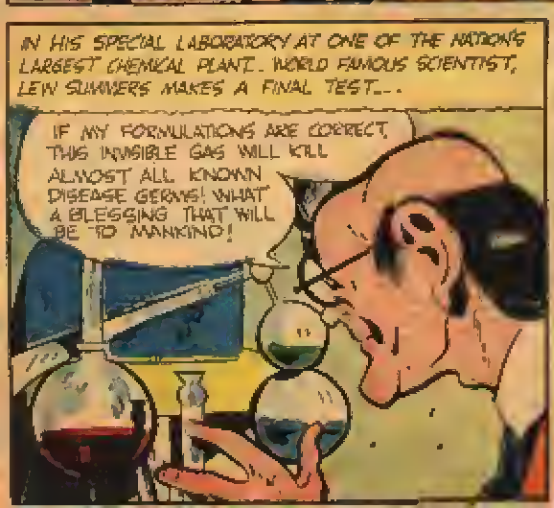

SUPER-MYSTERY
COMICS
10¢
MAGNO & DAVEY · MR. RISK · THE SWORD

WEBCOMIC UNIVERSE.COM

MAGNO AND DAVEY








NEXT DAY, MAGNO AND DAVE ARE LISTENING TO A NEWS BROADCAST...
THIS NEW DISINFECTANT IS BEING PUT INTO MASS PRODUCTION AT THE CROOKED CREEK PLANT OF THE GAMBLE CHEMICAL COMPANY!
WOW! THAT'S SOME INVENTION. HUH, MAGNO?
RIGHT, DAVEY! AND THE WONDERFUL PART OF IT IS THAT IT'S PERFECTLY HARMLESS TO HUMAN BEINGS!
MIKE GAMBLE, PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY, ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEW D.T.D. GAS WOULD BE SUPPLIED AT COST TO THE ARMED SERVICES, NEITHER THE INVENTOR OR COMPANY WILL PROFIT FROM IT..
THAT'S WHAT I CALL REAL PATRIOTISM!
CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE CLOWN WAS IN ON THAT DEAL?
BUT AT THAT INSTANT, IN A HIDEOUT IN EASTOWN...
THIS D.T.D. GAS WILL REMAIN SUSPENDED IN THE AIR FOR MANY HOURS AT A TIME...
THE FOOLS! CAN'T THEY SEE WHAT ELSE THEY CAN DO WITH SUCH AN INVENTION AS THAT? HA,HA! I THINK I SHALL ENLIGHTEN THAT IDIOTIC CHEMIST!
UNLESS I AM VERY WRONG -AND I SELDOM AM! THAT D.T.D. CAN BE THE STEPPING STONE TO MORE POWER THAN A MORTAL EVER DREAMED OF!
THAT NIGHT, AS LEW SUMMERS COMPLETES WORKING PLANS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF HIS CHEMICAL DISCOVERY....
LET'S SEE..NOW...WE'LL RUN THE ASCETIC ACID INTO PLANT THROUGH HERE AND COMBINE IT WITH ARSENATE IN THE NUMBER 6 BUILDING! THEN...
A SUDDEN NOISE BEHIND HIM, AND LEW WHEELS TO SEE.....
THE CLOWN!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT? HOW--
AS A MAN OF SCIENCE MR. SUMMERS, YOU SHOULD KNOW ENOUGH TO ASK ONE QUESTION AT A TIME...ALLOW ME TO PRESENT MY PLAN TO YOU IN AN ORDERLY AND SCIENTIFIC MANNER!

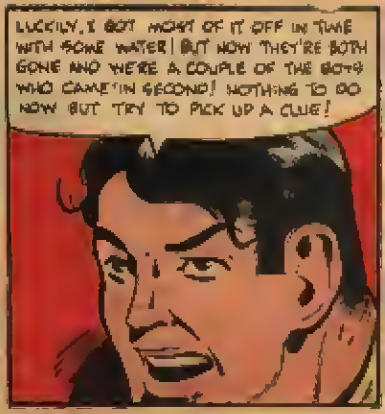

WHAT PLAN COULD YOU HAVE THAT WOULD POSSIBLY INTEREST ME? YOU ----
NOW, NOW! BEFORE YOU LOSE YOUR HEAD, LET ME PROCEED! I COME TO DISCUSS THE FORMULA OF YOUR NEW D.T.D. GAS!!
YOU ARE A FOOL TO FINE AWAY THIS MARVELOUS INVENTION SUMMERS! HAVING DONE SO NOW BUT WHAT IS TO PREVENT YOU FROM MAKING A FORTUNE, SIMPLY BY ALTERING THAT FORMULA JUST A TRIFLE?
WELL, I COULD USE SOME MONEY! THERE'S NO DENYING THAT-IF OLD MAN GAMBLE HADN'T INSISTED ON MAKING THIS A NON-PROFIT PROPOSITION, I WOULD HAVE PATENTED THIS GAS!!
EXACTLY! NOW, THEN LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!
IS IT NOT CORRECT TO ASSUME THAT YOU ADD A CHEMICAL TO THIS INVISIBLE GAS WHICH THEN KILLS INSECTS? AHA! JUST AS I THOUGHT. BUT WHAT IS TO PREVENT THE ADDITION OF A DEADLY POISON TO THAT GAS?
YOU MEAN---
AT THIS MOMENT, PRESIDENT GAMBLE DECIDES TO DROP BY THE LAB---
WELL WE COULD SUBSTITUTE A POISON, IT WOULD BE INVISIBLE IN THE AIR-WHEN RELEASED IT WOULD KILL INSTANTLY!
WHAT TH...? WONDER WHO'S IN THERE WITH LEW?
LEW! WHAT-WHY-IT'S ... THE CLOWN!
MR. GAMBLE, I PRESUME! HOW UNFORTUNATE YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED JUST NOW!!

