



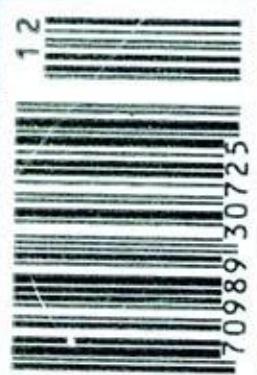
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APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

# Wonder Woman



KUNG:  
ASSASSIN  
OF A  
THOUSAND  
CLAWS!



WISE AS ATHENA, BEAUTIFUL AS APHRODITE, STRONGER THAN HERCULES AND SWIFT AS MERCURY, SHE STRIDES LIKE A TITAN ACROSS THE FLAME-RAVAGED EARTH OF WORLD WAR TWO--

# Wonder Woman

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE: HER BRACELET OF SUBMISSION SHATTERED DURING HER CLIMACTIC BATTLE WITH ARMAGEDDON, WONDER WOMAN RETURNED TO PARADISE ISLAND--

--WHERE THE BLAZING FORGE OF QUEEN HIPPOLYTE HELPED HER REPAIR HER BROKEN BRACELET, RELEASING HER FROM HER BERSEKER RAGE.

HOWEVER, RETURNING TO WASHINGTON, D.C., AND THE APARTMENT SHE RENTS AS YEOMAN DIANA PRINCE, SHE FOUND HERSELF IN A NEW DILEMMA --

--THE REAL DIANA PRINCE HAD RETURNED FROM SOUTH AMERICA, AND ONLY THE REVELATION OF WONDER WOMAN'S SECRET IDENTITY COULD PREVENT AN UNTIMELY BETRAYAL!

SWEARING DIANA PRINCE TO SILENCE BY MEANS OF HER MAGIC LASSO, WONDER WOMAN THEN WENT TO JOIN A SPECIAL PUBLICITY APPEARANCE OF GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR AT AN ALL-WOMAN FACTORY--

--ONLY TO BECOME EMBROILED IN THWARTING AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT BY AN ORIENTAL MYSTIC NAMED KUNG--

--WHO POSSESSED THE ABILITY TO CHANGE FORM AT WILL!

THIS HE PROCEEDED TO DO YET AGAIN--

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-- AND THE BATTLE BEGINS ANEW!

# ASSASSIN of THOUSAND a CLAWS

YOU CANNOT  
PREVENT THIS  
HUMBLE ONE'S  
ORDAINED MISSION,  
HONORABLE  
AMAZON.

GENERAL  
MACARTHUR  
MUST DIE...

--AND SO MUST  
WONDER  
WOMAN!

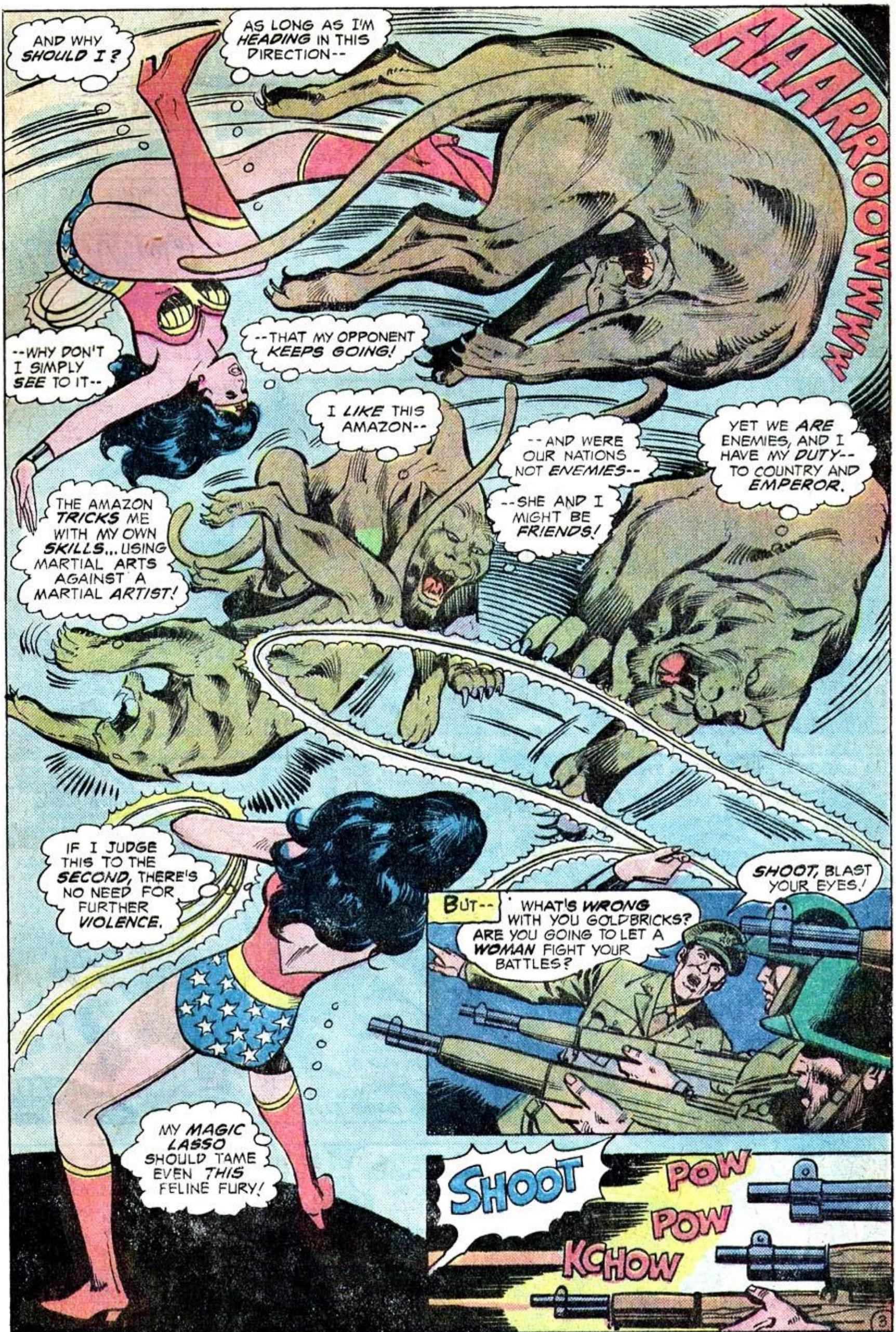
HERA HELP  
ME! HE'S  
TRANSFORMED  
AGAIN...  
BEARING ME  
BACKWARD...

