

THE HASTINGS TIMES

BBC Television for Schools

A Look and Read Book

The King's Dragon

by Richard Carpenter





The illustrations are by Dennis Reader

CHAPTER ONE

Boy finds message



My name is Jack Dunbar. I am the editor of a newspaper called *The Hastings Times*. It's my job to run the newspaper and to see that it gets printed every week.

The Hastings Times tells you all about the things that happen in the town of Hastings.

It's all in *The Hastings Times*.

The reporters who work for me on this newspaper have to get all this news.

They have to ask lots of questions.

The best way to find out things is to ask questions.

It's a reporter's job to ask people questions.

Reporters write down what they find out.

They call this "copy".

It's my job to see that their "copy" gets printed in *The Hastings Times*.

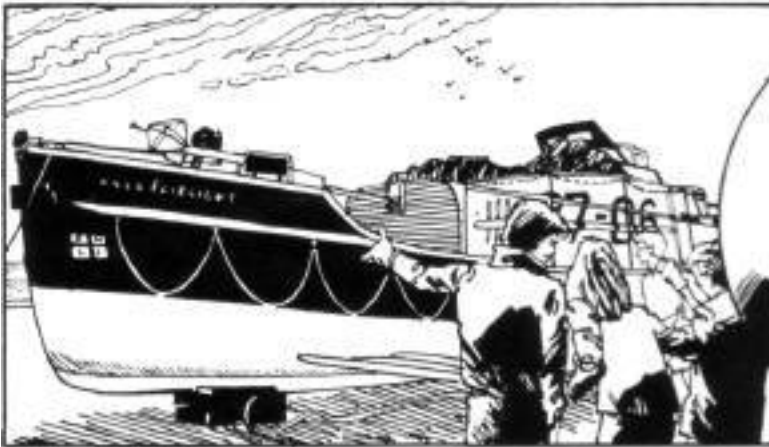
It's also my job to say which page the "copy" is printed on and how big the print is to be.

So, you see, the editor of a newspaper has a lot to do.

Ann Mills is one of my reporters
She has not been
a reporter for long.
About six weeks ago,
Ann went off to the Old Town
to get a story
for *The Hastings Times*.



About six weeks ago,
Ann went off to the Old Town...



BANG! BANG!

It was the signal for the big life-boat to put to sea.

Ann ran to the life-boat.

Stan West was there with his grandson, Billy.

Stan was a fisherman. He was also one of the life-boat men.

The life-boat went off to save a motor-boat.

Billy showed Ann a page of
The Hastings Times.

Words had been cut out of it.

'I found it this morning,'
said Billy.



'Do you think the words have been cut out to make a message?'

'I don't know, Billy,' said Ann.

'I read a story about people who sent a message that way,' said Billy, 'They didn't want anyone to know who had sent it.'

'But those words may not make a message,' said Ann.

'How can I find out which words have been cut out?' said Billy.

'If you put this page over another copy of the same page, you will find out,' said Ann.

'Where can I get another copy?' said Billy.

'At *The Hastings Times*,' said Ann.

So Billy got another copy of the newspaper. He put his page on top of it. Then he saw which words had been cut out.

He cut out the same words.



So Billy got another copy of the newspaper

know We you have
ON DRAG King's the

He worked out the message.

'We know you have the King's Dragon,' he read.

What did the message mean? Who knew?

Who had the King's Dragon and *what was it?*

Questions at the castle

Ann was hard at work on her "copy" when I called her in to see me.

'Some archaeologists have started a new "dig" up at the castle,' I told her.

'I want you to write about it for the Children's Page.

You know the sort of thing. What is archaeology?

How can it help us to find out about the past?

What sort of things do archaeologists dig up?

Oh, and by the way, ask why they stopped the "dig" at Battle.'

Ann left to go to the castle.

At about the same time,

a tall man, who was a stranger to Hastings, was out walking by the sea.

He was smoking a pipe. The tall man

went up to Stan West's fishing-boat, *The King Harold*.

Stan and Billy were hard at work.

'Good morning,' said the man. 'My name is Carter. I'm looking for the Hastings Motor-boat Club.'

'Go past the net huts,' said Stan,

'and past the Fishermen's Museum. It's on the left.'

Then Billy saw a car taking a big motor-boat past the net huts
'That boat looks as if it can go,' said Billy.
'Yes it can,' said the tall man. It was his boat!



Ann went up to the castle.
The archaeologists were
hard at work, digging.
Ann went over to them.

'Good morning,' said Ann.
'I'm from *The Hastings Times*.
I want to write about archaeology
and about your "dig"
for our Children's Page.'



