

AVENGERS

15¢ 82 NOV

Telegram-Marvel comics
(Avengers)

APPROVED
BY COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE AVENGERS



GUEST-STARRING
DAREDEVIL!

IT'LL
BE THE
GREATEST
BATTLE
OF ALL!

THE
CITY'S
IN
CHAINS!

ONLY
WE CAN
SAVE
IT!

NOTHING
MUST STOP
US!

ATTACK!

LET
THE CRY
RING
OUT..

AVENGERS! ASSEMBLE!

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

HOSTAGE!

STAN LEE • ROY THOMAS • JOHN BUSCEMA
EDITOR WRITER ARTIST

TOM PALMER • SAM ROSEN
EMBELLISHER LETTERER

CO-
STARRING:
**DARE-
DEVIL**
---THE MAN
WITHOUT
FEAR!



AND NOW, BEFORE
OUR PSYCHEDELIC
SYMBOLIC SPLASH-
PANEL ZAPS YOU OUT OF
YOUR GOURD, FLIP THE
PAGE-- AND GET SET FOR
ONE OF THE MOST MIND-
RENDING SAGAS OF
ALL--!!

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THEY CALL THE ISLAND *MANHATTAN*... AND THERE WERE 1,698,281 SOULS AFLOAT ON IT WHEN THE 1960 CENSUS WAS TAKEN!

OF COURSE, THERE MAY WELL BE A FEW MORE INHABITANTS TODAY...



...MANY OF WHOM MANAGE SOMEHOW TO SLEEP, ALBEIT FITFULLY, THRU THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 21, 1970...!



BUT FOR SOME, THERE IS A SHOCKED AWAKENING AT 4:37 A.M. ...AMID STRIDENT SHOUTS AND BLARING FLASHLIGHTS...



... WHILE OTHERS, WHO PLY THEIR TRADE BY NIGHT...



... ARE THE FIRST TO REALIZE FEARFULLY WHAT IS HAPPENING...



... AND THAT THEY HAVE JUST WITNESSED THE END OF THE ERA OF SECURITY...!



THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN HAS BEEN INVADED!!

ALL WEAPONS
AT THE READY!

POLICE BLOCKADE
DEAD AHEAD--AT
MADISON AND 59TH!

THE FOOLS! DO
THEY TRULY THINK
THEY CAN STOP US?

THEY WILL TRY!
BUT THEY MUST NOT
SUCCEED! SO
DECREES THE
MASTER!

HOLY TOLEDO!
THOSE PROWL-
CAR JOES
WEREN'T
KIDDING!

THERE'S A
SMALL BUT
DISCIPLINED
ARMY HEAD-
ING OUR WAY!

BUT--
WHERE IN
BLAZES
DID THEY
COME
FROM?

AND--
WHAT'S
THAT GAS
THEY'RE
SHOOTIN'
OUR WAY?
I---

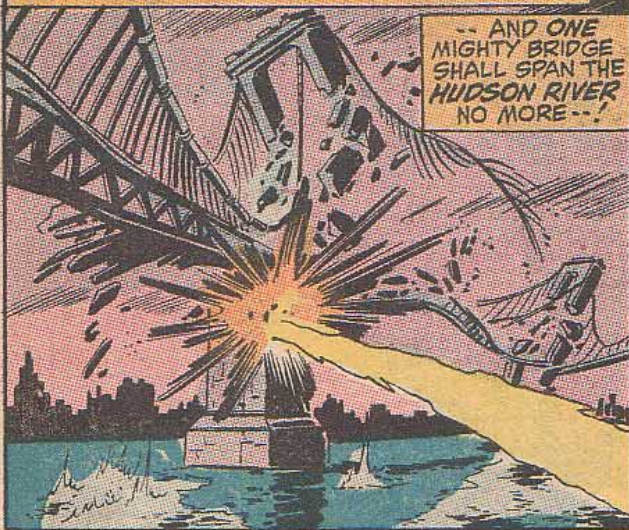
THE GAS? ITS NAME IS KNOWN
BUT TO A FEW-- ITS CHEMICAL
COMPOSITION IS A CLOSELY-
GUARDED SECRET--- BUT ITS
EFFECTS ARE CERTAIN,
INSTANTANEOUS --- AND NON-
LETHAL ---!

THEY ARE DOWN--
TO A MAN!

INFORM THE MASTER
THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED
OUR FIRST OBJECTIVE!

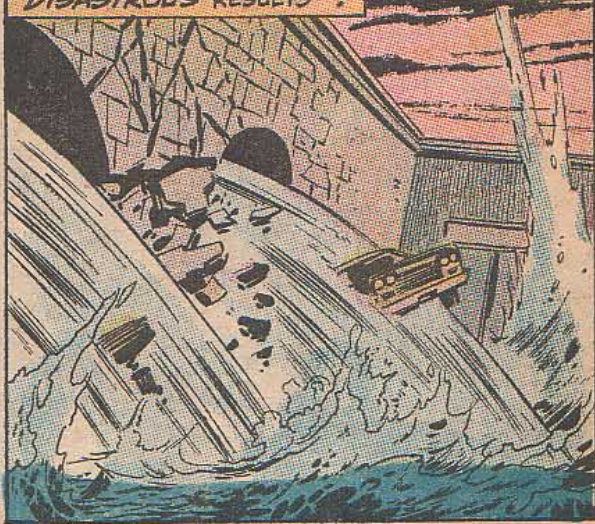
YES, SQUAD
LEADER! NOW,
IF THE OTHERS
CAN ONLY
SEVER ALL
LINKS WITH
THE OUT-
SIDE WORLD--!

AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT, AS IF ON **CUE**, A BOLT OF SILENT, SINISTER **ENERGY** SLASHES OUT FROM A HIDDEN SANCTUARY---



-- AND ONE MIGHTY BRIDGE SHALL SPAN THE HUDSON RIVER NO MORE--!

WHILE, ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE ISLAND CITY, A SIMILAR BEAM ROCKS AN UNDER-WATER TUNNEL--- WITH EVEN MORE DISASTROUS RESULTS--!



AS, AT THE STately STRUCTURE KNOWN AS **GRACIE MANSION**---

SORRY TO ROUST YOU OUT OF **BED**, MR. MAYOR---

BUT WE COULDN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON YOUR **ESCAPING**, NOW, COULD WE?

YOU **FIENDS!** IF YOU'RE THINKING OF USING ME AS A **HOSTAGE**---

NO NEED, MR. MAYOR! WE'VE GOT A COUPLE OF MILLION OTHERS!



AND, IF THE INVADERS' WORDS NEED **PUNCTUATING**---

KEEP MOVING, ALL OF YOU! OFF THE STREETS!

ANYBODY OUT IN THE OPEN ONE MINUTE FROM NOW-- IS A DEAD MAN!



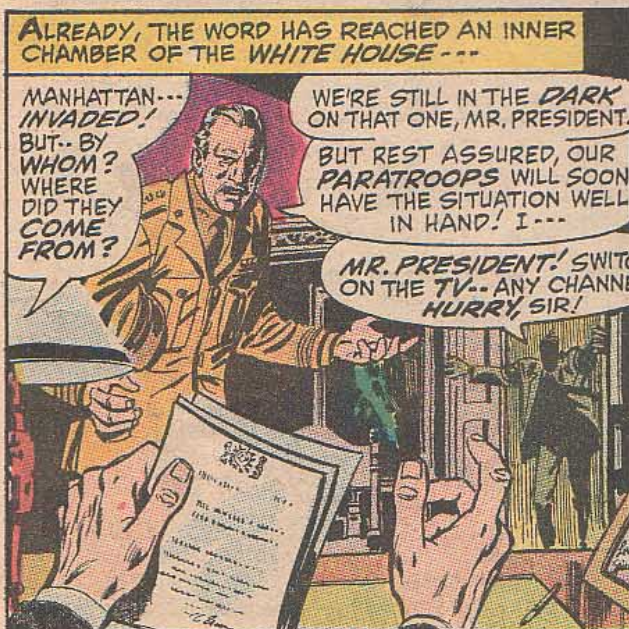
ALREADY, THE WORD HAS REACHED AN INNER CHAMBER OF THE **WHITE HOUSE**---

MANHATTAN-- INVADED! BUT-- BY WHOM? WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

WE'RE STILL IN THE **DARK** ON THAT ONE, MR. PRESIDENT!

BUT REST ASSURED, OUR **PARATROOPS** WILL SOON HAVE THE SITUATION WELL IN HAND! I---

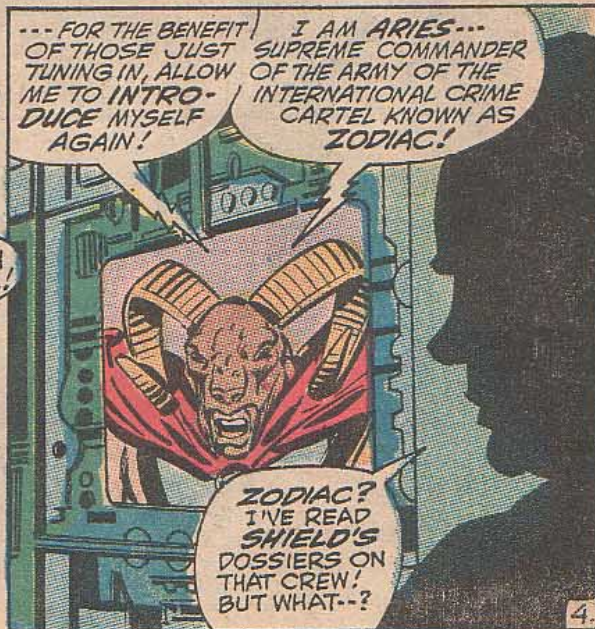
MR. PRESIDENT! SWITCH ON THE TV-- ANY CHANNEL! **HURRY, SIR!**



--- FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE JUST TUNING IN, ALLOW ME TO **INTRODUCE** MYSELF AGAIN!

I AM **ARIES**--- SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ARMY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIME CARTEL KNOWN AS **ZODIAC**!

ZODIAC? I'VE READ **SHIELD'S** DOSSIERS ON THAT CREW! BUT WHAT--?



AT THIS VERY MOMENT, THE FORCES OF ZODIAC ARE IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN!

OUR ATTACK HAS BEEN PAINSTAKINGLY PLANNED, AND MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT--- THERE SHALL BE NO RESCUE!

"ONE SUCH FUTILE ATTEMPT HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE, MERE MINUTES AGO--- IN THE FORM OF TROOP-CARRYING HELICOPTERS---

"--- FROM WHICH DROPPED CRACK PARATROOPS TO DARKEN THE PRE-DAWN SKIES---

"BUT, ZODIAC HAD ANTICIPATED SUCH ACTION-- AND A NERVE-PARALYZING FORCE-FIELD HAS NOW BEEN PLACED AROUND THE ISLAND---

"--- TURNING THE UNCONSCIOUS BUT UNHARMED SOLDIERS INTO STILL MORE HOSTAGES--- PAWNS IN A GRIM GAME OF CHESS WHOSE OUTCOME IS ALREADY CERTAIN!

