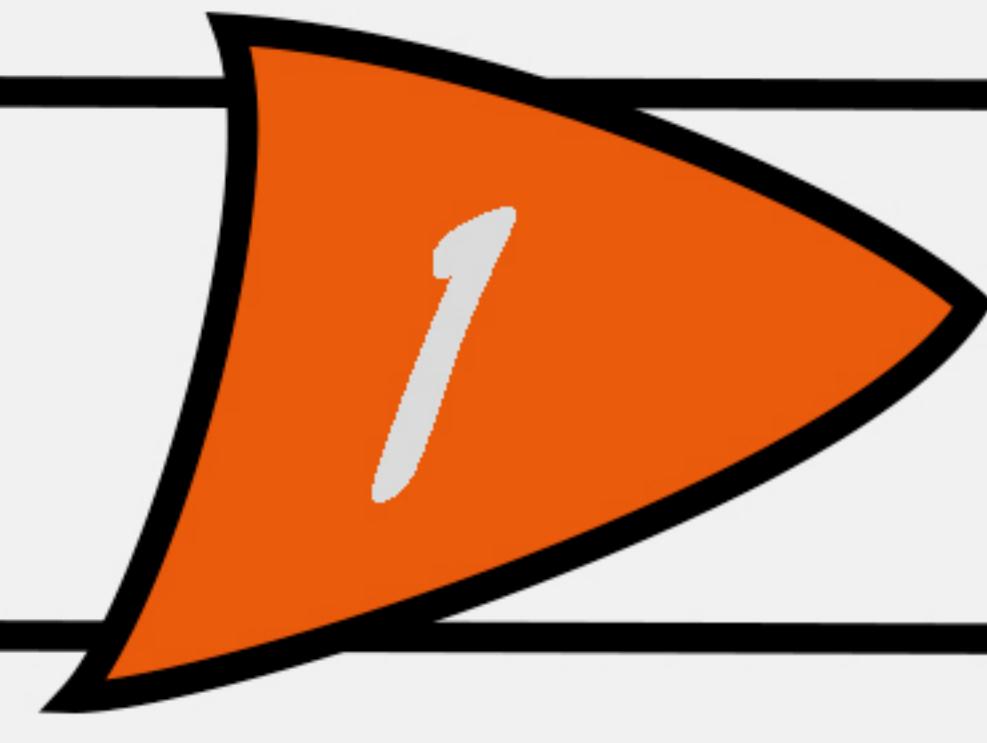


THUNDERBOLT 37

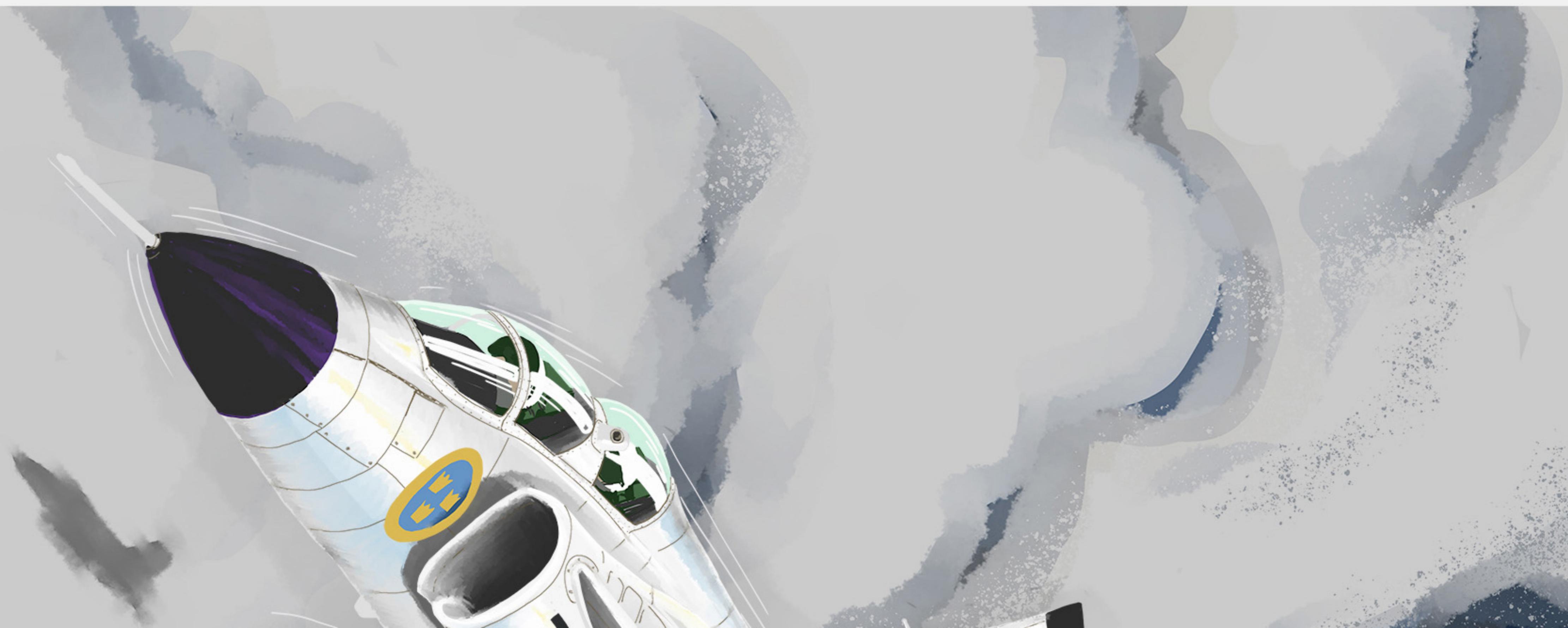


the test flight

By Robert Lindberg
In homage to Albert Uderzo

THUNDERBOLT 37

1







Robin 19

the test flight

By Robert Lindberg
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THUNDERBOLT 37

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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



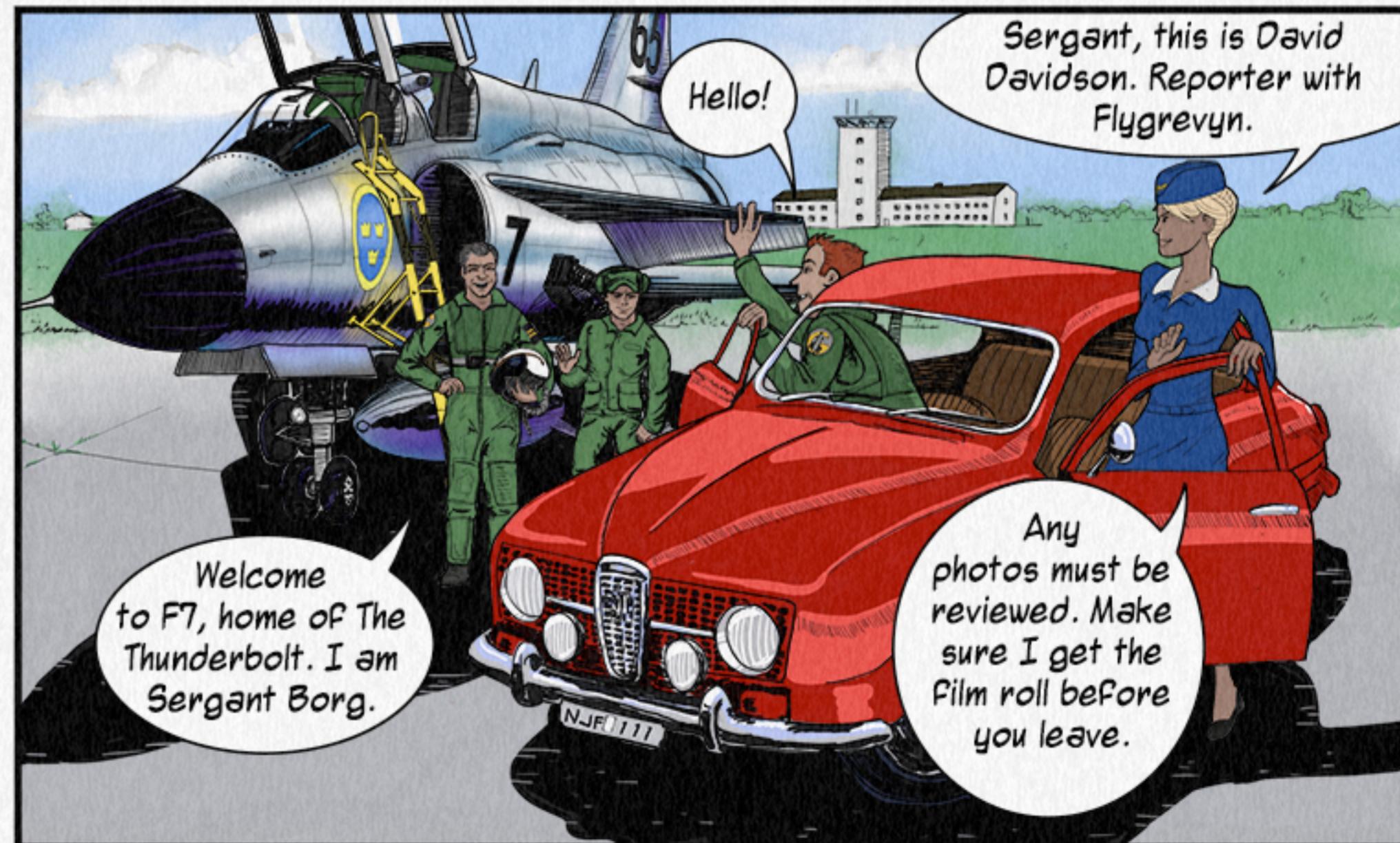
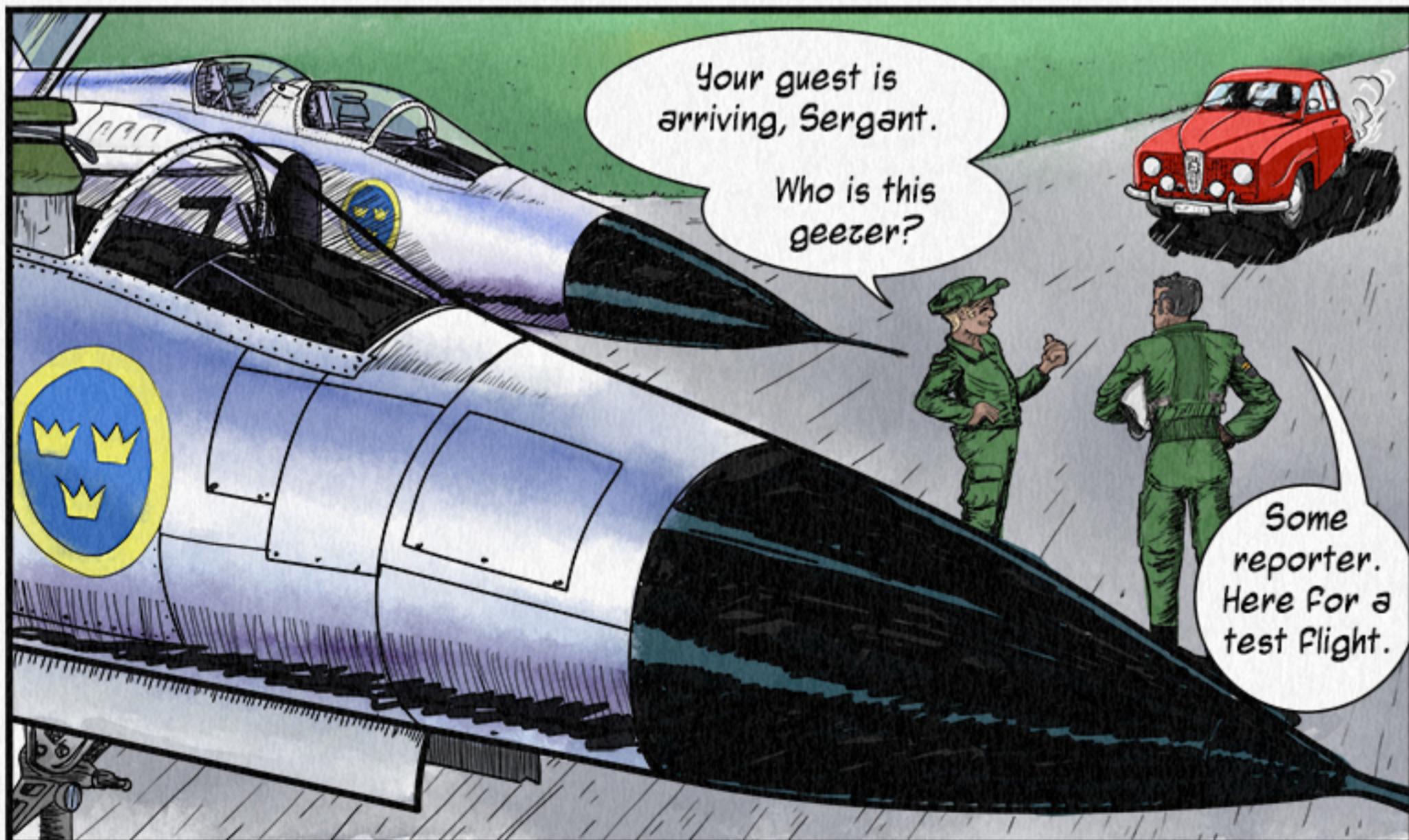
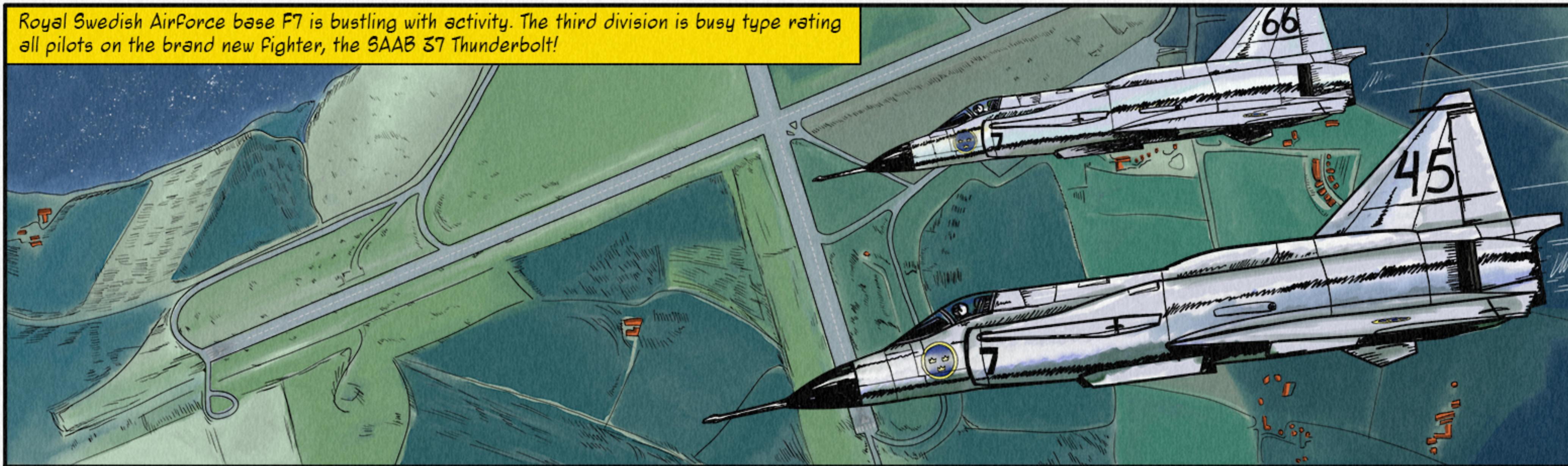
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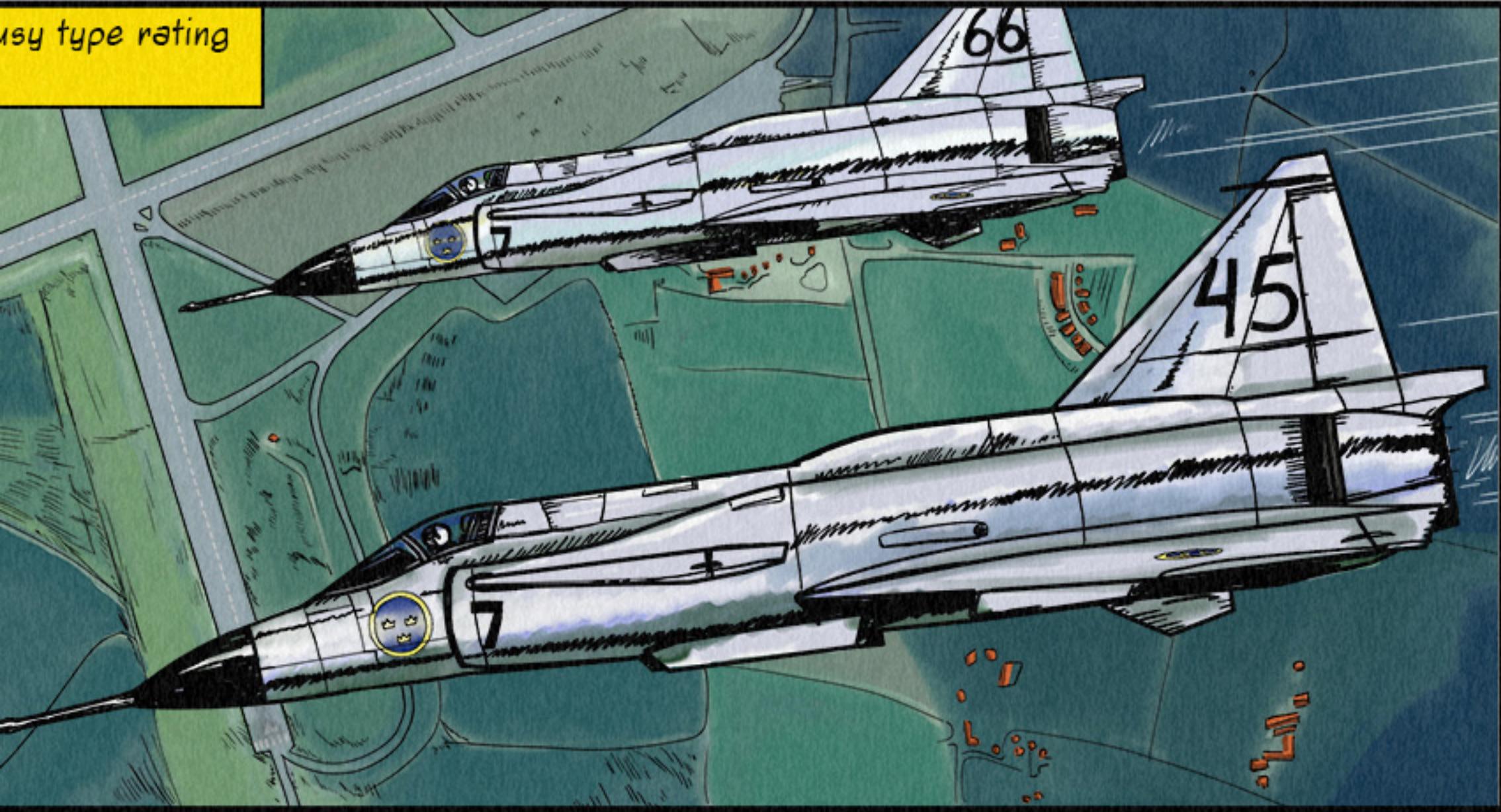
Royal Swedish Airforce base F7 is bustling with activity. The third division is busy type rating all pilots on the brand new fighter, the SAAB 37 Thunderbolt!



