

**TRUE
COMICS**

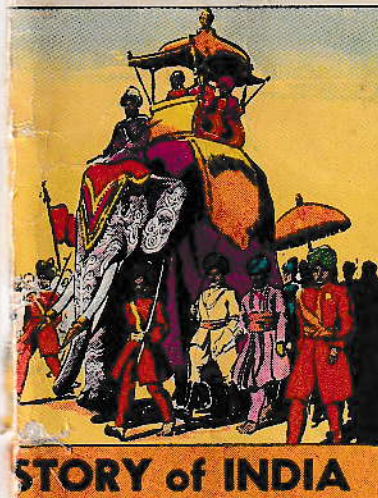
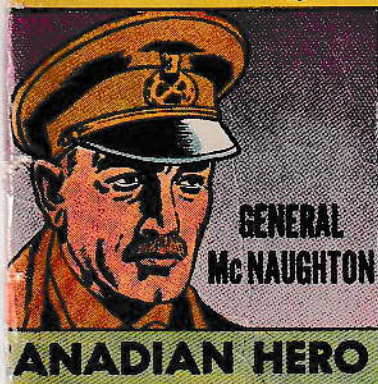
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JANUARY No. 20

TRUE COMICS

64 PAGES
FULL COLOR
ALL NEW

TRUTH is stranger and a thousand times more thrilling than FICTION



ONE CAME BACK

THE PILOTS OF TORPEDO SQUADRON 8 HAD THEIR ORDERS - TO FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN!

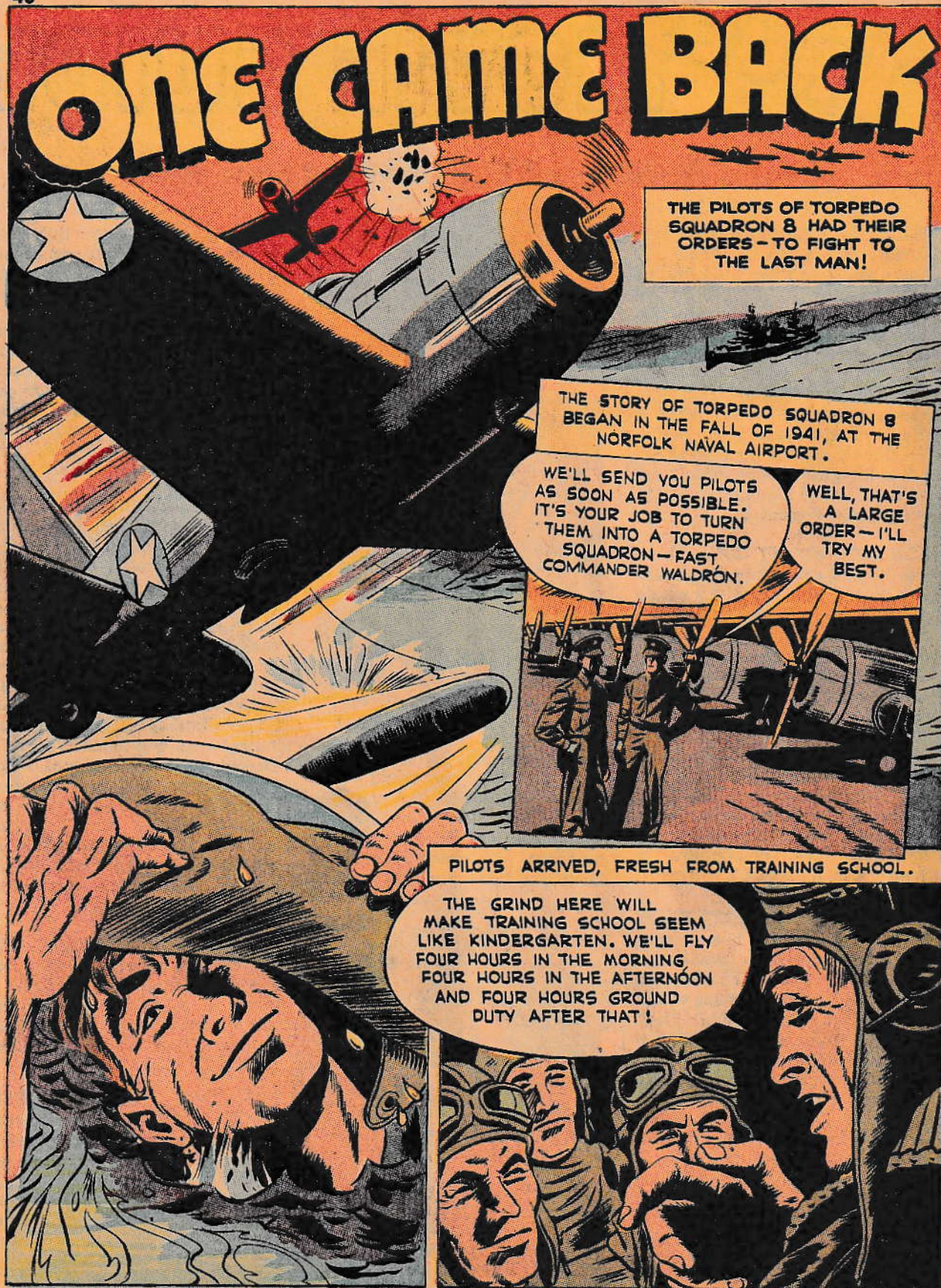
THE STORY OF TORPEDO SQUADRON 8 BEGAN IN THE FALL OF 1941, AT THE NORFOLK NAVAL AIRPORT.

