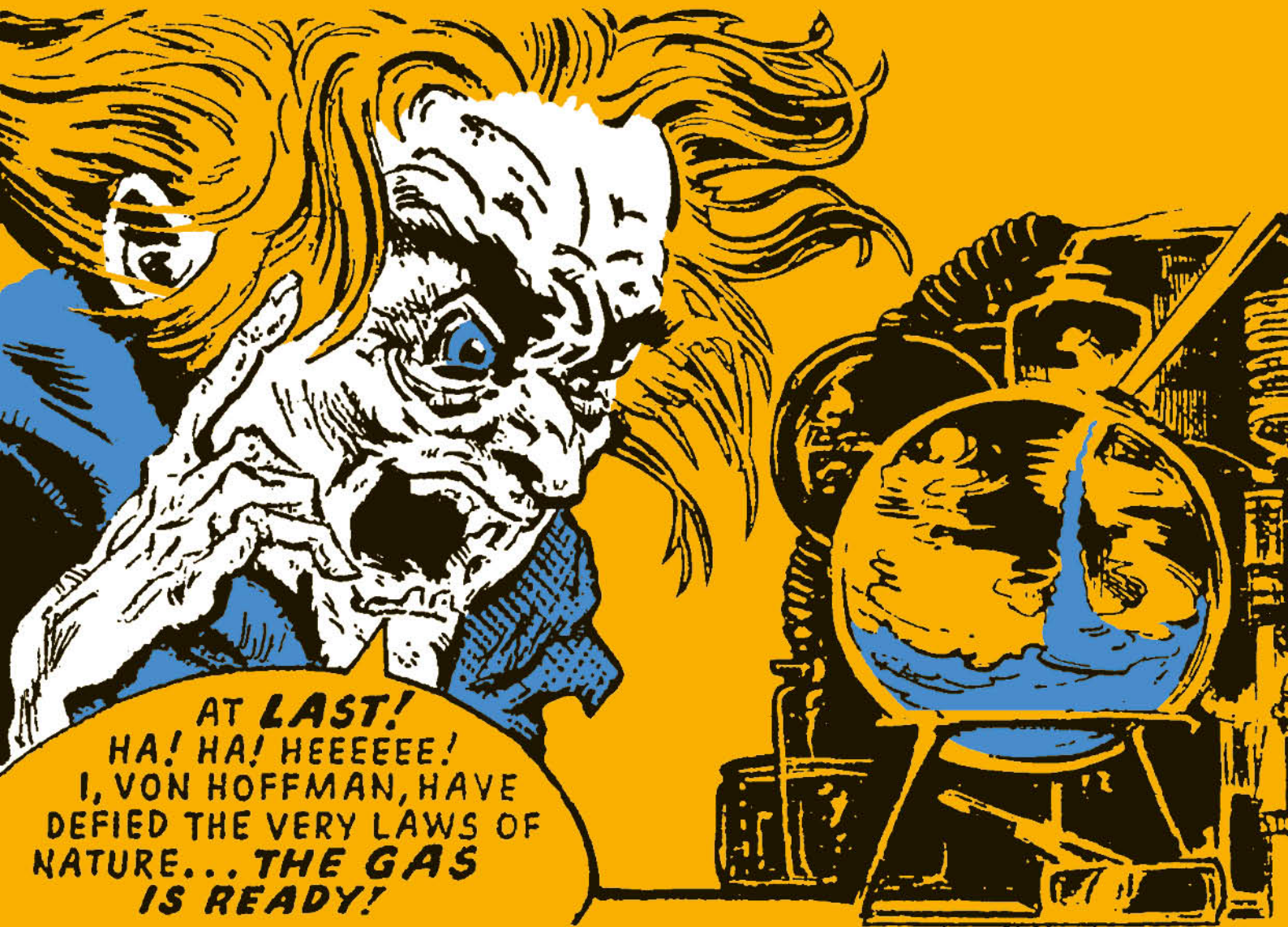


WHO ARE **THE** IRREPRESSIBLE! UNSTOPPABLE!
VIGILANT?

VON HOFFMAN'S INVASION | Jet 1971 | Script: TOM TULLY | Art: ERIC BRADBURY



AT **LAST!**
HA! HA! HEEEEEE!
I, VON HOFFMAN, HAVE
DEFIED THE VERY LAWS OF
NATURE... **THE GAS**
IS READY!

THE CRAZY INVENTOR WHO PLANNED TO DESTROY BRITAIN!



