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TOP-NOTCH

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comics

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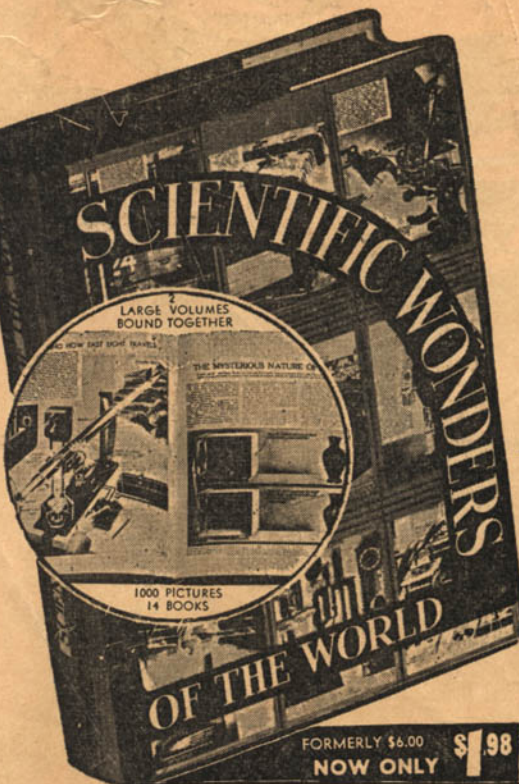
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THE BLACK HOOD

MAN OF MYSTERY



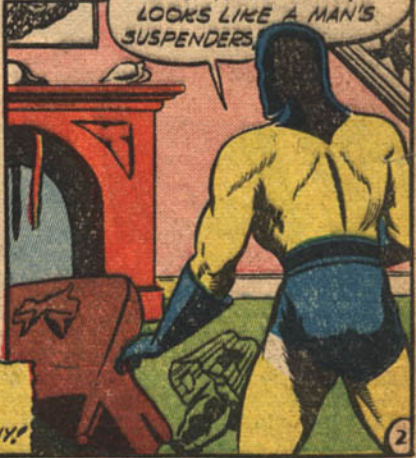
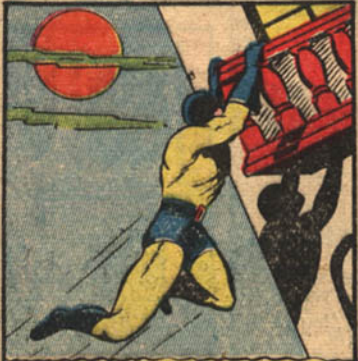
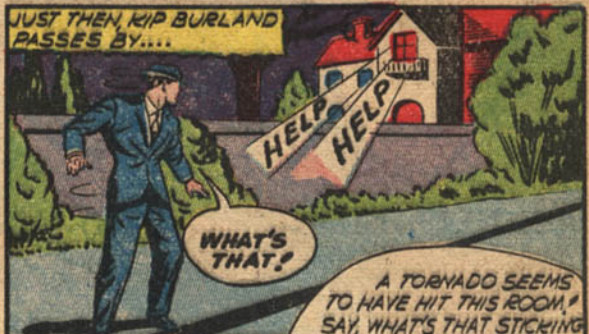
A CLOUD DRIFTS ACROSS THE MOON AND VAGUELY OBSCURES A QUEERLY LUMBERING SHAPE SLINKING IN THE SHADOWS OF THE GARDEN OF FRANK THOMAS, FAMOUS WILD GAME HUNTER, THEN A TERRIFIC LEAP CARRIES THE FIGURE TO A BRANCH OVERLOOKING THOMAS' WINDOW AND THE MOON, SHINING BRIGHTLY THROUGH A RIFT IN THE CLOUDS, REVEALS A STARTLING SIGHT—A SNARLING, HUGE, SAVAGE VISAGED GORILLA!



WHAT A QUEER FEELING JUST PASSED OVER ME! I BETTER GO TO BED AND GET SOME REST OR I'LL BE EXPECTING TO BE ATTACKED BY ONE OF MY STUFFED ANIMALS!



WITH THE SAVAGE, INSENSATE FURY OF A MAN KILLER, THE BEAST LEAPS AT THE PARALYZED THOMAS!



MEANWHILE, THE GORILLA MAKES HIS WAY TOWARD A PAIR OF WAITING FIGURES.....



BONGA!
HIM
FINISHED!

WE HURRY
BACK TO
MASTER,
NOW!

GREAT LORD!
A MAN - A DEAD
ONE, ...JAMMED
UP THIS CHIMNEY!
UGH, HE'S STUCK
TIGHT!

YOUR TASK IS DONE, EH, BONGA!
GOOD! YOU SHALL
ACCOMPANY
ME ON YET
ANOTHER
ERRAND!

GRROWWL!

ONE BY
ONE THE EX-
PLORERS SHALL
DIE - AND DAVID CRANE
IS THE NEXT TO GO, NONE
SHALL EVER AGAIN ENCRACH
UPON MY KINGDOM - THE
"KINGDOM OF THE
ANIMALS." I, THE
ANIMAL MAN,
SWEAR IT!

HA, HERE COMES
BONGA, MY
GORILLA, NOW!

AND NOW,
WHICH OF YOU
SHALL I SELECT
FOR MY REN-
DEZVOUS WITH
MR. CRANE?

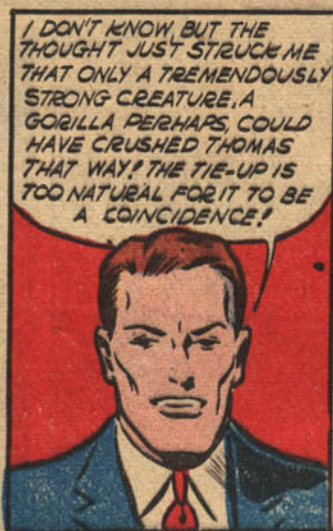
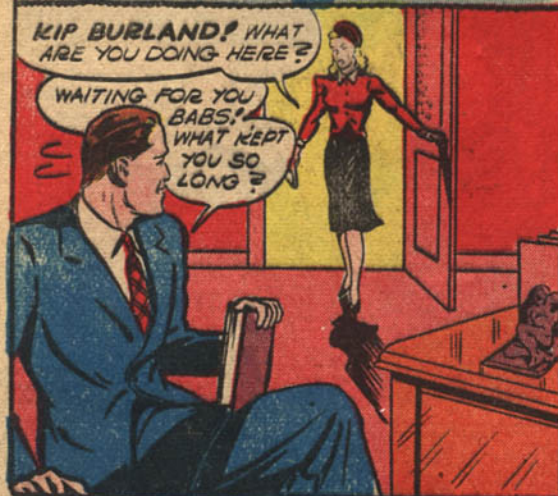
AH! MY
BLACK PAN-
THER! PERFECT!

MR. CRANE IS
FAMED FOR HIS
COLLECTION OF
PANTHERS!

GRRRR

IT IS FITTING
THAT YOU, MY
BLACK BEAUTY,
SHOULD METE
HIM OUT
HIS
PUNISHMENT!
AND I SHALL
ESCORT YOU
PERSONALLY!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN BARBARA SUTTON'S OFFICE.



MEANWHILE, IN THE HOME OF DAVID CRANE...

THIS NOTE I GOT A WHILE AGO, I STILL THINK IT'S SOMEBODY'S IDEA OF A PRACTICAL JOKE!

BUT PERHAPS I'D BETTER REFER IT TO THE POLICE FOR PRECAUTION'S SAKE!

WHILE OUTSIDE THE WINDOW...

HELLO, HELLO! POLICE!!! I JUST RECEIVED SOME KIND OF FANTASTIC DEATH WARNING!

WHASSAT? A GUY WHO SIGNS HIMSELF THE ANIMAL MAN?... SAY, MAYBE IT'S THE SAME MENACE WHO KILLED YOUR CO-EXPLORER, THOMAS, A WHILE AGO! SIT TIGHT! I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!

SUDDENLY...

ROARRR!

AAIEEE!

THEN, SWOOPING TO THE RESCUE - THE BLACK HOOD!

AARRHH

UGH! IF THIS PANTHER GETS ME OFF ITS BACK, I'M THROUGH!

YEOWWWW

MAN AGAINST BEAST!... DESPERATELY, THE PANTHER THRASHES ABOUT TO LOOSEN THE MADDENING THING, CHOKING THE LIFE OUT OF IT - BUT TO NO AVAIL!



DEAD? WHEW (PUFF, PUFF) I THOUGHT I WAS DONE FOR FOR A WHILE!



AAHEEE

WHAT'S THAT?



WHAT A WEIRD CRY... IT SOUNDED HALF ANIMAL, HALF HUMAN!



SUDDENLY, A WHIP COILING ABOUT THE HOOD'S THROAT JERKS HIM UPWARD!

UGH



DESPERATELY, THE HOOD TRIES TO EASE THE STRAIN OF HIS NOOSE TO KEEP FROM STRANGLING!



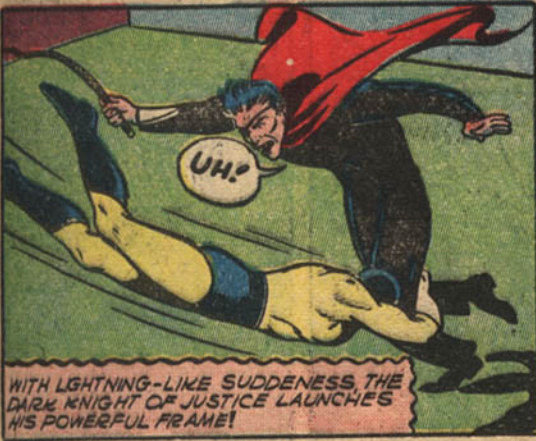
THEN, HIS FINGERS CLUTCH THE ROOF LEDGE, AND—



SO, YOU'RE THE PLAYFUL GUY BEHIND ALL THIS, EH?

YOU'VE ONLY SEALED YOUR OWN DOOM WITH YOUR MEDDLING!





WITH LIGHTNING-LIKE SUDDENNESS, THE DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE LAUNCHES HIS POWERFUL FRAME!



BUT THE ANIMAL MAN REGAINS HIS FEET WITH AMAZING LITHESS, AND—



BUT BEFORE THE GORILLA CAN HEAVE THE BLACK HOOD TO HIS DEATH....



MAD WITH RAGE THE GORILLA TURNS ON HIS NEW ATTACKER. "BABA." BUT THE MASTER UTTERS SOME WEIRD JARGON AND HESITATINGLY THE CREATURE TURNS AWAY....



THEN THEY'RE ESCAPING!



I CHASED UP HERE AS SOON AS I GOT OVER MY FRIGHT! WHAT IN THE WORLD DOES ALL THIS MEAN, ANYWAY?

I DON'T KNOW, YET!



BUT I'LL SOON FIND OUT. YOUR BULLET WINGED THAT GORILLA AND HE'S LEFT A TRAIL OF BLOOD FOR ME TO FOLLOW!



BUT HOOD... YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT DANGER LIES AHEAD!

I'LL HAVE TO RISK IT!... GOODBYE!



THE HOOD FOLLOWS THE TRAIL TO ITS TERMINATION...



HMM... STRANGELY QUIET HEREBOUTS!

THEN SLINKING UP FROM BEHIND - A NEW MENACE!





OH, OH!
ALMOST
CAUGHT
ME NAR-
PING!



I REALLY
HAVE LET MYSELF
IN FOR SOMETHING!

THE HOOD THROWS HIMSELF AT
THE ATTACKING SAVAGES WITH
RECKLESS FURY!



POW



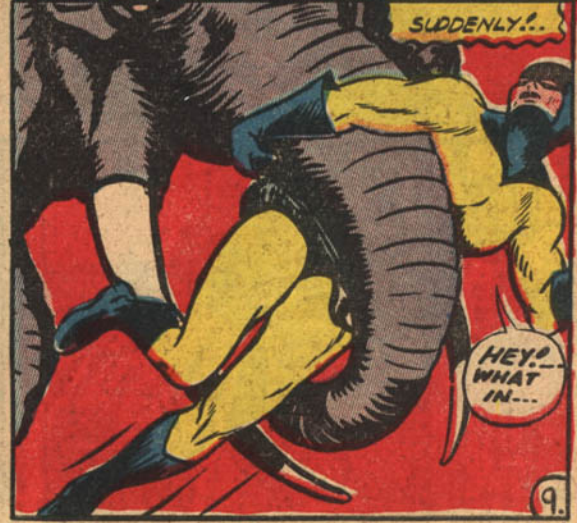
THEN, A RAZOR-SHARP
MACHETE WHISTLING AT
THE HOOD'S HEAD, MISSES
ITS MARK, AND...

UGH!



OOF!

THANKS FOR THE HAND, YOU
WOOLY-HEADED KILLER!...
HERE'S ONE OF MY OWN!



SUDDENLY!..

HEY!
WHAT
IN...

SO, BLACK HOOD, YOU DECIDED TO TRACK MB DOWN!



HOW UNFORTUNATE... FOR YOU! MY ELEPHANT SHAN'T KILL YOU! I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE... YET!

JUST WHAT IS YOUR GAME MURDERER!



YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH! I GO INTO THE DOOR, TANTO!



ROARR!



AT AN ORDER FROM THE ANIMAL MAN, THE ELEPHANT DEPOSITS THE HOOD IN A CAGE ADJOINING THE FEROCIOUS TIGER!

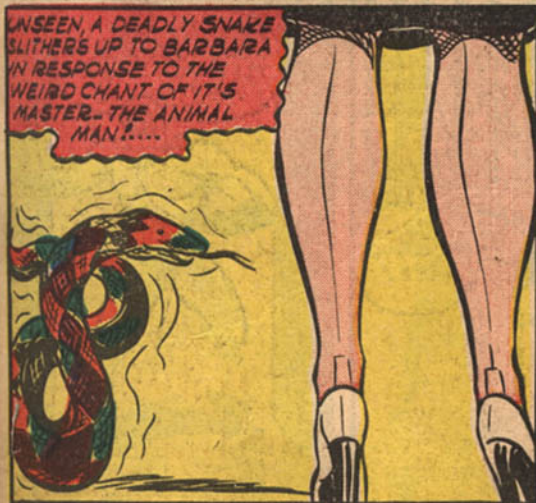


WELL DONE, TANTO! YOU MAY GO NOW!



YOU SEE MY COMPLETE MASTERY OVER THE ANIMALS! I EVEN SPEAK THEIR LANGUAGE! NOW YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HOW FUTILE WERE YOUR EFFORTS AT OPPOSING ME!

I, BLACK HOOD, AM THE ANIMAL MAN, LORD AND MASTER OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM! ... THAT IS WHY I HAD MY ANIMALS KILL THOMAS! HE WAS A TRESPASSER! AND THAT'S WHY EVERY ANIMAL HUNTER WILL DIE—AND YOURSELF, TOO! FOR YOU HAVE COMMITTED THE UNPARDONABLE SIN OF KILLING MY BEAUTIFUL BLACK PANTHER!



