



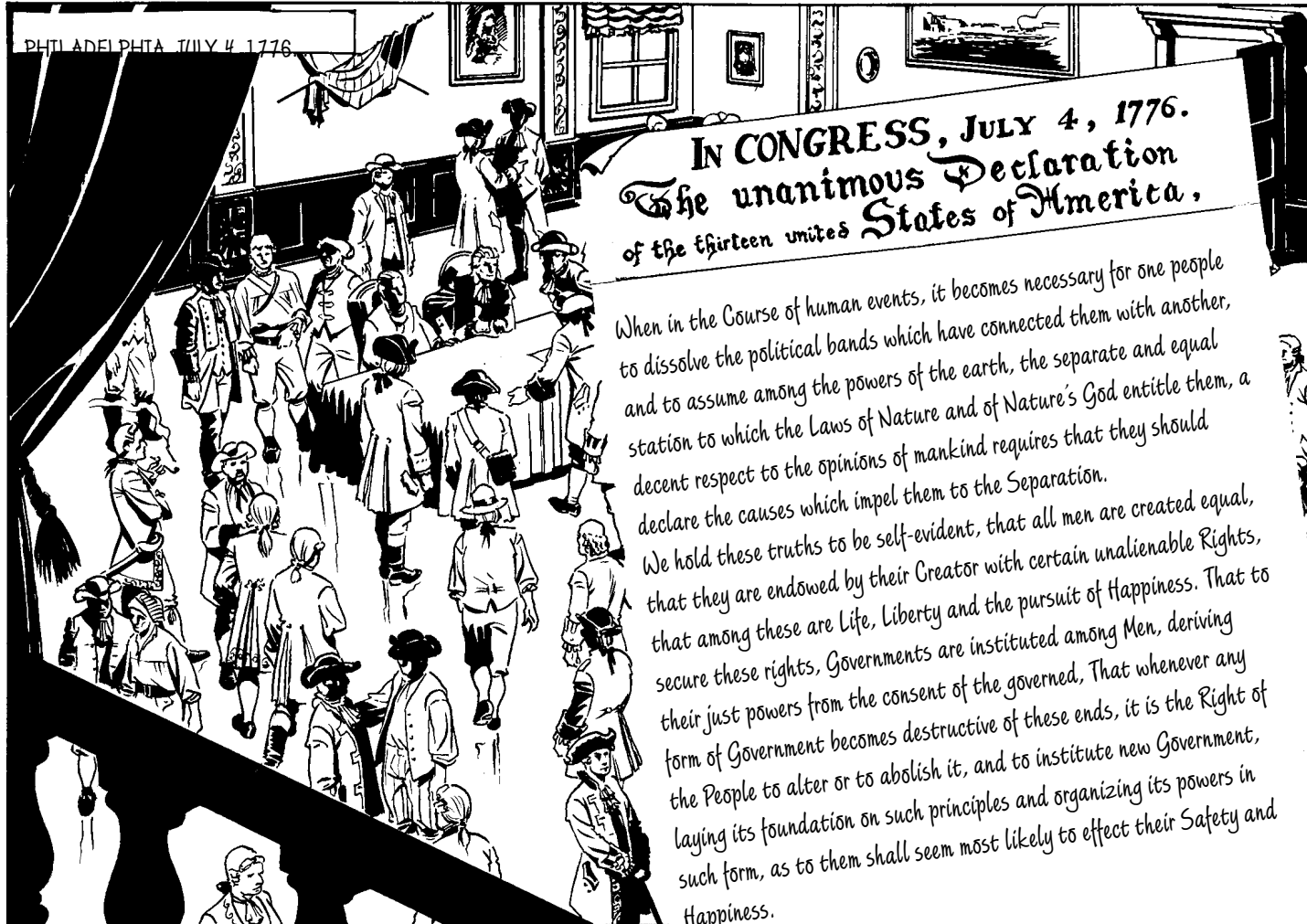
PHILIP MAZZEI

**A Hero
of American
Independence**

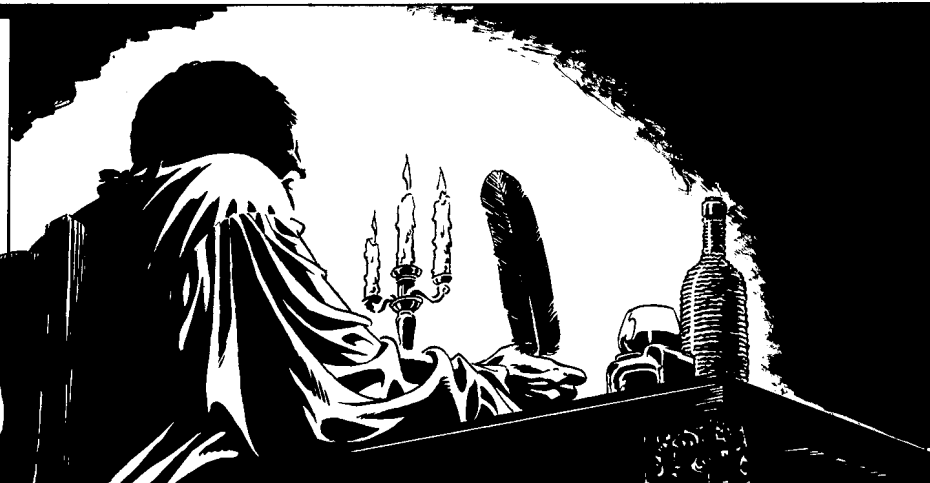
M. Mangiantini
2000

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776. The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.



... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, MR. JEFFERSON, FOR YOUR WORDS IN SUPPORT OF MY IDEAS WHICH, YOU SAY, WERE IMPORTANT FOR THE WRITING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE PASSED BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS OF PHILADELPHIA...



... I AM SURE I HAD NO ROLE IN THIS FUNDAMENTAL STEP OF MAN'S COURSE TOWARDS A MORE JUST SOCIETY BUT YOUR WORDS INSTILL IN ME A SENSE OF PRIDE AND GREAT EMOTION...

... AND WHEN, AT ANY TIME, THE NEED ARISES, I HOPE I MAY AGAIN BE OF SERVICE TO YOU AS I HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST. YOUR MOST HUMBLE SERVANT...

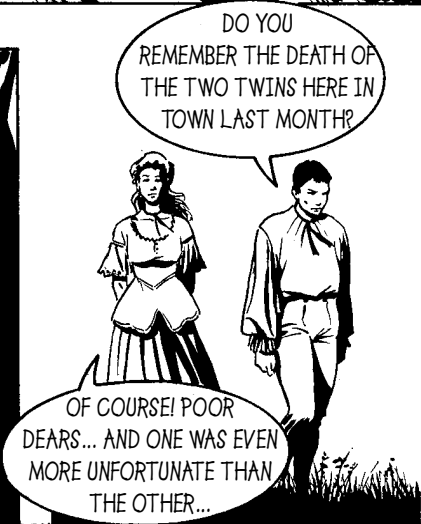


POGGIO A CAIANO,
SUMMER 1749...



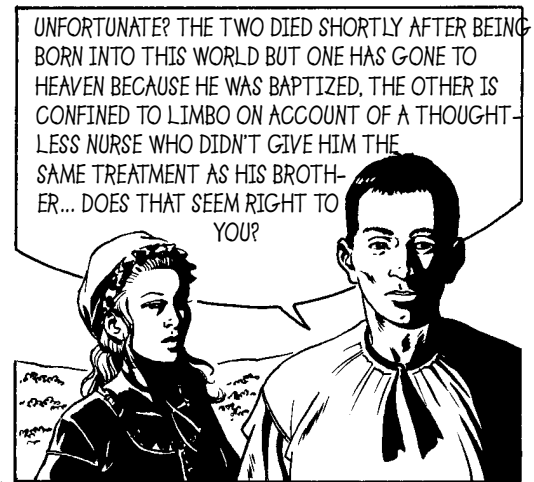
YOU SEEM RATHER DOWN TODAY.

I HAVE GOOD REASON MY DEAR!

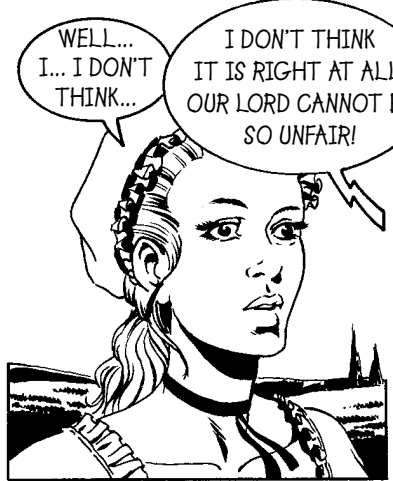


DO YOU REMEMBER THE DEATH OF THE TWO TWINS HERE IN TOWN LAST MONTH?

OF COURSE! POOR DEARS... AND ONE WAS EVEN MORE UNFORTUNATE THAN THE OTHER...

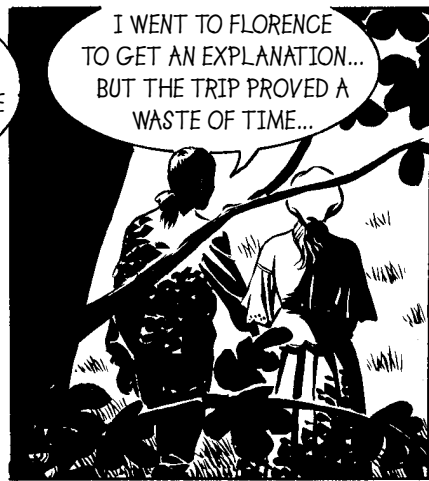


UNFORTUNATE? THE TWO DIED SHORTLY AFTER BEING BORN INTO THIS WORLD BUT ONE HAS GONE TO HEAVEN BECAUSE HE WAS BAPTIZED. THE OTHER IS CONFINED TO LIMBO ON ACCOUNT OF A THOUGHTLESS NURSE WHO DIDN'T GIVE HIM THE SAME TREATMENT AS HIS BROTHER... DOES THAT SEEM RIGHT TO YOU?



WELL... I... I DON'T THINK...

I DON'T THINK IT IS RIGHT AT ALL. OUR LORD CANNOT BE SO UNFAIR!



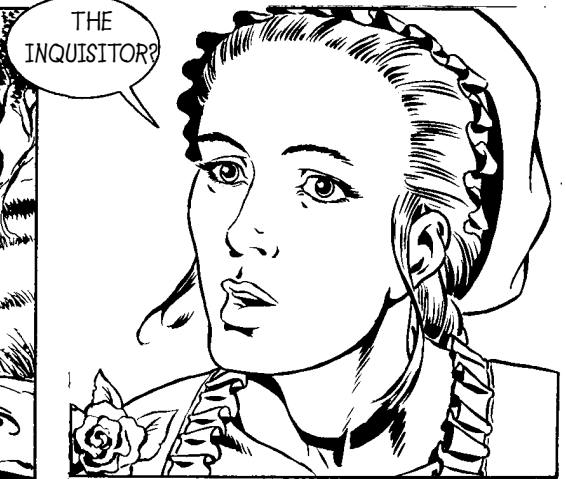
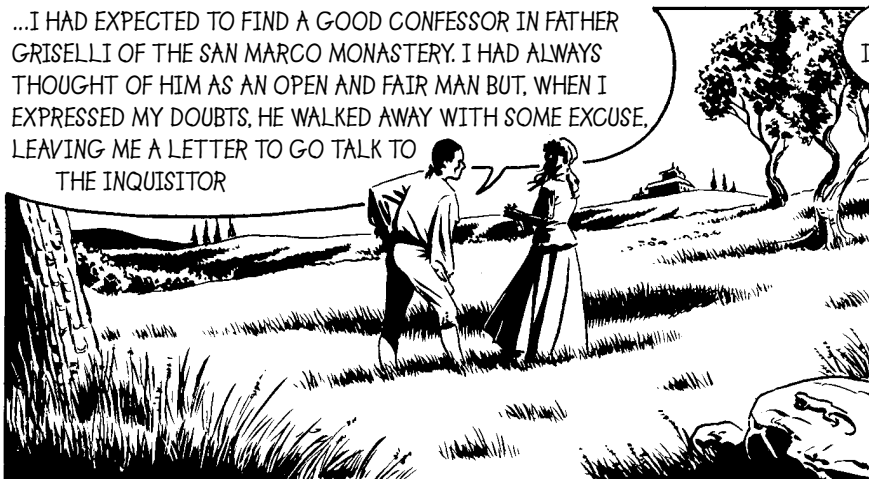
I WENT TO FLORENCE TO GET AN EXPLANATION... BUT THE TRIP PROVED A WASTE OF TIME...



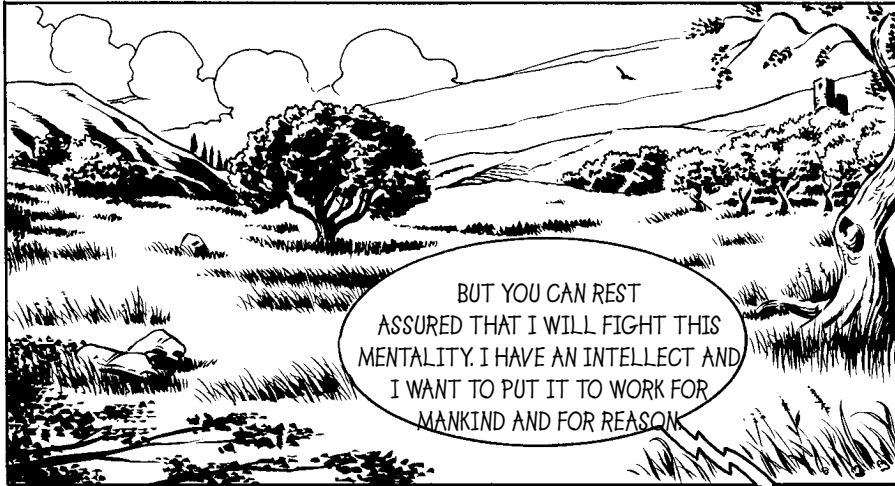
HOW SO?

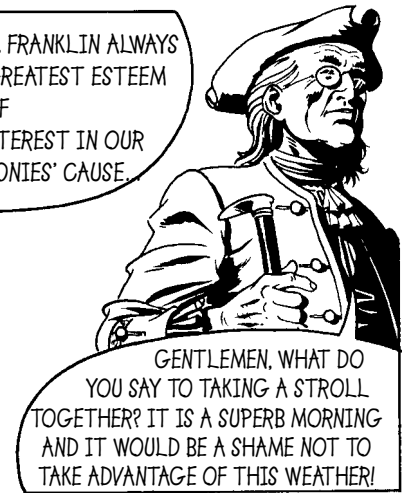
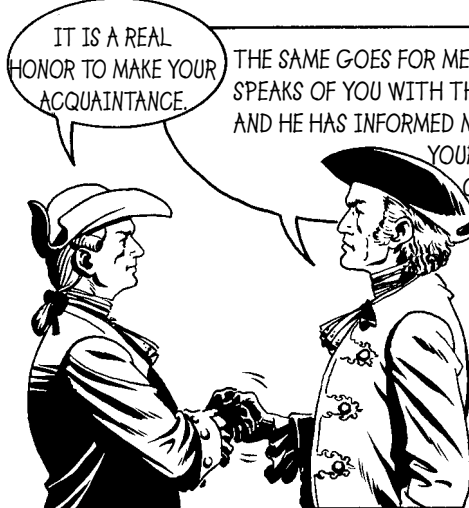
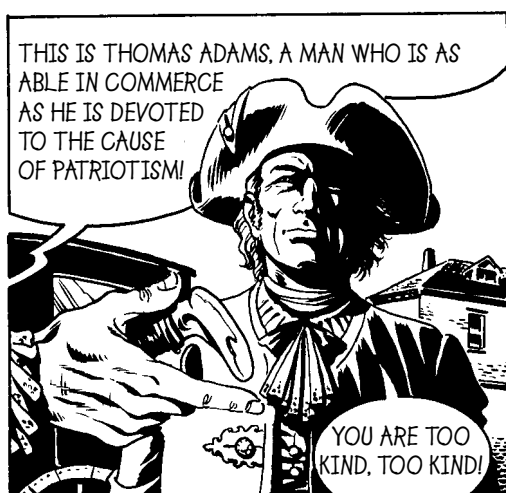
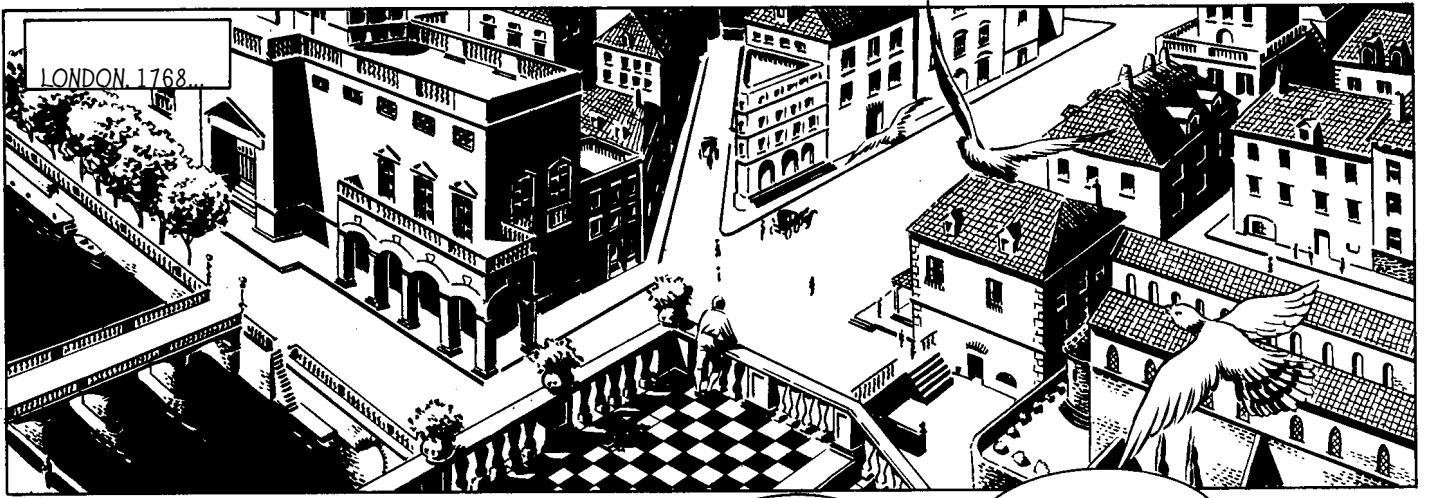
I TRIED TO TALK TO SOME PRIESTS - OF COURSE THEY ARE GREATER EXPERTS ON FAITH THAN I AM - BUT I FOUND THEM TO BE IGNORANT AND DISINCLINED TO USE REASON..

...I HAD EXPECTED TO FIND A GOOD CONFESSOR IN FATHER GRISELLI OF THE SAN MARCO MONASTERY. I HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT OF HIM AS AN OPEN AND FAIR MAN BUT, WHEN I EXPRESSED MY DOUBTS, HE WALKED AWAY WITH SOME EXCUSE, LEAVING ME A LETTER TO GO TALK TO THE INQUISITOR



THE INQUISITOR?







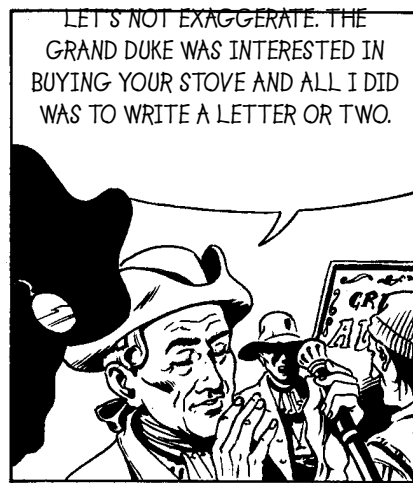
"DO YOU REALLY SAY SO, MR. FRANKLIN?"

