

Featuring  
**THE**

# BLACK

No. 9

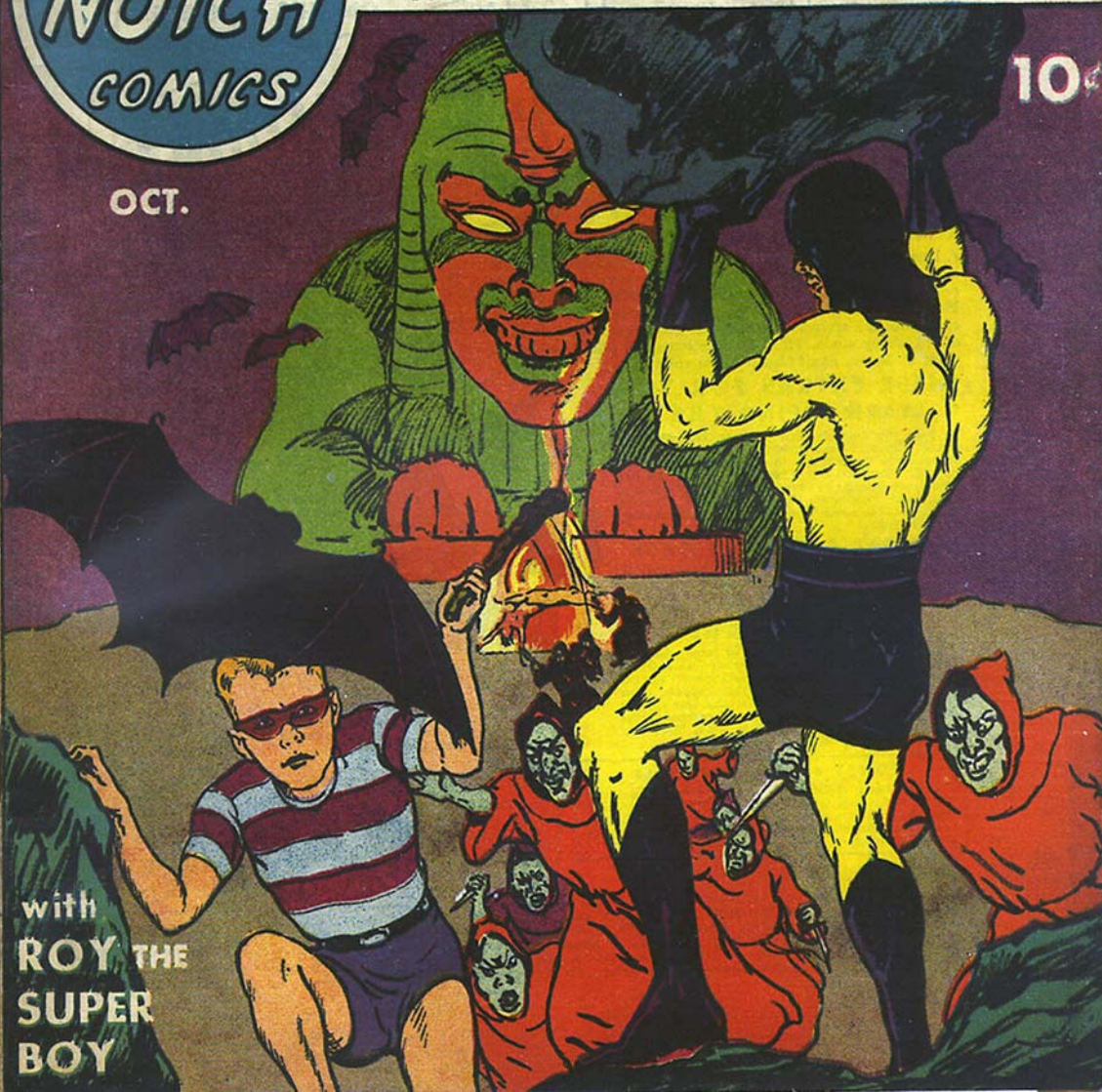
# HOOD

TOP  
NOTCH  
COMICS

MAN OF MYSTERY

OCT.

10¢



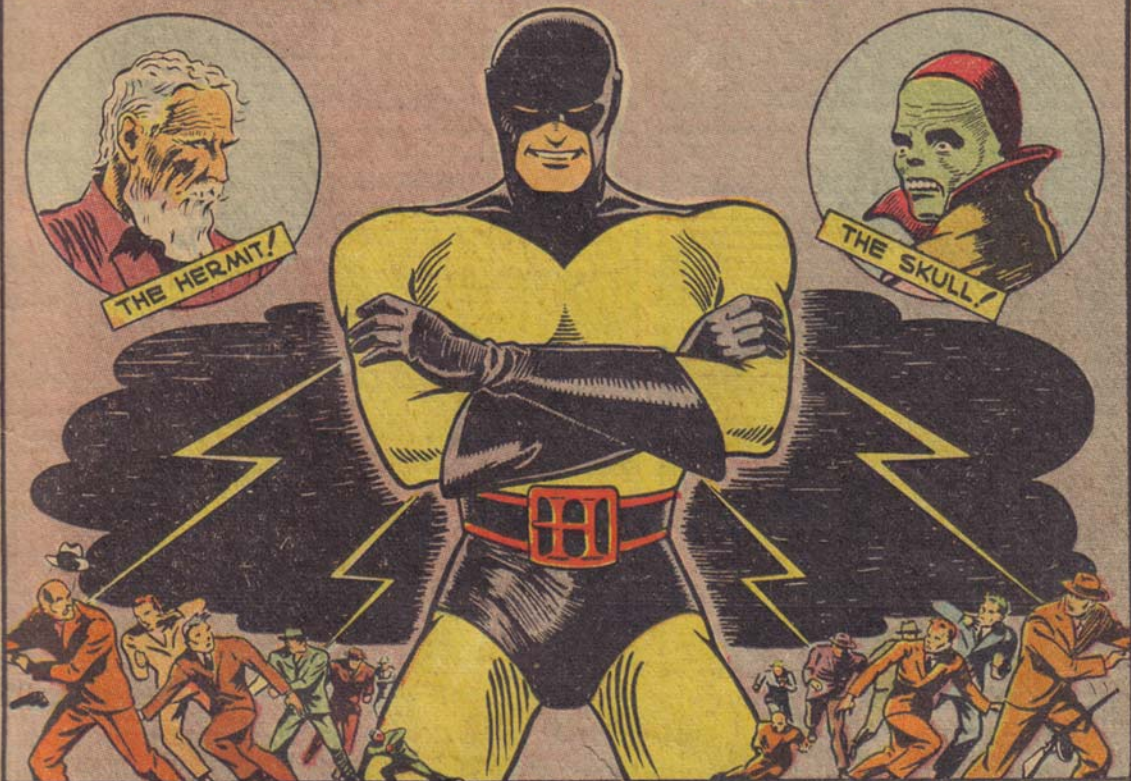
with  
**ROY THE  
SUPER  
BOY**



# THE BLACK HOOD

by Al Cohn  
AND  
Cliff Campbell

## MAN OF MYSTERY



A NEW FIGURE ZOOMS ONTO THE HORIZON OF LAW AND ORDER... THE BLACK HOOD, MAN OF MYSTERY.... THE GREATEST FORCE FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!..... BUT FIRST, OUR STORY STARTS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, WITH OFFICER KIP BURLAND PATROLLING HIS BEAT.....

HOW DY, KIP, HOW'S TRICKS TODAY?

COULDN'T BE ANY BETTER MR. KAHN!

YOU GONNA REFEREE THE P.A.L. BOUTS TONIGHT, OFFICER KIP?

THE NEIGHBORHOOD CERTAINLY HAS BEEN PEACEFUL SINCE KIP CAME ON THIS BEAT!

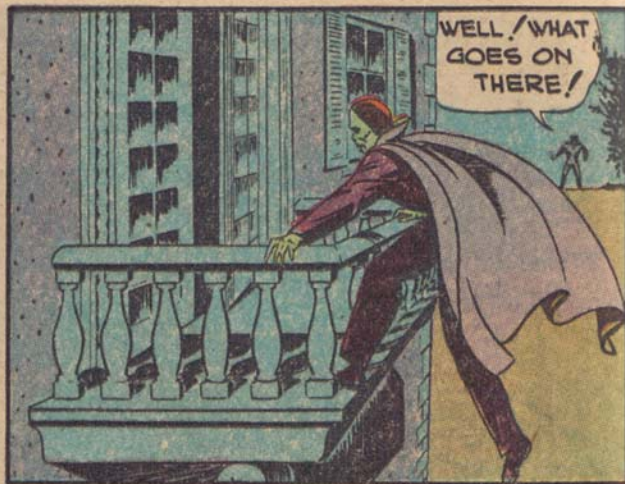
IT CERTAINLY HAS! AND ALL THE CHILDREN IDOLIZE HIM, TOO!



TEN MINUTES TILL MIDNIGHT. WELL, I GUESS I'LL JUST MEANDER PAST THE OLD WOODROW MANSION, BEFORE I KNOCK OFF FOR THE NIGHT!



WELL / WHAT GOES ON THERE!



STRANGE..... HE'S IN A MASQUERADE COSTUME. I'D BETTER INVESTIGATE.....  
**HEY! YOU, STOP!**

**STOP?** WHY, BECAUSE A MERE POLICEMAN ORDERS ME TO?

**HOLY JUPITER.....** WHAT IS THIS, A MAN OR A CORPSE?



**FOOL / YOU DARE TO INTERFERE WITH THE SKULL!**



**INSOLENT MEDDLER.....** YOU SHALL PAY FOR INJURING MY DIGNITY!



**MAN OR CORPSE, INDEED!** YOUR BROTHER OFFICERS SHALL FIND YOU WITH THESE FEW BAUBLES IN YOUR HAND..... AND ARREST YOU FOR THE CRIME I HAVE JUST COMMITTED!





I'VE BEEN LEADING THE POLICE SUCH A MERRY CHASE, THAT THEY'LL BE GLAD TO PIN MY CRIMES ONTO ANY VICTIM....THIS WILL BRING THEM IN A HURRY!



GOSH! KIP BURLAND! WITH A HAND FULL OF DIAMONDS! WHO'DA THOUGHT THAT OF HIM!



HE MUST HAVE TRIPPED WHEN HE CAME OFF THE BALCONY!

THERE'S NOTHING LOWER THAN TO USE YOUR UNIFORM AS A COVER, WHILE YOU ROB THE PEOPLE YOU'RE PAID TO PROTECT!

I TELL YOU I WAS FRAMED!



BURLAND'S STORY MAKES SENSE....WE DON'T HAVE MUCH EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM, OTHER THAN THE DIAMONDS HE HAD, BUT THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN AFTER US FOR A LONG TIME, AND IF WE CONVICT HIM, THAT WILL KEEP THEM OFF OUR TRAILS!



AS POLICE COMMISSIONER IT IS MY DUTY TO RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR BADGE....YOU WILL REPORT TO THE COUNTY JAIL TO GO ON TRIAL FOR GRAND LARCENY!



....OUT ON BAIL! THEY WON'T LISTEN TO ME, OR GIVE ME A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN. THE ONLY WAY I CAN CLEAR MYSELF, IS BY BRINGING IN THAT WALKING CORPSE WHO FRAMED ME!



FOR THE FEW DAYS PRECEDING HIS TRIAL, KIP PROWLS THE STREETS OF THE CITY, EVER ON THE ALERT FOR THE MAN WHO HAD CAUSED HIS DISGRACE.....





ONE NIGHT-

FUR WAREHOUSES DON'T GET DELIVERIES AT THIS HOUR! THAT'S A ROBBERY... AND MAYBE MY FRIEND IS TIED UP WITH IT!



I CAN'T AFFORD TO PASS UP ANY BETS!



COME OUT INTO THE OPEN, RATS, I WANT ONE GOOD LOOK AT EACH OF YOUR FACES!

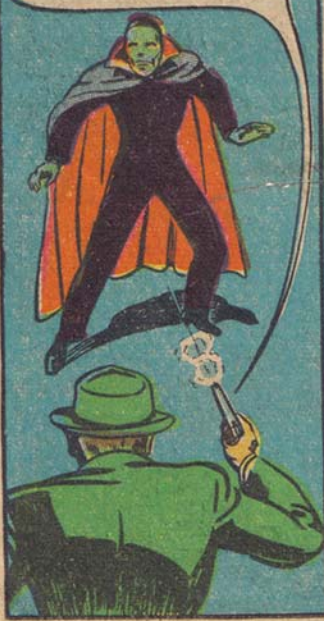


HEY, BOSS! A RAID!

FOOLS! IT'S JUST ONE MAN. TAKE CARE OF HIM!



YOU! YOU'RE THE MAN I WANT!



YOU'LL NEED MORE THAN BULLETS TO PIERCE THE SKULL'S CLOTHES! GET HIM, YOU INCOMPETENT SLOBS!



HOW'S THIS BOSS?

SPLENDID!



HE'S THE SAME FOOL POLICEMAN WHO TRIED TO CROSS ME ONCE BEFORE! HE SHALL HAVE NO MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO WASTE MY PRECIOUS TIME! GET RID OF HIM!





WHEN WE GET A COUPLE OF MILES UP THE POST ROAD WE'LL TOSS HIM OUT!

YEAH, WE'LL GIVE HIM A COUPLE, ON THE FLY, TOO, FOR GOOD MEASURE!

BETTER PUMP SOME SLUGS INTO HIM FIRST!



NOW, STEP ON IT, JOE. LET'S GET OUTA HERE QUICK!



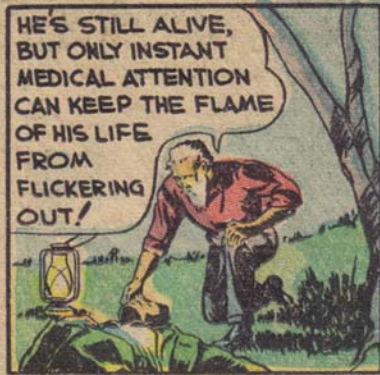
SHOTS! SOMEONE IS SHOOTING!



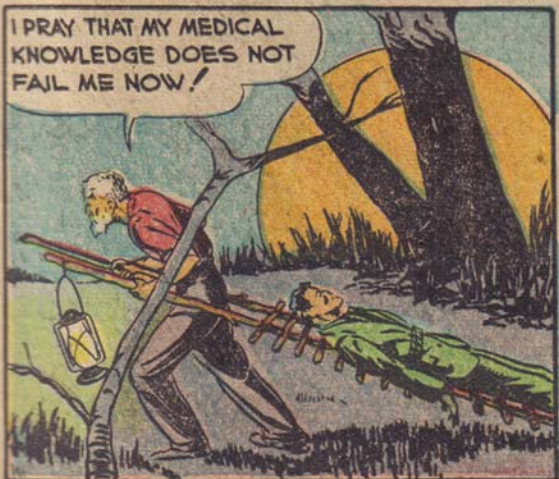
I HAD BETTER INVESTIGATE.....THEY CAME FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE ROAD!



HE'S STILL ALIVE, BUT ONLY INSTANT MEDICAL ATTENTION CAN KEEP THE FLAME OF HIS LIFE FROM FLICKERING OUT!



I PRAY THAT MY MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE DOES NOT FAIL ME NOW!

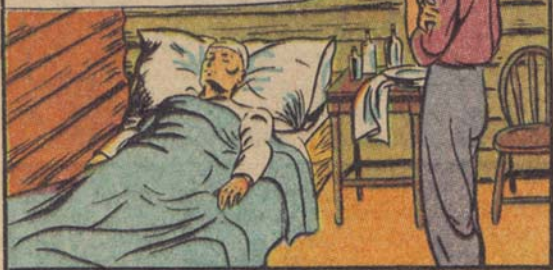


THE MAN HAS A REMARKABLE CONSTITUTION. I TOOK EIGHT BULLETS OUT OF HIM AND STILL HE LIVES!





