

ADVERTISER

SKELLY OIL COMPANY

CONTINUITY NUMBER 171

DATE OF BROADCAST October 23, 1939

DATE OF RECORDING

DAY Monday **TIME** 5:00 - 5:15 PM CST

SUBJECT MATTER Skelly Oil Company

CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT

ADVENTURE: The Perada Treasure

1940 Flight Patrol Application

CHARACTERS

Captain Midnight

Chuck Ramsay

Ivan Shark

Fury

Von Griffie

Fang

SOUND 1 REPEATING GONG AND AIRPLANE DIVE UNDER

ANNCR: 2 The Skelly Oil Company presents...Captain-n-n-n Midnight.

SOUND 3 GONG AND PLANE DIVE FADES

4 Captain Midnight...brought to you everyday, Monday through

5 Friday, at this same time...by the Skelly Oil Company,

6 Skelly Jobbers and Dealers.

7 (PAUSE)

8 But first, we're going to get an important message tonight

9 from the young fella you know as Chuck Ramsay. It's about

10 the new 1940 Flight Patrol that he and Patsy Donovan have

11 organized for Captain Midnight. So listen...all right? Are

12 you ready, Chuck? Come on through...

SOUND: 13 SOUND OF PLANE ENGINE

CHUCK: 14 (Filtered as if coming over radio) Hello fellas and

15 girls...the radio in this outlaw plane may not be so

16 good...but I'll try it anyway. So listen awfully close.

17 Things are getting mighty exciting here, and I know we're

18 gonna need your help before long. So if you haven't already

19 joined our new 1940 Flight Patrol, be sure to do it right

20 away, won't you? Patsy and I both sure appreciate it. And

21 listen...when you get that spinning propeller medal try to

22 figure out what that secret password means. I can't tell you

23 why now, but that secret password's gonna be mighty

24 important. Well, that'll have to be all for now. Goodbye.

25 (PAUSE)

ANNCR: 26 Hey! Did you hear what Chuck Ramsay said about that spinning

27 propeller medal? Well, he's talking about that marvellous

1 bronze Medal of Membership, of course, that you get free
2 when you join the new 1940 Flight Patrol. And boy, it's a
3 beauty! It has a three-blade spinning propeller that you can
4 spin to settle hundreds of different questions. And play all
5 sorts of games too! And say...will you have fun trying to
6 figure out the mystery of what that secret password
7 means...Now...the first five letters of the password are
8 C...O...B...R...A. I'll repeat that...C...O...B...R...A.
9 COBRA.

10 (PAUSE)

11 (Wondering out loud) Say, do you suppose that's a clue? But
12 now, you'll want to get that secret Medal of Membership as
13 soon as you can. Remember...this is all you do...the next
14 time you're out in your family car just ask mother or dad to
15 stop at you're Skelly Service Station. Tell your Skelly man,
16 you want to join the 1940 Flight Patrol. He'll give you your
17 Junior Pilot's application card right away...and he'll send
18 right in for your spinning propeller Medal of Membership.
19 The beautiful bronze medal that makes you makes you a full
20 fledged member of the 1940 Flight Patrol...And remember
21 this...it doesn't cost you a single penny. No boxtops, no
22 package seals, or anything like that! Just tell your Skelly
23 man you want to join the new 1940 Flight Patrol and he'll do
24 the rest.

25 (PAUSE)

26 And now to Captain Midnight!

27 (PAUSE)

1 You'll remember that Ivan Shark was watching Captain
2 Midnight and Chuck through his powerful binoculars as they
3 took off in the black two-seater with the rescued fugitive,
4 Juan Perada. Ivan Shark ordered his chief pilot, Von Griffe,
5 to take off and follow Captain Midnight.

6 (PAUSE)

7 It is now shortly before dark...and Shark is standing on the
8 edge of his secret flying field near the burned remains of
9 the cabin, where Major Barry Steele and his agent Bud Conley
10 were trapped. Attending him are his daughter Fury and his
11 servant Fang. Fury is speaking...Listen...

FURY: 12 So that explains the mystery of the disappearance of those
13 men, Father?

FANG: 14 Yes, master, Von Griffe did not tell ???

