

Zinda **1** Blake

Born to Be...



Lady Blackhawk!

by Kevin Ahearn



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For Erica

'ZINDA BLAKE' is fiction.
 All references to actual persons, alive
 or dead, made for a good story.

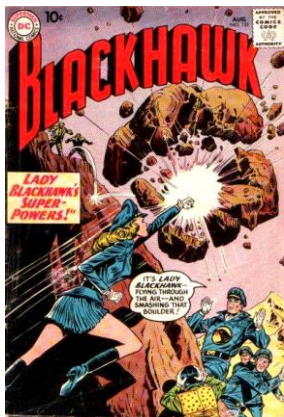
Blackhawk created by Chuck Cuidera, Bill Powell, and Will Eisner

Lady Blackhawk created by Jack Schiff and Dick Dillin

ZINDA BLAKE.....MERYL STREEP
BLACKHAWK.....ROBERT REDFORD
 PLUS AN ALL-STAR SUPPORTING CAST

Blackhawk is a property of DC COMICS.

Cover: Meryl Streep



1



*'What makes you different or weird,
that's your strength.'*



SEPTEMBER 1, 1939

Dear Diary,

I'm ten years old today and I'm supposed to be thinking about what I'm going to be doing when I grow up.



Mom and Dad are rich and according to my test scores, I'm very smart, so I can be anything I want...somebody special!



A teacher, a secretary or a nurse?



No, none of those are me! A model or an actress might be interesting... But---



...today a new age has begun!



The Nazis invaded Poland while Japan has been ravaging China for years! Will this terrible disease spread?

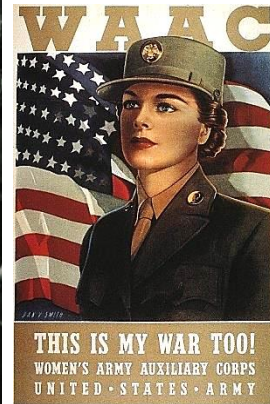


How long will this go on? Will America soon be at war?



One day, will I have to fight?

Me, a woman warrior?



Imagine...I could become...a heroine!



Wow! I can't wait to grow up!

*See you soon,
Zinda*

Over Antwerp, a beautiful day for a bombing...



As Belgium has no air defense fighters, this mission will be a “Milk Run”!



‘Target coming up. All clear...Was?’



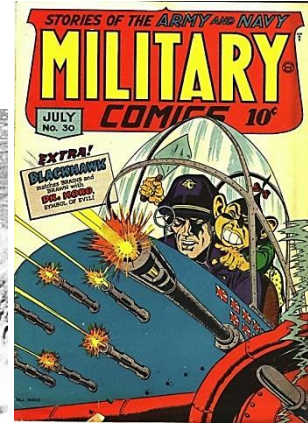
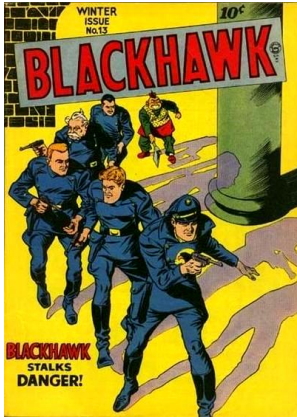
*“Over land, over sea, we fight for liberty!
We’re **Blackhawks!**”*



‘Die Blackhawke?’

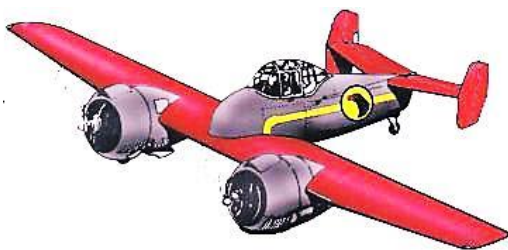


‘Sure hope Adolf takes this personally!’



'The Blackhawks are invincible as a unit!'

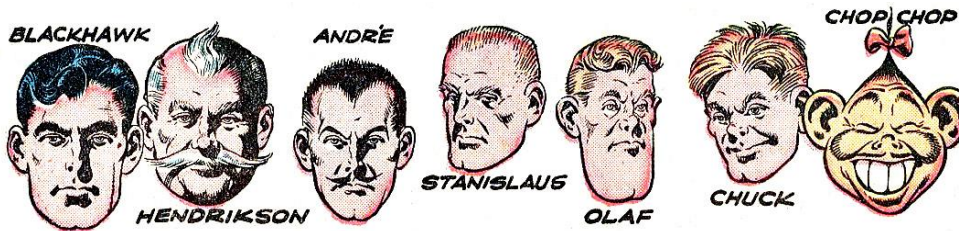
'The greatest threat to the Nazi War Machine ever known.'





*'Good news from the front, Your Majesty! They're calling themselves the **Blackhawks!** Eight Nazi bombers shot down without a loss!'*

'Excellent, Prime Minister! And which country do they represent!'





"The Angels of Vengeance"! Five men from countries attacked by the Axis and two Americans!

"Angels' indeed, Prime Minister! Unity on the wing—an inspiration for all of us!"

While in the Nazi capital of Berlin...



'Die Blackhawke! Seven nobodies suddenly heroes!

'Mein Fuhrer! I'll have them goose-stepping in a week!'

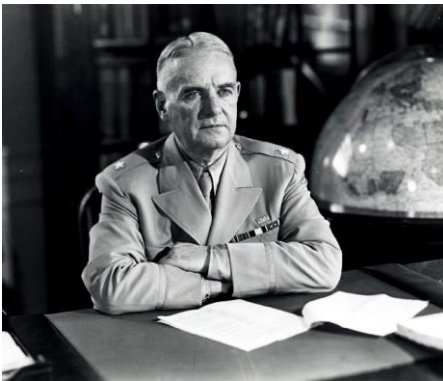
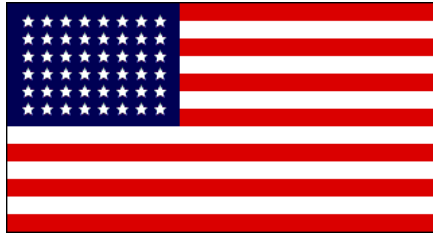




'Worse than heroes, they are symbols of free men still in the fight!'



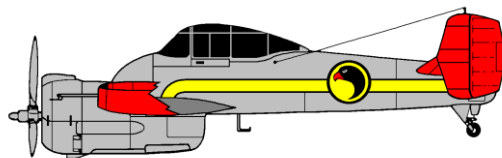
'Then kill them, kill them all! We'll display their bodies to the press as they rot!'



'Outrageous, Mr. President! An independent squadron flying American planes shooting down Nazi bombers!'



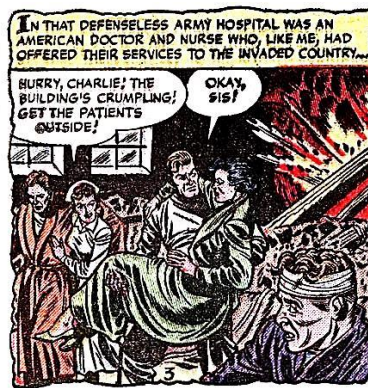
'I'll drink to that! But how do we keep these 'Blackhawks' from getting us into the war? Who are they?'



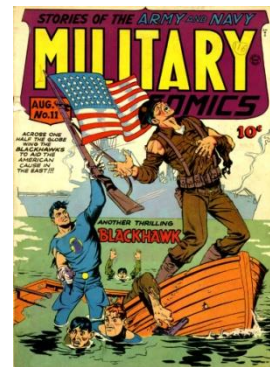


*'The leader calls himself **Blackhawk!** His sister and her husband were treating Polish wounded when the Nazis attacked!'*

*'Both were gunned down, murdered! **Blackhawk** swore vengeance. He recruited his squadron and **BAM!**'*



THE TWO AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS VON TEPP HAD SO CALLOUSLY MURDERED WERE ANY BROTHER AND SISTER!



