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G.I. JOE

A REAL AMERICAN HERO!

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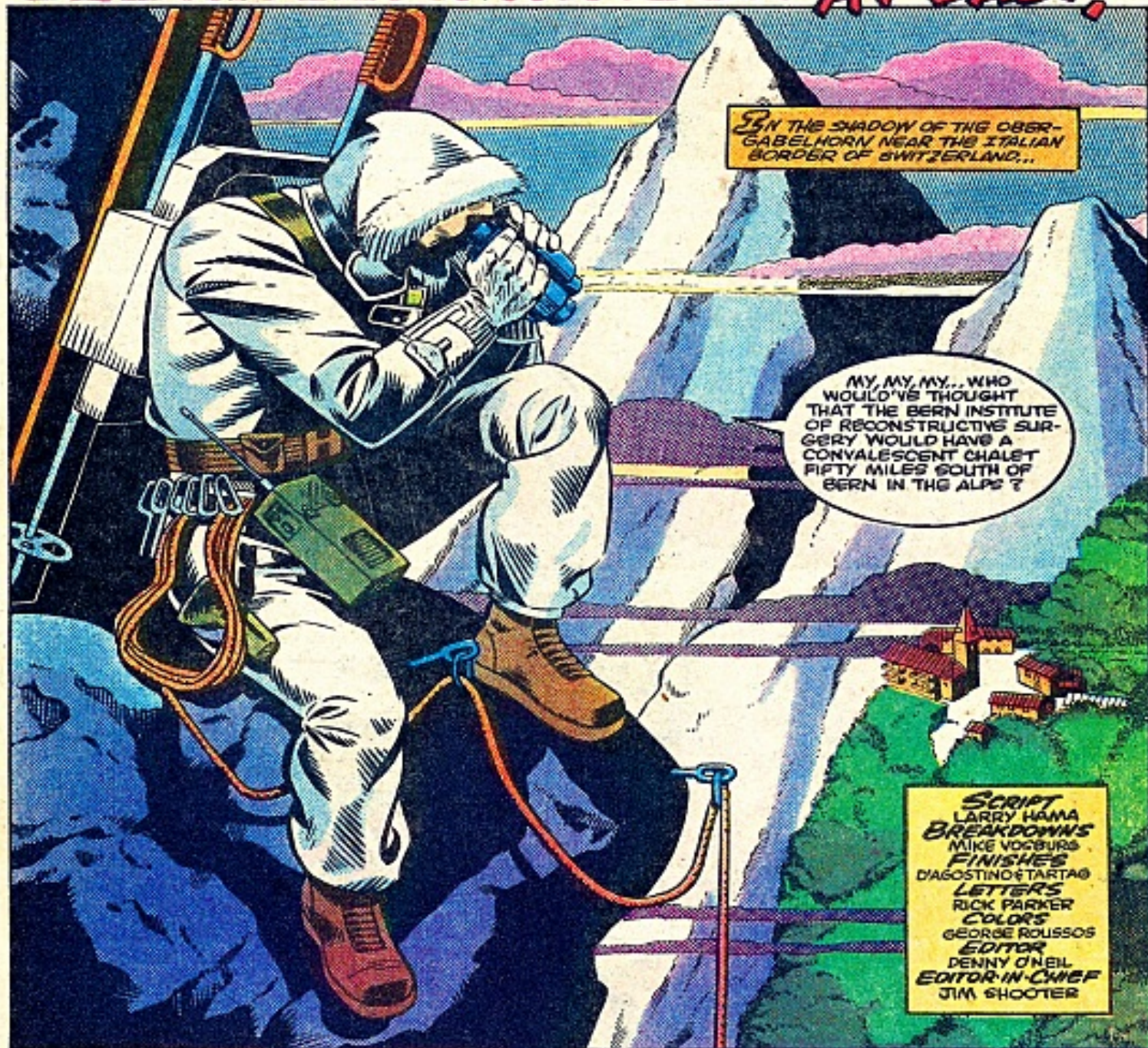


Quartered in top-secret armored underground bunkers, deep beneath the army chaplains assistant school at Fort Wadsworth, N. J., is the most fearsome rapid deployment team of all! America's elite counter-terrorist strike force...

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

G.I. JOE A REAL AMERICAN HERO™

COBRA COMMANDER CAPTURED AT LAST!



