



DAN DARE

PILOT OF THE FUTURE

in FIREFLIGHT

Kennedy

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TREEN OCCUPIED EARTH, 2215. DAN DARE, DESCENDANT OF THE LEGENDARY HERO, AND HIS COMPANIONS SUGAR JOE ROBINSON, ZETA AND VALDON, HAD ESCAPED FROM THE MEKON, FLYING THE LATEST TREEN SHIP THE FIREFLY—DAN HAD HEADED FOR EARTH'S RESISTANCE BASE IN THE GRAND CANYON.

EARTH FORT HERE WE COME!

ALSO ON BOARD WAS THROBOT J.J. WHO HAD REBUILT HIMSELF FROM TREEN SERVO-MEKS.

NOW I'VE GOT MY TEAM TOGETHER, NOTHING CAN STOP US NOW, MEN!

THAT HEAP OF JUNK THINKS HE'S IN CHARGE!

IT MUST HAVE REMOVED A CIRCUIT FROM A COMMAND ROBOT.

ANY PROBLEMS—COME AND SEE ME. MY DOORS ALWAYS OPEN.

J.J. PROVES THE OLD SAYING... 'OLD ROBOTS NEVER DIE...' 'THEY JUST GO NUTS!'

GUESS WE CAN RELAX A LITTLE NOW, DAN.

WE'RE NOT HOME AND DRY YET, SUGAR...

IF WE FLY AT MACH 1, WE'LL LEAVE SUPERSONIC FOOTPRINTS ACROSS THE SKY FOR TREEN DETECTORS.

IF WE TAKE AN ORBITAL ROUTE, WE'LL BE PICKED OFF BY THEIR KILLER SATELLITES...

SO WE'LL STAY SUBSONIC AND APPROACH EARTH FORT BY A ROUNDABOUT ROUTE.

AND NOW I THINK IT'S TIME I DID AWAY WITH THE GREEN HAIR BY REMOVING THIS FIBRE-OPTIC SPECTRODE.

YOU MEAN YOUR HAIR CHANGING COLOUR WAS JUST A... STAGE ACT?

LIKE THE NAME 'ZETA'. ALL PART OF MY COVER IDENTITY.

MY REAL NAME IS LIEUTENANT HELEN SCOTT, UNITED NATIONS RESISTANCE ARMY.

SO WHAT DO WE CALL YOU? ZETA...? HELEN...? MS SCOTT...?

'LIEUTENANT' WILL DO NICELY!



Kennedy

NICE TO HAVE YOU ABOARD, LIEUTENANT... HEY, VALDON... YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON CHANGING YOUR COLOUR?

IT WAS JUST A JOKE!

TREENS DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR JOKES, O'ROBINSON. THEY ARE UNSCIENTIFIC AND THEREFORE USELESS.

FROM HIS H.Q. IN LONDON, THE MEKON WATCHED.

AN INTERESTING ATTEMPT BY THE EARTHMEN TO ESCAPE MY DETECTORS. BUT DAN DARE CANNOT HOPE TO OUTWIT THE FIRST BRAIN OF VENUS.

IS EVERYTHING PREPARED?

YES, O MEKON. TELESENDER STATION 7 HAVE THE EARTHMEN IN RANGE. THEY ARE READY TO TRANSMIT THE ZOMS.

AT THE TELESENDER STATION.

THERE THEY ARE.

THE ZOMS WILL DEAL WITH THEM. THEY HAVE BEEN STARVED FOR SIX DAYS.

TELESEND ZOM ONE!





THE VENUSIAN ANIMAL SAVAGED SUGAR'S BIONIC ARM.



NEXT WEEK: DOG-FIGHT WITH A DIFFERENCE!

DAN DARE AND HIS COMPANIONS, SUGAR JOE ROBINSON, LIEUTENANT HELEN SCOTT, VALDON AND J.J., HAD ESCAPED FROM THE MEKON IN THE FIREFLY. BUT THEY WERE TRACKED BY THE TREENS WHO TELEPORTED ZOMS - SAVAGE VENUSIAN ANIMALS - INTO THE SHIP.

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I HAVE PREPARED A CONTINGENCY PLAN... A **FIGHTER-CARRIER** WILL BE INTERCEPTING THEM AT ANY MOMENT.

SO ARE MY FIGHTERS. DARE WILL FACE A MASS-ATTACK BY MY MOST EXPERIENCED PILOTS. HE CANNOT HOPE TO SURVIVE.

BUT HIS SHIP IS EQUIPPED WITH AUTO-DEFENCES AND THE NEW GRAVITON GUN.

AT THAT MOMENT.

I'VE FOUND THAT LINK, DAN...

BUT I'LL NEED SOME TREEN SPARE PARTS TO BREAK IT.

WHAT ABOUT J.J.? HE'S A HEAP OF SPARE PARTS.

YOU WISH TO REMOVE ONE OF MY VITAL COMPONENTS?

YOU REMOVED ONE OF MINE!

LOOK OUT, EVERYONE - WE'VE GOT COMPANY!

IDENTIFICATION: TREEN CARRIER CARGO: SIX STRATO-FIGHTERS. RANGE: FIFTEEN-POINT-TWO MILES. COMING UP FAST.

HOW FAST?

ETA: ONE MINUTE AND SIXTEEN SECONDS.

LOOKS LIKE THE REAL DOG-FIGHT'S ABOUT TO BEGIN!

DAN DARE

PILOT OF THE FUTURE

in
FIREFLIGHT

DAN AND HIS FRIENDS, SUGAR JOE, HELEN, VALDON AND J.J., HAD ESCAPED FROM THE MEKON IN THE FIREFLY - AN ADVANCED THOUGHT-CONTROLLED FIGHTER-CRUISER. BUT THE MEKON SENT A TREEN CARRIER TO INTERCEPT THEM WITH A CARGO OF SIX STRATO-FIGHTERS.

FIREFLY'S
HEADED INTO
A TRAP!

A VENUS
FLY-TRAP!

FIREFLY WAS EQUIPPED WITH AUTOMATIC DEFENCE SYSTEMS.

LASER SWARMS...

RAY BARRIER...

THRUST DIVERTERS...

THEY WERE
CLOSE!

DEFENCES ARE
BREAKING DOWN
UNDER THE
WEIGHT OF THE
ATTACK!

COMPUTER
PREDICTS OUR
CHANCES OF
SURVIVAL ARE
ZERO. WE MUST
PREPARE TO DIE,
O DARE.

NOT YET, VALDON.
WE'RE GOING ON TO
THE ATTACK.

THE COMPUTER ADVISES
AGAINST IT.

IT'S GIVEN UP ON
US, ANYWAY.
SO DO IT!

AT THE BACK OF DAN'S MIND
WAS THE ADVICE OF HIS FLYING
INSTRUCTOR: "IN AUTOMATIC
SHIPS, IT'S EASY FOR PILOTS TO
LEAVE DECISIONS TO MACHINES..."

"AND FORGET WHAT YOU
CAN DO YOURSELF..."

ONE UP TO
SPACE
FLEET!

SO LET'S DOUBLE THE
SCORE AND SWITCH TO
ATTACK, CHAPS!

I FIGURED THOSE FIGHTERS
WERE BUILT FOR KILLS -
NOT ARMOUR.

BUT -

HOSTILE INCENDIARY RAYS
STRENGTH 5-6, BEARING
33° E.S.E., FREQUENCY
1530, COMING WITHIN
RANGE.

COMMANDER TO ALL SHIPS.
EXTEND DEACTIVATOR RODS.
LINK DEFENCE FIELD AT
FREQUENCY RANGE 1,000/4000.

THEY'VE POOLED
THEIR DEFENCES!

IT'S LIKE TRYING
TO BREAK INTO
A FLYING
CASTLE!

COMMANDER TO ALL SHIPS.
SWITCH TO
GRAVITON GUNS.

PLUS-GRAVITY
RAYS!

THE MEKON'S LATEST SECRET WEAPON! ONE BLAST AND WE'LL BE CRUSHED TO A PULP!

THERE IS NO DEFENCE AGAINST IT.

SO WE'LL HAVE TO OUTRUN 'EM...

...BACK TO THE TREEN MOTHER SHIP!

WHAT? ARE YOU CRAZY, DAN?

WE CAN HIDE UNDER HER WING. THEY'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE DESTROYING THEIR TRANSPORT HOME.

MOTHER SHIP'S THROWING THE WORKS AT US... BUT FIREFLY'S SURVIVAL SENSORS ARE HANDLING IT.

HER FIGHTERS ARE RELUCTANT TO OPEN FIRE.

BUT WE DON'T HAVE THAT PROBLEM!

AND THIS TREEN SHIP HAS ALSO GOT THE GRAVITON GUN...

ONE DOWN — FOUR TO GO!

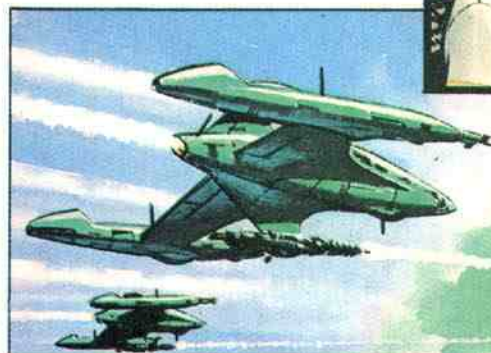
THE TREEN SHIP WAS HIT BY SIX HUNDRED G!

AT THE MEKON'S LONDON H.Q.

