

Beginning this week—an exciting new story about the people of the mysterious planet, Elekton.

# The RISE and FALL of the TRIGAN EMPIRE

Trigo the ruler of Trigan looked up one day to see the wise old Peric standing before him. The old man's face was strangely sad . . .



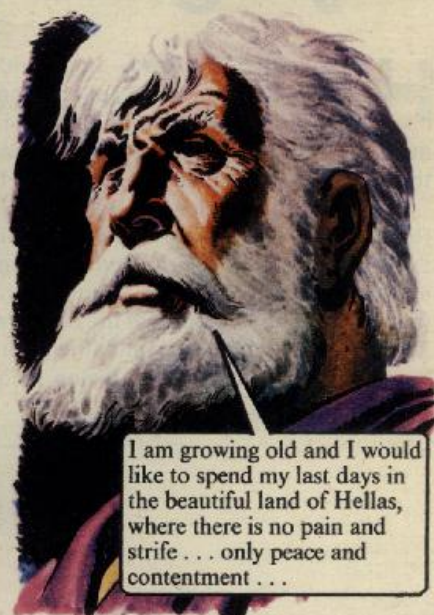
Lord Trigo . . . I regret to say that I shall be leaving you soon.

Trigo knew instantly what Peric meant.



You feel the time has come for you to depart on the journey of no return . . . the voyage to Hellas?

Yes, Lord Trigo. You have paid me well for my services . . . I shall be able to afford a splendid craft . . .



I am growing old and I would like to spend my last days in the beautiful land of Hellas, where there is no pain and strife . . . only peace and contentment . . .

From time immemorial the people of the planet Elekton had believed in the existence of the beautiful land of Hellas . . . and it was every Elektons' ambition to be able to afford the traditional jewel-encrusted boat in which to make the journey when he grew old . . .



The finest Hellas boat we have ever built.

Fit for Peric, who has served Lord Trigo long and well.

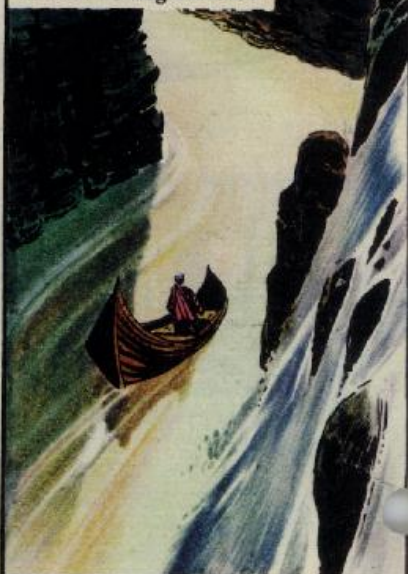
Came the day when Peric bade a sad farewell to his ruler and his loved ones, and boarded his Hellas boat on the mysterious River Pyx . . .



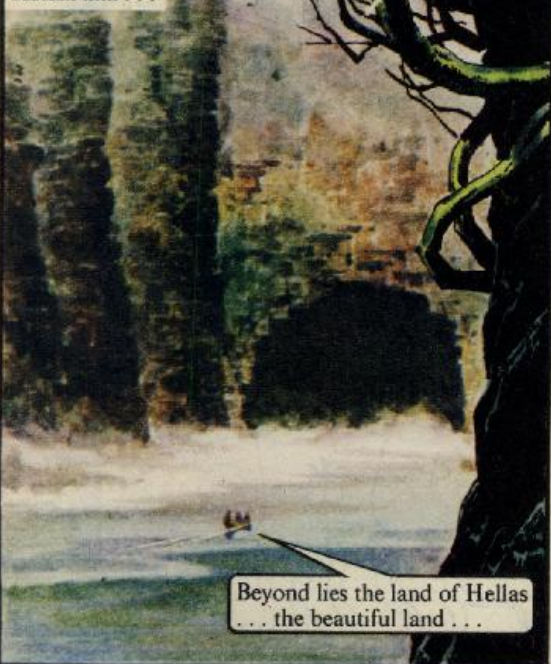
Farewell, old friend . . . may you still be there to greet me when I, too, make the journey of no return!

Goodbye . . . goodbye . . .

No need for sail or oars . . . the River Pyx carried the Hellas boat containing Peric and all his wealth in its swift-flowing current . . .



He came at length to a vast cavern into which the river flowed. It was an awe-inspiring sight, and Peric's courage nearly failed him . . . but he had the ancient Elekton belief to sustain him . . .



Beyond lies the land of Hellas . . . the beautiful land . . .

A year passed, and wise old Peric passed into memory. One morning, Trigo's nephew Janno and his friend Keren boarded their atmosphere crafts.



We'll have a mock battle in the sky!

I wager I'll beat you!

Soon the high-spirited lads were soaring far above the plain of Vorg . . . and Janno grinned to himself . . .



He's going to attack me . . . but I'll turn and meet him with a counter-attack!



It was a million-to-one mischance! Both lads saw it coming, and both wrenched at their controls . . . *too late!*



Janno fought with the controls of his rent and blazing craft. He saw a broad river below him and one thought raced through his mind . . .

If the craft doesn't break apart on impact with the water . . . I might have a chance . . .

Then came the stunning plunge into the river . . . and the hull of the craft did not disintegrate. Janno fought his way out of the wreckage . . .



With lungs near to bursting, his head broke the surface . . . and what he saw brought a cry of terror to his lips . . .



