

MORE ADVENTURES OF THE

TRIGAN EMPIRE

The planet Elekton lies in the galaxy of Yarna and the greatest power on Elekton is the Trigan Empire, ruled over by its founder, the Emperor Trigo.

HIGH ABOVE THE TRIGAN FRONTIER, A FLIGHT OF SPEEDY FIGHTING-CRAFT OF THE IMPERIAL AIR FLEET.

Here they come !

HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE HEARTLAND OF THE TRIGAN EMPIRE, A MASSED FORMATION OF CATON BOMBING-CRAFT. IT WAS THE TWENTIETH SUCH SORTIE IN THREE DAYS.

Prepare to open fire if they cross the frontier !

JANNO, THE EMPEROR'S NEPHEW, LED THE FIGHTING-CRAFT.

This is a new form of warfare — a war of nerves ! Will they come on, or will they turn away ? One false move on my part, and I could start a shooting war !

JANNO EDGED HIS CRAFT CLOSE TO THE NEAREST CATON, SO CLOSE THAT HE COULD SEE THE GRINNING GUNNER IN HIS POD.

Are you going to open fire on me or not, you grinning animal ?

ON THE VERY FORBIDDEN EDGE OF THE FRONTIER. THE BOMBING FORMATION TURNED AWAY — AS THEY HAD TURNED NINETEEN TIMES BEFORE. JANNO HEAVED A SIGH OF RELIEF.

Aaaah ! — Thank the stars !

THE COMMANDER OF THE TRIGAN AIR FLEET BASE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE GREAT SCIENTIST PERIC, WHEN HIS PILOTS RETURNED. HIS SHREWD EYES DISCERNED THE STRAIN ON THEIR YOUNG FACES.

How are they standing up to the psychological pressure?

Remarkably well, Peric. But give it another lunar month of this war of nerves, and they'll be in no state to fight a shooting war — if it comes!

PERIC AND JANNO WERE OLD FRIENDS.

Much as I hate to impose upon you, Janno, you will remember your promise for today?

To assist in one of your experiments? How could I refuse? I am at your service, Peric.

LATER, IN PERIC'S FABULOUS LABORATORY...

And this thing is your time-machine?

It is, strictly speaking, a time-barrier machine. By phenomenal acceleration, I hope to pierce the frontier of the here-and-now. I promise you, my friend, that the physical danger to yourself is minimal.

JANNO CLIMBED INTO THE NARROW COCKPIT OF THE MACHINE. THE ORDER WAS GIVEN...

Start the centrifuge!

THE SOFT HUM OF SUPERBLY ENGINEERED MACHINERY — AND JANNO WAS WHIRLED ROUND AT INCREDIBLE SPEED, EVER ACCELERATING.

Increase!

THERE WAS NO SIGN OF JANNO AND HIS VEHICLE!

One — two — three — four — five — six — seven — eight — nine — ten — eleven — twelve — thirteen — fourteen...

AT THE COUNT OF FIFTY, THE OLD SCIENTIST WAS ASSAILED BY A STAB OF CONSCIENCE...

Fifty-one — fifty-two...

I promised him that there was no physical danger, but there is the possibility of mental danger!

AND THEN...

The centrifuge and the subject have disappeared!

He has passed through the time-barrier. Commence counting!

Stop the centrifuge!

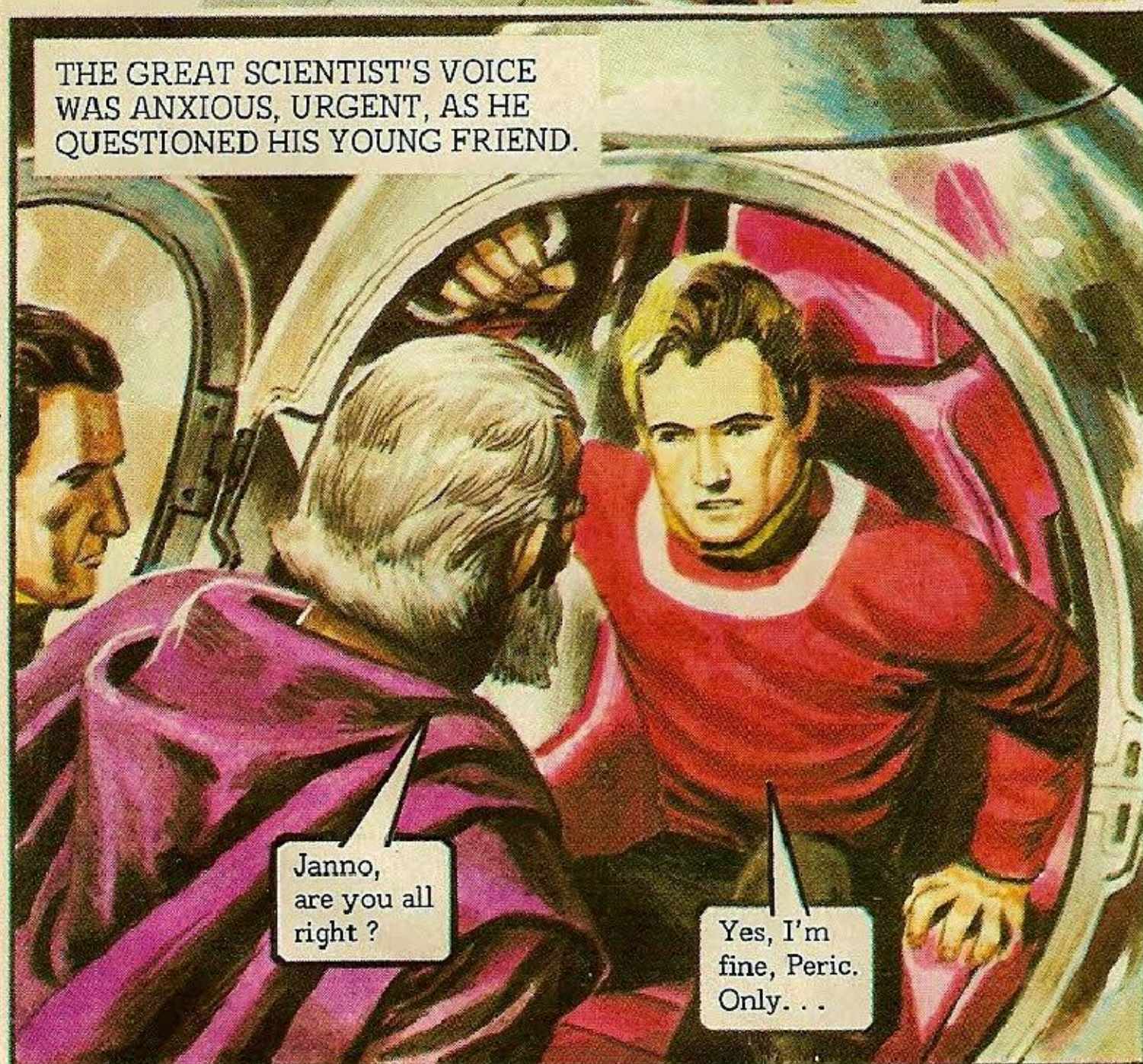
MORE ADVENTURES OF THE TRICAN EMPIRE

Janno agrees to subject himself to an experiment in Peric's time barrier machine. During the experiment, Peric has grave doubts and calls for the machine to be stopped.

