

IN THE WORLD OF MORTAL MEN, HE IS **JIM CORRIGAN**, HARD-BOILED POLICE DETECTIVE-- BUT TO THE VERMIN OF THE UNDERWORLD HE IS **THE SPECTRE**, AWESOME AVENGER OF EVIL, AN EARTHBOUND GHOST WHO PUNISHES EVIL WITH A FEARSOME VENGEANCE FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE. WE DARE YOU TO FACE THE BLOOD-CHILLING SAGA OF...

THE GASMEN AND... THE SPECTRE



SCRIPT • MICHAEL FLEISHER SCRIPT CONTINUITY • RUSSELL CARLEY EDITOR • JOE ORLANPO

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CROWDS THROUGH THE ANNUAL CUSTOM CAR SHOW AT THE NEW YORK COLISEUM...

THE FABULOUS ORLANDO

I DIDN'T KNOW DADDY LIKED TO TAKE PICTURES OF CARS, MOMMY!

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE HAD A CAMERA BEFORE TODAY, DEAR!

NOW, MARIAN!

HEY, DADDY! WHY DON'T YOU TAKE SOME PICTURES OF THOSE FUNNY LOOKING MEN!?

H-HUNH!
!?!

LAND SAKES! I KNOW CLOTHING STYLES HAVE GOTTEN PRETTY BIZARRE, BUT THOSE OUTFITS ARE --

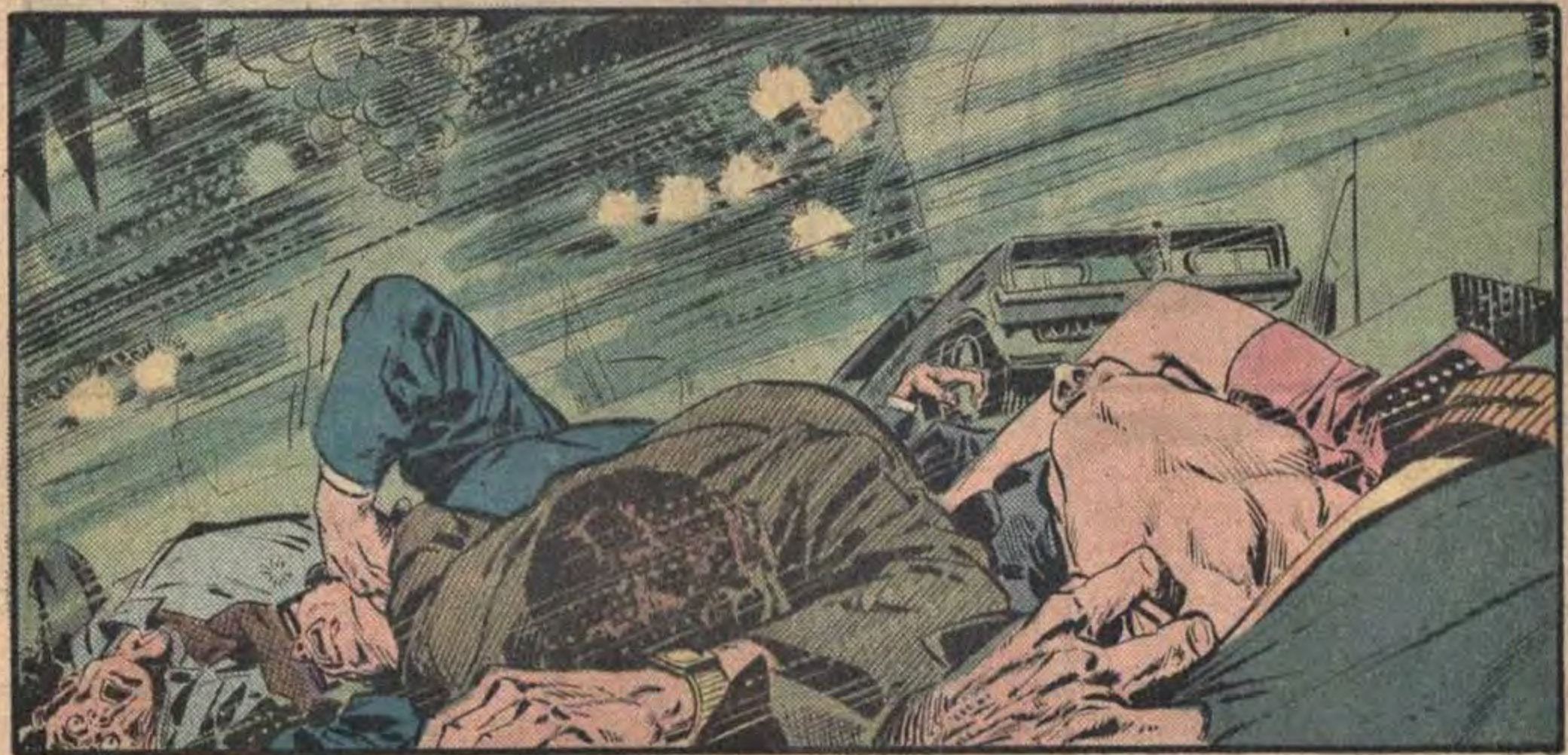
GAS!
THAT... THAT'S GAS!

