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Use With Horror Novelty 3140-954

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN™

WE FIGURED YOU WERE SO WIPED OUT BY THE CATAclySMIC CONCLUSION OF THE WAR OF THE SUPER-VILLAINS THAT YOU NEEDED A BREATHER BEFORE FOLLOWING IRON MAN'S JOURNEY INTO THE REALM OF THE BLACK LAMA. SO WE HEREWITH PRESENT AN UNTOLD TALE OF IRON MAN'S PAST.

LONG TIME GONE

A large, stylized illustration of Iron Man in his classic red and gold armor. He is shown from the waist up, leaning forward with his right arm raised in a fist. The background is a simple room with a window and a desk.

THE STEADY ROAR OF STEAM-SHOVELS AND CONSTRUCTION FILTERS THROUGH THE PICTURE WINDOWS OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES OF STARK INTERNATIONAL...

...AND THE LATE AFTERNOON LONG ISLAND SUN CASTS LENGTHENING SHADOWS ACROSS THE ROOM... SHADOWS THAT GO UNNOTICED BY THE MAN BEHIND THE LARGE, OAKEN DESK, A MAN KNOWN TO MANY AS ANTHONY STARK, MILITIAIRIA LIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST...

...AND TO A SELECT FEW AS THE AVENGER CALLED... IRON MAN!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, TONY-- SINCE THAT PIECE OF SHRAPNEL IMBEDDED ITSELF IN YOUR CHEST--

--AND ALMOST KILLED YOU!

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"...LIKE: IF I SUSPECTED, EVEN THEN, THAT THE WAR, OR AT LEAST THE MANNER IN WHICH WE WERE FIGHTING IT, WAS WRONG?"

SHELL-HEAD, YOU LOOK SO GOOD, I COULD KISS YOU!

THAT'S PERSPIRATION, SOLDIER! AND AS FOR KISSING ME...

EVEN THAT MOTOR-OIL YOU USE SMELLS LIKE HOME!



"THAT SUSPICION GREW EACH AND EVERY TIME I FOUND MYSELF STARING INTO THE EYES OF HUNDREDS OF WAR-WEARY FRONT-LINE GI'S..."

WHAT'S IT LIKE BACK HOME, IRON MAN?



WHO'S WINNIN' THE WORLD SERIES?

"WHAT KIND OF MAN WAS I TO KEEP DESIGNING WEAPONRY FOR THAT KIND OF WAR?"

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS--



-- BUT LAST I HEARD, THE METS WERE AHEAD THREE GAMES TO TWO!

IRON MAN! I'D BEEN TOLD YOU WERE HERE, BUT I JUST COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN TONY STARK SAID HE'D SEND SOMEONE OVER TO INSPECT HIS NEW TOY IN THE FIELD--

-- THAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT SENDING YOU!!

OH, FORGIVE ME! I'M MAJOR AL STARGROM, COMPANY COMMANDER!



PLEASED TO MEET YOU MAJOR! I OWED STARK A FEW FAVORS--

-- SO I THOUGHT I'D WORK THEM ALL OFF AT ONCE! WHERE'S THIS TOY YOU WERE REFERRING TO?

"NOT AN EVIL MAN! SURELY... NOT EVIL..."

THERE SHE IS, IRON MAN!

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"...AND THE CAMP EXPLODED AROUND US!"

BA-WHOOM

THE GOOKS'VE SPOTTED US!

FALL IN, YOU MOTHERLESS SONS OF SEA-COOKS!

FALL IN!!



TAKE IT EASY, MAJOR! YOU'RE HIT PRETTY BADLY AND--

GET--GET MY BOYS BACK--HOME, IRON MAN--

--DON'T LET THEM-- UNHH!

"HE DIED..."



SURE THING, MAJOR! YOU DIED A HERO--

--BUT NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW THAT! NOT YOUR WIFE OR YOUR KIDS! YOUR NAME WILL BE DISGRACED--

--BECAUSE YOU DIED WHILE FOLLOWING ORDERS!



THE COMMIES ARE STARTIN THEIR PUSH!

WHAT DO WE DO, IRON MAN?

