



AFTER THE GREAT DEFEATS OF 1942, WHEN WE WERE DONE LICKING OUR WOUNDS, ONE OR TWO BRIGHT SPARKS SAT DOWN TO TRY AND WORK OUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED.



WE'D BEEN BOOTED OUT OF MALAYA, CEYLON, BURMA, EVERYWHERE. "THE JAPS ARE GREAT JUNGLE FIGHTERS," SAID ONE BRIGHT SPARK. "WELL, THEY WOULD BE, WOULDN'T THEY?"

AND THERE WERE MURMURS OF AGREEMENT, ACCOMPANIED BY MUCH SAGE NODDING OF HEADS.



THEN SOMEONE POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE NO JUNGLES IN JAPAN.

THE NODDING STOPPED.



THE REALISATION CAME THAT THE JAPANESE WOULD ALWAYS BE FORMIDABLE, NO MATTER HOW OR WHERE WE MET THEM.

HAVILDAR-MAJOR SINGH?

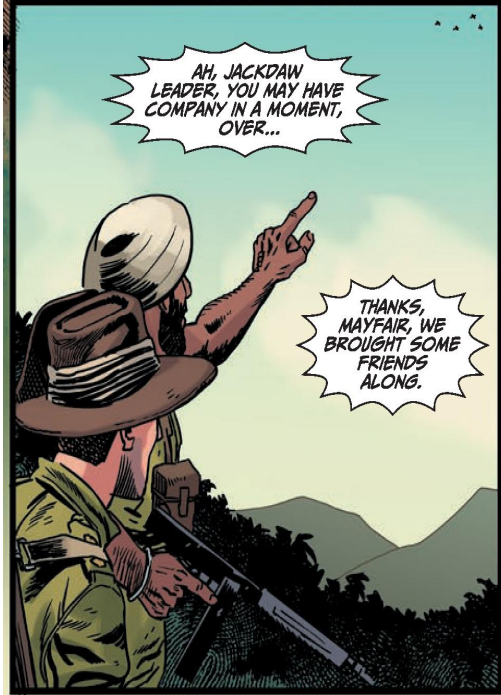
SAHIB?



BE SO GOOD AS TO GIVE THE ORDER TO OPEN FIRE.



WE JUST CAN'T MISS.

