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The Daimler Fighting Vehicles Project – Part Hb  
Oddities – Commando magazines

Commando picture stories for boys first broke cover in 1961 is still published.

These are probably familiar to every man in the UK over the age of 40 and featured in gripping 'boys own style' the adventures and heroics of those chaps who fought for us.

There were other magazines that were similar 'Battle', Air ace, Combat & War (picture library) but to my knowledge Commando was the only one to feature Daimlers

I remember excitedly awaiting for the second Wednesday and last Wednesday of each month to get the next edition.....

I attach some covers for there artwork and a complete publication for your enjoyment, these were last published many years ago.....

If any one comes across 'Sergeants don't cry' please let me know.



Cover illustration from the boys magazine 'Commando' published 1998





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Cover illustration from the boys magazine 'Commando' published 1973





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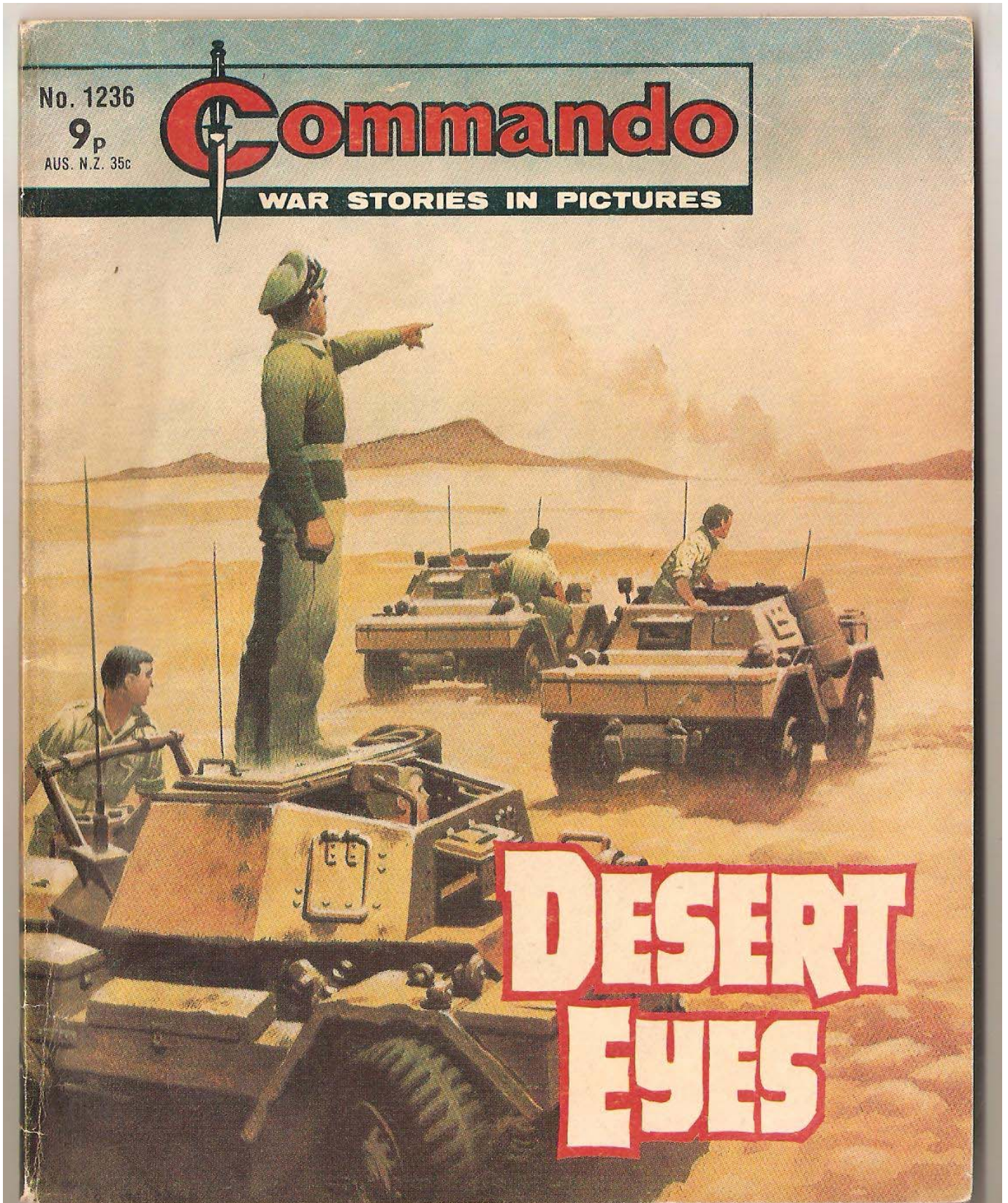


Cover illustration from the boys magazine 'Commando' published 1985





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Cover illustration from the boys magazine 'Commando' published 1978



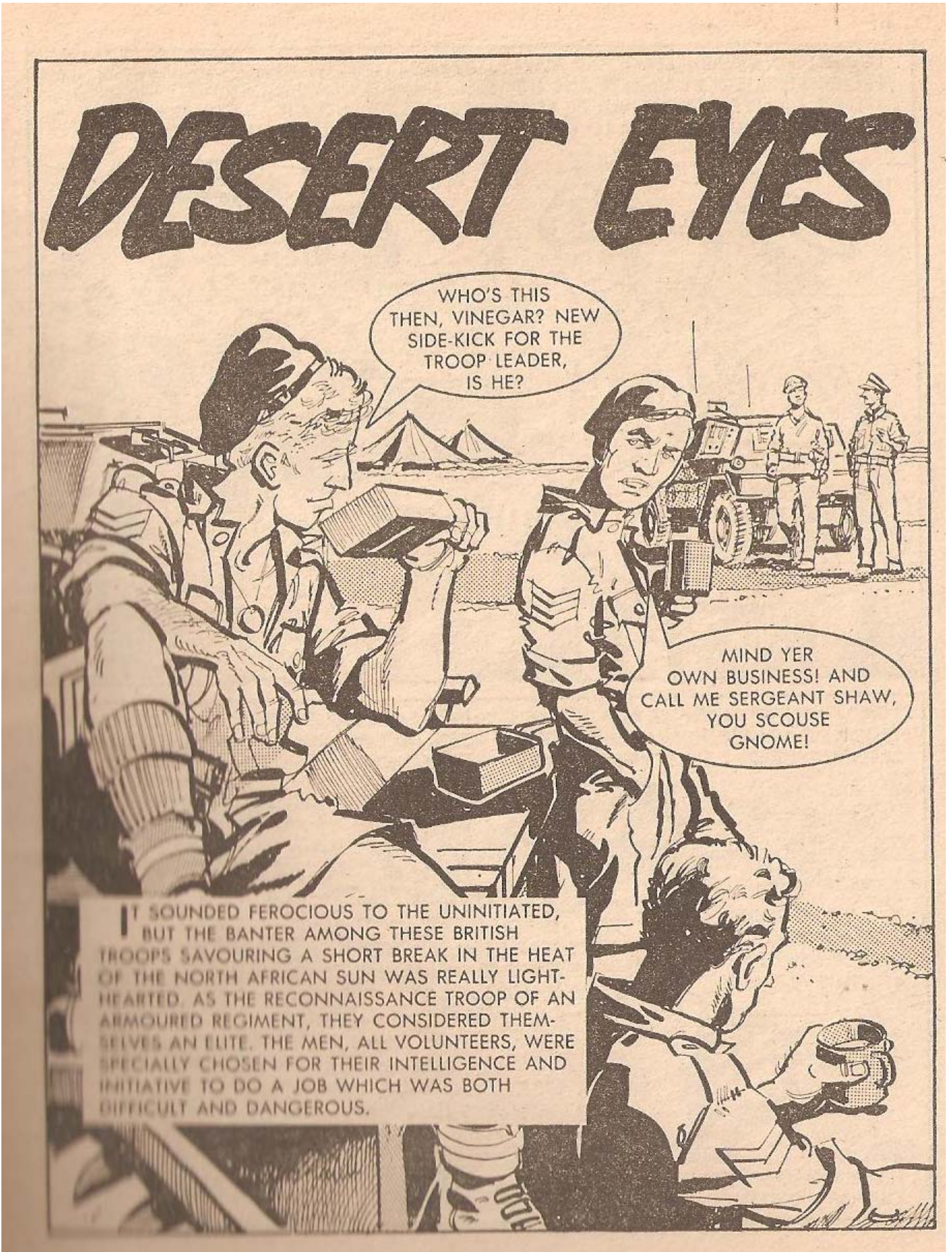


# DESERT EYES

WHO'S THIS  
THEN, VINEGAR? NEW  
SIDE-KICK FOR THE  
TROOP LEADER,  
IS HE?

