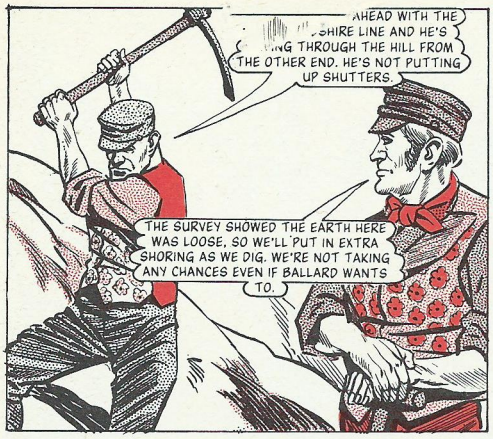
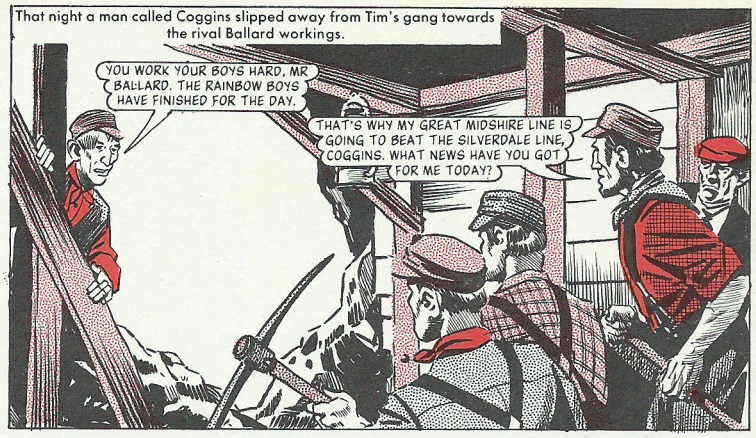
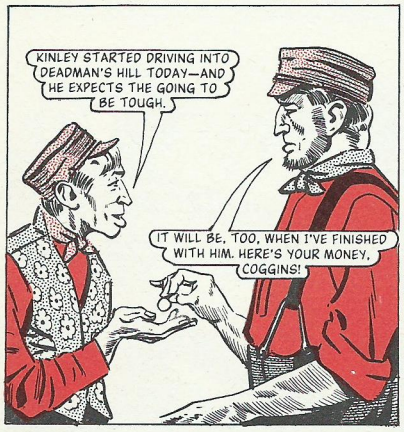
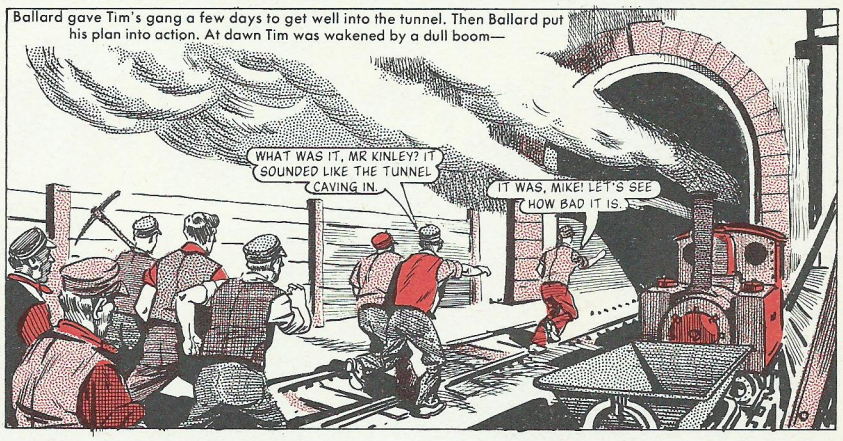

AHEAD WITH THE MIDSHIRE LINE AND HE'S GOING THROUGH THE HILL FROM THE OTHER END. HE'S NOT PUTTING UP SHUTTERS.
THE SURVEY SHOWED THE EARTH HERE WAS LOOSE, SO WE'LL PUT IN EXTRA SHORING AS WE DIG. WE'RE NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES EVEN IF BALLARD WANTS TO.

