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THE SHIELD

G-MAN EXTRAORDINARY



JOE HIGGINS, G-MAN EXTRAORDINARY, IS THE SHIELD—ONLY ONE LIVING MAN KNOWS THE SHIELD'S TRUE IDENTITY—AND THAT MAN IS THE CHIEF OF THE F.B.I. THE SHIELD IN ACTION IS BULLET AND FLAME PROOF, AND HAS THE POWER TO PERFORM EXTRAORDINARY FEATS OF PHYSICAL DARING AND COURAGE. WITH THE SPEED OF A BULLET AND THE STRENGTH OF A HERCULES, HE DEVOTES HIS LIFE TO SHIELDING THE GOVERNMENT FROM ALL ENEMIES.

BY IRVING NOVICK AND HARRY SHORTEN

JOE HIGGINS OF THE F.B.I. IS ON HIS WAY TO THE WASHINGTON D.C. AIRPORT



IT CAME FROM THIS DIRECTION I'D BETTER SEE WHAT HAPPENED!



TWO CARS SPEED AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF THE BLAST!

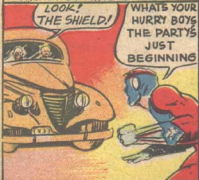


FOR THE MOMENT HIGGINS IS UNSEEN BY ANY HUMAN EYE—INSTANTLY HE DOFFS HIS OUTER CLOTHING AND IS REVEALED AS—



THE SHIELD!

HE SPRINGS IN THE PATH OF THE ONCOMING CARS



COME ON OUT BOYS, THE FRESH AIR IS GOOD FOR YOU!



FROM THE OTHER CAR, THE THUGS OPEN FIRE, BUT THE BULLETS BOUNCE HARMLESSLY FROM THE SHIELD!

FROM THE DEBRIS BURSTS ANOTHER AWE
INSPIRING FIGURE!



THE WIZARD!

THE SHIELD!

TWO MOST LEGENDARY FIGURES, THE
MOST POTENT FORCES AGAINST INJUSTICE
THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN, MEET!



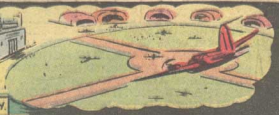
THAT WAS QUITE A TIP YOU GAVE MY CHIEF ABOUT THE MOSCONIAN SPY RING. I'VE BEEN GIVEN FULL AUTHORITY TO GO AHEAD ON THAT. I'M ON MY WAY TO PEARL HARBOR NOW!

MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU OUT.



THE MOSCONIANS HAVE THEIR HEAD-
QUARTERS IN KUALA

THE WIZARD BRINGS
HIS SUPER BRAIN INTO PLAY.



WELL, SO LONG, I'M ON MY WAY!! AND THANKS.

SO LONG! AND GOOD LUCK!



THAT AFTERNOON—WHEN THE TRANS-PACIFIC PLANE LEAVES FOR PEARL HARBOR, JOE HIGGINS IS ABOARD IT!

IN THE MOSCONIAN'S HAWAIIAN ISLAND HEADQUARTERS! THE ARMY AND NAVY WILL SOON ARRIVE FOR SPECIAL DEFENSE MANEUVERS. WE HAFF AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GREAT SABOTAGE!



RUIN THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE UND DENN OUR MOSCONIAN GOVERNMENT INVADES!

JOE HIGGINS'S PLANE SOON REACHES PEARL HARBOR, AND THE GOVERNMENT AGENT SEES A STARTLING SIGHT!



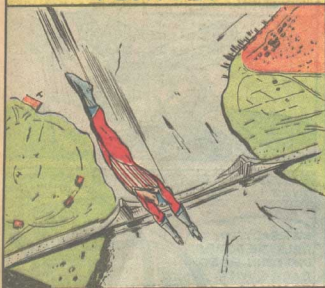
GREAT GUN! MOSCONIAN BOMBERS! THEY'RE AIMING FOR THAT BRIDGE!

THE SHIELD LEAPS TO WHAT SEEMS CERTAIN DEATH!



THIS IS WHERE I GET OFF!

A TEN THOUSAND FOOT PLUNGE!



ABOARD THE SS. MANILA AT ANCHOR IN PEARL HARBOR.

GOSHI! A GUY CAME OUT OF THAT AIRPLANE!

YOU'RE CRAZY!



THE SHIELD MAKES FOR THE BATTLESHIP WITH POWERFUL STROKES!



AND NOW FOR THE NEXT PART OF MY PLAN!

LIKE A HUMAN FLY THE SHIELD CLIMBS UP THE SIDE OF THE SHIP!



AND UP ONTO THE DECK.

IT'S HIM! THE GUY WHAT DONE A STEVE BRODIE.



HOWDY BOYS! I WONDER IF I COULD BORROW AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN FOR A WHILE!

THIS'LL DO!

STOP! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

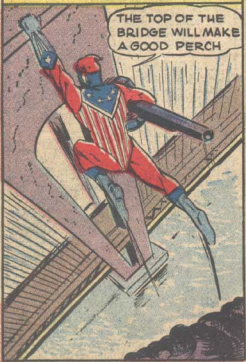


BEFORE THE STARTLED CREW CAN GATHER THEIR WITS, THE SHIELD MOUNTS A SMOKE STACK!

THIS IS GONNA BE A GOOD TRICK, IF I CAN DO IT.

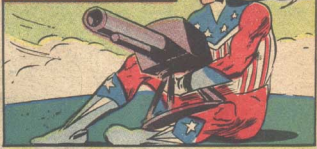


THE SHIELD BRINGS EVERY OUNCE OF HIS GIANT MUSCLES INTO PLAY, AND LEAPS



THE TOP OF THE BRIDGE WILL MAKE A GOOD PERCH

ATOP THE HIGHEST TOWER OF THE BRIDGE THE SHIELD TAKES HIS POSITION.



AND NOW FOR A LITTLE TARGET PRACTICE!

A MOSCONIAN BOMBER ABOVE GIVES INSTRUCTIONS.

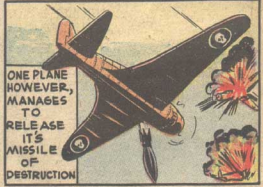


BE READY TO RELEASE BOMBS, UND DENN VE GO BACK QVICK TO KUALA.

BUT BEFORE THE SIGNAL CAN BE GIVEN, THE SHIELD'S GUN SCREECHES A SYMPHONY OF DEATH!



COME AND GET IT BOYS! IT'S ON THE HOUSE.



ONE PLANE HOWEVER, MANAGES TO RELEASE ITS MISSILE OF DESTRUCTION

BUT THE SHIELD LEAPS AND CATCHES THE BOMB BEFORE IT CAN STRIKE!



THIS IS ONE BOMB THAT'LL DESTROY NO BRIDGES.

THE SHIELD HAS SAVED THE BRIDGE, BUT NOW THE BATTLESHIP IS BELOW.

I CAN'T LET GO, OR IT'LL HIT THAT SHIP FOR SURE! I'VE GOT TO CARRY IT INTO THE WATER.



THE SHIELD RISKS HIS OWN LIFE TO SAVE THE LIVES OF OTHERS.



A GAS BOMB!

ONLY THE SHIELD'S HERCULEAN VITALITY IS ABLE TO SURVIVE THE GAS. HE SWIMS ASHORE.



IM-IM AS WEAK AS A KITTEN!

GRAB HIM! HE MUST BE PUT OUT OF THE WAY, OR HE VILL RUIN ALL OUR PLANS!



THE SHIELD IS AMBUSHED!

DESE SOLID STEEL CHAINS VILL HOLD YOU FOR A VHILE, MR. SHIELD!

HA! HA! NOW VE SHOW HIM A FEW MOSCONIAN TRICKS.



THEY ARRIVE AT THE MOSCONIAN FORTRESS IN KUALA.



SO, YOU LIKE TO PLAY VID BOMBS, EH?



VILL YOU VILL BE TICKLED TO DEATH VID DIS TOY, SHOVE HIM IN DOT CANNON, GOOT.

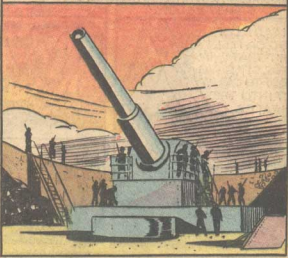


INSIDE THE CANNON—

GOSH! THIS IS A SPOT I WONT EVEN BE GOOD DOGMEAT IF I DONT DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!



THE MOSCONIANS AIM THE GIANT GUN AT THE SHIPS ANCHORED IN PEARL HARBOR!



BUT THE SHIELD HAS OTHER IDEAS. THE EFFECT OF THE GAS HAS WORN OFF. SO HE FLEXES HIS GIANT MUSCLES, AND.....



HE PLACES HIS HANDS ON THE SHELL AND SHOVES IT BACKWARDS TO KEEP THE BACK OF THE CANNON OPEN—



JUST AS THE MOSCONIANS START TO SWING SHUT THE BREECH



THE FIRING PIN MAKES CONTACT, BUT THE BREECH IS OPEN. THE SHELL BACKFIRES, AND THE WHOLE BASE OF THE GUN—CREW AND ALL IS DESTROYED!



THE SHIELD LEAPS FROM THE WRECKAGE AND CORNERS ONE OF THE MOSCONIANS.

WHERE DO THE BIG SHOTS HANG OUT, QUICK, BEFORE I WRING YOUR NECK!

D. DONT, IT'S A FEW MILES DOWN THE ROAD.



THE SHIELD STREAKS TOWARD MOSCONIAN HEADQUARTERS.

NOW! I'M GETTING SOMEWHERE!



THE SHIELD ARRIVES AND BRINGS HIS ELECTRIC EAR INTO PLAY.

I'LL FIND OUT FIRST WHAT THEIR PLANS ARE!



INSIDE THE HOUSE—

THE U.S. FLEET HAS ARRIVED, AND NOW WE STRIKE. THE LUANA VOLCANO WILL BE OUR WEAPON.



THE MOSCONIAN MASTER SPY EXPLAINS.

THE CRATER IS SEMI-ACTIVE. BOMBS WILL SET IT OFF. THE CIVIL AND MILITARY POPULATION WILL BE SO BUSY IT WILL GIVE US A CHANCE TO COMMIT SABOTAGE.



THE SHIELD IS HORRIFIED!

WHY THE MURDERING DOGS! THOUSANDS WILL BE KILLED BY THAT VOLCANO!



THE SHIELD GOES INTO ACTION.

THIS IS A SAMPLE OF WHAT I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU!

