



By Gabriel Moshenska and Alex Salamunovich

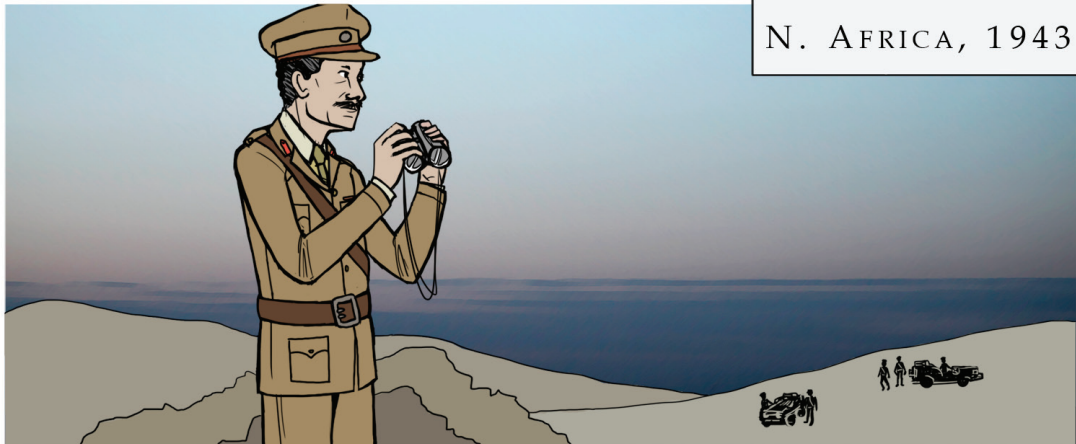


LONDON, 1954

WORKING ON HIS MEMOIRS, ARCHAEOLOGIST AND RETIRED BRIGADIER MORTIMER WHEELER RECALLS THE TIME WHEN THE EIGHTH ARMY ENCOUNTERED THE RUINS OF ROMAN NORTH AFRICA.

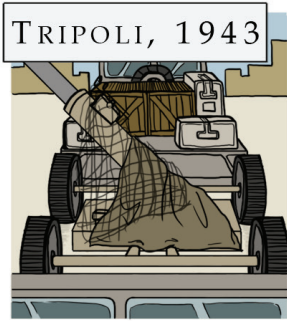


It was on the night of 19 January, on the summit of a stony monticule behind Breviglieri, that the need first thrust itself starkly on my consciousness...



N. AFRICA, 1943

down on the coastal plain lay the great Roman cities which must now or shortly be battlefields in the main advance and thereafter easy meat for any dog that came along.



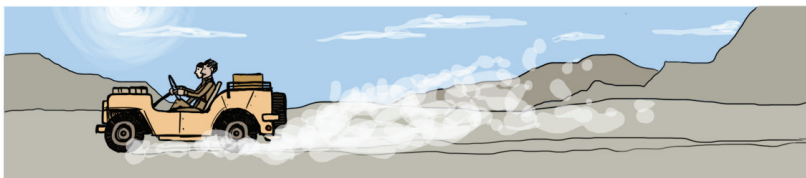
RACING INTO TRIPOLI, WHEELER'S ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS ARE THE FIRST TO BE INSTALLED, MANNED AND READY FOR ACTION.

