

More Adventures Of The
Trigan Empire

***Terror of the
Skorpiads***



by Ken Roscoe and Gerry Wood

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More Adventures Of The Trigan Empire

While old Peric and the whole of Trigan City join in celebrating the return of his son Fidelius, a race of evil aliens on the planet Skorpio are planning to take revenge on Elekton . . .

ODORAN, THE LEADER OF THE SKORPIAD INSECT-PEOPLE, AND HIS EVIL SON, PERODIL, PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES TO THEIR PLAN FOR TAKING REVENGE ON THE TRIGANS.

Captain Dekko has out-witted us too often. A direct confrontation always fails, so we shall have to use cunning!

That is something you have always had plenty of, Perodil . . . heh-heh! But continue . . . tell me more!

We have one of our scout ships in orbit around Elekton – the crew is watching developments in the area of Trigan City. When they say the moment is right, we shall make our move . . .

I shall not underestimate their brain-power, father. I shall make use of it – but for our own ends, and neither the Trigans nor the loathsome Dekko will know of it!

Do not forget, those Trigans overcame the Crabroks – so, do not underestimate their intelligence!

... ITS SKORPIAD CREW UNDER THE COMMAND OF PERODIL'S COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, THORAK, KEPT WATCH.

AND SO, WHILE A SKORPIAD SPACE-SCOUT ORBITED SILENTLY SEVERAL LEAGUES ABOVE ELEKTON . . .

Keep sensors to maximum sensitivity as we pass over Vorg!

We have been here many days, Thorak, and still no sign of any large party of Trigans leaving their city together.

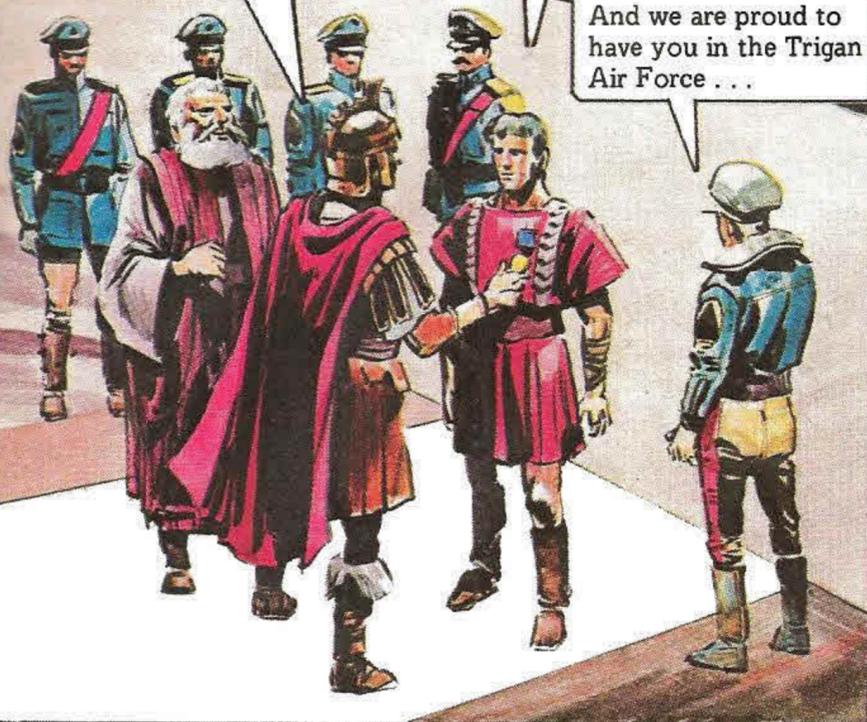
Stay at your post, Irak! It matters not how long we wait!

ON THE SURFACE OF ELEKTON, AS THE UNSUSPECTING TRIGANS WENT ABOUT THEIR DAILY TASKS, THE EMPEROR TRIGO WAS PRESENTING FIDELIUS WITH AN AWARD FOR BRAVERY.

For courage and resourcefulness in the face of great danger, Fidelius.

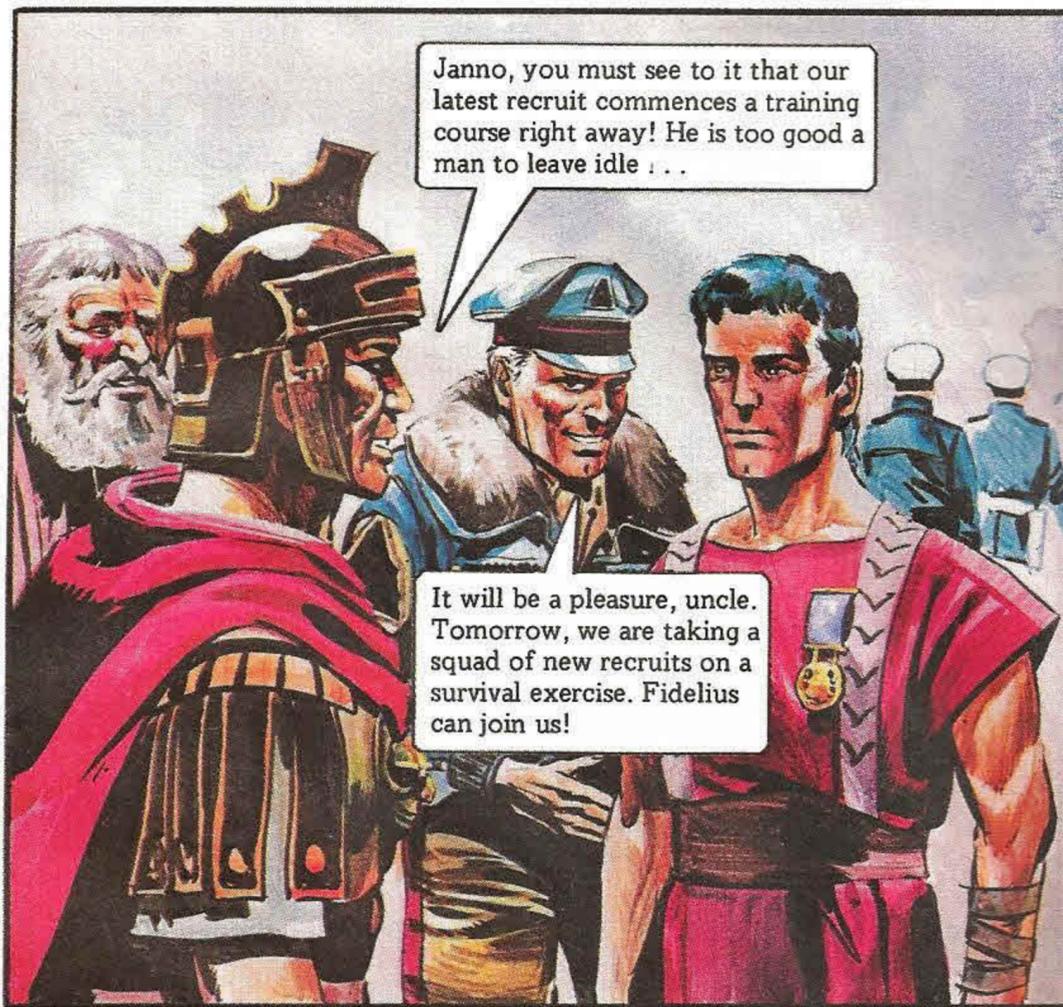
I shall always wear it with pride, Lord Trigo.

And we are proud to have you in the Trigan Air Force . . .



Janno, you must see to it that our latest recruit commences a training course right away! He is too good a man to leave idle . . .

It will be a pleasure, uncle. Tomorrow, we are taking a squad of new recruits on a survival exercise. Fidelius can join us!



AND SO, THE NEXT DAY, A GROUP OF THIRTY YOUNG TRIGAN OFFICER CADETS LEFT THE CITY WITH JANNO AND FIDELIUS AT THEIR HEAD.

Three days in the mountains will test our stamina, Fidelius. Every would-be pilot has to go through it.

Lead on, Janno! I think I shall survive!



IT WAS THE OPPORTUNITY THE WATCHING SKORPIADS HAD BEEN WAITING FOR.

I think our patience has been rewarded, Thorak! Look at this!

You are right, Irak! A perfect number! We will reduce altitude after three more orbits, and then begin charging the energy beam. Don't lose their position! We need them well clear of the city!



More Adventures Of The Trigan Empire

The Skorpiads, an evil race from the distant planet Skorpio, are planning to avenge themselves on Elekton for an earlier defeat. Meanwhile, Peric's son, Fidelius, and Janno are leading a group of young Trigan Air Force recruits on a toughening-up exercise in the mountains.

HIGH ABOVE THE SURFACE OF ELEKTON, THE SKORPIAD SPACE-SCOUT BEGAN TO LOSE ALTITUDE AS ITS RETRO-POWER WAS SWITCHED ON.

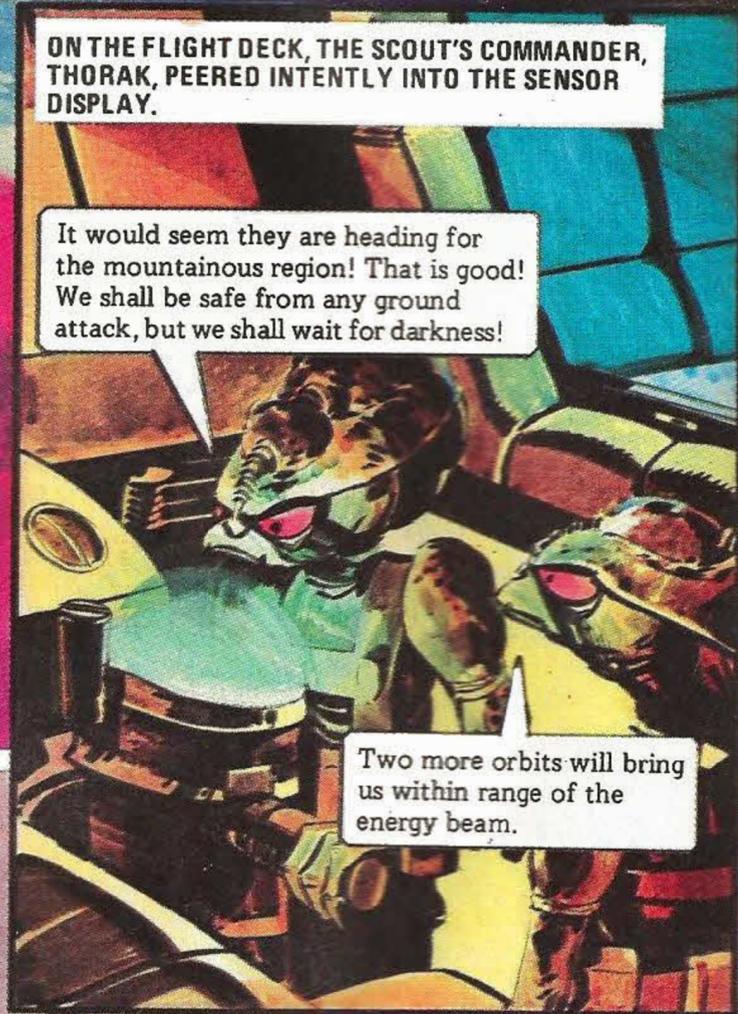


Half retro-power for fifteen skarsecs . . . check altitude for new orbit.

Firing now! Confirm co-ordinates of surface target.

ON THE FLIGHT DECK, THE SCOUT'S COMMANDER, THORAK, PEERED INTENTLY INTO THE SENSOR DISPLAY.

It would seem they are heading for the mountainous region! That is good! We shall be safe from any ground attack, but we shall wait for darkness!

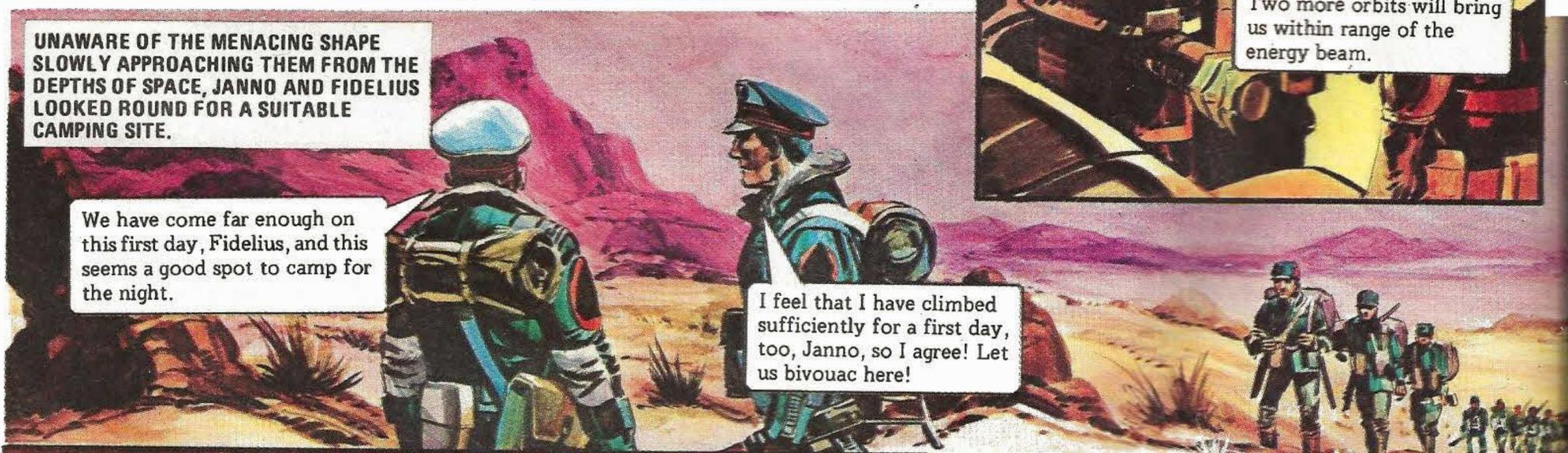


Two more orbits will bring us within range of the energy beam.

UNAWARE OF THE MENACING SHAPE SLOWLY APPROACHING THEM FROM THE DEPTHS OF SPACE, JANNO AND FIDELIUS LOOKED ROUND FOR A SUITABLE CAMPING SITE.

We have come far enough on this first day, Fidelius, and this seems a good spot to camp for the night.

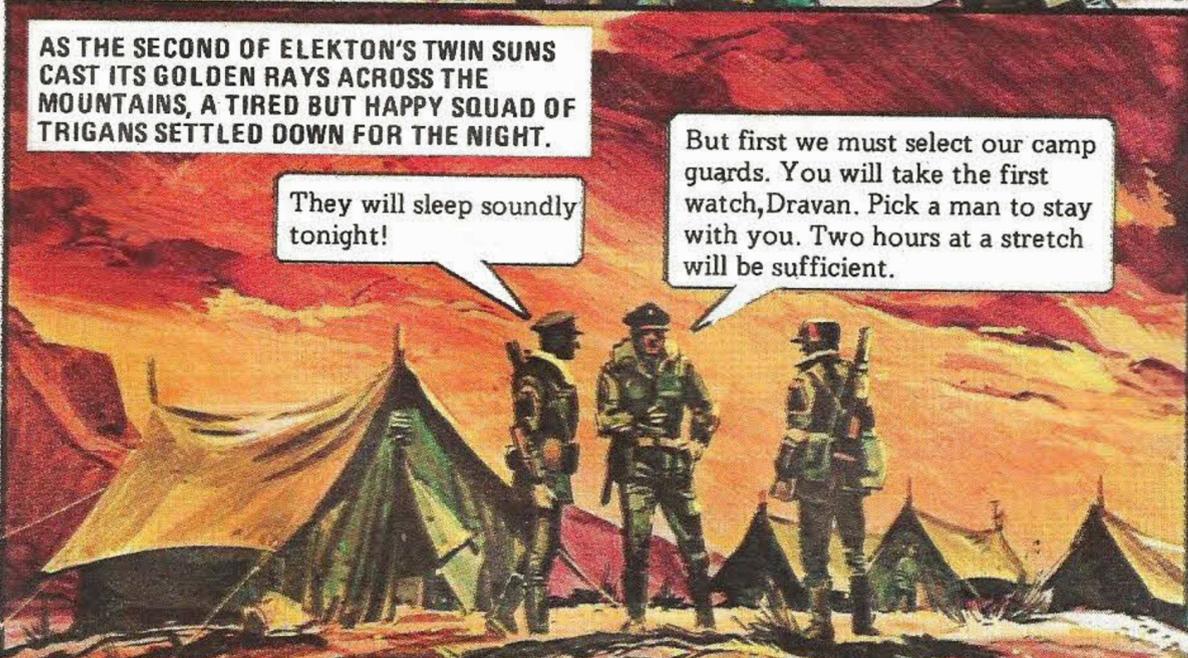
I feel that I have climbed sufficiently for a first day, too, Janno, so I agree! Let us bivouac here!



AS THE SECOND OF ELEKTON'S TWIN SUNS CAST ITS GOLDEN RAYS ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS, A TIRED BUT HAPPY SQUAD OF TRIGANS SETTLED DOWN FOR THE NIGHT.

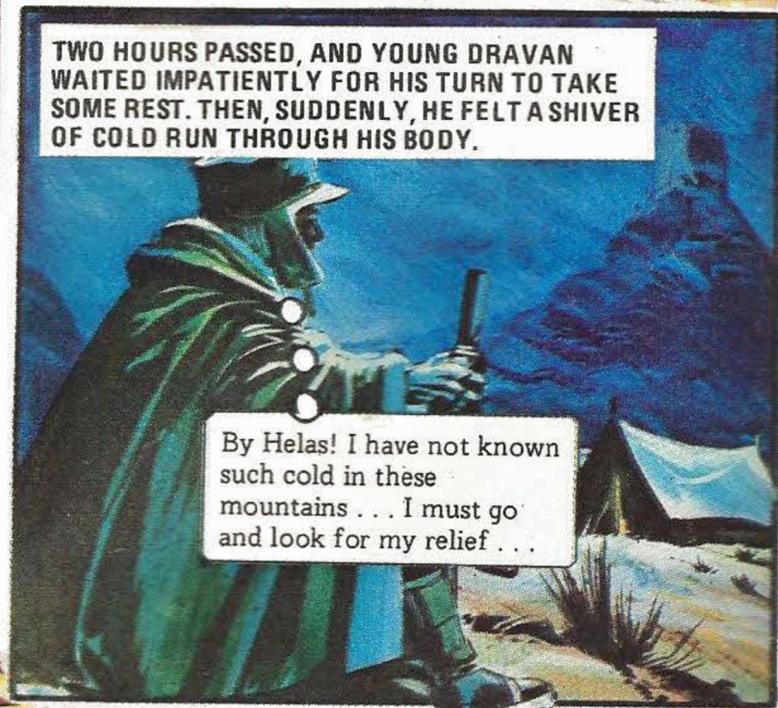
They will sleep soundly tonight!

But first we must select our camp guards. You will take the first watch, Dravan. Pick a man to stay with you. Two hours at a stretch will be sufficient.



TWO HOURS PASSED, AND YOUNG DRAVAN WAITED IMPATIENTLY FOR HIS TURN TO TAKE SOME REST. THEN, SUDDENLY, HE FELT A SHIVER OF COLD RUN THROUGH HIS BODY.

By Helas! I have not known such cold in these mountains . . . I must go and look for my relief . . .



WHEN DRAVAN ROSE TO HIS FEET HE BECAME AWARE OF A LESSENING TO THE VELVET BLACKNESS OF THE ELEKTON NIGHT ...



Thank the stars!

Ho, there, Dravan! ... Whence comes this blue light?