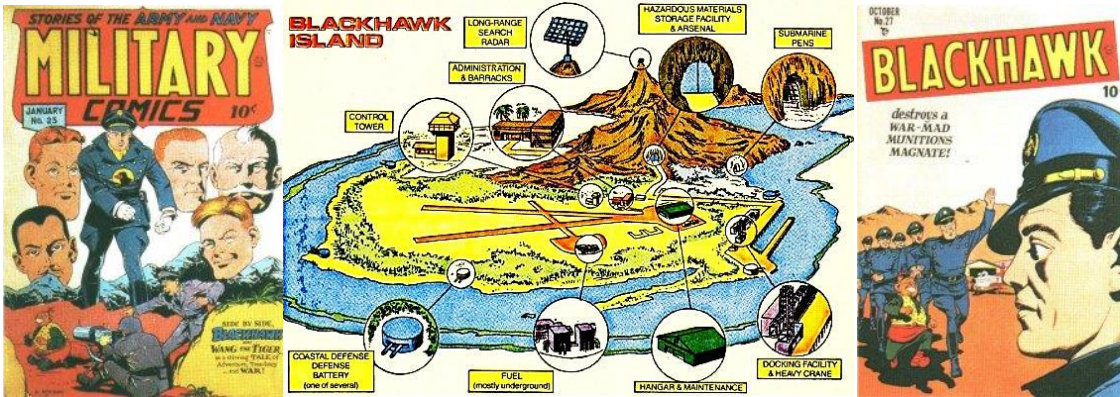
'God bless them! I say, but let's not tell the isolationists that!

'Get these "Angels of Vengeance" all the gas and ammo and spare parts they'll ever need!

'And give them one Presidential Order...

Show me BLACKHAWK!'

Somewhere in the North Sea...



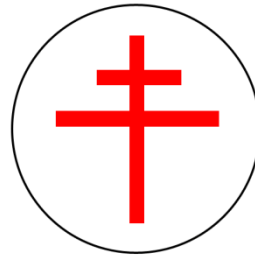
When the team had landed...



'By gar! Simple as a shooting gallery!'



*'Slow, thin armor, and poorly armed!
Made all of us look like legends!'*



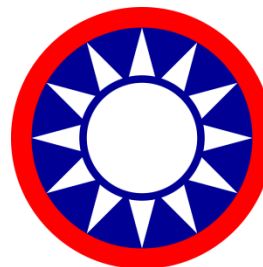
'Sacre bleu! I couldn't miss! Lost count and don't care if I ever remember!'



'Blackhawk luck! No fighter escort!'



Chris Banyai-Riepl ©2000



'Over-confident, arrogant dead fools!'



*'No more unescorted bomber missions!
Not with the **Blackhawks** in the air!'*



*'HAWKA-A-A-A! **Blackhawks!**
Let all the world know our battlecry!
All together now...*

HAWKA-A-A-A!

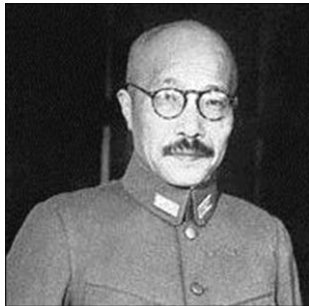
A little more than a year later, halfway around the world...



The Imperial Palace, Tokyo, Japan...



'Has the Plan set its full sails?'



'Your Highness! The carrier group has arrived at its launch point!'

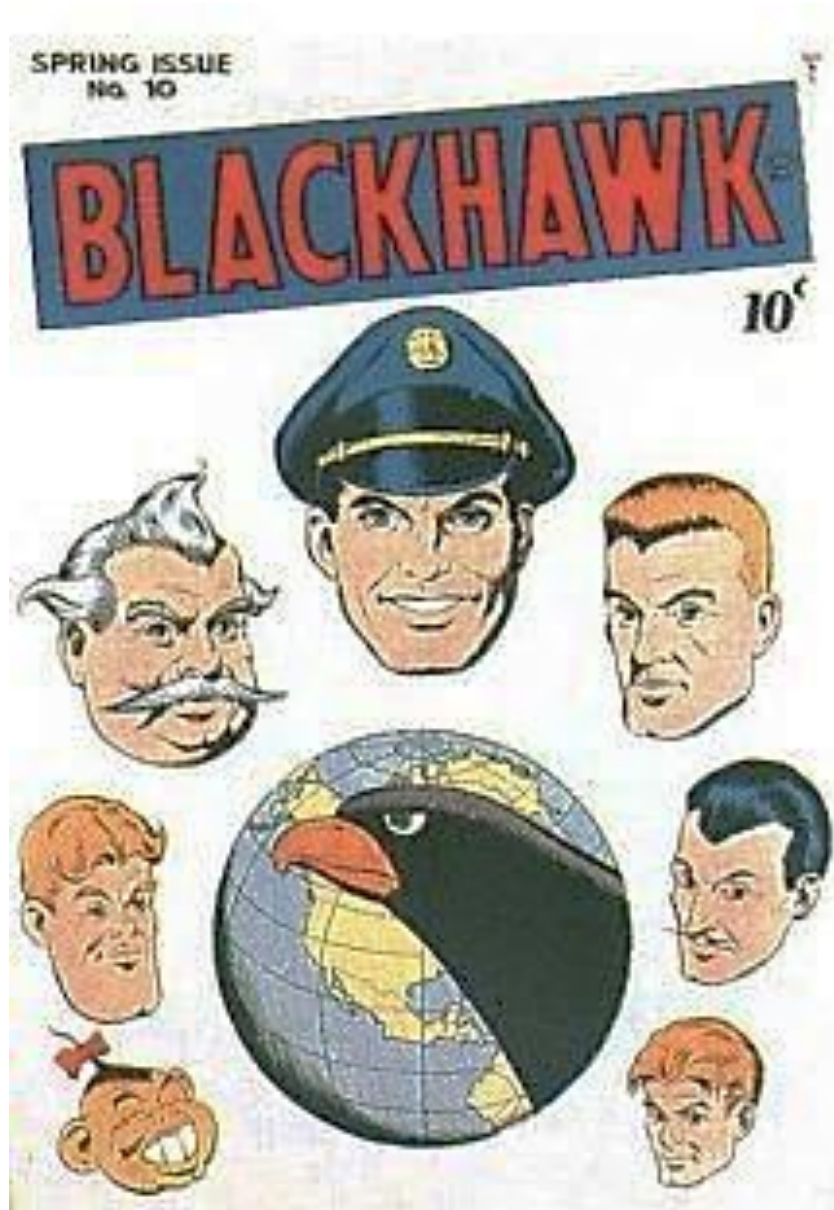


'Our finest fighter pilots are eager and confident to begin their mission of destiny!'



'The Japanese Empire will rule the Pacific!'

2



'I have learned that as long as I hold fast to my beliefs and values – and follow my own moral compass – then the only expectations I need to live up to are my own.'



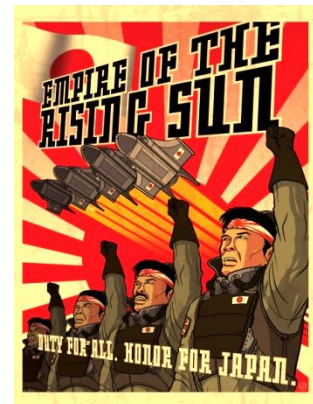
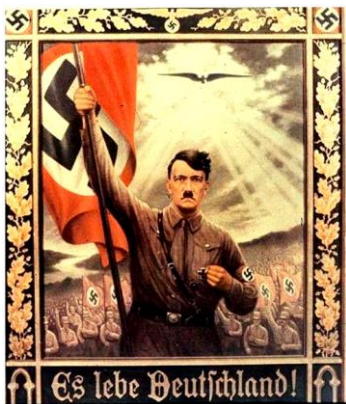
DECEMBER 8, 1941

Dear Diary,

America is at war! The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor...



