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TM

# G.I. JOE

*A REAL AMERICAN HERO!*

*A MOMENT AGO THEY  
WERE ENEMIES...*



*...NOW THEY FIGHT TOGETHER AGAINST  
THE GREATEST EVIL IN THE WORLD!*

Stan Lee  
PRESENTS:

# GI JOE A REAL AMERICAN HERO™

SCRIPT: LARRY HAMA | PLOT & PENCILS: HERB TRIMPE | INKS: CHIC STONE | LETTERS: JIM NOVAK | COLORS: CHRISTIE SCHEELE | EDITOR: DENNY O'NEIL | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JIM SHOOTER

## WALLS OF DEATH!

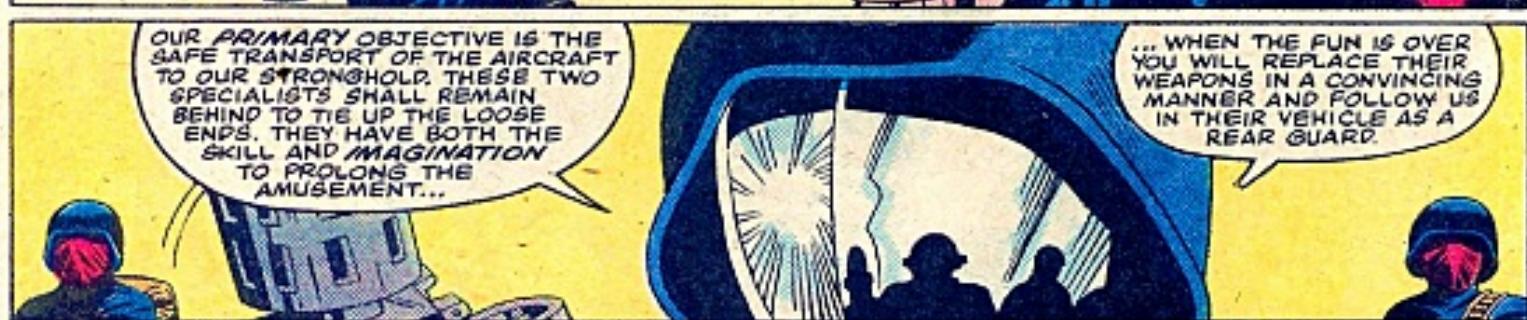
IN THE MOUNTAINS OF AFGHANISTAN, THE G.I. JOE TEAM HAVE FOUGHT THEIR RUSSIAN COUNTERPARTS, THE OCTOBER GUARD TO A STANDSTILL ONLY TO BE OVERWHELMED BY COBRA COMMANDER AND A SMALL ARMY OF COBRA COMMANDOS. THE PRIZE? THE REMNANTS OF A TOP SECRET SOVIET AIRCRAFT THAT HAD CRASHED IN THE HINDU KUSH FOOT HILLS...

THE SOLUTION WAS SIMPLE. I SET YOU AGAINST ONE ANOTHER AND PLUCKED THE PRIZE FROM UNDER YOUR COLLECTIVE NOSES. I KNEW YOU WERE TOO EVENLY MATCHED FOR EITHER SIDE TO SCORE AN EASY VICTORY. YOU SEE, I'VE STUDIED YOUR DOSSIERS QUITE THOROUGHLY...

... SO YOU SEE, MY DEAR WORTHY OPPONENTS -- I WAS CONFRONTED WITH A DILEMMA -- I WANTED THE AIRCRAFT TO FURTHER THE AIMS OF COBRA, BUT HOW WAS I TO EXTRACT IT FROM HOSTILE TERRITORY WHILE HARRIED BY THE TWO BEST COMBAT TEAMS IN THE WORLD?



GI JOE® A REAL AMERICAN HERO™ Vol. 1, No. 7, January, 1983. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Gallon, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. Published monthly. GI JOE is a registered trademark of HASBRO INDUSTRIES, INC. and likeness of the character to which that name is applied is the property of HASBRO INDUSTRIES, INC. and the trademark and likeness are used with permission of HASBRO INDUSTRIES, INC. GI JOE is copyright © 1982 by HASBRO INDUSTRIES, INC. All rights reserved. All other material copyright © 1982 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 60c per copy in the U.S. and 75c in Canada. Subscription rate \$7.20 for 12 issues, Canada and Foreign, \$9.20. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. Postmaster: Send address changes to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.





QUITE RIGHT. BUT THE GEORGIA ON MY MIND IS BACK IN THE U.S.S.R. / SO MUCH FOR LEVITY!

I BELIEVE WE HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO!



DAG! LIGHTEN UP AND CHILL OUT! LET'S NOT BE GETTIN' OUR TAILS IN AN UARDAR HERE... I MEAN, THE MAN DONE TOOK HIS BALL AND WENT HOME, THE GAME IS OVER, DIS?



PLEASE TO BE TRANSLATING! I NOT UNDERSTANDING THIS!

I AM HAVING AFFINITY FOR THIS PECULIAR DIALECT, HORRORSHOW. HE IS SAYING THAT SINCE COBRA HAS POSSESSION OF CLASSIFIED AIRCRAFT RIGHTFULLY BELONGING TO PEACE LOVING PEOPLES OF SOVIET UNION ... IT IS NOW *SENSELESS* FOR US TO CONTINUE OUR CONFLICT. IN FACT, TO DO SO WOULD ONLY FURTHER THE AIMS OF COBRA--



IS THAT NOT SO, STALKER?



YOU'RE CATCHIN' MY DRIFT, COLONEL BREKHOV! YOU FAMILIAR WITH A QUOTE ABOUT "STRANGE BEDFELLOWS"?

LET'S NOT GET CUTE, STALKER! WE'VE GOT *ORDERS!* IF WE LOSE THE CARGO, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BREAK RADIO SILENCE, CONTACT HAWK AND GET OURSELVES LIFTED OUT!



