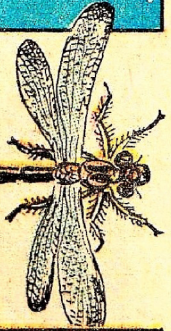


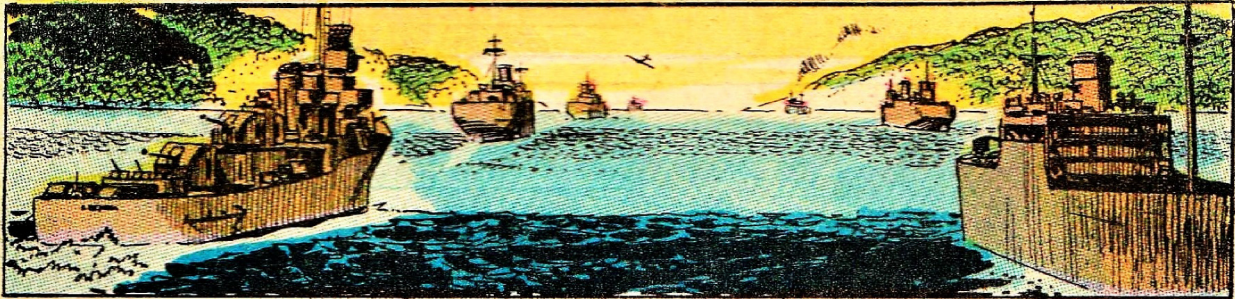
# U.S.S. STEVENS

DD-479

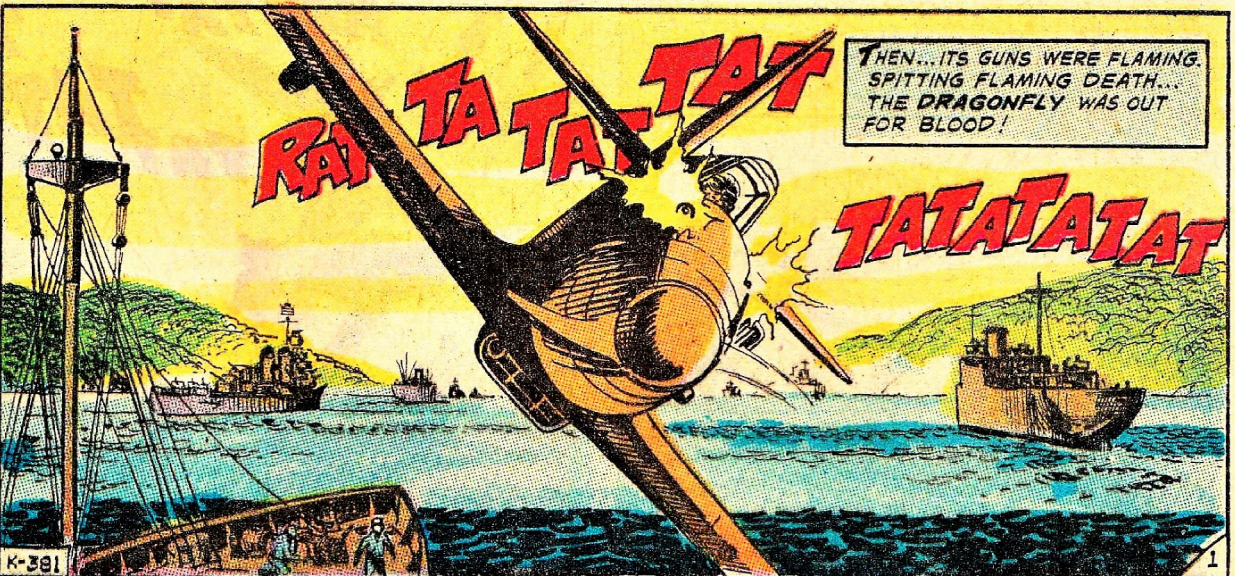
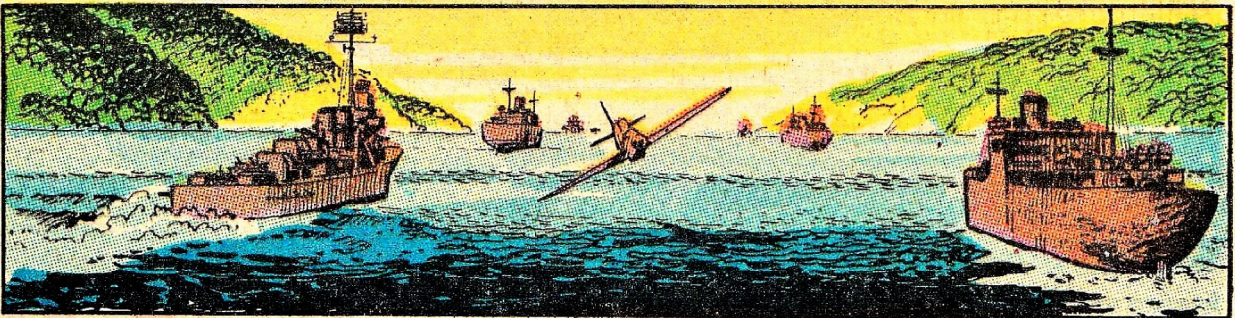
# DRAGONFLY