AS THE DECELERATION BEGAN, THE VEHICLE CONTAINING JANNO GRADUALLY REAPPEARED.



THE GREAT SCIENTIST'S VOICE WAS ANXIOUS, URGENT, AS HE QUESTIONED HIS YOUNG FRIEND.



Janno, are you all right?

Yes, I'm fine, Peric. Only...



Only what, Janno?

Only - I feel a little strange in my head.

AND THEN...



Why! Here come Keren and Roffa.

Keren and...?

Where?

ON AN IMPULSE, PERIC COUNTED UNDER HIS BREATH TO FIFTY, AND THEN, INDEED, JANNO'S AIR FLEET COMRADES KEREN AND ROFFA CAME IN THE DOOR.

Hello, Janno!

Er - hello.

How did the time experiment go?

How did he know they were coming?

PERIC CALLED FOR A PACK OF CARDS TO BE PRODUCED.

Yes, how did you know?

Er... well, that is... I...

Janno, I am going to deal six cards, face downwards. I want you to predict which cards I am going to turn face uppermost.

THEN FOLLOWED A REMARKABLE EXHIBITION.

Six - one - two - eleven - four - three!

Six correct predictions out of six! A miracle!

It is not a miracle. Our friend has pierced the time-barrier!

We observed that you disappeared for the count of fifty. It is possible that you progressed that distance ahead in time?

I am aware of the present, but...

I am also aware of a time some little distance ahead.

ON LEAVING PERIC'S LABORATORY, JANNO GAVE ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION OF HIS STRANGE POWER...

I should like you to come back tomorrow for further tests, Janno.

Certainly, Peric.

HE SPUN ROUND AND SHOUTED...

Look out! You're going to lose control!

ONE OF THE SPEEDING AUTOS SUDDENLY SWERVED - CRASHED THROUGH THE CENTRE BARRIER - AND SLAMMED HEAD-ON INTO ANOTHER!

MORE ADVENTURES OF THE TRIGAN EMPIRE

After being a subject for Peric's time-machine experiment, Janno lives on two time scales — the present and fifty seconds into the future. It's an accomplishment that has its uses.

NEXT MORNING FOUND JANNO AND HIS FLIGHT ON PATROL ABOVE THE FRONTIER, WATCHING THE APPROACH OF ANOTHER MASSED BOMBING-FLEET FROM CATO.

Here they come again! Stand by for trouble!

ALL THE TRIGAN PILOTS WATCHED AND WAITED.

Will they cross the frontier?

Will they?

Is the shooting war going to start at last?

They're going to turn back again!

SURE ENOUGH, ON THE COUNT OF FIFTY, THE CATONS TURNED. IT WAS JUST ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE WAR OF NERVES THEY WERE WAGING AGAINST THE TRIGAN AIR FLEET.

What a relief!

BACK AT AIR-BASE, JANNO WAS CONGRATULATED.

That trick of looking into the future came in very handy.

Yes, it could be extremely useful in a tight corner. By the way, I'm thinking of doing a private experiment of my own this evening. Just for fun. . .

Coming, you two?

THAT NIGHT, THE THREE FRIENDS DROVE TO A LUXURY ESTABLISHMENT OUTSIDE THE CITY.

I say, can we afford a place like this?

This is where millionaires come to amuse themselves by losing money.

We aren't going to lose any money. quite the reverse!

IN THAT HIGH-PRICED GAMBLING CLUB, MILLIONS OF ZERSTS CHANGED HANDS NIGHTLY ON THE TABLES.

Place your bets, masters.

Don't forget, you're gambling with our month's pay as well as yours!

Stop worrying!

JANNO WAITED FOR A LITTLE WHILE — AND THEN...

Everything on six!

Everything!

Oh, no!

KEREN AND ROFFA NEED NOT HAVE WORRIED...

Six wins!

What did I tell you?

THEN FOLLOWED A SUCCESSION OF WINS, THE LIKE OF WHICH HAD NEVER BEEN WITNESSED AT THE CLUB.

Seven...

Thirteen...

Eight...

Zero...

Zero wins!

FINALLY, JANNO ASKED TO SEE THE MANAGER, WHO RECEIVED THE SURPRISE OF HIS LIFE...

You want to give all your winnings back to me?

That's right. I didn't actually cheat, but I've got a trick mind that can predict the immediate future, so it hardly seems fair to keep your money.

THREE HARD-EYED INDIVIDUALS OVERHEARD, AND COMMENTED.

A trick mind that can predict the future.

That fellow's worth a fortune.

We'll have him.

ON THE WAY BACK TO THE CITY, THE THREE COMRADES RAN INTO TROUBLE.

Hey!

BIG TROUBLE!

Shoot the other two — and get him alive!

TRIGAN EMPIRE

...given Janno two time scales — the present and fifty seconds into the future. This accomplishment could be worth a fortune to the three thugs who are determined to kidnap Janno.

JANNO LEAPT OUT OF HIS AUTO, CALLING TO HIS COMRADES.

Don't worry about their guns. At them! We'll have them beaten by the count of fifty.

ROFFA HEARD THE THUD OF AN UNDISCHARGED PROJECTILE. NEXT INSTANT, HIS FIST CONNECTED.

ROFFA RUSHED STRAIGHT FOR THE MUZZLE OF A LEVELLED GUN, CONVINCED HIS LAST MOMENT HAD COME.

I must be out of my mind.

Don't worry, Roffa. His gun will jam.

KEREN OBEYED AND...

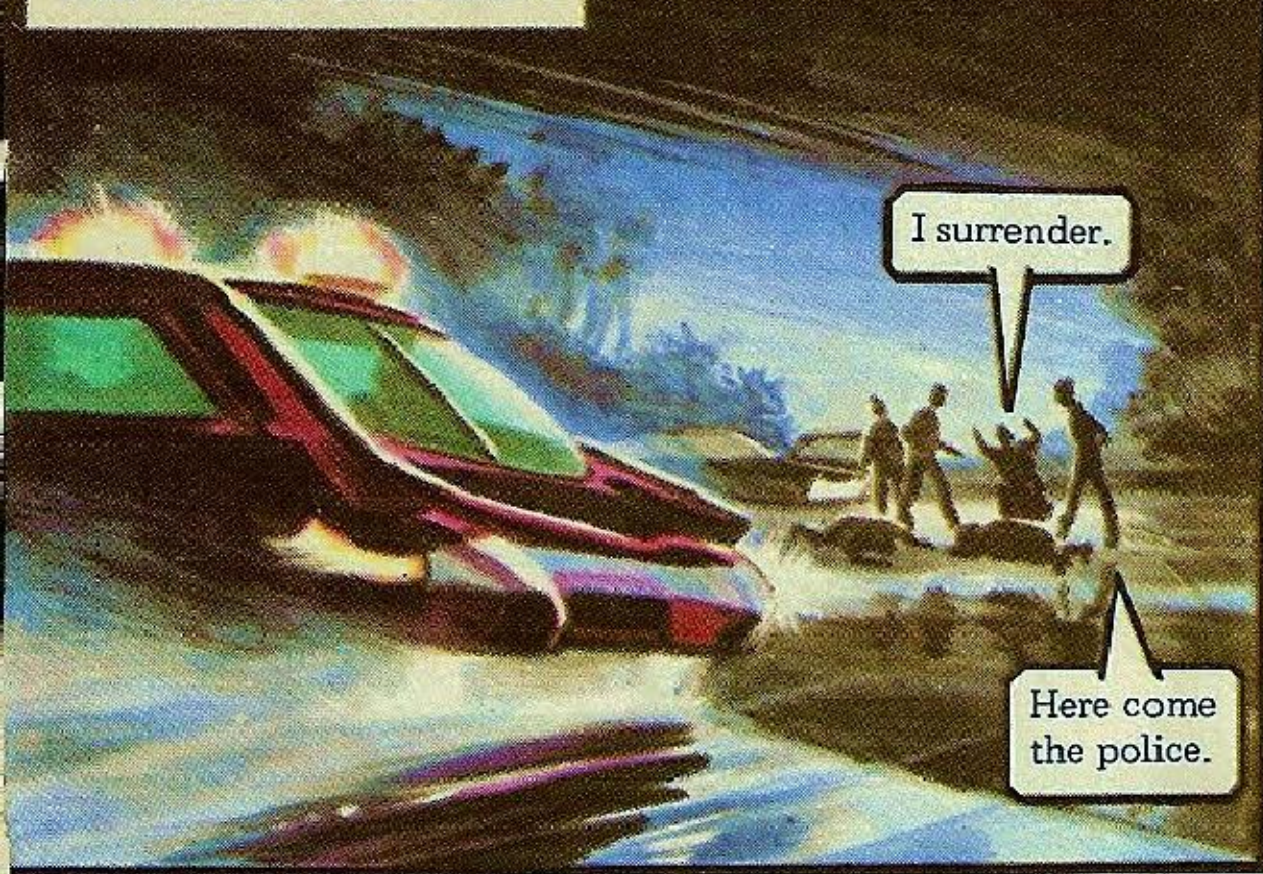
ANOTHER SHOUTED INSTRUCTION FROM JANNO.

