

NO. 3

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STEEL STERLING



BLACK HOOD



MR. JUSTICE



SERGEANT BOYLE





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# STEEL STERLING

## MAN OF STEEL



BY  
NOVICK  
AND  
BLAIR

THE SUN SLANTS THROUGH A NARROW WINDOW IN A BACK-STREET IN CHINATOWN, LIGHTING UP A HIDEOUS SCENE... AN OLD CHINESE BENDS OVER A BASKET — AND AN EXECUTIONER BRINGS HIS CUTLASS DOWN WITH A MIGHTY WHISTLING SOUND... WHILE, IN THE SHADOWS, THE NEXT VICTIM AWAITS HIS TURN — OFFICER CLANCY.



DOWN THE STREET, ALEC BEN LUNAR, BETTER KNOWN AS LOONEY IS SNOOPING AROUND VACANT BUILDINGS IN SEARCH OF A CLUE..



SUDDENLY...

HEY, LEMME GO!



OH, HELLO, KID! WHAT'S COOKIN'?

WHERE'S CLANCY? SEE ANYTHING OF HIM?

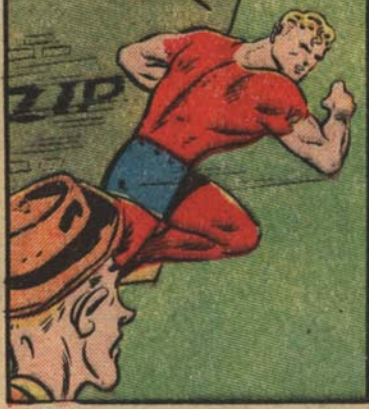


OH, GOSH! THAT'S RIGHT! HE WENT INTO HIP SING'S SHOP ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES AGO.. SAID HIP SING HAD A THREAT NOTE OF SOME KIND!

WHAT?



HIP SING IS ONE OF THE COUNCIL OF SEVEN. HE AND CLANCY MAY BE IN GRAVE DANGER. COME ON!

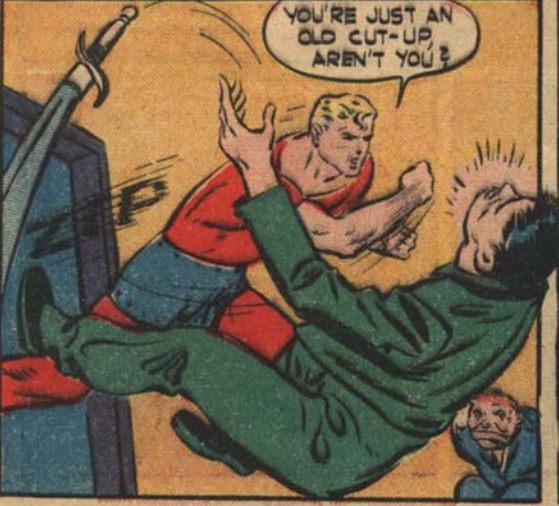


MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR SOUL!

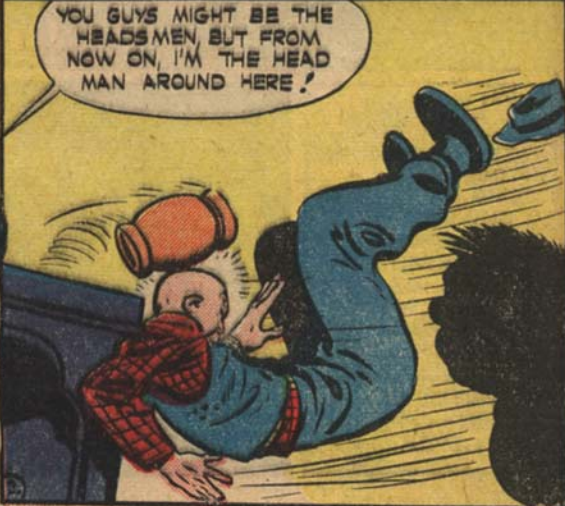
GLUG-GLUG-GLUG!



YOU'RE JUST AN OLD CUT-UP, AREN'T YOU?



YOU GUYS MIGHT BE THE HEADSMEN, BUT FROM NOW ON, I'M THE HEAD MAN AROUND HERE!





ALL RIGHT, YOU GENTS! SPILL YOUR STUFF! WHO HIRED YOU TO KNOCK OFF HIP SING?



WELL, WHAT ABOUT IT? I KNOW NOTHING..I SWEAR BY MY ANCESTORS! I WAS GIVEN MONEY THROUGH MY TONG.. AND TOLD TO DO THE JOB! THAT IS THE TRUTH!



CLANCY! HOLY SOCKS, KID! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



QUIT ASKING STUPID QUESTIONS, YOU FAT-HEAD! WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE I'M DOING--MAKING FUDGE?

NO! WHY? ..ARE YOU?



DO YOU DON'T KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THIS, EH? IF YOU'RE LYING...

I SPEAK THE TRUTH!



WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT WHILE THEY WERE GETTING READY TO KILL YOU, CLANCY?



WELL, ALL I KNOW IS THAT HIP SING GOT WORD TO ME THROUGH A SERVANT THAT HIS LIFE WAS IN DANGER. I RUSHED RIGHT OVER TO SEE WHAT WAS UP, AND THESE TWO GUYS JUMPED ME. THEN, THEY JUST CUT OFF HIP SING'S HEAD AND ALMOST GOT MINE! THAT'S ALL I KNOW!



TAKE THOSE GUYS TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS! I'M GOING TO CALL ON CHING LEE, THE HEAD OF THE COUNCIL OF SEVEN! MAYBE HE CAN HELP SOLVE THIS!

OKAY, STEEL! WE'LL HANDLE THESE GUYS!



IN LEE'S POTTERY SHOP...

GREETINGS, LEE!

AH, CHARLIE STARK! IT IS WITH PLEASURE THAT I WELCOME YOU AGAIN TO MY SHOP!



THIS BUSINESS HAS ALL THE EARMARKS OF A REAL, BANG-UP MYSTERY! I'LL BE ANXIOUS TO HEAR WHAT LEE HAS TO SAY!



WHAT MAY THIS HUMBLE ONE DO FOR YOU?

WELL, I...

EXCUSE ME FOR BURSTING IN LIKE THIS, BUT I'D LIKE A WORD WITH CHING LEE!



HONORABLE STEEL STERLING! I HAVE HEARD MANY SING YOUR PRAISES! BY WHAT GREAT ACT OF BUDDHA HAVE I THE HONOR OF MEETING YOU?

I HAVE COME TO ASK YOU HOW I MAY SOLVE A MURDER!



OH, A THOUSAND PARDONS! MAY I INTRODUCE CHARLIE STARK, THE FAMED ACTOR? HE IS ONE OF MY VERY BEST CUSTOMERS!

IT'S A PLEASURE, MR. STARK!



I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU IN PRIVATE FOR A MOMENT!

NOW'S MY CHANCE!



HIP SING HAS JUST BEEN MURDERED, I BELIEVE -HE'S ABOUT THE THIRD MEMBER OF YOUR COUNCIL TO DIE! ANY IDEA WHY?

THE WAYS OF THE ORIENT ARE NOT THE WAYS OF YOUR WORLD, HONORABLE STEEL! I CAN SAY NOTHING!



IN THE OTHER ROOM.... JUST THE CHANCE I NEEDED TO SPLICE IN ON LEE'S PHONE! I'LL BE ABLE TO LISTEN IN ON ALL HIS CALLS!

CLANCY AND LOONEY MEANTIME, ARE ESCORTING THE HEADSMEN TOWARD THE CHINATOWN POLICE STATION....

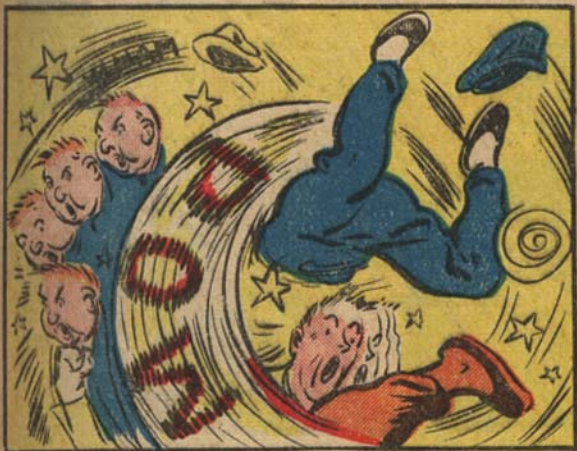


WATCH 'EM CLOSELY, LOONEY!

DON'T WORRY CLANCY! THE WHOLE CHINESE ARMY COULDN'T SAVE THESE GUYS NOW!



WOW! WHERE'D THESE GUYS COME FROM? MAYBE THEY'RE FRIENDS OF OUR PRISONERS, I THINK!



TWO MINUTES LATER...

WHAT HAPPENED?

I THINK WE WERE SET UPON!



THEY CAN'T GEY AWAY WITH THIS!

WELL, THEY DID! WHATTA WE DO NOW?



WE SURROUND CHINATOWN, THATS WHAT WE DO, AND NOTHING STOPS US 'TIL WE CAPTURE THOSE GUYS! LET'S FIND A CLUE!



OH, BOY! THERE'S A CLUE IF EVER I SAW ONE!

LET'S FOLLOW HER! MAYBE SHE'S A SPY... OR SOMETHING!





BUT STARK IS ALREADY AT THE SHOP OF WU YUNG...

I SHALL TRY TO KEEP MY MIND OCCUPIED 'TIL STERLING ARRIVES!

YOU'RE GOING TO BE OCCUPIED RIGHT NOW, WU YUNG!

I WARNED YOU NOT TO SQUEAL!

S..SO..Y..YOU ARE THE MURDERER!

STARK PLUNGES HIS KNIFE TO THE HILT IN WU YUNG'S CHEST!

MAYBE THE REST OF THE COUNCILORS WILL LISTEN TO REASON AFTER THIS!

THE DIRTY DOG HAS FINGERNAILS LIKE RAZORS! HE SCRATCHED MY FACE TO A PULP!

STEEL ARRIVES AT WU YUNG'S...

GOOD LORD! STABBED TO DEATH!

HM.. PARTICLES OF FLESH UNDER HIS NAILS! MUST HAVE SCRATCHED HIS MURDERER! WELL I'M GOING BACK AND FORCE CHING LEE TO TELL ME EVERYTHING HE KNOWS! THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH OF THIS SORT OF THING!

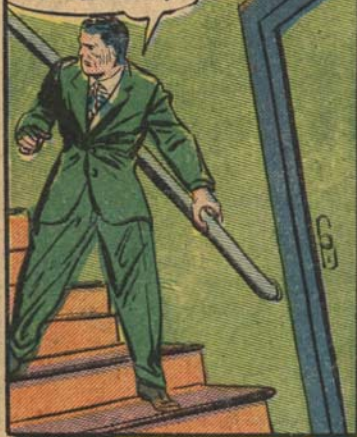
FOUR MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL DEAD ALREADY! I'M GOING TO PUT A STOP TO IT!

STARK GOES IN THE "VILLAIN'S" ENTRANCE BACKSTAGE AT A CHINESE THEATRE....

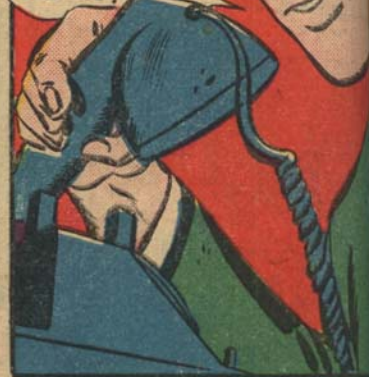


IT'S FORTUNATE THAT NO OTHER ACTORS USE THE "VILLAIN'S" ENTRANCE IN CHINATOWN!

NOW TO CALL CHING LEE ON THE PHONE IN MY DRESSING ROOM. I THINK HE'LL BE READY TO LISTEN TO REASON.



SOON I SHALL HAVE CHINATOWN IN MY GRASP. THAT MEANS MILLIONS IN GAMBLING AND OPIUM SELLING.



CHING LEE RECEIVES STARK'S CALL....



SO, YOU SAY YOU ARE THE ONE WHO DISPOSED OF MY HONORABLE FELLOW COUNCILORS! WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?



BUT AT THAT MOMENT, THE MAN OF STEEL RETURNS..

I DO NOT BELIEVE IN GIVING IN TO YOUR THREATS.

YOU WILL KILL ME IF I DO NOT OBEY YOUR ORDERS? THEN KILL ME IF YOU MUST. THE HOUSE OF CHING WILL NOT BOW DOWN TO THREATS FROM YOUR KIND.



HAVING A LITTLE TROUBLE, CHING LEE?