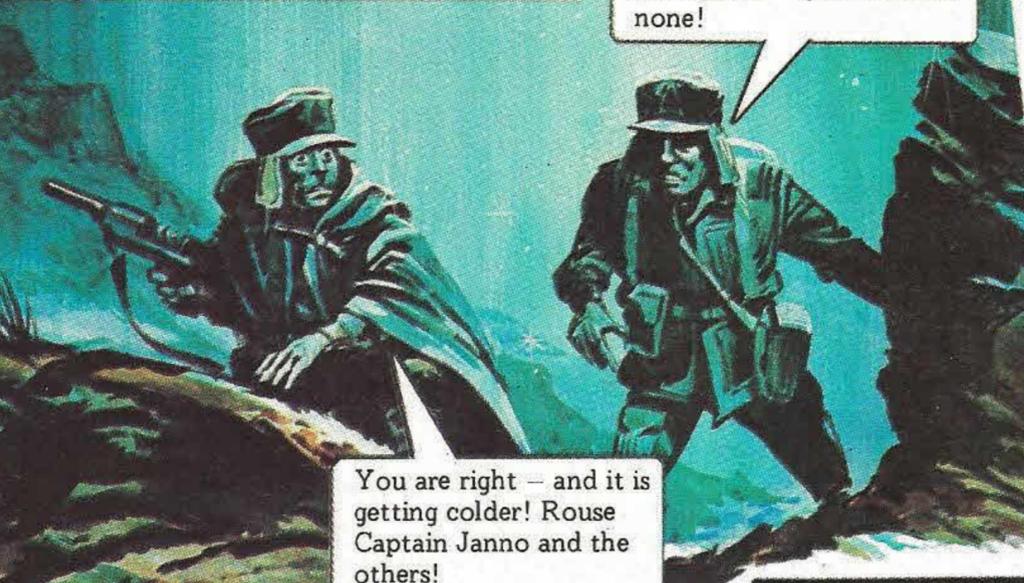
IN HIS TIREDNESS, DRAVAN HAD NOT YET NOTICED THE INCREASING INTENSITY OF THE STRANGE BLUE LIGHT. HE WAS ONLY AWARE OF THE DEADENING COLD WHICH SEEMED TO PENETRATE HIS VERY BONES.



It seems to come from the very heavens themselves ... brrrr ... the coldness of the night gets worse ...

Aye, it brings a stiffness to the joints ... but I do not understand ...

THE FULL REALISATION THAT THE PHENOMENON NOT ONE OF NATURE CAME TO BOTH THE YOUNG RECRUITS AT THE SAME INSTANT.



Look! it is cold enough for ice crystals - yet there are none!

You are right - and it is getting colder! Rouse Captain Janno and the others!

BUT IT WAS TOO LATE!



Ahhh! ... The cold ... My limbs are numb ... I can move no more ...

Brrr ... My head seems to be ... Aagh!

IN THEIR TENT, JANNO AND FIDELIUS WERE AWAKENED BY THE SOUND OF THE RECRUITS' AGONISED VOICES, BUT THEY COULD BARELY MOVE ...



By all the gods! I feel frozen through!

... The blue light ... What is happening?

ABOVE THEM, IN SYNCHRONOUS ORBIT, HOVERED THE SKORPIAD SCOUT SHIP, ITS COMMANDER ALREADY PREPARING HIS NEXT MOVE.

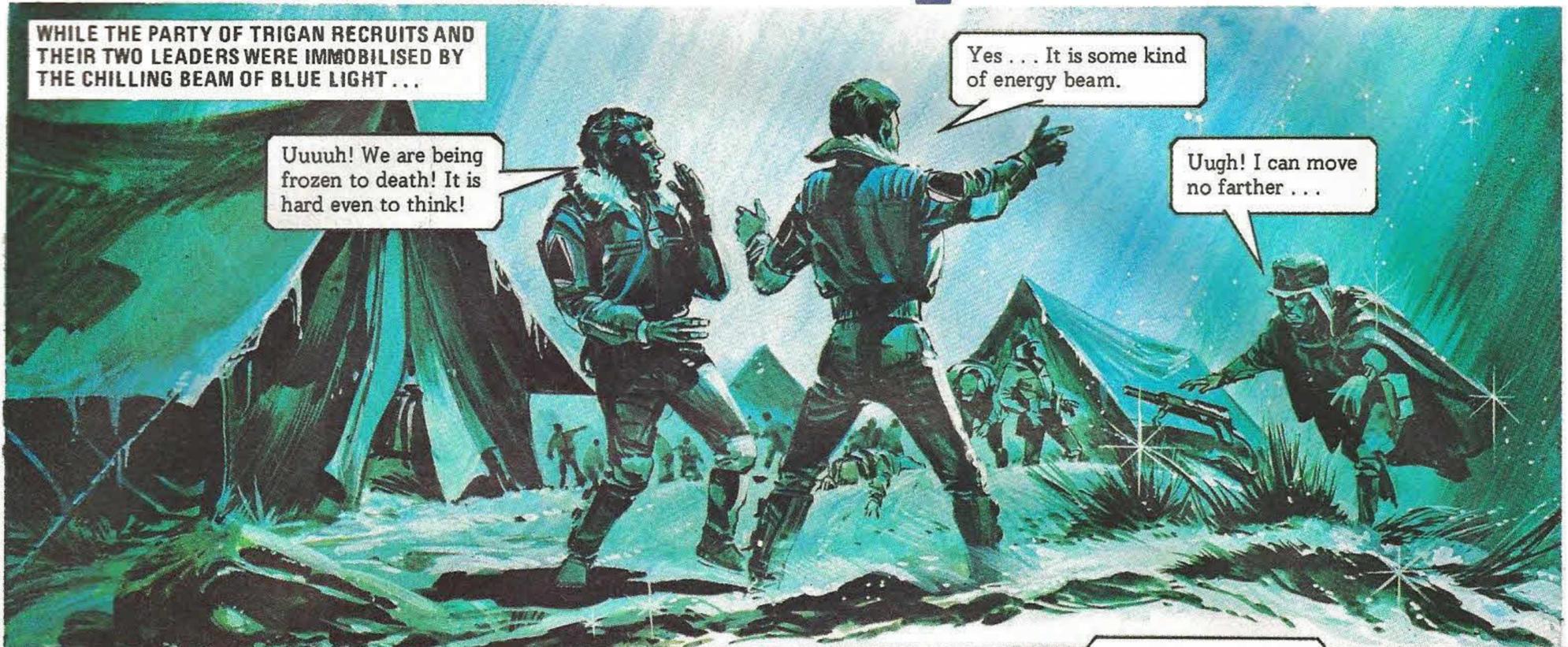


Prepare to launch the Formians! Reduce power of energy beam in thirty skarsecs!

Illustrated by Gerry Wood

More Adventures Of The Trigan Empire

A race of evil aliens from the planet Skorpio have sent a mission to Elekton to kidnap a group of Trigans as part of a plan to take revenge for a previous defeat. Janno and Fidelius, who were leading a squad of young Air Force recruits on an exercise, suddenly find themselves made helpless by a cold, blue light from the skies . . .



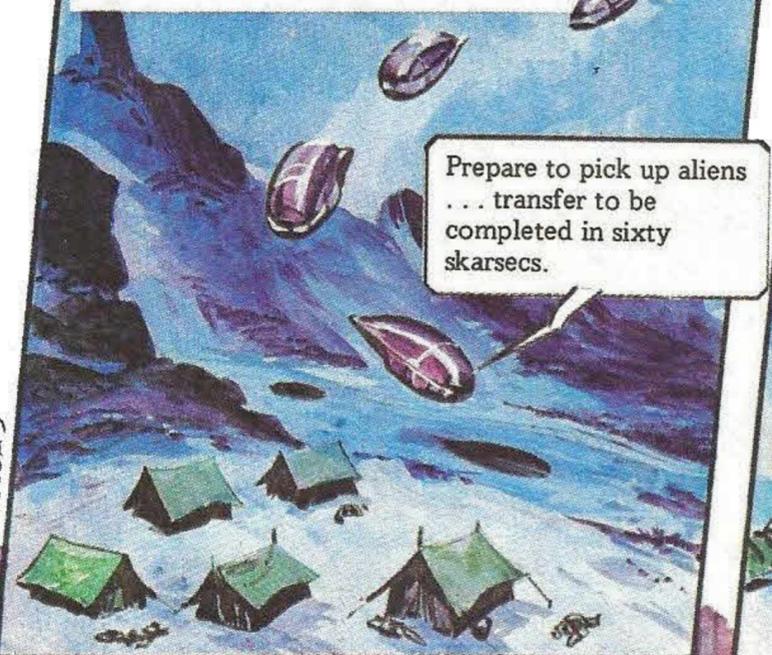
WHILE THE PARTY OF TRIGAN RECRUITS AND THEIR TWO LEADERS WERE IMMOBILISED BY THE CHILLING BEAM OF BLUE LIGHT . . .

Uuuuh! We are being frozen to death! It is hard even to think!

Yes . . . It is some kind of energy beam.

Uugh! I can move no farther . . .

. . . A NUMBER OF STRANGE CREATURES CALLED FORMIANS, EACH UNDER THE CONTROL OF A SKORPIAD, BEGAN DESCENDING TOWARDS THE TRIGAN ENCAMPMENT.



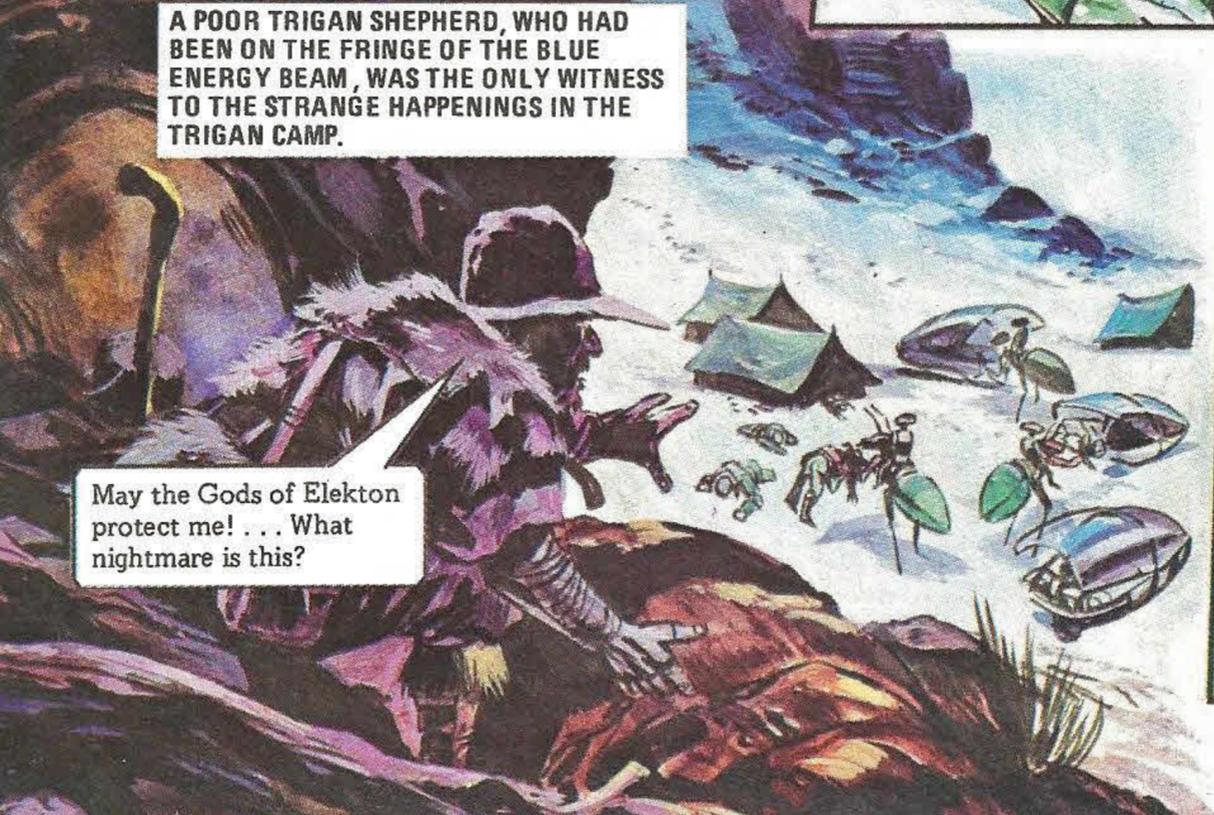
Prepare to pick up aliens . . . transfer to be completed in sixty skarsecs.

AND SOON . . .



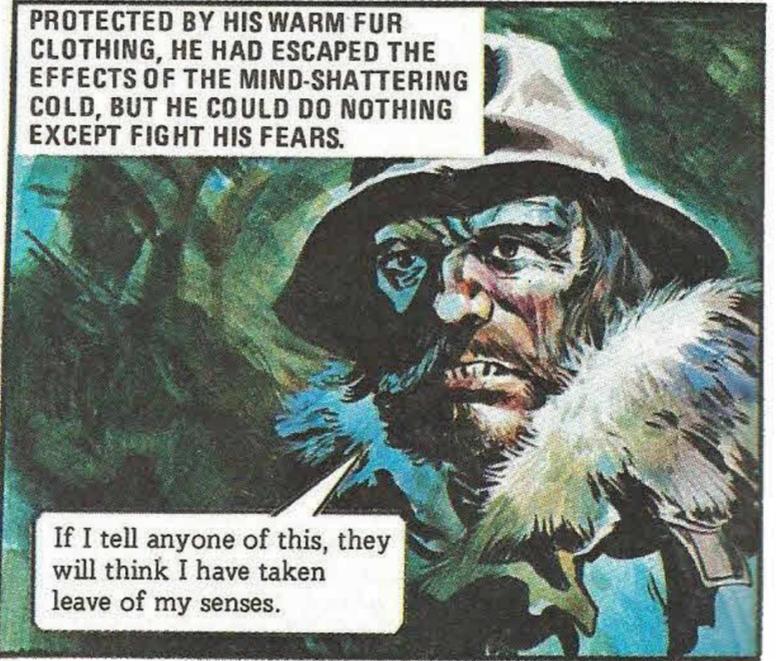
Take aliens only . . . Leave all equipment.

A POOR TRIGAN SHEPHERD, WHO HAD BEEN ON THE FRINGE OF THE BLUE ENERGY BEAM, WAS THE ONLY WITNESS TO THE STRANGE HAPPENINGS IN THE TRIGAN CAMP.



May the Gods of Elekton protect me! . . . What nightmare is this?

PROTECTED BY HIS WARM FUR CLOTHING, HE HAD ESCAPED THE EFFECTS OF THE MIND-SHATTERING COLD, BUT HE COULD DO NOTHING EXCEPT FIGHT HIS FEARS.



If I tell anyone of this, they will think I have taken leave of my senses.

MEANWHILE, THE FORMIAN FORCE COMPLETED ITS TASK WITH TERRIFYING EFFICIENCY.

Prepare to close airlock and re-pressurize.

THORAK, THE COMMANDER OF THE SKORPIAD SPACE SHIP, WAS WELL PLEASED . . .

Perfect, Irak . . . hee-hee . . . perfect. Perodil would be proud of us. Have them taken to the starlamp room.

They are all young aliens, except for two who appear to be leaders of some kind.

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE SPACESHIP, THE TRIGANS SLOWLY BEGAN TO RECOVER UNDER THE WARM RAYS OF STARLAMPS, AND THE FIRST TO DO SO WAS JANNO.

By the stars! What have you done to us?

We wish you no harm, Trigan . . . providing you obey all our instructions.

THEN, SUDDENLY, JANNO'S MIND BEGAN TO FUNCTION FULLY, AND HE REMEMBERED WHAT OLD PERIC HAD DISCOVERED WHEN ELEKTON HAD ONCE BEEN THREATENED BY GIANT FLYING INSECTS . . .

JANNO'S SUDDEN ANGRY RUSH TOOK THEM BY SURPRISE, BUT BEFORE HE COULD COMPLETELY OVERPOWER THEM . . .

Ah! I know what you are . . . you are Skorpiads, but you will never be a match for Trigans!

JANNO'S IRON GRIP EASILY LIFTED THE SKORPIAD FROM THE FLOOR . . .

Eeeagh! The Formians, Irak . . . quickly.

You hideous monster, I'll . . .

Aaagh!

You fools . . . you will soon learn who is the master here! . . .

Illustrated by Gerry Wood

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

More Adventures Of The Trigan Empire

Evil creatures from the planet Skorpio have kidnapped a group of Trigans led by Janno and Fidelius. The Skorpiads have transported the helpless Trigans to their spaceship after immobilising them with a freezing energy beam.

BROUGHT BACK TO ACTIVITY BY THE WARMTH FROM THE STARLAMPS, THE YOUNG TRIGAN RECRUITS LEAPT TO THE AID OF THEIR LEADERS WHO WERE STRUGGLING TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM THE GRIP OF THE NIGHTMARISH FORMIANS...

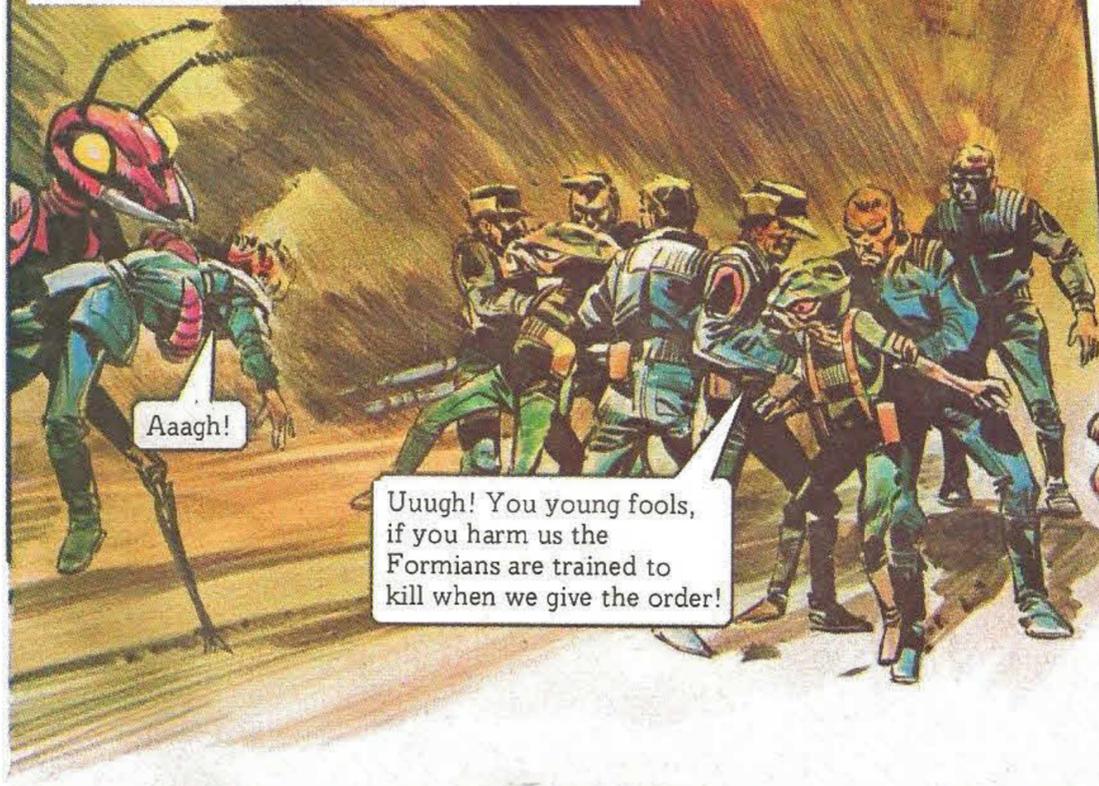


Hold on, sir... we're coming!

Eeagh!

Never mind us... go for the Skorpiads!

THE PUNY SKORPIADS WERE NO MATCH FOR THE VIGOROUS YOUNG TRIGANS...



Aaagh!

Uuugh! You young fools, if you harm us the Formians are trained to kill when we give the order!

