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# AIRBOY

*Another gripping tale of* **THE HEAP**

**COMICS**

A HILLMAN PUBLICATION





# AIRBOY

IT'S LATE AT NIGHT AT A WEST COAST AIRPORT... A TRANSCONTINENTAL CRUISER IS PICKED UP BY THE FIELD LIGHTS AS IT COMES IN FOR A LANDING... ALL IS QUIET AROUND THE HANGARS... NOW AS AIRBOY WALKS TOWARD HIS BIRDPANE HE FEELS A CERTAIN UNEASINESS— AND FOR VERY GOOD REASON— BECAUSE FROM THE SHADOWS HE'S WATCHED BY TWO SMALL ROUGH CHARACTERS...

...LET'S SEE NOW... FLYING ON THE BEAM I SHOULD HIT CHICAGO AT ABOUT 1:15... REFUEL AND THEN... HMM... DON'T KNOW WHAT MAKES ME FEEL SO JITTERY...



... I ALMOST FEEL AS IF SOMEONE'S WATCHING ME... LIKE A BIRD WHEN A CAT'S STALKING IT... MAYBE MY IMAGINATION... PLAYING TRICKS ON ME...

AS AIRBOY CLIMBS INTO THE COCKPIT A NOISELESS FIGURE SLINKS PAST THE TAIL OF THE BIRDPANE...

...LET'S GO, OLD GIRL... WE'VE GOT A DATE WITH A LANDING STRIP IN NEW YORK IN THE MORNING...



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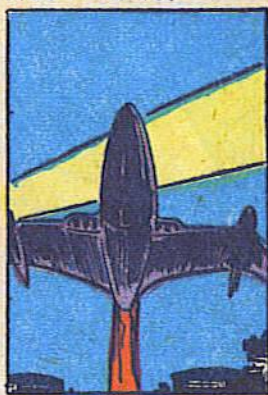
AIRBOY IS ABOUT TO TAKE OFF...WHEN...



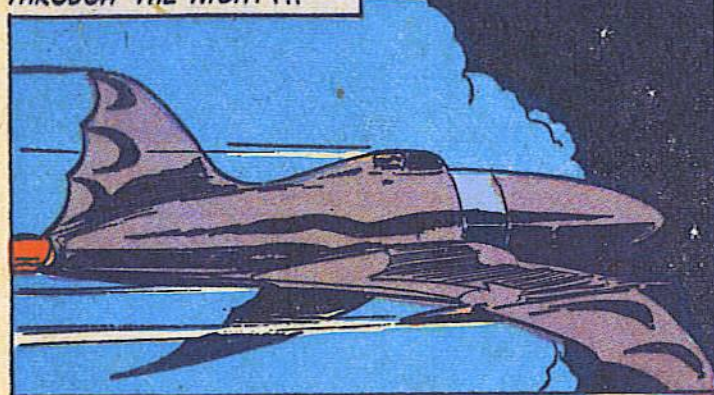
BEFORE HE CAN TAKE THE NEXT BREATH, A WRENCH CLIPS AIRBOY FROM THE OTHER SIDE...



AIRBOY'S TWO DWARFISH KIDNAPPERS ROLL HIM TO THE BACK OF THE PLANE... THEY TIE HIM UP... THEN ONE GRABS THE CONTROLS AND SENDS THE BIRDPLANE STREAKING INTO THE DARK SKY...

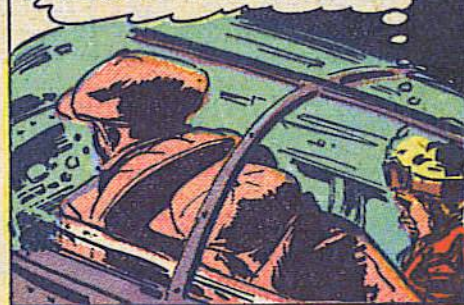


HOOR AFTER HOUR, WITH HER POWERFUL JET ENGINES PULSING AT FULL THROTTLE THE BIRDPLANE WINGS THROUGH THE NIGHT...

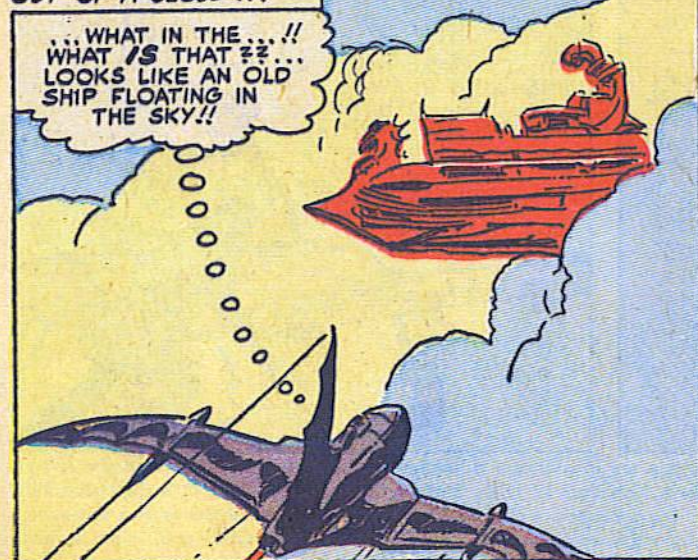


SHORTLY BEFORE DAWN AIRBOY STIRS...

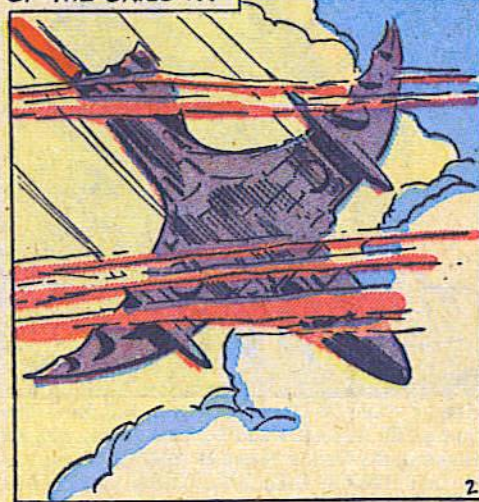
...CAN'T MOVE...BOY—THESE TWO LITTLE GORILLAS GOT ME TIED...HMM...THE COMPASS...WE'RE HEADED DUE WEST...OUT ACROSS THE PACIFIC...



THEN...IN THE EARLY MORNING LIGHT AIRBOY BLINKS AT SIGHT OF A MONSTROUS FORM THAT SLOWLY MOVES OUT OF A CLOUD...



THE BIRDPLANE PILOT JABBERS EXCITEDLY TO HIS COMPANION IN A STRANGE TONGUE...THEN HE SENDS THE BIRDPLANE DOWN IN A TIGHT SPIRAL BEHIND THE STRANGE GIANT OF THE SKIES...





IT'S A VOLCANIC ISLAND OF THE PACIFIC... AND NOW THE BIRDPLANE LANDS ON A LAVA STRIP...



... BUT AS AIRBOY IS ROUGHLY HAULED FROM THE BIRDPLANE AND BROUGHT BEFORE A STRANGE HELMETED FIGURE...



THE WEIRD KELLER BARKS AN ORIENTAL ORDER... AND AIRBOY IS RAMMED INTO A CRUDE IRON CAGE...



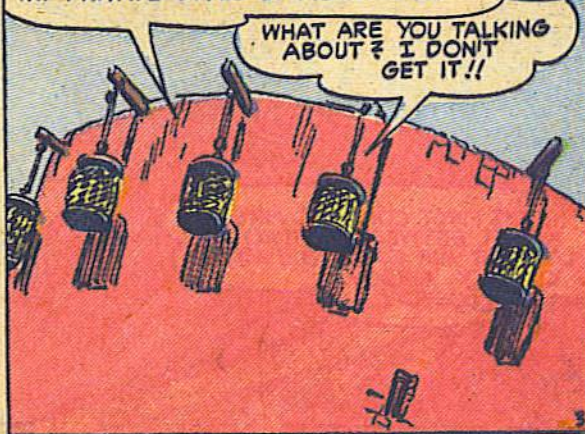
WITH BLOCK AND TACKLE THE CAGE SOON SWINGS FROM THE TOP OF A HIGH CIRCULAR WALL...



AIRBOY'S CAGE HANGS IN A ROW OF OTHERS... SOME ARE EMPTY... OTHERS HOLD SUN-BLACKENED PRISONERS... THEN AIRBOY HEARS A SHOUT...



... YEAH... BUT KELLER'S NICE LITTLE GOONS PICKED ME UP... I'VE BEEN HERE SIX MONTHS NOW... THIS THING IS CRAZY... THESE GUYS HAVE CEREMONIAL AIR FIGHTS... I'VE BEEN IN SIX OF THEM!!... WAIT'LL YOU GET A LOAD OF IT... THERE'S ANOTHER ONE DUE TODAY... YOU'RE JUST IN TIME... BUT I THINK I'M OUT OF LUCK... THEY'RE GETTING WISE TO MY PRIVATE STYLE OF FIGHTING...





BEFORE COLLINS CAN ANSWER, HIS CAGE IS SUDDENLY LOWERED...

THIS ROMAN SPECTACLE, AIRBOY!!... THE CROWD IS COMING NOW... I'M GONNA FIGHT AGAIN... LISTEN... TRY A TIGHT FIGURE EIGHT... IT'S WORKED FOR ME SIX TIMES...