G.I. JOE® A REAL AMERICAN HERO™ Vol. 1, No. 23, May, 1984. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, 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. G.I. JOE, HAWK, DESTRO, CLUTCH, BREAKER, THE BARONESS, GUNG-HO, MAJOR BLUDD, COVER GIRL, SNOW JOB, DUKE, ROADBLOCK, COBRA COMMANDER and STORM SHADOW are trademarks of HASBRO INDUSTRIES, INC. and the likenesses of the characters to which those names are applied are the property of HASBRO INDUSTRIES, INC., and the trademarks and likenesses are used with permission of HASBRO INDUSTRIES, INC. G.I. JOE® Copyright © 1984 by HASBRO INDUSTRIES, INC. All rights reserved. All other material copyright © 1984 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 60¢ per copy in the U.S. and 75¢ 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 G. I. JOE, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 10TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.



AND WHO COULD THAT BE SLUNGING HER COMPLETELY RECONSTRUCTED SELF ON THE VERANDA?



I'LL BET SHE'S JUST LOOKING AT THE PICTURES IN THAT MAGAZINE BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T HAVE HER GLASSES...



...THE GLASSES SHE LOST WHEN THE COBRA TANK SHE WAS DRIVING BLEW UP DURING AN ATTACK ON THE TREASURY BUILDING!*

DUKE! THIS IS SNOW JOB. I'VE MADE VISUAL CONTACT--

*ISSUE #16-D.



-- THE BARONESS IS IN A CHALET NEAR THE SIMPLON PASS. NO GUARDS IN SIGHT. I COULD PUT ON AN ORDERLY'S UNIFORM AND WHEEL HER OUT THE FRONT DOOR.

THAT'S A NEGATIVE. MAINTAIN PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS KEEP AN EYE ON HER AND SOONER OR LATER SHE'LL LEAD US TO COBRA COMMANDER.

ROADBLOCK AND I HAVE SET UP A COMMAND POST IN THE CAFE ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE HOTEL WHERE MAJOR BLUDD IS STAYING HERE IN BERN...



CLUTCH AND COVER GIRL ARE STANDING BY IN A CAR TO FOLLOW BLUDD WHEREVER HE GOES...



... SO YOU JUST STAY PUT AND KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED.

THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, YOU'RE LOUNGING IN A COZY CAFE--HAVING A FONDUE PARTY FOR ALL I KNOW!



-- WHILE I'M SITTING ON A FROZEN ROCK WITH A C-RATION B-2 UNIT IN MY POCKET!

WHAT'S HE COMPLAINING ABOUT? THE FOOD IN THIS PLACE IS MEDIOCRE AT BEST AND ABSOLUTELY INECCIBLE TO ANYONE WITH A CULTURED PALATE--

-- SAY NOW...



... LOOKS LIKE OUR PAL MAJOR BLUDD IS VENTURING FORTH FROM HIS HIDEY-HOLE.



LET ME ZOOM IN AND REFOCUS...



UGLY CLISS, AIN'T HE? I'LL BET HE'S GOING TO TAKE THAT CAB HE'S HAILING FOR A LONG RIDE--

--TO THE BERN INSTITUTE OF RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY!



THE GAME'S AFOOT, DUKE. WE GONNA HAT-UP AND FOLLOW HIM?



NO, LET'S LEAVE THAT TO THE YOUNG-BLOODS IN THE PORSCHE.

FINE WITH ME.

WAITER, THIS PATÉ DE MAISON IS A DISGRACE TO THE CHEESE IT SHARES BOARD WITH. IF YOU THROW IT FAR ENOUGH NORTH, THEY'LL CALL IT LIVERWURST.



DUKE JUST GAVE US THE HIGH SIGN WITH HIS WATER GLASS...

"TAIL BLUDD UNTIL RELIEVED."



HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE DRIVING A REAL CAR, CLUTCH?

COVER GIRL, THIS STRASSEN-KREUZER HAS GOT NOTHING ON CLASSIC DETROIT IRON! GIMME A '57 CHEVY ANY DAY!



MEANWHILE, AT "THE PIT"...

HANK, WE'RE PICKING UP A SATELLITE-RELAY SIGNAL FROM SWITZERLAND.

THAT'LL BE DUKE REPORTING IN.



THE SIGNAL'S COMING THROUGH THE SCRAMBLER NOW...

... SNOW JOB'S GOT A VISUAL ON THE BARONESS. CLUTCH AND COVER GIRL ARE TAILING MAJOR BLUDD.







IN SWITZERLAND...

THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN A LOT EASIER WITH CLIMBING GEAR.

