

FIVE BULLETS FOR IDRIS THE CRUEL

IDRIS THE CRUEL, the leader of the Hamadan tribe of the Tuareg, had murdered the two young brothers of Sergeant Jim Stark of the French Foreign Legion. Jim vowed to kill Idris using a clip of five bullets he found beside his dead brothers.

With a patrol raised from the Penal Battalion of the Legion, Jim had gone after Idris. Searching for water ahead of the patrol, Jim and Tallal, his guide, had been surprised by Hamadan scouts.



The Hamadan dog calls asking, who we are. They see those Hamadan camels we captured. They think we are their tribesmen.

Try to bluff them, Tallal. See if you can bring them in closer.

Tallal called out in Tamachek—the speech of the Tuareg.

Not so good, Jim Stark. They are cautious. Only one comes—the other two wait and watch.



Hullo! He's stopping. He's looking at the camels.

This is trouble Jim Stark. He sees what we had forgotten.

Ah, I see. He's spotted that batch of Legion canteens with the waterskins.

We may still trick the dog, Jim Stark. I will show myself. In the shadow, my robes may be mistaken for those of a Hamadan.



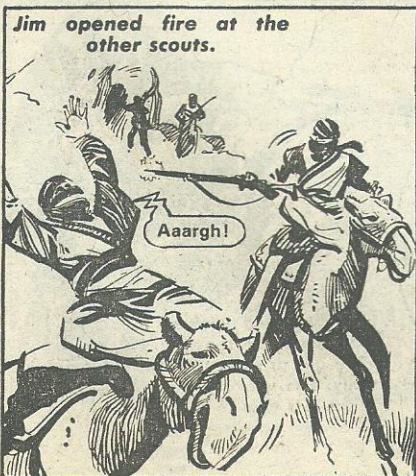
Come, brother. Pure sweet water awaits you in the well.

I know that voice. You are that Hoggar wolf who rides with the infidels!



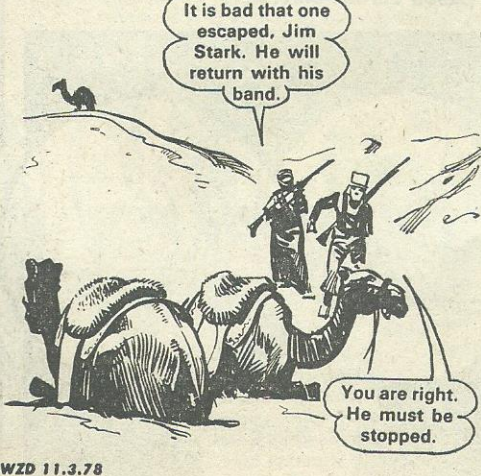
Then hear me again, dog—for the last time!

Argh!



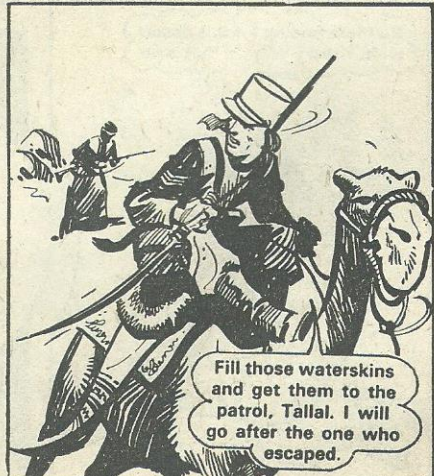
Jim opened fire at the other scouts.

Aaargh!



It is bad that one escaped, Jim Stark. He will return with his band.

You are right. He must be stopped.



Fill those waterskins and get them to the patrol, Tallal. I will go after the one who escaped.