

STORIES from the **GOLDEN AGE**

Literature Guide for Teachers & Librarians

Based on Common Core ELA Standards for Classrooms 6–9



Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead

**Literature Guide with book & audio drama
includes full comprehensive glossary to build vocabulary**

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The library of the Stories from the Golden Age presents the best of L. Ron Hubbard's fiction from the heyday of storytelling, the Golden Age of the pulp magazines of 1930s and 1940s America. In the collection, comprising eighty volumes, readers are treated to a full banquet of 153 stories, a kaleidoscope of tales representing every imaginable genre: science fiction, fantasy, western, mystery, thriller, horror—even romance—action of all kinds and in all places.

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ABOUT L. RON HUBBARD

With 19 *New York Times* bestsellers and more than 280 million copies of his works in circulation, L. Ron Hubbard is among the most acclaimed and widely read authors of our time. As a leading light of American Pulp Fiction through the 1930s and '40s, he is further among the most influential authors of the modern age. Indeed, from Ray Bradbury to Stephen King, there is scarcely a master of imaginative tales who has not paid tribute to L. Ron Hubbard.

ABOUT THE TOMB OF THE TEN THOUSAND DEAD

(Originally published in the October 1936 issue of *Thrilling Adventures*)

Before Indiana Jones was even a gleam in Spielberg's eye, one intrepid pilot flew out of the sky... into a bit of hell on Earth. Captain Gordon is flying a team of anthropologists to the mountains of the Middle East in search of ancient history. But the discovery of a long-buried map leads to high adventure, untold treasure and cold-blooded murder...

Grade Level: 8

Lexile: 830

GRL: Z+

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COMMON CORE ELA STANDARDS SUPPORTED

KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.1 Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.3 Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.3 Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3 Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

CRAFT AND STRUCTURE

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone) including analogies or allusions to other texts.

INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.7 Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they “see” and “hear” when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.7 Compare and contrast a written story, drama, or poem to its audio, filmed, staged, or multimedia version, analyzing the effects of techniques unique to each medium (e.g., lighting, sound, color, or camera focus and angles in a film).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.7 Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.7 Analyze the representation of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums, including what is emphasized or absent in each treatment (e.g., Auden’s “Musée des Beaux Arts” and Breughel’s Landscape with the Fall of Icarus).

MULTIPLE CHOICE ASSESSMENT

Select the correct answer from the multiple choices after each question.

1. SEQUENCE

What belongs in the middle?

- a) Gordon and Kehlar find the entrance to the tomb.
- b)
- c) Gordon buries the bundle of treasure under the rock wall.

Tyler is buried in an unmarked grave.

Kehlar tells Gordon he has the map.

Gordon finds the mummified bodies of thousands of Macedonian soldiers.

Gordon finds out that Mallard is the killer.

2. CAUSE AND EFFECT

Kehlar shares the map and the tomb's contents with Gordon, so

they can complete the expedition together.

Gordon can fly him out of the desert with the buried treasure.

he has an accomplice in case they are arrested by the police.

he doesn't have to go down into the tomb alone.

3. CAUSE AND EFFECT

Mallard plans to kill Tyler and Lancaster, so

he can keep all of the buried treasure.

he will receive credit for the discovery of Alexander's jewels.

their corrupt group will not be exposed.

he can use the map to uncover more riches at a later date.

4. CONTEXT CLUES

What was Kehlar's role in the expedition?

An eminent scientist.

A native guide.

A pilot.

A professor from Baluchistan.

MULTIPLE CHOICE ASSESSMENT (Continued)

5. CONTEXT CLUES

The pottery jar found next to Tyler's body originally contained

desert sand and salt.

gold coins and trinkets that belonged to Cleopatra.

the map Alexander the Great left as the clue to find the buried treasure.

ancient pieces of pottery and relics.

6. PREDICTION OR INFERENCES

What do you think happens to Gordon when he returns to civilization?

He is kidnapped and forced to lead an expedition to find the tomb again.

He is thankful to be alive, so the expedition remains just a memory.

Kehlar's family sues him because they think he has the jewels.

He continues flying professors to archaeological sites around the globe.

7. FACTS AND DETAILS

Tyler is referred to as the black sheep of the expedition because

he has a previous prison record.

he has a devil-may-care way of doing things.

he studies the science of domestic animals.

no one really likes him.

8. FACTS AND DETAILS

What does Kehlar tell Gordon about the map?

Alexander the Great left it with his dead soldiers centuries earlier.

It is a fake.

It was stolen from a British museum.

It is written in a language only he can read.

MULTIPLE CHOICE ASSESSMENT (Continued)

9. FACTS AND DETAILS

When Gordon fell through the blackness into the tomb, he found

- prehistoric paintings on the wall.
- beds of salty sand and sea water.
- dead bodies twenty-three centuries old.
- skeletons of desert animals.

10. FACTS AND DETAILS

What object did Gordon wear that he found in the vault?

- A set of armor.
- A ruby and diamond ring.
- A coat of animal skins.
- An ancient green-colored helmet.

11. FACTS AND DETAILS

What materials in the tomb make the best mummies?

- Dead Macedonian soldiers.
- Cloth, thread and needles.
- Dry sand and salt.
- Embalming fluids and wax.

12. FACTS AND DETAILS

At the end of the story, the ancient map is

- in Gordon's safety deposit box at the bank.
- in the tomb with Kehlar and the Macedonian soldiers.
- in Gordon's wrecked plane.
- in the antiquities museum in Cairo.

FREE RESPONSE ASSESSMENT

Answer the following questions in short sentences.