THIS IS THE EASY SIDE, COVER GIRL! SNOW-JOB WENT UP THE SHEER SIDE WITH A PAIR OF SKIS ON HIS BACK.

JUST IN TIME. OUR ONE-EYED FRIEND JUST PULLED UP IN HIS LAND ROVER...

"... BETTER LET DUKE KNOW WHAT'S GOING DOWN."

BERN INSTITUTE OF RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

... THAT'S FINE. STAY ON IT AND DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF EITHER ONE OF THEM.

NO. NOR DOES THE MAITRE D' GENERALLY ALLOW CUSTOMERS TO CONVERSE WITH THEIR LUGGAGE!

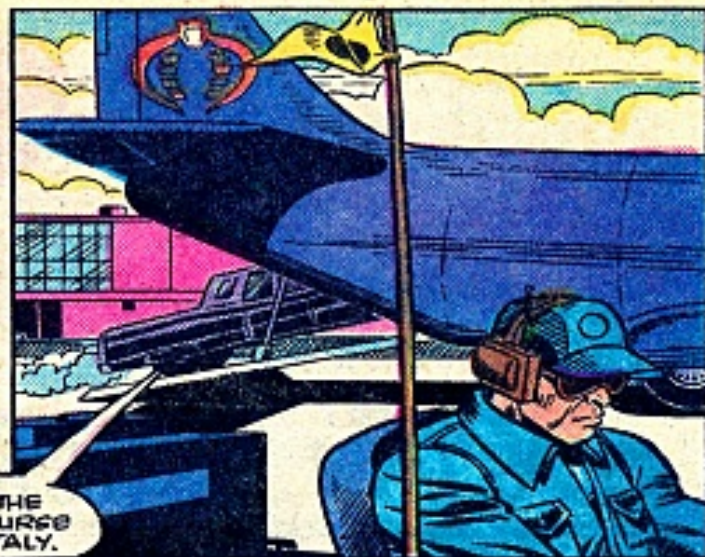
DOES YOUR GARDE-MANGER GENERALLY ALLOW YOU TO DRENCH THE SORBET CITRON WITH TINNED RASPBERRY SAUCE?

STOP COMPLAINING ABOUT OUR MANNERS WHILE I'M COMPLAINING ABOUT THE FOOD!

OVER AND OUT.



... THE NERVE OF THAT
BLUDD! TWO MILLION IN
CASH IN A GUCCI SUIT-
CASE INDEED!



DRIVER, TELL THE
PILOT TO SET A COURSE
FOR NORTHERN ITALY.



THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE QUITE
A DAY FOR CHANGES, A NEW OUTFIT...
AND A NEW FACE--



-- A NEW DESTINATION
AS WELL, MY DEAR BARON-
ESS. I'VE GOT OUR AIR-
LINE TICKETS FOR--



WELL? WHAT
DO YOU THINK?

I...I'M
AT A LOSS
FOR WORDS...



IS BLACK LEATHER THAT
BECOMING ON ME?

THE
CLOTHES
ARE BUT A
GARNISH...

BUT YOUR
FACE...IT'S
A...



--POEM!

AIRITALIA
LUCCA



THEY'VE GOT TICKETS FOR SOME PLACE CALLED LUCCA...

AURITALIA
LUCCA

THAT'S A TOWN IN NORTHERN ITALY, NEAR FLORENCE...



AHHHHH, NOW THIS IS MUCH BETTER!



YOU LIKE THE COOKING IN THIS PLACE, ROADBLOCK?

DUKE, THIS IS NOT "COOKING." THIS IS ART!



THE MAESTRO IS IN FINE FORM TODAY!

I'LL TELL HIM YOU'RE PLEASED.

LET'S NOT LET OUR GUARD DOWN...



THE CHEF RECOMMENDS THE VEAL.

CLITCH AND COVER GIRL ARE STILL FOLLOWING BLUDD AND THE BARONESS...

THE VEAL SOUNDS PERFECT.



WE FLEW DOWN HERE AHEAD OF THEM IN CASE THE PARTY THEY PLAN TO MEET SHOWS UP EARLY...

YOU REALLY THINK OL' COBRA COMMANDER'S GONNA SHOW HERE, HOOD SAM BROWN BELT AND ALL?



OF COURSE NOT! EVEN HE WOULDN'T BE BRAZEN ENOUGH TO--



THE MASKED MARAUDER!
WHAT A SPLENDID COSTUME!

A TRIFLE. IT PALES BEFORE THE
MAGNIFICENCE OF D'ARTAGNON
AND MARIE ANTOINETTE!