I'M BACKING SCARLETT! THIS IS A NO-WIN SITUATION! I SAY LET'S THROW IN OUR LOSING HAND AND *QUIT* THE GAME BEFORE WE GO *BUST!*



THIS AIN'T NO DEMOCRACY! I'M IN CHARGE HERE AND I'M EXERCISING MY PREROGATIVE TO MAKE A FIELD COMMAND DECISION TO EXAMINE THE OPTIONS!



LET'S SAY WE *DO* PACK UP AND GO HOME... WHAT'S TO KEEP THESE JOKERS FROM FOLLOWING COBRA AND TAKING A CRACK AT THE JACKPOT? BESIDES, WHAT AM I GOING TO SAY TO *HAWK*? "SEE, WE ALMOST HAD IT BACK SAFE BUT COBRA CAME ALONG AND TOOK IT AWAY." ? NO WAY!



I WILL BE *FRANK* WITH YOU. THE PENALTY *WE* FACE FOR FAILURE IS UNIMAGINABLE. WE HAVE *NO* CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW COBRA. ALONE, OUR CHANCES OF SUCCESS ARE NEGLIGIBLE--



-- *BUT*, IF WE WERE TO COMBINE OUR FORCES...

THEN WHAT? EVEN IF WE GET THE STUPID PLANE BACK, WE'RE BACK TO *SQUARE ONE!* WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO DUKE IT OUT WITH THESE BOZOS ANY WAY YOU CUT IT!



UNFORTUNATELY, THAT IS INARGUABLE. ONCE THE AIRCRAFT IS SECURED, WE MUST DO OUR DUTY AS SOLDIERS TO TAKE POSSESSION FOR OURSELVES AND MOTHER RUSSIA.



WE CAN'T DO ANY LESS OURSELVES. BUT LET'S CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT AND HOPEFULLY WE WON'T HAVE TO BURN IT BEHIND US...



YOU'RE ALL *NUTS!* YOU CAN'T TRUST THESE LOUSY *REDS*--

NOW DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO MISS SCARLETT HERE. SHE'S JUST A TAD HIGH STRUNG. THE *VAMP* IS READY TO ROLL AND WE CAN GIVE YOU FELLAS A HAND WITH CHANGING THE TIRE ON YOUR KREMLIN KIDDIE KART...



YOU CAN GIVE THEM A HAND, I DON'T WALLOW WITH FIGS.

TOVARICH, FRIENDS... FOR THE TIME BEING...



YOU'RE ON, BUDDY... UNTIL WE GET THE PLANE. THEN THIS TREATY GOES OUT THE WINDOW.

HOURS  
LATER...

THAT LOCATOR *BEEPER* I PLANTED  
IN THE RTV IS *BEEPER* IN STRONG.  
LOOKS LIKE COBRA IS MAKING A  
BEE-LINE FOR THE *IRANIAN*  
BORDER!

I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU,  
BREAKER... WE *CROSSED*  
THE BORDER INTO IRAN  
TEN MINUTES AGO.

YEAH? THEN I GUESS THOSE  
DOTS ON THE HORIZEN AIN'T A  
BUNCH OF AFGHANI TRIBES-  
MEN OUT FOR AN AFTER-  
NOON STROLL, HUH?

THAT'S AN  
*IRANIAN*  
BORDER  
PATROL!

SLOW DOWN,  
CLUTCH. THEY'VE BEEN  
WATCHIN' OUR DUST FOR  
MILES! NOTHIN' LEFT TO  
DO NOW BUT TRY TO  
*BRAZEN* IT OUT...





THAT'S RICH, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO? PROMISE TO GIVE THE **SWAH** BACK?

HOW ABOUT ASKING FOR ROOM AND BOARD AT THE **EMBASSY**?

HOW ABOUT CLAMMING UP AND PICKING OUT YOUR **TARGETS**?



MAN, THIS IS **TOO HAIRY** FOR WORDS! I HOPE THOSE **ROOSKIES** BACK THERE DON'T DECIDE TO PULL THE **DOUBLE WHAMMY** ON US...

THEY WERE **BESIDE** US A MINUTE AGO, HOW DID THEY GET **BEHIND** US?



**RATATATATATATATATATATATATAT!**

YOW! I'M **HIT**!