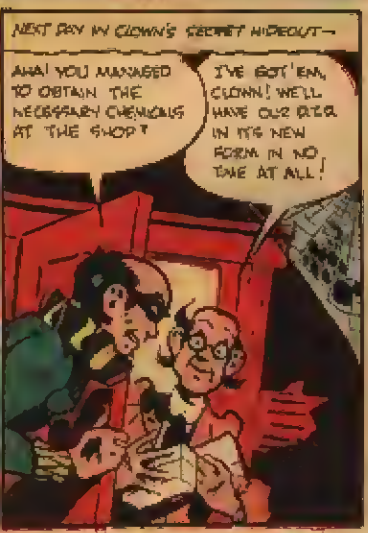

I SHALL REPORT YOU TO THE POLICE AT ONCE! THERE IS NO...
THERE IS NO ESCAPE, WERE YOU ABOUT TO SAY? FOR YOU THERE ISN'T!
UGH!
FOOL DO YOU THINK I WOULD LET ANY MAN STAND BETWEEN ME AND THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN THE WORLD!!
AT THAT INSTANT...
I DON'T GET IT MAGNO-WHERE ARE WE HEADING FOR?
THIS MAYBE A SCREWBALL HUNCH, DAVEY. BUT I HAVE AN IDEA THE CLOWN WILL MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO GET AT THAT O.T.D. FORMULA AS, AS SOON AS HE CAN! IT WON'T HURT US TO A LITTLE EXTRA-CURRICULAR CHECKING!
THIS IS THE PLANT RIGHT OVER THERE, BOY!
YEAH! AND LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY'S IN THE LAB-THE LIGHTS ARE ON!
HOLY COW! MAGNO! IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE RUNNING SECOND TO THE CLOWN!!
MY HUNCH WASN'T JUST A HUNCH AFTER ALL!! LET'S GO!!!
UP TO YOUR USUAL NASTY TRICKS, I SEE!!
MAGNO! DAVEY! CAN'T I EVER MAKE A MOVE WITHOUT YOU!
4


WATCH THAT DOOR, DAVEY! WE'LL FINISH THIS GUY BEFORE HE GETS STARTED THIS TIME!
MOST AMUSING CLAIM, MAGNO!
HOLY TOMATOES! I CAN'T FEEL MR. GAMBLE'S PULSE AT ALL!
IF GAMBLE EVER COMES TO, HE'LL TESTIFY THAT I WAS COLLABORATING WITH THE CLOWN! I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
YES, YES! RIGHT, AWAY!
IF YOU'LL CLEAR THAT SPACE OVER THERE, I'LL--
AND AS MAGNO AND THE CLOWN LOCK IN DEADLY CONFLICT---
MR. SUMMERS! COME HERE! WE CAN REVIVE GAMBLE!
MAYBE
EH? WHAT? OH-YES! MAYBE WE CAN!
THAT TAKES CARE OF YOU, ANYHOW!
WHAT ARE YOU--- UGH!!
MEANTIME IN A FAR CORNER OF THE LAB -MAGNO IS ABOUT TO OVERPOWER THE CLOWN---
STOP! YOU'RE CHOKING ME TO DEATH! LET ME UP! I SURRENDER!
YOU'D BETTER NOT BE KIDDING IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU! ALLRIGHT-ON YOUR FEET!

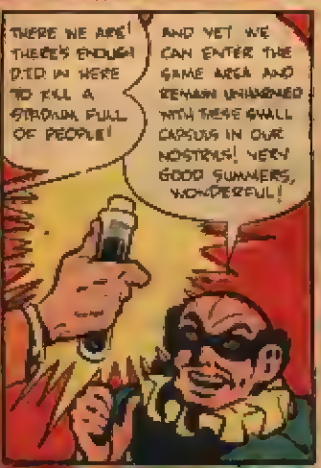

WELL, I GUESS YOU HAVE ME THIS TIME, MAGNO! YOU'RE JUST LUCKY!!
NOW IF HE DOESN'T HEAR ME FOR A SECOND...
OKAY! NOW MOVE AROUND TOWARD THE MIDDLE OF THE LAB! WHAT'S THIS?
SUMMERS! YOU'RE IN ON THIS, TOO?
YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO IDENTIFY ME! HERE-TAKE THIS!!
SEE HOW YOU LIKE AN ACID BATH, HERO!
HA, HA! NICE WORK SUMMERS! COME ON!
DAVEY!-DAVEY! STOP 'EM! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
HA, HA! LOUDER, MAGNO! LOUDER AND FUNNIER, IF POSSIBLE!

