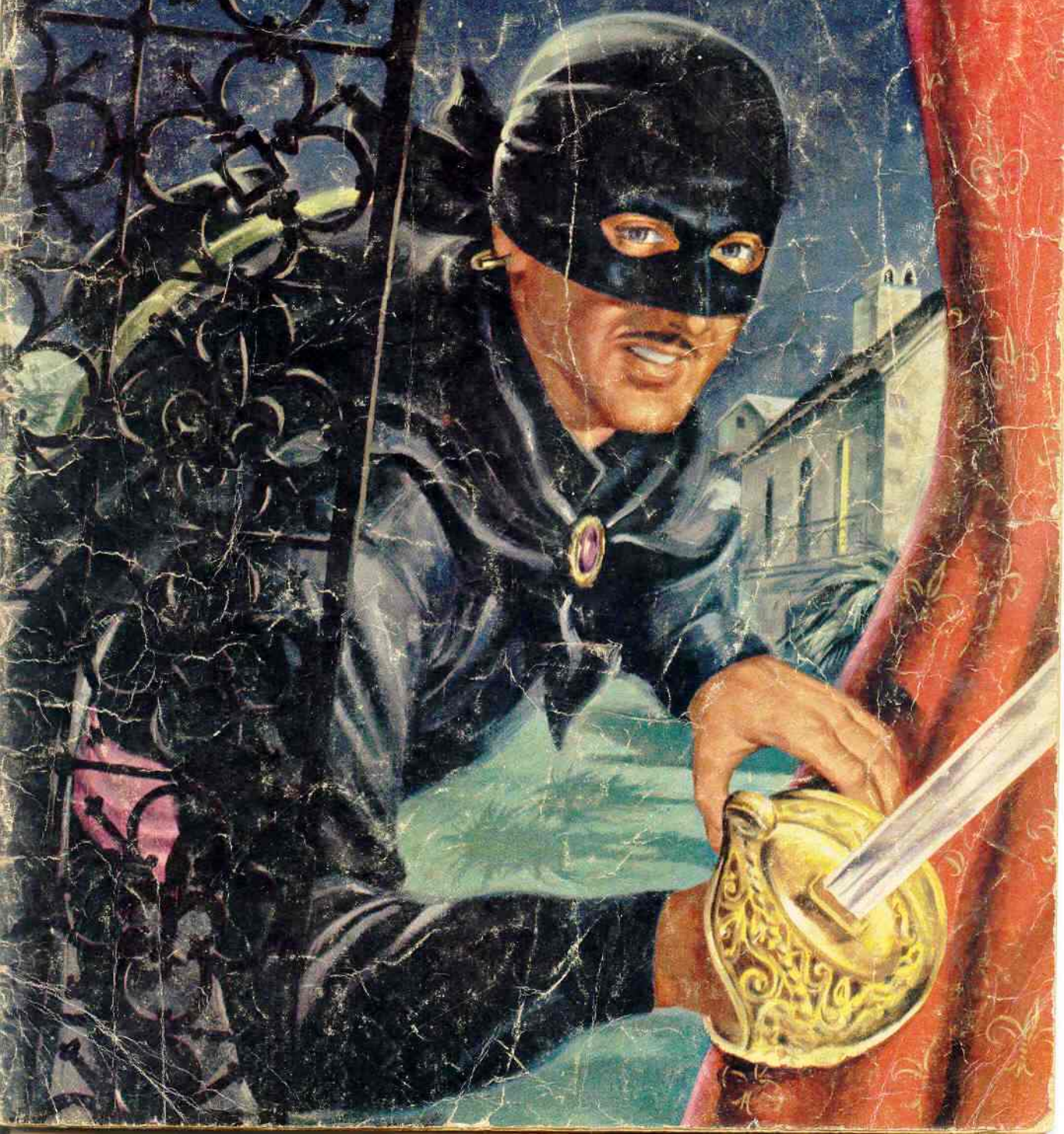


DELL
COMIC

THE MASK OF

NO. 538 10¢

ZORRO

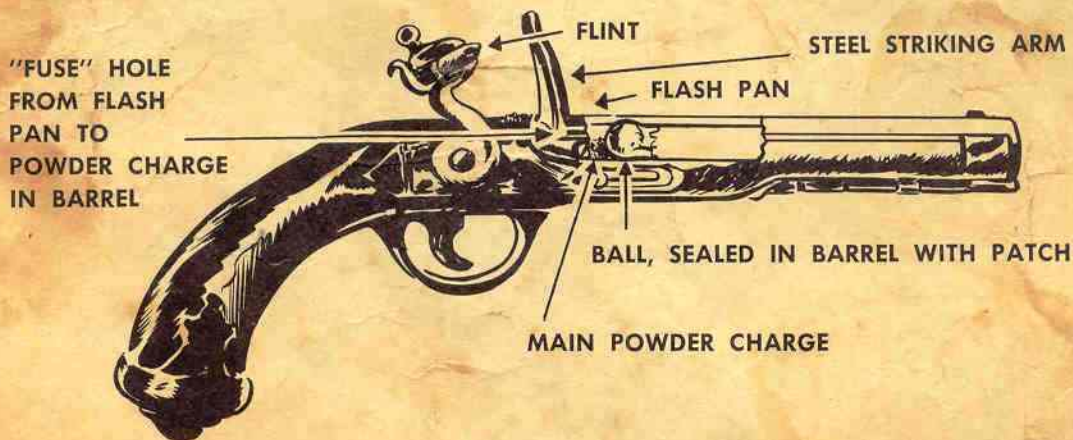


ZORRO'S PISTOL



Flintlock pistols are regarded by most swordsmen as rather clumsy weapons. They can only be fired once and then must be reloaded. Swordsmen would rather depend on lightning-like thrusts of a rapier or swift cuts with a sabre. But sometimes the single-shot flintlock saves even a clever fencer. He carries it in his sash or belt on the LEFT side where it can be grasped easily by his left hand. He uses his sword in his right and avoids firing his one shot until he is forced into a corner by heavy odds and can find no other means of escape. Many a brave caballero or Spanish officer owes his life to his flintlock.

