IN THIS ISSUE! — A HARROWING TALE OF HORROR — BARON GESTAPO PITS HIS NAZI CUNNING AGAINST AMERICAN COURAGE

NO. 28

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ZIP COMICS

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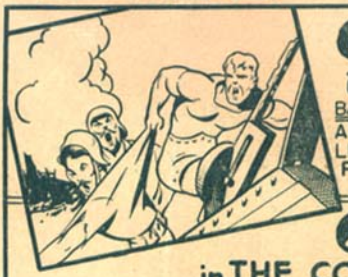
ZIP PROUDLY PRESENTS

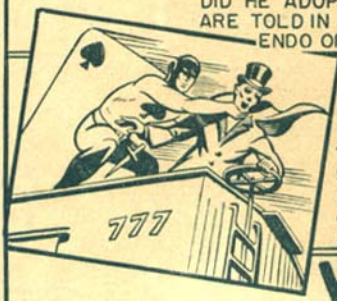


❶ STEEL STERLING PAGE 3
in THE DRAGONS of DOOM!!

BARON GESTAPO IS LOOSE AGAIN!! AND HIS DREAD HAND REACHING ACROSS THE VAST PACIFIC, HOVERS OVER AMERICA'S GREATEST GENERAL LIKE A TALON OF DEATH, BUT ZIPPING TO THE RESCUE IN A DESPERATE RACE AGAINST TIME, STEEL STERLING, MAN OF STEEL.

❷ THE WEB PAGE 15
in THE COMING OF THE WEB!!....

THE WEB IS BORN!!... HOW DID THIS UNIQUE, AWE-INSPIRING FORCE FOR JUSTICE COME INTO BEING? WHY DID HE ADOPT THE GUISE OF A WEB? THE ANSWERS ARE TOLD IN A STORY THAT REACHES A CRASHING CRESCENDO OF THRILLS AND EXCITEMENT.



❸ BLACK JACK PAGE 28
in DEATH TRUMPS THE *BLACK SEVEN!!*

THE BLACK SEVEN! WHO CAN EVER FORGET THIS WEIRD FIGURE POSSESSED OF THE EVIL LUCK OF THE DEVIL HIMSELF? A LUCK THAT ONCE AGAIN IS TO CLASH WITH THE WIT AND CUNNING OF THE ONLY PERSON EVER TO TRUMP IT—BLACK JACK. HERE IS A TALE AS UNFORGETABLE AS IT IS UNUSUAL!

WORLD WONDERS ❹ PAGE 39

❺ WILBUR PAGE 40
in FOURTH of JULY BLUES!!

WILBUR AND FOURTH OF JULY. WHAT DOES THAT ADD UP TO? RIGHT. FIREWORKS! AND WHAT FIREWORKS! A BARREL OF TROUBLE (AS USUAL FOR WILBUR.

BLACK WITCH ❻ PAGE 47
in THE GRAVE GIVES UP ITS DEAD!

HORROR STALKS ABROAD AS THE DEAD DIE TWICE. THE BLACK WITCH'S CAULDRON BUBBLES AS IT NEVER BUBBLED BEFORE.

❼ ZIP'S HALL OF FAME
"SCARSDALE JACK" NEWKIRK PAGE 54

HE FOUGHT OUR FIGHT AND DIED IN A BLAZE OF GLORY. BUT HIS SPIRIT, THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA, SHALL NEVER DIE. ON TO VICTORY WITH "SCARSDALE JACK."

ZAMBINI ❽ PAGE 60
in *ALL OUT FOR FREEDOM*

SHOULDERS TO THE WHEEL, AMERICA. AND AFTER YOU'VE READ THIS ZAMBINI STORY, YOU'LL KEEP THAT WHEEL ROLLING, EVER ROLLING UNTIL OUR JOB IS DONE!

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STEEL STERLING

MAN OF STEEL

ALL AMERICA THRILLED TO THE HEROIC TALE OF **GENERAL McBRIDES** ESCAPE FROM A PACIFIC ISLAND TO THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF ALLIED FAR-EAST OFFENSIVE! BUT UNTIL YOU READ HOW **STEEL STERLING** PITTED HIS STRENGTH AND COURAGE AGAINST **BARON GESTAPOS** DASTARDLY PLOT TO ANNIHILATE AMERICA'S GREATEST GENERAL - YOU WON'T KNOW THE TRUE STORY BEHIND **FLIGHT TO VICTORY...**

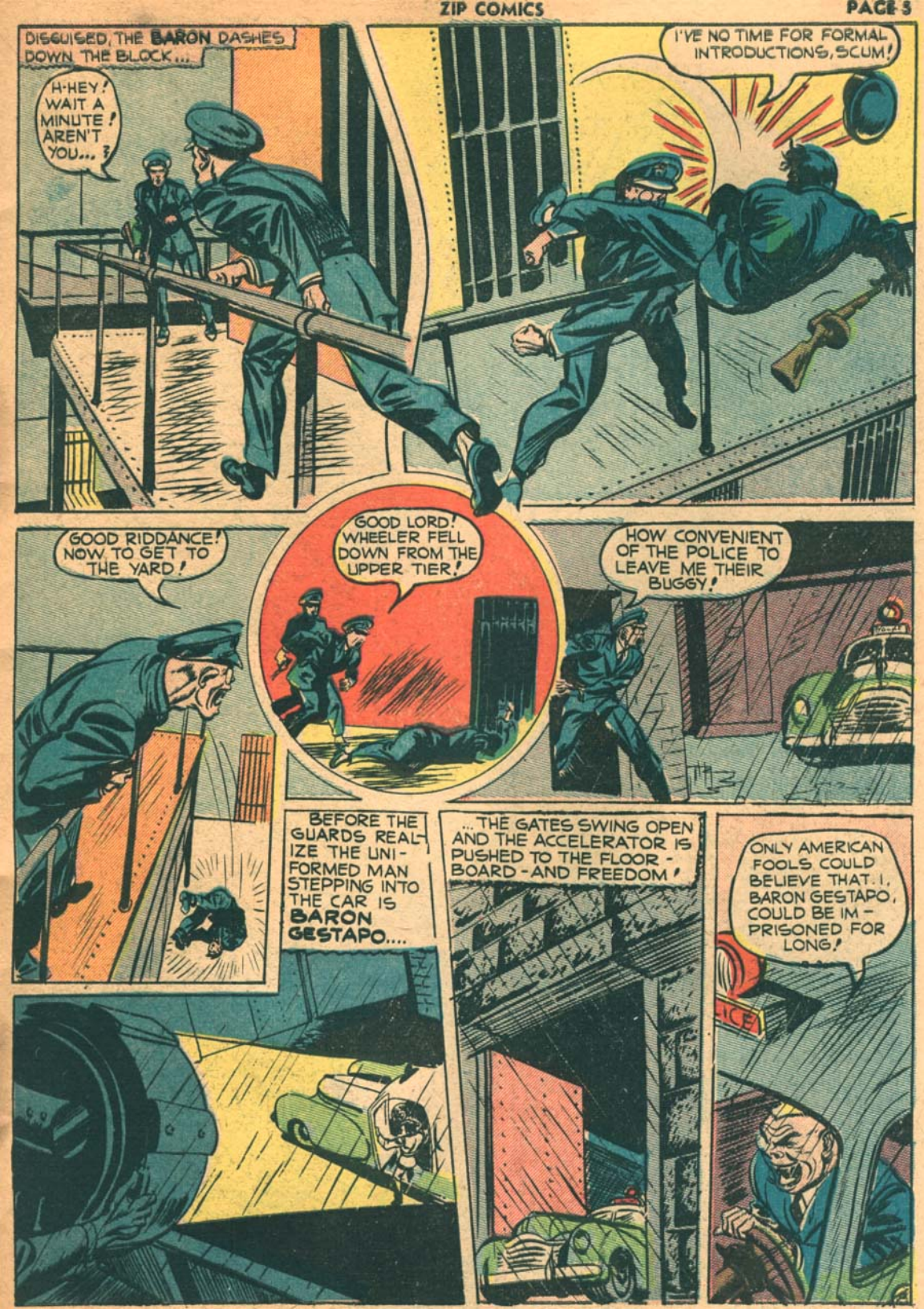
BATAAN

PT 46

Buy
WAR BONDS AND STAMPS
FOR VICTORY

IRVING NOVICK

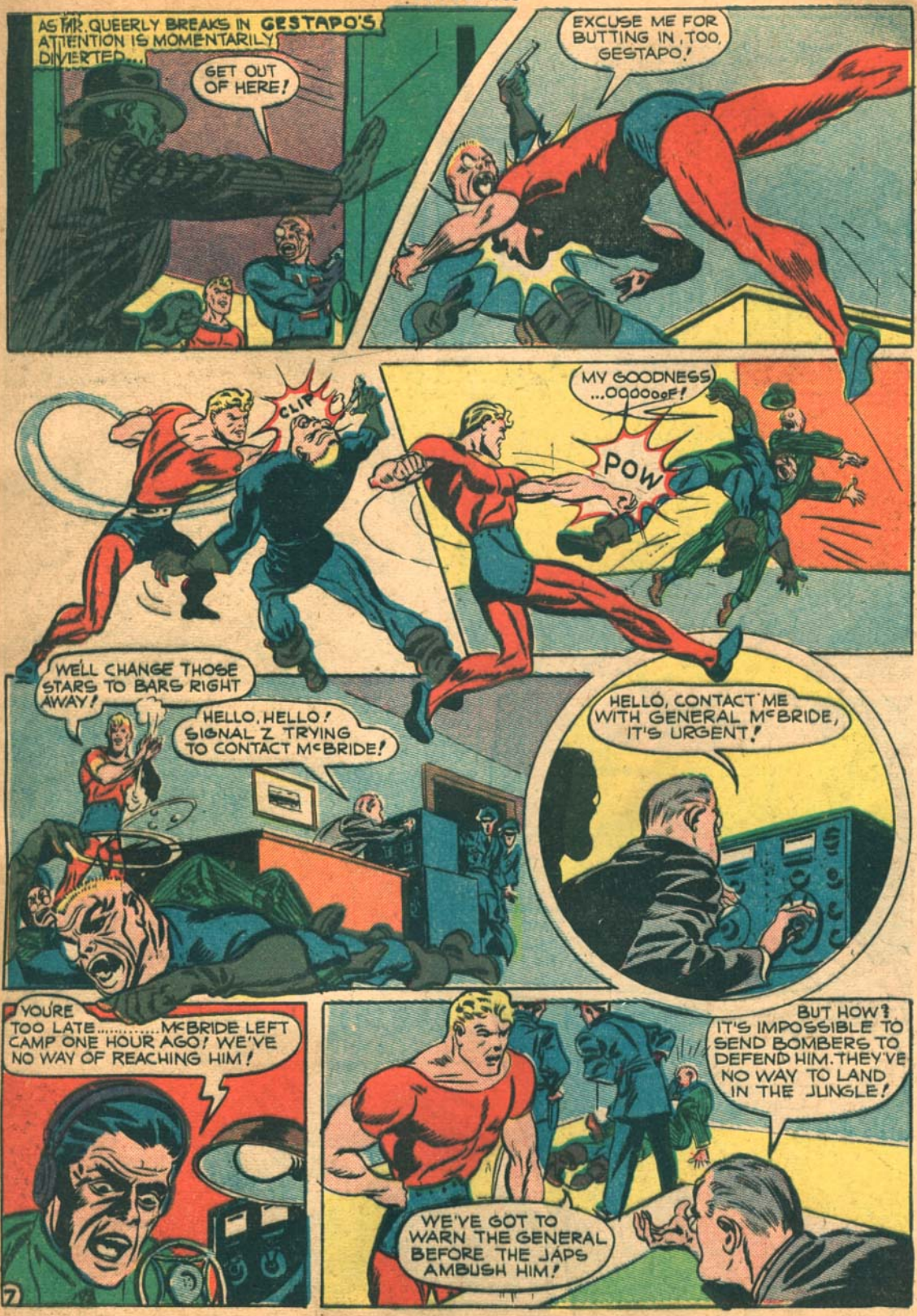
LET US GO BACK TO A WINDSWEPT NIGHT EARLY IN MARCH - THE RAIN BEATING AN OMINOUS TATTOO UPON THE FEDERAL PRISON WHERE BARON GESTAPO LIES BEHIND BARS ...
FEDERAL PRISON
AN ARMED GUARD KEEPS HIS LONELY VIGIL ...
WHEN SUDDENLY..
GREAT GUNS! THE BARON!
HE'S HANGED HIMSELF!
OH, HAVE I ? YOU STUPID LOUT!
THE PLAN IS WORKING..NOW TO GET INTO THIS PIG'S UNIFORM!


DISGUISED, THE BARON DASHES DOWN THE BLOCK...
H-HEY! WAIT A MINUTE! AREN'T YOU...?
I'VE NO TIME FOR FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS, SCUM!
GOOD RIDDANCE! NOW TO GET TO THE YARD!
GOOD LORD! WHEELER FELL DOWN FROM THE UPPER TIER!
HOW CONVENIENT OF THE POLICE TO LEAVE ME THEIR BUGGY!
BEFORE THE GUARDS REALIZE THE UNIFORMED MAN STEPPING INTO THE CAR IS BARON GESTAPO....
...THE GATES SWING OPEN AND THE ACCELERATOR IS PUSHED TO THE FLOOR-BOARD-AND FREEDOM!
ONLY AMERICAN FOOLS COULD BELIEVE THAT I, BARON GESTAPO, COULD BE IMPRISONED FOR LONG!

ON THE CAPITOL GROUNDS BARON GESTAPO DITCHES THE CAR...
POLICE
BUT THE MAN-HUNT IS ON! POLICE WHISK THROUGH EVERY STREET COMBING ALL OF WASHINGTON FOR FREEDOM'S ARCH ENEMY...
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE, AND QUICKLY!
THE WHITE HOUSE! HOW I LOATHE THAT DEMOCRATIC MAUSOLEUM!
ACH, BUT JA! THE WHITE HOUSE! NO ONE WILL EVER THINK OF LOOKING FOR ME THERE!
INSIDE, THE PRESIDENT IS TELE-PHONING THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY...
HELLO? THAT YOU KNOX?
I'VE JUST SENT A SHORT-WAVE MESSAGE TO GENERAL McBRIDE TO QUIT HIS POST IMMEDIATELY. IN 17 HOURS HE WILL BE PICKED UP IN THE BAY BY PT BOATS!
SUDDENLY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE WHEELS AROUND - TO FIND IN THE DOORWAY...
DON'T WORRY, I SHAN'T SHOOT YOU...GET OVER TO THE WALL WHILE I USE YOUR SHORT-WAVE SET - MY JAPANESE ALLIES WILL BE INTERESTED IN WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!

