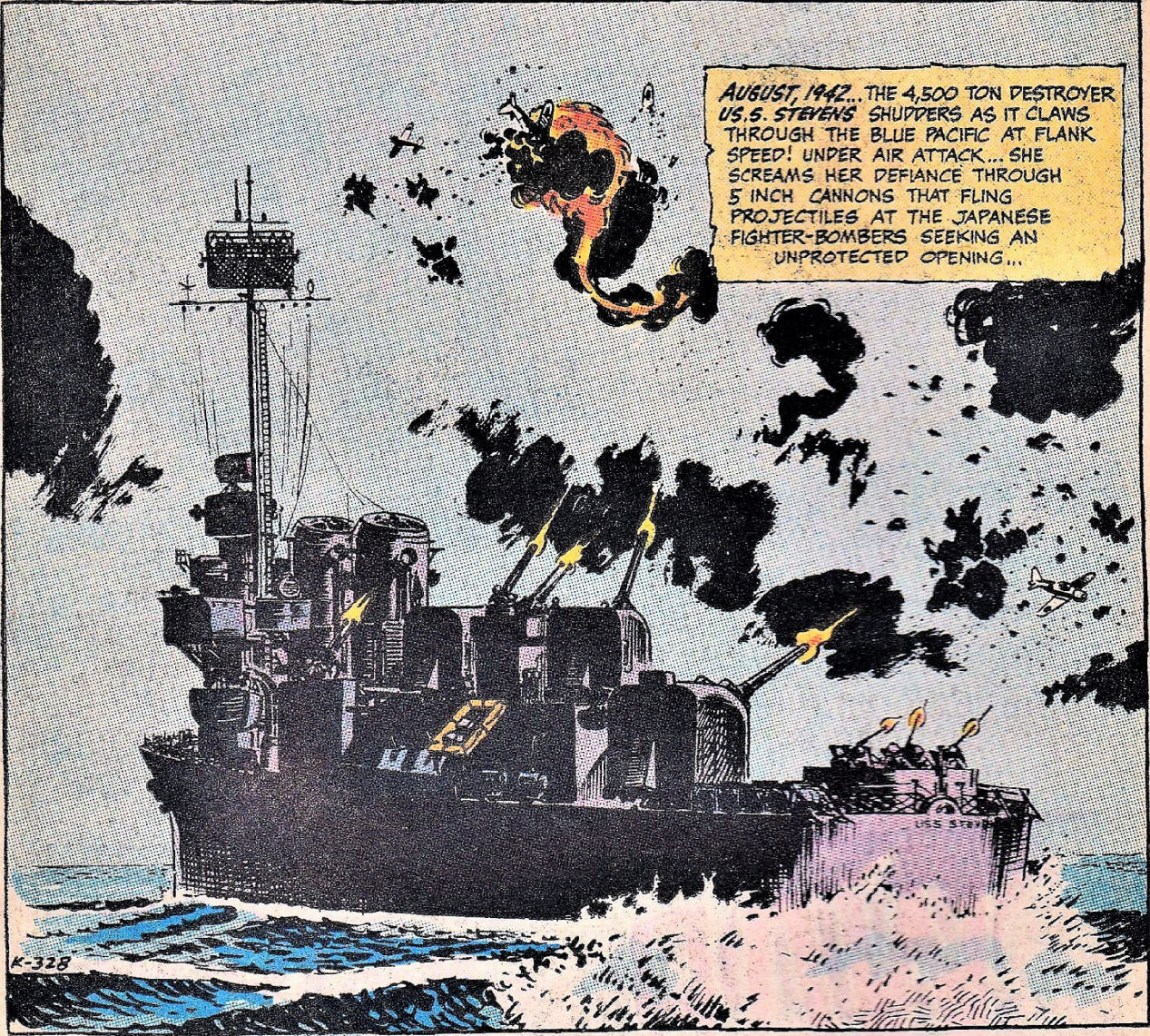


U.S.S. STEVENS

D.D. 479

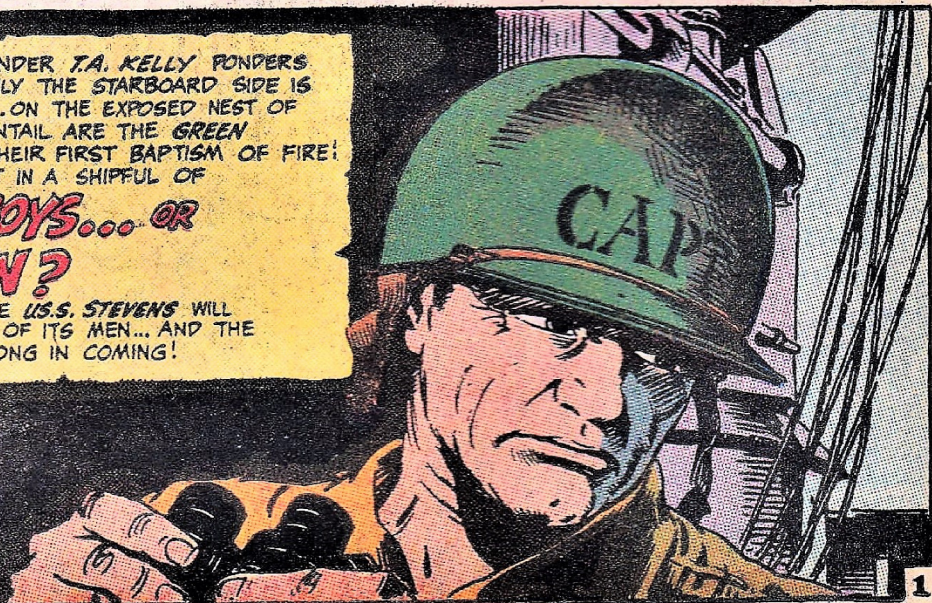


AUGUST, 1942... THE 4,500 TON DESTROYER U.S.S. STEVENS SHUDDERS AS IT CLAWS THROUGH THE BLUE PACIFIC AT FLANK SPEED! UNDER AIR ATTACK... SHE SCREAMS HER DEFIANCE THROUGH 5 INCH CANNONS THAT FLING PROJECTILES AT THE JAPANESE FIGHTER-BOMBERS SEEKING AN UNPROTECTED OPENING...

ON HER BRIDGE COMMANDER T.A. KELLY PONDERES THE ODD FACT THAT ONLY THE STARBOARD SIDE IS UNDER ATTACK! THERE... ON THE EXPOSED NEST OF 20 M.M.'S ON THE FANTAIL ARE THE GREEN SWABBIES... UNDERGOING THEIR FIRST BAPTISM OF FIRE! WILL THE BATTLE RESULT IN A SHIPFUL OF

FRIGHTENED BOYS... OR FIGHTING MEN?

