

Featuring **THE BLACK HOOD**

12-11 **TOP-NOTCH** *6*

No. 19 SEPT.

comics

10¢

also **THE WIZARD**
with **ROY, the SUPER-BOY**



THE BLACK HOOD

MAN OF MYSTERY



YOU ARE ABOUT TO MEET YOUR MAKER, SKULL! FOR THE LAST TIME, WILL YOU ALLOW ME TO ADMINISTER THE LAST RITES?

NO! BLAST YOU! GET OUT OF MY CELL!

GET OUT! GET OUT, I TELL YOU, OR I'LL...

BLESS ME!

I TOLD YOU HE WAS HOPELESS, FATHER! WE'D BETTER GO!



AT THAT MOMENT, IN A CABIN - FAR AWAY.....

YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED YOUR MISSION, BLACK HOOD. YOU'VE BROUGHT THE SKULL TO JUSTICE!

YES, HERMIT... BUT AS KIP BURLAND, I'M STILL A WANTED MAN!



AT LAST THE DAY OF RETRIBUTION SEEMS TO BE AT HAND. RETRIBUTION FOR THE CLEVEREST, MOST SOULLESS CREATURE TO BLIGHT GOD'S GREEN EARTH... THE SKULL. AND YET THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE FILLED WITH ANXIETY... FOR UNTIL THE MAD GENIUS OF CRIME IS LOWERED INTO HIS COFFIN, NONE MAY DRAW AN EASY BREATH.



AND THE ONLY MAN WHO COULD PROVE MY INNOCENCE, THE SKULL - THE ONE WHO FRAMED ME - IS ABOUT TO DIE... IRONIC, ISN'T IT?

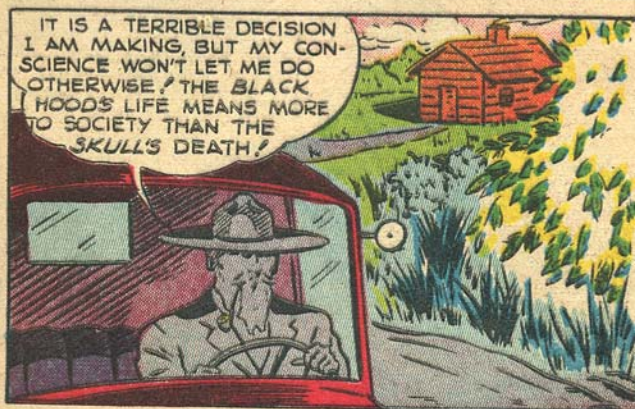
PERHAPS WE COULD PREVAIL UPON HIM TO CONFESS.



THE SKULL WOULD NEVER LIFT A HELPING HAND FOR ANY MAN EVEN IF HIS SOUL'S SALVATION DEPENDED ON IT! (YAWN) I'M MORE TIRED THAN I REALIZED!



THERE IS A WAY TO GET THE SKULL TO EXONERATE KIP BURLAND! THE HOOD WOULD NEVER CONSENT TO IT... BUT I'M GOING TO DO IT, ANYWAY! IT WAS I, WHO TOOK IN KIP BURLAND AND MADE HIM BECOME THE BLACK HOOD, AND I'M NOT GOING TO SEE HIM RAILROADED BEHIND BARS!



IT IS A TERRIBLE DECISION I AM MAKING, BUT MY CONSCIENCE WON'T LET ME DO OTHERWISE! THE BLACK HOOD'S LIFE MEANS MORE TO SOCIETY THAN THE SKULL'S DEATH!



LATER....

HO HUM! MUST HAVE DOZED OFF, HERMIT?... OH, HERMIT! WHERE ARE YOU?



THAT'S FUNNY! HE'S GONE... WHAT'S THAT ON THE TABLE! LOOKS LIKE A NOTE!



Hood:
I've gone to the prison to drive to bargain with the skull - a confession that will exonerate you and in turn will allow him an opportunity to escape. My plan is that you will catch him as soon as he set foot out of the jail. I've set a rogue as black-hearted as you as the skull's traveling salesman. He would be jolly. Hurry, Hood!
Newman



QUICK AS THOUGHT, THE DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE SETS OUT FOR THE JAIL....

THE HERMIT'S MAD TO THINK HE CAN HOODWINK THE SKULL! I MUST TRY TO STOP HIM! PRAY GOD I'M NOT TOO LATE!

WHILE AT THAT MOMENT...



THIS WAY, MISTER! YOU CAN'T VISIT HIM FOR MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES!

HERMIT, CONFOUND YOUR NERVE, YOU AND THE BLACK HOOD ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY CAPTURE! IF I WEREN'T IN CHAINS, I'D THROTTLE YOU!



EASY, SKULL! I CAME HERE TO HELP YOU ESCAPE!

WHAT? YOU HELP ME ESCAPE? YOU DARE TO MOCK ME? THE SKULL? I'M SERIOUS, SKULL I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE IF YOU'LL SIGN A CONFESSION I'VE GOT HERE IN MY POCKET, EXONERATING KIP BURLAND!



NOW, HERE'S MY PLAN! WE'LL CHANGE CLOTHING... THEN I'LL GET INTO YOUR COAT AND PULL THE BLANKET OVER MY HEAD SO THAT I WON'T BE RECOGNIZED! I HAVE A SKELETON KEY THAT WILL UNLOCK YOUR SHACKLES!

HMM... VERY NEAT... AND THEY'LL LET ME OUT, THINKING I'M YOU!



THERE HERMIT IS MY SIGNED CONFESSION, BUT FIRST, GET THESE CHAINS OFF ME!



WHEN THE HERMIT UNLOCKS THE CHAINS...

TAKE THAT! YOU FOOL!

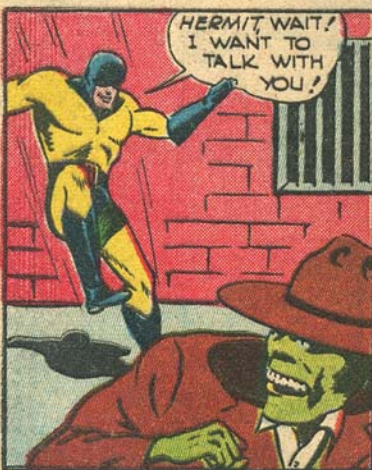


YOU REALLY THOUGHT I WOULD KEEP MY PART OF THE BARGAIN, EH? YOU'LL NEVER COMMIT THAT FOLLY AGAIN!

AARRGH!



SO YOU WISH TO POSE AS THE SKULL? VERY WELL, I'LL MAKE A PERFECT JOB OF IT! A MILD INJECTION OF MY POISON AND...





CONFOUND IT! A POLICE CAR! I MUST FLEE!



WHAT GOES ON HERE?

IT'S THE BLACK HOOD! WHAT'S THAT GUY UP TO NOW?

OOO!



WHO WAS THAT OTHER GUY WITH YOU? COME CLEAN, HOOD!

IT WAS THE SKULL! HE'S ESCAPED!

THE SKULL ESCAPED? HEY, WHAT KINDA GAG ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL?



IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO CHECK ON IT! JUST TAKE A LOOK IN HIS CELL!

THAT'S JUST WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO, AND YOU'RE COMIN' WITH US!



WE CAUGHT HIM SKULKIN' OUTSIDE WARDEN! HE CLAIMS THE SKULL'S ESCAPED!

WHAT?



FRANKLY I THINK YOU'RE LYING, HOOD! A FLY COULDN'T GET OUT OF THE CELL WE LOCKED THE SKULL IN!

MAYBE A FLY CAN'T, BUT THE SKULL DID!



THE SKULL! WHERE IS HE, GUARD?

THERE HE IS LYING ON THE BED WARDEN!



HE'S OUT COLD! I GUESS BEIN' SO CLOSE TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR TOOK SOME STARCH OUT OF THE GREAT SKULL!

BY HEAVENS! THAT'S NOT THE SKULL I TELL YOU!



HEY, YOU! STOP THAT!

THIS DRUG WILL COUNTERACT THE SKULL'S POISON!



GET AWAY FROM HIM! YOU MUST BE DAFFY TO TRY 'N KILL THE SKULL! THE STATE'S GONNA DO THAT IN A COUPLA HOURS!

YOU DOPE, THAT'S NOT THE SKULL, I TELL YOU! IT'S THE HERMIT! I'M TRYING TO SAVE HIS LIFE!



LOCK HIM UP, MEN! WE'LL HOLD HIM FOR MENTAL OBSERVATION IF NOTHING ELSE!



I THOUGHT YOU WERE A SMART GUY, HOOD. WHY YOU'RE DAFFIER THAN A BED BUG, INSIDE WITH YOU!

YEAH, WE'LL BRING YOU A UNIFORM AND LET YOU PLAY NAPOLEON!



NO SOAP GENTS, I PREFER THIS KIND OF A GAME!



SORRY TO BE SO ROUGH, BUT YOU FORCED ME TO IT!



WHAT IN... THE BLACK HOOD?

SHOOT HIM, MEN! HE'S A MANIAC!



CRASH



I'LL BE A MONKEY'S UNCLE, WHERE COULD HE HAVE DISAPPEARED TO?

NOT A SIGN OF HIM!



LATER...

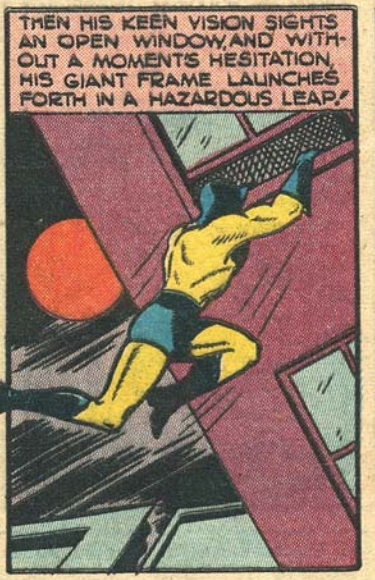
THE COAST IS CLEAR, I'D BETTER MAKE MY BREAK NOW!



UNLESS I ACT FAST, THE HERMIT WILL DIE IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR, THE GOVERNOR'S APARTMENT IS NEARBY, I'LL GO SEE HIM!



RUNNING WITH THE SPEED OF AN ANTELOPE, THE DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE ARRIVES AT THE GOVERNOR'S HOUSE, AND SCALES THE BUILDING AS EASILY AS THOUGH IT WERE A TOY-HOUSE...



THEN HIS KEEN VISION SIGHTS AN OPEN WINDOW, AND WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION, HIS GIANT FRAME LAUNCHES FORTH IN A HAZARDOUS LEAP!



THE BLACK HOOD, HOW... WHA...

SORRY TO ENTER SO ABRUPTLY, MR. GOVERNOR, BUT IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!



THE BLACK HOOD RELATES THE ENTIRE STORY.....

AND SO, MR. GOVERNOR, THE MURDEROUS SKULL IS ONCE AGAIN ON THE LOOSE AND AN INNOCENT MAN IS DOOMED TO DIE IN HIS PLACE!

IT SOUNDS FANTASTIC!



BUT IF THERE IS ANY TRUTH IN WHAT YOU SAY, I SHOULD BE THE LAST ONE TO SEE SUCH AN INJUSTICE DONE, I'LL PHONE IN A REPRIEVE FOR 48 HOURS, THAT SHOULD BE AMPLE TIME TO PRODUCE THE SKULL!



THANK YOU MR. GOVERNOR, I'LL BRING THE SKULL TO YOU IN 48 HOURS OR DIE IN THE ATTEMPT!

LATER AT THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE WHERE BARBARA SUTTON IS EMPLOYED.



WHY, KIP BURLAND!

HIYA, BABS... HELLO, EDITOR TOWNES.



THE BLACK HOOD JUST GAVE ME A STORY THAT'LL FLOOR YOU! THE SKULL'S ESCAPED! HE INJECTED SOME OF HIS VENOM INTO THE HERMIT AND SO THE POLICE DON'T SUSPECT THE TRUTH!

FANTASTIC!



I KNOW ITS HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT YOU MUST, OR AN INNOCENT MAN WILL DIE IN THE CHAIR, AND A MURDERER WILL BE LOOSED ONCE AGAIN ON SOCIETY. NOW, THE HOOD GAVE ME A PLAN, WHICH SOUNDS PRETTY GOOD. HERE IT IS!

KIP RELATES THE PLAN IN DETAIL.



WHAT? I CAN'T PRINT SUCH A STORY! IT MIGHT RUIN THE PAPER!

YOU MUST, TOWNES. THE HOOD HASN'T STEERED US WRONG, YET! WE MUST RISK IT!



OKAY, I'M SOLD! I'LL PROBABLY WIND UP SELLING NEWSPAPERS INSTEAD OF WRITING 'EM... BUT IF ANYTHING COMES OF IT, IT'LL BE THE BIGGEST STORY IN A GENERATION!

THANKS, YOU WON'T REGRET IT!



NEXT DAY.

HERE IT IS, BABS, AND A SWELL JOB, TOO!

WHEW! WHAT A RELIEF!

WUXTRY! SKULL DIES IN ELECTRIC CHAIR!

THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAUSES A FUROR AMONG RIVAL NEWSPAPERS....



YOU FLOPHEADS! WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THIS WAS HAPPENING?



I SWEAR I HUNG AROUND THE DEATH HOUSE, CHIEF! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW THE SKULL COULD HAVE BEEN ELECTROCUTED WITHOUT ME KNOWING IT!

WELL, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND PLENTY, WHEN YOU GET YOUR SALARY CHECK!



WHILE SERGEANT MCGINTY, WHO IS READING THE HEADLINE, REACTS QUITE DIFFERENTLY...

WELL, WELL, SO THE SKULL'S PICKIN' UP DAISIES AT LAST! BOY, THAT'S A FEATHER IN ME CAP! I'M THE GUY WHO NABBED HIM!

HEY! WHAT'S THIS ITEM RIGHT ALONGSIDE THE SKULL STORY?

WITH THE PASSING OF THE SKULL, J. WARREN MADDEN HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL REMOVE HIS PRICELESS ANTIQUES FROM THE VAULT WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN HELD FOR SAFEKEEPING HENCEFORWARD THEY ARE TO BE KEPT IN HIS HOME AT 22 VYSE AVENUE WHERE THEY WILL BE ON DISPLAY.

NO WONDER THERE'RE SO MANY ROBBERIES AROUND! THIS GOOF MADDEN IS FORGETTIN' THE BLACK HOODS STILL ON THE LOOSE!

INCT NO 466

WELL, HE'S GOIN' TO GET POLICE PROTECTION WHETHER HE WANTS TO OR NOT! C'MON, MEN!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE SKULL'S HIDEOUT...

HA, HA, HA! SO THE SKULL IS DEAD! THIS IS YOUR GREATEST HOAX YET, SKULL!

HMM.. WHATS THIS? J. WARREN MADDEN, PRICELESS ANTIQUES.

STRANGE, I NEVER HEARD OF THIS MILLIONAIRE MADDEN, BEFORE! SOMETHING VERY PECULIAR ABOUT THIS.. BUT IT'S WORTHWHILE LOOKING INTO!

WHILE AT THE MADDEN ESTATE..

WELL, HERE WE ARE MEN! LET'S GO IN!

MR. MADDEN! HEY, MR. MADDEN! IS SOMEBODY HERE? IS ANYBODY HERE?

STRANGE! THE HOUSE SEEMS TO BE DESERTED!

HOW YA LIKE THAT FOR A MUTTON HEAD? HAS A HOUSE FULL OF STUFF THAT'LL BRING THE CROOKS LIKE PLEAS AROUND A DEAD HORSE...AND THEN, WALKS OUT AS NICE AS YOU PLEASE WITH NO-BODY AROUND TO WATCH IT!

MAYBE ONE OF THOSE EG-CENTRIC MILLIONAIRES, SARGE!

SCATTER AROUND THE GROUNDS! WE'RE GOIN' TO KEEP GUARD!

THE SKULL ALSO ARRIVES AT THE MADDEN MANSION, AND SEES...