And then Hitler declared war on us!



*Those murdering tyrants don't stand a chance against US!
"The Arsenal of Democracy" will overwhelm them with weapons!*



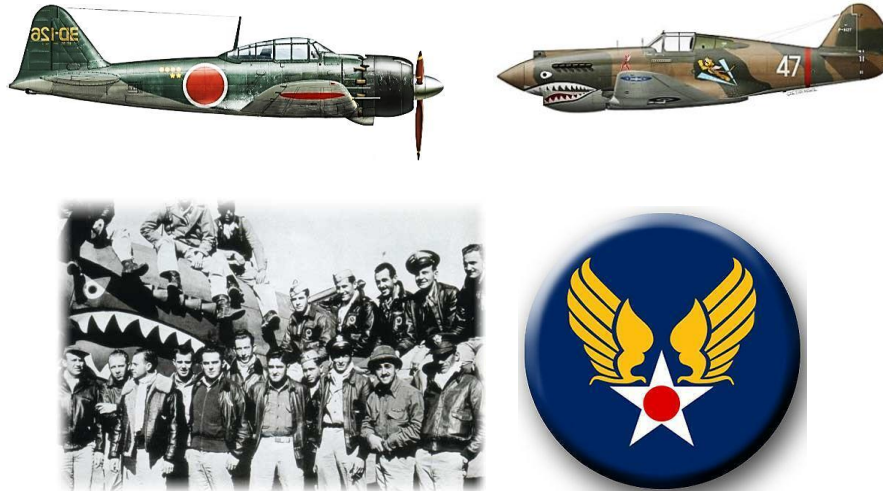
*Mom went to work in a factory. Dad joined the Army
We're going to fight and win this war!*



There are Americans who've been fighting before Pearl Harbor.



The Flying Tigers, paid by the Chinese for every Jap they shot down will soon be incorporated into the Army Air Corps.



But “The Angels of Vengeance” are determined to remain independent!



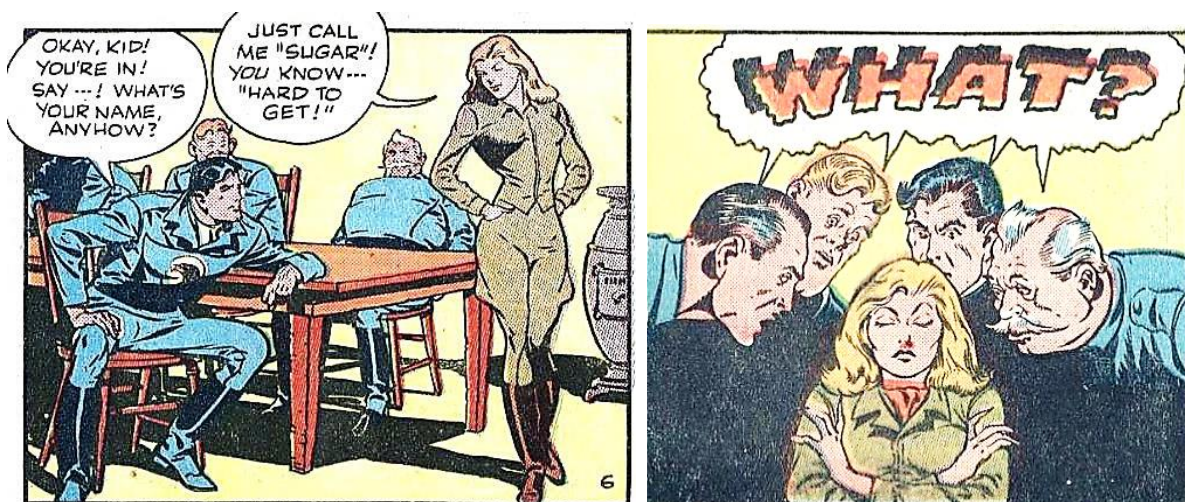
“The Blackhawks are invincible as a unit!”

“The greatest threat to evil invaders ever known!”

Then along came the "Blonde Bomber"!



A woman in the *Blackhawks*! An expert pilot and a formidable fighter, she flew to *Blackhawk Island* to join the team!



*The **Blackhawks**' mission -- rescue a French general held by the Nazis. "Sugar" disguised herself as a Parisian maiden and got into the Nazi headquarters!*



*After the team grabbed the general, "Sugar" flew back to rescue **Blackhawk**!*



'You're going to have to take him the rest of the way to England!'

'Okay, boss! But you needn't think you're getting rid of me that easy!'

*'I'll be **back**!'*

But she never returned and was lost to history. I hope she married well.

The war went on without her. The Nazis and the Nips were winning until the Russians triumphed at Stalingrad and we...



...Launched D-Day and won the Battle of the Bulge!



The Nazis were kaput! All the world was closing in on Japan that refused to surrender!



The end of the war would come from above!



*See you soon,
Zinda*



*'The Soviet Union won our Great Patriotic War!
At a cost of 28 million heroic Russians!
We must make sure they did not die in vain!'*





'We must do whatever it takes to protect and repair our sacred Motherland! The Capitalists will seek to weaken us! Agent provocators will strive to undermine us! Western spies and saboteurs will use any means to destroy us!

'We must be loyal and alert to the Red Cause!'



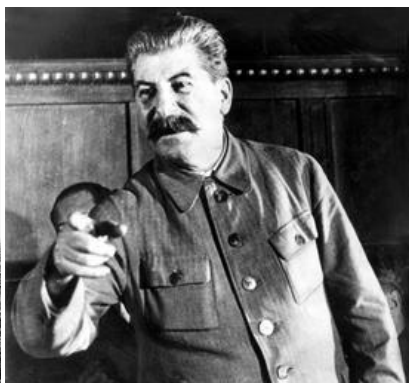
'Our wartime allies boast of how much they aided us!'



'They paid in steel!'



'We paid in blood!'



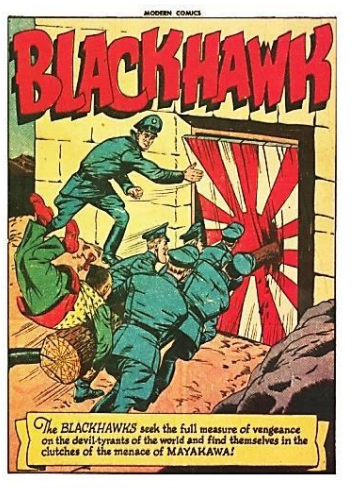
*'Our Motherland has been severely bloodied!
But the Hitlerites believed they had beaten us!
As the Nazi armies got closer and closer to Moscow,
The Western Democracies gave up on us!*

*'But we rose from the ruins to destroy Hitler
and his thugs and liberated all of Eastern Europe!*

'Just the beginning of a new Red offensive!

Communism will conquer the world!'

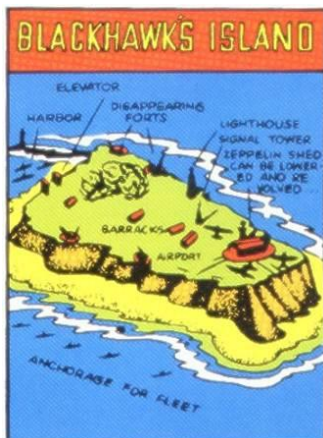
May 1945: Hitler committed suicide, the Nazis surrendered. The Allies turned their massive forces against the Japanese homeland.



