

LEGACY OF HEROES

FLIGHT INTO DANGER



NO. 2 FREE

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF FUEL!!

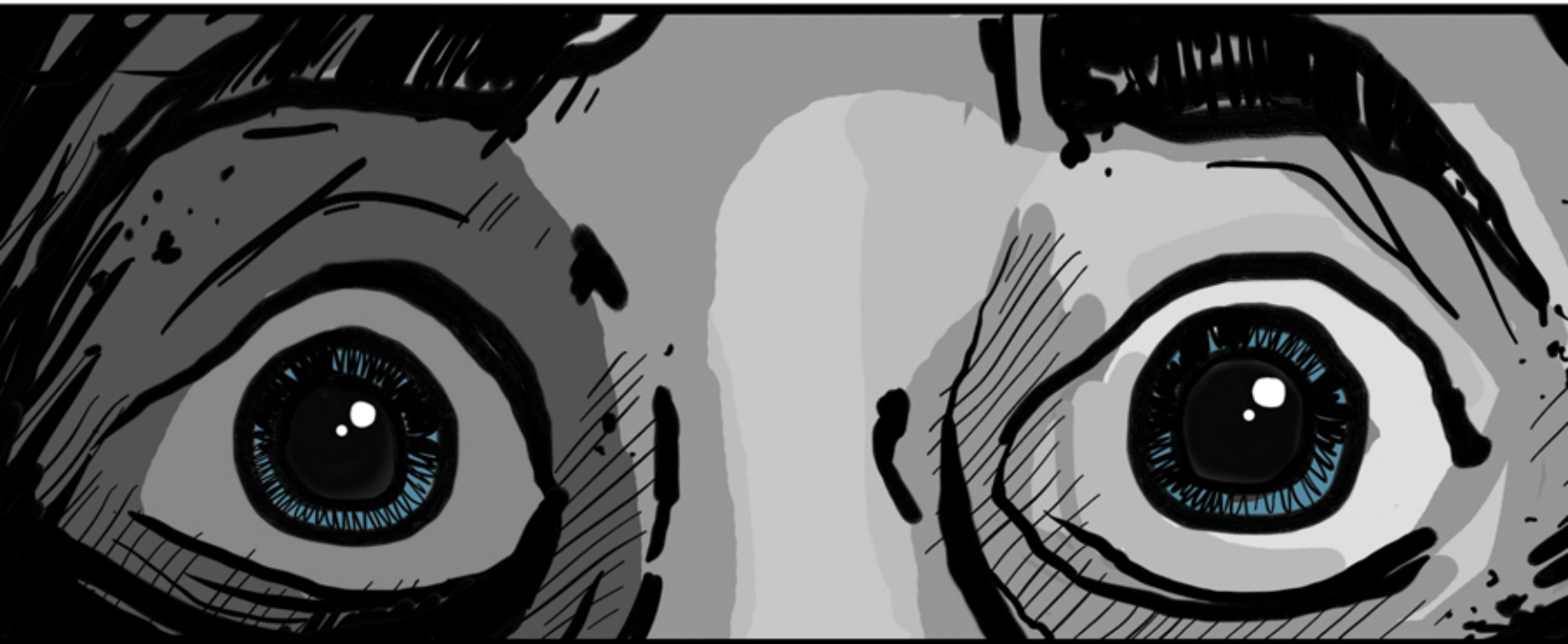
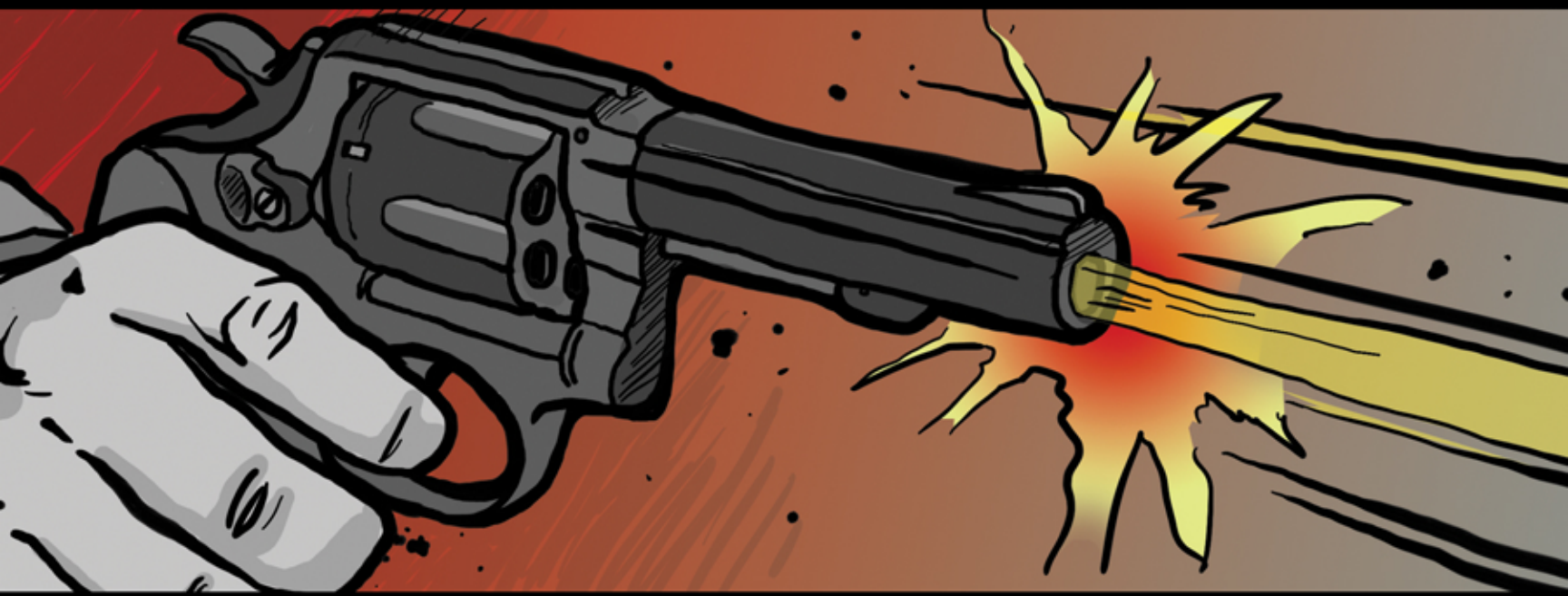
IF THE PLANE CRASHES -
A **MURDERER**
GOES FREE!



CONSTABLE WILLIAM NIXON WAS WALKING HIS REGULAR
BEAT ALONG 101 STREET, WHEN HE SPIED A MAN STANDING
OUTSIDE THE TWIN CITY TRANSFER COMPANY.

SENSING SOMETHING WAS WRONG, NIXON ASKED THE MAN WHAT HE
WAS DOING THERE. THE MAN'S ANSWER CAME IN THE FORM OF A

BULLET...



