

MARVEL

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GI JOE

A REAL AMERICAN HERO!

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19
JAN



Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

G.I. JOE A REAL AMERICAN HERO

I DON'T GET IT. WHY ARE WE ASSEMBLING A PRE-FAB FORTRESS ON THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LEVEL OF THE "PIT" THIRTY FEET BELOW GROUND LEVEL?

OURS IS NOT TO REASON WHY, OURS IS BUT TO FOLLOW THE S.O.P. AND SALUTE ANYTHING YOU CAN'T EAT OR KILL...

HEY! ORDERS ARE ORDERS! THEY DON'T HAVE TO MAKE SENSE AND THEY SELDOM DO...

WE EXPECTING AN ATTACK FROM THE MOLE-MEN?

SNOW JOB! DOC! THAT BE LOOKIN' LIKE THE BARONESS YOU BE WHEELIN' IN! I THOUGHT SHE BE IN INTENSIVE CARE AT THE BETHESDA BURN UNIT...

THAT SHE WAS, GUNG-HO... BUT NOW SHE BE STAYIN' HERE AT THE G.I. JOE HEADQUARTERS!

DOC, DON'T IT EVER BOTHER YOU HOW GUNG-HO TURNS THAT CRAWDADDY-GUMBO ACCENT ON AND OFF LIKE A FAUCET?

JOE TRIUMPHS!

LARRY HAMA
SCRIPTER
MIKE VOSBURG
PENCIL BREAKDOWNS
JON D'AGOSTINO
FINISHER
RICK PARKER
LETTERER
GEORGE ROUSSOS
COLORIST
LINDA GRANT
EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

K STANDARD
OPERATIONAL
PROCEDURE
-- LINDA.

I GIVE UP

WATCHOO-TAWKIN' BOUT, MAN? SHO DO SOUN DE SAME TO ME. PERHAPS IT IS A TEMPORARY OCCLUSION OF YOUR AUDITORY CANAL, AGGRAVATING A COMPREHENSION DYSFUNCTION...

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LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, HAWK... SCAR-FACE HERE CLAIMS THAT DR. VENOM INJECTED HIM WITH A DEADLY PLAGUE TOXIN AND DELIBERATELY HAD HIM CAPTURED SO HE COULD INFECT G.I. JOE HEADQUARTERS?

A PREPOSTEROUS FABRICATION! WHY WOULD A MAN VOLUNTEER FOR A SUICIDE MISSION AND THEN CONFESS?

THAT'S THE GIST OF IT, GENERAL FLAGG...



-- WHAT IS THIS? ACID? NERVE GAS?

YOW! YOU'RE BREAKING MY WRIST! TH-THAT'S THE ANTIDOTE!



I STOLE IT FROM DR. VENOM'S BRIEFCASE WHEN I CARRIED IT BACK FROM RIO LINDO. I HAD IT STASHED IN CONEY ISLAND 'CAUSE I FIGURED THEY MIGHT USE THE TOXIN ON ME SOMEDAY...

... I WAS RIGHT. THEY DOSED ME IN TRIPOLI, BUT I OVERHEARD VENOM, DESTRO AND COBRA COMMANDER PLOTTING AT THE HOTEL--

AT LEAST WITH YOU I'VE GOT A CHANCE-- RIGHT?



I NEVER VOLUNTEERED FOR NOTHING! HERE, LET ME--

DON'T GO FOR THE BOOT--



I'VE HEARD ENOUGH, HAWK. LET'S TAKE A MEETING...

I'LL MAKE HIM BOUNCE, IF YOU SAY SO, HAWK...

STALKER, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THIS CREW. IF HE FLINCHES, SWAT HIM HARD!



I BELIEVE HIM, BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND COBRA'S REASONING...