Island History

THE NEW HOME

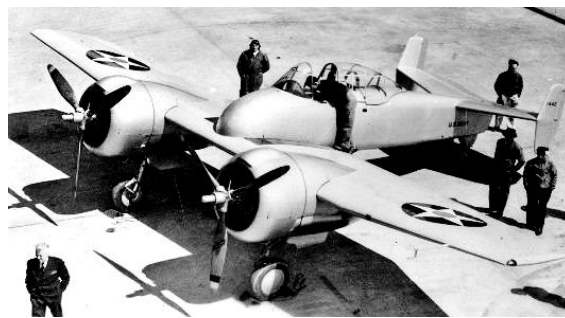
In late April, the **Blackhawks** made their own move -- from their base in the North Sea to an island in the South Pacific.





'Our new HQ, Blackhawks!'

'With a little help from our friends!'



'Love the runway, Sacre!'

'Long and wide!'

'Lieber Himmel—and forgiving!'





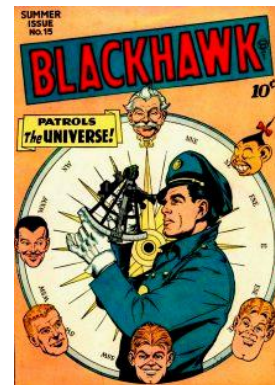
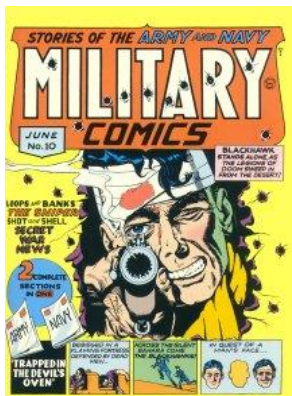
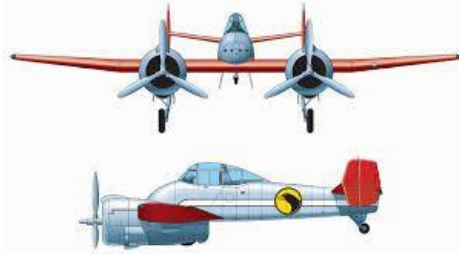
*'Let's hear it for the CBs!
Building a Class-A base!'*



*'Our Allies are grateful!
They're thanking us!'*



*'We install "Tokyo tanks"
and we've got great range!'*

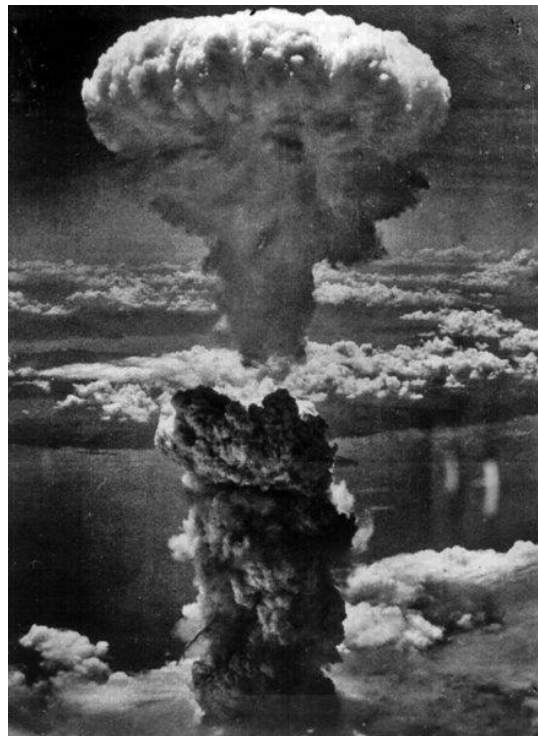
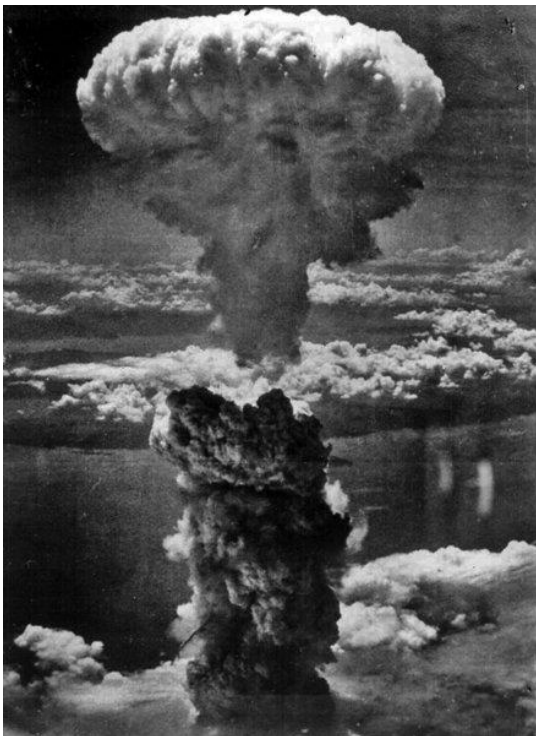


*'So begins a New Blackhawk Era!
From this reinforced rock, we can fly
out and take on the world!'*

'HAWKA-A-A-A!'



*'And so ends World War Two, the most horrific war in history!
Not with a Bang! Two Bangs, the biggest and deadliest in history!'*



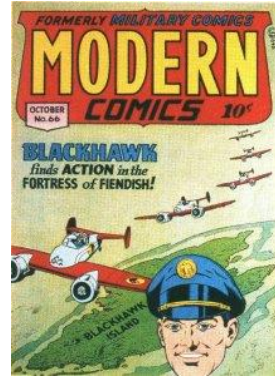
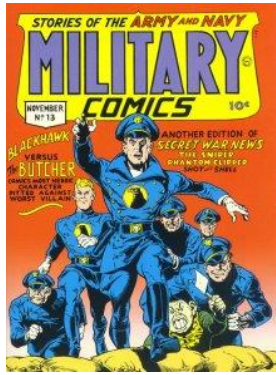
'Now if only we can keep from destroying ourselves!'



*'Eighty million dead! Eighty million!
We've got to work together to keep
the peace!'*

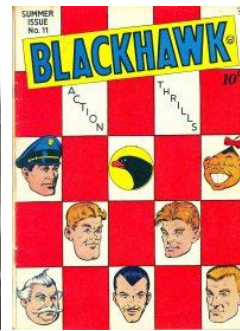
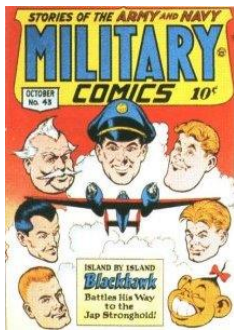
*'But one team will keep fighting until
all tyranny has been crushed...
The **Blackhawks!**'*





*'Let it be said here and for the future,
Until every man, woman and child is free,
people of every country, color and creed know
the joy of priceless freedom...'*

*'Over land, over sea we fight for liberty...
We're **BLACKHAWKS!**'*



*'The **Blackhawks** are
invincible as a unit!'*

*'The greatest threat to
warmongers ever known.'*



*'Let the **Blackhawks** be the "barometer"
of the world! As long as they are on their
idyllic isle, we'll know we're at peace!'*

*'Exactly! But once the guns
start blazing and the shells are
flying, the **Blackhawks** will
take to the air!'*



*'Good night and good luck, and...
Show me **Blackhawk!**'*





What's keeping you from...



keldersfarm.com



"And I take a great picture!"

Godzilla's Favorite!



