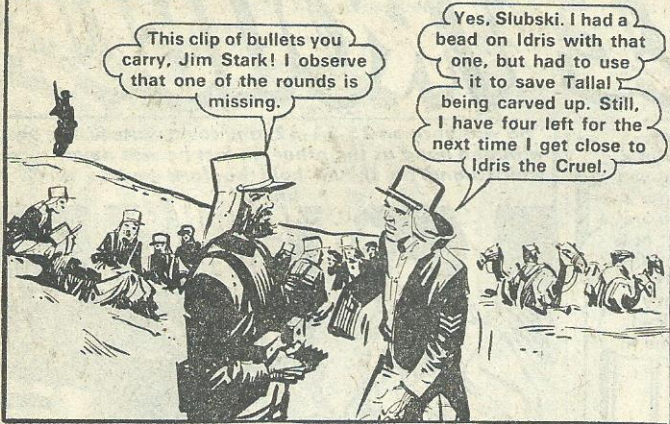


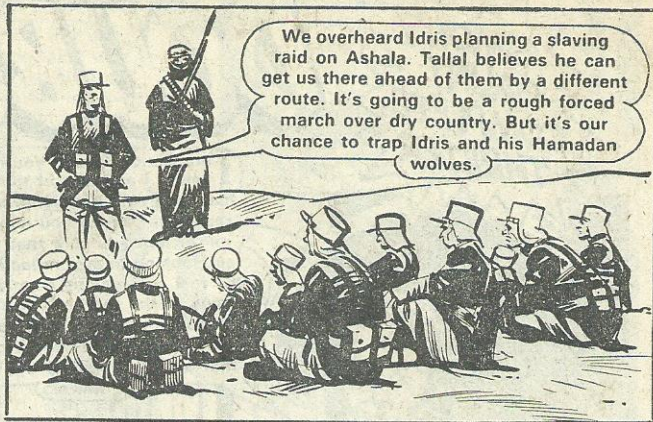
Trapped at the well.

Stark ordered a rest-halt.



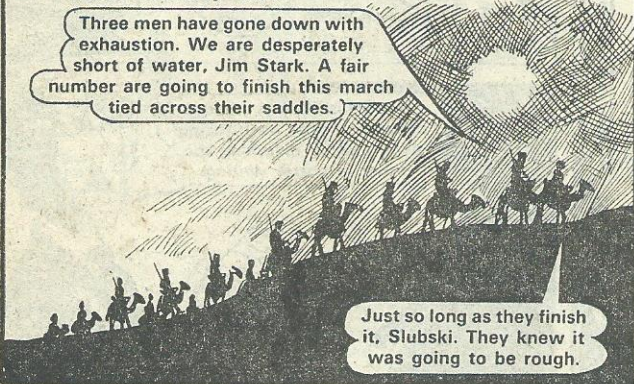
This clip of bullets you carry, Jim Stark! I observe that one of the rounds is missing.

Yes, Slubski. I had a bead on Idris with that one, but had to use it to save Tallal! being carved up. Still, I have four left for the next time I get close to Idris the Cruel.



We overheard Idris planning a slaving raid on Ashala. Tallal believes he can get us there ahead of them by a different route. It's going to be a rough forced march over dry country. But it's our chance to trap Idris and his Hamadan wolves.

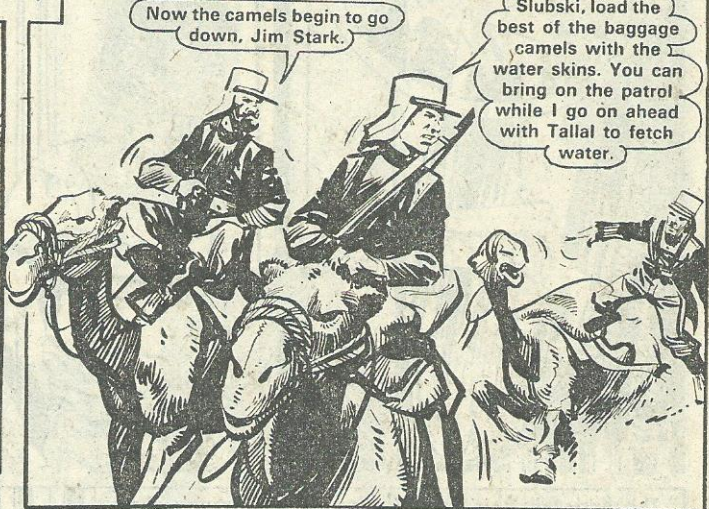
The patrol kept on the move day and night, resting only during the fierce noonday heat.