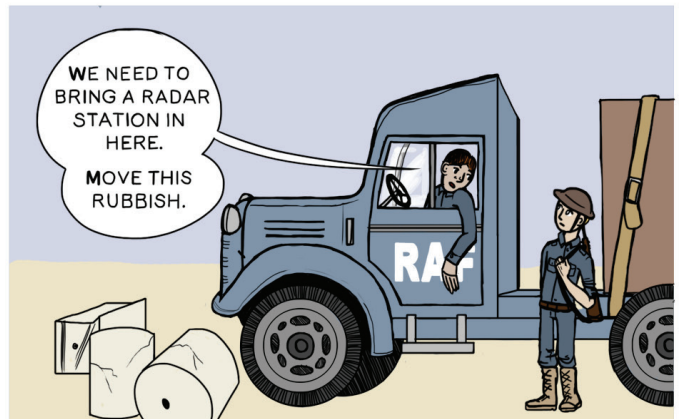
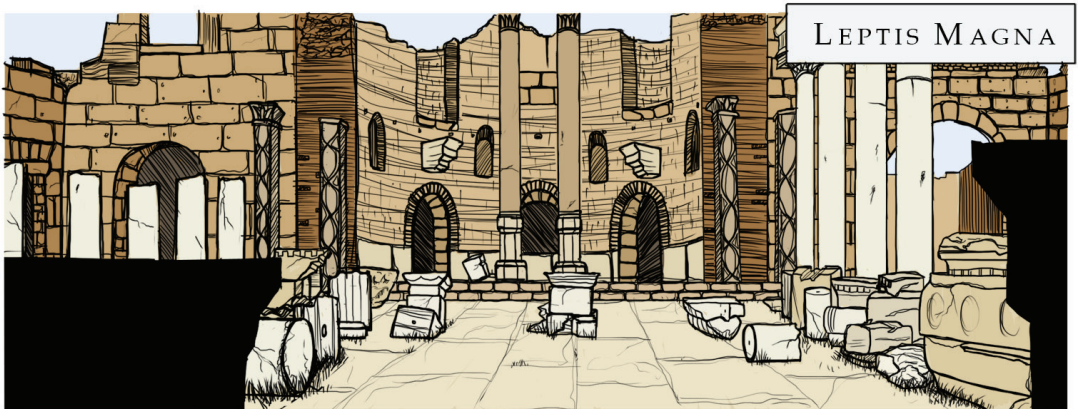
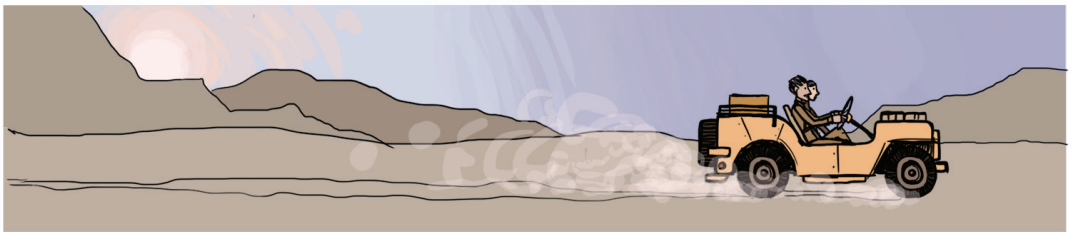
Major J. B. Ward Perkins



MANY OF THE ANCIENT CITIES HAD BEEN RESTORED TO AN IMPRESSIVE STANDARD BY THE ITALIANS BEFORE THE WAR.

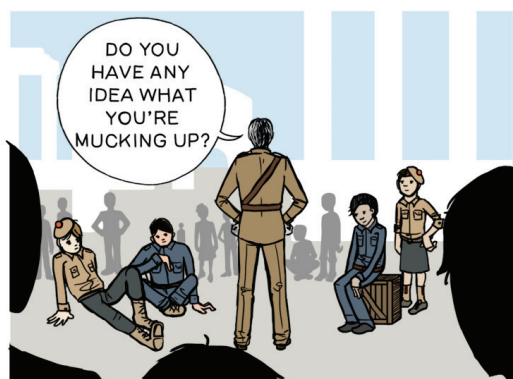
Now all these resurrected splendours were the playthings of roving armies little less alien and indifferent than the Asturians and Vandals in whose footsteps they trod.

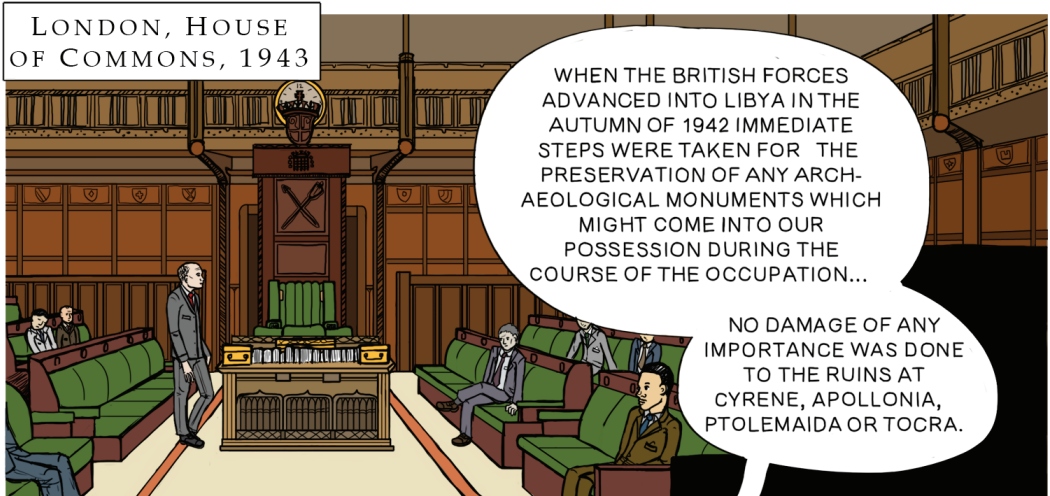






AFTER STATIONING MILITARY POLICE TO GUARD THE RUINS AND PERSUADING THE RAF TO MOVE THEIR RADAR ELSEWHERE, WHEELER ASSEMBLES THE TROOPS TO GIVE THEM AN IMPROMPTU LECTURE ON THE VALUE OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS.





Henderson's statement was an impudent lie.


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