WE'LL SEND YOU PILOTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT'S YOUR JOB TO TURN THEM INTO A TORPEDO SQUADRON - FAST, COMMANDER WALDRON.

WELL, THAT'S A LARGE ORDER - I'LL TRY MY BEST.

PILOTS ARRIVED, FRESH FROM TRAINING SCHOOL.

THE GRIND HERE WILL MAKE TRAINING SCHOOL SEEM LIKE KINDERGARTEN. WE'LL FLY FOUR HOURS IN THE MORNING, FOUR HOURS IN THE AFTERNOON AND FOUR HOURS GROUND DUTY AFTER THAT!



EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION TRICKLED IN SLOWLY — AMERICAN FACTORIES HADN'T YET REACHED PRESENT PRODUCTION RATES.

SAME STORY, SIR. TWO BAD ENGINES—NO SPARES. NOT ENOUGH BULLETS FOR MACHINE GUN PRACTICE.

I KNOW, RAY. BUT WE'VE GOT TO MAKE THE BEST OF THINGS.

TORPEDO PLANES HAVE TO FLY LOW, AND PRACTICE FLIGHTS BROUGHT COMPLAINTS.

GET AWAY FROM HERE, YOU IDIOTS! YOU'RE TURNING THE COW'S MILK SOUR!



I'M ABOUT FED UP! OF ALL THE THANKLESS JOBS!

HENCEFORTH YOU WILL AVOID DAIRY FARMS IN MAKING PRACTICE TORPEDO RUNS.

BUT WHENEVER HIS BOYS' SPIRIT LAGGED, "SKIPPER" WALDRON'S WIFE HAD A SPEEDY CURE

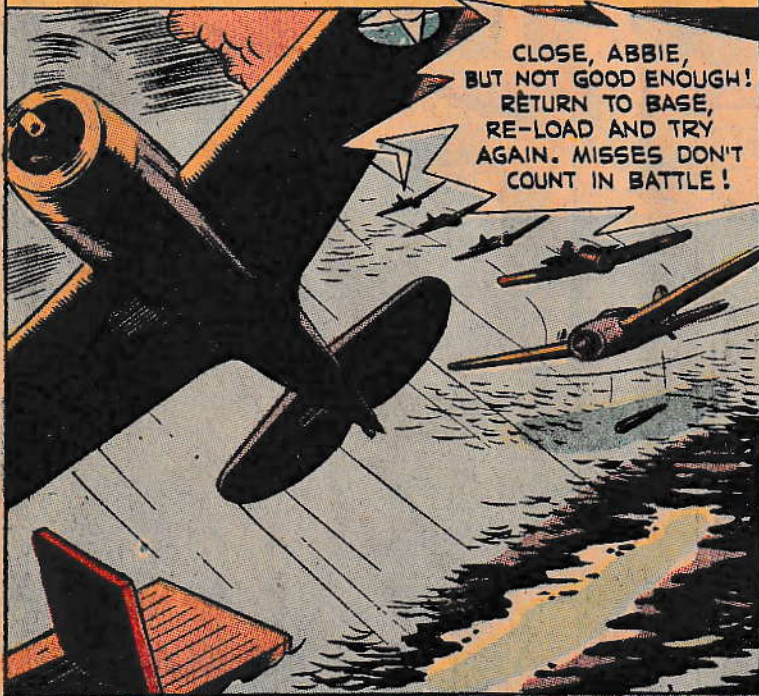
THAT WAS A SWELL IDEA, DEAR, PLANNING THIS DANCE FOR MY BOYS.

