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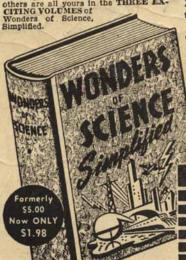
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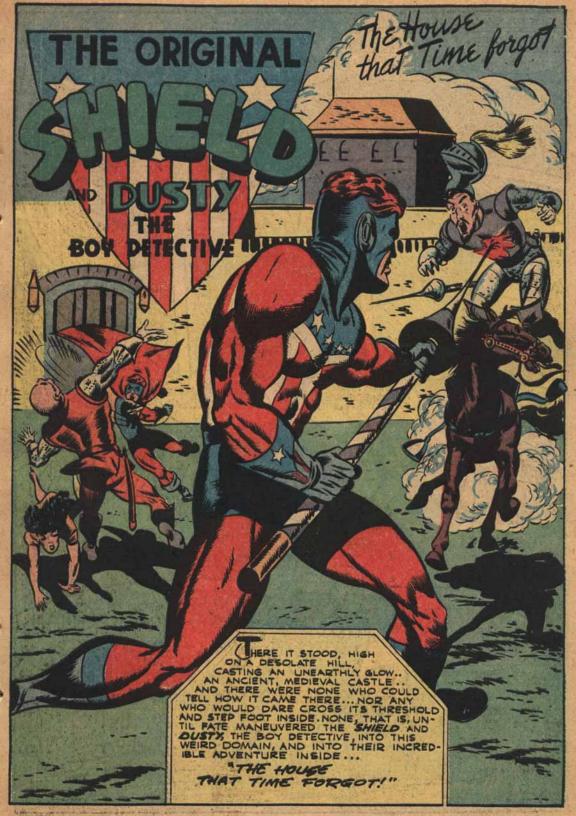
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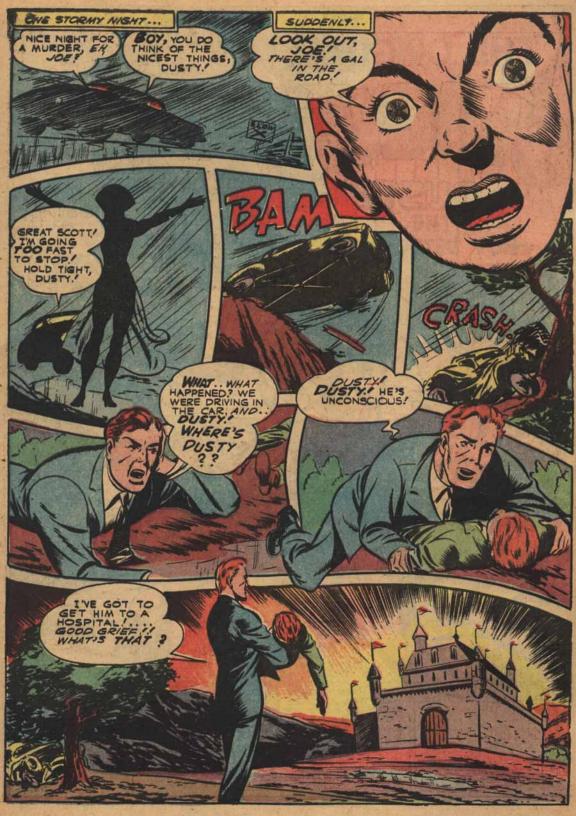
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# THE GHOST OF HENRY SCHMIDT

## A SHIELD STORY

BY VIVIAN

66 A asaillicee. . , .

Joe Higgins and Dusty were taking their daily evening walk past the beautiful estate of the big chemical magnate, J. K. Burke, when that scream pierced the air with a blood-curdling shrillness.

"Hurry, Dusty, it came from the Burke Mansion," shouted Joe Higgins, quickly doffing his outer clothing, and emerging so the Shield. Together the Shield and Dusty ran for the huge house, which was situated high on a sloping hill. They arrived at the top of the hill just in time to see an eerily glowing figure disappear down the other side of the hill and be swallowed up by the adjoining forest.

"Forget about that fellow, Dusty, We must find the person who screamed. The forest is too thick to find anyone hiding in it anyhow!"

"Right, Shield. Look, this front door is open!" Dusty exclaimed, as he pushed the impressive oak door, which gave way under his touch.

Together, the Shield and Dusty advanced into the Burke mansion, which was huge inside, and ornamented with over-decorative antiques. Servants of all descriptions were running upstairs, and talking excitedly to each other. They were so pre-

occupied, they didn't notice the Shield and Dusty follow them up the winding marble stairs, into an attic room which seemed more like a closet than the type of room one would expect to see in the house of a wealthy man.

An uncertain light was aifting from the moon through an iron-barred window, the only window in the room, J. K. Burke was slumped over in a corner chair, his hand held over his heart. He was gasping for breath, but managing to talk between gasps.

"It came . . . the ghost . . . it came!"

The many servants crowded around Burke, in an attempt to help him. The Shield and Dusty pushed their way through the throng of servants. They went over to Burke, who looked at them with a glimpse of recognition in his terror-stricken eyes.

"Are you all right, Mr. Burke?" demanded the Shield.

"Yes . . I'm all right . . . just badly frightened . . . send all these servants away, please . . . I want to talk to you . . . Shield . . . I've heard about you . . "

Dusty turned to the domestic employees, and said, "You've all heard what Mr. Burke has asked. Please dear the room, everyone." When Burke was left alone with The Shield and Dusty, he started to explain the cause of the scream which had issued from his lips.

"I feel better now. I've just had a terrible experience," he began. "The ghost of one of my dead chemists is after me. It has already killed my two partners. Henry Schmidt is his name..., the chemist's, I mean. It was horrible ... horrible ... !