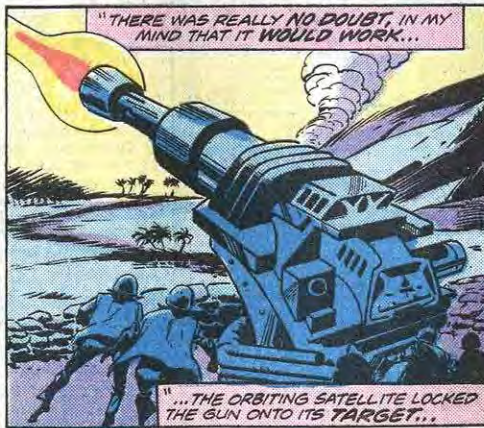
DO?



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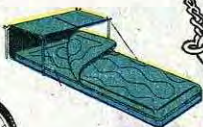
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...AND MECHANIZED DEATH SILENCED THE GUNS OF THE ENEMY POSITIONS...

KWHAM!

...ONE AFTER ANOTHER AFTER ANOTHER!

THE GUN'S STOPPED FIRING!

THAT MEANS IT'S ALL OVER! OR--

--OR THE HEAT-SEEKING LASERS HAD LOCKED ONTO ANOTHER TARGET...

...ONE WHOSE AFTER-BURNERS WOULD THROW OFF MORE DETECTABLE HEAT-EMISSIONS THAN THOSE OF A HANDFUL OF GROUND-TROOPS!

ENEMY PLANES!

WHOOOSH!

WHOOOSH!

AND FROM THE WAY THOSE MISSILES ARE ACTING--

--THEY'RE EITHER LOCKED ON THE METAL OF MY ARMORED SUIT--

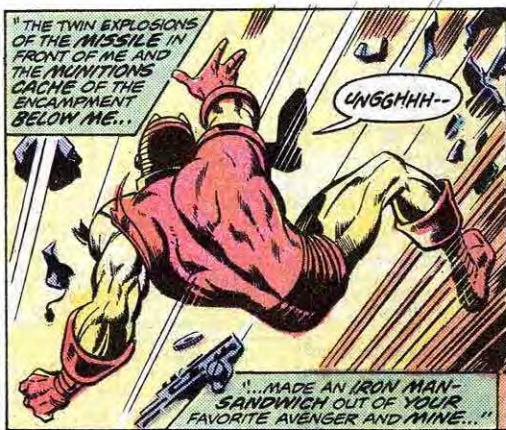
WHOOOM!

--WHICH MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT PROTECT ME FROM THEM! BUT A REPULSOR-BLAST WILL SOLVE THAT LITTLE PROBLEM--

...OR THEY WERE LOCKED ONTO THE METAL OF TONY STARK'S --MY--NEWEST PIECE OF WEAPONRY...

KA-KHOM!

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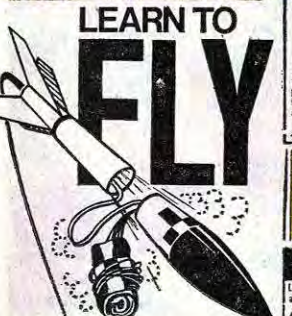
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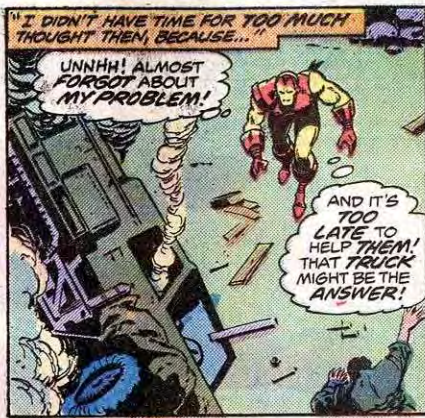
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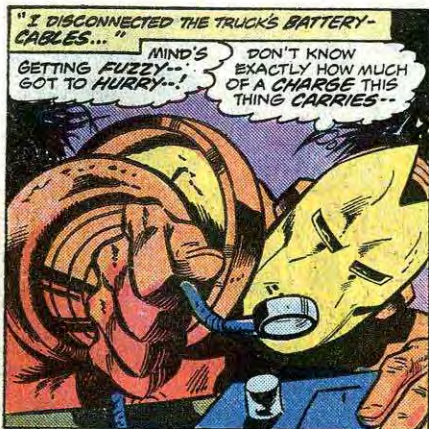
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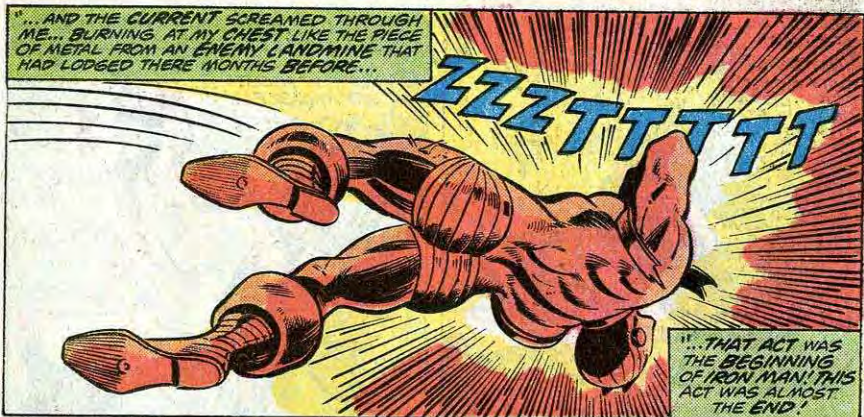


