

No.4774

£2

COMPLETE 63-PAGE ACTION STORY

# Commando

THE SILVER COLLECTION



**"TARGET AHEAD!"**

# COMMANDO — THE SILVER COLLECTION

Title

**"TARGET AHEAD!"**

Subject

When originally published, this story was called "Bomb New York!"

However, even though it appeared long beforehand, we don't want to appear insensitive to the events of September 11, 2001, so the book has been re-named "Target Ahead!"

Going purely by the visuals, we immediately know what the tale is about, thanks to Ian Kennedy's superb realisation of Manhattan — and those Luftwaffe aircraft hurtling towards the unmistakable metropolis with deadly intent. There was that original title, too, which you can see below. After consulting our records, the tale came to us via top scriptwriter Alan Hebden's typewriter bearing the slightly more poetic legend, "The Night They Bombed Manhattan".

Presumably at the time Ian's cover was deemed too action-packed to fit all those words on!

Scott Montgomery, Deputy Editor

Issue Number

"Target Ahead!", originally published as "Bomb New York!", Commando No 1020, (March 1976) re-issued as No 2348 (February 1990)

STORY  
ALAN HEBDEN

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PATRICK  
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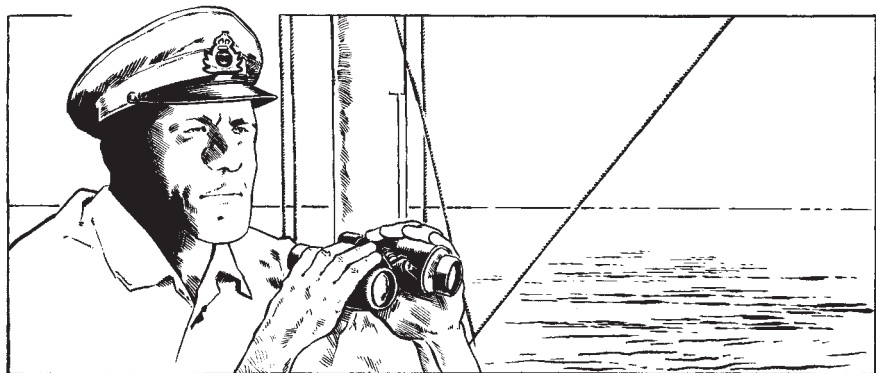
First Published  
1976  
No 1020



# "BOMB NEW YORK!"



**E**VERYBODY KNOWS THE PART THE LUFTWAFFE PLAYED IN BOMBING WARSAW, ROTTERDAM, LONDON AND COVENTRY – STRIKING FEAR INTO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AS THE BOMBS WHISTLED DOWN. AND NOW IN 1944, WITH AIRCRAFT THAT COULD FLY GREATER RANGES, THE NAZIS HAD SET THEIR EYES ON NEW, GLITTERING TARGETS AS FIRST OFFICER HARRY MILES OF THE MERCHANT NAVY WAS SOON TO DISCOVER...



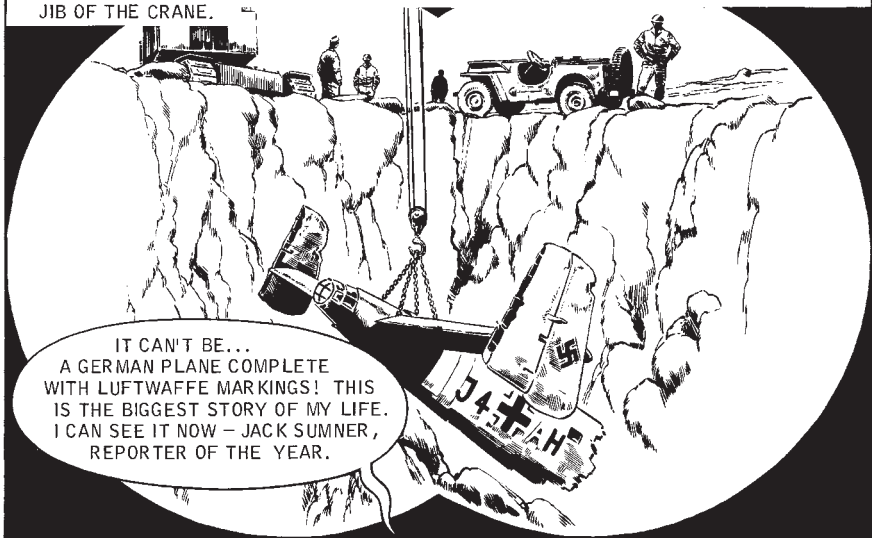
ON A CHILLY DAWN IN MARCH 1944, JACK SUMNER, A YOUNG NEW YORK REPORTER ON A FISHING HOLIDAY IN THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS NORTH OF NEW YORK, WAS A HIDDEN SPECTATOR TO SOME STRANGE U. S. A. A. F. ACTIVITY IN A DESERTED AND RUGGED VALLEY.

THERE MUST BE  
SOMETHING DOWN THERE  
WHICH THE AIR FORCE DOESN'T  
WANT ANYBODY TO KNOW ABOUT.  
MAYBE AN AWKWARD SITUATION  
THEY DON'T WANT PUBLISHED.  
WELL, THIS IS ONE SECRET  
THEY WON'T KEEP IF I  
HAVE ANYTHING TO DO  
WITH IT.



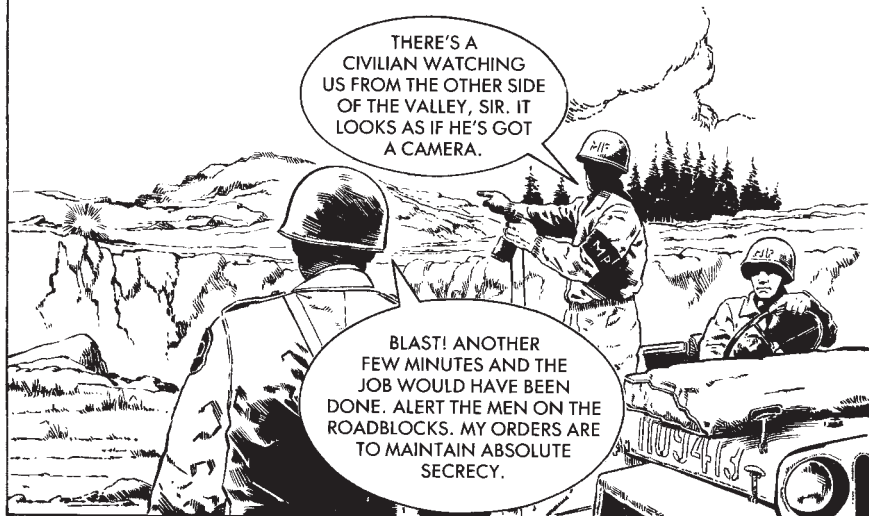
ALTHOUGH SUMNER WAS USED TO THE UNEXPECTED, HE WASN'T PREPARED FOR THE SCENE THAT GREETED HIS EYES WHEN HE LOOKED THROUGH HIS BINOCULARS AT THE JIB OF THE CRANE.

IT CAN'T BE...  
A GERMAN PLANE COMPLETE  
WITH LUFTWAFFE MARKINGS! THIS  
IS THE BIGGEST STORY OF MY LIFE.  
I CAN SEE IT NOW - JACK SUMNER,  
REPORTER OF THE YEAR.





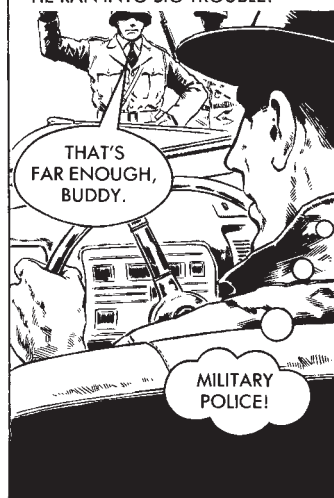
BUT IN HIS EAGERNESS TO TAKE SOME PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AMAZING SPECTACLE, THE REPORTER WAS SEEN BY THE MILITARY POLICE GUARDING THE AREA.



MEANWHILE SUMNER HAD GOT THE PICTURES HE WANTED AND WAS HURRYING OFF TO GET THEM DEVELOPED.



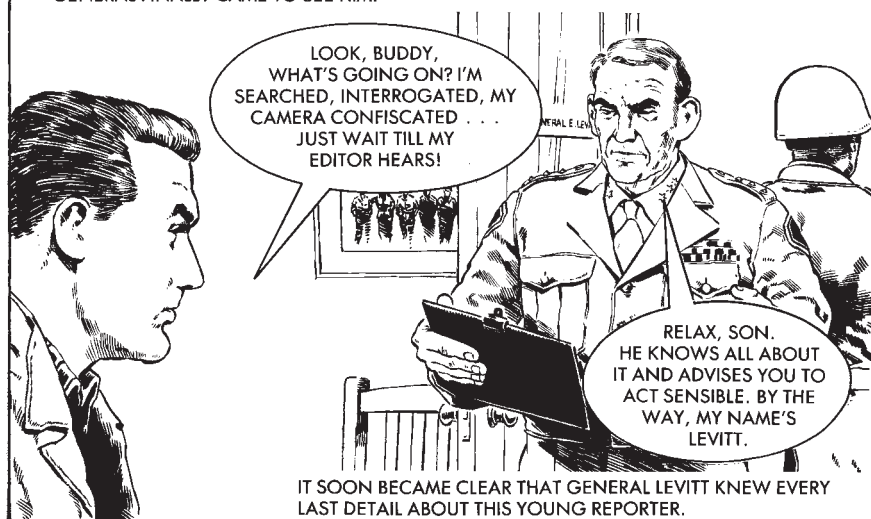
BUT HE HAD HARDLY TURNED ON TO THE MAIN HIGHWAY WHEN HE RAN INTO BIG TROUBLE.



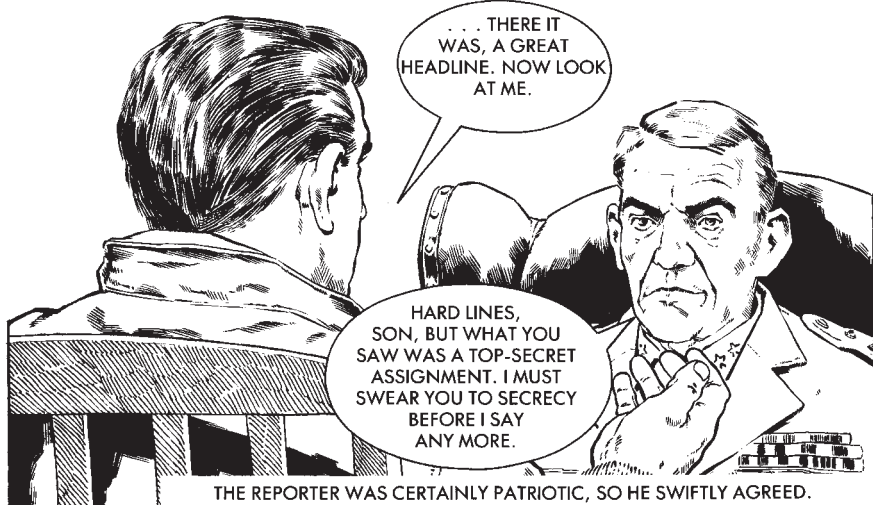
SECONDS LATER THE ASTONISHED REPORTER FOUND HIMSELF BUNDLED ROUGHLY INTO A JEEP, WHICH IMMEDIATELY DROVE OFF TOWARDS THE CITY.



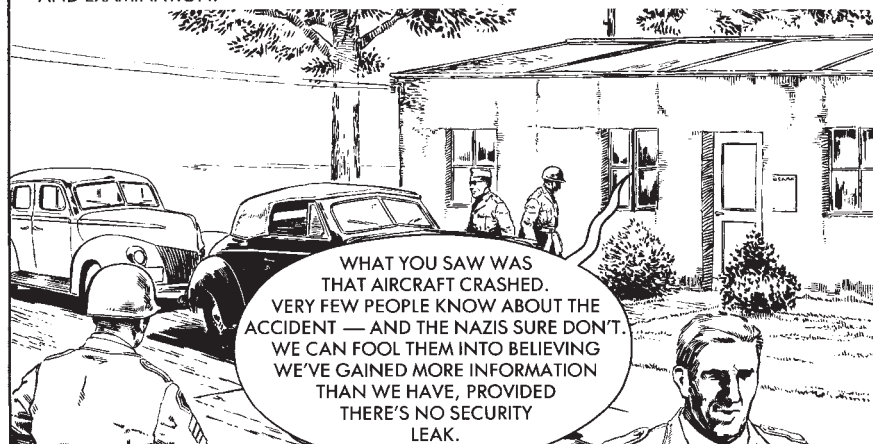
AFTER A NIGHT IN CUSTODY, SUMNER WAS READY TO BLOW HIS TOP WHEN A U.S.A.A.F. GENERAL FINALLY CAME TO SEE HIM.



