

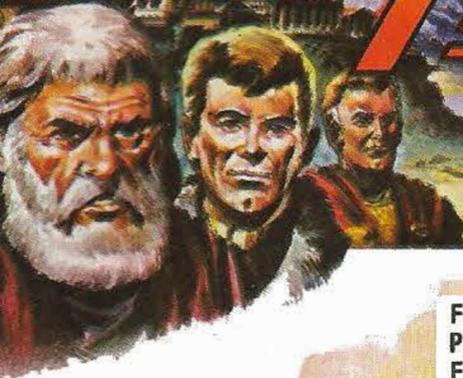
# *The Skorpiads*



*by Ken Roscoe and Gerry Wood*

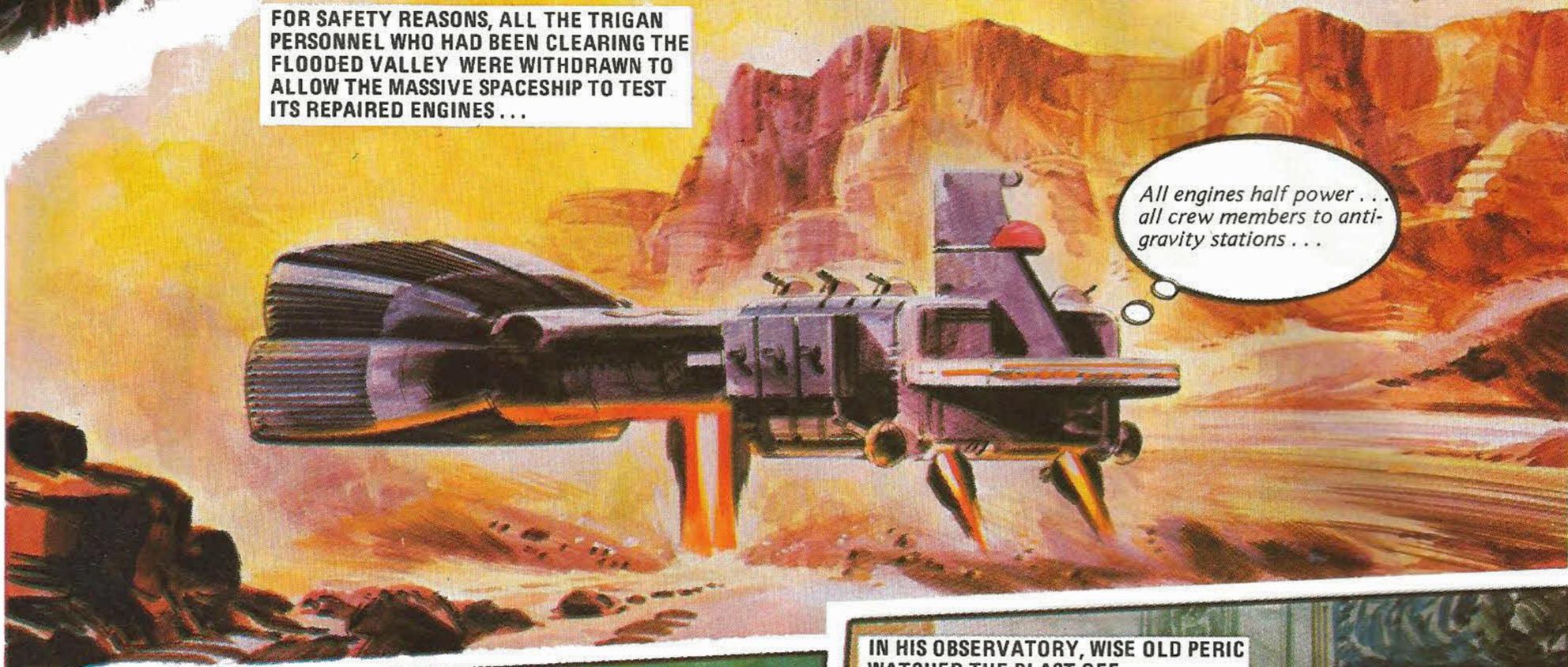
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5th Jul - 6th Oct 1980*

# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE *Trigan Empire*



A giant spaceship manned by strange aliens has been saved from destruction by the Trigans. As a token of their gratitude, the captain of the alien ship has presented old Peric with a mysterious key, and sworn him to secrecy about its function . . .

FOR SAFETY REASONS, ALL THE TRIGAN PERSONNEL WHO HAD BEEN CLEARING THE FLOODED VALLEY WERE WITHDRAWN TO ALLOW THE MASSIVE SPACESHIP TO TEST ITS REPAIRED ENGINES . . .

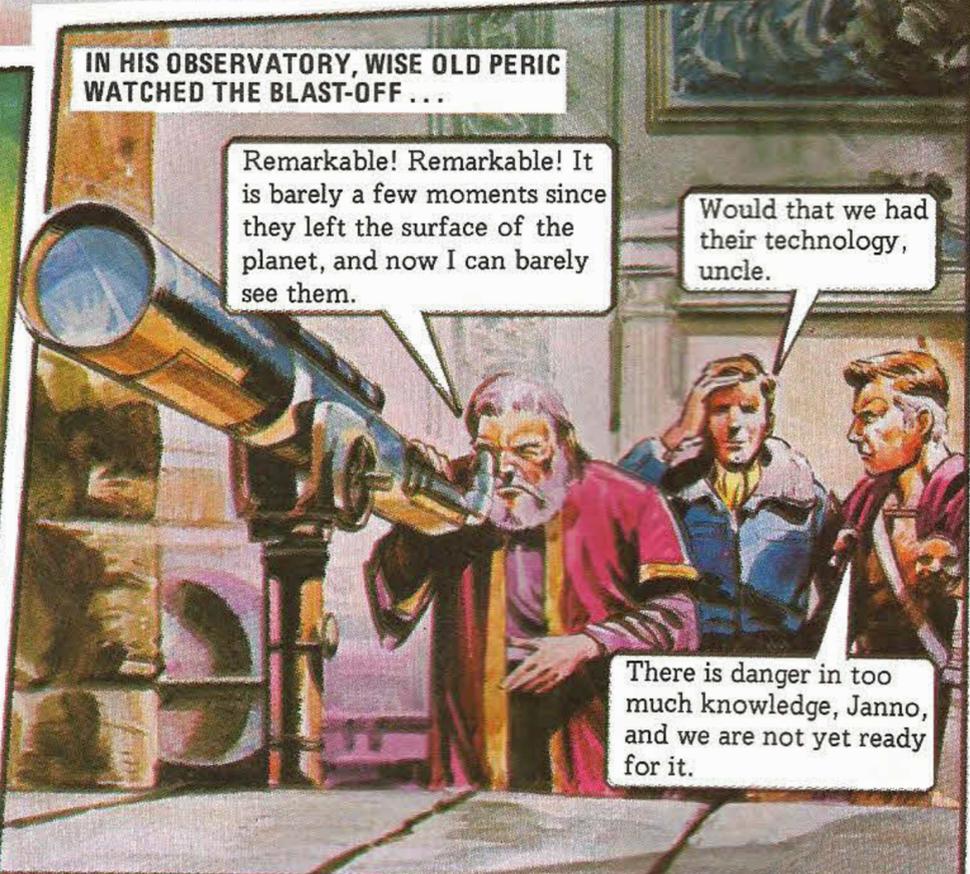


All engines half power . . . all crew members to anti-gravity stations . . .



AFTER AN INITIAL SHUDDER, IT SHOOK ITSELF FREE OF ELEKTON SOIL, AND . . .

IN HIS OBSERVATORY, WISE OLD PERIC WATCHED THE BLAST-OFF . . .

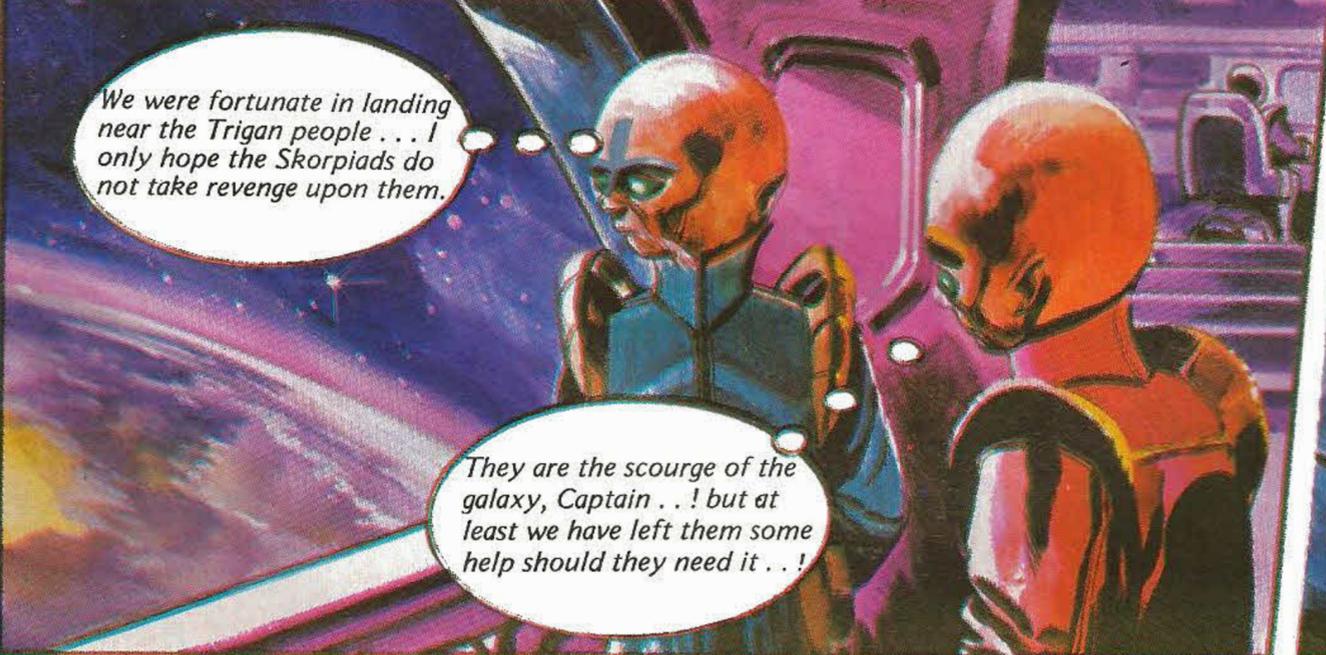


Remarkable! Remarkable! It is barely a few moments since they left the surface of the planet, and now I can barely see them.

Would that we had their technology, uncle.

There is danger in too much knowledge, Janno, and we are not yet ready for it.

ON BOARD THE ALIEN SHIP, CAPTAIN DEKKO LOOKED DOWN AT THE PLANET ELEKTON AS THEY WENT INTO ORBIT AROUND IT . . .



We were fortunate in landing near the Trigan people . . . I only hope the Skorpiads do not take revenge upon them.

They are the scourge of the galaxy, Captain . . . ! but at least we have left them some help should they need it . . . !

THE ALIEN CREWMAN WAS REFERRING TO THE STRANGE KEY WHICH CAPTAIN DEKKO HAD ENTRUSTED TO OLD PERIC JUST BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE . . .



IN ORDER TO AVOID CAUSING THE TRIGANS NEEDLESS ALARM, CAPTAIN DEKKO HAD NOT TOLD PERIC OR ANY OF THE OTHERS EXACTLY HOW THEY HAD COME TO CRASH-LAND ON ELEKTON...



A SKORPIAD BATTLE SPACECRUISER HAD TAKEN THEM BY SURPRISE, AND BEFORE THEY COULD TAKE EVASIVE ACTION, ITS PHOTON GUNS HAD SCORED SEVERAL HITS...

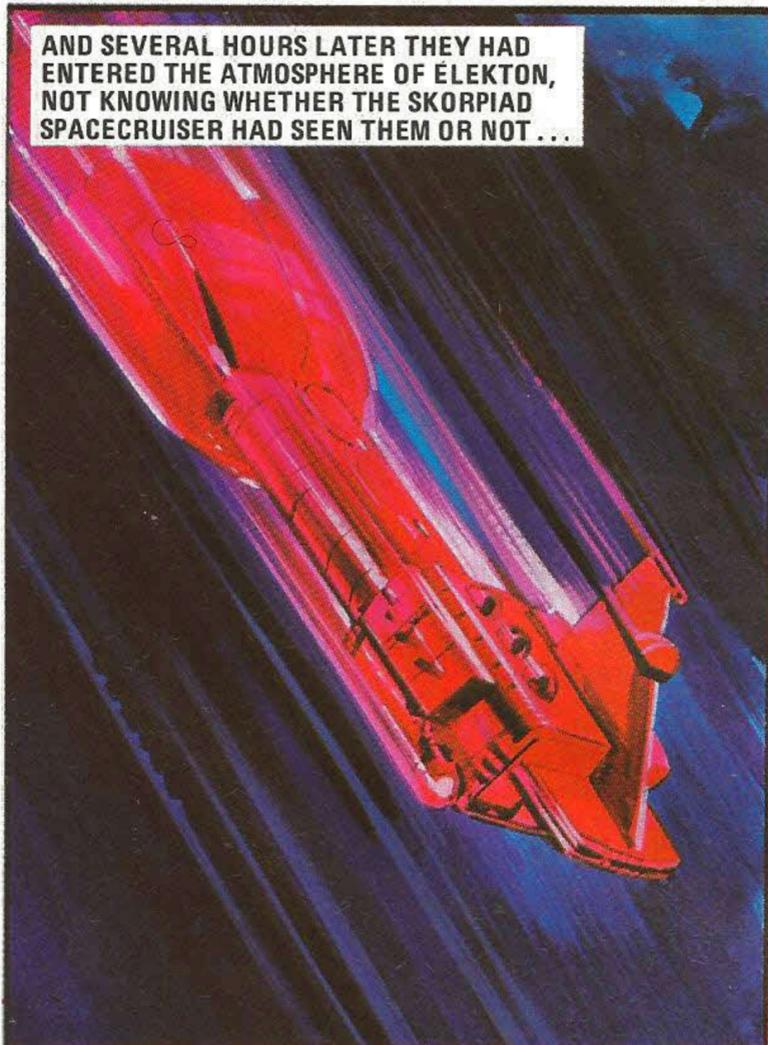


Illustrated by Gerry Wood

SHOCK WAVES FROM THE STRIKES HAD SHAKEN CAPTAIN DEKKO'S SHIP SEVERELY, CAUSING SERIOUS FRACTURES IN THE CORE OF THEIR ENGINES...



AND SEVERAL HOURS LATER THEY HAD ENTERED THE ATMOSPHERE OF ELEKTON, NOT KNOWING WHETHER THE SKORPIAD SPACECRUISER HAD SEEN THEM OR NOT...



... BUT THEIR ATTACKERS HAD OBSERVED THEM... AND THE PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN PLANET HAD BEEN CAREFULLY PLOTTED AND FIXED ON A STAR CHART...

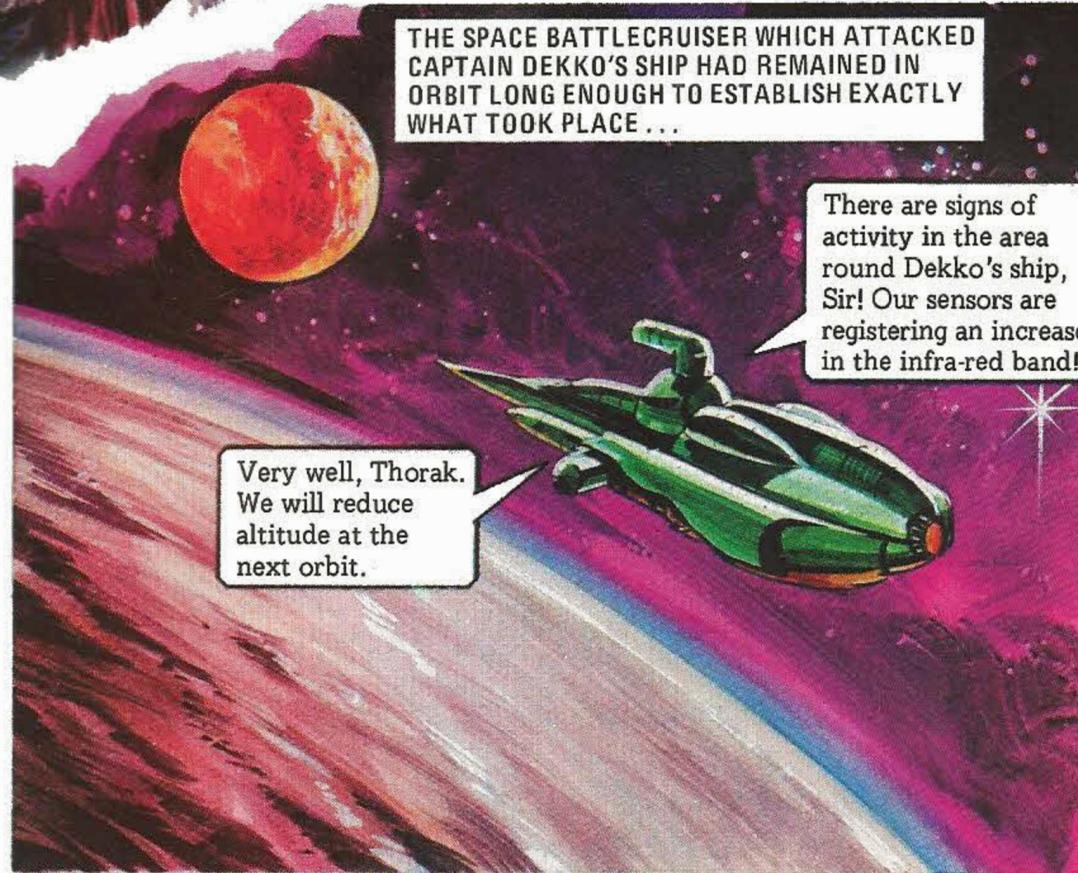


# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE *Trigan Empire*



The Trigans have helped repair an alien spaceship which crash-landed on Elekton. But unknown to them, other beings are interested in the spaceship's plight . . .

THE SPACE BATTLECRUISER WHICH ATTACKED CAPTAIN DEKKO'S SHIP HAD REMAINED IN ORBIT LONG ENOUGH TO ESTABLISH EXACTLY WHAT TOOK PLACE . . .



Very well, Thorak. We will reduce altitude at the next orbit.

There are signs of activity in the area round Dekko's ship, Sir! Our sensors are registering an increase in the infra-red band!

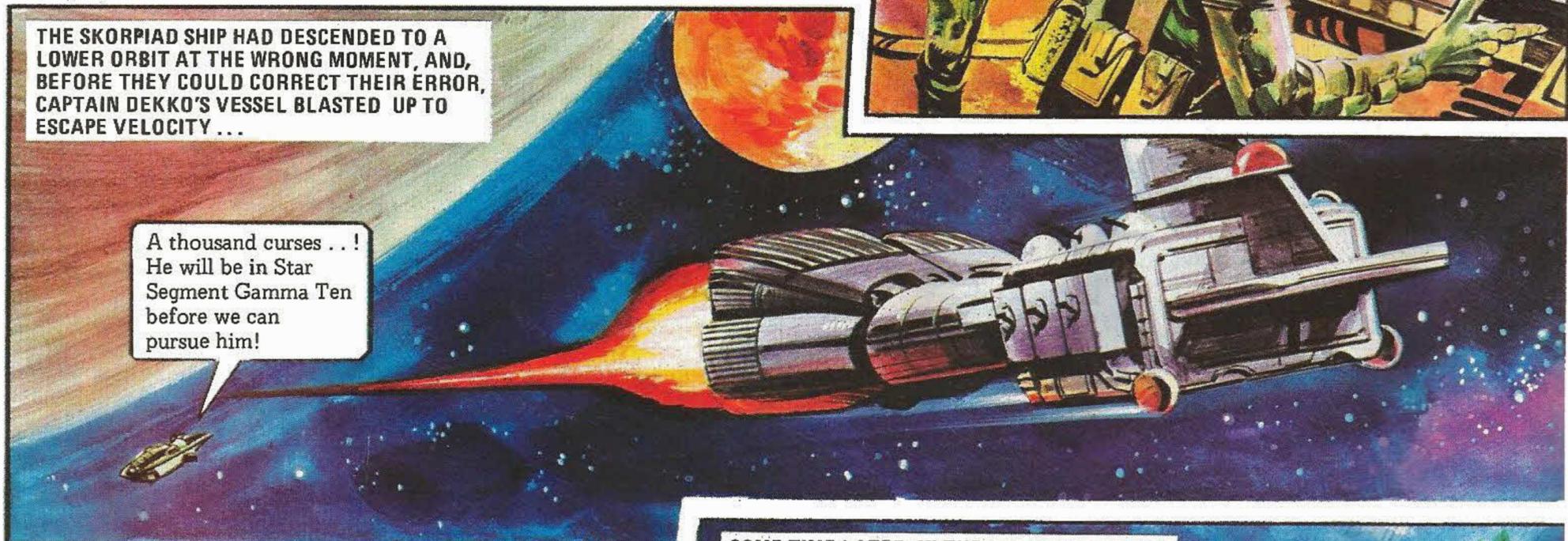
ONE SINGLE ORBIT OF THE GIANT PLANET OF ELEKTON TOOK THE HOSTILE SKORPIAD CRUISER MORE THAN TWO ELEKTON HOURS, AND IT WAS DURING THIS PERIOD THAT CAPTAIN DEKKO'S NEWLY REPAIRED SHIP HAD BLASTED OFF . . .



We are at extreme detector range, Sir . . . But I am certain Dekko's ship is leaving!

By all the Gods of Galaktia . . . Don't tell me he is going to escape from us yet again!

THE SKORPIAD SHIP HAD DESCENDED TO A LOWER ORBIT AT THE WRONG MOMENT, AND, BEFORE THEY COULD CORRECT THEIR ERROR, CAPTAIN DEKKO'S VESSEL BLASTED UP TO ESCAPE VELOCITY . . .



A thousand curses . . . ! He will be in Star Segment Gamma Ten before we can pursue him!

THE CAPTAIN OF THE SKORPIAD SHIP WAS CONVULSED WITH RAGE . . .



Beyond Gamma Ten his own scout ships will be able to assist him . . . We will never get near him now . . . !

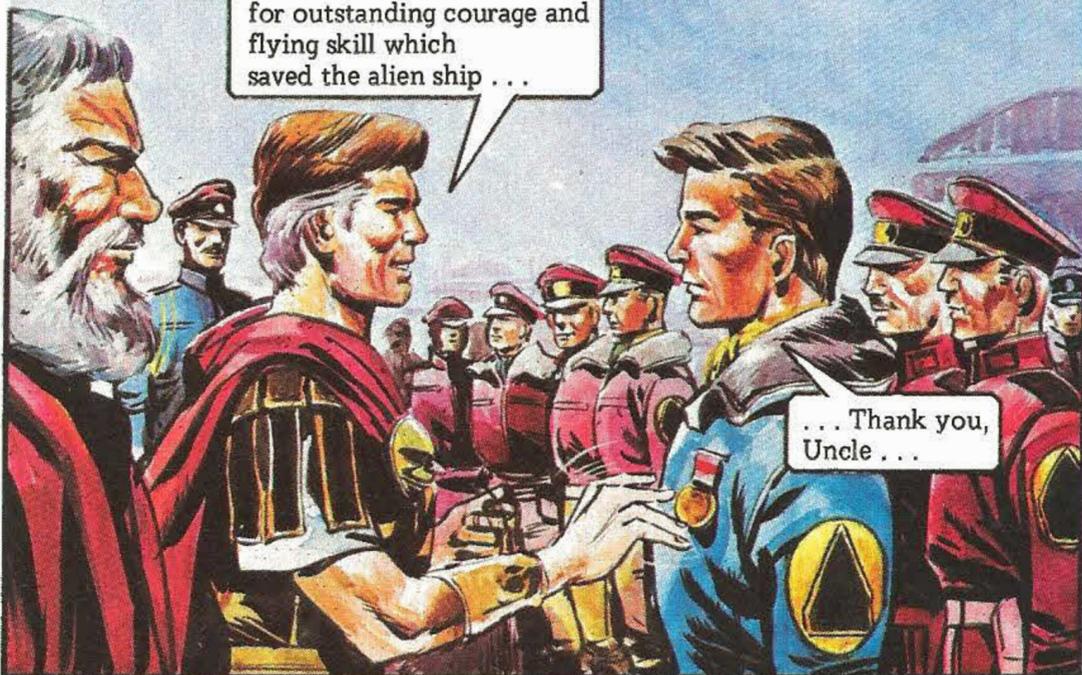
But those creatures on the planet below will pay a price for assisting him! Prepare the crabrok capsules . . .