MEANWHILE, IN STEEL STERLING'S HOME...
HEY, STEEL, LISTEN!
AND THE FLEEING BARON GESTAPO WAS TRACED TO WASHINGTON!
THAT RAT'S ON THE LOOSE AGAIN, EH?
BOY, I'D LIKE TO GET MY HANDS ON HIM!
ME TOO!
WASHINGTON, EH? THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING!
ZIP
LATER IN A WASHINGTON POLICE STATION...
WHAT IN.. STEEL STERLING!
MIND IF I JOIN IN THE SEARCH, CAPTAIN?
GLAD TO HAVE YOU STEEL! ONE OF OUR MEN SPOTTED HIM IN THE VICINITY OF THE WHITE HOUSE!
SO THEY LOST TRACK OF HIM NEAR THE WHITE HOUSE, HMMM... THAT CERTAINLY WOULD BE THE LAST PLACE ANYONE WOULD THINK TO LOOK FOR HIM!
THIS MAY BE SCREWY BUT I'VE A HUNCH!

SURE! THIS'D BE THE SAFEST PLACE IN ALL WASHINGTON TO HIDE!
NOW THAT I'VE SHORT-WAVED YOUR SECRET MESSAGE TO MY ALLIES... I'LL ATTEND TO YOU, MY DEAR SIR!
THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU HERE!
STEEL STERLING!
STAY AWAY, STERLING, OR YOUR PRESIDENT DIES!
DON'T THINK OF MY LIFE, STERLING, McBRIDE'S LIFE IS ENDANGERED -- THE WHOLE ALLIED CAUSE HANGS ON HIS SHOULDERS!
HA, HA, QUITE A QUANDARY, EH, STERLING!
MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE PRESIDENT'S CHAMBERS...
MY NAME IS QUEERLY- I MUST SEE THE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY!
I'M SORRY, BUT HE CAN'T BE DISTURBED!
IT'S A MATTER OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO NATIONAL DEFENSE... I MUST SEE HIM!
BUT HE'S MUCH TOO BUSY!
TOO BUSY TO SAVE HIS COUNTRY?.. STOP BEING AN IDIOT!


AS MR. QUEERLY BREAKS IN GESTAPO'S ATTENTION IS MOMENTARILY DIVERTED...
GET OUT OF HERE!
EXCUSE ME FOR BUTTING IN, TOO, GESTAPO!
CLIP
POW
MY GOODNESS ...OOOOOOF!
WE'LL CHANGE THOSE STARS TO BARS RIGHT AWAY!
HELLO, HELLO! SIGNAL Z TRYING TO CONTACT McBRIDE!
HELLO, CONTACT ME WITH GENERAL McBRIDE, IT'S URGENT!
YOU'RE TOO LATE.....McBRIDE LEFT CAMP ONE HOUR AGO! WE'VE NO WAY OF REACHING HIM!
BUT HOW? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SEND BOMBERS TO DEFEND HIM. THEY'VE NO WAY TO LAND IN THE JUNGLE!
WE'VE GOT TO WARN THE GENERAL BEFORE THE JAPS AMBUSH HIM!
7

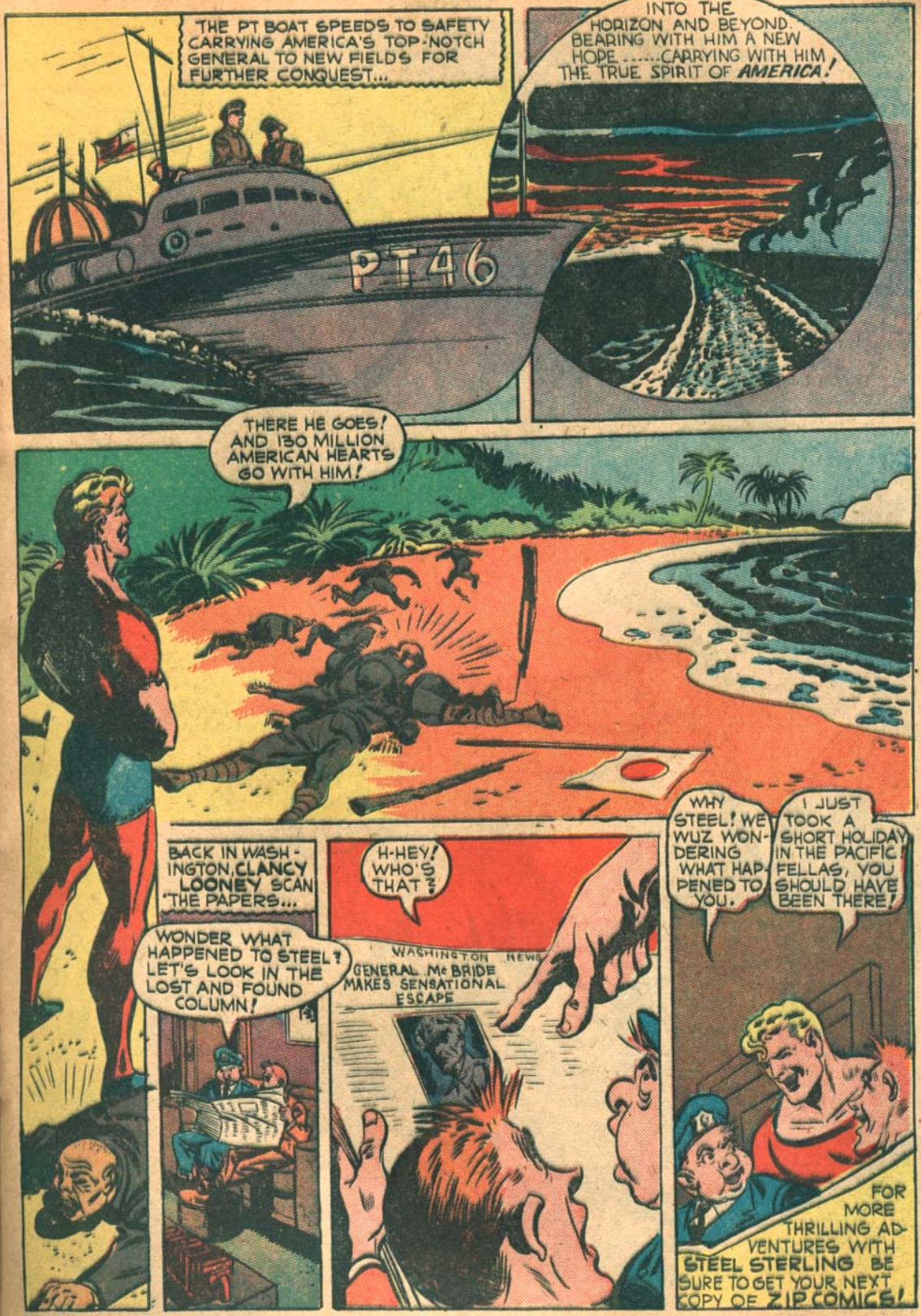
THIS IS A FINE WAY TO TREAT A CITIZEN, SIR! I'VE AN IMPORTANT INVENTION TO GIVE YOU - BUT I MUST SEE YOU IN ABSOLUTE SECRECY!
I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR COMING IN JUST NOW - YOU PERFORMED AN INVALUABLE SERVICE!
COME ALONG, BUD! WE'VE NO TIME FOR CRACKPOTS!
WAIT A MINUTE, GUARD.. LET ME HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY!
B-BUT.. I -
MY INVENTION, MR. PRESIDENT, IS A SMELL RAY... IT CAN BE BEAMED AT AN ENEMY 6,000 MILES AWAY, AND ITS POWER IS SUCH TO MAKE AN ENTIRE ARMY POWERLESS... OF COURSE IT ISN'T PERFECTED YET, BUT...
PERFECT YOUR INVENTION, MR. QUEERLY, AND I'LL SEE THAT IT GETS TO THE WAR OFFICE!
WASTING NO TIME STEEL STERLING ZIPS OFF TO THE AIRPORT...
MEANWHILE, GENERAL McBRIDE AND HIS SMALL PARTY MAKE THEIR WAY THRU THE PACIFIC ISLAND JUNGLE...
HEY, MA, LOOK AT THE LITTLE MONKEY!
COME ALONG, JUNIOR, FOR ALL WE KNOW THE ENEMY MIGHT BE NEARBY - WE'VE GOT TO HURRY!
LITTLE DOES MRS. McBRIDE KNOW THAT HER WORD OF CAUTION IS AN ACTUALITY!
GOOD! THEY ARE APPROACHING - I MUST GO SEE IF OUR AMBUSH PARTY IS PREPARED!

WE HAVE COVERED THE BEACH TO THE RIGHT, HONORABLE SIR!
EXCELLENT!
IT'S A MATTER OF MINUTES NOW BEFORE THEY FALL INTO OUR TRAP.. BARON GESTAPO WILL NEVER KNOW HOW INVALUABLE HIS MESSAGE WAS - WE WILL CAPTURE AMERICA'S GREATEST GENERAL AND OUR CAUSE WILL BE ALMOST COMPLETED!
SUDDENLY...
SAY, WHERE'S JUNIOR?
WHAT?
YOU WAIT HERE - DON'T GO ANY FURTHER ... I'LL RETRACE OUR STEPS AND FIND HIM!
WHAT A BREAK! IF ONLY STEEL CAN MAKE IT BEFORE THE PARTY CONTINUES ON IT'S WAY!
JUNIOR! JUNIOR! WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
COME DOWN, YOU LITTLE RASCAL!
HYAH, MONKEY-FACE!
GEE, YOU'RE REAL FRIENDLY! WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO BE MY PET?
HERE HE IS, DEAR! LET'S GET GOING!
JUNIOR, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

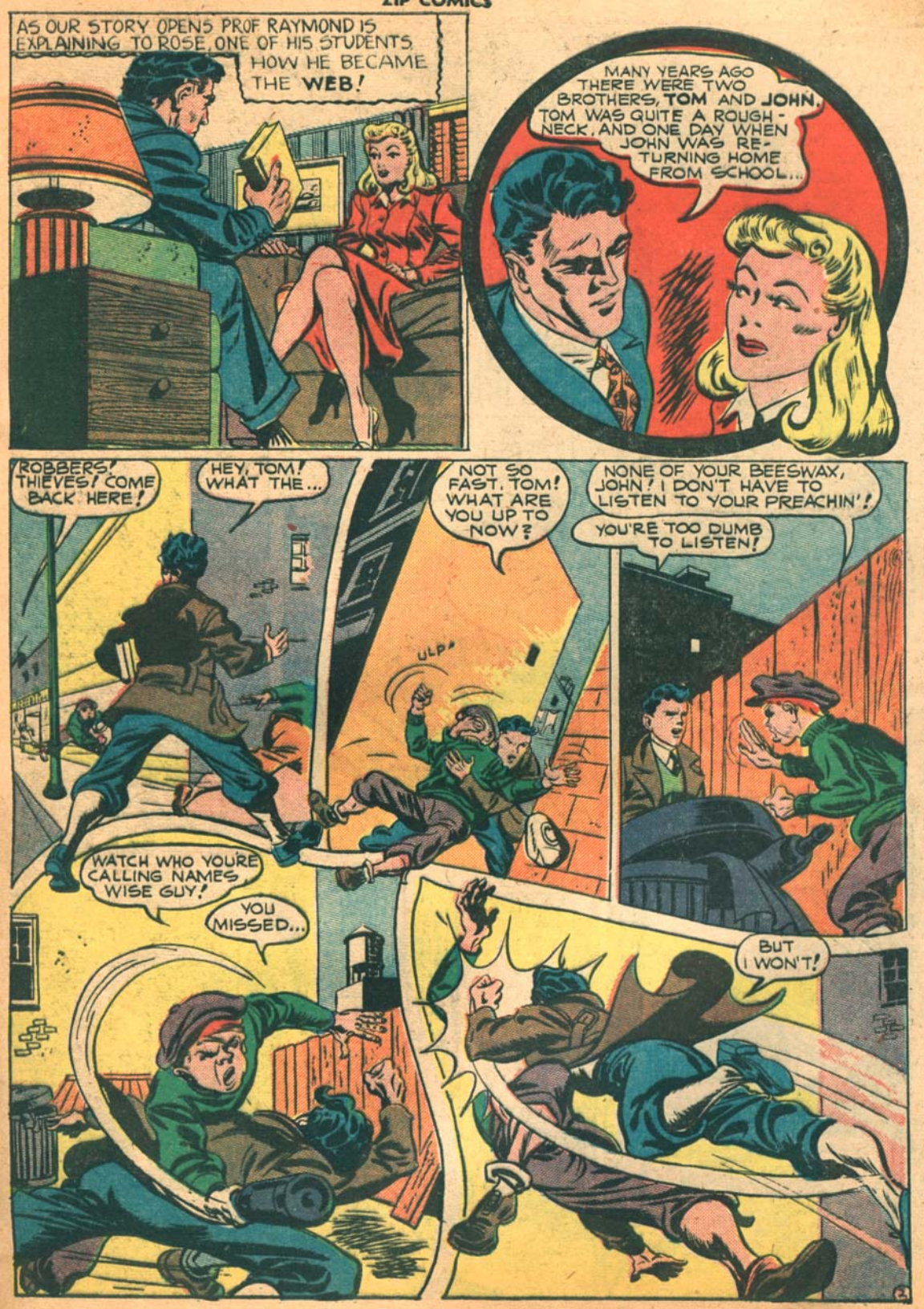
AS TREACHERY LIES IN WAIT FOR THE LONE PARTY, THE PT RESCUE BOATS APPOACH...
THERE'S THE BAY - I CAN SEE THE GENERAL NOW!
AHOY, THERE!
THEY'RE RIGHT ON THE NOSE!
SUDDENLY...
ADVANCE!
GREAT SCOT, WE'RE AMBUSHED! GET OUT YOUR GUNS, MEN!
MAKE EVERY BULLET COUNT, MEN! WE'RE OUTNUMBERED TEN TO ONE!
DARN IT, I'M FRESH OUT OF AMMUNITION!
EVEN THE LITTLE MONKEY ISN'T SPARED THE JAP RUTHLESSNESS...
SURRENDER, WHITE DOGS! SURRENDER OR WE CARRY OFF WHITE WOMAN!

LIKE A BEACONING RAY OF HOPE - SUDDENLY STEEL STERLING'S PLANE WINGS OUT OF THE EAST...
HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE!
HOLY COW! THEY'VE BEEN MASSACRED. THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE, STERLING!
STEEL BAILS OUT OF THE PLANE...
LOOK! WHITE MAN OF STEEL!
ZIP
WATCH THIS INSIDE CURVE, YELLOW-BELLY!