THE POWERFUL FORMIANS BEGAN TO SQUEEZE THE VERY LIFE OUT OF JANNO AND FIDELIUS...



Release us or your leaders will be crushed to death!

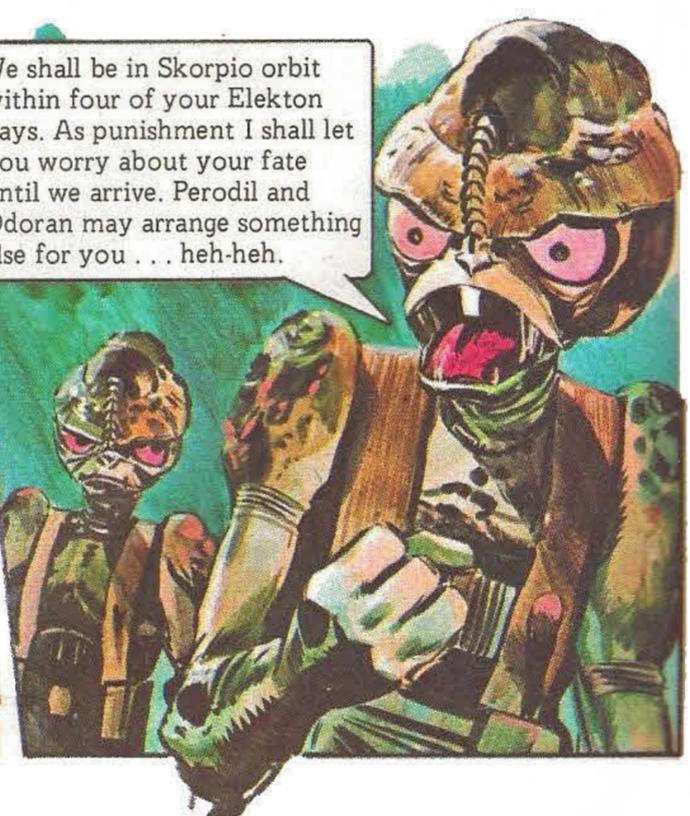
Aaah! Do as he says... we cannot...

JUST AS HE FELT HIS RIBS BEGIN TO CRACK, THE FORMIAN SUDDENLY RELEASED ITS IRON GRIP ON JANNO...



Idiots! Dolts! If I did not have orders to bring you back alive to our planet, I would have you all placed in the airlock and ejected into the vacuum of space!

We shall be in Skorpio orbit within four of your Elekton days. As punishment I shall let you worry about your fate until we arrive. Perodil and Odoran may arrange something else for you... heh-heh.



WHILE THE SKORPIAD MOTHERSHIP SPED THROUGH THE BLACKNESS OF SPACE, A FRIGHTENED TRIGAN SHEPHERD MOVED SLOWLY TOWARDS THE DESERTED CAMP FROM WHICH THE KIDNAPPED RECRUITS AND THEIR LEADERS HAD BEEN TAKEN.

Brrrr! It is as if the depths of winter had suddenly struck this place . . . this water is frozen solid! I have never seen the like . . . and those creatures! Ugh!

HURRYING AWAY FROM THE SCENE, THE SHEPHERD TRAVELLED BACK TO TRIGAN CITY AS FAST AS HIS FLOCK WOULD ALLOW. THE JOURNEY TOOK HIM FOUR DAYS.

Aye, and with dire news for the Emperor – if he will believe a humble man like me.

Ho, there, shepherd! Back from the mountains so soon?

TRIGO AND PERIC LISTENED CAREFULLY TO THE SHEPHERD, AND WHEN THEY SAW THE EVIDENCE HE HAD BROUGHT BACK . . .

There can be little doubt, Peric . . . these are the possessions of my nephew, Janno. What can have taken place?

From what the man tells us he saw, it is in my mind that we have yet again to deal with the insect aliens.

TRIGO AND PERIC REMEMBERED ALL TOO WELL HOW THEIR CIVILISATION HAD ALMOST BEEN DESTROYED BY THE GIANT FLYING INSECTS SENT ONTO ELEKTON BY THE SKORPIADS . . .

That is a horror we would all prefer to forget!

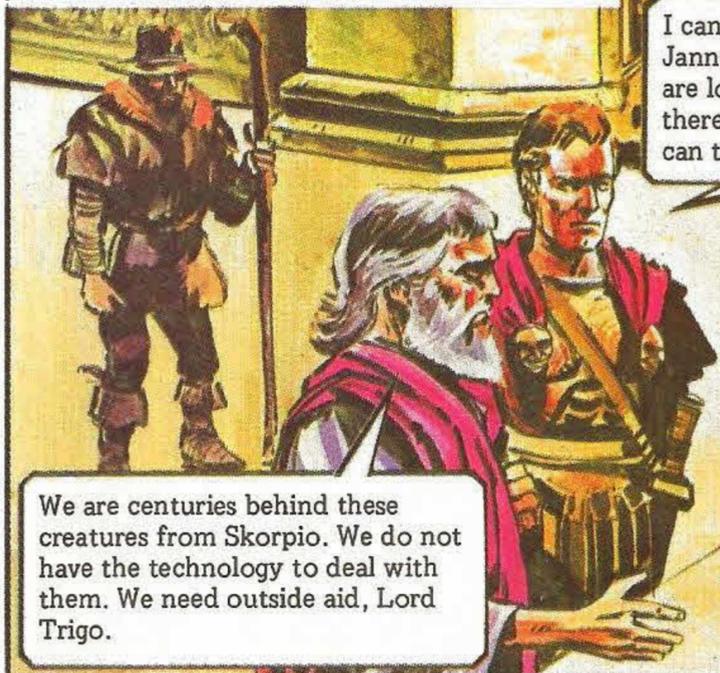
I believe these creatures have taken your nephew and my son, and some of our best young people, to their planet for some purpose which is yet to be revealed. It is possible we may never see them again . . .

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

More Adventures Of The Trigan Empire

Aliens from the planet Skorpio have taken a group of Trigans, led by Janno and Fidelius, into captivity. An old Trigan shepherd has reported to Trigo and old Peric how he saw them kidnapped by ant-like insects and carried off to a spaceship . . .

WHEN TRIGO HEARD WHAT OLD PERIC HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF NEVER SEEING THE YOUNG TRIGANS AGAIN, HE FELT A WAVE OF DESPAIR ENTER HIS MIND . . .



I cannot bear the thought that Janno and your son Fidelius are lost to us for all time . . . there must be some action we can take.

We are centuries behind these creatures from Skorpio. We do not have the technology to deal with them. We need outside aid, Lord Trigo.

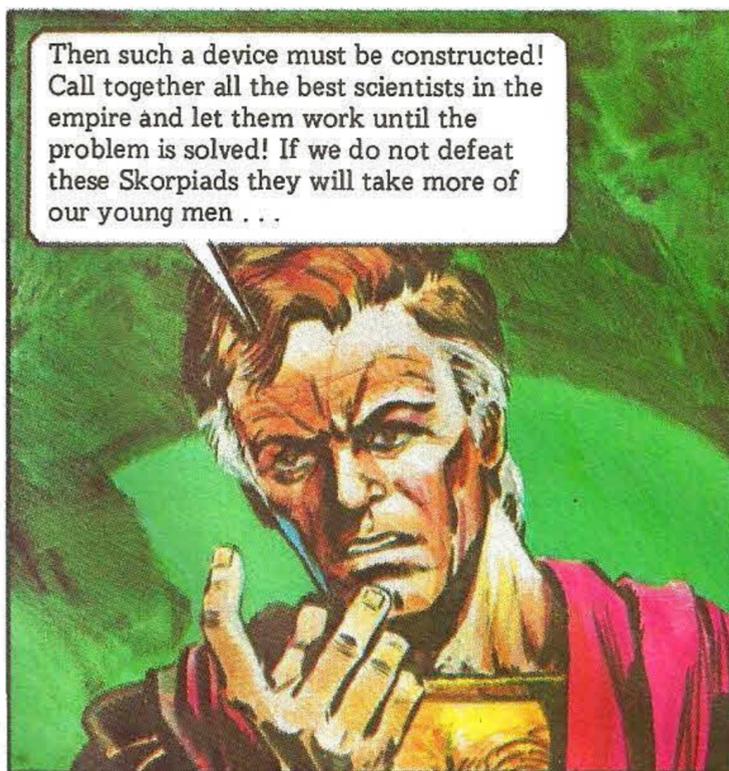
Could we not seek it from the Pactians, who left us the means to defeat the flying insects?



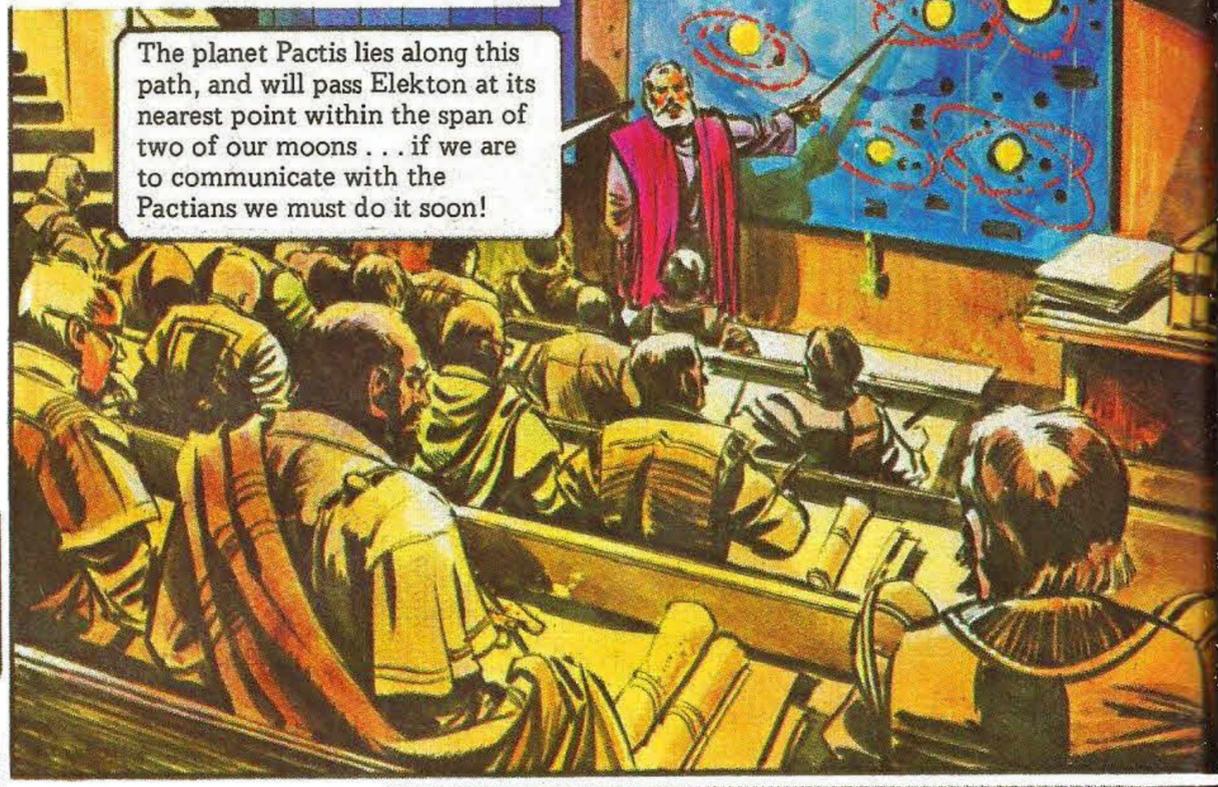
That would be an ideal solution. My Lord, but the planet Pactis is far away, and we would need a device to communicate with them.

AND SO OLD PERIC ORGANISED THE BEST ACADEMIC BRAINS IN THE COUNTRY, AND UNDER HIS GUIDANCE THEY BEGAN TO WRESTLE WITH THE PROBLEM.

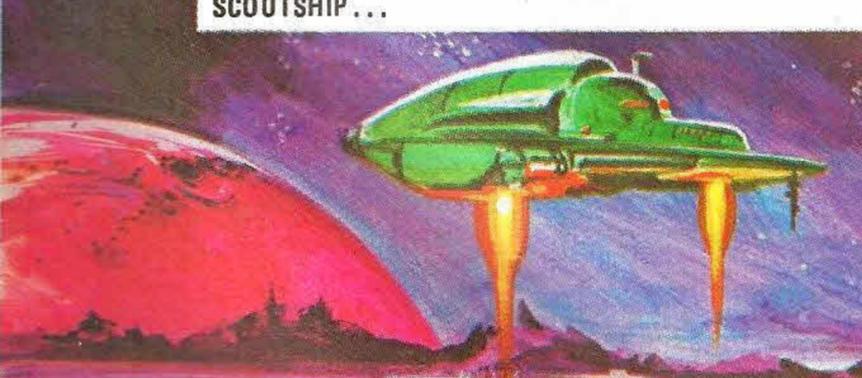
Then such a device must be constructed! Call together all the best scientists in the empire and let them work until the problem is solved! If we do not defeat these Skorpiads they will take more of our young men . . .



The planet Pactis lies along this path, and will pass Elekton at its nearest point within the span of two of our moons . . . if we are to communicate with the Pactians we must do it soon!



MEANWHILE, ON THE PLANET SKORPIO, A GROUP OF SKORPIADS WATCHED THE ARRIVAL OF THEIR SCOUTSHIP . . .



Thorak has already sent us a message! The mission has been a complete success! The freezer beam worked well.



Excellent . . . excellent! I am anxious to see these Trigan people!

BEFORE LONG, A DEFIANT GROUP OF TRIGANS CAME FACE TO FACE WITH THE LEADER OF THE SKORPIAD RACE . . .

By the stars, Fidelius, these . . . these creatures, have much that we lack on Elekton.

You are right, Janno. They are hideous, but they have a high brain power, and we would do well to remember that.

And they would do well to remember that we Trigans are resourceful . . . I notice they have two vehicles with many seats . . . they will be for us, and they have Skorpiad drivers . . . so listen . . .

JANNO JUST HAD TIME TO WHISPER SOME INSTRUCTIONS TO FIDELIUS, AND THEN . . .

Welcome to Skorpio and our city of Ictus . . . Hmmm . . . yes, you are a fine lot of humanoids . . . our special treatment should work well on all of you!

Special treatment! What do you want with us, you revolting ant?

ODORAN WINCED AT THE INSULT AND THEN ISSUED AN ORDER . . .

You must keep a civil tongue in your head, Trigan - take them to the cerebral centre . . . immediately!

JANNO'S PLAN WAS A DESPERATE ONE, BUT HE KNEW THAT ESCAPE WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE ONCE THEY REACHED THEIR DESTINATION, AND SO . . .

JANNO'S CALCULATED INSULT HAD THE DESIRED EFFECT - IT HAD CAUSED THE SKORPIAD LEADER TO MAKE A HASTY DECISION . . .

We have sent no Formian guards with them, father. Is that wise?

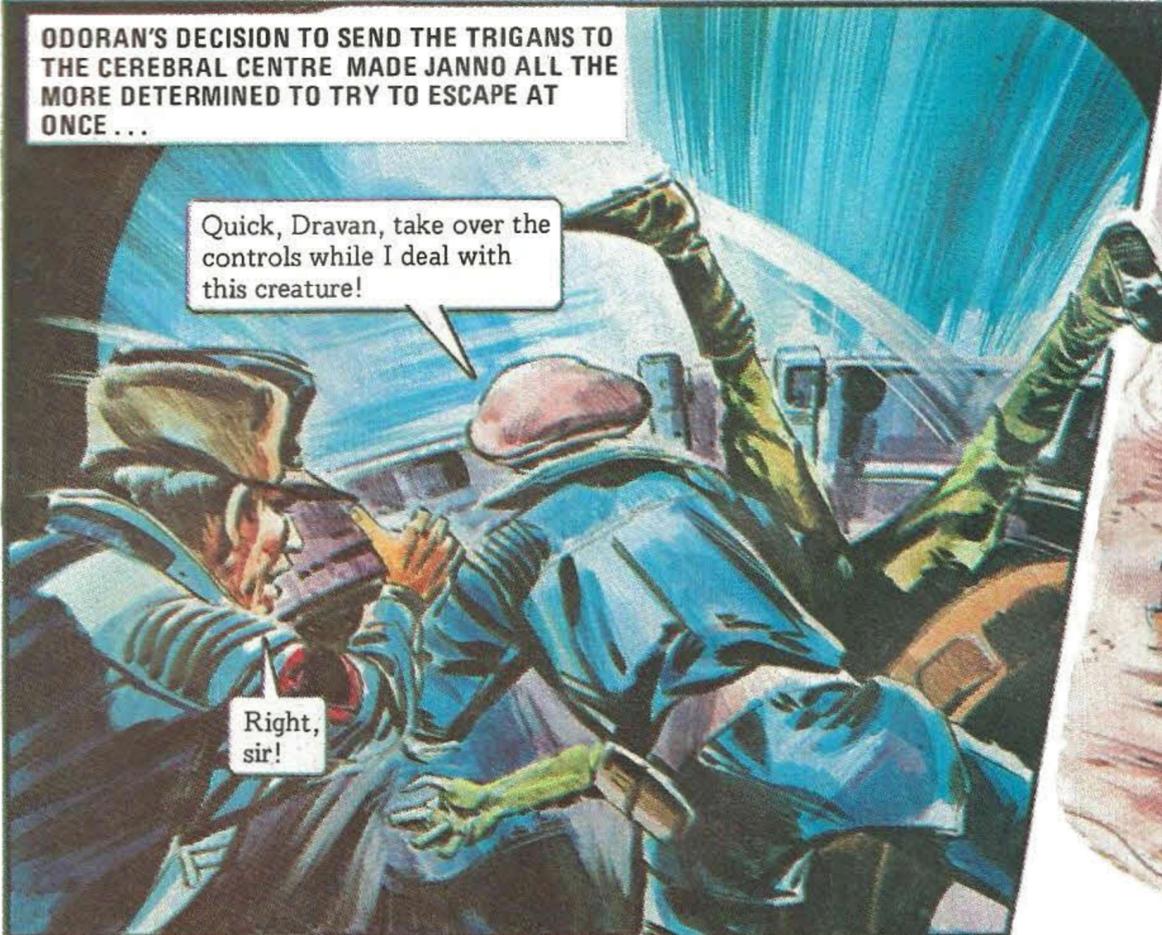
No matter . . . the journey to the centre is too short for them to make trouble.

Right! Now . . .!

More Adventures Of The Trigan Empire

Janno and Fidelius have been kidnapped with a group of young Trigan Air Force recruits and taken to the planet Skorpio. Odoran, chief of the Skorpiads, has ordered the Trigans to be taken to a special centre, but Janno has planned a desperate escape . . .