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easy type rating

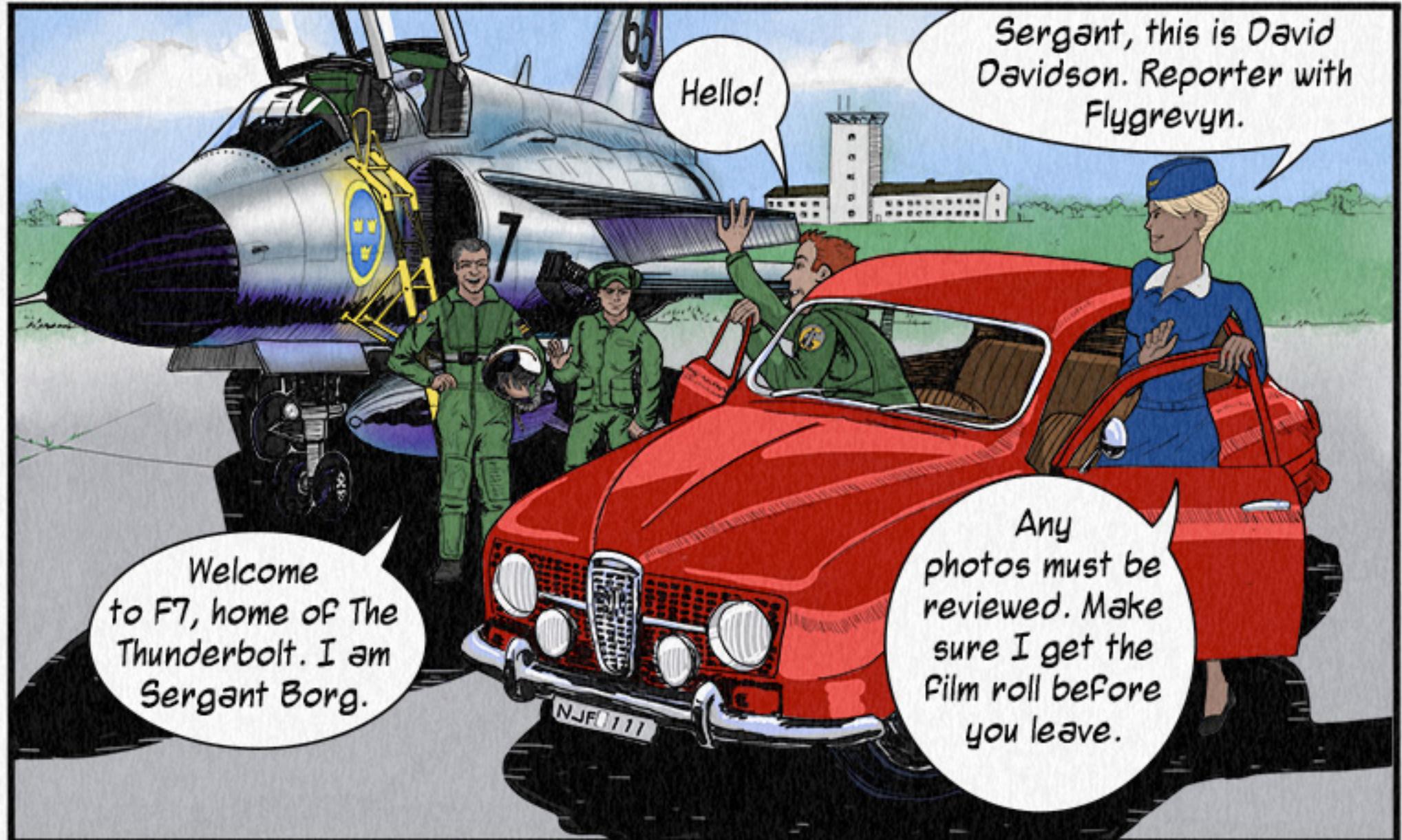


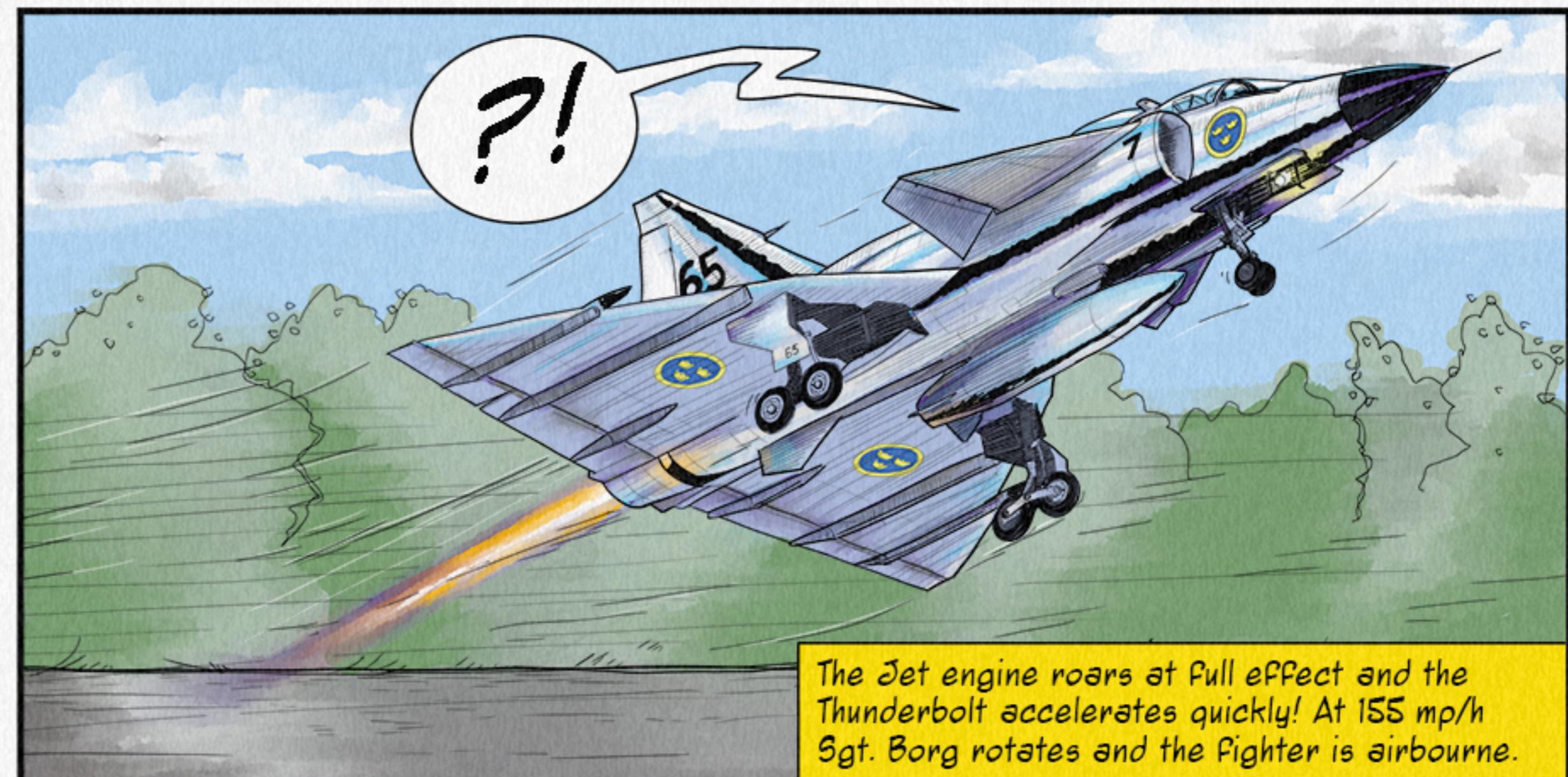
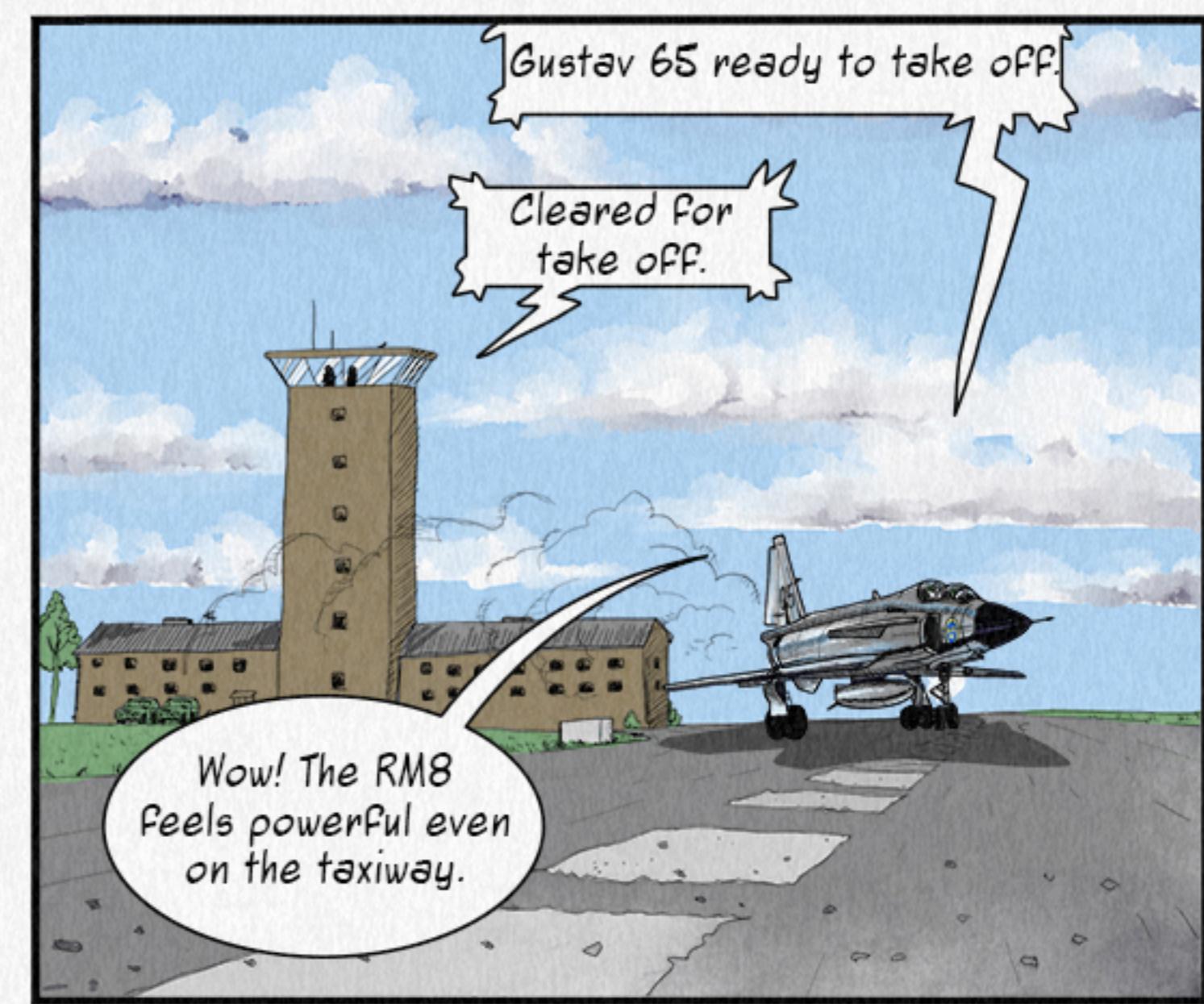
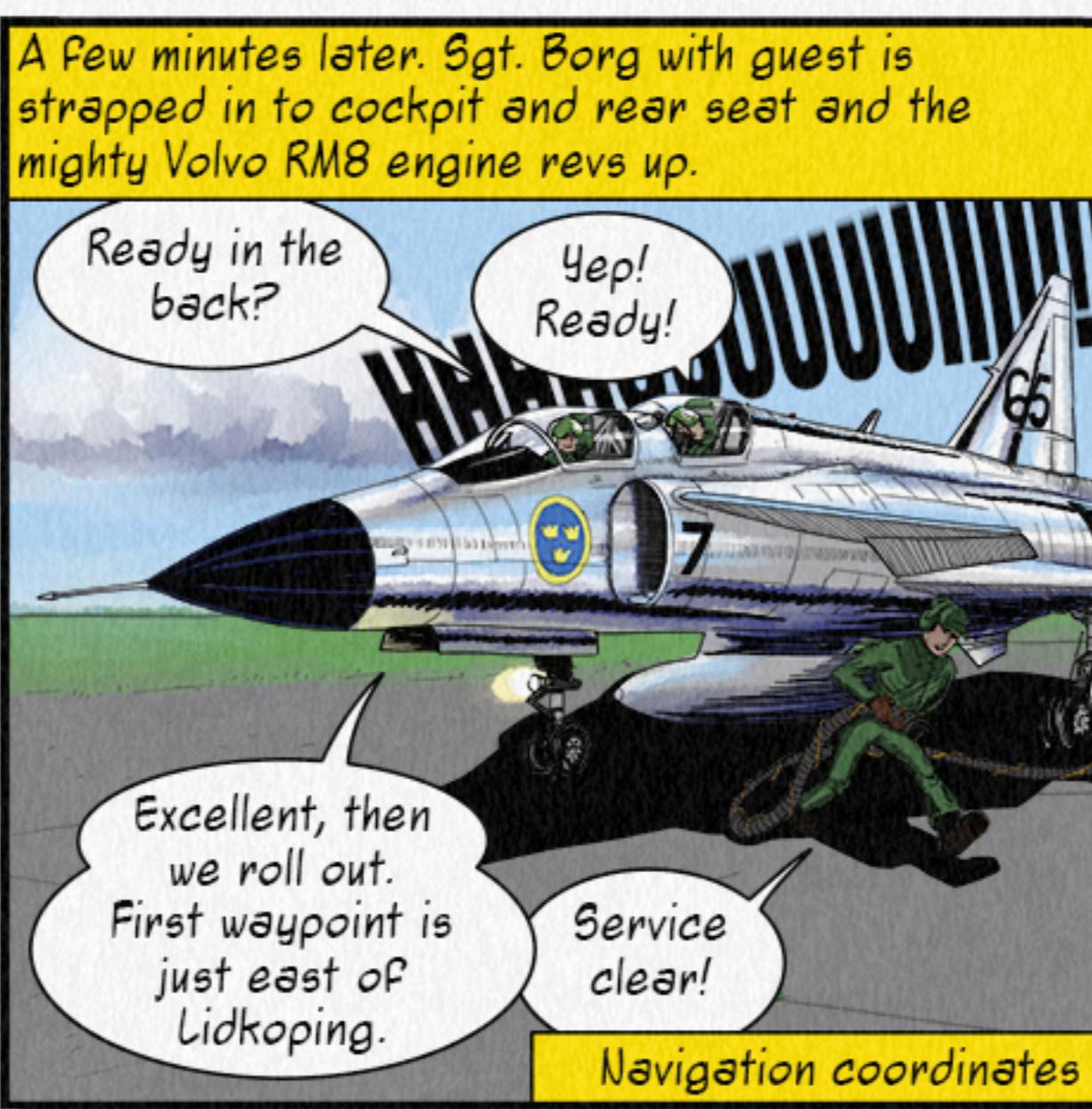


Your guest is
arriving, Sergeant.

Who is this
geezer?

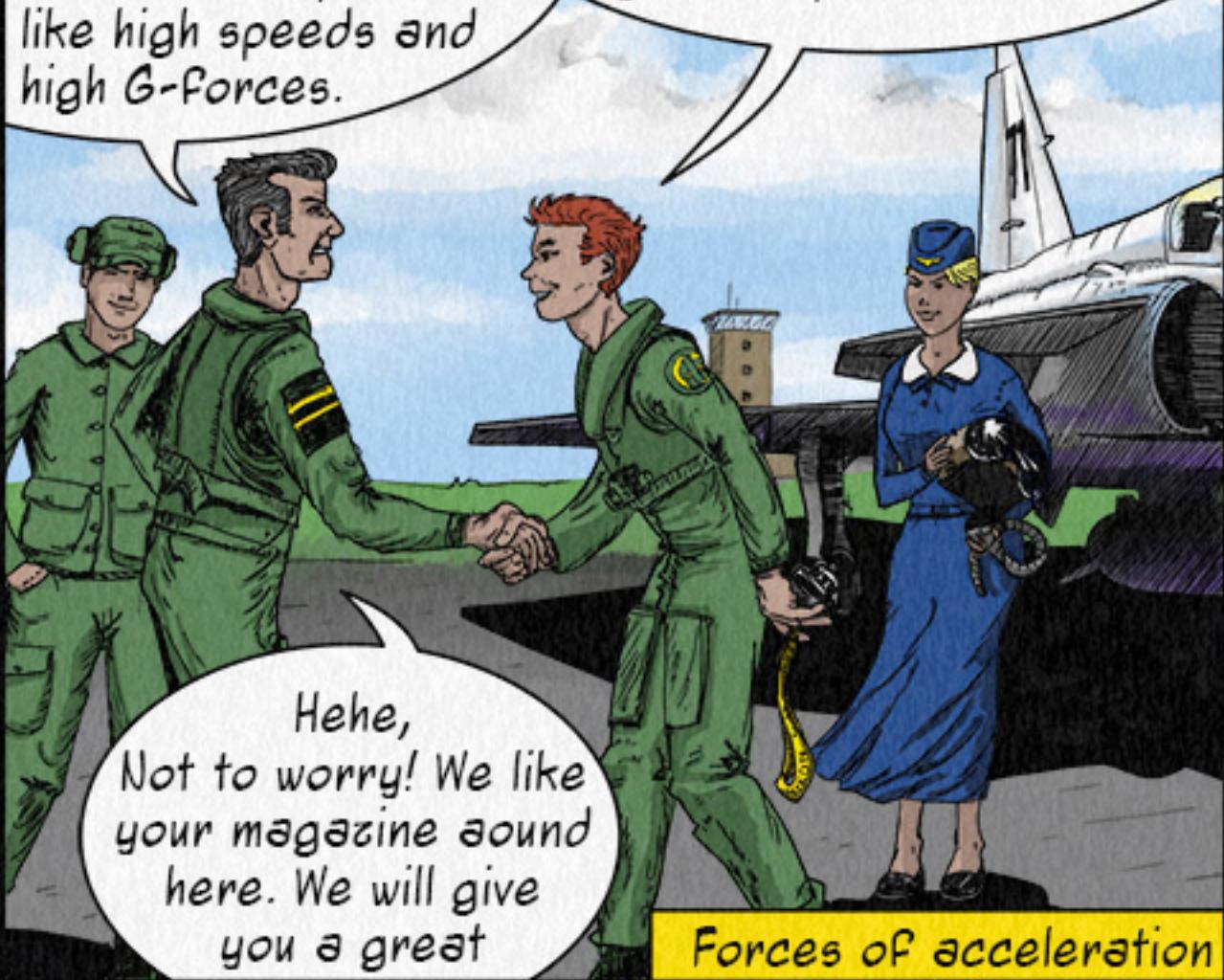
Some
reporter.
Here for a
test flight.





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!



A Few minutes later I was strapped in to a mighty Volvo RM

Ready in the back?

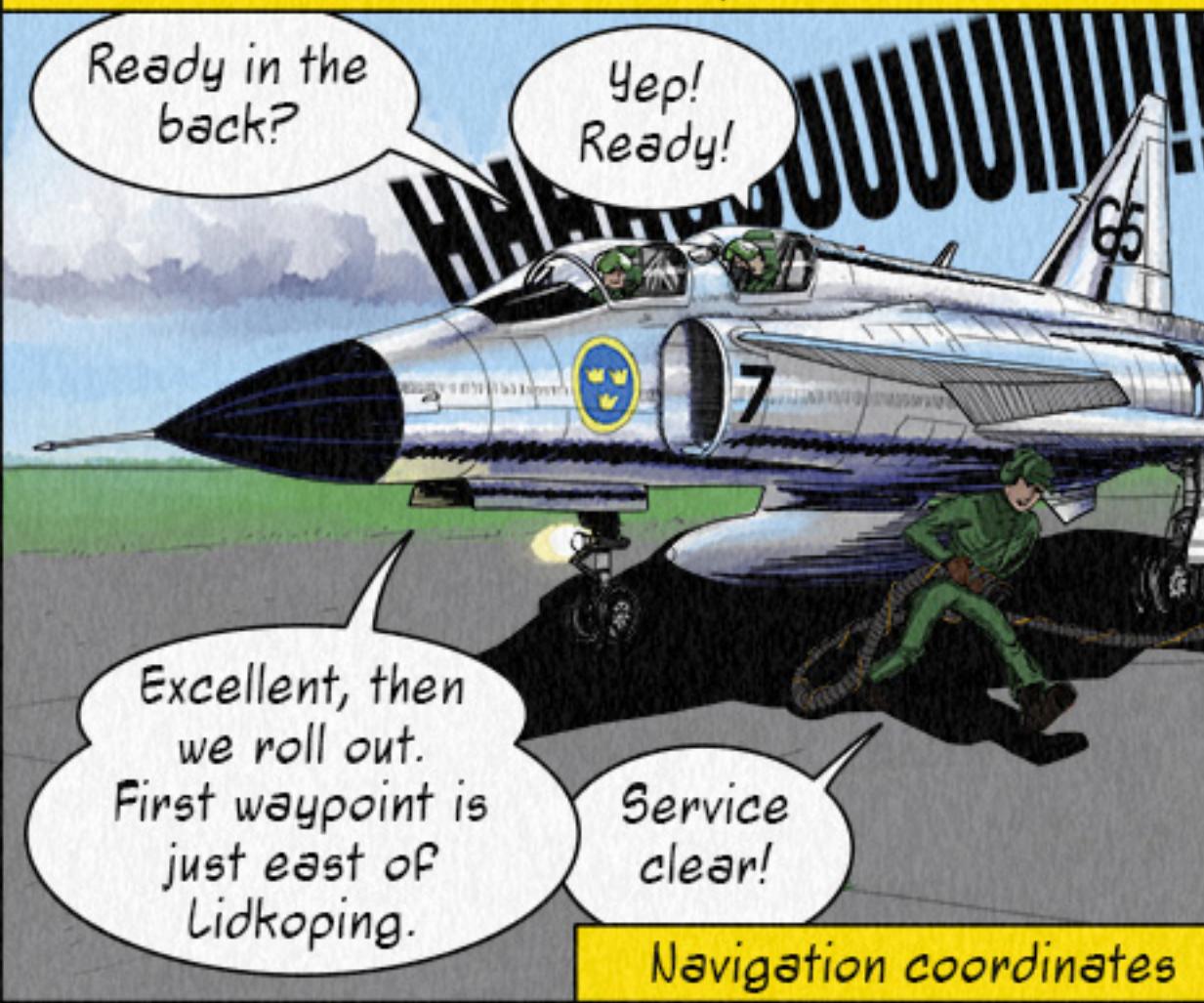
Excellent,
we roll out
First waypoints
just east of
Lidköping

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.



Navigation coordinates

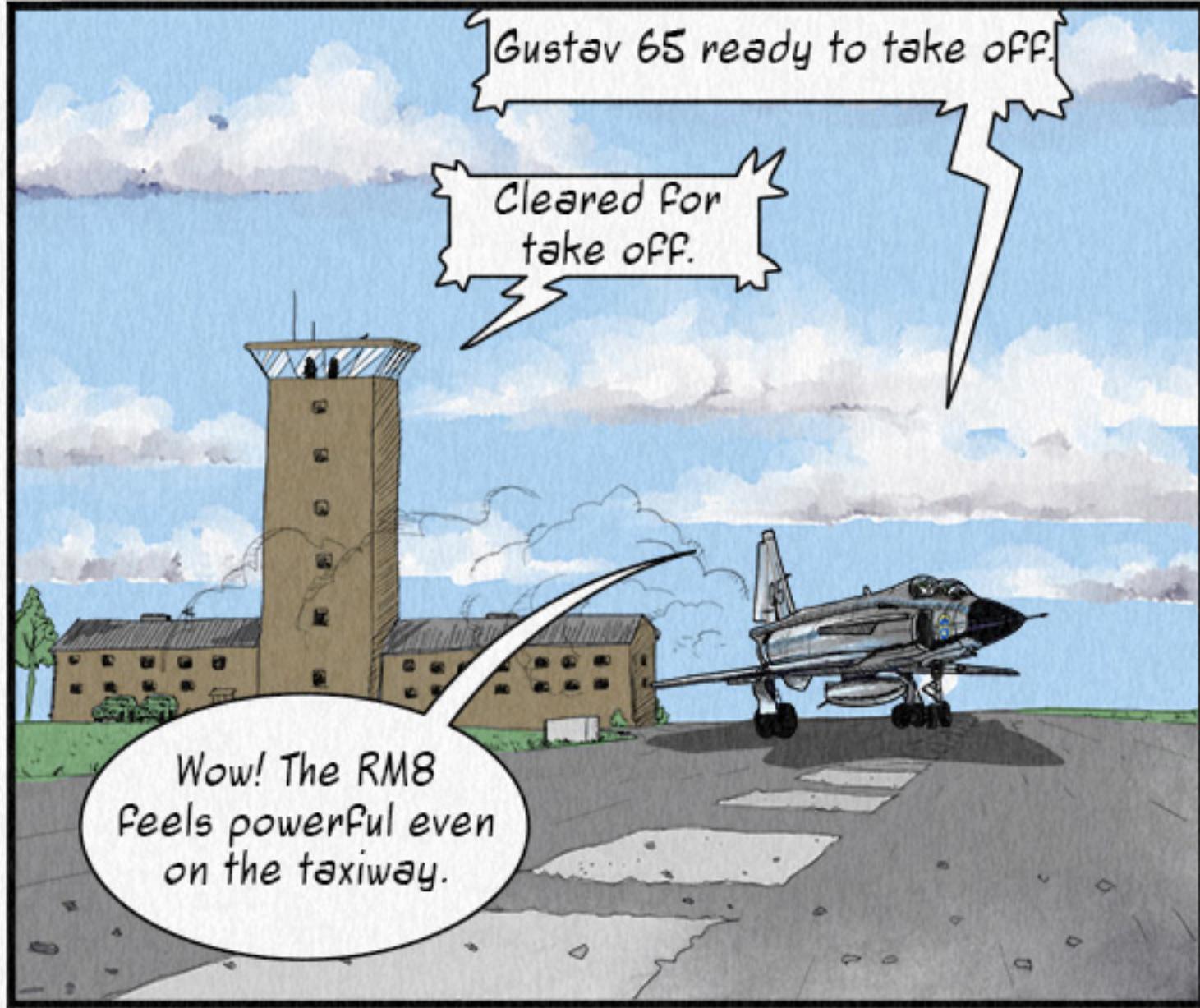


Wow! The RM8
feels powerful
on the taxiway!

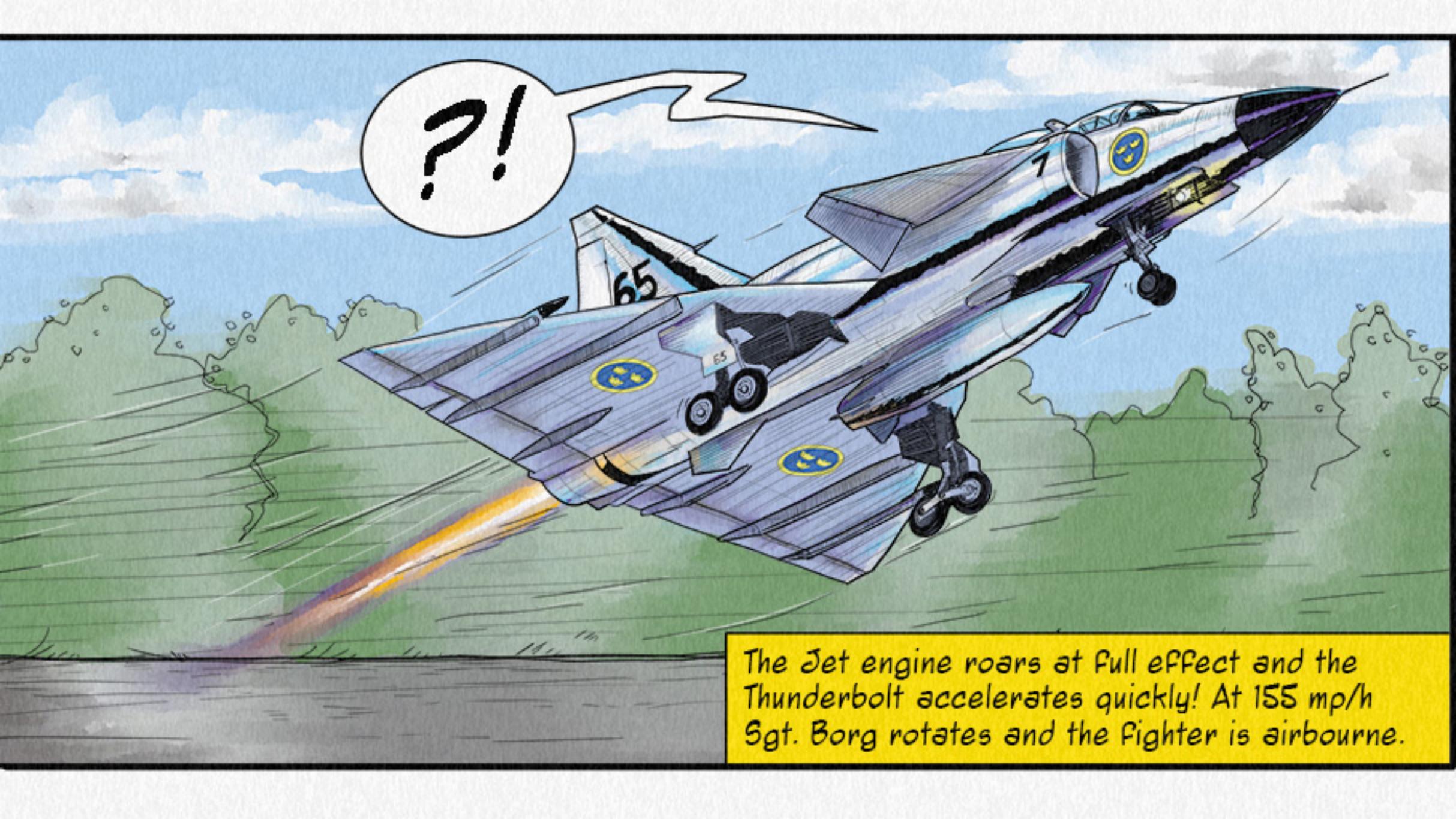
guest is
at and the



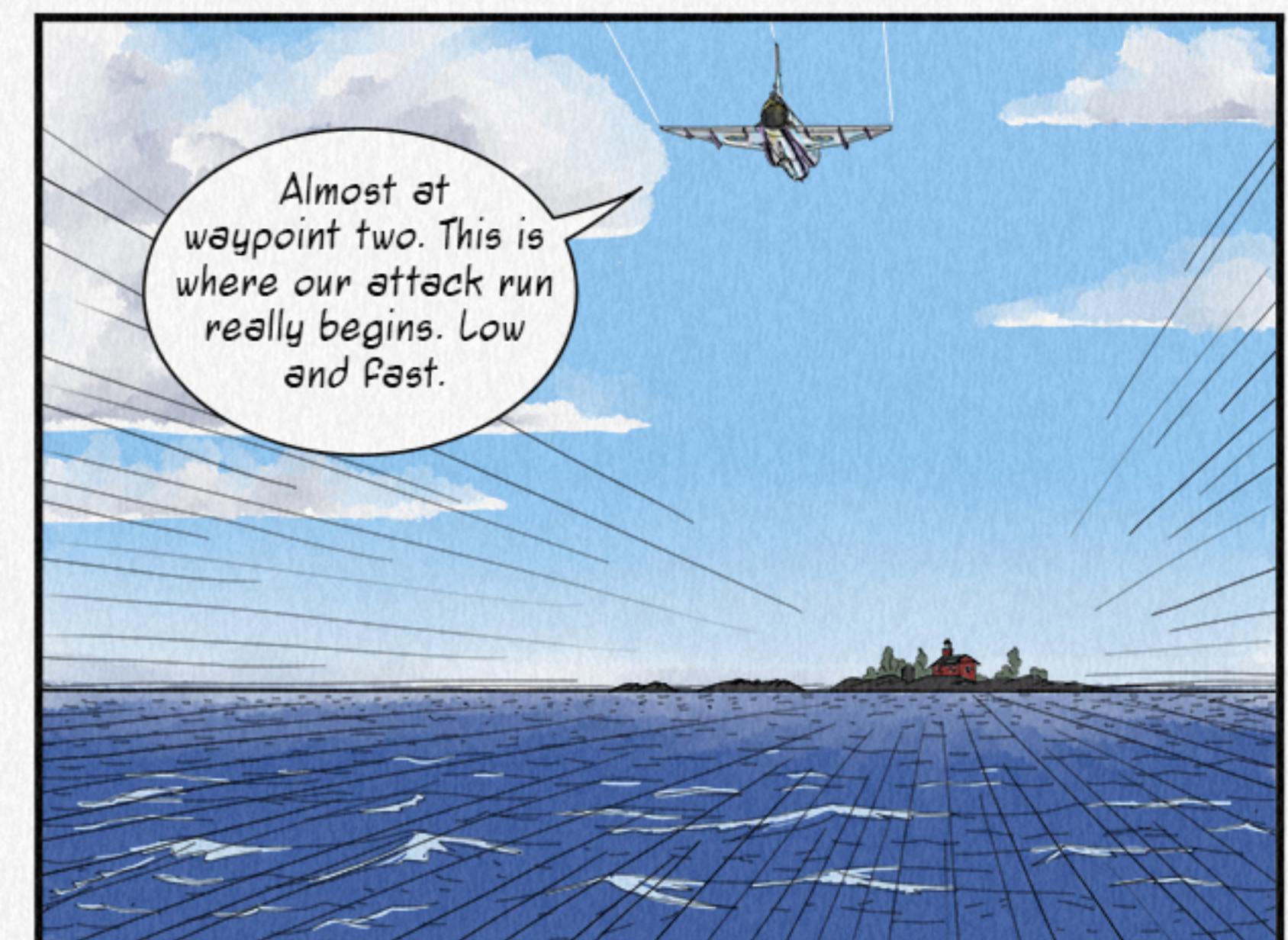
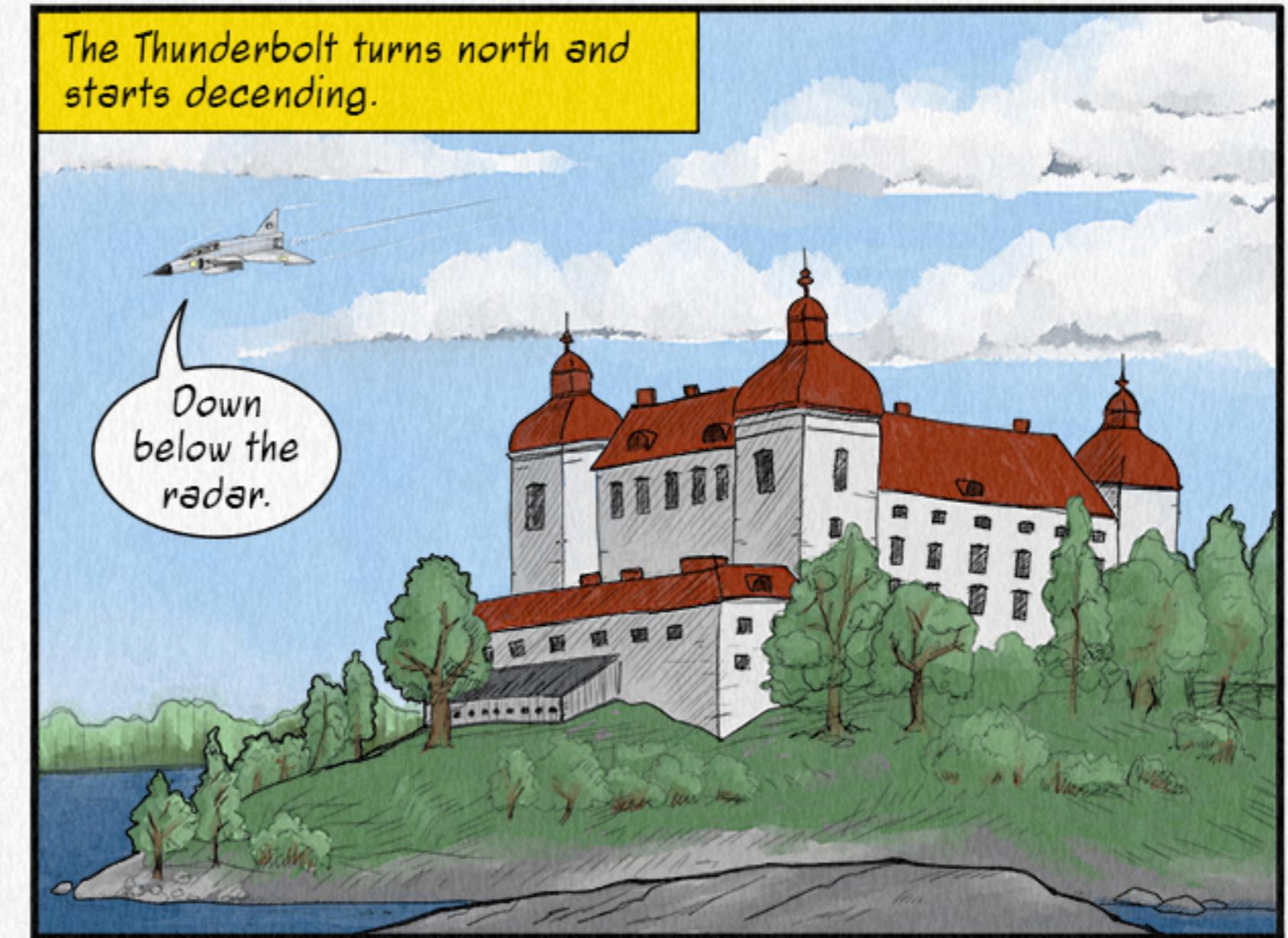
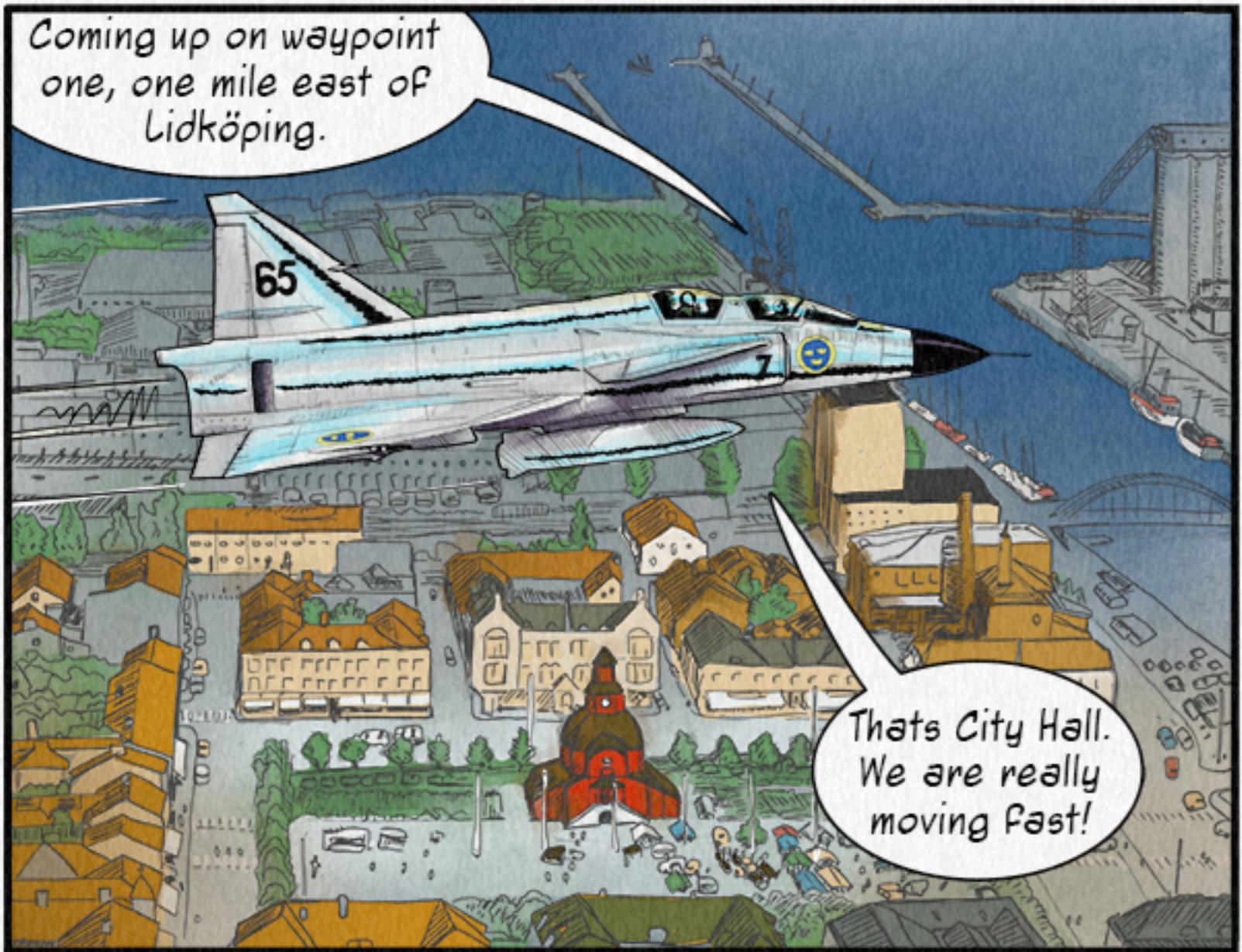
ion coordinates