WHAT'S GOING ON
HERE? FOR A SECOND
I THOUGHT THE GUY
WITH THE MASK WAS
OL' "YOU-KNOW-WHO"...

IT'S A SIMILAR OUTFIT, BUT
IT'S MISSING THE COBRA SIGILS.
LOOK AT THIS. EVERYONE IN
TOWN IS IN COSTUME.



BUT OF COURSE!
THEY ARE EARLY
REVELERS FOR
TONIGHT'S COSTUME
BALL...

LUCCA IS THE SITE OF THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
FANTASY CONVENTION, THE MAIN EVENT OF WHICH IS
THE GALA MASQUERADE PARTY...



ENTHUSIASTS FROM
ALL OVER THE WORLD
SPEND MONTHS WORKING
ON ELABORATE COSTUMES
AND ACCESSORIES...



CLUBS AND
ORGANIZATIONS BUILD
FLOATS AND STAGE
"EVENTS"...



YOU'LL NOT SEE ANYTHING
LIKE THIS ANYWHERE ELSE
IN THE WORLD!

THANK YOU, YOU'VE
BEEN VERY INFORMATIVE!

BLUDD CHOSE HIS
COVER WELL. THE
COBRA HIGH COMMAND
IN FULL CEREMONIAL
REGALIA COULD TAKE
OVER THIS BURG
TODAY AND NOT A
SOUL WOULD NOTICE...

JUST NORTH OF LUCCA...



YOU NOTICE ANYTHING PECULIAR ABOUT THAT CAR IN FRONT OF US, CLUTCH?

NAH. I SEE 1931 DUSENBERGS LOADED TO THE GUNWHALES WITH GANGSTERS TOTING TOMMY GUNS ALL THE TIME!



REALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THE DRIVER AND THE PASSENGER...

I THINK OUR PALS BLIDD AND THE BARONESS DITCHED THAT LAND ROVER RIGHT AFTER THE BORDER—



MAJOR BLIDD, THAT PORSCHE CARRERA HAS BEEN DOGGING US SINCE SIMPLON.

-- AND PICKED UP SOMETHING WITH A SECURITY DETACHMENT OPTION!



IT MAY JUST BE A COINCIDENCE BUT I DON'T LIKE IT...

THEN GET RID OF IT.

I WILL.



WASTE THEM, BOYS.

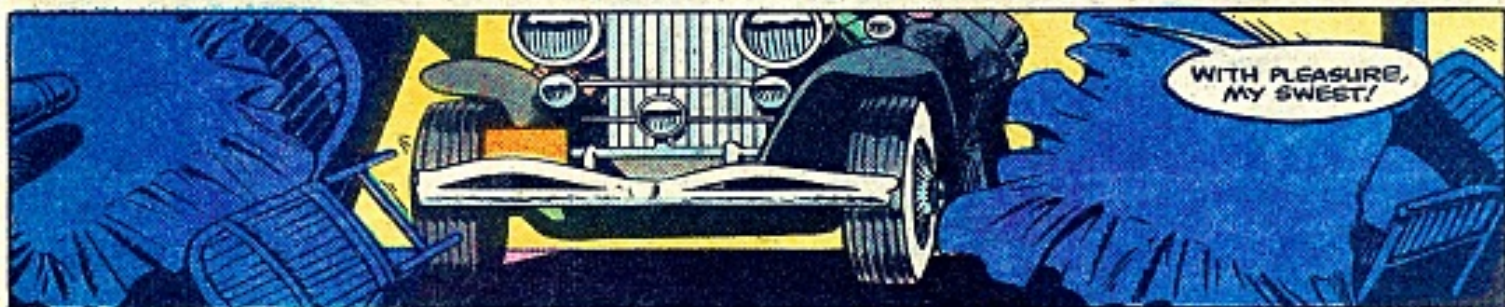


RUNAWAY CAR!



K-RASH!















...CHANCES ARE GOOD THE BARONESS IS HEADING FOR THE SWISS BORDER!

THE BORDER'S TOO FAR, BARONESS... AND NOW THERE ARE THREE VEHICLES IN PURSUIT!



THEN WE HAD BETTER EVEN THE ODDS A LITTLE, HMMM?



THAT FOUR-EYED WITCH IS SHOOTING AT US!

DON'T TAKE IT PERSONAL, COVER GIRL. THAT'S HER JOB!



WE JUST GOT AN ARROW PUNCTURE IN THE RIGHT-REAR!