SOME TIME LATER, IN THE DARKNESS OF THE ELEKTON NIGHT, A NUMBER OF STRANGE LUMINOUS SPHERES DRIFTED DOWN TOWARDS THE SURFACE . . .



IT WAS SOME DAYS LATER THAT JANNO ATTENDED A PARADE OF TRIGAN AIRFORCE PERSONNEL, AND RECEIVED A DECORATION FOR HIS BRAVERY FROM THE EMPEROR HIMSELF.

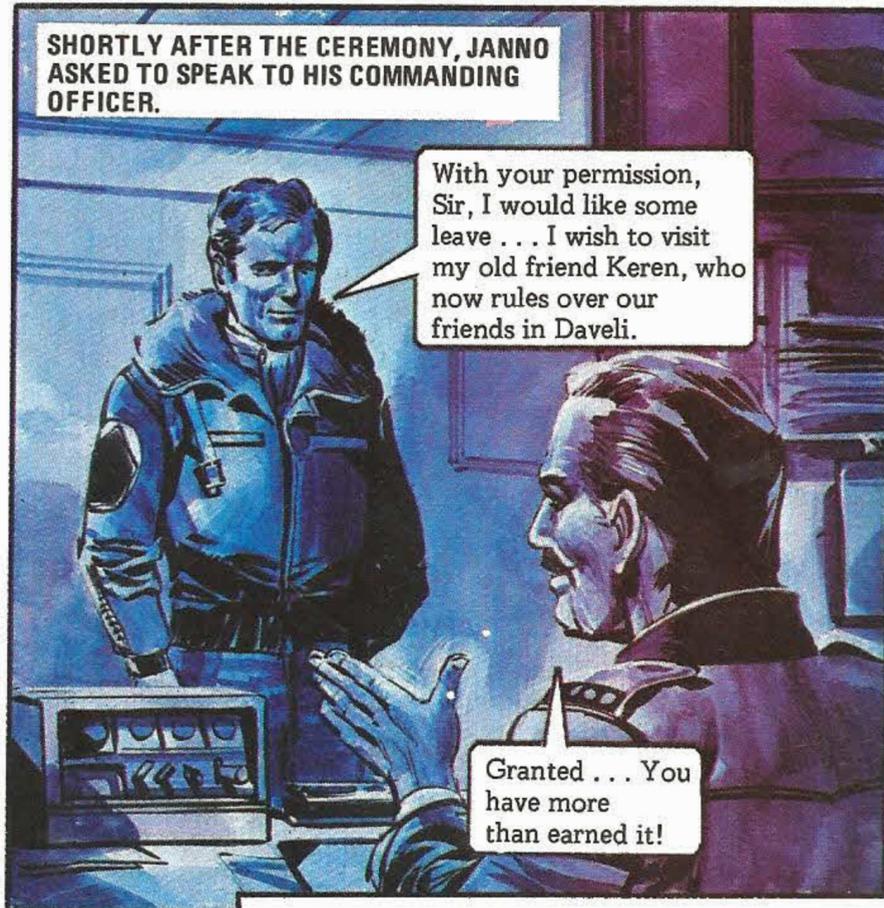
I am pleased to award you the Warrior's Medallion for outstanding courage and flying skill which saved the alien ship . . .



. . . Thank you, Uncle . . .

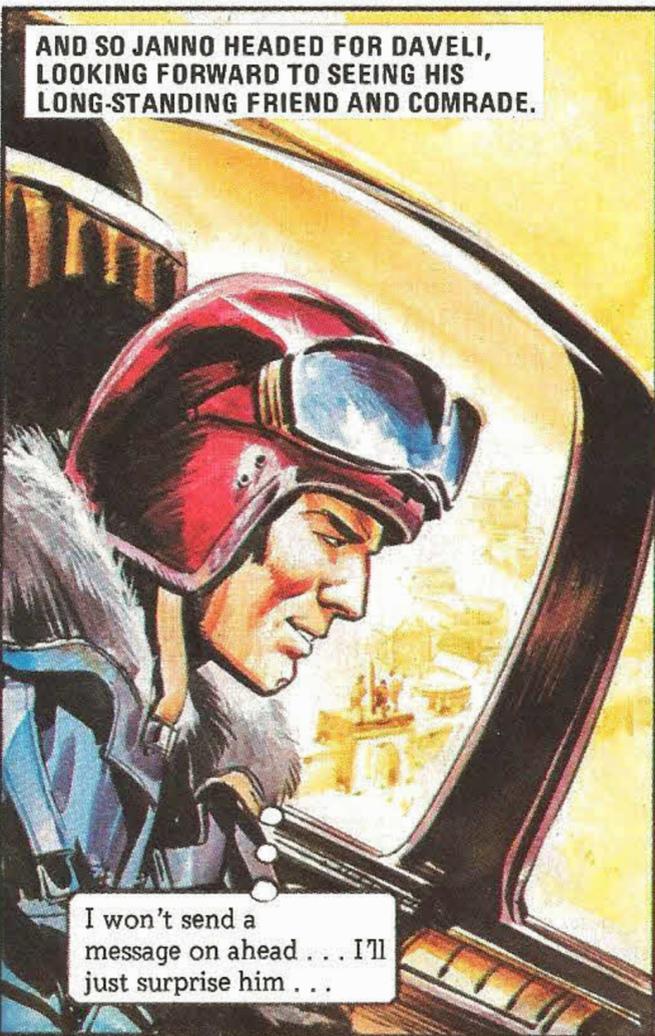
SHORTLY AFTER THE CEREMONY, JANNO ASKED TO SPEAK TO HIS COMMANDING OFFICER.

With your permission, Sir, I would like some leave . . . I wish to visit my old friend Keren, who now rules over our friends in Daveli.



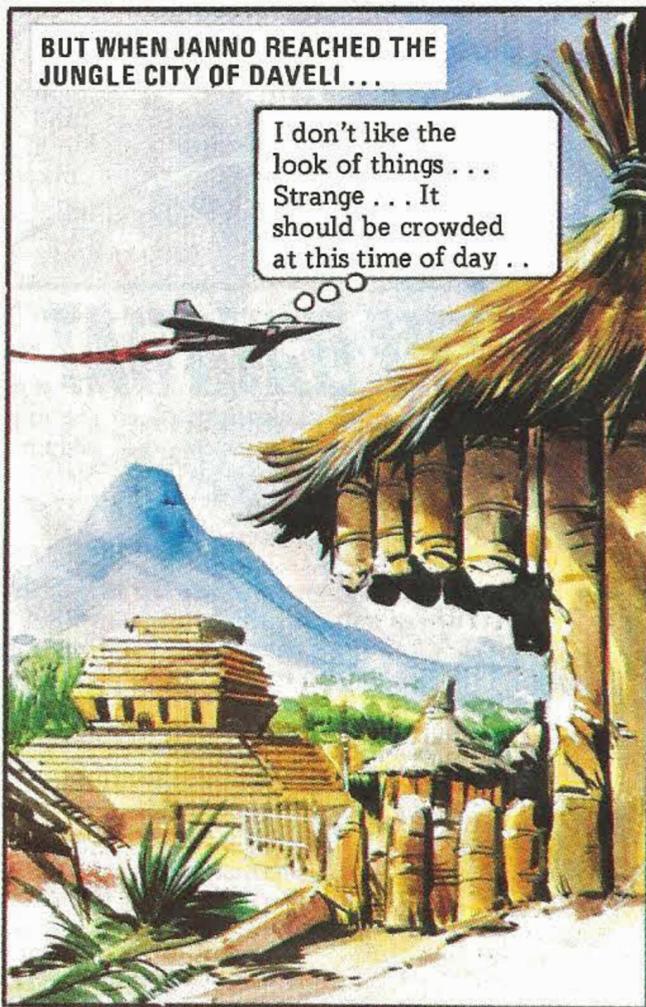
Granted . . . You have more than earned it!

AND SO JANNO HEADED FOR DAVELI, LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING HIS LONG-STANDING FRIEND AND COMRADE.



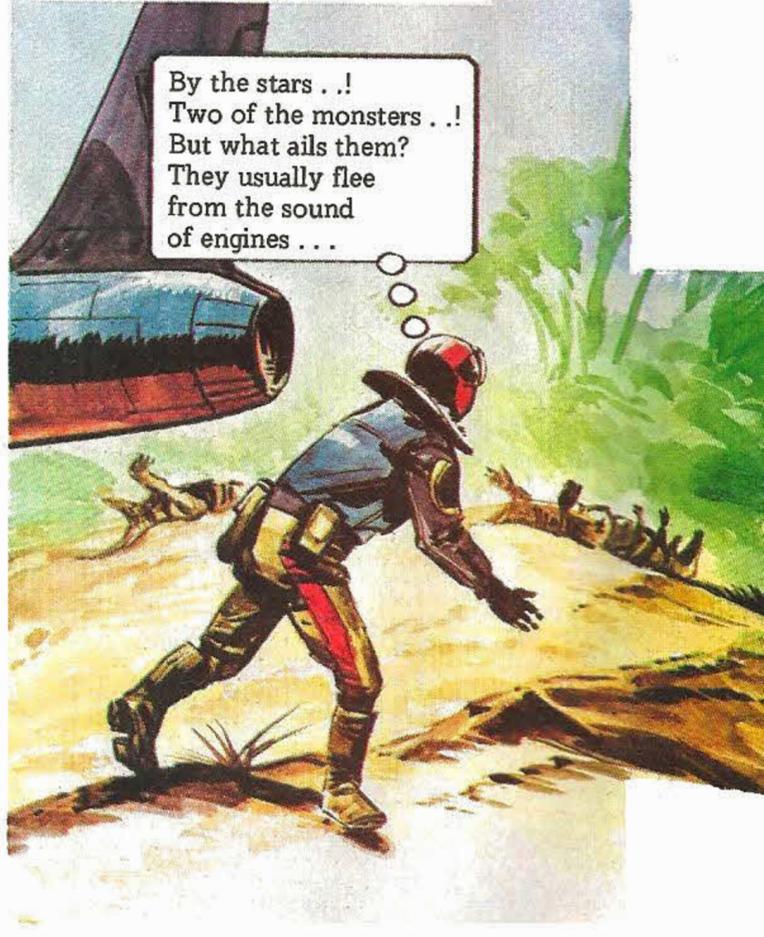
I won't send a message on ahead . . . I'll just surprise him . . .

BUT WHEN JANNO REACHED THE JUNGLE CITY OF DAVELI . . .



I don't like the look of things . . . Strange . . . It should be crowded at this time of day . . .

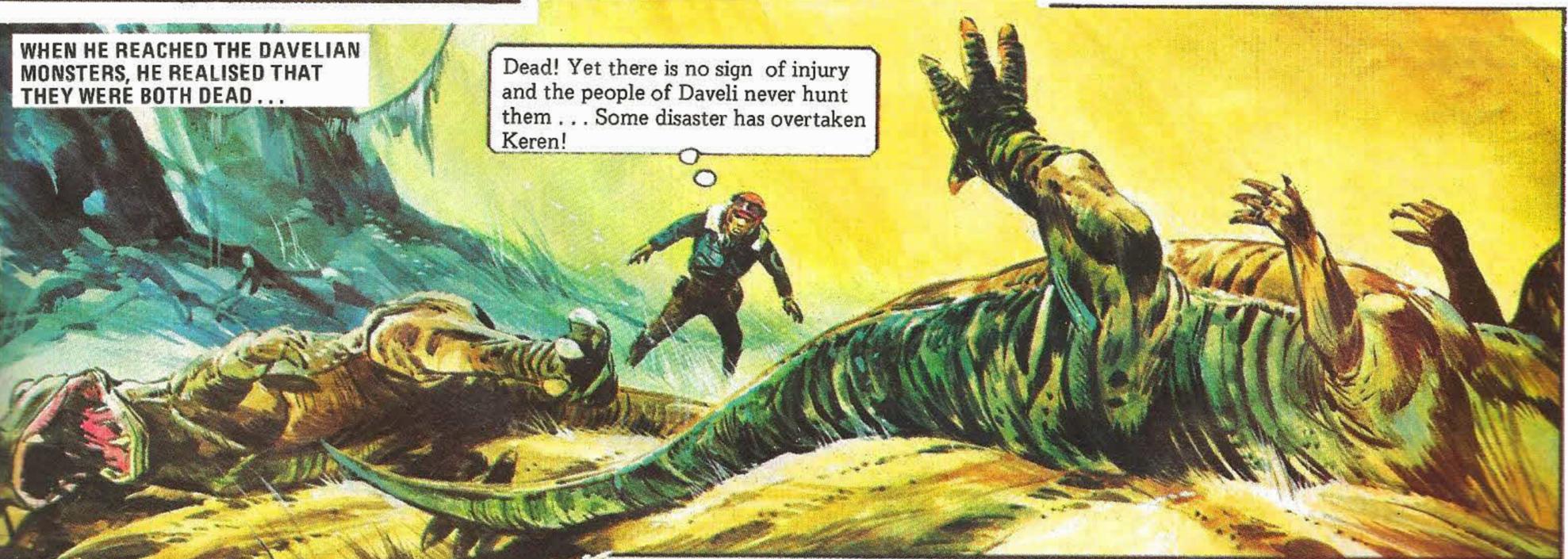
AS A PRECAUTION, JANNO BROUGHT HIS CRAFT DOWN SOME DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE CITY.



By the stars . . .! Two of the monsters . . .! But what ails them? They usually flee from the sound of engines . . .

WHEN HE REACHED THE DAVELIAN MONSTERS, HE REALISED THAT THEY WERE BOTH DEAD . . .

Dead! Yet there is no sign of injury and the people of Daveli never hunt them . . . Some disaster has overtaken Keren!



# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE *Trigan* Empire

After having helped save Elekton from disaster when an alien spaceship was in danger of exploding, Janno is taking a well-earned holiday by visiting his friend Keren, the ruler of neighbouring Daveli. He arrives to find the city deserted, and two of the legendary monsters of Daveli lying dead . . .

JANNO EXAMINED THE DEAD MONSTERS CAREFULLY FOR SIGNS OF INJURY.

Few creatures on Elekton have the power to kill the monsters of Daveli . . . yet these have died, and quickly by the look of them.

THEN HE NOTICED A PART OF THEIR BODIES WHERE THE SKIN APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN BURNED . . .

Ahh . . . what have we here? A burn . . . but not the injury which might come from a heat-gun blast . . . some deadly fluid, perhaps . . .

AS HE PUZZLED OVER THE PROBLEM, HE GRADUALLY BECAME AWARE OF A THROBBING, BUZZING SOUND, AND . . .

THE HUGE FLYING INSECTS PASSED OVER JANNO AND FLEW IN THE DIRECTION OF THE CITY OF DAVELI . . .

By the Gates of Helas! What have we here?

INTRIGUED BY THE STRANGE AND MENACING CREATURES, JANNO MOVED INTO THE JUNGLE WHICH SURROUNDED THE CITY . . .

I have not seen or heard of such things on our planet . . . I must try to find out more about them . . . then, perhaps, old Peric will have an answer.

5 1100 0



A FEW MINUTES LATER, JANNO REACHED THE DESERTED CITY, WHERE AN AMAZING SIGHT MET HIS EYES...

By the Gods of Elekton! The creatures are feeding off the wood of the buildings...



WHILE HE WATCHED, JANNO FELT THE GROUND TREMBLE BENEATH HIM AS TWO MORE OF THE LEGENDARY MONSTERS OF DAVELI LUMBERED INTO THE EMPTY STREETS...

Now perhaps I shall learn how the other monsters were attacked.



WITH STARTLING SPEED SOME OF THE HIDEOUS INSECTS ROSE IN THE AIR AND HEADED TOWARDS THE MONSTERS...



AND BEFORE THE SLOW-MOVING MONSTERS COULD ESCAPE...

An acid... a burning poison...



IN HIS EAGERNESS TO GET A BETTER VIEW OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING, JANNO HAD UNTHINKINGLY MOVED OUT OF CONCEALMENT... AND...



THE STRICKEN MONSTERS REARED UP IN AGONY...



... Ayeeee ...

# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE *Trigun* Empire



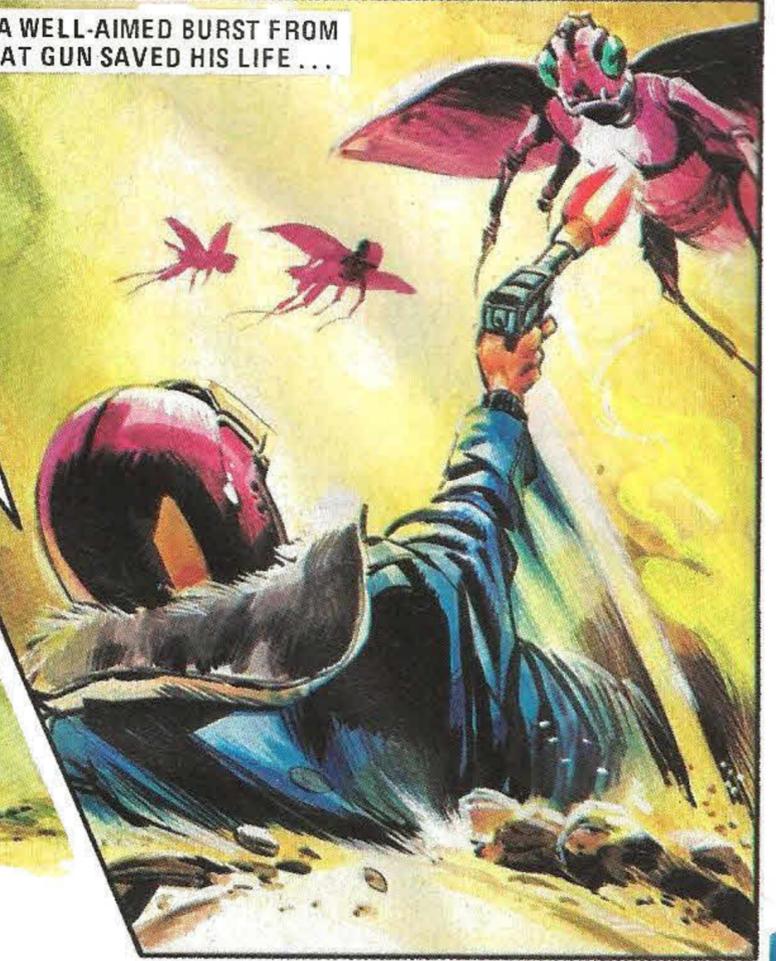
Janno goes to see Keren, who now rules Daveli. When he arrives, Janno finds the place deserted by all but some strange flying creatures.

JANNO FELT A CHILL OF HORROR AS THE GIANT INSECT DIVED TOWARDS HIM... BUT A SPLIT SECOND LATER HIS DISCIPLINED TRAINING MADE HIM REACT INSTINCTIVELY...



By the stars! These are nightmare creatures...

ONLY A WELL-AIMED BURST FROM HIS HEAT GUN SAVED HIS LIFE...



AS THE HUGE CREATURE CRASHED INTO THE GROUND, A HIGH-PITCHED SCREAM ALERTED ITS COMPANIONS...



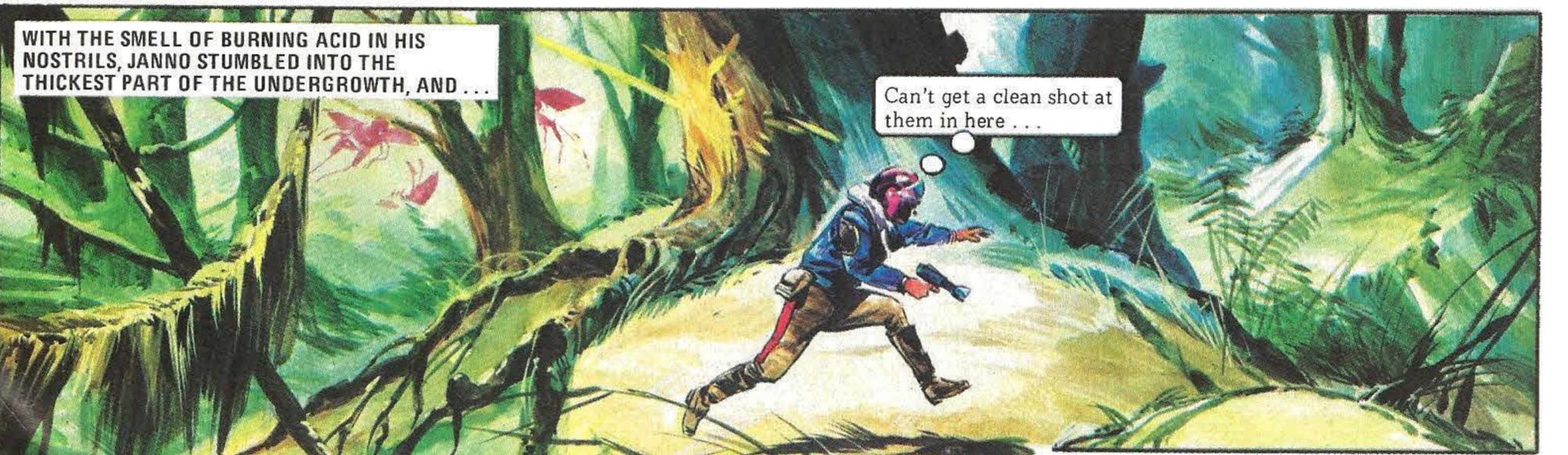
Time to head for cover!

A LOUD BUZZING NOISE HAMMERED PAINFULLY AGAINST HIS EARDRUMS, AS JANNO FLED INTO THE JUNGLE...



I shall be safe among the trees... And it will lead them away from my atmosphere craft...

WITH THE SMELL OF BURNING ACID IN HIS NOSTRILS, JANNO STUMBLED INTO THE THICKEST PART OF THE UNDERGROWTH, AND...



Can't get a clean shot at them in here...

THEN, SUDDENLY, THE REMAINING INSECTS SEEMED TO LOSE INTEREST IN THEIR QUARRY, AND THIS GAVE JANNO HIS CHANCE . . .



JANNO SLAMMED THE COCKPIT COVER SHUT, AND PRESSED THE STARTER BUTTONS JUST AS THE TWO SURVIVING INSECTS RETURNED TO THE ATTACK . . .



