

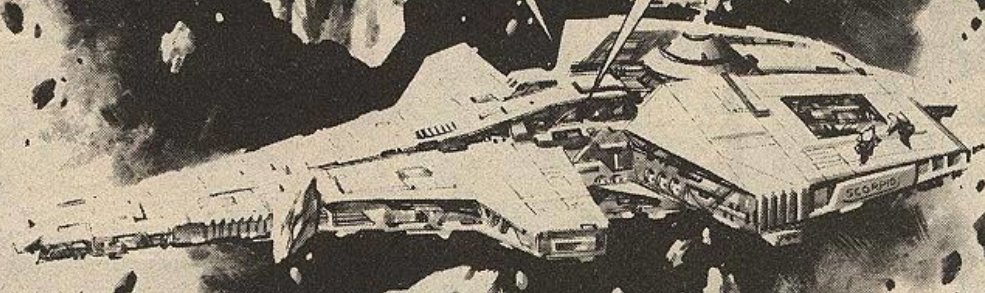
"Forget the blasted engine! Three Federation ships are coming this way."

MISSION OF MERCY

RETURNING TO THE PLANET XENON, THE FREIGHTER, SCORPIO, DEVELOPED A SERIOUS ENGINE MALFUNCTION. WHILE SHELTERING FROM FEDERATION SCANNERS IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ASTEROID BELT, TARRANT AND DAYNA EFFECT EMERGENCY REPAIRS.

HOW MUCH LONGER ARE THOSE TWO GOING TO TAKE? WE'RE SITTING TARGETS FOR ANY FEDERATION PATROLS!

THEY'RE WORKING AS FAST AS THEY CAN, AVON, BUT THEY CAN'T RUSH THE JOB. THIS OLD CRATE IS NOT LIKE THE LIBERATOR. IT NEEDS TO BE NURSED ALONG.



Kennedy

ESTIMATE TO WORK COMPLETION IS EIGHT-POINT-SIX MINUTES.

THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, AVON. EIGHT MINUTES IS NOT LONG.

JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO BE BLOWN TO KINGDOM-COME. WHY DON'T THEY GET A MOVE ON? I HATE BEING STRANDED LIKE THIS!

SUDDENLY, THE FLIGHT DECK ALARM SYSTEM BLARED INTO LIFE...

FEDERATION SECURITY SHIPS! APPROACH VECTOR NOT YET COMPUTED!

AVON, WE'RE DONE FOR!

UHH? GET THE INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY! RECALL TARRANT AND DAYNA!

PREDICTED COURSE WILL BRING THEM WITHIN EIGHT-HUNDRED SPACIALS OF OUR LOCATION.

TOO CLOSE! THEY COULDN'T FAIL TO SPOT US AT THAT RANGE.

WHAT'S ALL THE PANIC FOR, AVON? WE STILL HAVE SOME WORK TO DO ON THE ENGINE BEFORE IT'S FULLY FUNCTIONING.

ON THE COMMAND DECK OF THE LEADING FEDERATION SHIP...

FORGET THE BLASTED ENGINE! THREE FEDERATION SHIPS ARE COMING THIS WAY. THEY'LL CATCH US COLD, BATTLE STATIONS!

COMMANDER! THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE AHEAD. I CAN'T QUITE MAKE IT OUT.

LET ME SEE!

A FIGHT, EH? RIGHT... LET'S JUST SEE WHAT THIS OLD TUB CAN DO!



IT LOOKS LIKE AN OLD FREIGHTER. BUT WHAT'S IT DOING IN THE ASTEROID BELT?

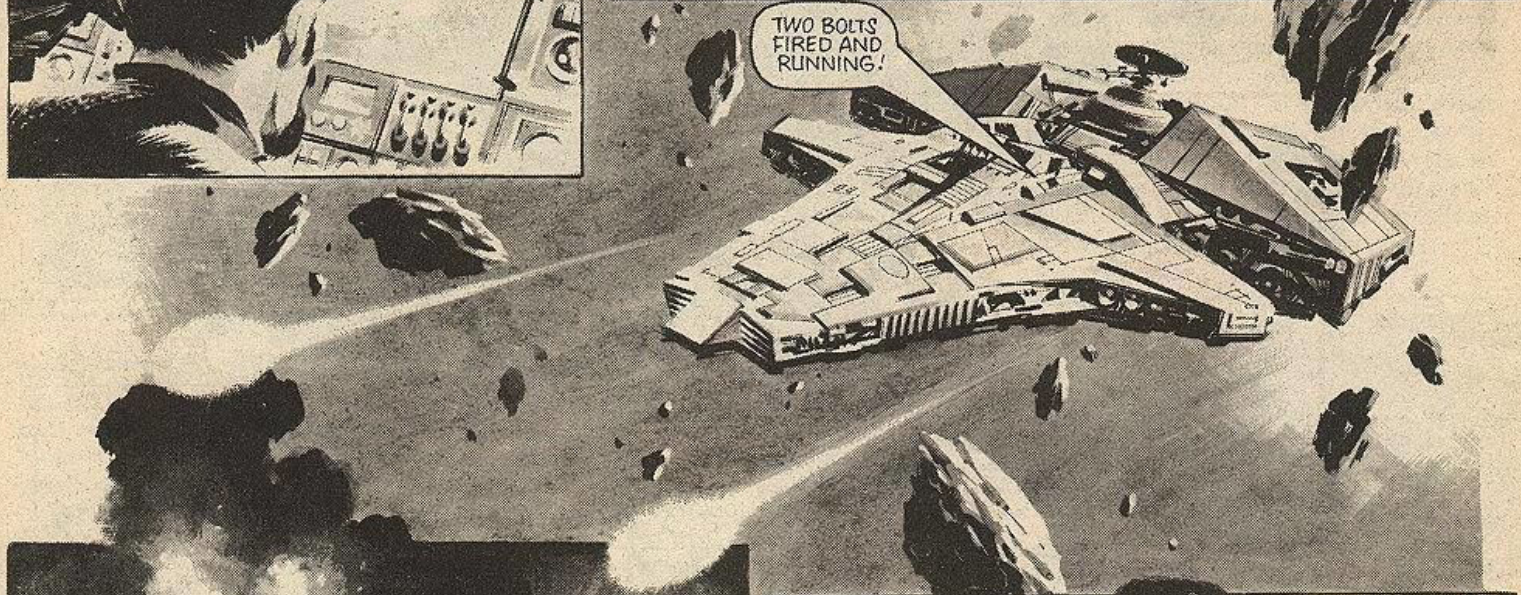
IT'S HIDING, THAT'S WHAT, I'LL BET THERE'S A CONTRABAND CARGO ON BOARD. WELL... THEY'LL FIND OUT THEY CAN'T SMUGGLE STUFF IN MY SECTOR WITHOUT PAYING US OUR SHARE. MOVE IN!



NEGATIVE POWER FROM MAIN DRIVE... WE'RE STILL STUCK HERE... AND THE FEDERATION SHIPS HAVE LOCATED US.

THEN WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT!

I'M TRACKING THEM. JUST A BIT CLOSER, MY BEAUTIES...



TWO BOLTS FIRED AND RUNNING!



COMMANDER... THEY'RE FIRING— THE OTHER SHIPS..!

BREAK AWAY! HIT THE FORCE WALL! THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL US!



COMMANDER, WE'LL HAVE TO DISENGAGE! WE'RE DAMAGED!

A CURSE ON YOU WHOEVER YOU ARE! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS...! I SWEAR!



WOWEE! YOU DID IT! WHAT SHOOTING!

OH, IT WAS NOTHING!

CORRECT, TARRANT! IT WAS NOTHING!



JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN, AVON? I'LL BET YOU COULDN'T HAVE PULLED OFF A SHOT LIKE THAT! IT WAS BRILLIANT!

OF COURSE IT WAS!

YOU THINK SO? THAT FEDERATION SHIP IS STILL FLYING, ISN'T IT? IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT TO BASE FOR HELP - THEN THIS SECTOR WILL BE SWARMING WITH PURSUIT SHIPS! SO GET US OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE'RE BLASTED FROM THE SOLAR SYSTEM!

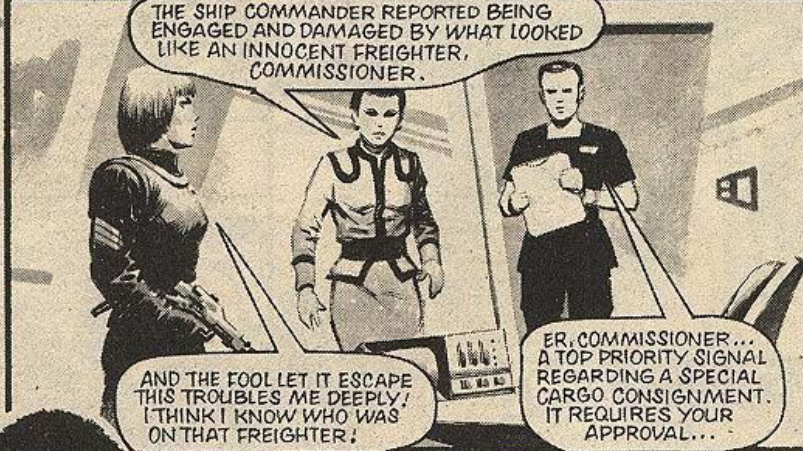


MEANWHILE, AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES...

CLEAR LANDING AREA DAMAGED SHIP, EMERGENCY LANDING!

THE COMMANDER OF THAT SHIP... I WANT HIM IN MY OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

AT ONCE, COMMISSIONER!



THE SHIP COMMANDER REPORTED BEING ENGAGED AND DAMAGED BY WHAT LOOKED LIKE AN INNOCENT FREIGHTER, COMMISSIONER.

AND THE FOOL LET IT ESCAPE THIS TROUBLES ME DEEPLY! I THINK I KNOW WHO WAS ON THAT FREIGHTER!

ER, COMMISSIONER... A TOP PRIORITY SIGNAL REGARDING A SPECIAL CARGO CONSIGNMENT. IT REQUIRES YOUR APPROVAL...



NOW, COMMANDER. EXPLAIN WHY YOU LOST TWO SHIPS, DAMAGED YOUR OWN... AND LET THE ATTACKERS GO FREE!

I... I COULD NOT HELP IT, COMMISSIONER. IT LOOKED LIKE AN ORDINARY CARGO VESSEL. WE DIDN'T SEE THE GUNS UNTIL TOO LATE. BUT I DID SEE THE NAME ON THE SHIP BEFORE WE DISENGAGED IT WAS THE 'SCORPIO'.



CARGO REPORT? PAH! I'LL DEAL WITH IT IN GOOD TIME... BUT THERE IS SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO BE DONE! GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!

ER, AT ONCE COMMISSIONER.



I KNEW IT! THE TERRORISTS LED BY THAT CUR, AVON! YOU MUST TELL ME THE SECTOR WHERE THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE... IMMEDIATELY!

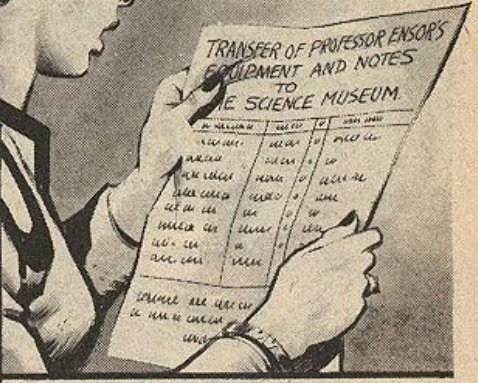
I HAVE THE CO-ORDINATES COMMISSIONER. BUT WHAT HAPPENS NOW?



THE TERRORISTS WILL BE HUNTED DOWN AND KILLED... AND YOU WILL BE TAKEN TO THE PUNISHMENT CHAMBER FOR FAILING IN YOUR DUTY REMOVE THE CREATURE!

COMMISSIONER... PLEASE, NO! I BEG OF YOU...!

HOW SHALL I TRAP THESE TERRORISTS? BUT WHAT'S THIS IN THE CARGO MANIFEST? ENSOR'S EFFECTS? HE WAS THE INVENTOR OF ORAC! I DID NOT KNOW HE HAD CREATED SUCH A DEVICE! MUTIIDS... COME, WE HAVE WORK TO DO!



TRANSFER OF PROFESSOR ENSOR'S EQUIPMENT AND NOTES TO THE SCIENCE MUSEUM.

A FEW MOMENTS LATER IN THE CARGO TRANSPORT SECTION...



STAND ASIDE, YOU MEN. I AM REMOVING PART OF YOUR CARGO.

SORRY, COMMISSIONER. WE HAVE ORDERS NOT TO PERMIT ANYONE TO TAMPER WITH THE CRATES.



ER... IS THIS THE ONE YOU WANT, COMMISSIONER?

PERFECT... JUST PERFECT! NOW I HAVE WHAT I NEED TO RID THE EMPIRE OF ALL TERRORISTS!

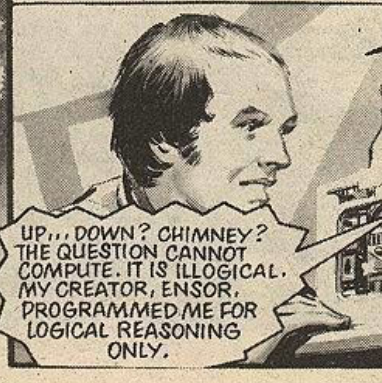


REMOVE THOSE INDIVIDUALS! I AM IN NO MOOD TO ARGUE!

AHHHIEEEE!

AHHHRRGH!

MEANWHILE, IN THE CREW ROOM BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET XENON...



UP... DOWN? CHIMNEY? THE QUESTION CANNOT COMPUTE. IT IS ILLOGICAL. MY CREATOR, ENSOR, PROGRAMMED ME FOR LOGICAL REASONING ONLY.

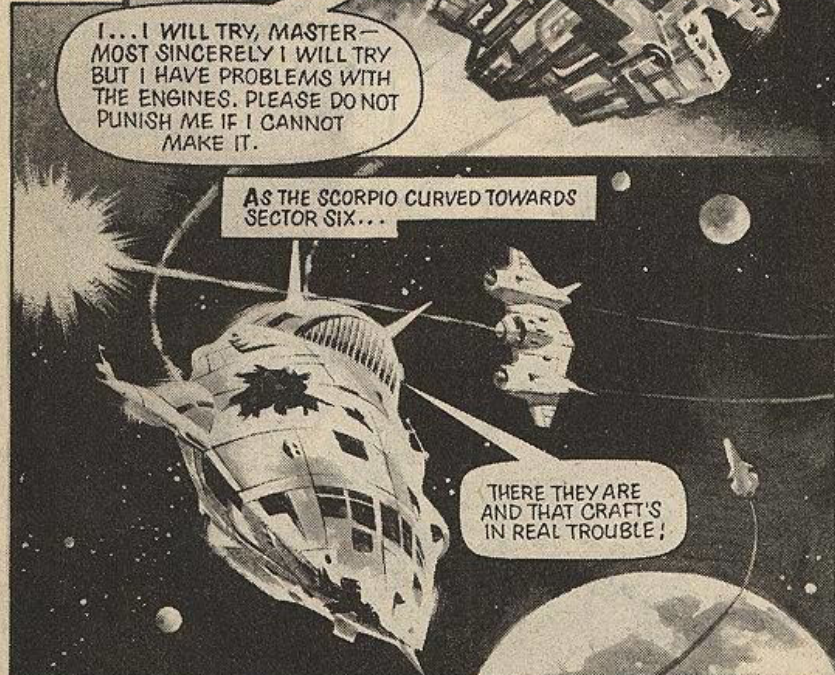
COME ON, ORAC, TELL ME. WHAT CAN GO UP A CHIMNEY DOWN BUT CANNOT GO DOWN A CHIMNEY UP?



STOP TEASING ORAC, VILLA. YOU KNOW HE DOESN'T LIKE RIDDLES.

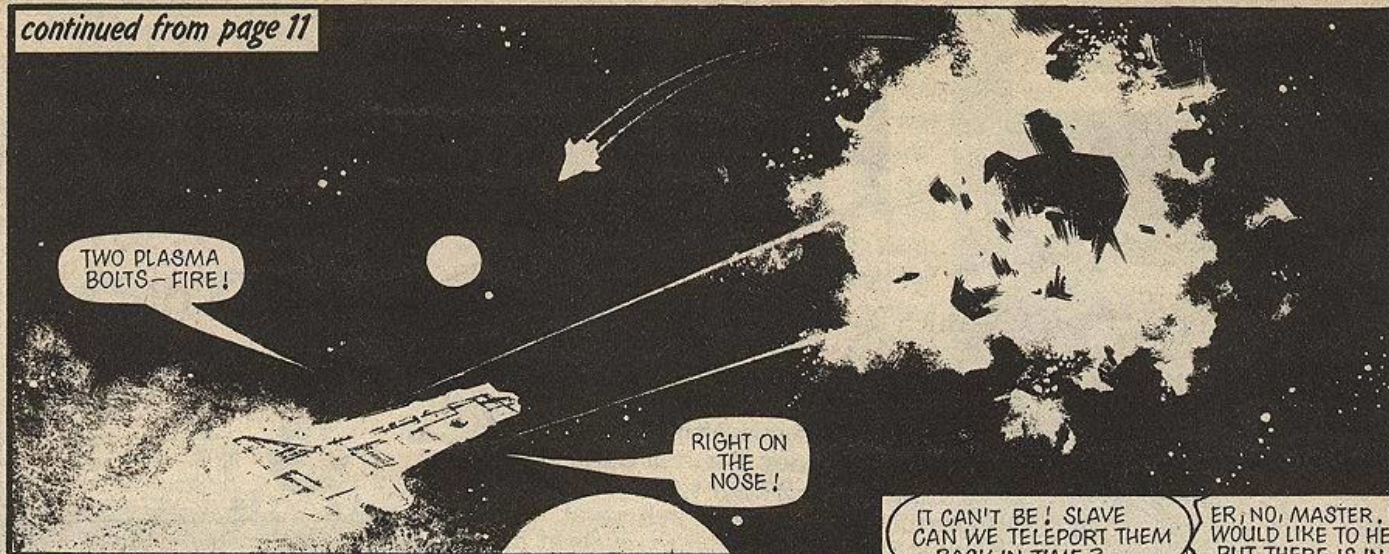


ON THE FEDERATION SHIP ALL WAS STRANGELY QUIET.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

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TWO PLASMA BOLTS—FIRE!

RIGHT ON THE NOSE!



IT CAN'T BE! SLAVE CAN WE TELEPORT THEM BACK IN TIME?

ER, NO, MASTER. I WOULD LIKE TO HELP BUT THERE IS INSUFFICIENT TIME THEY ARE DOOMED.

INCORRECT DATA! THERE IS NO TIME TO FLY A PARALLEL COURSE FOR EXACTLY TWELVE-POINT-NINE SECONDS.



ANOTHER FEDERATION SHIP TO CHALK UP! IT WAS TOO EASY. I HOPE THE CREW OF THAT SMALL SHIP ARE DULY GRATEFUL!

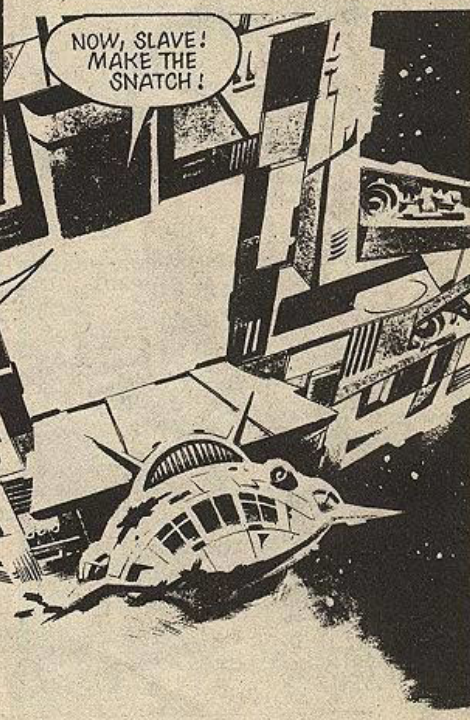
THEY WON'T HAVE TIME—THEY'RE BEING PULLED TOWARDS THE RED PLANET... AND TO THEIR DEATHS. IT'S ALL BEEN FOR NOTHING.

THAT DOES IT! SLAVE... MATCH THE CRAFT'S COURSE AND SPEED, THEN OPEN THE CARGO DOORS. WE'RE GOING TO SNATCH IT!

WHAT? YOU'RE MAD! YOU'LL TEAR US APART TRYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT! AVON, STOP HIM!



IF HE WANTS TO BE A HERO...



NOW, SLAVE! MAKE THE SNATCH!



IF THERE'S A CHANCE TO SAVE THOSE WRETCHES I'LL TAKE IT! NOW STAND BACK! THIS COULD BE TRICKY!

ER, CARGO DOORS OPENING, MASTER AND ALL CONNECTING DOORS SEALED.

I... I'VE NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE, MASTER PLEASE DON'T BE ANNOYED IF I DON'T GET IT RIGHT FIRST TIME.

THERE WON'T BE A SECOND TIME, SLAVE! WE HAVE FOUR SECONDS LEFT BEFORE SHIP IS BEYOND OUR HELP!



YEUCH! THAT HURT BUT I... I'VE DONE IT, MASTER! THE CRAFT IS IN THE HOLD!