THE MURDER OF CONSTABLE WILLIAM NIXON ON AUGUST 31, 1919, RESULTED IN ONE OF THE LARGEST MANHUNTS IN EDMONTON'S HISTORY. POLICE OFFICERS, LED BY DETECTIVE JAMES CAMPBELL, SCoured THE CITY IN THEIR SEARCH FOR THE MURDERER. THE KILLER HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A PETTY CRIMINAL NAMED JOHN LARSON. A MAN MATCHING LARSON'S DESCRIPTION WAS SEEN BUYING A TRAIN TICKET TO MOUNTAIN PARK SHORTLY AFTER THE SHOOTING...



...A FARMER'S FIELD ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF EDMONTON.



CHIEF! LARSON HAS A TWO DAY HEAD START ON US.

WWHRRRR



WOP MAY'S AGREED TO FLY YOU TO MOUNTAIN PARK TO CATCH LARSON!

WHRRRR
WHRRRR



LATER...

THE FLYING JENNY MAY NOT BE THE FASTEST PLANE IN THE WORLD...

...BUT SHE'S A WORKHORSE. SHE'LL GET YOU THERE.

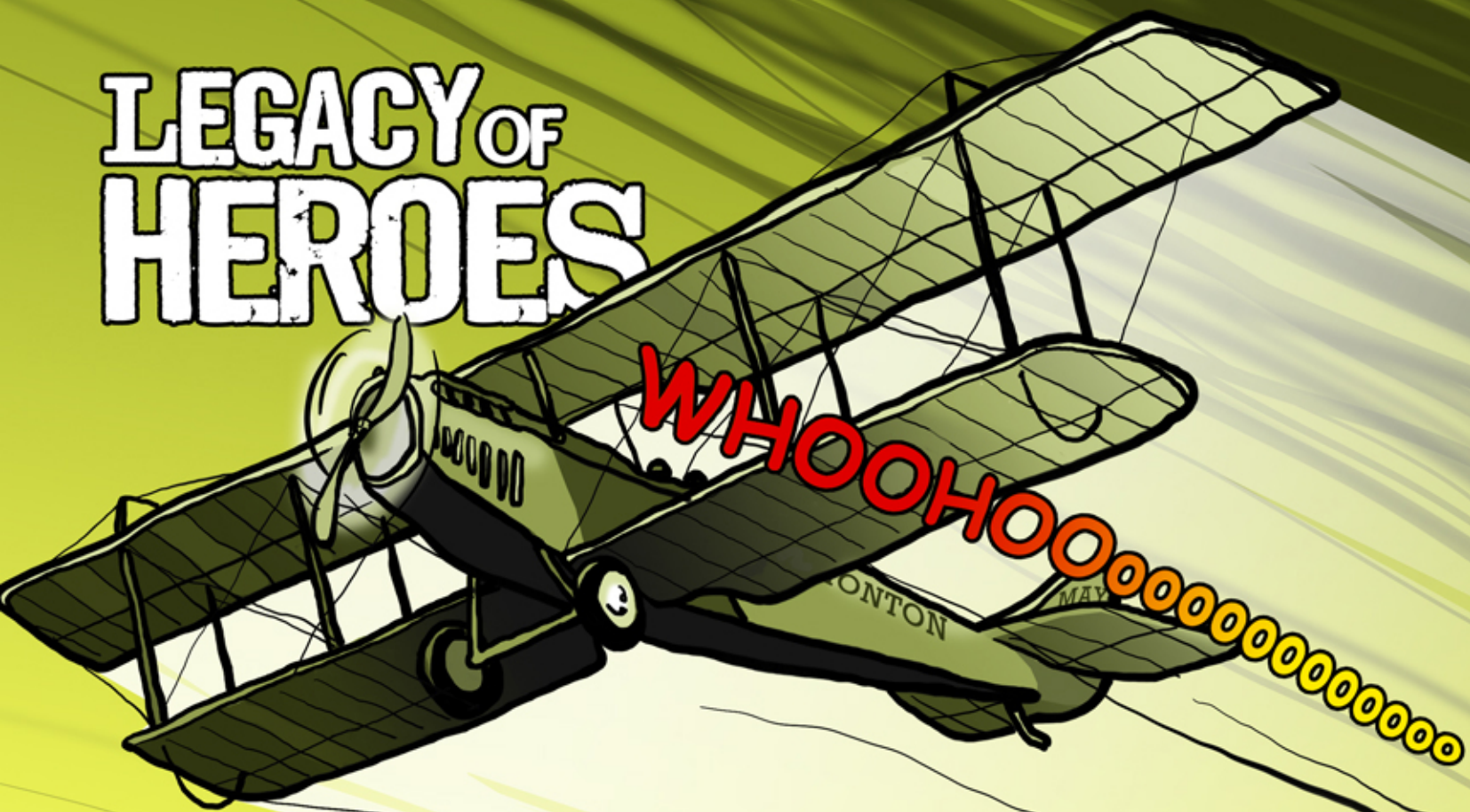


I KNEW WE COULD COUNT ON YOU, WOP.
DETECTIVE CAMPBELL'S READY TO LEAVE...

MAY'S AIRPLANES
EDMONTON

WOP

LEGACY OF HEROES



SEPTEMBER 1, 1919.

PROPELLER SPINNING...THE FRAGILE CRAFT MADE OF WOOD AND CLOTH BUMPS ITS WAY ACROSS THE DIRT FIELD...FASTER AND FASTER...UNTIL, SUDDENLY, IT IS AIRBORNE!

