

Achtung... it's Spider-Man! Incredible photos reveal how Batman, Superman and friends helped the Allies win World War Two

By DAILY MAIL REPORTER

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It's a fact often overlooked by historians that the Allies' victory at the Battle of Cherbourg in Normandy, June 1944 was down to one key factor: Spider-Man.

A photo from that time clearly shows the web-slinger in action on the Avenue de Paris as American soldiers liberate the Nazi stronghold.

Meanwhile, back in Blighty that same month, a crusader in a cape inspects paratroopers at Greenham airfield. He's clearly got fighting on his mind - not surprising, seeing that he's Batman.

But budding David Starkeys need not fear: these amazing 'vintage' photographs are actually the work of modern-day Indonesian snapper Agan Harahap.



Spins a web any size, catches Nazis just like flies... Photographer Agan Harahap imagines how world history would have been shaped if superheroes really existed. Above, Spider-Man helps the Allies during the Battle of Cherbourg in Normandy, June 1944



© Agan Harahap

June 5, 1944: Back in Blighty, Batman inspects paratroopers at Greenham airfield. Bet they could do with one of his utility belts and kevlar armour



© Agan Harahap

Allied troops are seen seizing works of art after storming Neuschwanstein castle in Bavaria in 1945 - and joining them on the staircase is Superman

His work questions what the world would be like if superheroes really existed - with a particular emphasis on their role in global conflict.

By adding them into the photos, Harahap has altered their cultural impact, giving the images a dark and humorous twist.

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Although the idea of the Man of Steel helping to thwart Nazis is not itself original - from a comicbook perspective - the authentic-looking photograph certainly adds to the fun.



© Agan Harahap
Darth Vader, by all accounts a villain, is seen at the Yalta conference attended by the big three - Winston Churchill, Franklin D Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin - in February 1945



© Agan Harahap
Another photo sees the Dark Lord of the Sith casually strolling among dead Viet Cong soldiers in Saigon, 1968 - why use forces to kill when you can just use The Force?



© Agan Harahap

Don't do it, Captain America! The all-American 'hero' appears to be colluding with the Nazis as he accompanies Heinrich Himmler on the inspection of a PoW camp in Minsk, Russia in 1941

And it's not just the good guys who get a piece of the action - although at this point things do get a bit confusing as Harahap ponders the nature of allegiance.

Captain America appears to be colluding with the Nazis as he accompanies Heinrich Himmler on the inspection of a PoW camp in Minsk, Russia in 1941.

Meanwhile, one shot shows Darth Vader, by all accounts a villain, at the Yalta conference attended by the big three - Winston Churchill, Franklin D Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin - in February 1945.

On the agenda was the re-establishment of nations torn apart by the war - and possibly a prototype of the Death Star to destroy Vader's biggest threat to world domination, Hitler.

Another photo sees the Dark Lord of the Sith casually strolling among dead Viet Cong soldiers in Saigon, 1968 - why use forces to kill when you can just use The Force?



© Agan Harahap

There's Batman again - at the MATS terminal in Washington keeping a close eye on Fidel Castro in 1959



© Agan Harahap

V for 'vee give up': Vigilante V from Alan Moore's graphic novel surrenders at Taret Ravenoville along with members of the Wehrmacht in June 1944



© Agan Harahap
A rather large chap is seen helping Afghan resistance fighters as they return to homes destroyed by Soviet forces in 1986. The picture may be black and white but the big man is green - the Incredible Hulk

Rewind a few years and there's Batman again at the MATS terminal in Washington keeping a close eye on Fidel Castro in 1959.

Harahap, a self-taught photographer and illustrator, is obviously a big fan of the superhero genre and works several other well-known figures into his pictures.

And who is that rather large chap helping Afghan resistance fighters as they return to homes destroyed by Soviet forces in 1986?

The picture may be black and white but the big man is green - the Incredible Hulk.

And even a British character gets a look-in: V - the vigilante from Alan Moore's seminal graphic novel V For Vendetta - stands among Wehrmacht soldiers as they surrender at Taret Ravenoville in June 1944.



© Agan Harahap
The Flash probably used his super-speed to help capture these German soldiers in April 1945



© Agan Harahap

The Joker stands on the roof defence of a Moscow hotel in 1941 - no doubt after hearing that his nemesis Batman was on the warpath



© Agan Harahap

U.S. Navy coast guards in Curtiss Bay hear tales of derring-do from Lord Vader in 1943