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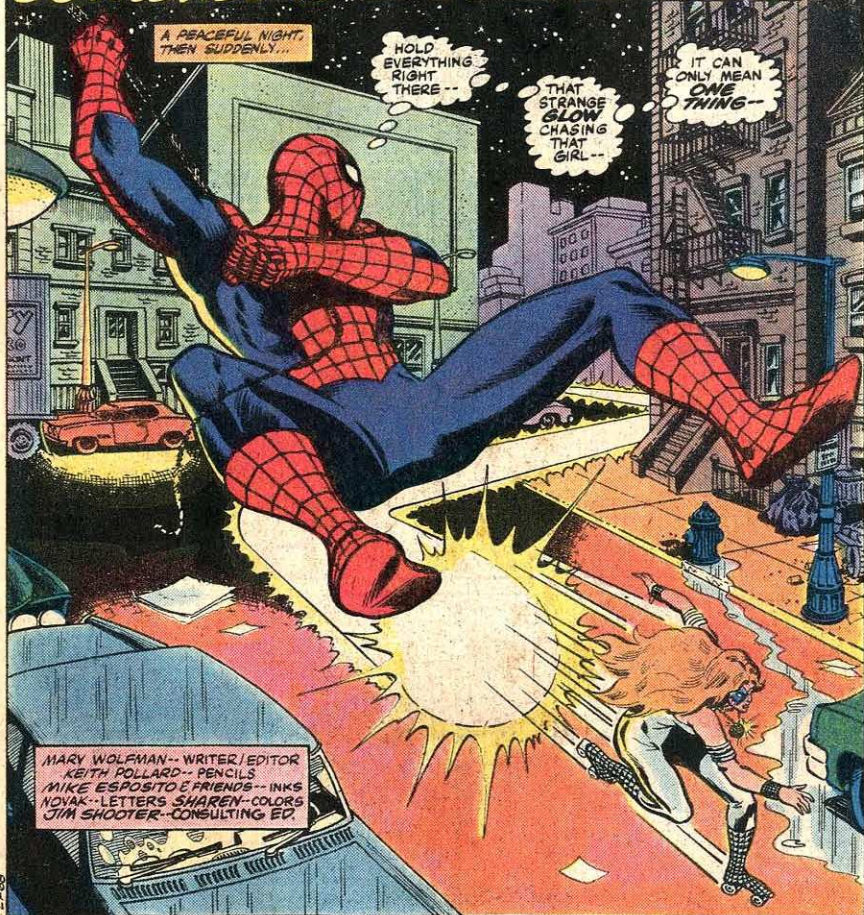
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DISAPPEARING INK



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, AT PETER PARKER'S CHELSEA STREET APARTMENT...

I'VE HAD SO MANY OF THESE T.V. DINNERS LATELY, I THINK I'M GONNA GROW RABBIT EARS!

NOK NOK

SOME-ONE AT THE DOOR?

C'MON IN, IT'S OPEN!

HI, PETE, HOW ARE YOU BUDDY?

HARRY OSBORN!
HEY, C'MON IN!

GREAT SEEN' YOU, HARRY, WE REALLY HAVEN'T SEEN MUCH OF EACH OTHER LATELY...

YEAH, WELL, EVER SINCE YOU AND BETTY BROKE UP AND YOU STARTED TEACHING AND WORKING...

...I GUESS OUR PATHS HAVEN'T CROSSED ALL THAT OFTEN. BUT AT LEAST WE'LL ALL BE TOGETHER TONIGHT!

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU--

NOK NOK

WHAT'S GOING ON--? SINCE WHEN DID CHELSEA STREET BECOME GRAND CENTRAL STATION? FLASH!

IN PERSON, PAL ...WHY AREN'T YOU READY YET?

READY? FOR WHAT?

DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT. WE AGREED TO ALL SEE **STAR TREK** TONIGHT!

OH, MY HEAVEN... I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT!

BUT, TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS LINE! IT WENT AROUND THE BLOCK!

YOU SURE WE'LL GET IN?

DON'T WORRY IT, PETER, MY EX-GIRL FRIEND IS THE **CASHIER**... SHE'S ALREADY PUT OUR TICKETS ASIDE. WE'LL GET IN.