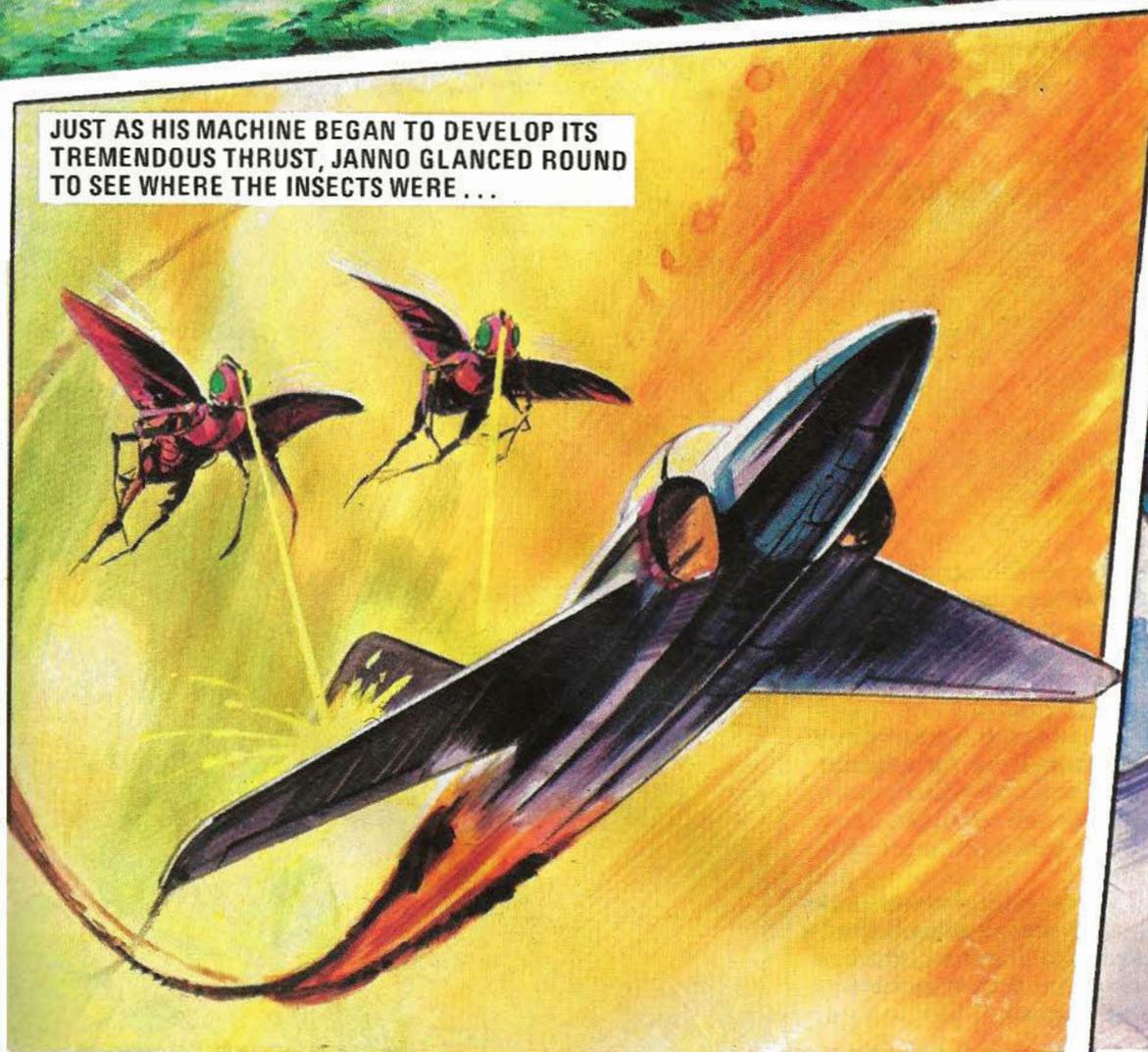
The gods protect me . . . Will nothing stop them?

IN A DESPERATE MOVE, JANNO APPLIED FULL BOOST WHEN HE WAS BARELY OFF THE GROUND . . .



Come on my beauty . . . MOVE! Then we can meet these horrors in their own element . . .

JUST AS HIS MACHINE BEGAN TO DEVELOP ITS TREMENDOUS THRUST, JANNO GLANCED ROUND TO SEE WHERE THE INSECTS WERE . . .



AND AS HE REACHED FLYING SPEED, HE FELT THE CONTROLS BEGIN TO VIBRATE . . .



. . . A hydraulic line has gone . . . that could mean trouble!

Illustrated By Gerry Wood

# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE *Trigan Empire*



Janno has gone to Daveli to see his old comrade, Keren, but when he arrives he finds the city deserted. Later he is attacked by a group of huge flying insects, which squirt a deadly liquid at him as he tries to make his escape in his atmosphere fighter...

ONE OF THE INSECTS HAD SCORED A PARTIAL HIT ON THE WING OF JANNO'S ATMOSPHERE CRAFT, AND HAD DAMAGED THE HYDRAULIC CONTROLS.

I must cut the boost or I'll lose a wing...

EVEN WITH THE BOOST TO THE ENGINES OUT OF CIRCUIT, THE TRIGAN AIR FORCE FIGHTER CRAFT EASILY OUTPACED THE GIANT INSECTS...

I must return to our air base fast enough to make sure none of those horrors is able to follow... Uncle Trigo won't thank me for bringing them to Trigan City...

AS SOON AS HE HAD LANDED, JANNO SOUGHT AN AUDIENCE WITH THE LEADER OF THE TRIGAN EMPIRE, AND RECOUNTED WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN DAVELI...

Insects with wings three spans wide? If you were not a trained Air Force Officer, and my nephew, I might be forgiven for thinking you were suffering from altitude sickness.

You must believe me, Uncle.

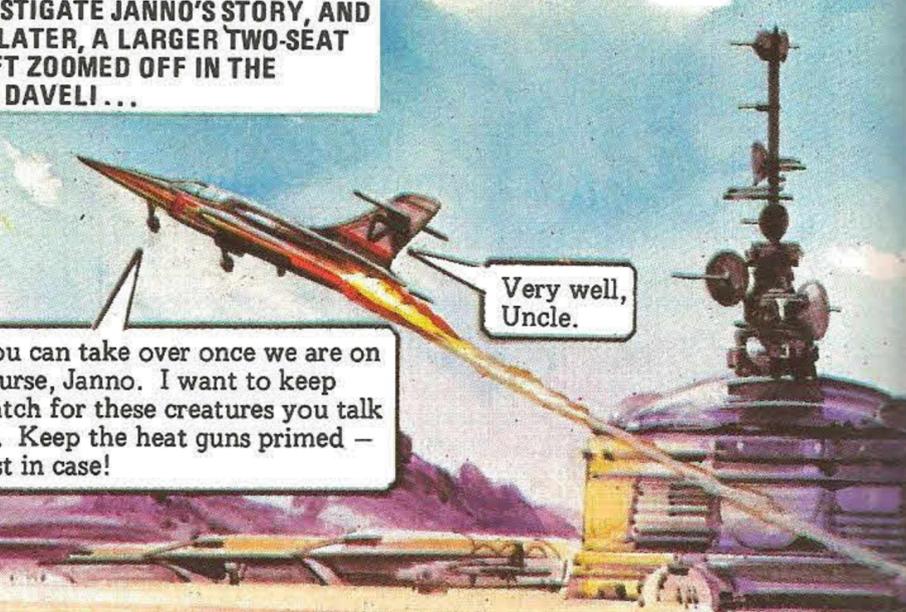
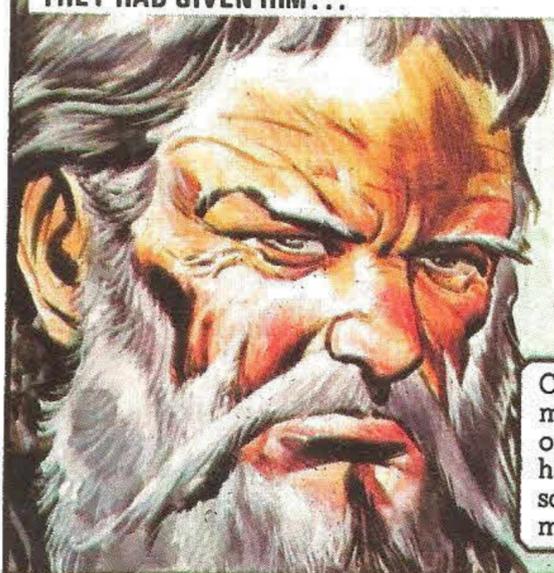
OLD PERIC, WHO HAD LISTENED INTENTLY TO JANNO'S STORY, SAID NOTHING, BUT HE REMEMBERED THE INSTRUCTIONS LEFT BY THE FRIENDLY ALIENS, AND THE STRANGE KEY THEY HAD GIVEN HIM...

TRIGO NEEDED NO PROMPTING FROM OLD PERIC TO INVESTIGATE JANNO'S STORY, AND A FEW HOURS LATER, A LARGER TWO-SEAT FIGHTER CRAFT ZOOMED OFF IN THE DIRECTION OF DAVELI...

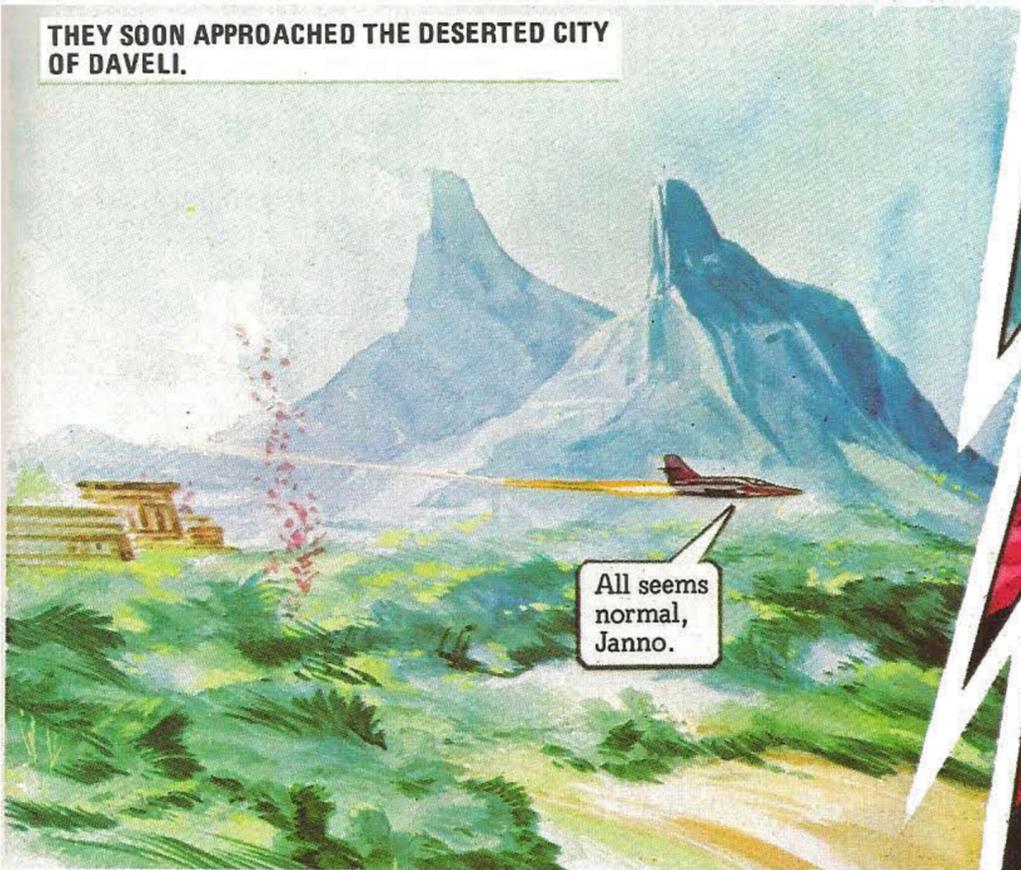
Could these creatures be the Skorpiads mentioned by Captain Dekko and the others...? If they are, then I may have to use the key... but it is too soon to act yet... Trigo himself must go to Daveli.

You can take over once we are on course, Janno. I want to keep watch for these creatures you talk of. Keep the heat guns primed - just in case!

Very well, Uncle.

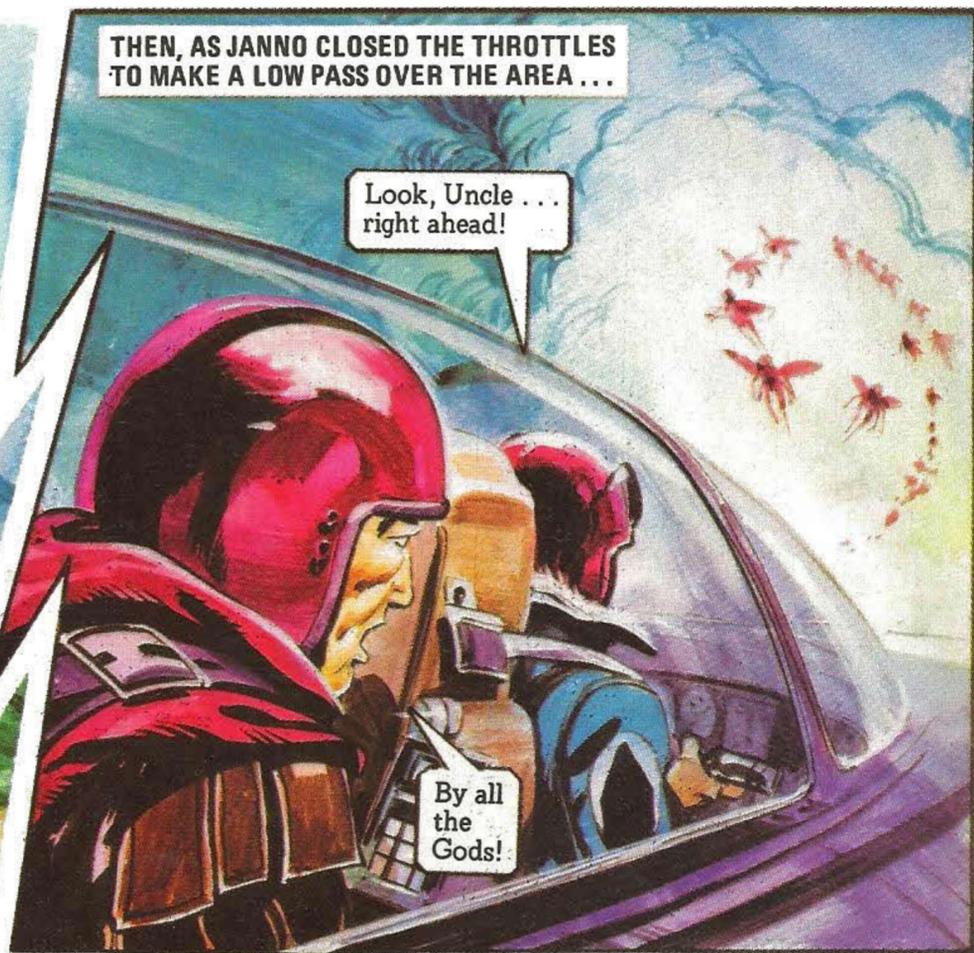


THEY SOON APPROACHED THE DESERTED CITY OF DAVELI.



All seems normal, Janno.

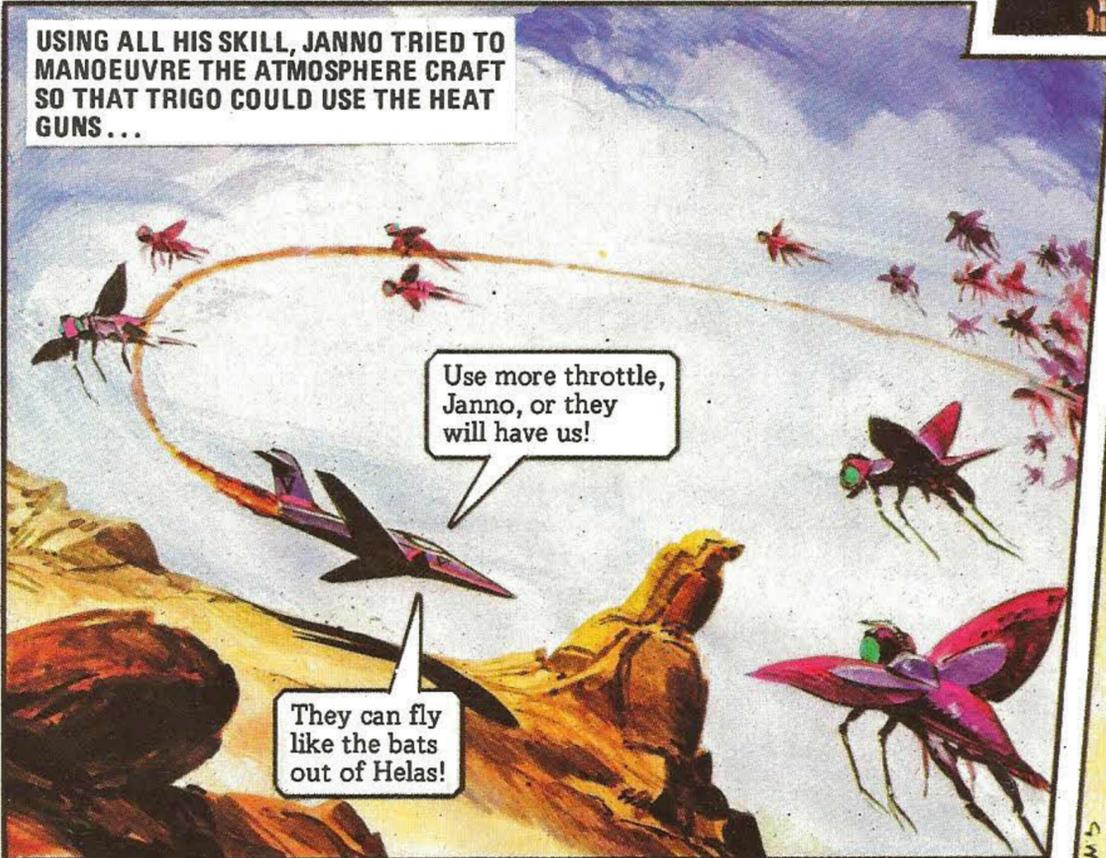
THEN, AS JANNO CLOSED THE THROTTLES TO MAKE A LOW PASS OVER THE AREA...



Look, Uncle... right ahead!

By all the Gods!

USING ALL HIS SKILL, JANNO TRIED TO MANOEUVRE THE ATMOSPHERE CRAFT SO THAT TRIGO COULD USE THE HEAT GUNS...



Use more throttle, Janno, or they will have us!

They can fly like the bats out of Helas!

BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD BOTH TRIGO AND JANNO TRIED TO BRING THEIR WEAPONS TO BEAR ON THE INSECTS, THE BIG ATMOSPHERE FIGHTER APPEARED CLUMSY IN THE AIR COMPARED WITH THE RAPID CHANGES OF COURSE THEY WERE ABLE TO MAKE...

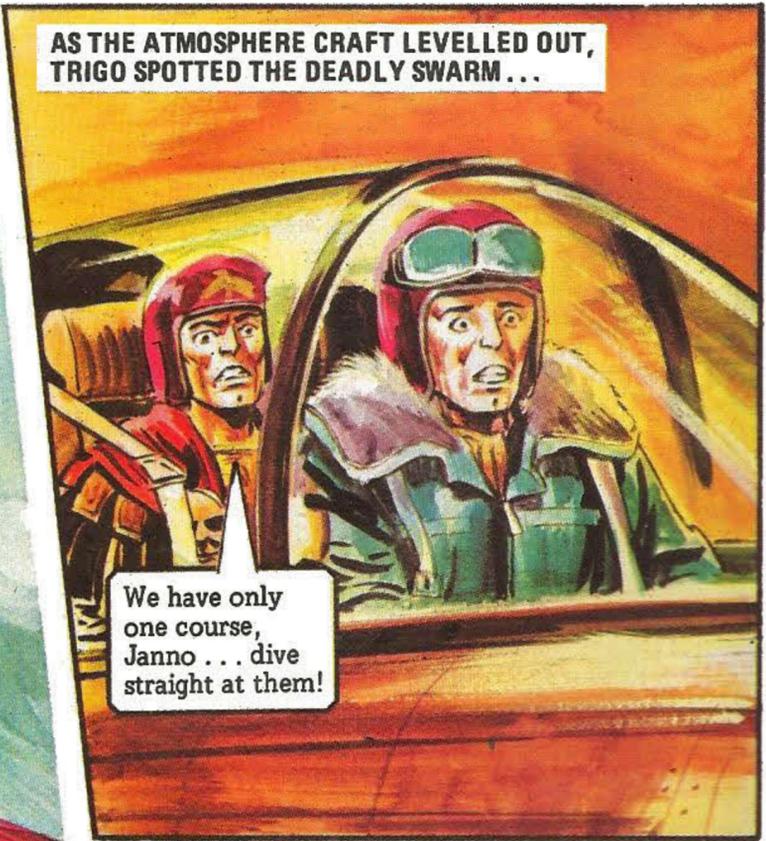


We have not scored a single hit... open her out again, Janno.

AND AS THEY STRUGGLED TO GAIN THE UPPER HAND, BARELY HALF A LEAGUE AWAY THE AIR BEGAN TO HUM AND VIBRATE...



AS THE ATMOSPHERE CRAFT LEVELLED OUT, TRIGO SPOTTED THE DEADLY SWARM...

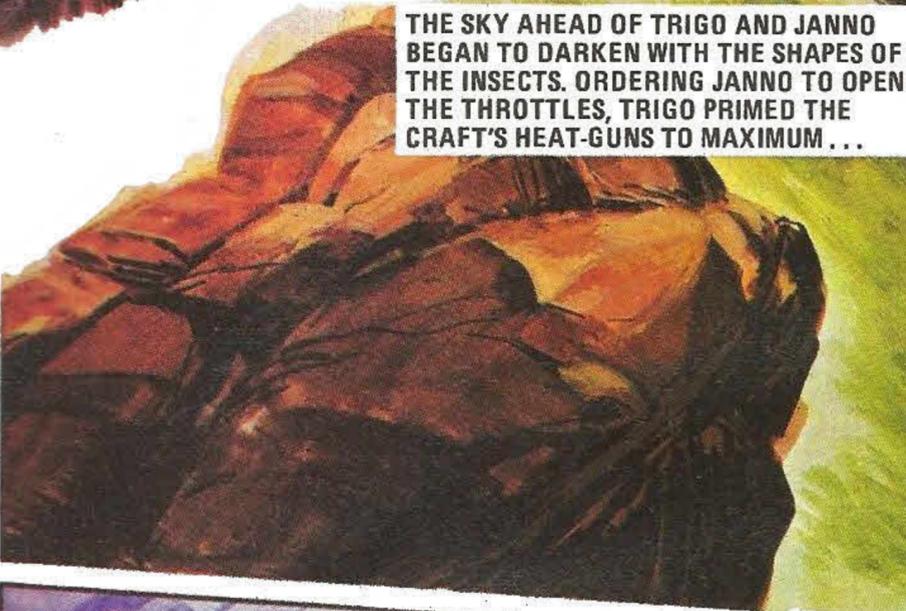


We have only one course, Janno... dive straight at them!

# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE *Trigan Empire*



Janno and Trigo have been revisiting the jungle city of Daveli, which has been ravaged by a swarm of deadly insects. When they reach the area, they are immediately ambushed by the acid-squirting creatures . . .



THE SKY AHEAD OF TRIGO AND JANNO BEGAN TO DARKEN WITH THE SHAPES OF THE INSECTS. ORDERING JANNO TO OPEN THE THROTTLES, TRIGO PRIMED THE CRAFT'S HEAT-GUNS TO MAXIMUM . . .



Hold that course, Janno . . . and keep going once we are through the swarm.