The Jet engine roars at full effect and the Thunderbolt accelerates quickly! At 155 mp/h Sgt. Borg rotates and the fighter is airbourne.

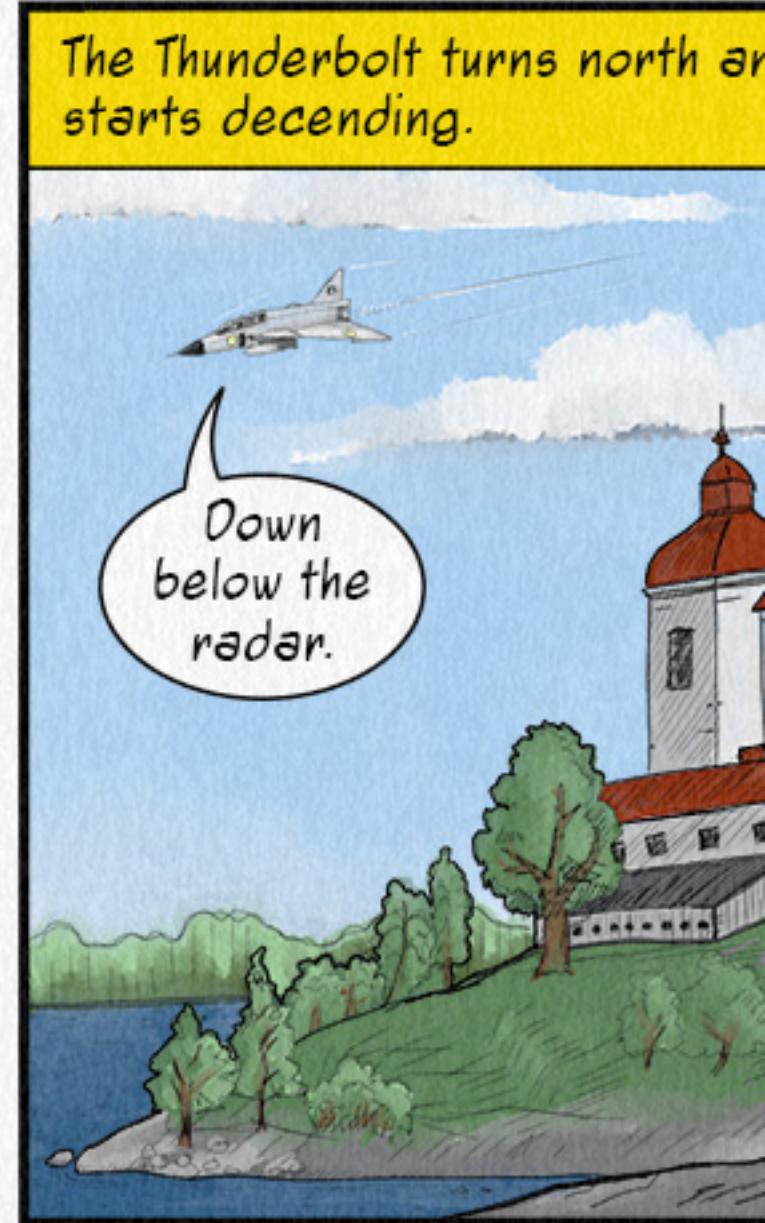


Coming up on waypoint
one, one mile east of
Lidköping.



We are heading
towards Lake
Vänern. Our
run is about

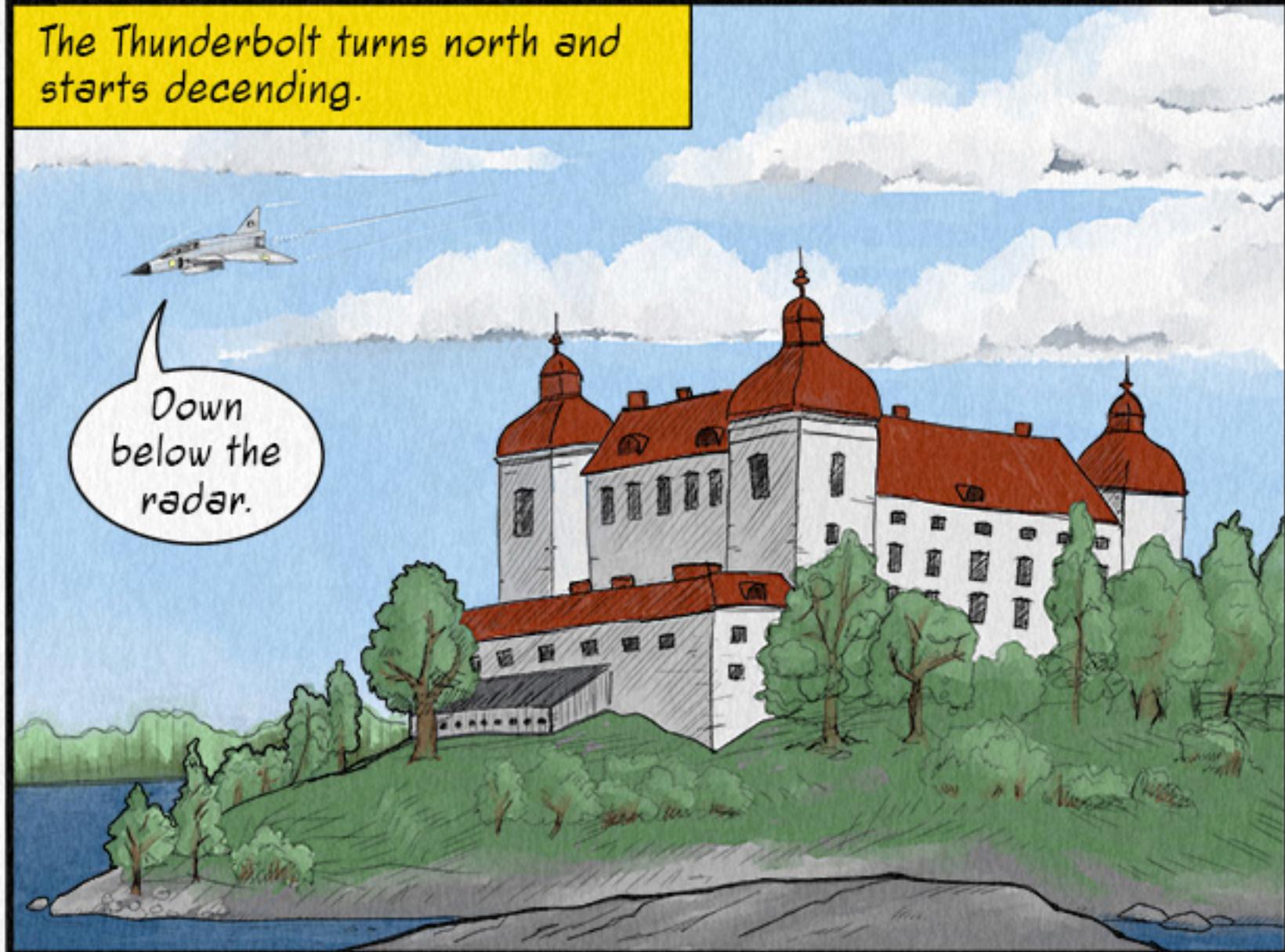




out over lake
lated attack
to begin.



The Thunderbolt turns north and starts descending.



Lacko Castle (1527).

Altitude 150 Ft. This is our approach run.

Wow!
Not very
high.

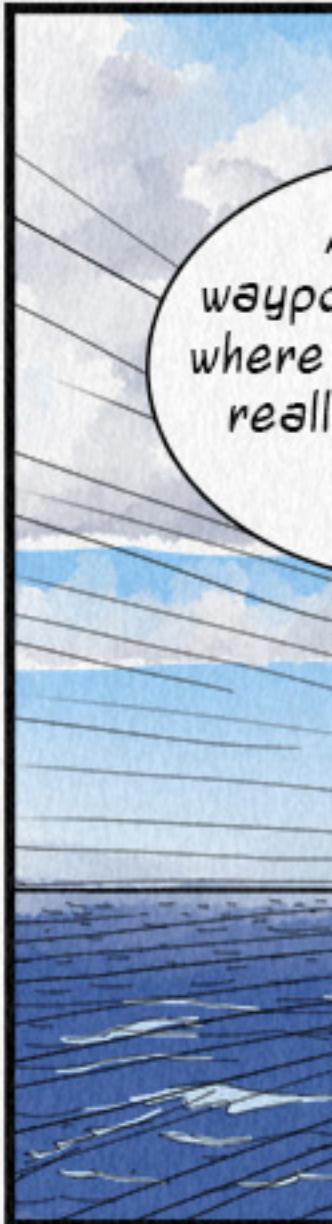


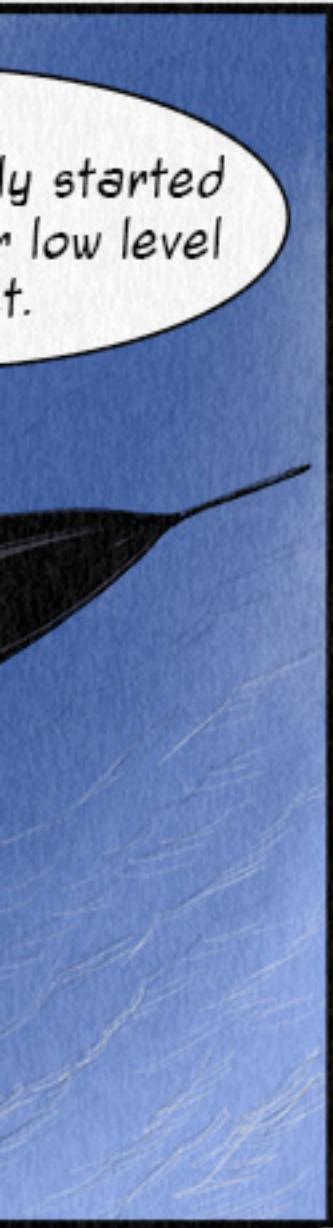
KLICK!



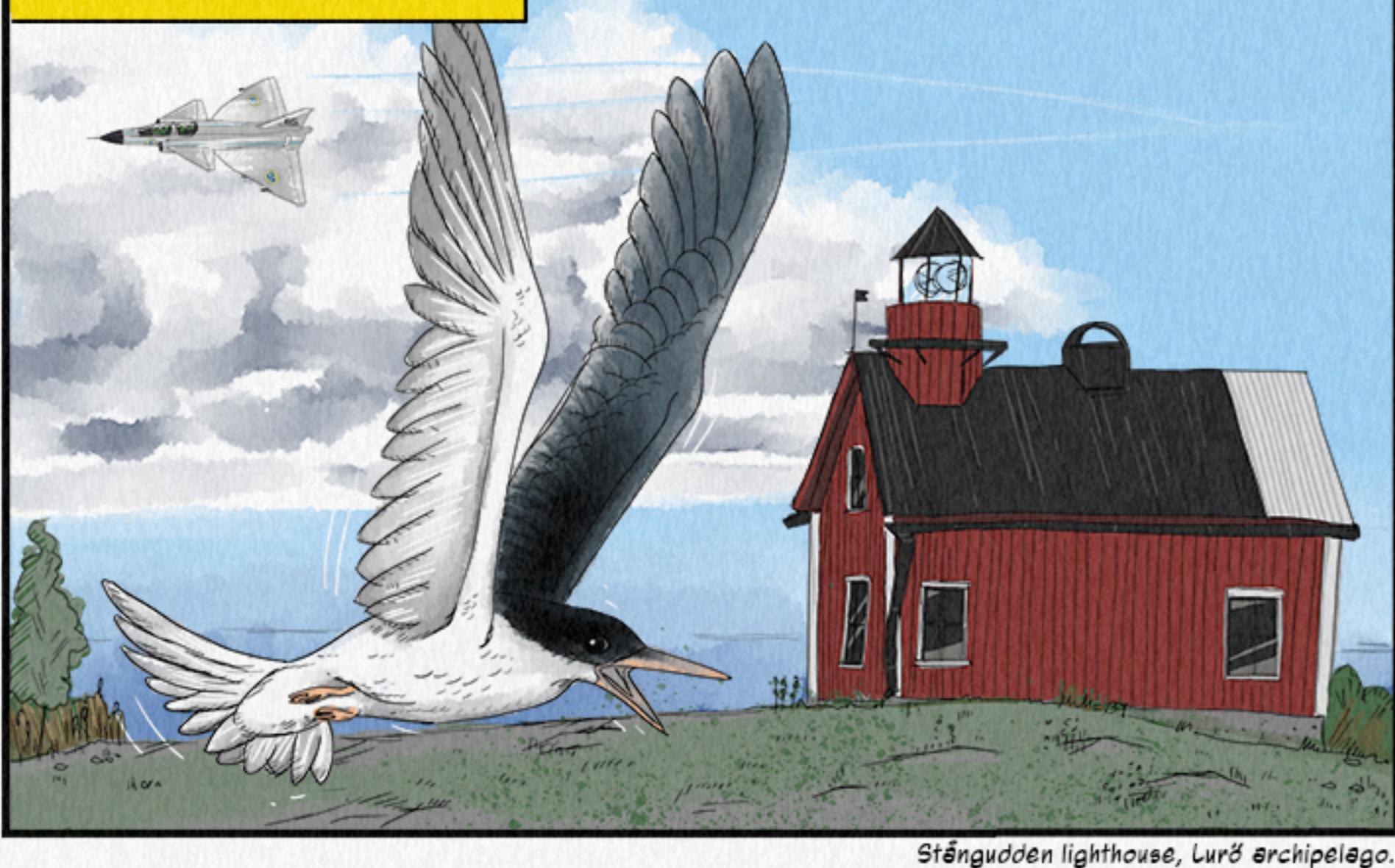
This is our run.

Wow!
Not very high.



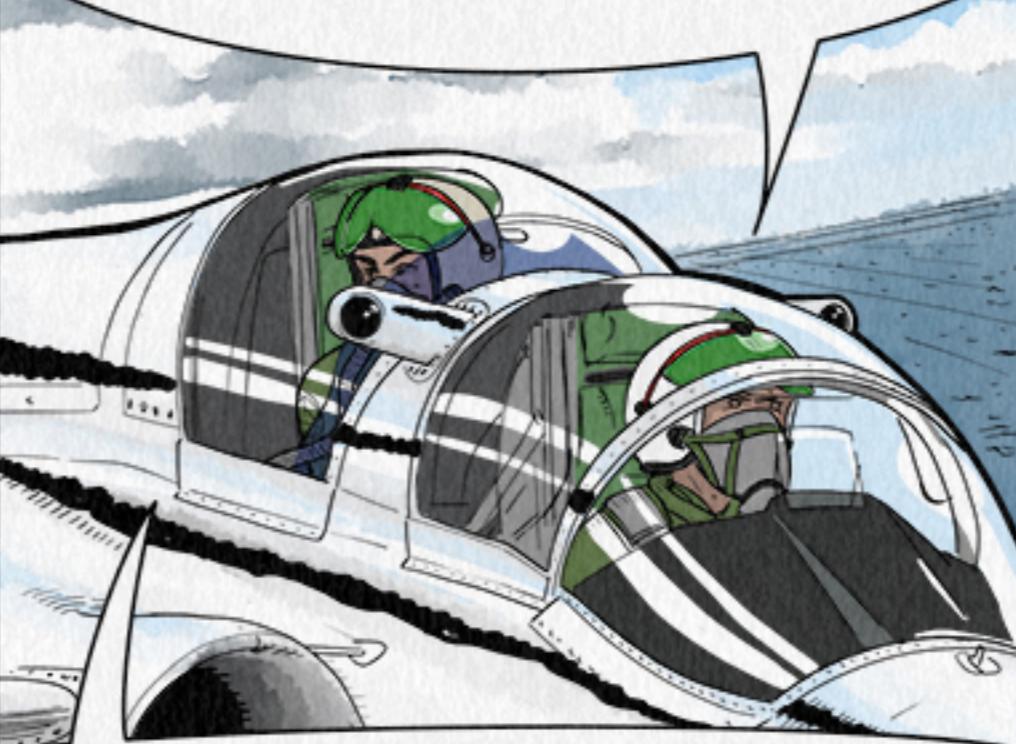


Passing Lurö at 130 Feet.



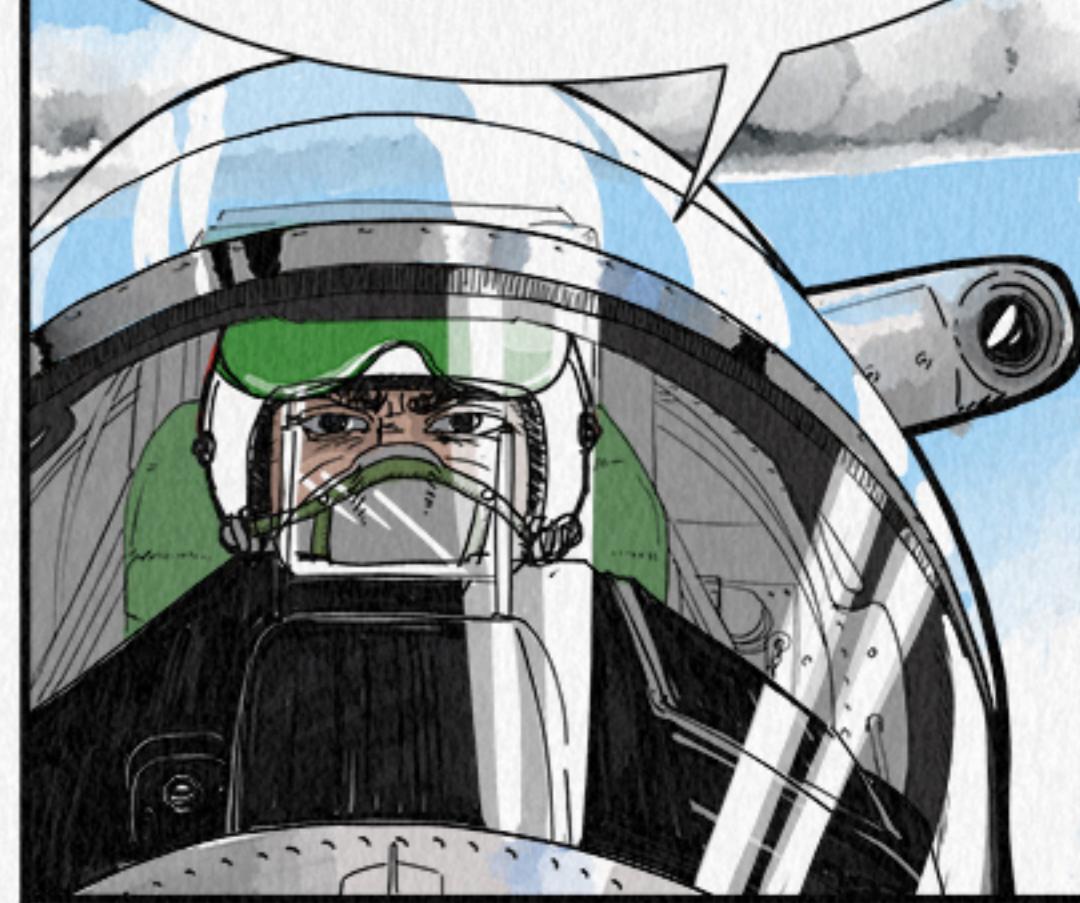
Stängudden lighthouse, Lurö archipelago.

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

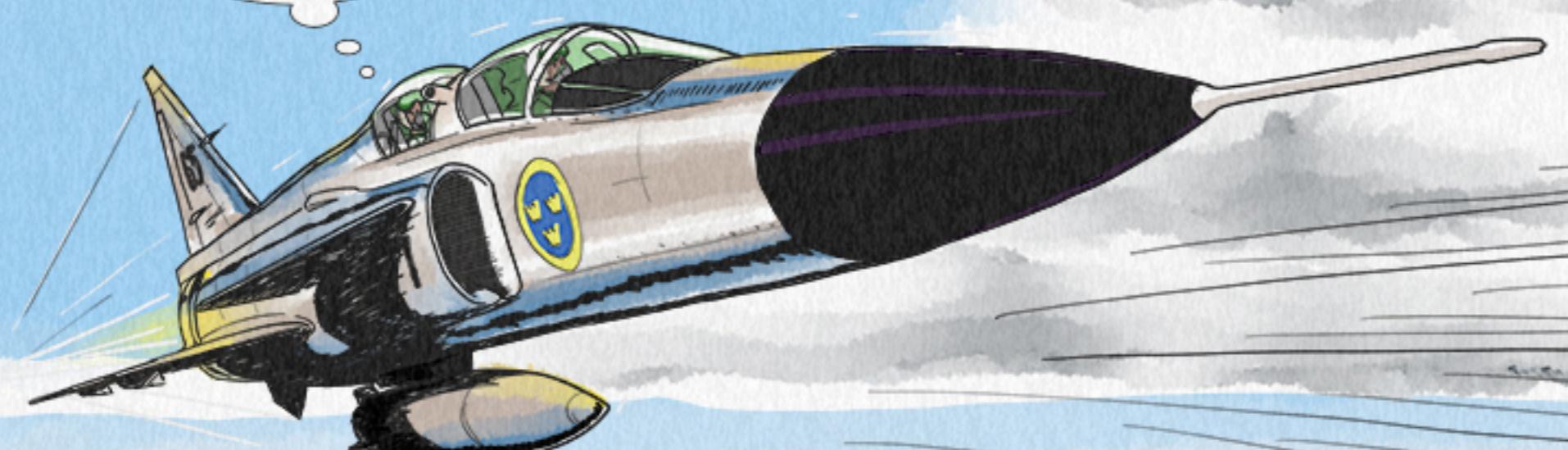


This is really, really low! I have to ask, are we not very vulnerable down here below the tree tops?

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.



