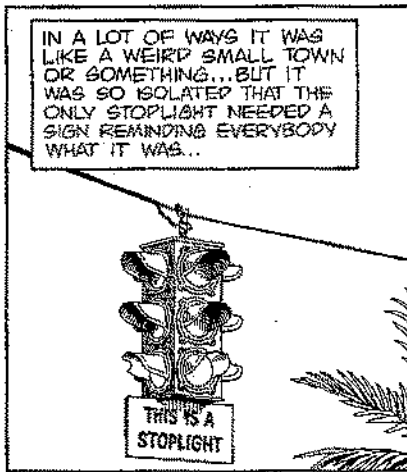
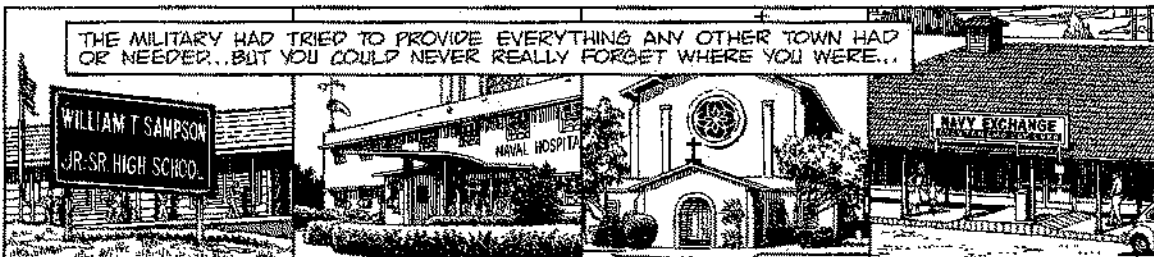


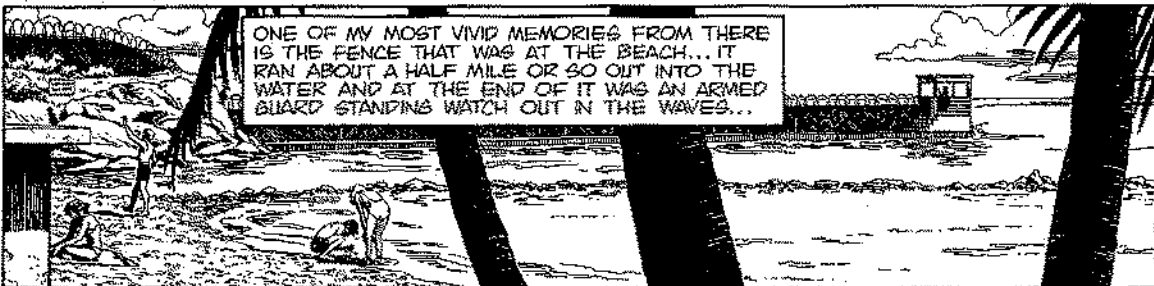
THE BASE IN GUANTANAMO WAS A PRETTY STRANGE PLACE...IT WAS LITERALLY SHUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD...IN FACT, ALMOST NO ONE EVEN KNOWS THERE IS A U.S. NAVAL BASE ON CUBA...



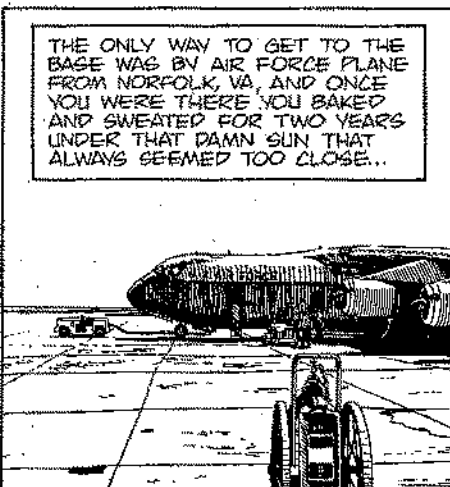
IN A LOT OF WAYS IT WAS LIKE A WEIRD SMALL TOWN OR SOMETHING...BUT IT WAS SO ISOLATED THAT THE ONLY STOPLIGHT NEEDED A SIGN REMINDING EVERYBODY WHAT IT WAS...



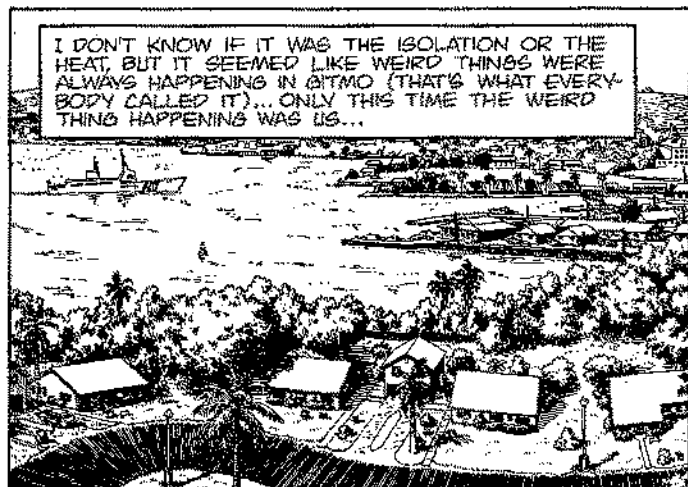
THE MILITARY HAD TRIED TO PROVIDE EVERYTHING ANY OTHER TOWN HAD OR NEEDED...BUT YOU COULD NEVER REALLY FORGET WHERE YOU WERE...



ONE OF MY MOST VIVID MEMORIES FROM THERE IS THE FENCE THAT WAS AT THE BEACH...IT RAN ABOUT A HALF MILE OR SO OUT INTO THE WATER AND AT THE END OF IT WAS AN ARMED GUARD STANDING WATCH OUT IN THE WAVES...



THE ONLY WAY TO GET TO THE BASE WAS BY AIR FORCE PLANE FROM NORFOLK, VA. AND ONCE YOU WERE THERE YOU BAKED AND SWEATED FOR TWO YEARS UNDER THAT DAMN SUN THAT ALWAYS SEEMED TOO CLOSE...



I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS THE ISOLATION OR THE HEAT, BUT IT SEEMED LIKE WEIRD THINGS WERE ALWAYS HAPPENING IN GITMO (THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY CALLED IT)... ONLY THIS TIME THE WEIRD THING HAPPENING WAS US...