FOOLS! WHY DO YOU DELAY? IT DOES NOT MATTER IF YOU DO NOT RETURN. SACRIFICE YOUR LIVES...

YES, MASTER.

VICTORY WILL BE MINE!



The Top Photo-Story Magazine!

EAGLE

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WE'RE CAUGHT
IN A GRAVITY
WAKE!



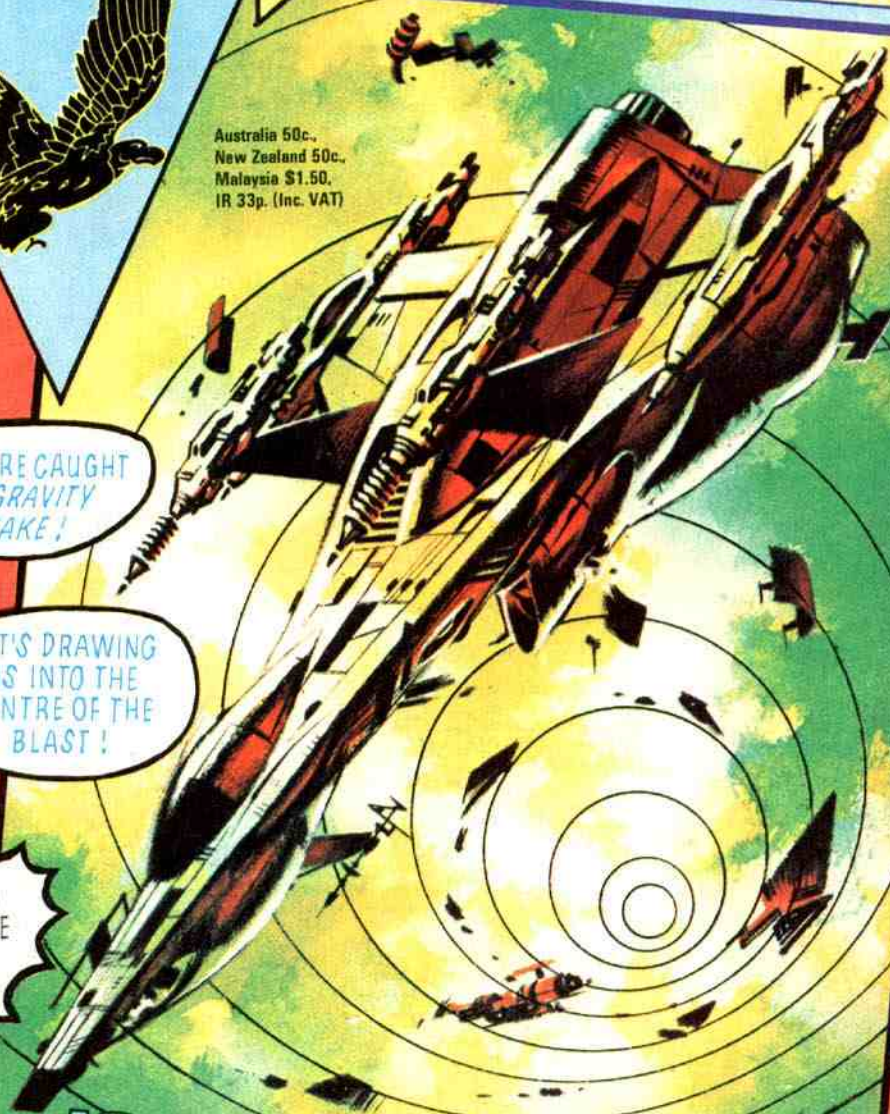
IT'S DRAWING
US INTO THE
CENTRE OF THE
BLAST!

THERE'S NOTHING
I CAN DO - WE'RE
STARTING TO
BREAK UP!



IS THIS THE FINAL BATTLE
FOR DAN DARE?

Read on...



DAN DARE

PILOT OF THE FUTURE in FIREFLIGHT

DAN AND CO., IN FIREFLY, A THOUGHT-CONTROLLED FIGHTER-CRUISER, WERE PURSUED BY TREEN STRATO-FIGHTERS FIRING PLUS-GRAVITY RAYS. DAN MANAGED TO "SHELTER" UNDER THE TREEN MOTHER SHIP... THEN THE MEKON ORDERED ITS DESTRUCTION AS WELL.



MAXIMUM SPEED!

THAT WAS CUTTING IT FINE.

TOO FINE! WE'RE CAUGHT IN A GRAVITY WAKE!

IT'S DRAWING US INTO THE CENTRE OF THE BLAST... LIKE THOSE TREEN FIGHTERS!



THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO - WE'RE STARTING TO BREAK UP!



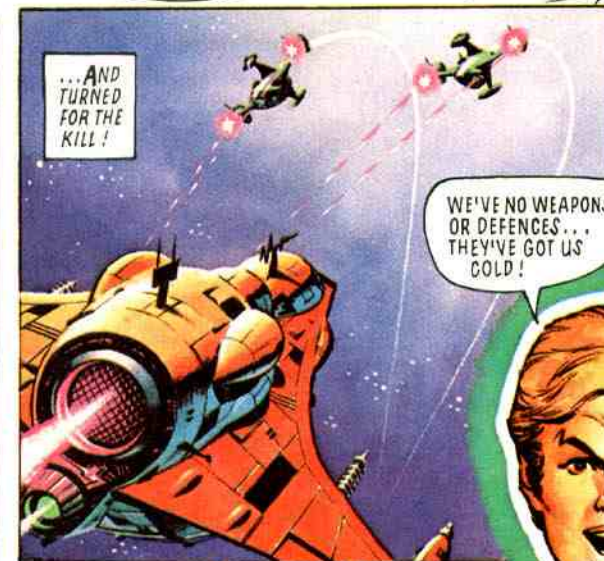
WE MADE IT - JUST! DAMAGE CHECK.

AUTO-DEFENCES OUT OF ACTION. WEAPONS MALFUNCTIONING.

AND THE REMAINING TREEN FIGHTERS ARE ON OUR TAIL! CLIMB, DAN!



TWENTY MILES ABOVE THE EARTH, THE FIGHTERS OVERTOOK...



...AND TURNED FOR THE KILL!

WE'VE NO WEAPONS OR DEFENCES... THEY'VE GOT US COLD!



BUT THEN, THE TREEN FIGHTERS WERE HIT BY SAVAGE LASERS...



WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHERE ARE THE LASERS COMING FROM?



THERE'S YOUR ANSWER. WE'RE IN A SPACE FLEET MINEFIELD!

THE MINES MUST ATTACK TREEN SHIPS AUTOMATICALLY...



INCLUDING US!



LIEUTENANT!



HOW IS SHE?

STILL ALIVE!

AT THE MEKON'S LONDON H.Q. -

OUR FIGHTERS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AND THE COMPUTER LINK 'WITH THE EARTHINGS' SHIP BROKEN, O MEKON.

DARE ONLY DELAYS THE INEVITABLE. IS THE VISION SYNTHESISER READY?

WE ARE RUNNING FINAL TESTS, MASTER.

HURRY. I AM EAGER TO BEGIN... DARE SHOULD HAVE DIED WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE.

MEANWHILE, FIREFLY HAD BROKEN OUT OF THE MINEFIELD.

HER SUIT STOPPED THE WORST, BUT SHE'S TAKEN SECOND DEGREE LASER BURNS.

GET J.J. TO GIVE HER A PAIN-KILLING SHOT AND DO WHAT HE CAN FOR HER.

YOU'RE GOING TO LET THAT... MACHINE LOOSE ON HER? SHE COULD WAKE UP WITHOUT HER HEAD!

J.J. IS STILL A MEDIC ROBOT, SUGAR. I NEED YOU TO GET OUR WEAPONS FUNCTIONING AGAIN - BEFORE THE MEKON'S NEXT MOVE.

ALL RIGHT... BUT I'M WATCHING YOU!

DON'T WORRY, MY DEAR. YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS. I'M A DOCTOR.

TWENTY MINUTES LATER -

CHEER UP, SUGAR. WE'RE APPROACHING NEW YORK - YOUR HOME CITY.

YEAH. BE GOOD TO SEE IT AGAIN, DAN. EVEN IF IT IS UNDER TREEN OCCUPATION.

BUT, AS THEY REACHED THE AMERICAN COAST.

NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

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in FIREFLIGHT

DAN AND HIS COMPANIONS WERE TRYING TO REACH EARTH-FORT IN THE FIREFLY - AN ADVANCED TREEN FIGHTER-CRUISER - BUT AS THEY DESCENDED TOWARDS NEW YORK...

MANHATTAN... HARLEM... EVERYTHING - DESTROYED!

THE ESCAPED HUMANS ARE APPROACHING. ALERT THE MEKON!

AND A TREEN CITY BUILT IN ITS PLACE!

THEY SURE TOOK A BITE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE.

I SEE YOU ARE ADMIRING THE CITY OF ZEVANTA, BUILT BY HUMAN SLAVES, AND BASED ON MEKONTA, STAR CITY OF VENUS AND SCIENCE CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE.

WHAT ON EARTH'S IT FOR, YOU MONSTER?

WHAT ON VENUS, DARE, NORTH AMERICA WILL BE TURNED INTO A TREEN COLONY. WE SHALL RECREATE THE CONDITIONS OF MY HOME PLANET.

FORCE IS NECESSARY. HUMANS ONLY RESPOND TO PUNISHMENT AND DISCIPLINE.

FASTER, EARTH SLAVES.

