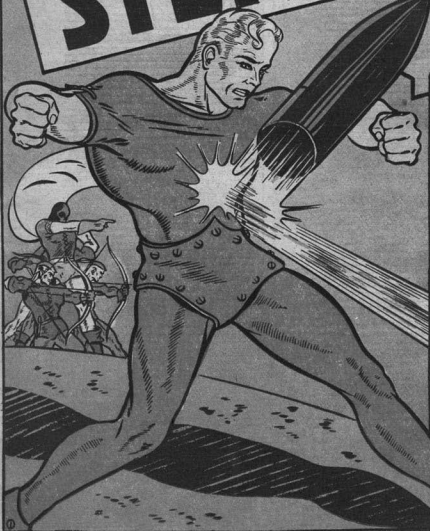


STEEL

STERLING

THE MAN OF STEEL



WHEN JOHN STERLING'S FATHER WAS RACKETEERED OUT OF ALL HIS GREAT WEALTH AND CRUELY MURDERED BY A MOB OF CUT-THROAT GANGSTERS YOUNG JOHN SWORE TO WREAK VENGEANCE ON THE UNDERWORLD!

HE KNEW THAT ONE MAN ALONE COULD NOT FIGHT THE LAW'S BATTLE AGAINST GANDOM, UNLESS THIS ONE MAN WERE FOREVER PROTECTED AGAINST THE UNDERWORLD'S BULLETS.

HE SPENT HIS YOUTH IN CHEMICAL EXPERIMENTS SO THAT WHEN HIS TIME TO FIGHT WAS AT HAND HE MIGHT BE INVULNERABLE TO HIS ENEMY'S WEAPONS. HIS TIME FOR REVENGE IS CLOSE AT HAND

STERLING IS COMPLETING AN EXPERIMENT ON A FORMULA WHICH WILL COMPLETELY PROTECT HIM FROM THE SAME FATE HIS FATHER SUFFERED!



JOHN STERLING FINISHES THE FORMULA



AND COVERS HIMSELF WITH CHEMICALS



INTO THIS TANK OF MOLTEN STEEL YOU GO

FOR THE FINAL TEST STERLING LOWERS CASE HARDENED STEEL TONGS INTO THE FIERY MOLTEN METAL.



SECONDS LATER ONLY THE STUMPS REMAIN

ABOVE THE MOLTEN METAL HE
POISES FOR THE PLUNGE!



AND NOW— FOR THE REALIZATION
OF HIS GREATEST AMBITION—
OR DEATH!



WITH A CRASHING, RIPPLING,
ROAR STERLING SLICES INTO
THE POOL OF MOLTEN DEATH!

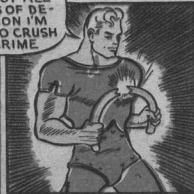


WILL JOHN STERLING RISE
FROM THIS SEETHING
CAULDRON, OR DID HIS BODY
DISINTEGRATE AS
DID THE STEEL
TONGS?

AT LAST! SAFE
AGAINST ALL
FORMS OF DE-
STRUCTION I'M
READY TO CRUSH
OUT CRIME



**HE HAS
SURVIVED**
AND STEEL STERLING
IS BORN! A MAN
WITH THE RESIS-
TANCE, THE MAG-
NETISM AND THE
STRENGTH OF
STEEL!



CALLING ALL CARS



STEEL LEARNS ABOUT A BANK ROBBERY IN BEEVILLE, A HUNDRED MILES AWAY

NATIONAL BANK



THE CRIME IS EXECUTED WITH BOLD DISREGARD FOR HUMAN LIVES!



RUNNING HIS FINGERS THROUGH HIS HAIR HE BRINGS INTO ACTION THE MAGNETIC POWERS OF HIS STEEL BODY-AND ATTRACTS HIMSELF TO THE ELECTRIC WIRES AND WITH SPEED OF ELECTRICITY HE SETS OUT FOR BEEVILLE!



