

- HERGÉ -
THE ADVENTURES OF
TINTIN

THE BLUE LOTUS



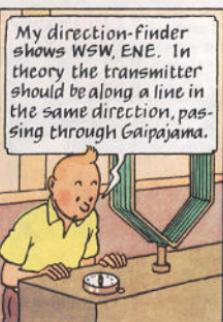
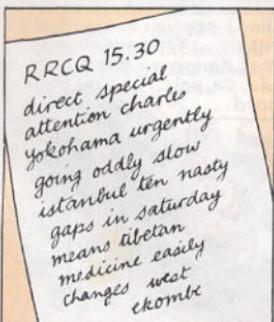
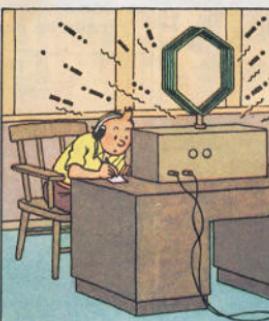
THE BLUE LOTUS

藍蓮花

TINTIN AND SNOWY are in India, guests of the Maharaja of Gaipajama, enjoying a well-earned rest. The evil gang of international drug-smugglers, encountered in *Cigars of the Pharaoh*, has been smashed and its members are behind bars. With one exception. Only the mysterious gang-leader is

unaccounted for: he disappeared over a cliff.

But questions have still to be answered. What of the terrible Rajaijah juice, the 'poison of madness'? Where were the shipments of opium going, hidden in the false cigars? And who really was the master-mind behind the operation?



My dear Tintin... I've asked the famous Fakir Ramacharma to demonstrate his remarkable powers.

How interesting.
I'm curious to see
him...

I'm not!...
I remem-
ber the
last one!



I see an enemy! You think him dead, but he plans revenge... Be on your guard!

I also see a fakir, a disgrace to our brotherhood, dedicated to your downfall. He is close to you... very close to you. He spies upon you... He has a terrible weapon... and there is no defence.

Beware... I see another man... a man with a yellow skin... His hair is black... He wears glasses... Take every care! He has sworn to destroy you!

Tintin sahib, there is a stranger in the gallery, asking for you. He says he has come from Shanghai to see you.

From Shanghai?

From Shanghai? That's a fair distance... just to talk to me... How peculiar...

Mr Tintin, sir?

Me? Yes...

Yellow skin... black hair... glasses... Careful, Tintin!

I have something extremely important to tell you. Can we talk here?

Certainly. We're quite alone: look...



Mitsuhirato... Someone needs you... I... Shanghai... Remember that name, Mitsuhirato... Mitsu... Mitsuhirato.

Good. Then?



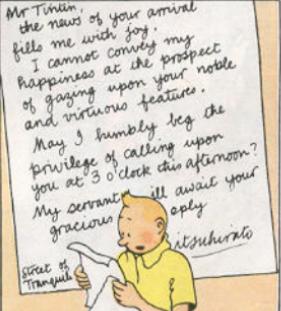
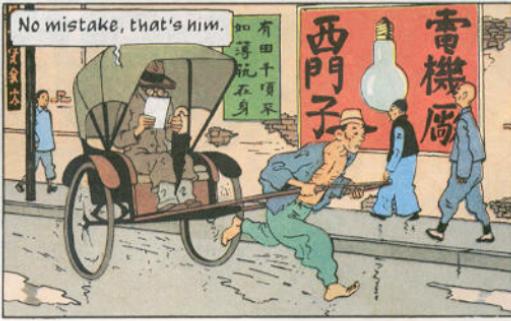
The other fakir, Tintin, the one I sent to prison, the one with the poisoned darts, he's escaped ...

I thought as much!



We must pack the trunk, quickly ...

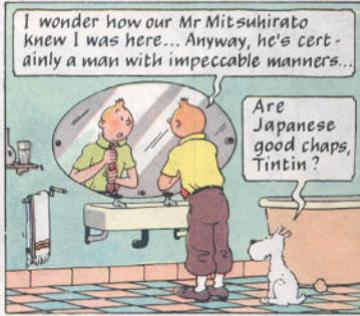




Excellent! ... Please tell the messenger his master is too kind. He mustn't put himself out. I will call upon him myself.

I wonder how our Mr Mitsuhiroto knew I was here... Anyway, he's certainly a man with impeccable manners...

Mr Mitsuhiroto,
Street of Tranquillity...







My dear Mr Tintin, you must go back to India at once. The Maharaja of Gaipajama is in great danger. I sent a Chinese messenger to tell you to guard the Maharaja. Didn't you see him?

Yes, but he was struck by a poisoned dart and only managed to say two words: your name and Shanghai. Then... now... sense...

Despicable creatures! Such persons stop at nothing! Believe me, you were wrong to leave the Maharaja. Who knows what they will do in your absence?

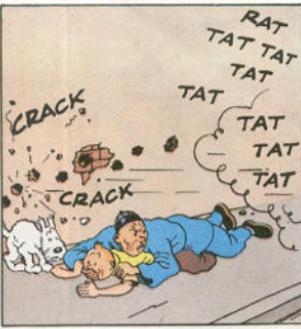
Who are 'they'? Please pardon me, I cannot tell you more: my own life would be in danger... But I beg you to take heed and go back to India.

I see... thank you. Maybe I'll take the next boat back. Meanwhile I'll telegraph the Maharaja to be on his guard.

