



2-235
LIKE THE WRATH OF AN ANGRY GOD, THE WIND LASHES AND THE WIND-DARK SEA CHURNS... IN THE HARSH WHITE BLASTS OF LIGHTNING, TWO VESSELS TOSS... TONIGHT, THE ELEMENTS PLAY A GRIM, FOREBODING DRAMA--

YET WITHIN THE SHIPS AN EVEN GRIMMER DRAMA UNFOLDS AS THE SHADOW AND HIS GREATEST ENEMY STRUGGLE FOR THE LIVES OF A HUNDRED INNOCENT PEOPLE-- AND POSSIBLY THE FATE OF THE WORLD!

"NIGHT OF NEPTUNE'S DEATH!"

DENNY O'NEIL AND FRANK ROBINSON -- RACONTEURS

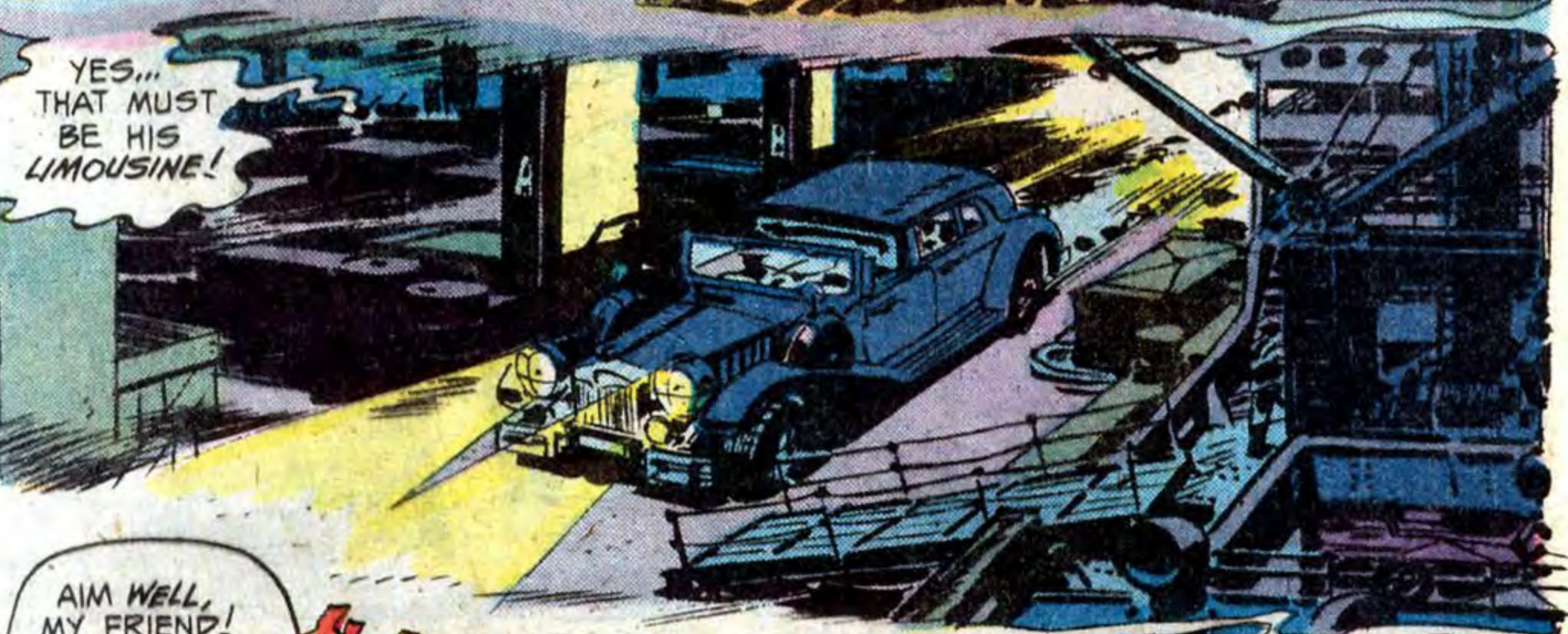
I CERTIFY THE EVENTS RELATED HEREIN TO BE TRUE. THE SHADOW

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ANOTHER FINE HACS/GRUNDY SCAN

IT BEGINS HERE, ON THE PIERS AT THE FOOT OF MANHATTAN... DARKNESS AND FOG CLING TO THE CITY, MASKING EVIL--



I GIVE YOU A CHOICE!

DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND SURRENDER YOURSELVES...

...OR PAY THE CONSEQUENCES!

SURRENDER?
NEVER!

RATHER,
WE
SHOOT!

HOWEVER... THE SLOUCH-HATTED FIGURE
SEEMS TO DISSOLVE BEFORE THE ASSASSINS'
BULLETS CAN STRIKE... AND REAPPEARS
WITH SPITTING VENGEANCE!

KATAM

TAM

KA

BLAM

BLAM

AGHA

MY
HAND!

HIS MARKSMANSHIP
IS UNCANNY!-- RUN!

YOU'LL
RUN
NOWHERE!

IMPOSSIBLE!
HE COULDN'T
BE HERE SO
QUICKLY--

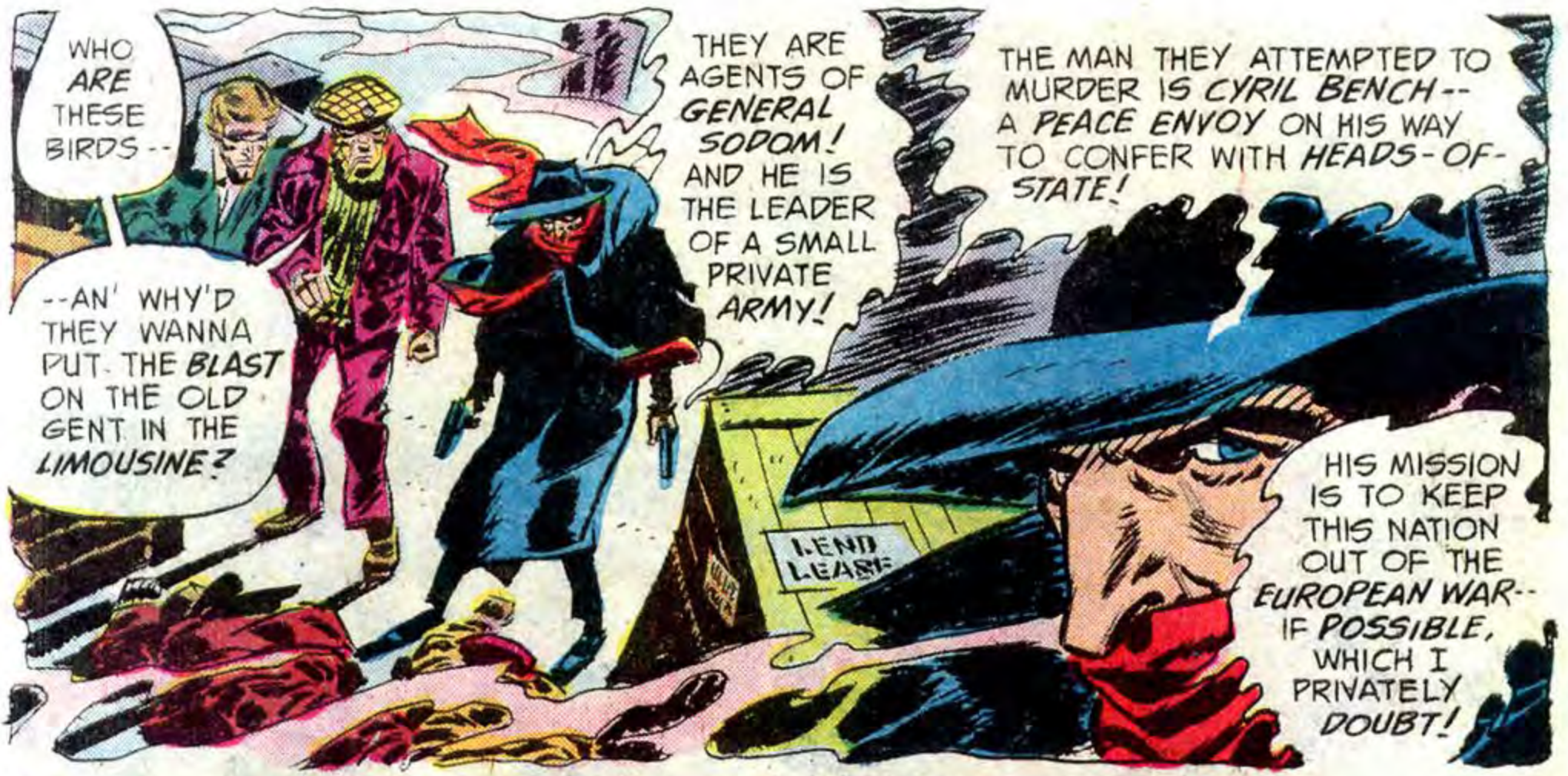


WE WAS
READY TO
BACK YOUR
PLAY, BOSS!

YEAH... ONLY
WE SHOULD'VE
KNOWN WE
WOULDN'T BE
NEEDED!