Three men have gone down with exhaustion. We are desperately short of water, Jim Stark. A fair number are going to finish this march tied across their saddles.

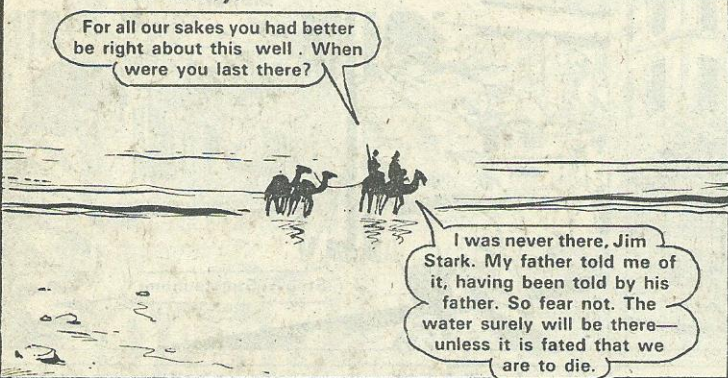
Just so long as they finish it, Slubski. They knew it was going to be rough.

Now the camels begin to go down, Jim Stark.



Slubski, load the best of the baggage camels with the water skins. You can bring on the patrol while I go on ahead with Tallal to fetch water.

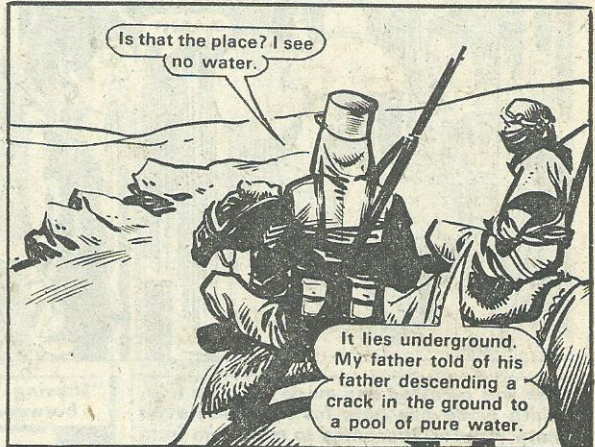
Tallal had told Jim he knew of a well nearby.



For all our sakes you had better be right about this well. When were you last there?

I was never there, Jim Stark. My father told me of it, having been told by his father. So fear not. The water surely will be there—unless it is fated that we are to die.

Is that the place? I see no water.



It lies underground. My father told of his father descending a crack in the ground to a pool of pure water.

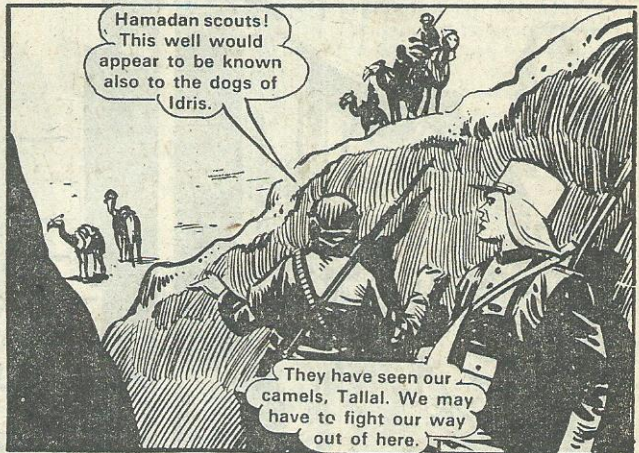
Jim searched around—



It is here, Tallal. Your father's father was truly a great man.

That I know, Jim Stark. But come out of there. I see what may interest you even more than water.

Hamadan scouts! This well would appear to be known also to the dogs of Idris.



They have seen our camels, Tallal. We may have to fight our way out of here.

WZD 4.3.78 3

Can Jim and Tallal escape? Find out NEXT WEEK