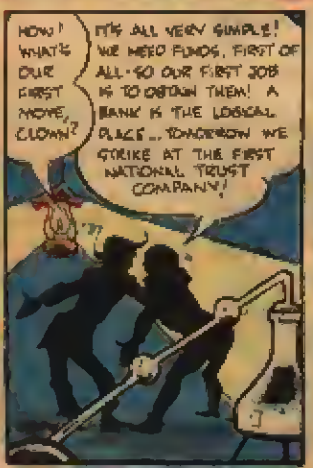

SOMETIME LATER...
WH-WHAT HAPPENED, HAGNO? I DON'T REMEMBER A THING!
LOOKS LIKE WE WERE A COUPLE OF SUCKERS FOR A FEW FAST BALLS, KID! LEW KNOCKED YOU OUT AND THEN THREW ACID IN MY FACE!


LUCKILY, I GOT MOST OF IT OFF IN TIME WITH SOME WATER! BUT NOW THEY'RE BOTH GONE AND WE'RE A COUPLE OF THE BOYS WHO CAME IN SECOND! NOTHING TO DO NOW BUT TRY TO PICK UP A CLUE!


NEXT DAY IN CLOWN'S SECRET HIDEOUT—
AHA! YOU MANAGED TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY CHEMICALS AT THE SHOP?
I'VE GOT 'EM, CLOWN! WE'LL HAVE OUR D.T.G. IN IT'S NEW FORM IN NO TIME AT ALL!


HOW'S IT COMING? HAVE YOU ADDED THE POISON YET?
SURE! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SEAL THE STUFF IN ONE OF THESE SMALL TUBES AND IT'S ALL SET!


THERE WE ARE! THERE'S ENOUGH D.T.G. IN HERE TO KILL A STADIUM FULL OF PEOPLE!
AND YET WE CAN ENTER THE SAME AREA AND REMAIN UNHARMED WITH THESE SMALL CAPSULES IN OUR NOSTRILS! VERY GOOD SUMMERS, WONDERFUL!


HOW! WHAT'S OUR FIRST MOVE, CLOWN?
IT'S ALL VERY SIMPLE! WE NEED FUNDS. FIRST OF ALL—SO OUR FIRST JOB IS TO OBTAIN THEM! A BANK IS THE LOGICAL PLACE... TOMORROW WE STRIKE AT THE FIRST NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY!


BUT LATER THAT NIGHT, THE CLOWN SECRETLY REMOVES THE FILTERS FROM LEW'S PROTECTIVE MASK--


NEXT MORNING, SHORTLY AFTER THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OPENS--
THIS SHOULD BE EASY LIKE TAKING CANDY AWAY FROM A BABY! ALL I DO IS WALK IN HERE ....
REMOVE THE CORK AND DROP THE FLASK IN HERE!
NOT A SOUL NOTICED ME! THIS IS TOO PERFECT TO BE TRUE! NOW IN A FEW MINUTES WE SHALL RETURN! COLLECT A FORTUNE!
DID YOU PLANT IT? DID ALL GO AS WE PLANNED?
EVERYTHING IS SET, CLOWN! LET'S PUT THOSE FILTER PLUGS IN OUR NOSES AND GET GOING!
HERE YOU ARE!
HA, HA! BUT WITH THE FILTERS REMOVED, YOU FOOL!
MEANTIME, INSIDE THE BANK, INNOCENT CITIZENS ARE DYING A HORRIBLE DEATH AS SUMMERS' INVISIBLE D.T.D. TAKES ITS TOLL ...
8.


LOOK! THEY'RE DYING LIKE FLIES - NOBODY CAN STOP ME!
I TOLD YOU THAT STUFF WOULD WORK! LET'S GRAB THE DOUGH!
CLONN-CLONN! THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY FILTER - I CAN'T BREATHE!
HA! HA! YOU SERVED YOUR PURPOSE, FOOL! I HAVE YOUR FORMULA - AND THAT'S ALL I NEED! DIE LIKE A DOG THAT YOU ARE!
WEALTH! AND WITH WEALTH COMES POWER! AND THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE EMPIRE I SHALL BUILD! THIS TIME I HAVE AN UNBEATABLE PLAN!
I - HAVE - TO - GET - AIR... ONLY - FEW - SECONDS BEFORE - I - - DIE!
HELP! POLICE - CLONN - INSIDE! DEADLY GAS - - EGH!
MOTHER OF MERCY!
SHOOTING HIS REVOLVER INTO THE AIR, THE OFFICER GIVES THE POLICE SIGNAL FOR A MAJOR CATASTROPHE!


LISTEN! DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?
YOU'RE NOT KIDDING MAGNO! LET'S GO!


THAT'S THE SIGNAL FOR SOMETHING TERRIFIC BEING PULLED!
I NEVER SAW IT TO FAIL! THAT MEANS THE CLOWN'S SOMEWHERE AROUND!


LOOKS LIKE THAT'S WHERE ALL THE TROUBLE IS!
A BANK! WOULDN'T YOU JUST KNOW IT!