The river that bore him inexorably onwards was the River Pyx . . . and he was being carried into the forbidding cavern mouth . . . *on the journey from which there was no return!*



I'm too young to finish with my life . . . my time hasn't come yet!

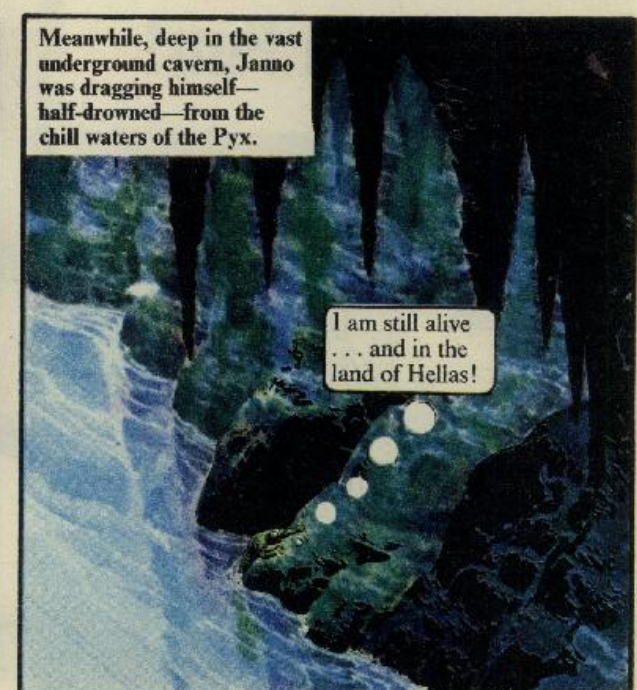
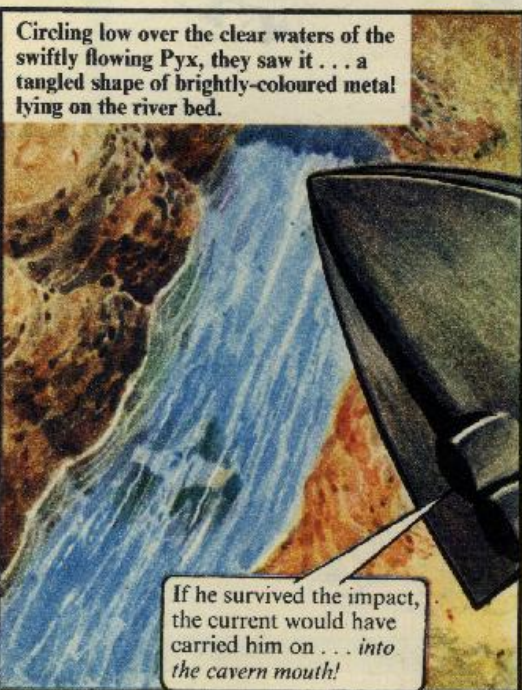
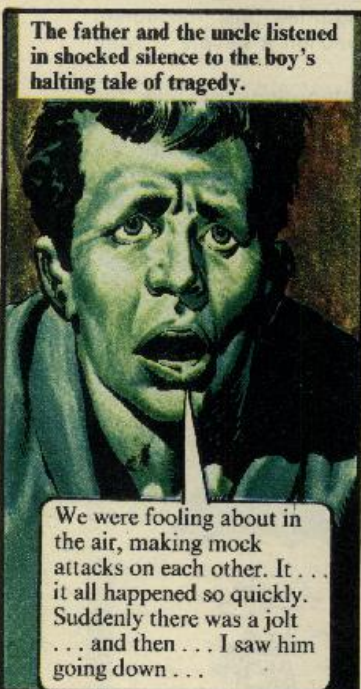
Next Week: Shocks for Janno in the strange land of Hellas

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# The RISE and FALL of the TRIGAN EMPIRE

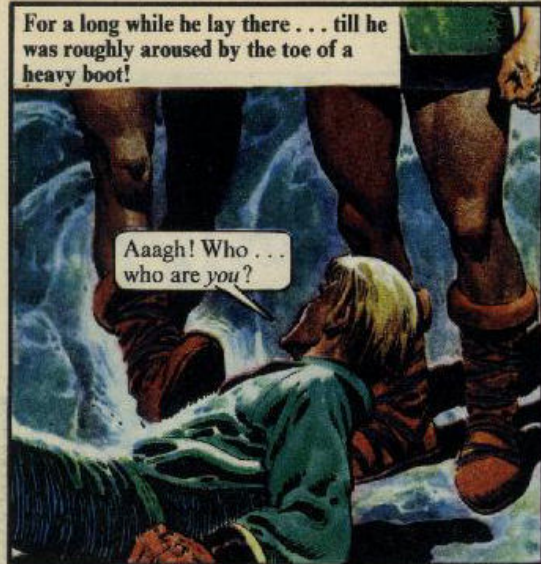
Janno, the nephew of Trigo, collides with his friend, Keren, in his atmosphere craft. Janno crashes into the River Pyx and is carried on its current through the dread cavern mouth that leads to Hellas. Keren brings his damaged craft back.





For a long while he lay there . . . till he was roughly aroused by the toe of a heavy boot!