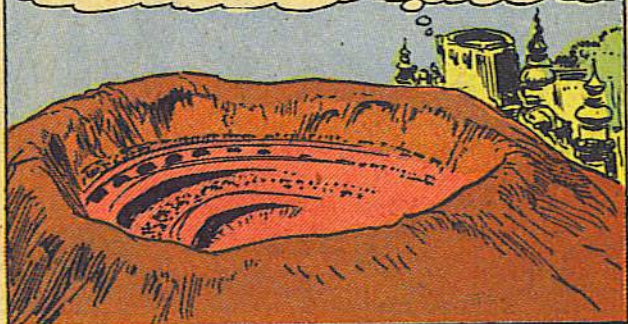
I DON'T GET YOU...



WITH UNEASY WONDER AIRBOY NOW LOOKS THE OTHER WAY... AND A STARTLING SIGHT GREET'S HIM... FOR INSIDE THE OLD VOLCANO IS A GREEK-LIKE COLISEUM... WITH TIERS OF SEATS... AND A MULTITUDE IS POURING IN...

WOW!!... HOW

D'YA LIKE **THAT**!!!... WHAT A LAY-OUT!!!... AND THIS ISLAND WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DESERTED!!... WHAT **IS** THIS??... AND WHAT'S THIS FIGHTING BUSINESS JIMMY TALKS ABOUT...



THEN... AT HIGH NOON AIRBOY IS LOWERED TO THE GROUND...

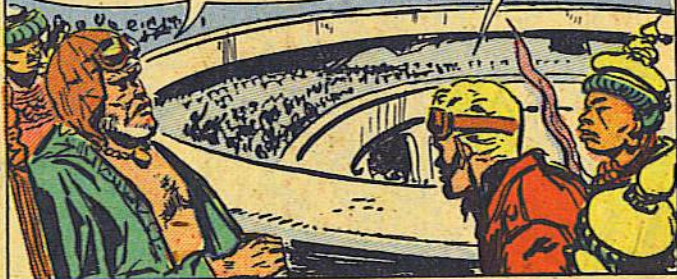
OH-OH!!... LOOKS LIKE **I'M** BEING INVITED TO THE SHOW...



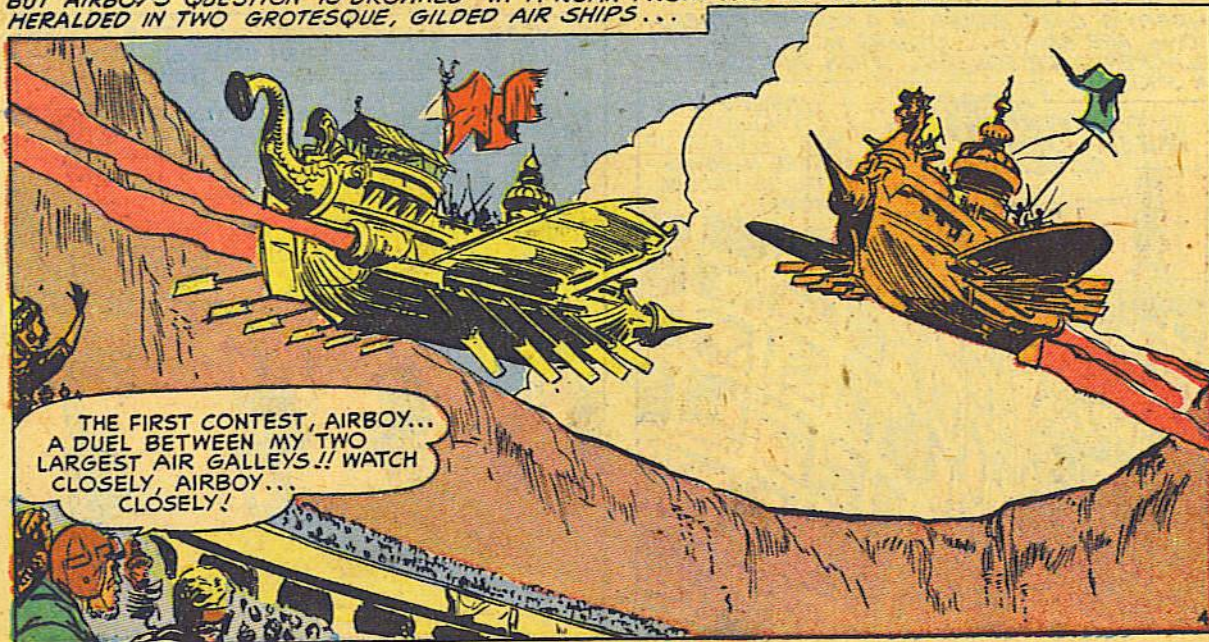
ARMED GUARDS IN STRANGE TRAPPINGS ESCORT AIRBOY INTO THE AMPHITHEATER AND THROUGH THE THRONGS TO THE ROYAL BOX...

WELL, AIRBOY... YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR THE SHOW! AN AMERICAN NAMED COLLINS IS IN THE FINALS TODAY...

FINALS? COLLINS? WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, KELLER?



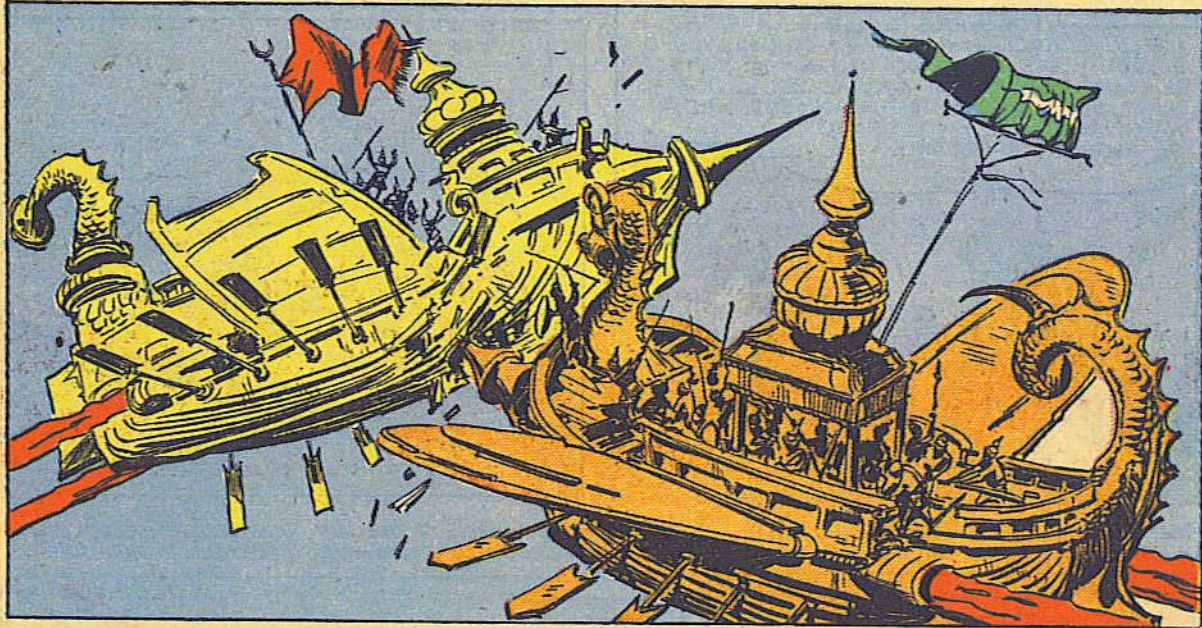
BUT AIRBOY'S QUESTION IS DROWNED IN A ROAR FROM THE CROWD! CLASHING CYMBALS HAVE HERALDED IN TWO GROTESQUE, GILDED AIR SHIPS...



THE FIRST CONTEST, AIRBOY... A DUEL BETWEEN MY TWO LARGEST AIR GALLEYS!! WATCH CLOSELY, AIRBOY... CLOSELY!



THE HUGE CRAFT MANEUVER FOR POSITION, THEN ONE SEES ITS CHANCE AND RAMS!!



**BRAVO, NUNTAC, BRAVO!** NUNTAC COMMANDS MY DRAGON SHIP, AIRBOY! HE'S ALMOST AS GOOD AS HIS TUTOR!... NOBODY WOULD SUSPECT THAT I, ANTON KELLER, WORLD'S GREATEST FLYER, COULD CREATE SUCH A SPECTACLE, EH, AIRBOY? HA-HA! BUT IN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS I'VE TAUGHT 'EM **EVERYTHING!**... TO BUILD, TO FLY!... YES, SMART PEOPLE, THESE ISLANDERS. EVEN ADDED TOUCHES OF THEIR OWN DESIGN!

IT'S **CRUEL**, KELLER! AS CRUEL AS THAT STUNT YOU PULLED YEARS AGO AT AN AIR SHOW! THEY STILL SPLASH YOUR PICTURE IN THE PAPERS, KELLER!

