



NO. 167



BATMAN



A BOOK-LENGTH SPY-THRILLER...
"ZERO HOUR for EARTH!"

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

THE ENTIRE WORLD KNEW THAT **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** HAD CHALLENGED THE MIGHT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIME CARTEL CALLED **HYDRA**! THE ENTIRE WORLD KNEW THAT **HYDRA** HOODLUMS WAITED IN SHADY PLACES FOR THE CAPE CRIME-FIGHTERS WHO RELENTLESSLY MOVED AGAINST THEM! BUT WHAT THE WORLD DID NOT KNOW WAS THAT WHILE BATTING **HYDRA**, THE DYNAMIC DUO WAS SECRETLY THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY ON ANOTHER MISSION--A MISSION SO VITAL THAT IF THEY FAILED, IT COULD MEAN...

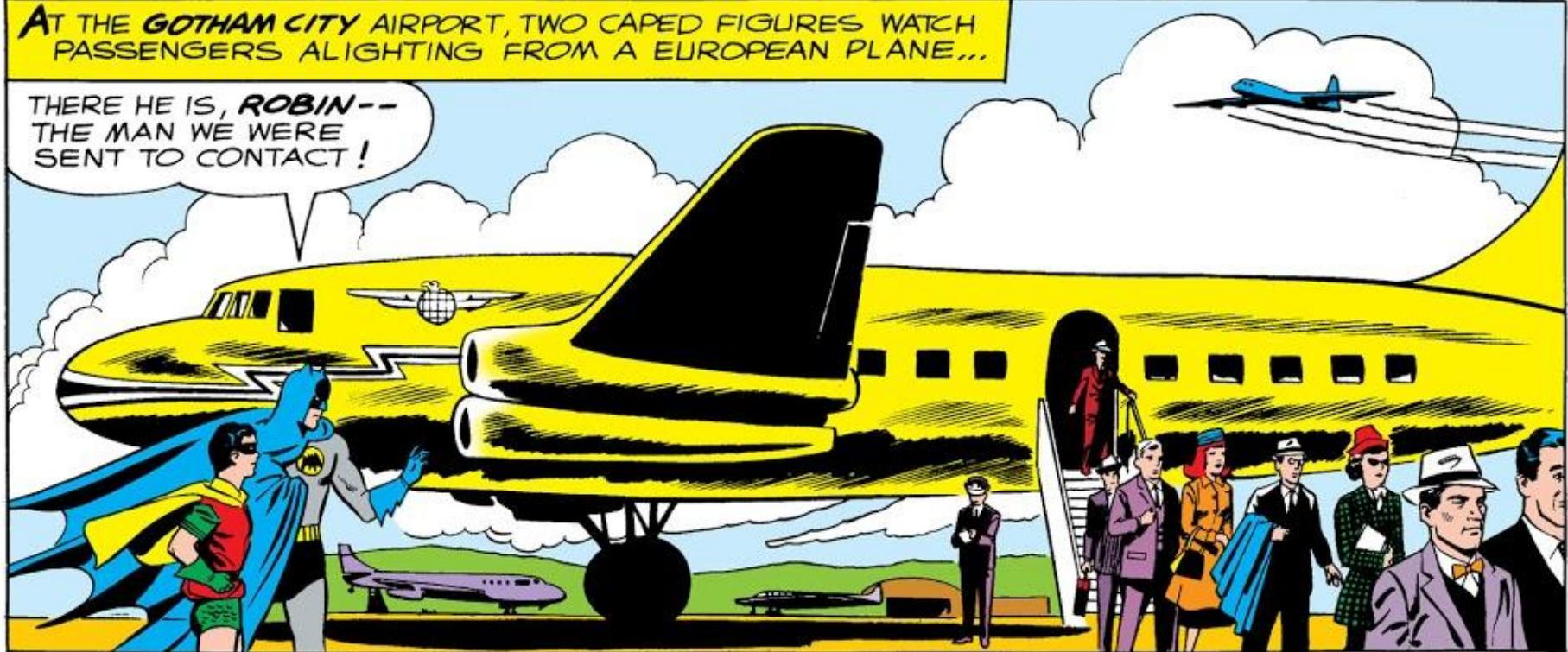
ZERO HOUR FOR EARTH!

THAT T-GUNNER--
ABOUT TO FIRE
AT ROBIN!



AT THE GOTHAM CITY AIRPORT, TWO CAPE FIGURES WATCH PASSENGERS ALIGHTING FROM A EUROPEAN PLANE...

THERE HE IS, ROBIN--
THE MAN WE WERE
SENT TO CONTACT!



THE NEXT MOMENT, WITHOUT WARNING, THEIR MAN BREAKS INTO A RUN...

HE SAW
SOMETHING, BATMAN--
SOMETHING THAT'S PANICKED
HIM!



AT THAT INSTANT, A GUN IS
LEVELLED AT THE RUNNING
MAN...



RUNNING AT TOP SPEED, BATMAN
CATCHES THE SLUMPING MAN IN
HIS ARMS...

STAY WITH
HIM,
BATMAN!
I'LL GO
AFTER
THE
GUNMAN!



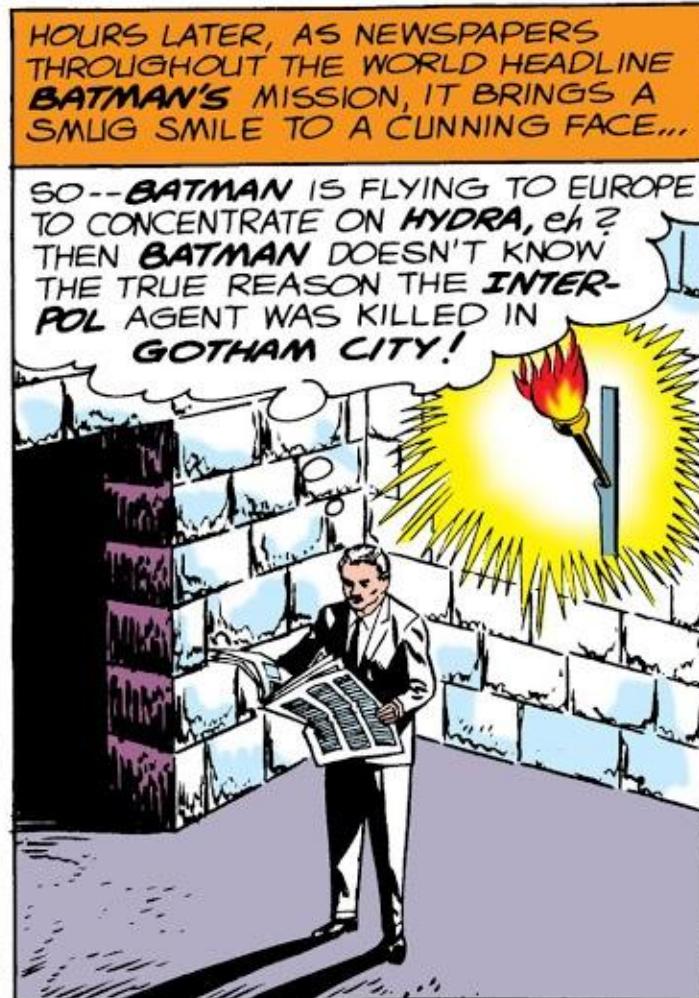
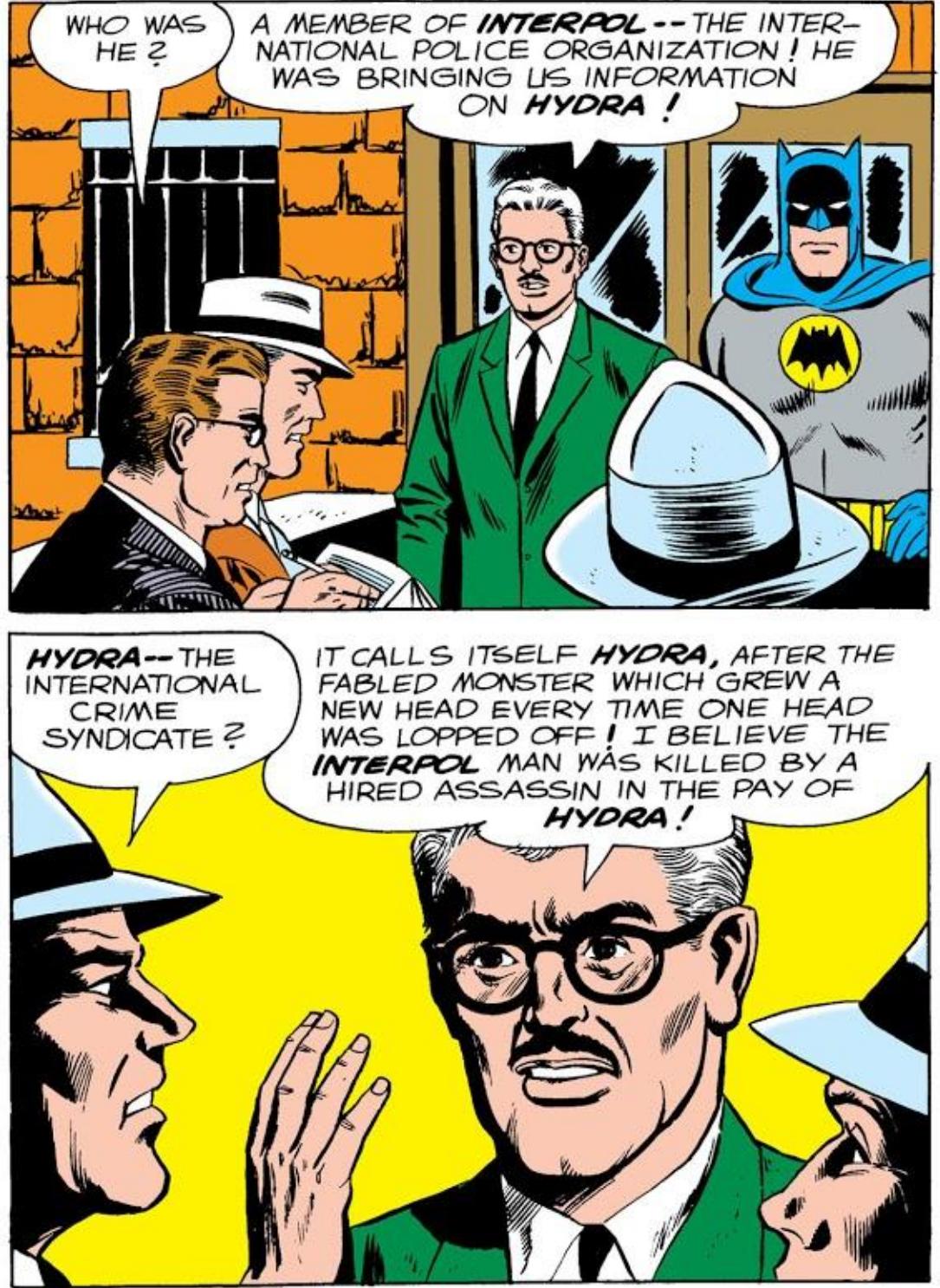
INTENT ON ESCAPE, THE GUNMAN IS UNAWARE THAT HE HAS BLUNDERED RIGHT INTO A PLANE STARTING TO TAKE OFF...

NOW TO GET TO MY MOTORCYCLE
STASHED NEAR THE HANGAR--
AND BE AWAY BEFORE ANYBODY
CAN STOP ME!



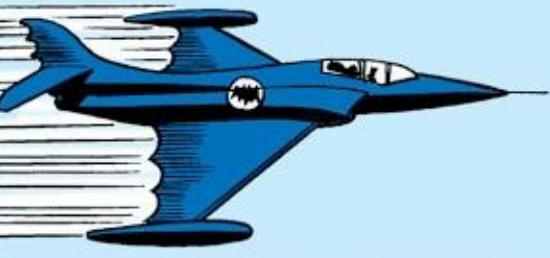
TOO LATE! WE'LL NEVER
BE ABLE TO QUESTION
HIM NOW... HIS SECRETS
HAVE DIED WITH HIM!