To load a flintlock, a measured charge of powder is dropped into the muzzle. Then a round ball of lead is wrapped in a rag or patch of greased leather and rammed down on top of the powder charge with a short ramrod. The cloth or leather seals the ball in the pistol barrel so that the force of the powder explosion will expel the ball. Next, the caballero spills a few grains of powder in the "flash pan" just where the hammer strikes. When the hammer is pulled back or "cocked" and then released by pulling the trigger, the flint strikes the steel striking arm, and a spark falls into the "flash pan." The flash pan powder burns and ignites the main charge inside the barrel through a tiny hole leading from the pan to the charge inside the gun barrel.



LIKE OLD CALIFORNIA --- ZORRO
FINDS HIMSELF SURROUNDED BY
DEADLY ENEMIES WHO SEEK TO DESTROY
LIBERTY BY RIPPING ASIDE

THE MASK OF ZORRO



LOOK, PABLO--
OUR TRAPS ARE
EMPTY!

THE FURS
HAVE BEEN
STOLEN!



DON
SANDOVAL
WILL NOT BE
HAPPY
WHEN
HE LEARNS
OF THIS!

HERE ARE TRACKS!
LET'S FOLLOW THEM!



LOOKING
FOR SOMETHING
SEÑORES?

!GASP!



YOU HAVE FOUND
MORE THAN YOU ARE
LOOKING FOR!

BLAM! BLAM!





QUICKLY! GET OUT OF SIGHT! HORSES ARE APPROACHING!



IT IS THE GOVERNOR'S CAVALRY!

WE MUST NOT BE SEEN! HIDE UNTIL THEY ARE GONE!



MOMENTS LATER...

THEY ARE TWO OF DON SANDOVAL'S TRAPPERS, CAPTAIN BORDA. THEY WERE AMBUSHED!

TAKE THEM TO THE CASA SANDOVAL!



THAT NIGHT, AT THE CASA OF DON SANDOVAL...

... WE FOUND FOREIGN CARTRIDGES BESIDE THE TRAPPERS, DON SANDOVAL. BUT CAPTAIN BORDA SAID WE CANNOT RISK A QUARREL WITH THE STRANGERS.

HE DID, EH?



IT'S THE DUTY OF THE CAVALRY TO PROTECT MY INTERESTS! IF YOU MEET ANY STRANGE TRAPPERS, SHOOT THEM DOWN...

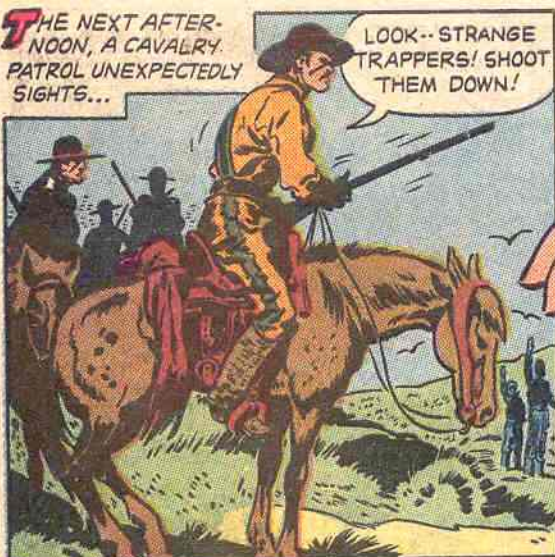


AND IF YOU SAY ANYTHING TO BORDA--

N NOT A WORD, DON SANDOVAL! I WOULD NOT BE HERE IF I WERE NOT LOYAL TO YOU!



THE NEXT AFTER-NOON, A CAVALRY PATROL UNEXPECTEDLY SIGHTS...



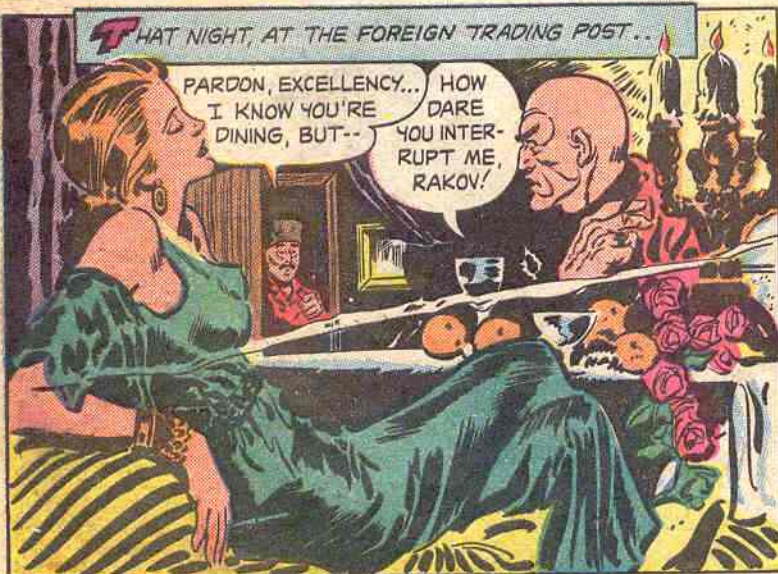
LOOK-- STRANGE TRAPPERS! SHOOT THEM DOWN!



