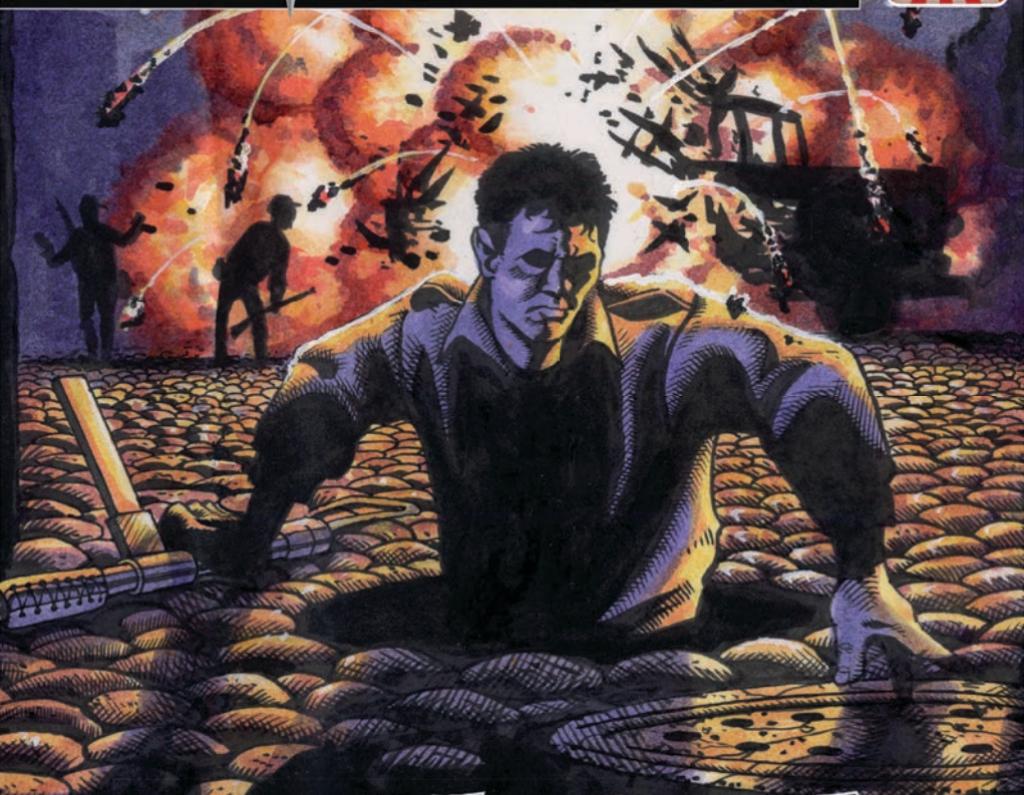


No.5046

COMPLETE 63-PAGE ACTION STORY

Commando

THE SILVER COLLECTION



SEWER RAT

Commando

THE SILVER COLLECTION

Title

SEWER RAT

Subject

Private Thomas Henshaw was an untidy soldier, but a soldier nonetheless! Picked on because of his unkempt appearance, he was forced into refuse collection - but he hadn't joined up to become a dustbin man! To achieve his full potential, Thomas had to go deep underground... and into the sewers. This pungent tale is depicted well by Keith Shone in his composition and dark shading - giving this Commando an interesting bouquet!

The Commando Team.

Issue Number

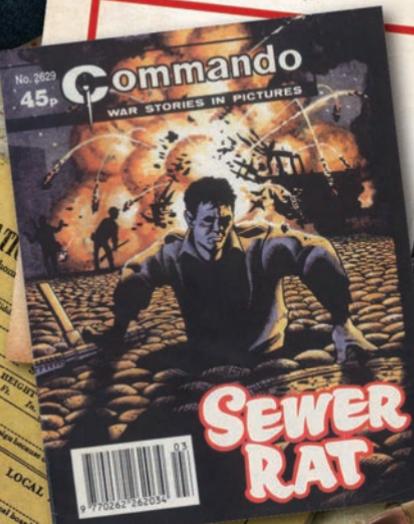
Sewer Rat. Originally Commando No. 2629
(January 1993).

STORY
MIKE
KNOWLES

ART
KEITH SHONE

COVER
ALAN
BURROWS

First Published
1993
No. 2629



SEWER RAT

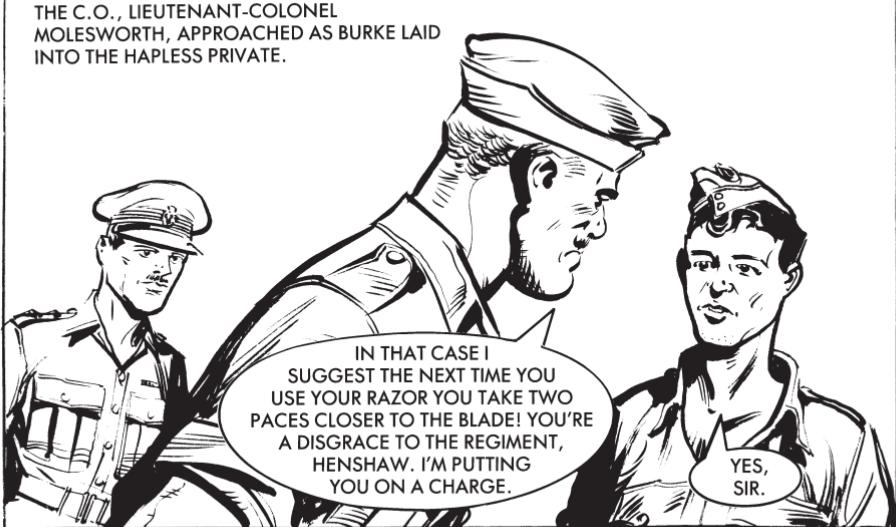


THE FAR EAST, 1942. FROM THE TOP OF HIS CAP TO THE TOES OF HIS GLEAMING SIZE TWELVE BOOTS, REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR HORACE BURKE WAS EVERY INCH A PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER. NOW HIS BEADY EYE HAD SPOTTED A BLOT ON THE LANDSCAPE.

THOMAS HENSHAW WAS AN R.S.M.'S NIGHTMARE, AN UNTIDY SOLDIER WHO PUT ON THE KING'S UNIFORM AND STILL MANAGED TO END UP LOOKING LIKE A TRAMP.



THE C.O., LIEUTENANT-COLONEL MOLESWORTH, APPROACHED AS BURKE LAID INTO THE HAPLESS PRIVATE.



THE TWO MEN WATCHED TOM WITH A MIXTURE OF ANGER AND FRUSTRATION.

PUTTING
THE CHAP ON A FIZZER
DOESN'T SEEM TO WORK,
SERGEANT-MAJOR. HE'S DONE
MORE JANKERS THAN ALL
THE OTHER SQUADDIES
PUT TOGETHER AND HE'S
STILL A MESS!

SO WHAT
DO YOU SUGGEST,
SIR?

MOLESWORTH GRINNED.

ACTUALLY,
I THINK I'VE
FOUND THE PERFECT
SOLUTION...

THE R.S.M. HAD SOME IDEAS OF HIS OWN
ABOUT WHAT TO DO WITH TOM.

A BIT OF ACTIVE
SERVICE WOULD SMARTEN
HIM UP. I JUST WISH
THE JAPANESE WOULD INVADE
SO WE CAN GET ON WITH SOME
REAL SOLDIERING.

TWO HUNDRED MILES AWAY, IN A JUNGLE CLEARING,
BURKE'S WISH WAS ABOUT TO BE GRANTED.

WHAT NEWS
FROM TOKYO,
SIR?

THE BLOSSOM IS
FALLING FROM THE TREES
AND THE EMPEROR GROWS
IMPATIENT. HE ASKS FOR A SWIFT
VICTORY OVER THE BRITISH
AND AMERICANS.

GENERAL NAGASHU OSUKI WAS IN
COMMAND OF THE DIVISION WHICH
HAD BEEN ORDERED TO CAPTURE THE
CITY WHERE TOM'S REGIMENT WAS
STATIONED.

THE MAIN
PROBLEM WILL BE THE
R.A.F. — THEY HAVE
A BASE HERE.