IT'LL HELP THEM RELAX FOR A WHILE.



AFTER PEARL HARBOR, TRAINING WAS SPEEDED!

CLOSE, ABBIE, BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH! RETURN TO BASE, RE-LOAD AND TRY AGAIN. MISSES DON'T COUNT IN BATTLE!



AFTER LONG MONTHS OF TRAINING, TORPEDO SQUADRON 8 SAILED FOR THE PACIFIC WAR ZONE.

WE'RE OFF TO TOKYO, FELLOWS!

NO MORE PRACTICE! THIS WILL BE THE REAL THING!



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EVERY DAWN AND DUSK FOUND THE SQUADRON ALERT IN THE "READY ROOM."

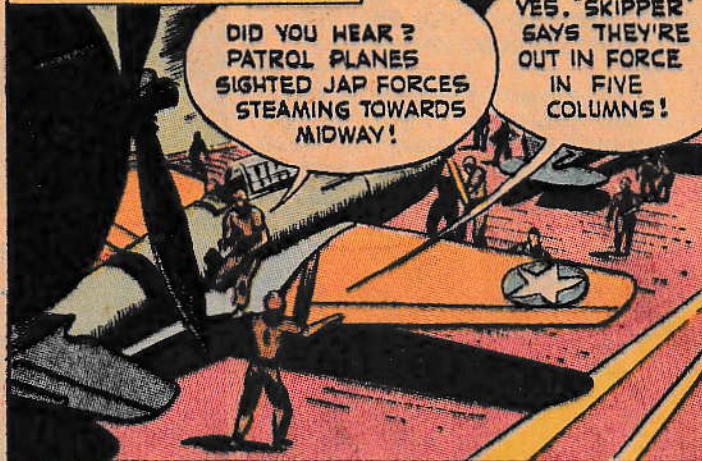
GET THAT INFORMATION RIGHT, BOYS! YOU'LL NEED IT TO GET BACK TO THE CARRIER.



OFF MIDWAY ISLAND, ON JUNE 3, 1942, THE LONG-AWAITED NEWS CAME.

DID YOU HEAR? PATROL PLANES SIGHTED JAP FORCES STEAMING TOWARDS MIDWAY!

YES, "SKIPPER" SAYS THEY'RE OUT IN FORCE IN FIVE COLUMNS!



THE PILOTS HAD THEIR LAST REST BEFORE THE BATTLE.

YOUR DEAL, JIMMY!

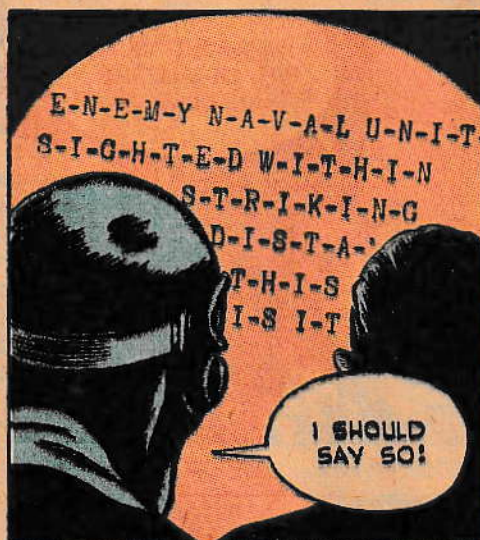
WHAT WILL IT BE? SWING OR CLASSICAL?

EITHER. I'M TOO BUSY MAKING THIS BOWL FOR MY WIFE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE.



E-N-E-M-Y N-A-V-A-L U-N-I-T
S-I-G-H-T-E-D W-I-T-H-I-N
S-T-R-I-K-I-N-G
D-I-S-T-A-
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I SHOULD SAY SO!



"SKIPPER" WALDRON ADDRESSED HIS MEN.

IF WORST COMES TO WORST, I WANT EACH OF US TO DO HIS UTMOST TO DESTROY OUR ENEMIES. IF THERE IS ONLY ONE PLANE LEFT TO MAKE A FINAL RUN-IN, I WANT THAT MAN TO MAKE A HIT! MAY GOD BE WITH US ALL. GOOD LUCK, HAPPY LANDING, AND GIVE 'EM BLAZES!

