



NOW IN A MAGAZINE OF HIS OWN!

APR.
NO. 2

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AUTHORITY

12¢

AQUAMAN

FEATURING
THE KING OF THE SEVEN SEAS
AND HIS YOUNG ALLY, **AQUALAD!**

THE SECRET OF
**"CAPTAIN SYKES'
DEADLY
MISSIONS!"**

THE GAS THAT MADE
THOSE FISH HUGE AND
HOSTILE HAS AFFECTED
**AQUALAD--AND HE'S
ATTACKING ME!**



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IN

ONE MINUTE

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AQUAMAN

AND AQUALAD



WHAT IS THE SECRET MOTIVE BEHIND THE MENACING MISSIONS WHICH SEND AQUAMAN, SLEUTH OF THE SEVEN SEAS, AND HIS CONSTANT COMPANION, AQUALAD, IN QUEST OF STRANGE RELICS? TO SAVE THE LIVES OF INNOCENT SEAMEN, THE AQUATIC ADVENTURERS RISK THEIR OWN WHEN THEY TRY TO LEARN THE SECRET OF...

CAPTAIN SYKES' DEADLY MISSIONS

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ONE DAY, AS **AQUAMAN**, SLEUTH OF THE SEAS, AND HIS YOUNG COMPANION, **AQUALAD**, WEARILY REIN UP THEIR MARITIME MOUNTS...

IT'S NO USE, **AQUAMAN**! WE'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE, INCLUDING UNDERWATER, FOR THAT MISSING CARGO SHIP--BUT NOT A SIGN OF IT!

WELL--IT DIDN'T SINK--AND IT COULDN'T HAVE VANISHED, SO IT MUST BE SOME PLACE!... MAYBE THAT SHIP OVER THERE SPOTTED IT! LET'S FIND OUT!



AS THEY APPROACH THE VESSEL...

GREAT GUPIES! THIS IS THE CRAZIEST-LOOKING SHIP I EVER SAW, **AQUAMAN**!

SHHH! THERE'S THE CAPTAIN! LET'S BOARD AND HAVE A TALK WITH HIM!



AQUAMAN AND AQUALAD! I'M CAPTAIN SYKES OF THE **S.S. SEAHAWK**! ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

JUST TELL US IF YOU'VE SEEN ANYTHING OF A CARGO SHIP CALLED THE **VULCAN**, CAPTAIN!



AYE--THAT I HAVE! IN FACT, ME HEARTIES-- I CAPTURED IT!

YOU WHAT--?



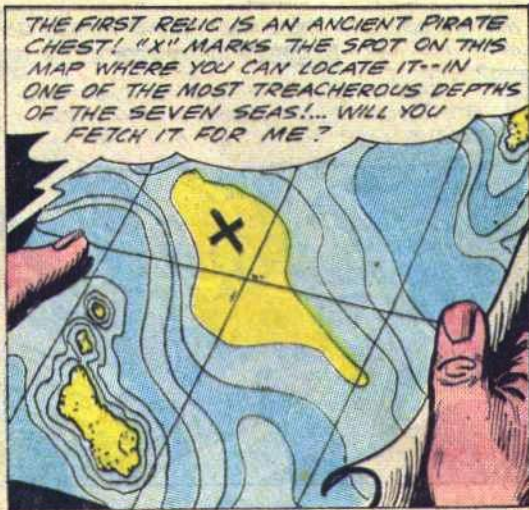
YOU HEARD CORRECT! I CAPTURED THE **VULCAN**-- HERE'S THE SHIP'S LOG TO PROVE IT! AND I'VE GOT IT WELL HID!

YOU PIRATE! YOU'D BETTER TELL US WHERE, OR--!



HOLD ON! DON'T FORGET, I'VE GOT THE **VULCAN'S** CREW, TOO--AND IF YOU DON'T WANT ANY HARM TO COME TO THEM, YOU MUST DO EXACTLY AS I SAY!





BEFORE LONG, AS THE FINNY "SAND HOGS" GO INTO ACTION...

THE HATCHET FISH ARE CHOPPING BIG CHUNKS OF CORAL AWAY! WE'LL HAVE OUR TUNNEL IN NO TIME!



YES--AND THE SWORD-FISH ARE DOING THEIR SHARE, TOO!



I ORDERED THESE OTHER FISH TO CARRY AWAY THE DEBRIS, AQUALAD!



DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE CORAL MOUNTAIN DELVE THE UNDERSEA TUNNELERS, UNTIL...

THERE'S ONLY A THIN WALL SEPARATING US FROM THE HOLLOW CAVERN WHERE THE CHEST IS, AQUALAD!

RIGHT! I'VE COMMANDED THE PORCUPINE FISH TO SMASH THROUGH IT! AQUALAD, YOU'D BETTER GET OUT OF THE WAY!



BUT, AS THE FISH OBEDIENTLY SHATTERS THE BRITTLE CORAL WALL...



JUMPING JELLYFISH! THERE WAS A STRANGE GAS LOCKED UP IN THE CAVERN!





BUT, AS AQUALAD IGNORES THE GRIM WARNING...



AND, TENSE MOMENTS, LATER...







AQUAMAN



BEFORE LONG...

“AH, ME HEARTIES--SO YOU'VE BROUGHT ME THE PRIZE! EXCELLENT! EXCELLENT!”



“AND NOW YOU MUST BRING ME THE SECOND RELIC-- A RARE SHELL WHICH GIVES OFF A STRANGE, WAILING SOUND! I'VE MARKED ITS LOCATION ON A MAP, TOO!”

“HMM... LOOKS AS IF WE'RE HEADED FOR AN ISLAND THIS TIME!”



“YES... BUT TAKE WARNING! NO ONE WHO HAS EVER TRIED TO ENTER THE JUNGLE ISLAND HAS LIVED TO TELL THE TALE!”



“DON'T WORRY, SYKES! WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO STAY ALIVE!... LET'S GO, AQUALAD!”

AND SO, AS THE DARING DUO OF THE DEEP RACES OFF ON THEIR SECOND MISSION...



“WHAT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT, **AQUAMAN**, IS WHY THESE TWO RELICS WERE SO WELL GUARDED!”

“I'VE GOT A HUNCH WE'LL FIND OUT SOONER OR LATER!”

THEN, AS THEY NEAR THEIR DESTINATION...



“THAT MUST BE THE ISLAND WE'RE LOOKING FOR, **AQUAMAN**! BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO BE GUARDING IT, AS FAR AS I CAN SEE!”

“KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED, AQUALAD!”

BUT, AS THEY START TO RIDE THE BREAKERS IN...

AQUAMAN! GULP!
A--A SEA SERPENT!



AND IT'S COMING
STRAIGHT AT US!

HEAD BACK
TO SEA,
AQUALAD!



IT'S--IT'S NO USE,
AQUAMAN! IT'S
CATCHING UP
TO US!



CONTINUED IN CHAPTER 2

9



For The
**VERY
BEST**
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
in
**COMICS
READING**





SUPERMAN!
BATMAN!
The FLASH!
GREEN LANTERN!
AQUAMAN!
WONDER WOMAN!
J'ONN J'ONZZ!
GREEN
ARROW!
SNAPPER
CARR!

THEY WERE THE GREATEST
 SUPER-FIGHTING TEAM OF
 ALL TIME--UNTIL THEY WERE
 OVERPOWERED BY...

"The
**FANTASTIC
 FINGERS**
 of
**FELIX
 FAUST!**"

For the
 surprising
 outcome
 to this
 sensational
 development...

ON SALE
Everywhere
 JAN. 30th



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Guarantee
 OF THE **BEST**
 IN COMICS
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BATMAN
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FROM MANY LANDS...

FROM THE DAWN OF HISTORY, PEOPLE HAVE TRADED WITH EACH OTHER TO ACQUIRE THINGS THEY NEEDED IN EXCHANGE FOR THINGS THEY HAD PLenty OF. IN OUR COMPLEX MODERN WORLD, THIS TRADE IS NOW MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.

TAKE A MODERN AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE, FOR INSTANCE. DO YOU KNOW IT TAKES MORE THAN **300** ITEMS FROM **56** DIFFERENT COUNTRIES TO MAKE THIS CAR?



MANGANESE, 14 POUNDS OF WHICH IS USED IN EVERY TON OF STEEL, COMES FROM **SOUTH AFRICA, INDIA** AND **BRAZIL**!

RUBBER FOR THE TIRES COMES FROM **MALAYA, SUMATRA, BRAZIL, THE EAST INDIES, CEYLON** AND **AFRICA**!



CHROMIUM, USED FOR PLATING THE TRIM AND FOR SPECIAL STEELS, COMES FROM **SOUTHERN RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA** AND **TURKEY**!