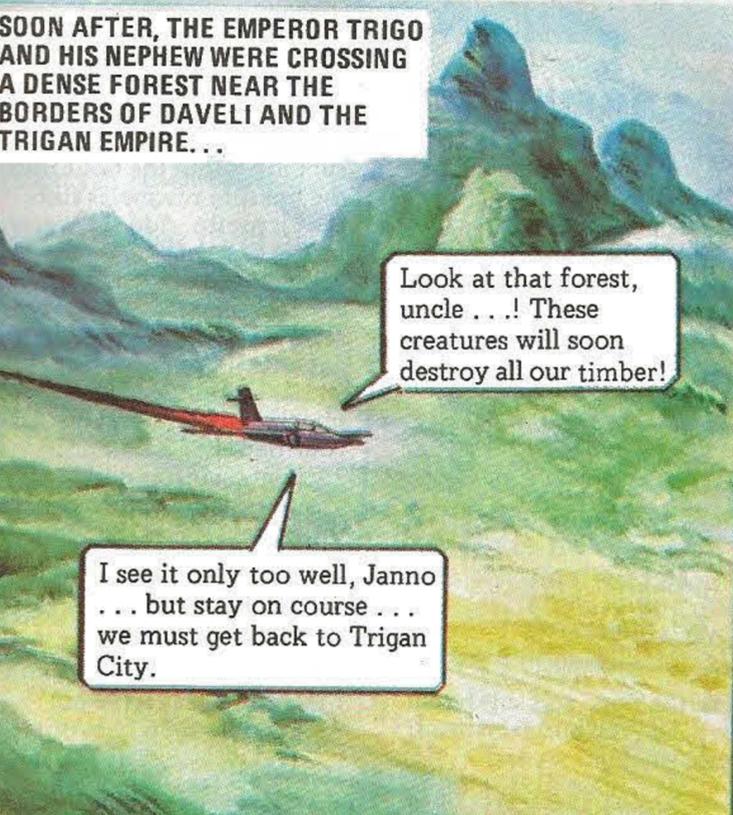


SECONDS LATER THE BIG ATMOSPHERE CRAFT WAS IN THE THICK OF THEM . . .

WITH ITS SUPERIOR SPEED AND ITS TOUGH METAL SKIN, THE TRIGAN CRAFT BLASTED ITS WAY THROUGH, LEAVING A FLURRY OF DEAD INSECTS BEHIND . . .



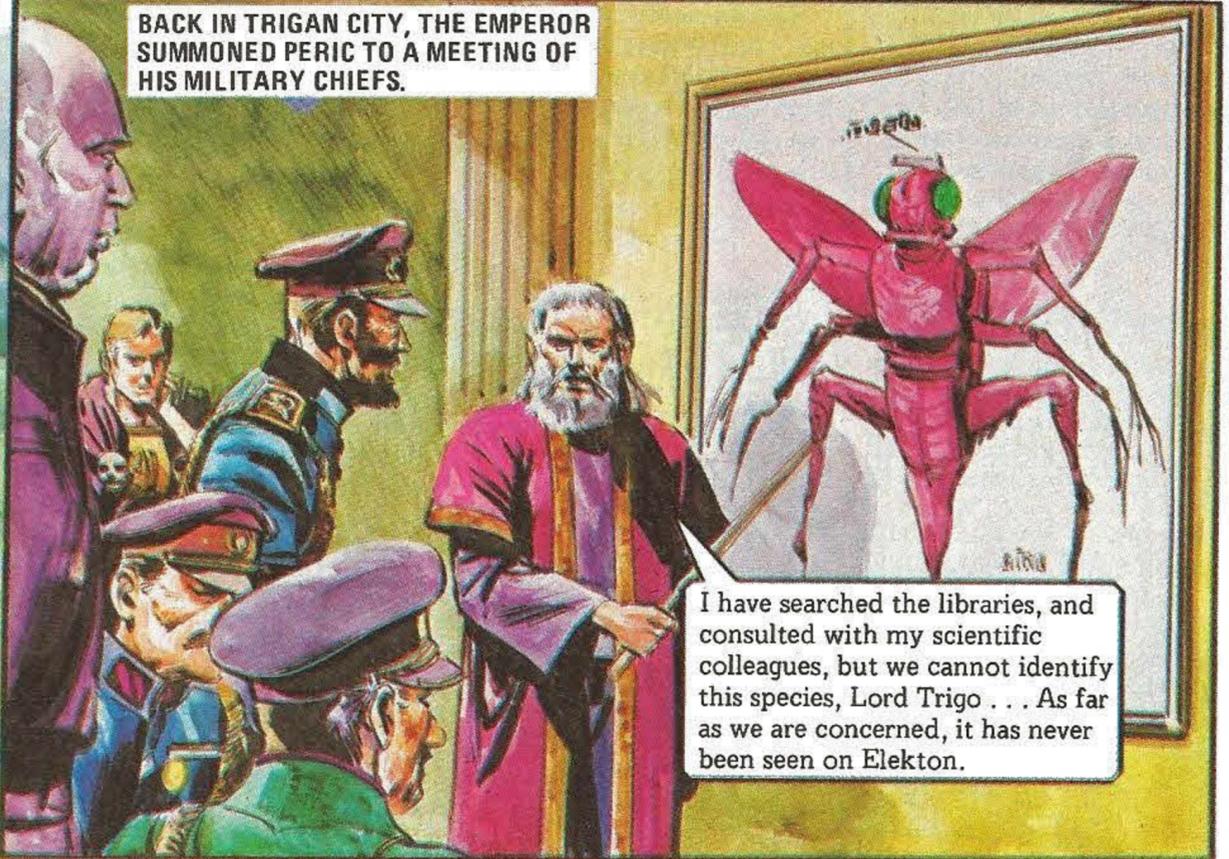
Full boost now, Janno!



SOON AFTER, THE EMPEROR TRIGO AND HIS NEPHEW WERE CROSSING A DENSE FOREST NEAR THE BORDERS OF DAVELI AND THE TRIGAN EMPIRE . . .

Look at that forest, uncle . . .! These creatures will soon destroy all our timber!

I see it only too well, Janno . . . but stay on course . . . we must get back to Trigan City.

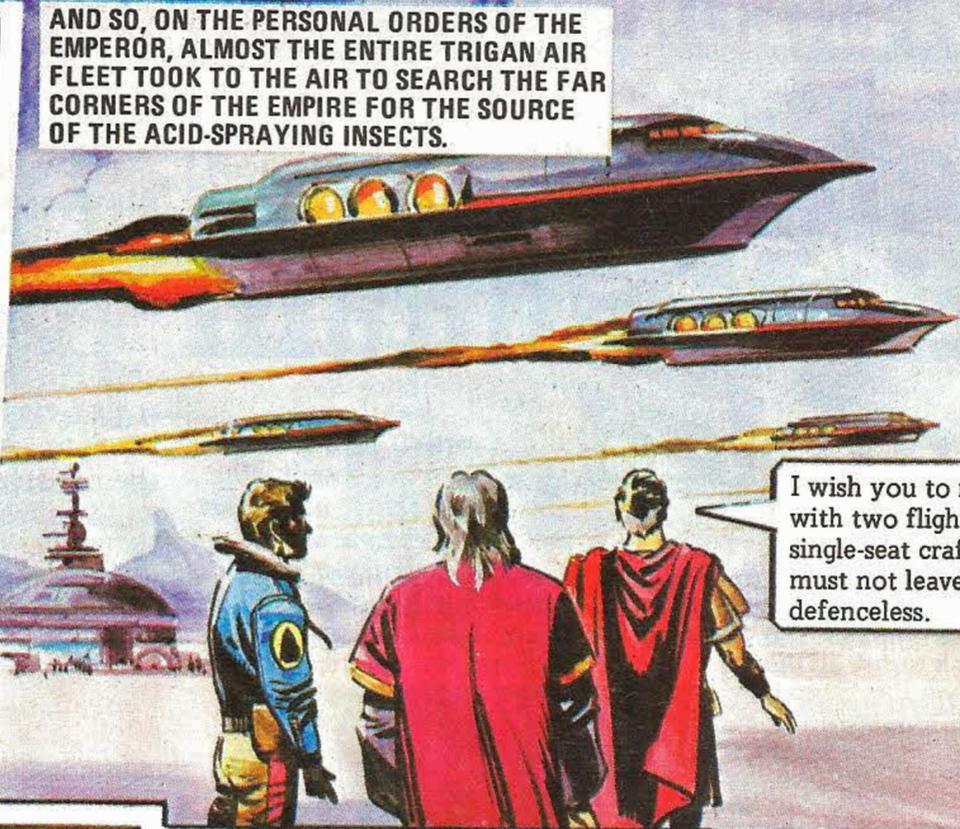


BACK IN TRIGAN CITY, THE EMPEROR SUMMONED PERIC TO A MEETING OF HIS MILITARY CHIEFS.

I have searched the libraries, and consulted with my scientific colleagues, but we cannot identify this species, Lord Trigo . . . As far as we are concerned, it has never been seen on Elekton.

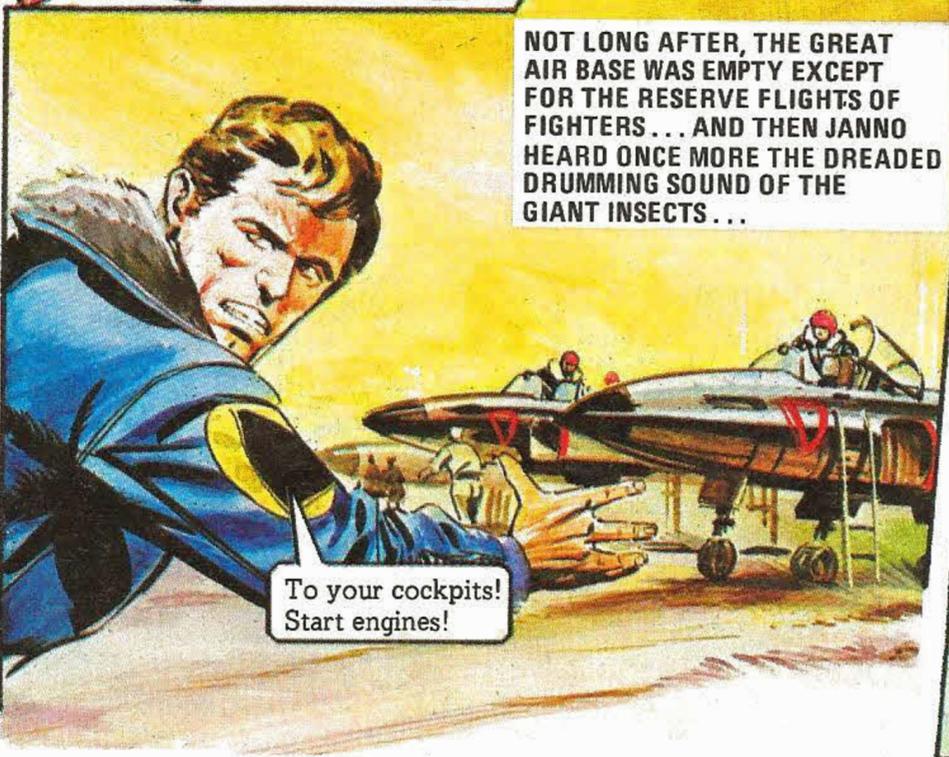


Yet there are many regions of our immense planet which remain unexplored – the least we can do is to search from the air within the range of our largest atmosphere craft. These creatures must be stopped!



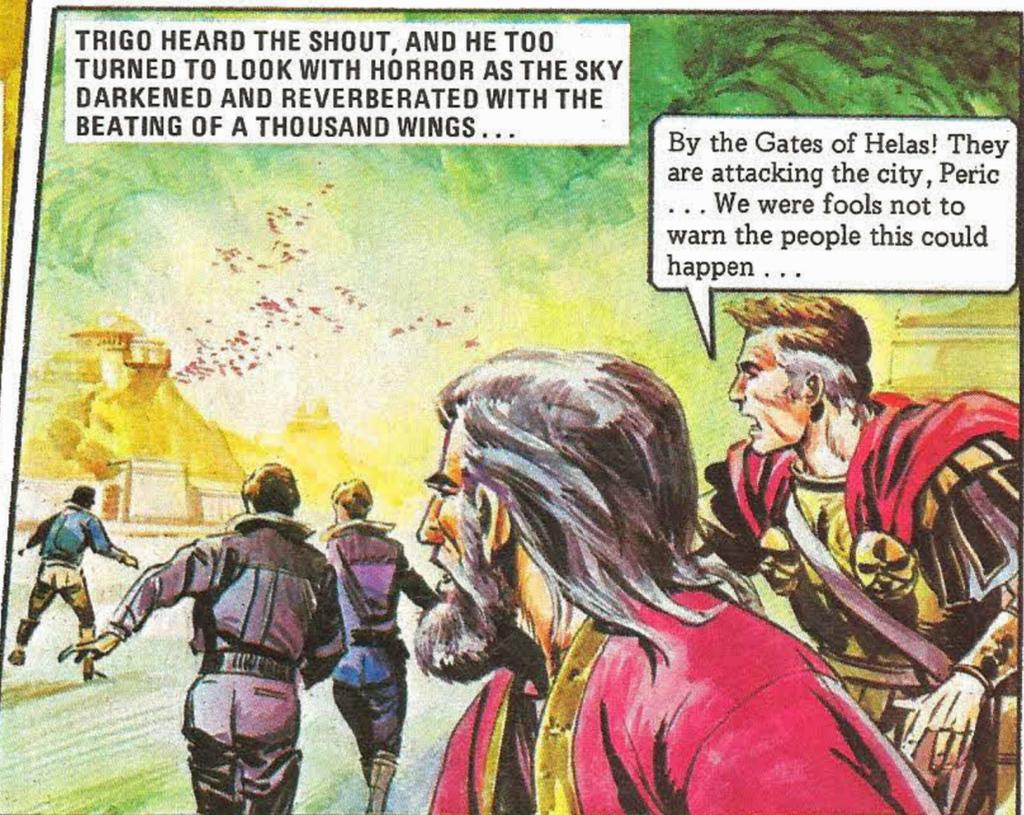
AND SO, ON THE PERSONAL ORDERS OF THE EMPEROR, ALMOST THE ENTIRE TRIGAN AIR FLEET TOOK TO THE AIR TO SEARCH THE FAR CORNERS OF THE EMPIRE FOR THE SOURCE OF THE ACID-SPRAYING INSECTS.

I wish you to remain here with two flights of our single-seat craft, Janno. We must not leave the city defenceless.



NOT LONG AFTER, THE GREAT AIR BASE WAS EMPTY EXCEPT FOR THE RESERVE FLIGHTS OF FIGHTERS... AND THEN JANNO HEARD ONCE MORE THE DREADED DRUMMING SOUND OF THE GIANT INSECTS...

To your cockpits! Start engines!



TRIGO HEARD THE SHOUT, AND HE TOO TURNED TO LOOK WITH HORROR AS THE SKY DARKENED AND REVERBERATED WITH THE BEATING OF A THOUSAND WINGS...

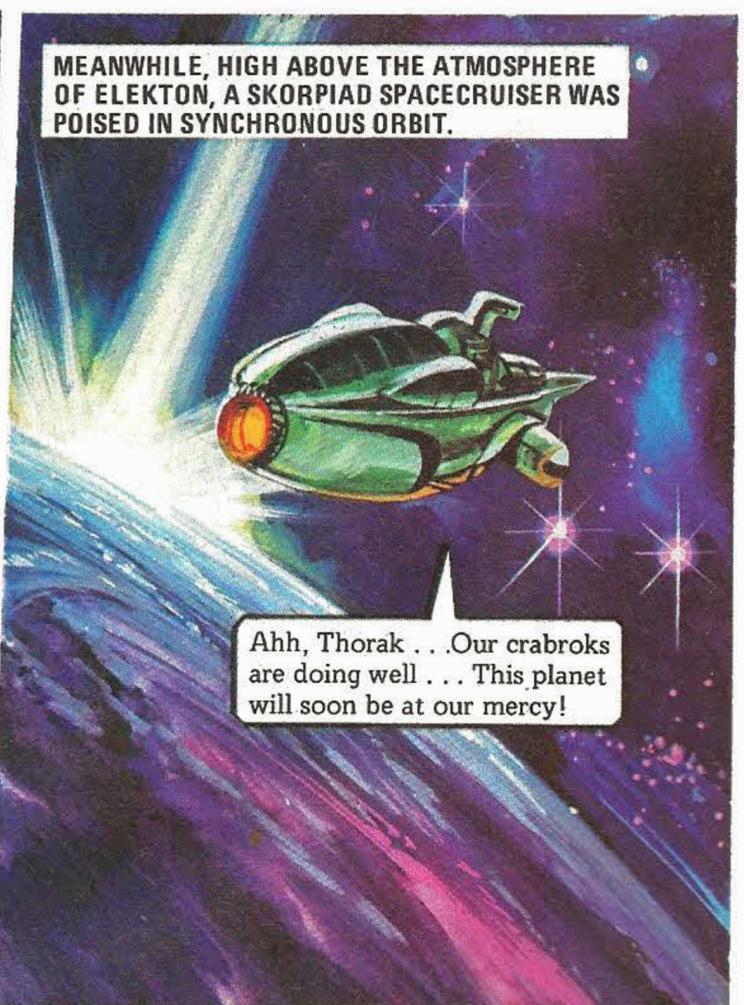
By the Gates of Helas! They are attacking the city, Peric... We were fools not to warn the people this could happen...



JANNO AND HIS COMRADES HURRIEDLY TOOK OFF AS TRIGO AND PERIC LOOKED ON HELPLESSLY...

Ayeee! I am burning...

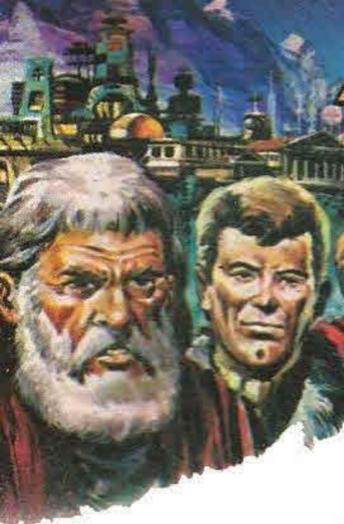
It is a plague sent to destroy us!



MEANWHILE, HIGH ABOVE THE ATMOSPHERE OF ELEKTON, A SKORPIAD SPACECRUISER WAS POISED IN SYNCHRONOUS ORBIT.

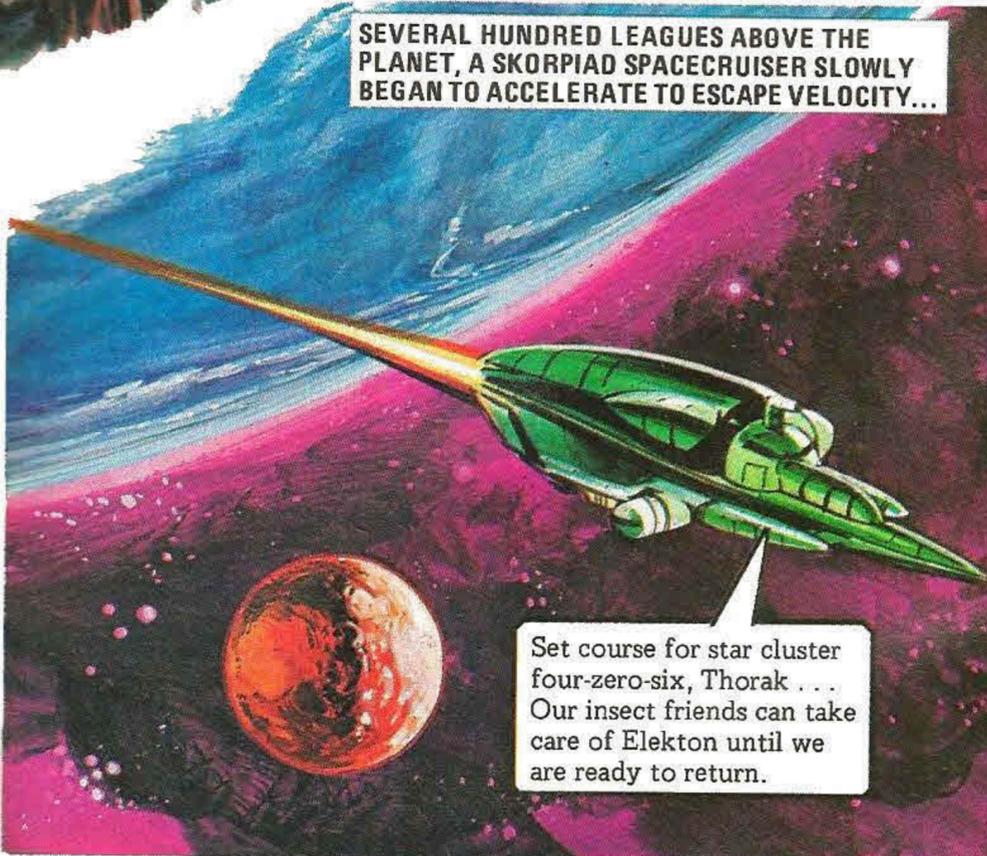
Ahh, Thorak... Our crabroks are doing well... This planet will soon be at our mercy!

# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE *Trigan Empire*



When Trigan City is left virtually unprotected because of the absence of most of the Trigan Air Force, a swarm of giant insects known as crabroks mount an attack. Watching from high above the planet is a spaceship manned by alien creatures called Skorpiads.

SEVERAL HUNDRED LEAGUES ABOVE THE PLANET, A SKORPIAD SPACECRUISER SLOWLY BEGAN TO ACCELERATE TO ESCAPE VELOCITY...



Set course for star cluster four-zero-six, Thorak... Our insect friends can take care of Elekton until we are ready to return.

DOWN BELOW, THE CITIZENS OF TRIGAN CITY WERE TRYING DESPERATELY TO ESCAPE FROM THE INSECTS' ATTACK, THEN...



Look! Here come our Air Force fighters...

IN THE LEADING FIGHTER, JANNO LOOKED ON THE SCENE BELOW HIM WITH HORROR... HE KNEW HOW DEADLY WAS THE CORROSIVE FLUID EJECTED BY THE INSECTS... AND HOW DIFFICULT IT WAS TO OUT-FLY THEM.



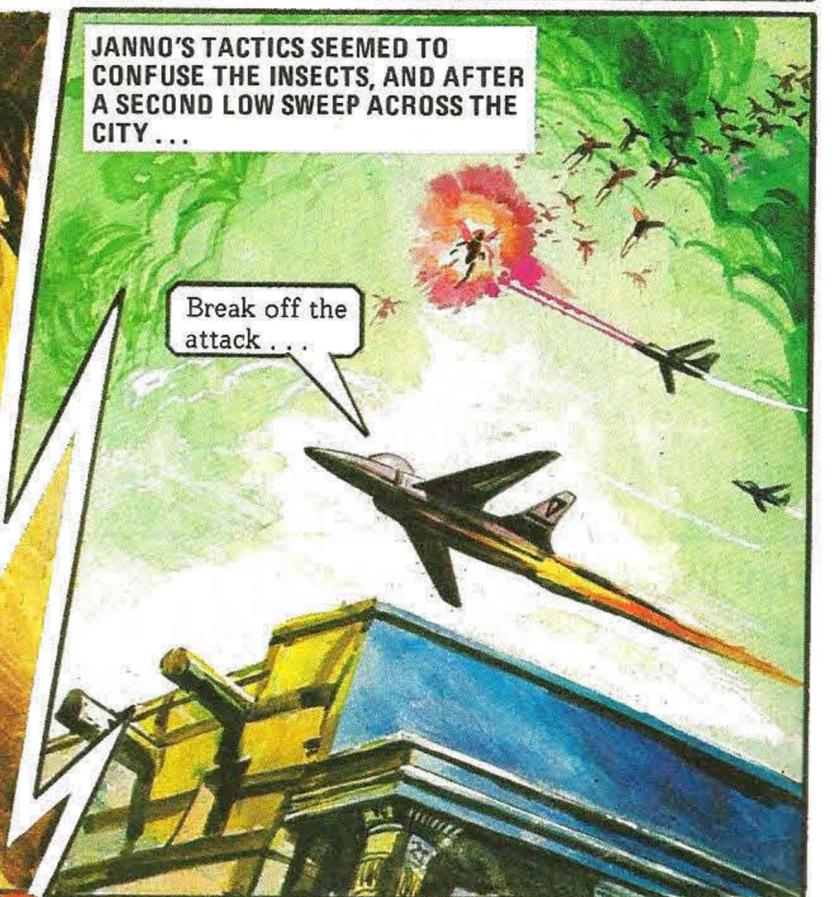
Stay in formation and set heat guns on wide-angle ejection. Do not - repeat - do not make diving attacks!