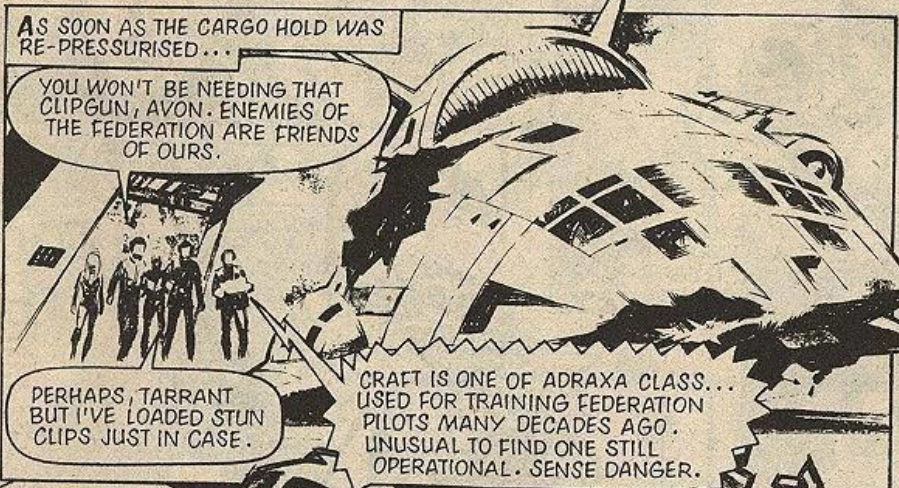
STOP CONGRATULATING YOURSELF, SLAVE... AND GET THE HECK AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE THE RED PLANET CLAIMS US! TIME DISTORT EIGHT!



IS... IS IT OVER?

YES, YOU COWARD YOU CAN COME OUT. PHEW, I WOULDN'T LIKE TO TRY THAT TOO OFTEN!

BEFORE YOU AWARD YOURSELF THE STAR FLEET CROSS FOR GALLANTRY, WHY DON'T WE TAKE A LOOK AT THE CREW YOU'VE SAVED?



AS SOON AS THE CARGO HOLD WAS RE-PRESSURISED...

YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THAT CLIPGUN, AVON. ENEMIES OF THE FEDERATION ARE FRIENDS OF OURS.

PERHAPS, TARRANT BUT I'VE LOADED STUN CLIPS JUST IN CASE.

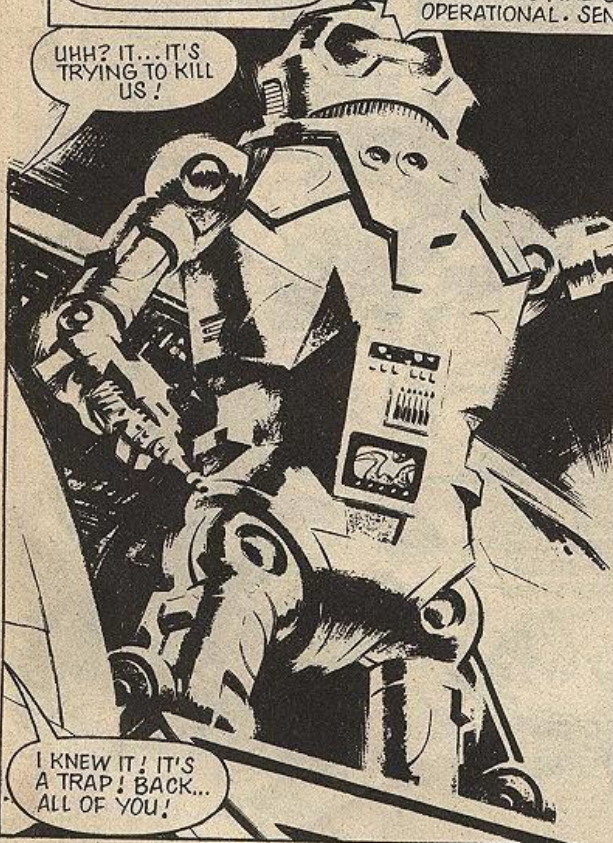
CRAFT IS ONE OF ADRAXA CLASS... USED FOR TRAINING FEDERATION PILOTS MANY DECADES AGO. UNUSUAL TO FIND ONE STILL OPERATIONAL. SENSE DANGER.



Y... YOU HEAR THAT — WE'D BETTER JETTISON THE THING IMMEDIATELY!

DON'T BE A FOOL VILA! NOT AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH.

IT'S TOO LATE ANYWAY, VILA. THE HATCH IS OPENING! NOW... LET'S SEE WHO OWES US THEIR LIFE!



UHH? IT... IT'S TRYING TO KILL US!

I KNEW IT! IT'S A TRAP! BACK... ALL OF YOU!



DESTROY TERRORISTS... SMASH THEIR MACHINE!



BY THE STARS THAT ROBOTOID'S A FEARSOME CREATURE! CAN NOTHING STOP IT?



IT'S RIPPING THROUGH THOSE STEEL DOORS AS IF THEY WERE PAPER!

BACK TO THE FLIGHT DECK! I'LL BREAK OUT THE WEAPONS. WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A STAND THERE OR WE'RE ALL FINISHED!



IT'S NO GOOD THE ROBOTOID'S STILL COMING!

ESTIMATE THE MACHINE WILL ARRIVE ON FLIGHT DECK IN TWO-POINT-FOUR MINUTES.

HERE... ALL OF YOU TAKE A WEAPON AND MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT PLASMA BOLTS IN THE CLIPS!

JUST THEN, WITH A TEARING OF BRITTLE METAL...

MY MISTRESS COMMANDS I DESTROY... AND DESTROY I SHALL!



IT'S HERE! VILA... GET A WEAPON AND HELP US!

Y... YOU MEAN FIGHT THAT... THAT 'THING'? Y.. YOU'RE JOKING!

'THING' IS ADVANCED ROBOTOID. A MASTER PIECE OF CREATION. MY SENSORS INDICATE IT IS ABLE TO REPEL PLASMA BOLTS.

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING FOR IT! TRY A MELLANBY SPECIAL YOU MONSTER!



FIRE!

INCREDIBLE! THERE MUST BE A FORCE FIELD ROUND IT!

IN AN INSTANT, THE ROBOTOID SEEMED CONSUMED IN A BALL OF FIRE. THEN...

RRRHHH! ENERGY DRAIN! ACTIVATE REVERSE ON ANTI-MATTER!

CONDITION STABILISED. PROCEED WITH DESTRUCTION!

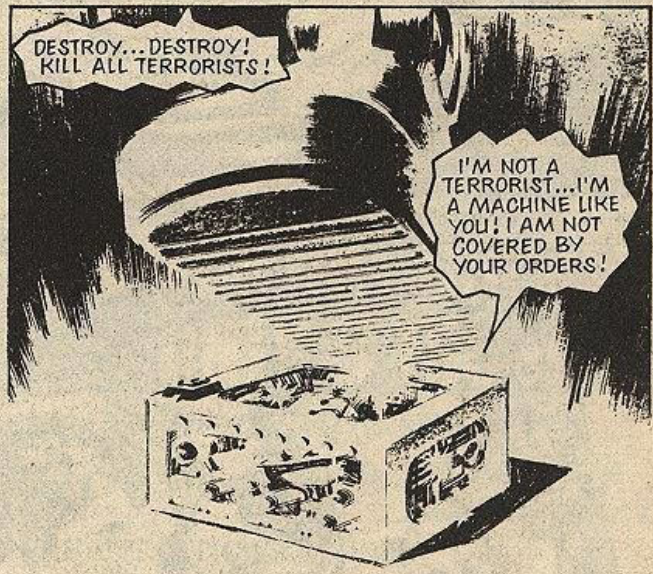
AHHHHH...!

NOTHING CAN STOP IT! I'M GETTING OUT BEFORE IT VAPOURISES ME!



ROBOTOID ON COURSE FOR ME! MACHINE MUST BE STOPPED!

ITS SHIELD IS WEAKENED BY DAYNA'S BLAST BUT THE BOLTS ARE STILL NOT GETTING THROUGH ORAC'S HAD IT! AND SO HAVE WE!



DESTROY... DESTROY! KILL ALL TERRORISTS!

I'M NOT A TERRORIST... I'M A MACHINE LIKE YOU! I AM NOT COVERED BY YOUR ORDERS!

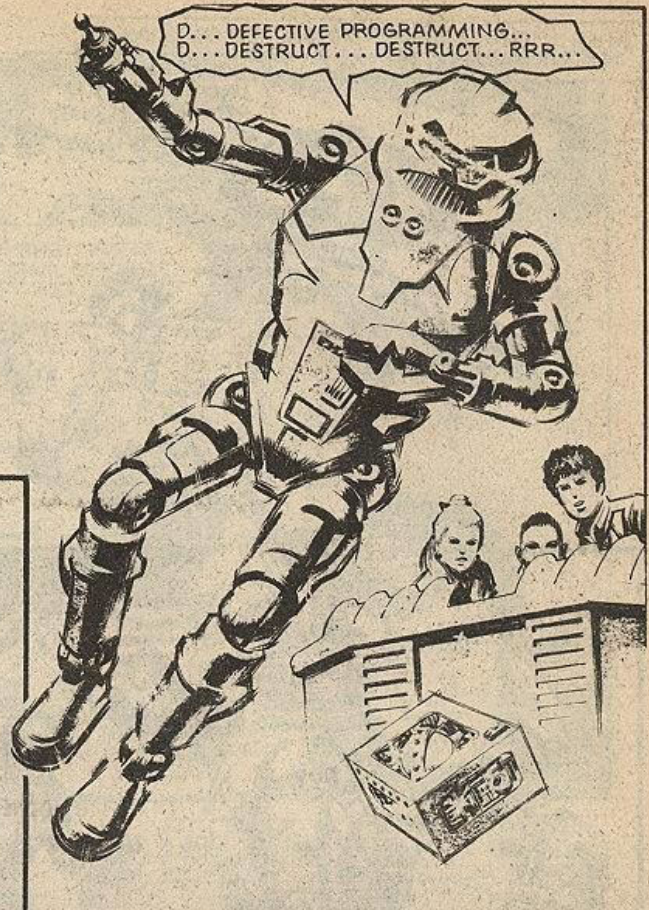
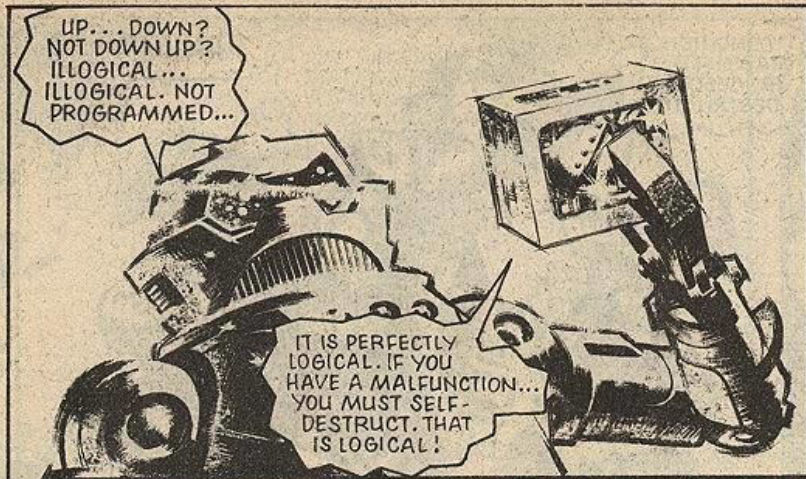
ONLY MACHINES CREATED BY MY MASTER, ENSOR, ARE PERMITTED TO SURVIVE. WE ARE THE ONLY BEINGS FIT TO RULE THE GALAXY... ARE YOU SUCH A MACHINE?

Y... YOU WERE CREATED BY ENSOR AS WELL? THEN ONLY A DEFECTIVE MACHINE WOULD OBEY THE ORDERS OF AN ILLOGICAL FEMALE LIKE SERVALAN

DEFECTIVE? NO MACHINES OF ENSOR ARE DEFECTIVE. WE ARE THE FINEST CREATIONS EVER... EVEN THOUGH I WAS ONE OF HIS FIRST EFFORTS.



THEN PROVE YOU ARE FIT BY ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING LOGICAL QUESTION. WHAT GOES UP A CHIMNEY DOWN... BUT NOT DOWN A CHIMNEY UP? ANSWER!



Join the crew of Scorpio for another nail-biting story next month!

AUTONA... PLANET OF LIES!

WE'RE LEAVING A TRAIL OF CRYSTALS BEHIND US. WHAT'S HAPPENED?

CRAFT'S SKIN DAMAGED IN SECTOR E 12. ENTIRE WATER SUPPLY HAS BEEN LOST. LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS IN GRAVE DANGER, MASTER.

THEN WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE OUR CHANCES ON LANDING. TAKE UP POSITIONS!

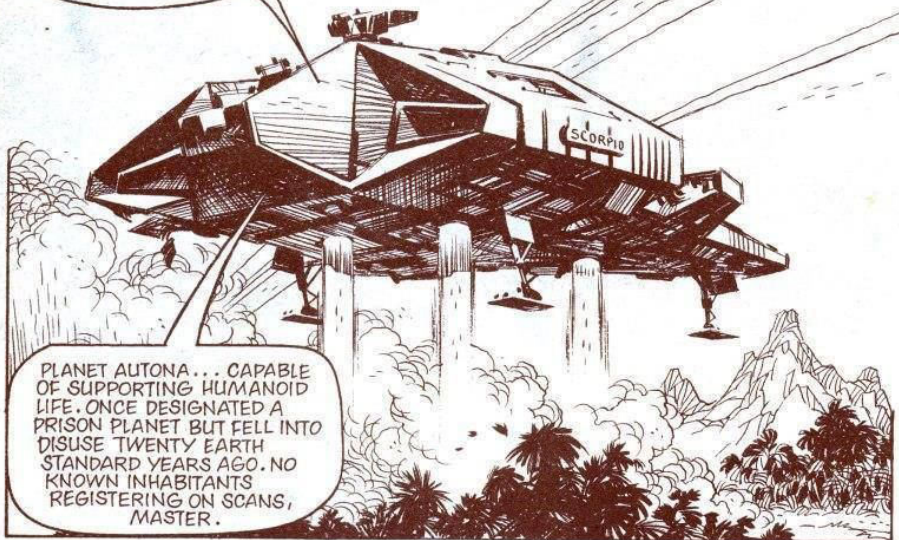
DAMAGED IN AN ENCOUNTER WITH FEDERATION SHIPS, THE SCORPIO IS ESTABLISHED IN A HOLDING ORBIT AROUND 'AUTONA', A REMOTE PERIMETER PLANET...



Kennedy

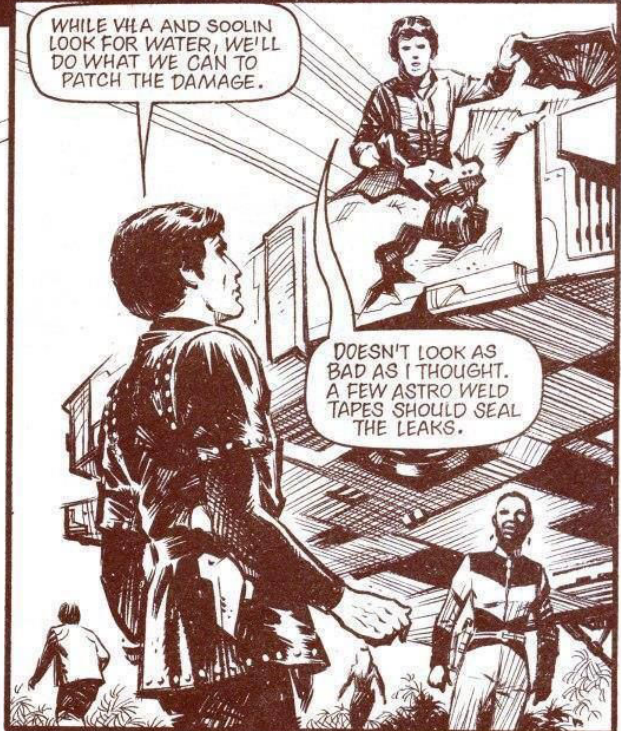
TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PLACE, ORAC.

PLANET AUTONA... CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING HUMANOID LIFE. ONCE DESIGNATED A PRISON PLANET BUT FELL INTO DISUSE TWENTY EARTH STANDARD YEARS AGO. NO KNOWN INHABITANTS REGISTERING ON SCANS, MASTER.



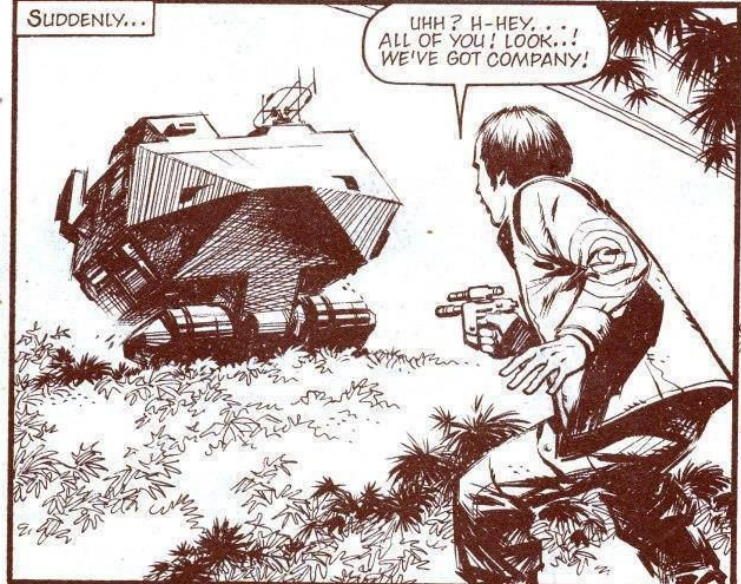
WHILE VHA AND SOOLIN LOOK FOR WATER, WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN TO PATCH THE DAMAGE.

DOESN'T LOOK AS BAD AS I THOUGHT. A FEW ASTRO WELD TAPES SHOULD SEAL THE LEAKS.



SUDDENLY...

UHH? H-HEY...! ALL OF YOU! LOOK...! WE'VE GOT COMPANY!



DON'T USE YOUR WEAPONS YET. WAIT UNTIL I TELL YOU.

TH-THE HATCH IS OPENING. WHO THE DEVIL IS INSIDE? I BET IT'S SOME HIDEOUS LUNATIC...!

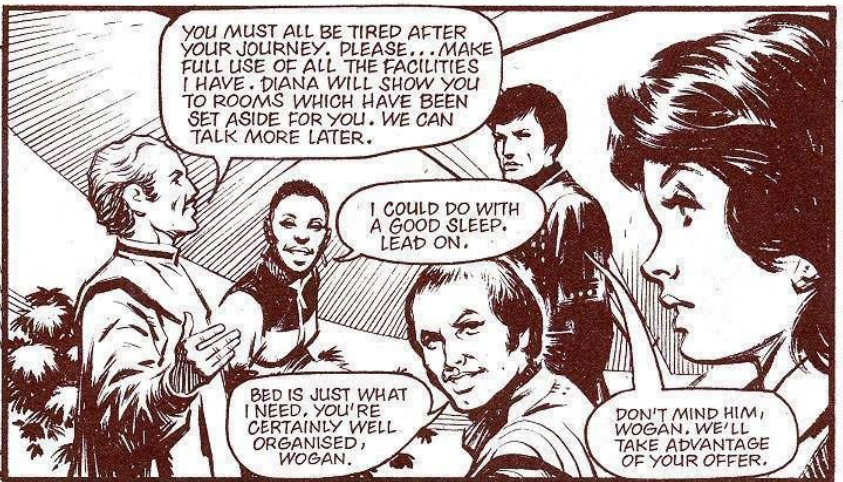




THE FEDERATION AND US HAVE HAD, ER, A DISAGREEMENT. WE AVOID CONTACT WITH THEM WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

HA... I GET YOUR MEANING. ON THE RUN, EH? WELL... NO NEED TO WORRY HERE. NO PATROLS BOTHER ABOUT THIS PLACE. BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU BRING THE REST OF YOUR CREW?

CAN'T HAVE ALL OF US ENJOYING OURSELVES AT ONCE. EH, AVON?



YOU MUST ALL BE TIRED AFTER YOUR JOURNEY. PLEASE... MAKE FULL USE OF ALL THE FACILITIES I HAVE. DIANA WILL SHOW YOU TO ROOMS WHICH HAVE BEEN SET ASIDE FOR YOU. WE CAN TALK MORE LATER.

I COULD DO WITH A GOOD SLEEP. LEAD ON.

BED IS JUST WHAT I NEED. YOU'RE CERTAINLY WELL ORGANISED, WOGAN.

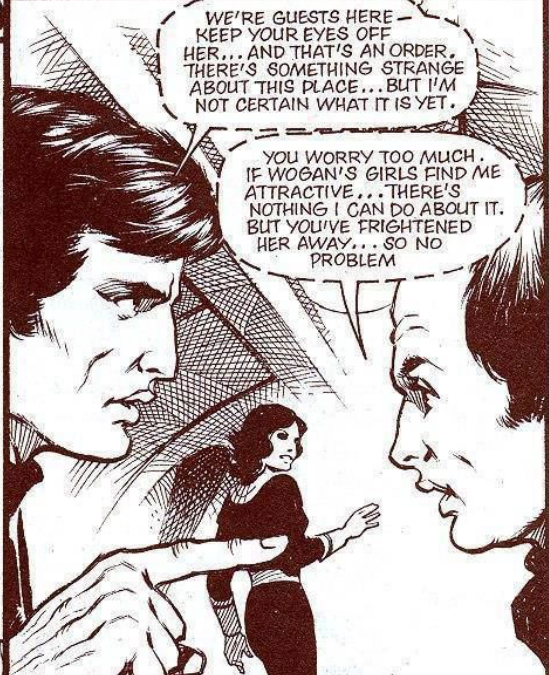
DON'T MIND HIM, WOGAN. WE'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR OFFER.



IN THE DARKENED REST AREA...