WELL, MRS MCGUIRE'S SON WAS NEVER THE ONE TO WAIT FOR DEVOLOPMENTS! IF THAT CLOWN IS IN THERE, I'LL GO AND GET 'IM!


HALT! STAY WHERE YOU ARE OR I'LL SHOOT YOU FULL OF...AG-LISH!
HA! HA! HA! ONCE A COP- ALWAYS A FOOL!


AH-SAFE! NOBODY TO STOP ME ANYWHERE! BUT-WH-WHAT- MAGNO AN' DAVEY AGAIN! BUT THIS TIME I SHALL MAKE GOOD WITH MY ESCAPE!


SPRINTING DOWN THE ALLEY, THE CLOWN MAKES HIS ESCAPE THROUGH VACANT BUILDINGS...
AND A SPLIT SECOND LATER...
HE'S DOWN THIS ALLEY, SOMEWHERE!
HA,HA! THE FOOLS! LET THEM SEARCH THE ALLEY ALL DAY! I HAD THIS ALL PLANNED! NOW TO DRIVE TO THE PLANT AND LOAD UP WITH THE D.T.D.! ENOUGH CHEMICALS TOO--TO DEVASTATE THE EARTH!
THIS BUILDING WOULD BE JUST THE PLACE HE'D GO FOR!
MAGNO! LOOK! OUT FRONT THERE! THE CLOWN'S GETTING AWAY IN THAT CAR!
WELL JUST TRAIL THAT HOT POTATO AND SEE WHERE HE'S HEADED FOR!
TWO BITS SAYS THAT HE'S HEADED FOR THE CHEMICAL PLANT! REMEMBER--IT'S CLOSED DOWN TODAY!
WILCHUCK'S BAKERY
IT WILL BE JUST A MATTER OF MINUTES UNTIL I COMPLETE MY WORK HERE.. THEN ANY SECLUDED SPOT WILL DO FOR A HIDEOUT!


REACHING THE LABORATORY, THE CLOWN QUICKLY BEGINS TO ASSEMBLE HIS NECESSARY MATERIALS...
HYDROCHLORIC ACID - ASCETIC ACID... POWDERED LEAD... CALCIUM ...THAT'S ALL I NEED! NOW TO GO INTO THE MIXING ROOM!
I'LL HAVE TO GO UP ON THE CATWALK TO GET SOME OF THAT TUCLENE FROM THOSE BIG VATS! THAT'S ONE THING THAT CAN'T BE MADE EXCEPT IN A BIG PLANT LIKE THIS!
THERE HE IS, ON THE CATWALK!
COME ON! LET'S GET HIM! HE DOESN'T KNOW WE'RE HERE YET!
OKAY, WISE GUY! HERE'S THE END OF THE LINE FOR YOU!
YOU AGAIN! YOU'LL NEVER GET ME THIS TIME!
STOP! LOOKOUT, FOR THAT VAT!
WITHOUT HESITATION THE CLOWN DIVES...
GREAT CENSER! THAT STUFF IN THERE WILL DISSOLVE A HUMAN AS IF IT WERE A LUMP OF SUGAR!
HOLY COW! HE'S OFF HIS NOODLE AT LAST! BUT WHAT A HORRIBLE WAY TO DIE!
PERBORATE OF LIME MIXTURE DANGER
BUY BONDS
AND STAMPS TO KEEP OUT THE AXIS TRAMPS!