THEN WE MUST
ORDER OUR AIR FORCE
TO PUT IT OUT OF ACTION
BEFORE WE LAUNCH THE
GROUND ATTACK.

THE NEXT DAY, TOM WAS SUMMONED TO APPEAR IN FRONT OF THE R.S.M.

I'VE GOT SOME GOOD NEWS FOR YOU, HENSHAW. YOU'VE JUST BEEN PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF ACTING LANCE-CORPORAL.

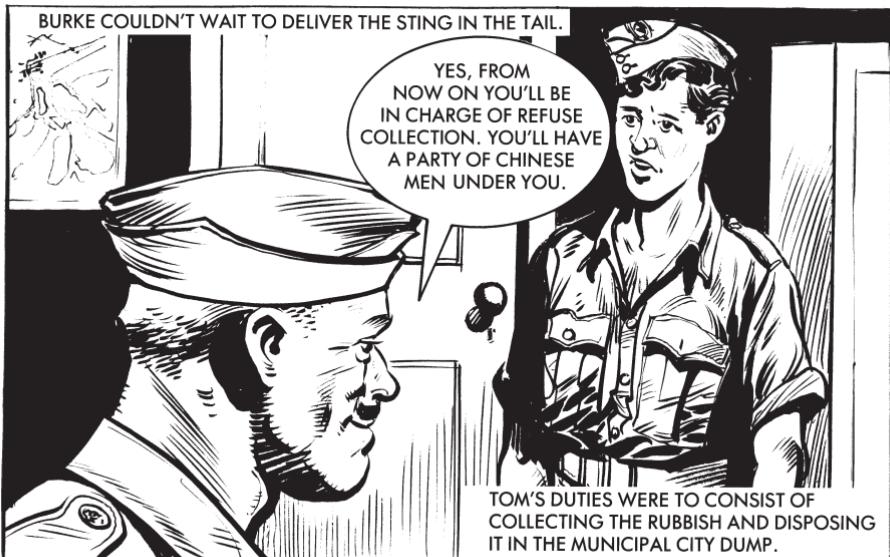
I HAVE, SIR?



BURKE COULDN'T WAIT TO DELIVER THE STING IN THE TAIL.

YES, FROM NOW ON YOU'LL BE IN CHARGE OF REFUSE COLLECTION. YOU'LL HAVE A PARTY OF CHINESE MEN UNDER YOU.

TOM'S DUTIES WERE TO CONSIST OF COLLECTING THE RUBBISH AND DISPOSING IT IN THE MUNICIPAL CITY DUMP.



AND WHEN HE DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS NOT ONLY AN ACTING BUT UNPAID LANCE-CORPORAL, TOM DIDN'T FEEL MUCH LIKE CELEBRATING.



I DIDN'T
JOIN THE ARMY
TO BECOME A
DUSTMAN!

OLD BURKE'S
HAD IT IN FOR YOU
EVER SINCE YOU JOINED UP.
BUT IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT.
YOU WANT TO SMARTEN
YOURSELF UP A BIT.

TOM WAS USED TO HAVING HIS SUPERIORS PICK
ON HIS SARTORIAL STYLE, BUT HE OBJECTED TO HIS
MATES JOINING IN AS WELL.

LEAVE
OFF, FRED! YOU
KNOW I'M HOPELESS
WHEN IT COMES TO
USING AN IRON.

JUST TRYING
TO GIVE YOU SOME
ADVICE, CHUM.

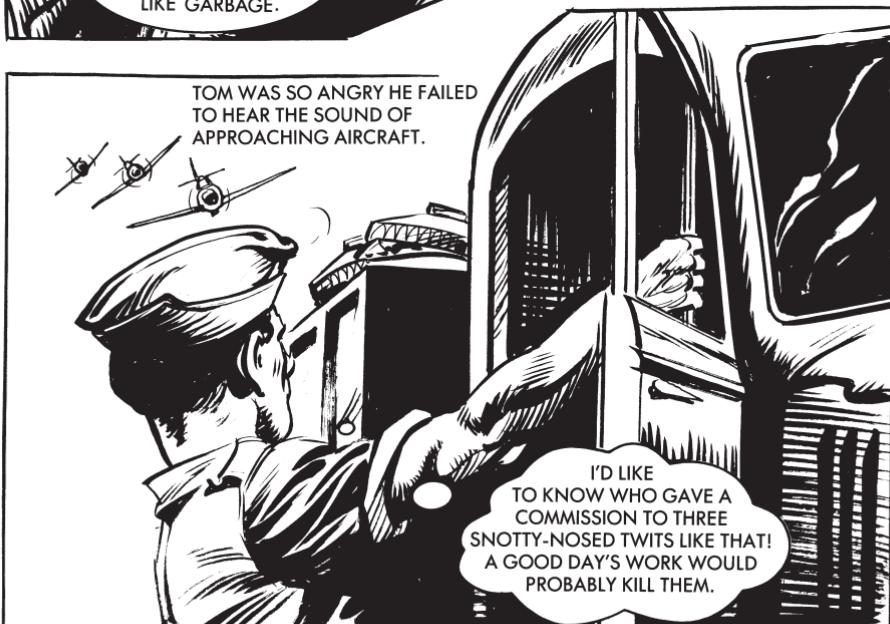


FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, TOM AND HIS CREW COLLECTED THE DUSTBINS FROM THE CAMP. THE NAUSEATING SMELL WASN'T THE ONLY PROBLEM.



JUST THEN TOM HEARD A SHRILL VOICE.





BUT IT WASN'T HARD WORK THAT KILLED THEM — IT WAS THE TWIN 20mm CANNON OF A MITSUBISHI ZERO FIGHTER.



TOM LEAPED OUT OF THE CAB, MOMENTS BEFORE THE JAPANESE SHELLS TORE INTO ITS FUEL TANK.



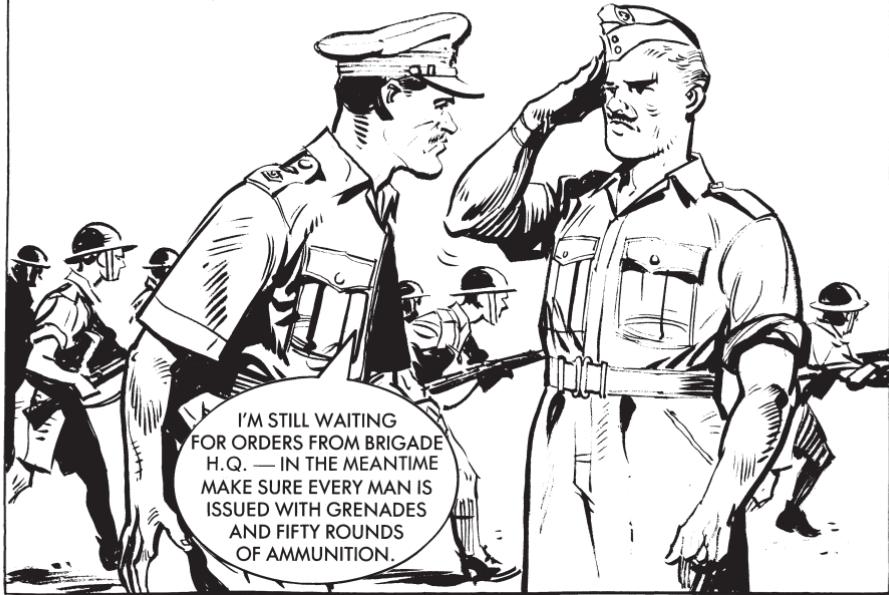
AS TOM RAN TO FIND
SOME COVER HE SPOTTED
A MOTORBIKE PARKED
IN AN ALLEY.



TOM JUMPED ON THE BIKE AND SET OFF
BACK TO CAMP. ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE
CITY HE COULD SEE THAT THE AIRFIELD
WAS UNDER HEAVY ATTACK.