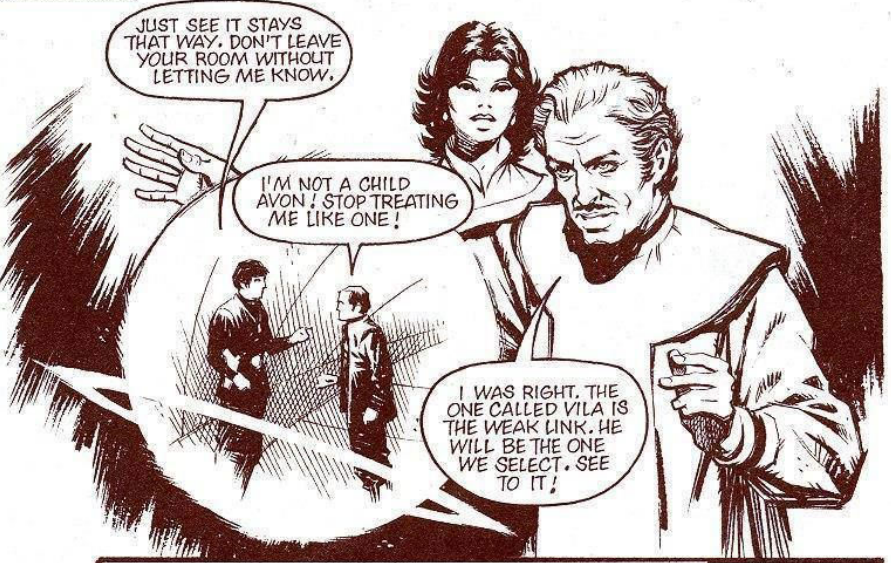
ARE YOU GOING TO TUCK ME IN, THEN?

VILA! A WORD IN YOUR EAR!



WE'RE GUESTS HERE - KEEP YOUR EYES OFF HER... AND THAT'S AN ORDER. THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS PLACE... BUT I'M NOT CERTAIN WHAT IT IS YET.

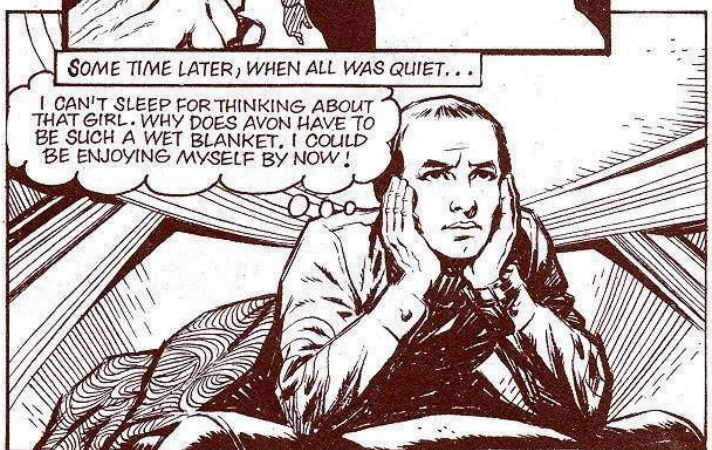
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH. IF WOGAN'S GIRLS FIND ME ATTRACTIVE... THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT. BUT YOU'VE FRIGHTENED HER AWAY... SO NO PROBLEM



JUST SEE IT STAYS THAT WAY. DON'T LEAVE YOUR ROOM WITHOUT LETTING ME KNOW.

I'M NOT A CHILD AVON! STOP TREATING ME LIKE ONE!

I WAS RIGHT. THE ONE CALLED VILA IS THE WEAK LINK. HE WILL BE THE ONE WE SELECT. SEE TO IT!



SOME TIME LATER, WHEN ALL WAS QUIET...

I CAN'T SLEEP FOR THINKING ABOUT THAT GIRL. WHY DOES AVON HAVE TO BE SUCH A WET BLANKET. I COULD BE ENJOYING MYSELF BY NOW!



JUST THEN... THERE WAS A SOFT KNOCK AT THE DOOR, AND...

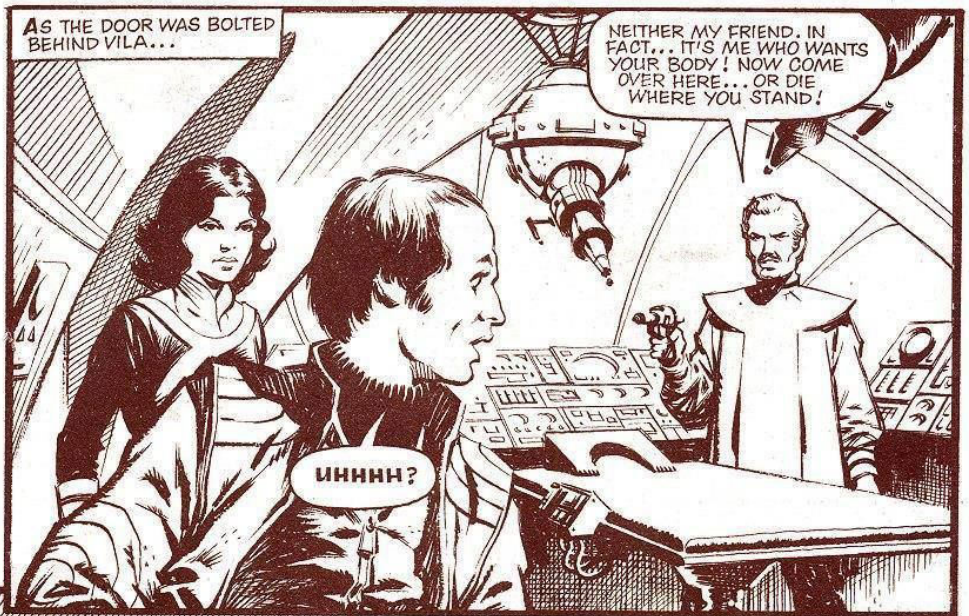
HOW ABOUT A LITTLE NIGHT-CAP? MY ROOM'S JUST ROUND THE CORNER.

UHH? Y... YOU BET! HOLD ON - I'M COMING!



IT'S THROUGH HERE...

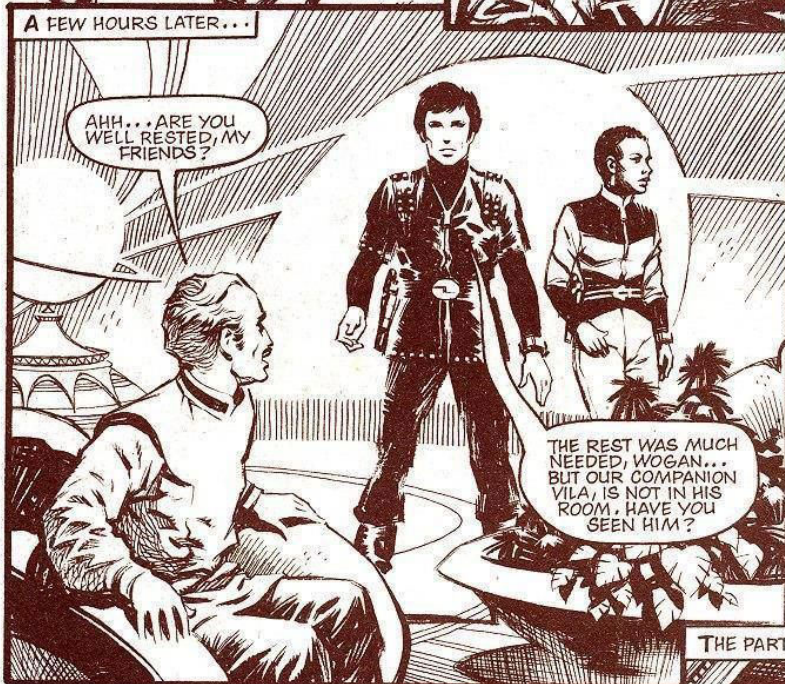
WHAT IS IT YOU LIKE ABOUT ME? IS IT MY WIT AND CHARM... OR JUST BECAUSE I'M SO HANDSOME?



AS THE DOOR WAS BOLTED BEHIND VILA...

NEITHER MY FRIEND. IN FACT... IT'S ME WHO WANTS YOUR BODY! NOW COME OVER HERE... OR DIE WHERE YOU STAND!

UHHHH?



A FEW HOURS LATER...

AHH... ARE YOU WELL RESTED, MY FRIENDS?

THE REST WAS MUCH NEEDED, WOGAN... BUT OUR COMPANION VILA, IS NOT IN HIS ROOM, HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?

HE IS PROBABLY HAVING A WALK ROUND MY COMPLEX. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO ASK YOU. WOULD YOU CONSIDER LENDING ME YOUR SHIP FOR, ER... JUST A SHORT MISSION?



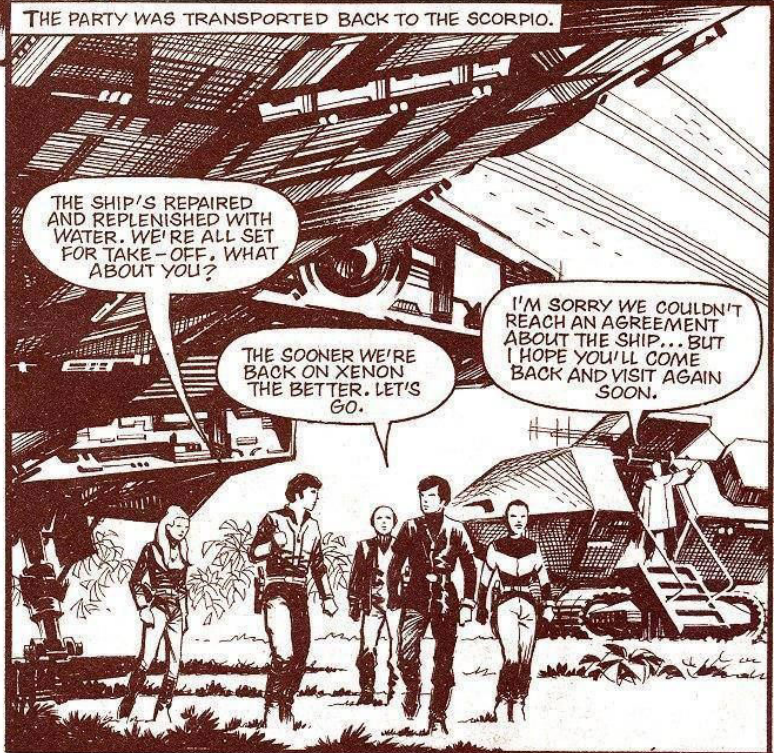
THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION. BESIDES, WHY WOULD YOU WANT IT? YOU SEEM TO HAVE ALL YOU COULD EVER WANT RIGHT HERE.



THAT IS QUITE RIGHT. IT WAS JUST A THOUGHT-AH... HERE IS YOUR FRIEND.

I TOLD YOU NOT TO LEAVE YOUR ROOM, VILA. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

I WAS BORED... SO I TOOK A WALK. COME ON... LET'S GET BACK TO THE SHIP.



THE PARTY WAS TRANSPORTED BACK TO THE SCORPIO.

THE SHIP'S REPAIRED AND REPLENISHED WITH WATER. WE'RE ALL SET FOR TAKE-OFF. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

THE SOONER WE'RE BACK ON XENON THE BETTER. LET'S GO.

I'M SORRY WE COULDN'T REACH AN AGREEMENT ABOUT THE SHIP... BUT I HOPE YOU'LL COME BACK AND VISIT AGAIN SOON.

A FEW MOMENTS LATER...



FAREWELL FOR NOW... BUT YOU WILL BE BACK SOONER THAN YOU THINK. I HAVE SEEN TO THAT!

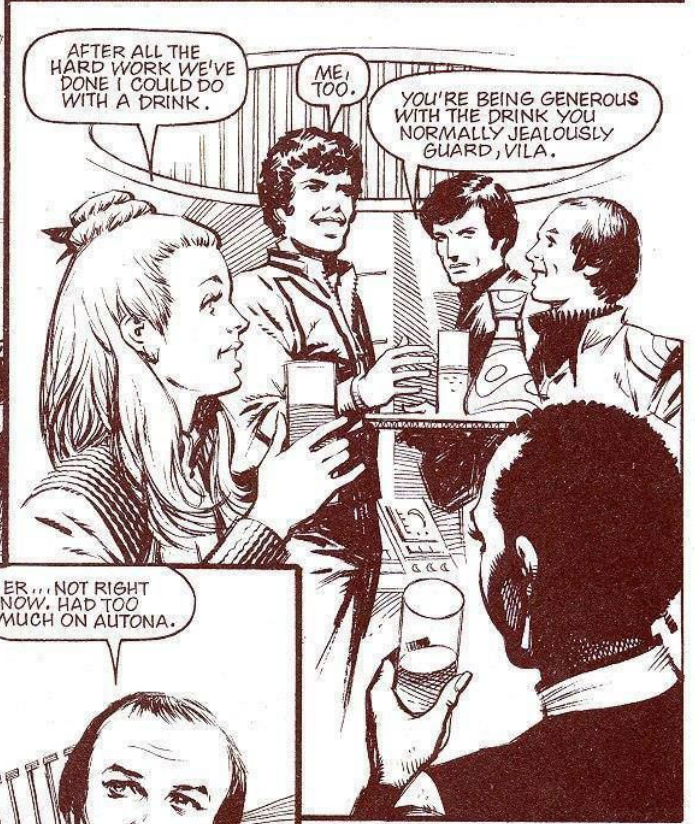
AS THE SCORPIO CLEARED AUTONA'S GRAVITY...



WHO WAS THAT FUNNY-LOOKING MAN WHO CAME TO SEE YOU OFF, AVON?

HE CALLED HIMSELF WOGAN... A PLAUSIBLE LOOKING CHARACTER... BUT I WOULDN'T TRUST HIM AS FAR AS I COULD KICK HIM.

WE'RE BACK IN SPACE AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS. LET'S HAVE A LITTLE CELEBRATION.



AFTER ALL THE HARD WORK WE'VE DONE I COULD DO WITH A DRINK.

ME, TOO.

YOU'RE BEING GENEROUS WITH THE DRINK YOU NORMALLY JEALOUSLY GUARD, VILA.

DRINK UP, VILA. YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD BE JOINING US.

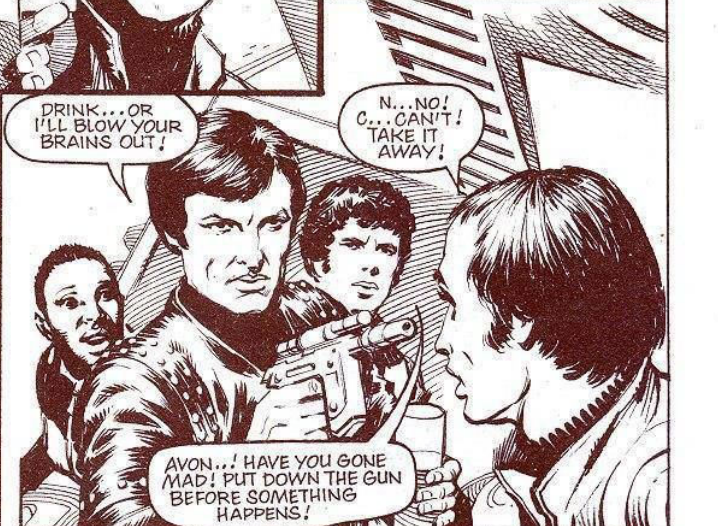
ER... NOT RIGHT NOW. HAD TOO MUCH ON AUTONA.

YOU CAN NEVER GET ENOUGH DRINK... AND THAT'S AN ORDER.



ER... NO. NOT NOW. LATER... MAYBE.

WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT, AVON. LEAVE HIM ALONE.



DRINK... OR I'LL BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT!

N... NO! C... CAN'T! TAKE IT AWAY!

AVON...! HAVE YOU GONE MAD! PUT DOWN THE GUN BEFORE SOMETHING HAPPENS!

TOO LATE FOR THAT!

NNNAAGGHH!

AVON...! Y... YOU'VE KILLED HIM...!

BUT, AS THE SMOKE CLEARED...

G... GOOD GRIEF! WIRES AND THINGS! TH... THAT'S NOT VILA.

UUUHH...!

NO... IT'S AN ANDROID MADE TO LOOK AND BEHAVE EXACTLY LIKE VILA... BUT THERE WAS ONE FLAW. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED TO DRINK!

M... MUST HAVE BEEN ON THE PLANET... UUUHH...!

WOGAN! A CURSE ON HIM! HE MUST HAVE VILA STILL TRAPPED ON HIS PLANET... AND THIS ANDROID WAS CREATED TO DRUG US... THEN FLY THE SCORPIO BACK TO AUTONA!

FOR TWO PINS I'D LEAVE VILA WHERE HE IS... BUT HIS SKILLS MIGHT COME IN HANDY ONE DAY! BESIDES... I DON'T LIKE BEING USED BY ANYONE! NO... WOGAN WILL GET THE SCORPIO... BUT NOT THE WAY HE THINKS!

SOON AFTER...

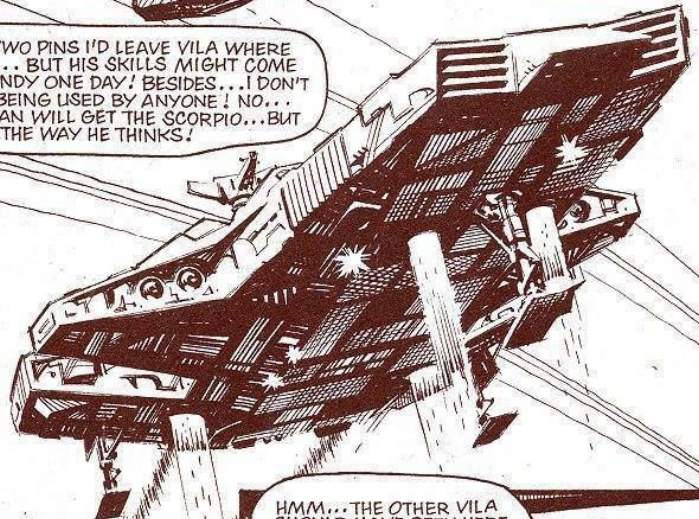
AH... HERE IT COMES... RIGHT ON TIME. I KNEW MY PLAN WOULD WORK.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THEM?

THE CREW HAVE BEEN DRUGGED BY THE OTHER YOU. THEY WILL FEEL NOTHING WHEN THEY DIE.

HMM... THE OTHER VILA SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE TO GREET US... BUT PERHAPS HE IS STILL AT THE CONTROLS. FOLLOW ME.

Y... YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS... I PROMISE!



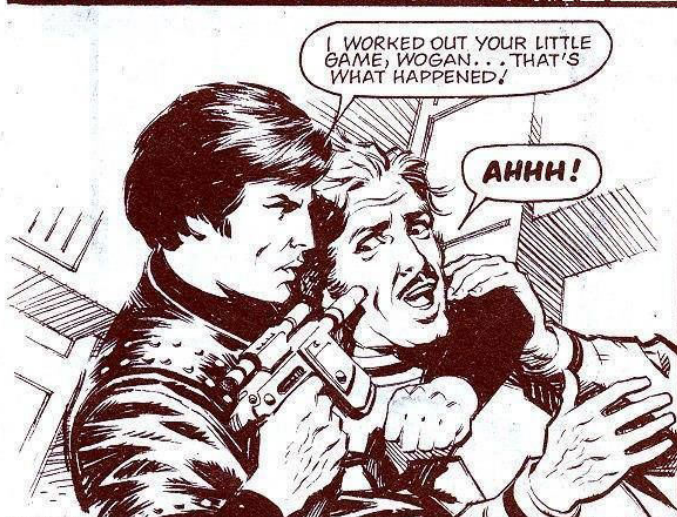


ON THE FLIGHT DECK...

UHH? TH... THEY'RE ALL UNCONSCIOUS!

EVERYTHING EXACTLY AS I PLANNED. WELL DONE, MY FAITHFUL SERVANT. YOU CAN STAND DOWN FROM THE CONTROLS NOW. YOU HEAR ME...?

WHY DON'T YOU OBEY... UHHH? BY AUTONA... WHAT'S HAPPENED?



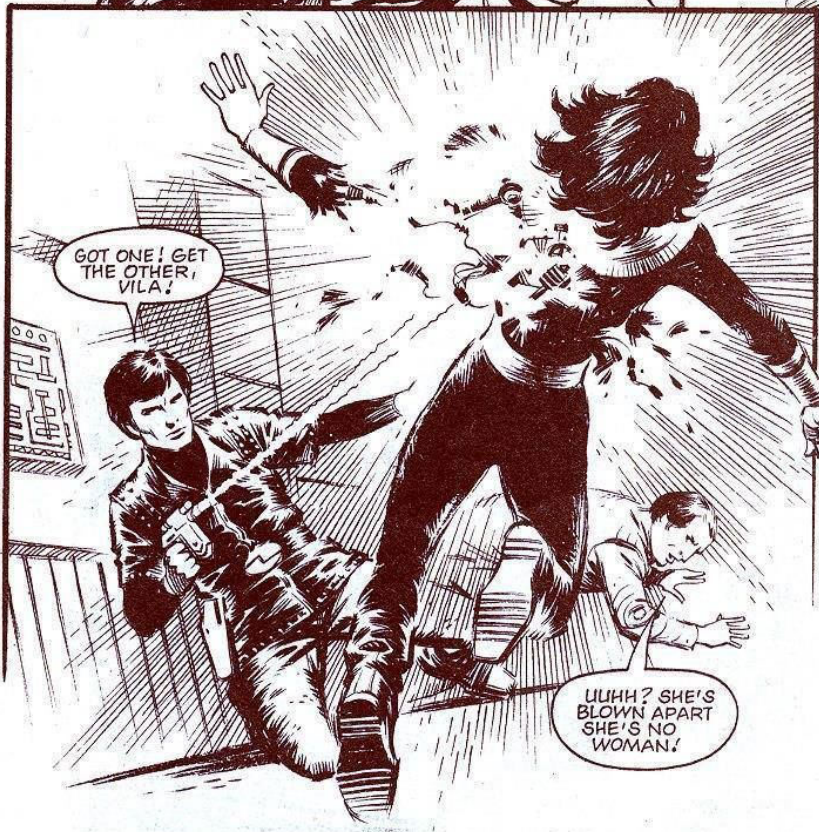
I WORKED OUT YOUR LITTLE GAME, WOGAN... THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!

AHHH!



GET HIM, GIRLS! MY PLAN MUST NOT FAIL!