1. Why does Mallard accuse Gordon of murdering Tyler?
2. What does Gordon have wild dreams about?
3. What advantage does Gordon have over Kehlar in the windstorm?
4. What does Kehlar tell Gordon about gold?
5. Why does Gordon suggest laying a wall against the wind?
6. What do Gordon and Kehlar find when they first enter the tomb?
7. When Gordon falls into the blackness of the tomb, what does he land on?
8. What does Gordon use to mark the spot where he buries the jewels?

CITING TEXTUAL EVIDENCE

1. Why do you think Gordon is the only one who survives the expedition?
 - 1a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #1?
2. Why does Mallard shake with terror when he meets Gordon at the tomb entrance?
 - 2a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #2?
3. What do you think Gordon discovers when he attempts to discover the tomb again?
 - 3a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #3?
4. Why do you think Alexander the Great left the loot from the conquest of India at Makran?
 - 4a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #4?

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Describe a characteristic of each of the following characters and cite evidence from the text of something that the character says or does that demonstrates that characteristic:

1. Captain Gordon

2. Kehlar

3. Mallard

4. Lancaster

OBJECTIVE SUMMARY

On a separate piece of paper, write a summary of the story in approximately 150 words. Then write a summary of the story in a single sentence of 10 to 20 words.

THEME OR MAIN IDEA

1. Which of these do you think is the main idea of the story?

- Archaeology is a dangerous profession.
- There is no path to easy wealth.
- Greed is the motive for death.
- Something else? _____

2. Explain some of the ways that the author gets this idea across through the characters, setting and plot of the story.

KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS

Common Core Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.3

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.3

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3

PLOT ANALYSIS

The turning point of the story is when Kehlar shows Gordon the map of Alexander the Great revealing the route his army took across the desert with the millions he had looted from India. Answer one or more of these questions:

1. How does this event reveal aspects of Gordon's character?
2. How does this event help the reader to understand the author's main idea for the story?
3. How does this event move the story towards its resolution?

FIND THE MEANING

For the following section circle the correct answers.

1. *premonition* means

doubt
forewarning
surprise
fear

2. *mythical* means

real
imaginary
verify
truth

3. *velocity* means

speed
slowness
velvet
wings

4. *frenzied* means

insufficient
careful
frantic
fateful

5. *indolently* means

actively
lazily
approvingly
happily

6. *eminent* means

threatening
distinguished
unimportant
mediocre

7. *flimsy* means

sturdy
fraud
little worth
convincing

8. *habitations* means

addictions
rituals
settlements
clothes

9. *reproved* means

reprimanded
approved
established
endorsed

10. *unnerved* means

made unafraid
made nervous or upset
cocky
relaxed

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1. The racer had a _____ that the car might crash, so he decided not to drive.
flimsy premonition velocity frenzied
2. Many small children play with _____ friends, but they think they are real.
mythical eminent premonition unnerved
3. The pitcher depended on the _____ of the ball to strike out the batter.
reproved eminent velocity habitations
4. The quarterback made a _____ attempt to score a touchdown in the last seconds of the game.
frenzied habitations reproved velocity
5. The boy acted _____ when he was asked to do his chores.
mythical indolently premonition flimsy
6. Two _____ scientists won the Nobel Peace prize in Sweden.
unnerved indolently mythical eminent
7. The tennis player gave a _____ excuse for being late to the match.
mythical flimsy reproved unnerved
8. Skunks usually choose their _____ in rotting logs.
premonition velocity frenzied habitations
9. Alex's piano teacher often _____ him for slouching while he practiced.
eminent indolently reproved frenzied
10. The pilot was _____ when he saw the lightning flash across the sky.
reproved unnerved indolently flimsy

COMPARING TEXT TO PERFORMANCE

Listen to the audiobook version of the scene in which after Tyler's death, Lancaster picks up the vase and finds it is empty. Write a short essay that compares and contrasts this experience to your experience of reading the story. What did you notice about the production techniques used to produce the audio version? Did the actors portray the characters in ways that matched your own impressions of them that were formed when you read the book?

MULTIPLE CHOICE ASSESSMENT: ANSWERS

1. SEQUENCE

- Gordon finds the mummified bodies of thousands of Macedonian soldiers.

2. CAUSE AND EFFECT

- Gordon can fly him out of the desert with the buried treasure.

3. CAUSE AND EFFECT

- he can keep all of the buried treasure.

4. CONTEXT CLUES

- A native guide.

5. CONTEXT CLUES

- the map Alexander the Great left as the clue to find the buried treasure.

6. PREDICTION OR INFERENCE

- He is thankful to be alive, so the expedition remains just a memory.

7. FACTS AND DETAILS

- he has a devil-may-care way of doing things.

8. FACTS AND DETAILS

- Alexander the Great left it with his dead soldiers centuries earlier.

9. FACTS AND DETAILS

- dead bodies twenty-three centuries old.

10. FACTS AND DETAILS

- An ancient green-colored helmet.

11. FACTS AND DETAILS

- Dry sand and salt.

12. FACTS AND DETAILS

- in the tomb with Kehlur and the Macedonian soldiers.

FREE RESPONSE ASSESSMENT: ANSWERS

1. Why does Mallard accuse Gordon of murdering Tyler?

Answer: Mallard is the real killer, and he accuses Gordon of killing Tyler to divert attention from himself.

Mallard was the killer.... Suddenly realizing that the jar was empty, and hearing me approach, Mallard had dived into his tent, had come out and charged me with the murder. (Page 35)

2. What does Gordon have wild dreams about?

Answer: He has wild dreams about becoming very rich.

It wasn't the first time I had dreamed wild dreams about becoming immensely wealthy. When they needed pilots to get machinery and men into Great Bear Lake, I was behind a throttle and stick, hoping to make a strike of my own. And when I did not, then I was in Colombia, freighting stuff over the Andes. There in Colombia I had vague ideas about emeralds, but I never saw any. (Page 17)

3. What advantage does Gordon have over Kehlar in the windstorm?

Answer: Gordon has a pair of goggles to protect his eyes.

