WRITTEN BY CHRISTOPHE CASSIAU-HAURIE ILLUSTRATED BY BARLY BARUTI

CONCO, THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Livingstone



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Art and coloring: BARLY BARUTI Text: CHRISTOPHE CASSIAU-HAURIE Afterword: A story by APOLLO Translated from the French: IVANKA HAHNENBERGER



he First World War was yesterday or the day before. The Blue Planet was veering red. The old empire - hereditary princes, courtiers and generals, nationalist politicians or revanchists - had commandeered their male population to flex their muscles. In what mirror were they admiring themselves, these princes who were about to assassinate their people? On August 4, 1914, in turning Belgium's neutrality, the Germans triggered a conflict in which even the United States and China eventually united wholeheartedly to take up the right side, with arms and baggage. From Armenia to Flanders, it soon became very difficult to recognize oneself in this filthy mass butchery. Ten million deaths are, however, first and foremost ten million stories. Individual destinies. Men lonely or full of holes. Courageous mothers and daughters growing up too fast, holding life and loving letters in shaky hands.

Unlike France and Great Britain, Belgium did not raise its cannon fodder in the colonies. Together with the aforementioned allies and the Germans, it exported the war to Africa, which, for recruitment, was much simpler. For a long time, I believed that in my country the names of streets that I did not understand evoked great military feats. It seemed to me that whenever this was not the case, I rejoiced! Thus, close to the Grand Place of Brussels, between the Stock Exchange and Rue des Fripiers, running along the side of the Church of St. Nicholas, there is a small street called Rue de Tabora. It sounds nice. A whisper of a saint's story or one of a safari in Tanzania. Something exotic! And then I learned that this street could just as well have been named Rue Graf von Götzen, after a small German battleship attacked by the Belgians on Lake Tanganyika in 1916, a key event in the military campaign that would take the Belgian-Congolese troops to the Indian Ocean. Is there at least an avenue from Tabora to Kinshasa?

At the end of the war, the Congolese losses in Africa were considered to be about the same in number as the Belgian losses in Europe, between twenty-five and thirty thousand men, not counting the destruction. With his co-authors Appollo and Christophe Cassiau-Haurie, Barly Baruti had the excellent idea of locating their story at the heart of this tale whose vacuity does not detract from its greatness. It all started a little earlier, when the first Western explorers considered Black Africa to be theirs...a playground, a dark conquest. To little Belgium of the 20th century, the handshake between Stanley and Livingstone is as impressive as Armstrong's first step on the Moon. "One small step for man..."

From there it would be quite easy for a gifted African author to construct a narrative, shall we say vengeful, blaming Europeans for the misfortune of men. But for Barly Baruti, the world is never binary swinging harshly between black and white. Built from nuances, his universe is rich in encounters, exchanges, open windows...Twenty-five years ago, he coined the phrase "comics are good dialogue" and has never changed it. Without renouncing his roots, his

family, or his visceral attachment to his motherland, he is a living bridge between North and South. By the eighties, he had already completed a comic art internship at Studio Hergé, directed at that time by the late great Bob De Moor. Would it not have been so much easier to scream racism by evoking Tintin's first steps in black Africa, pretending to ignore that the 20th century was not always a global village? Of course not, it would have been an insult to the intelligence and dignity of the Congolese and their great cartoonist. Isn't the wisest man the one who knows how to laugh in the face of things?

Yet, between North and South, between colonizer and colonized - just the term, alone, burns in our mouths today - the clichés are hard and Madame Livingstone confronts a number of them without losing sight of the historical or the social context.

As the commemorations to one of the most absurd wars in human history happened, only then did Belgians start to realize that it was Belgian-Congolese troops (quite equally) that shattered German colonial troops throughout East Africa through to 1918. Since the fifties, Belgian troops supported by the Public Force (Congolese soldiers supervised by Belgian officers) were hardly talked about, if they were remembered at all. Even earlier, in the aftermath of the Armistice, only Belgian troops were mentioned. It was at this time that streets in Brussels and other cities in the country were named after Tabora or General Tombeur. (The one who raised the town.)

A war is always a crime against humanity. But Barly Baruti and his coauthors have understood that these storms of history are also indicative of moments of great humanity. Thus they traced the story of Madame Livingstone and a handful of destinies in motion, with brilliance, sensitivity and in such a proliferation of colors that one cannot ignore that life and death in paradise are probably even more upsetting than elsewhere.

Bwa Za, spring 2014.

Jean Auquier, Director General of the Belgian Comic Centre.

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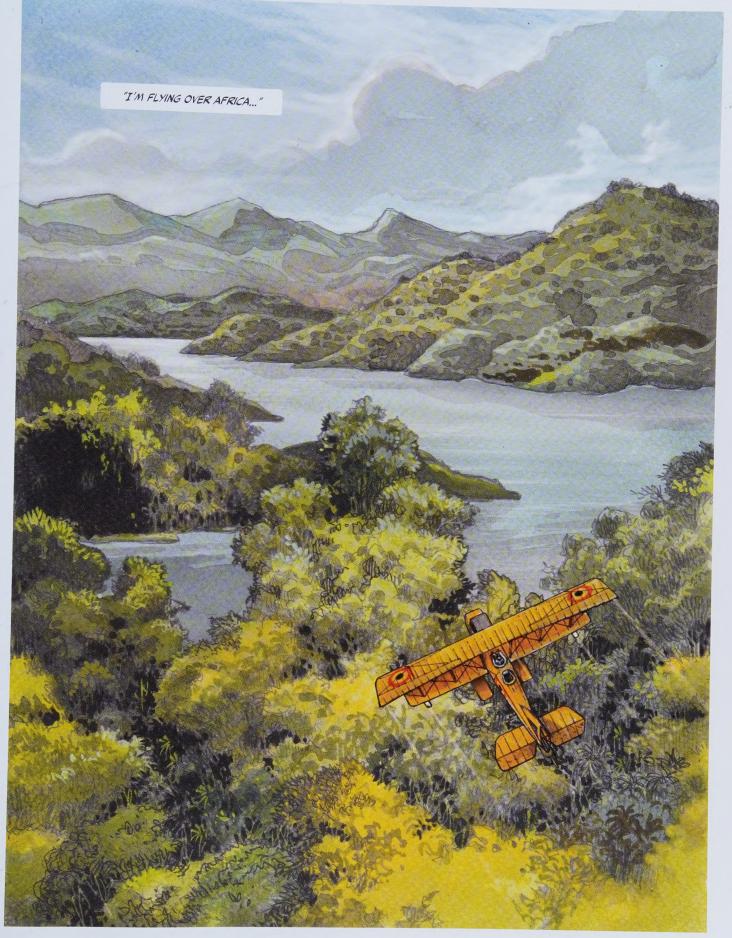
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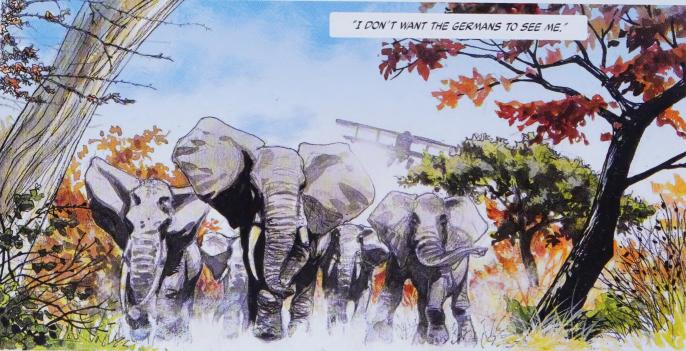
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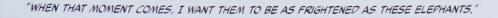
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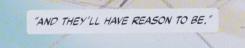


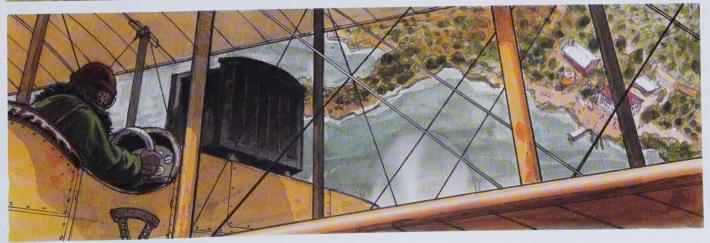


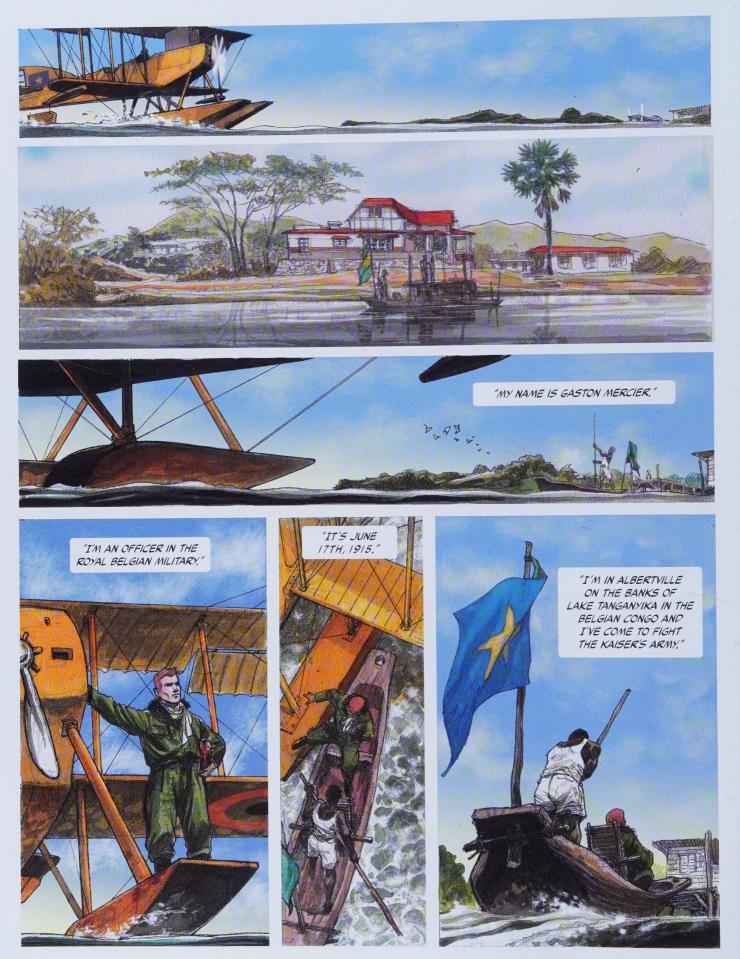












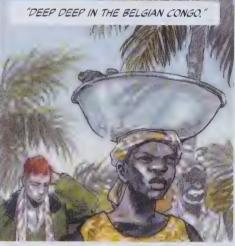






"ALBERTVILLE, END OF THE LINE OF THE LAKE RAILWAY!"





Ust opposite is peutsche otsafkika, in other Words von lettow and his Schutztkuppe of Prussian officers keady to fight. "WE ARE THE LAKE DETACHMENT. 15,000 CONGOLESE AND TOO BELGIANS.



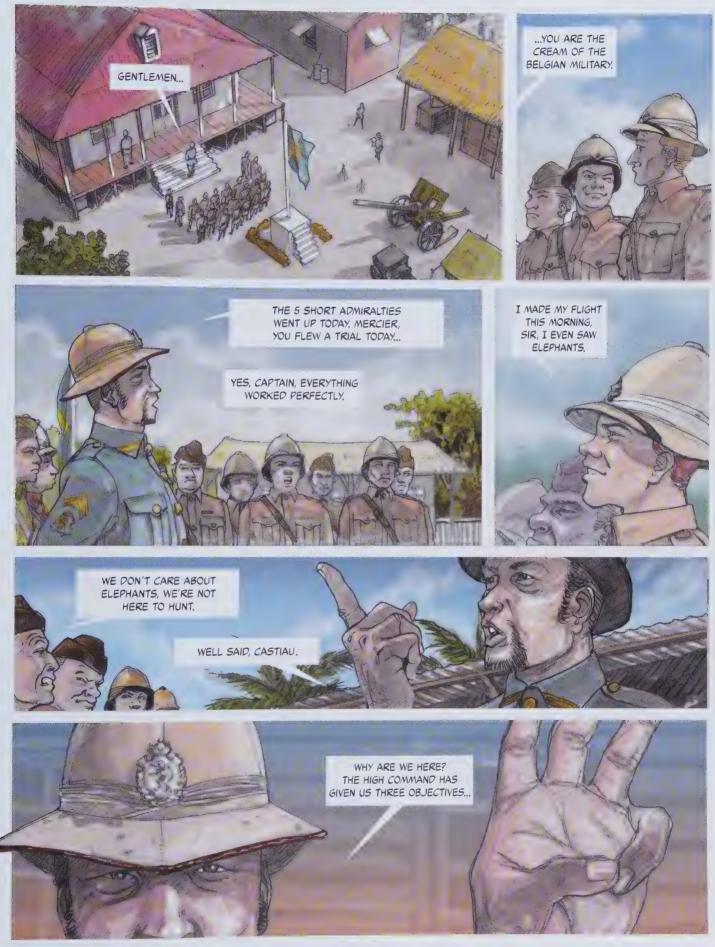
"ALL THESE MEN READY TO SHOOT EACH OTHER"

"...50 THE CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY IN CHARLEROI AND THE RUHR CAN STUFF THEMSELVES WITH CAVIAR, IGNORING THE DEAD BLACK MEN SOMEWHERE DEEP IN AFRICA."