HE ALSO KNEW THAT GREAT CARE WOULD HAVE TO BE EXERCISED IF THEIR OWN HEAT-GUN WEAPONS WERE NOT TO INJURE THEIR OWN PEOPLE...



Open fire! And pull up to the right...

JANNO'S TACTICS SEEMED TO CONFUSE THE INSECTS, AND AFTER A SECOND LOW SWEEP ACROSS THE CITY...



Break off the attack...

LATER WHEN ALL THE FIGHTERS HAD LANDED, TRIGO AND PERIC SURVEYED THE CITY FROM THE PALACE ...

Janno has done well ... They have been driven off before attempting any landing in the city ...

Aye, my lord. It is fortunate for us that our buildings are of stone. The acid has harmed them little, and I venture to think the creatures will not return.

AND THEN OLD PERIC HAD AN IDEA.

It appears they feed only off wood. If it were possible for us to cut some of the timber they seem to favour and transport it to the regions where our young men sometimes hunt the wild zargots ...

By the stars, Peric ... You may be right ... The zargots could well be a match for these hideous invaders.

THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE FIRST OF THE LONG-RANGE ATMOSPHERE CRAFT RETURNED WITH NEWS THAT LENT URGENCY TO PERIC'S PLAN ...

What do you have to report, captain?

We have travelled a thousand leagues to the south and west, Sir, and we have seen many of the invaders - They seem to be multiplying, but we found no evidence of their origin.

AND SO TRIGO ISSUED ORDERS TO TRY TO DIVERT THE FIERCE FLYING REPTILES ...

We have two of our best pilots flying a circular pattern to warn us of any impending attack, Uncle.

Good. We must take care, or else we may bring the zargots to us also ...

TRIGO HAD GOOD REASON TO RESPECT THE ZARGOTS. THEY WERE MORE FORMIDABLE EVEN THAN THE MONSTERS OF DAVELI.

BUT WOULD THEY BE EQUAL TO THE DEADLY CRABROKS?

# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE *Trigan Empire*

In a desperate bid to combat the insect menace which is threatening Elekton, Peric has arranged a trap for the crabrocks. All he needs now is someone to lure them into it . . .

FOR A WHOLE DAY, THE TRIGANS LABOURED TO MOVE LARGE QUANTITIES OF LOGS TO WHERE THE WILD ZARGOTS WERE FOUND, IN THE HOPE THAT THE GIANT WOOD-EATING INSECTS WOULD TAKE IT AS BAIT.

That would seem to be sufficient for our purpose, my lord Trigo.

Aye, Peric. Now we have to bring zargot and insect together.

Leave that to me, uncle.

JANNO'S PLAN WAS TO FLY HIS SMALL ATMOSPHERE FIGHTER TO WHERE HE ALREADY KNEW THE INVADING INSECTS WERE FEEDING, AND ATTACK THEM.

We need only provoke them, and they will follow. I will lead them to where we have laid the bait. . . The zargots will do the rest.

Take care, Janno. These creatures are not to be trifled with.

AS HE WATCHED HIS NEPHEW FLY AWAY, TRIGO FELT A WAVE OF UNEASE SWEEP OVER HIM.

I do not question your plan, Peric, but I doubt it will do more than give us a breathing space.

Yes, but it is time we need, my lord . . . Time for me to engage in more research.

PERIC'S THOUGHTS TURNED ONCE AGAIN TO THE STRANGE KEY LEFT BEHIND BY THE FRIENDLY ALIENS WHOSE LIVES THEY HAD SAVED. . .

The time has come for me to use the key. But I must obey the instructions left by Captain Dekko. No one must know.

MEANWHILE, JANNO HAD QUICKLY FOUND THE SWARM OF INSECTS, WHICH HAD ATTACKED HIM ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF DAVELI WHEN HE FIRST CAME IN SEARCH OF KEREN.

There they are! I fear these devils have destroyed Daveli, and Keren has died at their hands.

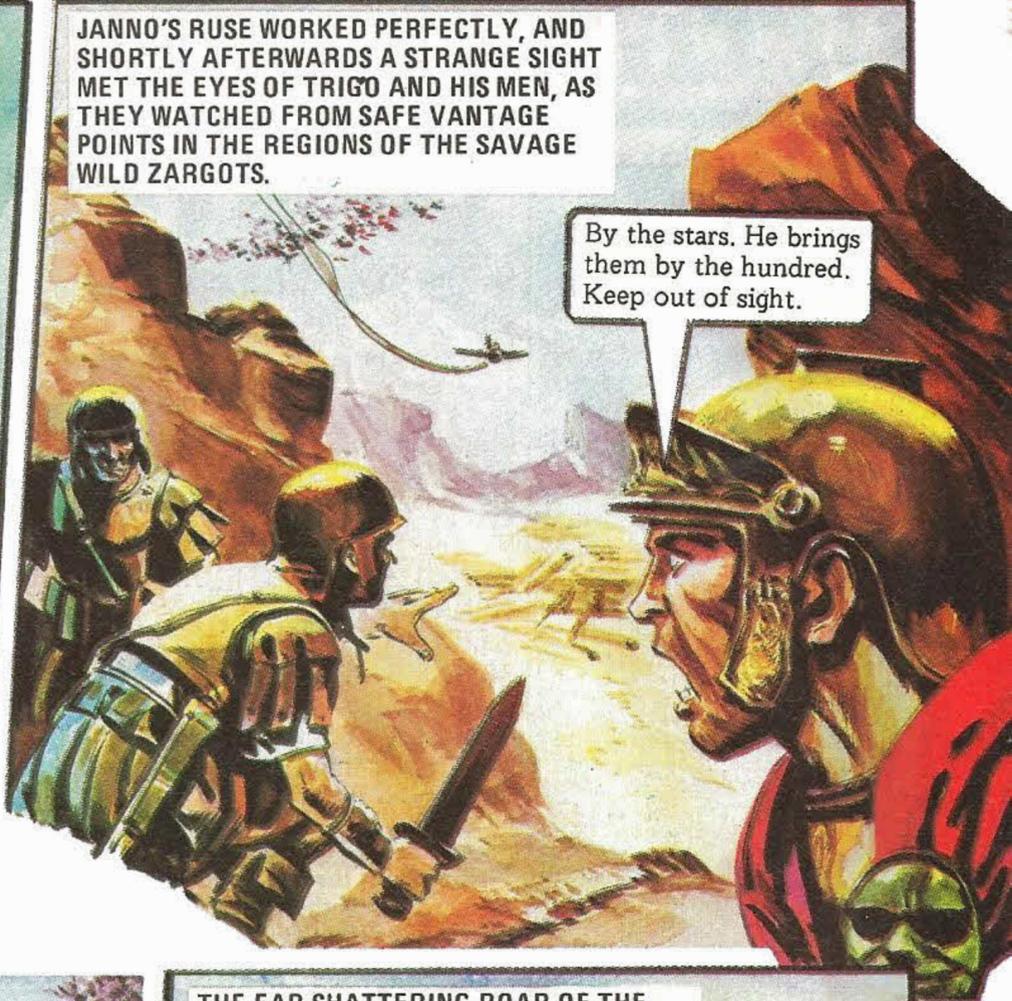
ONE QUICK BURST FROM HIS HEAT-GUNS BROUGHT AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FROM THE HIDEOUS INSECTS...

Now, if I can fly this thing at half-throttle, they will not lose sight of me.



JANNO'S RUSE WORKED PERFECTLY, AND SHORTLY AFTERWARDS A STRANGE SIGHT MET THE EYES OF TRIGO AND HIS MEN, AS THEY WATCHED FROM SAFE VANTAGE POINTS IN THE REGIONS OF THE SAVAGE WILD ZARGOTS.

By the stars. He brings them by the hundred. Keep out of sight.

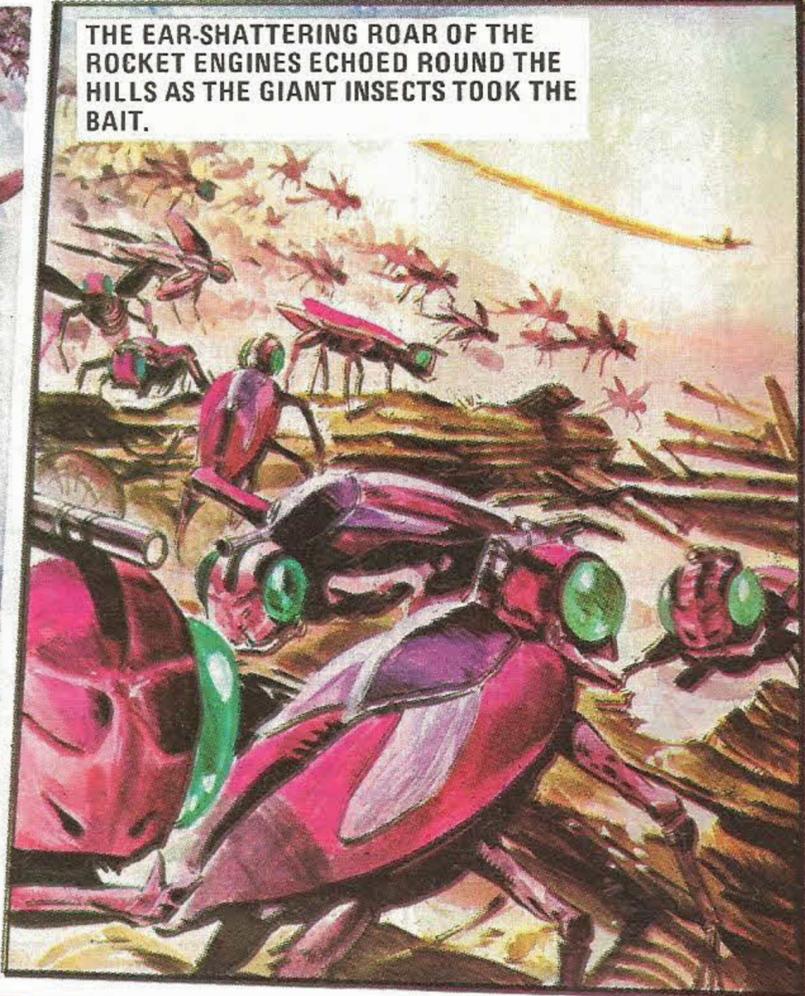


ONCE OVER THE AREA WHERE THE BAIT OF WOODEN LOGS HAD BEEN PLACED, JANNO OPENED THE THROTTLES OF HIS LITTLE CRAFT, AND SWEEPED ROUND AND DOWN TOWARDS THE PLAIN.

The sound of my engines will surely disturb the zargots.



THE EAR-SHATTERING ROAR OF THE ROCKET ENGINES ECHOED ROUND THE HILLS AS THE GIANT INSECTS TOOK THE BAIT.



AND FROM THE CAVES AND LEDGES THERE CAME A LOUD SCALY RUSTLING, FOLLOWED BY THE HEART-CHILLING SOUND OF SNARLING ZARGOTS PREPARING TO DEFEND THEIR TERRITORY...



IT WAS A SIGHT TO UNNERVE THE TOUGHEST OF THE TRIGAN HUNTERS!

NEXT WEEK: LET BATTLE COMMENCE!

Illustrated by Gerry Wood

# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE *Trigan Empire*



The alien race of Skorpiads have introduced a swarm of giant insects to Elekton. The insects are multiplying rapidly, and the Trigans are using wild zargots to keep them in check, while they search for their nests.

FROM A VANTAGE POINT IN THE HILLS WHERE THE WILD ZARGOTS LIVED, TRIGO AND JANNO WAITED FOR THE START OF A HORRIFIC BATTLE BETWEEN THE INSECT INVADERS AND THE WILD ZARGOTS OF ELEKTON . . .

You did well, Janno. By the Gates of Helas, it is going to be a battle royal!

Aye, that it will, Uncle . . . But will the Zargots' thick hide be defence enough against the acid of the insects?

AND SO BEGAN THE STRANGEST COMBAT THAT EVER WAS FOUGHT IN THE TRIGAN EMPIRE . . .



THE TOUGH SCALY ARMOUR ON THE BACKS AND WINGS OF THE ZARGOTS WAS IMPERVIOUS TO THE ACID-STINGS OF THE INSECTS, AND SOON THEY BEGAN TO GAIN THE UPPER HAND.

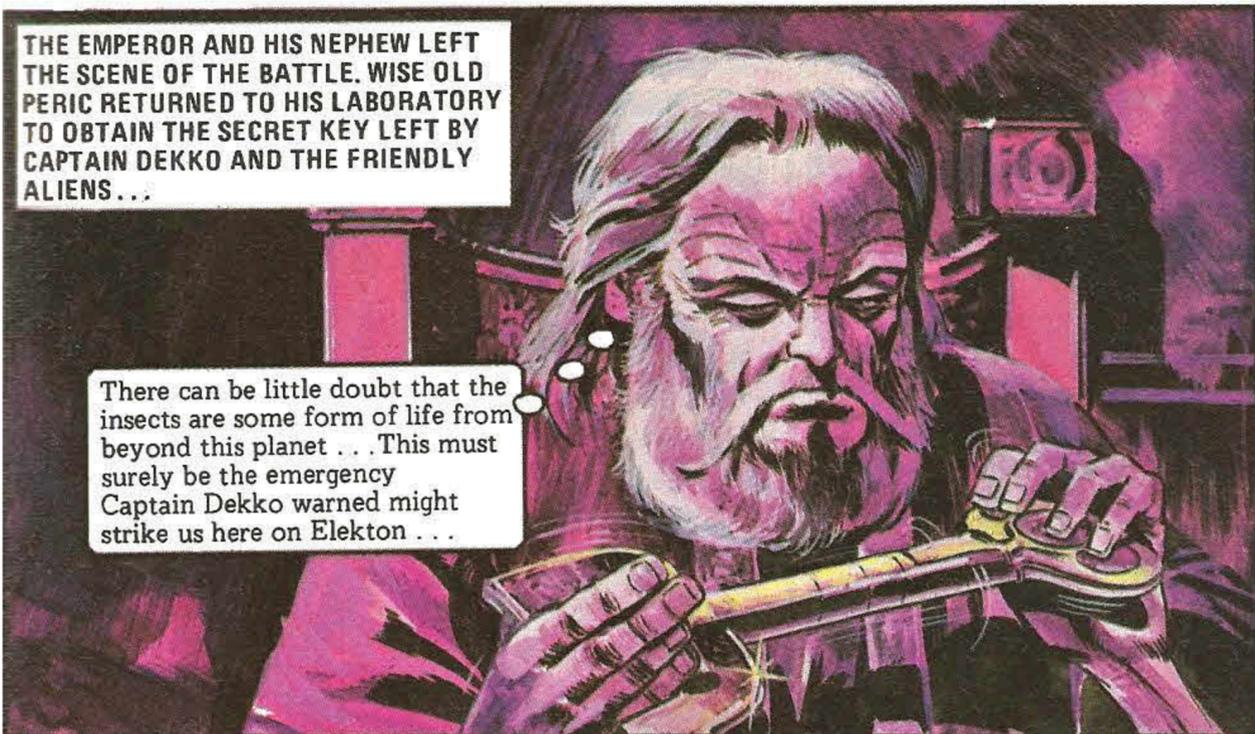
THE TERRIBLE CONTEST CONTINUED UNTIL SUDDENLY . . .

Look . . . ! It is over . . . ! The Zargots of Elekton have proved more than a match for them!

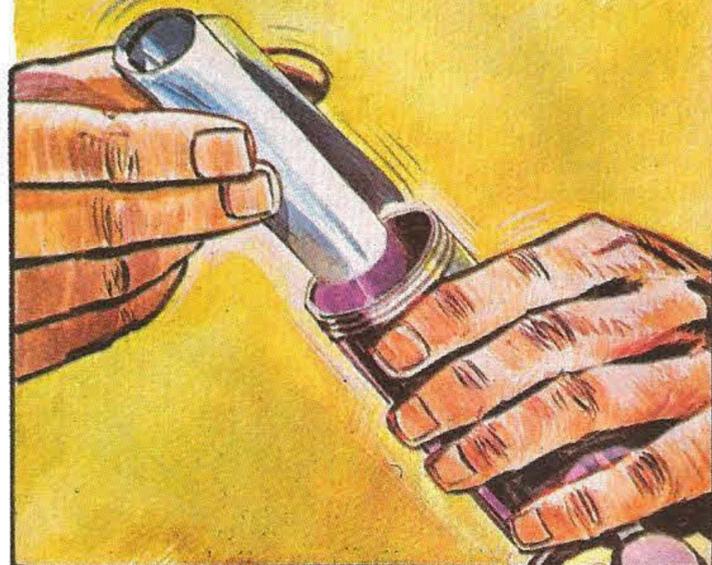
Yes . . . But we have won only a temporary respite, Janno. Remember, we have yet to find the breeding grounds of these creatures.

THE EMPEROR AND HIS NEPHEW LEFT THE SCENE OF THE BATTLE. WISE OLD PERIC RETURNED TO HIS LABORATORY TO OBTAIN THE SECRET KEY LEFT BY CAPTAIN DEKKO AND THE FRIENDLY ALIENS...

There can be little doubt that the insects are some form of life from beyond this planet... This must surely be the emergency Captain Dekko warned might strike us here on Elekton...



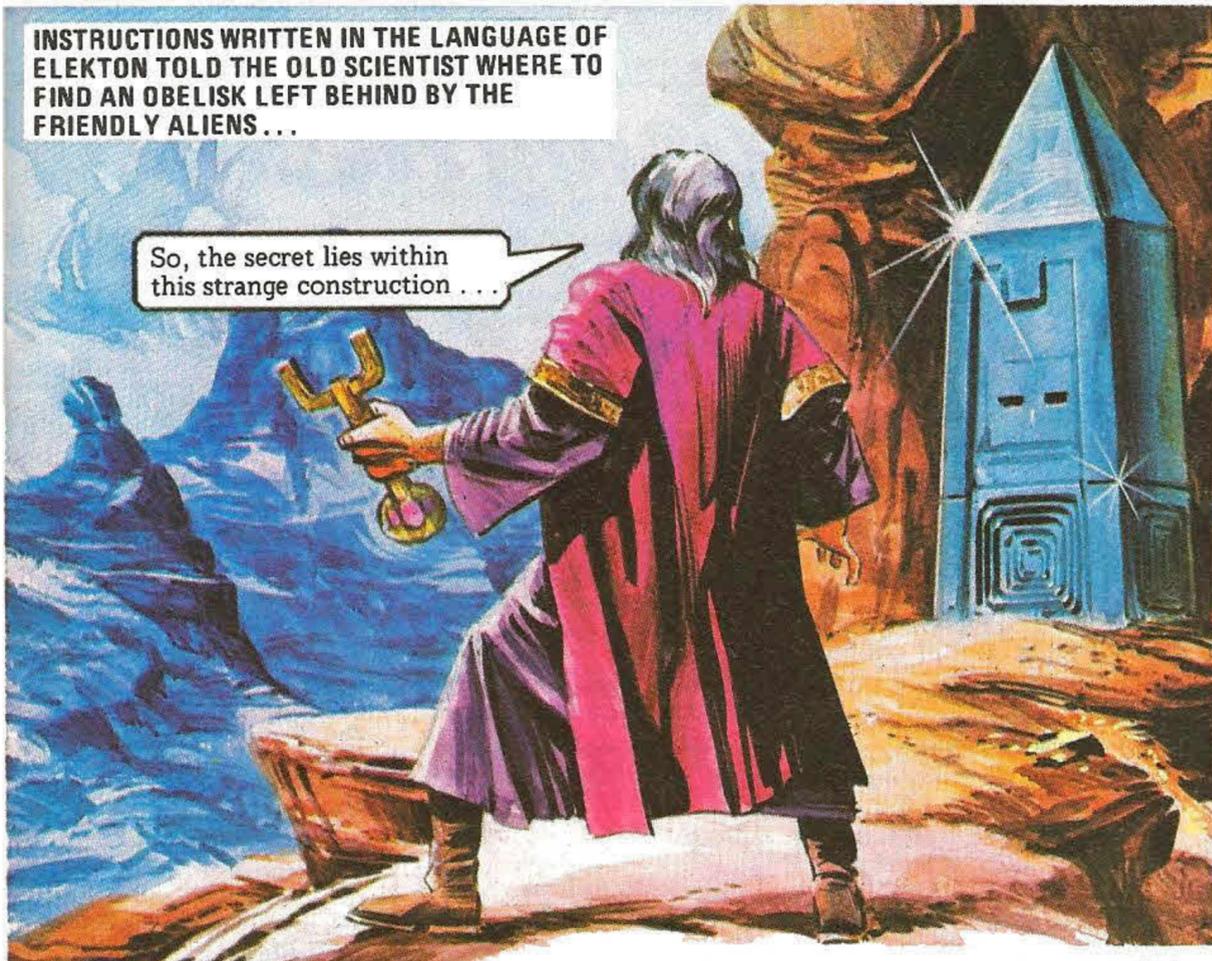
OBEYING THE INSTRUCTIONS LEFT WITH HIM BY CAPTAIN DEKKO, PERIC REMOVED THE HAFT OF THE SCREW, AND WITHDREW ITS CONTENTS...



Illustrated by Gerry Wood

INSTRUCTIONS WRITTEN IN THE LANGUAGE OF ELEKTON TOLD THE OLD SCIENTIST WHERE TO FIND AN OBELISK LEFT BEHIND BY THE FRIENDLY ALIENS...

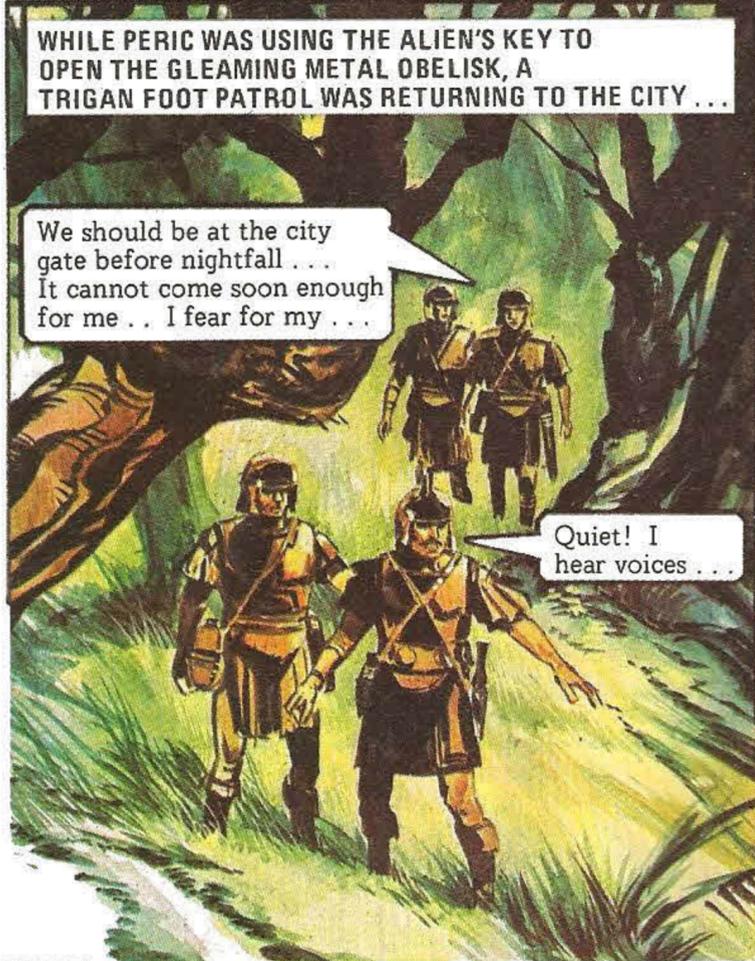
So, the secret lies within this strange construction...