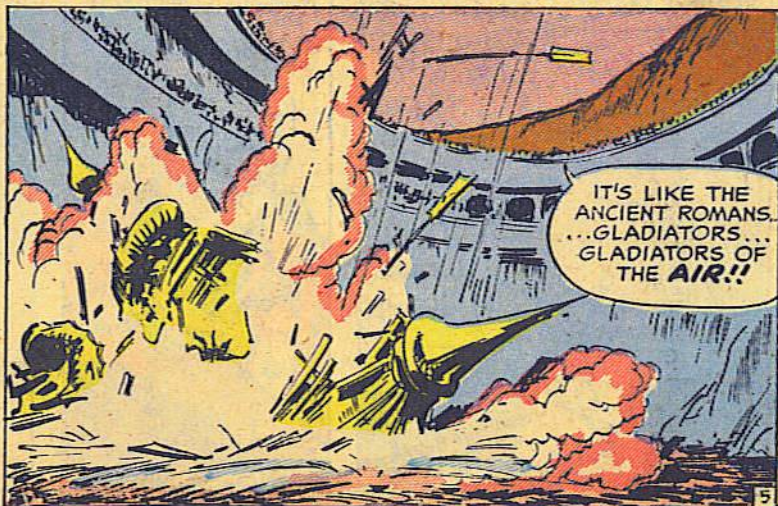
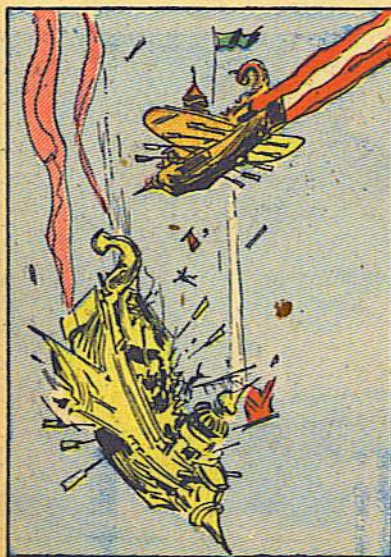


FAMOUS, AM I? HA-HA! ABOUT TIME! IF THEY'D APPRECIATED ME BEFORE, I WOULDN'T HAVE SHOT DOWN THOSE TWO PLANES... OR STRAFED THE AUDIENCE! HA-HA-HA!

HE'S STARK RAVING MAD... AND HE'S GOT THESE POOR NATIVES BLOOD-CRAZY TOO!!... OH-OH! ONE OF THOSE SHIPS IS DONE FOR!



THE BATTERED HULK AND ITS CREW OF DOOMED MEN CRASH INTO THE CENTER OF THE NATURAL AMPHITHEATRE...



IT'S LIKE THE ANCIENT ROMANS... GLADIATORS... GLADIATORS OF THE AIR!!

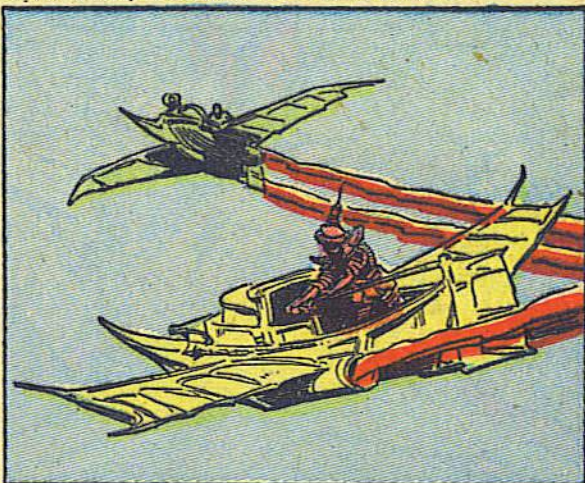


AGAIN THE CYMBALS CRASH TO ANNOUNCE ANOTHER COMBAT...

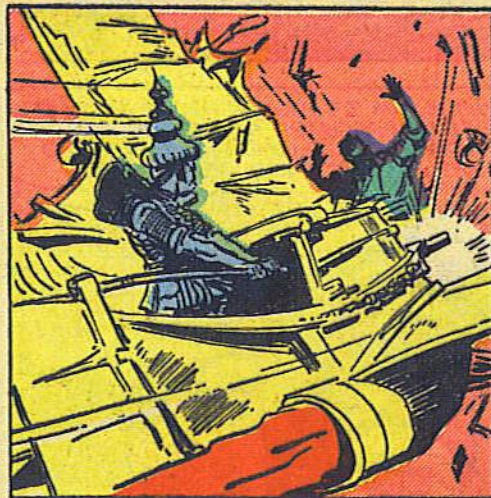
NOW HERE SHOULD BE A FIGHT, AIRBOY! NUNTAC AGAINST JIMMY COLLINS. YOU OUTSIDE PILOTS ARE GOOD TO TRAIN MY BOYS. OF COURSE YOU'RE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO OUR CRAFT, BUT IT'S GOOD ENTERTAINMENT!... NOW WATCH, AIRBOY! I WANT YOU TO BE A STAR PERFORMER...



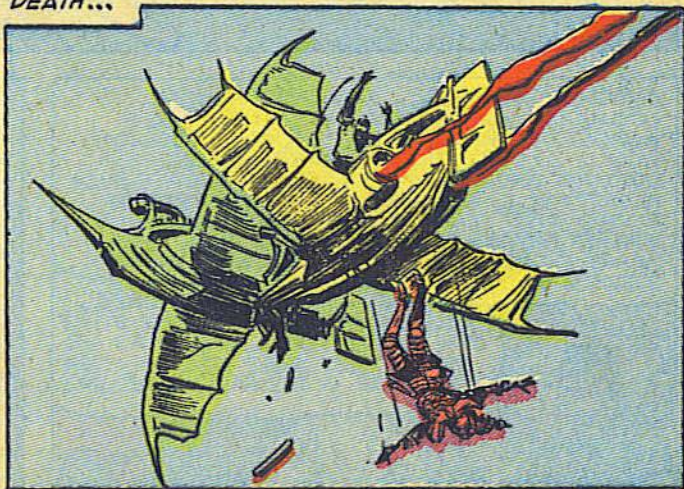
AND AS AIRBOY LOOKS ON, THE TWO ACES CIRCLE CAUTIOUSLY, LOOKING FOR AN OPENING...



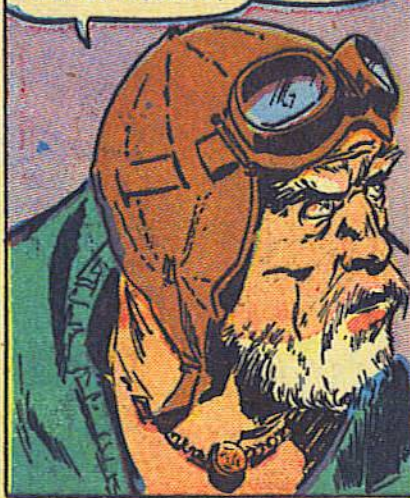
THEN COLLINS TRIES A TIGHT SPIRAL, BUT NUNTAC OUTGUESSES HIM AND RAMS...



THE TWO SHIPS LOCK IN THE AIR LONG ENOUGH FOR COLLINS TO DASH ACROSS HIS WING AND HURL NUNTAC TO HIS DEATH...



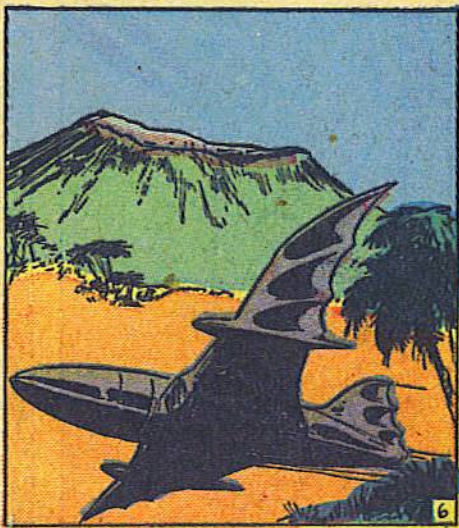
THE CROWD... THEY'RE ROARING! THEY APPROVE! NO! NO! FOUL! FOUL! TELL THE GALLEYS TO DESTROY COLLINS!



NOT WHILE I CAN HELP IT! I'LL CALL BIRDIE ON THE REMOTE CONTROL DIAL!



A MILE AWAY THE BIRDPLANE RECEIVES ITS MASTER'S SUMMONS AND SWEEPS INTO FLIGHT...

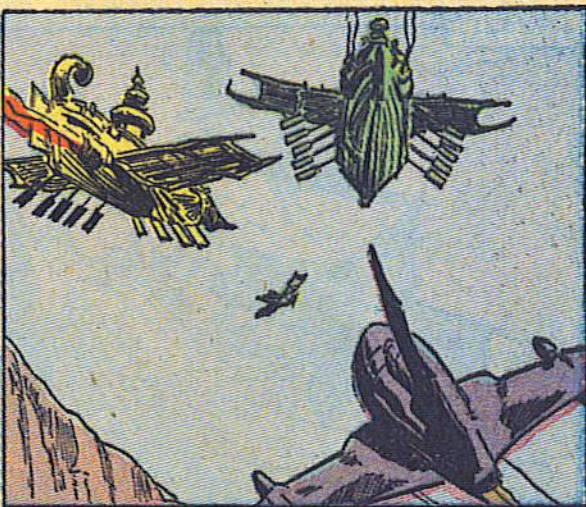




SECONDS LATER THE BIRDPLANE FLASHES ACROSS THE ARENA, BRUSHING ASIDE HIS SURPRISED GUARDS, AIRBOY MAKES A WELL-TIMED LEAP...