THIRD: SINK THE GRAF VON GÖTZEN.

## THE GRAF IS UNSINKABLE. WHY DON'T THE ENGLISH SEND THEIR STEAMERS? IT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE.

I BELIEVE IT'S FEASIBLE.

DROP A WELL-AIMED BOMB ONTO THE BOILER AND YOUR PRECIOUS PRUSSIAN WILL SINK.

NO, TO BE PRECISE YOU NEED TO BE CLOSE; IF YOU'RE CLOSE, THE GRAF'S GUNS WILL TAKE YOU OUT, EXACTLY! ITS 105 MM FORWARD GUN AND THE TWO 35ERS IN THE BACK CAN DO SOME REAL DAMAGE...

NOT TO MENTION THAT THE GERMANS COULD ALSO USE THE HEDWIG VON WISSMAN WITH ITS TWO RAPID FIRE 57 AND 37 MM KRUPPS! LET'S NOT FORGET THEIR THREE SCREW STEAMERS, THE KINGANI, THE PANGANI AND THE WA...









MAYBE IT'S POSSIBLE. YOU JUST HAVE TO APPROACH IT WITHOUT BEING NOTICED. WELL, YOU GENTLEMEN THINK ABOUT IT. IN THE MEANTIME, WE'RE GOING TO WORK ON THE FIRST TWO OBJECTIVES.





I REALLY DON'T WANT TO RUN OUT OF FUEL IN THE MIDDLE OF A BUNCH OF CROCS OR HIPPOS.

> WE'LL HAVE LOCALS GUIDE US FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS.

> > YES, MAJOR-GENERAL TOMBEUR HAS DECIDED THAT.

> > > AND YOU LUCKY DEVIL, YOU HAVE THE WEIRDEST MAN OF THE BIG LAKES!

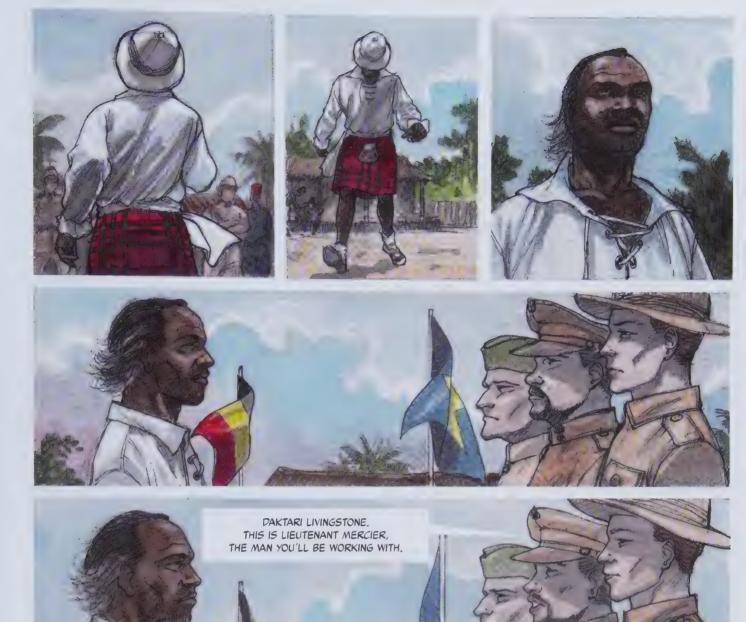




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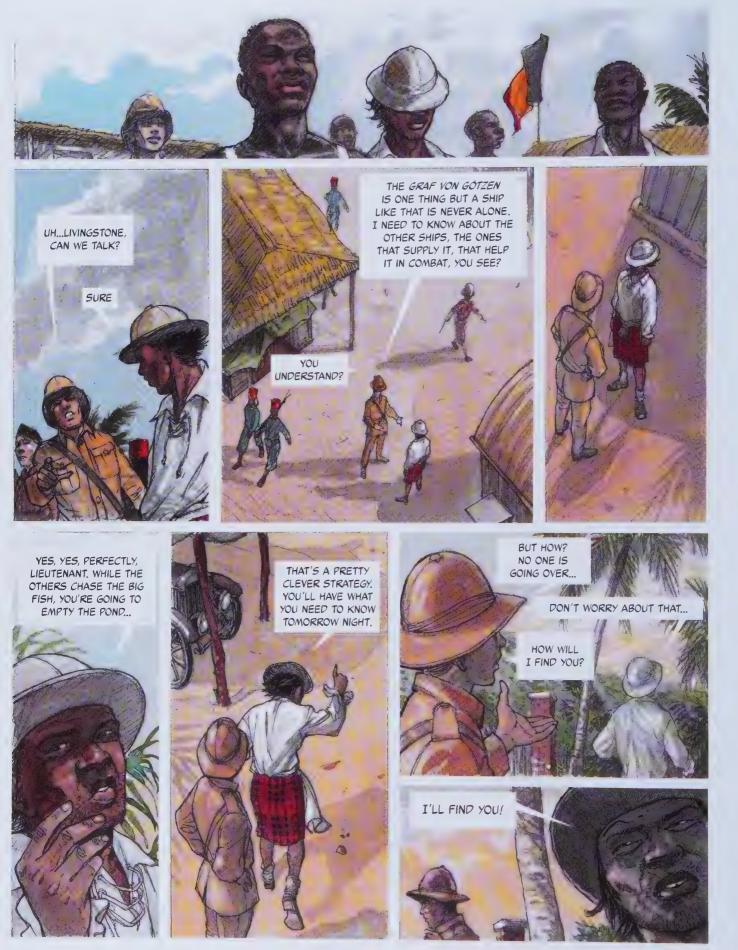
HELLO LIEUTENANT, I'M DAVID LIVINGSTONE JUNIOR! FROM UDJIJI.

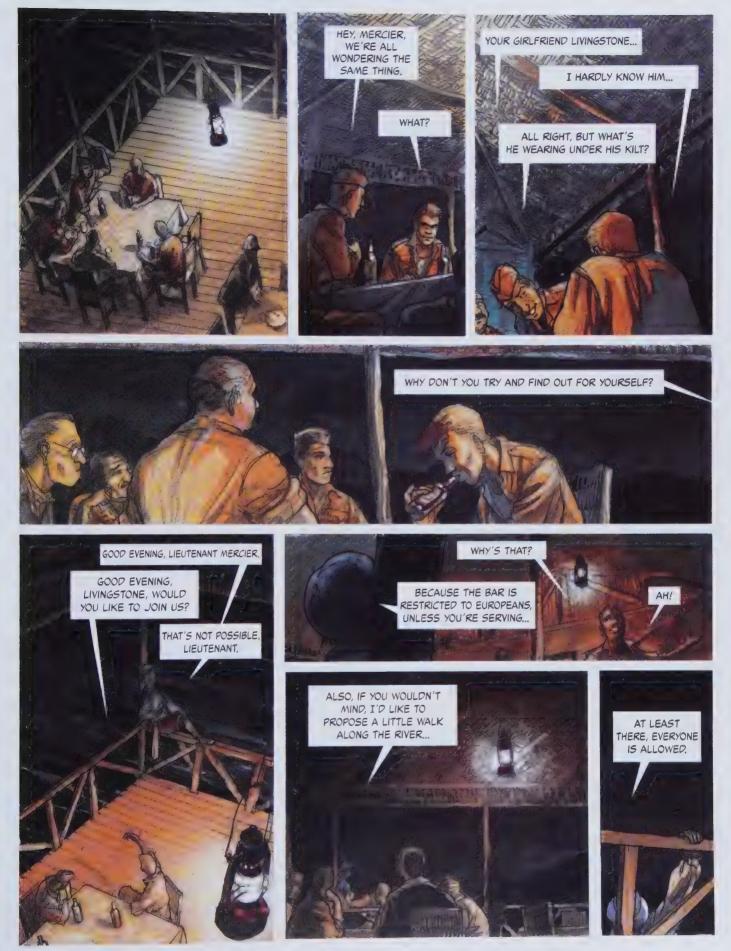






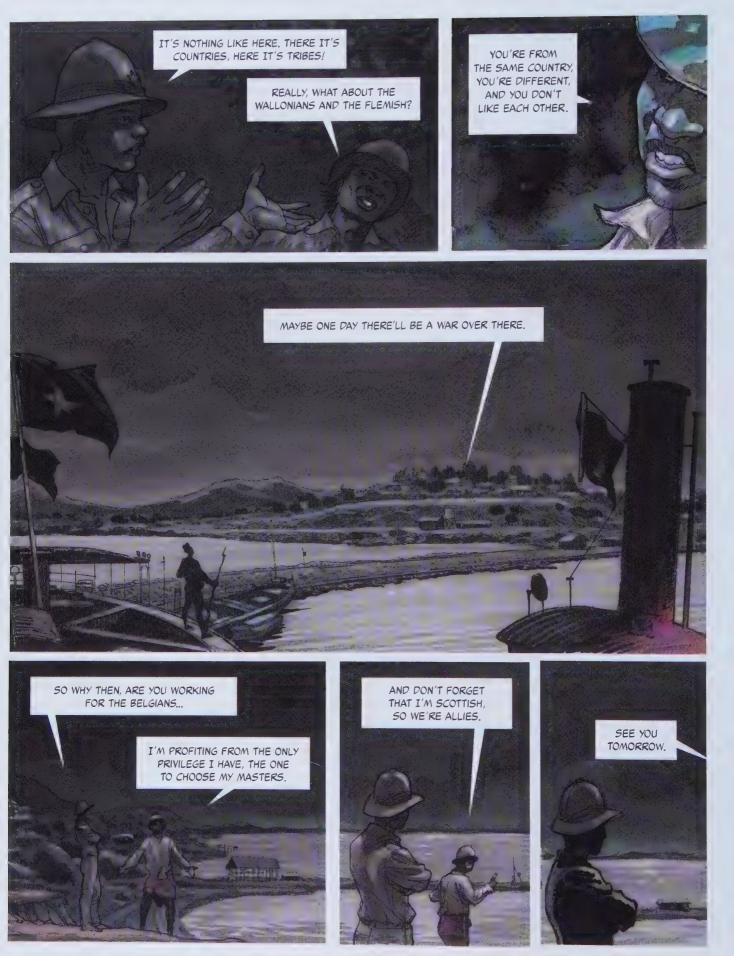
Ind if anyone can find the graf yon solution in the solution i



















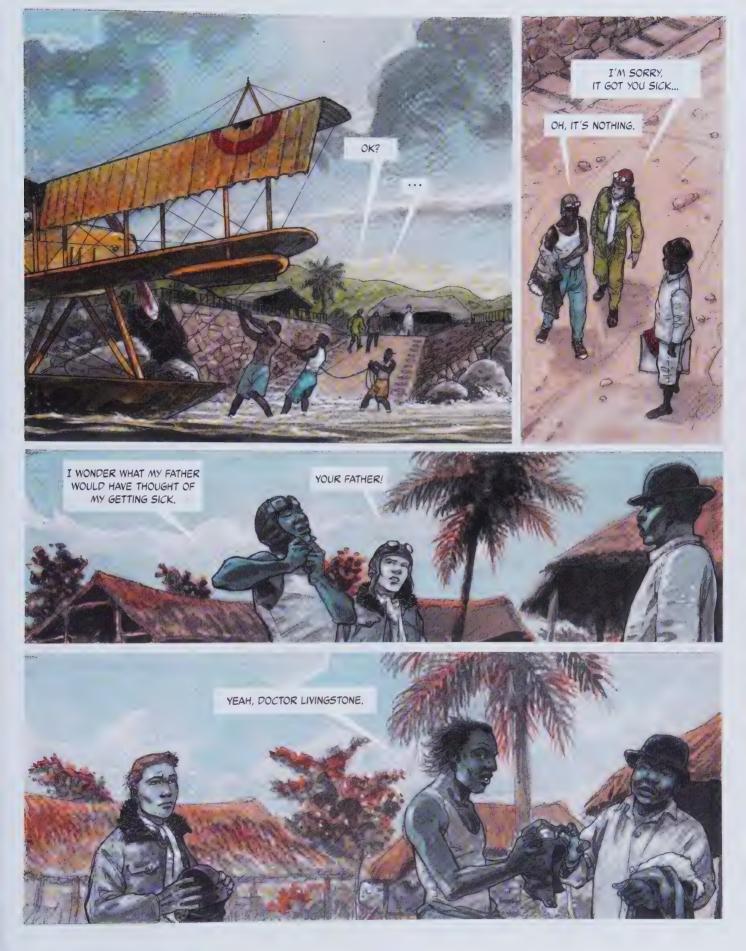












"FROM THEN ON, FOR SIX MONTHS WE SEARCHED FOR THE GRAF VON GÖTZEN."

v A /

"LIVINGSTONE, AS MY GUIDE."





