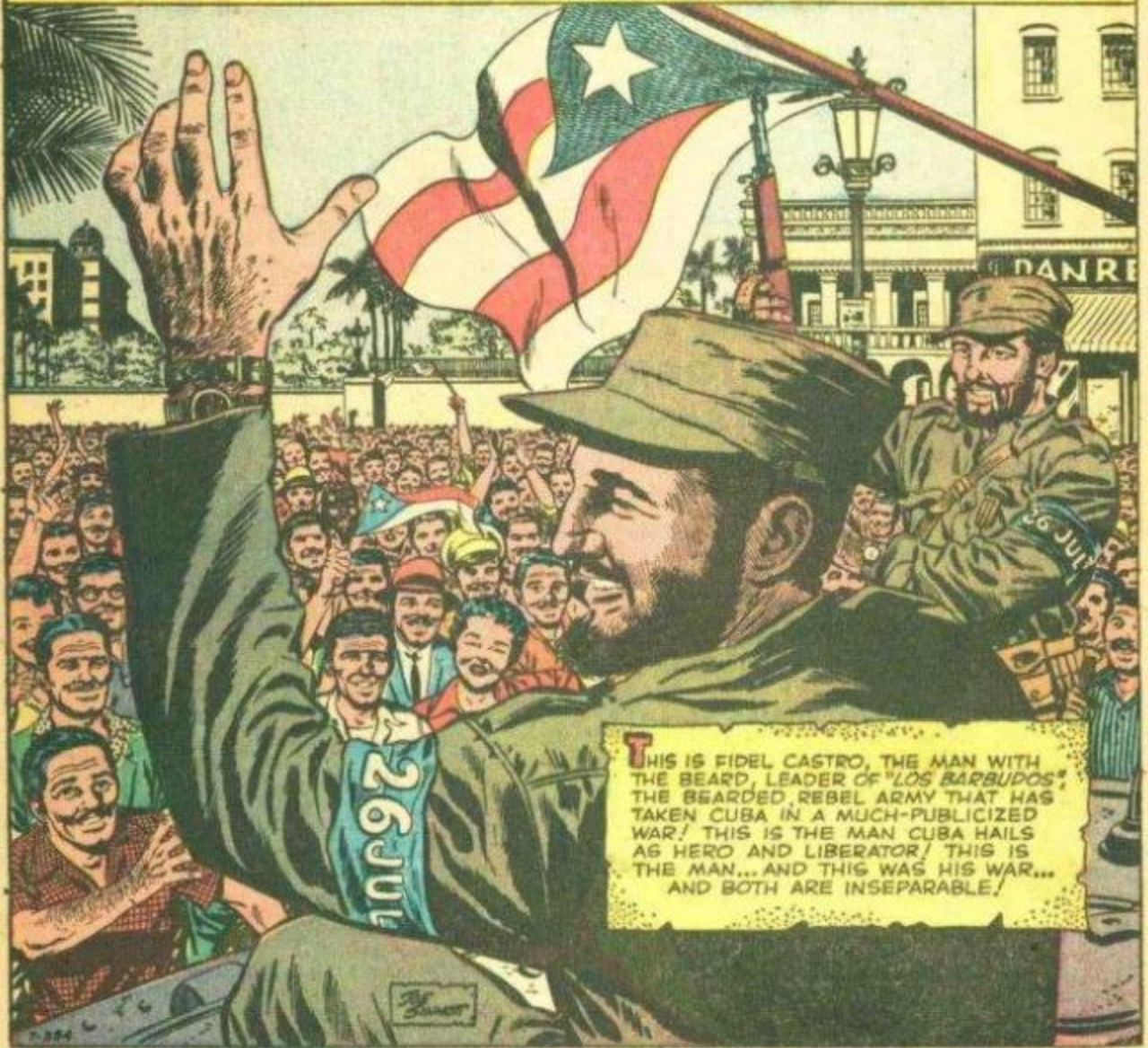


THE MAN WITH THE BEARD!



THIS IS FIDEL CASTRO, THE MAN WITH THE BEARD, LEADER OF "LOS BARBUDOS", THE BEARDED, REBEL ARMY THAT HAS TAKEN CUBA IN A MUCH-PUBLICIZED WAR! THIS IS THE MAN CUBA HAILS AS HERO AND LIBERATOR! THIS IS THE MAN... AND THIS WAS HIS WAR... AND BOTH ARE INSEPARABLE!

WHAT MANNER OF MAN IS THIS BEARDED ONE WHO NOW CONTROLS CUBA? WHAT WAS HE FIGHTING FOR WHEN HE LED HIS REBELS AGAINST A TRAINED AND WELL-EQUIPPED ARMY?



THE BOY, FIDEL CASTRO, WAS BORN IN ORIENTE PROVINCE, THE SON OF A WELL-TO-DO PLANTER! HE LOVED GUNS AND HUNTING!



AS HE GREW OLDER HE ATTENDED COLLEGE IN HAVANA AND BECAME INTERESTED IN POLITICS!