THAT'S IT, STERLING! BRING THEM UP TO BAT AND I'LL STRIKE THEM OUT!
THE HOME TEAM SEEMS TO BE WIN-NING!
WATCH THIS DOUBLE PLAY, GENERAL!
UNSEEN BY THE VALIANT AMERICANS, THE GENERAL'S WIFE IS HASTILY ABDUCTED..
MY WIFE! THOSE COWARDS HAVE KIDNAPPED MY WIFE!
DON'T WORRY, GENERAL! EVEN A MACHINE-GUN WITHOUT BULLETS CAN PACK A WALLOP!
ZIP
THAT TAKES CARE OF THOSE GOONS!
I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH, STERLING!
LET'S GET ON BOARD, DEAR!
SO LONG, STERLING! KEEP 'EM FLYING!


THE PT BOAT SPEEDS TO SAFETY CARRYING AMERICA'S TOP-NOTCH GENERAL TO NEW FIELDS FOR FURTHER CONQUEST...
PT46
INTO THE HORIZON AND BEYOND BEARING WITH HIM A NEW HOPE.....CARRYING WITH HIM THE TRUE SPIRIT OF AMERICA!
THERE HE GOES! AND 130 MILLION AMERICAN HEARTS GO WITH HIM!
BACK IN WASHINGTON, CLANCY LOONEY SCANS THE PAPERS...
WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO STEEL? LET'S LOOK IN THE LOST AND FOUND COLUMN!
H-HEY! WHO'S THAT?
WASHINGTON NEWS
GENERAL Mc BRIDE MAKES SENSATIONAL ESCAPE
WHY STEEL! WE WUZ WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.
I JUST TOOK A SHORT HOLIDAY IN THE PACIFIC! FELLAS, YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE!
FOR MORE THRILLING ADVENTURES WITH STEEL STERLING BE SURE TO GET YOUR NEXT COPY OF ZIP COMICS!

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT OF IT! THE SLIMY TENTACLES OF EVIL, SPEWED IN THE WAKE OF EVERY CRIMINAL, FINALLY AND EVENTUALLY WEAVE THE CHOKING NET OF EVIDENCE WHICH WILL TRAP HIM..... ENEMIES OF AMERICA.. BEWARE! EVEN YOU, COUNT BERLIN, RUTHLESS AND CUNNING PROMOTER OF NAZIDOM IN AMERICA, BEWARE! YOUR HIDEOUS LAUGH, COUNT BERLIN, WILL RETURN TO MOCK YOU! EVER NEAR YOU,.... SILENTLY STALKING NIGHT AND DAY, AND INEVITABLY TRACKING YOU TO YOUR LAIR..... IS THE WEB!
the WEB
GASO


AS OUR STORY OPENS PROF RAYMOND IS EXPLAINING TO ROSE, ONE OF HIS STUDENTS, HOW HE BECAME THE WEB!
MANY YEARS AGO THERE WERE TWO BROTHERS, TOM AND JOHN. TOM WAS QUITE A ROUGH-NECK. AND ONE DAY WHEN JOHN WAS RETURNING HOME FROM SCHOOL...
ROBBERS! THIEVES! COME BACK HERE!
HEY, TOM! WHAT THE...
NOT SO FAST, TOM! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?
ULP
NONE OF YOUR BEESWAX, JOHN! I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOUR PREACHIN'!
YOU'RE TOO DUMB TO LISTEN!
WATCH WHO YOU'RE CALLING NAMES WISE GUY!
YOU MISSED...
BUT I WON'T!

MAYBE THAT'LL KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO YOU! YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH TAKING WHAT DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU, TOM!
...THAT EVENING, THE POLICE ACTING ON A COMPLAINT CAME TO THE HOUSE FOR TOM...
SORRY, BUT IT'S HIS THIRD OFFENSE, MA'AM!
LEMME GO!
OH, NO.... YOU CAN'T!
DON'T CRY, MA! TOM'LL BE OUT OF REFORM SCHOOL IN NO TIME!
THE SWIFT TURN OF EVENTS MADE JOHN RESOLVE TO STUDY THE CRIMINAL MIND-...YEARS PASSED - JOHN BECAME AN AUTHORITY AND LECTURER ON CRIMINOLOGY..
.....AND THAT'S ALL FOR THE FIRST LECTURE, STUDENTS! CLASS DISMISSED!
ON HIS WAY HOME JOHN WAS STARTLED TO HEAR...
EXTRA! EXTRA! DAM BREAKS!
DAILY HERALD
CORTON DAM BREAKS! CITY THREATENED! WATER RISING RAPIDLY!
THAT NIGHT JOHN LISTENED FOR THE LATEST FLOOD REPORTS..
...AND LATER AS HE SAT WORKING AT HIS RESEARCH...THE DOOR OPENED...

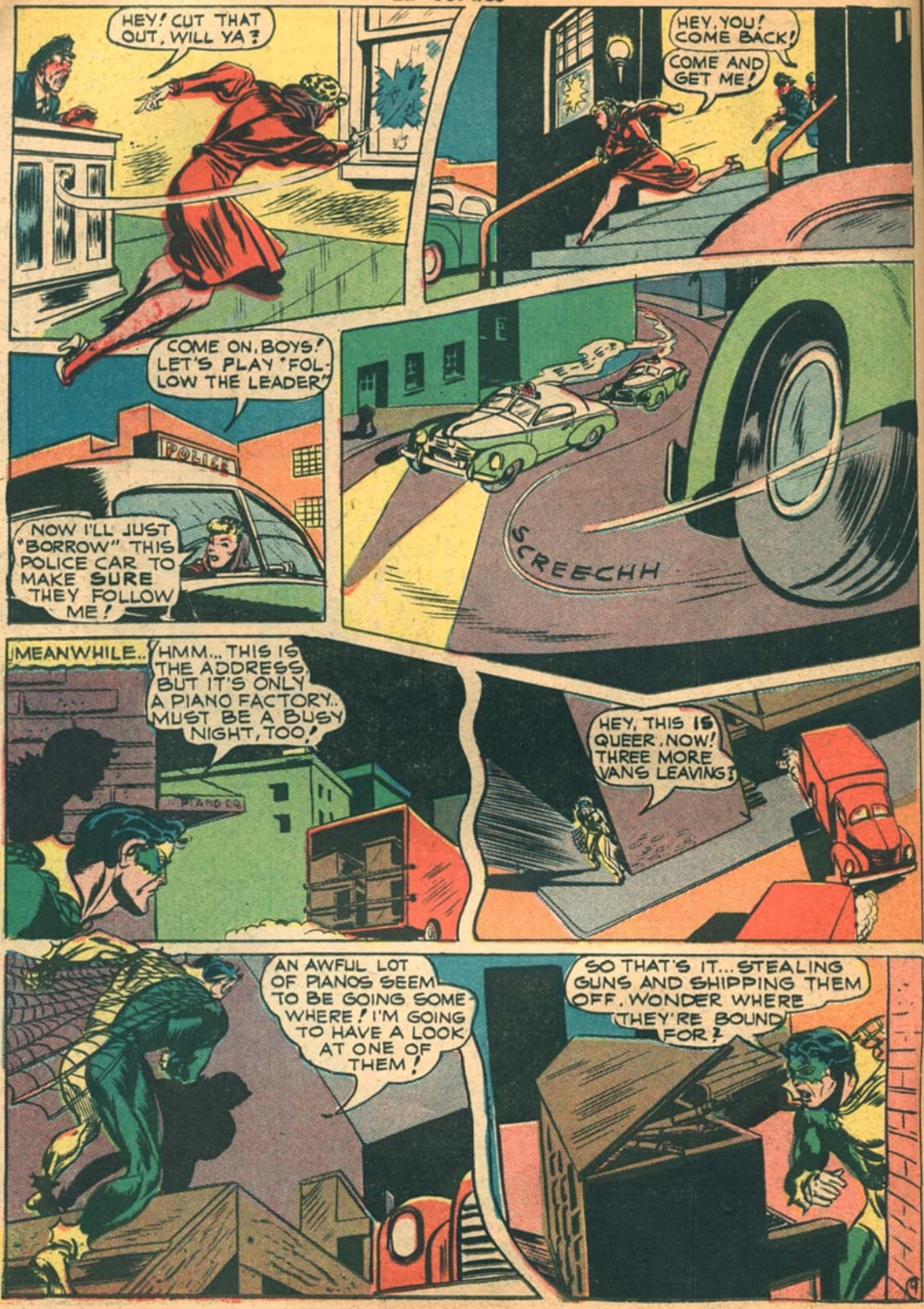
TOM? I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL IN JAIL!
YEAH? SO DID THE GUARDS! GIVE ME SOME DOUGH, BROTHER DEAR!
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS! GO BACK AND SERVE THE REST OF YOUR TERM! THEN YOU CAN COME OUT WITH A CLEAN SLATE!
YA NEEDN'T BOTHER TRYIN' THE PHONE - I CUT THE WIRES OUTSIDE!
YOU'RE CRAZY, TOM!
MEANWHILE AT THE LOCAL POLICE...
OPERATOR? YOU CAN'T GET THROUGH? OKAY - WE'LL WARN THEM PERSONALLY!
RAYMOND'S IS THE LAST HOUSE IN THE THREATENED AREA - JUST OUR LUCK HIS PHONE'S OUT OF ORDER!
POLICE
IMMEDIATELY, THE POLICE SEE THE ARMED GANGSTER, DRAW THEIR GUNS, AND..
WHA
DROP THAT GAT!
WELL, WELL, WE DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND A JAIL-BREAKER UP HERE!
YOU SEE, TOM BY CUTTING MY PHONE WIRES - YOU WERE CAUGHT IN A TRAP OF YOUR OWN MAKING!
TOM WAS MY BROTHER, ROSE! IN A FLASH MY MISSION WAS MADE CLEAR TO ME..TO SHOW THE CRIMINALS THEY CAN'T ESCAPE THEIR OWN WEB OF CRIME... THE WEB DOES IT PHYSICALLY! PROF. RAYMOND'S BOOK TRIES TO DO IT MENTALLY!
TREATISE ON CRIMINOLOGY

WHILE AT THAT MOMENT, ANOTHER FIGURE IS INTERESTEDLY SCANNING RAYMOND'S BOOK...
HA, HA, VERY FUNNY! I MUST COMPLIMENT DER AUTHOR!
TREATISE ON CRIMINOLOGY by John Raymond
HELLO. INFORMATION. GIFF ME DER PHONE NUMBER OF PROF. JOHN RAYMOND!
I HOPE THE HISTORY OF THE WEB DIDN'T BORE YOU, ROSE!
BORE ME? IT WAS FASCINATING! I'LL RUN ALONG NOW, BYE, BYE!
R-R-RING!
AND AS BOTH LEAVE THE ROOM, A WEB IS BEING SPUN, A WEB OF CIRCUMSTANCES BY THE PROFESSOR'S OWN BOOK...
TREATISE ON CRIMINOLOGY by John Raymond
HO... YOU T'INK DER FUEHRER IST DER BIGGEST CRIMINAL OF ALL TIME, SPINNING DER GREATEST WEB, EH? YOU STUPID DEMOCRATIC FOOL, NOW I TELL YOU VOT I T'INK OF YOU!
SUDDENLY...
COUNT BERLIN, I VAS VAITINK FOR YOU!
I HEARD YOU SHOUTING FROM VAY DOWN IN DER CELLAR - VOT HAPPENED?
OH, IT VAS NOTTINK IMPORTANT.. I JUST COULDN'T RESIST CALLING UP DER AUTHOR OF DIS RIDICULOUS BOOK. UND...
VOT? YOU BLUNDERING IMBECILE!
BUT HE'S NOBODY WHO COULD HARM OUR PLANS! NO.. COUNT, PLEASE. I DIDN'T MEAN.. .... OOOOH!
BANG

I MUST GET THAT RAYMOND BEFORE HE TRACES THAT CALL!
COUNT BERLIN RAPIDLY LOOKS UP A CERTAIN NUMBER IN THE DIRECTORY...
JAMES RAUD
JEROMIA RAUD
JEROME RANSON 117W
JOHN RAYMOND...237
JOSEPH
JUNE REY
KARL ANGEL
KARMEN AU
PHILIP ATKI
...AND DASHES OUTSIDE...
MEANWHILE...
OPERATOR, YOU TRACED THAT NUMBER TO THE PLAZA EXCHANGE... HMM...GOOD!
NOW LET ME SEE-THAT CALL MUST'VE COME FROM BANK AND PEACH STREETS!
CHOKE ME, EH?
6

WELL, COUNT BERLIN, I FEEL HONORED!
YOU'LL FEEL MORE THAN THAT!
NOW TO PUT AN END TO THIS FOOL, HOUSE AND ALL. HA, HA, HA,
OIL
OIL
FROM NOW ON EVERY-THING VILL PROCEED - ACCORDING TO PLAN!
ROARING FLAMES LICK CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE PROSTRATE FIGURE OF PROF. RAYMOND..... SOON THE HOUSE IS A VERITABLE INFERNO...
...AND JUST THEN, ROSE, RETURNING FOR SOME-THING SHE HAS FORGOT-TEN, SEES...

ROSE, QUICK-THINKING, DASHES COLD WATER ON THE PROFESSOR'S FACE...
OOOH! MY HEAD!
PROFESSOR, PLEASE GET UP! WE'RE IN TERRIBLE DANGER!
HERE, LET ME HELP YOU!
WHAT HAPPENED, PROFESSOR! HOW DID YOUR HOUSE CATCH ON FIRE?
I'M ALL RIGHT NOW, ROSE!
NO TIME TO ANSWER QUESTIONS NOW! BUT IT'S TIED UP WITH NAZI SPIES. YOU GET THE POLICE TO BANK AND PEACH STREETS!... THAT'S WHERE THE WEB IS GOING NOW!
LATER...
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO COME WITH ME, I TELL YOU!
LOOK, LADY.. WE BEEN ON TOO MANY WILD GOOSE CHASES FOR FIFTH COLUMNISTS EVER SINCE THIS WAR STARTED!
BUT IT'S THE TRUTH THIS TIME!
SURE, SURE.. THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY. NOW RUN ALONG AND FINISH THE SPY STORY YOU'RE READIN'..... WE'RE BUSY!
BUSY - PLAYING CHECKERS, EH? NOW I'M REALLY MAD!


