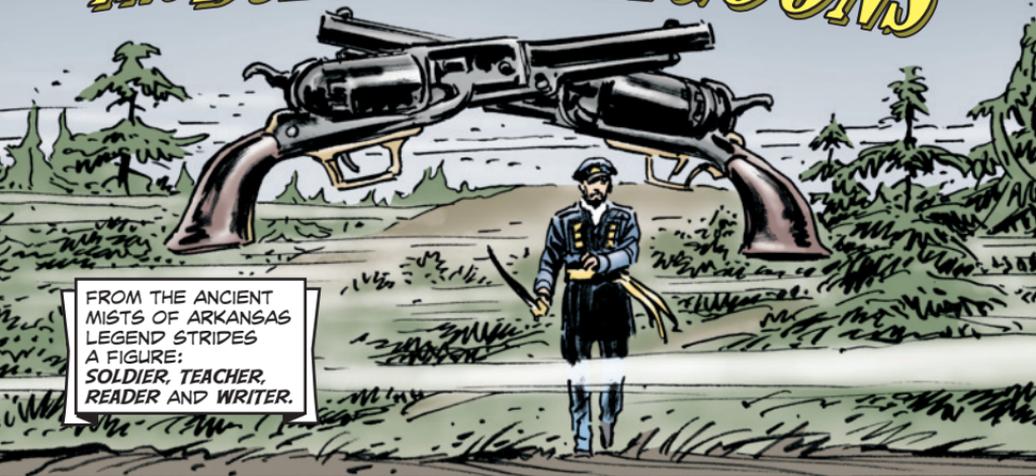


# The DUELING DRAGOONS



FROM THE ANCIENT  
MISTS OF ARKANSAS  
LEGEND STRIDES  
A FIGURE:  
SOLDIER, TEACHER,  
READER AND WRITER.

SUCH IS THE LEGACY OF ALBERT PIKE. MANY OF YOU HAVE HEARD TALES OF ALBERT'S FAMOUS ANCESTOR, ZEBULON, BUT OUR AL'S ADVENTURES CANNOT BE OVERSHADOWED BY A MERE PEAK!



WHEN THE BROUHAHA KNOWN AS THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR ROILED ACROSS THE SOUTH, AL WAS CAPTAIN OF THE **LITTLE ROCK GUARD**. THIS RAG TAG BAND WAS OFFICIALLY PART OF THE **ARKANSAS VOLUNTEER REGIMENT**.

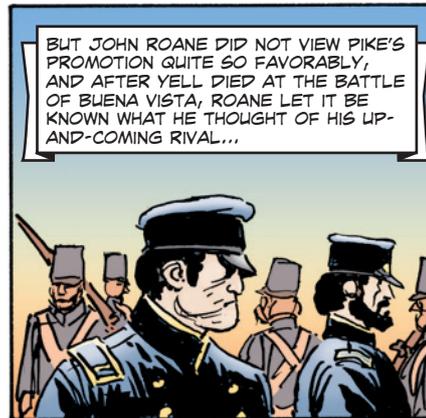
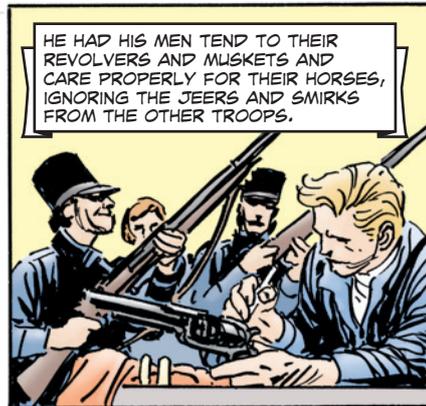
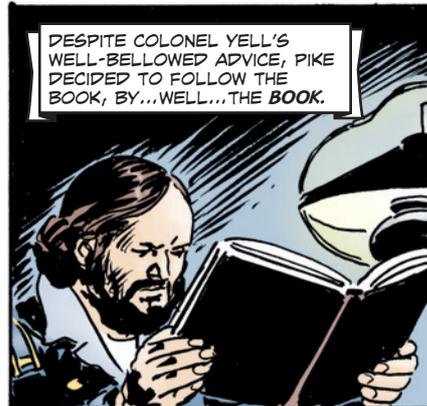
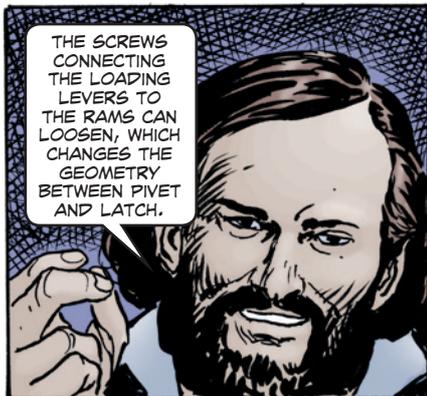
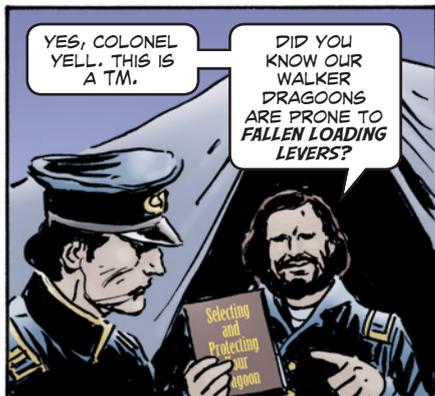
BUT BEFORE THE WAR, THEIR DUTIES WERE LIMITED TO FIRING OFF CANNONS FOR VISITING DIGNITARIES.