Keren! Throw yourself flat.

By all the stars!

OLIVER
FREY

THE WAIL OF A SIREN. . .



LATER, BACK AT HIS APARTMENT, JANNO HAD AN IDEA.

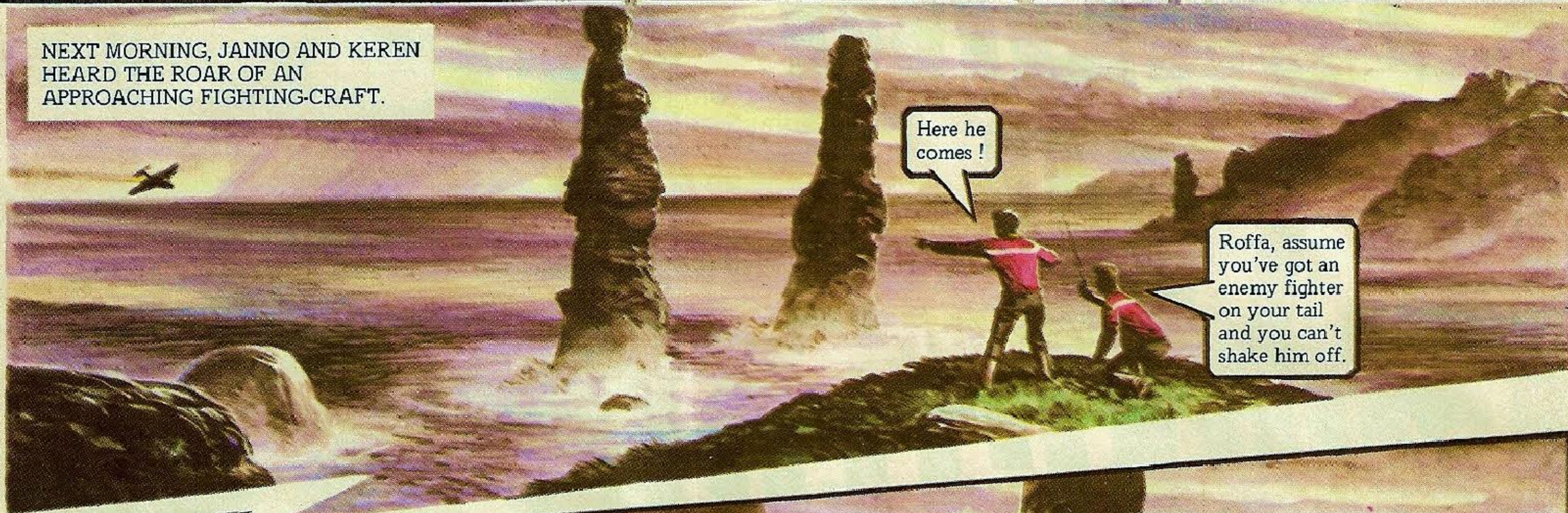
My trick mind saved us in that fight. We could use it in the air – in real warfare.



HE EXPLAINED. . .



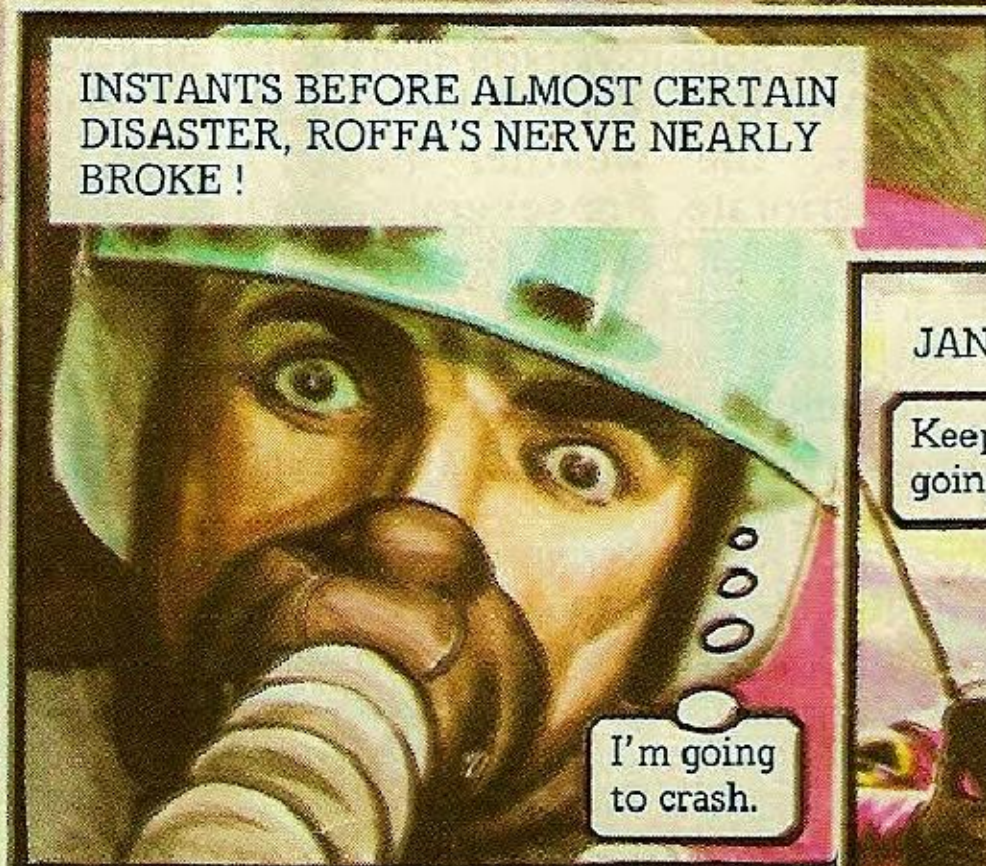
NEXT MORNING, JANNO AND KEREN HEARD THE ROAR OF AN APPROACHING FIGHTING-CRAFT.



