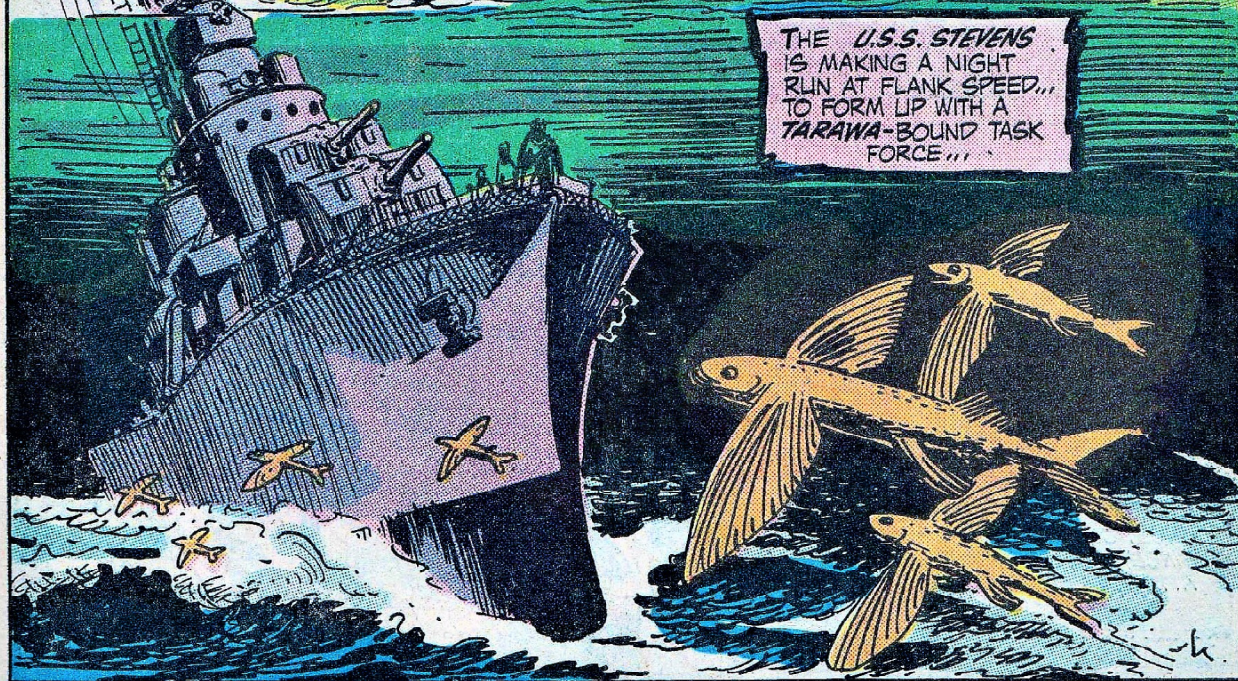


U.S.S. STEVENS

Imperium Nepivni Regis

SAM GLANZMAN

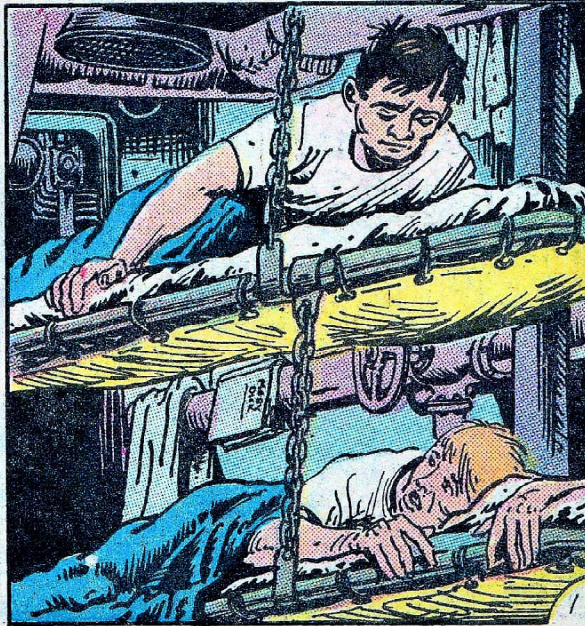
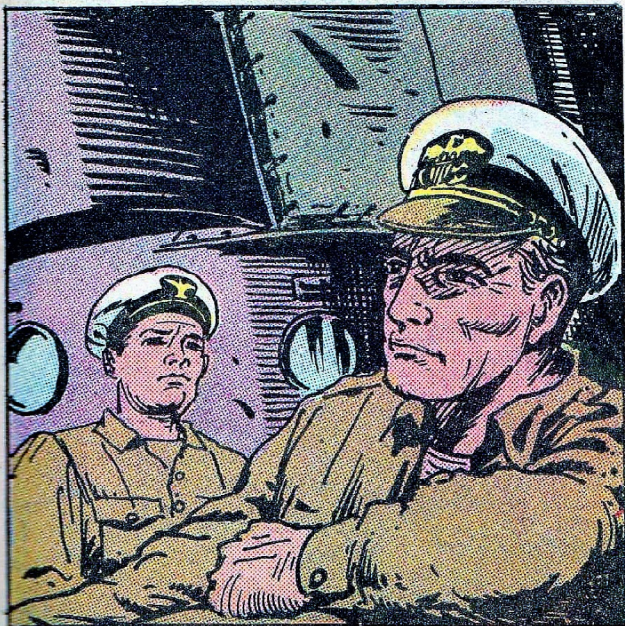