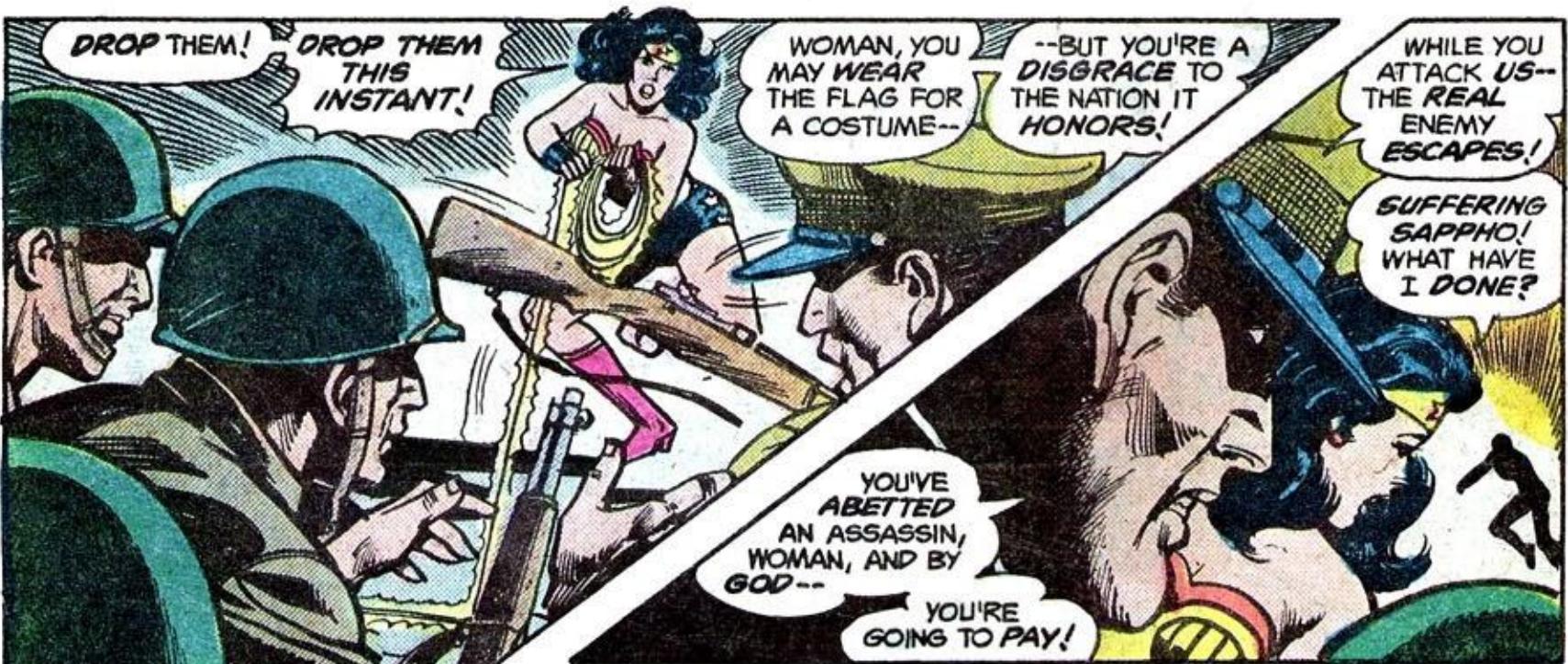
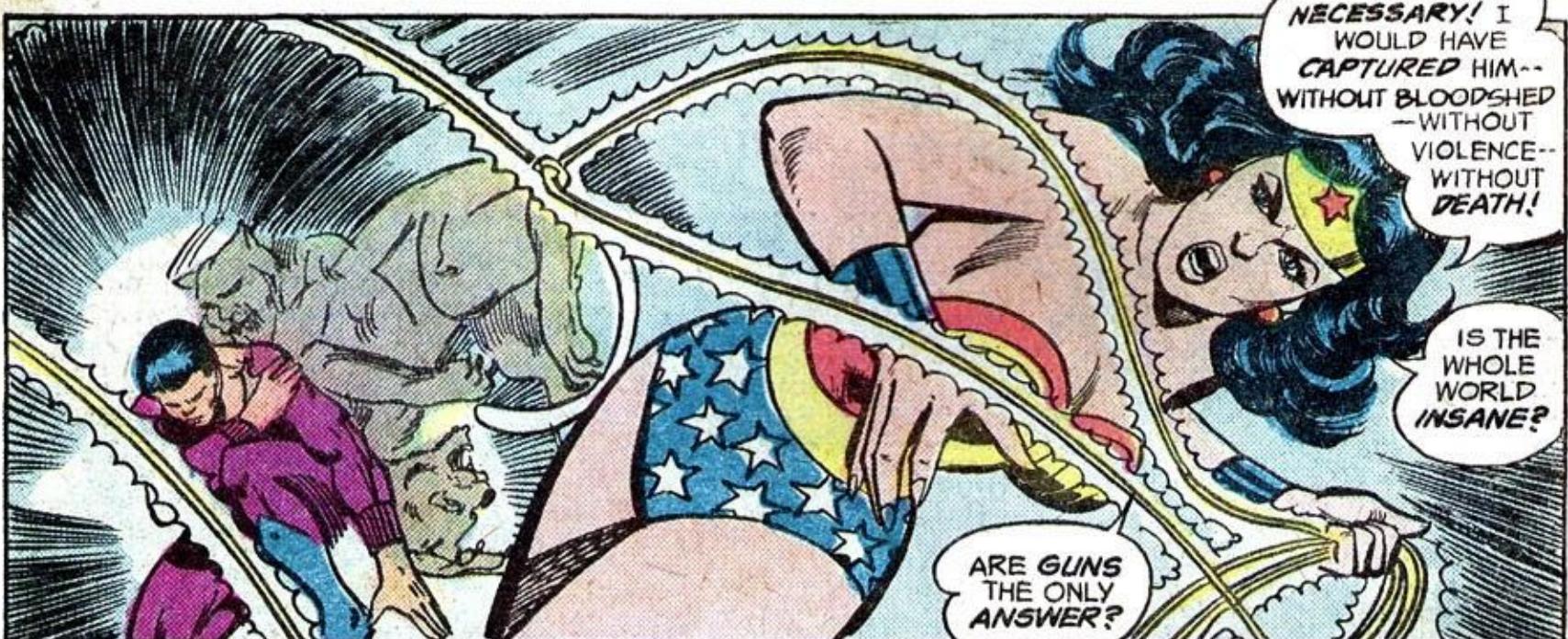
...I CAN'T  
STOP  
HIM!