WE HAVE NO
TIME FOR IDLE
TALK! WE
FOILED THIS
ASSASSINATION
ATTEMPT! BUT...

... ACCORDING
TO OUR
INFORMANT,
THERE WILL
BE OTHERS!



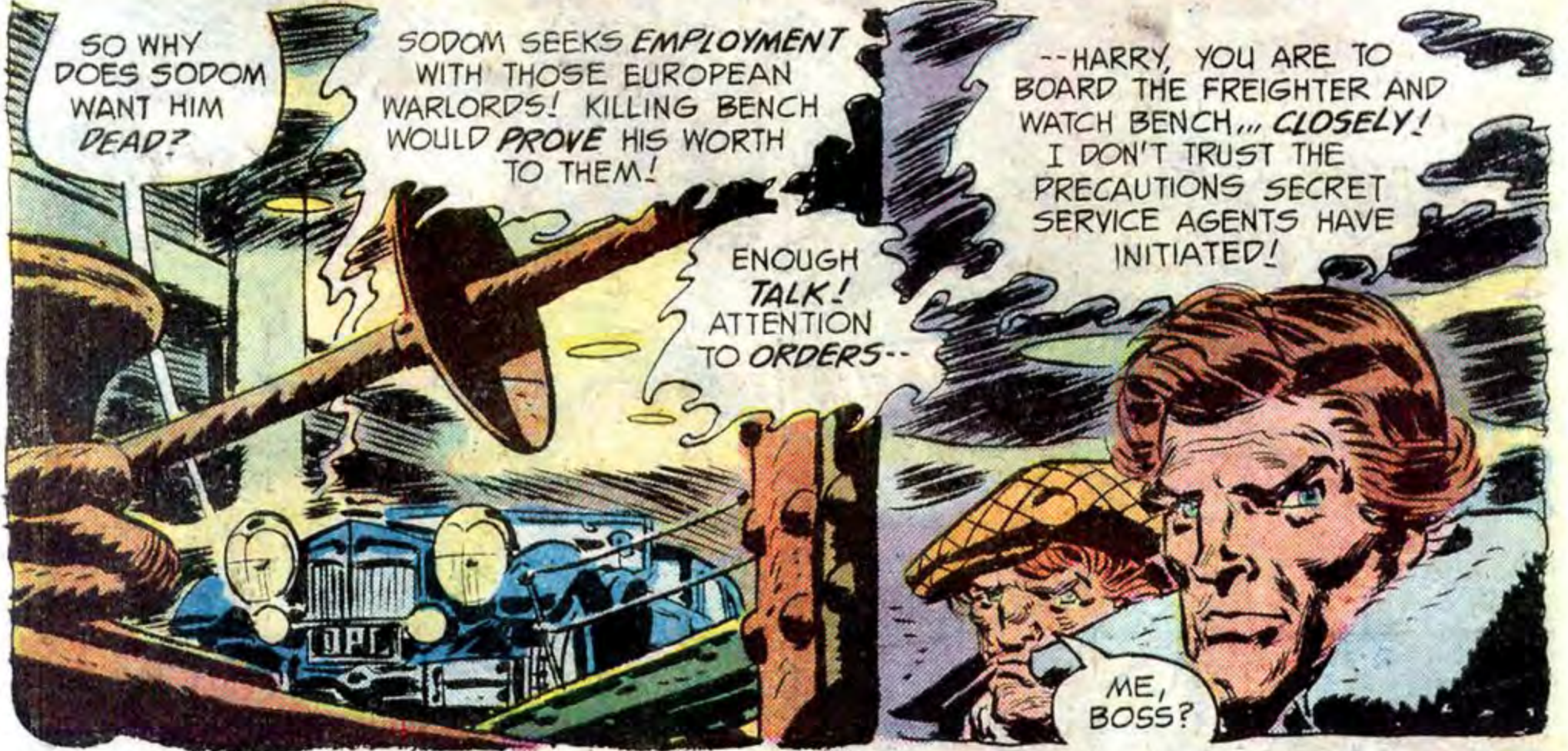
WHO ARE THESE BIRDS--

--AN' WHY'D THEY WANNA PUT THE BLAST ON THE OLD GENT IN THE LIMOUSINE?

THEY ARE AGENTS OF GENERAL SODOM! AND HE IS THE LEADER OF A SMALL PRIVATE ARMY!

THE MAN THEY ATTEMPTED TO MURDER IS CYRIL BENCH-- A PEACE ENVOY ON HIS WAY TO CONFER WITH HEADS-OF-STATE!

HIS MISSION IS TO KEEP THIS NATION OUT OF THE EUROPEAN WAR-- IF POSSIBLE, WHICH I PRIVATELY DOUBT!



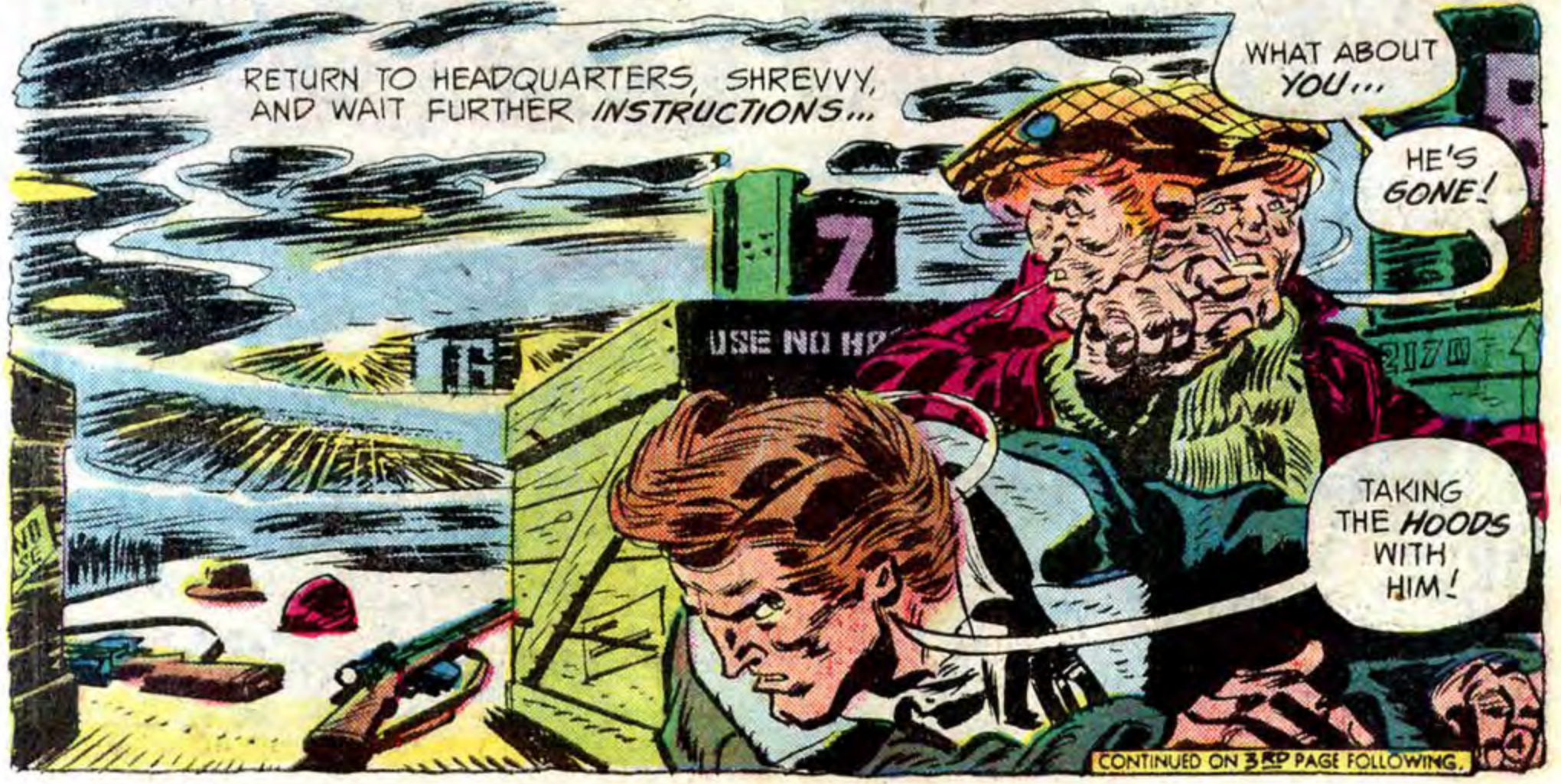
SO WHY DOES SODOM WANT HIM DEAD?

SODOM SEEKS EMPLOYMENT WITH THOSE EUROPEAN WARLORDS! KILLING BENCH WOULD PROVE HIS WORTH TO THEM!

--HARRY, YOU ARE TO BOARD THE FREIGHTER AND WATCH BENCH... CLOSELY! I DON'T TRUST THE PRECAUTIONS SECRET SERVICE AGENTS HAVE INITIATED!

ENOUGH TALK! ATTENTION TO ORDERS--

ME, BOSS?