WHOOOSH!

AAAAGH!

M-MOMMY!
I C-CAN'T...
BREATHE...!

NGYAAA!





LOOK, EARL!
I KNOW YOU'RE
A FINE **WRITER!**
BUT SO ARE THE
BROTHERS
GRIMM! AND
YOU'LL NOTICE
WE'RE NOT
PUBLISHING
ANY OF **THEIR**
FAIRY TALES IN
NEWSBEAT
MAGAZINE!

BOB,
LOOK--



ALL I'D HAVE TO
DO IS PUBLISH A
STORY ABOUT AN ANGRY
SPOOK WITH A GREEN
CAPE WHO FLIES
AROUND **NEW YORK**
USING HIS MAGICAL
POWERS TO KILL
CROOKS!

BUT, BOB,
I'VE
SEEN--



AH, YES!
THAT'S THE MOST
ENGAGING THING
ABOUT YOUR SPOOK!
HE NEVER SHOWS
HIMSELF TO ANYBODY
BUT **YOU!** MAYBE HE'S
A FAN OF YOUR
WRITING! OR
MAYBE--



EXCUSE ME
FOR INTERRUPTING,
BOB, BUT SOME-
THING **HOT** JUST
CAME IN OVER THE
WIRE... SOME
SORT OF
MASSACRE
OVER AT THE
AUTO
SHOW!



HEAR **THAT,**
CRAWFORD? A
MASSACRE!
NOW GET OVER TO
THE **COLISEUM** AND
BRING ME A STORY I CAN
PRINT... INSTEAD OF
SOME BLASTED **GHOST**
STORY!

PRESENTLY...

POISON GAS, LT. CORRIGAN! THEY NEVER HAD A CHANCE!

LOOKS TO US LIKE IT MIGHT'VE BEEN PHOSGENE! KRAUTS USED THE STUFF DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR!

OH, GREAT! NOW THE LOONIES ARE INTO CHEMICAL WARFARE!

WHATTA YOU GOT, PETE?

ZILCH, LIEUTENANT! PLENTY'A VALUABLE CARS HERE, BUT NUTHIN' WAS TAKEN!

TICKET RECEIPTS WEREN'T TOUCHED EITHER, LIEUTENANT!

IF THESE BIRDS HAD A MOTIVE, WE SURE CAN'T FIND IT!

YOU'RE SHOWING YOUR AGE, SERGEANT! THESE DAYS YOU DON'T--

LT. CORRIGAN!

WHAT... WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED DOWN HERE?