HELP! IT'S THE SHIELD!



THE SHIELD FLINGS MOSCONIANS ABOUT LIKE TEN PINS.

I'M SO MAD I'M NOT EVEN ENJOYING THIS.



AND NOW, YOU, SEND OUT ORDERS CANCELLING THE BOMBING OF THE CRATER. BEFORE I REALLY GET ROUGH!

IT'S TOO LATE! THE BOMBERS ARE ALREADY IN FLIGHT!



THE SHIELD SENDS OUT A MESSAGE TO THE FLEET!

I'VE GOT TO LET THEM KNOW THE SITUATION.



ON BOARD THE FLAGSHIP OF THE U.S. NAVY!

WHAT'S THIS! MOSCONIAN SPIES PLANNING TO ERUPT THE LUANA CRATER. WE MUST ACT IMMEDIATELY!

MESSAGE JUST FLASHED THROUGH, SIR!



THE SHIELD IS UNAWARE OF APPROACHING DANGER!

THAT'S THAT, AND NOW FOR THE LUANA CRATER!

SHH! DEGE ELECTIC GUNG VILL GET HIM!



THE SHIELD IS BROUGHT DOWN!—

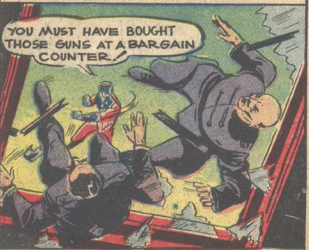
GOOT! NOW JUMP ON HIM UND VE TIE HIM UP!

WHAT THE!

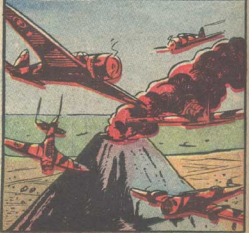


BUT ONLY TEMPORARILY—

YOU MUST HAVE BOUGHT THOSE GUNS AT A BARGAIN COUNTER!



THE MOSCONIAN BOMBERS APPROACH LUANA!



LEAPING FROM CRAG TO CRAG, RUNNING FASTER THAN THE BOMBERS CAN FLY, THE SHIELD RACES TO FRUSTRATE THE MOSCONIAN'S INHUMAN PLAN!

IF I CAN ONLY GET THERE IN TIME.

THE SHIELD ARRIVES TOO LATE!

THEY'VE DONE IT!

THE U.S. AIR SQUADRON ARRIVES AND DRIVES OFF THE MOSCONIANS

WELL, ANYWAY THOSE RATS WILL GET THEIRS!

INSIDE THE VOLCANO, THE MOLTEN LAVA BOILS FURIOUSLY. A MOMENT NOW AND IT WILL ERUPT, SENDING LIQUID DEATH SPEWING DOWN ONTO THOUSANDS OF UNSUSPECTING PEOPLE!

THE SHIELD DECIDES HIS COURSE OF ACTION

IT MIGHT WORK AT THAT!

IF I CAN DAM UP THIS CRATER TEMPORARILY, IT'LL GIVE THE INHABITANTS A CHANCE TO MOVE OUT OF DANGER!

A RACE AGAINST TIME! THE SHIELD PERFORMS IN A FEW MINUTES LABOR OF YEARS FOR MOTHER NATURE!

THESE ROCKS WILL STOP THE ERUPTION FOR A LITTLE WHILE!



IN A PLANE ABOVE, THE PILOTS LOOK WITH AMAZEMENT AT THE FEATS OF STRENGTH PERFORMED BY THE SHIELD BELOW!

LOOK AT THAT WILL YOU?

HOLY MACKEREL HE'S LIFTING MOUNTAINS!



THE SHIELD WEAKENS THE RIM OF THE CRATER, AND IT COLLAPSES.

HOLY SMOKE! THE WHOLE THING IS CAVING IN!



THE SHIELD HURTTLES TOWARD A FIERY DOOM!



AN OUTJUTTING LEDGE SAVES HIM TEMPORARILY



THE ARMY PLANE, FIGHTING THE SHIELD'S PREDICAMENT, SWINGS DOWN TO A PERILOUS LANDING ON THE RIM OF THE CRATER!

MADE IT!



WHEW! FOR A MINUTE I THOUGHT WED SURELY BE WRECKED.

CADET KEITH KORNELL, THE WEST-POINTER, ON SPECIAL DUTY IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS — TO THE RESCUE!

QUICK! LOWER ME DOWN THERE WITH A ROPE. YOU'RE CRAZY! YOU'LL BOTH BE KILLED.



THAT LEDGE DOESN'T LOOK TOO STRONG IT'LL ONLY HOLD UP FOR A FEW MINUTES MORE!



BELOW THE SHIELD, THE LAVA BOILS FURIOUSLY!

THE SHIELD REGAINS HIS CONSCIOUSNESS!



WHAT HAPPENED!

THE SHIELD SHAKES HIMSELF FREE OF THE DEBRIS JUST AS CADET KORNEIL REACHES HIM! THANKS FOR TRYING TO SAVE MY LIFE, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE RISKED IT!



LOOK THAT LEDGE IT'S GIVING WAY!

THE SHIELD LEAPS TO SAFETY!



HANG ON, YOUNG FELLOW FREE RIDE!

WH-WHAT THE!

LATER, ON BOARD THE FLAGSHIP THE SHIELD RECEIVES THE ADMIRAL'S THANKS



YOUR HEROIC ACTION STALLED THE VOLCANO LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO BRING THE PEOPLE TO SAFETY.

I ONLY DID MY DUTY SIR!

STILL LATER - JOE HIGGINS REPORTS TO HIS CHIEF!



THE MOSCONIAN SPY RING AT PEARL HARBOR IS COMPLETELY CLEARED OUT!

GOOD WORK HIGGINS!

BUT THE DIABOLIC PLOT OF THE MOSCONIANS AGAINST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT STILL GOES ON IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF—

PEP COMICS

AND THE WIZARD, THE MAN WITH THE SUPER-BRAIN AND THE WEST POINTER, FIGHT AGAINST THESE SAME INHUMAN SCHEMERS IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF— TOP NOTCH COMICS NOW ON SALE.

The

COMET

by Jack Cole.....

THE COMET, PROTECTOR OF RIGHT, IS JOHN DICKERING, WHO HAS DISCOVERED A GAS THAT WILL MAKE HIM LIGHTER THAN AIR....HE ALSO FINDS THAT HIS EYES GIVE OFF A DISINTEGRATING RAY THAT ONLY GLASS WILL STOP..!

THE COMET HAS RECENTLY BEEN KIDNAPPED AND HYPNOTIZED INTO COMMITTING A SERIES OF CRIMES. REGAINING HIS SENSES HE FINDS HE IS A WANTED MAN AND VOWS TO CLEAR HIS NAME AT ALL COSTS !!

AFTER BEING HUNTED FOR DAYS THE COMET IS SPOTTED BY THE POLICE

MORE COPS !! WILL THEY NEVER STOP HOUNDING ME ??



HOT LEAD WHISTLES PAST THE COMET

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PROVE MY INNOCENCE AT THIS RATE, - SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE ABOUT THIS OPEN SEASON ON MY HEAD !!

THE ONLY THING TO DO IS SURRENDER AND TRUST TO LUCK THAT THEY'LL BELIEVE MY STORY!



THE MOST ASTOUNDING MAN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

SO, HOPING FOR THE BEST AND PREPARED FOR THE WORST, THE COMET GIVES HIMSELF UP:—

ALRIGHT, YOU CAN HAVE THE CARCASS

THE COMET!! D-DONT M-M-MOVE!

BOY WHAT A CATCH!

THE COMET IS HAND-CUFFED AND LED TO THE CITY JAIL. —

ALL I ASK IS A CHANCE TO PROVE MY INNOCENCE!

THAT'S ONE F-HUNDREDS OF EYE-WITNESSES TO HIS KILLIN'S AN' HE SAYS "NOT GUILTY."

NEWS OF THE COMETS CAPTURE SPREADS, AND A GROUP OF AROUSED CITIZENS STORM THE JAIL

WE WANT THE COMET! KILLER!!

RELEASE HIM TO US OR WE COME IN AFTER HIM!

ONE MINUTE! GO BACK TO YOUR HOMES AND LET THE LAW TAKE IT'S COURSE!

SO IT'S LYNCHING THEY WANT, EH?— LOOKS LIKE IT DIDN'T DO ANY GOOD TO SURRENDER AFTER ALL— ONLY STIRRED UP MORE TROUBLE! I'VE GOT TO DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION FROM THE JUG BEFORE THEY RIP IT TO SHREDS

THE COMET RAISES HIS VISOR AND BREAKS LOOSE IN FULL VIEW OF THE MOB

THERE HE IS!! — SHOOT HIM DOWN!!

PEACEFUL CITIZENS GONE MAD!— AND I CAN'T FIGHT BACK!— I THINK THEY'RE DOING RIGHT, BUT I'LL FIND SOME WAY TO SHOW THEM HOW WRONG THEY ARE!!

SUDDENLY A BULLET RIPS THROUGH THE COMET'S SHOULDER!

I'M... HIT!

DAZED BY THE BULLET THE COMET DASHES FROM THE IRATE MOB.

MUST... FIND... SAFETY! —

IN A COMA, HE ROAMS FOR DAYS WITHOUT REST! LOSS OF BLOOD HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL

CAN'T GO ON REST



FALLING EXHAUSTED HE LIES THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT IN A DOWNPOUR



THE NEXT DAY AN AGED MAN STUMBLES UPON HIS MOTIONLESS FORM

MERCIFUL HEAVENS! A MAN!— MEBBE HE'S DEAD!!



BUT AFTER SOME TIME, THE COMET REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS!!

WH-WHERE DON'T TALK AM I??
LAD-REST IS WHAT Y'LL BE NEEDIN'??-
COME NIGH ON CASHIN' IN YER CHIPS, YE DID!



SEVERAL WEEKS OF RELAXATION FINDS THE COMET RECOVERED

LAD WHILE YE WERE SICK, I THOUGHT BEST NOT TO TROUBLE YE, BUT THEYS THINGS NEED EXPLAININ'-- THAT BULLET WOUND PER INSTANCE--HOW DO I KNOW YOU AINT A CRIMINAL OR SUCH??



THE COMET TELLS HIS STORY TO THE AMAZED OLD MAN.

MIGHTY FISHY SOUNDIN', BUT THEYS SOMETHIN' ABOUT YE THAT TELLS ME YOU'RE SPEAKIN' THE TRUTH!— SON I BELIEVE YOUR 'STORY'!!

