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JUNE

# GI JOE

**A REAL AMERICAN HERO!**



Stan Lee  
PRESENTS:

**G.I. JOE** A REAL AMERICAN HERO™

# THE COMMANDER ESCAPES!

WISH IN THE PARK  
RANGE OF THE  
AMERICAN ROCKIES...

SCRIPT  
**LARRY HAMA**  
ART  
**RUSS HEATH**  
LETTERING  
**RICK PARKER**  
COLORING  
**GEORGE ROUSSOS**  
EDITOR  
**DENNY O'NEIL**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
**JIM SHOOTER**

THIS IS MAD!  
I UNDERSTAND  
YOUR CONCERN  
FOR SECURITY, BUT THIS  
IS RIDICULOUS...

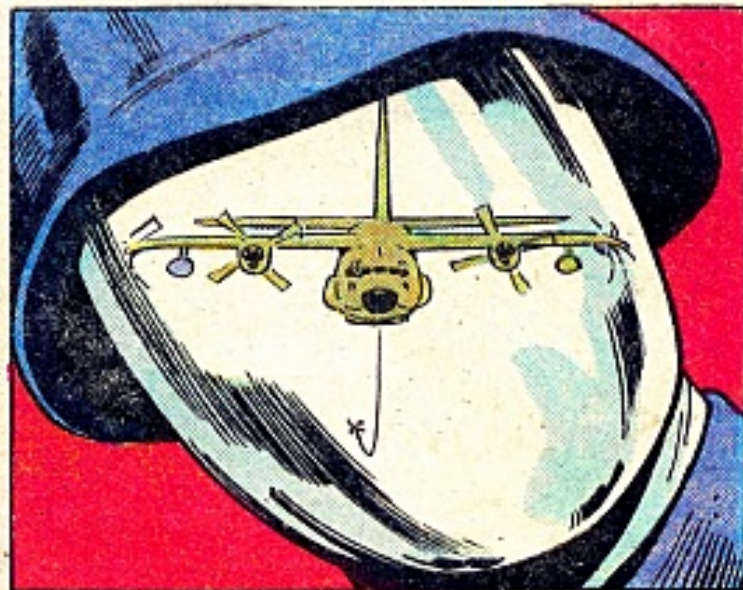
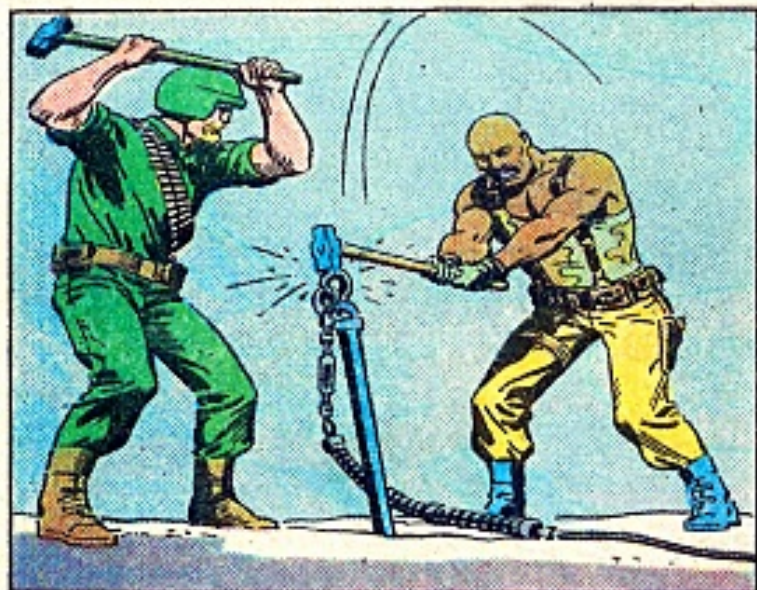
...THIS  
PLATEAU MAY BE  
REMOTE AND ISOLATED,  
BUT IT'S ALSO  
UNDEFENDABLE!

PUT A LID  
ON IT, COBRA  
COMMANDER!

ROADBLOCK! YOU  
READY TO  
STAKE OUT  
THE ARRESTOR  
CABLE?

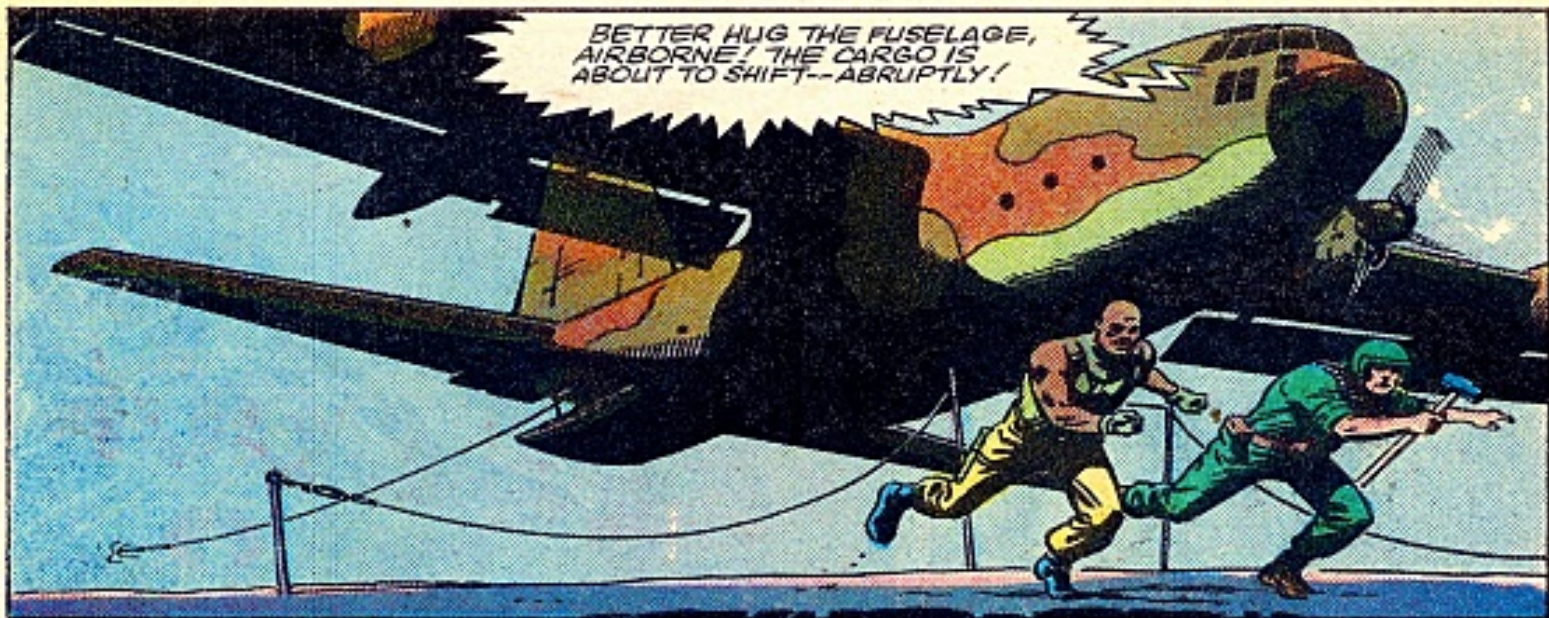
I CAN'T  
DO IT ALONE,  
DUKE!