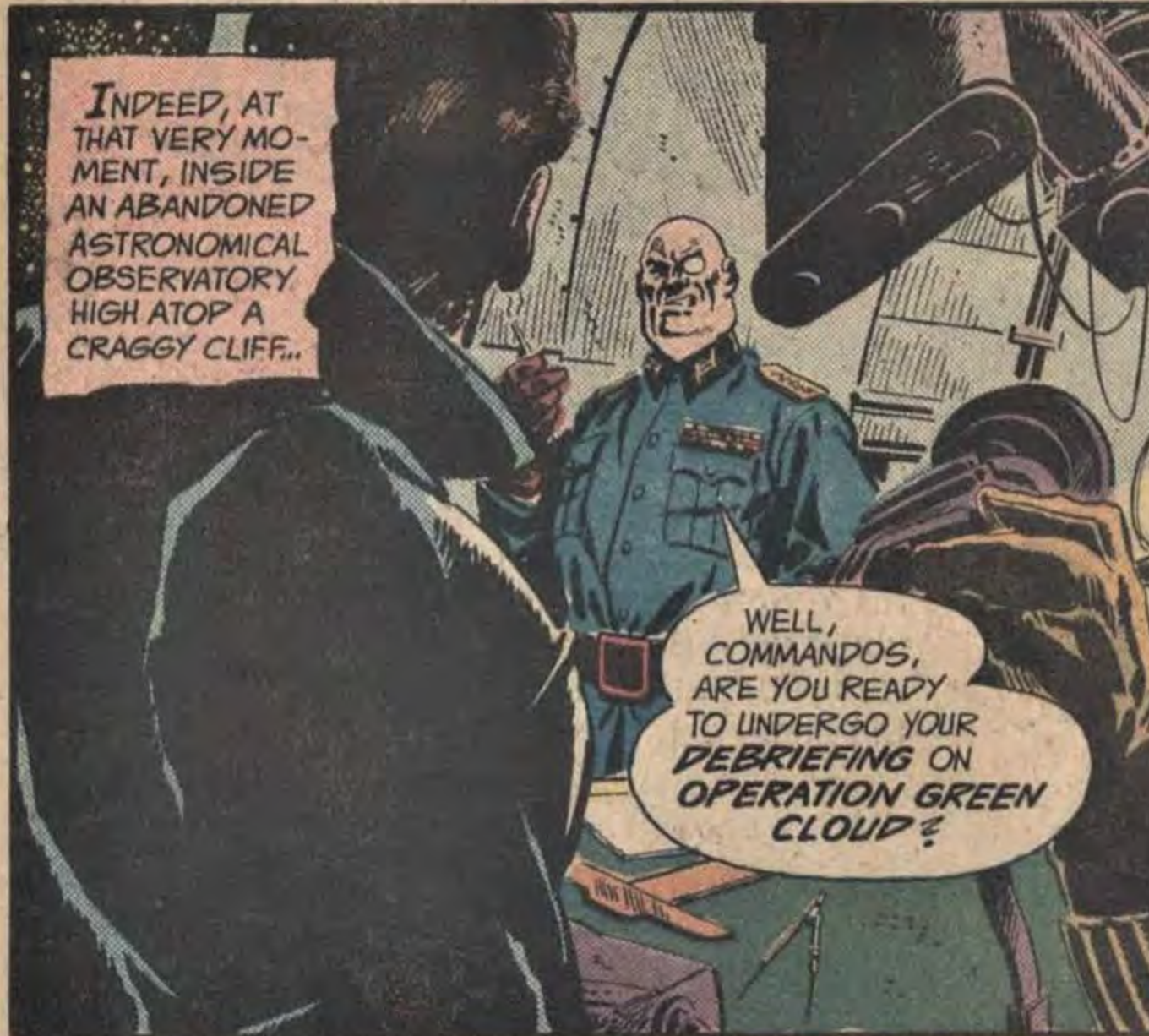
OH, JUST A ROUTINE MASS MURDER, CRAWFORD... FIFTY OR SIXTY PEOPLE DEAD!

HARDLY WORTH THE SATURATION PRESS COVERAGE YOU GHOULS FROM THE MEDIA'LL UNDOUBTEDLY DEVOTE TO IT!

DOES ANYBODY KNOW WHO DID THIS HORRIBLE THING?



NOT YET! BUT DON'T WORRY! WE WILL! PEOPLE WHO DO STUFF LIKE THIS USUALLY LIKE TO STEP FORWARD EVENTUALLY TO CLAIM CREDIT FOR THEIR WORK!



INDEED, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, INSIDE AN ABANDONED ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY HIGH ATOP A CRAGGY CLIFF...

WELL, COMMANDOS, ARE YOU READY TO UNDERGO YOUR DEBRIEFING ON OPERATION GREEN CLOUD?