The wind was picking up in velocity and the sand was stinging and bitter against our cheeks. It got between our teeth and into our eyes. I had the edge on Kehlar. I had a pair of goggles, he had only his Punjab turban. (Page 17)

4. What does Kehlar tell Gordon about gold?

Answer: That gold makes people crazy.

"We got to make headway," said Kehlar. "Them white men don't like us to fool with this place. I know. They crazy. Gold make everybody crazy." (Page 19)

5. Why does Gordon suggest laying a wall against the wind?

Answer: He figures out how to use the force of the wind to uncover the inner wall.

I had an idea then. There were a great many large rocks lying about and with them it would be no great trick to build a low wall up the side of the mound.... By laying this wall before the wind, the action of the diverted air

could be made to work like a compressed air hose. Great hollows began to appear behind the wall, scooped out by the whining wind. Soon we began to see some kind of order in the uncovered rocks and knew that we were getting to the inner wall. (Page 19)

6. What do Gordon and Kehlar find when they first enter the tomb?

Answer: They find a room modeled after a Greek temple, but it is empty.

I was rooted to the spot by what I saw. Alexander the Great had been in a hurry when he crossed this desert and yet he had paused long enough to build or cause to be built the model of a Greek temple out of crude stones. No pillars, of course, but the square room's design was unmistakable....

And then my spirits fell. "Look, Kehlar, somebody has beat us to it. It's empty!" (Page 20)

7. When Gordon falls into the blackness of the tomb, what does he land on?

Answer: The bodies of the Macedonian soldiers, twenty-three centuries dead.

Again I tripped and something clanked beside me. I felt it and as near as I could make out it was a helmet of some ancient pattern. My questing fingers encountered another thing.

Hair! Human hair!

I knew, then. I knew that I was in a vault with dead men all about me and under me, on every side of me. Hundreds, perhaps thousands of dead men.... (Page 24)

8. What does Gordon use to mark the spot where he buries the jewels?

Answer: Three stones forming a triangle.

I wormed through the small hole and buried the bundle under the rock wall we had made, carefully marking the place with three stones forming a triangle above it. (Page 31)

CITING TEXTUAL EVIDENCE: ANSWERS

1. Why do you think Gordon is the only one who survives the expedition?

1a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #1?

Answer: Gordon is a pilot, so he doesn't have any interest in the findings of the expedition. Through his past experiences, Gordon realizes there is no easy path to wealth.

They would jabber for hours over a piece of junk I could have bought for a dime near any Hopi village at home. Maybe education makes men that way. A mere pilot couldn't be expected to understand. (Page 10)

And now here I was, again on the trail of easy wealth. It takes a man a long time to learn that there is no such animal. (Page 17)

2. Why does Mallard shake with terror when he meets Gordon at the tomb entrance?

2a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #2?

Answer: Gordon puts on one of the helmets of the Macedonian soldiers so when Mallard sees him in the tomb, he thinks he is looking at one of Alexander's Macedonian soldiers who has come back from the dead.

The room was half alight from the rays of the sun. I could see the man clearly now. I stood my ground, sword in hand, and waited for him.

He stood up and started forward and then his eyes grew accustomed to the light and he saw me.

For seconds neither of us moved. His eyes grew wider and wider and his jaw began to slack. His mouth gaped blackly and I could see him shake with mounting terror.

I knew then what he thought. Mallard was not staring at Gordon, a pilot. He thought he was looking at one of Alexander's Macedonian veterans come back from twenty-three centuries beyond the veil. His sun-dazzled eyes could not see more than the greenish helmet I wore, the sword and the blood-smeared face.

He let out a crazy yell and dropped to his knees. He screamed and clutched at his gun. (Page 33)

3. What do you think Gordon discovers when he attempts to discover the tomb again?
3a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #3?

Answer: When Gordon returns to the camp site, he finds it has been blown away and the entrance to the tomb has been covered over with sand and salt and couldn't be located.

Weeks afterward I found myself in Teheran with two broken legs and a badly smashed arm and a gash which had almost taken off my scalp. When I recovered I borrowed a ship off the British and went back to look at the Makran in an attempt to discover the tomb again. But I had not counted on the things sandstorms do.

Evidently the whole camp had been blown down and covered up. The tomb was no different than a thousand other mounds in the vicinity. I could not find it at all. (Page 37)

4. Why do you think Alexander the Great left the loot from the conquest of India at Makran?
4a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #4?

Answer: Alexander was foolish to try to cross the desert with his army. The troops ran out of food and some died and others ate the mules and horses. There were not enough remaining troops and animals to carry the heavy loot out of the desert, so he built the tomb for the dead soldiers and his treasure.

“He was very foolish to do that. This desert is no place for any army as you understand, eh? But he had fifty, sixty thousand men, lots of camp followers. They get sick and die. He got a lot of Greek soldiers and they die. He got a lot of women and they die. They starve and eat the mules and horses and maybe elephants. And”—Kehlar paused and licked his lips— “he could not carry all the millions he had looted in India on the backs of his men and—”

“He left it here!” I cried.

“That is right,” said Kehlar. “He left it here. He built a sort of house for all this loot out of India and he left it here. This map shows that—” (Page 15)

THEME OR MAIN IDEA: ANSWERS

Answer: There is no path to easy wealth.