JANNO'S WORDS CAME CLEARLY TO THE PILOT OF THE CRAFT. . .

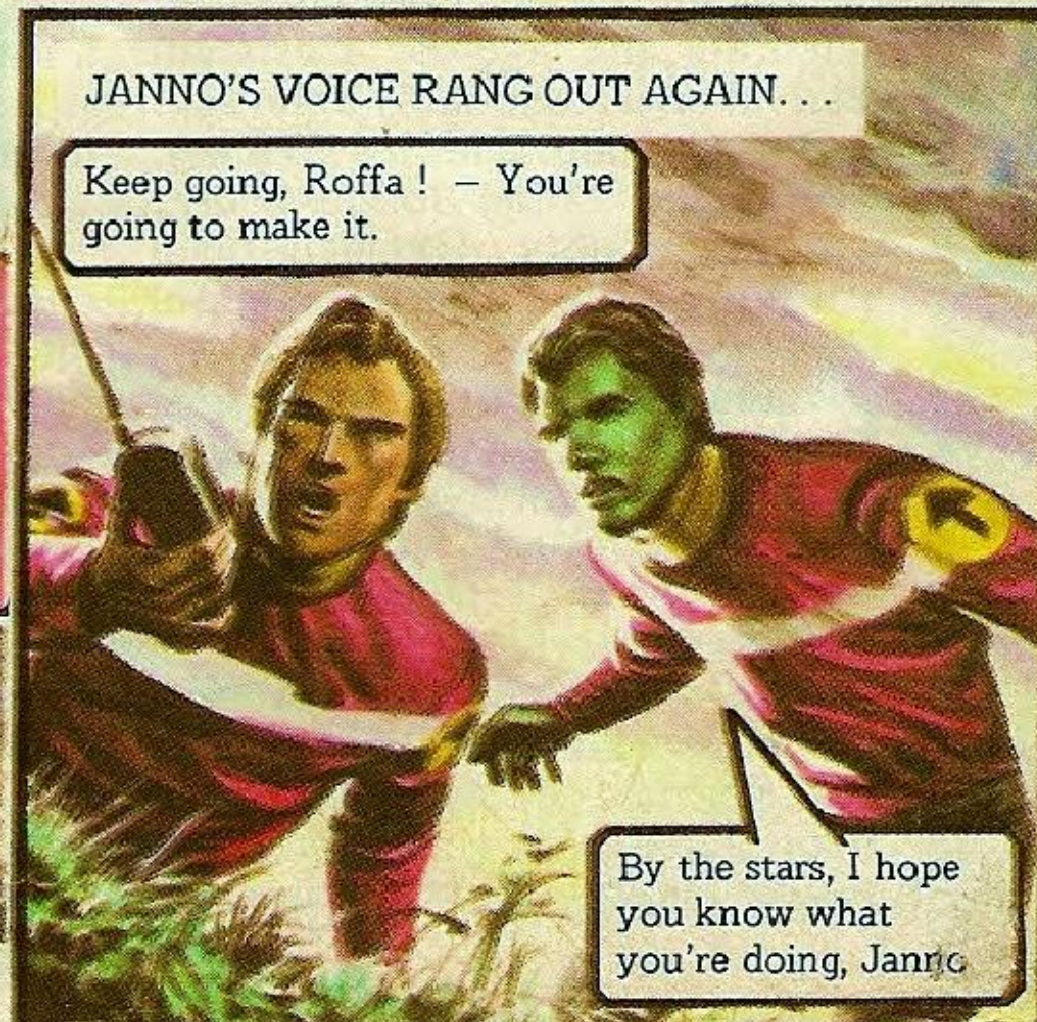


INSTANTS BEFORE ALMOST CERTAIN DISASTER, ROFFA'S NERVE NEARLY BROKE!



JANNO'S VOICE RANG OUT AGAIN. . .

Keep going, Roffa! – You're going to make it.



I'll tell you if you're going to crash or not.



MORE ADVENTURES OF THE TRIGAN EMPIRE

Janno is still living on two time-scales, the present and seconds ahead. As an experiment he tells his friend Roffa to fly into almost certain disaster.

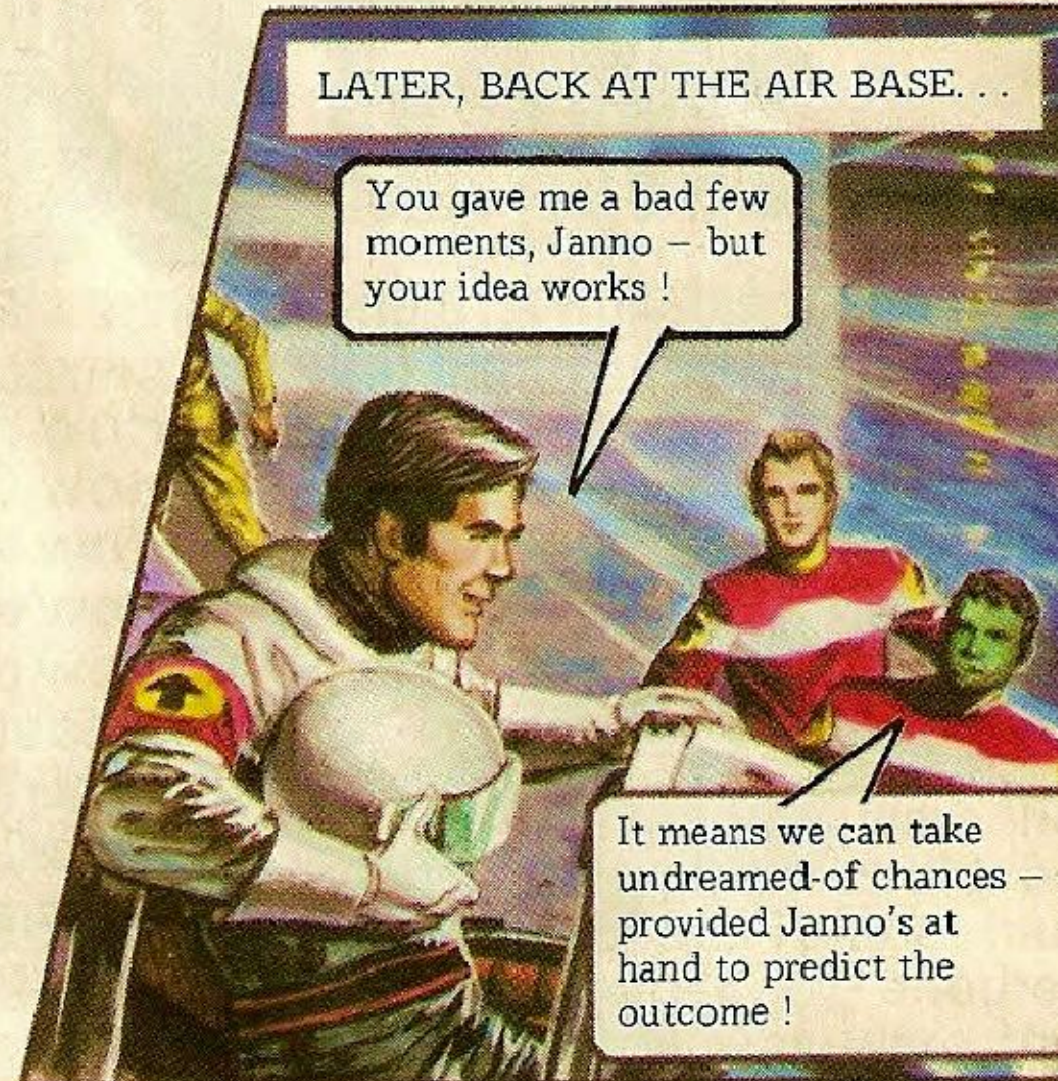
ROFFA'S SPEEDY FIGHTING-CRAFT PASSED BETWEEN THE TWO PILLARS OF ROCK WITH A HANDSBREADTH TO SPARE EITHER SIDE !