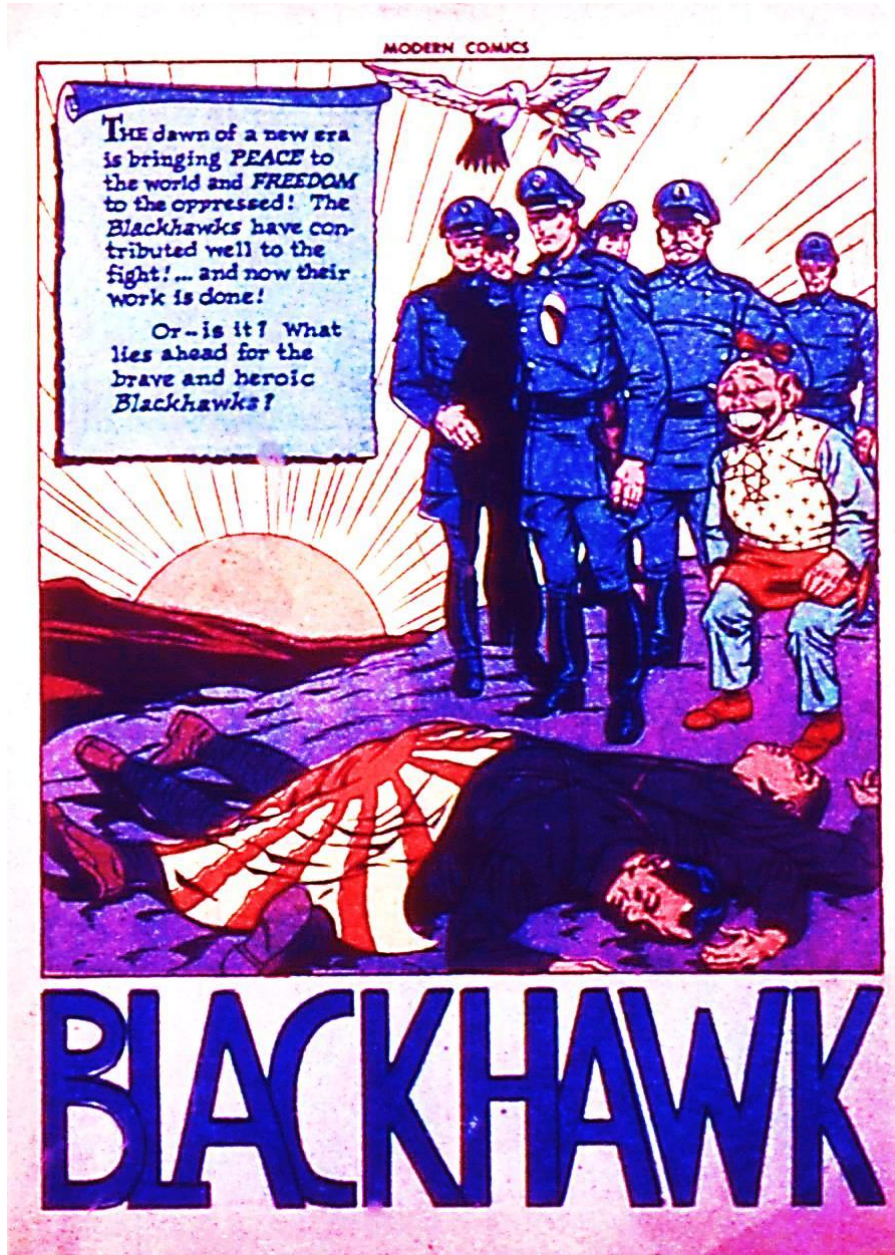
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SOY



3



'If you don't live your life, then who will?'



AUGUST 10, 1945

Dear Diary,

*The biggest war in history ended with the biggest bangs —
Hiroshima and Nagasaki!*



*'The second coming
of wraith!'*



*'The Atom Bomb is for people
with weak nerves!'*



*'The greatest thing
in history.'*

What now?

*Dad is home a hero! No more factory work for Mom! How
wonderful to be rich, pretty, and American!*

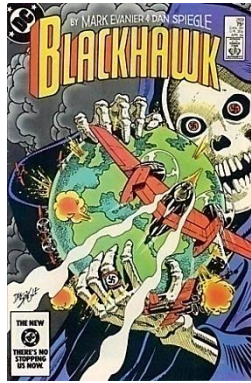


And a high school graduate!

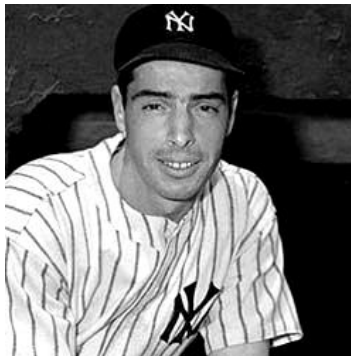


Of course, I'm going to college! Mom and Dad can afford the best in the country. No Liberal Arts or Business school for me. I want to be an aeronautical engineer because...

*After beating the Nazis and the Nips, the **Blackhawks** will keep flying!*



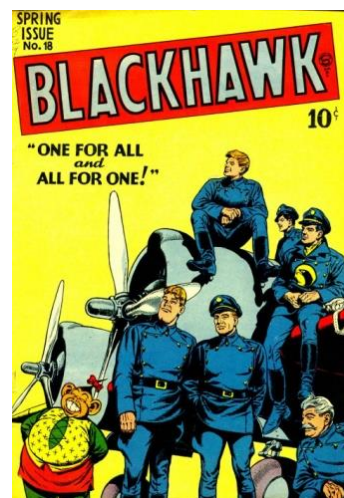
My girlfriends have their “dreamboats”, famous heartthrobs of our times.



But my heart belongs to the greatest of heroes!



Just wait till I learn how to fly!



*We came together for war---Well, now we'll stick together for **PEACE** and the defeat of all evil and injustice!*



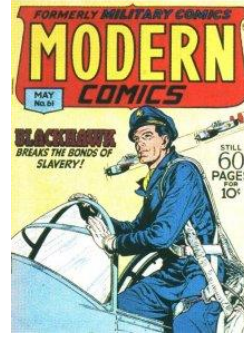
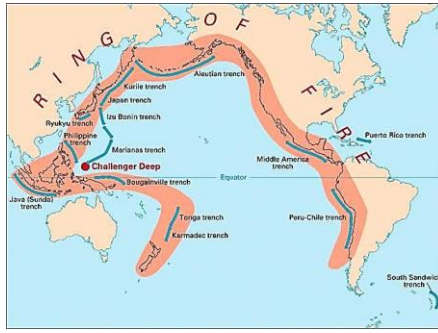
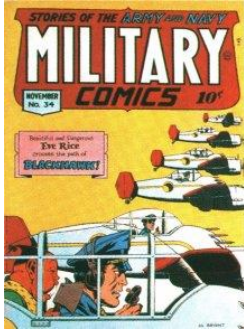
*Patience, gentlemen, the eighth **Blackhawk** will soon be on her way!*

HAWKA-A-A-A!

Zinda

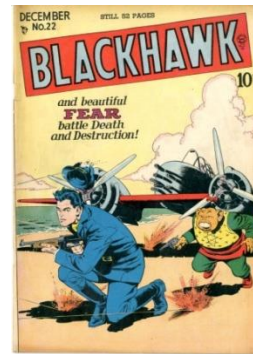
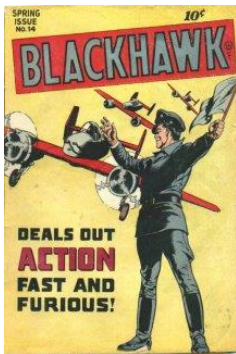


*'On the International Front...the Pacific Rim is finally at peace, or so we were led to believe! The **Blackhawks** are making it all come true!'*



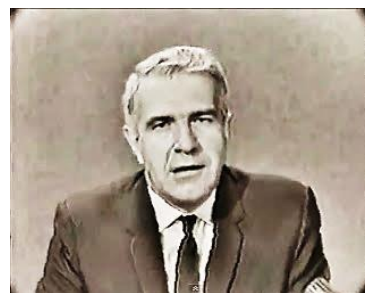
'The "Angels of Vengeance" are cleaning out the pirates!'

'And bringing down the tinhorn dictatorships!'



'The Blackhawks are invincible as a unit!'

'Not until there's a woman on the team!'

