

The Ankh of Chephren Campaign Log

Session 5: 18:3:08

Brief Encounter

Edward Cholmondley – John

Dr. Karl Gustav Magnus – Gord

Damon Toyler – Karl

Joe Jenkins – Tom

London, Autumn, Evening

14/10/36

You decided to return to Magnolia Crescent despite your suspicions that you were being watched. You were cagey, approaching the apartment building, and checked out Rosemallow Mews, the street round the corner that you had seen that black truck in several times.

Standing outside the front door of Magnus' apartment building, Edward went into one of his trances. According to him, he managed to see up the stairs and into Magnus' apartment, and have a look round the place. He could find no sign of anything being disturbed while you had been out.

You all eventually entered the apartment and had a look round. Magnus noticed a round 'clean' patch on the outside of one of the windows he had always intended to get round to cleaning. Joe recognised it as exactly the same sort of patch he had seen on one of the windows at Wilkes Cottage.

Joe had decided to wear Loretta's tiara on the way back to the apartment, and still hadn't taken it off. Although it was a bit stupid, you had to admit that he actually looked quite good in it. Now you were up in Magnus' you urged him to hand it over, and he did so without a second thought.

Magnus prised out the ruby and handed it round, and you all had a good look at it. Edward studies it in that old Tibetan way of his and decided it was like looking at the world through rose tinted spectacles (not just literally). He decided that part of Loretta's seeming attractiveness was down to the gem. Although noticing the effect the gems tended to have on others, it did not seem to effect Edward.

You had a free and frank exchange of views about who should look after the gems, and eventually went to bed, Damon looking after the amethyst as he had done for some time now, and Magnus hid the ankh and the ruby in that special place of his in his room.

15/10/36

In the morning, you woke up feeling fitter and refreshed. Edward went for an early morning constitutional, to clear his head for the coming meditation and to keep an eye out for that black truck. Joe and Damon went to a cafe that Magnus recommended, for a big breakfast.

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Edward settled down to meditate on the bottom space of the ankh, and exerted himself, pushing his mind as far as he dared. He saw a vision of rolling green hills and dells, the picture of the idyllic English countryside. He could feel it was somewhere in the west of England. The vision of a GWR train steaming through the scene, confirmed this for him. But despite all his efforts, Edward was not able to focus in any closer onto the gem. Anxious to get closer to the source, to aid his meditation, he announced it was time to go to Bath.

During his trance, Damon, bored, had been playing silly tricks on Edward, which had annoyed the more mature Dr. Magnus.

So you agreed that if Edward wanted you to go to Bath, then that is where you would go. Milling around Paddington, waiting for your train, you spotted the monkey/pigeon/dwarf that had been watching you at the British Museum. Joe sloped off while Edward and Magnus acted as a distraction. (Damon had gone off for some reason, at this point, anyway.) The man saw Joe coming and made a break for it, but Joe managed to waylay him, and drag him into the loo. It turns out he was not a monkey or a pigeon, but just a short bloke. They met Damon just coming out of the loo, who agreed to stand guard.

Joe used his many years experience of bullying and flushing people's heads down loos, to intimidate the guy into talking. The man admitted his name was Eric Challis, and that he had been paid to spy on you by none other than... Winstanley Malvern Hedges. Joe left him trussed up, gagged and tied to the bog, and posted an 'Out of Order' sign on the cubicle door.

On the train you noticed that Damon was behaving a bit more manic than usual, and was not always entirely intelligible. You got to Bath Spa by about 2pm and decided not to waste your day, and did a few touristy things around the baths. Magnus managed to get a box for the opera, that night, too. You went to a hotel that Magnus often used, and he seemed to be great friends with most of the staff and some of the guests.

So some of you spent the evening watching Lohengrin, and some resting (or 'collecting numbers') at the hotel. Dr. Magnus felt the urge to stand up in the middle of an aria, and sing along to it, for which he got a mixed response from the audience, though the cast were not so pleased.

