

DARK ADVENTURE RADIO THEATRE:
DAGON - WAR OF WORLDS

Written by

Sean Branney & Andrew Leman

Based on
"Dagon" & "The Shadow Over Innsmouth"
By H. P. Lovecraft

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SFX: static, radio tuning, snippet of '30s song, more tuning, static dissolves to:

Dark Adventure Radio THEME MUSIC.

ANNOUNCER

Tales of intrigue, adventure, and the mysterious occult that will stir your imagination and make your very blood run cold.

MUSIC CRESCENDO.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

This is Dark Adventure Radio Theatre, with your host Erskine Blackwell. Today's episode: H.P. Lovecraft's "Dagon".

THEME MUSIC DIMINISHES. The sound of OCEAN DEPTHS, perhaps a SONAR PING or the MOURNFUL SONG OF A WHALE.

ERSKINE BLACKWELL

(ominously)

The ocean's imponderable depths contain mysteries far beyond the grasp of mortal men. From the adventurous mariners of ancient times, to simple fishermen of our own New England of yesteryear, mankind has found the seven seas to be both the source of life, and a watery grave. When man seeks to delve too deeply into that abyss, what appalling secrets will rise to the surface? And what will mankind do when faced with the unnamed horrors of the deep?

A few piano notes and the HISS of a soda pop opening introduce BUB-L-PEP.

ERSKINE BLACKWELL (CONT'D)

(brightly)

My friends, in child or adult, a disposition that is easily and often upset, even just slightly, can make everyone feel out of sorts all over. But a sunny smile is usually associated with blooming health.

(MORE)

ERSKINE BLACKWELL (CONT'D)

In millions of homes, Bub-L-Pep is the smile-bringing family drink. Its cheerful, clean-tasting flavor and liveliness boost your good nature, and that scientific splash of lithium keeps the kiddies on an even keel. From Granddad down to the tiny tots, everyone likes it ---

Suddenly, the WVN MORSE CODE signal interrupts the commercial.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen, we interrupt this broadcast to bring you an urgent news story coming in across the wires. Headline: California Ferry Rescue Underway! A ferry boat carrying some 300 passengers across San Francisco Bay has radioed S.O.S. and appears to be in danger of sinking. A Coast Guard rescue ship is being dispatched. We will bring you more information as the situation develops. We now return you to Erskine Blackwell, and Dark Adventure Radio Theatre.

ERSKINE BLACKWELL

(a little flustered)

Now? We're live?... Yes friends, that's Bub-L-Pep. From Granddad down to the tiny tots, everyone likes it, and IT likes EVERYONE. Get a case of Bub-L-Pep today! Invite the family to sip it... taste it. Drink it slowly and notice that peppy effect, its complete satisfaction of your taste and thirst. Keep them smiling with Bub-L-Pep. The L is for lithium.

BUB-L-PEP SINGERS

(singing)

Drink Bub-L-Pep! It'll quench your nerves!
Drink Bub-L-Pep! What a good host serves!
That's Bub-L-Pep! Let us pour you some!
The L is for lithium-yum-yum!

TRANSITION MUSIC.

ERSKINE BLACKWELL
 And now Dark Adventure Radio
 Theatre presents H.P. Lovecraft's
 "Dagon."

2 BEGINNING

2

The LAPPING OF WAVES.

CLARK

(an intellectual junkie)
 I am writing this under an
 appreciable mental strain, since by
 tonight I shall be no more.
 Penniless, and at the end of my
 supply of the drug which alone
 makes life endurable, I can bear
 the torture no longer; and shall
 cast myself from this garret window
 into the squalid street below. Do
 not think from my slavery to
 morphine that I am a weakling or a
 degenerate. When you have read
 these hastily scrawled pages you
 may guess, though never fully
 realize, why it is that I must have
 forgetfulness or death. It was in
 one of the most open and least--

Again, the WVN MORSE CODE AND THEME.

NATHAN REED

We interrupt this broadcast to
 bring you a special bulletin on the
 San Francisco Ferry Disaster. This
 is Nathan Reed, with Worldwide
 Wireless News. Ladies and
 gentlemen, less than half an hour
 ago a Southern Pacific Golden Gate
 Ferry boat carrying more than 300
 passengers began to sink in San
 Francisco Bay, a little less than a
 mile north and west of Pier 41 on
 the way to Sausalito. The cause of
 the disaster has not been
 determined. A Coast Guard rescue
 cutter, CG-243, has been dispatched
 from the base at Yerba Buena, and
 is now pulling alongside the
 afflicted vessel. We take you now,
 live, to the scene.

There is an awkward moment of dead air.

NATHAN REED (CONT'D)

Is this thing--

3

PIER 45

3

Suddenly the sound of background HUBBUB, punctuated by the occasional STREETCAR BELL in the distance and SCREECHING GULLS. Walter evokes the tone of Herbert Morrison, the broadcaster who described the Hindenburg disaster.

WALTER DAVIS

This is Walter Davis reporting from Pier 45 in San Francisco. Ladies and gentlemen, I am standing at the northern tip of Fisherman's Wharf. The Southern Pacific ferry boat is not quite a mile away from me now. I have a pair of military-issue field glasses, and they give me a very good view of the situation. I can just make out the name of the vessel now, yes, it's the *Thoroughfare*. A large, white, double-decker sidewheel ferry boat clearly listing to the left, I guess that would be the port side of the ship, yes, I can clearly see the enormous paddle wheel. It's still churning the water although it appears to be moving more slowly than is normal for these boats when they're under way. Definitely listing to the port. This is a large automobile ferry, ladies and gentlemen, transporting hundreds of passengers, automobiles and team-drawn wagons. I can see smoke or steam emerging from the large central smokestack on top of the ship, and the, uh, reciprocating arms of the massive engine are still trying to do their work. I guess they're hoping to right the ship. I can see quite a bit of activity on the upper deck, as the officers and crew are assisting the passengers and equipping them with life belts in case the situation becomes any more serious. The ferry doesn't appear to have lifeboats, but it is equipped with life belts and rings for emergency situations such as this.

(MORE)

WALTER DAVIS (CONT'D)

A few smaller boats, they appear to be some of the local fishermen, are approaching the scene to offer assistance, and I can see them just off to the side. They have to be very careful, ladies and gentlemen, as this ferry boat is large and unstable. A coast guard patrol boat, the CG-243, is alongside the ferry now. It's not a large ship, maybe 75 feet in length. One of the patrol boats that used to fight off the bootleggers. The coast guardsmen appear to be moving up very close now to the *Thoroughfare*. I expect they're going to try to help some of the passengers to transfer over to the CG-243. My oh my, that's going to be tricky.

We can begin to hear SCREAMING IN THE DISTANCE.

Ladies and gentlemen, these ferry boats are usually quite safe and seldom have we seen a need for such a dramatic rescue on the water. The crossing normally takes only 30 minutes or so, and these boats operate all day long in San Francisco's famously cold weather. But the bay's 50 degree waters makes the need for a swift rescue imperative.

In the distance off to my left I can see the enormous towers of the Golden Gate bridge now under construction. When it opens, along with the Oakland Bay bridge that is also near completion, it will surely make any more dangerous boat crossings like this one a thing of the past. Yes, the passengers are moving very quickly now, I can see they are trying to climb over to the CG-243. The *Thoroughfare* is definitely listing quite distinctly now, and beginning to go down at the stern. This is rather alarming, ladies and gentlemen. Some of the men, the male passengers, are simply leaping from the upper deck of the *Thoroughfare* onto the cutter.

(MORE)

WALTER DAVIS (CONT'D)

The ferry's paddle wheel is turning more rapidly now, but it is lifted partly up out of the water and it's throwing a tremendous... wait, wait a minute ladies and gentlemen, I can see there appears to be something happening with one of the small fishing boats nearby. Yes, they have fired up their engine and are moving very rapidly away from the scene now.

The sound of DISTANT SCREAMING is now joined by HUBBUB on the pier, closer to the microphone. Spectators are gathering to watch the drama unfold, and we hear random exclamations from the growing crowd.

WALTER DAVIS (CONT'D)

One of the other fishing boats appears to be... just a moment, can it be? Yes, it appears also now to be sinking! The men on deck are peering over the side, they seem to be jabbing at something in the water with pikestaffs they have on board. Yes, they're moving very rapidly about the deck, the ship is clearly in distress. Ladies and gentlemen, this stretch of water is free from any submerged rocks or other obstacles, and boats of all sizes sail this route constantly. I don't know what could be...

A marked INCREASE IN THE DISTANT SCREAMING and the pier HUBBUB.

WALTER DAVIS (CONT'D)

I can't believe it, ladies and gentlemen, but the small fishing boat appears to be going down. The fishermen are rushing toward the highest part of the boat. The last of the other small fishing boats is speeding away from the scene now, quite quickly, while the passengers on the *Thoroughfare* are still trying to... wait a minute, now I see something else.

PIER SPECTATOR

(off axis)

Look at that! Divers!

WALTER DAVIS

There's quite a crowd growing here on Fisherman's Wharf, ladies and gentlemen, please be patient while I try to... excuse me! Would you mind stepping back please? Yes, thank you. I'm just... I've got a better vantage point now, ladies and gentlemen, and I... I can't see the small fishing boat. Oh my, it seems it might have gone under. Yes, there's splashing there in the water as the men are.... Just a moment, I see... well, they must be divers from the Coast Guard. Yes, Coast Guard frogmen in diving gear are emerging from the water under the *Thoroughfare*. They must have been attempting some underwater repair but it doesn't seem to have been effective because the *Thoroughfare* is sinking rapidly at the stern. The passengers are desperately trying to get onto the CG-243. I can't imagine there will be room for all of them. They're climbing toward the bow, trying to stay out of the frigid water. This is terrible, ladies and gentlemen, I... oh my...

We can begin to hear all the sounds of the distant disaster as Davis describes it.

The automobiles on the lower deck are sliding down, crashing into one another. My lord, ladies and gentlemen, horses, yes, horses hitched to wagons on the ferry are panicking, I can see one now, the creature has clearly broken free from something, he's dragging some pieces of... there's another... dragging pieces of wood behind him, part of a... he's jumped into the water! Oh my, automobiles are now going overboard, I can hear the passengers screaming as panic mounts. Ladies and gentlemen, the Coast Guard divers are beginning to climb aboard the *Thoroughfare*, maybe to.... Wait a moment. Please, madame, step aside! Those aren't Coast Guard divers. They're...

(MORE)

WALTER DAVIS (CONT'D)
 something else. They're not
 helping the passengers, they appear
 to be... attacking!

In the distance, added to the screaming and sirens and
 hubbub, we hear SHOTS FIRED.

WALTER DAVIS (CONT'D)
 Good Lord, ladies and gentlemen, it
 appears that the Coast Guard ship
 is now also in distress! The
 crewmen are moving on the deck.
 They're... good heavens, they're
 arming themselves! They have
 rifles! Passengers are simply
 diving into the water now,
 desperate to escape the ship. Oh
 no! This is terrible! Ladies and
 gentlemen, the *Thoroughfare* has now
 capsized, she's rolled over on her
 starboard side, and is quickly
 going under. The huge paddle wheel
 is still turning, churning the
 water and everything in it! There
 are strangely-clad divers crawling
 over the *Thoroughfare*, and now onto
 the CG-243. I don't know who they
 are, ladies and gentlemen. They
 appear to be wearing strange
 goggles or... I guess they must be
 helmets of some kind, with big
 windows for viewing I suppose, and
 enormous flippers or fins on both
 feet and hands. Ladies and
 gentlemen, now the 243 appears to
 be sinking! It's--

NATHAN REED
 Ladies and gentlemen, we're picking
 up the distress radio transmission
 from the CG-243. We're switching
 live now to that transmission,
 direct from the pilot house of the
 afflicted Coast Guard ship.