SHARK: 15 I see the whole thing very clearly now, Fury. I am not
16 surprised that Von Griffe was puzzled.

FURY: 17 I have been in this cabin many times...but I did not know
18 there was a secret passageway beneath.

SHARK: 19 That, I did not know either. It is amazing that Major Steele
20 knew about it. It was an old mine shaft. Evidently, someone
21 believed there was gold here.

FURY: 22 Maybe there still is.

SHARK: 23 They must have found out differently, my dear. Otherwise,
24 they would've continued.

FURY: 25 If it had not been for that shaft, we'd have been rid of
26 this Barry Steele, once and for all.

SHARK: 27 Maybe we shall be rid of him...

FANG: 1 (INTERRUPTING) Pardon, Master, You hear something?

SOUND: 2 DISTANT SOUND OF AIRPLANE MOTOR - SLOWLY GROWING LOUDER

3 CONTINUES UNDER

FURY: 4 Fang's right, father. I hear a plane.

SHARK: 5 (BRIEF PAUSE) Huh...there...to the south. It's coming very

6 fast.

FURY: 7 It must be Von Griffe!

SHARK: 8 (DELIBERATELY) It could be, Captain Midnight!

FURY: 9 (WITH QUICK EMOTION) And we are standing out here in the

10 open? Come, father, let us move under the trees.

SHARK: 11 Excellent suggestion, daughter. We must not make a target of

12 ourselves for Captain Midnight. Come Fang.

FANG: 13 Yes, Master.

SHARK: 14 If it is Von Griffe, he will come in and land at once.

SOUND: 15 PLANE MOTOR IS EVER LOUDER BEGINS TO GO INTO A DIVE

FURY: 16 Look...the plane...it's diving down!

SHARK: 17 Ah...yea...this is far enough. We're safe here.

SOUND: 18 PLANE DIVE, THEN LEVEL OFF SOUND INTO A LANDING FOLLOWED BY

19 WIND AND PLANE UNDER.

FANG: 20 (PAUSE) See, Master...the pilot comes in to land. It must be

21 Von Griffe.

FURY: 22 (WITH DELIBERATE FORCEFULNESS) It is Von Griffe. See...the

23 plane is not a two-seater, but a single seater.

SHARK: 24 Do not run out yet, Fury...(WITH DISGUST) you never can be

25 sure when Captain Midnight is near.

FANG: 26 Look, please...what is on plane on grass?

FURY: 27 Look at him sideslip, father. He is taking too much of a

1 chance.

SHARK: 2 Ah, fiddlesticks, my dear...the pilot is making a perfect
3 sideslip landing into a small field.

SOUND: 4 THE SOUND OF WHEELS TOUCHING GROUND THEN ROLLING TO IDLE
5 STOP UNDER.

FANG: 6 Now, the wheels touch ground.

SHARK: 7 Ah...(CHUCKLES) An excellent landing indeed!

FURY: 8 It is Von Griffe...I recognize the helmet.

SHARK: 9 Ah...ah, yes, yes, I see. He's passed directly to this spot.

FANG: 10 I will help Von Griffe.

SHARK: 11 Very good, Fang.

12 (PAUSE)

FURY: 13 Shall we go out to meet him, father?

SHARK: 14 Ah what stupidity, my dear. You should never go out to meet
15 your inferiors. (PAUSE) Let them come to you.

VON GR: 16 (AWAY FROM MICROPHONE) I have got news for you, chief.

SHARK: 17 (YELLING TO HIM) Turn your ship around, Von Griffe, for a
18 quick takeoff. Then come here.

VON GR: 19 (STILL AWAY FROM MICROPHONE) OK, chief.

SOUND: 20 MOTOR ROAR AS PLANE IS TURNED UNDER POWER IDLING UNDER.

FURY: 21 Look at Von Griffe's face, father. He is disturbed about
22 something.

SHARK: 23 Uh...so I see.

24 (PAUSE)

25 Well, Von Griffe? Have you carried out my orders?

VON GR: 26 I, uh...I had some bad luck, chief.

SHARK: 27 Ah...and what is this bad luck, Von Griffe?

VON GR: 1 Captain Midnight got away from me...

SHARK: 2 (CUTTING HIM OFF) That is not bad luck...that is rank
3 stupidity. I warn you, Von Griffe...a little more of this
4 and you will never...