I HAVE CARRIED OUT DON SANDOVAL'S ORDERS! NOW LET HIM ANSWER FOR THE CONSEQUENCES!

BLAM!
BLAM!

THAT NIGHT, AT THE FOREIGN TRADING POST...



PARDON, EXCELLENCY... I KNOW YOU'RE DINING, BUT--

HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT ME, RAKOV!



THREE OF OUR TRAPPERS HAVE BEEN SHOT!

AH, SO.



EXCUSE ME, OLGA. URGENT MATTERS REQUIRE MY ATTENTION!



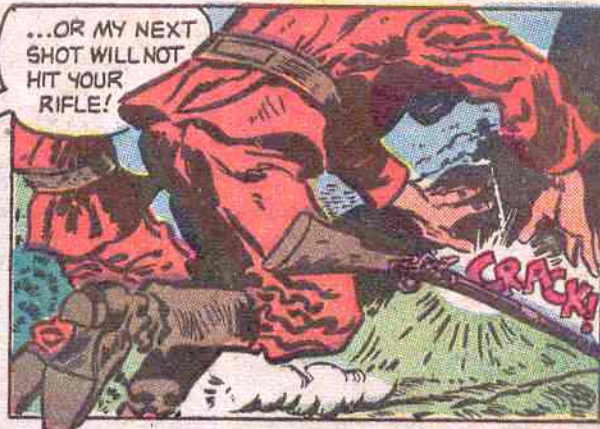
IT WAS SHEER PROVOCATION, EXCELLENCY! OUR MEN WERE SHOT DOWN IN COLD BLOOD!

SHALL I ADDRESS A LETTER OF PROTEST TO THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA?



WHILE, ON THE EDGE OF THE WOODS...







THAT'S
FANTASTIC!
IT ISN'T
POSSIBLE!

ZORRO
WILL TRY
TO MAKE
IT IMPOS-
SIBLE!



LATER THAT NIGHT, AT THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION...

ZORRO'S MESSAGE
BEARS OUT CAPTAIN
BORDA'S REPORT. THE
STRANGERS ARE UP
TO SOMETHING.

TELL
ZORRO THAT
I WILL MEET
HIM TOMORROW
NIGHT!

THANK YOU,
EXCELLENCY!



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, THE GOVERNOR'S
CAVALRY FINDS TWO MORE TRAPPERS...

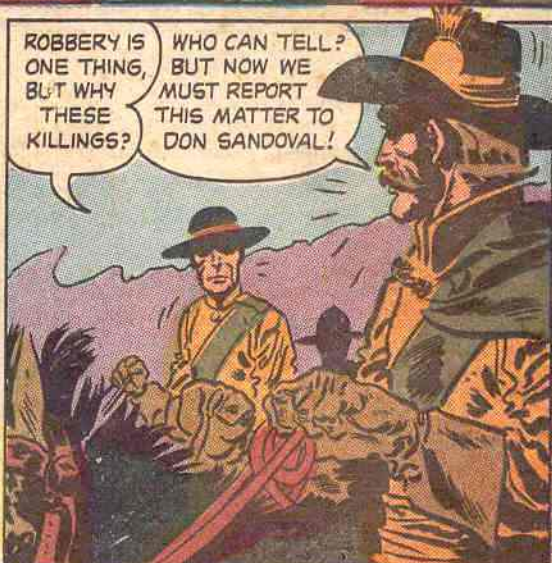
THEY
WERE SHOT
WITHOUT
WARNING,
CAPTAIN,
LIKE THE
OTHERS!

AND
HERE ARE
MORE FOREIGN
CARTRIDGES!



ROBBERY IS
ONE THING,
BUT WHY
THESE
KILLINGS?

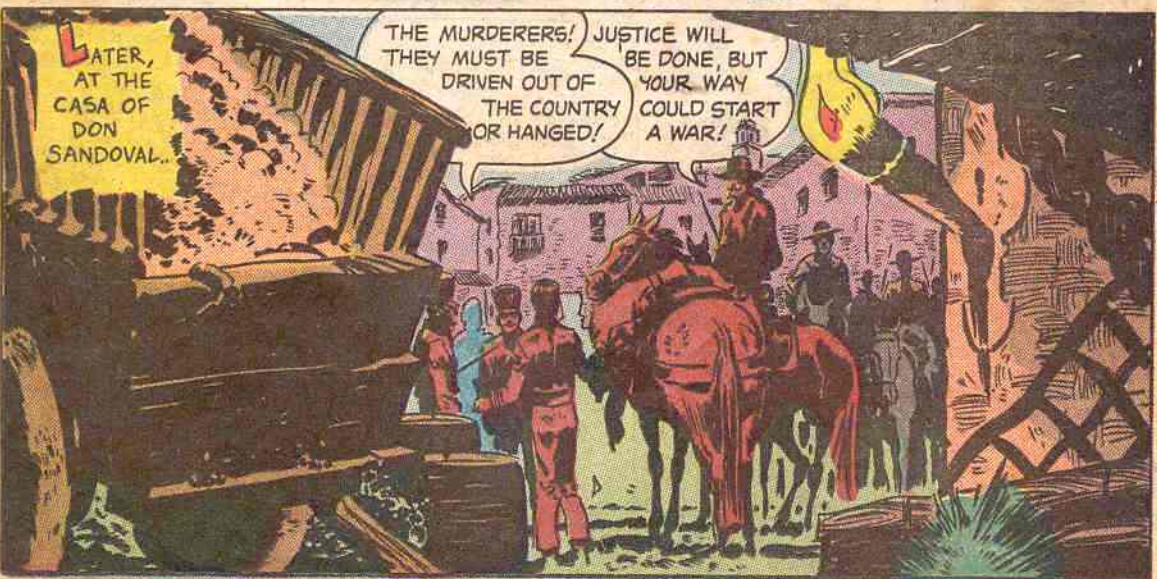
WHO CAN TELL?
BUT NOW WE
MUST REPORT
THIS MATTER TO
DON SANDOVAL!