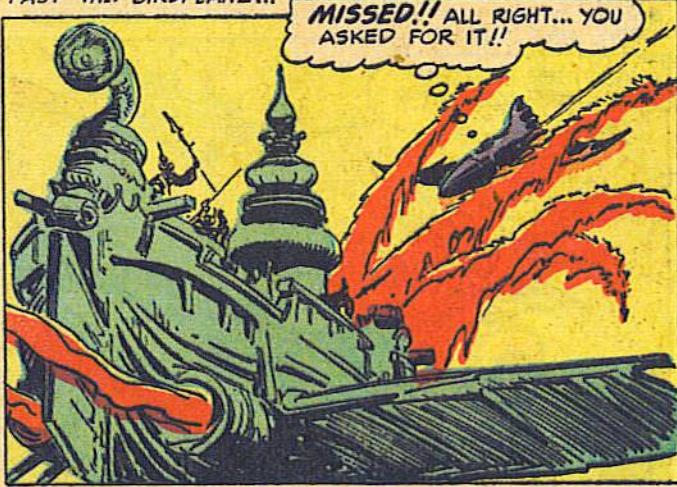
AND BY THE TIME AIRBOY GAINS THE COCKPIT, THE TWO AIR GALLEYS ARE CLOSING IN ON COLLINS...



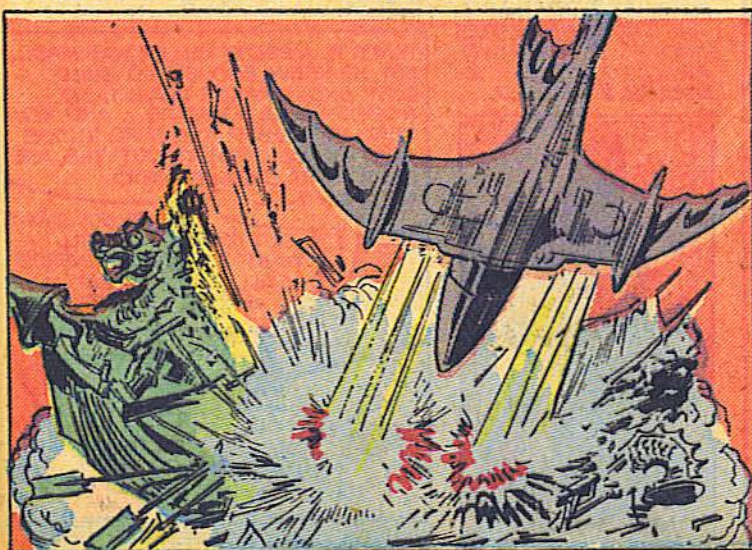
BUT THE LEAD SHIP'S COMMANDER HAS NOW SPOTTED AIRBOY...



A BROADSIDE OF SPEAR-LIKE TORCHES BLISTERS PAST THE BIRDPLANE...



GUNS BLAZING, THE BIRDPLANE DIVES STRAIGHT AT THE CUMBERSOME GALLEY... IT'S A SURE HIT...

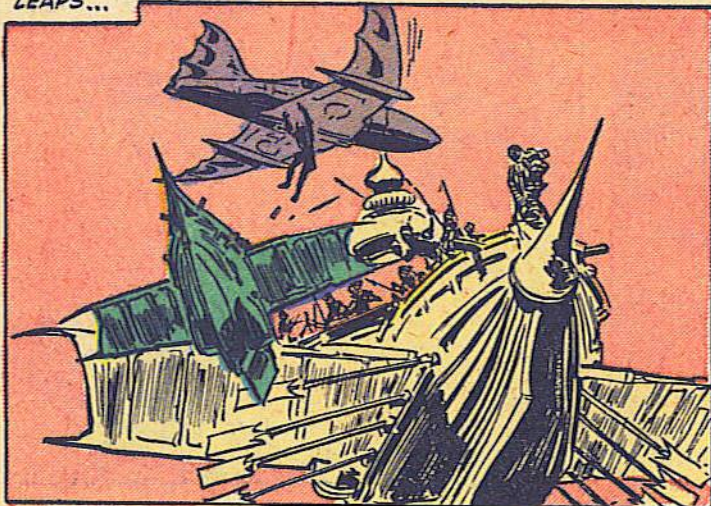


WHILE IN THE STANDS BELOW...





MEANWHILE THE REMAINING GALLEY HAS GRAPPLED COLLINS'S CRAFT... BUT BEFORE THEY CAN BOARD, THE BIRDPLANE COMES TO A FLAPPING STANDSTILL OVERHEAD... AND AIRBOY LEAPS...



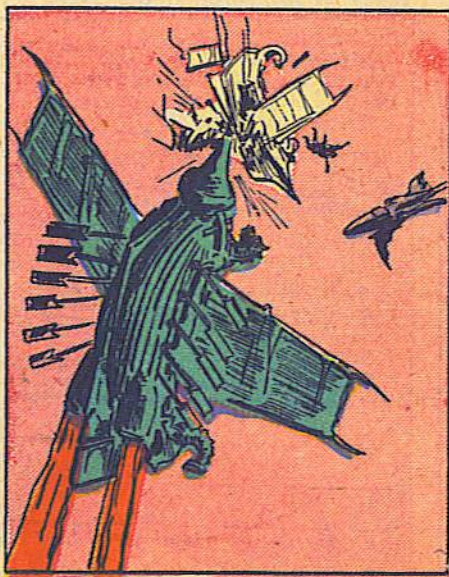
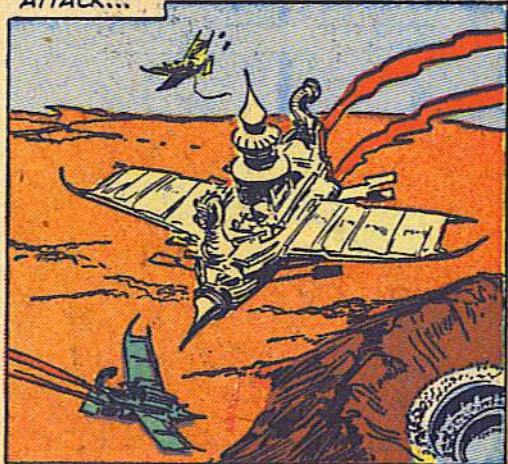
THE FIGHT BRINGS AIRBOY TO THE TILLER... HE PUTS THE GALLEY INTO A FAST ROLL TO DUMP OUT THE SURPRISED CREW, AND THEN...



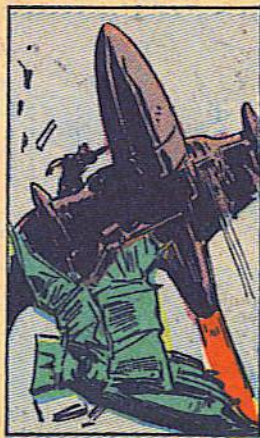
GIVE IT TO 'EM, COLLINS!  
MAKE FOR THE CONTROLS!



AIRBOY PUTS THE HELM HARD OVER AND THE WOODEN DRAGON SWINGS TO MEET THE ATTACK...



...AS THE LOCKED CRAFT PLUMMET, EARTHWARD, THE BIRDPLANE SETTLES ABOVE... COLLINS AND AIRBOY HAVE ONLY TO SCRAMBLE ABOARD...



...AND SOON A PACIFIC SUNSET FINDS THEM WINGING HOME.....

THAT'S IT, AIRBOY! KELLER WAS MAD... BUT HE KNEW ENOUGH TO BUILD ONLY SHORT RANGE PLANES, SO NOBODY COULD ESCAPE... AND NOW THAT HE'S DEAD, I'M SURE THOSE PEOPLE WILL THROW OUT THE AIR BATTLES HE SNEAKED INTO THEIR LIFE.....

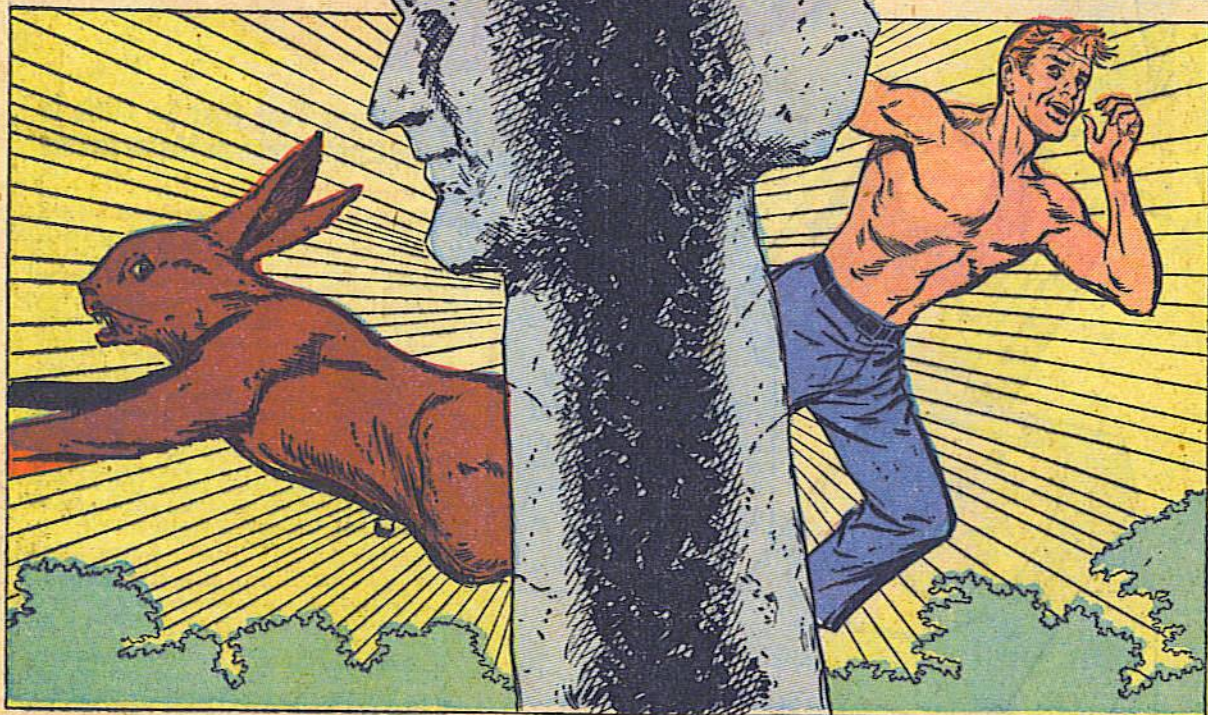
I HOPE SO, JIMMY!  
BUT THE U.S.A. WILL WANT TO **KNOW**... THERE'S STILL A BUNCH OF CAPTIVE PILOTS TO FREE...