IN 1846, AL AND HIS LADS WERE SENT SOUTH TO FIGHT SANTA ANNA. AL PAID FOR HIS TROOPS' SUPPLIES OUT OF HIS OWN POCKET, AND MOST OF WHAT HE LEARNED ABOUT SOLDIERING CAME FROM READING **BOOKS** EN ROUTE TO THE BATTLE.

PIKE!  
READING  
AGAIN?

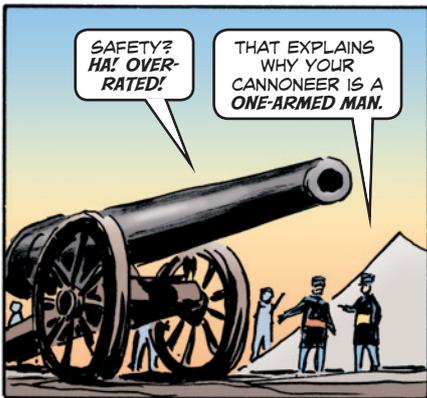






SPEAKING OF **LAME**, ROANE, I SAW THAT YOUR HORSE THREW A **SHOE** TODAY.

WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING?



SAFETY? **HA! OVER-RATED!**

THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOUR CANNONEER IS A **ONE-ARMED MAN**.



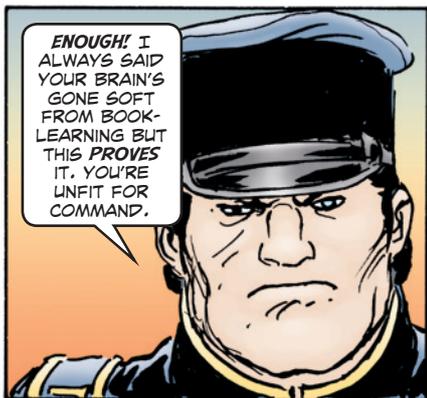
SO SAYS THE MAN YELLING LIKE OLD YELL-ER.

I WONDER HOW BRAVELY YOU'D BELLOW OVER REVOLVERS AT DAWN?



NOTHING. BUT IT'S A **SAFETY** ISSUE.

THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO KNOW.



**ENOUGH!** I ALWAYS SAID YOUR BRAIN'S GONE SOFT FROM BOOK-LEARNING BUT THIS **PROVES** IT. YOU'RE UNFIT FOR COMMAND.



FIND OUT, PIKE!  
**NAME YOUR SECONDS!**

I GENERALLY ONLY TAKE SECONDS ON **DESSERT!**

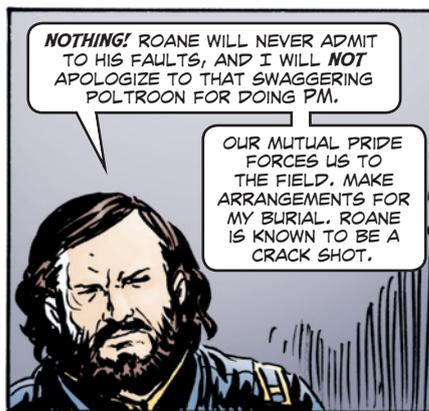


I'LL HAVE NO MORE INSOLGENCE FROM **YOU**, YOU YOUNG JACKANAPES.