MIND YER  
OWN BUSINESS! AND  
CALL ME SERGEANT SHAW,  
YOU SCOUSE  
GNOME!

IT SOUNDED FEROCIOUS TO THE UNINITIATED, BUT THE BANTER AMONG THESE BRITISH TROOPS SAVOURING A SHORT BREAK IN THE HEAT OF THE NORTH AFRICAN SUN WAS REALLY LIGHT-HEARTED. AS THE RECONNAISSANCE TROOP OF AN ARMOURD REGIMENT, THEY CONSIDERED THEMSELVES AN ELITE. THE MEN, ALL VOLUNTEERS, WERE SPECIALLY CHOSEN FOR THEIR INTELLIGENCE AND INITIATIVE TO DO A JOB WHICH WAS BOTH DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS.







LIEUTENANT ANDREW BLAKE HAD ALWAYS WANTED TO SERVE IN ARMoured CARS, PREFERABLY THE BIG DAIMLERS AND HUMBERS, AND HIS NEW TROOP'S LITTLE DINGOES WERE A DISAPPOINTMENT. BUT HE TRIED HARD NOT TO SHOW IT AS CAPTAIN MIKE FITZHUGH INTRODUCED HIM TO TWO OF THE OTHER CAR COMMANDERS.



SERGEANT JONES, SERGEANT SHAW, MEET MISTER BLAKE. HE'LL BE DRIVING FOR ME UNTIL HE GETS THE HANG OF THINGS.

RIGHT, SIR! GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US, MISTER BLAKE. YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT WITH CAPTAIN FITZHUGH, DON'T WORRY.

TOM "VINEGAR" SHAW DID NOT LIKE TO HAVE INEXPERIENCED OFFICERS SERVING WITH THE TROOP. AS ALWAYS, HE WAS NOT SLOW TO VOICE HIS OPINIONS, AND TOLD FELLOW SERGEANT HARRY "BIG JONESY" JONES WHAT HE THOUGHT.



WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CARRY HIM FOR MONTHS BEFORE HE'S ANY USE!

IF YOU DON'T LIKE HIM, HE SHOULD BE OK! RIGHT, JONESY?

YOU KEEP OUT OF THIS! GIVE THE LAD A CHANCE, VINEGAR—HE'S HARDLY GOT HIS PACK OFF YET!

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY CORPORAL SAM "SCOUSE" MITCHELL COULDN'T HELP BUT TAKE A RISE OUT OF THE SERIOUS SERGEANT.

MEANWHILE ANDREW WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE WAY MIKE TOOK AN INTEREST IN THE WELFARE OF ALL HIS MEN, AND WHEN THEY STOPPED BY CORPORAL "PADDY" RYAN'S CAR—



WHAT'S THE NEWS FROM HOME, CORPORAL RYAN? ALL WELL, I HOPE.

YES, SIR! ALL'S WELL, THANK YOU!

ALSO, THE CAPTAIN HAD THE DETAILS OF THE TROOP'S DAILY LIFE AT HIS FINGERTIPS, INCLUDING THE VARIOUS VEHICLE BREAKDOWNS, AS ANDREW FOUND OUT WHEN THEY MET MIKE'S DRIVER, CORPORAL "SMILER" WARD.



THANK YOU, CORPORAL. WHAT'S THE LATEST ON ZERO FIVE?

BROUGHT HER OUT OF THE WORKSHOP THIS MORNING, SIR, NEEDED A NEW SUPPRESSOR BOX, THAT'S ALL.

THE NEXT DAY HE TOOK ANDREW ON AN EXERCISE WHICH SHOWED HIM THE SMOOTH EFFICIENCY OF THE LITTLE UNIT.



CONTACT! GRID THREE-NINE-EIGHT, FOUR-THREE-TWO, ONE ARMoured CAR, HALTED! AM OBSERVING, OVER.

THREE-TWO, ROGER, WELL DONE! BUT GET OFF THAT CREST—YOU LOOK LIKE A PEAS ON A BALD MAN'S HEAD!

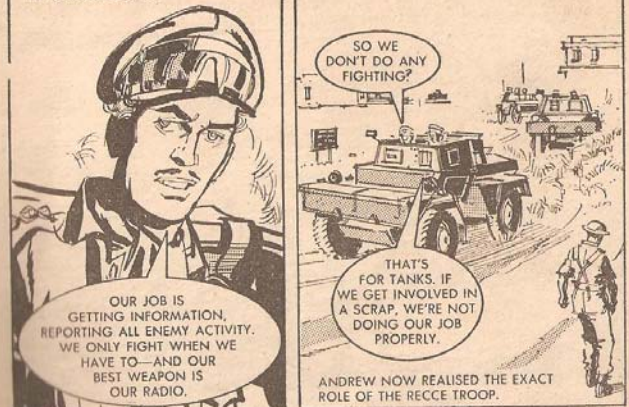
THOUGH THE EXERCISE WENT WELL ONE THING BOTHERED ANDREW—THE DINGOES WERE ALMOST DEFENCELESS, THEIR ONLY ARMAMENT BEING A SINGLE BREN GUN.



THEY HAVEN'T GIVEN US MUCH TO FIGHT WITH.

WE'RE THE REGIMENT'S EYES AND EARS—WE TELL THE COLONEL WHAT'S GOING ON IN FRONT AND ON THE FLANKS.

HE CONTINUED...



OUR JOB IS GETTING INFORMATION, REPORTING ALL ENEMY ACTIVITY. WE ONLY FIGHT WHEN WE HAVE TO—AND OUR BEST WEAPON IS OUR RADIO.

SO WE DON'T DO ANY FIGHTING?

THAT'S FOR TANKS. IF WE GET INVOLVED IN A SCRAP, WE'RE NOT DOING OUR JOB PROPERLY.

ANDREW NOW REALISED THE EXACT ROLE OF THE RECCE TROOP.

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE WOULD GET HIS FIRST TASTE OF ACTION, FOR THE REGIMENT WAS MOVED UP INTO THE LINE, AS USUAL, THE LITTLE DINGOES RACED AHEAD OF THE COLUMN OF SHERMAN TANKS TO SEEK OUT THE ENEMY.



HERE WE GO! LET'S HOPE WE CAN SPOT SOMETHING FOR THOSE CHAPS.





8

THAT NIGHT, THE TANKS HAD TO PASS THROUGH A NARROW GAP IN THE DENSE MINEFIELDS AND ENGAGE THE ENEMY'S ARMOUR. DUST AND DARKNESS MADE THE MOVE DIFFICULT, BUT MIKE AND HIS MEN SAW THEM SAFELY THROUGH.

HELLO NINE, THIS IS FOUR. THE LAST UNITS ARE COMING THROUGH NOW. I'M MOVING OUT IN FRONT, OVER!

FOUR, ROGER. KEEP ME POSTED, SIR. OUT!

THESE SHORT, TERSE MESSAGES WERE ALL THAT THE HIGHLY-TRAINED DINGO CREWS NEEDED.

LIFE WAS NEVER DULL. AT DAWN THE NEXT MORNING THEY WATCHED THE ENEMY TANKS MASSING FOR A COUNTER-ATTACK. MIKE RADIOED THIS INFORMATION TO THE AWAITING SHERMANS.

CONTACT—MASSSED ENEMY TANKS MOVING ON MY POSITION, OVER.

ROGER, FOUR! STEP ASIDE, WE'RE COMING TO GET THEM!