COURSE!

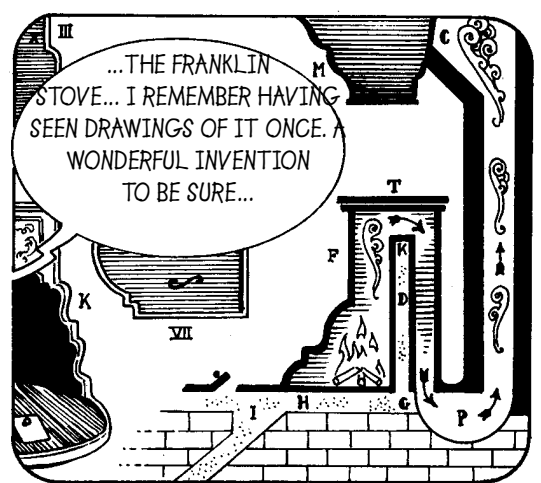


OUR PHILIP PROVED OF GREAT USE SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN HE NEGOTIATED THE DEAL OF MY STOVES!...

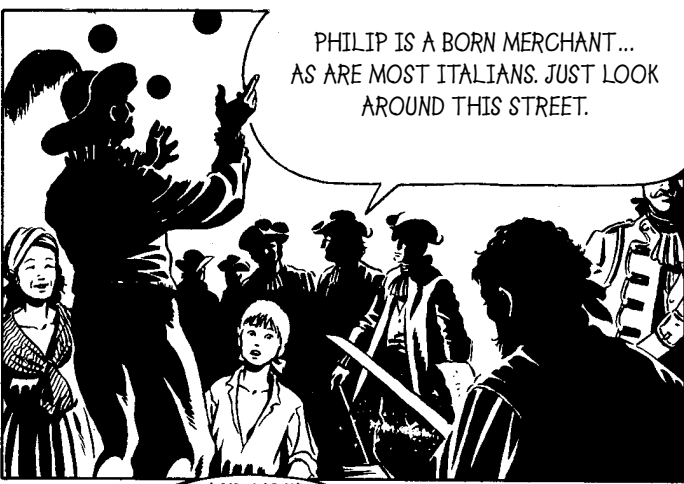
YOU SHOULD KNOW, DEAR ADAMS, THAT OUR FRIEND HERE SERVED AS AN INTERMEDIARY IN A BUSINESS DEAL INVOLVING THE GRAND DUKE OF TUSCANY...



LET'S NOT EXAGGERATE. THE GRAND DUKE WAS INTERESTED IN BUYING YOUR STOVE AND ALL I DID WAS TO WRITE A LETTER OR TWO.



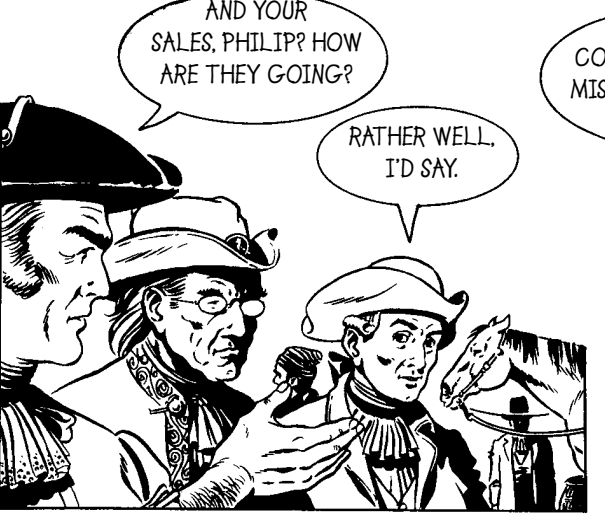
...THE FRANKLIN STOVE... I REMEMBER HAVING SEEN DRAWINGS OF IT ONCE. A WONDERFUL INVENTION TO BE SURE...



PHILIP IS A BORN MERCHANT... AS ARE MOST ITALIANS. JUST LOOK AROUND THIS STREET.



THE VALLE BROTHERS' STORE ... THEY ARE THE BUSIEST MERCHANTS IN ALL OF LONDON...



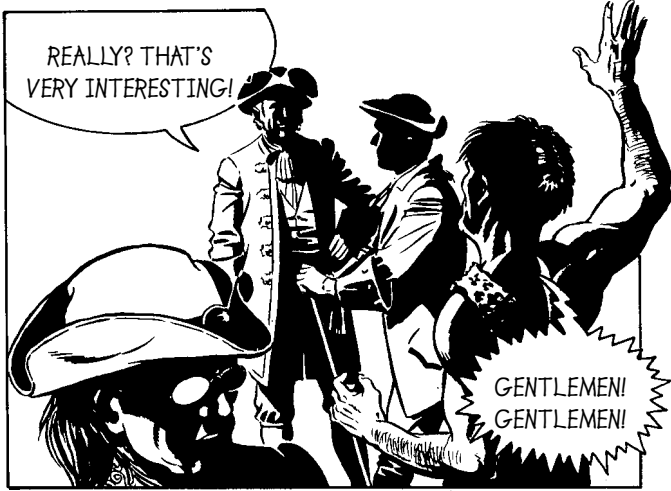
AND YOUR SALES, PHILIP? HOW ARE THEY GOING?

RATHER WELL, I'D SAY.



MARTINI AND COMPANY. IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN, THAT'S YOUR STORE.

YOU ARE NOT MISTAKEN. IT'S A BUSINESS THAT GIVES ME A GREAT DEAL OF SATISFACTION. FOR SOME TIME I HAVE BEEN THINKING OF EXPANDING IT...

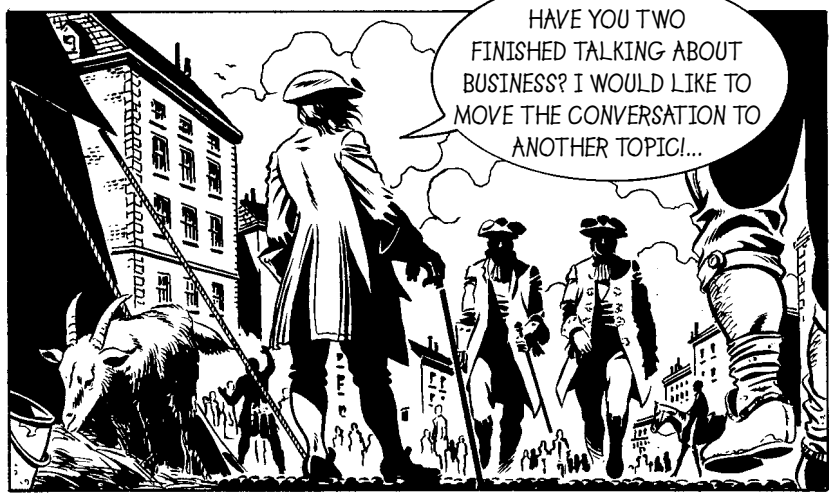


REALLY? THAT'S VERY INTERESTING!

GENTLEMEN! GENTLEMEN!



I INVITE YOU TO WITNESS A REAL MIRACLE, GENTLEMEN! A TWO-HEADED CALF, GENTLEMEN! THAT'S RIGHT, YOU HEARD ME... TWO HEADS!



HAVE YOU TWO FINISHED TALKING ABOUT BUSINESS? I WOULD LIKE TO MOVE THE CONVERSATION TO ANOTHER TOPIC!...



BUT NOT HERE. WHAT DO YOU SAY TO STOPPING AND HAVING SOMETHING TO DRINK?



GOOD IDEA!

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT PLACE?



HMM, THE MEETING PLACE FOR ARTISTS? TOO MANY PEOPLE AND TOO MANY EARS THERE!

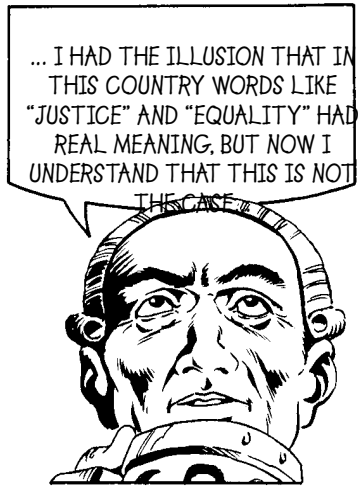


COME WITH ME, I KNOW A PLACE WHERE WE CAN SPEAK FREELY WITHOUT BEING OVERHEARD!

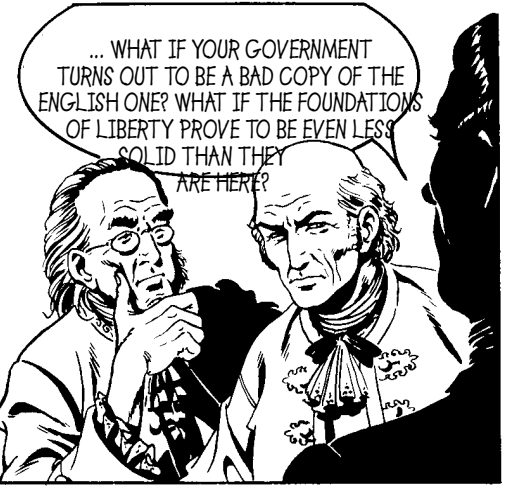




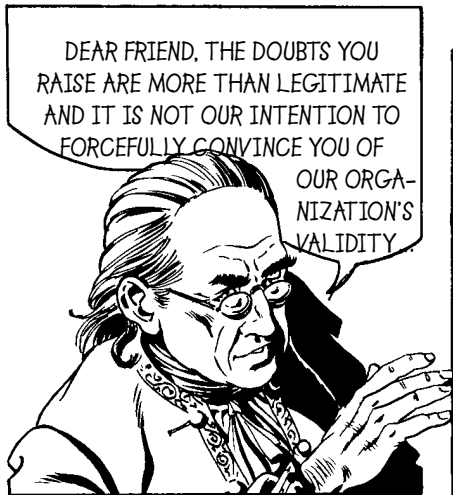
... DON'T THINK, GENTLEMEN, THAT YOUR OFFERS DON'T TEMPT ME... ESPECIALLY SINCE I AM NO LONGER AS COMFORTABLE HERE IN LONDON AS I ONCE WAS...



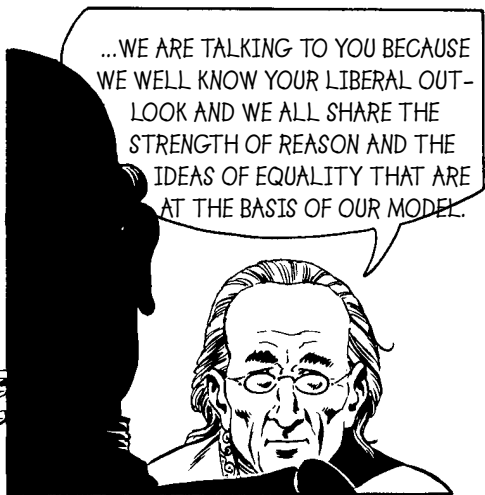
... I HAD THE ILLUSION THAT IN THIS COUNTRY WORDS LIKE "JUSTICE" AND "EQUALITY" HAD REAL MEANING, BUT NOW I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE.



... WHAT IF YOUR GOVERNMENT TURNS OUT TO BE A BAD COPY OF THE ENGLISH ONE? WHAT IF THE FOUNDATIONS OF LIBERTY PROVE TO BE EVEN LESS SOLID THAN THEY ARE HERE?



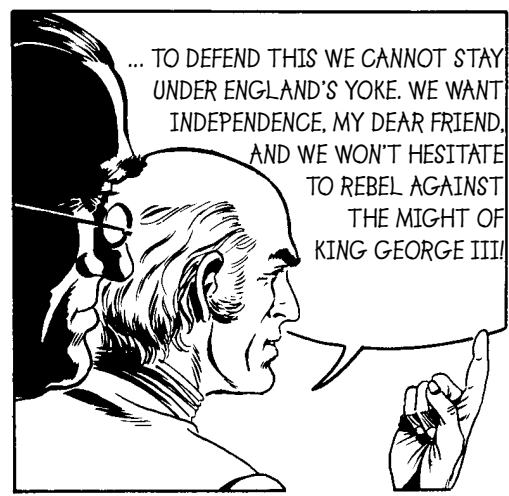
DEAR FRIEND, THE DOUBTS YOU RAISE ARE MORE THAN LEGITIMATE AND IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO FORCEFULLY CONVINC YOU OF OUR ORGANIZATION'S VALIDITY.



... WE ARE TALKING TO YOU BECAUSE WE WELL KNOW YOUR LIBERAL OUTLOOK AND WE ALL SHARE THE STRENGTH OF REASON AND THE IDEAS OF EQUALITY THAT ARE AT THE BASIS OF OUR MODEL.



YOU WELL KNOW THAT THERE IS NO ARISTOCRACY IN THE COLONIES AS THERE IS HERE IN EUROPE. THE HEAD OF EVERY FAMILY HAS THE CHANCE TO BE ELECTED AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH FREE ELECTIONS...



... TO DEFEND THIS WE CANNOT STAY UNDER ENGLAND'S YOKE. WE WANT INDEPENDENCE, MY DEAR FRIEND, AND WE WON'T HESITATE TO REBEL AGAINST THE MIGHT OF KING GEORGE III!



WHO WILL BE MOST HAPPY, I THINK. THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT WANTS TO LEAD US TO REBELLION SO THAT THEY HAVE THE EXCUSE TO INTERVENE AND PUT US DOWN ONCE AND FOR ALL.

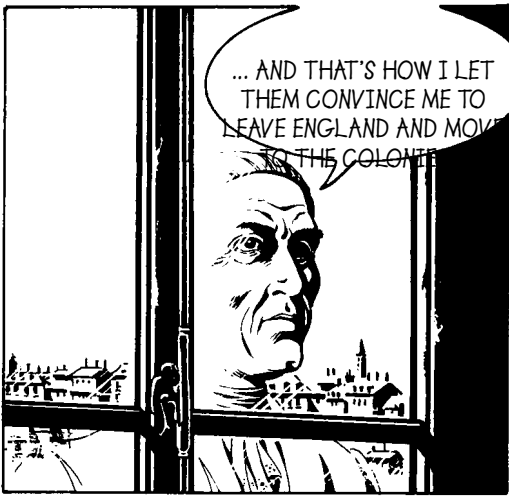


THAT MUST NEVER BE! WE WILL NEVER FALL SUBJECT TO ENGLISH DESPOTISM!

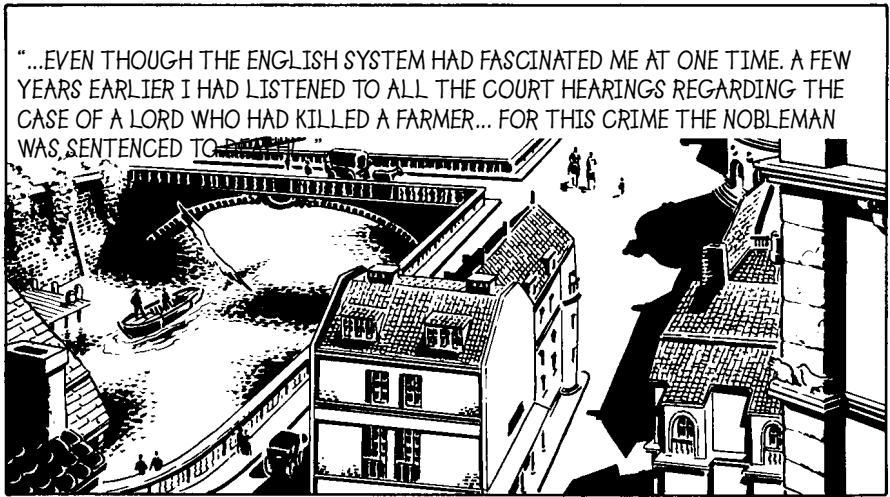
NO, WE WON'T. WE WILL GET OUR INDEPENDENCE WITH THE HELP OF GOD.



... AND, WHY NOT, WITH THE HELP OF PEOPLE LIKE OUR FRIEND PHILIP!...



... AND THAT'S HOW I LET THEM CONVINCE ME TO LEAVE ENGLAND AND MOVE TO THE COLONIES



"...EVEN THOUGH THE ENGLISH SYSTEM HAD FASCINATED ME AT ONE TIME. A FEW YEARS EARLIER I HAD LISTENED TO ALL THE COURT HEARINGS REGARDING THE CASE OF A LORD WHO HAD KILLED A FARMER... FOR THIS CRIME THE NOBLEMAN WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH"

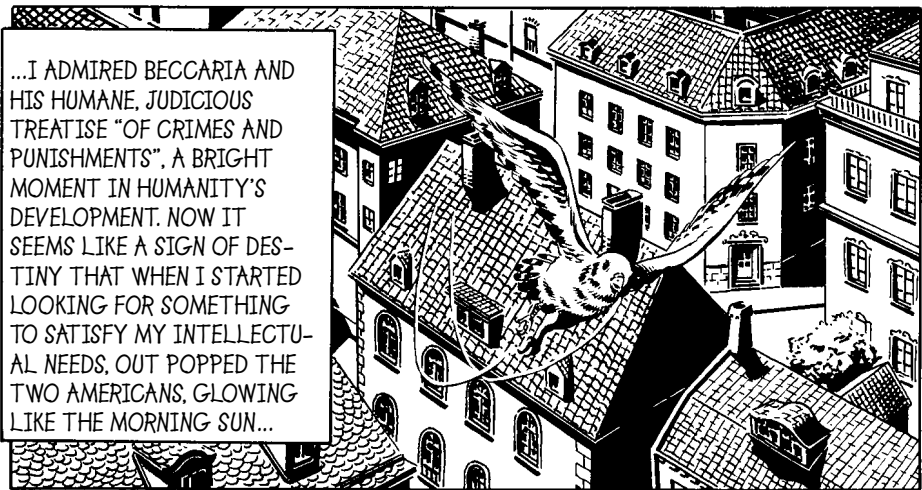


PARIS, OCTOBER 1790. IN THE STUDIO OF JACQUES LOUIS DAVID, PAINTER OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

...THAT SENTENCE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN IN ANY OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRY. I USED TO THINK THAT EQUALITY WAS MORE CLOSELY DEFENDED IN ENGLAND THAN ANYWHERE ELSE... BUT THEN I STARTED TO HAVE DOUBTS... AND IN LATER YEARS I CHANGED MY OPINION...