OUR DRAGOONS MEET AT DAWN!



KEEP THEM. THE **BEST** WAY TO REMEMBER PM STEPS IS TO **STICK TO THE BOOKS**.



**NOTHING!** ROANE WILL NEVER ADMIT TO HIS FAULTS, AND I WILL **NOT** APOLOGIZE TO THAT SWAGGERING POLTROON FOR DOING PM.

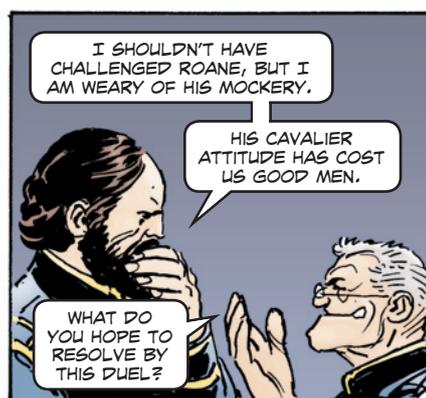
OUR MUTUAL PRIDE FORCES US TO THE FIELD. MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MY BURIAL. ROANE IS KNOWN TO BE A CRACK SHOT.



LATER IN HIS CAMP TENT...

THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING TO BE MY SECOND IN TOMORROW'S DUEL, SERGEANT MASTERS.

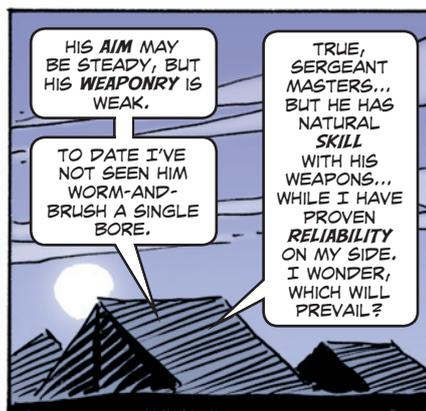
BUT I MUST HOLD **YOU** PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MY DILEMMA, SINCE YOU LOANED ME THESE TMS.



I SHOULDN'T HAVE CHALLENGED ROANE, BUT I AM WEARY OF HIS MOCKERY.

HIS CAVALIER ATTITUDE HAS COST US GOOD MEN.

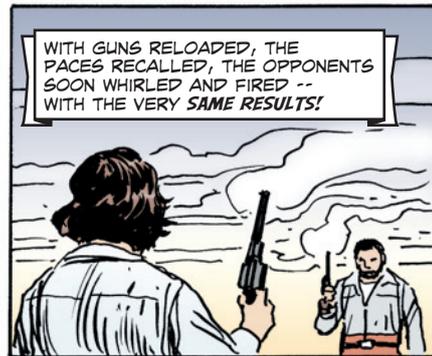
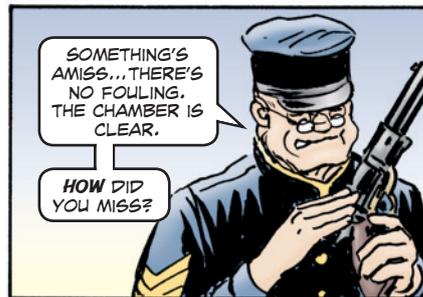
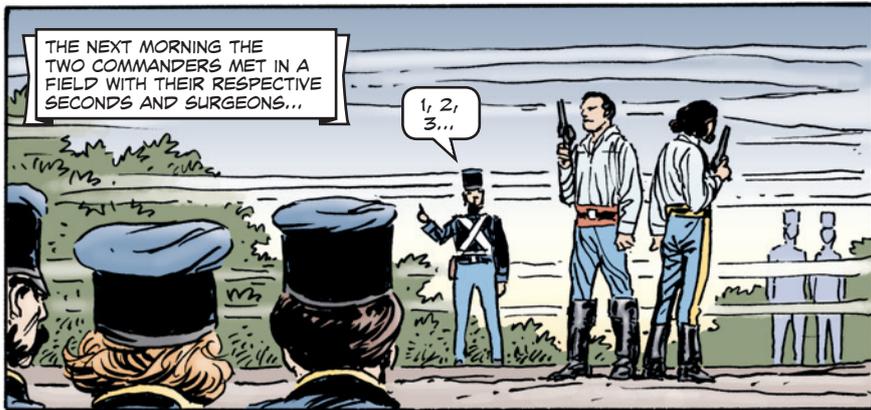
WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO RESOLVE BY THIS DUEL?



