

to:
ALL HYDRA AGENTS IN THE FIELD

order: AAAA PRIORITY

TRACE AND KILL
the MAN CALLED....

D.E.A.T.H.!


FILE 100621



I see the file and my spine freezes over.

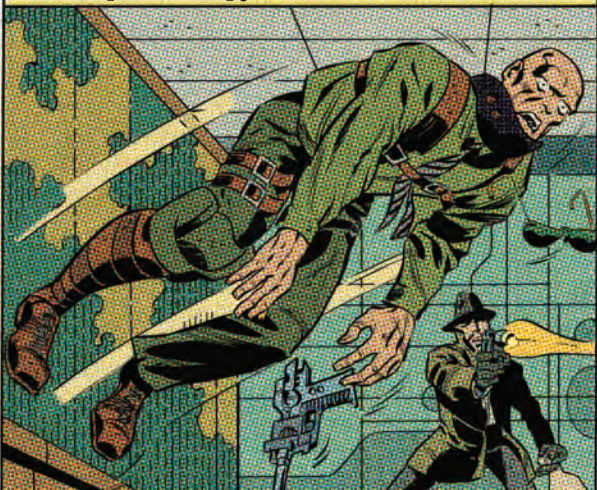
Every once in a while, Dum Dum Dugan asks me what I want engraved on my tombstone. My answer's always the same: "I shoulda brought backup."



I thought this was a milk run. I didn't figure I'd be wandering into a full nest of Hydra goons.



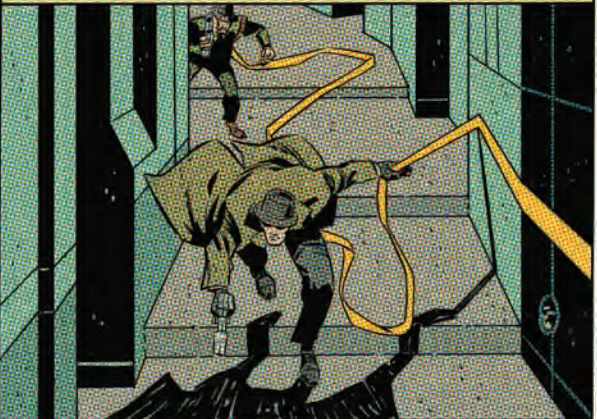
And even though I'm topkick of the world's most powerful spy network--



--loaded with the sharpest surveillance and the craziest gadgets--my number could come up at any time. Hopefully, today's not the day.