SURE THING, BOSS! IT WENT LIKE CLOCKWORK!



PIG!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW TO ADDRESS YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER? "THE OPERATION WAS COMPLETED WITH PRECISION, SIR!"

YES, SIR! THAT'S WHAT I MEANT TO SAY, SIR!



THAT'S BETTER! WERE THE ENEMY FORCES COMPLETELY DEFEATED?

ENEMY FORCES? THEY WAS JUST--

UH, YES, FIELD MARSHALL! THE, UH, ENEMY ENCAMPMENT WAS WIPED OUT, SIR!



THAT'S GOOD... VERY GOOD! AND DID YOU ENCOUNTER ANY HOSTILE ACTION?

UH, NO, SIR! NOT REALLY! COUPLA UNIFORMED SECURITY GUARDS... BUT THEY WAS JUST A COUPLA OLD GAWKERS, SIR!



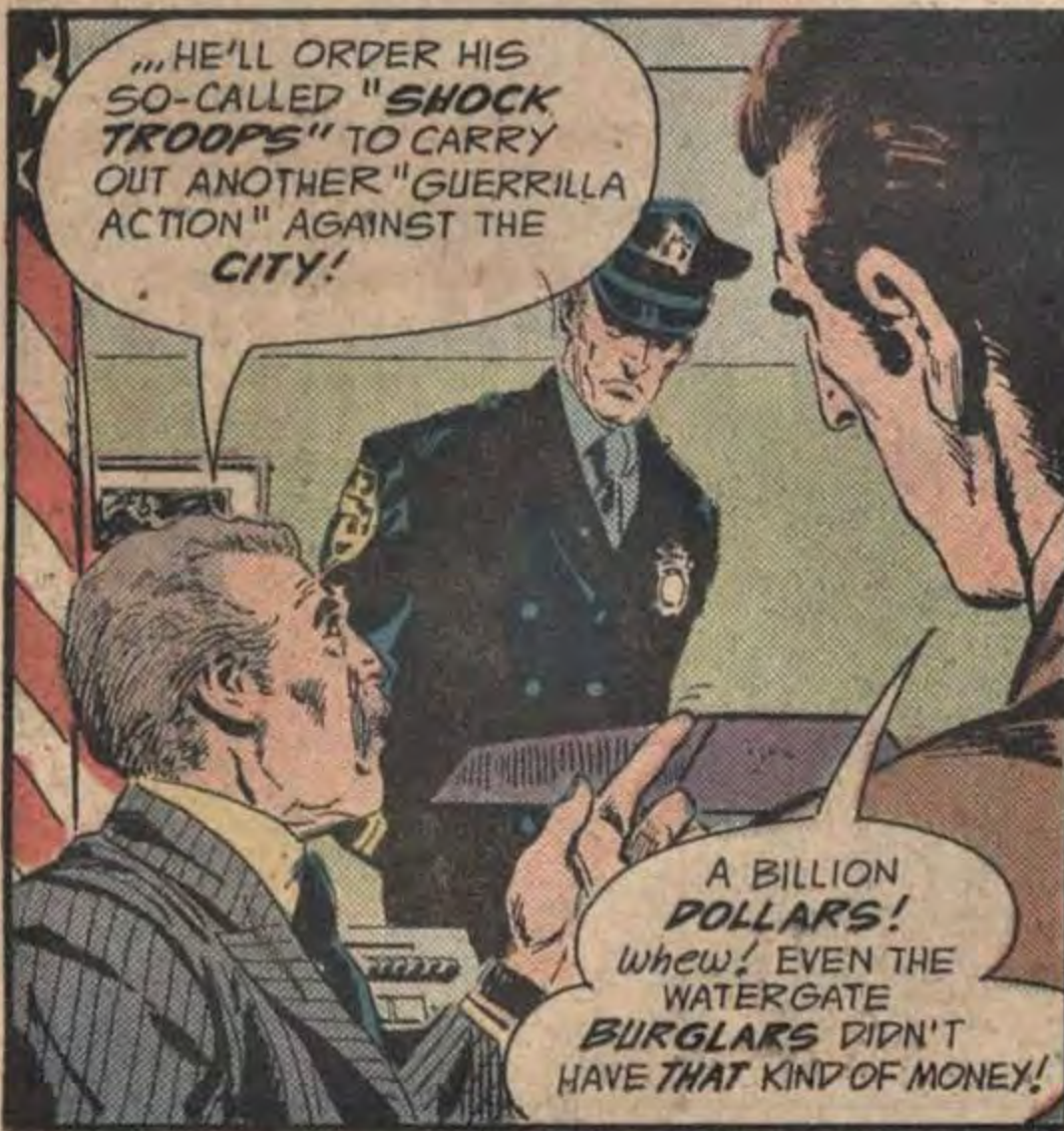
GOOD! YOU HAVE ALL PERFORMED SUPERBLY! NOW IT IS TIME TO INITIATE... **PHASE TWO!**