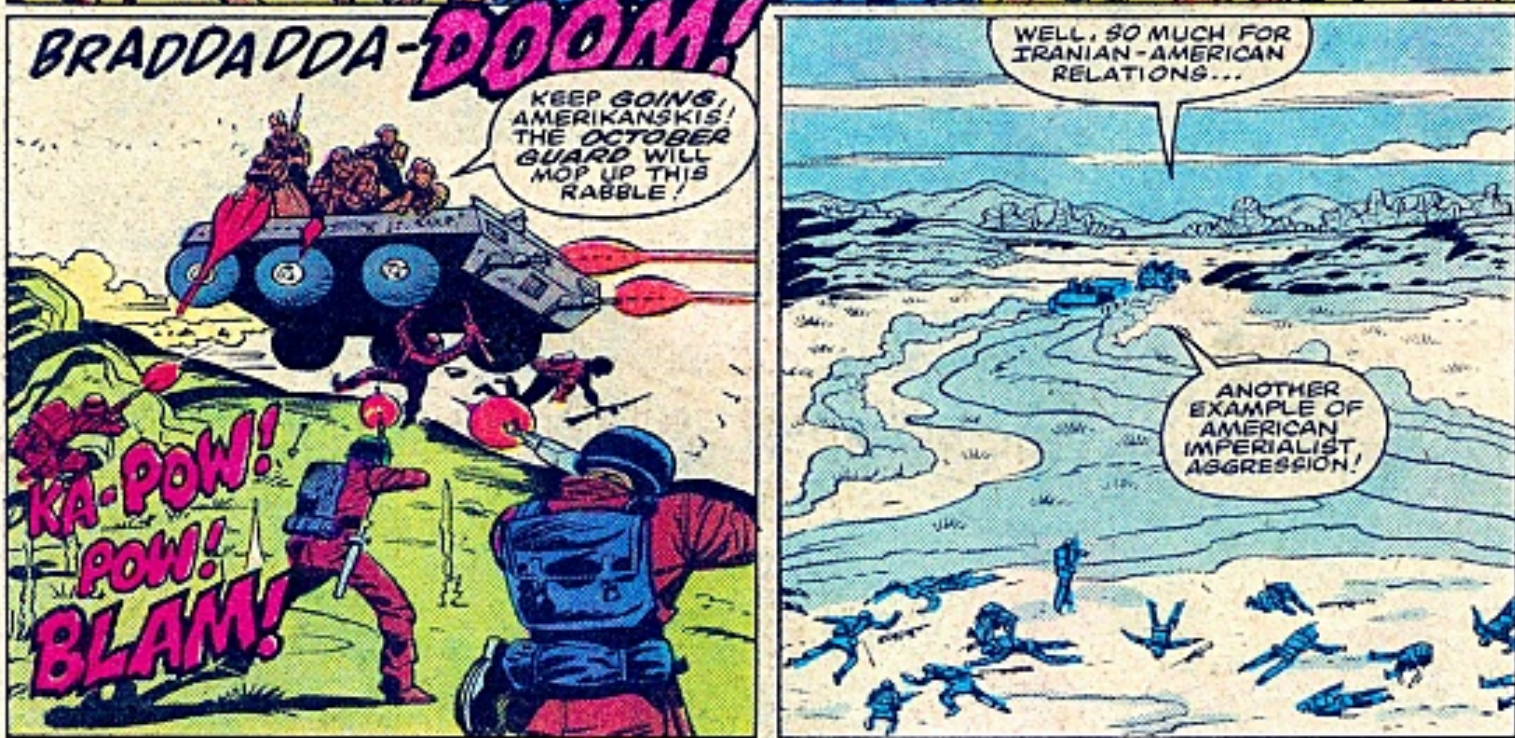
THAT'S **NO REASON** TO STOP SHOOTING!

WHO THE **HECK** FIRED THE **FIRST** SHOT?



**RATATATATATATATATATATATATAT!**

WHO CARES ABOUT THE **FIRST** SHOT! IT'S WHO FIRES THE **LAST** SHOT THAT COUNTS!



**BRADDADDA-DOOM!**

KEEP GOING, **AMERIKANSKIS**! THE **OCTOBER GUARD** WILL MOP UP THIS **RABBLE**!

**KA-POW!**  
**POW!**  
**BLAM!**



WELL, SO MUCH FOR **IRANIAN-AMERICAN** RELATIONS...

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF **AMERICAN IMPERIALIST** AGGRESSION!



THAT'S IT! THE COBRA STRONGHOLD!  
THE BLEEPER IS GOING CRAZY, SO  
THE PLANE MUST BE INSIDE!

DA, COMRADES... IT IS  
FORMIDABLE LOOKING,  
NO?



LET'S TAKE A  
CLOSER LOOK  
THROUGH THE  
OL' IMAGE  
INTENSIFI-  
FIER...

START OUT AT LOW MAGNIFICATION  
AND ZOOM IN SLOWLY.

THE WALLS  
ARE LOOKING  
VERY SOLID,  
BUT THERE  
MUST BE AN  
ENTRANCE...  
SOME WEAK  
POINT, DA?



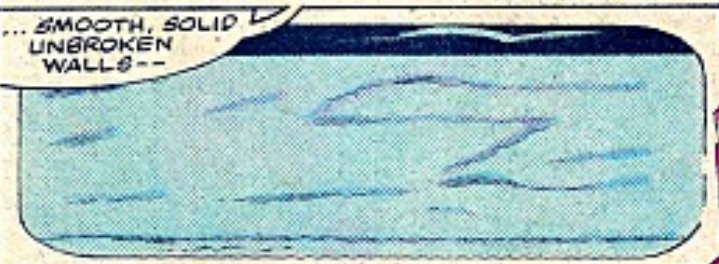
I DON'T SEE  
ANYTHING BUT  
SOLID WALL...



ZOOM IN A LITTLE  
CLOSER... STILL JUST  
A BUNCH OF WALLS...



... SMOOTH, SOLID  
UNBROKEN  
WALLS--



I THINK  
WE GOT A  
PROBLEM.



CLIK!

CLUTCH,  
HELP ME  
STRAP ON  
THE JUMP  
JET...



... I'M GOING  
UPSTAIRS FOR  
A CLOSER  
LOOK!

\*JET:  
UNIT, MOBILE  
PROPULSION.

FOOOOSH!





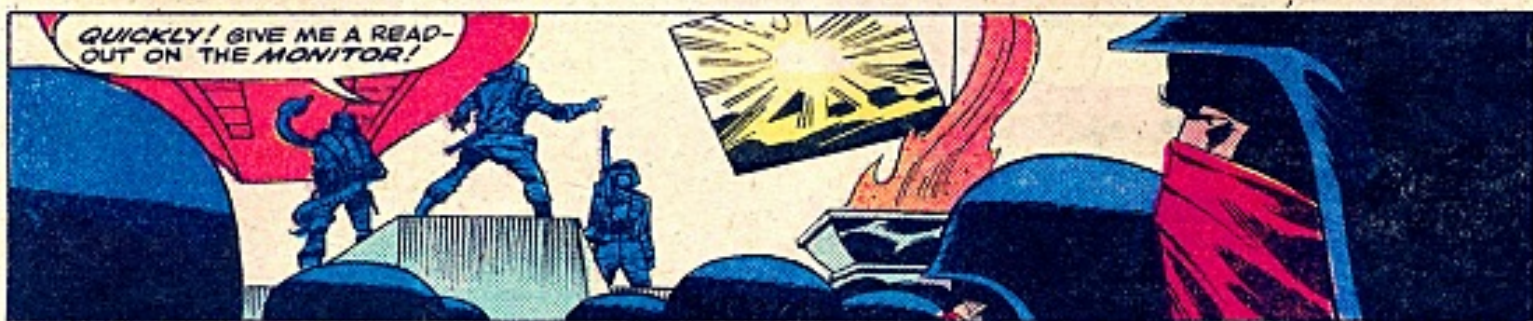
INSIDE THE  
COBRA  
STRONG-  
HOLD...