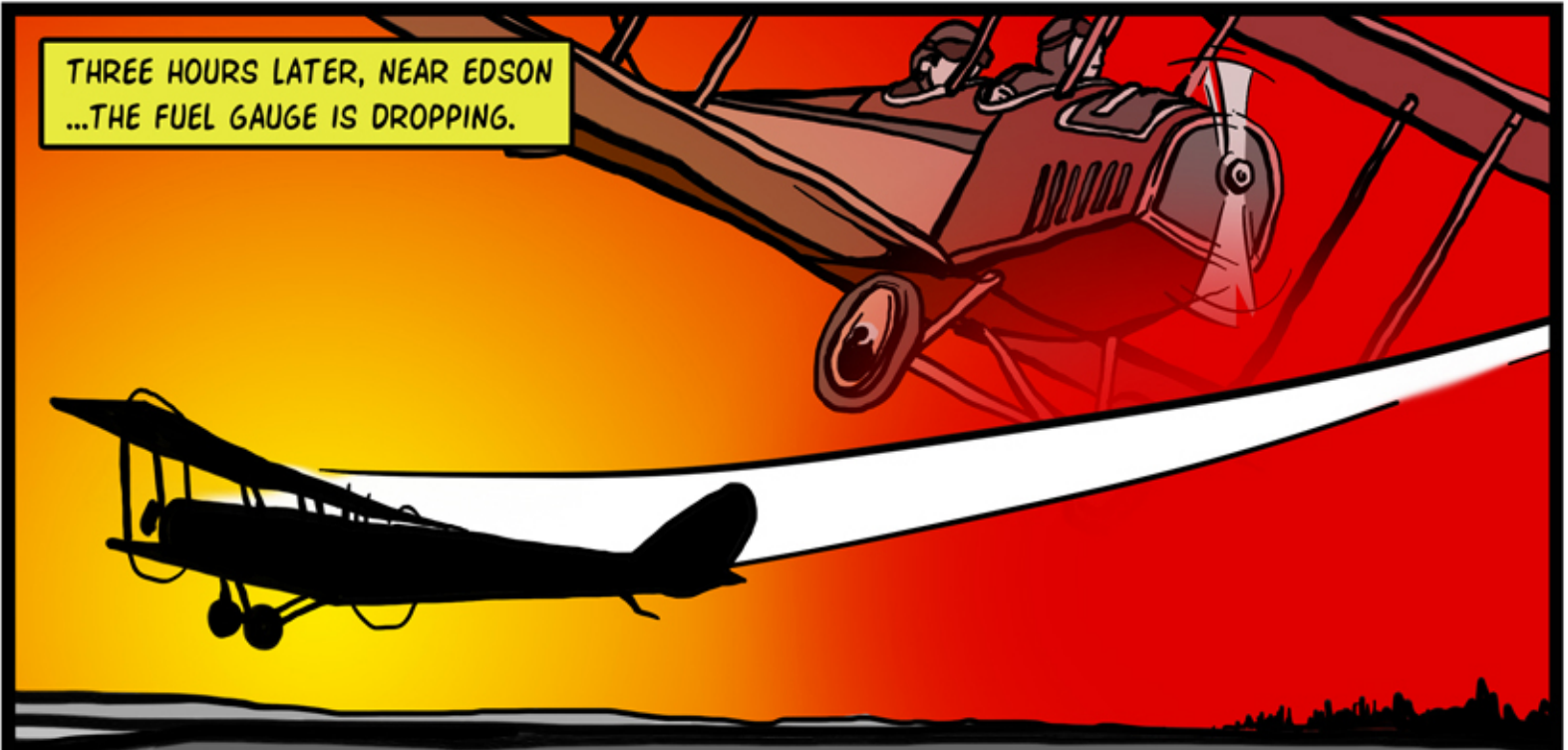
THUS BEGINS A PERILOUS JOURNEY...NOT BY LAND OR SEA, BUT BY AIR! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CANADIAN HISTORY, POLICE WILL USE AN AIRPLANE TO PURSUE A CRIMINAL!

WOP MAY HAS ENOUGH FUEL TO GET TO EDSON. SINCE THERE ARE NO AIRPORTS IN ALBERTA, MAY WILL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER FIELD TO LAND IN WHEN THE PLANE RUNS OUT OF FUEL!

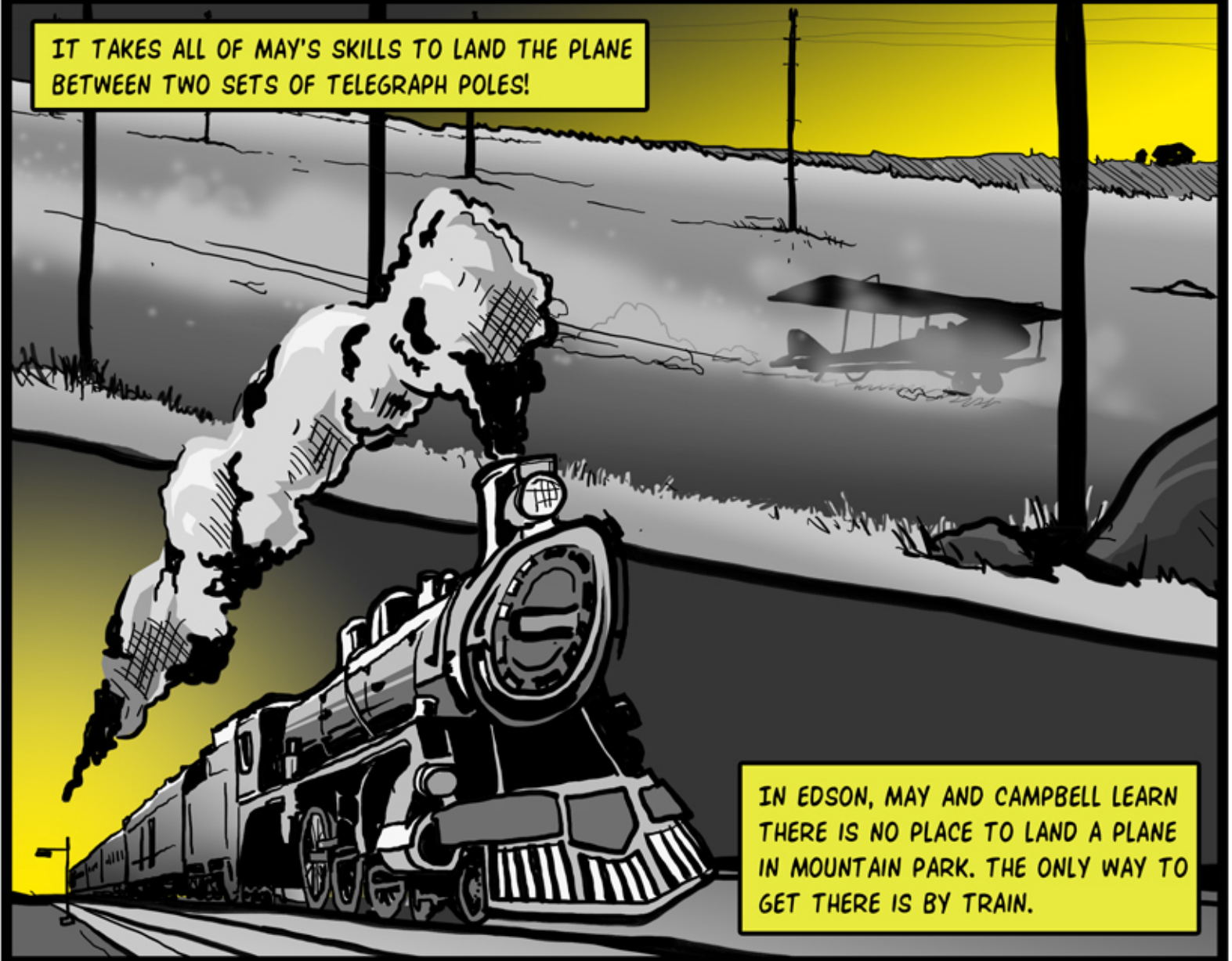


SCRIPT: JEFF AWID
ILLUSTRATION: JARED ROBINSON

THREE HOURS LATER, NEAR EDSON
...THE FUEL GAUGE IS DROPPING.



