



BILL
RITCHIE

CHAPTER THE FIRST

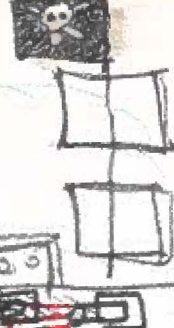
HIDDEN TREASURE

LOSD was a big organization and they were spreading out. Many banks and stores had weapons against LOSD and they had to get some extra money. They had an old map that their grandfather had had and given to them. It told about an old treasure chest full of gold. They had to get to that gold but the authorities might find out about and try to get to it first. They had to get a new and rare disease that they could spread to get to the coal mine which the gold was hidden in. The gold was hidden behind a huge, movable secret door in one of the mines near Newcastle, England. It happened that just then a spy was listening and reported the whole conversation to the headquarters of a band of cutthroat pirates. But LBB heard the spy talking and caught him and threw him into a pool of poison ivy juice. They know now it was a race against time so they began planning immediately. They packed and went down to the beating yards to buy a sailboat. They bought a very big sailboat that had once been owned by Aristotle Onassis. They took the boat out for a test run and met up with the pirates. They had an old cannon on board and shot a silicosis cannonball at the pirates. The pirates got sick and they had sprung a big leak. LOSB knew that they would be laid up for repairs for a few days and they would be sick for a week.



CHAPTER THE SECOND

AN ILL FATED TRIP



Five days later they started off. They saw nothing that day except some fish and some porpoises. The next day they went skin diving. While they were skin diving a pirate ship came up and pirates boarded their ship. When they came up and saw their ship and the pirate's ship going off in the distance, Wen Woman went into action. She got out her portable first aid kit and flew off toward the ships. She circled the pirate ship, spraying poison ivy and the crew members, making them scratch all over. Then the rest of the members of LOSD pushed them in the water. Fortunately a shark happened to be cruising around at the moment and it was some time before the pirates came back on their ship. In the meantime the LOSD ship was sailing off in the distance. A few days later the pirate ship was sighted again. This time LOSD was ready. Carbuncle kid had watched a James Bond movie and rigged the ship with some of James Bond's things: light machine guns that shot botulism darts and a sleep-inducing ray. They shot the machine guns at the pirates, but they knew that it wouldn't take effect for ten minutes. The pirates shot at them with a cannon and hit the ship. They shot the ray gun and all the pirates fell asleep. But the hole was just above the waterline and now the ship was filling up with water. Their ship was going down... down.

HOW WILL LOSD ESCAPE THIS????

CHAPTER THE THIRD

THE BOMB

When Garbuncle Kid imitated James Bond, he really imitated James Bond. He had invented a gun that shot a sticky substance that was meant to be used on the pirates, but he used it to patchir-
shesship instead. They all took pails and soon the ship had been bailed out. They went aboard the pirate ship and gave all the pirates tetanus. They got off the ship, but alas, the pirates had been only dummies and the real pirates were hiding after they woke up.

"Ha, ha," said the leader. "I planted a time bomb on the ship. When I detonate it they will be blown sky-high!"

Back on board the S. S. LOSD the members were going very slowly.

"Oh, no," said Wen Woman, "The ship is slowing up. We must get rid of all the unnecessary cargo."

Distemper Dog went off to find some extra cargo. He found an old crate (which was really the time bomb). They threw it overboard along with some other junk. They kept on sailing, and so did the pirates. A few hours later the pirates came to the pile of junk. They didn't see it and decided to detonate the bomb. When they did, it blew up the front of their ship. They bailed out the ship, and in a few days, they had it all fixed. By this this time LOSD was already coming into Newcastle.

CHAPTER THE FOURTH

A Fiendish Plot



The S. S. LOSD reached just off Newcastle, but they had a problem- how to get into New castle without being seen. They decided that they would go up the coast, find a deserted spot, and park their ship. This took another day before they could find a deserted spot. They parked their ship just off the shore and took a small skiff to land. They disguised themselves and asked for directions in a nearby village, and then flew to Newcastle on Wen Woman's back. An extra day had gone by before they reached Newcastle, and by this time the pirates were only a few days off shore. LOSD made their headquarters in an old abandoned mine just outside of the city. They went back to the ship and got all their tools and necessary equipment and the provisions. By the time they were through they were so tired that they went to sleep immediately after they had booby-trapped the entrance. The pirates were just off shore and when they sighted the S. S. LOSD they parked their ship near it and sank it. Then they came on shore and started looking for the Legion. They asked people in several small towns, and the people told them that the members had been there a few time bringing supplies. The pirates asked people in Newcastle, but nobody there had seen them. The pirates decided to make their headquarters in one of the caves too, and to start looking for the gold. Unfortunately the pirates picked a cave that was right next to the one that the members were in. The pirates decided to search their own cave for the gold immediately. While looking, they found several inner passages that led to other caves. They explored most

