

Series 2: 1970

Monday, 08 December 2008

A few deletions and some additions were made to the product line-up going into 1970. Unlisted comics were carried over from 1969. The new comics do not have numbers on the covers, but are listed numerically according to the list inside the front covers. These comics also have slick, glossy covers.

2. Flying Space Adventure (replaced Perilous Rescue; 1970 only):

A top secret assignment - Joe takes the space capsule into outer space. His assignment: to test a "fantastic new X-ray space camera." Suddenly, a heavy meteor shower - it's a direct hit to the capsule! The cabin is torn apart by the force of the collision, and the valuable camera is sucked out a hole. Joe suits up with his space and manages to snare the camera with the salvage arm just before a meteor hits it. Joe happily smiles as he knows he has saved the camera! Highlight: Joe risks all to save government experiment. Unresolved ending: Joe is as good as dead, with a useless capsule and no way to get back to Earth. Starring: Blond haired, beardless Astronaut.

4a. White Tiger Hunt (replaced Mysterious Explosion; 1970-73 version)/

4b. White Tiger Hunt (1974-75 version):

A white tiger has been terrorizing villagers along a tropical river. Joe must bring the tiger back alive! He uses a raft to get to the area, which he then fashions into a cage to be used to capture the tiger. Joe manages to capture the tiger without using the hunting rifle. Highlight: Joe constructs tiger-proof cage with bare hands. Inconsistencies: About 50 board feet of raft timber turns into maybe 150 board feet of cage lumber; no mention of how Joe will get back to civilization with caged tiger. Starring: Land Adventurer in White Tiger Hunt uniform. There are two variations of this comic. The 1970-1973 version features the older style tent with metal support rods and an ad for the GI Joe Club featuring the Command Post News on the back cover. The later 1974-75 version has misspelled words (including "terroizing" instead of "terrorizing" on the first page) and features the tent with plastic support rod and a 1971 yearbook on the back cover.

7. Capture of the Pygmy Gorilla (replaced Mouth of Doom; 1970-75):

Joe sets out to capture a rare pygmy gorilla. While motoring along in the pontoon boat, he is distracted by a friendly chimp and fails to see a crocodile as it slides into the water after the boat. Joe sees it in time to escape. The next day, Joe gets caught in quicksand. The gorilla enjoys punishing wayward quicksand-bound explorers and harasses Joe. Managing to chase the gorilla off, Joe then digs a pit. The gorilla walks straight into the trap and is caught in the cargo net. Joe records it all on film. Highlight: Joe uses himself as bait to lure the gorilla. Inconsistencies: There is no such thing as quicksand. Sorry, but it's a Hollywood invention. Starring: Land Adventurer in camo fatigues. 12. The Secret of the Mummy's Tomb (1970-74; 76):

An earthquake in the desert - Joe must recover the lost mummy before it is lost forever! A museum map pinpoints the location, and Joe uncovers the mummy. He finds a secret switch on the casket and discovers a load of gems - a "bonus for the museum scientists." As he loads the mummy in the All Terrain Vehicle, the ground splits open from more earthquakes and Joe escapes in time. Highlight: Joe raids a tomb, years before Indiana Jones and Lara Croft. Unlikely: The museum map pinpointed the exact location of the mummy, which was buried just a few feet below the surface. Likely: The gems will indeed prove to be a "bonus" for poorly paid museum scientists. Starring: Land Adventurer in tan fatigues.