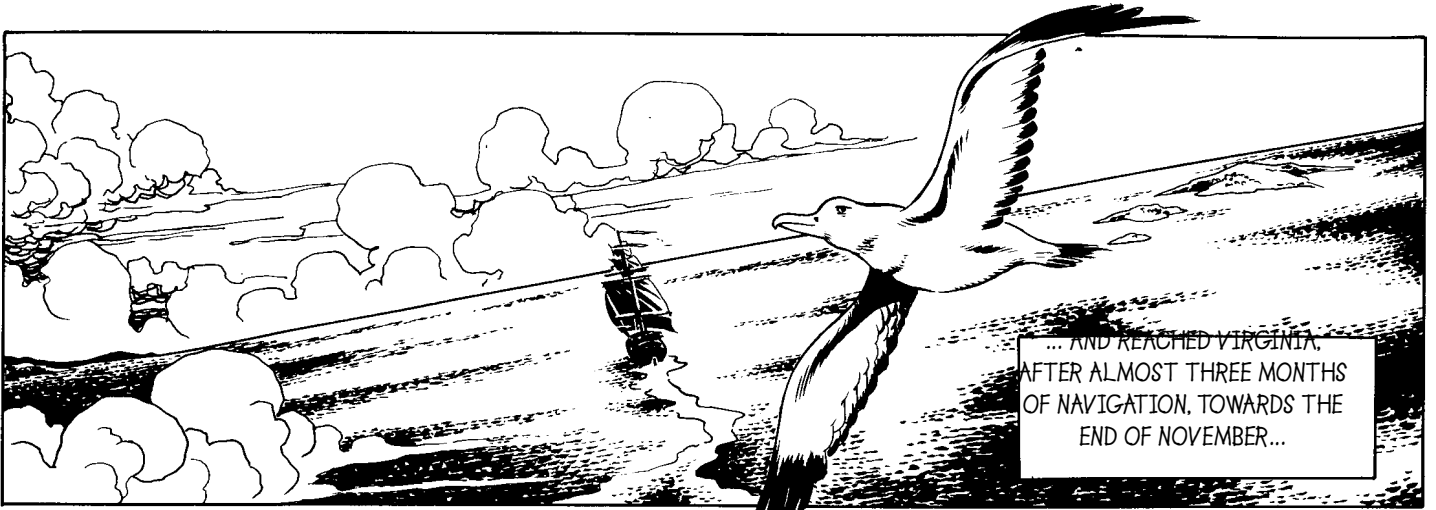
I WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE, SOMETHING BETTER.



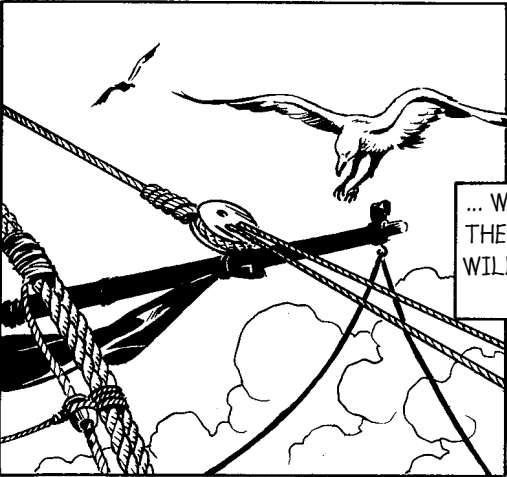
...I ADMIRER BECCARIA AND HIS HUMANE, JUDICIOUS TREATISE "OF CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS", A BRIGHT MOMENT IN HUMANITY'S DEVELOPMENT. NOW IT SEEMS LIKE A SIGN OF DESTINY THAT WHEN I STARTED LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO SATISFY MY INTELLECTUAL NEEDS, OUT POPPED THE TWO AMERICANS, GLOWING LIKE THE MORNING SUN...



I LEFT LONDON AND RETURNED TO TUSCANY WHERE I MET WITH THE GRAND DUKE LEOPOLD. I ASKED HIS PERMISSION TO TAKE SOME FARMERS TO AMERICA WITH ME. THE GRAND DUKE CONSENTED AND I HASTENED ABOUT THE PREPARATIONS FOR MY DEPARTURE. I SET SAIL FROM LEGHORN ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1773...



... AND REACHED VIRGINIA,
AFTER ALMOST THREE MONTHS
OF NAVIGATION, TOWARDS THE
END OF NOVEMBER...



... WE LANDED ON
THE COAST NEAR
WILLIAMSBURG...

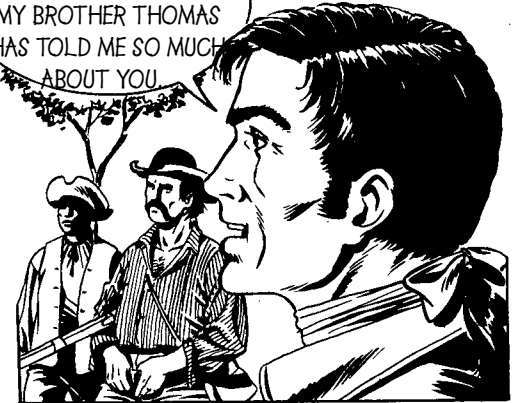


... MY ADVENTURES IN
AMERICA HAD BEGUN.

YOU'RE MR. MAZZEI, AREN'T YOU? IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME, I'LL TAKE YOU TO WILLIAMSBURG WHERE THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL!



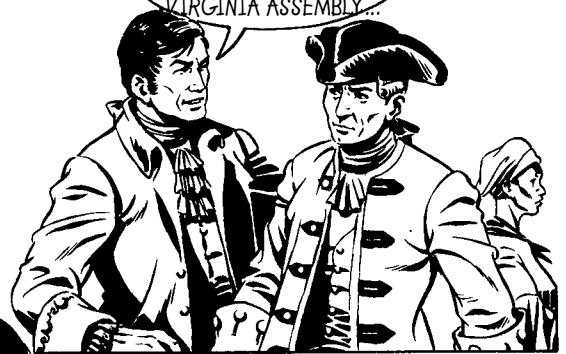
MR. MAZZEI!
IT IS TRULY A PLEASURE...
MY BROTHER THOMAS
HAS TOLD ME SO MUCH
ABOUT YOU.



SO YOU
ARE THE BROTHER OF
THAT GALLANT GENTLEMAN,
THOMAS ADAMS? WELL, THEN
THE PLEASURE CAN ONLY
BE MINE.



YOU SHOULD
KNOW THAT TODAY THERE
WAS A SESSION OF THE
VIRGINIA ASSEMBLY...



... AFTERWARDS,
INSTEAD OF LEAVING, MANY
REPRESENTATIVES PREFERRED
TO STAY IN ORDER TO MEET
OUR NEW CITIZEN.

IS YOUR
BROTHER
HERE, TOO?



YES, HE WILL JOIN US
LATER. MEANTIME I
WANT YOU TO MEET
AN EXTRAORDINARY
MAN, A VIRGINIAN
WHO IS AN ARDENT
DEFENDER OF OUR
NATION AND OUR
LIBERTY...





MR. REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE WASHINGTON.

MR. MAZZEI... IT IS ALWAYS AN HONOR TO MEET A MAN WHO APPRECIATES THE IDEAS OF LIBERTY AND WHO SHOWS SYMPATHY TO OUR CAUSE...

WITH BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S ELOQUENCE AND STRENGTH OF CONVICTION, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT NOT TO GET CAUGHT UP IN THIS EXPERIENCE.



I DON'T DOUBT IT, MY FRIEND...

MAY I JOIN THIS PARTY?



I SEE WITH PLEASURE THAT OUR LONG CONVERSATIONS IN LONDON WERE NOT UNFRUITFUL, MR. MAZZEI!



MR. ADAMS! IF YOU ONLY KNEW THE JOY I FELT WHEN I SET FOOT ON THIS SOIL.

NEVER AS GREAT AS OUR JOY AT HAVING A FINE INTELLECT LIKE YOURS JOIN OUR CAUSE.

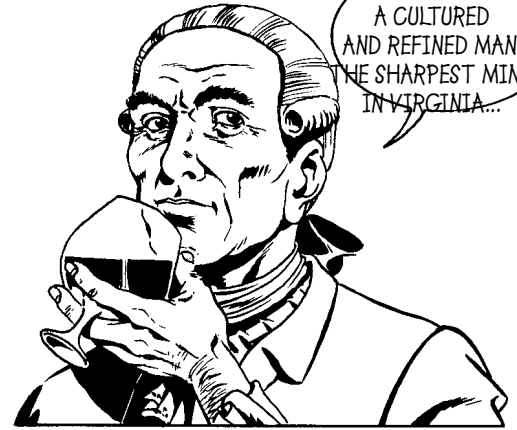
I'M SORRY, THOMAS, BUT THERE ARE OTHER GENTLEMEN HERE WHO DEMAND TO MAKE OUR FRIEND'S ACQUAINTANCE.

BY JOVE! I SHALL STAND ASIDE AT ONCE!

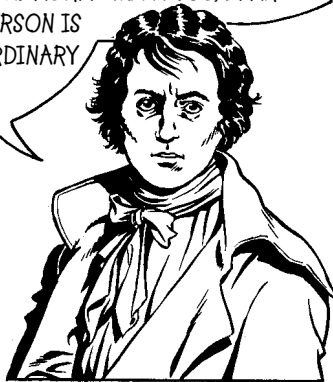
... I STAYED AT WILLIAMSBURG FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND THEN I BEGAN MY TRIP INLAND. FINALLY I MADE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY FIGURE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: THOMAS JEFFERSON!



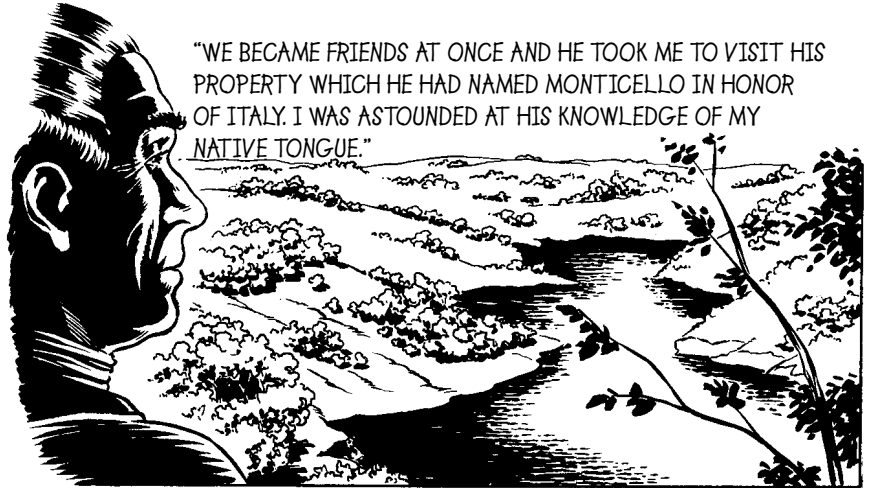
A CULTURED AND REFINED MAN; THE SHARPEST MIND IN VIRGINIA...



I, TOO, MET HIM WHILE HE WAS STAYING HERE IN PARIS. I PERFECTLY AGREE WITH YOU, DEAR FRIEND, THAT JEFFERSON IS A MAN OF EXTRAORDINARY QUALITIES.



"WE BECAME FRIENDS AT ONCE AND HE TOOK ME TO VISIT HIS PROPERTY WHICH HE HAD NAMED MONTICELLO IN HONOR OF ITALY. I WAS ASTOUNDED AT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF MY NATIVE TONGUE."



I FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT WITH THOSE LANDSCAPES. THERE WAS A PIECE OF LAND FOR SALE THAT BORDERED ON HIS PROPERTY. JEFFERSON PROPOSED I SHOULD BUY IT TO MAKE MY FARM THERE. MOREOVER HE WANTED TO GIVE ME SOME ACRES OF HIS OWN LAND...



SO IT WAS THERE THAT I BUILT MY HOUSE, ON THE PROPERTY THAT I NAMED COLLE, IN HONOR OF THE HILLS OF MY BELOVED POGGIO A CAIANO...



... THE FARMERS I HAD BROUGHT WITH ME FROM TUSCANY WERE MY IRREPLACEABLE COMPANIONS IN THAT PERIOD. TOGETHER WE MADE SOME REMARKABLE CHANGES IN THE WAY LAND WAS FARMED IN VIRGINIA. JEFFERSON HIMSELF WANTED TO LEARN OUR METHODS.



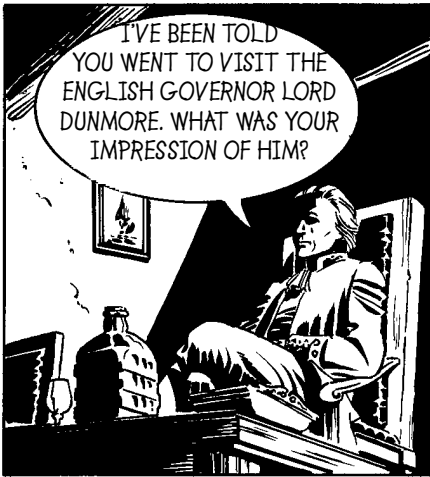
THE MONTHS PASSED. BY THE SPRING OF 1774 THE SITUATION HAD BECOME VOLATILE. ENGLAND AND THE COLONIES WERE HEADED MORE AND MORE TOWARDS ARMED CONFLICT.



MR. JEFFERSON, DEAR FRIEND.

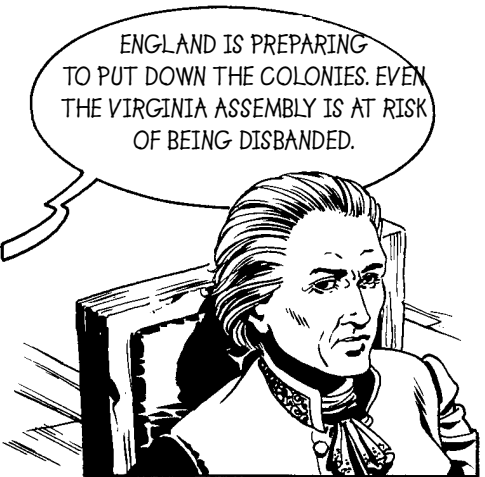
COMPLIMENTS TO YOU. THIS PROPERTY GROWS MORE BEAUTIFUL EVERY DAY.

IT'S ALL DUE TO THE MEN WHO WORK HERE. LET'S GO IN THE HOUSE. I IMAGINE YOU HAVE NEWS FOR ME!



I'VE BEEN TOLD YOU WENT TO VISIT THE ENGLISH GOVERNOR LORD DUNMORE. WHAT WAS YOUR IMPRESSION OF HIM?

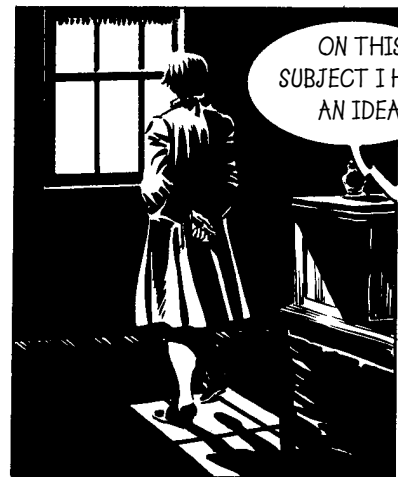
A MEAN MAN. HE WAS OPEN WITH ME SINCE HE BELIEVED THAT, AS A FOREIGNER, I COULD SOMEHOW BE HIS ALLY IN THIS LESS THAN ROSY SITUATION...



ENGLAND IS PREPARING TO PUT DOWN THE COLONIES. EVEN THE VIRGINIA ASSEMBLY IS AT RISK OF BEING DISBANDED.



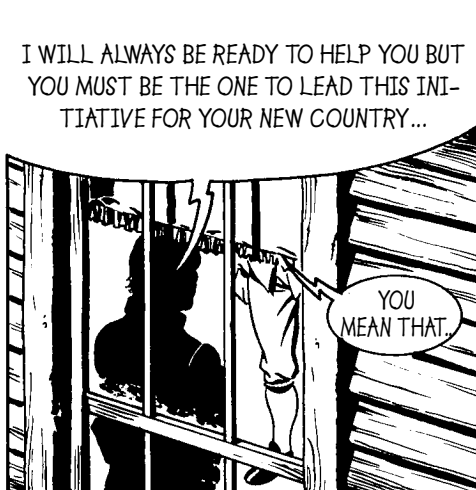
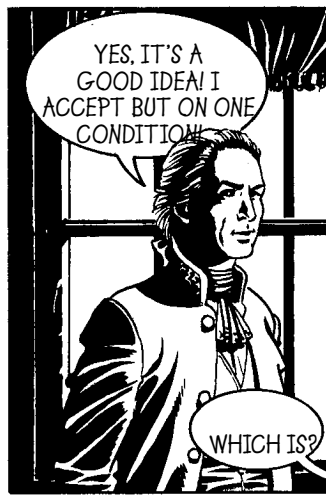
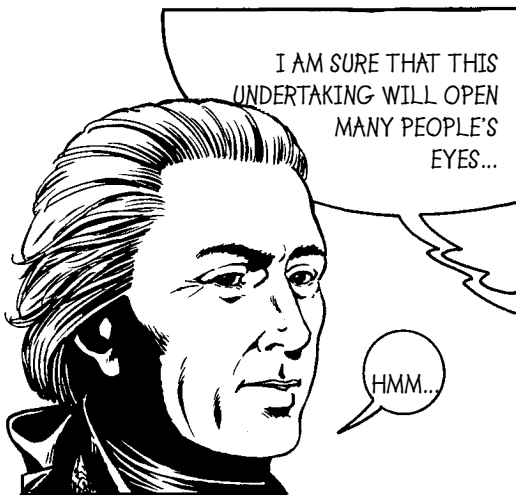
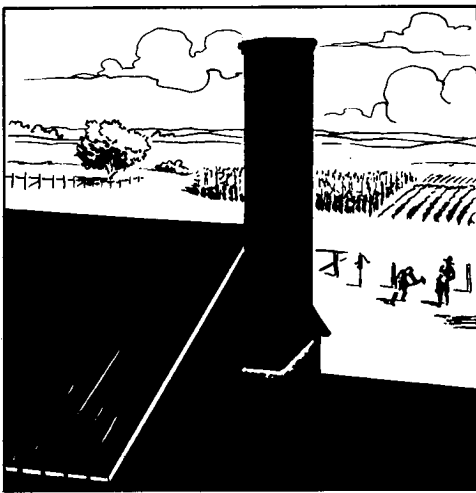
WAR IS CLOSE AT HAND AND WE MUST BE READY FOR IT!



ON THIS SUBJECT I HAVE AN IDEA.



YOU HAVE MY FULL ATTENTION, DEAR PHILIP; YOUR WORDS ALWAYS MERIT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.



WE PROMOTED A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN THAT MET WITH REMARKABLE SUCCESS. COMPANIES OF VOLUNTEERS ENLISTED FROM EVERY CORNER OF VIRGINIA. MEANTIME MY NEW COUNTRYMEN CONFERRED ANOTHER SIGN OF THEIR ESTEEM AND CONSIDERATION ON ME BY ELECTING ME TO THE COMMITTEE OF TWELVE, AN INSTITUTION WHOSE DUTY IT WAS TO WATCH OVER PUBLIC ORDER IN VIRGINIA AND TO MAINTAIN CONTACTS WITH THE OTHER COLONIES...



THE SIXTH ELECTED MEMBER OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF TWELVE PHILIP MAZZEI



SIGNOR FILIPPO! YOU'VE BEEN ELECTED! IT'S A PROPER HONOR FOR A MAN LIKE YOURSELF!

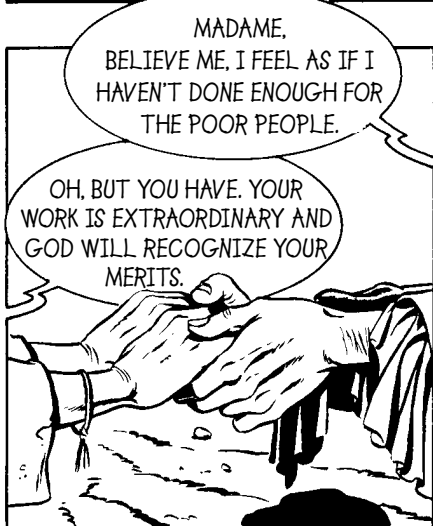
GOOD HEAVENS, I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS, VINCENZO. I'VE BEEN AWAY SO OFTEN IN RECENT TIMES



WE MUST CELEBRATE... COME HERE, MY BEAUTY, LET'S DANCE!