RETURN TO HEADQUARTERS, SHREVVY, AND WAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS...

WHAT ABOUT YOU...

HE'S GONE!

TAKING THE HOODS WITH HIM!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

AN HOUR LATER, THE S.S. BOXER BEGINS ITS FATEFUL VOYAGE...



...ON DECK, HARRY WATCHES THE MANHATTAN SKYLINE RECEDE, HIS THOUGHTS FULL OF FOREBODING!



AND EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, SHREVVY'S CAB SCREECHES TO A HALT NEAR ANOTHER SHIP-- THE NEPTUNE, A LUXURY LINER ABOUT TO EMBARK ON ITS MAIDEN VOYAGE--

YOU SURE YOU OUGHTA BE GOIN' ON A VACATION, MISS LANE?



THE SHADOW GAVE ME PERMISSION, SHREVVY! APPARENTLY, MY SERVICES WON'T BE REQUIRED FOR A FEW WEEKS!

IT'S MARGO LANE, THE SOCIALITE!

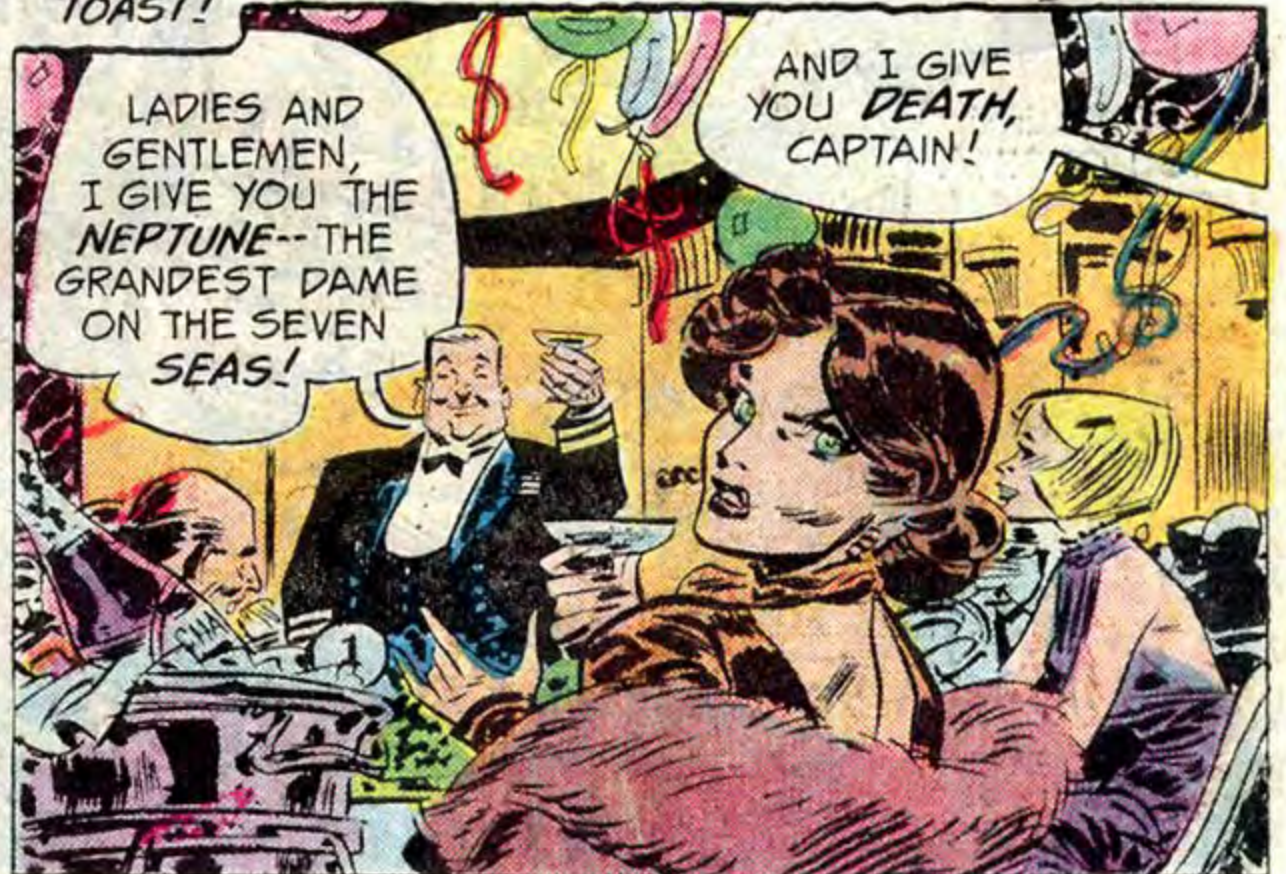




ONTO A SEA GLINTING LIKE DIAMONDS, THE HUGE NEPTUNE MOVES LIKE A GREAT LADY--



-- AND WITHIN, THE WINE FLOWS, THE LAUGHTER TINKLES AS THE CAPTAIN RAISES HIS GLASS IN A TOAST!





I AM GENERAL SODOM, CAPTAIN... AND THERE IS LITTLE I DO NOT DARE! I ADVISE YOU TO COOPERATE!



I WILL NOT BE BULLIED--!

THEN YOU WILL BE DEAD!



GHHH!

BRAK

RAK



ANY MORE HEROES? NO, I THINK NOT!

YOU ARE ALL MY PRISONERS! BE ADVISED... I AM NOT A PATIENT MAN-- NOR A KIND ONE!



YOU'RE HOLDING US FOR RANSOM?

I SEE NO REASON TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS!

... I FEEL FAINT!

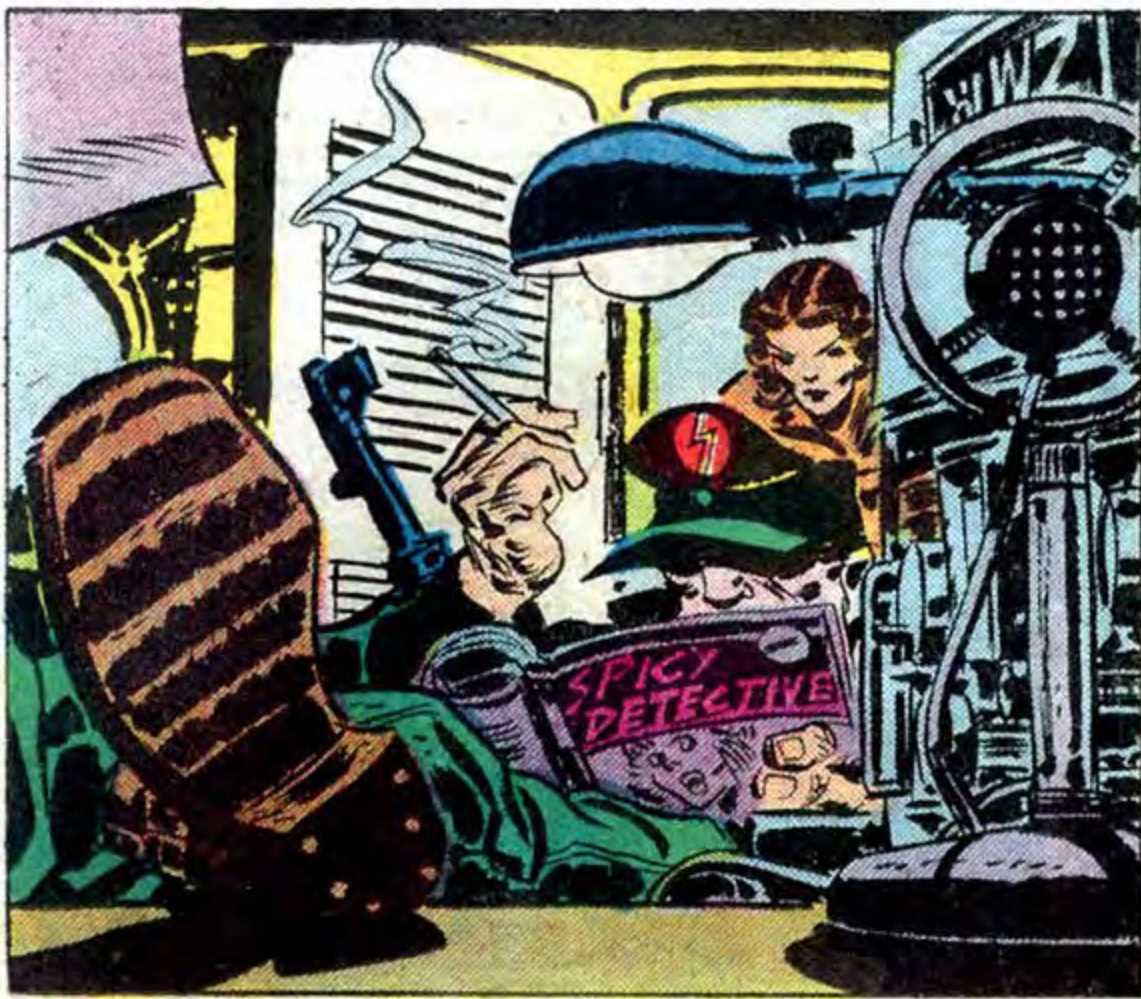


YOU HAVE A COMMAND, MY GENERAL?