IT TAKES ALL OF MAY'S SKILLS TO LAND THE PLANE
BETWEEN TWO SETS OF TELEGRAPH POLES!



IN EDSON, MAY AND CAMPBELL LEARN
THERE IS NO PLACE TO LAND A PLANE
IN MOUNTAIN PARK. THE ONLY WAY TO
GET THERE IS BY TRAIN.

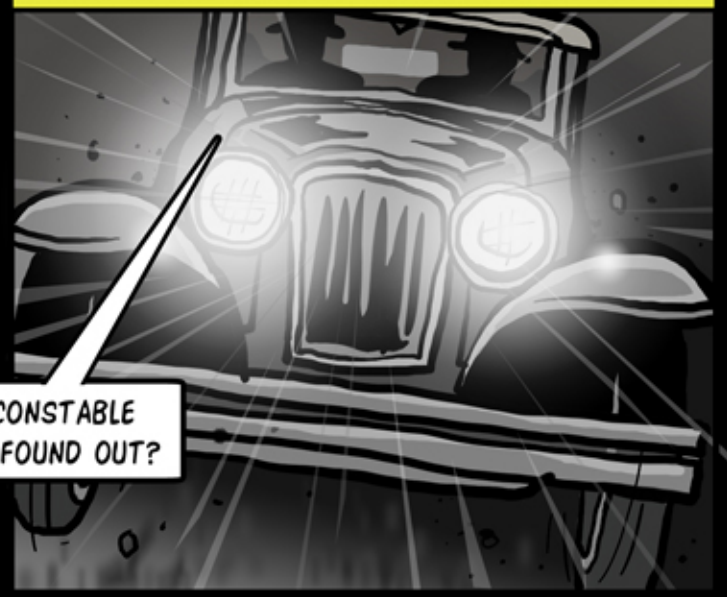


MOUNTAIN PARK



A PROVINCIAL POLICE OFFICER IS WAITING FOR CAMPBELL WHEN THE DETECTIVE GETS OFF THE TRAIN.

I APPRECIATE THE HELP, CONSTABLE MCELROY. WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND OUT?



A COUPLE DAYS AGO, A MAN MATCHING LARSON'S DESCRIPTION ARRIVED AT THE MINE.

THE MANAGER PUT HIM TO WORK DIGGING OUT A COAL SEAM.

THAT MAKES OUR JOB EASIER. THERE'S NO PLACE TO RUN...





"...UNDERGROUND!"

WITH LARSON IN CUSTODY,
DETECTIVE CAMPBELL BORROWS
A "RAIL SPEEDER" TO TAKE HIS
PRISONER TO EDSON.

CONTINUED ON 3RD
PAGE FOLLOWING



AIR 1

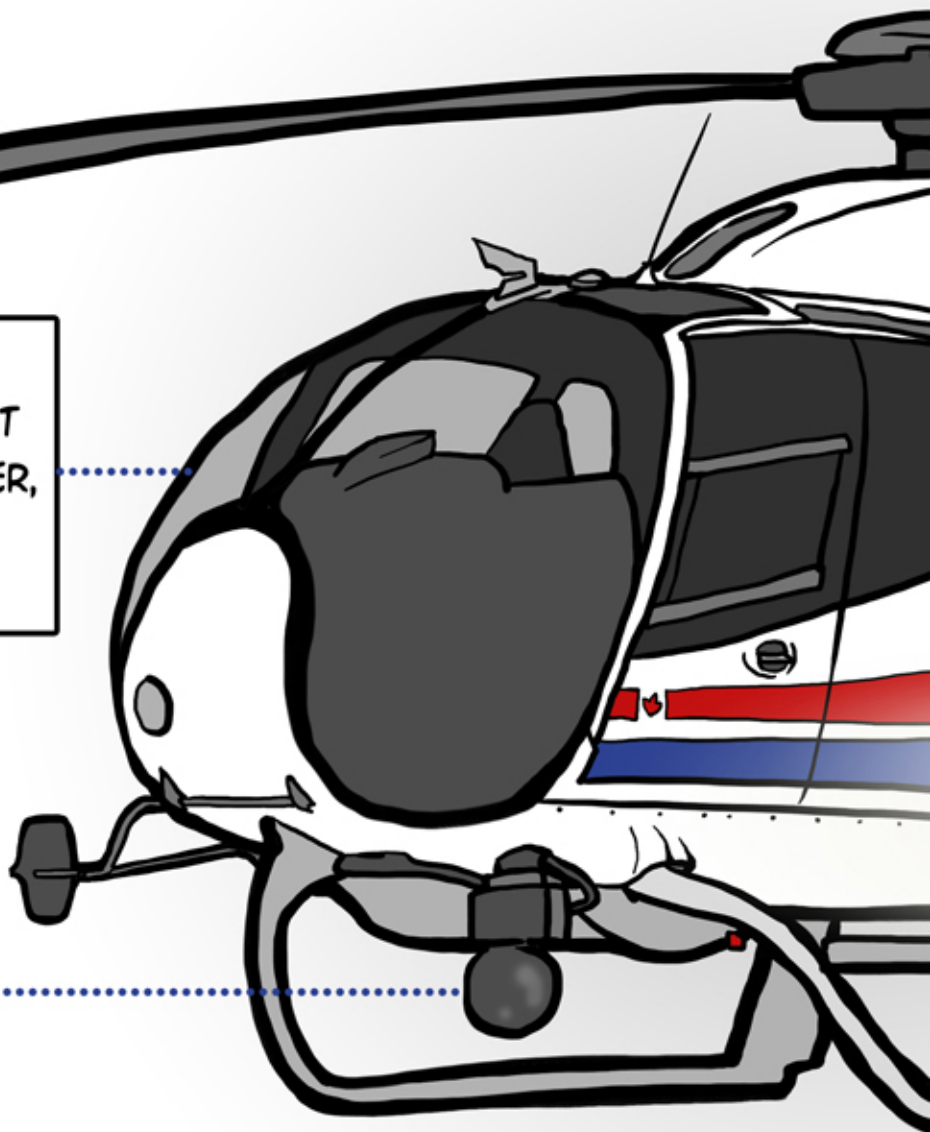
POLICE HELICOPTER

FLIGHT CREW:

TWO POLICE OFFICERS, THE PILOT AND THE TACTICAL FLIGHT OFFICER, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING AIR 1 IN THE SKY!