THIS IS A NIGHT FOR  
CELEBRATION, MY BROTHERS  
OF THE HOOPED SERPENT! FOR NOT ONLY HAVE  
WE DEFEATED BOTH THE  
S.I. JOE TEAM AND THE  
OCTOBER GUARD, BUT WE  
NOW HAVE WITHIN OUR  
GRASP THE VERY SEED OF  
WORLD CONQUEST!



THE TECHNOLOGICAL SECRETS  
WE SHALL EXTRACT FROM THE RUS-  
SIAN AIRCRAFT WILL ENABLE US TO  
SPREAD OUR COILS TO EVERY  
CORNER OF THE EARTH! FOR  
TRULY, THE POWER THAT CON-  
TROLS GRAVITY CAN CONTROL--

COBRA COM-  
MANDER! OUR  
SENSORS  
DETECT AN  
INTRUDER IN  
OUR AIRSPACE!



QUICKLY! GIVE ME A READ-  
OUT ON THE MONITOR!



NO!! IT CAN'T  
BE THEM!!



AND THEY  
OBSERVE US  
FROM THE  
PLATEAU!

DOLTS! IDIOTS!  
MORONS!  
THOSE TWO FOOLS  
HAVE LET THEM  
ESCAPE!

NO MATTER! THEY ARE IN A *HOSTILE* COUNTRY WITH NO SUPPORT! THEY MUST ATTEMPT TO PENETRATE OUR DEFENSES BY *STEALTH!*

WE WILL PERMIT THEM TO ENTER OUR STRONGHOLD, KEEP THEM UNDER CLOSE OBSERVATION...



...AND CRUSH THEM AT OUR LEISURE!

ALL HAIL MIGHTY COBRA!



ALL UNITS REPORT TO BATTLE STATIONS!

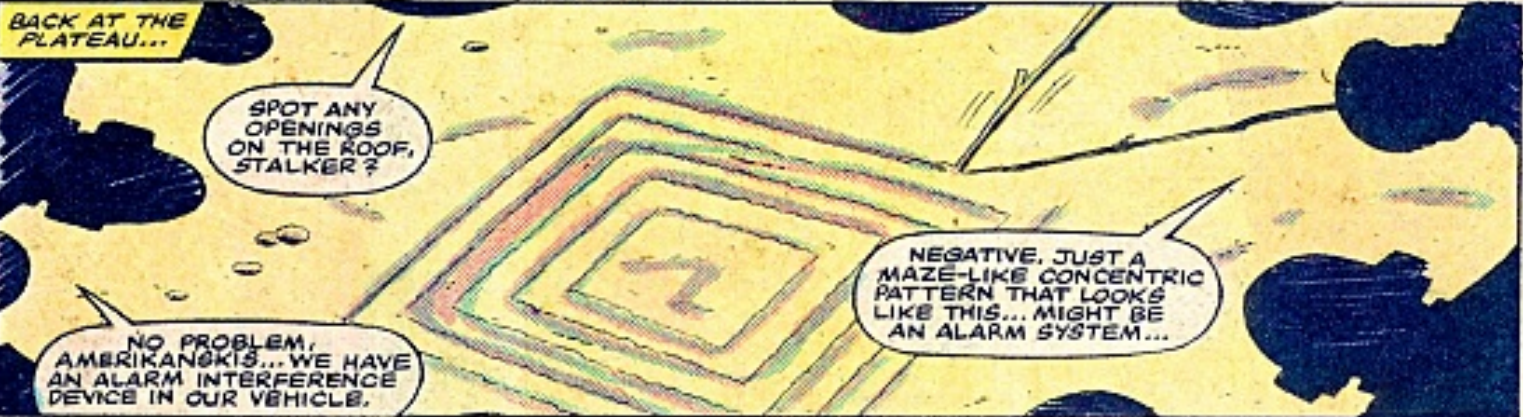


BACK AT THE PLATEAU...

SPOT ANY OPENINGS ON THE ROOF, STALKER?

NO PROBLEM, AMRIKANGKIS... WE HAVE AN ALARM INTERFERENCE DEVICE IN OUR VEHICLE.

NEGATIVE. JUST A MAZE-LIKE CONCENTRIC PATTERN THAT LOOKS LIKE THIS... MIGHT BE AN ALARM SYSTEM...



GOOD. WE'LL PUT ONE OF YOUR MEN WITH THE DEVICE ON THE ROOF WITH TWO FROM OUR TEAM. THAT LEAVES TWO FOUR MAN TEAMS TO ATTACK TWO OPPOSITE WALLS-- SPLIT THEIR DEFENSES...

WE MUST COVER OUR ESCAPE ROUTE--

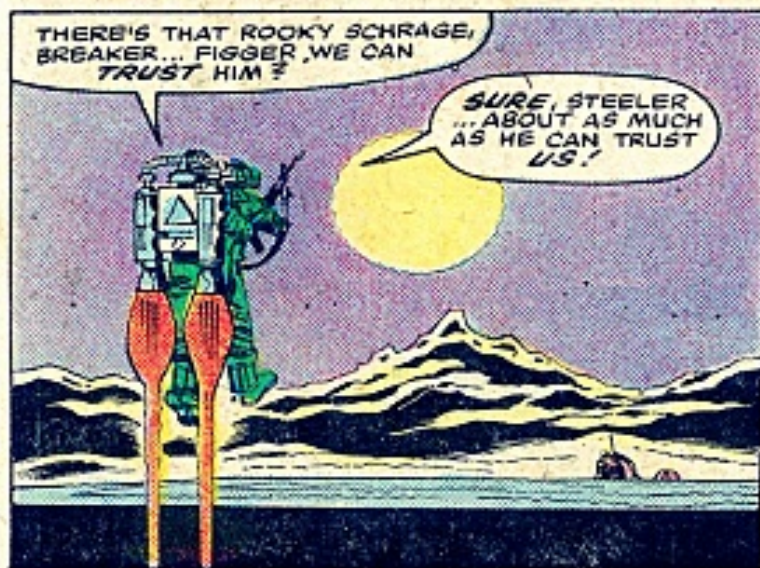


--I SUGGEST WE LEAVE ONE MAN OUTSIDE AT EACH PENETRATION POINT FOR RESERVES AND COVER.