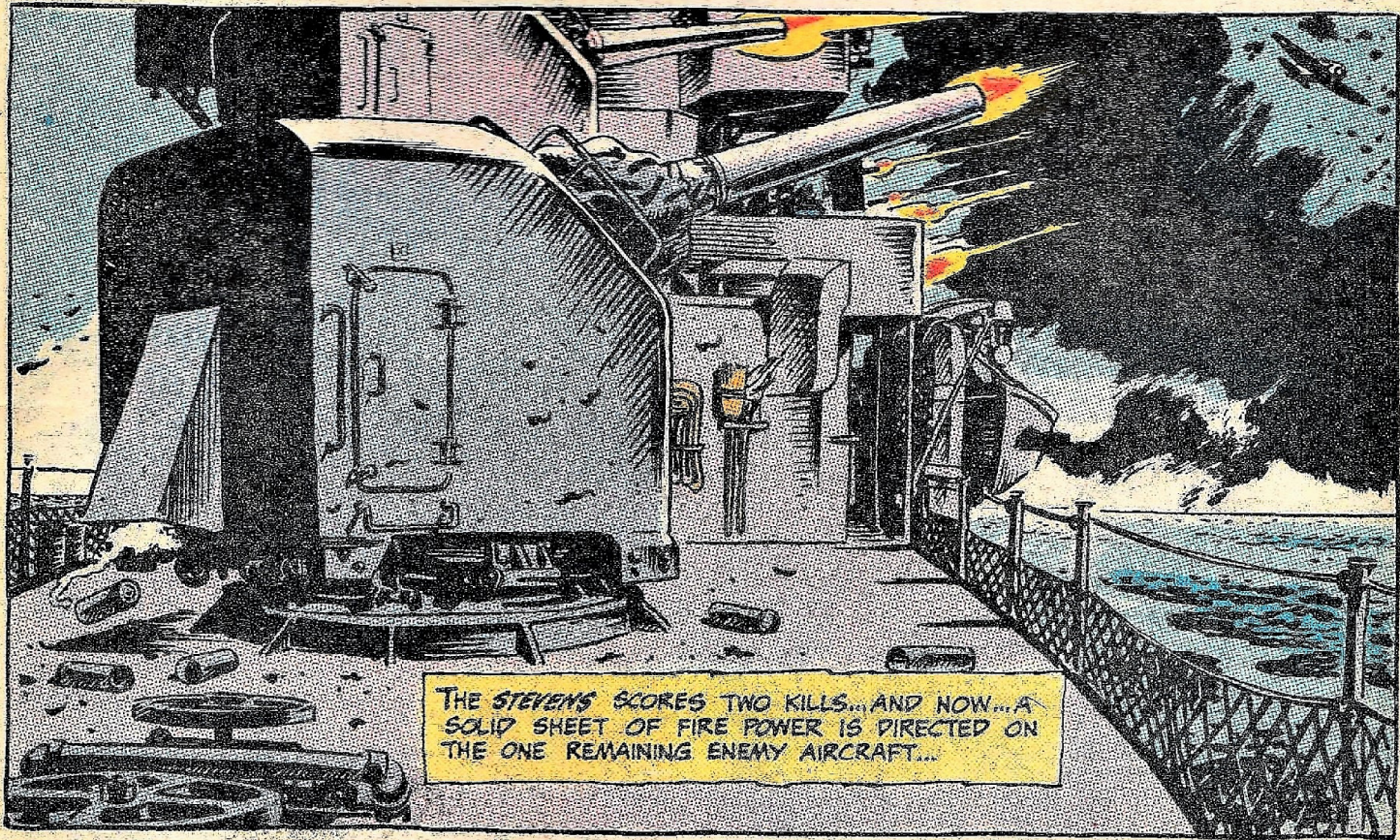
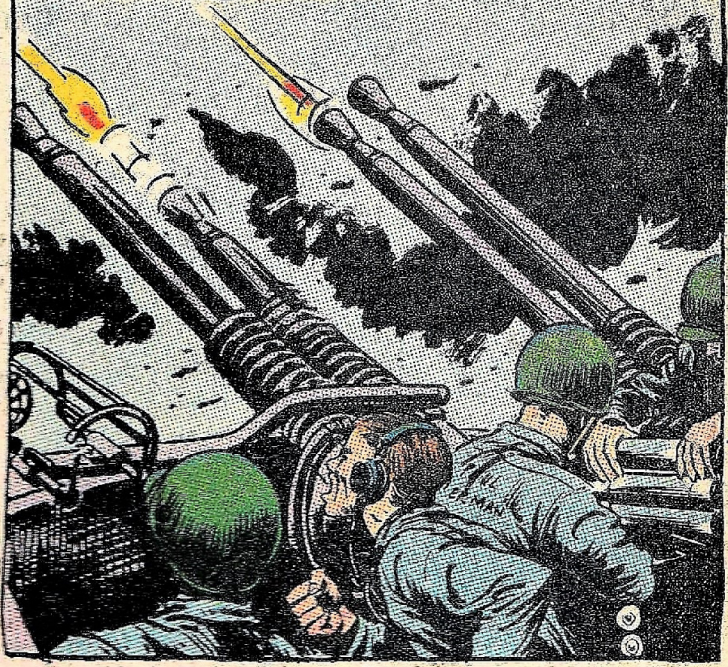
THE FATE OF HIS SHIP, THE U.S.S. STEVENS WILL DEPEND ON THE ACTION OF ITS MEN... AND THE ANSWER WILL NOT BE LONG IN COMING!



POOM-POOM OF THE 40'S PUNCTUATE THE WHINE OF THE DIVE-BOMBERS...