FIND THE MEANING: ANSWERS

1. *premonition* means forewarning
2. *mythical* means imaginary
3. *velocity* means speed
4. *frenzied* means frantic
5. *indolently* means lazily
6. *eminent* means distinguished
7. *fimsy* means little worth
8. *habitations* means settlements
9. *reproved* means reprimanded
10. *unnerved* means made nervous or upset

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES: ANSWERS

1. The racer had a *premonition* that the car might crash, so he decided not to drive.
2. Many small children play with *mythical* friends, but they think they are real.
3. The pitcher depended on the *velocity* of the ball to strike out the batter.
4. The quarterback made a *frenzied* attempt to score a touchdown in the last seconds of the game.
5. The boy acted *indolently* when he was asked to do his chores.
6. Two *eminent* scientists won the Nobel Peace prize in Sweden.
7. The tennis player gave a *fimsy* excuse for being late to the match.
8. Skunks usually choose their *habitations* in rotting logs.
9. Alex's piano teacher often *reproved* him for slouching while he practiced.
10. The pilot was *unnerved* when he saw the lightning flash across the sky.

EXPANDED BOOK GLOSSARY

ace of, within an: (adverb) within a narrow margin of; close to. [Yes, I came *within an ace* of staying there in that tomb, growing hard and stiff and dry, waiting for some adventurer to open up the place, even as I opened it. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Alexander the Great: (noun) king of Macedonia (an ancient kingdom, now a region in northern Greece, southwestern Bulgaria and the Republic of Macedonia) 336–323 BC, and conqueror of Greece and the Persian Empire (an ancient empire in western and southwestern Asia). [These men are after the treasure left here by Iskander of the Two Horns, the man you know as *Alexander the Great* who crossed this desert twenty-three centuries ago when he came back from India. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

appropriation: (noun) anything, especially money, that has been set aside for a particular person or use. [Senators were also vaguely responsible for *appropriations* to the Marine Corps, and Captain Eddie Edwards vaguely connected *appropriations* with his own punctual paycheck. –*Starch and Stripes*]

audacity: (noun) reckless, daring, often with a disregard for the rules. [The *audacity* of the caco had gotten him, and the preceding events had been quite enough to frazzle him mentally. –*Starch and Stripes*]

AWOLoose: (noun) AWOL; absent without leave, used to designate those who were gone for a relatively short time, as opposed to permanent deserters. At first AWOL was pronounced letter by letter. This is evident in the humorous World War I variant AWOLoose, meaning the same thing as AWOL. By the start of World War II, however, the pronunciation had changed to AY-wall, as if the initials constituted one word rather than an abbreviation. [He was AWOLoose. –*Starch and Stripes*]

baleful: (adjective) threatening (or seeming to threaten) harm or misfortune. [Lancaster's eyes were *baleful* as he looked at the dead man. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Baluchi: (noun) an eastern Iranian language spoken in Baluchistan. [Kehlar began to swear in lurid *Baluchi*. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Baluchistan: (noun) former territory of west British India, now the largest province in Pakistan. It is a mountainous region bordering on the Arabian Sea. [I have only told it once—to the British government, when they were quizzing me about the slaughter of the Lancaster-Mallard Expedition to Makran, *Baluchistan*. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

barrage: (noun) a rapid outpouring in large amounts that happens all at once. [And I lay there while the sun fanned down its *barrage* of heat and cursed the flies, Lancaster, Mallard and Kehlar. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

bestial: (adjective) being like a beast; brutal. [Notwithstanding, *le général* was the most accomplished master of *bestial* cruelty in the realm. –*Starch and Stripes*]

bobtail to a buck rear rank: (verb) reduce to the lowest rank of private and to the rear or last in order of a body of troops. [If it isn't, I'll *bobtail* you down to a buck rear rank. –*Starch and Stripes*]

bonjour, blanc: (French) hello, white man. [Some of these were condescending enough to murmur, “*Bonjour, blanc,*” but the others remained discreetly silent. –*Starch and Stripes*]

boot: (noun) a Marine or Navy recruit in basic training. [“That boot!” gasped Captain Eddie. –*Starch and Stripes*]

brawny: (adjective) having physical strength and weight; rugged and powerful. [Lancaster, a *brawny* giant with a black beard, came out of his tent and stood there, staring at the tableau. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

brigand: (noun) one who lives by plunder; a bandit. [The *caco* general, a glorified *brigand* at best, was highly in favor of the intervention of the United States. –*Starch and Stripes*]

burnoose: (noun) a long hooded cloak worn by some Arabs. [Whipping off his *burnoose*, Kehlar began to pour the jewels upon it. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

cabin job: (noun) an airplane that has an enclosed section where passengers can sit or cargo is stored. [Let it suffice to say that I was hired by Lancaster, a professor in a small Midwestern college, to pilot the *cabin job* they had bought across these awful wastes. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

cackling: (verb) laughter that sounds like a chicken. [He merely waited for *le général* to stop that damned, almost silent *cackling*. –*Starch and Stripes*]

caco: (noun) (French) a member of loosely knit bandit organizations who hired out to the highest bidder. Transfer of power in Haiti traditionally occurred when a political contender raised a *caco* army and marched on the capital. [Some *caco* would take a crack at you if he knew he was safe from harm. –*Starch and Stripes*]

campaign hat: (noun) a felt hat with a broad stiff brim and four dents in the crown, formerly worn by personnel in the US Army and Marine Corps. [His *campaign hat* was pulled down over his eyes until it almost hid the square, bristly jaw. –*Starch and Stripes*]

Cape: (noun) Cap-Haïtien; a city on the north coast of Haiti facing the Atlantic Ocean. [Captain Eddie Edwards of the *gendarmarie*, stationed in the hills back of Cape, had a hazy idea that senators did nothing more rash than shake their fists at each other on the senate floor. –*Starch and Stripes*]