IT WAS ALL A BIT ALARMING, BUT THE SOFT-SPOKEN OFFICER SOON CALMED SUMNER DOWN AND GOT HIS STORY FROM HIM.



THE GENERAL EXPLAINED THAT THE ALLIES HAD CAPTURED A REVOLUTIONARY GERMAN AIRCRAFT IN EUROPE AND THIS HAD BEEN SHIPPED BACK TO AMERICA FOR FLIGHT TESTING AND EXAMINATION.



IT ALL SEEMED A LOT SIMPLER NOW. AFTER SOME THOUGHT, THE REPORTER AGREED TO FORGET THE INCIDENT AND SIGNED DOCUMENTS SWEARING HIM TO SECRECY.



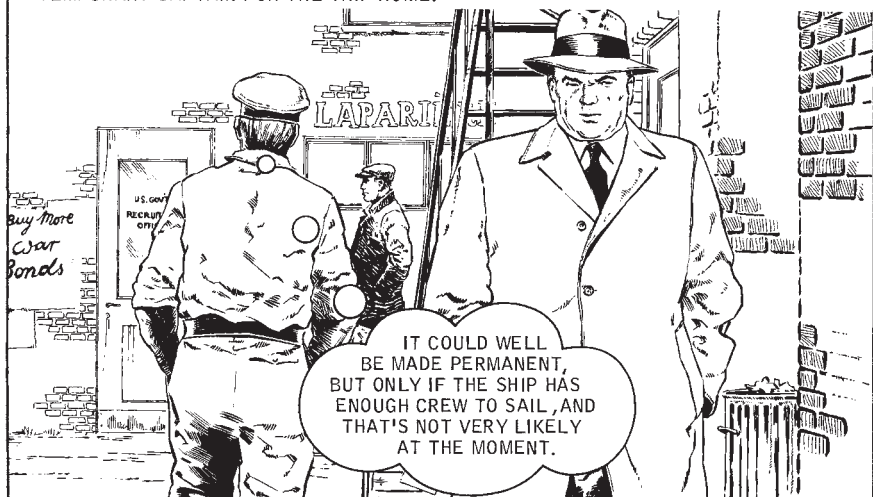
WHAT SUMNER DIDN'T REALISE WAS THAT HE HAD SWALLOWED A STORY CAREFULLY PREPARED TO HIDE THE AMAZING TRUTH OF AN INCIDENT WHICH HAD BEGUN SOME WEEKS BEFORE IN NEW ORLEANS AS A BRITISH CONVOY PREPARED TO SAIL FOR ENGLAND.

NEW ORLEANS IN HIGH SUMMER WAS HOT AND STEAMY, BUT FOR HARRY MILES, FIRST OFFICER OF THE S.S. GARVIN, THAT WAS THE LEAST OF HIS WORRIES. HALF OF THE CREW HAD BEEN MACHINE-GUNNED BY NAZI AIRCRAFT ON THE VOYAGE OVER.





FOR HARRY, MISSING THE CONVOY HOME MEANT MORE THAN JUST AN ENFORCED STAY IN NEW ORLEANS. WITH THE SKIPPER WOUNDED AND IN HOSPITAL HE'D BEEN MADE TEMPORARY CAPTAIN FOR THE TRIP HOME.



THIS TIME HARRY WAS LUCKIER. THERE WERE FIVE BRITISH SEAMEN WHOSE SHIPS HAD BEEN SUNK, LOOKING FOR A PASSAGE HOME.



HARRY WHIRLED ROUND AT THE SOUND OF A VOICE -



ALTHOUGH HARRY WAS DOUBTFUL ABOUT TOM'S AGE HE WAS DESPERATE FOR MEN,  
AND THE BOY LOOKED STRONG AND EAGER.




TWO DAYS LATER, AFTER THE S.S. GARVIN, PACKED WITH EXPLOSIVES, JOINED TWO OTHER MERCHANT SHIPS AND AN AMERICAN DESTROYER-ESCORT ALSO ON THEIR WAY TO JOIN THE CONVOY FROM HALIFAX, AN URGENT MESSAGE ARRIVED.



TROUBLE,  
SKIPPER?

YES, IT'S FROM  
THE NEW ORLEANS POLICE.  
THAT LAD I TOOK ON LIED ABOUT  
HIS AGE. APPARENTLY HE'S ONLY  
SIXTEEN, A RUNAWAY FROM AN  
ORPHANAGE — AND THEY  
WANT HIM BACK.

IF THEY TURNED BACK WITH TOM THEY WOULD MISS THE CONVOY. HARRY THOUGHT LONG AND HARD BEFORE REPLYING TO THE MESSAGE.



TELL THE AUTHORITIES  
THAT WE CAN'T BREAK STATION  
IN THE CONVOY, BUT WE'LL LAND THE  
KID IN CANADA. THAT SHOULD KEEP  
THEM QUIET. AND TELL CHASEMAN  
THAT I WANT TO SEE HIM IN  
MY CABIN AT ONCE.

AYE, AYE,  
SIR!

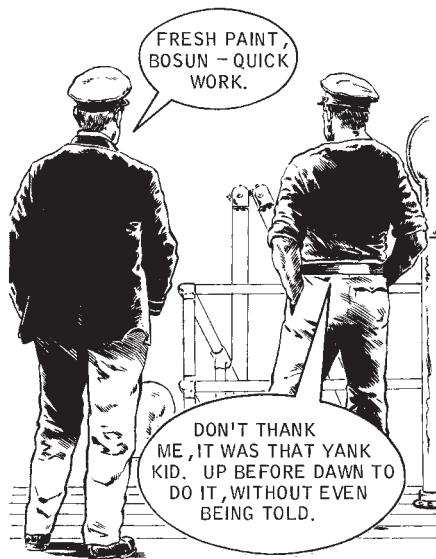
A FEW MINUTES LATER IN HARRY'S CABIN—



THE CRESTFALLEN YOUTH ASKED IF HE'D BE SENT BACK.



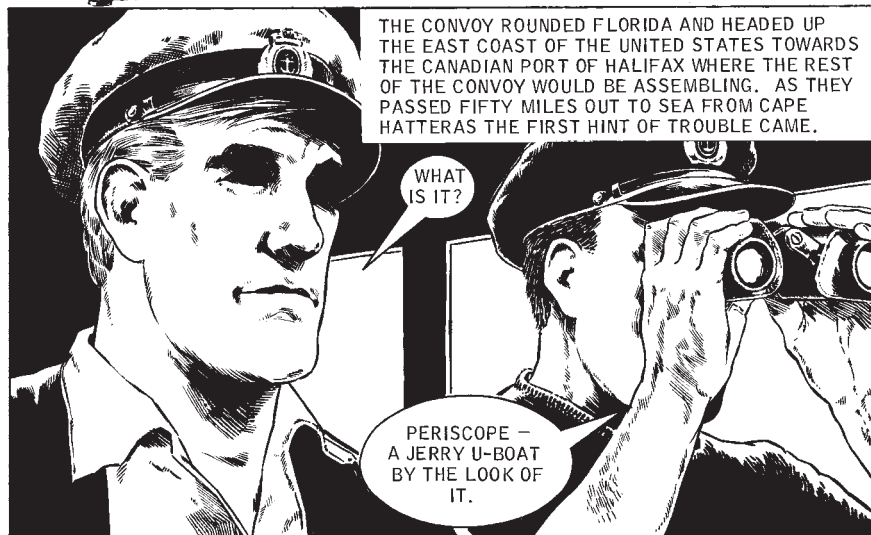
TOM WAS DETERMINED TO REPAY HARRY AS HE FOUND OUT THE NEXT DAY.



AT DINNER, HARRY FINISHED HIS FOOD WITH RELISH AND THANKED THE COOK.



THE CONVOY ROUNDED FLORIDA AND HEADED UP THE EAST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARDS THE CANADIAN PORT OF HALIFAX WHERE THE REST OF THE CONVOY WOULD BE ASSEMBLING. AS THEY PASSED FIFTY MILES OUT TO SEA FROM CAPE HATTERAS THE FIRST HINT OF TROUBLE CAME.





IT WAS A GERMAN U-BOAT AND IT HOMED IN ON THE CONVOY AND THE S.S. GARVIN IN PARTICULAR. NOT THAT HARRY WASN'T READY . . .



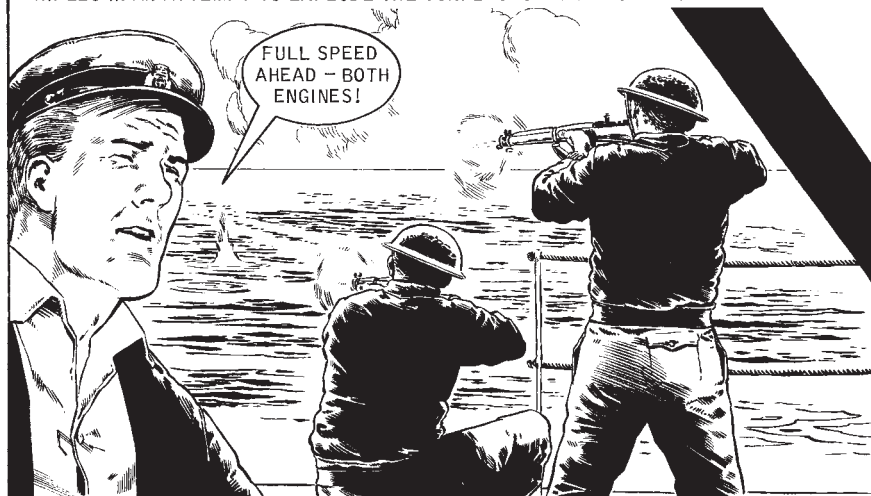
THE GERMANS HAD BEEN PATROLLING FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND THE PROSPECT OF ACTION GRIMLY CHEERED THEM UP.



THE U-BOAT RELEASED TWO DEADLY TORPEDOES IN THE DIRECTION OF THE GARVIN.



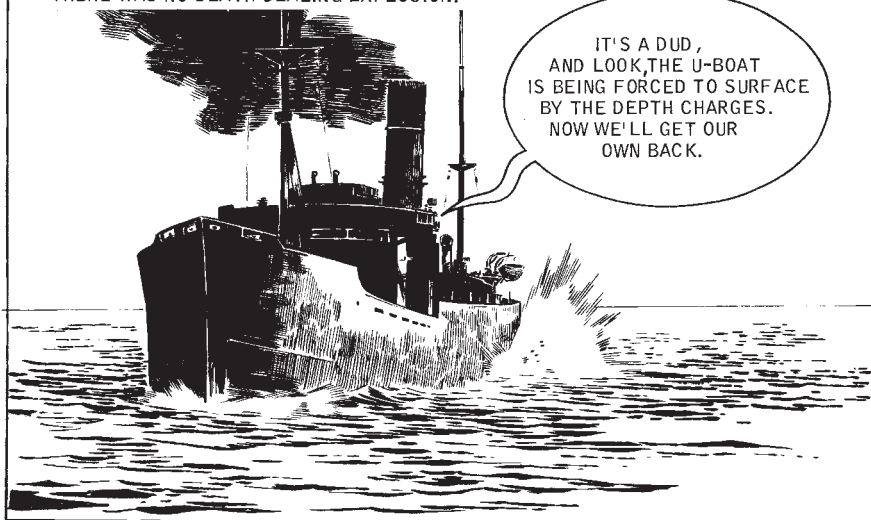
AS THE GARVIN SWUNG TO AVOID THE TORPEDOES, THE MEN AT THE STERN USED THEIR RIFLES IN AN ATTEMPT TO EXPLODE THE TORPEDOES PREMATURELY.