OOOFF! VILA... DO SOMETHING!



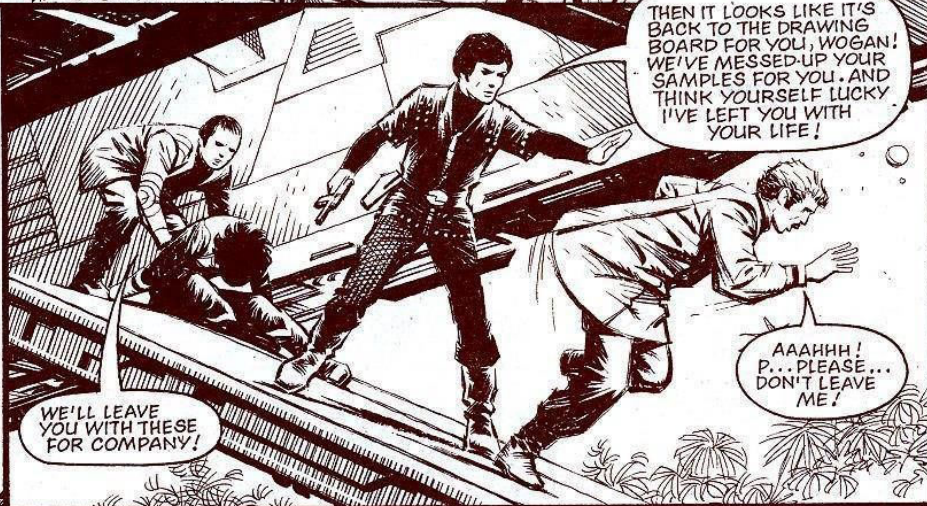
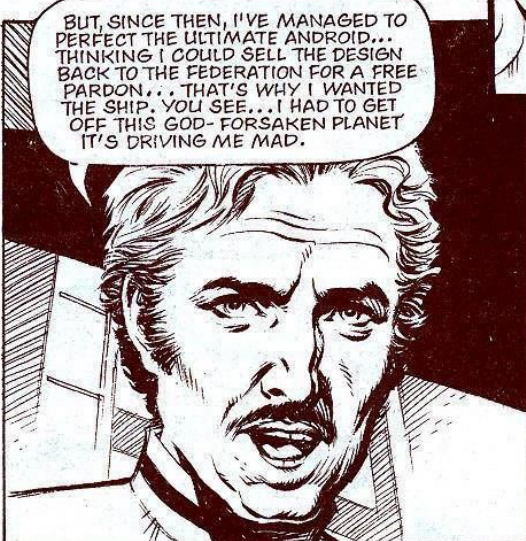
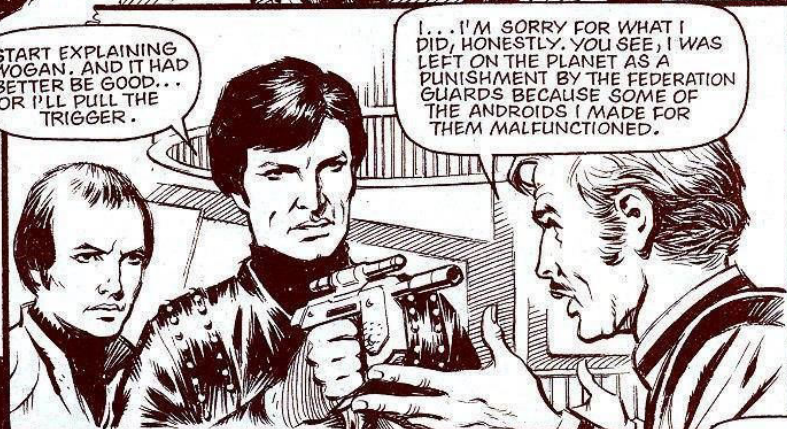
GOT ONE! GET THE OTHER, VILA!

UHHH? SHE'S BLOWN APART SHE'S NO WOMAN!



THAT'S RIGHT, COWARD WE ARE THE CREATIONS OF THE MASTER... SLAVES OF THE MIGHTY WOGAN DIE...!

FLIPPIN' ANDROIDS! NO...



Kennedy

RENEGADE

TENSION MOUNTED AS THE TWO SHIPS CLOSED...





MEANWHILE, ON THE PLANET XENON, AVON HAD ARRIVED TO INSPECT THE SCORPIO IN ITS UNDERGROUND SILO. THEN...



MOMENTS LATER, AS AVON EMERGED ON THE SURFACE OF XENON...



AS EVER, AVON WAS RIGHT...

FEDERATION ESCAPE CAPSULE! AND... IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN... A SECURITY ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN IT!

UURGH...! WH-WHAT MANNER OF PLACE IS THIS?



AAHHHH! NO...NO...!

EEECHHH...! F...FOR PITY'S SAKE... HELP ME! HELP...!

WHY? I HAVE SPENT MY LIFE FIGHTING THE FEDERATION. TELL ME WHY I SHOULD CHANGE NOW?



... BUT TOO MUCH CAN KILL!

I... I'M AGAINST THE FEDERATION, TOO NNNNGGH... P. PLEASE DO SOMETHING! CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE...!

A LITTLE PAIN IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL...



RAARRR!

UUUUUUHHH!



A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

AVON! WE SAW THE CAPSULE ARRIVING ON OUR SCREENS HOW DID YOU...?

EXPLANATIONS LATER. JUST GIVE ME A HAND WITH HIM!

B... BUT HE'S A FEDERATION MAN...!



YOU MUST BE OFF YOUR GALACTIC TROLLEY, AVON! WHY HELP HIM? HE'S FROM THE ORGANISATION TRYING TO LOCATE AND DESTROY US!

YOU ALWAYS STATE THE OBVIOUS, VILA. BUT HE COULD BE OF MORE HELP THAN HARM TO US. COME... THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS I MUST HAVE ANSWERED.

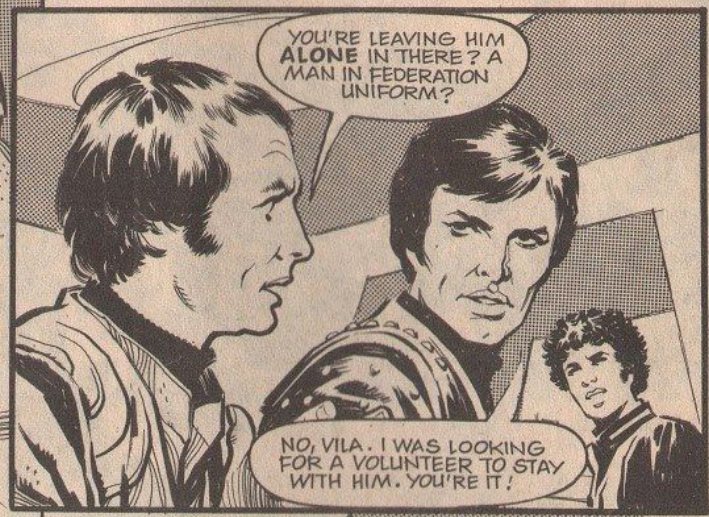


LATER, IN THE BASE RECOVERY ROOM...

ORAC SAYS IT WILL BE HOURS BEFORE HE'S FIT ENOUGH TO SPEAK, AVON.

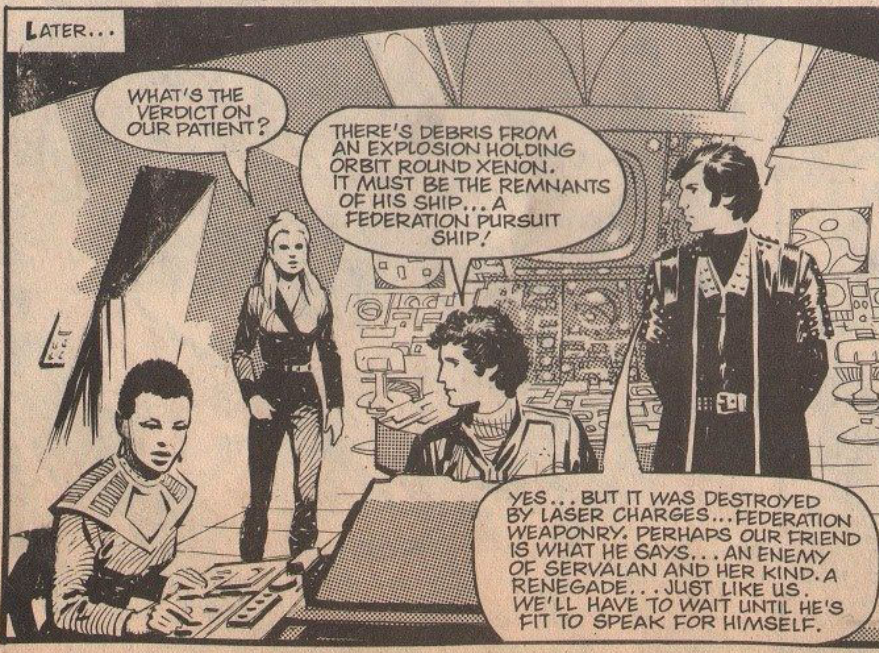
THAT IS CORRECT. INJURIES SUSTAINED HAVE AFFECTED HIS NERVOUS SYSTEM. I SHALL HAVE TO MONITOR HIS PROGRESS.

THEN WE'LL LEAVE YOU TO IT, ORAC. LET US KNOW OF DEVELOPMENTS.



YOU'RE LEAVING HIM ALONE IN THERE? A MAN IN FEDERATION UNIFORM?

NO, VILA. I WAS LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER TO STAY WITH HIM. YOU'RE IT!

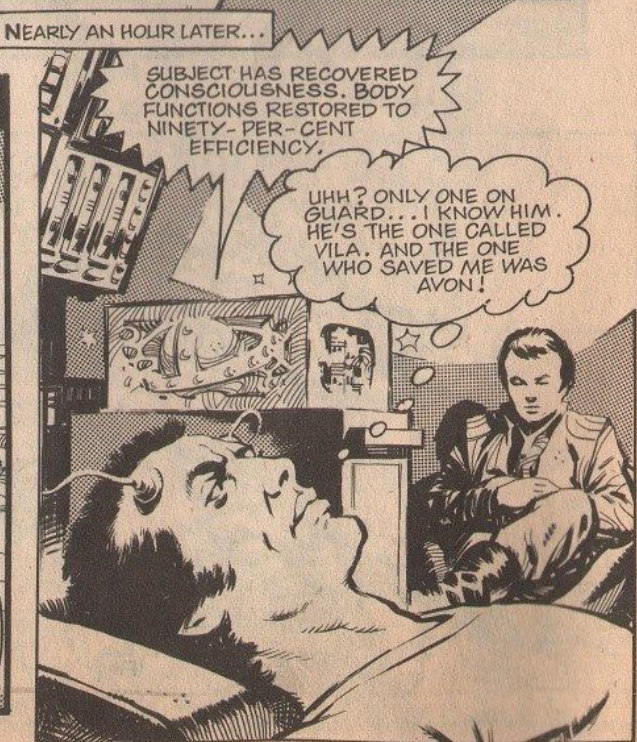


LATER...

WHAT'S THE VERDICT ON OUR PATIENT?

THERE'S DEBRIS FROM AN EXPLOSION HOLDING ORBIT ROUND XENON. IT MUST BE THE REMNANTS OF HIS SHIP... A FEDERATION PURSUIT SHIP!

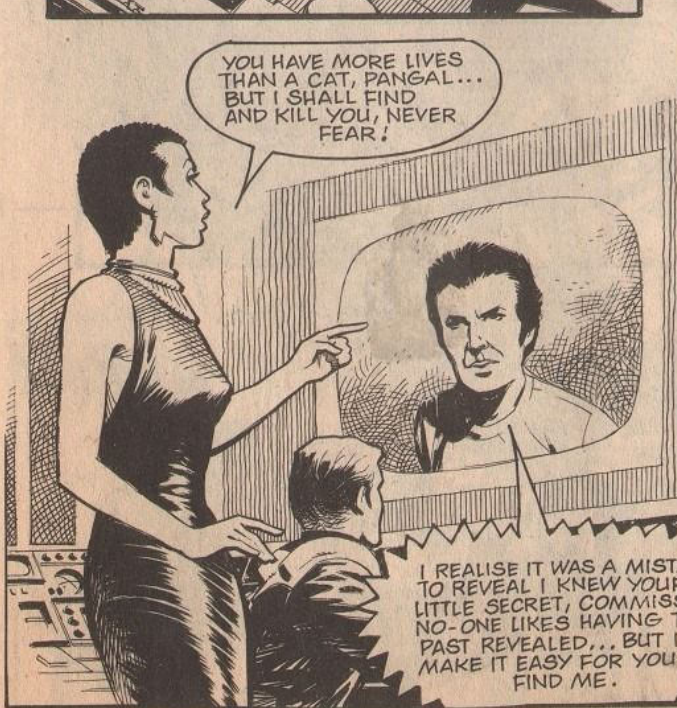
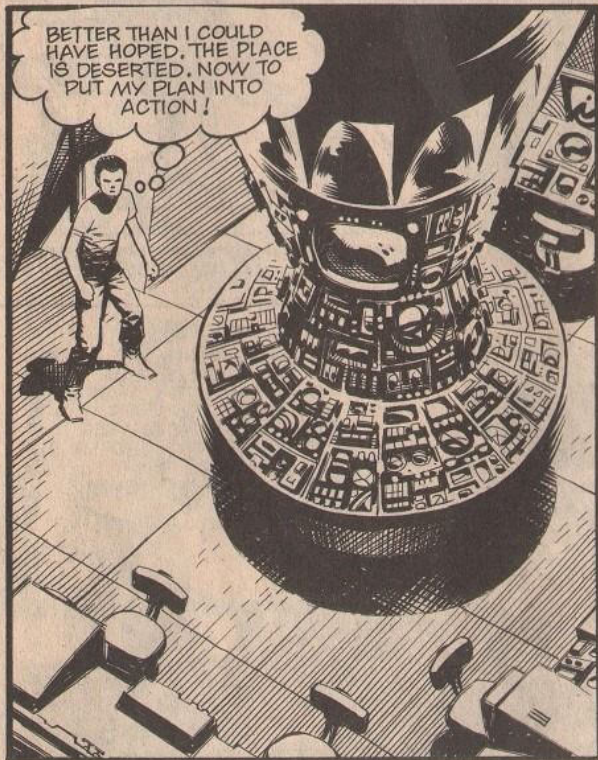
YES... BUT IT WAS DESTROYED BY LASER CHARGES... FEDERATION WEAPONRY. PERHAPS OUR FRIEND IS WHAT HE SAYS... AN ENEMY OF SERVALAN AND HER KIND. A RENEGADE... JUST LIKE US. WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL HE'S FIT TO SPEAK FOR HIMSELF.



NEARLY AN HOUR LATER...

SUBJECT HAS RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS. BODY FUNCTIONS RESTORED TO NINETY-PER-CENT EFFICIENCY.

UHH? ONLY ONE ON GUARD... I KNOW HIM. HE'S THE ONE CALLED VILA. AND THE ONE WHO SAVED ME WAS AVON!



YOU WILL BE SPARED
EVEN GIVEN A SENIOR
POSITION, IF YOU CAN
DELIVER, PANGAL.

THEN IT IS AGREED.
JUST FOLLOW THIS
FIXED SIGNAL AND
THE REBELS WILL BE
IN CUSTODY
AWAITING YOUR
ARRIVAL.

YOU'RE NOT REALLY
GOING TO PARDON
PANGAL, ARE YOU
COMMISSIONER?

OF COURSE NOT, FOOL! BUT IF HE CAN DELIVER AVON AND HIS REBELS
TO ME... I WILL MAKE HIS DEATH QUICK AND CLEAN. NOW LOCK ONTO
THAT SIGNAL AND SET MAXIMUM SPEED!

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

OOH, MY
HEAD. WHAT
THE...?

IT IS REGRETTABLE
BUT I WOULD DO
ANYTHING TO SAVE
MY OWN LIFE. YOU
MUST UNDERSTAND
THAT.

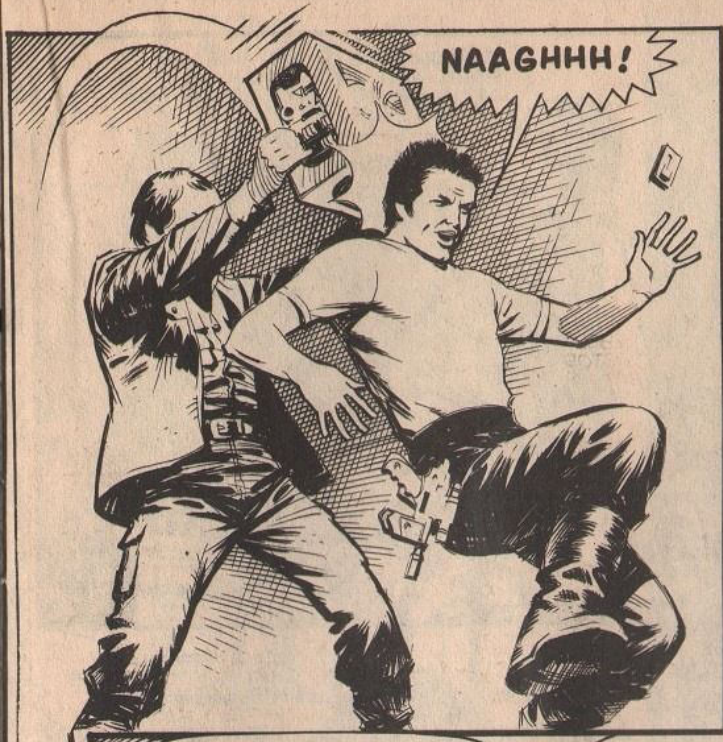
YOU TOLD
AVON YOU
WERE A
RENEGADE
NOW THIS!

QUITE RIGHT, AND I STILL AM A
RENEGADE. HOWEVER, I PLAN
TO CHANGE ALL THAT BY HANDING
YOU OVER TO COMMISSIONER
SLEER... OR SHOULD I CALL HER
SERVALAN? SHE SENTENCED ME
TO DEATH FOR KNOWING THAT
HER SHIP'S HOMING IN RIGHT
NOW!

SERVALAN
HERE... MUST
DO
SOMETHING!

THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN
DO TO SAVE YOURSELVES.
VILA LIES UNCONSCIOUS NEXT
DOOR... AND EVEN YOUR
COMPUTER, ORAC, IS
RENDERED USELESS.

I WOULDN'T
COUNT ON THAT,
PANGAL!



NAAGHHH!



WOW! DID I DO THAT?

NO, IT WAS ORAC, VILA!

THE DANGER'S ONLY JUST BEGINNING! THE TRANSMITTER'S STILL BROADCASTING ON A FIXED BEAM. SERVALAN'S ON HER WAY. IS THE SCORPIO READY FOR FLIGHT?

ALMOST, AVON IT'S JUST THE TELEPORT THAT'S NOT WORKING PROPERLY.



THAT CAN ONLY BE BENEFICIAL. GET MOVING, ALL OF YOU AND BRING PANGAL WITH YOU! THE SCORPIO IS ABOUT TO TAKE OFF!

UH? WHAT'S HE PLAYING AT? IT'S NOT DEATH OR GLORY TIME AGAIN, IS IT?

SHUT UP AND MOVE, VILA!

MOMENTS LATER...



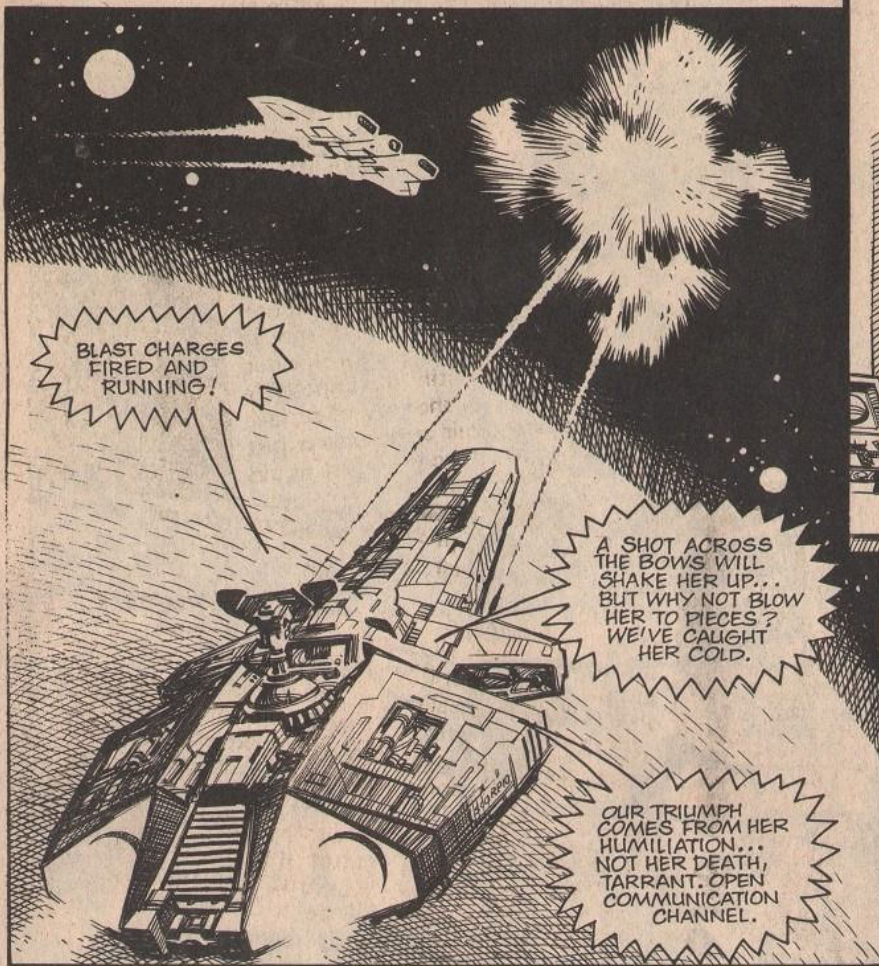
FEDERATION SHIP APPROACHING HIGH VECTOR ORBIT.