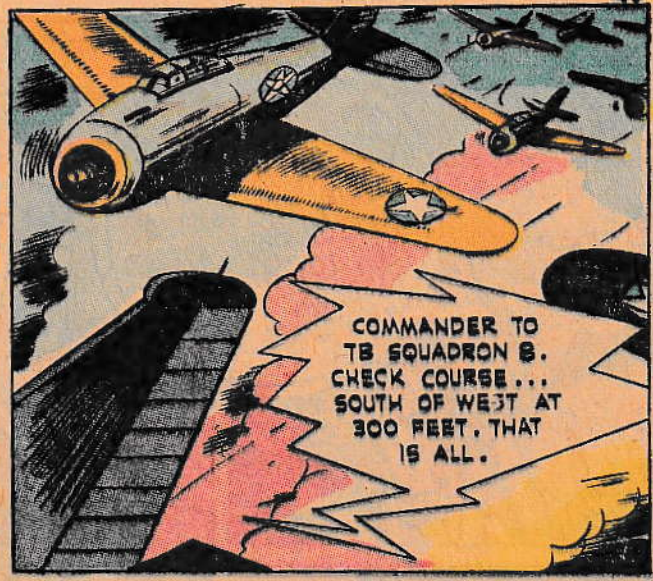


HEY! WE'VE GOT REAL ONES! NO MORE PRACTICE BLANKS!

THESE "PICKLES" WEIGH MORE, TOO! WATCH OUT TAKING OFF!



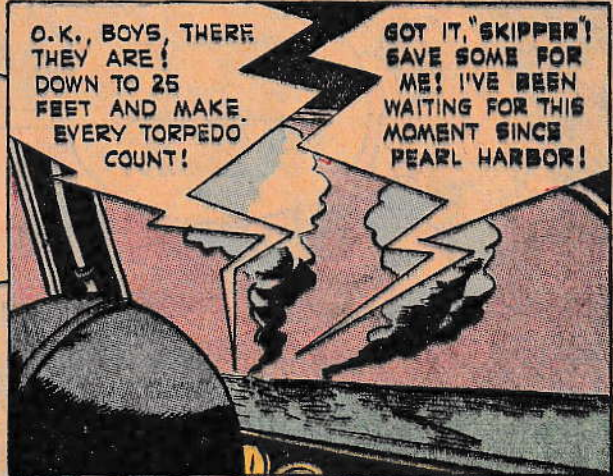
CARRYING THEIR DEADLY BURDENS, THE SQUADRON OF 15 PLANES TOOK OFF...



COMMANDER TO TB SQUADRON B. CHECK COURSE... SOUTH OF WEST AT 300 FEET. THAT IS ALL.



COMMANDER TO SQUADRON. THERE'S A JAP FIGHTER ON OUR TAIL GOING AWAY FAST. HE'S WARNING HIS FLEET. WE'LL HAVE A WARM WELCOME WAITING!



O.K., BOYS, THERE THEY ARE! DOWN TO 25 FEET AND MAKE EVERY TORPEDO COUNT!

GOT IT, "SKIPPER"! SAVE SOME FOR ME! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT SINCE PEARL HARBOR!