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BETTER HUG THE FUSELAGE,  
AIRBORNE! THE CARGO IS  
ABOUT TO SHIFT--ABRUPTLY!



I'M  
ALREADY  
THERE!

WELCOME!

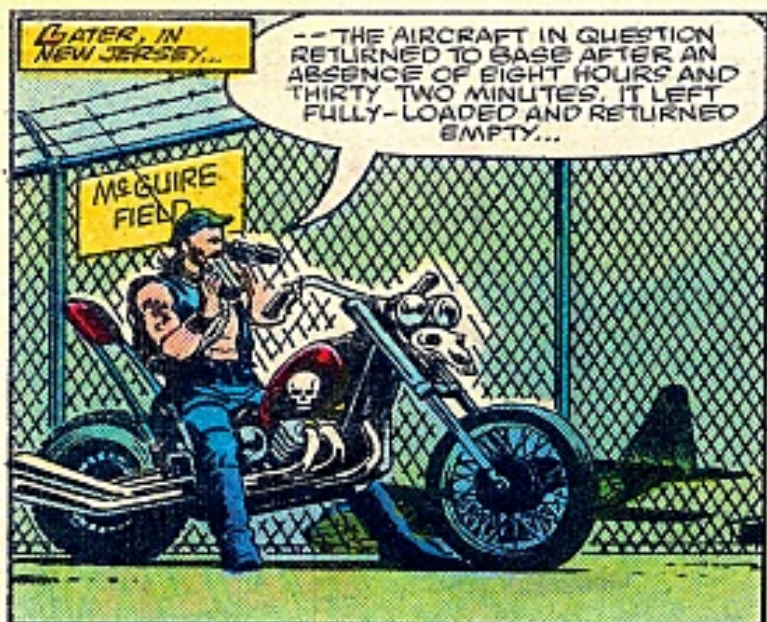


JUST TO PUT YOUR  
MIND AT EASE, COBRA  
COMMANDER...

...WE'RE GOING TO HAVE  
YOU HELP US BOLT TOGETHER  
OUR FORTRESS!