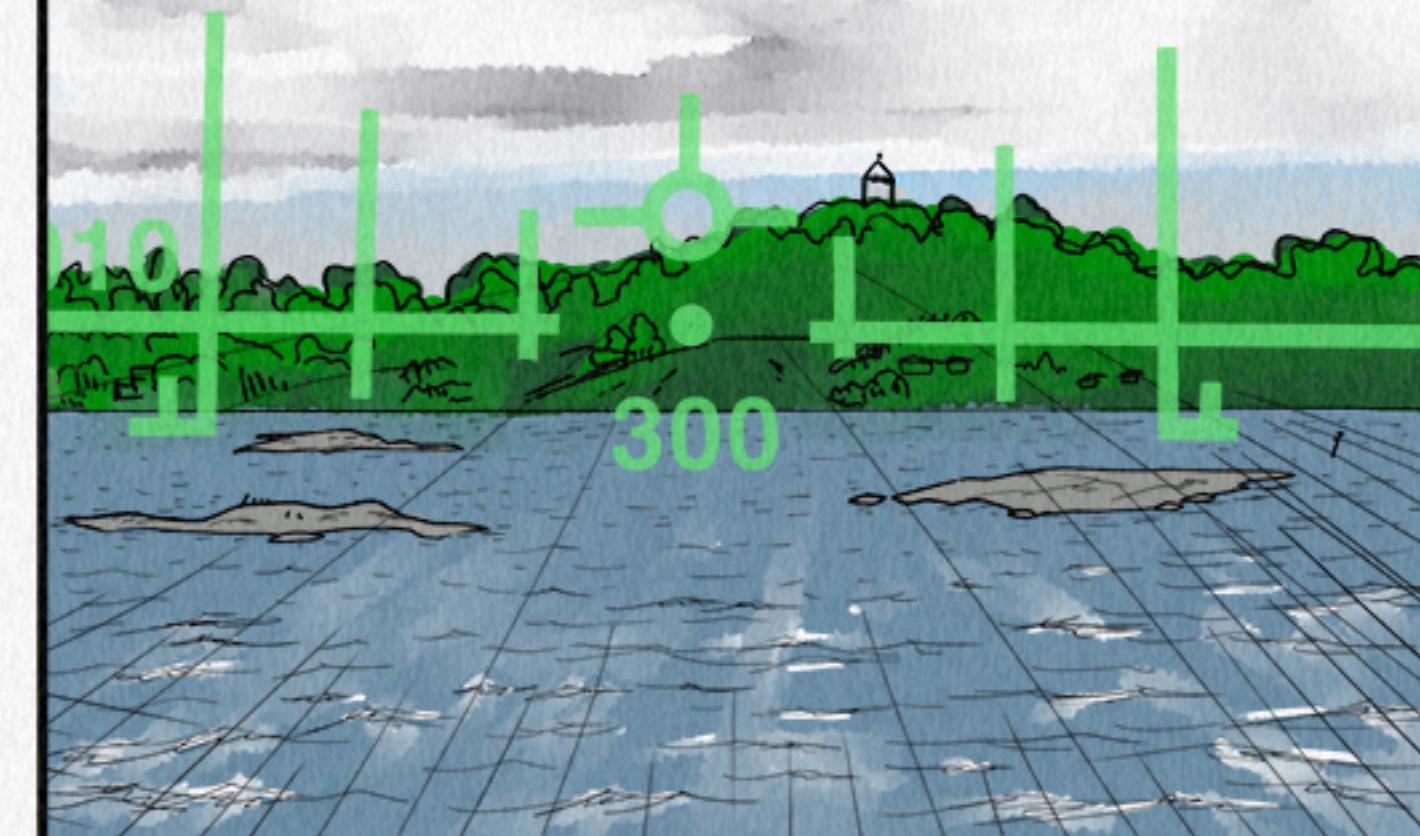
30 Feet
over the waves
at Mach 0.65! 
Scary!



 About 480 mi/h.

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

+5



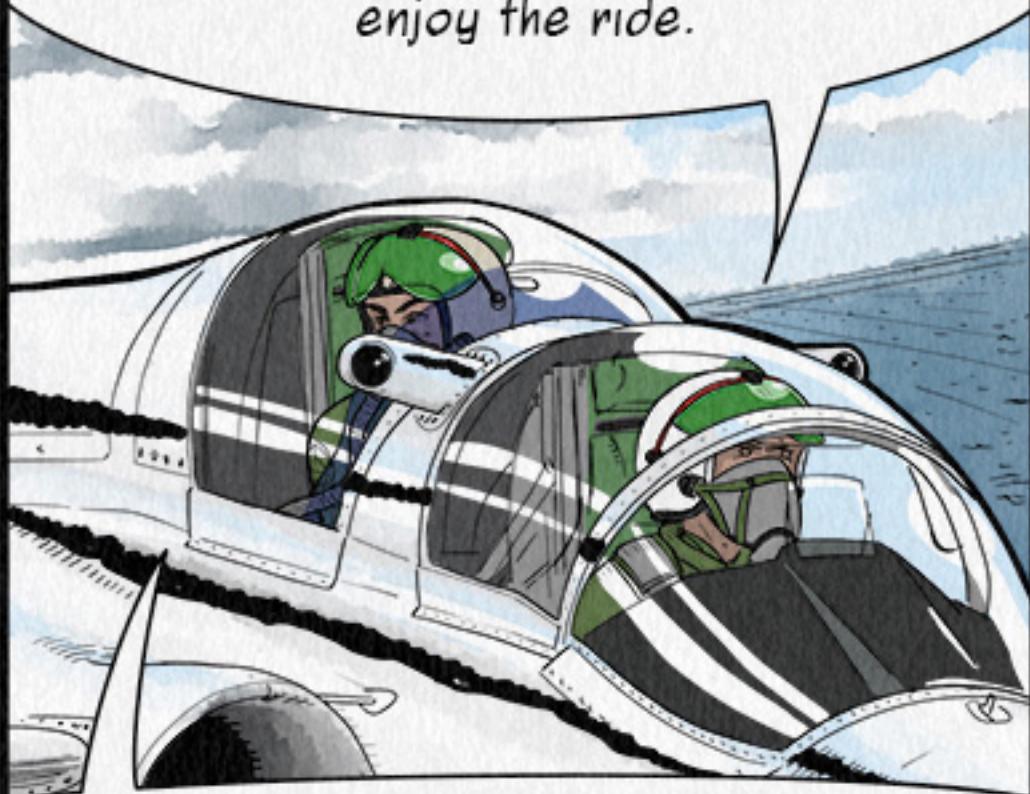
Passing Lurö at 130 feet.



Ok, no deck.

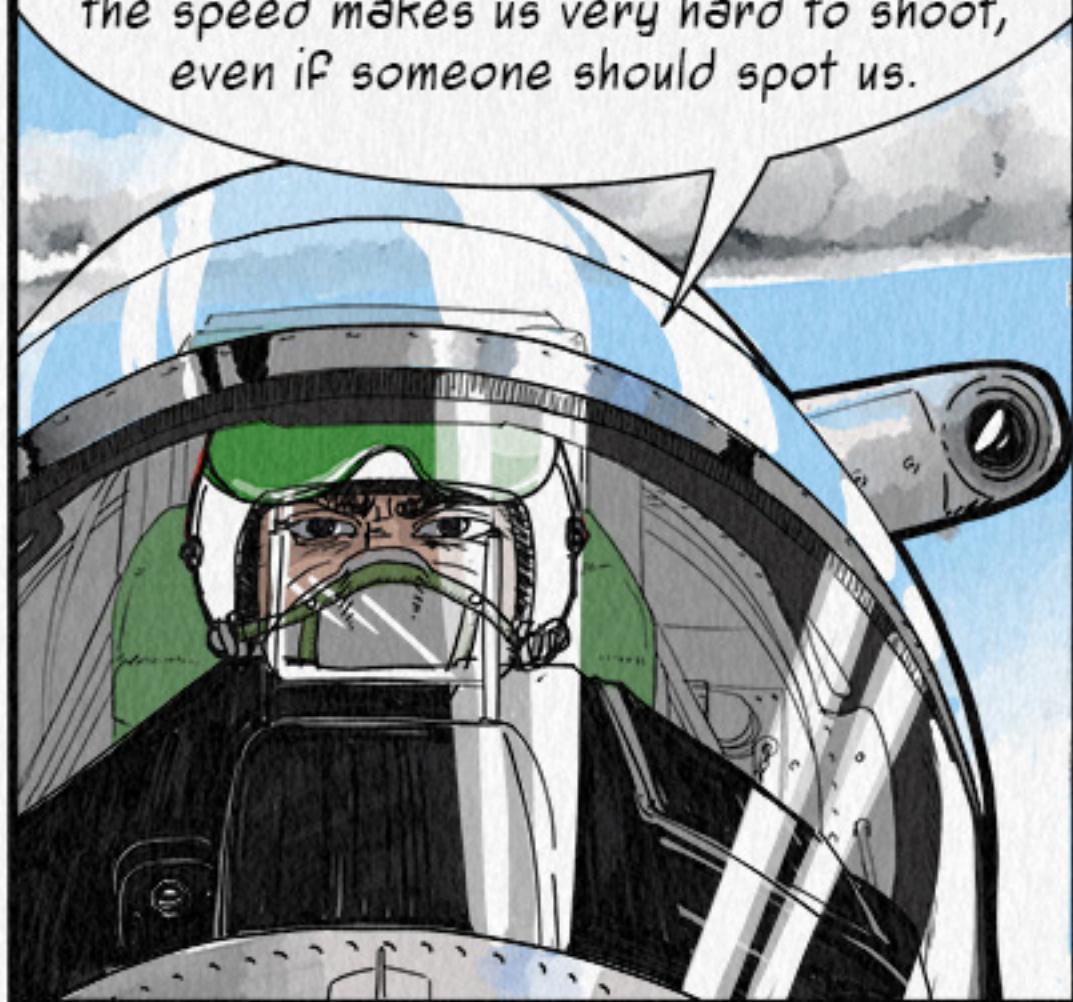
This is
are w

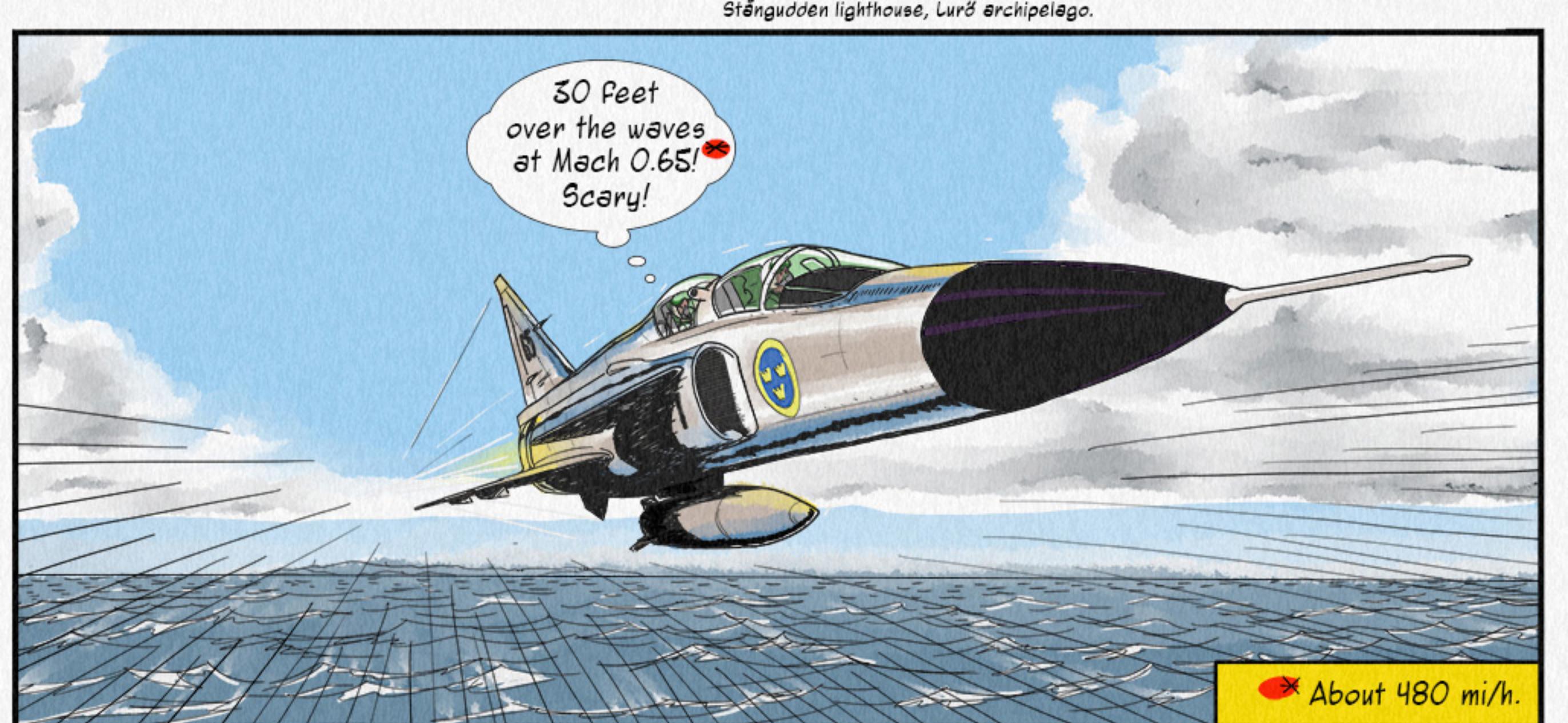
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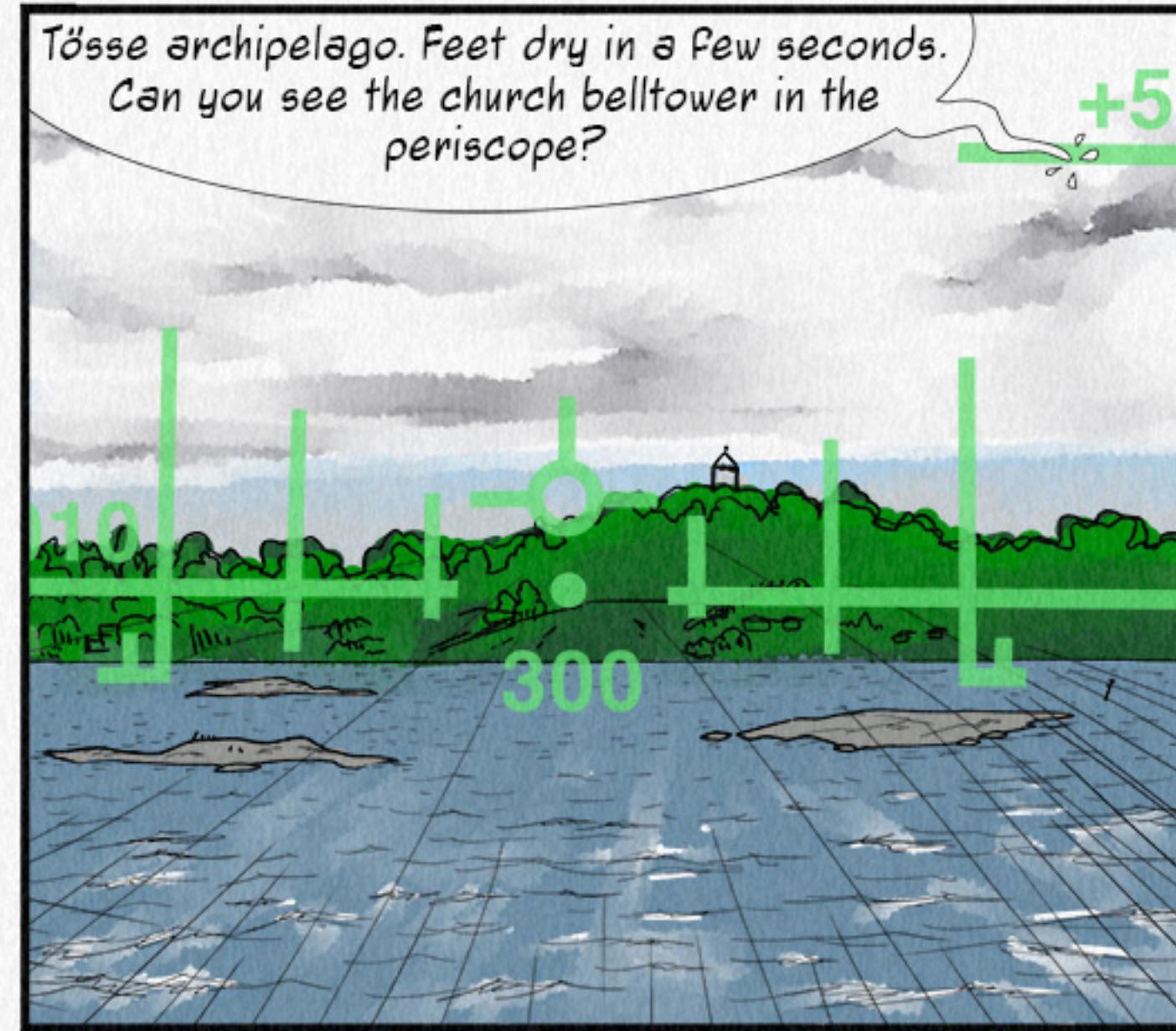
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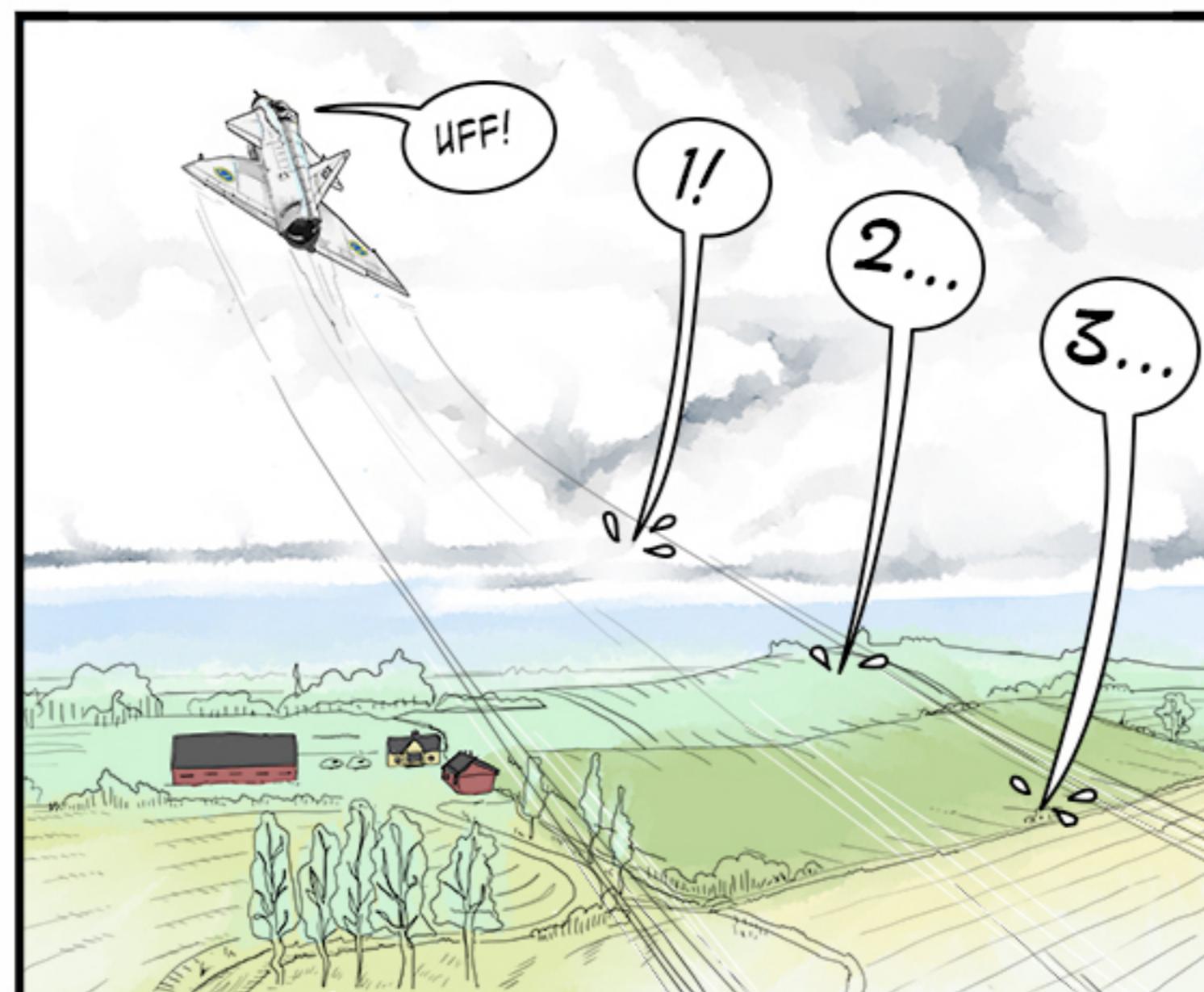
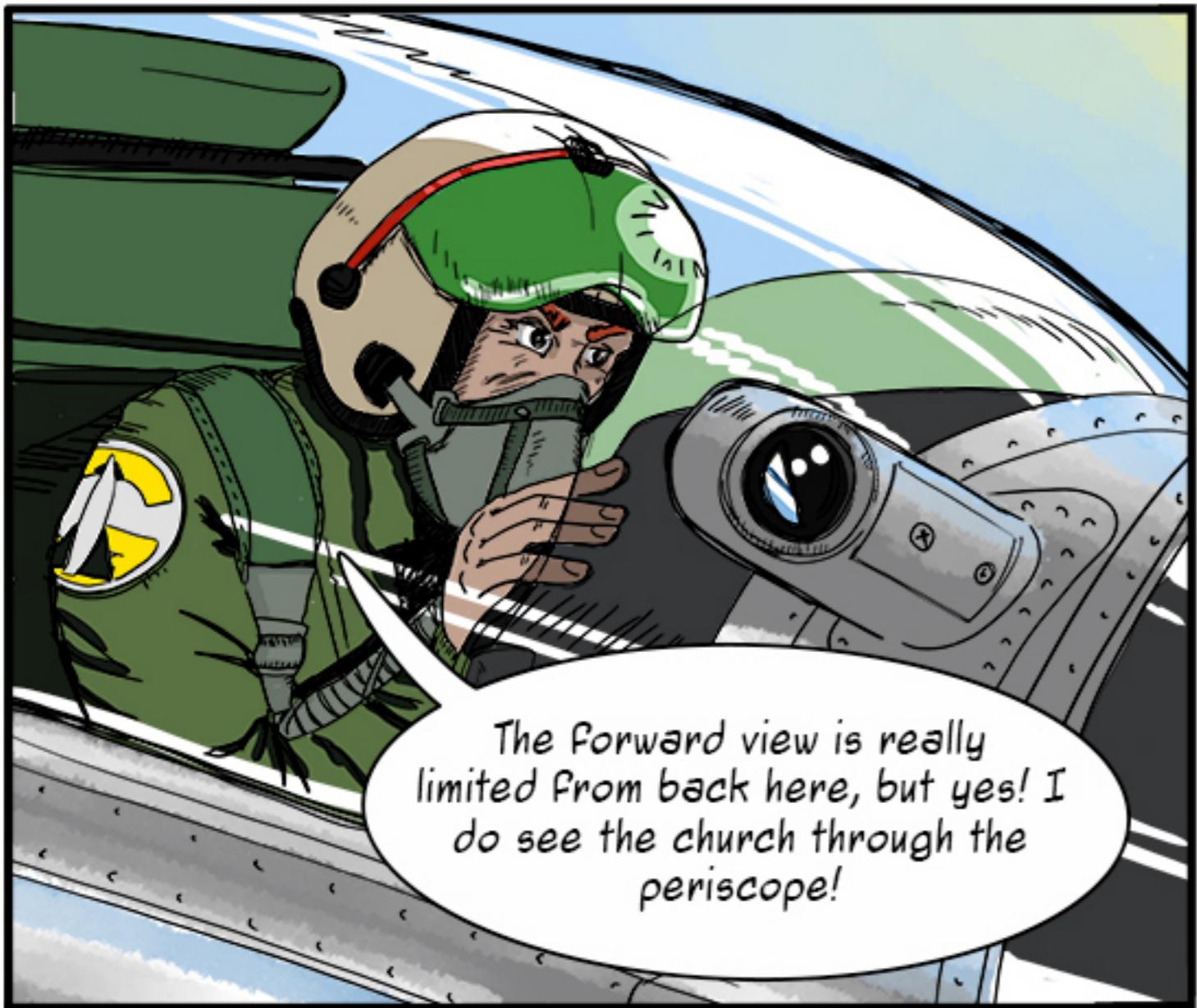


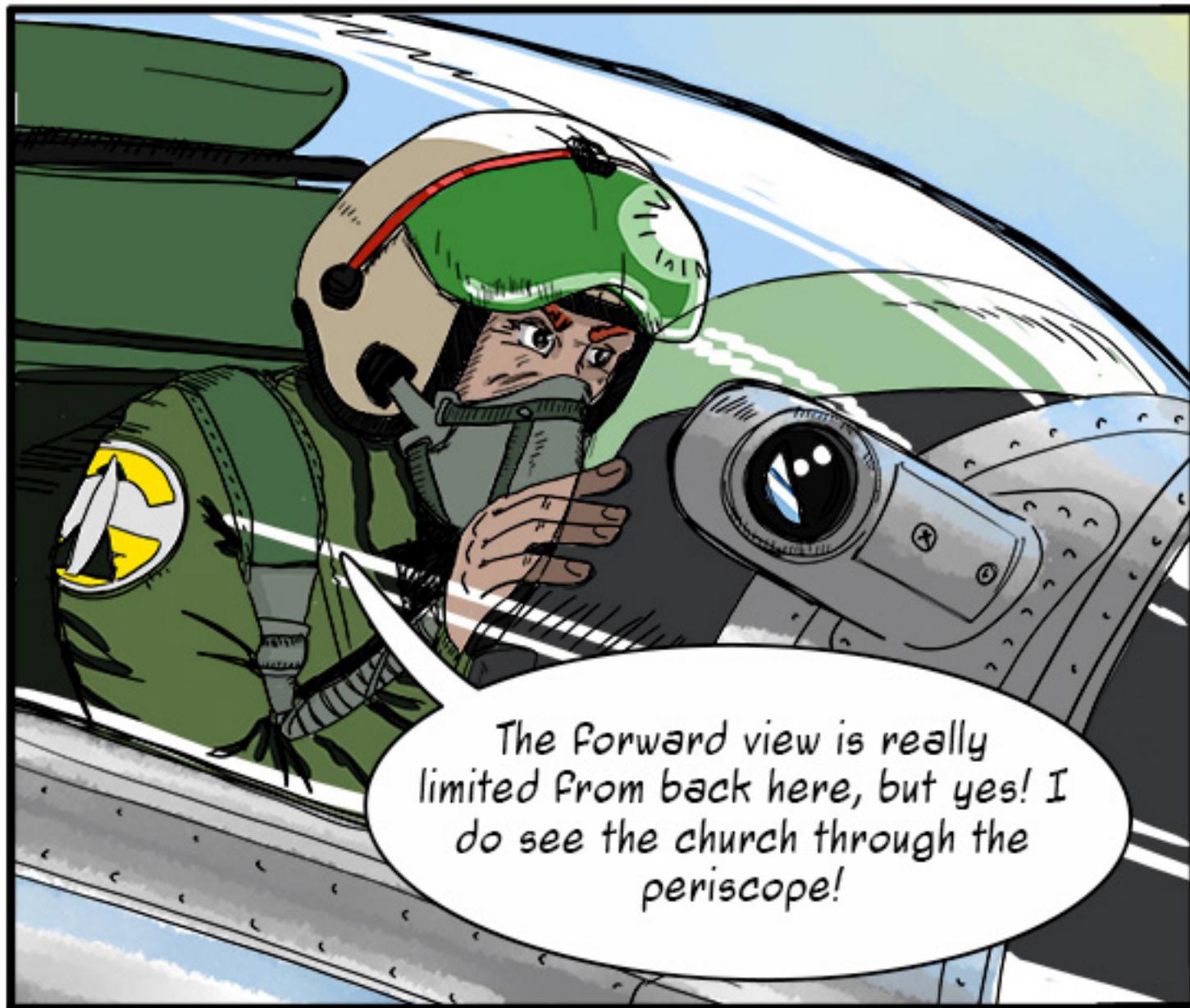


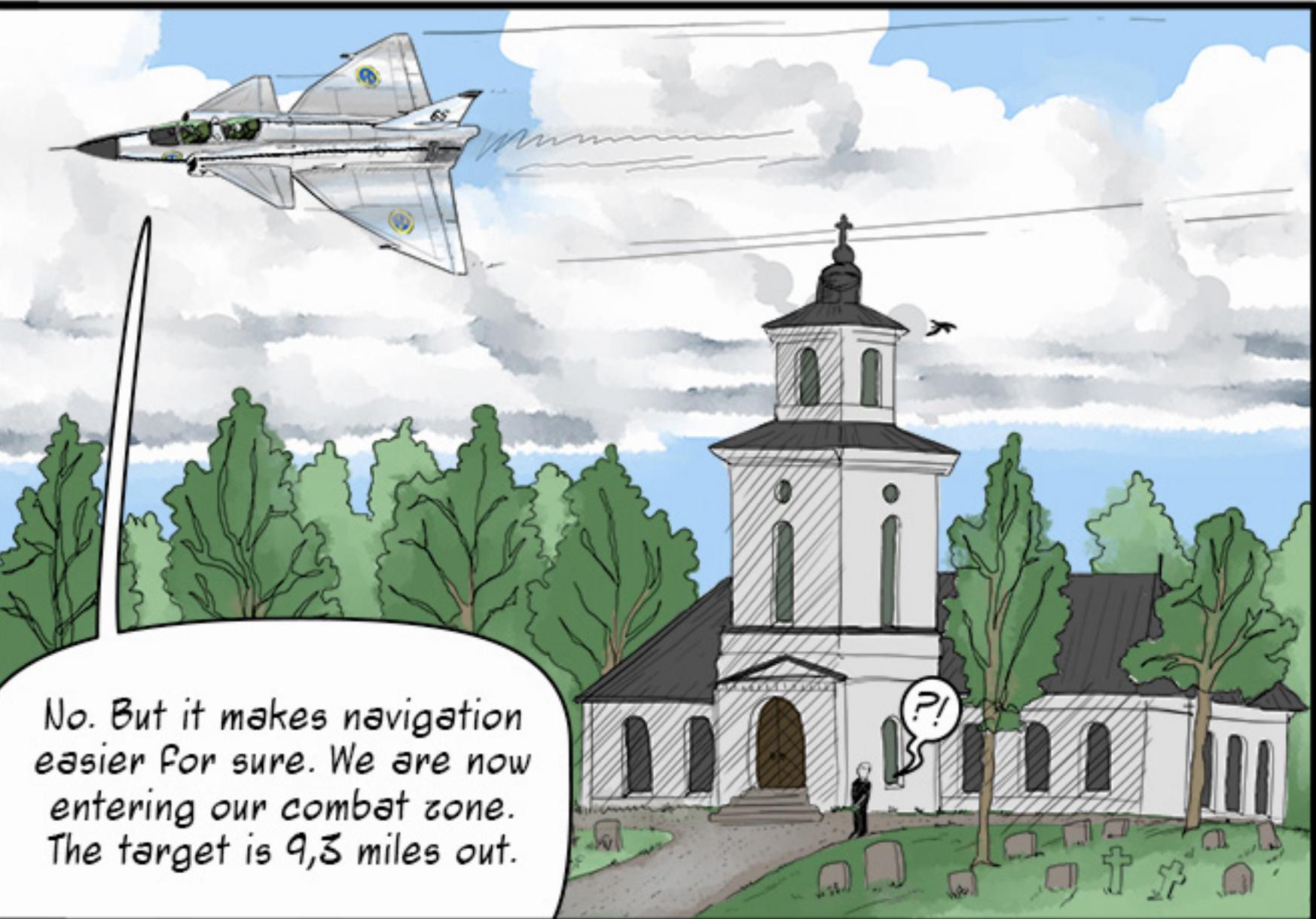
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at Mach 0.65! 
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 About 480 mi/h.