Colt: (noun) an automatic pistol manufactured by the Colt Firearms Company, founded in 1847 by Samuel Colt (1814–1862) who revolutionized the firearms industry with his inventions. [He buckled his well-oiled, carefully kept *Colt* against his thigh and called for his suitcase-size horse. –*Starch and Stripes*]

compulsory: (adjective) something that you must do, it is required; enforced. [But there

were other things, such as *compulsory* retirement for lack of funds and the slicing up of the corps. –*Starch and Stripes*]

compunction: (adverb) feeling of sadness or regret about an action or result. [I had no *compunctions* about the dead now. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

condescending: (adjective) yielding to inferiors; courteous; obliging. [Some of these were *condescending* enough to murmur, “*Bonjour, blanc,*” but the others remained discreetly silent. –*Starch and Stripes*]

contraption: (noun) a small tool, thing or device one does not know the specific name of. [It was a queer *contraption*, that basket. –*Price of a Hat*]

Cossack: (noun) a member of a people of southern European Russia and adjacent parts of Asia, noted as cavalrymen, especially during *tsarist* times. [From the look of him, he was a *Cossack*. –*Price of a Hat*]

crate: (noun) an airplane. [He had remembered too late that he needed me to fly the *crate* for him. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

crimped: (noun) (in gambling) a bend on the card to mark it so one knows it is that card and can cheat. [He was a fighting man, Captain Eddie, and he knew when the ammunition was low, and he was enough of a gambler to realize when the ace in the deck was *crimped*. –*Starch and Stripes*]

Cyrus the Great: (noun) the King of Persia (an ancient empire in western and southwestern Asia) and founder of the Persian Empire. [*Cyrus the Great* had entered it unadvisedly and had lost his army to a man. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Czech: (noun) people of Czechoslovakia, a country in Central Europe (now called the Czech Republic). The Czech lands were under Habsburg rule (Austrian Empire) from 1526, later becoming part of the Austrian Empire and Austria-Hungary. The independent republic of Czechoslovakia was created in 1918, following the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire after World War I. [Some forty-five thousand *Czech* soldiers, deserters from the Austrian forces, had been sent east across Siberia at their own request ... –*Price of a Hat*]

Dehwar: (noun) a member of a tribe in the Baluchistan province of Pakistan. [Our native guide, a *Dehwar* named Kehlar, shuffled out of the cook tent and leaned indolently against a pole. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Derringer: (noun) a pocket-sized, short-barreled, large-caliber pistol. Named for the US gunsmith Henry Deringer (1786–1868), who designed it. [The hand of *le général* was suddenly holding a *Derringer*. –*Starch and Stripes*]

devil-may-care: (adjective) wildly reckless. [Several times he had been in fights with the natives over women and such, but I had liked his *devil-may-care* way of doing things. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

- dickens:** (noun) a severe reprimand. [And now Tyler was probably wooing the angels and getting the *dickens* for it, and I was lying here in the heat, swearing and going mad with the flies. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]
- drop on, got the:** (verb phrase) have achieved a distinct advantage over. [We’ve got the *drop on you*. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]
- drubbing:** (noun) a beating. [Instead the boy took his verbal *drubbing* and went to work on Captain Eddie’s best shoes. –*Starch and Stripes*]
- dry:** (adjective) indifferent, cold, unemotional. [He was as *dry* as the dust of the bones he found. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]
- effigy:** (noun) the image or representation of a liked or hated person in a painting, sculpture or crude figure. [Close at his heels, without a single backward glance, and trying to make it appear that he chased his *effigy*, Captain Eddie was coming on hoofs which rolled like kettle drums. –*Starch and Stripes*]
- Ekaterinburg:** (noun) a city in the Russian Federation of Asia, in the Ural Mountains. [I was sent into the eastern Urals, toward what was then *Ekaterinburg*, but which has been renamed Sverdlovsk. –*Price of a Hat*]
- en avant:** (adverb) (French) forward. [“Worse than that,” said Eddie, feeling judicial, “it’ll mean the future of the corps. *En avant*, you black so-and-sos.” –*Starch and Stripes*]
- ethnology:** (noun) the science that looks at specific characteristics of man based on race. [We had been scouting this bleak section for months, looking into the archaeology and *ethnology* of the place. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]
- fathoms:** (noun) a measurement equal to six feet used for measuring the depth of bodies of water. [His eyes were a sickly green shade that reminded one of a shark’s belly six *fathoms* down. –*Starch and Stripes*]
- flags or flagstone:** (noun) a flat stone or stones used especially for paving. [All the mounds I had seen uncovered had disclosed broken masonry and perhaps a few *flagstones* which had once been a floor. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]
- floundered:** (verb) struggling clumsily and with much effort to get through something. [We *floundered* along in the cover, making for another dune. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]
- forty-five or .45:** (noun) a handgun chambered to fire a .45-caliber cartridge. [My hand closed around the cold butt of the *.45*. –*Price of a Hat*]
- Gajda:** (noun) Radola Gajda (1892–1948); a Czech military commander and politician. [“The ... *kubanka* ... *Gajda* ...” –*Price of a Hat*]
- gat:** (noun) a gun. [It was at this point that Captain Eddie made his entrance behind a leveled *gat*. –*Starch and Stripes*]

gendarmierie: (noun) (French) a military body charged with police duties among civilian populations. The Haitian *gendarmierie*, organized in 1916, initially consisted of 250 officers and 2,500 men, to provide police services throughout the country. The *gendarmierie* was officered by Marine Corps personnel, most of whom were sergeants with officer rank in the Haitian service. The *gendarmierie* fought alongside Marine occupying forces during the *caco* wars. [Captain Eddie Edwards of the *gendarmierie*, stationed in the hills back of Cape, had a hazy idea that senators did nothing more rash than shake their fists at each other on the senate floor. –*Starch and Stripes*]