'I see,' said a man.
'Well, this is Miss Wood from the Museum of Archaeology,
and my name is Clive Manning —'

'And we have a lot of work to do,' Miss Wood interrupted
Miss Wood went on working very hard.

'You must not mind her/ said Clive Manning.
'Her work is very important to her.'

'I understand,' said Ann.
'But you are an archaeologist too.
You can tell me. Why do you dig?'

'To find out about the past,'
said Clive Manning.

'Sometimes we find things.'

'What sort of things?' said Ann.
She was making notes.

'Oh, the things people had
in their houses long ago.
The things they used in their work.
The things their children had.
When archaeologists dig something up,
they try to find out what it was used for
and how old it is.'

'Do you know how old this castle is?' said Ann.

'It was begun after the Battle of Hastings in 1066,'
said Clive. 'We call it the Battle of Hastings,
but it took place some miles away.'

T know, at Battle,' said Ann.

'Yes, that's why the town is called Battle,' said Clive.
'We had an important "dig" there some time ago.'

'Why did you stop digging at Battle?' said Ann.



'Because I wanted to dig here!'
Miss Wood interrupted.
She looked frightened and upset.



Ann left the castle.

Why had Miss Wood been so frightened by her questions?
Ann went to her car. Billy came up to her.

'I worked out that newspaper message,' he said.
'I could show you where I found it.
I think it could be important.'

'Oh all right,' Ann said. 'Show me where you found it.'
She did not think the message was important,
but she liked Billy.

They went to the house.
The house looked empty but the door was open.

'The newspaper came from in there.
There was someone inside that house,' said Billy.



Inside the house, Billy found another newspaper.
There were rings round some of the words.

'Look!' said Billy. 'The words haven't been cut out yet!'
There was a sound outside. Someone was behind the door!



As Billy opened the door, a man ran off.
Ann ran after him. But the man got away.

'I would know him if I saw him again,' said Billy.

'Good,' said Ann. 'Look, can I have
the message you worked out and all the other things?'

Billy gave her everything.

Ann had to go to the Flower Show,
so Billy began to go back to his Grandad's boat

He was near the caves
when he saw Miss Wood.
She dropped her bag.
Billy would have picked it up,
but Miss Wood stopped him.

'Go away! Go away!' she said



At the Hastings Motor-boat Club,
Mr Carter was called to the telephone.
He listened for a few seconds.
Then he said, 'A reporter! Are you sure?'



What is King's Dragon?



At the Flower Show,
Ann was asking questions.
She was making lots of notes. Mr Day was there.
Mr Day worked at the Hastings Museum. He was the curator.
Then Ann saw Clive Manning.
Mr Day and Clive Manning started to talk about archaeology
Mr Day asked why Miss Wood had stopped her dig at Battle,
but Clive said that he did not know.

Ann wanted to get back to *The Hastings Times*.
She wanted to work out the new message
which she and Billy had found.
She put the newspaper on her desk.
Then she wrote down the words with rings round them.

running out of
you time are

Ann started to work out the message.

'You are running out of time,' it read.

What did it mean? Who was running out of time?

Then she looked at the first message.

Who had the King's Dragon? Ann made up her mind.

She was going to take the two messages to the police station

Ann's car would not start.

Mr Carter came up behind her.

He asked if he could help,

but Ann knew all about cars.

She soon got her car going again.



Ann did not see Mr Carter take the messages from her car

She could not go to the police station without them.

She had nothing to show the police.

She had no proof that she had found anything at all.

But from now on, she would keep an eye open

for a tall man smoking a pipe!



Ann went to look for Billy West.

She found him beside *The King Harold*.

'Hello, Ann,' said Billy,
'did you work out that second message?'