FOUR DAYS NOW, THAT HE'S BEEN IN A COMA, HOVERING BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.... I WONDER WHO HE IS? HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A GANGSTER, AND YET IT IS EVIDENT THAT HE WAS TAKEN FOR A RIDE!



WH...WH...WHERE AM I?

IN THE CABIN OF A HERMIT. MILES DEEP IN THE WOODS. YOU CAME CLOSE TO DEATH LAD, BUT YOU'RE WELL ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY NOW!



I OWE MY LIFE TO YOU, SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME.... I WAS A POLICEMAN, UNTIL I WAS FRAMED FOR A ROBBERY BY SOME CRIMINAL WHO LOOKS LIKE A LIVING CORPSE. THEN ALL THE YEARS I SERVED THE PUBLIC MEANT NOTHING.....



LOOKS LIKE A LIVING CORPSE, EH? THEN IT MUST BE THE SKULL. I KNOW HIM WELL. MANY YEARS AGO I WAS A SHERIFF IN A SMALL WESTERN TOWN, BUT HE MADE ME AN OUT-LAW. I SWORE THAT I'D STUDY AND WORK, AND BECOME SMART ENOUGH TO DEFEAT HIM.....



...BUT MY STUDIES TOOK A LONG TIME, AND NOW THAT I'M SMART ENOUGH, AGE HAS SAPPED MY STRENGTH, SO IN THE LONG BATTLE OF LIFE, I'VE BEEN DEFEATED BY THE SKULL!

NOT NECESSARILY, I'M YOUNG, AND I CAN BE STRONG AGAIN. TEACH ME WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED.....



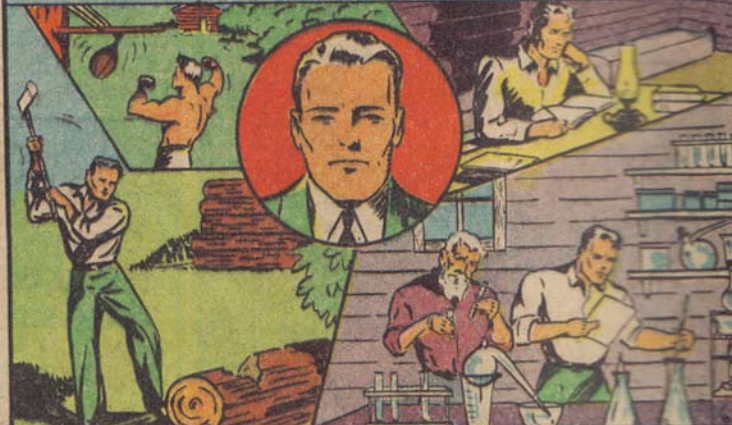
AND I'LL MAKE YOUR FIGHT AGAINST THE SKULL MY FIGHT. I TOO HAVE REASONS TO HATE HIM.....

NO, SON. THE SKULL ONLY REPRESENTS CRIME.... IF I TEACH YOU WHAT I KNOW, YOU MUST PROMISE TO USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AGAINST ALL CRIME AND ALL CRIMINALS!



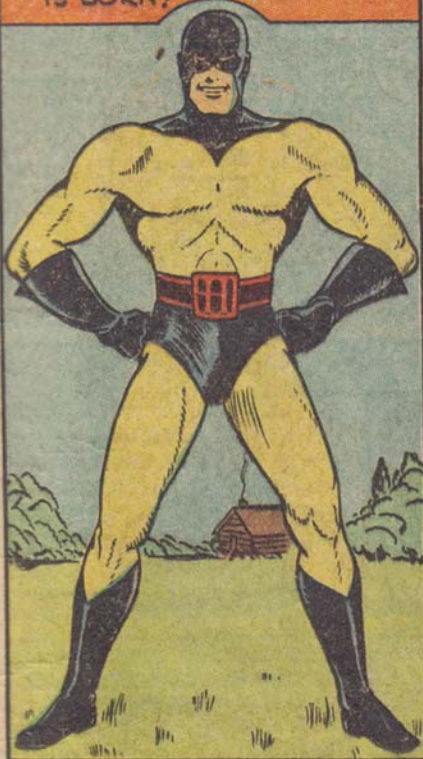
I'LL PROMISE YOU THAT GLADLY!

THUS KIP BURLAND STARTS HIS TRAINING BOTH TO REBUILD HIS STRENGTH, AND TO LEARN ALL OF SCIENCE, AND ALL OF KNOWLEDGE, IN ORDER TO MAKE HIMSELF THE WORLD'S GREATEST FIGHTER AGAINST CRIME!..... AND THEN.....





MANY MONTHS LATER.....  
**THE BLACK HOOD**  
 IS BORN!



WITH THE NAME AND COSTUME OF THE BLACK HOOD, YOU ARE NOW A MAN OF MYSTERY..... AND THAT YOU MUST REMAIN, FOR ONLY MYSTERY CAN STRIKE TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF CRIMINALS!

I'LL DO THAT, AND YOU SHALL NOT REGRET HAVING MADE ME YOUR PUPIL..... AND NOW, GOODBYE!



IN THE MEANTIME, THE SKULL HAS BEEN MAKING A LAUGHING-STOCK OF THE LAW.....



....ROBBING WHEREVER HE PLEASES, SPREADING TERROR AMONG THE POLICE....



...GIVING WARNINGS OF HIS CRIMES AND THEN BOLDLY COMMITTING THEM UNDER THE VERY EYES OF THE LAW!



HA! THE FOOL POLICE, THEY THINK THEY CAN COPE WITH THE SKULL....  
 HMM.... THIS IS INTERESTING, BARBARA SUTTON IS HAVING A MASQUERADE PARTY FOR HER DEBUT, IN TWO WEEKS.... AND THE RICHEST MEN AND WOMEN IN THE COUNTRY ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND!



IN THE SUTTON HOME IN NEW YORK....

VERY GOOD, MRS. SUTTON!

BE SURE YOU MAIL ALL THOSE INVITATIONS JAMES, AND BE SURE YOU CALL THE DECORATOR AND THE CATERER!



WHAT IS THIS?

A NOTE, MADAM, ADDRESSED TO YOU!



DEAR MRS. SUTTON.... I FORGIVE YOU FOR OVERLOOKING ME WHEN YOU SENT OUT INVITATIONS, BUT NEVER FEAR, THE SKULL SHALL NOT MISS YOUR DAUGHTER'S PARTY!

OH!







BARBARA/BARBARA! THIS IS TERRIBLE! HORRIBLE/AWFUL! OH BARBARA LOOK AT THIS!

I'M COMING, MOTHER!



...KINDLY NOTIFY YOUR OTHER GUESTS THAT IF THEY FAIL TO ATTEND THE PARTY, I SHALL VISIT THEM LATER, PERSONALLY!



WHAT CAN WE DO? HE SAYS THAT IF WE NOTIFY THE POLICE, OR IF ANYONE WHO HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN INVITED COMES TO THE DEBUT, THE TEN RICHEST GUESTS WILL BE KILLED!

WE'LL HAVE TO DO AS HE SAYS, AND GO A-HEAD WITH THE PARTY!

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

THE SKULL'S GOING TO VISIT BARBARA'S DEBUT!



THE SUTTONS SAY THAT THE SKULL KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT JEWELS I POSSESS!

THE SKULL'S WARNINGS GO OUT TO A BANKER.....



IF I DON'T WEAR ALL MY JEWELS, THE SKULL WILL KILL ME AND STEAL MY JEWELS LATER!

A SOCIETY MATRON.....



....AND A PROMINENT YOUNG LAWYER, DAVID SEYMON!!

THE SKULL WILL TAKE THE JEWELS HE WANTS SOMETIME DURING THE NIGHT. AND ANY VICTIM WHO RAISES AN OUTCRY WILL DIE!

IN NEW YORK, WE FIND THE BLACK HOOD, BUT HE LIVES UNDER AN ALIAS, FOR KIP BURL AND IS AN OUTLAW, WANTED FOR GRAND LARCENY AND BAIL JUMPING!



THE NERVE OF THE SKULL ANNOUNCING HIS PLANS FOR THE SUTTON DEBUT IN THE PAPERS.... I THINK I'LL LOOK INTO THIS!

MORNING NEWS  
GRAMM



THE NIGHT OF THE SUTTON MASQUERADE DEBUT!

YOU'RE DAVID SEYMON, AREN'T YOU?

YES, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?



PLENTY, GET INTO THAT ROOM. AND GIVE ME YOUR INVITATION TO THE SUTTON PARTY. I'M GOING THERE, POSING AS YOU!

I CAN'T, I CAN'T, I MUST GO TO THE PARTY MYSELF, THE SKULL WILL KILL ME IF I DON'T!



SORRY I HAVE TO DO THIS TO YOU, BUT IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY! AND DON'T WORRY I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THE SKULL DOESN'T HARM YOU!





MR. AND MRS. VAN RENSALEER, I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME!  
HELLO BARBARA!  
NO, THERE'S BEEN NO SIGN OF HIM YET!  
HAS THE SKULL COME YET? HAS ANYONE SEEN HIM?



WHY, DAVID SEYMON! THAT'S QUITE A NOVEL COSTUME YOU'RE WEARING. ARE YOU FRIGHTENED BECAUSE THE SKULL IS COMING?  
NOT PARTICULARLY!



YOU HAVE NO REASON TO BE FRIGHTENED, DAVID, AFTER ALL YOU HAVE NOTHING THAT THE SKULL COULD POSSIBLY WANT!  
I GUESS THAT'S RIGHT, MRS. SUTTON!  
C'MON DAVID, LET'S DANCE!



YES, GO AHEAD, YOU CHILDREN DANCE, ALL THE GUESTS HAVE ARRIVED NOW, BARBARA, SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO GREET ANYONE ELSE AT THE DOOR. LET'S ALL TRY TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, EVEN THOUGH THIS TERRIBLE SHADOW IS HOVERING OVER ALL OF US!



I DON'T KNOW WHY, DAVID, BUT SOMEHOW I LIKE YOU MUCH MORE TONIGHT THAN I EVER DID BEFORE!  
THAT'S STRANGE, ISN'T IT?



HELP! HELP! I'VE BEEN ROBBED! MY PEARLS! MY PEARLS! UGH!



WHAT HAPPENED!  
THE SKULL!  
THE SKULL! HE'S HERE!  
OOOHH!

AS THE VICTIM, FALLS, DEAD ON HER FEET, HER FLESH STARTS SHRIVELLING, UNTIL HER FACE IS A CARICATURE OF THE SKULL!



LOOK! THIS IS WHAT KILLED HER! THE SKULL CAUGHT HER IN THE JUGULAR VEIN WITH A POISONED PELLET!



HE'S IN HERE, ALRIGHT, DISGUISED AS ONE OF THE GUESTS, AND HE'S USING A BLOW GUN TO QUIET HIS VICTIMS. THOSE PELLETS MUST BE DIPPED IN A POISON THAT EATS AWAY ALL THE FLESH OF THE FACE!



**SILENCE! THE SKULL SPEAKS!!**  
YOU HAVE JUST SEEN WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY VICTIMS ARE NOISY.... I TRUST MY NEXT CUSTOMER WILL BE WISER AND STAY ALIVE!

OH DEAR, IT'S HAPPENED, HE'S HERE, WHO WILL BE NEXT, I CAN'T STAND THIS, I THINK I'M GOING TO FAINT!



DON'T FAINT, YET, MRS. SUTTON, WERE THE NEWS-PAPER PHOTOGRAPHERS, AND WE'D LIKE TO HAVE YOUR PERMISSION TO TAKE SOME PICTURES!

I CAN'T BE BOTHERED NOW, DAVID, BE A DEAR AND TAKE CARE OF THESE GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS!

I'D BE GLAD TO!

THE SUTTONS ARE CANDID CAMERA FIENDS, THEY'D LIKE IT IF YOU BOYS GET UP ON THE BALCONY AND TAKE ALL THE PICTURES YOU WANT WHILE NOBODY IS EXPECTING THEM!



THAT'S RIGHT, YOU GET OVER THE OTHER SIDE, SO YOU CAN COVER THE ENTRANCE!



THERE'S JUST ONE THING I'VE GOT TO DEMAND, THE SUTTONS ARE VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PICTURES THEY ALLOW TO BE PRINTED.....SO YOU'D BETTER SET UP A DARK ROOM AND DEVELOP ALL THE PICTURES RIGHT AFTER YOU TAKE THEM, I'LL HAVE TO OKAY THEM ALL!



SURE THING!

YOU'RE SURE ACTING LIKE A REAL SOLDIER, BARBARA, BEARING UP THE WAY YOU'RE DOING UNDER ALL THIS STRAIN!

I DON'T KNOW WHY IT IS, DAVID, BUT I FEEL AWFULLY SAFE WHEN YOU'RE AROUND AND HEAVEN KNOWS YOU NEVER AFFECTED ME THIS WAY BEFORE!





SUDDENLY.....

I'VE BEEN ROBBED!  
I'VE BEEN ROBBED!  
I'VE BE.....UGH!



LOOK! HER HEAD  
LOOKS LIKE A  
SKULL!

SHE SHOULDN'T  
HAVE SHOUTED!

WHO'LL BE NEXT?  
I WONDER!

I CAN'T STAND  
ANY MORE  
OF THIS!



YOU'VE GOT TO BE BRAVE  
MRS. SUTTON. EVERYTHING  
WOULD BE ALL RIGHT,  
IF THE VICTIMS  
DIDN'T SCREAM!

WHAT  
CAN WE  
DO, DAVID?



I'LL SEE IF THE PHOTOGRAPHERS  
HAVE CAUGHT ANYTHING  
I CAN USE!



HMM! VERY  
INTERESTING!



HE'S SMART, THIS SKULL.  
DARNED SMART, BUT  
HIS CONCEIT IN LETTING  
THE PHOTOGRAPHERS  
COME IS GOING TO  
PROVE HIS UNDOING!



SHALL  
WE  
DANCE,  
MRS.  
SUTTON?

WHY, DAVID!  
I'D LOVE  
TO DANCE  
WITH YOU!



DAVID, CAN'T YOU DO  
SOMETHING TO TRY  
TO CATCH THE  
SKULL?

I WOULDN'T  
DARE, MRS.  
SUTTON. HE'S  
FAR TOO DAN-  
GEROUS.....



.....BUT I'LL CATCH YOU!  
IN YOU GO! DOWN INTO  
THAT JUG, GOOD AND  
TIGHT, AND DROP THAT  
CIGARETTE HOLDER!







OH/OH! DAVID, HOW DARE YOU/OH! HELP!



WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHO'D THE SKULL KILL NOW?

DAVID/MOTHER/WHAT ON EARTH IS HAPPENING!

DAVID MUST BE THE SKULL!

STAY BACK ALL OF YOU, I'VE GOT SOMETHING INTERESTING TO SHOW YOU!

HE MUST BE THE ONE!



DAVID/DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH MY MOTHER!

DON'T WORRY BARBARA, I WON'T TOUCH YOUR MOTHER, I JUST WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO.



THE SKULL!

DOG/YOULL SUFFER FOR THIS, YOULL LIVE TO HATE THE DAY YOU WERE BORN!



YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND YOUR MOTHER SAFE AT HOME, BARBARA, MAYBE JUST A BIT SHAKEN UP AND FRIGHTENED, BUT NOT HURT... AND YOU'LL FIND DAVID SEYMON AT HIS HOME, IN THE SAME CONDITION... NOW CALL IN THE POLICE, THEY'RE STATIONED OUTSIDE!

BUT...BUT WHO ARE YOU?



ME?... I'M THE BLACK HOOD! GOOD BYE. NOW!

BUT WONT YOU WAIT, AND LET ME THANK YOU!