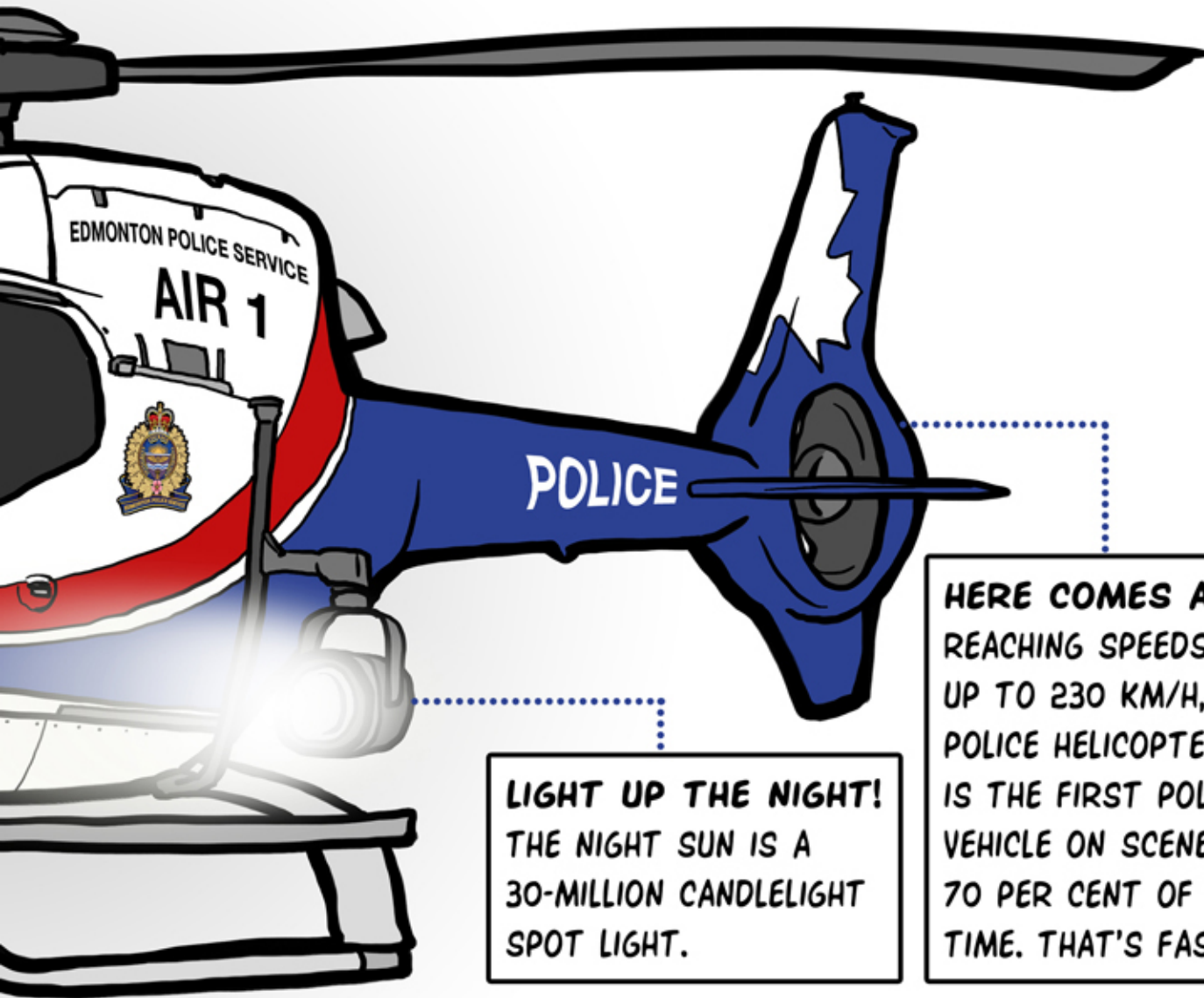
WATCH OUT!

THERE'S NO PLACE TO HIDE WHEN AIR 1 USES ITS FORWARD-LOOKING INFRA-RED CAMERA. THE SPECIAL CAMERA "SEES" HEAT RADIATING FROM PEOPLE AND OBJECTS ON THE GROUND. THIS MAKES IT EASY FOR THE FLIGHT CREW TO FOLLOW BAD GUYS, EVEN AT NIGHT!



NEVER FEAR, AIR 1 IS HERE! THE HELICOPTER RESPONDS TO OVER 2800 CALLS A YEAR, ASSISTING POLICE OFFICERS ON THE GROUND, AS WELL AS HELPING FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL.

IN 1919, POLICE USED A BIPLANE TO CATCH A CRIMINAL. TODAY, THE EPS HAS A HI-TECH HELICOPTER TO KEEP EDMONTON SAFE!



LIGHT UP THE NIGHT!
THE NIGHT SUN IS A
30-MILLION CANDLELIGHT
SPOT LIGHT.

HERE COMES AIR 1
REACHING SPEEDS OF
UP TO 230 KM/H, THE
POLICE HELICOPTER
IS THE FIRST POLICE
VEHICLE ON SCENE
70 PER CENT OF THE
TIME. THAT'S FAST!

AIR 1 KEEPS TRACK OF WHERE BAD GUYS GO WHEN THEY TRY TO OUT-RUN POLICE. AIR 1'S FLIGHT CREW TELLS POLICE ON THE GROUND WHERE THE BAD GUYS ARE HIDING. THE HELICOPTER HAS SAFELY RESOLVED HUNDREDS OF PURSUITS!

AS THEY RACE ALONG THE RAILWAY TRACK...



HE'S JUMPING!

SCREEEEECH!

HE'S ESCAPING INTO THE WOODS!

DON'T SHOOT.



WE HAVE TO FIND HIM!

THERE'S A RAILWAY CAMP NOT FAR FROM HERE. THEY'LL HAVE THE MEN AND WEAPONS WE NEED.



LARSON CAN'T HOLD OUT FOR LONG. NOT WITH THIS RAIN.



LATER, AS NIGHT FALLS, THE HASTILY ORGANIZED SEARCH PARTY HUNTS FOR THE KILLER!

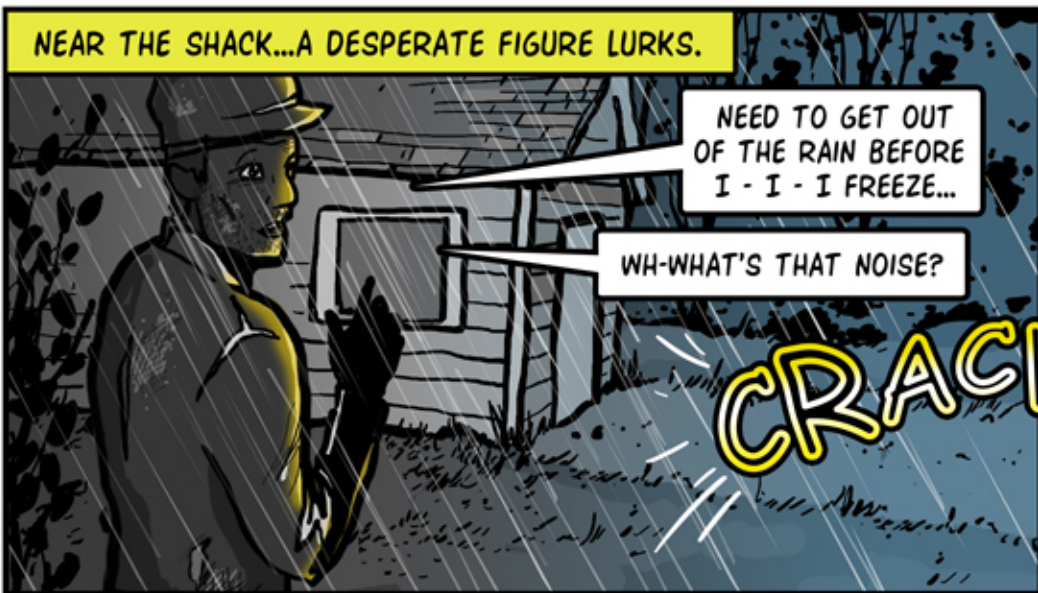
WHERE WOULD LARSON GO TO GET OUT OF THE RAIN?