THE U.S.S. STEVENS IS MAKING A NIGHT RUN AT FLANK SPEED... TO FORM UP WITH A TARAWA-BOUND TASK FORCE...

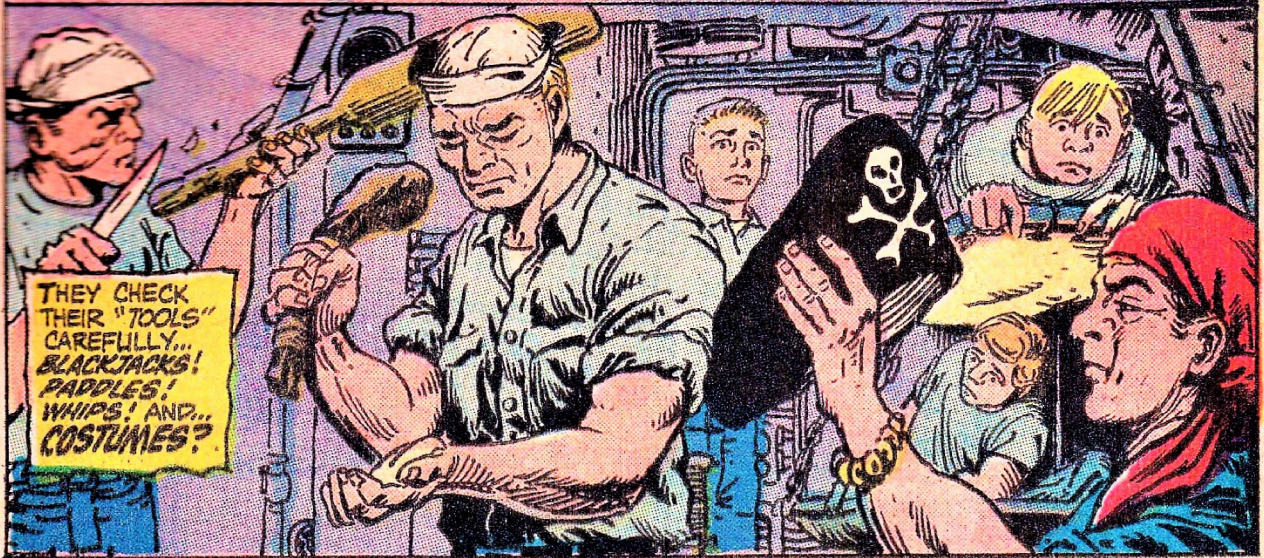
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ON HER BRIDGE, TWO J.G. OFFICERS APPEAR NERVOUS... APPREHENSIVE...

BELOW DECKS THE CREWMEN TOSS AND TURN IN THEIR BUNKS... UNABLE TO SLEEP...

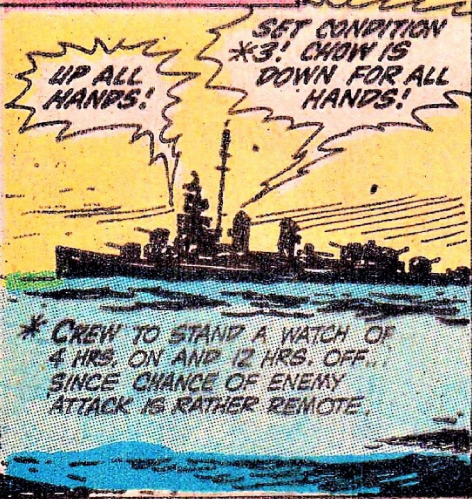


AT DAWN, EVERY EXPERIENCED HAND GOES UNHESITATINGLY TO HIS TASK...