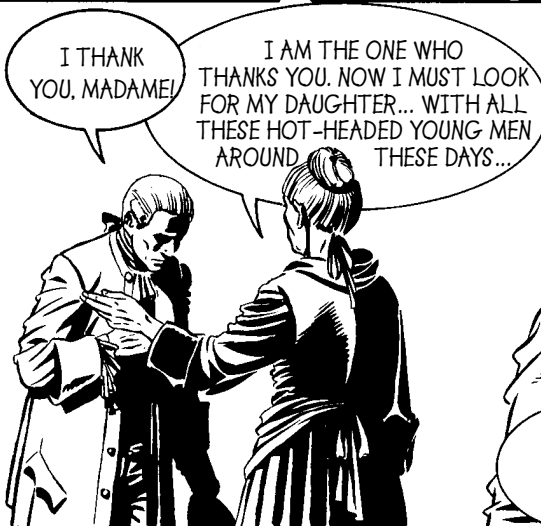
OH!

MR. MAZZEI.



MADAME, BELIEVE ME, I FEEL AS IF I HAVEN'T DONE ENOUGH FOR THE POOR PEOPLE.

OH, BUT YOU HAVE. YOUR WORK IS EXTRAORDINARY AND GOD WILL RECOGNIZE YOUR MERITS.



I THANK YOU, MADAME!

I AM THE ONE WHO THANKS YOU. NOW I MUST LOOK FOR MY DAUGHTER... WITH ALL THESE HOT-HEADED YOUNG MEN AROUND THESE DAYS...

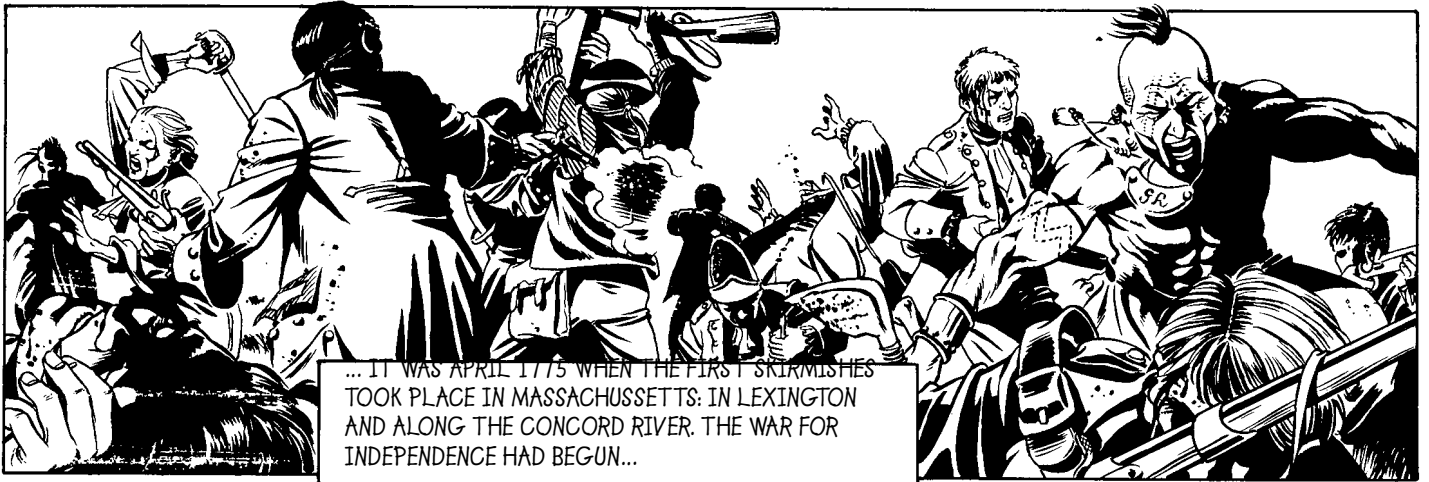


YES!

I CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ELECTION. AS DO ALL THE OTHER POOR PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTY, BECAUSE OF EVERYTHING THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR US.



HMM... I'D BETTER FIND VINCENZO BEFORE SOME MOTHER OR SOME JEALOUS HUSBAND DOES.



... IT WAS APRIL 1775 WHEN THE FIRST SKIRMISHES TOOK PLACE IN MASSACHUSETTS: IN LEXINGTON AND ALONG THE CONCORD RIVER, THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE HAD BEGUN...



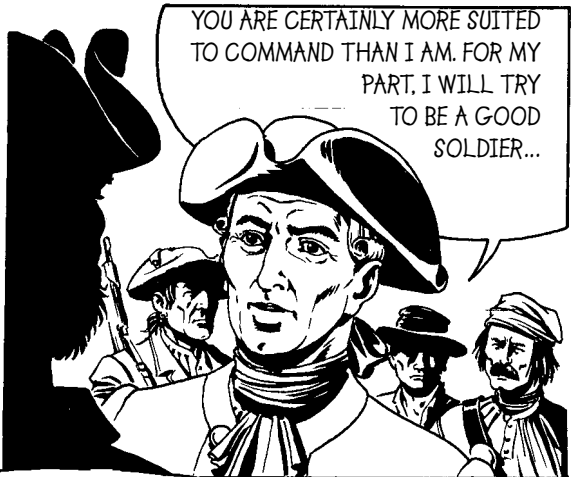
OUR MINUTEMEN, WITH THE FORCE OF PRIDE, SUCCEEDED IN GETTING THE UPPER HAND OVER THE WELL-ORGANIZED ENGLISH ARMY...

AT THE NEWS OF THESE BATTLES, SQUADRONS OF VOLUNTEERS FORMED IN ALL THE COLONIES, READY TO RUN TO THE AID OF THE BRAVE MASSACHUSETTS FIGHTERS. I, TOO, HURRIED TO ENLIST...



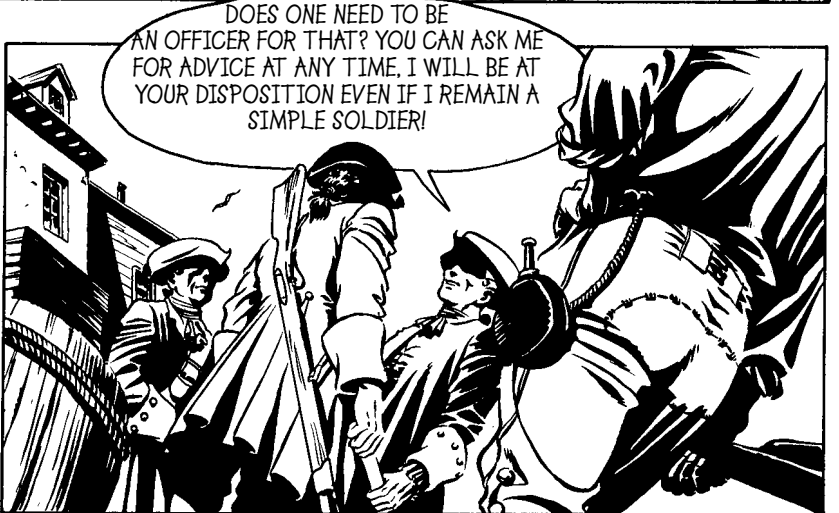
I HOPE THAT YOU, PHILIP, WILL ACCEPT THE STRIPES OF LIEUTENANT IN OUR COMPANY...

I'M SORRY, CHARLES...

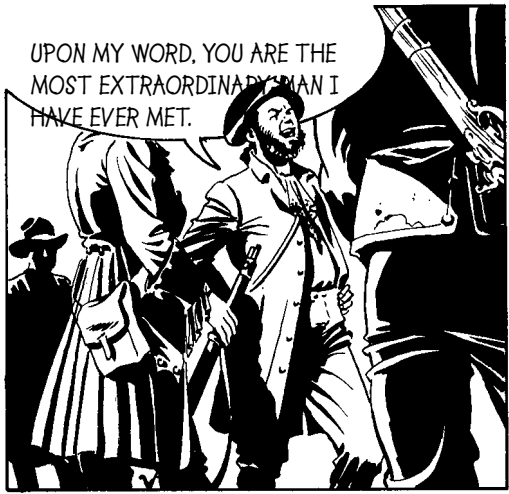


YOU ARE CERTAINLY MORE SUITED TO COMMAND THAN I AM. FOR MY PART, I WILL TRY TO BE A GOOD SOLDIER...

BUT THE OFFICERS SERVE BY GIVING ADVICE, NOT JUST ORDERS, AND IN THIS REGARD I DON'T KNOW ANYONE BETTER THAN YOU...



DOES ONE NEED TO BE AN OFFICER FOR THAT? YOU CAN ASK ME FOR ADVICE AT ANY TIME, I WILL BE AT YOUR DISPOSITION EVEN IF I REMAIN A SIMPLE SOLDIER!

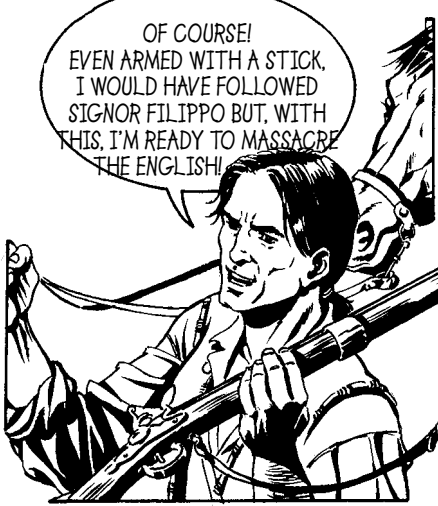


UPON MY WORD, YOU ARE THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY MAN I HAVE EVER MET.



THANK YOU FOR THE COMPLIMENT. NOW, IF YOU WOULD POINT THE WAY TO WHERE WE GO TO ENLIST.

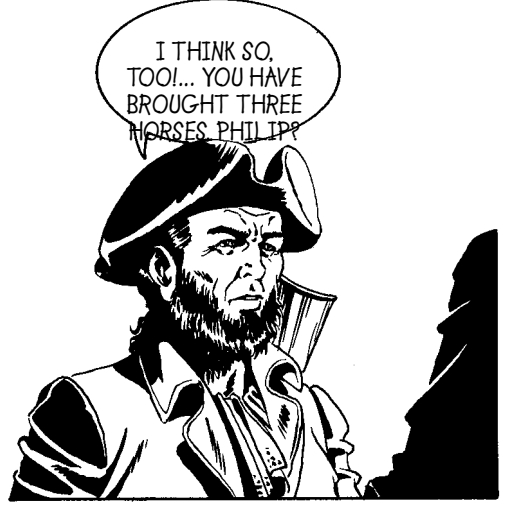
ARE YOUR MEN WITH YOU?



OF COURSE! EVEN ARMED WITH A STICK, I WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED SIGNOR FILIPPO BUT, WITH THIS, I'M READY TO MASSACRE THE ENGLISH!



HE PRACTICALLY FORCED ME TO GIVE HIM THE RIFLE. I THINK HE WILL MAKE GOOD USE OF IT.



I THINK SO, TOO!... YOU HAVE BROUGHT THREE HORSES, PHILIP?



YES, THEY SHOULD PROVE USEFUL. WE HAVE A LONG MARCH TO MAKE.

...HMM, YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE TO HAVE HAD THIS IDEA.

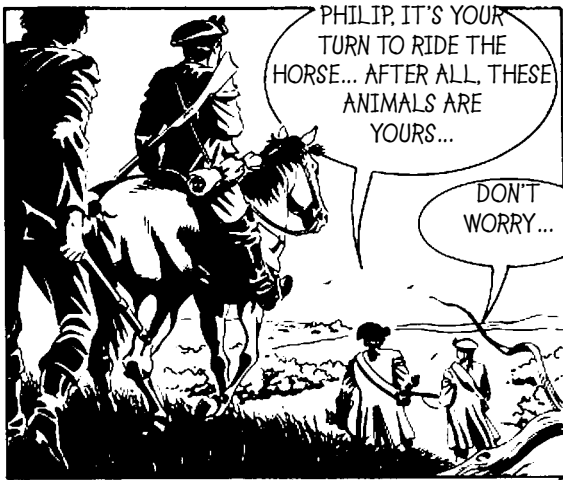


WELL, IF WE MUST SHARE THEM WITH THE OTHERS, THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM FOR US!



GOOD, IT'S TIME FOR US TO MOVE! WE START MARCHING IN AN HOUR!

WE LEFT ALMERE
HAD ALREADY COVERED MORE THAN HALF THE WAY AND
WE FOUND OURSELVES IN WARNICK COUNTY. OTHER
VOLUNTEERS HAD JOINED US FROM THE DIFFERENT
COUNTIES WE HAD PASSED THROUGH.



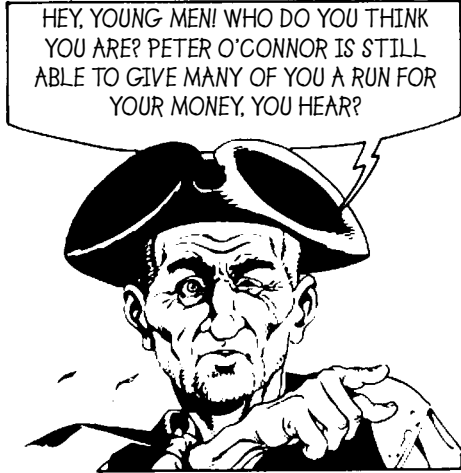
PHILIP, IT'S YOUR
TURN TO RIDE THE
HORSE... AFTER ALL, THESE
ANIMALS ARE
YOURS...

DON'T
WORRY...

I HAVE ALREADY RIDDEN ENOUGH
THIS MORNING. WHY DON'T WE GET
OLD PETER TO RIDE, INSTEAD? HE
SEEMS TO BE A LITTLE TIRED THESE
LAST FEW MILES.



PETER, DID YOU HEAR? CAN
YOU GET UP ON THAT HORSE?



HEY, YOUNG MEN! WHO DO YOU THINK
YOU ARE? PETER O'CONNOR IS STILL
ABLE TO GIVE MANY OF YOU A RUN FOR
YOUR MONEY, YOU HEAR?



COME ON,
OLD MAN! DO YOU
WANT TO KEEL OVER
BEFORE YOU EVEN GET
TO FIGHT THE
ENGLISH?

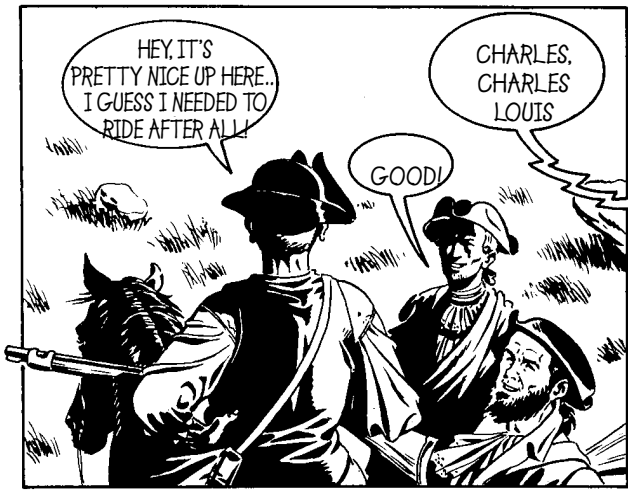
I'M COMING,
I'M COMING... BUT I ONLY
ACCEPT BECAUSE YOU ARE
TWO AGAINST ONE!...



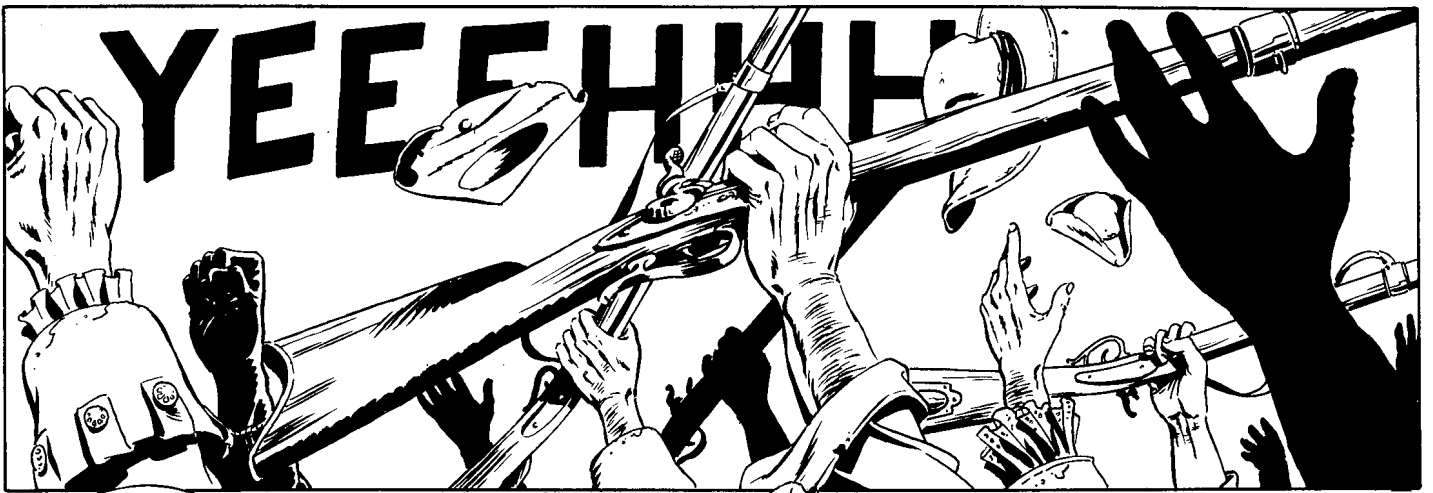
MY POOR
HORSE!

IT'S TRUE
HE'S ONLY A MAN,
BUT HE'S AS HEAVY
AS A BEAR!

DON'T GET
INSOLENT
WITH ME!







HEY, CALM DOWN, YOU UGLY BEAST!



YOU'RE TELLING ME!



I DON'T KNOW IF I HAVE UNDERSTOOD CORRECTLY, SIGNOR FILIPPO, BUT...



THAT'S RIGHT, MY FRIEND... FOR NOW WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT.

THAT'S A SHAME BECAUSE I REALLY WANTED TO MAKE THE BRITISH TASTE A LITTLE OF MY LEAD AMMUNITION...



WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'LL DO NOW?

WELL... I THINK THE BEST THING IS TO DISMISS THE COMPANY, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT...



GENTLEMEN!



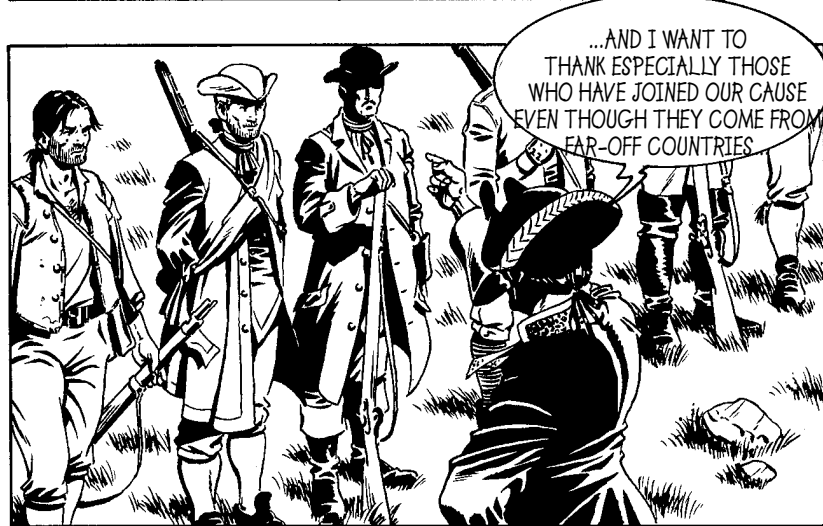
I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS ALL THE VOLUNTEERS. LIEUTENANT, HAVE OUR COMPANY LINE UP AND DO THE SAME WITH YOURS, CHARLES...