AT LAST SOME ONE BELIEVES ME!!



MR CRICKET, I'LL BE INDEBTED TO YOU FOR LIFE— ISNT THERE ANYTHIN' I CAN DO TO AT LEAST REPAY IN PART THE KINDNESS YOU'VE SHOWN?

COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE IS SOMETHIN' THAT NEEDS STRAIGHTENIN' OUT AROUND HERE



SEE THAT SMALL MINING TOWN IN THE VALLEY BELOW?— IT'S "THE VILLAGE OF THE DOOMED"!!

WHY SUCH A HANDLE??



EVER HEAR OF "SILICOSIS"? COMES FROM BAD VENTILATION IN MINES. — SILICA DUST IS BREATHED IN BY THE MINERS — IT COLLECTS IN THE LUNGS AND CAUSES THE DISEASE! IT EVENTUALLY TURNS TO TUBERCULOSIS. — NEARLY EVERY MAN DOWN THERE IS SUFFERING FROM SILICOSIS!!

WHY DON'T THE MEN PROTEST?



THEY HAVE! BUT THE OWNERS SAY THE EXPENSE OF NEW VENTILATING MACHINES WILL BANKRUPT THEM! THE MEN FEAR THE LOSS OF JOBS MORE THAN LOSING THEIR HEALTH SO THEY CONTINUE TO TOLERATE THE BAD CONDITIONS.

THIS NEEDS LOOKING INTO!!



THE COMET PAYS A VISIT TO THE MINE OFFICE —

GENTLEMEN, I'LL GET TO THE POINT: — WHY HAVEN'T YOU INSTALLED VENTILATORS IN YOUR MINES??

WHO ARE YOU TO COME BUTTING INTO OUR OFFICE?



NEVER MIND!! — THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL BE INTERESTED TO LEARN OF CONDITIONS HERE!!

BOSS!! — CAVE-IN AT MINE NO. 2!!



WITHOUT WAITING FOR AN ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION, THE COMET RACES TO THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT

IT'S GUS WAGNER! — CAUGHT BY THE LEG



RAISING HIS VISOR, THE COMET TRIES TO BLAST AWAY THE ROCK

NO USE — THE RAY WON'T AFFECT SILICA! WE'LL HAVE TO AMPUTATE!



NOTE: — SILICA IS THE MAIN CONSTITUENT OF GLASS

THE COMET FOCUSES HIS RAY ON THE TRAPPED MAN'S LEG

SUCCESS!!



DID YUH SEE THAT? — IT'S A MIRACLE!! — WHO IS HE??

NOW FOR SOME OTHER BUSINESS



THE COMET RETURNS TO THE OFFICE AND FINDS IT EMPTY

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE??

JUST BEEN GLANCING OVER YOUR BOOKS, RILEY, AND I FIND THAT YOU HAVE ENJOYED A GREAT PROFIT — CONTRARY TO YOUR CLAIMS! YOU CAN WELL AFFORD TO PUT IN NEW VENTILATORS!!



WHY YOU!!— I'LL — CLAM UP! I'M GIVING YOU THREE WEEKS TO INSTALL THAT EQUIPMENT OR ELSE!!



NOW I KNOW WHO HE IS!!— THE COMET SAAAAY, THIS PUTS A NEW LIGHT ON THINGS HE'S WANTED FOR MURDER



HE'LL BE COMING BACK IN THREE WEEKS — HERE'S OUR CHANCE TO NAB HIM. GET THE REWARD AND SAVE OURSELVES. THE EXPENSE OF INSTALLING THE VENTILATORS



TRUE TO HIS WORD, THE COMET RETURNS THREE WEEKS LATER

WELL, HAVE YOU DONE YOUR LITTLE JOB??

WE'RE HAPPY TO SAY THAT



YOUR GAME IS UP, MR. COMET! — MOVE! — JUST ONCE! I DARE YOU!!



THE PRICE ON YOUR HEAD IS A PRETTY ONE, AND ALL WE WANT IS AN EXCUSE TO CLOSE THAT MOUTH OF YOURS. DEAD MEN CAN'T SQUAWK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS!!



THE COMET LEAPS INTO ACTION HIS BOUYANCY ALLOWS HIM TO BOUNCE AROUND THE OFFICE LIKE A RUBBER BALL!



WELL, I MOVED!

SINCE YOU REFUSE TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR WORKER'S I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT HOW YOU HAVE PLACED ECONOMY ABOVE HUMAN LIVES !!



THE COMET ENTERS ONE OF THE MINES —

THESE COMPANY LEDGER BOOKS OUGHT TO CONVINCCE THEM OF THE TRUTH!



MEANWHILE, THE OWNER, RILEY AND HIS PARTNER RUN TOWARD THE MINE

QUICK! — GRAB ONE OF THESE CHLORINE TANKS !!

WHAT FOR? YOU DON'T MEAN —?



EXACTLY! — THE HEAVY GAS WILL FLOW DOWN AND FINISH THAT WEASEL!

BUT OUR MEN! — THEY'LL BE KILLED TOO! THAT'S MURDER!



IN SPITE OF HIS PARTNER RILEY RELEASES THE GAS INTO THE SHAFT

GAS!!



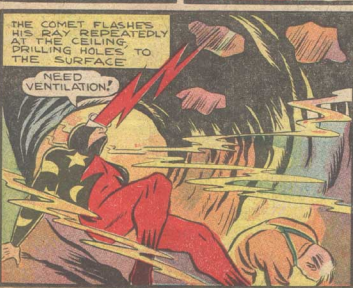
C-C-CAN'T... BREATHE!



RIGHT AND LEFT THE MINERS FALL GASPING

THE COMET FLASHES HIS RAY REPEATEDLY AT THE CEILING, DRILLING HOLES TO THE SURFACE

NEED VENTILATION!



THEN HE BURNS HOLES INTO THE FLOOR, PERMITTING THE GAS TO DROP INTO THEM

FRESH AIR !!



LEAVING THE MEN TO RECOVER, THE COMET ZOOMS UPWARD

SOMEONE IS GOING TO PAY FOR THIS



MR. RILEY, YOU'VE A DEBT TO PAY !!

YOU!! IT CAN'T BE!!



RILEY PICKS UP AN OBJECT FROM THE GROUND

I'M NOT LICKED YET !!

DROP THAT CLUB !!



THE COMET QUICKLY AIMS HIS RAY AT THE "STICK"

BOOM!!

GOOD HEAVENS!! IT'S DYNAMITE!!



DON'T KILL ME! - SPARE ME, I BEG OF YOU! - YOU CAN HAVE ANYTHING IF YOU'LL LET ME LIVE !!

ALL I WANT FROM YOU IS A WRITTEN ORDER FOR THE VENTILATING EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH OF YOUR MINERS



HERE IT IS - THE COMPLETE ORDER!

NOW FORK OVER THE CASH - I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THIS ORDER IS FILLED WITHOUT ANY "SLIP-UPS."



RETURNING TO THE OLD MINER'S HOME, THE COMET PREPARES TO LEAVE.

WE'D BE TICKLED TO HAVE YOU STAY WITH US, SON! YOU'RE SAFE HERE!

THANKS POPS, BUT -



I MUST BE MOVING! - PERHAPS SOMEDAY THE PUBLIC WILL ACCEPT ME BACK INTO SOCIETY, BUT MEANWHILE, I'VE GOT A HEAVY DATE WITH SOME OTHER HUMAN TERMITES !!



ANOTHER COMET ADVENTURE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PEP COMICS

THE PRESS GUARDIAN

EVEN THE PUBLISHER OF THE DAILY EXPRESS DOESN'T KNOW THAT HIS EFFETE SON, PERRY CHASE, SECRETLY IS THE DAUNTLESS PRESS GUARDIAN, FOE OF ALL ENEMIES OF THE PRESS

TO THE DAILY EXPRESS—THIS IS A WARNING! YOU HAVE A BUNCH OF DOCUMENTS SHOWING THAT CERTAIN MEN HAVE BEEN STEALING A MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR FROM THE STATE. WE ADMIT WE TOOK THE DOUGH BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. WE'VE ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR NOSEY CAP-ITOL CORRESPONDENT AND WE'RE READY TO TAKE CARE OF THE DAILY EXPRESS IF YOU PUBLISH ONE LINE OF THE STORY!



SEND ME TO THE CAPITOL, DAD. I'D LIKE TO UNCOVER THE ONE MAN OUR DOCUMENTS DIDN'T NAME—THE TOP MAN.

IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA. PERRY IS SO SIMPLE THE CROOKS WOULD IGNORE HIM!

IT'S AGAINST MY JUDGMENT, BUT GO AHEAD!

A NEW TASK FOR THE PRESS GUARDIAN!

ABOARD THE PULLMAN, CAPITOL BOUND!



WE KNOW THE DAILY EXPRESS SENT YOU—MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS AT THE CAPITOL, OR ELSE.....



OR ELSE WHAT?

TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME WISE GUY, UNLESS YOU WANNA GET HURT!



YOU MEAN I MIGHT GET HURT, LIKE THIS?



PERRY ENTERS HIS NEW OFFICE AT THE CAPITOL—

CYNTHIA BLAKE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? THIS IS A DANGEROUS JOB I'M ON!

I'M TO BE YOUR ASSISTANT. YOUR FATHER GAVE ME THE JOB!

HERE'S A NEW PRESS RELEASE, SIR!



THE EXPRESS AIN'T LAID OFF LIKE YOU TOLD 'EM TO.—THEY GOT A NEW MAN HERE!

SPIES WATCH PERRY EVERY MINUTE. CAN HE OUTWIT THEM?

PERRY'S NEW ASSISTANT IS THE GIRL HE RESCUED FROM THE MORONIA BOND—THE ONLY LIVING PERSON BESIDE PERRY'S VALET WHO KNOWS THAT PERRY IS THE PRESS GUARDIAN

PERRY AND CYNTHIA HAVE BEEN INVITED TO A PARTY AT A POLITICIAN'S COUNTRY HOME—PERRY CALLS TO DISCOVER THE BEST WAY TO GET THERE!

ASSURE MR. CHASE, THE RIVER ROAD IS THE BEST ROUTE YOU CAN TAKE!

OKAY, AND THANK YOU!

IT SOUNDS PHEONY TO ME!

I'LL BE DELAYED TONIGHT. YOU GO TO THE WALTON PARTY BY CAB. I'LL MEET YOU THERE!

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!

I DON'T BELIEVE A BIG SHOT POLITICIAN WOULD HAVE HIS HOME ON A LONELY ROAD LIKE THIS! I WONDER WHAT'S UP?