SOLID IDEA! *STEELE* AND *BREAKER* WILL TAKE THE ROOF WITH *SCHRAGE*, THE REMAINING *OCTOBER GUARDS* WILL TAKE THE *SOUTH WALL* AND THE *JOES* WILL GO IN FROM THE *NORTH!*

LET'S MOVE OUT!







HOLD IT! A DOOR'S OPENING!

YOU'RE NOT THINKIN' OF WALKIN' THROUGH THAT, ARE YOU STALKER? IT'S GOTTA BE A TRAP!



SO WHAT? THEY'D KNOW WE WERE HERE AS SOON AS YOU CUT LOOSE WITH THE LASER...

CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT.



YOU KNOW, THERE'S SOMETHING REAL FAMILIAR ABOUT THIS PATTERN ON THE ROOF. I JUST CAN'T PLACE IT...

DA. IT IS RESEMBLING, WHAT YOU CALL IT... HOT-DISH? NYET... HOT--HOT--

--HOT-PLATE!



BURN THE ONES ON THE ROOF!

THE ELECTRICAL FIELD IS ACTIVATED, COBRA COMMANDER!

IT IS TIME TO SHED THE CEREMONIAL COWL AND DON MY BATTLE HELMET!



BREAKER! THIS IS CLUTCH--WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE? BREAKER!--HEY, BREAKER!!



STALKER, THIS IS CLUTCH--SOMETHING FUNNY'S HAPPENING UP TOP... I'VE LOST RADIO CONTACT WITH BREAKER!



POOR BOY SOUNDS NERVOUS. ASK HIM IF HE NEEDS SOMEBODY TO HOLD HIS HAND...

JUST STAY WHERE YOU ARE, CLUTCH. BREAKER CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF...



I'M SITTING TIGHT. TELL SCARLETT SHE SHOULD'VE POWDERED HER NOSE IN MY MIRROR WHILE SHE--

CLUTCH! DO YOU READ ME? CLUTCH!!



NO ANSWER...

WERE ON OUR OWN NOW...



IN THE INNER SANCTUM... THE TEAM ON THE ROOF IS UNCONSCIOUS. SEND A SQUAD UP TO COLLECT THEM...

...AND STEP UP TERMINATION PROCEDURES FOR THE INTRUDER TEAMS!



I DON'T HEAR ANY--

SHHHHH!

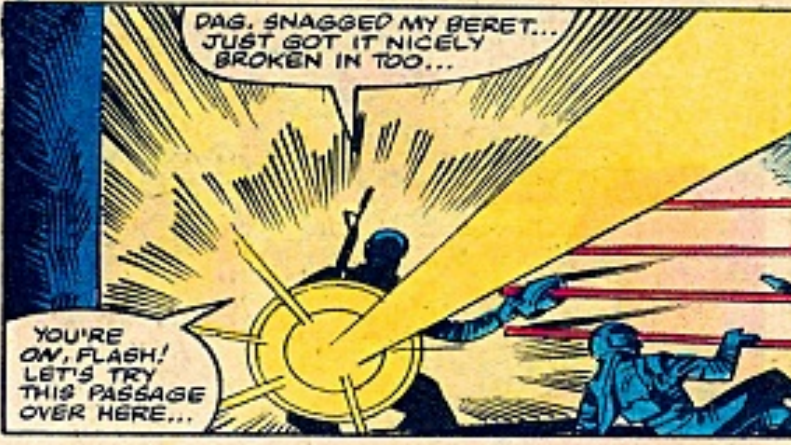
HEAR THOSE ELECTRICAL RELAYS CLICKING?



DIVE!!



SCHRAAAAK!



DAG, SNAGGED MY BERET... JUST GOT IT NICELY BROKEN IN TOO...

YOU'RE ON, FLASH! LET'S TRY THIS PASSAGE OVER HERE...



STALKER, YOU GET US OUT OF THIS ONE, AND I'LL BUY YOU A DOZEN NEW ONES!

UH-OH. LOOKS LIKE WE PICKED A DEAD-END.

THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS...



IS IT A MINE?



WORSE...

IT'S A TRIP-RELEASE!



...THE BAD NEWS IS UNDER MY FOOT!

**KA-BOOOM!**



LISTEN! HEAR THAT SOUND?

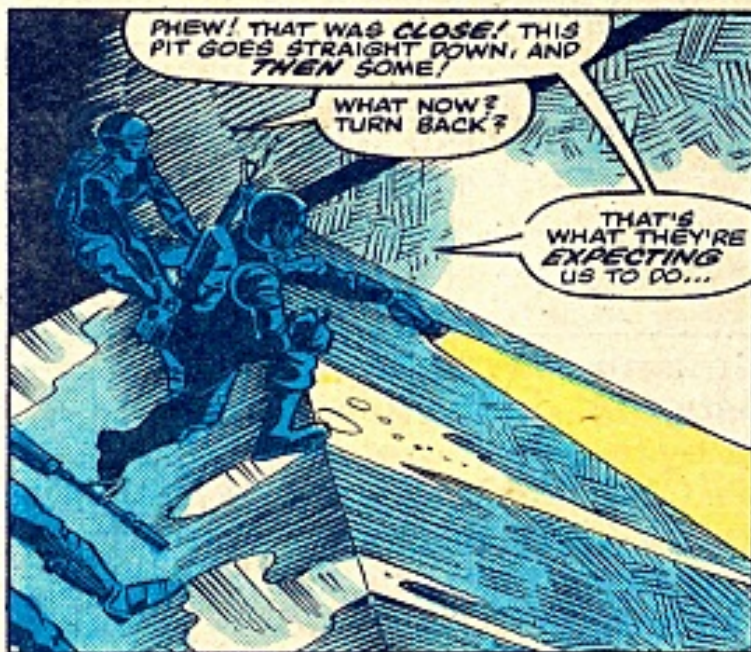
ECHOES FROM THE FALLING BLOCK REVERBERATING THROUGH THE PASSAGES?