YES, SIR.

YES, SIR.



PATRICK HENRY, WHOSE PATRIOTISM MATCHED HIS GIFT FOR ELOQUENCE, WANTED TO GIVE A SPEECH OF THANKS TO ALL THOSE VOLUNTEERS WHO HAD UNDERTAKEN THE MARCH. IT WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY SPEECH. I THINK THAT IF ANYONE HAD DOUBTED THE NECESSITY OF FIGHTING, HIS DOUBTS WOULD HAVE BEEN IMMEDIATELY DISPELLED ON HEARING HENRY'S WORDS.



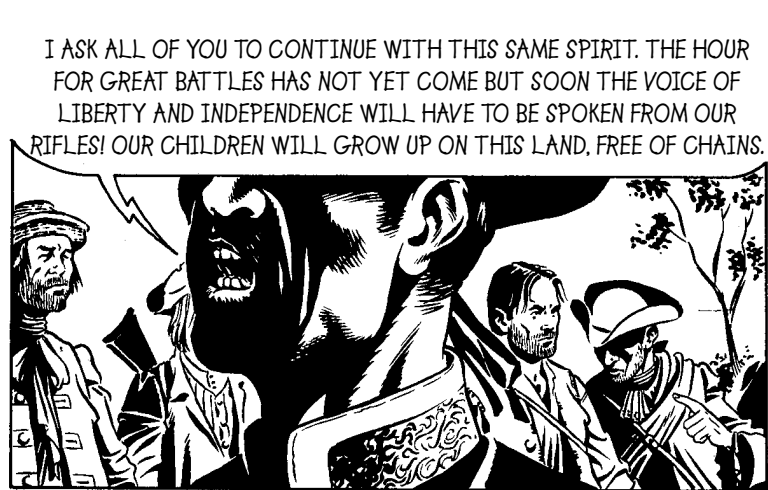
...AND I WANT TO THANK ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED OUR CAUSE EVEN THOUGH THEY COME FROM FAR-OFF COUNTRIES.



LOYAL PATRIOTS WHO, WITH THEIR IMPETUS AND ENTHUSIASM, ARE TO BE HELD UP AS EXAMPLES TO ALL IN THE FIGHT FOR LIBERTY.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND, SIGNOR FILIPPO. IS HE TALKING ABOUT US?



I ASK ALL OF YOU TO CONTINUE WITH THIS SAME SPIRIT. THE HOUR FOR GREAT BATTLES HAS NOT YET COME BUT SOON THE VOICE OF LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE WILL HAVE TO BE SPOKEN FROM OUR RIFLES! OUR CHILDREN WILL GROW UP ON THIS LAND, FREE OF CHAINS.



REALLY?



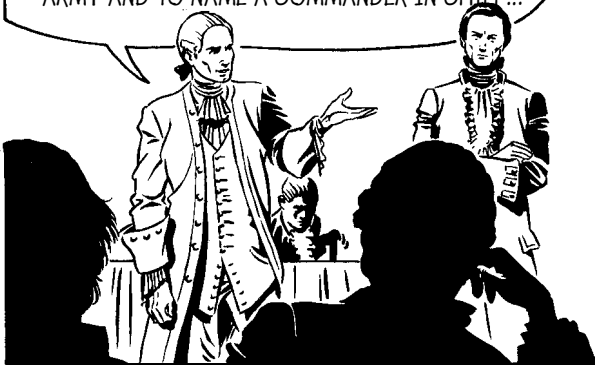
SIGNOR FILIPPO, I WOULDN'T TRADE PLACES WITH ANYONE, NOT EVEN A GREAT LORD!



WITH THE WAR ON, WE FELT THE NEED TO FORM A REAL ARMY THAT COULD STAND UP TO THE BRITISH FORCES. THE SUBJECT WAS DEBATED AT THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS OF PHILADELPHIA IN JUNE 1775...



I AM IN PERFECT AGREEMENT WITH JOHN ADAMS ABOUT THE NEED TO ORGANIZE A CONTINENTAL ARMY AND TO NAME A COMMANDER IN CHIEF...



AND FOR THIS COMMAND I CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE MAN. THAT MAN IS AMONG US TODAY AND WE KNOW HIM WELL. WE KNOW HIS MILITARY SKILL AND HIS REPUTATION...



I THINK THAT THERE IS NO ONE BETTER SUITED TO THIS COMMAND THAN GEORGE WASHINGTON!



WE ARE THINKING ALONG THE SAME LINES, DEAR FRIEND. WASHINGTON IS THE RIGHT MAN TO TAKE COMMAND OF OUR TROOPS!



I ALSO AGREE. THIS IS INDEED THE BEST CHOICE!

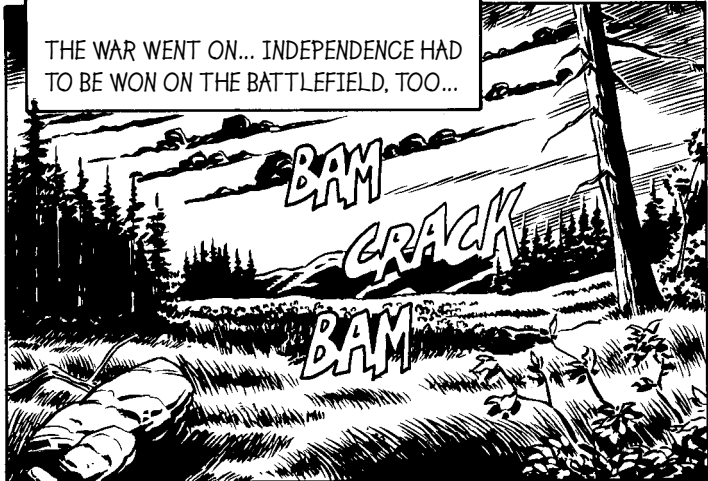


GOOD, LET THE PROPOSAL BE PUT TO THE VOTE!

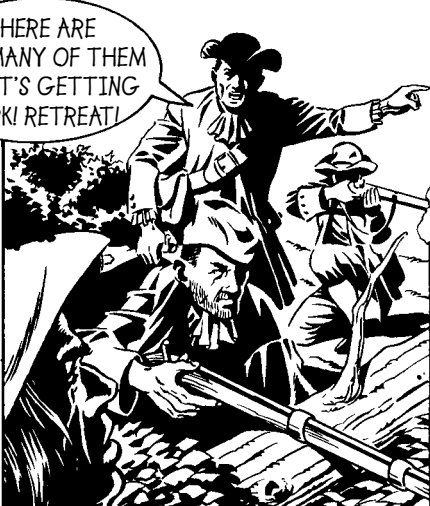




ON JUNE 17, WASHINGTON WAS PROCLAIMED COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE THIRTEEN COLONIES. LATER THE CONVENTION DECLARED INDEPENDENCE FROM ENGLAND AND CHANGED THE COLONIES' NAME TO THE UNITED STATES...



THE WAR WENT ON... INDEPENDENCE HAD TO BE WON ON THE BATTLEFIELD, TOO...









PHILIP! YOU REALLY GAVE ME A SCARE!

IN ALL TRUTH, THE SCARE WAS VERY NEARLY TRUE!



THANK YOU. HAVE HIM ATTENDED TO, HE'S WOUNDED!



AS SOON AS YOU HAVE RESTED, PHILIP, YOU MUST LEAVE FOR WILLIAMSBURG. JEFFERSON WANTS YOU DOWN THERE.



WE ARE LAUNCHING A STRONG ENLISTMENT CAMPAIGN AND JEFFERSON THINKS THAT NO ONE BETTER THAN YOU CAN CARRY OUT THE JOB.

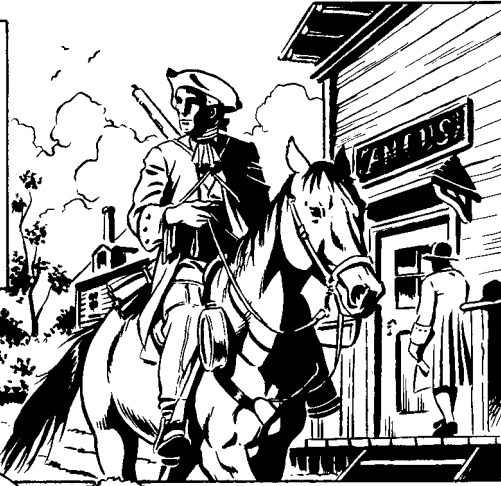
GOODNESS! IF YOU HAD TOLD ME A DAY EARLIER, YOU WOULD HAVE SAVED ME TONIGHT'S CLOSE CALL!



HA HA HA!



I WENT DIRECTLY TO WILLIAMSBURG. TEMPER WERE RUNNING HIGH. EVERYONE WANTED FREEDOM BUT APPARENTLY, FOR SOME, THIS WORD HAD ONLY A VAGUE MEANING ...

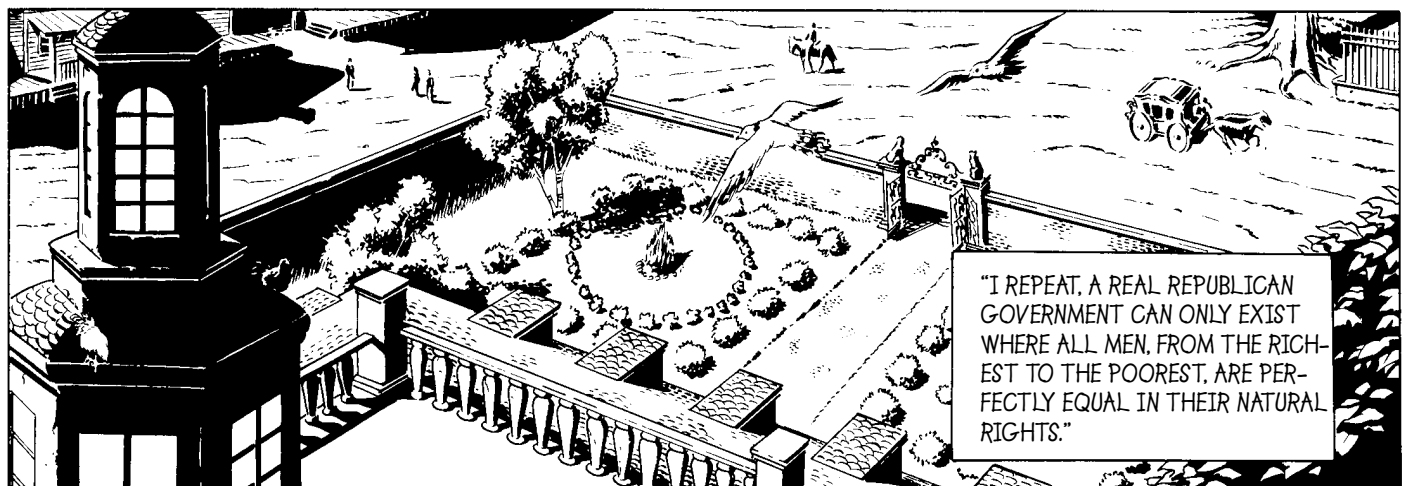
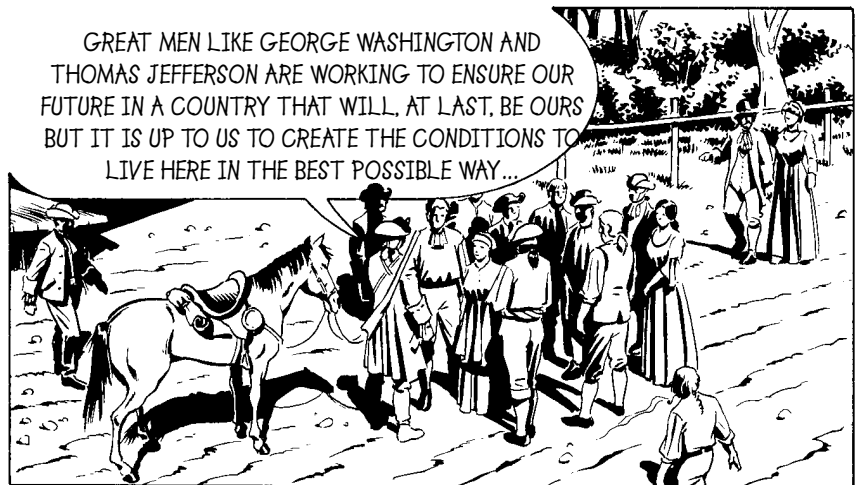
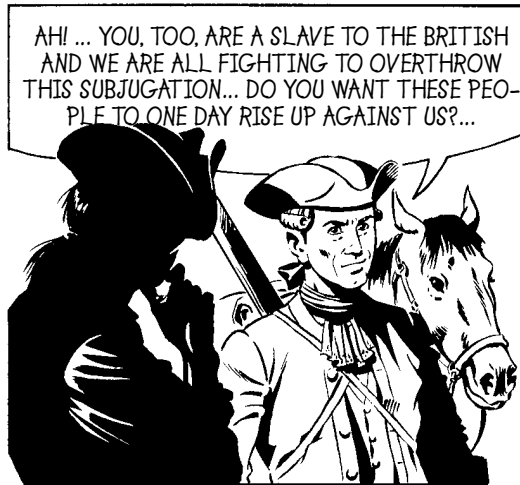
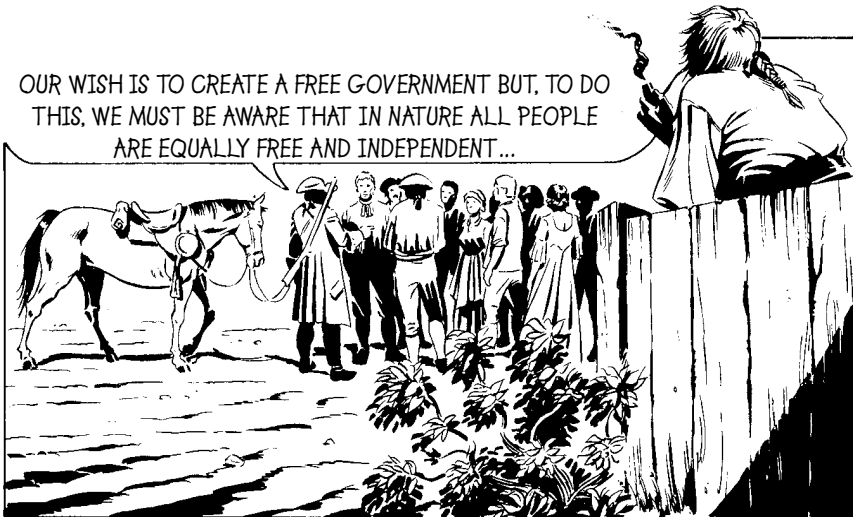


GET GONE, YOU! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE?

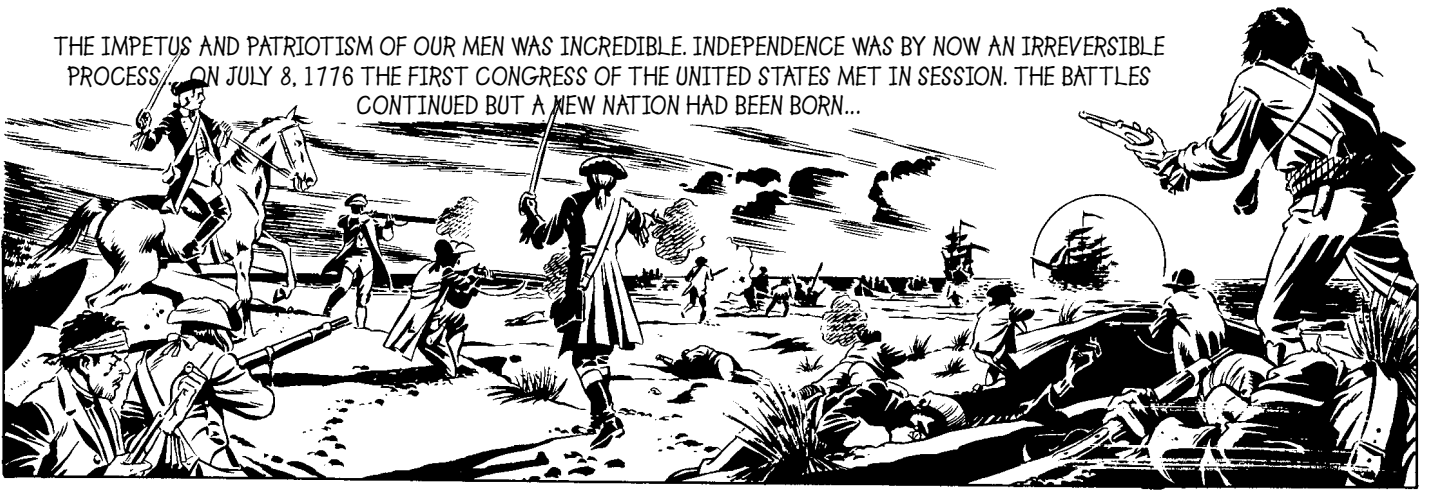


YOUR KIND HAS TO STAY IN THE FIELDS AND WORK, GOT THAT? DON'T YOU DARE...

STOP!



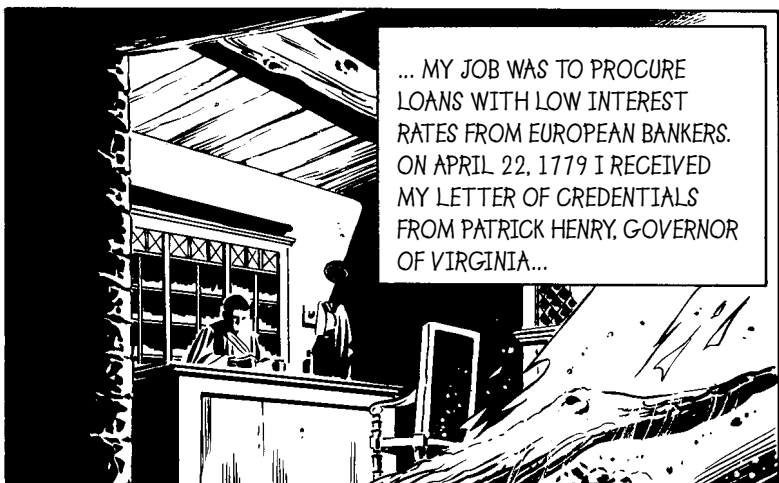
THE IMPETUS AND PATRIOTISM OF OUR MEN WAS INCREDIBLE. INDEPENDENCE WAS BY NOW AN IRREVERSIBLE PROCESS... ON JULY 8, 1776 THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES MET IN SESSION. THE BATTLES CONTINUED BUT A NEW NATION HAD BEEN BORN...