9

WITH PRACTISED EASE, THE DINGO SECTIONS MOVED ONTO THE REGIMENT'S FLANKS.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL REPORT ANY ATTEMPT TO WORK ROUND US!

THE FIGHTING LASTED THROUGHOUT THE DAY, WITH HEAVY CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES, BUT WHEREAS THE BRITISH COULD REPLACE LOST TANKS, THE GERMANS COULD NOT, AND FOR THEM THE BATTLE WAS A DISASTER.

AAGH!

GOT HIM!

10

ONLY WHEN NIGHT BEGAN TO FALL DID THE FIGHTING CEASE. BOTH SIDES WITHDREW THEIR SURVIVING MACHINES.

DISENGAGE AND RETURN TO BASE.

THOUGH THE LITTLE DINGOES HAD TAKEN NO PART IN THE FIGHTING, THEIR CREWS HAD KEPT THE REGIMENT INFORMED OF THE ENEMY'S ACTIVITIES.

AND NOW, AS THEY WATCHED THE RETREAT, THEY REALISED THAT THE WEARY TANK CREWS WERE HEADING STRAIGHT INTO THE MINEFIELD. LUCKILY MIKE SEEMED TO HAVE AN INSTINCTIVE GRASP OF THE SITUATION.

YOU'RE HEADING INTO THE MINEFIELD. HALT AND WE'LL GUIDE YOU THROUGH IT.

11

SPEEDING TO THE TANK'S AID, ANDREW REALISED HOW MUCH RESPONSIBILITY MIKE HAD.

THE OTHER DINGOES LOST NO TIME IN ROUNDING UP ANY STRAGGLERS.

HEAD DUE NORTH FOR ONE MILE—THE CAPTAIN WILL GUIDE YOU IN.

THANKS—IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU AROUND!

WE COULD HAVE LOST HALF OUR TANKS BUT FOR HIM—I'LL BE HAPPY IF I'M HALF AS GOOD.

SOON THE REGIMENT WAS STREAMING BACK SMOOTHLY THROUGH THE GAP, SHEPHERDED BY SCOUT CARS AND AMID A SCREAMING BARRAGE OF ENEMY SHELLS.

GOOD JOB, MIKE! JERRY SEEMS NERVED ABOUT US GETTING AWAY, THOUGH.

SEEMS TO BE FINDING THE RANGE, TOO, COLONEL!





12

ONLY WHEN MIKE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE LAST OF THE TANKS HAD WITHDRAWN DID HE LEAVE THE EXPOSED POSITION.

I COULD CERTAINLY USE A LITTLE SHUT-EYE!

RECKON YOU'VE EARNED IT—I'LL SEE TO THE PETROL AND AMMO REPLENISHMENT.

IN THE NEXT FORTNIGHT THE DINGOES WERE KEPT BUSY SCOUTING, AS TIME AND TIME AGAIN THE BRITISH AND GERMAN TANKS MET IN SAVAGE COMBAT. BUT SOON THE GERMANS FELL BACK.

WHAT A MESS! OUR BOYS REALLY GAVE THE JERRIES A POUNDING.

YEAH, BUT WE'D BETTER FIND OUT WHERE THE REST OF THEM ARE HIDING OR THEY'LL DO THE SAME TO US.

13

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE VINEGAR FOUND SOME OF THEM—A SMALL REARGUARD SECTION PREPARING TO RETREAT. HE QUICKLY INFORMED THE TANKS—

THEY'VE HITCHED UP THE EIGHTY-EIGHTS AND THEY'RE MOVING OFF, OVER.

WE'LL DEAL WITH THEM BEFORE THEY CAN UNHITCH THEM AGAIN!

WITHIN MINUTES, FOUR SHERMANS WERE AT THE SCENE, READY TO DO BATTLE. ONE SHOT QUICKLY PUT AN ESCORTING ARMoured CAR OUT OF ACTION.

RETREAT! OUR CARS WILL BE SMASHED!

THAT'S ONE DOWN.

14

THOUGH THE REMAINING CARS SPED OFF, THE GERMANS TRIED TO MAN THEIR 88mm GUNS—BUT IN VAIN.

AAGH!

THANKS TO VINEGAR'S QUICK ACTION IN REPORTING HIS SIGHTING, TWO OF THE ENEMY'S BEST TANK-KILLERS WERE DESTROYED.

BY NOW, MIKE HAD ENTRUSTED ANDREW WITH THE COMMAND OF A SECTION, AND THE YOUNG OFFICER BEGAN TO ENJOY HIMSELF AS HE CAPTURED A SMALL CONVOY BOGGED DOWN BY THE SOFT SAND.

HEY—THESE ARE THE FIRST JERRY PRISONERS I'VE EVER SEEN!

WELL, I HOPE YOU'LL SEE A LOT MORE, SIR!

FOR "COSHER" WILKINS, ANDREW'S DRIVER, THINGS SEEMED TO BE GOING SMOOTHLY.

15

THE TROOP'S RUN OF GOOD LUCK DID NOT LAST, HOWEVER. ON A ROUTINE PATROL, MIKE'S DINGO STRUCK AN ANTI-TANK MINE AND THE LITTLE VEHICLE WAS FLUNG ON ITS SIDE.

AAGHH!

THE OTHER SCOUT CAR ON PATROL QUICKLY RADIOED FOR ASSISTANCE.

MIKE'S DRIVER, SAMLER WARD, WAS UNHURT BUT THE TROOP LEADER NEEDED HOSPITAL TREATMENT. THE REST OF THE CAR COMMANDERS WERE WORRIED AS THEY QUESTIONED THE MEDICAL OFFICER.

WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT, SIR?

HE'S GOT A BROKEN LEG AND CONCUSSION. I'M AFRAID YOU'VE LOST HIM FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS.





16

WHEN THE RECONNAISSANCE TROOP ARRIVED BACK AT H.Q., THE C.O., COLONEL MILLER, SENT FOR ANDREW ALMOST AT ONCE. HE CAME STRAIGHT TO THE POINT—

USUALLY YOU WOULD BE CONSIDERED TOO JUNIOR TO COMMAND A RECCE TROOP. BUT I AM VERY SHORT OF OFFICERS, SO YOU WILL HAVE TO CARRY ON ON YOUR OWN.

YES, SIR!

THE C.O. CONTINUED.

YOU'VE BEEN WITH MIKE FOR SOME TIME NOW SO YOU SHOULD KNOW THE JOB. BUT I CAN MAKE NO ALLOWANCES.

I'LL DO MY BEST, SIR!

ANDREW FELT ALMOST CRUSHED BY HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITY.

SOMEHOW I'VE GOT TO MANAGE—I MUSTN'T LET MIKE DOWN!

17

BUT WHEN HE TOLD JONESY AND VINEGAR, IT WAS OBVIOUS THEY WERE NOT HAPPY WITH THE NEWS.

I'LL NEED ALL THE HELP YOU TWO CAN GIVE ME.

RIGHT, SIR. WITH LUCK YOU WON'T BE ON YOUR OWN FOR LONG—THE C.O. WILL REPLACE CAPTAIN FITZHUGH AS SOON AS HE CAN.

MEANWHILE, SIR, IF YOU FOLLOW THE CAPTAIN'S METHODS...

THERE WAS A DEFINITE LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THEIR VOICES.

AND IT SEEMED THAT THEY WERE NOT THE ONLY TWO, FOR WHEN VINEGAR TOLD PADDY RYAN OF THE NEWS HE SAID WHAT HE THOUGHT—LOUD ENOUGH FOR ANDREW TO OVERHEAR.

WHAT? BUT HE'S JUST A KID! WHAT DOES HE KNOW ABOUT THE GAME?

DON'T WORRY, SIR! VINEGAR AND PADDY ARE GOOD BLOKES—THEY JUST TAKE LIFE TOO SERIOUSLY!

BUT SCOUSE'S ENCOURAGING REMARKS COULDN'T CHEER UP THE YOUNG OFFICER.

18

AT DAWN THE NEXT DAY, ANDREW NERVOUSLY HELD HIS FIRST BRIEFING.