The SWORD

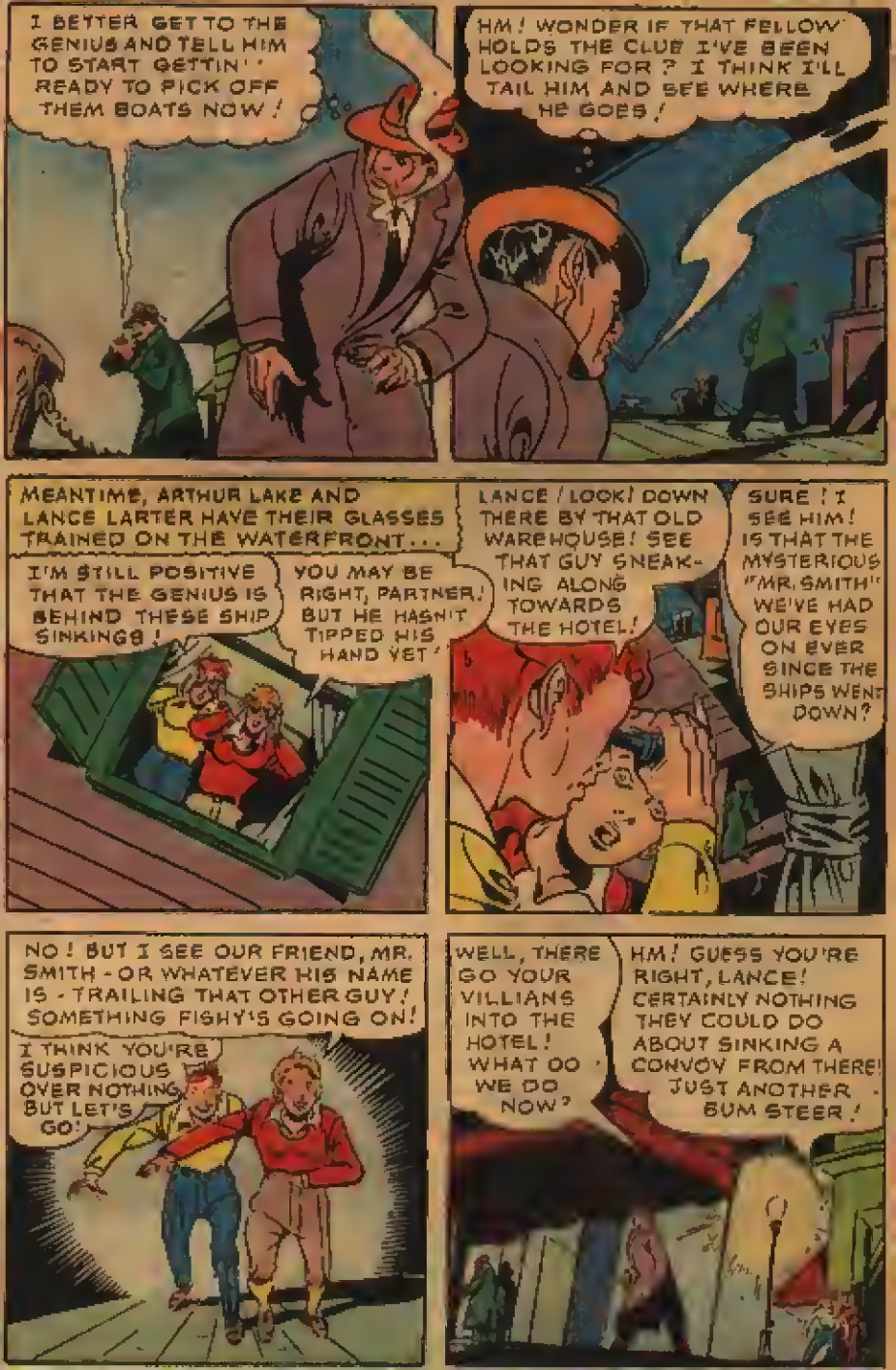


ONE BY ONE, THE BADLY NEEDED SUPPLY SHIPS LEAVING THE HARBOR FOR THE OVERSEAS FIGHTING FRONTS WERE BLOWN TO BITS WITHOUT A TRACE ...AND BEHIND IT ALL ARTHUR LAKE AND LANCE LARTER COULD HEAR THE MOCKING JUBILANT LAUGH OF THE GENIUS! BUT HOW COULD THEY HOPE TO STOP THIS TERRIFIC TOLL OF HUMAN LIVES WHEN THEY TOO WERE SLATED TO MEET AN EARLY DEATH IN THE SHARK-INFESTED WATERS OF THE GENIUS' **UNDERSEA DOMAIN OF DOOM!!**

IN THE LAKESIDE HARBOR...






I BETTER GET TO THE GENIUS AND TELL HIM TO START GETTIN' READY TO PICK OFF THEM BOATS NOW!
HM! WONDER IF THAT FELLOW HOLDS THE CLUE I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR? I THINK I'LL TAIL HIM AND SEE WHERE HE GOES!
MEANTIME, ARTHUR LAKE AND LANCE LARTER HAVE THEIR GLASSES TRAINED ON THE WATERFRONT...
I'M STILL POSITIVE THAT THE GENIUS IS BEHIND THESE SHIP SINKINGS!
YOU MAY BE RIGHT, PARTNER! BUT HE HASN'T TIPPED HIS HAND YET'
LANCE! LOOK! DOWN THERE BY THAT OLD WAREHOUSE! SEE THAT GUY SNEAKING ALONG TOWARDS THE HOTEL!
SURE! I SEE HIM! IS THAT THE MYSTERIOUS "MR. SMITH" WE'VE HAD OUR EYES ON EVER SINCE THE SHIPS WENT DOWN?
NO! BUT I SEE OUR FRIEND, MR. SMITH - OR WHATEVER HIS NAME IS - TRAILING THAT OTHER GUY! SOMETHING FISHY'S GOING ON!
I THINK YOU'RE SUSPICIOUS OVER NOTHING BUT LET'S GO!
WELL, THERE GO YOUR VILLIANS INTO THE HOTEL! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
HM! GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, LANCE! CERTAINLY NOTHING THEY COULD DO ABOUT SINKING A CONVOY FROM THERE! JUST ANOTHER BUM STEER!


A FEW SECONDS LATER, IN THE HOTEL LOBBY...
I GUESS THE COAST IS CLEAR! HERE GOES!
MAKING A PHONE CALL, IS HE? WELL, I'LL JUST STROLL OVER THERE!
THIS IS SURE SOME IDEA TH' GENIUS GOT HIMSELF! ALL YOU DO IS PRESS A BUTTON UP HERE, AN'...
IT NEVER FAILS! THERE'S TH' SECRET PASSAGEWAY! WHAT A BRAIN THAT GENIUS IS!
NOW TO GET DOWN TO TH' WORKSHOP AN' TELL TH' GENIUS TH' GOOD NEWS!
NOW TO EASE OVER THERE AND GET A LINE ON THE GAB!


