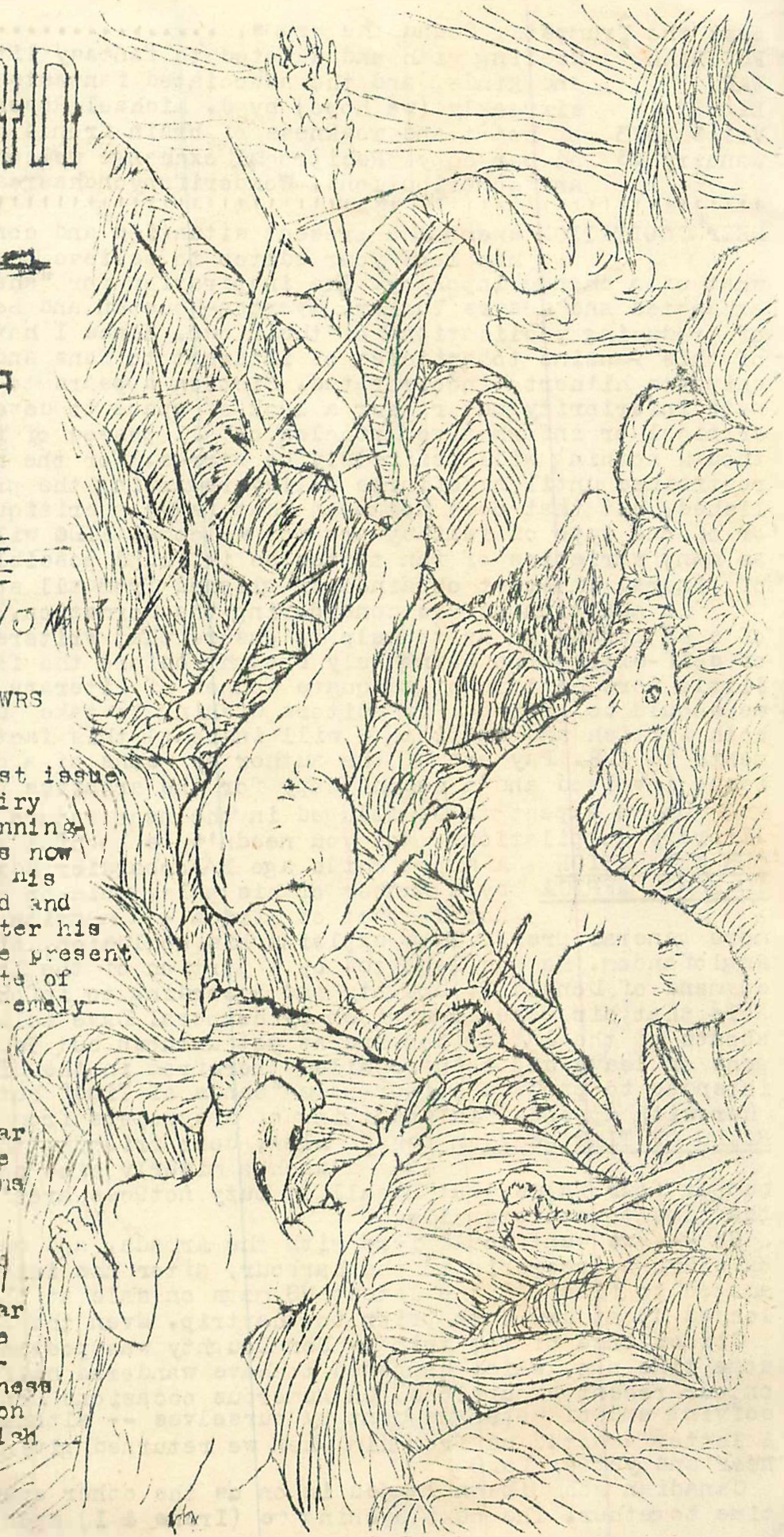


FUTURIAN WAR DIGEST

January 1943 Vol 5 No 3

BAD NEWS ABOUT BSFWRS

As foreshadowed in the last issue of FIDO, Anglo-fandoms fairy godfather - John Meyer Cunningham of Beaumont, Texas; is now a Private in the US army. His induction was rather rapid and took place immediately after his reaching draft age. In the present somewhat-disorganised state of American fandom it is extremely unlikely that anyone will be able to take over his work and so we must bid a reluctant farewell to the British Science Fiction War Relief Society. All people who have sent subscriptions through the organisation will have these fulfilled as far as possible and the balance of their account will be refunded in the near future. Our deep gratitude is due to JMC for his untiring efforts, thoughtfulness and financial sacrifices on our behalf. We certainly wish him the very best of luck in his new life.



Beat the Trumpets, Sound the Drums, here come
FUTURIAN Dealing with and devoted to fantasy literature of all types, cl
WAR and kinds, and the associated fantasists interested therein. Publi
DIGEST sixweekly (we hope) by J. Michael Rosenblum out of sheer goodne
Vol 3 No 3 of heart and weakness of brain from 4 Grange Terrace, Leeds & a
January 43 3d per copy. Reciprocal exchange welcome as are comments, criti
and contributions. Wonder if anyone has read this.

DEEP COGITATION anent the present situation and condition of FIDO and its I
has lead your editor to believe that the time is ripe for
what of a change in policy. The inspiration for "sheets" appears to be almost
exhausted and Messrs Tucker, Overton-Houston and Beach-Silburn are in the ti
of producing publications of their own. Hence I have decided to open the pa
of this fanzine to articles of interest to fans and fandom as well as the m
snippets hitherto incorporated. Fiction appears to be out - not because of
nate inferiority but rather a lack of space to develop properly. Thoughtful
critical or informative articles on all phases of fantasy will be preferred
though nothing will definitely be barred. For the nonce book reviews should