NOW IT IS THE FOLLOWING MORNING. AN EMERGENCY CRISIS MEETING IS UNDERWAY IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE...

WELL, YOU'VE ALL READ THE LETTER THAT ARRIVED THIS MORNING!

THIS **FIELD MARSHALL OFFAL**, WHO-EVER HE IS, SAYS THAT UNLESS THE CITY PAYS HIM A **BILLION DOLLARS** IN THOUSAND-DOLLAR **BILLS...**



...HE'LL ORDER HIS SO-CALLED "**SHOCK TROOPS**" TO CARRY OUT ANOTHER "**GUERRILLA ACTION**" AGAINST THE **CITY!**

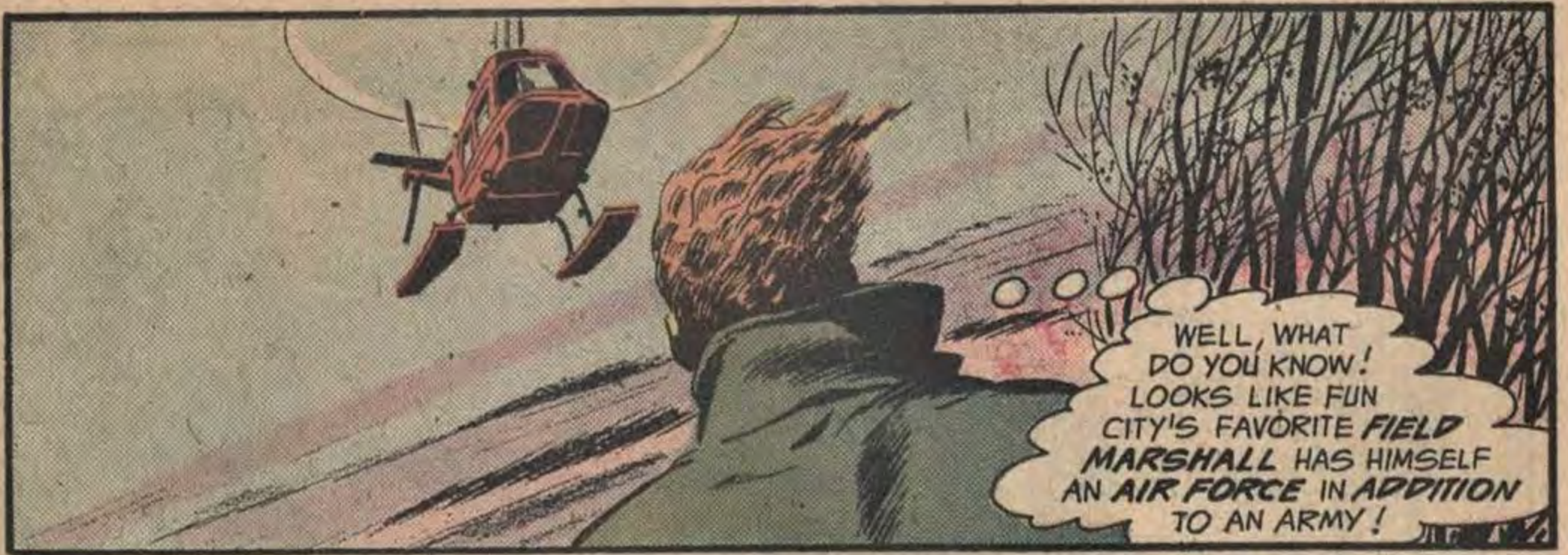
A **BILLION DOLLARS!** Whew! EVEN THE WATERGATE **BURGLARS** DIDN'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY!