... THEY MUST KNOW THAT ONCE THE PLAGUE MANIFESTED ITSELF WE WOULD TAKE THE NECESSARY QUARANTINE PROCEDURES--



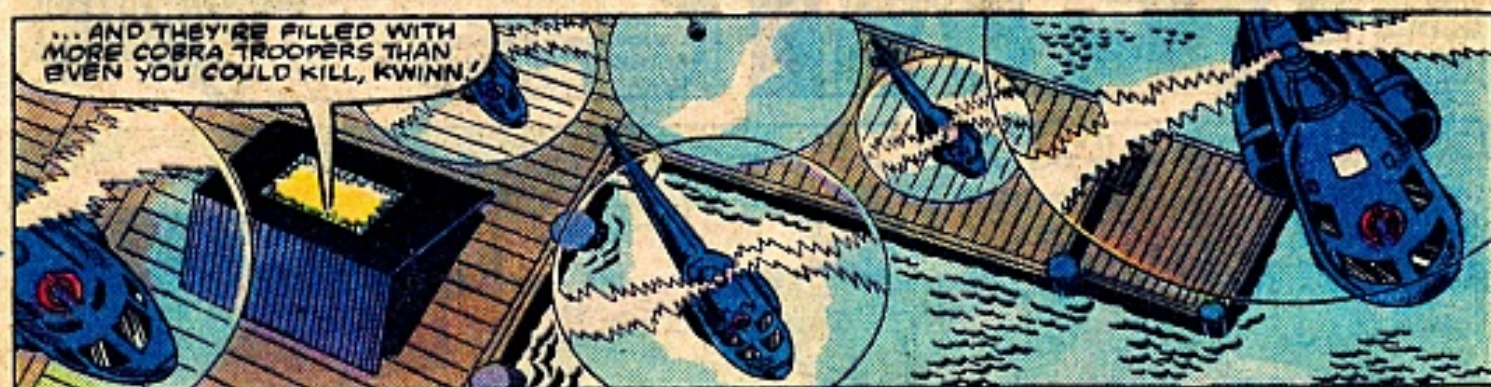
THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT, SIR. THE PLAGUE TOXIN ISN'T MEANT TO WIPE US OUT. THEY'RE COUNTING ON THE QUARANTINE AND SECURITY PROCEDURES TO BE HIGHLY VISIBLE. AND THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE...

... ONCE THEY KNEW WHERE G.I. JOE HEADQUARTERS WAS LOCATED THEY COULD ATTACK US WITH CONVENTIONAL WEAPONRY!

I KNOW YOU, HAWK. YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A PLAN.













HAA! ONE OF THE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE S.M.A.K.E. *BATTLE ARMOR IS COMPLETE SUBJUGATION OF THE WILL OF THE USER TO THE CONTROL MODULE! AS LONG AS SNAKE-EYES WEARS THAT SUIT, I CAN CONTROL HIS EVERY MOVE!

VERY GOOD, DR. VENOM. WE SHALL SOON TEST THE MERITS OF THESE NEW INVENTIONS UNDER FIELD CONDITIONS!

*SYSTEM: NEUTRALIZER-ARMED KLOAKING EQUIPMENT.-- LINDA.



EXCELLENT! PLACE THE SSKIMO IN THE OTHER SUIT!



DID YOU SAY "FIELD CONDITIONS"? DOES THAT MEAN--

YES. WE'VE LOCATED G.I. JOE HEADQUARTERS. WE ARE USING YOUR WHARF AS OUR STAGING AREA FOR THE FINAL ASSAULT.



IN THE LOWEST LEVEL OF "THE PIT"...
DOC, I WANT YOU AND COVER GIRL TO MOVE THE BARONESS UP INTO THE PRE-FAB FORTRESS ASAP*!

*AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



GENERAL FLAGG, THIS PRISONER IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION. SHE SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN MOVED HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.. PLACING HER IN THE MIDDLE OF A POTENTIAL FIRE-FIGHT IS--

I AM AWARE OF THE RISK AND THE ETHICAL QUESTION INVOLVED. I SHALL TAKE FULL AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.



... ALL PERSONNEL WILL REPORT TO THE FORTRESS ON THE GARAGE LEVEL. AND THE REST OF THE PIT WILL BE SEALED OFF!

THE GARAGE LEVEL OF "THE PIT"...

I HATE TO BRING THIS UP WHEN THE DARN THING IS ALMOST ALL PUT TOGETHER, BUT...