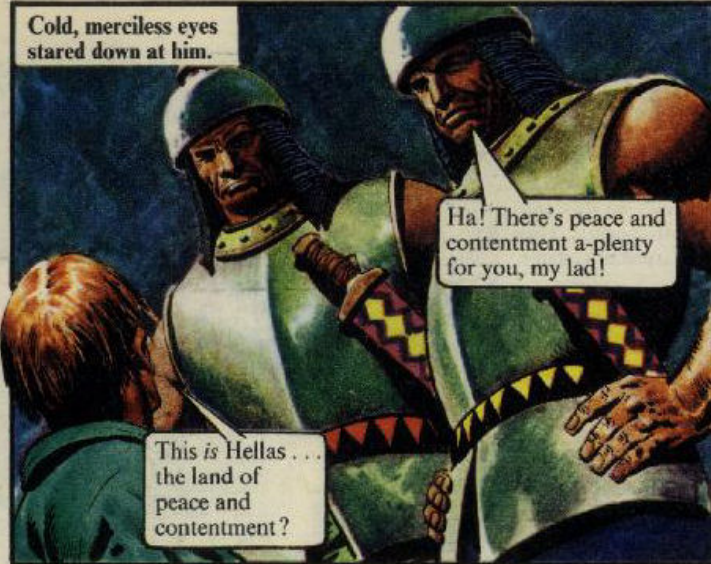
Aaagh! Who . . . who are you?



Cold, merciless eyes stared down at him.

Ha! There's peace and contentment a-plenty for you, my lad!

This *is* Hellas . . . the land of peace and contentment?

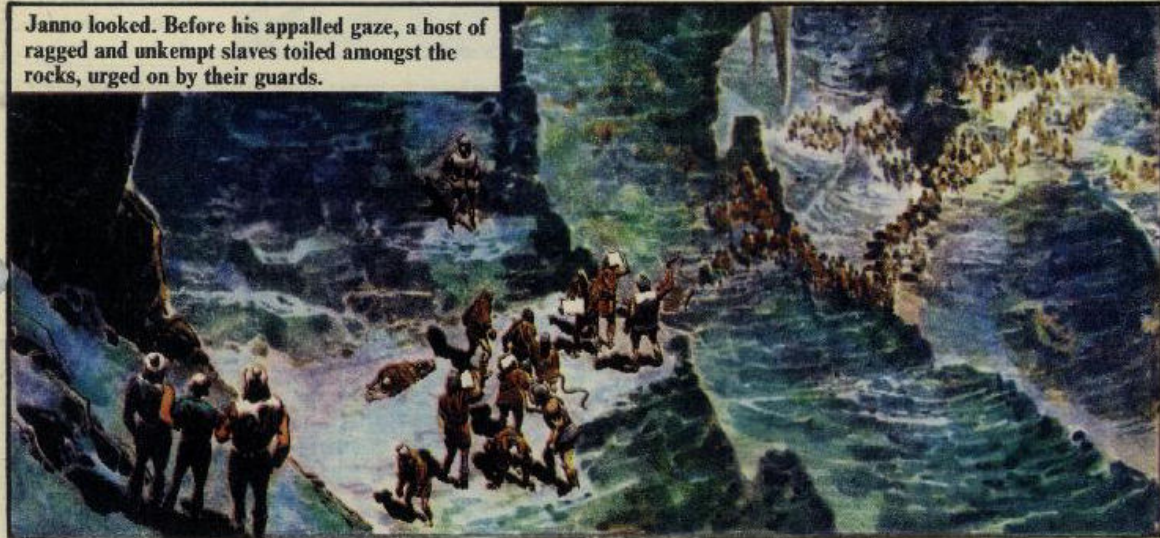


Janno was roughly dragged to his feet.

Take a look at the delights that await you!



Janno looked. Before his appalled gaze, a host of ragged and unkempt slaves toiled amongst the rocks, urged on by their guards.



Janno thought of the ancient legend of his people . . .



Heh! They all say the same thing. For a thousand years they've been coming here, full of high hopes, but this is the truth of it, lad—you'll slave like the rest of them, until you drop!