THIS IS NOT A JOKING MATTER, SIMMS!

I KNOW, SIR! I-I'M SORRY!





WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW! LOOKS LIKE FUN CITY'S FAVORITE **FIELD MARSHALL** HAS HIMSELF AN **AIR FORCE** IN ADDITION TO AN **ARMY**!



MOMENTS LATER...

YA GOT THE MONEY?

UH HUH!



THEN GET IN! YOU'RE GOIN' ALONG! IF ANY COPS TRY T' FOLLOW US, ALL YOU'LL BE GOOD FOR IS **HAMBURGER!** UNDERSTAND?

YUP! I UNDERSTAND!



BUT AS THE HELICOPTER RISES INTO THE AIR...

OH, WOW! I HADN'T COUNTED ON A **HELICOPTER!**

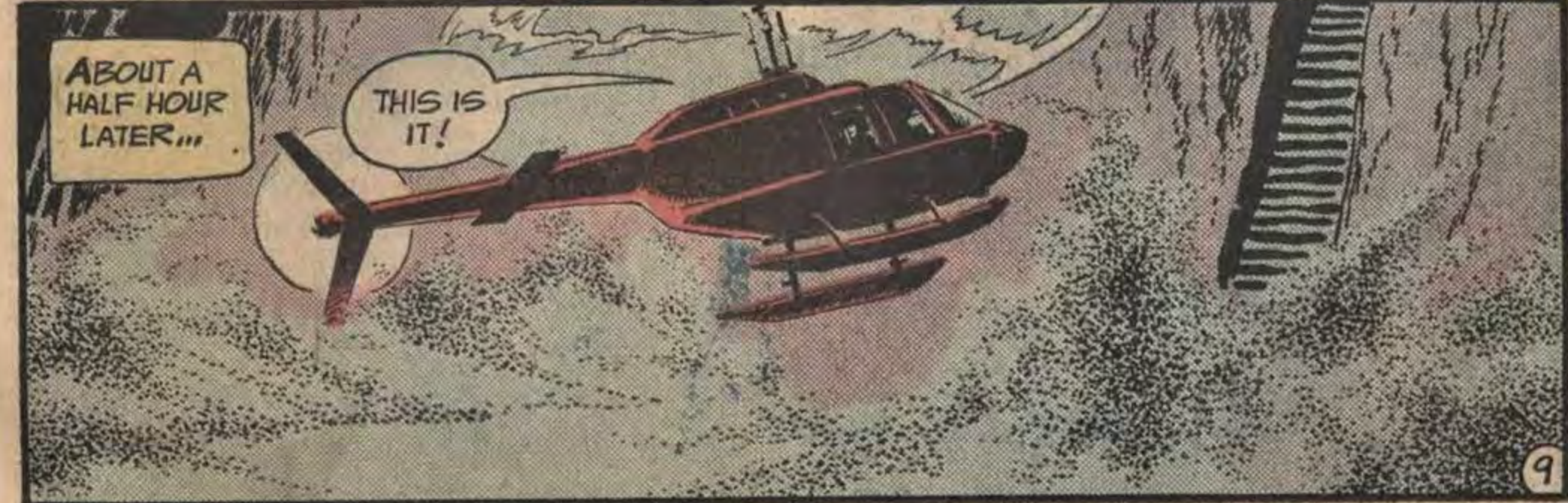
I SURE HOPE THEY DON'T FLY ANYWHERE I CAN'T FOLLOW IN MY **CAR!**



SHORTLY...

SO FAR, SO GOOD! I'VE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP THEM IN SIGHT!

NO OTHER REPORTERS HAVE BEEN FOOLHARDY ENOUGH TO FOLLOW CORRIGAN! SO IT'LL BE AN EXCLUSIVE FOR **NEWSBEAT** IF I DON'T GET MYSELF INTO MORE TROUBLE THAN I CAN (GULP) HANDLE!



ABOUT A HALF HOUR LATER...

THIS IS IT!





BLAM

H-HE IS AN ENEMY SPY!
E-EXECUTE HIM! SWIFTLY!