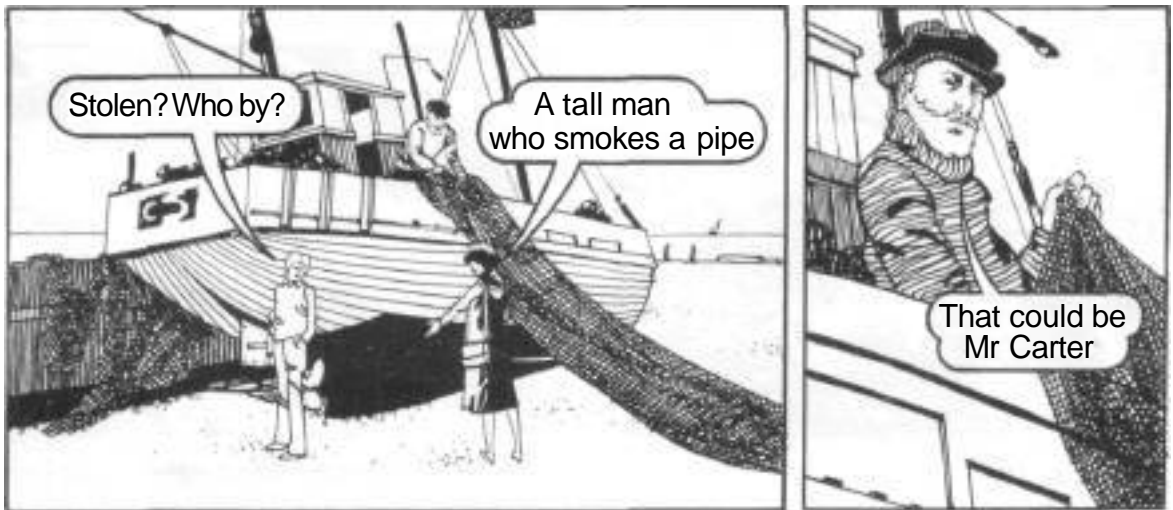
'Yes. It said, "You are running out of time",' said Ann.
'Then the messages were stolen from my car.'

'Stolen? Who by?' said Billy.

'A tall man who smokes a pipe!' said Ann.

'A tall man who smokes a pipe!'

That could be Mr Carter,' said Stan.



'Who is Mr Carter?' asked Ann.

'He has come down to Hastings to do some fishing.
He has got a big new motor-boat,' said Billy.

'But why would he want to steal those messages?'

'I don't know,' said Ann.

'It would help if we knew what the King's Dragon was.'

'I can ask the other fishermen, if you like,' said Billy.

'No thanks, Billy,' said Ann.

'I don't want to say anything about it yet.

But I would like you to keep an eye on this Mr Carter.

See what you can find out about him/

Ann went to the library to see if she could find out anything about the King's Dragon.

She could not find anything in the books.

But someone must know what it was



At the castle. Miss Wood stopped digging.

She went back to her cottage in the Old Town.

Someone had been there. Her things were all over the room.

Someone had been looking for something.

There was another newspaper message.

We will Stop at NOTHING ■
you have until
tomorrow ■

Miss Wood in danger?



Miss Wood was very frightened.

Then Clive Manning came into the cottage.

'Who did this?' he asked.

'I don't know,' said Miss Wood.

'I found the door open when I came back.'

'You must go to the police,' said Clive.

'Oh no, not the police!' said Miss Wood.

Clive saw the newspaper message in Miss Wood's hand.

'What is that?' he asked.

'Nothing,' said Miss Wood.

'Look, if you are in some sort of danger, why not tell me?'

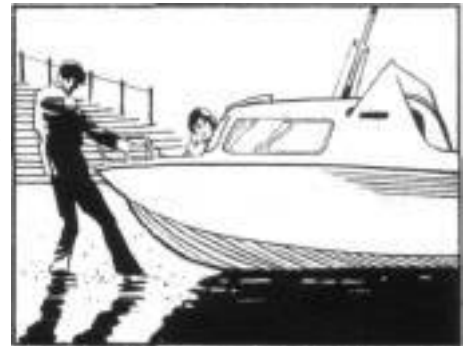
I will help if I can,' said Clive.

'I'm not in any danger and I don't want any help,' said Miss Wood, but she knew that she had to get away. She must go to London in the morning. She asked Clive to get her a taxi.

'But what about the "dig"?' asked Clive. 'Do you want me to carry on with it?'

'Yes! Yes! But do stop asking questions,' said Miss Wood 'Get that taxi here in good time. There is a train at ten tomorrow morning. I want to be on it.'

While Miss Wood was packing her bags to go to London, Mr Carter came back from his fishing. Billy was keeping an eye on him. Billy did his best to follow him, but Mr Carter gave him the slip.



The next day, Ann could not stop thinking about the King's Dragon, so at last she came to see me.

'I think I'm on to a big story,' she said. She told me about the two messages made out of words from the newspaper,



"We know you have the King's Dragon" and
"You are running out of time".

I asked to see the messages.

'They were stolen from my car,' said Ann.

'Who by?' I asked.

'I think a tall man who smokes a pipe took them,' said Ann.

'There are lots of tall men who smoke pipes in Hastings,'
I said. 'Did you *see* him take the messages?'

'Well, no,' said Ann. 'I think
he did something to my car, because it wouldn't start.
I think he took the messages while I was getting it to go.'

'You *think* he took them!
You *think* he did something
to your car!' I said.

'Ann, this story is
as full of holes as a fisherman's net.
As editor of this newspaper, I want facts.
Facts, Ann! Now go to the Museum
and ask Mr Day about
his Battle of Hastings exhibition.