LATER, THE
BATPLANE
JETS ACROSS
THE
ATLANTIC...

OUR FIRST STOP--
HOLLAND!



SOON, AFTER SECRETLY LANDING
AND HIDING THE **BATPLANE**,
THE CRIME-FIGHTERS CONSULT
INTERPOL'S HOLLAND CHIEF...

EVERY INTERPOL OFFICE HAS
BEEN ALERTED TO COOPERATE
WITH YOU! AS A STARTER,
HERE'S A CARD WE FOUND ON
A MAN WE SUSPECT IS A MEM-
BER OF THE LOCAL **HYDRA
GANG** THAT WAS INVOLVED
IN DIAMOND ROBBERIES...

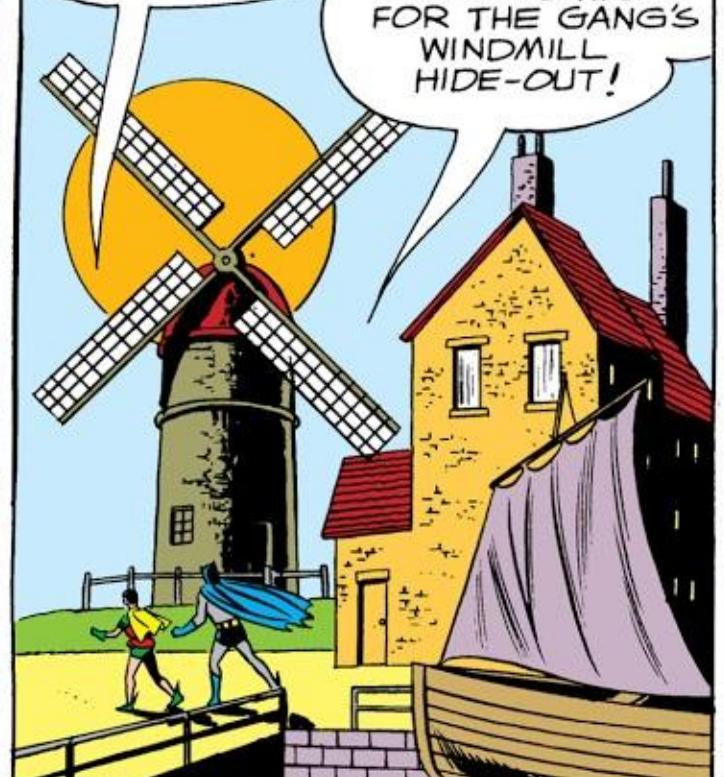
HMM! THE X MIGHT
MARK THE SPOT WHERE
THE GANG INTENDS
TO MEET! BUT THE
REFERENCE TO
GENERAL SHERMAN
IS A TOUGH ONE TO
FIGURE OUT...

SHORTLY, AS THEY LOOK OVER THE
PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE...

BATMAN--
SEE HOW THE
WINDMILL
BLADES FORM
AN X! DO
YOU SUPPOSE...

MANY HOLLANDERS
GIVE NAMES TO
THEIR WINDMILLS!
COULD BE THAT
"**GENERAL SHER-
MAN SLEPT HERE**"
IS A CODE NAME
FOR THE GANG'S
WINDMILL
HIDE-OUT!

GENERAL
SHERMAN
SLEPT
HERE
X



BUT NO
DUTCH
WINDMILL
WOULD BE
NAMED AFTER
AN AMERICAN
CIVIL WAR
GENERAL!

THAT'S SO--BUT THERE'S
ANOTHER "**GENERAL
SHERMAN**"--A WORLD-
FAMOUS SEQUOIA TREE!*
IT'S A REDWOOD TREE,
ROBIN--SO LET'S
LOOK FOR A WINDMILL
NAMED THE **REDWOOD
MILL**!

SOON, AFTER CHECKING ON THE NAMES OF LOCAL
WINDMILLS...

THIS IS IT!
UH-OH! A
LOOKOUT
ON THE
BALCONY!
WE'LL HAVE
TO MAKE
SURE HE
DOESN'T
SPOT US!



* EDITOR'S NOTE: THE "**GENERAL SHERMAN**"
IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA,
HAS A HEIGHT OF 2724 FEET AND A
DIAMETER OF 36.5 FEET--MAKING IT
THE MOST MASSIVE LIVING THING ON
EARTH!

DARTING FORWARD, THE MANTLED MAN-HUNTERS LEAP AT A SWEEPING WINDMILL BLADE, AND CLIMB UP THE CROSS-HATCHING OF WOOD ON THE REVERSE SIDE...



AFTER THE WINDMILL BLADE TAKES THEM UPWARD...