DALAGER
 (on radio)
 ...day mayday mayday! I repeat, we
 are under attack and require
 immediate assistance!

DISPATCH OFFICER
 (on radio)
 Calm down, sailor. Who is this?

DALAGER
 Radioman Third Class Neil Dalager,
 aboard CG-243. We are under attack!
 Requesting immediate assistance!

DISPATCH OFFICER
 Mare Island Naval Shipyard is
 responding now. Help is--

DALAGER
 Mare Island! They'll never make it
 in time!

DISPATCH OFFICER
 Where's your commander, son?

DALAGER
 I don't know, sir. Fighting them
 off!

DISPATCH OFFICER
 Fighting who off?

DALAGER
 (trying to be calm)
 I don't know that either sir.
 They're animals of some kind.

DISPATCH OFFICER
 Animals?

DALAGER
 They've attacked a civilian ferry!
 We're going down! Please, you've
 got to--

DISPATCH OFFICER
 What do you mean, "animals"?

SCREAMING AND GUNFIRE.

DALAGER
 They're not people! They put a hole
 in the boat with some kind of... I
 don't know what, like acid jelly
 that burns and eats--

DISPATCH OFFICER
 Is that firing? Who's firing?

DALAGER
We are, sir! Please send--

MORE SCREAMING. GUNFIRE. A HORRIBLE SCREECH OF METAL.

DISPATCH OFFICER
Dalager? What's going on? What
about your rescue--

DALAGER
(dropping his microphone)
Oh god! No! It burns!

DISPATCH OFFICER
Dalager!

DALAGER
(off mike)
It's.... alive! Aaaaaaah!

We hear the horrible CROAKING of exultant DEEP ONES as they burst into the pilot house. DISTANT SCREAMING and GUNFIRE and then suddenly SILENCE.

5 PIER 45

5

After a moment of dead air, DISTANT GUNFIRE and SCREAMING and SPLASHING. BELLS ring and GULLS screech, but the crowd on the pier is now shocked and quiet.

WALTER DAVIS
(quite shaken)
Ladies and gentlemen, we have lost the transmission from the CG-243, and we can only pray for their deliverance. I can see quite clearly from my vantage point here on Fisherman's Wharf that the ship is now sinking. The Southern Pacific ferry boat *Thoroughfare* is nearly under now, and there are hundreds of helpless passengers in the freezing water. The fishing boats that came to their aid have been attacked or driven off, and the Coast Guard cutter is... my god, ladies and gentlemen, I can't believe what I'm seeing. The crew of the Coast Guard cutter is actually firing on the ferry! They're firing... at the very boat they were sent to rescue! Why?

The crowd on the pier MURMURS and CRIES OUT.

WALTER DAVIS (CONT'D)

(at a loss for words)

Ladies and gentlemen, oh, I can hardly bear to look at what I'm seeing. The US Coast Guard ship is firing rifles into the water. The paddle wheel on the *Thoroughfare* is on its side in the water now, chopping up... oh my god, it's... red... the 243, it's... the strange divers or... maybe they're creatures... crawling over the sinking hull. They have black... I can't make them out... not bombs, there's no explosion, but they throw them and... I can't... the 243 is going down now, the men still firing, the ferry passengers are caught in the crossfire! Oh my word, ladies and gentlemen this is terrible! The most awful thing I... oh the humanity! The *Thoroughfare* is gone. The screaming, I can't...

6 MUSICAL INTERLUDE

6

ANNOUNCER

(unflappable)

Ladies and gentlemen, we have lost contact with Walter Davis in San Francisco. While we work to restore that connection, we take you now to Raymond Roquelo and his orchestra in the Meridian Ballroom of New York's fabulous Park Plaza hotel.

Fade up on cheerful DANCE BAND MUSIC: "Little Dutch Mill". It goes on for several seconds, then several seconds more. Then, suddenly, the WVN MORSE CODE AND THEME.

7 WVN

7

NATHAN REED

This is a Worldwide Wireless News special bulletin. Nathan Reed speaking. A riot has broken out at Portsmouth Naval Prison in Maine. Authorities are attempting to put down violence at the high-security facility on Seavey's Island.

(MORE)

NATHAN REED (CONT'D)

Our crews are attempting a connection with...

There's a COMMOTION in the studio.

ANNOUNCER

We return you now to Raymond Roquelo and his orchestra, offering a program of dance music.

8 MUSICAL INTERLUDE

8

Fade up on the end of the song. Polite APPLAUSE.

RAYMOND ROQUELO

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Now for a tune that never loses favor. The popular "Midnight, the Stars, and You."

The orchestra starts to play and we get a few bars, then it fades out:

9 NAVAL PRISON

9

NATHAN REED

We now take you to Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery, Maine. We will be joined by a special connection to Rear Admiral Gerald Brookstone, the commander of the yard. Admiral Brookstone, can you hear me?

BROOKSTONE

Yes, Mr. Reed. Go ahead.

NATHAN REED

Very good, thank you. As our listeners have heard, there is a terrible marine tragedy unfolding at this hour in San Francisco Bay, and now we've heard a report that there is a riot going on there on Seavey's Island in the naval prison. Can you confirm this report for our listeners?

BROOKSTONE

There has been a disturbance in the prison here, Mr. Reed, but we are currently in the process of restoring order.

(MORE)

BROOKSTONE (CONT'D)

I'd also like to say, our hearts go out to our Coast Guard brethren and those passengers in San Francisco.

NATHAN REED

Of course, as do all of ours, I'm sure. The simultaneity of these events is certainly shocking, Admiral. Is there any reason to think they're connected?

BROOKSTONE

Certainly not. The disturbance here... well, my men are on the lookout for a number of prisoners that took advantage of the confusion to make an escape from the eastern wing. They can't have gone far, and we're confident they'll soon be back in custody.

NATHAN REED

Escaped! How many of the prisoners are currently unaccounted for, Admiral?

BROOKSTONE

Seven. I want to stress for your listeners, Mr. Reed, that this is an island, and we're certain these fugitives are still on the grounds. There is no danger to the public.

NATHAN REED

I'm sure our listeners will be very glad to hear that. The other prisoners are all still inside?

BROOKSTONE

Yes. There is currently a fire burning in the M block, but it will soon be under control.

NATHAN REED

The prison is historically used to house Navy men, is it not?

BROOKSTONE

Primarily, although there are other prisoners here as well, from time to time.

NATHAN REED

Were they sailors who rioted today,
Admiral?

BROOKSTONE

No, Mr. Reed. In fact our Naval
inmates are helping to restore
order.

NATHAN REED

Then who were the prisoners that
rioted?

BROOKSTONE

(hesitant)

Ah... the disturbance was started
by a group of prisoners who were
brought in during the Federal raids
on a coastal village in
Massachusetts. Back in 1928.

NATHAN REED

Massachusetts? Are you speaking of
Innsmouth, Admiral Brookstone? I
covered a series of raids there in
1928. It was a strange case.

BROOKSTONE

Um, yes, Innsmouth was the town.

NATHAN REED

(off mic)

Grab the files on Innsmouth.

A clerical assistant shuffles off quickly.

NATHAN REED (CONT'D)

(on)

And is it these Innsmouth prisoners
who are currently unaccounted for?

BROOKSTONE

What's that?

NATHAN REED

Have the Innsmouth prisoners
escaped, Admiral?

BROOKSTONE

I... I can't say, Mr. Reed. You
must forgive me, things here are a
little chaotic.

NATHAN REED

I understand. Admiral, if I recall correctly, the raids on Innsmouth involved Navy submarines firing torpedoes. And warehouses along the waterfront were dynamited. Reports at the time said it was all to do with liquor trafficking. Is that right?

BROOKSTONE

Um, yes. Those were the reports.

NATHAN REED

Firing torpedoes seems like an unusual step in a Volstead case. The Navy didn't usually take part in prohibition enforcement, did it?

BROOKSTONE

No, the raids were organized by the Treasury Department, under special agent Jack McGraw. We were brought in to... support that operation.

Shuffling underneath Brookstone in the background as the assistant returns.

ASSISTANT

(quietly & quickly, under Brookstone)

Sir, the Innsmouth files....

NATHAN REED

(distracted)

Yes... I see. Our files here say that Agent McGraw was subsequently murdered.

BROOKSTONE

Killed in the line of duty, yes.

NATHAN REED

Admiral, why were bootleggers arrested in Massachusetts taken to a Naval prison in Maine?

BROOKSTONE

(pause - not a question he wanted)

Some of the prisoners came here, Mr. Reed, but not all.

NATHAN REED
 (a little confused)
 Why were the prisoners divided up?

BROOKSTONE
 It's a... Federal matter.

NATHAN REED
 Our files show there were a number of civilian consultants who advised the government during the investigation of the Innsmouth case. There was a professor from Miskatonic University in Massachusetts, Nathaniel Ward. Did you know him?

BROOKSTONE
 Professor Ward gave some very helpful testimony, yes.

NATHAN REED
 Did he recommend that the... that some of the Innsmouth prisoners should be sent to a Naval prison?

There are some DISTANT SHOUTS, URGENT FOOTSTEPS and some quiet TALKING.

NATHAN REED (CONT'D)
 Admiral Brookstone, is everything all right?

BROOKSTONE
 Just a moment, Mr. Reed, I've just been handed a report by my incident commander. I'm afraid I'll have to step away from the microphone for a minute.

NATHAN REED
 Of course, Admiral.

Brookstone in HUSHED CONVERSATION with someone off mike. One of them is quite concerned about something. Meanwhile....

NATHAN REED (CONT'D)
 Ladies and gentlemen, for those of you just joining us, the Southern Pacific ferry boat *Thoroughfare* and a U.S. Coast Guard patrol boat have both been attacked in San Francisco Bay.

(MORE)

NATHAN REED (CONT'D)

In Portsmouth Navy Yard, prisoners from Innsmouth, Massachusetts have rioted and some remain unaccounted for. I have been speaking with Rear Admiral Gerald Brookstone, the prison's commander who assures us that there is no connection between-

BROOKSTONE

Mr. Reed, excuse me, I've just been handed some information that I.... We're beginning to suspect that the disturbance here was coordinated with someone working from the outside, perhaps to facilitate the escape of the seven fugitives.

NATHAN REED

Someone broke them out? Are they still on the loose?

BROOKSTONE

Yes. They may have concocted some scheme to get off the island. I've ordered Naval patrol boats around the island to intercept and recapture them. All residents of Portsmouth and New Castle and Kittery should be on the lookout. These escapees may be dangerous and residents should stay in their homes with all doors and windows locked.

NATHAN REED

That's a very serious warning, indeed.

BROOKSTONE

We'll get them, Mr. Reed. Now if you'll excuse me I have to return to my duties.

NATHAN REED

Naturally, Admiral. Thank you for giving us so much of your time on this very alarming day. Ladies and gentlemen, that was Rear Admiral Gerald Brookstone.

Someone MURMURS and hands Reed a piece of paper.

NATHAN REED (CONT'D)

We have re-established contact with Walter Davis in San Francisco, and we take you there now for updates live from the scene of the ferry disaster!

10 PIER 45

10

Sudden cut in to the sound of distant ALARM SIRENS, RINGING BELLS, and HUBBUB.