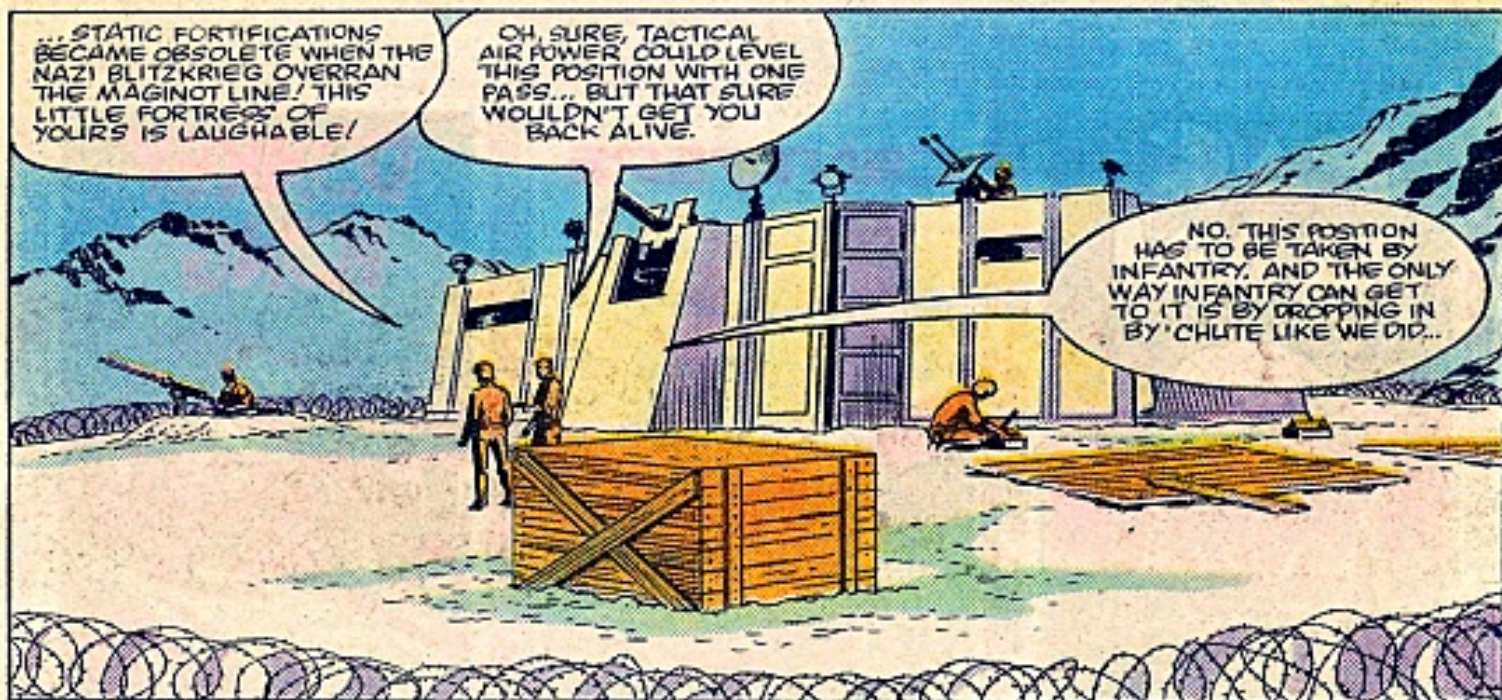


-- THE AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION RETURNED TO BASE AFTER AN ABSENCE OF EIGHT HOURS AND THIRTY TWO MINUTES. IT LEFT FULLY-LOADED AND RETURNED EMPTY...



...HAVE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED PILOT AND CO-PILOT AS MEMBERS OF THE G. I. JOE TEAM! AM STANDING BY...

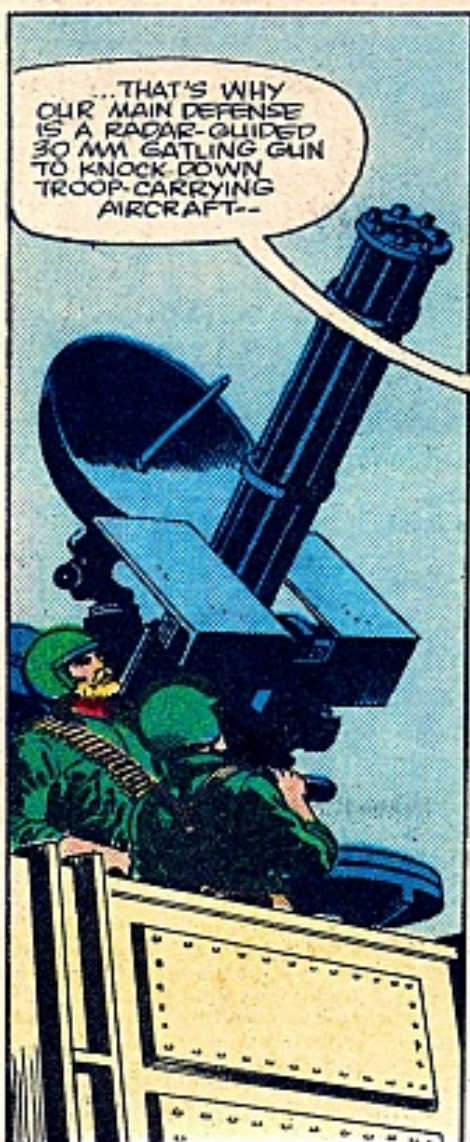




... STATIC FORTIFICATIONS BECAME OBSOLETE WHEN THE NAZI BLITZKRIEG OVERRAN THE MAGINOT LINE! THIS LITTLE FORTRESS OF YOURS IS LAUGHABLE!

OH, SURE, TACTICAL AIR POWER COULD LEVEL THIS POSITION WITH ONE PASS... BUT THAT SURE WOULDN'T GET YOU BACK ALIVE.

NO, THIS POSITION HAS TO BE TAKEN BY INFANTRY, AND THE ONLY WAY INFANTRY CAN GET TO IT IS BY DROPPING IN BY 'CHUTE LIKE WE DID...



... THAT'S WHY OUR MAIN DEFENSE IS A RADAR-GUIDED 30 MM GATLING GUN TO KNOCK DOWN TROOP-CARRYING AIRCRAFT--



-- THE .50 CALIBER LOADED WITH TRACER TAKES CARE OF ANY PARA-TROOPERS WHO MANAGE TO DEPLOY. THE TRACERS BURN HOLES THROUGH THE 'CHUTES, PLAYS HAVOC WITH MORALE.



AND WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN THE UNOPENED CRATE? A LOW-YIELD NUCLEAR DEVICE?



THAT'S FOR ME TO KNOW AND YOU TO FIND OUT. LET'S GO INSIDE FOR SOME OF GUNG-HO'S FRESH-BREWED JAVA.





...EVEN IF WE SUCCEED IN TAKING CONTROL OF COBRA, WE MUST STILL FIND AND ELIMINATE COBRA COMMANDER. HE SIMPLY KNOWS TOO MUCH!

FINDING HIM WON'T BE EASY. THE JOES WILL HAVE HIM WELL HIDDEN...

WHY DON'T WE JUST LET STORM SHADOW LEAD US TO HIM?



STORM SHADOW IS STILL ALIVE? WHEN YOU SAID COBRA COMMANDER WAS CAPTURED, I ASSUMED THE NINJA HAD BEEN KILLED! HIS LOYALTY TO THE COMMANDER IS UNQUESTIONABLE!

HE'S MORE DANGEROUS TO US THAN---



STORM SHADOW IS ALREADY ON HIS WAY TO RESCUE OUR RESPECTED LEADER. THE NINJA HAS BEEN MAKING EXTENSIVE USE OF COBRA'S COMPUTERS AND SPY SATELLITES VIA REMOTE PATCH-IN FROM A CONVERTED HEAVY BOMBER...



INDUSTRIOUS LAD, THAT STORM SHADOW, AND CLEVER, TOO. THAT'S WHY I PLANTED A HOMING DEVICE IN HIS SWORD HANDLE WHILE HE WASN'T LOOKING...



... THAT HOMING DEVICE WILL ENABLE THESE TWO GENTLEMEN TO FERRET OUT THE COMMANDER'S LOCATION BY PUTTING A CLOSE TAIL ON HIS NINJA TOADY!

THE GENTLEMAN ON THE LEFT IS COBRA'S BEST PILOT. EVEN BETTER THAN I AM, I MAY ADD.