THEN SET COURSE FOR LOW TRAJECTORY FLIGHT PATH. WE'LL ATTACK FROM THE DARK SIDE OF XENON!

JUST THEN...

THE SIGNAL'S STOPPED, COMMISSIONER! WHAT SHALL WE DO?

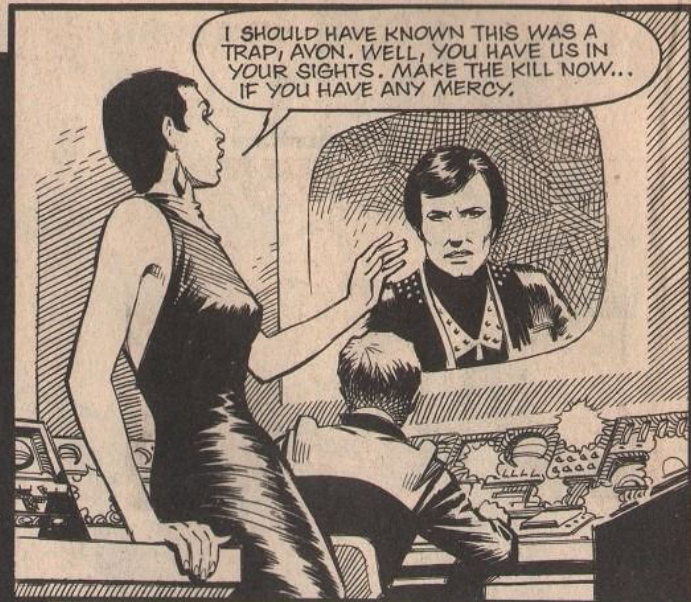
IT MUST HAVE ORIGINATED FROM THIS PLANET. PANGAL'S EITHER HAD A POWER FAILURE... OR WE'RE FLYING INTO A TRAP - PREPARE FORWARD LASERS AND ENTER HIGH ORBIT. WE'LL WAIT AND WATCH.



BLAST CHARGES FIRED AND RUNNING!

A SHOT ACROSS THE BOWS WILL SHAKE HER UP... BUT WHY NOT BLOW HER TO PIECES? WE'VE CAUGHT HER COLD.

OUR TRIUMPH COMES FROM HER HUMILIATION... NOT HER DEATH, TARRANT. OPEN COMMUNICATION CHANNEL.



I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THIS WAS A TRAP, AVON. WELL, YOU HAVE US IN YOUR SIGHTS. MAKE THE KILL NOW... IF YOU HAVE ANY MERCY.



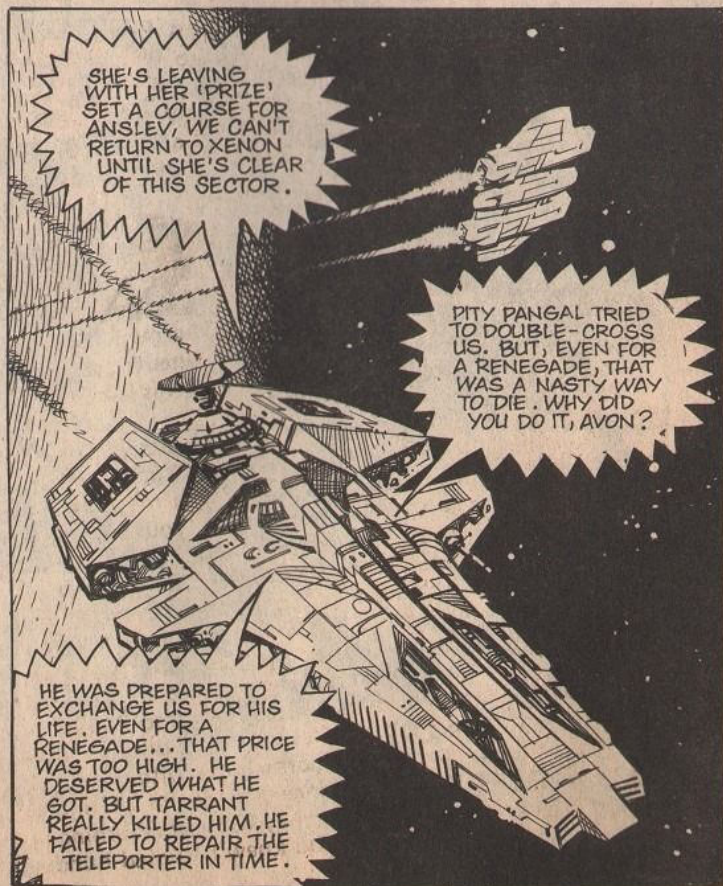
DEATH, SERVALAN THAT IS YOUR TRADE, NOT MINE. NO... I HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU INSTEAD.



A SHATTERED IMAGE MATERIALISED IN FRONT OF SERVALAN.

I BELIEVE YOU WANTED THIS MAN. THEN HAVE HIM WITH MY COMPLIMENTS. SORRY OUR TELEPORTER IS NOT FUNCTIONING VERY WELL.

P...PANGAL...



SHE'S LEAVING WITH HER 'PRIZE'. SET A COURSE FOR ANSLEV, WE CAN'T RETURN TO XENON UNTIL SHE'S CLEAR OF THIS SECTOR.

PITY PANGAL TRIED TO DOUBLE-CROSS US. BUT, EVEN FOR A RENEGADE, THAT WAS A NASTY WAY TO DIE. WHY DID YOU DO IT, AVON?

HE WAS PREPARED TO EXCHANGE US FOR HIS LIFE. EVEN FOR A RENEGADE... THAT PRICE WAS TOO HIGH. HE DESERVED WHAT HE GOT. BUT TARRANT REALLY KILLED HIM, HE FAILED TO REPAIR THE TELEPORTER IN TIME.

BATTLE CRUISER

HOLDING STATIONARY ORBIT BEHIND THE MOON OF CIGNUS 3 SCORPIO IS RIGGED FOR SILENT OPERATIONS. ON THE FLIGHT DECK IS A TENSION WHICH COULD BE CUT WITH A KNIFE...

TARGETS MARKED. BEARING SIX-EIGHT-HUNDRED AND HOLDING STEADY COURSE AT STANDARD BY FOUR MASTER.

HOW MANY, SLAVE... AND WHAT COMPOSITION?

I BELIEVE THREE BATTLE CRUISERS, AND ONE LARGE TRANSPORT, MASTER BUT THEY ARE STILL A LONG WAY OFF

WHAT? WE'RE NO MATCH FOR THAT LOT! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

VILA'S RIGHT, AVON. A COUPLE OF SHIPS WE COULD MANAGE... BUT NOT A WHOLE FLEET!

I BELIEVE THAT BATTLE FLEET IS BOUND FOR XENON - CARRYING A COLONISING FORCE. WE EITHER ATTACK AND DESTROY THEM RIGHT NOW OR KISS GOODBYE TO OUR BASE FOREVER.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT XENON I'D RATHER STAY ALIVE A LITTLE LONGER.

AVON HAD SPOKEN. THE DECISION MADE. MOMENTS LATER THE SCORPIO WAS THUNDERING FORWARD AT FULL POWER... ITS CREW AT THE BATTLE STATIONS...

IT'S A TOUGH CHOICE. I VOTE WE MAKE A RUN FOR IT.

THIS IS NOT A DEMOCRACY, TARRANT! WE ATTACK!

ALL TARGETS IN RANGE, MASTER.

TARRANT, ENGAGE THE CRUISERS, FIRST!

PLASMA BOLTS FIRED AND RUNNING!

Kennedy



SHTAANG!

YOU GOT IT, TARRANT!

SILENCE VILA! TARRANT, TAKE THE SECOND CRUISER FROM ASTERN!

I'VE GOT HIM ALL LINED UP!

AS AVON ASSUMED COMMAND OF SCORPIO'S FLIGHT CONTROLS TARRANT CONCENTRATED ON THE WEAPONS SYSTEM...



THE TERRORISTS... LED BY AVON! THEY'RE CUTTING US TO RIBBONS! BUT THEY WON'T GET AWAY FROM ME! DIVERT ALL SPARE POWER TO THE LASERS. WE'RE GOING TO NAIL THEM!



I'VE LOST THE THIRD CRUISER - BUT THE TRANSPORT'S NEARLY IN RANGE!

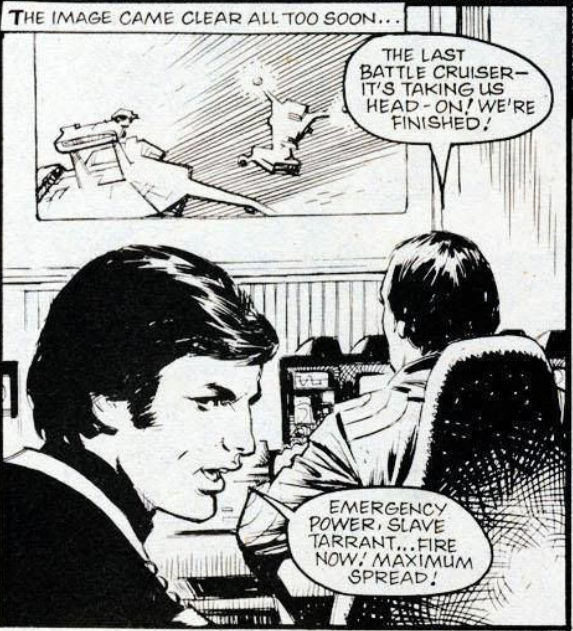
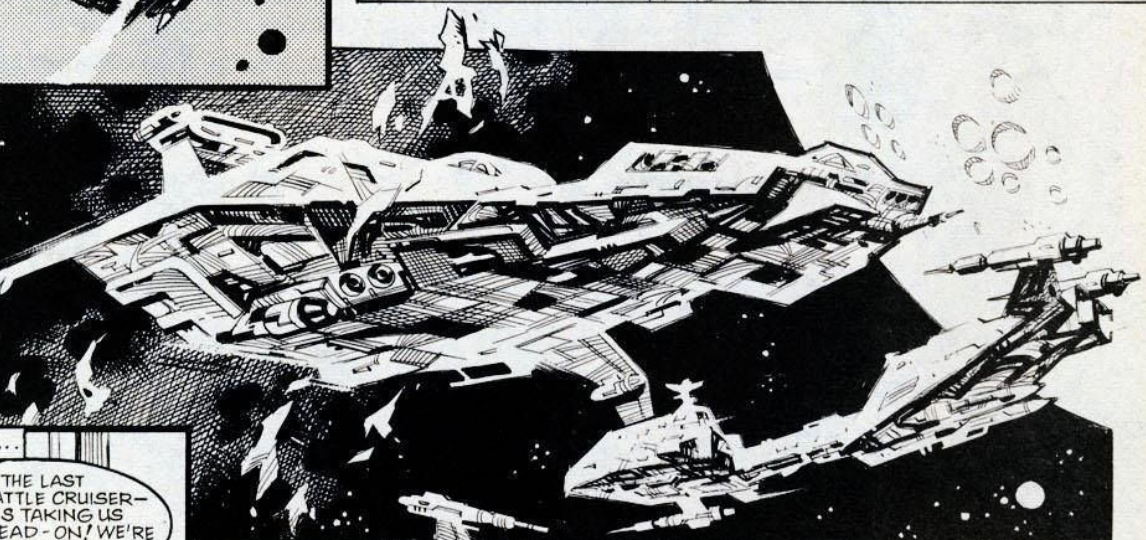
THEN TAKE IT OUT, TARRANT. WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THE CRUISER LATER!

M... MAYBE HE'S DECIDED TO RUN FOR IT...?



FIRE, TARRANT! FIRE, DAMN YOU!

NO! THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE AHEAD. CAN'T MAKE IT OUT!



THE IMAGE CAME CLEAR ALL TOO SOON...

THE LAST BATTLE CRUISER - IT'S TAKING US HEAD-ON! WE'RE FINISHED!

EMERGENCY POWER, SLAVE TARRANT... FIRE NOW! MAXIMUM SPREAD!



ZAANG!

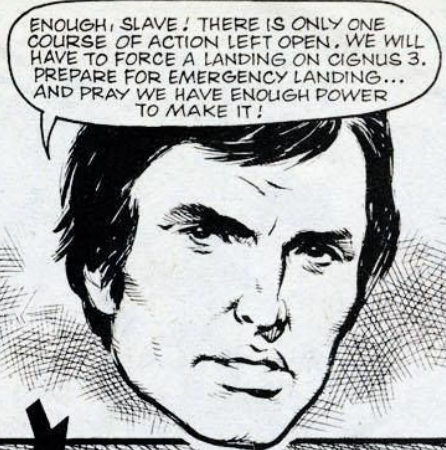
HE'S RAMMED US! AAAHHH!



BREAK OFF THE ATTACK, AVON! WE CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER HIT!

SLAVE! DAMAGE REPORT... IMMEDIATELY!

I... I'M AFRAID IT'S VERY BAD, MASTER. LIFE SUPPORT FUNCTIONS HAVE CEASED - MAIN GENERATOR BADLY DAMAGED - TELEPORT OUT OF ACTION...



ENOUGH, SLAVE! THERE IS ONLY ONE COURSE OF ACTION LEFT OPEN. WE WILL HAVE TO FORCE A LANDING ON CIGNUS 3. PREPARE FOR EMERGENCY LANDING... AND PRAY WE HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO MAKE IT!



MOMENTS LATER, LEAVING A FIERY TRAIL IN THE SKY, SCORPIO TORE THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE PLANET.

VILA - SCAN AHEAD FOR A LANDING SITE!



I DON'T BELIEVE IN LUCK, VILA! TARRANT... WE'RE GOING STRAIGHT IN. WHEN I GIVE THE COMMAND... FIRE THE PLASMA BOLTS - EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!

UHH? RIGHT, AVON...!

DOWN THERE? YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING! THERE ISN'T A CLEAR SPACE THIS SIDE OF THE HORIZON. A GOOD TRY, AVON... BUT OUR LUCK'S JUST RUN OUT!



NOW, TARRANT! CONTINUOUS FIRE! BRACE YOURSELVES. HERE WE GO!

IT SEEMED AN ETERNITY BEFORE THE MASSIVE SHIP SLITHERED TO A FINAL, SIZZLING HALT...





WELL, DO YOU THINK IT CAN BE FIXED?

PHWEH... WHAT A DUMP OF A PLANET. NO WONDER IT'S NEVER BEEN COLONISED.

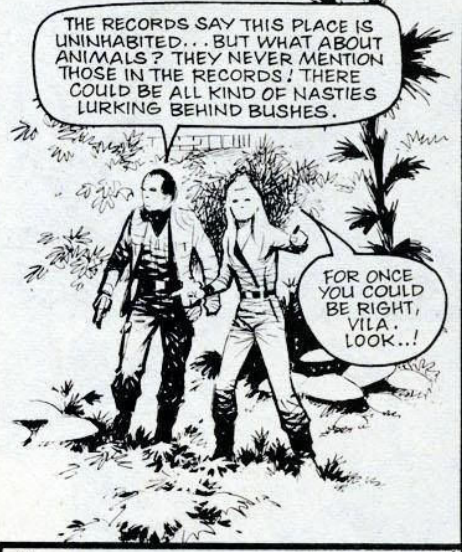
THAT LANDING OF YOURS DID ALMOST AS MUCH AS THAT LUNATIC FEDERATION COMMANDER'S SHIP... BUT IT CAN ALL BE PUT RIGHT IN TIME. EMERGENCY REPAIRS WILL ONLY TAKE A FEW HOURS.



AND TO MAKE SURE IT STAYS THAT WAY, VILA, I WANT YOU AND SOOLIN TO STAND GUARD OUT THERE WHILE TARRANT WORKS ON THE SHIP AND I REPAIR THE TELEPORT.

O-OUT THERE Y... YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.

COME ON, VILA. I'LL HOLD YOUR HAND IF YOU'RE FRIGHTENED.



THE RECORDS SAY THIS PLACE IS UNINHABITED... BUT WHAT ABOUT ANIMALS? THEY NEVER MENTION THOSE IN THE RECORDS! THERE COULD BE ALL KIND OF NASTIES LURKING BEHIND BUSHES.

FOR ONCE YOU COULD BE RIGHT, VILA. LOOK...!



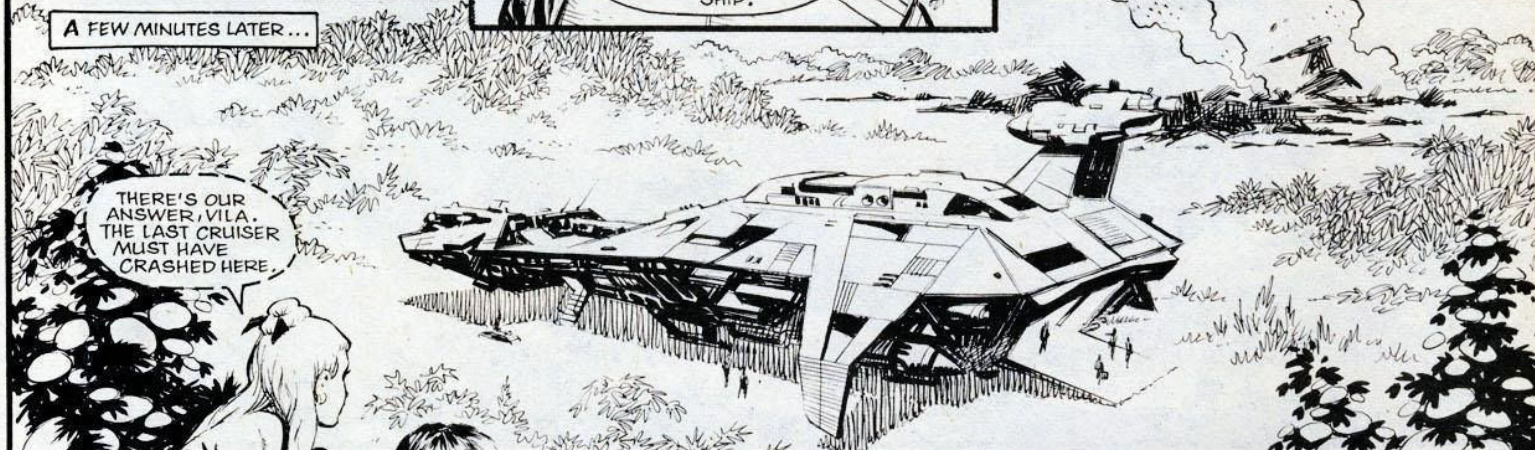
SEE? SMOKE OF SOME KIND. DO ANIMALS MAKE FIRE?

NONE THAT I'VE EVER COME ACROSS! LET'S GET BACK TO THE SHIP!



WE NEED MORE INFORMATION BEFORE WE ALERT THE OTHERS. FOLLOW ME!

WHAT? ARE YOU MAD? SOOLIN...!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

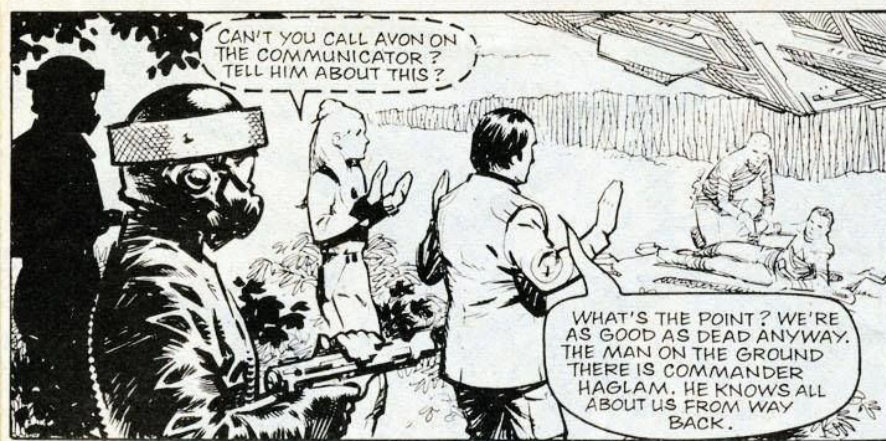
THERE'S OUR ANSWER, VILA. THE LAST CRUISER MUST HAVE CRASHED HERE

YES... AND THE TRANSPORT JOINED IT. SUDDENLY THIS PLANET IS VERY UNHEALTHY. I'M GOING TO MAKE MYSELF SCARCE!



YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE UNTIL YOU'VE ANSWERED A FEW QUESTIONS, FRIEND!

NO SUDDEN MOVES! ON YOUR FEET... OUR COMMANDER WILL WANT TO TALK TO YOU!



CAN'T YOU CALL AVON ON THE COMMUNICATOR? TELL HIM ABOUT THIS?

WHAT'S THE POINT? WE'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD ANYWAY. THE MAN ON THE GROUND THERE IS COMMANDER HAGLAM. HE KNOWS ALL ABOUT US FROM WAY BACK.



COMMANDER HAGLAM, WE FOUND THOSE TWO SKULKING IN THE BUSHES. WHAT DO YOU WISH DONE WITH THEM?

Y...YOU... V...V...

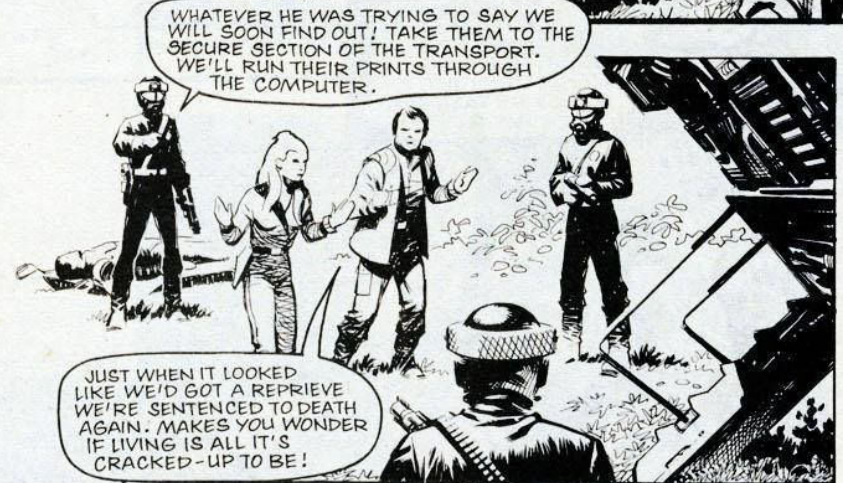
GO ON... SPIT IT OUT. TELL THEM WHO I AM, WHERE I COME FROM...!