WALTER DAVIS

(composed but grave)

Ladies and gentlemen, a state of emergency has been declared here in San Francisco Bay. All civilian vessels have been ordered to return immediately to port. Anxious crowds at the Hyde Street pier are being turned away. The city is cut off. Patrol boats from Mare Island and the Alameda Naval station are now the only ones permitted on the water. We have arranged a special wireless connection to the USS Palos, a Navy gunboat out of Mare Island that has joined the effort to rescue survivors. I believe we have the Palos on the line with us now. Hello? Palos, can you hear me? Hello--

11 USS PALOS

11

A sudden CRACKLING ON THE LINE. Some WHINE and STATIC.

ISAZA

This is USS Palos, transmitting on 530 kilohertz. Come in please.

WALTER DAVIS

USS Palos, I hear you. This is Walter Davis speaking, of Worldwide Wireless News. To whom am I speaking, please?

ISAZA

This is Ensign Charles Isaza, radioman of the USS Palos.

WALTER DAVIS

Ensign Isaza, thank you. You are currently aboard a US Navy ship that is underway to the scene of the ferry disaster, is that right?

ISAZA

Yes, sir. We're arriving at the scene now.

WALTER DAVIS

Ah yes, I can see the Palos from where I'm standing, here at Pier 45. Ladies and gentlemen listening at home, the Palos is a Naval gunboat, I'd say easily twice the size of the CG-243. Is that about right, Ensign?

ISAZA

Yes, sir. The Palos is 165 feet, sir, with two six-pounder guns and six machine guns.

WALTER DAVIS

Good heavens. And how many crewmen?

ISAZA

Normally fifty, but we have a few extras with us today, sir.

WALTER DAVIS

I'm sure we're glad to hear it. You are there on the water, Ensign. Tell us, do you see survivors?

ISAZA

Sir, I'm sorry to report that both the ferry boat and the CG-243 have sunk completely. There's floating debris... life rings, but no one in them. No sign yet of survivors. It looks like oil, or something like it, is floating on the surface.

WALTER DAVIS

Is there any indication what might have sunk the ships?

ISAZA

No, sir, we--

A sudden CRACKLE as another radio signal in the background. We hear it through Isaza's microphone

ALCATRAZ

Mayday mayday mayday! This is Alcatraz island calling all ships in San Francisco Bay. We require immediate assistance. There is a breach in the wall, repeat, a breach in the wall. Mayday mayday mayday!

ISAZA

(off axis)

Captain, receiving a distress call from Alcatraz island!

WALTER DAVIS

Ensign Isaza, what's--

PALOS CAPTAIN

(off mike)

Tell them we're on our--

With a burst of STATIC, the transmission from the Palos goes dead.

12

PIER 45

12

WALTER DAVIS

Ensign Isaza? Can you hear me? USS Palos, come in please!

We hear the sound of KLAXONS in the distance.

WALTER DAVIS (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen, we seem to have lost the Palos. As you've just heard she is responding to an urgent "mayday" or distress call from Alcatraz island. The island is not far away and the Palos is the closest ship to it.... Yes, I can see her now turning about and headed for the island. I believe we heard something about a breach in a wall. For listeners who don't know, the federal prison on Alcatraz is used to house some of the nation's most difficult and dangerous criminals. The Palos is moving toward it.

A quick burst of static.

WALTER DAVIS (CONT'D)

We... yes... ladies and gentlemen,
we have arranged a special
connection to Miskatonic University
in Arkham, Massachusetts, where
there may be some answers to the
alarming events of the day. Standby
for Miskatonic.

(pause)

What the--

13

MISKATONIC

13

There is a second or two of dead air. Then:

NATHAN REED

Ladies and gentlemen, this is
Nathan Reed speaking. Here on the
line with me now is Professor
Nathaniel Ward, of Miskatonic
University. I'll ask you to be
patient, ladies and gentlemen,
during any delay that may arise
during our interview. We are
carefully monitoring the situations
both in San Francisco and
Portsmouth, and are receiving
breaking news minute by minute.
Professor Ward, are you ready?

Ward is somewhat cagey, sincerely trying to be helpful
without saying too much.

NATE WARD

Any time, Mr. Reed.

NATHAN REED

You are a professor of archaeology,
isn't that right?

NATE WARD

Yes, and anthropology.

NATHAN REED

And you are the author of a number
of books and monographs on the
subject of ancient cultures and
folklore?

NATE WARD

Yes, that's right.

NATHAN REED

Professor, seven years ago there was a series of federal raids on the Massachusetts town of Innsmouth.

NATE WARD

I remember them well.

NATHAN REED

In fact, you served as a consultant to the government, and testified before a grand jury investigating Innsmouth, did you not?

NATE WARD

Well, I did my best, Mr. Reed.

NATHAN REED

I'm sure. You're familiar with Rear Admiral Gerald Brookstone?

NATE WARD

Yes, I met him during my testimony. We worked together on the Innsmouth matter.

NATHAN REED

We've just been speaking with Admiral Brookstone, and as you know, Professor, there are reports that some of the rioting and escaped prisoners there in Portsmouth were men rounded up during the raid on Innsmouth. Can you tell our listeners at home more about those prisoners, and the conditions at Innsmouth that led to their arrest?

NATE WARD

My testimony to the grand jury is sealed, Mr. Reed, so there are a number of details I'm not at liberty to divulge.

NATHAN REED

I'm sure our listeners will be grateful for any information you can provide.

NATE WARD

Well, Innsmouth was a small fishing town which fell on some pretty hard times. It had long been cut off from its neighbors by some rather impassable marshland to the west, and it had a bad reputation for... well, I don't want to shock your listeners, Mr. Reed, so let's call it inbreeding. The government had an eye on the town ever since the days of the Civil War, and there had been occasional rumors of outsiders going to Innsmouth and never coming back. It was a pretty squalid place, but there were some families that seemed to... have sources of wealth that were... suspicious. More wealth than could be explained by fishing, certainly, and bootlegging was suspected. When the government received a tip from a young visitor who only barely managed to escape from the town with his life, federal agents decided to go in.

NATHAN REED

And what did they find, Professor?

NATE WARD

Well, I can tell you it was worse than anyone expected. There was... criminal activity, and the population was... pretty far gone.

NATHAN REED

And if I may ask, Professor, why would the government call in an archaeologist on a federal criminal investigation?

NATE WARD

Ah yes. One of the town's most prominent families had long been engaged in South Pacific trade, and had brought back and established a kind of cult, known as the Esoteric Order of Dagon, with elements of ancient Polynesian religion. This cult had a strong hold over the local citizenry, and I was asked to shed some light on it.

NATHAN REED

I see. And the family in question, was this the Marsh family? I seem to recall the name of a prominent Baldwin Marsh, or Balthazar...

NATE WARD

It was Barnabas. Yes, Barnabas Marsh was the most powerful man in Innsmouth.

NATHAN REED

And was this Barnabas Marsh arrested during the Innsmouth raid?

NATE WARD

There I'm afraid I can't help you.

NATHAN REED

Were other members of the Marsh family arrested?

NATE WARD

Again, Mr. Reed, I can't say.

NATHAN REED

(distracted by something)
I understand.

MURMURING and PAPERS changing hands at the WVN studio.

NATE WARD

What I can tell you is that--

NATHAN REED

Excuse me, Professor, but I have just been handed a bulletin with a special breaking report. Ladies and gentlemen, in yet another disturbing marine occurrence on this very disturbing day, we are told that a U.S. Navy cruiser in the south Pacific is at this moment investigating an unconfirmed report of a previously unknown island! We are now arranging a wireless connection with the ship on the scene. Please pardon that interruption, Professor. While we wait for that connection to be made, would you mind answering a few more questions?

NATE WARD

(alarmed)

Where did you say this unknown island was located, Mr. Reed?

NATHAN REED

My information is it's somewhere in the south Pacific ocean, Professor.

NATE WARD

I'd very much like to stay on the line with you, if I may.

NATHAN REED

Certainly. Now, about the Marsh family, Professor, was it your--

NATE WARD

Yes, about that, Mr. Reed, I don't want you to think that--

Assistants MURMUR and papers change hands.

NATHAN REED

Oh, excuse me again, Professor. We now have our special connection, and we take you now, ladies and gentlemen, to the USS Raleigh, Captain Richard Craig, commanding. Raleigh, we're standing by. Please come in.

Another SQUELCH and CRACKLE.

NATHAN REED (CONT'D)

USS Raleigh--

14

USS RALEIGH

14

CAPTAIN CRAIG

This is the USS Raleigh. Come in.

There is a slight delay in the back-and-forth due to the tremendous distance, with the result that there is some overlap between lines, and/or awkward pauses. Also some occasional STATIC at the beginning. We can also hear FRAGMENTS OF OTHER RADIO CALLS going on the background, as the radio crew of the Raleigh monitor transmissions worldwide. CAPT. CRAIG is a humorless, no-nonsense military man.

NATHAN REED

Hello. This is Nathan Reed of
Worldwide Wireless News. Am I
speaking with Captain Craig?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

This is Captain Craig, of the USS
Raleigh. Can you hear me?

NATHAN REED

Captain Craig, thank... yes we can
hear you. Thank you for joining us.
The Raleigh is an Omaha-class
cruiser, isn't that right? Captain
Craig?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

That's affirmative.

NATHAN REED

(having hoped for more)
And for the benefit of our audience
listening at home, Captain, can you
tell us what that means?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

What it means?

NATHAN REED

Yes, can you describe the ship?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

She's a warship of the United
States Navy. She's well-manned and
heavily armed.

NATHAN REED

Very impress--

CAPTAIN CRAIG

That's what it means.

NATHAN REED

Yes, thank you Captain. Tell me,
how large is the Raleigh's crew?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

I have 458 officers and enlisted
men aboard. Plus one.

NATHAN REED

Plus one? Who is the--

CAPTAIN CRAIG

A few hours ago my lookouts saw a small boat adrift, a lifeboat, and we picked up its occupant. We have him in our sickbay now.

NATE WARD

(cutting in)

Captain Craig, where did you find this man?

A little extra confusion in the overlapping dialogue.

NATHAN REED

Professor Ward--

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Who is this?

(to his radio operator)

Are we picking up another signal?

NATHAN REED

...if I may--

CAPTAIN CRAIG

(to his radio operator)

Which frequency is that newsman on? Dammit-

Radio SQUELCH.

NATHAN REED

Captain, yes, it's Nathan Reed--

NATE WARD

This is Nathaniel Ward, Captain. I'm sorry, Mr. Reed, I don't mean to barge in but--

NATHAN REED

I have Professor Nathaniel Ward on the line with us, Captain, we've been talking about--

NATE WARD

I'm a colleague of Admiral Brookstone's, Captain. Can you--

NATHAN REED

A colleague?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Admiral Brookstone?

NATE WARD

Yes, can you tell me where you picked up this survivor?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

(after a pause)

We're in the south Pacific, approximately 1800 miles east of Santiago.

NATE WARD

That's about 35 degrees south?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Just about. And about 105 degrees west.

NATE WARD

Oh dear.

NATHAN REED

(trying to regain control)

Captain Craig, we've heard a report of an unknown island. Have you seen such an island?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Are you the newsman?

NATHAN REED

Yes, Captain. Have you sighted an unknown island?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

No. The castaway we picked up claims he was stranded on an island for the last several days. We know these waters, and there is no such island here. The closest island is--

NATHAN REED

This survivor, sir, has he been identified? Who is he?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

An Englishman. Says his name is Clark Holloway. He was a supercargo on a British packet freighter that sank. RMS Batavia.