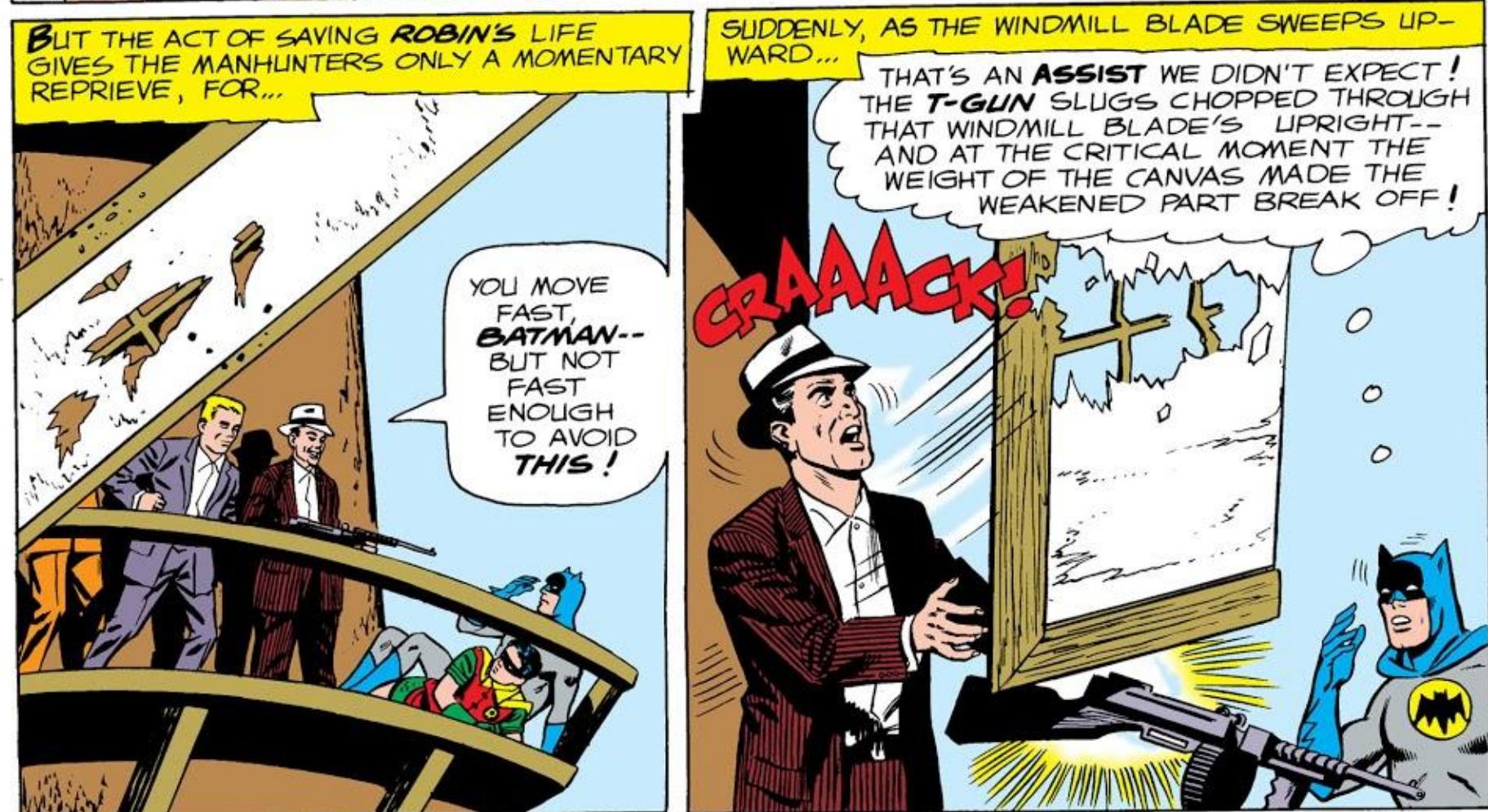


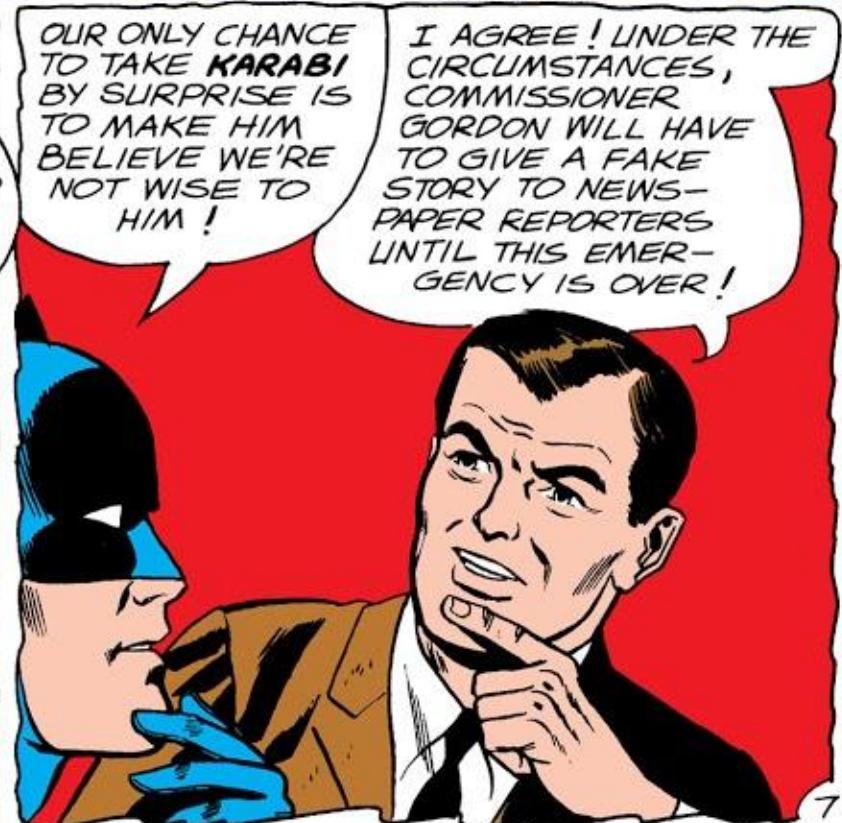
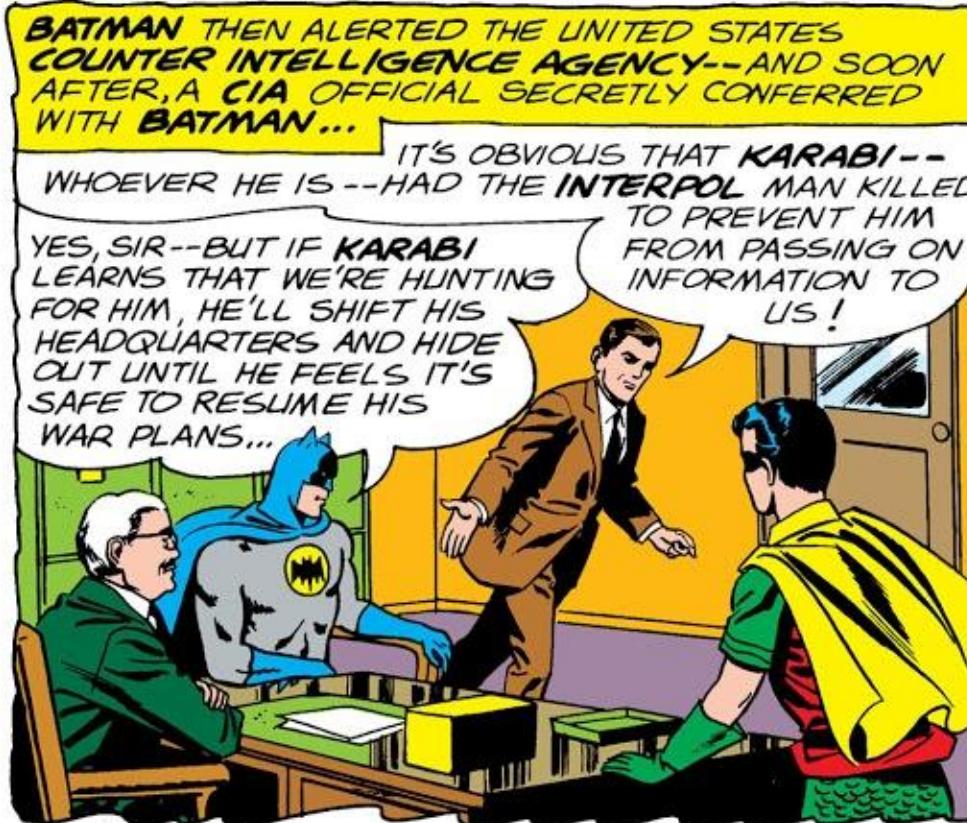
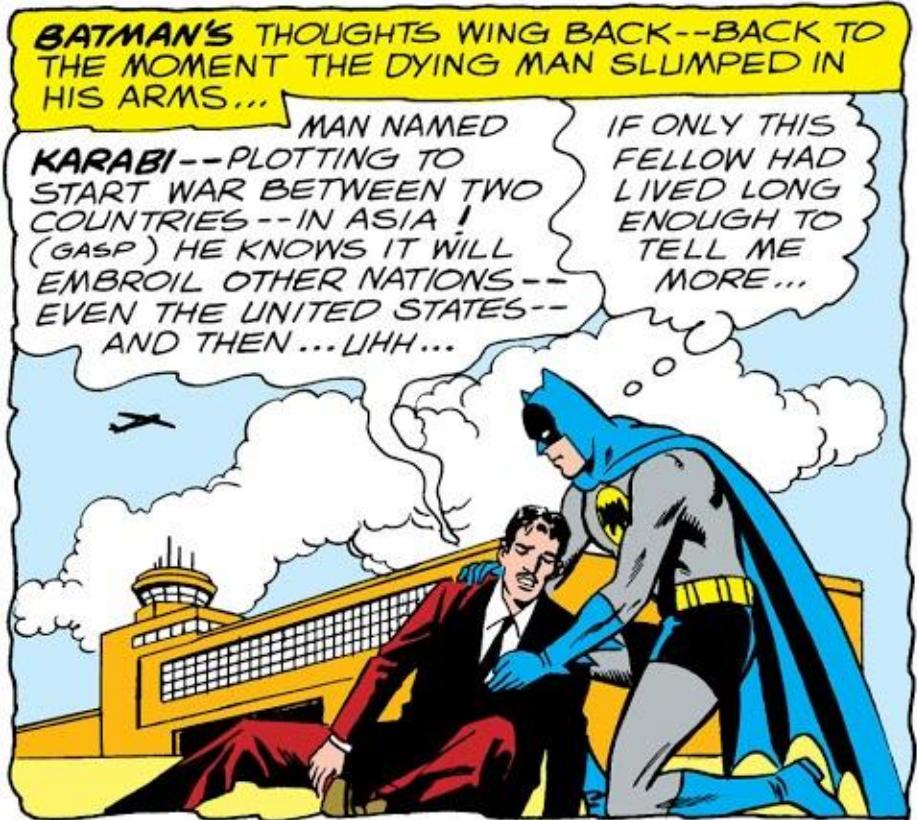
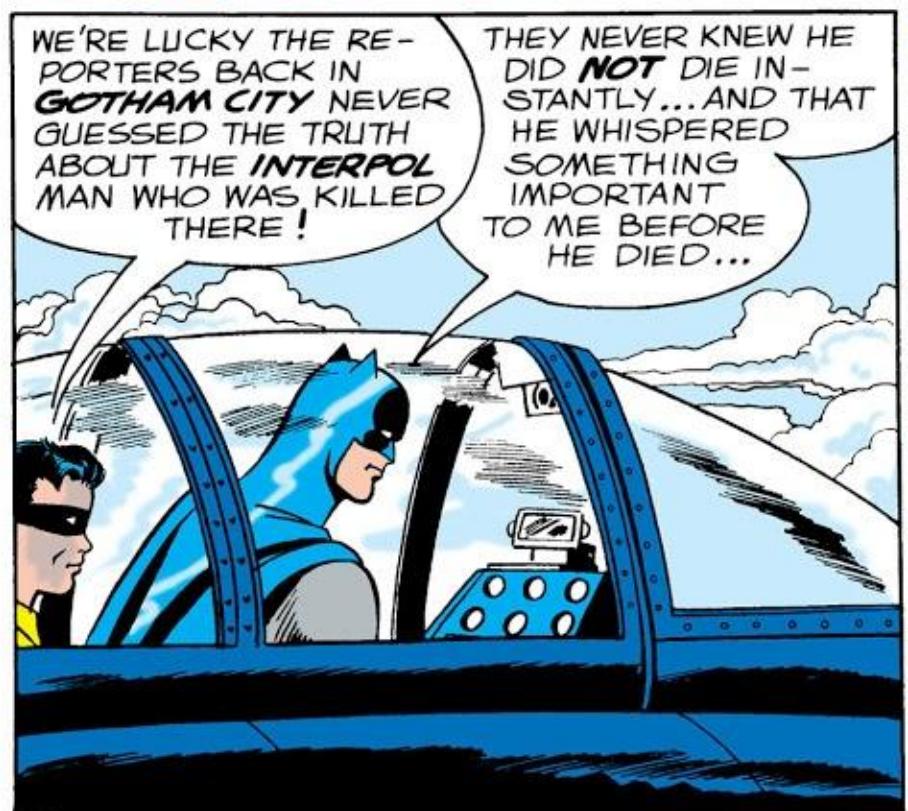
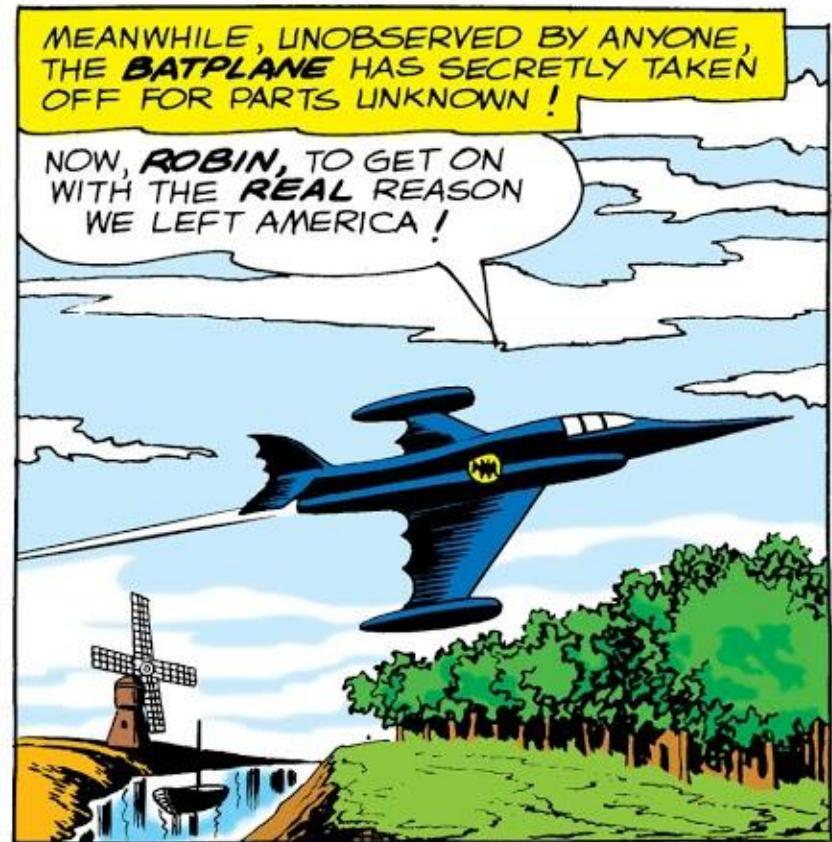
BUT EVEN AS BATMAN KAYOS THE SENTRY...

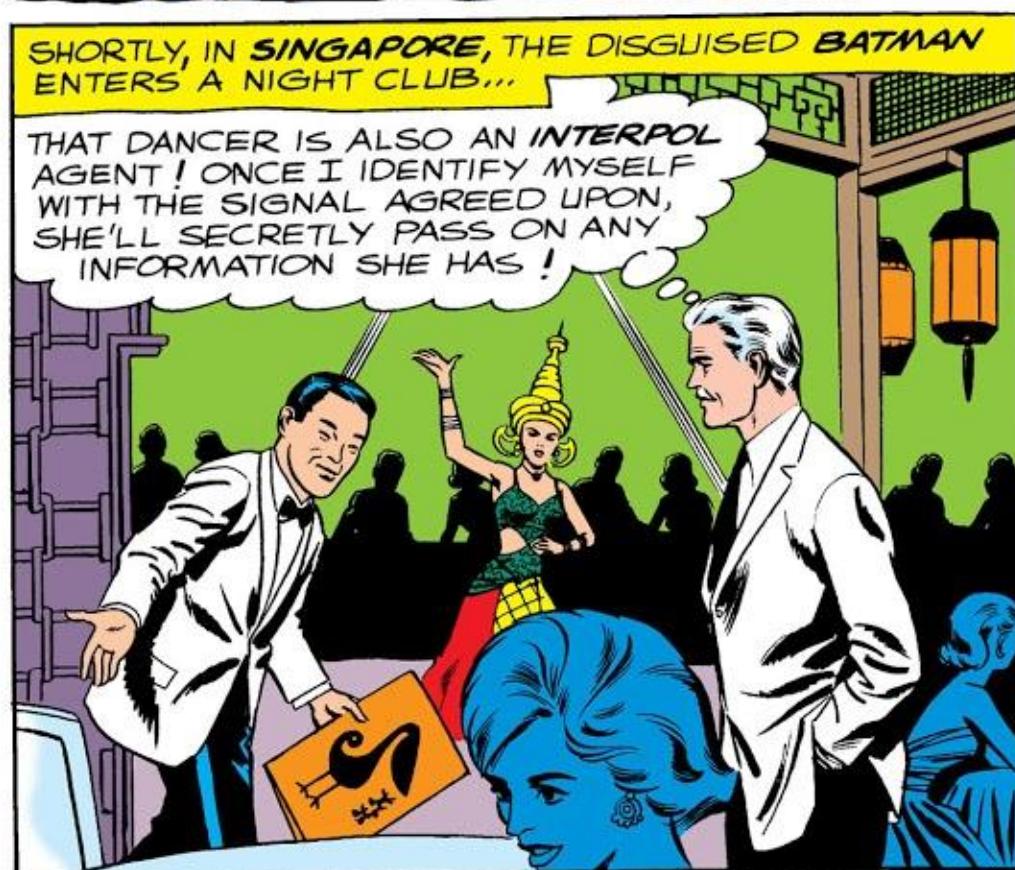
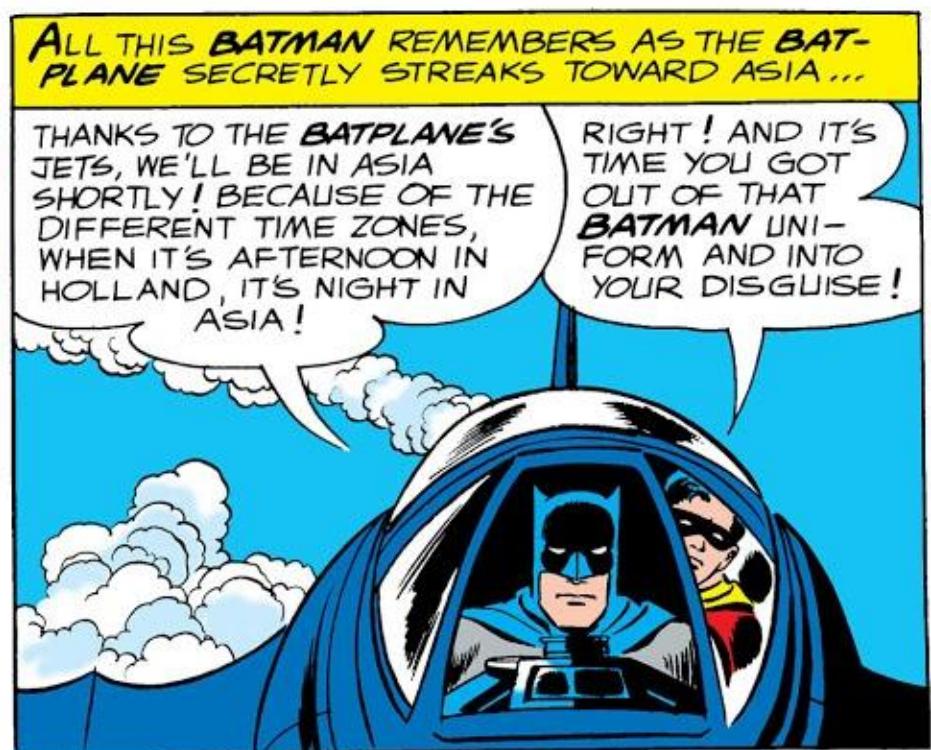


