

No. 3

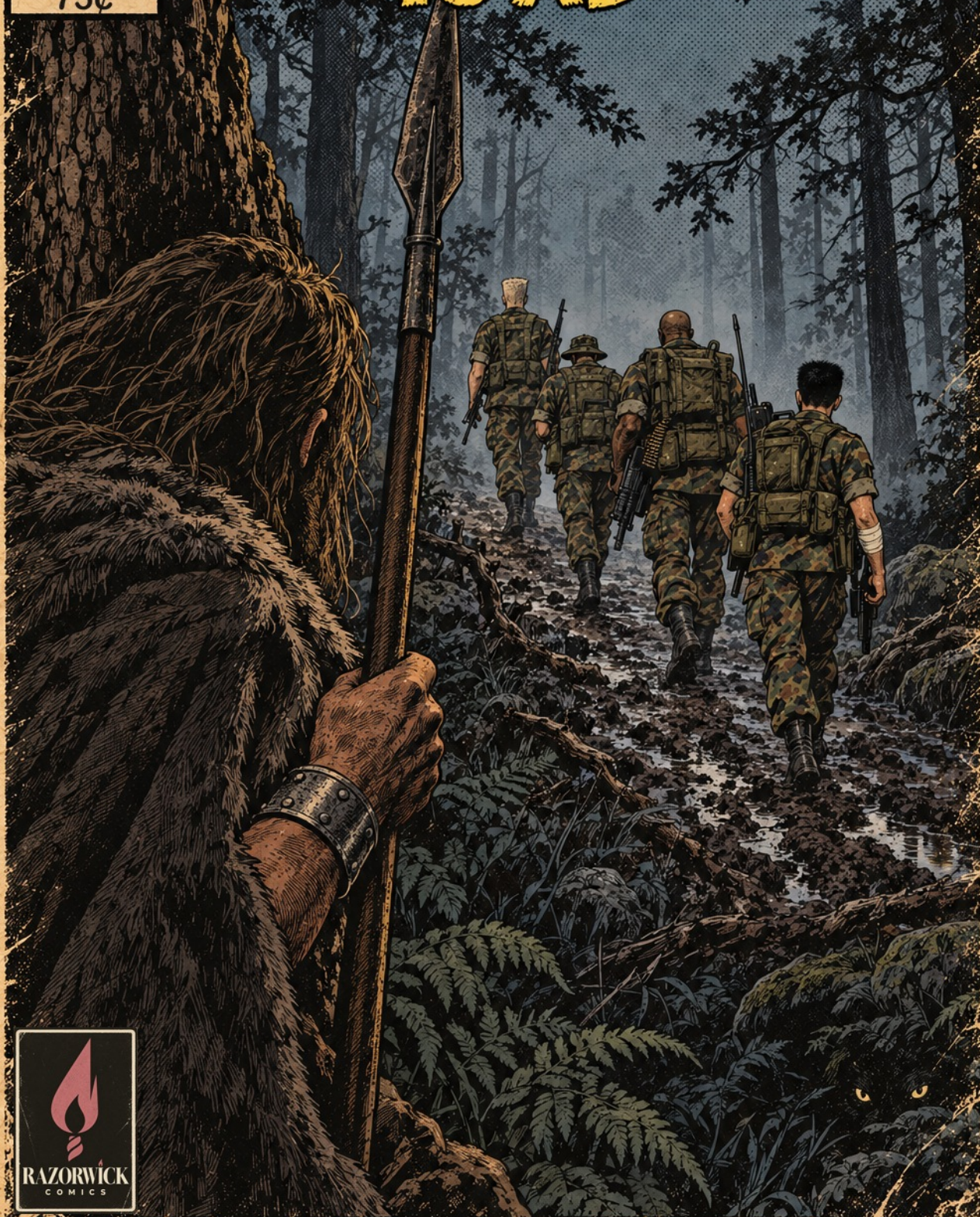
SPECIAL FORCES vs. ROME



75¢

IRON BIRDS

16 AD



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Episode 3: Words

Dawn.







Beacon's still sending. Battery's good for days.