# the RABBIT AT THE DOOR

THE STRANGE THINGS THAT MOVED IN DISTANT DARK CORNERS OF THE WORLD MEANT LITTLE TO THE MARLE FAMILY... FOR THEY WERE COUNTRY PEOPLE OF THE U.S. AND HUNTING WAS THEIR BIG SPORT... BUT NOW YOUNG DICK MARLE IS GOING TO PUT UP HIS GUN FOR THE TIME BEING... HE HAS THE CHANCE TO TAKE A TRIP TO HAITI WITH CAPTAIN HARRIS... AND BELOW WE SEE HIM AS HE TALKS WITH HIS BROTHERS...



WELL, I GUESS YOU WON'T BE HUNTING RABBITS WITH US FOR A WHILE, DICK... I STILL DON'T SEE **WHY** YOU SIGNED WITH CAP'TN HARRIS TO SAIL DOWN TO **HAITI!** THERE AIN'T NO RABBITS THERE!

THAT DOESN'T MATTER TO **ME!** I WANT TO SEE SOME OF THIS WORLD 'FORE I SETTLE DOWN—BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE BACK—AND WITH SOME SOUVENIRS!

THEN...LATER THAT DAY...

WHERE'S DICK, PA? THE CAPTAIN'LL BE CALLING FOR HIM SOON!

HE CAME BACK FROM HUNTING WITH A TOOTHACHE—YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM WHEN HE'S AILING, MAW!





YES... SINCE HE WAS SMALL HE'S GONE TO THAT OLD BED IN HIS ROOM AT THE FIRST SIGN OF PAIN— SEEMS TO COMFORT HIM! I'D BETTER CALL HIM SO HE'LL BE READY IN TIME!



HOW'S THE TOOTH, SON?

IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW! I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I ALWAYS FEEL BETTER IN THIS BED! I GUESS I'LL COME BACK EVEN WHEN I'M READY TO DIE!



DON'T TALK OF DYIN', DICK... HERE, TAKE THIS RING AND WEAR IT AS SOMETHING TO REMEMBER US BY! NOW YOU'D BETTER HURRY... THE SHIP YOU'RE SAILING ON WON'T WAIT FOR YOU!

THANKS, DAD!... TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!



MONTHS PASS AND...

THERE, I GOT ANOTHER OF THOSE PESKY RABBITS! BOY— I'LL BET DICK MISSES THIS KIND OF LIFE!

YEAH! BUT HE SAID HE'D BE BACK PRETTY SOON!



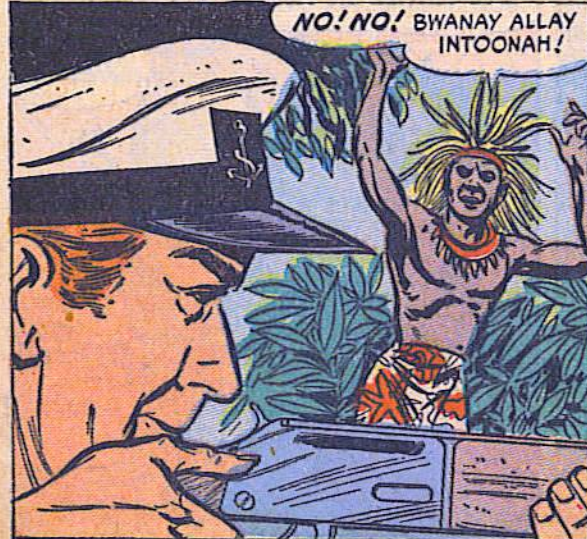
BUT MEANWHILE, IN FAR-OFF HAITI...

LOOK, DICK... IF YOU GOT ANY IDEAS OF SHOOTING THAT RABBIT— FORGET THEM! THEY'RE SACRED TO THE NATIVES AROUND HERE! THEY BELIEVE THAT IF YOU SHOOT A RABBIT— YOU DESTROY A HUMAN SOUL!

THEY MIGHT BELIEVE IT— BUT I DON'T! I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THERE WERE RABBITS HERE— MY BROTHERS ARE GOING TO BE SURE SURPRISED WHEN I BRING ONE BACK!



NO! NO! BWANAY ALLAY INTOONAH!



BWANAY ALTOONAH ANBAGO!

WHAT'S THAT DOUBLE TALK MEAN?

HE SAID THAT IF YOU DESTROYED THE SOUL OF ONE OF HIS PEOPLE... HE'LL DESTROY YOU!





LATER THAT EVENING...

THE NATIVES TOLD ME THE CHIEF'S SON DIED TODAY! THEY THINK **YOU'RE** RESPONSIBLE BECAUSE YOU SHOT THAT RABBIT! **LISTEN...** THOSE DRUMS MEAN **TROUBLE!**

THEY GIVE ME THE CREEPS! I'M GLAD WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE TOMORROW

**BOOM BOOM BOOM**



BUT THAT NIGHT, THE DRUMS BEAT LOUDER... LOUDER AND SEEM TO CAST A STRANGE SPELL OVER RICHARD MARLE...

YES... I HEAR... I WILL DO AS YOU SAY...



YOU SEND FOR ME... I COME...

THEN SUDDENLY HE AWAKES... TO FIND HIMSELF LOST DEEP IN THE JUNGLE...

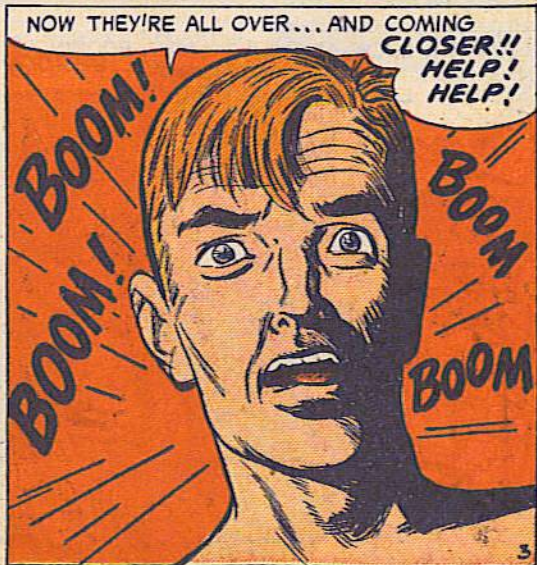
WHERE AM I?... WHAT AM I DOING **HERE?** THOSE DRUMS-- THEY'RE AFTER ME... **GOT TO GET AWAY!!**



THOSE DRUMS-- THEY'RE ON THE SIDE, TOO!! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY!!

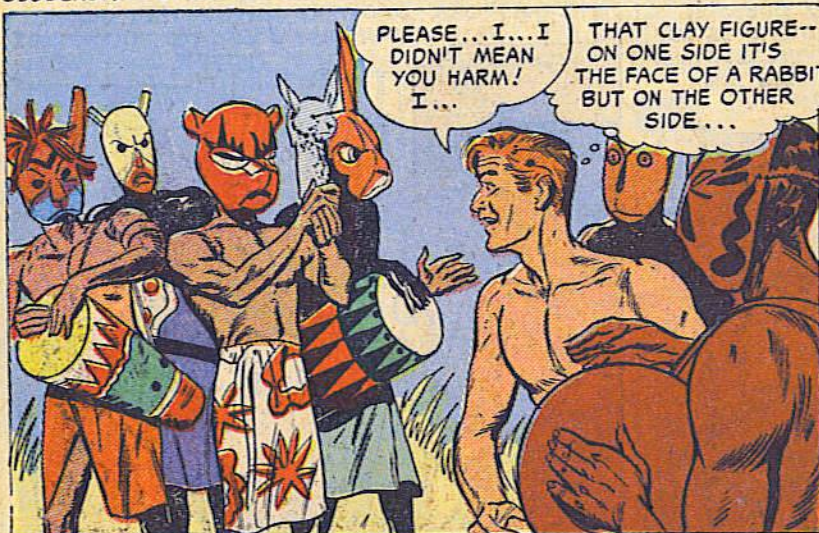


NOW THEY'RE ALL OVER... AND COMING CLOSER!! **HELP! HELP!**





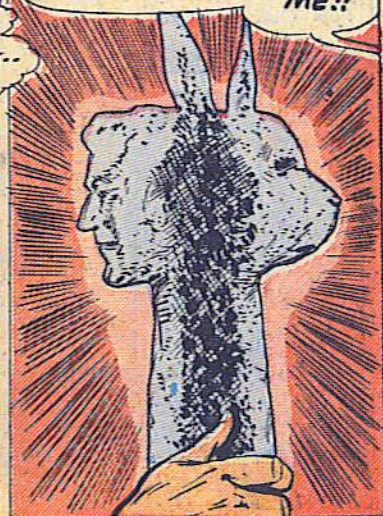
SUDDENLY, A GROUP OF STRANGELY-MASKED NATIVES APPEARS...