THE CONVOY WAS DRAWN IN TIGHT AS WE ENTERED THE NARROW STRAIT... SUDDENLY-- A SPECK ON THE HORIZON APPEARED... SKIMMING THE WATER LOW AND FAST!



THE SUN REFLECTED OFF ITS WINGS AS THE PLANE ZOOMED CLOSER... FLASHING PAST THE LEAD SHIPS... LIKE A HUGE DRAGONFLY!

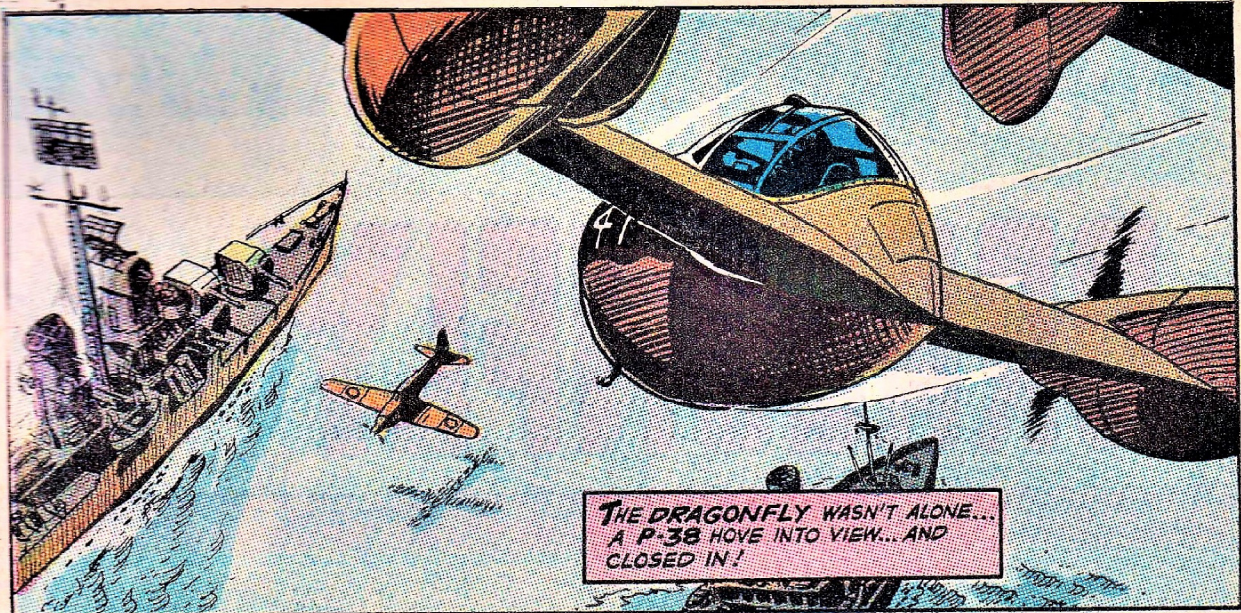


THEN... ITS GUNS WERE FLAMING. SPITTING FLAMING DEATH... THE DRAGONFLY WAS OUT FOR BLOOD!