COME ALONG SKULL, WE GOT THE HOT-SEAT WAITIN' FOR YOU!



THE BLACK HOOD... I WONDER WHO HE IS, AND WHY HE RAN FROM THE POLICE... AND... AND... GEE/ I'D LOVE TO SEE HIM AGAIN!





THE NEXT NIGHT....

HELLO, BARBARA!  
REMEMBER ME?

THE  
BLACK  
HOOD!



I THOUGHT I OWED YOU A LITTLE EXPLANATION... THESE PICTURES ARE THE THINGS THAT TRIPPED UP THE SKULL. HE HAD HIS CIGARETTE HOLDER FIXED UP TO BLOW POISON DARTS. BY THE WAY.... HOW IS YOUR MOTHER?

SHE'S FINE! COMPLETELY RECOVERED FROM HER SHOCK!



MOTHER SAYS THAT JUST BEFORE SHE LEFT FOR THE PARTY, SHE WENT INTO HER ROOM, AND THE SKULL WAS THERE. HE TOOK HER COSTUME AND THEN DISGUISED HIMSELF TO LOOK LIKE HER!

THAT'S RIGHT, AND BEING A MASTER OF VOICE IMITATION, HE HAD NO TROUBLE ON THAT SCORE!



BUT WHO ARE YOU. AND HOW CAN I SEE YOU AGAIN? AND WHY DO YOU RUN FROM THE POLICE?

WHO I REALLY AM, AND WHY I RUN FROM THE POLICE, I CANNOT TELL. BUT IF YOU WANT TO SEE ME, YOU CAN LOOK FOR ME..... LOOK WHEREVER CRIME IS BEING DONE, WHEREVER INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE BEING OPPRESSED, WHEREVER INJUSTICE REIGNS THERE, YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND THE BLACK HOOD, FIGHTING TO RIGHT ALL WRONGS!



.... AND SO I GUESS THAT ENDS THE CAREER OF THE SKULL. THE POLICE TOOK HIM UNDER HEAVY GUARD TO THE DEATH HOUSE!

THE POLICE TOOK HIM, MY SON... YOU MADE A BIG MISTAKE.... THE JAIL HAS NOT YET BEEN BUILT FROM WHICH THE SKULL CANNOT ESCAPE!

SO THE BLACK HOOD WILL BE WHEREVER THERE IS TROUBLE. WELL, BARBARA, FROM NOW ON YOU GO LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, AND WHEN YOU FIND IT... YELL LONG AND LOUD, FOR THE BLACK HOOD!

SO, THE BLACK HOOD CHALLENGES THE SKULL.... HE WON THE FIRST DEAL... BUT WE'LL SEE... WE'LL SEE.....



THE BLACK HOOD VERSUS THE SKULL - IS THIS BATTLE FINISHED, OR DOES THE SKULL ESCAPE? DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP-NOTCH COMICS



# GALAHAD



You Start —  
— Harry Shortell

GALAHAD, SYMBOL OF KNIGHTLY PERFECTION. — AND HOW HE GAINED THE MAGIC SWORD — SCABOR.

GALAHAD AND HIS SQUIRE, GARLAN, RETURN TO CAMELOT FROM KNIGHTLY ADVENTURES.

I AM WEARY, GARLAN!  
I SHALL REST IN THIS SHADE.

WHILE GALAHAD SLEEPS

I WONDER IF I SHALL EVER BE AS GREAT A KNIGHT AS MY MASTER. HE WON'T MIND IF I PUT THESE ON FOR A LITTLE WHILE!

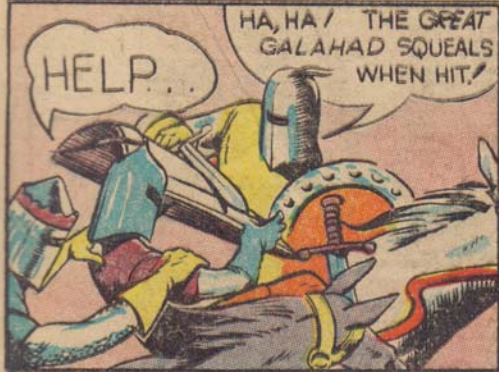
MY MASTER'S HORSE FITS ME WELL, TOO...

MENACING EYES ALIGHT UPON GALAHAD AND GARLAN.

THERE THEY ARE!  
QUICK! WE ATTACK!  
BUT GALAHAD MUST BE CAPTURED ALIVE!







HA, HA! THE GREAT GALAHAD SQUEALS WHEN HIT!



THE CLASH OF STEEL DISTURBS GALAHAD'S SLEEP

WHAT'S THIS - MY HORSE, MY ARMOR, MY GARLAN!



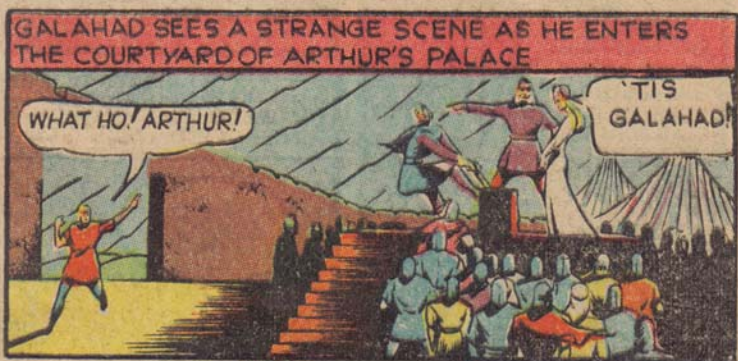
HO, SQUIRE! TELL KING ARTHUR HIS PRECIOUS GALAHAD HAS MET HIS MATCH IN THE LADY MORGANA!

HA! IT'S ME THEY THINK THEY'VE CAPTURED!



GALAHAD HURRIES ON TOWARD CAMELOT.

I CANNOT TARRY TO RESCUE GARLAN, ARTHUR MAY HAVE SOME KNIGHTLY MISSION FOR ME!



GALAHAD SEES A STRANGE SCENE AS HE ENTERS THE COURTYARD OF ARTHUR'S PALACE

WHAT HO, ARTHUR!

'TIS GALAHAD!



THIS IS THE LADY OF THE LAKE, SHE BRINGS A SWORD WHICH ONLY THE MOST LOYAL AND FAITHFUL KNIGHT MAY REMOVE FROM THE SCABBARD!

YOU MAY TRY, GALAHAD!



I... I CAN'T BUDGE IT! WHAT! NOT EVEN GALAHAD!



PERHAPS GALAHAD HAS COMMITTED SOME RECENT DISLOYALTY

GARLAN, MY FAITHFUL SQUIRE! THAT MUST BE IT! I DID NOT LIFT A HAND TO SAVE HIM FROM LADY MORGANA



I GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE RESCUE OF GARLAN!

I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU, GALAHAD. I KNOW THE WAY - YOU MAY YET GAIN THE MAGIC SWORD, SCABOR!



AHEAD IS THE CASTLE OF THE WITCH, LADY MORGANA

AND WITHIN, IS MY SQUIRE, GARLAN - ALIVE... I PRAY!

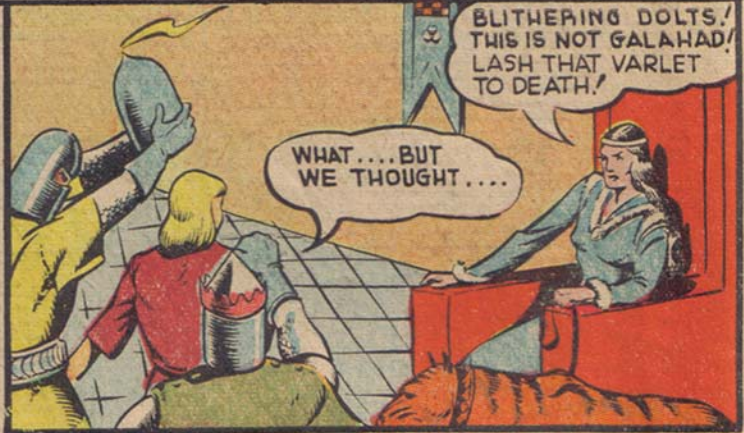


IN THE CASTLE OF LADY MORGANA,  
BITTER ENEMY OF GALAHAD

LONG HAVE I AWAITED THIS  
REVENGE. MY PET, HERE,  
SHALL CRUSH HIS BONES  
TO SPLINTERS!



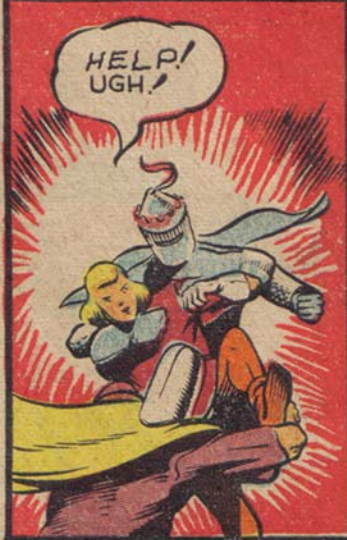
YOUR BRAVE  
GALAHAD, LADY  
MORGANA, IS NEAR,  
DEAD WITH FRIGHT!



BLITHERING DOLTS!  
THIS IS NOT GALAHAD!  
LASH THAT VARLET  
TO DEATH!

WHAT... BUT  
WE THOUGHT...

GARLAN IS SEIZED AND  
DRAGGED TO THE WHIP-  
PING-POST.



HELP!  
UGH!

MEANWHILE . . .



PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY,  
GALAHAD! MORGANA  
IS AS CLEVER  
AS SHE IS  
EVIL!

LADY MORGANA'S  
GUARD SEES GALAHAD



AH! 'TIS THE TRUE  
GALAHAD! AS SOON  
AS THEY ENTER,  
DROP  
THE GATE!

THE GATE IS DROPPED  
TOO SOON.



ZOUNDS!





AT THAT INSTANT, MORGANA'S KNIGHTS CHARGE



SEIZE HER!

I MUST GO TO THE AID OF THE LADY OF THE LAKE!



GALAHAD LEAPS INTO THE PACK, A TEARING ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION



I MUST HAVE A STEED!



MORGANA WATCHES THE STRUGGLE FROM HER BALCONY.

GALAHAD IS TOO MUCH FOR MY MEN!



AH! MORGANA'S KNIGHTS ARE NOT THE FIGHTING KIND... PERHAPS I CAN USE THEIR ARMOR.



THIS SHIELD AND SWORD ARE ALL I NEED TO FINISH MY TASK!

YOU FIGHT WELL, GALAHAD



GARLAN MUST BE IN THE CASTLE.



THE LADY MORGANA PLAYS A LAST CARD.

YOU SHALL ACCOMPLISH WHAT MY SCURVY KNIGHTS FAILED TO DO!





GO! MONSTER, AND DESTROY GALAHAD!!



GREAT SAINTS! WHAT MANNER OF MAN IS THIS WHO BARS OUR WAY?

IT MATTERS NOT! IT IS HIS LIFE OR MINE!



BAH! ME BREAK YOU IN LITTLE PIECES!

UGH! THE MONSTER'S STRENGTH IS UNBELIEVABLE!



IT...IT'S A FIGHT TO THE FINISH!



GARLAN SEES GALAHAD'S STRUGGLE.

GALAHAD'S IN TROUBLE! HELP! SOMEONE RELEASE ME!



THE LADY OF THE LAKE HEARS GARLAN'S OUTCRY.

WHO ARE YOU?

I HAVEN'T TIME TO ANSWER NOW. WE MUST HURRY TO SAVE YOUR MASTER!



THE SQUIRE IS RELEASED.

QUICK! I MUST HAVE THAT SWORD!

WAIT, FIRST WE SHALL SEE IF YOU ARE CAPABLE OF REMOVING THE SWORD FROM THE SCABBARD!



LO AND BEHOLD! GARLAN REMOVES THE SWORD WITH EASE!



LONG LIVE GALAHAD!

GOOD LUCK, LOYAL SQUIRE!



MEANWHILE, GALAHAD, FIGHTING BRAVELY, IS FORCED TO RETREAT TO THE PALACE MOAT.

NOW! I DROWN YOU!

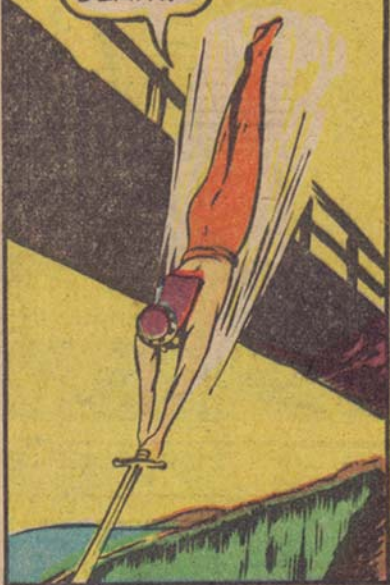
THIS BEAST IS IMPERVIOUS TO MY MIGHTIEST BLOW!



GALAHAD! WAIT... A RESCUE, A RESCUE!



I MUST SAVE MY MASTER FROM A HORRIBLE DEATH!



SOON THE SURFACE CHANGES TO CRIMSON AS THE UNDERWATER STRUGGLE ENDS—WHO HAS WON?

THE MAGIC SWORD WHICH GARLAN BROUGHT ME, ENABLED ME TO KILL THE MONSTER!



GALAHAD COMES UP WITH THE UNCONSCIOUS GARLAN

BUT GALAHAD, WEAKENED FROM HIS HEROIC STRUGGLE, IS ABOUT TO GIVE UP, WHEN SUDDENLY—



THE MAGIC SWORD!

THE LADY OF THE LAKE APPEARS



SWIM FOR SHORE, GALAHAD, I AM MISTRESS OF THE WATERS, AND YOU SHALL NOT DROWN!



YOU AND MY SQUIRE HAVE SAVED MY LIFE I AM GRATEFUL!

I ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR GRATEFULNESS WITH THIS SWORD, SCABOR. FOR YOU ARE THE BRAVEST AND MOST LOYAL KNIGHT OF BRITAIN!

FURTHER ADVENTURES OF GALAHAD

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF

TOP-NOTCH COMICS ON SALE SOON!



# THE FIREFLY

THE FIREFLY, MIGHTY PHANTOM OF THE NIGHT, ALIGHTING WHEREVER CRIME RUNS RAMPANT, AND ALWAYS USING HIS STRENGTH AND CUNNING IN ITS EXTERMINATION!

by  
BOB  
WOOD  
AND  
HARRY  
SHORTEN



THE MAD SCIENTIST, DR. DREAD, WHOM THE FIREFLY HAS BROUGHT WITHIN THE REACH OF THE LAW, IS ABOUT TO SUFFER FOR HIS MISDEEDS



THE NEXT NIGHT

I WISH TO CLAIM DR. DREAD'S BODY!

THE LAW CAN'T STOP YOU FROM THAT! YOU CAN HAVE IT!



PUT IT IN HERE, PLEASE. I SHALL DRIVE IT AWAY

THE FURTHER YOU DRIVE IT, THE BETTER WE'LL LIKE IT!



WEEKS LATER... IN A NIGHT CLUB

HELLO, JUDGE GRAYSON. I JUST GOT YOUR NOTE, AND HURRIED RIGHT OVER.

YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN. I SENT YOU NO NOTE!



IT MUST HAVE BEEN A PRACTICAL JOKER... HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE WE SENT THAT DR. DREAD TO THE CHAIR.

YES! AND I'VE HAD A STRANGE FEELING EVER SINCE... AS THOUGH DREAD WEREN'T DEAD YET!



SUDDENLY... ONE OF THE ENTERTAINERS STOPS AND SCREAMS!

HELP! HELP! I MUST BE GOING MAD!







GOOD LORD!  
WHAT ARE  
THOSE GHASTLY  
THINGS ?