SHE IS BEAUTIFUL! SHE MAY AMUSE ME LATER! SO, YES-- GIVE HER THE AID SHE REQUIRES!

... NEED AIR... MY HEART...





QUICKLY, MARGO TUNES A FREQUENCY NOT LISTED IN ANY MANUAL--

--AND, AT A CAVERNOUS CHAMBER NOT LISTED IN ANY DIRECTORY--



BURBANK!
EMERGENCY!
COME IN,
BURBANK--



INFORM
THE NAVY
AND THE
SHADOW...

I
READ
YOU
MARGO!

... THE
NEPTUNE'S
BEEN PIRATED
BY A GENERAL
SODOM--!



APPARENTLY
THE GENERAL
IS HOLDING
US FOR
RANSOM--

MARGO!
DO YOU
READ ME,
MARGO?



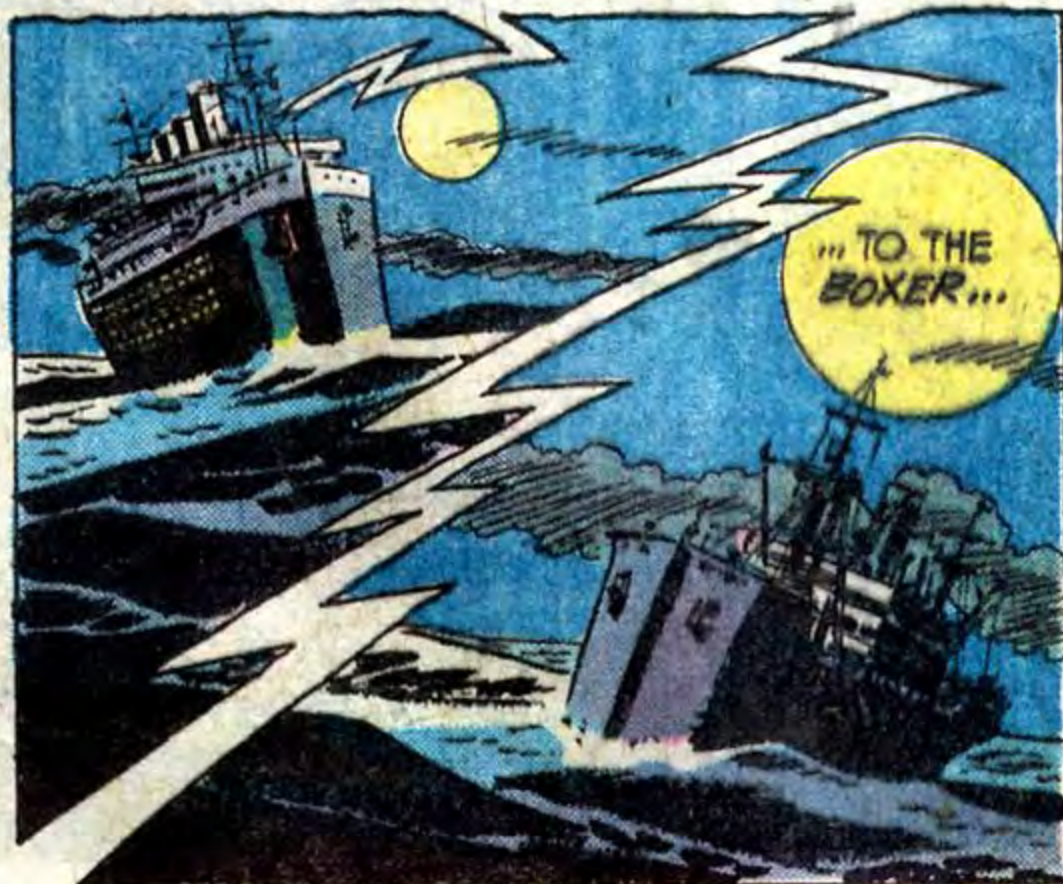
NO, SHE
DOES
NOT!



THE WOMAN IS OBVIOUSLY DANGEROUS! BIND HER... IF WE MUST CARRY OUT OUR THREAT, SHE WILL BE THE FIRST TO DIE!

I SHALL SEND OUR MESSAGE-- OUR ULTIMATUM!

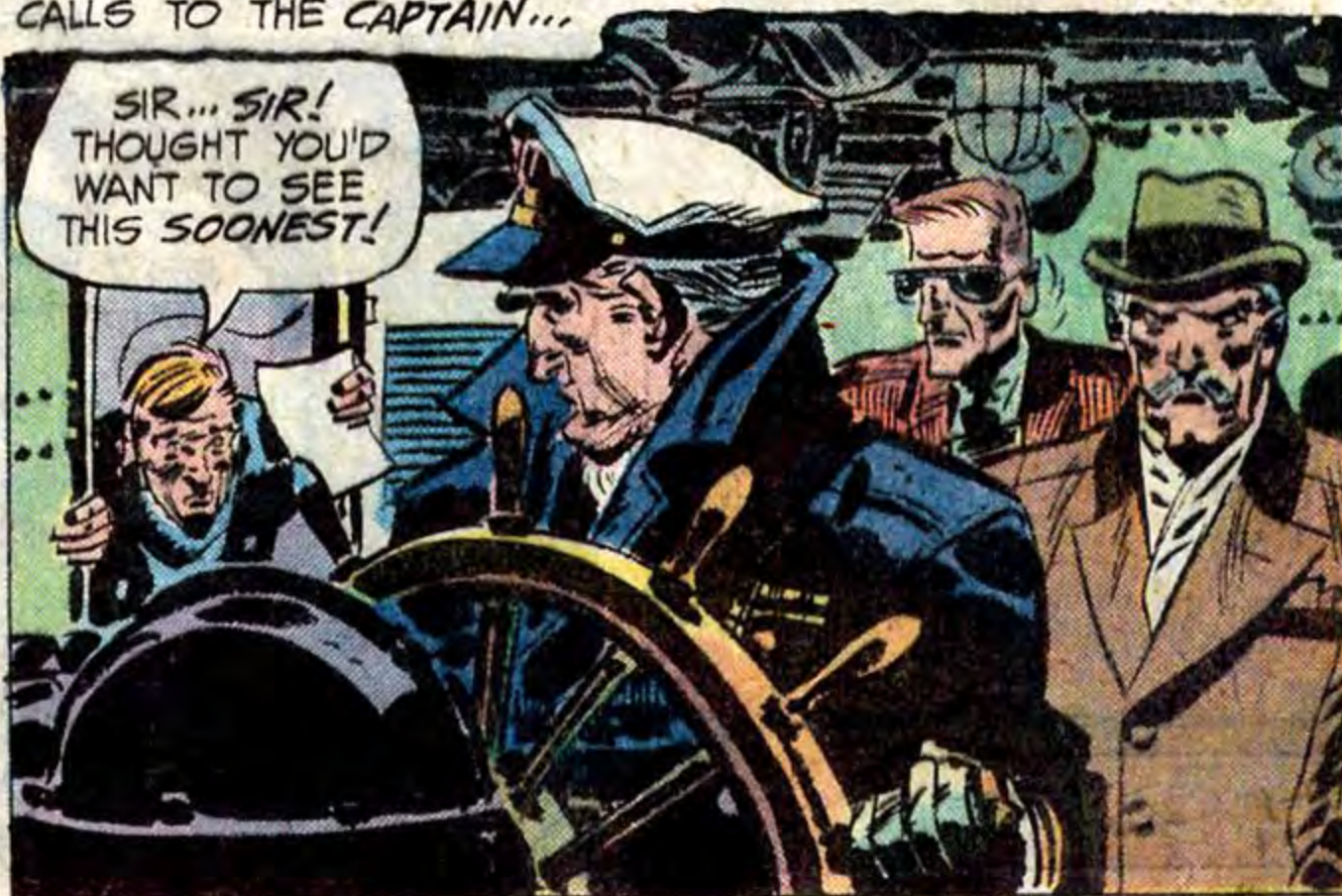
ACROSS THE NIGHT-TOSSED SEA THE BROADCAST WAVES SPEED, FROM THE NEPTUNE...



... TO THE BOXER...

--AND, IN THE BOXER'S COMMUNICATIONS SHACK, A RADIO MAN COPIES THE MESSAGE... AND THE BLOOD DRAINS FROM THE SHOCKED FACE--

--A MOMENT LATER, HE BURSTS ONTO THE BRIDGE AND CALLS TO THE CAPTAIN...



SIR... SIR! THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO SEE THIS SOONEST!



WHY... IT'S PREPOSTEROUS!

WHAT IS, CAPTAIN?

A GENERAL SODOM DEMANDS I DELIVER YOU TO HIM, MISTER BENCH--



--AND IF I REFUSE, HE THREATENS TO SLAUGHTER THE PASSENGERS AND CREW OF THE NEPTUNE!



PERHAPS WE SHOULD CONSIDER IT! I CAN'T WEIGH MY LIFE AGAINST SO MANY!