WE'RE TO ACT AS AN ADVANCED SCREEN FOR THE REGIMENT UNTIL WE CONTACT THE ENEMY. ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

NO QUESTIONS, SIR. THE JOB'S SECOND NATURE TO US!

LIKE BEING MISERABLE! SORRY, VINEGAR, DIDN'T MEAN IT!

THROUGHOUT THE MORNING THE TROOP PROBED FORWARD AS THEY HAD DONE SO MANY TIMES BEFORE. ONLY NOW IT WAS ANDREW IN CHARGE, AND HE WAS WORRIED.

I HOPE I DON'T MAKE A MESS OF THINGS. IF I DO, THE OTHERS WILL NEVER TRUST ME!

19

ALL WAS QUIET UNTIL ABOUT NOON, WHEN JONESY SPOTTED SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS.

CONTACT! FOUR ENEMY ARMOURD CARS DEAD AHEAD. AM OBSERVING, OVER.

THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY GOING ON. THEY'RE JUST SITTING OUT HERE AS THOUGH THEY WANT TO BE SEEN!

THAT WAS EXACTLY WHAT THE GERMANS INTENDED. FOR BEHIND THE ARMOURD CARS WERE SEVERAL 88-mm GUNS, READY FOR ACTION.

THE BRITISH SCOUT CARS HAVE HALTED! STRANGE THAT THEY ARE NOT WORKING ROUND US. LET US STIMULATE THEIR INTEREST A LITTLE!





ALL FOUR ENEMY CARS OPENED FIRE SIMULTANEOUSLY.

FEUER!

ANDREW WAS STILL TRYING TO THINK WHAT MIKE WOULD HAVE DONE WHEN THE FIRST SHELL EXPLODED.

WE MUSTN'T GET INVOLVED IN A SCRAP. SO WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE IT TO THE TANKS NOW!

AS SOON AS ANDREW REPORTED THE SITUATION, THE COLONEL DESPATCHED TANKS AT ONCE TO AID THE APPARENTLY HARD-PRESSED RECCE TROOP.

UNDER HEAVY FIRE FROM GERMAN ARMOUR—AM WITHDRAWING OVER!

ROGER, WE'LL DEAL WITH THIS.

WE SHOULD BE FINDING OUT WHAT'S BEHIND THOSE JERRY CARS—NOT PULLING OUT!

THE GERMAN TRAP WAS ABOUT TO BE SPRUNG, AS THE UNSUSPECTING SHERMANS CHASED THE ARMOURD CARS TO WHERE THE BIG GUNS WERE WAITING.

THE ENGLANDERS ARE FALLING FOR IT—THEY MUST BE NEW TO THE DESERT!

THE TANKS WERE LED RIGHT TO THE GERMAN GUNS WHICH OPENED FIRE, CLAIMING A VICTIM IMMEDIATELY.

IT'S AN AMBUSH—AND WE'VE JUST TODDLED INTO IT! REVERSE OUT AS FAST AS YOU CAN!

BUT BEFORE THEY COULD MAKE IT TO SAFETY, THEY SUSTAINED ANOTHER THREE CASUALTIES.

22

THE REGIMENT HAD LOST FOUR TANKS AND THEIR CREWS NEEDLESSLY—AND THE COLONEL WAS FURIOUS. WHEN HE SENT FOR ANDREW—

MEN KILLED—BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T DO YOUR JOB! YOU COULD HAVE WORKED ROUND THOSE JERRY CARS, AND IF YOU HAD, YOU'D HAVE SPOTTED THE GUNS.

BUT I THOUGHT...

THE COLONEL WAS IN NO MOOD TO LISTEN TO EXCUSES AND HE CUT THE YOUNG OFFICER SHORT.

YOU DIDN'T THINK YOUR JOB IS GETTING INFORMATION, AND IF THAT MEANS TAKING SOME RISKS, THEN YOU TAKE 'EM! GOT IT?

YES, SIR.

ANDREW WALKED AWAY A VERY UNHAPPY MAN.

23

THE TANK COMMANDERS WERE ALSO ANGRY, AND ONE OF THEM MADE CERTAIN THAT ANDREW HEARD HIS VOICE WHEN HE COMPLAINED BITTERLY TO JONESY.

YOU FELL DOWN ON THE JOB, SERGEANT JONES. I'VE LOST SOME GOOD MATES OUT THERE!

ALL RIGHT, YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT. WE KNOW WHAT WENT WRONG, SO JUST PUSH OFF, WILL YOU?

ANDREW KNEW THAT HE HAD TARNISHED THE TROOP'S GOOD RECORD, AND FOR A TIME HE FELT THE LONELIEST MAN IN THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE OVERHEARD HIS OTHER CAR COMMANDERS TALKING.

HE WAS BIGHT, JONESY, WE FOULED THINGS UP.

YEAH, WE DID JUST WHAT JERRY WANTED!

THAT'S ENOUGH! DON'T YOU TWO EVER MAKE MISTAKES? NOW GET BACK TO YOUR SECTIONS!

IT SEEMED ONLY JONESY REALISED IT HAD ALL BEEN A MISTAKE.





24

AND NOT EVEN SCOUSE'S IRREPRESSIBLE HUMOUR COULD PENETRATE ANDREW'S GLOOM.

DID YOU KNOW VINEGAR'S WRITING A BOOK? IT'S CALLED 'HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS QUICKLY'!

I'LL MURDER YOU, YOU LITTLE RUNT!

THEY'RE A GOOD TEAM, BUT I JUST DON'T FIT IN WITH THEM.

HE WASN'T GIVEN MUCH TIME TO BROOD. HOWEVER, FOR THE TROOP WAS SOON SENT FORWARD TO SCOUT AROUND A VILLAGE ON THE TUNISIAN FRONTIER. ANDREW GAVE HIS ORDERS AS THEY STOPPED JUST OUTSIDE.

IT LOOKS QUIET ENOUGH. JONES, SKIRT THE VILLAGE TO THE RIGHT. SHAW, GO ROUND TO THE LEFT. I'LL TAKE THE MAIN STREET AND WE'LL MEET UP AT THE BRIDGE.

STUNG BY THE COLONEL'S EARLIER REBUKE, HE WAS NOW DELIBERATELY TAKING RISKS. IF THERE WERE ENEMY TROOPS IN THE VILLAGE, FIGHTING WOULD BE INEVITABLE.

25

AND THERE WERE GERMANS THERE, LYING IN WAIT AND READY TO SPRING AN AMBUSH.

WHEN THE CARS ARE INSIDE THE VILLAGE BLOCK THE ROAD BEHIND THEM!

JAWOHI!

AND AS THE TRAP WAS SPRUNG, ANDREW REALISED HOW FOOLISH HE HAD BEEN TO DRIVE STRAIGHT INTO THE VILLAGE.

SIR! LOOK OUT!

THEY'VE CUT US OFF! SPEED UP, WE'LL TRY AND GET OUT THE OTHER END OF THE STREET.

26

THE OPEN SCOUT CARS WERE DEATH TRAPS IF FIRED INTO FROM ABOVE. AND IN THE FIRST FEW SECONDS ONE BREWED UP.

GET THE MEN ON THE ROOFS!

AGHI!

AAHI!

SO FAR ANDREW'S PERFORMANCE AS A TROOP LEADER HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTING, LOSING TWO VEHICLES IN AS MANY MINUTES – BUT THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH HIS COURAGE.

LOOK, SIR! IT'S SCOUSE – HE'S CUT OFF!

WE'LL GO IN AND GET HIM THEN!

27

AT FULL SPEED THE LONE DINGO SPED BACK DOWN THE ROAD AMID A HAIL OF LEAD, ON A DESPERATE RESCUE ATTEMPT.

COME ON!