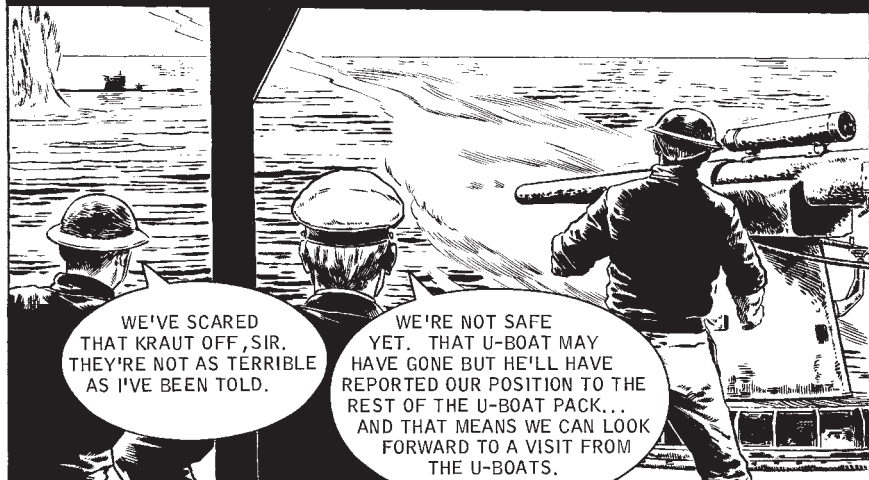
THE AMERICAN ESCORT WENT INTO ACTION WITH DEPTH CHARGES AS ONE TORPEDO FLASHED PAST THE STERN OF THE S.S. GARVIN, BUT NOTHING COULD STOP THE REMAINING ONE.



THE WHOLE SHIP SHUDDERED AS THE TORPEDO HIT THE STERN BUT MIRACULOUSLY THERE WAS NO DEATH-DEALING EXPLOSION.



UNDER CONSTANT FIRE THE MARAUDING U-BOAT WAS FINALLY FORCED TO TURN TAIL.



WE'VE SCARED  
THAT KRAUT OFF, SIR.  
THEY'RE NOT AS TERRIBLE  
AS I'VE BEEN TOLD.

WE'RE NOT SAFE  
YET. THAT U-BOAT MAY  
HAVE GONE BUT HE'LL HAVE  
REPORTED OUR POSITION TO  
THE REST OF THE U-BOAT PACK...  
AND THAT MEANS WE CAN LOOK  
FORWARD TO A VISIT FROM  
THE U-BOATS.

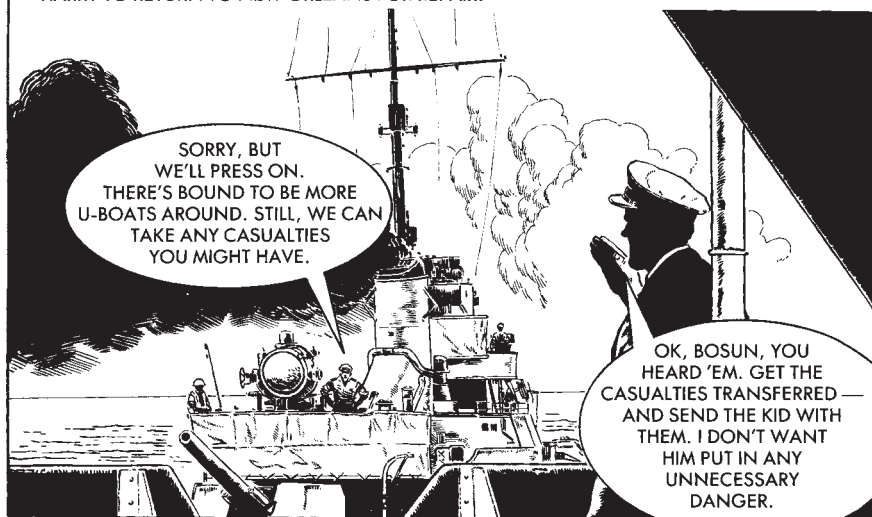
THERE WAS EVEN WORSE NEWS TO COME.



THAT ONE TORPEDO  
STILL MANAGED TO PENETRATE  
THE BULKHEAD AND DAMAGED THE  
PORT PROP-SHAFT. WE CAN ONLY  
DRIFT UNTIL IT'S FIXED...AND  
THAT WON'T BE FOR AT  
LEAST A DAY.

THAT'S ALL  
WE NEED. STILL,  
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING  
TO GET PROTECTION. THE  
ESCORT'S TURNING BACK.


BUT THE WARSHIP'S DUTY WAS TO PROTECT THE UNDAMAGED SHIPS. HER CAPTAIN ADVISED HARRY TO RETURN TO NEW ORLEANS FOR REPAIR.



SORRY, BUT  
WE'LL PRESS ON.  
THERE'S BOUND TO BE MORE  
U-BOATS AROUND. STILL, WE CAN  
TAKE ANY CASUALTIES  
YOU MIGHT HAVE.

OK, BOSUN, YOU  
HEARD 'EM. GET THE  
CASUALTIES TRANSFERRED —  
AND SEND THE KID WITH  
THEM. I DON'T WANT  
HIM PUT IN ANY  
UNNECESSARY  
DANGER.

THE TRANSFER OF WOUNDED GOT UNDER WAY, BUT THEN CAME A PROBLEM.



WE CAN'T  
FIND THAT AMERICAN  
KID ANYWHERE, SIR.  
HE'S VANISHED.

RUBBISH! HE'S  
GOT TO BE SOMEWHERE  
ON BOARD. FIND HIM AND  
HURRY — THEY WON'T  
HANG AROUND  
FOR EVER.



FIND  
MORE  
FREE  
MAGAZINES

**FREEMAGS.CC**

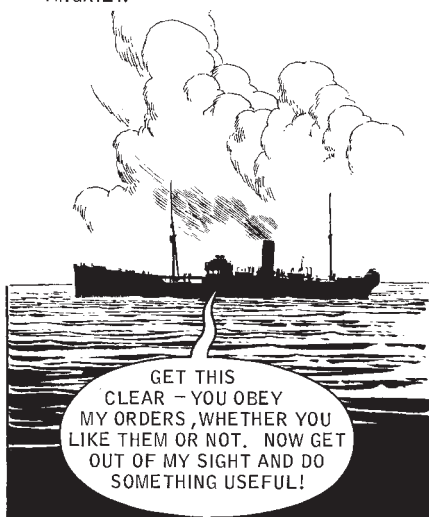
A FRESH SEARCH STILL FAILED TO DISCOVER TOM, AND WITH ALL THE CASUALTIES TRANSFERRED THE ESCORT COULD WAIT NO LONGER.



BUT IT WAS HARRY WHO FOUND TOM — IN A CUPBOARD IN THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN.



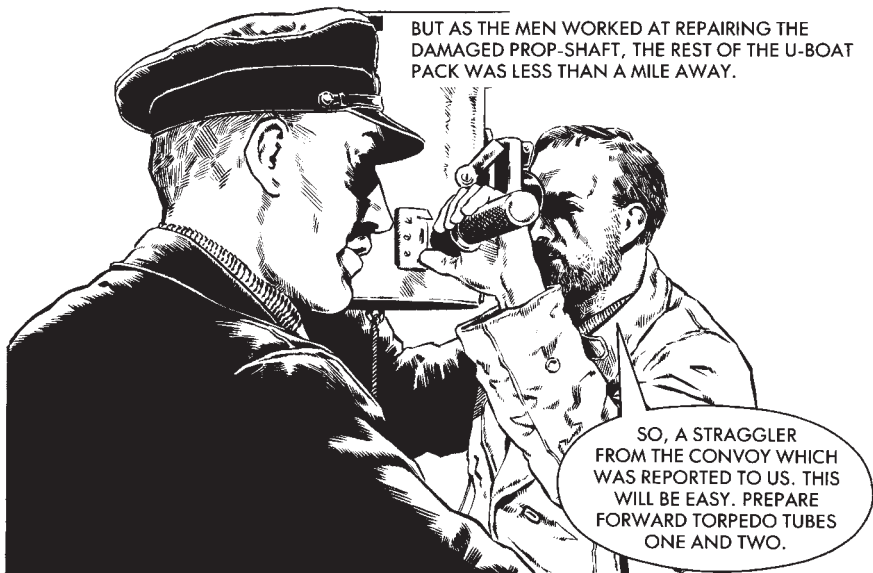
HARRY SILENCED THE STOWAWAY ANGRILY.



HE COULDN'T HELP FEEL A SNEAKING ADMIRATION FOR THE KEEN YOUNG LAD, AND BY NIGHTFALL ALL THE REPAIRS WERE WELL UNDER WAY.



BUT AS THE MEN WORKED AT REPAIRING THE DAMAGED PROP-SHAFT, THE REST OF THE U-BOAT PACK WAS LESS THAN A MILE AWAY.



THE ONLY PERSON TO SPOT THE FATEFUL TORPEDO WAKES SPEEDING THROUGH THE NIGHT WAS TOM.

TIME  
TO GET A  
FRESH LOAD OF DRINKS  
FOR THOSE GUYS DOWN... OH,  
HECK, TORPEDOES...  
TORPEDOES!

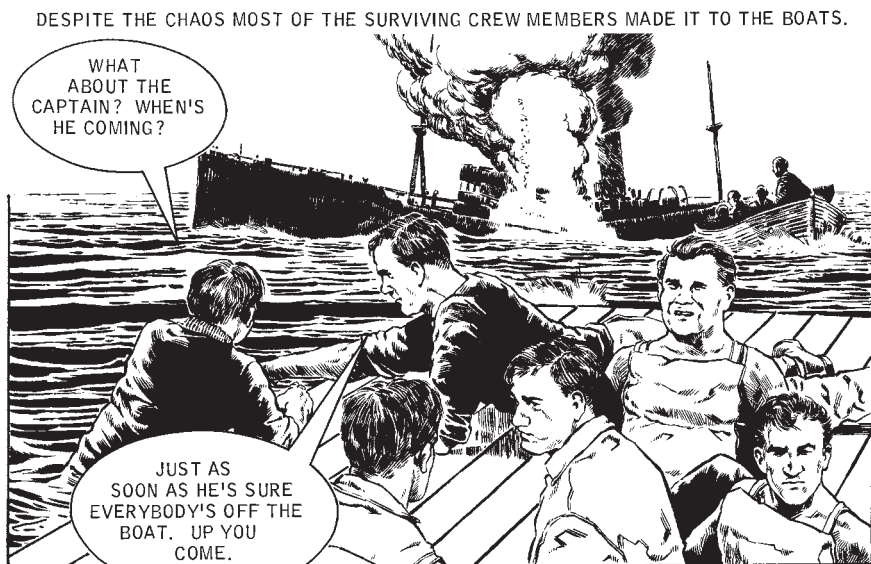


TOM'S WARNING HOWEVER CAME FAR TOO LATE FOR HARRY TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. THIS TIME THE TORPEDOES WERE NOT FAULTY -

AAAGH!

WE'VE BEEN  
TORPEDOED! EVERY-  
BODY OUT OF HERE  
BEFORE IT FLOODS,  
HURRY!







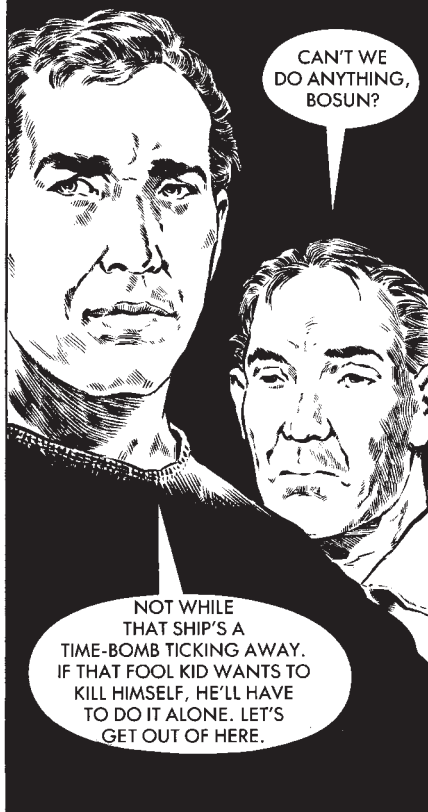
BUT JUST AS HARRY WAS GOING TO JUMP, DISASTER STRUCK.