--BUT IT OUGHT TO BE ENOUGH--

AAGGHH!

ZZZZTTT

"...AND THE CURRENT SCREAMED THROUGH ME... BURNING AT MY CHEST LIKE THE PIECE OF METAL FROM AN ENEMY LANDMINE THAT HAD LODGED THERE MONTHS BEFORE..."



ZZZZTTTTT

"...THAT ACT WAS THE BEGINNING OF IRON MAN! THIS ACT WAS ALMOST THE END!"



"I MUST HAVE LAIN THERE A LONG TIME..."



"... BECAUSE, WHEN I FINALLY OPENED MY EYES..."

"...THE MOON HAD BEEN GONE FROM THE SKY FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS AND DAWN WAS BREAKING OVER THE TREETOPS TO THE EAST."





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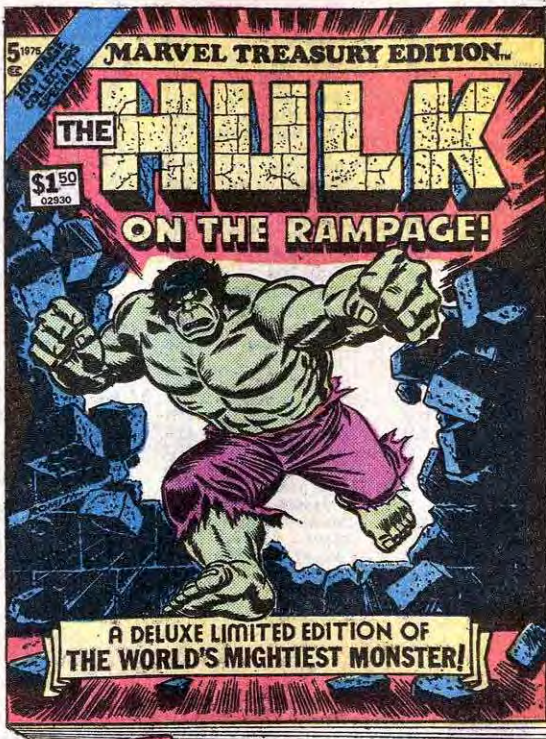
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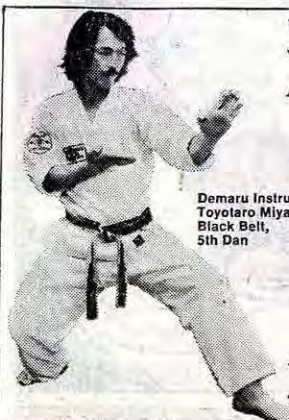
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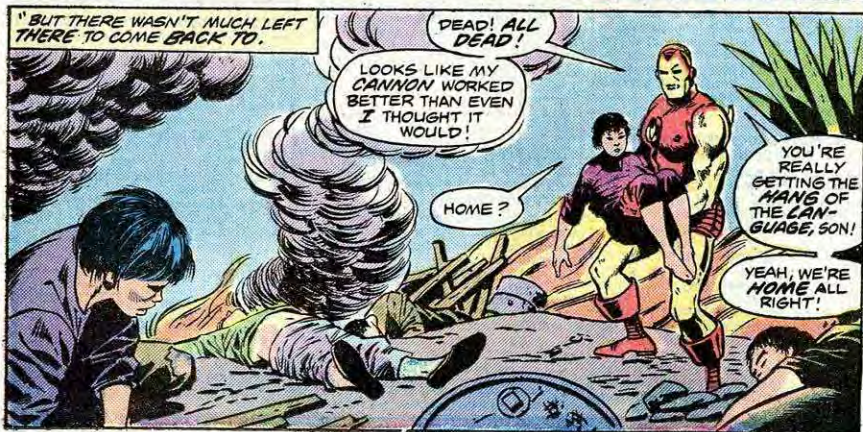
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HOME... NO MORE?