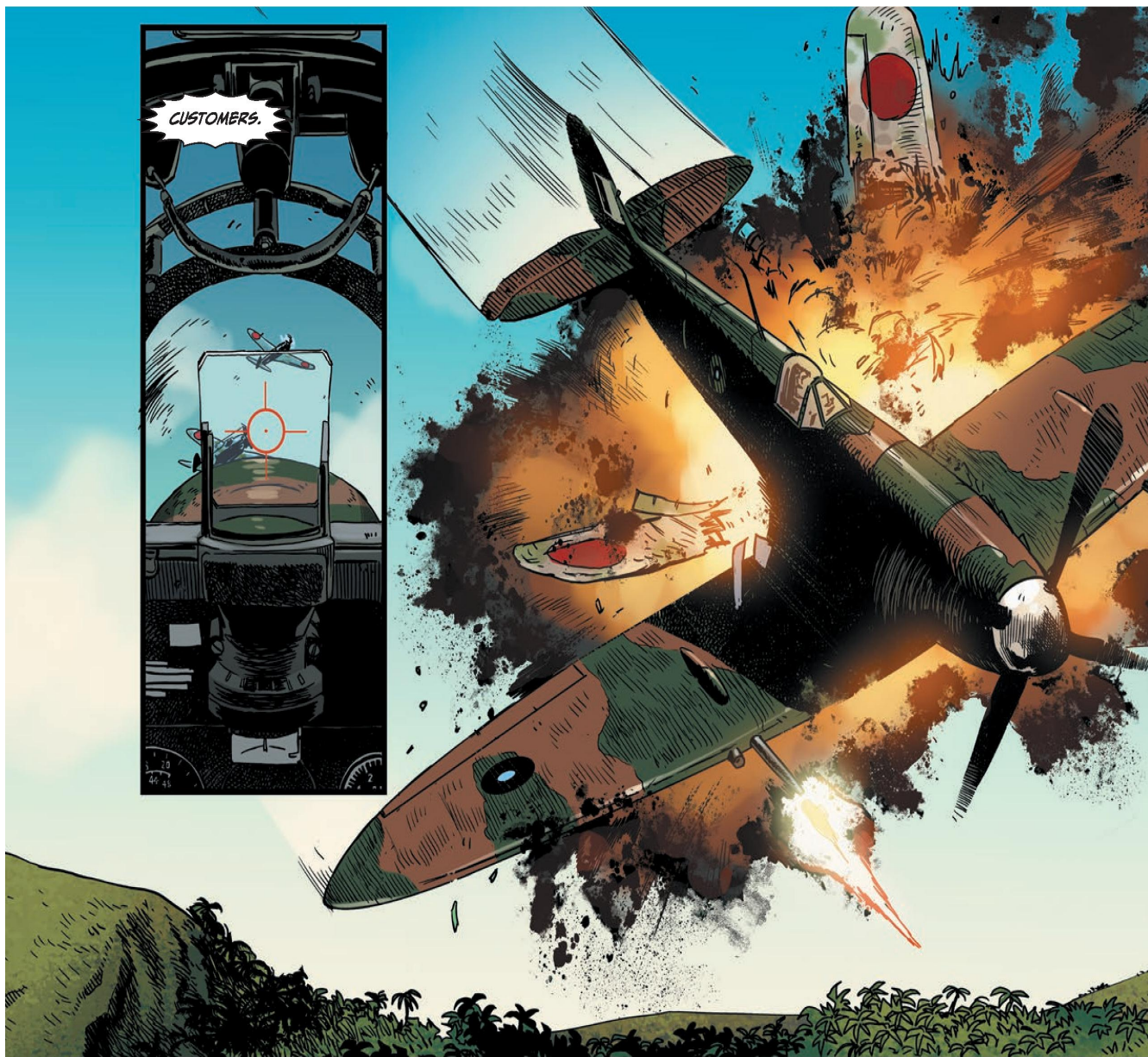


AH, JACKDAW LEADER, YOU MAY HAVE COMPANY IN A MOMENT, OVER...

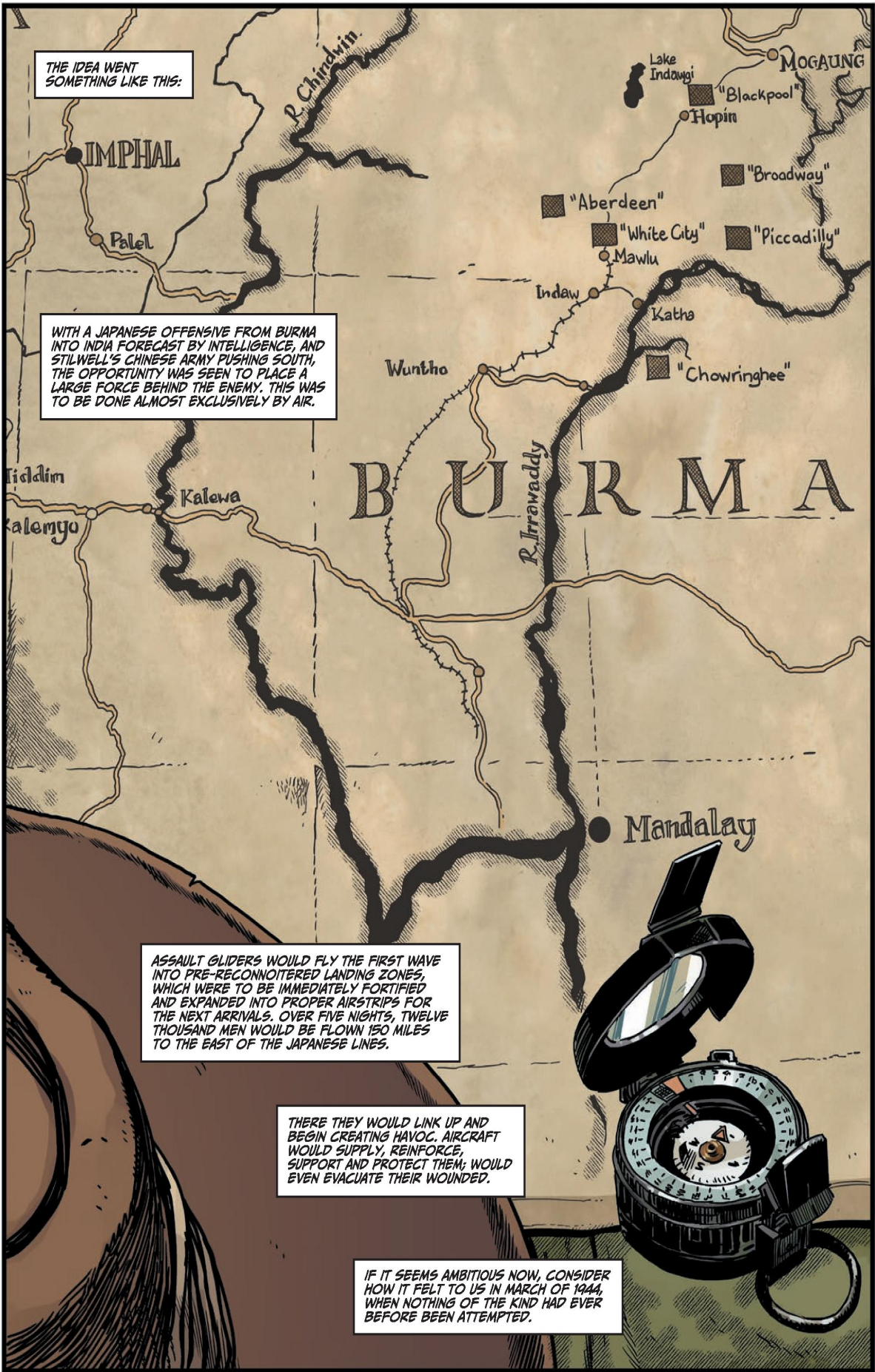
THANKS, MAYFAIR, WE BROUGHT SOME FRIENDS ALONG.



