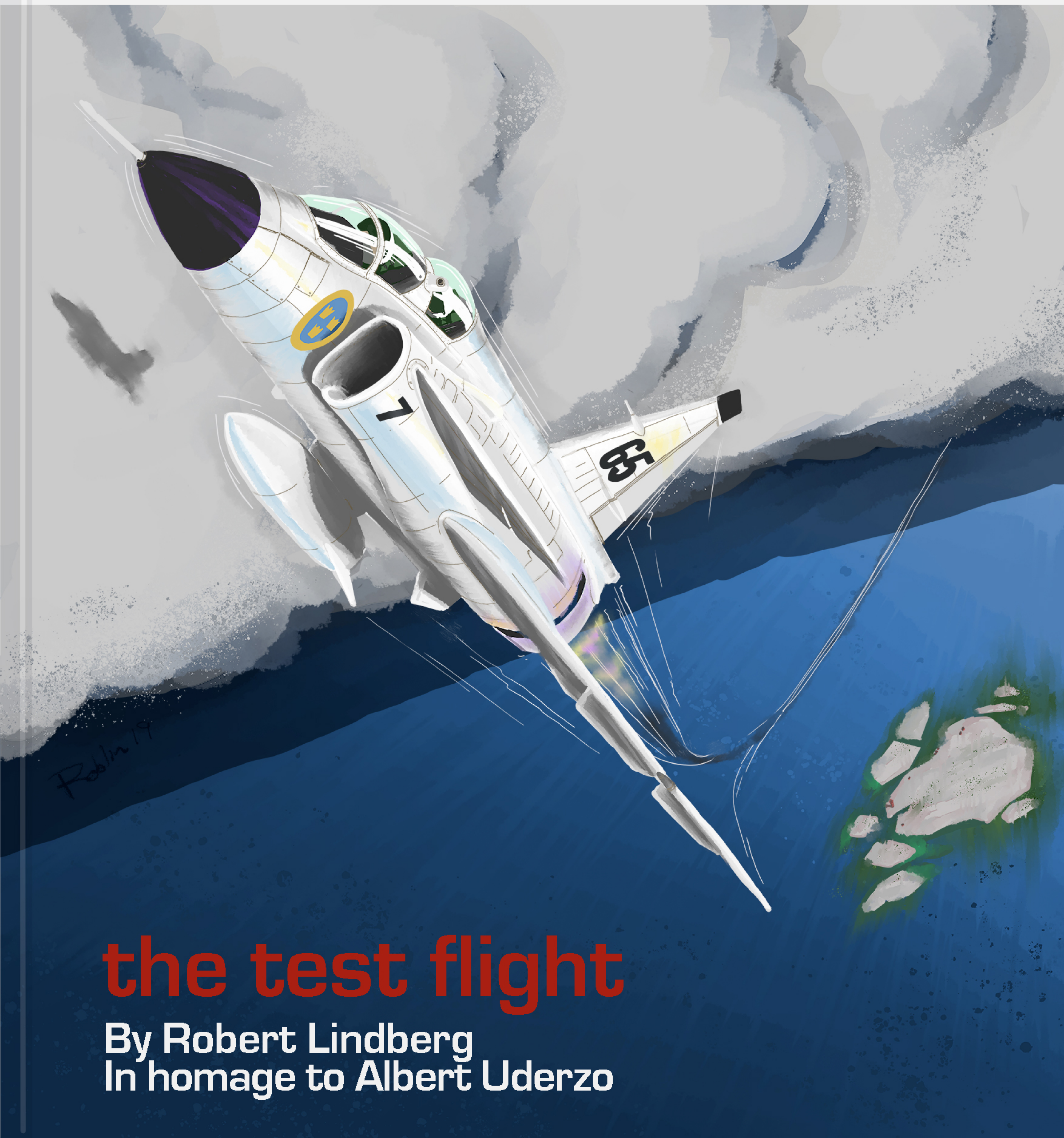


THUNDERBOLT 37

1



the test flight

By Robert Lindberg
In homage to Albert Uderzo

THUNDERBOLT 37

1







Robln 19

the test flight

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THUNDERBOLT 37

the test flight

By Robert Lindberg



Published by

coier press

In homage to Albert Uderzo.

Inspired by the story 'EBK-tänd' published in the
magazine Flygrevyn No 9, 1973.

THUNDERBOLT 37

the test flight

By Robert Lindberg





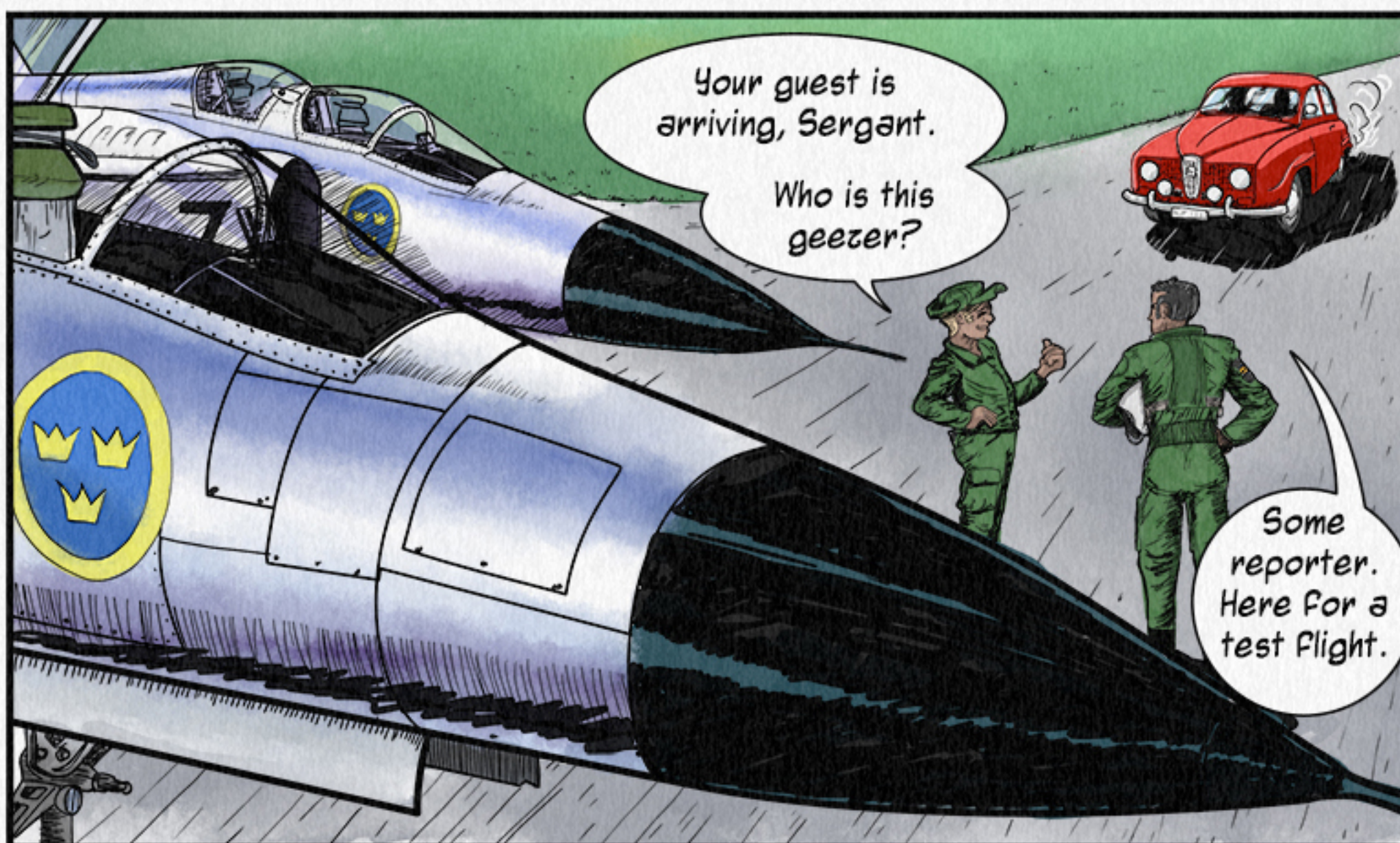
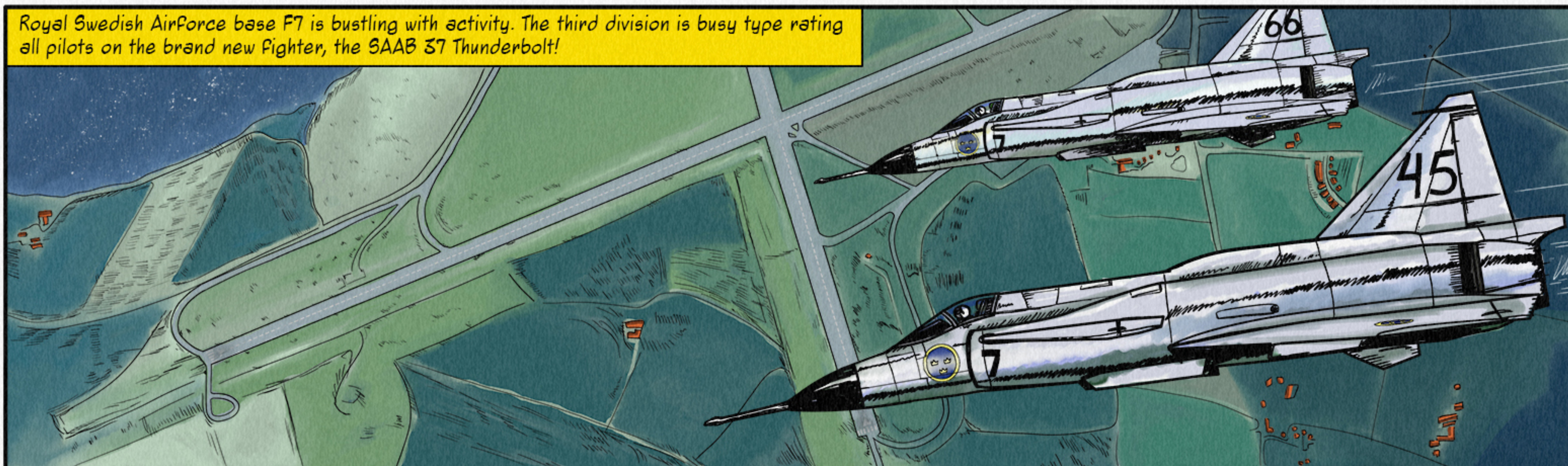
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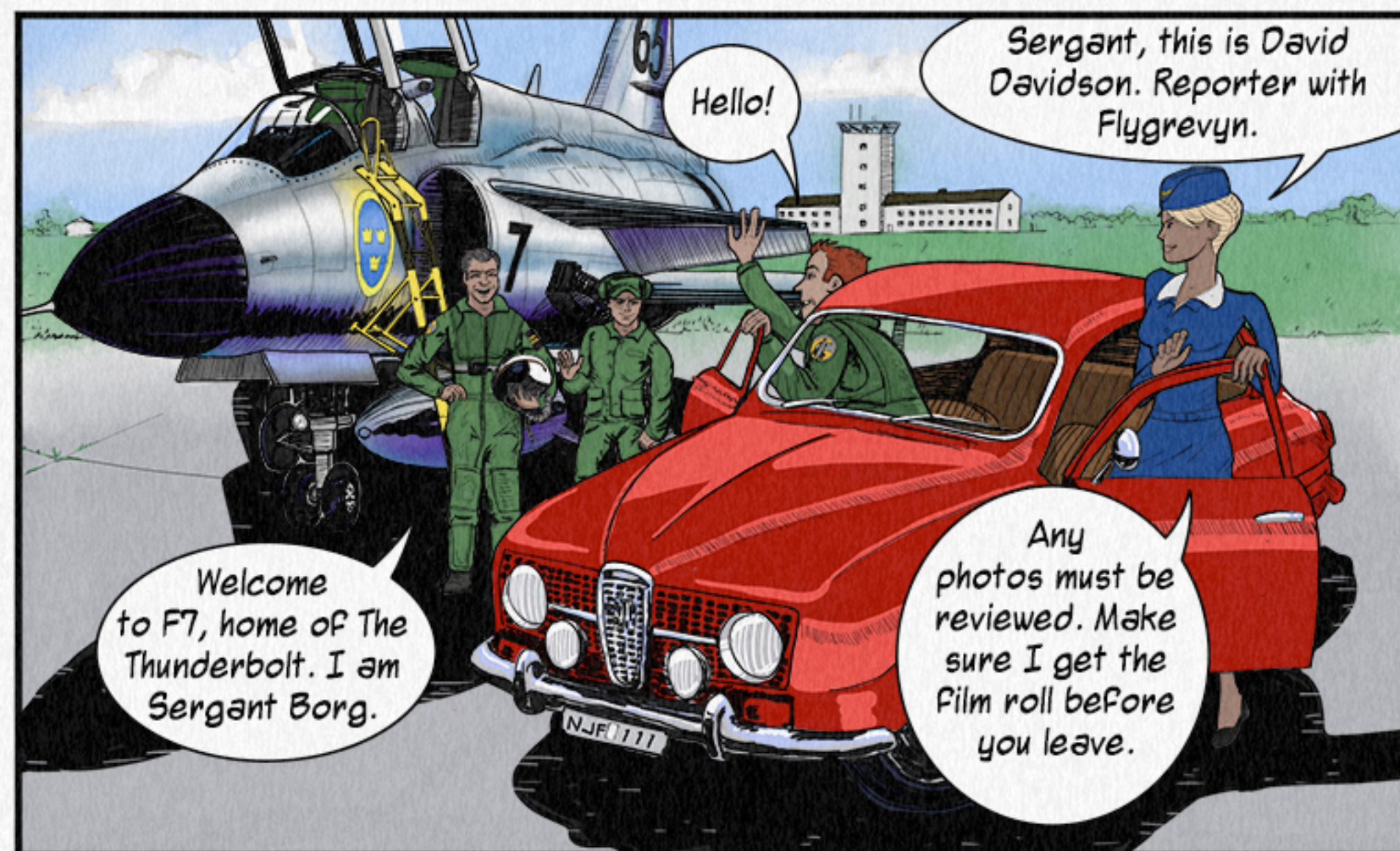
Royal Swedish AirForce base F7 is bustling with activity. The third division is busy type rating all pilots on the brand new Fighter, the SAAB 37 Thunderbolt!



Your guest is arriving, Sergeant.

Who is this geezer?

Some reporter. Here for a test flight.



Hello!

Sergeant, this is David Davidson. Reporter with Flygrevyn.

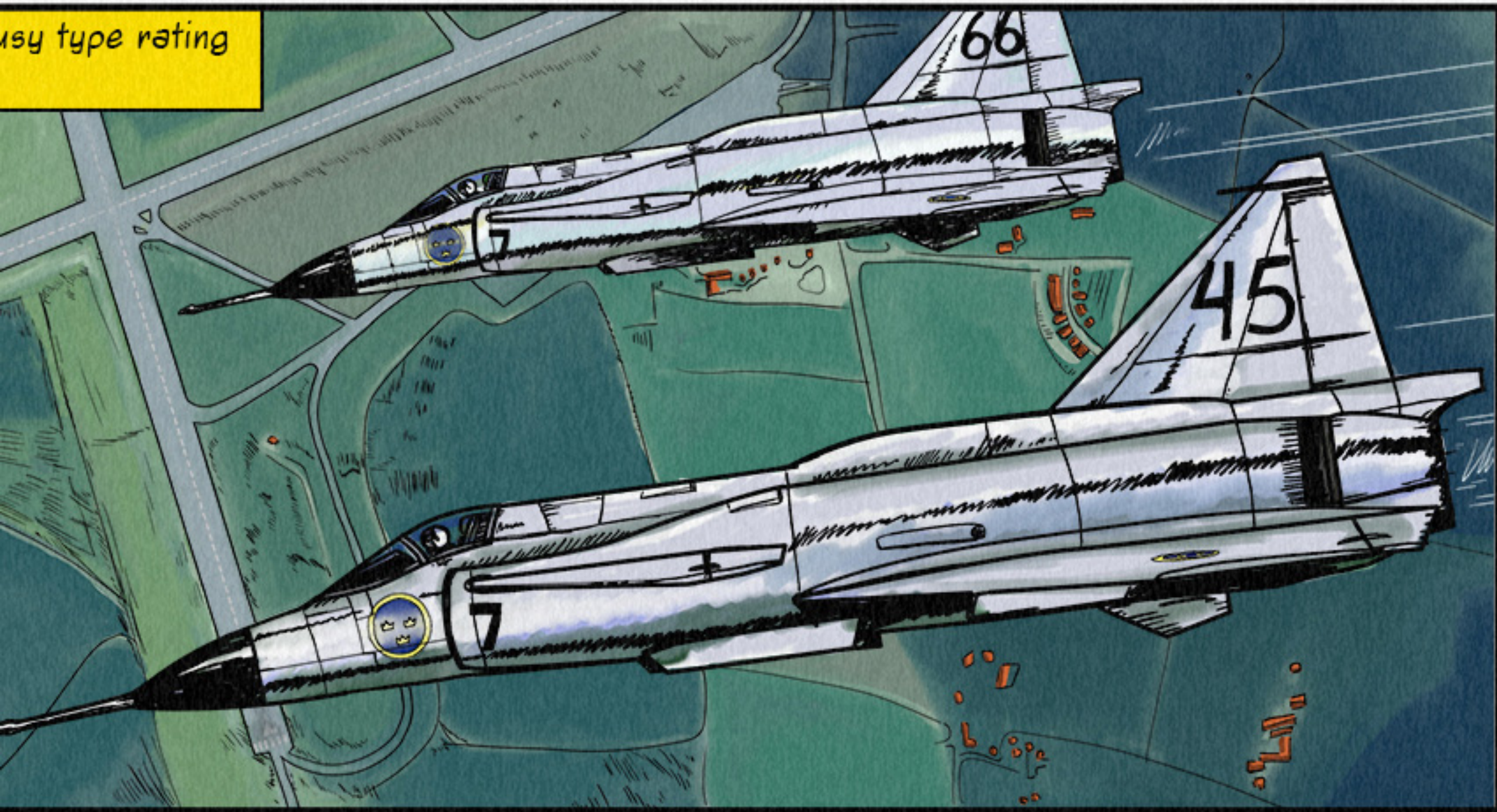
Welcome to F7, home of The Thunderbolt. I am Sergeant Borg.

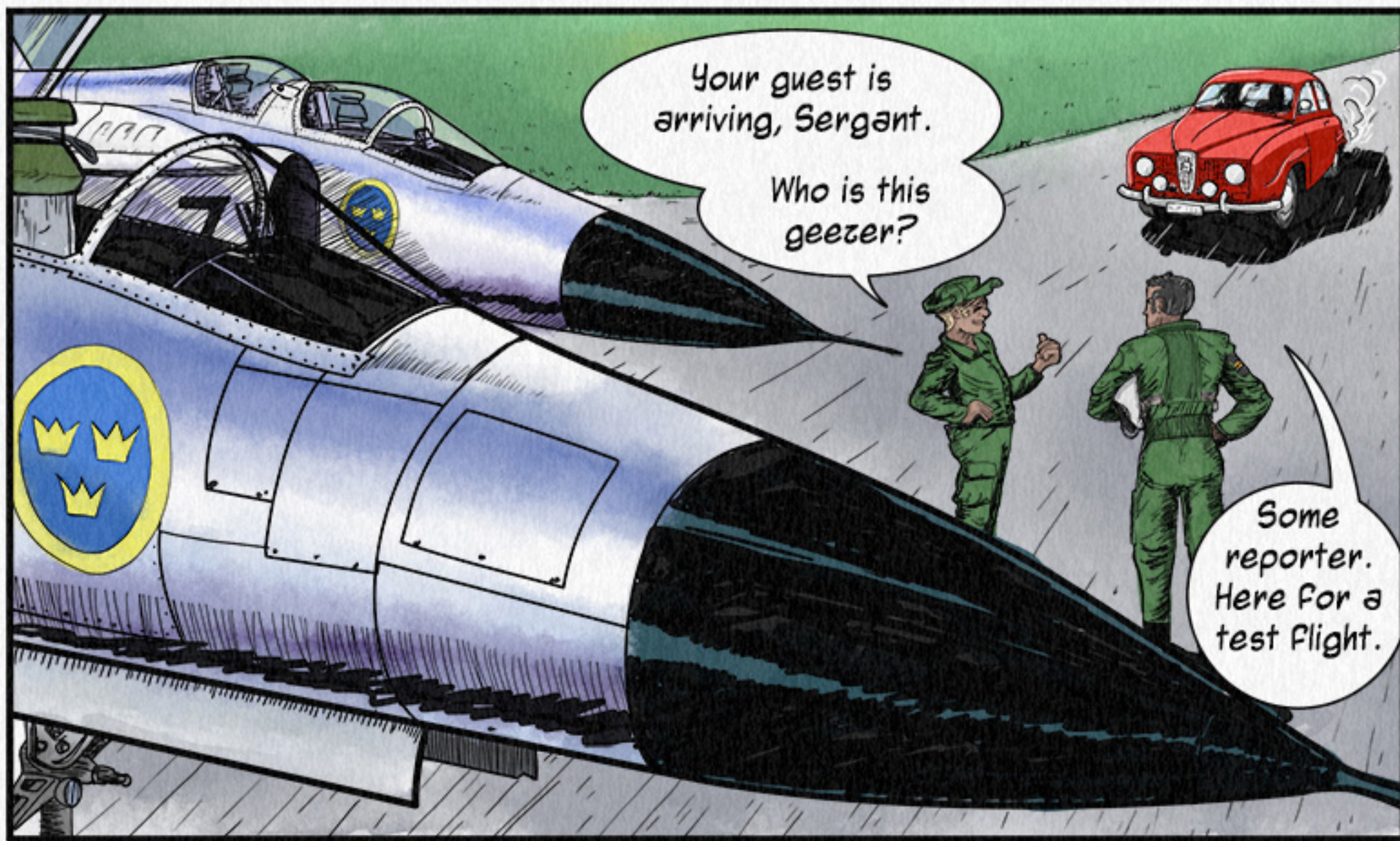
Any photos must be reviewed. Make sure I get the film roll before you leave.

Royal Swedish AirForce base F7 is bustling with activity. The third division is busy type rating all pilots on the brand new fighter, the SAAB 37 Thunderbolt!