NIX, MISTER BENCH! I'M ALONG TO MAKE SURE YOU REACH THE PEACE CONFERENCE ALIVE-- AND I'M GONNA!

THEN I WON'T ALTER COURSE!



ON THE CONTRARY, CAPTAIN-- YOU WILL ALTER COURSE... IMMEDIATELY!

WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU?

I AM CALLED THE SHADOW--



--AND I HAVE A PLAN!

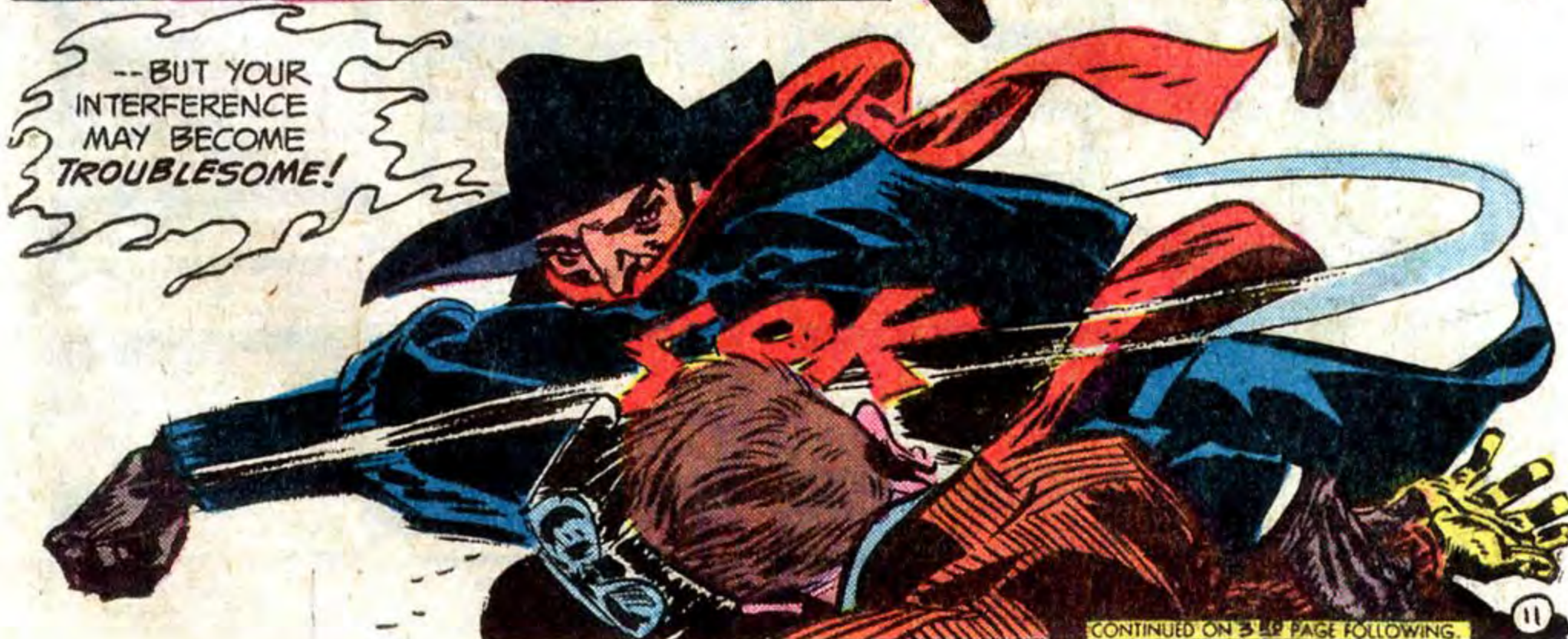
TOUGH ROCKS, BOZO! THE F.B.I. IS RUNNING THIS SHOW,,, AND I AM THE F.B.I.!

RAISE THOSE HANDS--



I REGRET THIS VIOLENCE--

BOOM



--BUT YOUR INTERFERENCE MAY BECOME TROUBLESOME!

POK



GAZE INTO MY EYES, CYRIL BENCH! DO YOU SEE EVIL THERE -- OR JUSTICE?

J-JUSTICE... I SHALL TRUST YOU!



SHADOW--! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE ABOARD!

IT WAS NOT NECESSARY THAT YOU DID, HARRY!

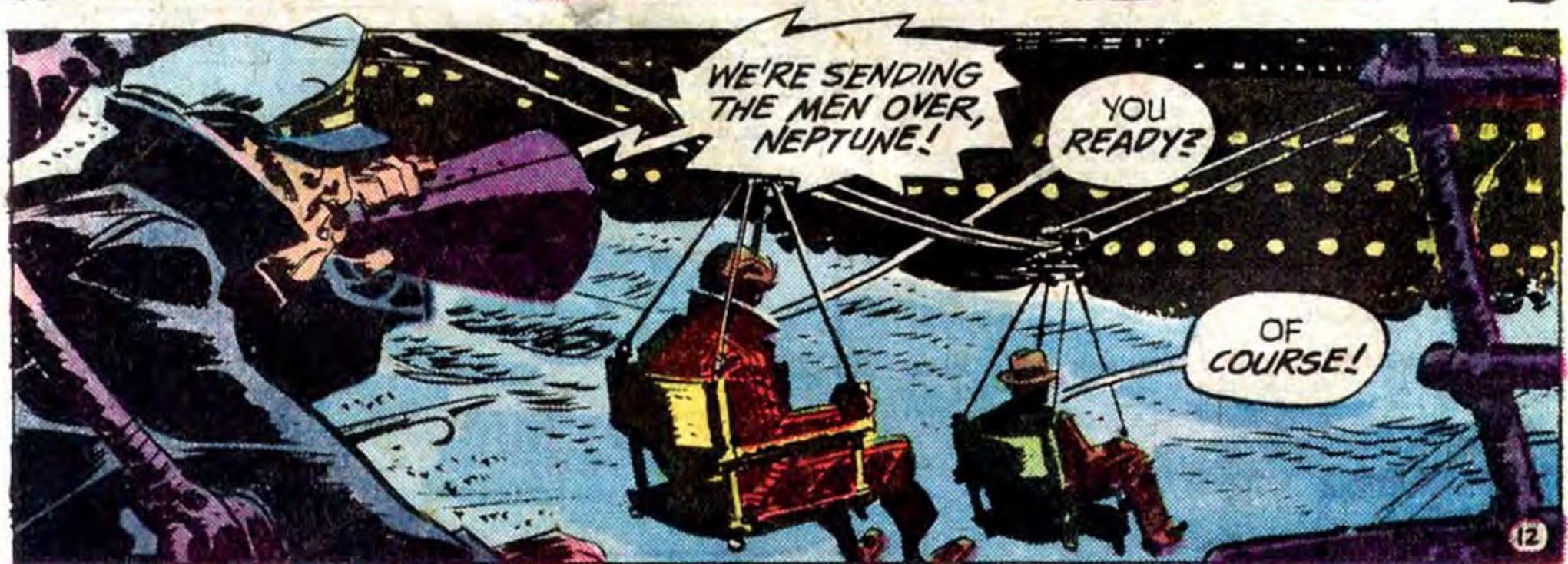
WE HAVE NO TIME FOR IDLE TALK! LISTEN TO MY INSTRUCTIONS--

HOURS PASS... AND THE NIGHT GROWS GRIM, AS THOUGH SOME DISTANT GODS FROWN ON THE NEPTUNE TO THE BOXER AS THEY DRAW NEAR--!



ON THE BOW OF THE NEPTUNE, GENERAL SODOM CALLS A QUESTION HEAVY WITH MALICE--

AHOY, NEPTUNE! ARE YOU READY TO COMPLY WITH MY DEMAND?



WE'RE SENDING THE MEN OVER, NEPTUNE!

YOU READY?

OF COURSE!

FOR AN INSTANT, THE TWO MEN SWAY ON THE THIN STEEL CABLES STRUNG BETWEEN THE LIGHTNING-RENT SKY AND THE HUNGRY WATER!

THEN THEY BEGIN THE SLOW, SHORT JOURNEY BETWEEN THE SHIPS..

--AND IN LESS THAN FOUR MINUTES, THEY ARE WITHIN RANGE OF GENERAL SODOM'S DEADLY MACHINE PISTOL!

I SEE NO REASON TO DELAY! ONE SHORT BURST FROM MY GUN AND AMERICA'S HOPES FOR PEACE WILL BE GONE--

--AND THE DICTATORS IN EUROPE WILL RECOGNIZE ME AS THEIR EQUAL... PERHAPS THEIR SUPERIOR!