"NOR MAY DELIVERANCE BE SOUGHT FROM ANY OF THE UBIQUITOUS SUPERHEROES WHO INHABIT GOTHAM--- FOR OUR MANEUVER HAS BEEN PERFECTLY TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH AN HOUR WHEN THE MUCH-LAUDED FANTASTIC FOUR ARE ABSENT FROM THE CITY---

"---AND AS FOR THE SO-CALLED MIGHTY AVENGERS, ONLY FOUR ARE KNOWN TO BE WITHIN NEW YORK AT THIS MOMENT--- THE FOUR WHICH YOUR WONDERING EYES MAY NOW BEHOLD!"

"THOR---IRON MAN---CAPTAIN AMERICA---THE STRIPLING QUICK-SILVER! THESE WERE THE VERY FIRST TO BECOME HOSTAGES IN ZODIAC'S ONE-DAY WAR!"

YES, YOU HEARD ME CORRECTLY! MANHATTAN SHALL BE HELD HOSTAGE FOR A MERE 24 HOURS!

IF, BY THAT TIME, PAYMENT OF ONE BILLION DOLLARS HAS NOT BEEN MADE IN PRESCRIBED MANNER---

-- MY SMALL BUT WELL-ARMED FORCE SHALL LIQUIDATE THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THE ISLAND!

WHY THAT DIRTY SON OF A BATTERING-RAM!

AND WE'RE STUCK HERE IN JERSEY... JUST A HOP, SKIP, AND JUMP ACROSS THE RIVER!

WE MIGHT AS WELL BE LIGHT YEARS AWAY... SINCE WE WEREN'T IN MANHATTAN WHEN THAT FORCE FIELD APPEARED!*

MY FISTS...EVEN THE VISION'S POWERS... CAN'T GET THRU, SO WHAT'S LEFT TO TRY?

PERHAPS NOTHING...SAVE PRAYER!

*THIS AVENGER THREESOME WENT WEST LAST ISSUE!...S.

WHILE, IN A POGO PLANE HIGH ABOVE UPSTATE NEW YORK...

HUH? HOLD FUN CITY FOR A BILLION-BUCK RANSOM?

WHO DOES THAT HORN-HEADED CREEP THINK HE'S KIDDIN'?

NO ONE, BEN! IT'S OBVIOUS HE'S A COLD-BLOODED POWER-SEEKER... WHO MEANS WHAT HE SAYS!

IF ONLY THEY HADN'T TIMED IT SO THAT WE WERE DROPPING SUE OFF AT WHISPER HILL WHEN THEY STRUCK--!

BUT THEY DID, JOHNNY... SO IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE OUT OF THIS ONE FOR THE DURATION!

AS, IN A CERTAIN MODEST BUNGALOW IN QUEENS...

GOOD THING I DOZED OFF IN THIS CHAIR, OR I WOULDN'T HAVE LEARNED ABOUT ANY OF THIS TILL MORNING!

PETER PARKER CAN'T DO ANYTHING, BUT MAYBE SPIDER-MAN...

UH OH! ALL MY YAKKING WOKE UP AUNT MAY! FOR A SECOND, I FORGOT I WAS VISITING HER!

SHE MUSTN'T KNOW ABOUT THE INVASION! HER HEART..!

I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU OUT HERE, PETER DEAR! IS THERE ANYTHING ON TELE-VISION...?

NO, AUNT MAY! NOTHING... AT ALL..!

KLIK!

AND NOW, JUST TO BRING THINGS A FULL CIRCLE, WE RETURN TO STRIFE-TORN MANHATTAN...!

DOWN THIS WAY! ONE POLICE PRECINCT IS STILL FIGHTING A HOLDING ACTION!



IT'S FORTUNATE I WAS ABSENT FROM AVENGERS MANSION WHEN THE INVASION BEGAN-- OR I WOULD DOUBTLESS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED LIKE THE OTHERS!

STILL, ONE MAN-- EVEN THE BLACK PANTHER-- CAN NOT STAND AGAINST A WELL-TRAINED ARMY!



BUT TWO HEADS, IT IS SAID, ARE BETTER THAN ONE---



ALL RIGHT, MURDOCK-- WE GAVE YOU TIME TO GET DRESSED!

NOW MOVE! THERE'S A CELL WAITING FOR YOU!

OF COURSE! WE CAN'T HAVE THE D.A.'S ASSISTANT RUNNING AROUND LOOSE NOW, CAN WE?

IF ONLY THERE HAD BEEN A POWER FAILURE, I COULD HAVE--



HUH? THE LIGHTS! WHAT IN BLAZES HAPPENED TO--YAAARRK!

WH--? THEY ARE OUT! I CAN'T FEEL THE HEAT OF THE BULBS ANY LONGER!

THEN-- IT'S TIME TO ACT!

SWOK!



GRAB MURDOCK! DON'T LET HIM GET--YURKK!

FKAK!

HE'S ALREADY GOT, TOUGH GUY!



THAT WASN'T MURDOCK'S VOICE! THERE'S SOMEBODY ELSE IN HERE WITH US! I--

YEEOWW!!

THE NAME, FRIEND--- IS DAREDEVIL!

THEY'RE OUT! SO MUCH FOR PROTECTING MY DUAL IDENTITY!

WAIT A SEC! THAT HEARTBEAT! IT'S GOTTA BE-- THE PANTHER!

THAT CLEARS UP A LOT OF QUESTIONS --FAST!

GLAD TO HEAR IT, MATT!

--- THEN YOU SAY WE'RE THE ONLY TWO SUPERHEROES LEFT IN MANHATTAN TO HELP OUT AGAINST THIS ZODIAC ARMY?

THE ONLY ONES AT LARGE!

BUT FOUR OTHER AVENGERS ARE IN CUSTODY-- AND I KNOW WHERE!

THEN WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR-- PARTNER?*

*DD AND T'CHALLA TEAMED UP LESS THAN 24 "MARVEL HOURS" AGO-- IN DAREDEVIL #69!--S.