AS THE BOY WONDER LASHES OUT AT THE FIRST ATTACKER, HE IS UNAWARE OF...









AFTERWARD, AS THE **BATPLANE** FLASHES LIKE A RUNAWAY COMET TOWARD EUROPE...

WELL, DID THE AGENT HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT **KARABI**?

NOTHING THAT WILL LEAD US TO HIM DIRECTLY--BUT AT LEAST IT ADVANCED US A LITTLE FURTHER ALONG THE TRAIL! MEANWHILE, WE'LL GO ON WITH OUR PUBLICIZED **HYDRA-HUNTING ACT--IN GREECE!**

LATER... SOMEWHERE IN GREECE...

THE LOCAL **INTERPOL** GOT A TIP THAT A **HYDRA** MAN IS STAYING AT THIS HOTEL--AND THAT HE'S CARRYING COUNTERFEIT MONEY! LET'S KEEP OUR EYES OPEN FOR ANYONE THAT LOOKS SUSPICIOUS...

THAT FAT MAN SITTING ON THAT LAWN CHAIR! ODD...

BUT, **BATMAN, INTERPOL** TOLD US THAT THE SUSPECT WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS A **SKINNY** MAN!

TRUE, **ROBIN**--BUT THAT MAN LOOKS LIKE HE SHOULD WEIGH ABOUT 300 POUNDS, YET THAT RICKETY OLD CHAIR IS HOLDING HIM UP WITHOUT EVEN CREAKING OR BUCKLING!

WHEN THE CORPULENT MAN MAKES A MOVE, SO DOES THE DYNAMIC DUO!...

HE'S HEADING TOWARDS THE OLD RUINS! I'LL BET HE'S MAKING CONTACT WITH TWO MORE **HYDRA** HOODLUMS! LET'S GET NEARER...

WARILY, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** APPROACH ACROSS THE STAGE OF AN OLD GREEK THEATER, BUT...

THAT SOUND! LOOK! **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**!

SCUFF! SCUFF!



ZERO HOUR FOR EARTH! CHAPTER 2

TRIUMPHANTLY, THREE GUNS ARE RAISED--THREE TRIGGERS ARE TUGGED--AND STEEL-JACKETED BULLETS STRIKE THEIR MANTLED TARGET DEAD CENTER!

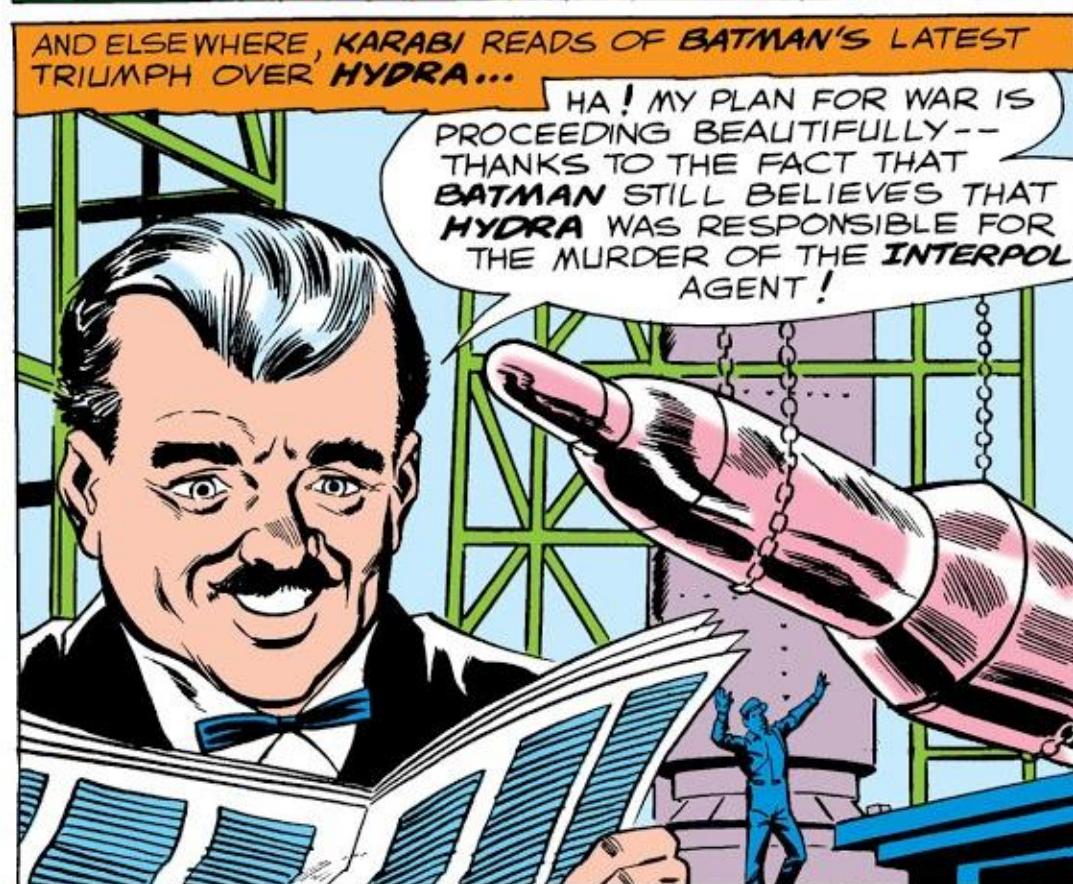
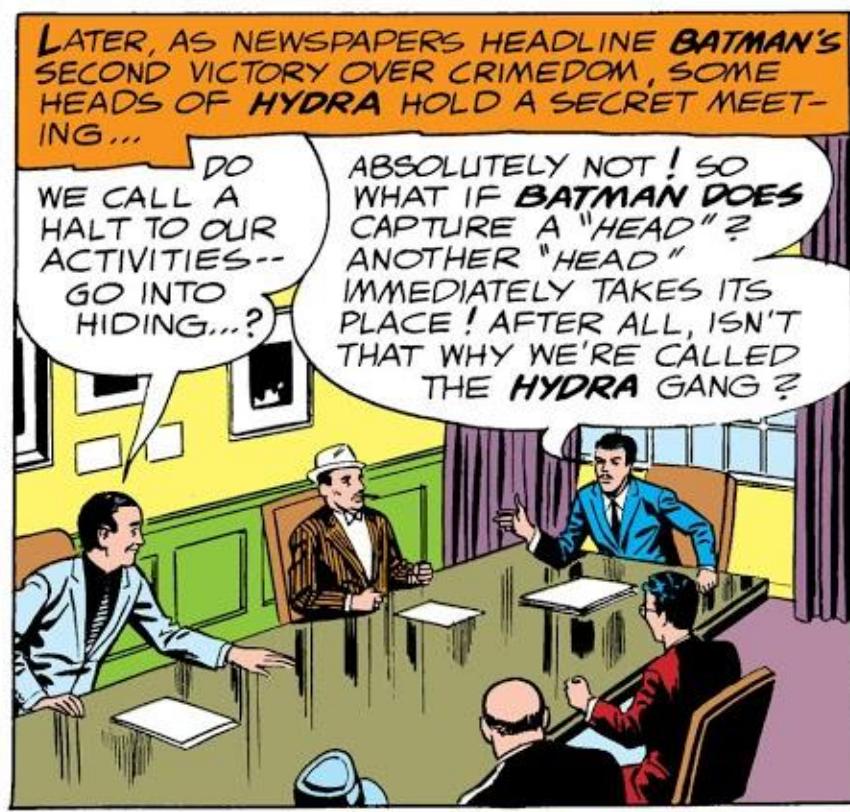
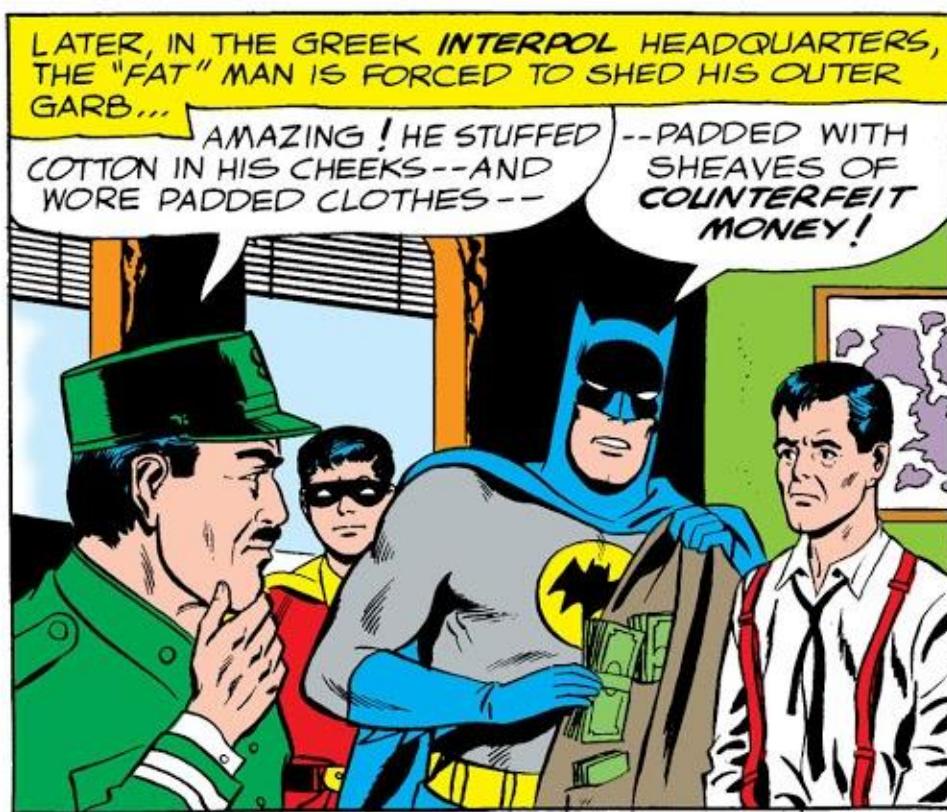
IS THIS REALLY IT?
IS THIS FINALLY
BATMAN'S LAST CASE?