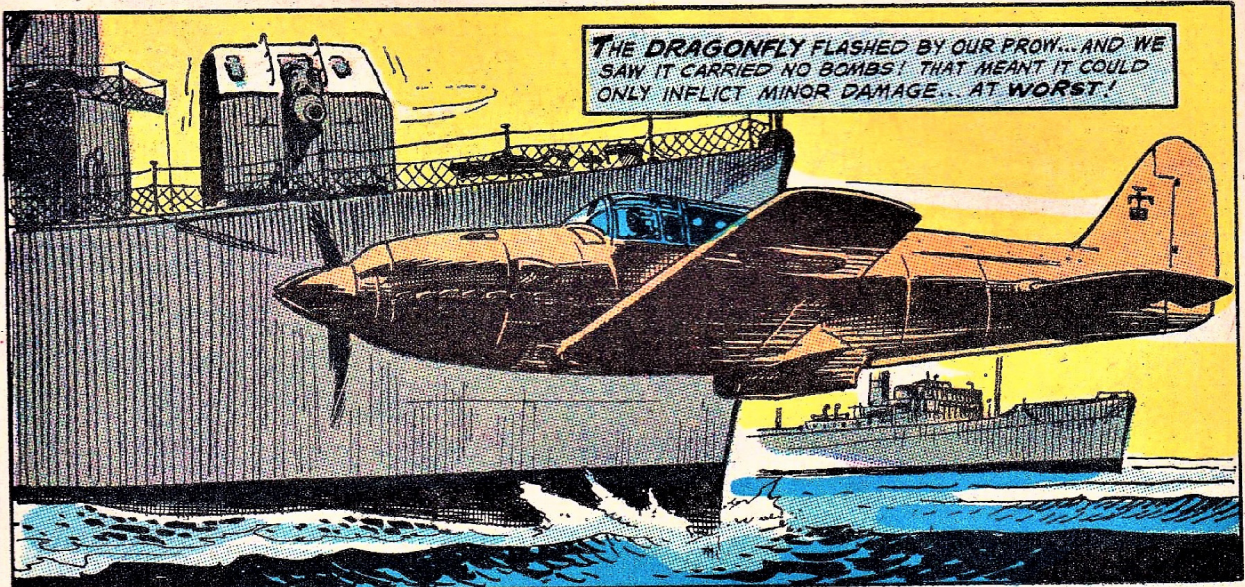
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To Doug Rose      Sam Lamm



THE DRAGONFLY WASN'T ALONE...  
A P-38 HOVE INTO VIEW... AND  
CLOSED IN!



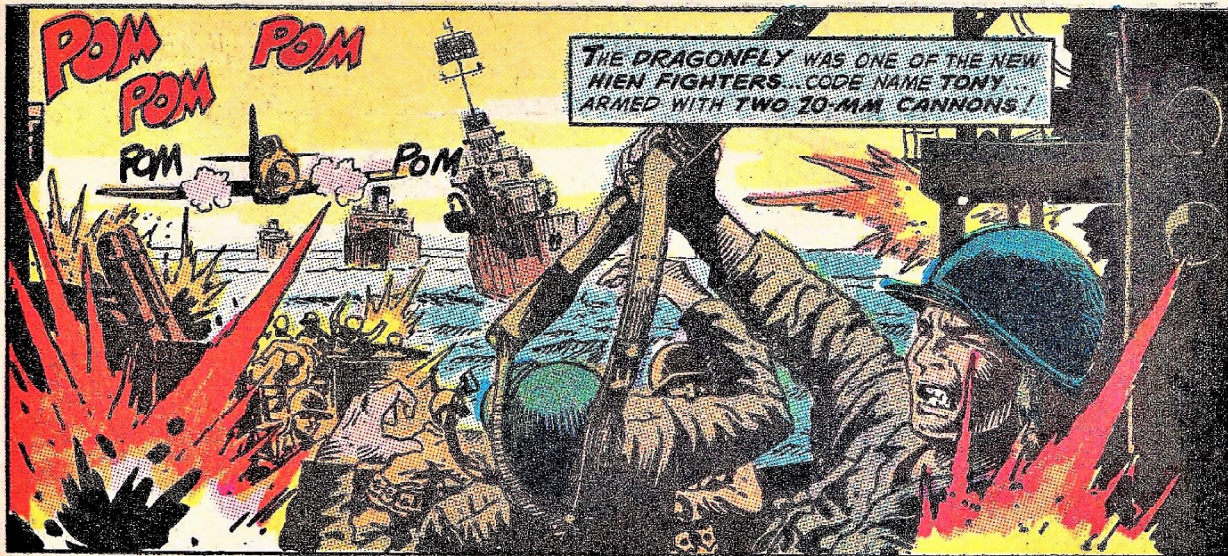
THE DRAGONFLY FLASHED BY OUR PROW... AND WE  
SAW IT CARRIED NO BOMBS! THAT MEANT IT COULD  
ONLY INFLICT MINOR DAMAGE... AT WORST!