HEY! CUT THAT OUT, WILL YA?
HEY, YOU! COME BACK!
COME AND GET ME!
COME ON, BOYS! LET'S PLAY "FOLLOW THE LEADER"
POLICE
NOW I'LL JUST "BORROW" THIS POLICE CAR TO MAKE SURE THEY FOLLOW ME!
SCREECHH
MEANWHILE..
HMM... THIS IS THE ADDRESS, BUT IT'S ONLY A PIANO FACTORY.. MUST BE A BUSY NIGHT, TOO!
PIANO CO.
HEY, THIS IS QUEER. NOW! THREE MORE VANS LEAVING!
AN AWFUL LOT OF PIANOS SEEM TO BE GOING SOMEWHERE! I'M GOING TO HAVE A LOOK AT ONE OF THEM!
SO THAT'S IT... STEALING GUNS AND SHIPPING THEM OFF. WONDER WHERE THEY'RE BOUND FOR?

THAT COUNT BERLIN IS CERTAINLY CLEVER TO THINK OF THIS!
JA! IMAGINE SHIPPING ARMS TO SOUTH AMERICA INSIDE OF PIANOS!
SO YOU'D LIKE TO START A REVOLUTION, EH?
FRITZ! COME GIFF ME A HAND MIT DIS PIANO! VERE ARE YOU?
OVER HERE, KARL!
I DON'T SEE NODDINGS!
YOU WILL! ....STARS!
POW!
COME AND GET YOUR PIANOS MOVED, BOYS!

WHAM
WHAT! NOBODY LEFT TO ANSWER THE PHONE?
FOOLS, NOTHING BUT FOOLS! HOW CAN I EVER GET ANYTHING DONE WITH THEM?
UP ON THE ROOF - IN MY OFFICE!
HOW ARE YOU GETTING ON WITH THE SHIPMENTS?
I'M DER NEW MAN - SOMET'ING IS WRONG - WHERE ARE YOU?
IDIOTS! JACKANAPES! ALL OF THEM!
VENTING HIS WHITE HOT ANGER COUNT BERLIN DASHES HIS FIST ALONG THE PIANO WIRE FRAMES...
SUDDENLY - THE FORBODING SHADOW OF THE WEB CASTS AN EERIE GLOW ABOUT COUNT BERLIN..

THATS FOR MY FRIEND— JOHN RAYMOND!
KRACK
SO! WE MEET AT LAST, WEB!
IT WILL BE OUR FIRST AND LAST.. OOF!
BONG
WELL... TALK ABOUT GETTING CAUGHT IN YOUR OWN WEB! THIS IS PRACTICALLY MADE TO ORDER!
MISSED!
THE POLICE ENTER, STILL CHASING ROSE..
WH-WHY LOOK! THE DAME WAS RIGHT!
THANKS FOR DROPPING IN, OFFICER.... BERLIN'S PIANO NEEDS A LITTLE TUNING!
GANG, YOU SAW HOW COUNT BERLIN WAS TRAPPED IN A MESH OF HIS OWN MAKING! I'LL MAKE IT MY JOB FROM NOW ON TO STAMP OUT MIGHT WITH MY RIGHT AS SURE AS MY NAME IS THE WEB!
EVERY ISSUE OF ZIP COMICS WILL BRING YOU ANOTHER UNUSUAL ADVENTURE OF THE WEB— COMIC'S NEWEST SENSATION!

BLACK JACK
King
JAN. 7
FEB. 7
MARCH 7
The SEVEN STRIKES DEATH
ONCE AGAIN, LOOMING ON THE CRIMINAL HORIZONS..... The BLACK SEVEN STILL IMBUED WITH THE WEIRD FATEFUL LUCK OF THE SEVEN....
AND ONCE AGAIN FATE SHUFFLES THE CARDS TO MATCH UP BLACK JACK WITH THE BLACK SEVEN.....MATCH THEM IN AN INCREDIBLE BATTLE OF WITS AGAINST FANTASTIC LUCK - AGAINST THE DEVILISH CUNNING OF The SEVEN OF DEATH!

IN THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE COMMISSIONER-VENTING HIS FURY TO HIS FRIEND, JACK JONES, KNOWN ONLY TO HIM AS BLACK JACK...
IT'S INCREDIBLE, THE MANS LUCK HE ROBS AND KILLS WITH IMPUNITY. THE POLICE ARE COMPLETELY BAFFLED!
HIS LUCK WILL CHANGE YET COMMISSIONER
THERE'S NO CARD IN THE DECK THAT CAN'T BE TRUMPED AND THAT GOES FOR ANY CRIMINAL WHO EVER LIVED, SOONER OR LATER THE BLACK JACK WILL TRUMP THE BLACK SEVEN!
WHILE AT THAT MOMENT...
WEALTH...UNTOLD WEALTH FOR ME - THE SEVENTH SON OF A SEVENTH SON. AND THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING. WITH MY LUCK I CAN...
YOUR LUCK IS FADING, SEVENTH SON OF A SEVENTH SON!
WHO... SOMEBODY IN THIS ROOM!
YOU...HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE? I DIDN'T SEE OR HEAR YOU!
I BRING YOU A MESSAGE. BEWARE YOUR SEVEN. IT WILL FAIL YOU!
IT DOESN'T MATTER, OH ILL-BORN ONE!
I HAVE WARNED YOU, BLACK ONE!
GET OUT, YOU FOOL!
BAH...IMAGINE TELLING ME MY LUCK WILL FAIL ME...HMM... THAT NEWSPAPER HEADLINE!

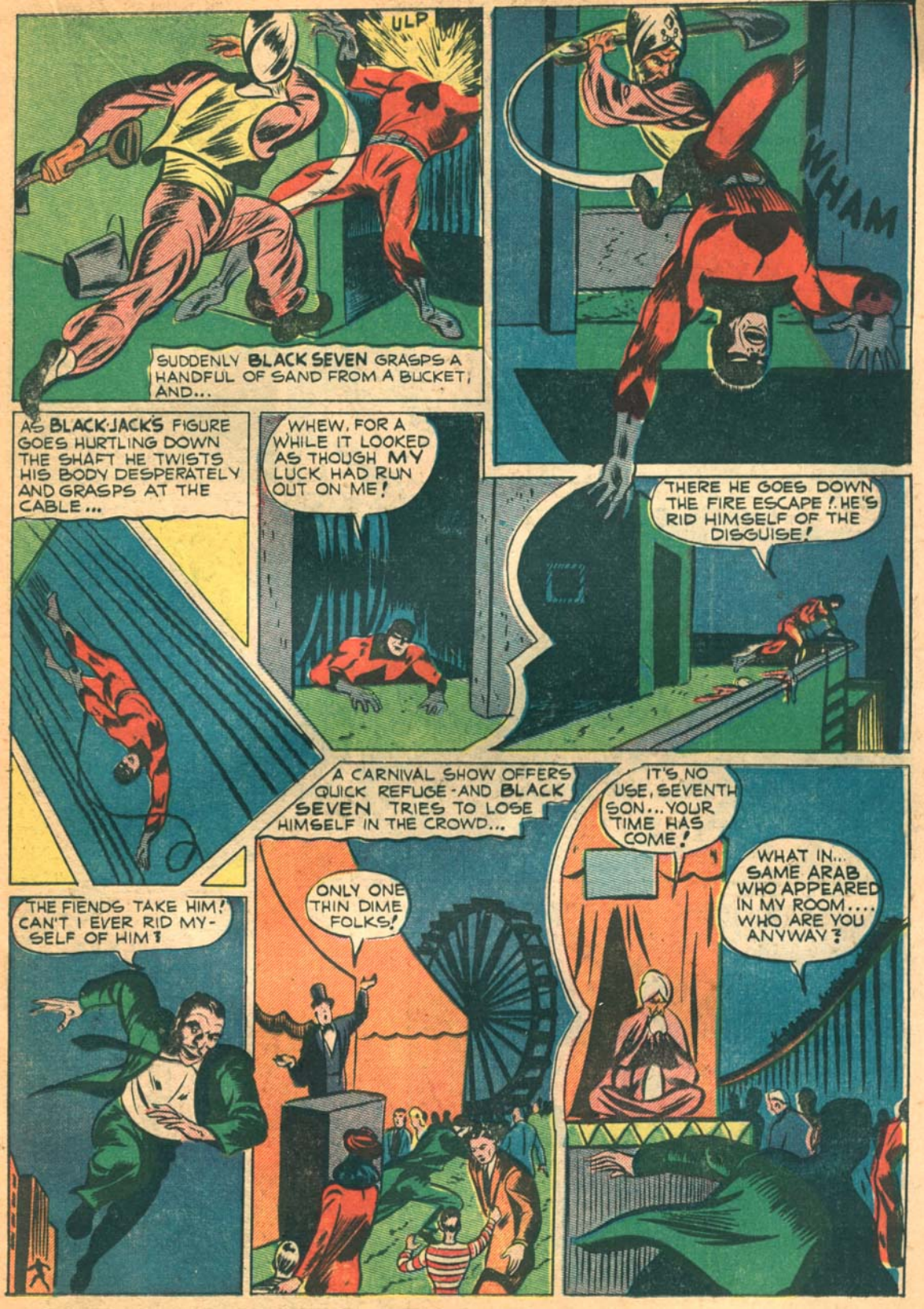
DAILY BLAST
FABULOUS SEVEN JEWELED RUBY OF TURKESTAN HERE IN AMERICA!
RAJAH OF TURKESTAN VISITS OUR SHORES
BEARING WITH HIM THE PRICE-LESS GEM OF THE ORIENT
SEVEN JEWELED RUBY, EH? VERY INTERESTING!
I'LL DRAW MY USUAL SEVEN OF SPADES BEFORE I START ON THIS JOB! WH.. WHAT'S THIS? I'VE DRAWN A JACK - A BLACK JACK!
BAH! DRAWING THAT BLACK JACK WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE, THAT SEVEN JEWELED RUBY SHALL BE MINE BEFORE THE NIGHT IS OVER!
ALSO READING THE NEWSPAPER HEADLINE, BLACK JACK!
The
SEVEN JEWELED RUBY. IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING THE BLACK SEVEN WOULD INTEREST HIMSELF IN - AND SO WILL BLACK JACK!
AT THAT MOMENT ENTERING THE CITY'S MOST FAMOUS HOTEL...
JOVE! IT'S THE RAJAH OF TURKESTAN HIMSELF!
AND THAT JEWEL IN HIS TURBAN... IT... IT'S BREATH-TAKING!

A SUITE OF ROOMS FOR MY ENTOURAGE. THE BEST YOU HAVE. NATURALLY!
OF COURSE, EXCELLENCY!
AND YOU WILL ALSO GIVE ME ADEQUATE PROTECTION.. THERE ARE MANY WHO MIGHT BE .... TEMPTED TO, AH... BORROW MY JEWELS!
PROTECTION HE WANTED.. WELL, HE GOT IT!
YOU SAID IT... A FLY COULDN'T GET BY US!
THIS IS THE HOTEL THE RAJAH IS REGISTERING AT!
YOU... YOU'RE BLACK JACK! WH.....WHAT'S HAPPENED?
NOTHING YET, I HOPE! WHAT ROOM IS THE RAJAH IN? HURRY!
SUDDENLY..
WHAT IN....THE LIGHTS WENT OUT! WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M SURE I DON'T KNOW. I'LL CALL UP THE SUPERINTENDENT!
HELLO! WHAT'S UP, SUPERINTENDENT? SHORT CIRCUIT?
ARE YOU KIDDIN' ME? THE MANAGER JUST CALLED ME A WHILE AGO, SAID HE'D INSTRUCTED EVERYBODY ABOUT AN IMMEDIATE BLACKOUT!

THE LIGHTS ARE IMMEDIATELY SWITCHED ON AGAIN..
I SMELL SOMETHING PHONEY. COME ON - SHOW ME TO THE MANAGER'S OFFICE!
DEAD! MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT. BLACK SEVEN IS AROUND!
QUICK, TO THE RAJAH'S ROOM! AND DON'T SPARE THE HORSE-POWER!
BUT THERE COULD BE NO POSSIBLE DANGER TO THE RAJAH. WE HAVE A DOZEN MEN GUARDING HIM!
"I'LL BELIEVE THAT WHEN I SEE IT!
BLACK JACK BURSTS INTO THE RAJAH'S ROOM. AND SEES...
BY THE PROPHET!.. WHAT IS THIS?
IS...IS EVERYTHING ALLRIGHT YOUR HIGHNESS?
OF COURSE!
AND NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME..
CERTAINLY, YOUR HIGHNESS, WE ARE SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION!

SAY! WHAT'S THAT STICKING OUT OF THE CLOSET DOOR?
GREAT SCOT! IT'S THE RAJAH!
UMPH.. GLUG!
WHAT A SAP I'VE BEEN.. THAT OTHER RAJAH MUST HAVE BEEN THE BLACK SEVEN DISGUISED!
JUST A FEW MOMENTS NOW AND MY PLAN WILL HAVE SUCCEEDED.. SO MY LUCK HAS FAILED - THE STUPID IMBECILE!
JUST THEN, THE ELEVATOR COMES TO A JARRING HALT..
CONFOUND YOU, BOY. GET THIS ELEVATOR GOING!
I CAN'T, SIR.. SHE'S STUCK!
LOOK.. THAT INDICATOR IS STANDING STILL .... RIGHT BY THE SEVENTH FLOOR! WHAT A BREAK! HE'S TRAPPED!
INSTRUCTIONS ARE IMMED - IATELY RELAYED TO THE ENGINEER IN THE BASEMENT.
THE CABLE'S LOOSENING NOW!
ANOTHER YANK AND WE'LL HAVE IT FREE!
AND AS THE ELEVATOR STARTS ITS DOWNWARD GLIDE, A "RECEPTION COMMITTEE" AWAITS IT IN THE LOBBY...
SHOOT IF HE MAKES A FALSE MOVE MEN!... HE'S DANGEROUS!