SO THE MURDERER OF YOUR FELLOW COUNCILORS IS THREATENING YOUR LIFE NOW? WHO IS HE?



I DO NOT KNOW, HONORABLE STEEL. BUT IT MATTERS NOT - I REFUSE TO BE INTIMIDATED.

CLANCY AND LOONEY FOLLOW THE CHINESE BEAUTY TOWARDS THE THEATRE...

WHERE'S SHE GOIN' NOW?

LOOK! SHE MUST BE AN ACTRESS! SHE'S GOING IN THE STAGE DOOR!

BOY, OH BOY! THIS GAL MUST BE THE CHINESE BEAUTY HEDY LAMARR!

YEAH!

YOU WISH TO SEE SOMEONE?

OH... ER... GULP... ER, GOSH... Y-Y-YES! YOU!

STARK'S HENCHMEN, MEANTIME, ENTER THE DRESSING ROOM IN THE BASEMENT....

ABOUT TIME YOU GUYS GOT HERE! I GOT A JOB FOR YOU!

I GOT TO GO ON STAGE NOW! BUT YOU GUYS GO GET CHING LEE AND EITHER BRING HIM HERE... OR KILL HIM! UNDERSTAND?

ARM YOURSELVES WELL!

AND NO SLIP-UPS! IF HE REFUSES TO COME WITH YOU... DESTROY HIM AS COMMANDED!

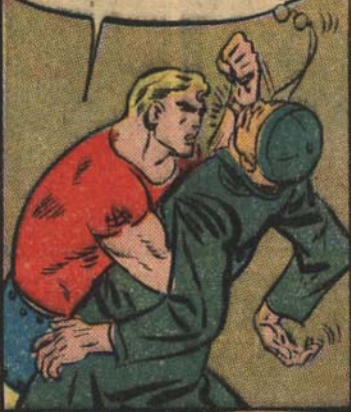
IN THE MEANTIME, AT CHING LEE'S...

SO THE VOICE IN THE PHONE SAID HE WAS COMING AFTER YOU, EH? WELL, LET ME TAKE YOUR PLACE AND—

NEVER, STERLING! I WILL FACE THIS MYSELF!



WELL, IN THAT CASE, OLD BOY—I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU A SLEEPING POWDER! I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO BE MURDERED WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.



NOW I'LL PUT YOU IN HERE WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE— AND THEN I'LL DISGUISE MYSELF AS YOU! WHEN THAT MURDERER COMES, WE'LL BE READY FOR HIM! THIS THING MUST STOP WITHOUT ANY MORE MONKEY BUSINESS!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

AH! I AM HONORED TO RECEIVE VISITORS!



WHO GIVES ME THE PLEASURE OF ENTERING MY HUMBLE SHOP?



OUR MASTER HAS GIVEN THE WORD! EITHER YOU ACCOMPANY US AND SIGN CERTAIN PAPERS RESIGNING AS HEAD OF THE COUNCIL, OR YOU MAKE YOUR PEACE—NOW— WITH BUDDHA! WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?



SPEAK! OR THE INSTRUMENTS OF DEATH SHALL STRIKE AS THE LIGHTNING IN THE NIGHT!

YOU GIVE AN OLD MAN SMALL CHOICE! I SHALL GO WITH YOU, OF COURSE!



I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND THIS! I GUESS THIS IS THE EASIEST WAY!





WHILE AT THE THEATRE...

"WHY THERE ARE THOSE TWO FRIENDS OF STERLING'S. BETTER GET THEM OUT OF THE WAY!"



"A THOUSAND PARDONS, GENTLEMEN, IT SO HAPPENS THAT YOU TWO ARE EXACTLY THE TYPES I NEED FOR OUR NEXT PRODUCTION." WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ACTORS?

WHO? US?



NOW I SHALL AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF MY MEN WITH CHING LEE."

"OH BOY, WERE REAL ACTORS NOW!"

"MAYBE WE'LL GET IN THE MOVIES."



WH. WHAT IS THIS? THAT IS NOT CHING LEE!"



THERE HAS BEEN A TRICK! CHING LEE DOES NOT WALK LIKE THAT MAN!"

WONDER IF STERLING HAS CHANGED PLACES WITH CHING? ANYHOW, I'M GETTING OUT OF THIS OUTFIT!"



A MOMENT LATER, STARK LEAVES HIS DRESSING ROOM, ENTERING THE STAGE FROM A TRAP DOOR...



I'LL GO OVER TO CHING LEE'S MYSELF AND CHECK UP, SOMETHING IS SCREWY!"

HEY! LOOK! THAT GUY DROPPED A PAPER, MAYBE IT'S HIS LINES!"



HEY, MISTER! YOU DROPPED SOMETHING! HEY!"

MY GOSH, HE DISAPPEARED IN A HURRY! LET'S CATCH HIM!"



WHILE UNDERNEATH THE STAGE

YOU HAVE SHOWN GREAT COMMON SENSE IN COMING HERE! ENTER THE DOOR WHERE YOU WILL MEET THE MASTER



I'LL WASTE NO MORE TIME! IF CHING LEE HAS CHANGED PLACES WITH STERLING, I'LL KILL HIM FIRST AND ASK QUESTIONS LATER!



HEY MISTER! (PUFF) YOU LOST THIS PAPER (PUFF) HEY!



DISGUISED AS CHING LEE, STEEL IS USHERED INTO STARK'S DRESSING ROOM... HERE IS OUR MASTER!



THE NEXT INSTANT...

LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF! I'M STEEL STERLING!



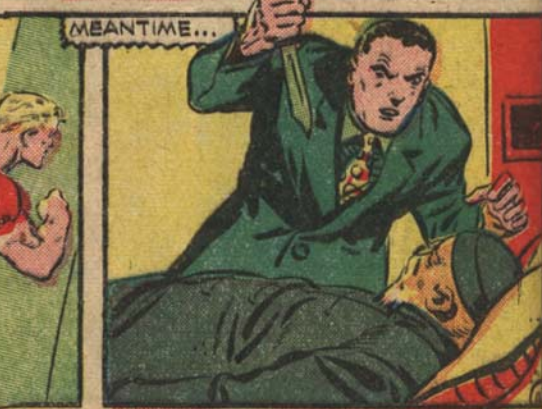
WHAT IN THE — A DUMMY! AND HERES A NOTE!



Starling -  
Very clever stunt of yours! But not quite clever enough! By the time you see this, your friend, Ching Lee will be dead!



GANGWAY, FELLOWS!



MEANTIME...

HEY! YOU MUST BE DEAF AS A POST. WE'VE BEEN CHASIN' YOU ALL THE WAY FROM THE THEATRE. YOU DROPPED THIS!



HEY! WHAT'S SHAME ON YOU! GOIN' ON HERE?



WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO—KILL A DEFENSELESS OLD MAN? SHAME, SHAME!

DON'T BE SO SILLY! THIS IS THE MAN WHO HAS BEEN COMMITTING ALL THE MURDERS!



OH! HE HAS, EH? WELL, HE LOOKS LIKE A KILLER!

NOW HELP ME CARRY HIM TO MY APARTMENT WHERE HE'LL BE SAFE UNTIL STERLING COMES!



HEY—WAIT A MINUTE—WAIT A MINUTE, I FORGOT MY HAT!

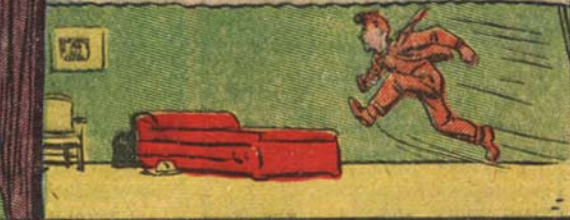
WELL HURRY UP, WE'LL MEET YOU LATER!



STERLING ZIPS INTO CHING LEE'S SHOP BY THE BACK DOOR.....



....AS LOONEY CHARGES IN FROM THE FRONT...



GOING SOMEWHERE, LOONEY? WHERE'S CLANCY AND CHING LEE?



G-GOSH! IS THIS CHING LEE'S PLACE? WHY—CLANCY IS HELPING A GUY CARRY HIM DOWN THE STREET!



COME ON, YOU DOPE! THAT GUY IS THE KILLER! THAT BEEN AFTER!





CLANCY! WHERE'D YOU LEAVE CHING LEE?



OH, HELLO, STEEL! ... WHO? CHING LEE? MY GOSH! IS THAT WHO HE IS? WHY-I HELPED A VERY NICE GUY CARRY HIM TO AN APARTMENT AT 223 MOTT STREET!

NICE WORK, YOU FATHEAD!



GET THE COPS AND GET DOWN THERE AS FAST AS YOU CAN! CHING LEE IS IN THE HANDS OF A MURDERER!



THERE THEY ARE!



YOU DOUBLE-CROSSED ME, YOU RAT! NOW YOU'RE GOIN' TO GET THE WORKS!

HELP! HELP!



SO STARK WAS THE MURDERER ALL THE TIME, EH? HIS ACTING ABILITY CAME IN HANDY!



HERE COMES CLANCY WITH THE COPS SO I'M LEAVING! YOU CAN EXPLAIN HOW STARK TRIED TO TAKE CONTROL OF CHINATOWN AND HOW HE USED THE THEATRE AS A HIDEOUT!



SO LONG, CHING LEE! MAY YOU AND THE COUNCIL RULE CHINATOWN HAPPILY FOR YEARS TO COME!





COME ON, MEN! FOLLOW ME! I'VE JUST FIGURED THIS WHOLE THING OUT! THE CHINATOWN KILLER IS AT 223 MOTT STREET!



GET 'EM UP.-OH! HE'S ALREADY OUT COLD.

IT HAS TRULY BEEN SAID: EVEN THE LION MUST SOMEDAY MEET WITH A STRONGER ENEMY THAN THE GOAT!



WELL, STARK? IT'S GONNA GO PRETTY HARD WITH YOU! WE'VE GOT YOU RED-HANDED!

YOU SEE, CAPTAIN, I HAD THAT GUY UNDER SUSPICION RIGHT FROM THE START! THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIS FACE THAT LOOKED LIKE A KILLER.



SO I TRAILED HIM TO THE THEATRE, PRETENDING I WANTED TO BE AN ACTOR! AND THEN -

STOP THAT BALONEY! I TRAILED HIM!



SEZ YOU!

SEZ ME! PUT UP YOUR DUQUES AN' I'LL SHOW YOU!



OH BOY! LOOK!

THE ACTRESS! WOW! LEMME OUT OF HERE!



I WANNA THANK HER FOR LEADIN' ME TO THE KILLER! WHATTA YA MEAN? IT WAS ME SHE FELL FOR!



MORE OF THE THRILL-A-SECOND STEEL STERLING ADVENTURES AND THE SCREWBALL ANTICS OF THOSE TWO SUPER-SLEUTHS, CLANCY AND LOONEY IN YOUR FAVORITE MAGAZINE - **ZIP COMICS!**

# DEATH'S VERDICT

## A STEEL STERLING STORY

Clancy and Looney were in the courtroom, and were settling back to hear the judge pronounce sentence on Garguilo, the Puppet Master of death. The jury had just brought in an unanimous verdict of guilty. But then, as the judge started to rise - his face became distorted in a horrible picture of pain and then - he slumped to the desk, dead! Soon all was confusion, and Garguilo, the Puppet Master, was laughing a hideous, cackling laugh of triumph and derision. A few seconds later, a streak of red and blue whizzed through the window into the courtroom....THE MAN OF STEEL! Steel Sterling bent over the body of the dead judge. There was a puzzled look on his face as he examined the chair in which the judge had been sitting. Metal plates had been attached to the arms of the chair and a metal plate was on the floor beneath the feet of the electrocuted jurist. Then he said solemnly "This man was electrocuted. There is only one thing I can't understand about this. THERE ARE NO WIRES ATTACHED TO THESE ELECTRIC PLATES"

During the days that followed, the newspapers gave the story front-page display. And then, the day came when the master criminal was to face sentence once again. Another judge sat in solemnity upon his bench....would he, too, die there!

In the courtroom, the jury had returned an unanimous verdict of guilty, and Judge Sloan coughed and was about to pronounce sentence. Suddenly, Clancy and Looney rose from their seats down front and raced to the jurist's bench. Pulled him from his seat and threw him to the floor. The courtroom was in an uproar once again! But outside, the Man of Steel was zipping towards a huge truck which was lumbering through the streets, passing the courthouse, and reached in to drag the driver from behind the wheel. Steel landed a hay-maker on the driver's chin and then sprinted to the rear of the truck and threw open the doors. Inside was a fully equipped electrical-energy laboratory! Steel smiled. "Just as I thought," he mused. "This truck, passing outside the courtroom, sent waves of electricity inside! They didn't need wires connected with the plates....this was enough!"