THAT'S IT, SON! HOME NO MORE!



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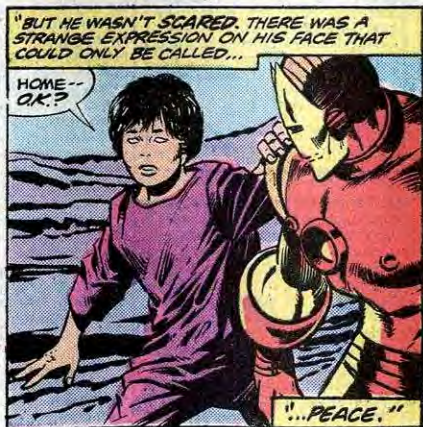
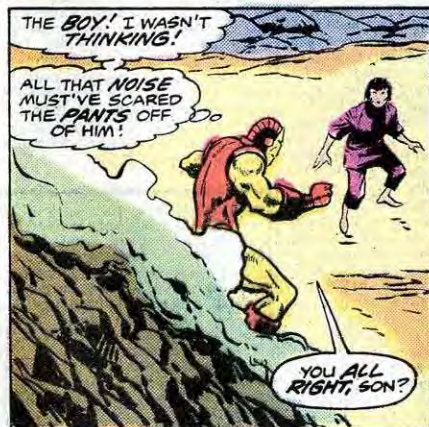
"...BUT I'D NEVER BEFORE USED THAT
POWER TO DIG A GRAVE!

"AND TO THE BLIND BOY AT MY
SIDE IT MUST HAVE SOUNDED
LIKE THE VERY EARTH WAS
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This one's too good to keep for another minute! Guess which new title we'll soon be featuring in our sensational Treasury Edition series? Aw, c'mon, give up— we're bustin' to tell you! It's none other than THE MARVELOUS WIZARD OF OZ! Yep, that's right— the ol' Wiz himself, just as you've always wanted to see it— written by Rascally Roy Thomas, illustrated by Big John Buscema, and presented in the magical Marvel manner, which will prove, once and for all, that L. Frank Baum's deathless classic was far more than merely a cute little tale for toddlers! If ever you've longed to find a fairy tale written for a thinking adult, with all the fantasy, the drama, the grandeur and thrills of a thousand superhero sagas— a tale whose sweep and power will leave you breathless— well, it's just barely possible that Marvel's WIZARD OF OZ will do the trick! Watch for it— it's one of the year's greatest! And now, just a brief note to say that the mail is still pouring in with your suggestions for a title for our great new sequel to the ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS. We'll announce the winning entry right in this space next ish— if you can bear the suspense! (By the way, didja know The Original ORIGINS book is already into its third big printing? More than 100,000 copies sold, and still going like hotcakes!) But to close on a more sober note, here's a tough new riddle for you. Who do you think is the peerless publisher of the new best-selling sensation, NOSTALGIA ILLUSTRATED? Here's a teensy, tiny clue: There's one noble name on the contents page that they'd better spell correctly— or else I'll clobber 'em! And now, let's respectfully bow our heads as we recall those immortal words of Honest Irving Forbush— "I fear not man, nor beast, nor nuttin'... 'cause Gerald gave me a new WIN button!"