"THROUGH HIM, I STARTED TO UNDERSTAND AFRICA..." "BEYOND THE BORDERS..."







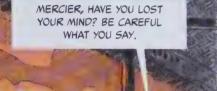




WELL, FOR EXAMPLE, IN RWANDA, THE GERMANS DID THINGS RATIONALLY. THEY COUNTED THE NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK PER BLACK. MORE THAN TEN YOU'RE TUTSI, LESS THAN TEN YOU'RE HUTU. AND THAT'S THAT...



...AT LEAST THEY DIDN'T GET STUCK ON NUANCES, JUST LIKE THE EUROPEAN ARISTOCRACY. ONE STEP CLOSER TO BEING CIVILIZED. YOU SEE, ORTA, THERE'S ONLY ONE PROBLEM. WE BEHEADED THE ARISTOCRACY.



LISTEN UP, WHEN WE EUROPEANS CAME HERE, WE HAD TO DO EVERYTHING; THERE WAS NOTHING. THIS COUNTRY DIDN'T EVEN EXIST THIRTY YEARS AGO. THE BLACKS SHOULD APPRECIATE THAT KING LEOPOLD CREATED THIS COUNTRY.





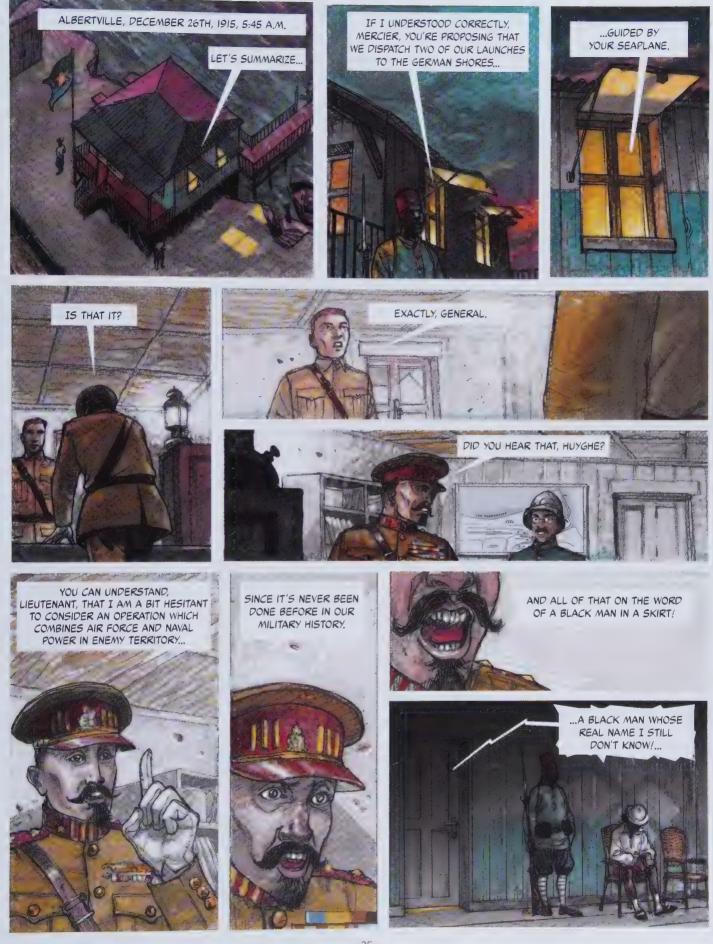
WELL, IN LISTENING TO YOU GUYS, I THINK WE SHOULD BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND FOR HAVING CREATED BELGIUM, A COUNTRY THAT DID NOT EXIST AT THE BEGINNING OF THE LAST CENTURY...

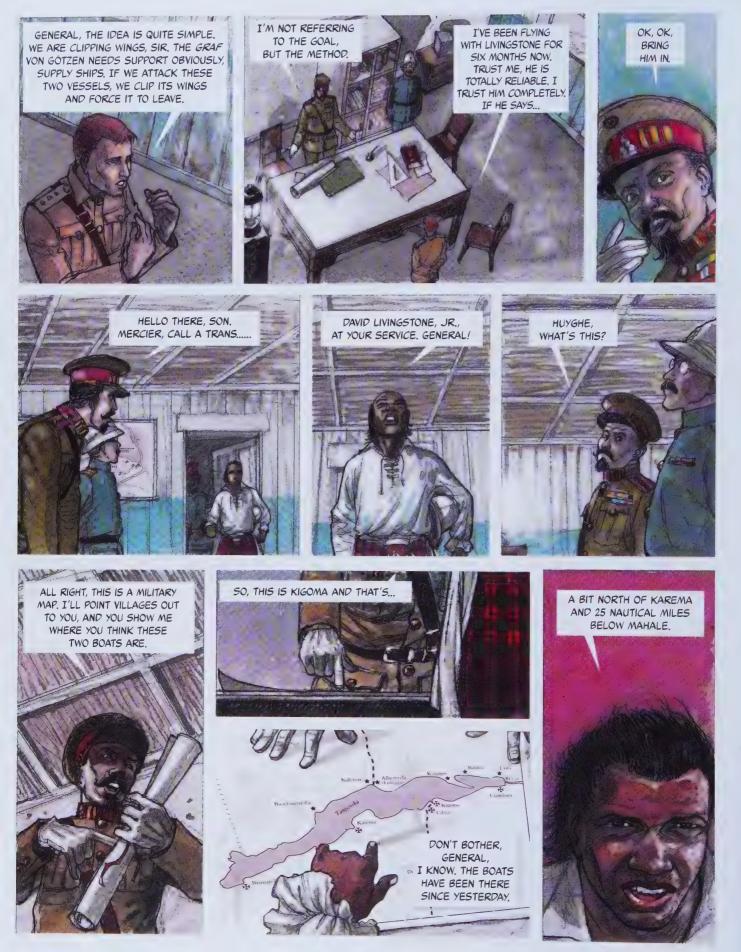








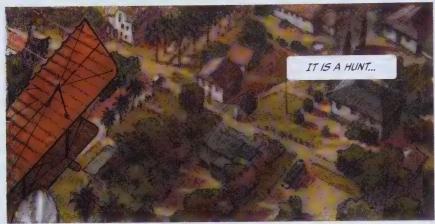






























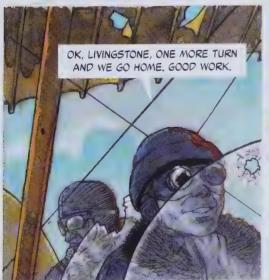
LIVINGSTONE, SEND THE SIGNAL!



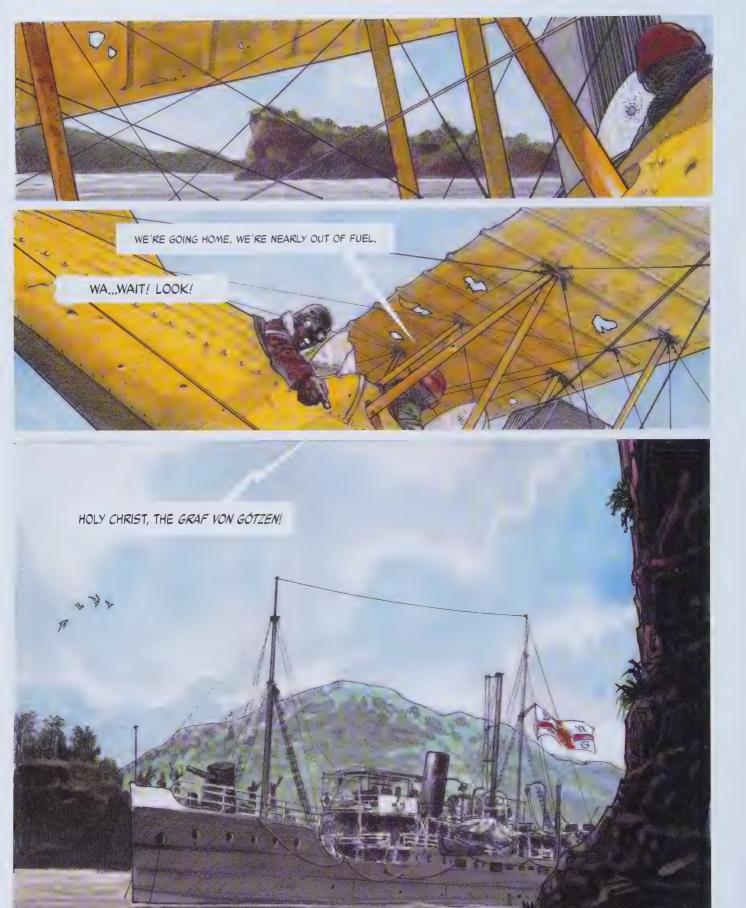


GREAT, THEY SAW IT!

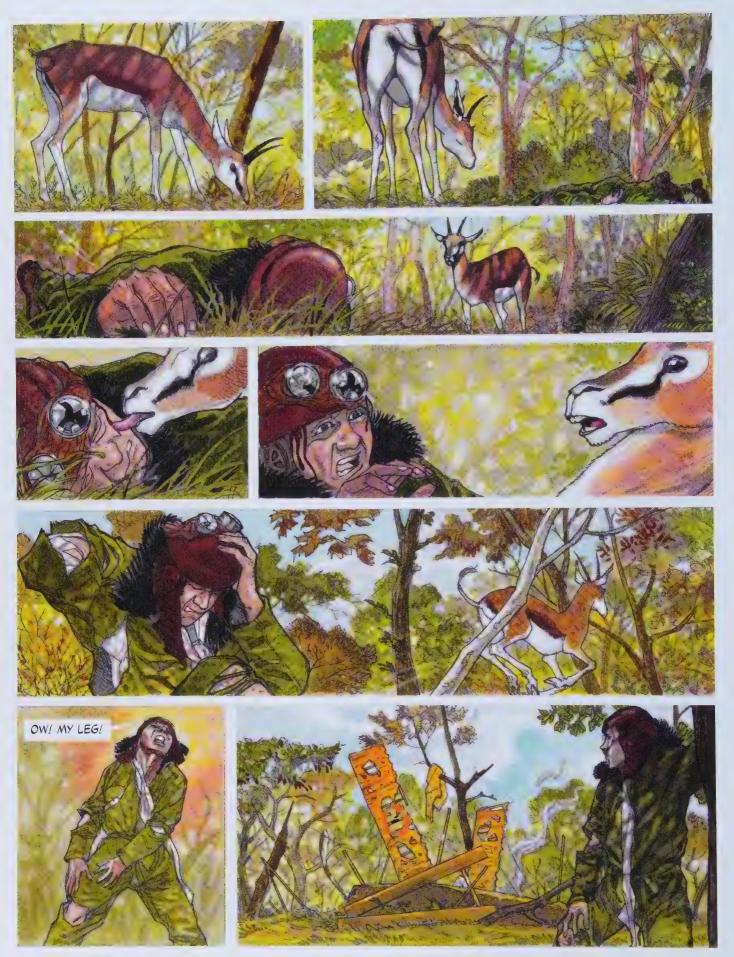




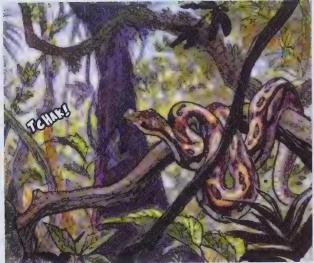












































































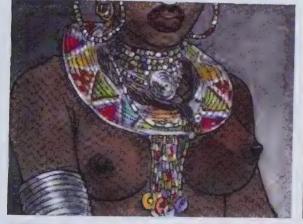


























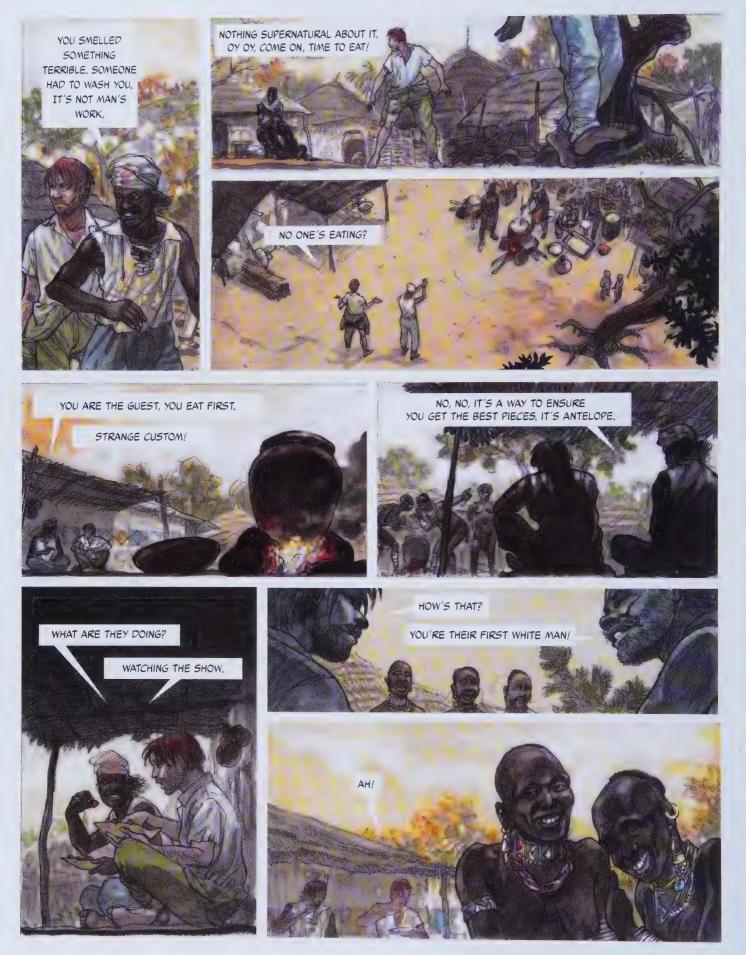
























UH...YOUR COLOR! THE WOMAN IS WONDERING IF YOU'RE MISSING A LAYER OF SKIN...OR IF IT WAS PEELED OFF! LIKE A PIG...