LATER, BACK AT THE AIR BASE. . .

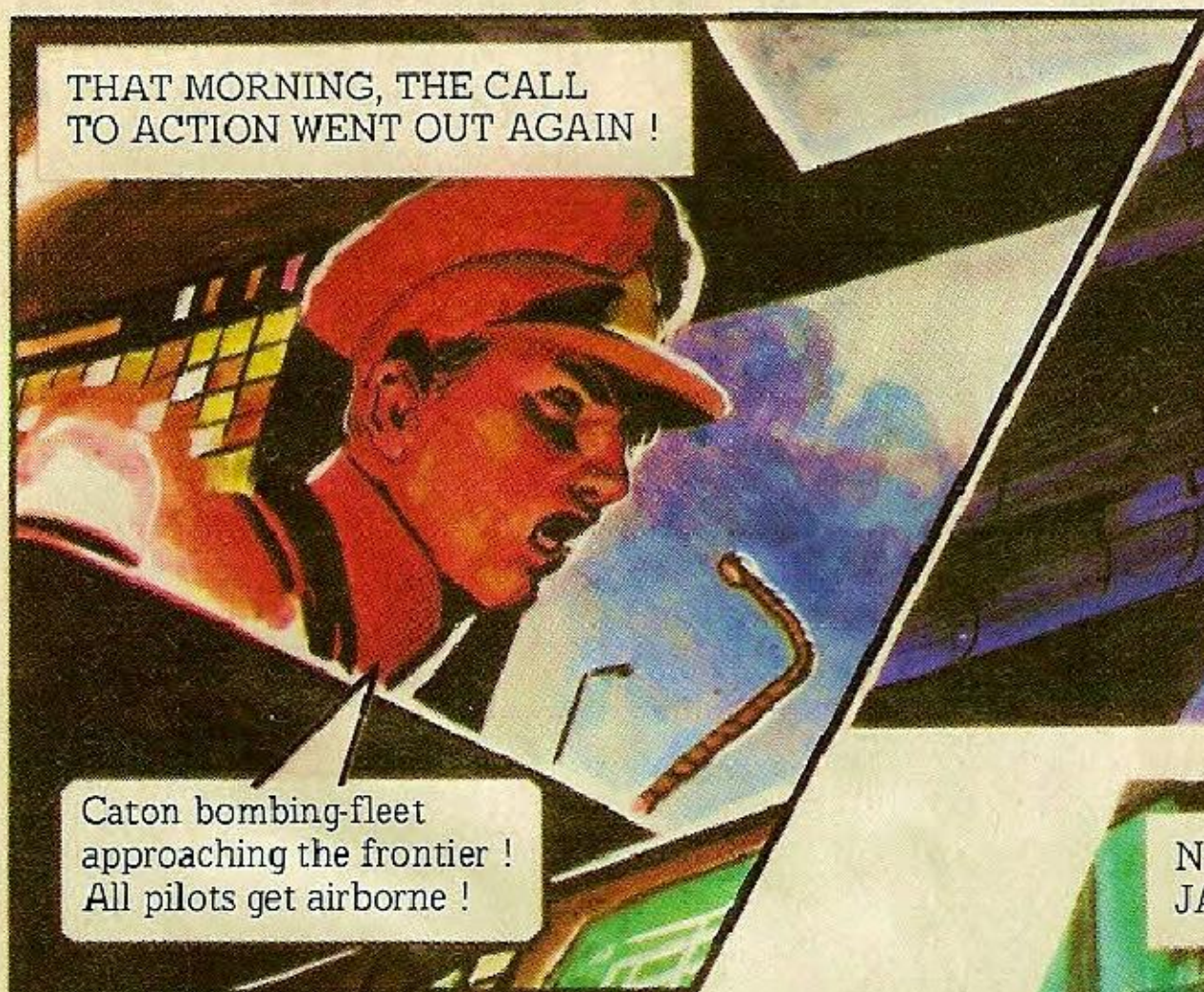
You gave me a bad few moments, Janno - but your idea works !

It means we can take undreamed-of chances - provided Janno's at hand to predict the outcome !



JANNO'S FLIGHT WERE FIRST TO SIGHT THE MASSED CATONS.

THAT MORNING, THE CALL TO ACTION WENT OUT AGAIN !



Caton bombing-fleet approaching the frontier ! All pilots get airborne !

We'll close with them. Don't lose your heads and open fire.