Sterling raced into the courtroom, just as the police officers were placing Clancy and Looney under arrest for assault, battery, insanity and a few other charges. "Just a minute, your honor," Steel said. All eyes focused on him. "If you'll step outside with me, I'll show you what you just missed! Thanks to those two men you just arrested!"

Naturally, when the newspapers picked up the story, Clancy and Looney strutted their stuff. According to their accounts, the whole plot was figured out by brilliant detective work ---- on their parts! But Steel didn't mind - he was used to that.

FATE SHUFFLES THE CARDS AND GIVES YOU

# **B** LACK **J** JACK

AND WITH STEEL STERLING IN THE  
SAME BOOK *ZIP COMICS* IS UNBEATABLE!

**BLACK JACK** COMIC'S NEWEST SENSATION  
IN THE DEC. ISSUE OF *ZIP COMICS*!

*ON SALE AT ALL NEWSSTANDS NOW!!!*



# THE BLACK HOOD

## MAN OF MYSTERY



OUR SCENE OPENS IN THE HOME OF CYRUS ROLAND, RE-  
 NOWLED SCIENTIST, WHO HAS JUST  
 RETURNED FROM A MYSTERI-  
 OUS EXPEDITION, AFTER AN ABSENCE  
 OF YEARS. THEN, AS THE SCI-  
 ENTIST WHISPERS SOMETHING TO  
 HIS SON, DAVID, AN OMINOUS  
 FIGURE RESOLVES ITSELF OUT OF THE  
 SHADOWS... *THE MIST!*, AND  
 WITH THE INSENSATE FURY OF A  
 MADMAN, PLUNGES HIS DAGGER  
 INTO THE SCIENTIST'S HEART.

THEN THE MIST  
 TURNS ON THE  
 SON...  
 NOW, YOU  
 DIE, TOO!

SUDDENLY, THE  
 BLACK HOOD!



SO! YOU CROSS MY PATH AGAIN, HOOD!



YES! AND YOUR CHIN, TOO!

UGH!



THE MIST REACHES OUT FOR ONE OF THE DEAD PROFESSOR'S RELICS... AN IVORY TUSK...



THUM!

OOOO!



AND WHILE THE HOOD COLLECTS HIS REELING SENSES, HIS ANTAGONIST FLEES.



WELL, SON, I SENSE I ARRIVED TOO LATE TO SAVE YOUR DAD!

YES (SOB, SOB) AND I WAS TOO COWARDLY TO TRY AND STOP HIM! I... I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF... BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW THE MIST WOULD ATTACK US?



I FIGURED THE MIST WOULD INVESTIGATE THIS STORY!



BUT IT'S TRUE, HOOD... MY FATHER WAS A GREAT MAN! HE WANTED TO TAKE ME ALONG, BUT I... I... WAS TOO AFRAID TO GO!

BUT WHY SHOULD THE MIST HAVE KILLED YOUR DAD IF HE BELIEVED THE STORY?

BECAUSE DAD STARTED TO TELL ME HOW I COULD FIND IT! HE LEFT A NUMBER OF CLUES ALONG THE WAY! HE TOLD ME THE FIRST ONE, AND THEN, THE MIST CAME! IT GOES LIKE THIS! GO TO LOST MOUNTAIN, AND PIERCING THE SKY WILL BE THE FIRST CLUE, THE BLINKING EYE!

HMM... I GET IT! THE MIST FIGURED THAT, WITH BOTH OF YOU DEAD, HE'D HAVE THE TREASURE ALL TO HIMSELF... BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET HIM, ARE WE?

THE HOOD RACES BACK TO HIS APARTMENT



SCALES THE ADJOINING BUILDING AND HURTLIES THROUGH HIS WINDOW....



BARBARA! YOU!

HELLO, BLACK HOOD! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!



EVER SINCE YOU FOUND OUT I'M KIP BURLAND YOU'RE ALWAYS AFTER ME TO TRY AND DIG UP A STORY FOR YOUR PAPER!

YES..AND I THINK I'VE GOT ONE RIGHT NOW, HAVEN'T I?



YOUR WOMAN'S INTUITION IS REMARKABLE! YES, I HAVE ONE! I'M GOING AFTER LOST TREASURE... CYRUS ROLANDS TO BE EXACT!



THE MIST JUST KILLED HIM FOR IT, AND ALMOST GOT HIS SON! I'M JUST AS ANXIOUS TO CATCH UP WITH THAT MURDERER AS I AM TO SEE THE YOUNGESTER GET WHAT'S RIGHTFULLY HIS!





THAT'S FINE, HOOD!! AND I'M GOING ALONG, TOO!

NOTHING DOING, BABS! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

YES, I AM, HOOD...OR WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO LET THE WORLD IN ON A LITTLE SECRET?



YOUR TRUE IDENTITY TO BE EXACT!

OKAY, YOU WIN!



THERE'S DAVID, NOW, I TOLD HIM TO MEET ME HERE!



DAVID, THIS IS BARBARA SUTTON! SHE SEEMS TO THINK WE NEED A NURSEMAID!

DON'T MIND THE HOOD, DAVID, I'M GLAD TO KNOW YOU!



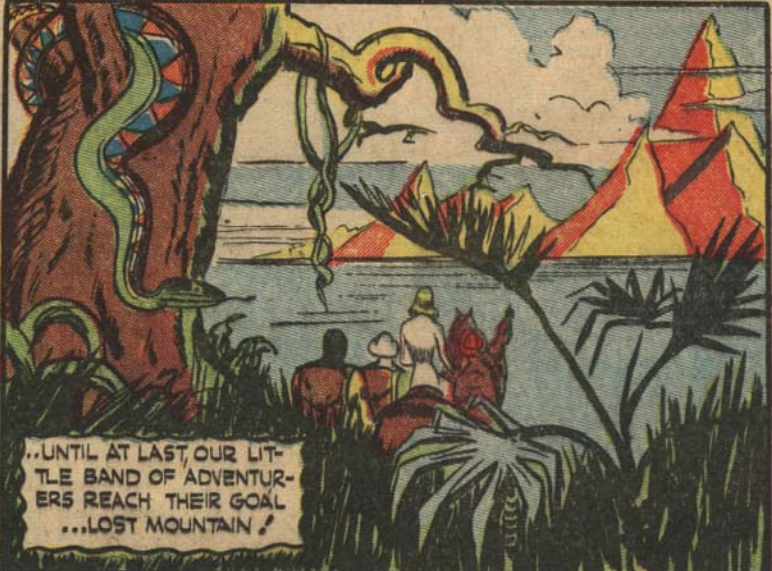
THE TRIO SOON OCCUPY THE HOOD'S PRIVATE PLANE, AND OFF THEY WING--TO WHAT STRANGE ADVENTURES?



..THROUGH THE WILDEST SWAMP LANDS, IN THE SOUTH AMERICAN JUNGLES....



..AND DENSE FORESTS THAT HUMAN FEET HAVE NEVER BEFORE TROD....



..UNTIL AT LAST, OUR LITTLE BAND OF ADVENTURERS REACH THEIR GOAL ...LOST MOUNTAIN!

THERE, NOW  
ME GO... IS  
MUCH BAD  
PLACE!

YOU NATIVES  
HAVE  
ACTED ALL ALONG  
AS THOUGH YOU  
EXPECTED A  
GHOST TO POP  
OUT ANY  
MOMENT!



AND, ACROSS THE DESERT, THE  
TRIO CONTINUE THEIR PILGRIM-  
AGE....

EXHAUSTED  
AREN'T YOU  
BARBARA?

Y.. YES, I AM  
HOOD!



LOOK, THAT  
PEAK PIERCING  
THE SKY, AND DO YOU  
SEE THAT BLINKING  
LIGHT THERE? IT'S  
OUR FIRST  
CLUE!



THE BLINKING  
EYE, A FREAK  
OF NATURE IN  
A MOUNTAIN  
RESEMBLING  
A HUMAN FACE!



UP PRECIPITOUS SLOPES  
AND NARROW, ALMOST  
IMPASSABLE, TRAILS  
WITH A WILDLY-BLOW-  
ING WIND.....

DAVID LOSES HIS FOOTING, AND...

THE TRIO CONTINUE...  
EVERY STEP THREAT-  
ENING TO BE THEIR  
LAST.....



EASY,  
LAD, I'VE  
GOT  
YOU!

UNTIL, AT LAST, THEY APPROACH THE  
BLINKING EYE, A CRYSTAL QUARTZ  
SUBSTANCE IMBEDDED IN THE ROCK....





AND, INSCRIBED ON THE EYE...

IN THE FIERY PIT  
WHERE WITHOUT FAIL  
YOU'LL SEE THE NEXT  
CLUE - THE  
GOLDEN TRAIL

THE TRIO WEND THEIR WAY UP-  
WARD, UNTIL THEY APPROACH  
A FREAK OF NATURE - A  
VOLCANO WITH IN A CRATER!

A VOLCANO!...  
THAT MUST BE  
THE FIERY PIT!

NOW FOLLOW ME DOWN!...  
BUT BE CAREFUL!

LOOK! A SULPHUR VEIN! THAT  
MUST BE THE GOLDEN TRAIL OF  
THE CLUE!

SUDDENLY... A SHOWER OF  
ROCKS FROM ABOVE...

AND THE HOOD IS SWEEP OFF,  
TOWARD THE MOLTEN LAVA!

EIEEE!

JIMMINY  
CRICKETS!

AND THEN, A PLUMMETING  
FIGURE - THE  
MIST!

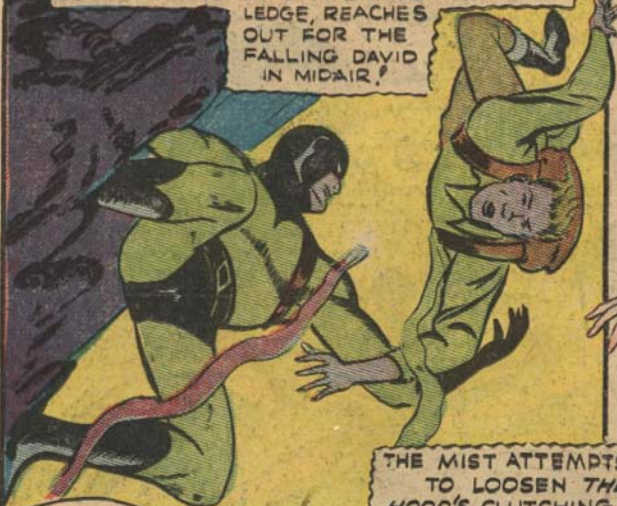
DAVID!  
LOOK  
OUT!

I'VE RID  
MYSELF  
OF THE  
HOOD!  
NOW  
YOU GO!

BUT THE HOOD WHO HAS CAUGHT ONTO A

LEDGE, REACHES  
OUT FOR THE  
FALLING DAVID  
IN MIDAIR!

NOW TO KILL THE  
GIRL - AND THE  
TREASURE IS  
ALL MINE!



THE MIST ATTEMPTS  
TO LOOSEN THE  
HOOD'S CLUTCHING  
FINGERS!....



WHAT IN!....  
THE HOOD?...  
HE'S NOT  
DEAD YET!  
HE'S CLIMBING  
BACK UP!



BUT THE HOOD  
GRASPS ONE OF  
THE MIST'S  
LEGS, AND....



I'LL KILL  
YOU YET,  
HOOD!  
I'LL...



YOU'LL DO A  
LITTLE TAKING  
YOURSELF, MIST!



YOU'VE BEEN DISHING  
IT OUT LONG ENOUGH!

UGH!



LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO FINISH UP THIS TRIP WITH ANOTHER PASSENGER!



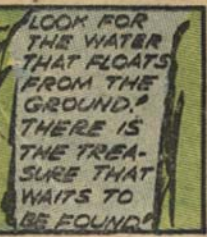
THIS SULPHUR IS INFLAMMABLE! I'LL PUT A MATCH TO IT!



THE FLAMING SULPHUR LEADS THE PARTY THROUGH BIZARRE CAVERNS UNTIL...



LOOK, HOOD! ANOTHER MESSAGE!



LOOK FOR THE WATER THAT FLOATS FROM THE GROUND! THERE IS THE TREASURE THAT WAITS TO BE FOUND!



AT LAST, THEY SIGHT AN OPENING..



..AND EMERGE ONTO AN AMAZING SCENE.. A LOST WORLD WITH PREHISTORIC MONSTERS!



HOOD, WHAT'S THAT? IT LOOKS LIKE STEAM!