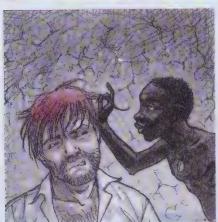








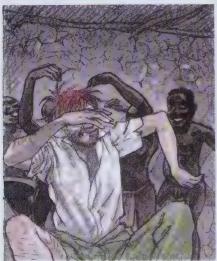


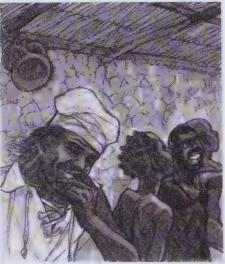
























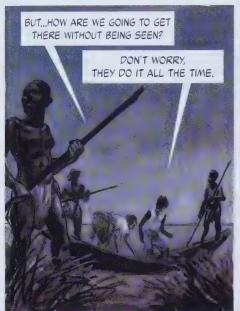














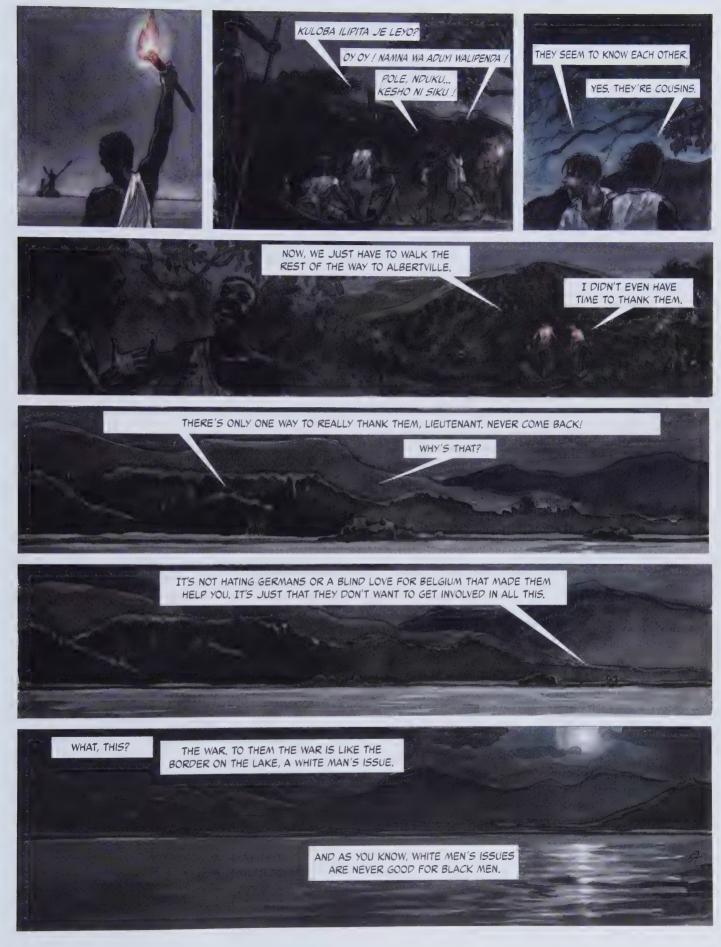




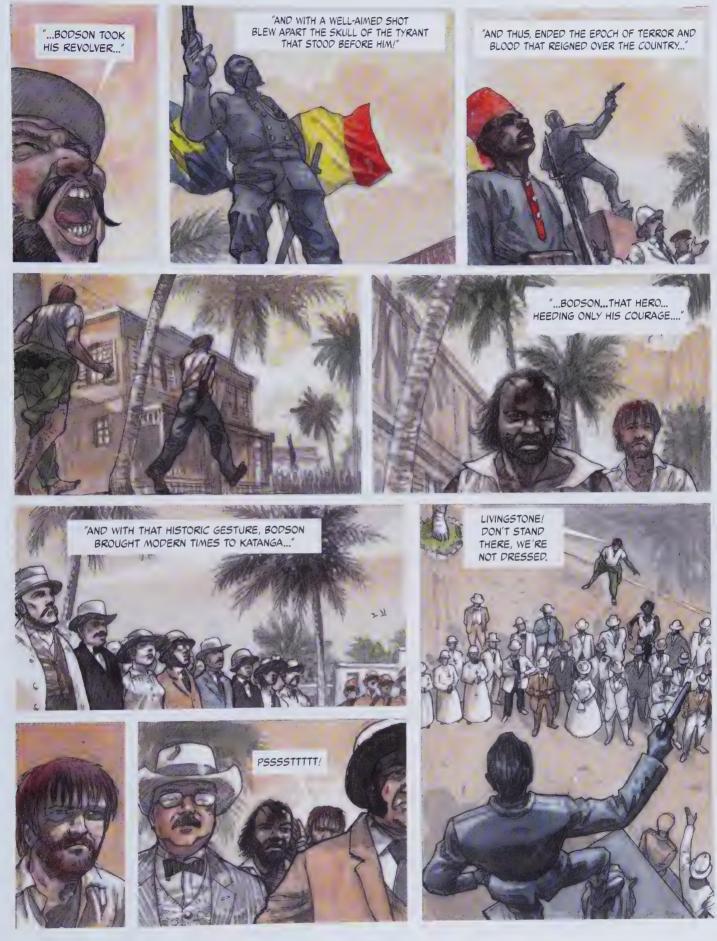








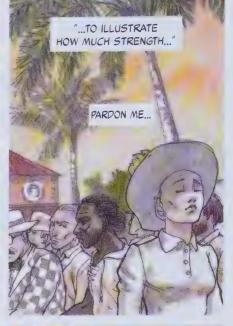
"AND HEEDING ONLY HIS COURAGE, WITH HIS FAITH IN HIS HEART AND AWARE OF HIS DUTY AND THE UNWAVERING MARCH FORWARD OF CIVILIZATION."





"...AND TOWNSMEN. LET US TAKE THIS GLORIOUS EXAMPLE...." PARDON ME.

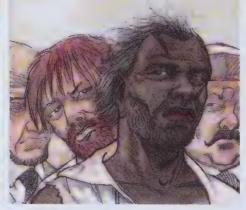




"...WE HAVE TO DEFEND OUR GLORIOUS TERRITORY..." "...AT A TIME WHEN THIS SACRED TERRITORY IS THREATENED BY THE TEUTONS...THAT HORDE OF BLOODTHIRSTY BARBARIANS..."

"...AND WE WILL RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!"



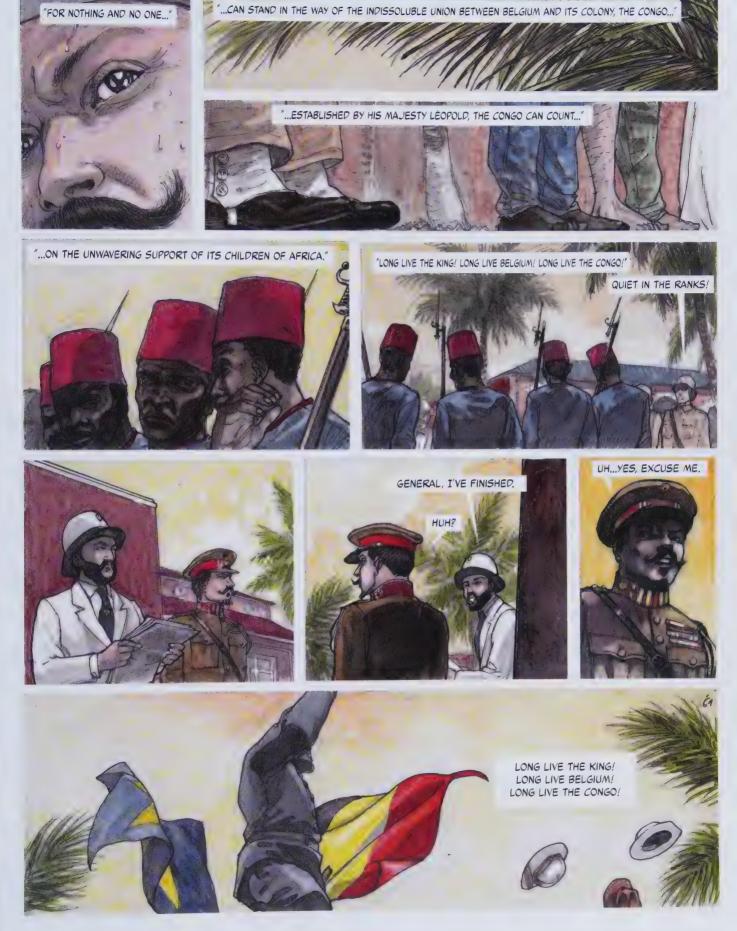


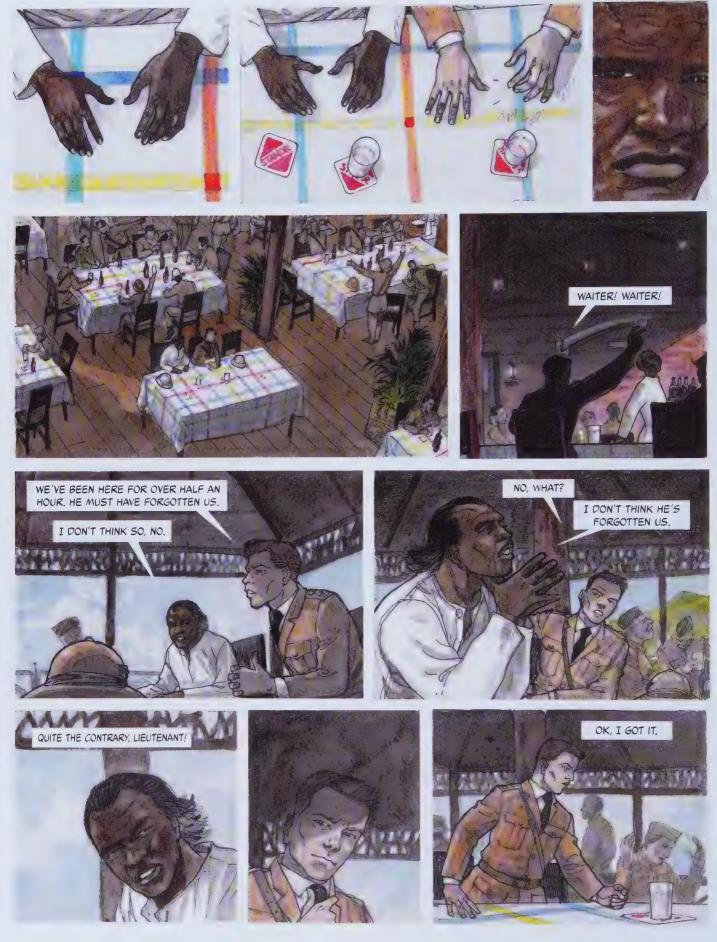
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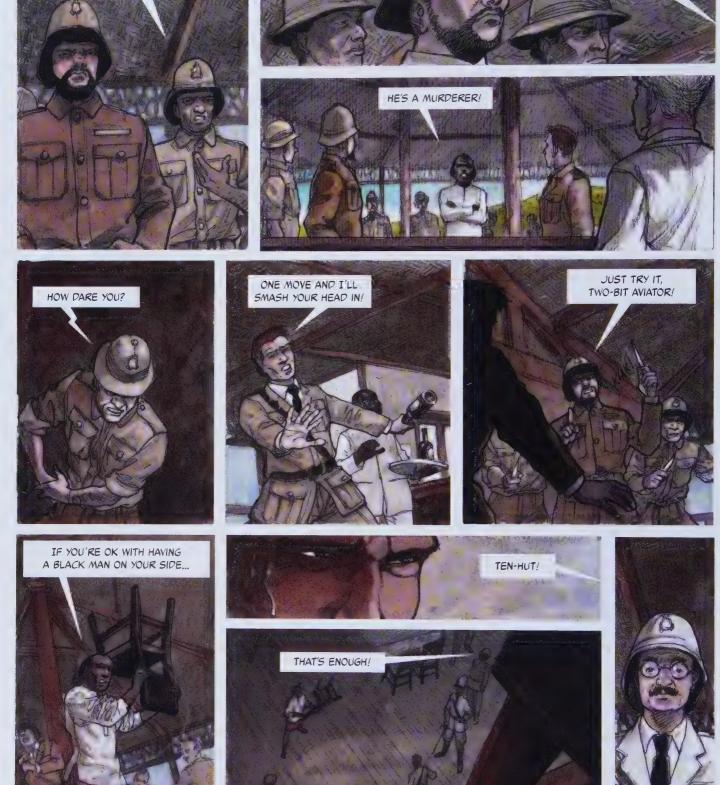
"...AND LIKE OMAR BODSON, WE WILL SMASH THE HEAD OF THE SNAKE THAT IS PUSHING AGAINST OUR BORDERS ...."