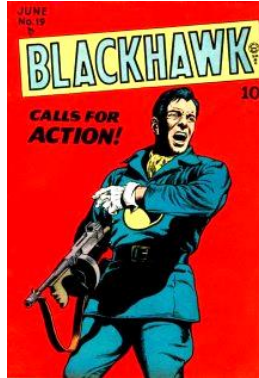


'These second-rate villains can't accept who they're up against!'

'The Germans and the Japanese didn't tell them?'

'The Blackhawks no longer decorate their planes to mark their victories. They don't see their mission as a contest!'

'Allied intelligence say the "Angels of Vengeance" shot down more than a thousand enemy aircraft!'



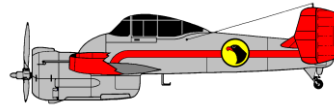
'The Blackhawks teach very harsh lessons!'

'Greedy fools refuse to learn!'



'Flying vigilantes for the good!'

'Superb hunters of the bad!'



'But there are new foes on the horizon!'

'The Soviets and the Chinese, Communist aggressors!'



*'Death is the solution to all problems.
No man - no problem.'*

*'Political power grows out
of the barrel of a gun.'*



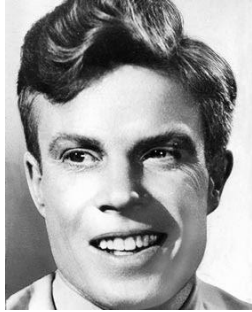
*'Seven heroes vs. the looming Red Apocalypse!
And that's the way it is...
Show me **BLACKHAWK!**'*

Island History

ALMOST OPERATIONAL

The **Blackhawks** got plenty of help completing and securing their island base.





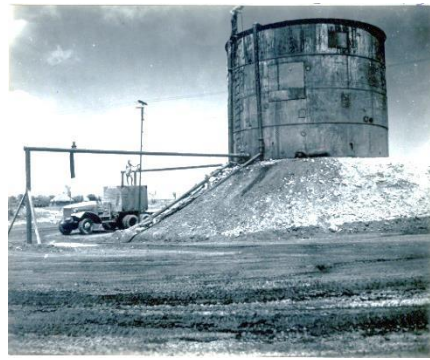
'Damn hard work!'



'More every day!'



'But we'll get it done!'



The team could work as hard as they could fight.



*'The **Blackhawks** are invincible as a unit!'*

'When they get a woman, we'll talk about it!'



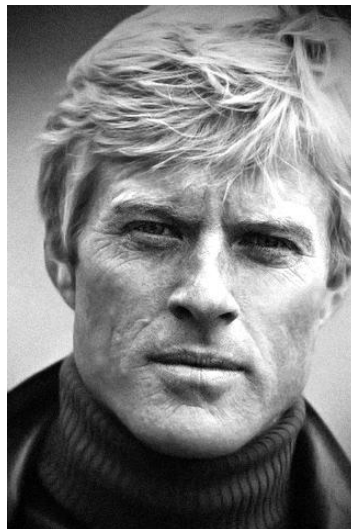
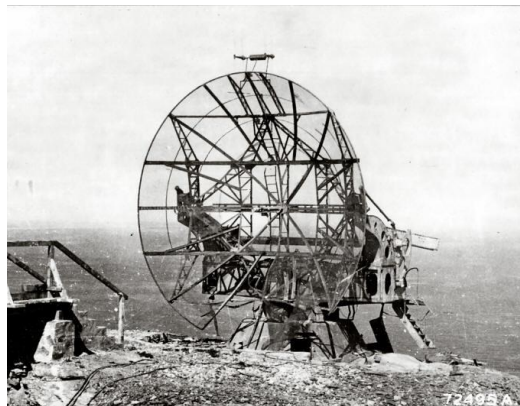
'Getting closer to the Grand Opening! Maybe we should sell tickets!'



'Yah, Chop-Chop! Und you can run the main restaurant!'



'And nobody will be able to sneak in anywhere without paying!'



*'The world is changing faster than we are, **Blackhawks!** By the time our new base is fully operational, our propellered fighters will be obsolete!*

And we will be, too!'



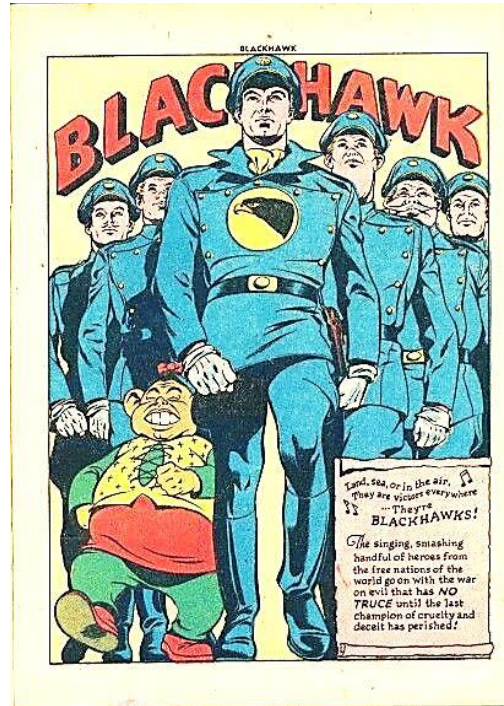
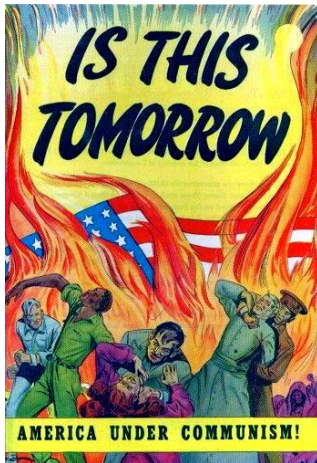
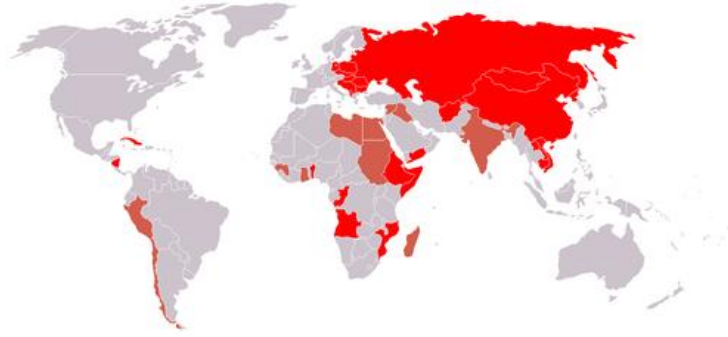
On October 1, 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the creation of the People's Republic of China.



China followed Marxist-Leninist Communism with heavy dash of Maoism! Together Stalin and Mao ruled over nearly half the world's population!



A new alliance of Dictators! Would the rest of humanity soon be Red?



'Not if we have anything to say about it!'
HAWKA-A-A-A!

4



“I feel now that the time is come when even a woman or a child who can speak a word for freedom and humanity is bound to speak.”



JUNE 20, 1951

Dear Diary,

I'm an aeronautical engineer with a college diploma!



And I've got my pilot's license!



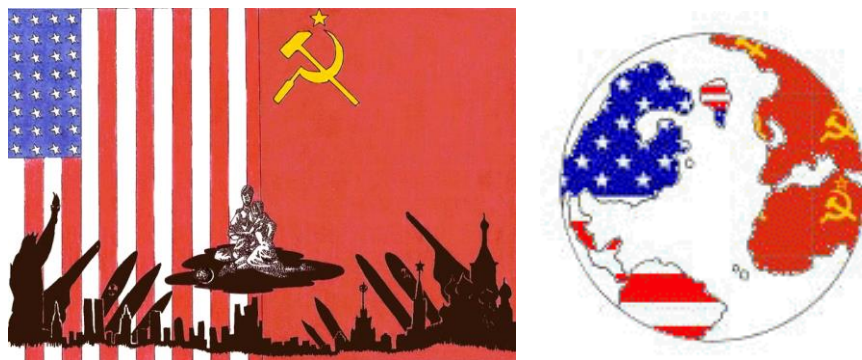
For single-engine planes. Got to go for jets!