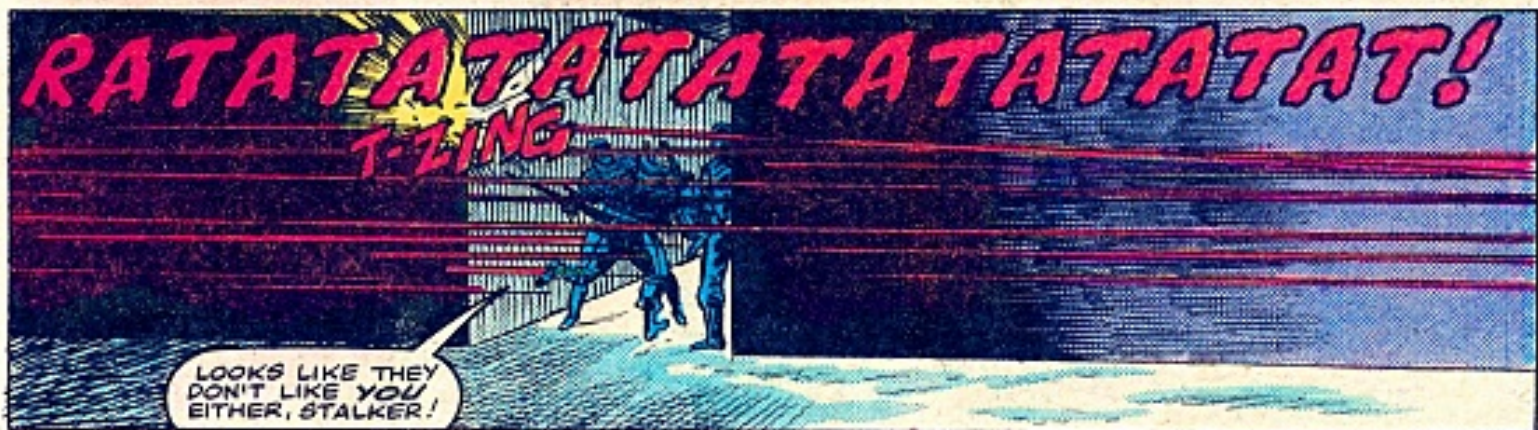
NO...

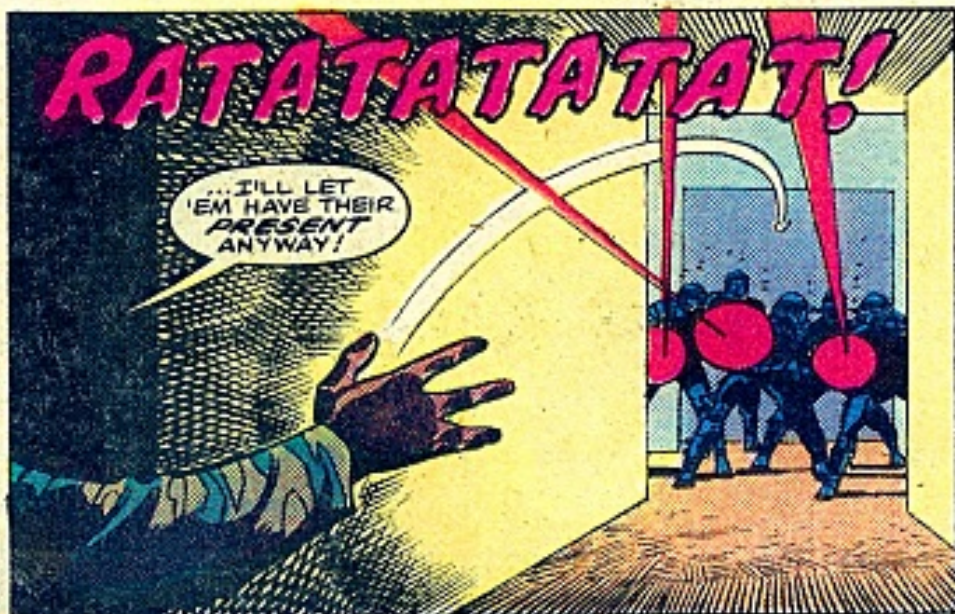














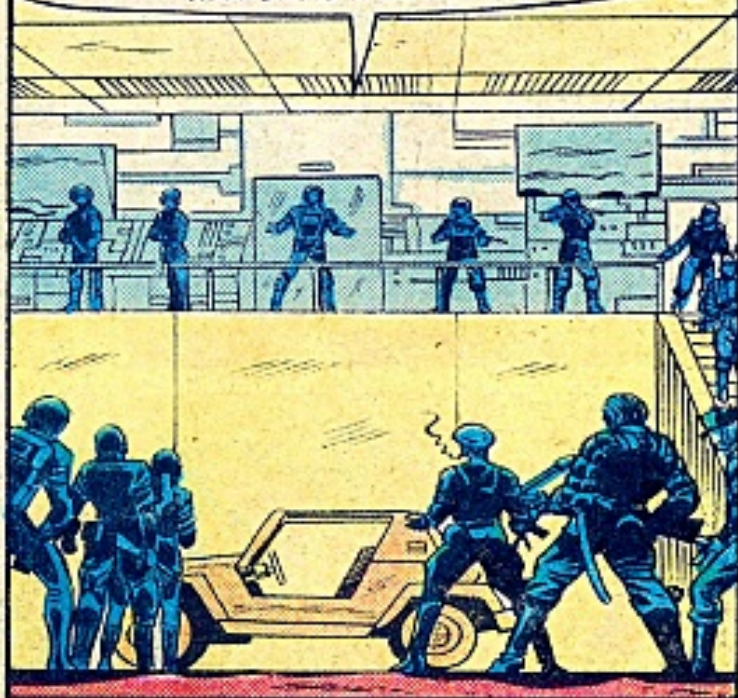
WE CAPTURED A COBRA PRISONER AND "PERSUADED" HIM TO LEAD US PAST THE TRAPS... WE WERE EXPECTING MORE RESISTANCE BUT IT SEEMS THAT COBRA COMMANDER HAS FLED RATHER THAN CONFRONT THE FREEDOM LOVING--