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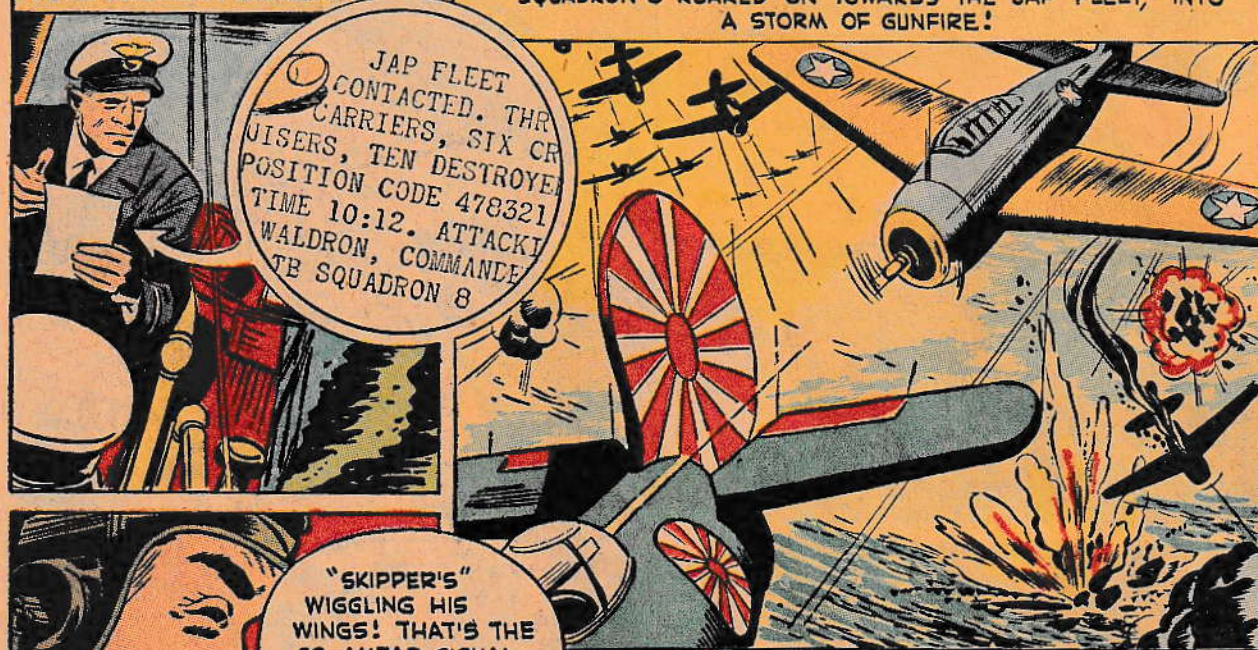
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ON AN AMERICAN CARRIER...

SQUADRON 8 ROARED ON TOWARDS THE JAP FLEET, INTO A STORM OF GUNFIRE!



JAP FLEET
CONTACTED. THRU
CARRIERS, SIX CR
UISERS, TEN DESTROYER
POSITION CODE 478321
TIME 10:12. ATTACK
WALDRON, COMMANDER
SQUADRON 8



"SKIPPER'S"
WIGGLING HIS
WINGS! THAT'S THE
GO-AHEAD SIGNAL,
BOB. KEEP MY
TAIL COVERED!

RIGHT, MR.
GAY. LET'S
GIVE IT TO
THEM!

THE JAPS CLAIMED THEIR FIRST VICTIM!

THEY GOT
ONE OF OUR BOYS,
COMMANDER!

I SAW!
WE'LL PAY
THEM BACK!



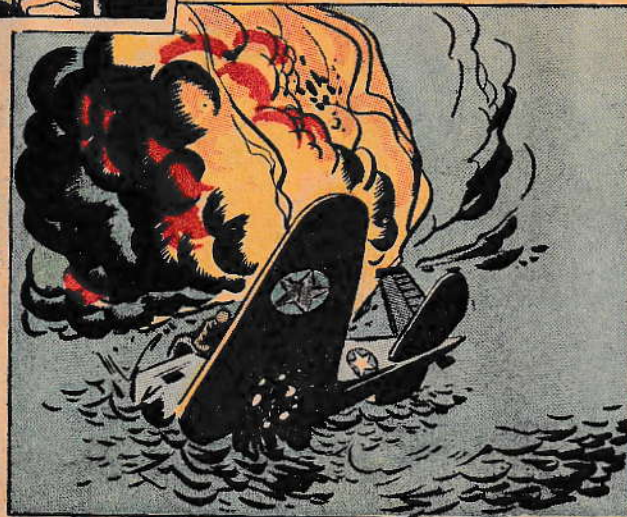
ANOTHER YANK WENT DOWN — BUT THERE WAS NO TIME FOR RESCUE ...