HE... HE'S ONE... G... GOT... TO... UHHHH...

COMMANDER...? HE'S ONE OF WHAT COMMANDER?

LOOKS LIKE YOUR BOSS HAS JUST SNUFFED IT, FRIEND.



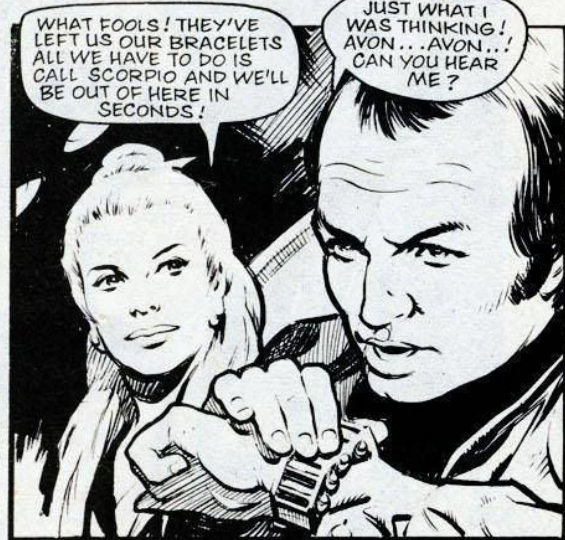
WHATEVER HE WAS TRYING TO SAY WE WILL SOON FIND OUT! TAKE THEM TO THE SECURE SECTION OF THE TRANSPORT. WE'LL RUN THEIR PRINTS THROUGH THE COMPUTER.

JUST WHEN IT LOOKED LIKE WE'D GOT A REPRIEVE WE'RE SENTENCED TO DEATH AGAIN. MAKES YOU WONDER IF LIVING IS ALL IT'S CRACKED-UP TO BE!



A FEW MINUTES LATER, DEEP IN THE MASSIVE TRANSPORT SHIP...

WE HAVE YOUR VOICE AND FINGERPRINTS. THE CHECK WILL BE COMPLETE IN A MATTER OF MINUTES. IF YOU'RE TERRORISTS, START MAKING YOUR WILL'S RIGHT NOW!



WHAT FOOLS! THEY'VE LEFT US OUR BRACELETS ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CALL SCORPIO AND WE'LL BE OUT OF HERE IN SECONDS!

JUST WHAT I WAS THINKING! AVON... AVON...! CAN YOU HEAR ME?



... SO WE NEED YOU TO TELEPORT US OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY DISCOVER WHO WE ARE. CAN YOU DO IT NOW?

SORRY, VILA. THE TELEPORT'S OUT OF ACTION AND WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH BODIES TO MOUNT A RESCUE MISSION AGAINST SUCH ODDS. YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND YOUR OWN WAY OUT.

AS VILA'S EXCITED VOICE PULSED OUT ACROSS THE AIR-WAVES, EXPLAINING WHAT HAD HAPPENED...



TERRIFIC! WE COULD BE TAKEN FOR EXECUTION ANY SECOND... AND AVON WON'T LIFT A FINGER TO HELP US.

THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY OUT. THIS LOCK... IT'S NOT A SONIC ONE... IT COULD BE A THERMAL INTERSPACE... IF IT IS...



...THEN THE CIRCUIT COULD BE INTERRUPTED IF ITS REFLECTORS ARE SHIELDED FOR A FRACTION OF A SECOND.

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, VILA. REMEMBER, THESE THINGS HAVE A NASTY HABIT OF SELF-DESTRUCTING IF THEY'RE TAMPERED WITH.

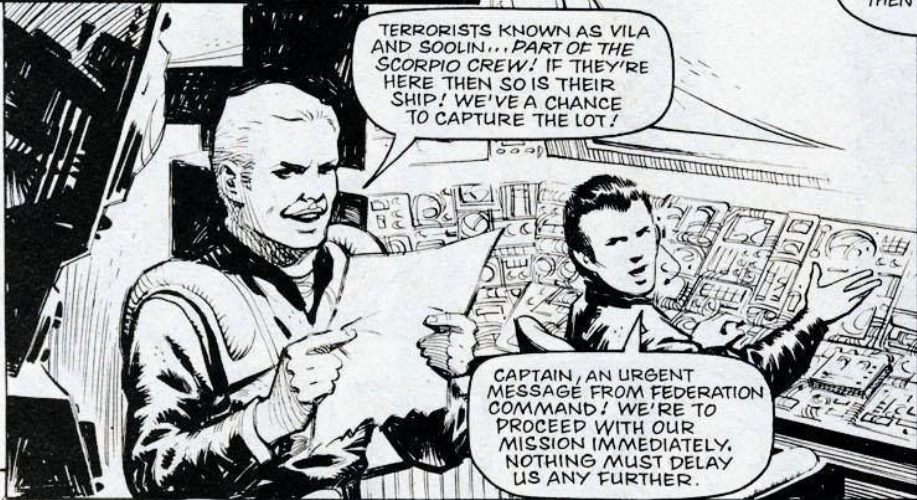
AT THAT MOMENT... ON THE TRANSPORT'S COMMUNICATIONS DECK...



CAPTAIN! IT'S THE ANSWER ON THE PRISONERS... AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE NABBED OURSELVES A REAL PRIZE!

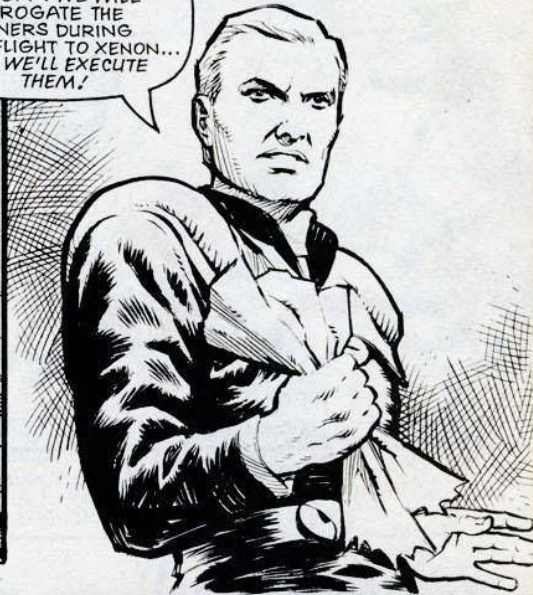
LET ME SEE!

CURSES! PREPARE FOR TAKE-OFF. WE WILL INTERROGATE THE PRISONERS DURING OUR FLIGHT TO XENON... THEN WE'LL EXECUTE THEM!



TERRORISTS KNOWN AS VILA AND SOOLIN... PART OF THE SCORPIO CREW! IF THEY'RE HERE THEN SO IS THEIR SHIP! WE'VE A CHANCE TO CAPTURE THE LOT!

CAPTAIN, AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM FEDERATION COMMAND! WE'RE TO PROCEED WITH OUR MISSION IMMEDIATELY, NOTHING MUST DELAY US ANY FURTHER.



AS THE HEAVY TRANSPORT SHUDDERED INTO LIFE...

AVON... AVON...! WE'VE BROKEN OUT BUT I THINK THE SHIP IS TAKING OFF. CAN'T YOU TELEPORT US OUT YET?

NO, THERE IS STILL WORK TO DO ON THE KEY PANEL. YOU MUST FIND OUT YOUR DESTINATION AND WE WILL TRY TO FOLLOW.

ONE GLANCE AT THE MANIFEST EXPLAINED EVERYTHING...

I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS SHIP. FOR A COLONISING FORCE THERE ARE VERY FEW GUARDS. HERE'S WHY!



BUT IT WAS NOT THE FLIGHT DECK THEY DISCOVERED FIRST...

UHH? WHAT'S THIS LOT?

IT'S THE SHIP'S CARGO. TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.

OPERATION FIVE PLANETS IT SAYS. XENON IS JUST ONE OF THEM. THIS SHIP IS BOUND FOR ALL FIVE. BUT WHAT'S THE CARGO AND HOW COULD THEY COLONISE WITHOUT MEN?

FEDERATION SECRET OPERATION FIVE PLANETS

THEY NEVER INTENDED TO COLONISE! THE PLANETS ARE ALL POSSIBLE TERRORIST REFUGES. THEY INTEND TO SPRAY THIS MIXTURE OF RADIATION AND BIOLOGICAL AGENTS ON ALL FIVE... **KILLING ALL LIFE AND MAKING THE PLANETS UNINHABITABLE FOR CENTURIES!**



SOOLIN IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED AVON.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'VE SAID, AVON?

PERFECTLY, SOOLIN. THE SHIP MUST BE STOPPED AT ALL COSTS!



LOOK! THE TRANSPORT'S LEAVING THE ATMOSPHERE NOW!

SCORPIO WILL BE READY FOR FLIGHT IN FIVE MINUTES... BUT ONLY ON REDUCED POWER. REPAIRS ARE NOT YET FINISHED...

THEN PREPARE FOR TAKE-OFF. IF WE DON'T BLOW THAT SHIP TO PIECES IN THE NEXT FIFTEEN MINUTES... WE WILL NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE!



B... BUT... VILA AND SOOLIN...?

FIVE MINUTES LATER...

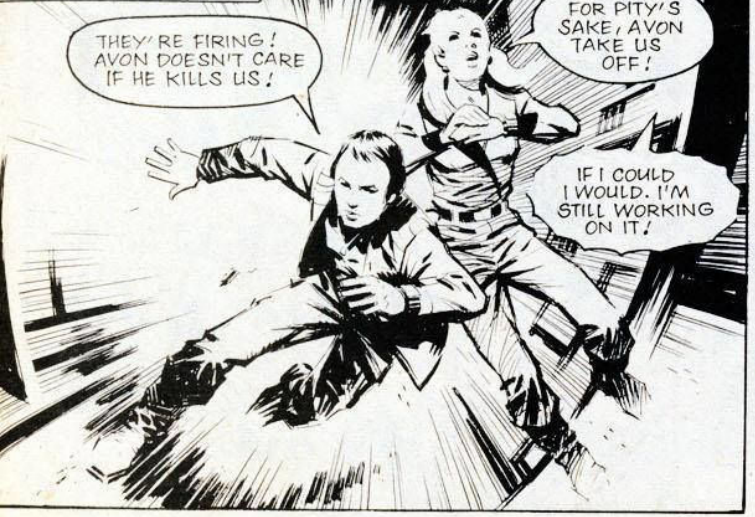


TRANSPORT IN RANGE IN EIGHT SECONDS. CAN'T WE TELEPORT VILA AND SOOLIN YET?

NO, IT'S STILL MALFUNCTIONING BUT I'M WORKING ON IT. MAINTAIN COURSE... THEN OPEN FIRE!

TERRORIST SHIP ON INTERCEPT COURSE! ALARM! BATTLE STATIONS!

EIGHT SECONDS LATER...



THEY'RE FIRING! AVON DOESN'T CARE IF HE KILLS US!

FOR PITY'S SAKE, AVON TAKE US OFF!

IF I COULD I WOULD. I'M STILL WORKING ON IT!

THREE MORE SECONDS AND THE SHIP WILL BE OUT OF RANGE. IF WE'RE TO STOP IT... IT'S GOT TO BE DONE NOW.



THEN DESTROY IT! THAT'S AN ORDER!

THAT INSTANT... ON THE TRANSPORT...



THIS IS IT, VILA... THE END!

AVON'S FINALLY KILLED US! I ALWAYS KNEW HE WOULD..!



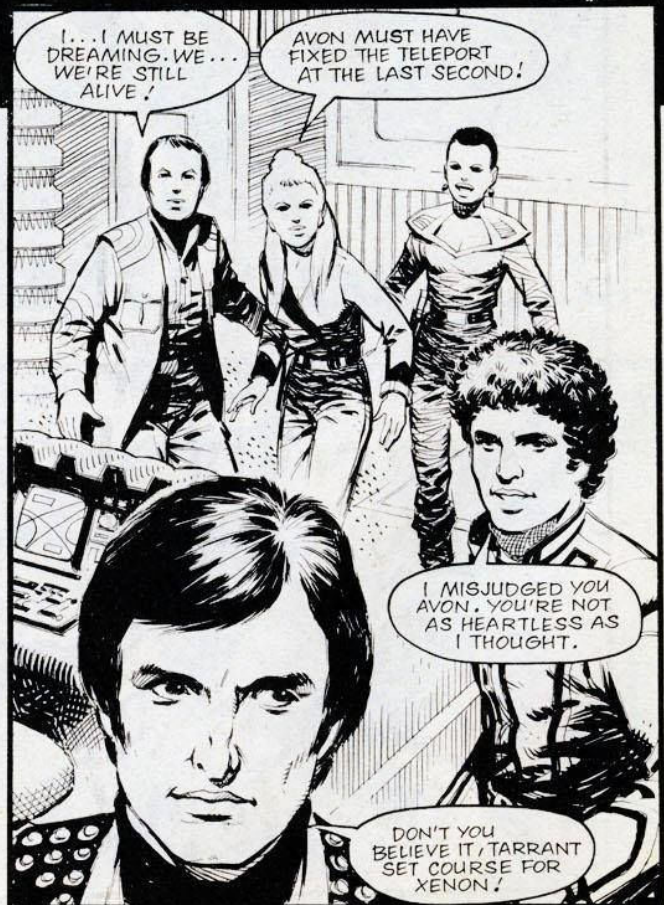
Kennedy

DESTRUCTION COMPLETE. SATISFIED, AVON?



YOU MAY HAVE SAVED THE FIVE PLANETS... BUT AT WHAT PRICE? VILA AND SOOLIN DIED FOR YOU! UHH?

HOLD YOUR TONGUE, TARRANT BEFORE YOU SAY SOMETHING YOU'LL REGRET.



I... I MUST BE DREAMING. WE... WE'RE STILL ALIVE!

AVON MUST HAVE FIXED THE TELEPORT AT THE LAST SECOND!

I MISJUDGED YOU AVON. YOU'RE NOT AS HEARTLESS AS I THOUGHT.

DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT, TARRANT SET COURSE FOR XENON!

INTERCEPTION

SOMEWHERE IN THE SECOND QUADRANT OF PROXIMA GALLASTA...

ON, MY WARRIORS!
SMASH THE FEDERATION
SCUM!

THE PRISONERS
HAVE ESCAPED
KILL THEM ALL!

MAYDAY... MAYDAY!
CODE SEVEN EMERGENCY!
ALL AVAILABLE CRAFT...!
HELP US... FOR PITY'S
SAKE...!



IF ANYONE CAN
HEAR ME... ANSWER
PLEASE! CODE
SEVEN... CODE
SEVEN...!

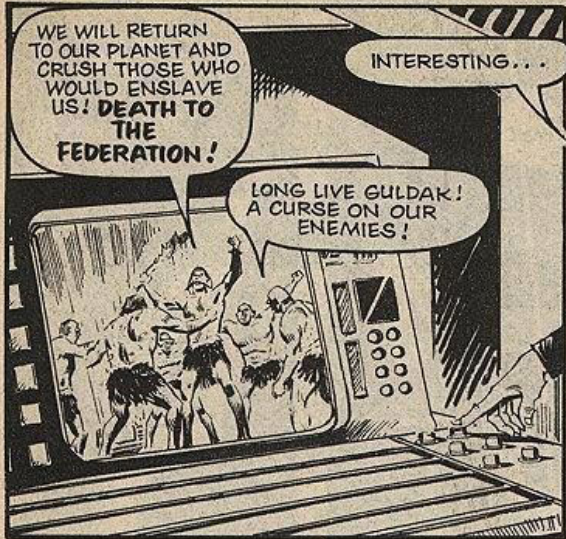
YOU'VE
SAID
ENOUGH!

MINUTES
LATER...



WE'VE DONE IT, MY
WARRIORS! WE'VE
THROWN OFF THE YOKE
OF THE ACCURSED
FEDERATION... THE
SHIP IS OURS!

FREEDOM AT
LAST! WHAT
NOW, BRAVE
GULDAK?



WE WILL RETURN TO OUR PLANET AND CRUSH THOSE WHO WOULD ENSLAVE US! DEATH TO THE FEDERATION!

INTERESTING...

LONG LIVE GULDAK! A CURSE ON OUR ENEMIES!



WHAT'S SO INTERESTING?

I'VE JUST INTERCEPTED A SIGNAL FROM A FEDERATION PRISON SHIP. IT'S BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE INMATES ORIGINALLY DESTINED FOR BETA PROCESSING.

GOOD FOR THEM BUT WHAT'S IT GOT TO DO WITH US?



WATCH THE REPLAY. CAN YOU SEE IT?

WHAT? THERE'S ONLY A BUNCH OF THUGS THERE.

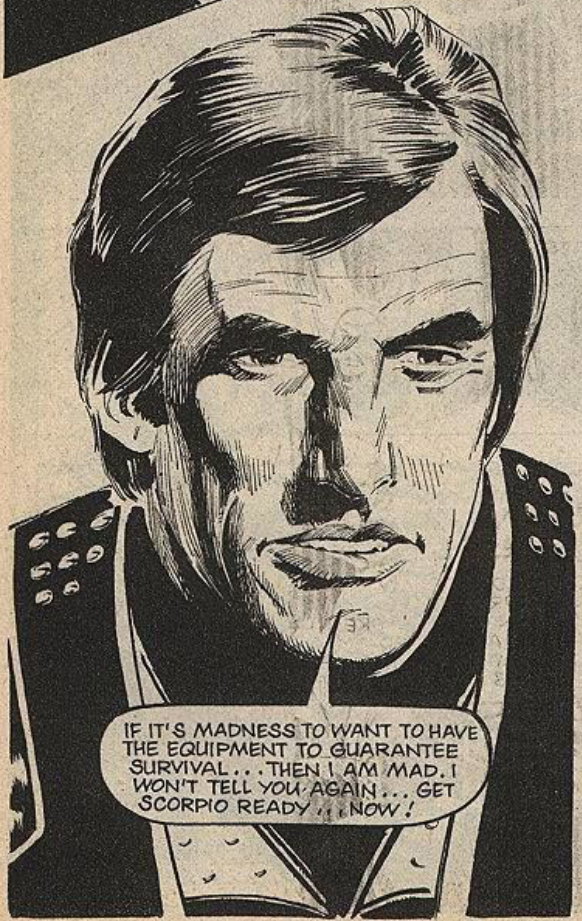
YES... AND THAT FUNNY-LOOKING MACHINE.



EXACTLY! AND FOR THAT REASON WE'RE GOING TO HELP THOSE REBELS. GET SCORPIO READY FOR FLIGHT!

YOU MUST HAVE A SCREW LOOSE, AVON! THAT QUADRANT WILL BE SWARMING WITH FEDERATION SHIPS IN NO TIME!

VILA'S RIGHT FOR ONCE. IT WOULD BE MADNESS TO GET INVOLVED!



IF IT'S MADNESS TO WANT TO HAVE THE EQUIPMENT TO GUARANTEE SURVIVAL... THEN I AM MAD. I WON'T TELL YOU AGAIN... GET SCORPIO READY... NOW!



MOMENTS LATER...

SLAVE, SET COURSE FOR PROXIMA GALLASTA... THE SECOND QUADRANT.