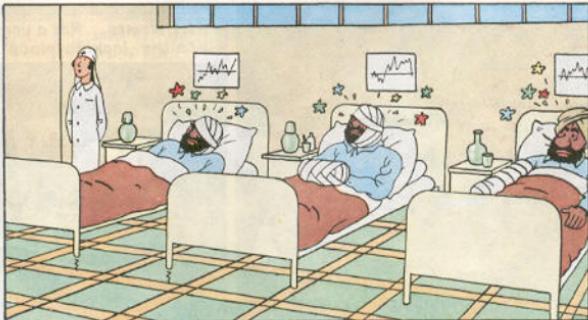
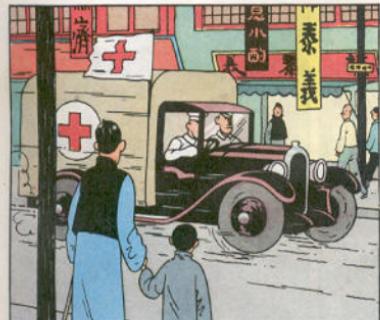


Excellent plan... Ah, I was forgetting. Beware of everyone here, and especially the Chinese. Your life hangs by a thread...









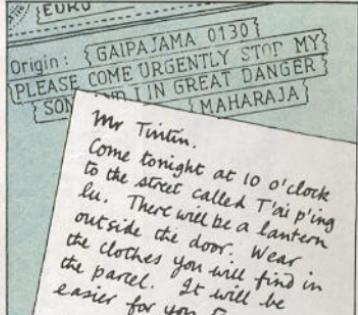
Obviously they knew I was innocent. And yet... they didn't go after the attacker ...



A telegram for you, Mr Tintin, and a letter, and this parcel ...



Origin: GAIPAJAMA 0130
PLEASE COME URGENTLY STOP MY SON
IN GREAT DANGER
MAHARAJA



Mr Tintin.
Come tonight at 10 o'clock to the street called Tai p'ing lu. There will be a lantern outside the door. Wear the clothes you will find in the parcel. It will be easier for you to

All very mysterious... What's going on now?



Poisoned? ... No, thank goodness! His heart's still beating... He's asleep... Drugged?



The tea! ... He must have drunk the tea I spilled on the floor... But... but...



BANG
That shot... it was providential!... If I'd drunk the tea...



You sleep it off, Snowy old fellow. And don't worry if I'm late back ...



T'ai p'ing lu? ...



Here we are... Not a very healthy-looking place ...



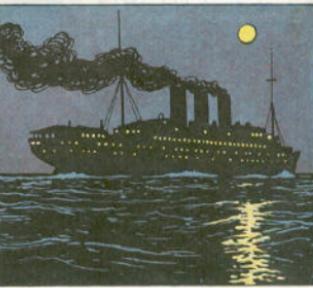
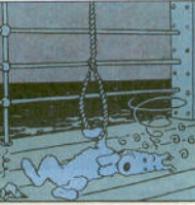
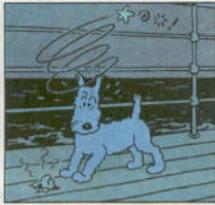
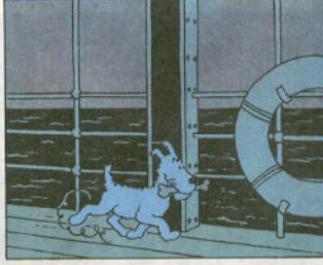
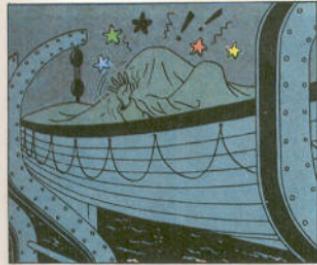




That night...

Are you coming Snowy?
Let's take a stroll
round the deck...

All right. I'll
catch you up...



You saw?...
They made
the signal!

We'll have
a look ...

Here are the boxes ...

There, the
sampan is
coming back.

What do you make
of it Snowy?...
Last night, sailing
to Bombay, This
morning, here in
this room ...

Anyway, where
exactly are
we? ...

We'll very soon
find out ...

The next morning ...



Aha! There's
someone who'll be
able to tell us ...

Excuse me,
sir ...

THE MADMAN!
SHANGHAI!...

Have you found the way?... No?
... Good!... Then I'll cut off
your head! ...

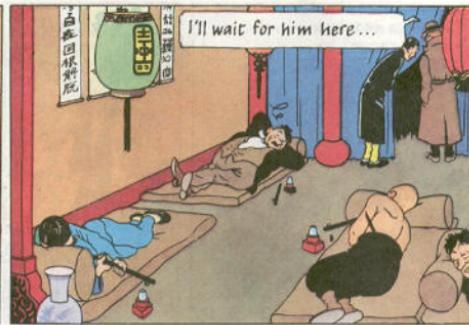
Again!...



Yes, Mitsuhirato. He's a Japanese secret agent in China... and at the same time, one of the most active and evil of men...

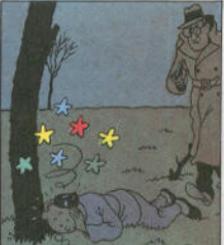








The car! If I can reach it ...



Ministry of War
Tokyo Stop
Chinese bandits have blown up
Shanghai-Nanking railway

Damage to property
not significant
Stop

Not significant!
We'll soon see about that...

This is Radio Tokyo!... The
frontier of Chinese
guerrillas knows no bounds!
News just in details a
treacherous attack on the
Shanghai-Nanking railway ...

... Having blown up
the track, the brigands

... stopped
the train and
attacked the innocent
passengers ...

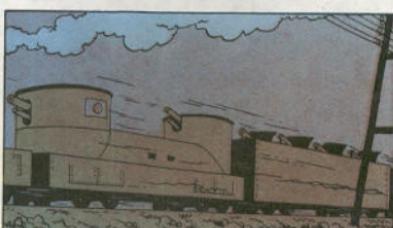
... Reports tell of many killed trying to defend themselves.

Twelve Japanese died.
After the attack ...