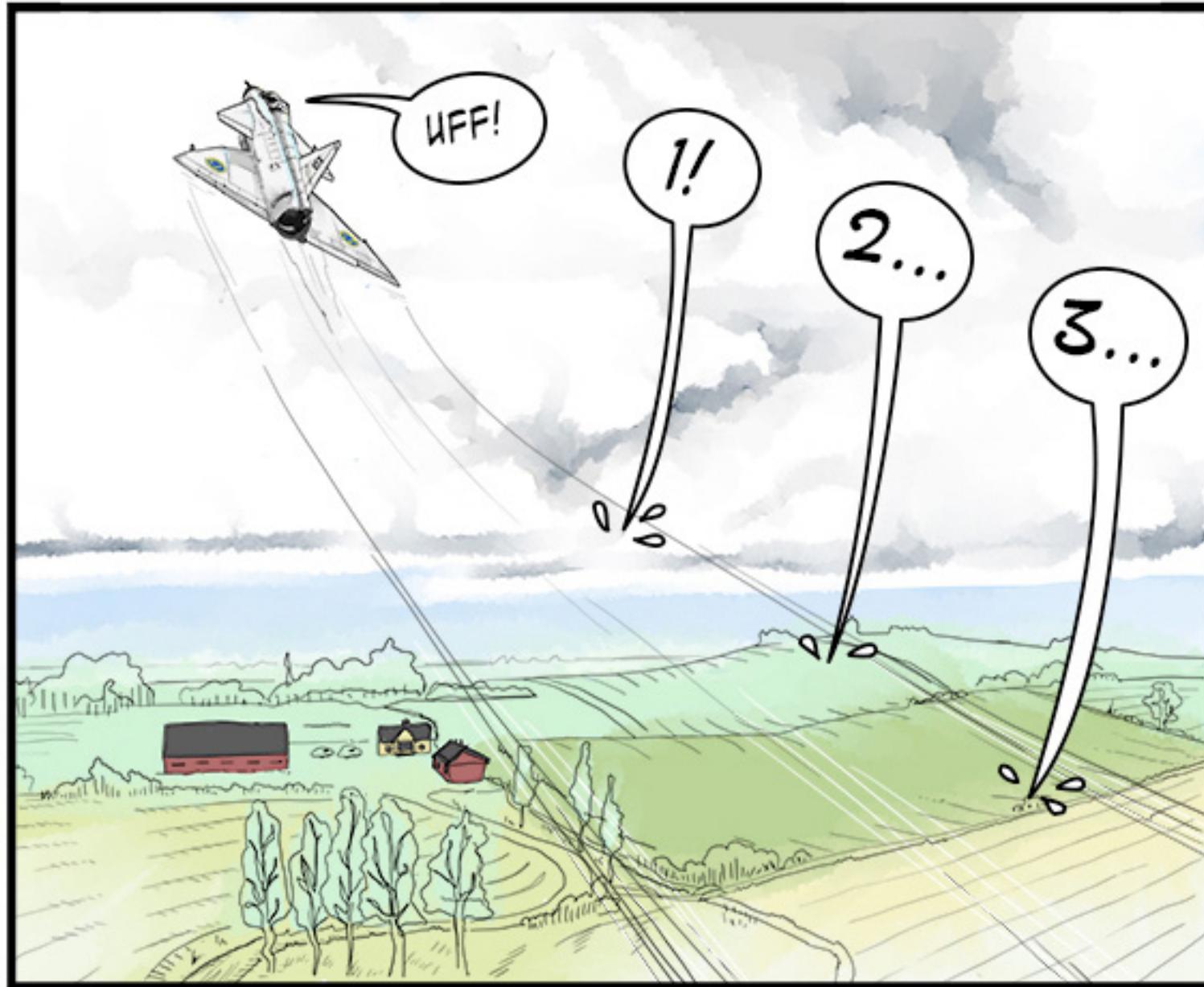




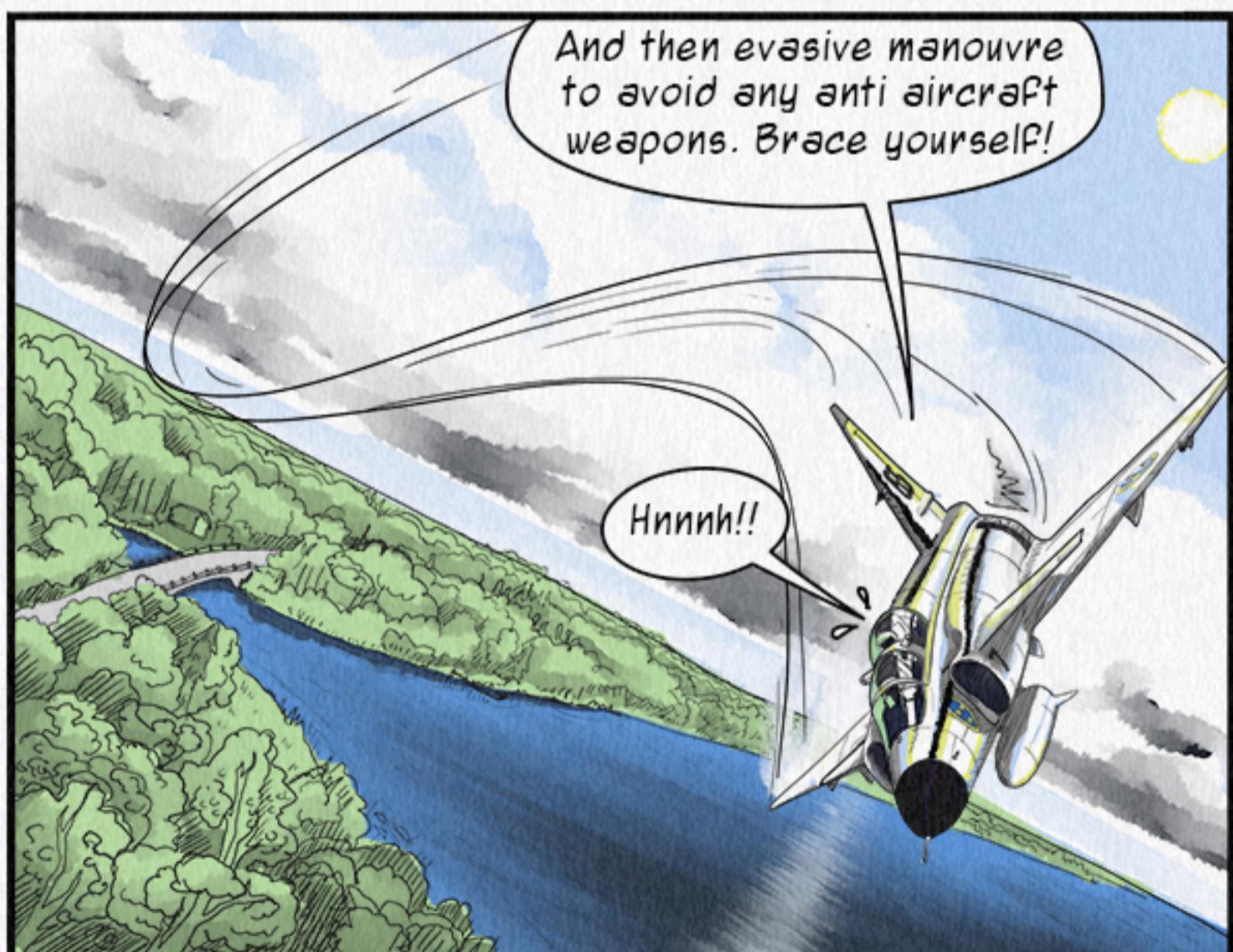
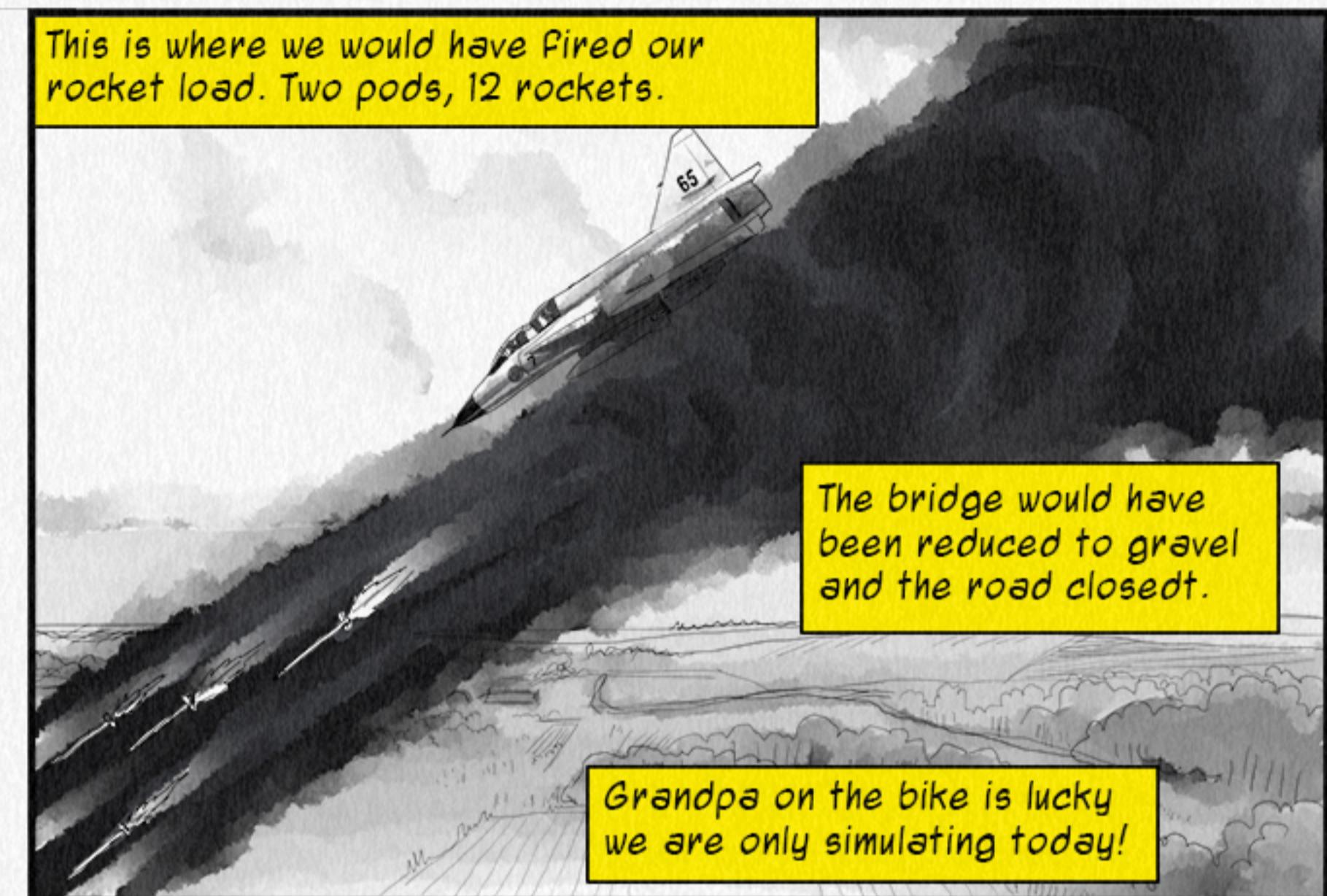
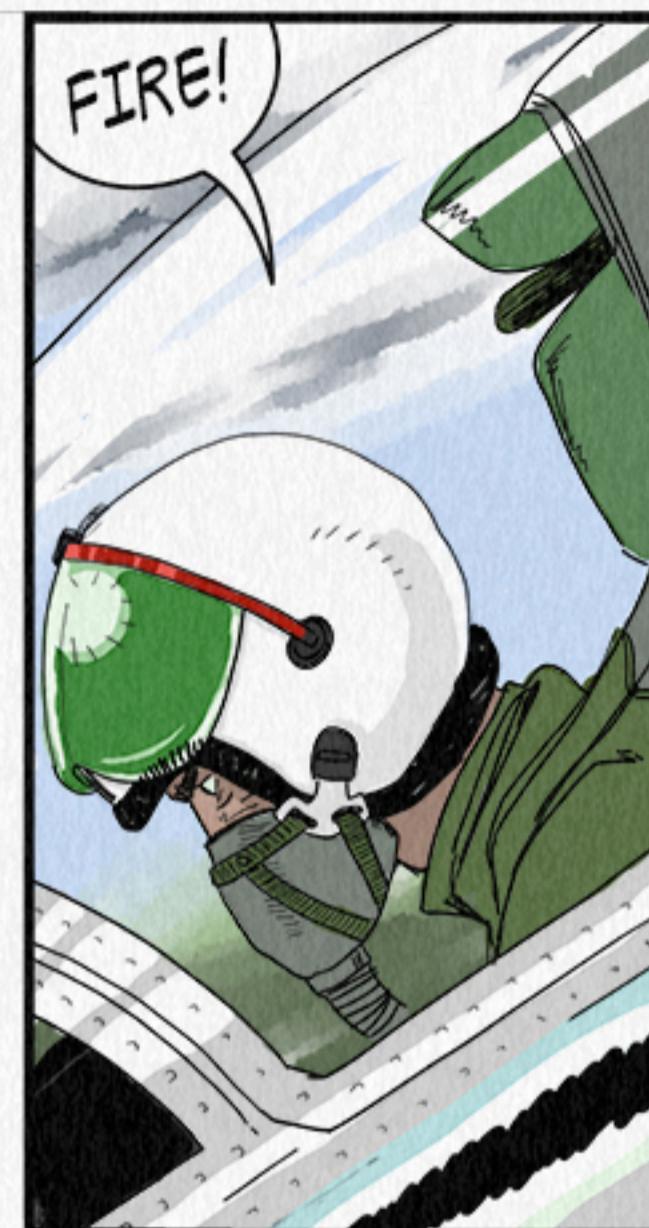
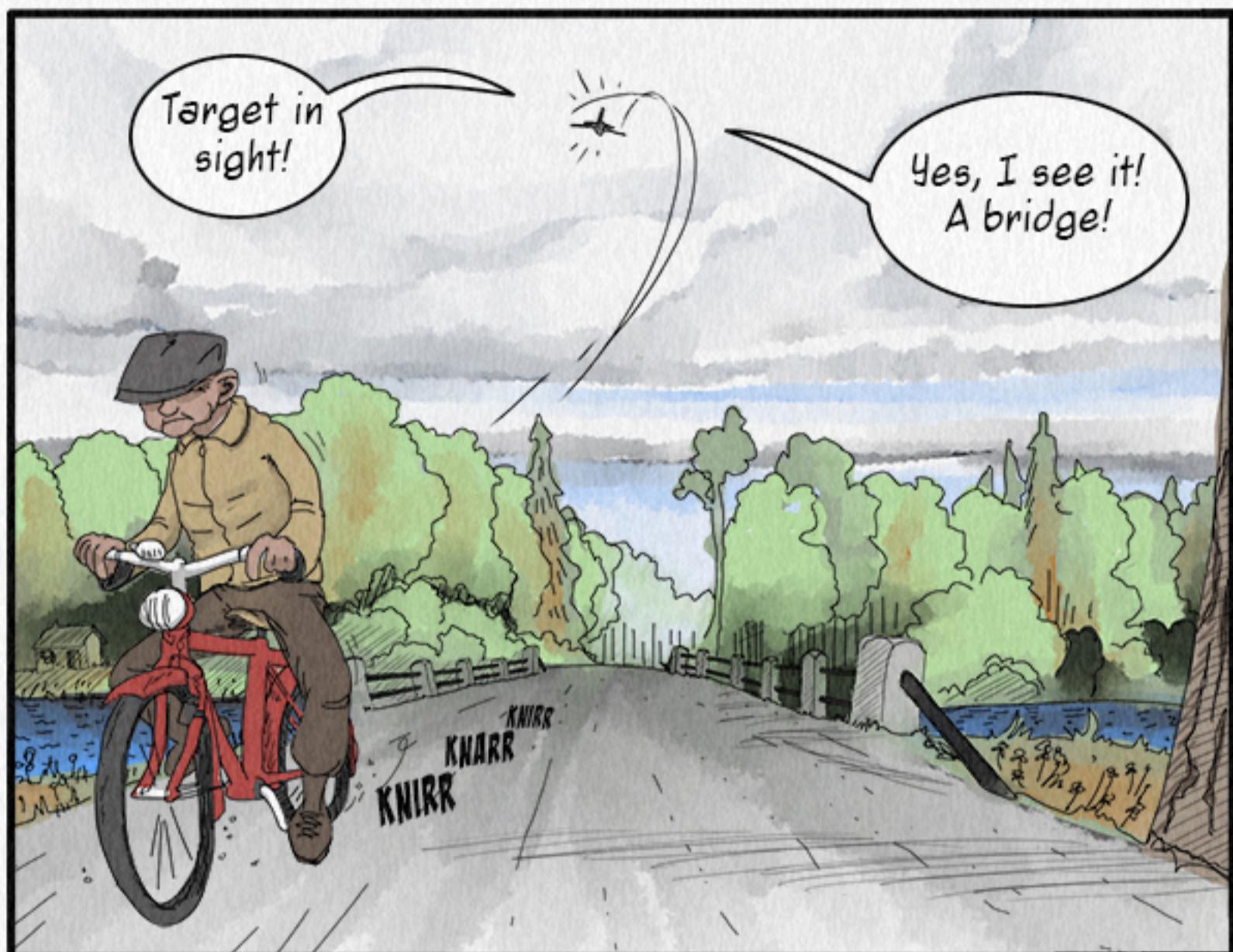


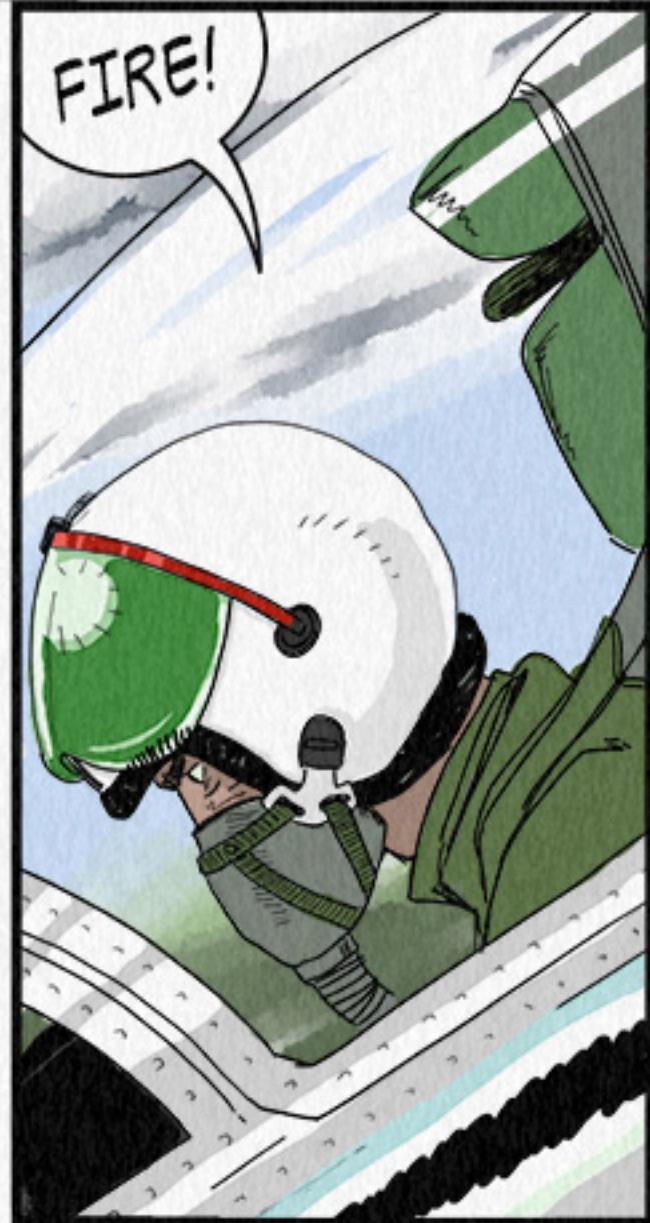
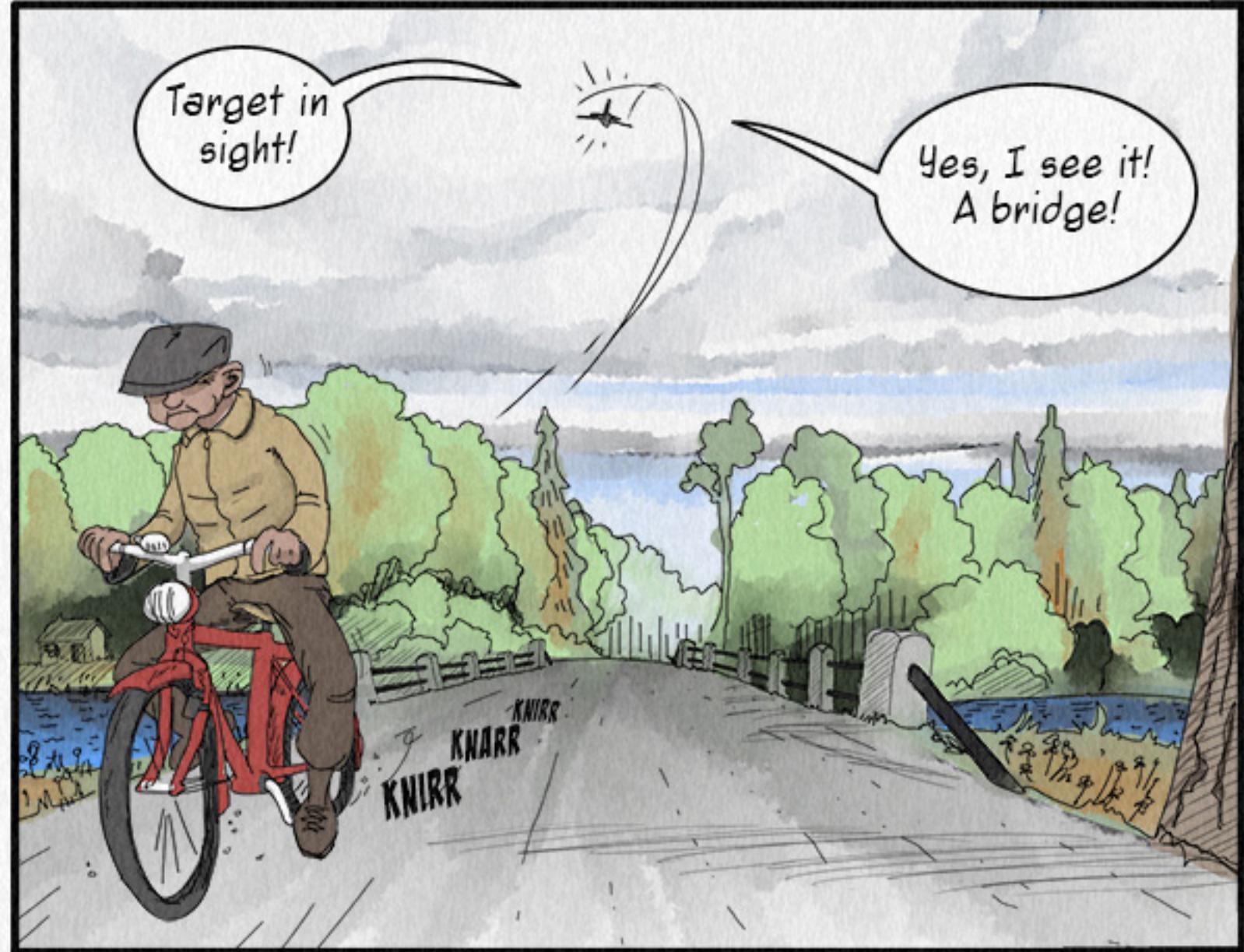
Tösse Church. Åmål parish.