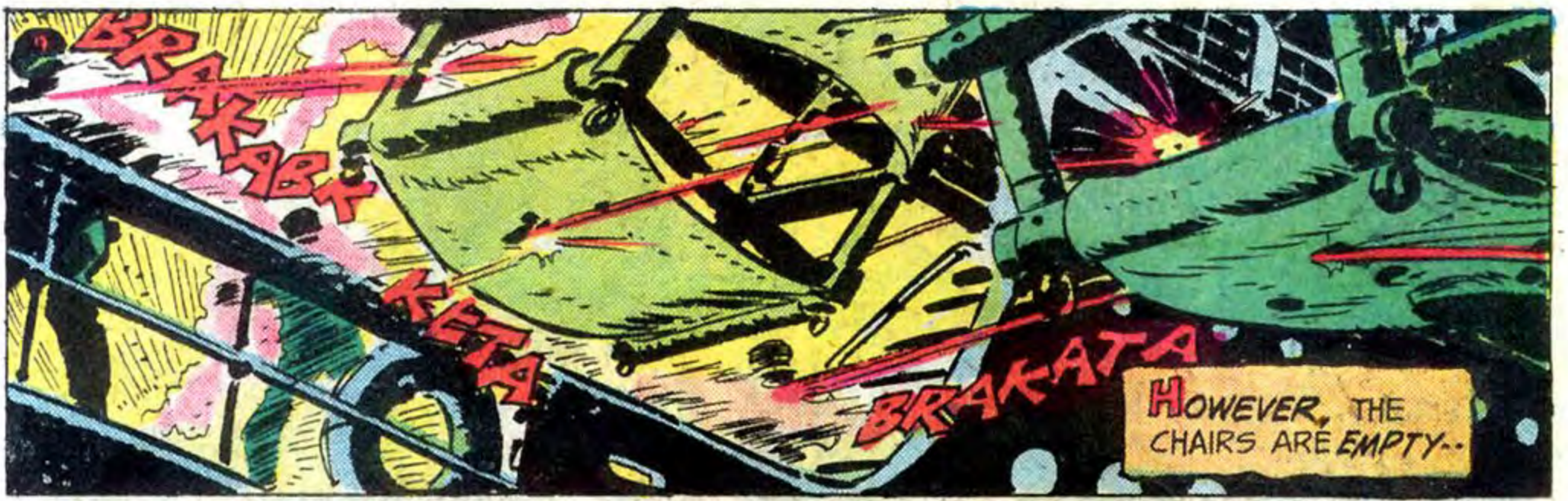
YOU HAVE THE FLARE, HARRY?

ALL SET TO GO!

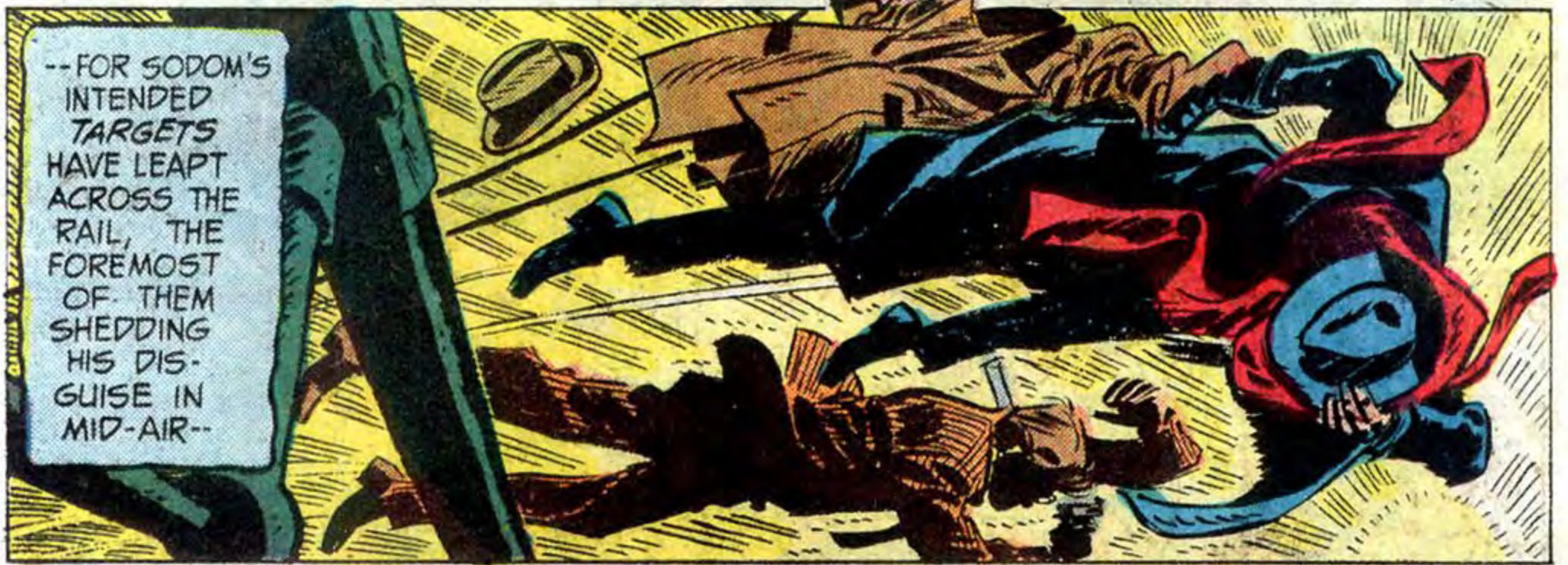
UNERRINGLY, HARRY VINCENT THROWS THE SUDDENLY BRIGHT PHOSPHOROUS FLARE INTO THE MIDST OF SODOM AND HIS TROOPS...

I'M BLINDED!

SHOOT!!



HOWEVER, THE CHAIRS ARE EMPTY--



-- FOR SODOM'S INTENDED TARGETS HAVE LEAPT ACROSS THE RAIL, THE FOREMOST OF THEM SHEDDING HIS DISGUISE IN MID-AIR--

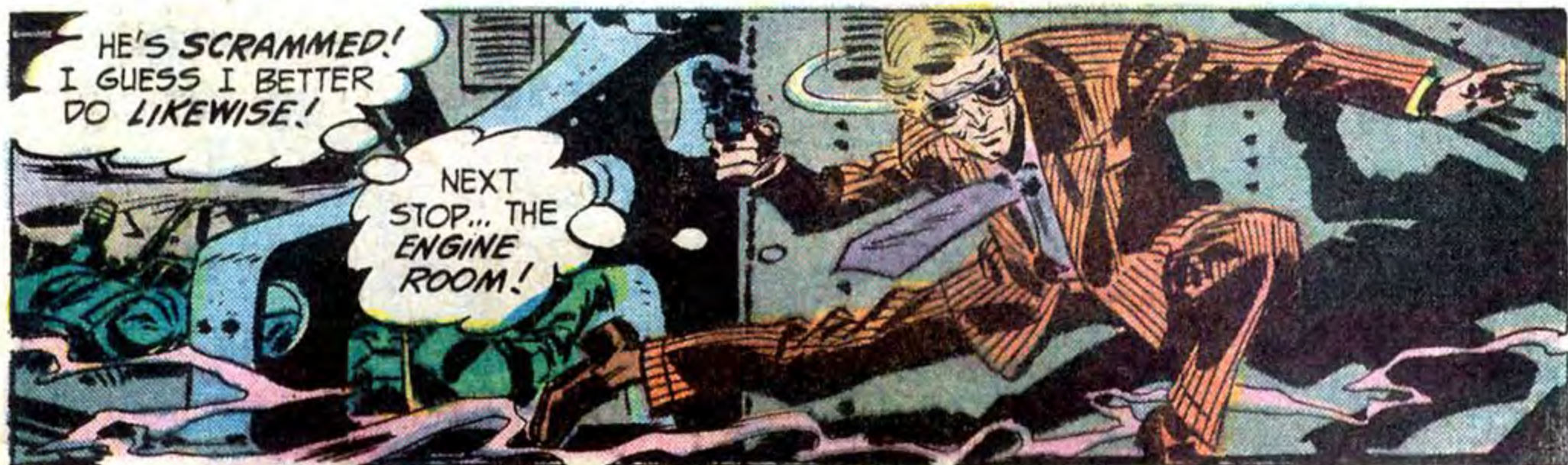
-- AND IN A HEARTBEAT, THE FIGURE OF BENCH HAS VANISHED!-- IN HIS PLACE, AN AVENGER WITH SPITTING DOOM IN EITHER HAND!



WE TOOK 'EM BEFORE THEIR EYESIGHT CLEARED -- EXACTLY AS YOU FIGURED, SHADOW!

THESE SMOKED SPECS WORKED PERFECTLY FOR US...

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.



HE'S SCRAMMED!
I GUESS I BETTER
DO LIKEWISE!

NEXT
STOP... THE
ENGINE
ROOM!



AND, IN THE
SALON...

YOU HEARD
THE SHOTS,
HEIM?

YES! SOMETHING
HAS GONE WRONG
WITH THE GENERAL'S
SCHEME! THEREFORE
WE OBEY HIS ORDERS--



--AND
DESTROY
THESE FOOLS!

P-PLEASE...
HAVE
MERCY!

SAVE YOUR
BREATH!
MERCY
IS FOR
WEAKLINGS!



THAT
LAUGH...

IT'S
INHUMAN!



THE LIGHTS!
SOMEONE
SWITCHED
OUT THE
LIGHTS!

YOU SAID
MERCY IS FOR
WEAKLINGS...?



AAAGH
BEAM

I SAY...
THOSE WHO
LIVE BY
THE
SWORD...

... SO
SHALL
THEY
PERISH!