... THE FIREFLY IS A MAN OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTE. HE IS THE BEST-- WELL...



... LET IT SUFFICE TO SAY THAT IF THE PILOT GETS THE TARGET, THE RESULT IS GUARANTEED!





WE'VE GOT A POSSIBLE IN THE PARK RANGE OF THE COLORADO ROCKIES, WE'RE RUNNING THE SATELLITE PHOTO THROUGH THE ENHANCER RIGHT NOW...



WE HAVE HERE A VERY CLEAR SHOT OF SIX MEN UNPACKING A LARGE CRATE ON A PLATEAU--ONLY THAT PLATEAU IS HALFWAY UP A MOUNTAIN 150 MILES FROM NOWHERE.

THAT FIGURE THERE, THE ONE HOLDING THE SOCKET WRENCH...



... ENLARGE THE IMAGE TO THE MAX AND RUN OUT THE PROGRAM FOR THREE-DIMENSIONAL ENHANCEMENT--



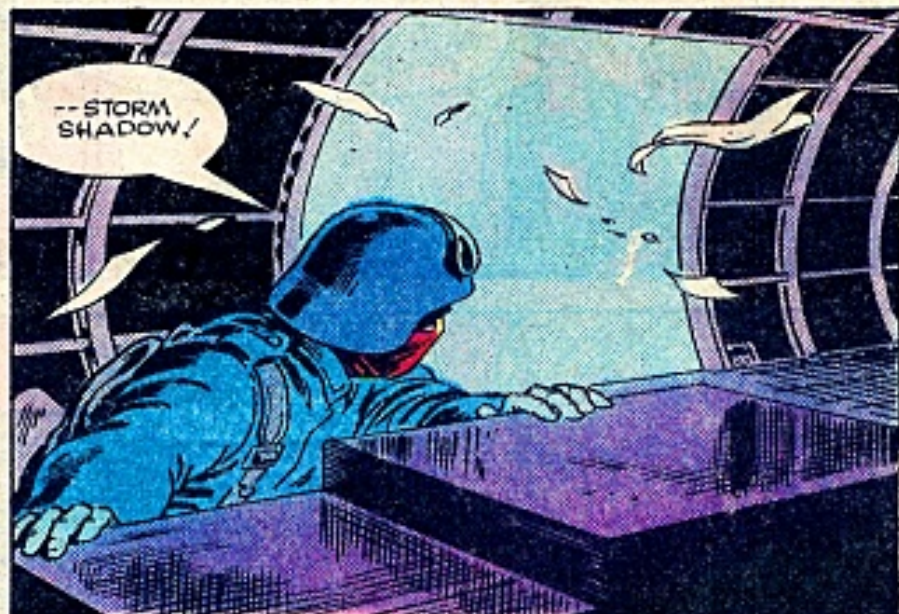
-- PLOT OUT THE ENHANCED IMAGE IN GEODESIC SECTIONAL QUADRANTS AND ROTATE 180 DEGREES TO A VERTICAL PLANE.



AH, SWEET SCIENCE... A BOON TO VILLAINY THOU ART!



THE LATEST READOUTS SHOW THAT OUR PRESENT LOCATION IS ONLY TEN MILES FROM THAT PLATEAU. WE COULD--



-- STORM SHADOW!



DON'T BE ALARMED. IT IS BUT THE VOICE OF YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT, STORM SHADOW. YOUR RESCUE IS IMMINENT BUT YOU YOURSELF MUST CLEAR THE WAY.

EVERYBODY ANTE UP ONE B-2 UNIT. THE NAME OF THE GAME IS FIVE CARD PROGRESSIVE, JACKS OR BETTER.



FIND A WAY TO GET OUTSIDE-- IN THE OPEN...

IT'S VERY STUFFY IN HERE...I'D LIKE TO GO OUTSIDE...

I'M OUT.

I OPEN FOR TWO CHOCOLATE BARS.

TOO RICH FOR ME.

I'LL SEE YOU AND RAISE A HAM AND LIMA. GRUNT AND ROCK'N ROLL. GRAB YOUR WEAPONS AND ESCORT THE PRISONER ON HIS CONSTITUTIONAL.



O.K. I CALL. WHAT'CHOO GOT?

IF HE MAKES A RUN FOR IT, DO SOMETHING PAINFUL IN 7.62 mm NATO TO HIS LEFT KNEE-CAP.

I GOT A BOAT. LOW AND HARD. DEUCE'S OVER BULLETS. LEMME SEE YOUR OPENERS...