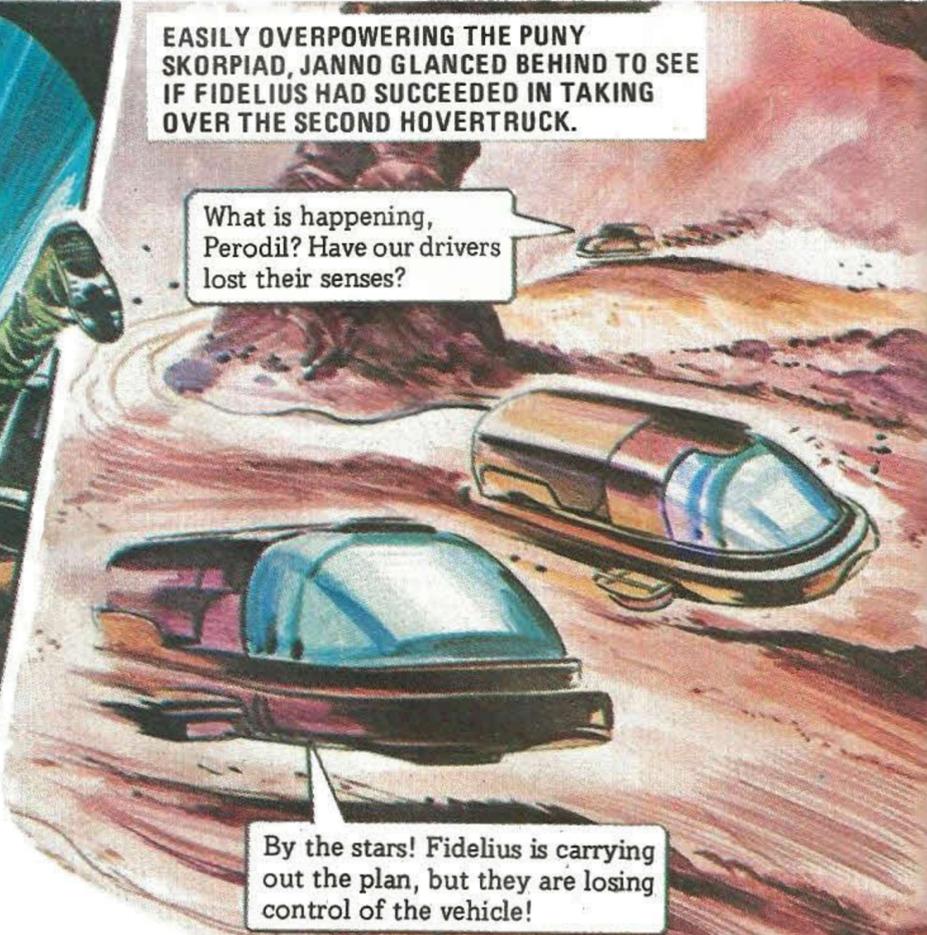
Illustrated by Gerry Wood



ODORAN'S DECISION TO SEND THE TRIGANS TO THE CEREBRAL CENTRE MADE JANNO ALL THE MORE DETERMINED TO TRY TO ESCAPE AT ONCE . . .

Quick, Dravan, take over the controls while I deal with this creature!

Right, sir!



EASILY OVERPOWERING THE PUNY SKORPIAD, JANNO GLANCED BEHIND TO SEE IF FIDELIUS HAD SUCCEEDED IN TAKING OVER THE SECOND HOVERTRUCK.

What is happening, Perodil? Have our drivers lost their senses?

By the stars! Fidelius is carrying out the plan, but they are losing control of the vehicle!



No, my father . . . I think it is the Trigans! I warned you they were dangerous people!

Curse them . . . have the Carapaks released!



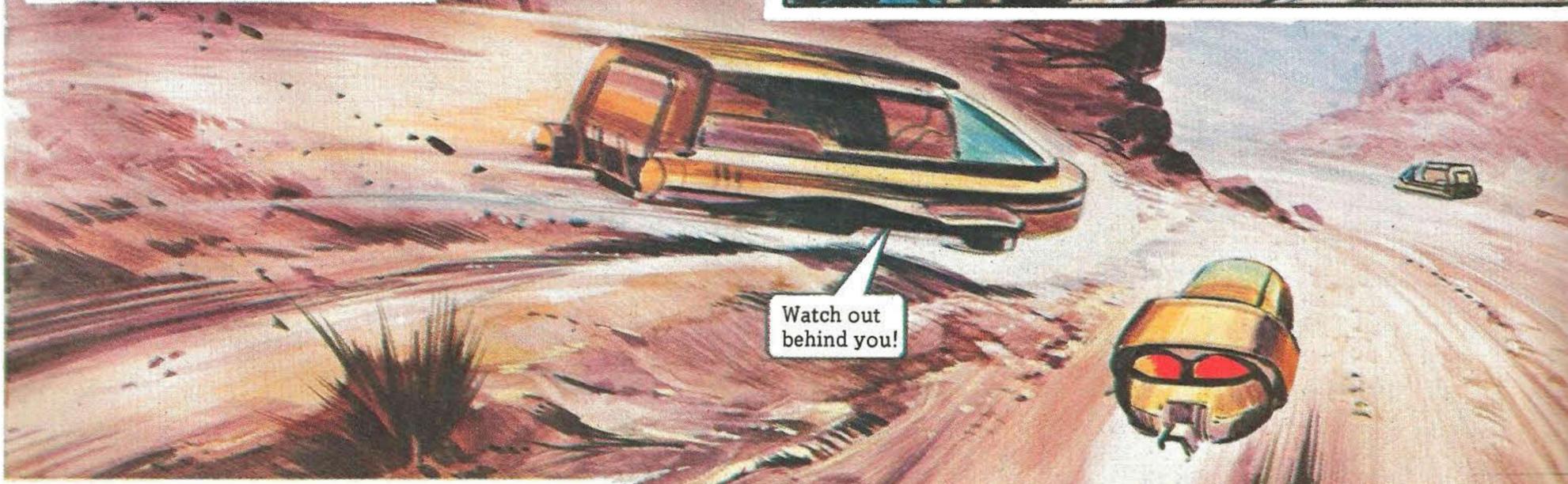
IN THE SECOND HOVERTRUCK, FIDELIUS AND ONE OF THE RECRUITS WERE STRUGGLING TO REGAIN CONTROL . . .

We have him, sir!

I wish I could say the same about this thing . . . we Tharvs are not used to them!

Let me take over, sir.

FOR A FEW BREATHLESS SECONDS THEIR FATE HUNG IN THE BALANCE . . . AND THEN . . .



Watch out behind you!

WITH A SOUND OF TEARING METAL, THE TWO HOVERTRUCKS COLLIDED ...

Uuugh!

Aaagh!

MINUTES LATER, THE TRIGANS WERE WELL CLEAR OF THE SCENE.

Well done, my friend – even if it was more good luck than good judgement!

Thanks, but we shall need a great deal more luck if we are to escape death on this planet ...

IT WAS A BRAVE ATTEMPT. BUT ON AN ALIEN PLANET THEY STOOD LITTLE CHANCE OF ESCAPING, LET ALONE DEFEATING A RACE OF CREATURES LIKE THE SKORPIADS ...

Are you injured, my leader?

No, only my pride, Thorak! See to the driver.

The Carapaks will head off those Trigan idiots!

EVEN AS THE SKORPIADS WERE TALKING, THE MASSIVE ANIMALS THEY CALLED CARAPAKS WERE MOVING INTO POSITION. THEY WERE THE ARMOURD BATTLE-TANKS OF THE SKORPIAD ARMY ...

THE FLEEING TRIGANS WERE DRIVING THE HOVERTRUCKS AT FULL SPEED WHEN THEY SUDDENLY SAW THEM DEAD AHEAD ...

Yeehaw! Reverse ... reverse!

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

More Adventures Of The

Trigan Empire

Together with a small group of Trigan Air Force recruits, Janno and Fidelius have been kidnapped and taken to the planet Skorpio. Now they are trying to escape from the insect-like Skorpiads and the awesome creatures they seem to control . . .

AS THE GIANT CARAPAKS LUMBERED INTO VIEW, BOTH JANNO AND FIDELIUS TRIED DESPERATELY TO SWING THEIR HOVERTRUCKS IN A TIGHT TURN . . .

By all the Gods of Elekton, this planet is a living nightmare!

We can't turn together, the track is too narrow!

IN THEIR ANXIETY TO AVOID A COLLISION WITH THE HIDEOUS ANIMALS, THE TWO FRIENDS BOTH MADE ERRORS OF JUDGEMENT, AND . . .

WHEN JANNO REALISED HIS COMPANIONS HAD STOPPED THEIR VEHICLE, HE TURNED YET AGAIN IN AN ATTEMPT TO STOP THE RELENTLESS ADVANCE OF THE CARAPAKS . . .

THEN, AS JANNO STEERED STRAIGHT AT THE ARMURED MONSTERS . . .

Aaah! She's out of control, sir!

Cut the engines . . .

Can you get the thing started, Fidelius? I'll try to put them off for a few seconds . . .

Get away, Janno . . . leave us . . .

By Helas! What next . . . ?

A STRANGE GLUTINOUS LIQUID BEGAN TO ENVELOP THE HOVERTRUCK . . .

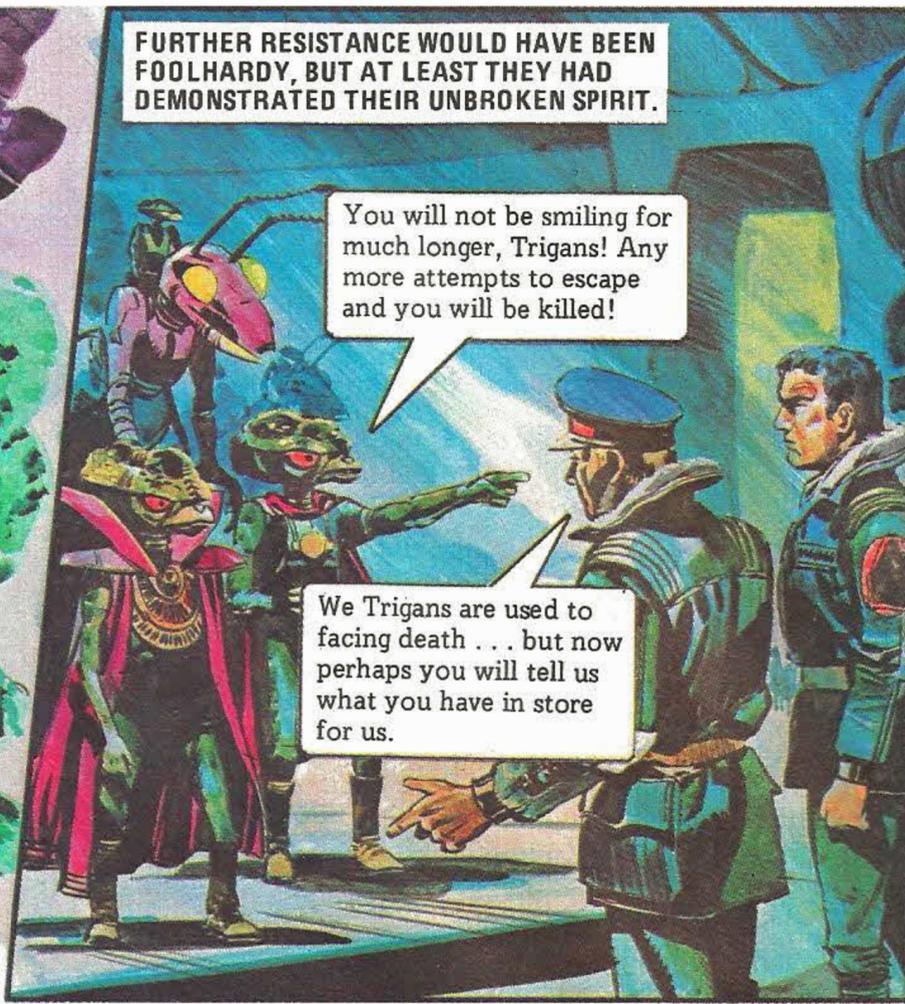
Uugh! It smells not like the flowers on Elekton . . . and it has choked the air intakes of the engines! We can move no farther!

WITHIN MINUTES A GROUP OF FORMIANS APPEARED, AND JANNO REALISED HE COULD DO NO MORE.



All right . . . we surrender – call the creatures off.

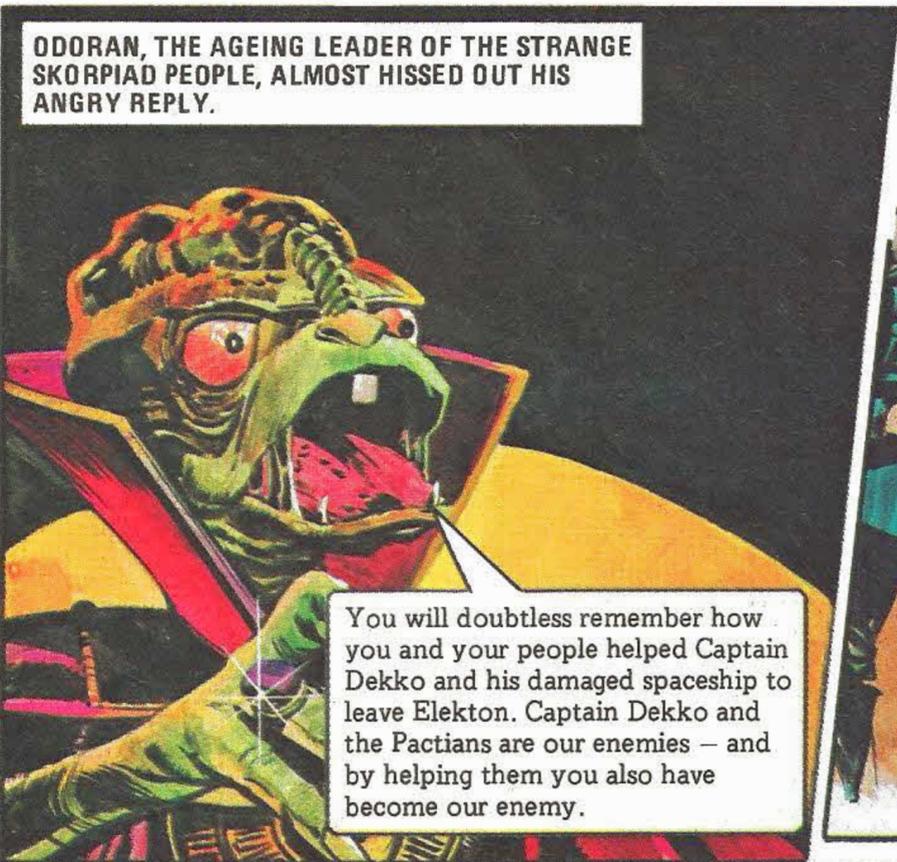
FURTHER RESISTANCE WOULD HAVE BEEN FOOLHARDY, BUT AT LEAST THEY HAD DEMONSTRATED THEIR UNBROKEN SPIRIT.



You will not be smiling for much longer, Trigans! Any more attempts to escape and you will be killed!

We Trigans are used to facing death . . . but now perhaps you will tell us what you have in store for us.

ODORAN, THE AGEING LEADER OF THE STRANGE SKORPIAD PEOPLE, ALMOST HISSED OUT HIS ANGRY REPLY.



You will doubtless remember how you and your people helped Captain Dekko and his damaged spaceship to leave Elekton. Captain Dekko and the Pactians are our enemies – and by helping them you also have become our enemy.

We shall achieve double revenge by sending you and your young men to the planet Pactis where you will accomplish a sabotage mission against Dekko . . .



You treacherous creature! We will never do such a thing . . .

THINKING THAT JANNO WAS ABOUT TO ATTACK HIM, ODORAN GAVE A SIGNAL TO THE FORMIAN GUARDS . . .



Oh yes, you will, and so will the rest of you! This time the cerebral centre will do its work without interruption! Your brains and minds will belong to us for as long as we wish!

Aaagh!

More Adventures Of The Trigan Empire

Janno and Fidelius are on the planet Skorpio after having been kidnapped with a party of Trigan Air Force recruits. After two attempts to escape the Skorpiads, they are now utterly in the power of their enemies . . .



HELD IN THE VICE-LIKE GRIP OF THE FORMIANS, JANNO AND FIDELIUS WERE POWERLESS TO RESIST AS THEY WERE CARRIED AWAY TO THE SKORPIAD LABORATORY.

At the cerebral centre they have their instructions on what treatment your brains will receive.

Resistance will be futile!

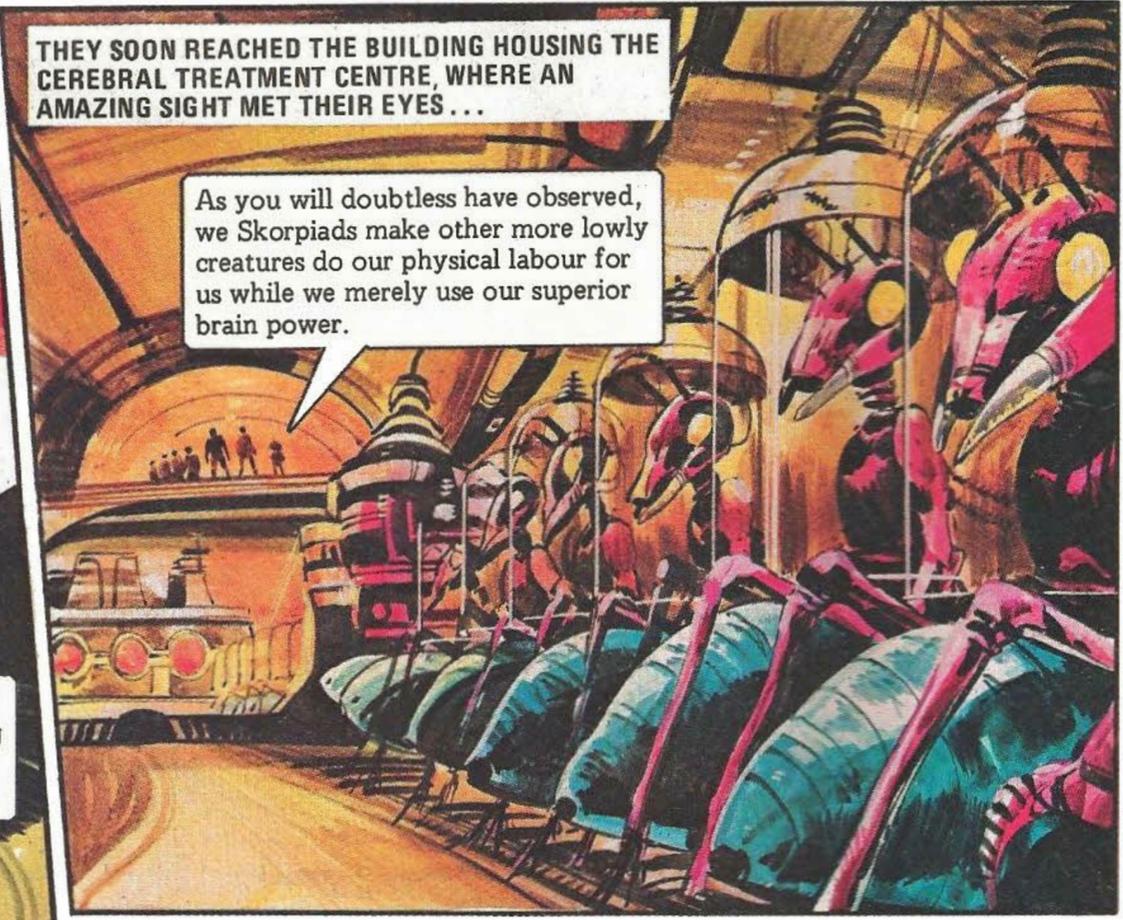
We shall see . . .



THIS TIME THE SKORPIADS TOOK NO CHANCES WITH THE DEFIANT TRIGANS . . .

Whatever the Skorpiads try to do to us, we must try hard not to lose our true feelings or our real identity . . .

You are right, Janno, but even if we succeed in doing so, I doubt our young recruits will.



THEY SOON REACHED THE BUILDING HOUSING THE CEREBRAL TREATMENT CENTRE, WHERE AN AMAZING SIGHT MET THEIR EYES . . .

As you will doubtless have observed, we Skorpiads make other more lowly creatures do our physical labour for us while we merely use our superior brain power.