Excelsior!



ITEM! For the past few months, we've been announcing sparkling new stars in the mighty Marvel cosmos practically hand over fist— you know, such stalwarts as THE SCARECROW, BLOODSTONE, and SKULL THE SLAYER— and they're just the beginning! In fact, Faithful One, we've got so many blazed new ideas in mind that even your beleaguered Bullpen can't handle 'em all without something giving someone place— and, alas, something finally has! So in order for us to continually keep at the forefront of this fershu-giner field, in order to insure that when

the annals of comic mag history are inscribed, madcap Marvel will still be recognized as the maven of comic masterpieces, we've just had to put aside some of our new 50¢ GIANT-SIZE titles for the time being. (But that doesn't mean you won't be able to peruse the passel of GIANT-SIZE SPECIALS which will be continuing to come your way— such as the GIANT-SIZE IRON MAN, GIANT-SIZE DAREDEVIL, and GIANT-SIZE POWER MAN—and we'll be re-presenting some of the early Marvel classics for those who have been unfortunate enough to miss them!) It seems that there just weren't enough of us to go around on all the fifty new titles we have planned and still take proper care of our four-bit blockbusters. But don't despair, True Believer— you can bet your bottom shekel that you haven't seen the last of such stunning strips as THE INVADERS, SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP, the all-new, all-improved X-MEN, and many of the others who only appeared in GIANT-SIZE incarnations. Almost even as we speak, spanking-new 25¢ versions of these same monumental mags are speeding to your local newsstand to ogle your orbs and mangle your mind. So keep your peepers peeled in the weeks to come for the second coming of THE INVADERS, THE X-MEN, SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP, CHILLERS (starring TIGRA, the Were-Woman!), SKULL THE SLAYER, and four more glorious goodies that are still too top-secret to mention now. (But just check this space next month...) Who says mighty Marvel sits on its laurels?

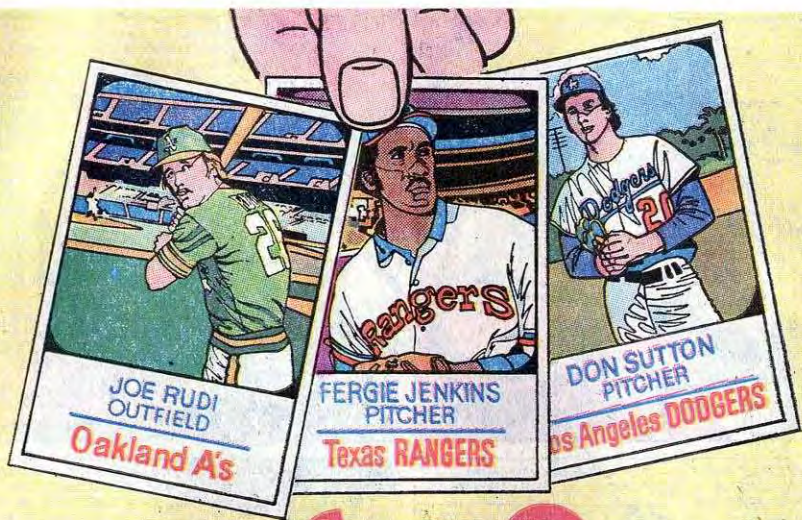
ITEM! Looks like it's time to hop on the ever-whirling artist/writer merry-go-round again (come to think of it, when isn't it that time around here?) since, as we pen these imperishable words, the Winter frost is clearing, Spring is aborning, and all the madcap Marvel madmen are just itching to break new ground. Now follow this closely, Pilgrim— 'cause you can't tell the players without a score-card. Ready? Okay. First, let's hear it for Rascally ROY THOMAS, who has just taken on the scripting chores for everybody's favorite Asgardian, The Mighty THOR! The Rascally One is really anxious to sink his literary teeth into the Odinson's universe-spanning adventures, and who are we to stand in his way? (Besides, Roy's just about the only Bullpenner who can conjugate an Asgardian verb.) Meanwhile, Lively LEN WEIN has acquired the scripting assignment supreme (acquired? He fought his way, fang and claw thru the whole blamed Bullpen). We don't wanna tell ya exactly which strip it is, but how many blue-and-red webheads do you know? The Lively One will also be handling the wall-crawler's monthly TEAM-UP mag, and he's promising there are big things