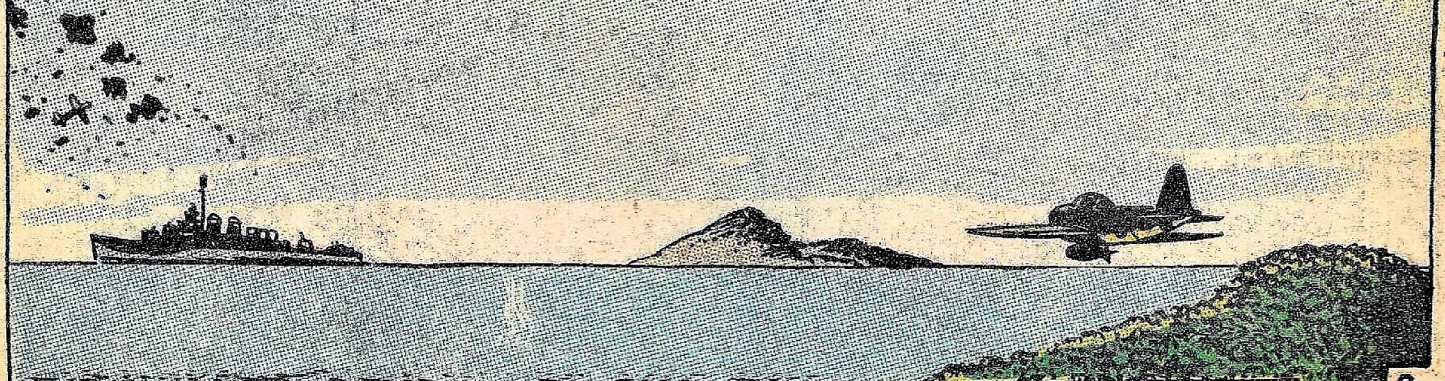


AN EAR-SHATTERING CHATTERING FILLS THE AIR AS THE 20'S SPEW FLAMING TRACERS SKYWARD, SEEKING THEIR ELUSIVE PREY...