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



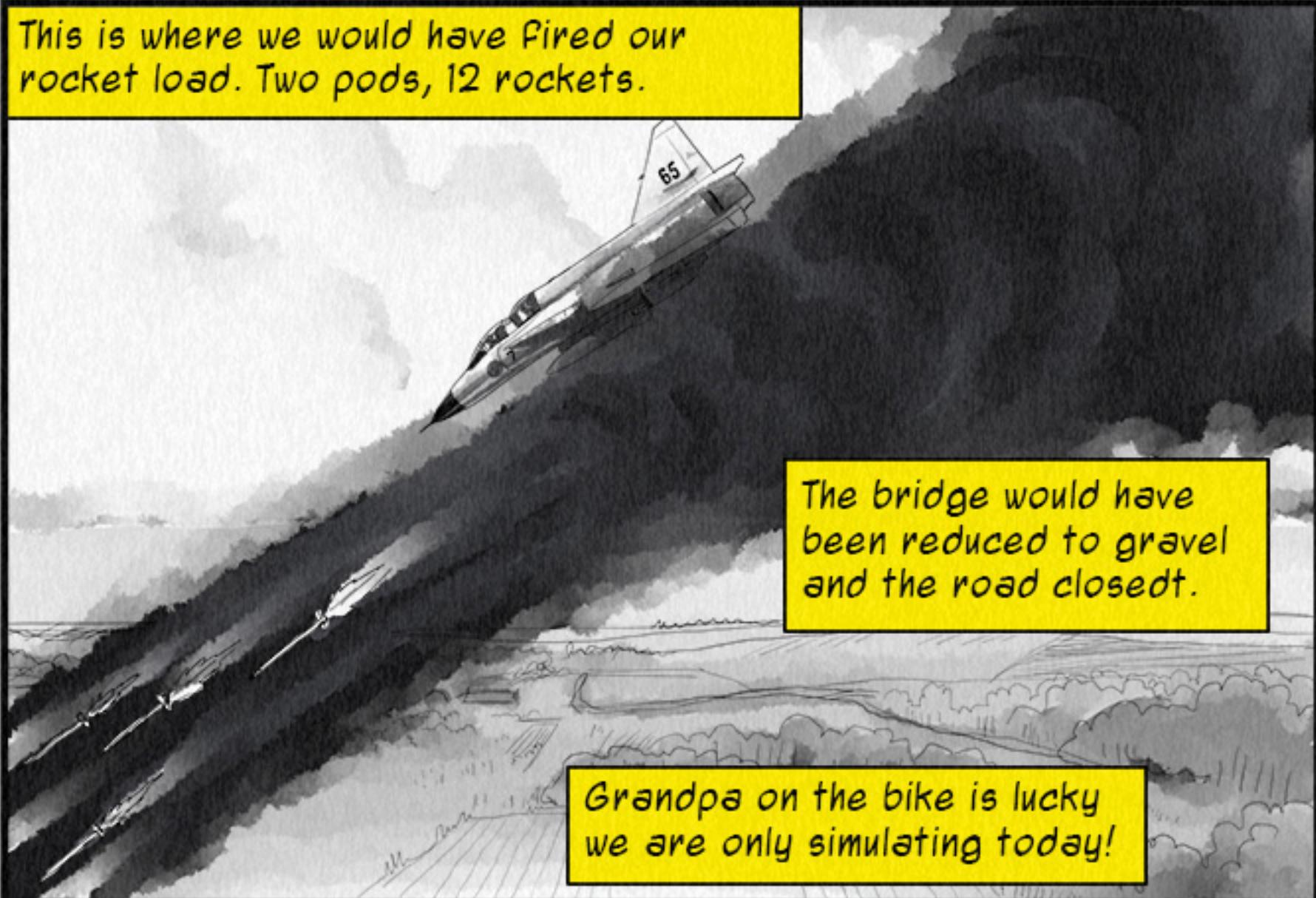


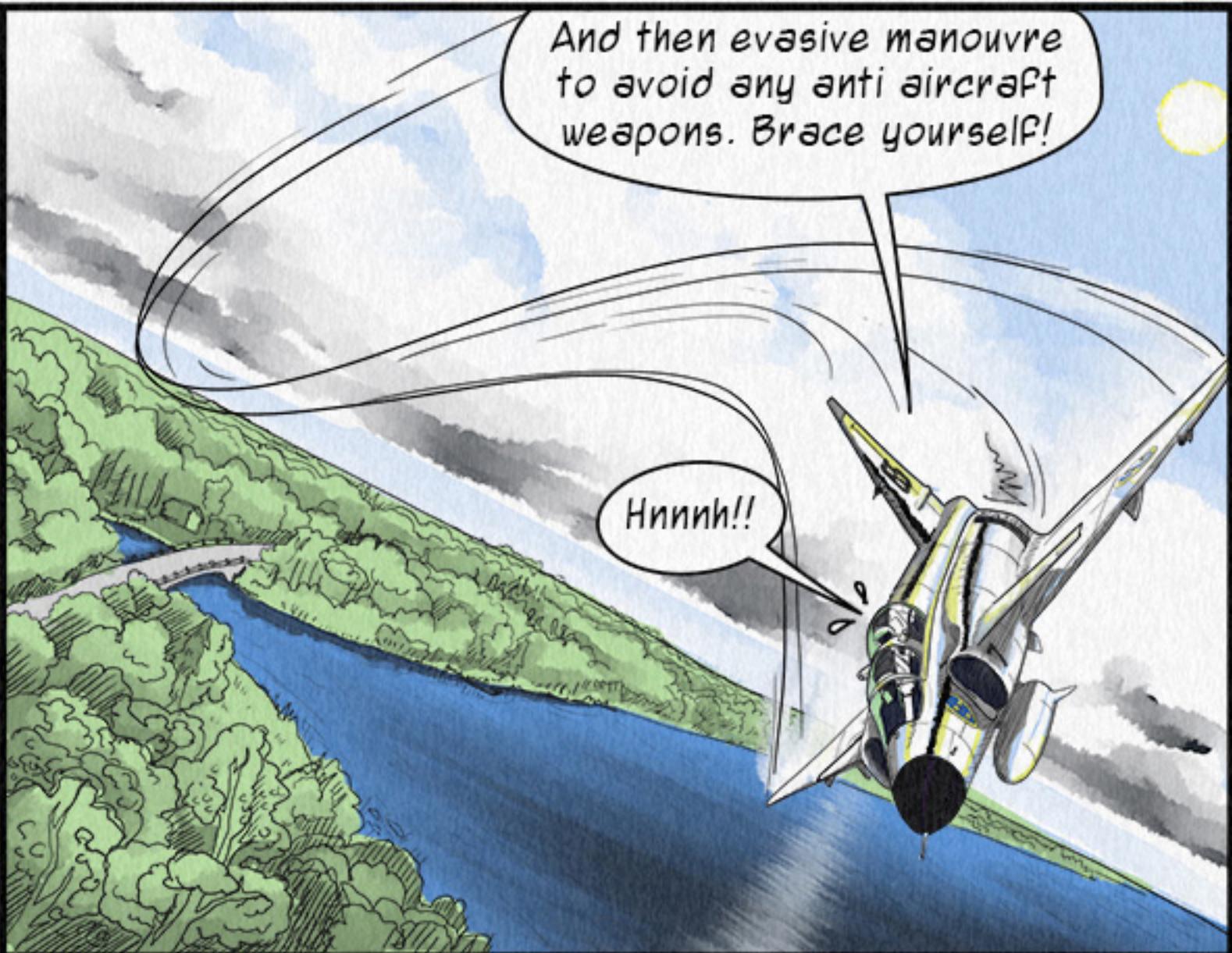






This is where we would have fired our rocket load. Two pods, 12 rockets.



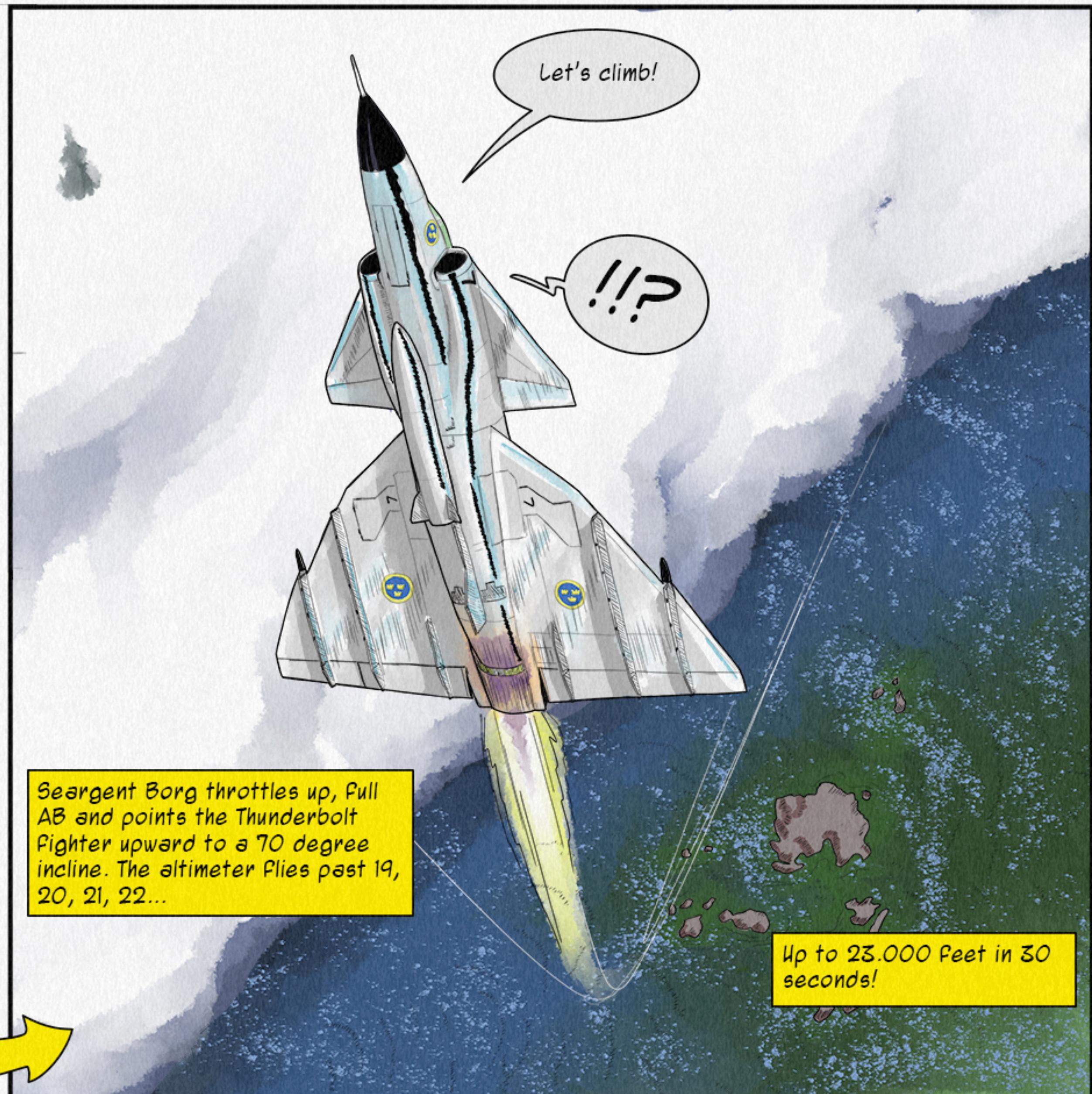
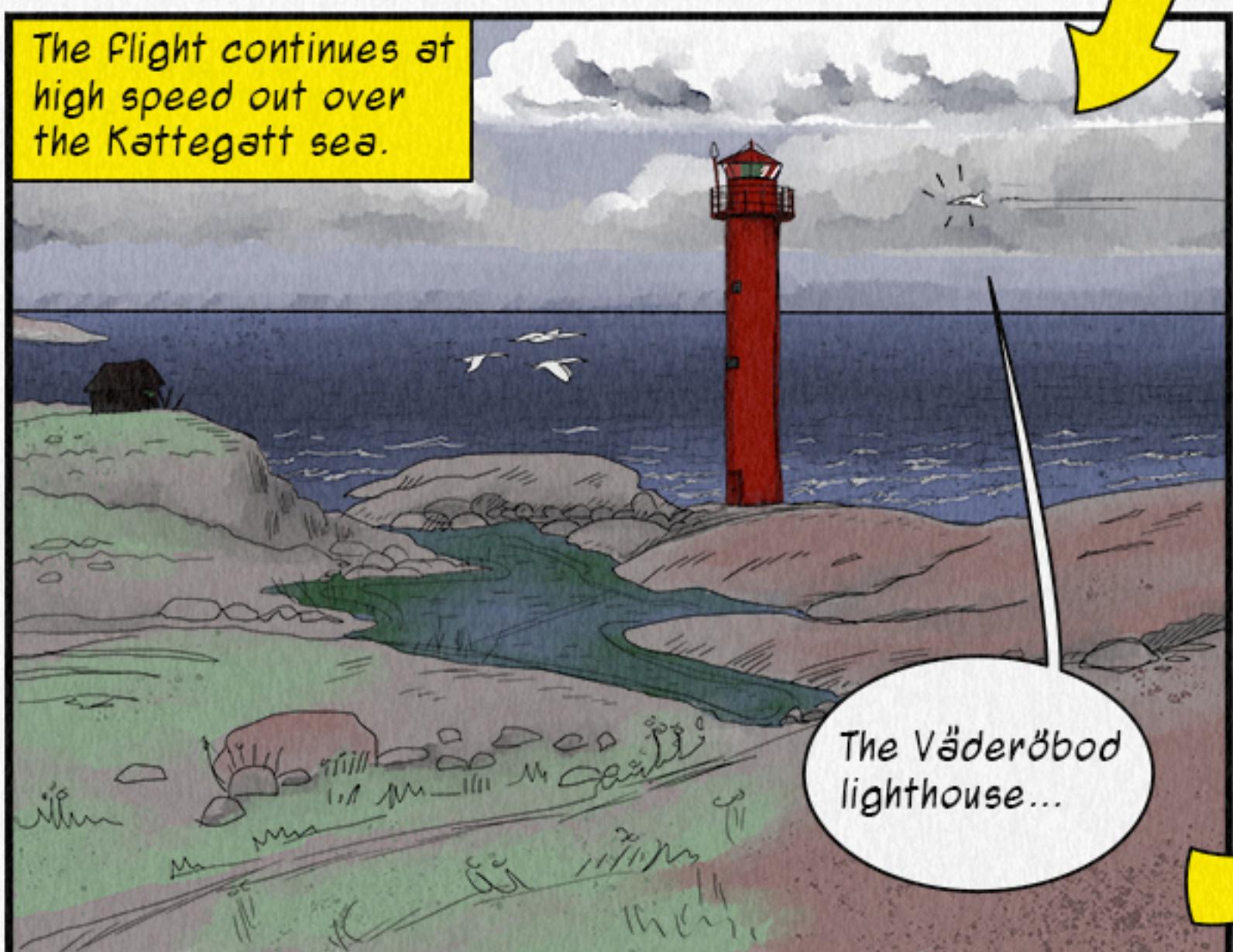
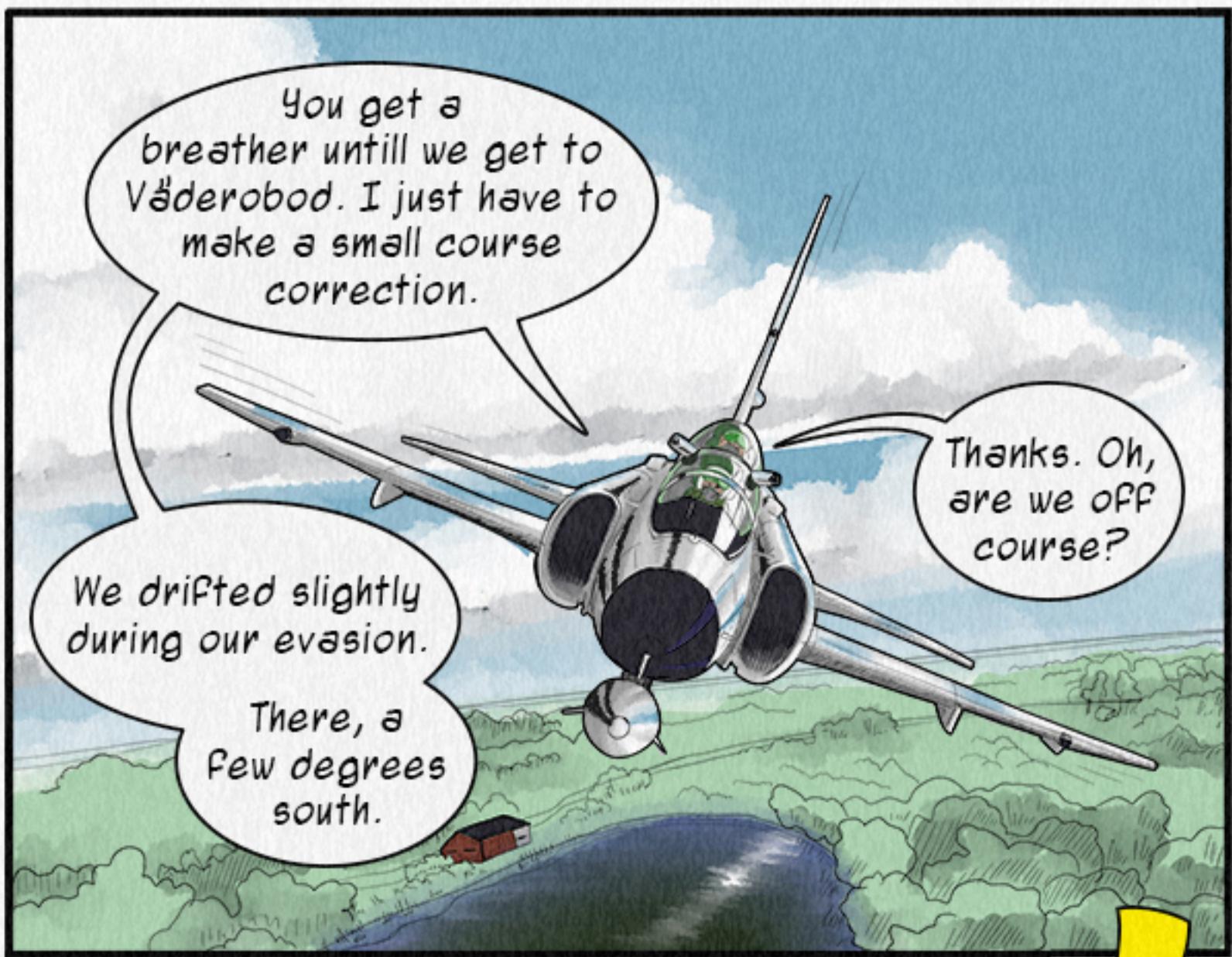


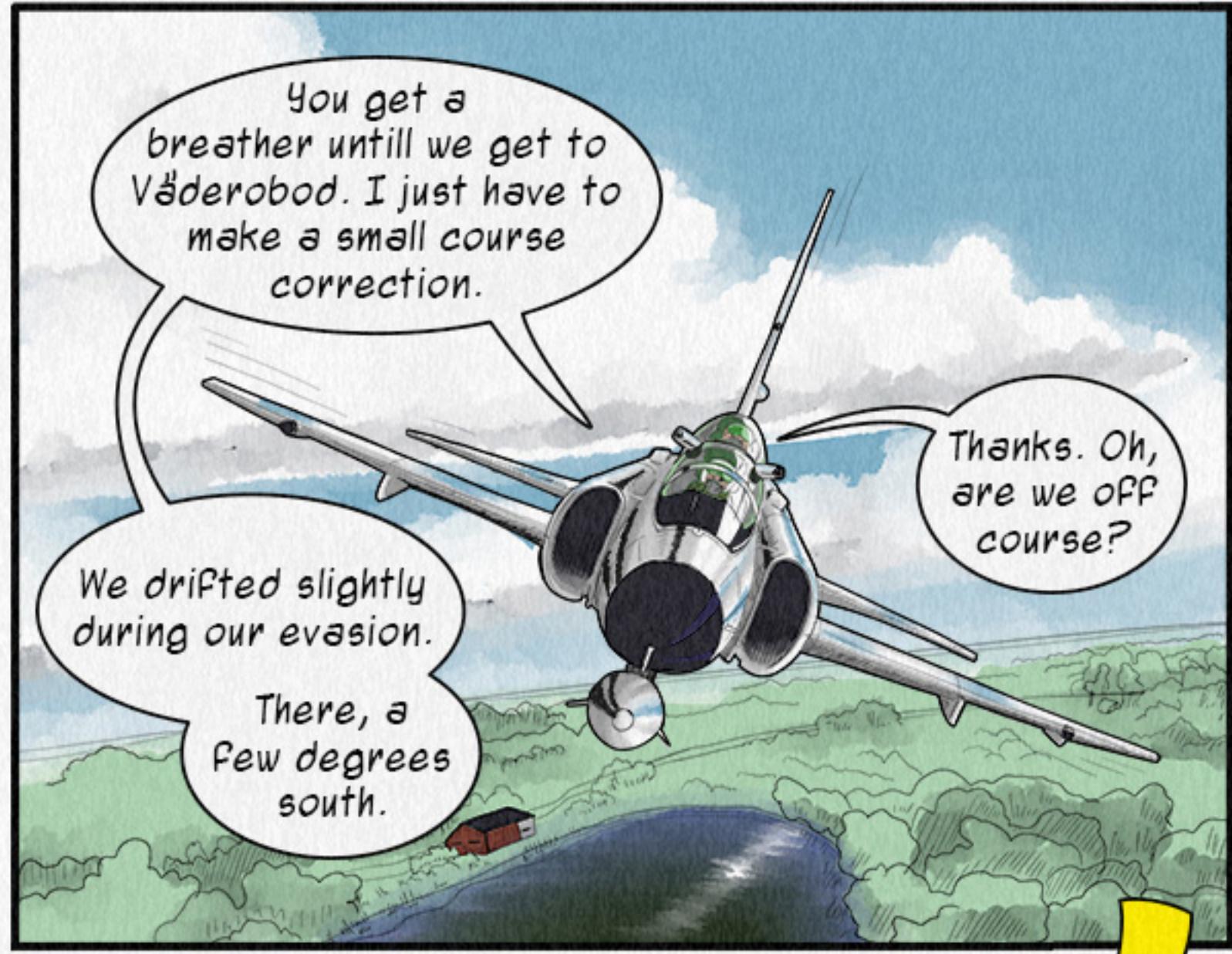


Elegant huh?

We slip away fast and low,
just like we came. We pulled
four G there. How are
you feeling?

Huh. Ok, a bit
compressed. (Urk.)





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



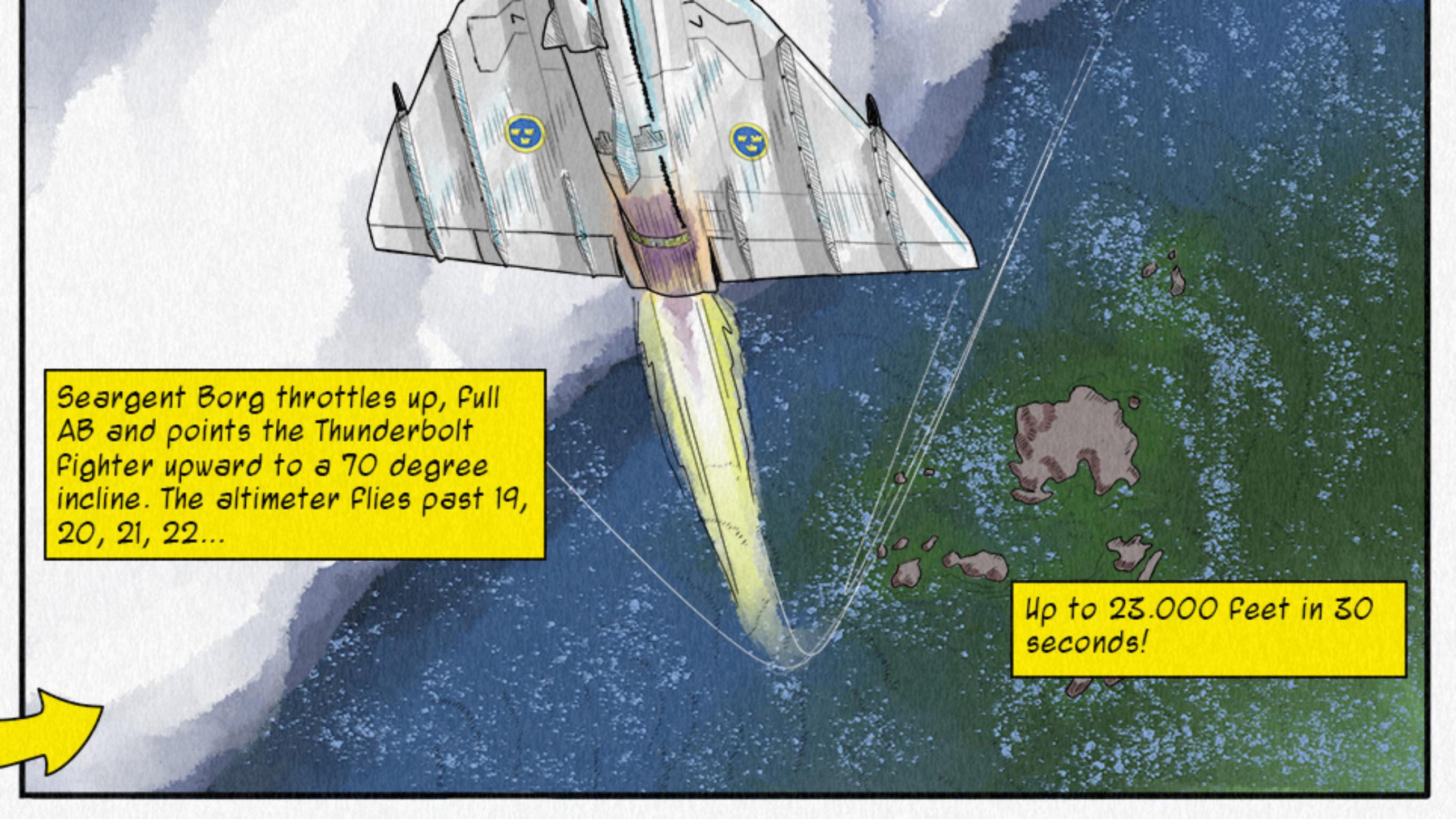
The Väderöbod lighthouse...

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

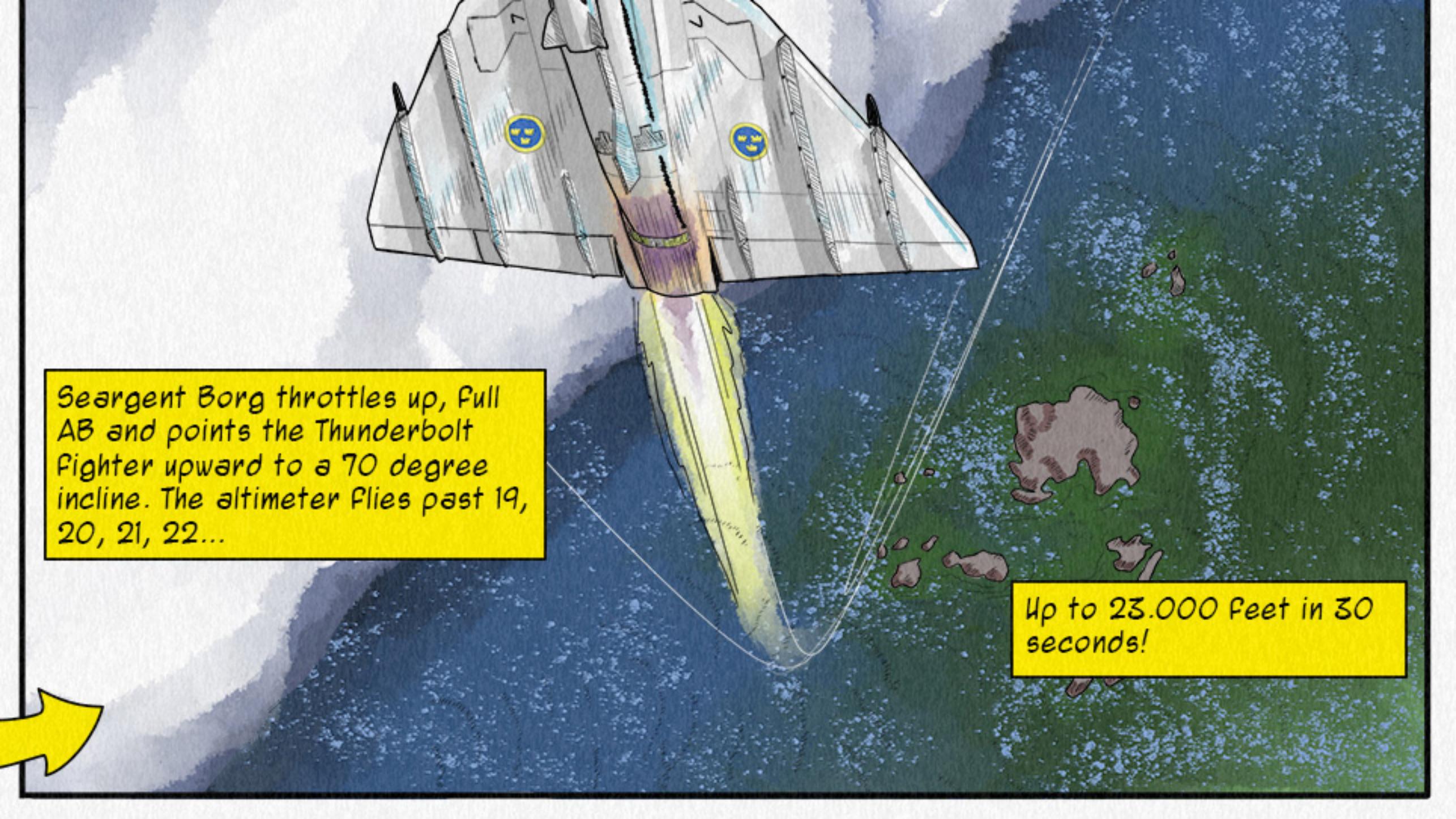


Let's climb!