... the bandits, numbering more than a hundred, fled with their loot.

Tokyo Express!... Special!... Special!... Chinese bandits attack passenger train!... Many dead... Read all about it!

... Japan must never forget her duty as the guardian of law and civilisation in the Far East... Glory to our brave soldiers who have now gone to defend this noble cause! ...



... and once again Japan has fulfilled her mission as guardian of law and civilisation in the Far East! ... If we have been forced, to our utmost regret, to send troops into China, it is for the good of China herself!

He! he! Don't say I didn't warn you!... China is an unhealthy place for little Nosy Parkers!



LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Tintin should have been back long ago...

Where in the world can he be?

My driver will take you back to Shanghai... I have unfinished business with our young friend!

They've brought me here and locked me in... What will they do next?

My dear Mr Tintin, do forgive me for not paying attention to you sooner...

Well, what are you going to do with me?

I'm going to enjoy myself, dear friend. Here on the outskirts of Shanghai no one saw you arrive, and no one will ever see you leave, if that's what I decide.

You are at my mercy. If I so wish, you will vanish!... But all things considered, I don't want to kill you. No, on the contrary, I've decided to let you go...

Excuse me... I'll be back in a moment...

I...of course... As you wish...

I must say, I hadn't expected this...

Do you know what this is?...

The poison of madness!!!

Just one little jab... and I'll set you free...

Don't be afraid!... Only a little dose... We don't want to overdo things!

There!... You see... It didn't take long...

Mad!... I'm going to go mad!

And Chang?... He's still not back either?

No, Venerable, not yet.

Whatever happens, I simply must find Tintin!...

Each ♫ peach ♫ pear ♫ plum ♫ In ♫ comes ♫ Tom ♫ Thum! ... ♫

And now, my little man, out you go!

Chick...chick... chick...chicken!



Seven suffering
Samurais!
That's not
Rajaijah... So
what did I...?

Chang went to
watch the house of
Mitsuhirato,
Venerable... He
has return... ned...
Send him
here at
once!

I was hidden in the
next room. I put
coloured water in
place of the Rajaijah,
and I've brought you
the real poison. I
took care of his knife
too...

I'll soon find him. He
can't have gone far...

There!! ...

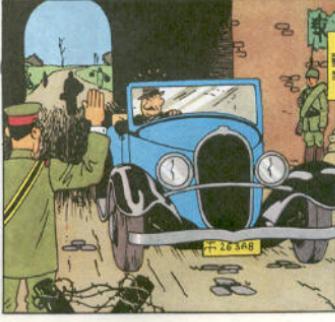
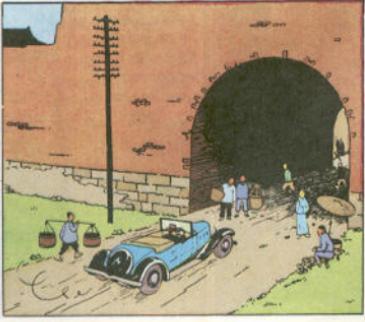
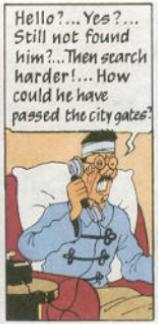




Too late! Japanese patrols are watching the gates. I can't get past!...

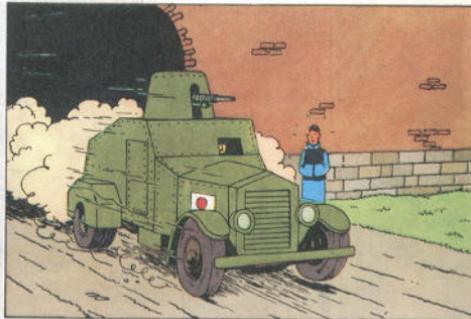
How to escape from the city? ...



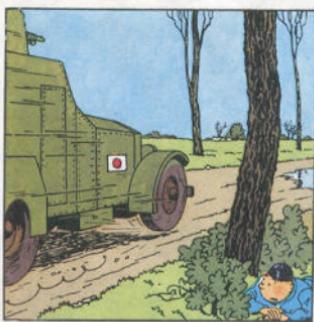
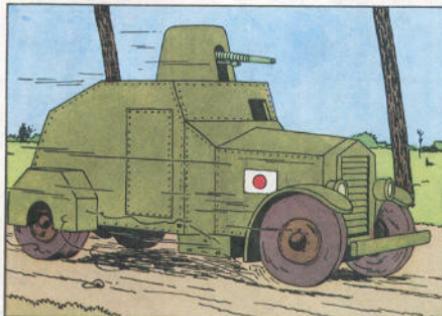


So?... You are sure of your facts?

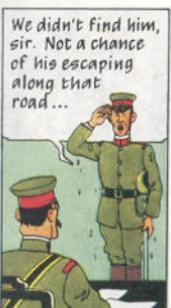
Absolutely certain, Major... I saw him clearly as I'm seeing you!



If we walk fast we'll be back with Mr Wang by tonight.



Careful! Here comes that armoured car again!



We didn't find him, sir. Not a chance of his escaping along that road...



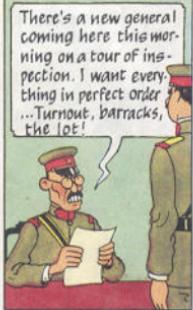
You've really made up
your mind, then?

Yes. But don't worry.
All will be well... And
I'll keep in touch with you...

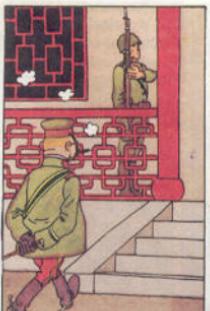
Now, how am I going to get
myself into the city?