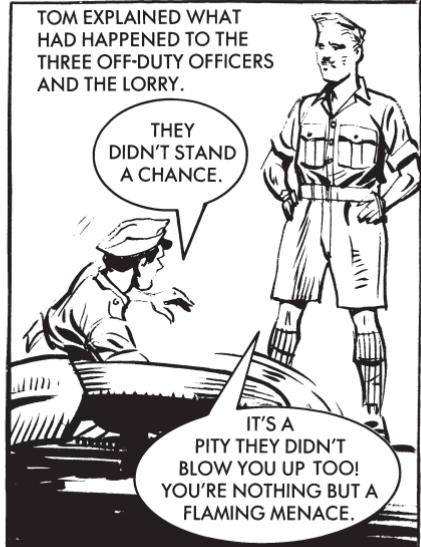
BACK AT THE CAMP, BURKE WAS EAGER TO GET INTO ACTION.



AS THE R.S.M. MADE HIS WAY TO THE
ARMOURY HE WAS ALMOST KNOCKED
DOWN BY TOM.



TOM EXPLAINED WHAT
HAD HAPPENED TO THE
THREE OFF-DUTY OFFICERS
AND THE LORRY.



THE R.S.M.'S VOICE DRIPPED WITH SARCASM AS HE HURRIED OFF.

I'M
READY TO FIGHT,
SIR!

DON'T MAKE ME
LAUGH! WHAT ARE YOU GOING
TO DO — THROW RUBBISH AT THEM?
REPORT TO THE KITCHEN AND
LEAVE US REAL SOLDIERS
TO GET ON WITH
THE WAR.

LATER THAT DAY, MOLESWORTH RECEIVED A
MESSAGE FROM BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS.

GENTLEMEN,
INTELLIGENCE REPORTS
INDICATE THAT THE JAPANESE ARE
PREPARING TO LAUNCH A MASSIVE
ATTACK. OUR REGIMENT HAS BEEN
PLACED IN RESERVE. WE
MUST BE READY TO MOVE AT
A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

MEANWHILE, TOM WAS SLAVING IN THE CAMP KITCHEN.

HEY,
IF I WAS YOU,
MATE, I'D WEAR SOME
RUBBER GLOVES!

HA!-HA!
VERY FUNNY!



AS TOM SCRAPED THE FAT AND GREASE FROM THE PANS HE REFLECTED ON HIS FATE.

AFTER THE WAR
I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL
'EM THAT I WAS WASHING UP
WHILE MY MATES FOUGHT
THE ENEMY!



AT DAWN THE NEXT DAY, GENERAL OSUKI'S DIVISION OF THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY LAUNCHED A MASSIVE LAND ASSAULT.

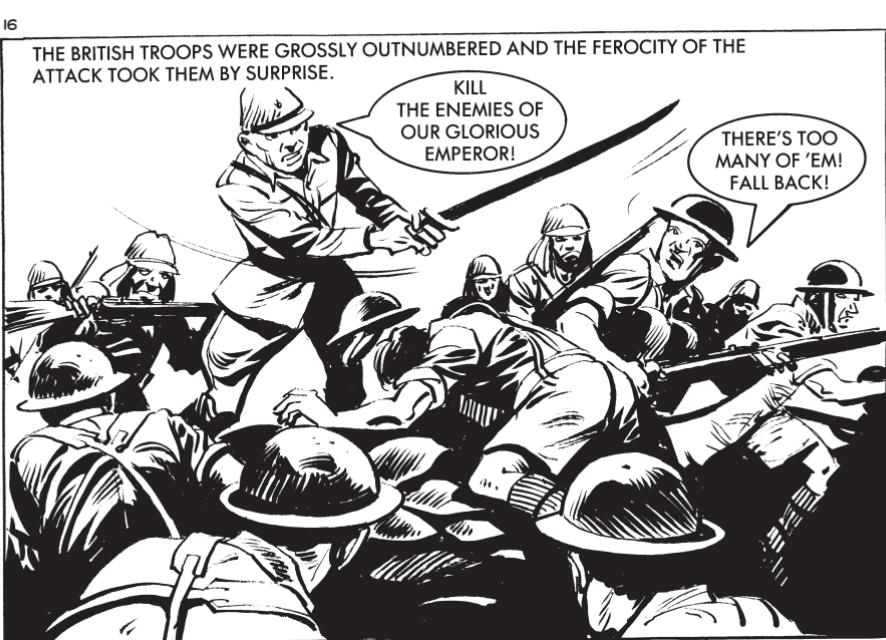
BANZAI!!



THE BRITISH TROOPS WERE GROSSLY OUTNUMBERED AND THE FEROCITY OF THE ATTACK TOOK THEM BY SURPRISE.

KILL
THE ENEMIES OF
OUR GLORIOUS
EMPEROR!

THERE'S TOO
MANY OF 'EM!
FALL BACK!



NEWS OF THE FIGHTING SOON REACHED TOM IN THE KITCHEN.

WHERE DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE GOING,
HENSHAW?

I'M GOING
TO GRAB A RIFLE
AND REPORT TO MY
SECTION!



THE SERGEANT-MAJOR'S BEADY EYES SPOTTED TOM AS HE COLLECTED HIS LEE ENFIELD FROM THE ARMOURY AND MADE HIS WAY OVER TO JOIN HIS COMPANY.



AS TOM AND BURKE SQUARED UP TO EACH OTHER IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT NEITHER WAS WILLING TO BUDGE.



IT WAS THE FIRST TIME TOM HAD EVER DISOBeyed AN ORDER AND THE OUTCOME WAS INEVITABLE.



AS THE CELL DOOR SLAMMED BEHIND HIM, TOM LAY DOWN ON THE HARD WOODEN BENCH. HE NO LONGER CARED WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.



BUT IF TOM WAS IN TROUBLE, THEN SO WAS THE BRITISH ARMY.



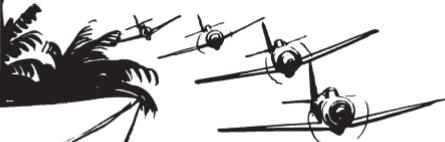
THE REGIMENT WAS SOON MOVING TO THE FRONT IN FORCE, BUT IN ALL THE CONFUSION IT SEEMED THEY HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT TOM.



TOM SPOKE TO THE MILITARY POLICEMAN GUARDING HIM, WHO SEEMED NERVOUS AND UNSURE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON.



HALF AN HOUR LATER, THE GUARD ON THE MAIN GATE SAW A SQUADRON OF ZEROES SWOOPING IN TO ATTACK.



IT'S
AN AIR
RAID!

TOM HEARD THE PLANES PASS OVER,
THEN A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS
ROCKED THE GUARDROOM.

BLIMEY!
WE'VE BEEN
HIT!



CHOKING ON THE DUST, HE CRAWLED OUT OF THE DEBRIS UNSCATCHED. THEN IT DAWNED ON HIM THAT THE BUILDING HAD TAKEN A DIRECT HIT AND HE WAS LUCKY TO BE ALIVE. HIS GUARDS HADN'T BEEN SO FORTUNATE, HOWEVER.

Poor beggars!
They didn't stand
a chance!

HE WATCHED THE ENEMY PLANES AS THEY RETURNED TO THEIR BASE.

Cripes! They've flattened the place.
It's lucky they didn't arrive earlier when the blokes were leaving or there'd have been a massacre!

OUTSIDE THE CAMP, HE FOUND A LARGE CAR BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, OBVIOUSLY ABANDONED IN A HURRY, THE KEYS STILL IN THE IGNITION.



THE CITY HAD ALSO SUFFERED AN AIR RAID AND TOM FOUND THE STREETS DESERTED.



AS HE DROVE DOWN A SIDE STREET, HE SAW THE FIGURE OF R.S.M. BURKE WALKING TOWARDS HIM.



THE SERGEANT-MAJOR AND THE SOLDIERS WALKING PAST ALL SEEMED TO BE IN A STATE OF SHOCK.



TOM COULDN'T BELIEVE HIS EARS.



LOSING HIS TEMPER, TOM SPUN THE R.S.M. ROUND.



I DON'T CARE IF
THE ORDERS CAME FROM THE
KING OF TIMBUKTU! YOU WOULDN'T
LET ME FIGHT WHEN I HAD THE
CHANCE, SO NOW I'M DOING
IT ON MY OWN.



AS HE CLIMBED BACK INTO THE CAR,
TOM COULDN'T RESIST A PARTING
SHOT.