THEY...  
THEY LOOK  
DEAD!

HELP!  
POLICE!



STOP THEM,  
SOMEBODY!

HELP!



HOLY MOTHER  
MACHREE! THEY'RE  
KILLING THE DIST-  
RICT ATTORNEY!

AAAAAK!

BANG  
BANG



JEEPERS! SIX  
BULLETS IN  
HIS BODY AND  
HE'S STILL  
MOVING!



NO SOONER DO THEY FINISH THEIR  
ERRAND OF DEATH, THAN THE  
"THINGS" COLLAPSE!

I MUST  
BE  
DREAMING!

IT WASN'T OUR  
BULLETS THAT  
KILLED 'EM- THEY  
JUST PASSED  
OUT!!



THEY'RE ALL DEAD!  
GREAT GHOSTS!  
THESE THINGS  
WERE NEVER  
ALIVE!

HIVVIN PRE-  
SERVE ME! TIS  
THE DEVIL'S  
WORK, BEGORRAH!



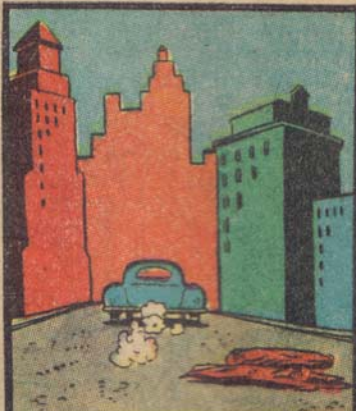
JOAN BURTON, STAR REPORTER,  
EYE-WITNESS TO THE CRIME,  
WORKS OVERTIME.



SUDDENLY...  
IT... IT'S THOSE  
WALKING CORPSES!  
HELP! HELP!



THE COWLED GRAVEYARD FIGURES CARRY THE UNCONSCIOUS FORM OF THE GIRL REPORTER TO A WAITING CAR...



.... AND THEN REPEAT THEIR RITUAL OF A SUDDEN, WILTING DEATH AS THE CAR SPEEDS AWAY —

STOP!  
STOP!



WHEN JOAN REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS....

WH... WHERE AM I?  
DR. DREAD! IT CAN'T BE!  
I SAW THEM KILL YOU  
WITH MY OWN  
EYES!



HEH-HEH!  
SO YOU DID,  
MY DEAR!

I DRANK AN INSULATING SOLUTION JUST BEFORE THEY ELECTROCUTED ME. I HAVE ALREADY AVENGED MYSELF UPON THE D.A. NOW THE FIREFLY IS NEXT.



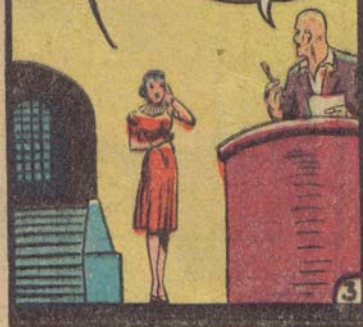
YOU'LL NEVER  
FIND HIM!

A NOTE WRITTEN BY YOU, TO THE FIREFLY AND LEFT ON YOUR OFFICE DESK SHOULD REACH HIM—THEN WE SHALL FIND ME! IF YOU DON'T WRITE IT—WELL YOU SAW WHAT MY PETS DID TO THE D.A!



ALL RIGHT!  
I'LL WRITE IT.

NOW YOU'RE  
BEING SENSIBLE  
MY DEAR!



HARLEY HUDSON CALLS AT THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE...

WHERE'S  
JOAN?

SHE HASN'T BEEN  
HERE ALL DAY. HERE'S  
A NOTE ADDRESSED  
TO THE FIREFLY—I  
FOUND ON HER  
DESK... SOMETHING  
SCREWY GOING ON!





HARLEY HUDSON, IN REALITY THE FIREFLY, SENSES SOMETHING AMISS.

ER... I'LL TAKE IT. I KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND HIM!  
THAT'S MORE THAN THE POLICE CAN DO!



HARLEY HURRIES BACK TO HIS HOME

THIS LETTER SURE READS FUNNY — I GET IT! IT'S CODE.



NOTE HOW THE FIRST WORDS OF EACH LINE ARE WRITTEN AT A SLANT!

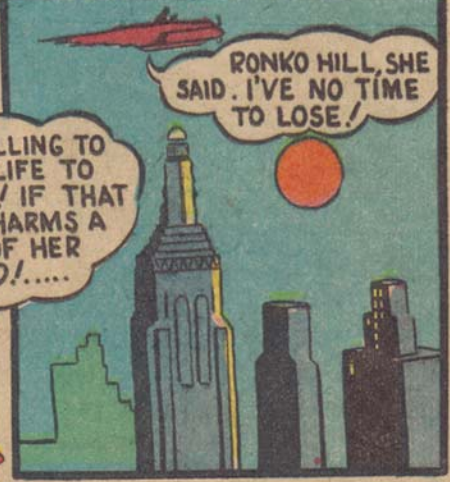
*Dreadful cold.  
Don't think I can meet you at the office.  
Come to my aunt's home at Ronko Hill.  
Joan*

DECODED, IT READS: "DREAD DON'T COME!" GOOD LORD, SHE MUST MEAN DR. DREAD! HE'S GOT HER!



SHE'S WILLING TO RISK HER LIFE TO SAVE ME! IF THAT FIEND HARMS A HAIR OF HER HEAD!.....

THE FIREFLY TAKES OFF IN HIS FIREFLYER, A COMBINATION AIRPLANE AND GLIDER.



RONKO HILL, SHE SAID. I'VE NO TIME TO LOSE!



I KNOW I'M WALKING INTO A TRAP, BUT I'VE GOT TO CHANCE IT!

THE FIREFLY SOON ARRIVES AT RONKO HILL AND CIRCLES FOR A LANDING!

THE FIREFLY ENTERS THE WEIRD PLACE UNHINDERED!

HMM... JUST THE KIND OF PLACE DR. DREAD WOULD USE FOR HEADQUARTERS.





SUDDENLY!



AGGH!



GREETINGS, MR. FIREFLY!

CONSCIOUSNESS... AND THE GRINNING, EVIL FACE OF DR. DREAD AND HIS ASSISTANT



AND AFTER HIM, WE SHALL ATTEND TO THE JUDGE WHO CONDEMNED YOU TO THE CHAIR, EH, DR. DREAD!

FIREFLY, HEH, HEH. THE SPIDER HAS CAUGHT THE FIREFLY! AND I SHALL HAVE MY COMPLETE REVENGE!

A CLEVER WAY TO KILL, EH? CORPSES BROUGHT TO TEMPORARY LIFE TO DO MY BIDDING... THEN THEY GO BACK TO THE GRAVE, AND NO ONE TO WHISPER TALES ABOUT DR. DREAD!



DR. DREAD LEAVES YOU NOW BUT YOU SHALL NOT BE ALONE FOR LONG — HEH, HEH!



MAYBE YOU'RE LAUGHING TOO SOON!

DR. DREAD DIDN'T RECKON WITH MY COMPLETE MUSCULAR CONTROL. NO BONDS CAN HOLD ME!



AND NOW TO LOOSE MY LIVING CORPSES UPON THE FIREFLY.



I WILL GO NOW AND DELIVER THE OTHER CORPSES TO JUDGE GRAYSON'S PLACE!



HOW CAN DR. DREAD BRING THOSE DEAD THINGS TO LIFE?

I DON'T KNOW, JOAN, BUT WE ARE N'T STAYING TO FIND OUT!

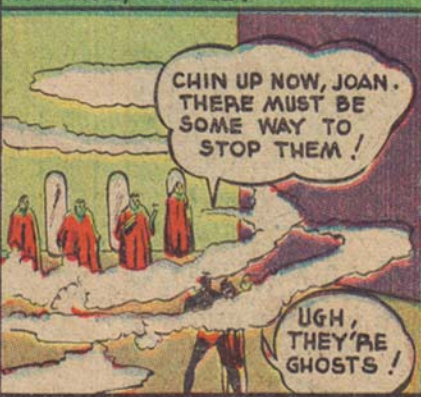


MEANWHILE ....

SUDDENLY, A STIFLING, PUNGENT GAS FLOODS THE ROOM!



AND A GRISLY SCENE IS ENACTED AS THE CORPSES TAKE LIFE, AND ADVANCE, TO KILL!



CHIN UP NOW, JOAN. THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO STOP THEM!

UGH, THEY'RE GHOSTS!

THOSE GRAVEYARD RELICS MEAN BUSINESS. IF ONLY...



...I CAN HOLD THEM OFF FOR A WHILE. THEY'LL DIE BY THEMSELVES. THEY ONLY HAVE TEMPORARY LIFE!



FISTS FLAILING WITH TIGERISH FURY, THE FIREFLY THRESHES INTO THE MONSTERS.



BOY, I'M GETTING NOWHERE FAST. MY PUNCHES JUST BOUNCE OFF THEIR JAWS — WAIT A MINUTE! THAT SKYLIGHT POLE OVER THERE GIVES ME AN IDEA!



LET'S MAKE A RUN FOR IT!

THE FIREFLY'S INSECT-LIKE MUSCLES ARE BROUGHT INTO PLAY LIKE GIANT SPRINGS, AND...

I COULD KEEP HOPPING AROUND THIS WAY ALL NIGHT. BUT I'VE GOT TO GET JOAN OUT OF HERE!



6

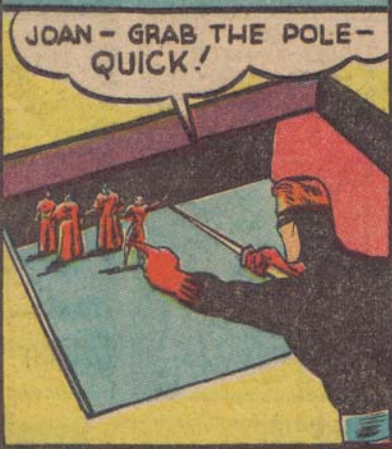


THE FIREFLY POLE VAULTS TO THE SKYLIGHT!



IT'S A GOOD THING I WAS INTERCOLLEGIATE POLE VAULTING CHAMP AT N.Y.U.

JUST THEN THE CORPSES TURN UPON JOAN



JOAN - GRAB THE POLE - QUICK!

IN THE NICK OF TIME, JOAN IS HOISTED TO SAFETY!



JUST THEN, DR. DREAD RETURNS



THE FIREFLY AND THE GIRL - THEY'RE GONE!

INSTILLED WITH ONLY THE INSTINCT TO KILL, THE CORPSES TURN UPON THEIR CREATOR!



HELP! STOP! YOU CAN'T KILL ME! I'M YOUR MASTER!

FROM ABOVE, JOAN AND THE FIREFLY WATCH DR. DREAD KILLED -



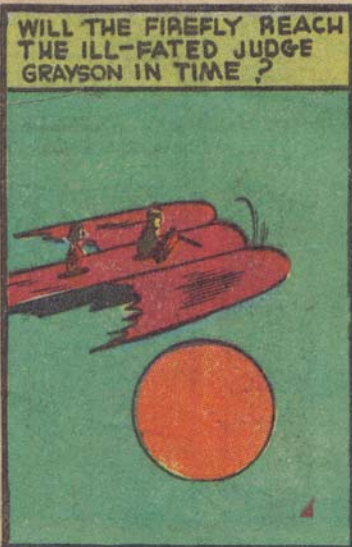
WELL - THAT'S THE END OF DR. DREAD!

WHAT A HORRIBLE SIGHT!



IT'S A SHAME A BRAIN LIKE HIS COULDN'T HAVE BEEN USED TO BENEFIT MANKIND

NO TIME FOR THAT NOW, WE'VE GOT TO GET TO JUDGE GRAYSON'S!



WILL THE FIREFLY REACH THE ILL-FATED JUDGE GRAYSON IN TIME?



LOOK! THE JUDGE'S HOUSE IS SURROUNDED BY POLICE!

YES, AND THAT TRUCK, UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS - IS FILLED WITH CORPSES!



SURE ENOUGH.  
THERE THEY  
ARE.



STRAIGHT PAST THE POLICE INTO  
THE JUDGE'S HOUSE MARCH  
THE CORPSES.



HOLY GOSH!  
THEY AREN'T  
HUMAN!

THEY  
WON'T  
DIE!

INSIDE, THE HORROR-  
STRICKEN JUDGE  
AWAITS HIS DOOM.

DO SOMETHING QUICK.  
DON'T LET THEM  
KILL ME!

WE'RE  
TRYING-  
JUDGE!



ON AND ON, PAST THE SIEGE OF BUL-  
LETS THE LIVING DEAD MEN APPROACH.



SHOOT THEM!

WE ARE - BUT YOU  
CAN'T KILL - DEAD  
MEN!

BUT JUST THEN - AT  
THE TOP OF THE STAIRS  
THE FIREFLY APPEARS

DON'T WASTE  
YOUR AM-  
MUNITION,  
BOYS.

THE  
FIREFLY!



TAKE IT EASY, JUDGE -  
HERE I COME!



RIGHT FROM THE CLUTCHES  
OF THE CORPSES THE FIREFLY  
SNATCHES THE JUDGE



LUCKY THIS  
ROPE WAS  
HANDY!



THIS'LL HOLD THEM  
UNTIL THEY'RE READY  
TO RETURN TO THE  
GRAVE.



MOMENTS LATER THE FRUS-  
TRATED CORPSES CRUMBLE  
TO THE FLOOR.

WELL - THAT'S  
THE END OF  
THEM, JUDGE.  
YOU SURE  
WERE LUCKY.

I'LL SAY - I'M  
GRATEFUL  
TO THE FIREFLY!  
- SAY - WHERE  
IS HE??

HE - HE'S  
GONE



NEXT DAY -

29 DAILY REFLECTION 24  
**FIREFLY RESCUES  
JUDGE GRAYSON  
FROM MYSTER-  
IOUS CORPSES  
THREATENS TO  
CLEAN UP CRIME**

BUT IN A FAR CORNER OF THE CITY  
A NOTORIOUS LEADER OF THE  
UNDERWORLD READS OF THE  
FIREFLY

NEXT ISSUE - THE FIREFLY  
MEETS  
SNEAKY-

SO THE FIREFLY  
THREATENS TO  
INTERFERE  
WITH MY  
BUSINESS - EH -  
WE SHALL  
SEE!





# Fran Frazer

BY IRVING NOVICK AND JOE BLAIR

FRAN FRAZER, BEAUTIFUL GIRL PHOTOGRAPHER, LIVES IN A CONSTANT WHIRL OF ROMANCE, EXCITEMENT AND DANGER.... CAUGHT IN A MAELSTROM OF EUROPE-AT-WAR, FRAN IS GIVEN A ROVING ASSIGNMENT, BY THE FAMOUS MAGAZINE "STRIFE," TO COVER THE TUMULTOUS EVENTS OF FUTURE HISTORY!

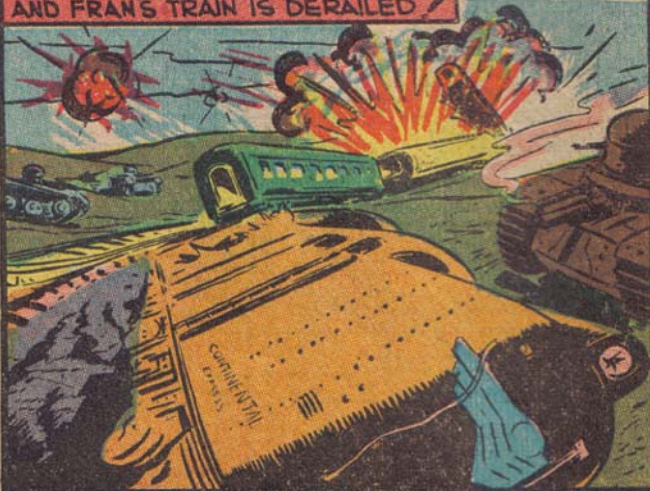


ABOARD THE CONTINENTAL EXPRESS.....