A BLIND MAN WITH HYPER-SENSES BEYOND THE BELIEF OF MOST MORTALS--- AND A JUNGLE-BORN PRINCE WITH THE POWERS OF A GREAT CAT---

SO WELL-MATCHED ARE THESE TWO, SO ENTWINED ARE THEIR LIVES AND THEIR DESTINIES, THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR FURTHER WORDS BETWEEN THEM---

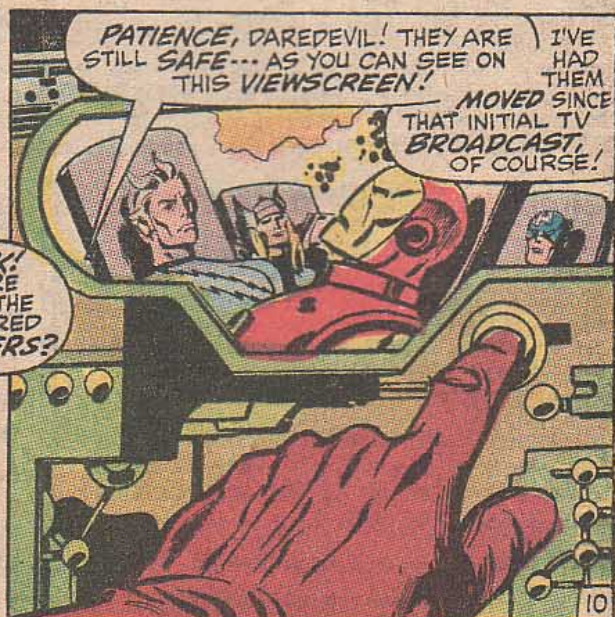
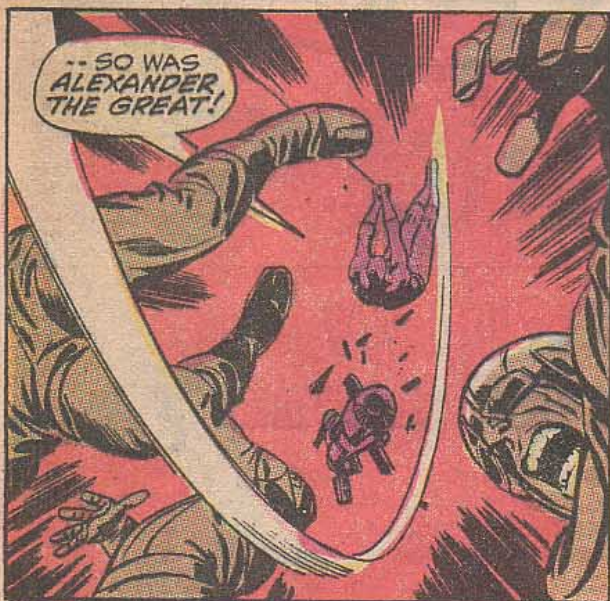
UNTIL---

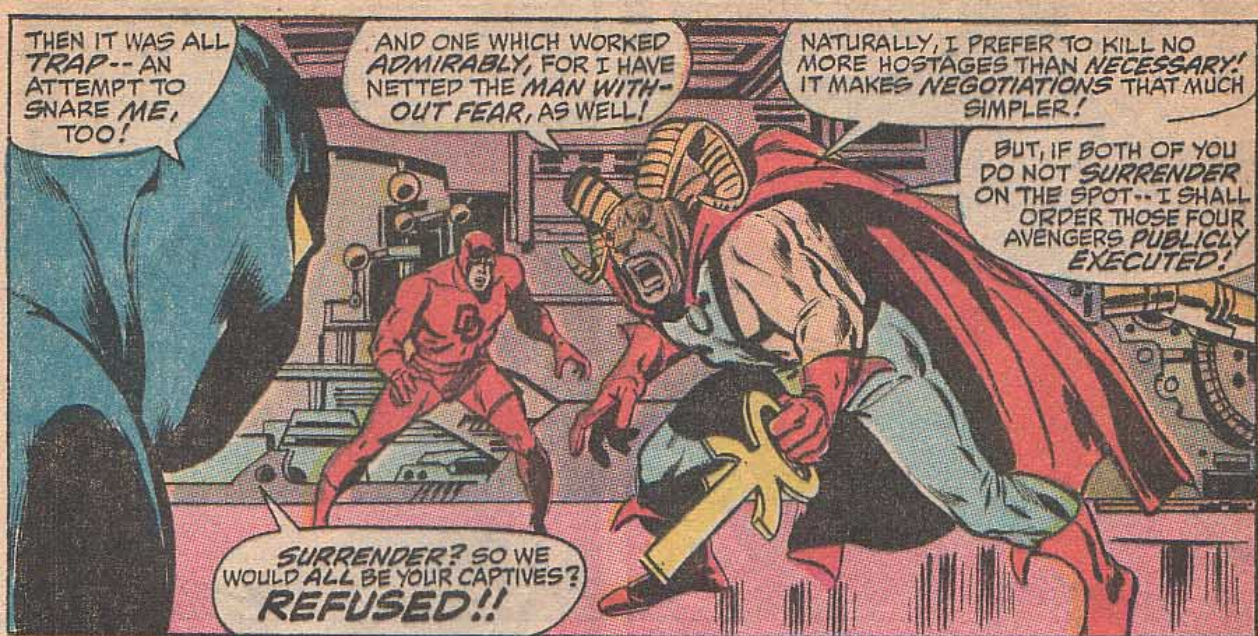
THIS ARMORY IS THE PLACE! I RECOGNIZED ITS INTERIOR ON A TV SCREEN I PASSED!

INSIDE-- A BABEL OF VOICES!