YOU PUT ME IN
THE CLINK AND NOW,
THANKS TO THE ENEMY,
YOU'LL FIND OUT WHAT
IT FEELS LIKE!

DON'T
BE A FOOL,
HENSHAW!



SEARCHING THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT AS
HE DROVE, TOM FOUND A TORCH.

FAT LOT OF GOOD
THIS WILL DO ME! WHAT
I REALLY NEED RIGHT
NOW IS A WEAPON.

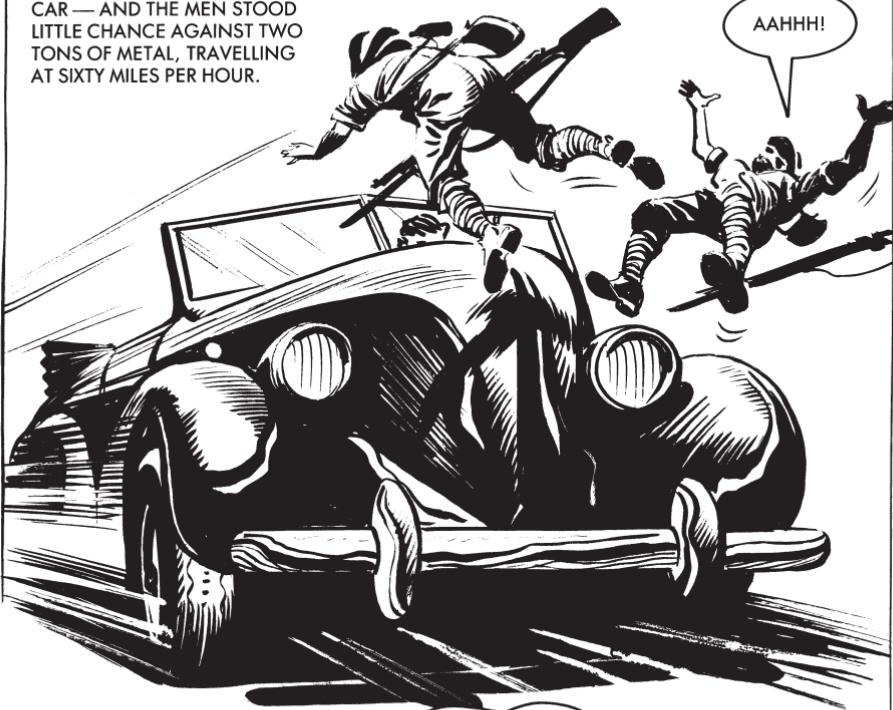
MOMENTS LATER, HE RAN INTO A GROUP OF JAPANESE SOLDIERS—
PART OF THE FIRST WAVE OF OSUKI'S FORCE TO ENTER THE CITY.



TOM'S RESPONSE WAS TO JAM HIS
FOOT DOWN ON THE ACCELERATOR.



HE HAD FOUND A WEAPON — THE CAR — AND THE MEN STOOD LITTLE CHANCE AGAINST TWO TONS OF METAL, TRAVELLING AT SIXTY MILES PER HOUR.



THEY OPENED FIRE AND TOM HEARD BULLETS RIP THROUGH THE BODYWORK AS HE SLEWED THE HEAVY VEHICLE FROM SIDE TO SIDE.

TOM HENSHAW'S ONE-MAN ARMY HAS JUST STRUCK ITS FIRST BLOW... LET'S HOPE IT'S NOT THE LAST!



AS HE SWUNG THE CAR ROUND A BEND, HIS LUCK TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE. A TRAM, DAMAGED IN THE RECENT AIR RAID, BLOCKED THE ROAD.

HECK! I'LL HAVE TO PULL UP AND REVERSE OUT OF HERE.



BUT WHEN HE PRESSED THE BRAKE PEDAL AND NOTHING HAPPENED, HE REALISED THAT ONE OF THE BULLETS MUST HAVE SEVERED THE CABLE.

OH, NO!
THAT'S ALL
I NEED!



ALMOST WITHOUT THINKING,
HE PULLED ON THE HANDBRAKE.
THERE WAS A SQUEAL OF
RUBBER AS THE CAR SPUN ROUND
AND HIT THE TRAM SIDE ON.

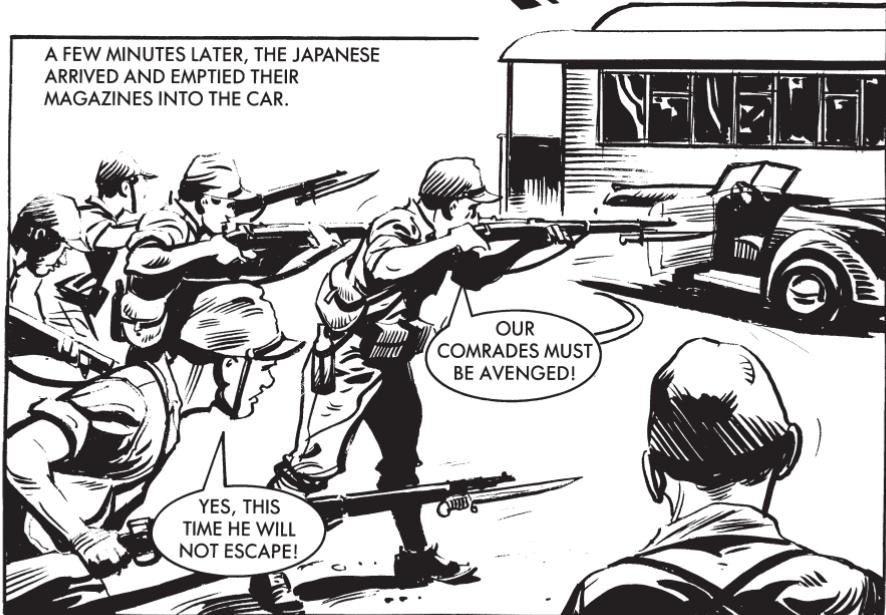
UURFF!



A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE JAPANESE ARRIVED AND EMPTIED THEIR MAGAZINES INTO THE CAR.

OUR
COMRADES MUST
BE AVENGED!

YES, THIS
TIME HE WILL
NOT ESCAPE!

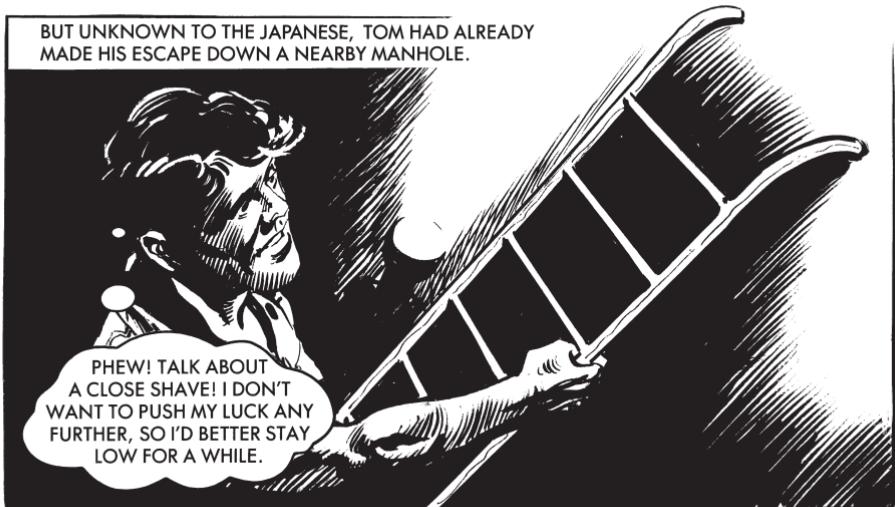


THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION AS ONE OF THE BULLETS IGNITED THE FUEL FROM THE VEHICLE'S RUPTURED PETROL TANK.



BUT UNKNOWN TO THE JAPANESE, TOM HAD ALREADY MADE HIS ESCAPE DOWN A NEARBY MANHOLE.

PHEW! TALK ABOUT A CLOSE SHAVE! I DON'T WANT TO PUSH MY LUCK ANY FURTHER, SO I'D BETTER STAY LOW FOR A WHILE.