PLEASE...I...I DIDN'T MEAN YOU HARM! I...

THAT CLAY FIGURE-- ON ONE SIDE IT'S THE FACE OF A RABBIT-- BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE...

...IT...IT'S A LIKENESS OF ME!!



BUT THEN...

WHA... HE BROKE THAT IMAGE OF ME, AND...AND THE REST OF THEM ACT AS IF I WAS DESTROYED WITH IT... WELL, ANYWAY-- NOW'S MY CHANCE TO GET AWAY!



AND AFTER MANY HOURS...

THE VILLAGE--AT LAST!! IT'S A GOOD THING WE SAIL TODAY-- I COULDN'T TAKE ANOTHER DAY ON THIS ISLAND!!



THEN DAYS LATER, AT DICK'S HOME...

WOW! LOOK AT THAT BIG ONE... WHAT A TARGET!

NICE SHOOTING! C'MON-- LET'S GO PICK 'IM UP!!



BANG!

THAT'S FUNNY! NEVER SAW ONE SURVIVE A DIRECT HIT FROM A RIFLE SLUG!

IT COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR. LET'S FOLLOW THE TRACKS!





LOOK! IT...IT SEEMS  
TO HAVE GONE RIGHT  
FOR OUR HOUSE.

LOOKS LIKE IT WENT  
**INSIDE!** GUESS IT  
REALLY WANTS US TO  
HAVE ITS SKIN. LET'S ASK  
MA...MAYBE SHE  
SAW IT!



YES! A RABBIT DASHED  
INTO THE HOUSE...AND WENT  
UPSTAIRS!

LOOK...BLOOD STAINS...  
THEY--THEY LEAD TO  
**DICK'S ROOM!** WAIT  
OUTSIDE, MA---WE'LL  
GET IT!



BUT MA DOESN'T WAIT OUTSIDE, AND...

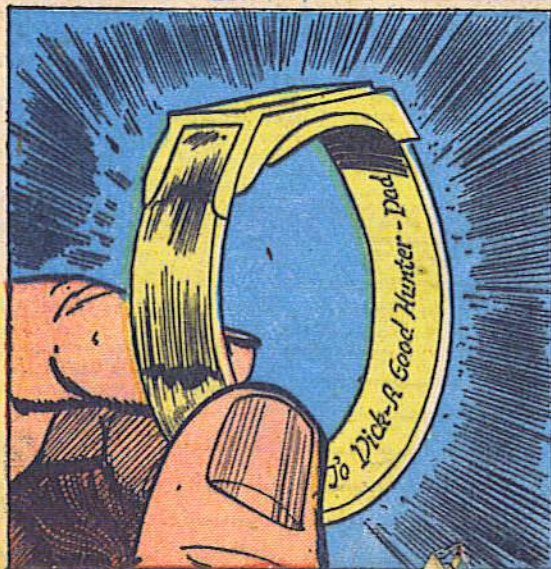
IT'S IN...IN DICK'S BED!  
BUT--WHY DID IT COME  
HERE TO DIE?

MA...  
LOOK...ON ITS  
PAW...SOMETHING  
**SHINING!**

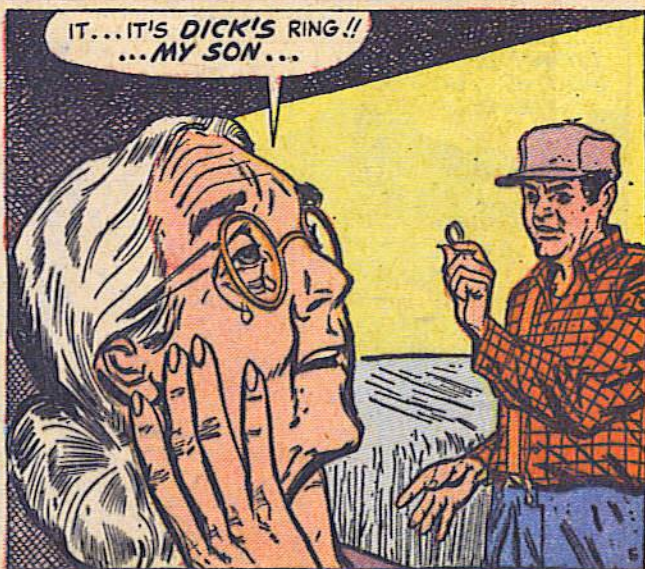


IT...IT...LOOKS  
LIKE A **RING**...

A RING?...WAIT--I WANT  
TO GET A BETTER LOOK AT  
THAT....



IT...IT'S **DICK'S RING!!**  
...MY SON...





# THE HEAP

FAR BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH AND RIGHT BENEATH THE WORLD FAMOUS SAN REMO GAMBLING CASINO ARE VAST NATURAL CAVES... THEIR WONDER ATTRACTS VISITORS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD... AND NOW ANOTHER PARTY LISTENS TO A GUIDE...



JULES... TAKE THE PARTY TO THE SURFACE... I'LL GO AND FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!... SOUNDS LIKE IT'S COMING FROM THE BLUE GROTTO...

BE CAREFUL, ANTON... THE GROTTO IS HALF FLOODED...

ANTON CAREFULLY MOVES TOWARD THE SOUND...

... THEN DEEP IN THE BLUE GROTTO THE GUIDE COMES UPON A GREAT SHAGGY FIGURE THAT WEAKLY POUNDS FOR HELP... IT IS NATURE'S MIGHTY HEAP, TRAPPED BY A SHIFTING STONE...





...GOODNESS...WHAT *IS* THIS THING...THIS MONSTER...IT SEEMS LIKE A TREE WITH LIFE... IT MUST HAVE FALLEN DOWN THROUGH THE RIFT FROM THE SURFACE...BUT NO LIVING THING COULD SURVIVE SUCH A FALL... IT MAY ATTACK ME...BUT I CANNOT SEE IT SUFFER... I MUST HELP IT...



AND WITH A FEELING OF PITY OUTWEIGHING HIS FEAR, ANTON WORKS TO RAISE THE ROCK THAT HOLDS THE HEAP...



...THERE YOU ARE...BIG FELLOW...ONCE MORE NOW AND...

THE MONSTER IS FREE...AND ANTON NEARLY DIES OF FRIGHT AS A GREAT PAW CLUTCHES HIS SHOULDER...



N...NO!!...NO...!!

BUT THE HEAP ONLY LEADS THE TERRIFIED GUIDE TO THE WALL OF THE GROTTO...AND POINTS TO A GREAT WIDENING CRACK...

OH...A GREAT NEW SURFACE CRACK...I UNDERSTAND SHAGGY FRIEND...AND THIS IS VERY GOOD TO KNOW... THANKS TO YOU...



...THE GAMBLING CASINO IS DIRECTLY ABOVE THIS DANGEROUS BREAK... I HAVE NO LOVE FOR THE GREEDY PROPRIETOR... HE OWES ME BACK SALARY... AS LITTLE AS IT IS... BUT...



ANTON MAKES HIS WAY TO THE SURFACE...



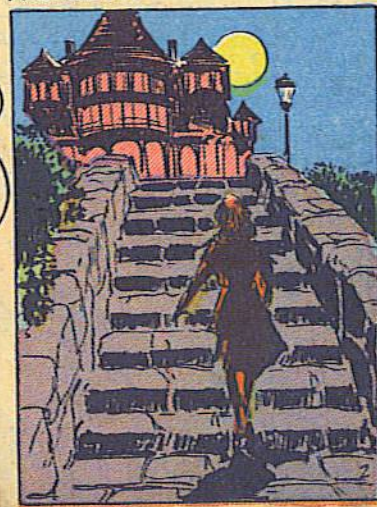
HE FIRST GOES TO HIS HUMBLE HOME AND SPEAKS TO HIS WIFE...

MARTHA!!...WHERE IS OUR DAUGHTER MARIE?... I WANT HER TO RUN UP TO THE CASINO WITH A WARNING TO CABETTE...

THE CHILD HAS ALREADY GONE THERE...TO ASK THEM IF THEY CAN SPARE US BREAD FOR A DAY OR TWO... THEY HAVE SO MUCH...AND WE ARE WITHOUT A PENNY...



...AND AS THE YOUNG MARIE MOUNTS THE STEPS TO THE BRIGHTLY LIGHTED GAMBLING PALACE...





AT THE CASINO DOOR MARIE ENCOUNTERS A FASHIONABLE COUPLE...



POOR CHILD... SO YOU COME HERE TO ASK FOR BREAD?... WELL, LITTLE CINDERELLA... I HAVE A BETTER IDEA... AND A HUNCH... HERE IS FIFTY FRANCS... COME... PUT IT ON THE ROULETTE WHEEL... PERHAPS...

BUT, MADAM... I DO NOT WISH TO GAMBLE... PLEASE... MY PARENTS...