AND THIS IS JUST ONE OF MY PUNISHMENTS FOR EARTH.

A SINGLE PUNISHMENT WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH FOR THE PLANET THAT DEFIED ME. THERE ARE SEVEN - ONE FOR EACH LANDMASS.

AND A SPECIAL PUNISHMENT FOR BRITAIN FOR SPAWNING MY GREATEST ENEMY, DAN DARE.

YOU MEGALOMANIAC! YOU'RE INHUMAN!

OF COURSE I'M INHUMAN! TREENS ARE REPTILIAN. WE REGARD HUMANS AND OTHER MAMMALS AS YOU WOULD SNAKES AND INSECTS.

WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO DO THIS TO OUR WORLD?

EVOLUTION. EVEN YOUR OWN SCIENTIST DARWIN PROCLAIMED THE SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST. AND MY TREENS ARE THE STRONGEST, FITTEST.

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT EVOLUTION! I'VE SEEN ENOUGH!

Kennedy.

WE'LL MAKE YOU PAY!

FORWARD-FIRING LASERS OPERATIVE!

THAT SHOULD DO THE TRICK!

FIREFLY'S GRAVITON GUN TOOK OVER -

THE HIGH-GRAVITY RAY IMPLoded THE BUILDING...
SUCKING OTHERS INTO THE BLAST!

HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEW
CITY NOW, REPTILE?

YOU CANNOT ANGER ME, DARE,
SINCE I AM ABOVE EMOTION.
BUT I SHALL FORGET NOTHING
AND FORGIVE NOTHING.

I HAVE
RESERVED
A SPECIAL
FATE FOR
YOU!

SUCH A CRUDE DEMONSTRATION WAS
UNNECESSARY, O DARE. ESPECIALLY
WHEN THE MEKON SPOKE TRULY.

YOU AGREE WITH
HIS EVIL IDEAS?

I AGREE WITH SCIENCE. IN TREENDOM,
THE OLD, THE SICK AND THE INEFFICIENT
DELAY PROGRESS AND ARE
ERADICATED.

ON THAT
STUPID GREEN
FACE!

IS THAT SO? WELL, I'M
GOING TO DO SOME
ERADICATING...

EASY, SUGAR.
VALDON'S MEANT
TO BE ON OUR
SIDE.

I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER!

SUCH BEHAVIOUR
MUST BE
EXPECTED
FROM
PRIMITIVES.

SO WHY ARE YOU REALLY
AGAINST YOUR LEADER,
VALDON?

TO UNDERSTAND,
O EARTHMEN,
YOU MUST KNOW
THE STORY OF MY
PLANET...

AND THE
ORIGIN
OF THE
MEKONS!

DAN DARE

PILOT OF THE FUTURE in FIREFLIGHT

DAN AND CO. WERE PUZZLED WHY VALDON SHOULD BE AGAINST HIS LEADER, THE MEKON. THE TREEN REPLIED THAT THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE STORY OF HIS PLANET.

I'VE READ MY ANCESTOR'S MEMOIRS. THERE WAS A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE HISTORY OF VENUS...

THE TRAGEDY OF VENUS IS THE STORY OF THE TREENS AND THERONS.

THEIR PLANET HAS ALWAYS BEEN SPLIT IN TWO BY A FLAMEBELT, WITH THE RESULT THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TWO HALVES HAS BEEN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT...

...AEONS AGO, THE THERONS IN THE SOUTH DEVELOPED A SCIENCE MORE ADVANCED THAN THE EARTH HAS NOW.

BUT IN THE NORTH A SEPARATE CIVILISATION HAD DEVELOPED... BARBAROUS, BRUTAL AND REPTILIAN...

THE THERONS BUILT AIRCRAFT TO CROSS THE FLAMEBELT AND EXPLORE THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE.

BUT WHEN THEY LANDED, THE TREENS ATTACKED THEM WITH GIANT REPTILES...

...FINALLY THE THERONS TRIUMPHED - THEY TAUGHT THE TREENS ALL THEY KNEW. BUT MACHINES BECAME THE TREENS' MASTERS, SO THEY LEFT THEM TO THEIR OWN DEVICES.

THE THERONS STILL HAD MACHINES - FLYING HOUSES - MECHANICAL ROADS AND FACTORIES...

WHICH LEFT THEM FREE TO CARE FOR THINGS THAT MATTERED... THEIR CHILDREN, GARDENS, BOOKS AND MUSIC...

AND FOR A CENTURY THERE WERE FIERCE BATTLES BETWEEN THEM...

Kennedy.

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BUT IN NORTHERN VENUS...

THE TREENS CARED ONLY FOR REVENGE - AND POWER.

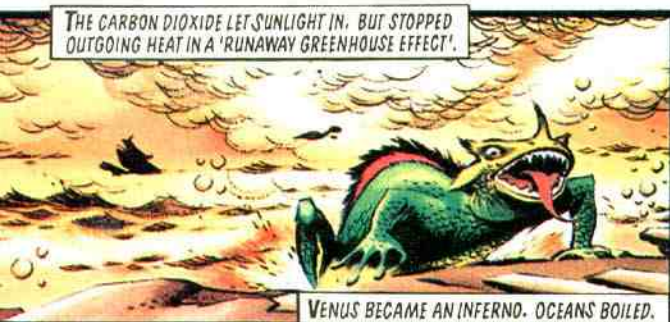
THEIR FACTORIES POURED CARBON DIOXIDE INTO THE AIR.



FORESTS, WHICH COULD HAVE ABSORBED THE GAS, WERE BURNT DOWN.

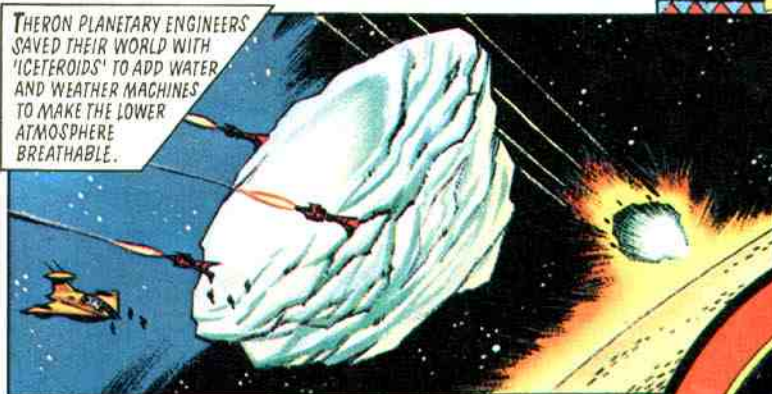


THE CARBON DIOXIDE LET SUNLIGHT IN, BUT STOPPED OUTGOING HEAT IN A 'RUNAWAY GREENHOUSE EFFECT'.



VENUS BECAME AN INFERNO. OCEANS BOILED.

THERON PLANETARY ENGINEERS SAVED THEIR WORLD WITH 'ICETEROIDS' TO ADD WATER AND WEATHER MACHINES TO MAKE THE LOWER ATMOSPHERE BREATHABLE.



MEANWHILE, IN UNDERGROUND BUNKERS, TREEN SURVIVORS MADE NEW PLANS.

MISTAKES MUST NOT BE MADE AGAIN! BUT OUR BRAINS ARE TOO SMALL... WE MUST BREED A SUPREME BRAIN TO GUIDE US.



YES. A VAST INTELLIGENCE - GREATER THAN THE HATED THERONS. IT MUST BE ALL-KNOWING! ALL-POWERFUL! THE GREATEST BRAIN IN THE UNIVERSE...



HOT SULPHURIC ACID RAINS FELL...



A MEKON!

NEXT WEEK: THE MAKING OF A MONSTER!

DAN DARE

PILOT OF THE FUTURE

HEADING FOR EARTH-FORT, DAN DARE RECALLS HIS FAMOUS ANCESTOR'S ACCOUNT OF THE TREENS' ORIGINS...

YOU TREENS ARE JUST APEING THE REAL BRAINS OF VENUS... THE THERONS!

RIGHT - THEY SAVED YOUR PLANET FROM THE 'GREENHOUSE EFFECT'.

ACCORDING TO TREEN RECORDS, THE MEKONS SAVED VENUS.

AFTER FIFTY YEARS OF INJECTIONS AND SPECIAL TREATMENT TO DEVELOP ITS ABNORMAL BRAIN, TREEN SCIENTISTS HAD PRODUCED THE FIRST MEKON...

LOOK AT THESE BRAIN READ-OUTS! SUCH GENIUS!

BUT HOW CAN WE BE SURE THE ARCH-BRAIN WILL GUIDE OUR RACE CORRECTLY?

BECAUSE I TELL YOU, AND I AM THE ULTIMATE INTELLECT. YOU WILL OBEY MY ORDERS WITHOUT QUESTION. NOW... THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE!

EACH MEKON LIVED FOR THREE HUNDRED YEARS. THEY BEGAN A RUTHLESS AGE OF SCIENCE IN WHICH EMOTIONS WERE BANNED AND ONLY THE STRONGEST CHILDREN WERE ALLOWED TO LIVE...

EATING WAS REPLACED BY FOOD INJECTIONS - UNTIL THE TREENS OUTGREW THEIR DIGESTIVE SYSTEMS AND ABSORBED NUTRIMENT IN 'FOOD BATHS'.

UNDER THEIR MEKON'S GUIDANCE, THEY BUILT THE INCREDIBLE CITY OF MEKONTA...