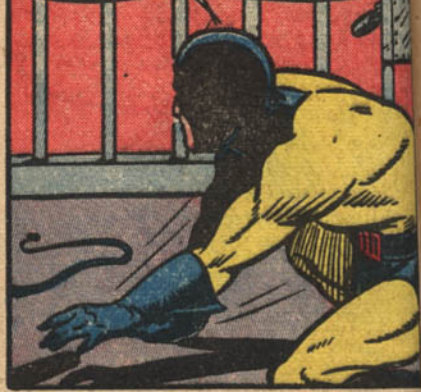
HEH, HEH, A WORD FROM ME AND YOUR LIFE WOULD BE SNUFFED OUT LIKE A CANDLE!



YOU ARE PARALYZED WITH FEAR, EH? I CAN'T BLAME YOU! THAT SNAKE IS MY MOST DEADLY SPECIMEN! AND NOW YOU WILL PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR GUN!



THAT FIEND WILL KILL HER ANYWAY AS SOON AS HE TAKES HER GUN FROM HER! THERE IS ONE REMOTE CHANCE - BUT I MUST RISK IT!



DEFTLY, THE HOOD LASHES OUT AND THE WHIP COILS ABOUT THE SNAKE'S HEAD!



SHOOT IT, BARBARA! HURRY! I'LL KEEP IT FROM BITING YOU!



BLAST YOU, HOOD!



GOOD WORK! NOW BLOW THE LOCK OFF MY CAGE! QUICK, THE ANIMAL MAN'S ESCAPING!



NICE SHOOTING, BABS!

HE CAN'T HAVE GONE VERY FAR! I'LL CATCH UP WITH HIM!



THERE HE GOES!



I'VE GOT TO GET TO THAT STONE DOOR BEFORE HE CLOSES IT BEHIND HIM!



JUST MADE IT! UGH... HE'S TRYING TO SHOVE IT SHUT!



DOOF!

SORRY, OLD BOY! THIS IS ONE TIME I BEAT YOU TO THE PUNCH!



AND I DO MEAN PUNCH!



BUT THE ANIMAL MAN FIGHTS BACK WITH THE DESPERATION OF A CORNERED RAT!

INTO THE SNAKE PIT WITH YOU, HOOD!



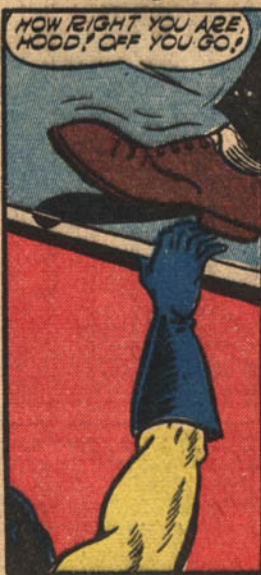
IF THOSE THINGS GET AT ME, I'M DONE FOR!

WHRRR

SSSS



HOW RIGHT YOU ARE, HOOD! OFF YOU GO!



YOU LEFT YOURSELF WIDE OPEN THAT TIME!



AAAWEE

WHRRR

SSS

SSS



BEFORE THE ANIMAL MAN CAN CONTROL THEM, THE SNAKES ARE ON HIM WITH THEIR DEATH-DEALING FANGS, AND



WHIRRR

AAARGH!



HELLO, MCGINTY! GOT HERE A LITTLE LATE... AS USUAL!

HOOD WHERE'S THE KILLERS?

DOWN THERE, WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM! I SUPPOSE YOU ALL FOLLOWED THE GORILLA'S BLOOD TRAIL, EH?



YES, HOOD, AS SOON AS MISS SUTTON STARTED AFTER YOU, SERGEANT MCGINTY ARRIVED.

WHAT A SIGHT!

WELL, THAT WINDS UP ONE OF MY WEIRDEST ADVENTURES! IF I NEVER SEE ANOTHER ANIMAL AGAIN, IT'LL BE TOO SOON! BETTER ROUND UP THIS MENAGERIE AND PUT 'EM IN A ZOO, MCGINTY!



YEAH, AND I'M PUTTIN' YOU BEHIND BARS TOO, HOOD, ONLY IT WON'T BE A ZOO! THERE'S A LOT OF EXPLAININ' COMIN' FROM YOU!



SUCH FAMILIAR WORDS!

REALLY, IT'S GETTING MONOTONOUS MAKING A MONKEY OUT OF YOU!



HEY... MY HAT! HE'S GETTIN' AWAY! COME BACK HERE, HOOD!



HE WENT IN THIS ROOM. HE CAN'T GET AWAY!

I KNOW HE CAN'T BUT HE DID, SARGE!

HA, HA! THE HOOD SAID HE'S MAKING A MONKEY OUT OF YOU... AND HE MEANT IT!



HAW, HAW

IT DOES RESEMBLE YOU SLIGHTLY, MCGINTY!

BLANKETY BLANK... GIMME MY HAT BACK!

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THE

WIZARD

WITH ROY, THE SUPER-BOY



BLANE WHITNEY, ROY AND JANE ARE AT THE MIDTOWN ACADEMY WHERE PROFESSOR LANG, NOTED EXPLORER IS DELIVERING A LECTURE, SUDDENLY HIS VOICE FAILS, HE CLUTCHES WILDLY AT HIS THROAT, HIS FACE IS CONTORTED INTO A WRETCHED MASK OF PAIN AND HE TOPPLES TO THE FLOOR, WRITHING AND MOANING!



HE'S DEAD! IT'S A CASE OF HEART FAILURE!



SUDDENLY A MAN RUSHES EXCITEDLY INTO THE ANTE-ROOM.

NO NO I TELL YOU, IT'S THE VOODOO! THE VOODOO MURDERED HIM!

COME, COME, NOW CHARLES. I KNOW THIS THING HAS UPSET YOU!

THIS IS CHARLES LANG. HIS BROTHER'S DEATH HAS BEEN AN AWFUL SHOCK.



MEANWHILE OUTSIDE, MOE WAITS FOR BLANE, ROY AND JANE

WONDER WHAT THAT BLIND GUY IS STICKING PINS IN THAT DOLL FOR!



THOSE CURSED FOOLS THEY NEVER RECKONED ON MY COMING BACK.



HEH, HEH. THE FIRST ONE IS DEAD.

IT'S THE SCREWIEST THING I EVER SAW.



OH WELL! HERE THEY COME AT LAST.



I TELL YA I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT. A BLIND BEGGAR JABBING PINS INTO A LITTLE RAG DOLL!



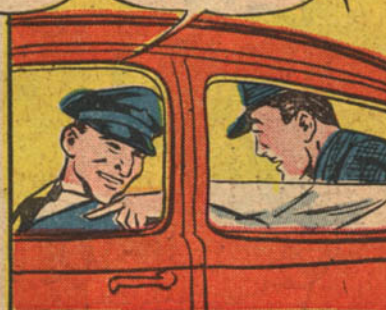
GEE BLANE. THOSE DOLLS GIVE ME AN IDEA. DO YOU THINK THERE COULD BE ANYTHING TO THAT VODOO? I'VE HEARD TELL OF SUCH THINGS!



NONSENSE! YOUR IMAGINATION IS WORKING OVERTIME AGAIN.

PULL UP AT THE CORNER, MOE. I'VE JUST REMEMBERED AN APPOINTMENT WHICH I MUST KEEP.

YES, MR. WHITNEY.



COME ON ROY! THOSE DOLLS REALLY HAVE GIVEN ME AN IDEA.

I KNEW YOU WERE UP TO SOMETHING WHEN YOU TRIED TO DISCOURAGE JANE'S THOUGHTS ABOUT BLACK MAGIC!

A LIGHTNING CHANGE AND THE WIZARD AND ROY, THE SUPER BOY ARE READY FOR ACTION!

THERE SEEMS TO BE MORE TO THIS SITUATION THAN MEETS THE EYE.

WE'RE GOING DOWN TO CHARLES LANG'S HOUSE AND QUESTION HIM A BIT!

IN THE MEANTIME - JANE GOES TO THE FILES TO SEE IF SHE CAN FIND ANYTHING ON VOODOO.

THERE SHOULD BE SOMETHING IN HERE THAT WILL ENLIGHTEN ME.

THE WIZARD AND ROY ARRIVE AT LANG'S HOME

LOOKING IN THE WINDOW THEY SEE ...

INSTANTLY THEY PLUNGE INTO THE MELEE!

LOOKS LIKE WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME FOR A LITTLE EXERCISE!



LOOKS LIKE THE BOYS ARE ALL TIRED OUT!

YEAH I GUESS YOU PLAY TOO ROUGH, WIZARD



YOU GOT HERE JUST IN TIME. YOU SAVED MY LIFE

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?



AS CHARLES LANG BEGINS HIS STRANGE STORY, A SINISTER FACE PEERS IN THE WINDOW.

IT'S A LONG STORY. IT HAS ITS BEGINNING TWENTY YEARS AGO IN AFRICA!

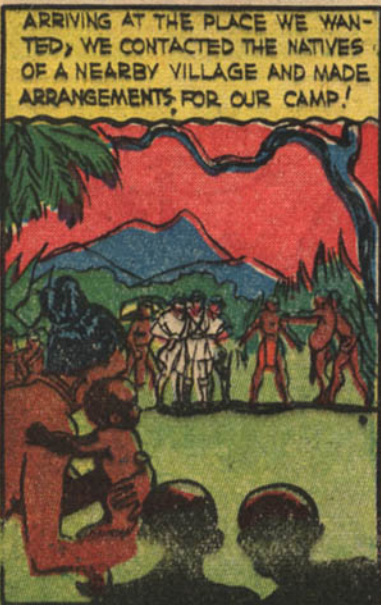


OUTSIDE

SO THEY INTERFERE WITH MY REVENGE, DO THEY? I'LL PUT THEM OUT OF THE WAY FIRST!



MY BROTHER AND I, AND AN ASSOCIATE, DR. STRONG WERE LEADING A SAFARI THROUGH THE AFRICAN JUNGLES IN SEARCH OF RARE BOTANIC SPECIMENS.



ARRIVING AT THE PLACE WE WANTED, WE CONTACTED THE NATIVES OF A NEARBY VILLAGE AND MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUR CAMP!



SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER MY BROTHER AND I, WORRIED ABOUT THE FREQUENT ABSENCE OF STRONG, QUESTIONED OUR LEAD GUIDE.

HAVE YOU SEEN SAHIB STRONG?

WE SEE HIM, GO VILLAGE, DANCE WITH YODDOO MEN, MAKE BLACK MAGIC!



GOING DOWN TO THE VILLAGE WE CAME TO A STRANGE SIGHT. STRONG WAS SITTING AMID THE NATIVES, JOINING THEIR WEIRD CHANTING, DRUMMING AS THE WITCH DOCTOR DANCED.

THE NEXT DAY WE CORNERED STRONG

SEE HERE STRONG WE'VE A JOB TO DO. WE'RE PUSHING ON TO-NIGHT WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT. WE'VE STAYED HERE LONG ENOUGH.

WHY CAN'T WE STAY JUST A FEW MORE DAY? I AM MAKING A STUDY OF VOODOO AND IT'S REALLY FASCINATING.

THAT NIGHT WE BROKE CAMP AND LEFT STRONG WAS NOT WITH US. HE WAS IN THE VILLAGE WITH THE WITCH DOCTOR!

AND SINCE THEN WE'VE NEVER SEEN HIM.. BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR MY BROTHER'S DEATH.

MEANWHILE

OH, OH! THIS MIGHT BE JUST WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR!

BOY, JANE REALLY LOOKS EXCITED. I WONDER WHAT'S UP?

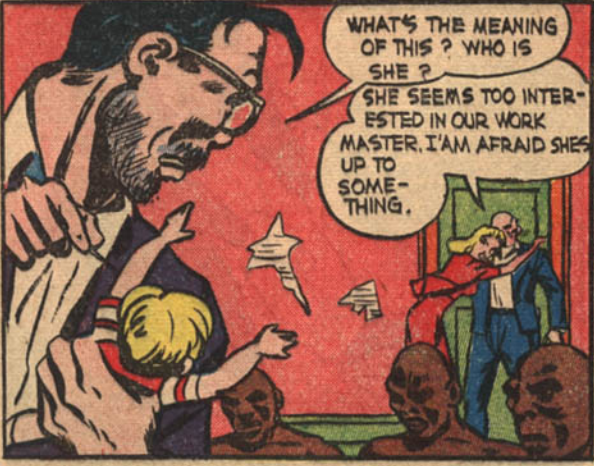
DRIVE ME TO 129 LENOX STREET, WILL YOU MOE?

HOP IN

I THINK I'M ON THE TRAIL OF SOMETHING IMPORTANT, MOE. IT MIGHT LEAD TO A TIE-UP BETWEEN PROFESSOR LANG'S DEATH AND THE BLIND MAN WITH THE DOLL.

THEY DRIVE TO ONE OF THE SHABBIEST PARTS OF TOWN AND STOP BEFORE AN OLD CURIO SHOP.





WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? WHO IS SHE?
SHE SEEMS TOO INTERESTED IN OUR WORK MASTER. I'M AFRAID SHE'S UP TO SOMETHING.



WILL I EVER COMPLETE MY TASK? THERE HAVE BEEN TOO MANY INTERRUPTIONS!



CHAIN HER TO THE WALL. I WILL TAKE CARE OF HER AFTER I HAVE DISPOSED OF THESE OTHERS.

STOP! LET ME GO!



THE VOODOO MAN BEGINS HIS WEIRD CHANT.

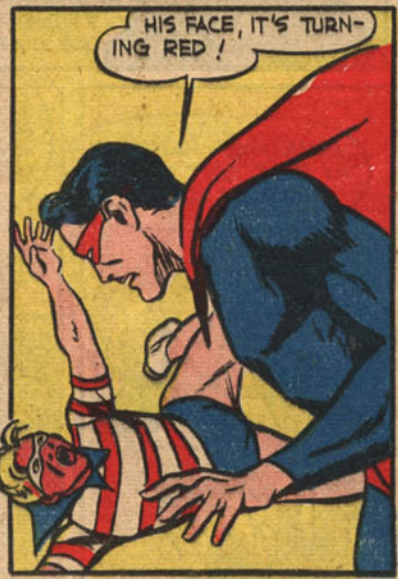


.....AND AT CHARLES LANG'S HOME

WIZARD! WIZARD! I CAN'T BREATHE, SOMETHING'S CHOKING ME!



ROY, ROY! WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IT'S THE VOODOO AGAIN!
IT'S THE VOODOO!

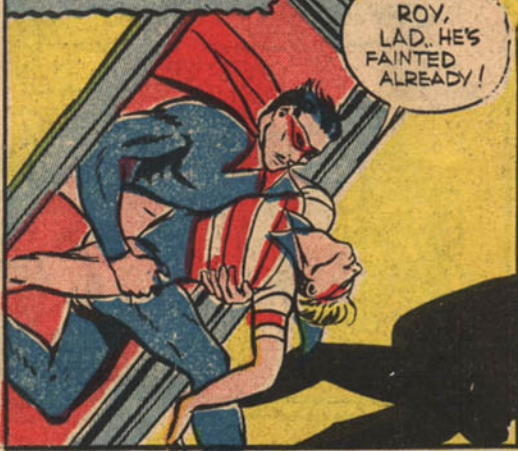


HIS FACE, IT'S TURNING RED!



THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO! TAKE HIM INTO THE GARDEN AND DIP HIM INTO THE FOUNTAIN. THE COLD WATER WILL BREAK THE SPELL. HURRY, THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE.

THE WIZARD PICKS UP THE WRITING BOY AND RUSHES OUT WITH HIM!



ROY, LAD.. HE'S FAINTED ALREADY!



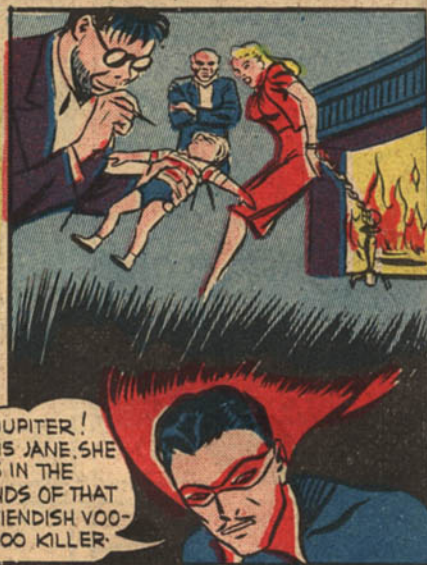
GOD, I HOPE THIS COLD WATER REALLY DOES BREAK THE VOODOO SPELL!



IT'S GONE WIZARD, IT'S GONE!



THEN... SOMETHING'S TROUBLING ME IT MUST BE JANE. SHE IS IN TROUBLE. I BETTER CALL UP A VISION.



JUPITER! IT'S JANE, SHE IS IN THE HANDS OF THAT FIENDISH VOO-DOO KILLER.



COME ON ROY WE'VE NO TIME TO LOSE..WE'VE GOT TO GET TO JANE!



SOMETHING - HAPPENED! MY SPELL ISN'T WORKING. IT'S BEEN BROKEN



SOMEBODY HAS BROKEN MY POWER AND THWARTED ME. HOWEVER, I STILL HAVE YOU TO TAKE CARE OF! NO-ONE WILL STOP ME FROM KILLING YOU!



EVERY PIN THAT I INJECT WILL BRING YOU NEARER, AND NEARER TO DEATH

JUST THEN THE WIZARD ARRIVES



AREN'T YOU OLD TO BE PLAYING WITH DOLLS - DR. STRONG?



WE KILL HIM HIM HURT MASTER

OH OH, LOOKS LIKE I'M ABOUT TO BE STUCK!



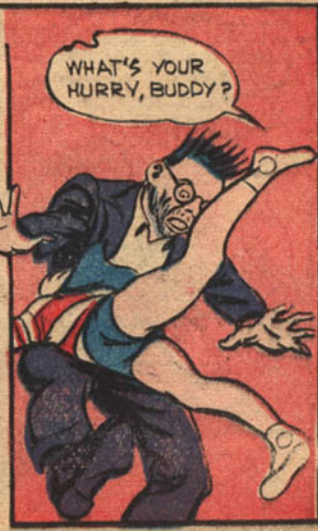
HERE YOU ARE BOYS. HERE'S A KNOCK DOWN TO EACH OTHER.



GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOU GUYS APART AND SEE WHAT MAKES YOU RUN.



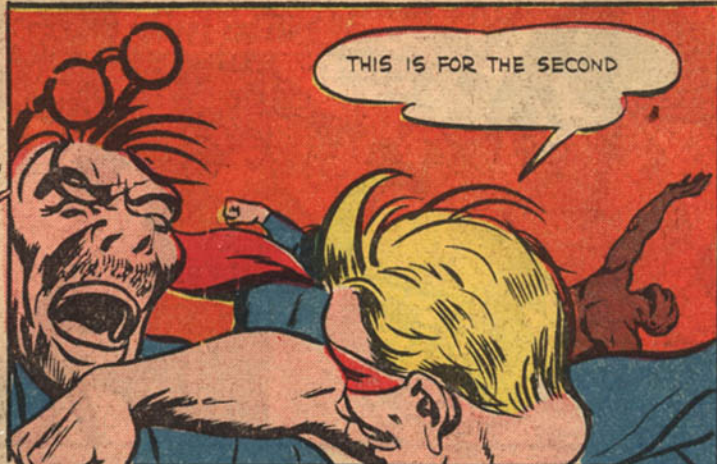
THE VOODOO MAN TRIES TO ESCAPE IN THE CONFUSION



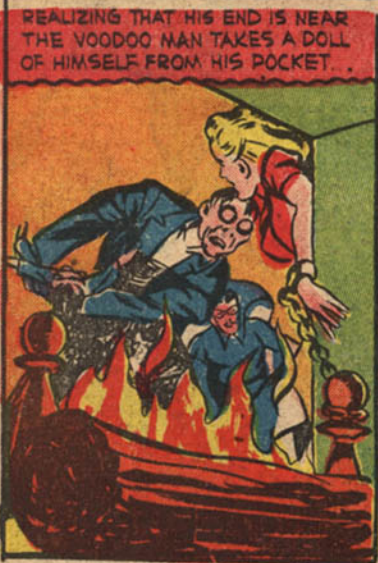
WHAT'S YOUR HURRY, BUDDY?



THIS IS FOR THE FIRST DART YOU STUCK IN-TO ME!



THIS IS FOR THE SECOND



REALIZING THAT HIS END IS NEAR THE VOODOO MAN TAKES A DOLL OF HIMSELF FROM HIS POCKET.



HE RUSHES TO THE FIRE PLACE AND THROWS IT IN.



HE MUTTERS A FEW STRANGE WORDS AND SUDDENLY BURST INTO FLAMES.



OH IT'S HORRIBLE! THERE IS NOTHING LEFT BUT ASHES.

PULL YOURSELF TO-GETHER JANE. IT'S JUST AS WELL THAT HE AND HIS EVIL POWER HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.



PROFESSOR LANG WAS RIGHT. THE VOODOO MAN WAS DR. STRONG. WELL, LET'S GO, ROY! OUR JOB IS DONE

SO LONG JANE!

CURIOSITY



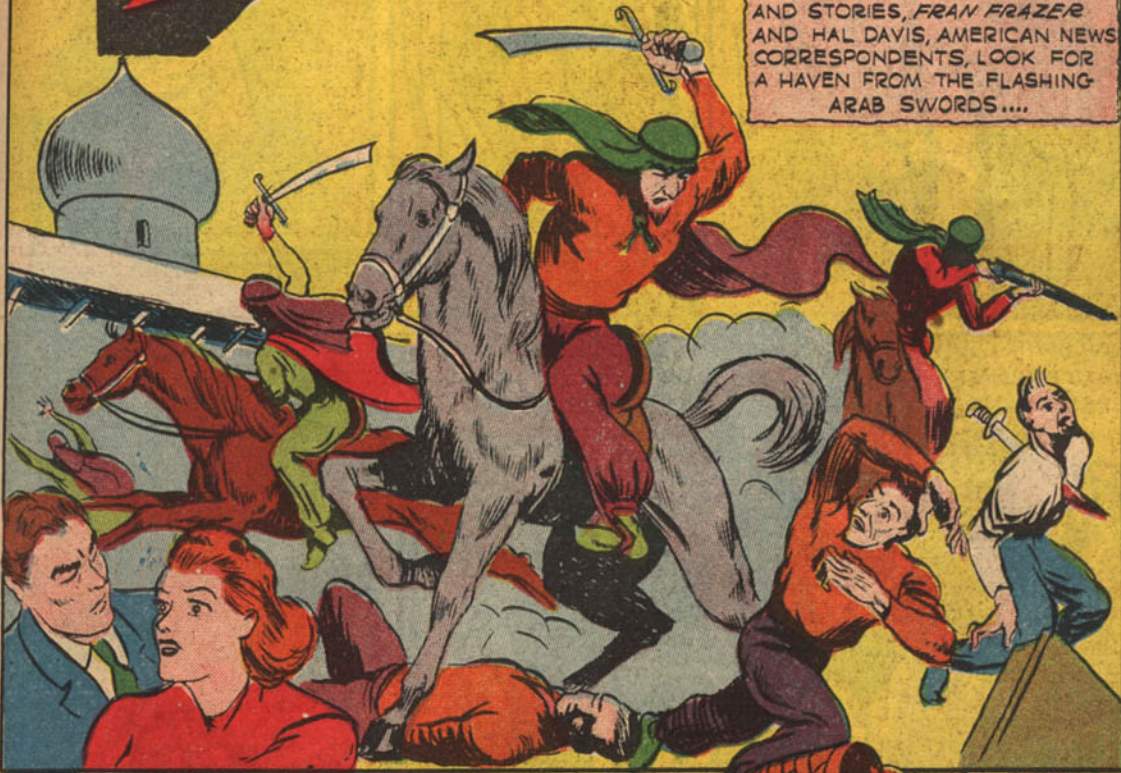
LATER... IN BLANE'S OFFICE

BLANE FOR THE FIRST TIME, I HAVE A STORY WHICH I AM AFRAID TO RUN. IT'S TOO... GRUESOME—TOO FANTASTIC.

YOU NEED A VACATION JANE—YOU ARE OVER-WORKED. THAT'S WHAT!

Fran FRAZER

CAUGHT IN THE MIDST OF A SAVAGE ARAB RAID, AS THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO GET PICTURES AND STORIES, *FRAN FRAZER* AND HAL DAVIS, AMERICAN NEWS CORRESPONDENTS, LOOK FOR A HAVEN FROM THE FLASHING ARAB SWORDS....



COME ON, HAL, LET'S DUCK IN HERE!

I'M RIGHT WITH YOU, BABY!



I'LL SLIP INTO THESE CLOTHES, HAL. YOU HIDE IN THAT OTHER ROOM AND I'LL TRY TO STALL THEM OFF IF THEY COME!



WHERE ARE THOSE TWO FOREIGN DOGS WHO RAN IN HERE?

SAW NO ONE



HMM, NOT BAD. I THINK I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO MY CHIEF FOR HIS HAREM.



WHAT'S THAT NOISE? IT'S COMING FROM BEHIND THOSE CURTAINS

WHAT NOISE?



OH, OH! NOW WE'RE DONE FOR.

IN HERE!



OH, BOY! IF I ONLY HAD MY CAMERA READY NOW.

ANOTHER ONE! I WILL SURELY FALL INTO THE GOOD GRACES OF OUR CHIEF.

A FINE ADDITION TO OUR HAREM... LET US HURRY AND RETURN TO CAMP!



GOSH, FRAN, WE'D BETTER TRY TO FIGURE SOME WAY OUT OF HERE. I'D HATE TO GET CAUGHT LIKE THIS!

RELAX, HAL, YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.



WHERE ARE THE TWO NEW GIRLS? THE CHIEF WISHES TO SEE THEM.



HM - THAT'S VON BERG, THE GERMAN ATTACHE. I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING HERE?

AH, HERE THEY COME NOW!



NOT BAD AT ALL. MY MEN CERTAINLY KNOW WHAT I LIKE.

DISS VON IS GHOST MY TYPE ALSO. I LIKE STRONG VIMMEN.

IF I CAN JUST GET RID OF THAT GERMAN SOMEHOW, PERHAPS I CAN GET A LITTLE INFORMATION OUT OF THAT OVERSTUFFED BABOON!



PLACING HER HAND AROUND THE CHIEF'S WAIST, FRAY SPEAKS IN PIGLATIN TO HAL....

LET MAY IGRAY OF ATHAY UMD-CHAY?



HAL NODS KNOWINGLY, AND:

COME ON, LET'S TAKE A WALK IN THE MOONLIGHT.

GOOT?



CHUST VUN MOMENT, I ALMOST FORGOT TO GIVE YOU THIS LETTER!



AS THE ARAB CHIEF LOOKS AT THE ENVELOPE, FRAY CAUTIOUSLY SETS A SMALL CAMERA OF POWERFUL SCOPE WHICH SHE HAS CONCEALED IN HER WIDE BRACE-LET...



OH WELL, I SUPPOSE PLEASURE COMES BEFORE BUSINESS IN THIS CASE!

NO, WHY DON'T YOU READ THE LETTER NOW? MAYBE IT'S IMPORTANT!



READING THE LETTER, HE DOES NOT NOTICE FRAY SLYLY SNAPPING PICTURES OF ITS CONTENTS...

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT.



MEANWHILE IN THE GARDEN..

CUM ON SWEETHEART, HOW ABOUT A LITTLE KISS?

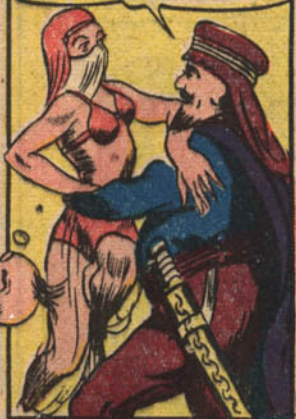


HERE'S A KISS TO REMEMBER ME BY, EGGSHEAD!



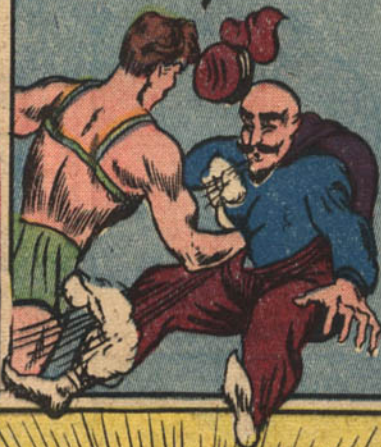
MEANWHILE IN THE PALACE...

COME MY LITTLE ORIENTAL FLOWER, WE WILL SIT UNDER THE STARS TOGETHER!



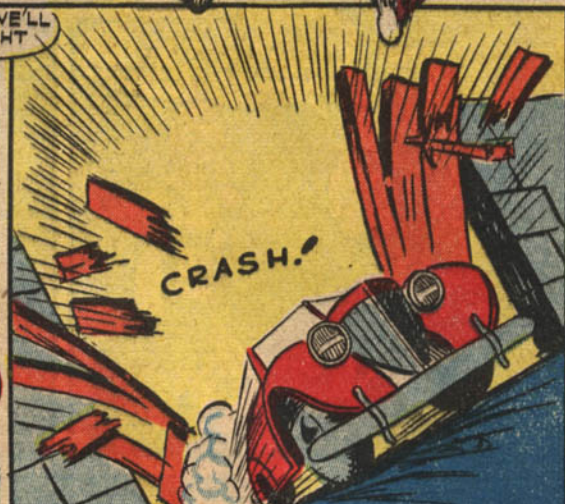
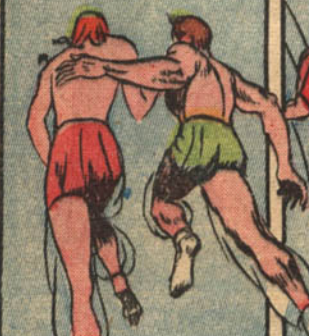
HAL COMES RUSHING IN...

HERE'S A COUPLE OF STARS FOR YOU TO GET UNDER, FATSTUFF!



C'MON BRAN, THERE'S A CAR PARKED OUTSIDE NEAR THE GATE!

HOLD ON TIGHT! WE'LL HAVE TO BUST RIGHT THROUGH THOSE GATES!