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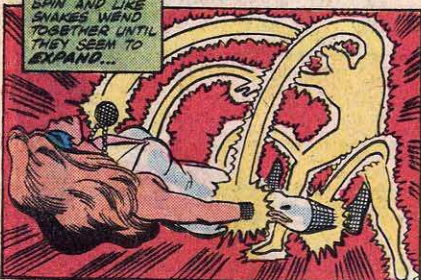
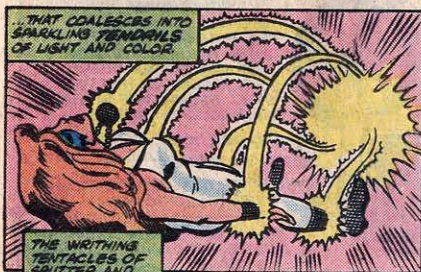
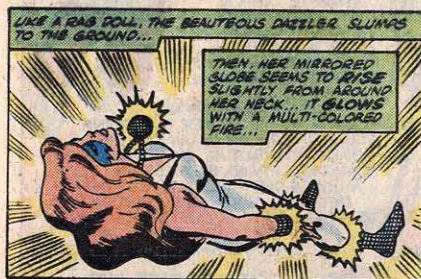
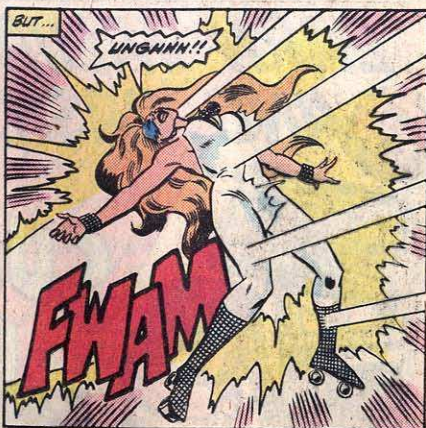
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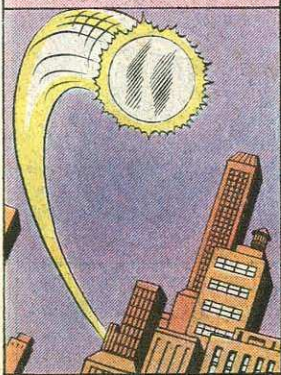
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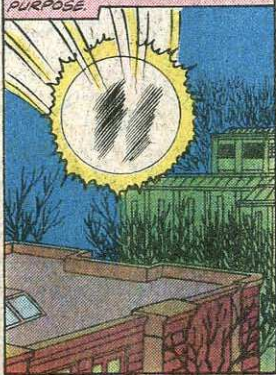




ACROSS A BLACKENED SKY A GOLDEN BALL ROCKETS WITH THE SPEED OF A FALLING METEOR.



BUT UNLIKE SOME ERRANT HEAVENLY BODY THIS GLOWING GLOBE HAS BOTH DIRECTION AND PURPOSE.



IT SWOOPS TOWARD THE CAMPUS OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...



...ONLY TO VANISH AS IT PLUNGES GROUNDWARD...

BUT SOON, DEEP BELOW THE SPRAWLING COLLEGE CAMPUS IN A LABORATORY CONSTRUCTED YEARS BEFORE...

SO NOW IT SLOWLY BECOMES CLEAR... YOU SEEM TO BE A **MUTANT**... THAT EXPLAINS YOUR ENERGY ABSORBING POWERS...

IT EXPLAINS MUCH, INDEED...

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND... HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT ME... HOW COULD YOU **USE** ME?



IT IS YOUR MUSIC... MY DEAR... EACH TIME YOU GAVE A CONCERT, THE MUSIC **INCREASED** YOUR POWER...

AS YOUR POWER IS BASED ON LIGHT... IT SOMEHOW AFFECTED ME WHILE I WAS TRAPPED IN THE LIGHT DIMENSION.*

WITH EACH CONCERT YOU GAVE, I FELT MYSELF GAIN STRENGTH... UNTIL I POSSESSED POWER ENOUGH TO CREATE A LIGHT GLOBE ON EARTH IN ORDER TO **CAPTURE** YOU.