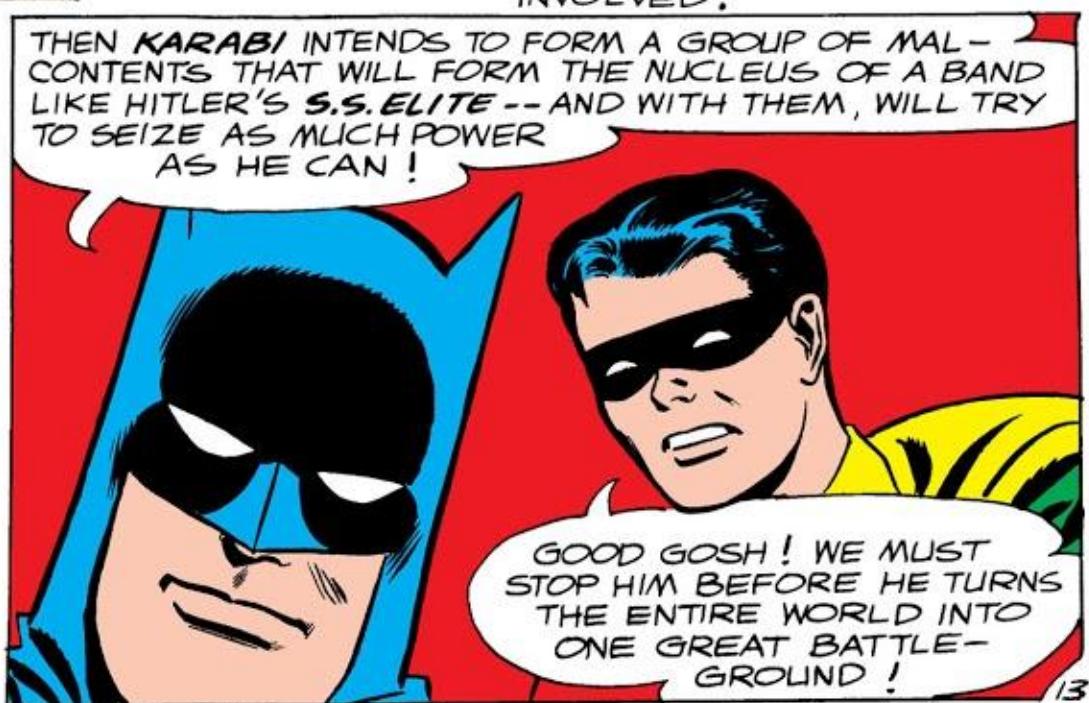
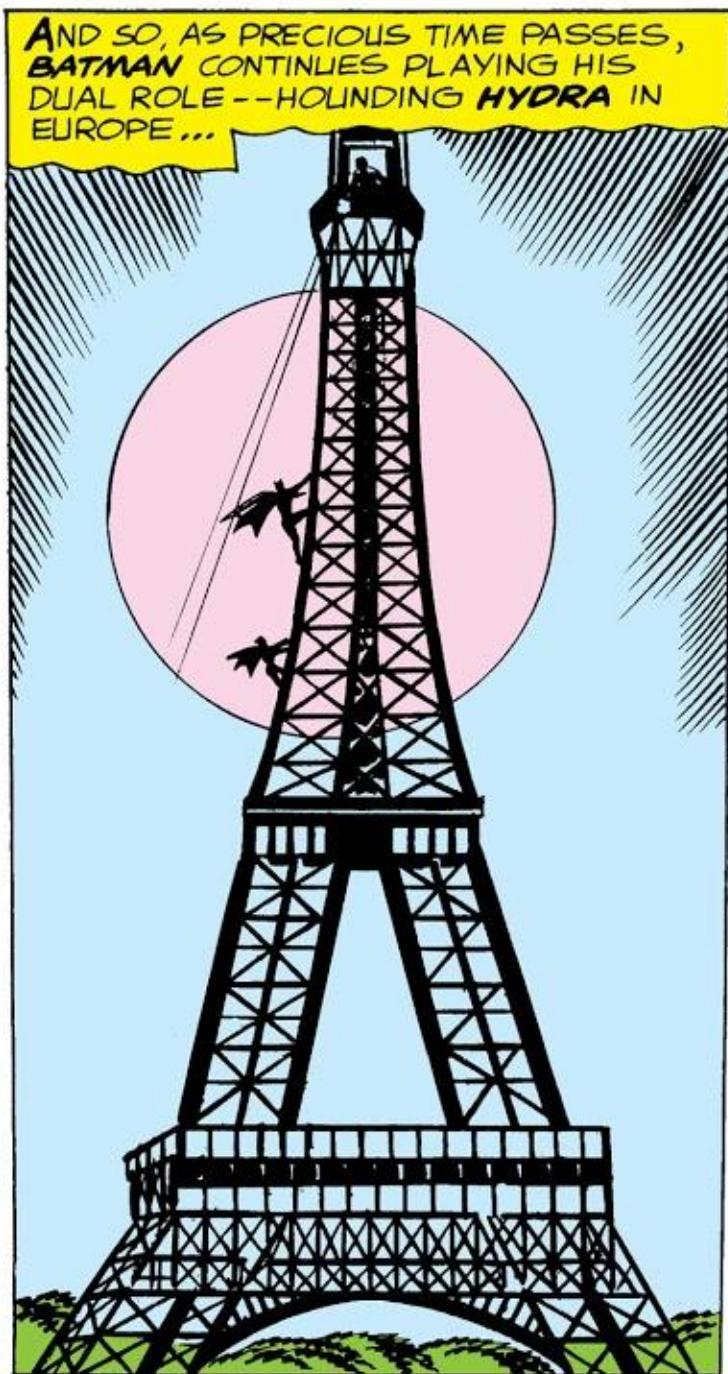


HUH? WHAT'S HOLDING
BATMAN UP? WHY
DOESN'T HE DROP?

IF YOU WANT ME
TO DROP--I'M
WILLING TO
OBLIGE!







SOMETIME LATER, OVER THE VAST JUNGLE IN COUNTRY A ...

ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, THAT ABANDONED OLD TEMPLE IS KARABI'S BASE! BECAUSE OF THE THICK JUNGLE, NOBODY EVER VISITS IT!

NOW THAT KARABI'S LOCATION IS KNOWN, THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NEED FOR DISGUISE AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** MOVE IN FOR THE SHOWDOWN...

KARABI MUST'VE USED HELICOPTERS TO FERRY HIS WAR MATERIALS TO THE TEMPLE...



THEN AT LAST, THEY REACH THE TEMPLE'S GATEWAY--BUT AS THEY DO...



MOMENTARILY BLINDED, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** BECOME EASY PREY FOR UNIFORMED ATTACKERS...



LATER, BATMAN COMES TO IN FORBIDDING SURROUNDINGS...

IN 3E.W.

WH-WHO ARE YOU ?
WHERE'S ROBIN ?

ROBIN IS A PRISONER LIKE YOURSELF... IN THE
ADJOINING ROOM ! I THOUGHT IT BEST TO
SEPARATE YOU ! IT IS BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS
TAKEN PRECAUTIONS THAT I AM STILL
ALIVE !

YOU--
YOU'RE
KARABI !

SOON ALL ASIA WILL
KNOW THAT NAME--
AND SOMEDAY,
THE WORLD !

OBSERVE ! IT IS NOW
QUARTER TO EIGHT !
IN EXACTLY FIFTEEN
MINUTES I WILL
PRESS A BUTTON
THAT WILL SEND A
DEADLY MISSILE ON
ITS WAY !

WATCH THE CLOCK, BATMAN!--
WATCH THE MINUTES BRING TWO
COUNTRIES TO THE BRINK OF
WAR-- WHILE YOU ARE HELPLESS
TO PREVENT IT !

WATCH THE
CLOCK,
BATMAN !

AS THE GREAT DOOR SLAMS SHUT AND A KEY
TURNS IN THE LOCK...

BATMAN-- BECAUSE AT THE EXACT MOMENT
THE MISSILE REACHES ITS TARGET, YOU
AND ROBIN WILL BECOME THE TARGET
FOR MY SOLDIERS' RIFLES !

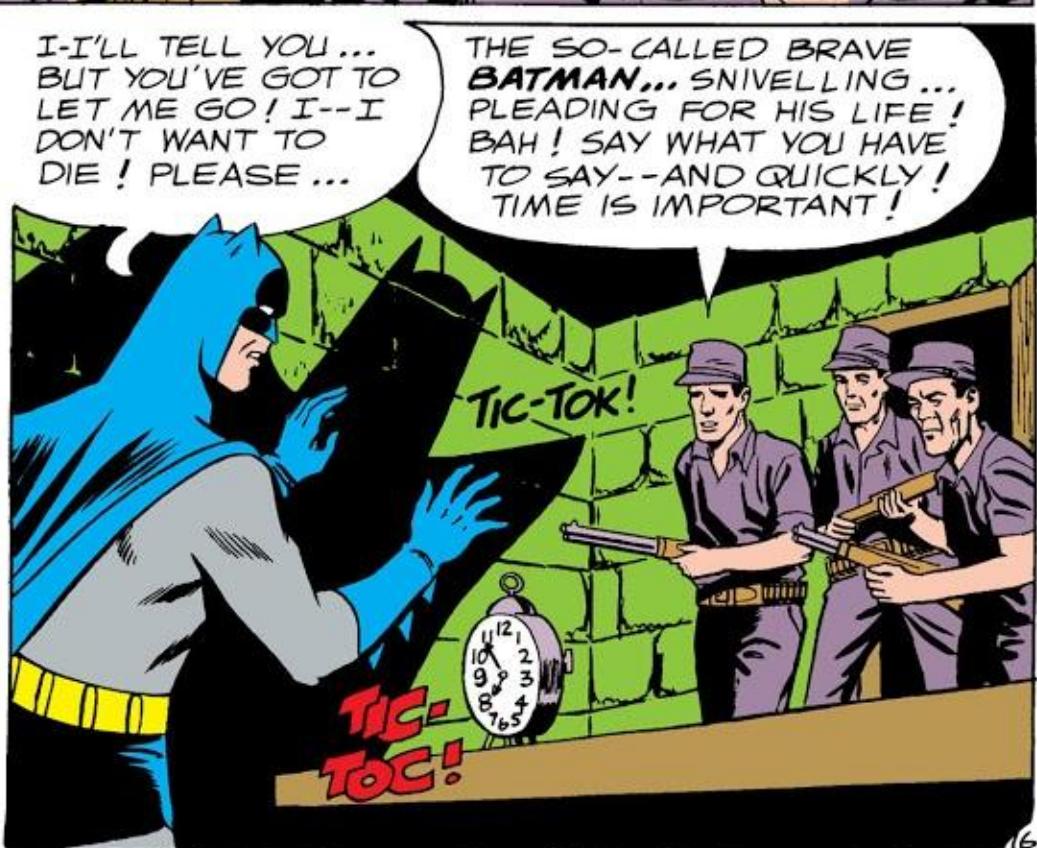
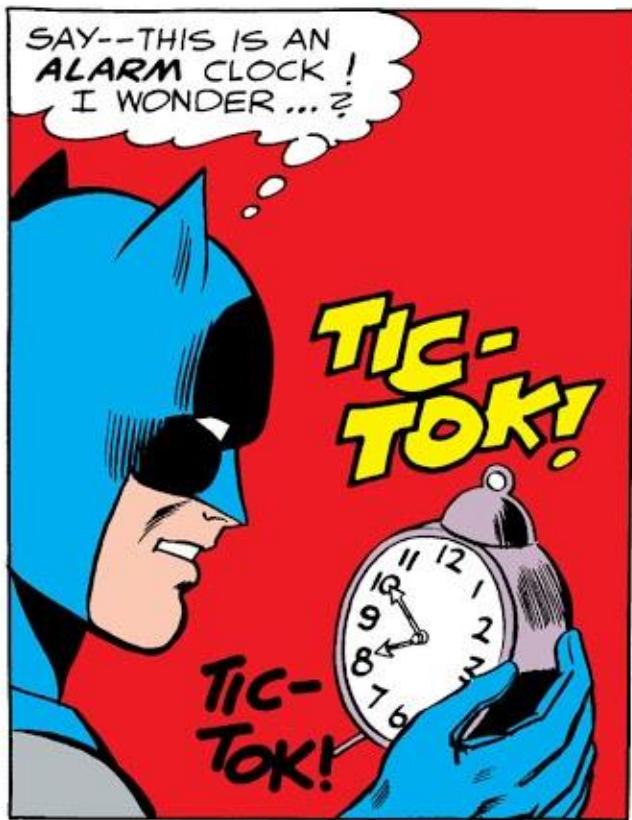
WATCH THE CLOCK,
BATMAN !
HA ! HA !