Genghis Khan: (noun) (1162?–1227) Mongol conqueror who founded the largest land empire in history and whose armies, known for their use of terror, conquered many territories and slaughtered the populations of entire cities. [The armies fought as had the armies of *Genghis Khan*. –*Price of a Hat*]

geysers: (noun) boiling springs that throw forth jets of water, mud, steam, etc. at frequent intervals. [Sand spurted in tan geysers when he hit the ground beside me. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

glacial: (adjective) extremely cold. [Something like a chill passed over me and made the running rivulets of sweat which coursed under my khaki turn to *glacial* streams. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

G-men: (noun) government men; agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. [He could write on any subject, in any genre, from jungle explorers to deep-sea divers, from *G-men* and gangsters, cowboys and flying aces to mountain climbers, hard-boiled detectives and spies. –*Foreword*]

Great Bear Lake: (noun) freshwater lake in Canada's Northwest Territories, lying astride the Arctic Circle. [When they needed pilots to get machinery and men into *Great Bear Lake*, I was behind a throttle and stick, hoping to make a strike of my own. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

hefted: (verb) to lift with effort something that is heavy or awkward. [He *hefted* the rifle and came forward. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

hein?: (interjection) (French) eh? [Because *le général* du Marines and politicians come today, *hein?*" –*Starch and Stripes*]

helldiver: (noun) an American aircraft carrier-based dive bomber produced for the US Navy during World War II by the Curtiss-Wright Corporation, once a leading aircraft manufacturer of the United States. [A *helldiver*, USMC painted with the globe and anchor on its side. –*Starch and Stripes*]

hemp: (noun) a fiber (as jute) from a plant, used to make rope, bowstrings, etc. ["Have it any way you want, boy, but it won't make any difference when they put the *hemp* around your lemon-colored throat." –*Starch and Stripes*]

highwayman: (noun) a person who robs on a public road; a thief. [The glorified *highwayman* they called “Charley” for short and who had a habit of upsetting the hills back of Cape was, Captain Eddie supposed, worry enough for one man. –*Starch and Stripes*]

hodgepodge: (noun) a mixed mass of things; a jumble. [It was all one grand diplomatic *hodgepodge*. –*Price of a Hat*]

Hopi: (noun) a Pueblo Indian people of northeast Arizona noted for their craftsmanship in basketry, pottery, silverwork and weaving. [They would jabber for hours over a piece of junk I could have bought for a dime near any *Hopi* village at home. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

hoplite: (noun) a heavily armored foot soldier. [For an instant I was angry and then I realized that I wore the helmet and carried the sword of a Macedonian *hoplite*. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

house of Ipatiev: (noun) Ipatiev House; a merchant’s house in Ekaterinburg where the former Emperor Nicholas II of Russia and several members of his family and household were executed. The house was demolished in 1977 and the magnificent “Church on the Blood,” with many auxiliary chapels and belfries, was built there after the fall of the Soviet Union. [“Tsar held at Ekaterinburg, *house of Ipatiev*. Will die July 18. Hurry.” –*Price of a Hat*]

Imperial Seal: (noun) Imperial Seal of China; a seal carved out of a historically famous piece of jade. [His beard gave him the look of a patriarch, but his eyes reminded me of the *Imperial Seal*. –*Price of a Hat*]

Iskander of the Two Horns: (noun) Alexander the Great. He is also known in Eastern traditions as Dhul-Qarnayn (the two-horned one) because an image minted during his rule seemed to depict him with the two ram’s horns of the Egyptian god Ammon. [These men are after the treasure left here by *Iskander of the Two Horns*, the man you know as Alexander the Great... –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

judicial: (adjective) serious. [“Worse than that,” said Eddie, feeling *judicial*, “it’ll mean the future of the corps. *En avant*, you black so-and-sos.” –*Starch and Stripes*]

Kolchak: (noun) Aleksandr Kolchak (1874–1920); a Russian naval commander and later head of part of the anti-Bolshevik forces during the Russian Civil War. [We were still hoping for the best, *Kolchak* and all the others wanted to set Russia back together. –*Price of a Hat*]

kubanka: (noun) a hat worn by Imperial Russian soldiers consisting of a wide band of black sheep wool with a flat top. [And then I saw that it wasn’t a wastebasket at all, but a *kubanka*. –*Price of a Hat*]

leatherneck: (noun) a member of the US Marine Corps. The phrase comes from the early days of the Marine Corps when enlisted men were given strips of leather to wear

around their necks. The popular concept was that the leather protected the neck from a saber slash, though it was actually used to keep the Marines from slouching in uniform by forcing them to keep their heads up. [The *leatherneck* looked into his locker trunk and started pulling blues, greens and khaki out by the handful. –*Starch and Stripes*]

le capitaine de la gendarmerie: (noun) (French) the captain of the *gendarmerie*. [Wrinkled blacks who looked like witchdoctors, and probably were, sat placidly smoking and watched “*le capitaine de la gendarmerie*” pass by with unusual swiftness. –*Starch and Stripes*]

le général du cacos: (noun) (French) the general of the *cacos*. [“*Le général du cacos* will not be caught today? Because *le général du Marines* and politicians come today, *hein?*” –*Starch and Stripes*]

legionnaire: (noun) a member of a legion; in Roman history a military division varying at times from 3,000 to 6,000 foot soldiers, with additional cavalymen. [Again I searched in the dry grit, touching the icy flesh of the long-dead *legionnaires*. –*The Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

leg-of-mutton sleeves: (noun) sleeves that are extremely wide over the upper arm and narrow from the elbow to the wrist. [*Le général* was dressed in a white silk shirt which had *leg-of-mutton sleeves*. –*Starch and Stripes*]