... HOW DO WE GET THIS FORT TO THE SURFACE? IT'S TOO BIG TO FIT UP ANY OF THE LIFT SHAFTS!

I KNOW THAT, STEELER...

THAT'S WHY WE BUILT IT OVER THE TWO HYDRAULIC LIFTS. WE'RE GOING TO PUSH THE WHOLE THING UP THROUGH THE FLOOR OF THE MOTOR POOL. THAT REMINDS ME--



"-- BETTER CLEAR THE PRISONERS OUT OF THE MOTOR POOL UNTIL THE FORT'S IN PLACE!"

C'MON, BLUDDY-BABY! WE'RE GONNA TAKE A LITTLE RIDE!

DO I GET A ROUND-TRIP TICKET?

DON'T SWEAT IT, MAJOR...



... WE'RE JUST MAKING A PERIMETER RUN. JUST CUFFING YOU TO THE ROLL BAR SO'S YOU DON'T FALL OFF AND GET HURT!

VERY GRACIOUS OF YOU. ♪ SNIFF ♪ ARE WE CARRYING A LOAD OF GARBAGE, TOO, OR HAS SCAR-FACE BEEN LEANING ON THIS VEHICLE?

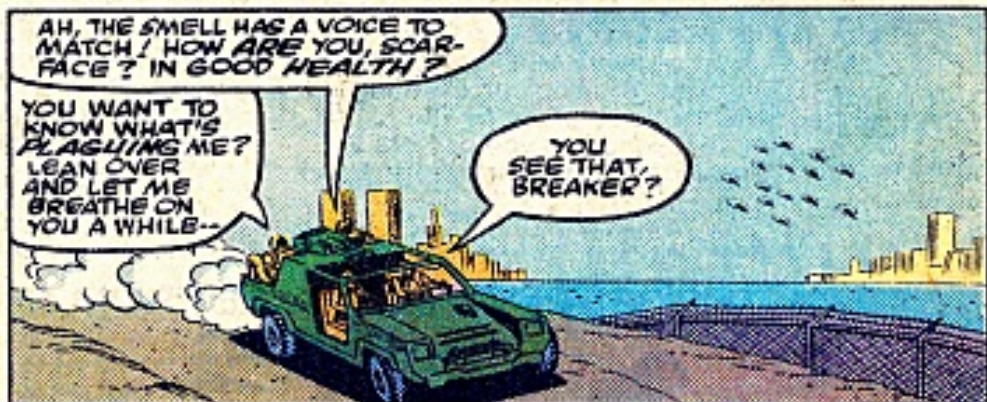
BLUDD, YOU SLIMEY--



AH, THE SMELL HAS A VOICE TO MATCH! HOW ARE YOU, SCAR-FACE? IN GOOD HEALTH?

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S FLAGGING ME? LEAN OVER AND LET ME BREATHE ON YOU A WHILE--

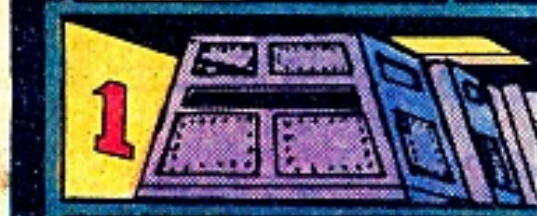
YOU SEE THAT, BREAKER?