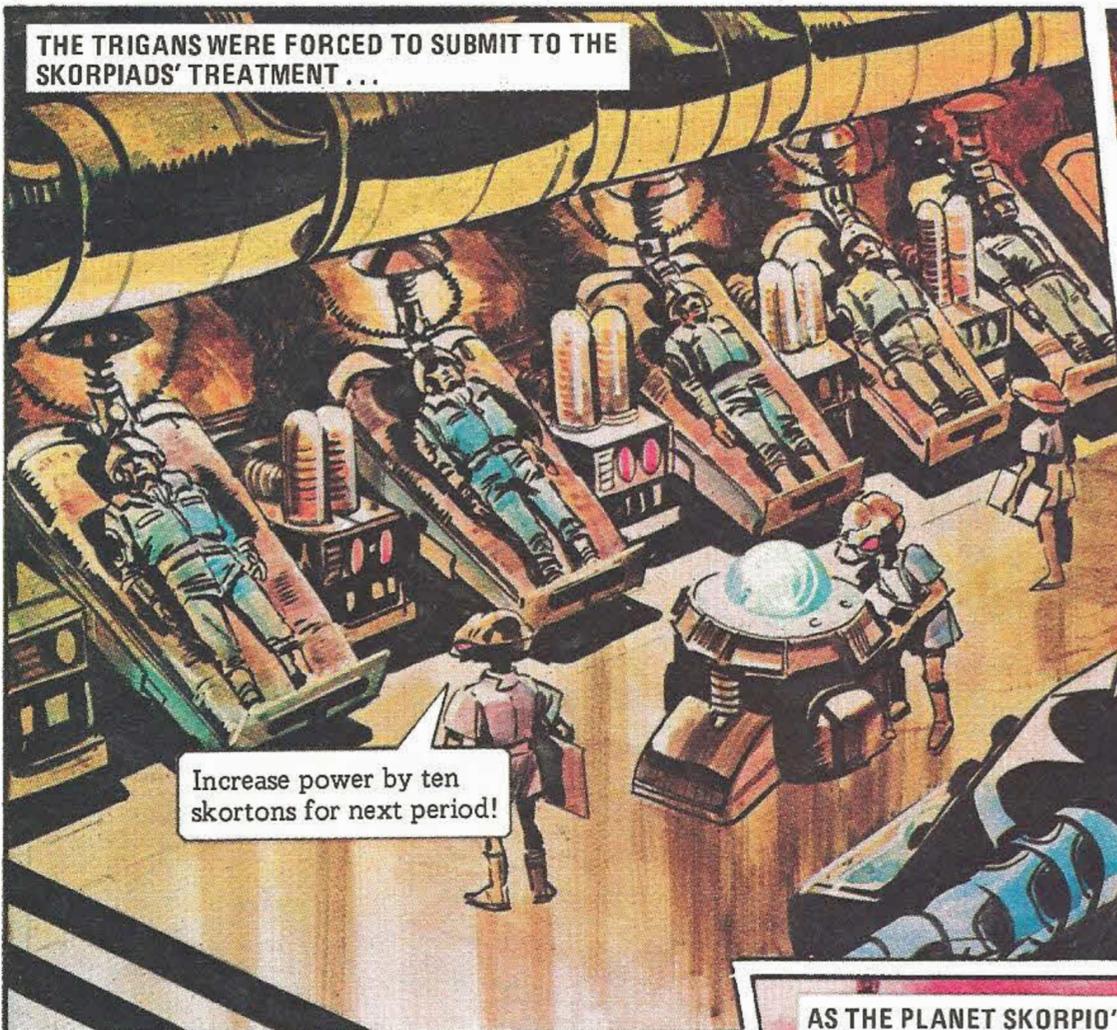


JANNO WAS STUNG BY THE ARROGANCE OF THE SKORPIAD COMMANDER'S REMARKS.

Well, Thorak, if you consider us Trigans to be inferior people you've got a big surprise coming!

I think not - by this time tomorrow you will be programmed to travel to Pactus as a Skorpiad sabotage party!

THE TRIGANS WERE FORCED TO SUBMIT TO THE SKORPIADS' TREATMENT...



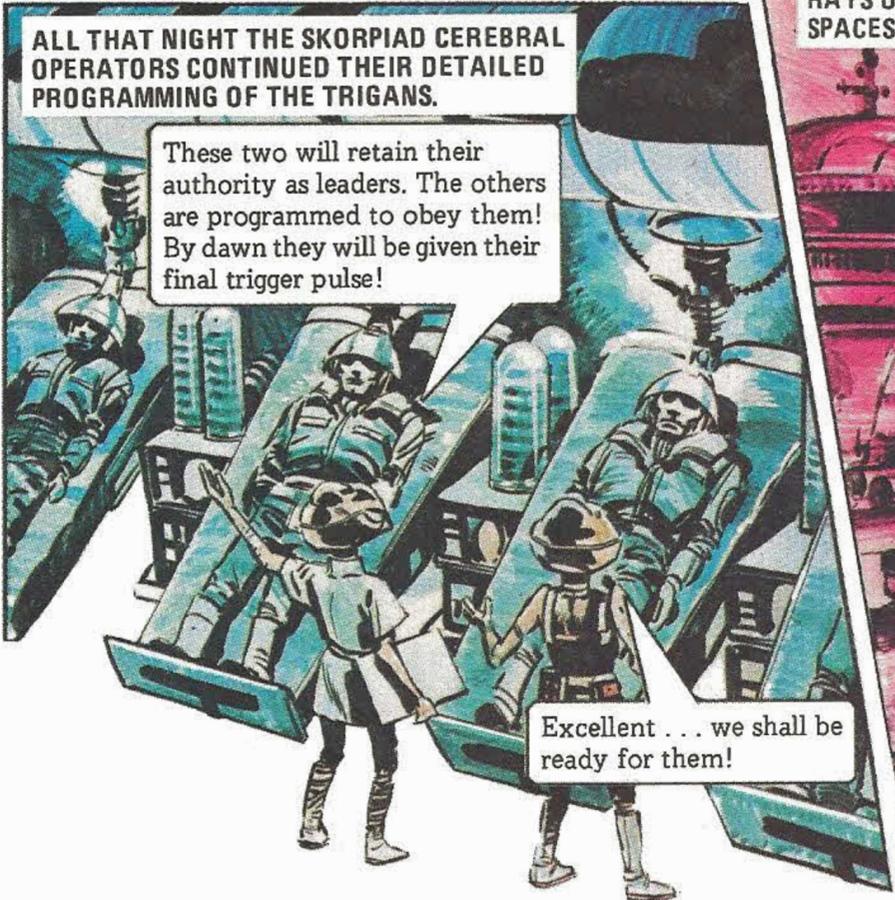
Increase power by ten skortons for next period!

AND AS HE FELT THE ELECTRONIC WAVES PULSING THROUGH HIS HEAD, JANNO MADE A TREMENDOUS EFFORT OF WILL...



I am not a Skorpiad... I am a Trigan... I am Janno... I am Janno...

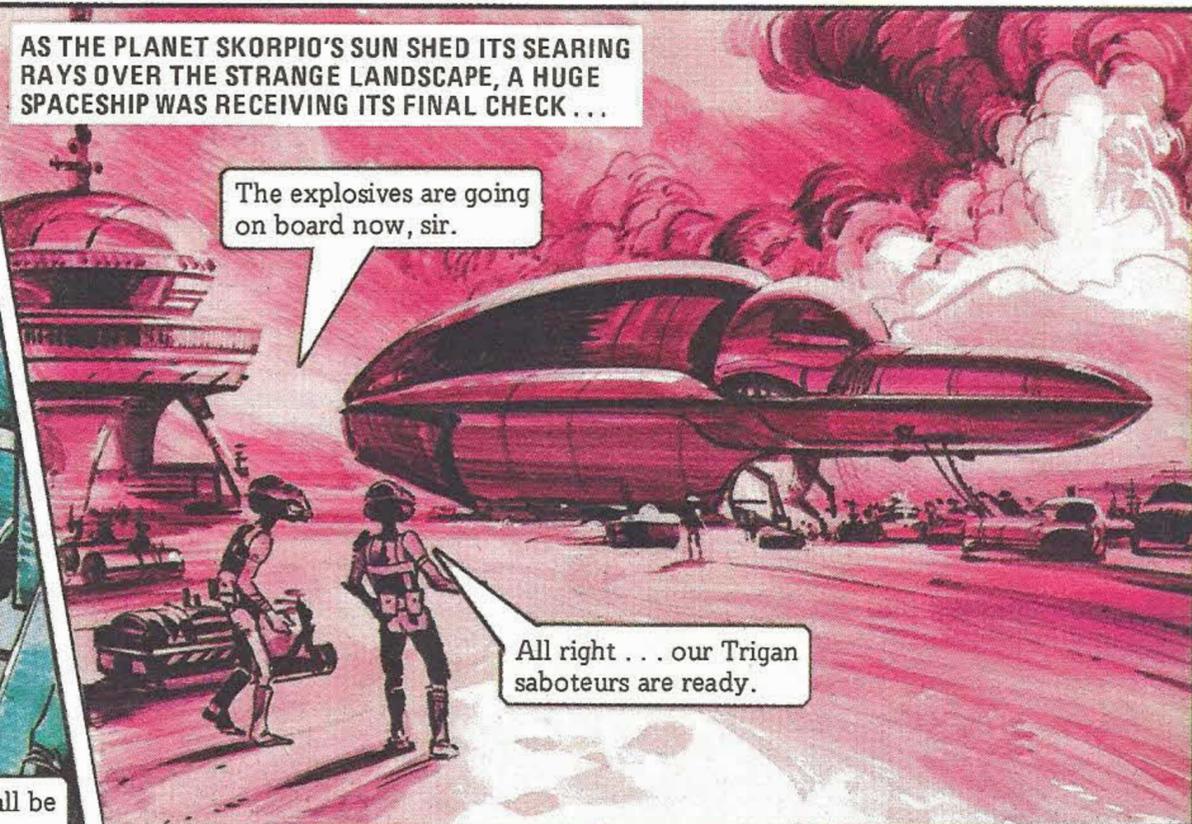
ALL THAT NIGHT THE SKORPIAD CEREBRAL OPERATORS CONTINUED THEIR DETAILED PROGRAMMING OF THE TRIGANS.



These two will retain their authority as leaders. The others are programmed to obey them! By dawn they will be given their final trigger pulse!

Excellent... we shall be ready for them!

AS THE PLANET SKORPIO'S SUN SHED ITS SEARING RAYS OVER THE STRANGE LANDSCAPE, A HUGE SPACESHIP WAS RECEIVING ITS FINAL CHECK...

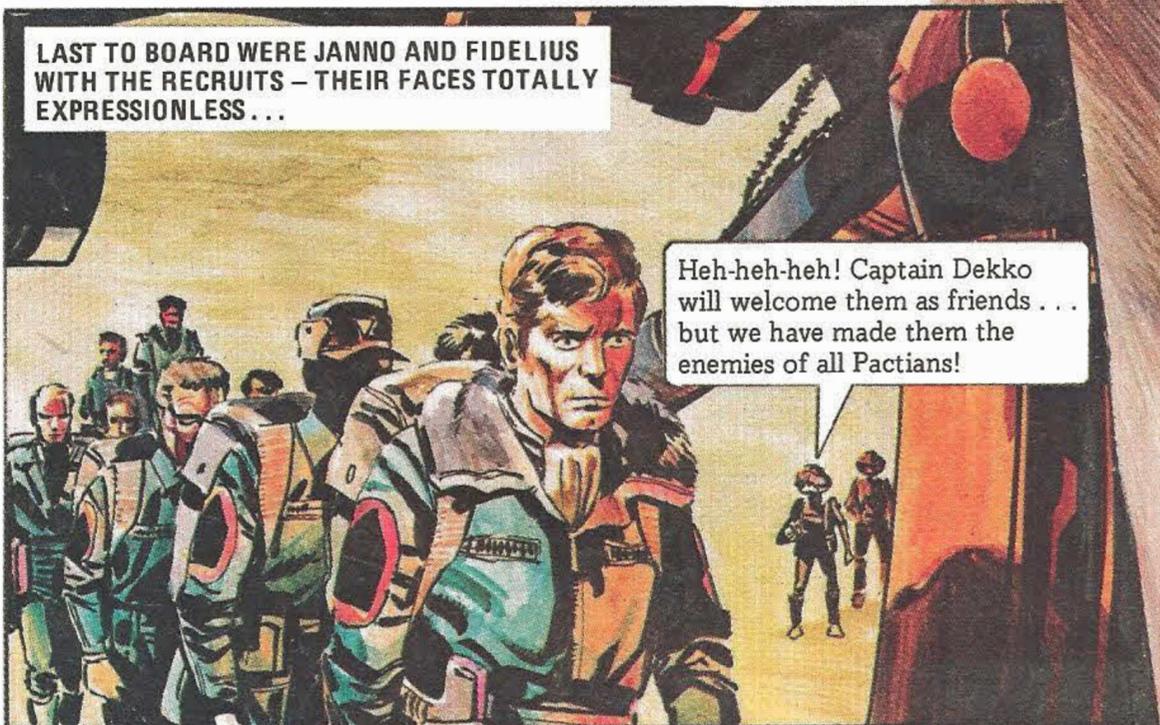


The explosives are going on board now, sir.

All right... our Trigan saboteurs are ready.

SOON THE SKORPIAD SPACE CRUISER WAS BLASTING OFF ON ITS JOURNEY TO THE PEACE-LOVING PLANET OF PACTIS...

LAST TO BOARD WERE JANNO AND FIDELIUS WITH THE RECRUITS - THEIR FACES TOTALLY EXPRESSIONLESS...



Heh-heh-heh! Captain Dekko will welcome them as friends... but we have made them the enemies of all Pactians!

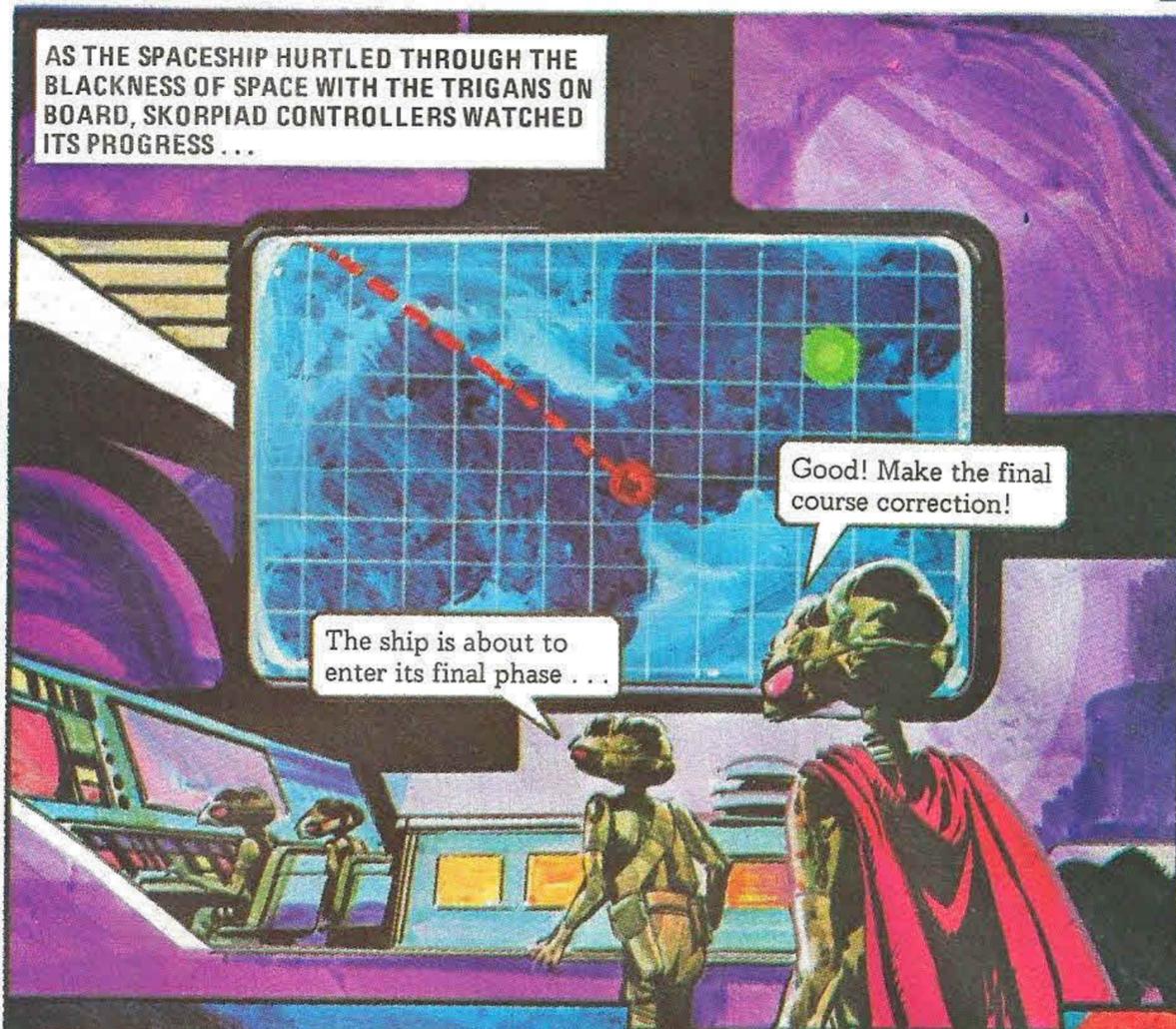


More Adventures Of The Trigan Empire

Janno and Fidelius, together with a group of Trigan Air Force recruits, have been kidnapped by the Skorpiads who have taken control of their minds. They are now on their way to the planet Pactis to attack Captain Dekko, arch-enemy of the evil Skorpiads.

AS THE SPACESHIP HURTLIED THROUGH THE BLACKNESS OF SPACE WITH THE TRIGANS ON BOARD, SKORPIAD CONTROLLERS WATCHED ITS PROGRESS...

ON THE SPACESHIP ITSELF, THE BLANK-FACED TRIGANS SENSED RATHER THAN UNDERSTOOD THE CHANGE OF DIRECTION AS THE AUTOMATIC CONTROLS RESPONDED TO THE SIGNALS.



Good! Make the final course correction!

The ship is about to enter its final phase...



FINALLY, IT BEGAN TO ORBIT THE PLANET PACTIS, AND JANNO'S VOICE BROKE THE SILENCE.

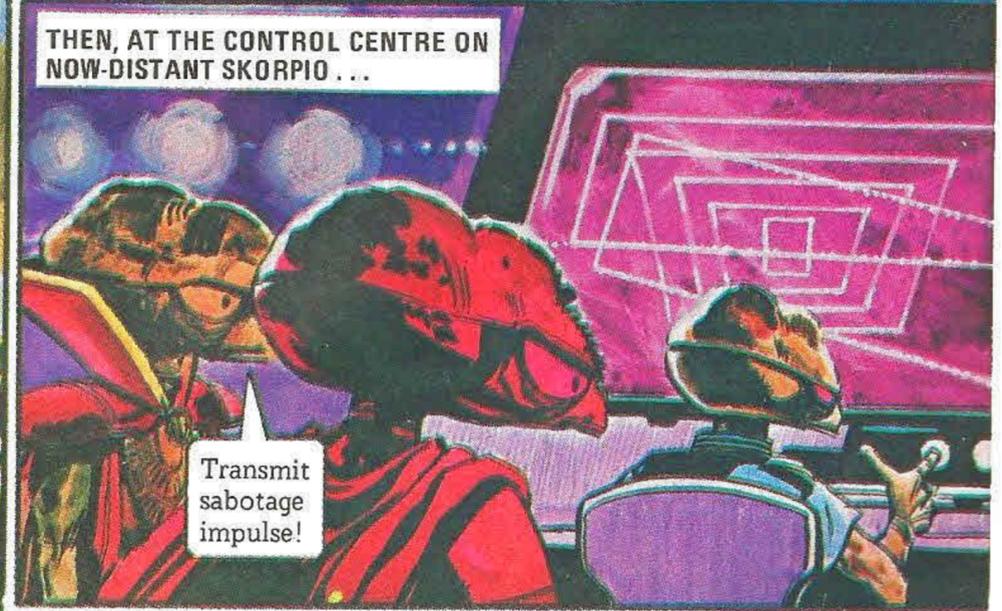


Trigan demolition squad will prepare for landing!