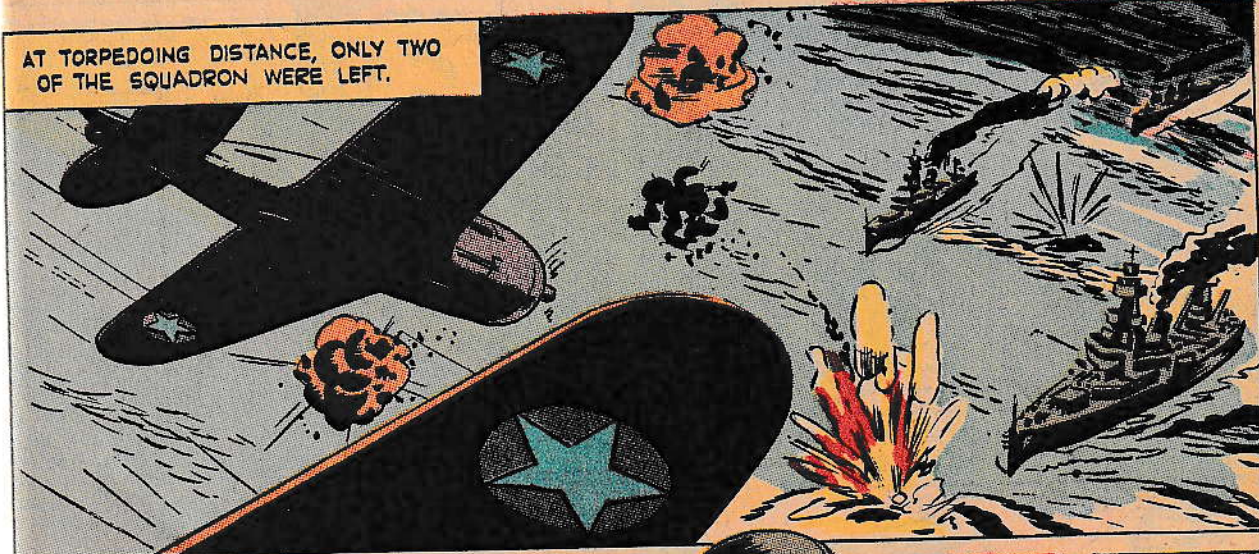
LET'S GO BACK
AND HELP HIM,
MR. GAY!

CAN'T! WE'VE
GOT A JOB
TO DO!

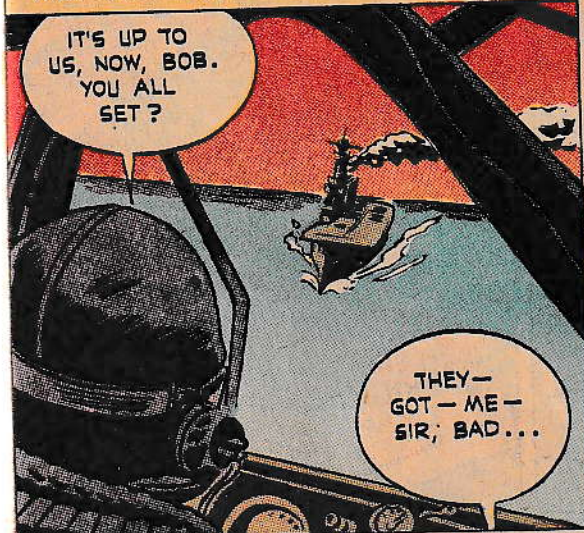
THE "SKIPPER" WAS DOWNED!



AT TORPEDOING DISTANCE, ONLY TWO OF THE SQUADRON WERE LEFT.



THEN ONE — ENSIGN "TEX" GAY, PILOT...



IT'S UP TO US, NOW, BOB. YOU ALL SET?

THEY— GOT — ME — SIR, BAD...



"TEX" GAY REMEMBERED THE "SKIPPER'S" LAST INSTRUCTIONS...

POOR GUY... GUESS HE'S FINISHED.

"...IF ONLY ONE PLANE LEFT...WANT THAT MAN TO GO IN AND GET A HIT..." GOT TO KEEP PLANE ON COURSE... GOT TO GET A HIT!

JAP BULLETS CRIPPLED GAY'S LEFT ARM.



MUST GET... BULLET OUT... PUT ON... TOURNIQUET...



THIS'LL PAY YOU GUYS OFF... IN PART... THE RELEASE DOESN'T WORK... HAVE TO USE THE EMERGENCY LEVER. OH-H-H, MY ARM... HAVE TO GET THAT SLUG OUT...

TORPEDO RELEASE.