AND SPACE-SHIPS TO CONQUER OTHER WORLDS...

FROM THE TIME OF ATLANTIS TO THE PRESENT DAY, TREENS WATCHED THE EARTH; LANDING TO TAKE SLAVES AND SCIENTIFIC SPECIMENS...

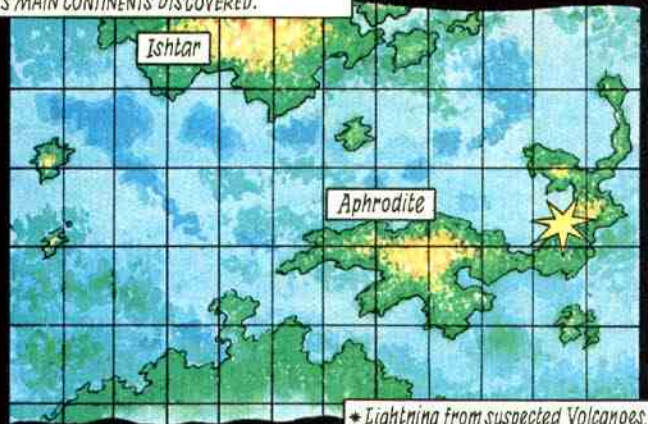
THEN THE EARTH PROBES BEGAN TO INVESTIGATE VENUS...

THEY MUST NOT KNOW OF OUR SUPERIOR CIVILISATION UNTIL WE ARE READY. FEED THE SPACESHIP DATA TO SUGGEST ALL VENUS IS LIKE THE FLAMEBELT, AN UNINHABITABLE FURNACE.

THE CURIOSITY OF THE HUMAN INSECTS PERSISTS. O MEKON. THEY TALK OF SEEDING OUR ATMOSPHERE WITH MICRO-ORGANISMS AND COLONISING US!

THEN IT'S TIME THEY WERE DEALT WITH. PREPARE THE EARTH PLAN!

BY THE 1980'S, VENUS WAS RADAR-MAPPED... ITS MAIN CONTINENTS DISCOVERED.



AND BEFORE THE TREENS' PLAN TO ENSLAVE EARTH COULD BE CARRIED OUT, DAN DARE LED THE FIRST MANNED EXPEDITION TO REACH VENUS...



...WHICH ENDED WITH THE MEKON'S DEFEAT.

SINCE THEN THE MEKON HAS FAILED MANY TIMES... HIS DEFEATS EVEN CAUSED SOME TREENS TO BECOME INFECTED WITH THE DISEASE OF EMOTION!

HIS HUGE BRAIN IS MALFUNCTIONING. HIS LIFE SHOULD BE OVER - BUT HE HAS UNDERGONE TREATMENT TO EXTEND IT INDEFINITELY.



THAT IS WHY I HELP HIS GREATEST ENEMIES. IT IS THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO BRING ABOUT HIS DOWNFALL AND REPLACEMENT BY ANOTHER ARCH-BRAIN.



A NEW MODEL WHO'LL LEAVE EARTH IN PEACE? OR WHO'LL MAKE A BETTER JOB OF BEATING US?



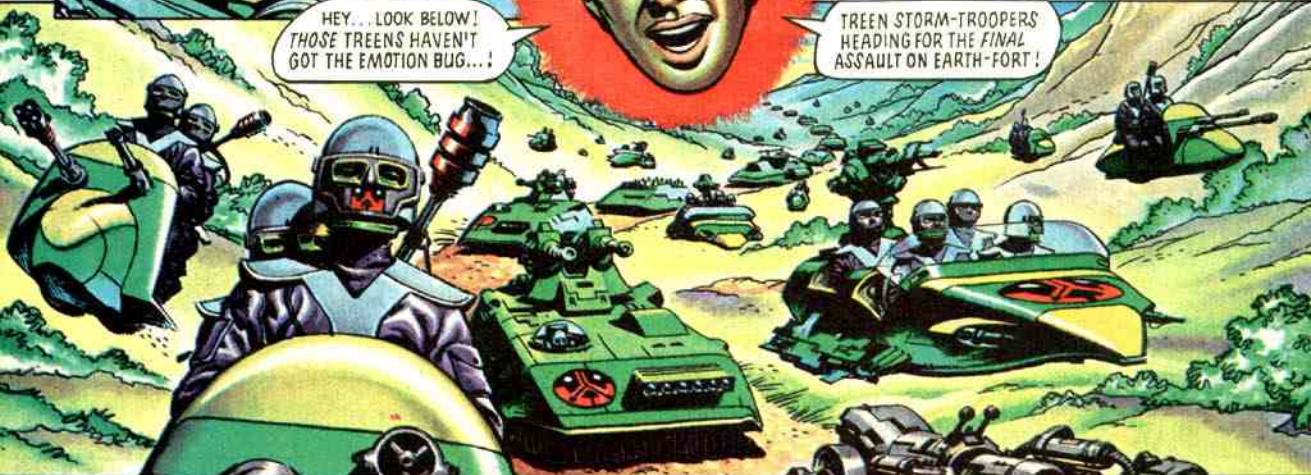
ONE DAY YOU COULD BE MY ENEMY, VALDON.

THAT WILL BE FOR A NEW MEKON TO DECIDE, SPACEMAN.



HEY... LOOK BELOW! THOSE TREENS HAVEN'T GOT THE EMOTION BUG...!

TREEN STORM-TROOPERS HEADING FOR THE FINAL ASSAULT ON EARTH-FORT!



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DAN AND CO. SEE THE MEKON'S TREEN ARMoured COLUMNS HEADING FOR THE FINAL ASSAULT ON THE RESISTANCE H.Q. CALLED EARTH-FORT.

TREEN TANKS FITTED WITH GRAVITON GUNS... THE MEKON'S LEAVING NOTHING TO CHANCE!

S.P.S. ONE, THIS IS GROUNDWAVE SIX. ADVANCED GUARD OF TREEN ARMoured COLUMNS CROSSING WYOMING BORDER SEVEN ZERO THREE ZERO. NX4 TANKS WITH SPECIAL MODIFICATIONS.

WE ARE ENGAGING - OUT.

I'D LIKE TO TAKE A CRACK AT 'EM...

ME, TOO. SINCE THE TREENS DESTROYED NEW YORK, EVERY TIME I SEE GREEN - I SEE RED!

RESIST THE TEMPTATION. REACHING EARTH-FORT IS ALL THAT MATTERS.

YOU'RE RIGHT. HOW ARE YOU, LIEUTENANT?

SORE. BUT I'LL LIVE - THANKS TO J.J.

THAT'S GOT TO BE A FLUKE!

DO I KNOW YOU?

THE MEDIC-ROBOT, J.J., HAD TREATED LIEUTENANT HELEN SCOTT'S INJURIES...

BELOW, CAPTAIN TAYLOR OF THE S.P.S. (SPECIAL PLANET SERVICE) VIEWED HIS TARGET THROUGH AN ELECTRONIC MONOCLE.

MISSILE OPERATORS... WAIT FOR THE COMMAND TANK TO PASS. THEN ENGAGE AT WILL.

FIRE!

SOMEONE STARTED THE PARTY WITHOUT US!

THE AMBUSH WAS ALSO WATCHED FROM THE TREENS' COMMAND-CARRIER...

WHY WERE THE HUMAN FORCES NOT DETECTED... AND DESTROYED?

THEY ATTACKED AT CLOSE RANGE, O GENERAL. OUR TRACKING SYSTEMS ARE DESIGNED FOR AIR AND LONG-RANGE ATTACKS.

ALTHOUGH THEY WEAR ORDINARY U.N. UNIFORMS, THEIR TACTICS AND EQUIPMENT SUGGEST THEY ARE THE SPECIAL PLANET SERVICE - ELITE SOLDIERS.

THEN THEY WILL MAKE AN EXCELLENT FIRST TARGET FOR OUR GRAVITON WEAPONS.

AND DARE'S SHIP, O GENERAL? IT IS STILL WITHIN RANGE.

THE MEKON HAS PREPARED A SPECIAL DEATH FOR THAT EARTHLING. ONLY DESTROY HIM IF HE INTERVENES.

Kennedy

GENERAL MONAD TO ECHELON COMMANDER NINE. BEGIN CLEARING OPERATION WITH GRAVITON BOMBARDMENT FORCE THREE!

THE HIGH-GRAVITY BEAMS CRUSHED MATTER.

WHAT KIND OF BEAM CAN CAUSE AN EARTHQUAKE?

DISENGAGE. ALPHA GROUP HEAD FOR RENDEZVOUS. BRAVO GIVE MAXIMUM COVERING FIRE.

MOVE OUT NOW!

THE TROOPS ARE TRYING TO MAKE THE CHOPPERS.

WE MUST HELP THEM.

NO. YOU MUST CONQUER YOUR PRIMITIVE EMOTION OF PITY.

VALDON'S RIGHT.

SORRY, LIEUTENANT - I'M NOT STANDING BY WHILE THOSE GREEN GOONS WIPE OUT OUR TROOPS.

YOU'VE NO CHOICE, DAN. BREAK OFF THE ATTACK.

PULL THAT TRIGGER... AND YOU'VE BLOWN EVERYTHING!

YOU BROUGHT ME OUT OF THE MEKON'S H.Q. BECAUSE YOU WANTED A PILOT... I'M GOING TO EARN MY KEEP!