MY FELLOW AVENGERS ARE WELL-GUARDED! BUT, LET US PRAY---

...NOT WELL ENOUGH!





THEN IT WAS ALL TRAP-- AN ATTEMPT TO SNARE ME, TOO!

AND ONE WHICH WORKED ADMIRABLY, FOR I HAVE NETTED THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR, AS WELL!

NATURALLY, I PREFER TO KILL NO MORE HOSTAGES THAN NECESSARY! IT MAKES NEGOTIATIONS THAT MUCH SIMPLER!

BUT, IF BOTH OF YOU DO NOT SURRENDER ON THE SPOT-- I SHALL ORDER THOSE FOUR AVENGERS PUBLICLY EXECUTED!

SURRENDER? SO WE WOULD ALL BE YOUR CAPTIVES? **REFUSED!!**



SENSIBLE, PANTHER! FAR MORE SENSIBLE THAN I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED!

THUS, YOU FORCE ME TO PROTECT MYSELF BY EMPLOYING-- THE KEY TO THE ZODIAC!



THE WHOLE CHAMBER IS ABLAZE!

GOT TO GET HIM! OUT OF HERE!

AND-- THE PANTHER TOOK THE BRUNT OF THE BLAST-- TRYING TO PROTECT ME!



WE'RE SPLITTING, GILES GOATBOY-- AND THAT NUTTY KEY OF YOURS ISN'T STOPPING US!

'CAUSE WE'RE GONNA STOP YOU-- THE BLACK PANTHER AND ME!!

BUT YOU'RE NOT EXECUTING THOSE AVENGERS! DO YOU HEAR ME, ARIES?



HE DIDN'T SAY A WORD! IT'S AS IF HE DECIDED-- WE WEREN'T WORTH CAPTURING!

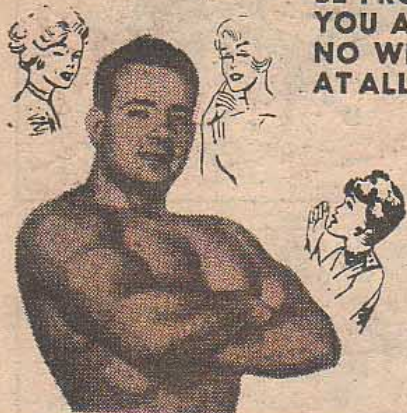
IF WE DON'T THEN EVEN THOUGH T'CHALLA MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE BACK THERE--

WELL, THE PANTHER AND I HAVE GOT TO MAKE HIM EAT THAT LITTLE GOOF!

I'VE GOT A HUNCH HE'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIMSELF FOR IT!



BOYS! MEN!



MY SECRET NEW DYNAFLEX METHOD CAN GIVE YOU POWERFULLY TONED MUSCLES AND PUT FULL STRENGTH IN YOUR MUSCLES... MAKE THEM SO STRONG YOU WILL BE PROUD TO SHOW YOUR FRIENDS HOW FULL OF STRENGTH YOU ARE! IN JUST TEN MINUTES A DAY--WITH ABSOLUTELY NO WEIGHTS, NO BAR BELLS, NO FORMAL LONG EXERCISES AT ALL!! (MAKES GLADIATOR MUSCLES TO A GLADIATOR JOB)

"Yes if the girls laugh at you now when you try doing anything that requires strength--toned up muscles--they will be amazed, astonished, with the strength and strong men things you will be able to do after you master the DYNAFLEX METHOD! You will be so proud of the feats of strength you will be able to do, of the increased power in every one of your muscles" says Mike Marvel, Master of toning and putting strength into muscles!

Pal--do yourself a favor... Try your muscles and see if they are as strong as you would like them to be... Can you lift as much as you really should be able to? Are you ashamed of your muscle strength? Believe it or not, I can increase your muscle tone... add strength to your muscles... improve your ability to display your new found **BIG MUSCLE STRENGTH**... enough to make you proud so you will beam with delight at how strong you have become, at how easily you perform things that require muscle tone--strength--endurance--that you never thought you had in you!

HOW DYNAFLEX TONES MUSCLES AND INCREASES THE STRENGTH OF YOUR MUSCLES

Dynaflex is the Modern Method--almost a miracle way of toning your muscles... it takes no tiresome formal exercise--no barbells--no special diets... Dynaflex is the amazing discovery of a West German Doctor... whose research into the science of Strength found a thrilling new way to tone muscles... build strength into your muscles... In ten minutes a day with Dynaflex your "FLEX" each muscle once, in a certain way that is more effective than if you exercised the muscle 20-30 or even 100 times the old fashioned way!

STRONG MAN SEX APPEAL

Acquire virile he-man appeal, display feats of strength so amazing, so typical of men with real strength--you will be proud to show what you can do at the beach, in the gym, in sports you enjoy... The fellows will stare at your display of strength with envy and jealousy, when they see all the girls crowd around

to watch how strong you have become, how you toned your muscles and filled them full of strength, and if the boys want to know how you did it tell them about the miracle secrets of Dynaflex (Complete instructions in one book only \$1.98). Included Free a chapter on: "SECRETS OF ATTRACTING GIRLS."

MAIL NO-RISK TRIAL COUPON NOW!

MIKE MARVEL, Dept P-10 Box 322, Lenox Hill Sta. New York, N.Y. 10021

O.K. Mike Marvel, enclosed is my \$1.98. Send me your entire Dynaflex System in one book which includes a chapter on: "SECRETS OF ATTRACTING GIRLS!" I must agree that the Dynaflex method has given me powerfully toned muscles, put full strength in my muscles, made me so strong that I can be proud to show my friends how strong I am.