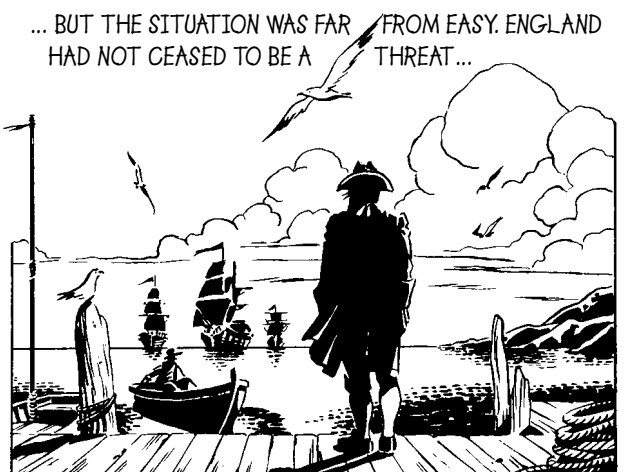
... NOW WE NEEDED TO FIND AID AND NEW FRIENDS. ALL THE KEY PLAYERS IN THE REVOLUTION WERE CONVINCED THAT WE SHOULD SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO EUROPE TO NEGOTIATE WITH GOVERNMENTS THERE TO OBTAIN LOANS AND TO ESTABLISH EVERY KIND OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP...



... I SPENT ALMOST TWO WHOLE YEARS AT MY COLLEGE ESTATE. I HAD EXPRESSED MY WILLINGNESS TO UNDERTAKE ANY SERVICE WITH WHICH THOSE PATRIOTS MIGHT ENTRUST ME. TOWARDS THE END OF 1778, IT WAS DECIDED TO NAME ME THE STATE OF VIRGINIA'S REPRESENTATIVE IN EUROPE...



... MY JOB WAS TO PROCURE LOANS WITH LOW INTEREST RATES FROM EUROPEAN BANKERS. ON APRIL 22, 1779 I RECEIVED MY LETTER OF CREDENTIALS FROM PATRICK HENRY, GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA...



... BUT THE SITUATION WAS FAR FROM EASY. ENGLAND HAD NOT CEASED TO BE A THREAT...



PORT OF NORFOLK,
MAY 1779...

BEGIN THE
CANON FIRE!

YES, SIR!

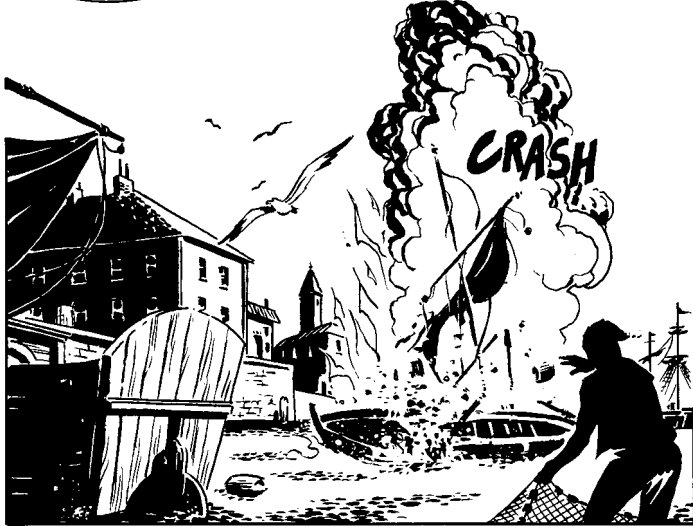


READY AT THE
CANONS?



FIRE!

BOOOOM

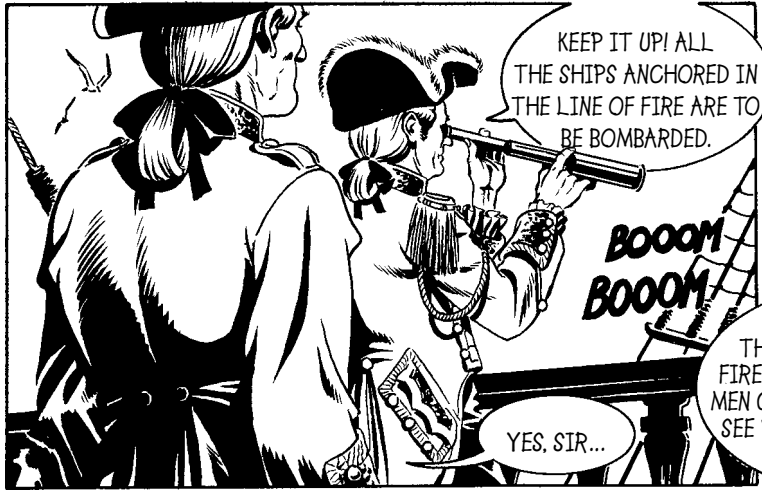


CRASH



DAMN ENGLISH!
SEND A MESSENGER TO
WILLIAMSBURG
RIGHT AWAY TO ASK
FOR HELP!

OKAY!



KEEP IT UP! ALL
THE SHIPS ANCHORED IN
THE LINE OF FIRE ARE TO
BE BOMBARDED.

**BOOOM
BOOOM!**

YES, SIR...



GOOD. AFTER
THIS TASTE OF CANON
FIRE, OUR FOUR THOUSAND
MEN CAN GO ASHORE. WE'LL
SEE WHO GETS THE UPPER
HAND, DAMNED
REBELS!



BOOOOM



SPLASH



NOT
AGAIN! HAVEN'T
WE FOUGHT
ENOUGH FOR OUR
FREEDOM?



WILLIAMSBURG,
A FEW DAYS LATER...

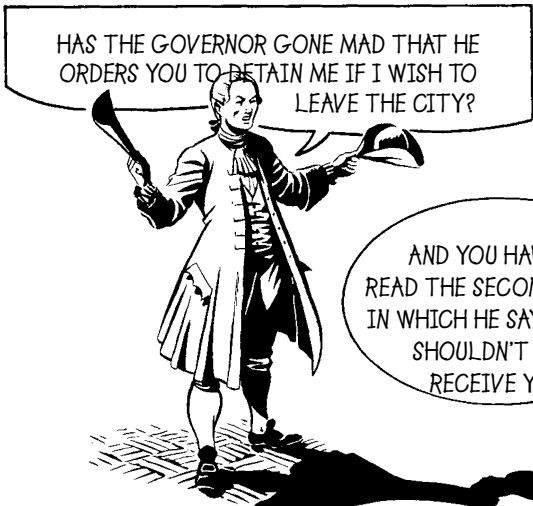


STOP,
DEAR SIR...



WHAT DOES
THIS MEAN?



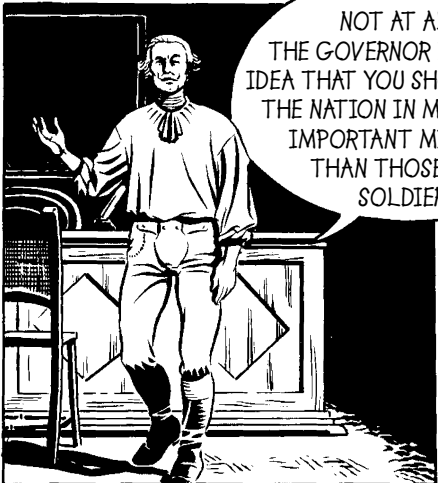


HAS THE GOVERNOR GONE MAD THAT HE ORDERS YOU TO DETAIN ME IF I WISH TO LEAVE THE CITY?

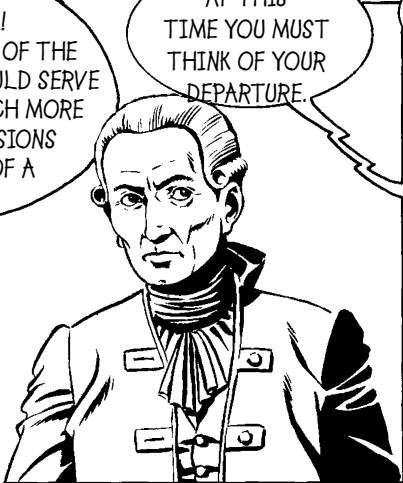
AND YOU HAVEN'T READ THE SECOND ORDER, IN WHICH HE SAYS THAT I SHOULDN'T EVEN RECEIVE YOU.



ARE YOU TALKING?



NOT AT ALL! THE GOVERNOR IS OF THE IDEA THAT YOU SHOULD SERVE THE NATION IN MUCH MORE IMPORTANT MISSIONS THAN THOSE OF A SOLDIER.



AT THIS TIME YOU MUST THINK OF YOUR DEPARTURE.



DO YOU MEAN ALL THE PREPARATIONS ARE READY?



YES, YOU WILL LEAVE FROM THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER ON A BRIG CALLED THE JOHNSTON SMITH.



AS FOR THE BRITISH, DON'T WORRY, WE WILL FIGHT THEM OFF AS WE HAVE ALWAYS DONE.



IN THAT CASE... I WILL PREPARE FOR DEPARTURE IMMEDIATELY.

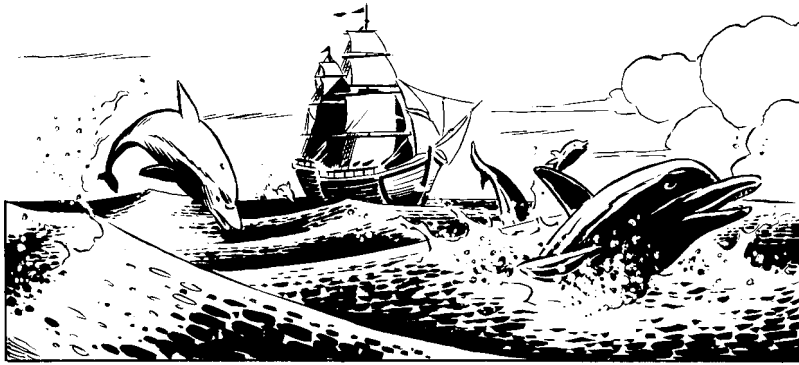


ON JUNE 20, I EMBARKED ON THE JOHNSTON SMITH, SETTING SAIL FOR NANTES...



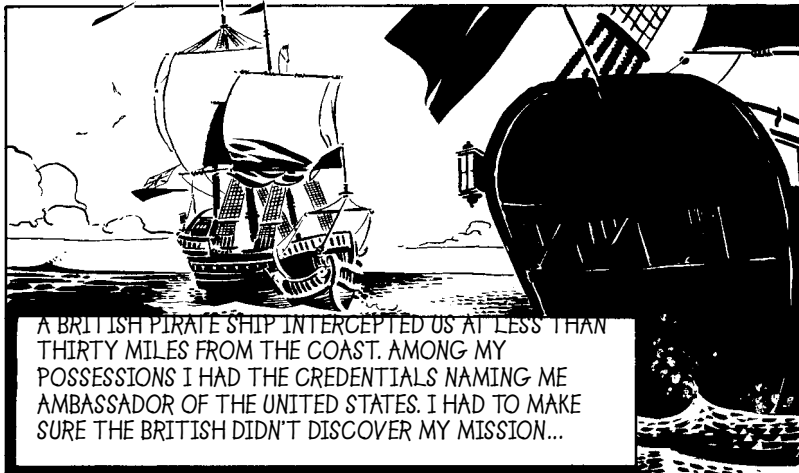
AFTER ALMOST SIX YEARS I WAS LEAVING AMERICA TO RETURN TO EUROPE WHERE I WAS BORN...

...OR AT LEAST THAT WAS WHAT I THOUGHT UNTIL AN UNEXPECTED THING HAPPENED...



THERE'S THE JOHNSTON SMITH!

IT'S ABOUT TIME!



A BRITISH PIRATE SHIP INTERCEPTED US AT LESS THAN THIRTY MILES FROM THE COAST. AMONG MY POSSESSIONS I HAD THE CREDENTIALS NAMING ME AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES. I HAD TO MAKE SURE THE BRITISH DIDN'T DISCOVER MY MISSION...



DAMN, THE BRITISH! OUR SHIP'S CAPTAIN HAS BETRAYED US, I AM SURE OF THAT ...



NOW I MUST THINK OF HOW TO MAKE THESE DOCUMENTS DISAPPEAR...

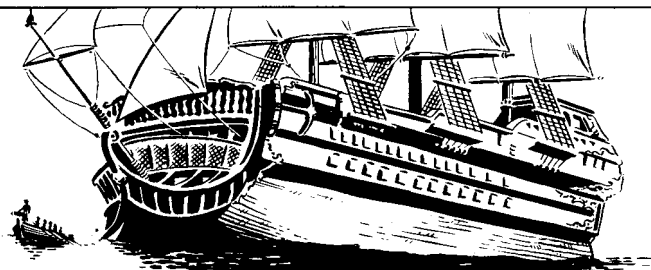


THESE TWO BARS OF LEAD ARE JUST WHAT I NEED...



AND NOW THEY CAN COME AND GET ME...

JUST AS I THOUGHT, IT HAD BEEN THAT DAMNED SCOTTISH SEA CAPTAIN WHO BETRAYED US. THE BRITISH WERE WAITING FOR US AND SUSPECTED ME. I WAS TAKEN TO NEW YORK WHERE THEY CONDUCTED ME TO SIR GEORGE COLLIER, COMMANDER OF THE BRITISH FLEET. A MAN WHOSE PRIDE WAS MATCHED ONLY BY HIS ARROGANCE!

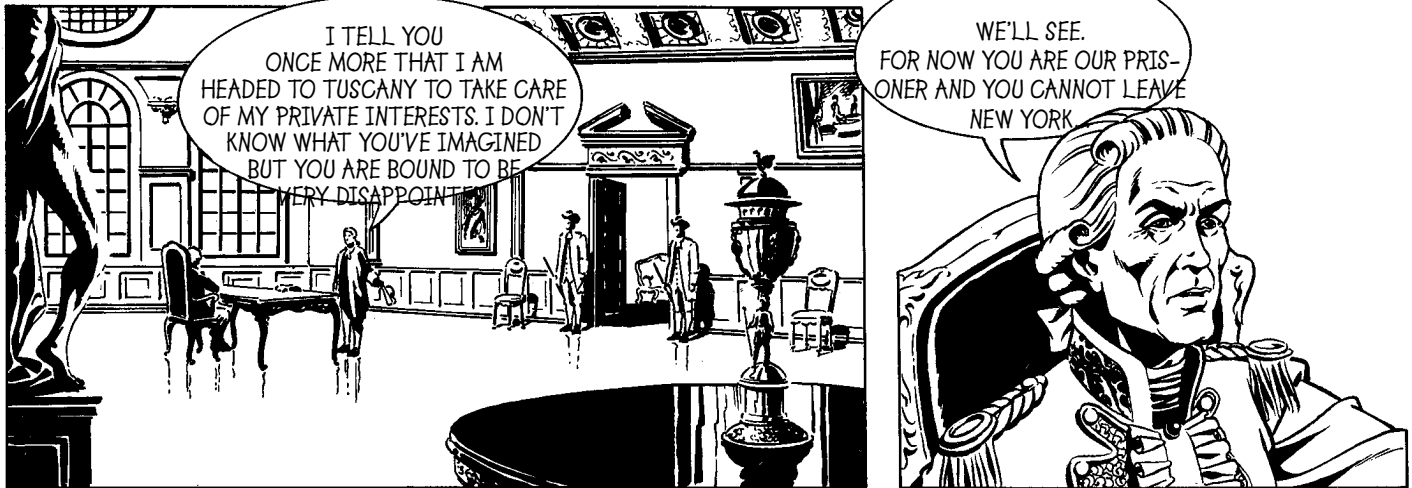




WELL, WELL... SO YOU'RE ON A BUSINESS TRIP, EHR?

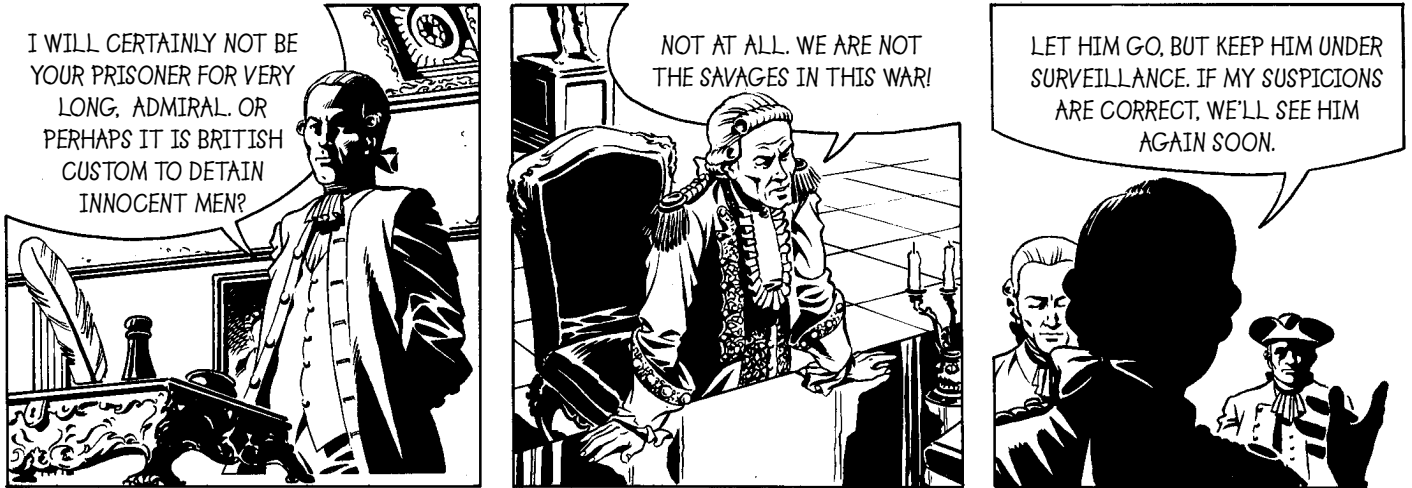
AND WHO DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO DRINK THAT?

... I HAVE GIVEN ORDERS FOR YOUR TRUNK TO BE BROUGHT HERE. WE'LL OPEN IT AND SEE WHAT COMES POPPING OUT.



I TELL YOU ONCE MORE THAT I AM HEADED TO TUSCANY TO TAKE CARE OF MY PRIVATE INTERESTS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE IMAGINED BUT YOU ARE BOUND TO BE VERY DISAPPOINTED.

WE'LL SEE. FOR NOW YOU ARE OUR PRISONER AND YOU CANNOT LEAVE NEW YORK.



I WILL CERTAINLY NOT BE YOUR PRISONER FOR VERY LONG, ADMIRAL. OR PERHAPS IT IS BRITISH CUSTOM TO DETAIN INNOCENT MEN?

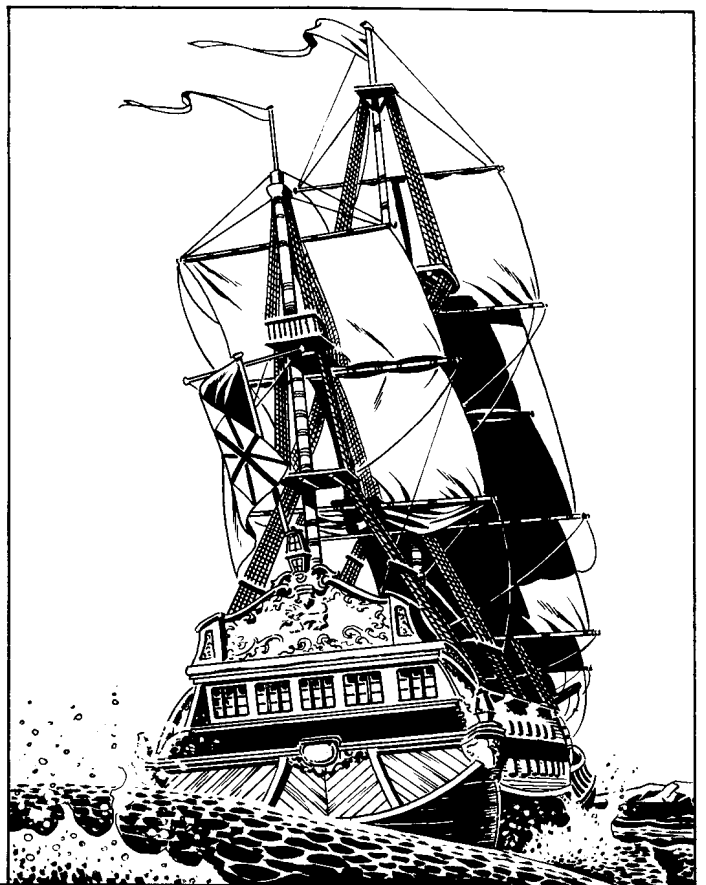
NOT AT ALL. WE ARE NOT THE SAVAGES IN THIS WAR!