HE'S
BEHIND
US!

BIRAKANTABR
AK



NO... OVER
BY THE
KITCHEN--

BLAN
B

UNNN



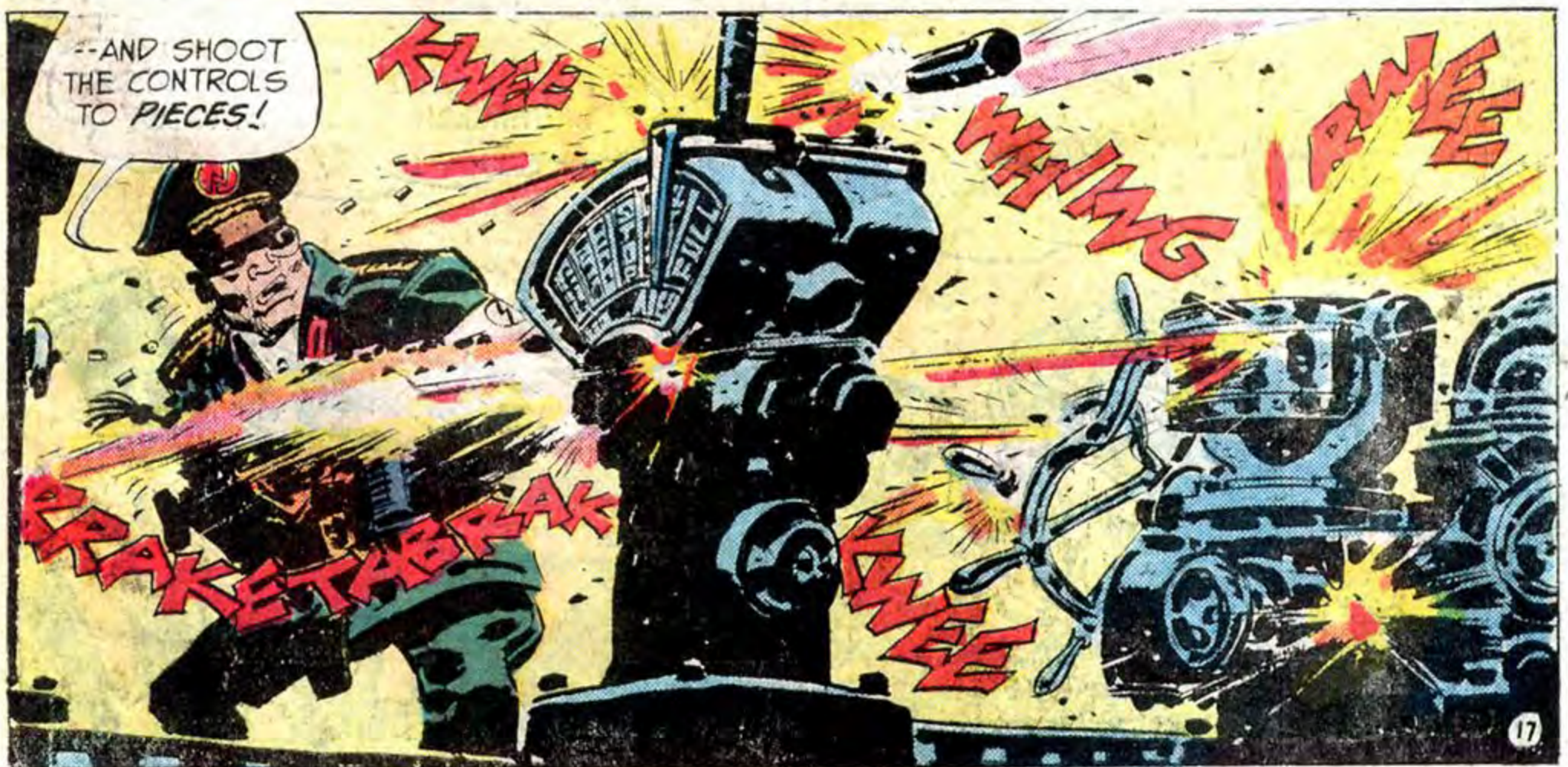
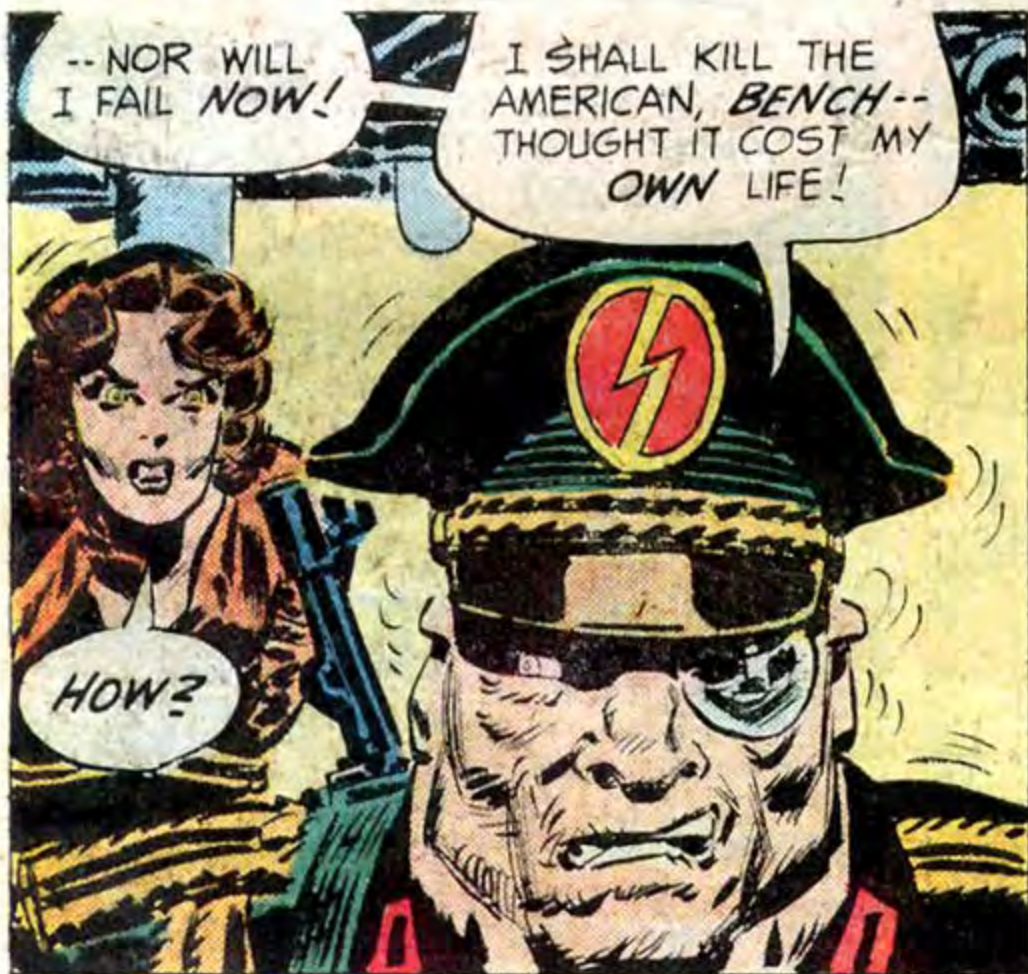
HE-- OR IT--
CAN NOT BE
FOUGHT! I
MUST RUN...
SAVE
MYSELF!

YOU CAN'T
FLEE FAR
ENOUGH--

--TO FLEE
YOUR CRIMES!

GRATE
JAIL

THUDD





NOTHING CAN PREVENT THE COLLISION-- AND THE SINKING OF THE SHIPS!

YOU'D DROWN HUNDREDS-- INCLUDING YOURSELF-- RATHER THAN ADMIT FAILURE! WHY?



IT IS THE WAY I AM!

HOWEVER... THERE IS A SUDDEN LURCH AND...