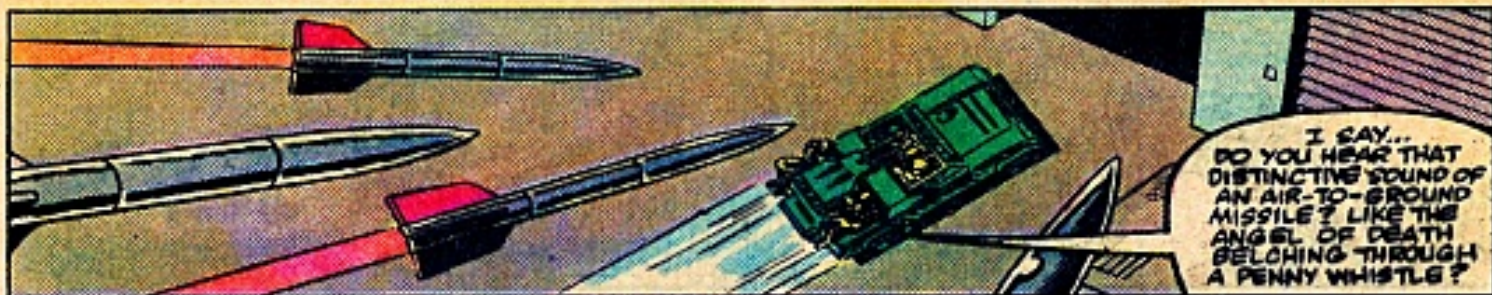


SURE DO, CLUTCH!

THEY'RE COMING IN, HAWK! CHOPPERS OVER THE WATER!







I SAY...
DO YOU HEAR THAT
DISTINCTIVE SOUND OF
AN AIR-TO-GROUND
MISSILE? LIKE THE
ANGEL OF DEATH
BELOWING THROUGH
A PENNY WHISTLE?

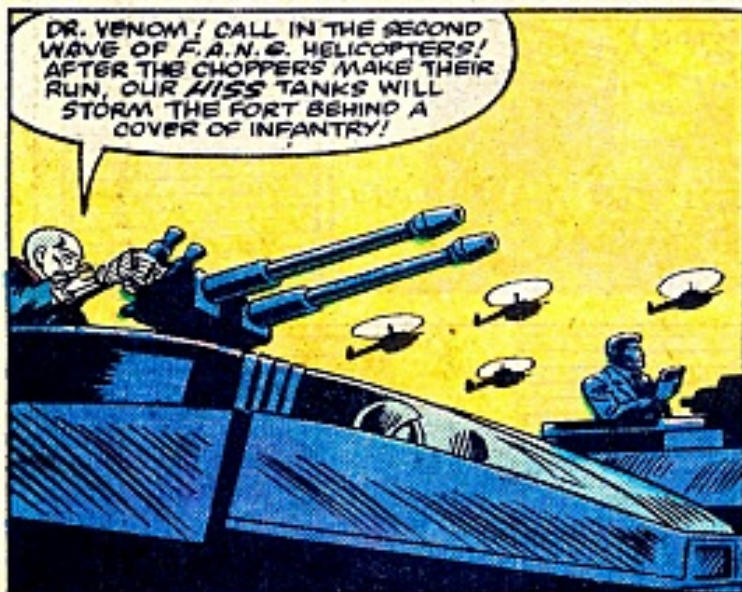
"ISN'T IT AMAZING HOW YOUR SENSE OF
HEARING BECOMES MORE SENSITIVE WHEN
YOU'RE DEPRIVED OF SIGHT?"



I CAN ACTUALLY HEAR THE ELECTRIC
GARAGE DOORS BEGINNING TO
ROLL SHUT--



ALL MISSILES HAVE
SCORED A DIRECT HIT,
COBRA COMMANDER!
THE SMOKE SHOULD CLEAR
IN A MATTER OF SECONDS
AND WE CAN ASSESS
DAMAGE--





COBRA TROOPERS!
FORWARD!

FORWARDS
NEMY



HAMPH! THE FOOLS THINK
THAT RING OF AMBULANCES
WILL IMPEDE US? THEY
MUST BE--



NNNNNGGGGGGHH!

BLAAMM!



THEY'VE ANNIHILATED
OUR AIR SUPPORT AND
DECATATED OUR INFANTRY
COVER! ROLL OUT ALL
HISS TANK SQUADRONS!

WE'LL GRIND THEIR PITIFUL
LITTLE FORTRESS BENEATH
OUR TREADS!



INSIDE
THE
FORT...

TORPEDO! OPEN
THE SIDE DOOR FOR
DEPLOYMENT OF
PAC/RATS!

HEY... BETTER
THEM THAN ME!

PROGRAMMED ASSAULT COMPUTER!
RAPID ALL TERRAIN



WE'VE NEVER USED
THESE REMOTE WEAPON
SYSTEMS BEFORE. CAN
THEY DO THE JOB?