THIS ISSUE: SPECIAL  
JUSTICE SOCIETY  
GUEST-STAR

THE  
**SANDMAN**

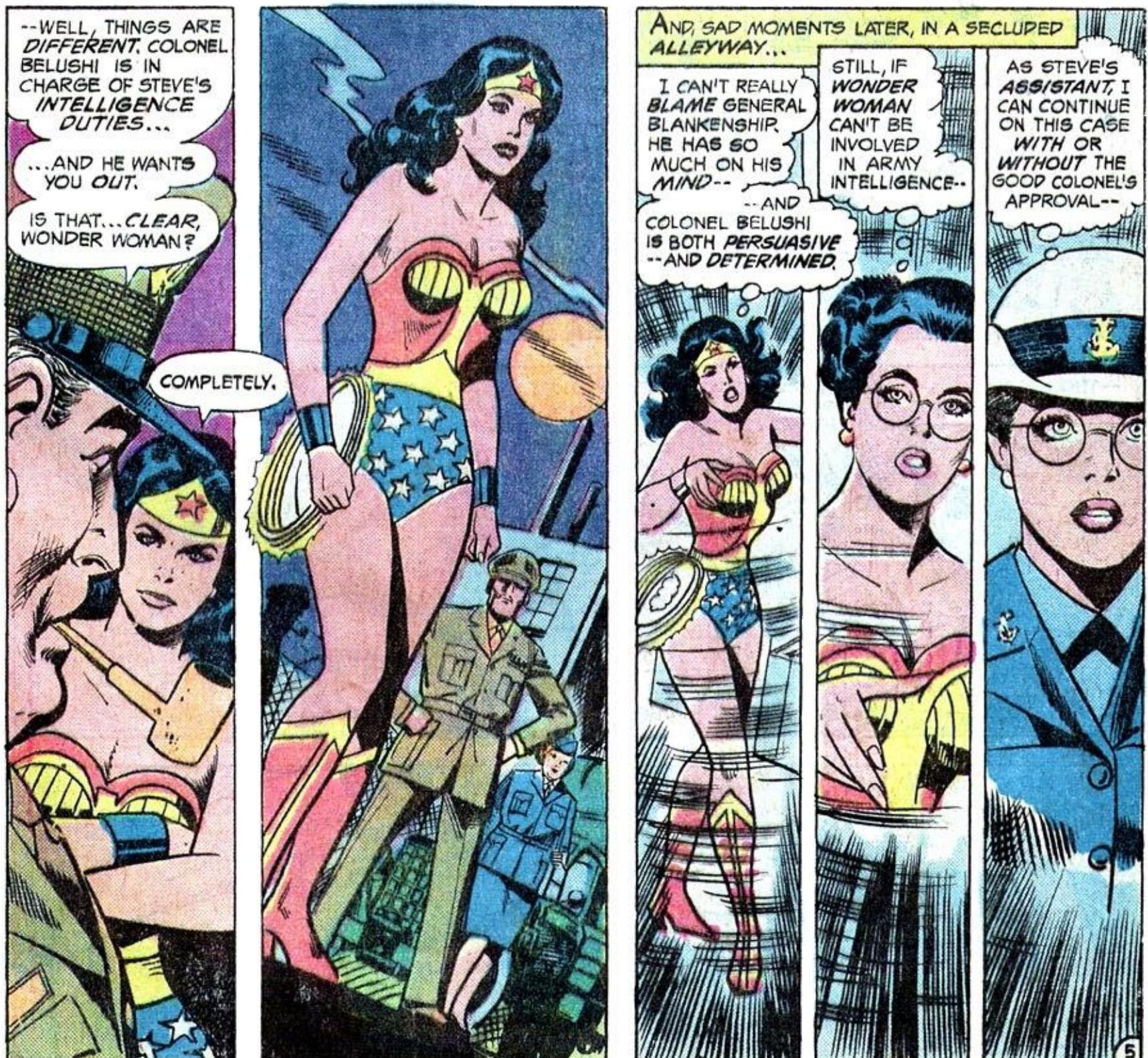
CONTINUING A CONFRONTATION OF EAST  
AND WEST, PRESENTED BY  
GERRY CONWAY-AUTHOR  
JOSE DELBO AND VINCE COLLETTA-ARTISTS  
BEN ODA-LETTERER LIZ BERUBE-COLORIST  
LARRY HAMA-EDITOR

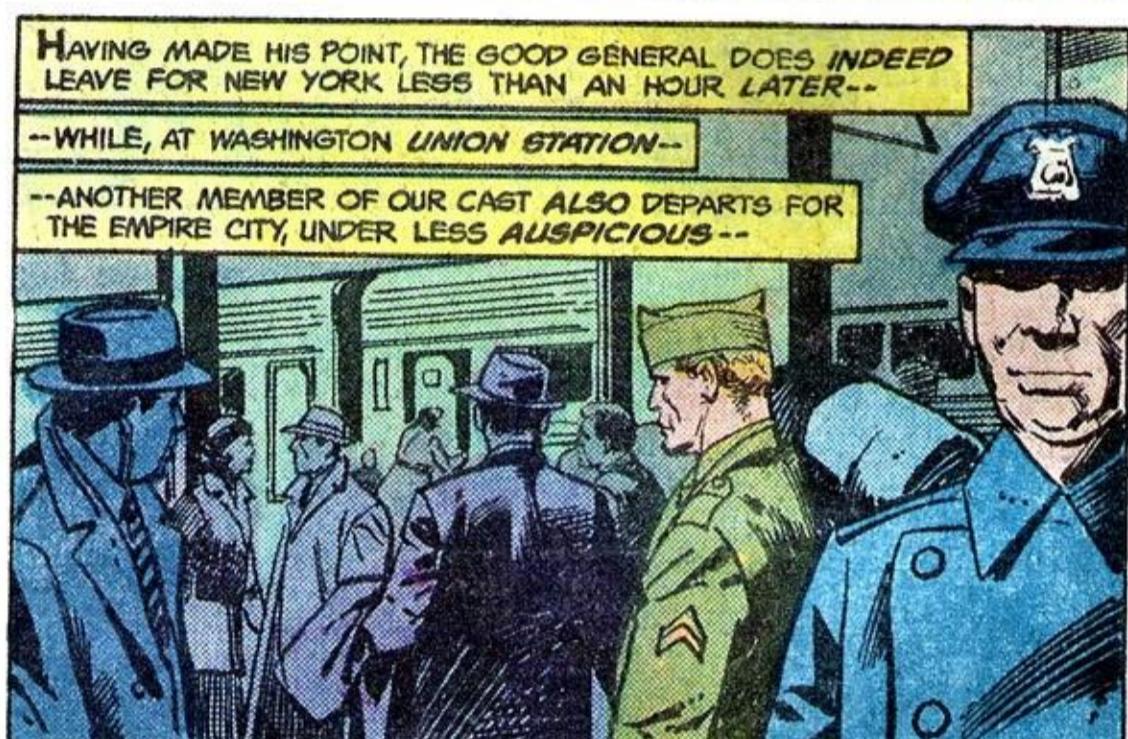
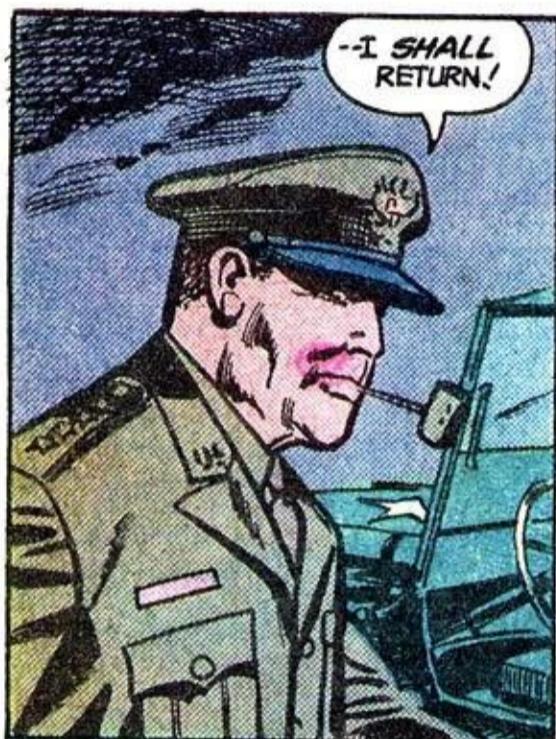
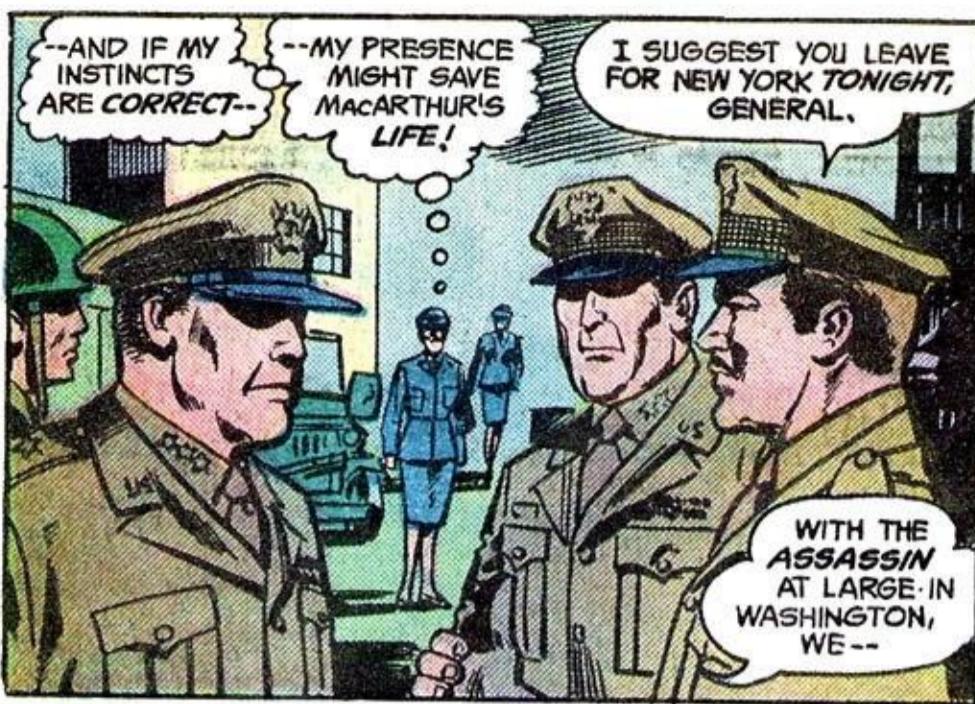