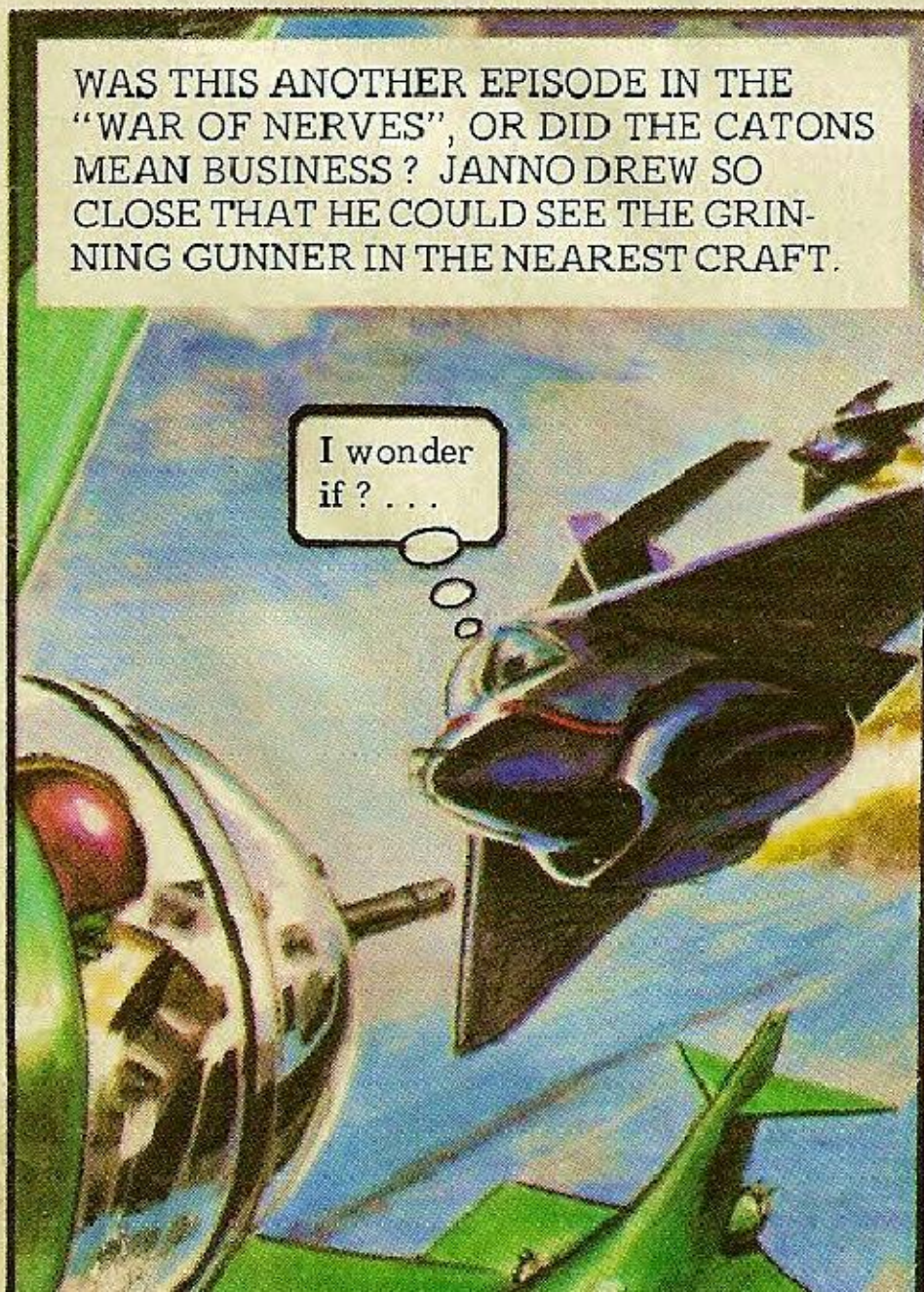


HE WAS JETTED CLEAR OF HIS CRAFT AND SHOUTING ORDERS INTO HIS TRANSMITTER BEFORE HIS CRAFT EXPLODED UNDER A HAIL OF PROJECTILES !

All Trigans to the attack !

WAS THIS ANOTHER EPISODE IN THE "WAR OF NERVES", OR DID THE CATONS MEAN BUSINESS ? JANNO DREW SO CLOSE THAT HE COULD SEE THE GRINNING GUNNER IN THE NEAREST CRAFT.

I wonder if ? . . .



NEXT INSTANT, JANNO KNEW !

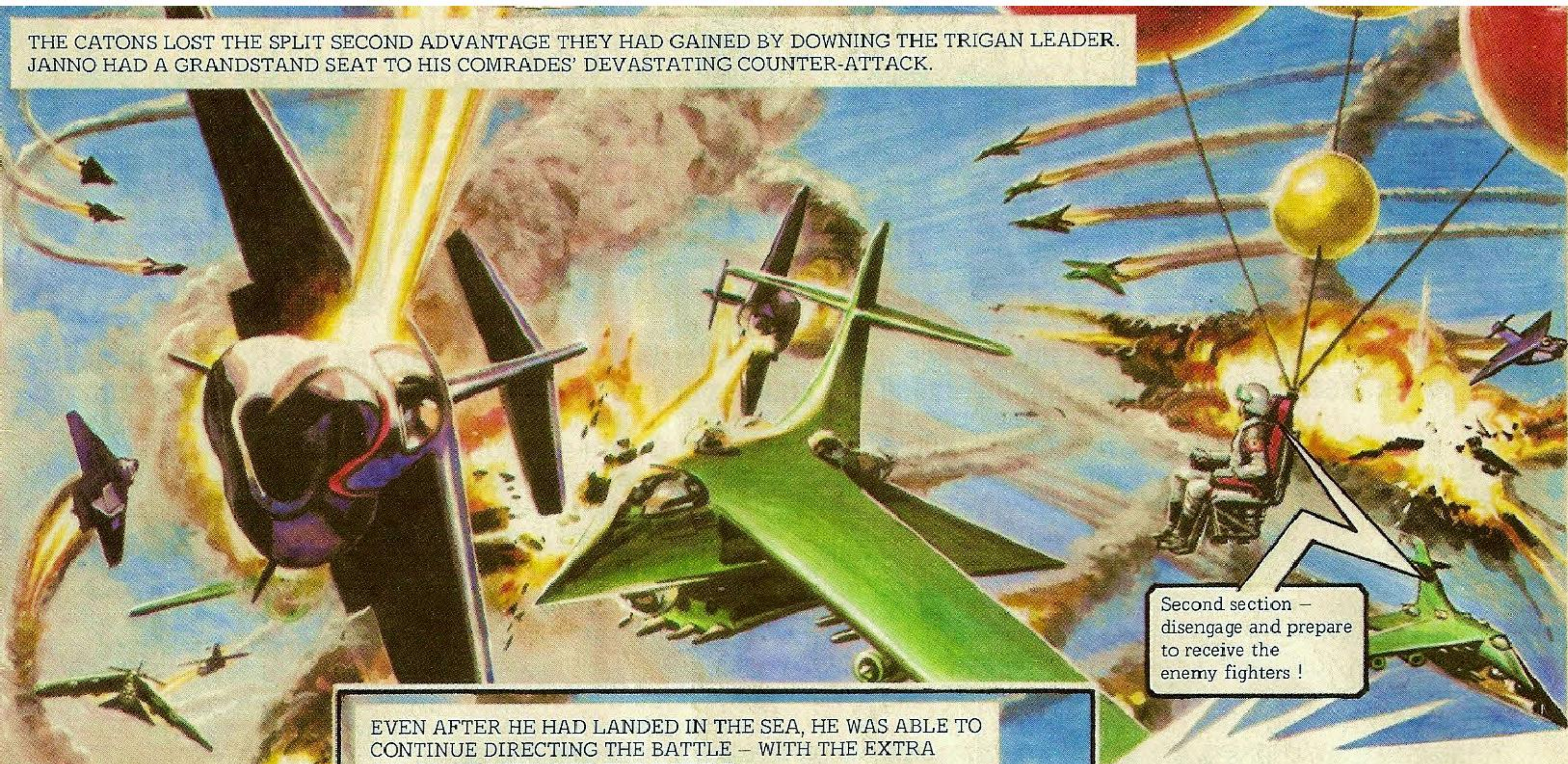
He's going to open fire and blow me up !



HIS FINGER STABBED THE ESCAPE BUTTON !



THE CATONS LOST THE SPLIT SECOND ADVANTAGE THEY HAD GAINED BY DOWNING THE TRIGAN LEADER. JANNO HAD A GRANDSTAND SEAT TO HIS COMRADES' DEVASTATING COUNTER-ATTACK.



Second section – disengage and prepare to receive the enemy fighters !