GREYLAG LEADER--







THE IDEA WENT SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

WITH A JAPANESE OFFENSIVE FROM BURMA INTO INDIA FORECAST BY INTELLIGENCE, AND STILWELL'S CHINESE ARMY PUSHING SOUTH, THE OPPORTUNITY WAS SEEN TO PLACE A LARGE FORCE BEHIND THE ENEMY. THIS WAS TO BE DONE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY BY AIR.

ASSAULT GLIDERS WOULD FLY THE FIRST WAVE INTO PRE-RECONNOITERED LANDING ZONES, WHICH WERE TO BE IMMEDIATELY FORTIFIED AND EXPANDED INTO PROPER AIRSTRIPS FOR THE NEXT ARRIVALS. OVER FIVE NIGHTS, TWELVE THOUSAND MEN WOULD BE FLOWN 150 MILES TO THE EAST OF THE JAPANESE LINES.

THERE THEY WOULD LINK UP AND BEGIN CREATING HAVOC. AIRCRAFT WOULD SUPPLY, REINFORCE, SUPPORT AND PROTECT THEM; WOULD EVEN EVACUATE THEIR WOUNDED.

IF IT SEEMS AMBITIOUS NOW, CONSIDER HOW IT FELT TO US IN MARCH OF 1944, WHEN NOTHING OF THE KIND HAD EVER BEFORE BEEN ATTEMPTED.



THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD--



I SHALL NOT WANT! HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES!

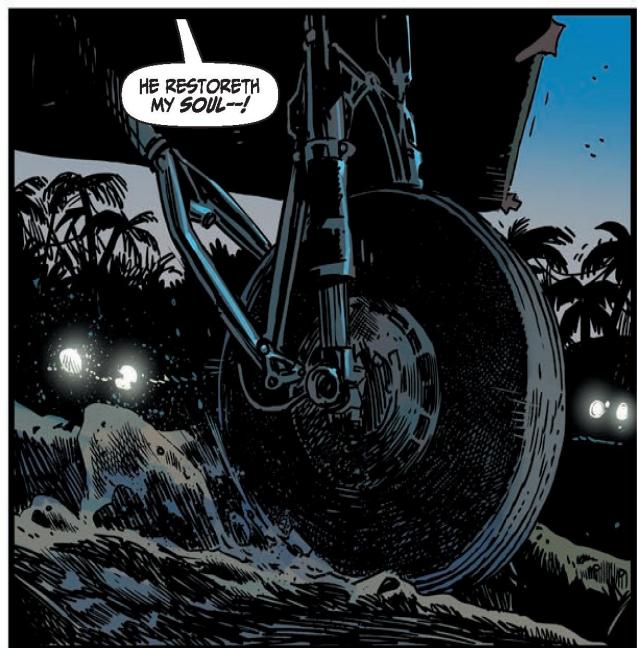
HE LEADETH ME BESIDE THE STILL WATERS!



ALL RIGHT?



OH YES, WONDERFUL. COULDN'T BE BETTER.



HE RESTORETH MY SOUL--!