\*AS OF WW#236.--LARRY.













--THAT YOU HAD ACHIEVED EXCELLENCE--

--AND BECAUSE OF YOUR EXCELLENCE,  
THAT YOU'D BEEN CHOSEN FOR SPECIAL  
ATTENTION.

"THERE WERE NO MORE LETTERS,

"I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT  
HAPPENED TO YOU AFTER THAT--"

KRAK!

--AND JUDGING BY THE  
WAY YOU ARE TODAY,  
WHAT HAPPENED MUST HAVE  
BEEN A NIGHTMARE!

YOU'VE CHANGED,  
THOMAS, MENTALLY...  
AND PHYSICALLY!

YOU'RE NOT MY  
BROTHER  
ANYMORE...

DONE.

LATE AFTERNOON, IN A NARROW ALLEY IN MANHATTAN'S  
FAMED LITTLE ITALY...

SORRY TO DROP  
IN ON YOU GENTS  
LIKE THIS--

--BUT WE'VE THINGS  
TO DISCUSS, LUIGI,  
OLD PAL!

I HAVE LEARNED  
MY TARGET'S SCHEDULE  
FOR TODAY. THE  
HONORABLE HIDDEN  
ONES HAVE REMINDED  
ME OF MY DUTY.

WILL  
YOU  
HELP ME,  
NANCY?  
WILL YOU  
DO YOUR  
DUTY?

YES,  
THOMAS.  
  
I WILL  
DO MY  
DUTY.

SANDMAN!  
I'M CLEAN!  
HONEST--  
DON'T HIT  
ME!

THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD: OPPOSITE THE SOUTHERN TIP OF MANHATTAN, IT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST SHIPBUILDING YARDS IN THE COUNTRY...

I JUST WANT INFORMATION, LUIGI. YOU AND YOUR MOB LEARN A LOT OF ODD LITTLE THINGS -- AND WORD'S OUT YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS I NEED.

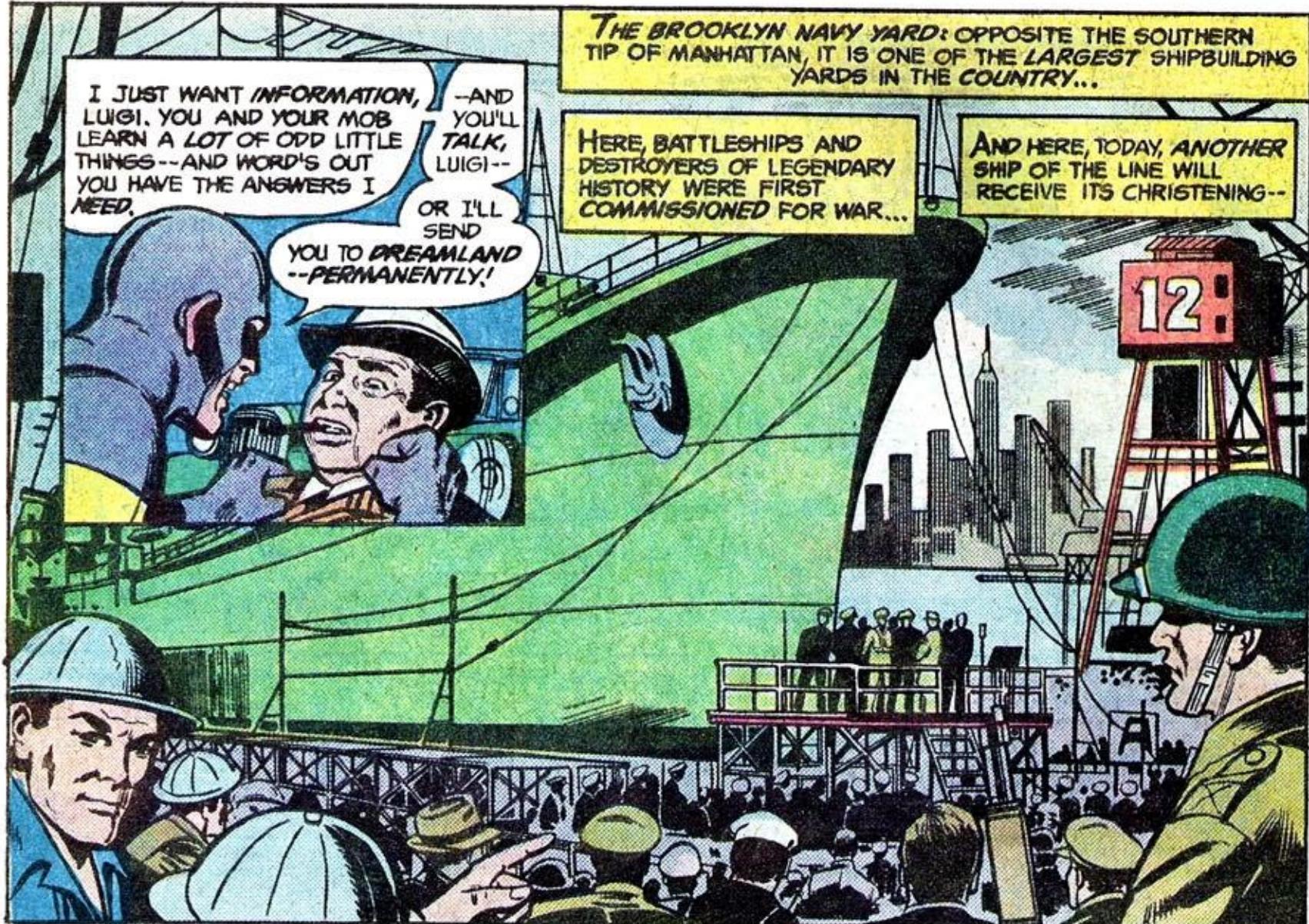
--AND YOU'LL TALK, LUIGI--

OR I'LL SEND YOU TO DREAMLAND --PERMANENTLY!