NATHAN REED

A packet freighter?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

That's a commercial cargo ship.
Last heard from more than a week
ago. He says she went down with all
hands. Says he's the only survivor.

NATHAN REED

Did he say what caused her to sink?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

This man's delirious from exposure.
He's been adrift for days - it's a
wonder he survived. He's not making
a lot of sense. Our ship's
surgeon's looking after him.

NATHAN REED

I see. And are you--

CAPTAIN CRAIG

We're currently... what was that?

NATHAN REED

Are you searching--

CAPTAIN CRAIG

--patrolling the area for any
traces of the Batavia or other
survivors.

NATHAN REED

And what about the mysterious
island? Are you also looking for
that?

RADIOMEN in the background are talking to another ship
somewhere.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Sir, this is one of the most open,
least frequented parts of the
Pacific. There is nothing here.
Certainly nothing as large as he
described. He's delirious--

NATHAN REED

How did he describe it, Captain?
Can you tell us?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

He says it took him days to cross
it. Said he encountered some kind
of giant monolith, with carvings--

NATE WARD
A monolith?! He said there--

CAPTAIN CRAIG
Who's that?

NATHAN REED
Professor--

NATE WARD
(overlapping)
What kind of monolith? This is very important. What did he say?

CAPTAIN CRAIG
He didn't make any sense--

NATE WARD
No, no, no, no... Can you bring Holloway to the microphone, please, Captain? We've got to find out what he saw.

CAPTAIN CRAIG
- no good. Our doctor's sedated him. I'm sure he'd make even less sense now.

NATE WARD
Captain Craig, as I'm sure you're aware there is currently a naval crisis going on. A passenger--

CAPTAIN CRAIG
We're receiving dispatches--

NATE WARD
(steaming ahead)
Captain, I'm afraid... I think it may all be related! It's extremely important that we hear exactly what Mr. Holloway has to say.

CAPTAIN CRAIG
Related? We're thousands--

NATE WARD
Before more lives are lost, Captain, can you bring Mr. Holloway to the microphone? We won't have a better opportunity.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

The man's barely conscious,
Professor. Why do you think--

NATE WARD

Captain, please! I'm certain that
Admiral Brookstone would approve of
the request. Mr. Reed, can you
patch the Admiral in?

NATHAN REED

Professor, I--

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Brookstone? There's no need to
contact Brookstone.

(off axis)

Ensign, go inform Dr. Chapman that
I want Holloway brought up here to
the radio room at once.

(back on axis)

Alright, I've sent for him. I still
don't get what you think we're
going to learn about--

MORE BACKGROUND CONVERSATIONS of other radiomen. SQUELCH.

NATE WARD

Thank you, Captain. Perhaps a
private radio channel would be more
appropriate, until the--

CAPTAIN CRAIG

(sick of being pressured)

My radio room is carefully
monitoring the wireless traffic and
conducting a search for the
Batavia, Professor. I'm afraid this
channel will have to do.

NATE WARD

I see. Mr. Reed, I don't suppose
that Worldwide Wireless News could
let us--

NATHAN REED

Professor, we can't convert our
airwaves to private use. Radio
broadcast is a sacred trust, and
our listeners at home need to hear
news they can trust in this time of
crisis.

NATE WARD

Very well. Well, this should be interesting....

RALEIGH RADIOMAN

(in the background)

Say again, New Zealand?

NEW ZEALAND

(in the background)

Repeat, two ships under attack off New Caledonia. Requesting assistance.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

(off axis and quietly)

Ensign, alert Pacific command. And see if you can patch me through to the Admiral....

NATHAN REED

(rather pleased)

Ladies and gentlemen listening at home, this is Nathan Reed bringing you a live report from the USS Raleigh, a Navy cruiser in the South Pacific ocean under the command of Captain Richard Craig. On the line with me is Professor Nathaniel Ward of Miskatonic University, and in moments we expect to be talking to Mr. Clark Holloway, the sole survivor of the RMS Batavia. Professor Ward, you said you think Mr. Holloway may have witnessed something related to the ferry disaster in San Francisco and the disturbances at Portsmouth and Alcatraz. Is that correct?

NATE WARD

Yes, Mr. Reed.

NATHAN REED

How is that possible, professor? What could you learn from a man the captain says is delirious?

NATE WARD

Well, it's not easy to explain this. If the island he described is-

-

Some background noise as Holloway and Dr. Chapman enter the radio room.

CHAPMAN

(off axis)

Captain, I have to tell you that I think this--

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Your objection is noted, Dr. Chapman, but this professor says--

RALEIGH RADIOMAN

(off axis)

Captain, I have the Admiral for you on the secure band.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

(off axis)

Thank you.

The Captain steps away for a private call.

NATHAN REED

Hello, Dr. Chapman, was it? Can you hear me? This is Nathan Reed speaking.

CHAPMAN

(confused)

Hello? Professor?

NATHAN REED

Dr. Chapman?

CHAPMAN

Yes, this is Dr. Chapman. Of the Raleigh.

NATHAN REED

Dr. Chapman, on the line with me now is Professor Nathaniel Ward, and he would very much like to speak to your patient, Mr. Holloway. Would that be all right?

CHAPMAN

Sir, my patient is suffering from dehydration and exhaustion, and he--

NATE WARD

Is he there, Doctor? Can he speak into the microphone?

CHAPMAN
He's here, but--

CAPTAIN CRAIG
It's all right, Doctor. Let him
proceed.

CHAPMAN
But Captain--

CAPTAIN CRAIG
Give him the microphone, doctor!

NATE WARD
Thank you. Mr. Holloway? May I, Mr.
Reed?

NATHAN REED
Go ahead, Professor.

NATE WARD
Mr. Holloway? Can you hear me?

Holloway is British, insane and shot full of morphine.

HOLLOWAY
Hello? Is someone there?

NATE WARD
Mr. Holloway, my name is Nathaniel
Ward. I'd like to ask you some
questions about the island you
encountered. Could we--

HOLLOWAY
I'm not mad. They all think I am,
but I'm not.

NATE WARD
No, Mr. Holloway. What you have to
say is potentially very important.
Tell me everything you remember.
Can you do that?

HOLLOWAY
Oh, I remember it all....

Radio SQUELCH and STATIC in the background fades down.

HOLLOWAY

My ship was making its way to Wellington when it was swallowed by the fiercest storm I have ever experienced.

NATE WARD

When was this?

HOLLOWAY

Weeks ago. The cargo was lost, and we had to abandon ship. Lost, all of them lost. I managed to escape alone in a small boat with water and provisions.

NATE WARD

How did you survive the storm?

HOLLOWAY

I don't know. I finally found myself adrift, with little idea of my surroundings. No island or coastline was in sight. I began to despair - alone for days in the heaving unbroken blue.

NATE WARD

Of course. What happened next?

HOLLOWAY

The change happened whilst I slept.

NATE WARD

Change? What happened?

HOLLOWAY

When I awaked, it was to discover myself half sucked into a slimy expanse of hellish black mire which extended about me as far as I could see, and in which my boat lay grounded some distance away.

NATE WARD

Your boat had run aground?

HOLLOWAY

The region was putrid with the carcasses of decaying fish, and of other, less describable things which I saw protruding from the mud.

NATE WARD

What could you see on this island?

HOLLOWAY

There was nothing in sight save a vast reach of undulating black slime; and the stillness and the sameness of the landscape oppressed me with a nauseating fear. I realized that only one theory could explain my position. Through some volcanic upheaval, a portion of the ocean floor must have been thrown to the surface, exposing regions which for millions of years had lain hidden. So great was the extent of the new land which had risen beneath me, that I could not detect the faintest noise of the surging ocean.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

An island that big, Professor--

NATE WARD

Please, Captain. Let Mr. Holloway continue.

HOLLOWAY

I made for myself a pack containing food and water, so that I could search for possible rescue. All day I forged steadily westward, guided by a far-away hummock which rose higher than any other elevation on the rolling desert. That night I encamped, and on the following day still travelled toward the hummock. By that evening I reached the base of the mound. Too weary to ascend, I slept in the shadow of the hill. I don't know why my dreams were so wild that night; but I was soon awake in a cold sweat, determined to sleep no more.

NATE WARD

So what did you do?

HOLLOWAY

I started for the crest of the hill. The unbroken monotony of the rolling plain had been a source of vague horror to me; but I think my horror was greater when I gained the summit of the mound and looked down the other side into an immeasurable pit or canyon. I felt myself on the edge of the world; peering over the rim into a fathomless chaos of eternal night.

NATE WARD

(to himself)

Oh no...

HOLLOWAY

As the moon climbed higher in the sky, I began to see that the slopes of the valley were not quite so perpendicular as I had imagined. Urged on by an impulse which I still do not understand, I scrambled down the rocks and stood on the gentler slope beneath.

NATE WARD

And what did you see there, Mr. Holloway?

HOLLOWAY

A vast and singular object on the opposite slope, which rose steeply about an hundred yards ahead of me; an object that gleamed whitely in the rays of the ascending moon. It was merely a gigantic piece of stone, surrounded by a lapping pool of water, but I was conscious of a distinct impression that its contour and position were not altogether the work of Nature.

NATE WARD

What was it?

HOLLOWAY

A monolith, whose massive bulk had known the workmanship and perhaps the worship of living and thinking creatures.

NATE WARD

It had carvings, didn't it?

HOLLOWAY

Oh my yes. Both inscriptions and crude sculptures. The writing was in a system of hieroglyphics unknown to me, and unlike anything I had ever seen in books.

NATE WARD

The sculptures, tell me what they looked like.

HOLLOWAY

Many were recognizable as sea creatures of various kinds, but several characters obviously represented marine things which are unknown to the modern world, but whose decomposing forms I had observed on the ocean-risen plain. But that's not what held me spellbound.

NATE WARD

What do you mean?

HOLLOWAY

Plainly visible across the intervening water on account of their enormous size, were an array of figures in bas-relief.

NATE WARD

Oh no. These figures, they were...

HOLLOWAY

I think they were supposed to depict men - at least, a certain sort of men; though the creatures were shown disporting like fishes in the waters of some marine grotto, or paying homage at some monolithic shrine which appeared to be under the waves as well. Their forms, their faces...

He trails off, growing faint at the recollection.

NATE WARD

Were they slightly human in general outline, but with webbed hands and feet, wide, flabby lips, and bulging eyes?

HOLLOWAY

You've seen them yourself!

NATE WARD

This is important, Mr. Holloway. Was there anything else?

HOLLOWAY

One of the creatures was shown in the act of killing a whale represented as but little larger than himself. Their grotesqueness and strange size troubled me; but I decided that they were merely the imaginary gods of some primitive fishing or seafaring tribe; some tribe whose last descendant had perished eras before the first ancestor of the Neanderthal Man was born. Am I right?

NATE WARD

Something like that.

CHAPMAN

That's enough of this nonsense--

HOLLOWAY

(beginning to freak out)

Then suddenly I saw it. With only a slight churning to mark its rise to the surface, the thing slid into view above the dark waters.

NATE WARD

What thing?

HOLLOWAY

Vast, Polyphemus-like, and loathsome, it darted like a stupendous monster of nightmares to the monolith, about which it flung its gigantic scaly arms, while it bowed its hideous head and gave vent to certain measured sounds. I think I went mad then.

CHAPMAN

Mr. Holloway, it was just a dream!
You'd been days in that boat, under
the sun, no food, no--

In the background we can hear the Raleigh radioman listening to transmissions worldwide. Unrest is building.