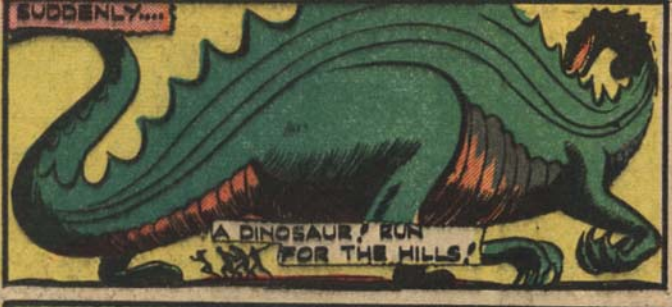


STEAM! WATER THAT FLOATS FROM THE GROUND!.. THAT'S IT, BARBARA! THAT'S WHERE THE TREASURE IS TO BE FOUND!..IT MUST BE BY THAT BOILING LAKE!



ON TOWARD THE BOILING LAKE THEY MARCH...

SUDDENLY...



A DINOSAUR! RUN FOR THE HILLS!

FRANTICALLY, THEY SCAMPER TO GET OUT OF REACH OF THE WILD AND TERRIFYING MONSTER!



BUT NOT SOON ENOUGH!

HOOD! HELP!

BLOOD AND THUNDER, IT'S GOT DAVID!



THIS POINTED ROCK! IT'S A DESPERATE CHANCE, BUT I'VE GOT TO TRY IT!



THE HOOD LEAPS DARINGLY FOR THE CREATURE'S HEAD...



IT WORKED! DAVID'S FREE!

R..R.O..A..R!



THEN, AS THE ENRAGED BEAST REACHES FOR THE HOOD...



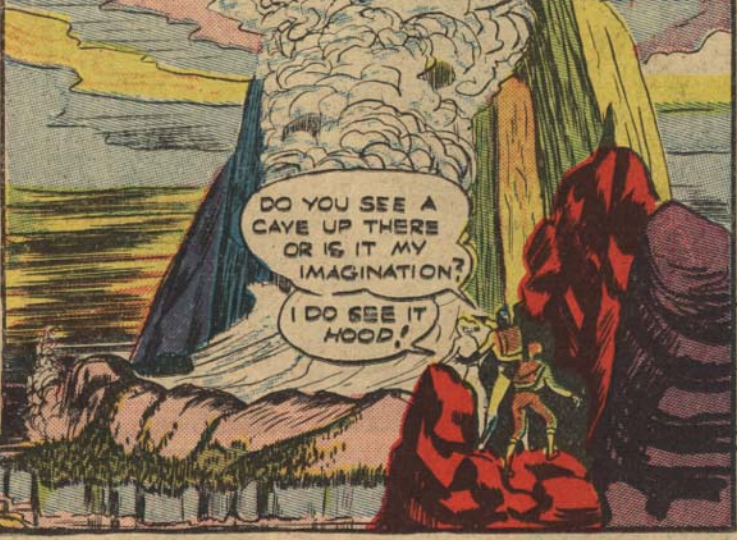
A MIGHTY LEAP, A GIANT SWING, AND THE HOOD CATA-PULTS TO SAFETY!

THE MIST HAS ESCAPED, HOOD!

IT CAN'T BE HELPED.. LOOK, THERE IT IS... A BOILING LAKE!



THE HOOD, BARBARA AND DAVID COME UPON A SCENE OF WILD, ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE, SPLENDOR!



DO YOU SEE A CAVE UP THERE OR IS IT MY IMAGINATION?

I DO SEE IT HOOD!



COME ON! WE'LL CLIMB UP THERE!

THE TRIO COME TO THE CAVE OPENING, ENTER, AND SEE...



I'LL BE !! WHAT IS THIS ANYWAY? WHERE'S THE TREASURE?

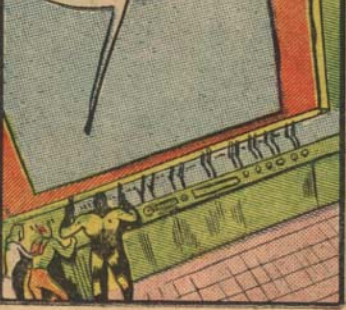
I SEE IT ALL, NOW! THIS IS THE TREASURE DAD MEANT!

DAD WAS WORKING ON A TIME MACHINE... HE WENT AWAY TO CARRY ON HIS EXPERIMENT, HE MUST HAVE DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF TIME!



HMM.. THAT EXPLAINS THIS LOST WORLD AND THE PREHISTORIC MONSTERS!

WE MUST BE IN A WORLD OF A MILLION YEARS AGO... THESE SWITCHES, I'LL THROW THEM AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!



AS THE SWITCH IS THROWN, A SCENE OF MEDIEVAL TIME APPEARS ON THE SCREEN...



ANOTHER SWITCH...AND THE CONQUEROR NAPOLEON IN ONE OF HIS CAMPAIGNS...



THE ROCKET-SHAPED TUBE AND THESE SWITCHES SET APART FROM THE OTHERS? I WONDER IF THEY ARE MEANT TO BRING US BACK TO MODERN TIMES?



JUST THEN, A STONE HAMMER HURTTLES THROUGH THE AIR, AND...



YOU MISERABLE, SNIVELLING  
WHELP! ATTACK ME, WILL YOU!



HIS STONE HAMMER  
GONE, THE MIST DRAGS  
THE HOOD OUTSIDE!



INTO  
THE BOILING  
LAKE!.. AN  
EVEN MORE  
PLEASANT  
END  
FOR THE  
HOOD!

JUST THEN, THE EARTH  
QUIVERS AND IS RENT APART  
BY A VIOLENT QUAKE!

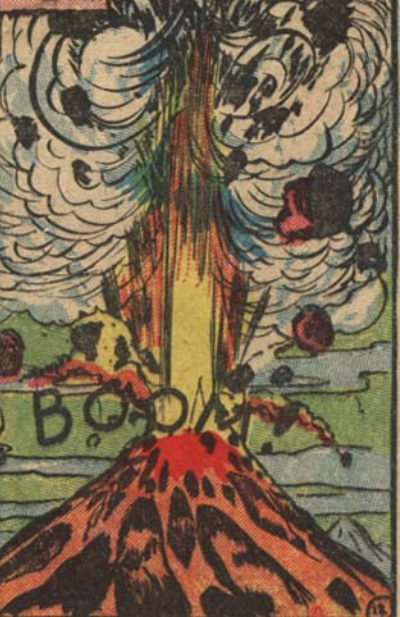


A YAWNING CHASM SUDDENLY  
APPEARS UNDERFOOT AND...



HOOD! HOOD! ARE  
YOU ALL RIGHT?

THEN...



YES, THANKS TO YOU!  
HOW IN THE WORLD  
DID YOU MANAGE TO  
PULL ME UP?

I... DON'T KNOW! I  
WAS SO TERRIFIED AT  
WHAT ALMOST HAPPENED  
TO YOU, I  
JUST DID  
IT!



HOOD! THE  
VOLCANO! IT'S  
BELCHING  
FLAME!

THAT'S WHAT  
CAUSED THE  
QUAKE! IT'LL  
ERUPT ANY  
SECOND!



WILD PANIC SPREADS AMONG THE BEASTS AS THE EARTH TREMBLES AND HEAVENS MIGHTILY!



LORD! THE CHASM IS CLOSING! WHAT A FATE EVEN FOR THE MIST!

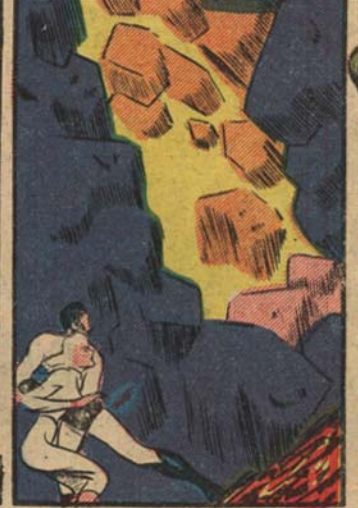


WHERE IS DAVID, BARBARA? IN THE CAVE! LET'S GO TO HIM!



THEN THE VOLCANO ERUPTS WITH A MIGHTY ROAR...

AND A SEA OF BOILING LAVA PCURS OUT ENGULFING AND DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH!...



THE CAVE ENTRANCE! IT'S BEEN SEALED UP!.. WE'VE GOT TO GET IN BEFORE THE LAVA GETS TO US! DAVID! DAVID! DIG FROM YOUR SIDE!

JUST THEN, DAVID COMES TO AND HEARS THE HOOD'S FRANTIC MESSAGE.



I HEAR YOU, HOOD! I'LL DIG!





TIGERISHLY, THE YOUNGSTER THROWS HIMSELF AT THE ROCKS CLOGGING THE ENTRANCE...

AND A DESPERATE RACE EN- SUES - A RACE AGAINST TIME AS THE MOLTEN LAVA COMES CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE HOOD AND BARBARA!



HOOD!... THE LAVA IS LAPPING AT OUR FEET, IT'S BECOMING INTOLER- ABLY HOT!



DAVID! DO YOU HEAR ME? ARE WE CLOSE TO YOU?



YOU SOUND VERY CLOSE... I THINK WE'VE JUST ABOUT BROKEN THROUGH!



AND THEN... SUCCESS!



INTO THE TIME TUBE, ALL OF YOU, AND PRAY MY HUNCH IS RIGHT!



THE HOOD THROWS THE TIME SWITCH, THEN HURLS HIMSELF INTO THE TIME TUBE!...



IF THIS DOESN'T TAKE US OUT OF THE LOST WORLD AND INTO MOD-ERN TIMES, WE'LL ALL BE DEAD IN A FEW MIN-UTES!

THE TIME-TUBE VIBRATES! HOOD! I... I FEEL AS MIGHTILY AND THICK, FOG-THOUGH I'M LIKE CLOUDS BEGIN TO ENVELOPE IT... IN SPACE!



SO DO I, BARBARA!

WHEN THE VIBRATING CEASES...



HEAVENS! WE'RE BACK IN THE LOST MOUNTAINS - WHERE WE STARTED!

YES!.. IT'S A WEIRD FEELING TO THINK THAT IN THE SPACE OF A FEW SECONDS, WE TRAVERSED MILLIONS OF YEARS IN TIME!.. I GUESS THE TIME MACHINE WAS DESTROYED ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE!



OUR TREASURE HUNT WAS NO DAVID! IT'S NOT ALSO A DISMAL FAILURE- AND GETHER A FAILURE! YOUR MY FATHER'S GREAT WORK FATHER WOULD BE PROUD WENT FOR NOTHING!.. I TO SEE YOU NOW!.. A MAN



FEEL AS THOUGH INSTEAD I WERE OF A RESPONSIBLE, SNIV-ELLING BOY! AND PERHAPS THE WORLD IS BETTER OFF WITHOUT SUCH A DEVICE!



BACK ACROSS THE DESERT, THE THREE WEND THEIR WAY....



THEN, AS THOUGH IN DISBELIEF AT THEIR WEIRD EXPERIENCE, TURN AND CAST A LAST LOOK AT LOST MOUNTAIN. BEFORE THEY PROCEED ON TO CIVILIZATION....



FOLLOW THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF COMIC'S GREATEST CHARACTER, THE BLACK HOOD IN

TOP NOTCH COMICS!

AND BLACK HOOD DETECTIVE MAGAZINE

# JEWELS OF DOOM

## A BLACK HOOD STORY

The Hood dashed after the gray sedan and grabbed the spare tire as it started to pick up speed. He had seen two tough looking characters force a woman into this car and drive off with her. Something was wrong and he was going to find out what it was. The car sped out of the city limits at breakneck speed, with the Black Hood still clinging perilously to its rear. As they slowed down in the driveway of an old, dilapidated farmhouse, he jumped off unseen and ran into a nearby clump of bushes. The two thugs stepped out, leading the protesting woman into the house at the point of a gun.

Immediately after, the Hood, scanning about for another entrance, was soon silently ripping the boards off a small basement window. Once in the cellar, he proceeded stealthily up the stairs. On the upper floor he heard angry voices coming from a room across the hall. "Okay Joe, let's not waste any time on this twist - get the stuff out of her bag and then bump her off."

The Black Hood burst through the partly opened door and crashed into the room. The woman was sitting in a chair, surrounded by the two men who had brought her there, and one other, slicker, smoother looking individual. The Hood leaped, lashed out furiously at the gunman and sent him sprawling. The other two jumped on the Hood and a free-for-all followed. Furiously the Hood fought against his three opponents. A stiff jolt sent one of them kicking, and now there were only two left. Cat-like, the Hood evaded their blows, swung a crushing fist, once, twice, and one thug began bouncing. The Hood was upon the third with a flying leap. It was a short moment's work to subdue him.

