

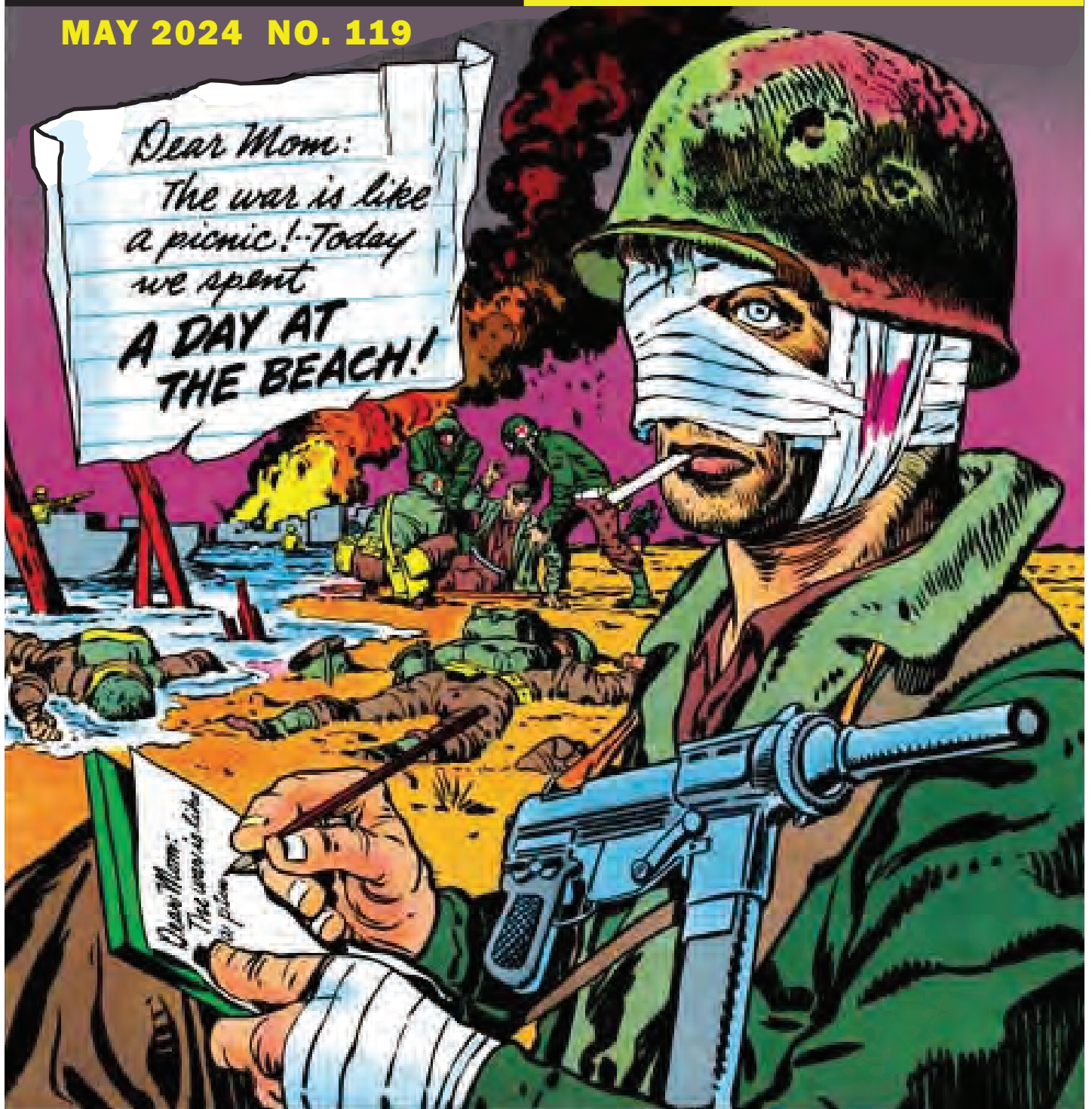
741.5

SIMON & KIRBY'S MAINLINE: THE GUYS IN THE

FOXHOLE

AND OTHER ADVENTURES IN LOVE & WAR
PLUS...MILITARY COVER GALLERY

MAY 2024 NO. 119



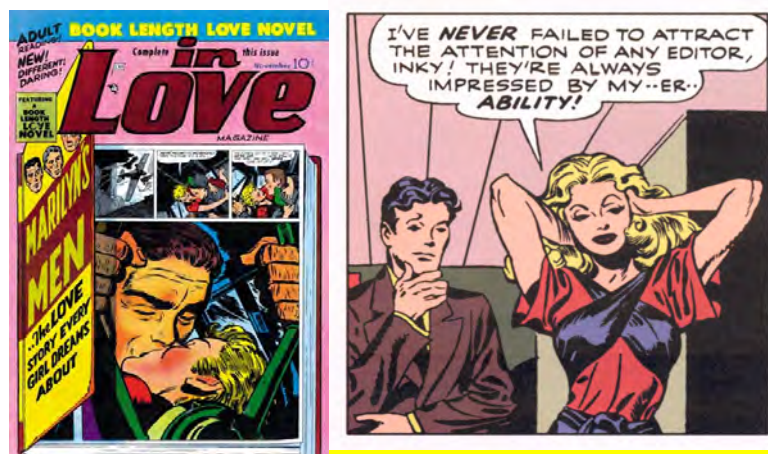
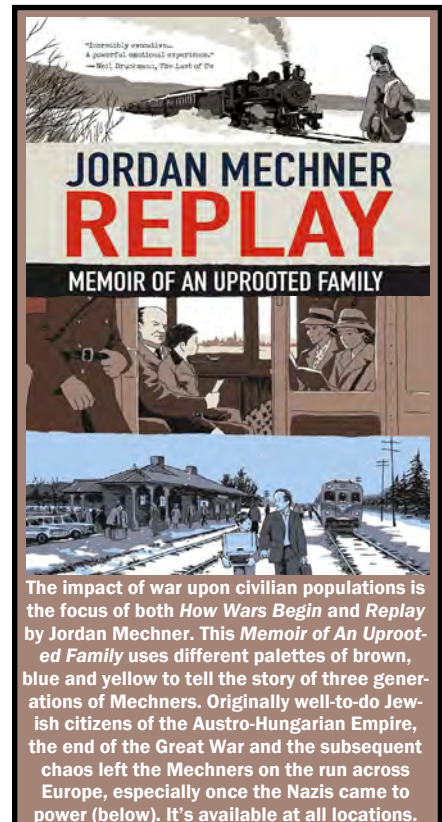
The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



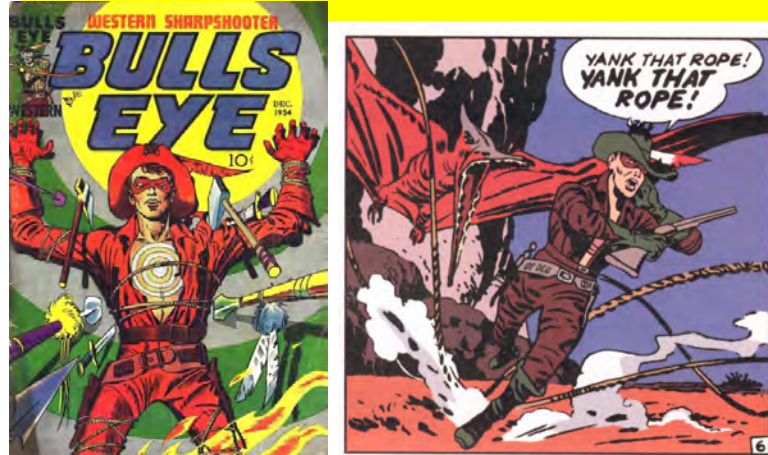
Long ignored by fans and scholars, most war comics molder away in forgotten long boxes. But recently, efforts have been made to swing the spotlight over to the four color battlefield. Classic stories from the genre's heyday in the early 1950s can be found in the Dark Horse reprints of the EC titles *Two-Fisted Tales* and *Frontline Combat* while their worthy competitors at Atlas are compiled in Dr. Vassallo's impressive tome. Silver Age *Sergeants Rock* and *Fury* are represented in new work and reprints, while Warren Publications' fabled *Blazing Combat* joins Jacque Tardi's harrowing account of World War One *Goddamn This War* in showing the reality of combat. Get 'em all at lexpubl.org!



The tumult of the mid-1950s comics biz presented Golden Age hit makers Joe Simon & Jack Kirby with a chance to be their own bosses. Mainline Comics was their imprint. TwoMorrrows reprints those stories featuring the pair's own contributions. The most Kirbyesque of