WOOL FOR THE CAR'S UPHOLSTERY COMES FROM **AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND** AND **ARGENTINA**!

TIN, USED IN BEARINGS, IS MINED IN **MALAYA, BOLIVIA** AND **INDONESIA**!

MICA, USED FOR INSULATION IN THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM, IS PRODUCED IN **INDIA** AND **MADAGASCAR**!

YES. IT'S TRUE, NO ONE COUNTRY CAN BE SUFFICIENT TO ITSELF, ANY MORE THAN ONE PERSON CAN BE SUFFICIENT TO HIMSELF. IT TAKES MANY COUNTRIES, WORKING TOGETHER, TO PROVIDE PROGRESS FOR ALL!



Chapter
2

YOUR RECKLESS FRIEND
IS NO MATCH FOR THE
SEA SERPENT! HE IS
DOOMED!

THE AQUATIC ACES DISPLAY AMAZING SKILL AND DARING IN ORDER TO STEP
FOOT ON THE FORBIDDEN LAND, ONLY TO FACE CERTAIN DEATH WHEN THEY
BECOME...

PRISONERS of PECOS ISLAND

THE DESPERATE DUO SWIMS AWAY AT DAZZLING SPEED, BUT...

IT'S--IT'S GOING TO LEAP ON US, AQUAMAN!



THEN, TO THEIR AMAZEMENT...

GREAT WAVES! THE SEA SERPENT STOPPED COLD IN ITS TRACKS-- JUST WHEN IT ALMOST HAD US!



WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW IS--HOW'RE WE GOING TO GET PAST THAT MARITIME MONSTER?

HMM...IT SEEMS TO TAKE NO NOTICE OF THE FISH SWIMMING NEAR IT--AND THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!



MINUTES LATER...

WHY--YOU'VE SUMMONED HUNDREDS OF FISH! WHAT'S THE IDEA, AQUAMAN?

YOU'LL SOON FIND OUT!



AND AS THE SEA KING ISSUES ANOTHER TELEPATHIC COMMAND...

THERE! THE FISH HAVE FORMED THEMSELVES INTO A LONG TUNNEL LEADING STRAIGHT TO THE ISLAND'S SHORE! LET'S GO, AQUALAD!



UNSEEN BY THE LURKING SEA SERPENT, THE AQUATIC ADVENTURERS SWIM THROUGH THE FISH-TUNNEL, UNTIL...



AQUAMAN AND AQUALAD RETREAT FROM THE BANKS, AND...

RELAX, AQUALAD! IT'S NOT FOLLOWING US INLAND!

NO, BUT LOOK-- IT'S WRECKING THOSE SMALL FISHING BOATS-- AND THE DOCKS!



HMM...I WONDER WHO OWNS THOSE BOATS AND DOCKS? AND HOW DID THEY GET HERE?



SUDDENLY...

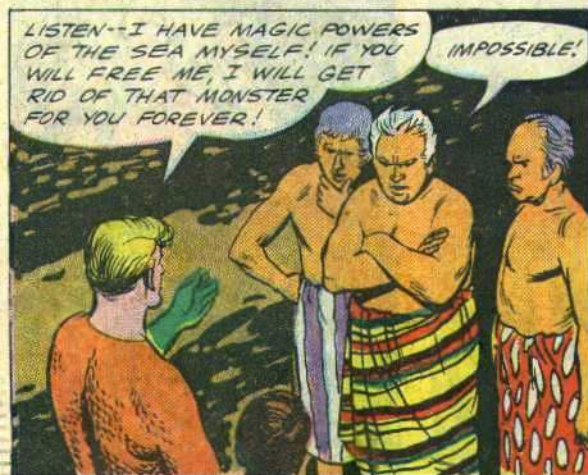
SEIZE THE TRESPASSERS! BY LANDING ON PECOS ISLAND, THEY HAVE ENRAGED THE SEA SERPENT, CAUSING IT TO DESTROY OUR PROPERTY!



INTO THE DUNGEON WITH THEM!

SUFFERIN' SARDINES! IF--IF WE'RE FORCED TO STAY OUT OF WATER FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR, WE'LL DIE!







YOUR FRIEND HAS INDEED GREAT POWERS--BUT HE WILL FIND THAT THE SEA SERPENT IS NOT EASILY DOWNED!