WE SHOULD BE NEAR THE LUXERIAN BORDER BY NOW, IF MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT, I'LL SOON HAVE SOME SWELL PICTURES!



SUDDENLY, MECHANIZED FORCES OPEN AN ATTACK, AND FRAN'S TRAIN IS DERAILED!



I GUESS THE FIREWORKS HAVE STARTED! I'M GOING TO GET SOME SHOTS OF THIS!



SURE AS I'M A FOOT HIGH, I'LL GET A BONUS FOR THESE PIX!







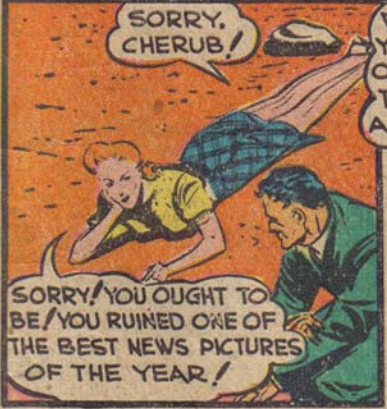
WOMAN OR NOT, I TAKE NO CHANCES!



FRAN!  
FRAN,  
YOU FOOL!



GOING DOWN!



SORRY, CHERUB!

WHAT WERE YOU DOING ON THAT TRAIN ANYWAY?

GOING TO LUXERIA FOR THE SAME REASON YOU WERE! OH, WELL, LET'S FIND WHAT WE CAN IN THE WRECKAGE, AND GET GOING!

SORRY! YOU OUGHT TO BE! YOU RUINED ONE OF THE BEST NEWS PICTURES OF THE YEAR!



WELL, AT LEAST I HAD A GOOD HUNCH THAT PRINCE OTTO'S ARMY WAS GOING TO INVADE LUXERIA!

A HUNCH! MY DEAR GIRL, EVERY CORRESPONDENT IN EURORE HAS ALREADY SENT THE STORY!



THERE'S A CAR AHEAD! WE CAN HIRE IT TO TAKE US TO THE NEAREST CITY!

OH, NO! DON'T FORGET, WE'RE WORKING FOR RIVAL PUBLICATIONS! I'LL BATTLE YOU FOR IT!



SO SORRY, MADAM! THE GENTLEMAN, HE PAY MORE MONEY!

SEE WHAT IT MEANS TO WORK FOR A GOOD MAG, FRAN?

OH, YES? WELL, GET A LOAD OF THIS!



SO SORRY MONSIEUR! BUT MONEY, SHE IS NOT EVERYTHING!

YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE A LADY WAY OUT HERE IN THE COUNTRY, WOULD UMS BIG BOY!



OF ALL THE #!@%&\*... @!!\*!!







I ALREADY SENT A DISPATCH TELLING HOW THE TROOPS STORMED THE CASTLE!



YOU'RE A DOPE, FRAN! THERE WON'T BE ANY BATTLE! ALL THE GUARDS AT THE PALACE ARE PRINCE OTTO'S MEN!

GOOD GOSH! THAT'S THE SECOND BOMER TODAY! IF I DON'T THINK OF SOMETHING FAST, I'LL BE A WOMAN WITHOUT A JOB!



OH, GENERAL! YOU HAVE THE GRANDEST LOOKING ARMY! COULD I HAVE SOME PICTURES OF THEM?

BUT OF COURSE?



I'LL HAVE THEM PARADE FOR YOU WHEN WE REACH THE PALACE!

BUT WHY HAVE A SILLY OLD PARADE? ANY ARMY CAN DO THAT!



WHY NOT HAVE YOUR TROOPS STORM THE PALACE LIKE THE KNIGHTS USED TO DO?

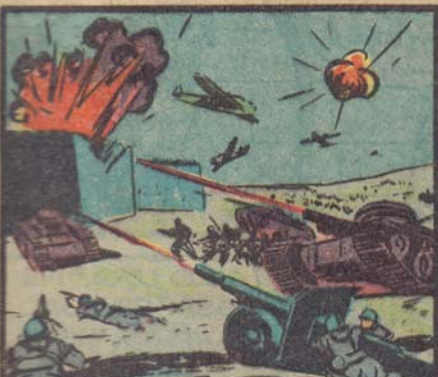
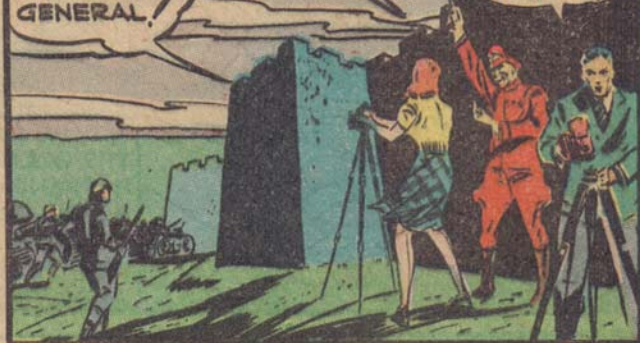
IT'S A GOOD IDEA! I SHALL GIVE THE ORDERS!



THIS IS SIMPLY WONDERFUL OF YOU, GENERAL!

AH, NOT AT ALL. IT IS A PLEASURE!

WELL I MIGHT AS WELL GET IN ON THIS, TOO!



WHAT PICTURES, AND WE HAVE THEM EXCLUSIVE, HAL!



THIS IS FOR BEING SUCH A DEAR!

BUT NOT AT ALL! IF ANYTHING NEW DEVELOPS, I SHALL CALL YOU, MISS FRAZER!



NOW LET'S GET THESE PIX IN THE MAIL, HAL!

YEAH! WHILE I TRY TO EXPLAIN TO MY EDITOR WHY THE PRINCE'S ARMY STORMED A PALACE THREE HOURS AFTER YOU REPORTED IT! PHOOEY!



MORE ADVENTURES OF FRAN FRAZER IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS



# THE WIZARD

THE MAN WITH THE SUPER-BRAIN

AND ROY THE SUPER BOY



WITH HIS SUPER-BRAIN AND PHOTOGRAPHIC MIND, THE WIZARD IS ABLE TO VISUALIZE FAR-AWAY HAPPENINGS. WITH THESE MENTAL POWERS AND HIS SUPER-STRENGTH, THE WIZARD IS THE SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD— — — NOW TEAMED UP WITH THE WIZARD IS ROY, THE SUPERBOY, MARVEL OF 1940

A CAR PULLS UP IN FRONT OF A POLICE STATION!

THOSE RACKETEERS CAN'T FRIGHTEN ME. I'M GOING TO THE POLICE WITH MY STORY!...WHAT'S THAT?



MERCIFUL HEAVENS!  
!...!...!



BLANE, LOOK!

GOOD LORD! I'VE SEEN UNUSUAL SIGHTS, BUT....



WOW! LOOK AT THAT GUY GO! HE'S SCARED SILLY!





JANE, DON'T YOU MIX IN THIS MURDER BUSINESS. THIS IS A CASE FOR THE WIZARD!

THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH YOU, ALWAYS DEPENDING ON THE WIZARD. THERE'S A STORY THERE FOR OUR PAPER AND I'M GOING AFTER IT!



HEY, THERE, WAIT A MINUTE! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

NO, NO! I DON'T WANT THEM TO KILL ME. GO AWAY!

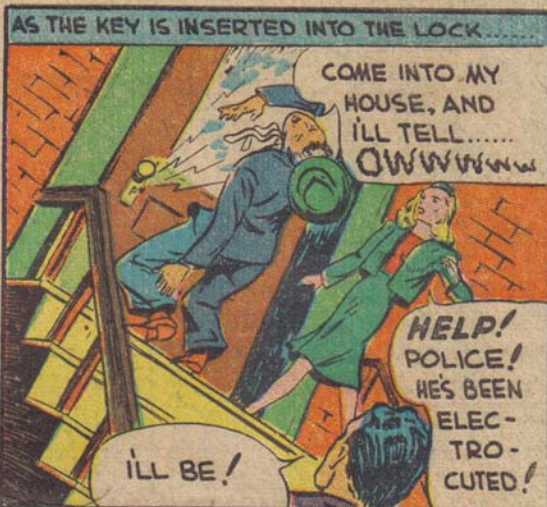


THIS IS BLANE WHITNEY, BIG NEWSPAPER OWNER, AND HE'LL PROTECT YOU!

IT... IT'S THOSE BAIL BOND RACKETEERS. FIRST THEY BAIL ME OUT, AND THEN CHARGE ME AN EXORBITANT INTEREST RATE!



THAT OTHER CORPSE WAS SOMEBODY JUST LIKE MYSELF, WHO REFUSED TO BE INTIMIDATED BY THEIR THREATS!



AS THE KEY IS INSERTED INTO THE LOCK.....

COME INTO MY HOUSE, AND I'LL TELL..... OWWWW!

HELP! POLICE! HE'S BEEN ELECTROCUTED!

I'LL BE!



A MURDER! HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

THAT GIRL WAS STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO HIM. I SAW HER!



BAIL BOND RACKETEERS HE SAID. IF I WERE TO GET INTO SOME TROUBLE, THEY MIGHT APPROACH ME.... I'LL DO IT!

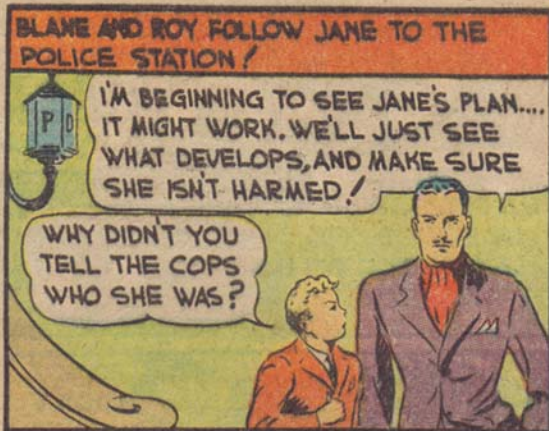
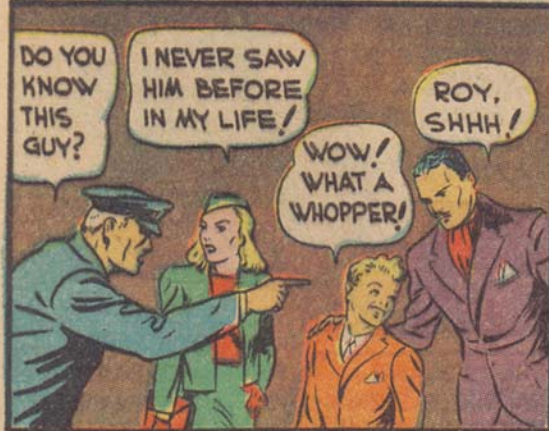


HE WAS AN INTIMATE FRIEND OF MINE. WE WERE JUST GOING INTO HIS HOME TO ER.... HAVE A LITTLE TALK!

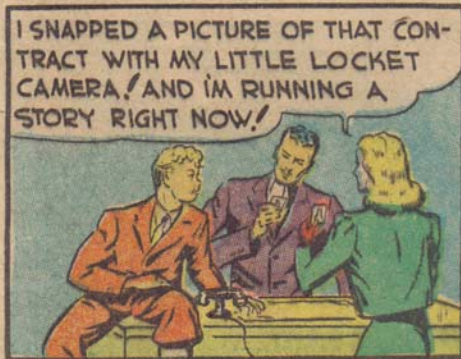
OKAY, SISTER! YOU'LL DO YER TALKIN' TO THE POLICE!

JANE, DON'T!











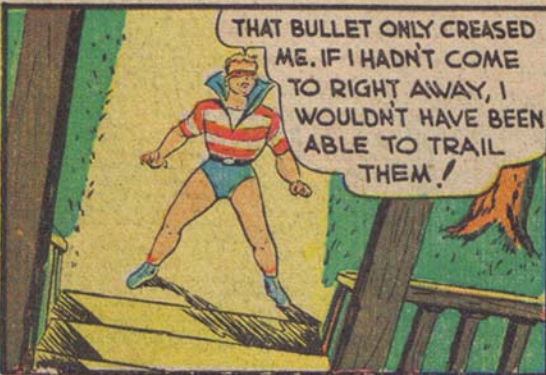


YOU...YOU'LL SUFFER FOR THIS. THE WIZARD IS MY FRIEND. HE'LL BE HERE SOON!

WHAT! THE WIZARD KNOWS ABOUT US!



QUICK! HEAD OFF THE BOSS! TELL HIM TO GET RID OF ALL THOSE BAIL BOND PAPERS!



THAT BULLET ONLY CREASED ME. IF I HADN'T COME TO RIGHT AWAY, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TRAIL THEM!



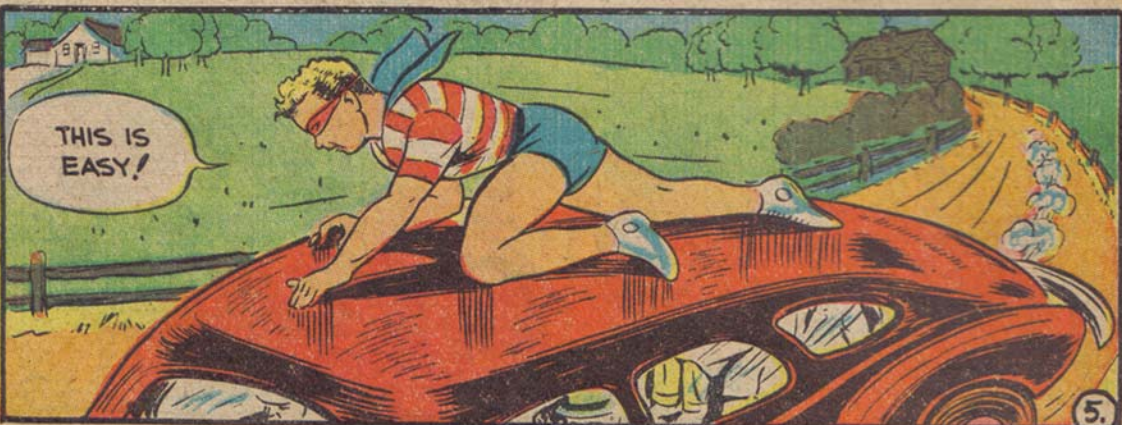
I'LL TRAIL THEM TO THEIR BOSS! BUT FIRST.....



....I'LL CHOKE UP THIS CHIMNEY SO THAT THE SMOKE CAN'T COME OUT!



THAT SMOKE'LL GIVE BLANE A CHANCE TO BECOME THE WIZARD WITHOUT BEING SEEN!



THIS IS EASY!



AND NOW THE WIZARD'S GOING TO PAY BACK A FEW DEBTS!

THE FLUE'S CLOGGED UP! GOTTA GET OUT, OR WE'LL CHOKE TO DEATH!



HEY, SLITZ, HOW ABOUT THEM TWO IN THERE?



LET 'EM STAY!

THE WIZARD!

I'M GETTIN' OUTTA HERE!



SEEMS LIKE THOSE BOYS AREN'T ANXIOUS TO BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED!



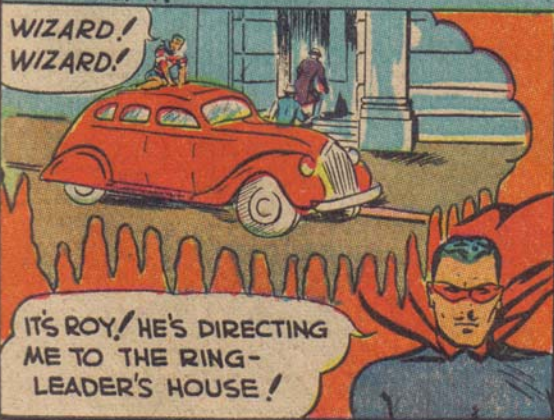
BUT I AM! NOW IF I HAVEN'T LOST MY EYE...OOOFF!