YOUR BODSON

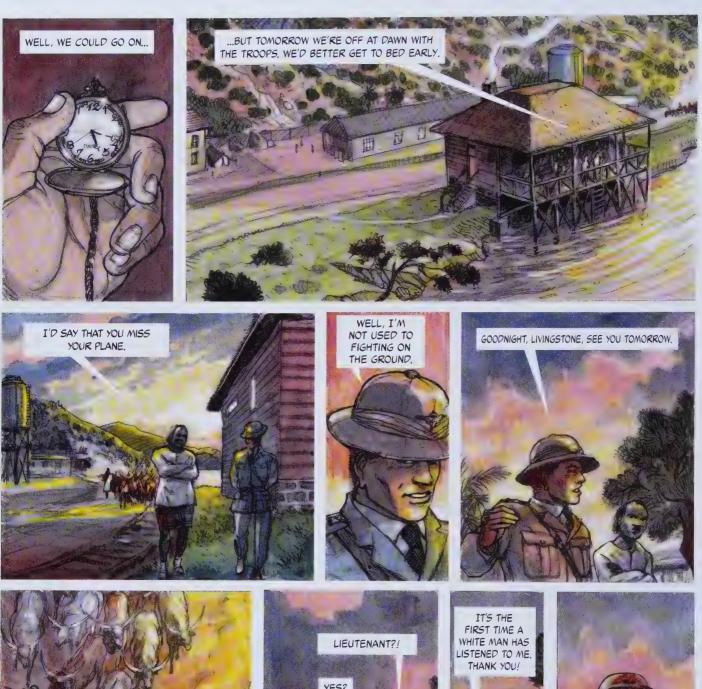
IS NO HERO.

THAT BLACK IS COMPLETELY DISRESPECTFUL! HIS CLOTHES YESTERDAY WERE MORE WHAT A MONKEY WEARS THAN A CIVILIZED HUMAN BEING!







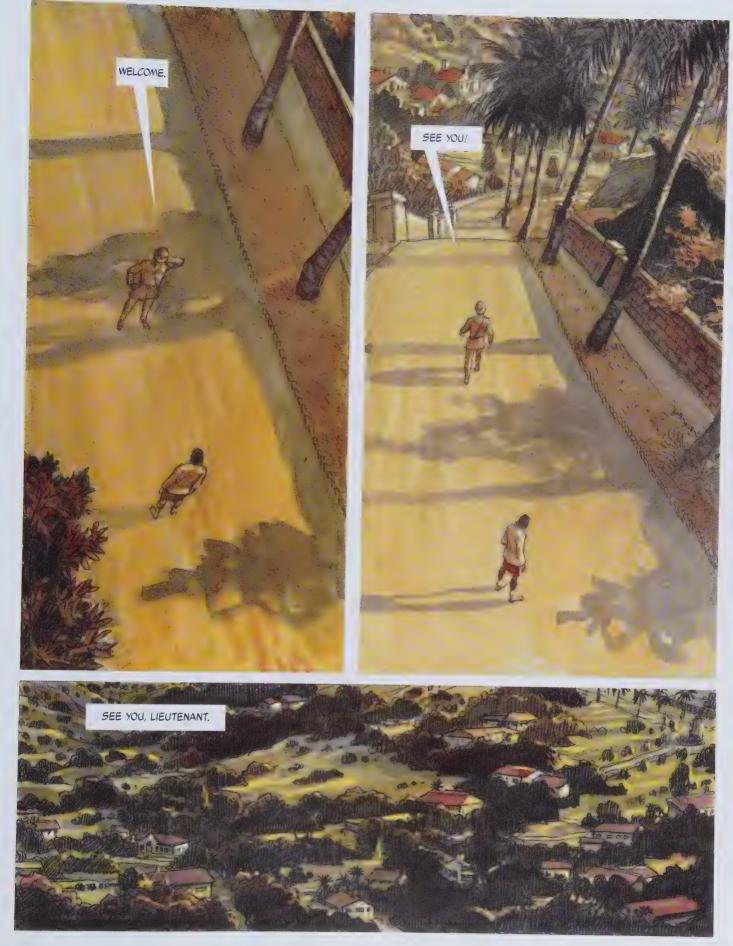


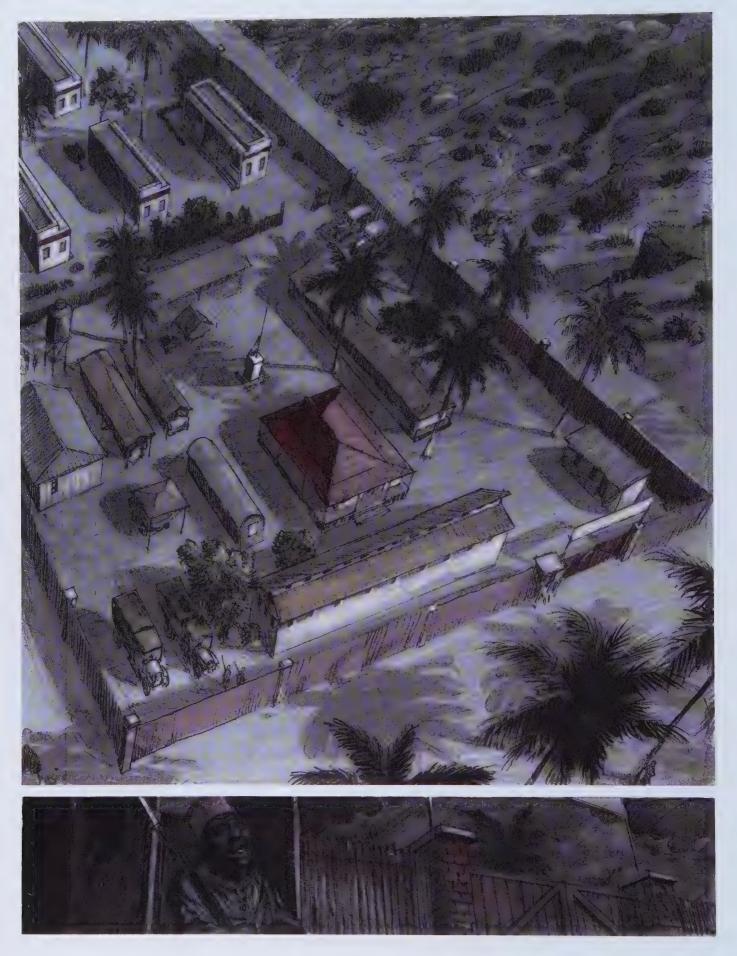


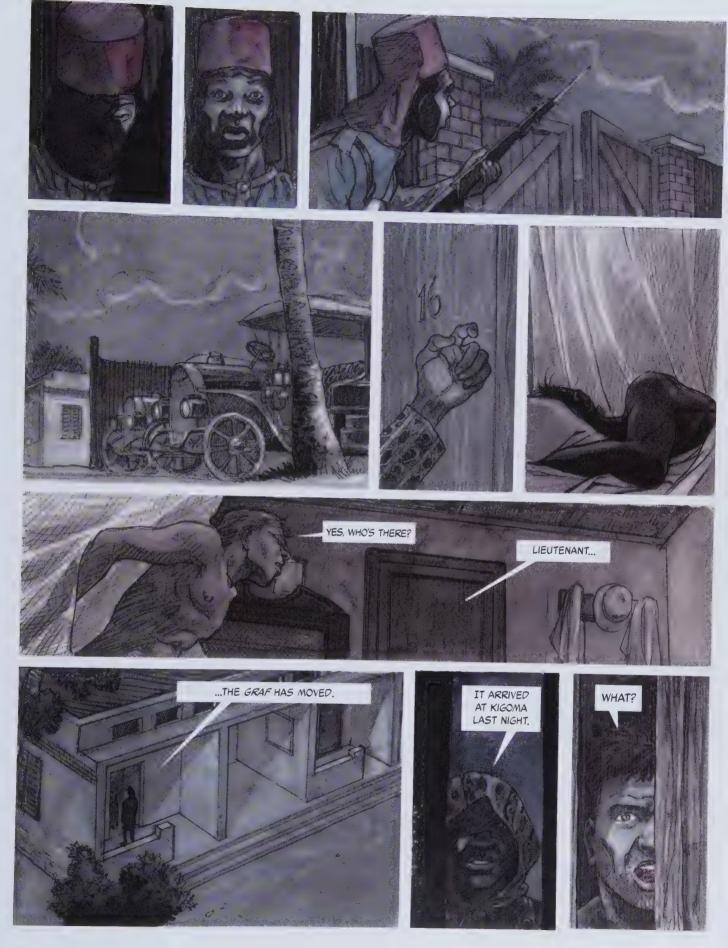


























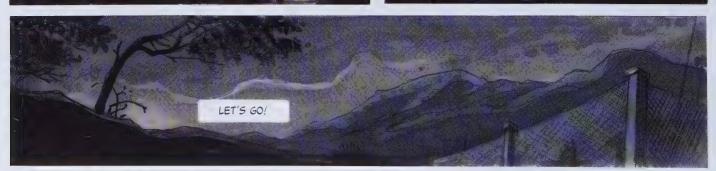


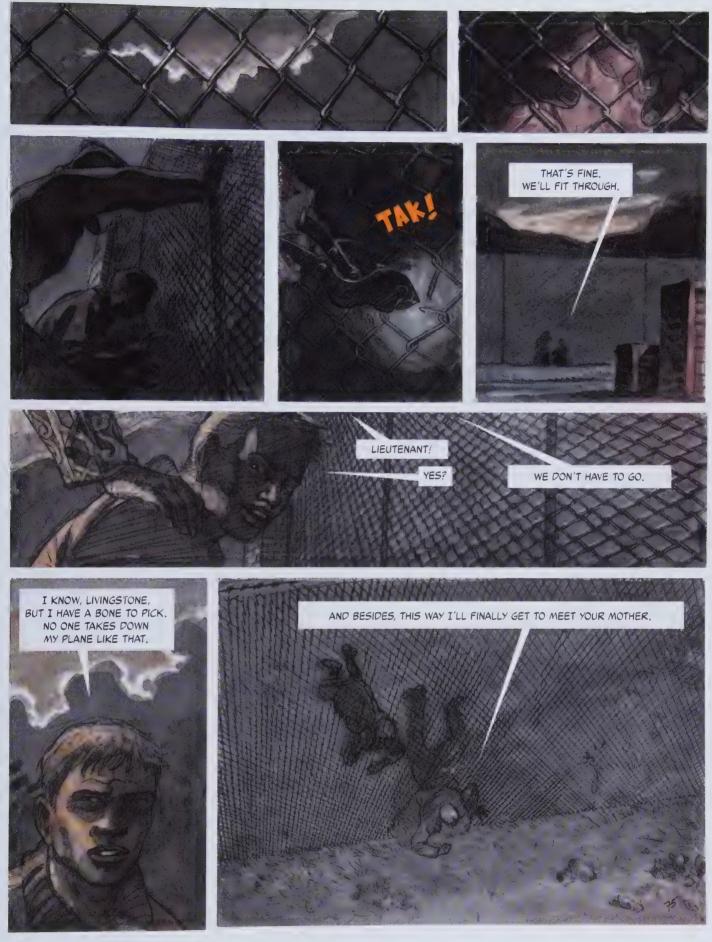






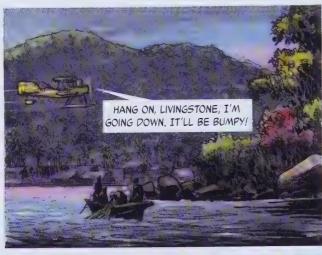












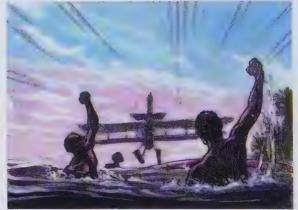








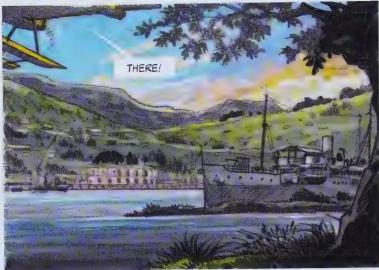
















LIEUTENANT, BACK AROUND.

