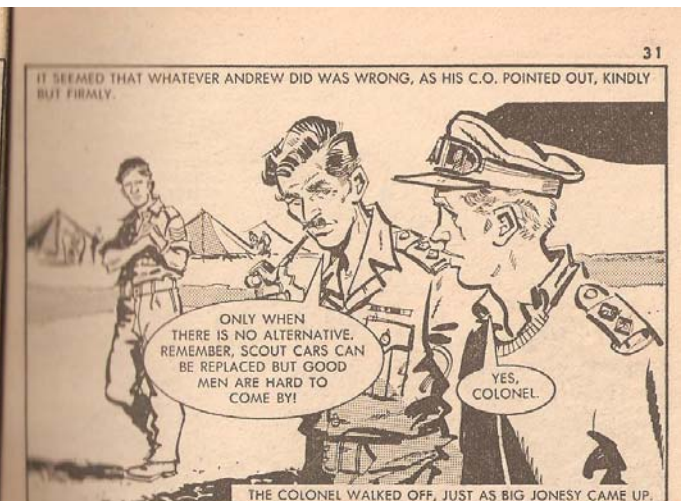
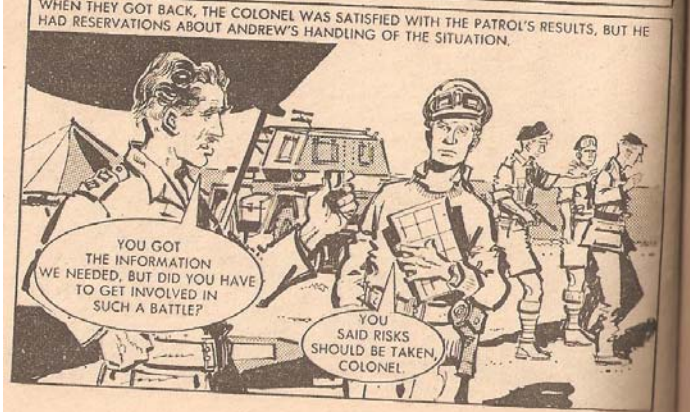
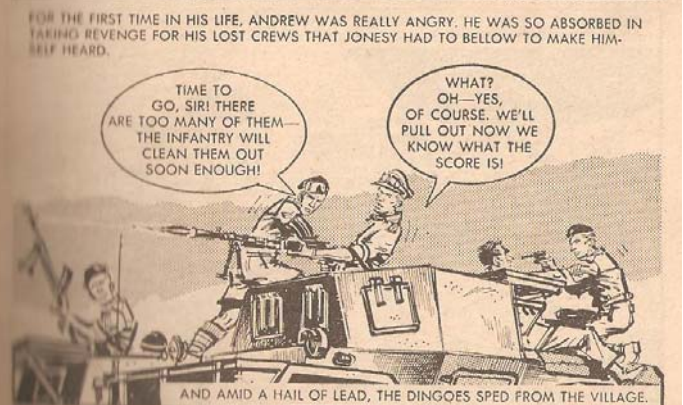
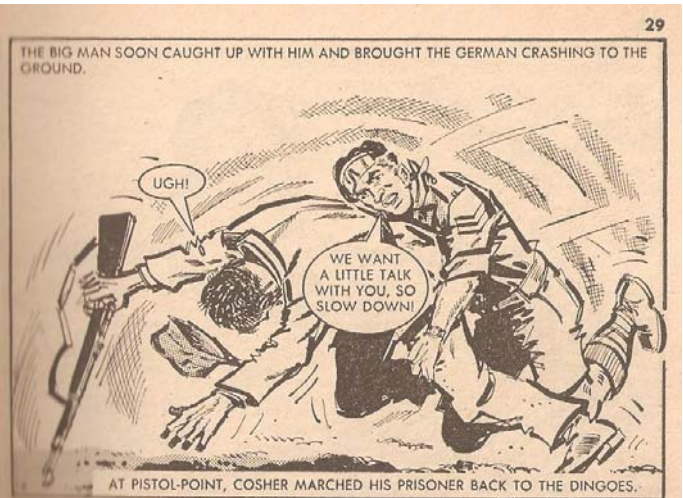
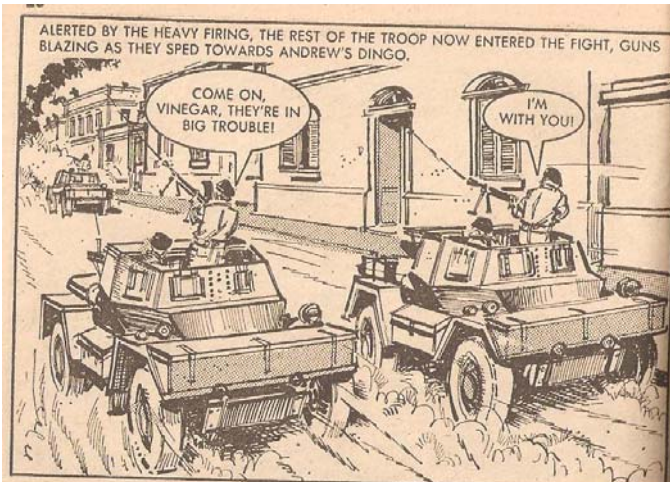
THANKS A LOT, SIR, I THOUGHT I'D HAD IT THEN.

THE DINGO COULD GO AS FAST IN REVERSE AS IT COULD FORWARD AND THIS UPSET THE GERMANS' PLANS.

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE WHILE WE'RE STILL IN ONE PIECE.

VERDAMMT! THEY ARE GETTING AWAY! THOSE LITTLE CARS CAN MOVE!









32

JONESY WAS RIGHT. THE MEN RESPECTED ANDREW'S COURAGE, BUT NOT HIS JUDGEMENT, AND THE TROOP'S PERFORMANCE BEGAN TO DETERIORATE AS THEY DELIBERATELY PLAYED IT SAFE.

SEE IF YOU CAN CROSS THE WADI AND GET UP ON THAT CREST.

NOTHING HEARD! MY SET IS PLAYING UP.

I'M TAKING NO MORE RISKS!

ANDREW KNEW THE WAY HIS MEN FELT AND SO IT WAS WITH THE GREATEST RELIEF THAT HE WELCOMED MIKE BACK TO THE TROOP A WEEK LATER.

HELLO, MIKE! WE WEREN'T EXPECTING YOU!

I GOT FED UP WITH HOSPITALS AND DECIDED TO PUSH OFF ON MY OWN!

WELCOME BACK, SIR!

IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT EVERYONE WAS GLAD TO SEE HIM.

33

BUT WHEN THEY WERE OUT OF EAR-SHOT OF THE REST OF THE MEN, MIKE TOLD ANDREW WHY HE HAD RETURNED SO SOON.

ACTUALLY, I CAME BACK BECAUSE I HEARD THINGS WERE GOING BADLY WRONG. HOW WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

I TRIED TO DO THINGS YOUR WAY, BUT THEY JUST DIDN'T WORK OUT SOMEHOW.

ANDREW EXPLAINED EVERYTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED SINCE MIKE'S INJURY.

SUPPOSE I'M JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

WELL, YOU WERE DROPPED IN AT THE DEEP END. BUT LET'S SEE HOW YOU GET ON NOW THAT I'M BACK.

MIKE HAD HINTED THAT ANDREW MIGHT NOT EVEN REMAIN IN THE TROOP, AND STANDING ALONE, AS THE MEN WELCOMED MIKE BACK, HE BROODED.

ALL IN ALL, I'VE MADE A RIGHT MESS. I'LL SOON BE POSTED TO ANOTHER OUTFIT, I BET.

34

THERE WAS LITTLE TIME FOR SELF-PITY, HOWEVER. THE REGIMENT WAS ON THE MOVE AGAIN, THRUSTING INTO TUNISIA. AND AS EVER, THE LITTLE DINGOES SHEPHERDED THE TANKS TO THEIR DESTINATION.

DON'T YOU LOT GET TIRED OF SHOWING US THE WAY?

WE'RE ONLY THE REARGUARD. THE REST OF THE TROOP'S ALREADY THERE!

AND IN THIS NEW SITUATION, MIKE WAS FINDING THAT THOUGH HE WAS A MASTER OF THE OPEN, FAST-MOVING DESERT WARFARE, HIS TACTICS WERE NOT ALWAYS SUITABLE FOR THE MORE MOUNTAINOUS LANDSCAPE OF TUNISIA.

AGHI!

REVERSE! THEY'VE GOT AN ANTI-TANK GUN DUG IN THERE!