BLAM

BLAM

W-WE'RE TRYIN'!
B-BUT HE D-DON'T EXECUTE SO EASY!
TH-THE SLUGS'RE GOIN' RIGHT THROUGH HIM!



O-OH, MY GOD!
L-LOOK!!



I-IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

IN THE SPECTRAL NETHERWORLD WHERE I MUST DWELL...



... ALL THINGS ARE... POSSIBLE...!



AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

EVEN A GREAT MILITARY GENIUS SUCH AS I... MUST RECOGNIZE THE NECESSITY FOR AN OCCASIONAL... RETREAT!



SOME MEN WILL ALWAYS CHOOSE THE PATH OF... EVIL...

JUST AS NAPOLEON RETREATED FROM RUSSIA, SO MUST I-- WHA-!?



BUT BEYOND THE SHADOWS OF THEIR BLACK SOULS BURNS THE WHITE-HOT FLAME OF UNEARTHLY... VENGEANCE...!

STOP! I AM A FIELD MARSHALL... AN OFFICER... AND THEREFORE A PRISONER OF WAR!



AND THAT VENGEANCE IS FINAL...

YOU MUST TREAT ME ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF THE GENEVA CON--

AAAGH!



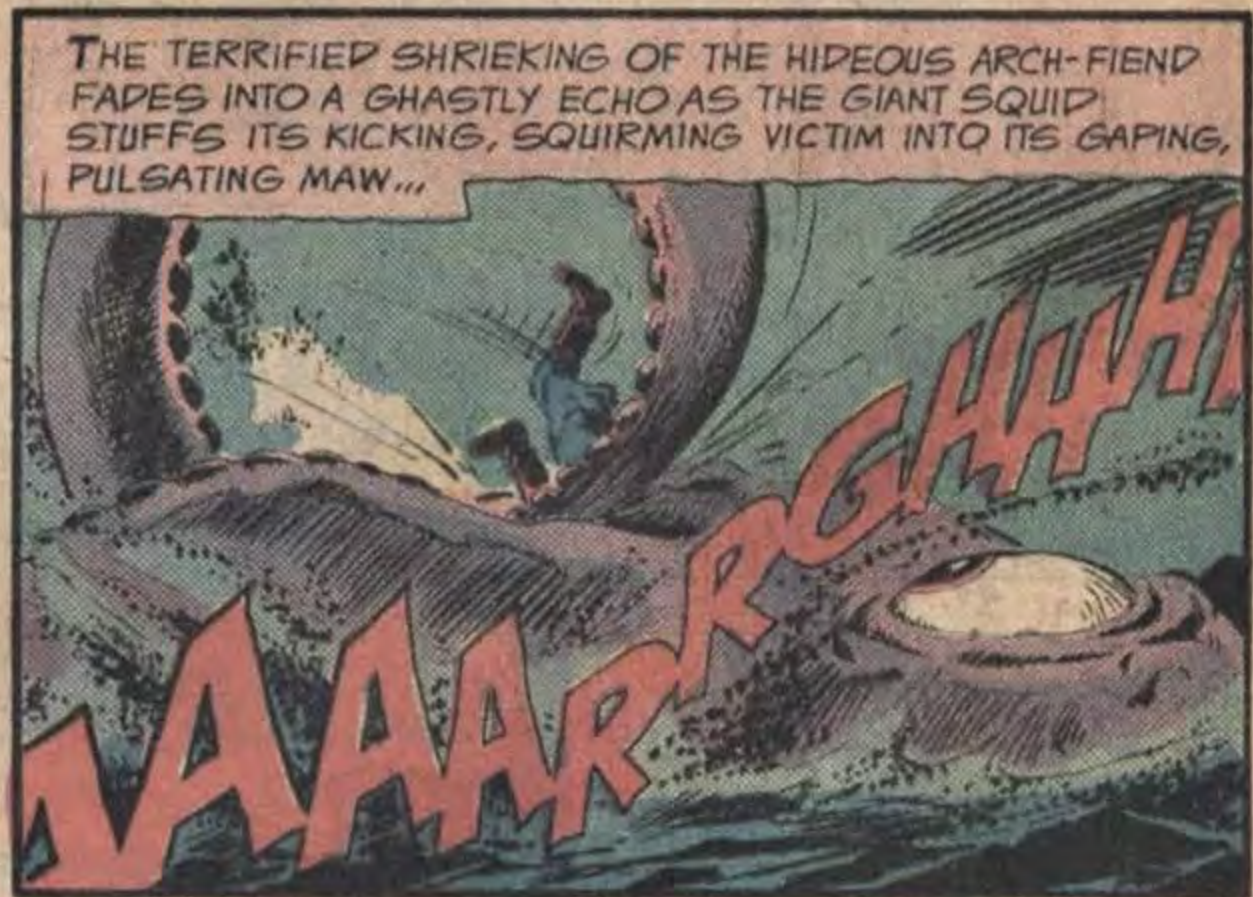
...AWFUL...