THE TORCH HE HAD FOUND IN THE CAR WAS PROVING USEFUL AFTER ALL.



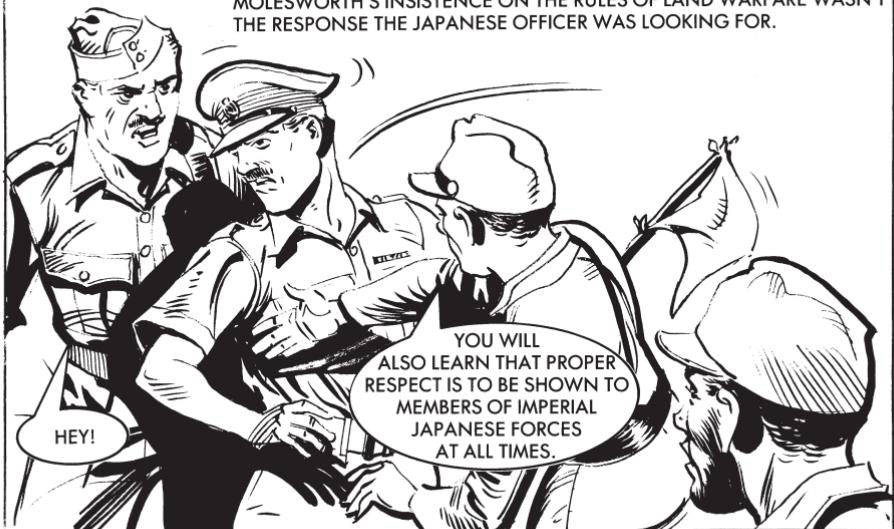
MEANWHILE, BURKE AND THE C.O. HAD MADE CONTACT WITH THE JAPANESE FORCES.



BUT THE JAPANESE OFFICER'S JOB WAS TO HELP ORGANISE THE MASS SURRENDER OF THE BRITISH FORCES. HE WAS UNCONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF ONE WOUNDED ENEMY SOLDIER.



MOLESWORTH'S INSISTENCE ON THE RULES OF LAND WARFARE WASN'T THE RESPONSE THE JAPANESE OFFICER WAS LOOKING FOR.



BURKE THEN FELT HIMSELF BEING JABBED BY BAYONET TIPS.



AS THE MEN OF TOM'S REGIMENT SETTLED DOWN IN THEIR PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMP, THEIR FORMER N.C.O. IN CHARGE OF REFUSE COLLECTION WAS MAKING A RECCE OF THE LOCAL SEWER SYSTEM.



HE CRAWLED OUT OF THE MANHOLE AND FOUND HIMSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF A LARGE COMPOUND.



LULLED BY THEIR EASY VICTORY, THE JAPANESE HAD ALLOWED THEIR SECURITY TO SLACKEN. THERE WAS ONLY ONE GUARD — AND HE WAS FAR AWAY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE.



EVERYTHING
THAT TOM HENSHAW'S
ONE-MAN ARMY NEEDS IS
RIGHT HERE, READY FOR
THE TAKING.

AS TOM SEARCHED THROUGH THE CRATES, HE FELT LIKE A YOUNG BOY ON CHRISTMAS MORNING — BUT THE PRIZE FIND TURNED OUT TO BE A BOX CONTAINING SOME BRAND NEW STEN GUNS.



THESE LITTLE
BEAUTIES ARE FITTED
WITH SILENCERS, TOO! I'LL
MAKE SURE THEY'RE PUT
TO GOOD USE.

OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, TOM KEPT HIMSELF BUSY STEALING FOOD AND SUPPLIES. IT WAS HARD AND DANGEROUS WORK, FOR HE COULD ONLY MOVE AT NIGHT.

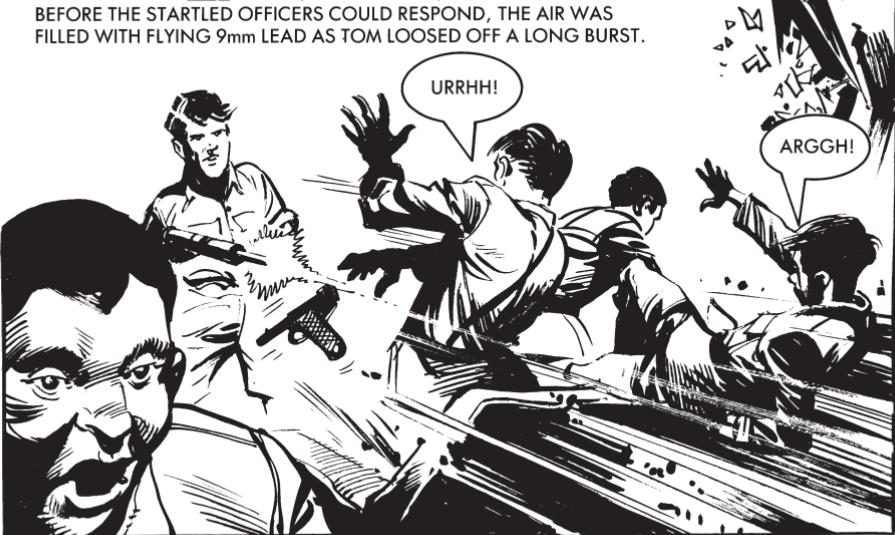


AT A LARGE HOTEL, A GROUP OF JAPANESE OFFICERS WERE STILL CELEBRATING THEIR VICTORY.



LONG
LIVE THE
EMPEROR!

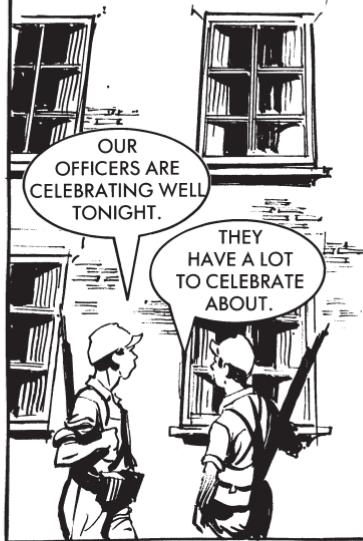




AFTER SENDING THE OFFICERS TO JOIN THEIR ANCESTORS, HE TURNED HIS STEN ON A LARGE FRAMED PORTRAIT OF THE JAPANESE EMPEROR, HIROHITO.



TWO JAPANESE SENTRIES WERE PATROLLING THE GROUNDS WHEN THEY HEARD THE SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS.



THE NEXT DAY A TROOP-PACKED TRUCK DREW UP IN A CROWDED TENEMENT AREA.



SUDDENLY, THE JAPANESE OFFICER FROZE IN SHOCK AS HE WATCHED HIS MEN CUT DOWN UNDER A SILENT HAIL OF BULLETS.

URRHHH!

WHAT THE...?

A DAYLIGHT RAID WAS RISKY, BUT WITH THE SILENCED STEN, TOM KNEW THE ENEMY WOULD HAVE TROUBLE LOCATING HIM.

TIME TO GET BACK TO THE MANHOLE!

OTHER DAYLIGHT RAIDS WERE
LESS DANGEROUS...

I'LL HAVE TO
GET THIS GRENADE
UNDER THE PETROL
TANK FOR MAXIMUM
EFFECT.

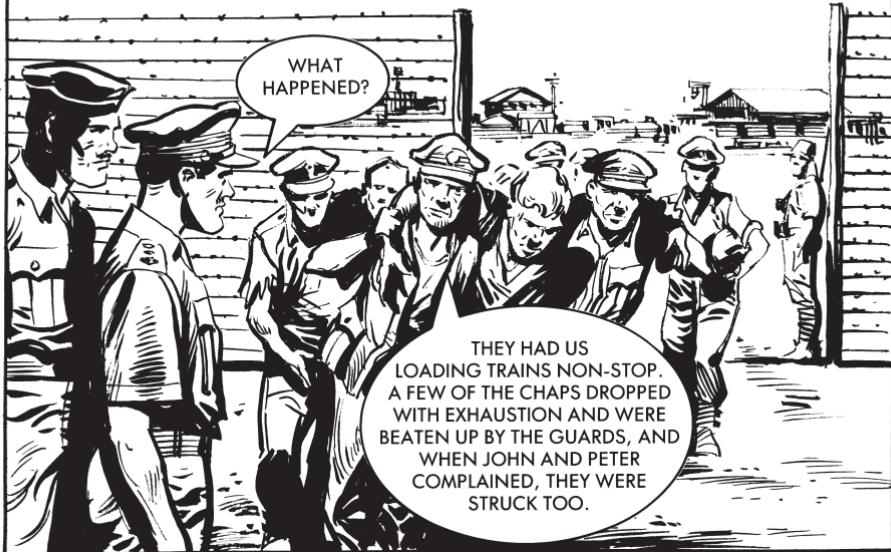


...BUT JUST AS EFFECTIVE!