HERE, BATTLESHIPS AND DESTROYERS OF LEGENDARY HISTORY WERE FIRST COMMISSIONED FOR WAR...

AND HERE, TODAY, ANOTHER SHIP OF THE LINE WILL RECEIVE ITS CHRISTENING--

12:



--AT THE HAND OF THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMY, PACIFIC, POSING NOW FOR A FEW CASUAL PHOTOGRAPHS--

--UNAWARE THAT FATE HAS MADE HIM A BULL'S-EYE:

EH? SOMEONE WHISPERING AT ME FROM BEHIND THE STAND...?

PSSST

SANDMAN! HOW DID YOU FIND US HERE? ALL LAUNCHINGS ARE HELD IN SECRET THIS MONTH--TO AVOID SABOTAGE!

WE AREN'T THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW ABOUT THIS COMMISSIONING, DIANA!

THE GRAPEVINE SAYS--



WE WILL NEVER KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THE GRAPEVINE SAID, FOR AT THAT INSTANT--

MERCIFUL MINERVA!

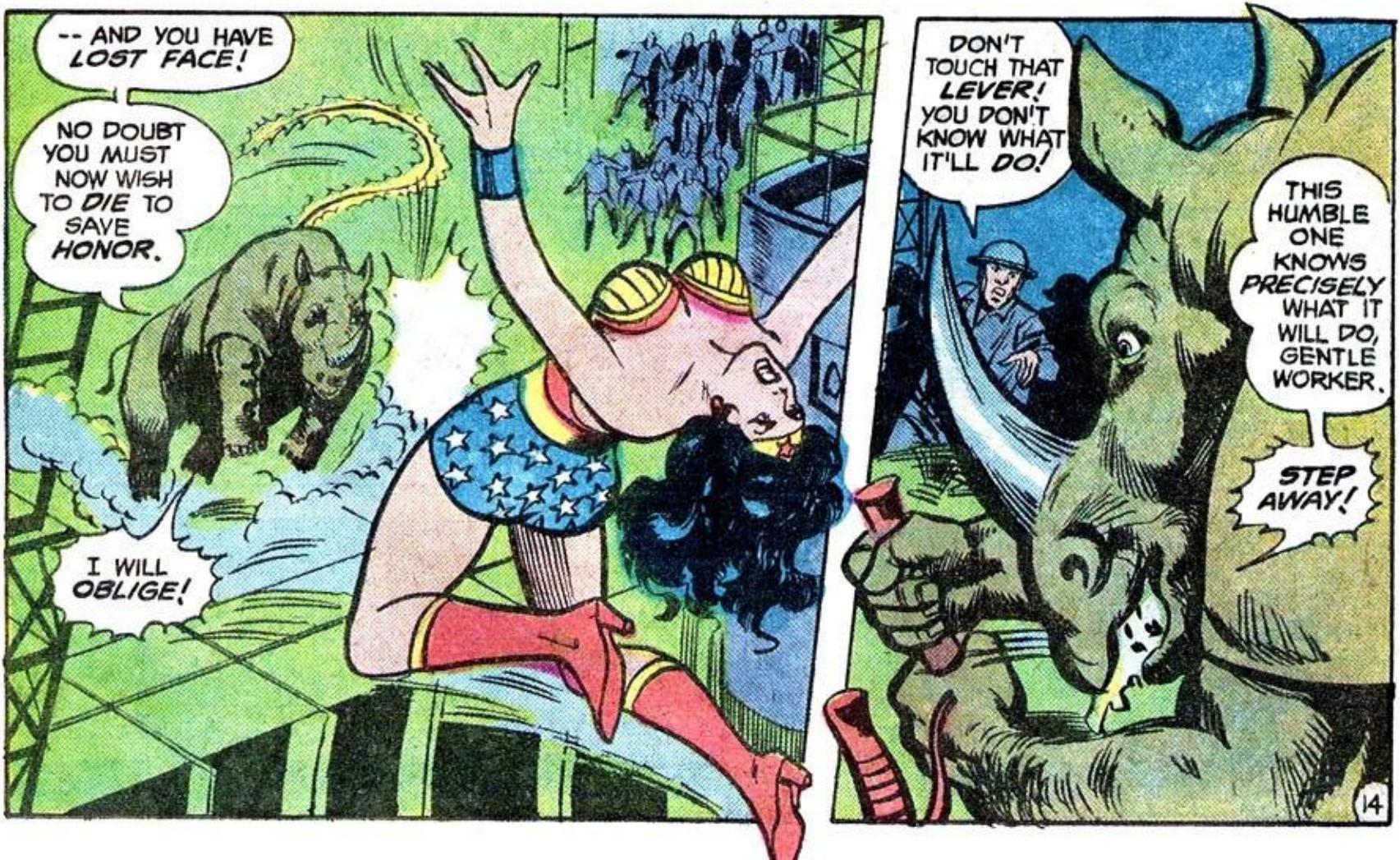
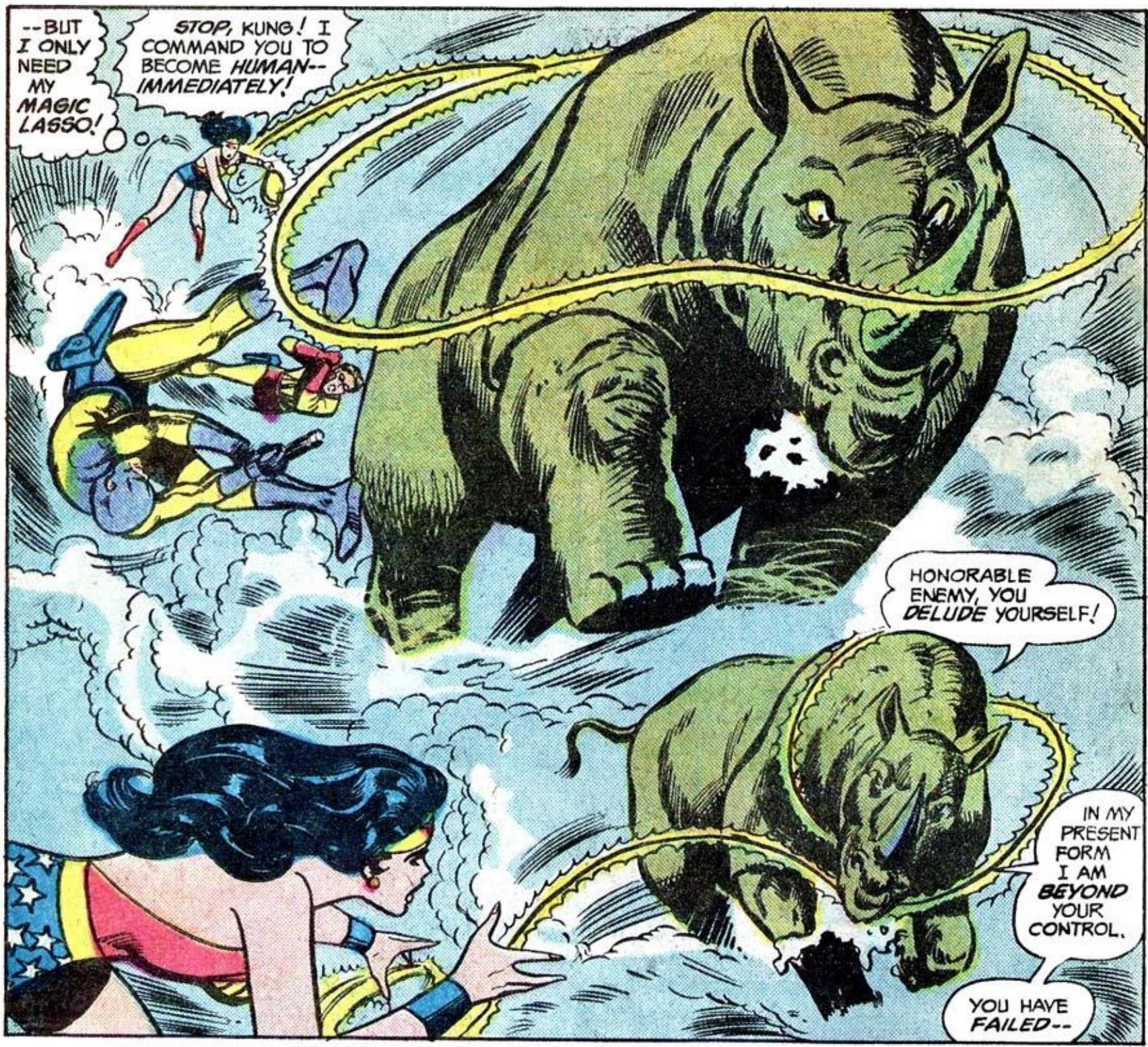
GOOD LORD!