(ULP) HE'S GONE!
KNOCKED THE OPERATOR COLD! HE'S COMING TO. NOW!
OOOOOOOOOH
HE MUST'VE CLIMBED THROUGH THERE!
AND ON THE ROOF...
QUEER HOW THAT ELEVATOR GOT STUCK ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR!
YES BLACK SEVEN! IT'S ALSO QUEER HOW I FIGURED YOU'D CLIMB UP TO THE ROOF, ISN'T IT?
BLACK JACK!
CLEVER, EH?
BONG
YOU'LL REGRET THAT INGENUITY, BLACK JACK!
UGH!
HERE'S SOMETHING FOR YOU TO REGRET!
WHAM

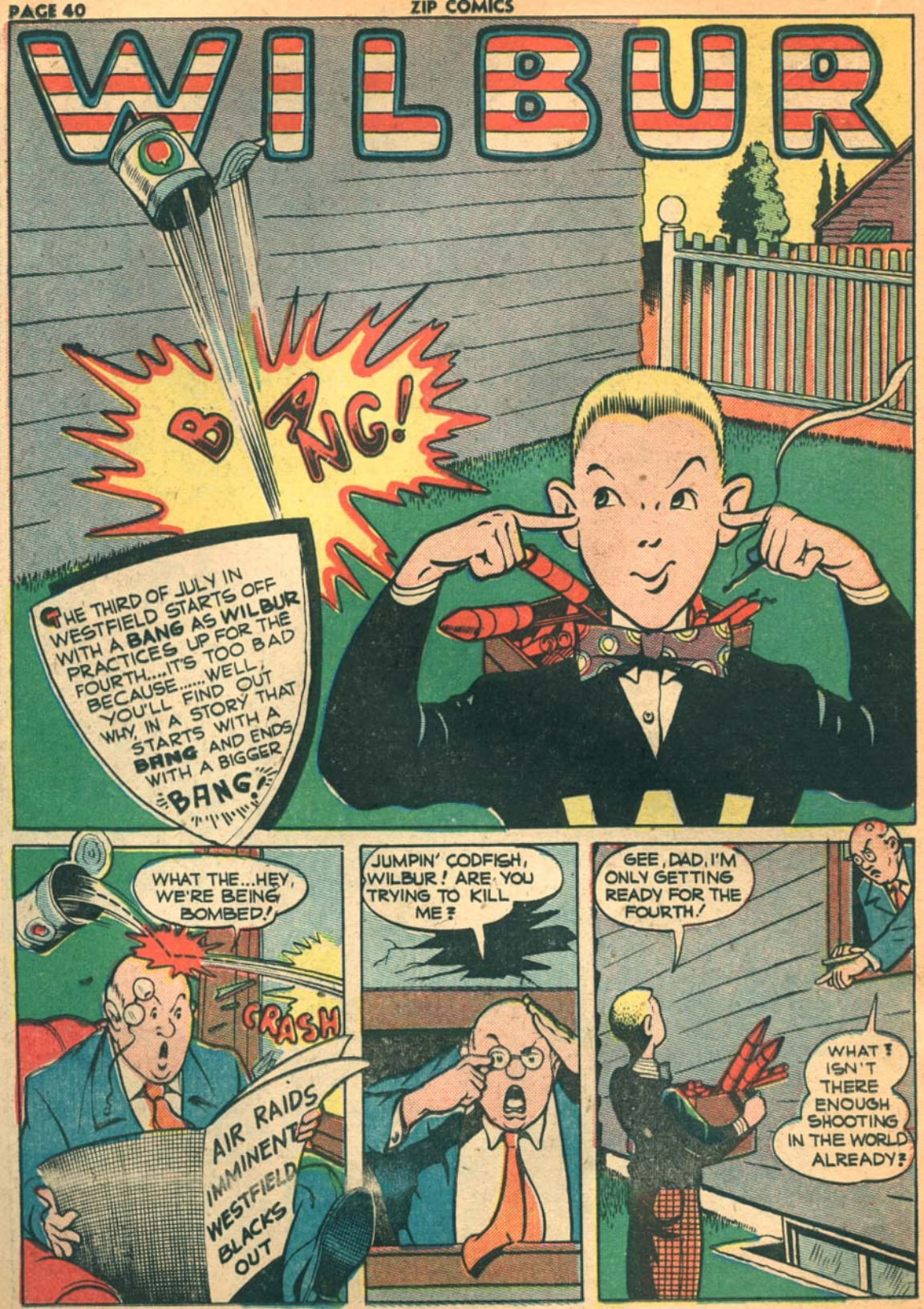

ULP
SUDDENLY BLACK SEVEN GRASPS A HANDFUL OF SAND FROM A BUCKET; AND...
WHAM
AS BLACK-JACK'S FIGURE GOES HURTLING DOWN THE SHAFT HE TWISTS HIS BODY DESPERATELY AND GRASPS AT THE CABLE...
WHEW, FOR A WHILE IT LOOKED AS THOUGH MY LUCK HAD RUN OUT ON ME!
THERE HE GOES DOWN THE FIRE ESCAPE! HE'S RID HIMSELF OF THE DISGUISE!
A CARNIVAL SHOW OFFERS QUICK REFUGE - AND BLACK SEVEN TRIES TO LOSE HIMSELF IN THE CROWD...
ONLY ONE THIN DIME FOLKS!
THE FIENDS TAKE HIM! CAN'T I EVER RID MYSELF OF HIM?
IT'S NO USE, SEVENTH SON... YOUR TIME HAS COME!
WHAT IN... SAME ARAB WHO APPEARED IN MY ROOM.... WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?

IT MATTERS NOT... I KNOW YOU WERE BORN UNDER THE EVIL SIGN OF THE SEVEN STARS. LOOK!... LOOK INTO THE HEAVENS!
STARS! SHAPED LIKE A SEVEN!
THEN, BLACK, OMINOUS CLOUDS SUDDENLY APPEAR BLOTTING THE SEVEN STARS FROM SIGHT...
THE HEAVENS FLASH AND ROAR... IN AN AMAZINGLY SHORT TIME A STORM WHIPS FROM OUT THE SKIES...
AND BELOW...
BLACK JACK! HE'S SEEN ME!
HORRORS
BAM
AS BLACK JACK PURSUES HIS QUARRY INTO THE CHAMBER OF HORRORS, THE BLACK SEVEN LEAPS FROM BEHIND THE ENTRANCE WITH A SLASHING, MURDEROUS BLOW...
IF MY LUCK IS CHANGING IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU. BUT I'LL FIX THAT PERMANENTLY!

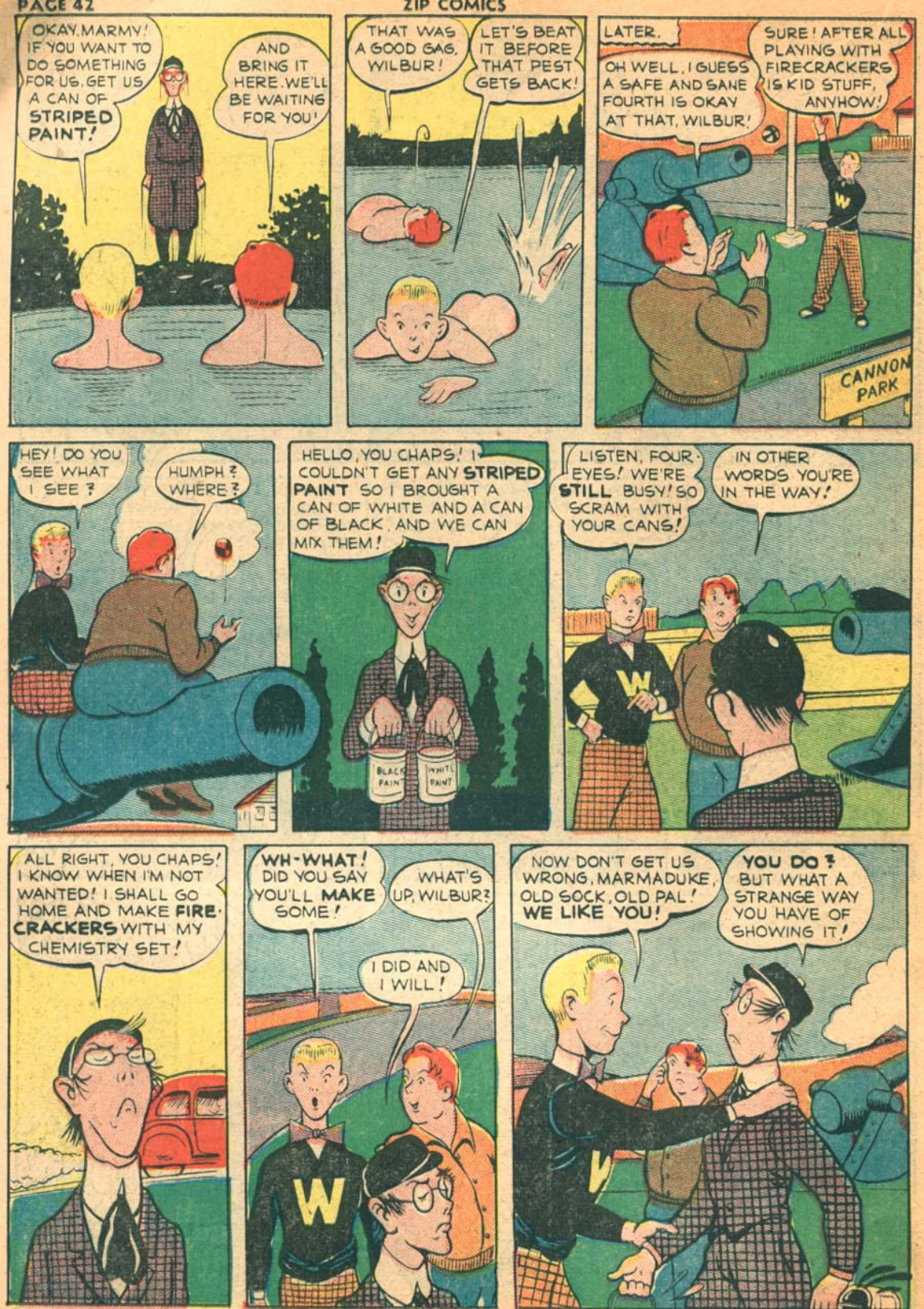
BUT JUST BEFORE THE SLASHING, DOWN-CUTTING STEEL BLADE CAN DELIVER ITS DEATH-BITE, BLACK JACK ROLLS SWIFTLY...
CRASH
ONLY THING PERMANENT AROUND HERE IS THE PERMANENT WAVE I'M GOING TO PUT IN YOUR NOSE!
TIGERISHLY, THE DUO FLAIL AWAY AT EACH OTHER
BIFF
BANG
POW
SOCK
NOW I HAVE HIM!
THE GUILLOTINE! A VERY FITTING DEATH INDEED. IT WAS THE JOURNEY'S END FOR A KING!

AND NOW IT SHALL FINISH OFF A JACK!.. A BLACK JACK, HA, HA, HA, HA, FAREWELL, MY FRIEND!
ONCE AGAIN THE HEAVENS ROAR AS THOUGH ENRAGED, AND A FURIOUS LIGHTNING TONGUE STABS INTO THE TENT, HITS THE GUILLOTINE...
THE BLADE! ....IT'S TOPPLING RIGHT AT ME!
BLACK SEVEN STUMBLES, FALLS INTO A PIT...
YEEEOW
The BLACK SEVEN IS TRUMPED...
LATER JACK JONES ENTERS THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
HERE...THE BLACK SEVEN'S LAST PIECE OF LOOT, COMMISSIONER!
YOU DON'T MEAN THAT...
YES...HE'LL NEVER PLAGUE YOU OR ANYONE ELSE AGAIN. THE CARDS FINALLY RAN AGAINST HIM!
WHILE AT THE CARNIVAL, THE WIZENED, TIMELESS FACE OF AN ARAB PROPHET PEERS INTENTLY AT THE SKY AS THE STORM CLOUDS BREAK...
THE SKIES ARE CLEAR... THE SIGN OF THE SEVEN IS GONE! ALLAH'S WILL IS DONE!

MEN WITH TAILS
MEMBERS OF THE NIAM-NIAM TRIBE IN INTERIOR AFRICA, NEAR ABYSSINIA, ARE REPORTED TO HAVE TAILS AS LONG AS 2 FEET!
APE GIRL
A GIRL WAS FOUND IN ITALY IN ABOUT 1650 COVERED FROM HEAD TO FOOT WITH LONG SILKY HAIR AND LIVING IN THE MANNER OF THE APES. SHE WAS PRESENTED BEFORE EMPEROR CHARLES IV.
WILD BOY
A BOY ABOUT 12 YEARS OLD WAS TAKEN BY HUNTERS FROM THE FORESTS OF FRANCE IN 1802. HE ATE ROOTS, BARK, ACORNS AND GRASS. HE COULDN'T TALK BUT NEARLY ESCAPED BY SWINGING THROUGH THE TREES.
-GOSS


WILBUR
BANG!
THE THIRD OF JULY IN WESTFIELD STARTS OFF WITH A BANG AS WILBUR PRACTICES UP FOR THE FOURTH....IT'S TOO BAD BECAUSE.....WELL, YOU'LL FIND OUT WHY, IN A STORY THAT STARTS WITH A BANG AND ENDS WITH A BIGGER "BANG!"
WHAT THE...HEY, WE'RE BEING BOMBED!
CRASH
AIR RAIDS IMMINENT WESTFIELD BLACKS OUT
JUMPIN' CODFISH, WILBUR! ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?
GEE, DAD, I'M ONLY GETTING READY FOR THE FOURTH!
WHAT! ISN'T THERE ENOUGH SHOOTING IN THE WORLD ALREADY?