America and the Soviet Union are in a “Cold War” that could get atomic hot at any moment!



‘THE MOST FEARED CHALLENGE TO THE RED CAUSE!’



Until I can join the team...



‘HAWKA-A-A-A!’

FIRST 1951 JET



F5F-1 SKYROCKET

F-84 THUNDERJET

Specifications		
Length	28 ft 8.5 in	38 ft 1 in
Wingspan	42 ft	36 ft 5 in
Height	11 ft 4 in	12 ft 7 in
Weight (max)	10,892 lb	23,347 lb
Speed (at sea level)	383 mph	607 mph
Service Ceiling	33,000 ft	40,500 ft
Range (Maximum)	1,170 miles	3,219 miles (with external fuel tanks)
Armament	two .30 cal machine guns and two .50 cal machine guns	6 x 12.7mm machine guns 24 x 5in aerial rockets 2 x Conventional Drop Bombs OR Napalm.

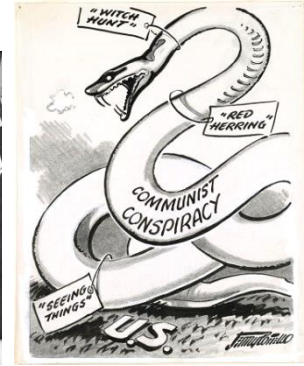


The Eighty-first United States Congress had an All-American star with an Un-American warning...



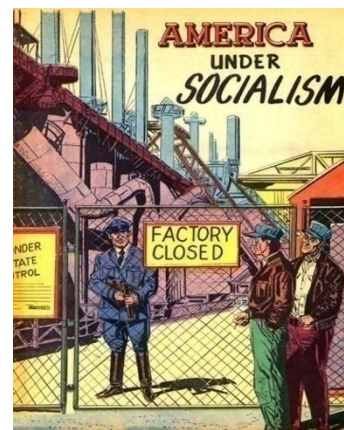
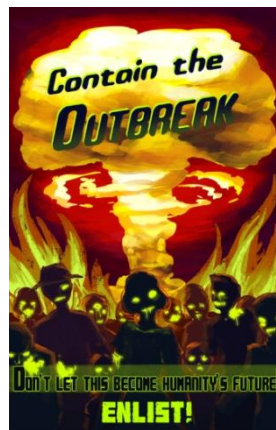
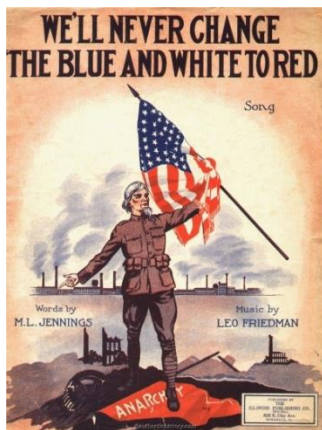
'The United States of America has been infultrated by the Communist Party! Dedicated Reds by the score have invisibly entered our nation, our every state, and this very Congress!'



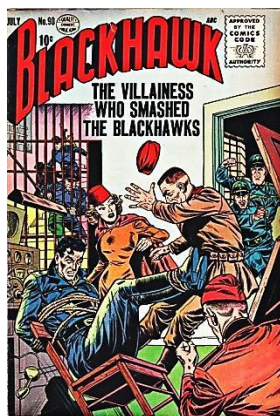


'I have unimpeachable possitive proof that the Communists have been planning to take over America since the end of the last war!

'These "invisible Reds" must be rooted out and brought before The Law! American Law!



'The most secret and the most effective of these "invisible Reds"---none other than "The Angels of Vengeance!"'

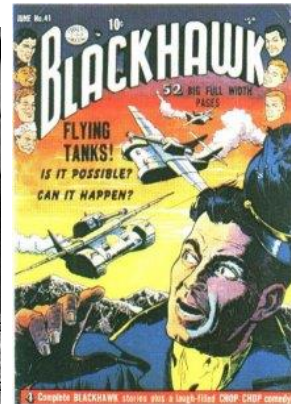


'Their so-called "War on Communism" is a crude charade that's fooled so many in America and the Free World!'



*'The **Blackhawks** are invincible as a unit!'*

'The greatest threat to political demigods ever known!'

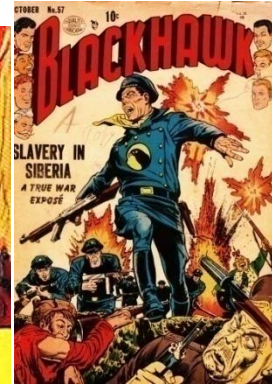


*'Those who side with, believe in the **Blackhawks** are marching in 'lockstep with the Red Army!'*

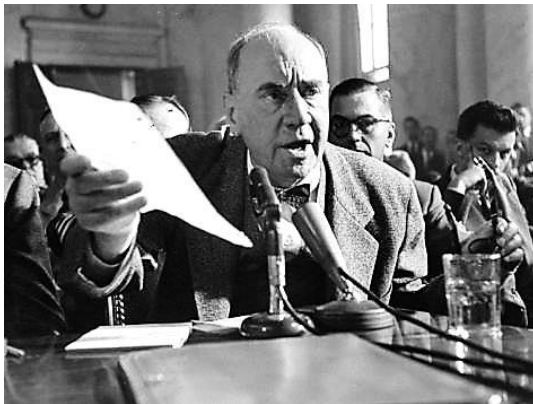


'Could it be?'

*'Communist **Blackhawks**?'*



AMERICA UNDER COMMUNISM!



*'No, the **Blackhawks** fight for liberty around the world!'*



'I cannot and will not cut my conscience to fit this year's fashion.'



*'Do not fall for Commie propaganda! The **Blackhawks** are a "Red herring", a baited hook just waiting for you to bite on it!*

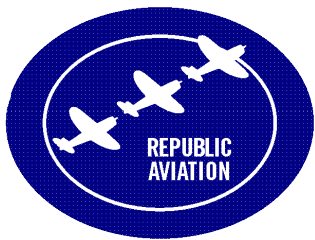
*'The "Angels of Vengeance" will soon reveal their true colors, and **Blackhawk Island** will be a Communist Atomic base!'*

Island History

J-E-T-S, JETS, JETS, JETS!



Yet another reward for their wartime heroism--the **Blackhawks** get their first jets!



And can't wait to break them in!



'Effortless speed and a sexy sound!'



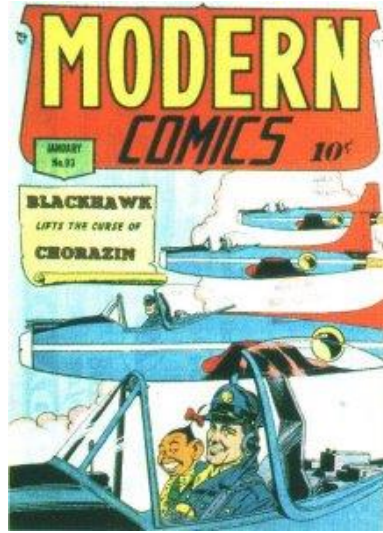
'Cockpit's a first-class lounge compared to the old crates!'



'But these helmets are heavy and tight!'



'We'll wear our custom caps!'



'Hope we can make a sonic BOOM!'



'We're in a new Air Age! Welcome to mid-air refueling!'



'And that's just for starters! Hook these babies up with A-Bombs!'

'This island is suddenly a superpower!'



The mission of the **Thunderbirds** is to support U.S. Air Force recruiting and retention programs and to reinforce public confidence and demonstrate to the public the professional competence of Air Force professionals.

The team was approaching their home base when the commander got the official word.



'Yet another "Milk Run", but plenty of "Oh's" and "Wows"!

'And whom did you expect to challenge us!'