easy type rating

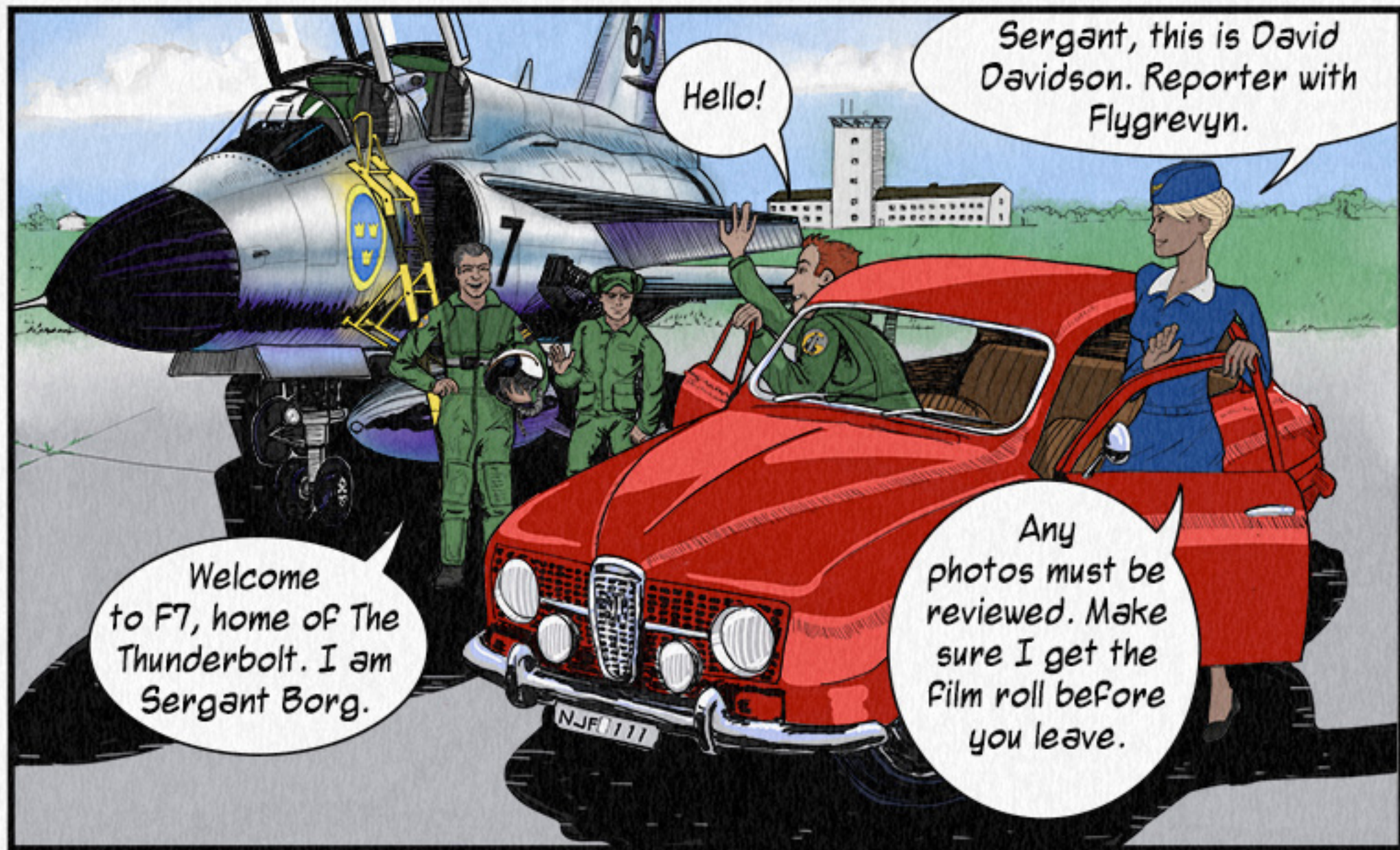


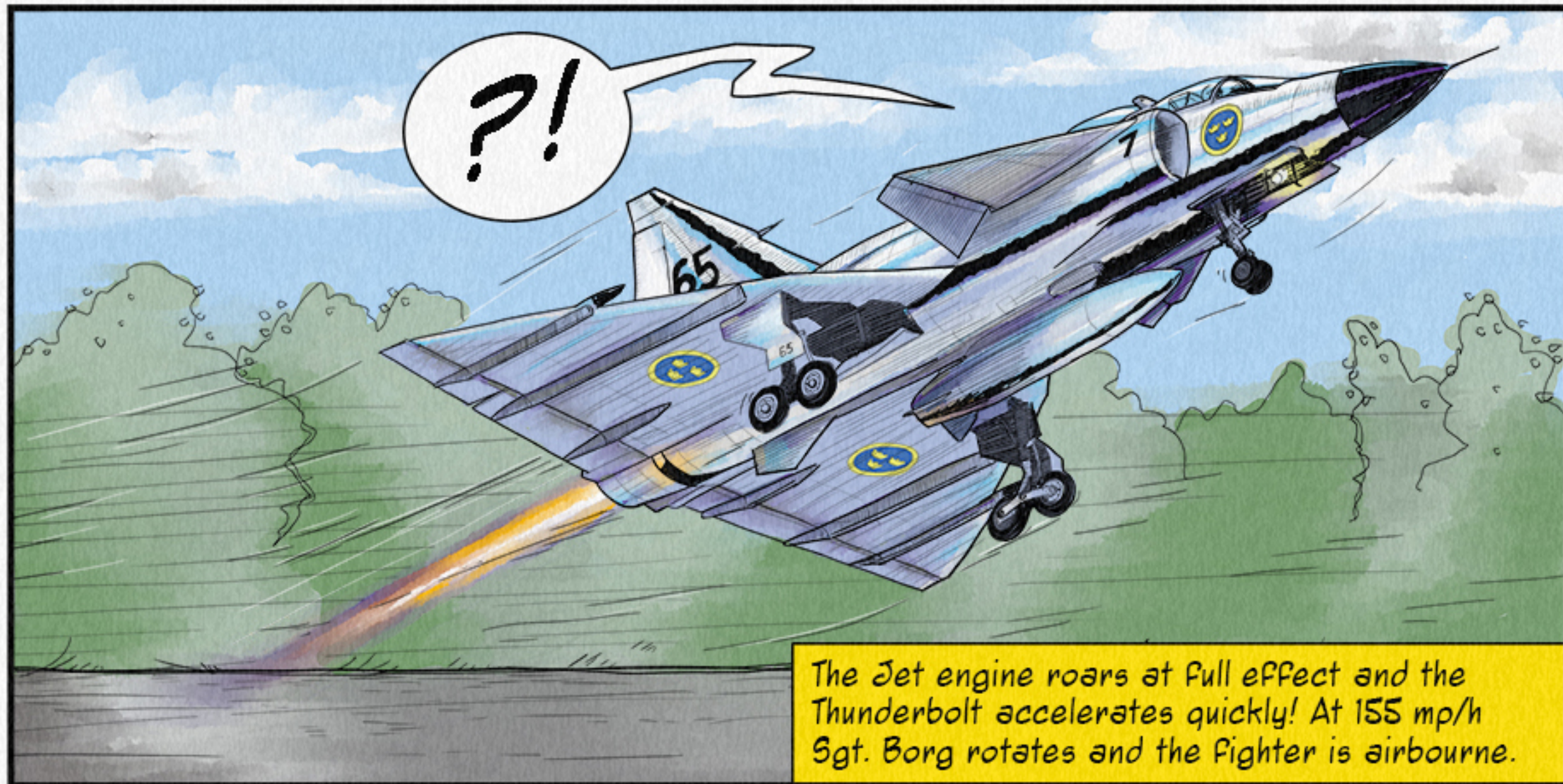
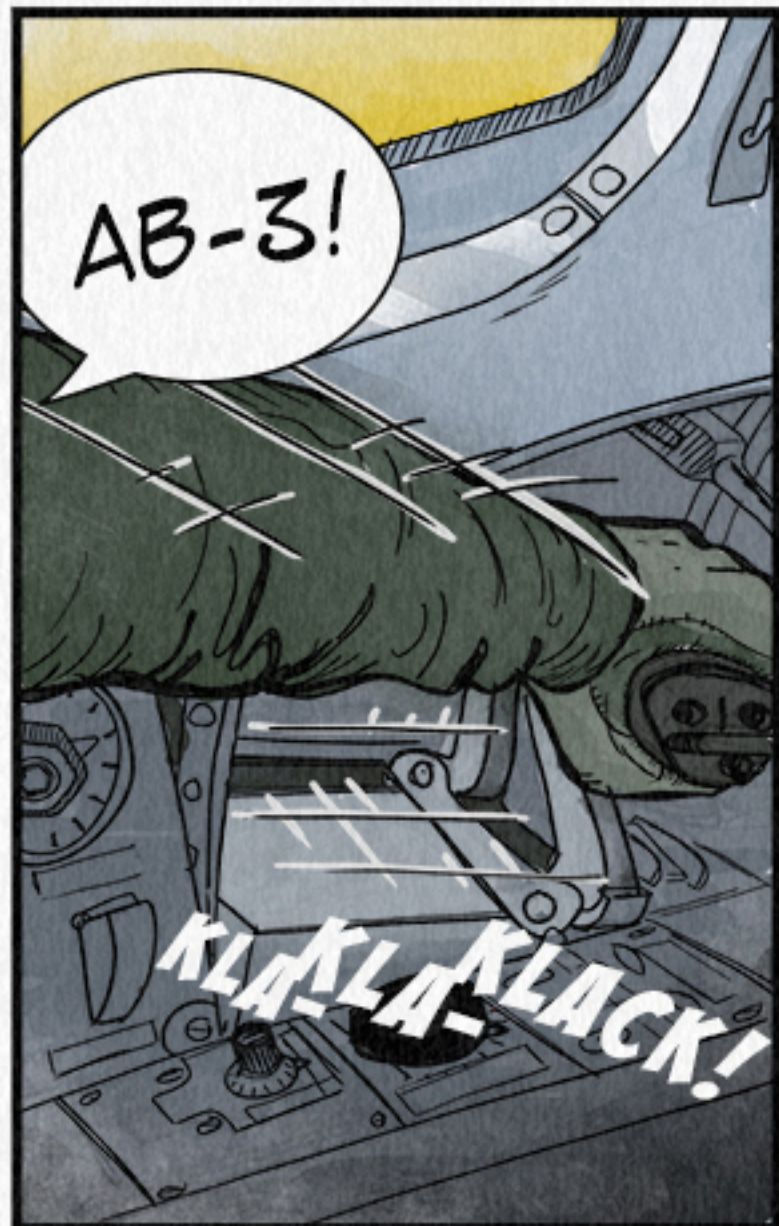
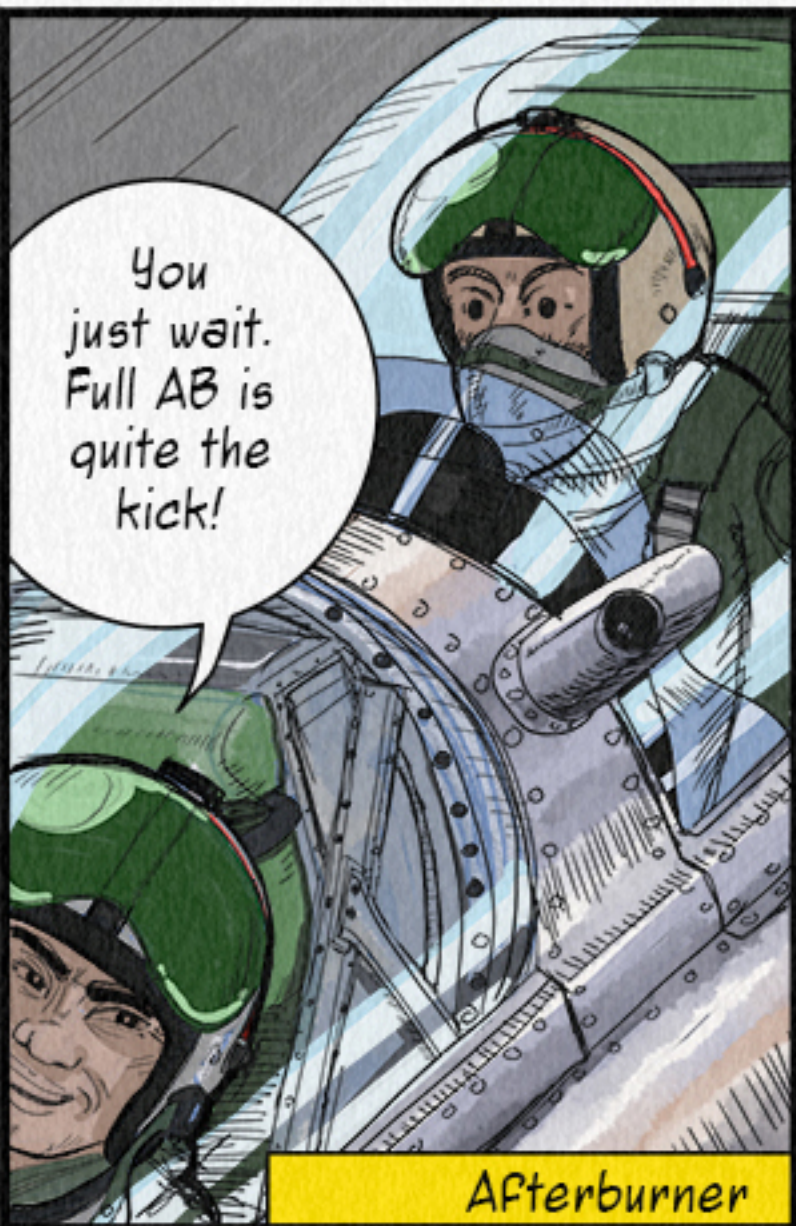
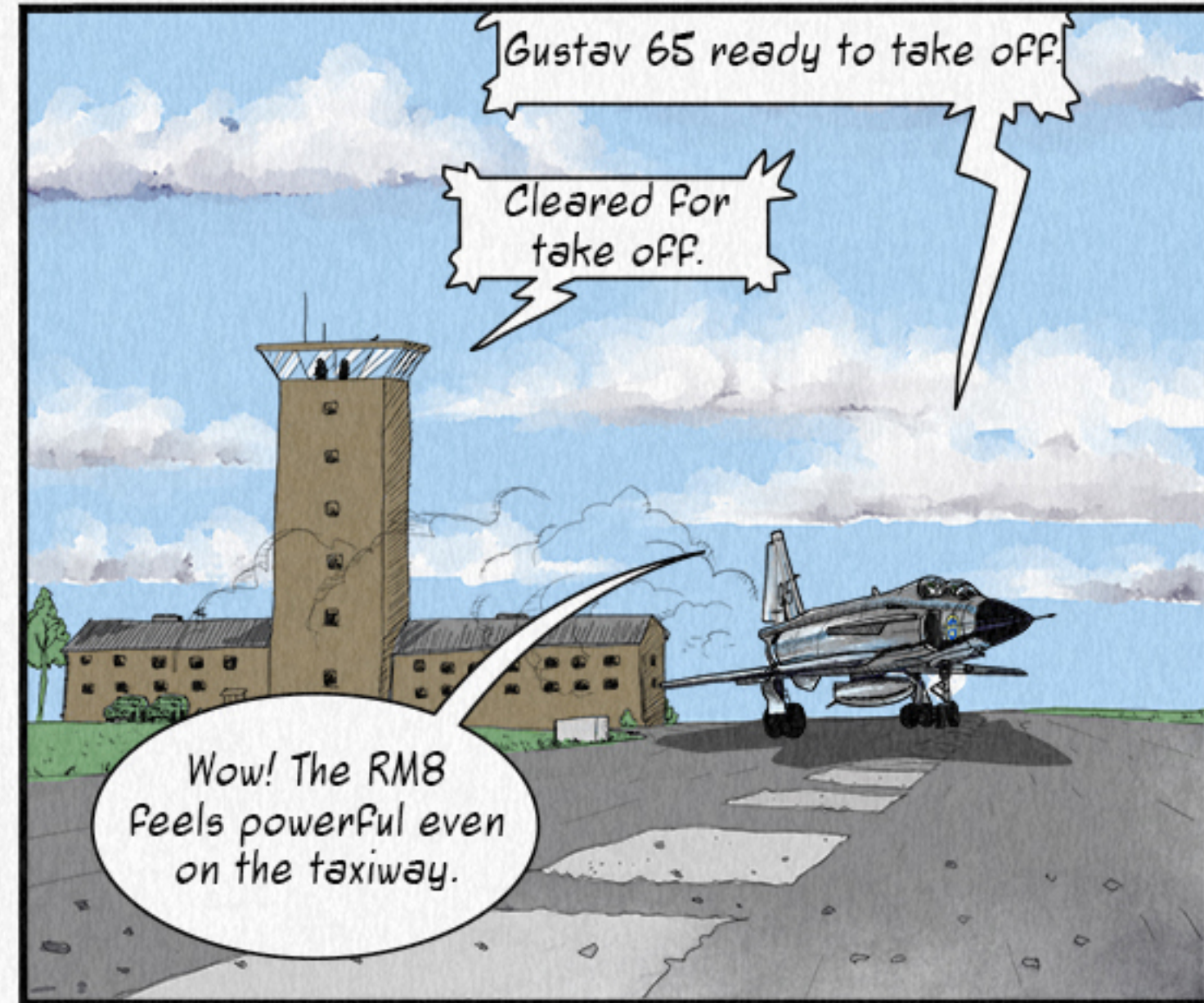
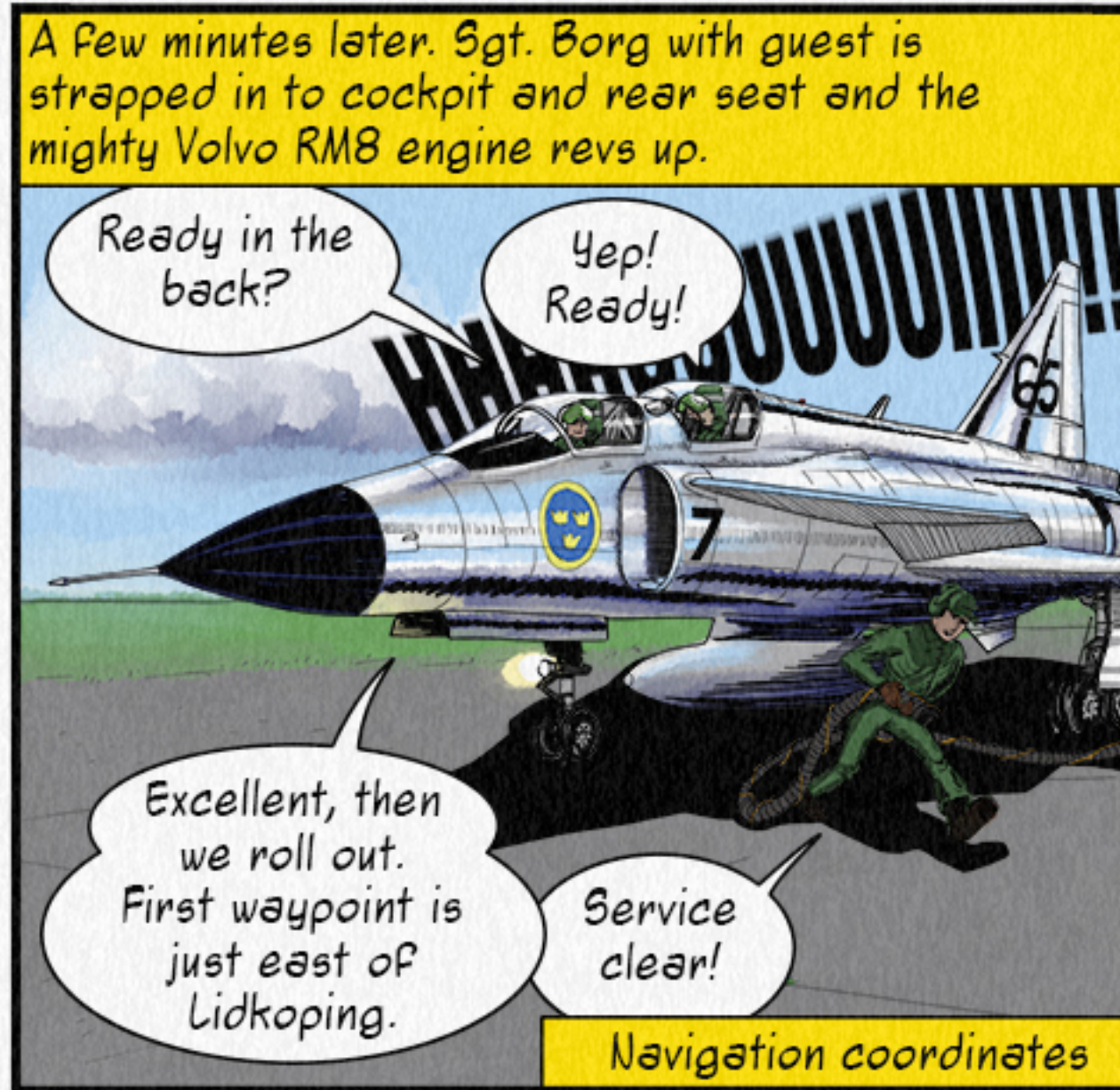
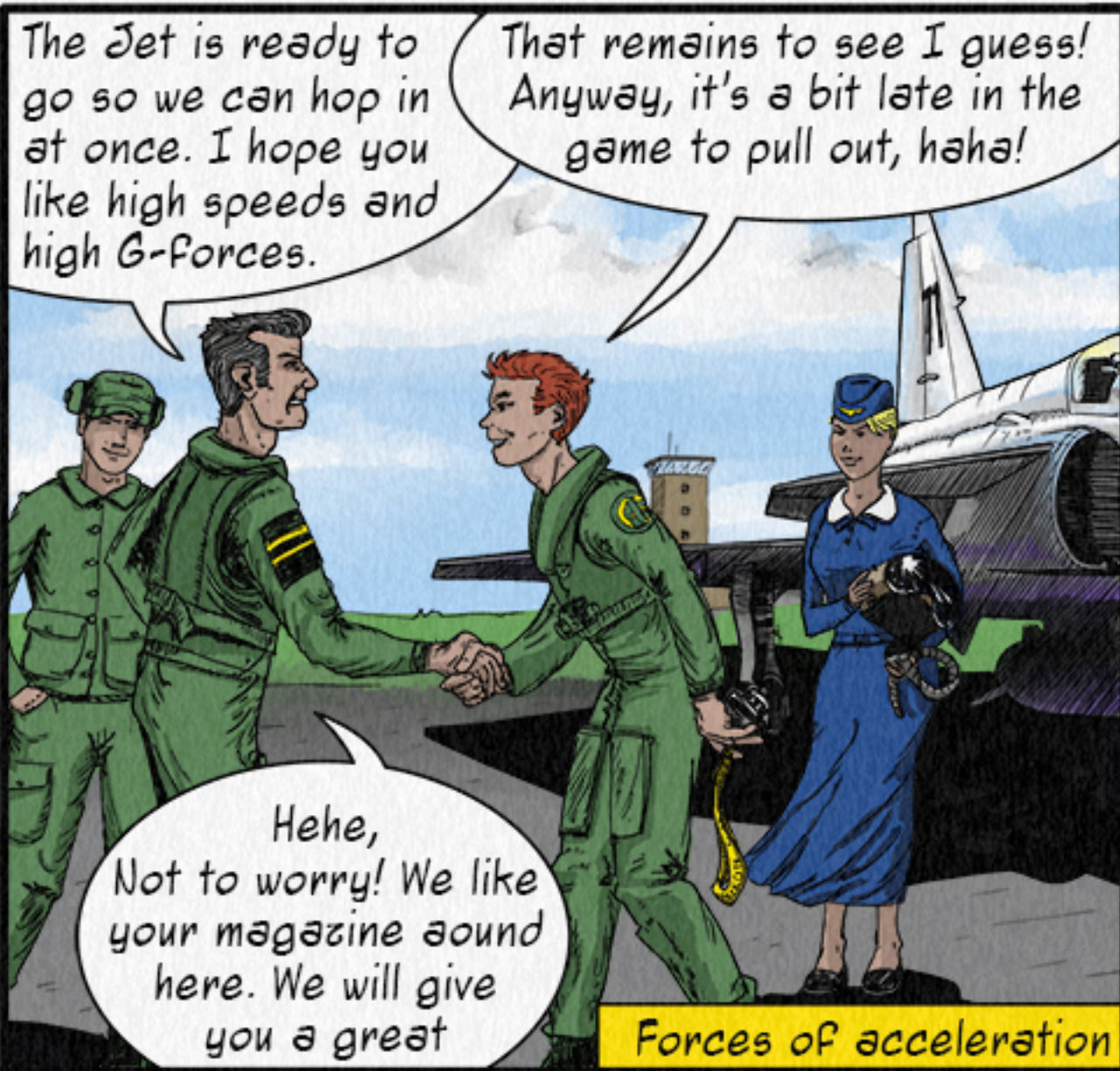


Your guest is
arriving, Sergeant.

Who is this
geezer?

Some
reporter.
Here for a
test flight.





The Jet is ready to go so we can hop in at once. I hope you like high speeds and high G-forces.

That remains to see I guess! Anyway, it's a bit late in the game to pull out, haha!

Hehe,
Not to worry! We like your magazine around here. We will give you a great

Forces of acceleration

A few minutes later
strapped in to a
mighty Volvo RM

Ready in the
back?

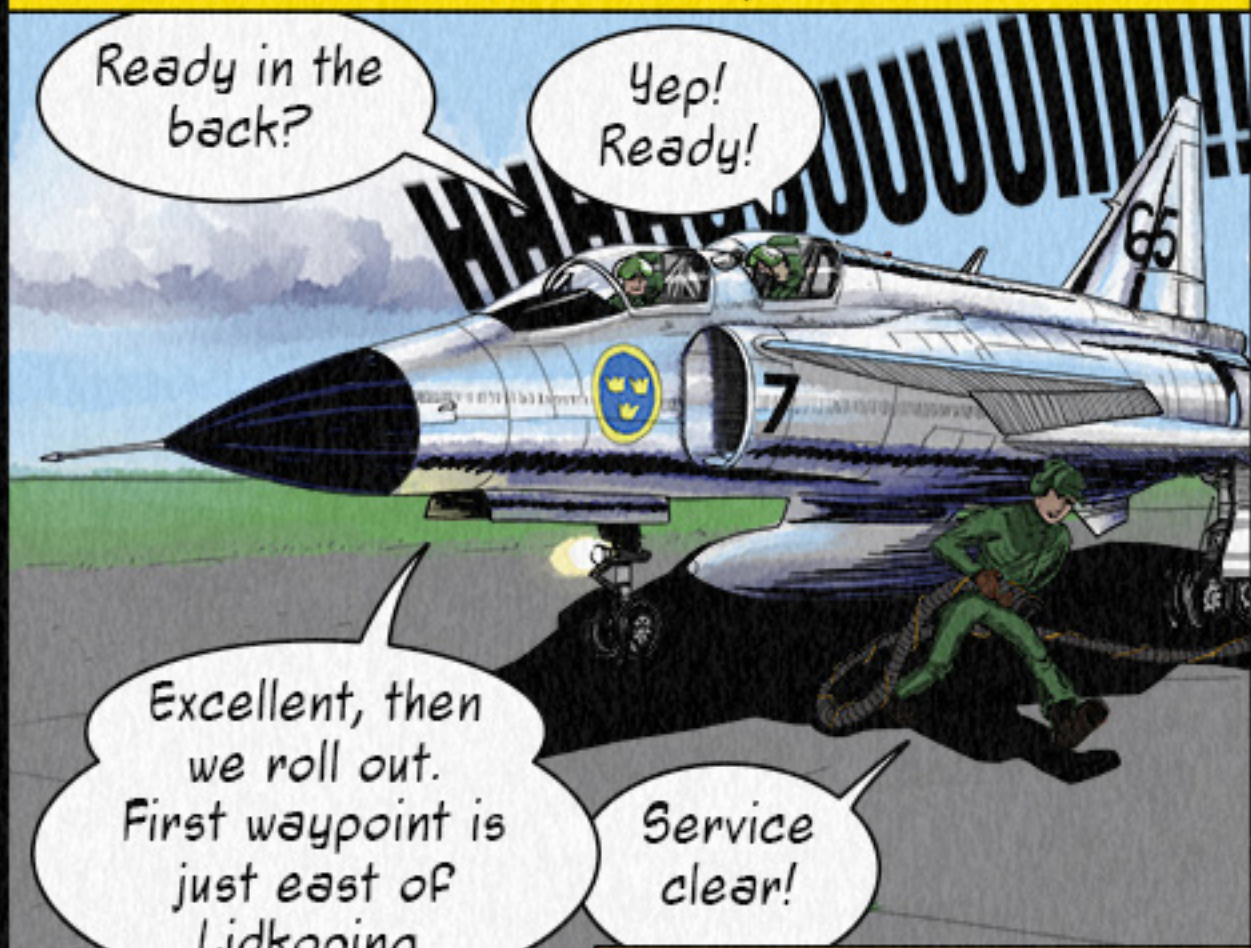
Excellent,
we roll on
First waypoint
just east of
Lidköping

ins to see I guess!
t's a bit late in the
o pull out, haha!



ces of acceleration

A few minutes later. Sgt. Borg with guest is
strapped in to cockpit and rear seat and the
mighty Volvo RM8 engine revs up.



Ready in the
back?

Yep!
Ready!

Excellent, then
we roll out.
First waypoint is
just east of
Lidköping.

Service
clear!