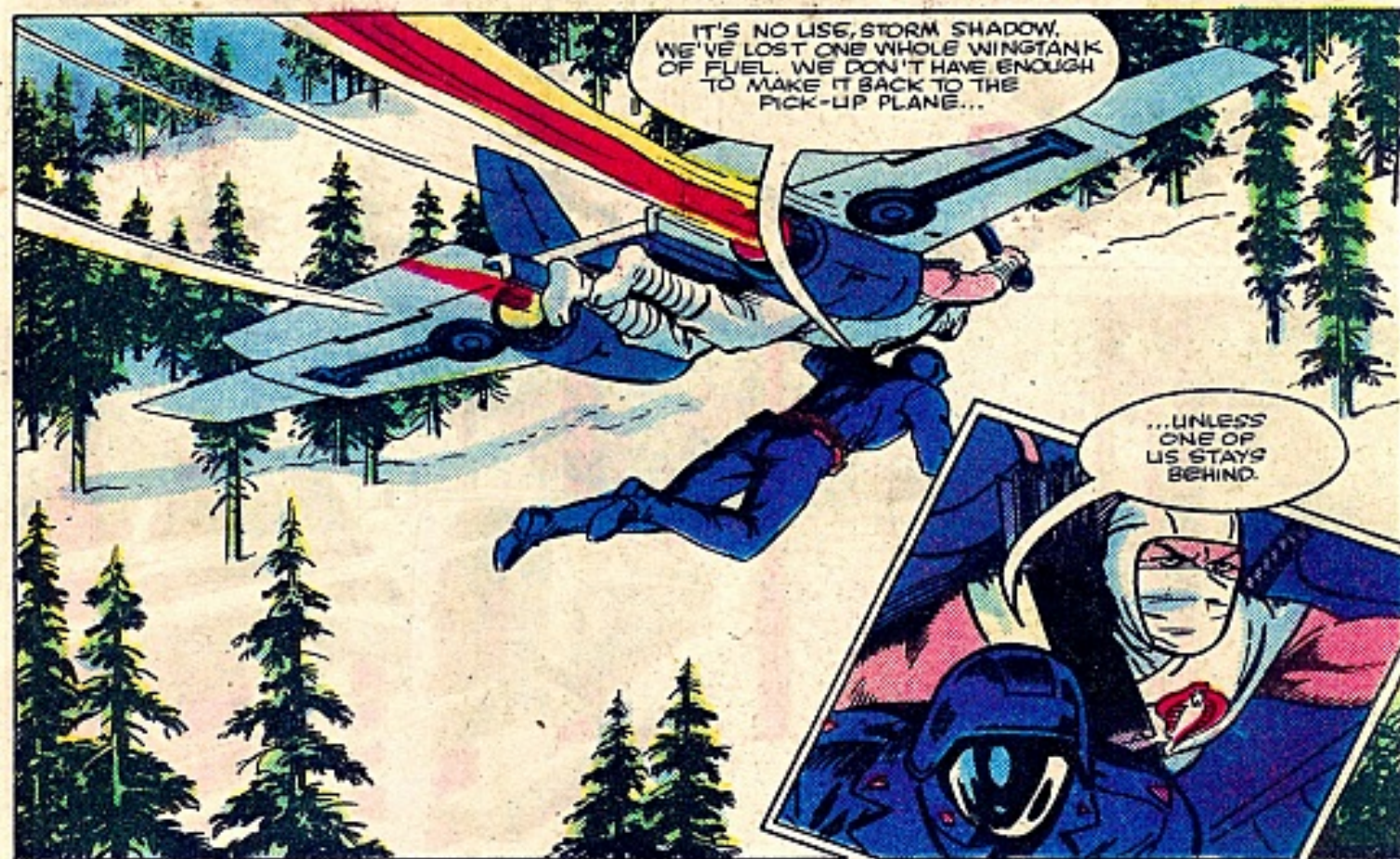


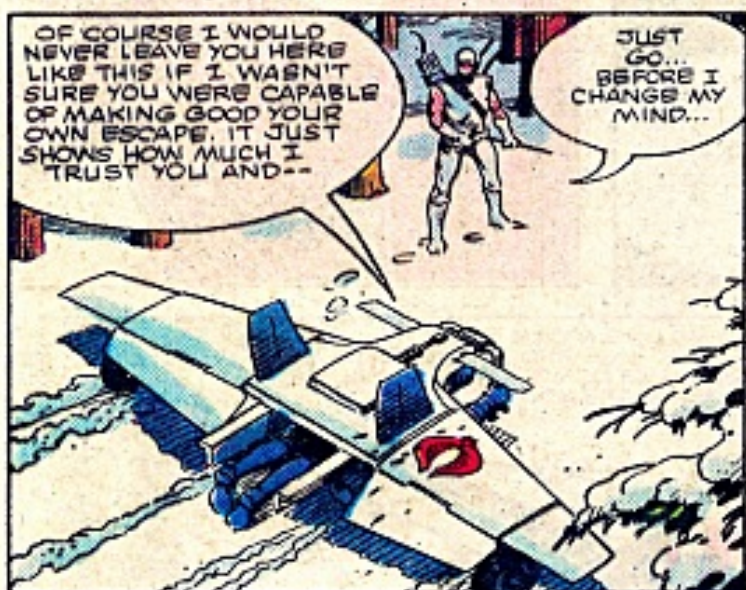
WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT I GOT.

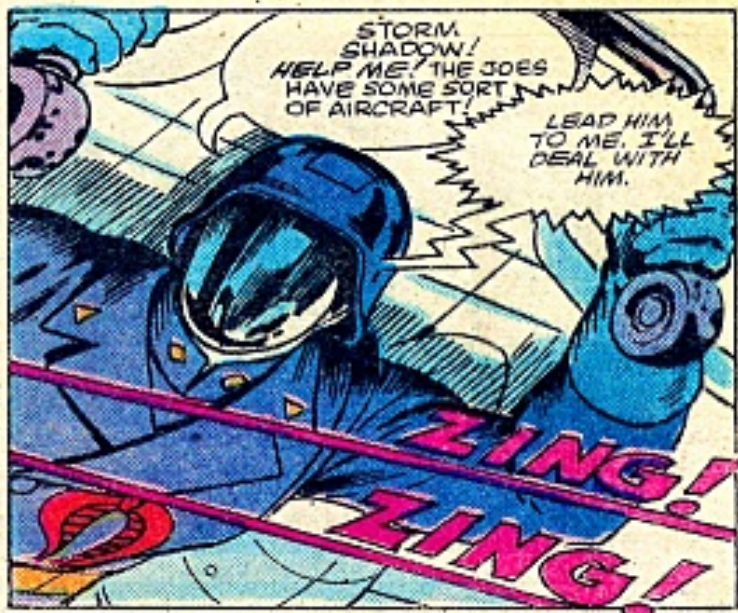
A PAIR OF JACKS. WHERE'D YOU LEARN HOW TO PLAY FOKER, IN THE MARINES?

DON'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION.