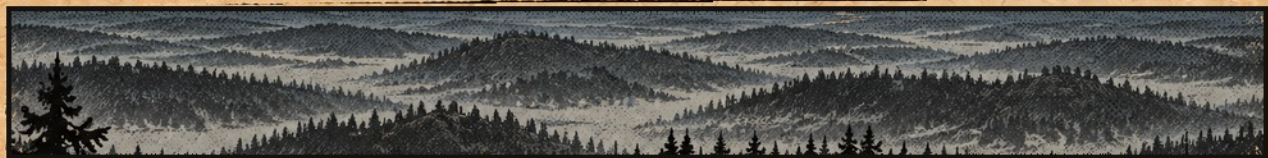


You think the navigator made it out okay?



His chute was gone. He jumped.

Then he's out there. Same as us.



That's a lot of iron for four backs.

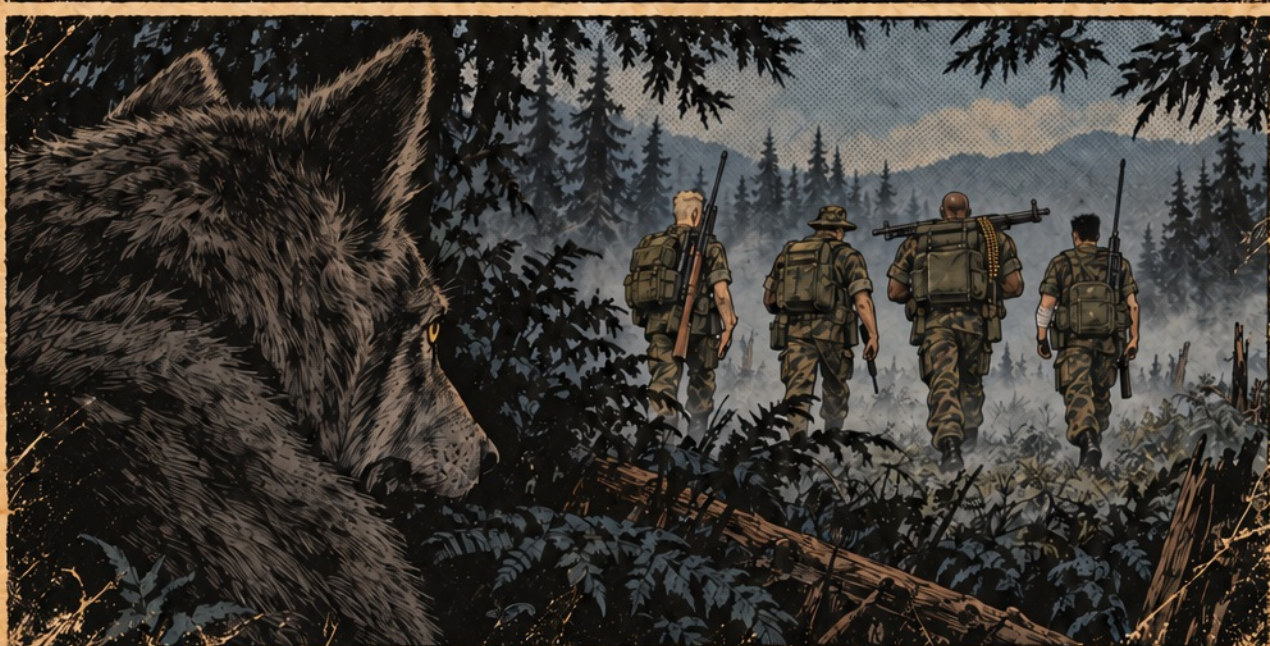
I saw a fallen tree north of the tail. Roots already dug the hole.

Then that's the spot.