LATER, AT THE BRITISH CONSUL...

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? WHO ARE YOU?



WE HAVE PROOF OF THE FACT THAT THE ARABS ARE PREPARING TO PULL A GERMAN-INSTIGATED RAID ON NAZARETH, WITH A SKELETON FORCE. THEY PLAN TO, THEREBY, DIVERT THE MAIN FORCE OF THE BRITISH ARMY AND THEN SEND THE BULK OF THEIR TROOPS AGAINST THINLY-GUARDED HAIFA!

WHAT?.. HERE, LET ME SEE THAT LETTER!



LATER...

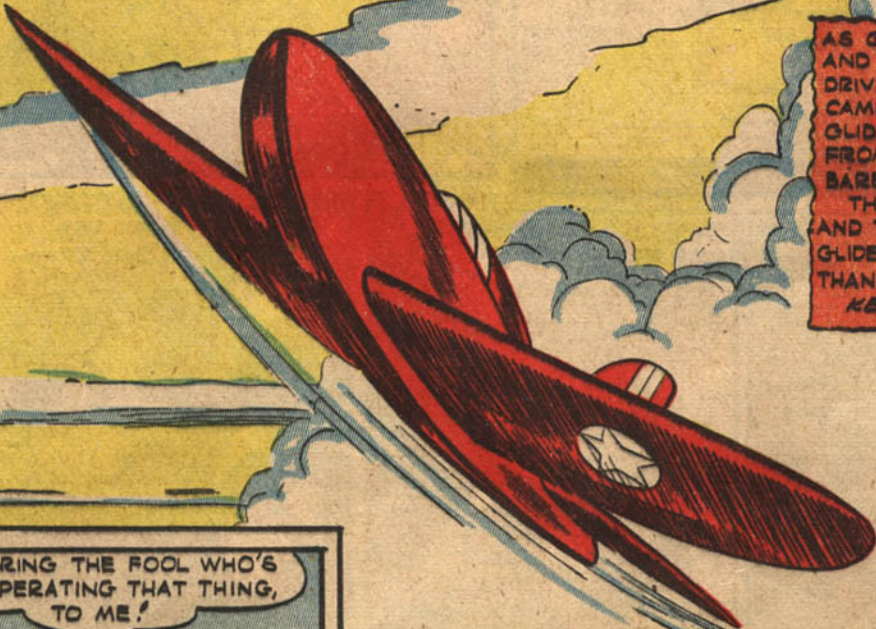
WELL, HAL, THIS IS ONE SCOOP WE BOTH GOT TOGETHER! YOU GOT THE STORY AND I GOT THE PICS!

YEAH, BUT MORE IMPORTANT, THE KRAUTS GOT IT IN THE NECK!

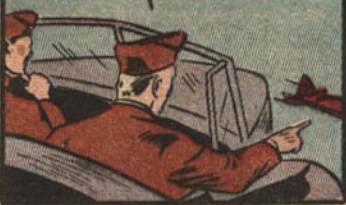


KEITH KORNELL


WESTPONTER




AS GENERAL AMES AND HIS AIDE ARE DRIVING THROUGH CAMP WOODSTOCK, A GLIDER SWOOPS DOWN FROM THE CLOUDS BARBLY MISSING THEIR CAR.... AND THE PILOT OF THE GLIDER IS NONE OTHER THAN LIEUTENANT KEITH KORNELL!..




BRING THE FOOL WHO'S OPERATING THAT THING, TO ME!



OH LIEU-TENANT, GENERAL AMES WANTS TO SEE YOU!



DO YOU REALIZE THAT YOUR FOOL CONTRAPTION MIGHT HAVE KILLED US. I'LL NOT HAVE MY MEN WASTING THEIR TIME ON SUCH NON-SENSE.



BUT SIR, I'M SURE GLIDERS WILL BE VERY USEFUL TO THE ARMY.

NONSENSE!

AW NUTS, DON'T HE REALIZE THAT GLIDERS CAN BE VERY USEFUL IN ARMED MANEUVERS. THE VERY FACT THAT HE DIDN'T HEAR OR SEE ME COMING BEARS OUT THE USEFULNESS OF THE GLIDER AS A WEAPON.



CHEER UP, KEITH, THINGS AREN'T SO BAD! LET'S GO OVER AND VISIT MY DAD. HE'S DOWN HERE ON ORDERS FROM ARMY INTELLIGENCE.



BOY, THOSE FELLOWS SEEM TO BE IN A HURRY.



COME ON. SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE.



ENTERING THE OFFICER'S QUARTERS, THEY SEE COLONEL CRAWFORD...



WHAT'S HAPPENED, DAD?

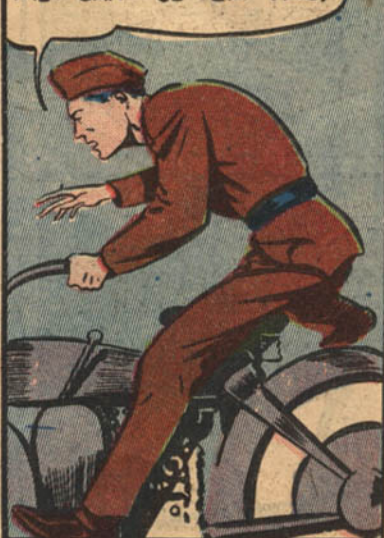
THOSE MEN SLUGGED ME AND STOLE SOME IMPORTANT PAPERS I WAS CARRYING.



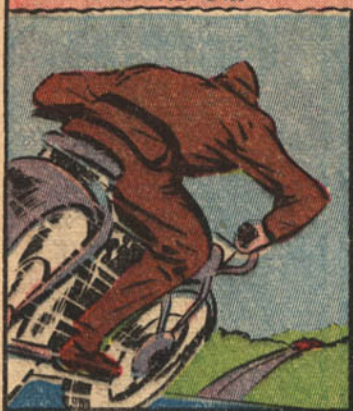
GO GET HELP, DAN, I'LL TRY TO HEAD THEM OFF IN THE MEANTIME.



THEY CAN'T BE VERY FAR.



KEITH SIGHTS THE SPEEDING CAR AHEAD...



LOOK, JOE! WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED!



I'LL GET RID OF HIM!



WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!



DRIVE UP THIS HILL, JOE, MAYBE WE CAN SHAKE HIM!



OH, OH! IF THEY GET TO THE TOP OF POINT LOOKOUT, IT WILL BE PRETTY TOUGH TO GET THEM.



THE SPIES ARRIVE AT THE TOP OF POINT LOOKOUT AND DISCOVER THEY CAN GO NO FURTHER ...



WE'RE SAFE UP HERE FOR AWHILE! THIS PLACE FORMS A NATURAL BARRICADE AND WITH THAT NARROW ROAD THE ONLY WAY UP, WE CAN HOLD A WHOLE ARMY OFF TILL OUR AMMUNITION RUNS OUT!



AS KEITH DUCKS OUT OF GUNFIRE THE REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE...



THEY CAN'T GET AWAY FROM US UP THERE; YET I'D HESITATE TO SEND A PARTY UP FOR FEAR OF HAVING ANY OF OUR MEN SHOT NEEDLESSLY.



COULDN'T WE LAND A PLANE UP THERE, SIR?



IT WOULD BE TOO NOISY AND ATTRACT THEIR ATTENTION.

I THINK I CAN GET UP THERE, IT'S WORTH A TRY SIR.

SIR, THIS IS JUST THE SPOT FOR MY GLIDER, IT'S NOISELESS AND WOULDN'T ATTRACT ANY ATTENTION.



PREPOSTEROUS! YOU COULDN'T DO IT IN THAT WORTHLESS CONTRAPTION!

GIVE HIM A CHANCE, GENERAL, IT SEEMS LIKE OUR ONLY BET.



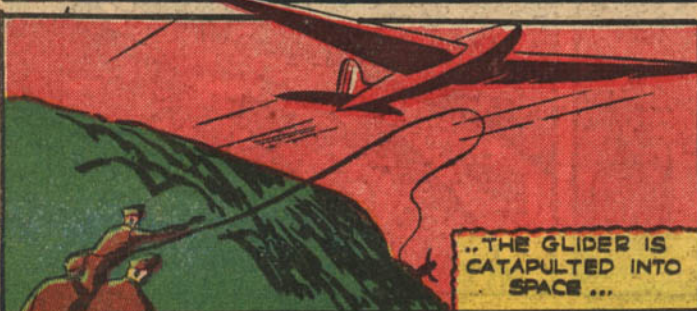
WELL, ALLRIGHT SINCE IT SEEMS LIKE THE BEST WAY OUT, I'LL GIVE MY CONSENT.



KEITH GIVES THE MEN SOME LAST MINUTE INSTRUCTIONS, AND...



IT SOARS NOISELESSLY OVER LOOK OUT POINT, UNSEEN BY THE TWO GUNMEN...



..THE GLIDER IS CATAPULTED INTO SPACE...

...AND LANDS ATOP THE PEAK.



WELL, THEY HAVEN'T SPOTTED ME YET.



KIND OF SURPRISED YOU, EH BOYS? DROP THOSE GUNS AND START WALKING.



WHERE'D HE COME FROM?

OH SO YOU WANT TO GIVE ME A LITTLE TARGET PRACTICE, DO YOU?



Ooo! HE GOT ME IN THE LEG!



OKAY, BUDDY, YOU'RE NOT GOING ANY - WHERE!



AS KEITH ATTENDS TO THE OTHER ONE, THE REST OF THE SOLDIERS COME RUSHING UP THE HILL ...



HERE'S A SLUG FOR YOU, TOO!

I GUESS YOU'VE TAUGHT ME SOMETHING, LIEUTENANT. I'LL INCLUDE GLIDERS IN THE FUTURE SCHEME OF THINGS IN THIS ARMY.



THANK YOU, SIR!

THE FIREFLY

King

DR. TALLOK, WHO BROUGHT THE PRICELESS, BUT CURSED, DIAMOND FROM THE EYE OF THE OALI GOD, TO AMERICA, WAS MURDERED BY THE DERVISH. THE FIREFLY PURSUED THE DERVISH BUT GAVE HIM UP AS LOST IN THE WHIRL POOL.

THE OALI CULT HAS BEEN AFFLICTED WITH A PESTILENCE WHICH, THEY FEEL IS A RESULT OF THE LOSS OF THEIR GOD'S SACRED EYE. MEANWHILE DR. TALLOK'S DAUGHTER HAS COME TO INDIA TO RETURN THE STONE TO FREE HERSELF OF THE MEMORY OF THE CURSE. A SACRED CEREMONY IS CONDUCTED BY THE DERVISH FOR THE RETURN OF THE JEWEL.

THESE FOOLS THINK THAT I WANT THE STONES FOR THEIR CURE... LITTLE DO THEY KNOW ITS VALUE TO ME IN MONEY AND POWER.

GET THE GIRL. SHE HAS COME TO BOMBAY.



LATER THAT NIGHT... THE TALLON IS
KIDNAPPED FROM THE HOTEL
ROOM



SHE IS BROUGHT FACE TO FACE WITH HER
FATHER'S MURDERER.

THE DERVISH!
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
DEAD.



ME DEAD...? NO MY DEAR.
YOU SEE MY STRANGLING
CORD SAVED ME FROM
THE WHIRLPOOL, I LASSOED
A CLUMP AND SAVED MY-
SELF.



NOW THEN,
THE JEWEL!

BUT I HAVEN'T
GOT IT, IT'S
BEEN
STOLEN!



A THIEF DISGUISED AS
A HOTEL ATTENDANT... TOOK
IT FROM MY ROOM. I GUESS
IT'S GONE FOR GOOD NOW!



HOW WRONG YOU
ARE... NO WHITE MAN
CAN LEAVE OR EN-
TER BOMBAY WITH-
OUT MY KNOWLEDGE.
MY CULT MEMBERS
ARE EVERY-
WHERE!



MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE STATES,
THE DAY BEFORE LUCILLE'S
KIDNAPPING...

SAY WITH THIS
LOPEZ ON THE LOOSE,
LUCILLE MAY BE IN FOR
SOME TROUBLE!



HASTENING TO HIS FIRE-
FLIER, THE FIREFLY IS
SOON WINGING TOWARD
INDIA.





BOMBAY AT LAST... NOW FOR LUCILLE'S HOTEL!



THE FIREFLY IMMEDIATELY MAKES FOR LUCILLE'S ROOM AND SEES...

JUPITER LOOKS LIKE A TORNADO HIT THE PLACE!



AND HERE'S THE JEWEL BOY... EMPTY... 'RICO MUST HAVE GOT HERE FIRST.' BUT HE WOULDN'T WANT TO KIDNAP LUCILLE.. ONLY THING FOR ME TO DO IS TRY AND TRACK DOWN 'RICO, AND HOPE I CAN GET A CLUE OF HER WHERE ABOUTS THROUGH HIM.



LATER...

MR. LOPEZ I PRESUME.

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA



YOU WILL GIVE ME THE DIAMOND MR. TALK LOPEZ. SENSE?... YOU DON'T THINK I WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF ROBBING IT JUST TO GIVE IT TO YOU!



PERHAPS MY PET CAN PERSUADE YOU. THROW HIM INTO THE CAGE.



WHEN I RAISE THE DOOR BETWEEN THE TWO CAGES... THE UNDERWORLD WILL HAVE LOST A TALENTED THIEF.

W... WAIT... I WAS ONLY KIDDIN'!



HERE IS THE CURSED THING. LET ME OUT!

YOU STUPID FOOL... I'LL LET YOU OUT - AS A CORPSE OPEN THE TIGER'S DOOR!



AS THE DOOR RISES, A TREMENDOUS TIGER SPRINGS AT LOPEZ.



AH THE JEWEL AT LAST!



YOU'RE NEXT MY DEAR. YOU KNOW TOO MUCH!

NO NO!



INTO THE CAGE WITH YOU MY DEAR!



JUST THEN THE DERVISH HEARS A COMMOTION ON THE STAIRCASE.

WHAT'S THAT!



THE FIREFLY HURTTLES DOWN THE STAIRS BOWLING OVER THE SLAVES.



THERE IS LUCILLE IN THAT CAGE AND A TIGER RARING TO GO IN THE OTHER CAGE!



SUDDENLY AND SILENTLY THE STRANGLER'S CORD WHIPS AROUND THE FIREFLY'S THROAT!



HERE IS YOUR HERO. I GIVE YOU THE PLEASURE OF DYING TOGETHER IN THE CAGE! HA HA HA!



HE'S ALIVE. OH THANK HEAVENS FOR THAT.

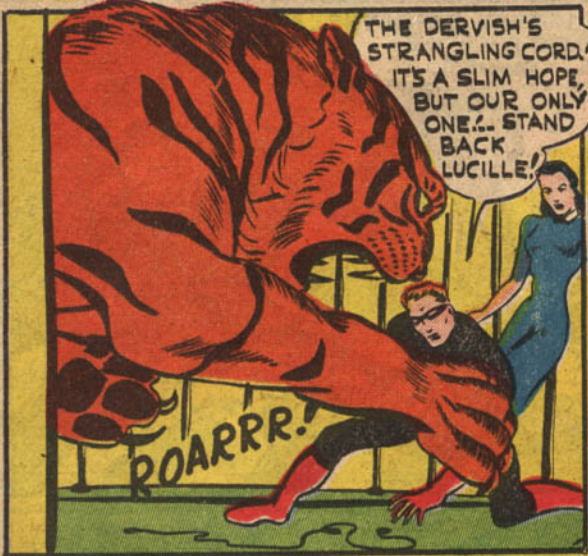


UGH!... MY THROAT FEELS LIKE A RAW HAMBURGER!