DAN DARE

PILOT OF THE FUTURE in FIREFLIGHT

SPECIAL PLANET SERVICE TROOPERS PULL OUT AFTER BEING MAULED BY A TREEN ARMoured COLUMN HEADING FOR EARTH FORT.

WE'VE GOT TO WARN EARTH FORT ABOUT THE MEKON'S NEW BEAM WEAPONS!



BAIL OUT!

DAN DARE AND CO. WERE AT THAT MOMENT FLYING OVER THE DEVASTATION — ON ROUTE TO THE RESISTANCE BASE, EARTH FORT.

DAN! TURN BACK! WE CAN'T GET INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT!

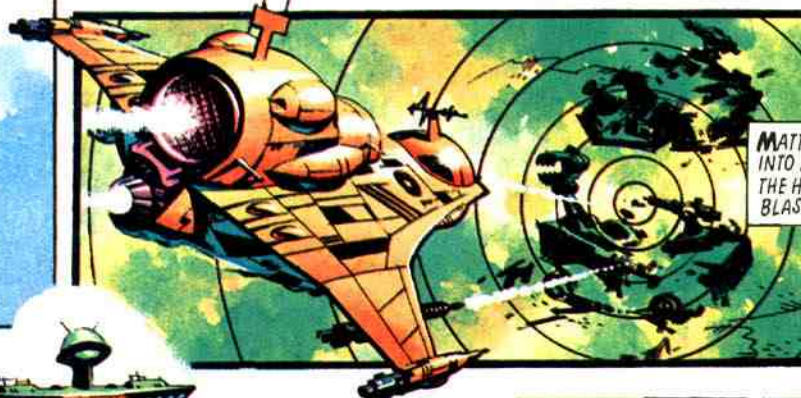
TREEN FIREFLY APPROACHING. THAT'S ALL WE NEED!



HEY — ITS PILOT MUST HAVE GONE CRAZY... HE'S ATTACKING HIS OWN SIDE!



LOOK OUT!



MATTER WAS SUCKED INTO THE CENTRE OF THE HIGH-GRAVITY BLAST.



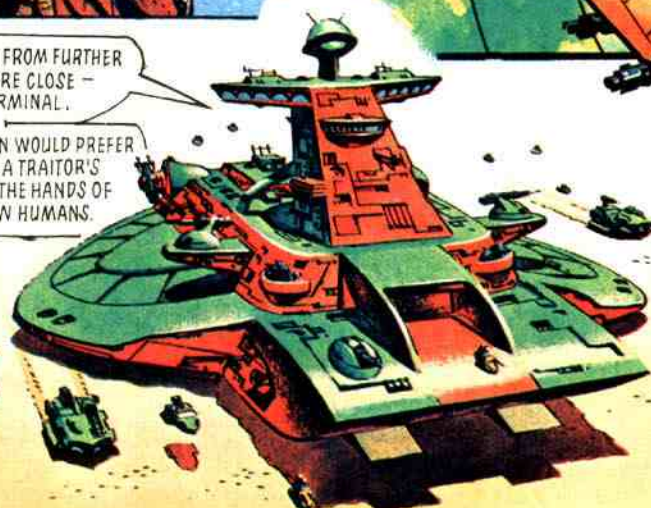
HAVE A NICE DAY!

HALF-TRACK'S ALL RIGHT, SIR. WE CAN MAKE IT BACK TO EARTH FORT.

WHOEVER THAT TREEN PILOT WAS... WE OWE HIM.

DETER DARE FROM FURTHER ACTION... FIRE CLOSE — BUT NOT TERMINAL.

THE MEKON WOULD PREFER HIM TO DIE A TRAITOR'S DEATH AT THE HANDS OF HIS FELLOW HUMANS.



TIME WE GOT OUT OF HERE.

YOUR ATTACK WAS FOOLISH.

DON'T LISTEN TO RENT-A-SCOWL, DAN.



THEN LISTEN TO ME... DO YOU REALLY THINK THE RESISTANCE GOT YOU OUT BECAUSE THEY WANTED A PILOT?

I'VE WONDERED, LIEUTENANT SCOTT.



YOUR FAMOUS NAME MAKES YOU A VITAL PROPAGANDA WEAPON... FOR THE MEKON OR THE RESISTANCE. THAT'S WHY WE HAD TO REACH YOU FIRST.

BUT WHEN YOUR SHIP ENTERED THE SOLAR SYSTEM, THE TREENS JAMMED OUR WARNING BEACONS...

VALDON AND I WERE ASSIGNED TO GET YOU OUT. YOUR FILE SHOWED YOU HAD AN IMPULSIVE NATURE - IF YOU KNEW WHY, YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT.

SO YOU FED ME A PACK OF LIES?

I'M IN U.N. INTELLIGENCE - NOT THE GIRL GUIDES.

SHE'S ONE OF MY BEST AGENTS.

J.J.!



MEANWHILE, AT THE MEKON'S H.Q.

THE FILM OF DARE HAS BEEN PROCESSED BY THE VISION SYNTHESISER, O MEKON. WE SHALL BROADCAST TO THE PEOPLES OF EARTH AND THE SOLAR SYSTEM IN TWO RONITS.

EXCELLENT! IT WILL APPEAR TO SHOW DARE TELLING HUMANS THAT FURTHER RESISTANCE IS POINTLESS.

AND MY OWN PART IN THE BROADCAST? DOES IT SEEM AS THOUGH I AM AFFLICTED WITH THE HUMAN DISEASE OF EMOTION?

THE SYNTHESISER IS MOST CONVINCING, SUPREME ONE. APART FROM EMOTION 17 - PITY - WHICH WE WILL SOFT FOCUS.

YES... I HAVE NEVER UNDERSTOOD PITY. BUT SOON DARE WILL BE DISGRACED AND EXECUTED... EARTH FORT DESTROYED... THEN THE NEW ORDER CAN BEGIN - IN WHICH THERE WILL BE NO PITY.



DAN DARE

PILOT OF THE FUTURE in FIREFLIGHT

NEW

USING A VISION SYNTHESIZER, SO HE APPEARS TO HAVE EMOTIONS, THE MEKON SPEAKS TO HIS EMPIRE.

THERE NOW FOLLOWS A BROADCAST BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE MEKON OF VENUS...

HUMANS OF EARTH AND LUNA...



THAT'S WHY I'M HERE. HUMANS HAVE ALWAYS LONGED FOR A HIGHER POWER TO GUIDE THEM... I AM THAT POWER!

TO EARTH CITY ON THE MOON.



THERE'S NO FUTURE WITHOUT THE MEKON. WE MUSTN'T FIGHT PROGRESS.

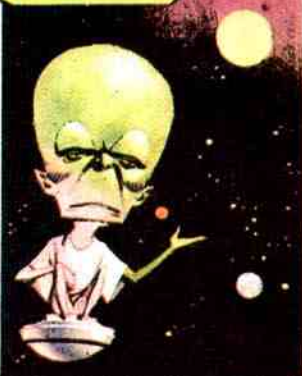
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SECRETLY FILMED... THEN THE FRAMES DOCTORED BY A SYNTHESIZER!

SHUTTLES ARE WAITING TO TAKE MANY OF YOU INTO SPACE...

THE MEKON'S TRICKED US... TURNED ME INTO A TRAITOR!



IT GRIEVES ME THAT OUR WORLDS - THE TWINS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM - SHOULD BE AT WAR... MOST OF YOU ARE TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER MY PREVIOUS VISITS TO YOUR PLANET...



THE STORIES YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT ME AREN'T TRUE. I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO HELP YOU.

THAT'S WHY I SET UP THE VENUS-EARTH FOOD SERVICE.



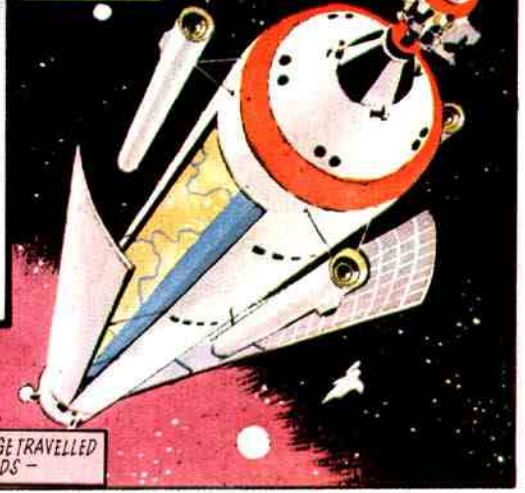
EARTH PEOPLE WATCHED ON HOLOVISION -

BUT LET'S THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE... I KNOW YOU FIND THAT DIFFICULT BECAUSE YOUR BRAINS ARE SO SMALL...



BY USING BRAIN RECEIVERS -

I WILL DO YOUR THINKING FOR YOU... FREE YOU FROM THE PAIN OF WORRYING... CARING... THEN YOU'LL BE TRULY FREE - LIKE MY TREES.



THE MEKON'S MESSAGE TRAVELLED TO THE SPACE ISLANDS -

MEANWHILE, DAN DARE AND FRIENDS WERE WAITING TO ENTER EARTH FORT'S DEFENCE SHIELD.

TAKING THEIR TIME.

SECURITY'S BOUND TO BE TIGHT.

HEY... A SIGNAL'S BREAKING THROUGH...