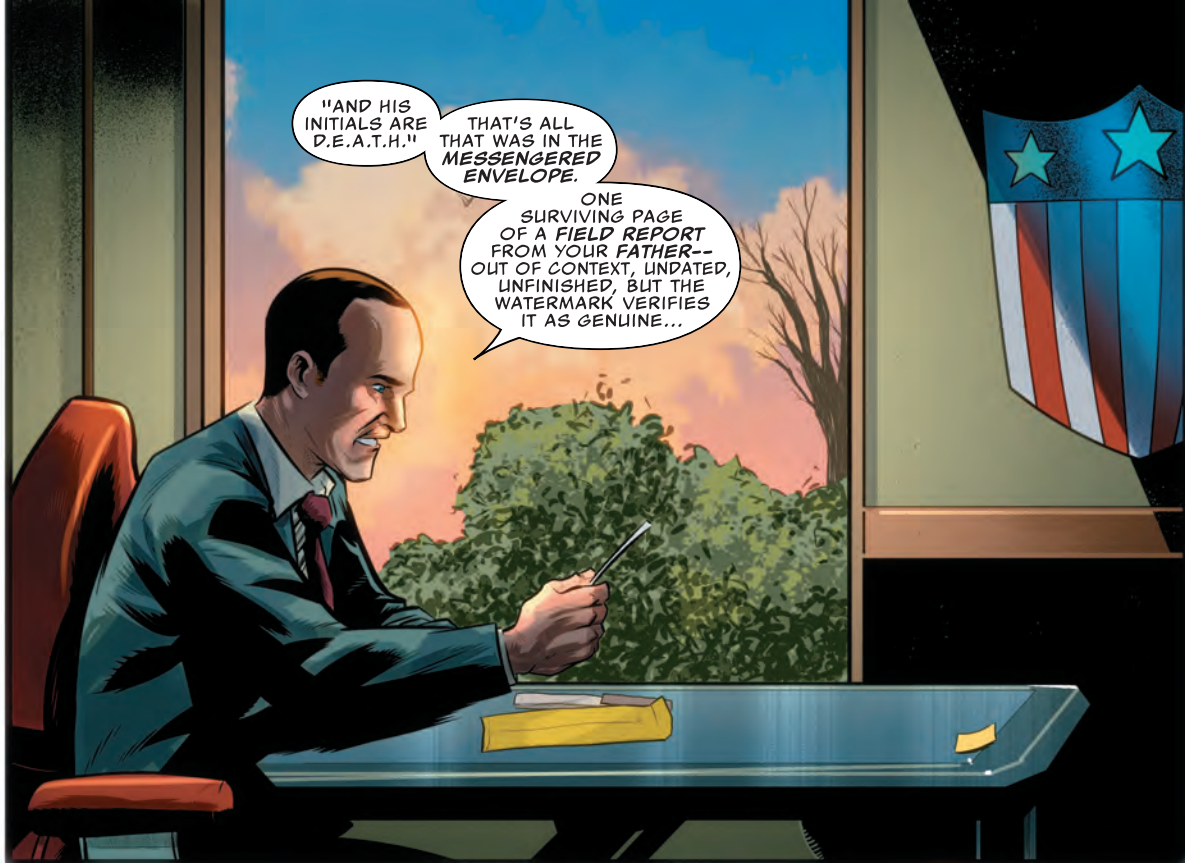


I can't go to my grave without reading what's in this file. It holds a secret--the name of a man I can barely remember. The man who picked me for this nutty job.



And his initials are D.E.A.T.H.





"AND HIS INITIALS ARE D.E.A.T.H."

THAT'S ALL THAT WAS IN THE MESSENGERED ENVELOPE.

ONE SURVIVING PAGE OF A FIELD REPORT FROM YOUR FATHER-- OUT OF CONTEXT, UNDATED, UNFINISHED, BUT THE WATERMARK VERIFIES IT AS GENUINE...



...AND ONE VINTAGE HYDRA FILE FOLDER, EMPTY BUT FOR ONE PHOTOGRAPH.

I'M TRANSMITTING THE IMAGE NOW.

AGENTS IN THE FIELD PRIORITY WOULD KILL CALLED... T.H. FILE 100671



BKOW BKOW

"NOW" IS NOT A GOOD TIME, PHIL!

YOU'RE A MULTITASKER, NICK. JUST TAKE A LOOK.



AM I SUPPOSED TO RECOGNIZE THIS MAN? BECAUSE I DO NOT.

ALSO, I REPEAT, I'M A LITTLE BUSY. SHARZAD ISN'T GONNA STABILIZE ITSELF.

UNDERSTOOD, BUT HERE'S THE FUNNY THING. I SHOWED THIS PHOTO TO MOST EVERYONE WHO EVER SUCCEEDED YOUR DAD AS DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D....

AL EWING - WRITER STEFANO CASELLI - ARTIST



UNDERNEATH
AREA 51, THERE
ARE SECRETS.

"DIRECTOR HILL--
I STRENUOUSLY
OBJECT TO THIS
COURSE OF ACTION--"

"AND I
STRENUOUSLY
DON'T GIVE A
DAMN, KRAYE."

ANDRES MOSSA - COLOR ART
VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA - LETTERER



HE'S
WHAT THE TEAM
NEEDS. WHAT
S.H.I.E.L.D.
NEEDS.
SO STOP
STALLING--

--AND
WAKE HIM
UP.

A-ALL
RIGHT.

KRAAKK!!!

AND MAY
GOD HAVE
MERCY ON
OUR--

JON MOISAN - ASSISTANT EDITOR
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WHAMMM

AXEL ALONSO - EDITOR IN CHIEF
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DUGAN LIVES!