VON GR: 5 (CUTTING SHARK OFF) I could not help it, chief. Captain
6 Midnight flew into a deep barranca which had many turns...

SHARK: 7 (ANGRILY) Excuses, alibis, that is all you give me.
8 (PAUSE)
9 If you will tell the truth you will confess that Captain
10 Midnight was just too smart for you...

VON GR: 11 Ah, that is not true...

SHARK: 12 (CUTTING HIM OFF) Enough!
13 (PAUSE)
14 I will not listen.
15 (PAUSE)
16 Did you follow my other command to fly across the ridge?

VON GR: 17 Ah, yes, chief...and from there I bring good news.

SHARK: 18 Ah...well? What is it?

VON GR: 19 Tex Rossman and his men have the cabin surrounded.

SHARK: 20 Ah...well...that is better.

VON GR: 21 What are your orders then?

SHARK: 22 Everyone in that cabin must be captured alive...In the first
23 place, I do not wish to be put in the position of fighting a
24 mother and her daughter. In the second place, and more
25 important, it is only in that way that I can lay a trap for
26 Captain Midnight.

FURY: 27 If you capture that Donovan woman and her daughter, Captain

1 Midnight will never leave until he has rescued them. Or, he
2 is dead.

SHARK: 3 I see you know Captain Midnight very well, my dear Fury.

4 (PAUSE)

5 Now Von Griffe...listen closely. You will get four twenty-
6 five pound bombs from headquarters. One of them a dud with
7 the firing pin removed and filled with sand. Drop this dud
8 as close to the cabin as possible first. This should serve
9 as a warning to those in the cabin. Perhaps they will rush
10 out and into the hands of Rossman. Then...drop the other
11 bombs one by one and destroy the cabin.

12 (PAUSE)

13 In that way, we will achieve our purpose and give Captain
14 Midnight something more to think about.

15 (EVIL LAUGH)

16 And I will be watching you from the top of the ridge, Von
17 Griffe. Mind you...no more mistakes. Now go.

SOUND: 18 SUDDEN ROAR OF PLANE ENGINE AND IT MOVES OFF INTO DISTANCE
19 AND OUT.

20 (LONG PAUSE)

ANNCR: 21 While Ivan Shark's orders are being given, Captain Midnight
22 and Chuck leave the rescued fugitive, Juan Perada, asleep
23 and follow a narrow mountain trail down to the cabin where
24 they left Ma and Patsy Donovan guarded by Pinky and Slim.
25 Chuck and Captain Midnight finally make out the shack
26 through the gloom. As they're about to rush forward they
27 suddenly notice that the door is wide open. They halt in

1 amazed silence as Captain Midnight whispers warningly...

SOUND: 2 SOUND OF BLOWING WIND THROUGH THE TREES

MIDNIGHT: 3 No, Chuck, no. Don't go in. We can't afford to make a single
4 wrong move.

SOUND: 5 AN OWL-LIKE SOUND OF A WOODS CREATURE

CHUCK: 6 There...there it is again.

MIDNIGHT: 7 Quick, Chuck. Back around the corner here.

SOUND: 8 FOOTSTEPS ON BRUSH AS THEY MOVE AROUND THE CORNER

CHUCK: 9 I wonder what...

SOUND: 10 THE OWL-LIKE SIGNAL IS HEARD AGAIN

MIDNIGHT: 11 Why it's just an owl, Chuck. There's nothing to worry about
12 there.

CHUCK: 13 Yes, but what's happened to Ma and Patsy? Oh, gee, this is
14 terrible!

MIDNIGHT: 15 I don't know, Chuck, but we're gonna find out.

CHUCK: 16 That owl, Red. There's something strange about it. I...I
17 just don't know what it is?

MIDNIGHT: 18 What are you talking about?

CHUCK: 19 That owl, Red. I can't get the idea out of my head that I've
20 heard it before.

MIDNIGHT: 21 You probably heard lots of owls before, Chuck. Come on, now.
22 We've got to work and we've got to work fast.

CHUCK: 23 OK, Red. You lead the way and I'll follow.