THE DERVISH TRIED TO STRANGLE YOU, FIREFLY.



SO YOU ARE CONSCIOUS FIREFLY... GOOD! I WANTED THE PLEASURE OF HAVING YOU KNOW IT WAS I, THE WHIRLING DERVISH WHO PROVED YOUR UNDOING.



ROARRR!

THE DERVISH'S STRANGLING CORD. IT'S A SLIM HOPE, BUT OUR ONLY ONE... STAND BACK LUCILLE!



THE CORD SNAPS...

AAARRR!



OKAY OVER YOU GO



WELL, I'LL LEAVE THE FIREFLY TO HIS PLEASANT DIVERSION WITH THE TIGER.. BUT FIRST, I'LL DROP THE DOOR BETWEEN THE ADJOINING CAGES.

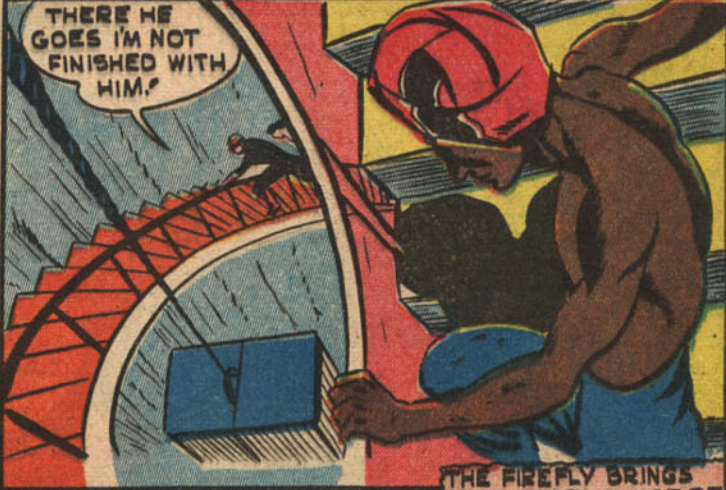


AT THAT MOMENT, THE FIREFLY SIDESTEPS THE TIGER'S LUNGE. THE DROPPING TRAP DOOR PINS THE TIGER BENEATH IT, TEMPORARILY.

EXERTING EVERY OUNCE OF HIS TERRIFIC STRENGTH THE FIREFLY FORCES AN ESCAPE FROM THE CAGE...



DUCK THROUGH HERE LU-CILLE, THE DOOR WON'T HOLD THE TIGER MUCH LONGER!



THERE HE GOES I'M NOT FINISHED WITH HIM!

THE BEAST FREES HIMSELF AND WITH A FEROCIOUS ROAR STARTS AFTER THEM.



HURLING UP THE STAIRS WITH EXPRESS-TRAIN SPEED, THE FIREFLY OVERTAKES THE DERVISH AND...



THE FIREFLY BRINGS EVERY LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH IN ONE CRUSHING BLOW AND...



THE DERVISH, SCREAMING WILDLY PLUNGES DOWNWARD STRAIGHT INTO THE CLAWS OF THE FEROCIOUS TIGER!



OH HOW HORRIBLE!

THIS TIME HE IS REALLY DONE FOR!

UGH! ALL THE BLOODSHED BECAUSE OF THIS STONE. IT MAKES MY BLOOD RUN COLD. I'M GIVING RIGHT BACK TO QALICULT!



GOOD...IT MAY AT LAST SAVE A FEW LIVES. THEY BELIEVE FANATICALLY THAT THEIR MISFORTUNES ARE DUE TO THE LOSS OF THE JEWEL!

THE

ST. LOUIS KID



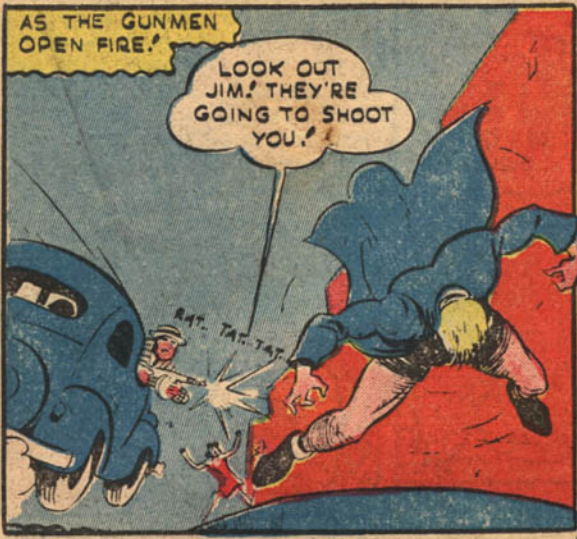
HERE'S WHERE YOU
GET YOURS FOR
DOUBLE-CROSSING
MORELLI, WISE GUY!

THINKING HIS MANAGER HAS SOLD OUT TO LOU MORELLI, BIG SHOT RACKETEER, THE ST. LOUIS KID WALKS OUT OF THE GARDEN BEFORE A BIG FIGHT, HEARTSICK AND DEPONDENT HE WANDERS AIMLESSLY THROUGH THE STREETS, IN HIS FIGHT TOGS, UNMINDFUL OF THE RAPIDLY APPROACHING CAR...

BOXING
TONIGHT
BEN'S
DICK
THERE HE
GOES POP.

MEANWHILE, MARY
AND HER FATHER
CHASE AFTER HIM.

LOOK POP!
THAT CAR
THEY'RE GOING
TO SHOOT
JIM!



AS THE GUNMEN OPEN FIRE!

LOOK OUT JIM! THEY'RE GOING TO SHOOT YOU!



OH HE'S BEEN SHOT! HE'S DEAD!

I'M GETTIN' IN HERE OUT OF THE SHOOTIN'!



JIM, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

YES, MARY, I HEARD YOU YELL AND I DUCKED JUST IN TIME!



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? WHO ARE THOSE MEN?

LET'S GET HOME FIRST AND I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT!



THEY WERE MORELLI'S MEN, SOMEHOW OR OTHER THEY'VE GOTTEN TO WINDY, AND HE'S WORKING IN CAHOOTS WITH THEM.



IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, YET IT'S EVIDENTLY TRUE. I'LL BET THEY WERE BEHIND THAT BENTON FRAME-UP I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO FIND OUT!



I'VE GOT IT MARY YOU COULD GET AROUND MORELLI, AND PUMP HIM. HE'S A SUCKER FOR A PRETTY FACE!



I HATE TO ASK THIS OF YOU MARY, YET IT SEEMS TO BE OUR ONLY CHANCE!

I'LL DO ANYTHING I CAN TO HELP YOU JIM!

YOU GO TO SEE MORELLI AND TELL HIM THAT YOU'VE GOT A PLAN WHICH WILL BRING ME INTO LINE. I'M SURE HE'LL TUMBLE FOR IT.

LEAVE IT TO ME!

GOOD LUCK MARY, AND BE CAREFUL

DON'T WORRY JIM, EVERYTHING WILL COME OUT ALRIGHT!

NEXT DAY AT MORELLI'S OFFICE.

SO YOU SEE MR. MORELLI, I THINK I CAN BRING THE KID INTO LINE WITHOUT ANY ROUGH STUFF. HE'S NOT TOO CLEVER AND I CAN HANDLE HIM PRETTY EASILY.

HMM!

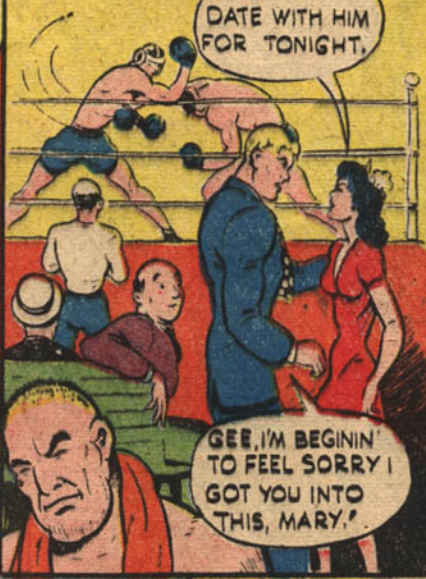
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT SISTER. I HAVE GOT A LOTTA DOUGH TIED UP IN THAT PUNK. WHY DON'T YOU COME UP TO MY PLACE FOR DINNER TONIGHT, AND WE'LL TALK THINGS OVER.

LATER

I'VE GOT A DATE WITH HIM FOR TONIGHT.

GEE MR MORELLI IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO INVITE ME UP HERE TONIGHT.

THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE MARY.



GEE, I'M BEGINN' TO FEEL SORRY I GOT YOU INTO THIS, MARY.

AS HE LEAVES, MARY GRABS THE PHONE AND MAKES A HURRIED CALL.

I WONDER IF YOU'D GET ME A DRINK OF WATER MR. MORELLI?

CERTAINLY BABE!

HELLO, HELLO, IS THIS THE BOXING COMMISSIONER?



WHAT'S THAT? HOLD THE PHONE IF I WANT TO HEAR SOMETHING STARTLING? WHAT IS THIS A GAG?

HEARING MORELLI'S FOOTSTEPS MARY SLIPS A WAD OF PAPER UNDER THE HEADPIECE.

GEE MR. MORELLI I SUPPOSE YOU'VE GOT TO BE PRETTY SMART TO GET PLACES LIKE YOU HAVE!

YOU BETCHA, BABE! BRAINS MORELLI. THATS ME.

AT THE OFFICE OF THE BOXING COMMISSIONER.



I WISH SHE'D CALL OR SOMETHING. I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER.

ALTHOUGH YOU'LL HAVE TO ADMIT IT WAS A PRETTY CLEVER IDEA OF MINE, HAVING BENTON TAKE A DIVE, AND THEN PINNING THE BLAME ON WINDY MILLS.

UNAWARE THAT EVERY WORD IS BEING TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE PHONE TO THE COMMISSIONER, MORELLI CONTINUES BRAGGING.



WHY, THE DIRTY RACKETEER!



NEXT DAY.....

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE DONE WINDY MILLS A GREAT INJUSTICE I'LL CALL HIM RIGHT AWAY AND STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT.

MORELLI THINKS I'M TAKIN' ORDERS FROM HIM NOW. AND HE'LL PROBABLY BET HIS SHIRT ON ME. THE BEST WAY TO HURT GUYS LIKE THAT IS THROUGH THE POCKETBOOK. I'M GOIN' THROUGH WITH THIS FIGHT.

THE NIGHT OF THE FIGHT.....

OKAY PUNK, REMEMBER I'M GIVIN' THE ORDERS, AND YOUR HITTIN' THE TANK IN THE FOURTH.

ALRIGHT. ALRIGHT.

NO WAIT, I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.



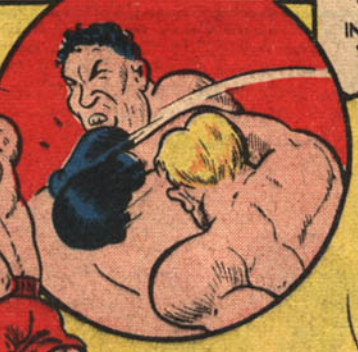
AS THE KID WALKS DOWN THE AISLE TO MEET HIS OPPONENT...TIGER LOGAN



WE'LL BABY GUESS WE'LL REALLY BE ABLE TO GO PLACES AND DO THINGS AFTER THIS SHINDIG.'

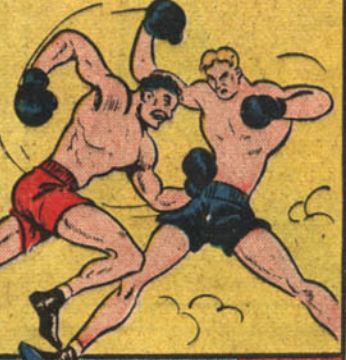


WHAT A FIGHT FOLKS. THE BOYS HAVE STARTED SLUGGING RIGHT AT THE BELL.

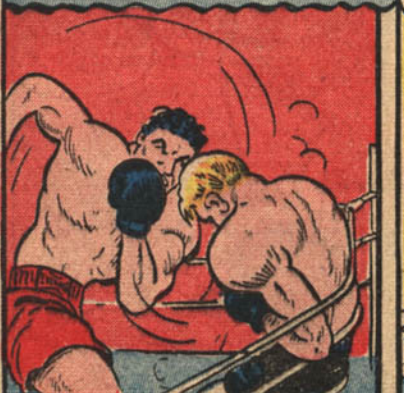


THE KID STARTS TO HOLD BACK IN THE SECOND ROUND IN ORDER TO MAKE MORELLI THINK HE'S OBEYING INSTRUCTIONS.

THEY'RE TRADING TERRIFIC RIGHTS PUNCHING AWAY FOR ALL THEY'RE WORTH!



FLAILING FISTS FIND THEIR TARGET TIME AND AGAIN. THE ST LOUIS KID SEEMS TO BE ABSORBING A TERRIFIC SHELLACKING!



IN A NEARBY BAR, POP MOLLY, MARYS' FATHER SHOTS HIS MOUTH OFF.

'HIC, DID I TELL YA ABOUT THE "HIC" SCHEME I WORKED UP TO FRAME MORELLI, THE BIG SHOT RACKETEER "HIC"'



AT THE OTHER END OF THE BAR.

HOLY MACKEREL I'D BETTER GET TO THE BOSS AND WARN HIM! AND THEN IN THE FOURTH THE KIDS GONNA TURN ON THE HEAT ETC.



THE FOURTH ROUND BEGINS



WELL IT LOOKS LIKE EVERY-THINGS IN THE BAG! KIDDO!

C'MON BOSS YOU GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE, YOU'RE BEIN' FRAMED.



WHAT!?

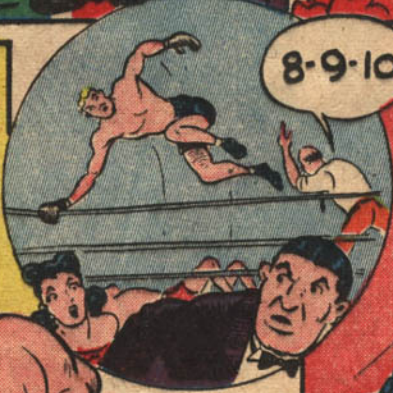
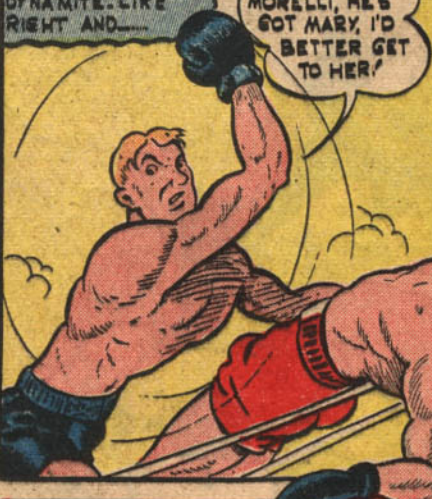
C'MON SISTER YOU'RE COMIN WIT ME, YOU'RE NOT 'GETTIN' AWAY WITH THIS!