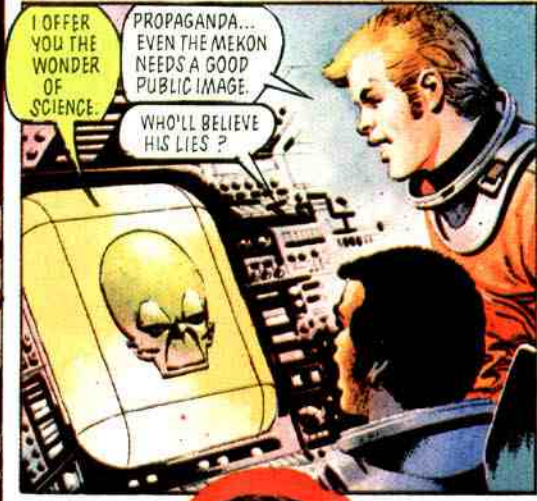


Kennedy

I OFFER YOU THE WONDER OF SCIENCE.

PROPAGANDA... EVEN THE MEKON NEEDS A GOOD PUBLIC IMAGE.

WHO'LL BELIEVE HIS LIES?



BUT THOSE OF YOU WHO STILL DOUBT... LISTEN TO THE DESCENDANT OF YOUR GREATEST HERO - DAN DARE!



HOW ON EARTH?

...TO BEGIN NEW LIVES ON OTHER WORLDS!

OUR ASSIGNMENT'S ABORTED. YOU'RE USELESS TO US NOW.

THE MEKON'S BRAIN WAS TOO POWERFUL FOR US.



I'M A PILOT. NOT A PAWN! I'D LIKE TO RAM HIS LIES DOWN HIS THROAT.



INSIDE EARTH FORT...

I SAW THE BROADCAST TOO, SIR. I AGREE... DARE MUST BE REGARDED AS HOSTILE...

I WILL ARRANGE TERMINATION...



SECTOR CONTROLLER



TELL DARE'S CRAFT TO GO TO AIR-GATE A9.
CLEAR SKY LANE ALPHA 2 OF TRAFFIC.
DESPATCHING FOUR A.P.D.S.



FLIGHT 312... GO
TO AIR-GATE A9.

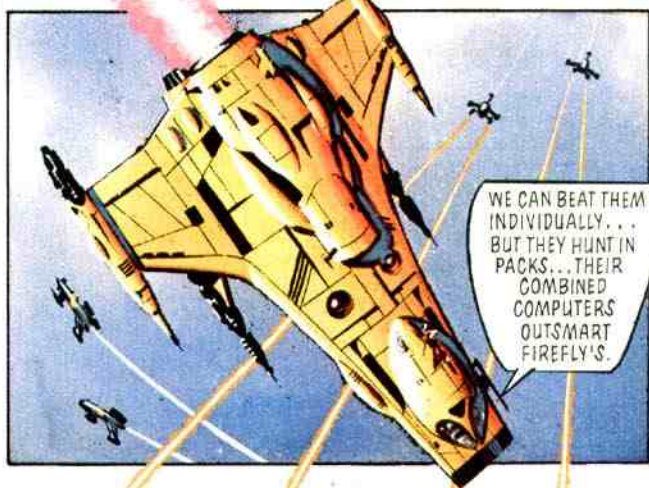
ROGER,
CONTROL.

WE'VE SOME
EXPLAINING
TO DO.



THEY'VE ALREADY DECIDED
WE'RE A THREAT... LOOK!
AUTO-PILOT DRONES!

LIEUTENANT - CONTACT CONTROL.
GET THEM CALLED OFF - FAST!
SUGAR - DATA ON
THOSE DRONES.



WE CAN BEAT THEM
INDIVIDUALLY...
BUT THEY HUNT IN
PACKS... THEIR
COMBINED
COMPUTERS
OUTSMART
FIREFLY'S.



LIEUTENANT SCOTT... GET ME THE
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

SORRY, LIEUTENANT.
I'VE BEEN TOLD
TO CLOSE DOWN
TRANSMISSION.



ONE ACE LEFT,
SUGAR... THE
GRAVITON
GUN.



NOT THIS TIME, DAN...
THEY'RE ZANGING TOO FAST!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE END!





INTRODUCTION: DAN DARE, DESCENDANT OF THE LEGENDARY HERO, AND HIS COMPANIONS, HAD REACHED EARTH FORT - THE LAST HUMAN STRONGHOLD ON TREEN-OCCUPIED EARTH. USING A VISION SYNTHESIZER, THE MEKON MADE IT SEEM DAN WAS A TRAITOR... AUTOMATIC DRONES WERE SENT TO DESTROY HIS SHIP, 'FIREFLY'...

DAN DARE

PILOT OF THE FUTURE

THEIR COMPUTERS HAVE THE EDGE, DAN... WE'RE IN A ZERO SURVIVABILITY SITUATION!

A RENEGADE TREEN PROVIDED ACCESS TO FIREFLY'S THOUGHT CONTROLS.

YOU ALL RIGHT, VALDON?

I AM A GRADE ONE TREEN, SPACEMAN. I WILL CONTINUE TO ACT AS THE INTERFACE FOR YOUR PUNY BRAINS.

BUT SOONER OR LATER FIREFLY'S COMPUTER WILL MAKE A MISTAKE - AND THOSE DRONES WILL POUNCE.

LIEUTENANT... TELL EARTH FORT THEY MUST ACCEPT OUR SURRENDER.

I TRIED... THEY'VE CUT US OFF.

THEN WE'LL SHOW THEM THE THREAT THE MEKON'S GRAVITON GUNS POSE... BECAUSE WE'RE BREAKING INTO EARTH FORT!

INSIDE EARTH FORT'S COMBAT INFORMATION CENTRE...

THIS DARE BUSINESS HAS GONE ALL THE WAY UP TO THE CONTROLLER.

HERE COMES SIR JOHN NOW... JUST OUR LUCK TO HAVE A BRITISH CONTROLLER - FIRST SINCE THE ORIGINAL DAN DARE.

FIGHTER DRONES ARE ENGAGING DARE NOW, SIR JOHN.

IS THIS MAN REALLY A TRAITOR?

IN THE SECURITY COMPUTER'S OPINION.

SPACE CHIEF MARSHAL SIR JOHN RAMSAY, SPACE FLEET CONTROLLER, STRIKE COMMAND.

YOU KNOW THE BRITISH - THEY LOOK AFTER THEIR OWN...

BUT THE DAMAGE TO THE ALLIANCE IS DONE.

AND THE MEKON MAY HAVE PLANTED A VIRUS OR BOMB ON HIS SHIP.

LIKE THE WAY HE BLEW UP THE TERRAN PARLIAMENT.

Kennedy

WE CAN'T LET DARE IN - IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.

THE SAFETY OF EF MUST COME FIRST. FINISH HIM... QUICKLY.

MEANWHILE...

CAN WE BREAK THROUGH EF'S INVISIBLE INCENDIARY OUTER SHIELD?

JUST. IT'LL HAVE TO BE A LOW PLUS-GRAVITY CHARGE...

OR WE'LL BE SUCKED INTO OUR BLAST WAVE.

COULD GET HOT.

NO HOTTER THAN OUT HERE!

LET'S DO IT!

SHIELD IS BREAKING UP. HEAD FOR THE GAP...



DRONES ARE FOLLOWING
US THROUGH...

AS THE INCENDIARY SHIELD CLOSED AGAIN,
ITS FLAMES CONSUMED THE PURSUING
CRAFT.



MADE IT!

LET'S LAND FAST AND
WAVE WHITE FLAGS!



VALDON!

WHAT IS IT?



VAST INTELLIGENCE...
TAKING OVER MY MIND...
PAIN!



YES, PAIN, VALDON... AS I BURN OUT
YOUR BRAIN CELLS - UNTIL I FIND
WHICH ONE CONTAINS YOUR
TRAITOROUS THOUGHTS.

MEKON!



I NOW CONTROL YOUR
SHIP, DARE...





EVERY
MONDAY
5th
March,
1983
22p

EAGLE

Australia 50c., New Zealand 50c., Malaysia \$ 1.50 IR 33p. (Inc VAT)

**MORE PAGES
IN SUPER**

3D

INSIDE

DAN DARE PILOT OF THE FUTURE

THE MEKON HAS MADE DAN DARE, DESCENDANT OF THE FAMOUS HERO, AND HIS COMPANIONS APPEAR TRAITORS AND A THREAT TO EF (EARTH FORT) — THE LAST HUMAN STRONGHOLD ON TREEN-OCCUPIED EARTH. NOW HE TAKES OVER DAN'S SHIP, 'FIREFLY', AND . . .

FIREFLY'S
OUTWITTING OUR
DEFENCES!

IMPOSSIBLE!

NOT IF THE MEKON
HIMSELF IS AIDING
DARE... HIS
INTELLIGENCE IS
GREATER THAN
OUR BATTLE
COMPUTERS.

I WANT A
GENERAL ALERT,
HARRY.

Continued on centre spread

Kennedy

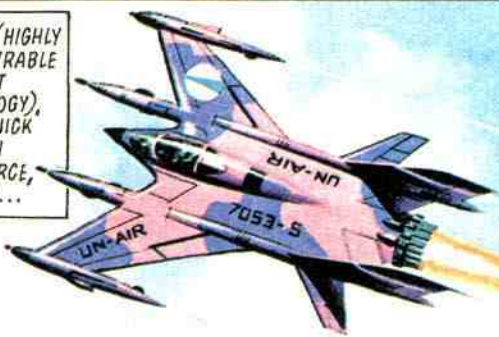
BIG ACTION PHOTO-STORIES — EVERY WEEK!



