chance — By FRED HARMAN

The Night Of AN LTI

OVER THE SEVEN SEAS

power on the seven seas
jumped by 1932 into a vast
imposing facades and un-
purposes. This far-flung
waged propaganda cam-
maintained numerous smug-
rings, ran schools for saboteurs,
teachers, initiated mass
organized mass sabotage,
naval mutinies, engaged
forms of espionage, car-
assassinations, employed
expert kidnapers, and op-
ships disguised as
.

of the marine industries
capitalist countries was al-
regarded in Moscow as of
strategic importance. To
paralyze at will inter-
coastal and river traffic
vital to the defense of
Union. Ever since the
of the Comintern's
Section, held in Moscow
which I had attended, an
independent internation-
had been functioning
the waterfront workers of the
It went under the name
International of Seamen and
Workers, or, for short,
In reality a masked con-
of the Comintern's Marit-
Section. Like the Comintern
itself, the Profintern, 1928 was de-
to appear as a sovereign
organization. To
more effective,
was established
not in Moscow, but in Hamburg, at
Reeperbahnstrasse.

chief of the ISH was Al-
Mink. He received a monthly
of $50,000 for interna-
waterfront activities. The
of this money was Sovtorg-
the Soviet Shipping Trust,
it through the wages
Soviet seamen and longshore-

had been nominated in August,
by Georgi Dimitrov, to the
Bureau of the ISH, and
attached to his headquarters.
salary was $300 a month. From
vantage point, I became intim-
conversant with every ma-
Communist activity in interna-
shipping.

operations of the ISH com-
under three distinctive fields: (1)
secret actions, (2) communi-
between Moscow-Berlin
and the, rest of the world,
espionage.

espionage among ships' of-
was only a small fraction of
assignments put on my shoul-
shortly after my arrival at the
headquarters. In the
the life-juices of men
wrung out at an appalling
The curse of overwork and
drown in the ocean of detail
all of us. Functionaries
under a dozen, and more,
were of no avail.
joke: "A bourgeois con-
flesh and bone; a Commu-
functionary."

ISH possessed organizations
countries and nineteen colo-
Aside from its stationary
the ISH employed
of fifteen "political in-
When were constantly on
each of them responsible
smooth functioning of the
waterfront. Apart in
—the Levant, the West
the U. S. A. and Canada,
Scandinavian countries, etc.
ISH operated 47 Internation-
in as many different ports.
publication, the ISH-
was issued in thirteen
printed in Hamburg, and
from there to Red wa-
organizers all over the
Of the total monthly bud-
$8,000 went to pay
assistance of ISH head-
and field staff. The re-
$4,000 was sent abroad as
to the organizations al-
with the ISH.

subsidies which tolerated
Parties within their
the subsidies were usu-
by cable to neutral cover
or spurious business
countries where the Com-
Party was forced to exist
subsidies were conveyed
Later, however, the
laws prohibiting the ex-
currency in a large number
the ISH adapted
to the needs of money trans-
agents serving in the crews
and communists serving
Transatlantic and coastal
were almost never used for the transmission of funds. Utmost care was exercised to avoid all incriminating contacts between the communist Apparat and the official diplomatic agencies of the Soviet Union.

In the United States, recipients of these Communist waterfront subsidies were, from 1929 to 1932, George Mink, and subsequently Roy ("Horsface") Hudson. The addresses to which this writer dispatched funds were 140 Broad Street, and Box 12, Station O, both in New York City. Those subsidies included allowances for the Marine Workers' Voice, for the maintenance of International Club, for wages of organizers for the support of a special Communist ground in the Panama Canal Zone, and for Communist activities in the U. S. Navy and Coast Guard. George Mink later became one of the chief GPU international operatives; Roy Hudson became a member of the Central Executive Committee of the American Communist Party.

During this period, while serving as a member of the executive of the ISH, I came in contact with several American Communists. Some of them worked under my personal direction. They were destined to rise high in Stalin's favor. They were George Mink, of GPU fame, and James W. Ford, the Negro who became the Communist Party's perennial candidate for Vice-President of the United States. Very dark of skin, smoking to corpulence, soft-spoken and well-dressed, Comrade Ford went about his duties in a quiet diplomatic manner, displaying considerable ability for constructive political intrigue.

In 1930, James Ford was appointed to the post of secretary-general of the International Committee of Negro Workers, with headquarters in Hamburg, selected because of its excellent shipping connections with the West Indies and the shores of Africa. Ford's office was located in the building of the Hamburg International Club. He was supplied with secret quarters, a monthly subsidy from Moscow, and a young assistant who, incidentally, was also a member of the GPU. Negro agents from the Moscow school were dispatched to Britain, Jamaica, the United States, and to South Africa. James Ford's organization—referred to in short as the Negro Komitee — flourished. Countless manifestoes, brochures and a monthly magazine, the "Negro Worker," came off the Communist Party presses in Hamburg, and found their way to all parts of the world inhabited by Negroes. Since the contents of the "Negro Worker" were very inflammatory, the greater portion of each edition had to be smuggled to its destinations by the maritime couriers of my Apparat. All agitation and organization efforts of the Negro Komitee were directed toward inciting the colonials to strikes and rebellion, particularly in the British possessions. But the least active in this machinations was James Ford himself. He was too much of an intellectual to be a revolutionary "activist."