He quickly revived the woman, who had fainted. "Just what was their game?" he queried. "You aren't a rich heiress they wanted to kidnap for ransom, are you?" "Heavens no", she replied. She opened her purse and took out a jeweled dog collar. "They tried to get this. But I don't know why they had to go to such extremes. It has no value. Our dog, of whom I was extremely fond, has just died of poisoning, aboard ship, and I was bringing this collar home with me as a keepsake. It was made up of imitation jewels. I simply can't see why they were so anxious to get it."

The Hood took the collar and examined it carefully, his eyes glinted. "Great Joe," he breathed, "this is no imitation. This dog collar contains some of the finest rubies I have ever seen. No wonder they wanted to get hold of it." These men are evidently part of a band of smugglers, and somehow they managed to switch this collar for the one your dog was wearing, before you boarded the ship in Argentina, and it seems that they tried desperately to get them back, even to the point of poisoning your dog. When they failed they determined to grab you and do away with you after they had gotten the jewels. It's a lucky thing for you that I happened to be down at the pier watching the boat come in, or you might have joined your dog."


# THE BLACK HOOD, MAN OF MYSTERY, BATTLES SCORPIO, THE ASTROLOGER OF DEATH, IN THE DEC. ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS.

HERE'S A YARN THAT'S GUARANTEED TO MAKE YOUR HAIR STAND  
ON END, BUT DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT, GET YOUR COPY  
NOW, AND SEE FOR YOURSELF THIS BIZARRE MYSTERY "BLOOD  
ON THE STARS".




# JUSTICE

A GROUP OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS ARE EXPLORING AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN TEMPLE.. TWO OF THEM ENTER A SEALED ROOM AND THEN.. THEIR EYES FALL UPON THE MOST PRICELESS BOOK IN THE WORLD.. THE BLACK BOOK OF SORcery... BUT SUDDENLY ONE OF THE MEN WHIPS OUT A KNIFE, AND...




FORD! DON'T! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, MAN! PUT DOWN THAT KNIFE! YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR HEAD!!

by  
S. COOPER



OUT OF MY HEAD, AM I? HEH! NOT WHEN THIS BOOK IS AT STAKE!



THIS IS IT! THE BLACK BOOK OF SORcery! WITH ITS POWERS, I CAN ACCOMPLISH MIRACLES!

STORY  
BY  
JOE  
BLAIR



DID YOU HEAR THAT SCREAM? WHERE'D IT COME FROM?

IN THERE. WHERE FORD AND BAKER ARE? COME ON!



FORD? WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE? WE HEARD SOMEBODY YELL FOR HELP!



BAKER? DEAD?

STABBED, TOO?

FORD RECITES A CHANT FROM THE BOOK



WELL, FORD, WHAT ABOUT IT? YOU KILLED BAKER, DIDN'T YOU?

STAY AWAY FROM ME! I WARN YOU! YOU'LL REGRET IT!

TO KILL MY ENEMIES IN THIS ROOM - TO SUMMON THE MUMMIES FROM THE TOMB, KILL EACH AND EVERYONE, AND THEN - GO BACK TO YOUR TOMBS AGAIN!



THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO HANDLE A MURDERER, MEN! LET'S DO IT!

YOU'LL DO NOTHING! LISTEN!



MOTHER OF HEAVEN! LOOK! THE MUMMIES!

THEY'RE CLIMBING OUT OF THEIR COFFINS!



DAYS LATER... THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY IN THE U.S...

BUT IF EVERYONE IN THAT EXPEDITION IS SAFE WHY HAVEN'T WE HAD WORD FROM THEM?

YOU'RE UNNECESSARILY AROUSED, MR. JUSTICE! THE EXPEDITION THE CITY FINANCED IS PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF ITSELF!

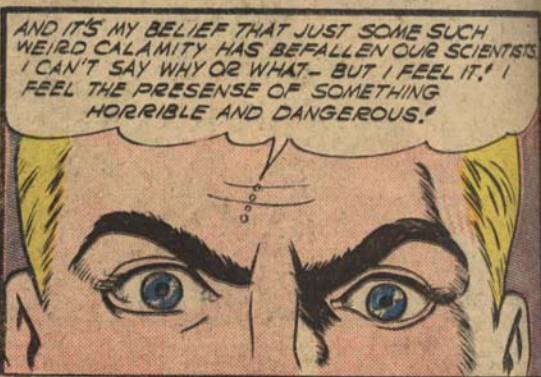


IT'S TRUE WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THEM - BUT UNLESS YOU KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T KNOW - WHY SHOULD YOU SUDDENLY FEEL THAT THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE MET WITH SOME ACCIDENT?

I - I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING AT ALL! I ONLY HAVE A - A HUNCH... NOTHING MORE!



ANCIENT EGYPT IS FULL OF UNKNOWN LORE! ALMOST ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN THERE - THINGS BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS!



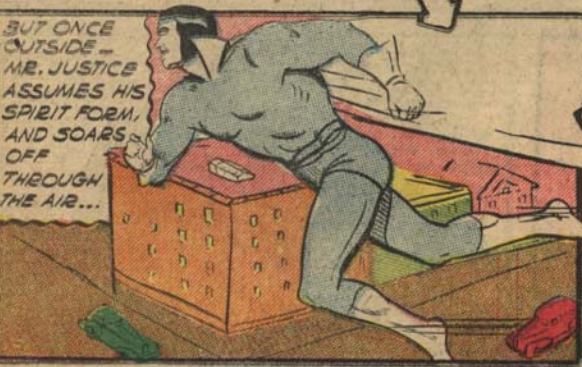
AND IT'S MY BELIEF THAT JUST SOME SUCH WEIRD CALAMITY HAS BEFALLEN OUR SCIENTISTS. I CAN'T SAY WHY OR WHAT - BUT I FEEL IT! I FEEL THE PRESENCE OF SOMETHING HORRIBLE AND DANGEROUS!



OH, WELL - MAYBE I'M JUST NERVOUS ABOUT NOTHING! I'LL TAKE A WALK AND PERHAPS I'LL FEEL BETTER!

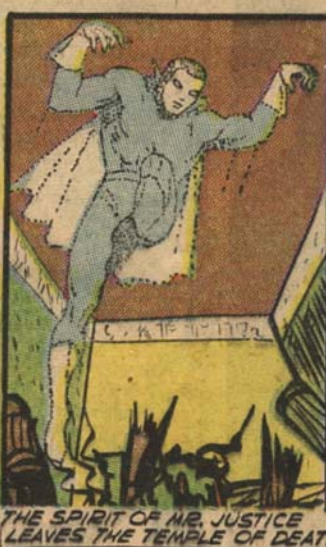
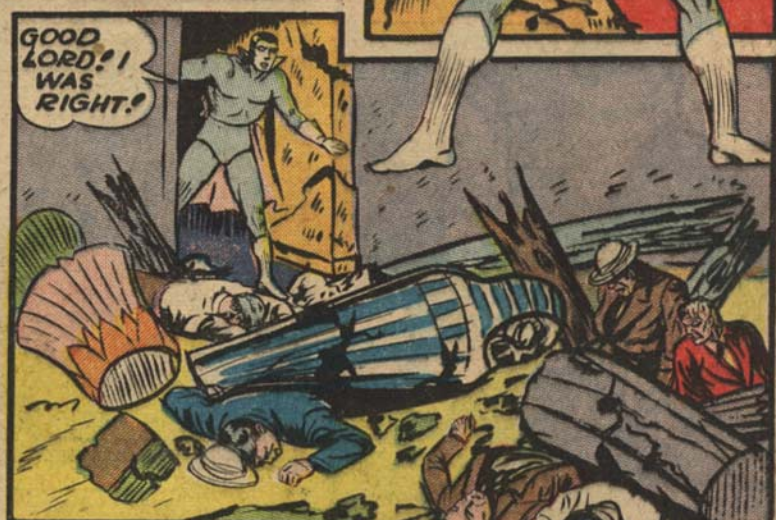


I'M GOING TO EGYPT AND EITHER PROVE OR DISPROVE MY THEORY!

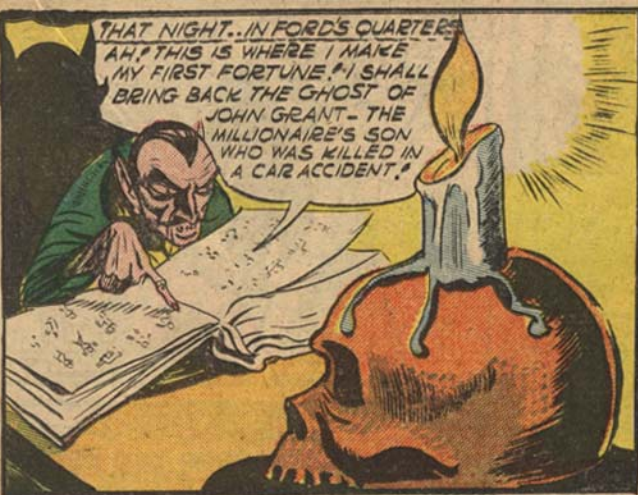


BUT ONCE OUTSIDE - MR. JUSTICE ASSUMES HIS SPIRIT FORM, AND SOARS OFF THROUGH THE AIR...









AS FORD COMPLETES HIS  
INCANTATION, THE GHOST  
OF JOHN GRANT RISES  
FROM HIS GRAVE!



I HAVE HEARD YOUR CALL,  
MASTER! I SHALL RETURN  
TO MY  
HOME!



I WILL FORCE MY FATHER TO GIVE  
ME A HUGE SUM OF MONEY - WHICH I  
SHALL GIVE TO YOU - IN RETURN FOR  
LETTING ME GO BACK TO MY GRAVE  
TO REST!



IN THE GRANT  
MANSION...

I HAVE THE STRANGEST FEEL-  
ING - AS IF - AS IF SOMETHING  
HORRIBLE IS HANGING OVER  
US ALL!



BUT MR. JUSTICE, TOO,  
SENSES THE PRESENCE  
IN THE MORTAL WORLD  
OF AN IMMORTAL THING  
OF EVIL...



AND A MOMENT  
LATER, THE ROYAL  
WRAITH RACES  
THROUGH THE  
CITY TOWARDS  
THE GRANT  
RESIDENCE!



THE GHOST OF JOHN GRANT KNOCKS LUSTILY ON THE DOOR OF HIS FATHER'S HOME...



LISTEN! SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR!

JUST RELAX, YOU TWO! THE BUTLER WILL TAKE CARE OF ANY UNWELCOME CALLERS!



I WANT TO SEE MY FATHER!



THE GHOST BURSTS INTO THE ROOM...

MONEY! MONEY! GIVE ME MONEY!

GOOD KIND HEAVEN! IT'S... IT'S THE DECAYED CORPSE OF MY OWN SON!



HELP!

MR. JUSTICE IS ATTRACTED TO THE GRANT MANSION...



WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S PROWLING THE EARTH IS RIGHT HERE!

SOMEONE IS SCREAMING FOR HELP!

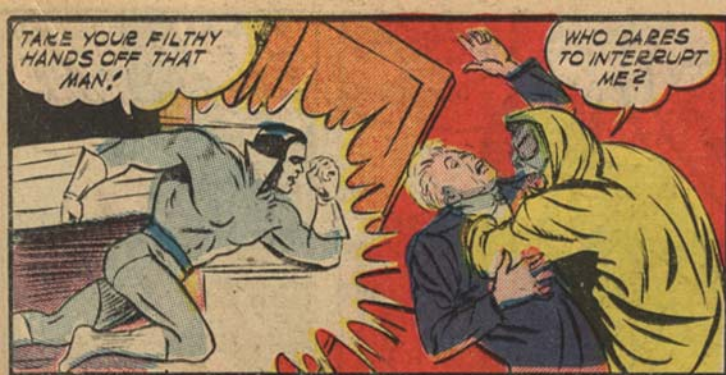
HELP!



YOU THINK OF UNSPEAKABLE EVIL - GET OUT! LEAVE US ALONE!

MONEY! GIVE ME MONEY OR I'LL KILL YOU ALL!





TAKE YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF THAT MAN!

WHO DARES TO INTERRUPT ME?



I SHALL MURDER YOU, TOO!

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!



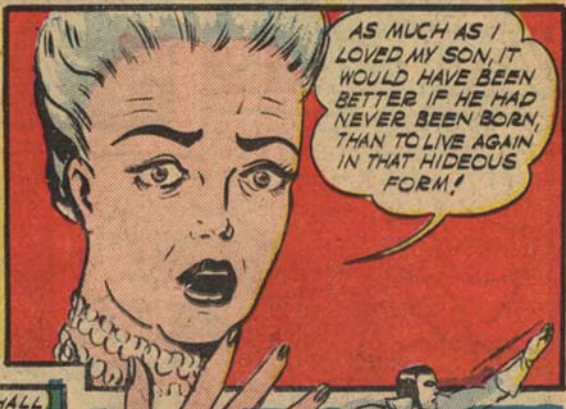
MR. JUSTICE LASHES INTO THE GHOST WITH PARALYZING BLOWE...