LATER,
AT THE
CASA OF
DON
SANDOVAL...

THE MURDERERS!
THEY MUST BE
DRIVEN OUT OF
THE COUNTRY
OR HANGED!

JUSTICE WILL
BE DONE, BUT
YOUR WAY
COULD START
A WAR!



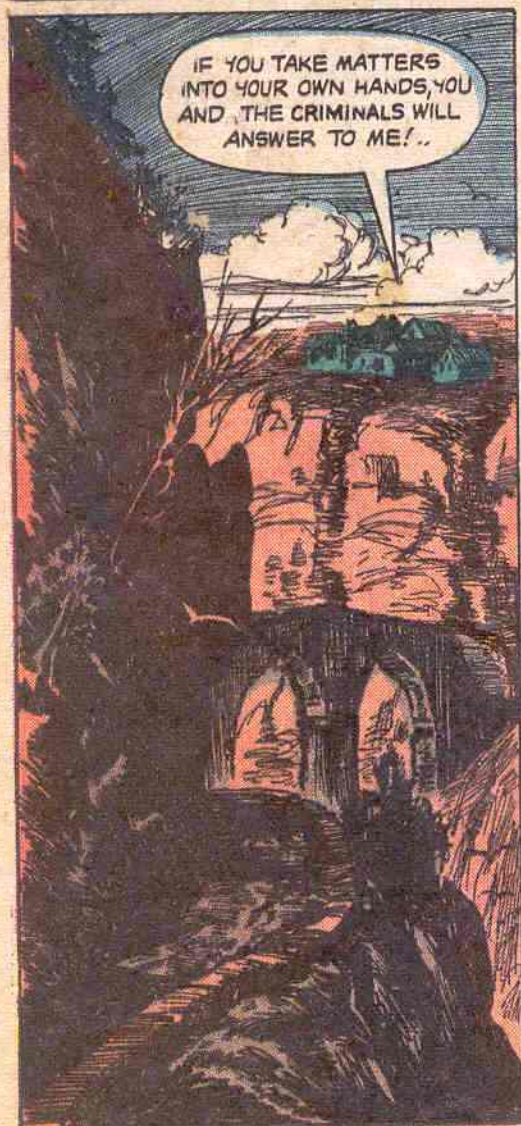


IF IT'S WAR
THEY WANT, WE'LL
GIVE IT TO THEM!



INSTEAD OF FURS,
WE'LL TRADE THEM
SHOT FOR SHOT!

HAVE A CARE,
DON SANDOVAL!
AS THE
GOVERNOR'S
OFFICER, I
AM THE LAW
HERE!



IF YOU TAKE MATTERS
INTO YOUR OWN HANDS, YOU
AND THE CRIMINALS WILL
ANSWER TO ME!...

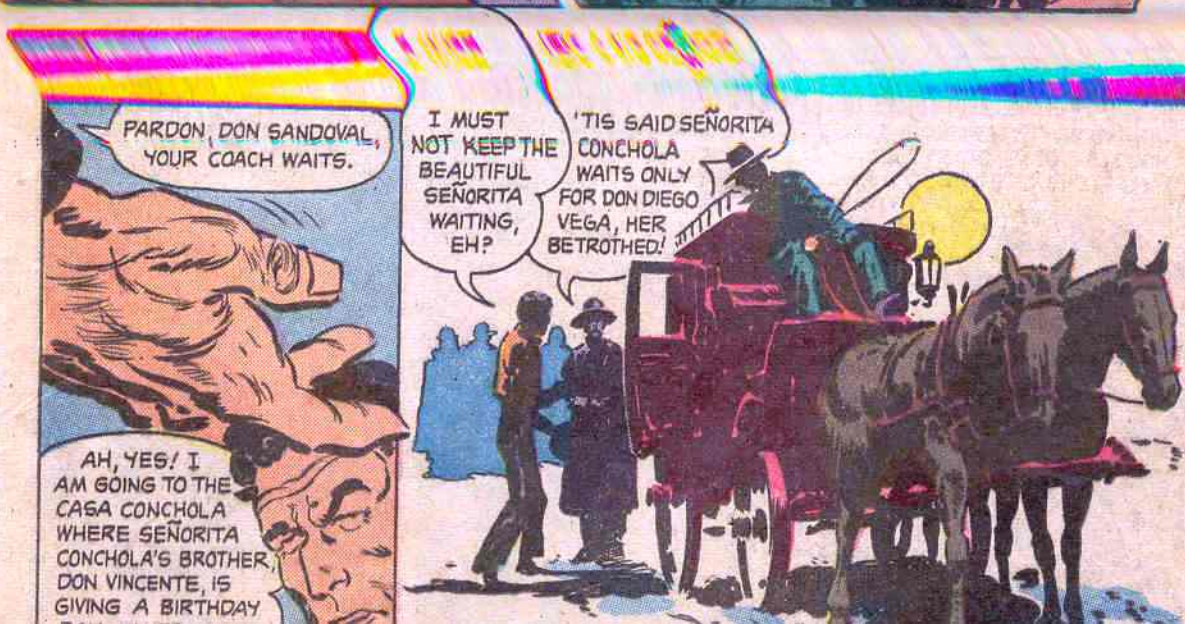


FOR YEARS, THE STRANGERS
HAVE HAD TRADING POSTS IN
CALIFORNIA. TILL NOW, THEY'VE
CONFINED THEMSELVES
TO TRADING.