What?... Still not
caught him?... Sev-
enty suffering Sam-
urais!... Very well,
double the reward!
Ten thousand yen for
for his ca- pture!...

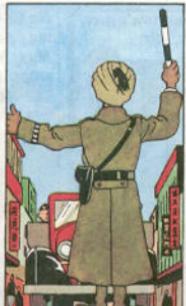
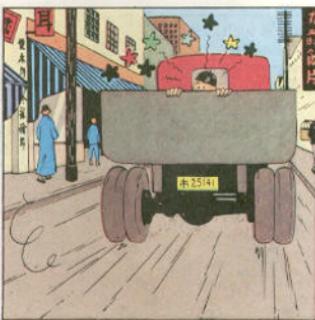
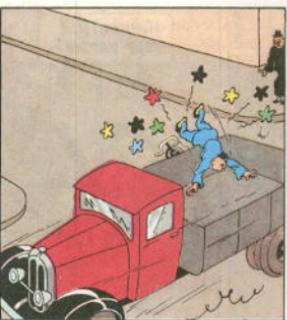
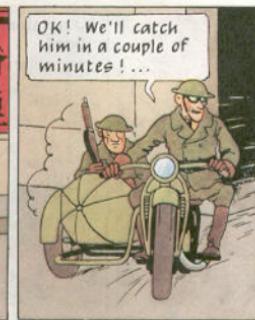
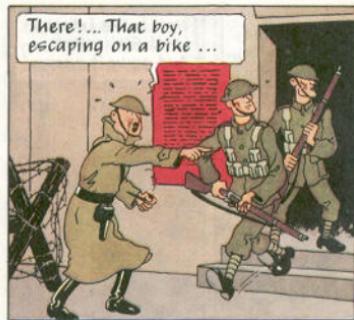
There's a new general
coming here this morn-
ing on a tour of inspec-
tion. I want every-
thing in perfect order
... Turnout, barracks,
the lot!



Present
arms!



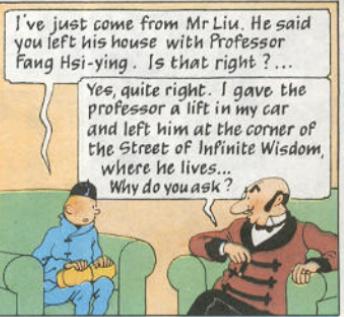
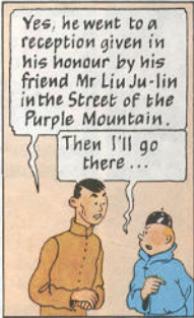


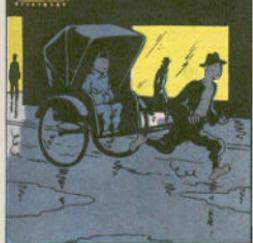




Shanghai:
Professor Fang
Hsi-ying is home
from his lengthy
lecture tour in
America. The
world authority
on madness
enjoys a well-
deserved rest
in his
exquisite
garden ...







Hello?... Yes, it's me... What is it?... What?! You didn't arrest him?... Dozy dolt!



It wasn't my fault, chief. The porter didn't warn me soon enough. He'd already gone ...



Next morning ...

Your master still hasn't come home?... Very odd... Well, I'll see what I can do...

Thank you!



Let's go over the professor's route from the time he got out of Rastapopoulos's car...



Aha! A patch of oil... A car must have parked here. I'm certain someone was waiting for the professor and grabbed him!



OH!

Woah!

W.R. GIBBONS
Director
AMERICAN & CHINESE
STEEL INCORPORATED
NEW YORK
53, Bund

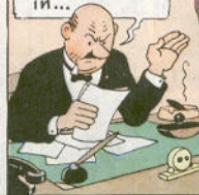
SHANGHAI
Shanghai

Gibbons... I don't know that name.



He didn't wish to give his name, sir, but he told me he'd only be a minute...

OK. Let him in...



Please come in ...



Mr Gibbons, this is your business card, isn't it?... Well, I found it in the Street of Infinite Wisdom near the house of Professor Fang Hsi-ying... He disappeared last night ...

Disappeared?... That's news to me... Funny, I met him last evening ... Gave him my card ...



Street of Infinite Wisdom
... Fang Hsi-ying ...



Hello!... Hello!... Get me the Chief of Police! Fast!



Hello?... Richards? Take Brown and go to the Fang Hsi-ying house on the Street of Infinite Wisdom. Tintin is on his way there. Handcuff him and bring him here!



Fang Hsi-ying's house!... At the double!...

Oh, it is you, sir!... Come, please!... I have just received a letter from Honourable Master!

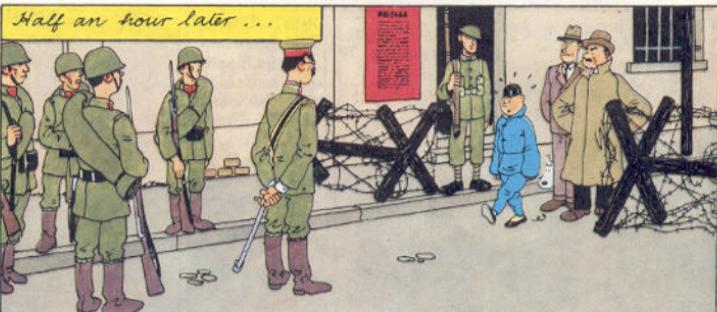
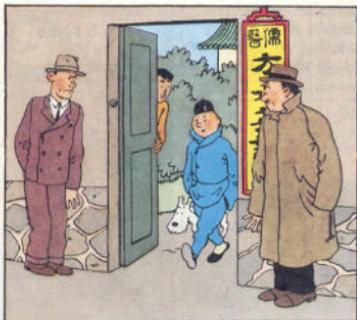
A letter?