I'M SCRAMBLING 'HIMATS', SIR JOHN.

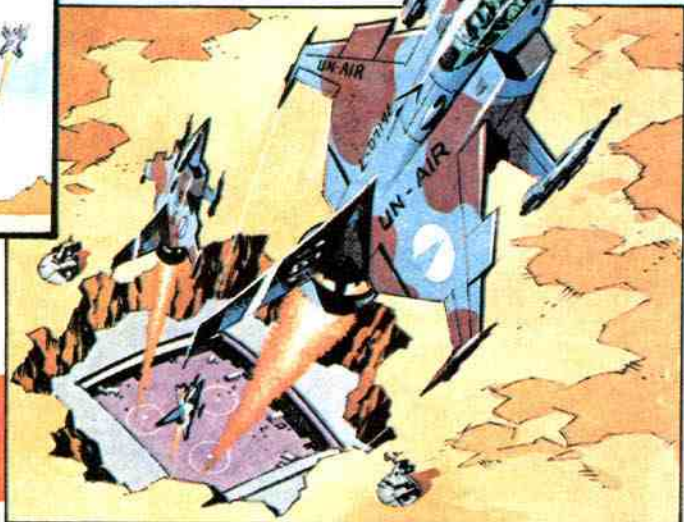
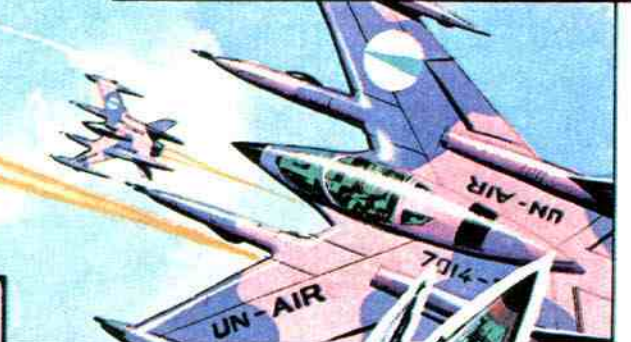
DANGER
AIRCRAFT
ARMED

HIMATS (HIGHLY MANOEUVRABLE AIRCRAFT TECHNOLOGY), OF THE QUICK REACTION ALERT FORCE, TAKE OFF...



IN FIREFLY -
VALDON!

SAVE THAT WORTHLESS TREEN IF YOU WISH, DARE. YOU WILL ALL DIE SHORTLY.



MEANWHILE -
HE'S USING A THOUGHT TRANSMITTER TO CONTROL FIREFLY'S COMPUTER.

CAN WE OVER-RIDE IT?

NO.

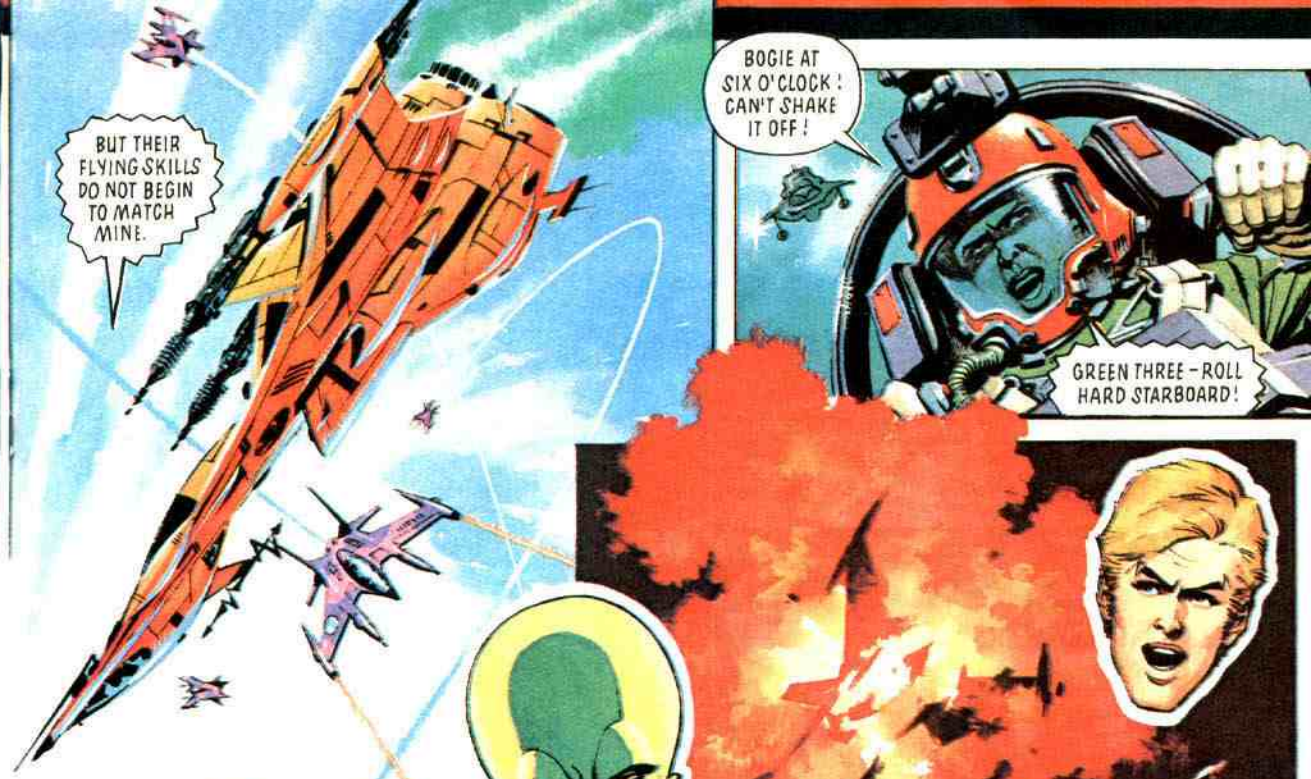
DID YOU ENJOY YOUR BROADCAST, DARE...? PROMOTING A WONDERFUL NEW LIFE FOR HUMANS ON OTHER PLANETS.

SEA AND SUNSHINE, COURTESY OF THE MEKON? ALL LIES!

IT'S VERY HOT IN MY MERCURY LABOUR CAMPS.

YOUR FELLOW HUMANS BELIEVE YOU'RE A TRAITOR. OBSERVE...

BUSTER!
BUSTER!



BUT THEIR FLYING SKILLS DO NOT BEGIN TO MATCH MINE.

BOGIE AT SIX O'CLOCK! CAN'T SHAKE IT OFF!

GREEN THREE - ROLL HARD STARBOARD!



THAT SHOULD CONVINCE ANY DOUBTERS.

QUICK! SMASH THE WEAPON SYSTEM - BEFORE HE KILLS ANY MORE!

AND THAT GLOATING GREEN FACE!



IF YOU CANNOT BEHAVE, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE CONTROLS AWAY.

YOU'RE GOING TO KILL US ANYHOW - GET ON WITH IT!

NOT TILL YOU KNOW HOW BRITAIN IS GOING TO SUFFER FOR SPAWNING DAN DARE!





EAGLE

30

Every
Monday
12th March,
1983

22p

Australia 50c., New Zealand 50c., Malaysia \$1.50, IR 33p. (Inc VAT)

DAN DARE

PILOT OF THE FUTURE

EARTH HEADQUARTERS OF THE
INTERPLANET SPACE FLEET -
NOW UNDER TREEN CONTROL.

COMMANDER - GRAVITON ANTENNAE ARE
TRANSMITTING AT FULL CAPACITY. ALL
MATTER WITHIN RANGE HAS BEGUN TO
DISINTEGRATE!

EXCELLENT.

EARTH PEOPLE'S PRIMITIVE
VEHICLES AND BUILDINGS
HAVE LITTLE VALUE.

THE INVISIBLE BEAMS WILL SOON
DESTROY SPACE FLEET H.Q.
AND ALL BRITAIN!

SATELLITE FERRY

Continued on
centre spread

MEANWHILE, THE MEKON HAS TAKEN OVER DAN'S SHIP, AFTER IT ENTERED EARTH FORT AIR SPACE - THE PLANET'S LAST HUMAN STRONGHOLD.

I COULD CRASH THIS SHIP INTO A MOUNTAIN, DARE... BUT I PREFER YOU TO DIE A TRAITOR - SHOT BY YOUR FELLOW PILOTS...

...ONCE YOU KNOW BRITAIN'S FATE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU MONSTER?

TAKE IT EASY, DAN.

DAN GLANCED DOWN AT SUGAR'S PALM...

KEEP HIM TALKING

IT WAS NO ACCIDENT I BASED MY GRAVITON ACCELERATOR IN BRITAIN...

THE HIGH-GRAVITY PARTICLES IT CREATES ARE BEAMED UP TO EUROPEAN POWERSATS, CONVERTED FOR THE PURPOSE.

WHEN I GIVE THE ORDER, CONCENTRATED BEAMS WILL BE DIRECTED AT EARTH FORT - CRUSHING IT!

MY GRAVITON TANKS WILL THEN MOVE IN TO FINISH OFF ANY SURVIVORS!

BUT TO DRAW SO MUCH POWER FROM THE EARTH'S GRAVITATIONAL FIELD WOULD MEAN -

YES, DARE. THE COLLAPSE OF MATTER. BRITAIN WILL SUBSIDE INTO THE SEA!

LEAVING A EUROBRIDGE TO... NOWHERE!

YOU CAN'T DROWN AN ISLAND BECAUSE YOU HATE ONE MAN. PLEASE - LISTEN -!