Light Browning, 1917: (noun) a light machine gun weighing fifteen pounds. It looks like and can be fired like an ordinary rifle, either from the shoulder or the hip. It was invented by John M. Browning (1855–1926), an American firearms designer. [Upon hearing this he dismounted and thashed into view of the rear of a *1917 Light Browning*, about which were clustered a waiting crew of gunners and the fly-bitten Lieutenant Murphy. –*Starch and Stripes*]

lout: (noun) a clownish, awkward person. [“And as for you—you’re the dirtiest *lout* I ever laid my eyes on. –*Starch and Stripes*]

lurid: (adjective) vivid in a shocking way. [Kehlar began to swear in *lurid* Baluchi. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Macedonian: (noun) someone from an ancient kingdom in northern Greece, where Alexander the Great created a vast empire. [He could cause a vault to be built here in this forgotten waste to house his *Macedonian* veterans who had succumbed in his long campaign eastward. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

mags: (noun) magnetos; small ignition system devices that use permanent magnets to generate a spark in internal combustion engines, especially in marine and aircraft engines. [I threw the water bags into the cabin and threw on the *mags*. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Makran: (noun) the southern region of Baluchistan in Iran and Pakistan along the coast of the Arabian Sea. [I have only told it once—to the British government, when they

were quizzing me about the slaughter of the Lancaster-Mallard Expedition to Makran, Baluchistan. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Montezuma: (noun) an Aztec emperor of the sixteenth century. [“By Montezuma’s ghost, you’ve got to prove up. Understand?” –*Starch and Stripes*]

mujik: (noun) (Russian) in tsarist Russia, a peasant. [The *mujik*, when he saw my khaki, was very cordial. –*Price of a Hat*]

nailing (me) down: (verb) variation of “pin down,” meaning to prevent somebody from going anywhere. [Then I began to think that this was a rather flimsy excuse for *nailing me down* this way. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Nicholas II: (noun) Nicholas II of Russia (1868–1918); last Emperor of Russia, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Finland. He ruled from 1894 until his forced abdication in 1917. Nicholas proved unable to manage a country in political turmoil and command its army in World War I. His rule ended with the Russian Revolution of 1917, after which he and his family were executed by Bolsheviks in July 1918. [And although we hardly approved of *Nicholas II* as a ruler, we needed a head for the state... –*Price of a Hat*]

orator: (noun) a public speaker who is distinguished for his skill and power as a speaker. [But they had seen and their *orator’s* jaws were sagging in their folds of flesh. –*Starch and Stripes*]

Pasni: (noun) a fishing village on the coast of the Baluchistan province in Pakistan. [“This,” said Kehlar, “is the map we found in that jar near *Pasni*. Alexander left it there with his soldiers.” –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

patois: (noun) a regional form of a language, especially of French, differing from the standard, literary form of the language. [Captain Eddie’s *patois* was never very good and now it was vile. –*Starch and Stripes*]

percolate: (verb) to show activity, movement or life. [Anything to make that engine *percolate*. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

placidly: (adverb) calmly and quietly, without disturbance or passion. [Wrinkled blacks who looked like witchdoctors, and probably were, sat *placidly* smoking and watched... –*Starch and Stripes*]

plummeted: (verb) falling quickly straight down as if being pulled by a weight. [Even as I *plummeted* down I knew that I had torn the flashlight from Kehlar’s grasp. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Port: (noun) Port-au-Prince; the capital and largest city of Haiti. [They were not afraid of the gendarmerie today, if they ever were at all, for had they not heard the tale of those drums relayed all the way from *Port*? –*Starch and Stripes*]

protestations: (noun) the act of protesting for something you believe in or against something you disagree with. [But this was no time for *protestations*. –*Starch and Stripes*]

prove up: (verb) to measure up to expectations. [“By Montezuma’s ghost, you’ve got to prove up. Understand?” –*Starch and Stripes*]

Punjab: (noun) a former province in northwest British India, now divided between India and Pakistan. [He wore dirty robes and a *Punjab* turban. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

punk: (adjective) worthless. [It was a military lie, for the colonel had expressly advised the Edwards outfit—but then, praise is *punk* for soldiers. –*Starch and Stripes*]

quarter: (noun) mercy or indulgence, especially as shown in sparing a life and accepting the surrender of a vanquished enemy. [No *quarter* was given. –*Price of a Hat*]

Ras el Kuh: (noun) a town located on the southern coast of Iran. [They tell me a fishing boat picked me up off the point of *Ras el Kuh*. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Ras Malan: (noun) a mountain in Baluchistan (southwestern Pakistan), which slopes into the Arabian Sea. [This shows how he marched from *Ras Malan* to this place we stopped northwest of here, called Pasni. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Reds: (noun) Communists; also political radicals or revolutionaries. [You remember we had a couple Philippine regiments there and the British had about two thousand and the Japanese had put upwards of seventy thousand in the field against the *Reds*. –*Price of a Hat*]

rivulets: (noun) flow of water. [Something like a chill passed over me and made the running *rivulets* of sweat which coursed under my khaki turn to glacial streams. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

saddle boot: (noun) a close-fitting covering or case for a gun or other weapon that straps to a saddle. [I pulled my rifle out of the *saddle boot* and waited, lying in the shadow of a big pine. –*Price of a Hat*]