I want "copy", not talk!



I knew that Ann was upset, but she was a good reporter
and she got on with her job.

She was about to go off in her car
when Billy came running up.

'Have you found out what the King's Dragon is?' he asked.

'No,' said Ann, 'but I'm going to.
Have you been keeping an eye on Mr Carter?'
'I followed him yesterday,' said Billy.
'I think he knew, because he gave me the slip.'

It was time for Miss Wood to go to the station.
What was she running away from? Was she in danger?
The taxi took her to Hastings Station.
'Can I help you?' said a man.
It was Mr Carter!



Mr Day helps with story

Mr Carter picked up Miss Wood's bags and they went into the station.

Miss Wood went to get her ticket.

But when she looked round,

Mr Carter had gone and so had her bags!



At the Museum, Ann looked for Mr Day, the curator, who had talked to her at the Flower Show.

He was working in the big exhibition room.

Mr Day and Ann walked round the exhibition.

Ann began to ask Mr Day questions about the Battle of Hastings.

He told her that many people came to the Hastings Museum to see things from the battle,

but that very few things had ever been found.

'We *think* we know a lot about it,' said Mr Day, 'but we haven't many *facts*.

In this exhibition we try to tell the story of the battle,

and we try to keep to the facts.'

Suddenly, Ann stopped.

She looked at something in the exhibition.

She looked at it for a long time . . .

'That's King Harold,' said Mr Day,
'and that's the king's dragon-banner.'

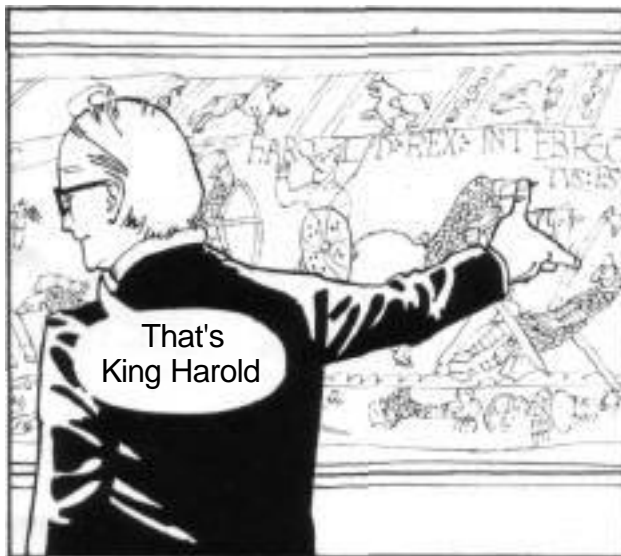
'What did you say?' said Ann.

'The . . . king's dragon-banner,' said Mr Day again.

'The king's — dragon — banner?' said Ann very slowly.

'Yes,' said Mr Day.

'The King's Dragon?' said Ann.



Ann was sure that she was on to something important.

Perhaps Mr Day knew more about the King's Dragon?

She asked him lots of questions about it.

Mr Day smiled. He told Ann to wait a second.

He looked in an old book
and found a story.

He told Ann all about it.

'Long ago people made
lots of things from gold,'
said Mr Day.

'They made arm-rings of gold.

This story tells of

a gold arm-ring worn by King Harold.

It was made like a dragon.

People called it "the King's Dragon".'

'So the King's Dragon was a gold arm-ring,' said Ann.

'Yes, perhaps,' said Mr Day.

'But it's never been found?' said Ann.

'No. It's just a *story*, not a fact,' said Mr Day.

'If an archaeologist dug it up,' said Ann,
'it *would* be a fact.'

'If it was dug up, it would be a very important fact,'
said Mr Day. 'What a find!

The gold arm-ring worn by King Harold
at the Battle of Hastings!

The King's Dragon!'

Ann was thinking hard. Miss Wood was an archaeologist.
Did she know anything about the dragon arm-ring?

Was it just a story? Or had Miss Wood found it?

Ann knew that she must talk to Miss Wood.

She had a lot of questions to ask her!



Carter got out of a taxi at Miss Wood's cottage
in the Old Town.

He rang the bell.

Clive Manning opened the door!

'Well, Uncle, how did it go?' he asked.

'Very well, Clive my boy,' said Carter.

'In fact you could say that the King's Dragon is "in the bag".'



Greed for gold!



Mr Carter and Clive took Miss Wood's bags into the cottage.

Clive got them open.

'It's not here,' he said.

His uncle was sure that the King's Dragon was still in the cottage. But Clive was frightened.

He had seen Miss Wood find the arm-ring.

He had sent her the newspaper messages.

Perhaps she would come back to the cottage with the police.