PERRY DRIVES TO THE WALTON PARTY!

AH! SO THAT'S THEIR GAME!

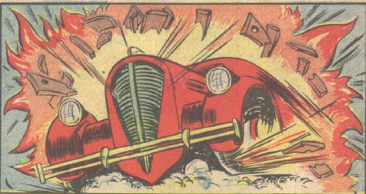
A BLAZING BARRIER BLOCKS THE ROAD!

SUDDENLY, CYNTHIA BLAKE SPRINGS UP FROM UNDER A BLANKET IN THE BACK OF THE CAR!

GOSH! THAT LOOKS DANGEROUS.

CYNTHIA, I TOLD YOU TO TAKE A CAB!

FIX THE DOORS SO THEY'LL OPEN! WE'LL ROLL OUT IF THAT BARRIER IS SOLID. IF IT'S FLIMSY WE'LL GO RIGHT ON THROUGH IT!



PERRY CRASHES THE BARRIER! WILL HE AND CYNTHIA COME OUT ALIVE?



THE HOST FLINGS A CHAIR.
BUT THE PRESS GUARDIAN
SEES IT COMING, AND DUCKS,
JUST IN TIME!

THANKS FOR
SAVING ME THE
TROUBLE!



THE BATTLE
STILL RAGES
IN THE
HOST'S
DEN.....



I'LL CONFESS, I'LL
ADMIT ANYTHING.....
ONLY DON'T HIT
ME AGAIN!



ALL RIGHT,
GET UP HERE
AND SIGN THIS
CONFESSION.....



I'LL SIGN NOTHING BUT
YOUR DEATH WARRANT,
RAT, TAKE THIS!



OTHERS HAVE TRIED
SHOOT THE PRESS
GUARDIAN BEFORE.....
WITH NO BETTER LUCK!



PLEASANT
DREAMS!



THEY'VE
GOT
CYN-
THIA!

SHE'LL BE
OKAY UP-
STAIRS!



NOW TO SEE
IF I CAN GET
OUT OF
HERE!



THE PRESS GUARD-
IAN FACES A NEW
BATTLE!



THE PRESS GUARDIAN TAKES A DANGEROUS ROUTE!



CAN THE PRESS GUARDIAN BEAT THE THUG'S TRIGGER FINGER?



THE PRESS GUARDIAN OVER-WHELMS HIS FOE!



THE LEADER OF THE GRAFT RING KILLED HIMSELF. RATHER THAN FACE THE DISGRACE OF ARREST!



ONCE MORE THE PRESS GUARDIAN HAS OUTWITTED ENEMIES OF THE PRESS. FOLLOW HIS NEW ADVENTURES IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF —
PEP COMICS



GIANTS OF THE WEST

PHOTOGRAPHS of the big trees of California showing a cowboy on horseback beside one of the giants of the forest are popular with tourists. The cowboy, in comparison to the tree, looks like an ant might beside a telegraph pole.

Most of the tourists are not aware that the big trees of California are of a species found, in nature, no place else on earth. Also that they are the oldest living things on earth.

The trees of the Sequoia family are cone bearing, but are not true pines. While pine trees are widely distributed about the earth, the Sequoia is found only in the one location, a fact for which no botanist has ever been able to account unless it is because of the peculiarly even temperature to be found in the valleys of the Golden Gate state.

There are two species of the Sequoia, both native to California. One is known as the big or giant tree and the other is the redwood. Where attempts have been made to cultivate these trees in European or other botanical gardens, the few specimens to live any length of time have shown a dwarf or stunted growth.

The giant trees of California were old when the pyramids were being built. They were giants when Columbus discovered America and when Nero fiddled in Rome. The largest specimens are estimated to be over 7000 years old.

These trees are protected, but one of a smaller size was cut down for experimental and research purposes and its annual rings numbered 2125. An idea of the size of the trees can be gained by the fact that twenty men with arms outstretched can just encircle the tree known as General Sherman. If one of the men happens to have short arms the twenty will miss circling the tree by about six inches.

GENERAL SHERMAN while among the largest at the base is not among the tallest of the trees. The Keystone State, slightly smaller at the base than the General Sherman, is 325 feet high and some just top the 400-foot mark.

In the hollow of one of the trees six ponies and mules have been stabled. A dancing pavilion has been made by polishing the stump of one giant's specimen. A church in Santa Rosa, California has been built entirely from the wood of one tree, with a considerable bulk of scraps and kindling left over.

The wood of both types of Sequoia is light and durable and takes on a beautiful satiny finish. In the early days it was extensively used for interior decoration and the trees from which it came are the most valuable in the world.

Snuff boxes made by early Spanish settlers from this wood are still in existence and are fabulously valued.

GREAT NEW FEATURE
GALAHAD!
STARTING IN MAY NO. 5
TOP-NOTCH
COMICS

6 TRIANGLES

BIG DIAMOND

5 AIRMAILS!

BRIT. COLONIES,

EUREKA STAMP CO.,

Also **BIG PACKET** of
SCARCE STAMPS including
the U. S. rate **BORNEO,**
SILVER JUBILEE BELG,
CONGO, DUTCH INDIES,
SIAM P. I., CUBA,
CHINA, BRAZIL, many
approval applicants.
Box 639L, Butte, Calif.

FU CHANG

International

DETECTIVE



FU CHANG, INTERNATIONAL DETECTIVE, WHO RESIDES IN CHINATOWN, ACHIEVES WITH THE AID OF THE MAGIC CHESSMEN OF ALADDIN, PROSPERITY AND PROTECTION FOR HIS PEOPLE. HE HAS ORGANIZED THE TI YAN TONG AS A SECRET SOCIETY TO DO GOOD, AND RIGHT WRONG, NATURALLY. THIS TONG IS HATED AND FEARED BY EVILDOERS-AND ONE NIGHT.....

Tim Street



FORWARD, DEALERS OF DEATH!



PRINCESS LING FOY LEADS HER BRAZEN WARRIORS TO THE MEETING OF THE TI YAN TONG....

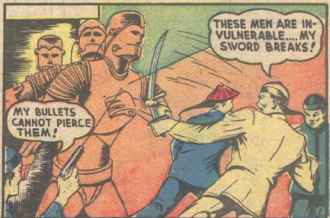
WARRIORS OF BRASS? GO...ATTACK THE MEETING OF TI YAN TONG!

PRINCESS LING FOY, THE BEAUTIFUL SORCERESS, HAS BROUGHT TO LIFE A STRANGE HORDE OF EVIL CREATURES!



LOOK, ENEMIES ARE UPON US!

THE MEN OF THE TI YAN TONG PREPARE TO RESIST THE INVASION.....



THESE MEN ARE INVULNERABLE....MY SWORD BREAKS!

MY BULLETS CANNOT PIERCE THEM!

BUT THE COURAGEOUS EFFORTS OF THE TONG ARE OF NO AVAIL...

IT IS USELESS TO FIGHT—
MY WARRIORS ARE
OF BRASS... YOUR
TONG SHALL PERISH...
FORWARD, BRASS
WARRIORS!!

HAVE MERCY!

BUT FU CHANG GRASPS THE SITUATION AND PLANS AN ATTACK.....

HMM! A DOSE
OF ACID WILL
FIX THE DISHON-
ORABLE ROBOTS!



LOOK!! FU
CHANG! GET
HIM, MY MON-
STERS!

YOUR ROBOTS
ARE WELCOME,
PRINCESS.
SEND THEM
UP!

THE PRINCESS SIGHTS FU CHANG AND LAUNCHES HER WARRIORS AGAINST HIM!

THE BRASS ROBOTS FOLLOW OUT THEIR MISTRESS' COMMAND.....

IT IS TOO
LATE TO
ESCAPE!
MY ACID
WILL FIGHT
THEM!

ACID



THIS WILL DESTROY
THE MONSTERS
OF EVIL!

FU CHANG ATTACKS THE BRASS MEN WITH HIS OWN WEAPON ...



ONE BY ONE THE BRASS FIGURES
DISSOLVE INTO NOTHINGNESS!

THIS WILL FINISH
THE REST OF
YOU!



VICTORY IS FU CHANG'S!

THE LAST OF MY
BRAZEN WARRIORS!
NOTHING BUT
MOLTEN METAL!



I AM
DEFEATED...
KILL
ME!



NO, FU CHANG
DOES NOT KILL
WOMEN! GO
AND USE YOUR
POWER FOR
GOOD!

I WAS WRONG TO
FIGHT YOU! YOU
ARE STRONG. I
AM BEAUTIFUL—
TOGETHER WE
CAN RULE
CHINATOWN!



IT CANNOT BE! FU CHANG'S HEART LIES ELSE-- WHERE!

THE PROUD ONE REJECTS MY LOVE! HE WILL BE SORRY!



ANGRY AT FU CHANG'S COLDNESS, THE WITCH-PRINCESS PLOTS REVENGE!

HE THINKS THAT THE BRAZEN WARRIORS WERE MY ONLY MAGIC---- BUT NO, I MODEL THIS WAX INTO----



---AN IMAGE OF FU CHANG, AND AS THIS MAGIC DAGGER PIERCES THE ARM---

EVEN AS SHE ATTACKS THE IMAGE WITH AN ENCHANTED WEAPON----



WHAT IS THE TROUBLE?

OH! MY ARM!



THE PAIN IS DREADFUL! BRING HELP, TAY MING!

A MOMENT, FU CHANG! I WILL INVOKE THE GOD OF OUR PEOPLE!



THE GOD OF TAY MING AND FU CHANG GIVES AID-- WITH A RAY FROM HIS EYE HE BRINGS THE MAGIC CHESSMEN TO LIFE!

GREAT GOD OF MERCY, GIVE FU CHANG A HELPER AND HEALER!

LET THIS LITTLE DOCTOR LIVE, AND CURE FU CHANG!

BUT ONLY A PARTIAL CURE IS EFFECTED!



SEE, HE BRINGS YOU RELIEF FROM THE PAIN!

YES--- BUT I'M STILL WEAK AND THE ARM WILL NOT MOVE!



MEANWHILE.... AT THE LAIR OF THE WITCH-PRINCESS!

SO MUCH FOR FU CHANG.... NOW TO ATTACK TAY MING, HIS SWEETHEART!

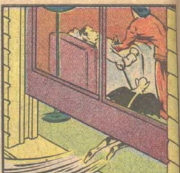


THROUGH A SCREEN OF SMOKE, APPEARS A WEIRD FIGURE...



AH, LITTLE IMP OF THE SMOKE FLY, DESTROY TAY MING!