BULLS' EYE!

THE WIZARD BRINGS HIS SUPER BRAIN INTO PLAY!

WIZARD!  
WIZARD!



IT'S ROY! HE'S DIRECTING ME TO THE RING-LEADER'S HOUSE!

WHAT HAPPENED TO BLANE?

BLANE?...ER... I SENT HIM HOME. GET THE POLICE TO TAKE CARE OF THESE HOODLUMS!





IN THE RINGLEADER'S HOME!

IT'S THE WIZARD, BOSS! HE'S WISE!

WITH THESE PAPERS GONE, THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PIN ANYTHING ON US!



THERE GO A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF BAIL BOND RECEIPTS. BUT WE'LL GET IT ALL BACK WHEN THIS THING BLOWS OVER!

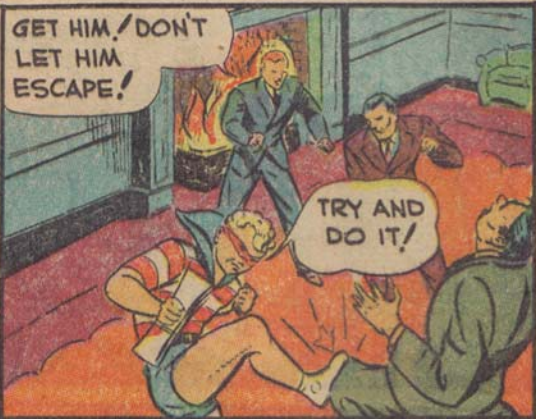


BUT BEFORE THE RECEIPTS CAN BE DESTROYED...



PARDON MY TAKING WAYS!

GET HIM! DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!



TRY AND DO IT!



UGH!

HOW'S THAT FOR USING MY HEAD?

A SIGNAL....AND MORE THUGS STORM INTO THE ROOM!

DON'T LET THE BRAT GET AWAY, OR WE'RE ALL SUNK!



ROY IS TAKING THEM ON ALL ALONE. HE MAY BE ABLE TO USE MY HELP!



FLING HIM INTO THE FIRE!





**IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING, BOYS AND GIRLS! IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING!!**  
EVERY NEW FEATURE OF THE WIZARD AND ROY THE SUPER BOY BRINGS WITH IT A FRESH THRILL-A NEW BLOOD-TINGLING ADVENTURE THAT WILL MAKE YOU WAIT IMPATIENTLY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP-NOTCH COMICS



# WINGS JOHNSON

OF  
THE

# Air Patrol



by ED SMALLE JR.

STORY BY JOE BLAIR

WINGS JOHNSON, AMERICAN YOUTH, IS FIGHTING WITH THE ROYAL AIR FORCE --- DUE TO HIS AMAZING FIGHTING ABILITY, HE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED, ALONG WITH HIS PAL, HENRY HIGGINS, TO THE 13th PURSUIT GROUP, SOMEWHERE ON THE WESTERN FRONT ---

WINGS IS NOW A FLIGHT LEADER ---

FELLOWS, WE HAVE A DIFFICULT JOB TO DO!



G.H.Q. REPORTS HIDDEN GUNS IN THIS SECTOR ARE HOLDING UP OUR ADVANCE! IT'S OUR JOB TO LOCATE AND SILENCE THOSE GUNS!



HANGAR

YOU MAY BE THE NEW COMMANDER, YANKEE - BUT WE ARE N'T MONKEYS. THAT'S A JOB FOR OBSERVATION - NOT US!



I HAVE MY ORDERS AND I'M GIVING THEM TO YOU! PILOTS BROWN AND JONES, MAN YOUR PLANES, YOU'RE TAKING OFF!





THERE THEY GO, WINGSIE! H'I WISH 'EM LUCK!

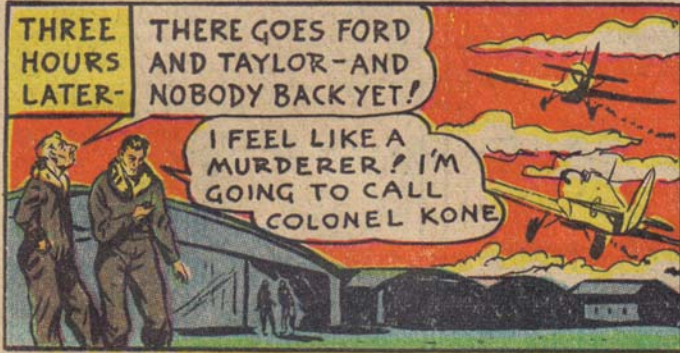
SO DO I, HENRY- BUT I'M SENDING UP TWO MORE PILOTS EVERY HALF HOUR UNTIL WE SPOT THOSE GUNS!



THREE HOURS LATER-

THERE GOES FORD AND TAYLOR-AND NOBODY BACK YET!

I FEEL LIKE A MURDERER! I'M GOING TO CALL COLONEL KONE



COLONEL, HIGGINS AND I ARE GOING UP OURSELVES. I CAN'T SEND ANY MORE BOYS OUT THERE...

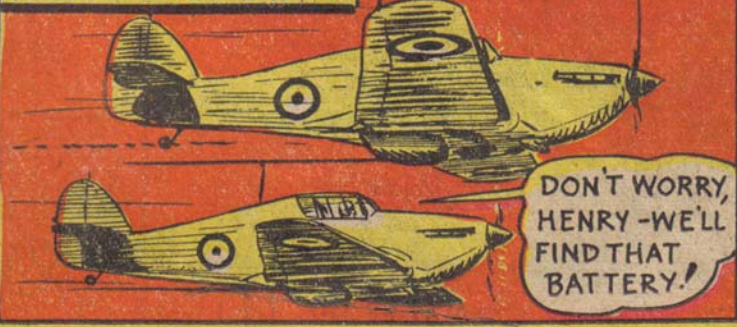
WHAT'S THAT?



I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT IF THAT'S DISOBEYING ORDERS THAT IS WHAT I'M DOING!

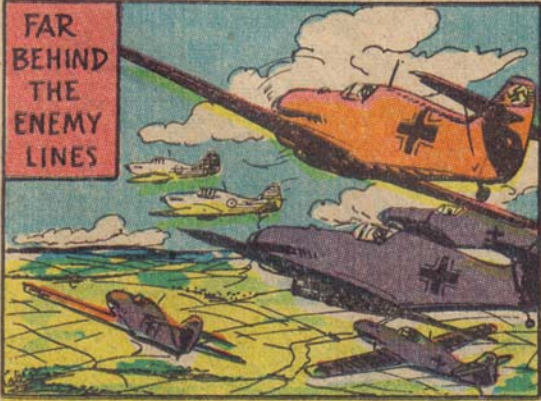


FIVE MINUTES LATER-

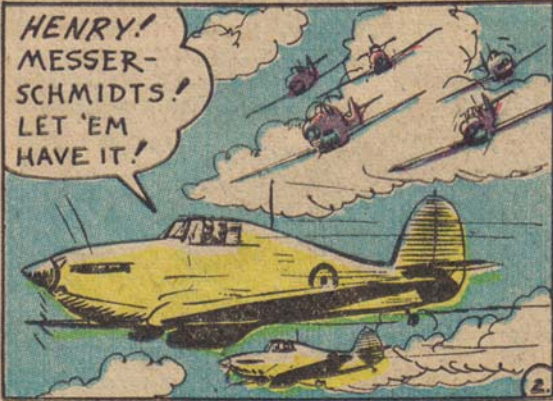


DON'T WORRY, HENRY-WE'LL FIND THAT BATTERY!

FAR BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES



HENRY! MESSER-SCHMIDTS! LET 'EM HAVE IT!





IN A FURIOUS BATTLE, WINGS AND HENRY  
MANAGE TO DOWN FOUR OF THE NAZIS!



ONE OF THE BURNING NAZI  
PLANES CRASHES INTO A  
CAMOUFLAGE NET! -----



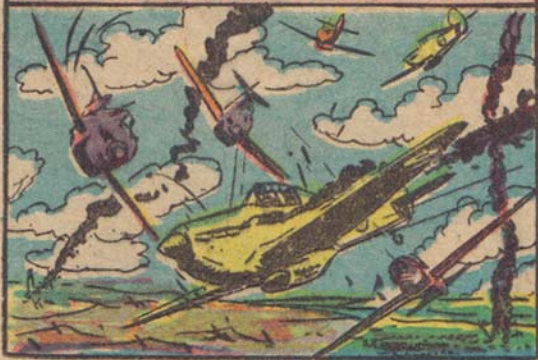
REVEALING HIDDEN ENEMY GUNS!



HOLY SMOKE! THAT PLANE -  
IT CRASHED RIGHT INTO THE  
PLACE WE'VE BEEN  
LOOKING FOR!



JUST THEN WINGS' PLANE IS HIT!



HA! THE  
FOOLISH  
PIG - HE  
LOST HIS  
LIFE FOR  
NOTHING!

JA - CLEVER  
OF THE HIGH  
COMMAND TO  
PUT FAKE GUNS  
HERE!





MEANWHILE HENRY SEES THE GUN EMPLACEMENTS



WITH WINGSIE GONE HIT'S UP TO ME TO REPORT THE LOCATION OF THOSE GUNS TO G. H. Q.

BACK WITH WINGS



DON'T TELL ME I'M STILL ALIVE! I WONDER HOW LONG I'VE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS?

OUR ARTILLERY HAS OPENED FIRE. HENRY MUST'VE GOTTEN BACK AND REPORTED THE POSITION OF THESE GUNS!



ACH DER HIMMEL! IT IS TIME TO LEAVE!



JA - THIS IS NO PLACE FOR A GOOD NAZI!

FAKE GUNS! NOW I GET IT - BY DRAWING OUR GUNFIRE HERE, THEY LEARN THE NEW POSITIONS OF OUR ARTILLERY!



HEY - I CAN'T LET THOSE HEINIES GET AWAY!



THEY GOT AWAY IN A CAR - BUT THEY'VE GOT TO FOLLOW THE ROAD!



AND THAT ROAD CIRCLES BACK AROUND THIS HILL!



THIS IS GOING TO BE A NEW WAY TO HITCHHIKE!







ALL RIGHT, BOYS! I'M TAKING OVER!



NOW - TELL ME WHERE THOSE REAL GUNS ARE

JA! WE TELL!



THEY ARE AT THE NEXT VILLAGE DOWN THE ROAD - BUT YOU'LL NEVER GET THRU TO REPORT THEM!



MAYBE NOT, BUT I'M GOING TO TRY!



MEANWHILE HENRY COMES BACK!

POOR WINGSIE, HE MUST BE IN LITTLE PIECES AFTER THAT BARRAGE..

LOCKHEED "HUDSON"



H'I'LL FLY OVER AND GIVE 'IM A LAST SALUTE - HEY! GERMANS! H'I'LL MOW 'EM DOWN!



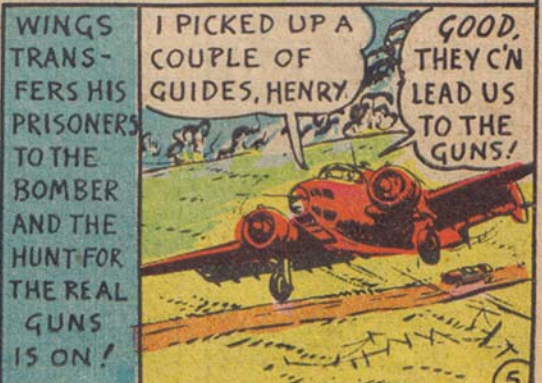
THAT LOOKS LIKE HENRY UP THERE! HEY! DON'T SHOOT YOU DOPE!



HENRY RECOGNIZES WINGS JUST IN TIME AND LANDS BESIDE THE ROAD!

ALL OUT YOU PUNKS, HERE'S WHERE WE TRANSFER-

HI, WINGSIE!

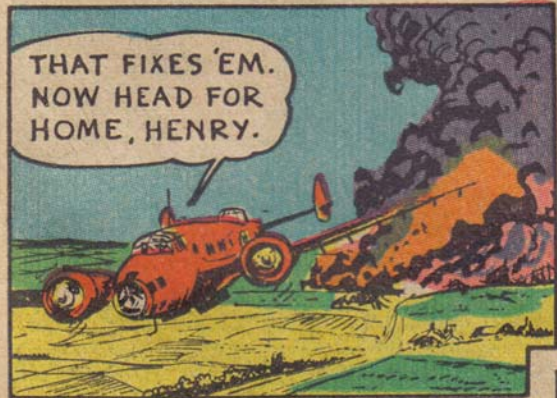
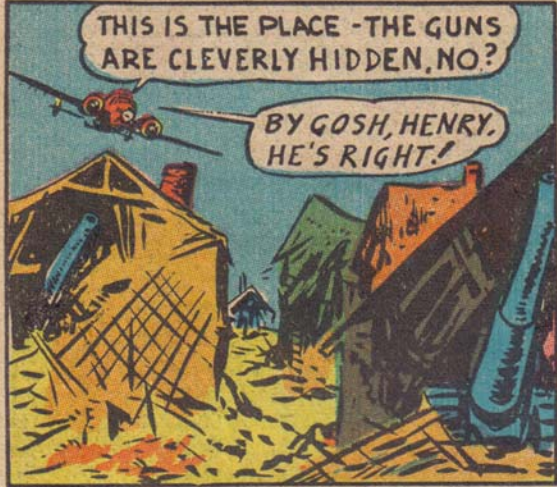


WINGS TRANSFERS HIS PRISONERS TO THE BOMBER AND THE HUNT FOR THE REAL GUNS IS ON!

I PICKED UP A COUPLE OF GUIDES, HENRY.

GOOD, THEY C'N LEAD US TO THE GUNS!








# BOB PHANTOM

by  
Bernie Fleiss  
and  
H. SHORTEN

## SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD



ONCE AGAIN, AH KU, CRIME  
QUEEN OF CHINATOWN, PITS  
HER VICIOUS CUNNING AGAINST  
BOB PHANTOM, IN A BATTLE TO  
THE DEATH!!

ONE NIGHT... AS WALT WHITNEY LIES  
ASLEEP...



AS THOUGH WARNED BY A SIXTH  
SENSE, WALT TWISTS AWAY, JUST  
AS A DEADLY WEAPON DESCENDS!

HEY  
YOU...

GONE! WHEW!  
HE CERTAINLY  
WASTED NO  
TIME!

A CHINESE HATCHET!  
THAT CAN MEAN ONLY  
ONE THING! AH KU IS  
BACK... AND SHE WANTS  
TO KILL  
THE  
FRIEND  
OF BOB  
PHAN-  
TOM!



NEXT DAY... IN WHITNEY'S OFFICE...

THE POLICE FOUND CORPSES OF SEN YU AND LIN TANG!

WHY, THOSE ARE TWO OF THE COUNCIL OF 7 WHO RULE CHINA-TOWN!

IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE...

THOSE CHINKS WERE KNOCKED OFF BY TONGS, I TELL YA!

WALT WHITNEY THINKS THAT AH KU HAS A HAND IN IT!

I HATE THAT WHITNEY'S GUTS, BUT HE'S BEEN RIGHT SO OFTEN, I'M AFRAID TO DOUBT HIM! SCOUR CHINATOWN FOR AH KU, AND BRING HER IN DEAD OR ALIVE!

WHY... HELLO, CHIN YUNG!

AH, I AM HONORED THAT YOU ARE ACQUAINTED WITH MY UNWORTHY NAME... NO DOUBT YOU ALSO KNOW THAT I AM OF THE COUNCIL OF 7...

