

Soft sand means hard work for Sergeant Jake and X Squad!

LOST PLANES FOUND

EARLY in 1942, with World War II raging, the R.A.F. could spare only a few planes for the battle against the Germans in the North African desert. Search and recovery units were formed to salvage crashed planes from the desert, often from behind the German lines. One of the most successful of these units was X Squad, commanded by Sergeant W. E. F. Jake. On his way to look for a Hurricane fighter which had crashed in No-Man's Land, Sergeant Jake was held up.



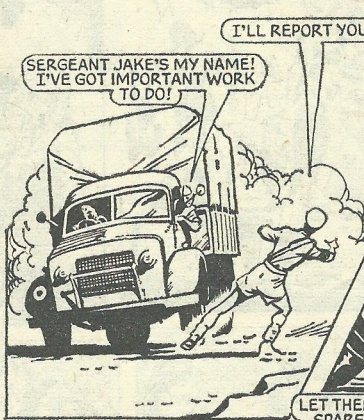
WHY ARE WE BEING STOPPED HERE, SERGEANT JAKE?

THE M.P.'S ARE TRYING TO MAKE ALL THE TRAFFIC GO TO THE LEFT HERE. THAT'S NO GOOD TO US, SCOTTY. THE HURRICANE MUST BE SOMEWHERE STRAIGHT AHEAD!



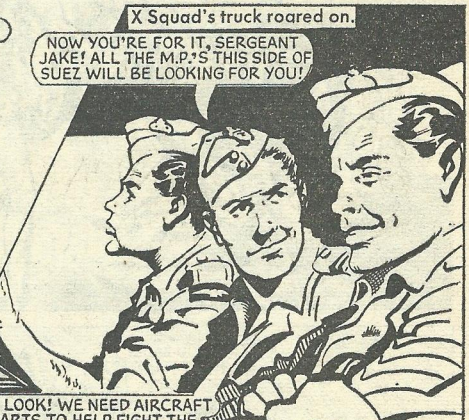
THERE'S SOFT SAND AHEAD AND OUR ORDERS ARE TO DIVERT ALL TRAFFIC TO THE EAST. NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT A CRASHED PLANE, YOU'LL GO WHERE WE TELL YOU TO!

LOOK, MATE, STRAIGHT AHEAD IS THE WAY TO THE PLANE I WANT, AND THAT'S THE WAY I'M GOING! GET OUT OF THE WAY!



I'LL REPORT YOU!

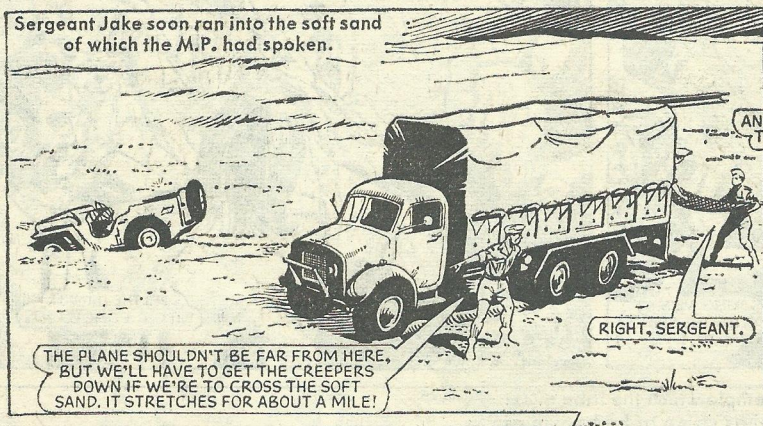
SERGEANT JAKE'S MY NAME! I'VE GOT IMPORTANT WORK TO DO!



X Squad's truck roared on.

NOW YOU'RE FOR IT, SERGEANT JAKE! ALL THE M.P.'S THIS SIDE OF SUEZ WILL BE LOOKING FOR YOU!