VON HOFFMAN'S INVASION

GERMANY... APRIL, 1945! WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES CLOSING IN FROM EVERY SIDE, ONLY A MIRACLE COULD SAVE THE NAZI WAR-MACHINE FROM DISASTER! BUT SUCH A MIRACLE, IT SEEMED, WAS JUST AROUND THE CORNER...

ALL IS READY FOR THE DEMONSTRATION, **DOKTOR VON HOFFMAN!** WE ARE EAGER TO SEE THIS MARVELLOUS NEW INVENTION THAT YOUR CLAIM WILL TURN DEFEAT INTO **VICTORY!**

YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED, GENTLEMEN, I PROMISE YOU... **OPEN THE HANGAR DOORS!**

THE MIGHTY DOORS **CREAKED OPEN...** AND THEN AN AWESOME SHAPE CAME WADDLING INTO VIEW!

BEHOLD! THE MIGHTIEST WEAPON OF WAR EVER DEvised BY MAN... MY **NEW ARMoured ROCKET-FIRING, FLAME-THROWING CENTIPEDE!**

ZUM TEUFEL...!

GLINKLE!
GLOINKLE!
GLOINKLE!

THANKS TO AN INGENUOUS SYSTEM OF **INTERLOCKING ARMOUR-PLATES**, THE CENTIPEDE CAN SLITHER ACROSS ANY KNOWN OBSTACLE...!

...ENEMY DEFENCES WILL BE BURNED TO CINDERS! WHOLE REGIMENTS WILL BE DESTROYED IN A SINGLE, DEVASTATING BLOW...!

SHOOO-WARSH!

ACH! WHAT FIENDISH SIMPLICITY! I FEEL ALMOST **SORRY** FOR ZE BRITISH!

THEN—

ACHTUNG!
ACHTUNG!
ENGLANDER AIRCRAFT APPROACHING...!

THE R.A.F. TYPHOON PILOTS COULD HARDLY BELIEVE THEIR GOOD LUCK!

THE JERRIES ARE TRYING OUT SOME CRAZY NEW INVENTION! GIVE IT EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT, LADS!

QUICK, YOU FOOLS... LAUNCH THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT ROCKETS! **BLAST THEM OUT OF THE SKY!**

THE MECHANICAL CENTIPEDE WAS SMASHED TO BITS!



BUT THE CREW OF THE CENTIPEDE WERE TAKEN UTTERLY BY SURPRISE!

BAM!

WHUUMPH!

STOP ZEM!
AYEEEEEH!



AS THE TRIUMPHANT BRITISH FLIERS SWEEP ON—

MY... B-BEAUTIFUL CENTIPEDE! SOB! IT NEVER STOOD A CHANCE!

NEVER MIND, DR. VON HOFFMAN! WE CAN ALWAYS BUILD ANOTHER ONE!



BUT THERE WAS NO TIME FOR THE NEW WEAPON TO GO INTO ACTION! FOR, A FEW WEEKS LATER, THE WAR CAME TO AN END, AND THE NAZI LEADERS WERE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE...

IT IS THE SENTENCE OF THIS COURT, DOKTOR VON HOFFMAN, THAT YOU SHALL GO TO PRISON FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS! THERE IS NO KNOWING WHAT OTHER DEVILISH DEVICES OF DESTRUCTION YOUR INHUMAN BRAIN MAY HAVE CONCEIVED! PERHAPS, IN TIME, THE WORLD WILL FORGET—!

NO, ENGLANDER PIG! THE WORLD WILL NEVER FORGET!



VON HOFFMAN'S VENOMOUS CRY SHRILLED THROUGH THE CROWDED COURT-ROOM!

... AND NEITHER SHALL I! WERE IT NOT FOR THE ACCURSED BRITISH, MY SCIENTIFIC GENIUS WOULD HAVE ACHIEVED ITS GLORIOUS REWARD! SOMEHOW OR OTHER, NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES... I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE! DOWN WITH BRITAIN!



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER, WHEN VON HOFFMAN WAS AT LAST RELEASED, FEW PEOPLE COULD STILL RECALL HIS LAST, SPINE-CHILLING THREAT...

THERE HE GOES... THE POOR, BROKEN-SPIRITED OLD WRETCH!

ALL THOSE YEARS BEHIND BARS MUST HAVE KNOCKED THE FIGHT OUT OF HIM! HE'LL NEVER THREATEN THE FREE WORLD AGAIN...!



BUT THE PRISON GUARDS WERE WRONG! THAT NIGHT, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF BERLIN...