... AND DRAGS THE MONSTER FROM GRANT'S HOME...



MOTHER! MOTHER!  
IT'S ALL OVER NOW, DEAR! SPEAK TO ME! AH, SHE'S STARTING TO OPEN HER EYES! THANK HEAVEN!



AS MUCH AS I LOVED MY SON, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF HE HAD NEVER BEEN BORN, THAN TO LIVE AGAIN IN THAT HIDEOUS FORM!



THE GHOST OF JOHN GRANT SHALL NOT WALK THE EARTH AGAIN!



HOW TO FIND OUT HOW THIS HAPPENED!





UP INTO SPACE I WISH TO ROAM...  
SO LET MY BODY LEAVE ITS HOME...  
TO MEET WITH NERO IN THE SKY...  
THAT TOGETHER, ALL WHO OPPOSE OUR RULE SHALL DIE!



WHEN HE FINISHES HIS WEIRD CHANT, FORD SLUMPS TO THE TABLE, AND HIS EVIL SPIRIT RISES FROM HIS BODY!



AND THE TYRANT NERO DRIVES HIS CHARIOT OUT OF THE SPIRIT WORLD!



HERE I SHALL AWAIT THE ONE WHO LIBERATED ME FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD!



THE EVIL SOUL OF FORD RISES INTO ETHEREAL SPACE...



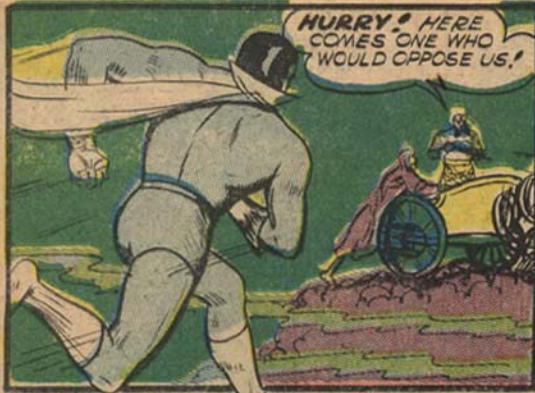
HERE HE COMES NOW, AND AN EVIL THING HE IS, HE SHALL MAKE A WORTHY COMPANION FOR ME!



GET INTO MY CHARIOT! ALL WE NEED DO TO MAKE OURSELVES IMMORTAL AND RULE THE WORLD FOREVER, IS TO REACH THE IMMUNITY VACUUM AT THE EDGE OF INFINITY PASTER THAT NOTHING CAN HARM US!



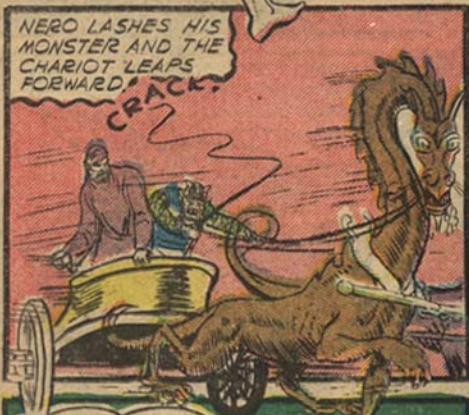
BUT THE ROYAL WRAITH IS ALREADY RACING TOWARDS THE UNHOLY DUO!



HURRY! HERE COMES ONE WHO WOULD OPPOSE US!



DRIVE! DRIVE! WE MUST NOT LET HIM OVERTAKE US! IF HE DOES, I AM FOREVER DEAD UPON THE EARTH—AND IN THE SPIRIT WORLD AS WELL!



NERO LASHES HIS MONSTER AND THE CHARIOT LEAPS FORWARD! CRACK!



WITH THE ROYAL WRAITH IN SWIFT PURSUIT!

I CAN'T LET THEM GET AWAY!



HA! NOTHING CAN CATCH US NOW! WE ARE NEARLY THERE!

GOOD! GOOD! THE SPIRIT IS FAR BEHIND!



MR. JUSTICE, REALIZING HE IS OUTRACED, GRASPS UP A BOLT OF LIGHTNING—



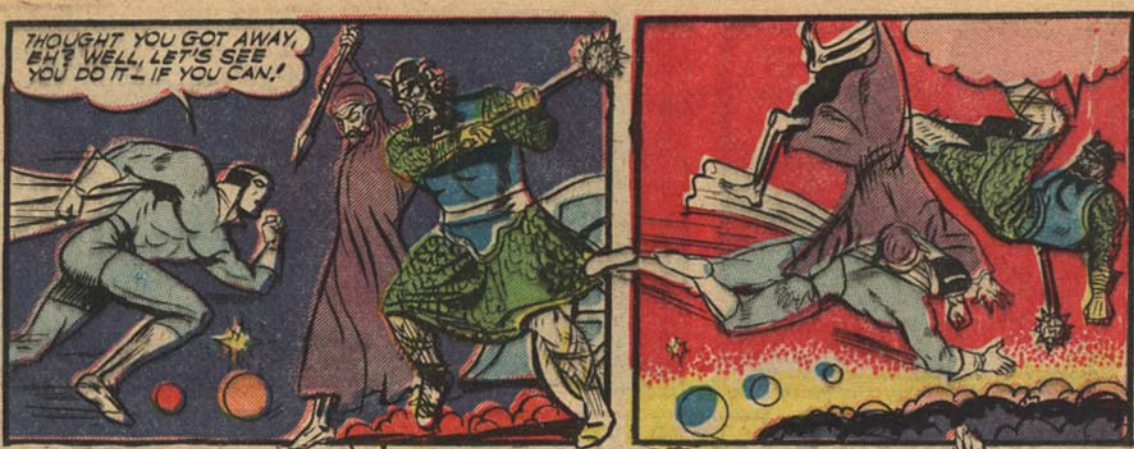
AND HURLS IT WITH ALL HIS MIGHT!



THE MONSTER COMES TO A HALT, AS THE LIGHTNING CRASHES ABOUT HIM!



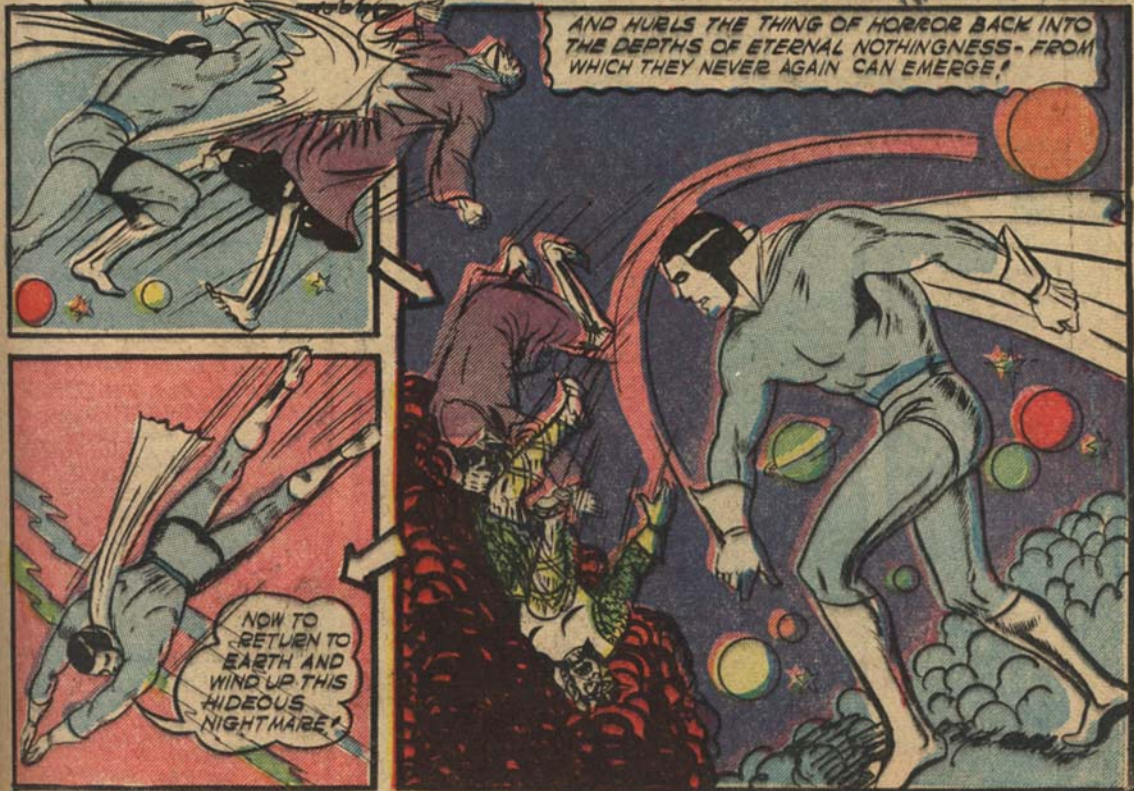
THOUGHT YOU GOT AWAY, EH? WELL, LET'S SEE YOU DO IT - IF YOU CAN!



REALIZING THAT THE FATE OF HUMANITY DEPENDS ON THE OUTCOME OF HIS BATTLE, MR. JUSTICE LAYS ABOUT HIM WITH A FURIOUS FUSILADE OF BLOWS!



AND HURLS THE THING OF HORROR BACK INTO THE DEPTHS OF ETERNAL NOTHINGNESS - FROM WHICH THEY NEVER AGAIN CAN EMERGE!



NOW TO RETURN TO EARTH AND WIND UP THIS HIDEOUS NIGHTMARE!



FIRST, I'LL STOP OFF AT FORD'S PLACE!



FORD IS DEAD, ALL RIGHT! HIS SOUL IS GONE FOREVER!



AND HERE IS THE BLACK BOOK OF SORCERY! NO-BODY MUST EVER AGAIN USE ITS CONTENTS TO CREATE FORCES OF EVIL! AH - HERE IS A WAY TO DESTROY IT!



I COMMAND THESE INCANTATIONS - MAGIC PHRASES THAT STIRRED NATIONS - EVIL THOUGHTS FROM PAST AGES - SHALL VANISH FOREVER FROM THESE PAGES!



WHEN MR. JUSTICE HAS FINISHED RECITING THE CHANT - THE MAGIC WORDS DISAPPEAR FROM THE BOOK - LEAVING THE PAGES PERFECTLY BLANK!



HELLO, OPERATOR! GIVE ME THE POLICE! AND AFTER THAT CALL MAYOR CLARK AND THE D.A. AND TELL THEM ALL TO COME TO FORD'S PLACE!



JUST DIED IN HIS SLEEP, EH, SERGEANT?

HE DID THAT! POOR FELLOW - LOW PROBABLY HAD A HEART ATTACK!

WHAT IN HECK IS THIS BOOK DOING HERE? THERE ISN'T A SINGLE WORD IN IT, MOST PECULIAR THING I EVER SAW!



IT WAS THE MOST PECULIAR THING FORD EVER SAW, TOO! AND THAT'S THE REASON HE DIED! THERE IS MORE TO THAT BOOK THAN MEETS THE EYE - BUT IT IS BETTER JUST TO FORGET ALL ABOUT IT!

MR. JUSTICE BATTLES THE EVIL EYE - IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF BLUE RIBBON COMICS - ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSSTANDS!

**CAPTAIN FLAG vs. THE BOTANIST OF DEATH**

**MR. JUSTICE vs. THE EVIL EYE**

HERE'S A COMBINATION THAT PACKS MORE THRILLS PER MINUTE,  
MORE ACTION PER PAGE, MORE RED-BLOODED READING PLEASURE  
PER THIN DIME THAN ANY OTHER COMIC MAGAZINE YOU'LL EVER BUY.  
AND THEN THERE'S **RANGA TANG** WITH **RICHY, THE WONDER BOY**  
AND **HY SPEED** IN THE SPINE CHILLING "THE SANDS DRIP BLOOD"

NEED WE SAY ANYMORE FOR THE **DEC. ISSUE OF**  
**BLUE RIBBON COMICS**



# Sergeant Boyle

BY HUBBELL



LOOK! GERMAN TANKS TO THE SOUTH! IT'S AN ATTACK! THAT'S THE THIRD THIS WEEK!

WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

ONLY THE DOGGED RESISTANCE OF THE SMALL BRITISH OUTPOSTS GUARD THE EASTERN EMPIRE FROM THE CONTINUED ASSAULTS OF THE GERMAN FORCES, AT ONE OF THE MOST STRATEGIC OF THESE FORTS, A SHELL WHISTLES SUDDENLY THROUGH THE AIR, AND...