HE OVERTAKES THE FLEEING ROBBERS



HERE'S WHERE MY BODY OF STEEL COMES IN HANDY

WITH A LUNGE OF HIS SHOULDER, STEEL OVERTURNS THE SPEEDING AUTO



STEEL SEARCHES THE GANGSTERS FOR THE LOOT



I WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO?

SUDDENLY A PLANE APPEARS



AN EVIL FACE STARES DOWN AT THEM



STOP!
HALT!

WHILE STERLING WATCHES THE PLANE, A HOODLUM SCRAMBLES FROM THE WRECKAGE, AND TEARS TOWARD THE DANGLING ROPE LADDER

THE CROOK GRABS THE ROPE LADDER AND IS WHIPPED INTO THE AIR!

A CLEAN
GETAWAY

WHO IS
BEHIND ALL
THIS?

THE BLACK KNIGHT-
WILL RULE THE
WORLD-CASTLE IN
MOUNTAINS

AS THE PLANE SPITS FIRE,
STEEL PROTECTS THE
WOUNDED MAN FROM
HIS OWN HENCHMAN'S
BULLETS

OOH

GET UNDER
COVER MEN

RUSH
DOCTORS!
AMBULANCES!

THE PLANE SPEEDS AWAY,
AND STEEL CALLS FOR AID!

THE PILOT SWEEPS HIS GUNS FROM HIS
OWN MEN TO THE ARRIVING POLICE

SOMETHING
SEEMSTO BE
HOLDING US
BACK

MUST BE
THE STRONG
HEAD WINDS

STEEL STERLING MAGNETIZES
HIMSELF TO THE PLANE. THUS THE
CROOKS UNWITTINGLY HELP STEEL
TO FIND THEIR HIDEOUT

STEEL OVERCOMES THE FIRST BARRIER
TO THE HEAVILY GUARDED CASTLE

IT'S A GOOD
THING I'M SHOCK
PROOF NOW

THE MOUNTAIN FORTRESS
OF THE BLACK KNIGHT
IS COMPLETELY SUR-
ROUNDED BY HIGHLY
VOLTED BARBED WIRE
ENTANGLEMENTS.



THE BLACK KNIGHT'S OUTER GUARDS GREET STEEL WITH AN AVALANCHE OF ARROWS. THEY USE THESE TO AVOID THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE. BUT THE ARROWS FALL HARMLESSLY FROM HIM.



OPEN UP OR I'LL BREAK DOWN THE DOOR



WITH ONE MIGHTY BLOW STEEL STERLING SHATTERS THE DOOR.



A HAIL OF DEADLY LEAD GREET'S HIM!..



BUT AS THE BULLETS BOUNCE HARMLESSLY FROM HIS METAL BODY HE WADES IN WITH STEEL FISTS FLAILING



A LITTLE DOSE OF THE SAME-BOYS



USING THE GUN TO FRIGHTEN RATHER THAN TO KILL, HE FORCES THE THUGS TO LEAD HIM TO THEIR MASTER.

HELP! ITS NOT HUMAN



AT THE DOOR OF THE BLACK KNIGHTS CHAMBER

OUT OF MY WAY!



I WANT THAT BANK MONEY. IT BELONGS TO HUNDREDS OF POOR PEOPLE



STOP RIGHT THERE, FREAK, YOU CANT BLUFF ME LIKE YOU DID THOSE YELLOW RATS!



HOW'D YOU LIKE THIS DESK TO BE YOUR HEAD!



RETURN THAT STOLEN MONEY

BUT THE BLACK KNIGHT HAS ONE TRICK LEFT, HIS FOOT FINDS A HIDDEN BUTTON.





A TRAP DOOR DROPS FROM BENEATH STEEL STERLING'S FEET!

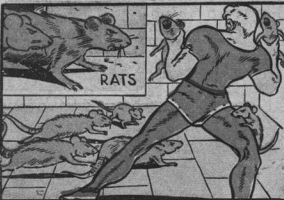


THAT TAKES CARE OF YOU

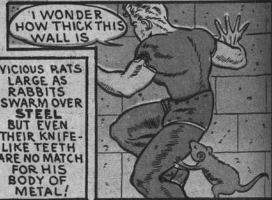
AND DOWN HE TUMBLES ... INTO A SLIMY WALLED HUNDRED FOOT PIT!