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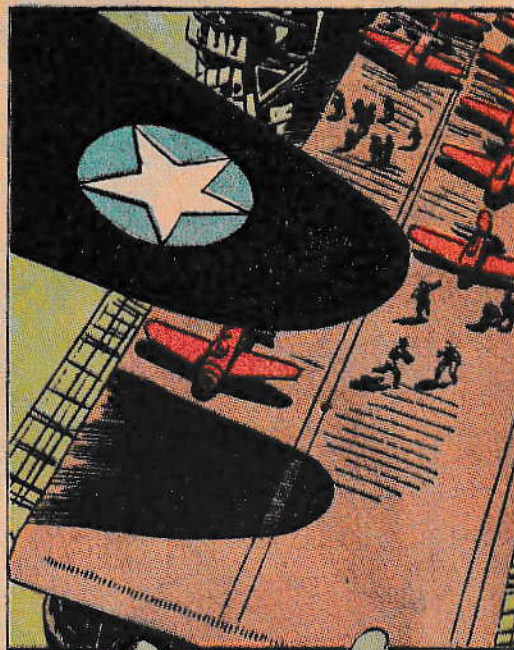
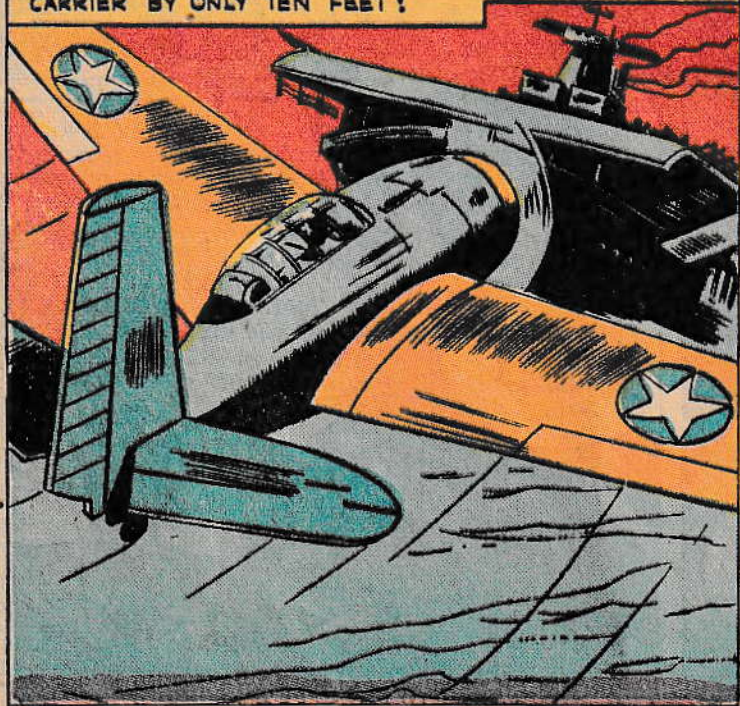
KEEP BULLET AS
SOUVENIR... BEST
PLACE... IS IN MOUTH...
NOW FOR EMERGENCY
RELEASE!



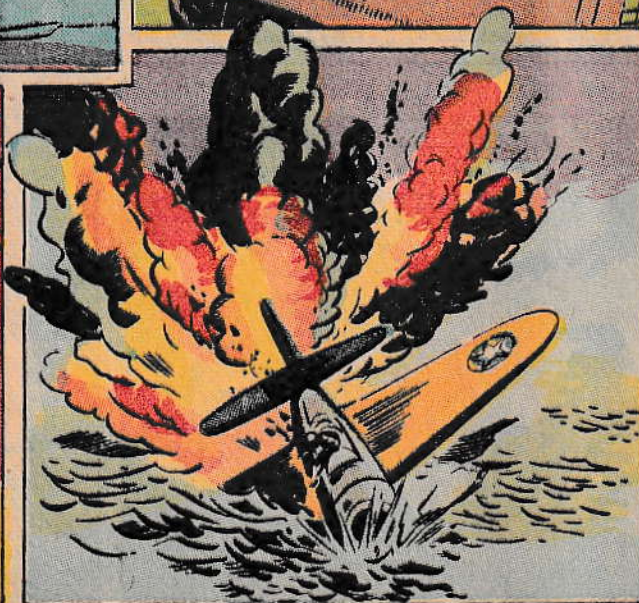
THAT DID IT...
GO GET 'EM, LITTLE
OLD TORPEDO! BETTER
GET ALTITUDE!



"TEX" GAY ZOOMED UP MISSING THE DECK OF THE JAP
CARRIER BY ONLY TEN FEET!