Navigation coordinates

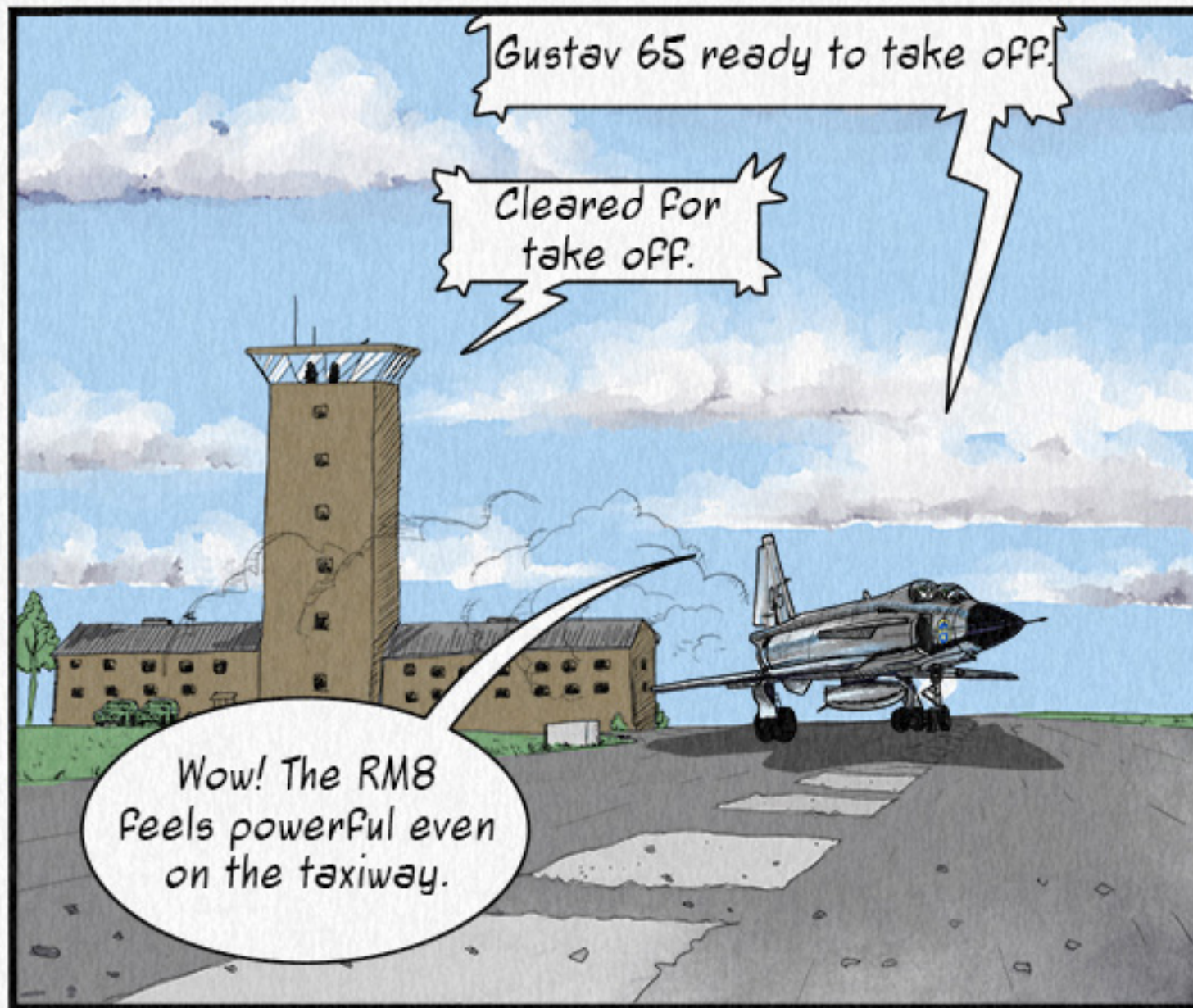


Wow! The RM8
Feels powerful
on the taxiway

quest is
at and the



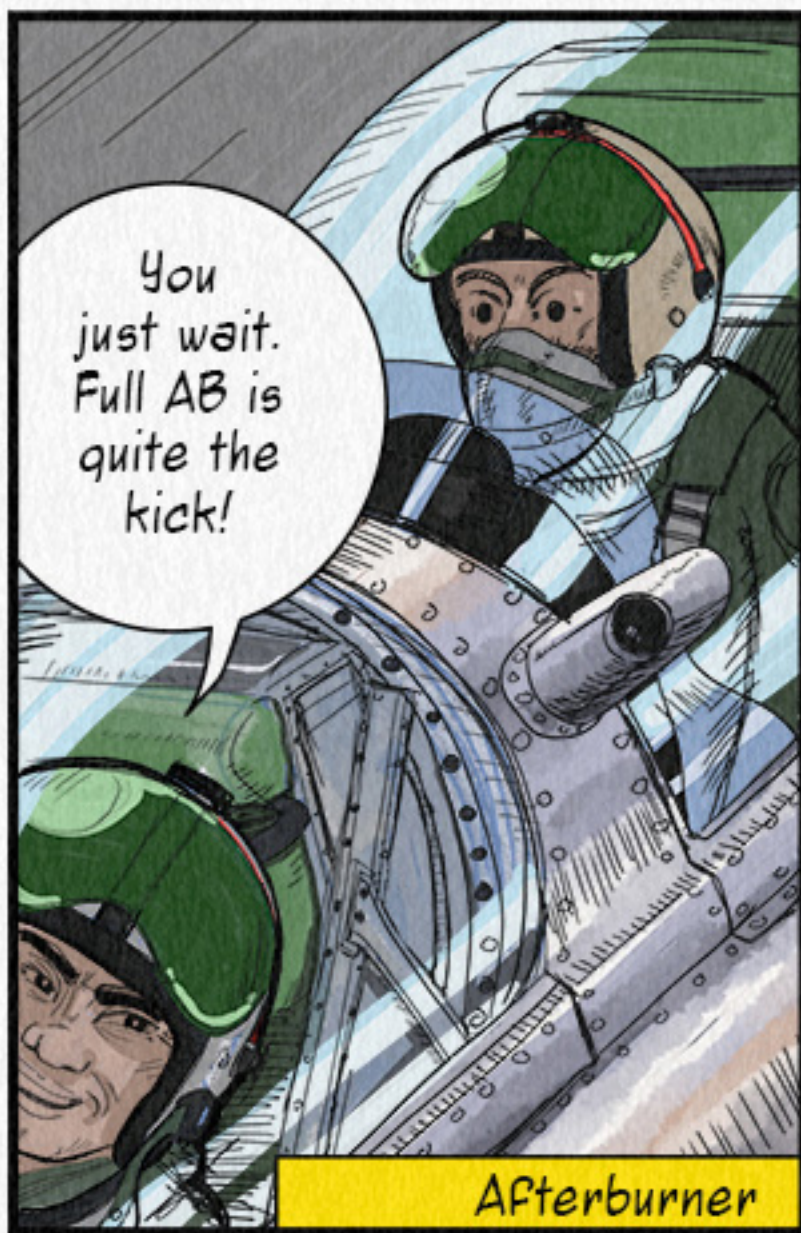
ion coordinates

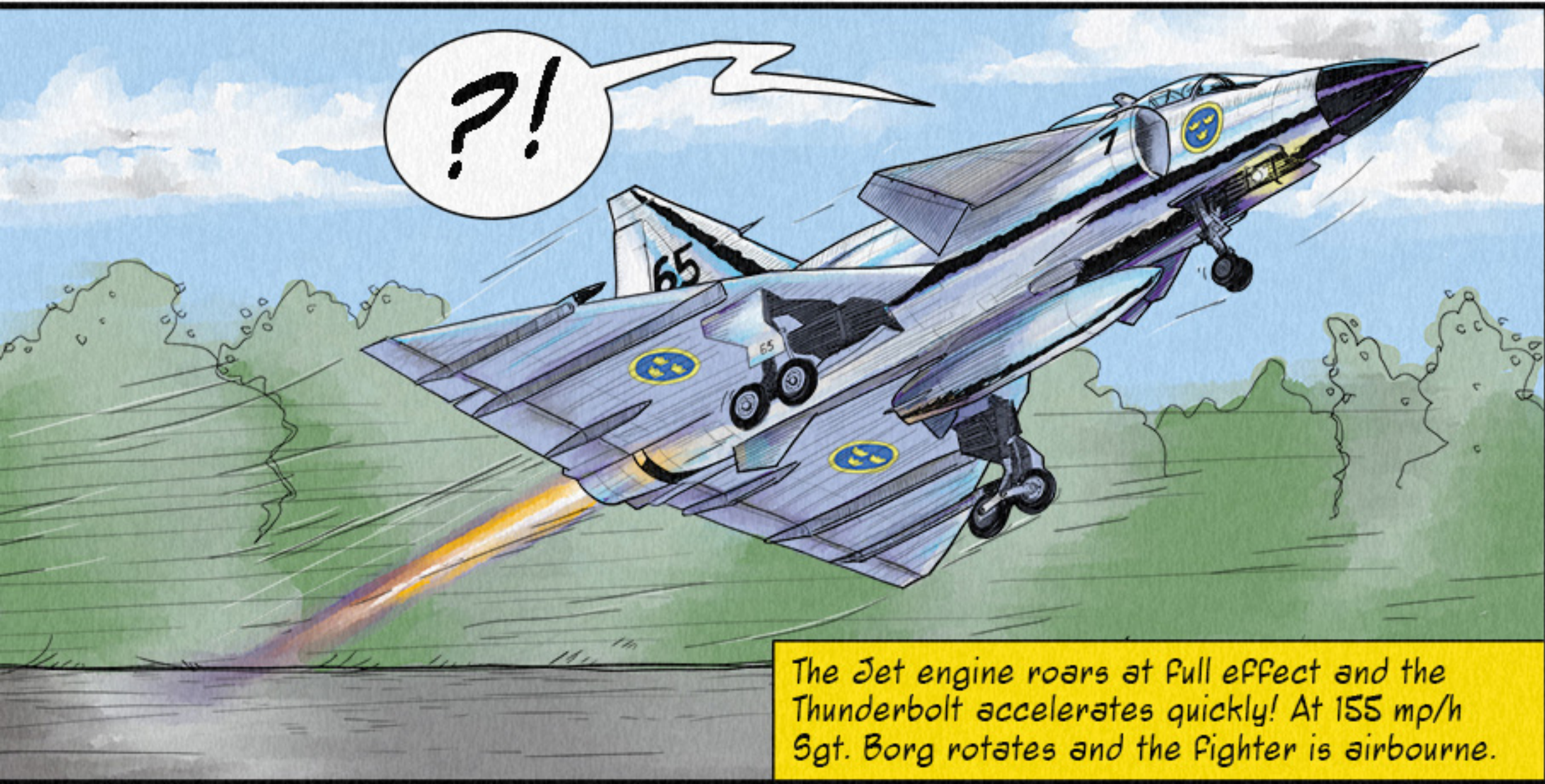


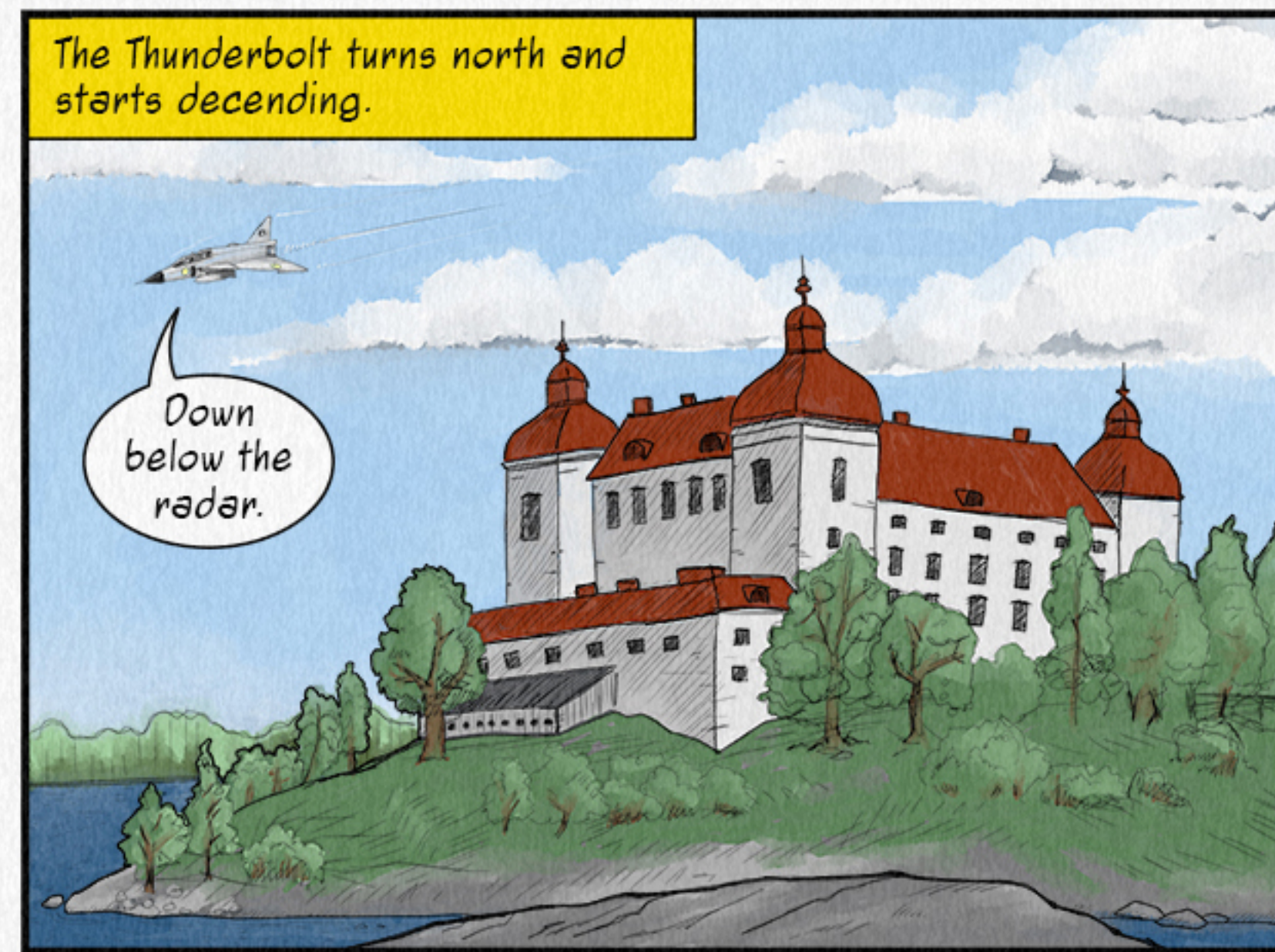
Gustav 65 ready to take off.

Cleared for
take off.

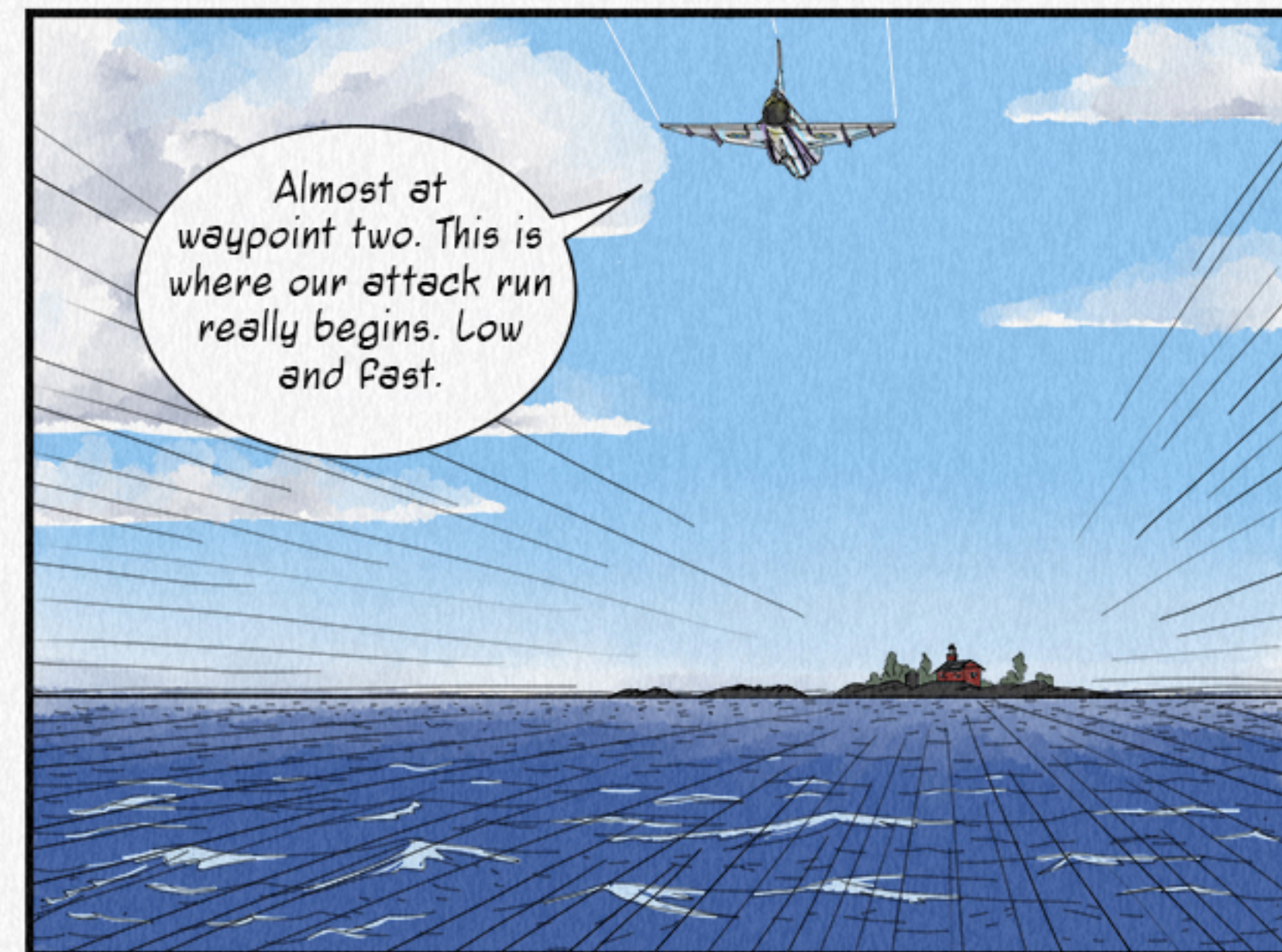
Wow! The RM8
feels powerful even
on the taxiway.







Lacko Castle (1527).



Coming up on waypoint
one, one mile east of
Lidköping.



That's City Hall.
We are really
moving fast!

We are heading
Vänern. Our
run is at

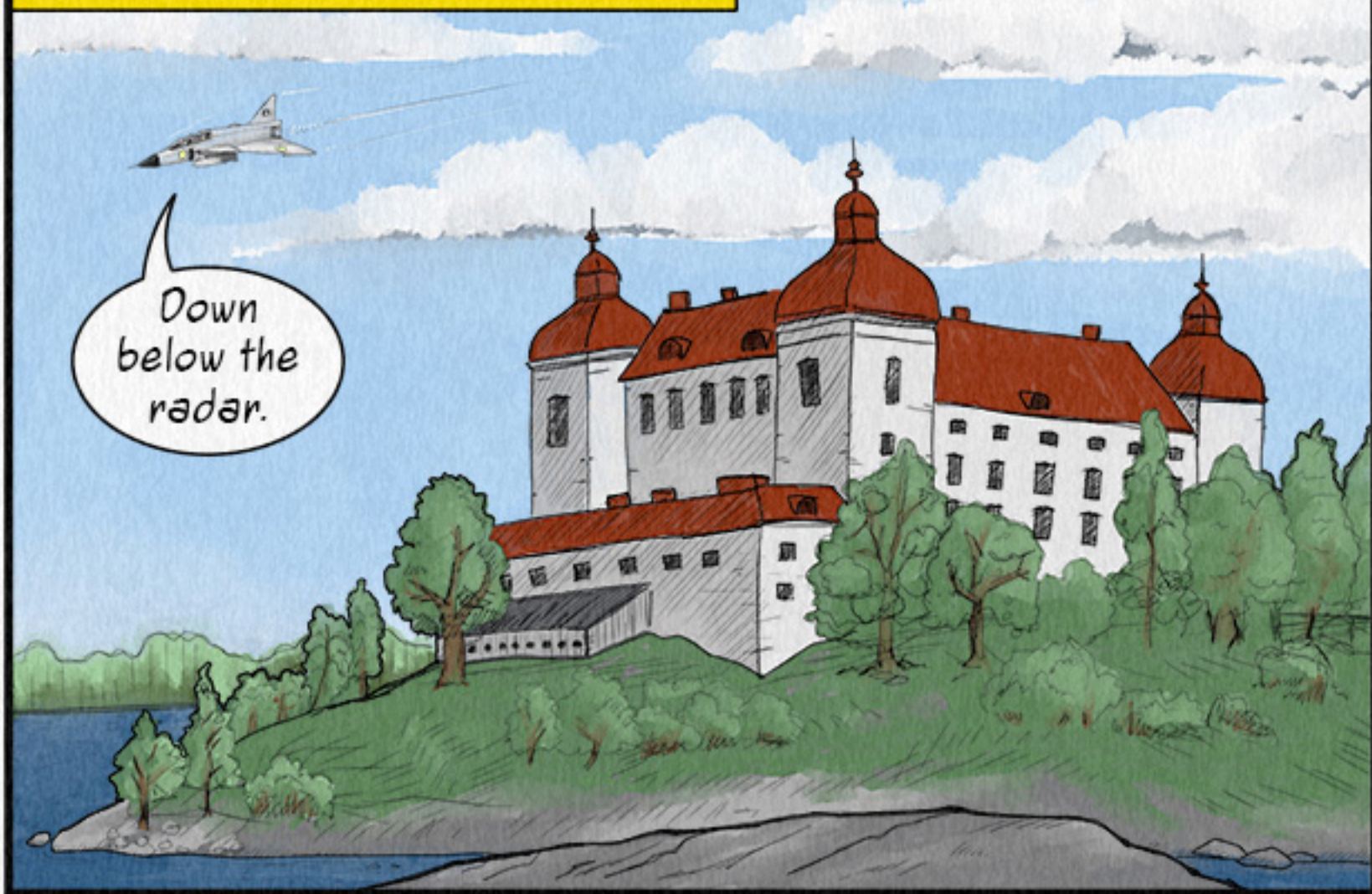




out over lake
lated attack
to begin.



The Thunderbolt turns north and
starts decending.



Down
below the
radar.

Lacko Castle (1527).

Altitude 130 ft. This is our
approach run.

Wow!
Not very
high.



KLICK!



This is our
run.

Wow!
Not very
high.

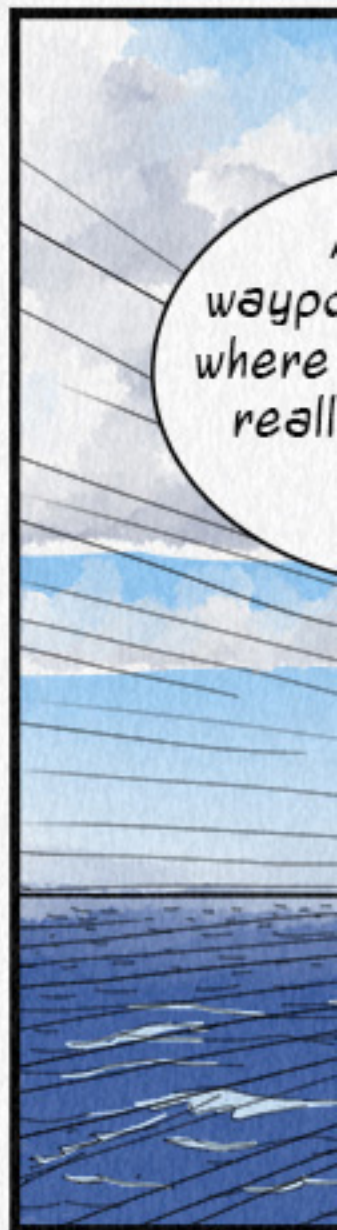


KLICK!

He-he!
We have not really started
what we consider low level
flying yet.



waypo
where
reall



ly started
low level
t.

Almost at
waypoint two. This is
where our attack run
really begins. Low
and Fast.

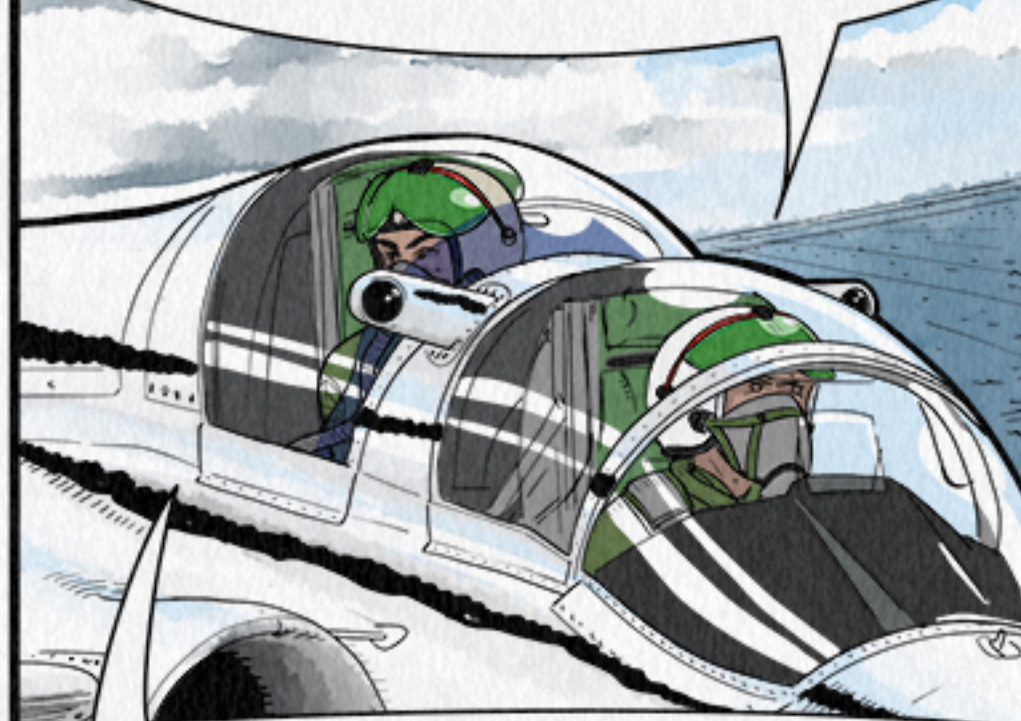


Passing Lurö at 130 Feet.



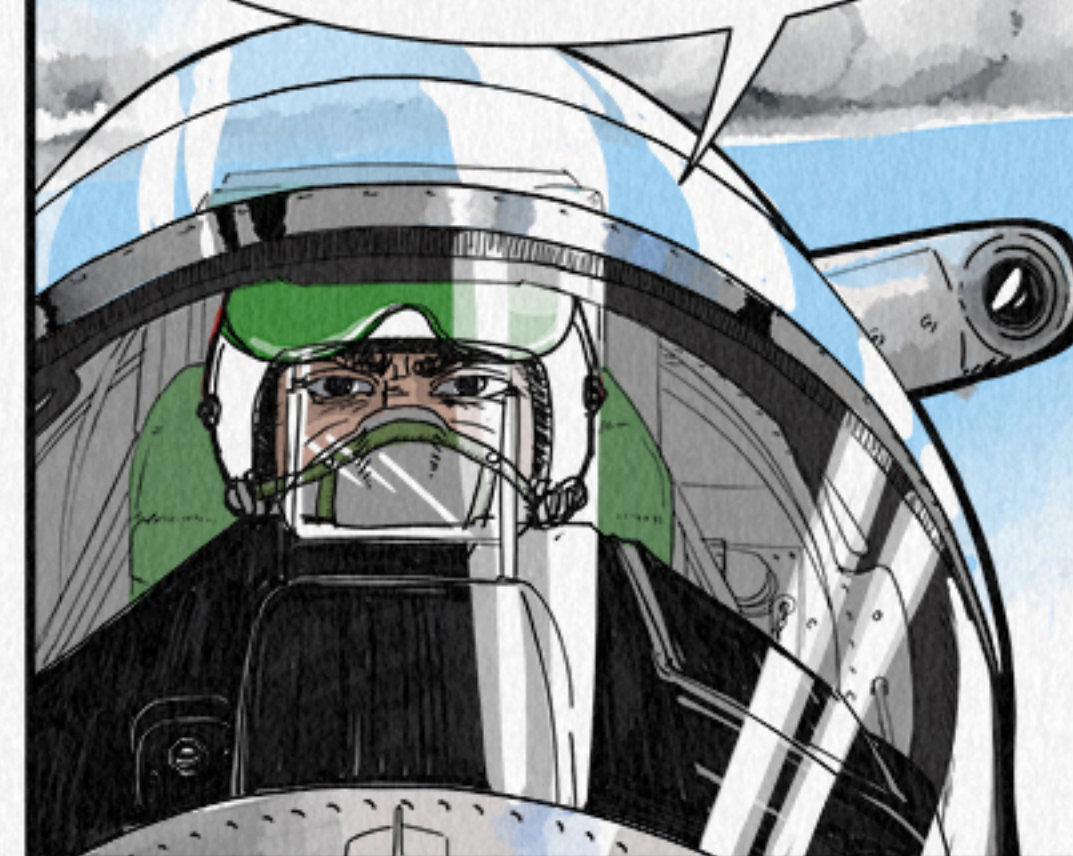
Stängudden lighthouse, Lurö archipelago.


Ok, now we are hiding really close to the deck. Take a peak in the periscope and enjoy the ride.

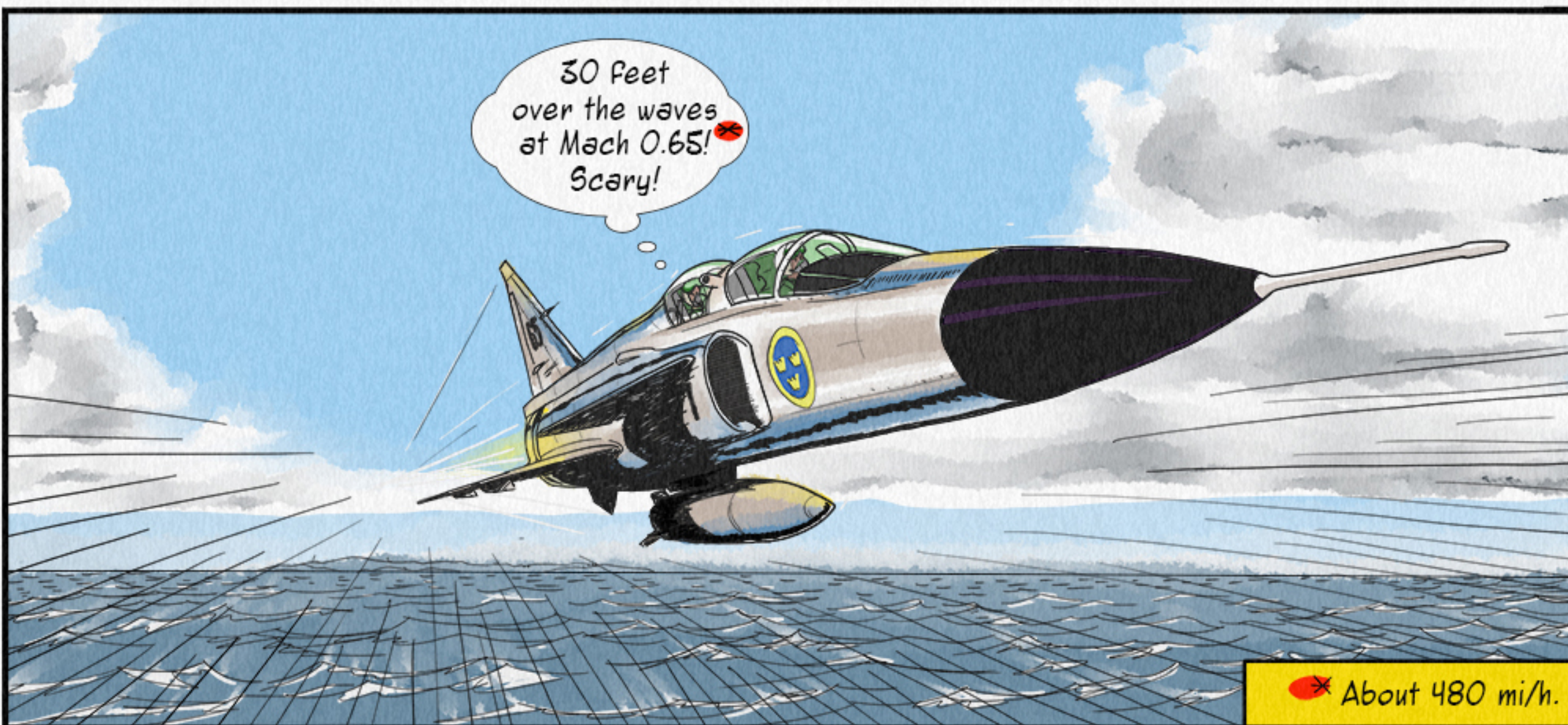



This is really, really low! I have to ask, are we not very vulnerable down here below the tree tops?

The opposite is true in fact. The enemy radar can not see us down here. The terrain deflects most of the sound and the speed makes us very hard to shoot, even if someone should spot us.