IN HIS FIRST ENCOUNTER HE LOST ONE VEHICLE.

35

THE OLD METHODS WERE NOW DANGEROUS — AS VINEGAR WAS TO FIND OUT.

THEY'VE GOT US UNDER OBSERVATION AND IT'S NOT HEALTHY. WE'RE PULLING OUT!

THE REST OF THE TROOP TOO, HAD SIMILAR PROBLEMS.

WORRIED BY THE LACK OF RESULTS, MIKE BECAME IRRITABLE—AND SEEMED TO HOLD ANDREW RESPONSIBLE.

THE COLONEL SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT YOU IN COMMAND—THE TROOP'S NOT BEEN THE SAME SINCE! JUST DON'T MAKE A MESS OF THINGS TOMORROW.

LEFT TO HIMSELF, ANDREW HAD TIME TO THINK AND TO WORK OUT HIS OWN METHOD OF MOVEMENT IN THE MOUNTAINS. HE BRIEFED HIS MEN FOR A RECCE OF A CROSSROADS WHICH WAS THOUGHT TO BE IN ENEMY HANDS.

IF WE GO THERE DIRECT WE'RE SURE TO BE CLOBBERED. SO TONIGHT WE'LL WORK OUR WAY ONTO THIS HILL AND KEEP WATCH.

YEAH! THAT WAY THEY WON'T EVEN KNOW WE'RE WATCHING 'EM!





36

USING HIS MAP, HE HAD WORKED OUT A GOOD ROUTE TO THEIR OBSERVATION POSITION.

IT LOOKS STEEP, BUT THE DINGOES WILL MAKE IT. THEN WE CAN KEEP BEHIND THE CREST, AND PARK THEM HERE.

SOME HOURS BEFORE DAWN, ANDREW'S SECTION LEFT THE TROOP'S HARBOUR AREA.

WHAT THE DEVIL'S GOING ON?

IT'S MISTER BLAKE'S SECTION—YOU MIGHT KNOW THEY'D DO SOMETHING COCK-EYED!

37

IN DAYLIGHT THE HILL WOULD HAVE PRESENTED NO OBSTACLE TO THE POWERFUL DINGOES, BUT THE DARKNESS FORCED ANDREW TO LEAD ON FOOT UP THE MORE DIFFICULT SLOPES.

KEEP OVER TO YOUR LEFT—IT'S NOT SO STEEP THERE.

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE NATURAL COVER THE TWO CARS HEADED TOWARDS THEIR OBSERVATION POST.

WE'RE NEARLY THERE!

FIRST LIGHT FOUND ANDREW AND HIS MEN IN POSITION.

NOW LET'S SEE WHAT'S DOWN THERE!

38

ANDREW'S DECISION HAD BEEN CORRECT. FOR THE GERMANS WERE ALL SET TO DEFEND THE CROSSROADS.

WELL, THEN, LET'S GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.

IF WE'D TRIED TO APPROACH THE CROSSROADS ANY OTHER WAY, WE'D HAVE BEEN BLOWN TO PIECES.

... AND HIS CRISP CONTACT-REPORT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED. WITHIN MINUTES HE WAS ORDERED TO CORRECT THE BRITISH ARTILLERY'S RANGING SHELLS.

ADD TWO HUNDRED AND FIRE FOR EFFECT!

THAT'LL UPSET THEIR PLANS.

39

THE GERMAN BATTERY WAS POUNDED INTO SCRAP UNDER AN AVALANCHE OF ACCURATE SHELLFIRE.

HIMMEL! THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHERE WE ARE.

THE SHELLING STOPPED, AND AS ANDREW PREPARED TO LEAVE, SCOUSE LOOKED ADMIRINGLY AT THE WRECKED GERMAN POSITION.

WHAT A LOVELY MESS! YOU'VE SORTED THEM OUT AND NO MISTAKE, SIR!

CAPTAIN FITZHUGH IS RIGHT—A SCOUT CAR'S BEST WEAPON IS ITS RADIO! LET'S PACK UP AND GO HOME, SHALL WE?





40

THE SUCCESS OF THE LITTLE ENGAGEMENT DID A LOT FOR ANDREW'S CONFIDENCE—AND HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR WORDS OF PRAISE FROM MIKE.

WELL DONE, ANDREW! YOU SEEM TO HAVE A GIFT FOR WORKING IN HILLY COUNTRY LIKE THIS.

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THEY ARE HEADING FOR GAFRA, WHERE OUR FORWARD SUPPLY DUMPS ARE LOCATED. THERE ARE TWO PASSES, AND I WANT TO KNOW WHICH ONE THEY'LL USE. GET YOUR CARS UP THERE, MIKE!

WE'RE ON OUR WAY, COLONEL!

MIKE DECIDED TO SPLIT THE TROOP, USING SIX CARS TO COVER EACH PASS. HE ROARED OFF IMMEDIATELY, BRIEFING HIS CREWS ON THE MOVE.

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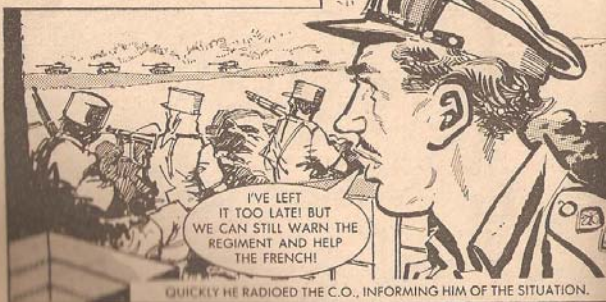
MIKE WAS RIGHT. A DIFFICULT RIVER CROSSING HAD HELD UP THE PANZER DIVISION, WHICH WAS NOW BEING GOADED INTO ACTION BY ITS FURIOUS COMMANDER.



LEAVE THE VILLAGE TO THE PANZER GRENADIERS AND GET THROUGH THE PASS, YOU FOOLS!

GETTING SAFELY THROUGH THE PASS WAS THE GENERAL'S MAIN CONCERN—THE VILLAGE COULD BE DEALT WITH LATER.

FOR ONCE MIKE'S REACTIONS WERE TOO SLOW—HE AND HIS MEN WERE QUICKLY CUT OFF, AS THE ENEMY TANKS LOOPED AROUND THE VILLAGE TO MAKE FOR THE PASS.



I'VE LEFT IT TOO LATE! BUT WE CAN STILL WARN THE REGIMENT AND HELP THE FRENCH!

QUICKLY HE RADIOED THE C.O., INFORMING HIM OF THE SITUATION.

MILES AWAY, ANDREW PICKED UP MIKE'S WORRIED REPORT AND THE COLONEL'S REPLY.



LARGE FORCE OF PANZERS ENTERING NORTH PASS, WE ARE CUT OFF WITH FRENCH TROOPS IN VILLAGE CALLED EL HAMRA!

ROGER. YOU MUST HOLD ON AS BEST YOU CAN. I CAN'T HELP YOU!

THE TIME ANDREW HAD SPENT STUDYING HIS MAPS HAD NOT BEEN WASTED, AS HE FIGURED OUT A WAY TO SAVE MIKE.



WITH LUCK WE CAN USE THAT CAMEL TRACK I SPOTTED TO BEAT THE GERMANS TO THE TOP OF THE PASS!

LEAVING THREE CARS TO COVER THE SOUTH PASS, ANDREW, SCOUSE AND JONESY SET OFF ALONG THE DIFFICULT ROUTE.



LET'S HOPE WE'RE IN TIME TO STOP THEM!

IN PLACES, THE CAMEL TRACK PROVIDED ALMOST NO GRIP FOR THE LITTLE CARS ON THE STEEP HILLSIDE, AND PROGRESS WAS AGONISINGLY SLOW.



JUST KEEP HER MOVING—SHE'S GOING TO MAKE IT!