I HEAR AND OBEY!

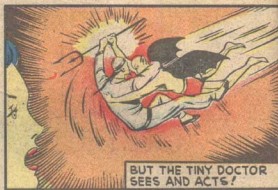


SWIFTLY, THE TINY THING OF EVIL WINGS ITS WAY!

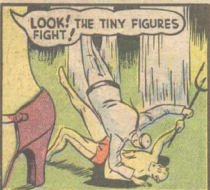
NEITHER TAY MING NOR FU CHANG SEE THE IMP FLY IN!



THIS SLING WILL SUPPORT THE ARM, FU CHANG!



BUT THE TINY DOCTOR SEES AND ACTS!



LOOK! THE TINY FIGURES FIGHT!



QUICKLY THE CHESSMAN DOCTOR SUBDUES THE IMP!

DRIVE THE ENEMY IN HERE, LITTLE FRIEND!



YOU ARE OUR PRISONER, LITTLE DEMON! WHO SENT YOU?

I SERVE THE PRINCESS LING FOY!



FU CHANG GOES FORTH TO ACCUSE THE PRINCESS!

PRINCESS LING FOY! I WILL CONFRONT HER WITH HER INFAMY!

BE CAREFUL, FU CHANG!

AGAIN TAY MING PRAYS TO THE IDOL!



GO!! AID FU CHANG!!



TAY MING STARTS OUT FOR LING FOY'S APARTMENT!



PRINCESS LING FOY! I SPARED YOU ONCE---- WHY DO YOU RETURN EVIL FOR GOOD?



MY LIKENESS IN WAX... ITS ARM PIERCED! THAT IS HOW YOU INJURED ME!

YES--- NOW I WILL MAKE YOU MORE HELPLESS STILL!



BY DOING THIS!



THE WITCH-PRINCESS DRIVES IN ANOTHER ENCHANTED DAGGER!

MY STOMACH! STOP!! I CAN'T STAND THE PAIN!



THAT IS BUT A SMALL SAMPLE, FU CHANG! DO AS I SAY, AND I WILL STOP THE PAIN!

WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?



THIS THIRD DAGGER WILL PIERCE THE FIGURE'S HEART---AND YOURS! CONFESS DEFEAT...OR DIE!



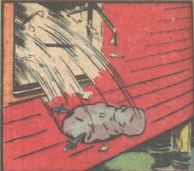
I WILL DO NEITHER!

BUT, BEFORE THE PRINCESS CAN CARRY OUT HER EVIL PLAN.....

WAIT! PRINCESS LING FOY, YOUR EVIL IS AT AN END!



THIS BULLET WILL FOREVER END YOUR TORTURE OF CHINA-TOWN'S BELOVED FU CHANG!



THE PRINCESS FALLS AGAINST THE IMAGE OF FU CHANG AND KNOCKS IT OUT OF THE WINDOW INTO THE WATER OF THE BAY!

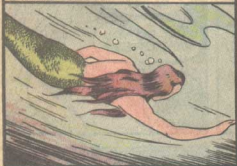
YOU SAVED MY LIFE--- BUT THAT IMAGE IS LOST! I WILL LIVE FOREVER IN PAIN!



SWIM AFTER THE IMAGE, FISH-MAIDEN / DRAW OUT THE ENCHANTED DAGGER!



OBEDIENTLY, THE LITTLE FIGURE SWIMS DEEP!



SHE REACHES THE IMAGE AND REMOVES THE MAGIC WEAPONS!

WITH THE DAGGERS TAKEN FROM THE IMAGE, FU CHANG RECOVERS AT ONCE!



ALL PAIN IS GONE-- AND ALL WEAKNESS!

LET US SHOW OUR THANKS BY CONTINUING GOOD WORKS!



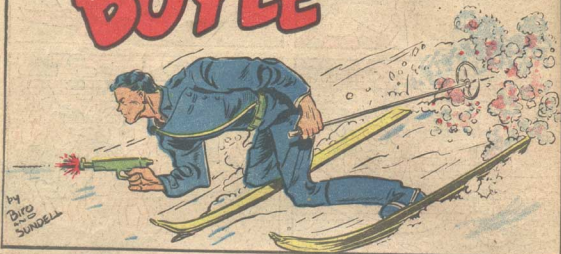
THE GOD KNEW WHAT THE FUTURE WOULD DEMAND--- AND CHOSE THIS SWIMMING FIGURE TO HELP US IN TIME OF NEED!

ANOTHER ADVENTURE OF FU CHANG FIGHTING BLACK MAGIC WITH WHITE, WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF--

PEP COMICS

SERGEANT BOYLE

SERGEANT BOYLE, AMERICAN COLLEGE STUDENT, JOINED THE BRITISH ARMY TO FIND EXCITEMENT — AND HE FINDS PLENTY!





THERE'S A SHELL HOLE FULL OF GERMAN UP AHEAD—I'LL CHARGE THEM FROM THE FRONT,

AND YOU FELLOWS GET THEM FROM THE REAR!

IN NO MAN'S LAND!



LOOK! A CRAZY BRITISHER—VE GET HIM GOOT!



KAMERAD



MEN, YOU TAKE THESE PRISONERS BEHIND THE LINES, I'M GOING ON AHEAD! I'LL MEET YOU HERE LATER!

OKAY, SERGEANT!



HMM—A GERMAN SUPPLY CAMP, TAKING FOOD UP INTO THOSE MOUNTAINS. I'LL BET THAT'S WHERE BATTALION A IS TRAPPED!



A NAZI SNIPER SPOTS BOYLE AND OPENS FIRE!



TOO BAD, BABY, YOUR FIRST MISS IS YOUR LAST!



BOYLE'S SHOT SNAPS A BRANCH, AND THE SNIPER CRASHES TO THE GROUND!



YAH! YAH!
I TELL YOU
SOMETHINK
BETTER
TOO!

IS THERE A
BATTALION
TRAPPED IN
THOSE MOUN-
TAINS? TALK
QUICK OR I'LL
WRAP THIS GUN
AROUND YOUR
BEAN!



HERE'S A SUICIDE
BOMBING SQUAD
AT THE AIRPORT!
DEY VILL VIPE
OUT LONDON
TODAY!



YOU'RE A RAT! A
SNIPER IS BAD ENOUGH,
BUT YOU'D EVEN BETRAY
YOUR OWN COUNTRY TO
SAVE YOUR HIDE!



BOMB LONDON, EH?—
HMM— IF I TRY TO
STOP THAT, BATTALION
A WILL BE WIPED OUT
TO THE LAST MAN!
WHAT TO DO?



BATTALION A, IS
SOLDIERS— DYING
IS THEIR JOB!



BUT LONDON
IS FULL OF WO-
MEN AND
CHILDREN!
AND I'M THE
ONLY GUY WHO
CAN HELP THEM!

HMM
SNOW!



IN AN EVACUATED
TRENCH, BOYLE
FINDS SKIS!

THESE WILL
GET ME TO THE
AIRPORT FAST!



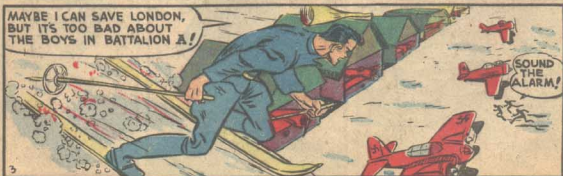
I HOPE I CAN
GET THERE BE-
FORE THEY
TAKE OFF!



THERE IT IS,
AND THE BOMBERS
ARE READY
TOO!



LOOK! AN
ENGLISH
SOJER—
ON SKIS!



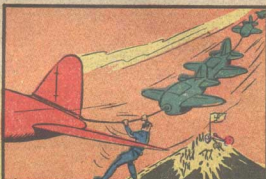
MAYBE I CAN SAVE LONDON,
BUT IT'S TOO BAD ABOUT
THE BOYS IN BATTALION A!

SOUND
THE ALARM!

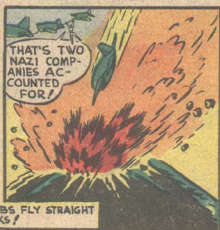




TO HIS SURPRISE, BOYLE SEES BATTALION A TRAPPED IN A VALLEY, WHILE THREE NAZI COMPANIES HAMMER AWAY AT THEM!



AFTER SETTING THE AUTOMATIC PILOT, BOYLE CLIMBS OUT ALONG THE ROPE TO THE LAST OF THE GLIDER BOMBS!



THE GLIDER BOMBS FLY STRAIGHT TO THEIR MARKS!



WITH THE SIEGE ON BATTALION A RELIEVED BOYLE RETURNS FOR HIS SQUAD.

DON'T SHOOT, IT'S ME, BOYLE!! HYA BOYS.



SO YOU SEE, THE JOB IS NOT FINISHED—NOW I WANT BARBED WIRE AND LOTS OF IT. HURRY.





GUESS WE'D BETTER TIE THEM UP TIGHT!

A COUPLE OF BARREL ROLLS SECURELY KNOTS THE WIRE AROUND THE NAZIS!



I HOPE WE DONT LOSE ANY OF OUR CARGO, AT LEAST NOT YET!



DIS SAUERBRATEN ISS VERY GOOT!

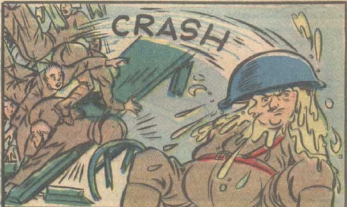
BACK OF THE ENEMY LINES GENERAL VON SCHMUTZ IS AT HIS DINNER!



OKAY! NOW CUT THE WIRE!



SLUP! SLUP! SLUP! GIFF ME MORE!



CRASH



NOW MAYBE WE CAN FINISH OUR GAME IN PEACE



AFTER REPORTING TO THE GENERAL!

YUH DID IT NOW BOYLE! RUN.



DANG YOU BOYLE! WITH YOU FIGHTING THIS WAR, THERES NOTHING FOR ME TO DO BUT SLEEP AND YOU WONT EVEN LET ME DO THAT!

ANOTHER RIOTOUS RIP ROARING ACTION PACKED SERGEANT BOYLE STORY IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF

PEP COMICS



The *S* MIDSHIPMAN

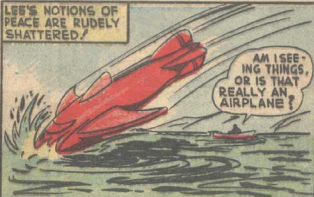
LEE SAMPSON, A MIDSHIPMAN AT THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY
TYPIFIES THE AMERICAN IDEAL OF PATRIOTISM AND INTEL-
LIGENCE. HE SERVES HIS COUNTRY, AND IS EVER READY TO
LAY DOWN HIS LIFE IN ITS SERVICE!