in store, so hang in there! And if that's not enough to set any Marvelite a'trembling with anticipation, there's more! Marvelous MARV WOLFGAN, whose shattering scripting on a certain Lord of Vampires has been so applauded by his peers that TOMB OF DRACULA has been nominated as Best Continuing Series by the Academy of Comic Book Arts, has been wracking his fevered brain to devise newer, more menacing adversaries for the Man Without Fear, DAREDEVIL! Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH has taken to running around the Bullpen clad only in a loincloth, his hip-length hair flowing wildly behind him, since he inherited the titanic typing chores on KA-ZAR, Lord of the Savage Land! On the artistic side of the street, Gorgeous GEORGE TUSKA has sauntered back over to the Invincible IRON MAN, while one of comicdom's most famous artistic teams has been reunited as Mischievous MIKE ESPOSITO begins inking the Amazing SPIDER-MAN over the peerless pencils of his old pal ROSS ANDRU. As Mischievous Mike put it at the time, "Nothing can stop us now!"

ITEM! Speaking of the sensational webslinger, any True Believer worth his salt won't want to miss SPIDER-MAN #149, where the startling secret of the malevolent Jackal is revealed at last for one and all to see. Gee, there's never a dull moment around the ol' House of Ideas, is there?

ITEM! We barely have room enough left to announce the beginning of a brand-spanking-new black-and-white blockbuster of a magazine. We call it MARVEL MOVIE PREMIERE and it's slated to feature full-length adaptations of the latest and greatest classics ever to grace the wide-angle screen. MMP will be debuting in just a few short weeks with a power-packed presentation of Edgar Rice Burroughs' THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT, based on the fear-frought film starring Dauntless DOUG McCLURE, and adapted by our own Marvelous MARV WOLFGAN and Smashing STEVE GAN! Don't miss it, Effendi— you know how we hate to see a Marvelite cry!

On February 20th, 1975, early in the morning, the comic book industry lost one of its foremost talents. ARTIE SIMEK died. For some thirty-odd years, the majority of his life, Artie produced a veritable mountain of work and gained a reputation for being a true professional. He was one of the cornerstones in building the mighty world of Marvel and his efforts cannot be ignored. To those of us who were privileged to know Artie, he was a valued friend, a unique personality, and an irreplaceable co-worker. He will be missed.



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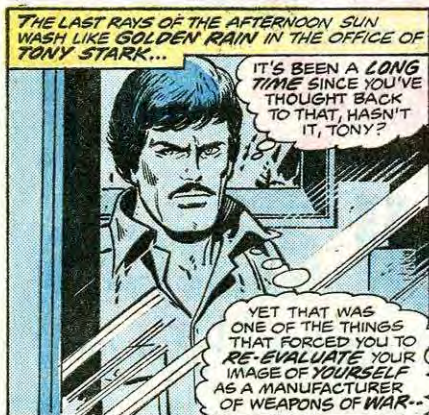
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OF IRON MAN--

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LIVES HAVE BEEN
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MAN I ONCE WAS--

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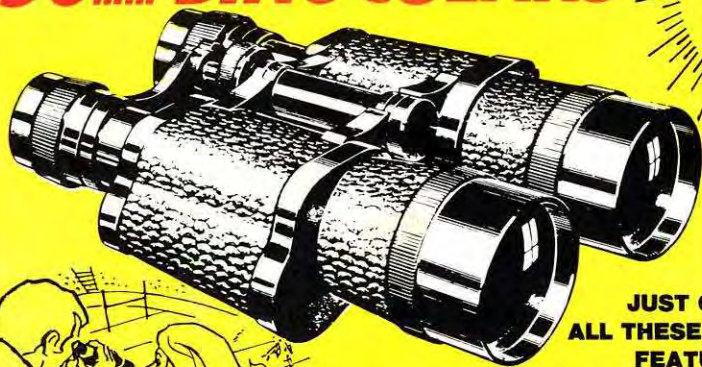
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