WE'RE ABOUT TO
FIND OUT...



SO "DOC"... DON'T YOU
FIND IT AT ALL DEMAINGING
TO BE CONFINED WITH
PRISONERS IN THE
DETENTION CELL WHILE
YOUR "COMRADES"
GARNER ALL THE
GLORY?

NAAA! HE LIKES IT
JUST FINE IN HERE
WHERE IT'S SAFE!

AWWWW, YOU CAN DO
BETTER THAN THAT! I'VE
BEEN CALLED A WHOLE
LOT WORSE BY A LOT
BETTER...





INTO THE FRAY WITH YOU, KWINN AND SNAKE-EYES! CLEAR THE WAY FOR OUR TANKS SO THAT WE MAY CRUSH YOUR FRIENDS!

I DON'T THINK I LIKE THE IDEA OF USING KWINN AND SNAKE-EYES IN THE S.N.A.K.E. SUITS! WHAT IF THEY OVER-COME THE MIND CONTROL COMPONENTS AND TURN THE WEAP-ONRY ON US--

IMPOSSIBLE...

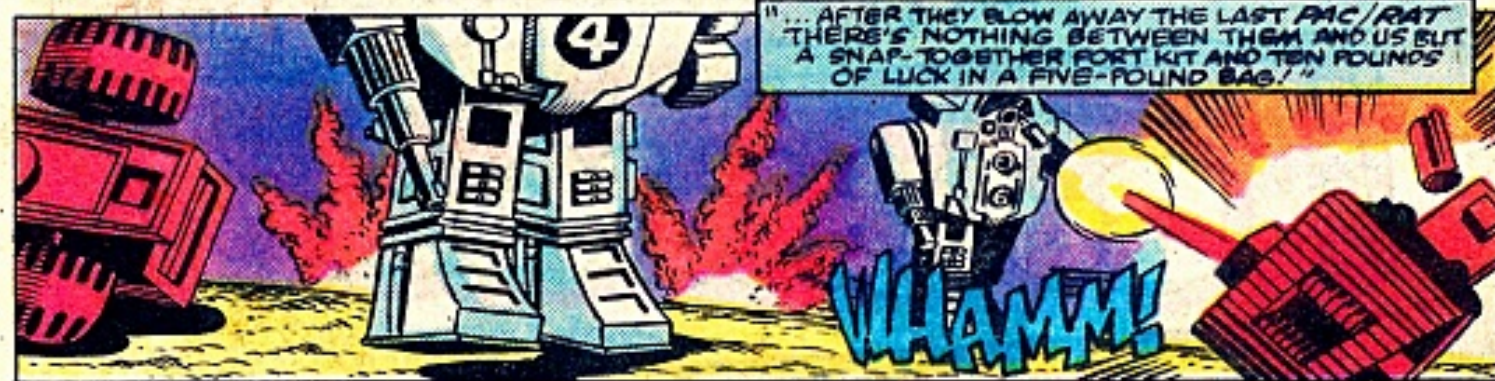


"...THE WEAPONS SYSTEMS ARE PRE-PROGRAMMED. THEY CANNOT FIRE AT ANYTHING PAINTED IN COBRA BLUE!"



CRAZY... I COULD SWEAR ONE OF THOSE BATTLE SUITS OUT THERE HAS A FAMILIAR WALK...

MAYBE YOUR AUNT TILLIE FROM AKRON SIGNED UP WITH THE BAD GUYS? HAWK, WE GOTTA CALL IN THE AIR-SUPPORT.



