

The Dreadnought

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START/STOP DATA

No. 1 Volume 1 March 9th, 1912, Col. Blueish Green
Boys Friend Size

to

No. 12 Volume 1 May 25th, 1912.

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No. 1 Volume 2 June 1st, 1912, Greenish colour
Magnet size

to

No. 121 September 19th, 1914.

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Title changed to The Dreadnought & War Pictorial

No. 1 Volume 1 September 26th, 1914, Blue & White

2 " 1 October 3rd, 1914, Green Cover

6 Title changed to The Dreadnought & Boys War Weekly

14 December 26th, 1914.

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Title changed back to Dreadnought

No. 136 Volume 6 January 2nd, 1915, Green cover

141 February 6th, 1915, White cover

159 June 12th, 1915, - amalgamated with Boys Friend

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Sexton Blake Serials in the Dreadnought

The Man from Scotland Yard

The Man of Many Disguises

The Man Who Vanished

The Men Who Changed Places

The Great Conspiracy

The Heir From Nowhere

The Man of Mystery

The Mystery of the Scarlet Thread

The Secret Plotter,

The Merchants Secret

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THE STORY

The Dreadnought like the Penny Popular is one of the most interesting of the Amalgamated Press publications. Much of its contents were reprinted from various other papers and provide a varied cross-section of the popular stories

of the day. It first appeared on March 9th, 1912, and carried on until Number 159, June 12th, 1915, when it was amalgamated with the Boys Friend. Owing to the frequent changes of title, colour and numbering it is a difficult paper to collate without having the whole run and therefore a start/stop list is appended which should be useful in placing any particular issue in its correct place.

Sexton Blake serials were a common feature and stories featuring him and George Marsden Plummer were well to the fore. R.W. Comrade (E.S. Brooks) had two serials "Scorned by the School" and "The Cad of the School". Other well known authors to appear were Allan Blair, Louis Carlton, Andrew Gray, David Goodwin (John Trogellis), Sidney Drew and A.S. Hardy.

Charles Hamilton was well represented with, firstly, stories of Clivedon reprinted from the Boys Herald. These were, in the main of the short humorous type. Secondly, by stories of St. Ethelberts which were very similar and thirdly there appeared twenty-four stories of Greyfriars School reprinted from the early Red Magnets, only Nos. 1, 10, 11, 14 and 27 not being reprinted out of the first 29 Magnets. At first these Greyfriars stories were severely abridged, but, as they became more and more popular, so their length increased until they became the most important and prominent feature of the paper. The abridgement was quite skilfully done and is not easily detected without actual physical comparison with the originals. The Greyfriars reprints appeared in Nos. 136 to the final No. 199, and as they are the most interesting content will be dealt with in detail.

The first Greyfriars story is "Bob Cherry's Triumph", a reprint of Magnet No. 2 "The Taming of Harry". It tells the story of the arrival of Bob Cherry. Hazeldene, alias Vaseline, poses as Harry Wharton and leads Bob up the garden path. In consequence Cherry fights Wharton and beats him. Wharton is very unhappy, hating his life at Greyfriars and Bob Cherry in particular.

The next is "Hazeldene's Treachery" reprinted from Magnet No. 3 "The Mystery of Greyfriars" and is the famous story in which Hazeldene removes a button from Wharton's coat so that he gets flustered and loses the examination. Thanks to Bob Cherry the plot is discovered, the examination is reheld with Wharton winning. Hazeldene receives a severe thrashing from Bob Cherry.

In No. 138 we find "Facing the Music" a reprint of Magnet No. 4 "Chums of the Remove". Hazeldene is extremely unpopular because of his conduct over the examination. Bulstrode finds a photograph of Hazeldene's sister in a locket Hazeldene wore round his neck, and taunts him with it. Hazeldene is so mad he smacks Bulstrode round the face and challenges him to fight. Wharton acts as his second. Hazeldene puts up a plucky fight but is no match for the burly Bulstrode. When Bulstrode still refuses to return the locket and photograph Wharton also fights him and is similarly licked. Then Bob Cherry takes up the cudgels but Bulstrode, perhaps not unnaturally after two gruelling fights, refuses a third fight and flings the locket and photograph on the ground. The chums were going to have a feed but someone unknown (!) had stolen the grub. Hazeldene volunteers to break bounds to get some more and, in spite of their disbelief, does so and the story concludes with the four of them Harry Wharton, Bob Cherry, Frank Nugent and Peter Hazeldene together with Billy Bunter having a good tuck in in Study No. One.