LET HIM GO, BUT KEEP HIM UNDER SURVEILLANCE. IF MY SUSPICIONS ARE CORRECT, WE'LL SEE HIM AGAIN SOON.

WE DID NOT SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN. THE BRITISH DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING AGAINST ME AND, AFTER A PERIOD OF SURVEILLANCE, THEY HAD TO LET ME GO. HOWEVER, I HAD SPENT TWO MONTHS WAITING WHILE INSIDE I FELT THE GROWING DESIRE TO GET TO EUROPE AND START NEGOTIATING THE LOANS WE NEEDED...



IN AUGUST I SUCCEEDED IN LEAVING ON A BRITISH SHIP BOUND FOR IRELAND...



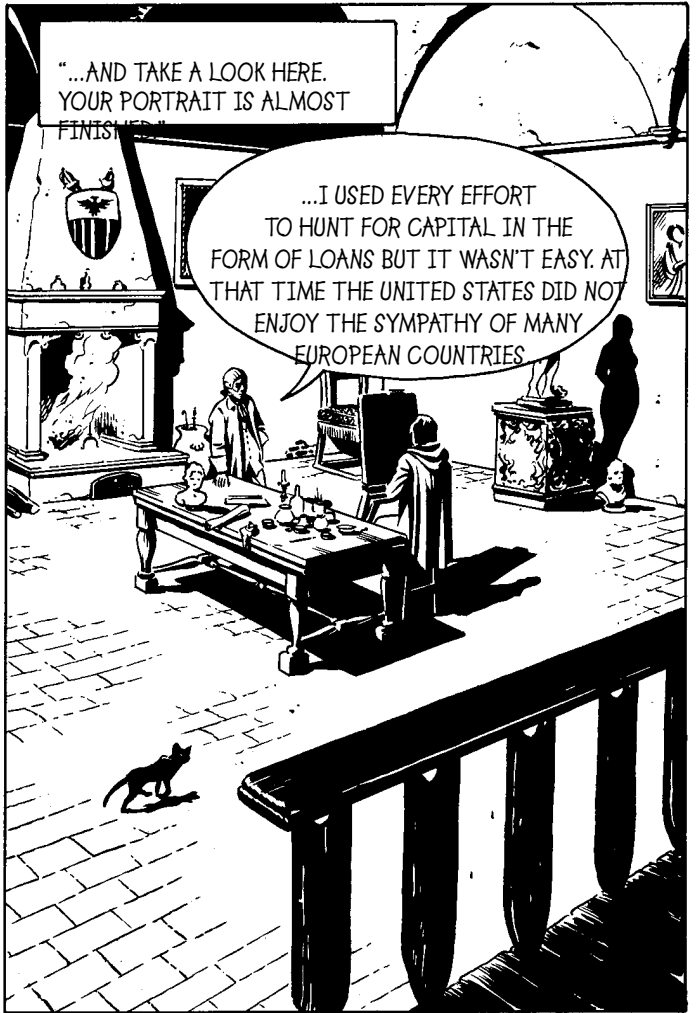
...WHERE WE ARRIVED AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER, I HAD TO WAIT SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE EMBARKING ON A PORTUGUESE VESSEL HEADED FOR FRANCE.



FROM LA ROCHELLE I TRAVELED TO NANTES. I INFORMED JEFFERSON, WHO HAD MEANTIME BEEN NAMED THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA, OF MY ARRIVAL AND OF THE BEGINNING OF MY MISSION. IT WAS MY INTENTION TO GO TO GENOA, TO MY HOMETOWN IN THE GRAND DUCHY OF TUSCANY AND TO PARIS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN LOANS AND SUPPORT.

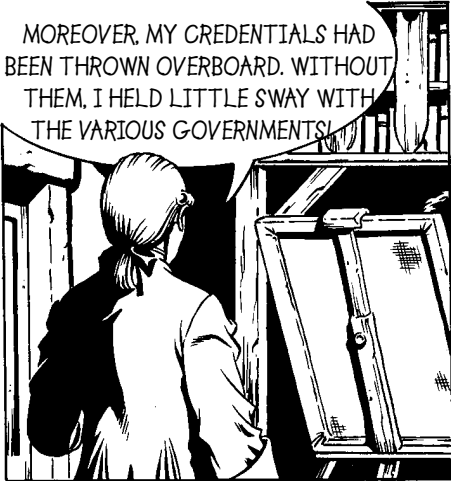


"GO ON WITH YOUR TALE..."

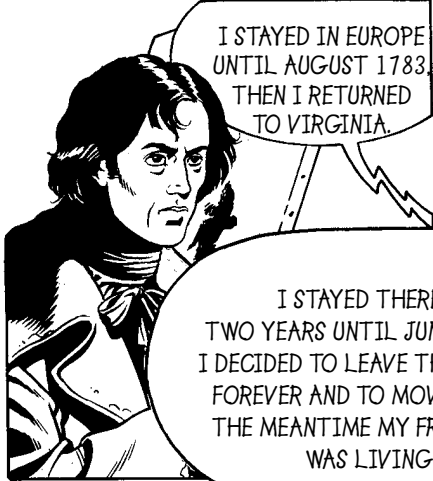


"...AND TAKE A LOOK HERE. YOUR PORTRAIT IS ALMOST FINISHED."

"...I USED EVERY EFFORT TO HUNT FOR CAPITAL IN THE FORM OF LOANS BUT IT WASN'T EASY. AT THAT TIME THE UNITED STATES DID NOT ENJOY THE SYMPATHY OF MANY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES."

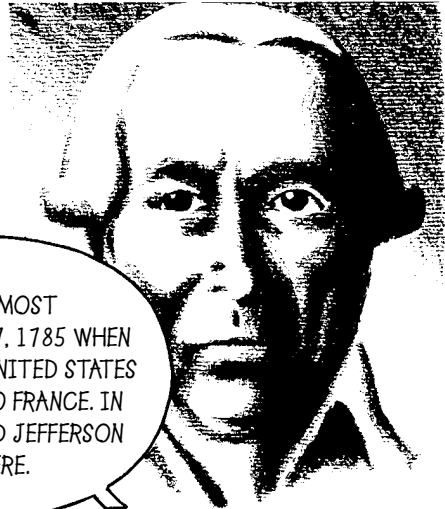


"MOREOVER, MY CREDENTIALS HAD BEEN THROWN OVERBOARD. WITHOUT THEM, I HELD LITTLE SWAY WITH THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS."



"I STAYED IN EUROPE UNTIL AUGUST 1783. THEN I RETURNED TO VIRGINIA."

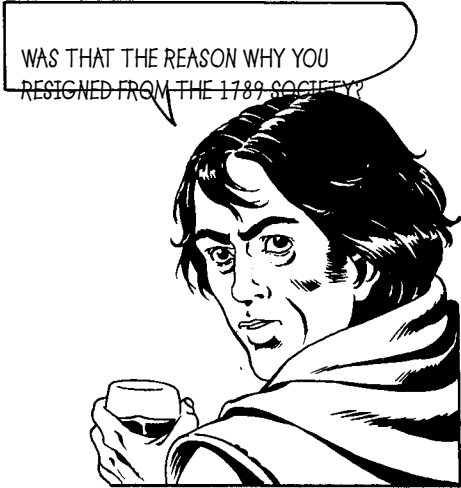
"I STAYED THERE ALMOST TWO YEARS UNTIL JUNE 17, 1785 WHEN I DECIDED TO LEAVE THE UNITED STATES FOREVER AND TO MOVE TO FRANCE. IN THE MEANTIME MY FRIEND JEFFERSON WAS LIVING THERE."



"BUT YOU WON'T LAST VERY LONG HERE. EITHER, I WONDER WHO CAN KEEP YOU IN ONE PLACE, PHILIPPE."



"FOR NOW I DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF LEAVING EVEN IF THE REVOLUTION HAS TAKEN A TURN WHICH I DON'T LIKE ONE BIT."



WAS THAT THE REASON WHY YOU RESIGNED FROM THE 1789 SOCIETY?



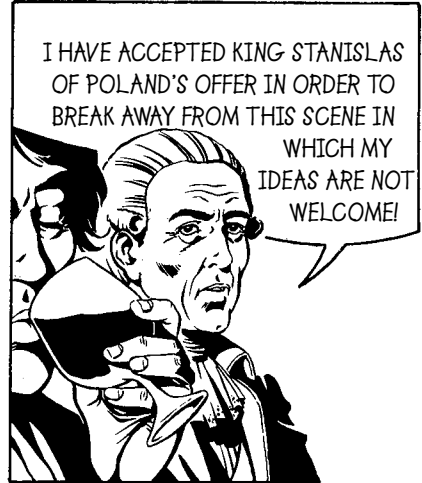
THAT'S RIGHT. THE COUNTRY IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THOSE JACOBAN RIOTERS. THE REVOLUTION SHOULD SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE, NOT THE EXTREMIST ENDS OF A HANDFUL OF MADMEN!



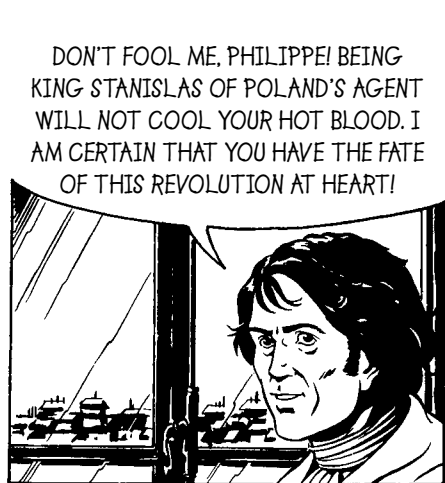
YOUR IDEAS ARE NOT UNFOUNDED, PHILIPPE, BUT WE MUST REMEMBER THAT A REVOLUTION IS NOT A GALA LUNCHEON. IT IS VIOLENCE, SWEAT, BLOOD.



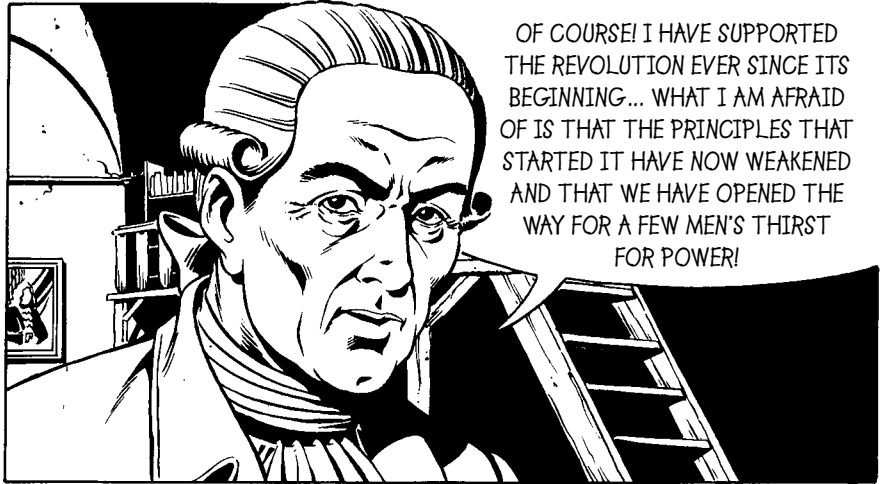
I THINK THAT TOO MUCH BLOOD HAS BEEN SHED AND I FEAR THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE HAVE NO INTENTION OF STOPPING HERE.



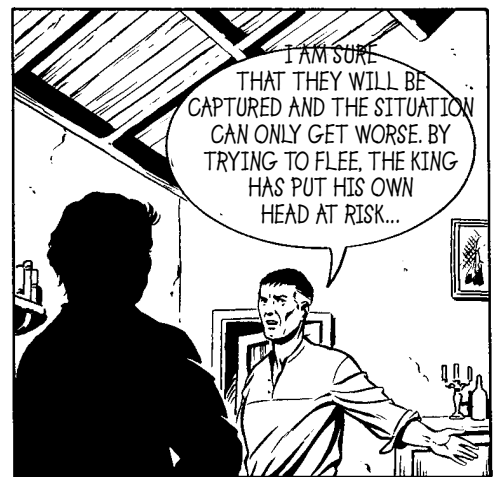
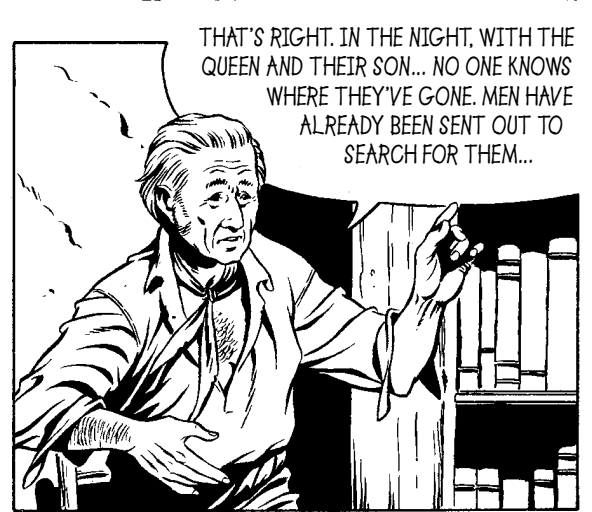
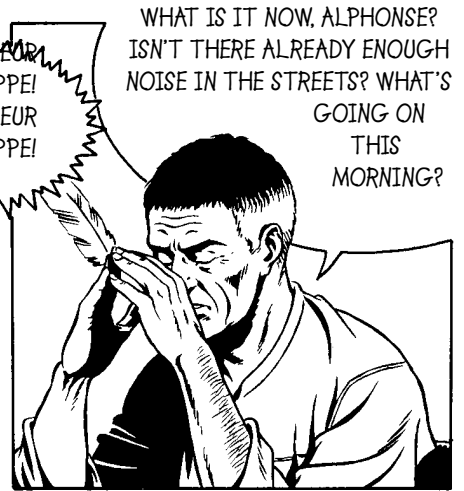
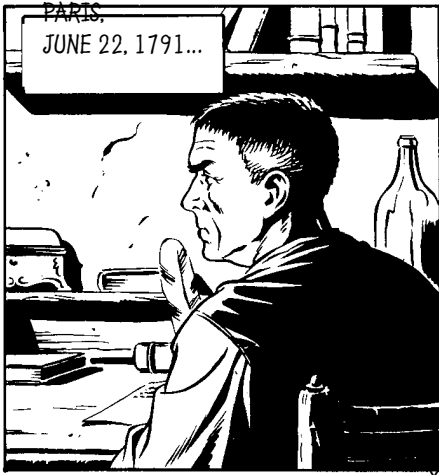
I HAVE ACCEPTED KING STANISLAS OF POLAND'S OFFER IN ORDER TO BREAK AWAY FROM THIS SCENE IN WHICH MY IDEAS ARE NOT WELCOME!

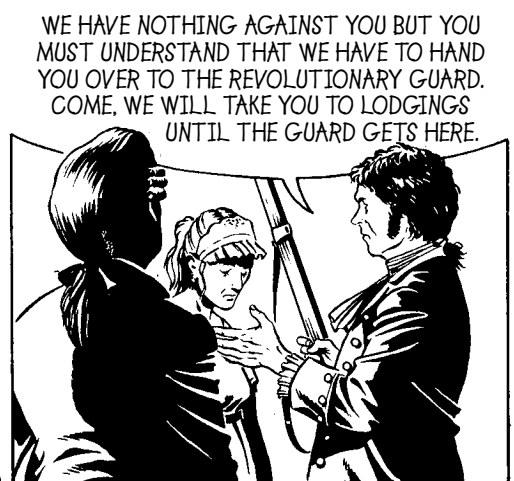
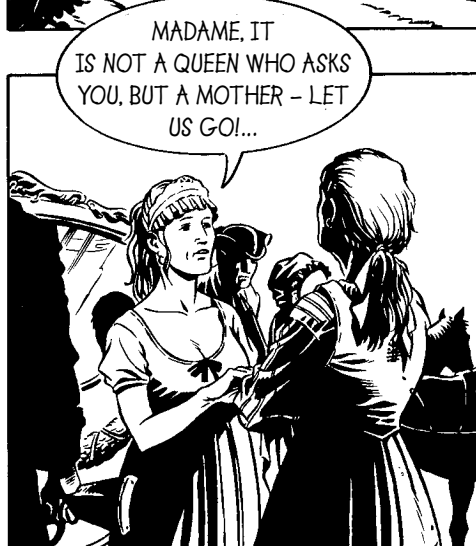
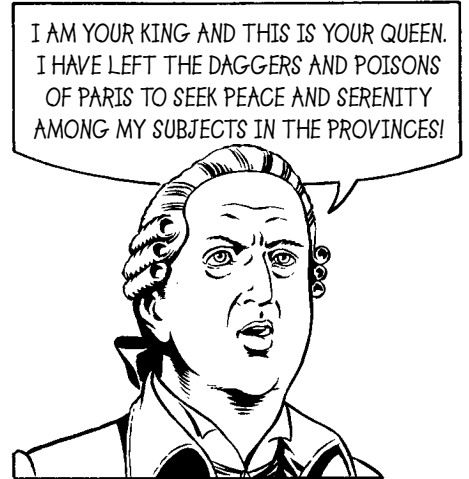


DON'T FOOL ME, PHILIPPE! BEING KING STANISLAS OF POLAND'S AGENT WILL NOT COOL YOUR HOT BLOOD. I AM CERTAIN THAT YOU HAVE THE FATE OF THIS REVOLUTION AT HEART!



OF COURSE! I HAVE SUPPORTED THE REVOLUTION EVER SINCE ITS BEGINNING... WHAT I AM AFRAID OF IS THAT THE PRINCIPLES THAT STARTED IT HAVE NOW WEAKENED AND THAT WE HAVE OPENED THE WAY FOR A FEW MEN'S THIRST FOR POWER!







PARIS, JUNE 25...



MONSIEUR PHILIPPE! THEY'RE COMING...



THREE DAYS AFTER THEY WERE ARRESTED! THREE DAYS TO COVER A FEW MILES, WHO KNOWS WHAT A DEVILISH ESCORT THAT CARRIAGE HAS HAD!



SHOW YOURSELF, MAJESTY. COME ON OUT HERE!

GET BACK! BACK!



THIS TIME IT IS REALLY OVER! THE PEOPLE NO LONGER WANT THE MONARCHY...



HMMM... WHO KNOWS WHAT ADVANTAGE THEY'LL GAIN THROUGH THIS BEHAVIOR.