And it must do this in 10 minutes a day--with nothing else to buy--now or in the future, or I get my \$1.98 back--with no questions asked upon return of the book.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SOLD ON MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

HERE ARE THE KIND OF TESTIMONIALS YOU WILL WANT TO WRITE AFTER YOU MASTER DYNAFLEX:

"I tried two other muscle toning systems before I tried Dynaflex. It really works and how! I have the strength and muscle tone I always wanted. I can't praise Dynaflex enough."
"I never thought you can really tone my muscles and make them so strong, without long periods of exercise, or weight lifting... Dynaflex has truly amazed me."
"Every summer it seemed to be the same old story--I don't like to admit this but I was pretty much a punk, and maybe even a sissy and everybody at the beach could tell at a glance... But now with Mike Marvel's Secret New Dynaflex Method that tones **BIG MUSCLES INTO POWERHOUSES OF ACTION**, I feel **LIKE A PANTHER ON THE PROWL**... I've got plenty of **GLADIATOR POWER** in my Shoulder, Hips, Arms, legs and Torso... and I feel every inch the **DYNAMO OF ACTION PACKED POWER IN EVERY MUSCLE IN MY BODY**."

IT IS DAWN WHEN THE HERDING BEGINS! COWERING CITIZENS, SHOCKED INTO SUBMISSIVENESS BY THE NUMBING REALIZATION OF THEIR HELPLESS PLIGHT, ARE RUDELY SHEPHERDED TOWARDS MADISON SQUARE GARDEN---



COLLECT COINS.. THE HOBBY ROAD TO RICHES

1909 VDB--THE FIRST LINCOLN CENT . . . !



The V.D.B. cent! (the designer's initials — Victor D. Brenner — appear on reverse). Only year of its kind! Most popular U. S. coin! Scarce!

\$3

(Order item A.)

WE'LL PAY \$300.00 FOR THIS DIME



Are you spending pocket change worth hundreds of dollars? Send \$1 for illustrated U.S. coin catalogue of hundreds of coins WE WANT TO BUY that are scarce and rare! Just identify the valuable ones with our catalogue (\$1) and send them to us... your check goes out immediately!

\$1

(Order item B.)

GENUINE GOLD NUGGETS FROM ALASKA

\$1

2 or 3 precious nuggets of actual mined gold from famous Alaskan gold fields. Your chance to own genuine gold pieces for only \$1!

(Order item C.)

Our Famous Coin GRAB-BAG

Thousands of coins including 100 year old coins. All GUARANTEED to be worth \$2.00 but may be worth much, much more! Already packaged and ready to go! Includes gold, silver, type coins, foreign, 'key' coins! BIG value!

\$2

(Order item D.)

10 DIFFERENT LINCOLN COINS

(From 1920's & earlier)

All different! Includes mint marks! Fill in those spaces in your collection now at this low price!

\$2

(Order item E.)

32 page profitable hobby booklet included FREE with any order for \$2 or more

CENTRE COIN CO. Box 5490-BF Sherman Oaks, Calif. 91413

I enclose \$_____ for the following collector's item(s): All on a MONEY BACK guarantee, of course:

- ☐ A. VDB cent—\$3
- ☐ B. coin catalogue — \$1
- ☐ C. Gold nuggets — \$1
- ☐ D. Grab-Bag — \$2
- ☐ E. 10 cents — \$2

SPECIAL! all 5 items for \$8.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

AND SOON, IN THE VAST AMPHITHEATRE, THE ANSWER SEEMS TO BE-- **NONE!**

THERE ARE STILL MORE THAN **TWENTY HOURS** BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT MUST **ANSWER MY ULTIMATUM!**

BUT DURING THAT TIME, I CAN BROOK NO **INTERFERENCE--** I SHALL STAND FOR NO **GUERRILLA ACTION!**

AND TO PROVE THE **POWER AT ZODIAC'S DISPOSAL---**

GAZE UPON THIS QUARTET OF MIGHTY **AVENGERS--** WHO INDEED WERE OUR **VERY FIRST VICTIMS!**

I PLANNED THEIR CAPTURE FOR **MONTHS--** YET IT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN BUT A FEW **MOMENTS--**

--AS COUNTLESS LITERS OF OUR POWERFUL, NON-LETHAL **GAS** WERE CONDUCTED INTO **AVENGERS MANSION** ITSELF-- THRU THEIR OWN VULNERABLE **AIR-CONDITIONERS!**

SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS DONE! SIMPLE-- BUT **EFFECTIVE!**

WELL, THERE'S NO MORE TO BE GAINED BY **SITTING HERE**, IN A **FRIGHT WIG** AND LEFT-OVER **MIKE MURDOCK SHADES---**

HOLD IT, YOU! WHERE ARE Y--?

I'M NOT **BLIND**, MISTER! I CAN SEE WE'RE ALL BEING **RAIL-ROADED!**

WELL, THERE'S SOME OF US IN THIS TOWN THAT CAN STILL **FIGHT BACK!**

YOU SAID IT, FELLA! LET'S **ALL GO** CLEAN UP THOSE DIRTY---

NO-- WAIT! YOU WOULDN'T STAND A **CHANCE!**

HE--HE'S **RIGHT!** LOOK! THE OTHER GUY IS ALREADY **DOWN!** WE'RE ALL-- **HELPLESS!**

AHH-- I'M GLAD YOU'VE ALL COME TO YOUR **SENSES--** OR THERE WOULD BE **MANY DEATHS** HERE TODAY!

GUARDS-- YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO! **THIS DOG** SHALL BE EXECUTED WITH THE **AVENGERS!**

YES, SUPREME ONE!



THE FOOL!
WHY DIDN'T HE
STAY WHERE
HE WAS SAFE?

THAT'S JUST
WHAT YOU'RE
ABOUT TO
LEARN, FINK--

--IN ABOUT TWO
SECONDS, IF MY HYPER-
SENSES DON'T LET ME DOWN!