WEEEEEE



...INESCAPABLE...!

NGY!



THE TERRIFIED SHRIEKING OF THE HIDEOUS ARCH-FIEND FADES INTO A GHASTLY ECHO AS THE GIANT SQUID STUFFS ITS KICKING, SQUIRMING VICTIM INTO ITS GAPING, PULSATING MAW...

WAAARRRGGHHH



WHILE ON THE BEACH...

HERE'S THE HELICOPTER! THEY MUST'VE--

TH-THAT SCREAM!

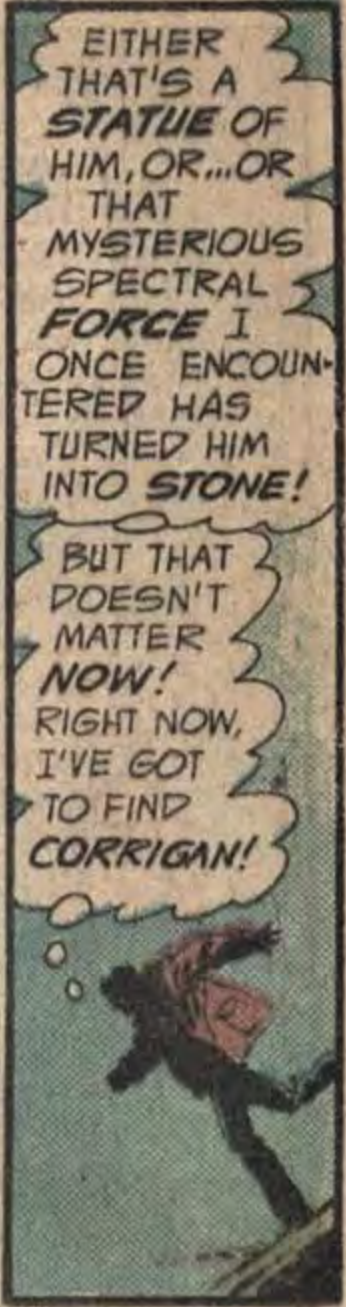


S-SUPPOSE IT'S **CORRIGAN** SCREAMING? I'D--

HUNH-!?!?



WH-WHY IS IT THAT **TERRORIST** I SAW... THE ONE WHO PICKED UP **CORRIGAN** IN THE **HELICOPTER**!



EITHER THAT'S A **STATUE** OF HIM, OR... OR THAT **MYSTERIOUS SPECTRAL FORCE** I ONCE ENCOUNTERED HAS TURNED HIM INTO **STONE**!

BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER **NOW**! RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT TO FIND **CORRIGAN**!



EARL CRAWFORD RACES FRANTICALLY ACROSS THE SANDY BEACH, AND FINALLY...

LT. **CORRIGAN**! ARE YOU ALL **RIGHT**?

CRAWFORD! WHAT THE **BLAZES** ARE YOU DOING HERE?



MY... MY NOSE FOR **NEWS**, I GUESS! I **FOLLOWED** YOU! WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU'LL GET THE **STORY** WHEN THE **OTHER** REPORTERS GET IT, **CRAWFORD**! NOT BEFORE!



LIEUTENANT, DID... DID YOU BY ANY CHANCE SEE SOME SORT OF... OF **STRANGE FORCE** AROUND HERE WHILE YOU--

NOPE!

THE END

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE FOURTH WEEK IN OCTOBER