

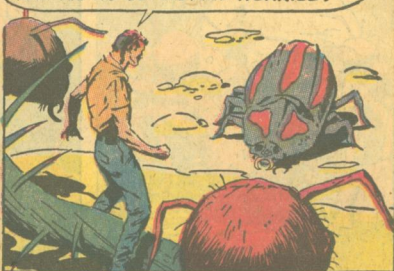
I HEARD STRANGE, ALMOST MUSICAL HUMMING SOUNDS AND THEN I SAW THEM TOO LATE...  
**THE ANTS!**

I'VE SHRUNK TO MICROSCOPIC SIZE! I'M SMALLER EVEN THAN THE ANTS! AND, BY HARRY, THEY'RE MAKING ME PRISONER!



I WAS AS HELPLESS AS A RAG DOLL IN A CHILD'S CLUTCHES! BUT THEN THEIR GRIP SUDDENLY RELAXED... AND I SAW WHY...

A **BEETLE!** BUT IT'S NOT THE SMALL INSECT I NORMALLY KNEW! IT'S AS BIG AS A RHINO RIGHT NOW! AND IT'S GOT THE ANTS **WORRIED!**



THE ANTS WERE FEW IN NUMBER... MERELY A PATROL... AND WERE NO MATCH FOR THE ONCOMING BEETLE... AND NEITHER WAS I A MATCH FOR IT, UNLESS...

...UNLESS I CAN MAKE A WORKABLE SWORD OUT OF THIS **THORN!**



WITH THORN-SPEAR IN HAND, I CLIMBED UPON A RAISED TWIG, RACED ALONG TO A POINT ABOVE THE BEETLE, THEN LEAPED...

WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR AN **M-1 RIFLE** OR A **GRENADE** NOW! CAPTAIN JACK FLAHERTY, U.S. INFANTRY, FIGHTING WITH A **THORN!**



I LANDED WITH A CRASH ATOP THE BEETLE, BARELY MISSING THE POISED PINCERS, AND THOUGH THE THORN SPEAR WAS BROKEN, IT HAD DONE ITS WORK!

THE STRANGE HUMMING SOUND! IT'S CHANGED ITS TONE! WHAT ARE THEY UP TO **NOW?**



ONCE AGAIN THEY TOOK HOLD OF ME, BUT MORE GENTLY THIS TIME...



AND THEY BORE ME AWAY NOW NOT AS THEIR PRISONER, BUT AS A **FRIEND!**

YES! I'VE BECOME THEIR **CHAMPION!**