restrained until a definite policy regarding the proposed Biblio graphy is
lished, but that does not mean that (say) a critique of the works of one au
or of one type of fantasy are not welcome. FIDO will still attempt to cater
as many varieties of fan tastes as is found possible, and to carry news item
of general interest obtained or gleaned from all sources

In addition we are considering the formation, in connection with the M
of a MS Bureau so as to help to ensure that writers will be sure of their m
of self-expression being duly brought before the fan public and fanzines be
little more certain of adequate sources of literary supply. In this connecti
we should be grateful if editors wishing to take advantage of such a service
both British and American - will indicate this fact and their general requi
ments to JMR. Payment of the author by means of a complimentary copy of the
issue involved and a second copy for the archives of the Society is requeste

So we expect to be deluged in the near future with all sorts and types
literary compilations, and you needn't be bashful either.

OUR EXPEDITION A short while ago I/Bombardier Edward J. Carnell, accompani
TO NORTH AFRICA by a number of his pals, paid an unexpected visit to the

North coast of Africa - a mention of which has appeared in
more general press. This explains his seclusion, of late, from the ravings o
Anglofandom. He was escorted by a portion of the British Navy not yet under
command of Donald J. Doughty and according to information received, it is p
able that air cover was given by corporal Dave Mellwain of the RAF. The whe
abouts of the latter duo are as yet unknown but Ted has returned to Britain,
gone on leave and been recalled therefrom in the midst of said leave. He had
intended to produce a four-page "Sands of Time" but circumstances forbade a
herewith appended is something of a synopsis from his typewriter ----

SANDS OF TIME Dec/Jan issue Alas, dear friends, that we should be cut down
such a miserly size as this when we had planned
bumper four pages, but Recall to Duty notes aren't to be ignored and we ha
the time to cut stencils.