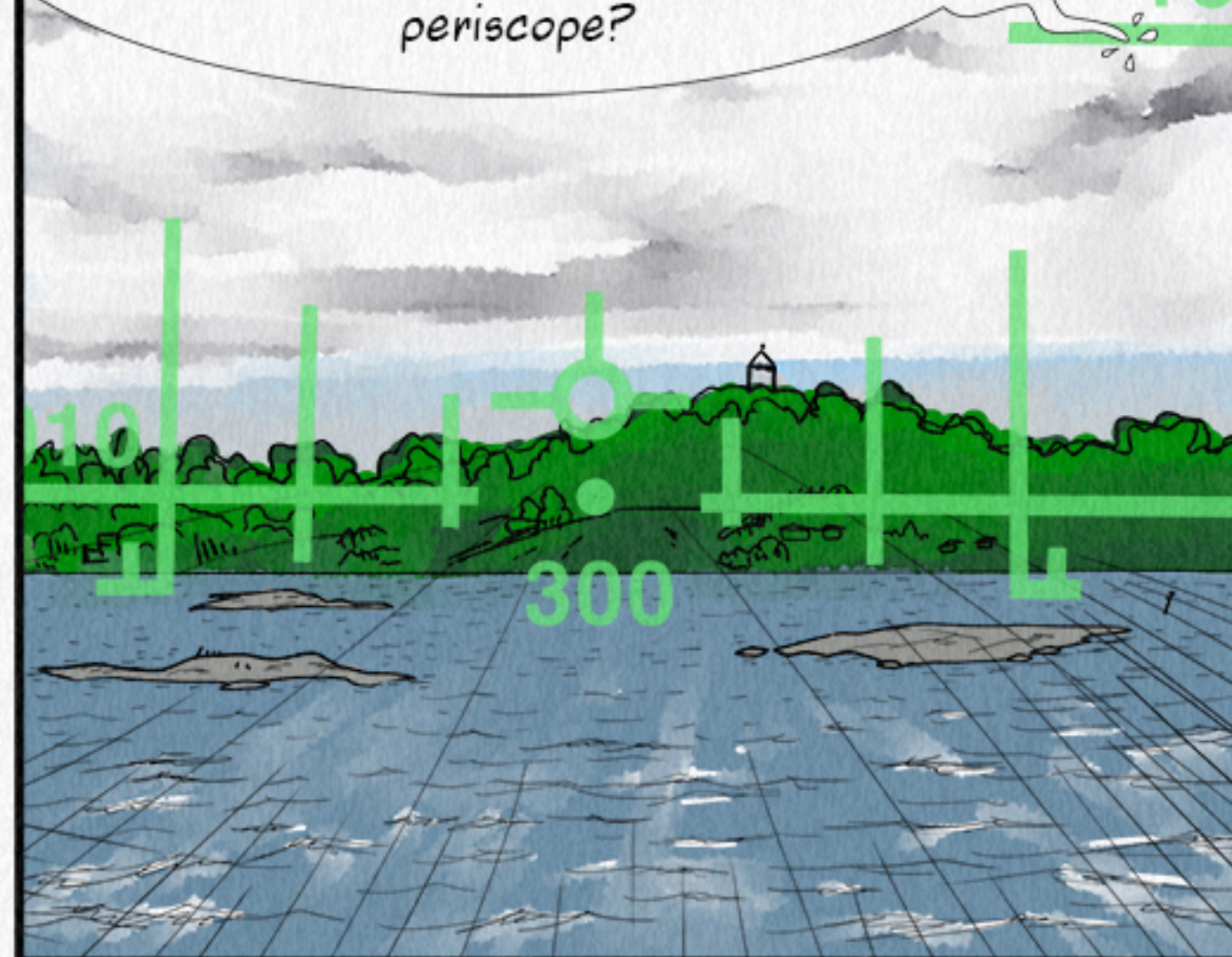
30 Feet
over the waves
at Mach 0.65! 
Scary!



 About 480 mi/h.

Tösse archipelago. Feet dry in a few seconds.
Can you see the church belltower in the periscope?

+5



Passing Lurö at 130 feet.



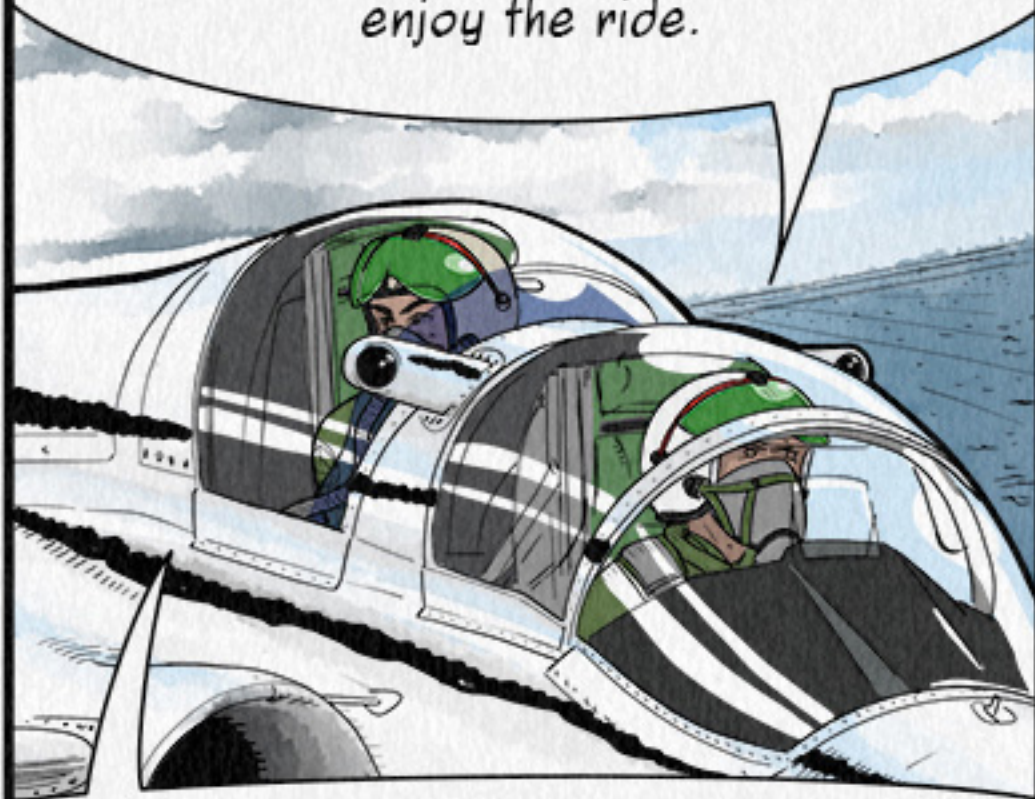
Stångudden lighthouse, Lurö archipelago.

Ok, no
deck.



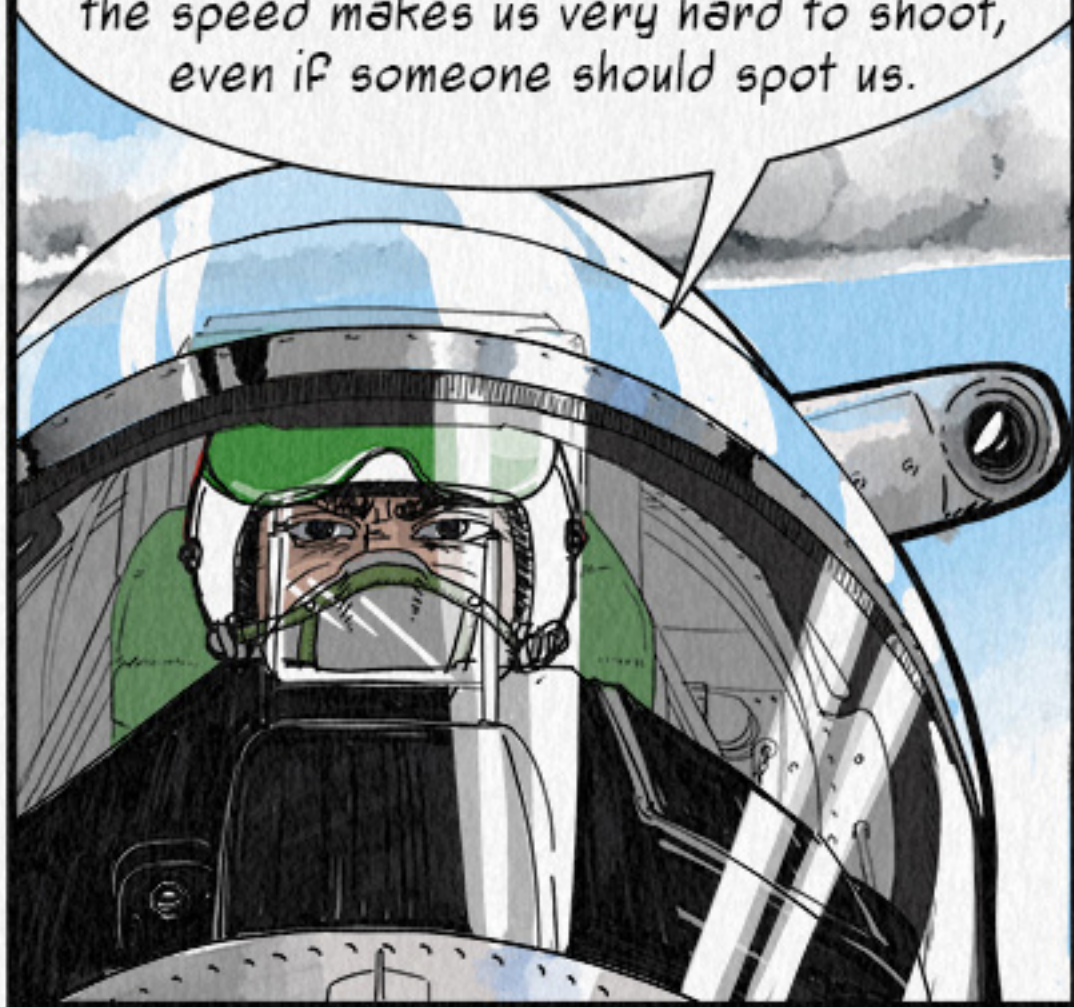
This is
are w

Ok, now we are hiding really close to the deck. Take a peak in the periscope and enjoy the ride.

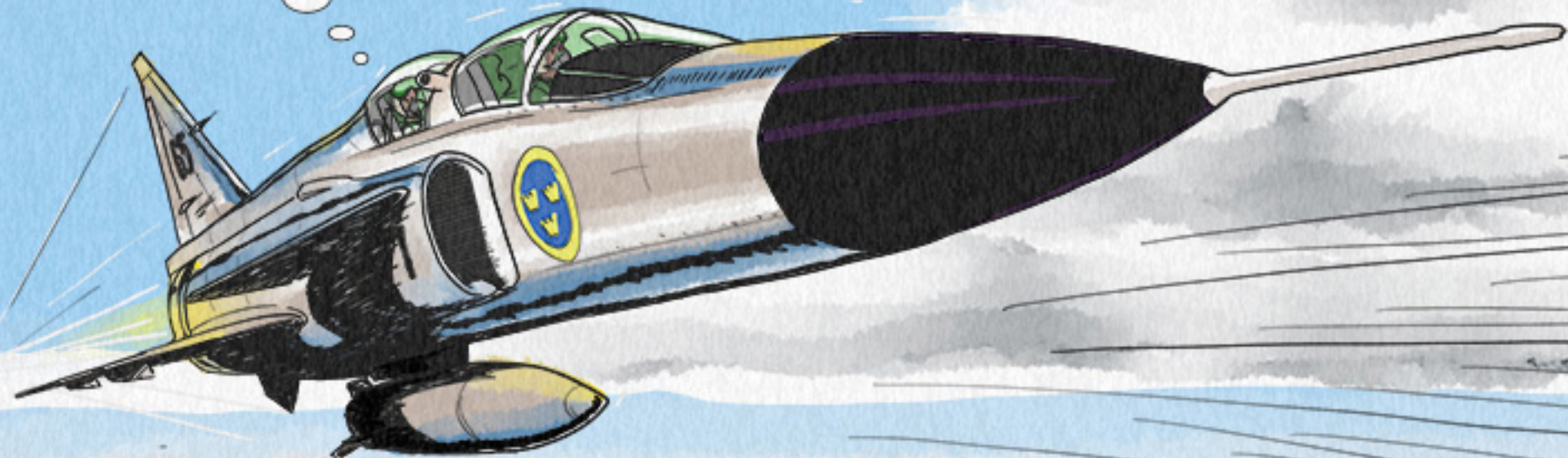


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30 feet
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Scary!



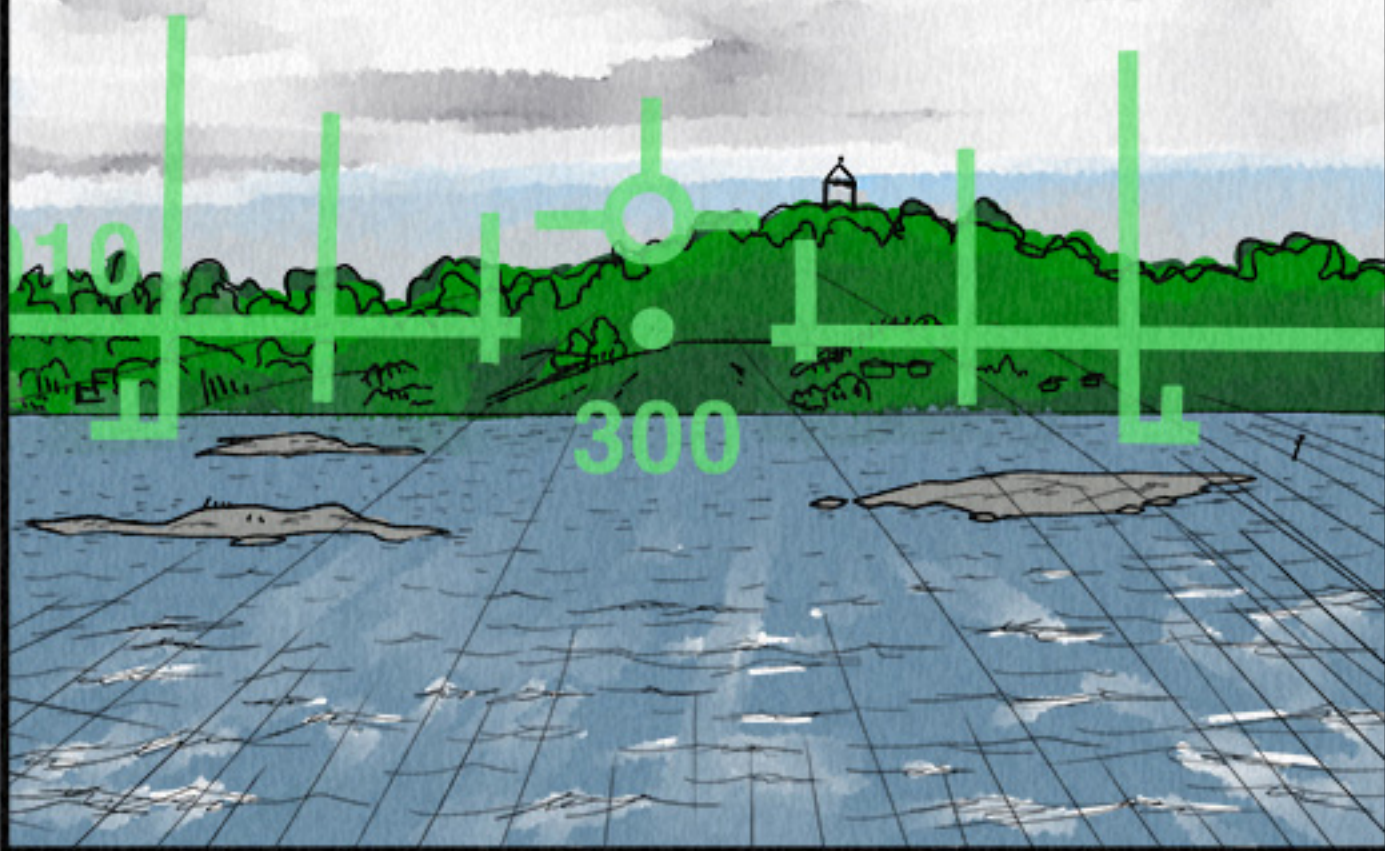
✖ About 480 mi/h.

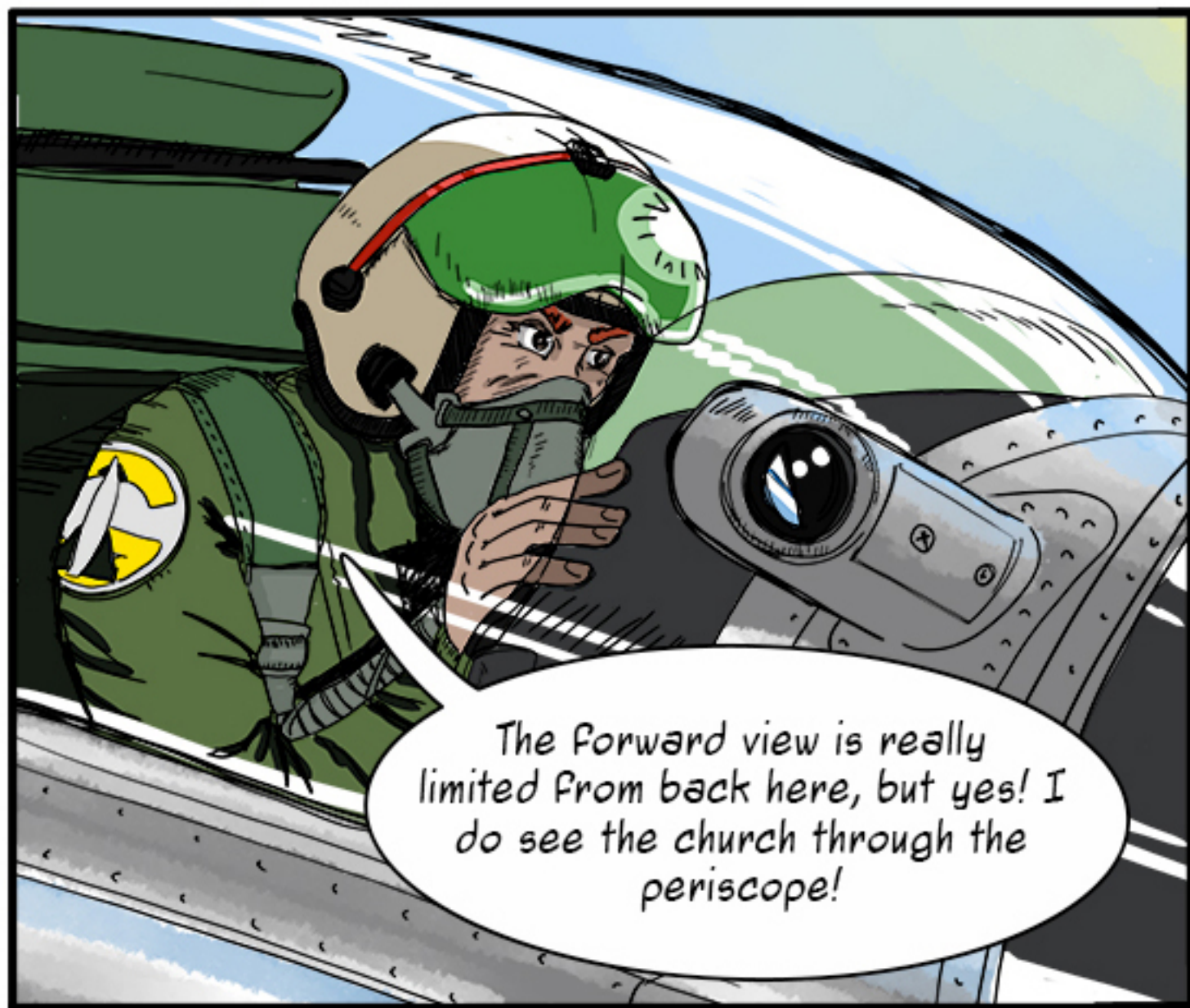


* About 480 mi/h.

Tösse archipelago. Feet dry in a few seconds.
Can you see the church belltower in the
periscope?

+5

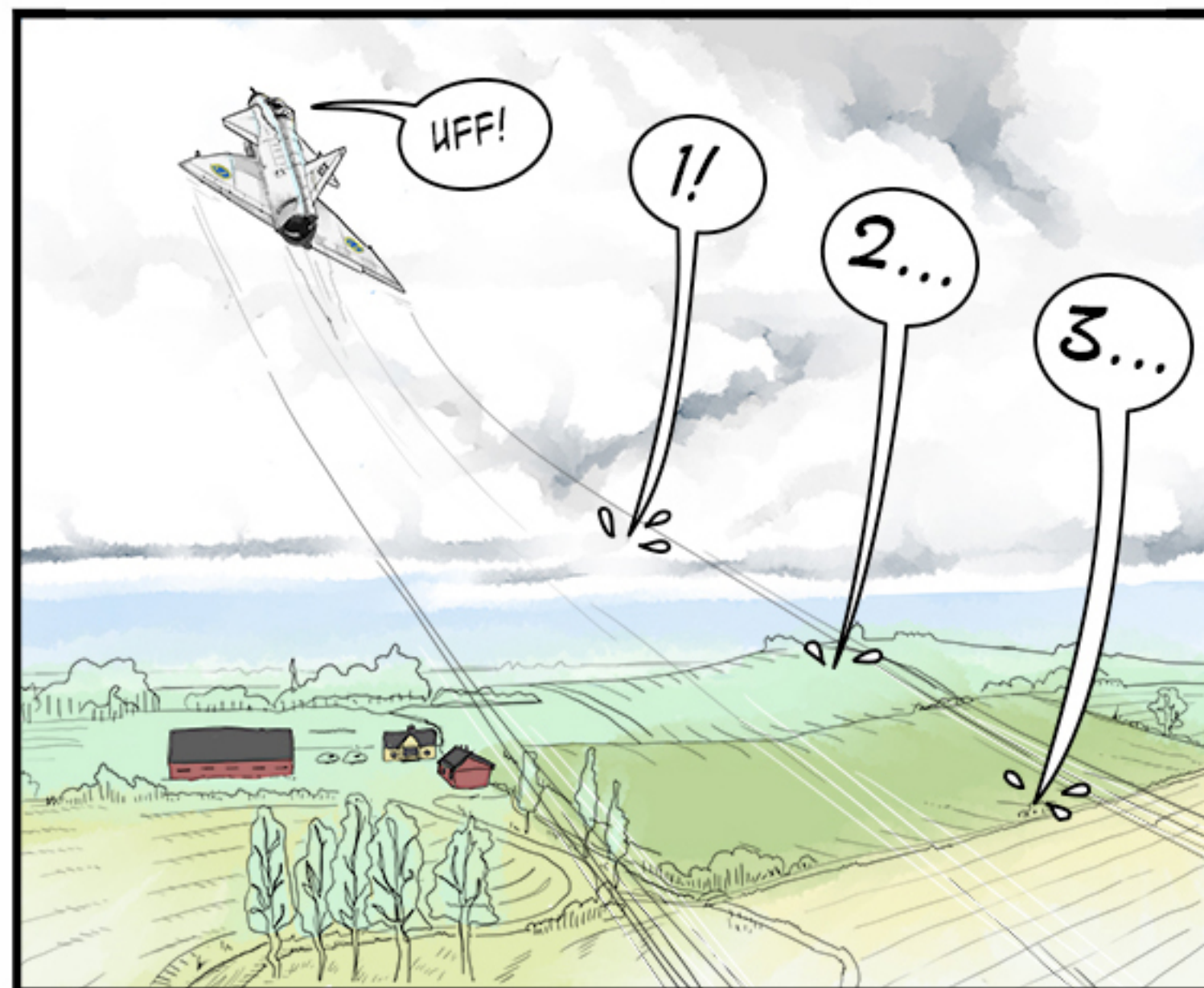


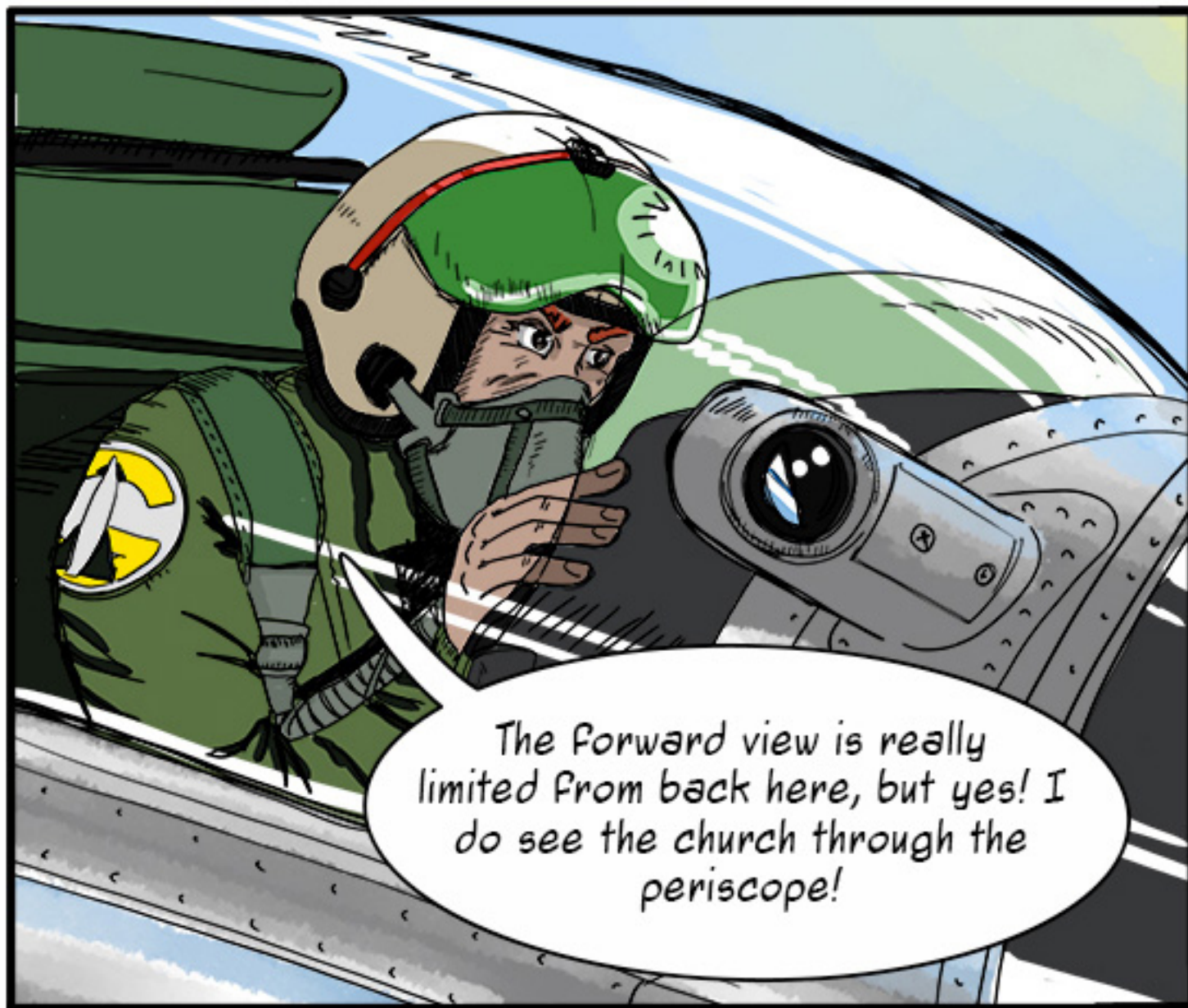


Tösse Church. Ämäl parish.