SPARE ME YOUR OPINIONS,
CAPTAIN. I'M INTERESTED
ONLY IN FACTS.



THEN THE FACT IS, A
SHOOTING WAR MIGHT
VERY WELL LEAD TO
FOREIGN OCCUPATION
OF CALIFORNIA!



NONSENSE! DIEGO IS A LAZY FOP WHO DOES NOTHING BUT WRITE POETRY AND DREAM. HE IS NO RIVAL FOR DON SANDOVAL. DRIVE ON, PEDRO!

SÍ, DON SANDOVAL.

MEANWHILE, AT THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION...

WHERE DOES THE GOVERNOR GO ALONE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT, IN SUCH SECRECY?

IF I TOLD YOU, COLONEL ARGENTA, IT WOULD NO LONGER BE A SECRET.

MEANWHILE, SEND WORD TO DON SANDOVAL TO KEEP PEACE WITH THE STRANGERS OR HE WILL ANSWER TO ME!

VERY GOOD, EXCELLENCY! ANYTHING ELSE?

YES, GIVE MY COMPLIMENTS TO DON VINCENTE CONCHOLA. TELL HIM I AM DETAINED BY MATTERS OF STATE.

I SHALL ATTEND TO IT AT ONCE, EXCELLENCY!

AND WHILE YOU'RE ABOUT IT, CURB YOUR INSOLENT CURIOSITY! YOU ARE MUCH TOO INTERESTED IN MATTERS WHICH DO NOT CONCERN YOU!

I SHALL HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON COLONEL ARGENTA IN THESE TIMES. TOO MUCH CURIOSITY IS NOT GOOD IN ONE WHO IS SUPPOSED TO FOLLOW ORDERS...

MINUTES
LATER,
OUTSIDE
OF TOWN...

ZORRO?

RIGHT HERE,
EXCELLENCY!

FORGIVE
ME FOR
ASKING
YOU TO
MEET
ME HERE,
BUT--

YOU ARE RIGHT, ZORRO.
WE CAN'T BE TOO
CAREFUL!

ZORRO WOULD NO LONGER
BE ABLE TO SERVE CALI-
FORNIA IF HIS ENEMIES
KNEW THAT WHEN DON
DIEGO PUTS DOWN HIS
SNUFFBOX, ZORRO TAKES
UP HIS SWORD!


ALWAYS
IN THE
CAUSE OF
JUSTICE
AND AT
YOUR
SERVICE,
EXCELLENCY.

AND UNLESS I AM MISTAKEN, THE
STRANGERS ARE CASTING GREEDY
EYES IN THE DIRECTION OF CALI-
FORNIA, KNOWING THAT
SPAIN IS WEAK
AND MEXICO
IS TORN WITH
INNER
STRIFE.

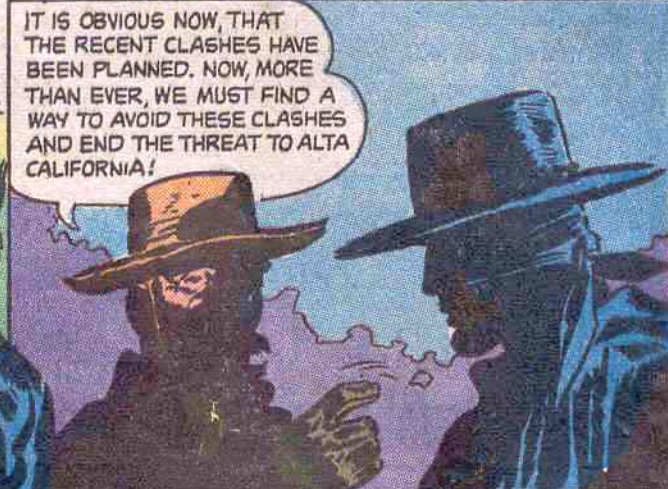
SÍ, ZORRO. FOR MONTHS, SECRET
DISPATCHES HAVE BEEN ARRIVING
FROM MADRID, WARNING OF FOREIGN
AMBITIONS. NOW OUR WORST
FEARS ARE REALIZED.

I HAVE RECEIVED WORD THAT
BARON VASILENKO HAS ARRIVED
AT THE FOREIGN TRADING POST.


THE SAME
VASILENKO WHO
COMMANDS THE
FOREIGN FORCES
IN ALASKA?



HE IS THE SAME, AND
IS TOO IMPORTANT TO SUPERVISE
TRAPPING OPERATIONS!




IT IS OBVIOUS NOW, THAT
THE RECENT CLASHES HAVE
BEEN PLANNED. NOW, MORE
THAN EVER, WE MUST FIND A
WAY TO AVOID THESE CLASHES
AND END THE THREAT TO ALTA
CALIFORNIA!




HERE IS A LETTER IN WHICH I
AUTHORIZE YOU TO ACT IN MY
NAME IF IT SHOULD BECOME
NECESSARY. USE IT AT YOUR
DISCRETION!


YOU HONOR ME,
EXCELLENCY!



I SHALL DEFEND
YOUR TRUST AND ALTA
CALIFORNIA WITH
MY LIFE!



AND NOW, EXCELLENCY, WITH YOUR
PERMISSION, I WILL LEAVE YOU
TO ATTEND THE BALL FOR SEÑOR-
ITA CONCHOLA. I WILL HAVE SOME
EXPLAINING TO DO, FOR WE WERE
TO BE MARRIED NEXT WEEK.



I AM SURE
SHE WILL
UNDER-
STAND.





WHAT? DID YOU SAY POSTPONE YOUR WEDDING TO MY SISTER AGAIN?