LET ME GO! STOP!

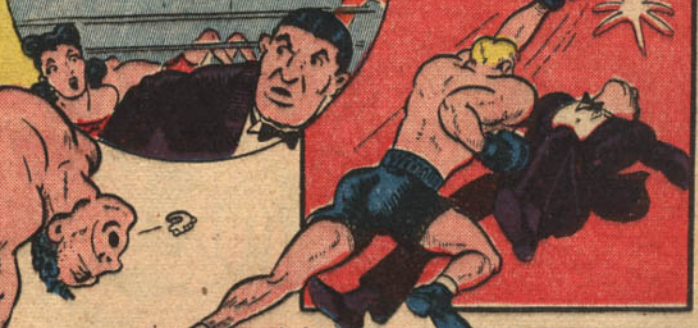
THE KID LOOSER A DYNAMITE-LIKE RIGHT AND.....

THERE GOES MORELLI, HE'S GOT MARY, I'D BETTER GET TO HER!



8-9-10

OKAY BIG SHOT HERE'S YOUR PAY-OFF!



I FRAMED WINDY MILLS AND THE ST. LOUIS KID. IT WAS ME WHO PAID BOMBER BENTON TO TAKE A DIVE AND ACCUSE MILLS!



WELL MILLS I'M VERY HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO REINSTATE YOU AND HAVE MORELLI PUT BEHIND THE BARS, WHERE HE BELONGS.



THANKS COMMISSIONER

GEE WINDY I'M SORRY I DOUBTED YOU! I'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN!

I GUESS WE OUT-SMARTED MORELLI RIGHT DIDN'T WE?



THE ST. LOUIS KID AND WINDY APPEAR IN EVERY ISSUE OF..... **TOP NOTCH COMICS**

...TO PROVIDE YOU WITH PLENTY OF FUN, ACTION AND EXCITEMENT.

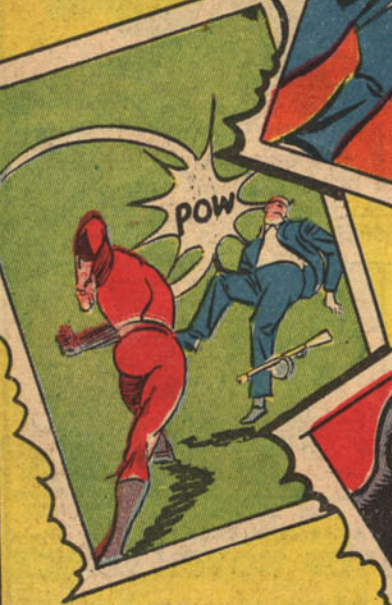
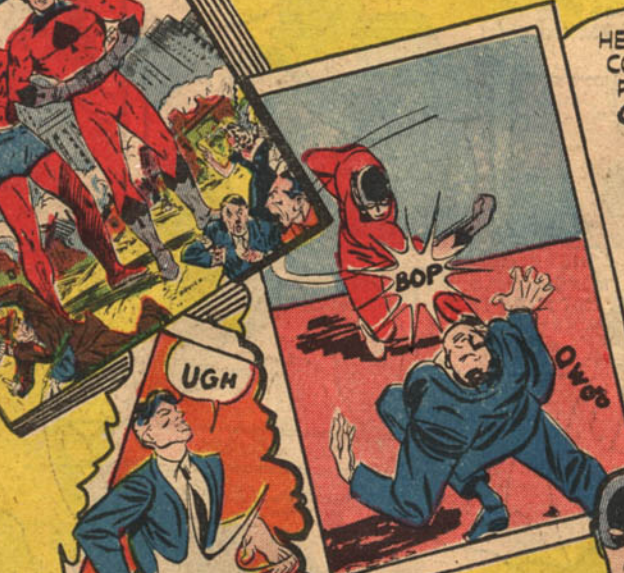
WHO IS

BLACK JACK?

YOU'LL FIND OUT IN THE NOV. ISSUE OF ZIP COMICS



HERE ARE A
COUPLE OF MY
PAGES IN ZIP
COMICS, GANG!
HOW'S ABOUT
GETTING YOUR
COPY RIGHT
NOW, SO WE
CAN BECOME
BETTER AC-
QUAINTED...
I'LL BE LOOK-
ING FOR
YOU!!

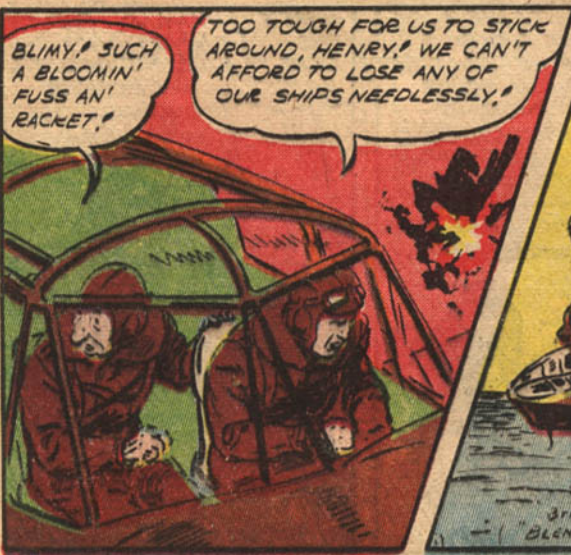
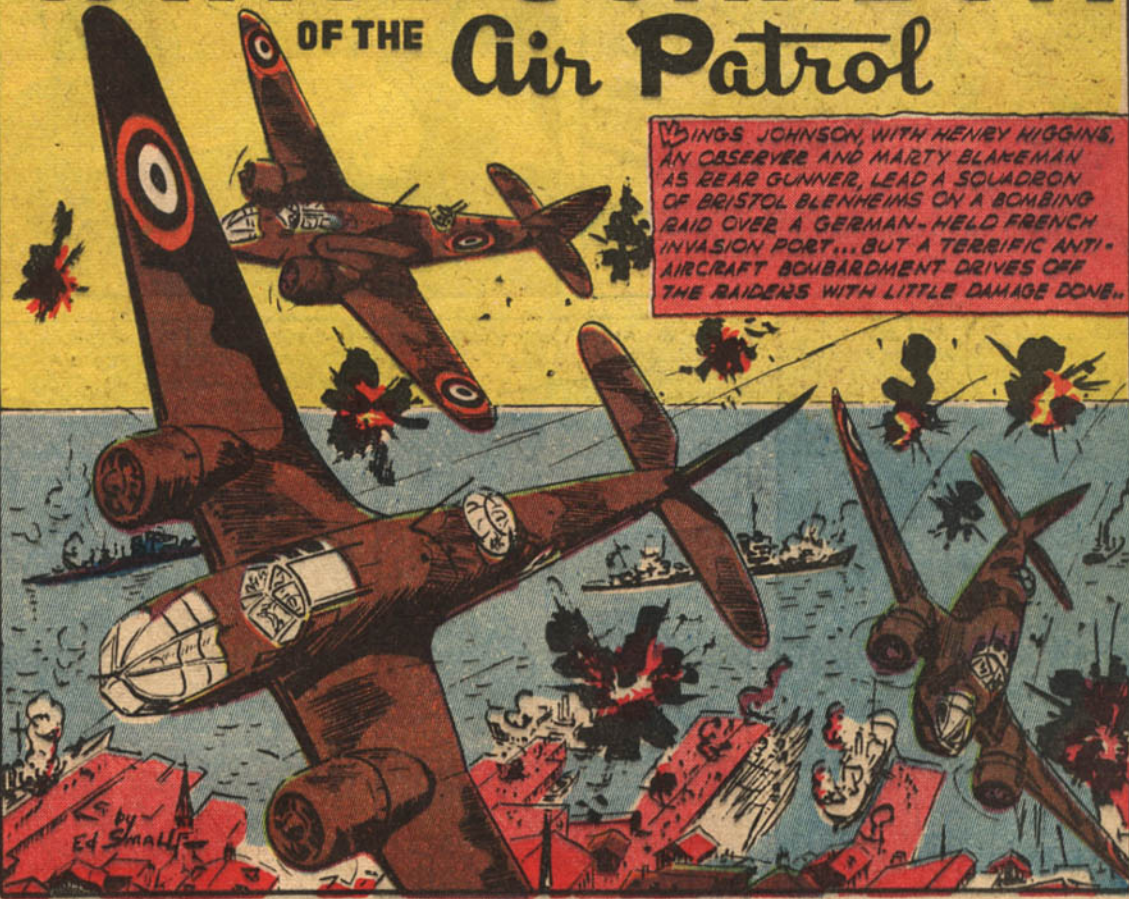


SEYMOUR.

WINGS JOHNSON

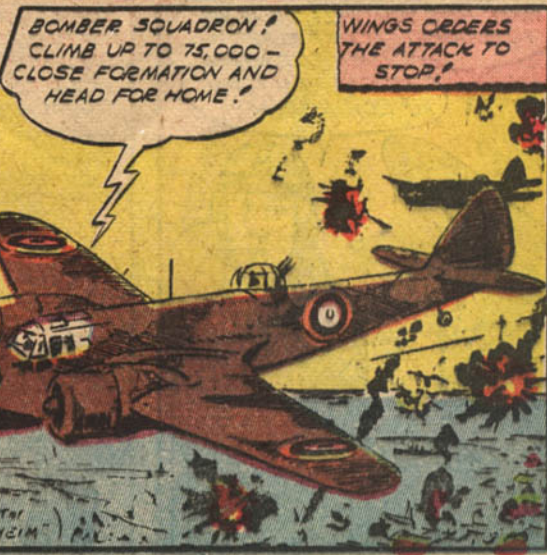
OF THE *Air Patrol*

WINGS JOHNSON, WITH HENRY HIGGINS, AN OBSERVER AND MARTY BLAEMAN AS REAR GUNNER, LEAD A SQUADRON OF BRISTOL BLENHEIMS ON A BOMBING RAID OVER A GERMAN-HELD FRENCH INVASION PORT... BUT A TERRIFIC ANTI-AIRCRAFT BOMBARDMENT DRIVES OFF THE RAIDERS WITH LITTLE DAMAGE DONE..



BLIMY! SUCH A BLOOMIN' FUSS AN' RACKET!

TOO TOUGH FOR US TO STICK AROUND, HENRY! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE ANY OF OUR SHIPS NEEDLESSLY!



BOMBER SQUADRON! CLIMB UP TO 75,000 - CLOSE FORMATION AND HEAD FOR HOME!

WINGS ORDERS THE ATTACK TO STOP!

SOMETIME LATER, THE BLENHEIMS ROLL INTO THEIR BASE...



I'M GOING IN AND REPORT TO THE C.O., BOYS!

WE WON'T FORGET TO TELL 'EM MARTY SHOT DOWN TWO MESSIES!

AW, FORGET IT! I WAS ONLY HAVING TARGET PRACTICE!



HOW LONG WILL YOU BE, WASSIE?

NOT LONG, I HOPE! I HAVE A PLAN I'D LIKE TO TALK WITH INTO!



TOP O' THE MORNIN', JOHNSON. WHAT LUCK?

NO LUCK AT ALL, SIR! THAT PORT HAS MORE GUNS THAN HITLER HAS STOOGES!



I OBSERVED A TREMENDOUS CONCENTRATION OF TRANSPORTS, BARGES AND SUBS! THEY'VE GOT TO BE LIQUIDATED SOMEHOW BUT WE CAN'T GET THROUGH THEIR SHELL FIRE!



WHAT HAVE YOU TO SUGGEST?

WELL, SIR, IF WE CAN'T BLAST THEM OUT, MAYBE WE CAN HEM THEM IN! NOW, LISTEN



THE ADMIRALTY HAS A LOT OF OLD TUBS FLOATING AROUND! IF WE COULD GET HOLD OF THEM, EQUIP THEM WITH RADIO-DIRECTION SETS, AND SEND THEM TOWARDS THE PORT BY REMOTE CONTROL -

I BEGIN TO SEE YOUR IDEA, JOHNSON! WE'LL JOLLY WELL DO IT!



WHAT'S THE DOPE, WINGS?

H'ANY THING EXCITIN'?

PLENTY! GET LOTS OF SLEEP. BECAUSE TOMORROW NIGHT WE'VE GOT A BIG JOB TO DO!



THE NEXT NIGHT, A STRANGE CONVOY OF OLD SHIPS STEAMS OFF ACROSS THE CHANNEL...



WHILE IN THE RADIO CONTROL ROOM AT THE BASE...



GREETINGS, OLD TOP! COME IN!

HOW ARE THINGS PROGRESSING, SIR? TIME FOR US TO TAKE OFF!

ALMOST, JOHNSON! HERE ARE THE POSITIONS OF THE SHIPS! THEY'RE PRETTY SLOW, SO I WOULD SAY YOU SHOULD TAKE OFF IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES. WHEN YOU ARRIVE OVER THE HARBOR, HAVE BLAKEMAN TAKE OVER THE RADIO CONTROLS AND DISPOSE THE SHIPS AS YOU WANT THEM SUNK!



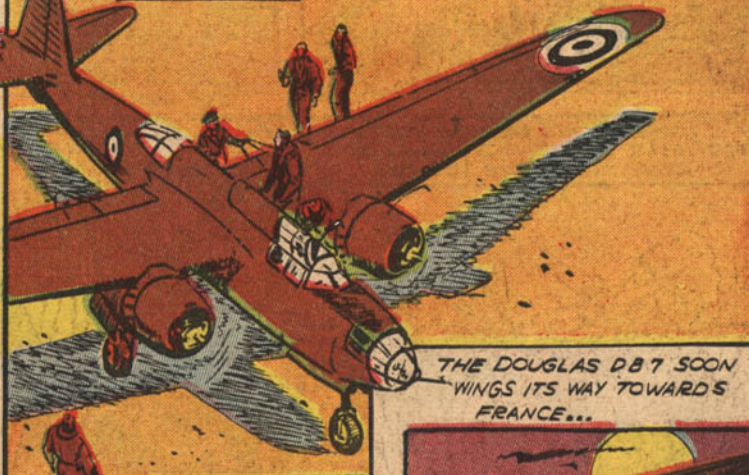
IS EVERYTHING CLEAR, GENTLEMEN?

PERFECTLY, SIR. IF MARTY UNDERSTANDS HIS DUTIES, WE'LL SHOVE OFF!

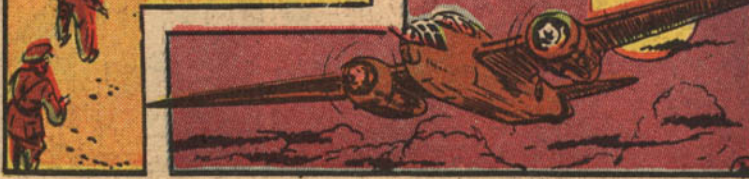
I'VE GOT MY END OF IT IN MIND! LET'S GET GOING!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE THREE PREPARE TO TAKE OFF....

(DOUGLAS DB7.)