HMM! THE PLACE IS SURROUNDED BY POLICE! I GUESS THERE IS TRUTH TO THE STORY AFTER ALL!

A LITTLE WHILE LATER...

WESTERN TELEGRAPH MESSAGE FOR J. WARREN MADDEN! IS THIS HIS HOUSE?

YEAH..BUT HE'S NOT HOME NOW! JUST LEAVE IT ON HIS TABLE!

OKAY!

HEH, HEH, HOW ABSURDLY SIMPLE IT WAS TO GET PAST THAT MORONIC EXCUSE FOR A POLICEMAN MCGINTY! NOW TO GET THE ANTIQUES!

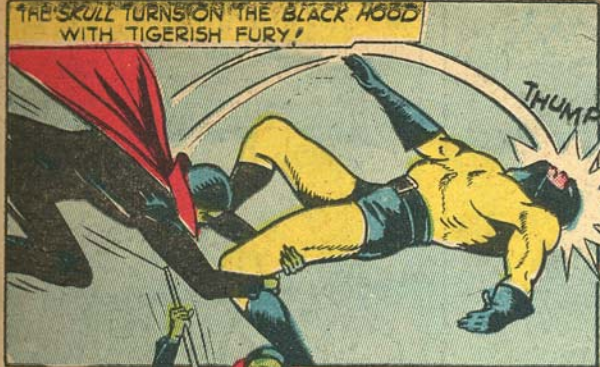
HELLO, SKULL! SO YOU FELL FOR MY TRAP, EH?

THE BLACK HOOD!

I KNEW YOUR GREEDY FINGERS WOULD ITCH WHEN YOU SAW AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PLUNDER!

DON'T YOU KNOW YET..IT'S NOT POLITE TO TURN YOUR BACK ON COMPANY?

GGF!



WHILE OUTSIDE...
NOT A SIGN OF A CROOK AROUND!
IT'S AS QUIET AS A GRAVEYARD!
I GUESS WE'VE GOT THE SITUATION WELL IN HAND, EH BOYS?

YOU SAID IT, SARGE!



EVEN WHILE MCGINTY SPEAKS, A SCENE WHICH IS A FAR CRY FROM PEACEFUL, TRANSPIRES PRACTICALLY UNDER HIS NOSE....

OOMPH!



BUT I'M PLAYING TRUMPS!



NOW, HOW AM I GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE WITHOUT TANGLING WITH MCGINTY?



JUPITER! IF I DON'T GET THE SKULL TO THE GOVERNOR IN FIFTEEN MINUTES, I'LL BE TOO LATE TO SAVE THE HERMIT!

BARBARA SAID HER UNCLE IS JUST AWAY ON HIS VACATION! MAYBE HE LEFT SOME CLOTHING AROUND. I'M IN LUCK! THERE ARE SOME!



A SHORT WHILE LATER..

ER..AH.. HELLO!

JEEPERS! WHO ARE YOU? WHY DIDN'T YOU ANSWER BEFORE WHEN I CALLED!



I'M J. WARREN MADDEN, AND THIS IS MY WIFE. SHE'S VERY ILL! WE WERE UPSTAIRS AND DIDN'T HEAR YOU! I MUST GET HER TO A DOCTOR IN A HURRY!

TSK, TSK, TOO BAD. HOP INTO MY CAR! I'LL TAKE YOU THERE MYSELF!



I'LL BE RIGHT BACK! YOU GUYS KEEP A SHARP WATCH WHILE I'M GONE!



NOW, WHERE DO WE GO?... TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL?

ER..NO..OUR OWN DOCTOR LIVES ON BARRET STREET! TAKE US THERE PLEASE, AND HURRY!

WHILE THE HOOD SPEEDS TOWARD THE GOVERNORS HOME, THE HERMIT BARELY CONSCIOUS BECAUSE OF THE SKULL'S VENOM IN HIS VEINS, IS MARCHED DOWN THE GRIM, ONE WAY CORRIDOR TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR...



GRAB A LOAD OF THE BIG, BAD SKULL MAC! HE KIN HARDLY WALK!

YEAH! ALL THESE TOUGH GUYS GET RUBBER IN THEIR LEGS, WHEN THEY WALK DOWN THE LAST MILE!



WELL HERE WE ARE!... THANKS A MILLION, SARGE!

THAT'S OKAY. SAY YOUR DOCTOR LIVES IN A SWANKY PLACE ALL RIGHTS..A REAL GOVERNOR'S MANSION, HA, HA!



I'LL WAIT RIGHT HERE FOR YOU, MR. MADDEN, AND TAKE YOU BACK HOME!

ALL RIGHT, SERGEANT!

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I WAS EVER GLAD ABOUT MCGINTY'S DUMBNESS!



SWIFTLY SHEDDING HIS DISGUISE, THE HOOD BURSTS INTO THE GOVERNOR'S ROOM...

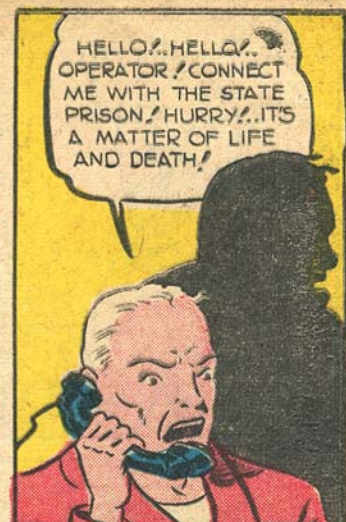
THE BLACK HOOD! HOW... WHA...

HELLO MR. GOVERNOR! I'VE BROUGHT YOU THE PROOF!



HERE HE IS, THE REAL SKULL! YOU'VE GOT TO CALL UP AND SAVE THE HERMIT! THERE ISN'T A SECOND TO SPARE!

IT...IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!



HELLO...HELLO... OPERATOR! CONNECT ME WITH THE STATE PRISON! HURRY! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!



WILL THE GOVERNOR'S PARDON ARRIVE TOO LATE?

ANOTHER THIRTY SECONDS AND I TURN ON THE JUICE!



STOP! DON'T PULL THE SWITCH!

WHAT IN...



BACK AT THE GOVERNOR'S HOME...

I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR, BUT IF YOU'RE SERGEANT MCGINTY, THE GOVERNOR WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU!

SURE SURE! ER...WHAT'S THAT?



THE GOVERNOR DID YOU SAY?... WHAT IS THIS, A GAG?

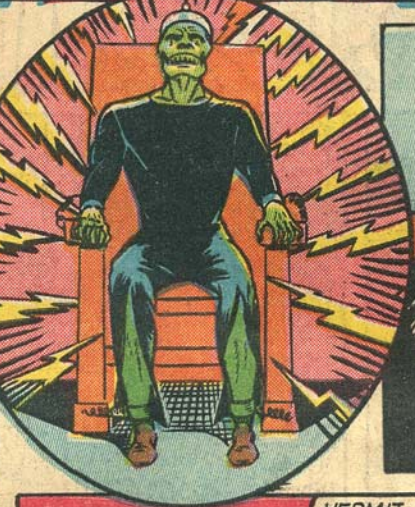


HOLY SMOKES! IT REALLY IS THE GOVERNOR! BY THE BLARNEY STONE! YOU...HOW'D YOU GET HERE?



GOVERNOR! THAT'S THE SKULL! HOW'D HE ESCAPE? HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!

DIDN'T YOU KNOW? THE BLACK HOOD TOLD ME YOU WERE IN ON HIS PLAN!



THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE GRIND SLOW BUT SURE. THE IRONIC TABLEAU OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST FORCE FOR LAW AND ORDER BEING HIMSELF WANTED BY THE LAW IS NO MORE. BUT FATE, THAT MASTER JESTER, HAS YET ANOTHER QUIRK IN STORE FOR THE DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE. AND THE BLACK HOOD, DESPITE HIS NEW FOUND LIBERTY, MEETS HIS SEVEREST TASK- AS THE MIST STEPS INTO THE SCENE IN NEXT MONTH'S...

TOP NOTCH COMICS!

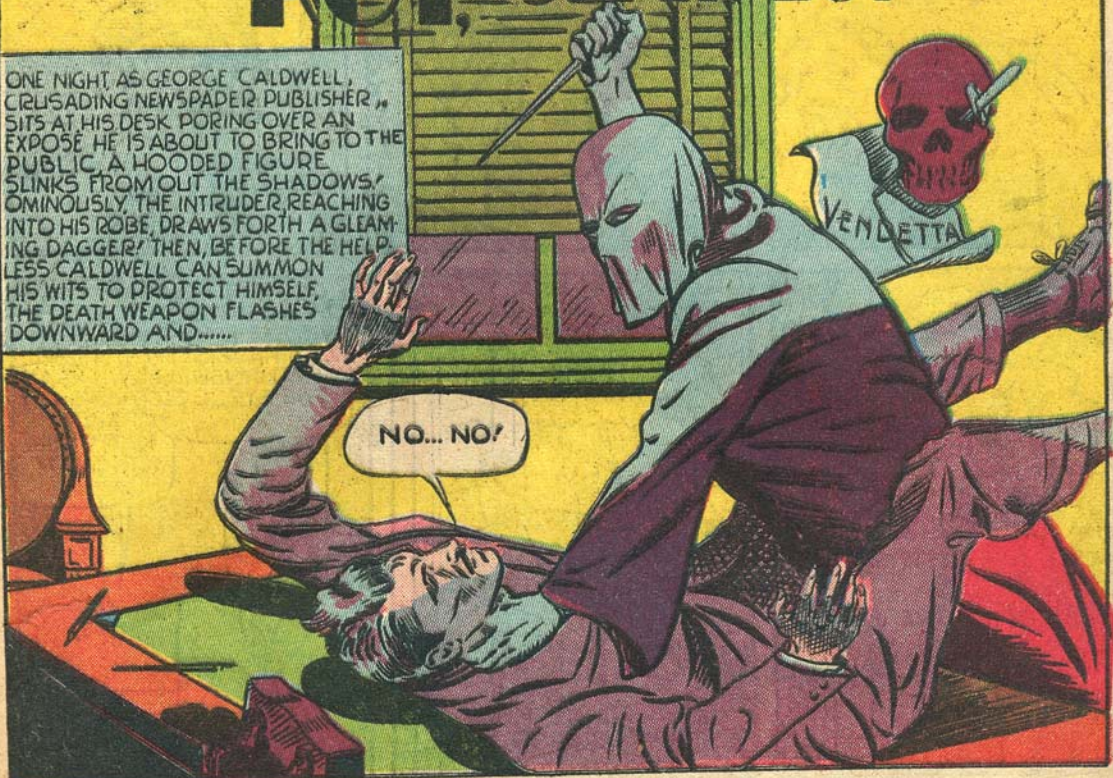
IT WAS THE ONLY THING TO DO!!! THE **BLACK HOOD**, APPEARING MONTHLY IN **TOP-NOTCH COMICS** MET WITH SUCH OVERWHELMING ACCLAIM THAT WE HAD NO CHOICE. WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE PUBLICATION OF A **BLACK HOOD DETECTIVE MAGAZINE** FEATURING THE **DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE** IN A COMPLETE BOOK LENGTH NOVEL, ALONG WITH OTHER UNIQUE, BLOOD-CHILLING STORIES. YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS THE THRILL-SHOT YARN THAT'S IN STORE FOR YOU IN HIS INITIAL NOVEL...AND EVERYONE TO COME. **LOOK FOR BLACK HOOD DETECTIVE MAGAZINE!... ONLY 10¢... ON SALE AT ALL NEWSSTANDS !!**

The

WIZARD

with **ROY** the **SUPER-BOY**

ONE NIGHT, AS GEORGE CALDWELL, CRUSADING NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER, SITS AT HIS DESK PORING OVER AN EXPOSE HE IS ABOUT TO BRING TO THE PUBLIC, A HOODED FIGURE SLINKS FROM OUT THE SHADOWS, OMINOUSLY, THE INTRUDER, REACHING INTO HIS ROBE, DRAWS FORTH A GLEAMING DAGGER. THEN, BEFORE THE HELPLESS CALDWELL CAN SUMMON HIS WITS TO PROTECT HIMSELF, THE DEATH WEAPON FLASHES DOWNWARD AND.....



LATER THAT SAME NIGHT

CALDWELL WAS MURDERED, EH, JANE?

YES BLANE, AS SOON AS I GOT THE NEWS I CALLED YOU!



JANE BLANE AND ROY SOON ARRIVE AT THE SCENE OF THE MURDER



LIEUTENANT CARSON, THIS IS MY BOSS, BLANE WHITNEY?

GLAD TO MEET YOU LIEUTENANT! MANY CLUES, PLENTY!

I KNOW EXACTLY WHO KILLED CALDWELL!



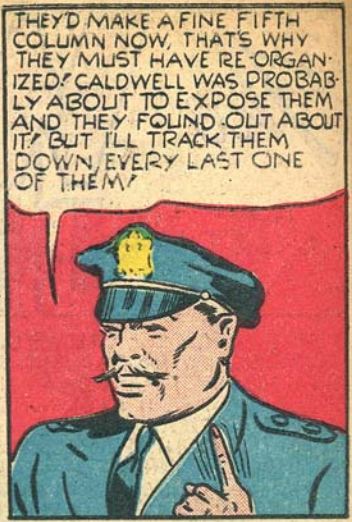


SEE THAT SKULL AND DAGGER? THAT'S THE VENDETTA SIGN OF THE PURPLE MAFIA!



THE PURPLE MAFIA! THATS THAT TERRORISTIC FOREIGN ORGANIZATION, ISNT IT?

TERRORISTIC IS RIGHT! THEYRE A PACK OF KILLERS! THEY WERE CLEANED UP ONCE BEFORE YEARS AGO!



THEYD MAKE A FINE FIFTH COLUMN NOW, THATS WHY THEY MUST HAVE RE-ORGANIZED! CALDWELL WAS PROBABLY ABOUT TO EXPOSE THEM AND THEY FOUL OUT ABOUT IT! BUT ILL TRACK THEM DOWN, EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM!



HERES AN INTERESTING CLIE CARSON SEEMS TO HAVE MISSED! ILL HAVE A LOOK AT IT IN PRIVATE!



HMM! WONDER WHAT IT WAS BLANE SNEAKED INTO HIS POCKET! HE'S ACTING SUSPICIOUS! I THINK I'LL SEE WHAT HE'S LIP TO!



LOOK WHAT I FOUND ROY! A BOTTLE OF INVISIBLE INK! IT MUST HAVE BEEN OVERTURNED IN THE STRUGGLE! WHAT A NEWS-PAPER MAN'D WANT WITH THAT!



JUST THEN, JANE COMES UP AND LEAVES DROPS. MY HUNCH IS THAT CALDWELL TRIED TO WRITE A MESSAGE ABOUT HIS KILLER, MAYBE ON HIS OWN BODY!



MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING TO BLANE'S HUNCH! IF THERE IS IM NOT GOING TO MISS UP ON IT! IT MIGHT BE THE SCOOP OF THE YEAR! I'LL GET MOE, THE CAB DRIVER, TO HELP ME!

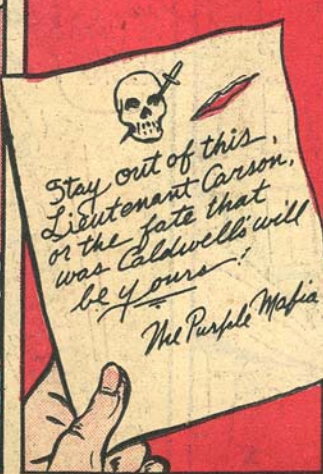


MEANWHILE BLANE REJOINS THE POLICE AND...

THAT KNIFE ALMOST FINISHED YOU OFF, WHITNEY; WHAT'S THIS TACKED ON IT? LOOKS LIKE A NOTE!



Stay out of this, Lieutenant Carson, or the fate that was Caldwell's will be yours!
The Purple Mafia



WELL, THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THE PURPLE MAFIA NOW! IF THEY THINK FOR A MINUTE THAT THEY CAN SCARE ME OFF, THEY'RE CRAZY, I'M GOING THROUGH WITH THE INVESTIGATION!