UH--IT CAN'T BE HELPED, VINCENTE.

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME WE WERE TO BE MARRIED THAT YOU FOUND A REASON TO POSTPONE IT!

I--UH...

IT SEEMS THAT OTHER MATTERS ARE ALWAYS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR LOVE FOR ME! YOUR ARM, DON SANDOVAL. THE DANCE IS STARTING.

SHORTLY AFTER, IN THE GARDEN...

PANCHITA WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD IF YOU HAD TOLD HER OF YOUR MISSION.

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW. I MUST RIDE TO THE FOREIGN TRADING POST TO PAY A VISIT TO BARON VASILENKO.

BERNARDO, IF I DO NOT RETURN BY TOMORROW, SEND WORD TO THE GOVERNOR WHERE I HAVE GONE.

¡SÍ, EL ZORRO!

SUDDENLY, AS EL ZORRO TAKES A SHORT CUT THROUGH THE HILLS...

SANDOVAL'S TRAPPERS, DIGGING IN ABOVE LA NORIA PASS. BUT WHY?







AH, SO? THEN I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOUR GOVERNOR...



...TELL HIM THAT I DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE ARREST AND EXECUTION OF THE MURDERERS OF MY MEN!



IF THIS IS NOT DONE IMMEDIATELY, I SHALL SEND MY OWN TROOPS TO FIND THEM!

YOU WOULD INVADE CALIFORNIA TERRITORY?



I AM A REASONABLE MAN. I SEEK ONLY JUSTICE.

AND I SEEK A MOMENT ALONE WITH OUR HANDSOME GUEST.



IT SEEMS YOU HAVE MADE A CONQUEST, ZORRO.

SUCH AN EASY CONQUEST MUST HAVE BEEN PREARRANGED.



BUT, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE WISE TO PRETEND TO PLAY THEIR LITTLE GAME.



OUTSIDE THE TRADING POST...

TAKE ME WITH YOU TO MONTEREY, ZORRO. BAR-RACKS LIFE BORES ME.

ARE YOU FREE TO GO?



I AM FREE TO DO WHATEVER I LIKE.

OLGA DOES HER JOB WELL. IF SHE HOLDS ZORRO'S HAND, HE WILL NOT SO EASILY DRAW HIS SWORD AGAINST US.



RAKOV, TAKE THIS MESSAGE TO THE COMMANDER OF OUR FLEET ANCHORED OFF SANTA BARBARA... "MY DEAR TCHUKOV, OUR PLAN IS WORKING. IN TWO WEEKS WE WILL RAISE OUR FLAG OVER MONTEREY."



LATE THE NEXT DAY IN MONTEREY...

I AM CONVINCED VASILENKO HAS TROOPS READY FOR AN ATTACK, YOUR EXCELLENCY. HE WOULDN'T THREATEN US WITH THE FEW HE HAS AT THE POST.

WHERE CAN THEY BE? WE KNOW THEY'RE NOT IN CALIFORNIA.

THEN THEY MUST BE ON SHIP ANCHORED OFF THE COAST!

YOU MUST BE RIGHT, THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO.



I MUST LEAVE FOR MEXICO AT ONCE. WE MUST HAVE REINFORCEMENTS IF WE ARE TO PREVENT AN ATTACK!

AND, YOUR EXCELLENCY IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GET IMMEDIATE HELP.

WHILE I AM GONE, ZORRO, THE FATE OF CALIFORNIA WILL BE IN YOUR HANDS!

GOD SPEED YOUR EXCELLENCY! WE ARE NOW IN A RACE AGAINST TIME!

THE FOLLOWING DAY, IN MONTEREY...

SI DON VINCENTE--IT IS ZORRO RIDING WITH THE FOREIGN WOMAN!

IS ZORRO ON THEIR SIDE OR OURS?

THAT NIGHT, AT THE CASA CONCHOLA...

THE WHOLE TOWN IS TALKING OF ZORRO AND THE FOREIGN ADVENTRESS!

SO SHE IS THE BUSINESS THAT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUR WEDDING!

VINCENTE, I HAVE CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT DON SANDOVAL. TELL HIM HIS VISITS TO CASA CONCHOLA WILL BE MOST WELCOME AT ANY TIME!

MEAN-
WHILE,
IN
THE
HILLS...

HALT! THE GOVERNOR
ORDERED YOU TRAPPERS NOT TO
LEAVE DON SANDOVAL'S CASA.

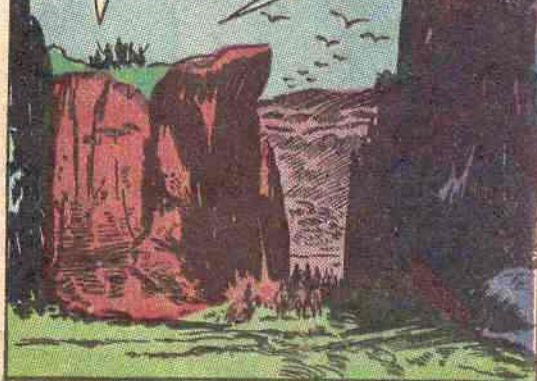
WE TAKE
ORDERS
FROM DON
SANDOVAL,
CAPTAIN
BORDA!



AND ABOVE...

LOOK, BELOW, RAKOV,
SANDOVAL'S TRAPPERS...
AND SOME CAVALRY!

HMM...
AN EXCELLENT
OPPORTUNITY!



IF THIS
DOESN'T PRO-
VOKE AN
INCIDENT,
NOTHING WILL!
OPEN FIRE!

{GASP:
THE
STRANGERS!



OHhh!

RUN!
RUN!