The next story is "Captured by Gypsies" a reprint of Magnet No. 5 "Kidnapped". The chums go to the station to meet Hazeldene's sister Marjorie.

She does not appear and they discover she had arrived by an earlier train and should have met them on the road. They remember two gypsy caravans they had passed on the road and a peculiar muffled cry that came from one of them. It looks as though Marjorie has been kidnapped. They chase the caravans and fight the gypsies Melchior and Barenge but are beaten off. They follow on however and eventually find Marjorie in tears by the wayside with bare feet and dressed in rags. Her own clothes and possessions had been taken from her. They leave Marjorie at The Green Man at Ferrydale. On catching up with the gypsies Wharton recognizes but is caught and bound up. The other three become alarmed when he doesn't return and arm themselves with cudgels and attack the gypsies, overpower them, release Wharton and take the caravans with the two gypsies to the police station at Ferrydale. Wharton has broken detention in order to meet Marjorie but Quelch is going to let him off because he thought he did it in order to search for Marjorie. Harry confesses that this is not true, he did not know she was missing when he broke bounds. Quelch is very impressed by his truthfulness and lets him off just the same.

Next was "True Blue" from Magnet No. 6 "Aliens at Greyfriars". Beechwood Academy is unsuccessful and its scholars together with Herr Rosenblum are transferred to Greyfriars. Among the scholars is the well-known Inky, who has figured in earlier Hamilton stories of Beechwood Academy and Netherby College. Bulstrode insults Inky by calling him a "nigger" and Inky throws him out of Study No. 1. Bulstrode challenges Inky to a fight, Inky accepts but Wharton deliberately forces one first, the loser to vacate Study No. 1. Previously Bulstrode has twice licked Harry and this time thanks to assiduous practice in the gym with Nugent, Wharton succeeds in knocking out the bully.

This was followed by "The Remove Form's Riot" a reprint of Magnet No. 7 "Rivals of the Remove" and deals with the rivalry between the foreigners from Beechwood and the rest of the Remove. In this story we find the use of "Jampot" as a nickname for Inky. There is considerable japing and even more fighting which culminates with a riot in the Remove classroom which even Quelch is unable to quell. Dr. Locke deals out severe punishment all round and announces the Beechwood foreigners are to return to their own school with Herr Rosenblum. Their departure is preceded by a tip-top feast and they all part very good friends, especially Inky and the chums. As he leaves, Inky presents Harry Wharton with a present as a token of his esteem. It turns out to be a magnificent diamond.

"The Phantom Fugitive" follows, reprinted from Magnet No. 8 "In Hiding". It relates how strange sounds are heard in the ruined wing. Grub is missing from the studies and for once the culprit is not Billy Bunter. A mysterious ghost with a dead-white face frightens Skinner. The chums determine to solve the mystery and after a stern chase in which the fugitive finishes up by hiding under Wharton's bed they find to their astonishment that Inky is the ghost! He had not returned to his old school, merely alighting at the next station, returning after dark to the ruined wing. After representations to Inky's guardian and to Herr Rosenblum, Dr. Locke allows Inky to remain at Greyfriars.

Inky's diamond gift is the theme of the next "Heroes All" a reprint of Magnet No. 9 "The Nabob's Diamond". Melchior and Barenge the gypsies who kidnapped Marjorie Hazeldene have escaped from prison and discovered the secret passage that runs from the ruined chapel to a box-room in Greyfriars. Harry is caught by them and they steal the diamond from him. Harry escapes and with the

help of his chums recovers the diamond. Nadesha, the old gypsy woman companion of the thieves, has been befriended by the chums and having been beaten by Melchior because she refuses to be a party to their thieving she informs against them and Harry & Co. pass on the information to the Head. He allows Nadesha to remain at Greyfriars. The chums lay an ambush for Melchior who walks right into the trap and is promptly returned to police custody.

"Saving His Chum" a reprint of Magnet No. 12 "Harry's Sacrifice" is a fine sentimental story - a typical early Hamilton story of the best type. Hazeldene gets into the grips of Ikoy Isaacs, a moneylender from whom he has borrowed in order to buy a bracelet for Marjorie. A half-sovereign is stolen from Inky and Hazeldene admits taking it. Harry finds out why he wanted the money and tries to square Ikoy with 30/- Colonel Wharton has sent him for a new cricket outfit. Ikoy insists on full payment so Harry pawns his watch as well to pay him off. Hazeldene promises he will go straight in future.