IN THE MEANTIME, BLANE AND ROY HAVE SLIPPED INTO THE NEXT ROOM. A LIGHTNING-LIKE CHANGE, AND THE WIZARD AND ROY, THE SUPER BOY, FLASH FORTH IN PURSUIT OF THE KNIFE-THROWER!



NO USE MY CHASING ALONG, THE WIZARD'LL CATCH HIM IN NO TIME! I'LL GO TO THE MORGUE AND FOLLOW UP HIS CLUE ON THAT INVISIBLE MESSAGE!



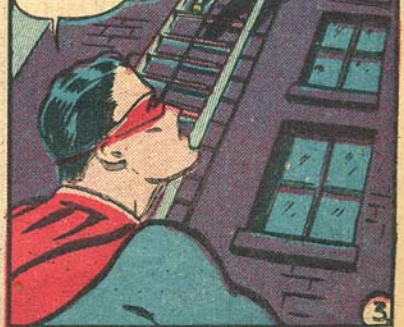
WELL, LOOKS LIKE I'VE CORNERED HIM IN THIS ALLEY!



PANIC-STRICKEN, THE KNIFE-THROWER TRIES TO FLEE UP A FIRE ESCAPE!



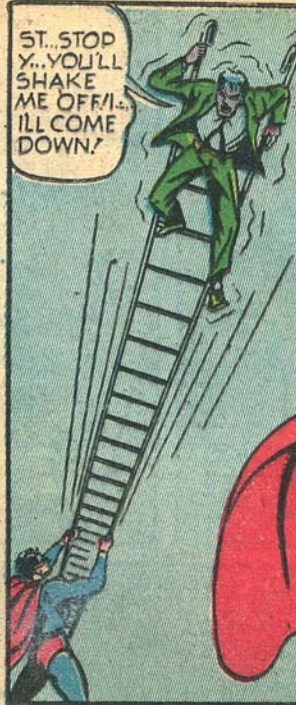
HMMM! I THINK I KNOW HOW TO GET HIM DOWN IN A HURRY!



A SLIGHT WRENCH AND THE LADDER IS TORN FROM ITS FASTENINGS!

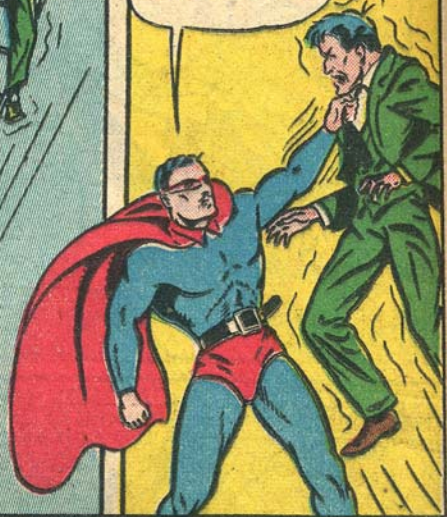


ST...STOP Y..YOU'LL SHAKE ME OFF!... I'LL COME DOWN!



ALL RIGHT NOW GIVE OUT... OR YOU'LL WISH I HAD SHAKEN YOU OFF THE LADDER! WHO'S BEHIND THE PURPLE MAFIA?

...I'LL TELL EVERYTHING



I DON'T KNOW NUTHIN' ABOUT NO PURPLE MAFIA, HONEST! SOME GUY IN A MASK GIMME A FEW BUCKS TO TOSS A KNIFE INTO THE ROOM! THAT'S THE TRUTH, SO HELP ME!



THE WIZARD RETURNS TO THE POLICE WITH HIS CAPTIVE!

I'VE BROUGHT YOU A LITTLE CANARY WHO'S WILLING TO DO SOME SINGING!



HE TELLS ME HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE PURPLE MAFIA! THESE RATS ALWAYS PLAY DUMB!



A LITTLE WORKING OVER'LL LOOSEN HIS TONGUE! I'LL HAVE A CONFESSION IN NO TIME!



MEANWHILE! MOE! WHAT ON EARTH IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?

JANE! I'M ALL RIGHT! JUST A LITTLE COLD!



OH, THATS TOO BAD! AND JUST WHEN I NEEDED YOUR HELP BADLY, TOO!

I TOLD YOU I WUZ OKAY, DIDN'T I? ANYTIME I CANT HELP OUT A PAL BECAUSE OF A LITTLE COLD, LET ME KNOW!

THATS FINE! BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO GO TO THE MORGUE WITH ME AND....

THE MORGUE! DID YOU SAY THE MORGUE!

WHY YES... WHO... WHY MOE? WHAT'S THE MATTER?



I... I'M A LOT SICKER THAN I THOUGHT, HONEST I AM!

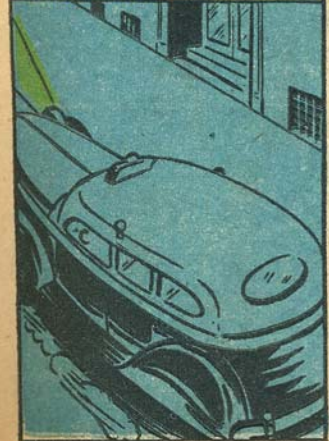
OH, DON'T BE SUCH AN OLD LADY! THERES NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF!

DON'T BOTHER DRESSING, NO TIME FOR THAT! JUST SLIP ON A COAT! AND FOR GOODNESS SAKE, STOP SUCKING ON THAT LEMON!



UMPH! GLUB! UGGH!

SPEEDILY, MOE AND JANE ARRIVE AT THE MORGUE IN HIS CAB!



GIVE ME A BOOST UP, MOE! THE FRONT DOORS LOCKED!

GLUG! UGGLE!

INSIDE, JANE PLAYS THE FLASHLIGHT BEAM, IN AN EFFORT TO LOCATE THE NEWLY ARRIVED CORPSE OF CALDWELL!





THIS IS THE BODY MOE! DICK UP THE SHEET! LOOK AT THE LEFT ARM! THAT'S THE MOST LIKELY PLACE FOR A MESSAGE TO BE WRITTEN!

G... GEE... I D... DONT LIKE IT, JANE!



OKAY? HERE IT IS?

STOP SHAKING LIKE A LEAF MOE, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF HMM... I CAN'T SEE ANY MESSAGE!



MOE! BE CAREFUL! YOU'RE SQUIRTING LEMON JUICE ALL OVER ME!
G... GOLLY! I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I WUZ HOLDIN' IT!



BUT BEFORE THE TWO CAN NOTICE IT...

UMPH!



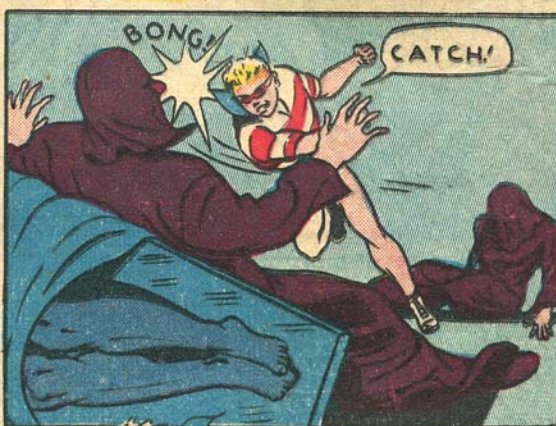
KILL HER BEFORE SHE MAKES AN OUTCRY! AND THE OTHER, ONE TOO

THE LEMON JUICE, SPURTING ON THE CORPSE'S ARM, BRINGS UP THE INVISIBLE INK MESSAGE.



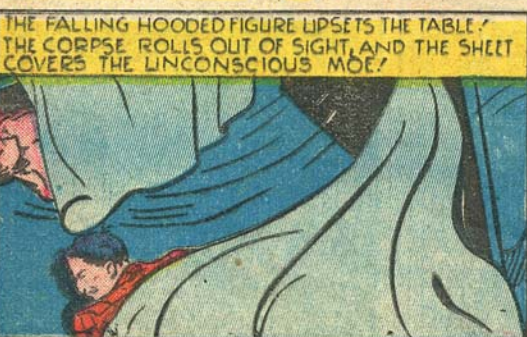
OOOOP!

JUST AS THE HOODED FIGURE IS ABOUT TO MAKE HIS DEADLY THRUST!

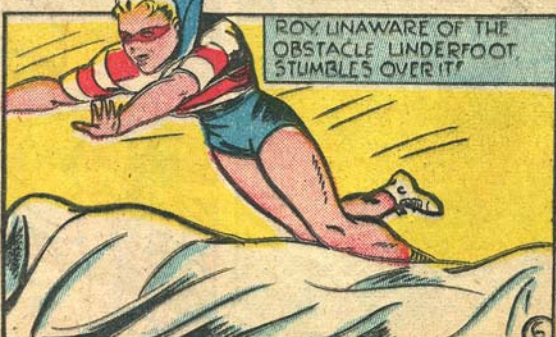


BONG!

CATCH!



THE FALLING HOODED FIGURE UPSETS THE TABLE! THE CORPSE ROLLS OUT OF SIGHT, AND THE SHEET COVERS THE LINCONSCIOUS MOE!



ROY LINAWARE OF THE OBSTACLE UNDERFOOT, STUMBLES OVER IT!



AND...
GOT YOU!

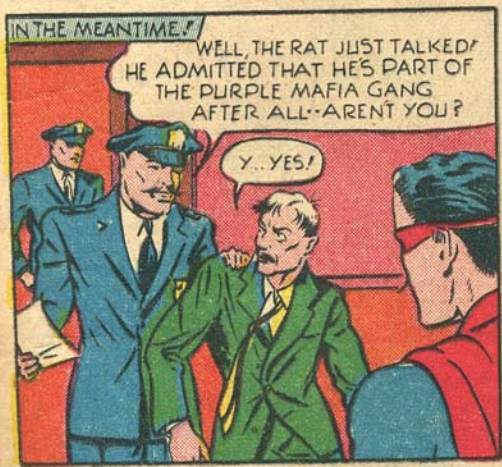
BOB!



WAIT! DON'T KILL HER! OUR LEADER MAY WANT TO KNOW JUST HOW MANY SUSPECT SOMETHING! YOU TWO GET CALDWELL'S BODY!



THE HOODED MEN MISTAKENLY TAKE MOE!
ALL RIGHT! GET MOVING! AND DON'T START TROUBLE! I MIGHT CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT LETTING YOU LIVE!



IN THE MEANTIME!
WELL, THE RAT JUST TALKED! HE ADMITTED THAT HE'S PART OF THE PURPLE MAFIA GANG AFTER ALL--AREN'T YOU?

Y.. YES!



I SEEM TO BE UP A DEAD-END HERE! ONLY THING FOR ME TO DO IS TO FOLLOW UP MY INVISIBLE INK CLUE!



OFF THE WIZARD SPEEDS TOWARD THE MORGUE!



AND ARRIVES IN A SHORT-WHILE!

CRASH!
WHAT GOES ON! LOOKS LIKE A CYCLONE HIT THIS PLACE!



AFTER A SEARCH!

I'LL BE! CALDWELL'S BODY IS MISSING! WHAT'S THAT! A PAIR OF FEET!



IT'S CALDWELL! HOWD HIS BODY GET IN THERE? GREAT GHOSTS! HIS ARM! THERES SOMETHING WRITTEN ON IT!
--MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT!



THE MURDERER'S NAME WAS WRITTEN ON CALDWELL'S ARM AND I'M GOING TO GET HIM NOW!



WHILE IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PURPLE MAFIA!

HERE COMES OUR LEADER, NOW!

I SEE YOU HAVE THE BODY GOOD, BUT THOSE OTHER TWO, WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?



THEY WERE ALSO LOOKING FOR CALDWELL'S BODY. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK THEM SOME QUESTIONS!



NO! THEY CAN'T POSSIBLY KNOW ANYTHING! KILL THEM NOW!

ALL RIGHT!



IT'S A SLIM CHANCE BUT IF THE WIZARD IS NEARBY, HIS SUPER-BRAIN MAY PICK UP MY CALL FOR HELP IN TIME!



ROY'S PLAN SUCCEEDS - PARTIALLY!

I HEAR A CRY. IT'S ROY! HE'S IN TROUBLE. I'LL CALL UP A VISION!



JUPITER! JANE AND ROY!

THEY'RE ABOUT TO BE KILLED, AND IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME TO SAVE THEM!



WHAT'S THAT! SOMEBODY WITH A SHEET OVER HIM IS SITTING UP AND SCARING THOSE BIRDS SILLY!



I DON'T KNOW WHO'S UNDER THAT SHEET, BUT HE'S GIVEN ME TIME TO RESCUE THEM!



WHY IS EVERYBODY RUNNING AWAY!

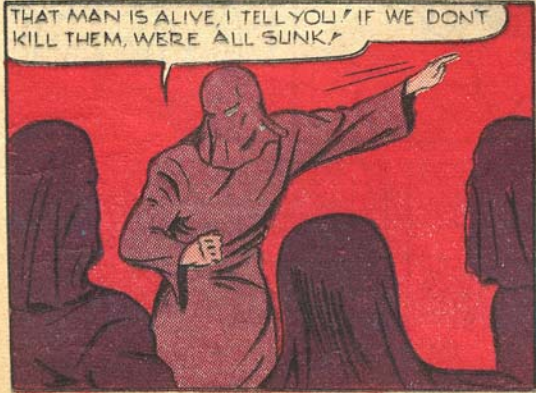
BALLS OF FIRE / IT'S MOE / QUICK LINTIE ME BEFORE THOSE GUYS COME BACK!

YOU COWARDLY FOOLS / COME BACK / IT'S A HOAX!



HOW'D YOU GET THESE ROPES ON YOU?

I WAS PLAYING SKID THE ROPE, AND GOT ALL TANGLED UP! COME ON, DONT ASK QUESTIONS!



THAT MAN IS ALIVE, I TELL YOU! IF WE DONT KILL THEM, WERE ALL SUNK!



YOU'RE ALL SUNK ANYWAY, YOU'LL WALKING BED SHEETS!

JUST THEN, THE WIZARD ARRIVES ON THE SCENE!



AND IMMEDIATELY SWINGS INTO ACTION!



THE LEADER OF THE PURPLE MAFIA, SLIPS OUT IN THE CONFUSION!



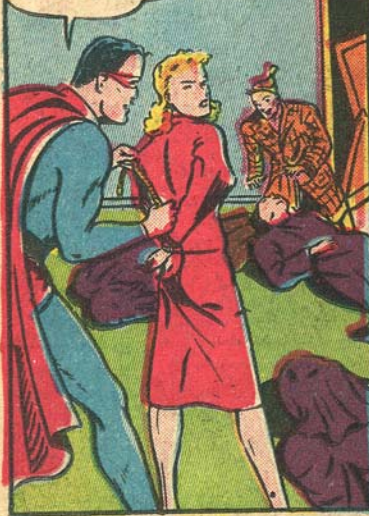
BUT...



THOUGHT I DIDN'T SEE YOU, EH?

UGH!

NOW TO UNTIE YOU! I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY MORE FIGHT LEFT IN 'EM!



THE WIZARD UNMASKS THE GANG! GOOD HEAVENS! YES! THOSE ARE THE MOST NOTORIOUS GANGSTERS IN THE CITY! SO THEY'RE THE PURPLE MAFIA GANG?

HMM! JUST AS I THOUGHT! RECOGNIZE ANY OF THEM, JANE?



NO! THERE IS NO PURPLE MAFIA, JUST THIS GANG OF BIG SHOT CROOKS HEADED BY LIEUTENANT CARSON! CALDWELL GOT WISE TO HIM, SO CARSON KILLED HIM AND MANUFACTURED THAT MAFIA BUSINESS TO THROW US OFF!

BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS?