LEE SAMPSON, THE MIDSHIPMAN, HAS
RECEIVED PERMISSION TO USE ONE OF
THE NAVY BOATS FOR THE AFTERNOON!



THIS IS A
GREAT IDEA
OF MINE,
COMING
OUT HERE
TO STUDY
FOR EXAMS.
NOBODY TO
BOTHER ME!

LEE'S NOTIONS OF
PEACE ARE RUDELY
SHATTERED!



AM I SEE-
ING THINGS,
OR IS THAT
REALLY AN
AIRPLANE?

AS LEE APPROACHES THE SCENE, HE SEES ANOTHER QUEER THING!

SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON.
WHAT'S THAT BOAT LOWERING
INTO THE WATER? I'D
BETTER INVESTIGATE!



A REMARKABLE SIGHT GREET'S THE MID-
SHIPMAN'S EYES....



PHEW! THERE'S A STRONG TASTE
OF CHLORINE! MAYBE THAT
FELLOW WAS OVERCOME BY IT...
ANYWAY HE NEEDS HELP!

BUT THE UNKNOWN VICTIM REVIVES IMMEDI-
ATELY AND SWIMS TOWARD THE MIDSHIPMAN!



GUESS HE'S OKAY!
ANYWAY, I'LL LEAD
HIM TO MY BOAT!



HERE'S MY BOAT, CLIMB IN!

THANKS!



THE STRANGER INTRODUCES HIMSELF, AND LEE ALMOST FALLS OVER BACKWARDS WITH ASTONISHMENT!

THANKS FOR THE HELP! I'M THE WIZARD. MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF ME!

THE WIZARD!!!
I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT THERE WAS SUCH A PERSON!



THE MOSCONIAN GOVERNMENT PLANS TO INVADE THE U.S. THEY'VE SENT SPIES HERE TO WEAKEN THE MOST VITAL FOUNDATIONS OF OUR DEFENSES, I'VE FRUSTRATED THEIR FIRST ATTACK ON ANNAPOLIS, BUT THERE'LL PROBABLY BE MORE. I MUST LEAVE NOW, BUT I'M SURE I CAN RELY ON YOU TO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN AND WATCH FOR ANY FURTHER ATTACKS!



THE MIDSHIPMAN HURRIES BACK TO MAKE HIS REPORT!

WHEW! IT'S ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE. IF I HADN'T SEEN HIM WITH MY OWN EYES.....



ON BOARD THE MOSCONIAN SHIP FURTHER DOWN THE RIVER!

THE WIZARD HAS GONE, WE MUSTN'T LET THAT MIDSHIPMAN VARN THE ADMIRAL.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT!



THE MOSCONIANS SEND A MOTOR BOAT IN QUICK PURSUIT!

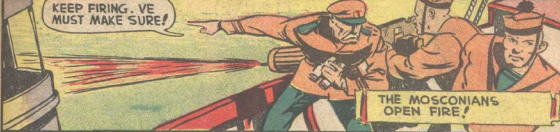
THEY'RE COMING UP FAST. IF I CAN ONLY MAKE SHORE.....



THE LARGER MOSCONIAN MOTOR BOAT SENDS ITS PROW SPLINTERING THROUGH THE MIDSHIPMAN'S CRAFT!



GUESS I'D BETTER SWIM FOR IT!




KEEP FIRING. VE
MUST MAKE SURE!

THE MOSCONIAN'S
OPEN FIRE!



THE MIDSHIPMAN SINKS!

H...HELP!



BUT LEE IS FAR FROM
FINISHED!

I HOPE THEY
FELL FOR
IT!




THEY WON'T THINK OF LOOKING
FOR ME ON THE PROW
OF THEIR OWN
BOAT, I'LL JUST
HOLD ON FOR
AWHILE!




UNAWARE THAT THE MIDSHIPMAN IS WITHIN HEARING
DISTANCE, THE SPIES DIVULGE THEIR PLOT!

VE HAFF A BOMBING
PLANE WAITING FOR
THE SIGNAL. VEN ALL
THE NAVAL OFFICERS
ARE ROUNDED UP BY
OUR AGENTS IN VUN
HOUSE, VE STRIKE!



GREAT GHOSTS! THEY'RE
PLANNING TO KILL OFF
THE ENTIRE NAVAL
STAFF!



LEE SAMPSON
SPRINGS A SURPRISE!

IT...IT ISS A
GHOST!

HERE'S ONE GHOST
WITH A GOOD LEFT
HOOK!



NOW YOU TRY THE WATER!



AS A MOSCONIAN SWINGS A PLANK, LEE DUCKS, AND THE MOSCONIAN CROWNS A COMRADE!



D... DON'T HIT ME AGAIN!

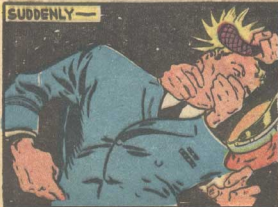
I THINK I TAKE A SWIM!

LEE'S FEROCITY IS TOO MUCH FOR THE MOSCONIANS!



BACK AT THE ACADEMY GROUNDS, THE ADMIRAL WALKS ALONG FARRAGUT LANE UNAWARE OF LURKING DANGER!

HMM... UNUSUALLY QUIET HERE TONIGHT!



SUDDENLY—



QUICK, INTO THE BUILDING!

HA! EVERYTHING WORKS PERFECT!

MIDSHIPMAN SAMPSON MAKES A
BEELINE FOR THE ADMIRAL'S HOUSE.

H... HE'S
GONE!



THE ADMIRAL IS FORCED TO CARRY OUT THE
PLOTTERS' ORDERS!

YOU VILL CALL UP
EACH OF YOUR NAVAL
STAFF UND ASK DEM
TO COME HERE
IMMEDI-
ATELY!

YOU'LL
NEVER BE
ABLE TO CARRY
OUT YOUR
PLAN!



LIEUTENANT GREEVES
RECEIVES A STRANGE
ORDER!

YES, ADMIRAL. I'LL
BE THERE RIGHT
AWAY!



THE ADMIRAL THEN CALLS
THE HOME OF THE REAR
ADMIRAL. HE'S OUT BUT BY
A STRANGE COINCIDENCE,
LEE SAMPSON, SEEKING
SOMEONE TO REPORT
HIS STORY TO, IS THERE
AT THE MOMENT THE
PHONE RINGS - THE
ADMIRAL IS FORCED
TO ORDER LEE TO
REPORT ALSO - LEE
OBEYS - HE RUSHES
TO THE OFFICE OF
THE ADMIRAL,
WHERE.....

...HE FALLS INTO THE MOSCONIAN TRAP!



THE MOSCONIANS ARE
ABOUT TO KILL THE AP-
ARENTLY UNCONSCIOUS
MIDSHIPMAN!



VE TAKE NO
CHANCES VID DIS
VUN. HE ISS TOO
MUCH TROUBLE!

BUT THE MIDSHIPMAN
SUDDENLY COMES TO
LIFE!



LUCKY THING
FOR ME THAT
MY HEAD IS
HARD!

COMB THIS
ONE OUT OF
YOUR HAIR!



GET OUT
AND GET HELP
MIDSHIPMAN
SAMP-
SON!

REALIZING THAT THE HALLS AND THE DOWNSTAIRS OF THE BUILDING ARE GUARDED, LEE DASHES OUT OF A WINDOW, AND CLIMBS HASTILY TO THE ROOF!



LEE HAS A PLAN, BUT IT REQUIRES A DESPERATE CHANCE!



THE MOSCONIAN BOMBER HEADS FOR THE HOUSE FROM WHICH THE FLARE CAME!



LEE'S STRATEGY IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN EVEN HE HAD ANTICIPATED. BEFORE THE BLINDED PILOT CAN LEVEL OFF, HE CRASHES INTO A RADIO TOWER!



BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE!

JUNE ISSUE
NO. 4
ON SALE
APRIL 10TH



WATCH FOR
THE
RANG-A-TANG
CLUB
AND THE
RANG-A-TANG
HONOR LEGION!
CONTEST
WINNERS
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RANG-A-TANG,
THE WONDER
DOG BRINGS TO
THE PAGES OF
BLUE RIBBON
COMICS, THE

CORPORAL
COLLINS
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SMELL AND
HEARING TO-
GETHER WITH
HIS KEEN EYE-
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COURAGE AND DARING, THAT
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DON'T FAIL TO GET YOUR COPY OF THE JUNE ISSUE NO.4 BLUE RIBBON
COMICS! ON SALE AT ALL NEWSSTANDS ABOUT APRIL 10TH

THE
ROCKET
 AND THE
QUEEN OF DIAMONDS

ONE DAY A HUGE ROCKET SHIP CRASHED WITHIN THE BARRIERS OF THE DIAMOND EMPIRE... AFTER DEFEATING PLOTTERS AGAINST THE CROWN, THE PILOT, KNOWN AS THE ROCKET, BECOMES THE FRIEND OF THE EMPIRE'S LOVELY QUEEN... IN THE LAST EPISODE WE LEFT THE ROCKET AND THE QUEEN FLYING IN A DISABLED SHIP OVER A STRANGE AND DESOLATE LAND...



AND DESOLATE LAND...

FLYING LOW OVER THE WASTE-LAND THEY SIGHT A ONE-SIDED BATTLE!



LOOK! ALL OF THEM ARE FIGHTING AGAINST ONE MAN!

IT'S THE LIZARD-MEN, AND THE MAN THEY'RE FIGHTING IS A HAWKMAN! QUICK ROCKET--WE MUST GO TO THE RESCUE!

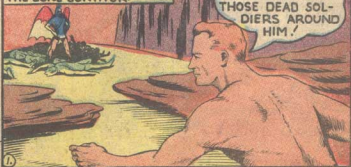


WITH FLARES BLASTING, THE ROCKET DIVES AT THE LIZARD-MEN WHO FLEE IN PANIC!

BUT THE DIVE WAS TOO STEEP FOR THE DISABLED SHIP--THEY CRASH TO A LANDING!



WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION, THE ROCKET HURRIES TO THE AID OF THE LONE SURVIVOR!



GOSH... HE'S A MIGHTY FIGHTER... LOOK AT ALL THOSE DEAD SOLDIERS AROUND HIM!

THANK YOU WARRIOR.. I'M PRINCE FALKAR OF THE KINGDOM OF HAWK-MEN!