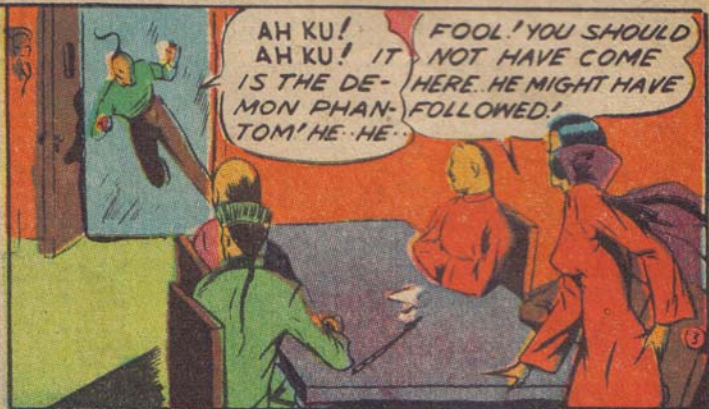
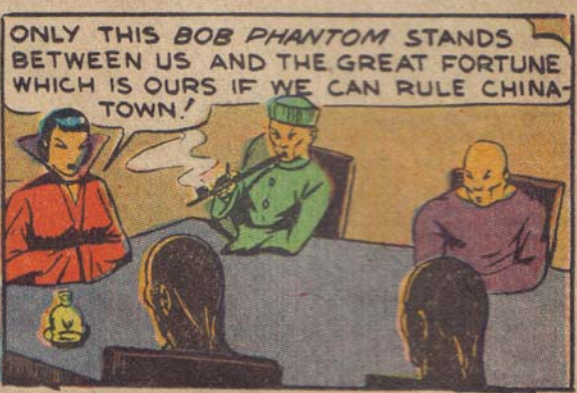
YOU HAVE OFTEN PROVED A FRIEND TO MY PEOPLE, HONORABLE MR. WHITNEY...

PLEASE HELP US NOW... SOMEONE IS TRYING TO DESTROY THE COUNCIL OF 7!

I WILL GO NEXT... AIIIEEE!

ANOTHER HATCHET MAN! THIS TIME HE WON'T ESCAPE!









YOU SHALL NEVER MAKE ANOTHER MISTAKE! DIE, SCUM!

HELLO, AH KU! QUITE A CUT-UP AREN'T YOU?



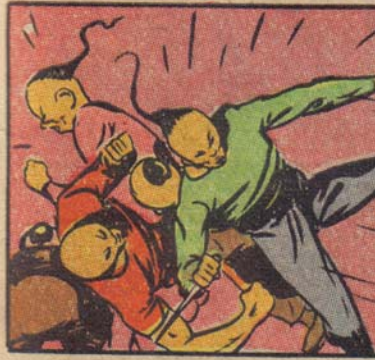
AH KU'S SURMISE PROVES CORRECT...

BOB PHANTOM!



YOU INSIST ON GIVING ME PLAYMATES, AH KU!

NOW IS OUR CHANCE... KILL HIM!



WELL, I DON'T LIKE THEM, SO YOU CAN HAVE THEM RIGHT BACK!



AH KU HAS ANOTHER TRICK UP HER SLEEVE...

AH KU WAS NOT UNPREPARED FOR THIS VISIT, BOB PHANTOM, AS YOU SHALL SOON SEE!



THE CHANDELIER DROPS AND A BLINDING LIGHT FLASHES OUT!

MY EYES... I CAN'T SEE!



THE CHINAMEN ARE QUICK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS TEMPORARY HELPLESSNESS.

INTO THE SHAFT WITH HIM!



WHEN BOB PHANTOM  
REGAINS THE USE OF  
HIS EYES...

WHY, I SEEM  
TO BE AT THE  
BOTTOM OF AN  
ELEVATOR  
SHAFT...

... AND IT'S  
DESCENDING!  
I'LL BE  
CRUSHED  
LIKE AN EGG  
SHELL... UN-  
LESS...  
THAT  
CROWBAR...  
.. MAYBE..

I'VE GOT TO GET  
THIS CONTROL  
BOX OPEN... AND  
SHORT-CIRCUIT  
THE CURRENT!

WHEW! THAT  
DID IT... AND  
NOT A  
SECOND  
TOO SOON!

MEANWHILE... IN THE COUNCIL-ROOM OF  
THE RULERS OF CHINATOWN...

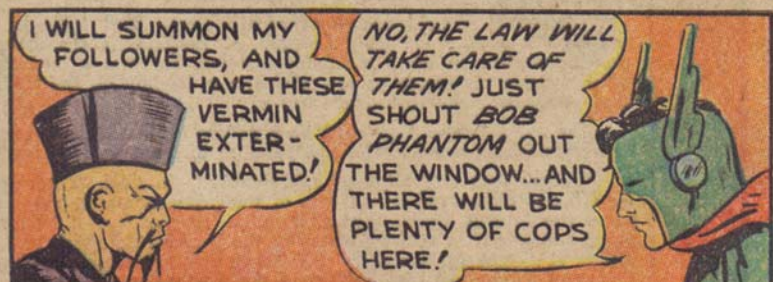
WE ARE THE REMAIN-  
ING FOUR OF THE  
COUNCIL OF SEVEN...  
DEATH MAY STRIKE  
ANY ONE OF US NEXT!

JUST THEN...

WRONG, HONORABLE  
RULERS... DEATH  
SHALL STRIKE ALL  
THIS TIME!

JUST AS SURELY  
AS THAT HATCHET  
WILL CLEAVE YOUR  
SKULL, WILL I  
RULE CHINATOWN!





HAS BOB PHANTOM AT LAST VANQUISHED AH KU PERMANENTLY?... BE SURE TO FOLLOW BOB PHANTOM IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP-NOTCH...





# THE MOTHER LODE

**Gold is where yuh find it  
—the trick is to know  
how to hold onto it!**

**T**HE Cripple Creek gold mining district, the scene of one of the earliest and wildest gold rushes and the Camp Bird Mine, one of the richest single gold lodes in history, were each discovered in a most unusual way.

Winfield Scott Stratton, an indigent and itinerant prospector, who later became one of the richest gold miners in the world, was roaming the Colorado Hills with his lone pack donkey and outfit. He had been doing this for years without any luck.

One evening he unpacked his donkey and tied the animal by a long rope to permit him to graze. The next morning he pulled in the rope to bring the donkey to hand for the pack. The donkey, feeling his fodder, began to kick up his heels and cavort on a short length of rope. In doing this he kicked up a tuft of grass and Stratton, looking at the torn earth, beheld a vein of quartz shot through with splinters of gold. This spot became the famous Independence Mine, the first and the richest in the Cripple Creek District. It produced more than \$50,000,000 in high-grade gold ores.

Thomas F. Walsh, discoverer of the Camp Bird Mine in the Telluride district and later a partner of King Leopold, of Belgium in the diamond mining business, was prospecting in much the same manner. There is a bird called the "camp bird" which follows the camps of the prospectors, feeding on the leavings when the miners have eaten their sour bread and bacon.

The same "camp bird" had been following Walsh for weeks. One morning after breakfast Walsh watched the now familiar bird eat and fly away.

"Where that bird alights," said Walsh to himself, "I am going to dig for gold." He did and discovered a rich vein of the precious metal. This hole in the ground became the famous Camp Bird Gold mine. It produced \$20,000,000 in gold in a few years and was then sold by Walsh to the Venture Company of London for \$20,000,000 more. It earned for Walsh \$40,000,000 in a few years. The King of England and the Prince of Wales are stockholders in the purchasing company.

**T**HERE is a story that the year before Walsh discovered the Camp Bird Mine he and his wife were so poor that Mrs. Walsh was forced to borrow canary seed to keep her pet bird alive. She was attached to the pet and borrowed its food rather than part with it. While the cost of canary seed might be regarded as trivial it is said that Mrs. Walsh had difficulty in feeding her children and that when she mentioned the bird and a neighbor offered to keep the bird alive, Mrs. Walsh reluctantly agreed to "borrow the seed for awhile."

The story is typical for it serves so well to illustrate the privations that prospectors and their families were willing to endure in the persistent, tireless and ever-hopeful hunt for treasure.

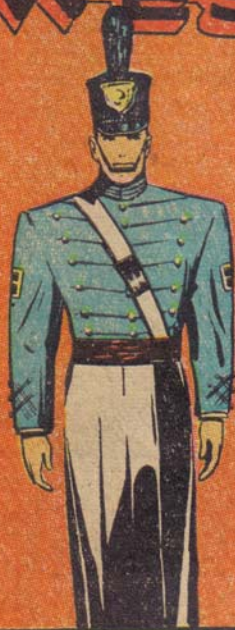
Westerners who knew the Walsh family, "from away back," will agree that they never forgot their friends of their hard-luck days. Tom Walsh was forever setting some old friend up in business and his Christmas checks for the needy in general are still remembered by the surviving pioneers.

**HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR DOG!!  
READ BLUE RIBBON COMICS!!!**



# KEITH KORNELL

## WEST POINTER



KEITH KORNELL IS PART OF WEST POINT. BUT WEST POINT, ITS SPIRIT AND TRADITIONS, ARE ALL OF KEITH KORNELL. AND THERE IS NO SACRIFICE WHICH HE WOULD NOT MAKE TO PROVE THIS!

IT IS THE DAY BEFORE THE ARMY-COLBY GAME, AND BOTH TEAMS ARE ON THE FIELD WARMING UP!



HOPE YOUR TEAM IS LOOSENERED UP BY THIS TIME, COACH CLARK. OUR ARMY BOYS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A SIGNAL DRILL!

WHY SURE, COACH WOOD!



OUTSIDE THE FIELD, THE COLBY COACH PLOTS WITH THE TEAM SCOUT!

GET THOSE SIGNALS. I DON'T CARE HOW WE DO IT, BUT WE MUST WIN THIS GAME!

DON'T WORRY, COACH. I'LL GET 'EM!



WITH A HOME MOVIE CAMERA—THE SCOUT PHOTOGRAPHS ARMY'S PLAYS

THEY'D HAVE A FIT IF THEY KNEW I WAS DOIN' THIS.





THE SCOUT IMMEDIATELY HAS HIS FILM DEVELOPED!

HEY, I ORDERED SIX NEGATIVES. I ONLY GOT FIVE!

SORRY, I GUESS WE MADE A MISTAKE!



AFTER SCRIMMAGE!

WELL MR. ALL-AMERICAN, ARE YOU READY TO GO TO TOWN WITH ME?

YES, JANET. I GOT PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE GROUNDS!



IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, CADET KORNELL?

EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT!



AT WEST POINT, THE WORDS "ALL RIGHT" MEAN THAT THE CADET PLEDGES HIS HONOR THAT HE IS NOT DOING ANYTHING WRONG!

THIS SODA'S SWELL. WON'T YOU HAVE ONE, KEITH?

NOT ALLOWED TO, JANET. I'M IN TRAINING.... HOW MUCH DO THESE FILMS COST, PLEASE!

THIRTY-FIVE CENTS!



GOTTA HURRY, JANET. WE'RE HAVING BARRACKS INSPECTION. SO LONG!

GOODBYE, KEITH.... AND GOOD LUCK IN THE GAME TOMORROW!

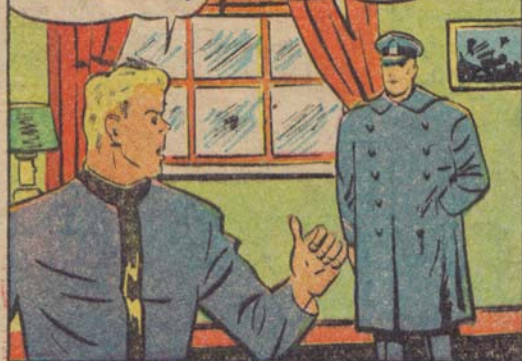


OH, KEITH HAS DROPPED HIS FILMS.... I'LL HOLD THEM FOR HIM!



HEY, HURRY UP, KEITH, I HEAR THE CADET OFFICER OF THE DAY COMING!

WOW! WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET THIS ROOM CLEANED UP IN TIME!



THIS ROOM LOOKS AS THOUGH IT WAS OCCUPIED BY BEASTIES. YOU'LL GET THREE DEMERITS FOR THIS!

YES, SIR!



A BEASTIE IS THE NAME GIVEN TO PLEBES WHO LIVE IN FIELD TENTS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS!



HORNELL WILL START AT QUARTERBACK.... I EXPECT YOU ALL TO PLAY WITH TRUE SPORTSMANSHIP!

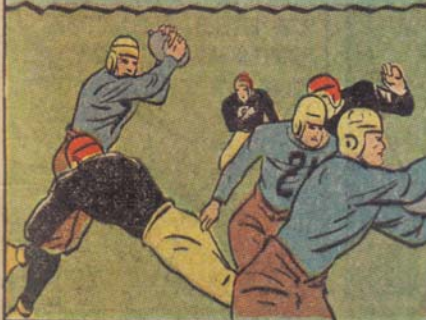
LET'S GO, GANG!

—AND THERE'S THE KICK-OFF! ARMY RECEIVES THE BALL ON ITS OWN TEN YARD LINE!



NEXT DAY.... IN THE LOCKER ROOMS!

BACK AND FORTH THE GAME SEE SAWS WITH ARMY GETTING THE WORST OF IT!



I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT. THOSE COLBY MEN SEEM TO KNOW WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO, EVEN BEFORE WE DO IT.... I'LL TRY OUR TRICKIEST PLAY!

KEITH THROWS A PASS — BUT A COLBY PLAYER INTERCEPTS IT.



IT'S A TOUCHDOWN! A TOUCHDOWN FOR COLBY ON THAT INTERCEPTED PASS!



....AS THE GUN ENDS THE HALF!

I NEVER SAW KEITH PLAY SO BADLY.... OH THESE ARE KEITH'S FILMS! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THEM!



WH...WHY, THESE AREN'T HIS FILMS AT ALL. THEY SEEM TO HAVE FOOTBALL PLAYERS ON THEM. GOOD GRACIOUS. I WONDER!



AS THE PLAYERS COME OUT FOR THE SECOND HALF!



KEITH.... OH KEITH!

WHY, IT'S JANET!



HAVE A LOOK AT THOSE FILMS, KEITH!



THESE ARE FILMS OF OUR PLAYS. THEY MUST'VE GIVEN THEM TO ME BY MISTAKE....

KEITH RETURNS TO THE GAME

I CAN'T TELL THE BOYS ABOUT IT NOW. THEY'D ONLY BECOME MORE DISORGANIZED.... I'VE GOT AN IDEA!



AS THE GAME RESUMES!

SAY I DON'T RECOGNIZE THAT FOR-

NEITHER DO I!



SAY! THAT ARMY TEAM IS BEGINNING TO CLICK. KORNELL JUST WENT FOR A FIFTEEN YARD GAIN!



WHAT'S THE IDEA OF PLAYING LAST YEAR'S SIGNALS KEITH?

I CAN'T EXPLAIN NOW. BUT I'M GENERAL ON THIS FIELD!

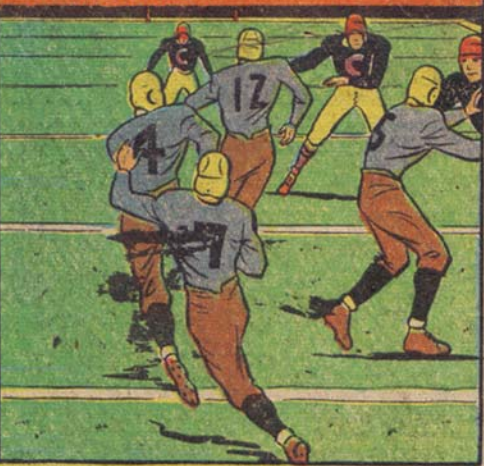


THAT KORNELL MUST BE WISE. TELL THE BOYS TO GET HIM OUT OF THE GAME!