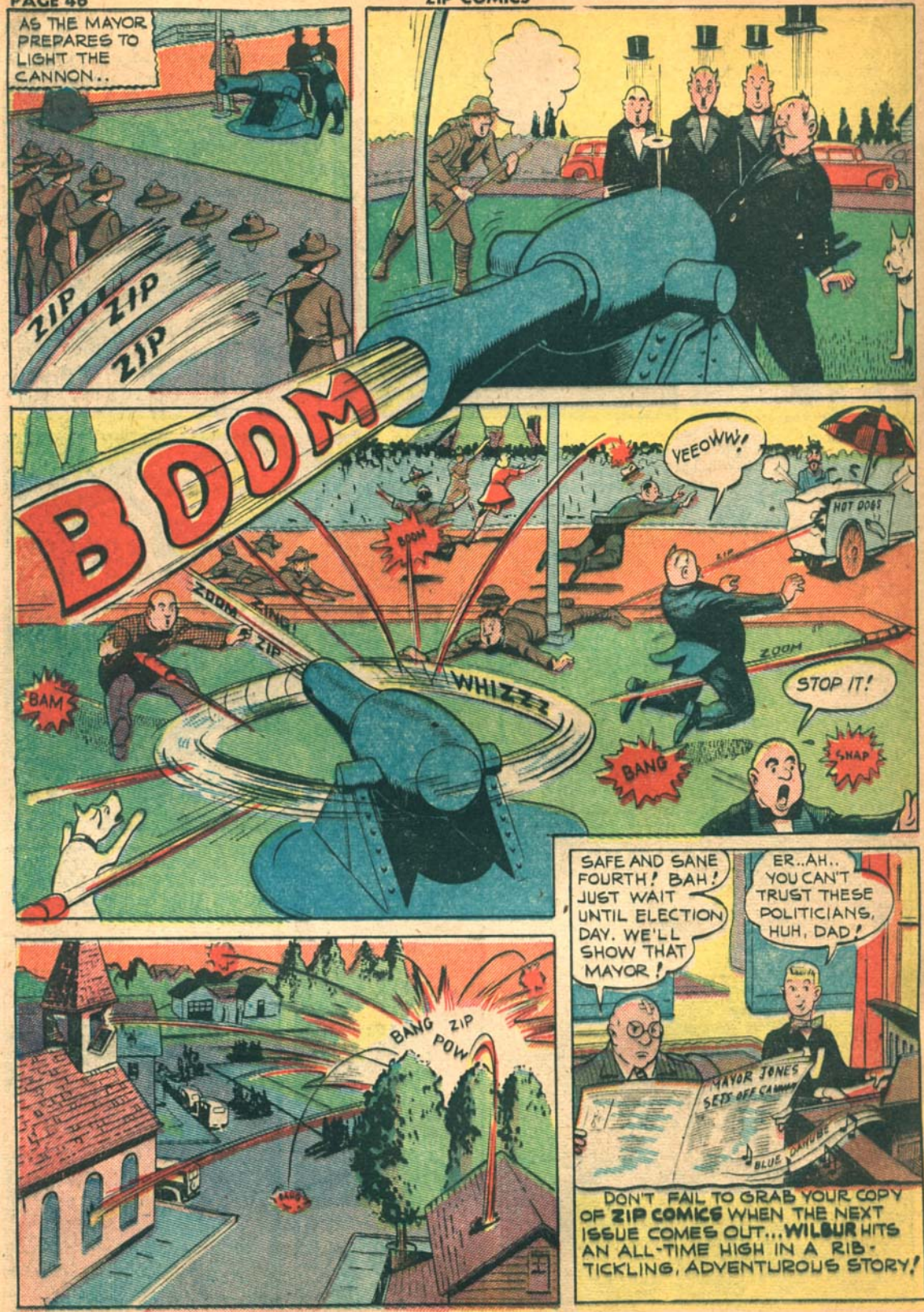
THIS IS GOING TO BE A SAFE FOURTH. NO FIRE CRACKERS FOR YOU, MY BOY!
AW, DAD, PLEASE! I WON'T HIT YOU ON THE HEAD AGAIN!
RATS! FOURTH OF JULY WITHOUT FIRE-CRACKERS IS LIKE MUSTARD WITHOUT A HOT-DOG!
HEY, WILBUR!
I'M DISGUSTED, JIMMY! DAD SAID NO FIRE WORKS FOR TO-MORROW!
FERGET IT! HOW ABOUT US GOIN' IN FOR A SWIM, HUNH, WILBUR? HUH?
HELLO, YOU CHAPS! MAY I BE PER-MITTED TO JOIN YOU?
HERE COMES MARMADUKE! LET'S GIVE HIM THE SLIP!
RUN ALONG, MARMY, OLD PAL! WE'RE BUSY!
GO PLAY WITH YOUR TEST-TUBE!
IT'S BAD ENOUGH NOT HAVING ANY FIRE-CRACKERS FOR THE FOURTH WITHOUT HAVING THAT WET BLAN-KET AROUND!
BUT I ONLY WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND, AND BESIDES...
I MIGHT EVEN BE HELPFUL ABOUT CELEBRATING THE FOURTH!
OH, SURE! YOU MIGHT RECITE US A LOVELY POEM, HUH?
G'WAN BEAT IT! YOU REMIND US TOO MUCH OF HOMEWORK!
UGH..STOP THAT... YOU'RE GETTING ME ALL WET!
SPLASH
HMMPH... I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOU FIND MY COMPANY DISTASTEFUL!


OKAY, MARMY! IF YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR US, GET US A CAN OF STRIPED PAINT!
AND BRING IT HERE. WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU!
THAT WAS A GOOD GAG, WILBUR!
LET'S BEAT IT BEFORE THAT PEST GETS BACK!
LATER.
OH WELL, I GUESS A SAFE AND SANE FOURTH IS OKAY AT THAT, WILBUR!
SURE! AFTER ALL PLAYING WITH FIRECRACKERS IS KID STUFF, ANYHOW!
CANNON PARK
HEY! DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
HUMPH? WHERE?
HELLO, YOU CHAPS! I COULDN'T GET ANY STRIPED PAINT SO I BROUGHT A CAN OF WHITE AND A CAN OF BLACK, AND WE CAN MIX THEM!
BLACK PAINT
WHITE PAINT
LISTEN, FOUR-EYES! WE'RE STILL BUSY! SO SCRAM WITH YOUR CANS!
IN OTHER WORDS YOU'RE IN THE WAY!
ALL RIGHT, YOU CHAPS! I KNOW WHEN I'M NOT WANTED! I SHALL GO HOME AND MAKE FIRE-CRACKERS WITH MY CHEMISTRY SET!
WH-WHAT! DID YOU SAY YOU'LL MAKE SOME!
WHAT'S UP, WILBUR?
I DID AND I WILL!
NOW DON'T GET US WRONG, MARMADUKE, OLD SOCK, OLD PAL! WE LIKE YOU!
YOU DO? BUT WHAT A STRANGE WAY YOU HAVE OF SHOWING IT!

WE WERE JUST KIDDING! WE THINK YOU'RE GREAT!
SURE WE DO! IS THAT YOUR HOUSE, OLD CHUM, OLD BOY?
FOR HOURS MARMADUKE MIXES POWDERS AND LIQUIDS IN HIS CELLAR, UNTIL.....
THERE! I'VE GOT ALL THE POWDER FINISHED. NOW YOU CHAPS HELP ME WITH THE REST!
OBOY! I'LL SAY WE WILL!
YEOWW! THEY'RE BEAUTIES, MARMADUKE! BETTER'N THE KIND YOU BUY IN THE STORE!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THEM TILL TOMORROW, WILBUR?
HIDE 'EM IN MY CELLAR!
CREEPERS! ISN'T THAT YOUR DAD COMING THIS WAY?
WE GOTTA HIDE THESE CRACKERS QUICK!
BOY, POP'LL BE SORE IF HE FINDS THEM ON US!
LET'S HIDE 'EM IN THE CANNON!
THIS CANNON HASN'T BEEN FIRED IN 20 YEARS.. THEY'LL BE SAFE IN HERE!
HURRY UP, JIMMY! HE'S GAINING ON US!
ER, HELLO, DAD, LOOKING FOR ME?
I CERTAINLY AM, WILBUR!

B-BUT, DAD..I-I-ER, WE WERE JUST GOING, AH, ER, I --
I CAN USE YOUR HELP TOO, JIMMY.. COME ALONG, BOTH OF YOU!
I'M GLAD YOU WEREN'T DOING ANYTHING SO YOU CAN HELP ME. MY BACK FENCE NEEDS WHITE-WASHING BADLY!
MEANWHILE AT A COUNCIL MEETING AT WESTFIELD TOWN HALL...
GENTLEMEN, I PRESENT YOU THE MAYOR!
HRRMP! I HAVE ASKED YOU TO GATHER HERE TO PUT BEFORE YOU THE FOLLOWING THOUGHT!
I SUGGEST THAT WE DEDICATE TOMORROW'S CELEBRATION OF THE FOURTH TO THOSE HEROES ON OUR FAR-FLUNG BATTLE-FRONTS!
AN EXCELLENT IDEA..I'M ALL FOR IT!
HEAR! HEAR! SWELL!
HOW ABOUT FIRING THE OLD TOWN CANNON IN SALUTE?
THAT THING? IT WILL EXPLODE
THAT GENTLEMEN IS EXACTLY WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.. FIRE A SHOT FROM THE CANNON IN SALUTE TO OUR HEROES. IT WILL ONLY BE A TOKEN SHOT OF COURSE. NOTHING DANGEROUS!
NEXT MORNING.... THE FOURTH...
I SEE WHERE THE MAYOR HAS PUT A SMALL CHARGE OF POWDER IN THE OLD TOWN CANNON TO CELEBRATE THE FOURTH!
WH-WHAT!
WESTFIELD WELCOMES QUIET FOURTH

EX-EXCUSE ME, DAD --I-I-DON'T FEEL WELL --I WILL YOU, HUH?
DON'T DISAPPEAR NOW...I WANT YOU TO PUT ON YOUR SCOUT UNIFORM AND JOIN THE SCOUT PARADE AT CANNON PARK!
Y-YES SIR! I JUST WANT TO MAKE A PHONE CALL!
HELLO, JIMMY! THIS IS WILBUR! DID YOU READ THIS MORNING'S PAPER---I MEAN THE FIXING OF THE OLD CANNON?
I CAN'T GO GET THOSE FIRE-WORKS, WILBUR...MY DAD MADE ME GET DRESSED IN THE SCOUT UNIFORM FOR THE PARADE!
Y-YOU CAN'T! WHAT ABOUT MARMADUKE RESCUING THEM? AFTER ALL, HE MADE THE FIREWORKS!
OHHH! I CAN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!
TELL WILBUR I'M GOING TO BE IN THE PARADE, TOO!
THE GREAT EVENT ARRIVES! TO THE LILT OF FIFE AND DRUM, ALL OF WESTFIELD TURNS OUT AT "CANNON PARK"
I HOPE THEY DON'T LINE US UP FACING THE CANNON!
----AND IN WHAT BETTER WAY COULD WE COMMEMORATE THE FOURTH...I THANK YOU!
IT WON'T MAKE MUCH OF A NOISE.. BUT IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS!


AS THE MAYOR PREPARES TO LIGHT THE CANNON..
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
BOOM
YEEOWW!
HOT DOGS
BOOM
ZOOM
ZIP
ZING!
ZOOM
ZIP
WHIZZZ
BAM
BANG
STOP IT!
SNAP
SAFE AND SANE FOURTH! BAH! JUST WAIT UNTIL ELECTION DAY. WE'LL SHOW THAT MAYOR!
ER..AH.. YOU CAN'T TRUST THESE POLITICIANS, HUH, DAD!
MAYOR JONES SETS OFF CANNON
BLUE DANUBE
BANG ZIP POW
DON'T FAIL TO GRAB YOUR COPY OF ZIP COMICS WHEN THE NEXT ISSUE COMES OUT... WILBUR HITS AN ALL-TIME HIGH IN A RIB-TICKLING, ADVENTUROUS STORY!

STORIES OF The BLACK WITCH...

I DON'T KNOW, PHIL! YOU MUST HAVE HAD SOME EXCITING EXPERIENCES, WHILE I JUST PLOD ALONG, BARELY MAKING A LIVING... TOM — WHAT'S HAPPENED? WHY HAVE YOU SUDDENLY TURNED SO PALE?
THIS... THIS DEVIL'S HAND IN MY POCKET!
THIS IS THE THIRD TIME I'VE THROWN IT AWAY.. AND ALWAYS IT MYSTERIOUSLY RETURNS!
THIS TIME I'LL MAKE SURE IT'S DESTROYED!
WAIT, TOM... DON'T DESTROY IT YET... TELL ME ABOUT IT FIRST!
LET GO OF MY ARM, YOU FOOL, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
MAYBE NOT, BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT... YOU'VE AROUSED MY CURIOSITY WITH THIS DEVIL'S HAND!
TOM... I'M WARNING YOU.. LET IT BURN!
2

HA,HA, POOR OLD PHIL GETTING SO EXCITED ABOUT A DRIED-UP RELIC LIKE THIS!
TOM, MAYBE YOU SHOULD DO AS PHIL SAYS. SOMEHOW IT.. IT FRIGHTENS ME!
NONSENSE, IF IT HAS MAGICAL QUALITIES, IT MIGHT EVEN DO US SOME GOOD, HA,HA,
FOR INSTANCE, GIVE US ALL THE MONEY WE WANT, JUST THE SAME I'M GOING TO KEEP IT AS A SOUVENIR!
AT THAT MOMENT, A WARE-HOUSE WATCHMAN MAKES HIS ROUNDS...
SUDDENLY HE TURNS A CORNER, AND SEES...
BANDITS! DROP THAT STUFF, YOU!
ONLY THING THAT GETS DROPPED AROUND HERE IS YOU, SUCKER!
LATER AT THE GRAYSON HOME...
YOUR SON, MR. GRAYSON... HE WAS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-I'M HIS EMPLOYER!
WE CAUGHT THE BANDITS AND I FEEL THE LEAST I CAN DO IS GIVE THE REWARD TO YOU, HIS PARENTS.. I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BELIEVE ME!
OH, TOM (SOB)- OUR JIMMY DEAD!
THERE, THERE, MARY!

IT'S ALL MY FAULT, MARY DEAR.....MY GREED DID THIS.... I WANTED MONEY AND THIS DEVIL'S HAND GOT IT!
DON'T, TOM DEAREST!
PHIL WAS RIGHT! I'LL DESTROY THIS ACCURSED PAW FOREVER!
WAIT, TOM...NOT YET...WE MAY NEED IT!
LET'S GO TO SLEEP AND DISCUSS IT TOMORROW!
ALLRIGHT, MARY!
BUT THERE IS NO SLEEP FOR THE COUPLE, FOR THERE IS A STORM IN THEIR HEARTS GREATER THAN NATURE'S TEMPEST LASHING AT THEIR HOME...
IT'S NO USE... I CAN'T SLEEP!
THE PAW! THE PAW!
IT TOOK OUR SON AWAY FROM US...WHY CAN'T IT BRING HIM BACK?

TOM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT PAW?
I'M GOING TO WISH FOR OUR BOY'S RETURN!
NO, TOM, YOU MUST NOT!
WHY NOT? WHY SHOULDN'T THE DEVIL SERVE US INSTEAD OF HURTING US?
TOM! PLEASE, YOU'RE MAD! YOU MUSTN'T TAMPER WITH THE DEAD!
DON'T TRY TO STOP ME, MARY, I'VE MADE UP MY MIND!
TOM, PLEASE COME BACK!
WHATEVER FIENDS THAT CONTROL THIS PAW - I WISH YOU TO GIVE US OUR SON. I COMMAND IT!
SUDDENLY, DRIVEN BY SOME WEIRD IRRESISTABLE FORCE, TOM RUSHES TOWARD THE CEMETERY...
OUR SON! I MUST GET OUR SON!
TOM! PLEASE COME BACK! TOM - DEAREST, YOU MUSTN'T!