HOLLOWAY

(becoming agitated)

Ha! The good doctor here assures me it was a pure phantasm - a mere freak of fever. But I cannot think of the deep sea without shuddering at the nameless things that may at this very moment be crawling and floundering on its slimy bed, worshipping their ancient stone idols and carving their own detestable likenesses on submarine obelisks of water-soaked granite. I dream of a day when they may rise above the billows to drag down in their reeking talons the remnants of puny mankind - of a day when the land shall sink, and the dark ocean floor shall ascend amidst universal pandemonium!

NATE WARD

I understand. Thank you, Mr. Holloway. It wasn't just a dream.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Alright, enough of that, get him out of here.

CHAPMAN

Come with me, Mr. Holloway. Another shot of morphine will help you.

Some kerfuffle in the background as Holloway is taken out.

NATE WARD

Captain, you picked him up adrift in his boat, didn't you?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Yes, that's right.

NATE WARD

Does Holloway have any memory of how he got off the island?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

None.

MURMURING and PAPER SHUFFLING at WWN.

NATHAN REED

Captain, Professor, please excuse me. Ladies and gentlemen, I've just been handed an emergency bulletin coming over the wires. Ships between Brisbane and New Caledonia are under attack from underwater forces. Worldwide Wireless News has a special connection now to a live feed coming out of Australia. We take you now to Brisbane. Everyone, please stand by.

(pause)

Have we--

A moment of CRACKLE and DEAD AIR, then...

16

DOWN UNDER

16

An Australian reporter...

DAVID MERLIN

...in the harbor are under attack from a previously unknown form of sea animal. Witnesses describe them as being as large as men, but like fish or frogs in appearance, and attacking in great numbers from under the water. Two ships are now sinking. There are other reports from Noumea, unconfirmed at this time, of another type of strange creature, described as being large and black, possibly some unknown species of octopus or jellyfish, bobbing at the surface with multiple arms of some kind. They appear to be venomous, and it is reported that swimmers who came into contact with one were badly burned. Again, this is David Merlin with a special report from the Australian Broadcasting Commission in Brisbane. The Admiralty is advising all ships between Moreton Bay and New Caledonia to--

A STATIC POP.

NATHAN REED

We interrupt this live feed from Australia, ladies and gentlemen, for breaking news on our own shores. Rejoining me now is Rear Admiral Gerald Brookstone, commander at Portsmouth Navy Yard in Maine. I understand you have some good news, Admiral?

BROOKSTONE

Mr. Reed, I wanted to let your listeners know that the disturbance here at Portsmouth has now been completely contained, and our prison is once again secured.

NATHAN REED

That's wonderful to hear on such a day of terror and tragedy. And are the fugitives back in custody?

BROOKSTONE

Two of them are. We are conducting a search for the others.

NATHAN REED

I see. And are you still confident that they are on Seavey's Island, Admiral?

BROOKSTONE

It is possible that they have made it off the island by boat. Navy ships are still very actively patrolling the waters, and I'm sure we'll catch these miscreants.

NATHAN REED

And what about the fire that was reported in Cell Block M?

BROOKSTONE

The fire is out. Tragically, twenty-two prisoners were killed by the blaze before it was brought under control, with a dozen more suffering from burns and smoke.

NATHAN REED

That's terrible, Admiral. Were these the Innsmouth prisoners who started the riot?

BROOKSTONE

It would be imprudent for me to--

PAPERS - MURMURING.

NATHAN REED

Excuse me, Admiral, I'm terribly sorry but we're receiving a radio transmission from a Navy patrol ship there in Portsmouth. Switching over now to that live signal.

18

NAVAL PURSUIT

18

Some STATIC and BACKGROUND NOISE from a boat moving very quickly. The rush of the ENGINES and WIND.

HOBBS

...Bride, over!

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

Sailor, say again!

HOBBS

(over-enunciating)

Repeat, this is Petty Officer Hobbs on the USS Hermitage. Five persons matching the description of the escapees seen climbing aboard a fishing trawler called the Java Bride. Over!

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

Copy, Hermitage.

HOBBS

Permission to pursue?

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

Granted. Go get 'em, Hermitage!

NATHAN REED

Ladies and gentlemen, it seems that the escaped prisoners from Portsmouth Naval Prison have indeed been spotted, and a Navy patrol boat is now in pursuit. Admiral Brookstone, are you still with us?

BROOKSTONE

Yes, Mr. Reed.

NATHAN REED

The Hermitage is one of your boats,
is it not?

BROOKSTONE

Yes, she's a riverine patrol boat.
She's been searching the Piscataqua
River since the prisoners escaped.

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

Hermitage, report!

HOBBS

We're underway. They pushed off
from Clark's Island, headed out to
sea. They're running!

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

Is it all of them?

HOBBS

I see Hollister and Weymouth. And
that must be Dolores! They're
moving fast!

NATHAN REED

Dolores?

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

Any sign of the others?

HOBBS

Haven't seen.... Wait! Yes, both of
them, and there's someone... hold
on!

The ENGINES RACE and STATIC fills the microphone.

NATHAN REED

Admiral Brookstone, did he just say
Dolores? Are these escaping
prisoners women?

BROOKSTONE

(chagrined)

Well, Mr. Reed, I suppose at this
point I can confirm that the
escaped prisoners are indeed
members of the Marsh family.

(MORE)

BROOKSTONE (CONT'D)
 Hollister and Weymouth Marsh, and
 their sisters Bismillah, Hecate and
 Dolores.

NATHAN REED
 That's a surprising revelation,
 Admiral. And they've--

HOBBS
 (off axis and through a
 megaphone)
 Trawler Java Bride! This is the USS
 Hermitage! Cut your engines at once
 and prepare to be boarded!

NATHAN REED
 Ladies and gentlemen, as you're
 hearing, the Naval patrol boat
 Hermitage is currently engaged in a
 pursuit of Innsmouth prisoners
 escaped from the Portsmouth naval
 prison. Admiral, have these Marsh
 siblings been in your prison since
 1928?

BROOKSTONE
 Yes they have.

NATHAN REED
 And would they be the children of
 Barnabas Marsh?

BROOKSTONE
 That's our understanding.

The bark of GUNFIRE in the background.

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH
 Hermitage! Report!

NATHAN REED
 (simultaneous)
 There's gunfire!

HOBBS
 They're firing at us!

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH
 Return fire, Hermitage. Prisoners
 are armed and dangerous.

NATHAN REED
 Ladies and gentlemen, this is--

HOBBS
 (off axis though
 megaphone)
 Trawler Java Bride, throw down your
 weapons and cut your engines! This
 is the USS Hermitage of the United
 States Navy and we will fire on
 you!

More GUNFIRE. The Hermitage FIRES BACK with a small cannon!

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH
 Hermitage, report! Come in,
 Hermitage!

HOBBS
 I think they're hit, sir! We are in
 pursuit! We've--

GUNFIRE, and the line goes dead.

19

WWN

19

NATHAN REED
 Ladies and gentlemen, an incredible
 chase as you've heard, in the
 Piscataqua River south of Seavey's
 Island, Maine. We seem to have lost
 the transmission from the
 Hermitage, which was under fire
 from escaped prisoners Hollister
 and Weymouth Marsh, and,
 incredibly, their sisters
 Bismillah, Hecate and Dolores, who
 until their escape today had been
 inmates at Portsmouth Naval Prison.
 Admiral Brookstone, are you still
 with us? Admiral Brookstone? Ladies
 and gentlemen, it seems that we
 have also lost contact with Admiral
 Brookstone, who has no doubt many
 other things to attend to at this
 moment. We will do our very best to
 get him back on the line at the
 earliest possible opportunity.

LOUD MURMURING and PAPERS.

NATHAN REED (CONT'D)
 Really? We now... yes... We have
 word more events are unfolding on
 the west coast.

(MORE)

NATHAN REED (CONT'D)

We take you now back to San
Francisco Bay, as the day's...
Stand by, please, for San
Francisco.

STATIC.

20

EAST BAY

20

Sounds of distant SIRENS, very distant GUNFIRE, and street traffic. Bert is much more composed than Walter and loves the sound of his own voice.

BERT PHILIPS

This is Bert Philips, reporting for Worldwide Wireless News from the east side of San Francisco Bay. An explosion occurred a few minutes ago near the Oakland waterfront. I'm standing near the foot of the eastern span of the Bay Bridge currently under construction, and I can clearly see smoke and flames rising from the location of the blast less than a mile to the south and east. In light of today's terrible events, police are here in force guarding the bridge, but a squad has been dispatched to the waterfront to investigate this explosion. We've heard reports that a warehouse there has been raided by the police, although there's no word yet on what, if anything, they've found. Likewise, the relation of this explosion to the terrifying events on the water earlier today is unknown.

NATHAN REED

Bert, this is Nathan Reed in Boston. Tell me, can you see Alcatraz from your position?

BERT PHILIPS

Yes, Nathan. From my vantage point here at the foot of the bridge, I can see to the west beyond Yerba Buena that there are flames also on Alcatraz Island. It's two to three miles out in the bay from here.

(MORE)

BERT PHILIPS (CONT'D)

I'm looking through my field glasses, but it's impossible to see anything clearly through the smoke and haze. Perhaps you can hear, ladies and gentlemen, the scattered gunfire coming from that direction. I can see strange dark shapes that seem to be moving over the surface of the island. They're large, indistinct... they seem to change shape and could almost be shadows... yes, I see one now that appears to be climbing the steep side of the island from the water up to the parade ground, and another... yes, climbing up the wall of the citadel itself. Smoke is billowing up from a fire inside the prison, from here it could be either the industries building or the cell house itself, and Navy and Coast Guard ships are circling the island in both directions.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have re-established contact with the USS Palos, which appears to be docking at Alcatraz at this moment.

21 USS PALOS

21

A CRACKLE on the line, and the sound of distant GUNFIRE is suddenly DOUBLED as we hear it also through the Palos microphone, slightly out of phase. The prison guards are fighting off an invasion.

ISAZA

Come in please. This is USS Palos transmitting at 530 kilohertz.

BERT PHILIPS

USS Palos, we hear you. This is Bert Philips speaking, Worldwide Wireless News in Oakland. Am I speaking to Ensign Isaza?

ISAZA

This is Isaza, yes sir.

BERT PHILIPS

Thank you, Ensign, for rejoining us. I can see the Palos at the dock on the north side of Alcatraz.

(MORE)

BERT PHILIPS (CONT'D)

The island appears to be under siege. Why is the Palos landing there?

ISAZA

Sir, we are responding to a radio request. Warden James Johnston and his executive staff have been taken hostage in their offices in the cell house. Their families are in danger. We are--

BERT PHILIPS

Families?

ISAZA

Sir, yes, families. There are 47 families of guards and staff living on the island, including 112 women and children. We're here to protect them.

BERT PHILIPS

Protect them from whom, Ensign? Who is attacking Alcatraz?

ISAZA

Radicals, sir. They say agitators inside the prison, with help from some outside amphibious force. I've been ordered to bring portable radio gear ashore so they can make some kind of statement.

BERT PHILIPS

Ensign, that's incredible.

The GUNFIRE has died down, and there is the sound of movement off axis.

PALOS CAPTAIN

(off axis)

Isaza!

ISAZA

(into the microphone)

Sir, the island's telephone switchboard was destroyed in the attack, and their own radio equipment has been damaged. Their request for assistance was the last-

-

PALOS CAPTAIN
 (nearer)
 Isaza! We're ready. Get moving.

ISAZA
 (off axis)
 Sir, yes sir!