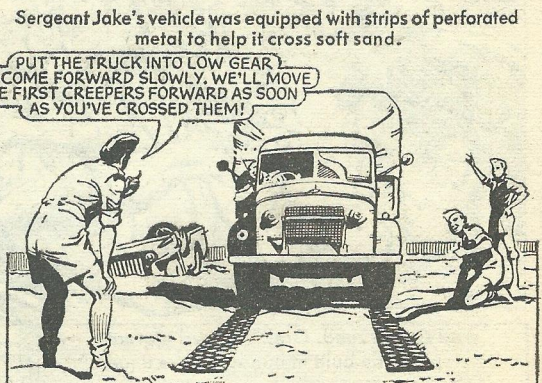
LET THEM LOOK! WE NEED AIRCRAFT SPARE PARTS TO HELP FIGHT THE GERMANS, AND THE M.P.'S AREN'T GOING TO STOP ME GETTING THEM!



Sergeant Jake soon ran into the soft sand of which the M.P. had spoken.

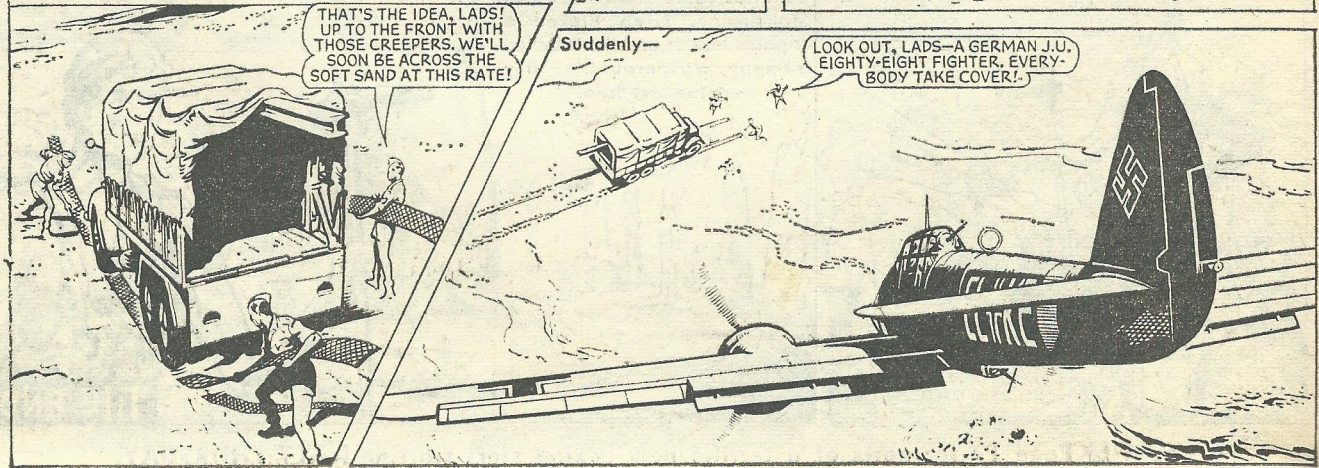
THE PLANE SHOULDN'T BE FAR FROM HERE, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO GET THE CREEPERS DOWN IF WE'RE TO CROSS THE SOFT SAND. IT STRETCHES FOR ABOUT A MILE!

RIGHT, SERGEANT.



Sergeant Jake's vehicle was equipped with strips of perforated metal to help it cross soft sand.

PUT THE TRUCK INTO LOW GEAR AND COME FORWARD SLOWLY. WE'LL MOVE THE FIRST CREEPERS FORWARD AS SOON AS YOU'VE CROSSED THEM!



THAT'S THE IDEA, LADS! UP TO THE FRONT WITH THOSE CREEPERS. WE'LL SOON BE ACROSS THE SOFT SAND AT THIS RATE!

Suddenly—

LOOK OUT, LADS—A GERMAN J.U. EIGHTY-EIGHT FIGHTER, EVERYBODY TAKE COVER!