TOM! WHERE ARE YOU?
AS MARY APPROACHES HER SON'S GRAVE...
EEEE! TOM...WHAT'S HAPPENED?
HE..... HE'S DEAD!
VILE PAW! LET ME JOIN MY HUSBAND AND MY SON!
SUDDENLY...
CRACK
THEN A GRUESOME FIGURE RESOLVES FROM THE MISTS OVER THE SCENE AND REACHES FOR THE PAW...
THAT HAND WAS NEVER AGAIN SEEN. GREED AND DEATH....A VERY PRETTY STORY ISN'T IT, LUCIFER? HEE, HEE, HEE!

PEP COMICS IS NEVER SATISFIED!!

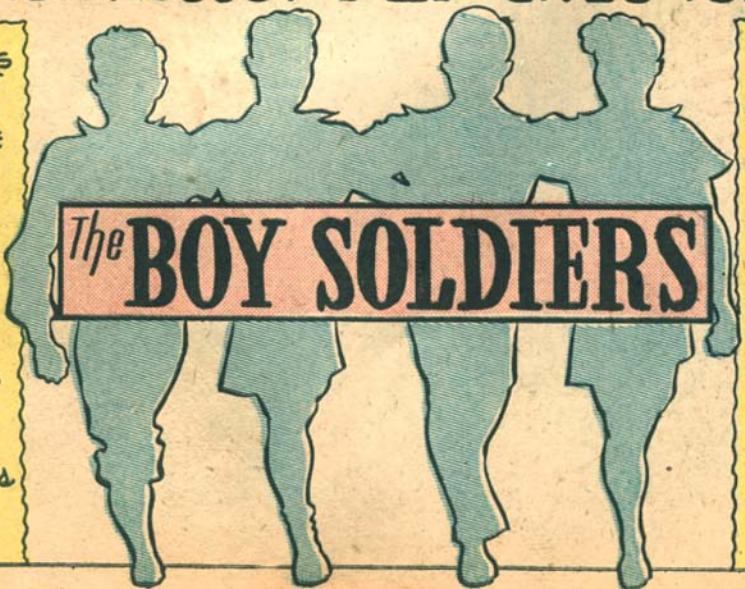
PEP GAVE YOU THE MOST DARINGLY DIFFERENT CHARACTER IN THE HISTORY OF COMIC BOOKS, A CHARACTER WHO HAS SOARED TO AN ALL-TIME HIGH IN POPULARITY - *the* HANGMAN

PEP REFUSED TO REST ON ITS LAURELS. IT REFUSED TO STAY IN THE SAME RUT MONTH AFTER MONTH. IT LOOKED FOR SOMETHING FRESH. AND SO IT GAVE YOU - THE NEW SHIELD

PEP ALWAYS SENSITIVE TO POPULAR DEMAND, ALWAYS ANXIOUS TO GIVE ITS READERS WHAT THEY WANT - AND MORE - REALLY OUTDID ITSELF AND GAVE YOU - ARCHIE

AND NOW AUGUST PEP GIVES YOU

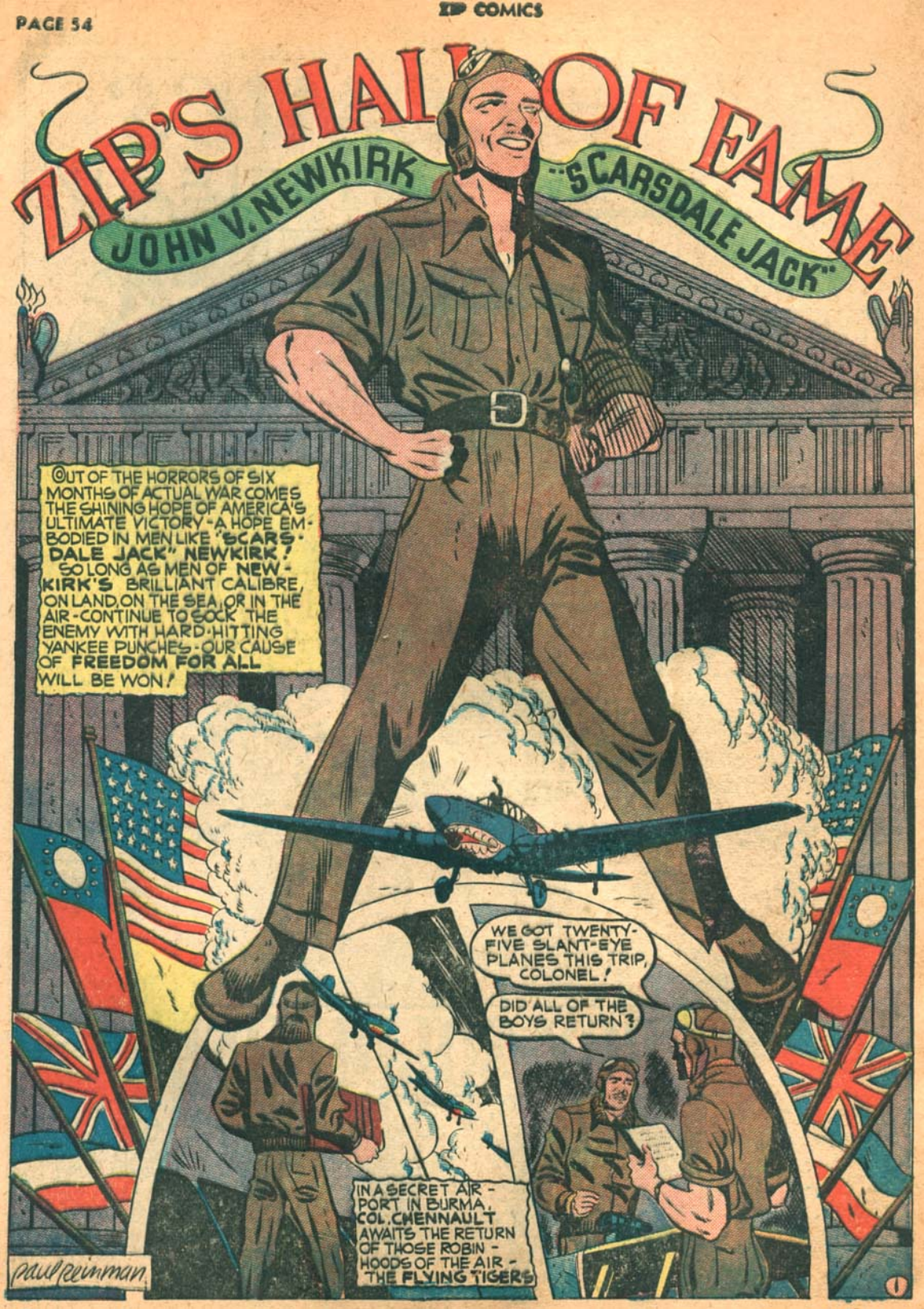
WE SAY WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION THAT YOU'LL GET YOUR MONEY'S WORTH IN THE AUGUST ISSUE OF **PEP** COMICS! IF YOU BUY IT ONLY TO READ THIS SENSATIONALLY "DIFFERENT FEATURE!..... BOY SOLDIERS APPEARING ONLY IN **PEP** COMICS DEFIES IMITATION!

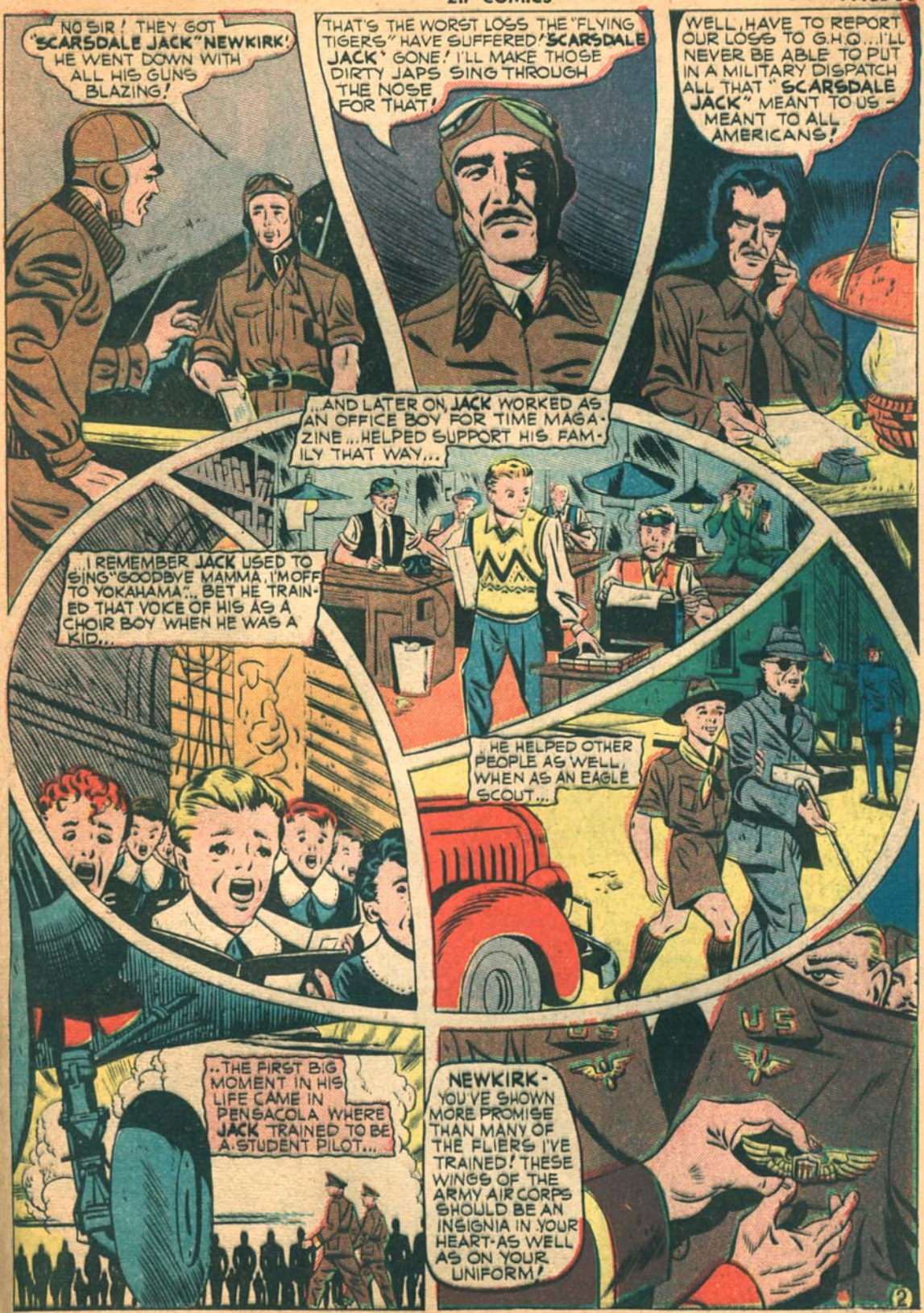


AND, AS FOR THESE OLD STAND-BYS

1. SERGEANT BOYLE
2. DANNY IN WONDERLAND
3. BENTLEY OF SCOTLAND YARD

WE DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THEM. YOU HAVE TOLD US BEYOND ANY FURTHER COMMENT IN YOUR THOUSANDS OF LETTERS!

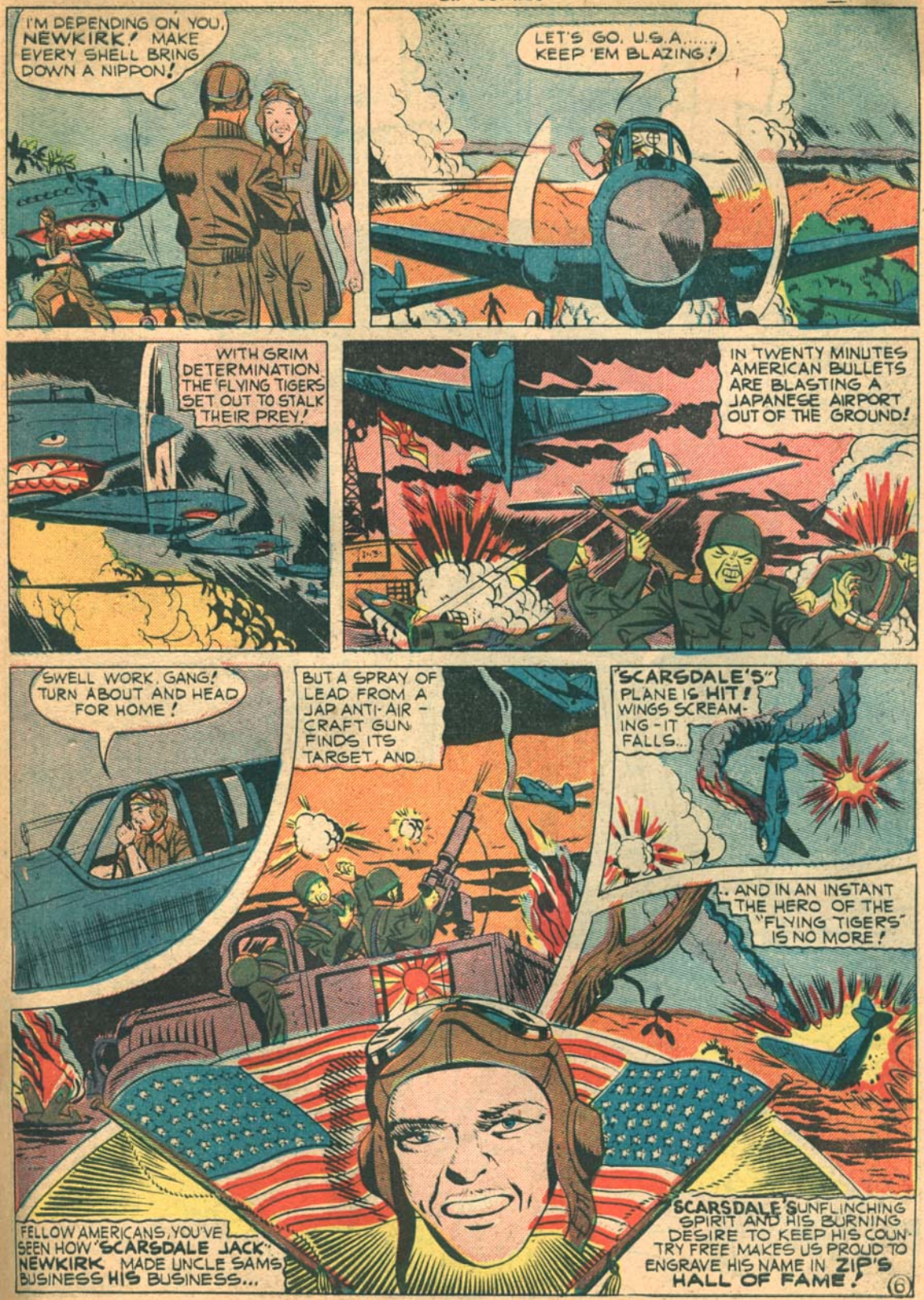

ZIP'S HALL OF FAME
JOHN V. NEWKIRK "SCARSDALE JACK"
OUT OF THE HORRORS OF SIX MONTHS OF ACTUAL WAR COMES THE SHINING HOPE OF AMERICA'S ULTIMATE VICTORY - A HOPE EMBODIED IN MEN LIKE "SCARSDALE JACK" NEWKIRK! SO LONG AS MEN OF NEWKIRK'S BRILLIANT CALIBRE, ON LAND, ON THE SEA, OR IN THE AIR - CONTINUE TO SOCK THE ENEMY WITH HARD-HITTING YANKEE PUNCHES - OUR CAUSE OF FREEDOM FOR ALL WILL BE WON!
WE GOT TWENTY-FIVE SLANT-EYE PLANES THIS TRIP, COLONEL!
DID ALL OF THE BOYS RETURN?
IN A SECRET AIR-PORT IN BURMA, COL. CHENNAULT AWAITS THE RETURN OF THOSE ROBIN-HOODS OF THE AIR - THE FLYING TIGERS
Paul Reinman