His uncle got very angry with him.

'I am going to have the King's Dragon,' he said.

'I'm going to get it somehow.'

'Why did I ever tell you about it?'

said Clive.

'Because you are greedy, Clive,'

said his uncle.

'Everyone is greedy!

You were greedy when you found out that Miss Wood had the arm-ring, and I said I would pay you well for it.



I am greedy because I can sell it to a very rich man,
who is just as greedy as I am! Greedy for a gold arm-ring !
Greedy for the King's Dragon!

But Carter and Clive could not find it in the cottage.

Ann went up to the
castle



Ann went up to the castle.

She should have gone back to *The Hastings Times*,
but she wanted to talk to Miss Wood.

If Miss Wood had found the King's Dragon,
the newspaper messages must have been for her.
Miss Wood could be in danger!



Ann could not find Miss Wood at the castle.

'Do you know where she is staying?' she asked.

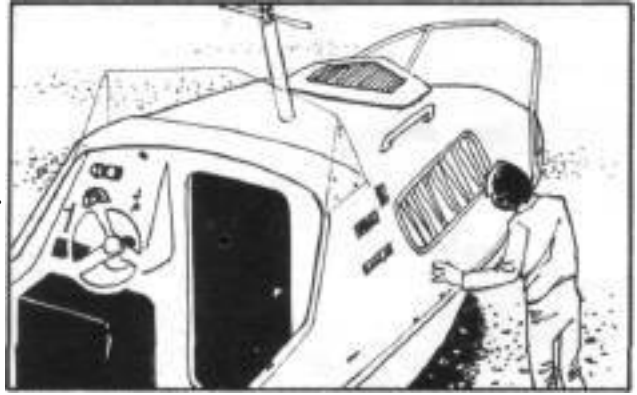
'She has a cottage in the Old Town, I think,' said someone.

'Stan West would know. He found it for her.'

Down by the boats, Stan West was looking for his grandson, Billy.

Stan wanted to go fishing, but Billy was taking a good look at Carter's boat. Then he listened.

There was a mewling sound. A kitten had been shut in the cabin.



He got a hatch open but the kitten would not come out.

'Don't be frightened,' said Billy, 'I can soon get you out of there.'

So Billy went into the cabin and started to look for the kitten

Ann ran up to Stan West just as *The King Harold* was putting to sea.

'Oh, Stan, where is Miss Wood staying?' she asked.

Stan told her. Then he asked if she had seen Billy.

'No,' said Ann.

So Stan went fishing without Billy.

Billy was still in the cabin of Carter's boat.

He had found the kitten, but what was that box?

It was full of gold things!

Billy took a good look at them.

Had they been stolen? He knew that he must tell Ann.



In the cottage, Carter told Clive what he wanted him to do,
'Stay here and wait for Miss Wood. Keep your head.
Everything will be all right,' he said.

Carter left the cottage
and began going down the steps to his boat.
At the same time, Ann was coming up the steps!
Carter saw her and ran back to the cottage.

'That reporter is coming !' he told Clive.

Clive ran to the door but Carter grabbed his arm.
'I want to find out what she knows!'
he said.



Editor asks for proof!

Ann walked up to the door of Miss Wood's cottage. She rang the bell.

'Let her in, Clive,' said Carter.

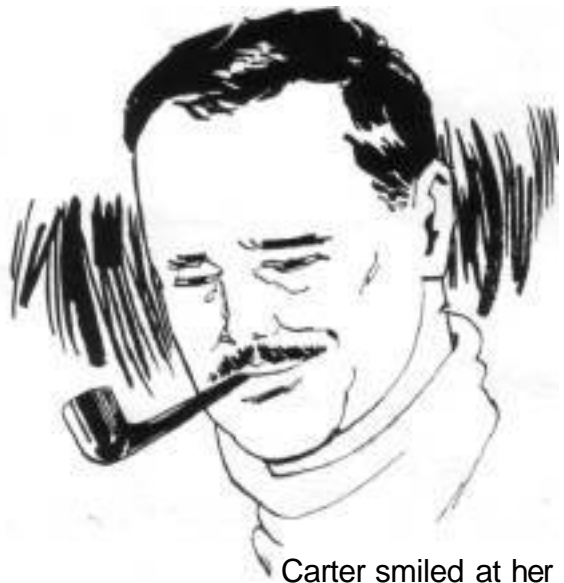
'Is that boy with her?' Clive asked Carter.

Clive was frightened. He told his uncle that Billy had seen him in the empty house. This made his uncle very angry.

Ann rang the bell again. Clive opened the door. Suddenly Ann saw Carter. He was in the cottage with Clive! Carter smiled at her. He was the man who had stolen the newspaper messages!