*AS SHOWN IN SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #20. -- MARY.

AND SO I HAVE CAPTURED YOU -- I HAVE ABSORBED ENOUGH OF YOUR POWER TO RETURN ME TO THIS DIMENSION --

...AND NOW I WILL CONTINUE TO ABSORB YOUR POWER IN ORDER THAT I MAY GET EVER STRONGER AND STRONGER!

YOU AND I WILL BE QUITE A TEAM, MY DEAR... QUITE A TEAM, INDEED!

BUT, SUDDENLY...

DON'T BET ON IT, BRIGHTS!

KRASH!

IN FACT, I WOULDN'T BET ON MUCH OF ANYTHING RIGHT ABOUT NOW --

--SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GONNA BE ABLE TO COLLECT WHERE I'M GONNA PUT YOU!

YOU AGAIN? HOW DID YOU FIND ME HERE?

COME OFF IT -- YOU WERE ONCE E.S.U.'S VICE-CHANCELLOR -- IT DIDN'T EXACTLY TAKE A WHOLE LOTTA BRAINS TO FIGURE OUT WHERE'D YOU RUN OFF TO...

AND WHEN I GOT HERE, MY SPIDER-SENSES TOOK ME THE REST OF THE WAY!

THEN YOUR RIDICULOUS SENSES WOULD HAVE WARNED YOU THAT YOU ARE SOON TO DIE!

BOOM!

ACTUALLY, THEY DID WARN ME BRIGHT-EYES -- WARNED ME THAT I WAS DEALING WITH A GRADE-A LOONEY!

WHAT? YOU DODGED MY LIGHT BLAST?

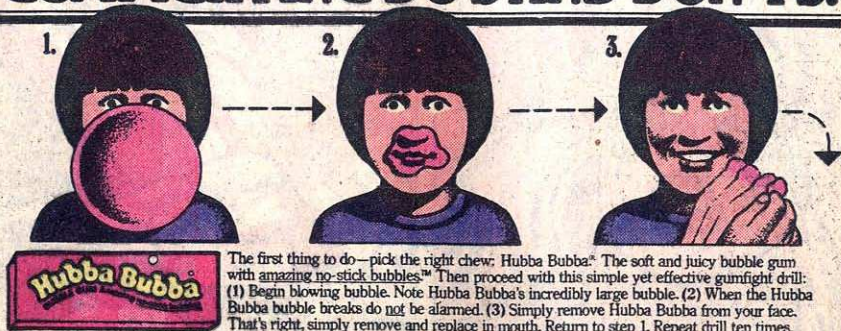
YEAH! AND I CAN SING, TOO!

THE ONLY SONG YOU SHALL SING, MY WEBBED-FRIEND -- IS YOUR FUNERAL SONG!

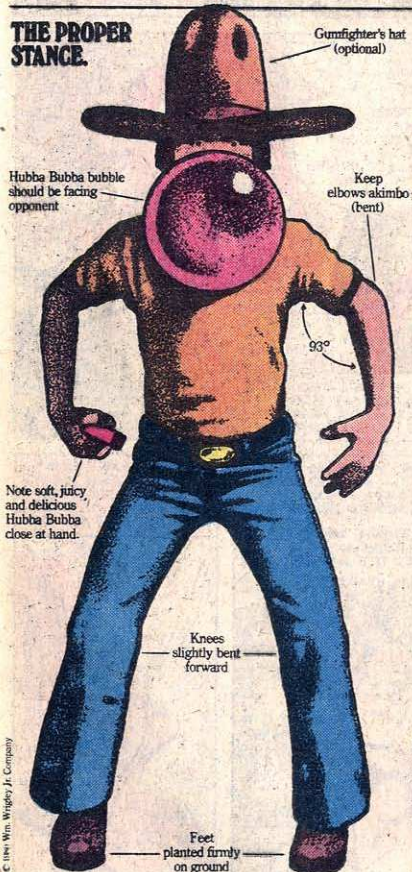
OBSERVE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I PULL THIS LEVER!

SUDDENLY, THE UNCONSCIOUS DAZZLER BEGINS TO GLOW... HER LITHE BODY SEEMS COVERED WITH LAMBERT FLAME...