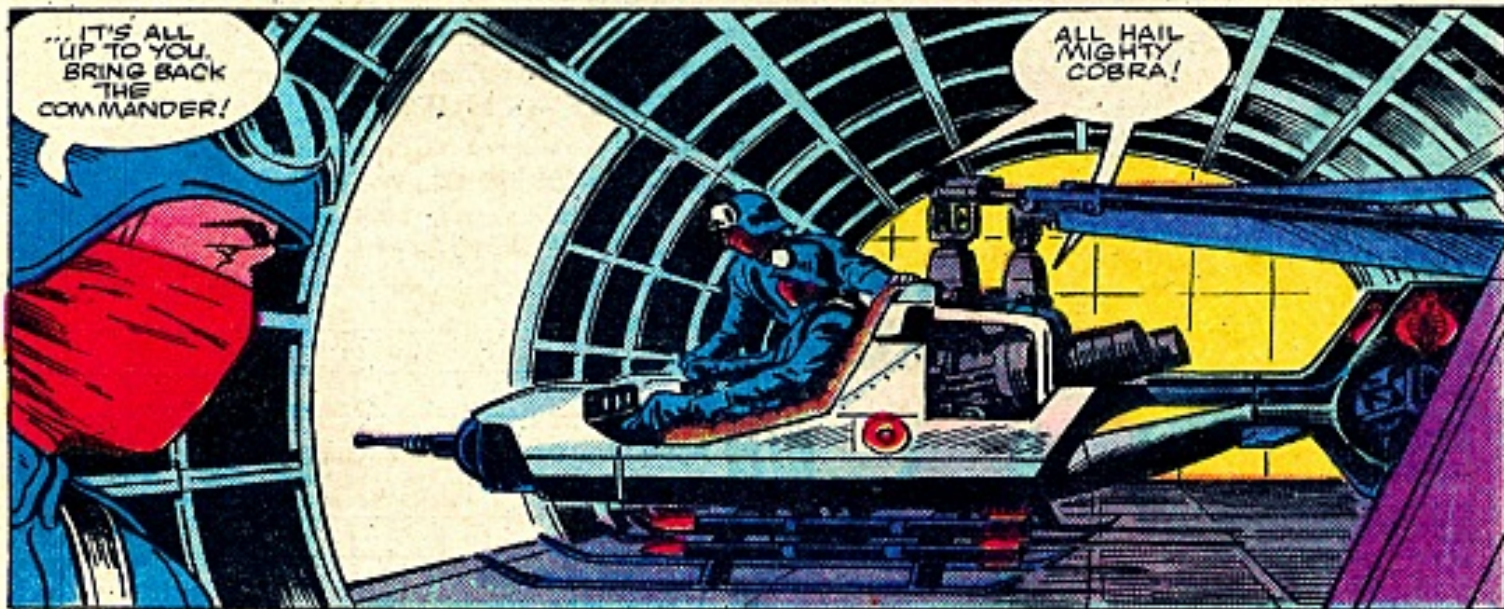


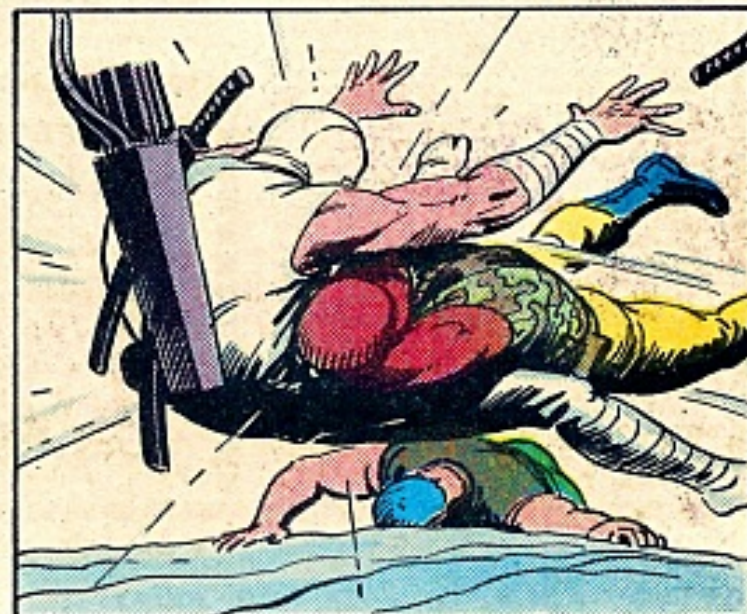


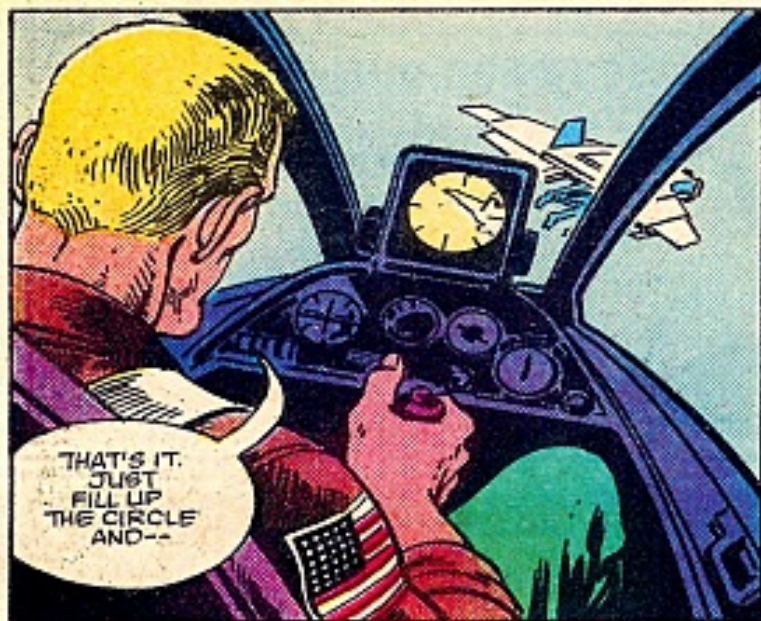




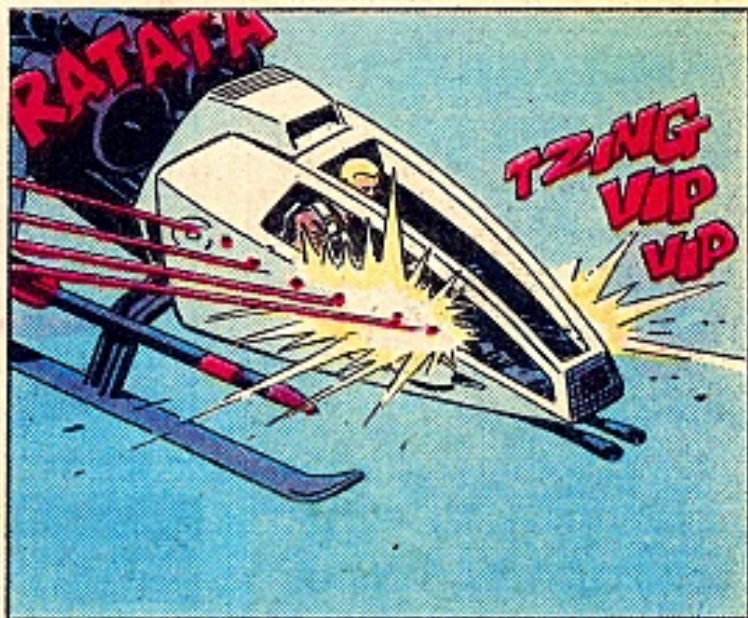








THAT'S IT.  
JUST  
FILL UP  
THE CIRCLE  
AND--



F.A.N.G.  
COPTERS!  
THEY'VE NEVER  
SEEN A G.I. JOE  
SKY-HAWK IN  
ACTION  
BEFORE!

THEY  
DON'T  
KNOW IT  
CAN DO--

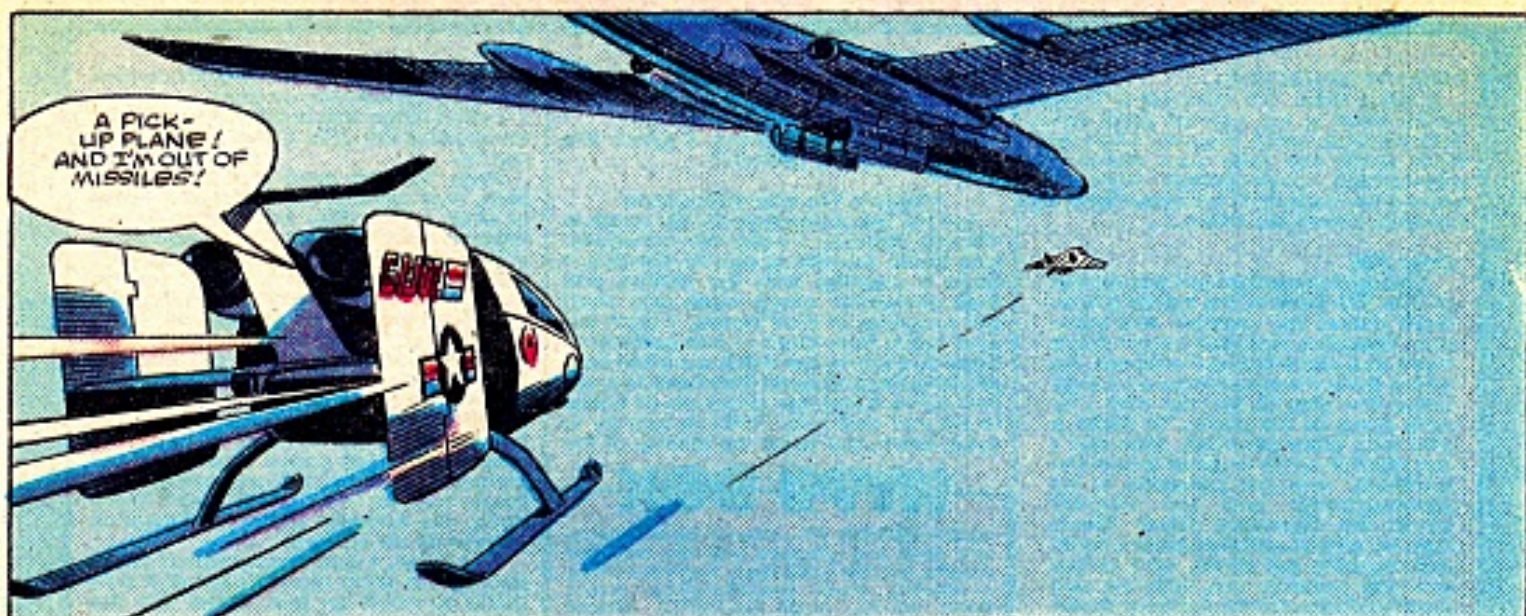


NOW WHERE  
DID COBRA  
COMMANDER  
GO OFF TO?



KA BOOOM

BLAAM



A PICK-UP PLANE!  
AND I'M OUT OF  
MISSILES!



I HAVE TO GET  
CLOSE ENOUGH TO  
USE MY MACHINE  
GUNS!



WELL, IF  
I CAN'T SHOOT  
THE LITTLE ONE,  
I MIGHT AS WELL  
TAKE A SHOT AT  
THE BIG ONE!



NOW  
THERE GOES  
A CLASSIC  
FISHIN'  
STORY...



"I ALMOST  
HAD THE LITTLE  
ONE WHEN THE  
BIG ONE CAME  
ALONG AND SWAL-  
LOWED IT WHOLE  
AND SWAM  
AWAY!"





**NEXT  
ISSUE**

THE  
STRANGEST,  
DEADLIEST  
FOE  
THE JOES  
HAVE  
EVER  
FACED... THE  
INCREDIBLE...

**ZARTAN!**

# POSTBOX: THE P.W.V.

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

DENNY O'NEIL  
EDITOR  
LINDA GRANT  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Denny and Linda:

G.I. JOE #21 was great. The plot was awesome, and I was glad to see that Scarlett could take care of herself after she was captured. Also, I thought the cover was the best since issue #1.