AIEE-EE

CRACK!



THE NEXT AFTERNOON, AT A MEETING SAND-
OVAL HAS ARRANGED WITH THE DONS...

NOBLES OF
CALIFORNIA, WHEN
THE FOREIGNERS
SHOT DOWN MY TRAPPERS,
THE GOVERNOR TOLD ME
TO DO NOTHING! NOW THE
FOREIGNERS SHOOT DOWN THE
GOVERNOR'S OWN TROOPS.
ARE WE STILL TO
DO NOTHING?

NO!

NO!



IT IS TIME FOR ACTION!
IF THE GOVERNOR DOES NOT
SEND HIS TROOPS TO AVENGE
US NOW...



...WE MUST
OUR OWN

SEND
MEN!

BRAVO!
DON SANDOVAL!
WE ARE WITH
YOU!

ON TO THE
PALACE!



MEANWHILE, AT THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE...

EL ZORRO, WE CAUGHT
THE SEÑORITA OLGA
STEALING PAPERS
FROM THE GOVERNOR'S
SECRET FILE!

LET ME GO,
YOU BEAST!
YOU DARE
NOT KEEP
ME A PRIS-
ONER HERE!



YOU CAME TO SPY
ON US AND NOW YOU
MUST REMAIN UNTIL
THE GOVERNOR
RETURNS
TO DEAL
WITH YOU!

COUNT VASI-
LENKO
WILL MAKE YOU
RUE THIS DAY!



ZORRO--LOOK! A CROWD
LED BY DON SANDOVAL IS
STORMING THE PALACE!

DON SANDOVAL!
I WAS EXPECTING
THIS...



..AND THIS COMES
AS NO SURPRISE TO
YOU, DOES IT, OLGA?

I'LL TELL YOU
NOTHING!



BERNARDO, KEEP YOUR EYE ON OLGA! I'M GOING DOWN TO REASON WITH THE MOB!

BE CAREFUL, ZORRO! THEY ARE DANGEROUS!

BUT BELOW, ON THE PALACE STEPS...

THE GOVERNOR IS NOT HERE. BUT IN HIS ABSENCE, I, COLONEL ARGENTA, AM THE AUTHORITY! I WILL LEAD THE CAVALRY AGAINST THE FOREIGNERS.

BRAVO, COLONEL ARGENTA! SPOKEN LIKE A PATRIOT!

SUDDENLY...

WAIT! I SPEAK FOR THE GOVERNOR!

ZORRO!

WHEN THE GOVERNOR LEFT, HE AUTHORIZED ME TO ACT IN HIS NAME! HERE ARE THE PAPERS THAT PROVE IT!

YOU LIE! THE PAPERS ARE FORGERIES! STAND ASIDE OR I'LL ARREST YOU!

WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH TALK! IT IS TIME NOW FOR BULLETS!

BANG!



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS IN THE WOODS OUTSIDE OF TOWN...

BERNARDO, ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?

SI, ZORRO. DON SANDOVAL HAS AROUSED THE DONS TO FIGHT THE STRANGERS!



AND NOW COLONEL ARGENTA HAS JOINED THEM. WHAT OTHER NEWS HAVE YOU?

I SAW OLGA AND SANDOVAL RIDING TOGETHER TOWARD CASA SANDOVAL JUST BEFORE I FOUND YOU.



YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THEM. THEY ARE WORKING TOGETHER.

TO THE CASA SANDOVAL, QUICKLY!



MEANWHILE, AT CASA SANDOVAL...

I HAVE SPOKEN TO PANCHITA AND SHE WILL LOOK WITH FAVOR UPON YOUR VISITS.

EXCELLENT, VINCENTE! LET US TOAST YOUR SISTER WITH A GLASS OF WINE!



AND NOW I MUST RETURN TO CASA CONCHOLA. PANCHITA AWAITS MY RETURN.

WHEN YOU SEE HER, TELL HER THAT MY WISH IS TO BE WITH HER ALWAYS, IF SHE WILL HAVE ME.



AS VINCENTE LEAVES...

GO! I THOUGHT YOUR WISH WAS TO BE WITH ME!

YOU NO LONGER FIT INTO MY PLANS.



AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR YOU! AND YOUR PROMISES TO ME IN MADRID!



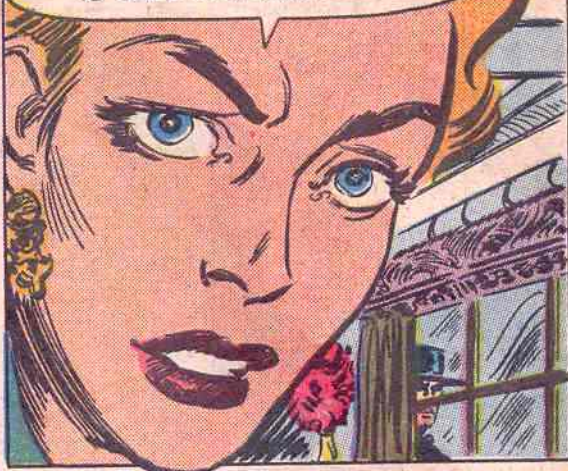
AND NOW YOU WOULD DOUBLE-CROSS ME! BUT YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT! I'LL GO TO ZORRO AND TELL HIM EVERYTHING!



I'LL TELL HIM YOU ARE IN THE PAY OF THE FOREIGNERS! THAT THEY GAVE YOU GOLD SO THAT YOU COULD PLAY THE PART OF A WEALTHY ARISTOCRAT...



... AND CREATE THE INCIDENTS THAT WOULD ALLOW THEIR TROOPS AN EXCUSE TO SEIZE CALIFORNIA!