LOOK! HE WAITS NOT FOR THE MONSTER TO RECOVER--HE FLEES TOWARD THE OPEN SEAS! HE HAS TRICKED US--HE IS TRYING TO ESCAPE!



IS AQUAMAN REALLY DESERTING HIS YOUNG ALLY?

BUT THE SEA SERPENT HAS THROWN OFF THE ELECTRIC EELS--HE WILL SOON OVERTAKE YOUR FRIEND!



A FEW FEET MORE--AND I'LL BE PAST THE COASTAL WATERS!



AMAZING! THE MONSTER HAS STOPPED--YOUR FRIEND HAS ESCAPED TO SAFETY!

THAT'S JUST WHAT HAPPENED WHEN WE FIRST TRIED TO GET TO THE ISLAND! AND AQUAMAN KNEW THAT!



SUDDENLY, THE ELECTRIC EELS GO INTO ACTION AGAIN AND...

GREAT DAY! THE ELECTRIC EELS SHOCKED THE SERPENT AGAIN--FORCING IT TO LEAP OVER THE COASTAL BOUNDARY!



AND, NEXT INSTANT...

I WAS RIGHT! THE SERPENT IS STARTING TO VANISH!



ALL EYES ARE GLUED TO THE FANTASTIC PHENOMENON, AS...

AQUAMAN DELIBERATELY LURED IT TO THAT POINT... THE SERPENT IS GOING... GOING...



GONE!



SHORTLY, AS AQUAMAN RETURNS TO THE ISLAND...

WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE TIMING, AQUAMAN!

I FIGURED THE WIZARD WHO CREATED THE SEA SERPENT LIMITED IT TO THE COASTAL WATERS--AND THAT IT WOULD DISAPPEAR IF IT COULD BE PROVOKED TO BREAK ITS SPELL!



WE THANK YOU, MAN OF THE SEA!
NO LONGER SHALL WE BE
PRISONERS OF OUR OWN ISLAND!
NOW WE SHALL BUILD LARGER
BOATS, TO TAKE US TO THE
OUTSIDE WORLD!



AH--I HAVE A GIFT FOR
YOU, **AQUAMAN**--AS A TOKEN
OF OUR GRATITUDE!



THE MAGIC SHELL! THANKS TO
YOU, WE NO LONGER HAVE ANY
USE FOR IT!



HMM... WHAT'S PUZZLING ME IS,
WHAT USE COULD **CAPTAIN
SYKES** POSSIBLY HAVE FOR IT?



CONCLUDED IN CHAPTER 3



For The
**VERY
BEST**



in
**COMICS
READING**



ON SALE
JAN. 18TH

ON SALE
JAN. 4TH

FACTS ON FISH

NIGHTY,
NIGHT!

ACCORDING TO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, THERE IS A FISH THAT WEARS A NIGHTGOWN. IT RIPS IT OFF EVERY MORNING AFTER A NIGHT'S REST. IT PREPARES THE GOWN ITSELF AND SLIPS INTO IT. THIS GAUZY CREATION IS MADE WITH ITS OWN SECRETION AT NIGHT-TIME.

ENEMY
AIRCRAFT
APPROACHING!

BATS THAT HAVE THE UNIQUE ABILITY TO HUNT FISH ARE BEING STUDIED BY U.S. NAVY EXPERTS FROM PANAMA TO BRAZIL. THE BATS SEEM TO HAVE A BUILT-IN SONAR SYSTEM THAT ENABLES THEM TO FIND FISH BELOW THE WATER. THE NAVY THINKS THIS MAY LEAD TO NEW UNDERWATER DETECTION SYSTEMS.

FISH CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RED AND GREEN LIGHTS. THIS WAS DISCOVERED BY A PSYCHOLOGIST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON.

HA-HA!
TODAY I'LL
STAY ON
LAND.

THE FLUTA, A FISH IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, IS THE LATEST CANDIDATE FOR THE MISSING LINK IN EVOLUTION BETWEEN FISH AND LAND-LIVING ANIMALS. THESE FISHES COME OUT OF THE WATER TO SLITHER ALONG IN THE MUD. THE SCIENTIST WHO DISCOVERED THIS WAS JUST HONORED BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ICTHYOLOGISTS.

THE FASTEST FISH ALIVE

NOT long ago, a French scientist coaxed a variety of fish to a water track he constructed in the River Vienne. There, the fish took off downstream, pitted against a champion human swimmer.