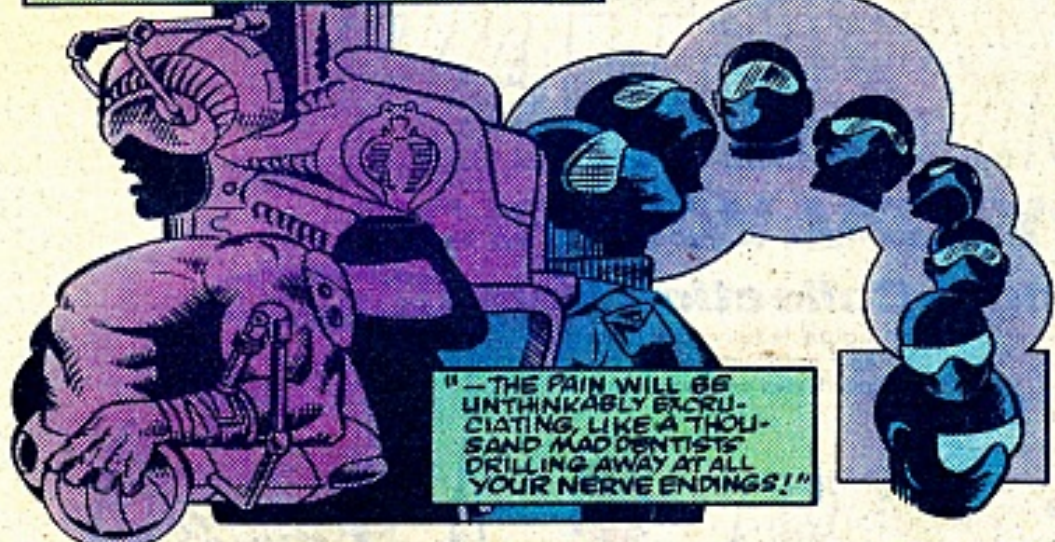
"... AFTER THEY BLOW AWAY THE LAST PAC/RAT THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN THEM AND US BUT A SNAP-TOGETHER FORT KIT AND TEN POUNDS OF LUCK IN A FIVE-POUND BAG!"



I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE THINKING, SNAKE-EYES... YOU ARE REMEMBERING THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO DEFEAT MY MIND-PROBE MACHINE IN SPRINGFIELD *...

"... YOU THINK YOU CAN MARSHALL THE INTERNAL STRENGTH NECESSARY TO OVERCOME THE S.N.A.K.E....

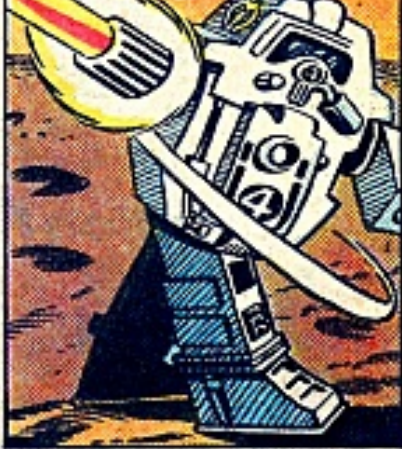
"...AND YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. OH, THE CONCENTRATION WILL DRAIN YOU TO THE DEPTHS OF YOUR SOUL --"



"--THE PAIN WILL BE UNTHINKABLY EXCRUCIATING, LIKE A THOUSAND MAD DENTISTS DRILLING AWAY AT ALL YOUR NERVE ENDINGS!"

"BUT YOU WILL SUCCEED!"

BWAMMM



ALAS, TO NO AVAIL, YOUR WEAPONS ARE USELESS AGAINST ME. THE TANK IS COBRA BLUE...



...THE S.N.A.K.E. SUITS ARE NOT KWINN, KILL HIM. SLOWLY.



SHADOW MAN! YOU HAVE YOUR WILL! THE SUITS ARE VULNERABLE TO EACH OTHER--



"--SHOOT THE RESTRAINING LOCKS FROM MY SUIT!"



WHOOOF!



HE'S LOOSE! TURN THE TANK AROUND, I CAN'T DEPRESS THE GUNS FAR ENOUGH TO HIT HIM AT THIS ANGLE!



TOO LATE, VENOM!













TICK-TICK TICK-TICK



I COULDN'T STOP THE BLEEDING... GENERAL FLAGG IS DEAD!



WE'VE DESTROYED G.I. JOE HEADQUARTERS! RE-GROUP AND RETREAT!