--THE VERY MACHINE WHICH HAS HELD FOUR
MIGHTY AVENGERS IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED
ANIMATION!

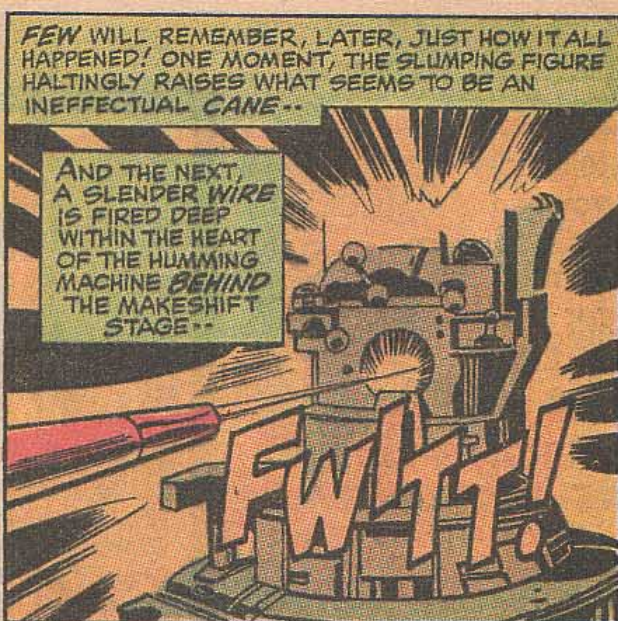


FREE
AGAIN!

TO STRIVE
--AND TO
CONQUER!



--SO LET'S
NOT MUFF
IT!



FEW WILL REMEMBER, LATER, JUST HOW IT ALL
HAPPENED! ONE MOMENT, THE SLUMPING FIGURE
HALTINGLY RAISES WHAT SEEMS TO BE AN
INEFFECTUAL CANE--

AND THE NEXT,
A SLENDER WIRE
IS FIRED DEEP
WITHIN THE HEART
OF THE HUMMING
MACHINE BEHIND
THE MAKESHIFT
STAGE--

FWITT!



THAT HARPOON-LINE
FOULED UP THE
APPARATUS-- BUT
GOOD!

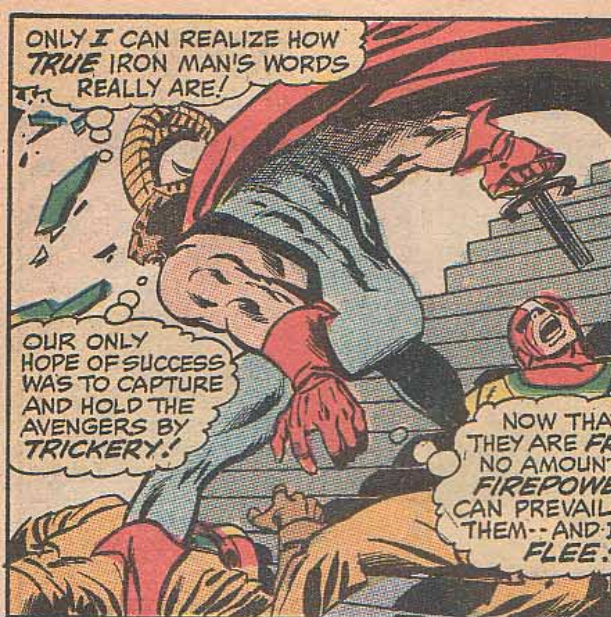
WHOEVER
THAT JOE IS,
HE GAVE US OUR
CHANCE--!



ARIES! H-HELP
US, SUPREME
ONE--!

IT'S A LITTLE
LATE FOR THAT,
RAT!

IF YOU CAN'T
SEE THE HAND-
WRITING ON
THE WALL...
I'LL READ
IT TO
YOU!



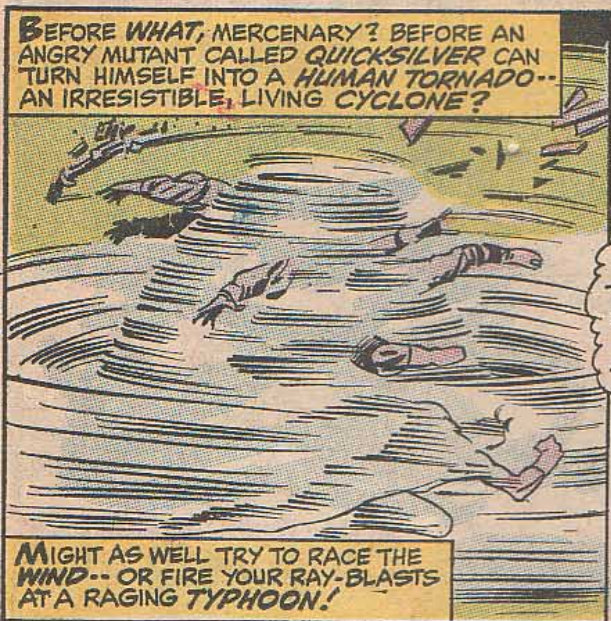
OUR ONLY HOPE OF SUCCESS WAS TO CAPTURE AND HOLD THE AVENGERS BY TRICKERY!

NOW THAT THEY ARE FREE-- NO AMOUNT OF FIREPOWER CAN PREVAIL AGAIN THEM-- AND I MUST FLEE!



LOOK! OUR LEADER IS DESERTING US!

THEN, LET'S BLAST OUR WAY AFTER HIM, BEFORE...



BEFORE WHAT, MERCENARY? BEFORE AN ANGRY MUTANT CALLED QUICKSILVER CAN TURN HIMSELF INTO A HUMAN TORNADO-- AN IRRESISTIBLE, LIVING CYCLONE?