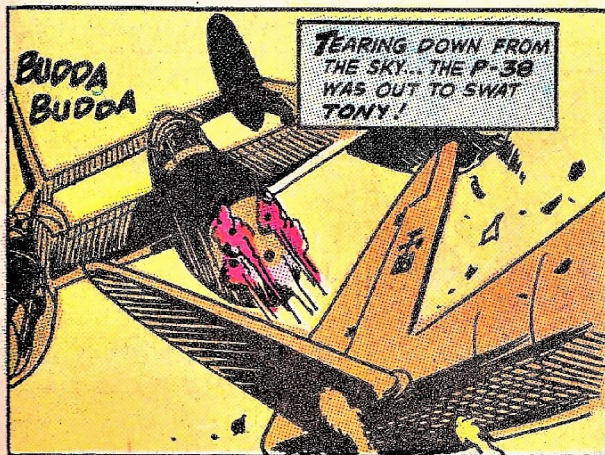
THE DRAGONFLY WAS CLOSE  
ENOUGH TO THROW OUR HATS  
AT... BUT... WE HELD OUR FIRE  
FOR FEAR OF HITTING OUR  
OWN NEARBY SHIPS!



THEN... THE SWIFT-FLYING  
AIRCRAFT SPED PAST...  
CUT SHARP... AND HEADED  
FOR A TROOPER!

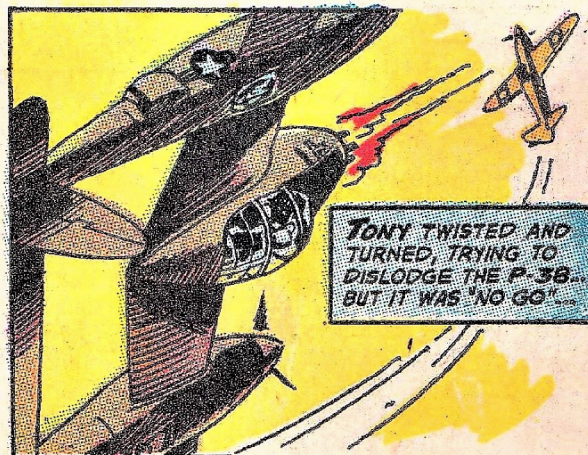


THE DRAGONFLY WAS ONE OF THE NEW HIEN FIGHTERS... CODE NAME TONY... ARMED WITH TWO 20-MM CANNONS!