AIM FOR THEIR HEADS, NOT THEIR TIRES!



WE'RE LOSING SPEED...

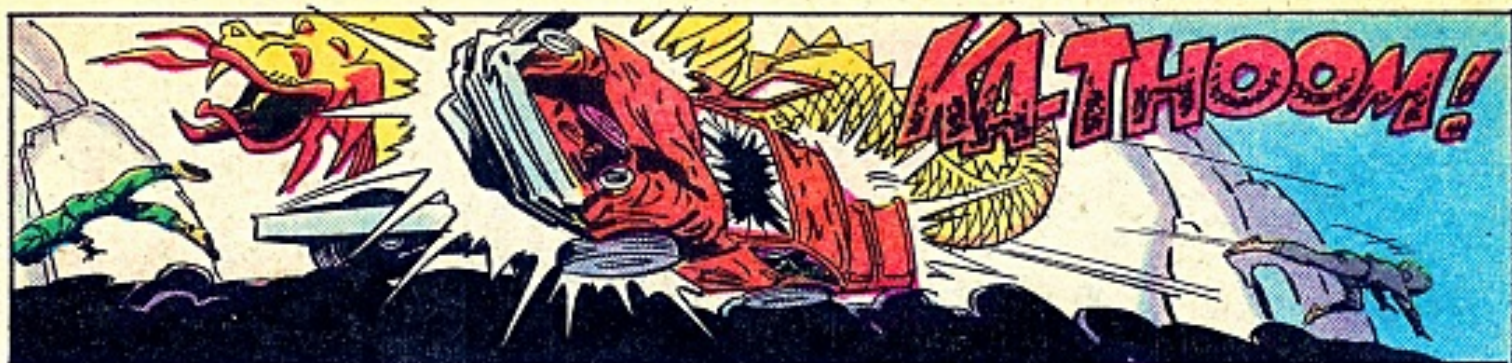
--THEY'LL PASS US!

PASS US?



NOW WHO'S TAKING IT PERSONALLY?

NOBODY PASSES THE KID FROM ASBURY PARK!







--OUR OFF-THE--ROAD CAPABILITY!

YOU'RE CRAZY, CLUTCH. LEMME CUTTA THIS SHRT--



"-- OFF-THE-ROAD " ON THIS STRETCH OF HIGHWAY MEANS STRAIGHT DOWN THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN!

YEAH, RIGHT...



...BUT LIFE JUST AIN'T WORTH LIVING--



--UNLESS YOU CAN TAKE SOME CHANCES NOW AND THEN!



RIGHT ?



RIGHT. I'LL DEAL WITH YOUR CASE LATER. AFTER I SCRAP THIS LINCOLN CONTINENTAL ...

RATATATATATAT



BLIDD!
SAVE ME!!

DON'T SHOOT!
I GIVE UP!!

COVER THE MAN,
CLUTCH... MY 50 JAMMED
ON THAT LAST BURST!



JUMP ON!
WE'RE NOT
STOPPING!!



COBRA COMMANDER!
WE MUST STOP FOR
HIM!



SIT DOWN, STORM SHADOW!
YOU CAN'T HELP HIM NOW...
YOU'LL SERVE HIM BETTER
BY ESCAPING TO FIGHT
ANOTHER DAY!



CLUTCH AND ROAD-
BLOCK ARE ALL RIGHT!

AND LOOK
WHO'S BETWEEN
THEM!



...THE COMMANDER
HIMSELF.

NEXT

THEY'VE GOT HIM... BUT CAN THEY KEEP HIM? NOT IF COBRA HAS ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT...

Dear Denny:

"Home is Where the War is," #23, was a welcome respite to all the excitement that's been going on in this mag of late. "Welcome respite?" you say. Fighting Cobra several feet above the ground and barely escaping with your life a respite? Well, maybe not. It just goes to show how action-packed G.I. JOE is.

Although I missed Mike Vosburg's pencils, Geof Isherwood did a dazzling job this issue. I really enjoyed the story by Steven Grant because sometimes you need to have stories featuring mainly one character — like Clutch this issue. It gives you more breathing room to delve into the personality and background of some of the Joes which often can't be done when they're with the rest of the team.

Finally, am I correct in assuming that John Byrne did this issue's cover?

Kenny Everhart
RR #1
Camden, OH 45311

Right, Kenny! We persuaded John to put aside his work on ALPHA FLIGHT, FANTASTIC FOUR and THE THING long enough to render it for us.