HEY! WHAT'S UP! THERE'S NOBODY IN HERE!
SO THAT'S IT! PHONE BOOTH COMPLETE WITH SECRET PANELS, EH? WELL, I'LL JUST FOLLOW OUR MYSTERIOUS FREIND THIS TRIP!
AT THAT MOMENT, MOE LYNN PAUSES AT THE NEWSTAND . . .
I'D LIKE TO PURCHASE A GOOD CIGAR! SAY SOMETHING IN THE 5¢ LINE...
SURE, MISTER. BUT WOULD YOU MIND TAKING THIS CHANGE TO THAT MAN WHO JUST WENT INTO THAT PHONE BOOTH? HE FORGOT IT!
HM. NOBODY HERE! BUT I COULD HAVE SWORN I SAW THE GUY GO IN HERE!
I'M AFRAID YOUR ABSENT-MINDED FRIEND HAS LEFT THE PREMISES MY GOOD WOMAN. NOW, IF YOU WILL ALLOW ME TO PURCHASE A GOOD STOGIE...
MOST UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCE! CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW THAT GENTLEMAN COULD HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM THE PHONE BOOTH. AH, WELL! AS THE FRENCH SAY: "C'EST LA GUERRE."
30


MEANTIME, HAVING FOLLOWED THE SECRET PASSAGEWAY TO THE GENIUS' UNDERGROUND CONTROL ROOM ...
HI-YA, GENIUS! I GOT SOME HOT NEWS FOR YOU!
YES, MUGSY? WHAT IS IT?
THAT CONVOY THAT WAS ASSEMBLIN' IN THE HARBOR IS STARTIN' TO MOVE! AN BOY! IT'S LOADED WITH AN AWFUL LOT OF 'BOOM-BOOM STUFF.'
'GOOD WORK, MUGSY! AH! MY SENSITIZED EARPHONES GIVE ME THE LOCATION, SPEED AND SIZE OF THE SHIPS ALREADY! GOOD! GOOD!
BUT YOUR ELECTRICAL GADGETS DIDN'T PICK UP MY APPROACH, DID THEY, GENIUS? GET 'EM UP- BOTH OF YOU!
HUH? HOW DID..
AH, MR. FORD, OF THE F.B.I., I BELIEVE! WELL, WELL!
THAT'S RIGHT, GENIUS! AND NOW.. HEY!
AND NOW THIS IS THE END OF THE TRAIL - FOR YOU - MR. FORD!
AND HOW DO YOU LIKE THE LITTLE PLAYMATE WE HAVE FOR YOU? ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SHATTER THE GLASS - AND YOU ARE FINISHED! HOWEVER, I HAVE OTHER PLANS FOR YOU, MR. FORD!
LOOK BEHIND YOU, MR. FORD! YOU WILL SEE WHAT APPEARS TO BE A TORPEDO TUBE! AND IN JUST ONE SECOND, I AM RELEASING YOU INTO IT WHERE YOU WILL BE SHOT TO THE SURFACE OF THE HARBOR ... BUT THE PRESSURE IS MORE THAN ANY HUMAN CAN STAND! GOOD-BYE, MR. FORD!


MEANWHILE, MOE LYNN HAS DECIDED TO GO FISHING . . .
BLESS ME! MY OLD PAL, SEAHOOK McGURK IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT! AH, WELL, HE WON'T MIND MY BORROWING ONE OF HIS TRUSTY BOATS FOR A BIT!
THIS IS THE LIFE! NO WORRIES - NO UNTOWARD EVENTS TO UPSET THE PEACE AND TRANQUILITY OF THE GENTLY ROLLING SWELLS!
SUDDENLY...
ZOUNDS!
BY THE BRACE OF BRAGOONICULLIO! IT IS THE FELLOW WHO DIS — APPEARED FROM THE TELEPHONE BOOTH!
NO! BUT - SAY! THAT LOOKS LIKE MOE OUT THERE IN THAT ROWBOAT! AND - HOLY HANNAH! HE'S PULLED SOMEBODY OUT OF THE WATER! COME ON!
HURRY! PHONE... BOOTH... BELL... BUOY...
THE POOR FELLOW IS DEAD! BUT WHAT WERE THOSE WORDS? I'D BETTER GET TO SHORE AND REPORT THIS UNTIMELY OCCURENCE!
SEE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS YET, ARTHUR?