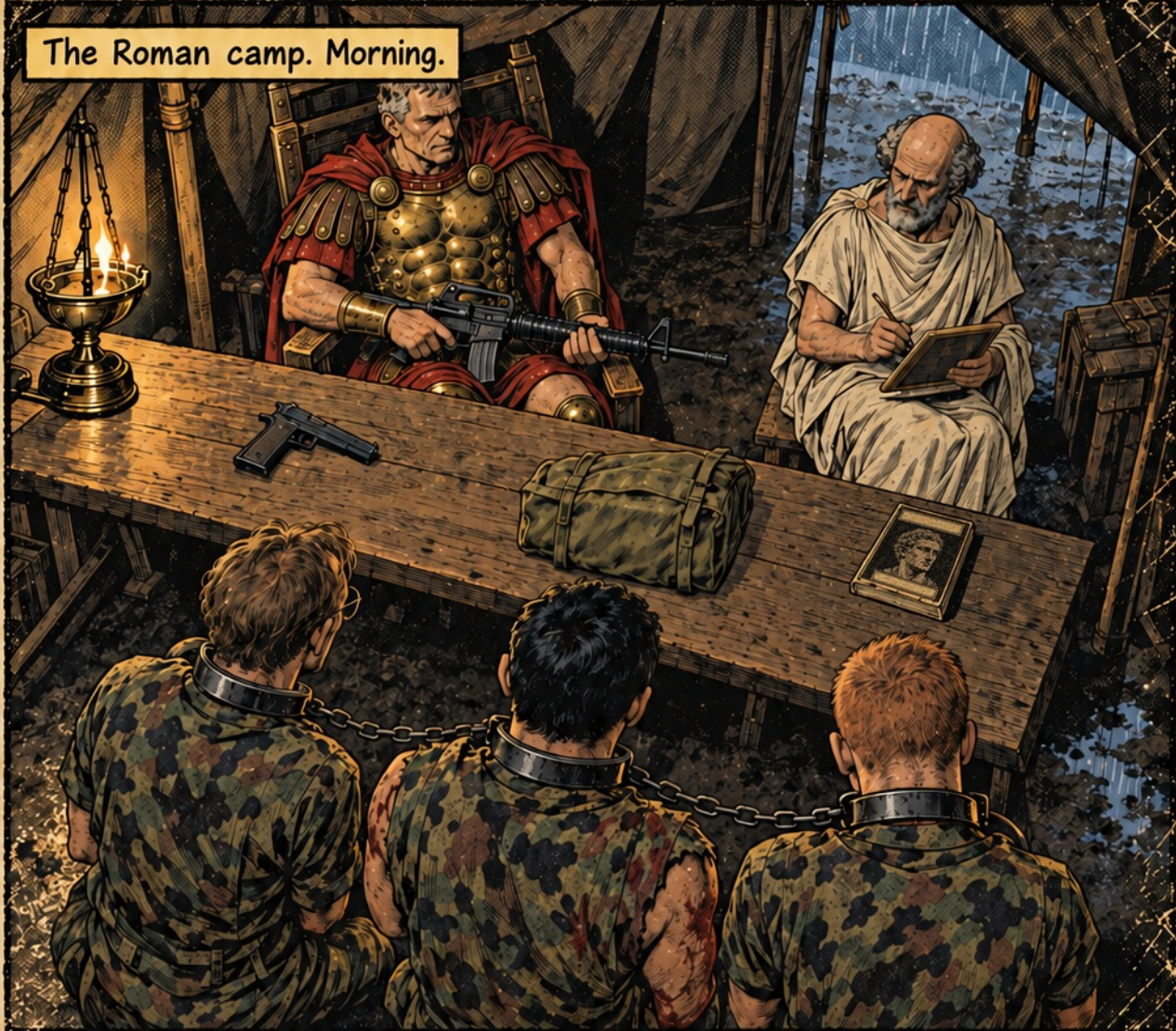


But first let's find out what's in the mystery suitcase.





The Roman camp. Morning.



Gladius.



Panis.



Aqua.