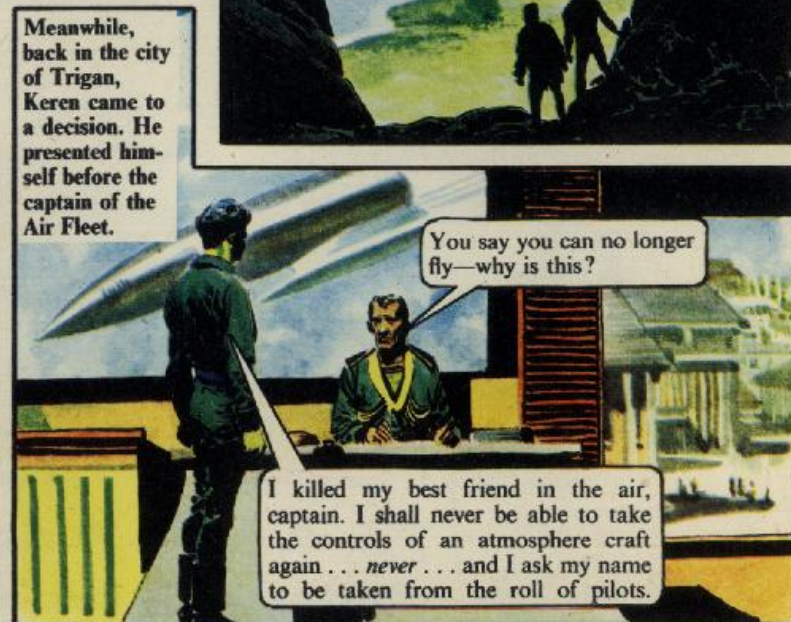
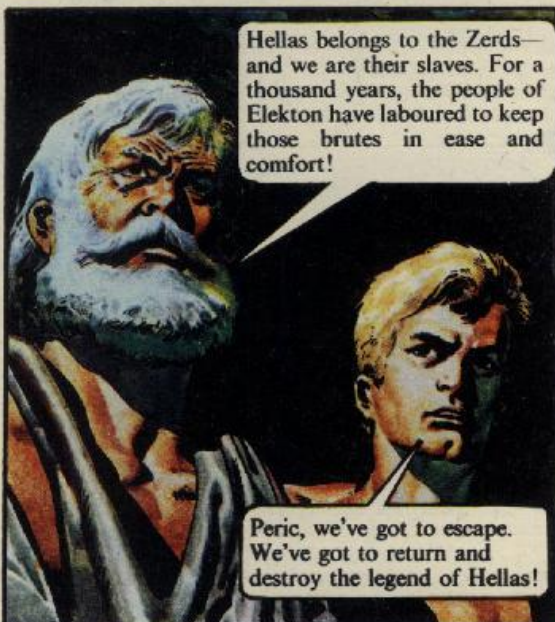
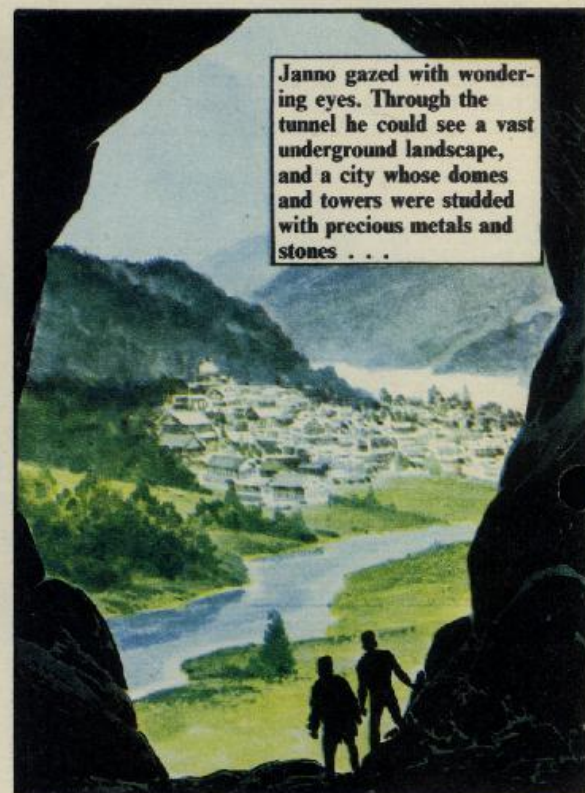
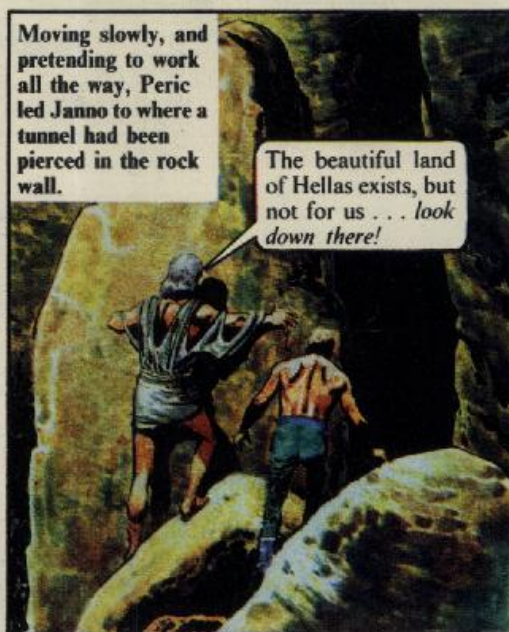
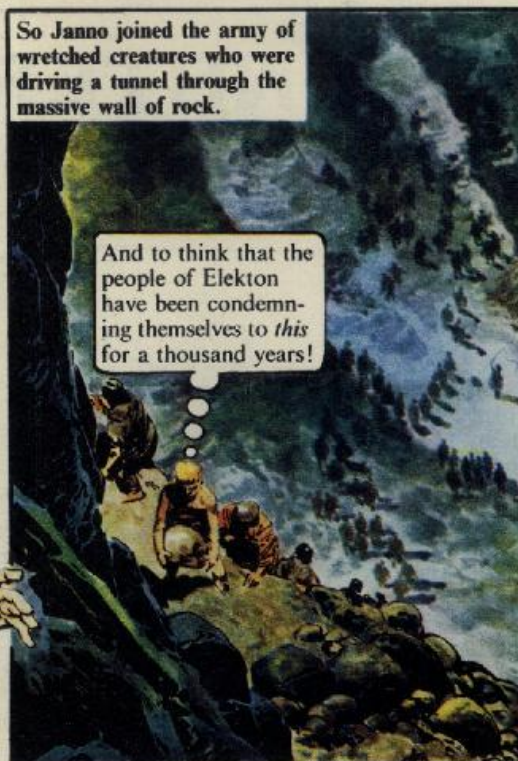
No! This isn't Hellas . . . not the beautiful land we have believed in for a thousand years!