TIME'S RUNNING OUT FAST !
IF ONLY THAT CLOCK WOULD
STOP TICKING...
TICKING...

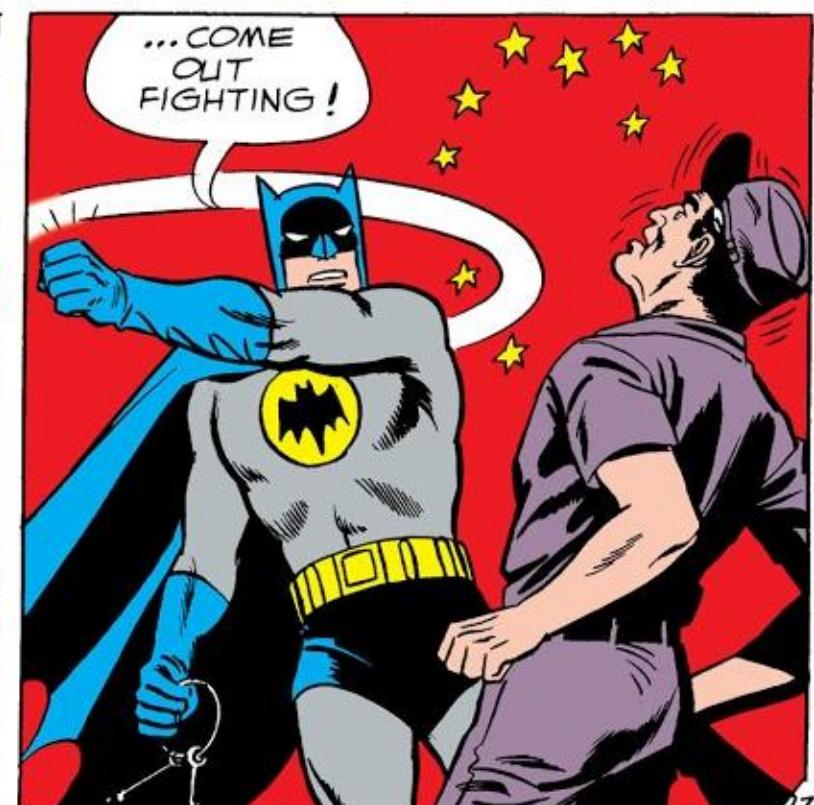
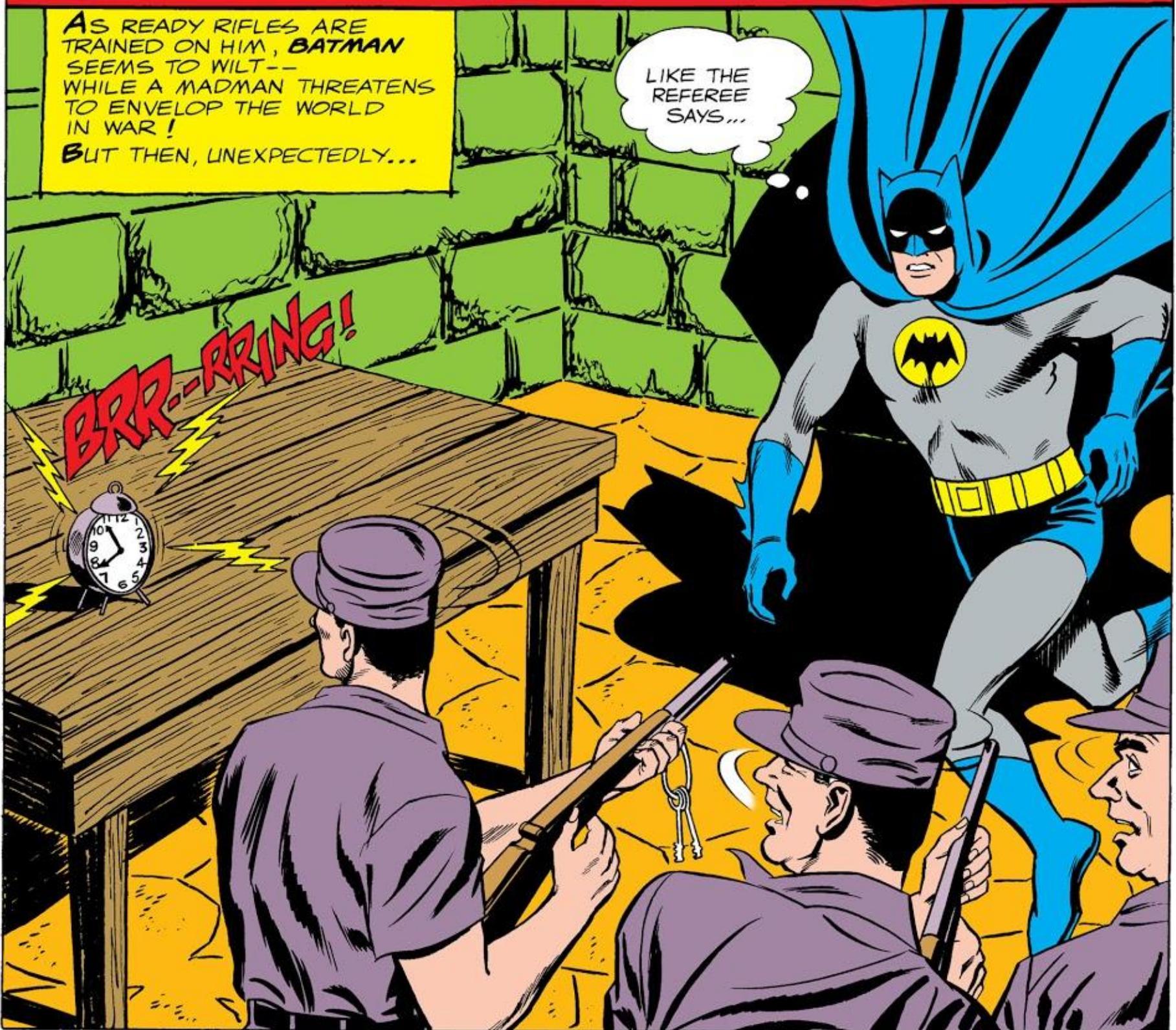
TIC-
TOC-
TIC-TOC !

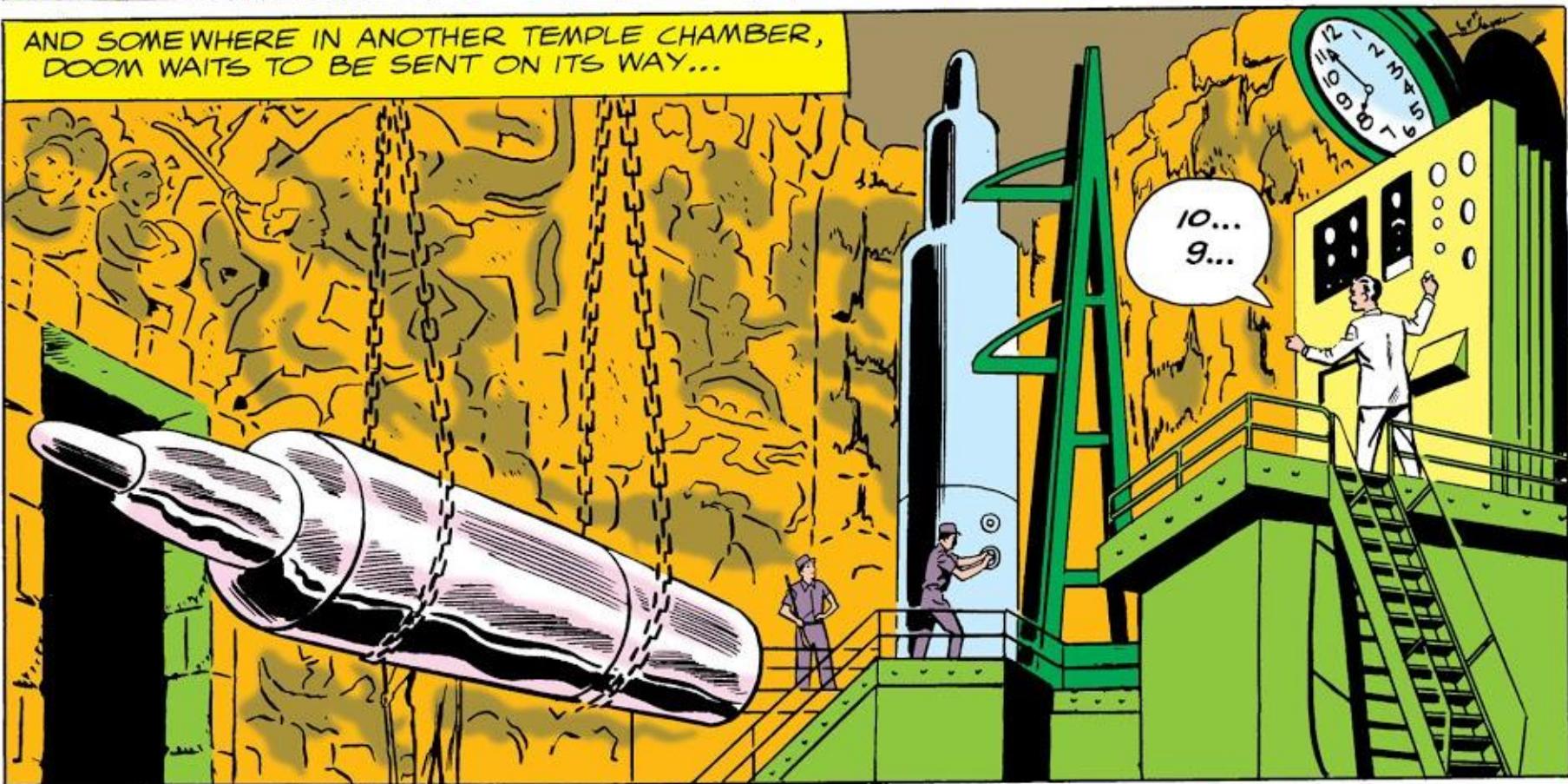
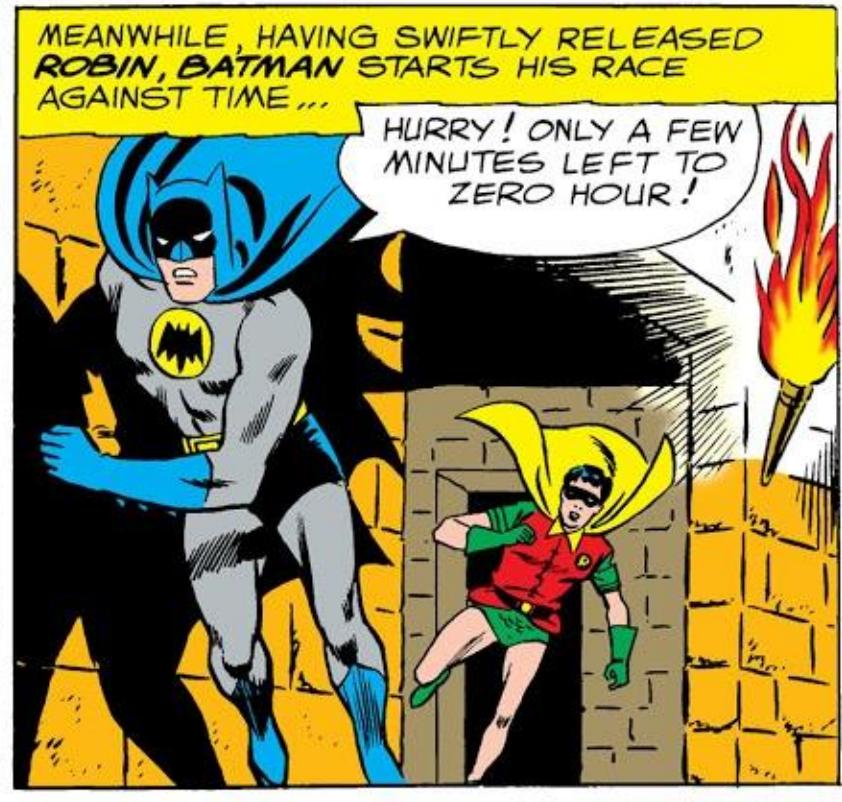
TICK-
TOC
TICK-TOC !