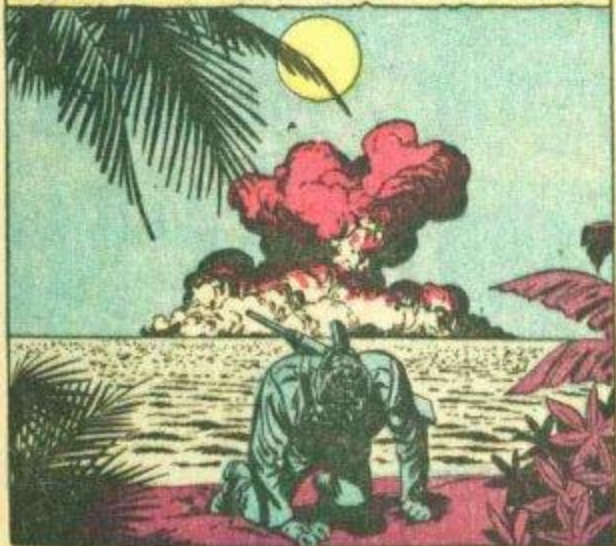
HE WAS A YOUNG MAN SEARCHING FOR A CAUSE WHEN IN 1947 HE FOUND ONE, AND THOUGH IT WAS A REMOTE CAUSE, IT APPEALED TO HIS IMPULSIVE, ROMANTIC NATURE!



HE JOINED 1,100 CARIBBEAN REVOLUTIONARIES SAILING IN SHIPS FROM CUBA TO INVADE DICTATOR TRUJILLO'S DOMINICAN REPUBLIC!



CUBAN GUNBOATS SANK THE SHIP AND FIDEL CASTRO SWAM THREE MILES TO SHORE WITH HIS TOMMY-GUN STILL STRAPPED TO HIS BACK!



CASTRO RETURNED TO HAVANA AND BECAME A LAWYER THEN, INEVITABLY, DRIFTED INTO POLITICS AND BECAME A CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS WHEN, MARCH 10, 1952, BATISTA SEIZED THE COUNTRY BY AN ARMED COUP AND CANCELLED ALL CANDIDATES!



FIDEL CASTRO HAD AT LAST FOUND HIS CAUSE! HE SOLD EVERYTHING HE OWNED, RAISED \$20,000! AND THEN, WITH HIS BROTHER RAUL AND 150 FRIENDS, FORMED HIS PEOPLE'S ARMY!



IT IS BUT THE BEGINNING! CUBA MUST BE FREE FROM THE TYRANT'S HEEL!

AT DAWN, JULY 26, 1953, CASTRO LED A COLUMN OF 13 CARS IN A SURPRISE ATTACK ON SANTIAGO'S MONCADA BARRACKS WHERE BATISTA TROOPS LAY SLEEPING! BUT, A JEEP PATROL BECAME SUSPICIOUS AND...



HALT! WHO GOES THERE?

THE ATTACK WAS STOPPED COLD!



CASTRO WAS TRIED AND, IN HIS OWN DEFENSE, SPOKE FOR THREE HOURS, A ROUSING REBEL SPEECH!

WE WERE BORN IN A FREE COUNTRY AND WE WILL NOT CONSENT TO BE SLAVES! I DO NOT FEAR IMPRISONMENT! CONDEMN ME! IT DOES NOT MATTER! HISTORY WILL ABSOLVE ME!



CASTRO WAS SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT! BUT IN 1955 BATISTA RELEASED ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS! CASTRO WAS FREE AND IMMEDIATELY WENT TO MEXICO TO RECRUIT MEN AND MONEY FOR A NEW REBEL ARMY!

COLONEL BAYO, I NEED YOU TO TEACH MY MEN THE GUERRILLA TACTICS!

I WILL TEACH THEM ALL THE ARTS OF WAR!



CASTRO'S FORCES, IN THE WILDERNESS HILLS OF THE SIERRA MAESTRA, GREW! BEARDS BECAME THEIR TRADEMARKS! SYMPATHY FOR HIS CAUSE ALSO GREW AND MONEY AND ARMS Poured TO THEM!

I HEAR MORE AMERICAN NEWS-PAPERMEN ARE COMING TO INTERVIEW FIDEL!

SI! THEY CAN SHARE OUR BOUNTIFUL DINNER... OF WILD PLANTAINS AND MANGOES!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

FOR TWO YEARS CASTRO PERCHED ON THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN RANGE IN CUBA! GATHERING MEN AND SYMPATHY AND PROVING THAT BATISTA AND HIS ARMY COULD BE FLOATED!



THEN, TOWARD THE END OF 1958, THE REBEL ARMY BEGAN TO MOVE! THEY ADVANCED DOWN THE MOUNTAIN FIGHTING SKIRMISHES WITH THE ARMY!



THEN THEY MARCHED ON AND TOOK SANTA CLARA!

FORWARD! FORWARD!
LOS BARBUDOS!



MONCADA BARRACKS SURRENDERED AND A WEEK LATER BATISTA FLED AND HIS ARMY SURRENDERED! CASTRO BEGAN A TRIUMPHANT WESTWARD SWEEP! THE WAR HAD BEEN WON!

VIVA CASTRO!



IN THIS MUCH-PUBLICIZED WAR THE REBEL CASUALTIES HAD BEEN A MERE 250 MEN, THE ENEMY CASUALTIES, ABOUT 400! CASTRO THE CONQUERER, BRAVE, SHREWD, CONFIDENT, IDEALISTIC, GENEROUS AND... LUCKY, IS NOW THE LEADER OF HIS PEOPLE!

WE WILL BUILD A PEOPLE'S ARMY WITH LOS BARBUDOS AS ITS CORE! THERE WILL BE GREAT REFORMS... GREAT GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE...



CAN HE SUMMON MATURITY, WISDOM TO SURMOUNT THE PLUSH OF VICTORY AND POWER? HE HAS WON THE WAR, BUT THAT IS BUT HALF THE BATTLE! CAN FIDEL CASTRO, THE MAN WITH THE BEARD, WIN THE MORE IMPORTANT PEACE? ONLY THE FUTURE, AND HISTORY, CAN ANSWER!



THE END