Clive opened the door



Carter smiled at her

Then Ann saw Miss Wood's bags on the floor. They were open.

'Do you know where Miss Wood is?' asked Ann.

'You could try the Museum of Archaeology,' said Clive.

T have to telephone her soon about the dig.

Have you a message for her?'

Clive wanted to find out how much Ann knew.

T will telephone her myself,' said Ann.

'Messages sometimes get lost, don't they, Mr Carter?'

Carter knew which messages Ann was talking about!

But he did not try to stop her when she left the cottage.

Ann ran down the steps. She found Billy by her car.

Billy told her about the box full of gold things on Carter's boat.

'Billy, the King's Dragon could be an arm-ring made of gold,' said Ann. 'Did you see anything like that on the boat? Anything like a dragon?'

'No,' said Billy.

'I think Miss Wood found it when she was digging at Battle,' Ann went on. 'but I can't find her.

Carter and Clive Manning are at her cottage.

They say she has gone to London, but her bags are still there.'

'Shouldn't we go to the police?' said Billy.

'I'm going to tell my editor everything,' said Ann.



Billy told her about the box full of gold things on Carter's boat

'You keep an eye on the cottage.
Telephone me if you see Miss Wood
If she goes anywhere, follow her!'

Ann went off in her car.
Billy ran up the steps
to keep an eye on the cottage.



When Ann got back to *The Hastings Times*,
she found a note on her desk. It was from me

A photograph of a handwritten note on a piece of paper. The text reads: "I want to see you. J. Dunbar." The note is written in cursive and has a horizontal line drawn across the bottom.

Ann came to see me.

'Where have you been?' I asked.

'I have been finding out about the King's Dragon,'
said Ann. 'I know what it is. It's—'

I interrupted her. I was very angry.

I told Ann that she was not doing her job as a reporter,

'Ann,' I said. 'If you have a story for me,
go and write it down!!!'

So Ann wrote down what she had found out so far.
I read Ann's story.

Billy West found a message.

'We know you have the King's Dragon.'

Billy and I found another message,

'You are running out of time.'

A man called Carter took the messages
from my car.

Mr. Day told me a story.

King Harold had a gold dragon arm-ring.

Is this the King's Dragon of the message?

Miss Wood stopped the dig at Battle.

She was upset when I asked her why.

Billy West has seen a box of gold things
on Carter's boat.

Carter and Clive Manning
are in Miss Wood's cottage.

They say that she has gone to London,
but her bags are still there.

Has Miss Wood found the King's Dragon?

Where is she?

Where is the King's Dragon?

'It won't do, Ann,' I said. 'There are very few *facts*.
You have no proof. Now I will ask you a question.

If Miss Wood did find this arm-ring,
why didn't she tell anyone?'

'I don't know,' said Ann, 'but I think—'

I was still very angry with Ann. 'You have very few facts!
I want proof,' I said.

'If you come in here with Miss Wood *and* the King's Dragon,
then you will have a story and I will print it!'

Down in the Old Town,
Clive and his uncle left the cottage,
and Billy saw them go.

Clive was the man he had seen in the empty house!
He saw them walk away. So did Miss Wood!



Run-round in Old Town

Billy was about to follow the men,
when he saw Miss Wood.
But she did not go into her cottage.
So Billy began to follow her.

Ann had found a story about the "dig" at Battle
in an old copy of *The Hastings Times*.

BATTLE DIG STOPS

**Miss Wood, the archaeologist said yesterday that
nothing important had been found. She will begin
digging at the castle very soon. This will not be
her first Dig in Hastings. Ten years ago she worked
with other archaeologists at the caves.**

Ann came to see me again.

'I think the King's Dragon could be in the caves,' she said.
'Miss Wood did some work at the caves ten years ago,
so she must know them well, and I think—'

I interrupted her.

'Stop thinking!' I said.

'I don't want to tell you again,
Miss Mills.

Stop all this talk about dragons
and *write your copy*'



Ann was waiting for Billy to telephone about Miss Wood.

Billy was still following Miss Wood.

She was going to the caves!

Billy had to telephone Ann!

He ran as fast as he could to a telephone box.

Clive Manning was there!



Clive Manning was there!



Clive could see that Billy wanted to telephone someone.
Who was it? Was it Ann Mills or was it the police?
Clive was going to find out.

Billy saw Clive coming towards him, and ran away.
Clive ran after Billy, but Billy gave him the slip.
He looked for another telephone box.

At last he found one! The telephone rang and rang.

'Come on! Come on!' said Billy.

'Ann Mills,' said Ann at last.