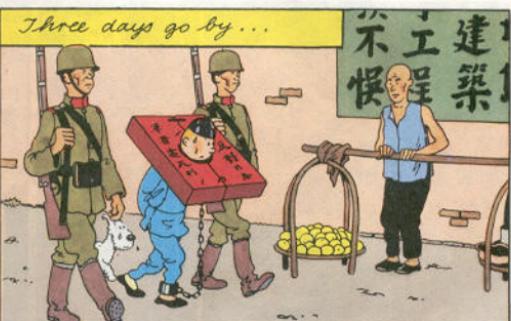
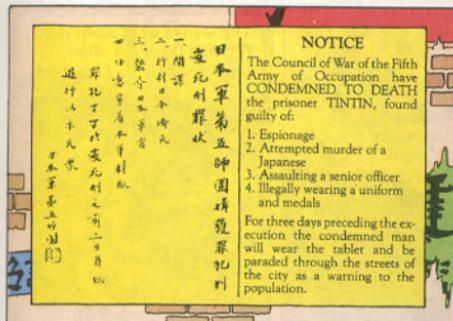


Dear Chen,
I have been seized by Chinese gangsters demanding a ransom of 50,000 dollars.
It is essential the police do not look for them. If they are alarmed they will kill me.

The ransom is to be left, within a fortnight, at the old temple about an hour's journey from Hukow on the right bank of the Yangtze Kiang. As I do not possess sufficient money

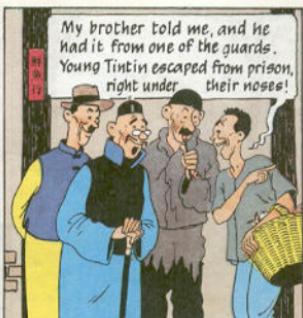
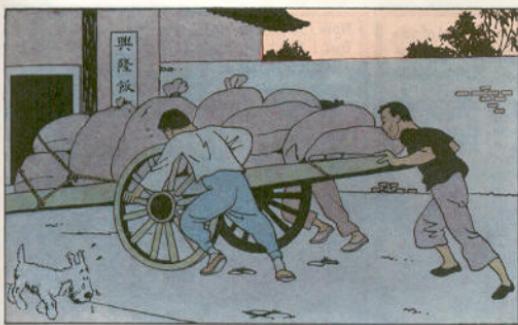
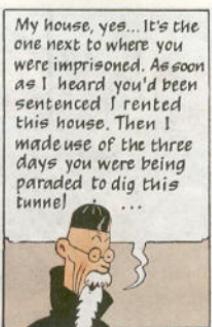
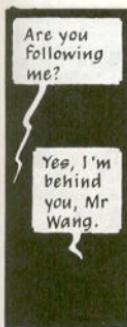
I'm going to look for the Professor... While I'm gone will you look after this package?... Please, take the greatest care of it...





Well, that's torn it.
Now I know what's
in store for me...





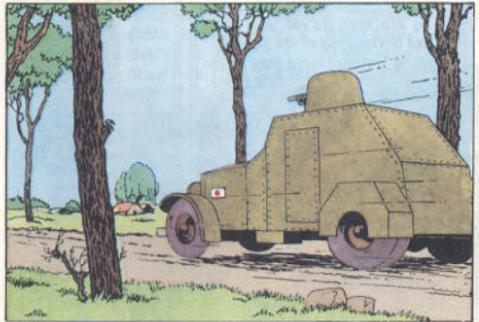
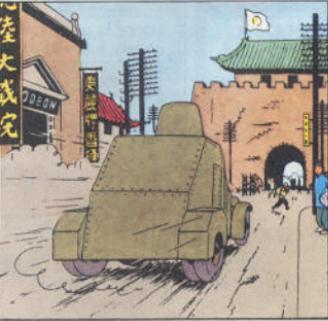
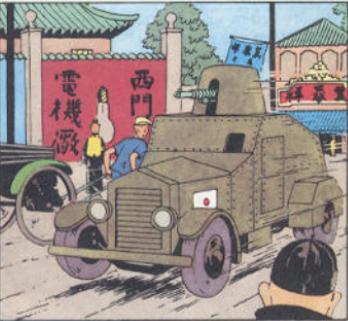
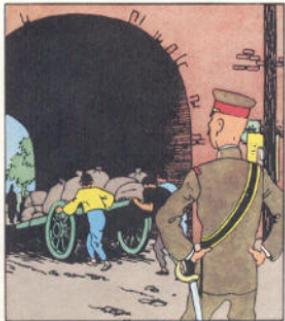
Wait! ... What's
inside those sacks?

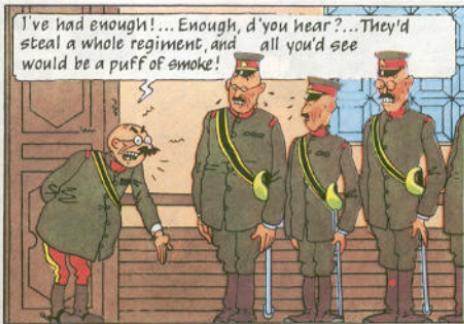
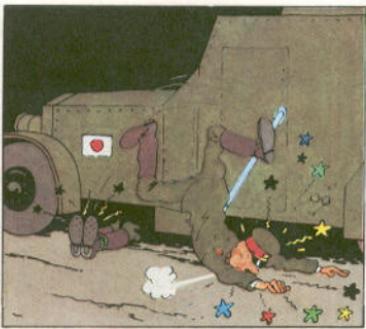
It's rice,
Lieutenant.

We'll see
about that!
Run your
bayonet
through
each sack!

All done,
Lieutenant!