Please keep Larry Hama and Steve Leialoha and the rest of the crew on this book — their work is super. Issue #21 has my vote for best comic book of the year.

Craig Sarver  
Arcanum, OH 45304

Guess we can't ask for more than that; Craig! By the way, the cover for #21 was rendered by Ed Hannigan and Klaus Janson — and we hope they'll do another for us sometime soon! As for G.I. JOE's creative team, Larry Hama, the permanent writer, has been working with a couple of special guest artists — including Russ Heath, who penciled and inked this issue, and Frank Springer who's currently working on #25. Not only that, but Larry and Steve Leialoha will team up once again for #26.

Dear Joes:

Wow! G.I. JOE #21 was excellent! I loved the artwork, and the idea of not having words was great. The ninja warrior, Storm Shadow, was really neat. I hope we see more of him soon.

What is the connection between Snake-Eyes and Storm Shadow? What is the meaning of the identical mark they have on their arms? I can't wait to find out.

Patrick Carroll  
Chicago, IL 60657

You'll have to wait, Patrick — but just until issue #26 when we'll delve into Snake-Eyes' background and his link to Storm Shadow.

Dear Denny:

I like any story with Scarlett, especially one that furthers her relationship with Snake-Eyes. I've never seen a comic book without words before. Despite #21's lack of prose, I was able to understand the story with very little difficulty. However... never do it again!!

Storm Shadow must be quite a warrior if he managed to capture Scarlett single-handedly. I look forward to meeting him again.

First Major Bludd, then Storm Shadow — Cobra is hiring a lot of mercenaries and freelancers lately.

Susan M. Murrin  
San Diego, CA 92111

Right, Susan, and they've just enlisted the services of Zartan and the Dreadnoks — some strange characters you'll learn more about in upcoming issues.

Dear Joes:

Issue #21 was sensational. It made me realize that words don't make a comic. The artwork by Larry Hama and Steve Leialoha was beautiful.

I enjoyed all the ninjas. Now I have two questions:

1. Will there be a figure of Storm Shadow?

2. Will you later explain the marks on Snake-Eyes and Storm Shadow's arms?

Russell Yocum  
Vine Grove, KY 40175

Thanks for the kind words, Russell. The answer to both questions is "Yes."

Dear Joes:

If there was ever anything delectable to my taste, G.I. JOE #21 has got to be it. "Silent Interlude" was a perfect title for the story because there wasn't any narration or any dialogue. Thanks, Larry Hama, for a great story and terrific art! If anyone can tell a story with just pictures and no dialogue, it has to be you!

I like the part in the story on page 17 where Snake-Eyes throws a grenade at a ninja. I would like to see more of Storm Shadow and his nasty ninjas in future issues.

John Fericano  
Yreka, CA 96097

Dear Soldiers:

G.I. JOE #21 was the most powerfully moving story I've ever "read." It had everything: drama, action, romance, humor and mystery — the matching symbols on Snake-Eyes and Storm Shadow's arms. Speaking of Storm Shadow, he's the best villain in G.I. JOE yet. This issue was the best of G.I. JOE. Keep up the good work.

Anthony Padilla  
Stillwater, MN

Dear Denny and Linda:

Your latest edition of G.I. JOE, #21, has captured my heart. Your fantastic cover gave me every reason to flip open the cover and quickly peer inside. I soon found out why #21 is called "Silent Interlude" — no sound effects, no dialogue. A nice touch guys (and gals). The artwork was beautiful.

The comic showed the resourcefulness of both Scarlett and Snake-Eyes. For example, Scarlett used a bobby pin to pick open her shackles, and Snake-Eyes disguised himself and tricked Destro into thinking he was a Cobra. The ninjas' weapons were displayed fantastically. The ending was a classic. When Scarlett was flying over Snake-Eyes and she noticed Storm Shadow appear in the doorway, you could really see her expression change from one of joy to fear.

Scott Yamada  
No Address

Thanks, Scott. Although this month's mailbag was bursting with letters similar to yours, there were also some from less satisfied customers...

Dear Marvel:

I have never written to a comic before, and I wish I didn't have to write this letter. G.I. JOE #21, "Silent Interlude," stinks! I read it too quickly. It only took me five minutes! What happened?

Sorry if I seem harsh. I know you will do better next issue.

Bill Davis  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

We hope subsequent issues have been more to your liking, Bill. Let us know, okay? Now let's take a look at a mixed review...

Dear Joes:

I just read G.I. JOE #21 and it was great. But, I believe I would have enjoyed it more if there had been words. What happened? Did your letterer go on vacation? Still, it was great anyway.

Carlos de los Rios  
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

Dear Joes:

I've been collecting G.I. JOE since the first issue. Every one has been superb, except issue #21. It could have been one of the best issues, if it had some dialogue. Please never make another issue like that again. By the way, I'm thrilled that Duke will make his debut next issue.

Seth Kusher  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Dear Denny, Larry, Linda and Steve:

G.I. JOE #21 was just as its cover stated: "The most unusual G.I. JOE story ever!" I was so awestruck by this issue that I was compelled to write this letter. The artwork was some of the best (if not the best) I have seen on this title. "Silent Interlude" is also a sterling example of excellent storytelling in action. This was the first time I've been exposed to Larry Hama's art (which seemed enhanced by Steve Leialoha's inks). I hope he will pencil again — as often as he can possibly afford to.

I was very pleased with Storm Shadow's exciting debut, and even more so with the knowledge that he will be appearing regularly in G.I. JOE. He is a character that I am eager to watch develop. All in all, this is a job well done. The future seems very bright indeed.

Tramayne Miller  
Brooklyn, NY 11221

NEXT: ZARTANI

A NEW GENERATION  
OF SUPER-HEROES —  
FOR READERS OF  
ALL GENERATIONS!

BY LOUISE SIMONSON,  
JUNE BRIGMAN AND  
BOB WIACEK

ON  
SALE  
MAY 1







**DARTH\_SCANNER**  
DARTH\_SCANNER



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