The end came suddenly. A large batch of copies of the "Negro Worker" had been smuggled to Durban and Capetown. There was much unrest and some violence among the dockers in South African ports. The British Secret Service traced the seditious "Negro Worker" to Hamburg. The Colonial Office in London lodged a protest with the German Government, accusing it of stirring insurrection of uprisings in the British Empire. A police raid on our Hamburg headquarters was the result. James Ford rushed out of the building, jumped on a bicycle, and attempted to speed away to safety. The attempt was futile, as a German town like Hamburg, no Negro could make himself more conspicuous than by racing off on a bicycle with policemen in pursuit. In Comintern service, to become conspicuous means to become useless for conspiratory work. Ford was summarily relieved of his international functions. But Lozovsky saved Ford. Ford packed his bags and vanished. Comintern colleague, one George Padmore, arrived from Moscow to take charge of the Negro Committee. After a short period of "exile" in Moscow, Ford returned to America where the communist press hailed him as "the great Negro leader."

Of an altogether different stripe than Ford was his fellowcountryman, George Mink, also destined to become a special favorite of the Kremlin—in other and more perilous fields. He appeared in Germany in the latter part of 1931, when I met him in the antechamber of Dimitrov's establishment, the Fuehrer Verlag, in Berlin. He was an unusual type of man, young, dapper, with slightly Jewish features and full of watchful, cynical arrogance. He was rather short, but strongly built. His mouth was small and cruel, his teeth irregular, and his eyes, of a greenish-brown color, had a faint wild-animal glint. Yet to an uncritical eye Mink appeared as a nondescript mediocrity. On the occasion of our meeting, he received a considerable sum of money—several thousand dollars — in American currency for waterfront activities in the United States. The money was paid to him by Frita Heckert, Reichstag deputy and treasurer of the Western Secretariat of the Comintern.

Mink had joined the Communist Party in 1926 in Philadelphia, where he had worked as a taxi driver. As a sideline, he went marauding on the docks. His chest swelled with pride when he mentioned that his cronies had dubbed him "Mink, the harbor pirate." He had come to the conclusion that the life of a professional Communist would appeal to him. He moved in New York in 1927 and on his own, wrote confidential reports and offered his services to Lozovsky in Moscow. His energy and his lack of scrupules, coupled with his experience as a "harbor pirate," qualified him for an appointment to bring American shipping under the Comintern banner. He organized the first International Clubs on the American seaboard. He was called to Moscow in 1928, agreed to spy for the GPU on fellow-Communists suspected of unreliability, and won the patronage of Lozovsky to whom Mink claimed to be distantly related. Supplies with a false passport, funds and special powers, George Mink toured the United States, Mexico and other Latin American countries. From 1930 on, however, Mink was more often in Berlin, Hamburg and Moscow than in New York. Officially, he was engaged in revolutionary trade union work; secretly, he had become part and parcel of the Counter-Espionage Apparat of the GPU.

Another American who played a prominent part in Stalin's crusade on the seven seas was a certain Comrade Appelman, a former Party organizer in Albany, New York, who went under the nom de guerre of Mike Pell. He had worked for the Comintern in Germany and Soviet Russia, and had organized the first anti-war committees among the crews of American transatlantic liners, led by the President Roosevelt.

Late in May, 1932, Mike appeared at the first International Seamen's Congress held in Altona, a Red suburb of Hamburg, as a member of the large delegation of the United States waterfront workers, of which George Mink was the leader. This Congress, called by the "independent" ISH, was a "united front" affair. To all appearances, the delegates were to deliberate on a basis of complete equality, "irrespective of race, color or political creed." In reality, the Congress was ordered and financed by the Kremlin from beginning to end; even the fares of the delegates from far-off corners of the earth were paid out of our funds.

All resolutions, speeches and programs were written in advance in our Communist headquarters. All chief speakers were Communists in curious disguises, and they were told exactly what to say before they were allowed to utter a word. Among the mass of foreign delegates there was only one who saw through this fraudulent system of wire-pulling, and rose to protest against it openly. He was Engler, a delegate from Rouen, France. Engler was quickly taken care of. Two assistants of Hugo Marx, posing as German policemen, visited Engler the same night. They told him that the German authorities considered him an undesirable alien. Then they escorted him to Cologne and put him on a train to Paris with the admonition, "If you return to Germany, Herr Engler, you will go to jail."

(To be continued)

Say, "I saw it in The News." Thank you.

THIMBLE THEATER — The Wet Battery Works — STARRING POPEYE

BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES — Ahem — By MARTIN

LI'L ABNER — Swing Low, Sweet Chariot!! — By AL CAPP

WASH TUBBS — And That's That — By ROY CRANE

SUPERMAN — He Asked for It — By JERRY SIEGEL and Joe SHUSTER