Dear Marvel:

I liked the story and art in G.I. JOE #20. I was a little hesitant when I learned that Steven Grant and Geof Isherwood were giving Larry Hama and Mike Vosburg a furlough, however I enjoyed their work very much. I was rather hoping you might show some of the Joes in "civvies" at some point, and I was pleased to see how well it worked out. Also, since Clutch is not my favorite Joe, I wasn't sure how much I'd like a story spotlighting him, but I was pleasantly surprised. As always, this was an excellent job.

I read that next issue, #21, spotlights Snake-Eyes. He's going up against Cobra ninjas in Destro's mountain retreat. Snake-Eyes is one of my favorite Joes, and Destro has got to be one of the top villains in comics today. Too bad he's confined to the pages of G.I. JOE. I'd love to see more of him!

I'm heartbroken that there won't be a Kwinn figure, but I am glad to hear that both teams will be expanding. I'm anxiously awaiting the additions!

Thomas Wheeler
1511 W. Sendero Cuatro
Tucson, AZ 85704

Dear Marvel:

I loved issue #20 of G.I. JOE. It was neat of Cobra to use the car hardware company store for a hideout.

Now, can you answer these questions?

1. When will the Baroness be reunited with Destro?
2. When will Destro kill Major Bludd?
3. When will Cobra Commander be unmasked?

Christopher John Oswalt
22886 Jerico Rd. R #2
Loudonville, OH 44842

Thanks for writing, Chris. Here are the answers to your questions:

1. Very soon. Don't miss a single issue or you'll miss their long-awaited reunion!
2. Since Destro and Major Bludd are both unpredictable, ruthless and very clever, it's impossible to predict if or when one would be able to eliminate the other.
3. Never — if he can help it!

Dear Joos:

Spectacular! That is the only way to describe G.I. JOE #20. That was one of the best covers since #15! I thought the plot, about Clutch going home, was pretty good. I hope you use those jet packs more often as secret weapons. They were a really good idea!

Robert Connolly
14 Twin Lakes Drive
Monsey, NY 10952

Dear Troops:

Is Snake-Eyes Scarlett's brother?

Jon Cohn
915 Monarch Drive
Flintridge, CA 91011

No, they're not related, Jon. For more about Snake-Eyes' background, be sure to read issue #26 which features his origin.

Dear Joos:

I want to compliment Steven Grant and Geof Isherwood on issue #20. Wow! The script and artwork were superb. Even when I saw the cover I could tell that it was going to be an exciting story! I liked the idea of Cobra infiltrating Billy Kline's factory, and it was fun seeing Clutch meet some of his old friends.

Thanks for a great issue. I can't wait for the next one.

Michael Schiavetta
48 Linden Ave.
Bethpage, NY 11714

Dear Marvel:

I just finished re-reading G.I. JOE #20. It is wonderful! I like how Clutch visited his hometown of Asbury Park, but I also caught a mistake. Near the end of the story, Clutch asked Doc how Billy was doing. The problem is that Doc was colored white instead of black.

Matt McCarty
No Address

You're right, Matt. That was a slip of the ol' coloring brush that understandably confused some of you.

Dear Denny and Company:

Issue #20 was a masterpiece! I thought it was neat the way you gave us some idea about Clutch's background. And, the fight in the jelpaks was a clincher! A really good job!

Craig Stewart
8819 N.E. 14th St.
Bellevue, WA 98004

NEXT ISSUE: The Joes capture another Cobra... but Cobra Commander escapes!

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CIRCULATION
(REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3686)

1. Title of Publication: G.I. JOE
2. Date of Filing: October 3, 1983
3. Frequency of Issue: MONTHLY
4. No. of Issues Published Annually: 12
5. Annual Subscription Price: \$7.20
6. Location of Known Office of Publication: 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016
7. Location of the Headquarters or General Business Office of the Publisher: 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016
8. Names and addresses of the publisher, editor, and managing editor: Stan Lee, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Editor: Jim Shooter, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Managing Editor: Jim Shooter, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016
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B. Paid Circulation: (1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 147,100. Single issue nearest to filing date: 151,363. (2) Mail subscription: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 17,750. Single issue nearest to filing date: 23,530
C. Total Paid Circulation: (Sum of 12B1 and 12B2): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 157,000. Single issue nearest to filing date: 175,296
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E. Total Distribution: (Sum of C and D): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 158,000. Single issue nearest to filing date: 176,103
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G. Total (Sum of E, F1 and 2) should equal net press run shown in 12C: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 354,000. Single issue nearest to filing date: 363,902
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