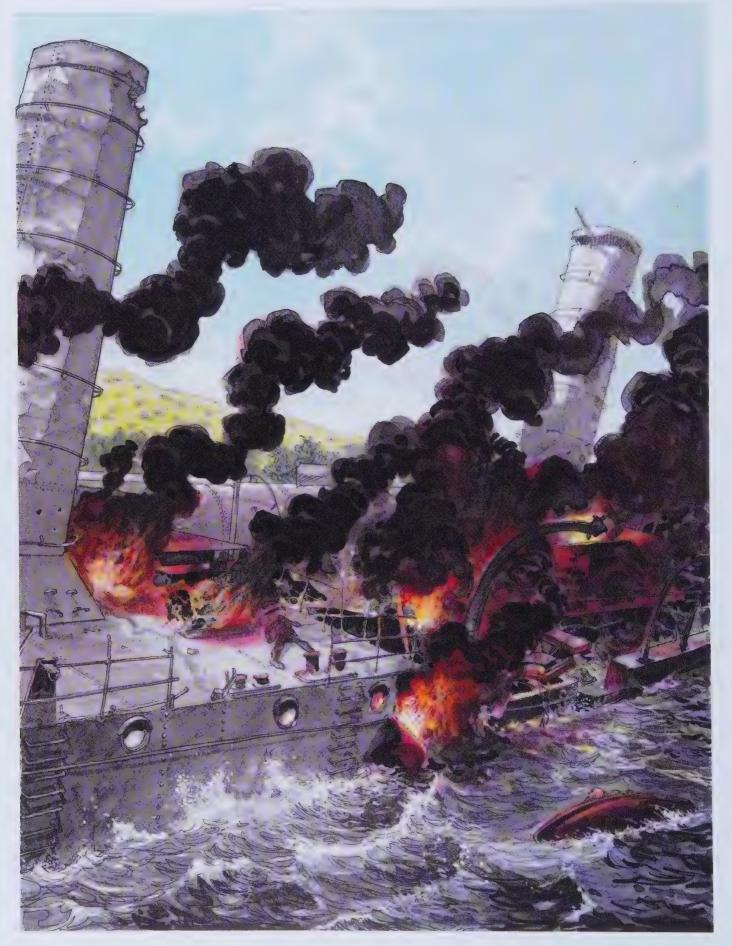




A LITTLE GIFT: SOME FRUIT SALAD...



















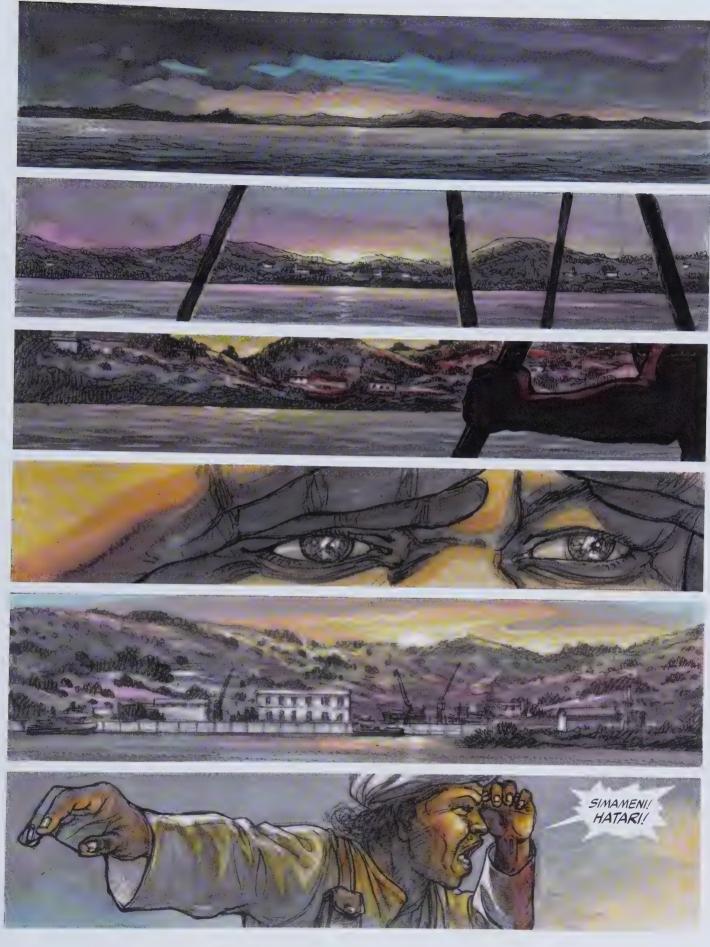










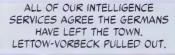
















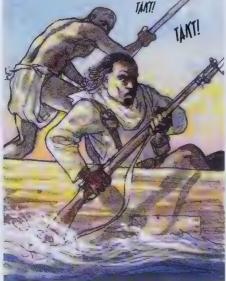
















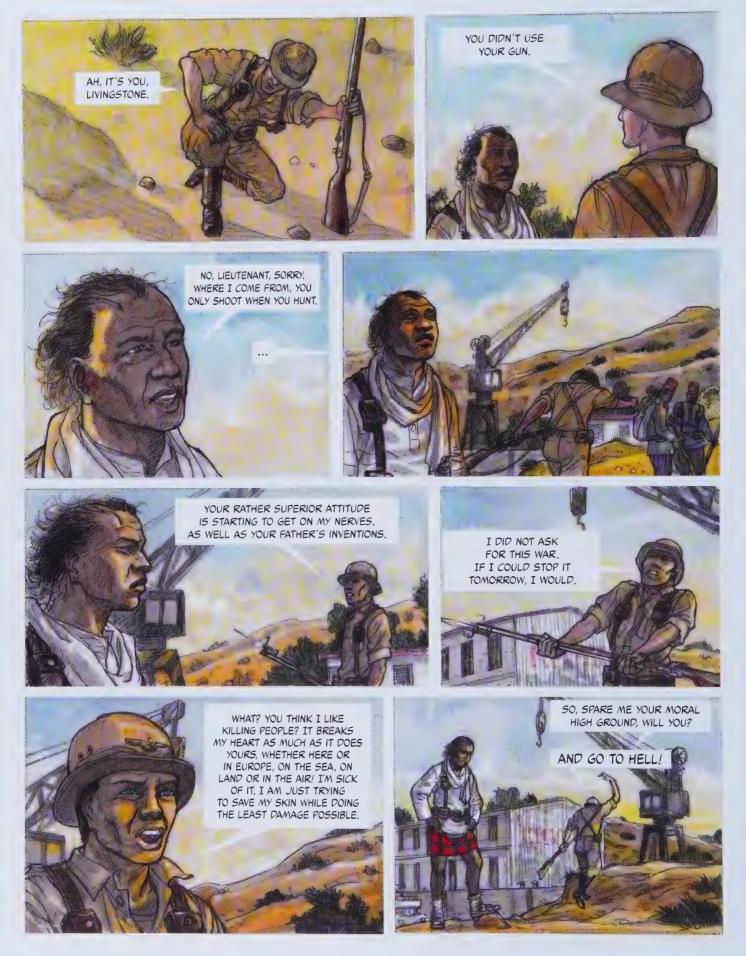


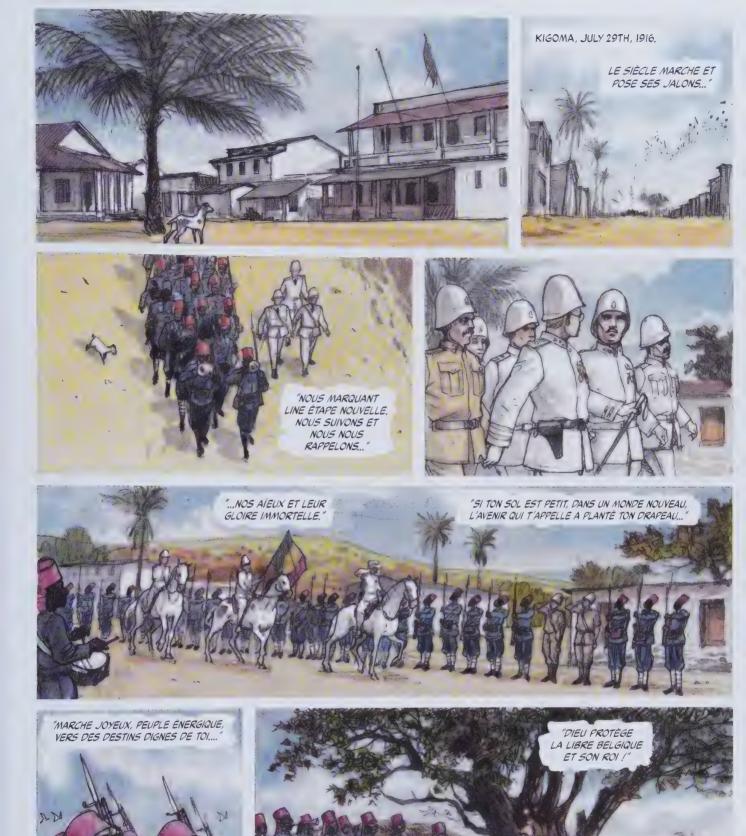










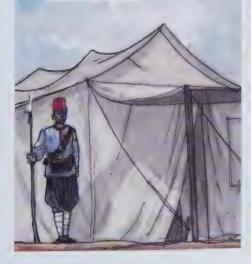






## REPORTING IN, GENERAL!

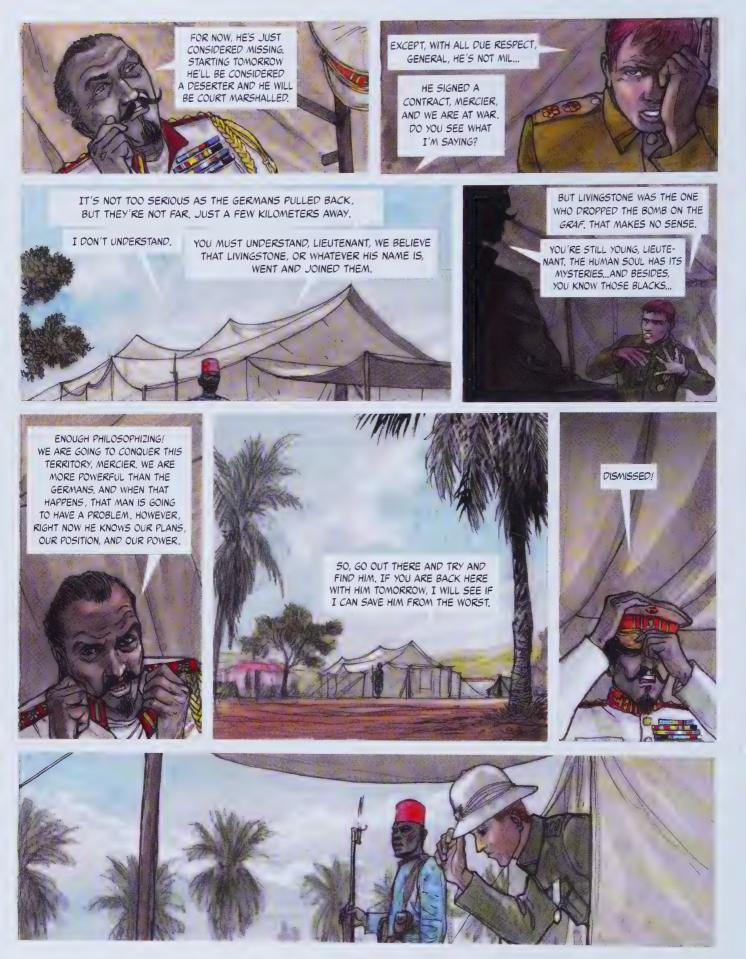
AT EASE, MERCIER.