So --- we went to Algiers with the Armada, and we had a wow of a time. Goin
on board a troopship in the harbour, after the initial work was over, we were
amazed to find all the latest US mags on sale at the canteen. The steward had
loaded up at New York prior to the trip. Even the British reprints were there

Coincidence of the trip -- Don Doughty was posted to his first battle-wagon
some time ago, which happened to have wandered halfway round the globe with
on our recent excursions. On numerous occasions Don must have been on the re
ceiving end of messages sent by ourselves -- although we weren't to know that
A letter awaited us from him when we returned giving the name of his ship. So
near and yet so far

Canadian Bob Gibson landed in on us the other evening and we spent a pleas
time together. The next evening we (Irene & I) spent a soulful; period with th

Old Gang -- Joan and Bill Temple, Joan and Ken Chapman, and Frank Arnold. The first time we had met since entering the Services. Bill, despite repeated rumours, and actually being on embarkation leave many times, had not left the country -- but he will have done by the time you read this -- and we expect to be away again ourselves, possibly on the same job.

We nearly reached New York recently -- last minute change of plan turned the convoy eastward for Britain -- curse the luck!

We'll be back . . .

ANOTHER EXPEDITION was that made by the aforementioned Bob Gibson during a 9 days leave recently. Previously scheduled were visits to Aberdeen and Doug Webster; and Inverness' Edwin MacDonald with, if possible, a glance in, en voyage, at your editor in Leeds. The latter did not eventuate however, but an extension to the original 7 days leave allowed a visit to a cousin now stationed at Manchester, followed by a rush over the Pennines to Leeds. To conclude the performance, hearing of Ted Carnell's return, Bob dropped in on him on the way back. Not bad going eh? We hope to drag a fuller record of the voyage and attendant impressions out of the gallant Canuck for publication in a future issue of FIDO.

FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES You can stop holding your breath now. Alden Norton writes "Incidentally, you may have heard by this time, that this company (Popular Publications Inc) has purchased the Frank A. Munsey magazines, including FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES. It will continue to be published, although on a quarterly basis. Mary Gnaedinger will continue to edit it. Our first issue--dated March 1943, will feature "Ark of Fire" by John Hawkins, with Finlay illustrations and a Finlay cover" Well, there's the news straight from the horses mouth. Incidentally we learn that Popubs have got over their absolute ban on magazine reprints by initiating a policy of reprints from books in FFL."

NEW PROZINE to be called OLD TAILS has been announced in USA. Advance reports claim that it will be the most sensational item ever offered to us, and will startle fandom. Pass the salt James. (Courtesy FFF)

USA POST Several people have enquired recently about the position regarding mailing of magazines from USA. Here is the available data. To men & the British Armed Forces, no more than one parcel or package shall be accepted for mailing in any one week when sent by or on behalf of the same person or concern to or for the same addressee. "Weight limit 11lbs, or 18 ins in length or 42 ins in length & girth combined. Persons not in the Armed Forces, same rules except only one parcel to be sent in any one month. A curious exception is the Hagerstown, Md P.O., home of Harry Warner, who have interpreted this regulation to mean that no parcels can be sent, and Harry is thus debarred temporarily from sending material he has accumulated. Moreover it is a possibility that USA, like Canada, will ban the sending of magazines and periodicals to Britain. We sincerely hope not !!!

ADIEU TO SPACEWAYS It is sad indeed to lose an old friend even when the friend is an inanimate publication. But when it is the number one fanzine which gives up the ghost due to the war situation then we weep. After 4 years of regular appearance and consistent quality Harry Warner feels that the general and his own situations (Harry was due for the draft in Dec 42) force him to announce the discontinuance for the noice of SPACEWAYS. In happier days it might be revived and Harry pays a tribute to fandom when he states that he does not think his time could have been better spent nor could he have obtained more knowledge, or come into contact with a group where so much sincerity enthusiasm, talent, and friendliness abound.