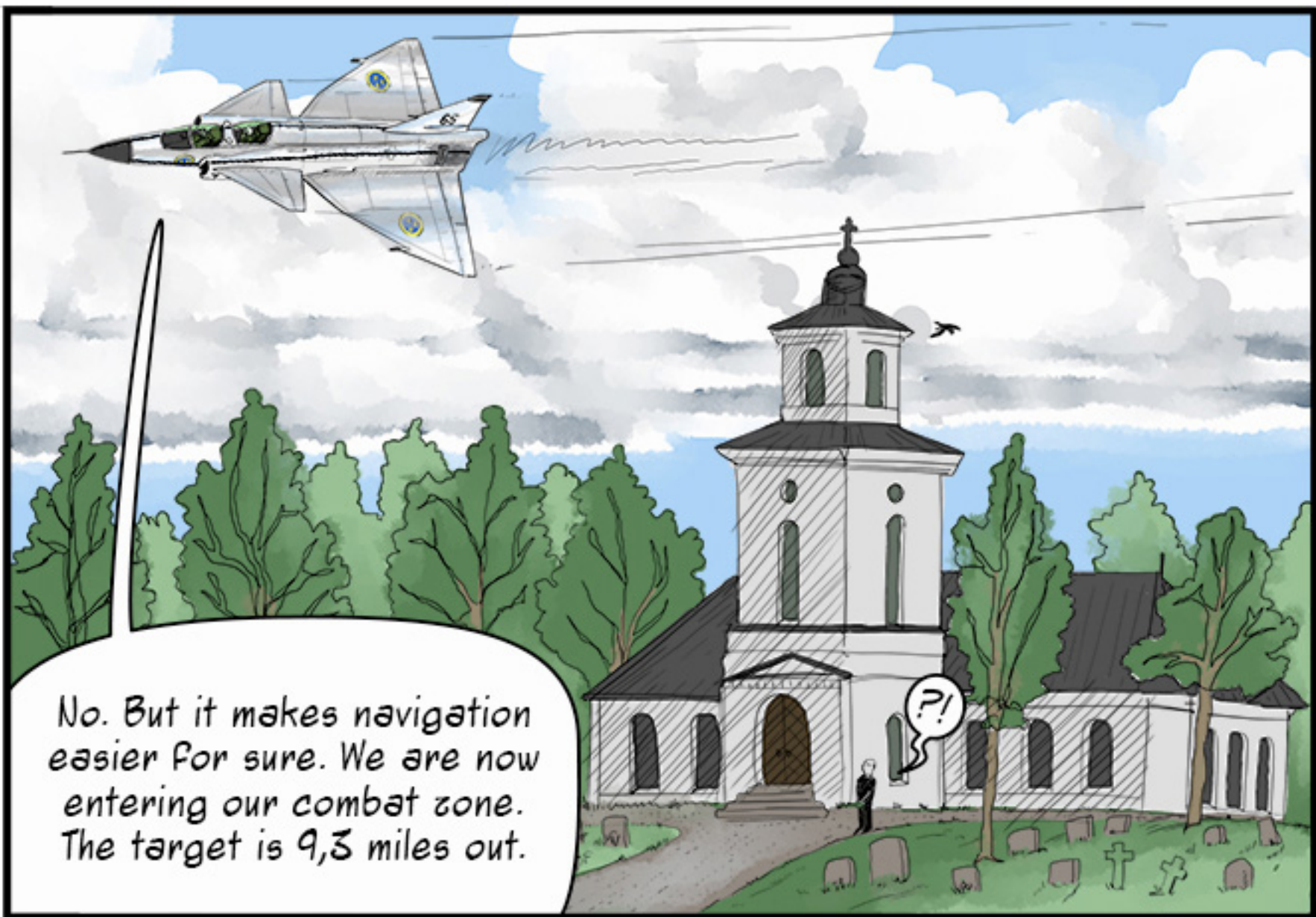


* 630 mi/h!





ints

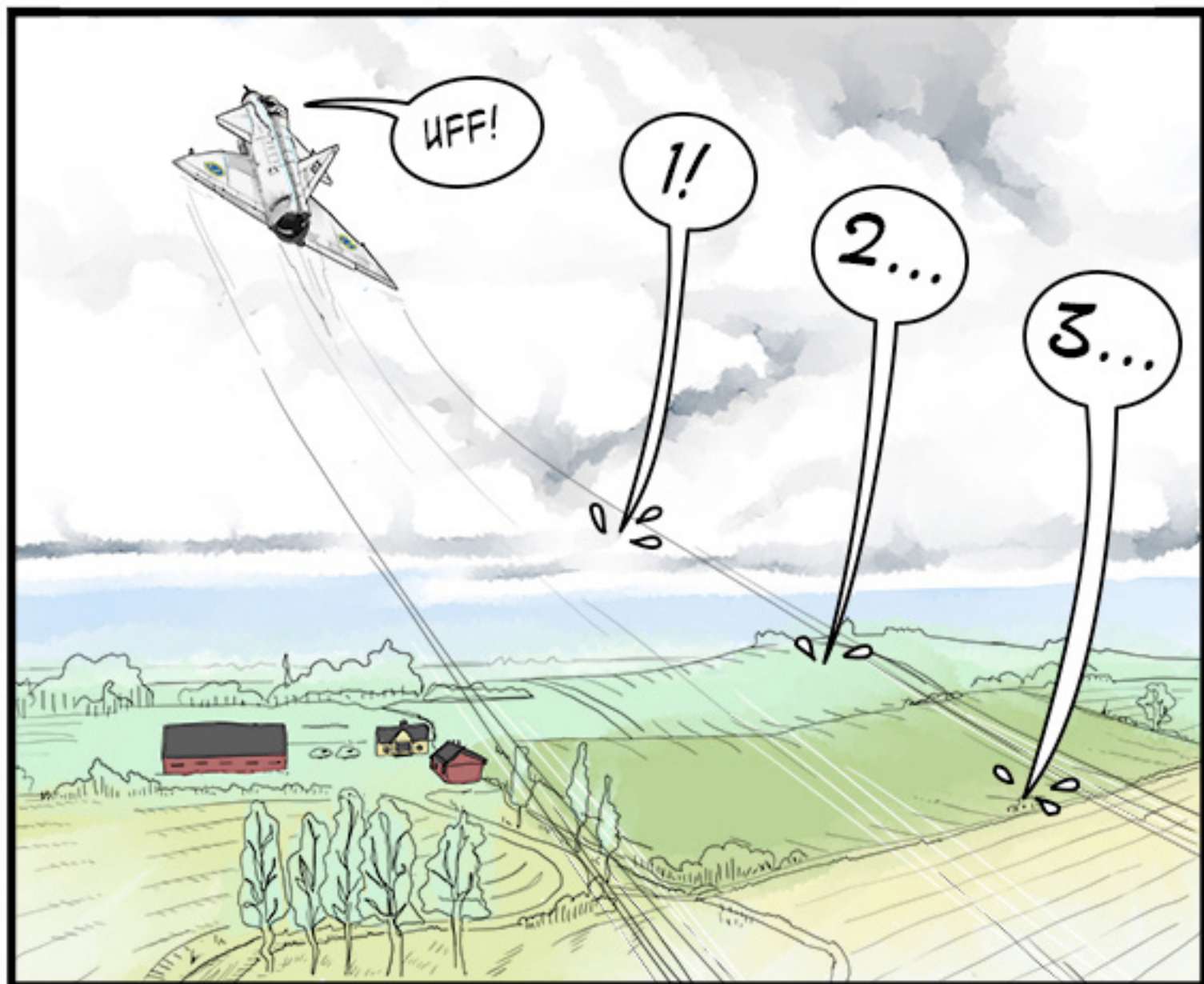


Tõsse Church. Ääri parish.

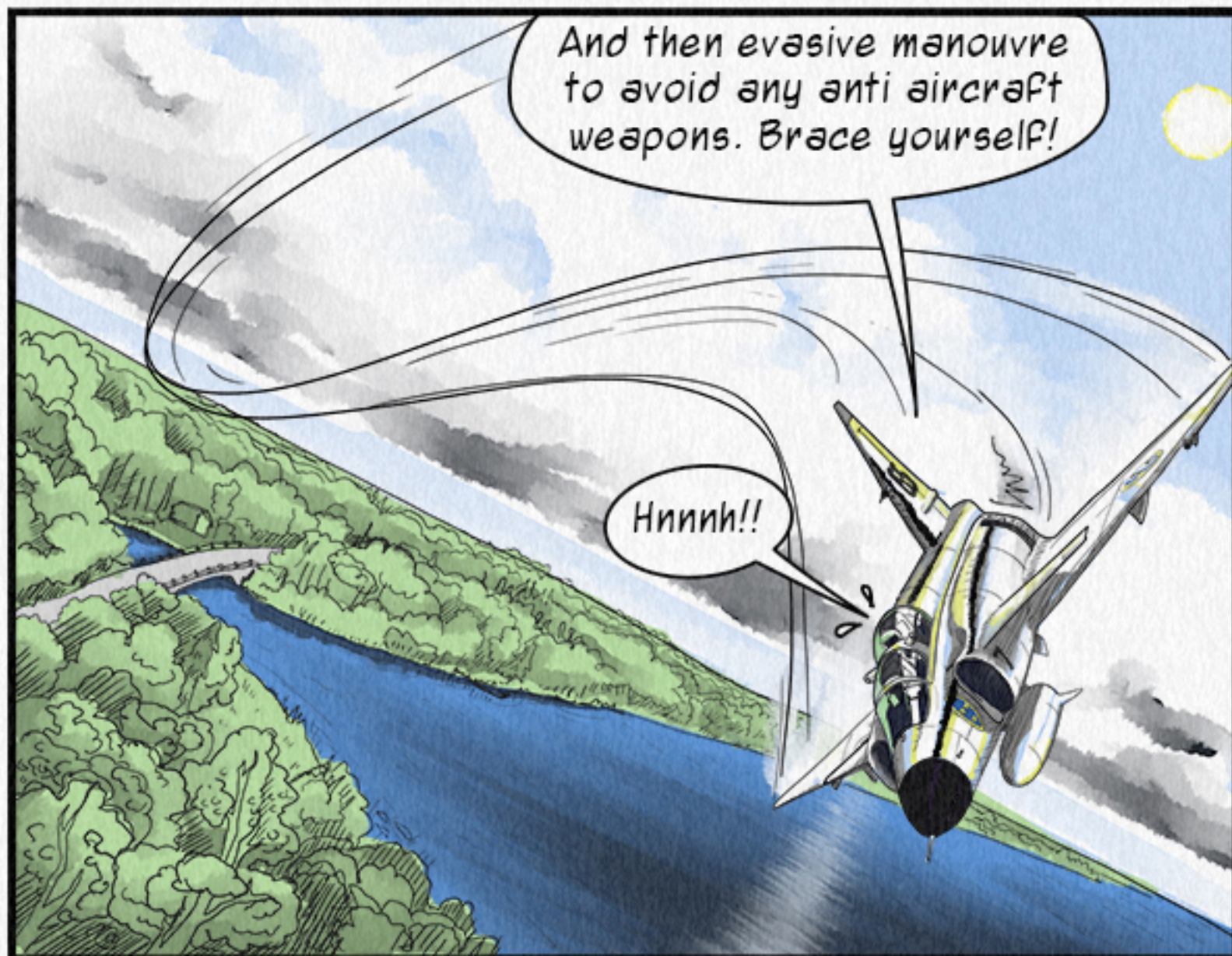
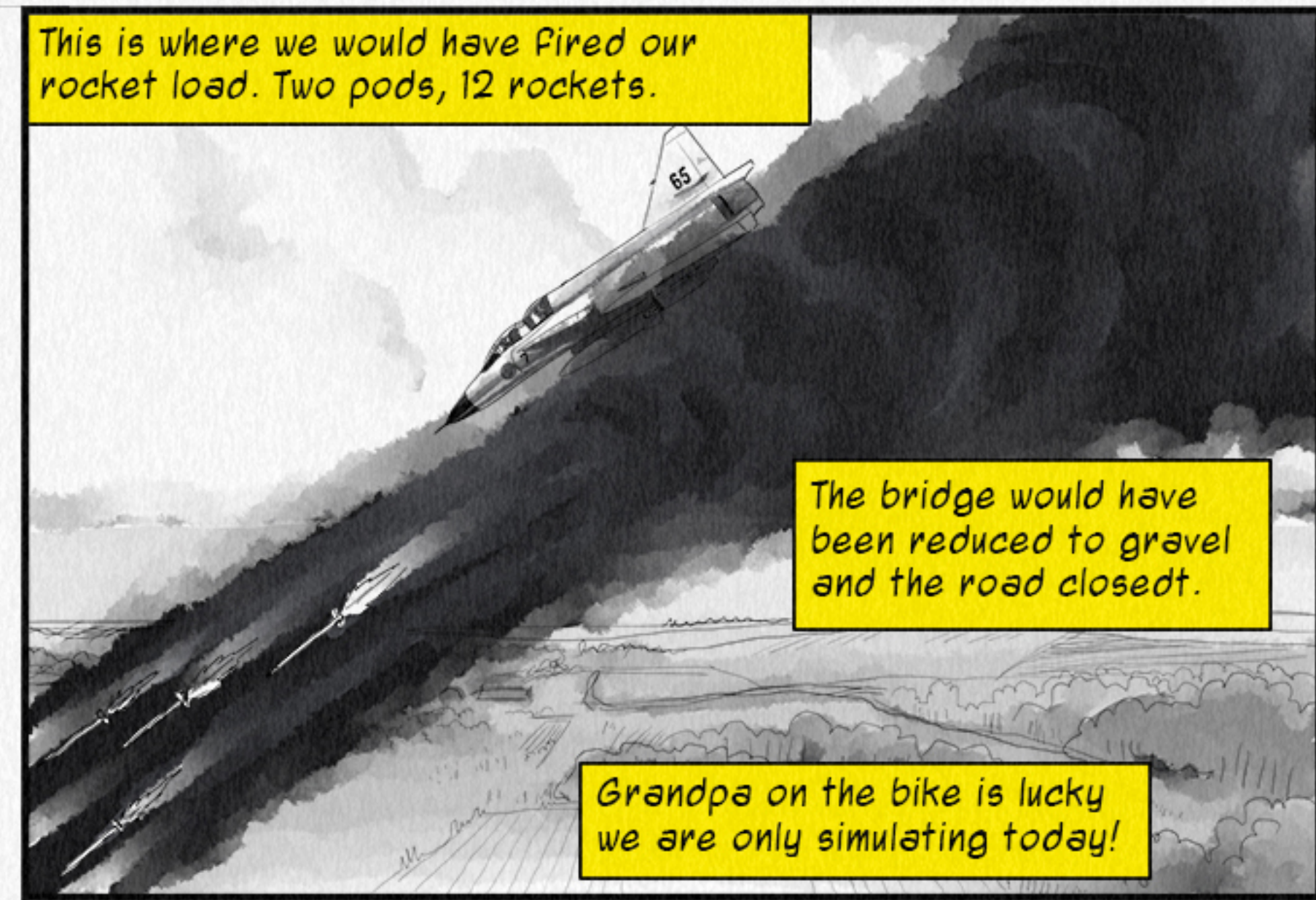
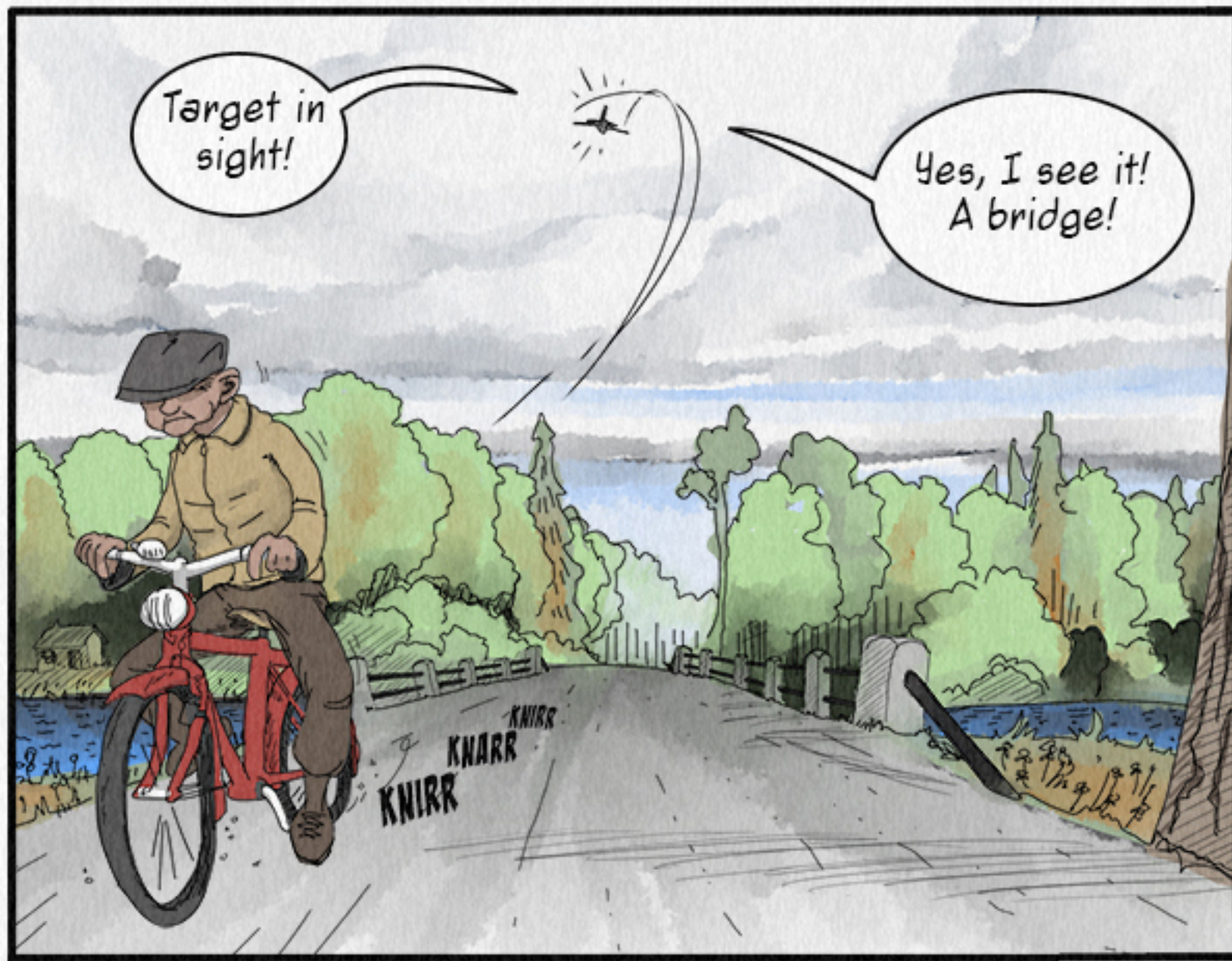
Speeding up to 0.85.* We are
about to climb and attack.
Hang on!

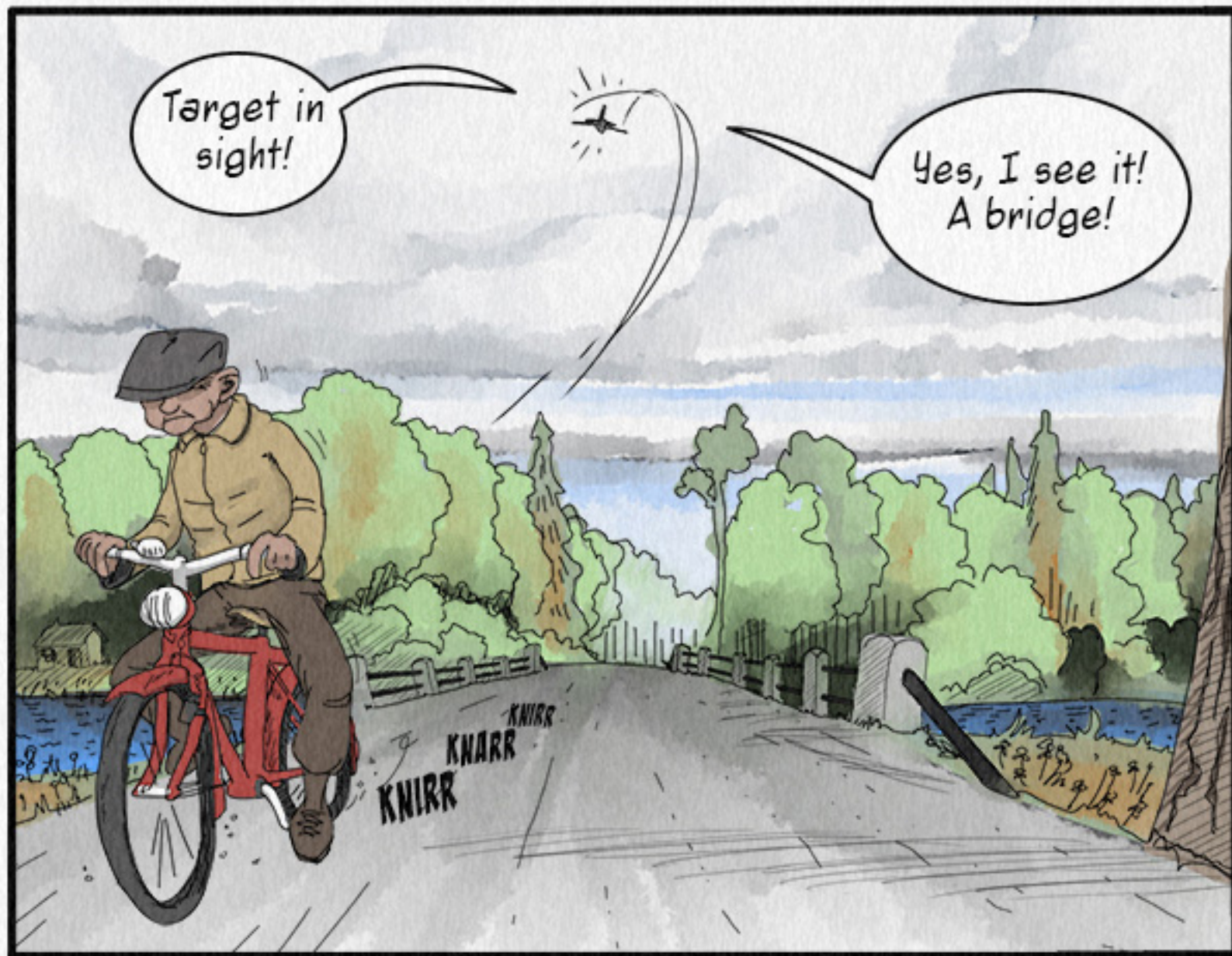


* 630 mi/h!



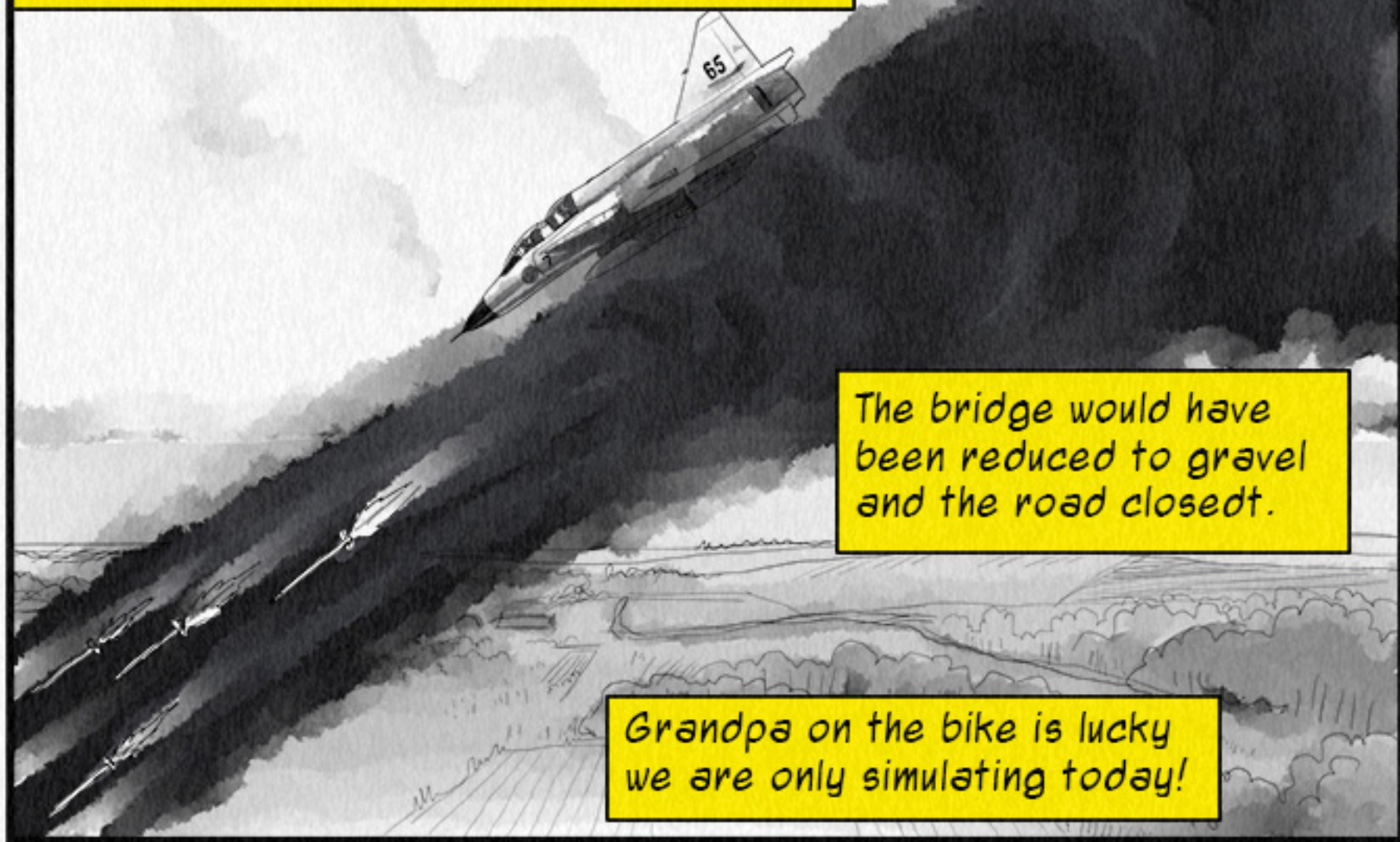






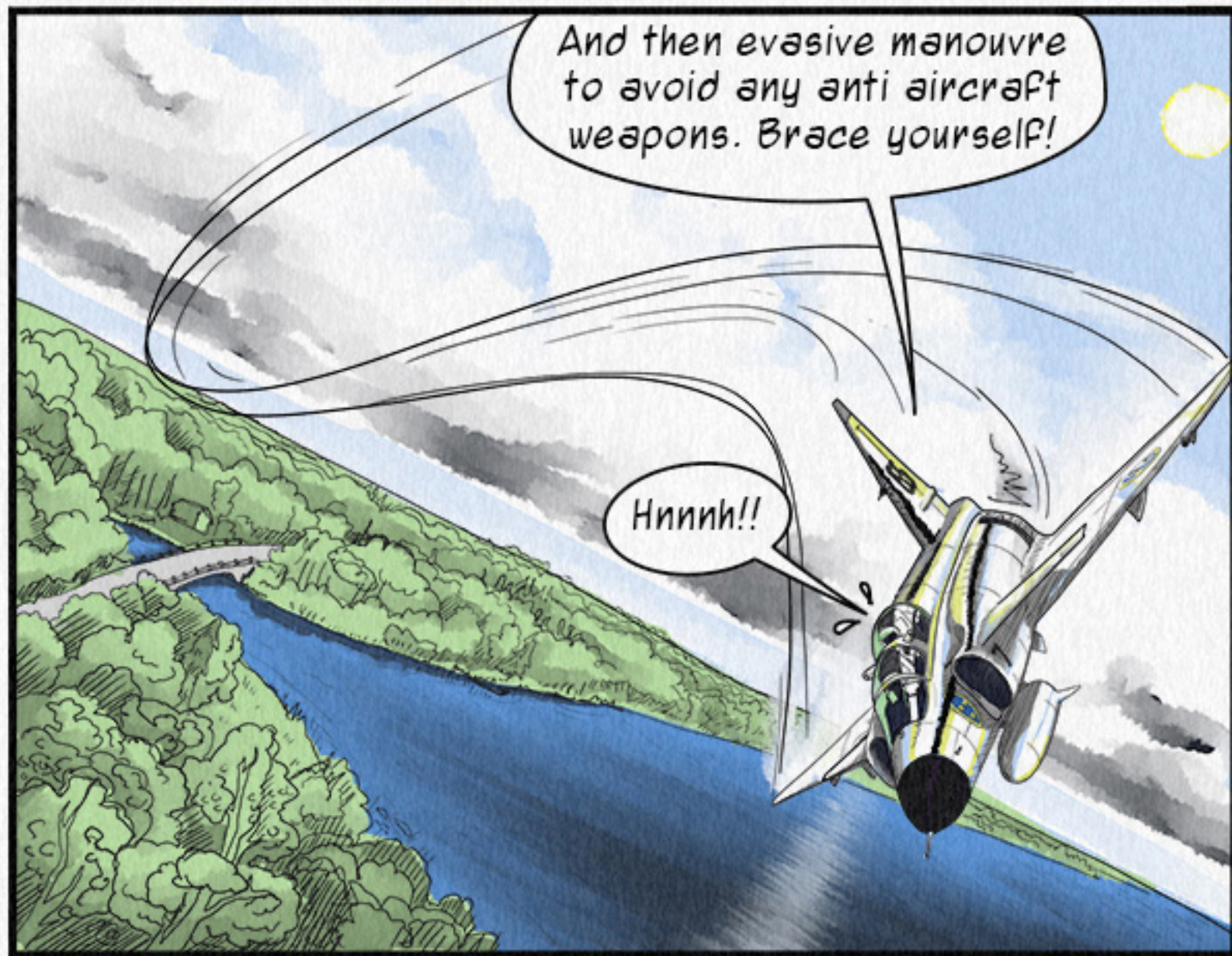


This is where we would have fired our rocket load. Two pods, 12 rockets.