BUT ONE PERSON WAS WILLING TO IGNORE THE DANGER TO RESCUE THE CAPTAIN.



THE BOSUN COULD NOT RISK TENS OF LIVES FOR JUST TWO — ONE OF WHOM SEEMED INTENT ON SUICIDE.



AS THE LIFE-RAFT VANISHED INTO THE GLOOM, TOM REACHED THE SHIP. AT THE SAME TIME HARRY REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS AND YELLED A WARNING TO THE FOOLHARDY YOUNGSTER.



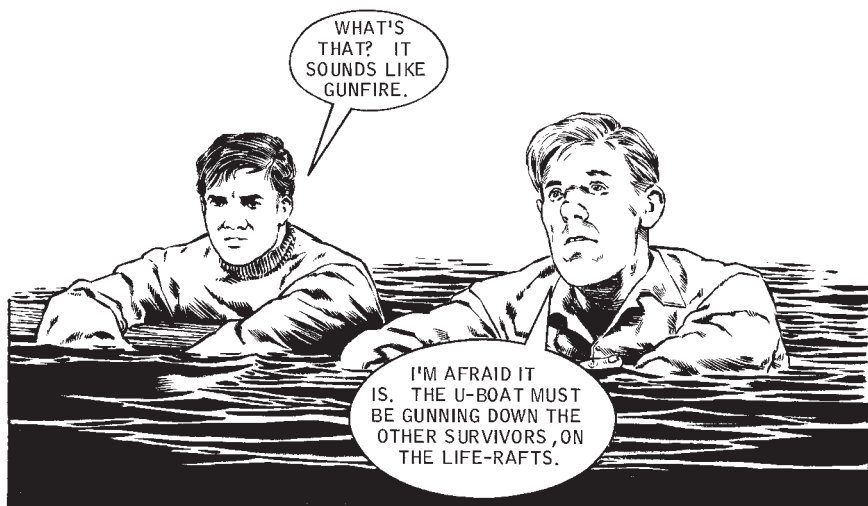
HARRY WAS TRAPPED UNDER A FALLEN BEAM. WITH A SUPERHUMAN EFFORT THE YOUNGSTER LEVERED IT FAR ENOUGH UP FOR HIM TO STRUGGLE CLEAR.



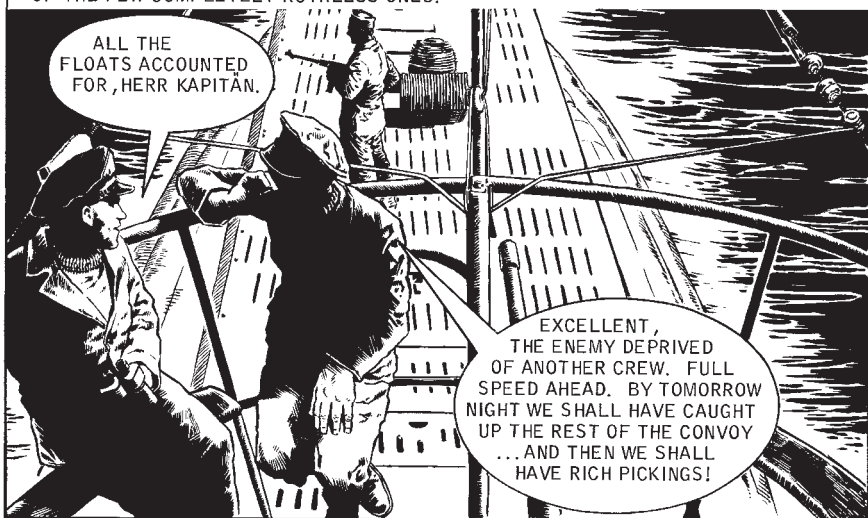
IT WAS A CLOSE CALL. ANOTHER MINUTE AND HARRY AND TOM WOULD HAVE GONE UP WITH THE GARVIN.



BUT A NEW, TERRIBLE SOUND SOON SILENCED THEM.



HARRY WAS RIGHT. MOST U-BOAT COMMANDERS WERE FINE MEN, BUT THIS WAS ONE OF THE FEW COMPLETELY RUTHLESS ONES.



THE TWO SURVIVORS REMAINED SILENT UNTIL THE THROB OF THE U-BOAT'S ENGINES HAD DIED AWAY. THEY THEN MANAGED TO SECURE A LARGER PIECE OF FLOTSAM.

LOOKS LIKE  
THAT CRAZY RESCUE  
STUNT SAVED YOURSELF  
AS WELL, OTHERWISE YOU'D  
HAVE BEEN KILLED BY  
THE GERMANS TOO.

IT'S LOUSY,  
SIR. I NEVER  
KNEW WAR WAS  
LIKE THIS.

GRIMLY THEY HUNG ON, THEIR STRENGTH EBBING AWAY BY THE HOUR.

NEXT MORNING THE PAIR WERE VERY  
WEAK.

I CAN'T  
HOLD ON!

NOTHING  
ELSE FOR IT,  
SON. WE CAN'T BE  
FAR OFF THE  
AMERICAN COAST.

TOM AND HARRY MANAGED TO HANG ON  
ALL THROUGH THAT DAY. THEN, AS THE SUN  
SANK—

LAND —  
IT'S LAND!

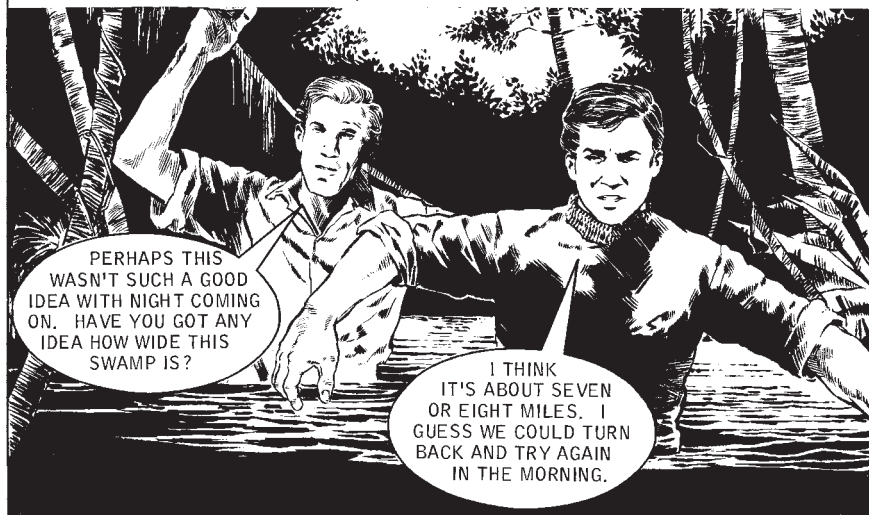
IT CERTAINLY  
IS. GET THOSE LEGS  
WORKING, TOM.



HALF AN HOUR LATER THEY REACHED DRY LAND, AND TOM GREW EXCITED.



AFTER A BRIEF HALT TOM AND HARRY STARTED OFF THROUGH THE SWAMP. BUT IT WAS NOT AS EASY AS IT SEEMED.



THE SWAMP CONTAINED ITS OWN HAZARDS THAT OUTWEIGHED TOM AND HARRY'S FATIGUE AND THE ENVELOPING DARKNESS.



THE YOUNGSTER LOST HIS BALANCE AS HE TRIED FRANTICALLY TO GET CLEAR OF THE KILLER JAWS.



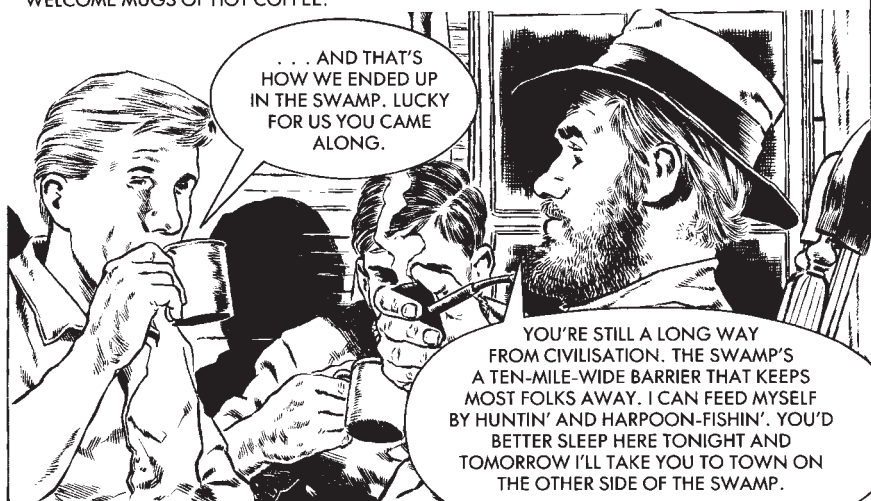
SUDDENLY A HIGH-POWERED SHOT RANG OUT ,THE BULLET SEEKING OUT THE REPTILE'S BRAIN.



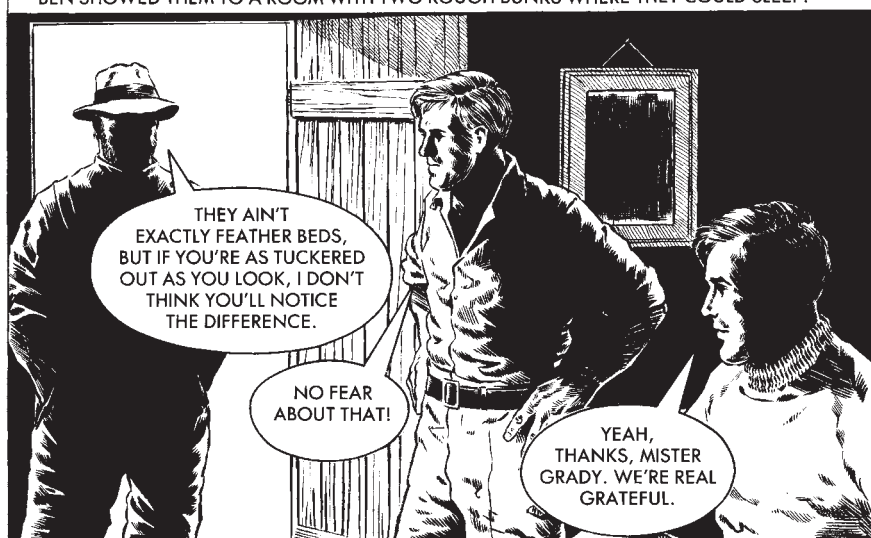
THE MYSTERY WAS SOON SOLVED AS A SHABBILY DRESSED FIGURE STEPPED INTO THE OPEN.



HARRY EXPLAINED AS THEY WENT ALONG AND THE AFFABLE OLD CHARACTER LED THEM OUT OF THE SWAMP TO HIS RAMBLING OLD HOUSE WHERE THEIR STORY WAS FINISHED OVER WELCOME MUGS OF HOT COFFEE.



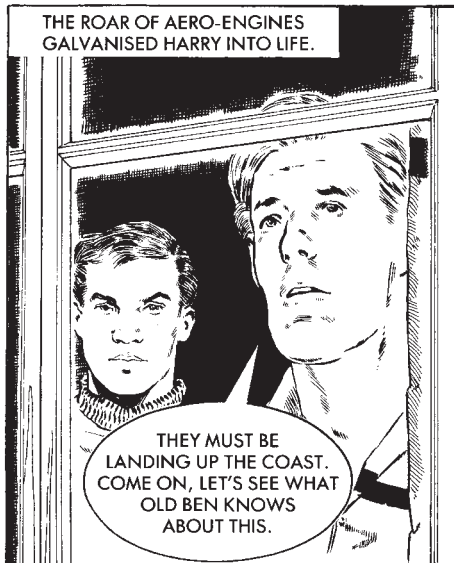
BEN SHOWED THEM TO A ROOM WITH TWO ROUGH BUNKS WHERE THEY COULD SLEEP.