You can go!



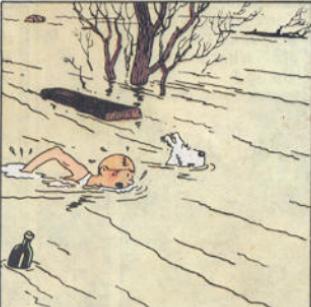


I'm going tomorrow to Hukow, on the Yangtze Kiang. That's where the ransom for the professor is to be paid to the kidnappers.

The next morning ...



Didn't you know? ... The river has broken its banks ... Everyone is fleeing from the floods... I doubt whether you will be able to reach Hukow at all...





...that all Chinese are cunning and cruel and wear pig-tails, are always inventing tortures, and eating rotten eggs and swallows' nests...



The same stupid Europeans are quite convinced that all Chinese have tiny feet, and even now little Chinese girls suffer agonies with bandages...



...designed to prevent their feet developing normally. They're even convinced that Chinese rivers are full of unwanted babies, thrown in when they are born.

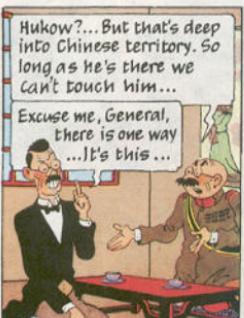
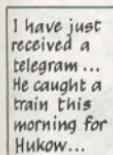


So you see Chang, that's what lots of people believe about China!

They must be crazy people in your country!!



You know where he is?



What an excellent idea!... It remains to be seen if the Chief of Police will agree...

Oh, I can vouch for him, General... Look...

J. J. M. Dawson,
Chief of Police of the
International Settlement,
owe the sum of 10,700
dollars to Mr Mitsuhirato

Shanghai 16. X. 31
J. M. Dawson

He! he!
Marvellous!

Next day...

Mr Mitsuhirato?
... Very well,
show him in...

Good morning, Mr Mitsuhirato.
What fair wind blows you here?

I come to beg a favour... If you agree to grant it, then in return I'll forget all about that trifling sum of money you owe me...

What are you getting at?

Quite simply... Tintin is now in Hukow... And I want you to get him arrested...

Hukow?... That's Chinese territory. My jurisdiction is limited to the International Settlement...

Of course, but the Chinese wouldn't refuse you permission to go after a European, even outside the Settlement...

No, maybe not... But what reason can I give?... Tintin hasn't committed any crime...



A reason?... How should I know?... What if you suspect him of involvement in the kidnapping of Professor Fang Hsi-ying, for example...

That's an idea...

Chinese Police Headquarters... Good morning, Mr Dawson... What?... Fang Hsi-ying?... You've got a lead?... A European? And you want a pass for your detectives?... Of course...

That's it... We'll have the pass tomorrow morning. My men will leave as soon as it comes.

A happy arrangement. You arrest Tintin, and let him go for lack of evidence... By chance, he falls into our hands...

Right... and you cancel that trifling debt of mine...



Hukow...



My father had a friend in the town... We'll ask if we can stay with him...

Of course... What greater happiness! My friend's son under my humble roof...

You already have travel permits. This is a safe-conduct from the Chinese authorities. It will facilitate your mission ...

此執照者
與以臂助於持

POLICE
HEADQUARTERS

All Chinese authorities are hereby directed to render whatever assistance may be required by the bearer of this pass.

A rotten job!

Just our luck!... Ordered to arrest a friend!

There's a train later this evening. That gives us time to get ourselves ready...

Next morning ...

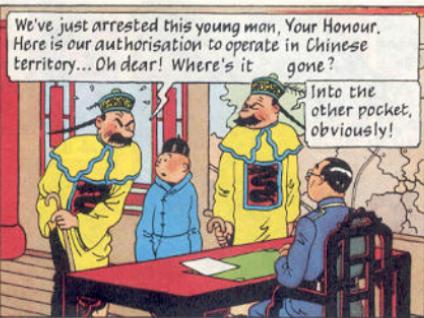
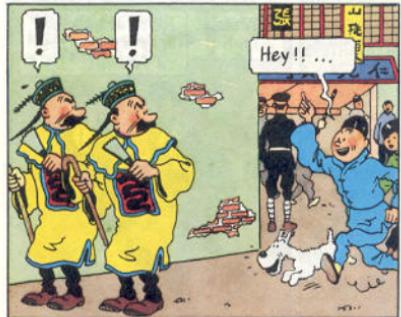
What a life... All night in the train... then three hours walk... Hukow at last...

Just as well we came in disguise... Precisely!

Imagine the sensation we'd have caused, coming to a place like this in European clothes...

Don't look now, but something tells me we're being followed ...







Botheration! Telegraph lines to Shanghai are cut because of the floods. We'll have to go ourselves...

To be precise... Shanghai will be flooded with telegrams because we cut ourselves...

Here's the storm... I think we'd be safer to go back down...

You're right, Chang...

Meanwhile, in Hukow...



Here's my messenger! ... You've got news of Tintin's arrest, that's for sure!

'Arrest failed. Tintin free. Instructions awaited.' Seventy-seven suffering Samurais!

I want this finished! Desperate cases call for desperate remedies! 'Liquidate!' One word, that's enough!



What a beastly business... travelling all night...

All because of that rotten commissar!...

The next morning...

That's the old temple they mean...

A lot of tourists must visit this old temple. Look, Chang, there's even a photographer...