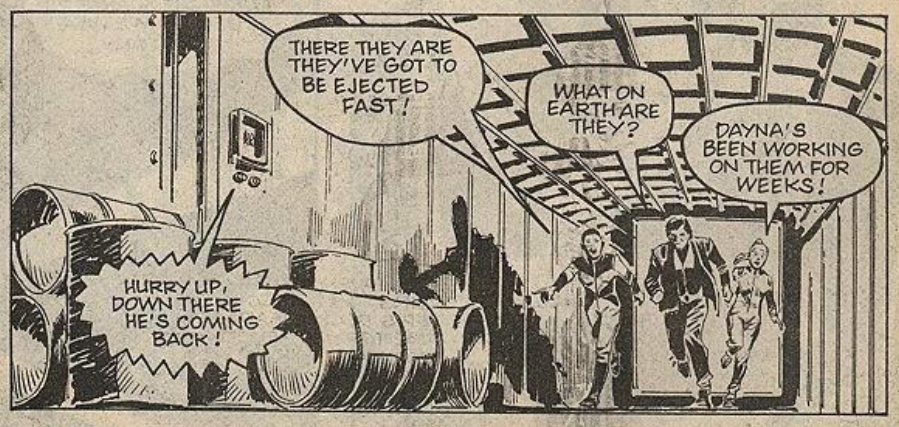
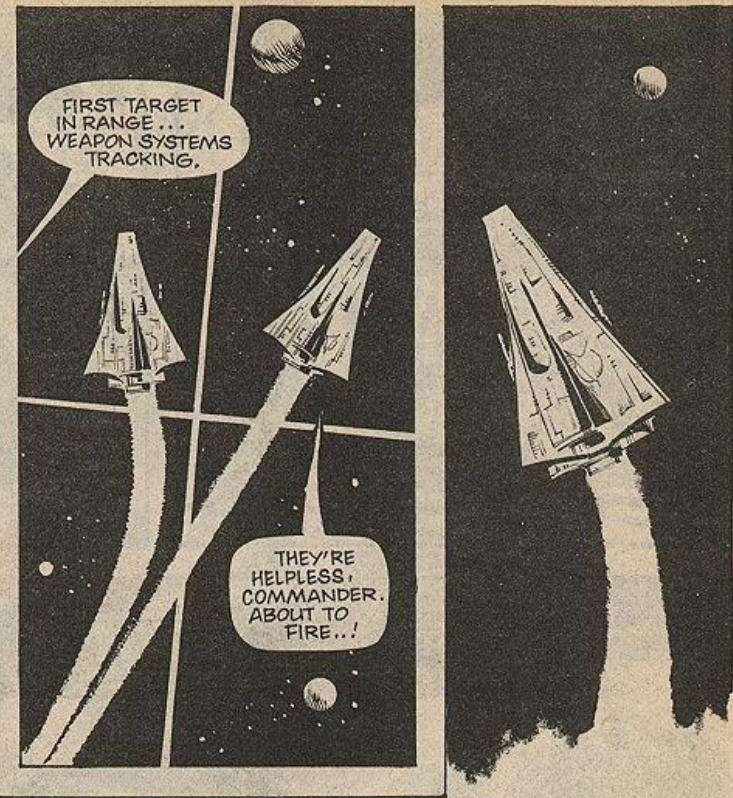
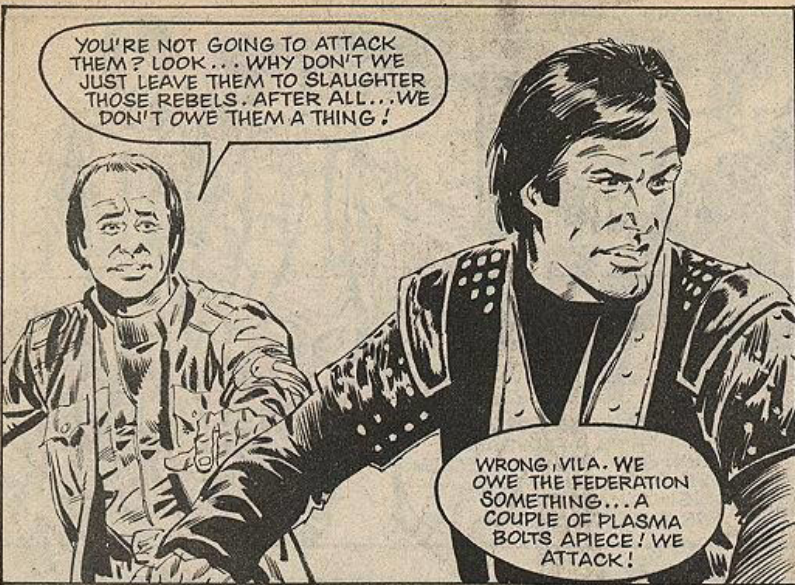
AT ONCE, MASTER BUT MAY I CAUTION YOU TO LOOK AT THE FORWARD SCANNERS I BELIEVE WE HAVE COMPANY...



TWO CRAFT ON PARALLEL COURSE ONE THOUSAND SPACIALS AT THREE-ONE-ZERO.

FEDERATION BATTLE CRUISERS I'D BET MY SHIRT ON IT.

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, VILA. MAN EMERGENCY STATIONS AND INITIATE SCREENS.





THEY'RE HELPLESS, COMMANDER... ABOUT TO FIRE!

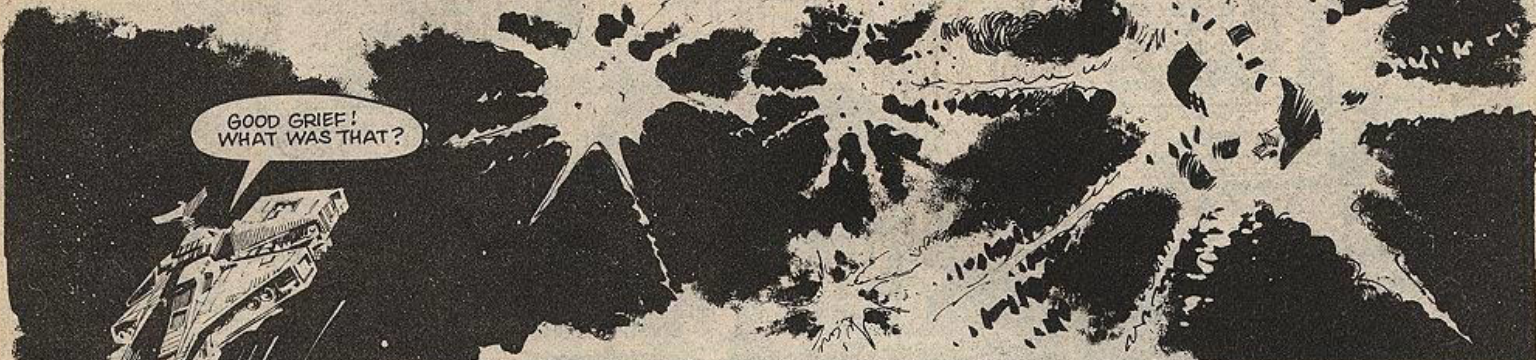
THIS HAD BETTER WORK, DAYNA... OR WE'RE ALL DEAD!

THEN, AS THE FEDERATION CRAFT CAME IN FOR THE KILL...



THERE'S SOMETHING AHEAD, COMMANDER CAN'T MAKE THEM OUT...

KROOOOMM



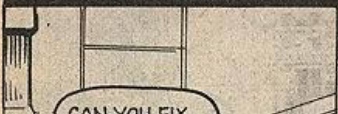
GOOD GRIEF! WHAT WAS THAT?



I THOUGHT SOME PERCUSSION CHARGES MIGHT COME IN HANDY ONE DAY!

YOU'RE A MARVEL, DAYNA!

PERHAPS... BUT IT STILL DOESN'T HELP OUR WEAPONS.



CAN YOU FIX THE SYSTEM QUICKLY?

NO CHANCE, AVON. IT WILL TAKE HOURS.



WE HAVEN'T GOT HOURS. THAT PRISON SHIP'S DEAD AHEAD. TIME TO TURN ROUND AND MAKE FOR XENON. WE CAN'T GO FOR INTERCEPTION WITHOUT WEAPONS.



THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, VILA. I'M OPENING A CHANNEL TO THEM. STAND ASIDE.

B... BUT WHAT IF THEY FIRE...?





NOW THE PRELIMINARIES ARE OVER, CAN WE TALK BUSINESS, GULDAK... IF YOU ARE INDEED THE LEADER OF THIS RABBLE?

I WILL TALK.



GOOD. NOW I BELIEVE I CAN HELP YOU RETURN TO YOUR PLANET AND DESTROY YOUR ENEMIES... BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT IN RETURN.

YOU WILL HELP US? THEN SPEAK! SAY WHAT YOU DESIRE.



ONE MOMENT. ORAC WHAT IS YOUR PROGNOSIS?

JUST AS YOU THOUGHT, MASTER. I CONFIRM ORIGINAL BELIEF.

THE BOX SPEAKS...?



DO NOT LET ORAC ALARM YOU. NOW, THIS DEVICE, THAT IS WHAT I WANT. IT IS OF LITTLE USE TO YOU BUT I CAN TURN IT AGAINST THE FEDERATION.

THAT THING? HUH, MY MEN HAVE TRIED TO MOVE IT BUT IT IS HELD FIRM BY SOMETHING. NO ONE CAN LIFT IT.



MY MAN, VILA, CAN RELEASE IT. VILA, BREAK THE TRACTOR-BEAM CIRCUIT CODE AND RELEASE THE MATRACON.

ER, SURE AVON.

MATRACON? WHAT IS THIS THING AND WHAT DOES IT DO?



OH, IT MERELY BOOSTS RADIO SIGNALS, NOTHING MORE.

DONE IT! IT'S FREE

IT GOES NOWHERE UNTIL YOU SHOW YOU WILL HELP ME FREE MY PEOPLE.



IMPOSSIBLE. IT MUST BE TAKEN TO MY SHIP FIRST. THEN WE WILL TALK.

NO. TRY TO MOVE IT AND I'LL KILL YOU.



I ARGUE WITH NO MAN! TARRANT... HOLD THEM OFF!

AHHHH!

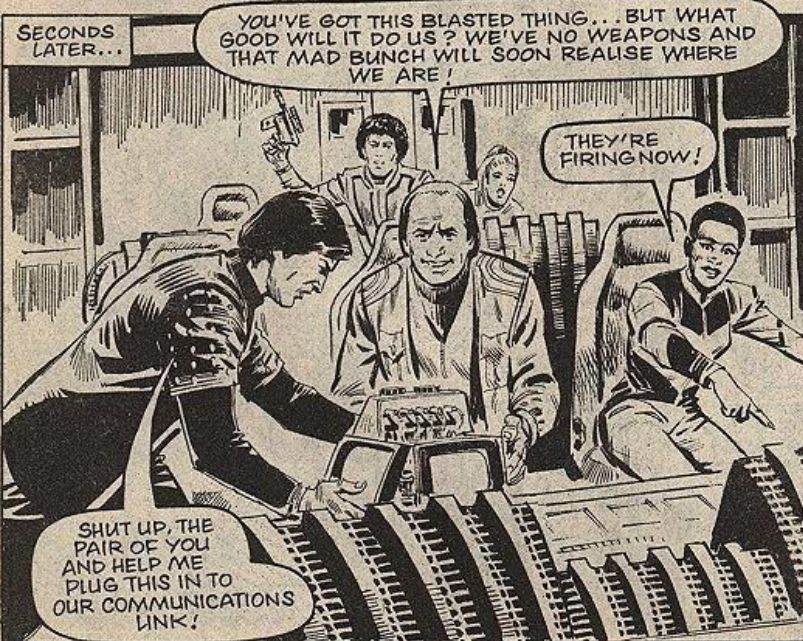


STOP THEM! TEAR THEM LIMB FROM LIMB! THEY MUST NOT ESCAPE!

DAYNA! TELEPORT NOW...



LEFT HOLDING THE FORT AGAIN? TIME I WASN'T HERE!



SECONDS LATER...

YOU'VE GOT THIS BLASTED THING... BUT WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO US? WE'VE NO WEAPONS AND THAT MAD BUNCH WILL SOON REALISE WHERE WE ARE!

THEY'RE FIRING NOW!

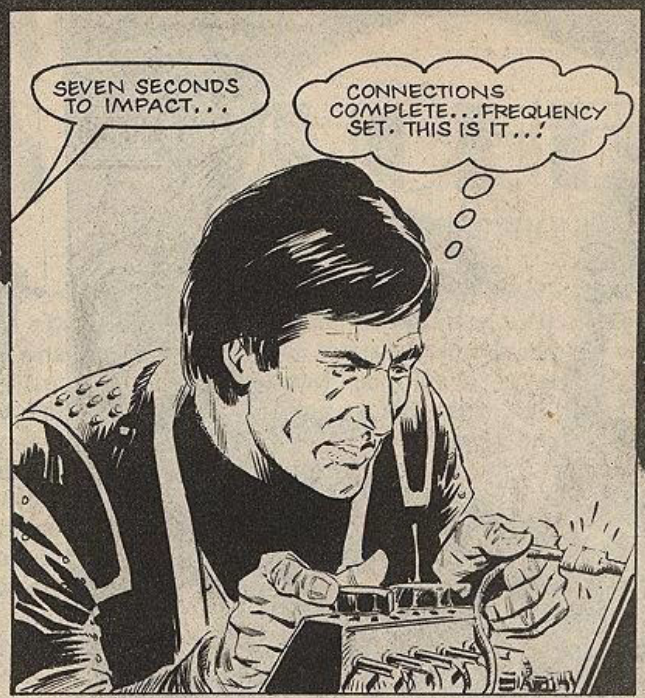
SHUT UP, THE PAIR OF YOU AND HELP ME PLUG THIS IN TO OUR COMMUNICATIONS LINK!



ON GULDAK'S SHIP...

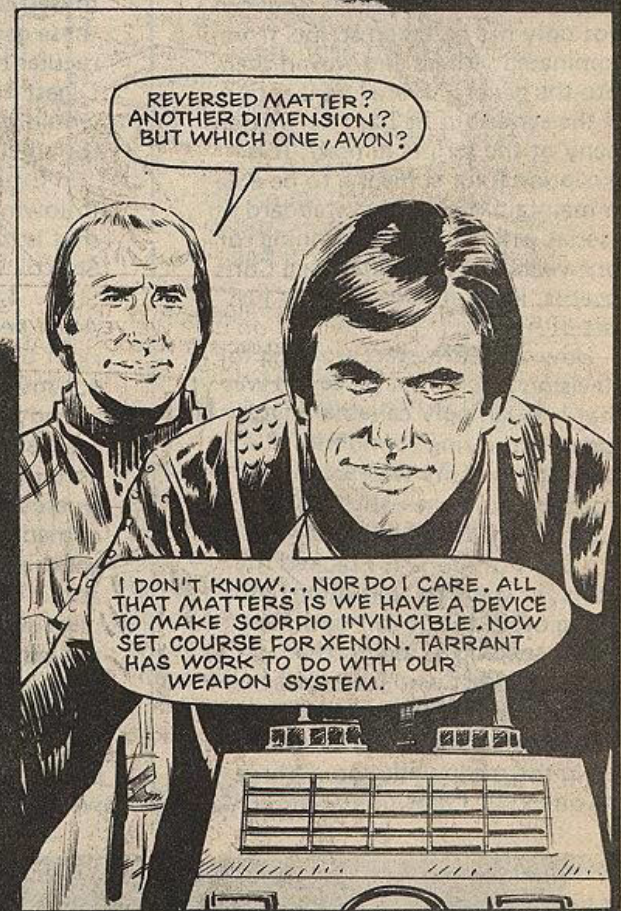
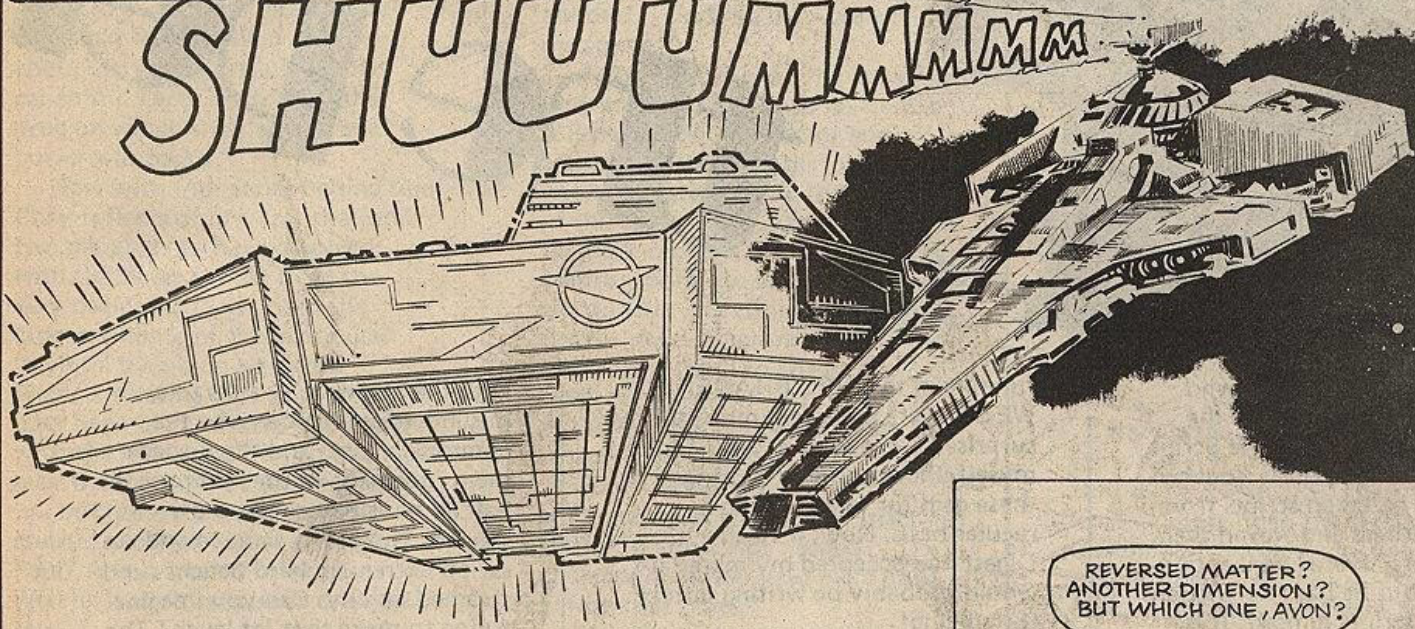
WE'RE BLASTING AT THEM NOW, GULDAK!

YES, AND MISSING! THOSE DEVILS HAVE CHEATED US BUT THEY WILL NOT LIVE TO BRAG OF IT! SET COURSE TO RAM THEM!



THAT INSTANT...

SHUUUMMMM



STARFLEET

DEEP UNDERGROUND IN A SUBTERRANEAN FORTRESS, THE FEDERATION'S INTELLIGENCE GATHERING NETWORK PROBES DEEP INTO SPACE, WATCHING LISTENING, TRYING TO SENSE ANYTHING UNUSUAL...

THE OPERATOR SCANNING FOR FUSION ENERGY DISCHARGE SLAMMED BACK IN HIS SEAT AS HIS MACHINE SCREAMED IN HIS EARS...

AAH! WHAT IN HELL WAS THAT?

Kennedy

CODE IT READ PRIORITY AND GET IT OFF THE COMMISSIONER SLEER. THAT'S HER AREA...

MASSIVE READING FROM NEAR THE PLANET DRAL 3, SIR. RIGHT OFF THE SCALE...

DRAL 3 WAS AN UNDISTINGUISHED WORLD, ITS ONLY CLAIM TO FAME BEING A SMALL FEDERATION BASE AND A COMMERCIAL SPACEPORT. NOW WHERE YOU FIND A SPACEPORT YOU ALSO FIND A SPACER'S BAR... AND, A FEW DAYS LATER...

THIS PLACE IS A HOLE IN THE GROUND, AVON. HOW MUCH LONGER ARE WE HERE?

UNTIL WE DISCOVER WHAT CAUSED THAT ENERGY BLAST PICKED UP BY ORAC. WHOEVER MADE IT WILL HAVE TO SHOW SOONER OR LATER. I'M BETTING THEY'LL SHOW HERE...

AT THAT MOMENT, ROWDY FEDERATION SHIP TECHNICIANS BLUDGEONED IN...

MOVE OVER, DARLIN'...

YEAH - SAY HELLO TO TWO HEROES OF THE FEDERATION...

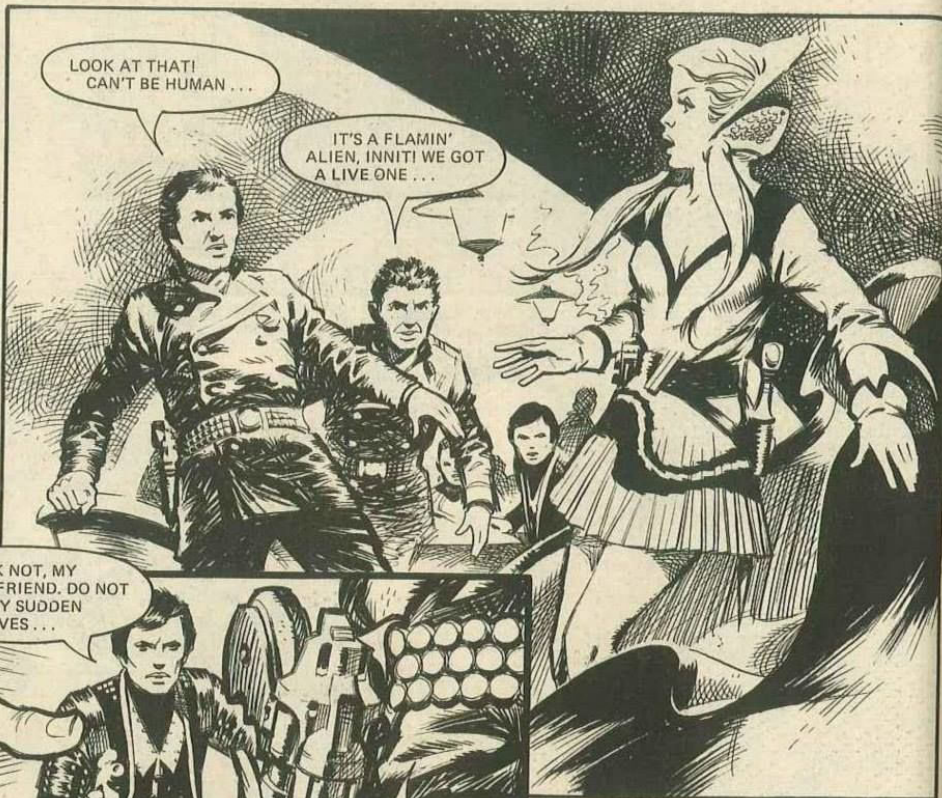
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD MAKE A LONELY SPACER VERY HAPPY, DEARIE...

PLEASE - DO NOT TOUCH MY FLESH.



AW - C'MON. DON'T BE LIKE THAT ...

'ERE, BERN - LOOKI HER ARM, IT - IT'S BURNING!



LOOK AT THAT! CAN'T BE HUMAN ...

IT'S A FLAMIN' ALIEN, INNIT! WE GOT A LIVE ONE ...



I THINK NOT, MY UNCOUTH FRIEND. DO NOT MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVES ...

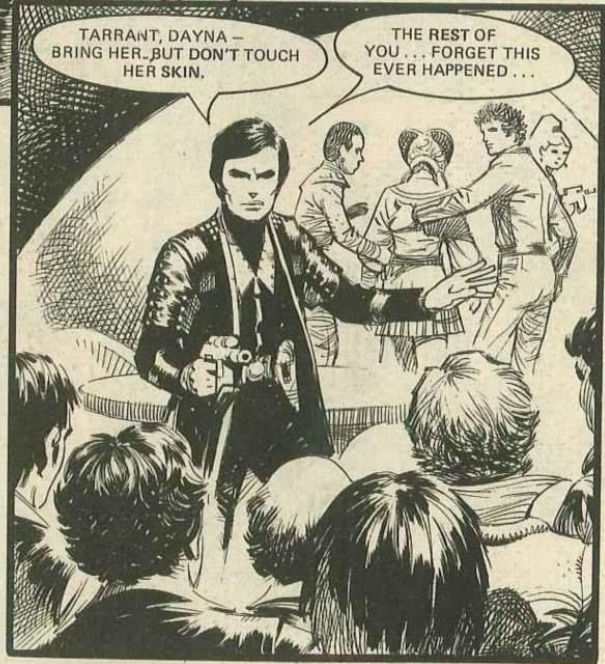
EH? UP YOURS, MATE ...