16/10/36

In the morning, Edward felt ready to look into the ankh once more. It was not long (in his mind, at least) until he had a clear picture of the thatched roofs of a Dorset village, and the name Anbury on a station sign. He followed a trail towards a cottage and into 'The Olde Vicarage.' The name plate on the door stated 'Prof. Reginald Lucas.' Behind the door he saw an old man talking on the telephone and writing on a notepad. The man took a piece of paper from his pocket and unwrapped a green gem. Then the vision faded.

When Edward had told of his vision, Dr. Magnus announced that he knew of Prof Lucas. He had been eminent in his field, medieval history, but had suddenly, some years ago, decided to leave academia and dedicate his life to charity.

So you headed to the station and took the next train to Anbury, arriving there without incident. You were standing on the southbound platform, and Magnus and Edward got a brief glimpse of the northbound platform, just as the northbound train pulled in. And who should be standing there but Prof. Lucas.

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You rushed across the tracks and managed to hop onto the train just as it was pulling out of the station. You got into the rear the carriage, and the first compartment you checked contained the professor and an old lady.

Joe soon got rid of the old lady just by skillful use of body language, and you were left alone with th professor. Magnus introduced himself and flattered the man, a bit. And he was suitably impressed. You mentioned the gem, and he said that it was strange after all this time but you were the second people to have asked about it today. Lucas explained that he had been offered 2000 guineas for it just that morning by a Lord Brockhyrst. And he was jolly pleased as this would ensure the financial future of his charity Help for Wayward Lads.

He showed you the gem, a large emerald, unwrapping it from a crumpled piece of paper, which you examined. It was a letter from Major Wilkes:

Dear Sir,

As you are no doubt aware, I have returned from some degree of misfortune in Egypt. I am sure you have heard rumour and gossip of my time there. I do not intend to elucidate upon the actuality, here. But, I am now in possession of certain historical artefacts. As I emphatically do not wish these items to be recovered, and as I cannot bring myself to destroy them, I would ask a favour of you. I would ask you to undertake it in all earnest and with a solemn promise to carry out my wishes.

It is a simple matter. This stone should never come to light. It may be valuable, some may offer you many times what you might think it should be worth, but I trust you never to sell it. Simply keep it hidden, and in this way, the events of my expedition in Egypt can never be repeated. I do not explain myself, and I am sure you must be curious, but I implore you to trust me and to act upon my wishes.

Yours with great faith,

Howard Wilkes, Maj. (retd)

Damon offered to write Lucas a cheque for 2000 guineas for the gem there and then, an offer which he readily accepted on behalf of wayward lads everywhere. At that moment, however, you heard a loud noise as if something had landed on top of the carriage, above you. Then you heard two or three similar, but more distant, bumps. Some of you managed to crane your necks and look up through the windows and caught sight of what might have been a short, black wing, like that of a small aircraft, perched above you on the roof.

A few moments later some sort of black-clad, swastika-bedecked soldier, with folded up wings on his back marched into the corridor of the train and took a look in your compartment. It was clear there was going to be a firefight. Magnus drew his weapon. The nazi fired a shot, which ripped through Damon's cheque, destroying it. Damon drew his guns. Joe dived on top of the professor. It was not clear whether this was to protect him, but soon he began trying to wrest his grip from the emerald. Edward went into a peaceful trance to look around the train to see if there were any more of the things coming for you.

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A mad exchange of gunfire in the cramped conditions had bullets flying all around you. Most of you were hit with minor grazes. Despite Joe's strength and age advantage he had trouble prising the emerald from Lucas' fingers, until Lucas was hit by a stray bullet, and relaxed his grip. Edward used his mind to try to get the nazis to surrender, but they were strong enough to withstand his suggestions. Magnus killed a couple of the nazis; Damon killed one. The last one managed to escape out of one of the windows and fly off.

In the aftermath of the fight, you inspected the strange wings of the nazi flying squad. You could not find much clue to their identities except their equipment had instructions written in German. You decided that it would be worth keeping this stuff, and that maybe one day, you would be able to fly, too.

You also saw to your wounds and especially Lucas', who recovered quite quickly. He asked if you would still be willing to purchase the emerald. Damon agreed and began to write a cheque for a pound, to Joe, who by now, had the emerald safely in the palm of his hand.