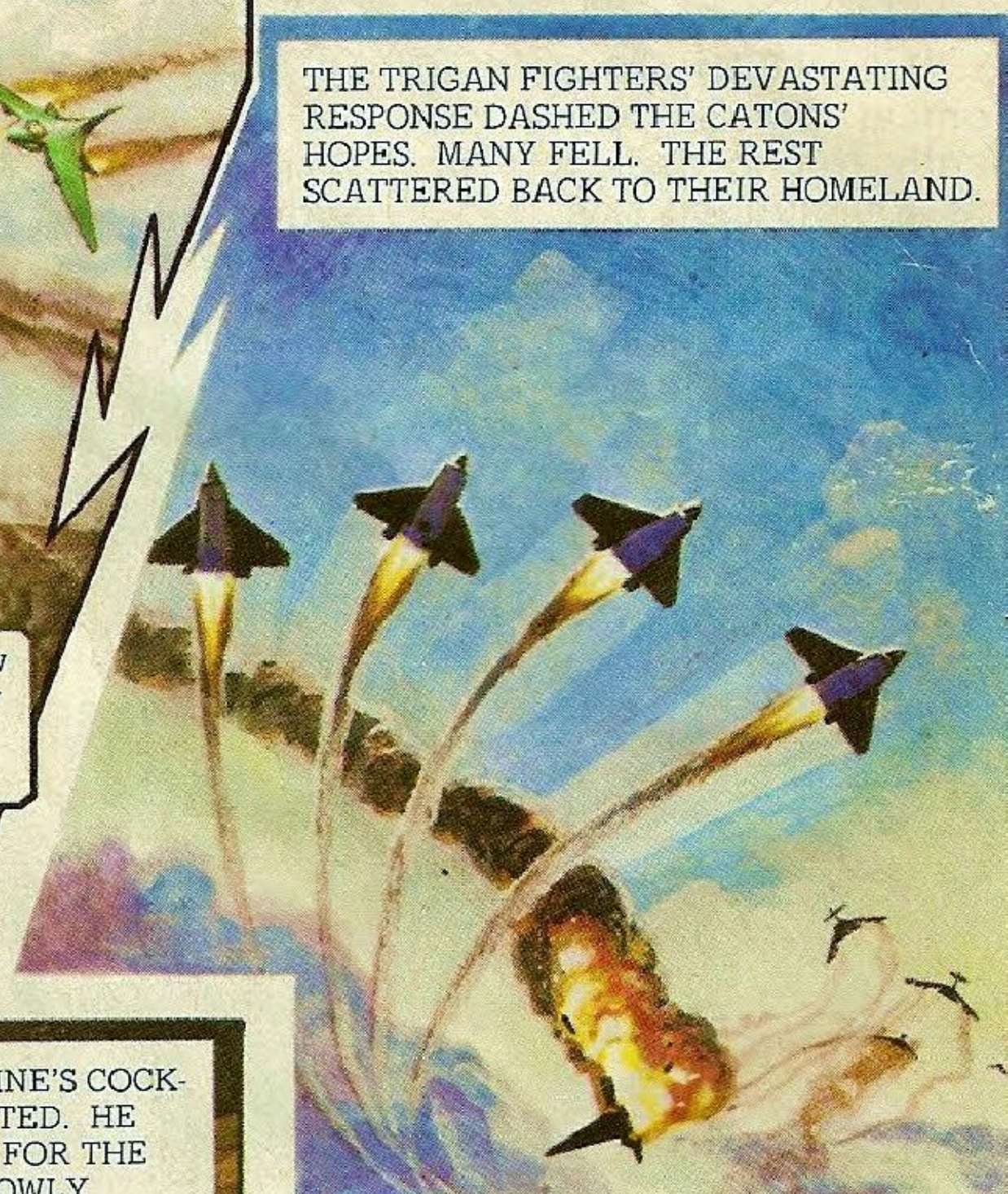
EVEN AFTER HE HAD LANDED IN THE SEA, HE WAS ABLE TO CONTINUE DIRECTING THE BATTLE – WITH THE EXTRA AID OF HIS VIEW INTO THE FUTURE.



Keren ! Deal with the fellow ahead of you – don't bother about the one behind, he's going to miss you ! . . .

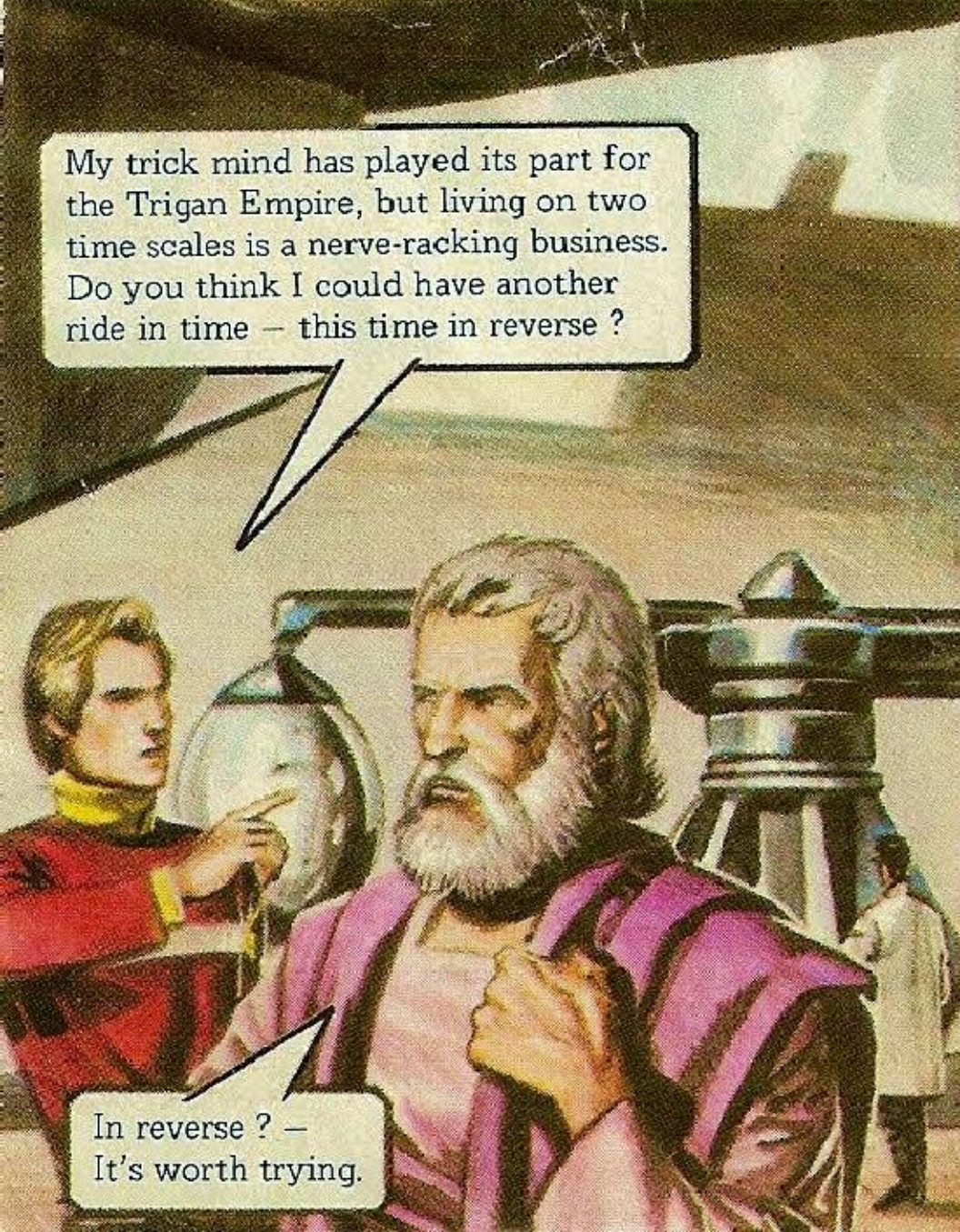
Well done, Keren !

THE TRIGAN FIGHTERS' DEVASTATING RESPONSE DASHED THE CATONS' HOPES. MANY FELL. THE REST SCATTERED BACK TO THEIR HOMELAND.