NO SIR! THEY GOT "SCARSDALE JACK" NEWKIRK! HE WENT DOWN WITH ALL HIS GUNS BLAZING!
THAT'S THE WORST LOSS THE "FLYING TIGERS" HAVE SUFFERED! "SCARSDALE JACK" GONE! I'LL MAKE THOSE DIRTY JAPS SING THROUGH THE NOSE FOR THAT!
WELL, HAVE TO REPORT OUR LOSS TO G.H.Q... I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PUT IN A MILITARY DISPATCH ALL THAT "SCARSDALE JACK" MEANT TO US - MEANT TO ALL AMERICANS!
...AND LATER ON, JACK WORKED AS AN OFFICE BOY FOR TIME MAGAZINE... HELPED SUPPORT HIS FAMILY THAT WAY...
...I REMEMBER JACK USED TO SING "GOODBYE MAMMA, I'M OFF TO YOKAHAMA"... BET HE TRAINED THAT VOICE OF HIS AS A CHOIR BOY WHEN HE WAS A KID...
...HE HELPED OTHER PEOPLE AS WELL, WHEN AS AN EAGLE SCOUT...
...THE FIRST BIG MOMENT IN HIS LIFE CAME IN PENSACOLA WHERE JACK TRAINED TO BE A STUDENT PILOT...
NEWKIRK - YOU'VE SHOWN MORE PROMISE THAN MANY OF THE FLIERS I'VE TRAINED! THESE WINGS OF THE ARMY AIR CORPS SHOULD BE AN INSIGNIA IN YOUR HEART - AS WELL AS ON YOUR UNIFORM!

OKAY, PULL THE CHOCKS AWAY!.. I'LL BE BACK IN TIME FOR CHOW!
THERE WASN'T ANYTHING WITH A MOTOR AND WINGS THAT "SCARSDALE JACK" COULDN'T HANDLE! ONE DAY AFTER A PRACTICE FLIGHT...
HELLO, FELLAS, WHAT ARE THE HEADLINES?
THOSE LOUSY JAPS! THEY NEVER HIT A GUY WHO CAN FIGHT BACK, DO THEY?
AW, CAN IT, NEWKIRK!
Morning Telegraph
CHUNGKING BOMBED
DEFENSELESS CITY
THE CHINESE CAN FIGHT THEIR OWN BATTLES WITHOUT YOU BUTTING IN!.. WHAT HAPPENS OUTSIDE THE U.S. IS NONE OF OUR BUSINESS!
YEAH? WELL, I'LL MAKE IT MY BUSINESS. I'M TIRED OF WATCHING THE LITTLE GUY GET PUSHED AROUND!
GONNA LICK THE JAPS SINGLE-HANDED, NEWKIRK?
HA, HA HA!
THIS EASY LIFE'S GETTING ON MY NERVES! I'M GOING TO SEE SOME ACTION!
AND THAT'S HOW I FEEL, SIR! WILL YOU PERMIT ME TO JOIN THE "AMERICAN VOLUNTEER GROUP" COLONEL CHENNAULT IS FORMING IN BURMA!
I CERTAINLY WILL, NEWKIRK! IF YOU'VE GOT AS MUCH GUTS AS YOU'VE GOT SPIRIT - YOU'LL FIND PLENTY TO DO!
THANKS, SIR!
3

THERE GOES THE STATUE OF LIBERTY!
WHEN THIS MESS IS ALL OVER, WE'LL BE SEEING HER AGAIN. NEWKIRK! I'M GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US.. COME DOWN AND MEET THE BOYS!
GANG, I WANT YOU TO MEET YOUR SQUADRON LEADER.... "SCARSDALE JACK" NEWKIRK!
HIYA, JACK!
HOWSAH BOY!
WE'RE GOING TO REGISTER AS ACROBATS AND TOURISTS SO AS NOT TO WISE UP THE JAPS!
IN THOSE DAYS WE WEREN'T AT WAR WITH JAPAN, AND WHEN THE A.V.G. ARRIVED THEY DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE ANY CHANCES!...
...ON DEC. 7, 1941. OUT OF THE SKIES OVER CHINA DRONED THE MERCILESS THROBBING OF JAP BOMBERS..
FORMATION READY OVER OPEN CITY.... RELEASE - BOMBS OVER THREE MILE AREA AND RETURN TO BASE!
SUDDENLY - FROM NOWHERE ZOOMED THE AVENGING AMERICAN SQUADRON OF THE "FLYING TIGERS"
J-BACI
4

...WITH THE RUTHLESSNESS OF THEIR ENEMIES, THE "FLYING TIGERS" RIPPED APART THE ATTACKING JAPANESE...
OUR FIRST ATTACK! THE BOYS ARE OVERDUE NOW!
ONE, TWO, ... FOUR MISSING!
WE KNOCKED OFF SIX YELLOW BELLIES, COLONEL!
WHERE'S NEWKIRK?
SUDDENLY...
HEY, DID YOU HEAR?.. PEARL HARBOR'S BEEN ATTACKED!
...WHY DIDN'T SCARSDALE JACK RETURN WITH THE OTHERS? LOOK FOR YOURSELF.. HE'S STILL IN THE SKY SMASHING AWAY AT THE REMAINING ATTACKERS...
TWO HOURS AFTER NEWKIRK RETURNS...
MEN, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO US AT PEARL HARBOR!
THIS TIME WE WON'T WAIT TO BE CAUGHT NAPPING..... GET OUT THERE AND SMASH EVERY TREACHEROUS JAP OUT OF THE SKY!


I'M DEPENDING ON YOU, NEWKIRK! MAKE EVERY SHELL BRING DOWN A NIPPON!
LET'S GO, U.S.A.....KEEP 'EM BLAZING!
WITH GRIM DETERMINATION THE 'FLYING TIGERS' SET OUT TO STALK THEIR PREY!
IN TWENTY MINUTES AMERICAN BULLETS ARE BLASTING A JAPANESE AIRPORT OUT OF THE GROUND!
SWELL WORK, GANG! TURN ABOUT AND HEAD FOR HOME!
BUT A SPRAY OF LEAD FROM A JAP ANTI-AIR-CRAFT GUN FINDS ITS TARGET, AND
"SCARSDALE'S" PLANE IS HIT! WINGS SCREAMING - IT FALLS..
.. AND IN AN INSTANT THE HERO OF THE "FLYING TIGERS" IS NO MORE!
FELLOW AMERICANS, YOU'VE SEEN HOW "SCARSDALE JACK" NEWKIRK MADE UNCLE SAM'S BUSINESS HIS BUSINESS...
SCARSDALE'S UNFLINCHING SPIRIT AND HIS BURNING DESIRE TO KEEP HIS COUNTRY FREE MAKES US PROUD TO ENGRAVE HIS NAME IN ZIP'S HALL OF FAME!
6

ZAMBINI
THE 'MIRACLE' MAN
SUPPLIES
BAR
ON THE SHADOWS OF NIGHT'S GRIM DARKNESS AN AGED SEA-CAPTAIN PLUNGES INTO THE MURKY HARBOR WATERS IN AN ATTEMPTED SUICIDE!
FORTUNATELY ZAMBINI, MAGICIAN EXTRAORDINARY, HAPPENS CLOSE BY - AND -------
by GERALD KEAN & PAUL REINMAN
THAT MAN MUST NOT DIE!
IN A FLASH ZAMBINI TOUCHES HIS MAGIC AMULET...
AND THE SEA-CAPTAIN IS WHISKED BACK INTO HIS BOAT...

W-WHAT IS THIS? W-WHO ARE YOU?
I'VE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS TO ASK YOU MYSELF!
MY NAME IS ZAMBINI, FRIEND.
DON'T YOU FRIEND ME! WHY DON'T YOU MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
I DON'T WANT YOUR MAGIC TO SAVE ME..WHAT FOR? SO THAT I'LL CONTINUE TO BE A BURDEN ON MY WIFE AND DAUGHTERS!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I CAN'T GET A JOB BECAUSE I'M TOO OLD! WHAT'S THE USE OF LIVING?
YOU THINK YOU HAVE TROUBLES - JUST LISTEN TO ME!
FISH
...THERE WAS ONCE A SEA-CAPTAIN LIKE YOURSELF.... HE LIVED AGES AGO IN BYGONE TIMES.....DURING ONE OF HIS MANY TRADING VOYAGES, HIS BOAT BECAME CAUGHT IN A TURBULENT STORM.....
AS MY NAME'S REX, IT DOESN'T LOOK AS IF I'LL EVER GET HOME TO SPARTICAS... WHAT A GALE!
THESE SAIL-ROPES ARE SPLITTING UNDER THE STRAIN. I WISH I HADN'T TAKEN MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER ON THIS TRIP WITH ME!
SUDDENLY, A MIGHTY WAVE ENGULFED CAPTAIN REX'S SHIP....
2

AND IN A MOMENT IT WAS NO MORE..
MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER - I MUST FIND THEM!
NOW IN THOSE DAYS THERE LIVED A MAGICIAN, EVEN AS MYSELF, BY THE NAME OF ZOG - AS IS CUSTOMARY. HE APPEARED IN MOMENTS OF DISTRESS..
ZOG! CAN YOU HELP ME?
YOUR FAMILY'S SAFE..LOOK OVER THERE!
TRUE ENOUGH. CAPTAIN REX FOUND HIS FAMILY HAD SURVIVED. BY DINT OF HIS INGENUITY THEY CLUNG TO A MAKESHIFT RAFT.. UNTIL...
LAND! I SEE LAND!
BUT CAPTAIN REX'S MISFORTUNES WERE NOT OVER...THIS STRANGE LAND WAS NOT THE HAVEN THIS WEARY, HUNGRY FAMILY CRAVED...
WE'VE DRIFTED TO THE LAND OF FESTER! I HOPE THEY WILL GIVE US FOOD AND SHELTER!
COME WITH ME, GIRL!
THE MOMENT THEY ARRIVED THEY WERE SET UPON BY GUARDS...
I'LL TAKE THIS GIRL TO THE SLAVE MARKET!
STOP!
LET GO OF MY DAUGHTER, YOU SWINE!
WHAT TYRANT RULES HERE THAT YOU KIDNAP INNOCENT PEOPLE? YOU COWARDS!
3

SMACK
BEASTS! YOU STRUCK MY WIFE!
HA! HA! HA! HA-HA! HA!
COME ALONG, SCUM-WE'VE A PLACE FOR YOUR KIND!
YOU'VE KILLED HER-YOU BARBARIANS!
DEAREST! SPEAK TO ME-.....SHE'S DEAD!
BY RUBBING HIS MAGIC AMULET, ZOG CHANGED THE PRISON STONES INTO LOAVES OF BREAD...
WHICH THE CAPTAIN AVIDLY DEVOURED..
SUDDENLY ZOG APPEARED...
ZOG! HELP ME!
THE GRIEVING CAPTAIN WAS LED AWAY TO PRISON...MISFORTUNE HEAPED UPON MISFORTUNE FELL ON THIS UNHAPPY SOUL...
BREAD! WATER! I...I...I CAN'T GO ON!

I MUST FIND MY DAUGHTER, ZOG! WILL YOU HELP ME!
FOLLOW ME!
THROUGH THE CROOKED STREETS OF FESTER, OVER WHICH WAVED THE HIDEOUS EMBLEM OF THE BLOODY DAGGER, TROD ZOG AND THE SEA CAPTAIN...
THIS IS THE PLACE, CAPTAIN REX!
HOW CAN WE GET PAST THOSE GUARDS!
SLAVE MARKET
ONCE AGAIN ZOG'S FINGERS LIGHTLY BRUSH HIS MAGIC AMULET...
WHY, LOOK! THEY'VE BECOME WOODEN SOLDIERS!
AND IT WAS SO...
COME, MY FRIEND! LET'S GO INSIDE!
ONCE INSIDE, THEIR EYES BEHELD A SIGHT OF UTMOST HORROR! IT WAS AN AUCTION - BUT THE OBJECTS FOR SALE WERE
GREAT HEAVENS.. MY DAUGHTER!
NO! NO!
WHAT AM I OFFERED FOR THIS GIRL? WHO WILL START THE BID AT A HUNDRED ZINAS!

DOWN, YOU FEMALE DOG!
CRACK
HERE SHE IS... NEWLY ARRIVED TO OUR SHORES. WHO WILL BID
STOP! STOP, I SAY!
MY DAUGHTER. MY OWN, I MUST STAY BY YOUR SIDE!
BUT FATHER, THEY WILL KILL YOU!
THAT MATTERS NOT TO ME! SO LONG AS I CAN BREATHE I SHALL FIGHT AGAINST SUCH TYRANNY AS THIS. KILL ME BUT I SHALL SPEAK MY MIND!
AS THE CAPTAIN SPOKE A CLOUD ENVELOPED HIM...
YOU ARE A BRAVE MAN, REX, YOU DESERVE TO RETURN TO YOUR HOME.. I COMMAND IT SHALL BE DONE!
AND SO IT CAME TO PASS! NO MATTER WHAT MISFORTUNES HAD BEFALLEN THE ANCIENT CAPTAIN... HE KEPT HIS FAITH..
YOU'RE RIGHT, ZAMBINI! THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN DO - I'LL OFFER MY SERVICES TO MY COUNTRY!
MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER NEED ME TO KEEP OUR WAY OF LIVING FROM GOING UNDER..... I SHALL DO IT!

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE BOYS and GIRLS OF AMERICA FROM HENRY MORGENTHAU, JR. -SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY!

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

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