NO FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS CAME FROM THEIR SKORPIAD MASTERS UNTIL THE SPACESHIP'S AUTOMATIC CONTROLS BROUGHT IT TO REST ON AN UNINHABITED PLAIN...



THEN, AT THE CONTROL CENTRE ON NOW-DISTANT SKORPIO...



Transmit sabotage impulse!

THE POWERFUL SIGNAL TRIGGERED OFF A CEREBRAL LABORATORY UNIT WHICH HAD BEEN PLACED IN THE SPACESHIP, AND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY THE TRIGANS REACTED TO ITS ELECTRONIC PULSES . . .



BUT, THEIR ARRIVAL ON PACTIS HAD NOT GONE UNNOTICED. THE PEACE-LOVING PACTIANS WERE ALSO AN ADVANCED PEOPLE WITH A HIGH LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY.



A Skorpiad auto-cruiser, Captain Dekko!

You are right, but those are not Skorpiads. Enlarge the image!

THE PACTIAN OPERATOR OBEYED THE INSTRUCTION, AND . . .



This is strange . . . they are certainly Trigans from the planet Elekton . . . and that one in front . . . I recognise him as one named Janno, nephew of the Emperor Trigo, but what are they doing on Pactis?

THE PACTIAN SPACE COMMANDER WAS A CAUTIOUS MAN, AND HE DESPATCHED A SINGLE-SEATER HOVERSCOUT TO MEET THE TRIGANS . . .



Trigan squad . . . H-A-L-T! Prepare to open fire!

ACTING ALMOST AS ONE MAN, THE WHOLE TRIGAN PARTY AIMED THE ENERGY GUNS WITH WHICH THE SKORPIADS HAD PROVIDED THEM.



FIRE!

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

More Adventures Of The Trigan Empire

Janno, Fidelius and the Trigan Air Force recruits have been sent to the planet Pactis after having their minds tampered with by the Skorpiads. They are under orders to carry out sabotage against Captain Dekko and the Pactians, but their presence has been detected and a hoverscout has been despatched to meet them . . .

THE TRIGANS ACTED AS ONE MAN WHEN THE PACTIAN HOVERSCOUT APPROACHED THEM, AND THEIR CONCENTRATED FIRE-POWER WAS DEVASTATING . . .



Cease fire!

Squad will re-form ranks!

IN THE PACTIAN OBSERVATION CENTRE, CAPTAIN DEKKO HAD WITNESSED THE ENTIRE INCIDENT WITH SHOCKED ASTONISHMENT.



They may be Trigans, Captain, but they are certainly not friendly! Shall I despatch an air missile machine?

No . . . wait! Keep them under surveillance from the route posts . . . there is something here that I do not understand, and I suspect the Skorpiads are involved.

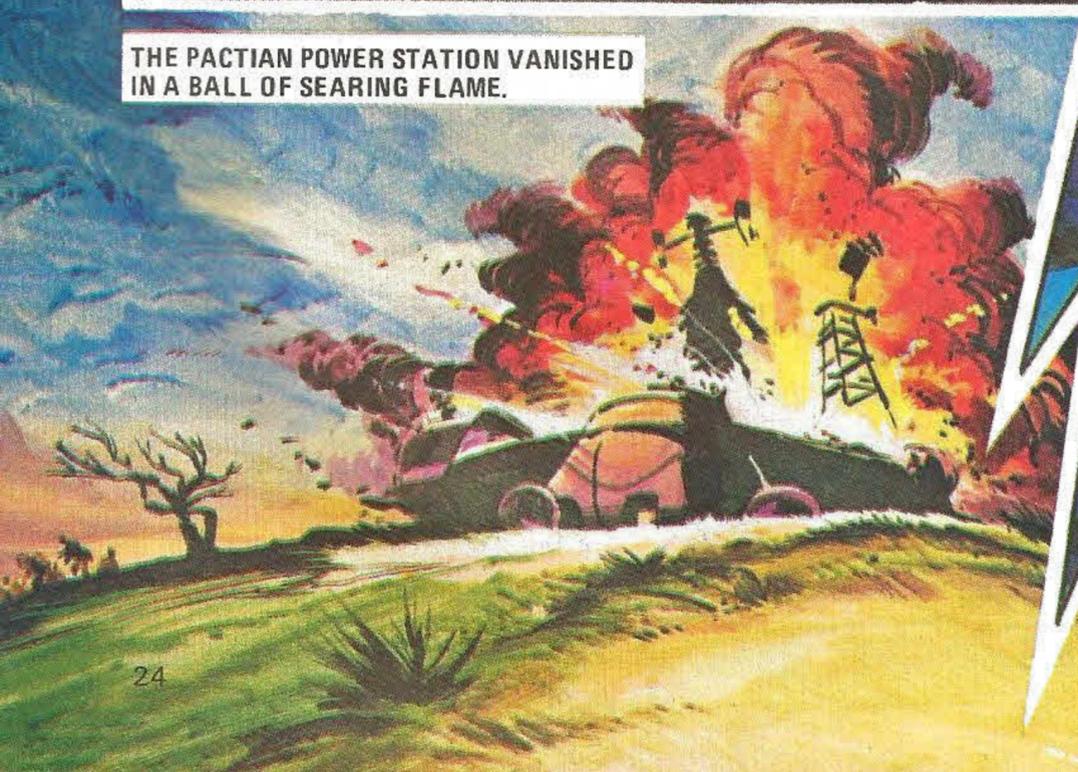
FOR THE NEXT TWO PACTIAN HOURS, THE MARCHING SQUAD OF TRIGANS WAS NEVER OUT OF THE SIGHT OF THE WATCHERS OF THE OBSERVATION CENTRE, AND THEN . . .



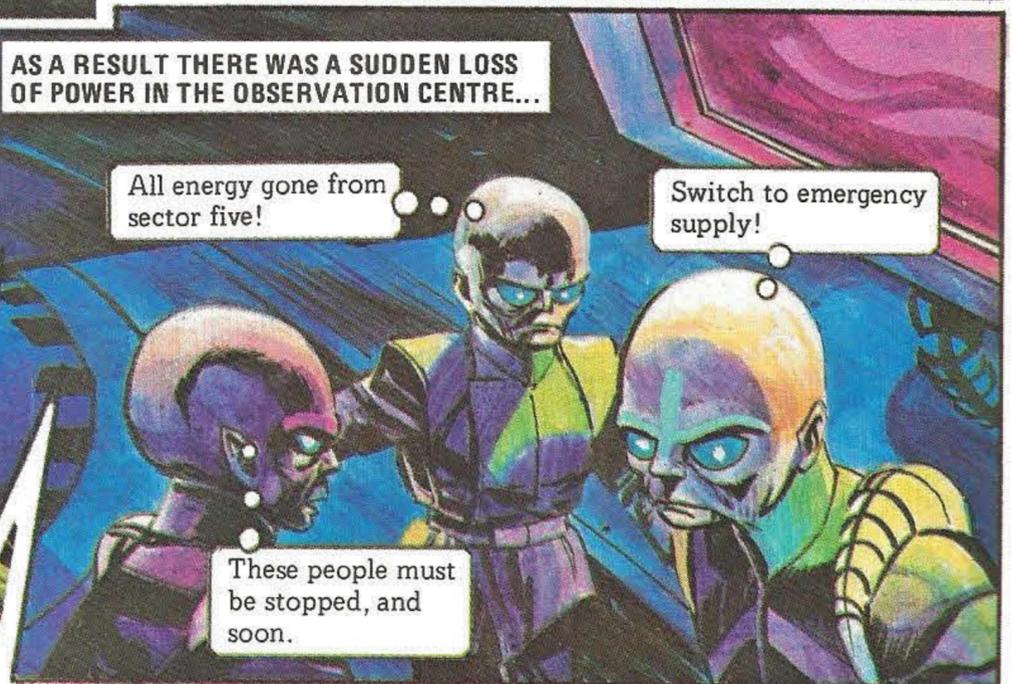
Set fuses for minimum detonation time . . .

Come on . . . hurry! We have much else to do!

THE PACTIAN POWER STATION VANISHED IN A BALL OF SEARING FLAME.



AS A RESULT THERE WAS A SUDDEN LOSS OF POWER IN THE OBSERVATION CENTRE...



All energy gone from sector five!

Switch to emergency supply!

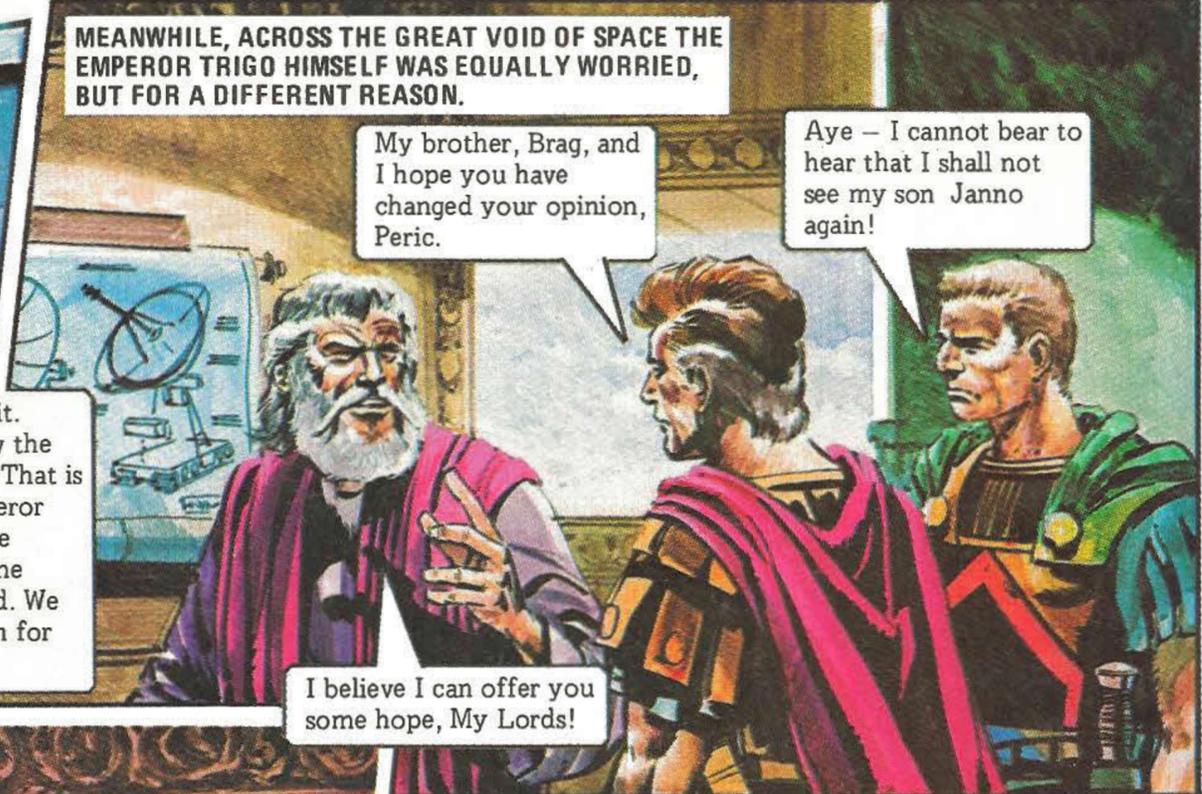
These people must be stopped, and soon.

BUT THE PACTIANS WERE A PEACEFUL PEOPLE, AND CAPTAIN DEKKO REFUSED TO BE PANICKED.



I still think we must wait. Have you forgotten how the Trigans saved our lives? That is the nephew of the Emperor Trigo himself leading the others. Neither he nor the others should be harmed. We must find out the reason for their presence here.

MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE GREAT VOID OF SPACE THE EMPEROR TRIGO HIMSELF WAS EQUALLY WORRIED, BUT FOR A DIFFERENT REASON.



My brother, Brag, and I hope you have changed your opinion, Peric.

Aye - I cannot bear to hear that I shall not see my son Janno again!

I believe I can offer you some hope, My Lords!

FOR MANY WEEKS, UNDER WISE OLD PERIC'S GUIDANCE, THE BEST SCIENTISTS IN THE TRIGAN EMPIRE HAD BEEN WORKING ON A COMMUNICATOR WHICH THEY HOPED WOULD SEND A SIGNAL TO THE PLANET PACTIS.

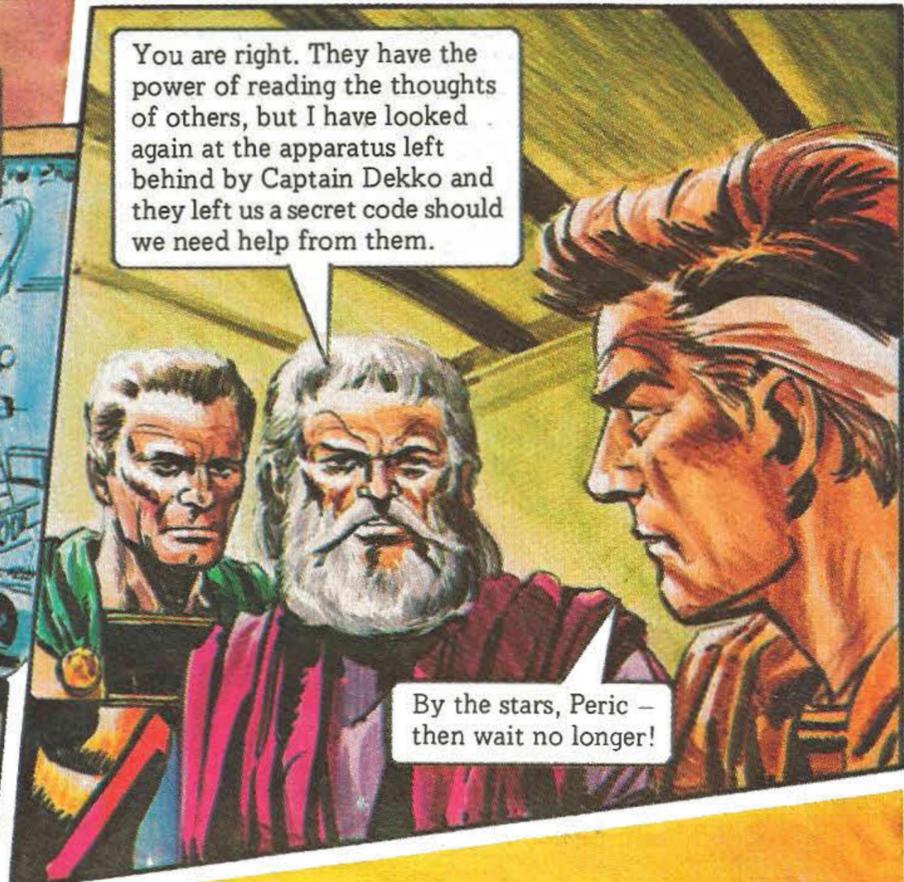


Our scientific team has devised a way of harnessing the light from the twin suns of Elekton and directing it towards Pactis!

But what message shall you send? We do not speak the strange language of the Pactians!

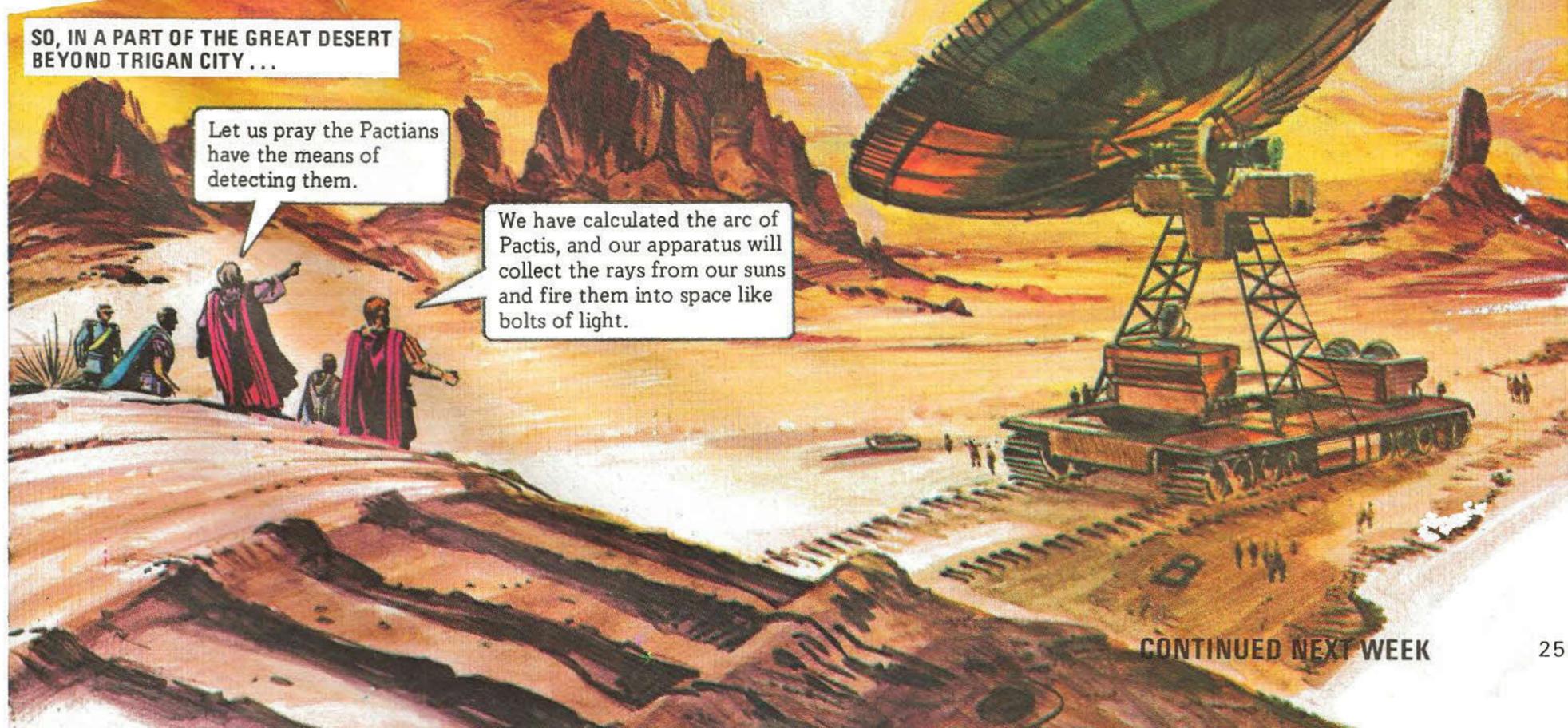
They speak only with their thoughts!

You are right. They have the power of reading the thoughts of others, but I have looked again at the apparatus left behind by Captain Dekko and they left us a secret code should we need help from them.



By the stars, Peric - then wait no longer!

SO, IN A PART OF THE GREAT DESERT BEYOND TRIGAN CITY...