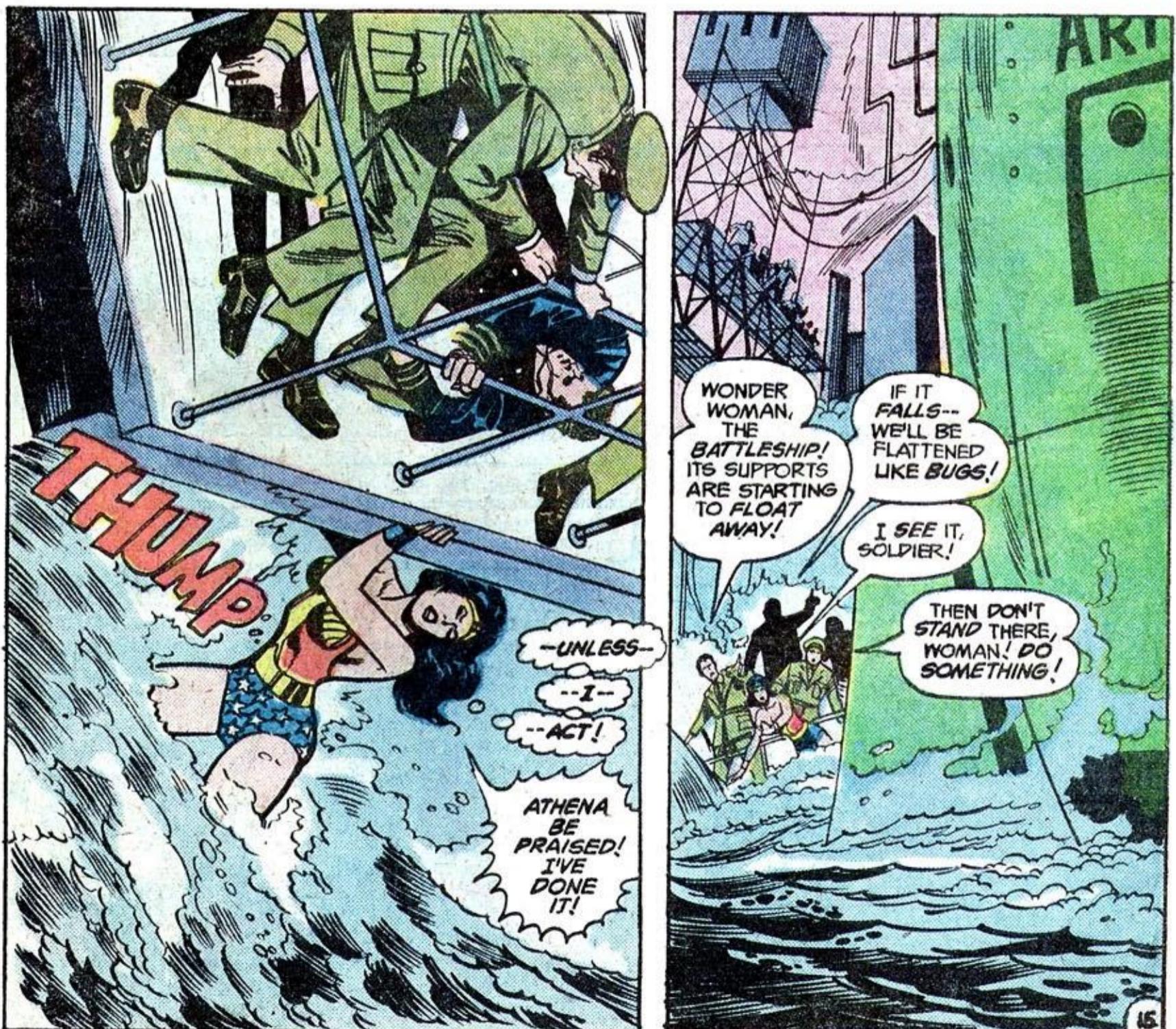
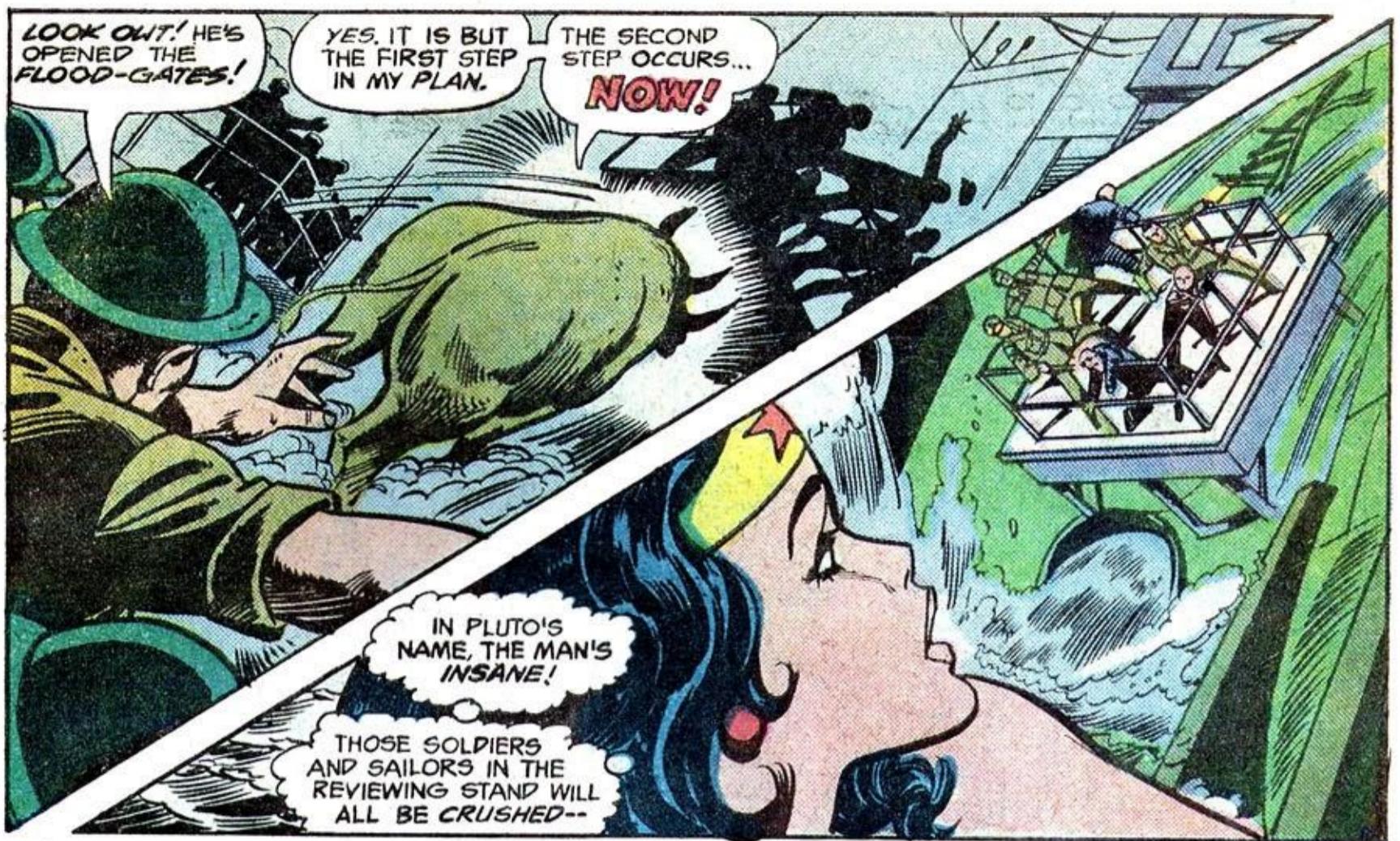
WHOMP