I AM KNOWN AS THE ROCKET I SERVE THE QUEEN OF THE EMPIRE OF DIAMONDS

RETURNING TO THE SHIP, THEY EXAMINE THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE CRASH.



WE'LL NEED TOOLS AND MEN TO FIX THIS LANDING GEAR.

COME WITH ME TO MY COUNTRY- I WILL SEND BACK ALL THE AID YOU NEED



THEY SET OUT FOR THE LAND OF THE HAWKMEN..

ONE OF THE DEFEATED LIZARD MEN WATCHES THEM GO.



JUST TWO MEN AND A WOMAN. WE WILL LET THEM ENTER THE DARK FOREST AND SURPRISE THEM THERE



PRINCE FALKAR LEADS THE ROCKET AND THE QUEEN THROUGH A WEIRD FOREST IN THE DIRECTION OF HIS KINGDOM!

SILENT AS THE NIGHT, THE LIZARD MEN SNEAK UP BEHIND THE UNSUSPECTING TRIO



SPEED THIS ARROW TRUE, GREAT GOD OF THE LIZARDS!

MY WINGS!!



THE LIZARD-MEN ARE UPON US! TAKE COVER QUICK!!

A BARRAGE
OF ARROWS
FLY PAST!

WE'LL BE
SAFE BEHIND
THESE ROCKS

THEY WON'T DARE
COME ANY CLOSER,
FOR THEY ARE
COWARDLY FIGHTERS!

IF WE WAIT
UNTIL NIGHT
FALL, WE'LL
BE ABLE TO
SLIP THROUGH
THEM IN THE
DARKNESS

TOO BAD THAT
ARROW INJURED
MY WINGS, I'D
BE ABLE TO
FLY FOR AID.

BUT THE LIZARD-MEN
HAVE NO INTENTIONS
OF WAITING FOR
DARKNESS!

FIRE WILL DRIVE
THEM INTO THE
OPEN

GOOD! THEN
OUR ARCHERS
CAN PICK THEM
OFF

RUN, AND STAY LOW!
THEY CAN'T SEE US
BECAUSE OF THE
SMOKE SCREEN THEY
CREATED.

THE ROCKET AND HIS FRIENDS FLEE
FROM THE PATH OF THE FLAMING INFERNO.

BUT THE ROCKET NOTICES THAT THE
ANIMALS ARE RUNNING IN THE OPPOSITE
DIRECTION.

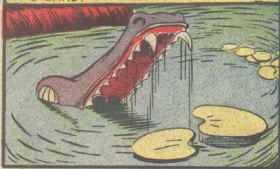
WE'RE TRAPPED,
THERE'S FIRE
AHEAD.

THE ANIMALS
KNOW OF
WATER! FOLLOW
THEM AND
WE'LL BE
SAFE!

RACING MADLY IN THE PATH OF THE
ANIMALS THEY COME TO THE SHORES
OF A GIANT LAKE...

UNLESS THE
LIZARD MEN
DISCOVER US
WE'LL BE SAFE
UNTIL THE FIRE
DIES DOWN!

A HUGE FLESH-EATING MONSTER HAD ALSO SOUGHT THE SAFETY OF THE LAKE!

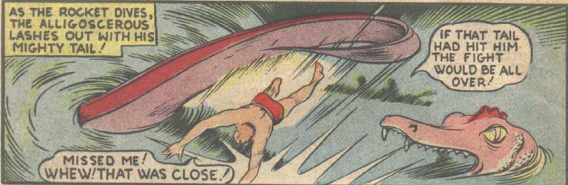


IT'S COMING OUR WAY! WATCH THE QUEEN, FALKER, WHILE I GO TO MEET IT!



AN ALLIGOSCEROUS !!

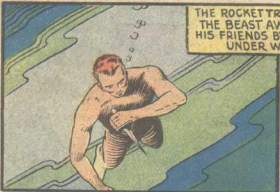
AS THE ROCKET DIVES, THE ALLIGOSCEROUS LASHES OUT WITH HIS MIGHTY TAIL!



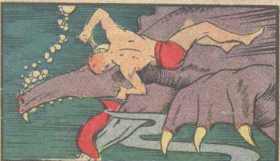
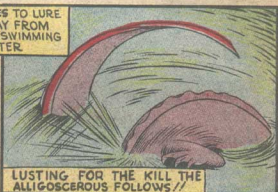
IF THAT TAIL HAD HIT HIM THE FIGHT WOULD BE ALL OVER!

MISSED ME! WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!

THE ROCKET TRIES TO LURE THE BEAST AWAY FROM HIS FRIENDS BY SWIMMING UNDER WATER.



LUSTING FOR THE KILL THE ALLIGOSCEROUS FOLLOWS !!

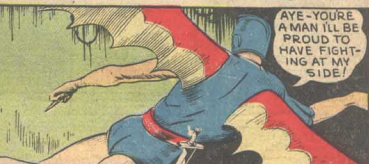


ACTIONG WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, THE ROCKET THRUSTS HIS DAGGER AGAIN AND AGAIN INTO THE BEAST'S EYES!

YOU SAVED OUR LIVES, SIR ROCKET! WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL



BLINDED, THE ALLIGOSCEROUS THRESHES AWAY TO ITS DOOM!



WITH THE SWIFTHNESS OF LIGHT THE LIZARD-MEN STRIKE! HORDES OF THEM SWARM DOWN FROM THE TREES!



THE ROCKET FIGHTS BACK, BUT HE IS OVERPOWERED!

THE KING'S ADVISER SPEAKS—



THE QUEEN IS OF RARE BEAUTY... MAKE HER YOUR WIFE!

YES! SHE MAKE GOOD WIFE, BUT HIM, HE MAKE GOOD FOOD FOR LIZARD-MEN!

THE LIZARD-MEN LEAD THEIR CAPTIVES TOWARD THEIR UNDERGROUND CITY!



WHEN SUDDENLY....



THE APE-MEN!

THE APE-MEN... A SAVAGE TRIBE OF UN-CIVILIZED TREE-DWELLERS... DROP DOWN ON THE COWARDLY LIZARD-MEN!

A BRIEF FIGHT— AND THE LIZARD-MEN ARE ROUTED!



THE APE-MEN MAKE OFF WITH THE LIZARD-MEN'S PRISONERS...

FROM ONE JAM TO ANOTHER... WE SURE KEEP ON GETTING IN DEEPER!!

I WONDER IF FALKER AND HIS HAWKMEN WILL EVER FIND US NOW?



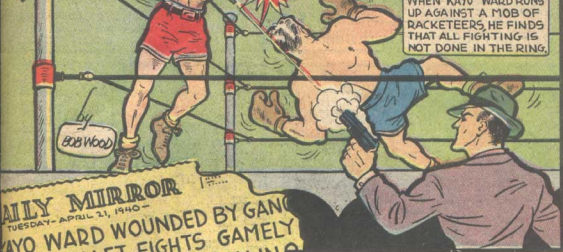
WHAT FURTHER ADVENTURES AWAIT THE ROCKET AND THE QUEEN OF DIAMONDS?

READ THE NEXT ISSUE OF **PEP COMICS**

FOR THEIR ADVENTURES IN THE LAND OF THE APE-MEN!

TWO NEW FEATURES IN MAY TOP NOTCH COMICS. GALAHAD-KNIGHT AND CRUSADER SHANGHI SHERIDEN!

KAYO WARD!

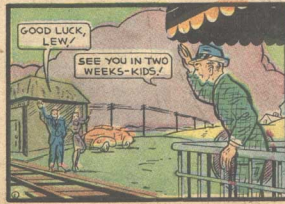


by BOB WOOD

DAILY MIRROR
TUESDAY - APRIL 21, 1940 -

KAYO WARD WOUNDED BY GANGSTER'S BULLET, FIGHTS GAMELY IN-K.O.'S SOCKER BENSON IN RING EXPERTS HAIL WARD AS MODERN MARVEL-WATCH OUT JOE LEWIS

BY PHIL STURM—
THE GREATEST EXHIBITION OF COURAGE AND FEAR EVER SEEN BY THIS WRITER BROUGHT VICTOR KAYO WARD LAST NIGHT AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—WITH A SERIOUS BULLET WOUND IN HIS LEFT ARM, KAYO SHOWED SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH TO SEND SOCKER BENSON TO THE CANVAS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE EIGHTH ROUND—FOR KEEPS THE EX-STEEL MILL WORKER SURPRISED 19,000 SPECTATORS WHEN HE CONTINUED THE FIGHT AGAIN AND THEN



LET'S STOP AT THE SANDLOT AND WATCH THE KIDS PLAY BALL.

GOOD - MAYBE BILLY WILL BE THERE.



KAYO AND CONNIE START FOR HOME.

I SAID IT WAS A FOUL BALL!

THAT'S A LIE, RED - YOU KNOW IT WASN'T!



-MEANWHILE, KAYO'S KID BROTHER BILLY IS HAVING TROUBLE WITH RED -

BECAUSE YOUR BROTHER'S A FIGHTER - I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!

OUCH!



C'MON - PUT UP YOUR DUKES - ARE YOU SCARED?

DON'T WORRY - NOBODY SOCKS ME AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!

C'MON BILLY!



LOOKS LIKE A FIGHT!

WHY IT'S BILLY - THAT BIG BOY WILL HURT HIM!



AS BILLY AND RED FIGHT IT OUT, KAYO AND CONNIE ARRIVE.

GOSH - I BETTER STOP THEM!



BILLY - STOP IT!

ATTABOY - BILLY!



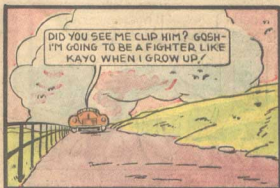
BILLY SENDS RED SPRAWLING TO THE GROUND.

THINK YOU'RE A TOUGH GUY - HITTING A LITTLE KID!

NOW - YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T DO A THING LIKE THAT!



JUST THEN RED'S OLDER BROTHER RUSHES UP THINKING IT WAS KAYO WHO HIT HIS BROTHER.



THIS OUGHT TO REMIND YOU THAT WHEN SILKO SAYS SOMETHING, HE MEANS BUSINESS!



REFUSING TO PAY, - SILKO'S MOBSTERS BEAT UP KAYO'S FATHER -

WE'LL BE BACK TOMORROW SO DON'T TRY ANY FUNNY WORK - IT WON'T BE HEALTHY!



C'MON, SLUG HE'LL CHANGE HIS MIND BY TOMORROW!

GOSH - WHERE'S POP?

I GUESS HE'S A LITTLE BUSY.