FOOLS! THEY HAVE NOT EVEN BOTHERED TO DISMANTLE MY OLD LABORATORIES! HERE SHALL BEGIN THE VENGEANCE FOR WHICH I HAVE WAITED SO LONG...!



DURING THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, NEW EQUIPMENT WAS SECRETLY ASSEMBLED!

IT WAS THE CENTIPEDE THAT GAVE ME THE ANSWER! WHY BOTHER WITH SUCH A CRUDE AND CLUMSY IMITATION... WHEN I CAN PERHAPS CREATE THE REAL THING!



AFTER COUNTLESS EXPERIMENTS... AND HOURS OF UNRELENTING TOIL...

AT LAST! HA! HA! HEEEEEE! I, VON HOFFMAN, HAVE DEFIED THE VERY LAWS OF NATURE... THE GAS IS READY!



A FEW NIGHTS LATER, SOMEWHERE OFF THE COAST OF FRANCE!

FAR ENOUGH, I THINK! I CANNOT BE SEEN FROM THE SHORE, AND THE WATER SHOULD BE DEEP ENOUGH OUT HERE...!

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

A WHIFF OF VON HOFFMAN'S GAS—AND THE EEL WAS A HUNDRED YARDS LONG!



AND NOW, MY FRIEND EEL... PREPARE FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE! TO YOU HAS BEFALLEN THE HONOUR OF SPEAR-HEADING MY INVASION...!



FROM VON HOFFMAN'S FINGERS, A TINY PELLET DROPPED INTO THE EEL-TANK!

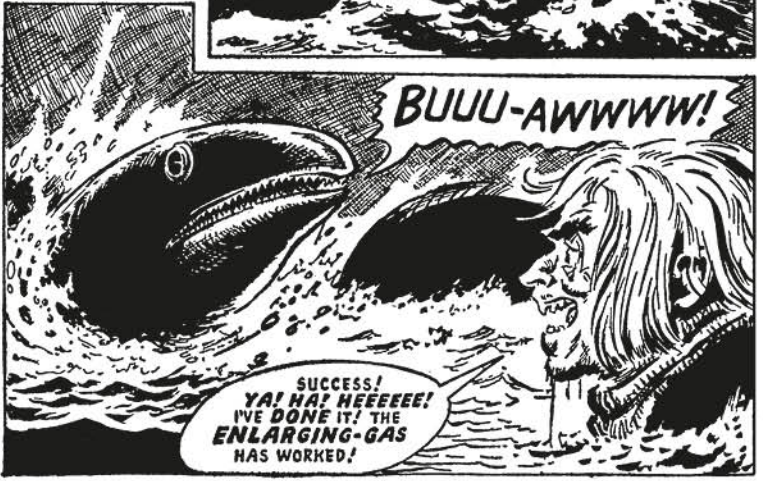


NOW OVERBOARD WITH YOU... QUICKLY! ONLY A FEW SECONDS WILL ELAPSE BEFORE THE GAS TAKES EFFECT...!



THE TANK, AND ITS WRIGGLING OCCUPANT, VANISHED INTO THE SEA! AND, THEN—

WHUAAAAAAH!



SUCCESS! YA! HA! HEHEHEE! I'VE DONE IT! THE ENLARGING-GAS HAS WORKED!



WHAT HAD ONCE BEEN A COMMON FRESHWATER EEL... WAS NOW A FANTASTIC MONSTER!

BUT NOW TO TEST THE MOST IMPORTANT EFFECT OF THE GAS! HERE, MY FAITHFUL ALLY... I COMMAND YOU! COME TO VON HOFFMAN!



AND, AMAZINGLY—

GROSSE HIMMEL! WHAT A GENIUS I AM! THE CREATURE SPEEDS TO MY RESCUE WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION...!



LIKE ALL THE OTHER MONSTERS I SHALL CREATE, THE EEL OBEYS ONLY THE SOUND OF MY VOICE! WHILE IT IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE ENLARGING-GAS, I AM ITS COMPLETE AND UTTER MASTER!



SO FORWARD, MY BEAUTY... ON ACROSS THE CHANNEL WITH THE EASE OF A HOVERCRAFT! NOTHING CAN SAVE THE BRITISH ISLES FROM THE VENGEANCE OF VON HOFFMAN!

...THE STRANGEST INVASION IN HISTORY WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN! DON'T MISS THIS STORY NEXT WEEK!

ENCOUNTER VON HOFFMAN

15th August 2018



THE **IRREPESSIBLE! UNSTOPPABLE!**
VIGILANT