The human swimmer clocked in at the finish line after achieving a top speed of about four miles per hour. The winner? A lowly salmon who beat all competition with a swift 25 miles per hour dash.

If 25 mph still seems pretty slow in this jet age, you must remember that the resistance of water is something like 700 times that of air. Translate this speed to the air, and the salmon would probably achieve fantastic airborne speeds.

Fish can thank their physical structure for their great speed and maneuverability. Their underwater streamlining is perfect, as man long ago recognized when he constructed the submarine and the torpedo. The "jet propulsion," the streams of water ejected swiftly backwards through the gills, the tapering, molded body and bullet-shaped head, combine to make the fish ideally suited for underwater action.

The fish moves chiefly by the rippling undulation of its body, aided by the streams of water from the gills. But other organs are built-in to serve as steering devices, balancers, brakes and aids to sudden movement. Most remarkable of all is the swim-pouch inside the fish, a kind of gas-filled sac lying just above the gullet.

This acts as a sort of lifebuoy, adjusting the gas contents according to the degree of water pressure encountered at varying depths. Thus a fish can dive deeply or speed near the surface without experiencing any discomfort at the sudden changes in external pressure.

Clues of the relative speeds of fish can be found in the shape and tail formation. The fastest fish have long, cigar-shaped

bodies. Fish with short, compressed bodies are slower-moving. Fish with deeply forked tails are fastest over long distances, while those with square or rounded tails are usually slowpokes.

There are a number of fascinating ways used by scientists to measure the speed of the denizens of the deep. One is a "fish-o-meter," which is attached to a rod to register the speed at which the line is run out. Another is a device in which tank fish are harnessed with a silk cord which unwinds over a pulley, setting off a sensitive relay once every revolution. A third is by taking a film of swimming fish and working out the speed by juxtaposing the varying positions on each frame of the film.

Among the smaller fish, the trout is right behind the salmon with a maximum speed of about 23 miles per hour. Devilfish hit a top speed of 14 miles per hour and bass is right behind with 12 miles. Barbels scoot along at 11 miles per hour, perch at 10 mph, and eels dart along at about seven mph.

The fastest fish alive is without a doubt the sailfish, a variety of the swordfish. This fish has been known to hit a top speed of nearly 70 miles an hour, and anything over 60 mph is usual for these speedy sea creatures. But the tunny is no slouch either. Clocking by a "fish-o-meter," the tunny can spurt off at a fast 40 mph.

For sheer impact of speed, the swordfish hooks first prize. If you don't think so, consider that this fish has been known to drive its rapier through a boat's hull constructed of hardwood sheathed with copper and faced with oak, to a depth of 20 inches. To accomplish this, the swordfish had to be going at least 60 miles an hour.

The slowest fish alive? It is the octopus, which slishes around at about 4 miles per hour. But don't sneer. Four miles an hour is the *top* speed achieved by human swimmers.

AND NOW, A TERRIBLE
FATE AWAITS THE
MARITIME MARVELS
ON THE COMPLETION OF
THEIR MISSION, AS
CAPTAIN SYKES
REVEALS...

THE MENACE OF THE GENIE- CREATURE

Chapter
3

"HA, HA, AND
NOW, I SHALL SNATCH
YOU OUT OF THE SEA
AND END YOUR
CAREERS!"



SOMETIME LATER, THE AQUATIC ACES RETURN FROM THEIR FINAL MISSION, AND...

I'VE GOT YOUR SHELL, CAPTAIN SYKES! BUT I WON'T HAND IT OVER UNTIL YOU'VE RELEASED THE VULCAN AND ITS CREW!

FAIR ENOUGH! CLIMB ABOARD, AND I'LL TAKE YOU TO WHERE I'VE HIDDEN THE SHIP!



AND BEFORE LONG, AS THE S.S. SEAHAWK HEADS FOR THE COASTLINE...

WHY--WE'RE MOVING THROUGH A HIDDEN "PASS" IN THESE CLIFFS!



WELCOME TO MY MARITIME HEAD-QUARTERS, ME HEARTIES!

A SECRET BAY!



AND THERE'S THE VULCAN!

EXACTLY!... RELEASE THE SHIP AND ITS CREW, MATIES! CAPTAIN SYKES ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISE!



AND AS THE RESCUED VESSEL STEAMS OUT TO FREEDOM...