HOW'S THAT FOR A VICTORY? THEY LOST AND THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW IT. THE SECRET OF THE "PIT" IS STILL SAFE AND WE INFLECTED LOSSES OF MATERIAL AND PERSONNEL THAT THEY'LL FEEL FOR SOME TIME--



-- SPEAKING OF LOSSES... IS EVERYBODY ACCOUNTED FOR?

ALL HERE EXCEPT FOR CLUTCH, BREAKER, DOC AND SNAKE-EYES...



... AND HERE THEY COME IN THE VAMP!

WHY THE LONG FACES, FELLAS? WE'VE JUST WON A--



-- MAJOR...

...VICTORY.

END.

POSTBOX: THE PITY

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387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DENNY O'NEIL
EDITOR
LINDA GRANT
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear G.I. Guys:

I think G.I. JOE #16 "Night Attack" is the best issue ever! Trip-Wire and Cover Girl are going on my favorite list along with Gung-Ho, Torpedo and Snake-Eyes. The Wolverine and Hiss tanks are great. I liked the way Hawk found out about the treasury raid - the Cobra diversion was ingenious. I also thought the Joes' trick of disguising the Wolverine as a garbage truck was very clever. Thanks for a great issue.

C.B. Cebulski
89 Sherwood Rd.
Easton, CT. 06612

Dear Marvel,

I just finished reading G.I. JOE #16 and all I can say is FANTASTIC! Well, maybe I can say a little more than that. Allow me to elaborate.

For some time now, ever since you first introduced the new characters and got the team of Mike Vosburg and Jon D'Agostino doing the art and Larry Hama on the writing, G.I. JOE has tended to head the list of the comics I prefer. It's amazing that one can get so much entertainment for a mere 60c and even more amazing that it just keeps getting better. The personality conflicts, characterizations, action and emotion expressed in this book rival almost anything in other Marvel comics. I'm not insulting those comics - they're excellent, but so is G.I. JOE, especially when it comes to plots, subplots and plot twists. May you last 100 issues (at least).

Perhaps you can answer a question. Will there be a Baroness figure in the toy stores soon?

Thomas Wheeler
1511 W. Sendero Cuatro
Tucson, AZ 95705

Thanks for the kind words, Thomas. Yes, the Baroness action figure will soon be available at stores around the country. And, we expect G.I. JOE to last 100 issues - at least!

Dear Mr. O'Neil and Company:

G.I. JOE #16 was good. The new Joes should prove interesting. I liked the double meaning of Cover Girl's code name: she gives the team covering fire and looks like a magazine cover. The scenes between her and Scarlett were deliciously catty.

Major Bludd is a fine addition to Cobra. I was disappointed Snake-Eyes and Kwinn weren't in this issue. I look forward to their jailbreak next issue. Mr. Hama did his usual marvelous job this issue, and Messrs. Vosburg and D'Agostino performed satisfactorily as well.

Susan M. Murrell
No Address

Dear Joes:

G.I. JOE #16 was great. The art, story and action were terrific. The ending really got me! Hawk shot? I couldn't believe it! I hope he doesn't die because he is one of my favorite Joes.

Tom Liner
942 W. 35th St.
Erie, PA 16508

Dear Joes:

Congratulations on G.I. JOE #16. But, what is the idea of having Hawk shot? Can

you please (sob, sob) let him live? Also, for some reason (I don't know why) I do not feel the Baroness is dead. Thanks for giving Torpedo a major part in this issue - he's one of my favorite guys.

Scott Gustafson
P.O. Box 361
Gypsum, CO 91637

We can't help it if Hawk put himself in danger, Scott - but you must have been relieved to learn that his injuries weren't serious. As for the Baroness, well, your intuition was correct - although her condition is critical, she's not dead. And, we're betting that will make Todd Oberly (whose letter follows) feel a lot better...

Dear Denny:

G.I. JOE #16 had some good points like 1) Mike Vosburg's terrific art, 2) Cobra almost succeeding in doing something bad, 3) the return of Airborne (one of my favorite Joes), 4) the appearance of Cover Girl, and 5) the bickering between Clutch and Scarlett. But there was a main event that I disliked - why did you kill the Baroness? Just as I thought that we would have a romance in this book (which I am still looking forward to).