24 (PAUSE)

25 But I still think... (CUT OFF)

MIDNIGHT: 26 Now listen carefully, Chuck...We're in a tough spot...we
27 can't make one false move. If our friends aren't in that

1 cabin...and I don't think they are, they must have been
2 driven out.

CHUCK: 3 ...or captured...should one of us go through the door?

MIDNIGHT: 4 No, Chuck, no, that'd be suicide. If Ma and Patsy, Pinky and
5 Slim have been captured, it's a dead certainty some of
6 Shark's men are hiding inside in the darkness...waiting for
7 us to come in. So now flatten yourself against this wall and
8 let's move forward.

CHUCK: 9 Okay, go ahead.

MIDNIGHT: 10 Keep as close to me as you can. What ever you do, watch the
11 woods around us.

CHUCK: 12 I'm right with ya.

SOUND: 13 FOOTSTEPS ON BRUSH AS THEY MOVE SLOWLY

MIDNIGHT: 14 Alright, I'm starting...keep as quiet as you can now.

CHUCK: 15 Something's happened to that end of the shack!

MIDNIGHT: 16 Come on, gonna creep forward a bit.

CHUCK: 17 (PAUSE) Okay, lead on.

MIDNIGHT: 18 Look, Chuck! Look at this! This end of the cabin...why it's
19 all torn apart. This end is shattered. Why you can look
20 right inside.

CHUCK: 21 Wha...What could have happened?

MIDNIGHT: 22 Just a second...I want to examine this ground.

CHUCK: 23 Can you find out anything?

MIDNIGHT: 24 (PAUSE) Grab hold of yourself, Chuck. I've got bad news.

CHUCK: 25 Go ahead, Red.

MIDNIGHT: 26 This whole end of the shack has been blown up! I can tell by
27 the looks of the ground.

CHUCK: 1 Gosh, Chuck, that means that Ma...

MIDNIGHT: 2 (CUTTING HIM OFF) Now wait a minute, Chuck, don't jump at
3 conclusions.
4 (PAUSE)
5 Follow me...we're going inside.

CHUCK: 6 I'm right behind ya

SOUND: 7 SOUND OF THEM STEPPING INTO THE CABIN

MIDNIGHT: 8 Alright, this is far enough.

CHUCK: 9 I'm afraid we're gonna find something we don't want to find.

MIDNIGHT: 10 Here...kneel beside me against the wall over here.

CHUCK: 11 Okay...

MIDNIGHT: 12 I'm gonna take a chance and light a match. Soon as I get it
13 lit, you take a quick look around.

CHUCK: 14 Alright...go ahead.

MIDNIGHT: 15 (BRIEF PAUSE) You see anything?

CHUCK: 16 Quick, Red, blow it out.

SOUND: 17 SOUND OF BLOWING OUT

MIDNIGHT: 18 Any bad news?

CHUCK: 19 No, Red. I was just afraid that somebody would see the
20 light.

MIDNIGHT: 21 Nothing in here?

CHUCK: 22 Not a thing.

MIDNIGHT: 23 (BRIEF PAUSE) Well...at least no one was killed in that
24 explosion.

CHUCK: 25 Something worse could have happened to them.

MIDNIGHT: 26 Meaning - their in Shark's hands and...

CHUCK: 27 Yeah.

MIDNIGHT: 1 I told you before, Chuck...don't take anything for granted.

CHUCK: 2 What do you think could have happened here?

MIDNIGHT: 3 I don't know. From the looks of things an aerial bomb must
4 have exploded at this end of the shack.

CHUCK: 5 It just doesn't seem possible...well...that a bomb could be
6 exploded right here without hurtin' someone.

MIDNIGHT: 7 Come on, Chuck, we can't find out anything more here.

CHUCK: 8 I don't know whether we can find anything out anywhere. I
9 guess we just never should have left Ma and Patsy...

MIDNIGHT: 10 That's water under the bridge now, Chuck. We did the best we

CHUCK: 11 could under the circumstances. (BRIEF PAUSE) Come on, let's

MIDNIGHT: 12 go outside again.

SOUND: 13 STEPS AS THEY MOVE OUTSIDE THE CABIN

CHUCK: 14 Well? What next?

MIDNIGHT: 15 Now look, you see that tree just ahead of us there?