Scheherazade: (noun) the female narrator of *The Arabian Nights*, who during one thousand and one adventurous nights saved her life by entertaining her husband, the king, with stories. [“Pulp” magazines, named for their rough-cut, pulpwood paper, were a vehicle for more amazing tales than *Scheherazade* could have told in a million and one nights. –*Foreword*]

scourge: (noun) somebody or something that is perceived as an agent of punishment, destruction or severe criticism. [The mythical woman *scourge* named Semiramis had started into it with an army and had come out of it with nothing but her life. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Semiramis: (noun) a mythical queen of Assyria (an ancient empire and civilization in western Asia) who is reputed to have conquered many lands. [The mythical woman *scourge* named *Semiramis* had started into it with an army and had come out of it with nothing but her life. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

shoot landings: (noun) pilot’s lingo for the process of preparing a landing. [When you

had to shoot landings along runways so studded with rock that the smoothest glide turned into a pogo-stick race as you touched? –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Siberia: (noun) an extensive region in what is now the Russian Federation in northern Asia, extending from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific. [Back in 1917 (said Stuart) I was ordered out as a military observer—or perhaps as a spy—to *Siberia*. –*Price of a Hat*]

sinuous: (adverb) rising and falling like waves. [Behind me I heard a soft, *sinuous* sound. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

soldats: (noun) (French) soldiers. [The *gendarmerie soldats* thought they had never seen him look so surprised or so sick. –*Starch and Stripes*]

stealthily: (adverb) moving in a way as to be invisible; undetected. [He came *stealthily*, carrying the gun as though he wanted to use it. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

succumbed: (verb) giving up because of an external overpowering force. [He could cause a vault to be built here in this forgotten waste to house his Macedonian veterans who had *succumbed* in his long campaign eastward. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Sverdlovsk: (noun) a city in the Luhansk Oblast province of southeastern Ukraine. [I was sent into the eastern Urals, toward what was then Ekaterinburg, but which has been renamed *Sverdlovsk*. –*Price of a Hat*]

swiper: (noun) groom; clothing man. [Captain Eddie went into his sleeping hut and pulled his ebony *swiper* from his sleep against the wall. –*Starch and Stripes*]

Tajik: (noun) someone living mainly in Tajikistan (a republic in central Asia), as well as parts of Afghanistan and China. [He was a strong brute, light fingered and greasy, a crossbreed of *Tajik* and Arab and Dehwar. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Teheran: (noun) the capital of Iran. [They tell me I was taken to an outpost up the gulf and removed to the *Teheran* hospital by military plane. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

Tommies: (noun) common soldiers in the British Army; the term was most popularly used during World War I where German, French and Commonwealth soldiers referred to the British soldiers as *Tommies*. [So we had Japs and Yanks and *Tommies* and Czechs all fighting the Reds. –*Price of a Hat*]

tourniquets: (noun) cloth or other material used to stop bleeding until one can be helped medically. [With careful deliberation I sat up and began to rip Mallard's shirt into *tourniquets*. –*Tomb of the Ten Thousand Dead*]

tout de suite: (adverb) (French) right away. [That black so-and-so will be along here *tout de suite* and if we miss him, who the hell is going to cut him off on the upper hill road? –*Starch and Stripes*]

tsar: (noun) (Russian, also *tzar*) shortened form of *tsesar*, from Latin, Caesar; a male

monarch or emperor, especially one of the emperors who ruled Russia until the revolution of 1917. [The Allies were getting worried about the *tsar*. –*Price of a Hat*]

tsarevich: (noun) (Russian) son of a *tsar*. Nicholas II had a son, Alexei (1904–1918). [And although we hardly approved of Nicholas II as a ruler, we needed a head for the state we thought we could form and the best marionette we could find would be Nicholas—or maybe the *tsarevich*. –*Price of a Hat*]

tsarist: (noun) an adherent of a *tsar*, a male monarch or emperor. [One of the strangers looked in his direction and spat, saying, “*Tsarist!*” –*Price of a Hat*]

Urals: (noun) Ural Mountains; a mountain range in what is now the Russian Federation, extending north and south from the Arctic Ocean to near the Caspian Sea, forming a natural boundary between Europe and Asia. [For over a year things had been going badly, what with several governments and several revolutions, and the Allies were very much afraid that the Germans were mobilizing somewhere in the *Urals*. –*Price of a Hat*]

USMC: (noun) United States Marine Corps. [Captain Eddie of the *gendarmerie* was just plain Gunnery Sergeant E. C. Edwards, *USMC*... –*Starch and Stripes*]

Webley: (noun) Webley and Scott handgun; an arms manufacturer based in England that produced handguns from 1834. Webley is famous for the revolvers and automatic pistols it supplied to the British Empire’s military, particularly the British Army, from 1887 through both World War I and World War II. [About his waist was girded a *Webley*. –*Price of a Hat*]

Western Front: (noun) term used during World War I and II to describe the “contested armed frontier” (otherwise known as “the front”) between lands controlled by the Germans to the East and the Allies to the West. In World War I, both sides dug in along a meandering line of fortified trenches stretching from the coast of the North Sea, southward to the Swiss border that was the Western Front. This line remained essentially unchanged for most of the war. In 1918 the relentless advance of the Allied armies persuaded the German commanders that defeat was inevitable and the government was forced to request armistice. [The idea was to get Russia back into shape so that the Russian troops would hold the German troops away from the *Western Front*. –*Price of a Hat*]

West Indies: (noun) a group of islands in the North Atlantic between North and South America, comprising the Greater Antilles, the Lesser Antilles and the Bahamas. [They were taking a cruise of the *West Indies* and inspecting our work. –*Starch and Stripes*]

White Russian or **White:** (noun) a Russian who fought against the Bolsheviks (Russian Communist Party) in the Russian Revolution and fought against the Red Army during the Russian Civil War from 1918 to 1921. [With this as a clue, I called in a *White Russian* Intelligence man. –*Price of a Hat*]

Yanks: (noun) Yankees; term used to refer to Americans in general. [So we had Japs and Yanks and Tommies and Czechs all fighting the Reds. –*Price of a Hat*]

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