**NEXT WEEK: HOPE IN THE LAND OF NO RETURN**

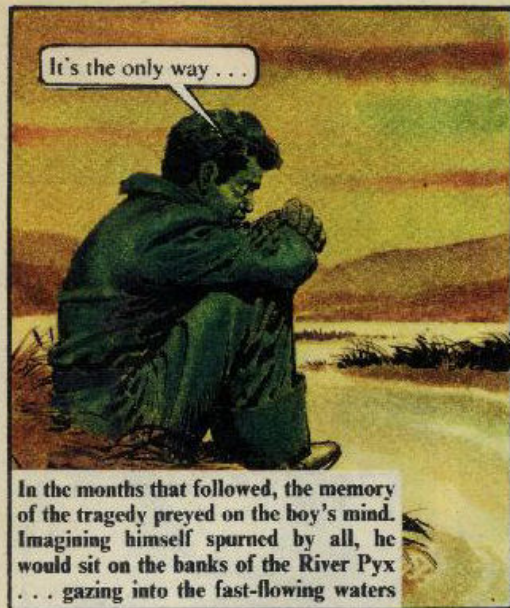


# The RISE and FALL of the TRIGAN EMPIRE

After a mid-air crash with his friend Keren, Janno the nephew of Trigo is carried by the River Pyx to the land of Hellas—the Land of No Return—to where, for a thousand years, the people of the planet Elekton have journeyed in the belief that they would end their days in peace and contentment. But Janno swiftly learns that Hellas is far from being the land of the beautiful legend . . .







It's the only way . . .

In the months that followed, the memory of the tragedy preyed on the boy's mind. Imagining himself spurned by all, he would sit on the banks of the River Pyx . . . gazing into the fast-flowing waters

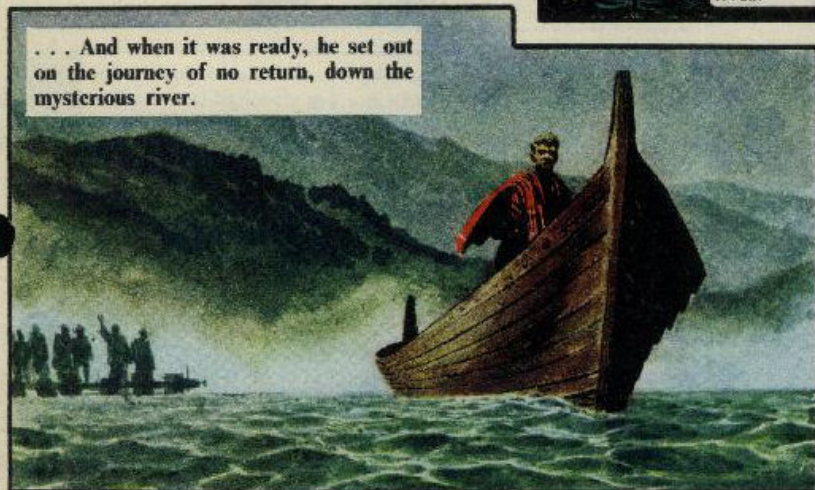
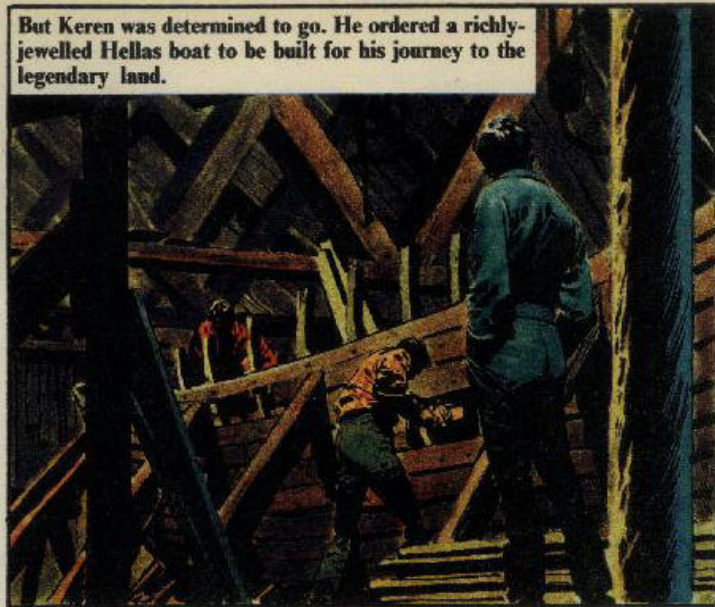
Finally, he went to Trigo.

Lord Trigo. It is my wish to take the journey of no return and join Janno if he still lives!

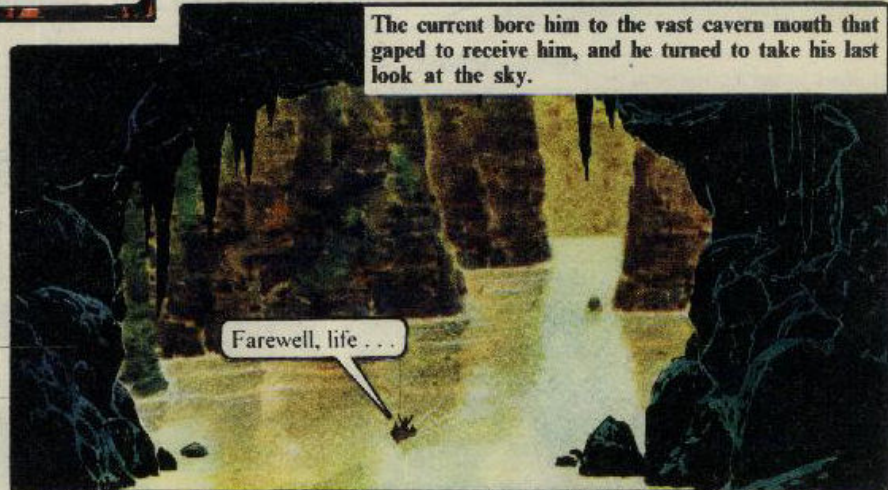


You are young, Keren . . . the land of Hellas is a place for men who have lived the best part of their lives.