AAARGH!

HAVE IT YOUR WAY!

AIEEE!



TARRANT, DAYNA - BRING HER. BUT DON'T TOUCH HER SKIN.

THE REST OF YOU ... FORGET THIS EVER HAPPENED ...



TO THE SHIP. AVON?

CORRECT. I THINK WE MAY HAVE FOUND WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR ...

SOME HOURS LATER, COMMISSIONER SLEER, RECEIVED A REPORT OF THE INCIDENT AS HER VESSEL APPROACHED DRAL 3...



SO THERE WERE FOUR OF THEM INVOLVED, EH? AND IT IS SUSPECTED THAT THE WOMAN WAS A MUTANT... ORDER A FULL SURFACE SCAN OF DRAL 3, CAPTAIN...



WHAT IF SHE IS NOT A MUTANT AT ALL BUT AN ALIEN? THIS WHOLE AFFAIR COULD BE VERY PROMISING INDEED - FOR THE POWER OF COMMISSIONER SLEER...

AS SLEER'S VESSEL HEADED FOR THE FEDERATION BASE, SCORPIO WAS NOSING HER WAY OUT OF THE COMMERCIAL PORT...



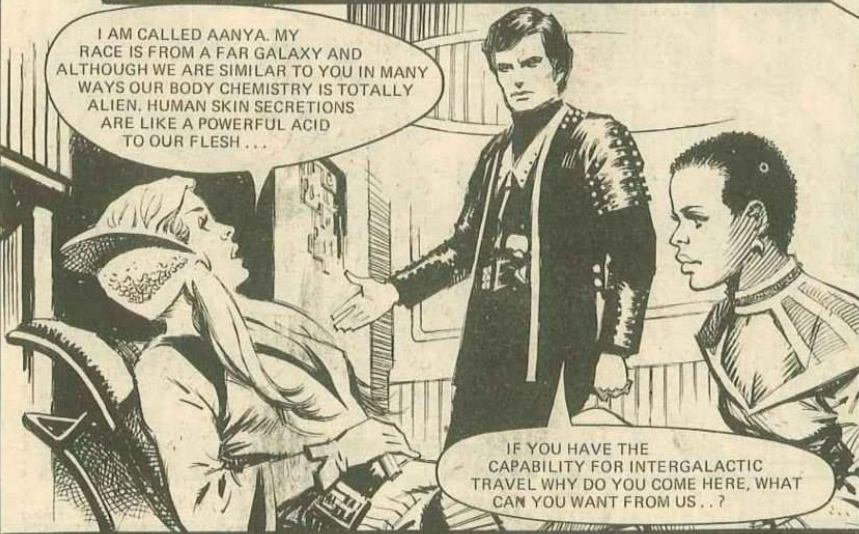
SHE'S COMING ROUND, AVON...

WHO ARE YOU, WOMAN? AND WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE...?

MY ENTIRE RACE IS MIGRATING IN A GREAT STARSHIP. BUT OUR CENTRAL NAVIGATION SYSTEM HAS FAILED. WE HAVE HAD TO STOP IN THIS AWFUL PLACE SO THAT I CAN SEARCH FOR A STARMAP OF YOUR GALAXY. I WAS SEARCHING IN THE PORT WHEN...



I AM CALLED AANYA. MY RACE IS FROM A FAR GALAXY AND ALTHOUGH WE ARE SIMILAR TO YOU IN MANY WAYS OUR BODY CHEMISTRY IS TOTALLY ALIEN. HUMAN SKIN SECRETIONS ARE LIKE A POWERFUL ACID TO OUR FLESH...



IF YOU HAVE THE CAPABILITY FOR INTERGALACTIC TRAVEL WHY DO YOU COME HERE, WHAT CAN YOU WANT FROM US...?

YES, WE KNOW THE REST, AANYA. YOUR STORY IS SO BIZARRE THAT I AM TEMPTED TO BELIEVE YOU...

IT - IT NEED NOT BE LIKE THAT, ALL THAT HATE IS ALIEN TO YOU. I SENSE THAT YOU ARE A LOVING MAN, YOU HAVE KNOWN LOVE...



TRUE - BUT LOVE DIES QUICKLY WHEN IT IS BETRAYED - NOW LEAVE IT - GIVE US A COURSE FOR YOUR VESSEL...

BUT IT IS TRUE - COME I WILL LEAD YOU TO MY SHIP. WHY DOES YOUR RACE ALWAYS SEE DECEIT AND HATE IN EVERYTHING...?



BECAUSE THAT IS THE WAY TO SURVIVE, IN THIS PLACE AND AT THIS TIME...

HUGGING THE CLOUD-COVERED SURFACE OF DRAL'S OCEAN, SCORPIO TRAVERSED HALF THE PLANET UNTIL...

MY GOD! IS THAT REAL? THE SIZE OF IT...

SHE HOUSES A MILLION OF MY PEOPLE IN SUS-AN CHAMBERS. HER WEIGHT IS SO GREAT THAT WE HAD TO DESIGN HER TO OPERATE FROM WATER - THAT IS THE ONLY WAY SHE WILL NOT BREAK UP.

SOON AANYA LED THEM INTO THE HEART OF THE STUNNING, CITY-SIZED VESSEL...

WHY ME, EH? I SUPPOSE I HAVE TO BRING ORAC 'COS I'M EXPENDABLE...

YOU WOULD PREFER TO STAY ON BOARD TO FIGHT OFF AN ATTACK?

OH, ER... LEAD ON, AVON...

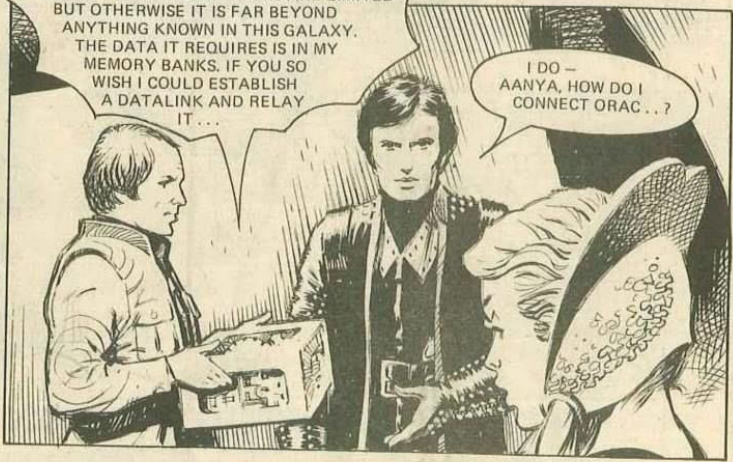
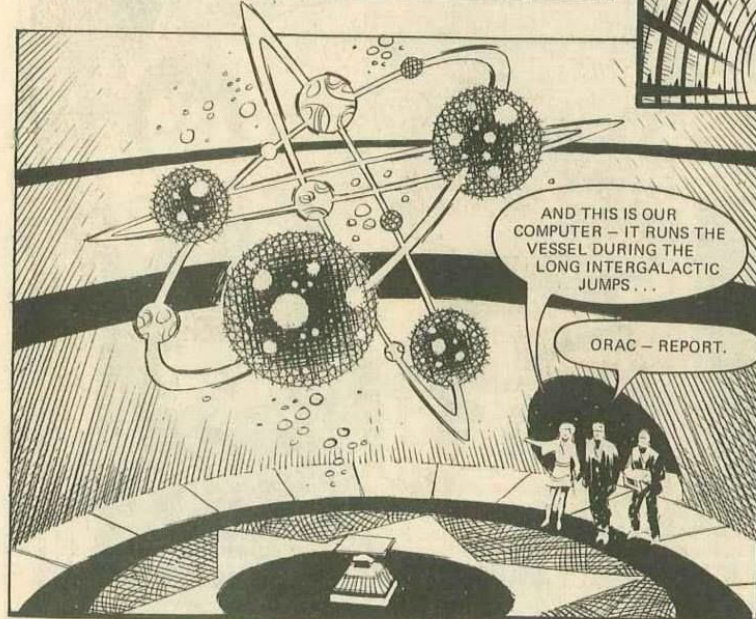
MY PEOPLE ARE ALL CARRIED IN THESE CHAMBERS. WE ARE ONLY RECALLED FROM OUR LONG SLEEP IF WE ARE NEEDED, AS I WAS FOR THIS MISSION...

COMPUTER IS A LIVING ORGANIC MACHINE. EXTERIOR SENSORS ARE LIMITED BUT OTHERWISE IT IS FAR BEYOND ANYTHING KNOWN IN THIS GALAXY. THE DATA IT REQUIRES IS IN MY MEMORY BANKS. IF YOU SO WISH I COULD ESTABLISH A DATALINK AND RELAY IT...

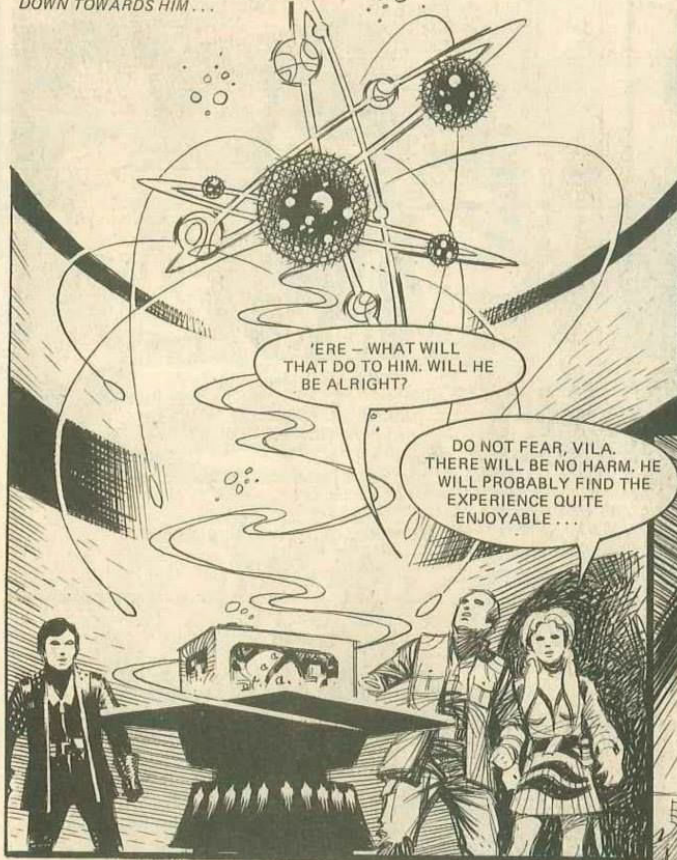
I DO - AANYA, HOW DO I CONNECT ORAC...?

AND THIS IS OUR COMPUTER - IT RUNS THE VESSEL DURING THE LONG INTERGALACTIC JUMPS...

ORAC - REPORT.



ON AANYA'S INSTRUCTIONS, ORAC WAS PLACED ON THE CENTRAL PLATFORM AND A FIELD OF PURE ENERGY STARTED TO ARCH DOWN TOWARDS HIM...



'ERE - WHAT WILL THAT DO TO HIM. WILL HE BE ALRIGHT?

DO NOT FEAR, VILA. THERE WILL BE NO HARM. HE WILL PROBABLY FIND THE EXPERIENCE QUITE ENJOYABLE...



BUT COME, AVON, VILA. LET ME SHOW YOU MORE OF MY VESSEL...

ER, NO THANKS. I'LL STAY WITH OLD PLASTIC BRAIN. HE MIGHT WANT ME TO HOLD HIS HAND OR SOMETHING...

SO AVON WAS ALONE WITH AANYA MOVING FURTHER INTO THE GREAT VESSEL...



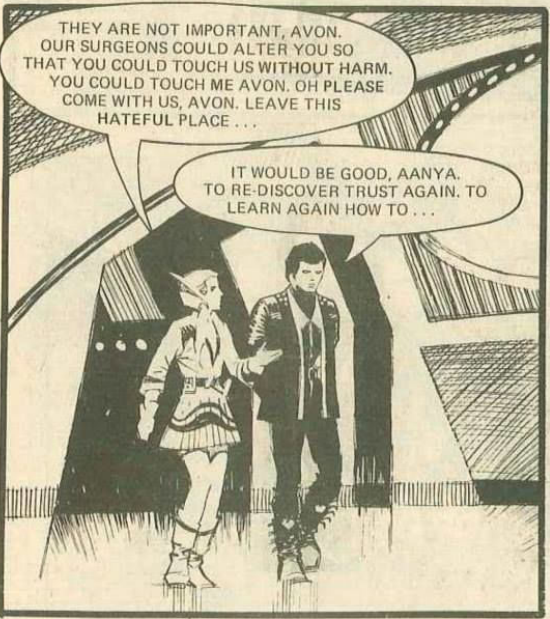
THIS IS A HOLOGRAM OF MY HOMETOWN, AVON. IT WAS DESTROYED WHEN THE MAIN SUN WENT NOVA. IT WAS SO BEAUTIFUL, WE WERE SAD TO LEAVE...

I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL MAKE YOUR NEW HOME JUST AS WONDERFUL...



IT-IT WOULD BE EVEN BETTER IF... IF...

IF I WERE TO COME WITH YOU...? IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE, AANYA. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US...



THEY ARE NOT IMPORTANT, AVON. OUR SURGEONS COULD ALTER YOU SO THAT YOU COULD TOUCH US WITHOUT HARM. YOU COULD TOUCH ME AVON. OH PLEASE COME WITH US, AVON. LEAVE THIS HATEFUL PLACE...

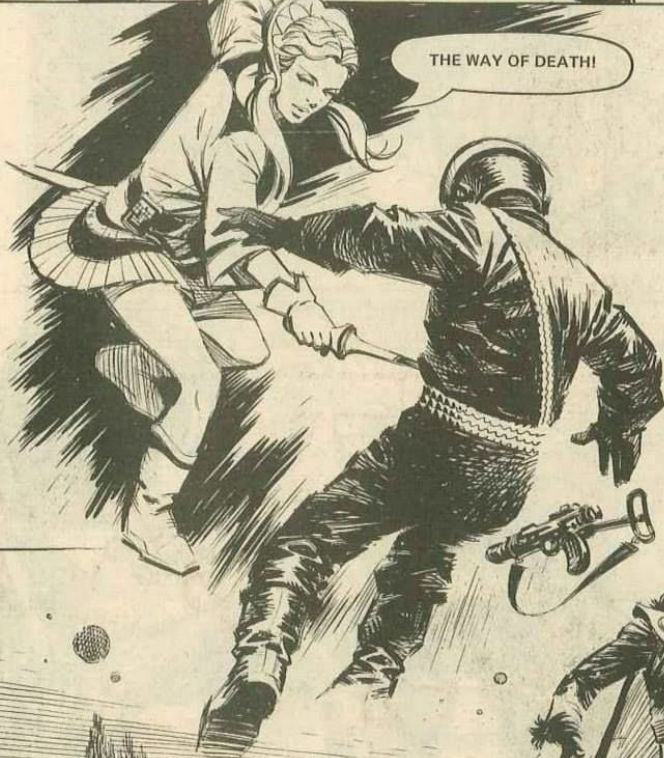
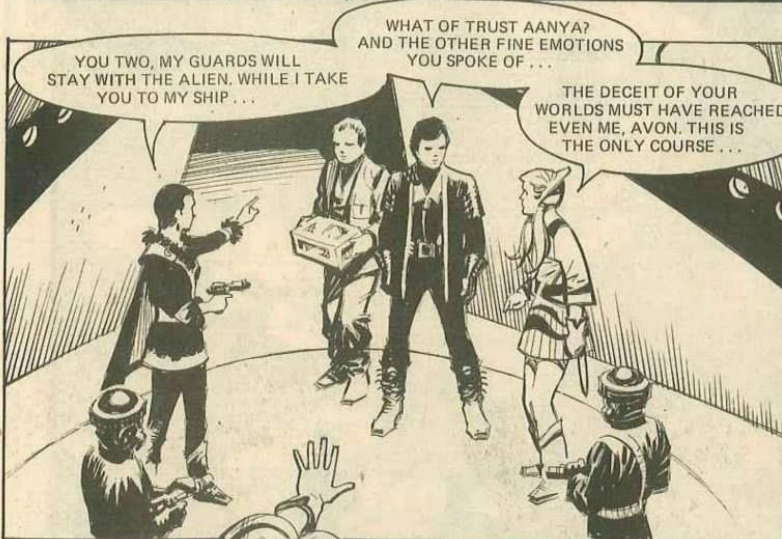
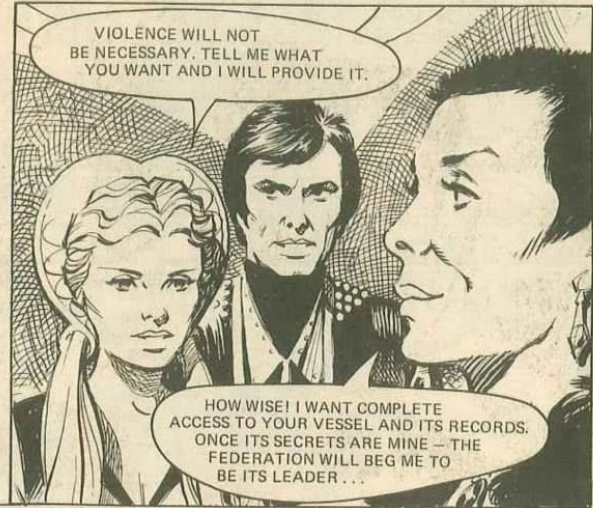
IT WOULD BE GOOD, AANYA. TO RE-DISCOVER TRUST AGAIN. TO LEARN AGAIN HOW TO...



... LOVE, AVON? WAS THE COLD-HEARTED AVON ACTUALLY GOING TO SAY LOVE?

YOU!

YES, AVON - ME. YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S SHIP IS PUTTING OUT A BEAUTIFUL CAMOUFLAGE FIELD. WE CREPT UP ON YOUR FRIENDS WITHOUT BEING DETECTED. I MUST SAY I LIKE YOUR TASTE IN WOMEN. SHE'S NOT ANNA GRANT BUT...



THE ALIEN BITCH. SHE'S BETRAYED ME. GUARDS K - I KILL THE PRISONERS AND GET ON THE SHIP...

NO! IT IS THEY WHO DIE...

NOW YOU, YOU HATEFUL HAG. YOU WILL FIND YOUR DEATH AT THE TIP OF THIS BLADE...

AND, AS THE VAST SHIP STARTED TO STAGGER UP TO FULL POWER THE DEADLY DUEL UNFOLDED.

UNTIL THE CUNNING SERVALAN SAW HER CHANCE...

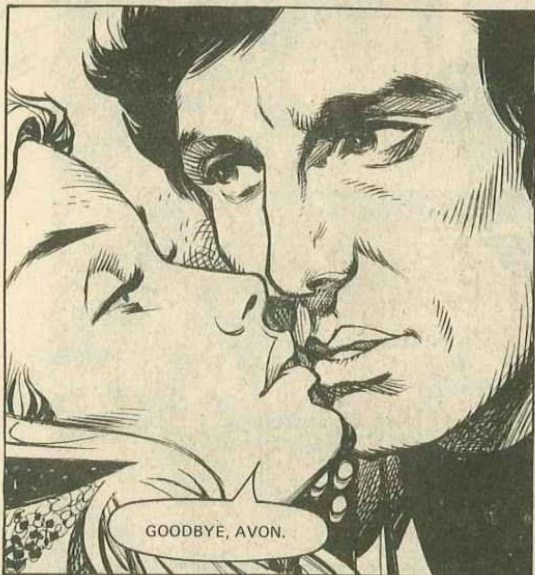
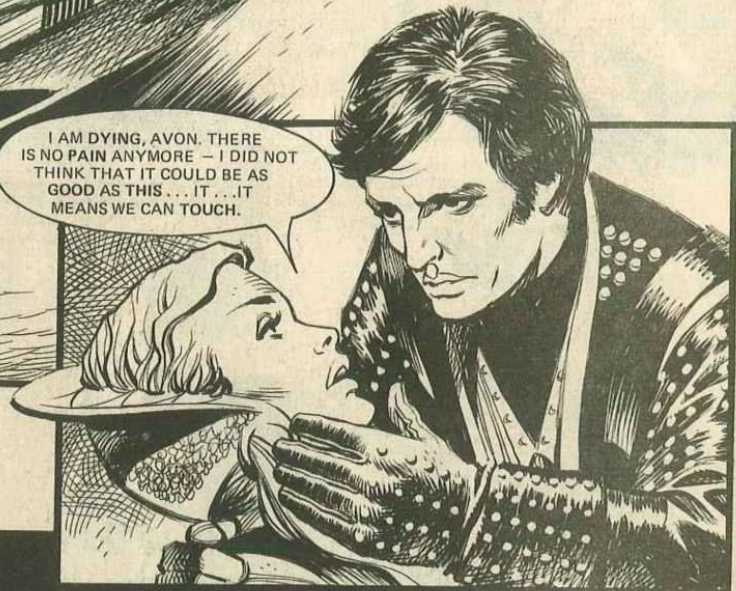
AT FIRST, AANYA HAD THE UPPER HAND...

AS AANYA LAY DYING, AVON STRUGGLED TO HER SIDE...

AANYA - WHY? YOU NEVER STOOD A CHANCE...

NOOOOOOO!

IT WAS THE ONLY WAY. MY SHIP IS LAUNCHING ON AUTOMATIC AND I COULD NOT RESCUE YOU AND GET BACK INSIDE...



SECONDS LATER, AVON WAS BACK ON THE SCORPIO AS SHE EDGED CLEAR OF THE GREAT SHIP ...