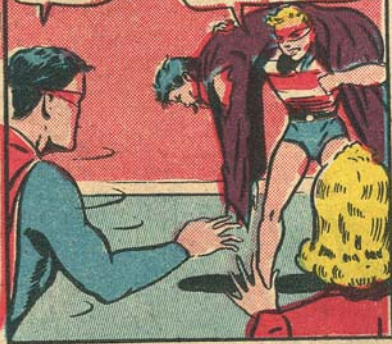


CALDWELL MUST HAVE SEEN HIS KILLERS COMING AND SCRIBBLED CARSON'S NAME ON HIS ARM! THE INVISIBLE INK CAME UP WHEN SOMEBODY SQUIRTED LEMON JUICE ON IT! I WENT TO THE POLICE AND TOLD THEM TO FOLLOW ME HERE! THEY'RE PROBABLY ON THEIR WAY NOW!



ROY! HE'S GOT THE LEADER! LIEUT CARSON!

HE WAS TRYIN' TO COP A SNEAK WIZARD, OUT THE BACK DOOR!



HERE COME THE POLICE NOW! I GUESS OUR JOBS DONE! SO LONG!



NEXT DAY

Daily CRONICLE
EXTRA! BIGGEST CRIME SYNDICATE IN THE CITY'S HISTORY ROUNDED UP BY WIZARD!
 AUTHORITIES ASTONISHED WHEN LIEUT. CARSON FOUND LEADER OF CRIME SYNDICATE...
 ALL

THERE'S A SCOOP THAT'LL SELL A MILLION PAPERS FOR YOU BLANE!
 OH! OH! THAT SOUNDS LIKE I'M BEING TAPPED FOR A RAISE!
 SHE DESERVES IT MR. WHITNEY!



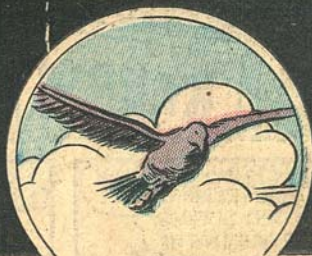
NO, I'M NOT GOING TO ASK FOR A RAISE! BUT I SUGGEST YOU GET THE WIZARD AND GIVE HIM ONE, HE DOES ALL YOUR WORK ANYWAY.
 (HMM! MAYBE I OUGHT TO PUT HIM ON THE PAYROLL AT THAT, EH ROY?)



THE ORIGINAL SHIELD AND DUSTY THE BOY DETECTIVE APPEAR ONLY IN PEP comics AND SHIELD-WIZARD comics

Fran FRAZER

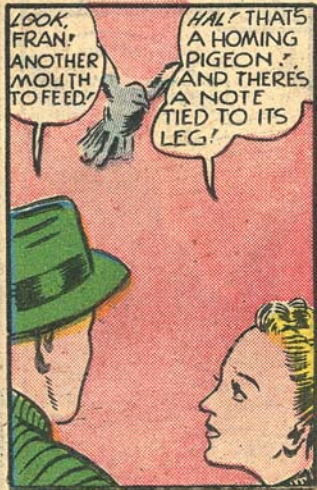
IN A HOTEL ROOM IN SINGAPORE HOT-BED OF JAPANESE INTRIGUE A HIGH POWERED TELESCOPE IS TRAINED ON A BIRD IN FLIGHT AND THE OCCUPANTS OF THE ROOM SIT TENSELY AS THE BIRD WINGS ITS WAY TOWARD THE OCEAN!



'IS WOE 'IS MUCH WOE.' OUR PIGEON IS DESCENDING. WE MUST FOLLOW AND RETRIEVE BEFORE HOSTILE EYES CAN SEE.'



AT THAT MOMENT, FRAN FRAZER AND HAL-DAVIS ARE IN THE PARK FEEDING PIGEONS.



LOOK, FRAN! ANOTHER MOUTH TO FEED!

HAL! THAT'S A HOMING PIGEON? AND THERE'S A NOTE TIED TO ITS LEG!

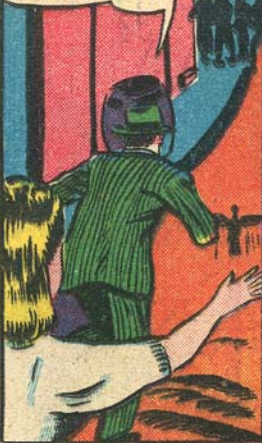
HERE LITTLE BIRDIE? COME TO POPPA! NICE SIX COURSE DINNER TODAY, FREE FOR PIGEONS.



HAL REACHES OUT GRABS AT A WING BUT THE PIGEON FLUTTERS FROM HIS GRASP!



I MUST HAVE DAMAGED ITS WING! IT CAN'T FLY, I'LL CATCH IT!



DANG NAB THAT ORNERY PIGEON IT WOULD LOSE ITSELF IN A CROWD!



WHEW! GETTING THROUGH THAT MOB REMINDED ME OF MY OLD SUBWAY DAYS BACK IN THE STATES!



THE CHASE CONTINUES....



NOW, WHERE'D THAT BIRD GO? AH, HERE HE IS! 'OODS!

HOW'D THAT FENCE GET UNDER MY FOOT? HAL! THE PIGEON! WE'VE CORNERED IT BY THE LAKE!



GOTCHA NOW!

HAL DIVES AT THE ELUSIVE PIGEON AND...

HIS MOMENTUM CARRIES HIM INTO THE LAKE!



YEEOW!



A FINE TIME TO GO SWIMMING! NEVER MIND THE WISE CRACKS! COME OUT OF THERE!



YOU WERE RIGHT FRAN! IT'S A MESSAGE ALL RIGHT!



WHAT'S IT SAY, HAL?

DRAT THE LUCK! IT'S WRITTEN IN JAPANESE!



BUT IT MUST BE IMPORTANT, OR A HOMING PIGEON WOULDN'T BE CARRYING IT!

日 洲 秘 入 渡
命 森 國 一



AND IF IT IS, LITTLE GIRL, I'VE GOT ME A SCOOP! AND THIS TIME, YOU'RE NOT HORNING IN! I'LL TAKE IT RIGHT DOWN TO THE OFFICE AND HAVE IT TRANSLATED!



MUCH SORRY TO CHANGE HONORABLE MIND! WILL PLEASE TO HAND OVER MESSAGE!



MUCH SORRY TO CHANGE HONORABLE PROFILE! BUT MUST DO!



KEEP PUNCHING HAL! I'LL HANDLE MY END!

BONG!



HAL IS SUDDENLY CAUGHT OFF GUARD, AND...

BOP!



BETTER GET UP BOY FRIEND! THERE'S A 'KEEP OFF THE GRASS' SIGN AROUND HERE!

OOO! DID YOU GET THE TRUCKS LICENSE NUMBER?

WELL, THEY GOT THE MESSAGE ANYWAY, THIS IS ONE TIME YOU WON'T BEAT ME ON A STORY!

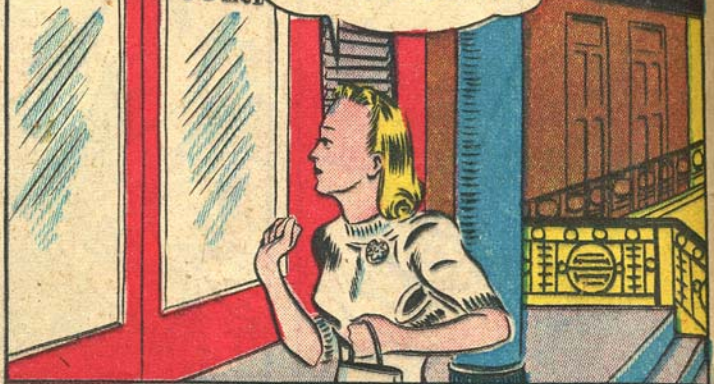
GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT WELL, S'LONG!



SECRET SERVICE

ENGLISH POLICE

I'D LIKE TO SEE HAL'S FACE WHEN THIS COMES THROUGH! WELL ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND THE NEWSPAPER BUSINESS!



NEXT DAY AT HAL'S APARTMENT...



HEY, FRAN, DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST? THE BRITISH ARE SENDING TROOPS TO SINGAPORE! THEY MUST'VE GOT WORD OF SOMETHING, WONDER WHAT?



WHY, HAVEN'T YOU READ THE SPECIAL EDITION OF STRIFE, HAL? TSK, TSK, AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF MY FANS?



DECODED MESSAGE

SEND TROOPS IMMEDIATELY BRITISH FORCE VERY WEAK SINGAPORE CAN BE TAKEN EASILY

日 洲 命 劫 會 國

MESSAGE INTERCEPTED by FRAN

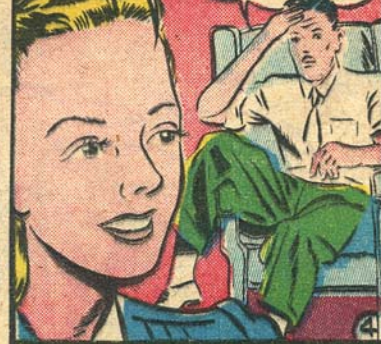
BUT HOW... WHA... WHO...?



THIS LITTLE ORNAMENT IS REALLY A MINIATURE CAMERA! I PHOTOGRAPHED THE MESSAGE BEFORE THEY GRABBED IT?

THE SECRET SERVICE GOT IT. AND THAT WAS THAT!

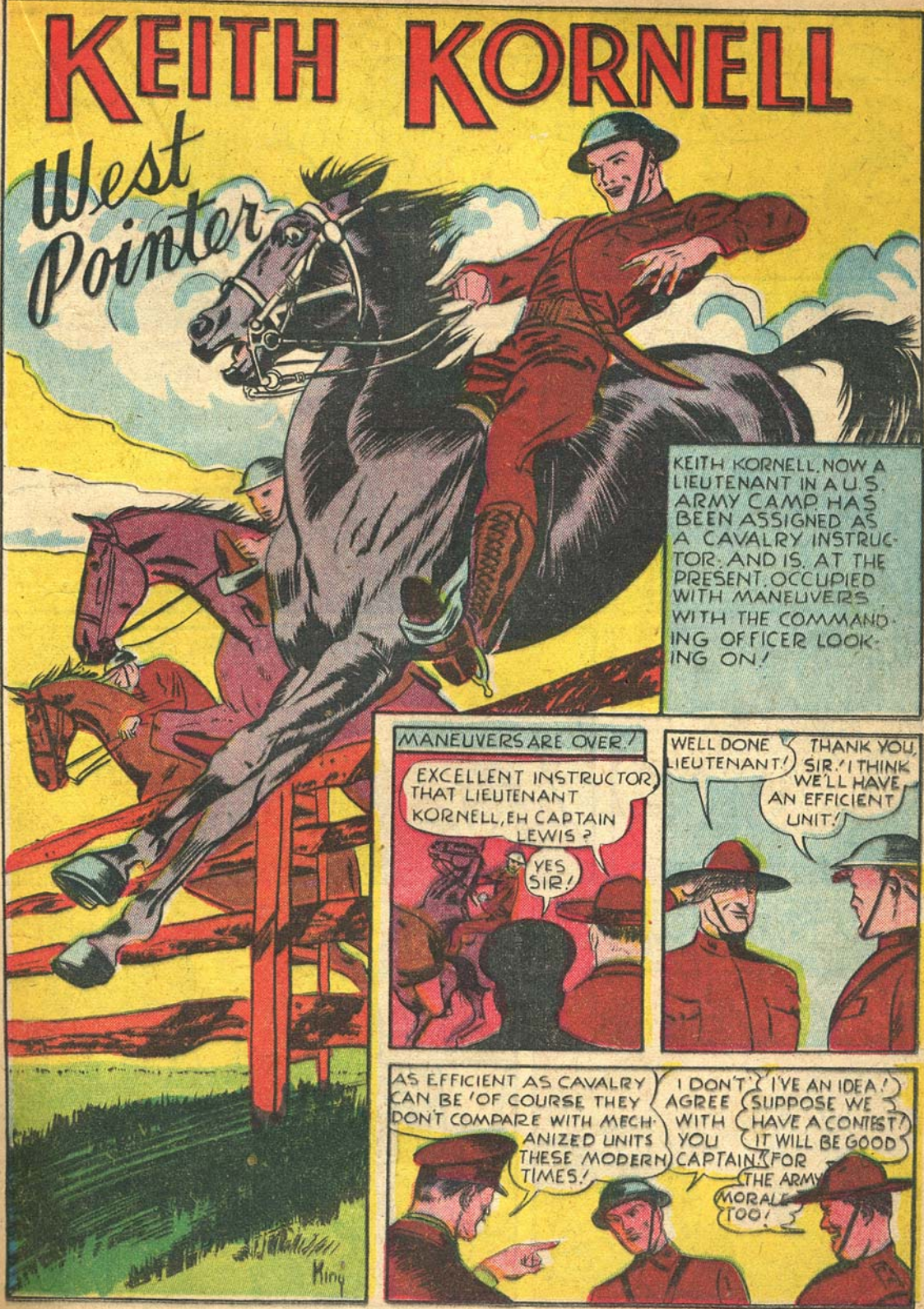
WELL, I'LL BE...!



FOLLOW THE ADVENTURES OF THE SMARTEST NEWSPAPERWOMAN IN THE BUSINESS! FRAN FRAZER IN EVERY ISSUE OF TOP-NOTCH!

KEITH KORNELL

West Pointer



KEITH KORNELL, NOW A LIEUTENANT IN A U.S. ARMY CAMP, HAS BEEN ASSIGNED AS A CAVALRY INSTRUCTOR, AND IS, AT THE PRESENT, OCCUPIED WITH MANEUVERS WITH THE COMMANDING OFFICER LOOKING ON!

MANEUVERS ARE OVER!
 EXCELLENT INSTRUCTOR THAT LIEUTENANT KORNELL, EH CAPTAIN LEWIS?
 YES SIR!

WELL DONE LIEUTENANT!
 THANK YOU, SIR, I THINK WE'LL HAVE AN EFFICIENT UNIT!

AS EFFICIENT AS CAVALRY CAN BE 'OF COURSE THEY DON'T COMPARE WITH MECHANIZED UNITS THESE MODERN TIMES.'
 I DON'T AGREE WITH YOU CAPTAIN!
 I'VE AN IDEA! SUPPOSE WE HAVE A CONTEST! IT WILL BE GOOD FOR THE ARMY MORALE TOO!

King



I'M WILLING IF CAPTAIN LEWIS IS!

YOU BET I AM! SHAKE?



SOON THE ENTIRE CAMP BUZZES WITH EXCITEMENT... AND ARGUMENTS!

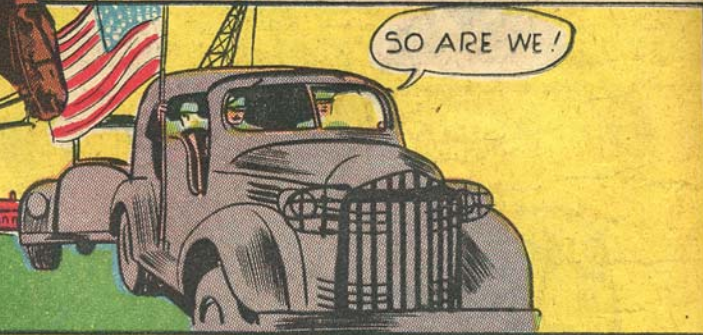
THE CAVALRY'LL WIN IN A WALK, I TELL YA!

YOU'RE NUTS! IT WON'T EVEN BE A RACE!

THE DAY OF THE RACE



I'M READY, SIR!



SO ARE WE!