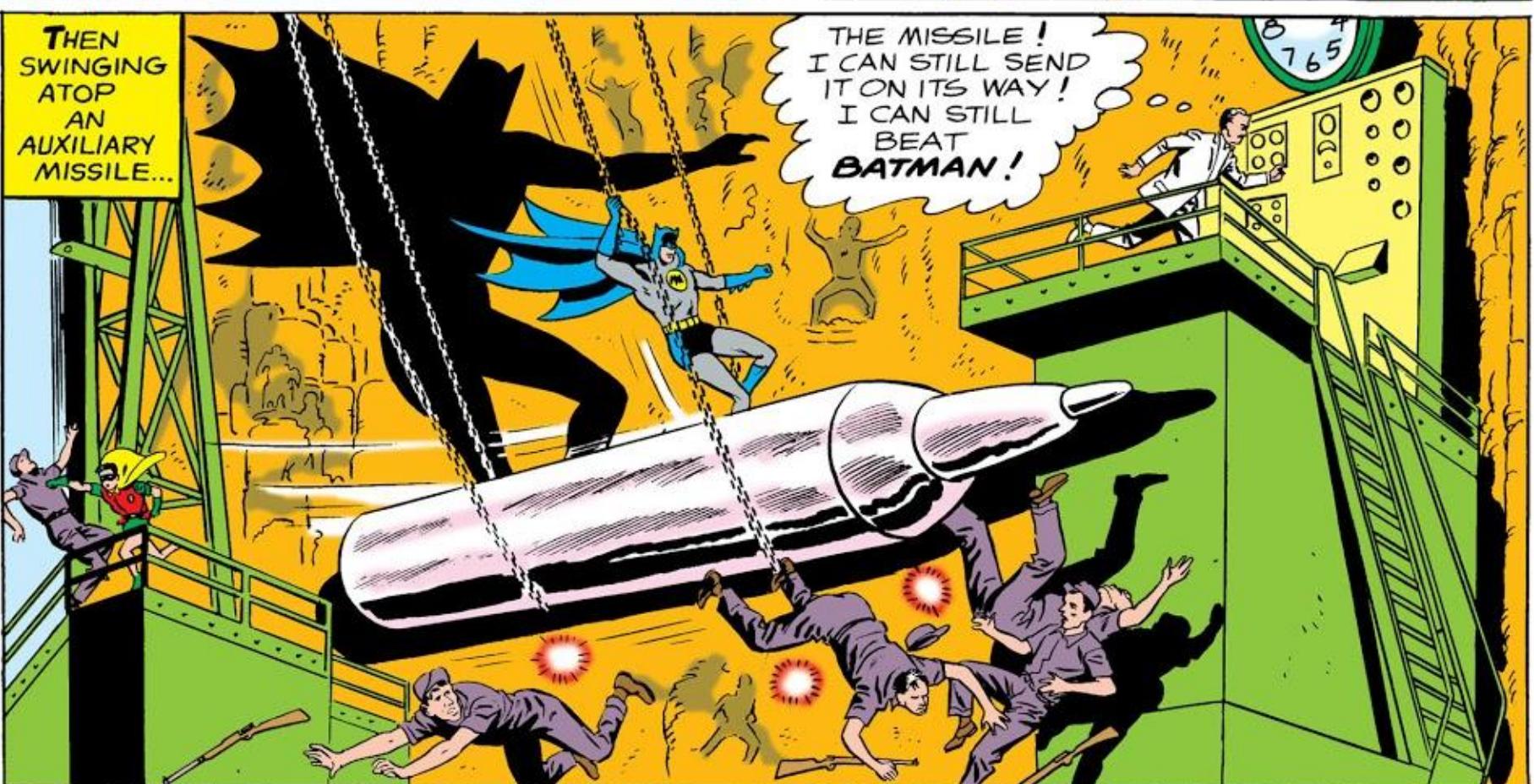


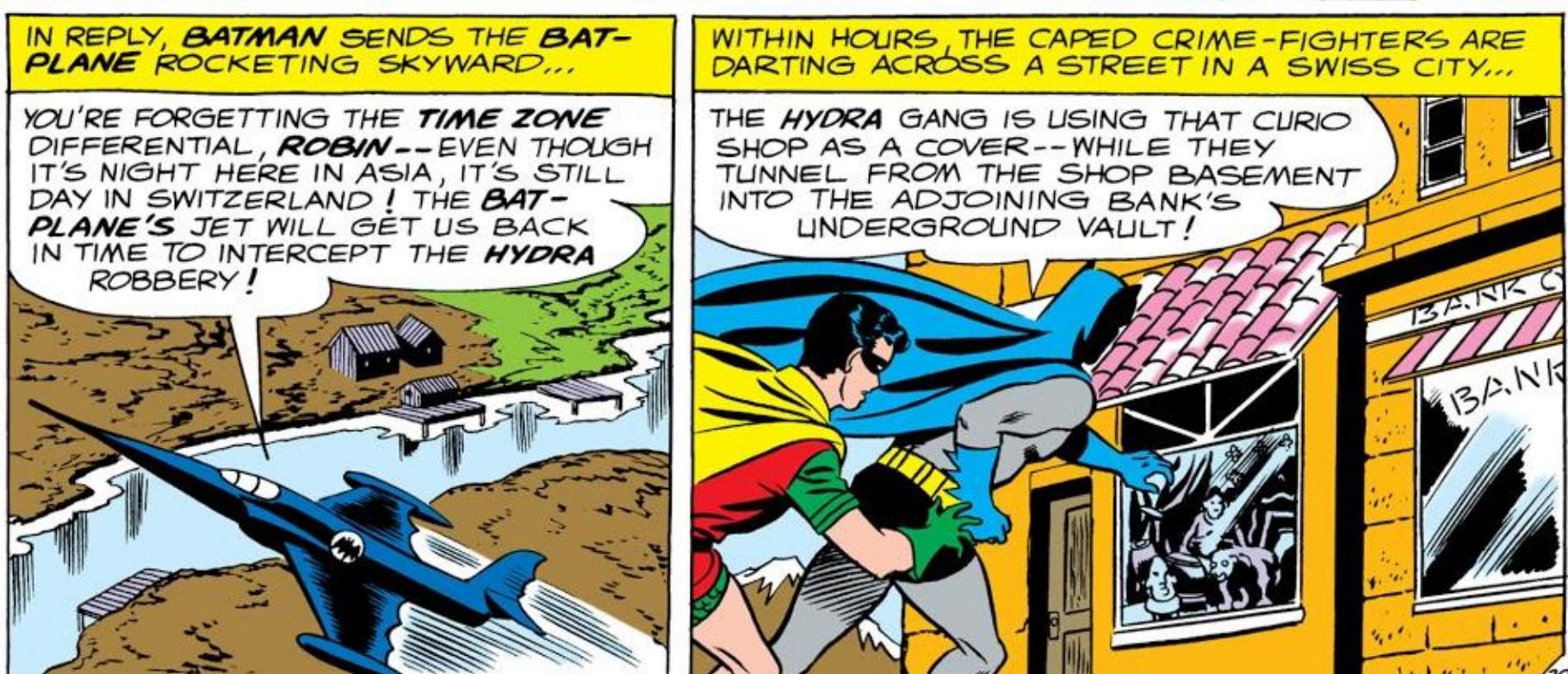
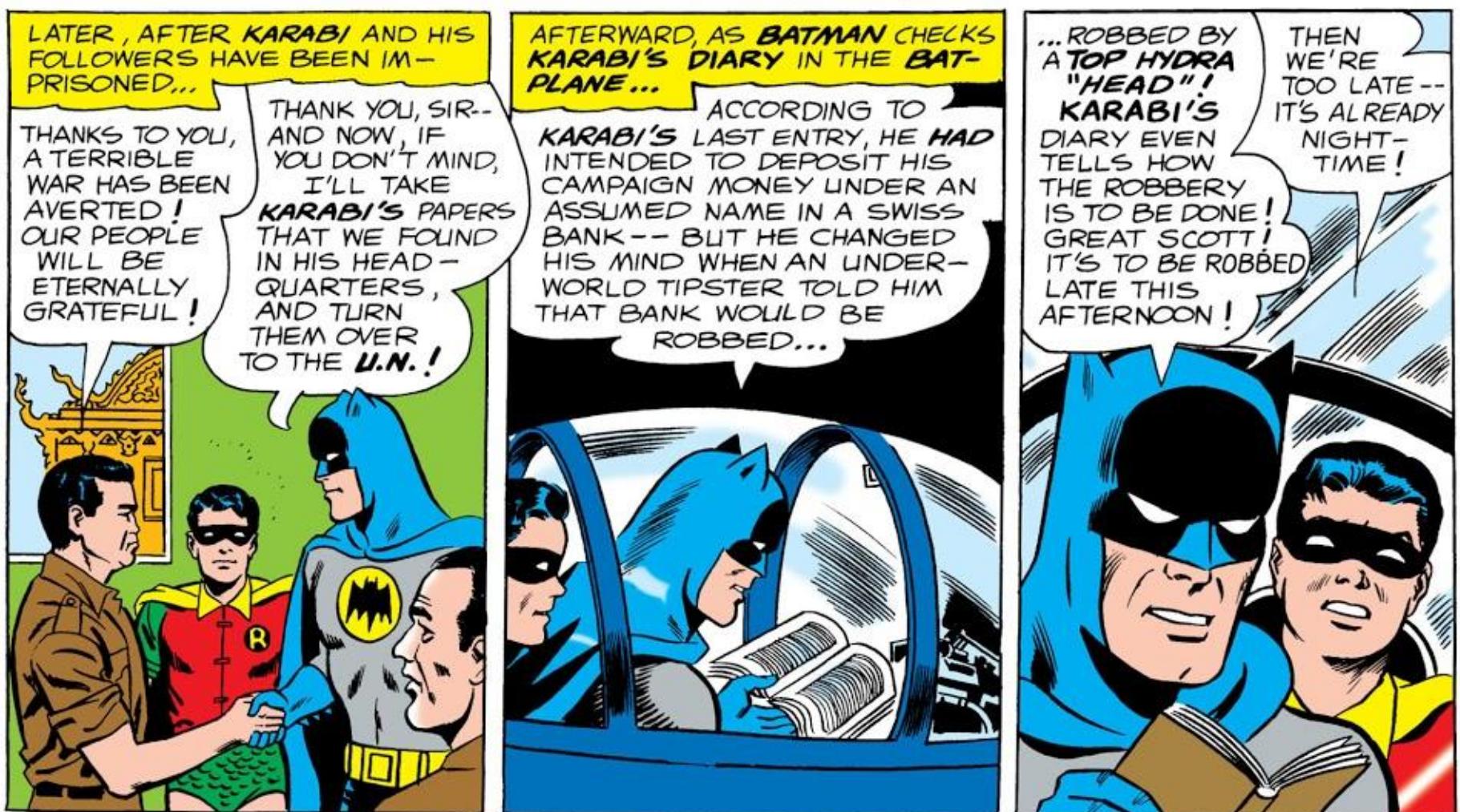