WHILE PERIC WAS USING THE ALIEN'S KEY TO OPEN THE GLEAMING METAL OBELISK, A TRIGAN FOOT PATROL WAS RETURNING TO THE CITY...

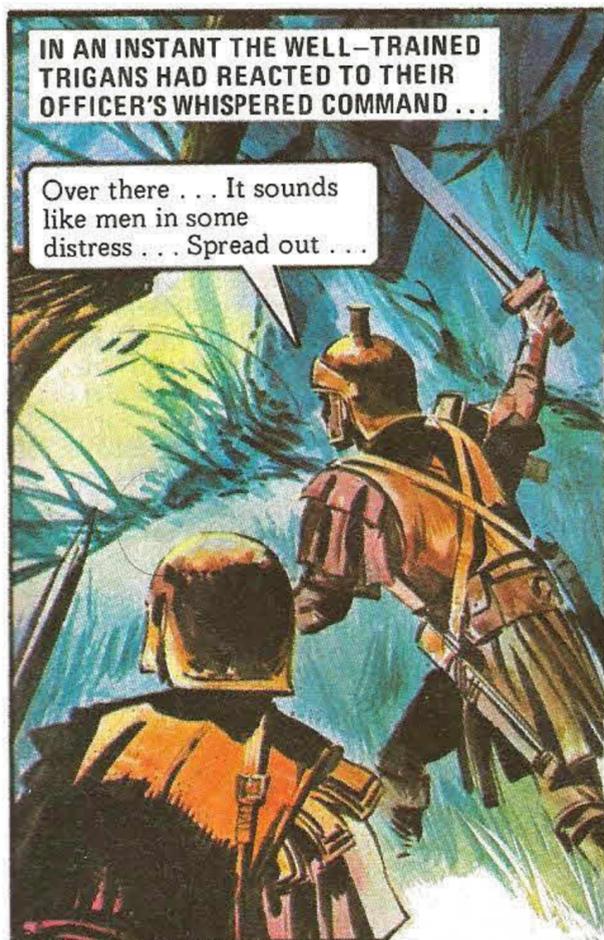
We should be at the city gate before nightfall... It cannot come soon enough for me... I fear for my...

Quiet! I hear voices...



IN AN INSTANT THE WELL-TRAINED TRIGANS HAD REACTED TO THEIR OFFICER'S WHISPERED COMMAND...

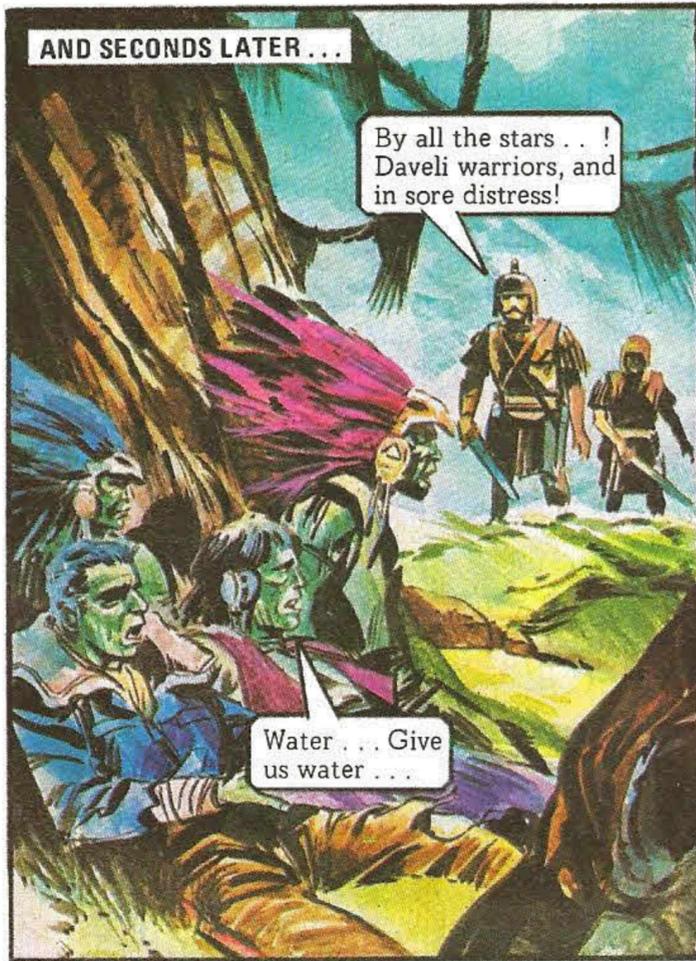
Over there... It sounds like men in some distress... Spread out...



AND SECONDS LATER...

By all the stars...! Daveli warriors, and in sore distress!

Water... Give us water...

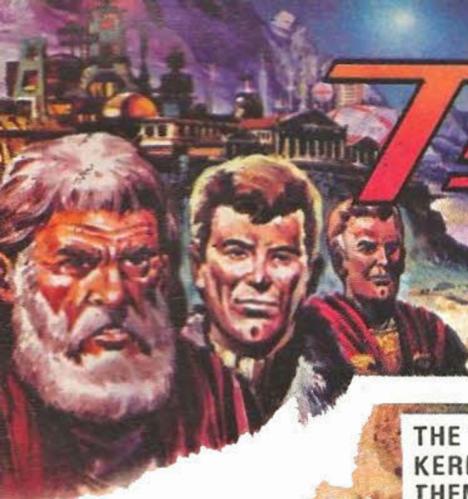


THE VOICE THAT CRIED OUT WAS THAT OF JANNO'S COMRADE, KEREN, THE LEADER OF THE DAVELI NATION...

Thank the Gods you have found us...! Take us at once to Trigo! We bring dire news of a plague which has struck our planet...



# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE *Trigan Empire*

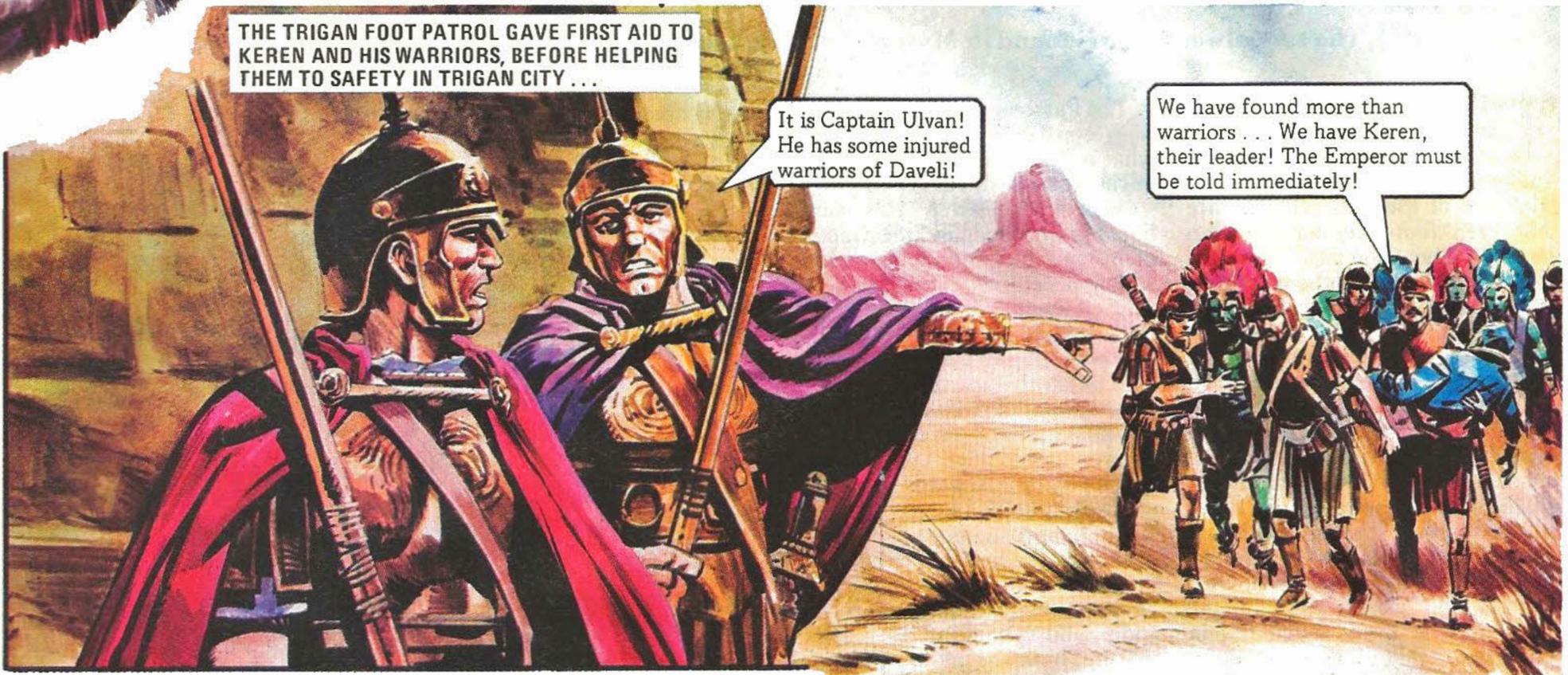


The Trigans are desperately trying to halt the spread of some giant insects, placed on Elekton by an alien race known as the Skorpiads. While Peric searches for a solution, a foot patrol has found Keren, leader of Daveli — and he is close to death.

THE TRIGAN FOOT PATROL GAVE FIRST AID TO KEREN AND HIS WARRIORS, BEFORE HELPING THEM TO SAFETY IN TRIGAN CITY . . .

It is Captain Ulvan! He has some injured warriors of Daveli!

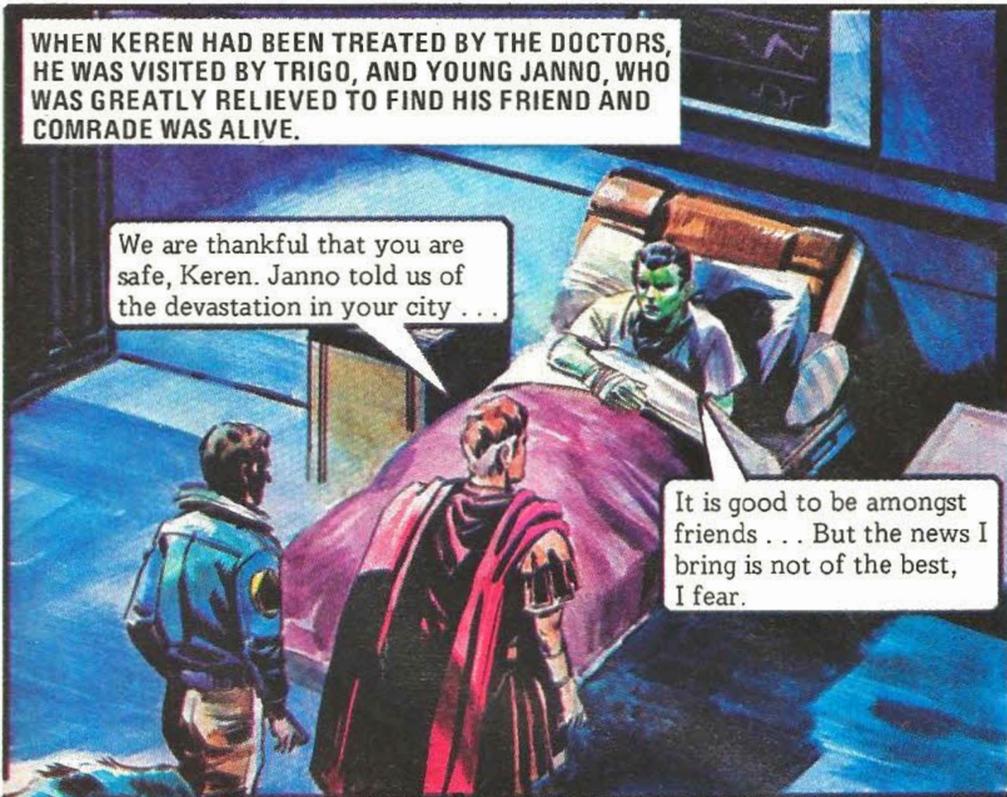
We have found more than warriors . . . We have Keren, their leader! The Emperor must be told immediately!



WHEN KEREN HAD BEEN TREATED BY THE DOCTORS, HE WAS VISITED BY TRIGO, AND YOUNG JANNO, WHO WAS GREATLY RELIEVED TO FIND HIS FRIEND AND COMRADE WAS ALIVE.

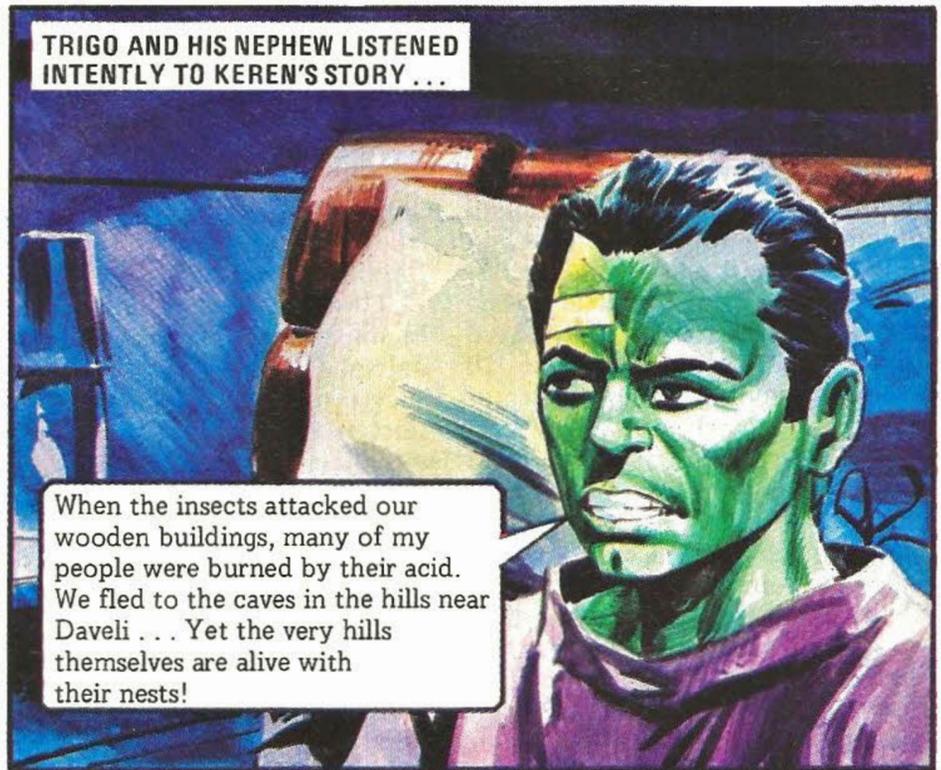
We are thankful that you are safe, Keren. Janno told us of the devastation in your city . . .

It is good to be amongst friends . . . But the news I bring is not of the best, I fear.



TRIGO AND HIS NEPHEW LISTENED INTENTLY TO KEREN'S STORY . . .

When the insects attacked our wooden buildings, many of my people were burned by their acid. We fled to the caves in the hills near Daveli . . . Yet the very hills themselves are alive with their nests!



KEREN'S DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HE AND HIS MEN HAD SEEN WAS DAUNTING . . .

I seems they make a building material from the wood they consume . . . Once they have constructed a nest they transport eggs from I know not where, and place them in the nests . . .



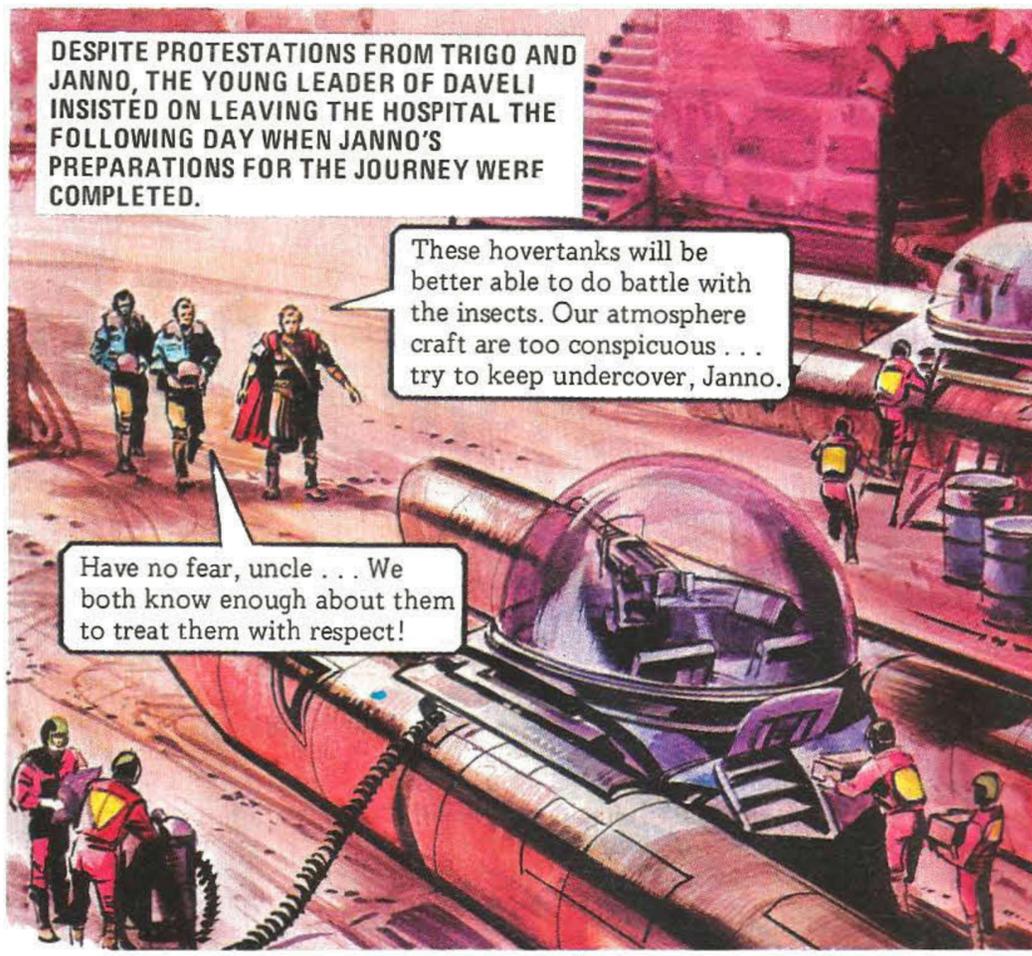


BUT THE KNOWLEDGE HE HAD GAINED WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, AND TRIGO WAS QUICK TO REALISE IT...

Eggs, you say, Keren? By the stars, if we could but find where these lie hidden and destroy them, our troubles could be at an end!

If Keren can give us the position, I can lead an expedition to the area to deal with them.

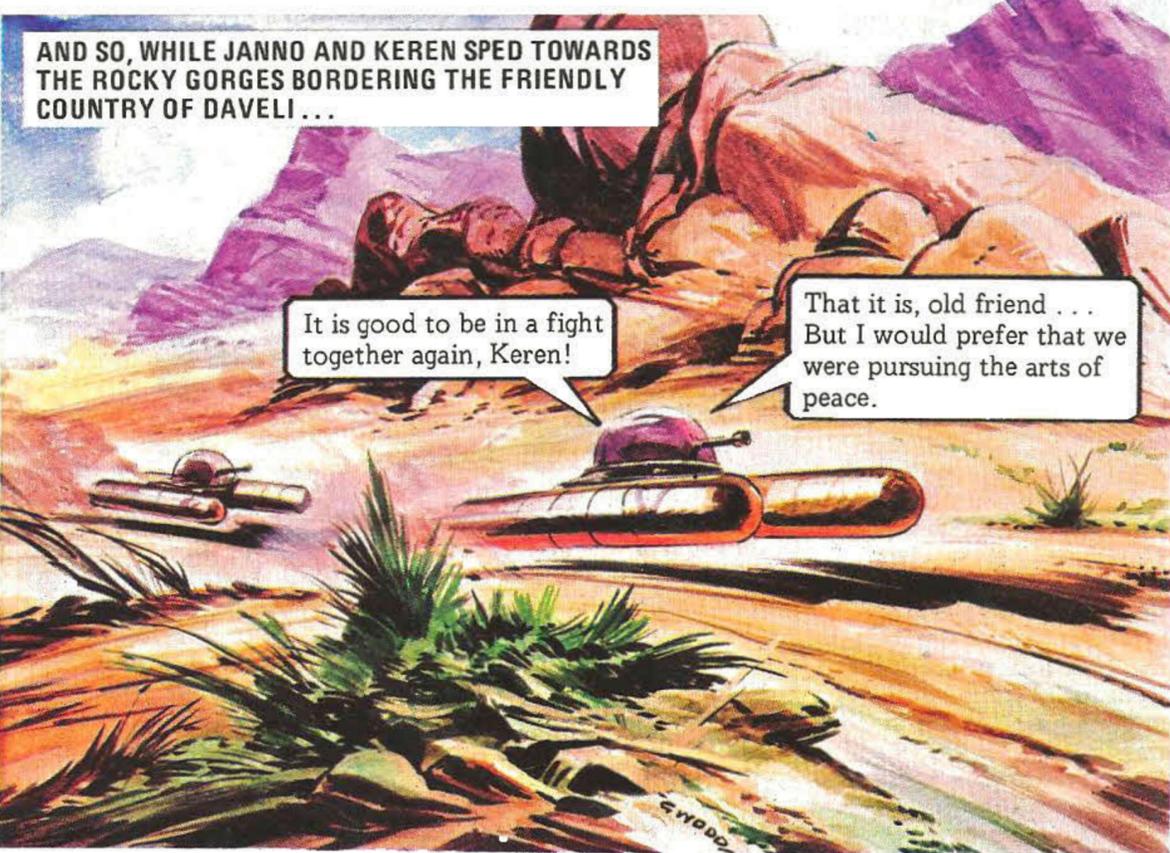
I will do more... I will take you there!



DESPITE PROTESTATIONS FROM TRIGO AND JANNO, THE YOUNG LEADER OF DAVELI INSISTED ON LEAVING THE HOSPITAL THE FOLLOWING DAY WHEN JANNO'S PREPARATIONS FOR THE JOURNEY WERE COMPLETED.

These hovertanks will be better able to do battle with the insects. Our atmosphere craft are too conspicuous... try to keep undercover, Janno.