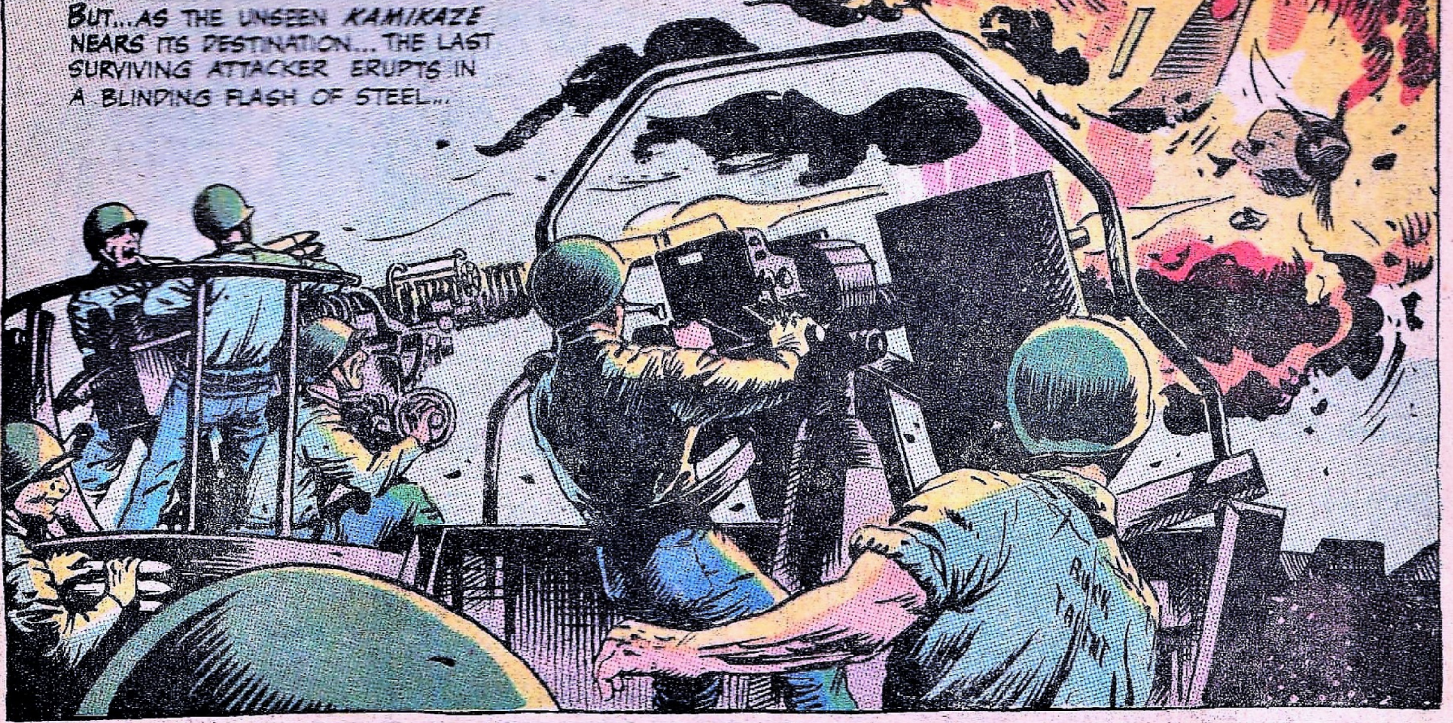


THE STEVENS SCORES TWO KILLS...AND NOW...A SOLID SHEET OF FIRE POWER IS DIRECTED ON THE ONE REMAINING ENEMY AIRCRAFT...

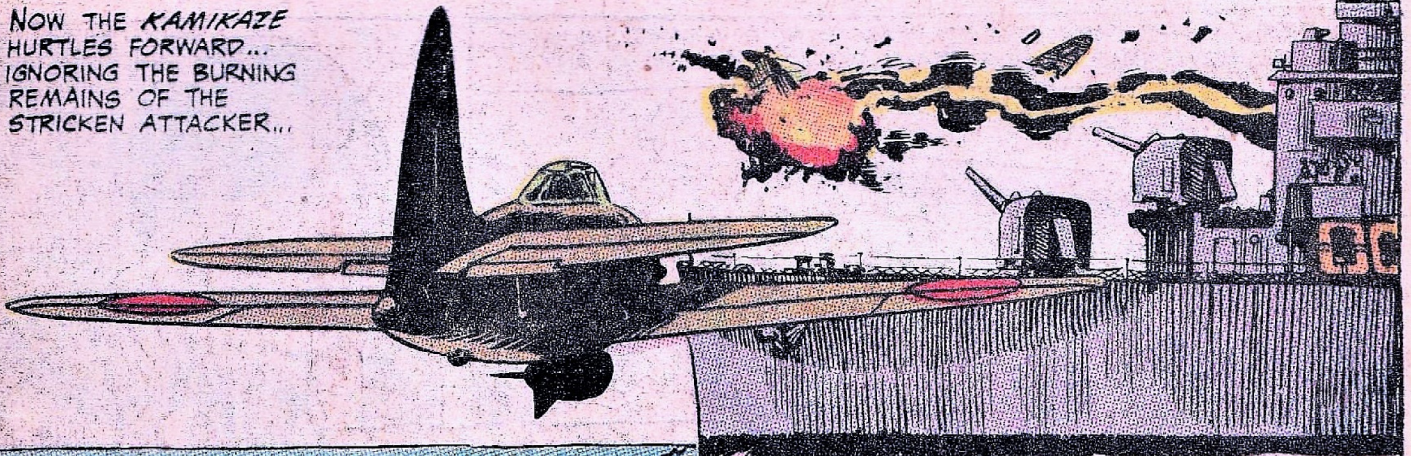
COMING UP ON HER PORT SIDE...MASKED FROM RADAR BY A LOW LYING ISLAND...UNSEEN BY THE LOOKOUTS...IS A **KAMIKAZE!** IN 40 SECONDS THE **HUMAN BOMB** CAN REACH AND DESTROY ITS TARGET!



