Proudly Presents

Originally Published by
U.S. Petroleum Administration for War
★ 1943 ★
IN BERLIN... AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND.

...AND THE FINAL GREAT ATTACK ON OUR NAZI FORTRESS, EUROPE, IS WAITING... BUT ONE THING...

THE LECTURER SHOWS THE OTHER OFFICERS PICTURES OF ALLIED ACTIVITY.

ALLIED BOMBERS LEAVE ENGLAND.

ALLIED BOMBERS RETURN FROM MISSION.

ENOUGH 100-OCTANE AVIATION FUEL TO KEEP THE VAST ALLIED AIR ARMADA FULLY SUPPLIED.

WE NOW HEAR, THROUGH OUR SECRET OPERATIVES, THAT THE AMERICANS ARE BUILDING A NUMBER OF GREAT NEW 100-OCTANE AVIATION FUEL REFINERIES.

WE, TOO, CAN MAKE A LITTLE HIGH OCTANE AVIATION FUEL, BUT OUR REFINERIES ARE BEING CONSTANTLY BOMBED! REMEMBER THE YANKEE RAID ON PLOESTI, IN ROMANIA?

AS WELL AS CLimb 30% FASTER.

THESE NEW REFINERIES WILL BE DESIGNED TO PRODUCE SUCH FUEL. AVIATION FUEL THAT PLANES, USING IT, WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE OFF 10% FASTER.

YANKEES RAID PLOESTI OIL FIELDS.

...AND FLY 50% FARTHER THAN THEY COULD WITH THE FUEL THEY WERE USING PREVIOUSLY.

ALLIED FIGHTERS STRAFE GERMAN AIR FIELD.
DURING THE MEETING GERMAN CHEMISTS STUDY A MODEL SHOWING THE HYDROGENATION PROCESS.

HENCE, WE MUST UNFORTUNATELY DEPEND MAINLY ON COAL FOR AVIATION FUEL... MADE BY A LONG COSTLY PROCESS.

IN VIEW OF THIS, I NEED HARDLY TELL YOU WHAT IT MEANS TO THE REICH IF WE ALLOW THESE NEW AMERICAN REFINERIES TO BE FINISHED!

GIVE ME THE PLANES AND WE'LL BLOW THE VERDAMMT REFINERIES TO BITS... IF WE DIE IN THE ATTEMPT!

IMPOSSIBLE! MARSHAL GOERING... WE CAN SPARE NEITHER PLANES, MEN... NOR THE FUEL.

THE SITUATION IS DESPERATE... AND CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION!

WITH 250 MORE U-BOATS, I WILL SINK EVERY TANKER THE AMERICANS LAUNCH!

NONSENSE! HALF THE SUBMARINE BUILDING YARDS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY ALLIED AIR RAIDS!

EXCELLENCY, THERE IS ONE WAY... ONE SURE WAY TO DESTROY THOSE AMERICAN HIGH-OCTANE REFINERIES.

SABOTAGE...

AS HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE, I AM PREPARED TO PUT A TRAINED OPERATIVE TO WORK IN EACH AMERICAN 100-OCTANE PLANT WITHIN TWO WEEKS!

GOOD! ARE THE MEN CAPABLE?

OBERLEUTNANT VON TEUFEL... HERE IS ONE OF THEM... HE KNOWS THE UNITED STATES WELL, AND SPEAKS THE LANGUAGE LIKE A NATIVE.

LET THEM START AT ONCE!
That night, von Teufel and his party leave for the United States.

Next day, a convoy! Look at those fat tankers—probably filled with 100-octane plane fuel! We don't dare get close enough to torpedo. Oberleutnant von Teufel! They'd blow us out of the water.

Disguised as a workman, von Teufel arrives at a refinery.

How easy it is to get around among these stupid Yankee swine... Ah! This is my destination!

The party lands...

Auf Wiedersehen, Herr Kapitän—your crew will bury the explosives on the beach! Yawn the spot agreed.

We must now all separate... Each to one refinery... Remember your instructions! Heil Hitler! Heil Hitler!

Posing as Harry Brown, von Teufel applies for a job at the refinery.

And because of my up-to-date experience, I can do nearly anything around an aviation fuel refinery.