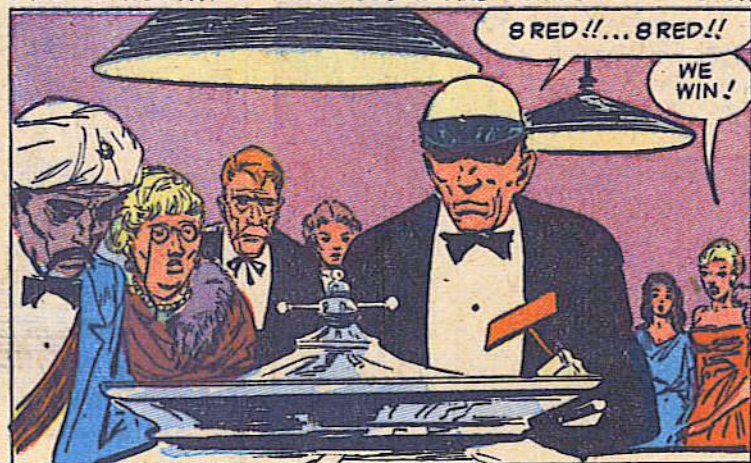
NONSENSE! YOU HAVE HEARD ME!... COME... IT IS A PLEASURE OF MINE... FIFTY FRANCS... IT MAY LEAD TO A LOT OF BREAD!

AGAINST HER WILL THE YOUNG GIRL IS NOW AT THE GAMBLING TABLE...



HERE... PLAY 8 RED, CINDERELLA... AND I WILL BET TWO THOUSAND... ON THE SAME...

THE CROUPIER SPINS THE WHEEL... THE LITTLE BALL DOES ITS CRAZY DANCE... THE WHEEL SLOWS AND COMES TO A STOP...



8 RED!!... 8 RED!!

WE WIN!

IT-IT'S WONDERFUL, MADAM... BUT PLEASE... CAN'T I GO NOW...?

WHAT?? ARE YOU A LITTLE FOOL?... WITH SUCH LUCK?... OF COURSE NOT... YOU MUST PLAY FOR ME, CHILD... AFTER ALL, I COULD TELL THE POLICE THAT YOU STOLE THAT FIFTY FRANCS...



AFTER SEVERAL MORE WINNING PLAYS THE PROPRIETOR REALIZES THAT MARIE'S LUCK IS THE KIND THAT CAN BREAK THE BANK...



HERE... HERE IS THE BREAD THAT THIS TATTERED CHILD CAME FOR!... AFTER ALL, SHE IS NOT A MEMBER OF THIS CLUB... STOP THIS NONSENSE AND GO AT ONCE, GIRL!

MEANWHILE OUTSIDE... AS THE FATHER ANTON COMES FOR HIS DAUGHTER AND IS REPULSED BY A DOORMAN...



MY CHILD!... SHE IS IN THERE!... THIS PLACE OF EVIL MAY GO INTO THE GROUND AT ANY MOMENT!... MANY OF YOU DESERVE IT... BUT I WANT MY CHILD...

SILENCE. CURSED FOOL!!... OR YOU WILL BE DEALT WITH MORE SEVERELY!



AS ANTON FALLS BACK INTO A BUSH HE FEELS THE TOUCH OF A POWERFUL FAMILIAR HAND...



MY CHILD!... I WANT MY CHILD!... I KNOW THE HAND OF ILL-LUCK IS ON THAT PLACE!

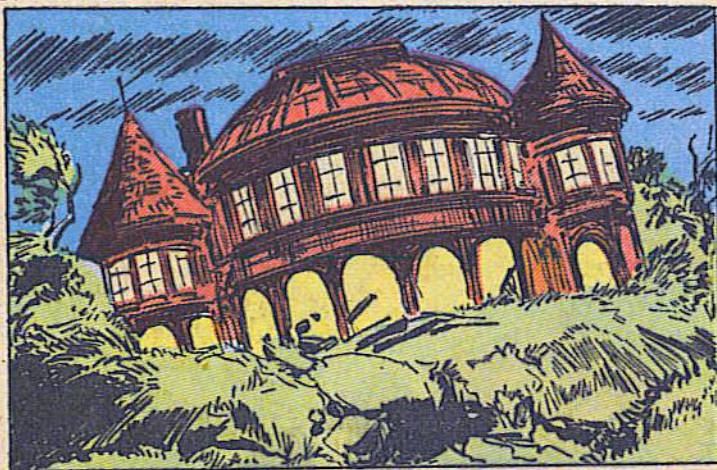
SHAGGY ONE!... IT'S YOU AGAIN!... MY CHILD... IF YOU COULD ONLY HELP ME TO GET TO MY CHILD...



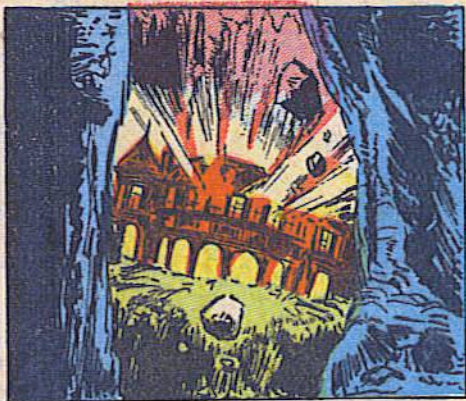
THEN... AS THE HEAP POINTS, A FRIGHTENING THING MEETS THE FATHER'S EYES... IT'S A MENACING CRACK THAT CREEPS FROM THE BUILDING'S BASE...



THEN... IN THE NEXT INSTANT THERE'S A RUMBLING ROAR, THE GROUND OPENS, AND SLOWLY INTO THE BLACKNESS SINKS THE GAILY LIGHTED HOUSE OF CHANCE...



DOWN, DOWN... AND NOW SWALLOWED BY THE COLD BLACKNESS THE STILL-LIT PALACE PRESENTS AN EERIE SIGHT AS IT SETTLES ON THE CAVERN FLOOR... WITH ITS LIGHTS STILL OPERATING FROM ITS INDEPENDENT POWER SOURCE...



THE THOUGHT OF BEING BURIED ALIVE BRINGS PANIC TO THE GAMBLERS...



WHILE ON THE SURFACE THE FRANTIC ANTON CLAWS DESPERATELY AT LOOSE EARTH AT THE EDGE OF THE PIT... AND A FEW FEET AWAY STANDS THE CALM, MUTE HEAP...

MY CHILD!!... MY CHILD!!... LOOK, SHAGGY ONE... LOOK HOW THE LIGHTS STILL BURN... LIKE AN EVIL BRIGHTNESS THAT CAN'T BE SMOTHERED!!





AGAIN THE HEAP PLACES A BIG HAND ON THE GRIEF-STRIKEN FATHER AND GUIDES HIM TO A CLIFF OPENING...

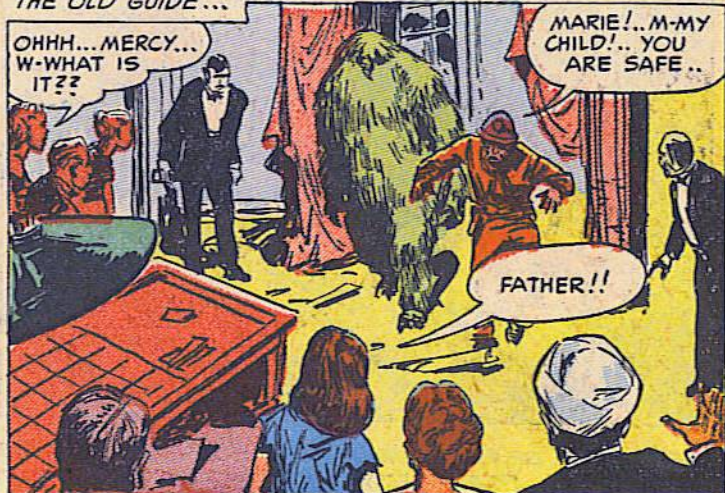
BUT NOW THE HEAP TAKES ANTON THROUGH A DARK HAZARDOUS PASSAGE...

DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE EARTH THEY GO... AND NOW THEY REACH A CAVERN THAT SEEMS TO GROW LIGHTER...



THE HEAP GOES TO THE WALL WHERE A BRIGHT CRACK APPEARS... AND TEARING THROUGH THE ROCK HE REVEALS AN EERIE PICTURE TO THE ASTONISHED ANTON...

THEN THE TERRIFIED CAPTIVES OF THE CASINO ARE TREATED TO FURTHER SHOCK AS THE GREAT HEAP SHAMBLES IN WITH THE OLD GUIDE...



BUT THE PROPRIETOR CABETTE DRAWS A GUN... AND HIS SEVERAL WOLF-LIKE DOGS ARE AT HIS SIDE...





NOW, LISTEN TO ME... IF ANYONE MOVES, THOSE DOGS WILL BE AT HIS THROAT!... WELL, OLD MAN... DO YOU LEAD ME OUT?... OR DOES YOUR DAUGHTER DIE?

YES... YES... I WILL LEAD YOU OUT...



GRUDGINGLY, THE HEAP MOVES BACK TO MAKE WAY... BUT THE CROUPIER NOW BARKS A SHARP COMMAND...

JUST A MINUTE, M'SIEUR CABETTE!... YOU ONLY **THINK** YOU ARE GOING!... I TOO HAVE A GUN... AT YOUR BACK!



BUT CABETTE IS FASTER WITH A GUN... THE CROUPIER IS DEAD IN THE NEXT INSTANT...