!!?



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...



Up to 23.000 Feet in 30 seconds!

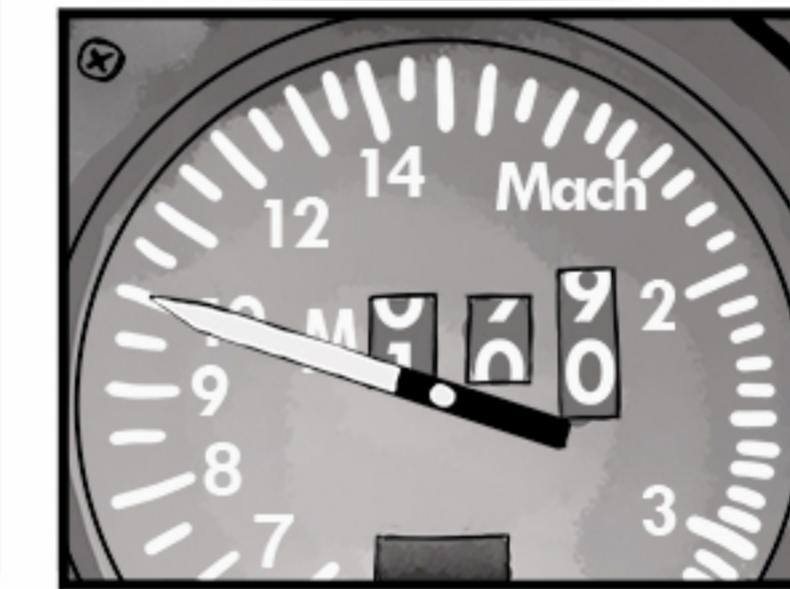
Leveling out... there is a bit of negativ G-Force.

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!

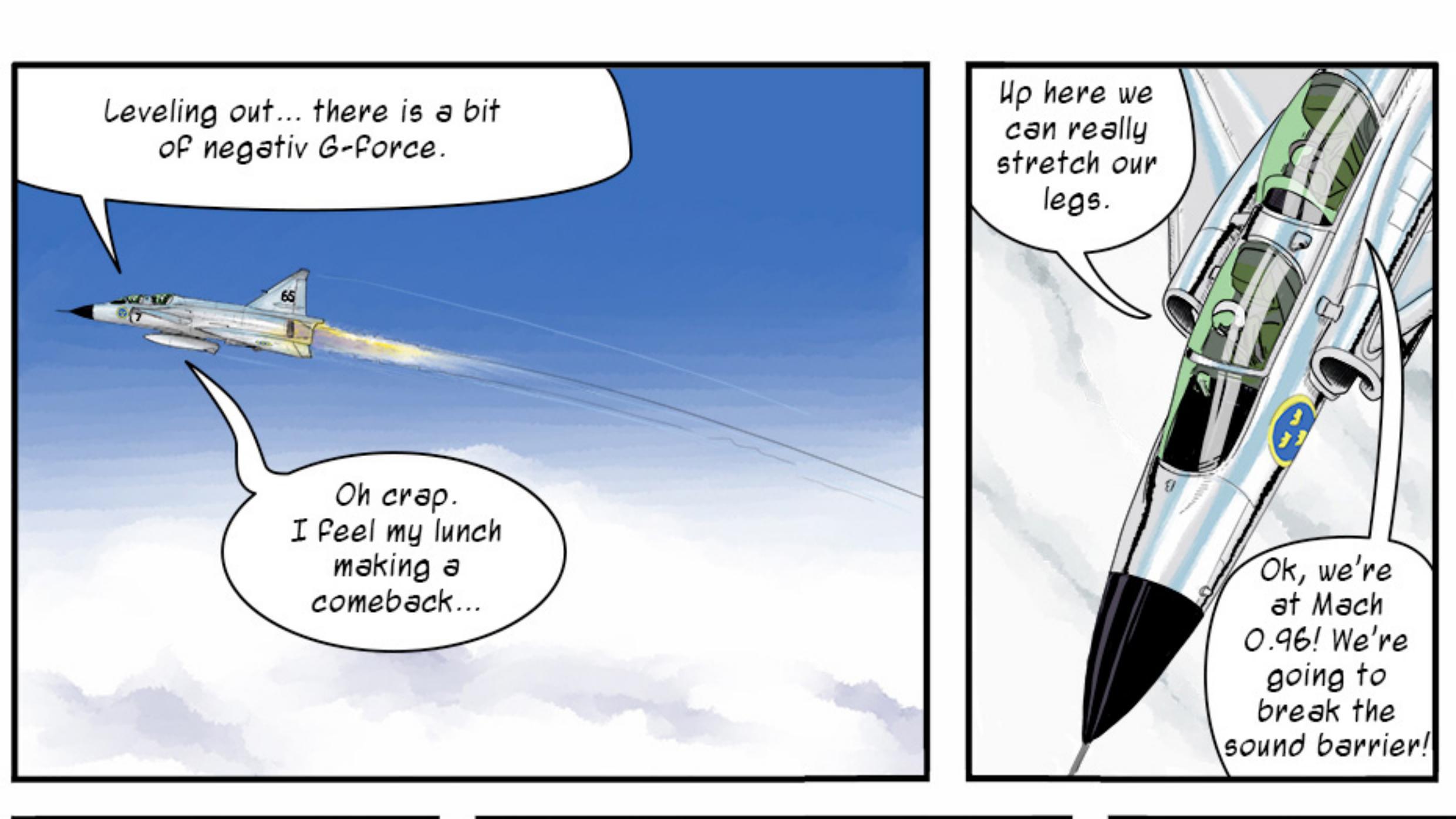
Mach 1.3!

We are burning fuel fast. It is time to throttle down.

Ok, but what is the actual the top speed?

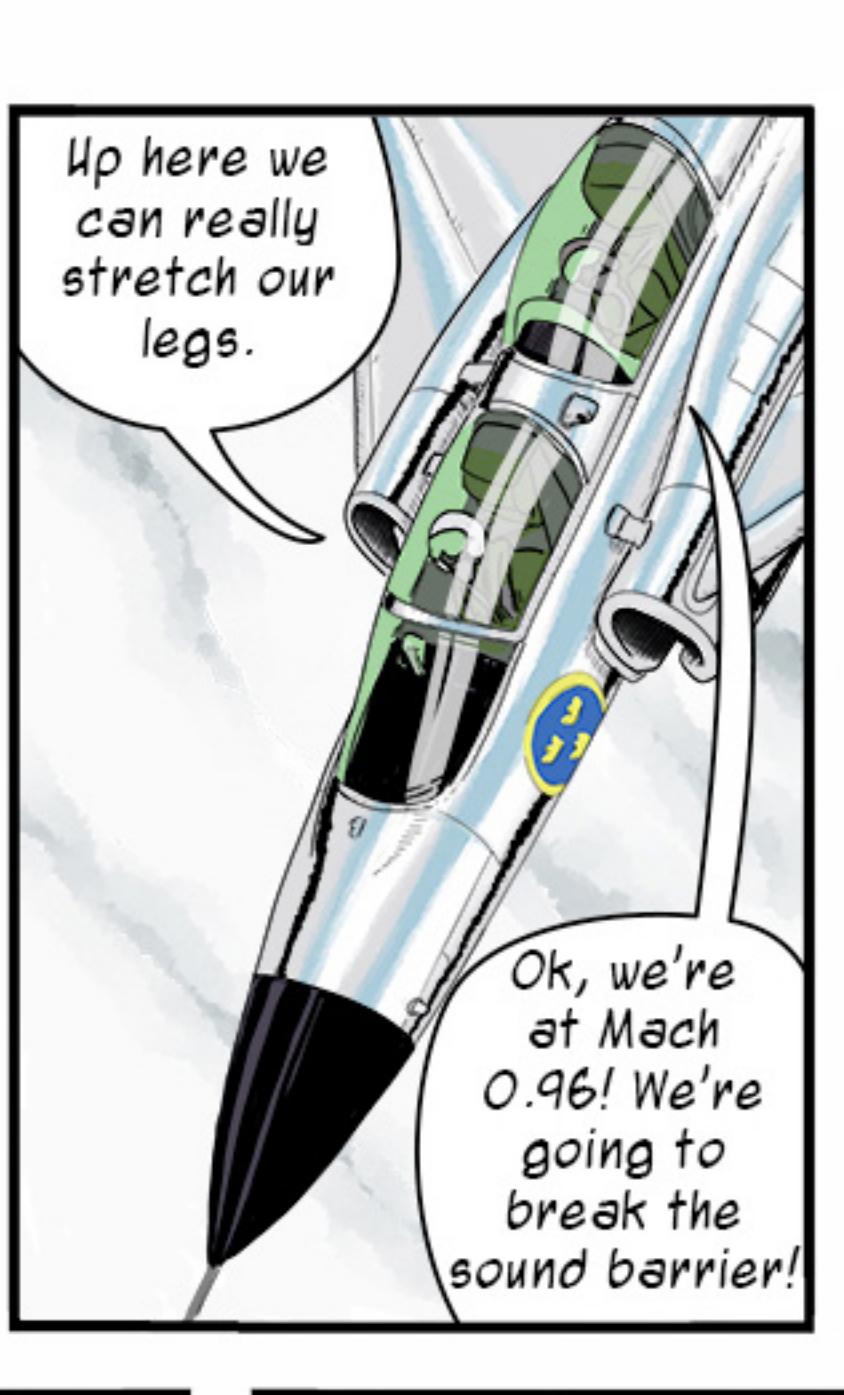
The Max speed* is classified, naturally. But we are not even close, hehe!

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



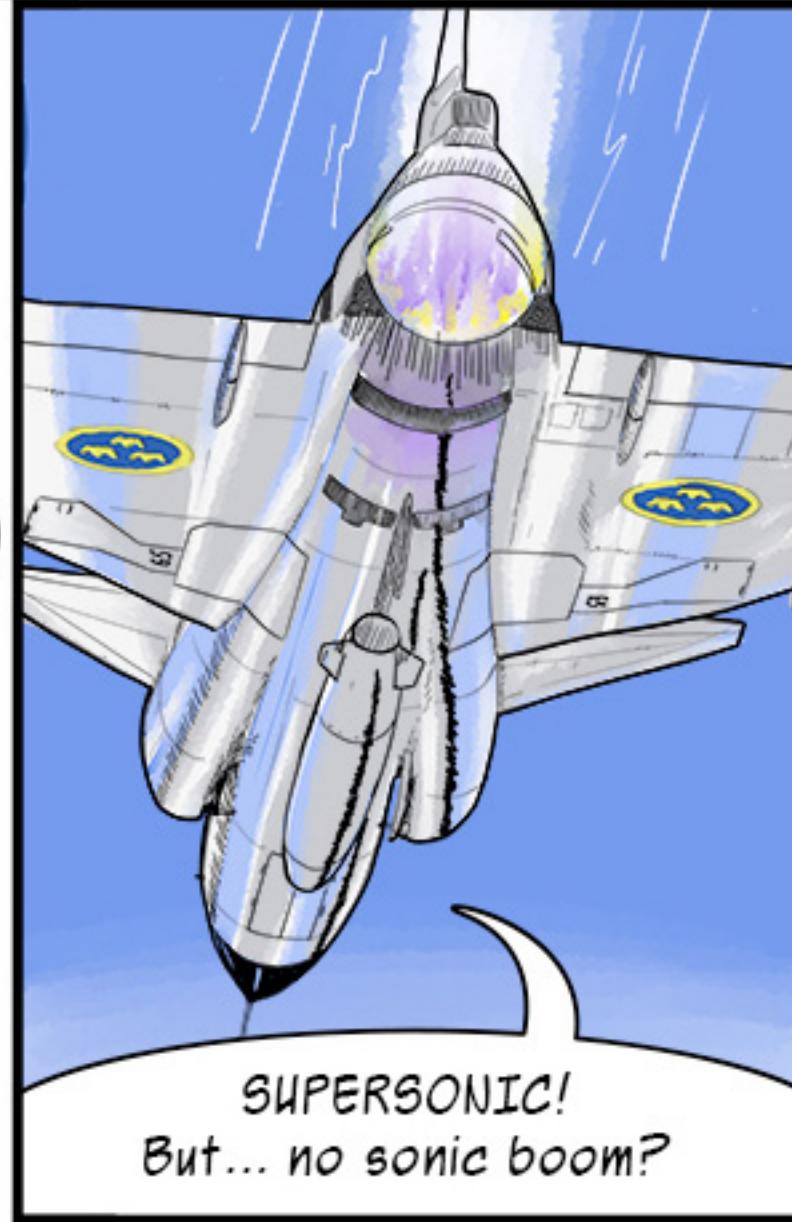
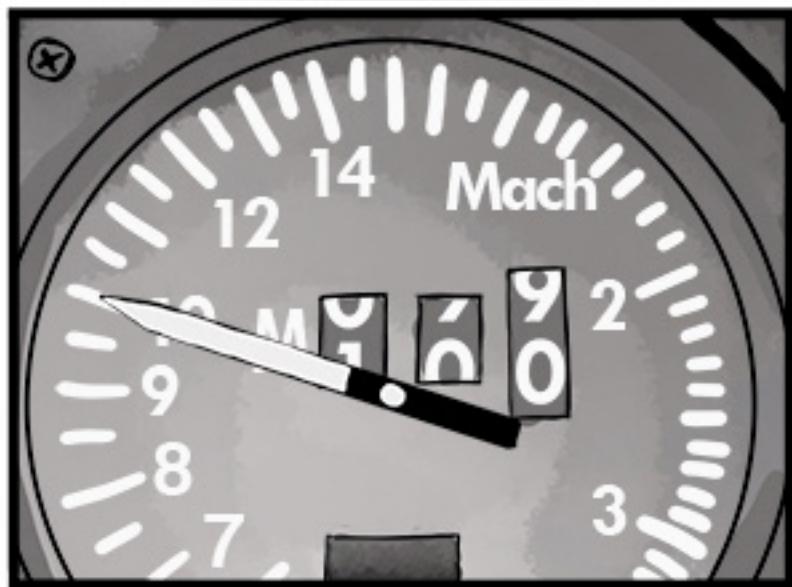
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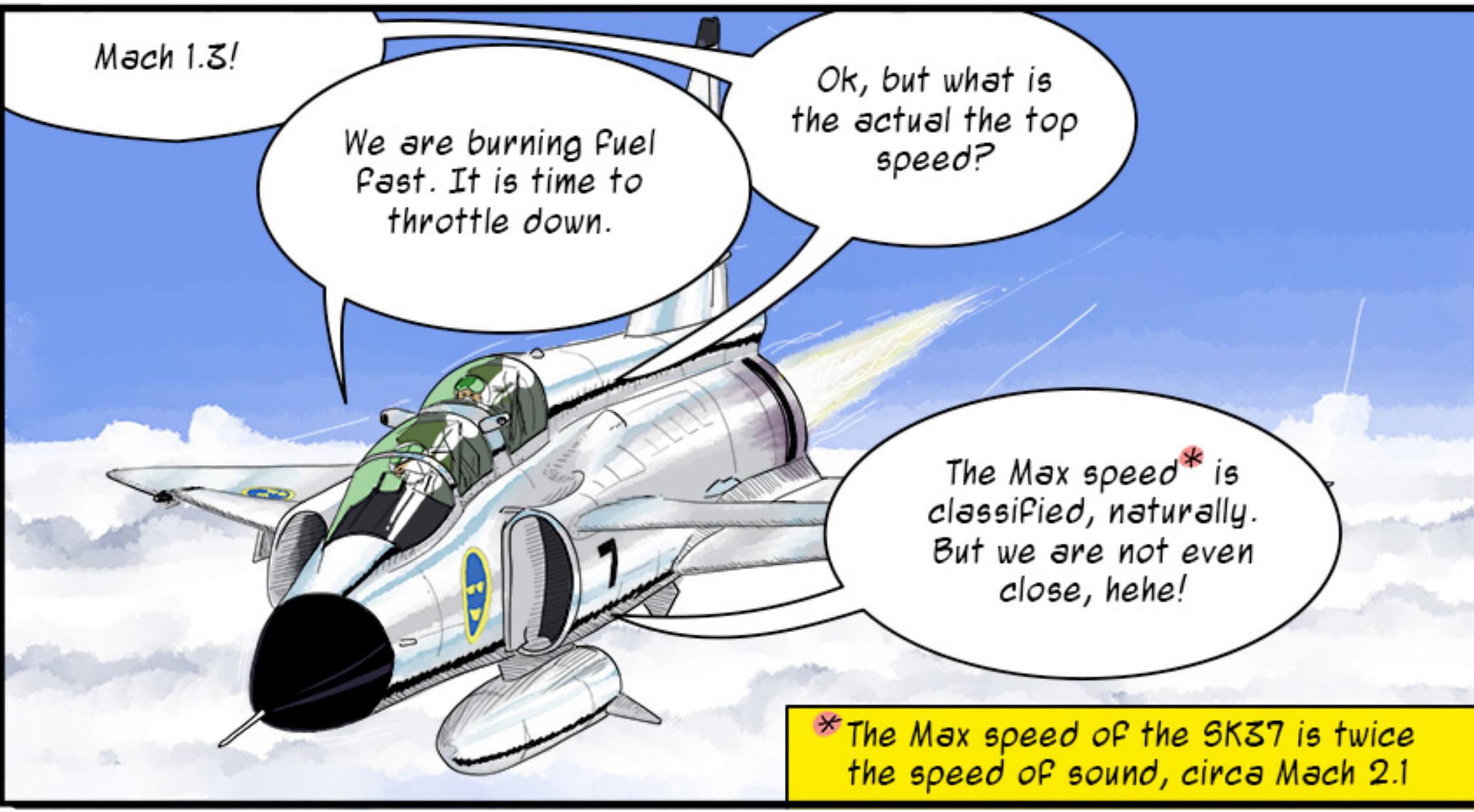
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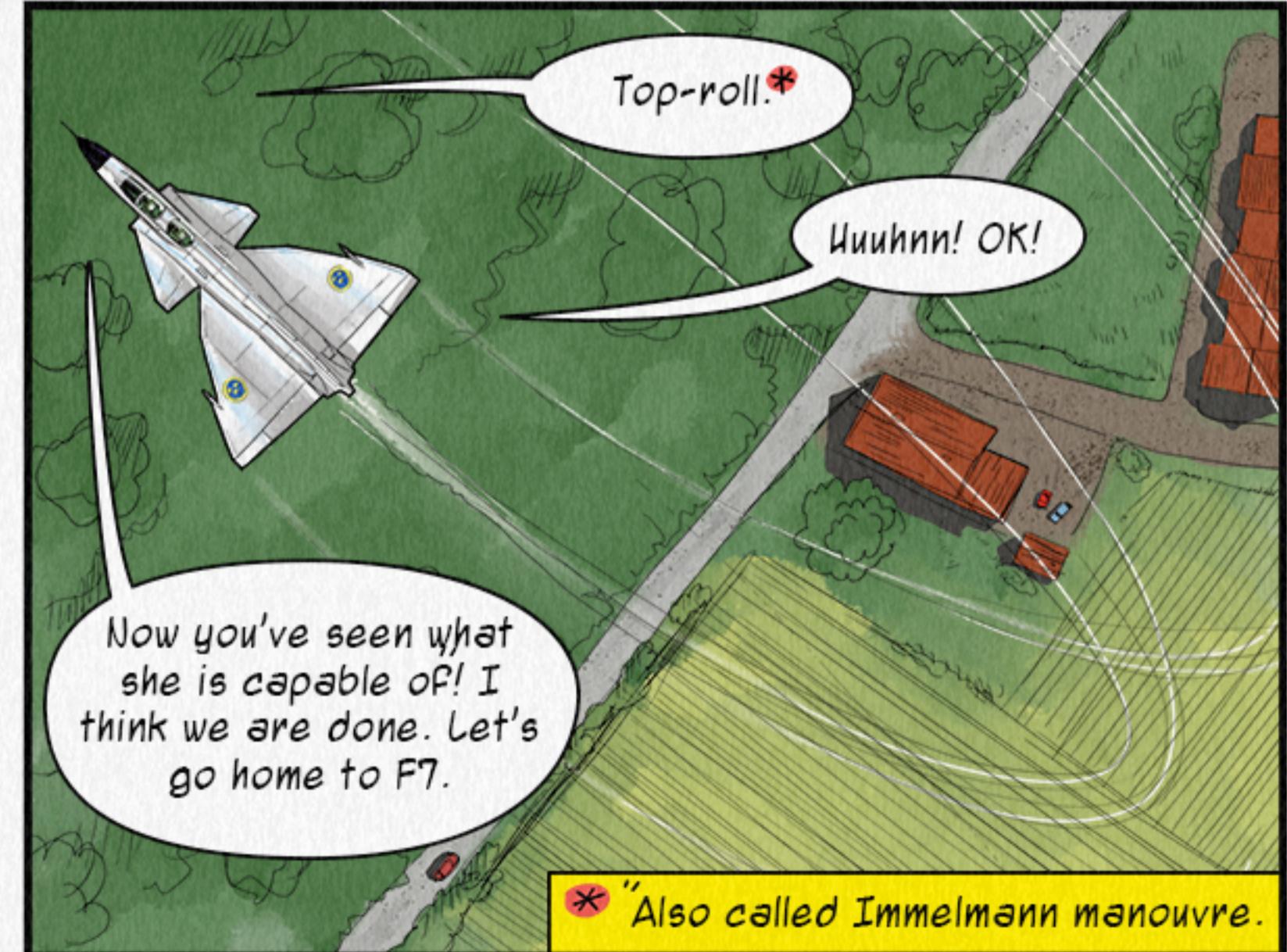


The "Seamans wife (Kvinna vid havet - 1952, Ivar Johnsson)

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

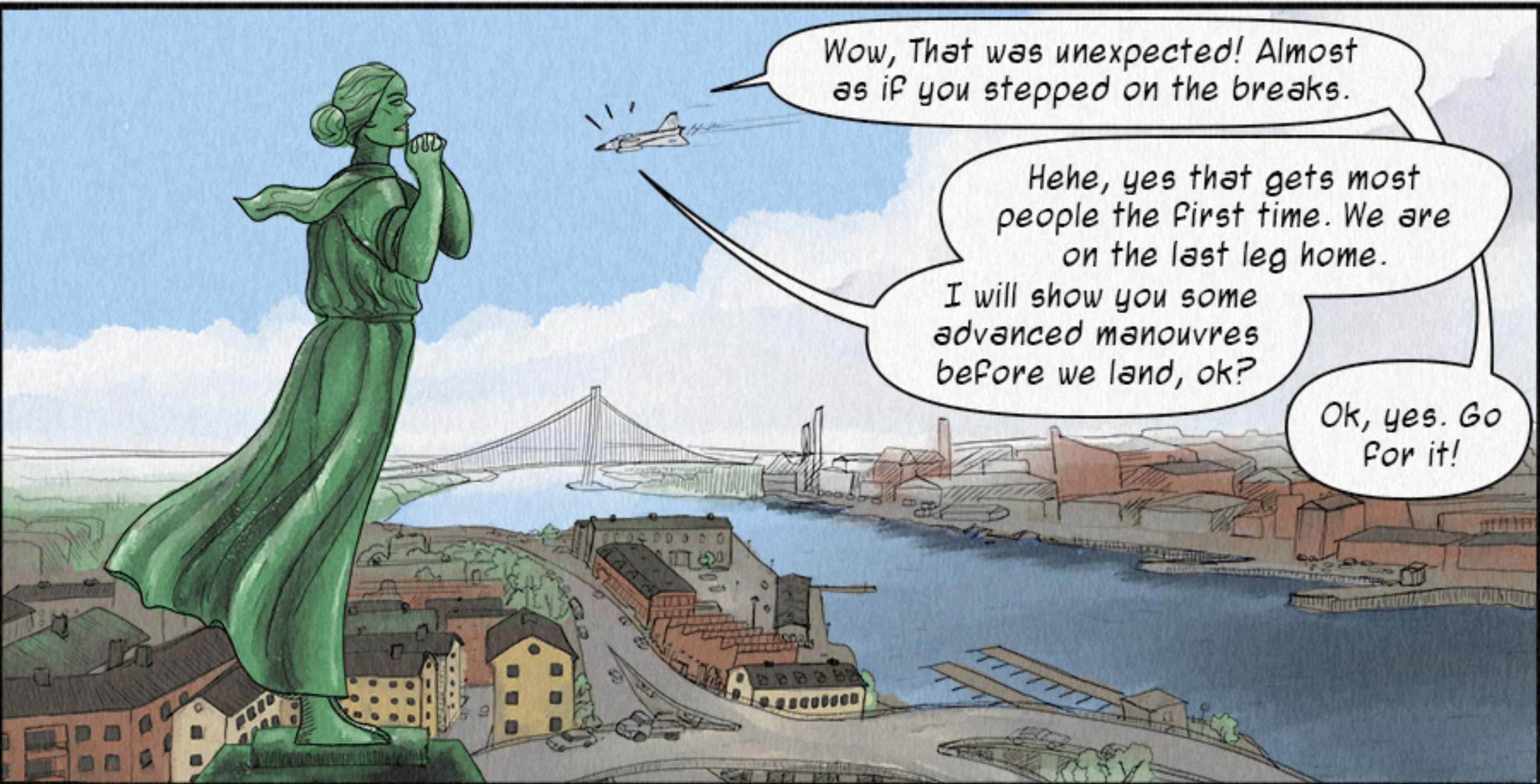


and manouverable fighter the Thunderbolt is!



* "Also called Immelmann manouevre."