THERE'S A DESERTED LINEMAN'S SHACK NEARBY.



HURRY!
WE HAVE TO GET THERE FIRST.

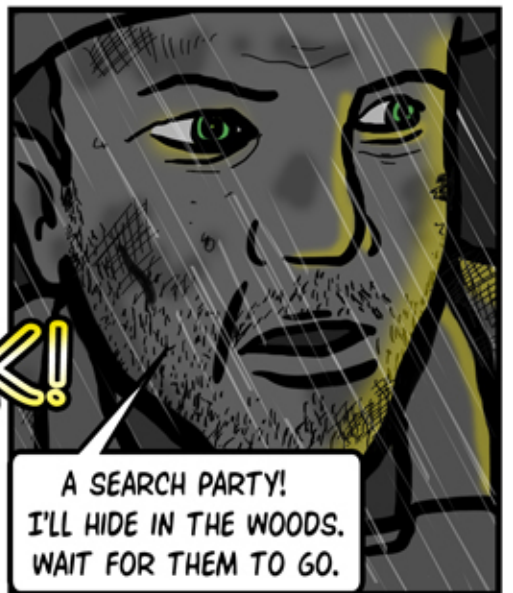


NEAR THE SHACK...A DESPERATE FIGURE LURKS.

NEED TO GET OUT OF THE RAIN BEFORE I - I - I FREEZE...

WH-WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

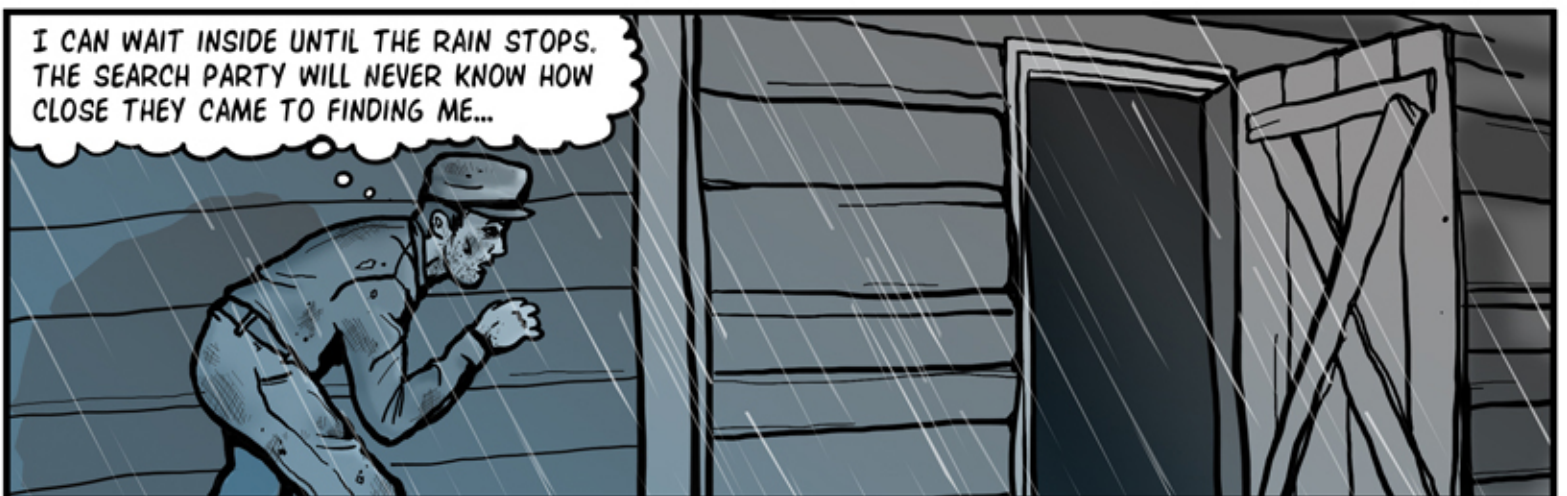
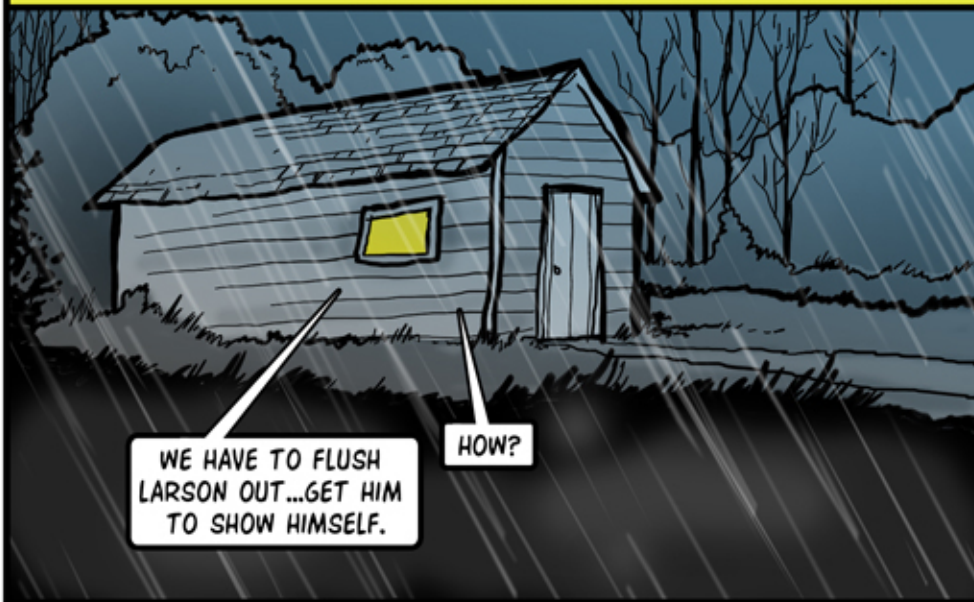
CRACK!



A SEARCH PARTY!
I'LL HIDE IN THE WOODS.
WAIT FOR THEM TO GO.