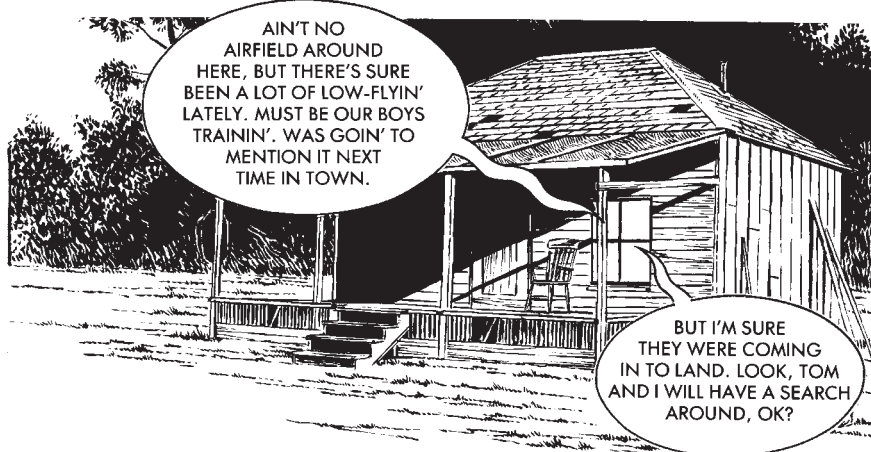
IT WAS THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WHEN HARRY WAS WOKEN ROUGHLY.



THE ROAR OF AERO-ENGINES GALVANISED HARRY INTO LIFE.



BEN HAD BEEN ROUSED TOO AND HE SEEMED QUIETLY AMUSED BY THEIR INTEREST AND IT BECAME CLEAR THAT HE PAID LITTLE ATTENTION TO ANYTHING OUTSIDE HIS OWN WORLD.



OLD BEN NODDED. HE WASN'T GOING OUT AND ABOUT AT THIS HOUR FOR ANY NOISY PLANE.

AS THEY HURRIED OUT, KEEPING TO THE FIRM SAND ON THE BEACH AS OLD BEN HAD INSTRUCTED THEM, THEY HEARD THE AIRCRAFT CIRCLING AND THEN SAW ONE -



AN AMAZING SIGHT OF ACTIVITY AROUND AIRCRAFT AND SUBMARINES MET THEM BEYOND THE LINE OF TREES.





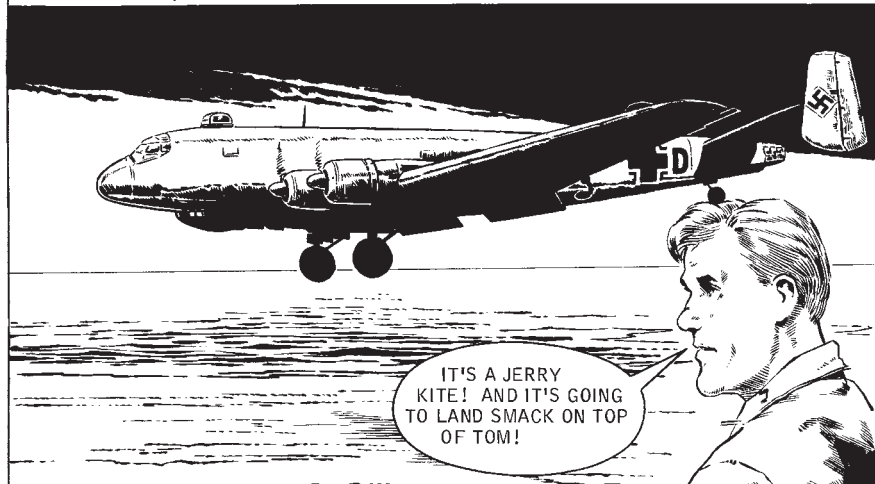
EVEN AS TOM BEGAN RUNNING ALONG THE BEACH TO ATTRACT ATTENTION, HARRY WAS FEELING THE FIRST NAGGING DOUBTS.



BUT TOM WAS ALREADY ON HIS WAY, EXCITEDLY CALLING TO THE MEN IN THE GLOOM.

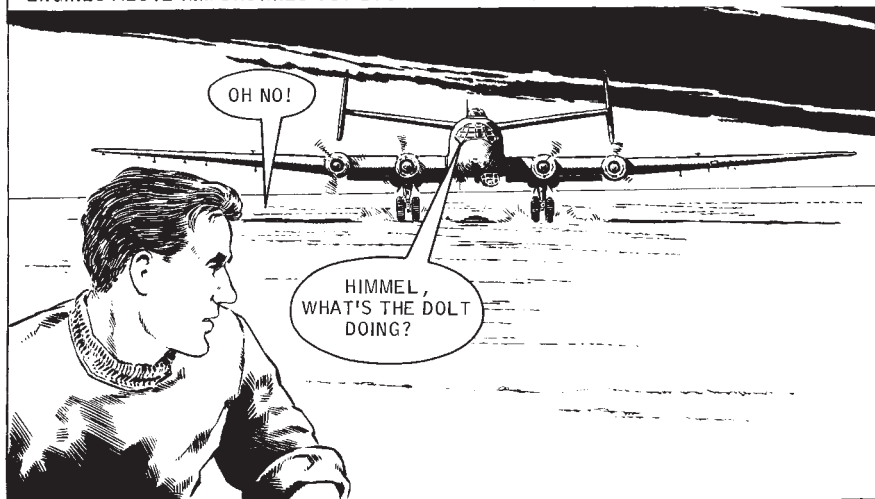


THE ROAR OF A SECOND PLANE COMING IN TO LAND DROWNED HARRY'S SHOUTS, AND AS HE LOOKED UP, HIS BLOOD FROZE.

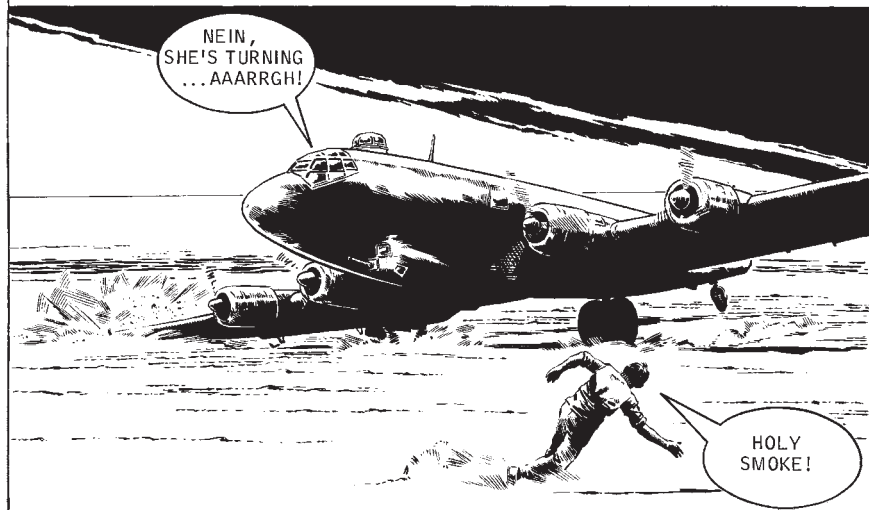


SUDDENLY IT ALL FELL INTO PLACE. THE PLANES AND SUBMARINES WERE GERMAN.

THE FEW SECONDS HARRY HAD TAKEN TO WORK IT ALL OUT HAD PUT TOM'S LIFE IN JEOPARDY. TOM REALISED WHAT WAS HAPPENING ONLY WHEN THE ROAR OF THE ENGINES ABOVE HIM DROWNED OUT EVERYTHING ELSE.



THE PILOT'S SWIFT REACTIONS SAVED TOM'S LIFE... BUT NOT HIS OWN, AS HIS MASSIVE JUNKERS 290 AIRCRAFT SWERVED OUT OF CONTROL.



TOM PICKED HIMSELF UP, STILL DAZED BY WHAT HAD HAPPENED.



AS THE YOUNGSTER BEGAN SPRINTING BACK TO HARRY, A BULLET PLOUGHED HOME.

UUUGH, MY  
SHOULDER!



QUICKLY HARRY REACHED THE STRICKEN LAD.

CAN  
YOU RUN?

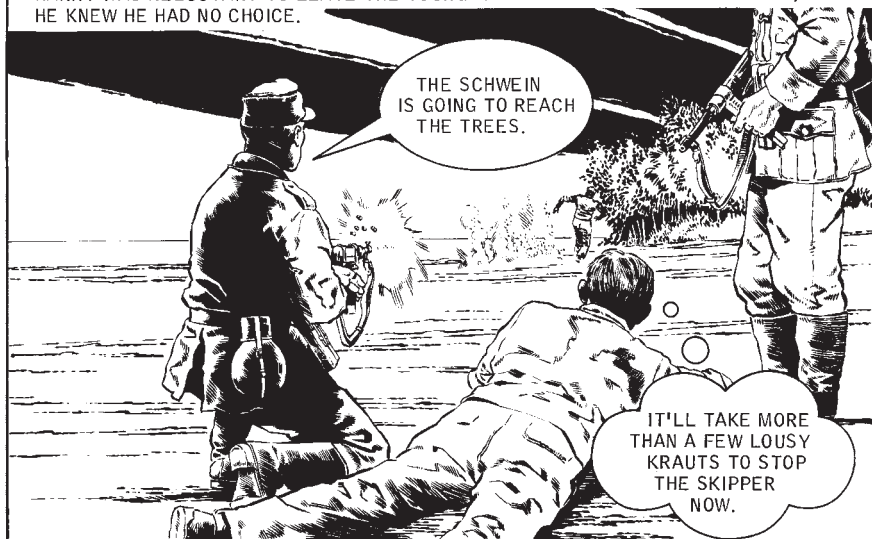
I DON'T THINK  
SO. LOOK - GET OUT  
OF HERE AND RAISE  
THE ALARM!



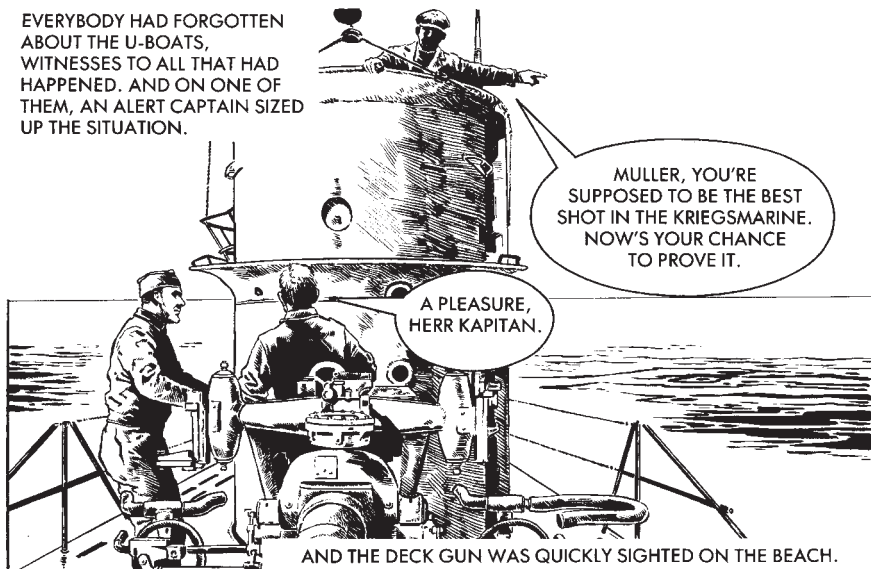
HARRY WAS RELUCTANT TO LEAVE THE YOUNGSTER TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, BUT HE KNEW HE HAD NO CHOICE.

THE SCHWEIN  
IS GOING TO REACH  
THE TREES.

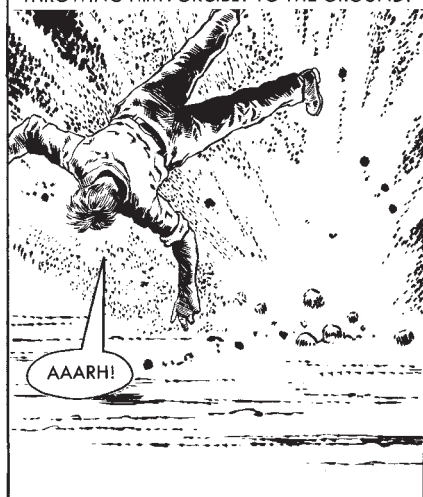
IT'LL TAKE MORE  
THAN A FEW LOUSY  
KRAUTS TO STOP  
THE SKIPPER  
NOW.