Todd Oberly
RD 1 Box 98
Dallston, PA 17313

Dear Marvel,

I think that G.I. JOE will be around for a long while. There is action, adventure, and the artwork is great! All in all, I think G.I. JOE is a "real American comic." Keep up the good work guys. Oh yeah, I really liked #16. I think Trip-Wire will be a hit - and save Hawk!

Bobby Cole
4209 Esposito Pl.
Prince George, VA 23875

Dear Joes:

What did G.I. JOE #16 have to offer?
1. A good cover.
2. New team members.
3. Scarlett's reaction to Cover Girl. (Jealousy? A human emotion? Hurray! This was needed!)

4. A gathering of Cobra's finest.
5. Major Bludd.
6. Action.
7. Hawk vs. Cobra Commander and Destro (not to mention what happened to the Baroness).
8. An unresolved ending.
Pretty good for one issue.

Dennis K. Catucci
20 Barrington St.
Westbury, NY 11590

Thanks, Dennis.

Dear Joes:

#16 was one of the best. I can't wait to see how Major Bludd tries to get Destro next! I want to see how Kwinn and Snake-Eyes attempt that jailbreak too! Don't run out of that great story ammo!

Bobby Trainor
10425 Manchester
Kansas City, MO 64134

Dear Joes,

I really enjoyed G.I. JOE #16. That was great when Hawk and Cobra Commander

were finally in hand-to-hand combat. Keep up the good work!

Jason Du Bord
2626 Green Glen Rd.
Shingle Springs, CA 95682

Dear Soldiers,

As I picked up G.I. JOE at a nearby 7-11 store, I thought "Big Deal!" Another modern army action team... I think they tried that last year! But as I thumbed through the pages, I could tell... I could tell I had been hooked! The G.I. JOE team had captured me! And ever since I have been a loyal fanatic to the end... collecting every iota of G.I. JOE I can find: I have the figures, battle plans I made up from the stories, the vehicles, posters, everything! This mag's not cool... it's HOT!

Now I have a couple of things I'd like to ask you:

1. Could you do stories out of the U.S.A. - I'm sure Cobra has bases in other countries as well as in good ol' America.

2. I'm not the kind of person to get excited but... more Destro... more Destro! OK?

Dennis Elms
16675 S.W. Vincent St.
Aloha, OR 97007

To answer your questions, Dennis:
1. The Joes have already been to the North Pole, Europe and Africa, but we're sure they'll be doing more globe-hopping in future issues.
2. OK!!!

NEXT ISSUE: We don't want to give too much away about this one - suffice it to say that writer Larry Hama has come up with one of the most unusual stories you'll ever read. Don't miss it, troops!



FIELD COMMUNIQUE FROM YOUR SECOND IN COMMAND
This month Editor Denny O'Neil is on special assignment in sunny California, leaving me in charge. Since Commander-in-Chief Jim Shooter has declared this Assistant Editor's Month, I've decided to declassify a top-secret document in my possession - a Snake-Eyes pin-up and fact file which can be found on the next page. At ease, men - and enjoy.
Linda Grant
Assistant Editor

G.I. JOE
CLASSIFIED
FILE ★

Code Name: Snake-Eyes
File Name: (CLASSIFIED)
Primary Military Specialty:
Infantry
Secondary Military Specialty:
Hand-to-Hand Combat Instructor
Birthplace: (CLASSIFIED)
Grade: E-5

Snake-Eyes is proficient in 12 different unarmed fighting systems and is highly skilled in the use of edged weapons. Apparently has received extensive training in mountaineering, underwater demolitions, jungle, desert and arctic survival, and some form of holistic medicine. No records. Qualified expert: all NATO and Warsaw Pact small arms.

HEY, FENWICK!
THESE JOES AIN'T WHAT
THEY'RE ALL CRACKED
UP TO BE... WE AIN'T
SEEN ONE *ALL DAY*.

U.S. GOVT. PROPERTY
RESTRICTED AREA
WAR GAMES
IN PROGRESS



DARTH_SCANNER
DARTH_SCANNER



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