of them, but couldn't find a trace. They were just about ready to give up, but they decided to explore one more passage. When they explored it, they saw a faint glow of light. They snuck up on the sleeping LOSD figures, bound them hand and foot, and took them into a dark crevass. The next morning the elagion woke up to find that they were tied up. They thought of how to get out of it, but they couldn't think of anything, so they lay there for a few hours, getting hungrier and hungrier.

HOW WILL LOSD GET OUT OF THIS FIENDISH PLOT???

CHAPTER THE FIFTH

A SEARCH

Wen Woman, as always, had her portable first aid kit along with her. It just so happened that she had been testing a new gangrene experiment, to see how gangrene germs could rot through your skin to get to your blood system. She used that to rot through the ropes. Soon they were all free, but the pirates had put a board with a rock on top of it over the opening, so there was no way to get out. But LBB thought of a way. He told his trained lice to go and rot the board away. Soon they did this and hopped back on Lice-beard Boy. They all got up by flying on Wen Woman's back and soon were back at their camp. When they got back, they had a good meal and soon their strength was back to normal. They decided to hunt for the gold. They searched all through their cave, and couldn't find anything except a big pool of water. They decided to split up into groups of two: Gouter gal and LBB, Carbuncle Kid and Fungus Fellow, Polyps Person and Wen Woman, and Boil Boy and Distemper Dog. LBB and GG went off and searched the three caves to the north; FFA and CK search the two to the south; PP and WW (the two most capable) went to the four to the northeast; DD and BB went to two above camp.

In the meantime WW and PP were exploring their caves. WW, being aware of danger, brought along her first aid kit. They explored the first cave, but found nothing. But on the way back, WW thought she heard a noise. She took out her messenger rat to find out what was making noise, and, if he was caught, to give them rabies. They waited for five minutes and then heard a squeak. It was the rat. He started running toward the back of the cave. WW and PP followed. He stopped in front of a wall and started squeaking. "Could this be the hidden treasure?" said Polyps Person?

"No," said Wen Woman. "Treasures don't make noises."

She was right. It was the pirates. They flung open the hidden door and shot some silicosis at the pirates. The pirates fell to the floor in pain. But there wasn't enough silicosis to go around and a few of the 36 pirates remained upright and started to come toward WW and PP. They closed the door and PP flew off on WW's back. They explored the other caves but could find no trace of the treasure. "One of the other must have found it," said WW.

WHERE COULD THE TREASURE BE? IF NOBODY
FOUND IT COULD THE PIRATES HAVE IT???

CHAPTER THE SEVENTH

FOUND

but LOST

This had taken the whole day up, and they went to sleep. But the pirates had only had a light dose of silicosis and they recovered by the next day.

When the legion woke up, they were puzzled about where the treasure was. Suddenly BB had an idea. He remembered one of their other cases, "LOSD meets Mr. Penicillin," and realized that there was only one place it could logically be. He ran toward the back of the cave. The other legionnaires, puzzled, followed him. They saw him dive into the deep pool at the end, but didn't see him come up.

"I'M going after him," said FF.

He too went down and didn't come up. Next PP went, then LBB, then CK, then DD, then GG, leaving WW alone. None of them came up. After a moment DD came up, said "Grrruff", and went down again. WW followed. They had found an underwater passage leading up to a chamber. The chamber ended after a hundred yards. BB dislodged a rock from the wall. Inside there was a ring. Boil Boy pulled on it and a door opened, revealing the treasure, and they peered in happily.

Suddenly a voice behind them shouted, "Get your hands up!"