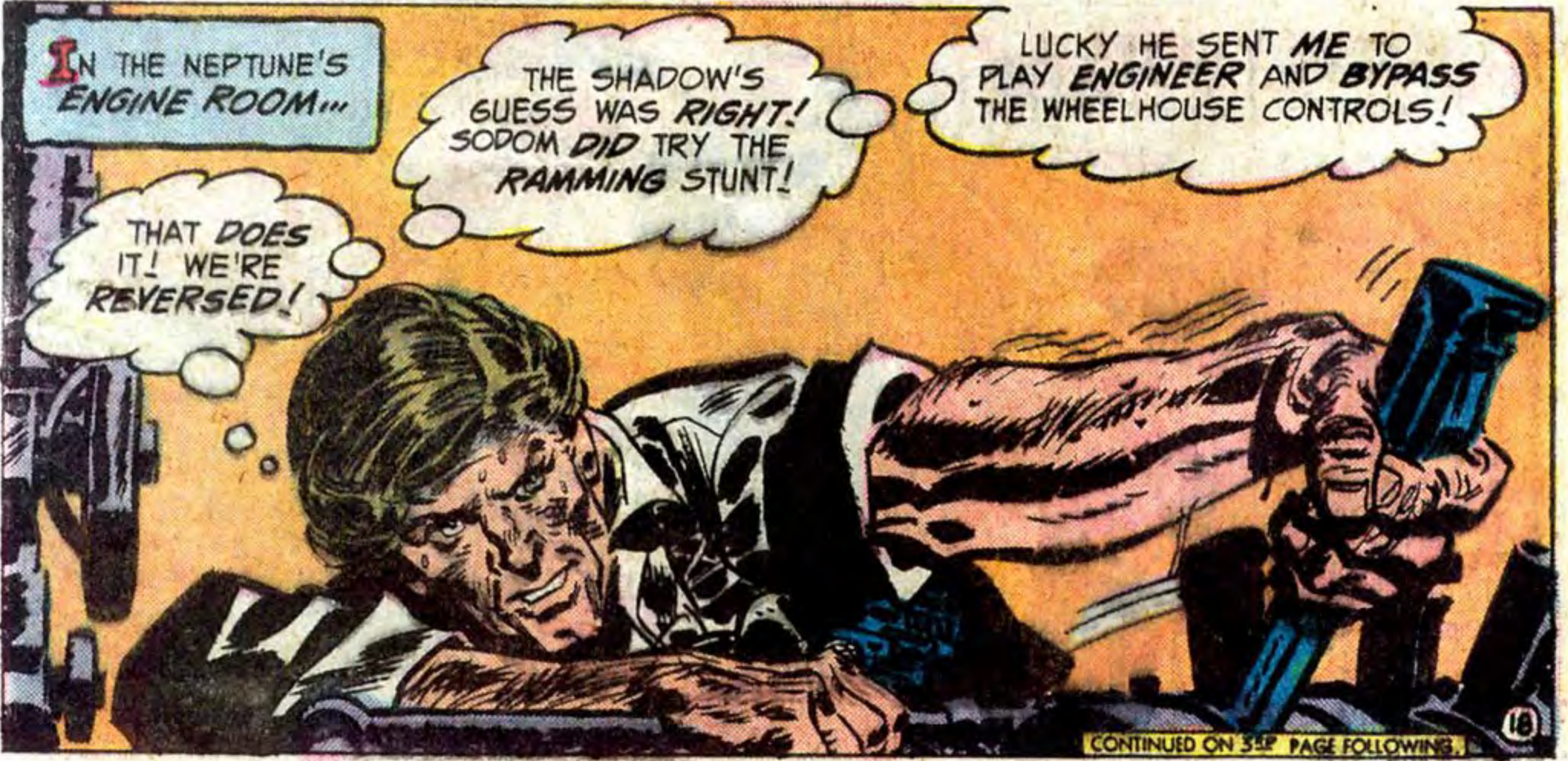


W-WE'VE STOPPED!

WE'RE DEAD IN THE WATER--



NO... WE ARE GOING BACKWARD... AWAY FROM THE BOXER!



IN THE NEPTUNE'S ENGINE ROOM...

THE SHADOW'S GUESS WAS RIGHT! SODOM DID TRY THE RAMMING STUNT!

LUCKY HE SENT ME TO PLAY ENGINEER AND BYPASS THE WHEELHOUSE CONTROLS!

THAT DOES IT! WE'RE REVERSED!

CONTINUED ON 358 PAGE FOLLOWING

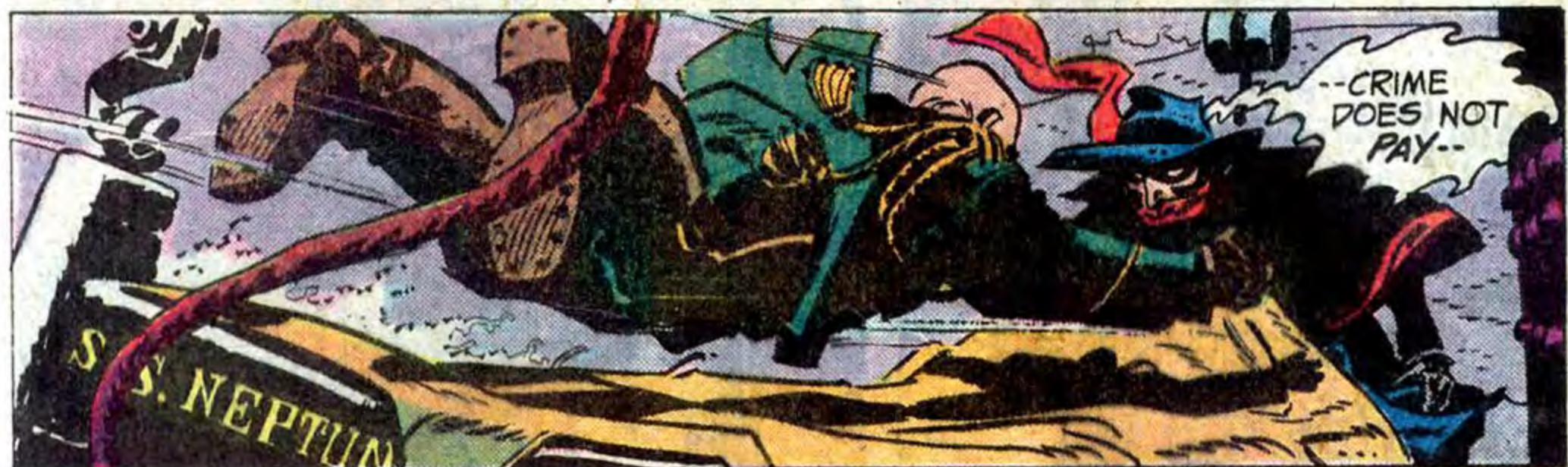


THE WEED OF CRIME BEARS BITTER FRUIT,

SODOM--

S.S. NEPTUNE

S.S. NE



--CRIME DOES NOT PAY--

S.S. NEPTUN



--THE SHADOW KNOWS!

ABOVE THE INKY SEA, MARGO AND HARRY PEER ANXIOUSLY--

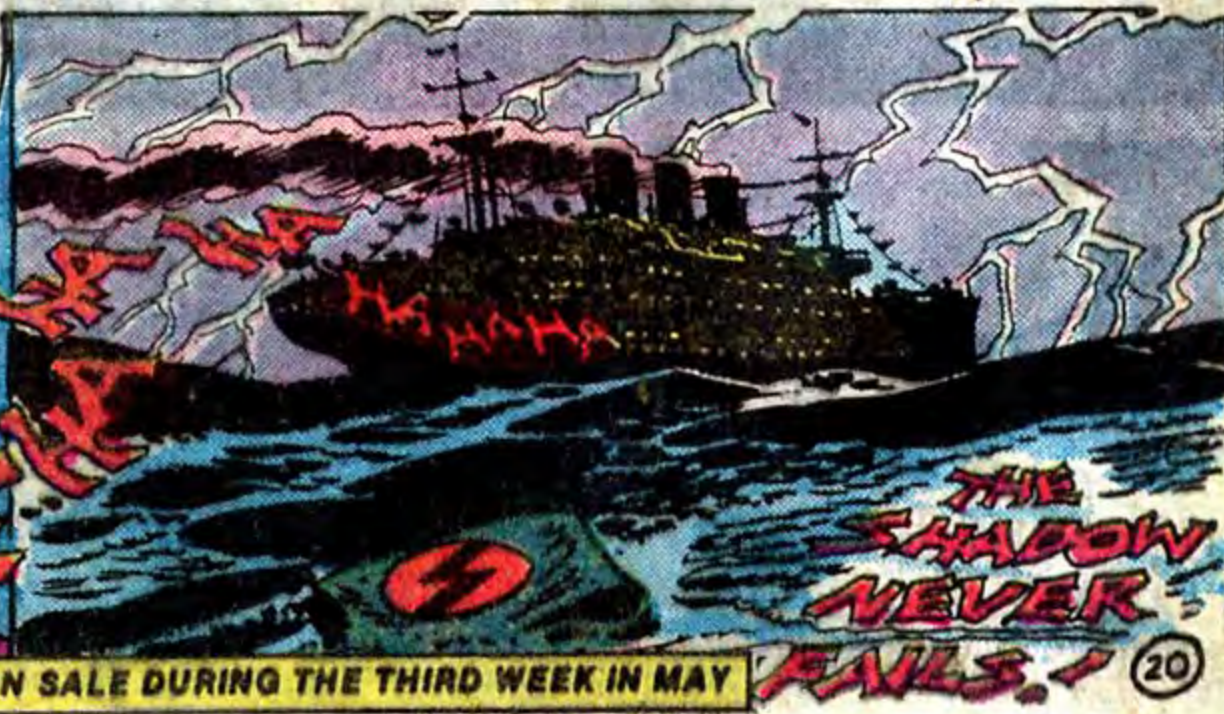
THEY'VE BEEN UNDER FIVE MINUTES, HARRY! DO YOU THINK--?

I CAN'T SAY, KID! THEY WENT IN NEAR THE PROPELLERS! THEY MIGHT'VE BEEN CAUGHT!



HARRY... LISTEN!

IT'S HIM! HE'S ALIVE!



THE SHADOW NEVER FAILS!

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE THIRD WEEK IN MAY