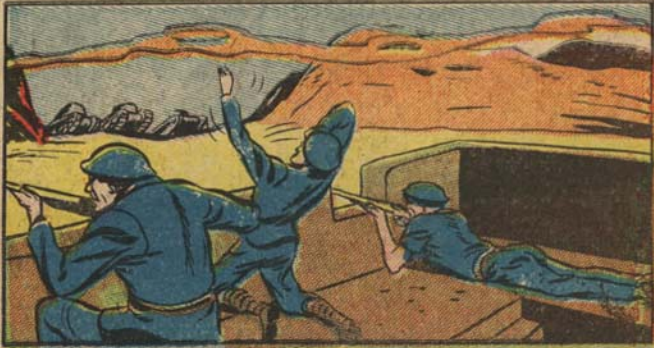
YOUR MOVE, COLONEL... HEY, LISTEN, SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE BEING ATTACKED!

WHAT... AGAIN? THIS IS TERRIBLE, BOYLE, TERRIBLE, I COULD HAVE CHECKMATED YOU IN ANOTHER FOUR MOVES!

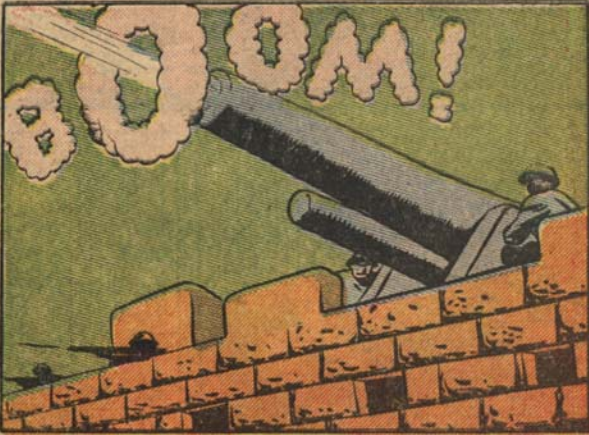
WE'LL FINISH OUR GAME LATER, COLONEL! MEANWHILE LET'S SEE WHAT'S UP!

SO THEY BROUGHT  
THEIR TANKS!  
HOW NICE!

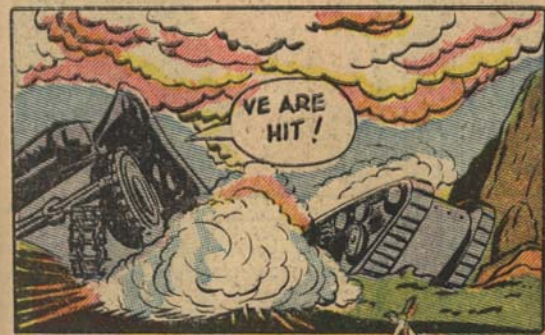
IF WE CAN SMASH THE  
FIRST LINE BEFORE  
THEY GET THROUGH  
THAT NARROW GORGE,  
WE OUGHT TO  
HOLD 'EM OFF!



WHAT ARE YOU GUYS  
WAITING FOR?... AN  
INTRODUCTION? LET  
'EM HAVE IT!



WE ARE  
HIT!



YEAH, THAT DID IT!  
NOW WE CAN FIGHT IT  
OUT PEACEFULLY,  
EH, TWERP?



FOR HALF AN HOUR, A FURIOUS  
BATTLE RAGES. SUDDENLY  
FROM THE GERMAN LINES, A  
WHITE FLAG OF SURRENDER  
GOES UP...

KAMERAD!

VE GIFF  
UP!



THE BOYS ON THE WALL  
WILL KEEP US COVERED  
IN CASE THIS IS ALL A  
TRICK! LETS GO!





HOLY MACKEREL!  
LOOK AT HIS FACE...  
HE'S TURNING  
YELLOW!

YES...  
GHASTLY  
EFFECT,  
ISN'T IT?

HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT  
FOR IT, COLONEL?  
WHAT'S THE  
ANSWER?

DOCTOR BUNSEN  
CAN TELL YOU THAT  
BETTER THAN I. TELL  
BOYLE THE STORY  
YOU TOLD ME, WILL  
YOU DOCTOR?

BEFORE THE WAR, I WAS ENGAGED  
IN DOING SOME RESEARCH AT THE  
ROYAL CHEMISTRY SOCIETY IN  
LONDON. ONE OF MY ASSOCIATES  
THERE, WAS A PROFESSOR AM-  
BROSE PURDY WHO WAS PERFECT-  
ING A NEW POISON GAS WHICH  
HE CALLED "TETRAPURDIZE."

ITS EFFECTS WERE CALCULATED  
TO THROW PEOPLE INTO A STATE  
OF PANIC. BRIEFLY, THE VICTIM  
FIRST FALLS INTO DEATHLIKE  
COMA, ACCOMPANIED BY A YEL-  
LOWING OF THE SKIN. IN A  
SHORT TIME, THE BODY DISINTE-  
GRATES COMPLETELY!

NO! WHEN THE WAR BROKE OUT, PURDY  
OFFERED THE FORMULA TO THE WAR  
OFFICE, SO FAR, THEY'VE DONE NOTHING  
ABOUT IT. INCIDENTALLY, THIS IS  
A SAMPLE OF THE  
ANTIDOTE. IF IN-  
JECTED BEFORE THE  
GAS AND AGAIN WITHIN  
THREE HOURS AFTER,  
THE PATIENT RECOVERS  
FULLY!

IT WAS TURNED  
DOWN? AN'  
NOW, THE  
HEINIES  
HAVE IT!



SAY, I THOUGHT THAT NAME  
WAS FAMILIAR, SURE,, HE DIS-  
APPEARED ABOUT A MONTH  
BACK / SUICIDE,  
THEY SAID,  
WHAT'S YOUR  
EXPLANATION,  
SIR?

BOYLE IN TIME  
OF WAR, THERE  
ARE MANY EVENTS  
THAT ARE BETTER  
ACCEPTED AT FACE  
VALUE, I THINK  
WE'D BETTER  
FORGET THE...

LOOK! HERE  
COMES  
CAPTAIN  
TWERP!

HELLO  
COLONEL!  
HEY, SARGE,  
TAKE A LOOK  
AT THIS!

IT'S A PIECE OF THAT  
GAS BOMB, ONE OF THE  
BOYS PICKED IT UP, SWELL  
SOUVENIR, HUH? WELL,  
ISN'T IT? GEE,, WHAT'S  
THE MATTER, SARGE?





AW SARGE, YOU BUSTED IT! GOSH!

THAT'S THE LAST STRAW! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF THE WAY THIS WAR IS BEING MISMANAGED!

CRASH



WHY, SERGEANT...

SHUT UP! I'M TALKING! WHAT'S THE USE OF SWEATING, BLEEDING AND DYING, IF THE HIGHER-UPS STAB US IN THE BACK BY SELLING OUT TO THE NAZIS TO FILL THEIR OWN POCKETS? WHY, OUR MEN HERE AREN'T EVEN EQUIPPED WITH GAS MASKS!

BOYLE! BOYLE! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?



NOW, HOLD ON, SERGEANT! THAT'S NOT THE PROPER ATTITUDE! YOU KNOW WE'RE EXPECTING NEW EQUIPMENT ANY DAY NOW!

YEAH? WELL YOU GUYS WAIT AROUND IF YOU LIKE! I'M SICK OF BEING THE GOAT!



WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM, SIR? DO YOU WANT HIM PUT INTO THE LOCK-UP TILL HE COOLS OFF?

NO! I'D BET MY LIFE ON SERGEANT BOYLE! HE'S FOUGHT LIKE A ONE-MAN ARMY SINCE THE WAR STARTED!



THAT NIGHT

SERGEANT BOYLE IS GONE, SIR! ONE OF THE PLANES IS MISSING!

GONE! IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! I WONDER... THE LABORATORY HAS BEEN RANSACKED, TOO!



AT THAT VERY MOMENT A BRITISH PURSUIT PLANE DRONES OVER GERMANY.....

GETTING AWAY WAS A CINCH... BUT CONVINCING THE HEINIES MAY NOT BE SO EASY!



THOSE LIGHTS SHOULD BE DACHAU! I'LL CUT THE MOTOR AND SET HER DOWN!



NOSE DOWN, YOU OLD CRATE... HERE WE GO... OOF! WHAT IN TH...

UGH! HELLO, SARGE!



TWERP, I THOUGHT I WAS MAKIN' THIS FLIGHT ALONE! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM, AN' WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN YOUR PAJAMAS?

I WAS PULLIN' DOWN THE BLIND TO TAKE A NAP AN' SAW YOU GOIN' OVER TO THE HANGAR! C'MON SARGE, LET'S GO BACK!

NO, I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING AND MY MIND'S MADE UP, I MEANT IT WHEN I SAID I WAS TIRED TAKING ORDERS FROM A BUNCH OF OLD LADIES! NOW GET OUT!

NO...WAIT, I SUPPOSE IT'S UP TO ME TO GET YOU OUT SAFELY! GO OVER TO THE VILLAGE AND HIDE TILL I THINK OF SOMETHING, AND STOP THAT BLUB-BERING!

I...CAN'T HELP IT, SARGE, AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOGETHER..

SOB SOB  
I HATED TO TALK TO TWERP LIKE THAT, BUT IF HE HUNG AROUND, HE'D ONLY GUM UP THE WORKS! NOW, TO CONCEAL THE PLANE!

NOT A BAD JOB, BOYLE! AN' TWERP'S GONE... SO FAR, SO GOOD! IF I REMEMBER, MY MAPS THE PRISON'S JUST A STONE'S THROW FROM HERE!

HIYA, FRITZIE! I'M SERGEANT BOYLE! TAKE ME TO YOUR BOSS!

HA, HA, HA, DOT'S A GOOD VUN! GO AWAY!

NO-KIDDIN', I REALLY AM, I BROUGHT PICS! THAT'S ME THERE WITH GENERAL CORT, SEE?

VASS?

STICK 'EM UP! START MOVING!

THAT'S BETTER!

I HAF CAUGHT SERGEANT BOYLE! HE VAS CLEVER, YAH, BUT HE COULDN'T EGGSCAPE ME!

SERGEANT BOYLE!

YEAH, I'M BOYLE! SO WHAT? I'VE DECIDED YOU GUYS HAVE THE RIGHT IDEA! WHAT'S SO STRANGE ABOUT THAT?

REALLY... YOU WANT TO JOIN OUR SIDE, JA? YOU WANT TO FIGHT FOR DE FUEHRER, JA? BAH! DO YOU TAKE US FOR A PACK OF FOOLS?



I REALLY DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BELIEVE ME AT FIRST, BUT MAYBE, IF I GIVE YOU SOME INFORMATION, YOU WILL. FOR INSTANCE, AT THIS MOMENT THERE'S A VERY INSIDIOUS BRITISH SPY RIGHT HERE IN DACHAU!

SO? I DIDN'T KNOW IT!



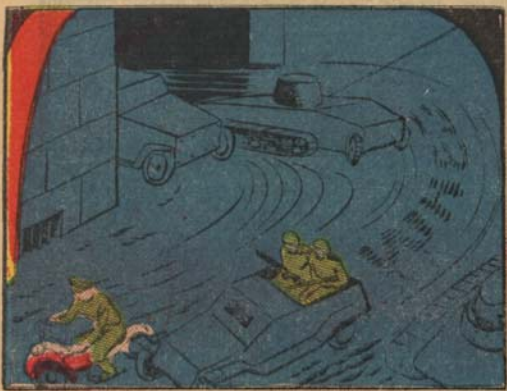
WHERE IS HE TO BE FOUND? WHERE DOES HE LOOK LIKE?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT HE'S USUALLY DISGUISED AS A DOPEY LOOKING GUY, BUT IT'S ALL A ROSE. HE'S PLENTY DANGEROUS!



YOU HEARD ME? TAKE MACHINE GUNS, TANKS ARMORED CARS.. TAKE A WHOLE MECHANIZED DIVISION, I WANT DIS SPY CAUGHT!

BETTER SEND A COUPLE FLAME THROWERS TOO!



YES SIR, THAT BABY IS A CAGEY LAD, SOMETIMES HE DISGUISES HIMSELF IN PAJAMAS AND PRETENDS HE'S A SLEEP-WALKER.. WHY ONCE...

HIMMEL! SOMEVUN ISS AT THE DOOR, QUICK... BEHIND THE DESK!

KNOCK KNOCK



OH.. IT'S YOU AGAIN, NOT DO YOU WANT?

HAVE YOU ANY BODIES TODAY?



BODIES? LET ME SEE... HMMMMM

COME, COME, VE AIN'T GOT ALL NIGHT YET!



NEFER MIND, VE GO DOWNSTAIRS UND LOOK AROUND! MAYBE VE FIND SOME!