After they landed, the squadron commander "dropped a bomb"!



*'Congratulations, **Thunderbirds!** Another fighter squadron has chosen the F-84 to fly...The **Blackhawks!**'*



'About time those glory flyers caught up to us!'

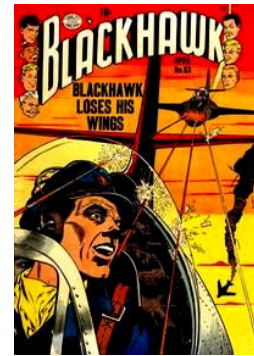
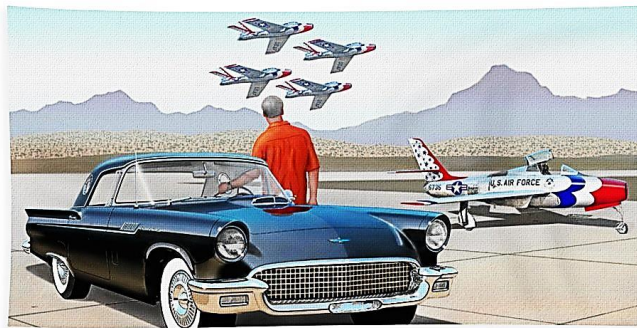
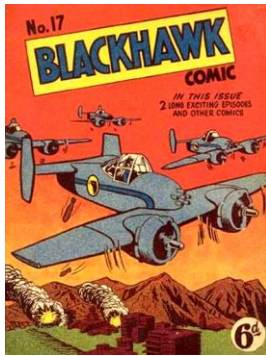


U.S. Air Force "Thunderbirds," 1953.



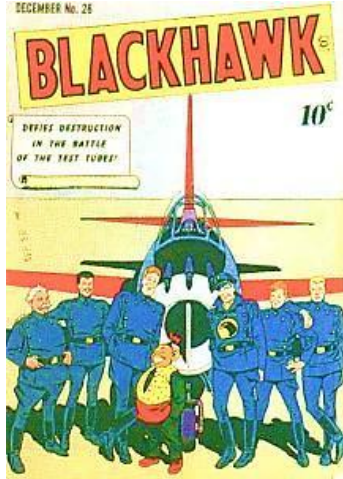
'They got the right jet!'

'But they've stolen our flyin' trademark!'



'I like our livery better!'

'And we're available for autographs after every show!'



'The Blackhawks are invincible as a unit!'

'The greatest threat to arrogant show-offs ever known!'



***Thunderbirds, you are performers with a mission!
And you are best fighter pilots in the Air Force!***



'I know, should this country go to war, that each of you would return to your former squadron before flying into combat!'



*'That's the difference between you and the "Angels of Vengeance"!
They're always at war and never splitting up!*

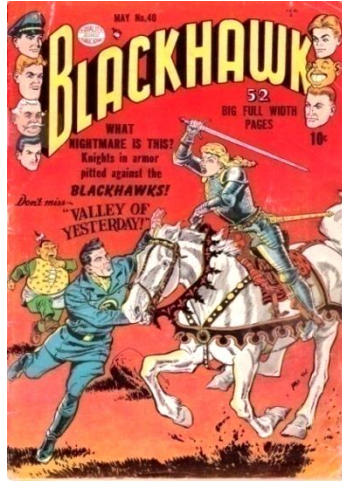


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Daily Planet

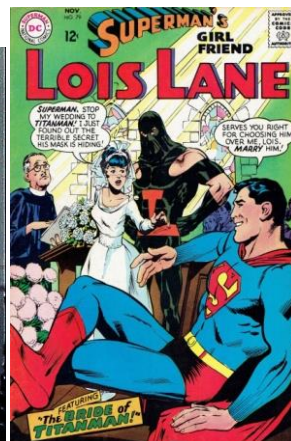
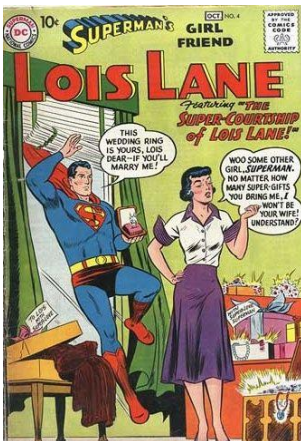


*'A second Lady Blackhawk? Who? How?
Great Caesar's ghost! Nobody ever tells
me these things!'*

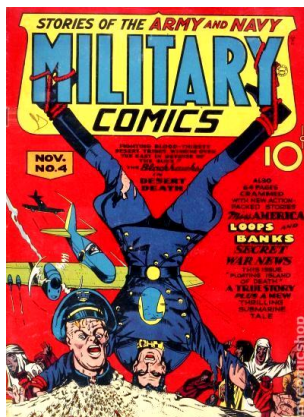


'Lady Blackhawk's real name is Shiela Hawke, "She-Hawk", get it?'

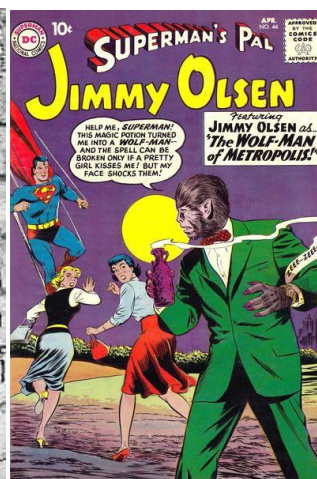
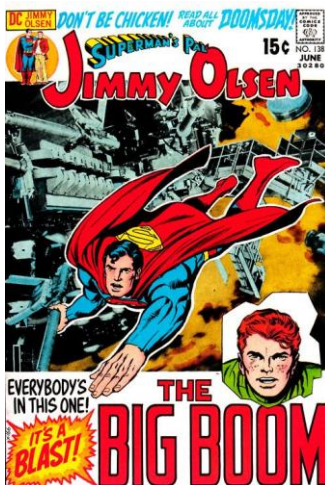
'Checked my sources. The FBI and INTERPOL...she's clean!'



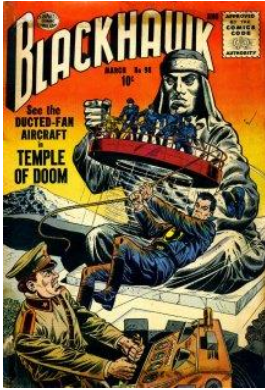
*'Young and beautiful, rich and bored, Shiela Hawke was inspired by the **Blackhawks**! She bought her own jet, then learned to fly it! Then she became a "self-defense mistress", got a "classic blue" uniform and snuck her way into the squadron during a critical mission in Europe!'*



'Don't let it throw you, boys! Haven't you ever seen a girl before?'



'She-Hawk was determined to be the definitive Lady Blackhawk! She's a hot pilot and navigator! And a ferocious hand-to-hand fighter!'



'A brave woman of action! She personally brought down the would-be dictator Baron Vargo.'

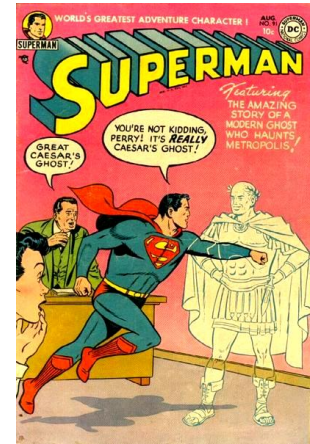


*'She gave **Blackhawk** a passionate kiss, but no more!'*

*'Exactly, Jimmy! The team appointed her the official **Blackhawk** liaison in Monclova!'*

'You mean they dropped her like an old shoe?'

'That's this business!'



*'The "Angels of Vengeance" rejected this wonderful woman?
Kent, I want the whole story in 48 point!*

'We could have the new star of the decade...

*'Show me **LADY BLACKHAWK!***



Next...



NOT YET A BLACKHAWK!