PALOS CAPTAIN
 (off axis)
 Olmstead is waiting at the sally
 port.

ISAZA
 (off axis)
 Yes, sir.

BERT PHILIPS
 Good luck, Ensign, and thank you--

The connection to the Palos goes dead.

BERT PHILIPS (CONT'D)
 Ladies and gentlemen, as you've
 just heard, Ensign Charles Isaza of
 the USS Palos is about to go ashore
 on Alcatraz, where we may finally
 hear from the "radicals" who have
 attacked the island and find out
 what it is they want. Alcatraz was
 turned over to the Federal Bureau
 of Prisons just over a year ago,
 and now houses the nation's most
 hardened and incorrigible convicts.
 Some of the prisoners are holdovers
 from its earlier days as a military
 prison. The island is also home, as
 you've just heard, to staff and
 guards and their innocent families,
 who are caught up in this
 terrifying ordeal. We'll be
 standing by to bring you--

NATHAN REED
 (losing his cool)
 Ladies and gentlemen, we interrupt
 Bert Philips in Oakland to bring
 you wire reports of additional
 attacks happening worldwide.
 (MORE)

NATHAN REED (CONT'D)

There are reports of mysterious creatures attacking ships at Valparaiso, Chile at this hour. Strange black shapes have been spotted in the harbor of Stockholm. Amphibious "mer-men" in Manila Bay have brought maritime traffic in the Philippines to a standstill. The Japanese Emperor has declared a state of emergency following attacks in Yokohama and Kagoshima. Alexandria, Egypt. Brisbane and Sydney, paralyzed. No nation seems exempt. The world is at war! It appears to be an uprising, an assault or invasion from beneath the very ocean itself! All coastal areas and all ships at sea would seem to be at risk of attack from the deeps. Here at home, terrified populations in Boston, New York, Atlantic City and Newport News, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, New Orleans, and on the west coast in San Diego, Los Angeles, Seattle... city people are all moving inland, creating massive traffic jams of panicked crowds. The Cunard, Admiral, and Hamburg-America lines have ordered all their passenger liners to their nearest ports immediately. Professor Nathaniel Ward, are you on the line?
Professor--

NATE WARD

Yes, Mr. Reed, I'm here.

NATHAN REED

Professor, you have been consulting with your colleagues in academia and your contacts in the military. What does it all mean, Professor Ward?

NATE WARD

(after a pause)

I'm afraid it's--

CAPTAIN CRAIG

(staticky)

This is the USS Raleigh,
transmitting at 530 kilohertz. Come
in please.

NATHAN REED

Ladies and gentlemen, we are
picking up a new transmission from
the USS Raleigh in the south
Pacific. Professor Ward, can you
please stay on the line?

NATE WARD

Yes, of course.

NATHAN REED

USS Raleigh, this is Nathan Reed
speaking. We hear you. Please come
in!

With some additional tuning, the connection to the Raleigh is
better and faster than last time.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Mr. Reed, I'm receiving you. This
is Captain Craig of the USS
Raleigh. You can tell your
professor that he was right.

NATHAN REED

Hello, Captain Craig. You can tell
him yourself. He's on the line with
us now.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Good, maybe he can explain what I'm
seeing.

NATHAN REED

What exactly are you seeing,
Captain?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

It's an island. It's not on the
charts and we've never seen it
before in these waters. I guess Mr.
Holloway here wasn't just
hallucinating.

NATE WARD

If it's any consolation, Captain, I
hate being right.

(MORE)

NATE WARD (CONT'D)

I was hoping as much as anyone that you wouldn't find anything. Can you describe it?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

It's low, and it's flat, but it's damn big. From a distance it's just a dark line at the horizon that we almost missed. But up close it's damn near what Holloway said in general. Black, bizarre, deserted. The shore is slimy, and covered with dead fish. God, I can smell it from here. It appears reasonably dry further inland. No sign of vegetation. I'd say Holloway pegged it. Something heaved up from the bottom by volcanic activity.

NATE WARD

Any sign of Holloway's monolith, Captain?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

We're scanning for it now. There's a kind of haze or low cloud cover over the island that... I... yes, Professor, I believe I can see something rising up in the interior of the island. Either it's short, or it's in some kind of depression or canyon like he said. I can't make out the carvings Holloway described, but--

There is a new CRACKLE in the Raleigh's radio room. In the background through Captain Craig's microphone we can hear a new transmission coming in.

CHARLIE TOWER

(garbled and off axis)

US Navy ship CL-7, turn back. You are in imminent danger. Reverse course and do not approach the island. Acknowledge.

NATHAN REED

Captain Craig, who is--

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Who the hell is that? Ensign?

RALEIGH RADIOMAN
 (off axis)
 I don't know, sir.

NATHAN REED
 What's happening, Cap--

CHARLIE TOWER
 (less garbled)
 Repeating! US Navy ship CL-7,
 reverse course. Do not approach the
 island. You are in immediate
 danger.

CAPTAIN CRAIG
 Is this coming from your end, Reed?

NATHAN REED
 No, sir.

An ALARM sounds in the pilot house of the Raleigh. Background
 HUBBUB.

RALEIGH RADIOMAN
 (off axis)
 Sir! Dead ahead sir!

CAPTAIN CRAIG
 Where, sailor?

RALEIGH RADIOMAN
 (off axis)
 In the clouds, sir. There's an
 airship emerging from the clouds!

NATHAN REED
 An airship? Did he say an airship?

CAPTAIN CRAIG
 General quarters, Ensign! Prepare
 for action!

SIRENS go off.

RALEIGH RADIOMAN
 (off axis)
 Sir, yes sir!
 (through ship's PA system)
 All hands to general quarters.
 Unidentified airship approaching
 dead ahead. All gun crews to their
 stations!

CHARLIE TOWER
(garbled & simultaneous)
Just some friendly advice.

During this panic in the background, the conversation continues on the microphones.

NATHAN REED
Ladies and gentlemen, an airship
has just appeared in the sky over
the USS Raleigh, and we--

NATE WARD
Captain Craig, this is Professor
Ward. Can you describe the airship
to me?

CAPTAIN CRAIG
I'm a little busy--

NATE WARD
Captain, it might be a friendly!

CAPTAIN CRAIG
It's an airship! It looks like the
old O-1 we used to fly back in the
Twenties.

NATE WARD
Can you make out the tail number?

CAPTAIN CRAIG
(off axis)
Ensign, hail that ship!
(on axis)
I'm looking.

RALEIGH RADIOMAN
(off axis)
Hailing, yes sir! This is the USS
Raleigh, CL-7, hailing the
unidentified airship above us. Come
in!

CAPTAIN CRAIG
The tail number is N-X-367T.

RALEIGH RADIOMAN
(off axis)
Airship N-X-367T, respond!

NATE WARD
Captain, it's all right. It's one
of ours. It's Charlie Tower!

NATHAN REED

What? Charlie Tower? Millionaire
explorer Charlie Tower?

NATE WARD

(with a sigh)
The one and only.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

You're sure it's a civilian vessel?

CHARLIE TOWER

(much less garbled, but
still off axis)
This is the Mercury, airship N-X-
367T, responding. Hello, gentlemen!
Charlie Tower here. I didn't mean
to alarm you, but I repeat, reverse
course and do not approach the
island.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

(off axis)
Ensign, stand down from general
quarters. Remain on alert.

RALEIGH RADIOMAN

(off axis)
Sir, standing down from general
quarters, sir!
(through ship's PA system)
All hands, stand down from general
quarters. Airship is one of ours.
Hold fire.

NATE WARD

Can Tower hear me through this
thing?

NATHAN REED

No, Professor, he's on a different
frequency.

NATE WARD

Can one of you patch me through to
him directly?

NATHAN REED

We--

CAPTAIN CRAIG

We can.

CHARLIE TOWER

(off axis)

USS Raleigh, I say, can you fellows hear me? Please respond.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Ensign, patch the Mercury into this frequency so we can all hear each other.

RALEIGH RADIOMAN

(off axis)

Sir, yes sir. Mercury, standby. Patching you through on 530 kilohertz to Captain Richard Craig, commanding.

CHARLIE TOWER

(off axis)

Excellent. Thanks!

RALEIGH RADIOMAN

Captain, the Mercury.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Mercury, this is Captain Richard Craig of the USS Raleigh. What in the hell is going on? You nearly got yourself shot down.

CHARLIE TOWER

(now on axis)

Hello, Captain. Thanks very much for not shooting first. This is Charlie Tower flying in a private civilian ship. I've been tracking a U-boat, probably German, headed for this location. You don't want to be here when it arrives.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

A German U-boat? That's impossible! The krauts don't have any U-boats anymore. We fought a war about it, remember? The treaty of Versailles--

CHARLIE TOWER

That's as may be, Captain, but I've definitely been tracking something big under the water, and whatever it is, it's heading here. Again, I'd strongly advise you to reverse course.

NATE WARD

Charlie, can you hear me? It's Nate.

CHARLIE TOWER

(extremely surprised)

Nate? You old so-and-so! Where are you? You're not on that ship are you?

NATE WARD

No, god no, I'm broadcasting from Arkham. Mr. Reed here has been kind enough to keep me on the line. You've been following the news today?

CHARLIE TOWER

I've caught some of it. Been busy. I gather we're in a tight spot.

NATE WARD

You could say.

NATHAN REED

Ladies and gentlemen, joining us now on the line is Mr. Charlie Tower, famous American millionaire explorer, adventurer, and collector of rare antiquities. Mr. Tower, this is Nathan Reed speaking, Worldwide Wireless News. Do you mind if I ask a few questions for the benefit of our listeners at home?

CHARLIE TOWER

(a little hesitant)

I don't know if "benefit" is the right word, Mr. Reed, but I'll do my best to answer.

NATHAN REED

You are flying in an airship over the middle of the south Pacific ocean, is that correct?

CHARLIE TOWER

Yes, that's right. I call it Mercury On the Air.

NATHAN REED

Is it your personal airship?

CHARLIE TOWER

Oh, you know me. I thought it would be fun. I bought it in Italy. Since I remodeled the gondola, it's quite nice. It's no Graf Zeppelin, but she's well stocked with champagne all the same.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Why is your ship here, Tower?

CHARLIE TOWER

Is that Captain Craig?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Yeah.

CHARLIE TOWER

Well, Captain, when you want to be in the middle of the ocean but you don't actually want to be in the water, an airship is the only way to go.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Must be nice. You knew this island was here?

CHARLIE TOWER

I had my suspicions that it would turn up.

NATE WARD

Charlie, there have been attacks worldwide. They're still going on. Is there anything we can do?

CHARLIE TOWER

Maybe.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

What the hell are you two talking about? It's not too late to open fire on that airship, Tower.

CHARLIE TOWER

Captain, my apologies. Nate and I go way back, and sometimes we just speak shorthand to each other. We have some mutual friends in Sweden and Denmark, scholars of... the occult, and ancient cultures. I've been working with them for the better part of the last six months.

(MORE)

CHARLIE TOWER (CONT'D)

Do you by any chance recall the ship København? A Danish training ship?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Mmm, yes, part of some kind of disaster.

CHARLIE TOWER

Yes. A five-masted training barque, that vanished without a trace in 1928, taking 26 crew and 45 cadets with it. Left Buenos Aires for Australia one day, and was never heard from again.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Right. So?

CHARLIE TOWER

Well, ever since then, our friends in Scandinavia have been looking into the causes of that disappearance.

NATE WARD

That was at about the same time as the raids on Innsmouth, Captain.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

You're saying they were connected?