Burke shuddered as he recalled his recent trial.

"Steady now," said the Shield, as he laid an encouraging hand on the frightened man's shoulder. "Now, start from the beginning, and tell us what this is all about."

"Only last night Schmidt's ghost came into my room. I ran, but I couldn't get away from it. It kept following me. I had this room built for safety, but it didn't help!" The great chemical manufacturer became a timid, trembling creature as he continued with his story. "I'll tell you exactly what happened. The police have been unable to do anything, but I hope you can, Shield.

Before this war started, our a laboratories discovered a new type of explosive, the most deadly ever conceived by any man. Schmidt, one of our laboratory technicians, and a very brilliant scientist, demanded to know the entire formula on the grounds that his research had a direct bearing on the discovery of this explosive. Well, we checked up on him. We found

that he was intending to sell the formula to Germany, which aside from being unscrupulous, would have been disastrous for the entire world. We notified the proper authorities, and the po-

lice went to his home. But when they reached there, they found that he had barricaded the house against them. When they finally did break in, they found him dead. Only his assistant was there."

"One moment," interrupted the Shield. "What makes you think that it's Schmidt's ghost that is haunting you? That is, if a ghost IS haunting you!"

"Schmidt called up my part-

ners and myself while the police were attempting to break into his house. He promised us that his ghost would come back to get us. Then when his ghost came back last night, it kept chasing me from room to room, telling me to bury the formula next to his grave!"

"Next to his grave!" Dusty exclaimed. "Where was he buried?"

"Right next to his own home. His assistant buried him."

Burke covered his face with his hands and continued. "It was a ghastly looking thing, his ghost . . . shining all over with a radiant light."

After a moment of thought, the Shield started for the door of the attic room.

"Come on, Dusty, I've a hunch that we should pay the

Mr. Burke. What happened to your partners?" "That is the most tragic part

late Henry Schmidt a visit.

One question before I leave,

of my story. They have both been found dead of heart attack during the past month." "Well, that fits right into my

theory. Good! Don't worry, Mr.

Burke, we'll have your "ghost" for you soon." The Shield and Dusty rushed over to Henry Schmidt's home. After exploring the adjoining private graveyard, they entered the seemingly deserted

home. Stalking around for a

while, they came upon a singu-

larly ugly man, who was in the

process of wiping phosphorus from his body, which was still glowing in spots. "Your little plot has been discovered, Henry Schmidt!" snapped the Shield in a cold voice.

The man whipped around.

a look of startled surprise on his face. The color slowly drained from his face as he recognized the Shield and Dus-"It was very clever of you

to induce a state of catalepsy. or temporary death, in yourself, scientist Schmidt. Then have a specially constructed grave built before you put your devilish plan of "death" into effect. We just finished exploring your "grave" and found a tunnel leading from the coffin

immediately after his "death" Germany declared war. He probably realized the horrible result for the world, if Germany did obtain the formula, but the money they offered him proved to your house. Very ingenious to be too much of a temptaand tricky, but it has been distion. Like all other criminals, covered like so many other he is discovering that no matcrime plots. However, Schmidt, ter how clever the crime, it is your foulest idea, which unforbound to be found out."

tunately you have had the chance to put into effect, was the causing of catalepsy in Burke's two partners. You caused those men to be buried alive, when the doctors mistook the catalepsy for heart failure. Of course, if you had gotten the formula, Germany would have paid you handsomely for it. To a brilliant but warped

shall see that you pay for your crime." Then Dusty added, "Your attempt to appear as a ghost by covering your body with phosphorescent paint was pretty bad. It's been used too many times in detective stories. Any amateur detective could see

brain like yours, it means

nothing to sacrifice millions of

people for money! But society

him, desperately hunting for a chance to escape. His eye lighted on a nearby window, and he made a lunge for it. The Shield made a flying tackle, and Schmidt collapsed to the floor.

Schmidt looked wildly about

through it!"

Later, after Schmidt was delivered into the hands of the police, the Shield and Dusty were explaining what happened to Mr. Burke. "Schmidt probably had trou-

ble with his conscience, when

























































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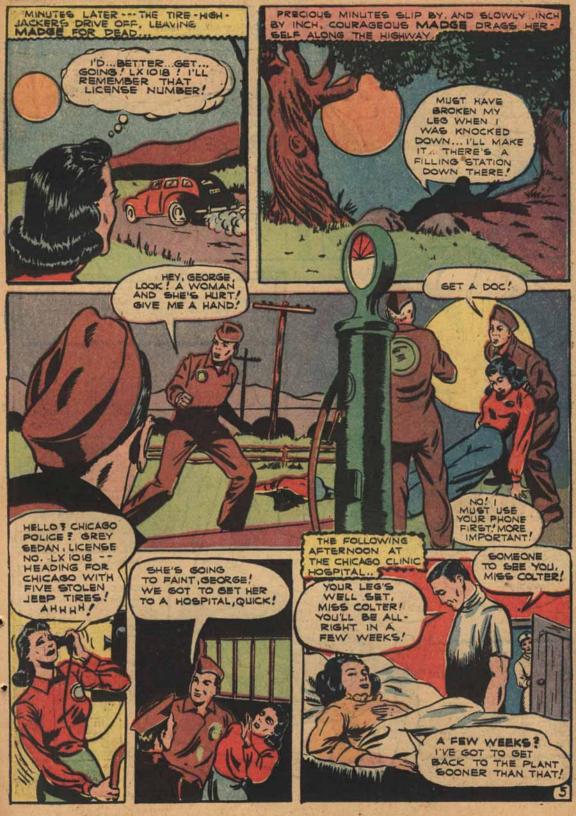














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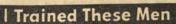
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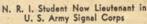
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