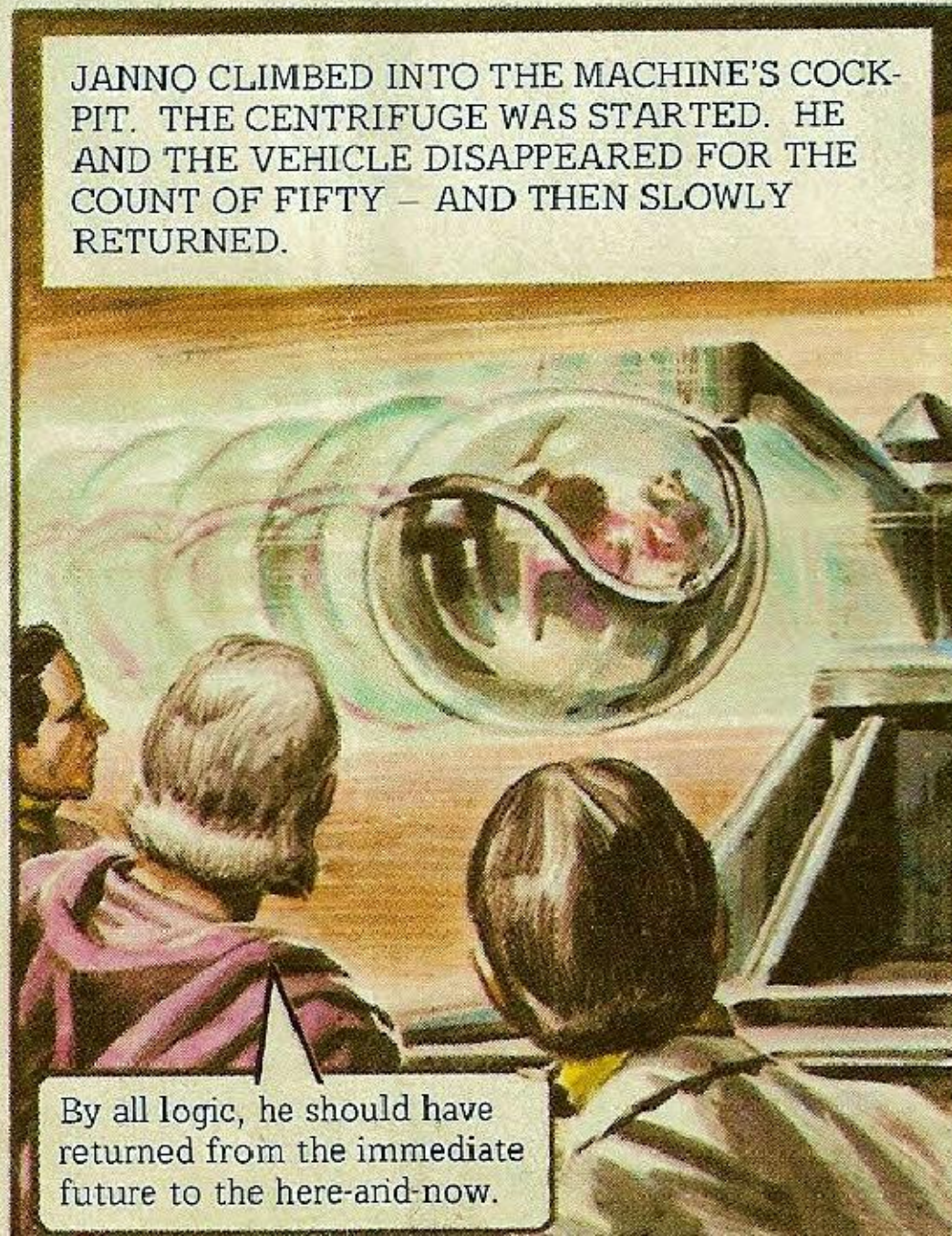
SOME DAYS AFTER THE VICTORY, JANNO CALLED AT PERIC'S LABORATORY WITH AN URGENT REQUEST TO MAKE OF HIS OLD FRIEND.

My trick mind has played its part for the Trigan Empire, but living on two time scales is a nerve-racking business. Do you think I could have another ride in time – this time in reverse ?



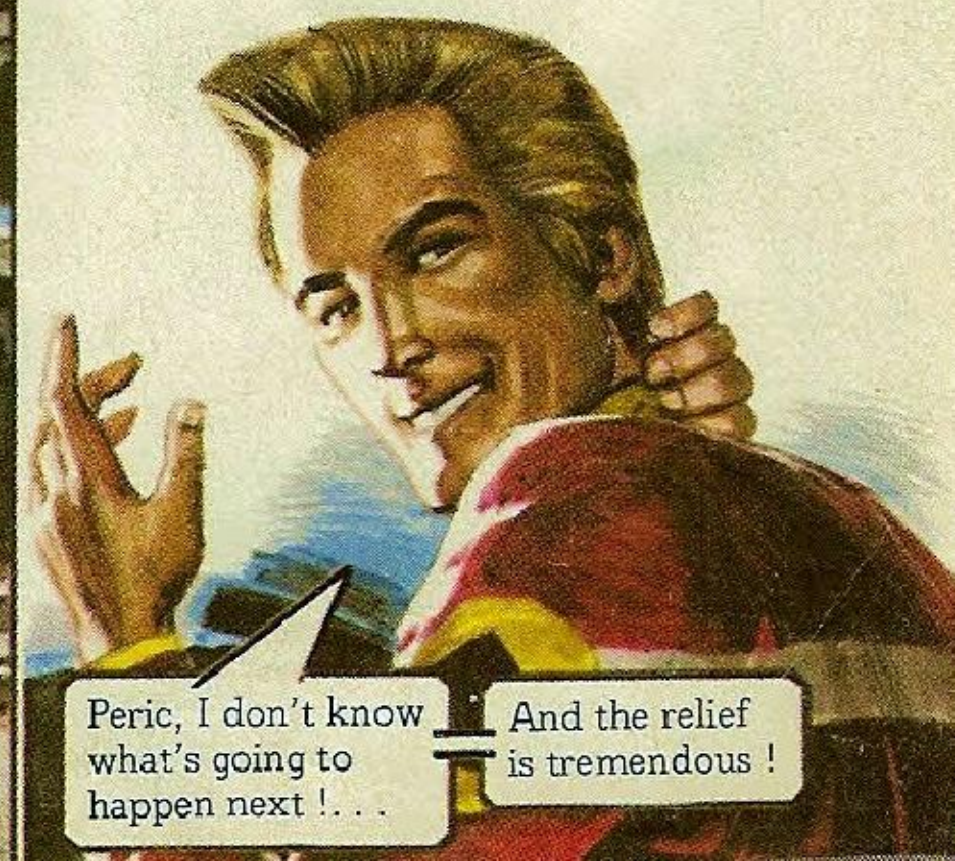
In reverse ? – It's worth trying.

JANNO CLIMBED INTO THE MACHINE'S COCKPIT. THE CENTRIFUGE WAS STARTED. HE AND THE VEHICLE DISAPPEARED FOR THE COUNT OF FIFTY – AND THEN SLOWLY RETURNED.



By all logic, he should have returned from the immediate future to the here-and-now.

THE EXPERIMENT WAS A SUCCESS – AS JANNO SMILINGLY TESTIFIED. . .



Peric, I don't know what's going to happen next ! . . .

And the relief is tremendous !