NO, YOU WON'T, OLGA!



YOU HAVE OUTLIVED YOUR USEFULNESS! SEIZE HER!

NO, WAIT!



YOU HAVE FORCED ME TO DISPOSE OF YOU! NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU NOW!

DON'T BE TOO SURE!



ZORRO!

OLGA, COME HERE! I HEARD EVERYTHING! YOUR GAME IS UP, SANDOVAL!



AFTER THEM, YOU FOOLS! THEY MUST NOT LEAVE HERE ALIVE!

RUN TO MY HORSE, OLGA! I'LL HOLD THEM OFF!





HOURS LATER, WHEN ZORRO FINDS THE CAVALRY ENCAMPMENT...

COLONEL ARGENTA IS NOT HERE. HE LEFT FOR THE FOREIGN CAMP UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE!

...TO SURRENDER YOU ALL WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT!

ARGENTA IS A TRAITOR! BY AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR, I ORDER YOU NOT TO OBEY COLONEL ARGENTA IN THE FUTURE, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!

I'VE GOT TO INTERCEPT COLONEL ARGENTA BEFORE HE CAN RETURN TO HIS MEN!

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, IN A NARROW PASS SEPARATING THE TWO FORCES...

WHAT LUCK! ARGENTA WITH VASILENKO!

MOMENTS LATER, AS ARGENTA PASSES BENEATH A TREE...

ONE DOWN!

AAGH!

CRACK!

BEFORE THE OTHER TWO CAN RECOVER FROM THEIR SURPRISE, ZORRO TAKES COMMAND

TELL YOUR SOLDIER TO DROP HIS GUN, OR--

DO WHAT HE SAYS!

YOU'LL FIND SOME ROPE ON MY SADDLE, SOLDIER. TIE AND GAG ARGENTA. THEN RETURN TO YOUR COMRADES. BARON VASILENKO WILL ACCOMPANY ME!

TAKING VASILENKO PRISONER, ZORRO RETURNS TO ARGENTA'S CAMP...

YOUR PLOT HAS FAILED, BARON VASILENKO! WITH YOU MY PRISONER, CALIFORNIA WILL REMAIN FREE!

EL ZORRO, DON SANDOVAL IS APPROACHING!



I CAME TO SEE ARGENTA! BUT I SEE YOU HAVE TAKEN COMMAND, ZORRO!

THE GAME IS UP, SANDOVAL! SURRENDER YOURSELF TO ME AND LET US PREVENT BLOODSHED!



VASILENKO'S CAPTURE MEANS NOTHING TO ME. I HAVE TAKEN COMMAND OF THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE AND WILL JOIN FORCES WITH VASILENKO'S TROOPS AND DESTROY YOU!



IT IS YOU WHO MUST SURRENDER! I WILL GIVE YOU UNTIL MIDNIGHT TO DECIDE!



YOU HAVEN'T WON YET, ZORRO! SANDOVAL MAY STILL BECOME RULER OF CALIFORNIA FOR MY GOVERNMENT.

THERE IS ONE CHANCE HE MAY NOT, VASILENKO! I HAVE A PLAN!



LATE THAT NIGHT, AT THE PALACE...

IF YOU WISH TO LIVE, VASILENKO, DO AS I ORDER!

I UNDERSTAND!



GUARD! GUARD! DON'T SHOOT!
IT IS I, BARON VASILENKO!



WHAT DO
YOU WANT?

THUD!

NOW ON
TO THE NEXT
SENTRY,
VASILENKO!



MINUTES LATER...

DON SANDOVAL,
BARON VASILENKO HAS
ESCAPED FROM ZORRO!
HE IS OUTSIDE!

IMPOSSIBLE!
CALL THE
GUARD!



BUT SUDDENLY... BETTER CHANGE
THAT ORDER, SANDOVAL! OR, IT WILL
BE THE LAST YOU EVER GIVE!

ZORRO!



YOU ARE
MY PRISONER!
CALL OFF YOUR
MEN!

NOT YET, ZORRO! I
STILL HOLD THE UPPER
HAND! SOLDIER, BRING
IN OUR CHARMING
GUEST!





PANCHITA

YES, ZORRO--
I HAD MY
MEN BRING
HER HERE
AS INSUR-
ANCE!



AND NOW, ZORRO--
SURRENDER, OR PAN-
CHITA DIES!



DON SANDOVAL,
Y-YOU SAID YOU
LOVED ME!

BUT I LOVE LIFE MORE!
YOUR ANSWER, ZORRO!

SUDDENLY PANCHITA BREAKS
AWAY FROM HER CAPTOR...

BUT SANDOVAL
ACTS QUICKLY!



GIVE HIM
YOUR ANSWER,
ZORRO--
FIGHT!

SH-SHE BIT
MY HAND!



UGHH!

CRACK!

MY
COMPLIMENTS,
ZORRO!

THIS IS THE END, ZORRO -- AND YOU HAVE LOST!

BUT BLINDED WITH HATRED, SANDOVAL DOES NOT SEE THE CANDELABRA...

WHA...?

THE W-WINDOW!
I'M FALLING!

I COULDN'T SAVE HIM...BUT NOW THAT HIS MEN ARE LEADER-LESS, THEY WILL NOT FIGHT!

A FEW DAYS LATER AT THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE...

NOW THAT I HAVE RETURNED WITH MEXICAN REINFORCEMENTS, THE STRANGERS WILL NOT BREAK THE PEACE WHICH WE OWE TO ZORRO...

BUT WHERE IS ZORRO? HE IS NOT HERE!

ZORRO IS ALWAYS HERE -- DIEGO AND ZORRO ARE ONE--BE-NEATH THE MASK!