THEY CHECK THEIR "TOOLS" CAREFULLY... BLACKJACKS! PADDLES! WHIPS! AND... COSTUMES?

AS THE SUN RISES, DD 479 DROPS BACK TO 1/3 SPEED...

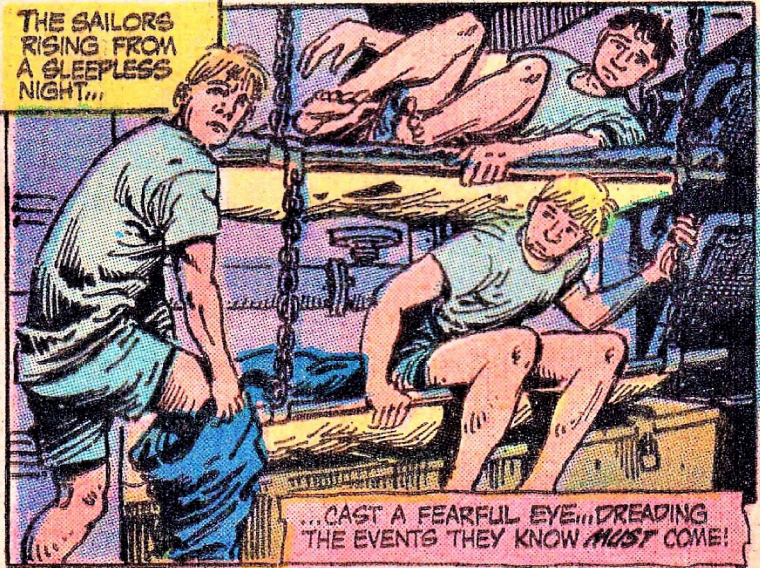


UP ALL HANDS!

SET CONDITION *3! CHOW IS DOWN FOR ALL HANDS!

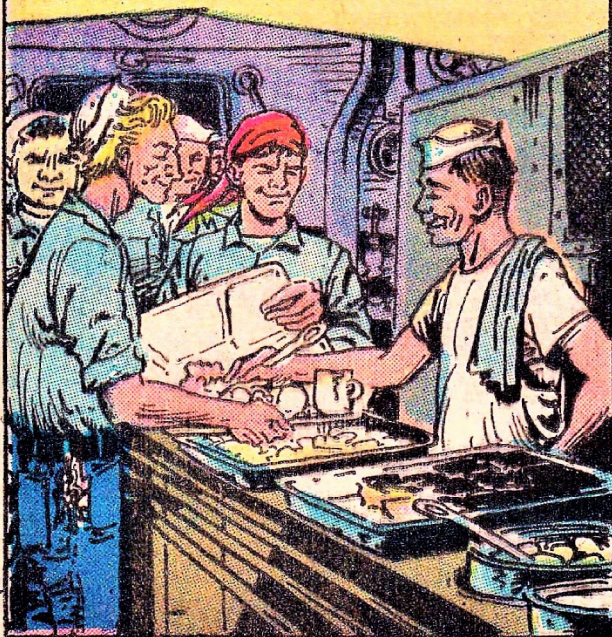
* CREW TO STAND A WATCH OF 4 HRS. ON AND 12 HRS. OFF... SINCE CHANCE OF ENEMY ATTACK IS RATHER REMOTE.

THE SAILORS RISING FROM A SLEEPLESS NIGHT...



...CAST A FEARFUL EYE... DREADING THE EVENTS THEY KNOW MUST COME!

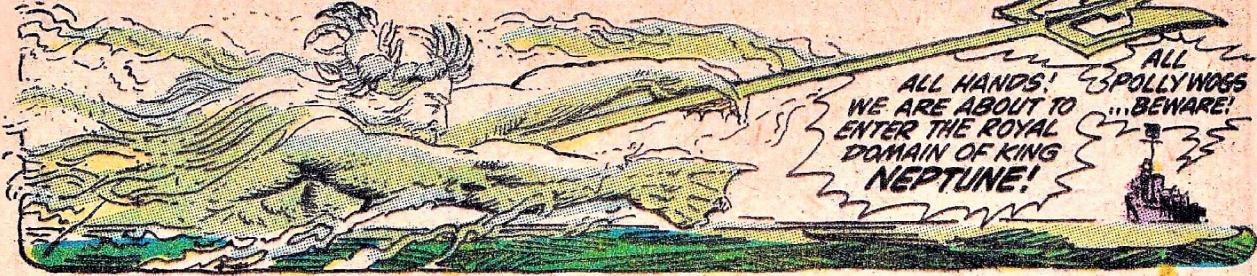
MOST OF THE 325 MEN ABOARD ASSUME A RATHER RESIGNED ATTITUDE...