The continuation "Friends At Last" a reprint of Magnet No. 13 "A Jolly Half-Holiday" is equally good, and is an important one in the saga of Harry Wharton, as it deals with his reconciliation with Colonel Wharton. Bunter receives an express letter on which he has to pay 1/6d. He obtains the 1/6 by selling a silver penknife, opens the letter to discover a P.O. for 1/-. Hazeldene finds out how Wharton had squared the debt to Ikoy. Colonel Wharton visits the school and Harry tells him what he has done but not the reason and the Colonel is very distressed. Hazeldene confesses to Colonel Wharton. The Colonel arranges an afternoon's holiday for them and takes them out in a brake for a picnic. Whilst they are sky-larking with Bunter, Harry is accidentally pushed in Hayward's Pool, which is named after Hayward Minor who was drowned there when the Colonel was at Greyfriars. Harry is stunned and is drowning. The Colonel dives in after him and saves him with the aid of the chums, and all's well.

We now come to three stories dealing with Remove Dramatics - "Fooling the Fourth", "The Rival Performers" and "The Greyfriars Revellers" reprinted from Magnets 15, 16 and 17, "Wharton's Operatic Company", "Stage Struck - a Dress Rehearsal" and "A Jolly Outing" respectively. In the first Temple & Co. attempt to upset the apple-cart but are not successful. Then they rehearse a play to be performed on their vacation at Wharton Lodge. They have many difficulties with the part of the villain "Colonel Knuffman" and finally at Wharton Lodge after much fun compromise with a performance of Peter Pan. The stories are very slight and only remarkable for the way Bob Cherry loses his heart to Marjorie Hazeldene.

No. 149 is "Bunter the Chef" a reprint of Magnet No. 18 "Roughing It", and is notable for the arrival of Ernest Levison. He does not make a very good impression. The chums are alone in the school due to a breakdown on the line. Bunter acts as cook and Inky adds liquorice powder with the custard, causing them all severe stomach-ache. Gosling gets drunk and has his face blacked with soot and Quelch mistakes him for a negro who, he thinks, has murdered Gosling.

"The Winning Side" a reprint of Magnet No. 19 "The Greyfriars Challenge" heralds the opening of the cricket season. Meunier's cousin Henri Lerouge is visiting England with some French schoolboys and they challenge the Remove at cricket. The French boys idea of cricket differs considerably from that of Greyfriars and with the added complication of the German boy Hoffman the fun waxes fast and furious.

"Bunter's Bush Money" a reprint of Magnet No. 20 "Billy's Treat" is a

continuation of the previous story. The French boys now challenge the Remove at gymnastics. Bulstrode plays a mean trick on Herr Rosenblum and Wharton is suspected. Bunter knows Bulstrode is responsible and extorts money from him but cannot keep quiet about it thus giving the game away.

The next story "The Stolen Schoolboy" a reprint of Magnet No. 21 "The Famous Four" is very good indeed. Lovison is captured by gypsies, friends os Melchior. The Famous Four break bounds and rescue him.

In "Raising the Wind" a reprint of Magnet No. 22 "Fun by the Sea" Wharton receives a "tenner" from his uncle, Colonel Wharton so that he and his friends can celebrate Founder's Day, which is a school holiday. They decide to spend the day at the seaside and together with Bunter, Hazeldene, Hoffman and Mounier they set out for Winklogate-on-Sea. After lunch Harry discovers he has lost his pocket-book containing the remains of the "tenner" and their return tickets. He has to leave his watch, a present from Colonel Wharton, as security for fares the party owes for a brake. Lovison who was also at Winklogate, and had been invited by Harry to share the brake, will only contribute one shilling which he calculates is his share and Wharton, losing his temper, throws it in his face. They decide to go busking to raise the wind and pawn Bob Cherry's watch and with the proceeds have a good tea and hire some minstrel clothes, leaving Inky's watch this time as security. Whilst they are singing Bob Cherry spots a pick-pocket in action and collars him. He turns out to be the man who had picked Harry's pocket earlier in the day and the lost wallet is recovered, now alas only containing one sovereign but luckily still with the railway return tickets intact. In the meantime Lovison has also had his pocket picked and lost his return ticket and once more Wharton takes pity on him and pays his fare.

