

CRUISE

FOR A CORPSE

CHARACTER
BACKGROUND
INFORMATION

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CRUISE FOR A CORPSE -

Character Background Information

30th July 1926:

LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE KARABOUDJAN III

Yesterday morning, a host of local dignitaries waved Mr and Mrs Karaboudjan off as they launched Karaboudjan III from dock "26".

The Karaboudjan III is a superb 19th century sailing ship which has been renovated and modernised in the shipyards of the old port. Mr Garcia, works

supervisor, explained the improvements which have been made to the boat: "It is an old sailing ship that we have completely restored. We have also changed the structure of the ship as some materials had deteriorated from bad weather." The Karaboudjan III belongs to business tycoon, Niklos Karaboudjan.

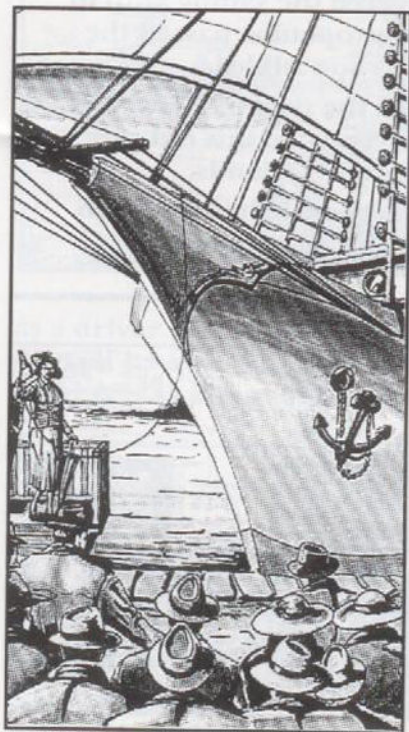
Mr Garcia continued his historic tale about the ship: "This boat belonged to a pirate called one-eyed Jack. One-eyed Jack and his band terrorised the seas of Europe. They attacked trading ships and such like. Jack, with his pirates plundered anything which could be later sold on the black market: cargos of spices, silks, whisky...

All the stolen goods were stored on the little island of Ligorni, situated along the coast of Sicily, to be sold or exchanged later. One-eyed Jack was a pirate feared and sought by the entire world's maritime police. Jack had one big vice: alcohol.

So it was that one October evening in 1820, Niklos Karaboudjan's great grandfather, Anastopoulos Karaboudjan, found himself involved in a bet with Jack.

Anastopoulos was on a business trip to the isle of Ligorni. In fact he had a meeting with Jack to sell him weapons. That evening, Jack had already had a lot to drink and owed Anastopoulos a fairly large sum of money for a previous delivery of weapons. He made Anastopoulos a bet: "I am going to get out a case of my best hooch and we'll see if you are capable of drinking as many glasses as me. If I win my bet, I won't owe you a penny, If you win, I'll give you a superb sailing ship that I stole this week from an English spice merchant".

Jack was convinced that Anastopoulos would not be able to hold his drink as well



as him. He underestimated Anastopoulos, who had frequented the murkiest bars of Europe and was used to very strong liquor. Anastopoulos was not too pleased with this bet, as he was afraid of losing, and had no need for such a sailing ship. He had come to this island with his henchmen to recover the money that Jack owed him, but also to sell him more weapons. Jack had been one of his best customers for many years, and although he always paid very late, he had never really caused any problems.

Anastopoulos felt obliged to accept the bet.

The challenge began in the island's only tavern which was filled to bursting. Every gulp made by the two protagonists was punctuated by loud cheers from the noisy crowd.

To everyone's surprise, it was Jack who was the first to collapse. Jack, a fair player, kept his promise and several months later delivered the sailing ship to Anastopoulos. The sailing ship was in a pitiful state. Anastopoulos passed the boat onto his son Savidis, who in turn passed it on to his son Niklos.

Later, the sailing ship was stored in an old warehouse in the port of Marseilles. A year ago, Mr Karaboudjan came to find me to get me to renovate this old carcass. He told me he wanted to use it for organising cruises with his friends.

We can congratulate Mr Garcia and his men who have accomplished a superb piece of work and who have made this boat into a veritable masterpiece.

3rd March 1926: POLICE BLUNDER!!! Raid on the Cafe De Paris!

Last night at about 10.00pm, Inspector Raoul Dusentier and his men carried out a raid on one of Paris's most fashionable restaurants: the Cafe de Paris.

The police were looking for a dangerous criminal who was supposed to be in the Cafe de Paris that evening. Everyone who was dining in the restaurant was taken away. Mr Dusentier explained that he had to take everyone into custody to be sure that the man they were looking for did not escape. Now, the man in question did not happen to be there. Mr Dusentier made his humblest apologies to the persons detained, and he hastily released them. He had evidently been misled by one of his informers. Mr Karaboudjan, a businessman currently very much in the public eye, was dining, amongst others, that night at the Cafe de Paris. We asked him about the indelicate practice of the police. This is what he had to say: "Don't be too hard on these police officers.



They were only trying to do their job and they made an unfortunate mistake. It can happen to anybody. We shouldn't criticise them, as we are only too glad to have them around when we need them.

It is just a shame that I was unable to finish the duck I was eating, it was excellent."

A declaration which will certainly put Mr. Dusentier's mind at rest.

26th June 1926:

SOCA LAMBADA ABANDONS THE RACING GRAND PRIX AT ANTIBES



Julio Esperanza y Soca Lambada, son of the famous industrialist Pedro Soca Lambada retired from the grand prix of Antibes on the sixth lap. Soca Lambada was in fourth position at the time and had had a very good race. Unfortunately he was let down by his car's engine. This is the second time this season that Soca Lambada's engine has caused him problems. It is even more of a shame since Soca Lambada has undeniable qualities

as a driver. He should have another look at the mechanics for future races! Julio doesn't have anything to worry about with regards to the future of his team however, as it is generously financed by his father's business.

26th June 1926:

SALE OF PARIS'S HOTEL ROYAL

One of Paris's most beautiful private hotels, the Royal, was sold yesterday afternoon in the office of the notary Maitre Logan. The purchaser wished to remain anonymous. The former owner, Mr Fabre seemed, on the other hand, greatly saddened by the sale: "I had no choice. My business was in considerable debt and my only solution was to sell. This private hotel has been in our family for six generations."

We asked Mr Fabre to reveal the name of the purchaser. But it seems that the purchaser has given Mr Fabre instructions to keep this a secret. Mr Fabre did however tell us, "The only thing I can say is that the purchaser has paid a ridiculously low sum in relation to the value of the hotel. However, I had no choice as I was being cornered by my creditors."

5th December 1926: AUCTION SALES IN FRONT OF NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL IN PARIS

Father Fabiani is today organising an auction sale to finance the renovation work of the cathedral's windows. Amongst the objects to be sold are religious frescoes and books dating from the middle ages. Father Fabiani calls on your generosity and hopes that many of you will come...

12th January 1927: FIRST PERFORMANCE OF THE TENOR PAZAGLI AT THE OPERA DE PARIS

Last night the Paris smart set were jostling one another at the opera to applaud the first performance of Marce Pazagli, the tenor.

Pazagli is one of Italy's most celebrated tenors. His last performance at La Scala, Milan, once again had the audience in raptures.

His first performance in France was a triumph and received a standing ovation. In the boxes, the presence of numerous celebrities was noted, amongst them the enticing Mrs Karaboudjan. To everyone's surprise, she was not accompanied by her charismatic husband, but by two charming bodyguards.





U.S. Gold Ltd., Units 2/3 Holford Way, Holford,
Birmingham B6 7AX. Tel: 021 625 3366