Can we squeeze in an explanation of the back cover Bob Tucker sent us? It illustrates a recent "Michiconference" and is itemised thusly; LeZ lovlieZ - 1. Kay Becker, 2. Smoky, a feline, 3. Jane Tucker, 4. Abby Lu Ashley, 5. Dorothy Tomkins, and 6. Verna Smith Trestrail (Damn, those last two are wrong way) LeZ Miserables; 1. EESvans and Chicken leZ, 2. Walt Liebscher acl, 3. Al Ashley acl, 4. sleeping-beauty Jack Wiedenbeck, 5. EESmith acl, 6. Mrs EESmith acl, 7. Verna (right this time) 8. Jane T., 9. Abby Lu Ashley again. Wishwewerethere.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS A resume of the current sfical situation in the Antipodes seen by Graham Stone, 30 The Avenue, Randwick, Sydney, NSW. "If anything, the sf situation in Australia is worse than in England. We have had a regular (full-size) fanmag this year. S.F.F. Reporter appeared every day (yes actually and literally a regular weekly fanmag) for a while, then folded up. Futuran Observer still appears now and then. Futuran Spotlight just had its second issue. None of these, except Observer, have been more than a single sheet.

There are the reprint Astounding's, Unknown and Science Fiction, of course but a surprising number of them fail to appear out here. We have had all the Tales of Wonder, but there will be no more of those now.

We have some local sixpennies. They have 80 Penguin-sized pages, rather ghastly covers, and plenty of room for improvement. Fortunately they are edited and published by a man not entirely ignorant of sf, and anxious for progress. The plots of the first four (that's all so far) are; Reanimating corpses and substituting good organs for bad. Finding of a "subterranean city". Time travelling - with some humour and a bit of sex. And an interplanetary voyage. Vol Molesworth (prominent Aussie fan -Ed) has sold a yarn to them which will probably be next.

Other concerns have ventured into the field, and three booklets have resulted. "Formula for Power" is excellent considering the terrific handicaps involved. "Death Comes to the Fuehrer" (!) is, surprisingly, a good weird tale. The title is to be taken literally. "Doctor Hades" is positively the worst of the local efforts, and the worst story I've read anywhere. It concerns a mad Scientist. He chooses his victim, attacks him, and has his brain neatly removed with a pocket knife before he can realise what has happened. The M.S. then puts the brain in his pocket, takes it home, and transfers its thoughts to his own brain. Yeah, I think so too." Graham is willing to trade the booklets for mentions for many recent issues of the British reprints.

ALL SORTS OF FOLDMENTS. Subscriptions expiring with this issue are those of F.E. Arnold, D.J. Doughty, J.W. Banks and D.W. Gardiner... the latter gentleman has now been called-up; present whereabouts unknown, the usual best wishes go to him in his new circumstances... this will affect "Fidographs" which we are afraid. Incidentally the picture and introduction of Roland Forster have been crowded out of this issue. Sorry... sundry moves-- Johnny Burke now near Luneaton, Wally Gilling up at Catterick, Syd Lounds in Cornwall, Sid Birchall in the wilds near Sheffield, Bob Chittock has gone overseas, Bob Edwards has a new address - 34 Charlton Road, Brentry, Westbury, Bristol. Airgraph dept Harold Gottliffe is now a Staff Sergeant and still at No 57 General Hospital M.E.F.; Bill Shelton with No 108 H.U. RAF MEF wishes to convey belated but less sincere good wishes to Mr and Mrs Harry Turner, and thanks to BSF War Relief Society for sundry prozines which "had a big circulation in this particular strip of aridity"... re the Bibliography mentioned in the BSF Bulletin going out with this Fido for BSF members, please note that only lists of titles and authors are requested at this stage - further details will be requested later... Incidentally the Searles-Unger bibliography now being issued with Fantasy Fiction Field, two pages at a time, has now reached page 12, including two pages of introduction and a 2 page article dealing with the complete work of A. Merritt. The eight pages devoted to listing books takes us up to "B" which means that it will be a goodly while till the Bib is completed - quite apart from the addenda and errata which we understand are rolling in. This effort includes all fantasy in book form published anywhere... have you noticed the two shilling edition of Dunne's "Experiment With Time" now on all the book stalls? Published by Faber & Faber... we recently noticed another new sf work of sorts in "The Prowlers of the Deep" by Franklyn Kelsey, p. Harrap 8/- 24, and being a war story with a submarine powered by atomic engines, plus robot soldiers and other interesting phenomena for twelve year olds... and before close, the very best wishes for the New Year and may 1943 be a happier year for us all. And thanks to all the kind people who sent me cards.