IF THE FALL DOESN'T KILL HIM THE RATS WILL! AND I STILL HAVE THE BANK MONEY TO FINANCE MY PLAN TO RULE THE WORLD



RATS

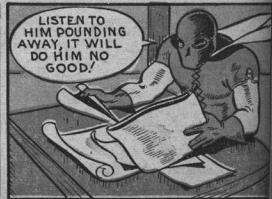


I WONDER HOW THICK THIS WALL IS

VICIOUS RATS LARGE AS RABBITS SWARM OVER STEEL BUT EVEN THEIR KNIFE-LIKE TEETH ARE NO MATCH FOR HIS BODY OF METAL!



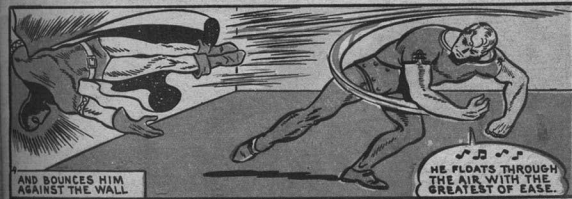
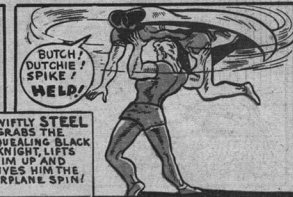
SEEKING A WAY OUT STEEL STERLING WHAMS HIS FISTS AGAINST THE ROCK WALLS BUT THE WALLS ARE SOLID FOR A HUNDRED FEET THROUGH



LISTEN TO HIM POUNDING AWAY, IT WILL DO HIM NO GOOD!



WITH HIS UNCRUSHABLE FISTS STEEL BANGS FOOT AND HAND HOLDS INTO THE SIDES OF THE DUNGEON AND CLIMBS UPWARD!





DAZED AND DIZZY THE BLACK KNIGHT STUMBLES BACKWARD AND-



FALLS INTO HIS OWN TRAP!



THERE GOES THE MONEY. THE BLACK KNIGHT PROBABLY INTENDED TO FOLLOW LATER



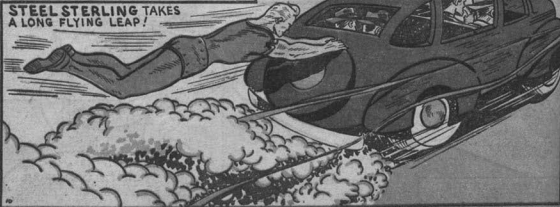
WITH THE BLACK KNIGHT OUT OF THE WAY FOR THE WHILE STEEL SEARCHES THE CASTLE BUT IT IS DESERTED!



IN ANOTHER MINUTE THAT GUY IN THE PIT WILL BE BLOWN TO BITS

WATCH BACK THERE FOR THE EXPLOSION. THE BLACK KNIGHT HAS NITRO PLANTED ALL THROUGH THE JOINT

STEEL STERLING TAKES A LONG FLYING LEAP!



THIS'LL BE THE END
OF THAT STEEL
FISTED FREAK

THATS WHAT
YOU THINK



IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT
EXPLOSION WENT OFF

OW
I DON'T
WANT TO DIE

BACK IN THE PIT IN THE CASTLE

THERE GOES
THE BLACK
KNIGHT

STERLING
SLIDES BACK
TO THE
BUMPER
OF THE
CAR



JUST AS THE SEDAN APPROACHES A STATE POLICE STATION, STEEL GRABS A SPOKE OF A WHEEL AND STOPS THE CAR!



THE BIG CAR SKIDS INTO A DITCH!



STEEL STERLING BORROWS ONE OF THE POLICE MOTOR-CYCLES.



ANOTHER ACTION PACKED
STEEL STERLING
ADVENTURE
IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
ZIP COMICS