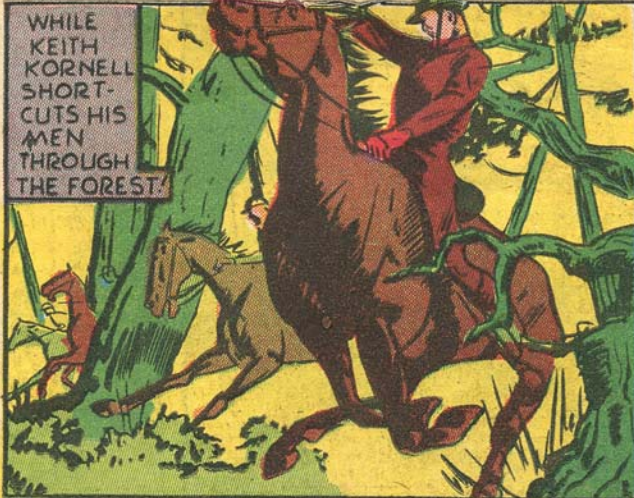
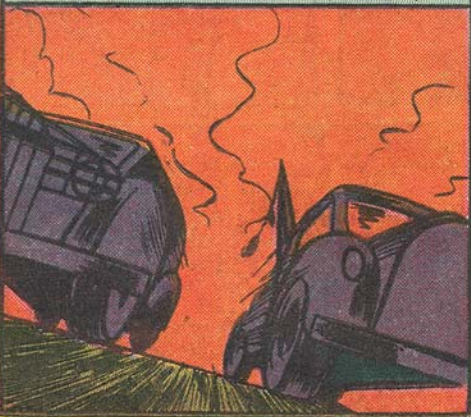
ALL RIGHT, THEN! YOU KNOW THE RULES! THE UNIT THAT REACHES THE CLIFFS OVERLOOKING THE PASS, WINS! ON YOUR MARK! SET!.....



BANG.

THEY'RE OFF!

THE MOTORIZED UNIT IMMEDIATELY TAKES TO THE HIGHWAYS IN A TERRIFIC BURST OF SPEED!



WHILE KEITH KORNELL SHORT-CUTS HIS MEN THROUGH THE FOREST!

HA/HA/AT THIS RATE, WE'LL REACH THE MOUNTAIN PASS IN NO TIME! POOR LIEUTENANT KORNELL, HE REALLY THOUGHT HIS HORSES COULD BEAT US!



JUST THEN...

HEY! THAT MUD AHEAD! WATCH OUT!

I CAN'T STOP THE TRUCK IN TIME, SIR!



IT'S NO USE, CAPTAIN! WE'RE STUCK!



WELL, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THE EMERGENCY REPAIR TRUCK! WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO, SIR! OUR TRUCK IS BOGGED IN ALSO!



AT THAT MOMENT...

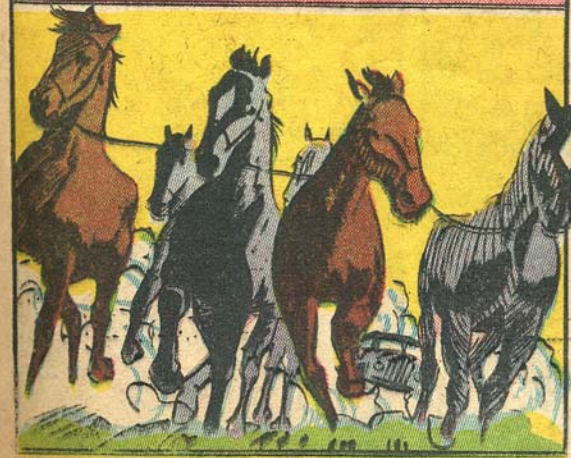
HOLD UP MEN! LOOKS LIKE THE TRUCKS HAVE COME A CROPPER!



BOGGED IN, EH CAPTAIN LEWIS! WELL, WE DON'T WANT TO WIN THAT WAY, SO WE'LL TOW YOU OUT!



KEITH'S MEN DISMOUNT, AND THE HORSES TOW THE TRUCKS ONTO DRY ROAD!



THAT WAS SPORTING OF YOU, LIEUTENANT!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, CAPTAIN! SO LONG!



ONWARD THROUGH THE FORESTS,
THE CAVALRY SPEEDS!



UNTIL



WOW! QUICKSAND!
OUR HORSES
ARE STUCK
IN IT!

KEEP YOUR HORSES
FROM STRUGGLING,
MEN, OR THEY'LL SINK
DEEPER! I'LL RIDE
ONTO THE ROAD AND
SEE IF I CAN INTER-
CEPT THE
TRUCKS!



LATER...



I GOT EM,
MEN!

AND NOT
ANY TOO
SOON!

THE HORSES ARE
QUICKLY RES-
CUED!



WELL CAPTAIN,
THAT EVENS
THE SCORE!
FROM NOW
ON IT'S A
RACE TO
THE FINISH!



AND MAY THE
BEST MEN
WIN!

THAT'LL BE
US CAPTAIN!!!
WE'LL BE WAIT-
ING FOR YOU
THERE!



THAT'S
WHAT
YOU SAY,
BUT
DON'T
BET ON IT!

AFTER SOME HOURS OF
HARD RIDING!



THERE IT
IS BOYS
THE MOUN-
TAIN PASS!

GREAT SCOT! THE TRUCKS ARE ALREADY THERE!... AND THE INFANTRY IS CLIMBING UP THE SLOPES!



COME ON! WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE! OUR HORSES CAN GET UP QUICKER THAN THE MEN CAN CLIMB!



A MAD RACE ENSUES
HOORAY! WE'RE GAINING ON THEM FAST!



THE INFANTRY GAINS THE SUMMIT AT EXACTLY THE SAME MOMENT AS THE HORSES!

IT'S A TIE LIEUTENANT!

YES CAPTAIN, THAT'S ONE FOR THE BOOKS, ALLRIGHT!



CAPTAIN LEWIS AND LIEUTENANT KORNELL, REPORT BACK TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT NOW, SIR!
NO! BUT WE DO KNOW SOMETHING ELSE!



AND THAT IS THAT EACH ARE VERY IMPORTANT APART - BUT MUCH MORE SO TOGETHER, HELPING EACH OTHER, EH MEN!

RIGHT SIR! WORKING TOGETHER, THAT'S WHAT MAKES A REAL ARMY!



THE FIREFLY

IN AN ABANDONED SUBWAY SPUR, A SCIENTIST COMPLETES HIS EXPERIMENTS ON A RARE FORMULA: A SERUM WHICH, WHEN INJECTED INTO THE VEINS OF ANIMALS, CAUSES THEM TO GROW TO HUGE PROPORTIONS. THE DEMONIACAL SCIENTIST SHOUTS IN GLEE AT THE RESULTS OF HIS EXPERIMENT: A RAT AS BIG AS AN ELEPHANT!



NOW TO RELEASE MY CREATION AND OBSERVE ITS EFFECT ON THE CITY.

THE MAMMOTH RODENT LEARS FROM ITS CAGE.....



A FEW BLOCKS AWAY, HARLEY HUDSON IS STROLLING WITH JOAN BURTON...

HOW'D YOU LIKE TO TAKE IN A MOVIE, JOAN?

I'D LOVE TO, HARLEY!

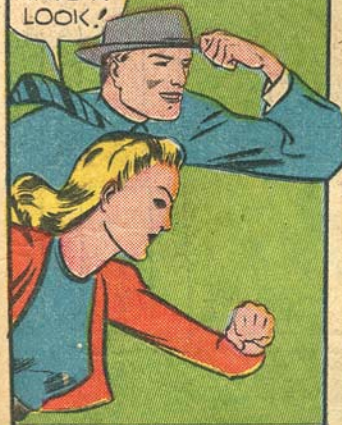


AT THAT INSTANT...

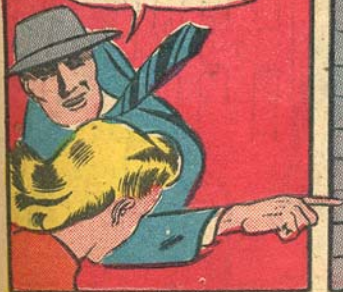


WHAT'S ALL THE RACKET? SOUNDS LIKE A RIOT AROUND THE CORNER!

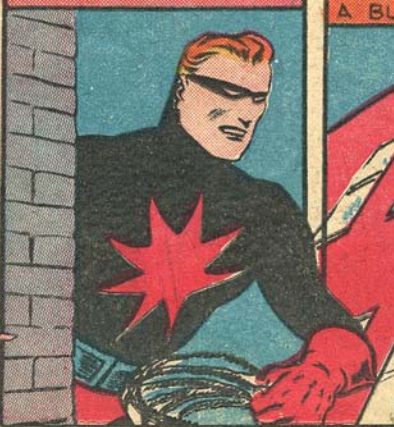
LET'S HAVE A LOOK!



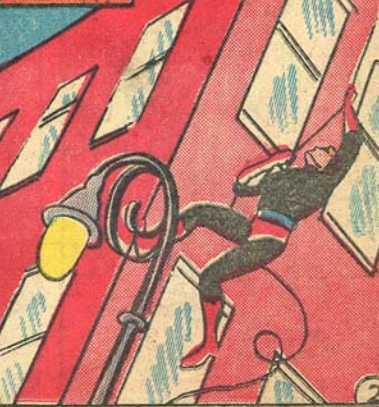
JOAN! LOOK!! TH...THAT THING! IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A HORROR MOVIE!! QUICK!! RUN OVER TO THAT BUILDING WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE!



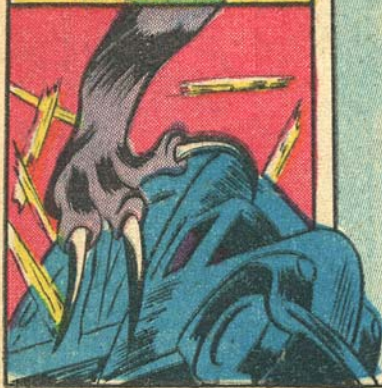
HARLEY HUDSON QUICKLY BECOMES THE FIREFLY...



... AND SWINGS UP THE SIDE OF A BUILDING...



AS THE GIGANTIC RAT ADVANCES UP THE STREET, CRUSHING CARS LIKE MATCH BOXES!



HERE IT COMES! I EITHER GET IT, OR IT GETS ME!



THE RODENT REARS UP ON ITS HIND LEGS, PUZZLED BY THE STRANGE FIGURE ON THE ROOF!



ATTA BOY! HOLD THAT POSE FOR ANOTHER MINUTE!



GOT HIM, BUT I'LL NEVER HOLD HIM, UNLESS...



MAYBE I CAN GET SOME LEVERAGE BY SWINGING THIS ROPE AROUND THE FLAG POLE!



BUT THE THRASHING AND STRUGGLING OF THE WEIRD CREATURE, SNAPS THE POLE LIKE A TOOTHPICK!



WOW! NO TIME TO LOSE, NOW!

LOOPING THE ROPE AROUND A CHIMNEY, THE FIREFLY MAKES A MIGHTY LEAP TO THE ROOF OF AN ADJACENT BUILDING!



I THINK THIS'LL DO IT!



THE SCIENTIST EMERGES FROM HIS UNDERGROUND LABORATORY AND SEES...



WHO DID THIS TO MY CREATION? I'LL HAVE HIS LIFE!



I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHERE THAT THING CAME FROM!

THE FIREFLY RACES DOWN THE STREET...



BUT THE SCIENTIST RELEASES A GIANT CARRIER PIGEON!



HOLY HANNAH! FIRST, A RAT AS BIG AS A HOUSE... AND NOW THIS... AND IT'S COMING RIGHT AT ME!

THE GREAT BIRD SWOOPS DOWN AND GRASPS THE FIREFLY IN ITS STEEL TALONS.

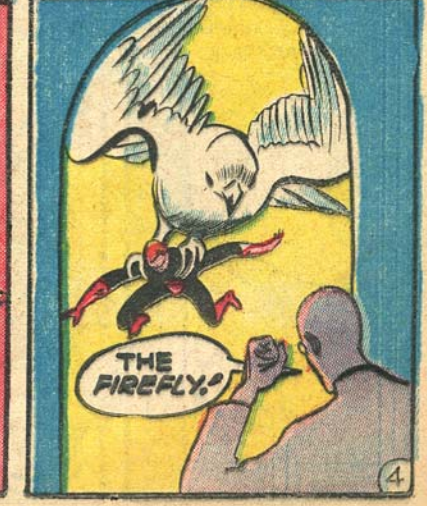


THEN, CIRCLING BACK, THE PIGEON CARRIES THE FIREFLY TOWARDS THE LABORATORY!



NO USE IN STRUGGLING. I'LL FIND OUT WHERE IT'S TAKING ME!

THE HUGE BIRD SOARS THROUGH THE ENTRANCE TO THE ABANDONED SUBWAY.



THE FIREFLY!





I CAN'T SAVE THE SCIENTIST! I MAY NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO SAVE MYSELF!



THE FIREFLY ATTRACTS THE ATTENTION OF THE RAT!



I'VE GOT TO GET THIS DOOR CLOSED!



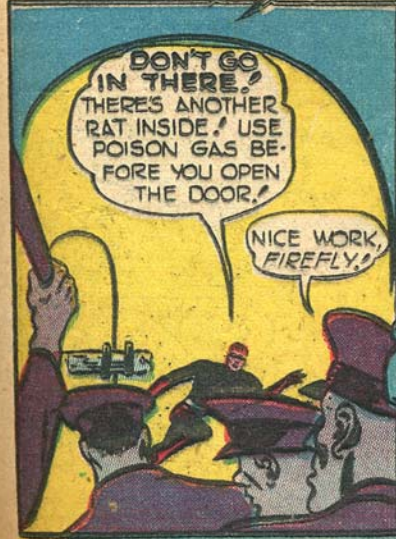
IT'S MY STRENGTH AGAINST HIS, AND I THINK I'M WINNING!



THE FIREFLY MAN AGES TO CLOSE THE DOOR, AND SWINGS THE BARRIER IN PLACE!



THE RAT IS TRAPPED INSIDE!



DON'T GO IN THERE! THERE'S ANOTHER RAT INSIDE! USE POISON GAS BEFORE YOU OPEN THE DOOR!

NICE WORK, FIREFLY!



A FEW MOMENTS LATER..

WELL...IMAGINE RUNNING INTO YOU AGAIN!

OH, HARLEY, YOU WERE WONDERFUL!

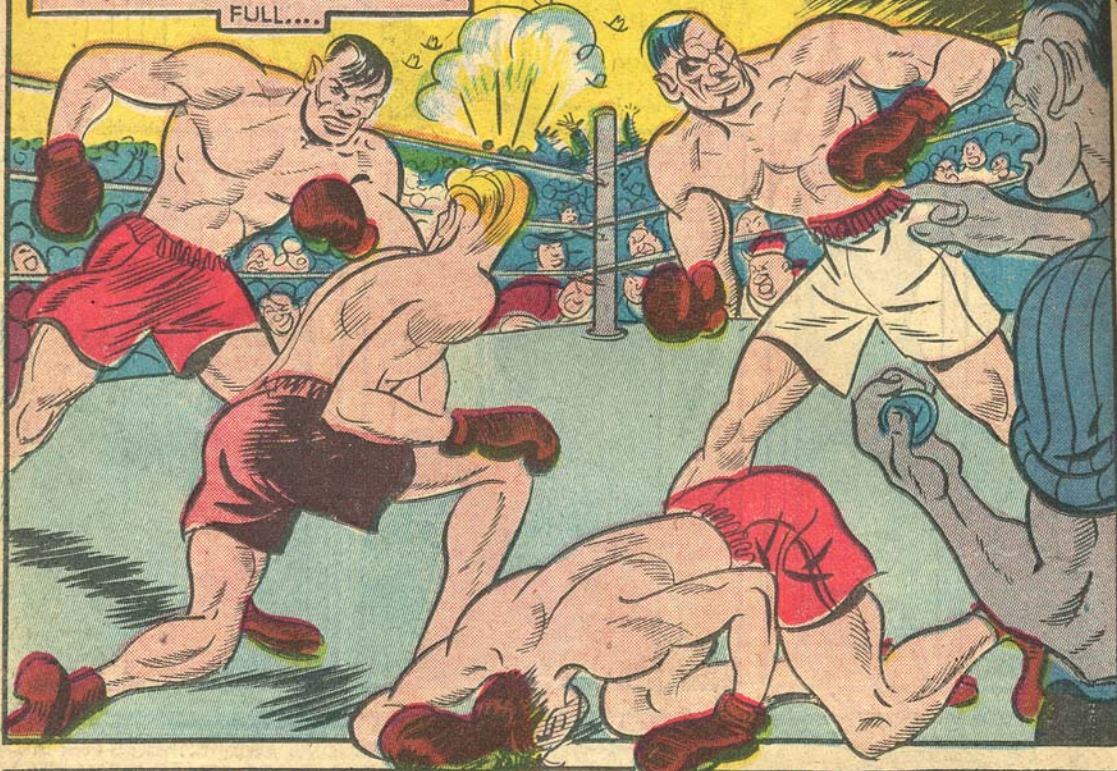


NOW ABOUT THAT MOVIE WE WERE TALKING ABOUT...THERE'S ONE AT THE RIALTO CALLED, 'FRANKENSTEIN AND THE CREATURES OF THE DEVIL'! WANT TO GO?