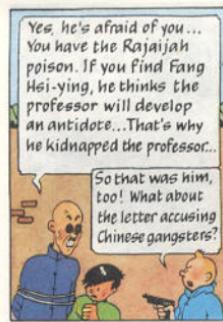


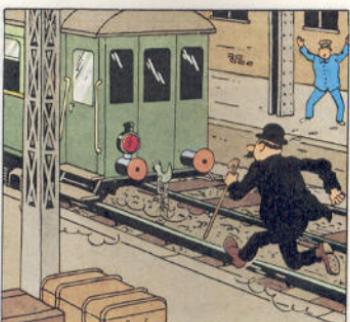
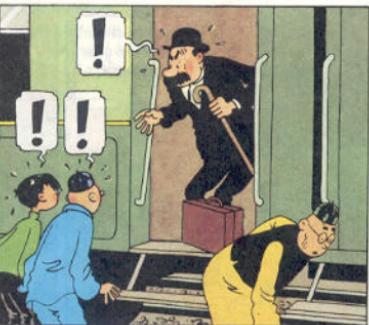
Picture of you together, gentlemen? Ready in five minutes...

OK? If you like...

Ready now... Watch the birdie!







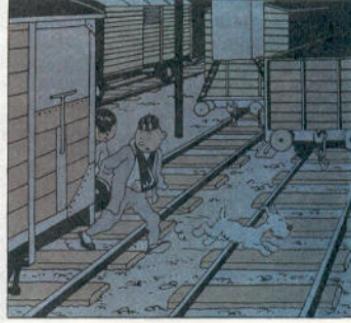
Next morning...

That's the last of the passengers... and still no sign of Tintin...

No luck, chief... He wasn't on the train. I reckon he hopped off en route...

Infuriating! Wretched little brat! ... Always outwits us at the last minute!

It's dark now... We can risk it...



Master, Tintin is in Shanghai!... I saw him with a Chinese boy. They got into a taxi, but I couldn't hear the address they gave the driver...

Pity!... Listen, Yamato... Get busy... Try to discover where he's gone to ground, and who's hiding him. Understand?

The gods be praised! We meet again!... You must rest for a few days... Give your wound a chance to heal...

I will... Then we must deal with Mitsuhirato!



A week later...

You're sure it doesn't hurt any more? Not a bit, Chang... Look, all back to normal...



That night

There's Mitsuhirato's house. While I get inside, you keep guard...

OK...



Why shouldn't he be?...
He's been there for
over a week ...

You're right, Yamato,
it's just that I'm
itching to get my
hands on the lot of
them!

All clear: you
can come ...

What's the matter?...
You seem worried...

I'll explain later.
Chang...Hurry! We
haven't a moment
to lose...

A car, quickly!
We need a car!

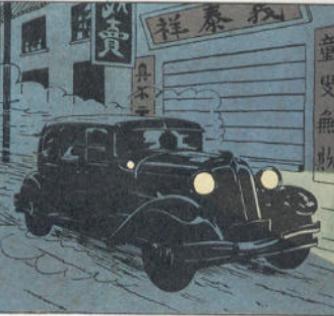
At last... there's
one now...

Quick, driver, quick!... Take us
to the Nanking road!

Look here, I'm not
a taxi!... Can't
you see this is a
private car?

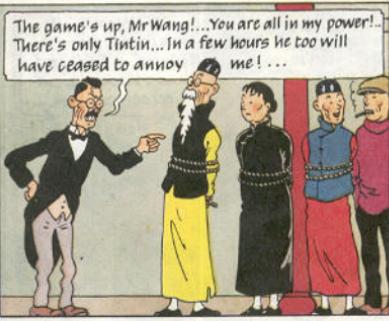
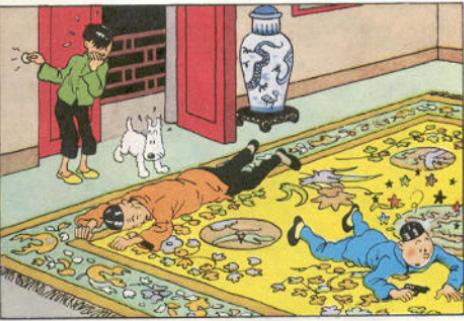
Doesn't matter!
For heaven's
sake get
going!...
Please!...
Lives are at
stake!

No, no, no!...
And when
I say no, I
mean no!



They know everything, I heard
them... They know Mr Wang has
been looking after us... They're
going to kidnap him tonight
with his wife and son...
And us too, if they find us
there...



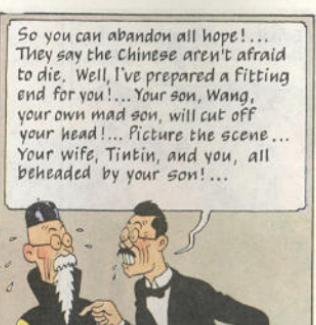
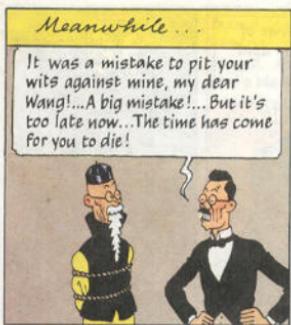




The Blue Lotus?... It's an opium den in Shanghai... How do I get in without being recognised?... In disguise?...







Something tells me you weren't expecting this sort of reception when you emerged!

Too true!

I knew perfectly well you were in the barrel... You were at the Blue Lotus last night ... and had a good laugh at my expense, no doubt ... You heard the orders I gave Yamato... Everything had gone your way ... But one of my men saw you leave and alerted me.

I told myself you certainly wouldn't be able to resist such a good opportunity, so I set a trap. I told them to leave you alone, they loosened the top of one barrel, and everything happened as I'd foreseen!

Cleverer than you thought, anyway!... Ah, here's an old friend of yours... He doesn't want to miss your execution! ...

Well done, Mr Mitsukirato. You're quite a clever man!

We got him, Grand Master.

Mr Rastapopoulos!

Exactly!