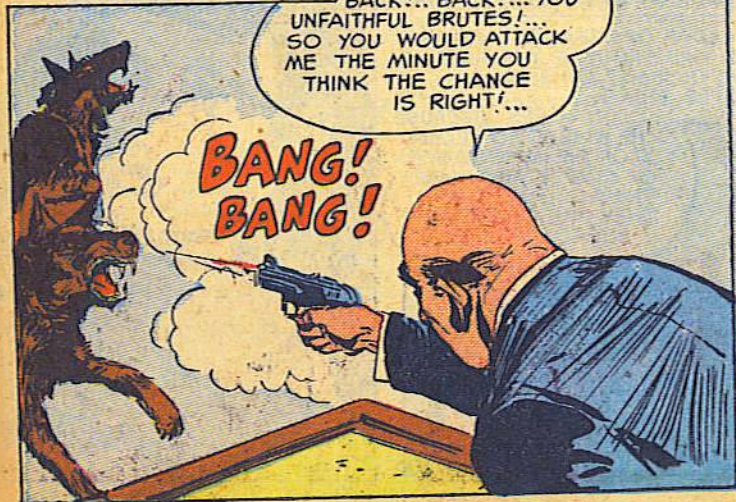
UNSEEN BY THE GAMBLER, THE HEAP MOVES NOISELESSLY TOWARD HIM...



THE DOGS GO FOR THE HEAP... THE GAMBLER THINKS THEY'VE TURNED AGAINST HIM... AND HE FIRES WILDLY AT HIS SNARLING PROTECTORS...

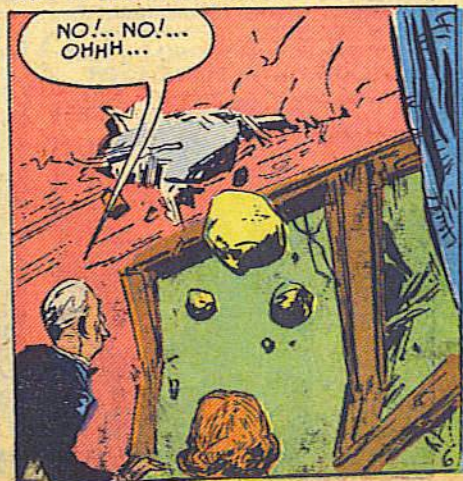
BACK!... BACK!... YOU UNFAITHFUL BRUTES!... SO YOU WOULD ATTACK ME THE MINUTE YOU THINK THE CHANCE IS RIGHT!...

**BANG!  
BANG!**



THE CRACKLING SHOTS SET UP THE SENSITIVE VIBRATION THAT STARTS A DULL RUMBLING... IN THE NEXT INSTANT, THE WALLS ARE CAVING IN...

NO!... NO!... OHHH...





**CABETTE THE GAMBLER HAS NO CHANCE AS HE'S TRAPPED BY FALLING ROCK...**



**BUT THE MIGHTY HEAP BRACES HIMSELF AT AN EXIT POINT... AND WITH TONS OF ROCK ON HIS BACK HE KEEPS OPEN A SMALL ESCAPE PASSAGE...**



**THE GIRL MARIE CALLS TO THE TERRIFIED SURVIVORS...**



COME ONE AT A TIME...  
AND YOU CAN ALL THANK  
THE SHAGGY ONE FOR  
YOUR LIFE AS YOU PASS  
THROUGH...

**A FEW MINUTES LATER... AS EVERYONE HAS PASSED SAFELY TO THE OUTSIDE...**



OUR GREAT STRONG FRIEND... HE CANNOT  
COME FROM THERE ALIVE... WE OWE HIM  
SO MUCH... I CANNOT TURN MY BACK ON  
HIM... I AM GOING IN  
AGAIN TO SEE...

**BUT ANTON BARELY SPEAKS WHEN THERE IS A RUMBLE OF FALLING ROCK INSIDE THE CAVE... THEN TO THEIR SURPRISE THE HEAP SHAMBLES OUT... AND IN ONE OF HIS GREAT PAWS HE CARRIES A WHITE OBJECT...**

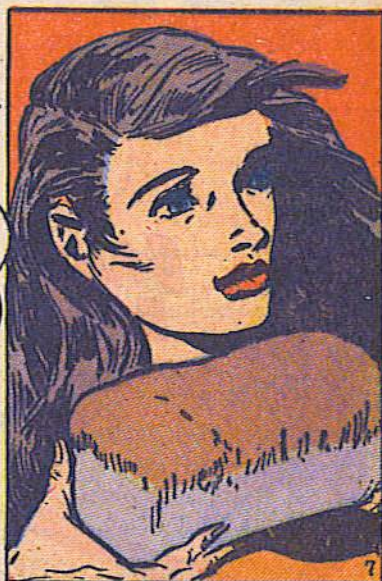
**THE HEAP GOES RIGHT TO THE GIRL MARIE... AND IN HER HANDS HE PLACES A LOAF OF BREAD... THEN THE MONSTER CALMLY TURNS, AND IS SOON GONE AGAIN...**

L...LOOK!!...

N-NO!... HOW  
DID HE EVER  
GET  
FREE?

MY LOAF OF BREAD!... THROUGH  
ALL THIS TROUBLE THE SHAGGY  
ONE THOUGHT OF SUCH A  
SIMPLE THING...

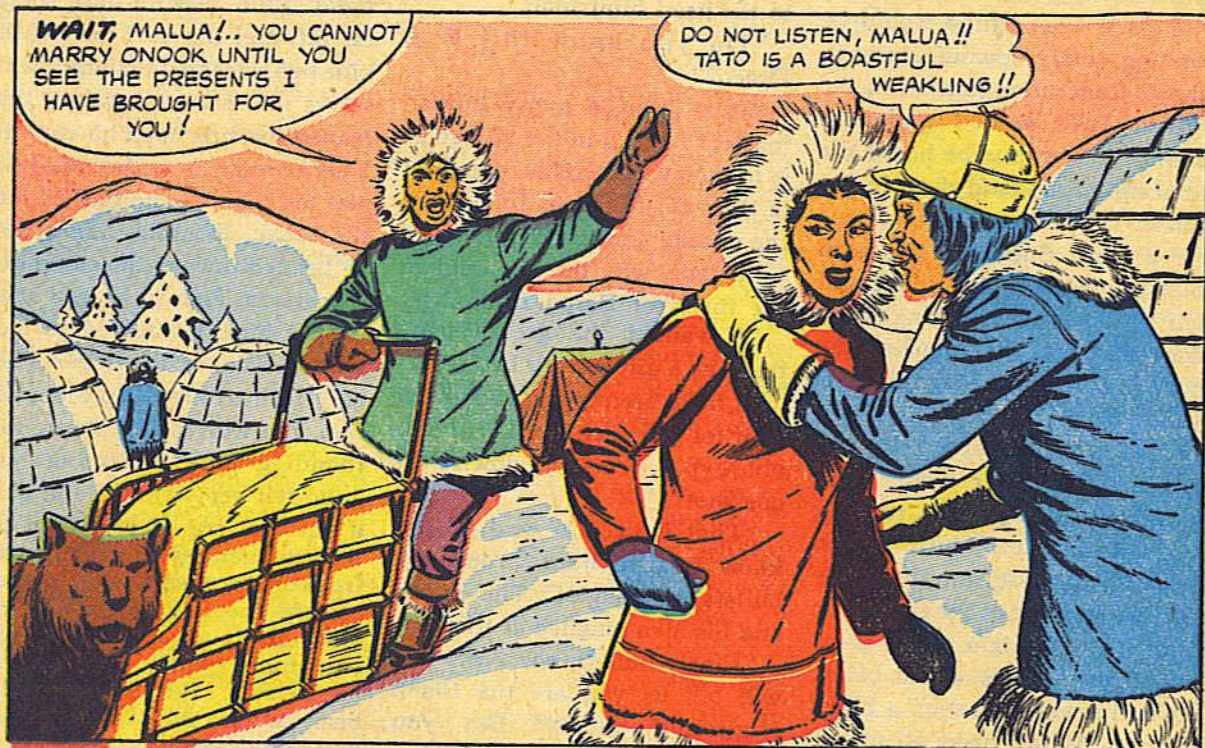
YES... BECAUSE  
HE WISHED TO REMIND  
YOU OF THE IMPORTANCE  
OF SIMPLE AND PURE  
THINGS... AND THAT  
THEY ARE THE REAL  
BREAD OF LIFE...





# THE BEAR SLAYER

THE ESKIMOS NEVER CARED MUCH FOR THE WHITE MAN'S GUN... THEIR WEAPONS AND HUNTING METHODS WERE THOSE OF THEIR ANCESTORS... BUT YOUNG TATO WANTED TO BE A BIG MAN IN HIS VILLAGE... AND ESPECIALLY IN THE EYES OF THE FAIR MALUA... SO NOW AS HE RETURNS FROM A TRADING POST HE FINDS MALUA TALKING WITH HIS RIVAL ONOOK...













**SUDDENLY...**

THAT NOISE! IT IS  
MY GUN! ONOOK HAS  
STOLEN MY GUN!

**BOOM  
BOOM**

TATO! I AM HURT! QUICK!...  
SURPRISE THE BEAR WITH THE  
SPRING-BAIT AND SPEAR!

M...ME?

HELP ME, ONOOK!  
**HELP ME!**

THE BAIT...  
ROLL OUT THE  
BAIT!

**RRRRR**

ROLL IT,  
COWARD!

H... HERE!  
TASTY SEAL  
MEAT! EAT...  
(GULP)

COME BACK, WEAKLING... COME  
BACK! THE BEAR SWALLOWED  
THE BAIT AND IS SICK!

BUT... BUT IS  
HE VERY  
SICK?

SPEAR HIM! HE  
CANNOT HURT  
YOU NOW!