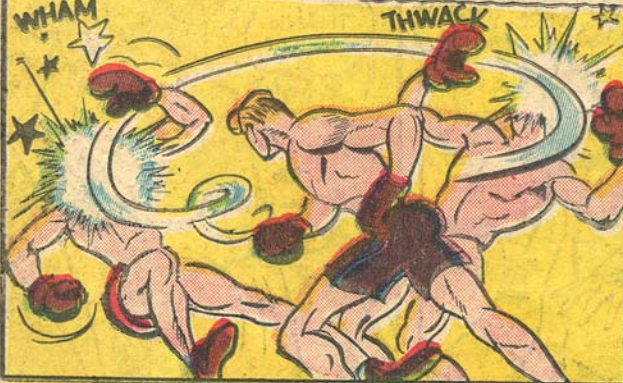
NO, THANK YOU!

The ST. LOUIS KID

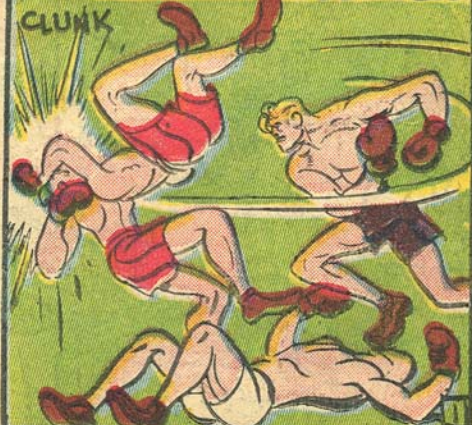
IN THE LAST ISSUE, JIM JENNINGS, THE ST. LOUIS KID, WHO IS IN TRAINING IN BERMUDA FOR A BOUT WITH THE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP, STEPPED INTO THE SQUARED ARENA WITH THREE TOP NOTCH FIGHTERS IN ORDER TO RAISE SORELY NEEDED CASH. AT THE MOMENT THE KID APPEARS TO HAVE HIS HANDS FULL....



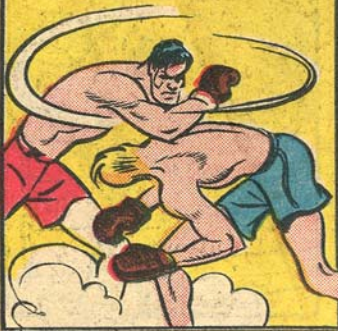
SUDDENLY, STRIKING SWIFTLY AS A COILED SNAKE, AND EQUALLY AS DEADLY, THE KID COMES AROUND WITH A BOOMING RIGHT.....



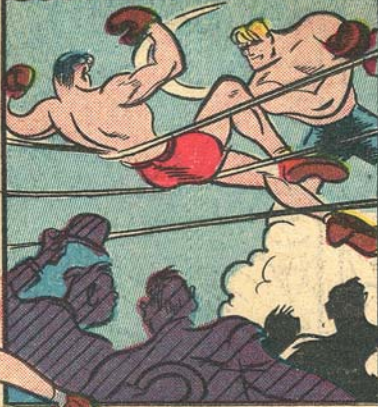
...ANOTHER SLASHING HAYMAKER.....



...AND STILL THEY KEEP COMING. A LONE FIGHTER RUSHES SAVAGELY, AND ALMOST CATCHES THE KID OFF-GUARD...



THE KID COMES BOUNCING BACK, AND PITCHES A THIRD STRIKE...



... AND THEY'RE OUT!



LATER IN THE KID'S DRESSING ROOM...

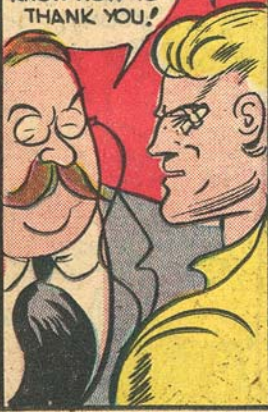
THAT WAS MAGNIFICENT, KID! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!

HIYA, MARY! HELLO, MR. DYKE!

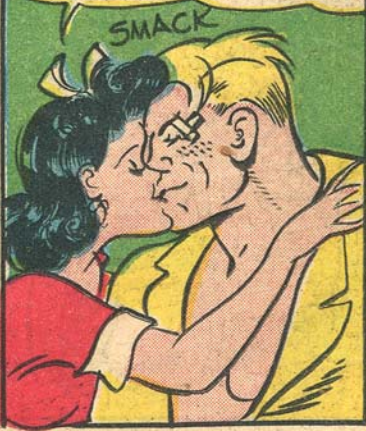


YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT, KID! I...I...DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU!

FORGET IT, MR. DYKE!



I DON'T CARE WHAT ANYBODY SAYS, JIM! IT'S NOBLE OF YOU TO HELP MR. DYKE THIS WAY!

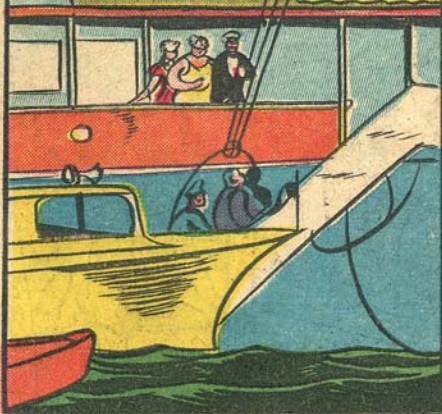


POP MOLLOY, MARY'S FATHER, DECIDES TO STEP OUT...

THEY WON'T MISS ME! I'LL GO INTO TOWN AND HAVE SOME FUN!

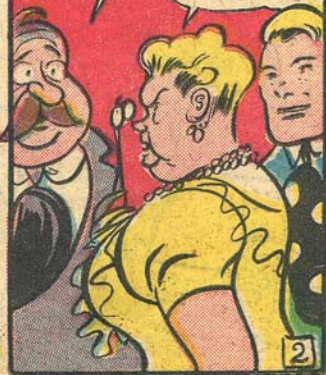


LATER, ALL RETURN WITH MR. DYKE TO HIS YACHT, WHERE THE KID HAS HIS TRAINING QUARTERS...AND ARE MET BY MRS. DYKE AND HER DAUGHTER...



HELLO, MY DEAR, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE WAITED UP FOR ME!

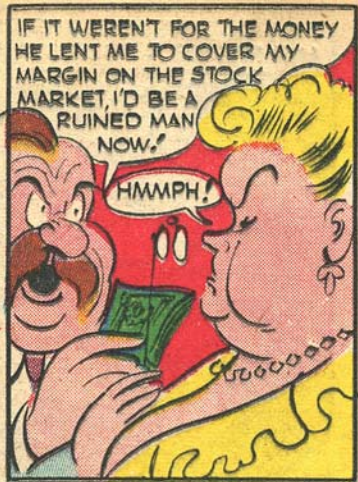
GREGORY DYKE! YOU AND I ARE GOING TO TALK IN PRIVATE!





GREGORY, YOU MUST GET THAT VULGAR ST. LOUIS KID OFF OUR YACHT AT ONCE!

LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, THE KID JEOPARDIZED HIS CAREER TO HELP ME OUT.



IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE MONEY HE LENT ME TO COVER MY MARGIN ON THE STOCK MARKET, I'D BE A RUINED MAN NOW!

HMMMPH!



OO, THAT SNOOTY WIFE OF MINE BURNS ME UP, AND MY BRAINLESS DAUGHTER CHASING AFTER THAT PHONY COUNT SHEKEL IS NO BETTER!



HERE, HERE, MR. DYKE, YOU LOOK UP-SET!

I AM, MARY! THE THOUGHT OF THAT FORTUNE-HUNTING COUNT MAKES ME BOIL!



LOOK, MR. DYKE, THE KID HELPED YOU, AND NOW IT'S MY TURN! I THINK I KNOW HOW TO EXPOSE THAT PHONY COUNT!

HOW?



YOU JUST INTRODUCE ME AS AN HEIRESS, THEN GET YOUR DAUGHTER, AND LEAVE THE REST TO ME!

ALL RIGHT, MARY! I'LL DO IT!



HERE COMES THAT FISH-FACED GOON NOW!

SHH..NO SLIP-UPS NOW!



COUNT, I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'VE MET MISS MOLLOY, OF THE BOSTON MOLLOY'S, YOU KNOW!

HOW DO YOU DO, COUNT!

CHAWMED I'M SURE!

ONE OF THE BOSTON MOLLOYS,
YOU SAID, MR. DYKE, AREN'T
THEY THE...MEAT PACK-
ING MILLIONAIRES?

WHY, YES!
THEY DO HAVE SCADS
OF MONEY..NOT THAT
IT MATTERS..OF
COURSE!

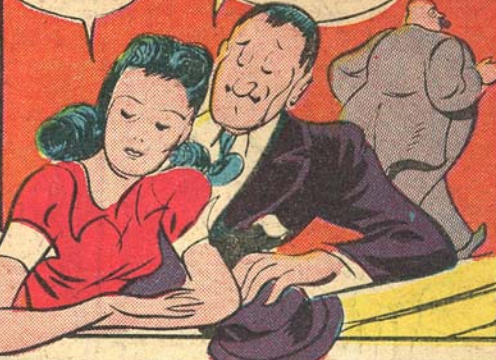


HA, HA, HA. THAT
POOR SUCKER FELL
FOR IT. HIS FACE LIT
UP LIKE A DRUNK'S
NOSE WHEN I
MENTIONED
MONEY!

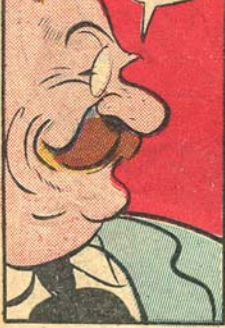


ISN'T IT
A LOVELY
ROMANTIC
NIGHT,
COUNT ?

ER..HARRUMPH YOU
TOOK THE WORDS
RIGHT OUT OF MY
MOUTH, MY..AHEM
..DEAR!



WOW. LOOKA HIM
MAKIN' GOO GOO
EYES AT HER.
BOYO' BOY, WAIT'LL
MY DAUGHTER
GETS A LOAD OF
THE COUNT,
NOW!



COUNT, YOU SHOULDN'T
YOU'RE ENGAGED
TO MISS DYKE,
AREN'T YOU ?

NONSENSE, MY
DEAR, SHE'S JUST
A PASSING-
FANCY.



JUST THEN, THE
KID COMES UP
ON DECK AND
SEES...

WHY
THE
DIRTY..



YOU MISERABLE LITTLE
PUPPY. I'LL TEACH YOU
TO MAKE A PLAY FOR
MY GIRL, YOU...

B. BUT..
P. PLEASE!

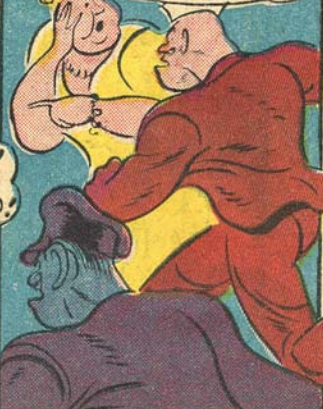


MR. DYKE CHOSE THIS MOMENT
TO RETURN WITH HIS WIFE AND
DAUGHTER..

MERCY. THE BRUTE IS
ATTACKING THE COUNT!



HURRY MEN. THROW
THAT MURDEROUS
CREATURE OVERBOARD
BEFORE HE KILLS
THE COUNT!



AT THAT MOMENT, POP COMES ABOARD WITH A 'FRIEND'...

THEY COME UPON THE SCENE OF THE FIGHT AND....

SO YOU WANTA 'THROW ME OVERBOARD, EH? MAYBE THIS'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND!

GEE WHIZ! YA SEE, FLOSSIE, I TOLD YA, I WUZ A BIG SHOT!

POPSY, LOOK! HEY! WHAT'S COMIN' OF HERE?

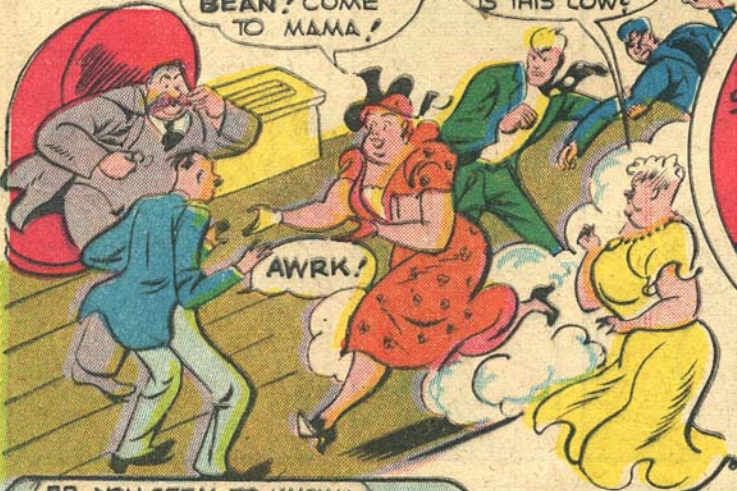
ZUNK



OSCAR! MY LITTLE JELLY-BEAN! COME TO MAMA!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? WHO IS THIS COW?

GEE, I THOUGHT I'D NEVER FIND YOU AGAIN!



AWRK!



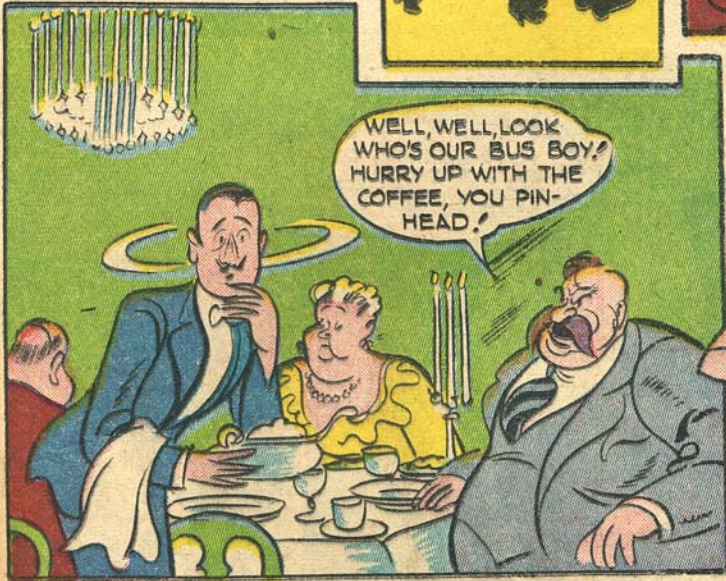
ER.. YOU SEEM TO KNOW THE COUNT VERY WELL! WHAT COUNT? THIS GUY'S MY HUSBAND. SEE, HERE'S OUR WEDDING LICENSE!

HE WUZ MY BUS-BOY IN THE HASH-HOUSE WHERE I WUZ A WAITRESS. THAT'S HOW WE FIRST FELL IN LOVE, HUH, SNOOKS?

HA, HA, HA, I GUESS THE LAUGH'S ON US, EH, MR. DYKE? INSTEAD OF JUST THROWING THAT PHONY COUNT OVERBOARD I GOT A BETTER IDEA! BZZ..BZZ... HMM... SPLENDID!

ER.. FLOSSIE! SH..