THE DOUGLAS DB7 SOON WINGS ITS WAY TOWARDS FRANCE...

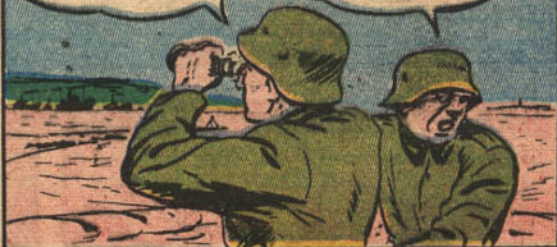


THE BRITISH FREIGHTERS NEAR THE NAZI-HELD COAST...

AS GERMAN SENTRIES SIGHT THEIR APPROACH!

ENGLISH SHIPS,
A WHOLE FLEET
OF THEM, WHAT
KIND OF FOOLISH-
NESS IS THIS?

AN INVASION ATTEMPT,
GIVE THE ALARM,
OPEN WITH THE GUNS,
WE MUST DRIVE
THEM OFF.



LOOK, A LOVE
ENGLISH
PLANE,
SHOOT IT
DOWN.

AS WINGS ROARS OVER THE HARBOR...

OPEN UP WITH THE SMOKE SCREEN,
HENRY. MARTY, HAVE YOU TAKEN
OVER CONTROL?

RIGHT, WINGS,
ALL SET?



THE DOUGLAS LAYS DOWN A SMOKE SCREEN,
PARTIALLY SCREENING THE FREIGHTERS
FROM THE SHORE WATERS...

ALL RIGHT,
MARTY. CUT YOUR
CONTROLS. THE SHIPS
ARE RIGHT WHERE WE WANT,
'EM. WE'RE GONNA SINK 'EM
NOW.



WINGS ZOOMS LOW, RELEASING HIS BOMBS....



ONE AFTER ANOTHER, THE SHIPS ARE EXPLODED!..



WHAT A LUCKY BREAK! THE BRITISHER IS CONFUSED! HE'S BOMBING HIS OWN SHIPS!

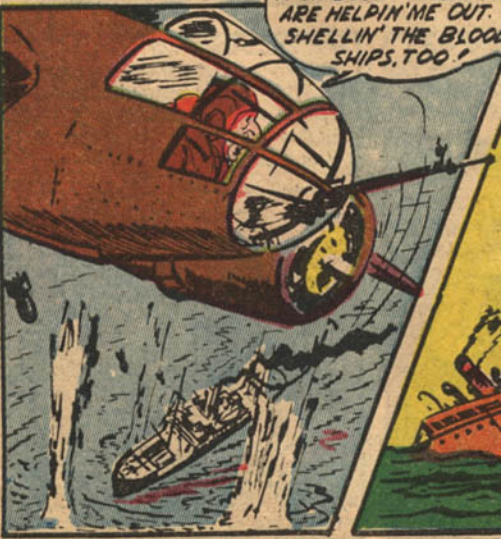


KEEP YOUR FIRE DIRECTLY ON THE SHIPS! LEAVE THE PLANE ALONE - IT'S HELPING US OUT!



H'OH BOY!... THEN HEINIES ARE HELPIN' ME OUT. THEY'RE SHELLIN' THE BLOODY SHIPS, TOO!

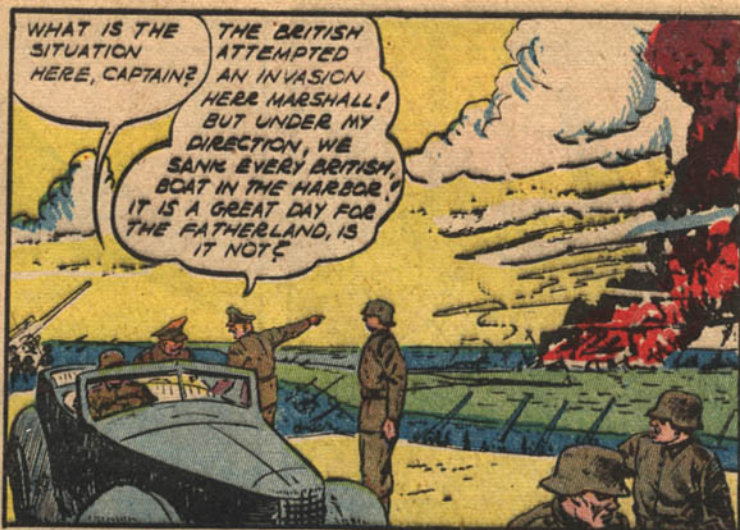
WE'VE DONE OUR JOB, HENRY! LET'S HEAD FOR HOME!





WHAT A VICTORY FOR US! EVERY SHIP HAS BEEN SUNK! I WILL GET THE \times CROSS FOR THIS!

HERE COMES MARSHALL VON KITTLE!



WHAT IS THE SITUATION HERE, CAPTAIN?

THE BRITISH ATTEMPTED AN INVASION HERE MARSHALL! BUT UNDER MY DIRECTION, WE SANK EVERY BRITISH BOAT IN THE HARBOR! IT IS A GREAT DAY FOR THE FATHERLAND, IS IT NOT?



IT IS A GREAT DAY FOR THE FIRING SQUAD, HERR CAPTAIN! YOU HAVE JUST SUNK THE BRITISH BOATS IN OUR HARBOR... AND BOTTLED UP EVERY TRANSPORT AND SUBMARINE FOR THE REST OF THE WAR!

YOU ARE NOW A PRISONER! I SHALL HAVE YOU COURT MARTIALED!

WINGS AND HIS FRIENDS SET THEIR BOMBER DOWN ON THEIR HOME BASE..



WE SURE SANK TH' BLOODY BOATS, DIDN'T WE, WINGSIE?

SURE DID HENRY! THE THING WAS A HOWLING SUCCESS, THANKS TO YOU AND MARTY!



HOW DID YOU MAKE OUT, JOHNSON?

EVERY BRITISH SHIP WAS SUNK EXACTLY AS WE PLANNED IT, SIR! THE HARBOR IS USELESS NOW, AS AN INVASION PORT!

HUN? BRITISH? SHIPS?



WHAT DID YOU THINK WE WERE DOING--ATTACKING THE NAZIS' NAVY? OF COURSE THEY WERE BRITISH SHIPS!

WHY DOESN'T SOMEBODY LET ME H'IN ON THESE THINGS!

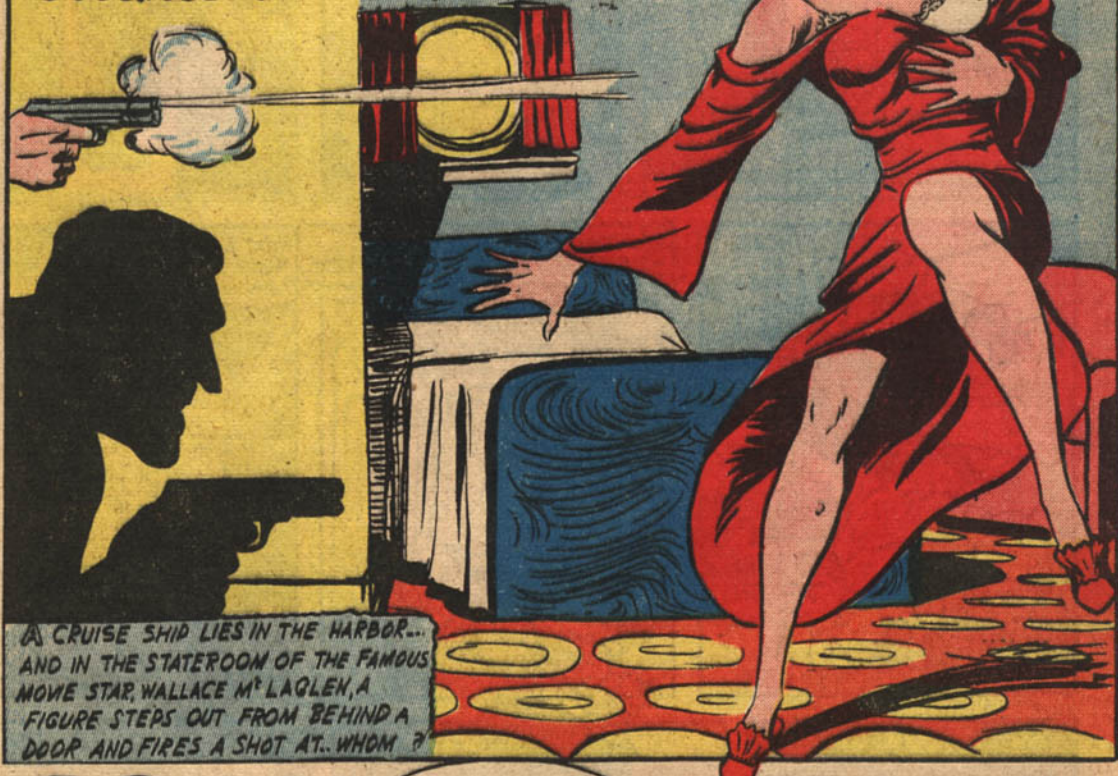


H'I THOUGHT WE WAS AT-TACKIN' A GERMAN CONVOY! THAT'S WHY I DONE SUCH A GOOD JOB OF BOMBIN'! WELL, BLOW ME DOWN AND CALL ME POPEYE!

MORE CLOUD HOPPING THRILLS WITH WINGS JOHNSON IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS

BOB PHANTOM

SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD



A CRUISE SHIP LIES IN THE HARBOR... AND IN THE STATEROOM OF THE FAMOUS MOVIE STAR, WALLACE M^CLAGLEN, A FIGURE STEPS OUT FROM BEHIND A DOOR AND FIRES A SHOT AT... WHOM?



WELL JINX, LETS CALL ON, CARMEN YOLANDA, SOME GAL, SENDING ME A NOTE TELLING ME SHE'S GOING TO STOW-AWAY IN WALLACE M^CLAGLEN'S STATE ROOM.

I THINK SHE'S CLEVER, WALT, AND BESIDES, SHE NEEDS THE PUBLICITY.

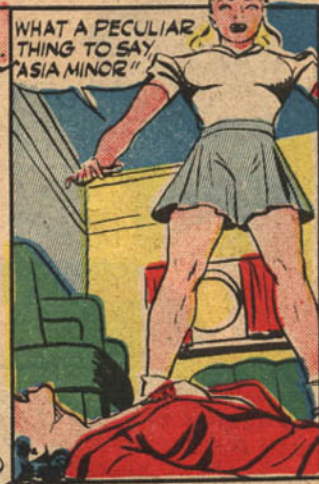
WALT WHITNEY, BROADWAY COLUMNIST, AND HIS SECRETARY JINX FRIDAY, GO ABOARD THE LINER AND STROLL DOWN THE DECK.



THEN - JUST OUTSIDE M^CLAGLEN'S STATE ROOM, THE TWO PEER THROUGH THE WINDOW...

WALT: LOOK! A WOMAN'S LYING ON THE FLOOR!

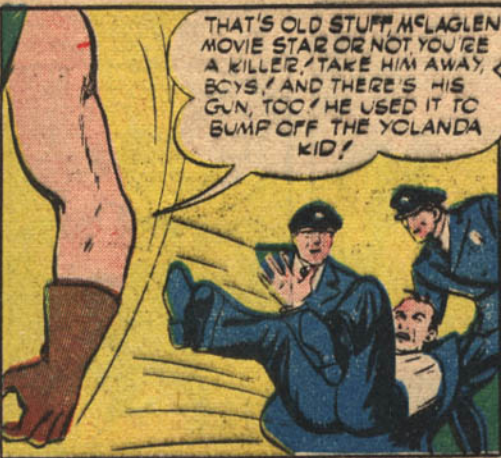
COME ON! LETS GO IN!



THAT'S OLD STUFF, MCLAGLEN! MOVIE STAR OR NOT, YOU'RE A KILLER, TAKE HIM AWAY, BOYS! AND THERE'S HIS GUN, TOO! HE USED IT TO BUMP OFF THE YOLANDA KID!

I DON'T KNOW WHY WE EVER SHOOT AT THAT GUY! WE NEVER HIT HIM!

HEY CHIEF! WE CLEANED UP A MURDER CASE AN' GOT THE EVIDENCE ALL IN ONE EASY OPERATION!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WE"? PHANTON DID IT AND YOU KNOW IT! HERE! GIVE ME THAT GUN BEFORE YOU WIPE ALL THE PRINTS OFF IT! WE'LL HAVE OUR BALLISTIC EXPERTS DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT THIS GUN FIRED THE MURDER BULLET!

LATER... IN WHITNEY'S OFFICE...

WELL, THAT WAS ONE CASE THAT ENDED IN A HURRY!

THINK SO, MR. WISE GUY? I DON'T! BESIDES, WHAT DID CARMEN MEAN WHEN SHE SAID "ASIA MINOR"?

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? SHE WAS PROBABLY OUT OF HER HEAD! BESIDES, MCLAGLEN DID IT AND HE'S BEHIND BARS!

BUT HE WON'T BE IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES! I JUST GOT WORD THAT BALLISTICS PROVED YOLANDA WAS NOT KILLED BY A BULLET FROM MCLAGLEN'S GUN! THEY'RE RELEASING HIM!

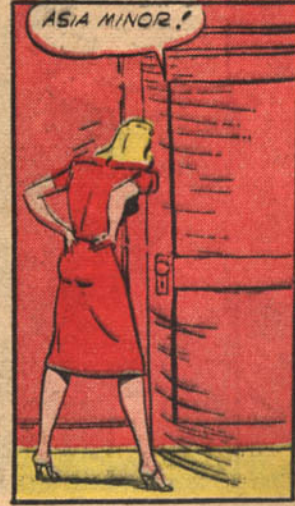


HM! THAT PUTS A DIFFERENT SLANT ON THIS THING. NOW LET'S SEE WHO COULD HAVE WANTED HER OUT OF THE WAY... SHE WAS ABOUT READY TO OPEN IN THE NEW MUSICAL SHOW THAT "LITTLE BEAR" BEECHER IS BACKING... THEN -

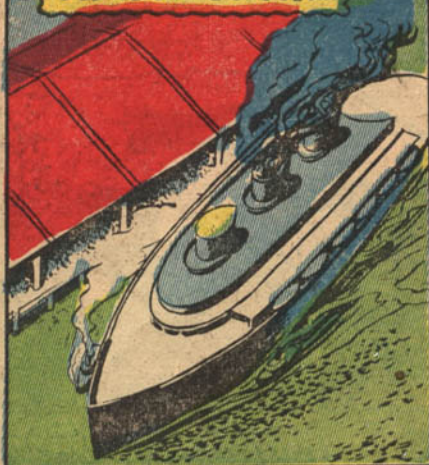
SAY! THAT'S IT! IT'S AS PLAIN AS THE CUTE LITTLE PUG NOSE ON YOUR FACE! SO LONG, KID! I'M OFF IN A FLASH!

TO WHERE?

ASIA MINOR!



MEANTIME AT THE PIER THE SHIP IS ABOUT TO LEAVE ON THE CRUISE....



AS WALT WHITNEY PULLS UP IN A TAXI....



IS 'LITTLE BEAR' BEECHER ON THAT BOAT?