ARRGGH!



MEANWHILE, TOM'S REGIMENT HAD RECENTLY BEEN SHIPPED TO A CAMP SET UP NEAR THE RAILWAY YARDS.



IT WAS A TALE OF BRUTALITY THAT BURKE AND MOLESWORTH HAD HEARD DAY IN AND DAY OUT FOR THE PAST THREE MONTHS.



THE C.O. MARCHED OVER TO THE HUT USED BY MAJOR KAMYJA, THE CAMP COMMANDANT.



COME WITH ME, SERGEANT-MAJOR. I PROPOSE TO LODGE ANOTHER STIFF PROTEST. FORCING THE OFFICERS TO WORK IS AGAINST THE GENEVA CONVENTION.

AND YOU'LL GET THE SAME ANSWER, SIR.

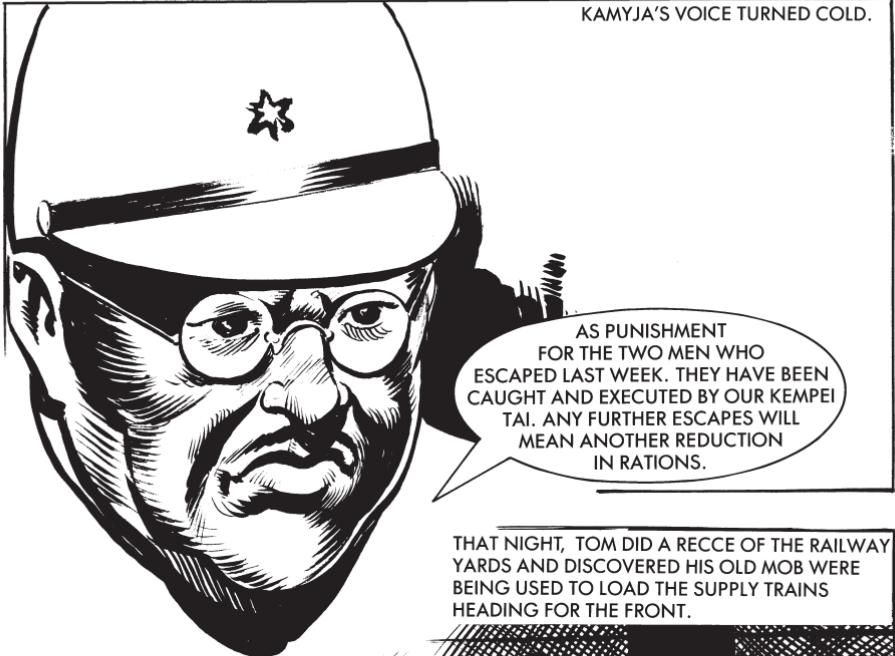
BURKE WAS RIGHT. MAJOR KAMYJA ONCE AGAIN POINTED OUT THAT SUCH PROTESTS WERE FUTILE AS THE JAPANESE HADN'T SIGNED THE GENEVA CONVENTION.

THE EMPEROR WISHES ALL PRISONERS TO WORK — FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH HIS ORDERS WILL RESULT IN MY LOSS OF FACE AND YOUR LOSS OF HEAD.



ONE MORE THING, MAJOR. WHY HAVE OUR RATIONS BEEN CUT AGAIN?

KAMYJA'S VOICE TURNED COLD.



THAT NIGHT, TOM DID A RECCE OF THE RAILWAY YARDS AND DISCOVERED HIS OLD MOB WERE BEING USED TO LOAD THE SUPPLY TRAINS HEADING FOR THE FRONT.



FIND
MORE
FREE
MAGAZINES

FREEMAGS.CC

BEFORE THE STARTLED PRISONER COULD CATCH A GLIMPSE OF TOM, HE HAD MELTED BACK INTO THE DARKNESS.

JUST A FRIEND...AND I'LL BE BACK.

A FEW MINUTES LATER, TOM WAS MAKING HIS WAY DOWN A MANHOLE.

I RECKON I'D BETTER FORGET ABOUT SABOTAGING THE TRAINS. THE JAPANESE ARE LIABLE TO BLAME THE LADS AND TAKE IT OUT ON THEM.



AS THE MONTHS WENT BY, HE CONTINUED HIS SMALL ACTS OF SABOTAGE. BUT THERE WERE ALSO LONG PERIODS UNDERGROUND, AND TO RELIEVE THE BOREDOM HE HAD EVEN TAMED A BUNCH OF RATS.

HEY,
LADS! IT'S TIME FOR
YOUR UNCLE TOM TO
DO HIS CHRISTMAS
SHOPPING.



THAT NIGHT, HE MADE HIS WAY TO A LARGE WAREHOUSE BY THE DOCKS.



MOST OF THE WAREHOUSE WAS FILLED WITH SPARE PARTS FOR VEHICLES, BUT THEN TOM SPOTTED A PILE OF RED CROSS FOOD PARCELS.

A black and white comic panel. The scene is set inside a large warehouse. In the foreground, a man with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a dark jacket, stands looking down at a massive pile of Red Cross food parcels. The parcels are stacked high, filling most of the frame. A speech bubble originates from his mouth, containing the text: "BLIMEY! THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SENT TO THE LADS, BUT THE ENEMY MUST HAVE BEEN KEEPING THIS LOT FOR THEMSELVES."

BUT AS HE LEFT THE WAREHOUSE, HE RAN SLAP-BANG INTO A PATROL.

WHO'S THAT?

UH-OH! I'VE
BEEN GETTING AWAY
WITH IT FOR AGES, SO IT
WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN
SOME TIME!

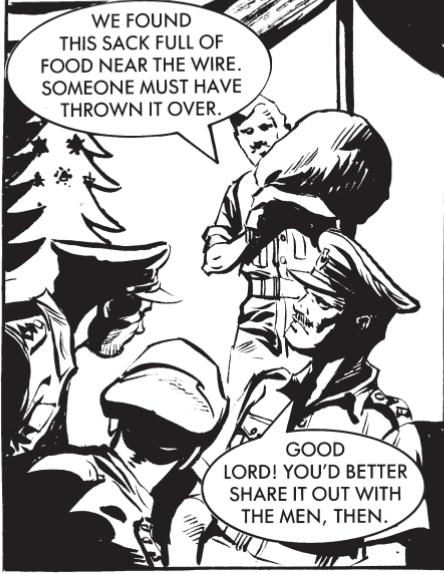
AFTER SEVERAL SORTIES IN THE DARK STREETS OF
THE CITY, HIS REACTIONS WERE HONED TO PERFECTION.
DROPPING THE SACK, HE OPENED FIRE WITH HIS SILENCED
STEN, BUT NOT BEFORE ONE MAN LET OFF A WILD SHOT.

AGHHHH!

THEY'RE
BOUND TO HEAR
THAT SHOT!



ON CHRISTMAS EVE THERE WAS A SURPRISE FOR THE PRISONERS.



BURKE PRODUCED A PIECE OF PAPER.



LATER THAT NIGHT TOM RETURNED TO THE DOCKS AND AFTER SEARCHING A SECOND WAREHOUSE CAME ACROSS ANOTHER SURPRISE WINDFALL.



THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE RAID WAS REPORTED TO THE KEMPEI TAI — THE DREADED JAPANESE SECRET POLICE.