CONTINUED ON 3RP PAGE FOLLOWING.







WHILE AT THE GATE...

THIS CAN'T BE  
HAPPENING!  
THOMAS ASKED  
ME TO DRIVE  
HIM HERE--

--AND  
NOW HE'S  
TRYING TO  
KILL  
GENERAL  
MACARTHUR!

I CAN'T LET  
HIM--

FOR THE  
SAKE OF  
OUR  
FATHER'S  
MEMORY--

THE ATTEMPT IS BEING  
MADE, NANCY MASHUDA,  
BUT IN VAIN--



--FOR NOTHING CAN STOP A RAGING RHINO, NOT EVEN THE SENTINEL OF LIBERTY -- THE SANDMAN!

DON'T! PLEASE,  
THOMAS, I BEG  
YOU --



DON'T!

BY REFLEX, THE ASSASSIN  
SIDESTEPS, AND ONLY  
AFTERWARD RECOGNIZES  
HIS SISTER--AND REALIZES  
WHAT HE'S DONE--

BUT BY THEN IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE!

BELLOW, DESPERATELY, WONDER WOMAN LEAPS  
TO CATCH THE TOTTERING BATTLESHIP IN MID-FALL--

--YET, THOUGH HER  
MUSCLES BULGE AND  
HER TENDONS BAND--

--THE TASK IS BEYOND HER--





NEXT MONTH: WHO IS THE MYSTERIOUS LIEUTENANT MARCHAND AND WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH ETTA CANDY? AND IS STEVE TREVOR REALLY RECOVERED? FIND OUT SOME OF THE ANSWERS NEXT ISSUE WHEN WE MEET--

"A DUKE NAMED DECEPTION!"  
ON SALE THE LAST WEEK IN OCTOBER!



Gentlemen:

On the subject of **WONDER WOMAN** #233, I will go from the beginning to the end.

The cover was terrific. Gray Morrow's art sent chills up my spine, and gave me good incentive to buy the comic.

I'm glad I did. The plot, the art (especially the action scenes), and the overall effect are worthy of my highest praise. However, I noticed on page two, panel three, **Wonder Woman** is holding her arms still while deflecting bullets. No action?

Overall, the magazine was a perfect piece of art. I hereby vow to be a regular reader.

Hoping to be able to make you blush, I am yours truly,

John Schrag  
26 Peking Rd.  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

With our egos, it's not an easy thing to make us blush, John, but we'd certainly be glad to have you keep trying! Thanks, and a "HOLA!" to all our friends in Canada—with special gratitude to Shelly Tsivia Rabinovitch of Downsview, Ontario, who sent us a photo of a beautiful **WONDER WOMAN** shirt that she spent over 70 hours embroidering by hand! You're quite a talented gal, Shelly!—CB

• • • •

Dear Denny:

**WONDER WOMAN** #233 was a poorly-scripted tale by Conway. He is NOT for WW, but Pasko IS.

There are a few problems I'd like you guys to correct in the series. For one thing, you're treating Diana Prince like a "helping-everybody" wash-out without any personality! Can't you inject her with some humor and the self-feeling for herself like the '70's Earth-I Diana?

Also, the villains and plots you produce are almost recycled! Except for #230's excellent Cheetah issue, all you've shown us is WW battling Nazis who all have the same, boring personality and motive (world conquest), or stories with the war being dealt with indirectly. Sure, show SOME stories featuring Nazis and the war, but how about throwing in Paradise Island's troubles or weird, earth-shattering plots! You could also include such old villains as Mars, and the Duke of Deception, and maybe even the Earth-II counterpart of Dr. Cyber!

Randy Prinslow  
(No street address given)  
Salem, Oregon

Weird, earth-shattering plots are on the way, Randy, so stay with us! But you'll probably still be seeing a lot of Nazis around. After all, the new **WONDER WOMAN** is set during the 1940's with the PURPOSE of putting the Amazing Amazon against the backdrop of World War II, so there's bound to be a lot of Nazi-villains popping up. Hey! Maybe we could come up with a WEIRD, EARTH-SHATTERING Nazi!—CB

Dear Denny,

As soon as I saw the cover of **WONDER WOMAN** #233, I knew it was going to be a great one. You certainly didn't let me down.

It was a fantastic cover that graced a superb story. Gerry Conway seems to be taking over with a bang. I only hope that all his stories are as good.

And Don Heck has given us still another version of WW. I must say that he's the best yet. Please keep him as permanent artist for **WONDER WOMAN**.

The story was full of suspense and the German belief in Aryan supremacy was well played. No doubt the next issue will be as good.

One little mistake that I am sure was accidentally overlooked was on page 12, where you say that WW is the daughter of Queen Aphrodite, instead of Queen Hippolyte.