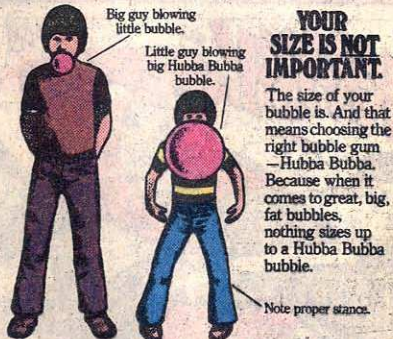
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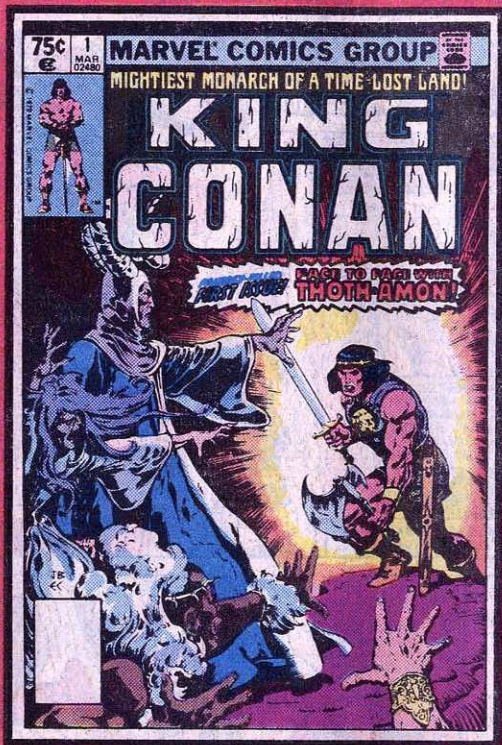
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...BUT I STILL COME UP ALIVE AND KICKING...



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WHEW! THE LIGHT BEAM JUST MISSED ME

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TRAINS LEAVING	
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HAWAII	9:00
BORNEO	9:35
BABYLON	10:10
TATODINE	13:17

ANSWERS:

- 1) THE NEWSSTAND OWNER HAS AN ANCHOVY IN HIS SHIRT POCKET THAT SLID OFF HIS PIZZA AT BREAKFAST.
- 2) ALL THE TRAINS ARE LEAVING ON SCHEDULE. THAT MAY NOT BE WRONG, BUT IT'S CERTAINLY UNUSUAL.
- 3) THE OLD WOMAN'S 123 PERFUME TURNED SOUR IN THE BOTTLE AND SMELLS LIKE EGG SALAD FLOATING IN GASOLINE.
- 4) THE MAN IN THE SUIT BOUGHT EVERY COPY OF MARVEL COMICS ON THE STAND! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT, BUT THE OLD WOMAN WAS THERE FIRST!

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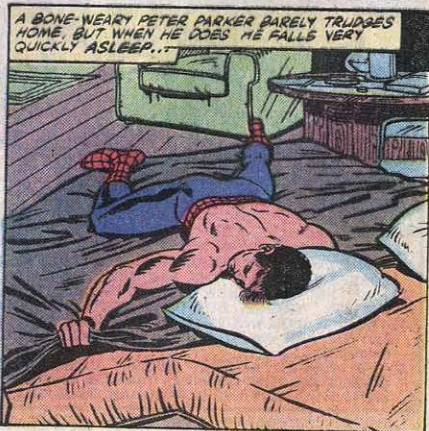
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BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

You wouldn't believe it! Even I can hardly believe it! I've told you about a lot of nutty things here in the Soapbox, but this is probably the nuttiest!

Now, before you can appreciate the monstrous mix-up I'm gonna lay on you, you've gotta understand that three months go by between the time I write these wondrous words and the time you read them. In other words, this column which you're ecstatically reading right now is scheduled to appear in the mags that go on sale in the month of January, 1980. But I'm writing it on Sept. 30th, 1979! Got that? You and I, at this very moment, are separated by a three-month gap — or even a longer interval if you bought this issue way after its original on-sale date! (The reason is, of course, that it takes about three months to get the magazines engraved, printed, and then shipped to your friendly

neighborhood magazine seller.)