EVERYBODY HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE U-BOATS, WITNESSES TO ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED. AND ON ONE OF THEM, AN ALERT CAPTAIN SIZED UP THE SITUATION.



HARRY WAS JUST SHORT OF HIS GOAL WHEN THE SHELL FROM THE DECK GUN EXPLODED, THROWING HIM FORCIBLY TO THE GROUND.



HE CAME TO TO FIND TWO BURLY GERMAN SAILORS STANDING OVER HIM.



HARRY AND TOM WERE TAKEN TO THE WAITING PLANES, TO BE MET BY THE MAN IN CHARGE OF THIS STRANGE MISSION - THE COLD-FACED OBERST HALLSTEIN, WHO SPOKE PERFECT ENGLISH.

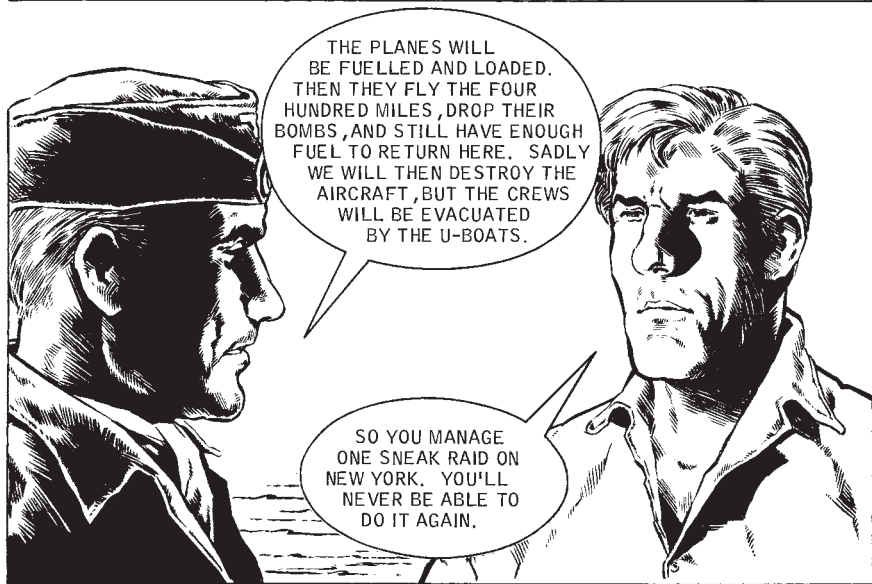
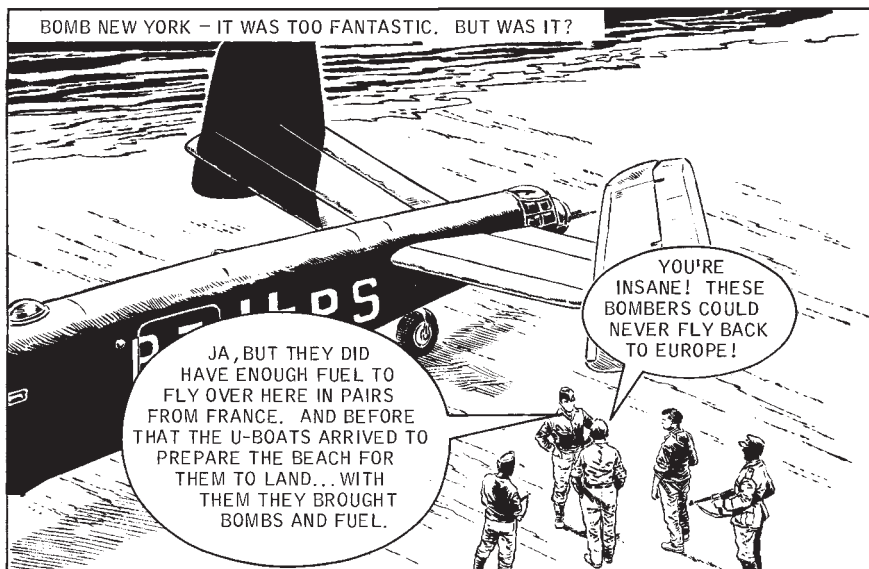


HARRY THOUGHT FAST. HIS CLOTHES NO LONGER RESEMBLED MERCHANT NAVY UNIFORM. HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO OLD BEN GRADY, BUT HE DARED NOT MENTION HIS EXISTENCE.





BOMB NEW YORK - IT WAS TOO FANTASTIC. BUT WAS IT?



THE NAZI LAUGHED AND HIS WORDS TOOK ON AN EVEN MORE SINISTER NOTE.

A SECOND TIME  
WILL NOT BE NECESSARY.  
THE INCENDIARY BOMBS WILL  
SET THE SKYSCRAPERS ALIGHT  
—NOT ONE BUT MANY. A FIRESTORM  
WOULD RESULT WITH THOUSANDS,  
PERHAPS MILLIONS, OF PEOPLE  
KILLED IN THE HOLOCAUST.  
AMERICA WILL AT LAST  
BEAR THE FULL BRUNT  
OF WAR.

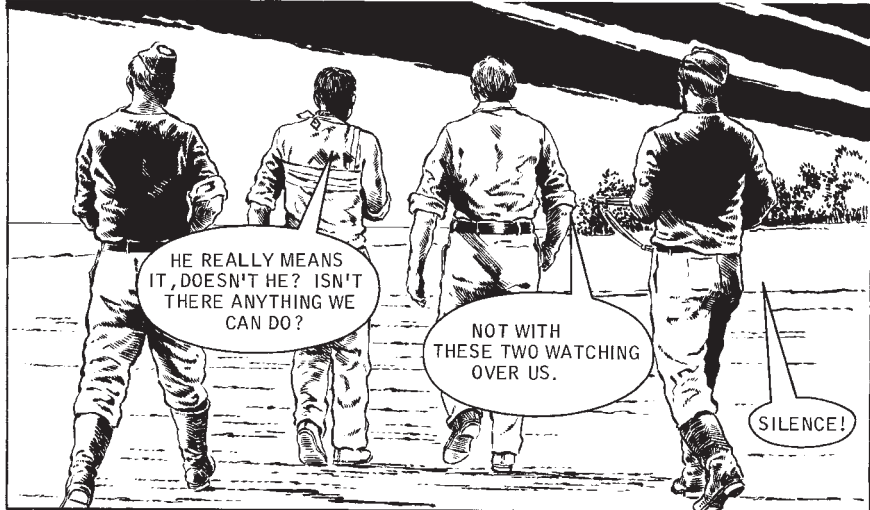


FINISHING HIS TIRADE, HALLSTEIN ORDERED THAT THE PAIR BE TAKEN BACK TO THE HOUSE, WHILE THE BOMBERS WERE ARMED AND REFUELLED.

HE REALLY MEANS  
IT, DOESN'T HE? ISN'T  
THERE ANYTHING WE  
CAN DO?

NOT WITH  
THESE TWO WATCHING  
OVER US.

SILENCE!



TOM AND HARRY REACHED BEN'S HOUSE WITHOUT THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ESCAPE PRESENTING ITSELF. WHEN THEY GOT THERE THOUGH, THEY WERE SURPRISED TO FIND THE HOUSE DESERTED.



SUDDENLY DEATH STRUCK DOWN ONE OF THE GUARDS, BRUTALLY AND SILENTLY, AS A FISHING SPEAR LODGED IN HIS BACK.



THE OTHER GUARD REACTED INSTANTLY, BUT BEFORE HE COULD OPEN FIRE HE MET A SIMILAR FATE.



SECONDS LATER A WELCOME FIGURE APPEARED AT THE DOOR, CARRYING THE FISHING SPEAR-GUN THAT HAD SPILT DEATH FOR THE GUARDS.



THEY DID AS THEY WERE BID, SNATCHING UP THE DEAD GUARDS' SCHMEISSERS AS THEY PASSED.

THEY WERE SCARCELY OUT OF THE HOUSE WHEN ANOTHER TWO GERMANS APPEARED. OLD BEN HOOTED SOFTLY LIKE AN OWL.



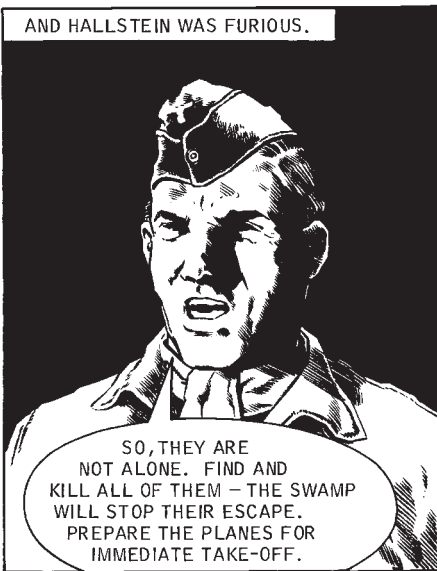
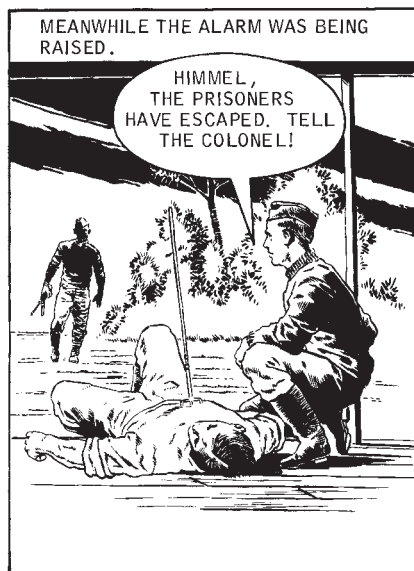
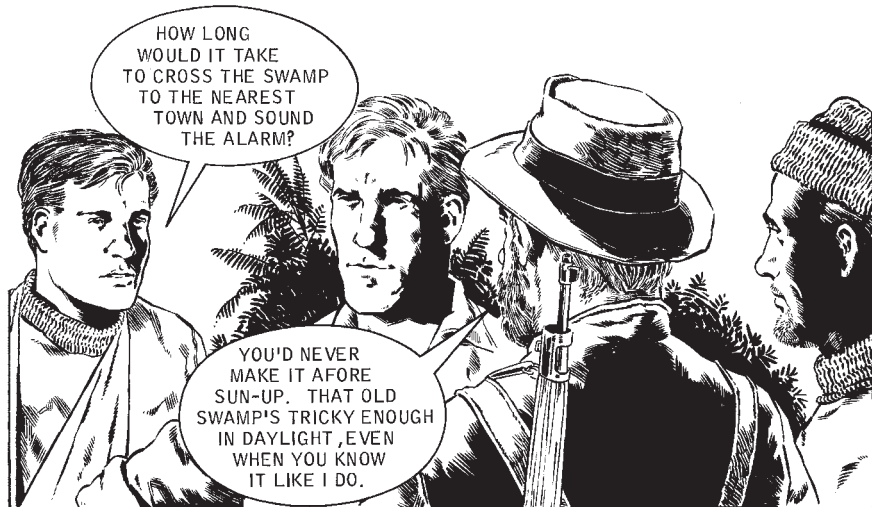
WITHIN MINUTES TWO MORE FISHING SPEARS FLEW GRACEFULLY AT GERMAN TARGETS.



THEY MET BEN'S FRIENDS AT THE EDGE OF THE SWAMP AND HE INTRODUCED THEM AS SAM AND HANK.

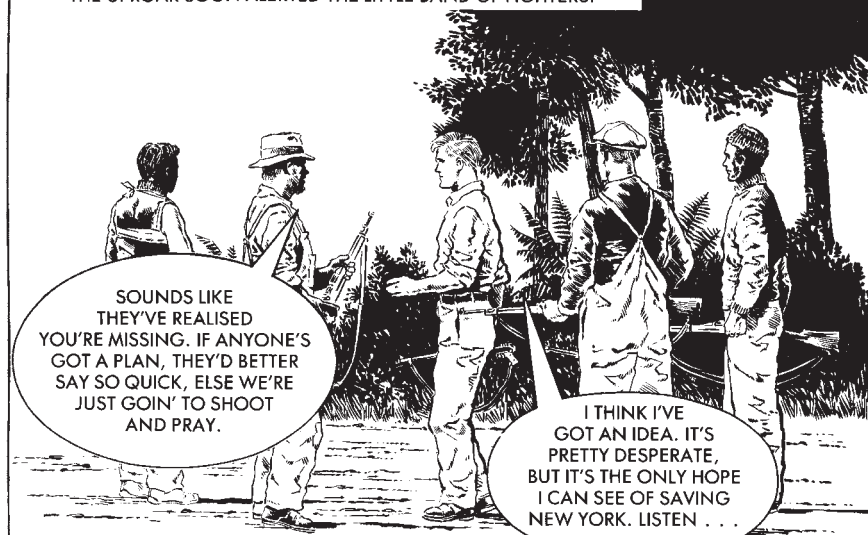


HARRY EXPLAINED WHAT THE GERMANS WERE GOING TO DO, AND THEY ALL RACKED THEIR BRAINS FOR A WAY TO STOP THE NAZIS.