James F. Mills  
519 Camden Rd.  
Wadesboro, N.C.

We could claim that we were speaking metaphorically when we called Wonder Woman the daughter of Queen Aphrodite, James, since Aphrodite is largely responsible for Wonder Woman's existence. However, as we are honest souls (and since some sneaky fan will probably point out that Aphrodite wasn't technically a QUEEN) we will admit that we goofed. John Schrag couldn't make us blush, but you certainly succeeded!—CB

• • • •

Dear Editors:

The barrage of hate-mail these past two issues has prompted me to again rise in defense of the original **Wonder Woman**. I not only like her W.W. II adventures, I actually prefer them over her contemporary tales. I had never collected **WONDER WOMAN** 'till you moved her back, so you can count me as a fan gained, not lost.

The best aspect of this move, though, is that it works not only in theory, but also in practice—you're doing a great job! Every issue has been fresh, probably because you've been presenting different types of stories, which is good. I prefer these Nazi master-villains, but a continual focus on them would get monotonous. It's best to have a variety—old foes like the Cheetah, and new ones like this issue's whale of a tale (ahem).

Now that I've provided a little sweetness, you may return to our regularly scheduled sour mail.

Gerald Duet

1319 Elizardi Blvd.  
New Orleans, La. 70114

Thanks, Gerald, but will we have to? Only our next mail delivery will tell for sure! We invite all of you to add your comments, by sending your opinions and suggestions to the address at the top of the page. We'll be waiting to hear from you.—Cary Burkett

**TWICE THE CHILLS  
IN THE ALL-NEW**

**GHOSTS SPECIAL!**  
ON SALE SEPT. 27TH!

A few weeks ago, my local druggist engaged me in friendly conversation.

"Are you still putting out that kids' magazine?" he asked.

"No," I replied. "I'm now the publisher of DC Comics. You know — *Superman*, *Batman*, *Wonder Woman*."

"Of course!" he exclaimed, brightening visibly. "Why, that must be a wonderful job."

I thought about the conversation afterwards. It was one I'd had many times before. Whenever anyone seemed baffled as to what DC Comics really meant, I could dispell his or her doubts instantly by uttering the illuminating incantation: "You know, *Superman*, *Batman*, *Wonder Woman*."

The truth, I reflected, is that to almost everybody (except millions of dedicated readers) the super-heroes are the comic books. But what about *G.I. Combat*, *Sgt. Rock*, *Unknown Soldier*, and *Men of War*? And what about the mystery books—*Ghosts*, *Witching Hour*, *Secrets of the Haunted House*, *The Unexpected*, *House of Secrets* and *House of Mystery*?

Here we were, eagerly at work expanding our mystery line-up. Not only were we reviving such spectral luminaries as *Deadman* and the *Phantom Stranger* for the fall, or launching a *Ghosts Special* for September, or planning a novel-length thriller to celebrate *House of Secrets* #150, but we were rubbing our hands together over the way a wholly new mystery title, *Doorway To Nightmare*, was shaping up for its debut in October. And, as usual, all of these books were involving some of our most extraordinary talent: Berni Wrightson, Mike Kaluta, David Michelinie, Gerry Conway, Michael

## DC Publisheria

### it's a mystery...

Fleisher, Marty Pasko, among others.

There is no doubt that mystery books hold a fascination for readers and creators alike. There are fewer constraints than in other genres and therefore many more surprises. No costumed super-hero delimits a cover idea by his requisite appearance. No story is bound, except by the writer's own choices, to any place or time, to certain obligatory backgrounds, or to equally obligatory supporting characters. A writer of capable imagination can fashion a story from whole cloth. An artist, unrestrained by the visual conventions which must be followed in any super-hero book, can make his drawing as highly stylized or deeply personal as he might wish.

But the real appeal of the mystery books must lie in the vividly human characterizations that are essential to the form. Interestingly, both the super-hero books and the mysteries derive their very existence from an ongoing clash between good and evil. But the clash in super-hero books is mythic. Not only are the super-heroes larger than life, but so also are their foes (How could they be otherwise?). The super-heroes are beings who in our dreams we might like to be but never can, for they are supra-human not only in physical prowess but in moral strength as well.

On the other hand, the central characters in a mystery tale can be the people next door. Their emotions are not ones that we necessarily would like to have, but in our more honest moments must admit to. The mystery figures are prey to arrogance, jealousy, self-delusion, treachery, and guilt. When violence erupts, it is not cosmic but alarmingly commonplace.

Often, yearning for super powers to catapult themselves out of their very humanness, the mystery characters will invoke the occult. But ultimately, the same human limitations they have sought to overcome entrap them in an even more wretched downfall. The mystery tales can jolt us in a way the super-hero sagas can't, for they touch not on our noblest aspirations but on our basest impulses.

Of course, the stories are to some extent determined by the Comics Code which dictates that no crime can go unpunished. Naturally, this can be gratifying, reaffirming our sense of right and wrong and restoring order just as the super-hero comics do.

But some of the best mystery stories are those that reek of evil-doing not punishable by law, where all the ends are not neatly tied up and the reader is not let off the hook.

In addition to the unfettered storytelling that characterizes both the writing and the art, the mystery books present us with compelling and oft-times devastating metaphors for our existence. If you've been locked into super-hero books, you ought to give mysteries a shot. The creativity is there, and so is the power.

Wishing you all the best—

Jenette

## dc profiles number 24 larry hama

Larry Hama comes to DC Comics as an editor with rather strange credentials. He is proficient as both a writer and an artist... as well as being an accomplished actor.

Larry's interest in comics began while he was attending New York's High School of Art and Design. It was there that he met two young comic book fans named Ralph Reese and Frank Brunner...

After a year in England, Larry eased into the unstructured underground comics medium before he was drafted.

Upon his discharge, Larry drew his only story for DC (until now, that is), while also pencilling *Iron Fist* and *Ka-Zar* for Marvel Comics.

Luck was with Larry and he landed a job as assistant to Wally Wood. He spent some time writing *Cannon* and

Sally Forth for *Overseas Weekly*.

After his stint with Wood, Larry moved on to Continuity Associates, headed by Neal Adams and Dick Giordano, where he became one of the original Crusty Bunkers. And, for the short-lived Atlas Comics Group, Larry wrote two series: *Planet of the Vampires* and *Wulf the Barbarian*; the latter he created, wrote and pencilled.

In addition to all the time he spends behind the typewriter and drawing board, Larry has put in many long, hard hours as an actor. He was in the original Broadway cast of *Pacific Overtures*, as well as the

road company of the same play. He was most recently seen in an episode of *M\*A\*S\*H*, cleverly disguised as a North Korean spy.

Joining DC's staff as an editor several months ago, Larry has his work cut out for him with such series as *Wonder Woman*, *Mr. Miracle* and *Jonah Hex*. As a writer, Larry is going to set the comics industry on its ear with a top secret project, anticipated for release next year.

Larry feels that what makes comics work is "the ability of the writer and the artist to make their fantasies work on paper. It's the personal factor that makes comics come alive. You've got to really be there!"

Judging from Larry's work in the past, he's all ready there. Judging from his plans for the future, Larry is destined to go far beyond!

# KEEPING EARTH-2 SAFE FOR FUTURE COMIC FANS



**LIBERTY BELLE**