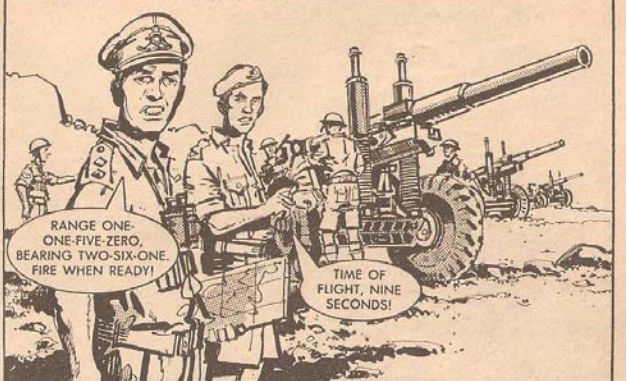
IF WE MAKE IT, IT'LL BE A MIRACLE.

THEY REACHED THE RIDGE OVERLOOKING THE PASS JUST AS THE FIRST OF THE ENEMY TANKS WERE ABOUT TO ENTER.



THERE THEY ARE! IF WE CAN KNOCK ONE OUT, THE ROAD WILL BE BLOCKED AND THERE'S NO WAY ROUND FOR THEM!

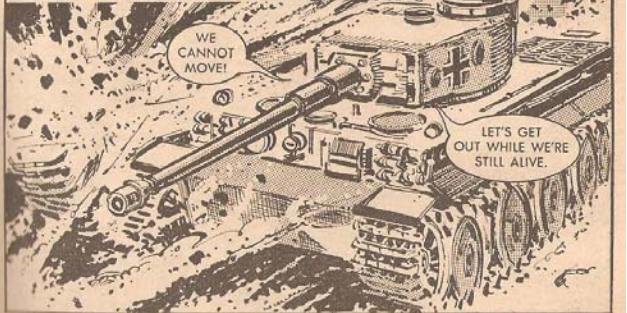
AND ANDREW KNEW EXACTLY HOW TO STOP THEM. HE REPORTED THE ENEMY'S POSITION TO THE BATTLE GROUP'S MEDIUM ARTILLERY BATTERY.



RANGE ONE-ONE-FIVE-ZERO, BEARING TWO-SIX-ONE. FIRE WHEN READY!

TIME OF FLIGHT, NINE SECONDS!

WITHIN SECONDS THE FIRST OF THE HEAVY SHELLS WAS SCREAMING DOWN INTO THE PASS, CLAIMING THE LEADING TANK AS A VICTIM.



WE CANNOT MOVE!

LET'S GET OUT WHILE WE'RE STILL ALIVE.





48

THE ARTILLERY FIRE WAS DEVASTATING. AN ATTEMPT TO BULLDOZE THE CRIPPLED TANK ENDED IN DISASTER AS THE SECOND TIGER WAS HIT.

AGH!

THE TWO DAMAGED TANKS NOW COMPLETELY BLOCKED THE PASS, FORCING THE REST OF THE COLUMN TO WITHDRAW.

THEN ANDREW SHIFTED THE GUNS' FIRE ON TO THE REAR OF THE ENEMY COLUMN.

IT'LL TAKE 'EM A LONG TIME TO CLEAR THAT LOT.

YES— AND BEFORE THAT HAPPENS OUR TANKS WILL BE READY TO DEAL WITH THEM.

AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE REGIMENT'S SHERMANS HAD MOVED INTO THEIR BLOCKING POSITION.

—YOU'VE DONE A FIRST CLASS JOB, BLAKE. YOUR PART IS OVER— WE'RE READY FOR THEM, SO COME BACK AND JOIN US!

BUT ANDREW'S REPLY WAS SURPRISING ...

RECEPTION DIFFICULT. NOTHING HEARD—OUT!

HE EXPLAINED TO AN ASTONISHED JONESY.

A LITTLE TRICK I LEARNED FROM CORPORAL RYAN!

BUT THAT WAS THE COLONEL, SIR!

50

WHEN ANDREW CONTINUED IT WAS IN A CONFIDENT VOICE.

I KNOW, BUT I THINK I CAN GET CAPTAIN FITZHUGH OUT. I WANT VOLUNTEERS, IN CASE YOU THINK I'M BEING RECKLESS AGAIN, SERGEANT JONESY!

WITH THE WIND TAKEN OUT OF HIS SAILS, AND WITH SCOUSE ALREADY SET, THE SERGEANT COULD ONLY AGREE TO GO ALONG WITH THE PLAN.

I'M GOING WITH MISTER BLAKE— ARE YOU COMIN' OR NOT, JONESY?

WELL ... YES, OF COURSE I'M COMIN'!

GOOD! THEN THAT'S SETTLED. LET'S SEE IF WE CAN CONTACT THE CAPTAIN.

51

QUICKLY ANDREW RADIOED MIKE, HOPING THAT THE GERMANS HAD NOT ALREADY OVER-RUN THE SMALL VILLAGE.

MIKE, THIS IS ANDREW. HOW ARE YOU GETTING ON OUT THERE?

MIKE WAS NOT AMUSED BY ANDREW'S POLITE ENQUIRY, AS THE VILLAGE WAS NOW UNDER ATTACK.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HOW AM I GETTING ON? DO YOU THINK I ENJOY BEING MORTARED AND MACHINE-GUNNED?

JUST HANG ON—WE'LL TRY AND GET THROUGH TO YOU TONIGHT!

BEFORE MIKE COULD REPLY, ANDREW BROKE THE RADIO LINK, LEAVING HIS CAPTAIN VERY PUZZLED.





ANDREW USED THE LAST HOURS OF DAYLIGHT TO GO OVER THE ROUTE THROUGH THE GERMAN LINES WITH HIS MEN.



WE FOLLOW THE CREST TO HERE THEN THERE'S AN EASIER SLOPE DOWN ONTO THE PLAIN. IT WON'T BE EASY IN DARKNESS, BUT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE.

BUT THE MAP HAD NOT HINTED JUST HOW ROUGH THE GOING WOULD BE. THE MOONLIGHT CAST DISTRACTING SHADOWS AMONG THE ROCKS, FORCING ANDREW TO LEAD THE WAY ON FOOT.



THIS IS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT. ONE MISTAKE AND WE'VE HAD IT.

THEY ARRIVED AT THE BOTTOM, BRUISED AND SHAKEN BUT VERY MUCH ALIVE.



EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?

I NEVER WANT A TRIP LIKE THAT AGAIN!

I BET YOU LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT!

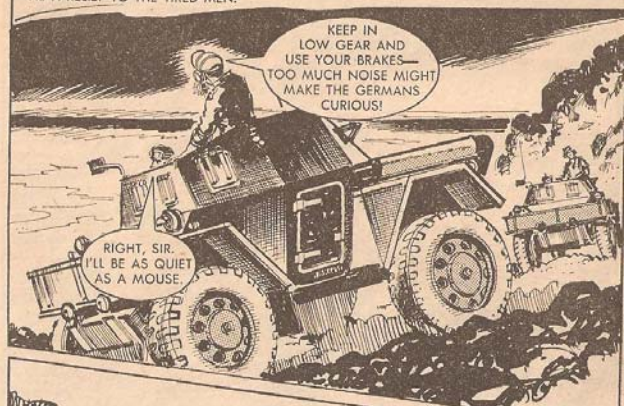
AFTER A COUPLE OF MINUTES REST, THEY SET OFF AGAIN.

SOME WAY ACROSS THE PLAIN THEY THANKFULLY SWUNG ONTO A GOOD, SURFACED ROAD.



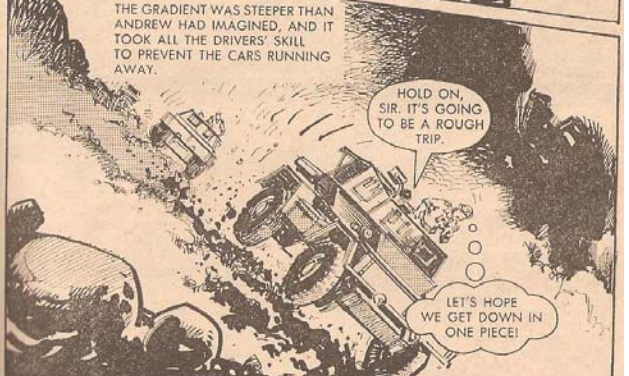
THIS SHOULD TAKE US RIGHT INTO THE VILLAGE.