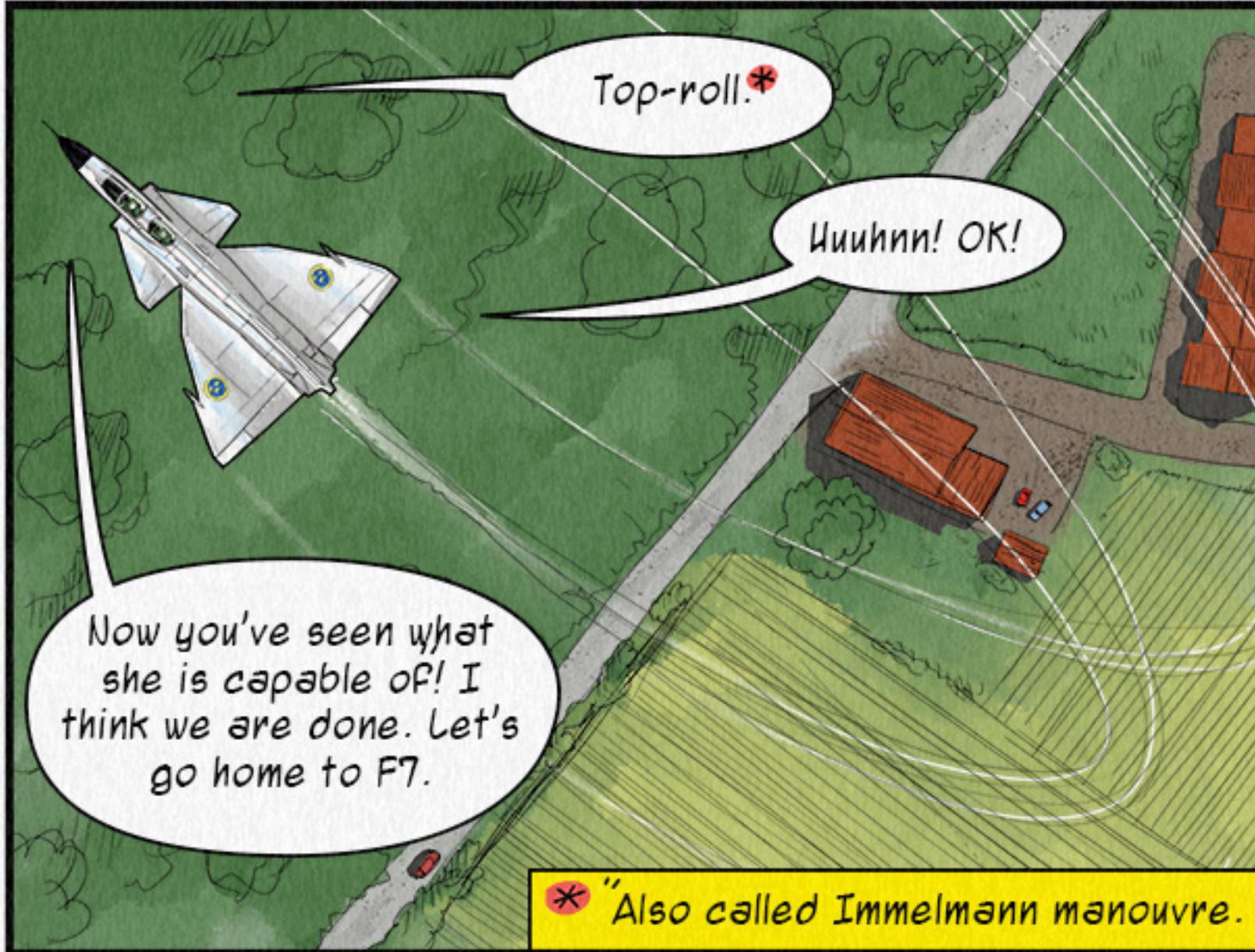
The "Seamans wife (Kvinna vid havet - 1932, Ivar Johansson)

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

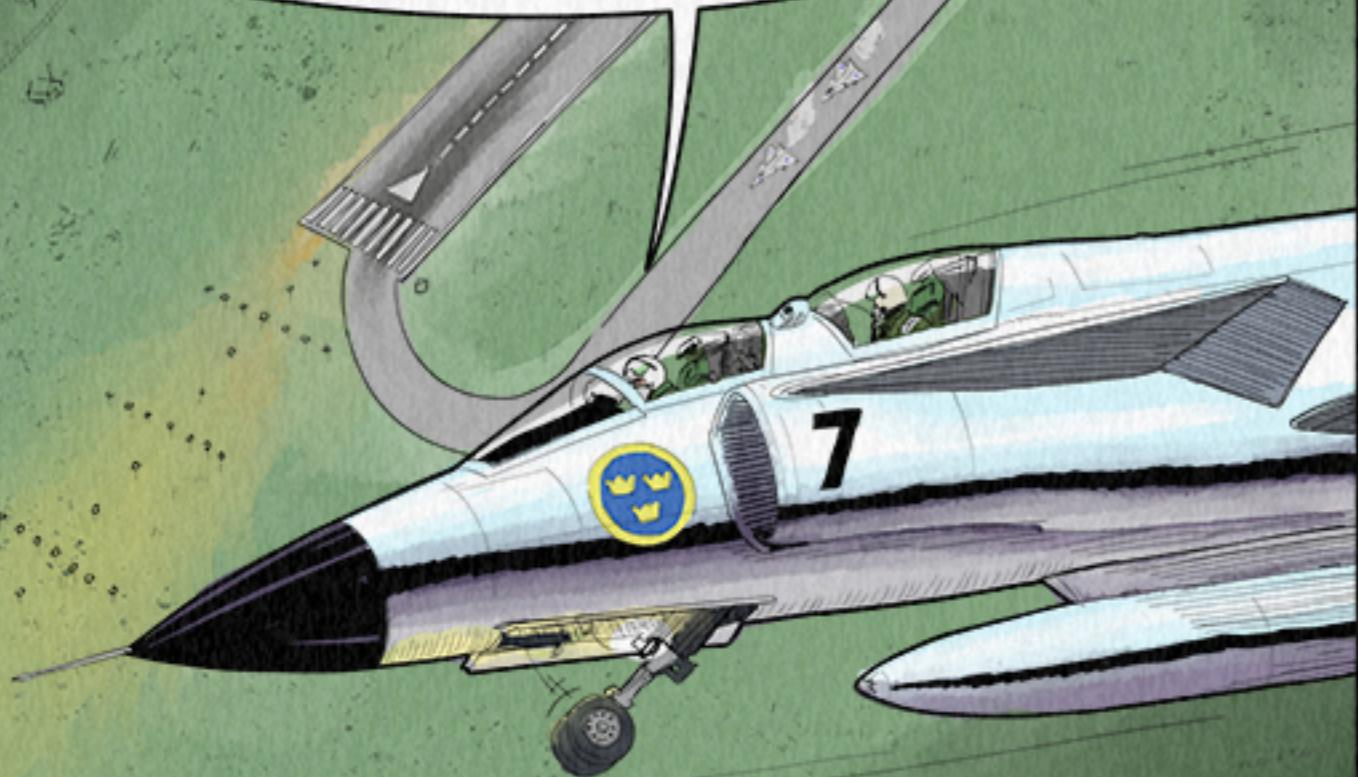


and manouverable fighter the Thunderbolt is!





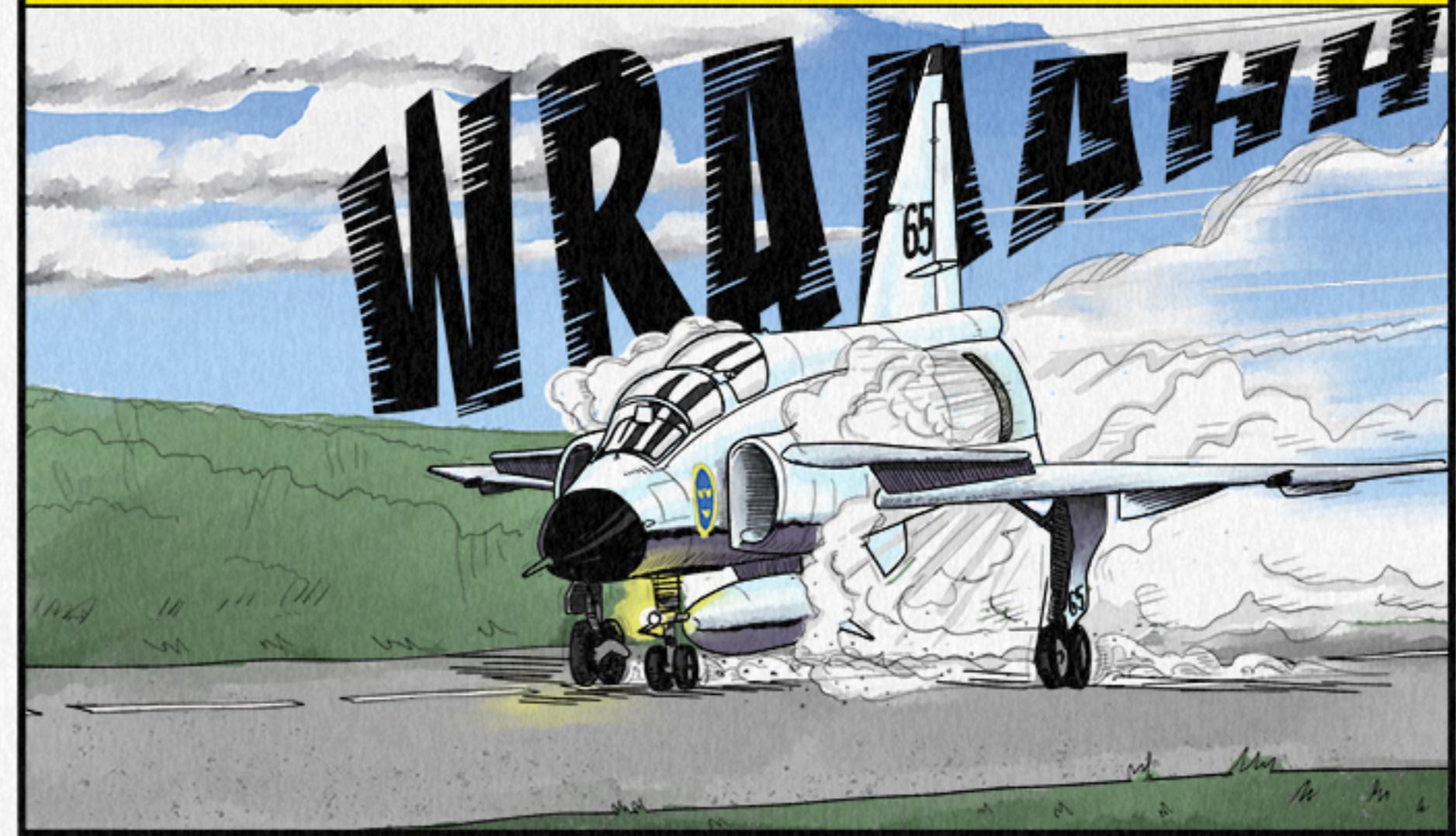
Gear out. Stabilizer and automatic speed control *engaged. On approach for landing.



* Autopilot systems to relieve the pilot during landing.



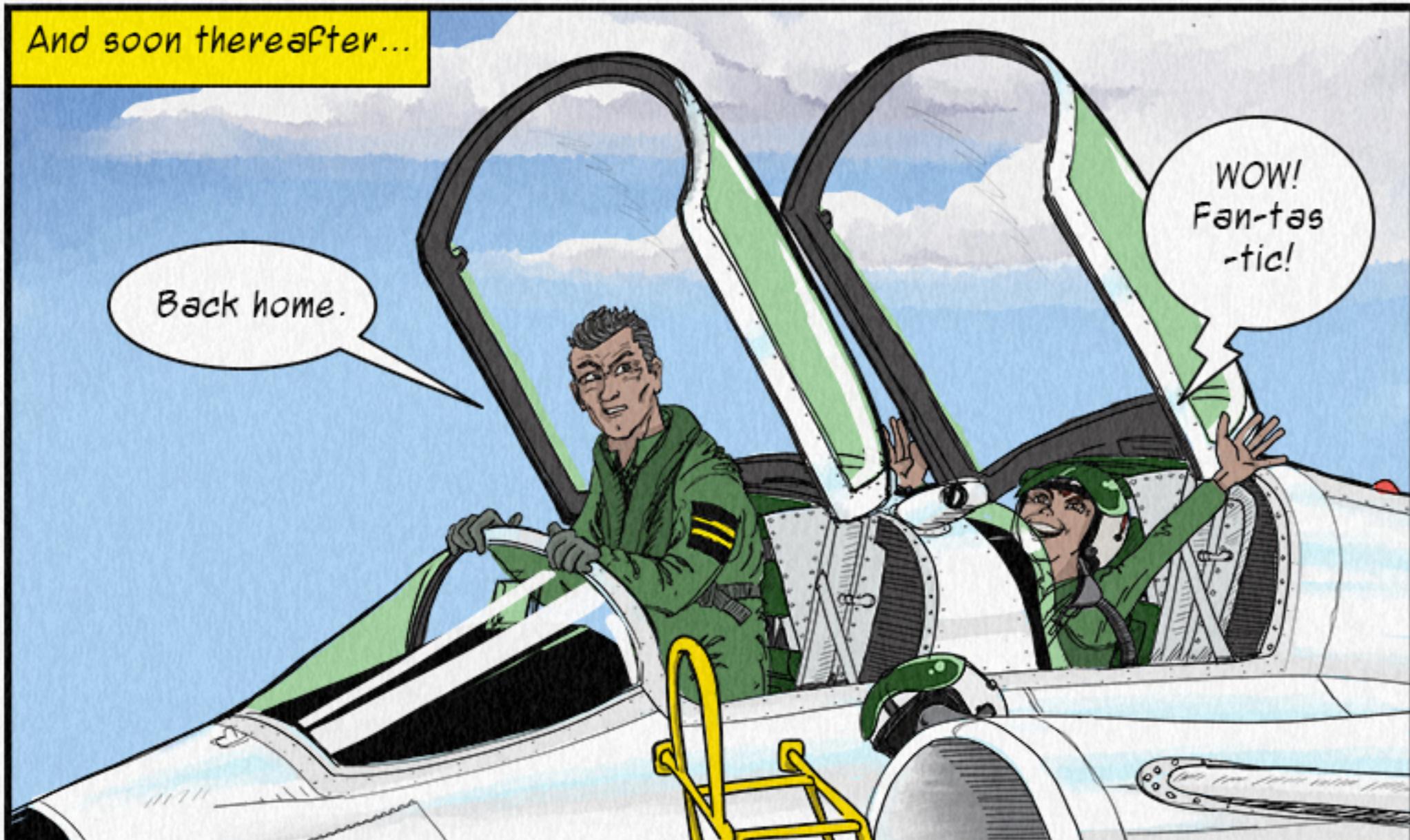
The Thunderbolt touch down hard and automatically reverse the jet stream. The brutal force makes the landing extremely short!



And soon thereafter...

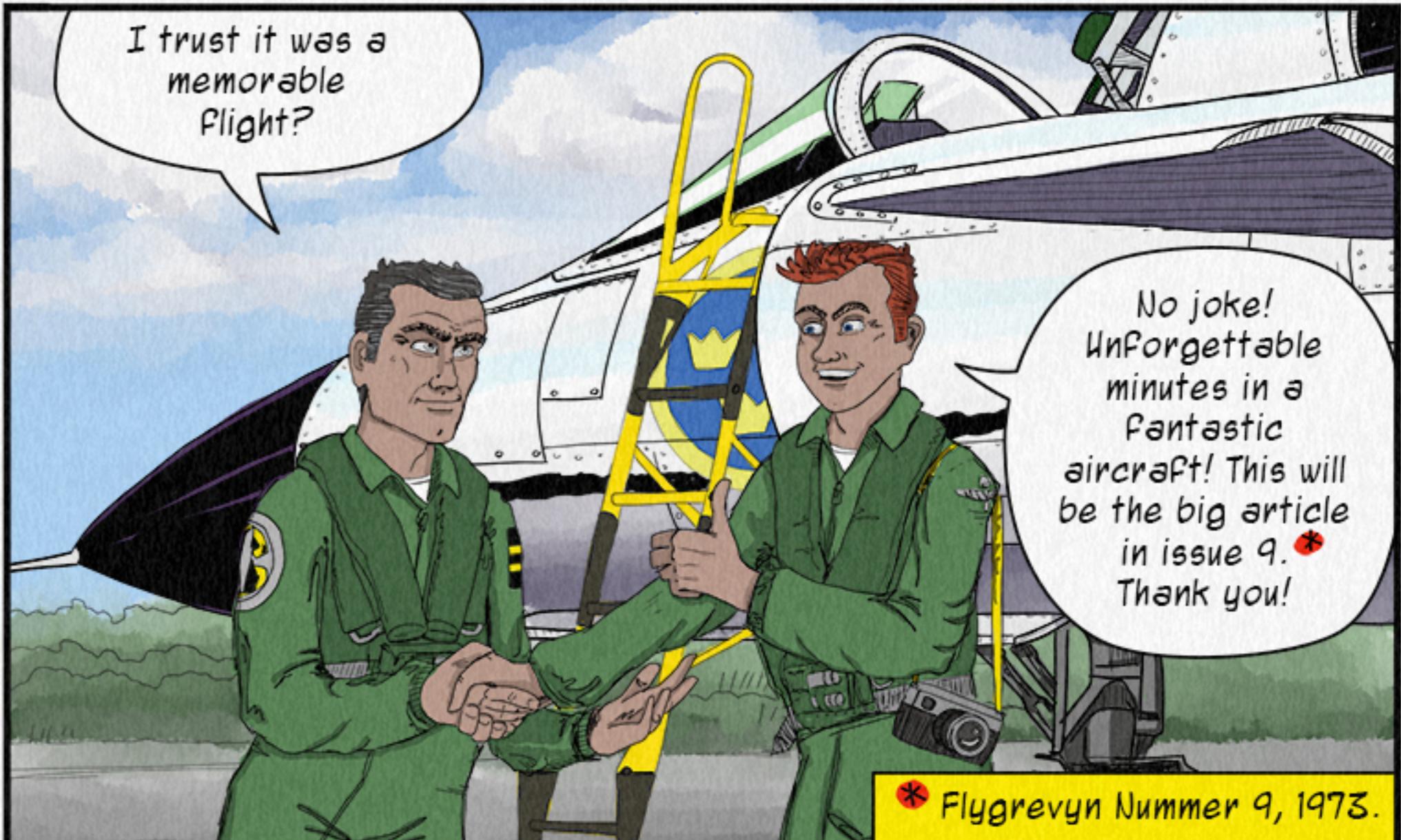
Back home.

WOW!
Fan-tas-tic!



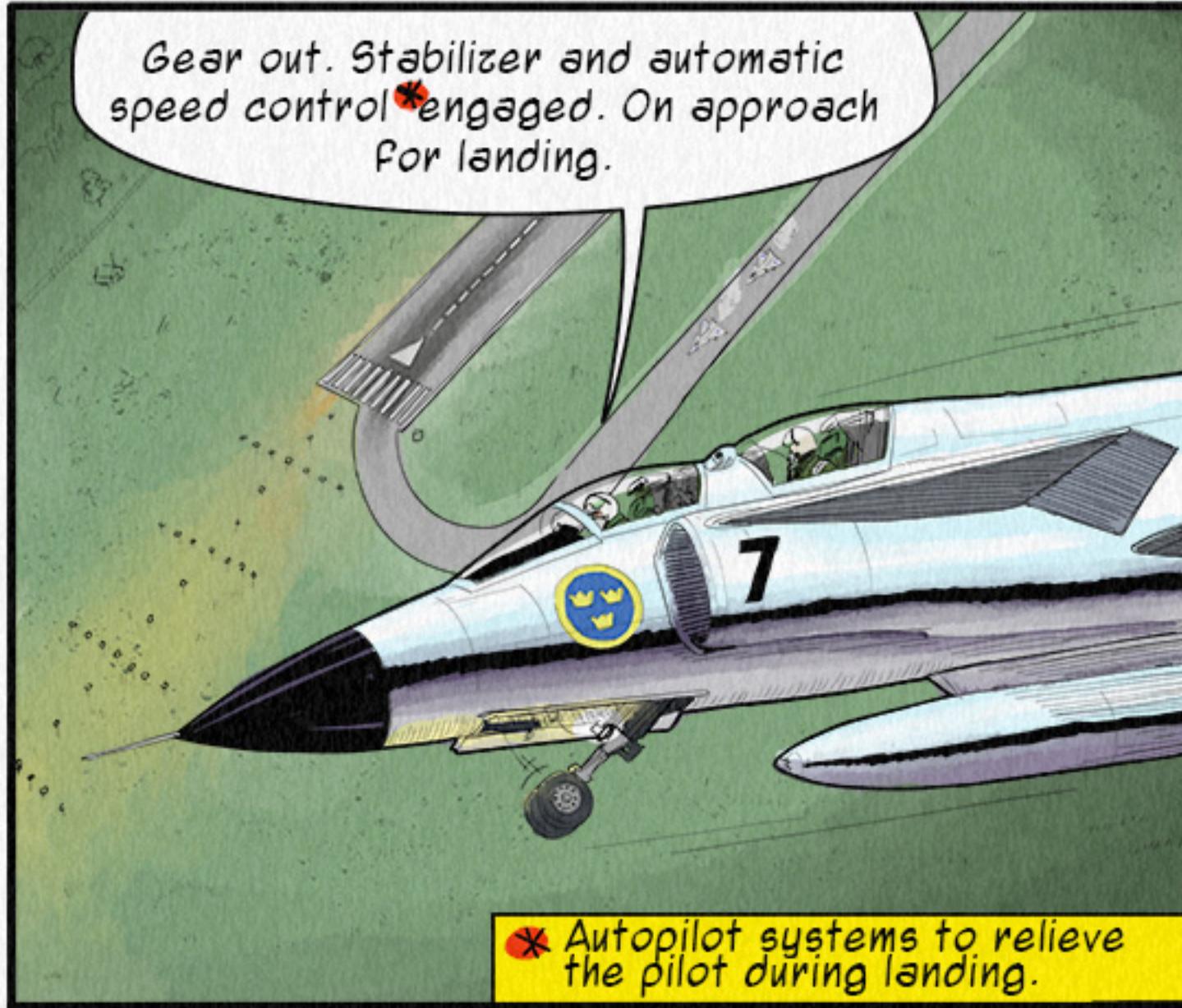
I trust it was a memorable flight?

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



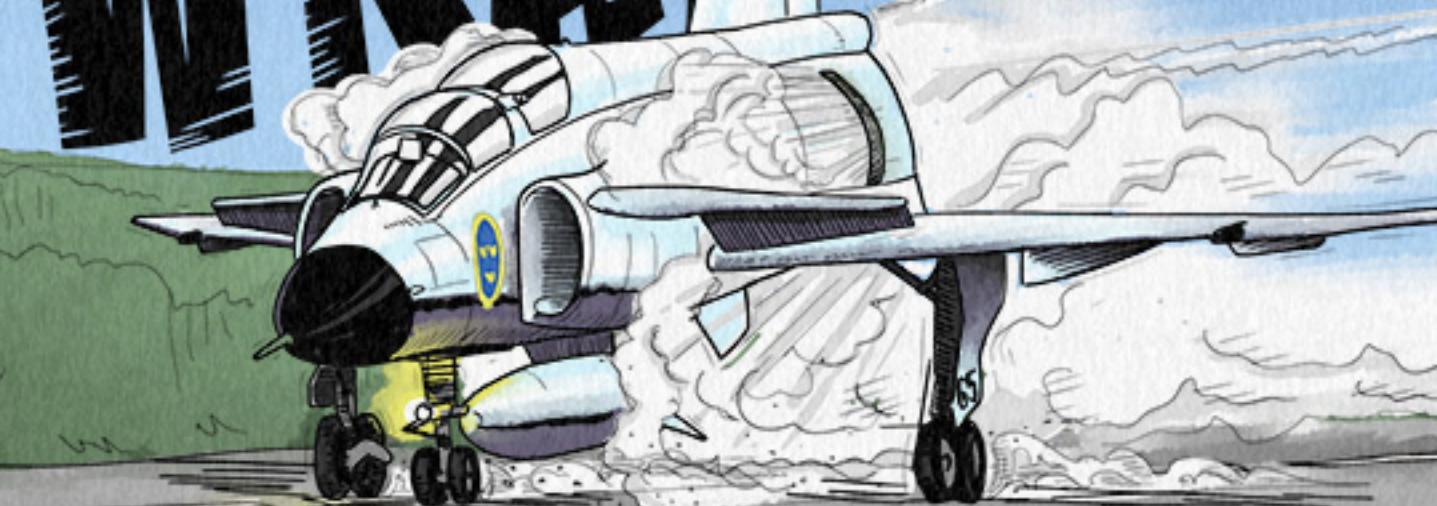
* Flygrevyn Nummer 9, 1973.

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



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

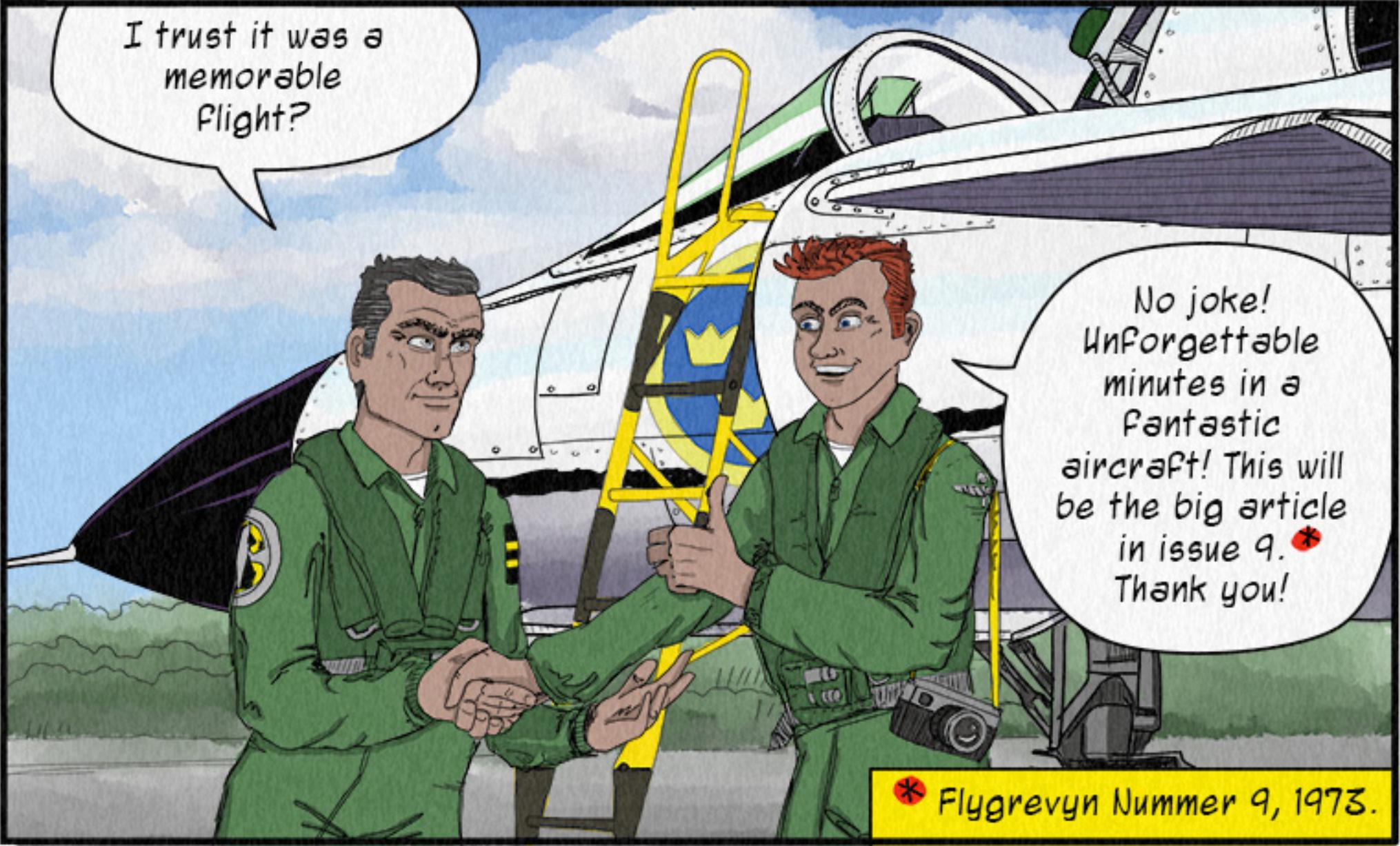
WRAAAHH



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
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Thank you!

* Flygrevyn Nummer 9, 1973.



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series:
1. the test flight



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