OKAY, CAPTAIN SYKES! HERE'S THE SHELL!

HA, HA! THANK YOU, THANK YOU!





"I SHALL SWOOP DOWN ON SHIPS CARRYING RICH CARGOES, AND..."



"IF THE NAVAL AUTHORITIES TRY TO INTERFERE WITH ME..."



"BUT MY VERY FIRST ACT WILL BE TO TAKE CARE OF..."

AQUAMAN AND AQUALAD--I SHALL SNATCH YOU OUT OF THE SEA AND END YOUR CAREERS!



AS THE CHEST IS BROUGHT OUT...



AH! HERE IT IS! SOON I SHALL BE THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE WORLD!



NOW WATCH, AQUAMAN!

BUT...

HUH? S-SOMETHING IS WRONG! WHY ISN'T THE CHEST OPENING?

PERHAPS I CAN EXPLAIN, SYKES! I NOTICED THE IDENTICAL MARKINGS ON THE CHEST AND THE ANCIENT SHELL...



I FIGURED THERE MUST BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO! AND SINCE I SUSPECTED THAT YOU HAD A SINISTER SCHEME IN MIND, I SUBSTITUTED THIS FALSE SHELL FOR THE ORIGINAL!





BUT A TELEPATHIC S.O.S. BRINGS INSTANT AID FROM A NEARBY WHALE...

HURRY UP WITH THAT ANCHOR CHAIN!

AND AS AQUAMAN SECURES ONE END OF THE CHAIN TO THE GATE...

CRACK!

WE'RE FREE!



AND, BEFORE LONG...

ALL ABOARD-- AND HURRY!



JUST AS THE WHALE CLEARS THE PASSAGE TO THE BAY...

WHUMP

THERE GOES YOUR MARITIME HEADQUARTERS, CAPTAIN SYKES!



25

BUT DON'T WORRY--YOU AND YOUR PALS WILL HAVE A NEW HOME--IN THE NEAREST JAIL!



AND SO, AWHILE LATER, ON THE OCEAN FLOOR...

THERE'S NO WAY TO DESTROY THE CHEST--BUT WITHOUT THE SHELL, IT CAN NEVER BE OPENED!

AND LUCKILY THE SHELL CAN BE DESTROYED, AS THE HAMMER-HEAD SHARK IS PROVING!



THE END

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ON SALE FEB. 1ST

ON SALE FEB. 8TH

ON SALE FEB. 8TH

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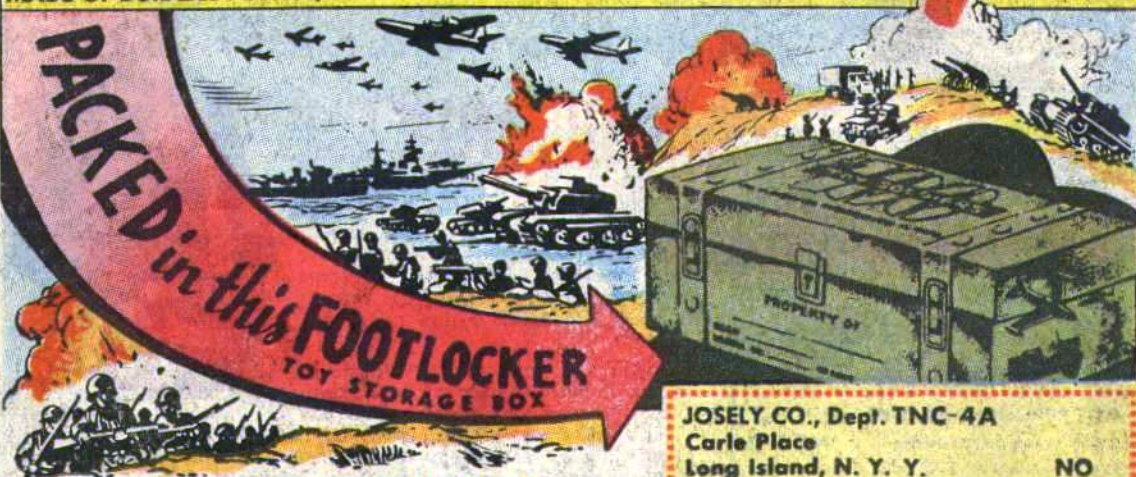
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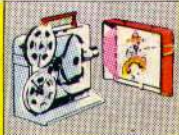
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