GOOT IDEA... GUARD, TAKE THESE GENTLEMEN DOWN TO THE CELLS!



I DON'T WANT TO SEEM CURIOUS, BUT WHO WERE THOSE BIRDS? THE HAPPINESS BOYS?

NO! THEY ARE THE NEW UNDER-TAKERS AND UNLESS YOUR STORY ABOUT THE SPY ISS TRUE, YOU VILL SOON KNOW THEM BETTER.... HA HA HA HA

SILENTLY THE TWO BLACK-GARBED FIGURES FOLLOW THE GUARD DOWN THE MURKY STAIRWAY...



NICE LITTLE PLACE YOU GOT HERE, JA!

DERE ARE MORE CELLS AROUND DER CORNER!



SO FAR ALL DESE PRISONERS LOOK PRETTY HEALTHY! BAH! HOW COULD YE MAKE A LIVING?



AH!

DON'T WORRY! SOON YOU GET SOME CUSTOMERS, JA! DEY DON'T LAST VERY LONG HERE! HA, HA, HA!



YOT IS OVER? MORE CELLS?

YAH! THOSE ARE THE SOLITARY... YOT'S THAT NOISE?



WHO ISS DOWN HERE? SPEAK!

GOOD! THAT GETS RID OF HIM! OUR NEXT JOB IS TO SEE THE PROFESSOR. I JUST FOUND HIM!

HURRY UP, CORP!



PROFESSOR PURDY? I'M CORPORAL COLLINS! I HAVE TO TALK FAST SO PLEASE LISTEN CAREFULLY! THERE MUST BE NO SLIP-UPS! FIRST, THIS GAS YOU MANUFACTURE- IS IT ACCESSIBLE?

YES, OF COURSE! THE GERMANS HAVE BEEN FORCING ME TO MAKE IT SINCE THEY CAPTURED ME... THIS CELL IS MY LABORATORY, BUT HOW DID YOU EVER...



THAT CAN WAIT! THE ANTI-GAS SERUM- YOU HAVE THAT TOO?

ENOUGH FOR TWO DOSES! THE NAZIS DON'T KNOW THAT SUCH AN ANTIDOTE EXISTS BUT WHAT..?



THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KNOW JUST BEFORE THE GUARD MAKES HIS DAWN INSPECTION, INJECT ONE DOSE! HIDE THE REST OF THE SERUM AND THE NEEDLE IN THE BEDDING AND RELEASE THE GAS, I'LL TAKE OVER FROM THERE!

OH, OH!



HMM! NOBODY VAS DERE! I TINK SOME MONKEY BUSINESS ISS ON FOOT!

YOU MUST HAFF IMAGINED IT! VE COME BACK LATER! MAYBE TOMORROW ISS BETTER!



IF YOU NEED US,  
YOU KNOW DE  
NUMBER...GRAVESTONE  
2-606!



OHhhh! I KNEW  
THEY'D CATCH WISE  
TO US, COZ! L-LOOK  
AT WHAT'S COMIN'  
DOWN THE ROAD-TANKS,  
ARMORED CARS,  
AN-

SIT TIGHT, KID!  
THEY MAY NOT BE  
AFTER US!



SEE? THEY WENT RIGHT  
PAST US! THEY'RE HEADIN'  
FOR THE PRISON! MUST  
HAVE CAUGHT SOME POOR  
GUY!



ALL RIGHT! GET  
OUDA DERE! SHTEP  
LIFELY! NO TRICKS  
NOW!



KAPITAN! VE HAF  
CAPTURED THE ENGLISH  
SPY! IT WAS EASIER  
THAN VE THOUGHT!

BRING THE DOG  
IN! I VANT A GOOT  
LOOK AT THE FOOL  
WHO DARES TO OPERATE  
IN MINE  
TERRITORY!



165 DIS HIM?

BOYLE!  
YOU'RE OKAY?  
BOY, WAS I WORRIED!  
I THOUGHT YOU  
WERE A GONER,  
SUZE!

YEAH, THAT'S HIM!  
CONGRATULATIONS,  
CAPTAIN! YOU HAVE  
HERE THE SHREWDEST  
CHARACTER IN THE  
WHOLE  
BRITISH  
INTELLI-  
GENCE!



TAKE HIM OUT  
AND SHOOT HIM!  
NO! BEHEAD  
HIM!

WAIT, CAPTAIN! HE'S NO GOOD  
TO YOU DEAD...AN' HE KNOWS  
PLENTY! WHAT SAY YOU AND  
I DIG SOME INFO' OUT OF HIM  
IN THE MORN'?



GOOT IDEA!  
TAKE HIM BELOW  
AND THROW HIM IN  
DE VORST CELL VE  
GOT!

WHEW! THAT  
WAS CLOSE!

IF I HADN'T SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES, I NEVER WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT! BUT WHAT DID BOYLE MEAN ABOUT INTELLIGENCE?

SHADDOP DOT MUMBLING 'GOTO SLEEP.'



DIS ISS A GREAT TRIUMPH FOR DE CHERMAN CAUSE, YOU COMING OFFER TO OUR SIDE, SERGEANT BOYLE, HOW ABOUT A LIDDLE DRINK TOGED-DEER?

YEAH, CAP, THIS REALLY CALLS FOR A LITTLE CELEBRATION! SAY, DID YOU EVER PLAY HERE'S TO THE ADMIRAL PUFF?



BOYBOY! AT THE RATE HE'S GOIN' HE'LL BE UNDER THE TABLE IN ANOTHER TEN MINUTES!

HEY! YOU MISSED COUNT THAT TIME! COME ON BOTTOMS UP!

HERESH TO ADMIRAL PUFF 18 TIMES. (HIC)



OUT COLD! GOOD! NOW TO DO WHAT I CAME FOR!



PSST! PROFESSOR PURDY, ARE YOU IN THERE?... DARN IT, HE MUST BE HERE, BUT WHERE IS HE?



HIS EARS KEYED FOR THE FOOTSTEPS OF ONE OF THE GUARDS, BOYLE RACES FROM CELL TO CELL FINALLY.....



YIPEE! AT LAST!

RAPIDLY, BOYLE OUTLINES HIS PLAN FOR THE PROFESSOR'S ESCAPE... SO DON'T TAKE THE GAS TILL JUST BEFORE DAWN, AN' DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, I SWIPED A SAMPLE OF THE SERUM BEFORE I CAME.

B. BUT... IT'S ALREADY BEEN...



NOW, NO BUTS, PROF, JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME, NOW I HAVE TO SEE A FRIEND DOWN THE HALL.



H'YA THERP, EVERYTHING OKAY? SIT TIGHT, KID, AND WE'LL BE OUT OF HERE IN THE MORNING, I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING LATER.

S. SARGE, YOU MEAN IT'S ALL A GAG?.. AND I THOUGHT... HOT DOG!



NEXT MORNING...

DOT'S VOT I SAID,  
MARSHAL 'SERGEANT  
BOYLE FIGHT MIT US,  
YAH! VE MAKE HIM A  
KAPITAN! VOT, A COLONEL?  
GOOT!

KAPITAN!  
COME QVICK!  
DOT OLD PIG  
OF A CHEMIST  
LUNATIC HE  
IS DEAD!



VOT DE PROFESSOR  
ISS DEAD  
BUT HOW?

HE ISS ALL YELLOW!  
DOT POISON GAS  
MUST HAFF GOT  
HIM!



HE'S A GONER  
ALL RIGHT!  
VOT A COLONEL!  
CALL DE UNDERTAKERS!  
PFUI!

DIS VAY! HE MUST  
HAFF JUST  
KICKED OFF.  
HE'S STILL  
VARM!



GEE, COUP HE  
DOESN'T LOOK SO  
GOOD, DOES  
HEZ?

SH. QUIET! YOU'LL FIND  
THE SERUM AND THE HYPO  
(NEEDLE UNDER THIS MATTRESS)  
DON'T LET THE GUARD  
SEE YOU GET THEM!

NAME... AGE...  
FORMER OCCUPATION..

AMBROSE PURDY... 72..  
CHEMIST...



MEANWHILE...

GOOD MORNING,  
CAPTAIN!  
SLEEP WELL?

VOT A NIGHT,  
UND VOT A  
HANGOVER!  
ALMOST I VOULD  
LIKE TO TRADE PLACES  
MIT DOT OLD FOOL DOWN  
STAIRS!

WHAT  
OLD FOOL?

AN OLD CHEMIST DIED  
LAST NIGHT DE  
UNDERTAKERS  
ARE HERE  
NOW!

YEAH? HOW  
ABOUT TAKIN'  
ME DOWN? I  
LOVE  
STIFFS!

UNDERTAKERS!  
WOW! I'VE GOT-  
TA HEAD OFF  
THOSE  
VULTURES!











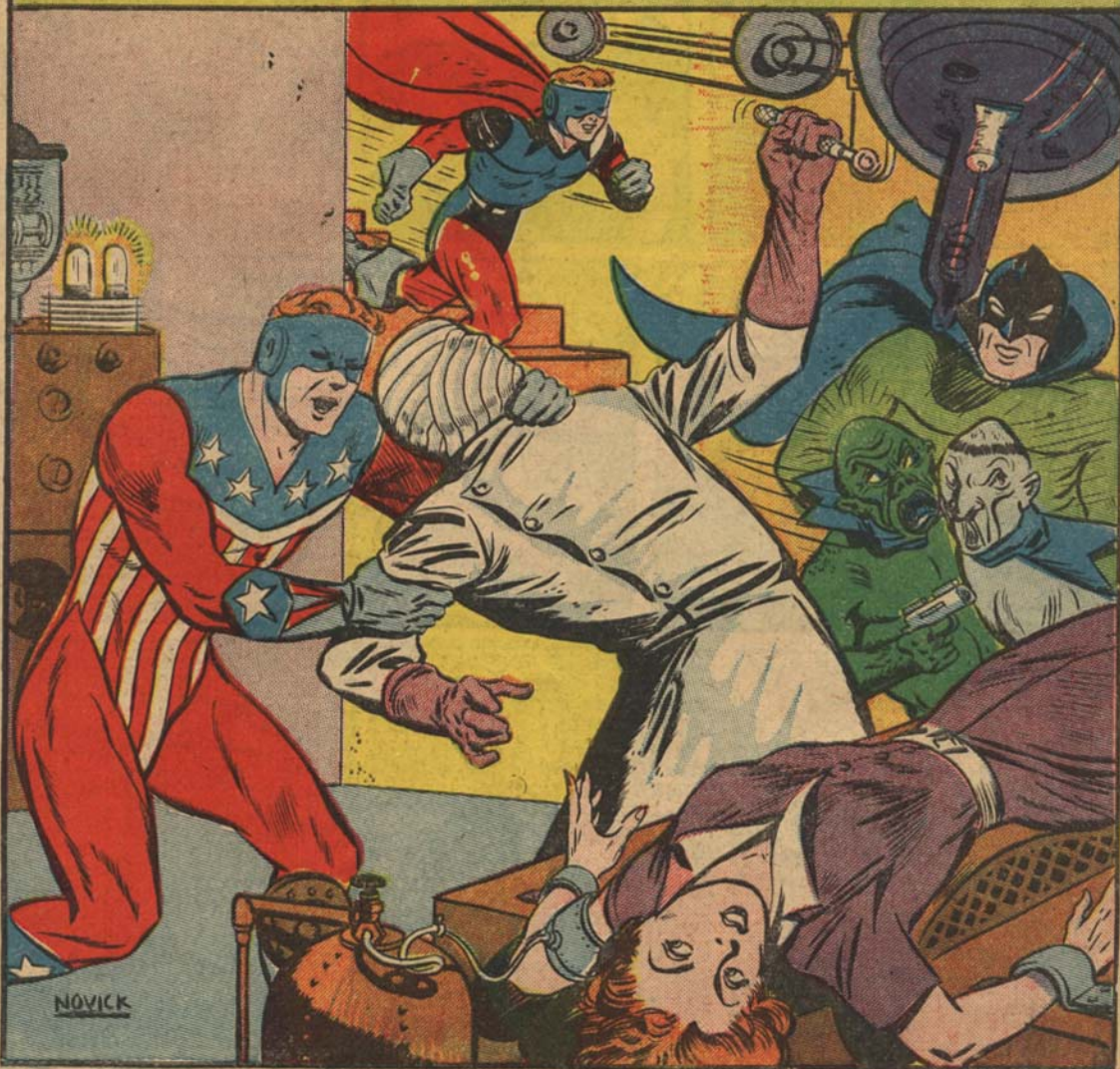
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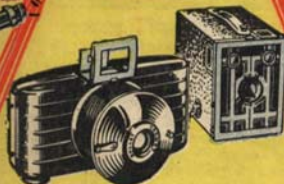
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