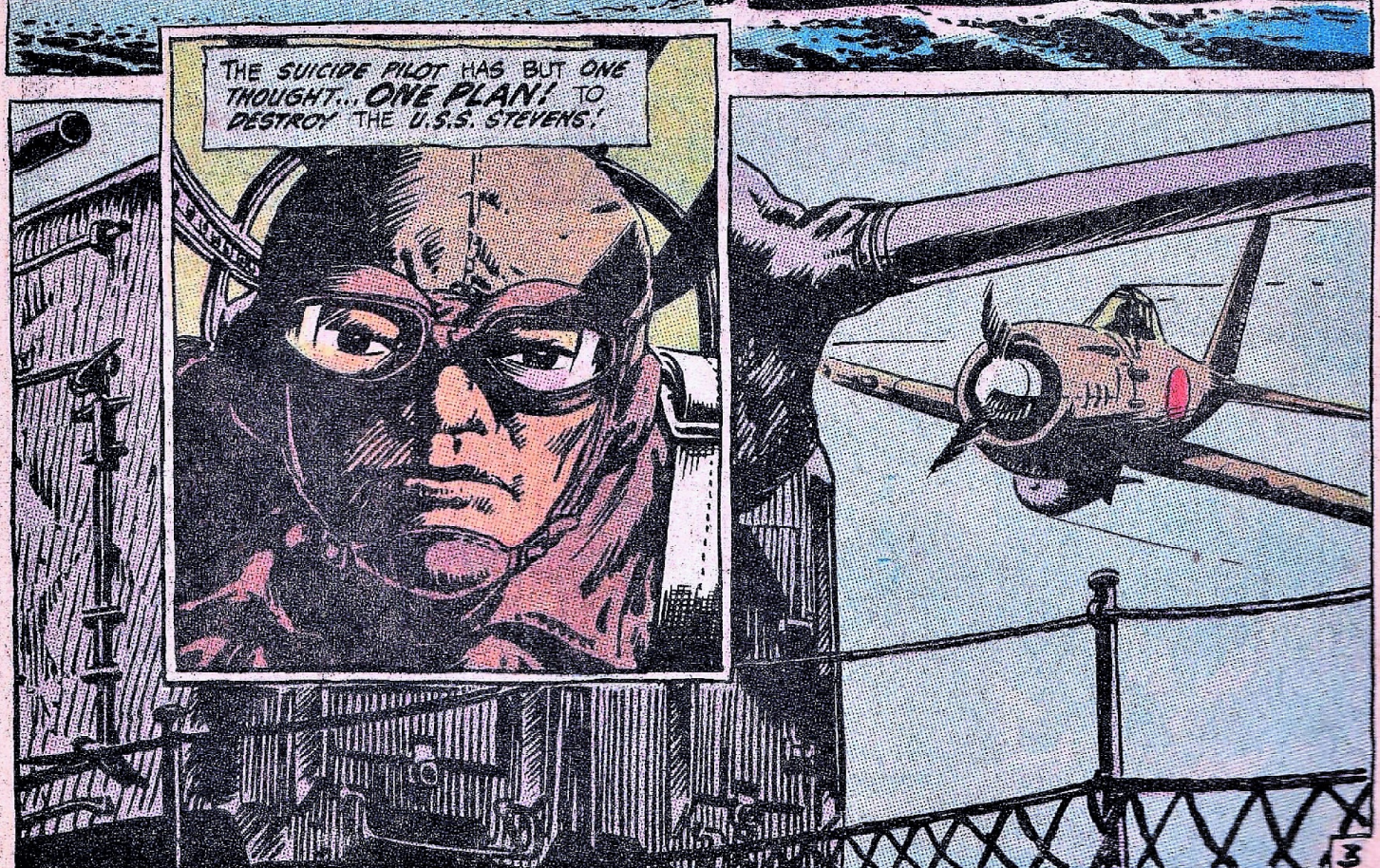
BUT...AS THE UNSEEN KAMIKAZE
NEARS ITS DESTINATION... THE LAST
SURVIVING ATTACKER ERUPTS IN
A BLINDING FLASH OF STEEL...



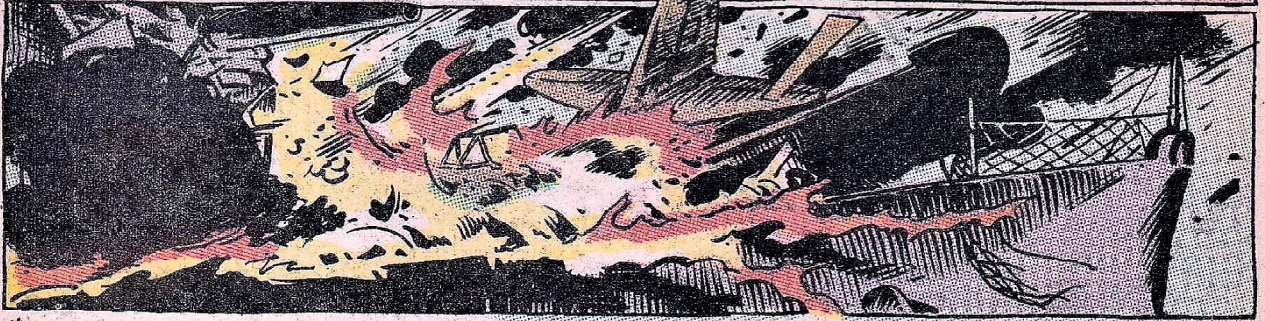
NOW THE KAMIKAZE
HURTLES FORWARD...
IGNORING THE BURNING
REMAINS OF THE
STRICKEN ATTACKER...