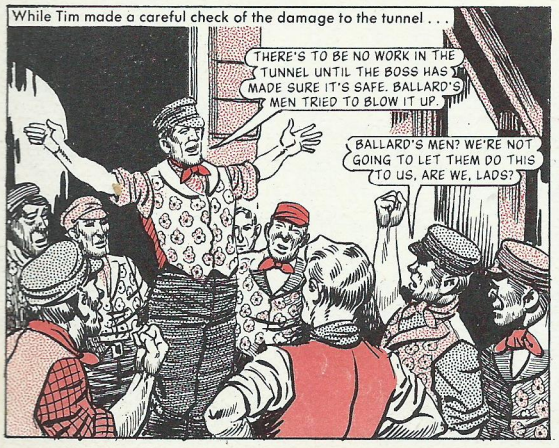

That night a man called Coggins slipped away from Tim's gang towards the rival Ballard workings.
YOU WORK YOUR BOYS HARD, MR BALLARD. THE RAINBOW BOYS HAVE FINISHED FOR THE DAY.
THAT'S WHY MY GREAT MIDSHIRE LINE IS GOING TO BEAT THE SILVERDALE LINE, COGGINS. WHAT NEWS HAVE YOU GOT FOR ME TODAY?

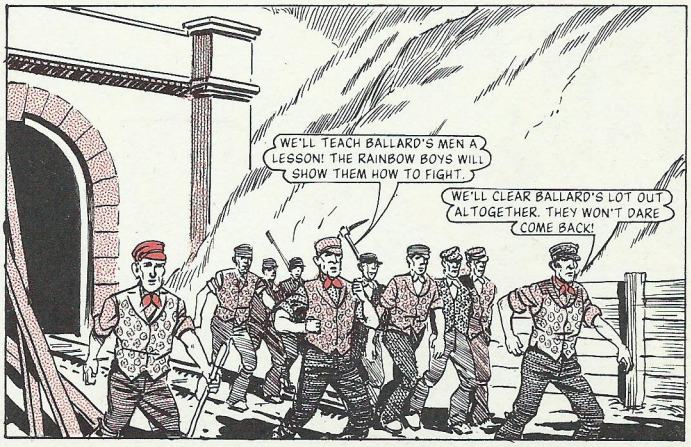

KINLEY STARTED DRIVING INTO DEADMAN'S HILL TODAY—AND HE EXPECTS THE GOING TO BE TOUGH.
IT WILL BE, TOO, WHEN I'VE FINISHED WITH HIM. HERE'S YOUR MONEY, COGGINS!


Ballard gave Tim's gang a few days to get well into the tunnel. Then Ballard put his plan into action. At dawn Tim was wakened by a dull boom—
WHAT WAS IT, MR KINLEY? IT SOUNDED LIKE THE TUNNEL CAVING IN.
IT WAS, MIKE! LET'S SEE HOW BAD IT IS.

IT'S A RIGHT MESS, BUT THE FALL COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE.
THIS WAS NO ACCIDENT—THERE HAS BEEN AN EXPLOSION! THESE PROPS ARE SHATTERED, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE WELL AWAY FROM THE MAIN FALL.

YOU MEAN DYNAMITE? SOMEONE DID IT DELIBERATELY?
WHOEVER DID IT THOUGHT THE HILL ITSELF WOULD MUFFLE THE EXPLOSION, AND THE TUNNEL WOULD CAVE IN COMPLETELY, TO HIDE ALL THE TRACES OF DYNAMITE. THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN I KNOW WHO WOULD DO THIS—BALLARD!


While Tim made a careful check of the damage to the tunnel . . .
THERE'S TO BE NO WORK IN THE TUNNEL UNTIL THE BOSS HAS MADE SURE IT'S SAFE. BALLARD'S MEN TRIED TO BLOW IT UP.
BALLARD'S MEN? WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET THEM DO THIS TO US, ARE WE, LADS?


WE'LL TEACH BALLARD'S MEN A LESSON! THE RAINBOW BOYS WILL SHOW THEM HOW TO FIGHT.
WE'LL CLEAR BALLARD'S LOT OUT ALTOGETHER. THEY WON'T DARE COME BACK!