Nos. 154, 155 and 156, "Open Rebellion", "The Paddiat Form-Master", and "The Schoolboy Strikers", reprints of Magnets 23, 24 and 25, "The Greyfriars Riot", "Four on the Warpath" and "The Triumph of the Remove" are a series dealing with Mr. Chesham who takes Mr. Quelch's place when the latter is indisposed. He has very queer ideas on food, education and sports and the Remove is very severely tried. At first the juniors pull his leg but the tables are very soon turned and they find life under him well nigh impossible and when he orders them to wear sandals open rebellion is their only way out. The return of Mr. Quelch is just in time to prevent any real unpleasantness. Unfortunately Mr. Quelch is unable to continue and Mr. Chesham again has control of the Remove and soon has the Remove skipping in the Close, wearing night-caps, places the tuck-shop out of bounds, and issues them all with tabloids. Goaded beyond endurance the Remove go on strike, starting with passive resistance at the breakfast table, no one eating anything. Temple & Co. come to their relief and purchase food for them and leave it in the box-room. Mr. Chesham finds them locked in the box-room and orders them out. They refuse to open up but Lovison and Bulstrode are funky and want to give in. Lovison who is being held back by Wharton, struggles free and opens the door and whilst doing so is struck a forcible blow by Harry. This causes him to fall right on Mr. Chesham. Whilst Mr. Chesham is dealing with Lovison in his study the rest of the Remove escape. The next night the chums break bounds to Friaridale and load up with tuck from Dame Haffins. On the way back, trying to elude Mr. Chesham, who is on the watch they are caught by Dr. Locke, crossing his garden, and, for the first time Dr. Locke is fully informed of the Form-master's fads of which, needless to say, he takes a very poor view. Mr. Chesham promptly leaves Greyfriars, Dr. Locke taking his place pending the return of Mr. Quelch.

Billy Bunter is well to the fore in "Billy Bunter's Peril" a reprint of Magnet No. 26, "The Greyfriars Sleepwalker". Food disappears during the night and strange noises are heard. It turns out to be Billy Bunter, walking in his sleep, and the story concludes with Bunter still asleep climbing the ivy-clad clock-tower. Arriving at the top he sits on the parapet, legs dangling over the side and a sheer drop of fifty feet below him. Harry Wharton climbs after him and lassoes Bunter just in time to prevent him falling. Bunter awakes but without his glasses doesn't realise his danger and is appalled when he does. Nugent climbs up also and with the aid of a ladder Bunter is safely rescued.

"A Test of Chivalry" is the title of No. 158, a reprint of Magnet No. 28 "The Remove Master's Substitute". Miss Locke, the Head's sister takes the place of Mr. Chesham as Mr. Quelch is still not really fit enough to resume his work. The Remove come in for a great deal of chipping from the other forms and as Miss Locke is really a good sort, quite able to handle the boys, the chums do not know what to do. Bulstrode and Levison are all out to get rid of her but the chums side with her and Wharton has several fights in consequence and is finally reported to Dr. Locke. Herr Rosenblum, however, has overheard the reason for the fight and intervenes and Harry is let off.

The final issue of No. 159 "Harry Wharton's Resolve", a reprint of Magnet No. 29 "The Greyfriars Captain". Levison plays several conjuring tricks, some of them in doubtful taste and Bulstrode suggests to him that he plants something on Wharton so that he should appear a thief and be expelled. Bunter overhears. Bunter tells the Famous Four but does not tell them Levison refuses to do it, and there is bad blood until Bunter does tell them. Wharton apologises to Levison but is rebuffed. The story closes with Wharton resolving to take Levison in hand. He remembers his own early days at Greyfriars and how Nugent persevered with him and he determines to do the same for Levison.

And so the Magnet Reprints come to a close and to learn what happened to Harry Wharton's Resolve we must chase those elusive Red Magnets - now worth their weight, almost, in gold.

The Magnet reprints are all illustrated by C.H. Chapman and capture very well the spirit of the stories and are a great improvement on the original illustrations.

The Dreadnought is worthy of a high place in the hierarchy of Old Boys Books but owing to its scarcity it is difficult to build up complete sets and very few are known to be in existence.

WANTED: "Chatterbox" annuals for years 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, also copies of "Rainbow" comic. Your price paid if at all reasonable.

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