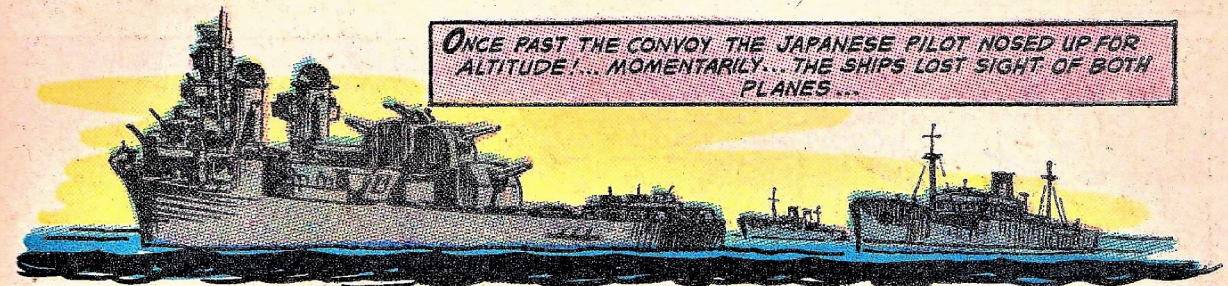


BUDDA  
BUDDA

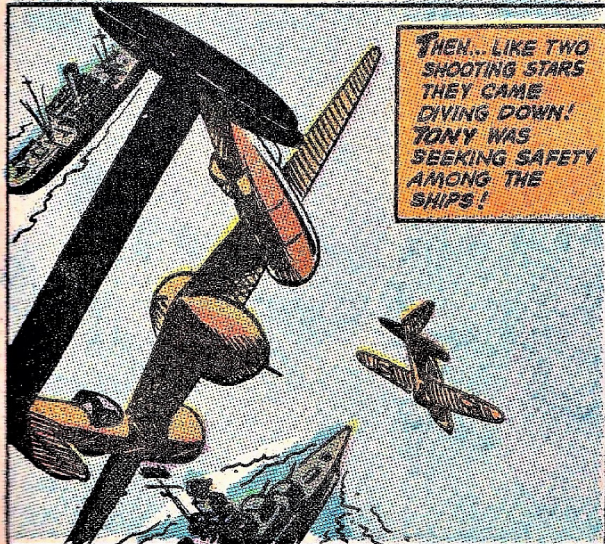
TEARING DOWN FROM THE SKY... THE P-38 WAS OUT TO SWAT TONY!



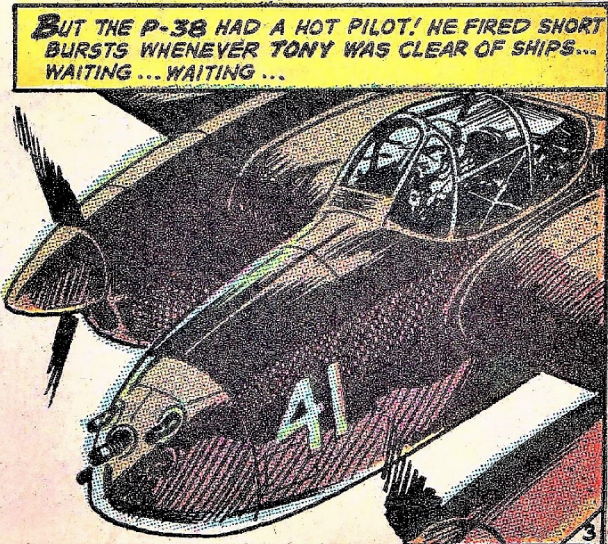
TONY TWISTED AND TURNED, TRYING TO DISLODGE THE P-38... BUT IT WAS "NO GO"...



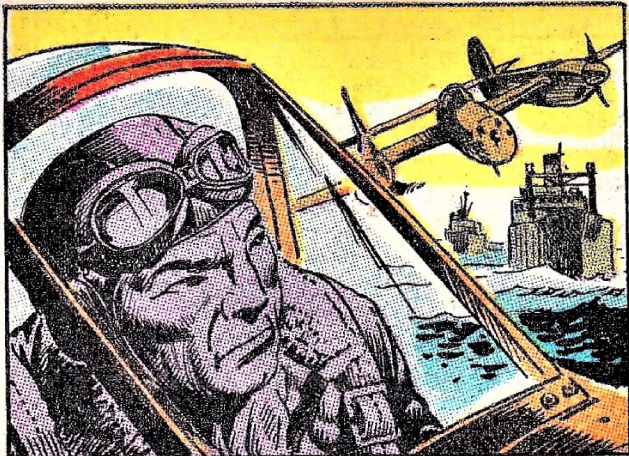
ONCE PAST THE CONVOY THE JAPANESE PILOT NOSED UP FOR ALTITUDE!... MOMENTARILY... THE SHIPS LOST SIGHT OF BOTH PLANES...



THEN... LIKE TWO SHOOTING STARS THEY CAME DIVING DOWN! TONY WAS SEEKING SAFETY AMONG THE SHIPS!