THE UPROAR SOON ALERTED THE LITTLE BAND OF FIGHTERS.



MINUTES LATER THE GERMANS BURST INTO THE NOW DESERTED CLEARING, AND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY ONE FELL VICTIM TO A HIGH-VELOCITY RIFLE BARKING FROM THE SURROUNDING GLOOM.



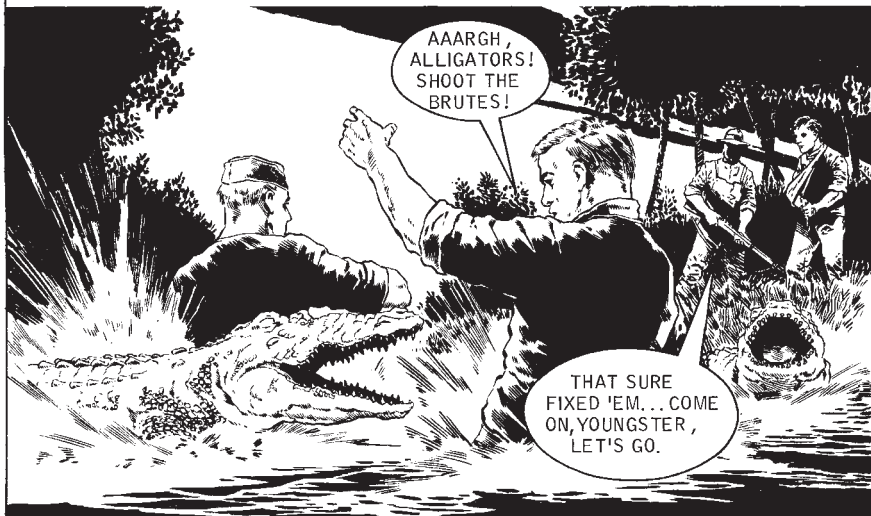
BUT THE GERMANS FORGOT ABOUT THE SWAMP IN THEIR EAGERNESS TO AVENGE THEIR DEAD COMRADE.



NOT FAR AWAY ANOTHER GROUP OF GERMANS WERE IN TROUBLE.



THE GERMANS THOUGHT THEY HAD CORNERED A COUPLE OF VICTIMS ,BUT THEY WERE IN FOR A NASTY SHOCK.



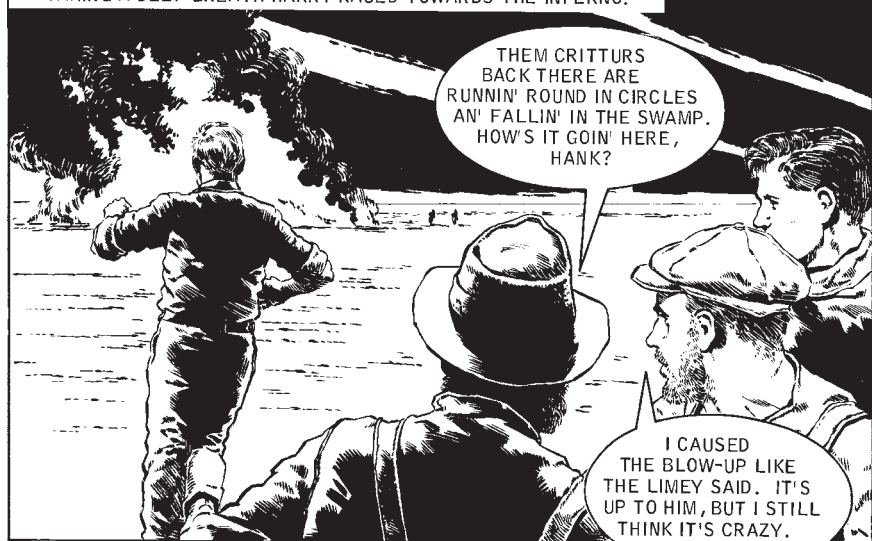
MEANWHILE AT THE BEACH-CUM-AIRSTrip THE AIRCREW KITTED THEMSELVES OUT , OBSERVED BY HARRY AND HANK.



HANK'S BOAST WAS NOT AN IDLE ONE. ONE PERFECTLY PLACED BULLET LIT UP THE WHOLE SCENE IN A LURID LIGHT.



TAKING A DEEP BREATH HARRY RACED TOWARDS THE INFERNO.



BUT HARRY WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE IT. HE SOON FOUND A SUITABLE VICTIM FOR THE NEXT PART OF HIS PLAN, AND HE KNOCKED THE AIRCREW MAN COLD.



HE WAS NEARLY READY WHEN...

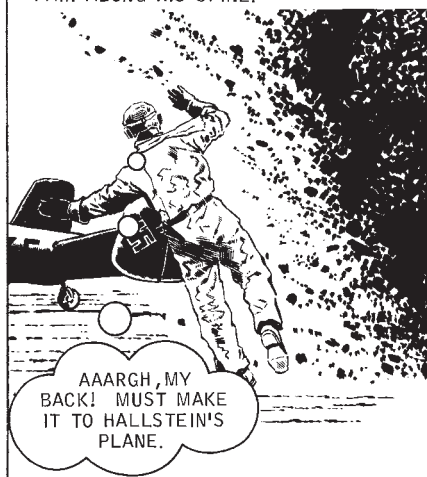


THE SHOT WENT UNNOTICED IN ALL THE MAYHEM AND SWIFTLY HARRY PULLED ON THE REST OF THE GERMAN'S KIT.

FOR A TERRIBLE MOMENT HARRY THOUGHT HE'D LOST TRACK OF HALLSTEIN, BUT HE FINALLY SPOTTED HIM, CLAMBERING ON BOARD THE LEADING PLANE.



BUT THEN ANOTHER BOMB EXPLODED BELATEDLY AND HARRY WAS THROWN TO THE GROUND WITH A STABBING PAIN ALONG HIS SPINE.

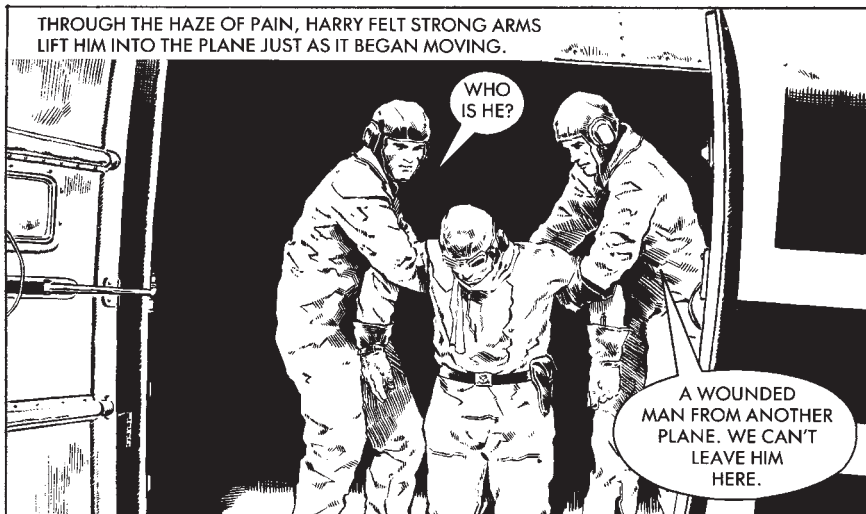


IN BLINDING AGONY, HE SOMEHOW GOT CLOSE TO THE PLANE, BUT THE EFFORT WAS TOO MUCH.





THROUGH THE HAZE OF PAIN, HARRY FELT STRONG ARMS LIFT HIM INTO THE PLANE JUST AS IT BEGAN MOVING.



IRONICALLY THE GERMAN UNIFORM HAD FOOLED THESE MEN INTO HELPING ABOARD THE MAN WHO POSED THE GREATEST THREAT TO THEIR MISSION.

HALLSTEIN SAW WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND GAVE SOME RAPID INSTRUCTIONS.



THE OTHERS WATCHED ANXIOUSLY AS THE SURVIVING PLANES TOOK OFF. THERE WERE STILL ENOUGH TO CARRY OUT THE DEADLY MISSION.



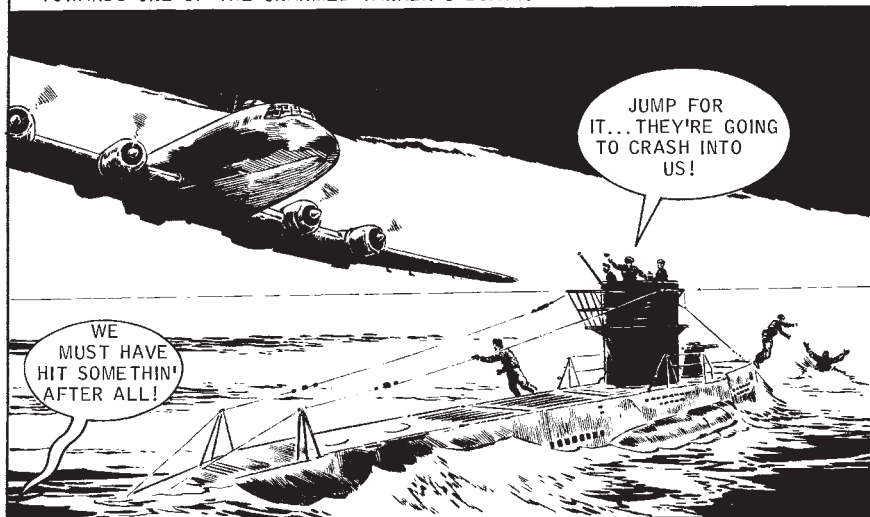
THE FOUR AMERICANS TOOK CAREFUL AIM AND PUMPED LEAD INTO THE LAST PLANE AS IT LIFTED OFF, BUT...



BUT ONE OF THE SHOTS HAD FOUND A TARGET — THE PLANE'S PILOT.



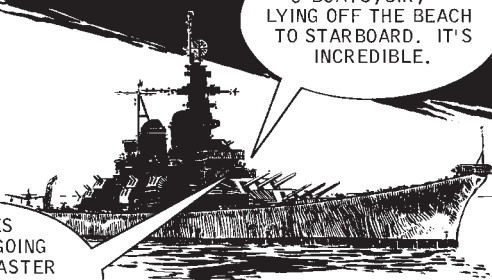
AS IF IN SLOW MOTION, THE BIG BOMBER BANKED STEEPLY AND HEADED STRAIGHT TOWARDS ONE OF THE UNARMED TANKER U-BOATS.



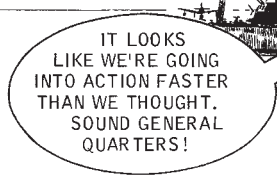
EVEN AS THE PLANE CRASHED INTO THE U-BOAT, TROUBLE APPEARED NEAR THE LUCKY MARKSMEN.



UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE GERMANS A NEW U.S. BATTLESHIP ON HER TRIALS WAS PASSING THE BEACH, A FEW MILES OUT TO SEA. SHE WAS KEEPING TO THE COAST AS U-BOATS WERE WREAKING HAVOC IN THE MAIN SHIPPING LANES FURTHER OUT.




THREE  
U-BOATS, SIR,  
LYING OFF THE BEACH  
TO STARBOARD. IT'S  
INCREDIBLE.



IT LOOKS  
LIKE WE'RE GOING  
INTO ACTION FASTER  
THAN WE THOUGHT.  
SOUND GENERAL  
QUARTERS!

AND SECONDS LATER, NINE SIXTEEN-INCH GUNS ROARED IN THE NIGHT.