HEARTBREAKING DISAPPOINTMENT LIES BEHIND THE KID'S SMILING FACE.... WILL HE BE AT THE TOP OF THE HEAP AGAIN? READ NEXT MONTH'S TOP-NOTCH!

WINGS JOHNSON

OF
THE


Air Patrol




HENRY! DON'T THOSE
TWO FELLOWS
LOOK FAMILIAR?

WINGS JOHNSON AND HENRY
HIGGINS, OF THE R.A.F. ARE
AT THEIR AIRDROME SOME-
WHERE IN THE NORTH OF
ENGLAND.

YOUR BLINKING RIGHT!
THEY'RE THE TWO BLOODY
BLOKES WE HAD TO TEACH AT
FLYING SCHOOL, REMEMBER?




OH BOY! THERE THEY GO AGAIN!
I NEVER SAW TWO DUMBER
CLUCKS IN MY WHOLE LIFE!
LET'S GET AS FAR AWAY
FROM THEM AS POSSIBLE
AND DOUBLE QUICK!



OH, I SAY JOHNSON!
AND YOU, TOO, HIGGINS!
I WANT A WORD
WITH YOU!

OH!
YES, SIR!



I HAVE AN ASSIGNMENT FOR
YOU TWO! TONIGHT YOU'RE TO
TAKE A BOMBER-UNESCORTED
AND TRY TO REACH THE
INVASION BASE AT CALAIS!
WE MUST BOMB IT TO
OBLIVION AND A LONE
BOMBER MAY BE ABLE TO
BREAK THROUGH AND DO IT!

THOSE TWO NEW RECRUITS
OVER THERE WILL ACCOMPANY
YOU, ONE AS OBSERVATION PILOT,
THE OTHER AS A SECONDARY
GUNNER / OH, I SAID THEY SEEM TO
BE HAVING DIFFICULTY WITH
THEIR CHUTES, DON'T THEY



H'I'M
SPEECHLESS!

BETTER GIVE EM A HAND, EH WHAT?

YEAH, BUT KEEP THEM AWAY
FROM MY RIPCORD. THOSE GUYS
HAVE AN UNHAPPY HABIT OF
PULLING THEIR CHUTES AT THE
WRONG TIME!



OH, DO YOU KNOW THEM,
JOHNSON?

MUCH TO MY REGRET, I
HAVE HAD THE DOUBTFUL
PLEASURE OF MEETING
THEM ONCE / AND ONCE
WAS TOO MUCH!



H'UP YOU COME
LADDIES!

GOSH! THAT WAS THE
MOST PECULIAR THING, I
JUST PULLED THIS LITTLE
RING HERE AN'—



LOOK! I'LL SHOW YOU!
IT'S THIS LITTLE
GADGET HERE! YOU
JUST PULL IT AND—

OH, NO YOU DON'T!
BROTHER R.A.F.
PILOT OR NOT— YOU'RE
KEEPING YOUR MITTS
OFF MY RIPCORD!

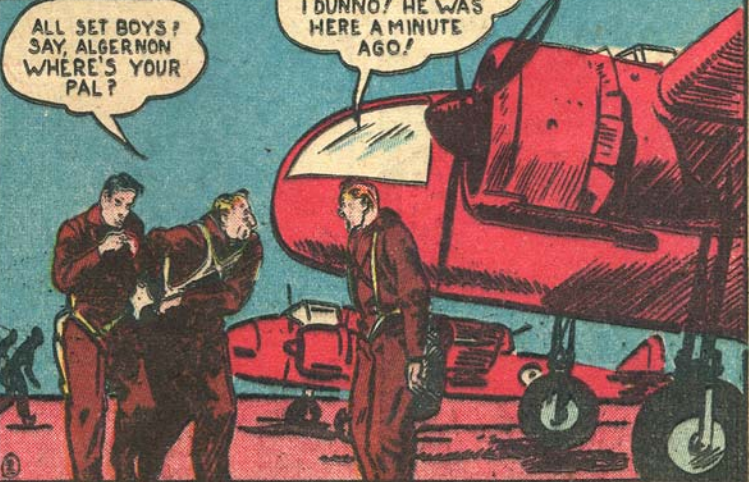


WELL, GENTLEMEN, SINCE YOU
ALL KNOW EACH OTHER, THERE'S
NEED FOR ME TO INTRODUCE YOU!
YOU'LL TAKE OFF AT MIDNIGHT!
CHEERIO!

MIDNIGHT.....

ALL SET BOYS?
SAY, ALGERNON
WHERE'S YOUR
PAL?

WHO - MARMADUKE?
I DUNNO! HE WAS
HERE A MINUTE
AGO!





HERE I AM, A LOOK!
THERE'S A CAT UP HERE

WELL COME
ON DOWN
WE'RE READY TO
TAKE OFF!



OK..... BUT HE'S A NICE
CAT, AIN'T HE? WHAT'LL I
CALL HIM?



WHEEEE! / STOP LICKIN'
MY FACE! IT TICKLES!



HEE HEE HEE
HA HA HA
HEE HEE HEE

LOOK OUT
MARMADUKE!



H'OF ALL TH'
BLOOMIN' IDIOTS!



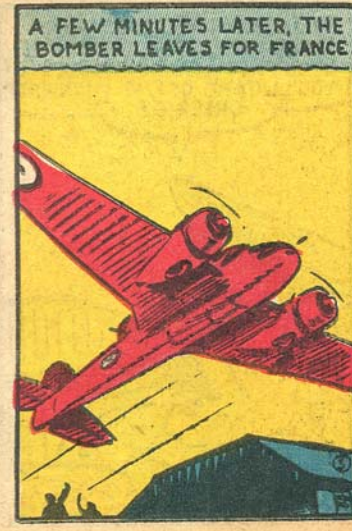
GET THIS
Get away!
CAT OFF OF
ME!

WHO'S
YOUR PAL,
WINGSIE?



NOW TAKE THIS
ANIMAL AND
GET RID OF IT!

WHY DON'T
YOU CALL
HIM
WINSTON?

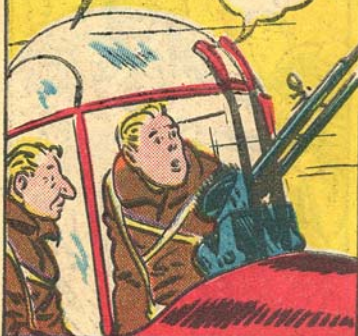


A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE
BOMBER LEAVES FOR FRANCE

IN THE GUN TURRET.

NOW KEEP YOUR BLOODY EYES H'OPEN FER THE NAZIS!

I AM!



AS THE BOMBER REACHES THE MIDDLE OF THE ENGLISH CHANNEL, HY CUTS THE MOTORS.

HEY! WHAT'S NOTHING, I CUT THE MOTOR ON PURPOSE. WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO SLIP OVER OUR OBJECTIVE, BEFORE THEY HEAR US



SUDDENLY...//

LOOK! DOWN BELOW US! NAZI BOMBERS!

YEAH! AND THEY'RE BOUND FOR ENGLAND WITH THEIR MOTORS OFF!



GET BACK TO THE GUN TURRET AND TELL HIGGINS. QUICK!



HEY, HIGGINS! WE JUST SAW GERMAN BOMBERS BELOW US AND

I'LL BANK AROUND AND FOLLOW 'EM



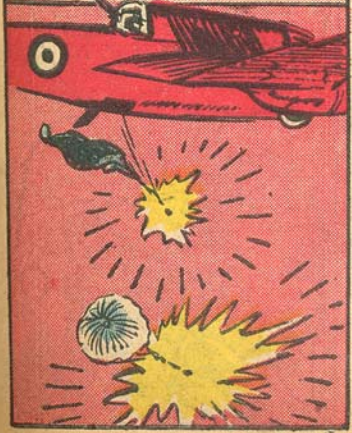
AS WINGS CHANGES HIS COURSE IT THROWS MARMADUKE OFF BALANCE

-- WHOOPS!

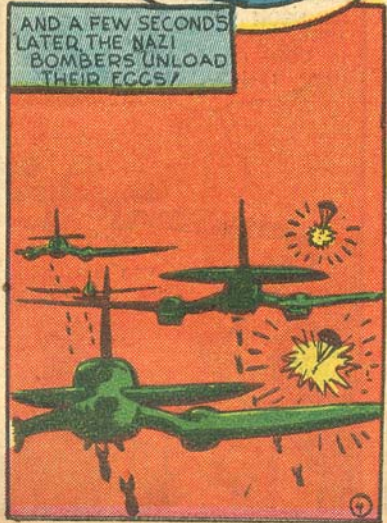
DON'T GRAB THOSE WIRES!



MARMADUKE, TO SAVE HIMSELF FROM FALLING, GRABS THE WIRES WHICH RELEASE THE FLARES!

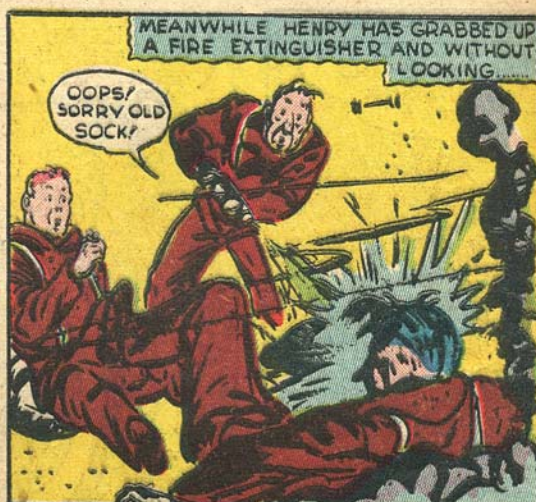


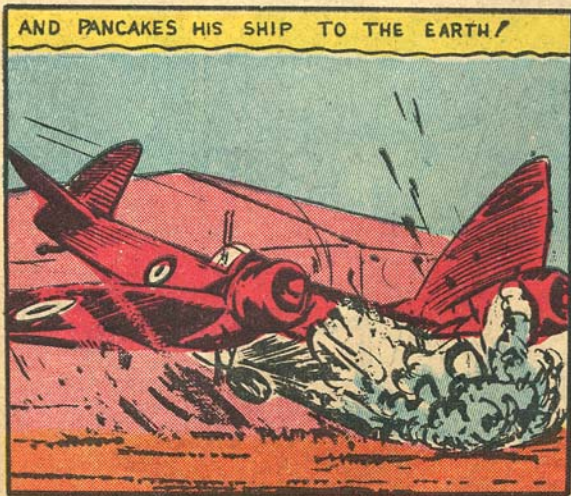
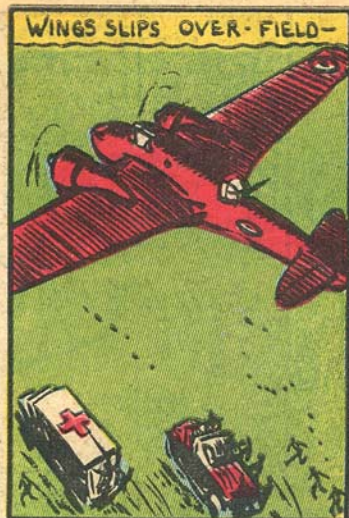
AND A FEW SECONDS LATER THE NAZI BOMBERS UNLOAD THEIR EGGS!



BOY! HENRY SURE PULLED A FAST ONE. THE GERMANS THOUGHT WE WERE THEIR OWN FLARE-LIGHTERS, SIGNALING FOR THEM TO RELEASE THEIR TIME BOMBS!







BOB PHANTOM

SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD



A MASKED MAN, GUN IN HAND, SUDDENLY APPEARS IN A JEWELRY SHOP IN NEW YORK'S FAMOUS DIAMOND MART..... WHILE ON THE STREET OUTSIDE, WALT WHITNEY, BROADWAY COLUMNIST, IS STROLLING WITH HIS SECRETARY, JINK FRIDAY!



WHO'S THAT MAN WHO JUST PASSED, WALT?



THAT'S TIGER ROSS, THE MOVIE MAGNATE, AND A GREAT GUY WITH THE LADIES! NOW, KEEP YOUR BIG EYES OPEN AND THEN REMEMBER WHO PEOPLE ARE! THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME SO GOOD!

INSIDE THE BUILDING, THE MASKED MAN, WITH A FORTUNE IN GEMS IN HIS HANDS, RACES OUT OF THE SHOP AND COLLIDES WITH A MAIL MAN!



FLEEING THROUGH THE CORRIDOR, HE DROPS HIS MASK IN A VASE OF FLOWERS!



WHILE THE OWNER OF THE SHOP PUSHES A BUTTON WHICH GIVES THE ALARM!

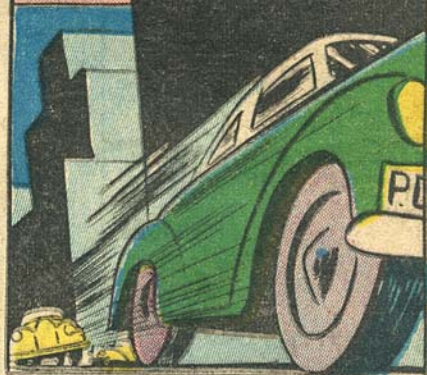


WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE IN THE BUILDING, WALT?

IT MEANS SOMEONE'S TRYING TO ROB THE "DIAMOND MART"! LET'S GO OVER!



POLICE CARS RACE TO THE SCENE!



COME ON, KID! LET'S SEE THE EXCITEMENT AT CLOSE RANGE! NOW REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN AND YOU MAY LEARN SOMETHING!



I'M WALT WHITNEY, OFFICER! CAN WE GO IN?

OKAY, WHITNEY! BUT THE CAPTAIN'S INSIDE!... AND HE ISN'T EXACTLY IN LOVE WITH YOU!





ER... I JUST REMEMBERED ANOTHER APPOINTMENT!

GOOD RIDDANCE!



SEE YOU LATER JINKS!

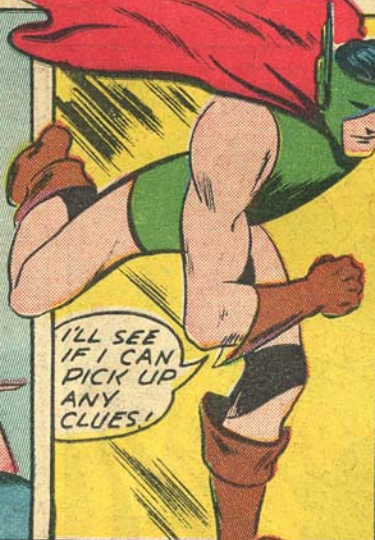


THE NEXT INSTANT - A SWIRL OF WIND, A PLUFF OF SMOKE! BOB PHANTOM APPEARS AT THE SCENE OF THE ROBBERY!



WHICH WAY DID THE GUNMAN GO WHEN HE RAN OUT OF HERE?

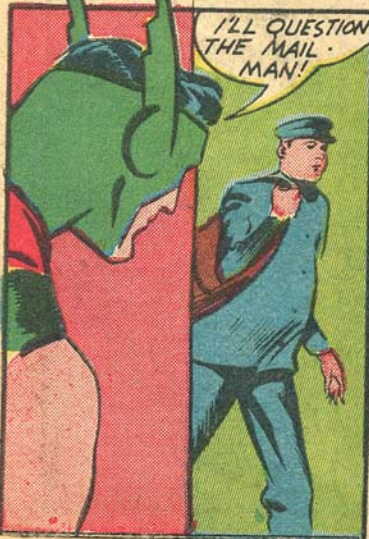
TO THE LEFT! HE DISAPPEARED AROUND THE TURN IN THE CORRIDOR!



I'LL SEE IF I CAN PICK UP ANY CLUES!



HM! HERE'S WHERE HE DROPPED HIS MASK!



I'LL QUESTION THE MAIL MAN!



SEE ANYTHING OF A SUSPICIOUS NATURE?

YEAH! A GUY BANGED INTO ME, BUT BEFORE I COULD GET ANOTHER LOOK AT HIM, HE WAS GONE!