THE SUICIDE PILOT HAS BUT ONE
THOUGHT... ONE PLAN! TO
DESTROY THE U.S.S. STEVENS!



IN THE SPLIT-SECOND BETWEEN LIFE AND ETERNITY—TWISTED STEEL AMIDST SHEETS OF FIRE SPIRAL UP—
AS THE U.S. STEVENS LURCHES UNDER THE IMPACT OF THE KAMIKAZE...

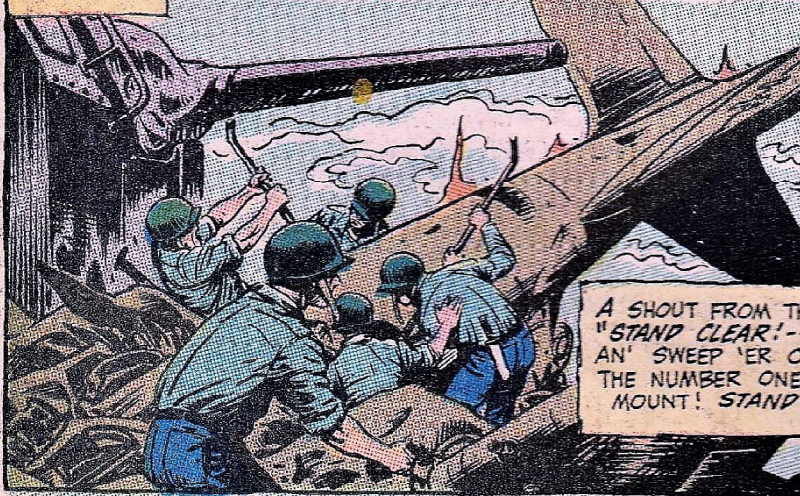


"CLEAR THE DECK... CLEAR THE DECK! THE BOMB'S A DUD... IT HASN'T GONE OFF!"



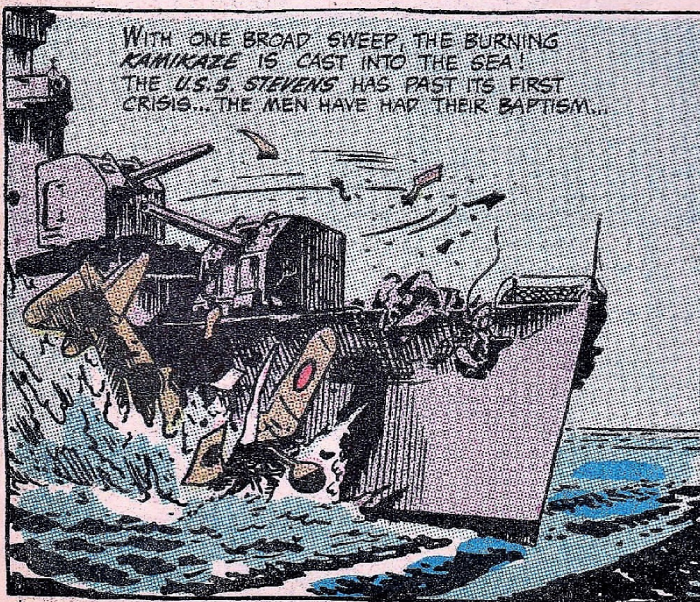
"HEAVE IT OVER THE SIDE... MOVE IT-- BEFORE IT DETONATES FROM THE HEAT!"

DESPERATELY THE CREW SETS TO WORK WITH PRY-BARS... KNOWING THAT THE BOMB BENEATH THE KAMIKAZE CAN GO OFF AT ANY MOMENT...



A SHOUT FROM THE BOS'N...
"STAND CLEAR!-- I'LL TRY
AN' SWEEP 'ER OFF WITH
THE NUMBER ONE GUN
MOUNT! STAND CLEAR!"

WITH ONE BROAD SWEEP, THE BURNING
KAMIKAZE IS CAST INTO THE SEA!
THE U.S. STEVENS HAS PAST ITS FIRST
CRISIS... THE MEN HAVE HAD THEIR BAPTISM...



WELL DONE, MEN!
SECURE STATIONS...
AND CARRY ON!

STORY, ART - SAM J. GLAZERMAN