Patriotic, native born American! Well... these papers seem to be in order... yes, sir! I'll be glad to start work at once.

And what kind of work do you little suspect?
As von Truel works, he sees the Superintendent, Mr. Butterworth and his daughter, Mary.

Hello! Mary! You look as though you heard good news.

I have! Jack has completed 300 hours over Germany... and he's on his way home!

First, throw this release lever... second, rush down and pretend to save that girl before the girder falls!

Now, my chance to get on the inside!

You saved my daughter's life! How can I ever repay you?

That's all right, sir! I'm only doing my job!

You have shown yourself worthy of a more important job... one on which the very life of America depends... thank you, sir! My name is Harry Brown...
OUR AIR FORCES MUST HAVE MORE 100-OC TANE AVIATION FUEL BEFORE WE CAN LAUNCH THE FINAL ATTACK THAT WILL CRUSH THE AXIS. THAT IS WHY WE ARE WORKING SO HARD TO FINISH THIS 100-OC TANE REFINERY!

I WANT YOU TO BE MY FOLLOW-UP MAN, IT WILL BE YOUR JOB TO CUT DAYS AND IF POSSIBLE, WEEKS, OFF OUR CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE... AND EVERY DAY YOU SAVE MEANS THE LIVES OF BRAVE MTS SAVED, TOO!

THIS IS ALL WRONG HERE, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT DOWN AND REBUILD IT!

BUT IT FOLLOW THE BLUEPRINTS EXACTLY, MR. BROWN!

THE MATERIALS HAVEN'T ARRIVED... I'M AFRAID WELL HAVE TO LAY YOU BOYS OFF FOR A WEEK OR SO.

BUT THE STUFF DID COME IN; I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES!

COMPLAINTS AGAINST BROWN POUR IN. DONT COMPLAIN TO ME ABOUT MR. BROWN. I HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN HIM.

DAD! JACK JUST CAME HOME!

I WANT THAT MAN DISCHARGED! HE IS INCOMPETENT!

WHY... HARRISON IS A SKILLED WORKER HE IS IRREPLACEABLE.

SO FAR, SO GOOD. NOW TO OVERTAKE CONFUSED DESTROY!
JACK, I WANT YOU TO MEET THE MAN WHO SAVED MY LIFE!
GLAD TO KNOW YOU!

IS THAT A WAR WOUND, MR. BROWN?

NICE SCRATCH ON MY CHEEK! JUST A SCHOOLBOY ACCIDENT!

MEIN GOTT! HOW THIS FELLOW STARES!

MARY, THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THIS GUY, BROWN!

OH! THIS SCRATCH ON MY CHEEK? JUST A SCHOOLBOY ACCIDENT!

MEIN GOTT! HOW THIS FELLOW STARES!

HARRY, THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THIS GUY, BROWN!

OH! THIS SCRATCH ON MY CHEEK? JUST A SCHOOLBOY ACCIDENT!

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MARY, THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THIS GUY, BROWN!

OH! THIS SCRATCH ON MY CHEEK? JUST A SCHOOLBOY ACCIDENT!

MEIN GOTT! HOW THIS FELLOW STARES!
Jack hurls the Z.I.T. away from the tower.

You won't blow up this refinery.

Jack! I'm so proud of you! More trouble, my tail gunner, be it S.B.I. CO., could have done it with one hand! But if sure is going to get a lot more 100-octane to him and the rest of the gang a lot quicker... so how about a kiss on the strength of that?

The End.
What’s the Story Behind This Comic?

To win World War II, America needed warplane fuel—much more than the country could produce. More high-octane refineries had to be built, and fast. But after a year of nonstop effort, refinery construction workers were tired. Morale sagged. So did the pace of construction. How to lift morale and productivity? Why, comic books, of course! The US government’s Petroleum Administration for War (PAW) designed its comic books to inspire refinery construction workers with the huge importance of their work. The first—Comin’ in on a Wing and a Prayer—appeared in late 1943. It was so popular that PAW quickly followed up with Under-Cover War. Did the comic books do the trick? Hard to say—but America did win the war!

For more, see “Comic Books for Hardhat Heroes,” by Kevin Morrow, in the October 2009 issue of America in WWII magazine.

Know someone whose morale needs a boost? Share this comic today!

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