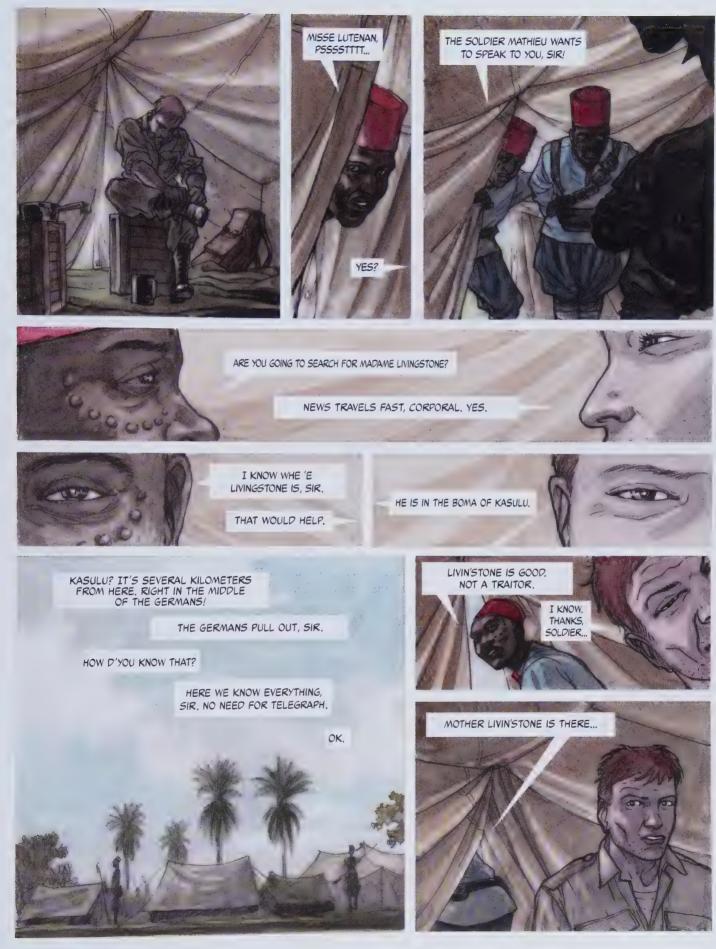


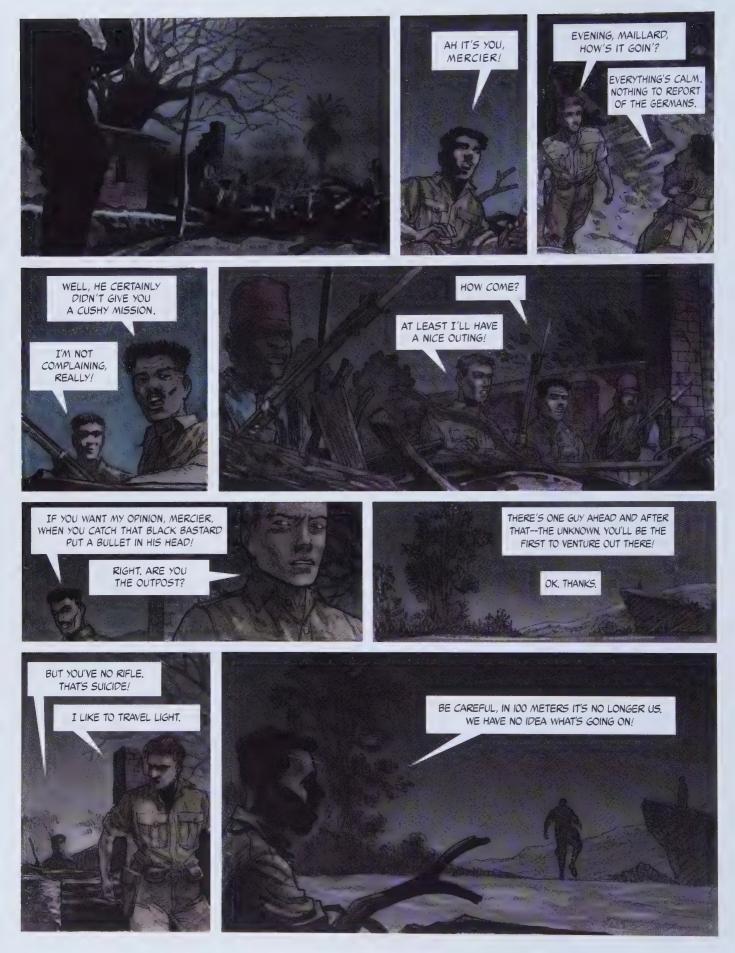




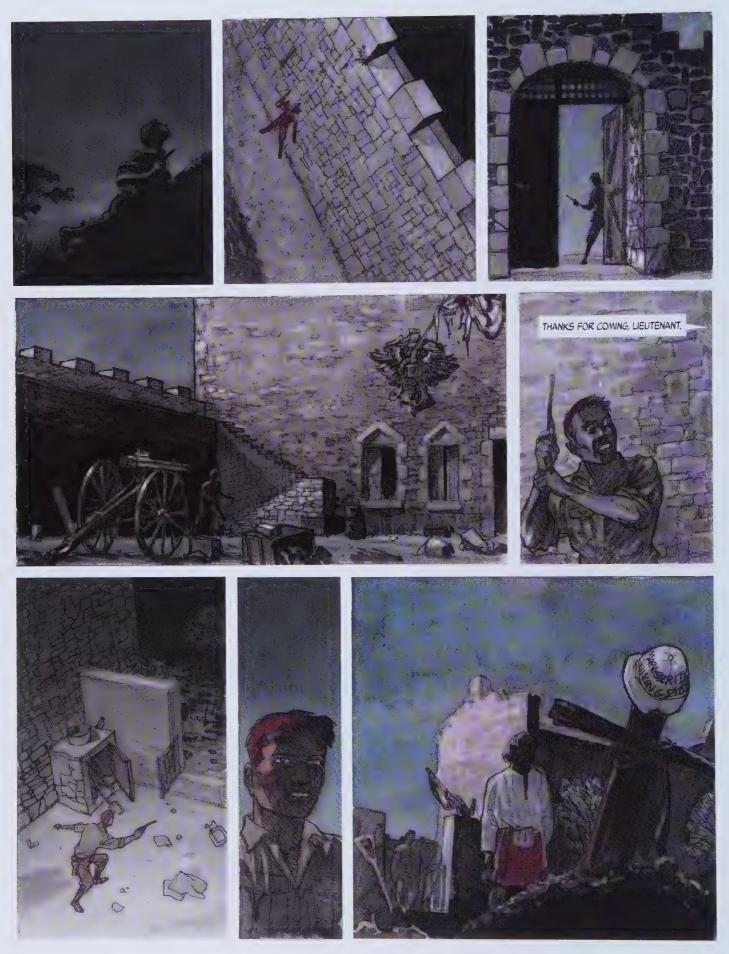


















WHAT SCOTSMEN WEAR UNDER THEIR KILTS.











OH! THE SPORRAN!











Madame

studies and research





#### THE BELGIAN CONGO'S FORCE PUBLIQUE

TORIA

K.

Created in 1885, during the time of the Independent State of the Congo which was privately owned by the King of the Belgians, the Force Publique played an important role in keeping the country under Belgian control.

This armed force acting as a police force was composed of soldiers from Zanzibar and the west coast of Africa. It later included many men from areas along the river. The localized recruitment of the first Congolese soldiers meant that their main dialect, Lingala, became the main language used by European officers in their dealings with NCOs and indigenous soldiers, regardless of their region of origin. Later, the Security Forces included freed slaves (who signed four-year contracts) who saw it as a way to raise themselves socially.

During the first thirty years of its existence, the Force Publique devoted itself mainly to defending the territory, fighting slave traders, and especially in the 1892 campaign against the Arabo-Swahilis of Tippo Tip. Its nefarious role in the imposition of forced laborers used for the exploitation of rubber and ivory established under Leopold II is still mentioned to this day. Villages were burned, wives taken hostage, the sjambok used, all to ensure the imposed production quotas. These methods terrorized the peoples of many areas and led to their depopulation.

From very early on, due to the tactic of recruiting a diverse force, the officer corps quickly became composed uniquely of Belgians.

In 1914, at the beginning of the First World War, the Force Publique had about 17,000 soldiers. Until 1917, it had various military successes (the taking of Tabora - mentioned in this book, as well as Mahenge's victory in present-day Tanzania) but not without a cost: the loss of 58 officers, 1,895 soldiers and 7,124 Congolese porters. The French government sought the assistance of the Force Publique at the beginning of the Great War to support French detachments in Cameroon. In October 1914, thanks to the support of the Security Force, Nzimu, Mulundu and Lomie came under Allied control. And, also thanks to them, in October 1915 Yaound, the residence of the German governor, was captured.

Its role during the Second World War was also important, particularly during the Abyssinian campaign and in the Middle East. A mutiny following an unfortunate speech by its commander, General Janssens, initiated the unrest in the Congo shortly after its independence in 1960.

CCH





## IN THE NAME OF GOD ALMIGHTY,



ER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, EMPRESS OF INDIA; HIS MAJESTY THE GERMAN EMPEROR, KING OF PRUSSIA; HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA, KING OF BOHEMIA, ETC, AND APOSTOLIC KING OF HUNGARY; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF DENMARK; HIS MAJESTY

THE KING OF SPAIN; THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE NETHERLANDS, GRAND DUKE OF LUXEMBURG, ETC; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF PORTUGAL AND THE ALGARVES, ETC; HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF ALL THE RUSSIAS; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SWEDEN AND NORWAY, ETC; AND HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF

WISHING, in a spirit of good and mutual accord, to regulate the conditions most favorable to the development of trade and civilization in certain regions of Africa, and to THE OTTOMANS,

assure to all nations the advantages of free navigation on the two chief rivers of Africa BEING DESIROUS, on the other hand, to obviate the misunderstanding and disputes which might in future arise from new acts of occupation (prises de possession) on the flowing into the Atlantic Ocean;

coast of Africa; and concerned, at the same time, as to the means of furthering the moral HAVE RESOLVED, on the invitation addressed to them by the Imperial Government and material wellbeing of the native populations; of Germany, in agreement with the Government of the French Republic, to meet for those purposes in Conference at Berlin, and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries, to wit:

Who, being provided with full powers, which have been found in good and due form, 1. A Declaration relative to freedom of trade in the basin of the Congo, its have successively discussed and adopted:

embouchures and circumjacent regions, with other provisions connected therewith. 2. A Declaration relative to the slave trade, and the operations by sea or land which

3. A Declaration relative to the neutrality of the territories comprised in the furnish slaves to that trade.

4. An Act of Navigation for the Congo, which, while having regard to local Conventional basin of the Congo.

circumstances, extends to this river, its affluents, and the waters in its system (eaux qui leur sont assimilées), the general principles enunciated in Articles 58 and 66 of the Final Act of the Congress of Vienna, and intended to regulate, as between the Signatory Powers of that Act, the free navigation of the waterways separating or traversing several States - these said principles having since then been applied by agreement to certain rivers of Europe and America, but especially to the Danube, with the modifications stipulated by the Treaties of Paris (1856), of Berlin (1878), and of

5. An Act of Navigation for the Niger, which, while likewise having regard to local circumstances, extends to this river and its affluents the same principles as set forth London (1871 and 1883).

in Articles 58 and 66 of the Final Act of the Congress of Vienna. 6. A Declaration introducing into international relations certain uniform rules with reference to future occupations on the coast of the African Continent.



King Misiri image from Capello & Ivens (h.r.)livre "De Angola Á Contra-Costa". (1886) Public Domain



Mwami M'SIRI, King of KATANGA

Bloodthirsty slave trader for some, nationalist hero for others, the story of this legendary warrior leaves no one indifferent. Originally from neighboring Tanzania he was drawn to the Katanga region - like many other people and nations - because of its immense wealth. Once there, he embarked on a vast crusade that led him from conquest to conquest. He then settled at the top of the wast territory of Garengeze (now Katanga) where he reigned with an iron fist. From the scattered kingdoms he conquered, he formed a single country and proclaimed it an independent nation. His victories had provided him with many prisoners whom he used as laborers. His vassals, elephant hunters - were great purveyors of ivory. His Bayeke subjects specialized in the art of melting malachite. He was forward thinking. He introduced the smallpox vaccine to Katanga and the Katanga Cross or handa - a cast copper ingot in the shape of a cross - as currency to replace a barter system. M'Siri's power and influence made him a key figure in the region.

