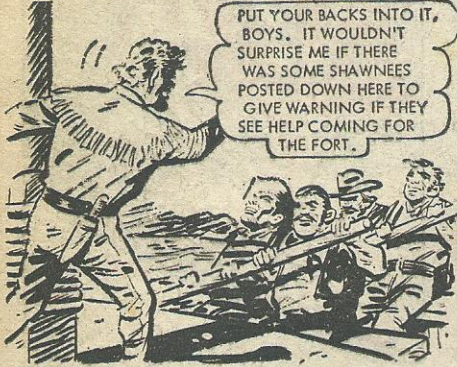


Next morning, Mike set off again. A mile upstream the river ran through higher ground and there was little flooding.

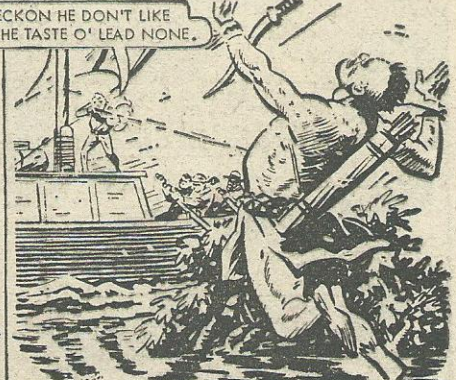


PUT YOUR BACKS INTO IT, BOYS. IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF THERE WAS SOME SHAWNEES POSTED DOWN HERE TO GIVE WARNING IF THEY SEE HELP COMING FOR THE FORT.



RECKON YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT AT THAT, MIKE. THERE DOES APPEAR TO BE A SHAWNEE AROUND HERE SOMEPLACE.

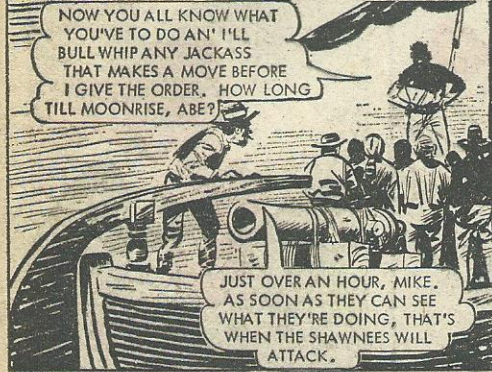
DOGGONE IT! HAND ME MY GUN. NO SNEAKING REDSKIN'S GOING TO PART MY HAIR WITHOUT PAYING FOR IT!



RECKON HE DON'T LIKE THE TASTE O' LEAD NONE.

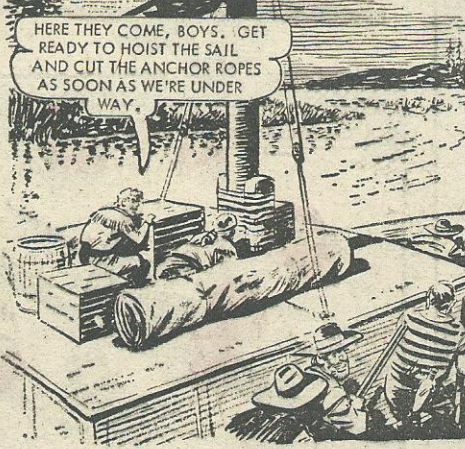
But from then on, the keelboat was sniped at all day.

At dusk, Mike moored in midstream and set his men to hoisting one of the cannon out of the hold and mounting it dead astern.



NOW YOU ALL KNOW WHAT YOU'VE TO DO AN' I'LL BULLWHIP ANY JACKASS THAT MAKES A MOVE BEFORE I GIVE THE ORDER. HOW LONG TILL MOONRISE, ABE?