NATE WARD

If you've spoken to Admiral Brookstone, Captain, you'll know that the interrogation of the Innsmouth prisoners turned up some... issues of concern.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

I always understood that information was held on a "need to know" basis.

NATE WARD

Some of us had our fears that this day was coming, Captain, but no one dreamed it would be quite this bad.

CHARLIE TOWER

Almost no one.

NATE WARD

Oh, right. The Germans.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

The Germans? What do they have to do with it?

CHARLIE TOWER

There's an occult society in Germany, Captain, that has been studying certain aspects of ocean lore ever since the Great War. One of their U-boats that went down in the Atlantic, the U-29, the captain of that boat, Altberg-Ehrenstein was his name, left behind some kind of testimonial, a kind of message in a bottle, I suppose, describing what happened to his crew and some mysterious ruins he found at the bottom of the sea. The crazy Kraut put on a diving suit and stepped out of his disabled boat to investigate them personally in the end.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

You've seen this document?

CHARLIE TOWER

No, not personally. But I have my Scandinavian boys follow the occult scene, and they tell me that the Reich has gotten its hands on it somehow. You may have heard of the Ahnenerbe?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

What's that?

CHARLIE TOWER

The "cultural institute" of the Nazi party, trying to prove the Aryans are some super-race. They've become very involved in, well, let's say some very dark connections to the occult, and they keep an eye open for this kind of thing.

NATE WARD

There's even a rumor that Altberg-Ehrenstein managed to survive, or send some subsequent message, anyhow.

CHARLIE TOWER

Yes, well, based on the U-29 account, the disappearance of the København, the information coming out of Innsmouth, and certain other... books and calculations, our Scandinavian friends predicted that this island might appear at about this spot. Since I have my own airship, I thought I might keep an eye on things without troubling the Navy. I don't know what the Reich's interest is in this little island, but when German occultists are involved, you can never be too careful. I have a few things on board that might help.

NATE WARD

Charlie, you didn't bring the stones, did you?

CHARLIE TOWER

No, Nate, they're still safely locked away. Besides, it sounds like we have enough Deep Ones to deal with as it is.

We begin to hear some KERFUFFLE in the background on the Raleigh. A muffled SCREAM.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Deep Ones? What are--

The door to the wheel house SLAMS OPEN and we hear RUNNING FOOTSTEPS ON METAL.

HOLLOWAY

(rushing in)
He's coming! He's coming!

CHAPMAN

(right behind him)
Holloway! Stop him!

OFF AXIS HUBBUB.

RALEIGH RADIOMAN

(off axis)
Captain! We're pitching!

HOLLOWAY

(right into Craig's
microphone)
(MORE)

HOLLOWAY (CONT'D)
God! That hand! The window! The
window!!

And COMPLETE CHAOS ENSUES as Dagon himself emerges from the
water! Lines overlap, static breaks up the conversation,
background screaming, gunfire, klaxons, and panic.

CHARLIE TOWER
Raleigh, get out of there!

HOLLOWAY
He has arisen!

CHAPMAN
Restrain that man!

RALEIGH RADIOMAN
Captain, there's something
underneath us!

CAPTAIN CRAIG
All hands to battle stations!
Doctor, control your patient!

NATHAN REED
Captain Craig! What's happening?

NATE WARD
Charlie! What is it?

RALEIGH RADIOMAN
(over PA system)
Battle Stations! Battle stations.
This is not a drill!

CAPTAIN CRAIG
Jesus Christ! A giant hand has just
grabbed the starboard rail! It's
some kind of creature! It's
gigantic!

RALEIGH RADIOMAN
Captain, it'll pull us under!

CHAPMAN
Give him morphine!

CAPTAIN CRAIG
Ensign, all hands to fire at will!

RALEIGH RADIOMAN
Aye aye, sir!

HOLLOWAY
Dagon! My lord!

CHAPMAN
Stop him before he--

NATHAN REED
Ladies and gentlemen, the USS
Raleigh is under attack by some
kind of giant ocean creature. It
has apparently grabbed the ship
with some kind of giant hand and is
pulling it--

NATE WARD
Charlie! What's going on?

CHARLIE TOWER
My god, Nate, it's huge! He's
headed for the island! I don't
think he's really after the ship!

NATE WARD
Can you destroy the monolith? Take
it out!

CHARLIE TOWER
Raleigh, this is Tower! Fire at the
monolith! Forget the creature! Fire
on the monolith!

RALEIGH RADIOMAN
Captain, we're--

CAPTAIN CRAIG
Ensign, get ready to--

HOLLOWAY
Ia! Ia! Dagon!

NATHAN REED
It's a battle at sea, ladies and
gentlemen! The USS Raleigh alone
against a monstrous force from the
deep--

NATE WARD
Charlie!

CHARLIE TOWER
Captain Craig, get out of there!

And then there's a huge underwater EXPLOSION!

NATHAN REED
What was that?

CAPTAIN CRAIG
Was that us?

RALEIGH RADIOMAN
I don't think so, sir!

CHARLIE TOWER
That was a torpedo! Someone is firing--

NATHAN REED
Who's firing?

CAPTAIN CRAIG
A torpedo!?

CHARLIE TOWER
He's crawling ashore! Nate, he must be sixty feet!

RALEIGH RADIOMAN
Captain! Off the port bow!

CAPTAIN CRAIG
What is it now, Ensign?

RALEIGH RADIOMAN
There's a U-boat surfacing off the port bow!

CAPTAIN CRAIG
What?

NATHAN REED
What?

NATE WARD
What?

RALEIGH RADIOMAN
Mother of god, sir! It's a fucking German U-boat!

Another torpedo EXPLODES! Outside, DAGON ROARS! The radio signal from the Raleigh side begins to break up in static, but we can still hear Nate Ward and Nathan Reed clearly.

CHARLIE TOWER
They're firing at the island!

NATE WARD

What?

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Ensign, target that monolith with the six-inch guns and fire at will!

RALEIGH RADIOMAN

Aye sir!

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Get me Pacific Command! The Germans have a god damned U-boat!

RALEIGH RADIOMAN

Right away sir!

CAPTAIN CRAIG

If the Nazis have one U-boat, you can bet your bottom Deutschmark they're rebuilding the fleet!

CHARLIE TOWER

I tried to warn you.

The Raleigh's guns THUNDER as they fire shells at the monolith. The German torpedoes explode. Dagon roars. The radioman in the background tries to raise Pacific Command.

NATHAN REED

Ladies and gentlemen, it appears that a German U-boat, yes, a German U-boat, has just surfaced beside the USS Raleigh and is engaging the creature on the island. The German Navy was stripped of all U-boats by the terms of the treaty of--

A NEW CRACKLE can be heard off axis, and then a German voice:

GERMAN U-BOAT

(off axis via PA system)

Amerikanisches Schiff, nicht mehr schießen und diese Gewässer auf einmal fahren. Im Auftrag des Deutschen Reiches biegen Sie ab und sofort.

CAPTAIN CRAIG

Ensign, keep firing at that monolith!

BOOM! BOOM!

CHARLIE TOWER

(getting very garbled)

Bullseye! Nice shot boys! I think it's working! I think the island is starting to sink. Oh he doesn't like it! He's flailing! I knew this airship was a good idea!

NATE WARD

Charlie, all you all right? Get out of there!

NATHAN REED

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, it's definitely a German U-boat, in direct violation of treaty. And some undersea monstrosity! It's simply unbelievable. I fear we may be losing our connection with the Raleigh, they are under fire and--

CHARLIE TOWER

(garbled)

Nate, if you can hear me, I'm going to drop swastika stones. Wulf Lundgren helped me make some up. We know from Innsmouth that swastikas are what drove them off originally. Like the summoning stones, but in reverse. The Tahitians knew what they were doing. Obed Marsh knew the secret but he kept it close.

NATE WARD

Charlie, you're breaking up! Say again!

CAPTAIN CRAIG

(garbled)

Fire! Load the torpedo tubes!

CHARLIE TOWER

(garbled)

Deploying swastikas! Call Wulf! He can explain it!

RALEIGH RADIOMAN

(garbled)

Captain, the creature is turning on the U-boat!

CHARLIE TOWER
 (garbled)
 Don't worry about me, Nate! I think
 it's working!

Another EXPLOSION, another ROAR

CHARLIE TOWER (CONT'D)
 Nate! Dagon's going after the
 Krauts!

HOLLOWAY
 Ia! Ia!

NATHAN REED
 Captain Craig, what's happening?

CAPTAIN CRAIG
 Ensign, fire--

And then there's SILENCE.

24 MUSICAL INTERLUDE

24

ANNOUNCER
 Ladies and gentlemen, we have
 temporarily lost our remote signal.
 While we work to restore it, we are
 taking you now to a program of
 dance music from Raymond Roquelo
 and his orchestra, in the Meridian
 Ballroom.

Fade up quickly on an instrumental version of "Don't Give up
 the Ship." After a moment or two of music, Nathan Reed cuts
 back in...

25 WWN

25

NATHAN REED
 (buffeted by the wild
 ride)
 Ladies and gentlemen, we have not
 yet been able to restore contact
 with the USS Raleigh or with the
 Mercury in the air, but our
 engineers are hard at work. We all
 fervently pray for their safety on
 this global day of fear and
 catastrophe.

The MURMURER in darkness speaks to Reed and gives him more PAPERS.

NATHAN REED (CONT'D)

I'm informed we have reestablished a connection to the USS Hermitage in Seward's Cove, Maine, near the mouth of the Piscataqua River, where the Navy has disabled the trawler Java Bride with its escaped convicts. We take you now to the Hermitage.

26

USS HERMITAGE

26

HOBBS

Portsmouth, we have pulled alongside the Java Bride. We hit her engine square on, she's not going anywhere else. Her engine's smoking up a storm.

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

Copy that, Hermitage. Good job. Any sign of the fugitives?

HOBBS

I think they're hit. It's quiet. They may be injured or something.

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

Proceed with caution and get them back in custody.

HOBBS

Roger that. Our men going in now.

NATHAN REED

Ladies and gentlemen, the brave men of the Hermitage have caught up with the Marsh siblings who escaped earlier today in the riot at Portsmouth Naval Prison. They were among those arrested at Innsmouth in 1928, and as Professor Ward suggested not long ago, may be connected somehow to the worldwide marine tragedies we have seen today. Professor Ward is at this moment--

The sound of light GUNFIRE in the background, shouting men, running, etc.

HOBBS

Portsmouth, come in! We are under
fire!

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

Return fire at your discretion,
Hermitage!

Fighting. Chaos. The line remains open in the background.

NATHAN REED

The Marshes are not going down
without a fight, ladies and
gentlemen! Hollister and Weymouth
Marsh, fearsome men, according to
prison rolls, both in their 40s.
You can hear the gunfire... Plus
their three sisters, seldom seen
around Innsmouth prior to the
raids, we understand, and of course
their incarceration in Portsmouth
was completely unknown to the
public. Federal agents handled
secret indictments--

A burst of static and noise from the Hermitage.

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

Hermitage, report!

NATHAN REED

Ladies and gentlemen, these
desperate convicts are--

HOBBS

We got 'em, Portsmouth! Our men are
bringing them back in irons.

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

All of them?

HOBBS

Yes, sir, I see all five. And
there's one more. I don't know who
that is, sir, but he's--

A GUN GOES OFF in the background. SHOUTING!

HOBBS (CONT'D)

Sir! They've stopped! It's
Hollister, sir, he's grabbed a gun
and...