SURE! STATEROOM D, BUT SO WHAT? IT'S TOO LATE TO GO ABOARD— SHE'S ALREADY PULLIN' OUT!



BUT THE NEXT MOMENT—A FLASH OF SMOKE—AND BOB PHANTOM APPEARS ON THE LINER!



NOW TO FIND STATEROOM D!



HERE WE ARE! NO TIME TO BE POLITE AND KNOCK!



BOB PHANTOM? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

YOU, LITTLE BEAR! FOR THE MURDER OF CARMEN YOLANDA!



THEY CALL YOU LITTLE BEAR BECAUSE OF YOUR TEMPER. AND THAT TEMPER CAUSED YOU TO MURDER YOLANDA! NOW LET'S HAVE THE GUN THAT DID THE JOB!



YOU'LL NEVER GET YOUR HANDS ON IT!

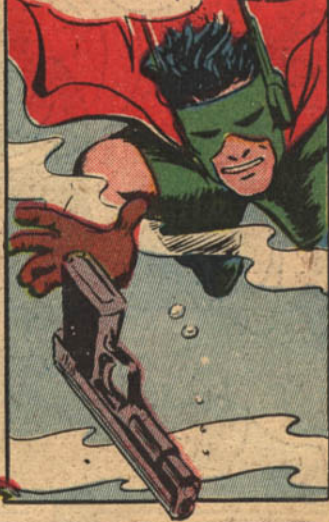
BOB PHANTOM DIVES THROUGH THE PORTHOLE INTO THE SEA...



THERE'S THE GUN RIGHT BELOW!



COME TO PAPA! NEED YOU FOR EVIDENCE.



I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM PHANTOM! I'VE GOT TO!

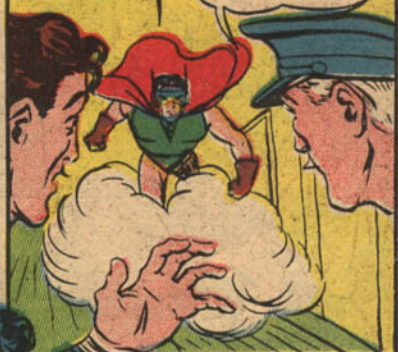


CAPTAIN! I'LL HAVE TO GET BACK TO SHORE AT ONCE! CAN'T YOU SEND ME BACK IN A PILOT BOAT? IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!!



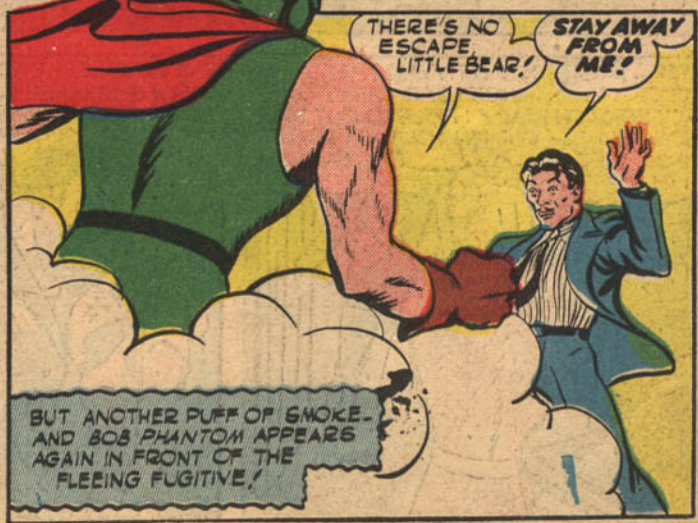
THAT'S RIGHT, LITTLE BEAR! IT'S YOUR LIFE FOR THE DEATH OF CARMEN YOLANDA!

WHAT'S THIS?



THERE'S NO ESCAPE, LITTLE BEAR!

STAY AWAY FROM ME!



BUT ANOTHER PUFF OF SMOKE - AND BOB PHANTOM APPEARS AGAIN IN FRONT OF THE FLEEING FUGITIVE!

WELL! THE MAN HAS A FIST! THINK OF THAT!



BUT SO HAVE I!



THIS IS THE KILLER OF CARMEN YOLANDA!

LITTLE BEAR BEECHER! BUT WHY?



READ THE REASON IN WALT WHITNEY'S COLUMN TOMORROW! BUT MEANWHILE, HERE'S THE GUN THAT DID THE JOB! SO LONG, BOYS!



WHAT IN... HE'S GONE!



LATER...

BACK SO SOON FROM ASIA MINOR, WISE GUY?

YOU BET! AND THAT "ASIA MINOR" GAG WASN'T A GAG! I FIGURED OUT WHAT CARMEN YOLANDA REALLY SAID...



SHE SAID "URSA MINOR" WHICH IS SPANISH FOR LITTLE BEAR! SIMPLE WHEN YOU USE YOUR HEAD. ISN'T IT?



ON BROADWAY

By WALT WHITNEY

MURDER IN MARCHETTES

CARMEN YOLANDA, THE LATIN GAL WITH THE OOMPH, DECIDED SHE'D DRUM UP A LITTLE PUBLICITY... SHE DID... BUT SHE DIED WHILE ACCOMPLISHING IT. THE MURDER TOOK PLACE ON BOARD A STEAMER IN THE NORTH RIVER, IN WALLEY MCLAGLEN'S STATEROOM.... BUT MCLAGLEN DIDN'T DO IT AS THE COPS SOON POUNDED OUT. THE REAL KILLER WAS "LITTLE BEAR" BEECHER, FAMOUS EX-GANGSTER, WHO IS BACKING THE FORTHCOMING "I WANT MUSIC" SHOW. THE LOVELY CARMEN YOLANDA WAS SIGNED AND DELIVERED IN THE LEAD ROLE... BUT "LITTLE BEAR" GOT TO WONDERING IF HER FADING POPULARITY WOULD KILL THE SHOW, THUS LOSING HIM ALL THE DOUGH TIED UP IN IT. SO "LITTLE BEAR," IN A FLARE-UP OF TEMPER, TOOK OUT HIS REVOLVER AND FINISHED OFF HIS "LIABILITY".....

CASE OF THE RADIUM MURDERS NEWEST **CAPTAIN FLAG** ADVENTURE APPEARS
IN THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF **BLUE RIBBON COMICS!**

A NEW MENACE LOOMS OVER A
TERROR-STRICKEN POPULACE. A
MENACE IN WHOSE CLUTCHING
FINGERS IS A FATE MORE HOR-
RIBLE THAN DEATH ITSELF —

THE BLACK HAND!

AND OUT OF A CITY GONE MAD WITH
HORROR, ONLY ONE MAN DARES
PICK UP THE CHALLENGE — ONLY
ONE MAN AND A BIRD DARE GIVE
BATTLE TO THIS DREAD CREA-
TURE!! AND THEY ARE:

CAPTAIN FLAG AND HIS **AMERICAN
EAGLE**. YANK! **THE CASE OF THE
RADIUM MURDERS** APPEARING IN THE
NOV. ISSUE OF **BLUE RIBBON
COMICS** IS A YARN YOU WON'T WANT
TO MISS!!

YOU WON'T WANT
TO MISS **MR. JUSTICE**
THE ROYAL WRAITH,
ALSO CURRENT IN THE NO-
VEMBER ISSUE OF.....

BLUE RIBBON COMICS

HIS ADVENTURES IN
THE **ATOM WORLD**.
WILL LEAVE YOU
GASPING!



KARDAK

THE "MYSTIC" MAGICIAN

EARLY MORNING AT CHURCHTON DOWNS, TWO DAYS BEFORE THE DERBY. A LONE HORSE RUNS SPEEDILY AROUND THE EMPTY TRACK AS KARDAK AND JOAN LINDSAY, THE HORSE'S OWNER, LOOK ON EXCITEDLY

BOY THATS SPEED! LOOK AT THIS TIME!

WHY, THAT HORSE SEEMS TO BE FLYING.

IT'D BETTER HURRY AND TELL THE BOSS ABOUT THIS.

OH, BABY! IF HE RUNS LIKE THAT ON THE DAY OF THE RACE HE CANT LOSE!

HIGH UP IN A TREE OVERLOOKING THE TRACK.





AT THE SIGHT OF THE FIRE, THE HORSE REARS AND KICKS THE BEWILDERED MARAUDER



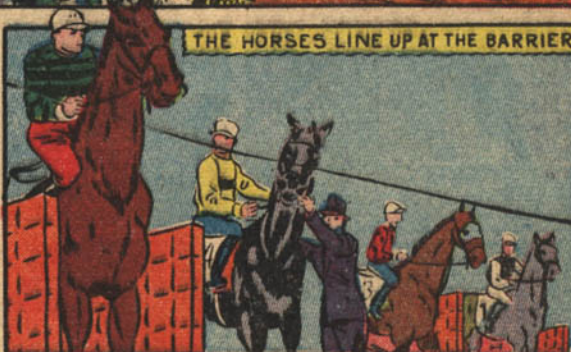


A GAY CROWD GATHERS AT THE TRACK, WAITING PATIENTLY FOR THE RUNNING OF THE DERBY.

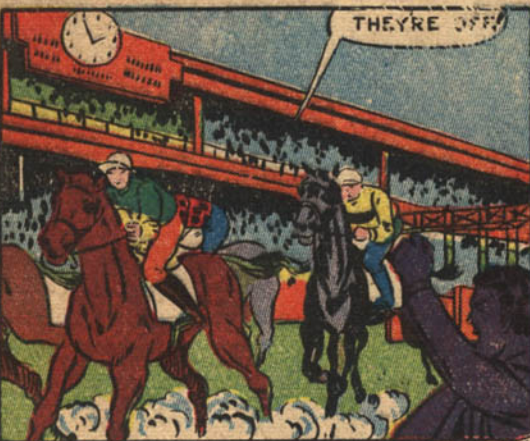


WHO'S THAT FELLOW SITTING THERE ?

THE CHIEF OF STEWARDS AT THIS TRACK. I DON'T TRUST HIM !



THE HORSES LINE UP AT THE BARRIER



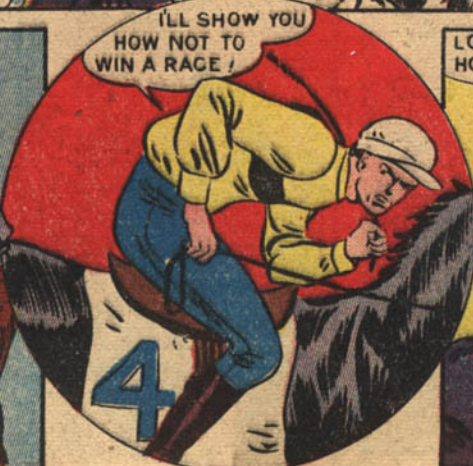
THEY'RE OFF!



AS THEY GO INTO THE FIRST TURN, BATTLE BOY CHARGES TO THE FRONT



COME ON, SLOW DOWN, YOU DONKEY.



I'LL SHOW YOU HOW NOT TO WIN A RACE !



LOOK KARDAK, HE'S HOLDING HIM BACK

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT.



LOOSEN UP THERE, SMALL FRY. I'M GOING TO WIN THIS RACE!

WHAT IN?

A GESTURE BY KARDAK AND THE STARTLED JOCKEY IMAGINES HE HEARS THE HORSE SPEAKING



THE AMAZED JOCKEY LOOSENS THE REINS AND BATTLE BOY CHARGES OVER THE LINE A WINNER



SEE, DAD! I KNEW HE WOULD

HE'S DONE IT. HE'S DONE IT!



AS THE CHIEF STEWARD IS ABOUT TO PRESENT THE WINNER'S WREATH



DON'T PUT THAT WREATH ON ME, YOU CROOK. I KNOW THAT YOU TRIED YOUR BEST TO MAKE ME LOSE THAT RACE.



YOU'RE NOT SO SMART, AT LEAST NOT SMART ENOUGH TO GOPE WITH REAL HORSE SENSE!



MAKE HIM STOP! I'LL TELL EVERYTHING



COME ON ALONG. I GUESS YOU KNOW NOW, THAT IT'S PRETTY TOUGH TO BEAT THE HORSES.



IT'S PERFECTLY SIMPLE. JUST A MERE ILLUSION, I LEARNED WHO WAS BEHIND THE ATTEMPTED DOPING OF BATTLE BOY FROM THOSE TWO MEN THAT BALTHAR DUNKED.



**THIS
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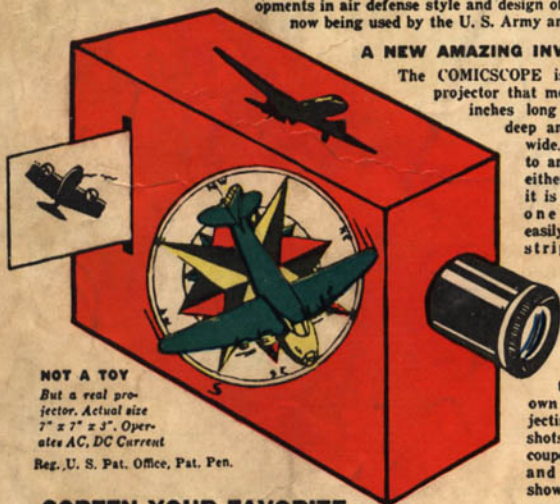
WINGS OF AMERICA

Official U. S. Army Air Corps and U. S. Navy Planes (Courtesy Associated Features Syndicate)

Now for the first time ever, **ABSOLUTELY FREE**, we will ship to you a complete series of "WINGS OF AMERICA" twenty of America's latest and most recent developed planes printed in color. These magnificent and educational pictures can be used in the COMICSCOPE and can be projected in almost life size and color on any wall or flat surface. See the latest developments in air defense style and design of planes now being used by the U. S. Army and Navy!

A NEW AMAZING INVENTION!

The COMICSCOPE is a camera projector that measures seven inches long seven inches deep and three inches wide. By attaching it to any electrical outlet either AC or DC current it is ready for use. Any one can operate it easily. All pictures, comic strips, comic magazines, daily and Sunday newspapers can be used for "film" in the Comicscope, and can be flashed in their exact color on any wall or flat surface. You can draw your own pictures and project them. Now you can take your own "Hollywood" screen tests by projecting your own or your family snapshots. There is nothing else to buy. No coupons to save. Astonish your friends and win new popularity. Give picture shows, charge admission, make money.



NOT A TOY

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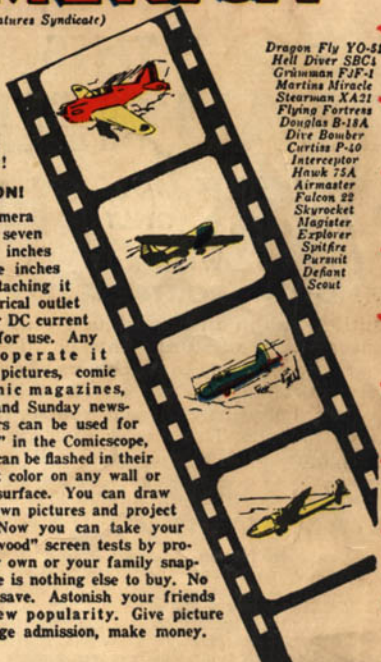
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