NO ONE REMARKS ABOUT THE ODD DRESS OF SOME OF THE CREWMEN... AND FOR A GOOD REASON!



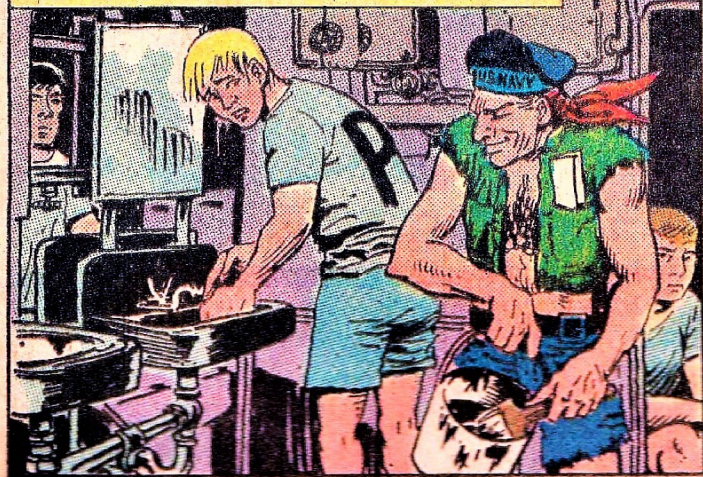
THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE U.S.S. STEVENS WAS CROSSING THE EQUATOR!



ALL HANDS! WE ARE ABOUT TO ENTER THE ROYAL DOMAIN OF KING NEPTUNE!

ALL POLLYWOGS BEWARE!

A YEOMAN GOES ABOUT PAINTING A LARGE "P" ON THE PERSON OF CERTAIN CREW MEMBERS!



EVEN THE OFFICERS ARE NOT SPARED!



LT. TUCKER! YOU'RE ON MY LIST!

SHELLBACKS (THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY CROSSED THE EQUATOR) IMPLORE THE POLLYWOGS (THOSE WHO HAVE NOT)...



...AND PRESENT THEM TO KING NEPTUNE!



THE GOOD SHIP U.S.S. STEVENS CARRIES A LARGE AND SLIMY CARGO OF LAND-LUBBERS, BEACH-COMBERS, LOUNGE-LIZZARDS, SAND-CRABS, SEA-LAWYERS, PLOW-DESSERTERS, PARK BENCH WARMERS, HAY-TOSSERS, FOUR-FLUSHERS, CROSS-WORD PUZZLE BUGS, FOUL-ROPE INHALERS, LIBERTY-HOUNDS AND LONG BEACH COWBOYS MASQUERADING AS--

--SEAMEN AND MAN-OF-WARS-MEN-OF WHICH YOU ARE A MEMBER HAVING NEVER APPEARED BEFORE ME! PREPARE YOURSELVES TO BE INITIATED INTO THE "SOLEMN MYSTERIES OF THE ANCIENT ORDER OF THE DEEP" AFTER WHICH YOU WILL BECOME TRUSTY SHELLBACKS!