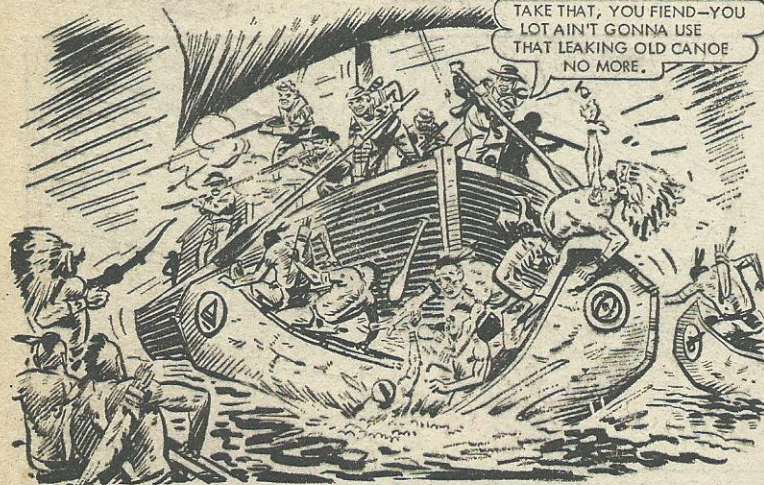
JUST OVER AN HOUR, MIKE. AS SOON AS THEY CAN SEE WHAT THEY'RE DOING, THAT'S WHEN THE SHAWNEES WILL ATTACK.



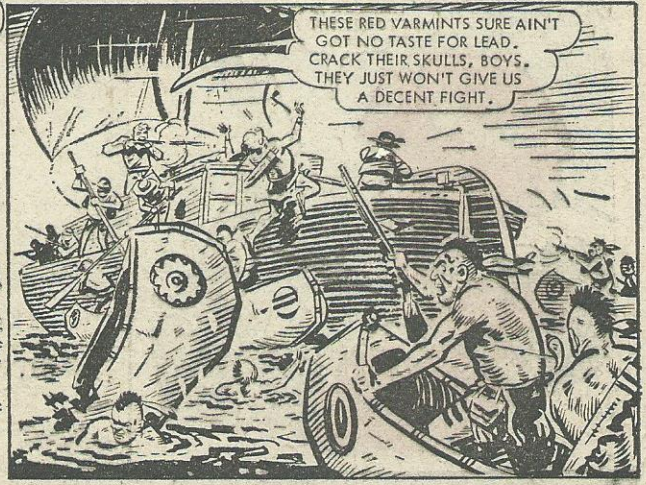
HERE THEY COME, BOYS. GET READY TO HOIST THE SAIL AND CUT THE ANCHOR ROPES AS SOON AS WE'RE UNDER WAY.



UP SAIL, LET THEM HAVE IT! YAHOO! I'M READY TO FIGHT TEN OF THEM WITH ONE HAND TIED BEHIND MY BACK. YAHOO! I'M KING OF THE KEELBOATS.



TAKE THAT, YOU FIEND—YOU LOT AIN'T GONNA USE THAT LEAKING OLD CANOE NO MORE.



THESE RED VARMINTS SURE AIN'T GOT NO TASTE FOR LEAD. CRACK THEIR SKULLS, BOYS. THEY JUST WON'T GIVE US A DECENT FIGHT.

The keelboat drew ahead of its pursuers until Mike ordered his men to furl the sail.



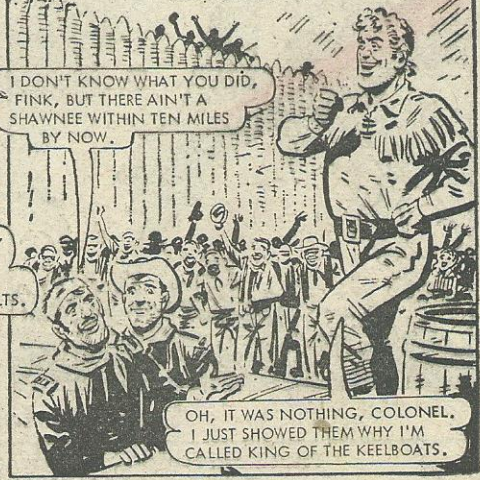
COME AND GET IT, GENTS. THIS IS A SPECIAL PRESENT FROM MIKE FINK.



THAT'S SHOWN THEM, MIKE.

THEY SURE DON'T LIKE CANNONSHOT—SPECIALLY WHEN IT'S OUR KIND, TWO BUCKETS OF NAILS AND ONE BUCKET ASSORTED BOLTS.

Next morning the keelboat tied up at Fort Leavenworth.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DID, FINK, BUT THERE AIN'T A SHAWNEE WITHIN TEN MILES BY NOW.

OH, IT WAS NOTHING, COLONEL. I JUST SHOWED THEM WHY I'M CALLED KING OF THE KEELBOATS.

Look out for another great COMPLETE STORY soon!