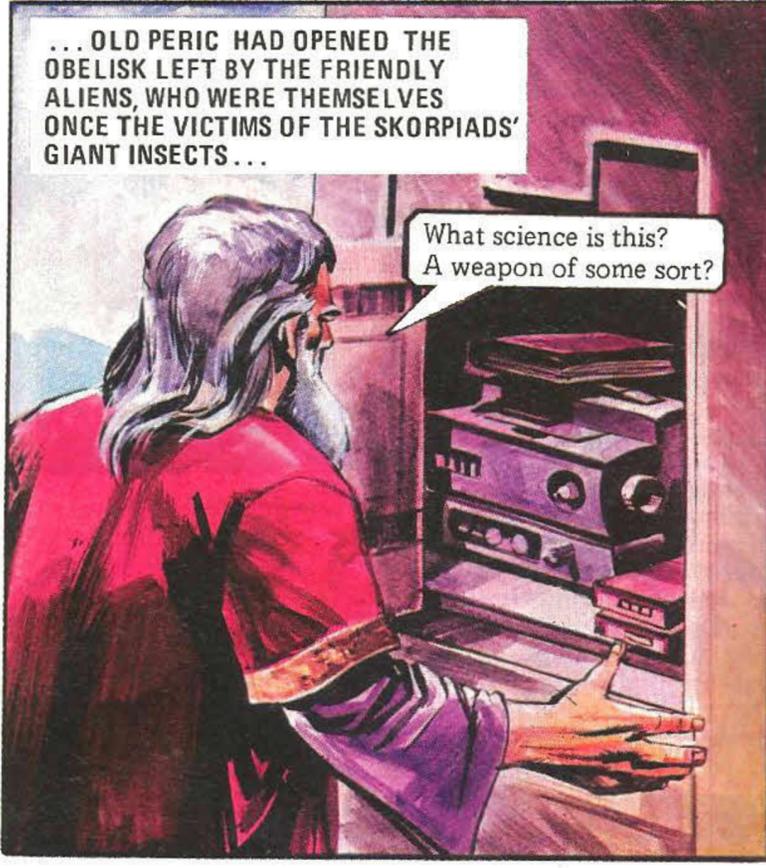
Have no fear, uncle... We both know enough about them to treat them with respect!



AND SO, WHILE JANNO AND KEREN SPED TOWARDS THE ROCKY GORGES BORDERING THE FRIENDLY COUNTRY OF DAVELI...

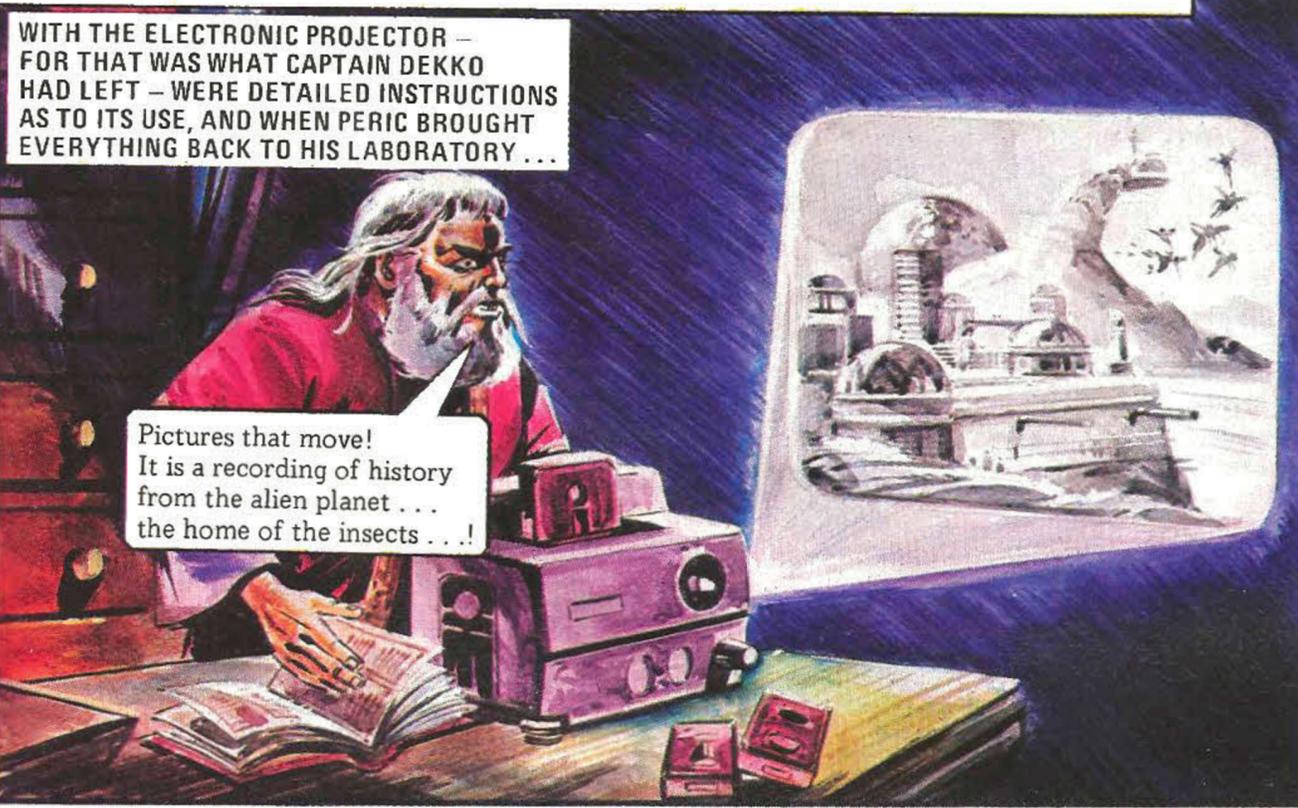
It is good to be in a fight together again, Keren!

That it is, old friend... But I would prefer that we were pursuing the arts of peace.



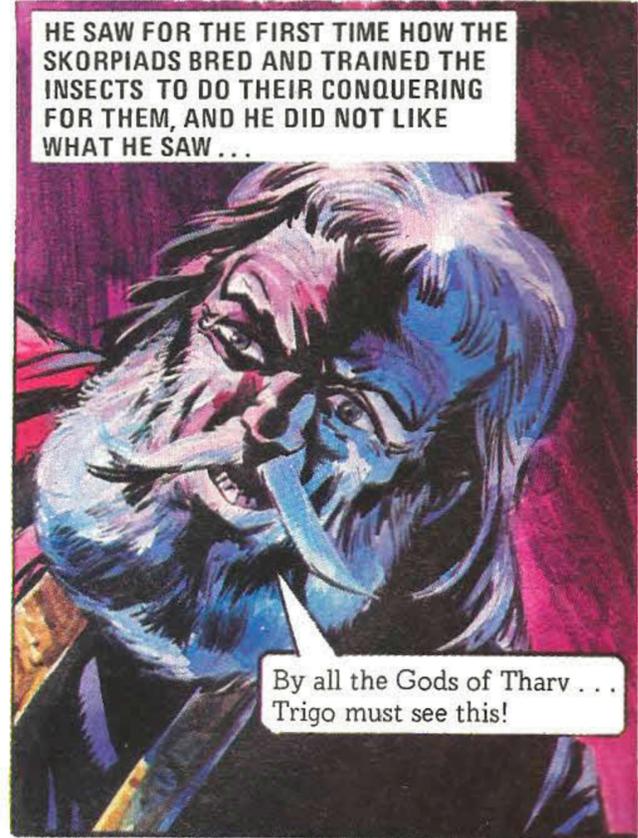
... OLD PERIC HAD OPENED THE OBELISK LEFT BY THE FRIENDLY ALIENS, WHO WERE THEMSELVES ONCE THE VICTIMS OF THE SKORPIADS' GIANT INSECTS...

What science is this? A weapon of some sort?



WITH THE ELECTRONIC PROJECTOR - FOR THAT WAS WHAT CAPTAIN DEKKO HAD LEFT - WERE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS AS TO ITS USE, AND WHEN PERIC BROUGHT EVERYTHING BACK TO HIS LABORATORY...

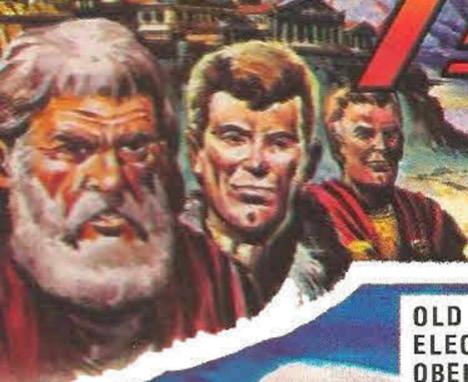
Pictures that move! It is a recording of history from the alien planet... the home of the insects...!



HE SAW FOR THE FIRST TIME HOW THE SKORPIADS BRED AND TRAINED THE INSECTS TO DO THEIR CONQUERING FOR THEM, AND HE DID NOT LIKE WHAT HE SAW...

By all the Gods of Tharv... Trigo must see this!

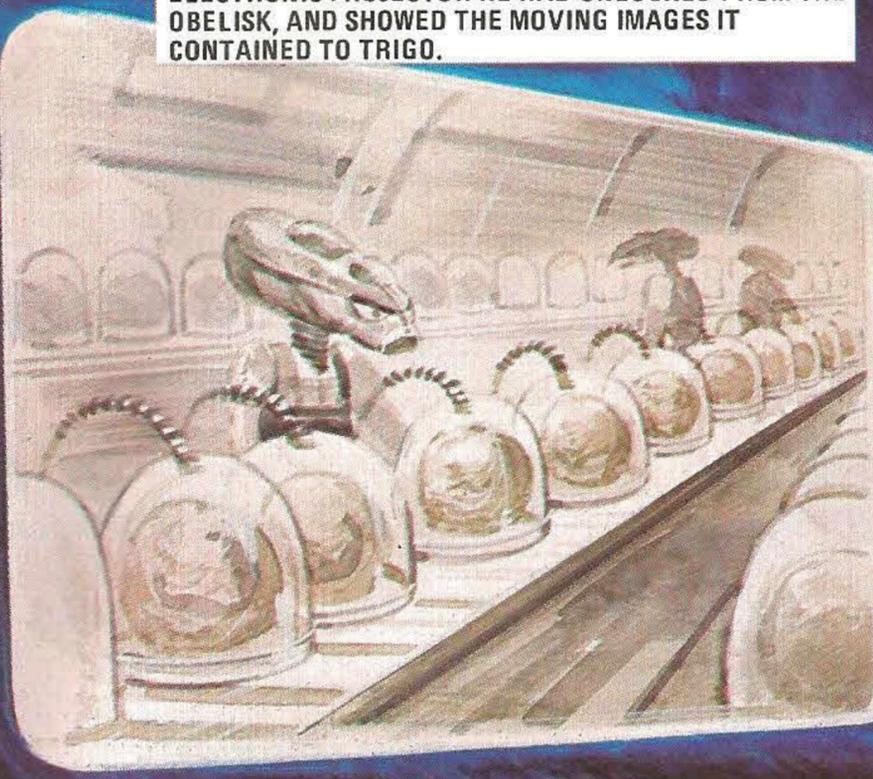
# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE *Trigan Empire*



The planet Elekton is threatened by a plague of giant insects. Old Peric, searching for an answer to the menace, has unlocked an obelisk left by friendly aliens . . . and inside he has found electronic image-projectors . . .

Illustrated by Gerry Wood

OLD PERIC RETURNED TO TRIGAN CITY WITH THE ELECTRONIC PROJECTOR HE HAD UNLOCKED FROM THE OBELISK, AND SHOWED THE MOVING IMAGES IT CONTAINED TO TRIGO.



By the Gates of Helas! What is this we see?

It is the apparatus left behind by Captain Dekko, Emperor . . . and we see their great enemies, the Skorpiads, breeding the very insects which are attacking our country.

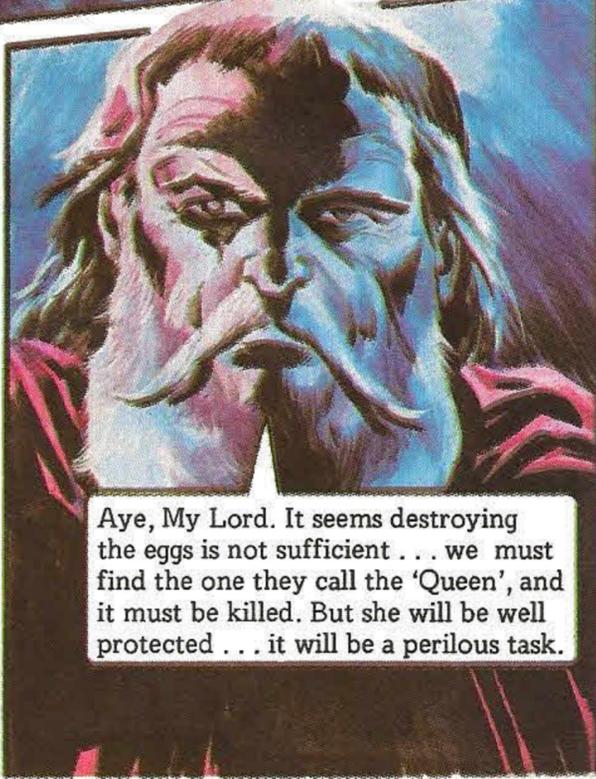


It would seem that the Skorpiads train these insects so that their enemies can be overcome, while they themselves need not engage in any fighting.

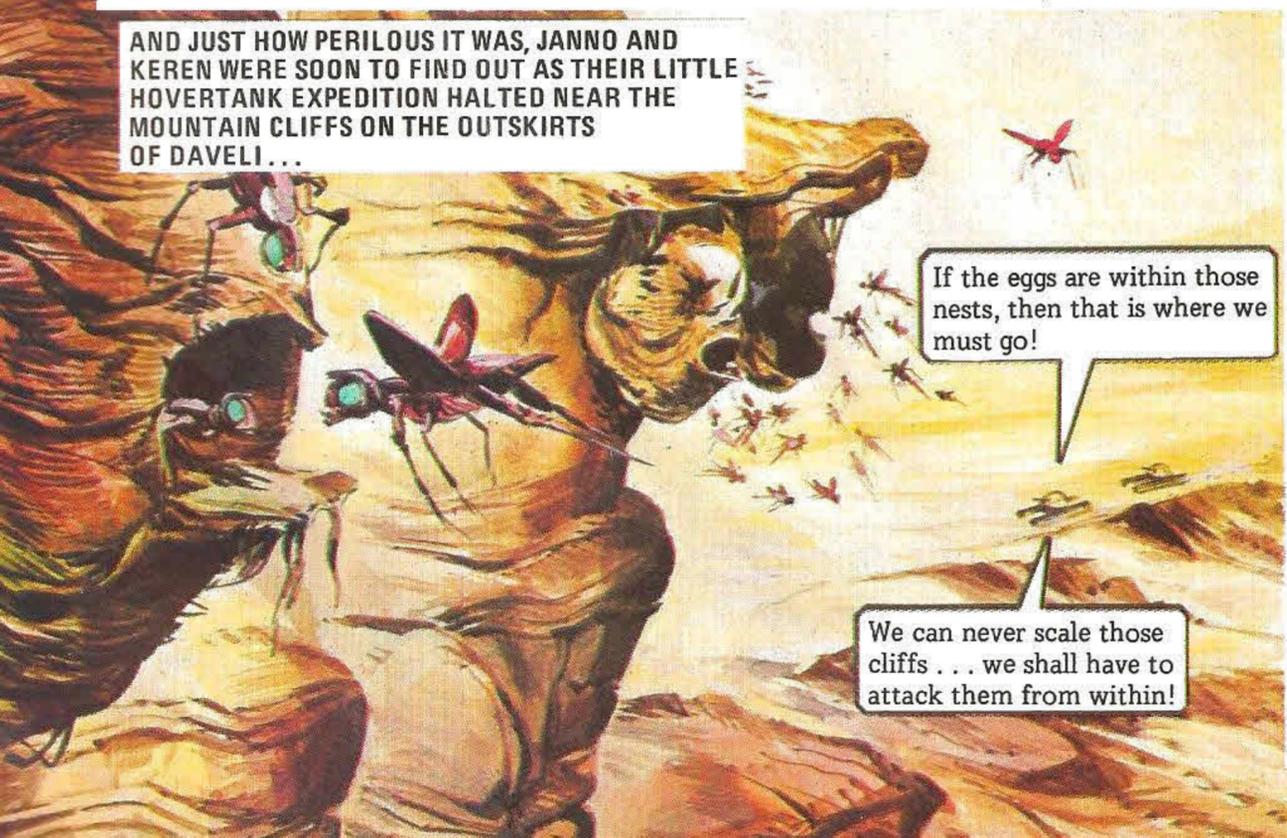
Was there anything in this obelisk about how to destroy them?



Aye, My Lord. It seems destroying the eggs is not sufficient . . . we must find the one they call the 'Queen', and it must be killed. But she will be well protected . . . it will be a perilous task.



AND JUST HOW PERILOUS IT WAS, JANNO AND KEREN WERE SOON TO FIND OUT AS THEIR LITTLE HOVERTANK EXPEDITION HALTED NEAR THE MOUNTAIN CLIFFS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF DAVELI . . .

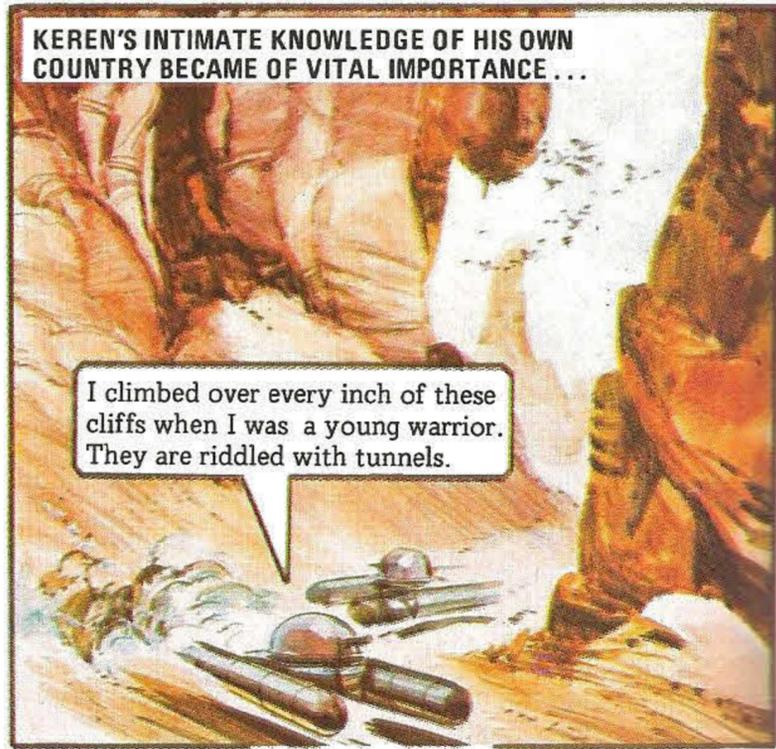


If the eggs are within those nests, then that is where we must go!

We can never scale those cliffs . . . we shall have to attack them from within!

KEREN'S INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS OWN COUNTRY BECAME OF VITAL IMPORTANCE . . .

I climbed over every inch of these cliffs when I was a young warrior. They are riddled with tunnels.



THEN, AS THEY NEARED THE FACE OF THE CLIFFS...

Use the heat-guns...! They are going to make an acid attack!

No... wait! Stop the tanks!

JANNO HAD A HUNCH THAT THE INSECTS WERE MERELY CURIOUS, AND DECIDED TO TAKE A RISK.

They are just curious... so far they have attacked only our flying machines, and these tanks are made of metal not wood. With any luck, they will not try to eat us...

Let's hope you are right, old friend... If not, we are finished!

BUT JANNO'S HUNCH PROVED RIGHT... AND MINUTES LATER THEY WERE ABLE TO MOVE OFF.

Now that they are used to us, we have a better chance.

UNDER KEREN'S GUIDANCE, THE HOVERTANKS SUCCEEDED IN REACHING A SMALL SHELF OF ROCK SOME LITTLE WAY UP THE CLIFFS.

If we enter the cave over there, I believe I can find a way into the cliff. Then we can attack the nest from behind!

Good... we will leave one man to guard the tanks...

KEREN LED THE WAY, AND SOON A FAMILIAR DRUMMING SOUND ECHOED THROUGH THE TUNNEL...

Listen...! I can hear the beat of their wings... that must be a wall of one of the nests...

You are right...! Now is the time to open fire!

# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE *Trigan Empire*

Janno and Keren are engaged on a perilous mission — to seek and destroy the nests of the hideous insects which are ravaging the Trigan Empire and Daveli, Keren's homeland.

INSIDE THE TUNNELS, JANNO AND KEREN RAISED THEIR HEAT-GUNS TO BLAST AT THE BACK OF ONE OF THE INSECT NESTS CLINGING TO THE OUTER CLIFF FACE.

Keep the weapons on full blast . . . and stand-by to retreat into the narrow tunnels where they can't follow us!

THE EFFECT OF THE HEAT-GUNS WAS SPECTACULAR . . .

BUT INSECTS FROM THE OTHER NESTS SOON CAME TO INVESTIGATE . . .

Back into the caves . . . quickly!

JANNO'S FINAL BURST OF FIRE GAVE THEM THE TIME THEY NEEDED . . .

Hurry!

BACK IN THE SAFETY OF THE TUNNELS, THE THREE MEN SEARCHED FOR ANOTHER OPENING FROM WHICH THEY COULD DESTROY A FURTHER NEST. BUT AFTER SEVERAL HOURS THEY FOUND NOTHING, AND THEN . . .

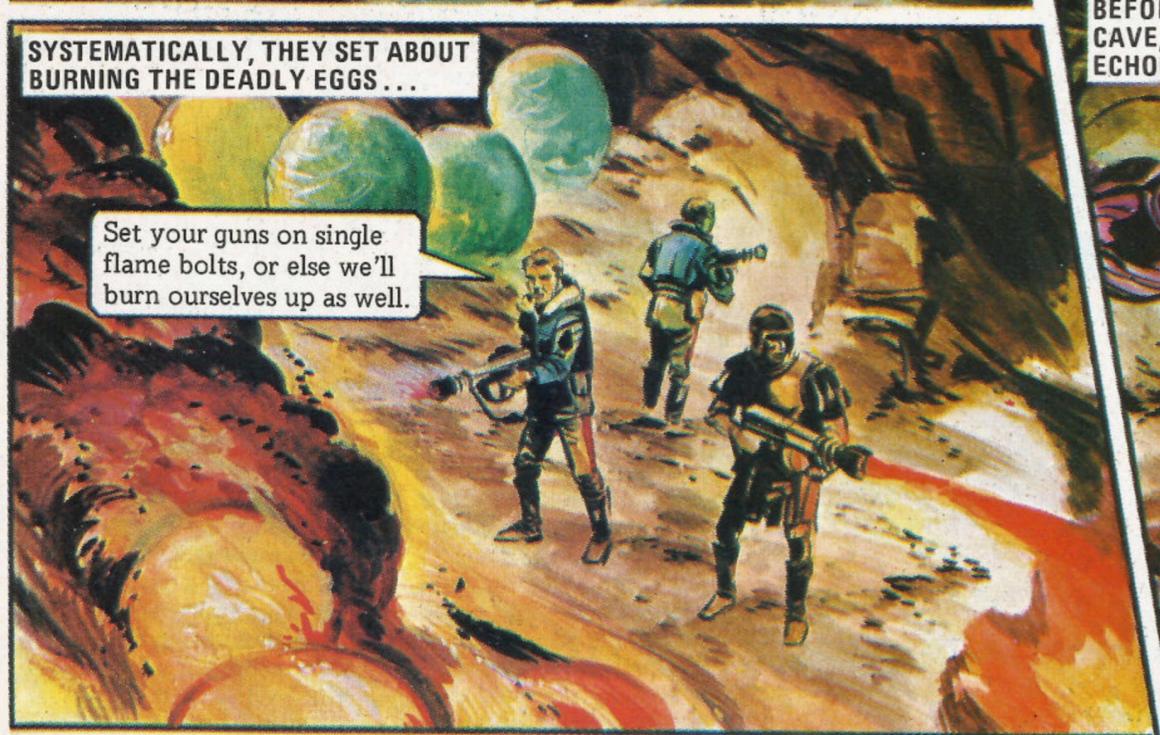
By all the devils of Daveli . . . !  
Look at this, Janno!