This displeased King Leopold II, who did not appreciate "foreigners" taking over part of "his" territory. Katanga, according to the General Act of the Berlin Conference on West Africa of 26 February 1885, was "legally" part of the Independent State of the Congo. Several attempts to force M'Siri into submission failed. In a final negotiation, M'Siri was shot twice by Leopold II's envoy, Captain Omer Eodson. The latter was consequently immediately shot dead by M'Siri's son.

The death of Mwami M'Siri gave Europeans free access to the rich Katanga because his son Mokande Bantu, who was his successor, was very weak and isolated and quickly accepted the authority of the Independent State of the Congo. A photo thought to be of King M.Siri (source unknown)



King M'Siri as depicted by his heirs (source unwkingmsirico)

### COLEMAN pressure lamp (incandescent mantle)

This pressure lamp with an incandescent mantle was introduced in 1914. The revolution in this field was when the Austrian physicist CARL AUER VON WELSBACH replaced the magnesium oxide of the Clamond basket mantle with a mix of 99% thorium oxide and 1% cerium oxide in 1891.



This mantle provides a considerable white light, previously unknown. It was immediately adopted around the world for streetlighting and remained important until the introduction of electric lighting.

On pages 76 and 77, the sawy reader might be surprised by the bright lighting that beams from the lamp in the general's living room, considering it an anachronistic detail. But not at all, it is a representation of the light provided by a Coleman lamp!







TAEORA

MEDAL OF HONOR OF THE FORCE PUBLIQUE SOLDIERS OF THE BELGIAN CONGO

The face of the medal is a star (sign of grandeur and wealth) above a lion, symbol of the king of the Belgians and the kingdom of Belgium. In the background are the hills, lush vegetation and the lake (the Great Lakes region).





FP INSIGNIA

DEUTSCH COLOR INSIGNIA

The back side of the medal has 3 laurel branches, the names of regions (capital letters) and localities (small letters) conquered by the troops of the Force Publique of the Belgian Congo:

#### KAMERUN (CAMEROON)

- # Ouesso
- # Assobam
- # Mulundu
- # Jaunde (Yaounde)

#### GERMAN EAST AFRICA

- # Kigali
- # Nuansa
- # Udjiji
- # Usumbura
- # Biaramulo
- # Kitega
- # St Micheal
  - Tabora

THE MASCHINENGEWEHR OS OR MG OS (7.92 CALIBRE) OF THE GERMAN ARMY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR A HIGH CASUALTY RATE AMONG THE ALLIED FORCES DURING THE TWO GREAT WARS. IT WAS NICKNAMED "THE REAPER." STARTING IN 1915, THIS MACHINE GUN IN ADDITION TO HEAVY MACHINE GUNS WERE STANDARD EQUIPMENT FOR ALMOST ALL GERMAN INFANTRY REGIMENTS. (IMAGES 89 AND 91)

Mle 1914 Hotchkiss machine gun





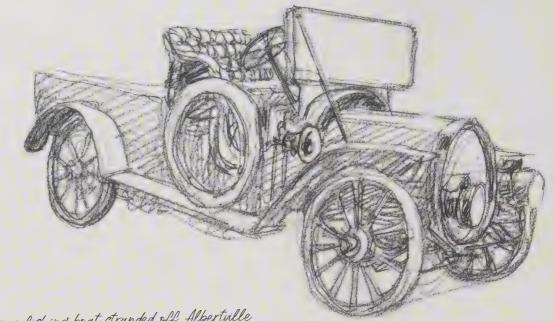
THE MLE 1914 HOTCHKISS MACHINE GUN became a standard feature of the French army in 1917.

An improved version of the Hotchkiss Mle 1900 machine gun, the 1914 Lebel 8 mm Hotchkiss Mle machine gun, was the main automatic weapon of the French army during the last years of the First World War. It was also used by the American Expeditionary Force (A.E.F.) in 1917 and 1918. Manufactured in Saint-Denis and Lyon in France by Hotchkiss and Cie, it was also exported and manufactured under license abroad. (Image 81)



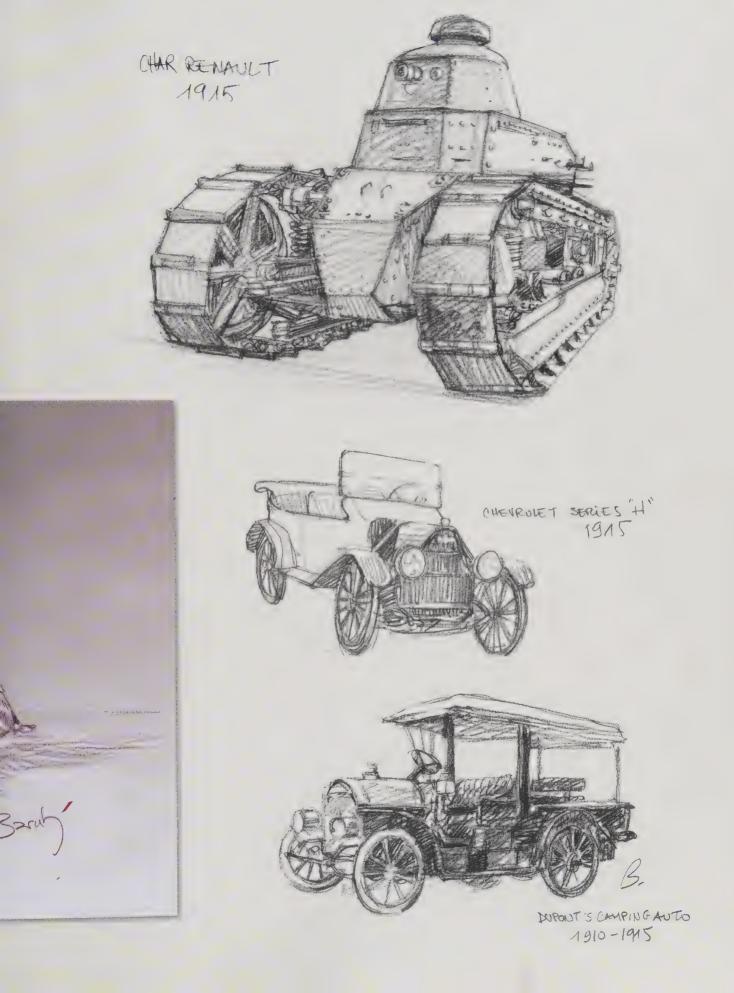
In 1914, a GRENADE SUFFOCANTE MODÈLE 1914 was introduced. Ovoidshaped, initially made of brass with an inner tin cover (to resist corrosion), and then of iron with an inner cover of lead (for the same reason). It contained a small load of black powder to disperse the acrolein or tear gas. A color code distinguished the leaded iron models (upper body painted red) from those of tinned brass (red belt on the plug). (Image 81)

CITRON FOUG GRENADE with its wooden plug and pin (observed in Champagne).

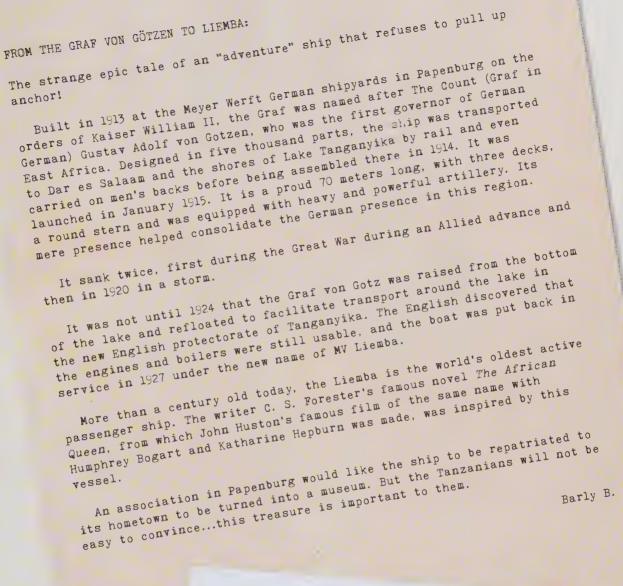


Small Force Publique fishing boat stranded off Albertuille in lake Tanganyika. A duck stands in front of it. Duck seem to be taking revenge.











On the shores of lake Tanganyika





The Short Admiralty Type 184 was a seaplane manufactured by Short Brothers. It was used extensively during the First World War. particularly in the Belgian Congo. Five were sent as reinforcements by the British Allies to the Force Publique. They arrived disassembled and were mounted in Albertville (now Kalemie) on the shores of lake Tanganyika. These seaplanes contributed greatly to the Force Publique victory over the Germans in this region. REASONS TO INVESTIGATE AN IDENTITY

I was born in Congo Kinshasa in the late 1950s, as Livingstone Alexis. My friends nicknamed me "Livalex"!

On October 27, 1971, founding President Mobutu decreed the "back to authenticity" program, a policy that meant ridding the nation of "anything that alluded to the West and its domination." Everything had to change. Congo become "Zaire," the river and the currency were changed as well. Wearing the "Abacost" (down with the western suit!) at official events became mandatory. Every Zairean with a Christian or Western name had to abandon it in favor of an "African and authentic post-name". Leading by example, founding president Joseph-Desire Mobutu became Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Zabanga'. I became Baruti Kandolo Lilela''. "Barly" for short.

Later, I thought a lot about the origin of my intriguing name: Livingstone. It became an obsession. Do I, by any slight chance, have any relationship - however distant - with the famous doctor-explorer? I started searching for more information. For years I scoured libraries, following up the tiniest snippets of historical accounts relating to the history of the famous native of Blantyre, Scotland. I got very few results.

"I am prepared to go anywhere, provided it be forward." I clung to this infamous quote from missionary David Livingstone. My steps led me to the adventurer and explorer Stanley's references to Dr. David in his writings. They were unconvincing and full of inconsistencies. For example, I was surprised to find that they included many photos of Henry Morton Stanley posing alongside Africans (often seated while he was standing!) and yet, for an event as important as his meeting with Livingstone (the famous "Doctor Livingstone, I presume?"), he was content only with a drawing...An idyllic image helping to reinforce his version of events?

I was about to give up, when I came across this statement: "About his marriage to an African woman, I will simply say: this is not true. I don't think there's anything else I need to add; it is below a gentleman of the name David Livingstone to even be associated with the idea of such an act." Well, well! Coming from Henry Morton Stanley, it was worth chasing up. Lots of questions started to dance around in my head:

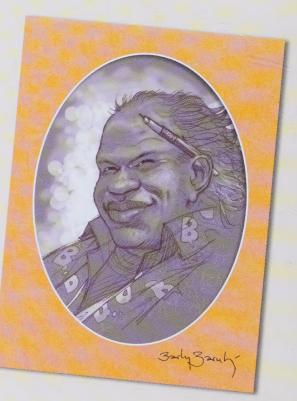
What was so despicable about this "act" that would so demean the standing of a gentleman? Was it so "politically incorrect" at that time to have had loving relations with a native woman?

It has always been said that Dr. David arrived in Udjiji in a pitiful state. A "walking skeleton." Once Stanley "discovered" him, he refused to follow him back to the West, preferring to remain among "his own." Why? What kept him there?

Would it be impossible to imagine that the missionary doctor-explorer David had not been completely unmoved by women?...and may not have wanted to finish his life alone?

These gray areas were enough to germinate the idea of Madame Livingstone. Appollo came up with the story and Christophe Cassiau-Haurie joined us on the adventure.

(') His name literally means "Mobutu the warrior who goes from victory to victory without anyone being able to stop him." ('') "timid lamb hunting powder."





# Modame

#### WRITTEN BY CHRISTOPHE CASSIAU-HAURIE ILLUSTRATED BY BARLY BARUTI

LAKE TANGANYIKA, CONGO IN THE YEAR 1915. TWO VASTLY DIFFERENT MEN IN A WAR THAT IS NOT THEIRS, ASSIGNED A VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE MISSION: SINK THE GERMAN BATTLESHIP, THE GRAF VON GÖTZEN.

Madame Livingstone is based on the true story of the unlikely partnership between a Belgian officer and an African scout who were responsible for sinking a German battleship, a key component of the Kaiser's defense in the Congo during the First World War. Aviator Gaston Mercier, lieutenant in the Royal Belgian Military, arrives at Lake Tanganyika, Congo in 1915 and receives orders to sink a critical German warship, the Graf Von Götzen. To find out the ship's exact position, he is assigned a guide, an enigmatic, mixed-race African nicknamed "Madame Livingstone" for the Scottish kilt he wears and his claim to be the son of the famous explorer David Livingstone. As the war between Belgian and German colonial powers rages on and the pair hunt down the Graf Von Götzen, Madame Livingstone teaches the young Belgian pilot about the land around him and he comes to understand the irrevocable and tragic effects of colonialism on the local people.

Based on a story by Appollo, written by historian and comics specialist Christophe Cassiau-Haurie, and illustrated by the well-known and loved Congolese artist Barly Baruti. Translated by Ivanka Hahnenberger.

#### TRANSLATED BY IVANKA HAHNENBERGER