But Keren was determined to go. He ordered a richly-jewelled Hellas boat to be built for his journey to the legendary land.



. . . And when it was ready, he set out on the journey of no return, down the mysterious river.



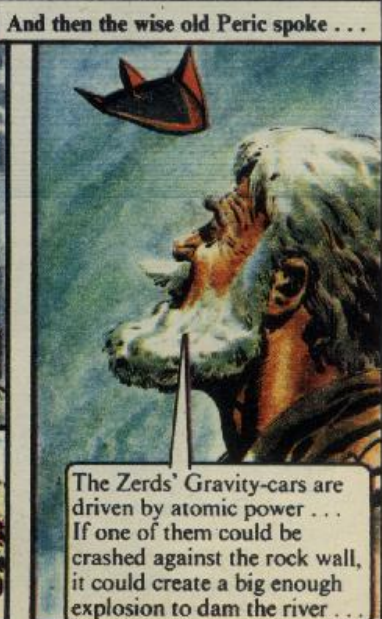
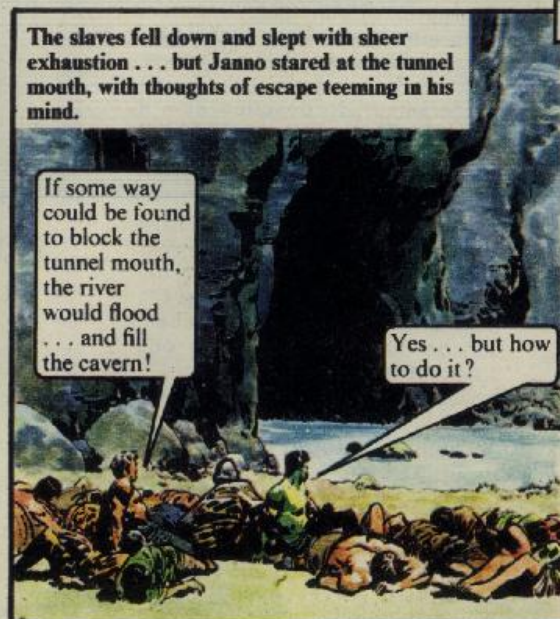
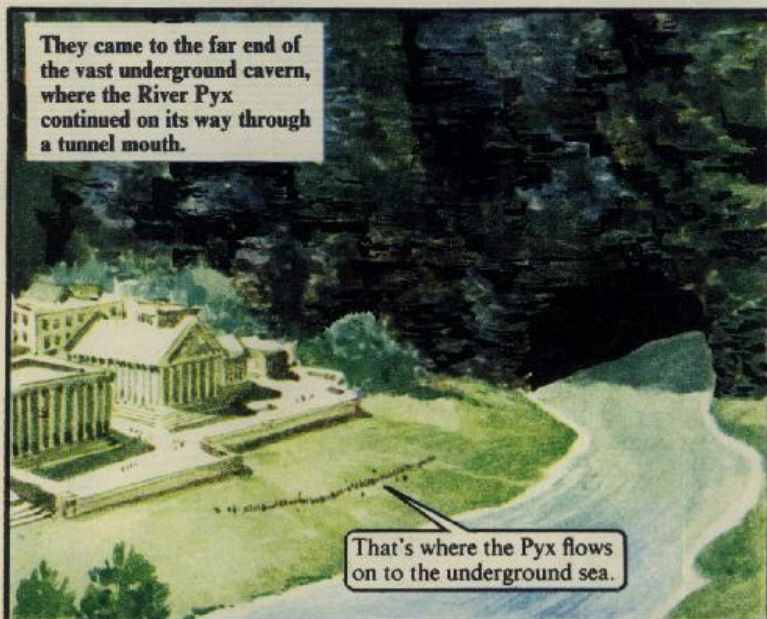
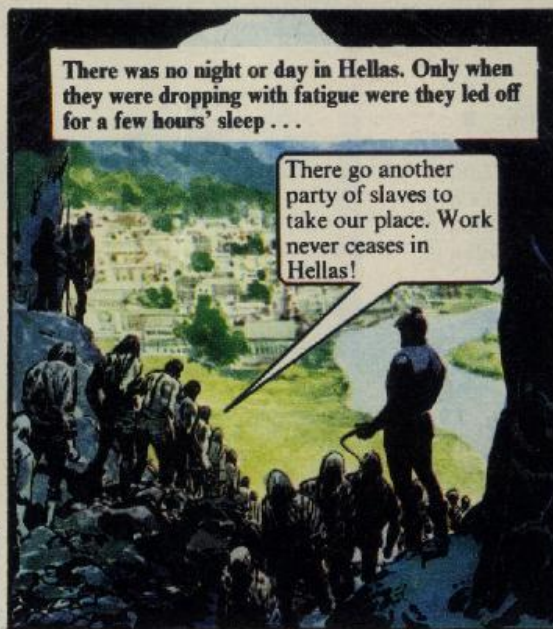
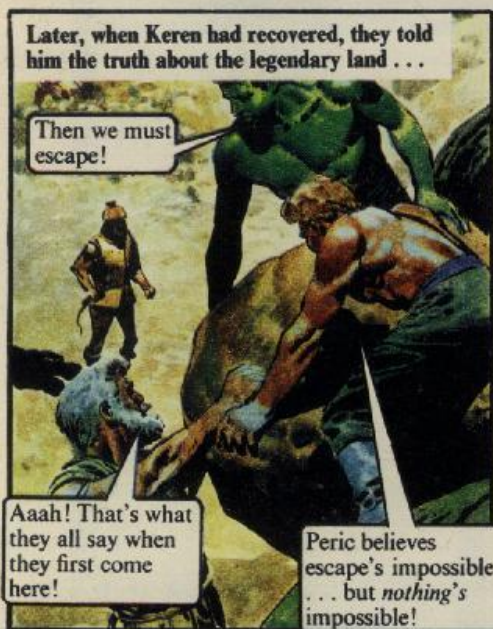
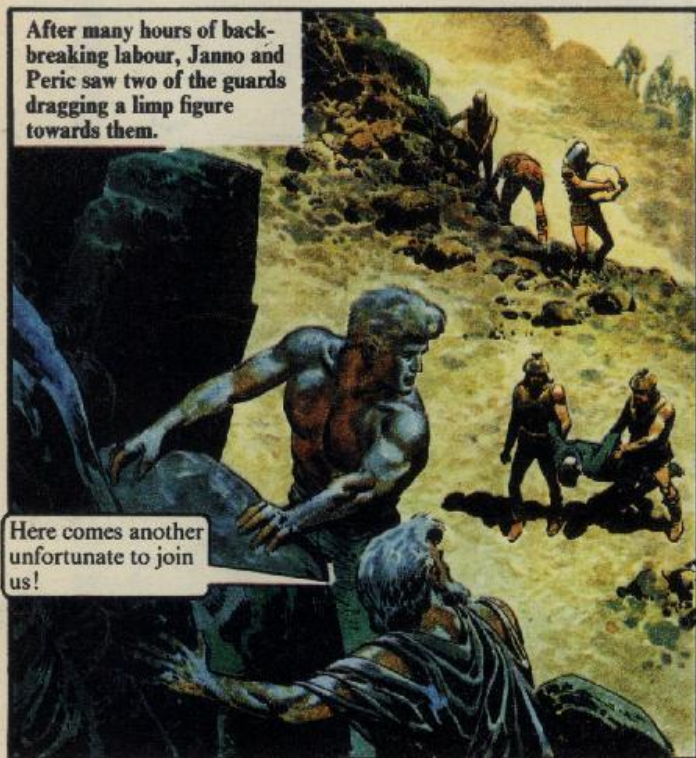
Farewell, life . . .