What have you found?



Let us not delay . . .

The Gods are on our side this day . . . You have found the place where they store their eggs . . . ! Destroy these and we have beaten them!



SYSTEMATICALLY, THEY SET ABOUT BURNING THE DEADLY EGGS . . .

Set your guns on single flame bolts, or else we'll burn ourselves up as well.



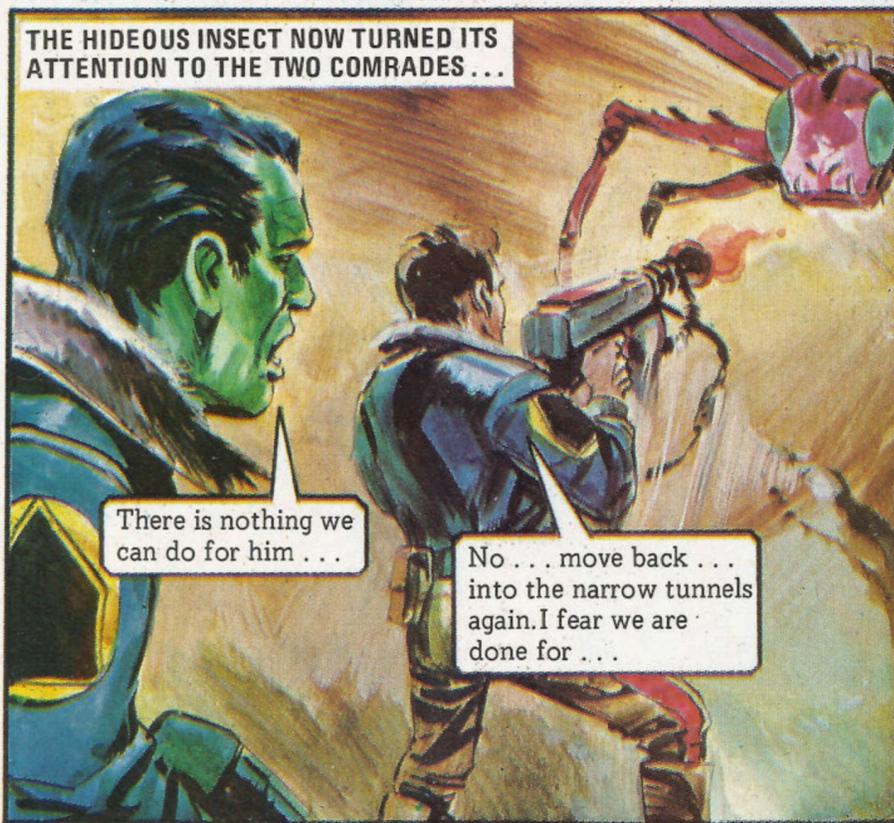
BEFORE LONG THEY HAD ALMOST CLEARED THE CAVE, BUT THE ROAR OF THEIR HEAT-GUNS HAD ECHOED DOWN THE PASSAGeways, AND . . .

Actris! Watch out . . . beside you!



UNABLE TO FIRE THEIR OWN GUNS FOR FEAR OF HITTING THE TRIGAN SOLDIER, JANNO AND KEREN WATCHED WITH HORROR AS THE ACID STRUCK . . .

Ayeee!!

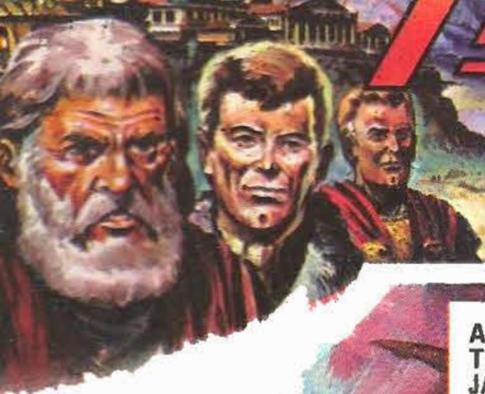


THE HIDEOUS INSECT NOW TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO THE TWO COMRADES . . .

There is nothing we can do for him . . .

No . . . move back . . . into the narrow tunnels again. I fear we are done for . . .

# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE *Trigan* Empire



Janno and Keren have discovered the source of the insect peril which threatens Elekton. The eggs of the deadly acid-squirting crabroks have been located in caverns in remote mountains. But while they set about destroying the eggs...

AS KEREN RAN FOR THE SAFETY OF THE TUNNEL LEADING FROM THE CAVERN, JANNO FIRED ANOTHER HEAT-BOLT AT THE ENRAGED INSECT...

... Janno ... run for it ... there will be more of them.

All right ... but I'll make sure this one won't kill another Trigan!



WITHIN THE ENCLOSED SPACE OF THE CAVERN, THE HEAT-GUN BOLTS HAD MAXIMUM EFFECT, AND JANNO AND KEREN WERE WELL CLEAR BEFORE ANY MORE INSECTS ARRIVED.

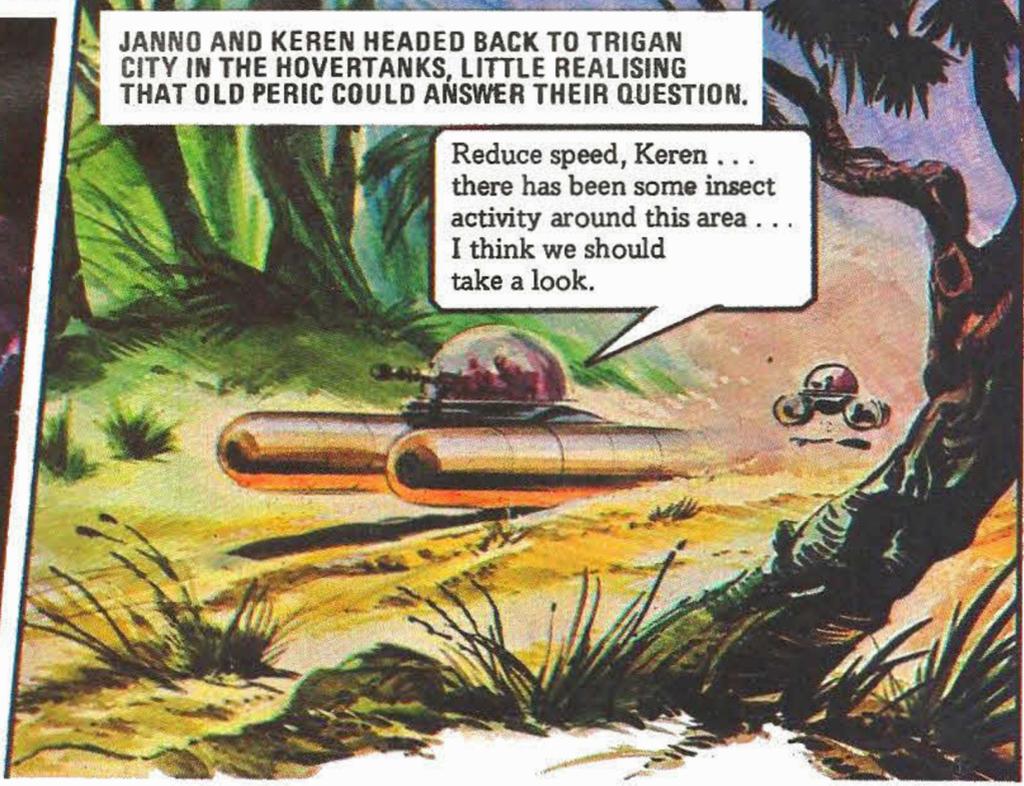
Now that we know how they are breeding, we can bring reinforcements and burn them all out.

We must not leave a single egg ... but where do the eggs come from?



JANNO AND KEREN HEADED BACK TO TRIGAN CITY IN THE HOVERTANKS, LITTLE REALISING THAT OLD PERIC COULD ANSWER THEIR QUESTION.

Reduce speed, Keren ... there has been some insect activity around this area ... I think we should take a look.



AT THAT MOMENT, PERIC HAD PERSUADED TRIGO TO SEND A LARGER EXPEDITION AFTER THE TWO COMRADES.

MEANWHILE JANNO AND KEREN WERE WITNESSING A REMARKABLE PHENOMENON...

Sections one and three will fan out to provide cover ... the remainder will stay with me.

By the stars! What are they up to?



SUDDENLY, AS IF AT A GIVEN SIGNAL, THE INSECTS ALL TOOK FLIGHT AT THE SAME TIME.

... That is an egg they are carrying ...

And it is more than twice the size of those we destroyed.

THEY WATCHED IN ASTONISHMENT AS THE FORMATION PASSED OVERHEAD.

I'll wager that is the answer to our question, Keren ... it is some sort of mother insect they are carrying to their nests.

Then we must open fire on them.

WITH NO THOUGHT OF THE RISK THEY WERE TAKING, THEY BOTH PUT THEIR HEAT-GUNS ON FULL PRESSURE, AND ...

Aim for the egg ...

THEIR ACCURATE FIRE BOLTS CAUSED A PANIC AMONGST THE INSECTS, BUT ONLY MOMENTARILY.

Two more shots, and then back to the hovers tanks, Keren.

AND THEN ...

KEREN!

Go on, Janno ... leave me ... get to the high-pressure gun in the tank.

# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE *Trigan Empire*

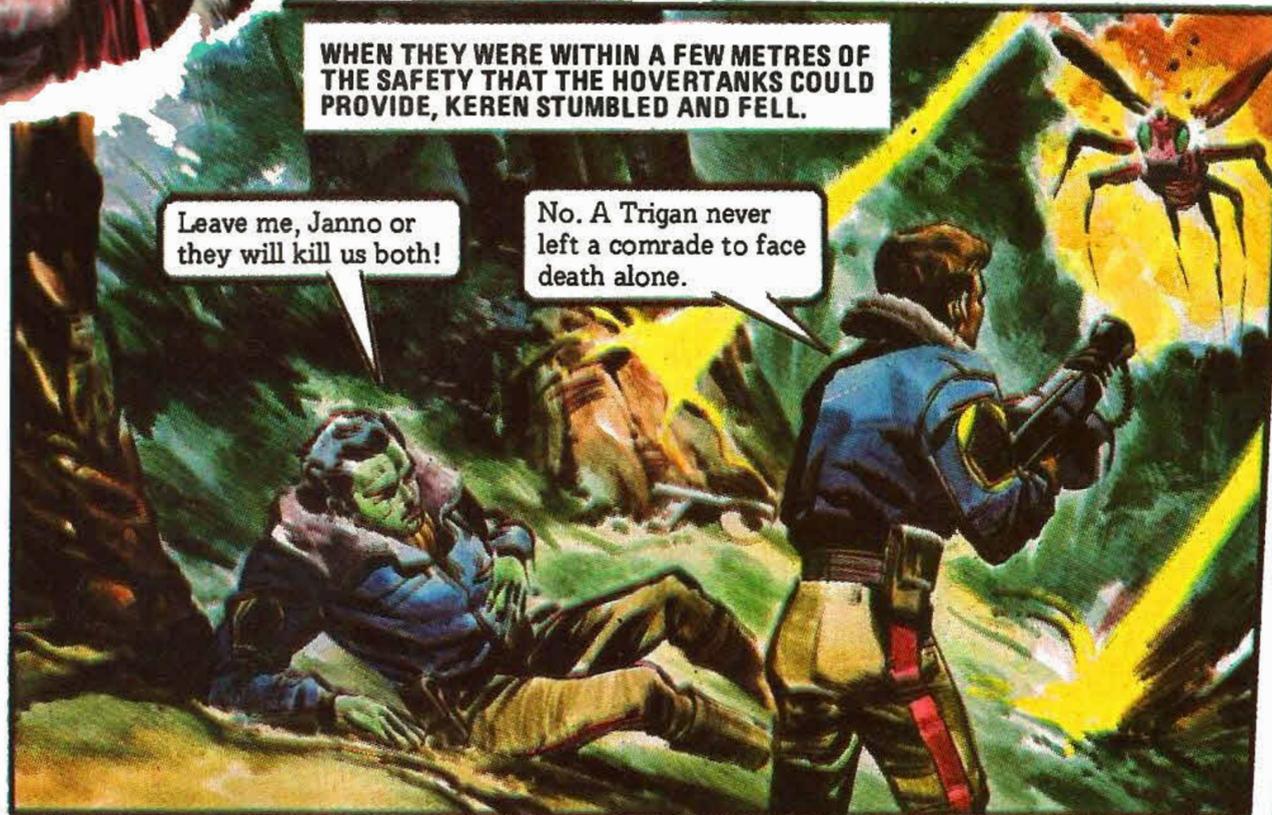


Headless of all danger, Janno and Keren are making a last-ditch attempt to destroy the mother-egg of the acid-squirting insects which are the scourge of Elekton. In doing so, they have stirred all the other crabroks into a frenzy of hatred . . .

WHEN THEY WERE WITHIN A FEW METRES OF THE SAFETY THAT THE HOVERTANKS COULD PROVIDE, KEREN STUMBLED AND FELL.

Leave me, Janno or they will kill us both!

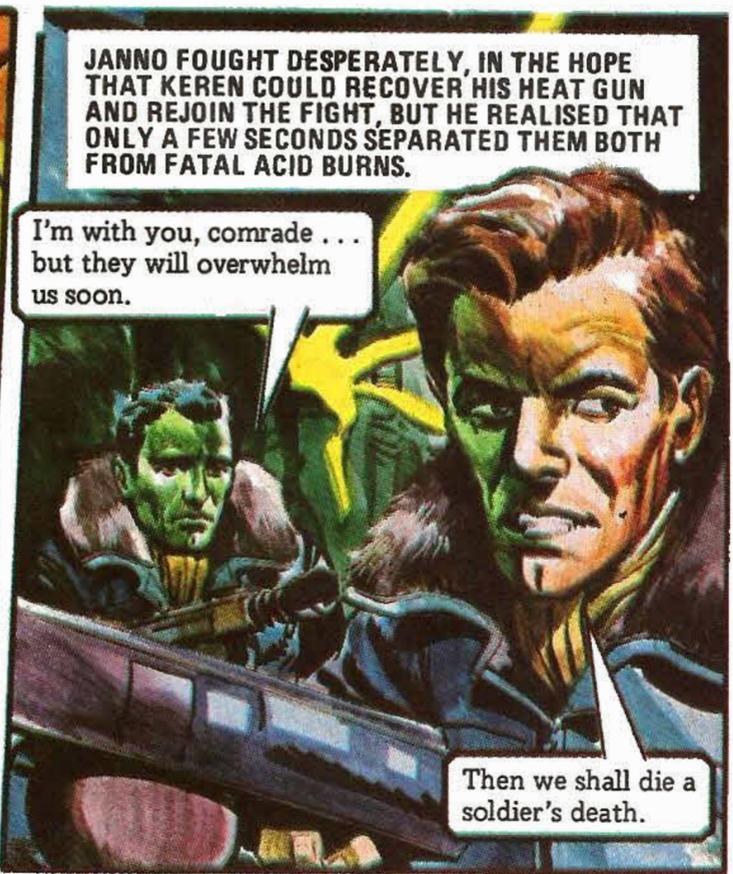
No. A Trigan never left a comrade to face death alone.



JANNO FOUGHT DESPERATELY, IN THE HOPE THAT KEREN COULD RECOVER HIS HEAT GUN AND REJOIN THE FIGHT, BUT HE REALISED THAT ONLY A FEW SECONDS SEPARATED THEM BOTH FROM FATAL ACID BURNS.

I'm with you, comrade . . . but they will overwhelm us soon.

Then we shall die a soldier's death.



IN THOSE VITAL FEW SECONDS, THE TRIGAN SOLDIER HAD PRIMED, AIMED AND NOW FIRED THE HIGH-PRESSURE HEAT-GUN IN THE HOVERTANK.

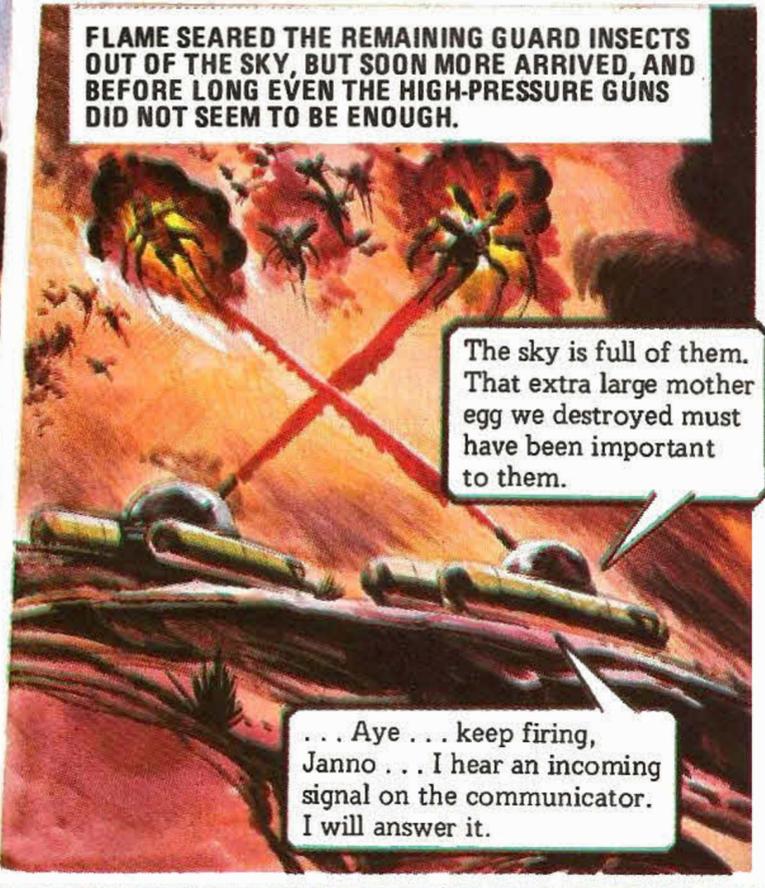
Keep moving . . . we have a chance now!



FLAME SEARED THE REMAINING GUARD INSECTS OUT OF THE SKY, BUT SOON MORE ARRIVED, AND BEFORE LONG EVEN THE HIGH-PRESSURE GUNS DID NOT SEEM TO BE ENOUGH.

The sky is full of them. That extra large mother egg we destroyed must have been important to them.

. . . Aye . . . keep firing, Janno . . . I hear an incoming signal on the communicator. I will answer it.

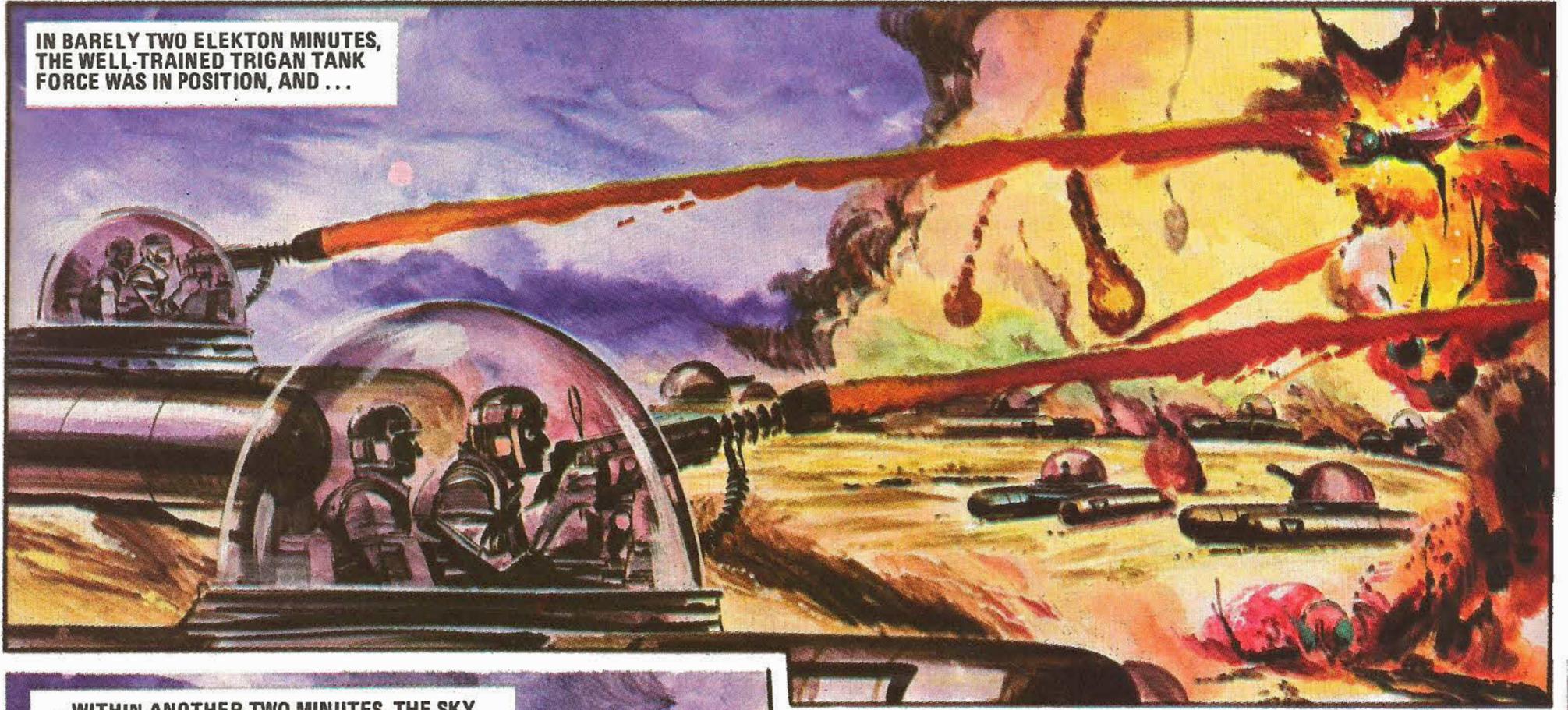


IN FACT, THE SIGNAL WAS A MESSAGE FROM THE APPROACHING ARMADA OF HOVERTANKS LED BY JANNO'S UNCLE, THE EMPEROR TRIGO HIMSELF.

By all the planets! It is Janno and Keren. Form a circle round them and open fire.



IN BARELY TWO ELEKTON MINUTES, THE WELL-TRAINED TRIGAN TANK FORCE WAS IN POSITION, AND ...



... WITHIN ANOTHER TWO MINUTES, THE SKY WAS CLEAR, AND JANNO QUICKLY EXCHANGED INFORMATION WITH TRIGO ...

So ... you killed the Queen egg. It is as Peric said ... destroy that and the others can no longer increase in number ... you have done well ... now we must set fire to the nests in Daveli.

We will lead the way to those.



WITH THE INSECTS' ABILITY TO BREED REMOVED FOR EVER, AND THEIR REMAINING NESTS DESTROYED, THE TERRIBLE THREAT WHICH HUNG OVER ELEKTON WAS REMOVED.



UNKNOWN TO THE TRIGANS, A SKORPIAD SPACESHIP WATCHED THEIR SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS A THOUSAND LEAGUES ABOVE THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET.



I fear these primitive creatures have been more resourceful than anyone could have foreseen, Thorak.

Just so, Captain. If the Crabroks have failed, then so have we.

THANKS TO THE DAUNTLESS COURAGE OF THE TRIGANS, THE WHOLE PLANET OF ELEKTON HAD ESCAPED INVASION BY ONE OF THE MOST RUTHLESS RACES IN THE GALAXY.



Set course for Skorpio ... Elekton will have to wait for another day.

**THE END**