MEANWHILE, AT THE WARD'S HOME ...

IT'S POP! HE'S HURT!

JOHN - WHAT'S WRONG?



MR. WARD COMES HOME BADLY BRUISED AND BATTERED.

SILKO'S MEN DID IT BECAUSE I REFUSED TO PAY PROTECTION MONEY. THEY'RE COMING BACK TOMORROW.



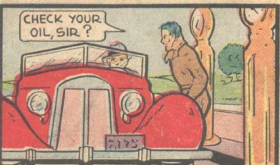
AS KAYO'S MOTHER GIVES MR. WARD FIRST AID, KAYO AND CONNIE DISCUSS THE MATTER.

DON'T GO TO THE POLICE. THOSE MEN WILL ONLY DO WORSE TO YOUR FATHER!

THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THIS MYSELF!



CHECK YOUR OIL, SIR?



THE FOLLOWING DAY, KAYO TAKES CARE OF HIS FATHER'S GAS STATION.

AND SEE THAT YOU GET THE DOUGH THIS TIME - I'LL WAIT HERE IN THE CAR.

LEAVE IT TO US - BOSS.



SILKO AND HIS MEN ARRIVE AT THE GAS STATION, DETERMINED TO COLLECT THE MONEY.

KAYO FACES THE THUGS AS THEY APPROACH

HERE THEY COME-AND IF THEY'RE
LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, THEY'LL FIND IT!

THIS MAY NOT BE
SO EASY BOYS-LOOK'S
LIKE THE OLD MAN
TOOK A DAY OFF!



DID YOUR OLD MAN
LEAVE ANY DOUGH
FOR US?

NO, BUT...



AS THE THUG SPEAKS...

HE LEFT THIS,
INSTEAD!



AS THE THUGS OPEN FIRE UPON HIM-KAYO TEARS
INTO THEM WITH A FEROCIOUS SERIES OF BLOWS



I'LL TEACH YOU
TO STEAL FROM
HONEST PEOPLE!



KAYO FINISHES OFF THE LAST THUG.

NICE WORK KAYO-YOU
ROUNDED UP SILKO'S MOB!

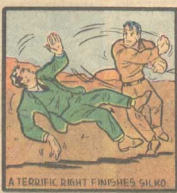
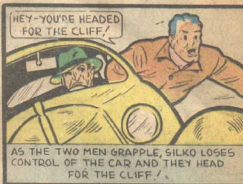
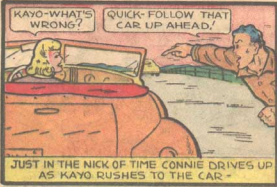
SERVES THEM
RIGHT!



ATTRACTED BY THE SHOTS, THE POLICE
COME RUSHING IN TO TAKE OVER.

IT'S SILKO-HE'S
GETTING AWAY!





WHAT NEWS
DOES LEW BLACK HAVE FOR KAYO?
DON'T MISS NEXT ISSUE OF **PEP** COMICS

BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE!

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NO. 4
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COMICS! ON SALE AT ALL NEWSSTANDS ABOUT APRIL 10TH

BENTLEY

of SCOTLAND YARD

AND THE HUNCHBACK HORROR

AMONG INSPECTOR BENTLEY'S STRANGEST ADVENTURES WAS THAT WHICH BEFELL HIM AT THE BETHROTHAL PARTY OF THE YOUNG EARL OF CRACKENTHORPE TO THE LADY BRENDA, WHERE HE HEARD THE OLD LEGEND OF THE CRACKENTHORPE CURSE---

by SAM COOPER







LADY BRENDA, YOUR FIANCE IS DEAD!
OH! AND HERE COMES HIS BROTHER LIONEL-- AND--

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?



YOU SAY HIS LORDSHIP IS DEAD INSPECTOR? I'M HIS COUSIN, OSBERT BEALS, AND THIS IS HIS BROTHER, LIONEL!

AND I AM THE BUTLER, SIR, ---WIGGINS! MY POOR MASTER!



HMMM, ALL UP HERE AT THE TIME OF THE MURDER!

OH, NO SIR! I WAS DOWNSTAIRS SERVING THE GUESTS-- MR. OSBERT WAS THERE TOO WHEN LADY BRENDA CAME UP, BUT NOT MR. LIONEL!

WIGGINS AND I RAN UP AFTER YOU!



I'LL SMASH YOUR SNEERING FACE OSBERT!

EASY GENTLEMEN ---THERE'S BEEN ONE MURDER ALREADY



WHERE WERE YOU LIONEL?

I WONDER! YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH BRENDA, WEREN'T YOU?

I WAS UP HERE-- IN MY ROOM, BUT I DIDN'T KILL MY BROTHER!



WHEN HELP ARRIVES, BENTLEY MAKES A DISCOVERY!

GUARD THE DOORS MEN! KEEP THE GUESTS HERE -- WAIT, THE EARL'S BROTHER, LIONEL, HAS DISAPPEARED!

HE LEFT BEFORE THE POLICE CAME, IN-- SPECTOR! HE LIVES IN LONDON!



IF HE'S GONE HOME, I'LL CATCH HIM THERE!

BENTLEY FOLLOWS THE MISSING MAN!



YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE RUN OFF LIKE THAT MR. LIONEL

I DIDN'T KILL MY BROTHER!

YOU SHOULD HELP ME, NOW YOU'RE EARL OF CRACKENTHORPE... AND THEY SAY YOU LOVED YOUR BROTHER'S FIANCEE--

YOU THINK I KILLED HIM FOR THE TITLE--OR BRENDA? I DENY IT!



HE SEEMS OVERWROUGHT --- I WONDER IF ---



AFTER MUCH FRUITLESS QUESTIONING, BENTLEY LEAVES, WHEN---

--A WEIRD ASSAILANT DROPS UPON HIM!



WHAT A WALLOP!



A POWERFUL BLOW FELS THE INSPECTOR, BUT ---



TAKE THAT!

--- HE STILL FIGHTS BACK!

YOU HIT TOO HARD TO BE A SPIRIT!



WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

I'VE BEEN THINKING OVER WHAT YOU SAID --- I'M COMING BACK WITH YOU --- HAS THERE BEEN TROUBLE?



LIONEL SUDDENLY GREET'S HIM AT THE DOOR!

I'LL FACE ANY CHARGES-- BUT I INSIST THAT I'M INNOCENT!

I THINK EVERYTHING WILL BE SETTLED SOON!



THE TWO SPEED BACK TO CRACKENTHORPE MANOR.

I'VE THOUGHT IT OUT-- WE CAN REDUCE THE SUSPECTS TO THE THREE MEN WHO WERE UPSTAIRS-- LIONEL, OSBERT AND THE BUTLER!

BUT MR. OSBERT AND I WERE DOWN-STAIRS AT THE TIME



BENTLEY NARROWS THE FIELD OF SUSPECTS!



MAYBE SO-- BUT LET'S LOOK INTO THAT HAUNTED ROOM FIRST!



NOTHING HERE! JUST AS I THOUGHT... THE WALL SOUNDS HOLLOW!

THEY RE-ENTER THE STRANGE CHAMBER OF DEATH!



LADY BRENDA, DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE WIGGINS AND OSBERT WERE JUST BEFORE YOU CAME UP HERE? WHY-WIGGINS WAS SERVING THE GUESTS-- OSBERT SAT BESIDE THE FIREPLACE!



YOU ADMIT YOU WERE UP HERE IN YOUR ROOM AT THE TIME OF THE MURDER?

YES I WAS!

HE WAS HERE WHEN WIGGINS AND I CAME UP THE STAIRS!



WHAT WOULD THE EARL'S DEATH MEAN TO YOU ALL?

I WAS THE HEIR-- EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT!

I WAS MENTIONED FOR A THOUSAND POUNDS IN HIS WILL. I GET NOTHING-- I'M ONLY THE COUSIN!



OH LIONEL! I HOPE IT ISN'T YOU!

I KNOW IT LOOKS BAD, DEAR--- BUT IF YOU CARE---

WAIT!



I KNOW WHO COMMITTED THE CRIME AND I CAN PROVE IT!

YOU CAN?

BENTLEY KNOWS THE MURDERER OF THE EARL OF CRACKENTHORPE--DO YOU?
Make Your Choice:
WAS IT WIGGINS THE BUTLER?....
LIONEL, HIS BROTHER AND HEIR?....
OSBERT, HIS COUSIN?.....
MIGHT IT HAVE BEEN LADY BRENDA HIS FIANCEE?.....
MARK X AFTER THE NAME OF THE ONE YOU THINK GUILTY; THEN TURN TO THE LAST PAGE OF THIS STORY AND SEE HOW BENTLEY SOLVED THE CRIME!

BENTLEY BEGINS TO SHOW THE WAY OF THE CRIME!

LOOK! HERE'S WHERE THE MONSTER DISAPPEARED -- INTO THIS HIDDEN CORRIDOR! I SUSPECTED SOME SUCH DEVICE!



BY JOVE HE DID!

HERES THE RIG HE WORE TO FRIGHTEN BRENDA, AND KILL THE EARL!



LOOK! HERE'S AN IRON GLOVE THAT WOULD KILL ANYBODY WITH A BLOW!

BLESS MY SOUL, YES!



THIS PASSAGE LEADS DOWN TO THE HALL BELOW --- TO THE FIREPLACE!



YOU DID IT---YOU KNEW THE LEGEND AND THIS PASSAGE--- SLIPPED UP BY WAY OF THE FIRE-PLACE!



WITH THE EARL DEAD AND LIONEL EXECUTED FOR HIS MURDER, YOU'D COME INTO THE TITLE! SO YOU KILLED HIM --- TRIED TO FRAME LIONEL!



WELL--

RIDICULOUS, WHAT WOULD I GAIN?

YES, AND THEN FOLLOWED BENTLEY TO MY PLACE, TO INCRIMINATE ME FURTHER WITH YOUR ATTACK ON HIM!

I DID IT, YES -- BUT I'LL DASH OUT YOUR BRAINS!

NO--ONCE TONIGHT IS ENOUGH!



ALL THIS AWFUL EXPERIENCE SHOWED ME THAT I REALLY CARED FOR LIONEL! HOW CAN I THANK YOU INSPECTOR?

ONLY DO YOUR DUTY BY YOUR NEW TITLE---AND BY LADY BRENDA!



AND AGAIN INSPECTOR BENTLEY HAS STRUCK A CRUSHING BLOW TO EVIL AND LAWLESSNESS!

Watch for Another Adventure of the SCOTLAND YARD ACE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **PEP COMICS**