**Next Week: Plans for escape from the Land of No Return!**



# The RISE and FALL of the TRIGAN EMPIRE

The legendary Hellas, where for a thousand years the people of the planet Elekton have gone to end their days, is not a place of peace and contentment, but a land where the Elektons have to slave for their brutal masters, the Zerds. Janno, the nephew of Trigan, and wise old Peric are two of these slaves . . .



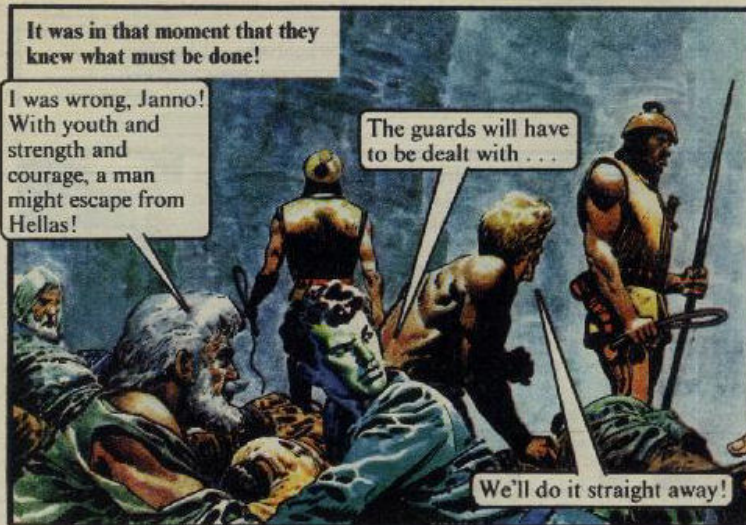


It was in that moment that they knew what must be done!

I was wrong, Janno! With youth and strength and courage, a man might escape from Hellas!

The guards will have to be dealt with . . .

We'll do it straight away!

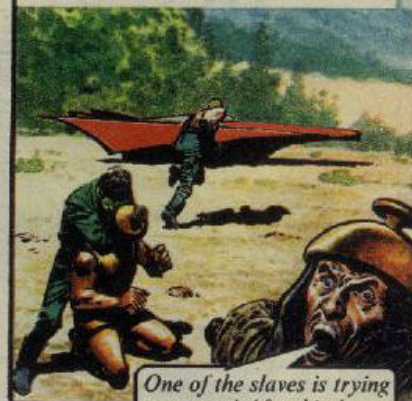


A short while later, one of the Zerd guards felt Keren's powerful arm encircle his neck.

Uuuuugh!