WHILE THE KILLER WAITS FOR THE SEARCH PARTY TO DEPART
...THE SEARCHERS MAKE THEIR OWN PLANS.



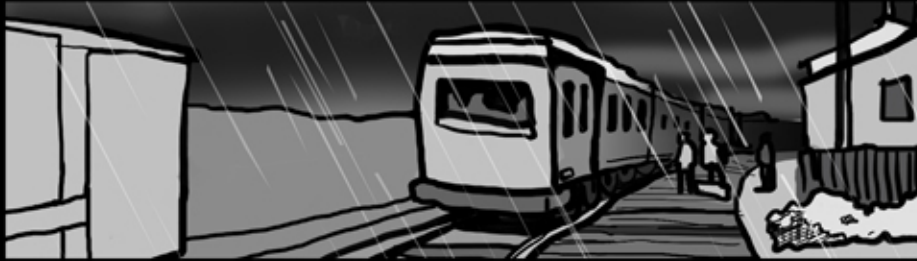
I CAN PLAN
MY NEXT MOVE
WHILE I
DRY OFF.



PUT YOUR HANDS UP, LARSON!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.

NO! I WATCHED YOU LEAVE!

WE KNEW YOU'D FIND YOUR
WAY INSIDE...SO WHEN THE
OTHER SEARCHERS LEFT
WE WAITED FOR YOU.



LARSON WAS
TAKEN BACK TO
EDMONTON TO
STAND TRIAL.

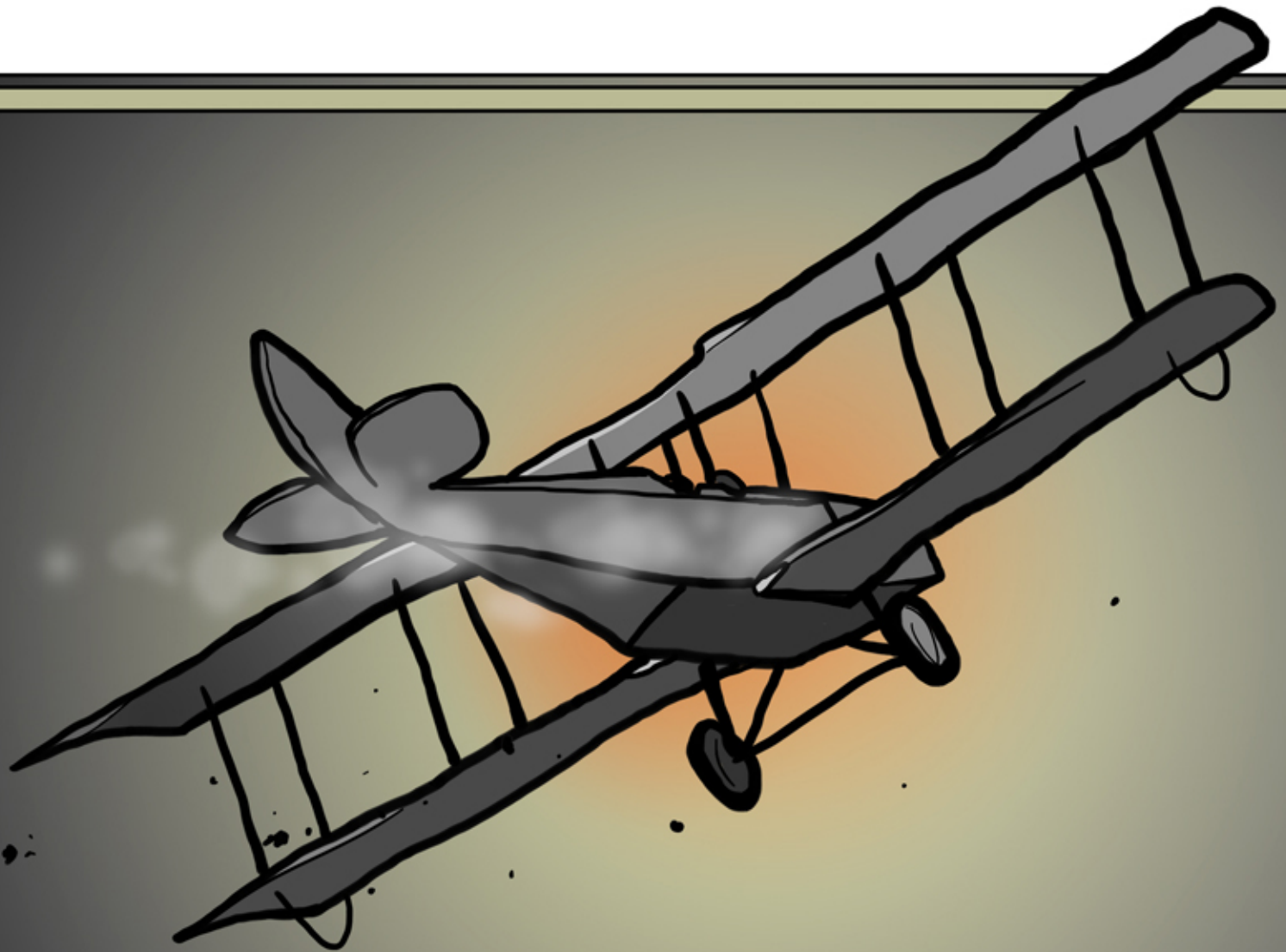


DUE TO A LACK OF EYEWITNESSES TO THE MURDER OF CONSTABLE NIXON,
LARSON WAS FOUND GUILTY OF ATTEMPTED MURDER ...AND SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON.

END.

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

IT WAS CHIEF HILL WHO CAME UP WITH THE ORIGINAL IDEA TO USE AN AIRPLANE TO PURSUE CONSTABLE NIXON'S KILLER. THE CHIEF WAS AWARE OF WOP MAY'S SKILLS AS A PILOT; HE HAD WITNESSED MAY'S FEAT OF FLYING AN AIRPLANE UNDER THE HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE. MAY, ALWAYS ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE HIS AIRPLANE BUSINESS, EAGERLY AGREED TO THE CHIEF'S PROPOSAL. WHEN MAY AND DETECTIVE CAMPBELL TOOK OFF IN SEPTEMBER 1919, POWERED FLIGHT WAS LESS THAN TWENTY YEARS OLD. FACING ALL MANNERS OF HARDSHIP - OPEN COCKPITS, A LACK OF AIRPORTS AND PROPER LANDING STRIPS - MAY AND CAMPBELL PERSEVERED AND, IN THE PROCESS, MADE CANADIAN POLICING HISTORY!



YOU CAN SEE WOP MAY'S AIRPLANE AT THE REYNOLDS ALBERTA MUSEUM IN WETASKIWIN!