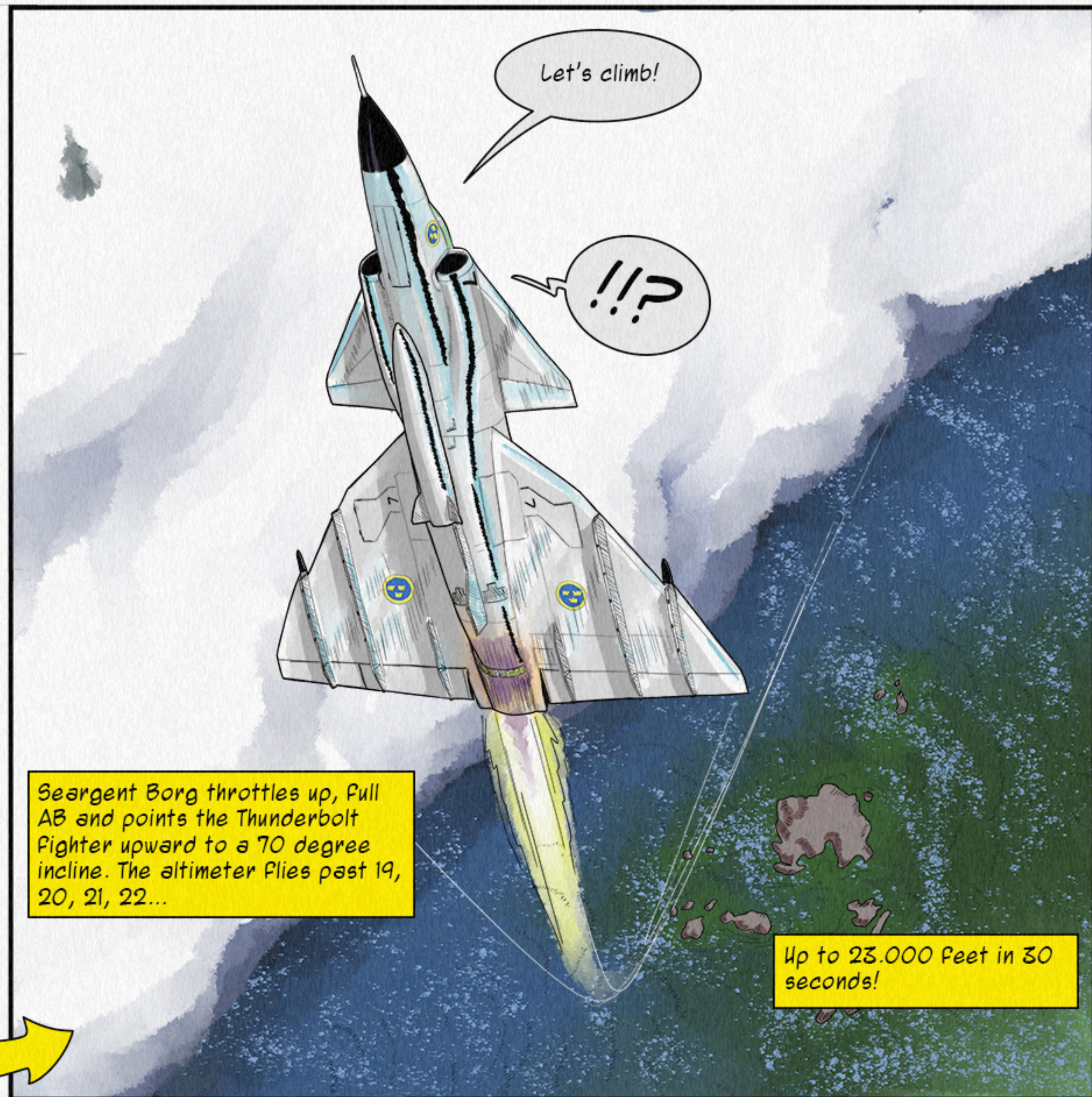
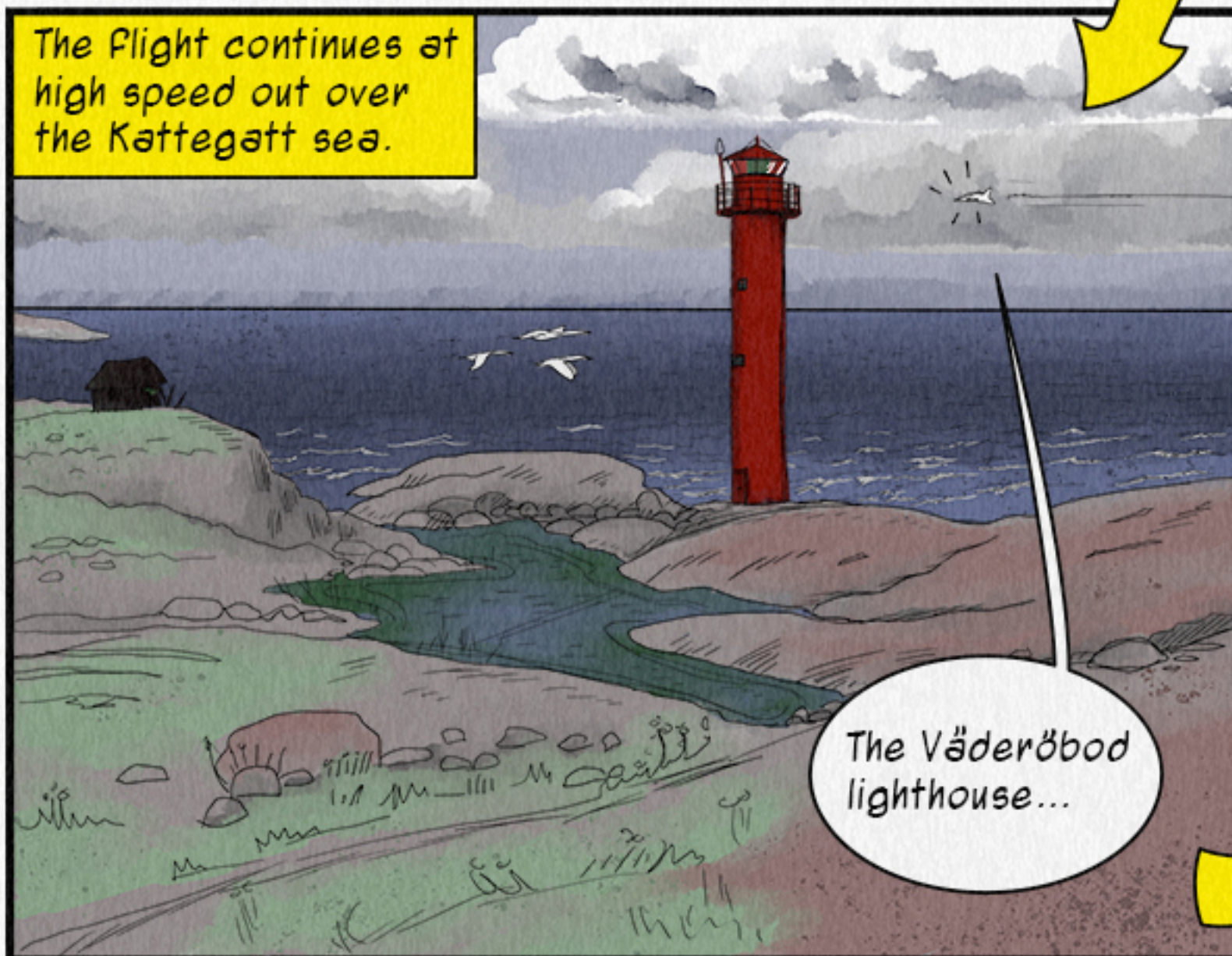
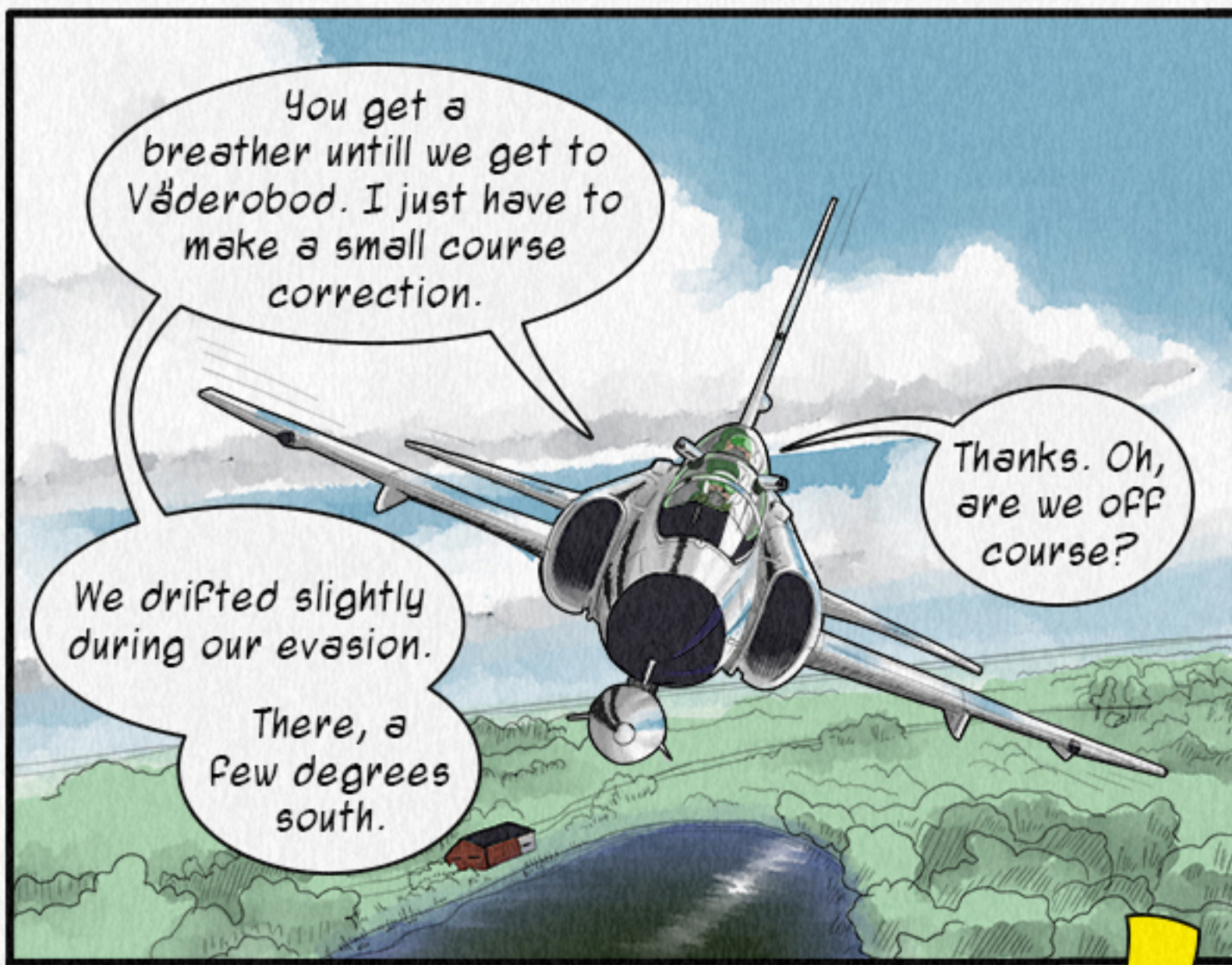


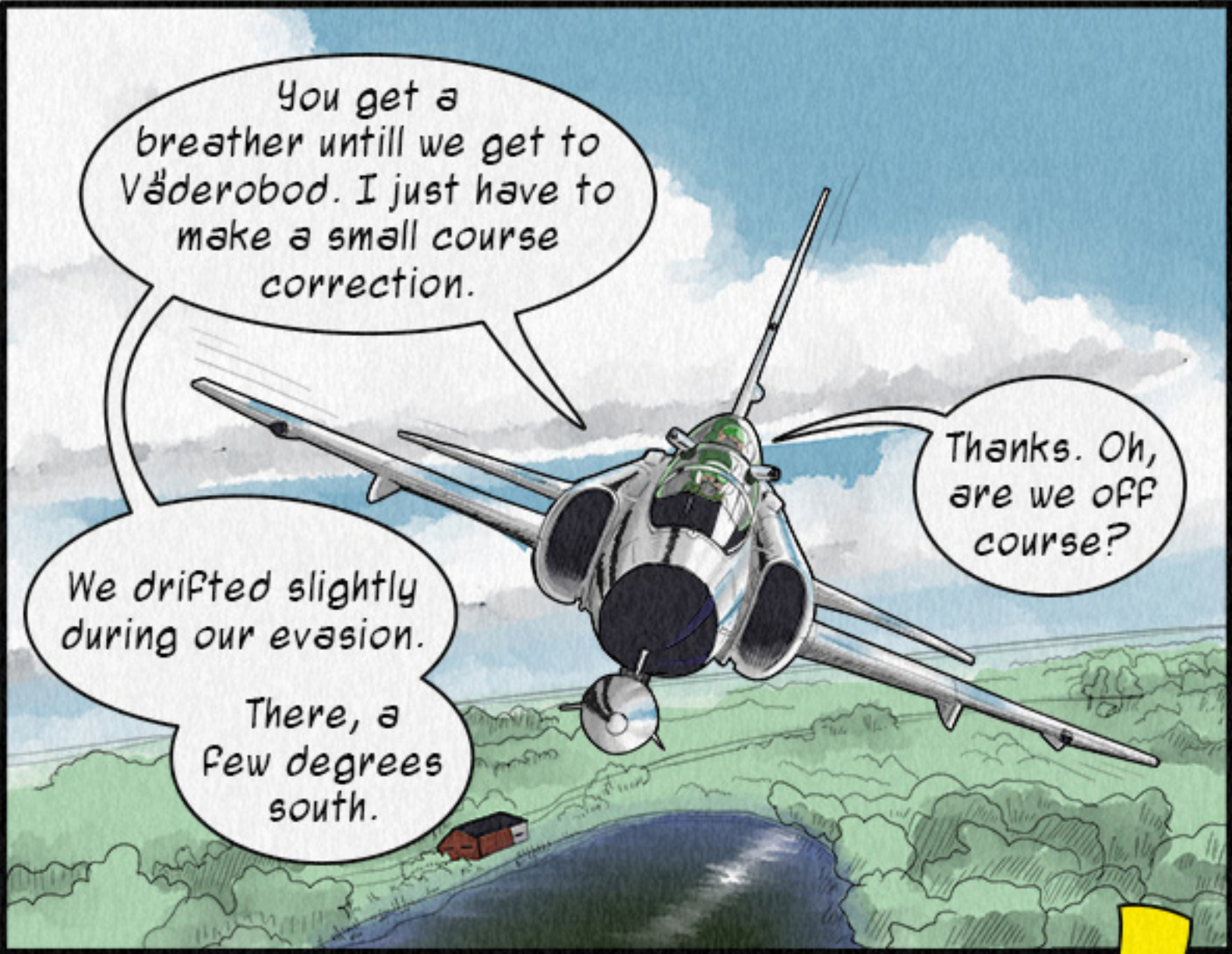
The bridge would have been reduced to gravel and the road closed.

Grandpa on the bike is lucky we are only simulating today!









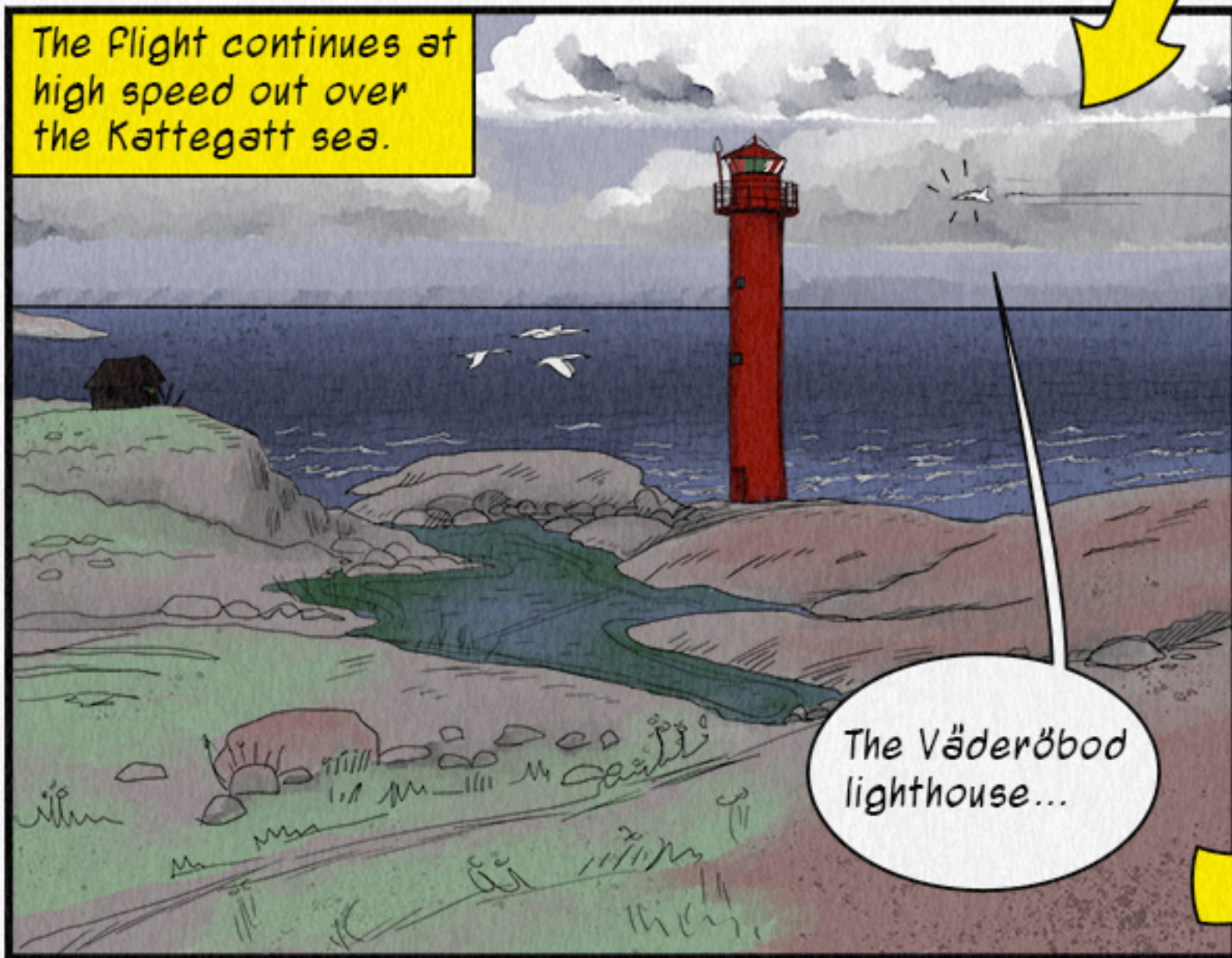
You get a breather untill we get to Väderobod. I just have to make a small course correction.

We drifted slightly during our evasion.

There, a few degrees south.


Thanks. Oh, are we off course?

The Flight continues at high speed out over the Kattegatt sea.



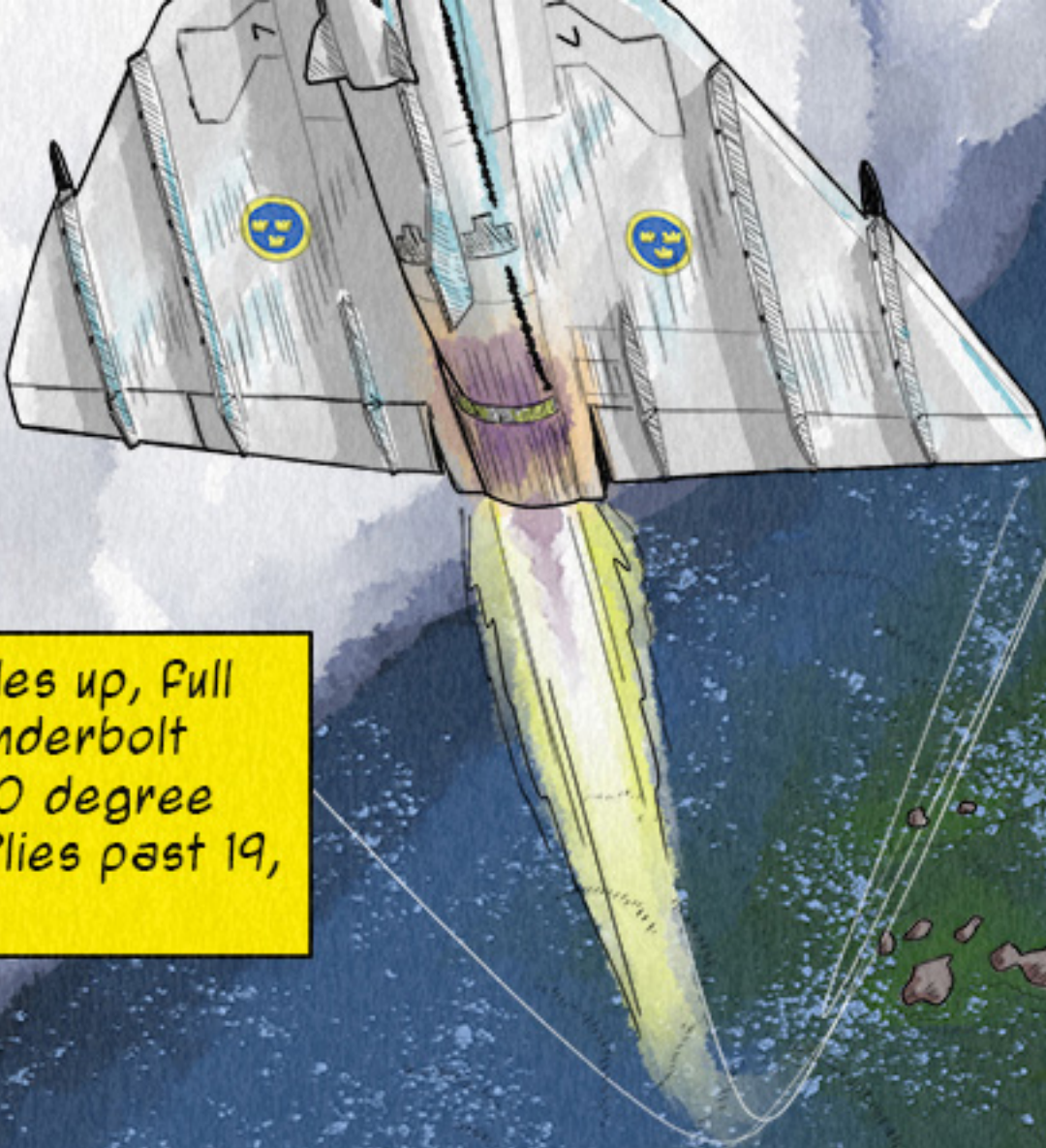
The Väderöbod lighthouse...

Seargent B
AB and po
Fighter up
incline. The
20, 21, 22.



Let's climb!