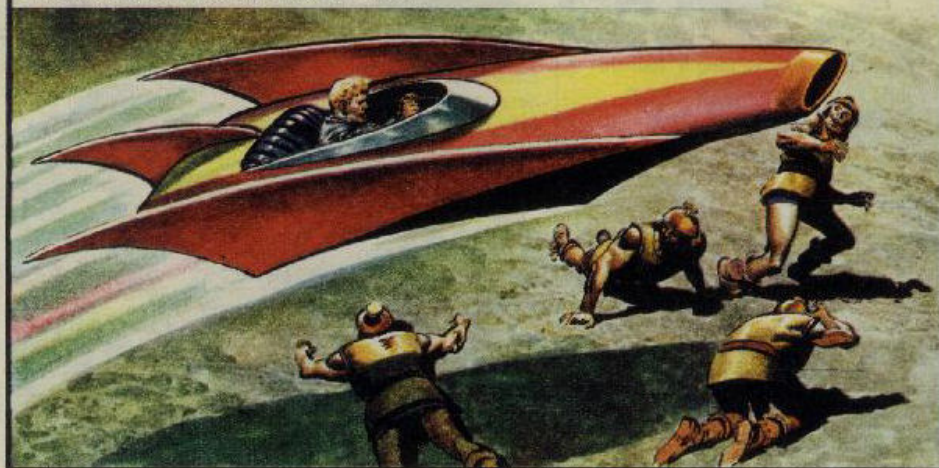


And then Janno was running towards one of the Gravity-cars that lay nearby . . . with furious shouts ringing in his ears!

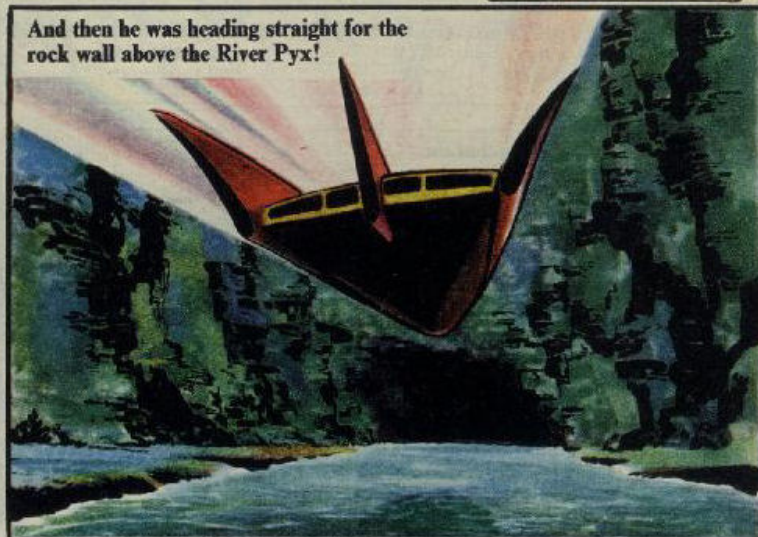


One of the slaves is trying to escape! After him!

There was only one control lever on the Gravity-car. Janno jerked it towards him, and the craft zoomed into the air . . .



And then he was heading straight for the rock wall above the River Pyx!



**Next Week: Moment of decision for the slaves of Hellas**



# The RISE and FALL of the TRIGAN EMPIRE

Janno, the nephew of Trigan, and his companions Keren and old Peric are slaves in the legendary underground land of Hellas. The comrades are determined to escape, and Janno steals an atomic-powered gravity-car in a desperate attempt to dam the River Pyx . . .

Seconds before impact, Janno dived headlong towards the rushing, icy waters of the river.

The gravity-car struck the rock wall above the tunnel mouth, and exploded in a searing stab of lurid flame.

The shock wave penetrated the water . . . Janno was driven deep, and a black wave of unconsciousness closed in on him.

With a rending groan, the mighty mass of rock above the tunnel mouth sagged and came crashing down . . . and the Zerd guards panicked.

Above the frantic cries of the guards rose the voice of Keren rallying the slaves . . .

Long years of captivity had numbed the minds of the slaves, but when they saw the chance of striking back, they fell upon the guards and wrenched their weapons from them.

Hellas is about to be destroyed . . . fight your way to freedom!

Slaves! . . . are you going to cower there and drown . . . or fight like men?

The river is blocked . . . we shall all be drowned!

The whole mountain is falling apart!

The Zerds saw a thousand years of splendour and luxury being swept away from them for ever in one gigantic wave of water!

With the tunnel mouth blocked, the torrential water of the river Pyx swiftly burst its banks and began its work of destruction upon the proud city of the Zerds . . .



Leading the slaves, Keren and old Peric fought their way through the city till they reached a flight of stone steps that led up to the vast vault high above . . .

This leads to the very heart of the mountain under which we stand . . . and it is there we must journey!

They toiled up the towering stairway . . . and Keren looked back with agony to see the waters rising below them.

Janno . . . Janno . . .

I feel in my heart that we shall never see the gallant lad again, Keren!

The top of the vast stairway led into the heart of the mountain, and far above them they could see a circle of daylight . . .

Slaves . . . there is the world outside . . . and freedom!

Freedom!

Disregarding their weariness, they climbed the rest of the way in frantic haste . . . and came out into the sunlight of Elekton.

Free . . . Free!

After twenty long years!

And then Keren heard it . . . a voice calling his name! And looking down into the dark abyss, he saw a familiar figure climbing towards him!

Keren!

Janno! . . . thank the stars . . . you're safe!

And so, by their valour and courage, they had destroyed for ever the evil, false legend of Hellas.

We have come back from the Land of No-Return!

Where no one will ever journey to . . . ever again!

A great new Trigan story next week: **THE REVOLT OF THE LOKANS!**