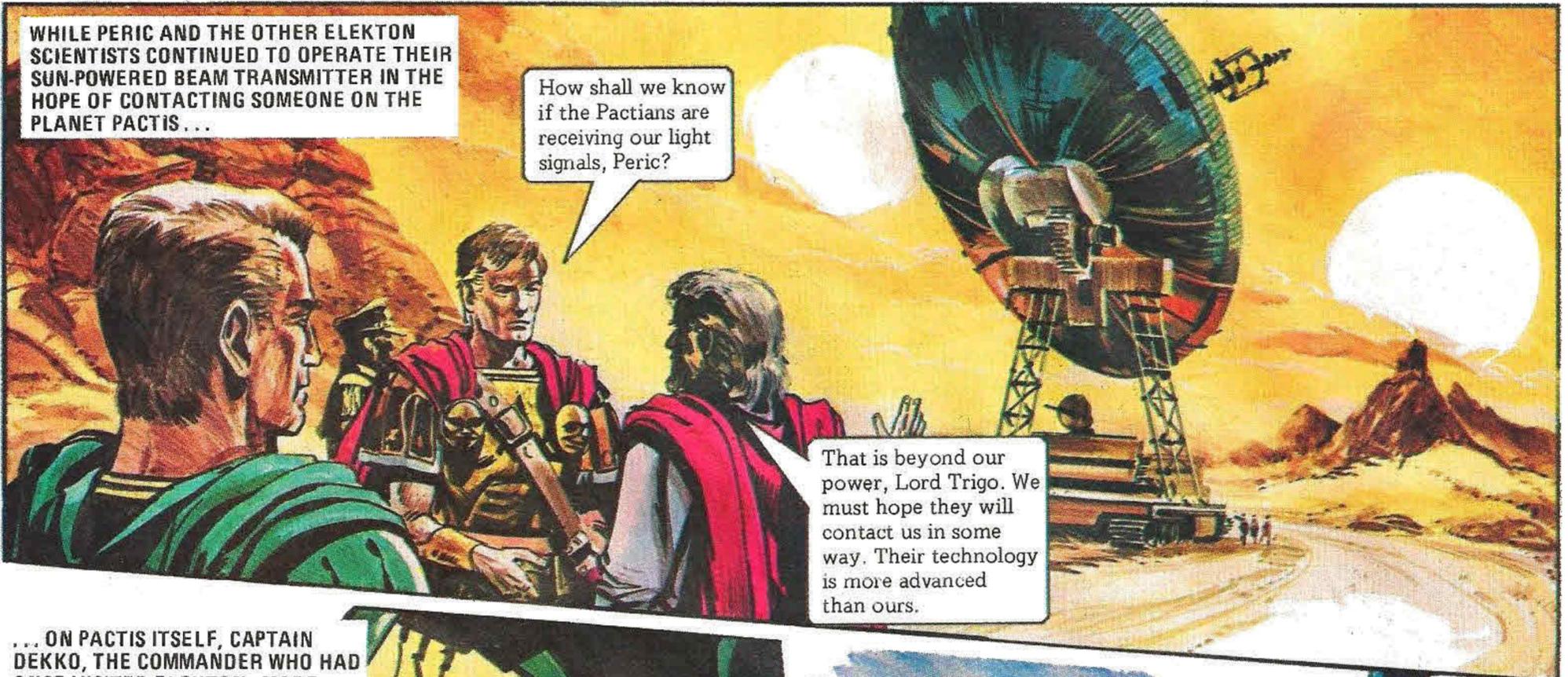


Let us pray the Pactians have the means of detecting them.

We have calculated the arc of Pactis, and our apparatus will collect the rays from our suns and fire them into space like bolts of light.

More Adventures Of The Trigan Empire

Janno, Fidelius and a group of Trigan recruits, their minds interfered with by the Skorpiads, are now on the planet Pactis, busily sabotaging the Pactians' power stations. Meanwhile, on Elekton, old Peric is trying to send a message to the Pactians warning them of their peril . . .



WHILE PERIC AND THE OTHER ELEKTON SCIENTISTS CONTINUED TO OPERATE THEIR SUN-POWERED BEAM TRANSMITTER IN THE HOPE OF CONTACTING SOMEONE ON THE PLANET PACTIS . . .

How shall we know if the Pactians are receiving our light signals, Peric?

That is beyond our power, Lord Trigo. We must hope they will contact us in some way. Their technology is more advanced than ours.

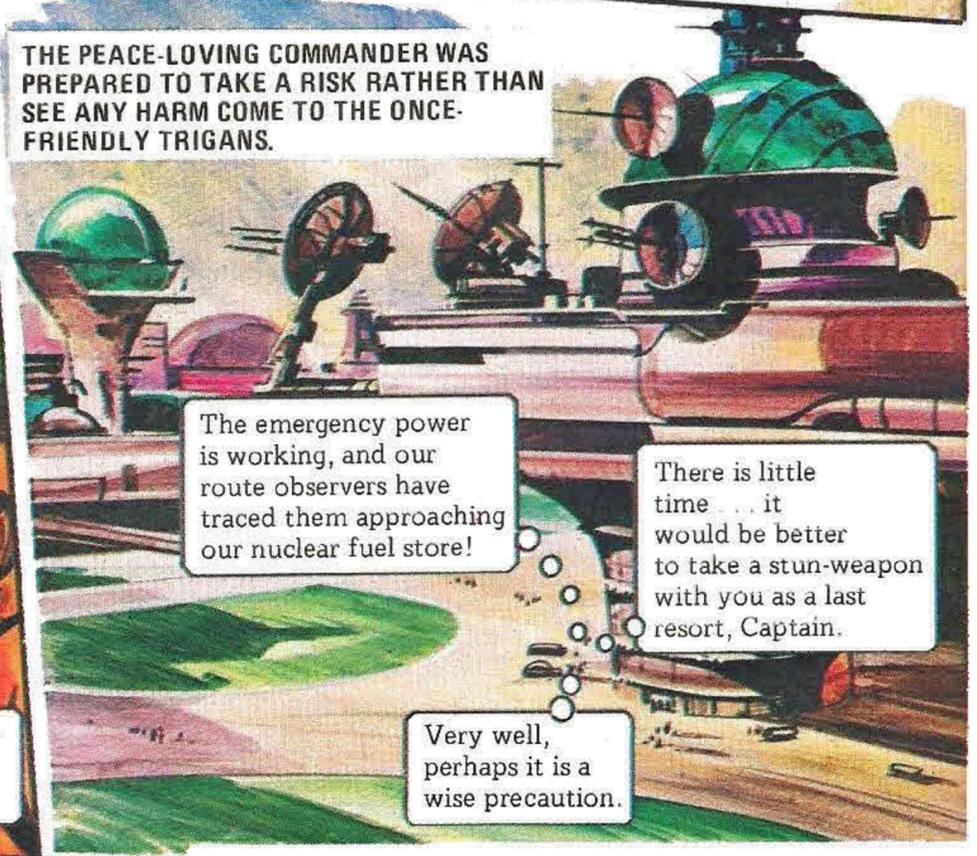


... ON PACTIS ITSELF, CAPTAIN DEKKO, THE COMMANDER WHO HAD ONCE VISITED ELEKTON, MADE A VITAL DECISION.

The Trigans have destroyed another of our cosmic generators, Captain Dekko . . . surely, Sir, we shall have to eliminate them!

. . . I shall try one more thing first. If I can approach near enough to them for thought-transference, I may understand more.

It will be dangerous they may attack on sight!



THE PEACE-LOVING COMMANDER WAS PREPARED TO TAKE A RISK RATHER THAN SEE ANY HARM COME TO THE ONCE-FRIENDLY TRIGANS.

The emergency power is working, and our route observers have traced them approaching our nuclear fuel store!

There is little time . . . it would be better to take a stun-weapon with you as a last resort, Captain.

Very well, perhaps it is a wise precaution.



JANNO, FIDELIUS AND THE YOUNG TRIGAN RECRUITS WERE ALREADY PLACING CHARGES CLOSE TO THE PACTIANS' NUCLEAR STORE WHEN CAPTAIN DEKKO REACHED THEM.

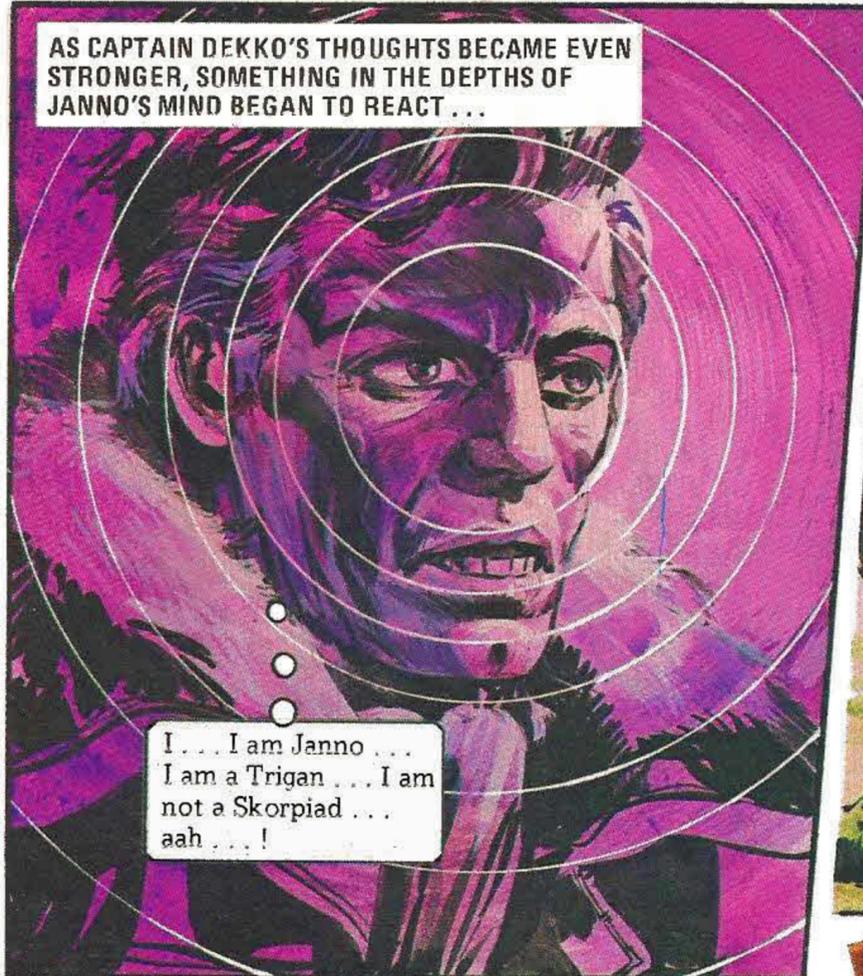
I will direct my thoughts at the one known to me as Janno, and see if he responds.

USING HIS NATURAL THOUGHT-TRANSFERENCE POWERS, HE CONCENTRATED THEM TOWARDS JANNO . . .

Janno . . . Janno . . . nephew of the Emperor Trigo . . .

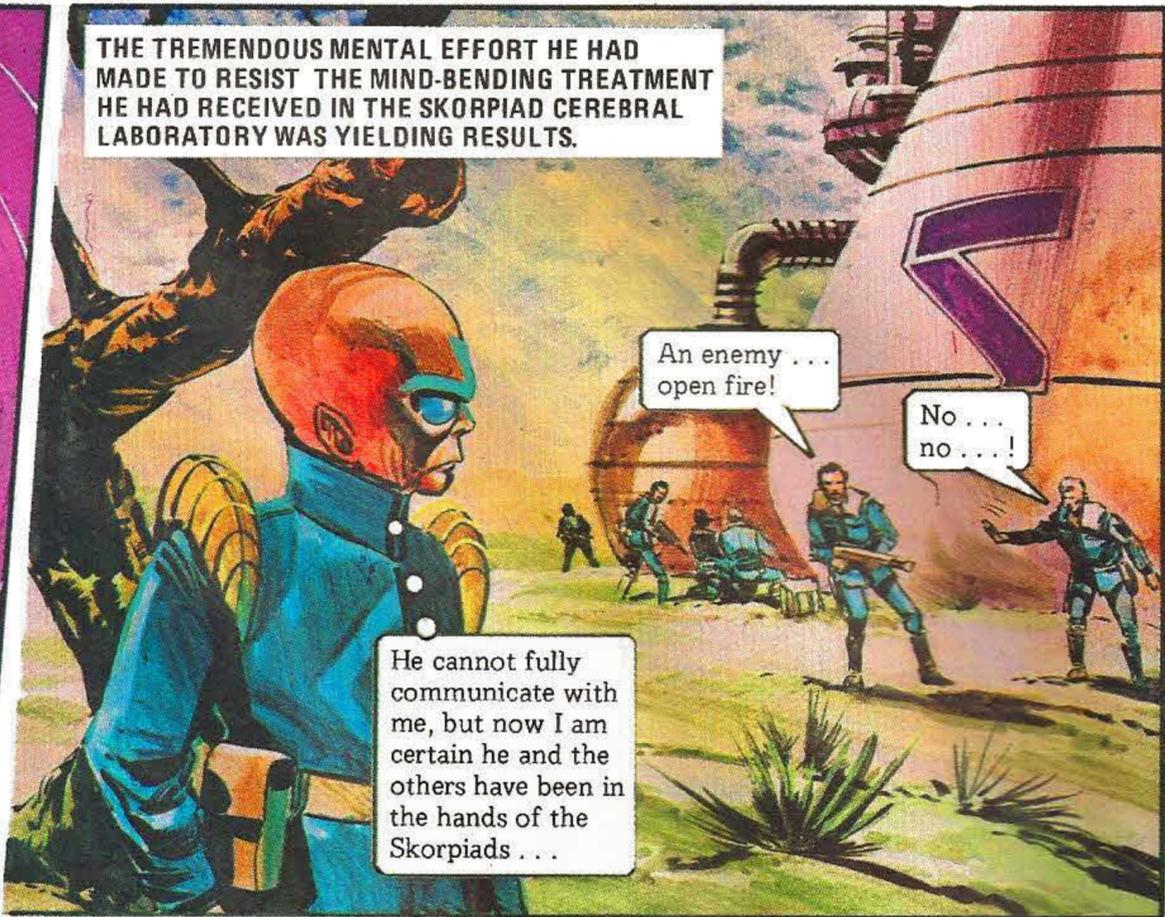
What . . . ?

AS CAPTAIN DEKKO'S THOUGHTS BECAME EVEN STRONGER, SOMETHING IN THE DEPTHS OF JANNO'S MIND BEGAN TO REACT...



I... I am Janno... I am a Trigan... I am not a Skorpiad... aah...!

THE TREMENDOUS MENTAL EFFORT HE HAD MADE TO RESIST THE MIND-BENDING TREATMENT HE HAD RECEIVED IN THE SKORPIAD CEREBRAL LABORATORY WAS YIELDING RESULTS.

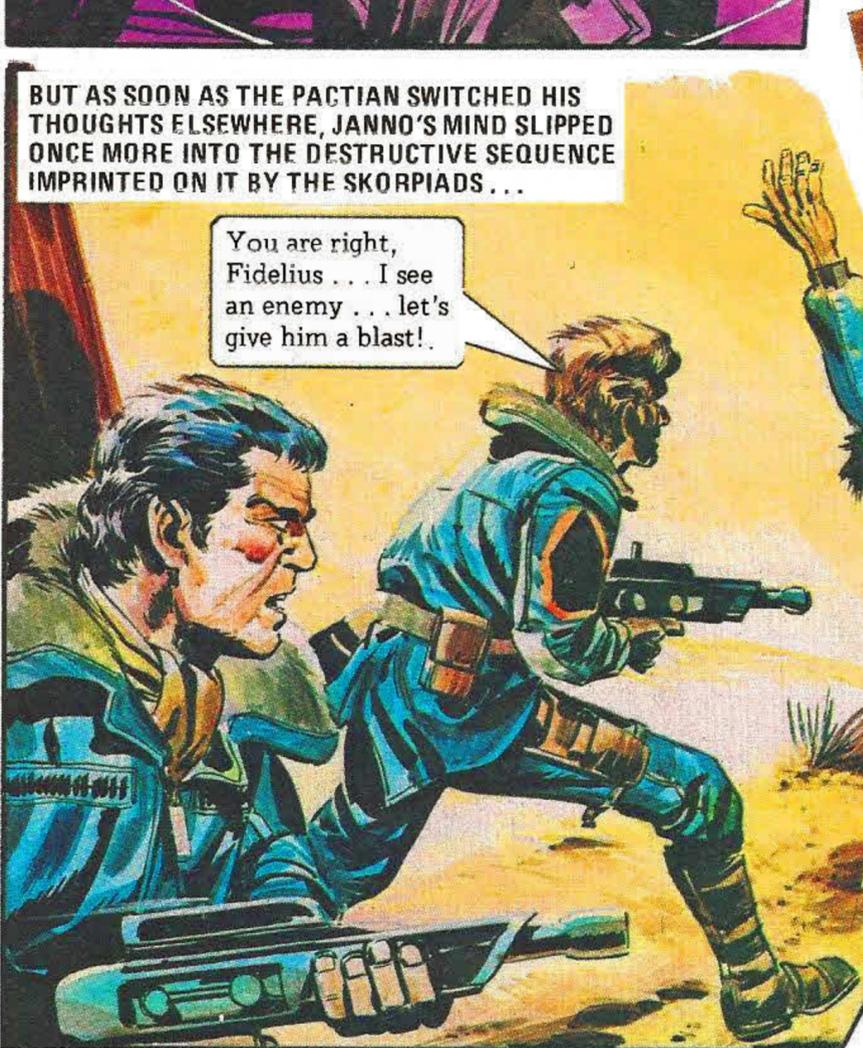


An enemy... open fire!

No... no...!

He cannot fully communicate with me, but now I am certain he and the others have been in the hands of the Skorpiads...

BUT AS SOON AS THE PACTIAN SWITCHED HIS THOUGHTS ELSEWHERE, JANNO'S MIND SLIPPED ONCE MORE INTO THE DESTRUCTIVE SEQUENCE IMPRINTED ON IT BY THE SKORPIADS...



You are right, Fidelius... I see an enemy... let's give him a blast!

AT THE SAME INSTANT, CAPTAIN DEKKO DISCHARGED HIS STUN-WEAPON, AND...



Aaagh!

Uuugh!

REALISING HE COULD NOT IMMOBILISE ALL THE TRIGANS SINGLE-HANDED, HE TRIED TO REGAIN THE HOVERSCOUT CAR, BUT



Concentrated fire!

More Adventures Of The Trigan Empire

Captain Dekko, the Pactian who was once saved by the Trigans, is now convinced that Janno, Fidelius and the Trigan recruits who are sabotaging his planet have had their minds interfered with by the Skorpiads. He makes thought-contact with Janno, but the Trigans attack him . . .



ALTHOUGH CAPTAIN DEKKO HAD USED HIS STUN-WEAPON SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST JANNO AND FIDELIUS, THE OTHER TRIGANS REACTED QUICKLY . . .

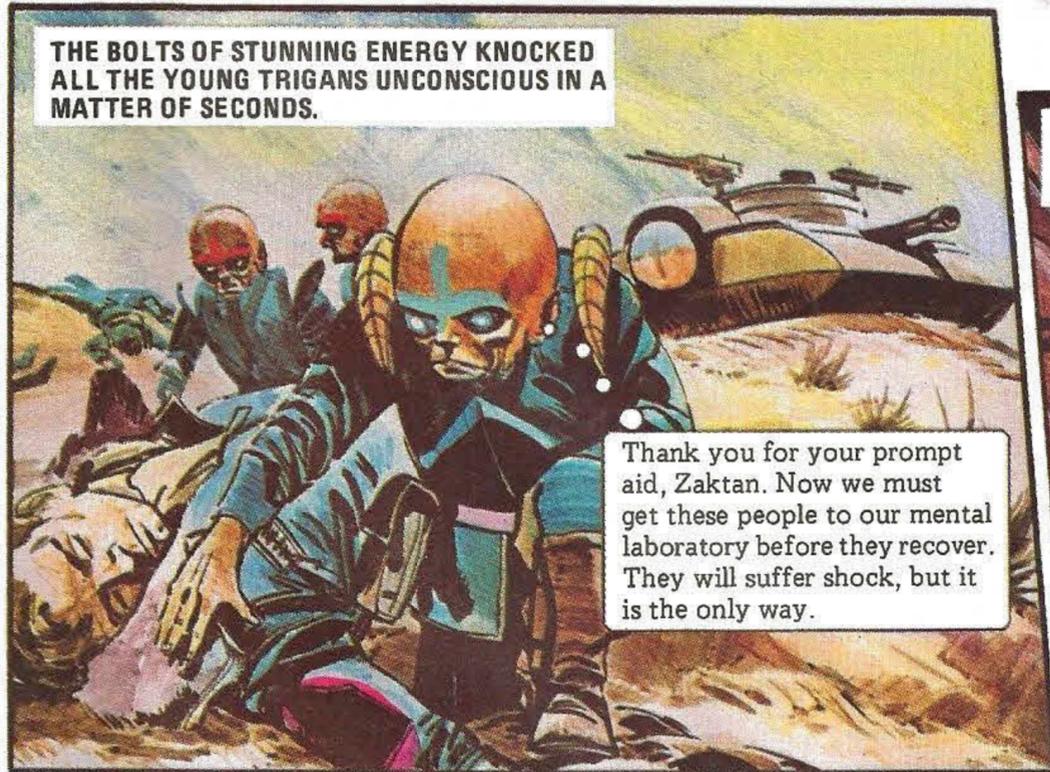
They are too many of them for me to tackle alone . . . I need help – and quickly!