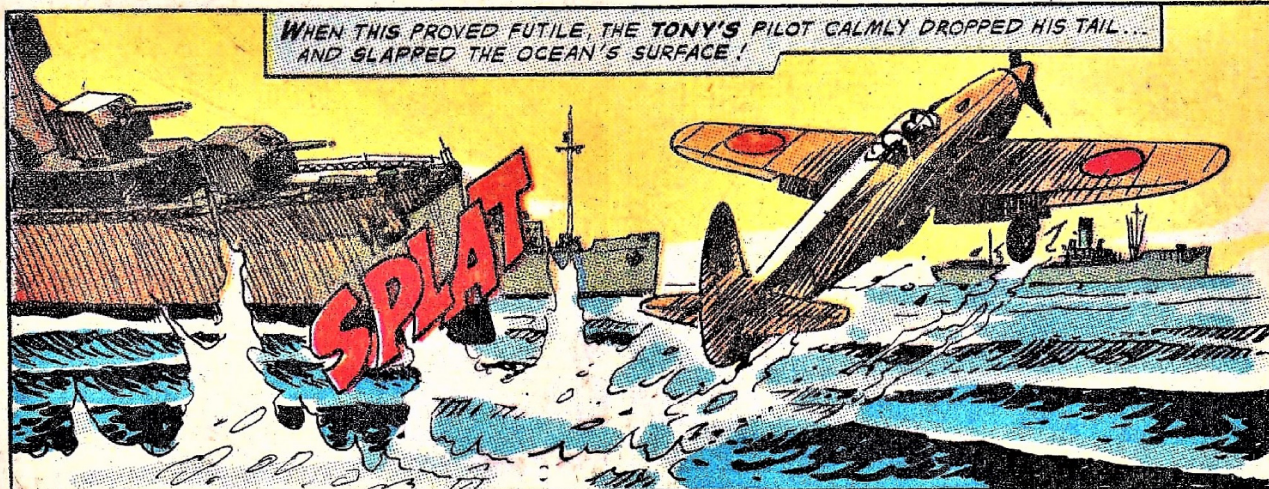
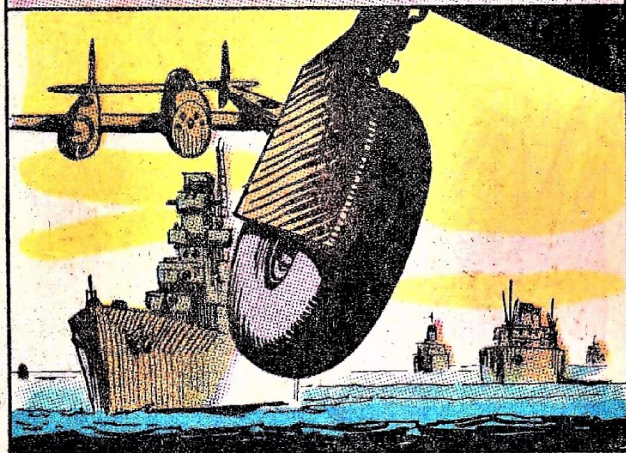


BUT THE P-38 HAD A HOT PILOT! HE FIRED SHORT BURSTS WHENEVER TONY WAS CLEAR OF SHIPS... WAITING... WAITING...



THE P-38 HUNG ONTO THE DRAGONFLY AS IF THERE WAS AN INVISIBLE TOWLINE BETWEEN THEM...

DESPERATELY, THE JAPANESE PILOT BRUSHED THE WATER... WEAVING BETWEEN SHIPS... FISH-TAILING... THROTTLING BACK... DROPPING HIS WHEELS TO CUT HIS SPEED! HOPING THE P-38 WOULD OVERSHOOT...



WHEN THIS PROVED FUTILE, THE TONY'S PILOT CALMLY DROPPED HIS TAIL... AND SLAPPED THE OCEAN'S SURFACE!



THAT WAS ALL HE NEEDED TO SLOW HIM DOWN... AN INSTANT LATER, THE P-38 OVERSHOT --- AND WAS CAUGHT IN THE TONY'S SIGHTS...

PERHAPS THE DRAGONFLY WAS DAMAGED... OR LOW ON FUEL... SO IT LEFT! BUT... NOT BEFORE EXECUTING A VICTORY ROLL... PAST THE FLAMING P-38!



The End.