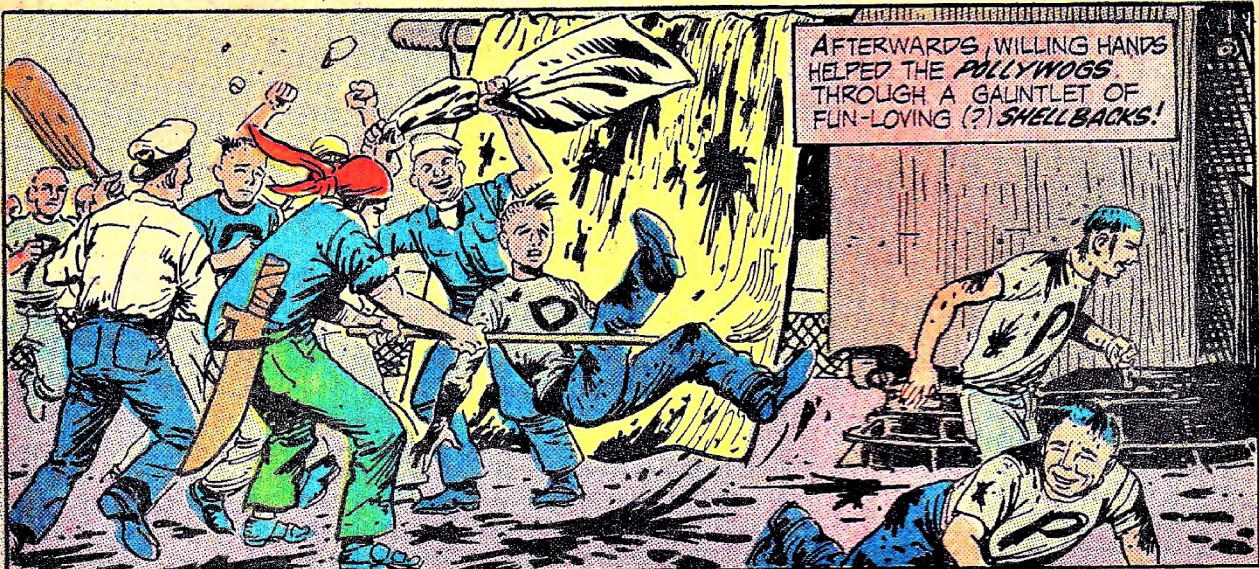


THE INITIATION BEGINS WHEN THE POLLYWOGS HAVE THEIR HAIR CUT! THEN... A ROYAL FEAST OF KITCHEN SLOP... FOLLOWED BY A BATH--

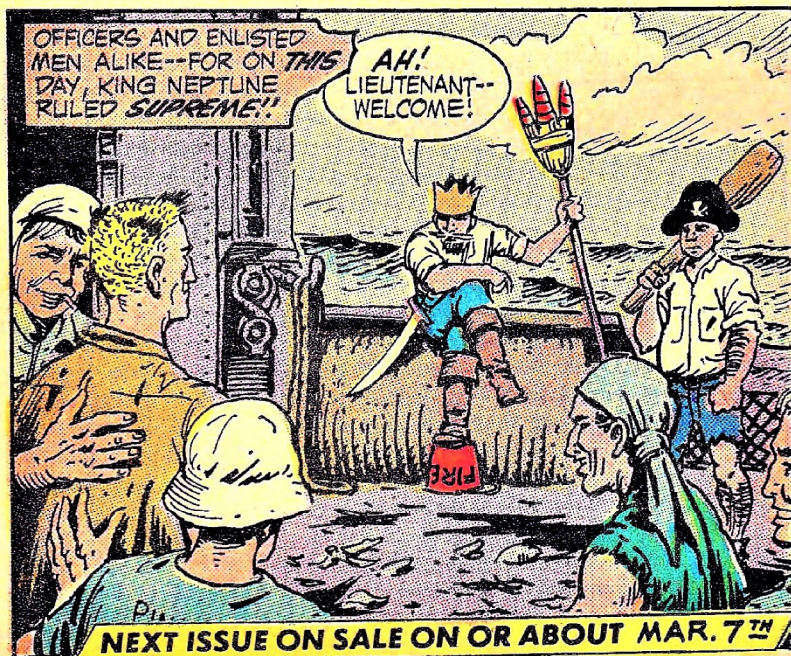
...OF BLACK FUEL OIL! TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT ALL TRACES OF FLOWER SCENT, BEACH SAND AND POLLEN DUST ARE REMOVED!



OF COURSE THE LETHAL WEAPONS AND DEADLY THREATS MADE BEFORE WERE NOT PERMITTED IN THE HORSE PLAY--SIMPLY A PART OF THE INITIATION TO FRIGHTEN POLLYWOGS!



AFTERWARDS, WILLING HANDS HELPED THE POLLYWOGS THROUGH A GALINTLET OF FUN-LOVING (?) SHELLBACKS!



OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN ALIKE--FOR ON THIS DAY, KING NEPTUNE RULED SUPREME!!

AH! LIEUTENANT-- WELCOME!

--AND SO IT WENT--UNTIL EVENING WHEN SHIPS NORMAL ROUTINE COMMENCED--

SWEEPERS, MAN YOUR BROOMS-- CLEAN AND SWEEP DOWN FORE AND AFT-- SET CONDITION TWO!



--AND DD479 AGAIN LEFT AHEAD AT FLANK SPEED TO KEEP HER RENDEZVOUS... WITH A WAR...

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT MAR. 7TH