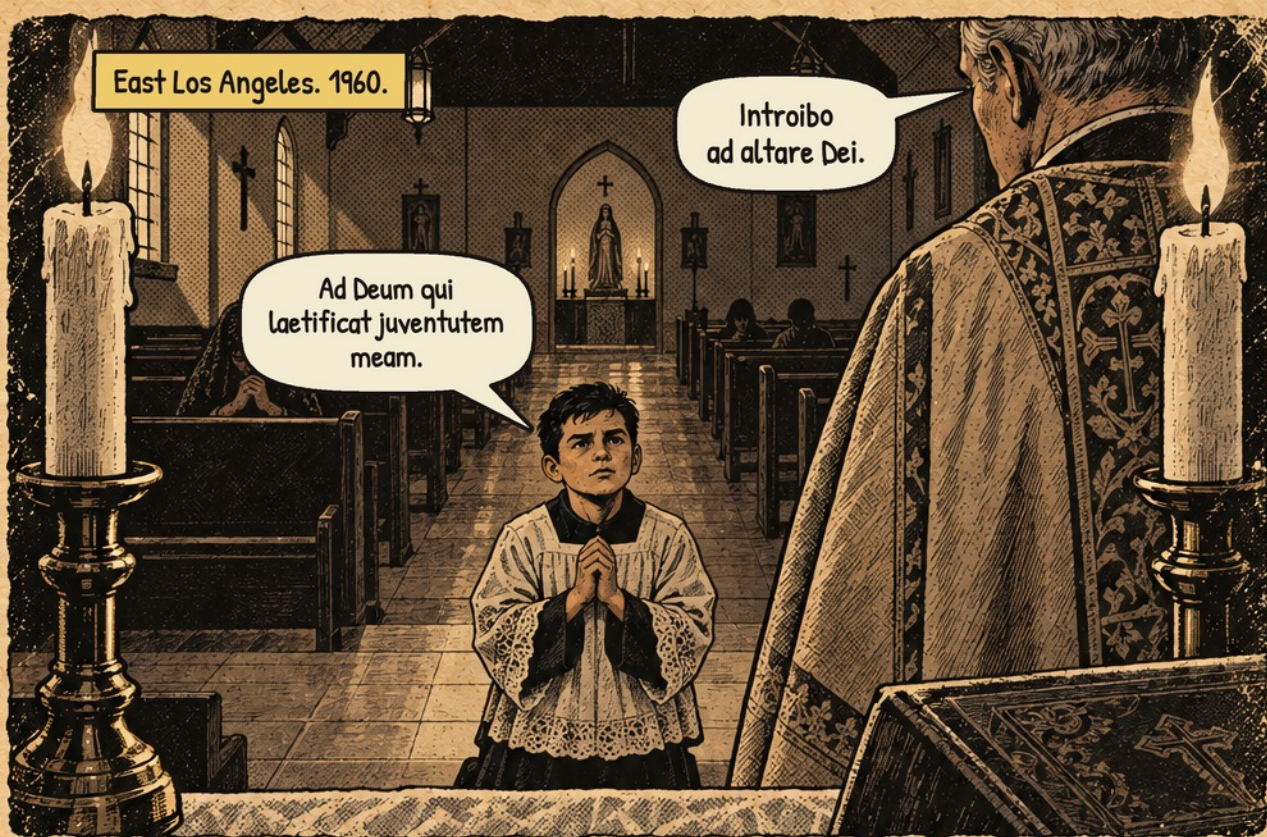




East Los Angeles. 1960.

Introibo
ad altare Dei.