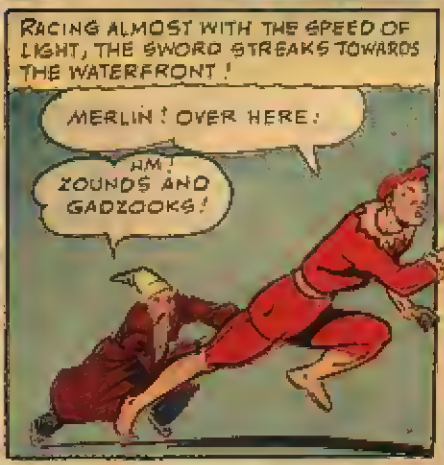

ZOUNDS! WHAT A HARROWING EXPERIENCE! THERE I WAS, CONTEMPLATING ..
NEVER MIND THE FANCY WORDS, MOE! WHAT HAPPENED?
PRECISELY WHAT I WAS ABOUT TO SAY! THERE I WAS, AND THERE HE WAS, AND ALL HE SAID WAS SOMETHING ABOUT A PHONE BOOTH AND A BELL BOY!
PHONE BOOTH? BELL BOY? OBVIOUSLY IT WAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE HOTEL.. BUT I DON'T GET IT! LET'S SEE IF HE HAS ANY PAPERS...
ARTHUR! LOOK AT THIS! UNLESS THESE ARE FORGED, THIS POOR DUCK'S NAME IS FORD AND HE WAS AN F.B.I. MAN!
YOU'RE RIGHT, LANCE! BUT I WISH WE KNEW WHAT TO DO NEXT!
OH, BY THE BY-ONE OTHER PIECE OF INCIDENTAL INTELLIGENCE, BOYS! SHORTLY BEFORE THIS OCCURED, I SPIED OUR LATE FRIEND ENTERING A PHONE BOOTH IN THE HOTEL... AND THEN HE DISAPPEARED!
WHAT! LANCE! THAT'S OUR CLUE!
THAT'S WHERE THE SWORD AND THE LANCER SHOULD STEP IN! YOU GET UP TO THE HOTEL AND SEE WHAT YOU COULD FIND OUT ABOUT OUR MYSTERIOUS BELL BOY AND THE PHONE BOOTH! I'M GOING FOR EXCALIBUR!
RIGHT! GOOD LUCK, BOY!
AND I SUPPOSE THAT LEAVES ME TO EXPLAIN THIS BAFFLING RIDDLE TO THE AUTHORITIES! ZOUNDS!

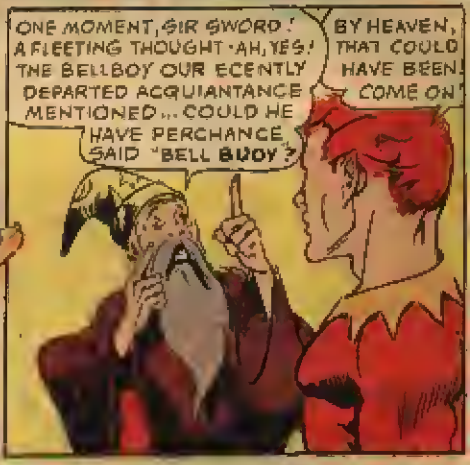

GUESS THAT'S THE PHONE BOOTH MOE WAS TALKING ABOUT! CERTAINLY LOOKS ORDINARY ENOUGH, BUT WE'LL SEE!
IF THE GENIUS IS REALLY BEHIND THESE SHENANIGANS, YOU CAN BET THERE'S SOME KIND OF A GADGET RIGGED UP IN HERE... NOW LET'S SEE..
BY GOLLY... I THINK THIS IS SOMETHING UNUSUAL! LOOKS LIKE ---
IT IS! THAT BUTTON OPENS A SECRET DOOR PANEL! NOW TO FOLLOW IT!
I HATE TO RUSH IN LIKE A SAP, BUT EVERY MINUTE MAY COUNT!
WHATEVER IT IS I'M GETTING INTO - THERE IT IS AT THE END OF THE PASSAGE!
THE GENIUS WAS RIGHT! SOMEBODY WAS LAYIN' TO FOLLOW UP THAT G-MAN! HM! AND DARNED IF IT DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT PESKY KID WHO'S BEEN PLAYIN' DETECTIVE!


LOOKA THE CANARY I CAUGHT FLYIN' RIGHT INTO OUR CAGE, GENIUS!
THE LARTER BRAT! GOOD! WE SHALL DISPOSE OF HIM FORTHWITH! PREPARE TO THROW HIM TO THE SHARK!
THIS WILL INDEED BE GREAT SPORT! IN FACT, LET US RELEASE THE STUPID FOOL INTO THE HARBOR AND SEND THE SHARK AFTER HIM! A FITTING END FOR THE TROUBLE HE HAS CAUSED US!
THIS GUY IS HEAVIER THAN YOU THINK! UGH! THERE HE IS! OKAY!
BUT AT THAT INSTANT, ARTHUR LAKE REACHES THE SECRET HIDING PLACE OF EXCALIBUR . . .
THEN A RESOUNDING CRASH OF THUNDER.. AND ARTNUR LAKE BECOMES ONCE MORE THE INVINCIBLE AND MIGHTY SWORD!
AND AT THE SAME INSTANT, HIS BODY CATAPULTED INTO THE TURBULENT WATERS OF THE HARBOR, LANCE LARTER BECOMES THE LANCER!


WH-WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I? GOTTA GET AIR!
A SPLIT SECOND LATER...


AND THEN A GRIM UNDERWATER BATTLE BEGINS...


RACING ALMOST WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT, THE SWORD STREAKS TOWARDS THE WATERFRONT!
MERLIN! OVER HERE!
HM! ZOUNDS AND GADZOOKS!