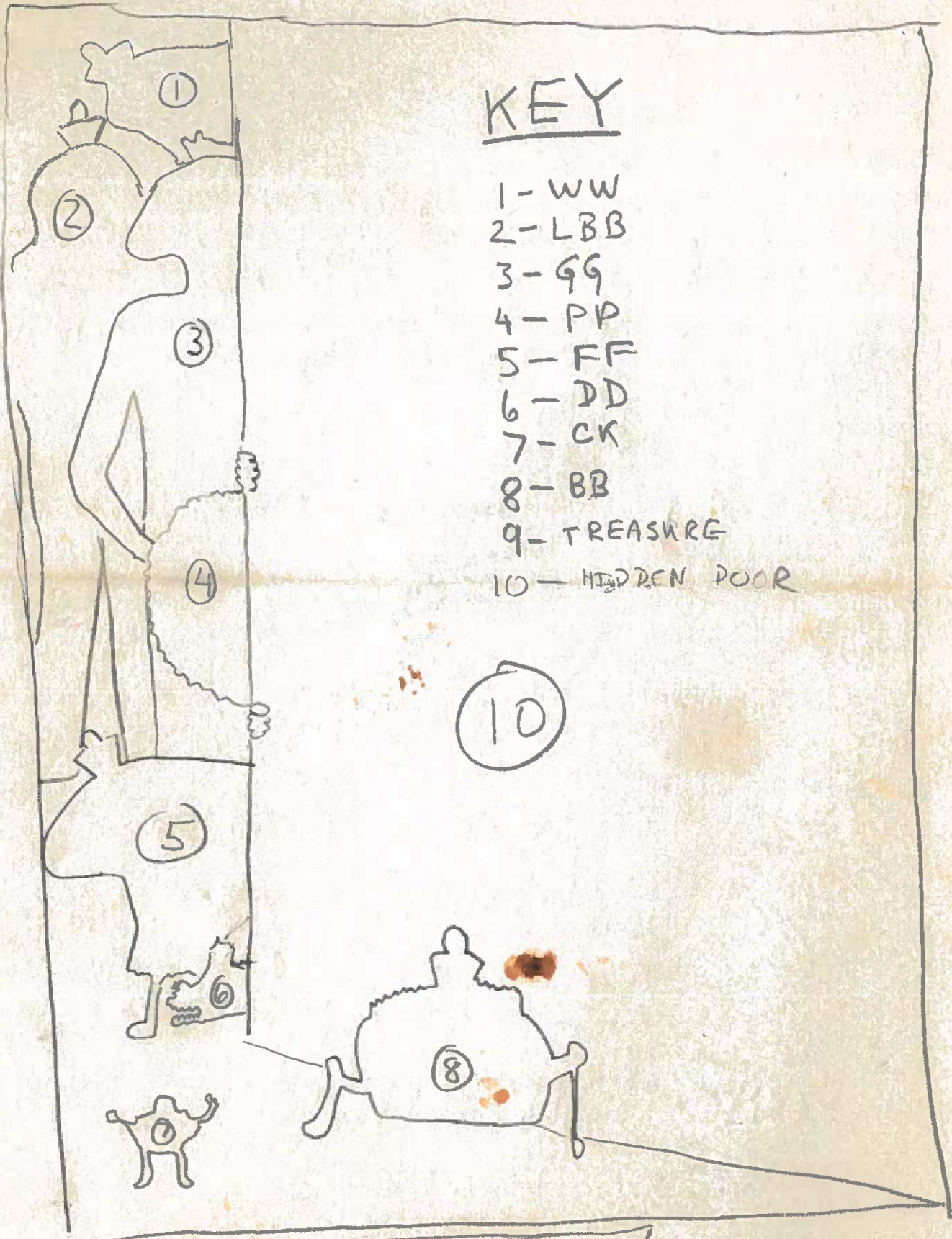
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE LEGION AND THE TREASURE??

CHAPTER THE EIGHTH

HOMeward!

"Get moving," said the pirate, for that was what he was.

As you remember, however, Carbuncle Kid had imitated James Bond. As CK walked past the pirate, he pushed a little lever in his shoe which shot out a blade tipped with deadly impetago. He kicked the pirate, whose skin promptly started to crust. With WW using her WW first aid kit, C^A doing James Bond imitations, and the rest of the legion using their skill at giving diseases, they had the pirates under control in no time. They paid a messenger to take the pirates into Newcastle and started sailing for home on the pirates' ship, for their own had been sunk. They got back, built a new and better fort, and installed two-way radio communication among the legionnaires; and the rest of the money they saved.



KEY

- 1 - WW
- 2 - LBB
- 3 - GG
- 4 - PP
- 5 - FF
- 6 - DD
- 7 - CK
- 8 - BB
- 9 - TREASURE
- 10 - HIDDEN DOOR

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