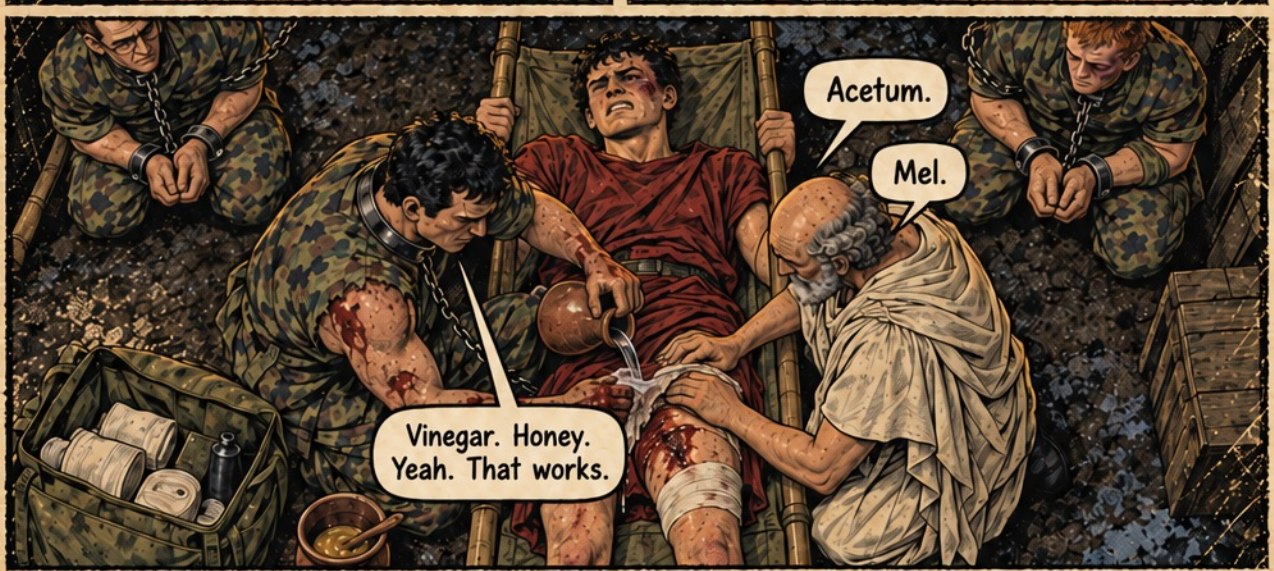
Ad Deum qui
laetificat juventutem
meam.



He always carried his mother's bag after Mass.









Aqua?



Aqua.

Da nobis aquam.
Quaesumus.



Latine
loquitur.



Paulum.