ONE MOMENT, SIR SWORD! A FLEETING THOUGHT · AH, YES! THE BELLBOY OUR ECENTLY DEPARTED ACQUIANTANCE MENTIONED... COULD HE HAVE PERCHANCE, SAID "BELL BUOY"?
BY HEAVEN, THAT COULD HAVE BEEN! COME ON!


AND AS MERLIN AND THE SWORD SPEED TOWARD THE HARBOR...
THAT OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK! BUT THANK HEAVENS I HAVE THE AID OF MY LANCE OR I'D BE A GONNER BY NOW!


WHEW! ANOTHER COUPLE OF SECONDS AND MY LUNGS WOULD HAVE BURST!


WHAT'S THAT TICKING NOISE I HEAR? CAN'T BE MY HEART BEATING THAT FAST AND HEAVY! HM! SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM THIS BUOY!
SWORD! MERLIN! BOY, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!
WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED, LANCER? MERLIN HERE HAS A HUNCH THAT...
GADZOOKS! LOOK! THAT FREIGHTER IS CHANGING COURSE AND COMING HERE!
WONDER, NOTHING! LISTEN TO THIS BELL BUOY! IT'S TICKING LOUDER THAN EVER! THIS IS SOME KIND OF A GADGET THE GEHIUS HAS RIGGED UP!
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THOSE OTHER SHIPS BLEW UP!
GREAT SCOTT! WILL YOU LOOK WHAT'S IN HERE! A COUPLE OF VIALS OF NITRO GLYCERINE!
ENOUGH TO BLOW THIS WHOLE HARBOR TO KINGDOM COME!
HURRY! MAKE HASTE! THAT BEHEMOTH OF THE SEAS IS NIGH UPON US!
WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE CHANCE, LANCER! EACH OF US TAKE ONE OF THESE VIALS AND DIVE FOR THE BOTTOM!
GADZOOKS! IF I HEAR AN EXPLOSION IN THE NEXT SECOND, I WON'T HEAR ANYTHING ELSE FOREVER!


AND AS THE SWORD AND LANCER DIVE DESPERATELY FOR THE DEPTHS, THE BOW OF THE FREIGHTER PASSING OVERHEAD HITTING THE BUOY!
SOMETHING HAS GONE AMISS! ONE OF THE FREIGHTERS CRASHED THE BELL BUOY, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO EXPLOSION!
HUH? BUT THERE WAS ENOUGH NITRO IN THERE TO SINK THE WHOLE CONVOY!
AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE SWORD AND LANCER APPROACH THE OPENING OF THE LAUNCHING TUBE OUTSIDE THE SECRET CONTROLL ROOM!
WITH ONE MIGHTY SWEEP OF THE EXCALIBUR, THE SWORD EFFECTS AN ENTRANCE!
LET ME OUT OF HERE! IT'S THE SWORD AND LANCER!
THE FOOLS! I SHALL BLOW THEM TO BITS WITH AN ELECTRICAL CHARGE!
I'D THINK TWICE ABOUT THAT, GENIUS! ANYTHING YOU DO TO US NOW WILL BLAST YOU TO BITS TOO!
THAT'S RIGHT, GENIUS! WE'RE EACH CARRYING SOME OF THAT NICE SOUP YOU INTENDED FOR THE CONVOY! HERE IT IS!


THEN WE'LL ALL DIE! YOU'LL NEVER CAPTURE US ALIVE!
YOU BETTER SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, GENIUS! I AIN'T GONNA DIE! GET YOUR MITS OFF IN THAT SWITCH!
YOU'RE SMARTER THAN THE GENIUS, MUGSY! NOW LEAD US OUT OF HERE!
HERE, LANCER! - HELP ME ATTACH THESE THINGS TO THAT TIMER! IN TWENTY MINUTES, THIS PLACE WILL BE BLOWN TO SHREDS!
AND I HOPE WE'RE NOWHERE IN THE VICINITY!
SOME TIME LATER...
HERE, SIR, ARE THE SABOTEURS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SINKING OF YOUR CONVOYS!
BUT THANKS TO YOU, THEY DIDN'T GET THIS ONE TODAY! BUT WHAT ABOUT THEIR UNDERGROUND CONTROL ROOM? IF THAT EVER FELL INTO THE HANDS OF--
WH - WHAT WAS THAT?
THE UNDERGROUND CONTROL ROOM, SIR! IT'LL NEVER BE USED BY ANY-ONE AGAIN!
THE SWORD AND LANCER TRIUMPHED THIS TIME! BUT NOBODY CAN HUMILIATE THE GENIUS LIKE THIS AND GET AWAY WITH IT! I SHALL TRACK THEM TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH AND REVENGE MYSELF FOR THIS OUTRAGE!
WHAT IS THE NEXT MOVE OF THE UNFATHOMABLE GENIUS? WHAT FIENDISH PLAN WILL HIS TWISTED BRAIN EVOLVE TO CUT DOWN THE SWORD AND LANCER? BE SURE TO SEE THE NEXT ISSUE OF SUPER-MYSTERY COMICS FOR THE THRILLING SEQUEL "THE GHOSTS OF THE GENIUS"!
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