THE MARSHES
 (croaking off axis)
 Ia! Dagon fhtagn! Ia! Dagon fhtagn!

There's more SHOUTING and a lot of SPLASHING as the five Marsh siblings dive into the water. GUNFIRE.

HOBBS
 Sir, they've jumped into the water!
 They're swimming away! They're so
 fast! I've never seen anything like
 it!

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH
 Stop them!

HOBBS
 Sir, our rifles are useless firing
 into the water!

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH
 You have depth charges, don't you?

HOBBS
 Sir, yes sir!

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH
 Use them!

HOBBS
 (off axis)
 Fire depth charges!

Background HUBBUB.

NATHAN REED
 Ladies and gentlemen the Marshes
 are making one last desperate bid
 for freedom, attempting to swim
 away from their crippled boat! The
 Navy men are preparing one more
 gambit. They're going to deploy--

SPLASH! BOOM! SPLASH!

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH
 Hermitage, report! Do you have
 them?

HUBBUB.

NATHAN REED

(getting confused)

Ladies and gentlemen, we're waiting to hear if the Innsmouth... the fugitive Marsh... siblings have been--

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

Hermitage! Do you have them?

HOBBS

We have one of the women, sir. She's dead.

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

Which one?

HOBBS

I think it's Dolores, sir. Man is she one ugly broad.

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

What about the rest of them?

HOBBS

We have a part of one more. It doesn't look like one of the Marshes, sir. It looks... human.

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

Hollister? Weymouth? The others?

HOBBS

We'll see what floats up, sir. There's no way they could have survived that depth charge.

PORTSMOUTH DISPATCH

Roger. Keep looking, just in case.

NATHAN REED

Ladies and gentlemen, we have word that the USS Palos has made contact with the "radicals" who have taken over the prison at Alcatraz, and they are about to transmit their message. We take you now back to Alcatraz island.

ISAZA

This is Ensign Charles Isaza of the USS Palos. I am standing near the sally port of Alcatraz penitentiary, where I have been ordered to hand the microphone to one of the men who have taken over the prison and are holding Warden Johnston and his staff hostage. His name is Robert Olmstead. He's standing about twenty-five feet from me. He's a man of about thirty-five, I'd guess, although from his bald head and wrinkled skin it's hard to tell. He has oddly prominent eyes. Kind of spooky looking. He's wearing a convict's uniform. There are some other convicts standing behind him. The fire in the industries building is out, and the guns have been quiet for a few minutes now. It seems clear. I'm approaching him now.

NATHAN REED

(hushed)

Ladies and gentlemen, Robert Olmstead was the government informant whose testimony pushed the Treasury Department to take action on Innsmouth in 1928. In a shocking turn of events, he later killed Agent Jack McGraw, the very Treasury agent to whom he had made his report. He attempted to flee from the scene of his crime with a cousin of his, one Lawrence Williamson, but they were both apprehended and arrested in 1933, and were later transferred to Alcatraz. At any moment now--

OLMSTEAD

(nervous and croaky)

People of America and the world! Dagon arises, and today is the beginning of your end! You have tried to kill us, but in this you can never succeed! You have herded us into concentration camps, but we will tear them down!

(MORE)

OLMSTEAD (CONT'D)
 You have shot death into the sea,
 but the glories of the Deep Ones
 can never be destroyed!

A hushed Nathan Reed comes in over Olmstead.

NATHAN REED
 (quietly)
 Ladies and gentlemen, I've just
 been handed a notice that Barnabas
 Marsh, the notorious leader of the
 Insmouth cult known as the
 Esoteric Order of Dagon, father of
 the Marsh siblings, is also one of
 the Alcatraz prisoners!

OLMSTEAD
 (continuously, and with
 growing confidence)
 We have never wanted to harm the
 upper world. We have offered you
 wealth, and sustenance, and the
 glorious transfiguration of Father
 Dagon and Mother Hydra! And you--

There is an EXPLOSION in the background. Behind Olmstead is
 the sound of movement. Quick FOOTSTEPS and HUBBUB.

ISAZA
 (off axis)
 Hey! Look out! Behind you!

BARNABAS MARSH
 (approaching, off axis,
 loud, deep & croaky)
 You broke the first oath!

ISAZA
 (off axis)
 Palos! There's another prisoner--

BARNABAS MARSH
 And you broke the second!

OLMSTEAD
 Barnabas, I--

BARNABAS MARSH
 Ia fhtagn!

The sound of STABBING and Olmstead DROPS THE MICROPHONE,
 GASPS IN AGONY. RUNNING FOOTSTEPS and a BIG SPLASH. New chaos
 in the background, including gunfire.

NATHAN REED

Ladies and gentlemen, something has happened on Alcatraz! Something has happened to Robert Olmstead!

ISAZA

(off axis)

He's been stabbed! Medic! Mr. Olmstead, can you hear me?

NATHAN REED

Is he still alive?

ISAZA

(into the mic)

Palos, Olmstead has been stabbed in the neck. He's bleeding heavily. We need a medic here! Another prisoner, that humped back old man, ran up behind him and stabbed him. Oh my god, he's bleeding everywhere! The old man jumped into the bay! Can you get him?

GUNFIRE! More chaos!

NATHAN REED

Ladies and gentlemen, Robert Olmstead, the spokesman for the rioting prisoners, has just been stabbed by another prisoner! I think we heard him say the name Barnabas... We're told that Olmstead and his cousin were both previously committed to an insane asylum in Canton, Ohio. The speech he was making was certainly--

ISAZA

Look! I see a flag on the ramparts of the cell house! It's... it's Warden Johnston! He's free! The guards have retaken the prison! Palos, it worked!

NATHAN REED

Ladies and gentlemen, it seems the siege of Alcatraz is over!

(MORE)

NATHAN REED (CONT'D)

It would appear that the authorities allowed Robert Olmstead to make his "statement" in order to distract the attention of the radicals, giving the Navy a chance to strike the prison from the southern side. Naval gunboats have fired on the strange black shapeless jellyfish-like creatures that were earlier reported climbing outside the building, and they have retreated into the water, with none remaining to be seen. Brave Ensign Isaza was the bait for their...

The MURMURER returns.

NATHAN REED (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen, I've just been notified that the full crew of the USS Palos have stormed the island and secured the residential buildings, where the families are housed. Prison officials at Alcatraz have now confirmed that was indeed Barnabas Marsh who attacked Mr. Olmstead before jumping into the bay. Citizens needn't be alarmed, as he cannot possibly survive in the icy waters and treacherous currents of San Francisco Bay. Barnabas...

MURMURS and PAPERS

NATHAN REED (CONT'D)

More reports coming in now, the underwater attacks in Yokohama and Kagoshima have ended. Tahiti reports all clear. No sign of the attackers at Valparaiso. Zanzibar, Manila Bay, Stockholm, ladies and gentlemen, it seems this global attack might indeed be over, just as suddenly and mysteriously as it began. We can... yes... we have an updated report from Bert Philips in Oakland.

30 EAST BAY

30

Background sounds still include some sirens and traffic, but are somehow much happier than they have been so far. Maybe there's a cheering crowd nearby.

BERT PHILIPS

Ladies and gentlemen, the fire in the exploded "warehouse" on the Oakland waterfront is now extinguished, and the police have taken a number of people into custody. They are being described as members of a "cult." I am standing near the smoldering wreckage of their building, hoping for a glimpse of them as they are loaded into the paddy wagons. It is not known at this time what connection, if any, they had to the events transpiring today on Alcatraz island, or the tragic sinking of the Thororoughfare and the CG-243, but stockpiles of allegedly religious literature that escaped burning in the warehouse have been confiscated by government authorities and will be carefully examined.

The background crowd CHEERS and the sound of BIG MOTOR TRUCKS starting up.

BERT PHILIPS (CONT'D)

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, perhaps you can hear now the prisoners, the cultists, are being brought out to the waiting paddy wagons. They're wearing ceremonial robes, and their military police escorts are carrying what do appear to be hats or metal crowns of some kind. Yes they're loading them into the paddy wagons now, some of the prisoners shuffling or hopping along, perhaps injured in the struggle with officers. Fire crews will now begin to clean up the site while police gather the remaining evidence. A stunning triumph today for the forces of law and order.

NATHAN REED

Thank you to Bert Philips, Walter Davis, and the many technicians of the Worldwide Wireless News for their exemplary work in bringing you live reports of the momentous events of the day. Our thanks also to the brave military personnel in Portsmouth, San Francisco, and all our ships at sea. Ladies and gentlemen we have back on the line with us one last time Professor Nathaniel Ward of Miskatonic University. Professor, can you hear me?

NATE WARD

Hello, Mr. Reed. I'm still here.

NATHAN REED

Have you heard from Charlie Tower since we lost the transmission?

NATE WARD

No, not yet, Mr. Reed, but he can take care of himself. I'm sure we'll be hearing from him again soon.

NATHAN REED

Professor, it seems that whatever Mr. Tower did seems to have made some difference, and that the worldwide attack has been suppressed. Can you explain what has transpired today? These attacks must be connected. Is it your Innsmouth cult all over again?

NATE WARD

Mr. Reed, my colleagues and I will be looking into that, I can assure you. The Marsh family, perhaps, had some friends in deep places, and were waiting for some main chance to move forward with bigger plans. The battle appears to be over for the time being, but if there are Nazi occultists and U-boats involved, we may have just postponed one kind of horror for another.

NATHAN REED

That's a sobering thought.

NATE WARD

Yes. There are stirrings of a new war of worlds afoot. But let the people at home know, Mr. Reed, that we'll be watching out, in the hope that they won't have to.

NATHAN REED

Thank you, Professor, and godspeed to you. Ladies and gentlemen listening at home, this is Nathan Reed speaking for Worldwide Wireless News. We'll be back with more news as it develops, but we happily return you now to your regularly scheduled program.

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CONCLUSION

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TRANSITION MUSIC.

ERSKINE BLACKWELL

You've been listening to Dark Adventure Radio Theatre's "Dagon: War of Worlds", based on "Dagon" and "The Shadow Over Innsmouth" by H. P. Lovecraft. We hope you weren't too alarmed by our little "news broadcast," ladies and gentlemen, and if we've taken more liberties than usual with our story this week, we hope that you, and Mr. Lovecraft, will forgive us. We thought it would be fun! This thrilling episode was brought to you by our sponsor, Bub-L-Pep! Keep them smiling with Bub-L-Pep. It's the nerve quencher!

BUB-L-PEP SINGERS

(singing)

*That's Bub-L-Pep! Let us pour you some!
The L is for lithium-yum-yum!*

Dark Adventure closing THEME.

ERSKINE BLACKWELL

Until next week, this is Erskine Blackwell reminding you to never go anywhere alone; if it looks bad, don't look; and save the last bullet for yourself.

ANNOUNCER

"Dagon: War of Worlds" was adapted for radio and produced by Sean Branney and Andrew Leman. Original music by Troy Sterling Nies. The Dark Adventure Ensemble featured: Sean Branney, Kacey Camp, Dan Conroy, Mike Dalager, Lucas Dixon, Matt Foyer, Andrew Leman, Barry Lynch, Jacob Lyle, Johnny McKenna, Grinnell Morris, Cameron Oro, David Pavao, Kevin Stidham, Josh Thoemke and Time Winters. Tune in next week for "The Witch Doctor of Aboudombubu!" a tale of exotic mystery. Dark Adventure Radio Theatre is a production of the HPLHS Broadcasting Group, a subsidiary of HPLHS, Inc., copyright 1935...plus eighty.

Radio STATIC and fade out.