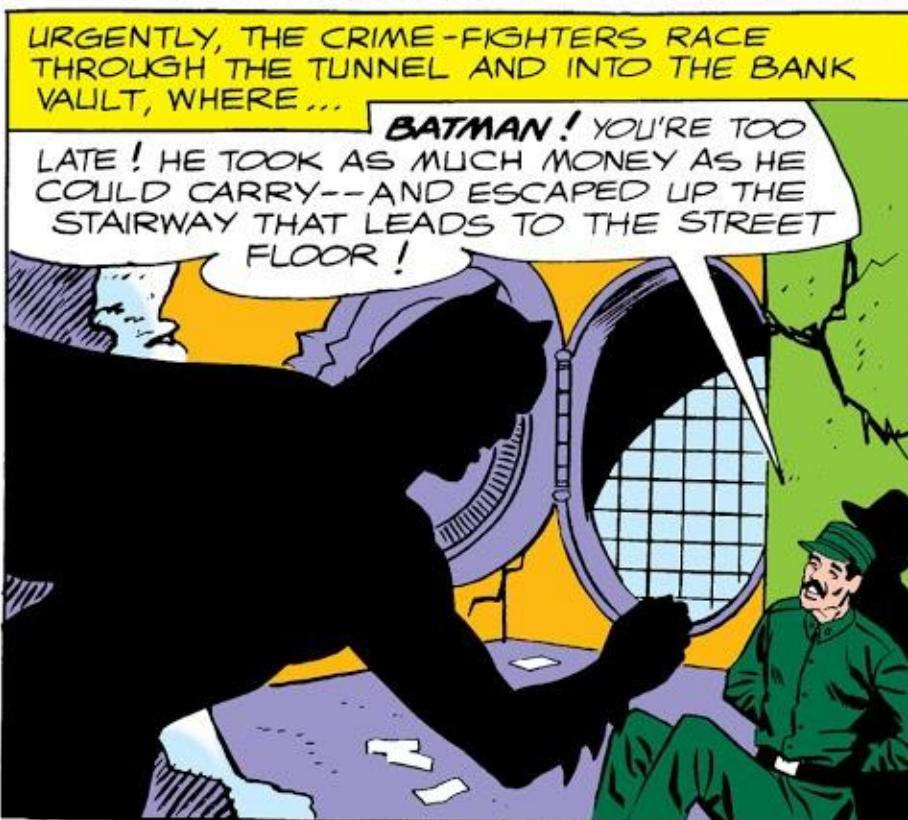
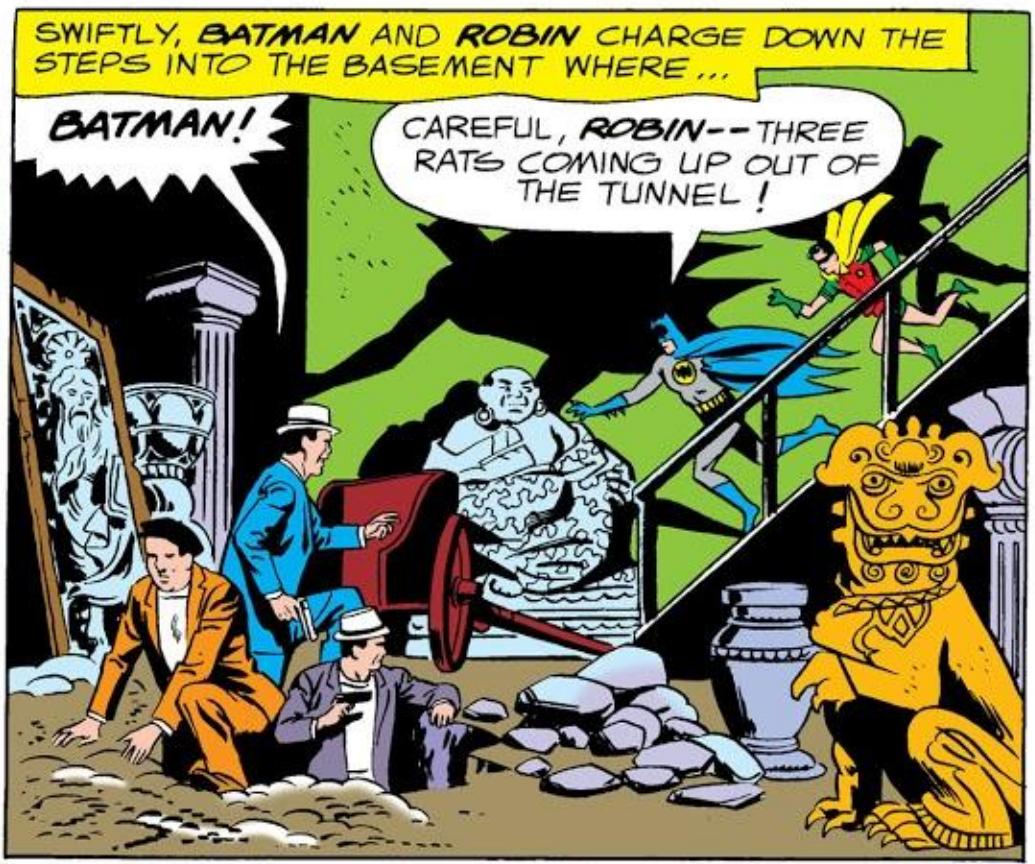
ZERO HOUR FOR EARTH! CHAPTER 3

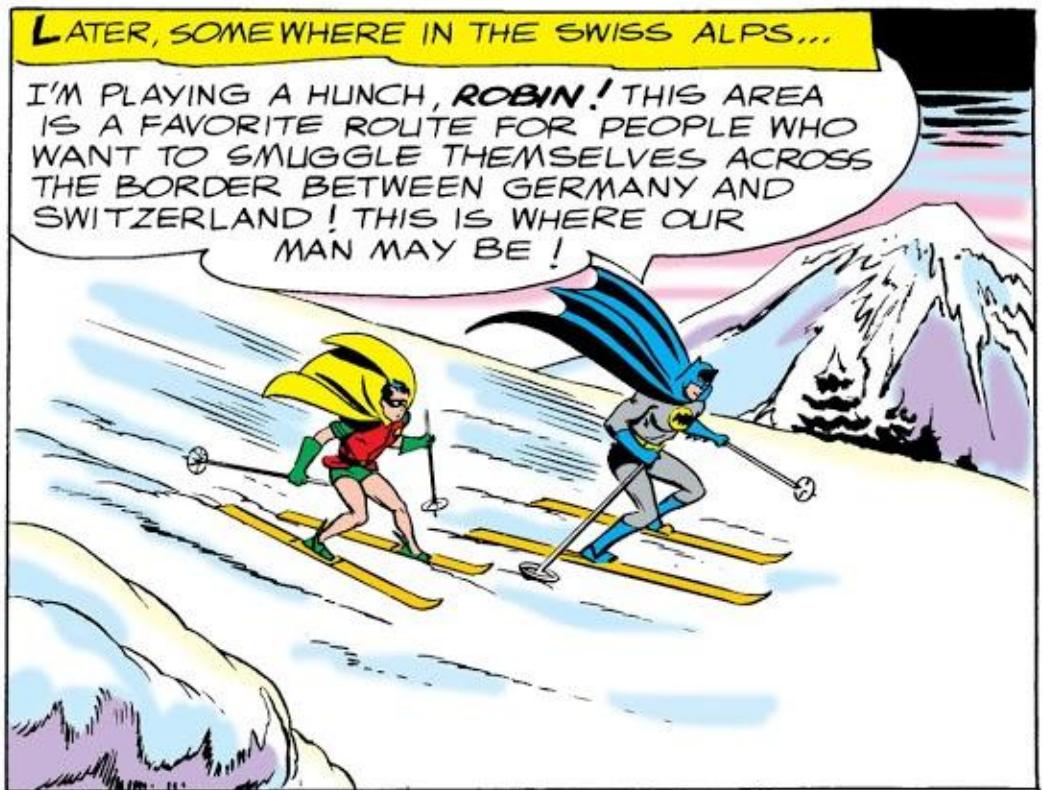
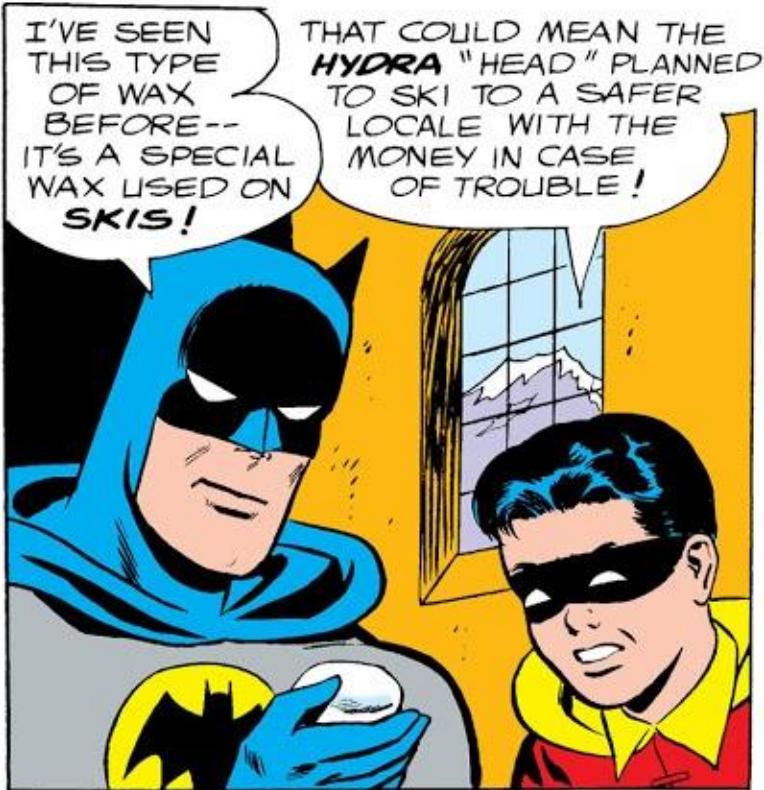














LATER, THE BATPLANE FLASHES ACROSS THE ATLANTIC -- HOMeward BOUND!

WELL, BATMAN, EVEN THOUGH YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY CUT OFF ALL ITS HEADS, YOU CERTAINLY CRIPPLED HYDRA'S ACTIVITIES!

YES, ROBIN-- AND MAYBE HYDRA WILL NEVER RECOVER FROM THE BLOWS WE GAVE IT! ONLY TIME WILL TELL!

THEIR JOB DONE, BATMAN AND ROBIN CAN ONCE AGAIN RESUME THEIR OTHER IDENTITIES--THOSE OF BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON...

SAY--ONE NEWS STORY MENTIONS YOU CATCHING KARABI AT 8 P.M. IN ASIA-- AND THE SECOND ITEM SAYS YOU CAPTURED A HYDRA HEAD IN THE SWISS ALPS AT 8 P.M.-- BOTH ON THE SAME DAY!



WHAT A PARADOX! BECAUSE OF THE TIME ZONES, YOU SEEMingly WERE IN TWO PLACES AT THE SAME TIME!



HERE'S THE TOPPER, DICK! IT'S STILL 8 P.M. FOR US IN GOTHAM CITY ON THE SAME DAY! SO, WE CAN ACTUALLY SAY WE WERE IN THREE PLACES AT THE SAME TIME!