IF I WAS CONTAMINATED WITH EMOTION I'D ENJOY WATCHING YOU BEG.

BUT IT IS IRONIC THAT THE NATION SO PROUD OF ITS NAVAL HISTORY SHOULD FINALLY... SINK BENEATH THE WAVES!

A FITTING END TO YOUR ISLAND STORY.

DAN! I CAN BREAK THE MEKON'S CONTROL!

NO! STOP - OR YOU DIE, ROBINSON!

POWER IS BACK!

GIVE ME FULL THRUST!

J.J. - SEE TO SUGAR!

LIEUTENANT - TELL THOSE HIMATS WE SURRENDER. I NEED TIME TO CRASH-LAND FIREFLY!

J.J. - HOW'S SUGAR?

HE IS DEAD.

EAGLE

EVERY
MONDAY
19th MARCH
1983

22p

**MORE
PAGES
TO EXCITE
YOU!**

Inside

DAN DARE PILOT OF THE FUTURE

The Mekon has made Dan Dare and his companions appear traitors and a threat to Earth Fort - the last human stronghold on Treen - occupied Earth. Now, Decontamination Squads are sent to the danger zone where Dare's ship, Firefly, is expected to crash-land.

EARTH FORT PERSONNEL WATCH THE BATTLE'S FINAL MOMENTS...

THEY'LL CRASH ANY MOMENT.

ANY SURVIVORS WILL BE BIO-SCANNED FOR MICRO-BOMBS BY OUR CONTAM TROOPS - THEN TAKEN OUT.

CAPTAIN TAYLOR OF THE SPECIAL PLANET SERVICE IS UNABLE TO WARN EF OF THEIR MISTAKE...

INSIDE
FIREFLY...

IT'S TRUE, DAN...
SUGAR'S DEAD.

CONCENTRATE,
EARTHMAN -
THERE IS NO
TIME FOR
EMOTION!

THE TREENS MUST BE
JAMMING OUR LANDSATS.
I CAN'T RAISE EF...

Continued on centre spread

Kennedy





DAN DARE

PILOT OF THE FUTURE

The Mekon has made Dan Dare and his companions appear traitors and a threat to EF (EARTH FORT) — the last human stronghold on Treen-occupied Earth. Now, in order to isolate EF completely, Treen fighters are sent up to destroy Space Fleet Battlesats ...

INSIDE EF...

THE TREENS HAVE KNOCKED OUT EVERY SATELLITE OR AIRCRAFT OUTSIDE OUR DEFENCE SHIELD! THEY'RE STILL JAMMING ALL COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS.

SIR — THE SPS FORCES ARE BACK. WE'VE JUST ESTABLISHED CONTACT.

THEY REPORT TREEN ARMoured COLUMNS HEADING FOR EF... FITTED WITH NEW PARTICLE BEAM WEAPONS.

SIR JOHN... WE CAN'T BE CUT OFF! WE HAVE TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING OUTSIDE!

VERY WELL. YOU HAVE MY AUTHORITY TO BEGIN OPERATION DEEP PROBE!





Kennedy

Continued on centre spread

MEANWHILE, DAN DARE AND LIEUTENANT HELEN SCOTT ARE CONFRONTED BY EF DECONTAMINATION TROOPS WHO HAVE ORDERS TO KILL THEM. TO GAIN TIME, DAN TELLS THEM HE IS FITTED WITH A DEADLY MICRO-BOMB IMPLANT.

HE COULD BE TELLING THE TRUTH, MAJOR. REMEMBER, NO-ONE DETECTED THE ROBOT-BOMB THE MEKON USED TO BLOW UP THE TERRAN PARLIAMENT.

HE'S LYING! TAKE THEM OUT!

TRAITOR!

HERE THEY COME!

TRY AND LOSE THEM IN THOSE ROCKS!

VALDON!

YOU ARE SAFE, SPACEMAN!

HAVING TROUBLE?

JUMP FOR IT!

WE'LL VOUCH FOR THEM, MAJOR. IF YOU WANT THEM, YOU'LL HAVE TO COME THROUGH US...

MEANWHILE, IN THE OUTER SOLAR SYSTEM, OPERATION 'DEEP PROBE' HAS BEGUN. TELESCOPES THAT NORMALLY OBSERVE THE STARS TURN INWARDS... TO SCAN EARTH.

THE PICTURES ARE SENT BY SECRET FREQUENCY TO EARTH FORT.

GETTING THE FIRST PICTURES BACK FROM 'DEEP PROBE' NOW, SIR.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE TREENS WOULD ATTACK EF AGAIN. EVEN IF THE MEKON HAS A NEW SECRET WEAPON, IT CAN'T DESTROY ALL OUR DEFENCES.

SAN RAFAEL SWELL OF UTAH, SIR. HIGHER RESOLUTION PICTURES COMING UP...

GOOD GRIEF!

IT'S AN INVASION FORCE ALL RIGHT!

BUT OUR WEAPONS COVER THE COMPLETE DEFENCE SPECTRUM... FROM ULTRA-SONICS TO ATOMIC LOCKING WAVES. EARTH FORT CAN'T BE TAKEN!

TELL THAT TO THE TREENS!

CAPTAIN TAYLOR, SPECIAL PLANET SERVICE. YOU SAVED US OUT IN THE DESERT - WE FIGURED WE'D RETURN THE FAVOUR. THIS TREEN'S PUT US IN THE PICTURE.

AM I GLAD TO SEE THE GOOD OLD SPS!

ALL RIGHT - HAND THEM OVER!

THEY'RE SPACE FLEET - THEY STAY.

JUST BECAUSE THE SPS ARE ATTACHED TO SPACE FLEET DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO INTERFERE, CAPTAIN.

MORE PUZZLE PAGES FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY BOOKLET!

inside



Every
Monday
2nd
APRIL,
1983

22p

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DAN DARE PILOT OF THE FUTURE



A TREEN ARMY, ARMED WITH THE MEKON'S GRAVITON WEAPONS, HEADS FOR EF (EARTH FORT).

MEANWHILE, DAN DARE - BRANDED A TRAITOR - ESCAPES EF TROOPS ORDERED TO KILL HIM. HE MEETS A SPECIAL PLANET SERVICE SQUAD WHO CAN PROVE HIS INNOCENCE.

CAPTAIN TAYLOR: H.Q. ACCEPT OUR REPORT ABOUT 'FIREFLY' HELPING U.S. WE'RE TO TAKE DARE AND HIS FRIENDS IN - ALIVE!

WHAT?

YOU EF TROOPS OWE DARE AN APOLOGY, MAJOR.

JUST WHO DO YOU SPS THINK YOU ARE?

GENTLEMEN... APOLOGIES ARE A LITTLE LATE FOR ONE OF MY CREW.

HE'S DEAD.

Continued on centre spread



I'M SORRY, DARE. BUT WE COULDN'T TAKE CHANCES WITH THE MEKON IN CONTROL OF YOUR SHIP.

MY CREWMAN DIED BREAKING THAT CONTROL, MAJOR.



WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR FRIEND'S BODY.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT MYSELF, MAJOR!



WE'RE SALVAGING 'FIREFLY' FOR THE BOFFINS TO LOOK OVER.

AND SUGAR?



BUT THEY'RE WAITING TO DEBRIEF YOU!

LET THEM WAIT!

WE'LL HELP, DAN.



THANKS, SUGAR. WE WON'T FORGET YOU.

HE WAS A MOST EFFICIENT HUMAN.



NOW FOR THE TOP BRASS... THOUGH IT BEATS ME HOW THE MEKON CAN BE STOPPED.

RELAX, DARE. GRAVITON TANKS AREN'T ENOUGH TO DESTROY EARTH FORT.



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THE REAL DANGER'S FROM SPACE! THE...

DAN! WHAT'S THE MATTER?

PUT YOUR FOOT DOWN!



MEDICS!

D'YOU KNOW WHAT'S WRONG, VALDON?

THE STRAIN OF FLYING A THOUGHT-CONTROLLED SHIP WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIS BRAIN.



TO PREVENT TIREDNESS, THE SHIP'S COMPUTER STIMULATES THE PILOT'S BRAIN. THIS DOESN'T AFFECT TREES AFTERWARDS, BUT HUMAN BRAINS ARE INFERIOR TO OURS.



WE'RE INDEBTED TO YOU ALL FOR THIS INFORMATION. ...HOW IS DARE?

RECOVERING SLOWLY, SIR JOHN.

LATER, IN THE COMBAT INFORMATION CENTRE...

...SO THE ATTACK WILL COME FROM SPACE, LIEUTENANT? FROM THE POWERSATS?

THE MEKON BOASTED OF IT, SIR JOHN. HE DIDN'T THINK WE'D SURVIVE.

GOOD... RIGHT NOW I WANT A FULL-SCALE ATTACK ON THOSE POWERSATS.

THEY MUST BE DESTROYED!



MEANWHILE, AN ENQUIRY HAS BEEN SET UP UNDER SPACE VICE-MARSHAL GORSHKOV.

SIR JOHN HAS ORDERED THIS ENQUIRY TO CONSIDER DARE'S FUTURE. TO ENSURE HE'S NO LONGER A SECURITY RISK.

YES. WE MUST LOOK AT HIS PROPAGANDA BROADCAST FOR THE MEKON!



GENTLEMEN...WE HAVE TO DECIDE IF DARE GETS A MEDAL - OR A COURT MARTIAL!