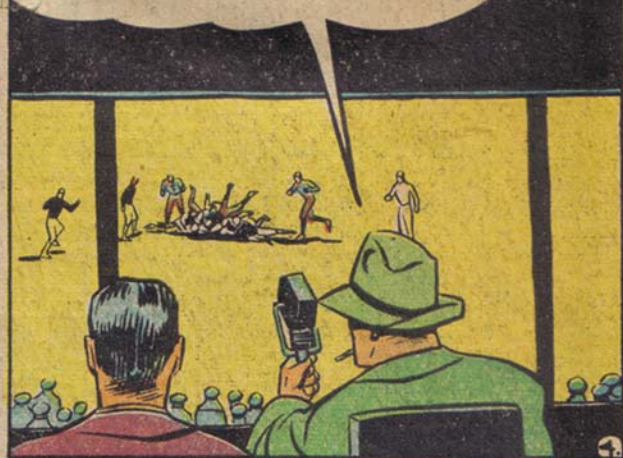
OKAY COACH!



IT'S KORNELL AGAIN.....THIS TIME ON AN END RUN



KEITH IS DOWNED AFTER A GAIN, BUT THE ENTIRE COLBY TEAM PILES ON!





THAT WAS A DIRTY TRICK!

WANT A SUB-KEITH?

N-NO- I'LL BE ALLRIGHT- J- JUST A LITTLE GROGGY.

I HURT MY LEG BADLY IN THAT PILE-UP... THE GAME WILL BE OVER ANY MINUTE, AND THEY'VE GOT SIX POINTS..... I'VE GOT TO RISK IT..... SIGNALS, 42-6-71....



OKAY, KEITH, LET'S HAVE THE BALL! I'LL.....

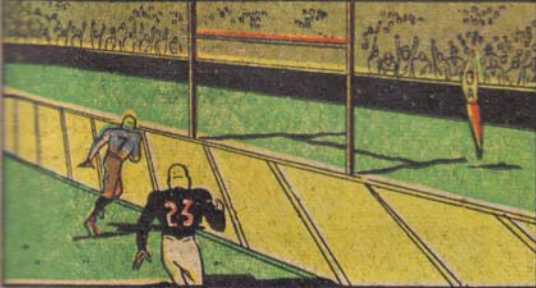
HEY KEITH- YOU'RE RUNNING OFF THE WRONG SIDE OF THE LINE.



BUT KEITH STUNS BOTH TEAMS BY KEEPING THE BALL HIMSELF!

KEITH'S SURPRISE STRATEGY WORKS LIKE A CHARM.... AND HE SCORES!

A PERFECT PASS BY KEITH INTO THE END ZONE IS GOOD FOR THE EXTRA POINT. ARMY WINS 7-6



HOORAY KORNELL!

IN THE COMMANDANT'S OFFICE!

AND SO THAT'S WHY I DISOBEYED THE COACH'S ORDERS, SIR!

FROM NOW ON OUR ATHLETIC RELATIONS WITH COLBY WILL BE CANCELLED!

AS A SUPERIOR OFFICER TO A CADET, I MUST CENSOR YOU FOR DISOBEYING ORDERS!

YES, BUT AS MAN TO MAN, THAT WAS A GREAT GAME, KORNELL, PLAYED, EH COACH, HA, HA!



MORE SMASH ADVENTURES OF KEITH KORNELL WEST POINTER IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP-NOTCH COMICS



# NOW ON SALE

THE *Secret* OF THE SHIELD Revealed!



STARRING THE G-MAN EXTRAORDINARY  
and THE MAN WITH THE SUPER-BRAIN

No. 1

# SHIELD- WIZARD

comics



SMASHING ACTION \*\* ALL BRAND NEW

10¢



THE SHIELD AND  
THE WIZARD  
MARCH TODAY

WITH THE  
SPIRIT OF '76

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME THE HISTORICAL  
STORY OF **THE WIZARD** IS TOLD —





# KARDAK

## THE MYSTIC MAGICIAN

By *Bernie Klein*  
and  
*HARRY SHORTEN*

KARDAK, HIS FIANCEE, LORNA, AND THEIR FAITHFUL SERVANT, BALTHAR, HAVE SET OUT TO REACH THE LAND OF THE MASTER BRAHMIN, THE MASTERS OF ALLEEVIL. BUT IN ORDER TO DO SO THEY MUST PASS MANY OBSTACLES.



TELL MAGIC TURBAN TAKE US UP, KARDAK!

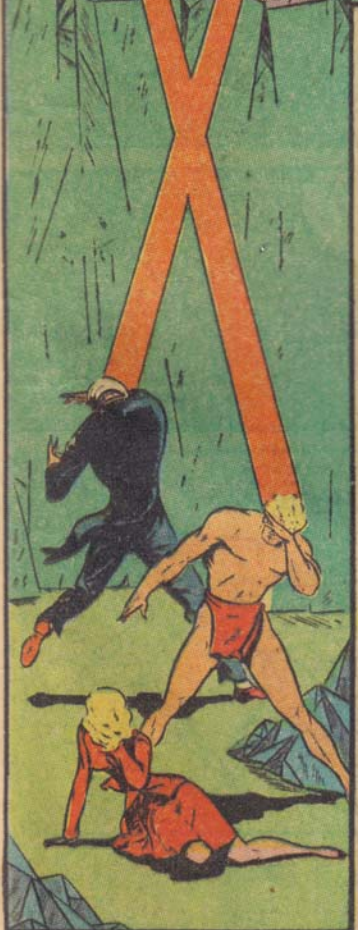
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!



PRESTO, AND WE HAVE A LADDER.



THAT'S STRANGE - THE SUN'S SHINING BRIGHTLY AND IT'S STILL NIGHT BELOW!





GOOD, LORD! EVERYTHING'S  
TRANSPARENT. THIS IS A ROCK  
AND YET I CAN SEE RIGHT  
THROUGH IT!



SOMEONE'S COMING!  
GREAT GHOSTS! THOSE  
ARE TRANSPARENT  
PEOPLE!



KARDAK'S WIZARDRY IS BROUGHT INTO PLAY

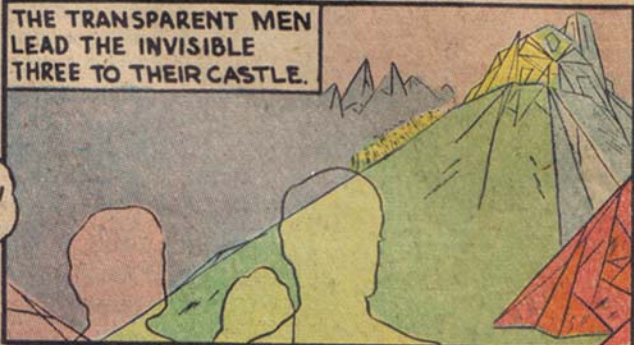
WE'RE ALL INVISIBLE!  
NOW DON'T MAKE  
A SOUND!

AHCH...CH...  
ME ALMOST  
SNEEZE!

LET'S  
FOLLOW  
THEM...



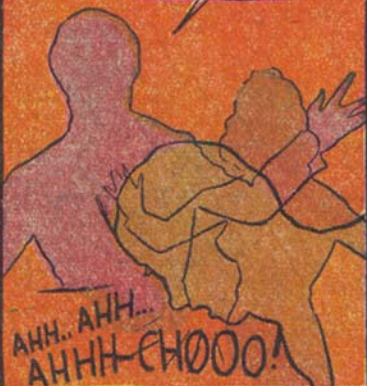
THE TRANSPARENT MEN  
LEAD THE INVISIBLE  
THREE TO THEIR CASTLE.



WHY... WHY... THEY'RE  
ALL SOAKING UP  
THE SUNLIGHT!

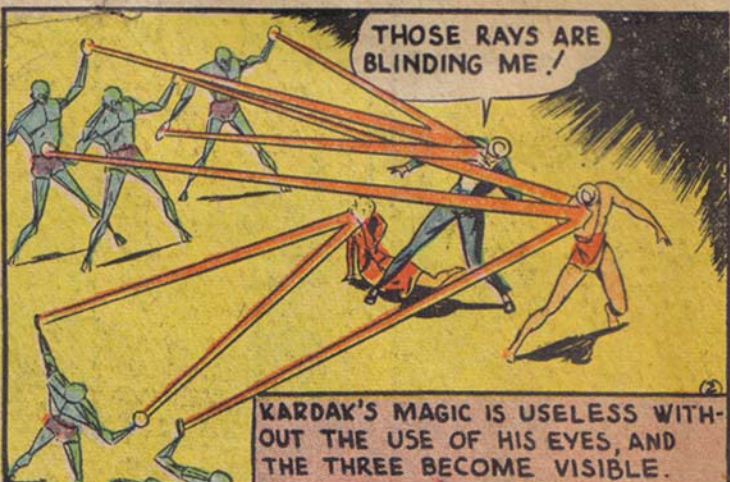


NOW, YOU'VE DONE  
IT, YOU LUMMOX!



AHH... AHH...  
AHHH CHOOO!

THOSE RAYS ARE  
BLINDING ME!

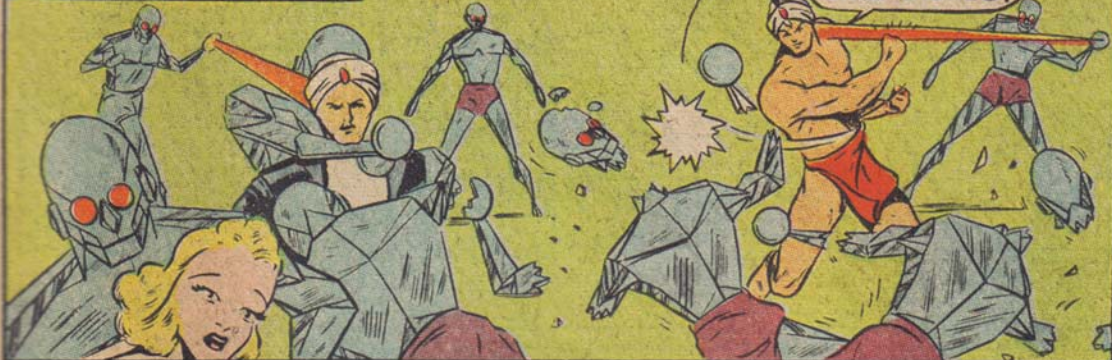


KARDAK'S MAGIC IS USELESS WITH-  
OUT THE USE OF HIS EYES, AND  
THE THREE BECOME VISIBLE.



DESPITE BALTHAR'S GALLANT EFFORTS, THE THREE ARE TAKEN PRISONERS.

ME BREAK UM LIKE DISHES!

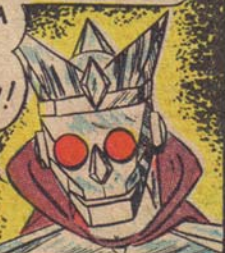


THEY ARE BROUGHT BEFORE THE KING

OH GREAT REXA, HERE ARE SOME EARTH PRISONERS!

HA! SOON THEY TOO SHALL ENJOY THE RAYS OF THE SUN!

OTHER EARTH MEN HAVE TRIED TO PASS THROUGH THIS LAND, BUT WE HAVE MADE THEM TRANSPARENT. TAKE THEM AWAY!



MY BLOOD IS BOILING STRANGELY, BUT I DON'T FEEL THE HEAT SO MUCH! IF ONLY I COULD SEE!

MASTER! ME FEEL FUNNY TOO!

BALTHAR... I HAVE AN IDEA... SHAKE THAT MAGIC TURBAN OFF YOUR HEAD!

AS THE MAGIC TURBAN HITS THE FLOOR, A TREE SUDDENLY SPRINGS FROM ITS CENTER!



ME DO!



IT WORKED! MY EYES ARE SHADED... I CAN USE MY MAGIC!!

WITH THE AID OF HIS MAGIC, KARDAK CREATES A DUST STORM TO BLOT OUT THE RAYS...

THAT TAKES CARE OF THEM! NOW TO FREE BALTHAR AND LORNA!







I'M STILL A LITTLE WEAK...

BALTHAR CARRY MISS LORNA!

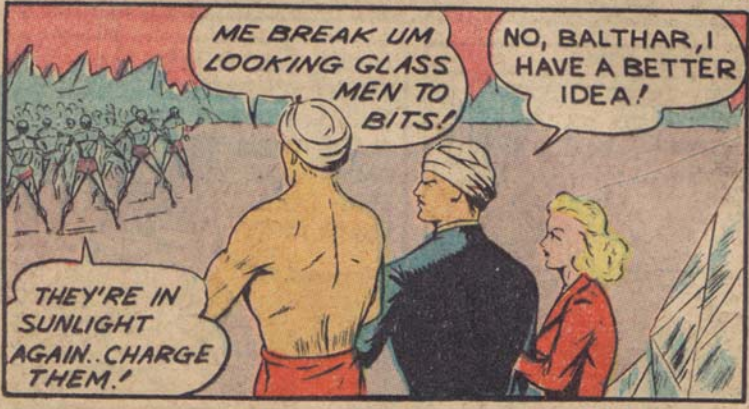
HELP!

THE GLASS MEN FLEE FROM THE DARKNESS OF THE DUST STORM...



OH, BOY! MUCH FUN!

THIS WAY!



ME BREAK UM LOOKING GLASS MEN TO BITS!

NO, BALTHAR, I HAVE A BETTER IDEA!

THEY'RE IN SUNLIGHT AGAIN. CHARGE THEM!



A WAVE OF MY HAND... AND PRESTO! WE HAVE BAGS OF SOOT!



THIS SOOT WILL KEEP OUT THE SUN'S RAYS, AND THEY'LL DROP LIKE DEAD FLIES!



AS THE SOOT COVERS THE GLASS MEN, THEY IMMEDIATELY FALL...

ME PITCHUM STRIKE!

THIS STUFF IS WORKING, BUT WE CAN'T HOLD OUT FOR EVER. WE'LL HAVE TO RUN FOR IT!





I HOPE WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF THEM!



WE'RE TRAPPED!  
THE RIVER'S STEAMING HOT!

MAKE UM NICE BATH!



HERE THEY COME AGAIN!  
WE MAY GET OUT OF THIS MESS ...



IF THE INTELLIGENCE OF THESE GLASS MEN ISN'T TOO GREAT!



THERE'S A CHANCE THIS TRICK MAY WORK!



THIS IS ONLY MASS HYPNOSIS, BUT THEY THINK IT IS AN ECLIPSE!

LOOK!  
OUR SUN IS GONE!

WE'RE DOOMED!



KARDAK!  
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THEM?

SH..H.. LORNA THEY THINK THEIR SUN IS GONE!

EVERYTHING LOOK SAME TO ME!





WHAT IS THE FRIGHTFUL OBSTACLE WHICH SEEMS TO MAKE EVEN THE BRAVE BALTHAR QUAIL??  
BE SURE TO READ THE NEXT ISSUE OF **TOP-NOTCH COMICS**

# HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR DOG....

## READ BLUE RIBBON COMICS...



# Confucius Say:

"FOR THE RIGHT GAME AT THE RIGHT TIME"

★ "PLAY FOR PRESIDENT" ★

FOR YOUNG AND OLD!

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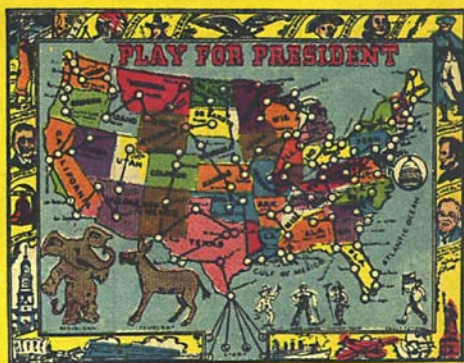
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