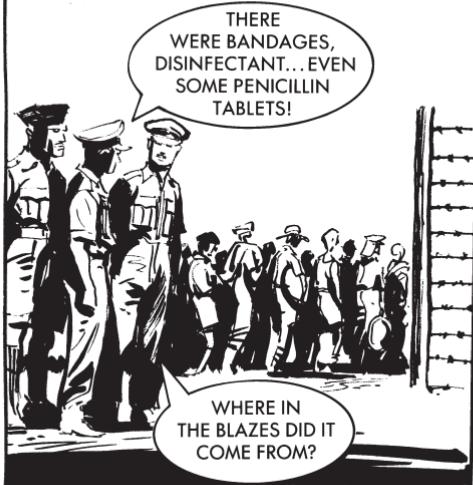
A PURGE WAS IMMEDIATELY ORDERED AND SUSPECTED LOCAL DOCK WORKERS WERE ROUNDED UP FOR INTERROGATION.



WHILE THE KEMPEI TAI FUMED, A SECOND SACK MYSTERIOUSLY APPEARED IN THE P.O.W. COMPOUND. THIS TIME IT WAS ADDRESSED TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER.



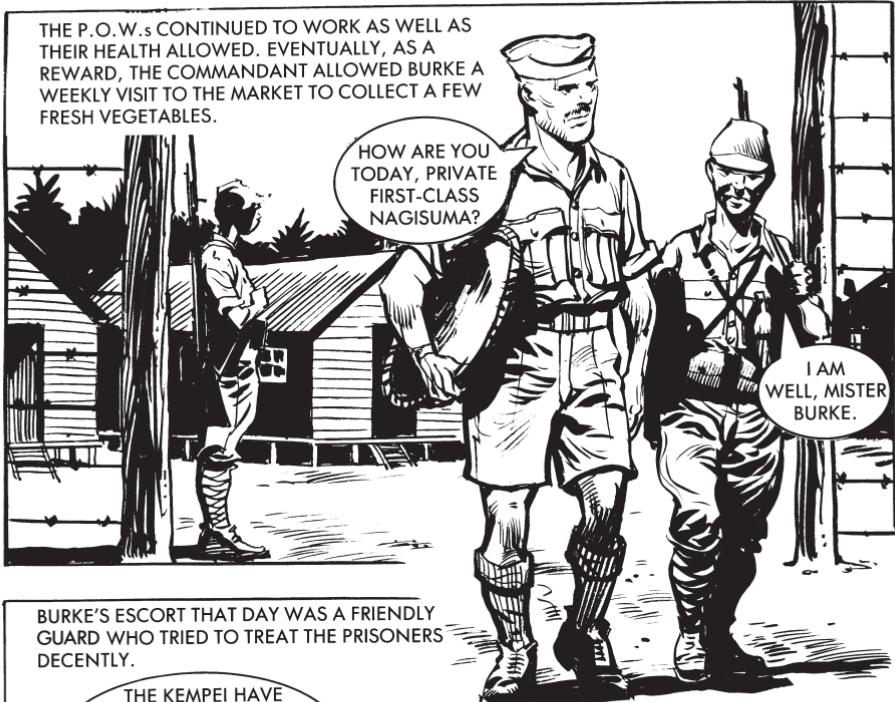
THE M.O. REPORTED THE GOOD NEWS TO MOLESWORTH.



THE C.O. SMILED AS HE TURNED TO BURKE.



THE P.O.W.s CONTINUED TO WORK AS WELL AS THEIR HEALTH ALLOWED. EVENTUALLY, AS A REWARD, THE COMMANDANT ALLOWED BURKE A WEEKLY VISIT TO THE MARKET TO COLLECT A FEW FRESH VEGETABLES.



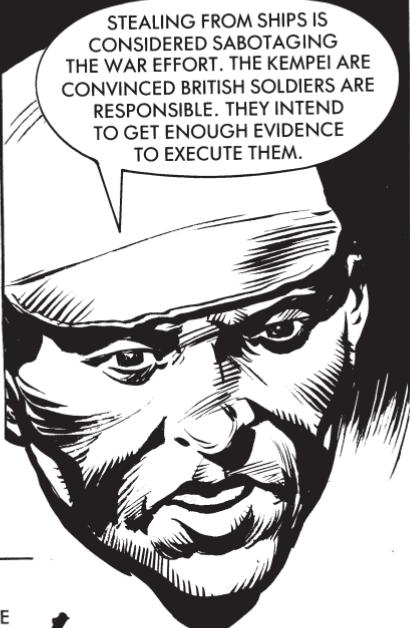
BURKE'S ESCORT THAT DAY WAS A FRIENDLY GUARD WHO TRIED TO TREAT THE PRISONERS DECENTLY.



THE R.S.M. KNEW OF THE KEMPEI TAI'S FEARSOME REPUTATION AND NAGISUMA'S WORDS SENT A CHILL DOWN HIS SPINE.



NAGISUMA DIDN'T APPROVE OF HIS COUNTRY'S POLICY TOWARDS PRISONERS-OF-WAR.



AS NAGISUMA COLLECTED THE VEGETABLES, BURKE PINCHED A HANDFUL OF EXTRAS AND STUFFED THEM INTO HIS SHIRT. THE SUPPLIES WERE NEVER ENOUGH AND EVERY LITTLE HELPED.



HIS LUCK RAN OUT, THOUGH, WHEN THEY BUMPED INTO A KEMPEI TAI FOOT PATROL.

HALT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WE HAVE
PERMISSION FROM THE
RAILWAY CAMP COMMANDANT
TO COLLECT VEGETABLES
FROM THE MARKET.

THE SECRET POLICE DECIDED TO DO A SPOT SEARCH AND WHEN THEY FOUND THE STOLEN FOOD THEY DRAGGED THE R.S.M. INTO A NEARBY ALLEY. NAGISUMA WAS SHOCKED BUT KNEW THAT THERE WAS LITTLE HE COULD DO.

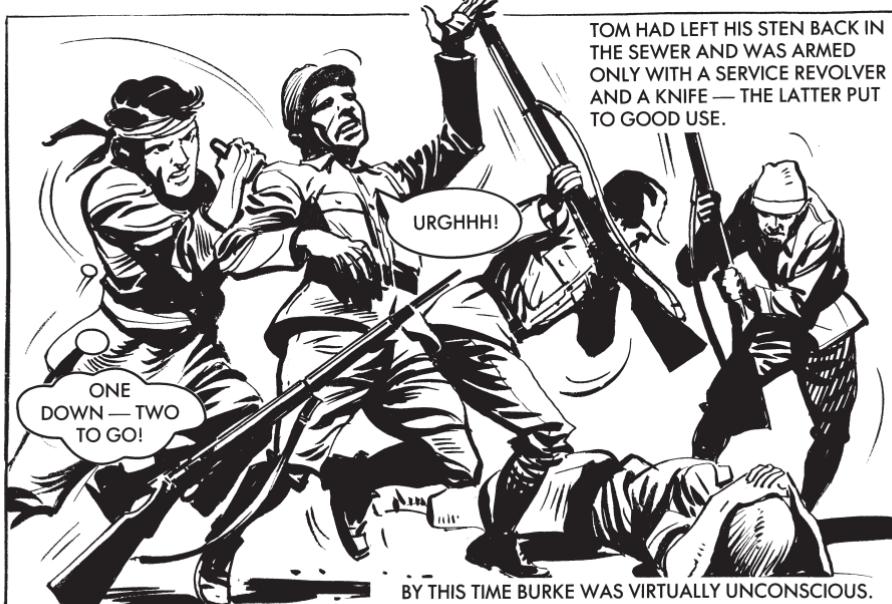
YOU ARE
UNDER ARREST —
BUT FIRST WE WILL
SOFTEN YOU UP FOR
INTERROGATION.

LET
GO OF ME!