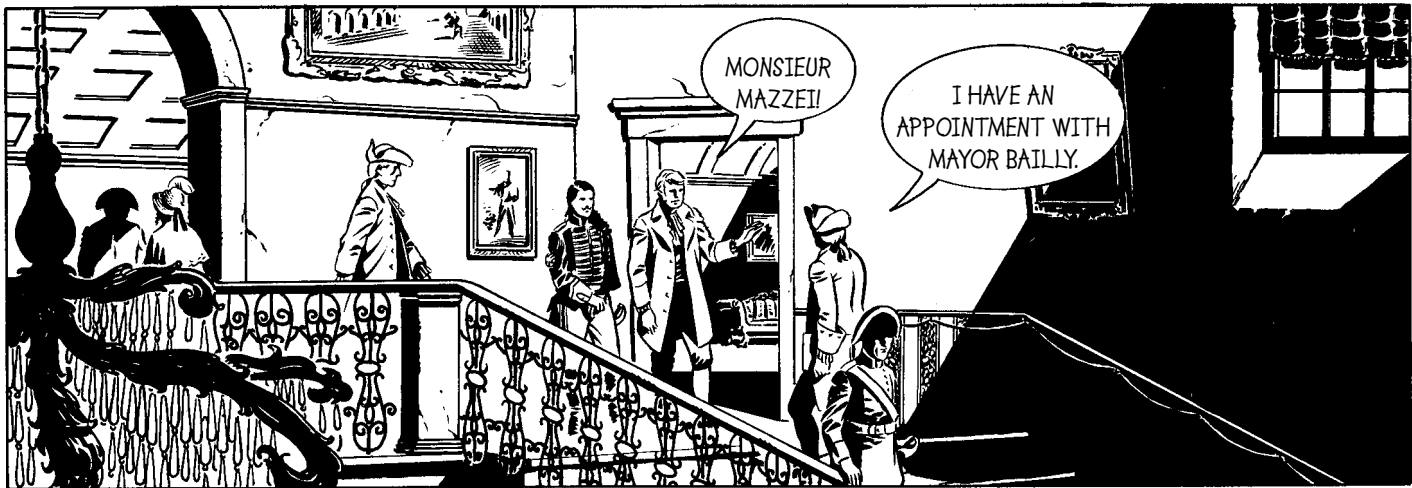
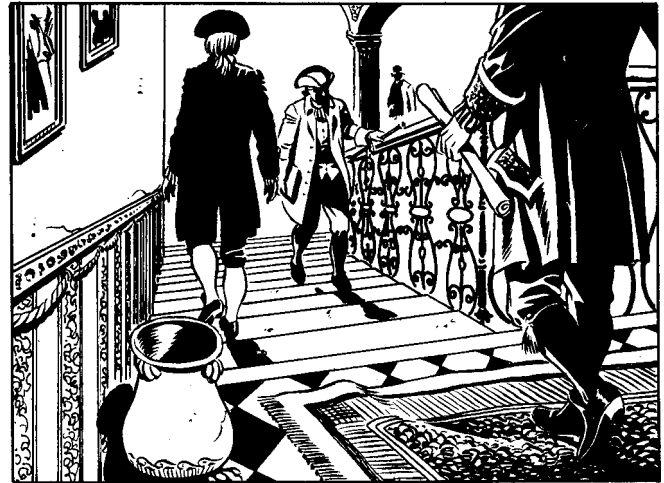
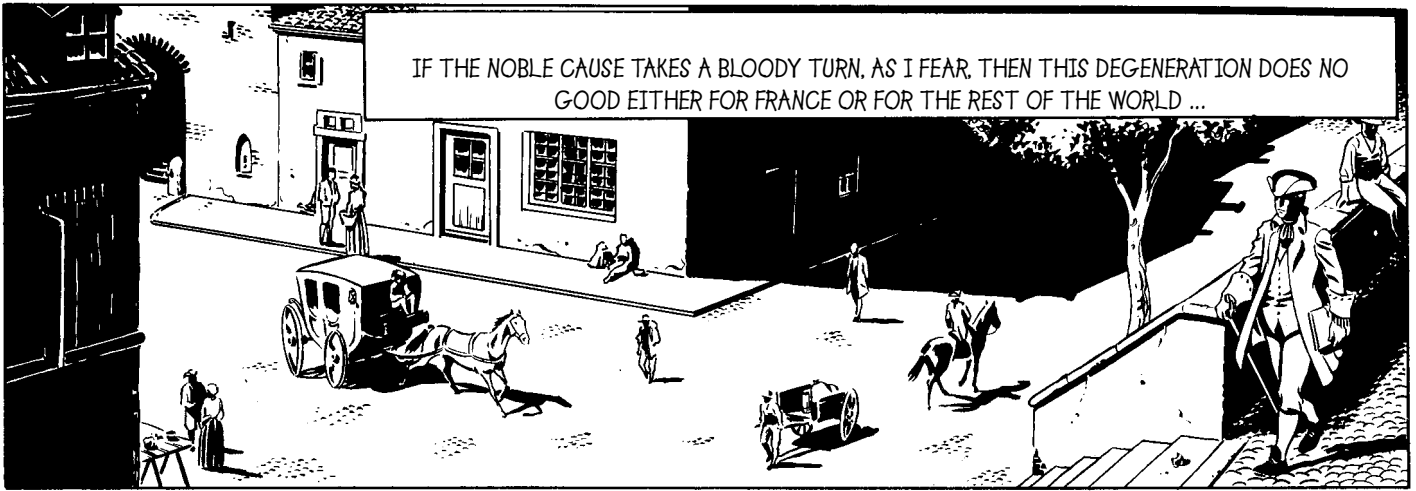
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



THEY DO NO FAVORS TO THE REVOLUTION BY TREATING THE ROYALTY THIS WAY.



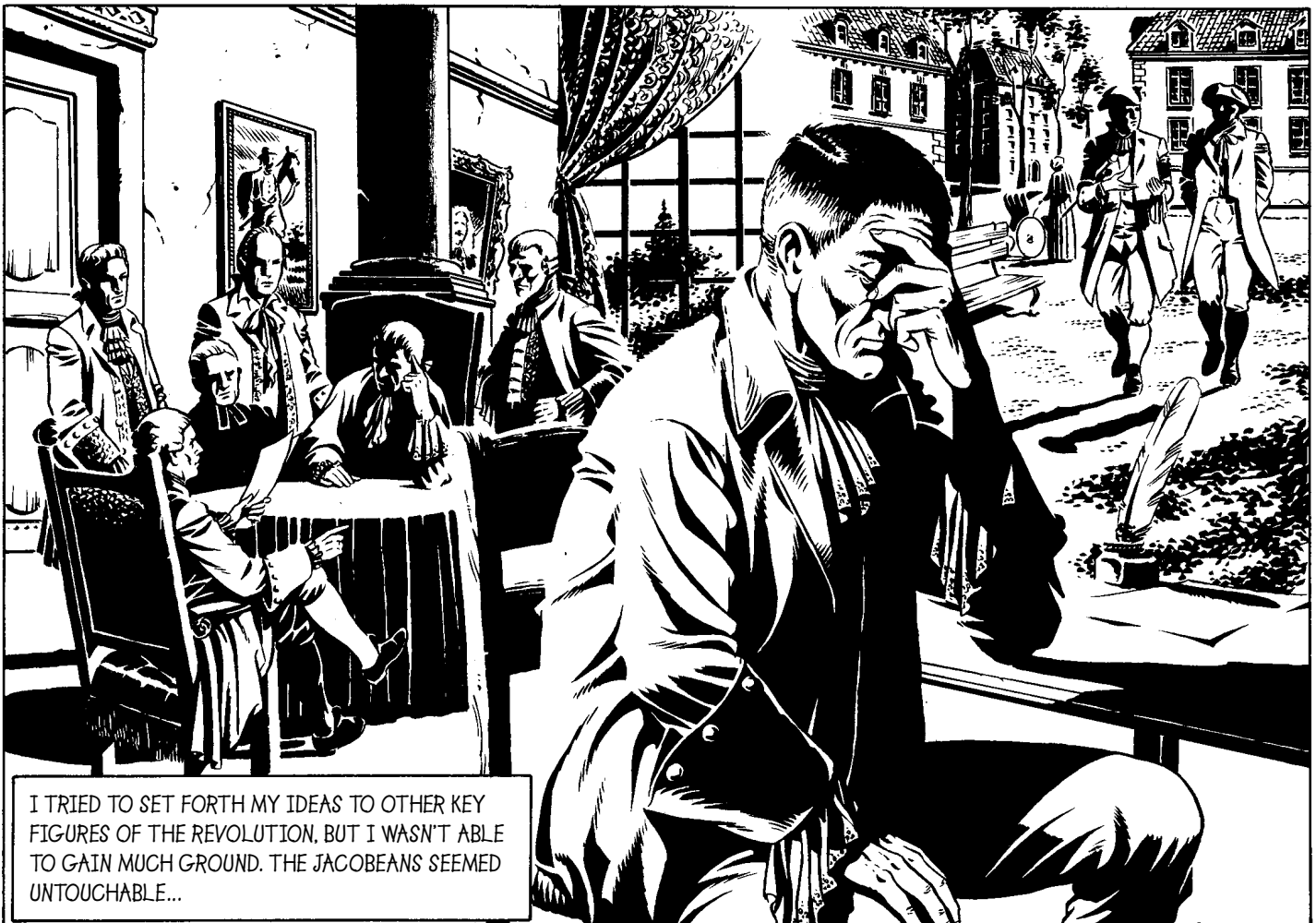
AT TIMES ONE CAN STRIKE HARDER THROUGH DIPLOMACY THAN THROUGH FORCE.



I WENT TO MAYOR BAILLY TO DEMAND THE DISBANDING OF THE JACOBAN CLUB. THAT IS OF THOSE WHO WERE UNDERMINING THE REVOLUTION.



THE MAYOR WAS TOO GOOD A MAN, MAYBE HE WAS ALSO INTIMIDATED BY THOSE PEOPLE. I OBTAINED NOTHING MORE THAN THE PROMISE THAT HE WOULD CLOSE DOWN THAT CLUB IF OTHER MEN OF GREAT RESPECT WERE TO COMPLAIN.



I TRIED TO SET FORTH MY IDEAS TO OTHER KEY FIGURES OF THE REVOLUTION, BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO GAIN MUCH GROUND. THE JACOBANS SEEMED UNTOUCHABLE...



AFTER THAT, MY ONLY THOUGHT WAS TO LEAVE FRANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!



PHILIPPE!



PHILIPPE! WERE YOU GOING TO LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING GOOD-BYE TO ME!



HOW COULD YOU THINK SO! HOW COULD I NOT SAY GOOD-BYE TO THE PAINTER OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION?

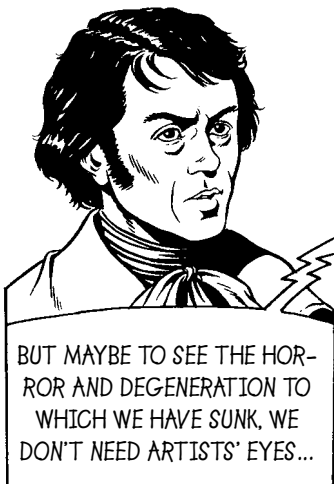
ARE YOU PULLING MY LEG?



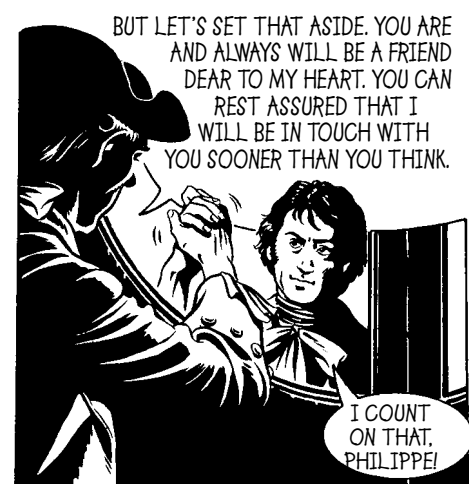
I WOULDN'T DARE. YOUR ART AND YOUR SENSIBILITY ARE TRULY UNIQUE, MY FRIEND.



YOURS ARE TWO EYES THAT OBSERVE THE WONDER AND EXCITEMENT OF THESE TIMES OF...



BUT MAYBE TO SEE THE HORROR AND DEGENERATION TO WHICH WE HAVE SUNK, WE DON'T NEED ARTISTS' EYES...



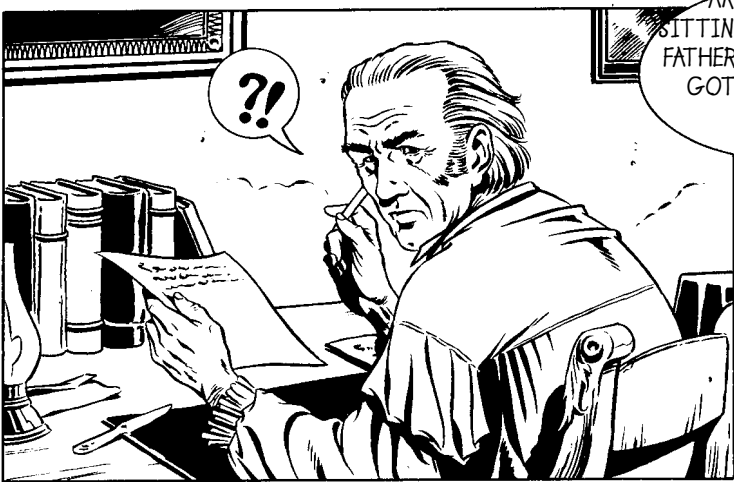
BUT LET'S SET THAT ASIDE. YOU ARE AND ALWAYS WILL BE A FRIEND DEAR TO MY HEART. YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT I WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU SOONER THAN YOU THINK.

I COUNT ON THAT, PHILIPPE!

PISA, JULY 1812...

I left Paris
on December 15, 1791
for Warsaw...

FATHER!
FATHER!



?!

ARE YOU STILL
SITTING HERE WRITING.
FATHER? HAVE YOU FOR-
GOTTEN WHAT DAY
IT IS?



OF COURSE
NOT! IS THE CAR-
RIAGE READY?

YES, IT'S BEEN
READY FOR HALF
AN HOUR.

I FEAR IT MUST WAIT ANOTHER
HALF HOUR, THEN, I MUST FINISH...

...YOUR
MEMOIRES, I KNOW,
BUT ARE THEY
SO URGENT?



DON'T YOU LIKE IT?
I DO VERY MUCH! I MUST SEE
SOME FRIENDS WHO WANT TO
SHOW ME NEW KINDS
OF SEEDS.



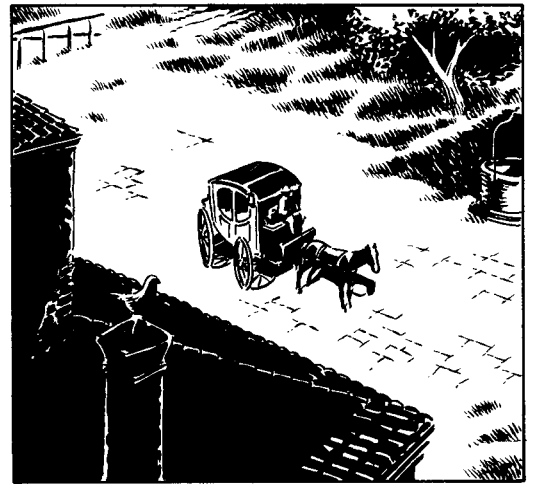
NO, DEAR... IT ISN'T
FILIPPO MAZZEI THAT IS
BUSY BUT RATHER PIPPO
THE GARDENER...

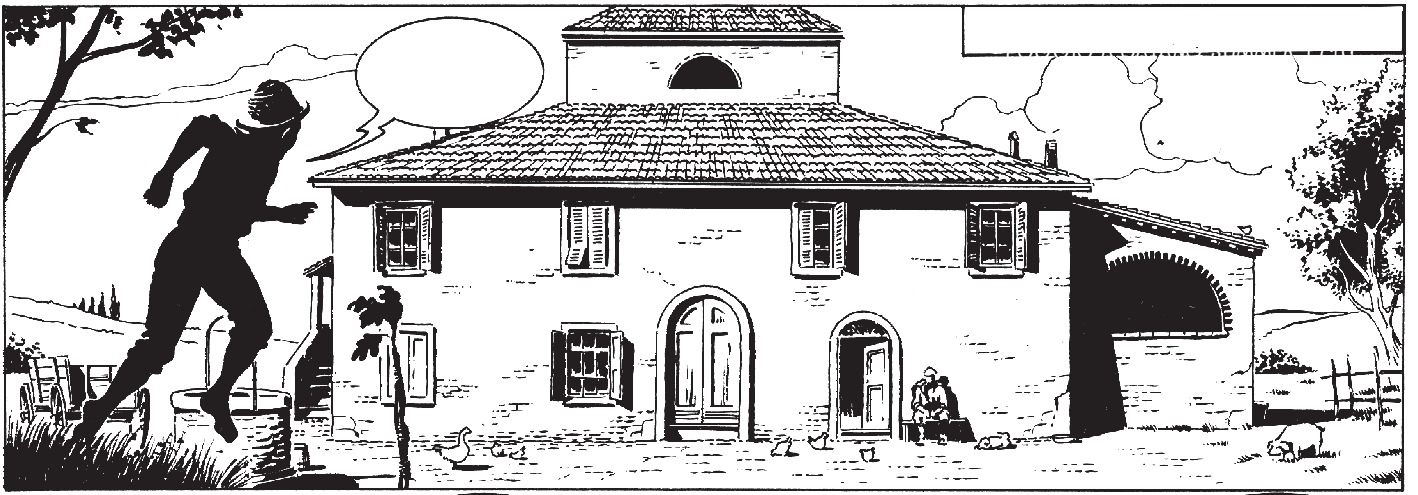
ONCE MORE
THAT FUNNY NICK-
NAME YOU'VE GIVEN
YOURSELF...

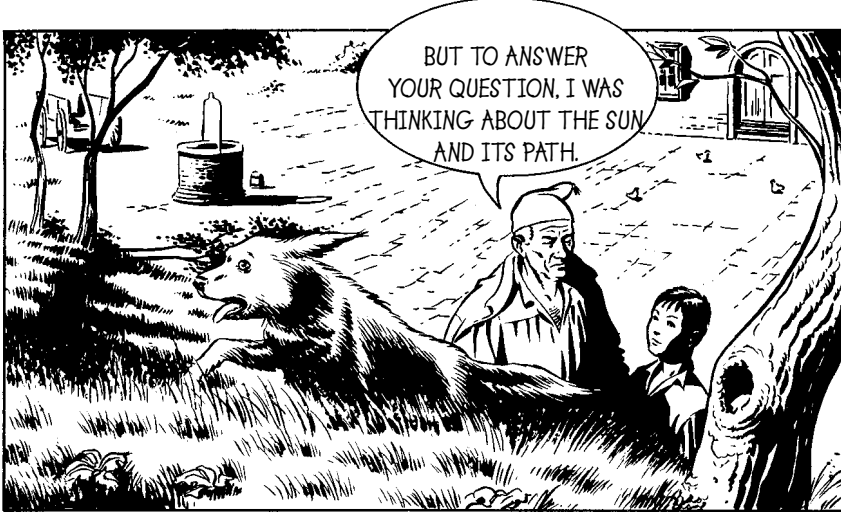


BUT I WON'T
BE LONG. YOU CAN GO
AHEAD AND WAIT FOR
ME IN THE CARRIAGE.

YES, SIGNOR
PIPPO!







NOTHING, NOTHING,
DON'T WORRY ABOUT
IT. THESE ARE JUST
AN OLD MAN'S
THOUGHTS!



HMMM...
WILL YOU AT LEAST
TELL ME WHAT IS
BEYOND THE SEA?

A BEAUTIFUL
LAND, FILIPPO...



A WONDERFUL PLACE WHERE THERE IS
NO INJUSTICE NOR SUFFERING!



GRANDAD?

YES.



ONE DAY WHEN
I'M GROWN UP, I'LL FOLLOW
THE SUN'S PATH AND I'LL GO
LOOKING FOR
THAT LAND!

DI GRAZIA
MANGIANTINI 99 **THE END**