Okay, so here's what happened. When I wrote last month's Soapbox, I wanted to make sure that everyone would have a chance to watch the new Captain America TV Special which was scheduled to be shown on CBS-TV early in January. Therefore, I told you all about it last issue. Well, just yesterday, (MY yesterday, not yours!) Sept. 29th, I learned that CBS is planning to move the date up and show Cap's new movie sometime in November, instead of January! But I'd just told you that it would be shown in January — and my column was already at the printer, too late to change it!

So now you know the reason why I wrote a heavy, emotional, enthusiastic message to you last ish, telling you not to miss Cap's second TV Special — telling you not to miss a show that had

already been broadcast one or two months earlier!! But that's not the worst of it! Just imagine if CBS changes its mind and decides to reschedule the show for January or February or whatever! This column will already be at the printer, too late to change again, and I'll have to write another confusing, long-winded apology next month! Hey, Doc Doom — where are you with your time machine now that I need you?

Well, since you're probably as confused as I am by now, I figure it's time to end this little literary litany and turn to far more important matters, such as seeing if I can still remember how to spell the most mind-boggling salutation of all —

Excelsior!

Stan

Marvel Masterpieces on sale this month!

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- **DEFENDERS #82** — The Hulk, Dr. Strange and Sub-Mariner face the dreaded Unnameable in the fantastic realm known as "Tuesdays".
- **SHOGUN WARRIORS #15** — Rich and Carson is replaced by a villainous look-alike!
- **ROM #6** — ROM takes on a surprise villain. Hint: You've seen him before in the original Lee/Dillie Dr. Strange series!
- **MICRONAUTS #18** — The Fabulous Fantastic Four team up with the Micronauts to do battle with Psycho-Man!
- **FANTASTIC FOUR #217** — The Disco Dazzler does her guest-star thing. Plus: the secret of Herbie the robot revealed!
- **BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #14** — The trial of Sir Lint!
- **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #203** — Spider-Man and the Disco Dazzler team up against the terror known as Lightmaster!
- **DR. STRANGE #40** — The Master of the Mystic Arts fights for his life against Azazel, the Angel of Death. Plus: The villainy of Baron Mordo!
- **MARVEL TEAM-UP #92** — Spider-Man must rescue Ghost Rider from the clutches of Mephisto the Magician!
- **BGT. FURY #157** — Representing Sgt. Fury #61. The "Howlers" mission: Rescue Sam Sawyer from the Nazis — or die trying!
- **WHAT IF #20** — What if the Avengers had fought the Kree-Skrull War without Rick Jones? An alternate reality that'll knock your socks off!
- **MARVEL TALES #114** — Re-presenting Amazing Spider-Man #137. The cataclysmic conclusion of Spider-Man's battle with the reborn Green Goblin.
- **STAR TREK #1** — Rumor time is over! At last — Mighty Marvel unleashes the first part of its awesome adaptation of the movie of the year. Quite possibly the most incredible space fantasy you'll ever read!
- **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #62** — Counter-Earth is missing! And only the Thing and guest-star Moonranger can hope to find it!
- **CAPTAIN AMERICA #244** — Cap takes on the Amazing Adonis!
- **GHOST RIDER #43** — A sinister sorcerer separates Johnny Blaze from the Ghost Rider! You've got to read it to believe it!
- **AVENGERS #194** — A mystery villain! The secret of the man called Selby. Plus: A behind-the-scenes peek at life in Avengers Mansion!
- **X-MEN #132** — "Showdown With the Hellfire Club!"
- **MARVEL FUN & GAMES #8** — Puzzles, mazes, and brain-twisters galore as you match wits with the Bullpen's Best!
- **THOR #294** — Beginning this issue: The Quest for the Ring of the Nibelung!
- **TALES TO ASTONISH #5** — Enter Dr. Doresca and Tiger Shark!
- **FANTASY MASTERPIECES #5** — Re-presenting Silver Surfer #5. The Surfer takes on the dreaded Stranger. Guest-starring the far-out Fantastic Four!
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- **MACHINE MAN #14** — You and Machine Man must unravel the mystery of: "The Man Who Walked Through Walls!"
- **SAVAGE SHE-HULK #3** — She-Hulk: Wanted for Murder!
- **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #41** — Spider-Man and Giant-Man team up against Mole-Man!
- **STAR WARS #24** — Epic space battle as the Star Warriors rush to destroy the Empire's demonic Omega Effect in "Thunder in The Stars!"
- **POWER MAN #62** — Luke Cage at the mercy of the Maggia — and only Iron Fist and Thunderbolt can save him!
- **MASTER OF KUNG FU #87** — Shang-Chi versus the agents of Fu Manchu in the legendary city of Casablanca!
- **CONAN #169** — Conan battles the savage "Sons of the Bear God!"
- **MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #87** — Re-presenting Fantastic Four #107. Read curies Ben Grimm of being the Thing — or does he? Plus: The Villainy of Jactus!
- **MARVEL PREMIERE #53** — Starring the Black Panther: T'Challa uncovers the deadly secret of the Knights of the Dragon Circle!
- **SPIDER-WOMAN #25** — Spider-Woman becomes a criminal! How? Why? It's a shocker!
- **IRON MAN #133** — Iron Man is trapped by the most unexpected foe of all — his own invincible armor! Guest-starring Anti-Man!