CHUCK: 16 Yeah, I see it.

MIDNIGHT: 17 Well, it has low branches. We'll be fairly safe from
18 observation.

CHUCK: 19 Okay, go ahead...I'll be right behind you.

MIDNIGHT: 20 Alright.

SOUND: 21 FOOTSTEPS ON BRUSH

MIDNIGHT: 22 Now then, here we are. Now from an examination of that
23 shack, I don't believe anyone was killed. Therefore, I
24 believe, they left the cabin of their own accord.

CHUCK: 25 Uh, that seems logical. The next question is - were they
26 captured after they got out?

MIDNIGHT: 27 That's the whole thing in a nutshell. If they were captured,

1 the chances are they aren't around here anywhere. If they
2 weren't captured, they may be somewhere fairly close.

CHUCK: 3 How we gonna find out?

MIDNIGHT: 4 Uh, it's gonna be difficult to find out anything while it
5 remains so dark.

CHUCK: 6 But gosh, Red. It's only the middle of the night now. We
7 can't wait until daybreak.

MIDNIGHT: 8 We may have to, Chuck. (PAUSE) However, in the meantime,
9 there's one thing we can do.

CHUCK: 10 What's that?

MIDNIGHT: 11 We can circle slowly and quietly around the cabin hoping to
12 pick up their trail...but listen, we'll have to be very
13 careful.

CHUCK: 14 Alright, let's get...

MIDNIGHT: 15 What're you looking at?

CHUCK: 16 That way, Red...up the side of the hill!

MIDNIGHT: 17 Well, what was it?

CHUCK: 18 I thought I saw something moving!

MIDNIGHT: 19 Let's keep quiet then and watch.

SOUND: 20 THE WIND PICKS UP BRIEFLY AND UNDER

MIDNIGHT: 21 There, Chuck! There!

CHUCK: 22 See! It is something!

MIDNIGHT: 23 Oh, now I've lost it.

CHUCK: 24 So have I...Gosh, Red! What'll we do?

MIDNIGHT: 25 Quick, Chuck. Down on your hands and knees and follow me.

SOUND: 26 THE WIND SOUNDS UP AND OUT FOLLOWED BY A FEW SECONDS OF

27 SILENCE

ANNCR: 1 Again, the sinister Ivan Shark has contrived a diabolical
2 scheme to strike at Captain Midnight. And while this tense
3 struggle between Captain Midnight and Ivan Shark continues -
4 What about Major Barry Steele and Bud Conley in the Spartan?
5 (BRIEF PAUSE) Have they reached the border safely? Don't
6 miss the next adventure when screaming terror from the skies
7 plunges down at the lonely cabin across the ridge. Tune in
8 tomorrow to Captain Midnight.

9 (MORE ANIMATED)

10 And now...a word to every red-blooded young fella and girl
11 who loves adventure. Do you have your official Junior
12 Pilot's application card for Captain Midnight's exciting new
13 1940 Flight Patrol?

14 (PAUSE) Have you told your Skelly man to send in for your
15 beautiful bronze spinning propeller Medal of
16 Membership...and put your name on the list to receive all
17 the amazing free gifts and prizes that are coming for every
18 member? Well, if not...maybe you can stop by your Skelly
19 Service Station with mother or dad tonight.

20 Tell your Skelly man you want to join the new 1940 Flight
21 Patrol and get your very own official Medal of Membership
22 with the three-blade spinning propeller. He'll be happy to
23 help you join and it won't cost you a single penny. So, why
24 not have the family car stop at your Skelly Service Station
25 so you can join up tonight.

26 Now, don't forget to tune in again tomorrow, same time, same
27 station for further transcribed adventures of Captain

1 Midnight. Brought to you by the Skelly Oil Company, Skelly

2 Jobbers and Dealers.

3 What has Captain Midnight seen dimly visible in the gloom of

4 the night? And what has happened to Ma and Patsy and Pinky

5 and Slim? Be sure to listen - tomorrow.

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7 Until then, this is Don Gordon, your Skelly man, saying

8 goodbye and...

SOUND: 9 GONG UP

ANNCR: 10 ...Happy Landings!

SOUND: 11 GONG CONTINUES AND PLANE UP THEN ALL FADE

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