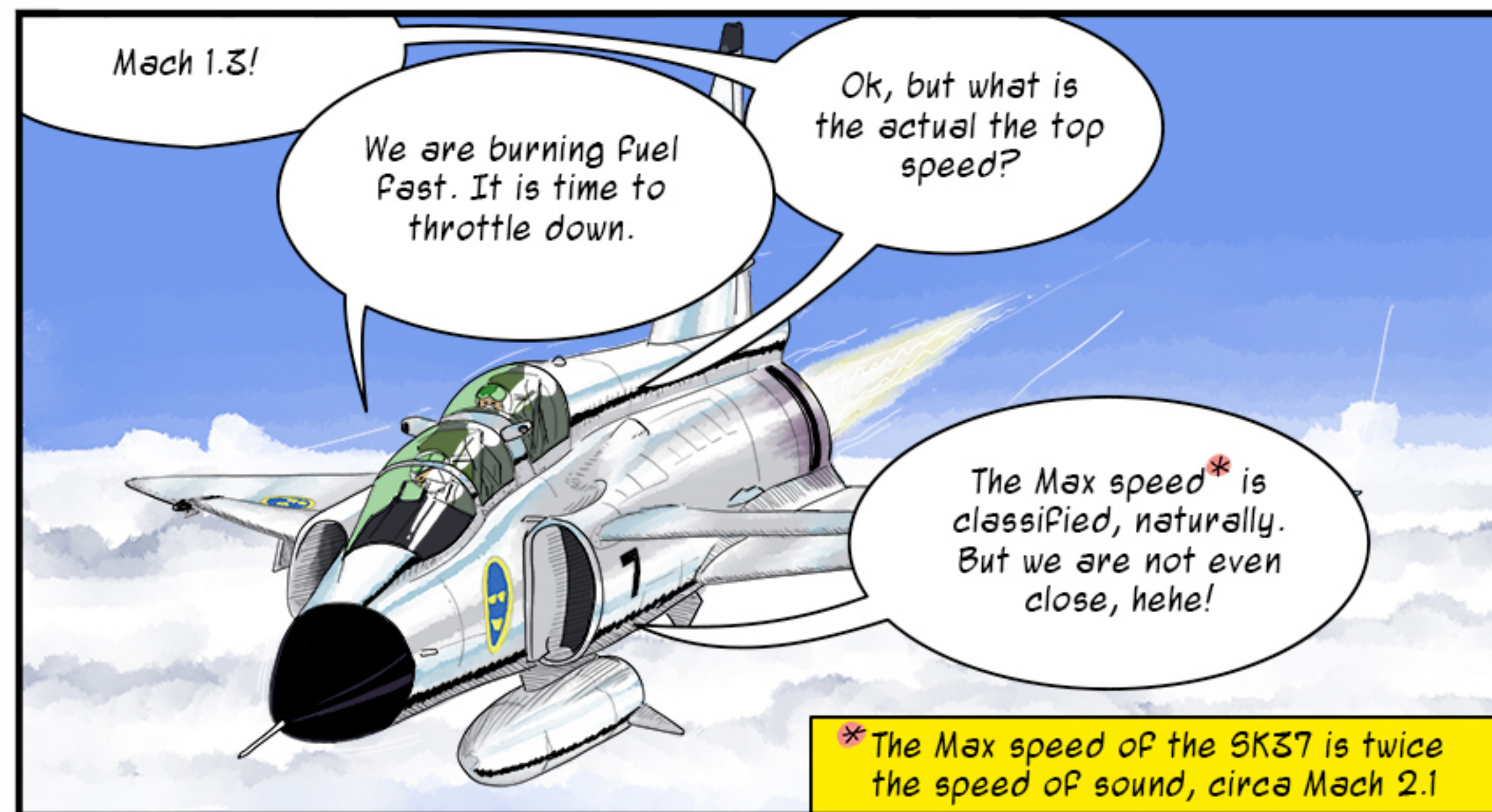
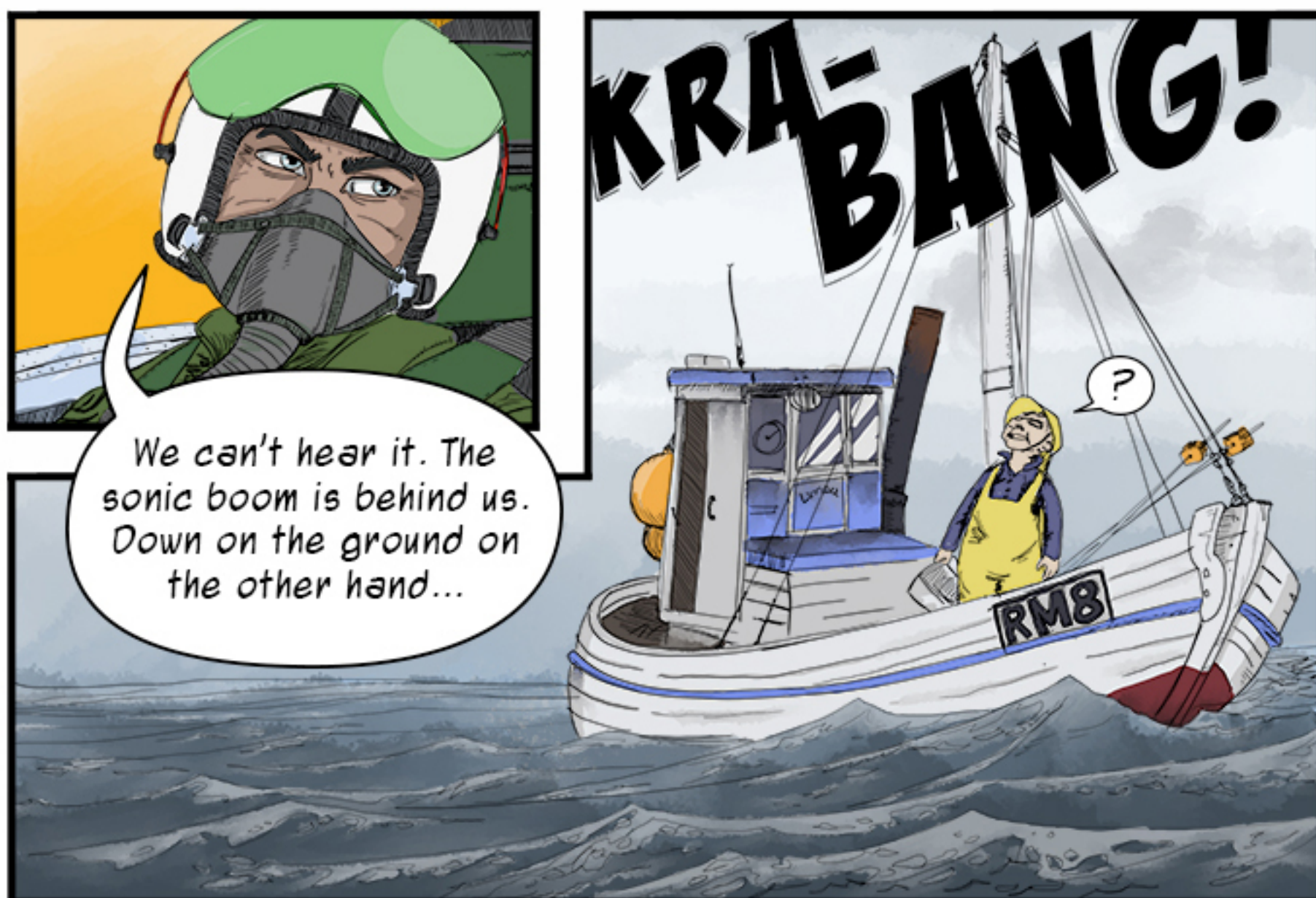
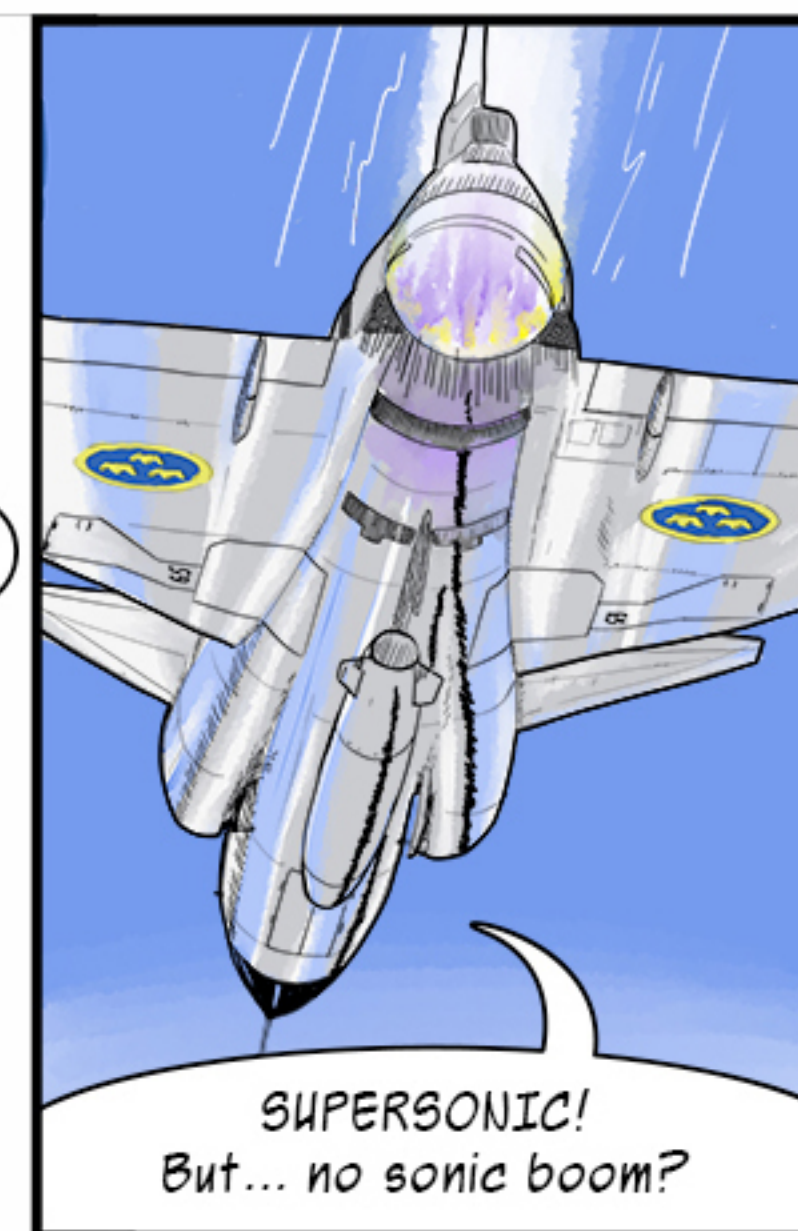
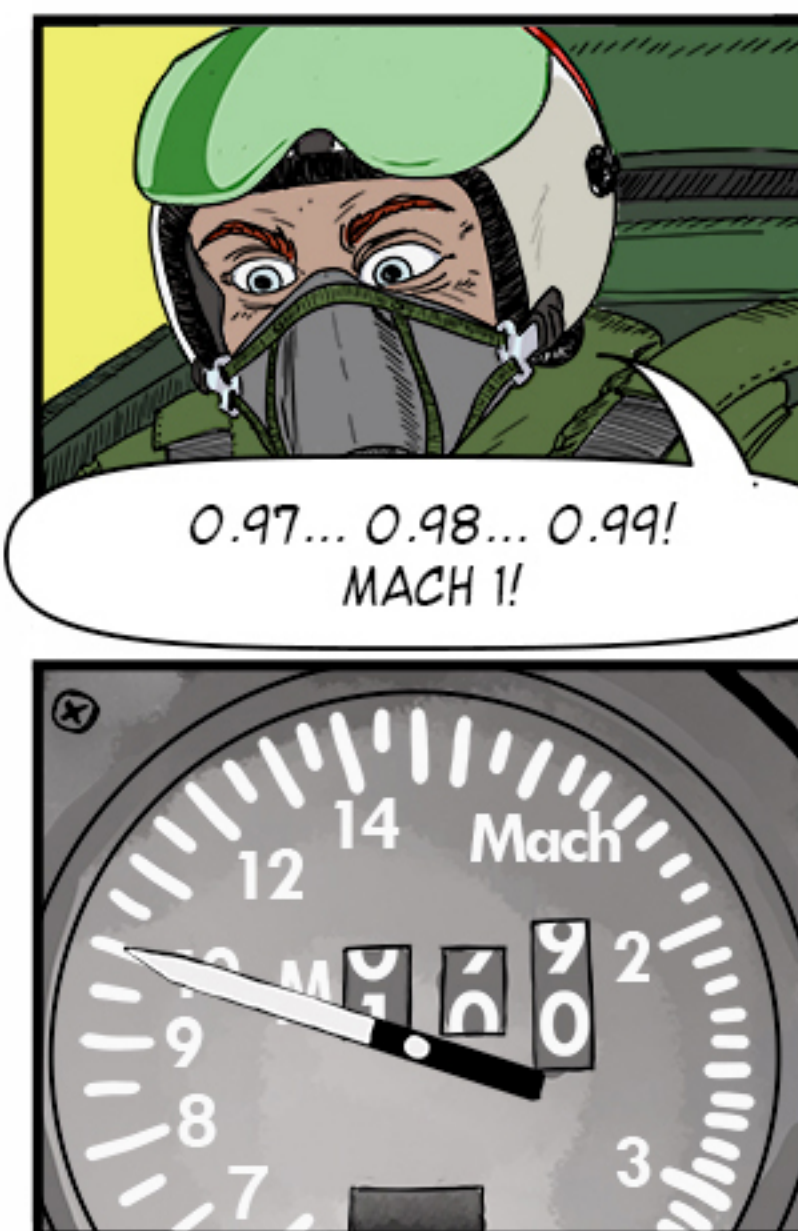
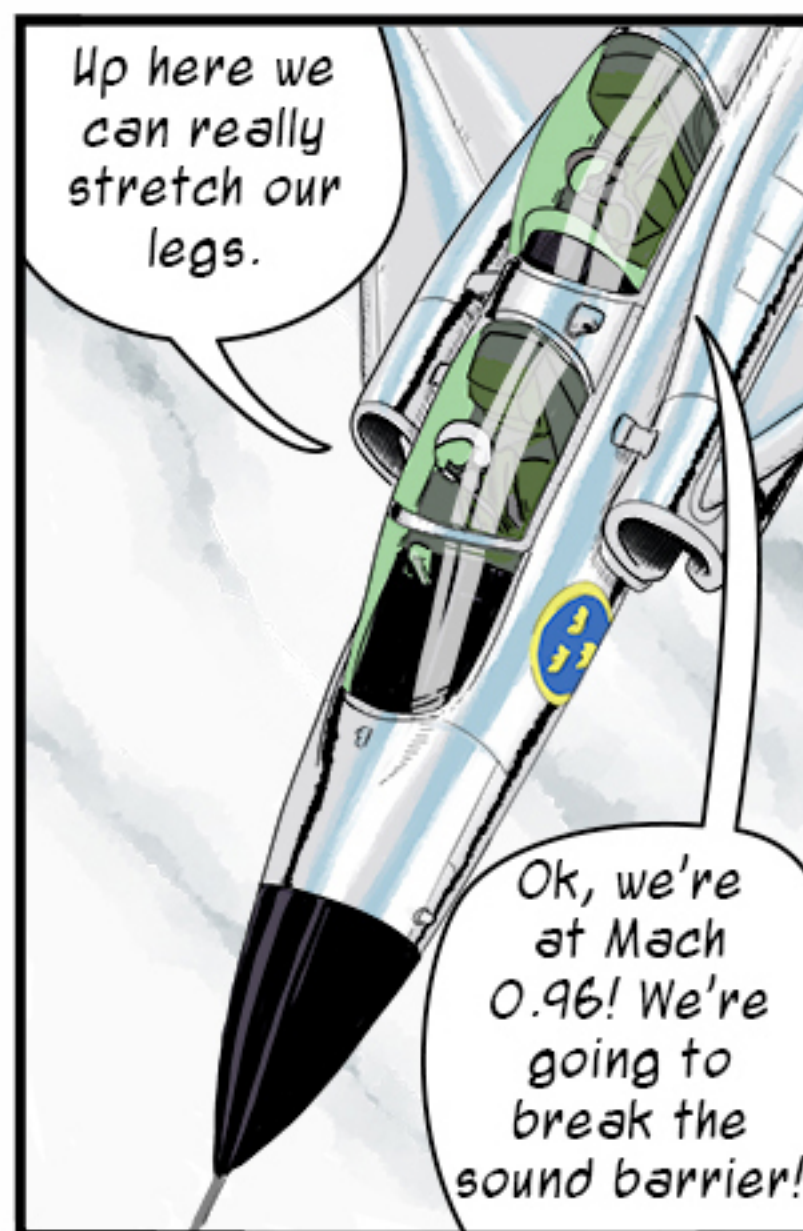
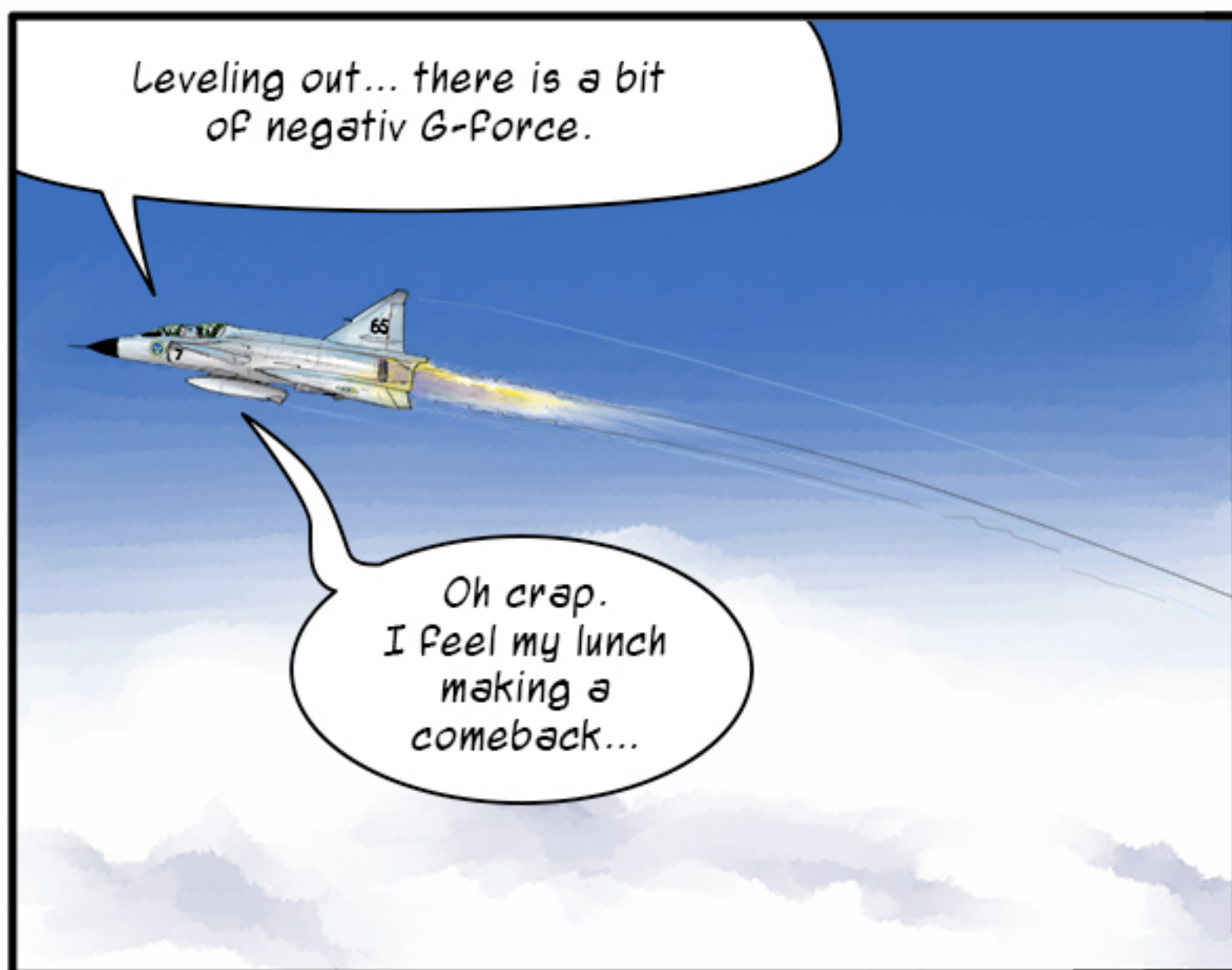
?!?



Seargent Borg throttles up, Full AB and points the Thunderbolt Fighter upward to a 70 degree incline. The altimeter Flies past 19, 20, 21, 22...

The illustration shows a Thunderbolt fighter aircraft in a steep climb. The aircraft is white with blue and yellow markings, including the number '7' on the wings and a yellow circle with a blue 'S' on the fuselage. It is angled upwards at a steep incline, with a large, colorful, and turbulent wake trailing behind it. The background is a dark blue sky with white clouds. A yellow arrow points towards the aircraft from the bottom left corner.

Up to 23.000 Feet in 30 seconds!



Leveling out... there is a bit
of negativ G-force.

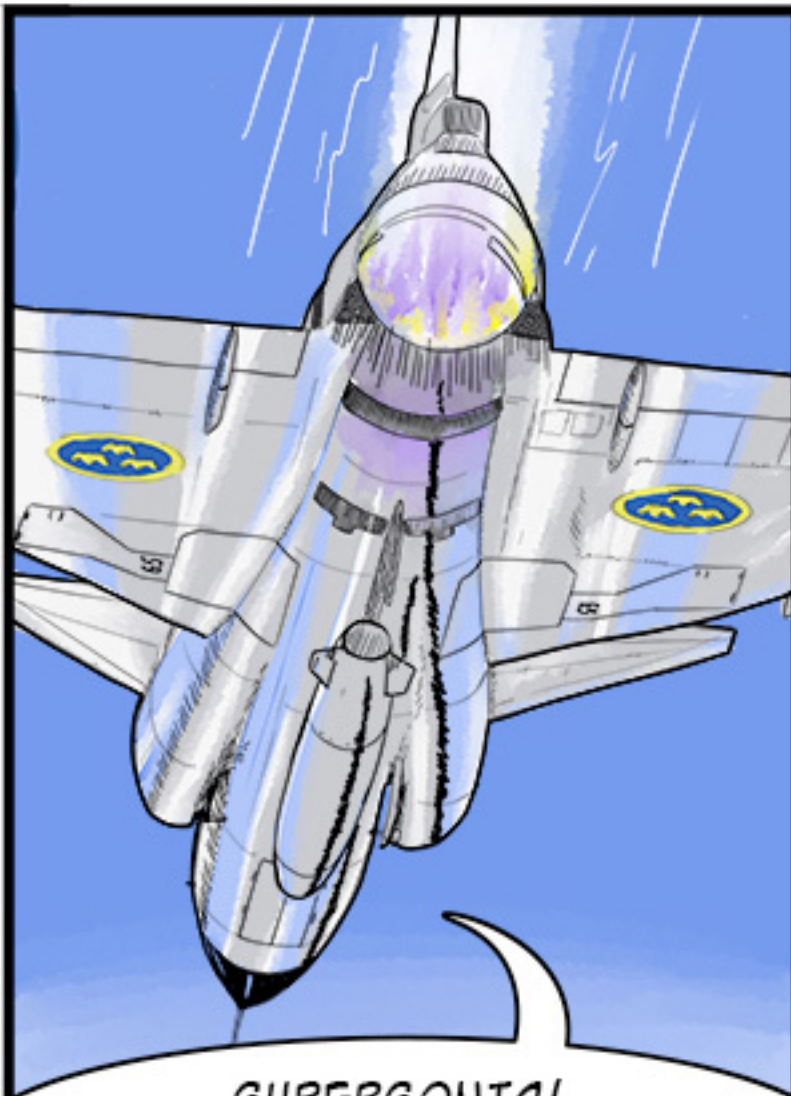
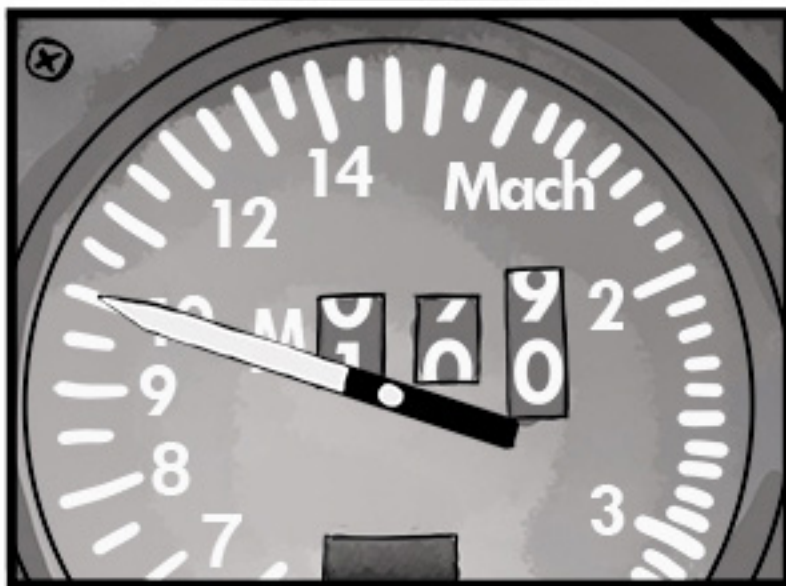
Oh crap.
I feel my lunch
making a
comeback...

Up here we
can really
stretch our
legs.

Ok, we're
at Mach
0.96! We're
going to
break the
sound barrier!



0.97... 0.98... 0.99!
MACH 1!



SUPERSONIC!
But... no sonic boom?



We can't hear it. The
sonic boom is behind us.
Down on the ground on
the other hand...

KRA-BANG!



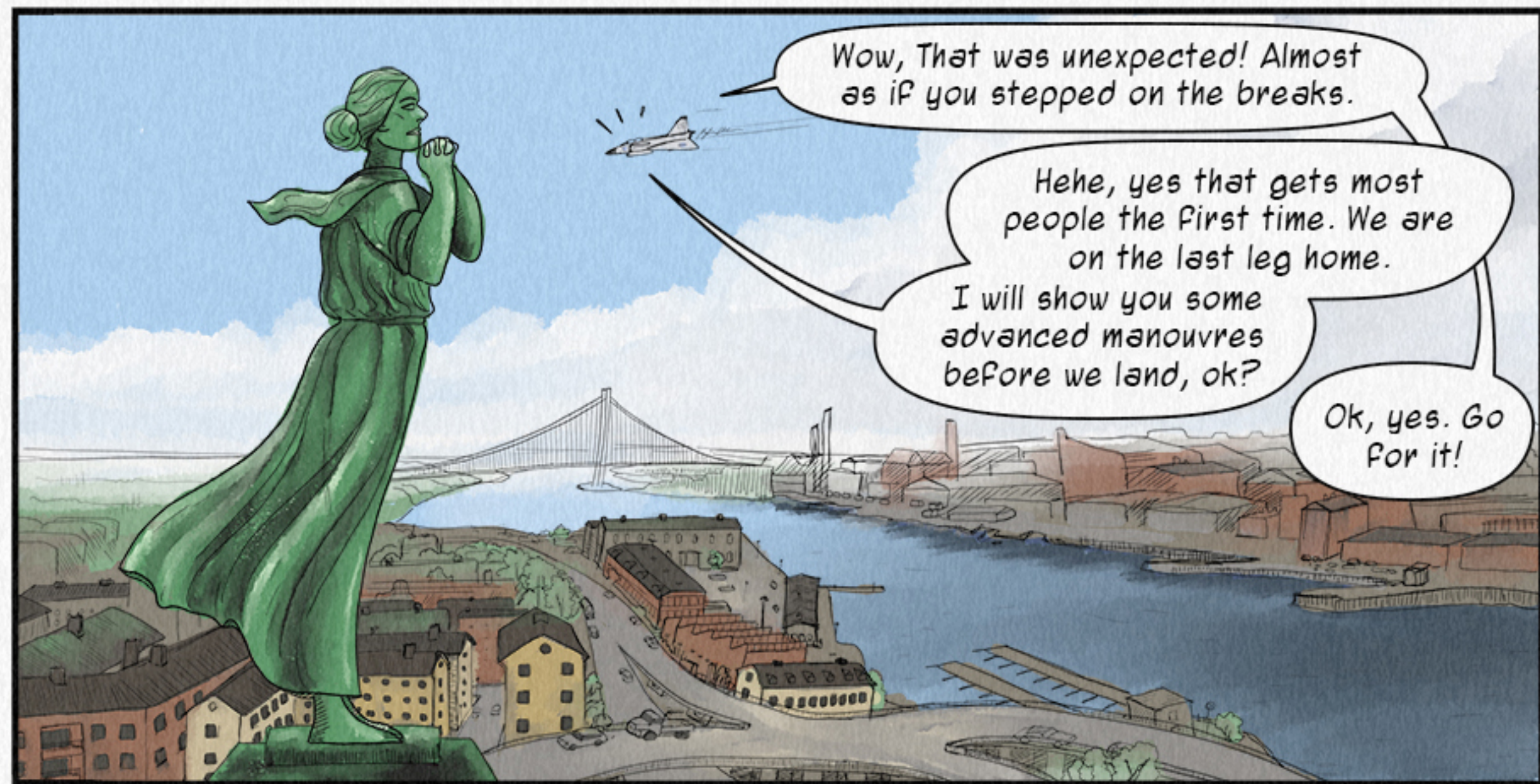
Mach 1.3!

We are burning Fuel
Fast. It is time to
throttle down.

Ok, but what is
the actual the top
speed?

The Max speed* is
classified, naturally.
But we are not even
close, hehe!

*The Max speed of the SK37 is twice
the speed of sound, circa Mach 2.1

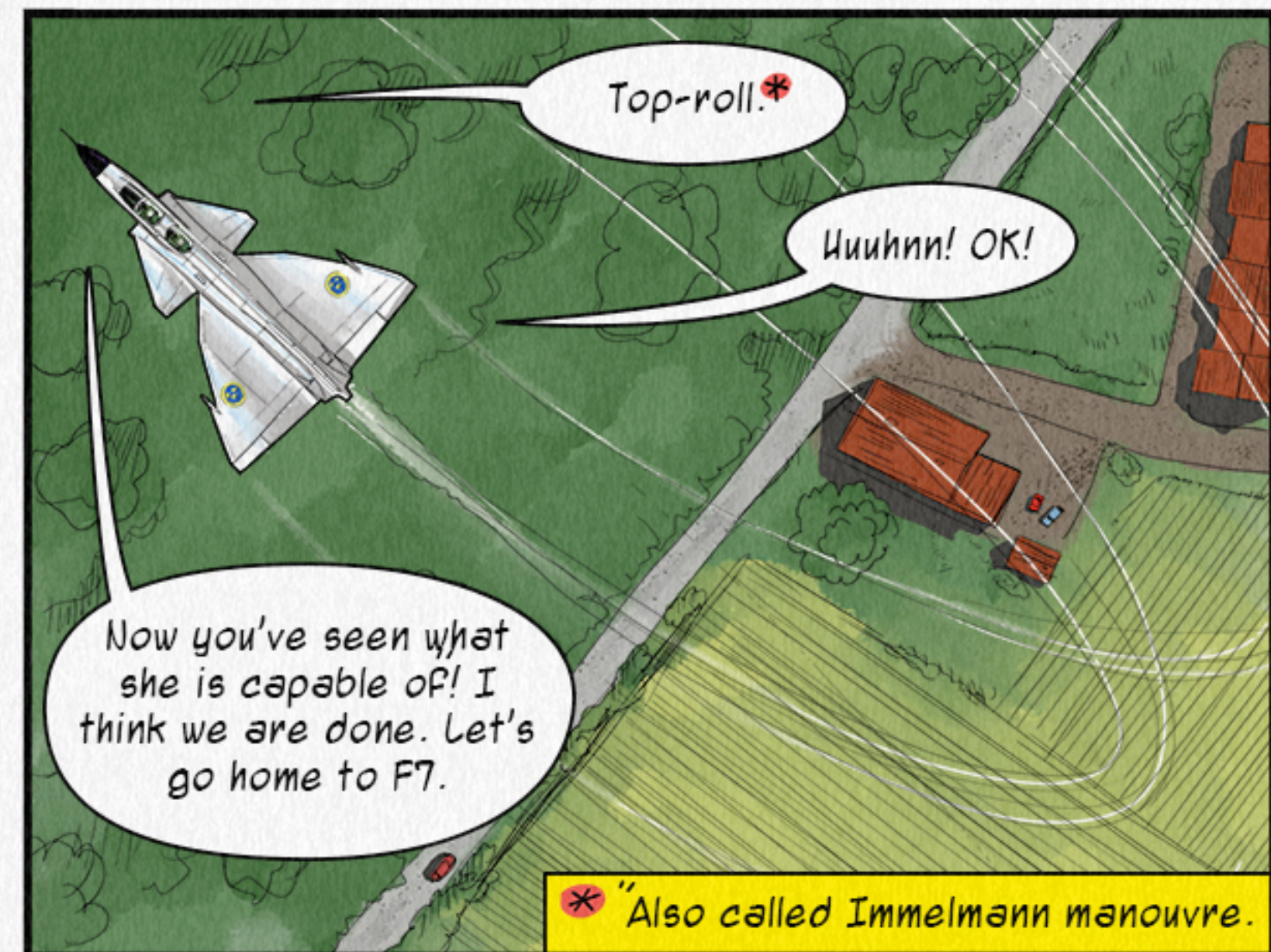


The "Seamans wife" (Kvinnas vid havet - 1932, Ivar Johansson)

In quick succession manoeuvres are performed that makes it very clear what a formidable...