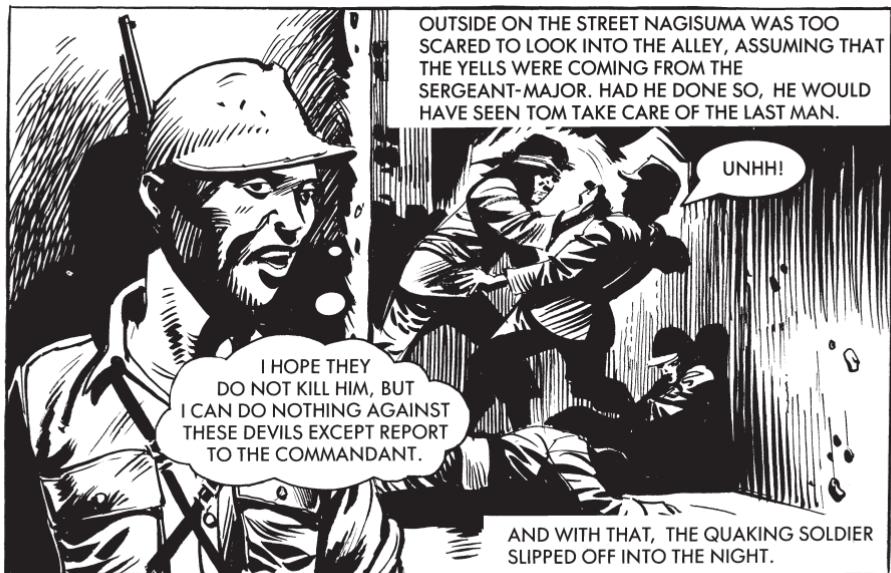
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, TOM EMERGED FROM A MANHOLE IN THE SAME ALLEY. HE WAS IN DISGUISE AND, LIKE BURKE, WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE MARKET TO PICK UP SOME FOOD.



TOM HAD LEFT HIS STEN BACK IN THE SEWER AND WAS ARMED ONLY WITH A SERVICE REVOLVER AND A KNIFE — THE LATTER PUT TO GOOD USE.



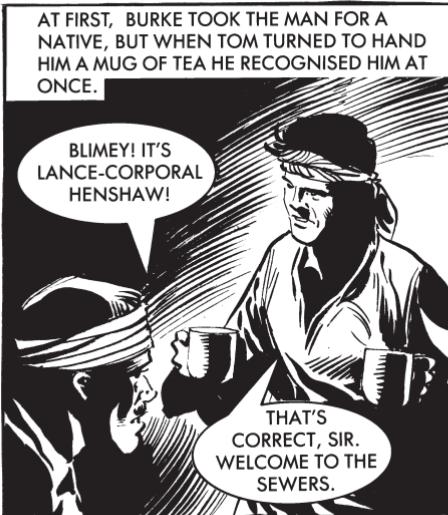
AS QUICK AS A FLASH, TOM KNIFED THE SECOND SOLDIER BEFORE THE FIRST ONE HAD HIT THE GROUND.



WHEN THE R.S.M. CAME ROUND SOME TIME LATER,
HE FOUND HIMSELF IN TOM'S UNDERGROUND HIDEOUT.

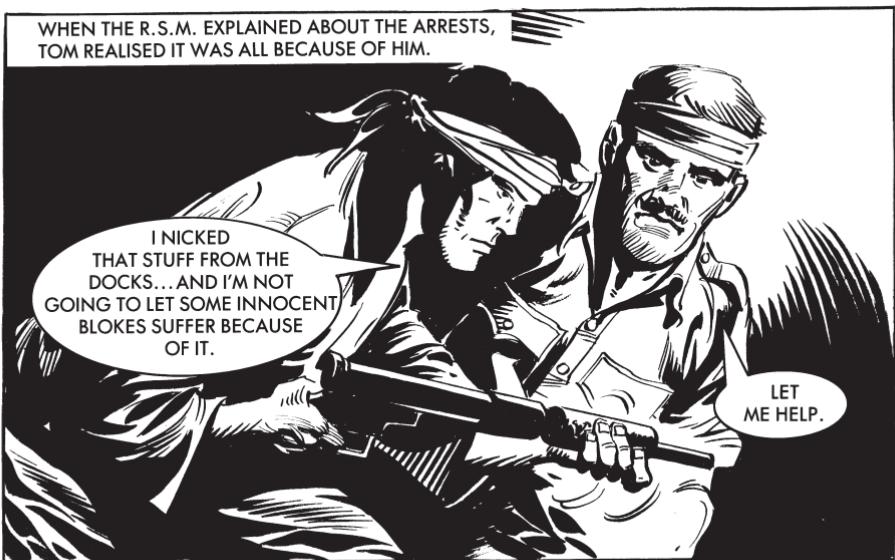


AT FIRST, BURKE TOOK THE MAN FOR A NATIVE, BUT WHEN TOM TURNED TO HAND HIM A MUG OF TEA HE RECOGNISED HIM AT ONCE.



THE R.S.M. WRINKLED HIS NOSE IN DISGUST.





THAT NIGHT, AT A LOCAL POLICE STATION, THE KEMPEI TAI HAD STARTED THEIR INTERROGATIONS.



SUDDENLY, PANIC BROKE OUT WHEN TWO SMOKE GRENADES CAME SAILING THROUGH THE WINDOW.



AS THE KEMPEI TAI RAN OUT OF THE POLICE STATION
THEY WERE CUT DOWN BY A HAIL OF BULLETS.



PUTTING ON A GAS MASK, TOM RAN INTO THE SMOKE FILLED BUILDING AND MET UP WITH BURKE WHO HAD BEEN COVERING THE BACK.



TOM FOUND THE KEYS AND RUSHED DOWN TO THE CELL BLOCK WHERE THE PRISONERS WERE WAITING TO BE INTERROGATED.



BEFORE LEAVING, THEY SET FIRE
TO THE POLICE STATION.



BUT AS THEY SCUTTLED OFF, A PATROL ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.



TOM FELT A STABBING PAIN IN HIS
RIGHT SHOULDER. HE'D NEVER BEEN
SHOT BEFORE AND THE EXPERIENCE
WAS FAR FROM PLEASANT.

IT
HURTS LIKE
BLAZES!

STOP
MOANING! IT'S
JUST A FLESH
WOUND.

THIS TIME, TOM'S LUCK FINALLY RAN OUT AS THE
JAPANESE FOUND A TRAIL OF BLOODSTAINS
LEADING TO A MANHOLE COVER.

WE HAVE
THEM NOW! CONTACT
HEADQUARTERS AND
TELL THEM TO SEND
REINFORCEMENTS.

YES,
SIR!

THE OFFICER LED HIS MEN INTO THE SEWER. BUT NONE OF THEM NOTICED A MARK ON THE WALL — A REMINDER BY TOM THAT LURKING JUST AHEAD UNDER THE MURKY WATER WAS A MINE, SET TO GO OFF UNDER THE WEIGHT OF A MAN'S FOOT.

IT
SMELLS DOWN
HERE!

SILENCE!
YOU WILL ALL GET A
NICE HOT BATH AFTER
WE CAPTURE THESE
TERRORISTS.

AT THAT SAME MOMENT, TOM WAS HAVING HIS WOUND BANDAGED.

THERE! LET'S
JUST HOPE YOU HAVEN'T
GOT BLOOD POISONING
FROM THOSE DIRTY RAGS
YOU'RE WEARING.

THANKS A LOT,
SIR! YOU REALLY
KNOW HOW TO CHEER
A BLOKE UP.

SUDDENLY, THEY HEARD A DULL RUMBLE IN THE DISTANCE.

WHAT
WAS THAT?

ONE OF MY
BOOBY-TRAPS! THAT
MEANS THEY MUST
HAVE FOUND OUT WE'RE
DOWN HERE.

AFTER PACKING SOME SUPPLIES, THE TWO MEN SET OFF.



CONTINUING THEIR SEARCH, THE JAPANESE MADE A HORRIFYING DISCOVERY —



THE TUNNEL SHOOK AS THE
BLAST-WAVE RIPPED
THROUGH THE SEWER.



BURKE FOLLOWED AS TOM LED THE WAY OUT INTO THE OPEN.



IN SOME THICK REEDS THEY FOUND A SMALL MOTOR BOAT WHICH HAD BEEN HIDDEN THERE BY TOM MANY MONTHS AGO.



AS DAWN BROKE, THEY SET OFF UP THE RIVER, HEADING FOR THE MOUNTAINS WHERE BANDS OF GUERRILLAS WERE RUMOURED TO BE OPERATING... TWO MEN WHO HAD BURIED THEIR DIFFERENCES IN ORDER TO FIGHT THE COMMON ENEMY.



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