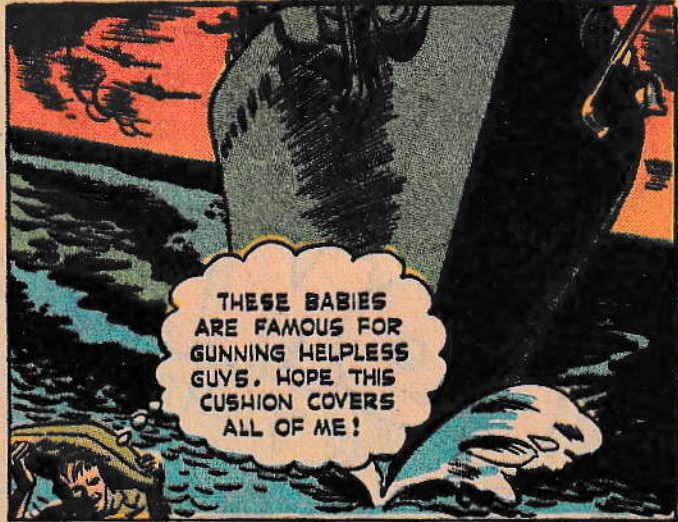


30 TO 1... THE ODDS AGAINST GAY
FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH HIM!





I HIT IT!

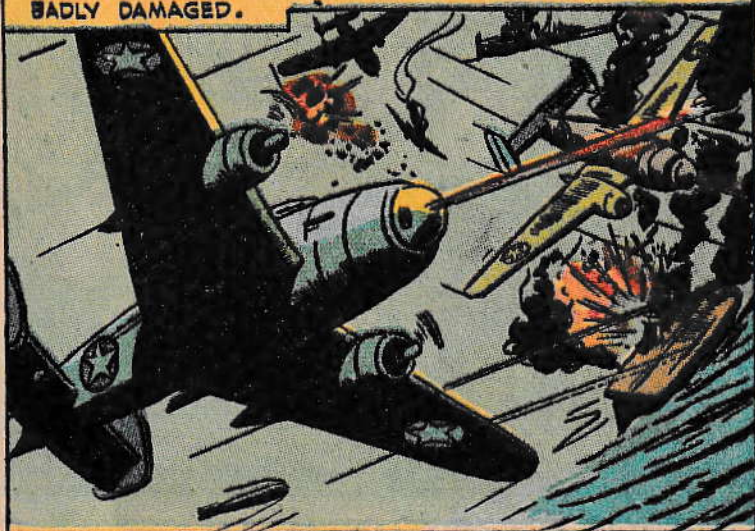


THESE BABIES ARE FAMOUS FOR GUNNING HELPLESS GUYS. HOPE THIS CUSHION COVERS ALL OF ME!

FOR THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, GAY HAD A "FISH-EYE" VIEW OF THE AMERICAN VICTORY.



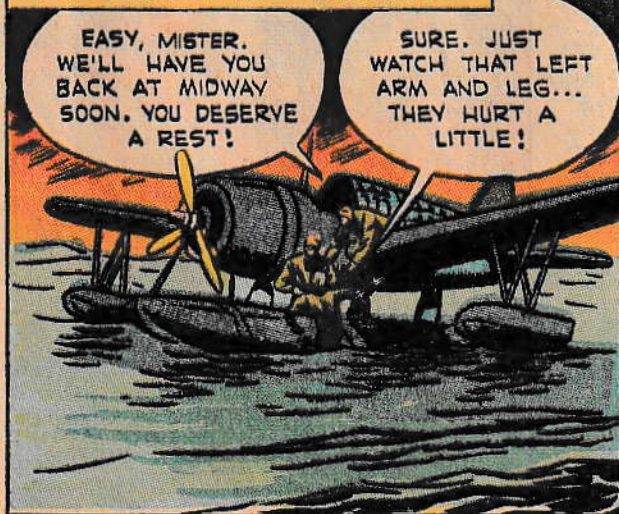
WARNED BY SQUADRON 8, AMERICAN PLANES SMASHED THE JAP MENACE TO MIDWAY ISLAND. FINAL SCORE—ALL 4 JAP CARRIERS SUNK AND MANY OTHERS BADLY DAMAGED.



THE FOLLOWING DAY — RESCUE!

EASY, MISTER. WE'LL HAVE YOU BACK AT MIDWAY SOON. YOU DESERVE A REST!

SURE. JUST WATCH THAT LEFT ARM AND LEG... THEY HURT A LITTLE!



RECOVERED, ENSIGN GAY JOINED A NEW TORPEDO SQUADRON AT SAN DIEGO...

AND SO HERE I AM. I'M GLAD TO BE WITH YOU GUYS... AND ANXIOUS TO GET BACK IN THE FIGHT! I KNOW WE'RE GOING TO WIN. DIDN'T THE SKIPPER ALWAYS SAY WE'RE "THE BEST IN THE WORLD"!



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