Rastapopoulos!... Roberto Rastapopoulos! You've been trying to spike my guns for a long time... Me, Rastapopoulos, King of drug smugglers... Rastapopoulos, who went over a cliff near Gaipajama ... and you thought I died ... Rastapopoulos, alive and well... And as always, coming out on top... You, leader of the gang?... Impossible!

Bring in the others, Yamato ...

You aren't convinced, eh?... Look at that!... Now do you believe me?...

The sign of the Pharaoh Kih-Oskh!
(1)

You're... you're absolutely sure there isn't any risk for us?...

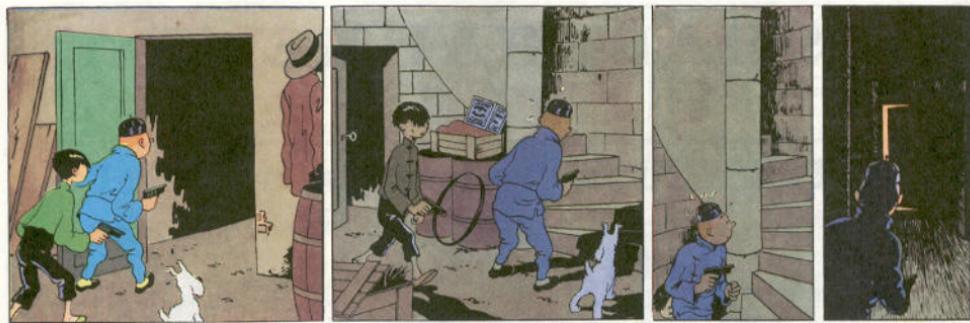
No, as soon as he's done the job Yamato will take care of him ...

Here, take this... It's for you ...

Lao Tzu said: 'You must find the way... I've found it... It's quite easy. I'm going to cut off your head. Then you too will know the truth ...







SHANGHAI NEWS

上海報

FANG HSI-YING FOUND: Professor Prisoner in Opium Den

SHANGHAI, Wednesday:
Professor Fang Hsi-ying has been found! The good news was flashed us this morning.

Last week eminent scholar Fang disappeared on his way home from a party given by a friend. Police efforts

to trace him were unavailing. No clues were found.

Young European reporter Tintin joined in the hunt for the missing man of science. Earlier we reported incidents involving Tintin and the occupying Japanese forces. Secret society Sons of the Dragon aided Tintin in the rescue. Fang Hsi-ying was kidnapped by an international gang of drug smugglers, now all safely in



Professor Fang Hsi-ying, just after his picture release.

police custody.

A wireless transmitter was found by police at Blue Lotus opium den. The transmitter was used by the drug smugglers to communicate with their ships on the high seas. Information radioed included sea routes, ports to be avoided, points of embarkation and unloading.

Home of Japanese subject Mitsuhirato was also searched. No comment, say police on reports of seizure of top-secret documents. Unconfirmed rumours suggest the papers concern undercover political activity by a neighbouring power. Speculation mounts that they disclose recent Shanghai-Nanking railway incident as a pretext for extended Japanese occupation. League of Nations officials in Geneva will study the captured documents.

TINTIN'S OWN STORY

This morning, hero of the hour Mr Tintin, talked to us about his adventures.

The young reporter is the guest of Mr Wang Chen-ye at his host's picturesue villa on Nanking road. When we called, our hero, young and smiling, greeted us wearing Chinese dress. Could this really be the scourge of the terrible Shanghai gangsters?

After our greetings and congratulations, we asked Mr Tintin to tell us how he succeeded in smashing the most dangerous organisation.

Mr Wang, a tall, elderly, venerable

man with an impish smile said:

"You must tell the world it is entirely due to him that my wife, my son and I are alive today!"

With these words our interview was concluded, and we said farewell to the friendly reporter and his kindly host.

L.G.T.

Young people carry posters of Tintin through Shanghai streets.



The conclusions of the Sub-Committee leave no room for doubt. The documents seized in Shanghai provide irrefutable proof. The attack upon the Shanghai-Nanking railway was planned and executed by a Japanese subject working upon direct orders from his government!...

I shall be interested to hear the Japanese delegate's reply...

Me, too... Look, he's going to speak now...

Gentlemen, make no mistake! I categorically deny the accusations contained in the report of the 873rd Sub-Committee. These accusations are an insult to which Japan declines to make any response other than silence and contempt! Nevertheless, to prove that the integrity of my country is beyond doubt...

...I am authorised to announce that my government has ordered its troops to withdraw from Chinese territories occupied after the incident on the Shanghai-Nanking railway. To that, gentlemen, I must add with regret that in solemn protest against the affront to my country, Japan finds herself obliged to resign from the League of Nations!



Meanwhile, in Shanghai...

I have wonderful news for you: my son is cured!... Professor Fang Hsi-ying has discovered an antidote to the terrible poison of madness!...

He has?... Oh, how glad I am!

Venerable Master, two gentlemen wish to speak to Mr Tintin.





Some days later...

... I raise my glass to your precious health, Tintin. Your courage and nobility have restored happiness to this humble house. Your memory will be engraved upon our hearts as in finest crystal...



There is one who, if such is possible, will miss you even more than I. Chang, who has already known the sadness of losing his parents. Chang, who found in you a brother. If he wishes, he will be my son, the brother of my own poor son to whom our honourable friend Fang Hsi-ying has restored his reason ...



What is the matter, Chang?

There is a rainbow in my heart, Venerable Lady... I weep because Tintin is going but the sunshines because I have a new mother and father!



Farewell, noble Tintin. May other friendships lighten your days in your country in the West, and accompany you along the way!



The next morning...

Goodbye, Tintin ... Good luck go with you!

I wish the same for you, Chang! ... Goodbye!