MIGHT AS WELL TRY TO RACE THE WIND-- OR FIRE YOUR RAY-BLASTS AT A RAGING TYPHOON!



YET, NOT ALL THE FORCES OF ZODIAC HAVE PANICKED THUS--!

HAD NO CHOICE-- BUT TO TAKE REFUGE BEHIND THIS DAMAGED APPARATUS!



WELL, IF IT WAS THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR WHO TURNED THE DEVICE INTO A USELESS TOWER OF METAL---

IT IS THE BLACK PANTHER WHO SHALL TOPPLE IT---



--- AND TRANSFORM IT INTO A DEADLY WEAPON!

WAY TO GO, PANTHER!
BUT NOW THAT I'M
BACK IN
COSTUME..

HOW ABOUT
LETTING OL'
DD GET A
PIECE OF
THE ACTION?

THERE BE ENEMIES IN *PLENTY* STILL AT
LARGE, DAREDEVIL--- IN THE STREETS
BEYOND THESE PORTALS!

BUT--IT'S
ARIES WHO'S
THE *REAL*
DANGER--AND
HE'S AMONG
THE *MISSING*!

I SAW HIM FLEEING, AVENGERS--
BUT WAS TOO BUSY TO *PUR*SUE
HIM TILL NOW!

COME,
THOR--IF
ANYTHING
WILL STOP
HIS ZODIAC
KEY, IT WILL
BE YOUR
VAUNTED
HAMMER!

BY THE GRIM
VISAGE OF
HOGUN!

THERE! THAT
VTOL CRAFT
WHICH JUST
TOOK OFF!

MAYHAP THOU
CANST NOT,
MORTAL---

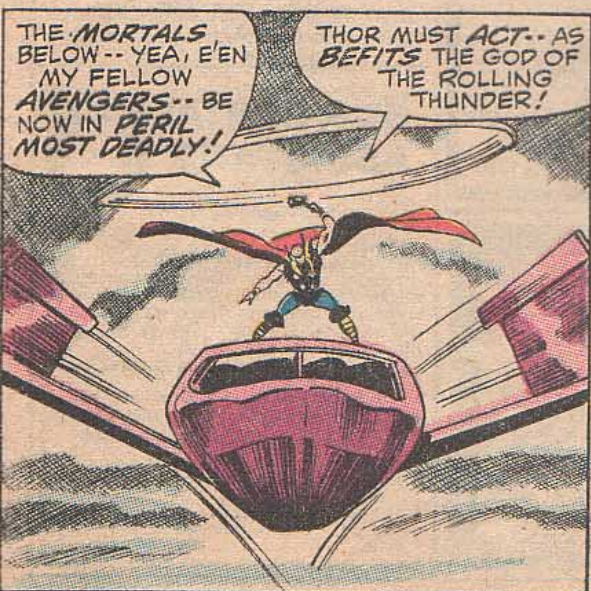
BUT-- I
CAN'T REACH
IT NOW!

BUT THE
SON OF
ODIN BE
MADE OF
STERNER
STUFF!

FASTER, YOU FOOL!
I WANT *MACH*
SPEED!

THE THUNDER
GOD IS *GAINING*
ON US!

THE CRAFT
WILL GO NO
FASTER,
GREAT,
ONE!





EPILOGUE: THIS SEEMED BUT A SIMPLE TALE--- TRUE, FULL OF GALLANTRY AND HEROISM-- OF EVIL AVERTED AND RIGHT TRIUMPHANT! AND YET, THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM--- AND THUS, AS NINE SUPER-POWERED FIGURES GATHER SOME HOURS LATER IN THE SANCTITY OF AVENGERS MANSION---



YEAH! HERE US THREE THOUGHT WE WERE JUST DOIN' OUR BIT TO HELP THE NOBLE RED MAN...*

WHILE IN TRUTH, CORNELIUS VAN LUNT WAS IN LEAGUE WITH ZODIAC ITSELF!

HE HAD FINANCED THE RAISING AND TRAINING OF ITS ARMY--HIDDEN IT ON HIS SPRAWLING RANCH!

THAT IS WHY HE WISHED TO DRIVE THE INDIANS AWAY!

* LAST ISSUE! --S.

AND WHEN AN EXPLOSION BLEW HIS DAM SKY-HIGH, ARIES HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO MOVE UP HIS TIMETABLE-- AND INVADE LAST NIGHT!

MAYBE HIS HASTE WAS WHAT GAVE US THE EDGE!

US, CAP? IF NOT FOR DD AND THE PANTHER, WE'D STILL BE IN COLD STORAGE!

YET, WE TWO ALSO OVERLOOKED A CLUE THAT MIGHT HAVE PREVENTED THE INVASION!

WE'VE LEARNED THAT THE THUNDERBOLT GANG WE DEFEATED WAS HOOKED UP WITH ZODIAC, TOO!

WE WERE ALL TOO HUNG UP OVER OUR OWN SPECIAL INTERESTS TO SEE THE BIG PICTURE!

IRONIC THAT I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO THINK OF THIS---

BUT WE ALL REMIND ME OF AN OLD FABLE I ONCE HEARD---

...ABOUT THREE BLIND MEN, TRYING TO DESCRIBE AN ELEPHANT!

ONE FELT ITS TRUNK-- ONE ITS TAIL-- AND ONE ITS BODY!

THEY DIDN'T GET ANYWHERE --- TILL THEY COMPARED NOTES!

THINK ABOUT IT!

T'CHALLA, I STILL DON'T GET THAT ONE CRACK OF HIS!

BELIEVE ME, CAP...

YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE ME!

WHY IS IT IRONIC THAT HE SHOULD RECALL THAT PARTICULAR FABLE?

END OF EPILOGUE

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