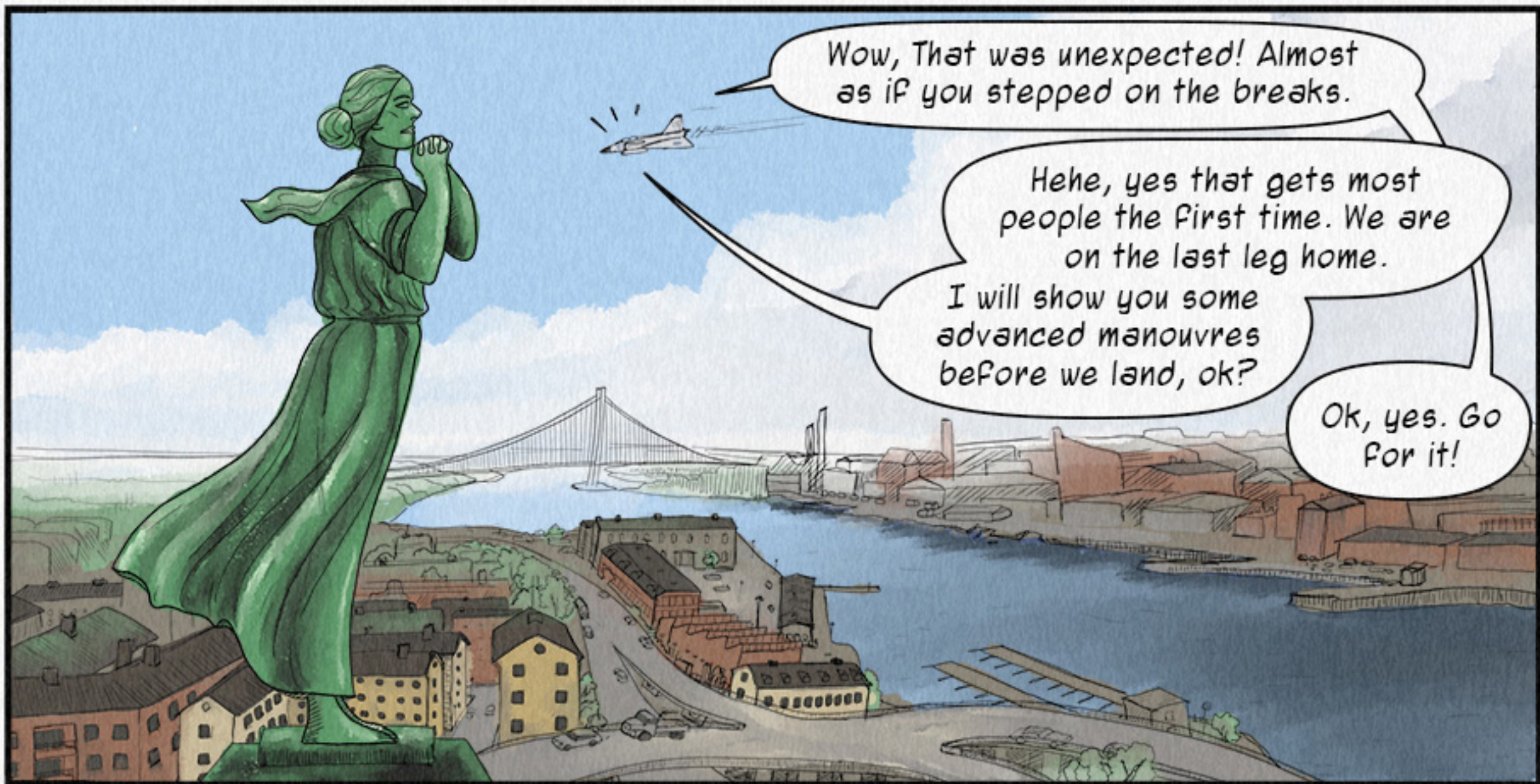


and manoeuvrable Fighter the Thunderbolt is!



* "Also called Immelmann manoeuvre.





Wow, That was unexpected! Almost as if you stepped on the breaks.

Hehe, yes that gets most people the First time. We are on the last leg home.

I will show you some advanced manoeuvres before we land, ok?

Ok, yes. Go for it!

In quick succession manouevres are performed that makes it very clear what a formidable...



and manouverable Fighter the Thunderbolt is!



Top-roll.*

Ууууу! OK!

Now you've seen what she is capable of! I think we are done. Let's go home to F7.

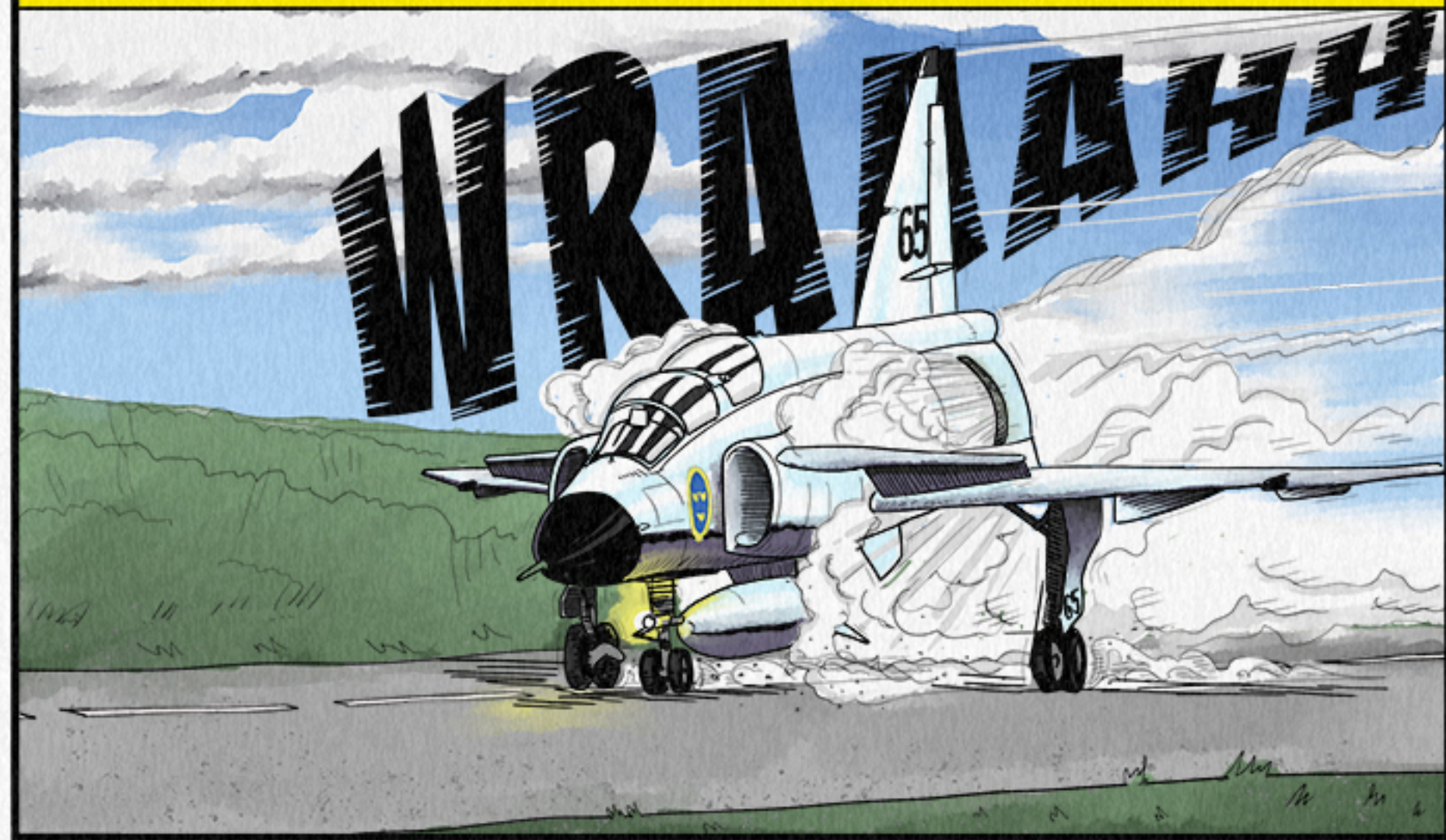
* "Also called Immelmann manoeuvre.

Gear out. Stabilizer and automatic speed control engaged. On approach for landing.

* Autopilot systems to relieve the pilot during landing.



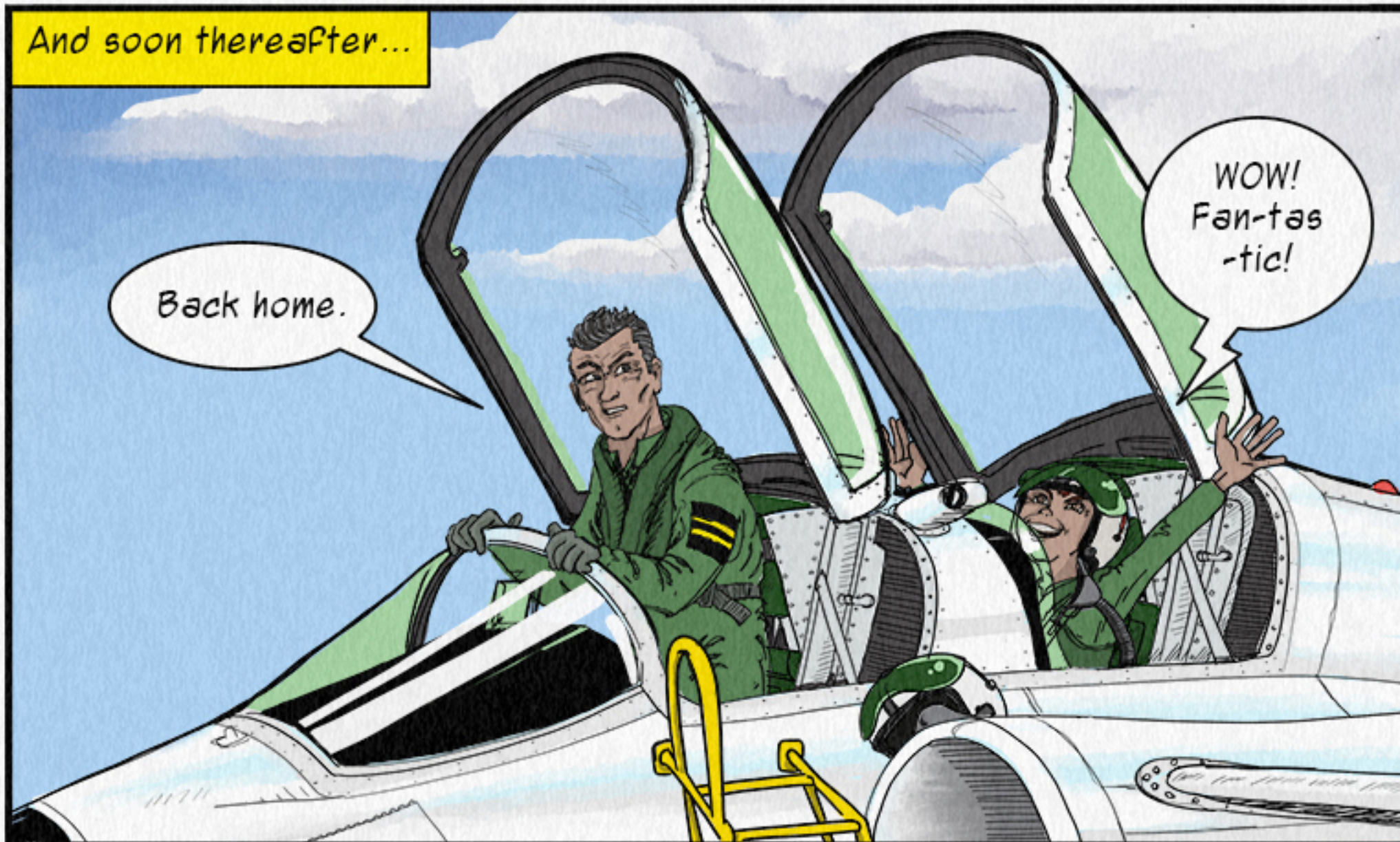
The Thunderbolt touch down hard and automatically reverse the jet stream. The brutal force makes the landing extremely short!



And soon thereafter...

Back home.

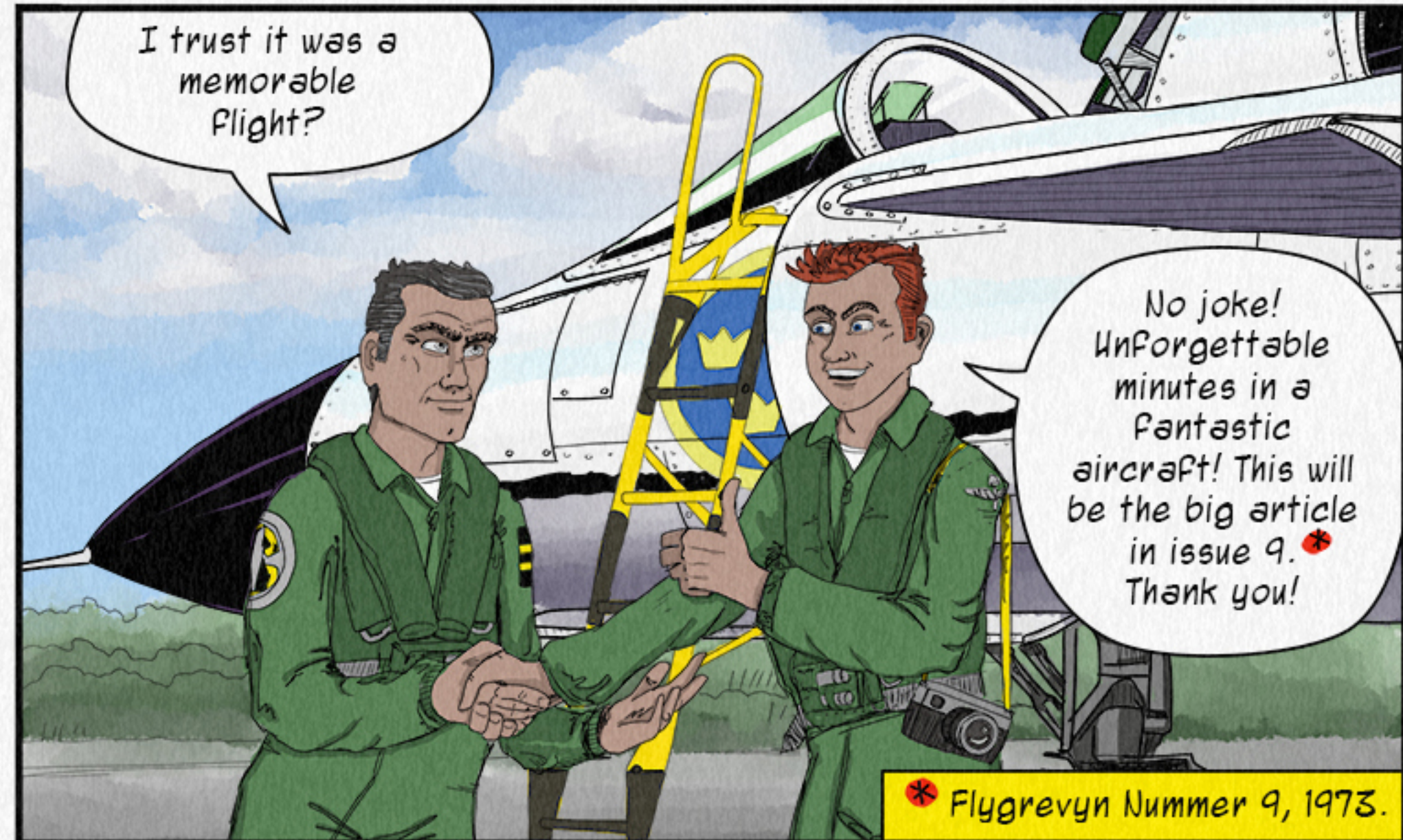
WOW!
Fan-tas-
tic!



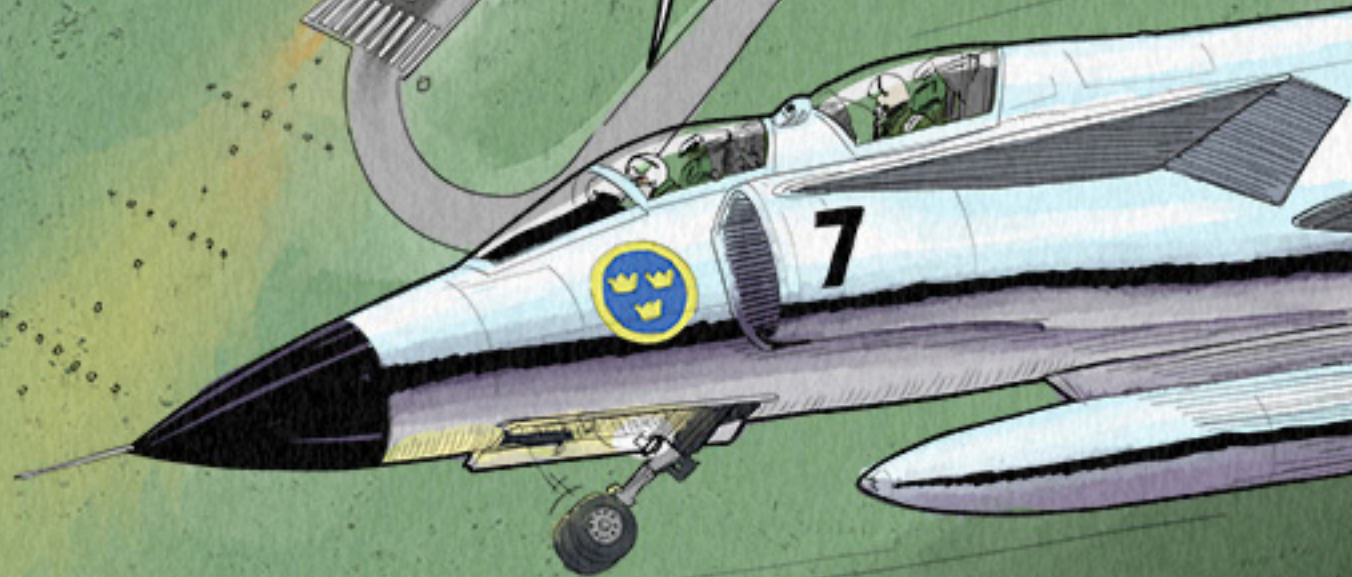
I trust it was a memorable flight?

No joke!
UnForgettable minutes in a Fantastic aircraft! This will be the big article in issue 9. * Thank you!

* Flygrevyn Nummer 9, 1973.



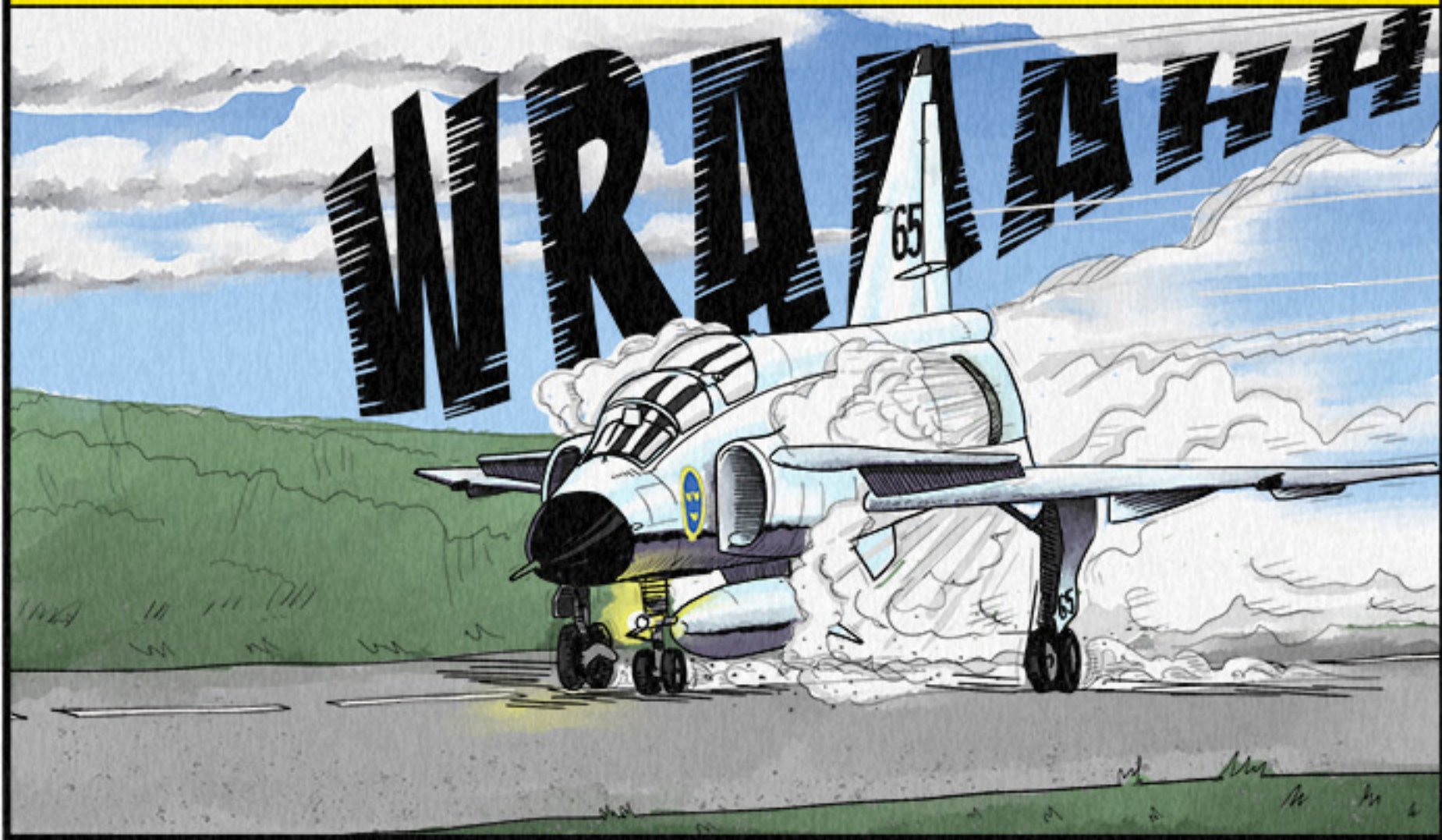
Gear out. Stabilizer and automatic speed control *engaged. On approach for landing.



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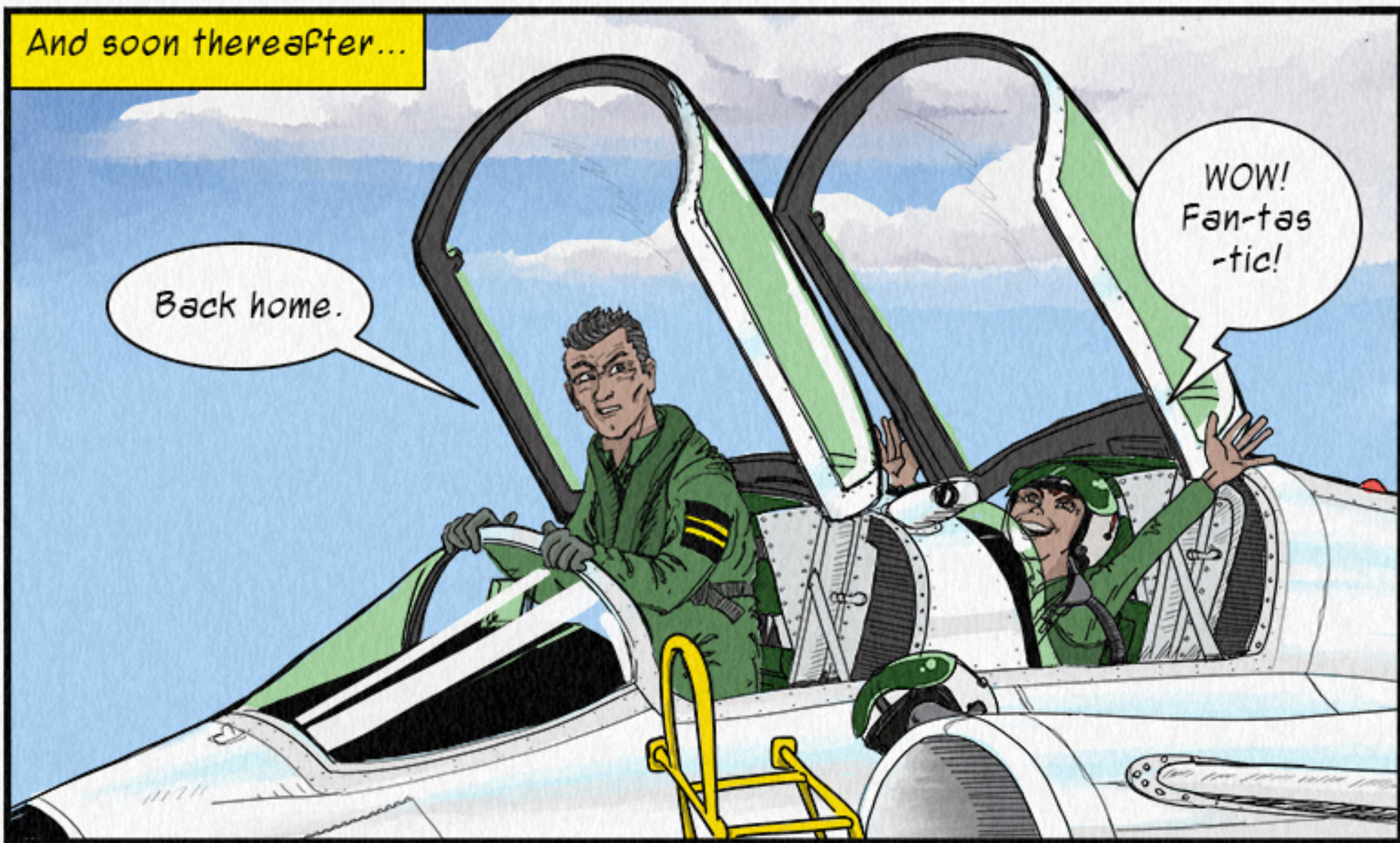
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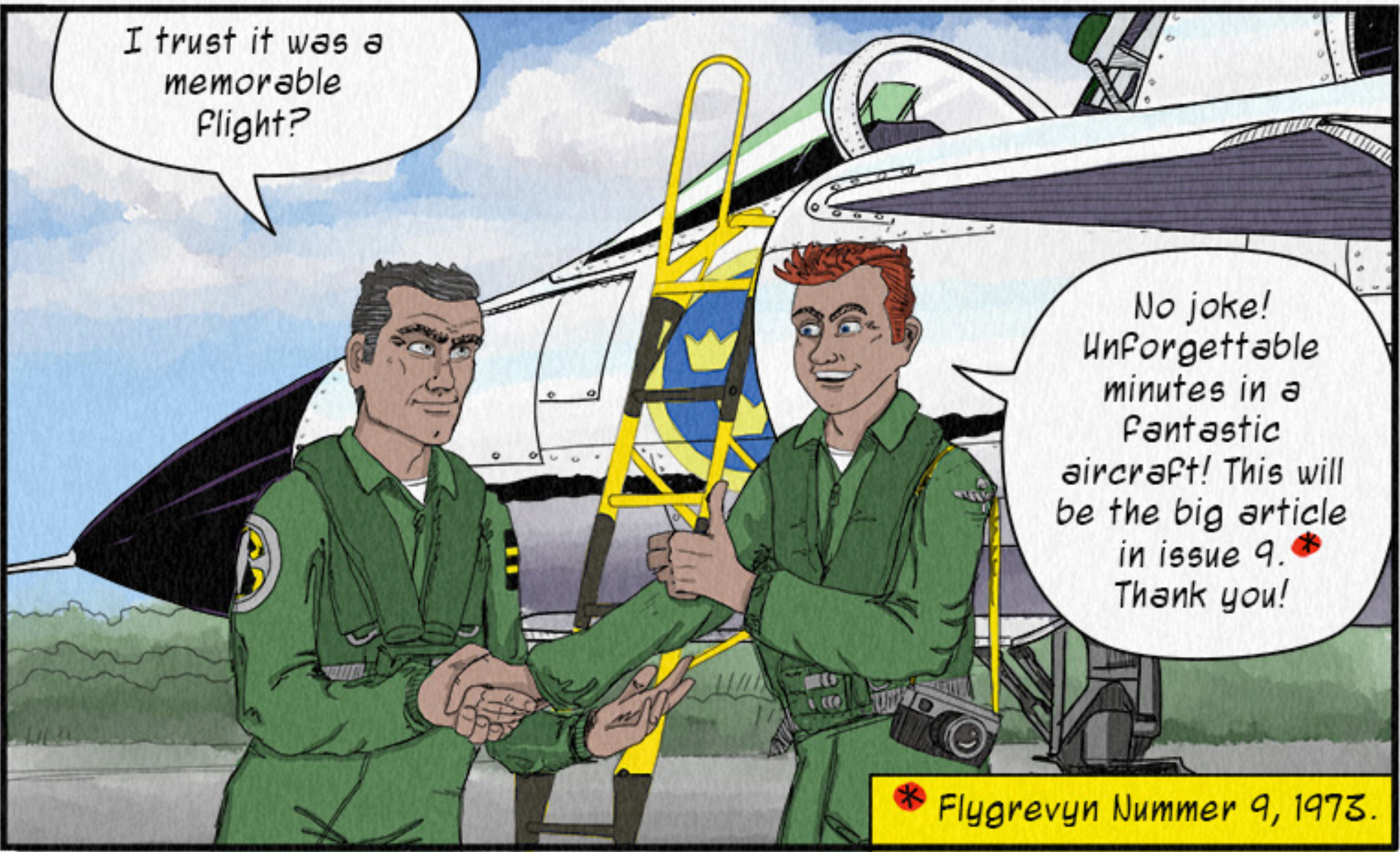


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-tic!





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series:
1. the test flight



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1. the test flight

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