Detective James Campbell

1873-1934

James Campbell was born in Caithness, Scotland, on July 25, 1873. He was a police officer in Edinburgh for ten years before moving to Canada in 1904. James found work with the Canadian Pacific Rail Police Department, investigating theft, vandalism, and sabotage of railway property. Two years later, he moved to Edmonton and joined the Edmonton Police Department. James was one of ten police officers responsible for maintaining law and order in Alberta's capital city. In 1907, he married Jessie McLean; the couple made their home in a log cabin on Groat Estates. James and Jessie had six children. In 1911, James was promoted to the rank of sergeant, earning \$85 per month. In 1913, he became an inspector with the Morality Squad. A year later, James rejoined the Canadian Pacific Rail Police Department and moved his young family to Vancouver. Returning to Alberta in 1916, James joined the Alberta Provincial Police. He rejoined the Edmonton Police Department a year later as a detective. In 1919, James took part in an aerial manhunt with pilot "Wop" May, earning the nickname "The Flying Detective". James Campbell died in 1934 at the age of 61. Chief of Police Shute said that James "was always a dependable hard working officer, reliable, active and with sterling integrity."

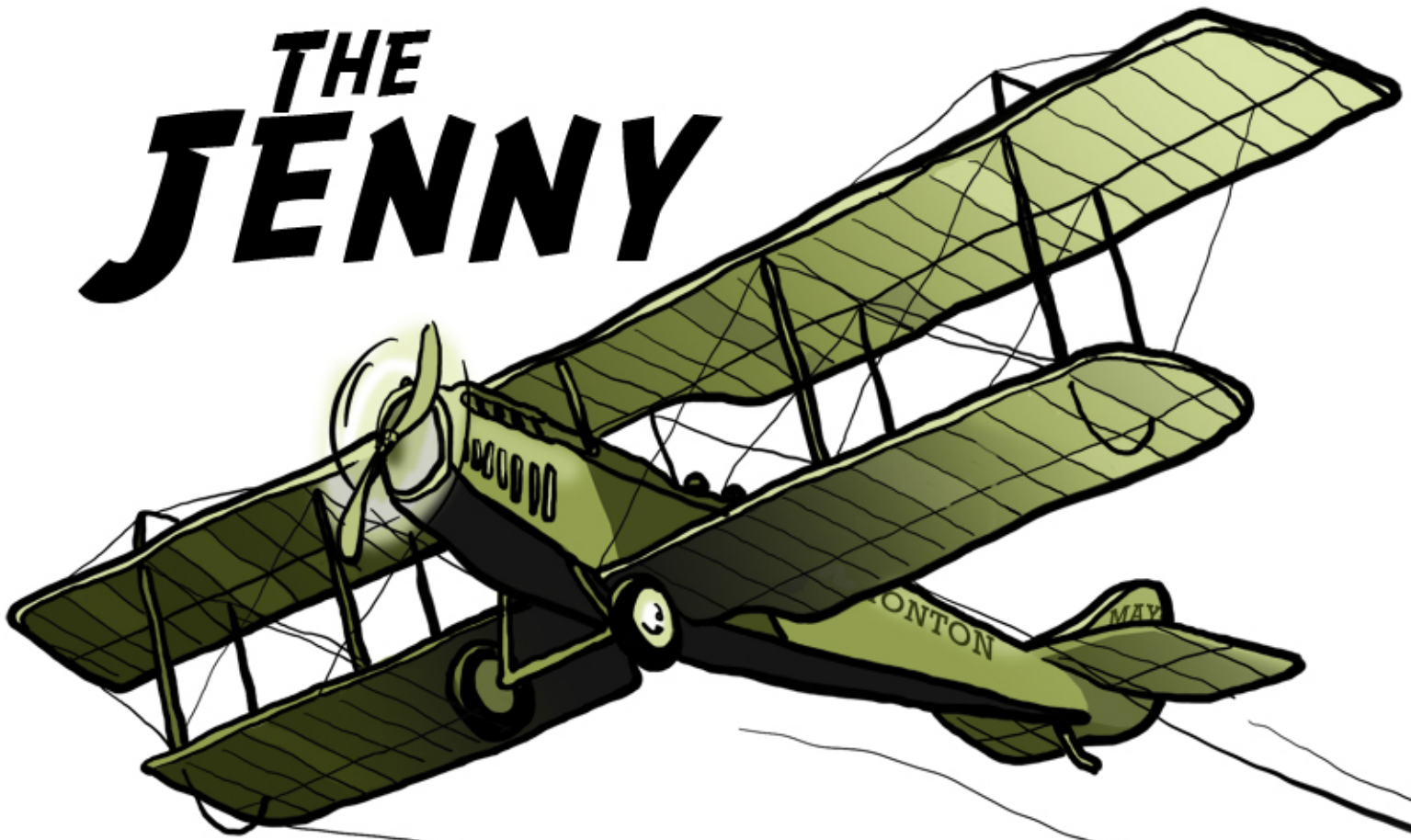


“Wop” May

1896-1952

Wilfrid Reid “Wop” May was born in Carberry, Manitoba in 1896. He learned to fly after joining the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War. May was the last Allied pilot pursued by infamous German flying ace, the Red Baron. Wop May survived that encounter and went on to earn the Distinguished Flying Cross for his efforts in the war. Back in Canada, May and his brother started *May Airplanes Ltd*, one of the first barnstorming companies in the world. In 1919, May assisted the Edmonton Police Department in their manhunt for Cst. William Nixon’s murderer. May and co-pilot Vic Horner flew diphtheria serum to Fort Vermilion in 1929, helping to save hundreds of lives. News of the flight was transmitted around the world via the newly invented radio. In 1932, May took part in another manhunt, this time helping the RCMP track down the “Mad Trapper of Rat River”. During the Second World War, May was the commander of the No. 2 Air Observer School in Edmonton. He continued to play an important role in Canadian aviation until his death in 1952. The Edmonton neighbourhood of Mayfield is named in his honour.

THE JENNY



THOUSANDS OF CURTISS JN-4 AIRPLANES - THE "FLYING JENNY" - WERE BUILT BETWEEN 1917 AND 1927.

THE JENNY WAS CALLED THE "MODEL T FORD" OF THE AIR. THE MODEL T HELPED TO POPULARIZE THE AUTOMOBILE; THE JENNY DID THE SAME THING FOR AVIATION.

THE JENNY WAS DESIGNED AND BUILT BY GLENN CURTISS (1878 - 1930), AN AMERICAN AVIATION PIONEER.

IN 1919, A COMPLETE JENNY COULD BE PURCHASED FOR \$300.

THE JENNY HAD A TOP SPEED OF 75 MPH!



A GUN SHOT RINGS OUT IN THE NIGHT!

...AND AN EDMONTON POLICE OFFICER FALLS DEAD!
WHEN THE KILLER FLEES THE CITY,
DETECTIVE JAMES CAMPBELL AND ACE PILOT "WOP" MAY TAKE
TO THE SKY TO TRACK HIM DOWN.

AN EXCITING COMIC BOOK ADVENTURE BASED ON CASE FILES
FROM THE EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE ARCHIVES!