MARVEL MAGAZINES

- **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #50** — Part II of the novel "Conan the Conqueror" by Robert E. Howard.
- **CRAZY #60** — The only thing that could be weirder than last month's Crazy — this month's!
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NEXT ISSUE: SHE'S THE BLACK CAT LANDS ON HER FEET!

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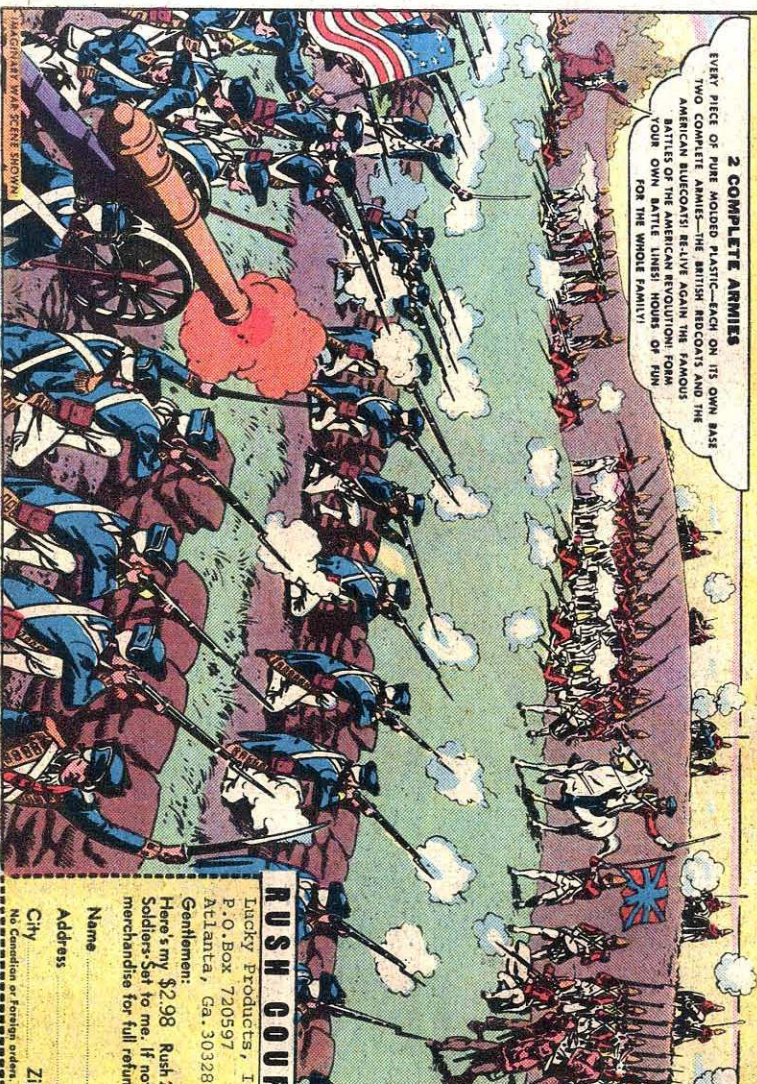
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