'Ann, it's Billy. Miss Wood is still in Hastings.

She has gone to the caves.

Oh, and that man who was at the cottage with Carter .

'Clive Manning,' said Ann.



' . . . he is the man I saw in the empty house.
He ran off when we found the messages.'

'So Clive sent them,' said Ann.

'It looks like it,' said Billy.

'I will see you at the caves!'

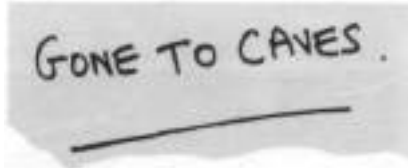
Billy left the telephone box and ran back to the caves
He did not know that Clive Manning
had listened to everything.

Billy followed Miss Wood into the caves.
Clive saw them go!



Archaeologist digs again!

Ann wanted to go to the caves to talk to Miss Wood.
She had a lot of work to do,
but it would have to wait.
She wrote a note and left it on her desk.



Ann left in a hurry.
She knew that Carter and Clive Manning
would be looking for Miss Wood.

There were so many ways to go in the caves
As Billy followed Miss Wood,
he was thinking.
He had seen Miss Wood
near the caves before . . .
there had been something gold
in her bag.

The King's Dragon!
She had come to get it.
It must be in the caves . . .



Suddenly Miss Wood began to hurry away.
Billy followed her.
Deeper and deeper into the caves she went,
with Billy still behind her.
Miss Wood knew the caves very well.
At last she stopped and began to dig.
Then Billy saw something in her hands.
She held it up. A gold arm-ring!
It was the King's Dragon!



Billy took a step towards Miss Wood.
He wanted a good look at it.
'Who is there?' called Miss Wood.
She saw Billy and began to run away.
'Miss Wood, come back!' called Billy.

He did his best to keep up with her.
Miss Wood ran out of the caves.
Suddenly, there was Clive Manning right in front of her

He grabbed the gold arm-ring
from her hands.
Off went Clive
with the arm-ring.
Billy went after Clive.
He was going to stop him somehow.



Miss Wood left the caves. She was very upset.
The King's Dragon had gone,
and there was nothing she could do.
Then she saw Ann.

'Where is the King's Dragon, Miss Wood?' asked Ann.

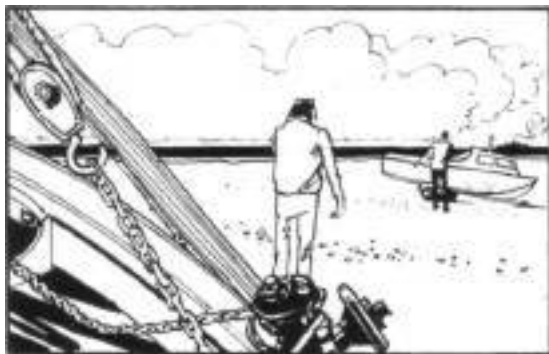
'Clive has taken it,' said Miss Wood.

'Where is Billy West?' asked Ann.

'The boy? I don't know,' said Miss Wood.

'I think he went after Clive.'

Billy had followed Clive. He saw that he was going to the Hastings Motor-boat Club. He knew that Carter's motor-boat was there and that there was a box full of gold things in the cabin. Ann and Miss Wood got to the car and started off for the Old Town.



'Why didn't you tell anyone about the King's Dragon?' Ann asked Miss Wood.

'No-one had ever found anything like it before. I had to be sure. It could have been a fake.'

'Are you sure it isn't a fake?' asked Ann.

'Yes. It's the best thing I have ever found,'
said Miss Wood. 'Then the messages began.'

'Why didn't you go to the police about them?' asked Ann,

'Oh, I ... I was too frightened,' said Miss Wood.

'That's why Clive sent the messages!' said Ann.

Billy saw Clive go up to Carter's boat.

It was time to tell the police! He started to go.

Carter was right behind him!



Banner headlines!

Billy had not seen Carter behind him.

'Hello, Billy-boy,' said Carter. 'Why are you here?'

Billy could not get away.

He could not go to the police.

There was no-one to help him.

Clive ran up from the boat.

He still had the King's Dragon in his hands.

'What are we going to do with him?' asked Clive.

'We will take him with us,' said Carter.

'If you are good, Billy-boy,
you will come back with us.'



Billy knew that he must do as he was told.
The two men took him to the boat
and shut him in the cabin.

Out at sea, Billy started to look for
something in the cabin.

Something which he knew should be on every boat . . .

His Granddad, Stan West,
was at sea near Carter's boat.
He was on *The King Harold*,
putting out his nets . . .



Billy found what he was looking for.

It was a smoke flare. All boats carry flares.