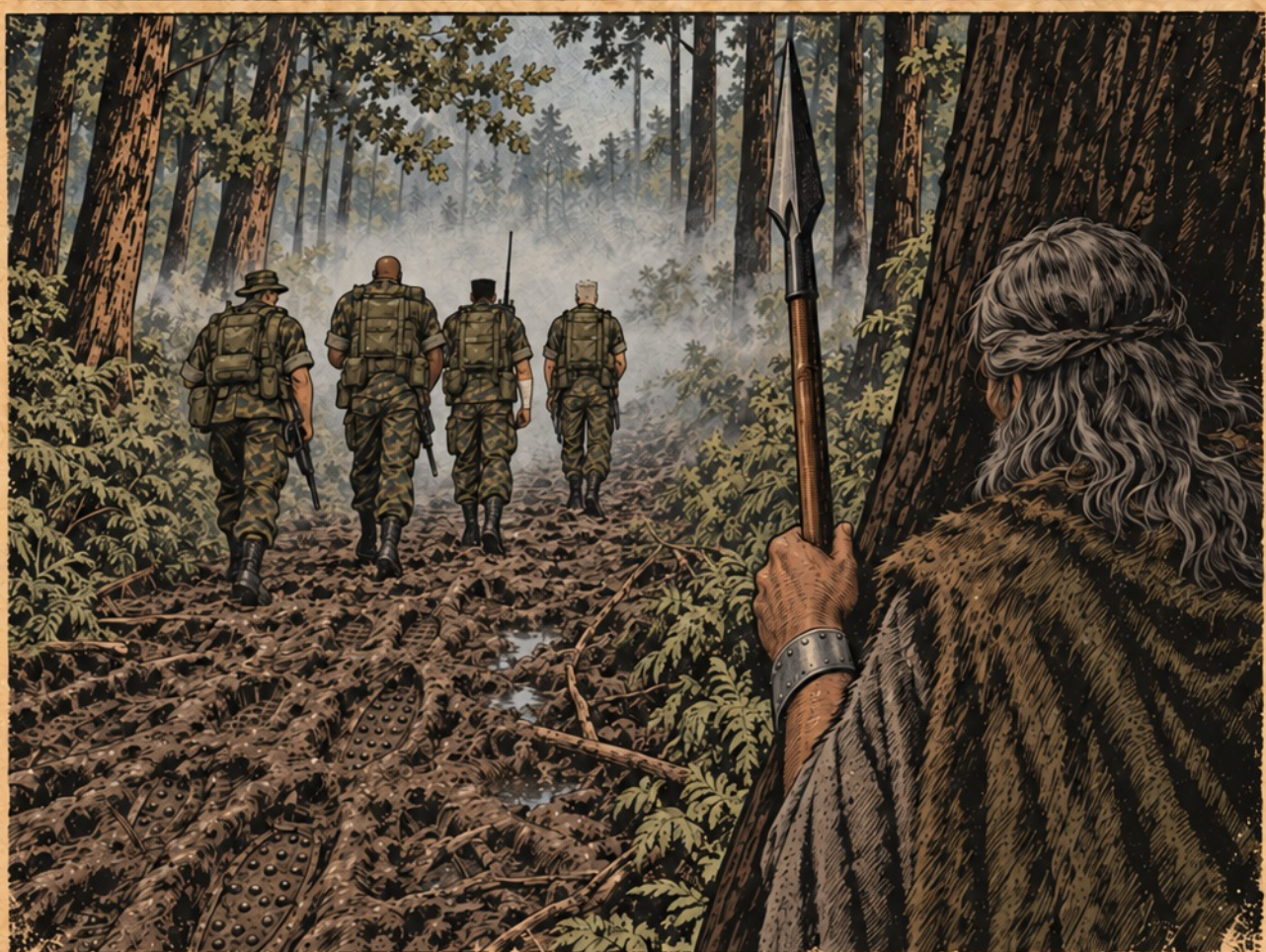


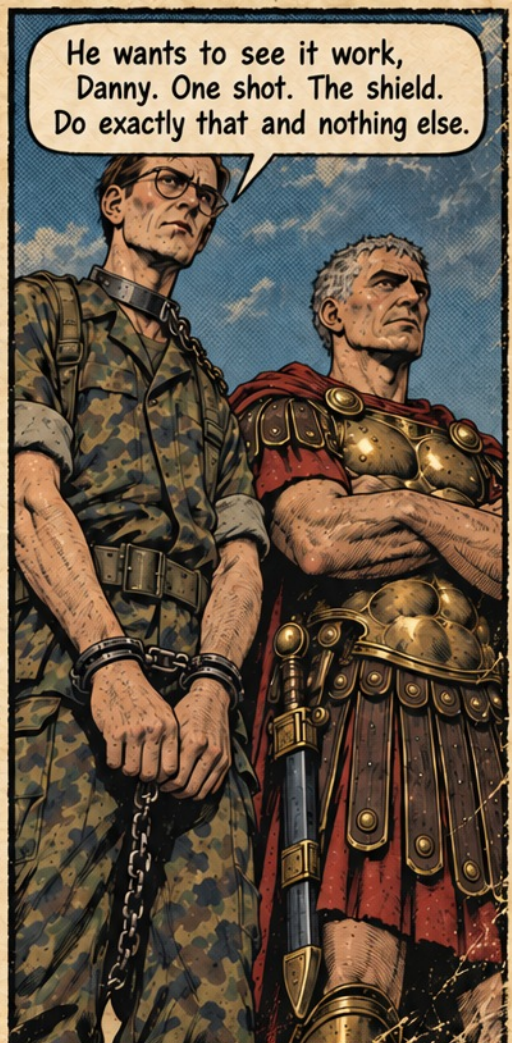


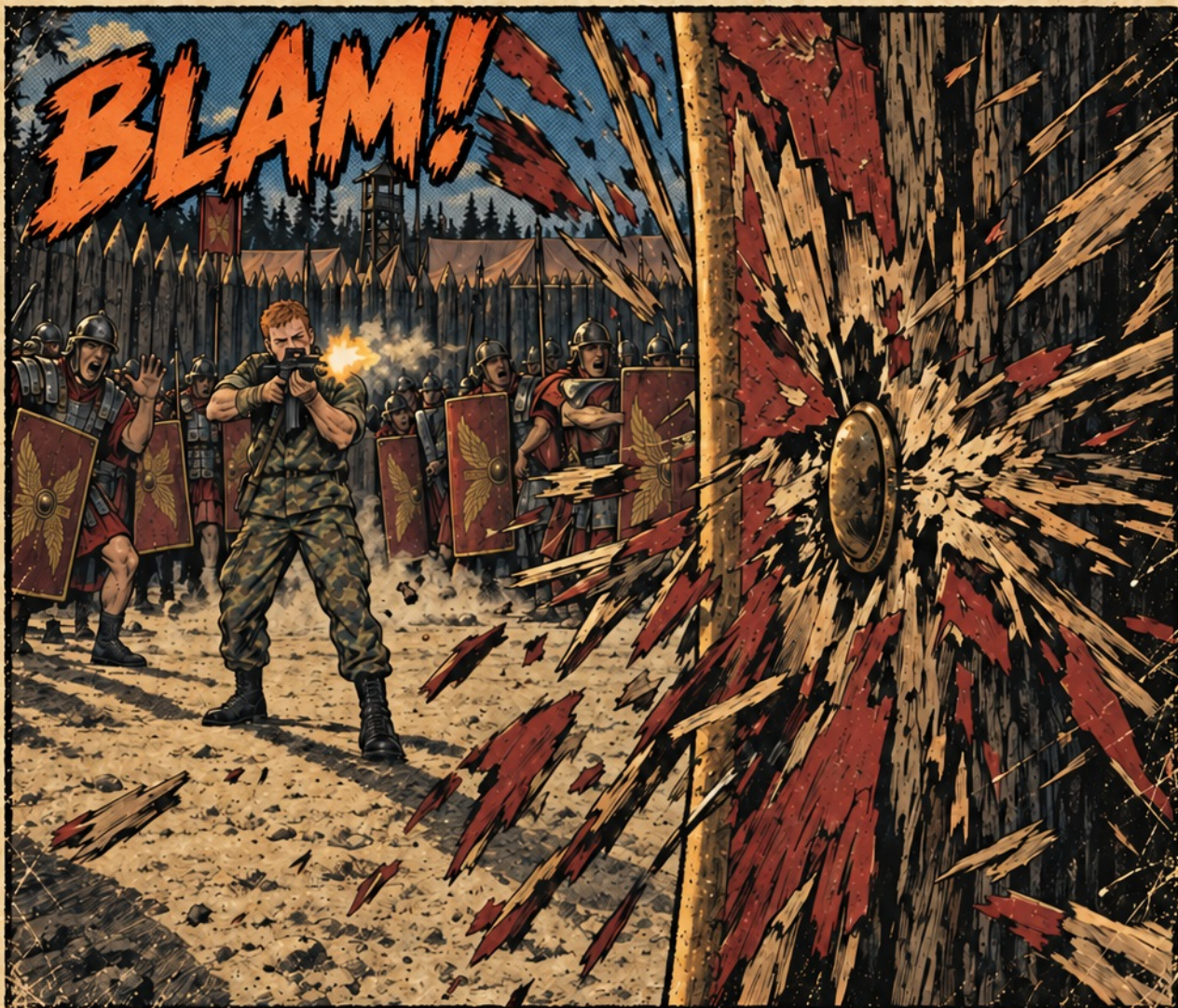
Hobnails.
Thousands. All
one direction.



And three pairs
of jump boots.
Short steps.
They're chained.









NEXT: SURROUNDED

WHAT'S IN THE CASE?

Seven men. One sealed steel case. No keyhole, no hinges, not on the manifest. Rourke won't let anyone blow it open. We won't either.



YOU TELL US! Best guesses printed in a future issue.*

THIS MONTH'S ENTRIES

"It's not what's in the case. It's what the case is in."

— Professor H. Lind, Ann Arbor, Mich.

"Your 1985 tax return. Audited."

— Mrs. D. Kowalski, Erie, Pa.

"Another, smaller case."

— Name withheld, Fort Bragg, N.C.

"An eldritch horror from the edge of insanity."

— Marcy, 9, Duluth, Minn.

"Whatever it is, don't shake it."

— A. Reader, Tucson, Ariz.



OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

My guess is _____

Name _____ Age _____

Mail to: THE CASE, Box 16, RAZORWICK.COM

**The editors know what's in the case. The editors are not telling. Do not send C4.*