THE POWERFUL GUNS DID NOT TAKE LONG TO FIND THE RANGE OF THE U-BOATS, TRAPPED HELPLESSLY BETWEEN THEIR ANTAGONIST AND THE SHORE.



NEIN,  
THIS CANNOT BE  
HAPPENING!

AND ON THE EDGE OF THE SWAMP, THE FOUR-MAN PRIVATE ARMY WERE SUDDENLY AWARE THE ATTACKING GERMANS WEREN'T SO KEEN ON THE FIGHT.



WITH THEIR MEANS OF ESCAPE SMASHED AND A HOSTILE SWAMP BARRING ANY OTHER MOVE, THE GERMANS THREW DOWN THEIR ARMS.



MEANWHILE THE BOMBERS HAD FLOWN OUT TO SEA BEFORE TURNING NORTH TO THEIR TARGET. HALLSTEIN WAS SATISFIED AND IT LOOKED AS IF HE'D ACCOMPLISH HIS IMPOSSIBLE DREAM.

WE  
SHALL REACH  
NEW YORK IN AN  
HOUR. YOU CAN HELP  
THAT WOUNDED  
MAN NOW.

AT ONCE,  
HERR OBERST.

THE CREWMAN NEVER DREAMT FOR A MOMENT THAT THE PRONE FIGURE IN THE REAR OF THE PLANE WAS BRITISH.

I'LL SOON  
HAVE YOU ON  
YOUR FEET.

HARRY EXPLODED INTO VIOLENT ACTION.

UUUGH!

I THINK  
YOU'LL BE NEEDING  
THAT FIRST-AID BOX  
MORE THAN I DO.

SWIFTLY HARRY, FULLY RECOVERED, WENT ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF REDUCING THE OPPOSITION ONE BY ONE WHILE HALLSTEIN THOUGHT OF HIS RETURN TO THE FATHERLAND FETED AS A HERO.

THAT  
EVEN'S UP  
THE ODDS A  
BIT.



NOBODY WAS EXPECTING TROUBLE FROM INSIDE THE BOMBER AND THAT MADE THE TASK A LOT EASIER.

AND SUDDENLY HALLSTEIN'S DREAMS OF GLORY WERE RUDELY INTERRUPTED WHEN HARRY CLOSED IN ON HIM - THE LAST MAN CONSCIOUS ON THE PLANE.

MEIN GOTT,  
WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING? HAVE YOU  
GONE MAD?





HARRY WHIPPED OFF HALLSTEIN'S RADIO MIKE IN CASE HE WARNED THE OTHER PLANES, AND BEGAN TO QUESTION THE NAZI.

YOU —  
FROM THE  
BEACH.

RIGHT  
FIRST TIME, COLONEL.  
NOW TELL ME WHAT THE PRE-  
ARRANGED SIGNAL IS TO CALL  
OFF THIS MISSION, OR I'LL  
BLOW YOUR BRAINS  
OUT.

THE NAZI COLONEL REPLIED HAUGHTILY.

I SHALL  
NOT TELL YOU,  
ENGLANDER. SHOOT ME,  
AND THERE WILL BE NO ONE  
LEFT TO PILOT THIS  
AIRCRAFT.

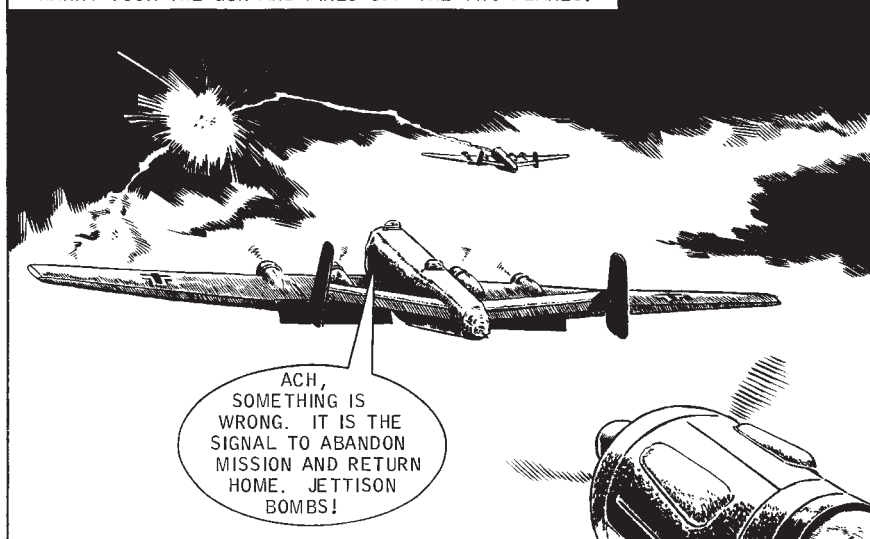
I COULDN'T  
CARE LESS. YOU'VE  
GOT TEN SECONDS TO TELL ME  
WHAT THAT SIGNAL IS BEFORE I  
SQUEEZE THIS TRIGGER. AFTER  
THAT I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES.  
TEN SECONDS, NINE,  
EIGHT...



HALLSTEIN WAS A GOOD JUDGE OF MEN. HE KNEW WHEN PEOPLE WERE BLUFFING AND HE HAD NOT THE SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT HARRY WOULD PULL THE TRIGGER.



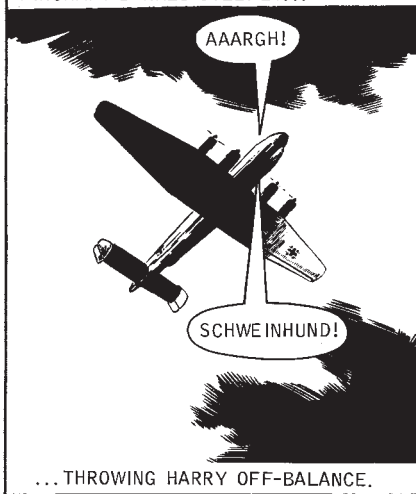
HARRY TOOK THE GUN AND FIRED OFF THE TWO FLARES.



THE SIGNAL WAS CORRECT, BUT HARRY WAS TOO ABSORBED TO NOTICE A THREAT MUCH CLOSER TO HIM.




HALLSTEIN ACTED FAST AND BRUTALLY. HE TWISTED THE CONTROLS, AND THE AIRCRAFT BANKED STEEPLY...



HE CRASHED DOWN, BADLY DAZED...




BUT BEFORE HALLSTEIN COULD ACT, SUDDENLY THE VIEW AHEAD OF NEW YORK ABLAZE WITH LIGHT DROVE EVERY THOUGHT FROM HIM - EXCEPT ONE.



NEW YORK -  
I MUST RELEASE THE  
BOMBS! THAT FOOL  
CANNOT STOP ME  
NOW...

AS THE LIGHTS FROM BELOW MADE THE CABIN AS LIGHT AS DAY, HALLSTEIN TURNED TO FACE HARRY.

FIGHTING BACK THE WAVES OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS, HARRY LIFTED UP HIS LUGER AND AIMED -



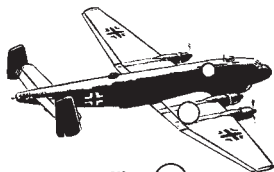
NEIN,  
NEIN... UUUGH!

SO HALLSTEIN DIED, OBSESSED WITH COMPLETING HIS MAD MISSION.

HARRY'S FIRST FEELING OF RELIEF TURNED TO HORROR AS HE REALISED THAT HE WAS IMPRISONED IN A PLANE PACKED WITH HIGH EXPLOSIVE BOMBS – AND NO PILOT TO FLY IT.



HE HAD NO HOPE OF BRINGING IT UNDER CONTROL, BUT HE DID MANAGE TO LEVEL THE AIRCRAFT OUT.



THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO ABOUT THE REST OF THE CREW...



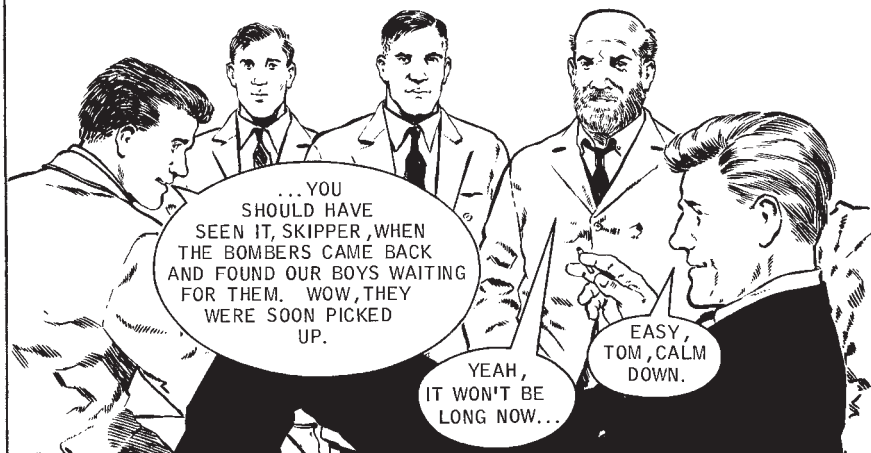
...BUT IT WAS THEIR LIVES WEIGHED AGAINST THOUSANDS OF NEW YORK CIVILIANS.

SECONDS LATER HARRY WAS FLOATING SLOWLY DOWN THROUGH THE COOL NIGHT AIR AS THE JUNKERS SMASHED TO PIECES IN ONE OF THE MANY RUGGED VALLEYS IN THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS.



HE WAS PICKED UP WITHIN AN HOUR OF LANDING AND WHISKED OFF TO TELL AND RETELL HIS FANTASTIC STORY.

ONCE IT WAS ALL SORTED OUT, HARRY WAS RE-UNITED WITH TOM AND THE THREE TOUGH SWAMP-RATS WHO HAD PROVED SUCH A GREAT HELP.



FOR ALL FIVE WERE DUE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE PERSONALLY WANTED TO THANK THEM FOR ALL THEY HAD DONE.

AND WITHIN THE MONTH HARRY WAS AT SEA ON A NEW SHIP AS CAPTAIN. HE'D PULLED A FEW STRINGS AND TOM WAS THERE TOO - EAGER AND HARD-WORKING AS EVER.



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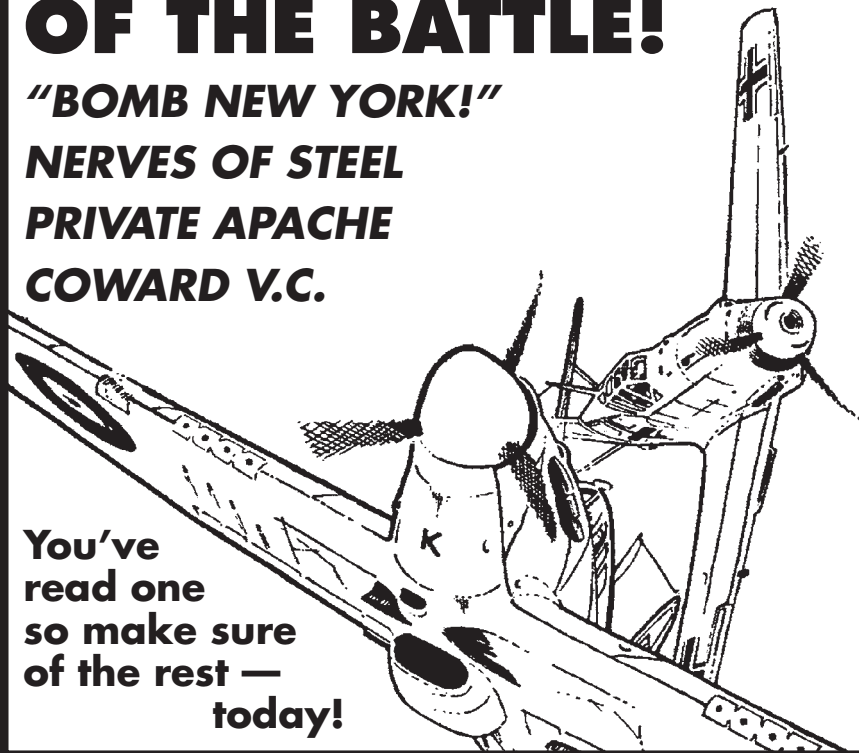
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