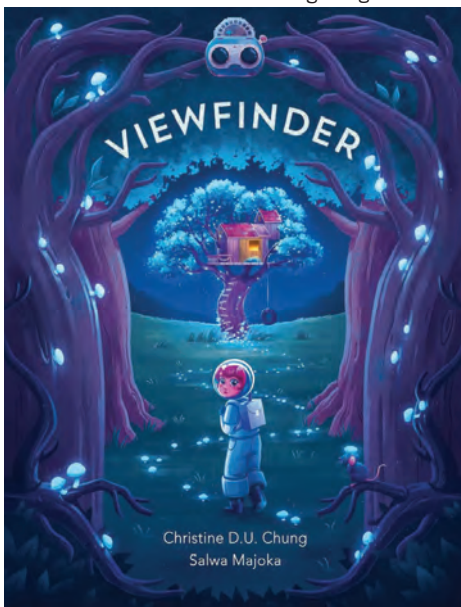
Mainline books, Western mysteryman *Bulls Eye* battled outlaws, Indians and the occasional pterodactyl. *In Love* saw the boys expanding on the genre they introduced to comics. *Foxhole* presented the true stories of actual veterans, while *Police Trap* did the same for cops.



741.5 CELEBRATES MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH WITH A GALLERY OF WAR COMICS COVERS DEDICATED TO OUR FIGHTING MEN AND WOMEN



They are the Justice Society of America, the world's first super-team, and they're back! And back again! And again! And back one more time, in the future patrolled by the Legion of Super-heroes! Oops! Turns out that's one comeback too many as everybody, beginning with the latest Doctor Fate, dies horribly! Thus begins a fall of dominos across the decades as someone with intimate knowledge of the JSA and its strengths and weaknesses attacks its various incarnations across the years. The ultimate prey? The original Round Table! Who can track a killer who rides the tides of time. None but the Huntress! The original Earth-2 Huntress, Helena Wayne is the daughter of the Batman and Catwoman, haunted since childhood by visions of the Time Killer and now ready to end his reign of terror. First she must save Doctor Fate— all of them! And whither the Lost Children? *The New Golden Age* begins in this



MEANWHILE

hardback compilation of DC's ongoing *Justice Society of America* title available at Beaumont and Central. Speaking of lost children, one little miss goes for a spin around the Solar System and just happens to stumble across the third planet from the sun. There our intrepid spacegirl finds an abandoned civilization. And judging from the evidence, everybody had to leave in a hurry. Is the glowing blue mushrooms, maybe? They start popping up in the pictures found on the Viewmaster reel our heroine finds, the only real evidence of the Earth's once-thriving civilization. The real world lives in a haze of blue, the pix of the past cast in a sepia tone. There are animals—many of them living in the old library our heroine finds—but they're all festooned with the mushroom. As is the cat whose existence argues for that of an owner. Spacegirl goes digging (literally) deeper for answers in this pantomime comic for kids exquisitely rendered by **Christine D.U. Chung** (drawing) and **Salwa Majoka** (coloring). *Viewfinder* can be found at all locations.



Meanwhile, a strong brush line given contour and mass by well-placed ink wash is the chosen means of **Graham Chaffee** in his newest graphic novel, *Light It Shoot It* (Fantagraphics). Monochrome must have been a form of relief, or perhaps a challenge, to the artist, given he pays his rent as the owner of Purple Panther Tattoo in Los Angeles. The 1970s setting must have been a nice getaway from the overbuilt modernization of contemporary L.A. Set in the low budget end of the film industry, *LISI* concerns two brothers. The straight one had a job as a production assistant on the vampire movie starring their uncle, the actor. The other brother just got let out of jail and kicked out of town for his thing for matches. He ends up the personal assistant, which is to say "babysitter," for the same uncle, a very thinly disguised riff on Hollywood hell raiser, Lawrence Tierney. There's a lot of back office shenanigans involving the producers and the muggs who work for the money mark, which end up sweeping both brothers into a blazing web of deceit and disaster. Candidly, if *Light It Shoot It* sounds an lot like **Sammy Harkham's** *Blood of the Virgin* (see 741.5 #105), it does. Only



simpler, a Hardcase Crime paperback to **Harkham's** Penguin Modern. Speaking of déjà vu, weren't we just talking about Stephen Strange being dead, like, just five issues ago? Ah, but that was then (the '90s!), and this is now. Doc got kilt, so his wife (and when did that happen!?) Clea took over his gig as Sorcerer Supreme. Now he's back, just in time for the happy couple to get an invitation to the wedding of Clea's mom Umar the Unrelenting to the terrible Tiboro, which is hella uncomfortable given they both were involved in Stephen's recent murder. It's just *The Life of Stephen Strange* and it's a really fun read at Central and Marksbury. *Degas & Cassatt* comes from the duo which brought us the wonderful book on **Monet** (see 741.5 #15). *A Solitary Dance* is a deep and affecting study of the lives of both the difficult **Edgar Degas** and his only love, the feisty **Mary Cassatt**. Go to lexpublib.org to reserve!