HM!... THIS BEGINS TO HAVE ALL THE EARMARKS OF A CAREFULLY LAID OUT PLAN! IT WASN'T ANY ORDINARY STEAL-AND-RUN ROBBERY!



HM! MOST EXTRA-ORDINARY CASE! BUT I DON'T SEE HOW THE CROOK CAN EVER GET OUT OF THE BUILDING WITHOUT BEING SEARCHED!

JINX AND THE CHIEF QUESTION THE VICTIMS OF THE ROBBERY!



WHERE'S WALT, I WONDER?

HERE HE COMES NOW, MISS FRIDAY!



WATCH OUT WHERE YOUR WALKING WHITNEY! YOU STEPPED ON MY CORN!



THE CHIEF, JINX AND WALT WALK BACK TO THE ELEVATOR.



THERE GOES TIGER ROSS, THE ONE WALT POINTED OUT IN THE STREET!

CHIEF! WHY NOT START THE SEARCH WITH THAT MAN GOING INTO THAT ELEVATOR!



GOOD IDEA, JINX... JUST A MINUTE, YOU WERE SEARCHING EVERYONE, AND YOU'RE NO EXCEPTION!

SURE! GO RIGHT AHEAD!



HA!

WELL YOU'RE CLEAN, ALL RIGHT. SORRY MISTER!



JUST THEN THE MAILMAN COMES DOWN THE CORRIDOR!

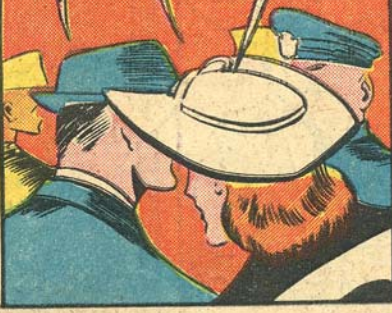
HEY! I'M GOING DOWN!

THE ELEVATOR DESCENDS TO THE FIRST FLOOR!



HST DO YOU NOTICE ANY-THING STRANGE, MR. OBSERVING MAN?

WHY NO? WELL I DO! TELL YOU ABOUT IT DOWNSTAIRS!



THE POSTMAN CAN GO OUT, BUT I'LL HAVE TO SEARCH THE REST OF YOU!



OKAY!

I'LL HAVE TO SEARCH YOU TOO, MISTER!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, FAGAN! I SEARCHED HIM MYSELF! HE'S OKAY, LET HIM GO!



SO LONG, CAPTAIN! I HOPE YOU CATCH THE CROOK!



THANKS! BUT DON'T WORRY WE WILL! HE CAN'T GET PAST US!

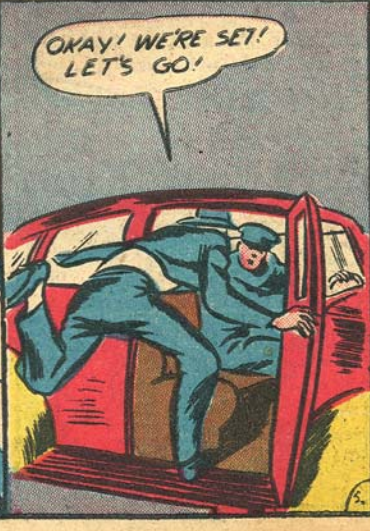


WALT THAT MAIL-MAN!

WHAT ABOUT HIM?

JINX WHISPERS IN WALT'S EAR!

WHAT! HOLY SMOKES! I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT! LEMME OUT OF HERE!



OKAY! WE'RE SET! LET'S GO!

ONCE AGAIN A SWIRL OF WIND - A PUFF OF SMOKE, AND BOB PHANTOM APPEARS IN FRONT OF THE SPEEDING CAR!

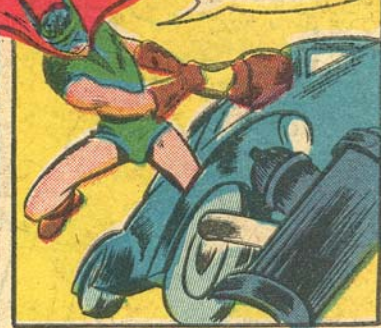
HEY! LOOK! BOB PHANTOM!



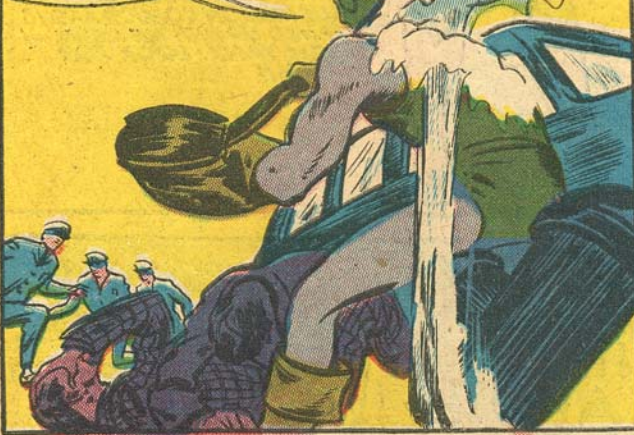
I'M DOING MY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EARLY, BOYS!



SO I WANT TO SEE WHAT SANTA CLAUS HAS IN THE MAIL BAG FOR ME!



YEP! JINK WAS RIGHT! THE JEWELS ARE RIGHT IN HERE!



LOOK CHIEF THIS CASE IS LITERALLY IN THE BAG!

WELL OF ALL THE... HEY! I BET THAT YOU HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS!



SURE I DID! I CAUGHT YOUR CROOKS, DIDN'T I? SO LONG!



I DON'T KNOW WHY I SHOOT AT HIM, I ALWAYS MISS!

NEXT DAY, AT WALT'S OFFICE



HELLO, JINK! HOW'S THE GIRL? STILL KEEPING YOUR EYES OPEN?

NEAT BIT OF WORK YOU DID! EASY! I KNEW THE MAILMAN ON THAT JEWEL ROB-BERY! HOW'D YOU FIGURE IT OUT?

BECAUSE HE KEPT HIS BAG ON HIS BACK IN THE ELEVATOR. A REAL MAILMAN SWINGS IT IN FRONT OF HIM IN CROWDED PLACES SO HE CAN WATCH IT!



I WAITED TO SEE HOW YOU'D MAKE OUT IN YOUR FIRST JOB IN BLUE RIBBON COMICS, CAPTAIN FLAG! BOY, YOU SURE PICKED YOURSELF A TOUGH ONE WITH THAT BLACK HAND! BUT YOU CAME THROUGH WITH FLYING COLORS!!

THANKS, HANGMAN! I CAN HOLD UP MY END HALF AS WELL AS YOU DO IN PEP! COMICS. I'LL BE MORE THAN SATISFIED! YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF QUITE A JOB IN THE SEPT. ISSUE. I UNDERSTAND! I'M PLENTY ANXIOUS TO SEE HOW YOU MAKE OUT!



CAPTAIN FLAG IS BORN IN THE SEPT. ISSUE OF BLUE RIBBON COMICS, AND IS TEAMED UP WITH HIS AMERICAN EAGLE, YANK! LOOK FOR THEM!!



DUSTY

HAS HIS FLING IN...

SHIELD WIZARD NO. 4



ON SALE NOW
AT ALL NEWS
STANDS ONLY
10¢

It's here, Gang!!



JACKPOT

COMICS NO. 2

BOY O BOY! THE NEW JACKPOT'S OUT. JACKPOT NO. 1 WENT LIKE HOT CAKES AND I DIDN'T EVEN GET A SMELL OF IT. 'CAUSE I WAITED TOO LONG, BUT, THIS TIME, I'M FIRST ON LINE FOR MY COPY!!!



THRILL WITH STEEL STERLING AND LAUGH WITH LOONEY AND CLANCY IN... MURDER GOES TO *Mexico!*



MR. JUSTICE - THE SPOOKIEST, MOST BLOOD-CURDLING YARN YOU EVER HAVE OR EVER WILL READ IN... THE CASE OF THE GANGSTER'S GHOST!



SERGEANT BOYLE SAYS: "THIS TIME I'VE GOT ME A MAN-SIZED JOB CARRYING MUNITIONS TO THE BRITISH IN SMYRNA. I'M WARNING THAT TOW-HEADED APE, CORPORAL COLLINS, TO KEEP AWAY FROM ME!"



TRAVEL INTO THE DENSE, BLACK JUNGLES OF DEATH WITH THE BLACK HOOD IN HIS MOST SMASHING, GRIPPING ADVENTURE. FOLLOW THE TRAIL WITH HIM... THE TRAIL OF THE SHRUNKEN SKULLS!!!

ON SALE AT YOUR NEWS STANDS NOW!! DON'T WAIT!

KARDAK

THE MYSTIC MAGICIAN



NO WONDER HE WAS SO HEAVY. HIS FEET ARE ENCASED IN A BLOCK OF CEMENT.



LATER AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, COME CLEAN RIGGIERO YOU KILLED THAT GUY.

OR YOUR MOB DID IT. SING AND IT'LL BE EASIER FOR YOU!

ACTING ON A TIP FROM AN ANONYMOUS SOURCE, THE POLICE DRAG THE RIVER FOR A MURDER VICTIM - AND MEET WITH GRUESOME SUCCESS, AS THEIR GRAPPLING HOOKS FETCH A CORPSE OUT OF THE MURKY WATERS!

LOOK, FEATHERBRAINS! YOU CAN'T PROVE A THING. I GOT A PERFECT ALIBI. WHY DON'T YOU SMARTEN UP AND LAY OFFA ME. IF YOU KEEP DRAGGIN' ME DOWN HERE ANY MORE I'LL CHARGE YOU FER A COMMUTA-TION TICKET.



JUST THEN - I EXPECTED YOU TO COME ALONG WITH ONE OF THOSE THINGS! OKAY, SWYSTER. GET THE SKUNK OUT OF HERE!



S'LONG, PUNKS. NICE TO HAVE A SMART LAWYER, HUH?



NEXT DAY, KARDAK READS THE NEWS-PAPER.

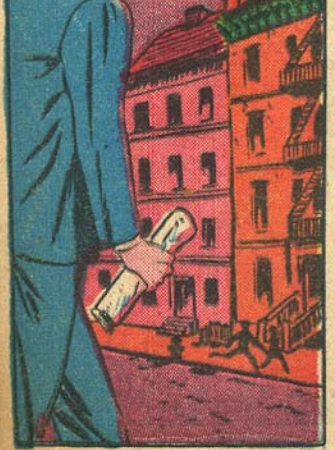


HMM! WHAT'S THIS? A PICTURE OF BEGAVED WIFE OF ANOTHER VICTIM OF RIGGIERO, THE GANG CHIEF!

THAT KILLER HAS LITERALLY GOTTEN AWAY WITH MURDER - AND IT'S HIGH TIME THE LAW CAUGHT UP WITH HIM. MAYBE I CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. I'LL GO RIGHT UP TO THE MURDERED FELLOW'S WIFE NOW!



HMM! WHAT A MISERABLE NEIGHBORHOOD TO LIVE IN!



(SNIFF, SNIFF) WHO IS IT? MY NAME IS KARDAK MRS. REEVES. I JUST READ ABOUT YOUR UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCES!



MY HUSBAND USED TO WORK FOR RIGGIERO BUT HE WANTED TO GO STRAIGHT FOR MY SAKE - AND THEY WOULDN'T LET HIM.





AT THAT MOMENT-

RIGGIERO!

HIYA, MRS. REEVES!



TOO BAD, ABOUT YER HUSBANDS ... ER... ACCIDENT! BUT I'M A GOOD GUY, SEE, AND I LOOK AFTER MY BOYS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.

HERE. BUY YERSELF A COUPLA OF BON-NETS!



I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF YOUR BLOOD MONEY, YOU... YOU MURDERER!



DAME OR NO DAME I'LL BUST YOU WIDE OPEN!

NO YOU WON'T, RIGGIERO!



A WISE GUY, HUH? TAKE THAT!

HEY! WH... FIST WENT RIGHT THROUGH HIM!



I GOT THE PUNK COVERED RIGGIERO!

OOO! I NEARLY BROKE MY HAND ON THE WALL!



WH... WHERE ARE YOU TAKING HIM?

FER A NICE LITTLE RIDE IN THE COUNTRY, I'LL TEACH HIM TO PULL TRICKS ON ME!



SO YOU'RE GOING TO SHOOT ME IN COLD BLOOD, EH?

OKAY, LAST STOP FER YOU-GET OUT!

MIGHT AS WELL HAVE SOME GRAVEYARD ATMOSPHERE! PRESTO - AND WE HAVE A NICE FRESH GRAVE!

CRIPES!

RIGGIERO

ONLY THING IS THAT YOUR NAME LOOKS MORE APPROPRIATE ON IT THAN MINE WOULD!

I'M LAMMIN' RIGGIERO! THIS GUYS TOO MUCH FOR ME!

WAIT!



LET'S SEE YOUR MAGIC WORK AGAINST MY TYPEWRITER!

WITH PLEASURE!



WHOOSH!

YOUR TYPEWRITER, AS YOU CALL IT, JUST TYPED OUT THE DATE OF YOUR DEATH!



WELL, WELL, THE BOYS SEEM TO HAVE CHANGED THEIR MINDS!

LET'S BEAT IT! I'M LICKED!

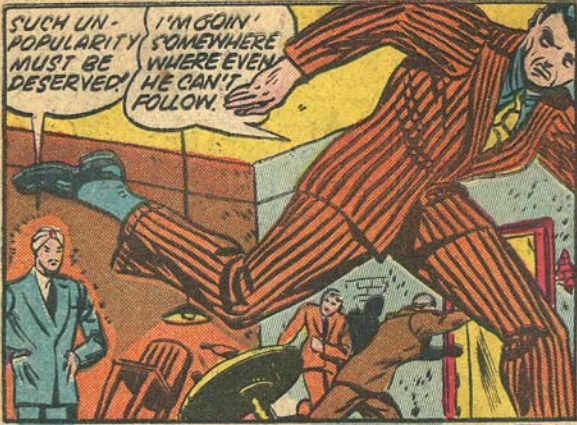
GET THAT MOTOR RUNNIN' MALONE!

LATER, IN RIGGIERO'S APARTMENT!

WHEN! I NEED A DRINK, THAT MAGICIAN GAVE ME THE WILLIES!

HELLO, RIGGIERO! DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD LOSE ME SO EASILY DID YOU?

GULP AM I SEEN' THINGS!



SUCH UN-POPULARITY MUST BE DESERVED!

I'M GOIN' SOMEWHERE WHERE EVEN HE CAN'T FOLLOW!



NOW LET'S SEE HIM GET TO ME IN THIS STEEL WALLED ROOM! A GHOST COULDN'T EVEN GET IN!



YOU'RE WRONG RIGGIERO. A GHOST IS IN. I'VE COME BACK FOR JUSTICE



JERUSALEM! IT...IT'S REEVES. THE GUY I KNOCKED OFF!



STAY AWAY FROM ME! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER! KEEP AWAY, I TELL YA!



THE COPS! THEY'LL KEEP THAT SPOOK AWAY FROM ME. THEY'LL PROTECT ME!



SURE, WE'LL PROTECT YOU FOR LIFE, RIGGIERO. ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS CONFESS!

OKAY. I BUMPED OFF REEVES! ONLY GET ME INTO A CELL BEFORE I GO NUTS!



LATER-

WELL, WELL. LOOK AT THIS HEADLINE, MRS. REEVES.

MERCY! RIGGIERO HAS CONFESSED TO THE MURDER OF MY HUSBAND!



YES. IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD HELP YOU MRS. REEVES.

YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH KARDAK. I KNOW MY HUSBAND WILL REST EASIER IN HIS GRAVE BECAUSE OF IT

FOLLOW THE ADVENTURES OF KARDAK, THE MYSTIC MAGICIAN EVERY ISSUE OF TOPNOTCH

Betty Warren

Mamie Mazda



Jufu Watson

Yours,
WITH LOTS OF
PEP,
Joe Higgins
THE SHIELD
and
Dusty