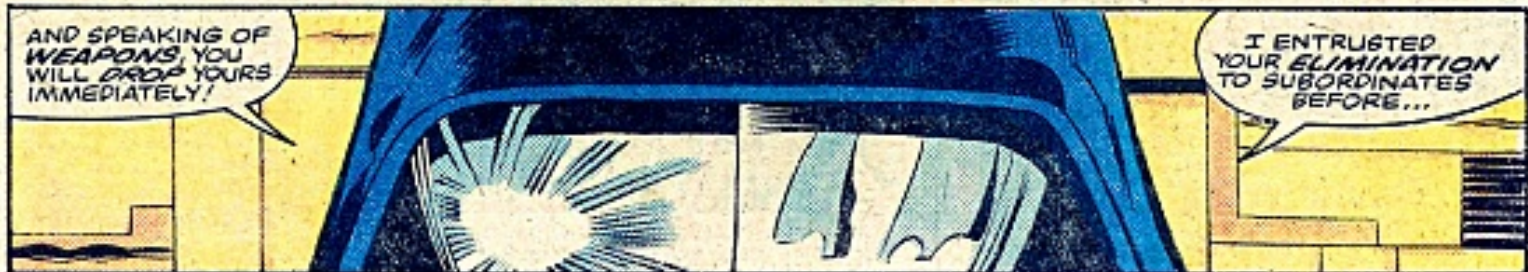
NOT TRUE, MY DEAR COLONEL BREKHOV!



CONFRONTATION IS MY FORTÉ! I PLAYED THE SAME TRICK I USED BACK IN THE HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS, GETTING YOU AGAINST EACH OTHER TO MY ADVANTAGE... DISTRUST IS A POTENT WEAPON, IS IT NOT ?



AND SPEAKING OF WEAPONS, YOU WILL DROP YOURS IMMEDIATELY!





... BUT I, UNLIKE YOU, HAVE LEARNED FROM MY MISTAKE!



I SHALL OVERSEE YOUR EXECUTION, PERSONALLY!



NOT LIKELY, CHUMP!

THOK



YOU! THE ONE THEY CALL CLUTCH!

THAT'S MY NAME, DON'T WEAR IT OUT!

TELL YOUR BULLY BOYS TO DROP THEIR HARDWARE, I'M FEELIN' RIGHT ORNERY AND MY FINGER IS TWITCHING! AND TELL 'EM TO BRING OUT STEELER AND BREAKER!

DO AS HE SAYS!



I'VE GOT THESE JOKERS COVERED...

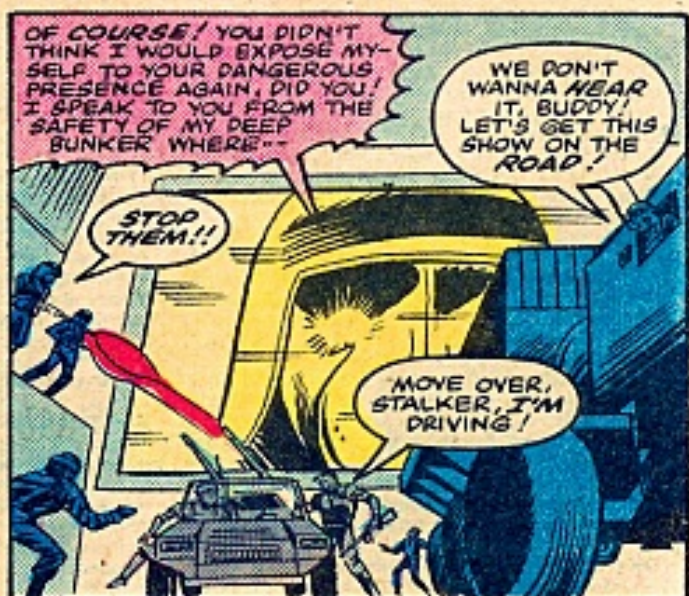
... THE REST OF YOU KEEP AN EYE ON THE REDS!



I KNOW THE WAY OUT OF THIS MAZE, GET STEELER AND BREAKER ON BOARD THE RTV AND GET READY TO MOVE OUT!

ME AND STALKER ARE RIDING OUT ON THE VAMP\* AND WE'RE TAKING MR. HEAD COBRA WITH US AS INSURANCE!

\*VEHICLE ATTACK, MULTI-PURPOSE





DAG, CLUTCH--WE THOUGHT YOU'D HAD IT! HOW'D YOU PULL THIS OFF?

WHEN I WAS RIBBING SCARLETT ABOUT USING MY REAR-VIEW TO FIX HER MAKE-UP...



"... I GLANCED AT THE MIRROR AND CAUGHT AN EYEBALL FULL OF COBRA TROOPER!"



SO I BEANED HIM WITH THE MICROPHONE, PUT ON HIS FUN-HAT AND MASK AND WALKED RIGHT INTO THE STRONGHOLD!

# EPILOGUE: THE PORT OF KARACHI IN PAKISTAN...



WELL, HAWK, IT WAS ROUGH GOING THERE FOR A WHILE, BUT WE MADE IT...



TERRIFIC JOB, STALKER... I GUESS I CAN TELL YOU THE TRUTH NOW.

THE TRUTH?

WE AIRLIFTED THE REAL PLANE OUT OF AFGHANISTAN YESTERDAY...



THAT BOX YOU'VE BEEN HAULING IS JUST FULL OF SCRAP METAL AND NO-DEPOSIT BOTTLES.