HIS **AIM** MAY BE STEADY, BUT HIS **WEAPONRY** IS WEAK.

TO DATE I'VE NOT SEEN HIM WORM-AND-BRUSH A SINGLE BORE.

TRUE, SERGEANT MASTERS... BUT HE HAS NATURAL **SKILL** WITH HIS WEAPONS... WHILE I HAVE PROVEN **RELIABILITY** ON MY SIDE. I WONDER, WHICH WILL PREVAIL?



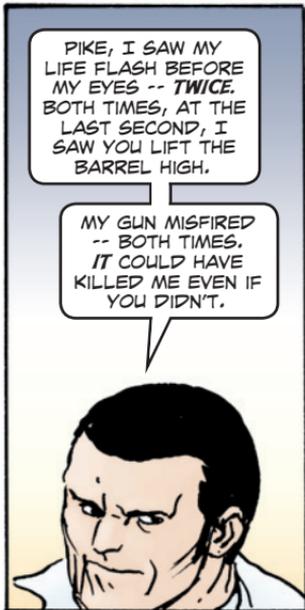


PIKE AND MASTERS ALONE KNEW HE MISSED ON PURPOSE. OR SO THEY THOUGHT...

LOOKS LIKE WE COULD BE AT THIS ALL DAY, PIKE, AND I BORE EASILY.

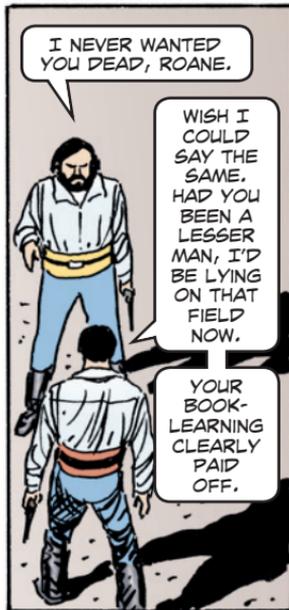
GLADLY!

TRUCE?



PIKE, I SAW MY LIFE FLASH BEFORE MY EYES -- TWICE. BOTH TIMES, AT THE LAST SECOND, I SAW YOU LIFT THE BARREL HIGH.

MY GUN MISFIRED -- BOTH TIMES. IT COULD HAVE KILLED ME EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T.



I NEVER WANTED YOU DEAD, ROANE.

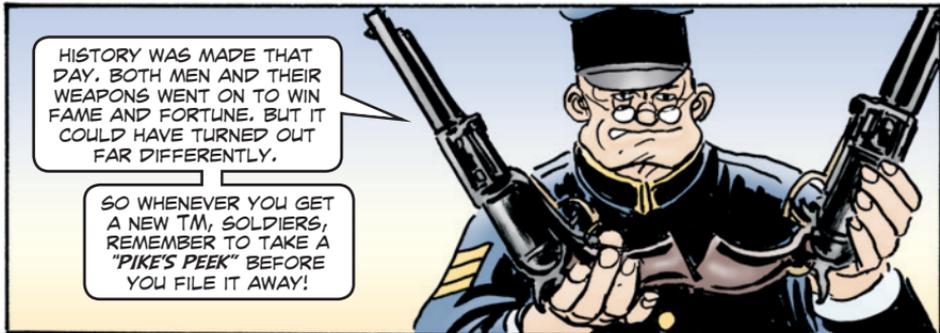
WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME. HAD YOU BEEN A LESSER MAN, I'D BE LYING ON THAT FIELD NOW.

YOUR BOOK-LEARNING CLEARLY PAID OFF.



YOU ARE WELCOME TO BORROW THOSE TMS ANYTIME. THEN, MAYBE YOUR DRAGOON WON'T LOOK -- OR FIRE -- SO SHABBILY NEXT TIME.

FAIR ENOUGH. MEANWHILE, YOU CAN USE A LESSON OR TWO IN SHARPSHOOTING YOURSELF...



HISTORY WAS MADE THAT DAY. BOTH MEN AND THEIR WEAPONS WENT ON TO WIN FAME AND FORTUNE. BUT IT COULD HAVE TURNED OUT FAR DIFFERENTLY.

SO WHENEVER YOU GET A NEW TM, SOLDIERS, REMEMBER TO TAKE A "PIKE'S PEEK" BEFORE YOU FILE IT AWAY!