They can be let off if the boat is in danger.

Flares can be seen for miles.

Billy opened the hatch and got out of the cabin

He let off the smoke flare.



Up went the smoke!

Carter was so angry that he stopped the boat and grabbed at Billy. Billy slipped and fell. He went over the side into the sea.

Lots of people in Hastings had seen the smoke flare. Stan had seen the flare too.

WAH-WAH! WAH-WAH!

It was the danger signal. The life-boat soon put to sea.



The sea took Billy away from the boat.

'We have got to go back for him!' said Clive.

'No,' said Carter.

Clive picked up the King's Dragon.

'Save the boy, or this goes into the sea!'

'Put it down, Clive,' said Carter.



'Go back for the boy!'

'Never,' said Carter.

Clive gave a cry and sent the King's Dragon spinning into the sea.

'I'm going to get you, Clive/ said Carter.

'I'm going to get you for that!'

But Clive went over the side to save Billy.

Carter started the boat and left them in the sea.



On *The King Harold*, Stan saw Carter's motor-boat coming towards him.

'No!' called Stan. 'You will hit the nets!'

Carter's boat hit Stan's nets. It stopped.

Carter was not going anywhere for a long time!

The life-boat picked up Billy and Clive.

When the life-boat got back,
Ann and Miss Wood saw that Billy was safe.

'The King's Dragon has gone,' said Billy.

'You are a lot more important than the King's Dragon,'
said Ann.

'I threw it into the sea,' said Clive.

'He did it to make Carter stop the boat.

He went over the side to save me,' said Billy.

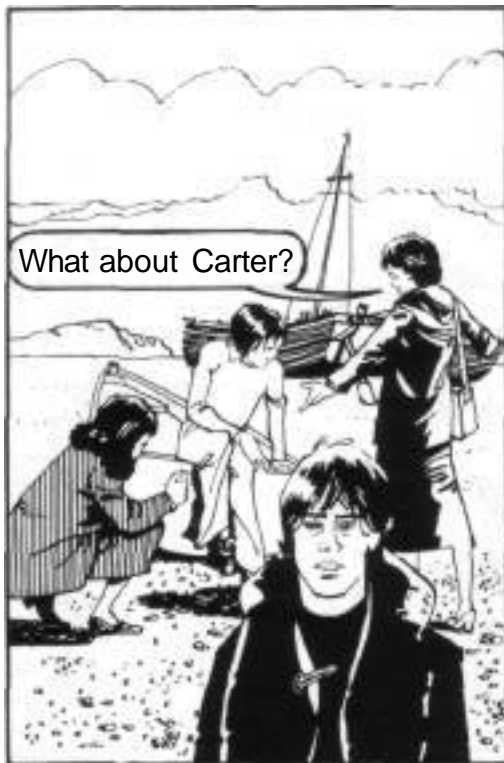
'I want to tell the police everything,' said Clive.

'What about Carter?' asked Ann,

'Grandad has got him,' said Billy,

'and his boat. He went into the nets.

Wait until the police see the box full of gold things on his boat!'



By that time I had got there. Ann came up to me.

'Well, Mr Dunbar,' said Ann,
'the King's Dragon is lost,
but I think I have a story you will print.'

She had! It made banner headlines in *The Hastings Times*.

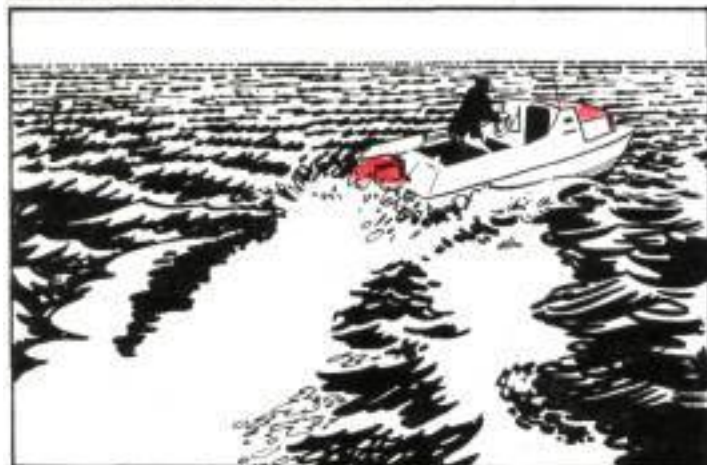
KING'S DRAGON LOST AT SEA

Hastings life-boat
saves again!
Archaeologist tells all

By ANN MILLS

And the King's Dragon? It is at the bottom of the sea,
but Stan West thinks he knows where it is.
Perhaps, one day, it will be found again.





LOOK AND READ

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Spring

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