YOU WERE THE RED HERRING... THE DECOY.



EXCELLENT WORK, TEAM... EXCELLENT.

**NEXT** CODE NAME: SEA STRIKE!

# POSTBOX: THE PIT TV

MARVEL COMICS GROUP  
387 Park Avenue South  
New York, New York 10016

DENNIS O'NEIL  
EDITOR  
RALPH MACCHIO  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Greetings from the Pit, folks, where we're being buried alive under a MOBAT's worth of mall raving about our Joes and their daring exploits. Gee, isn't there anyone out there who's just a shade less than excited with our real American heroes? No? Well, you won't hear us complaining. In fact, we're so excited ourselves with your outpouring of enthusiasm that we're dedicating this Postbox to excerpts from as many of your letters as we can typeset into the space. And now, the voice of Marveldom —

You are the real American heroes! Issue #4 — stupendous artwork! Incredible story! Miraculous comic book from cover to back! I will collect G. I. JOE comics forever.

Brent Goddard  
R.R. #2 Petticoediac  
N.B., Canada E0A 2H0

Re: G.I. JOE #4 — Story: great, terrific, perfect! Art: fantastic, another mission well done! Cobra is one of the better villains in comics today, thus limit appearances, what the readers' appetites. Explore the backgrounds of the team. Perhaps a romantic involvement for Scarlett with one of the other Joes. All in all, my congratulations on a fine comic.

T. R. Royle  
Rt. 1 box 41  
Lattie, LA 7056

Another few issues like G. I. JOE #4 and you guys will have the best comic going!

Michael McIsaac  
Keen Comics Club  
34 Neville Street  
Dominion, N.S.,  
Canada B0A 1E0

G. I. JOE #4 kept me on the edge of my seat! Trimpe's plotting and artwork were superb! Profile Snake-Eyes soon, and continued success in the future.

Michael Longo  
1940 75th Street  
Brooklyn, NY

You guys really did a great job on G. I. JOE #1-4. Some suggestions: an origin story of the present team; some pre-enlistment stories of the present characters; a profile on Snake-Eyes.

Bill Toporek  
Rt. 8 Box 8299  
Hayward, WI 54843

"Operation: Wingfield!" was truly great in all respects. Larry Hama showed us that violence is not the answer to survive a nuclear war. I hope the team of Hama and Trimpe stay, for they are the ones who bring G. I. JOE to life!

David Rivers  
585 Elm Street  
Fitchburg, MA

G.I. JOE #4 was great. I enjoyed seeing Hawk and Grunt infiltrate the Strike First Headquarters on their own instead of the full team doing so. Snake-Eyes is my favorite.

Greg Poole  
5759 Heston Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

The artwork of G. I. JOE #4 was just great, and Larry Hama did a superb job on the script. I am glad to see a comic that deals with the armed forces in so dramatic a manner. I wish you success.

Greg Polling  
1339 W. Andorra Drive  
Phoenix, AZ 85029

When I finished reading your blockbuster first issue, I didn't think you could carry over that blend of great writing and artwork into your regular run. Boy, was I wrong! Issues #2, 3 and 4 proved that. Larry Hama's scripts have real depth and George Roussos's colors truly complement Herb Trimpe's art. Please develop each character

more for greater dimension. I would also like to see more "classified" files on special equipment and weapons and more profiles of other team members.

Gregory S. Malone  
P.O. Box 6  
Brant, MI 48614

Congratulations! G. I. JOE is the most enjoyable comic I've ever read. The stories, art and characters are wonderful. Suggestions — some single character missions and the inclusion of more of the Joes like Grand Slam and Short-Fuse who haven't been seen since #1.

Scott McIntosh  
427 S. Western Avenue  
Kokomo, IN 46901

I was never really serious about a comic until G. I. JOE. Issue #1 was easily the best comic I'd ever seen. Let's see the characters on their leave time, and keep the classified files and weapons profiles coming.

David Landau  
210 W. Thomas  
Rome, NY 13440

Fantastic! That's the only word to describe G. I. JOE #4. The cover was superb, and the writing was outstanding — and that's a compliment seeing how I usually steer clear of army comics. Please bring back Rock 'n' roll, my favorite Joe.

Peter Amadeo  
11 Hudson Road  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Thanks for G. I. JOE, the best comic I have ever read. In upcoming issues I'd like to see some classified files on Snake-Eyes, Rock'n' Roll, etc: more of the Cobra Commander, a new arch enemy. Have you thought of G. I. JOE as a Saturday morning cartoon?

Anthony Vita  
Rt. 5 box 362J  
Lexington, VA 24450

You folks have a great idea in your G. I. JOE anti-terrorist force. I loved your first issue and introduced my friends to it. Their response was the same: More profiles and backgrounds of the team members and more equipment like VAMP, JUMP and HAL.

Paul Howard  
4415 Briargrove  
Dallas, TX 75252

G. I. JOE is fantastic, but I have a serious question. Since the team members are also merchandized as toys, does that mean they will continue to survive battle after battle without a scratch? I hope not, as the authenticity of the tales is part of the magazine's greatness. Kudos to Larry Hama for a string of excellent stories.

Stephen G. Schwartz  
2090 Loines Avenue  
Merrick, NY 11566

This is the first time I've written to Marvel, but I wanted to tell you how pleased I was with G. I. JOE #4. The cover was great, and Herb's inside art was the best yet. The colors were spectacular, an A+ for George, and the story was well done. All in all, a great issue.

Kevin Healy  
1101 Belair Drive  
Darien, IL 60559

I would like to congratulate all the people who helped put together G. I. JOE. I am a war buff, and I really enjoy this great comic. I'd really like to see more profiles on team members and weapons of the future. And don't worry, I won't be missing a single issue.

Gary Houchens  
Rt. 7 Box 55  
Scottsville, KY 42164

Well, that's it for now, troops. Take 30 and fall in next month! Till then... dismissed!





**DARTH\_SCANNER**  
DARTH\_SCANNER



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