WHEN THEY REACHED THE SLOPE, THE PROSPECT OF UNKNOWN PERILS BELOW CAME ALMOST AS A RELIEF TO THE TIRED MEN.



KEEP IN LOW GEAR AND USE YOUR BRAKES—TOO MUCH NOISE MIGHT MAKE THE GERMANS CURIOUS!

RIGHT, SIR. I'LL BE AS QUIET AS A MOUSE.



THE GRADIENT WAS STEEPER THAN ANDREW HAD IMAGINED, AND IT TOOK ALL THE DRIVERS' SKILL TO PREVENT THE CARS RUNNING AWAY.

HOLD ON, SIR. IT'S GOING TO BE A ROUGH TRIP.

LET'S HOPE WE GET DOWN IN ONE PIECE!

FOR SEVERAL MILES, PROGRESS WAS RAPID, BUT THEN A MOVING ENEMY CONVOY LOOMED UP AHEAD. THERE WAS NOTHING FOR IT BUT TO FOLLOW AT A SAFE DISTANCE.



JERRY TRUCKS, SIR.

SLOW DOWN—WE DON'T WANT TO GET MIXED UP WITH THEM!

THERE WAS ANOTHER SURPRISE, FOR JONES SPOTTED MORE ENEMY TRUCKS TO THE REAR.

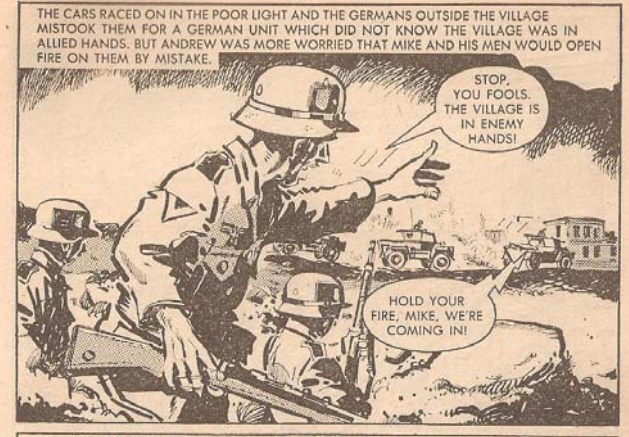
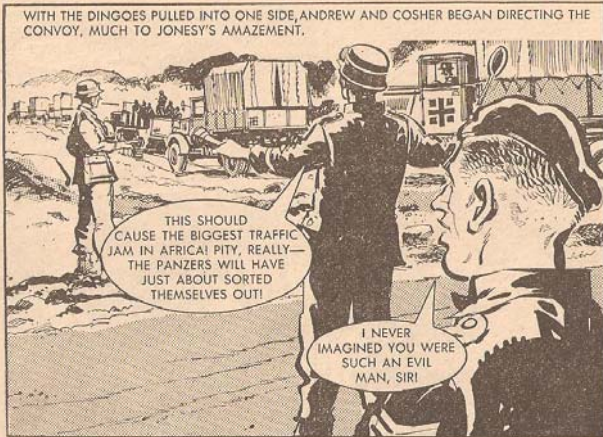
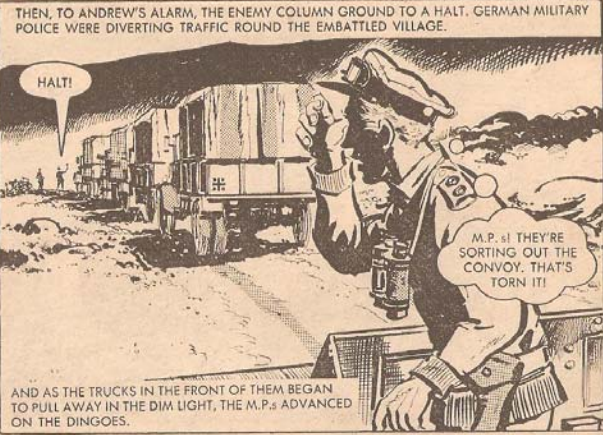


THERE ARE MORE COMING UP BEHIND.

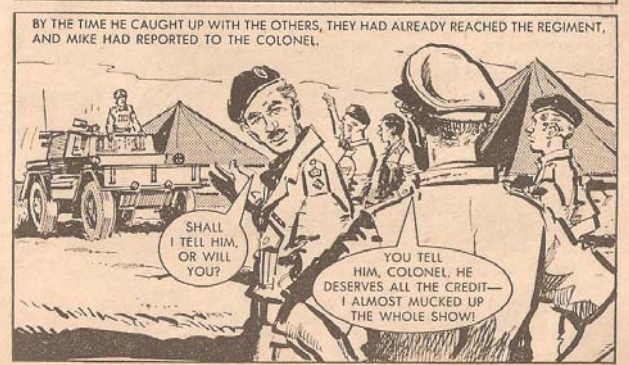
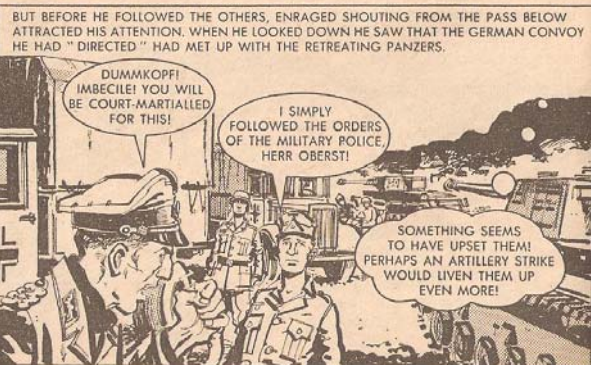
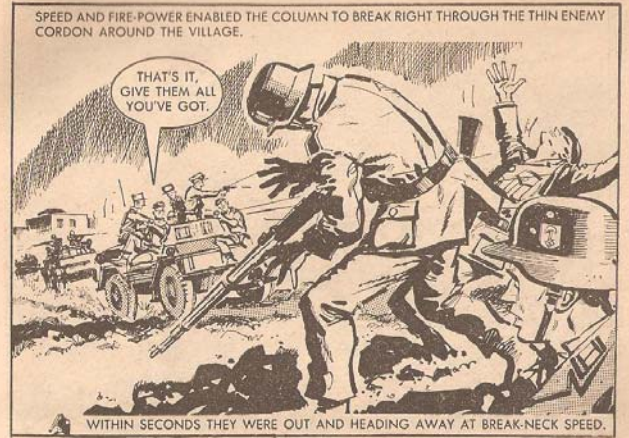
JUST KEEP GOING—THEY DON'T SEEM TO SUSPECT ANYTHING YET.

THE THREE LITTLE DINGOES WERE NOW COMPLETELY BOXED IN.













64

WHEN ANDREW CAME UP, THE COLONEL HAD SOME VERY SPECIAL NEWS FOR HIM.

MIKE TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED. MOUNTAIN RECCE SEEMS TO BE YOUR STRONG POINT, SO YOU ARE TO TAKE OVER THE TROOP AGAIN—THIS TIME, I KNOW YOU'LL DO WELL!

ER, YES, COLONEL—BUT WHAT ABOUT MIKE?

BUT MIKE WASN'T IN DISGRACE. FAR FROM IT, HE WAS TO HAVE A NEW TASK.

I'M TAKING OVER ONE OF THE TANK SQUADRONS. I'M LOST IN THESE HILLS—THE TROOP NEEDS A SPECIALIST—LIKE YOU, ANDREW!

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AND IT SEEMED THAT ANDREW NOW HAD THE WHOLE TROOP'S CONFIDENCE, INCLUDING VINEGAR'S.

AN' WHEN THE NEW TROOP LEADER IS WORKING ON HIS MAPS HE WON'T WANT YOU BOTHERING HIM, YOU GNOME!

TRY NOT TO SMILE, VINEGAR! YOU'RE FRIGHTENING PEOPLE!

ANDREW KNEW HE WOULD GET ON WELL COMMANDING THE RECCE TROOP—WITH THESE MEN BACKING HIM HE COULDN'T FAIL.

**Commando**  
**THE END**

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