THE HELP THE PACTIAN COMMANDER NEEDED WAS ALREADY CLOSE AT HAND. THE PERSONNEL AT THE OBSERVATION CENTRE HAD BEEN KEEPING WATCH WITH THEIR ELECTRONIC "EYES" . . .

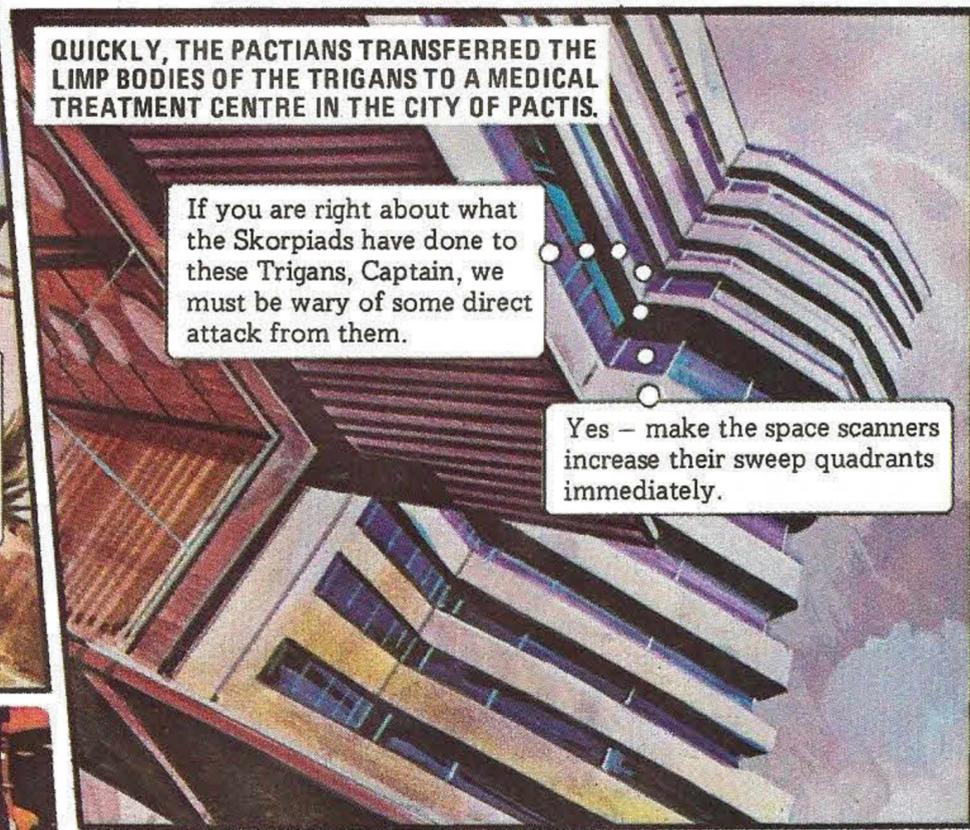
Aaagh!

Oouff!



THE BOLTS OF STUNNING ENERGY KNOCKED ALL THE YOUNG TRIGANS UNCONSCIOUS IN A MATTER OF SECONDS.

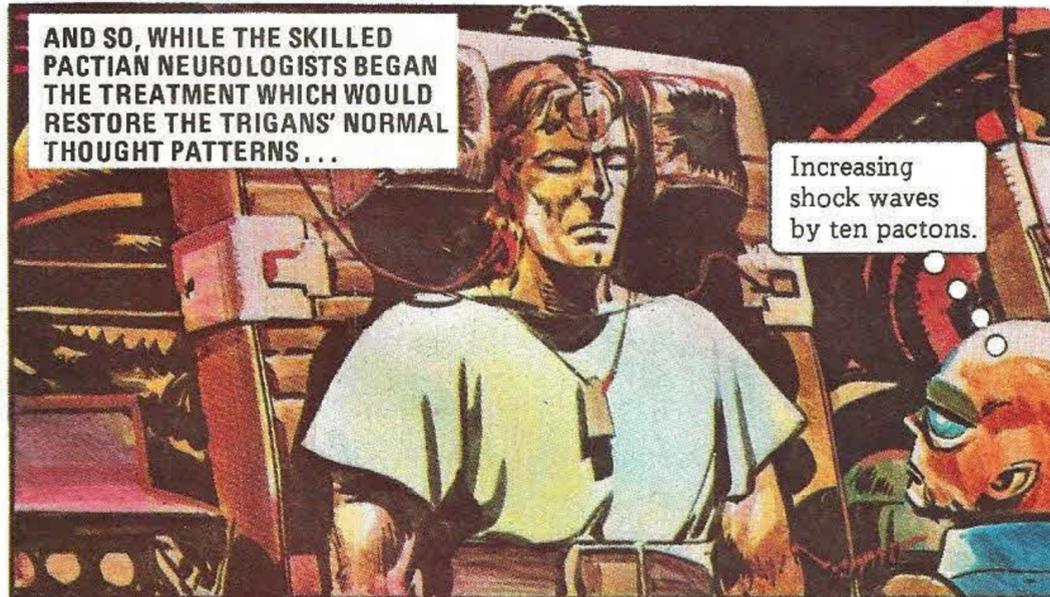
Thank you for your prompt aid, Zaktan. Now we must get these people to our mental laboratory before they recover. They will suffer shock, but it is the only way.



QUICKLY, THE PACTIANS TRANSFERRED THE LIMP BODIES OF THE TRIGANS TO A MEDICAL TREATMENT CENTRE IN THE CITY OF PACTIS.

If you are right about what the Skorpiads have done to these Trigans, Captain, we must be wary of some direct attack from them.

Yes – make the space scanners increase their sweep quadrants immediately.

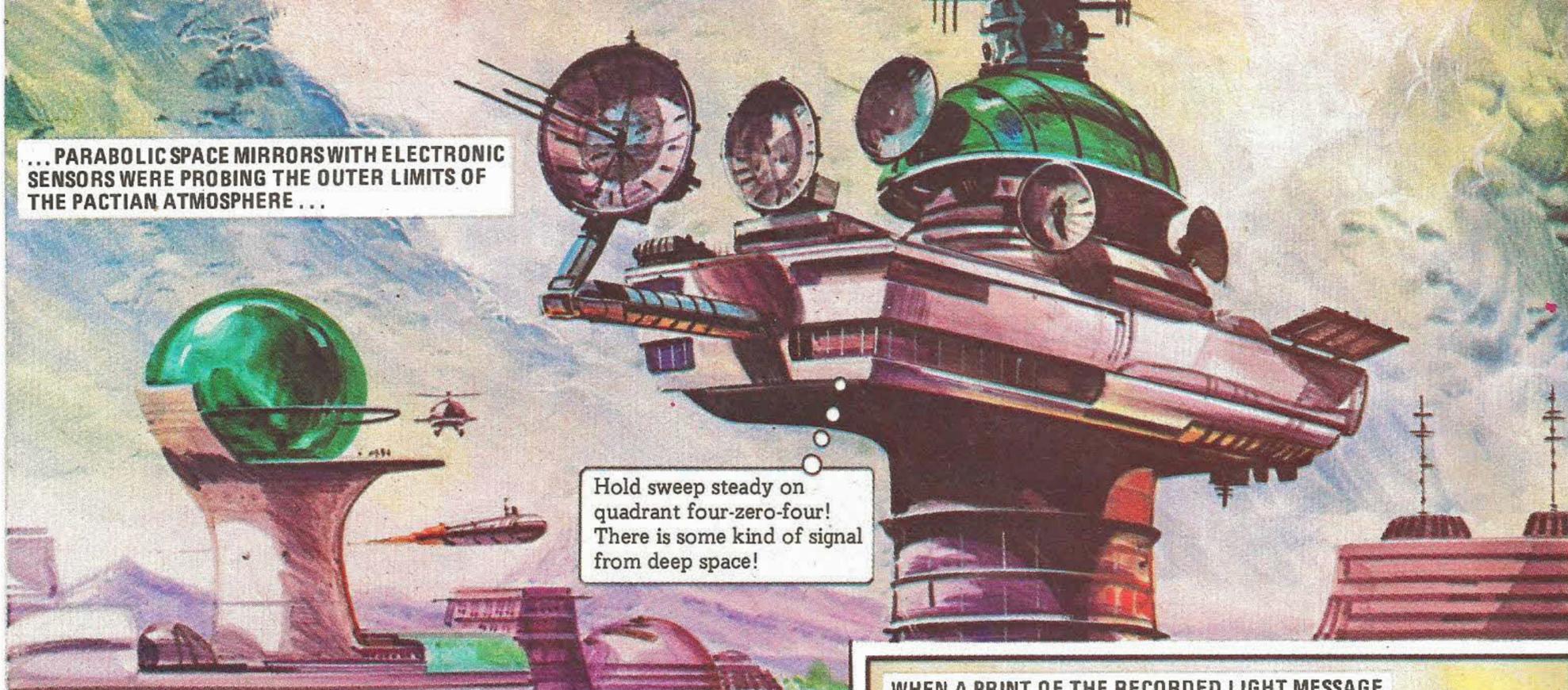


AND SO, WHILE THE SKILLED PACTIAN NEUROLOGISTS BEGAN THE TREATMENT WHICH WOULD RESTORE THE TRIGANS' NORMAL THOUGHT PATTERNS . . .

Increasing shock waves by ten pactions.

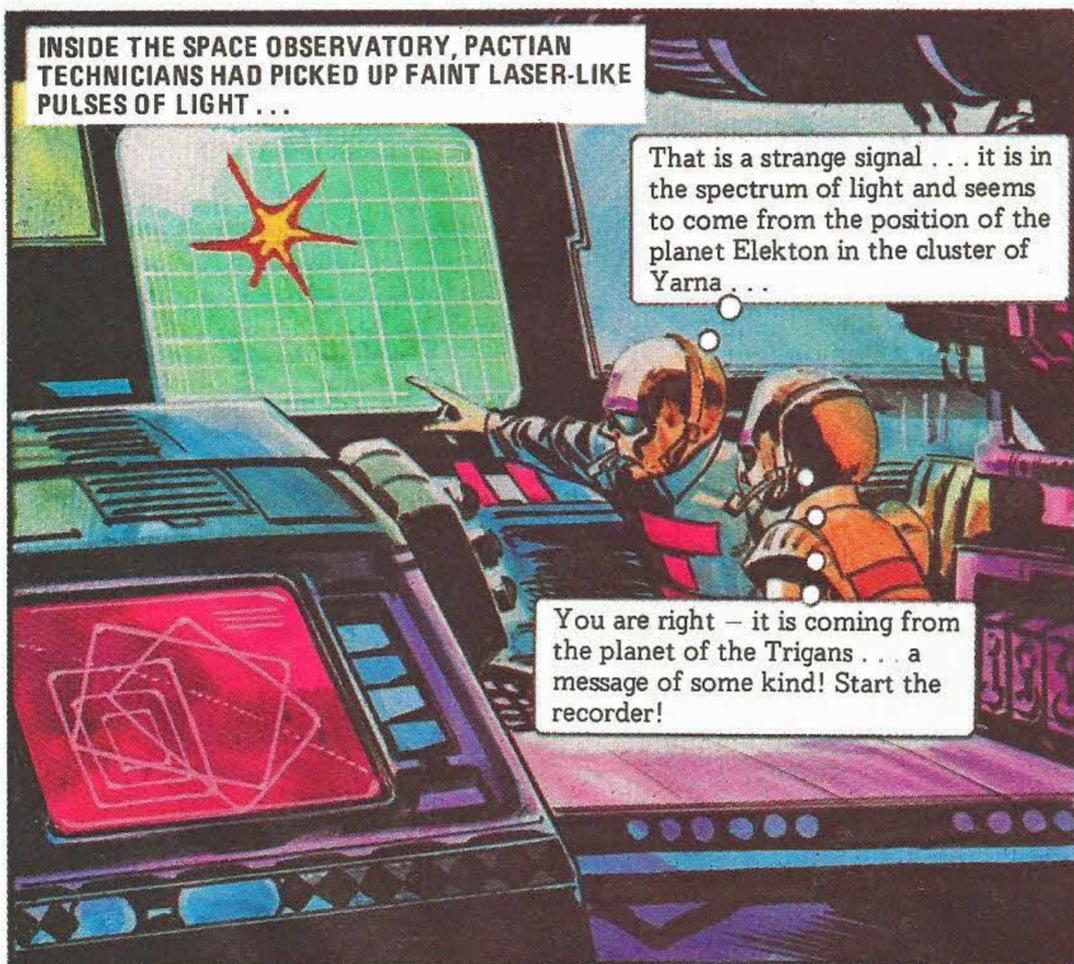
No adverse indications.

... PARABOLIC SPACE MIRRORS WITH ELECTRONIC SENSORS WERE PROBING THE OUTER LIMITS OF THE PACTIAN ATMOSPHERE ...



Hold sweep steady on quadrant four-zero-four! There is some kind of signal from deep space!

INSIDE THE SPACE OBSERVATORY, PACTIAN TECHNICIANS HAD PICKED UP FAINT LASER-LIKE PULSES OF LIGHT ...



That is a strange signal ... it is in the spectrum of light and seems to come from the position of the planet Elekton in the cluster of Yarna ...

You are right - it is coming from the planet of the Trigans ... a message of some kind! Start the recorder!

WHEN A PRINT OF THE RECORDED LIGHT MESSAGE WAS SHOWN TO CAPTAIN DEKKO, HE RECOGNISED ITS MEANING AT ONCE ...



This is the emergency signal I instructed the scientist, Peric, to use if the Skorpiads ever returned to Elekton!

This makes everything clear, Captain ... The Trigans were being used ... We must be extra vigilant!

AT THE SPACE OBSERVATORY THE GIANT EYES OF THE MIRROR AERIALS CONTINUED THEIR ARCS ACROSS THE HEAVENS, AND THEN, SUDDENLY, AN ALARM BELL SOUNDED ...



Alien ship entering an orbit over northern pole ...!

IT WAS A SKORPIAD SPACE CRUISER!



More Adventures Of The Trigan Empire

Janno, Fidelius and the recruits are recovering as their minds return to normal in the Pactian hospital. Meanwhile, a Skorpiad space-cruiser has been spotted in orbit around Pactis . . .

AS THE SKORPIAD SPACE VESSEL SETTLED INTO ITS ORBIT OVER PACTIS, THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY OF THE PACTIANS WAS BROUGHT INTO ACTION . . .

... AN AUTOMATIC SPACE PATROL PROBE BEGAN SCANNING THE INTRUDER . . .

DOWN ON THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET, CAPTAIN DEKKO AND HIS OBSERVERS BEGAN CHECKING THE STREAM OF INFORMATION IT SENT BACK.

... Our probe sensors show no trace of life, Zaktan.

No . . . it can only be an unmanned vessel, but it is certainly a Skorpiad. Shall we destroy it?

Not yet . . . Keep it under surveillance. I have a plan forming in my mind, but I must first communicate with the Trigans . . . if the doctors have finished their treatment.

IN THE PACTIAN MEDICAL CENTRE JANNO AND THE OTHERS WERE FEELING MUCH MORE LIKE THEIR NORMAL, CHEERFUL SELVES . . .

With these you will be able to hear Pactian speech.

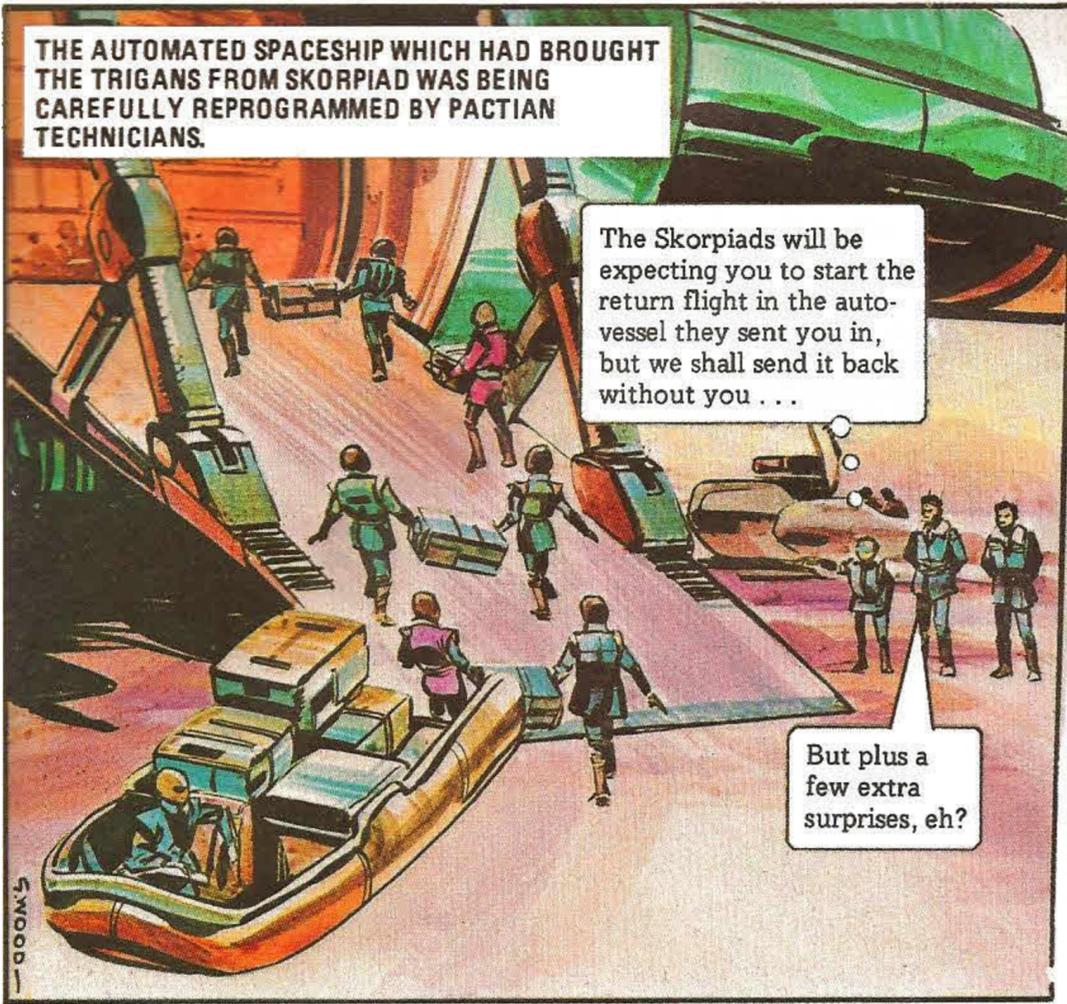
Yes . . . I remember — and you are Captain Dekko. I have much to tell you.

It is good to see you well again.

AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, CAPTAIN DEKKO OUTLINED HIS PLANS TO JANNO AND FIDELIUS.

It was as I thought, Janno. Only a people as evil as the Skorpiads could have tried to take such a revenge . . . but we shall get the better of them. Then we shall return you to Elekton.

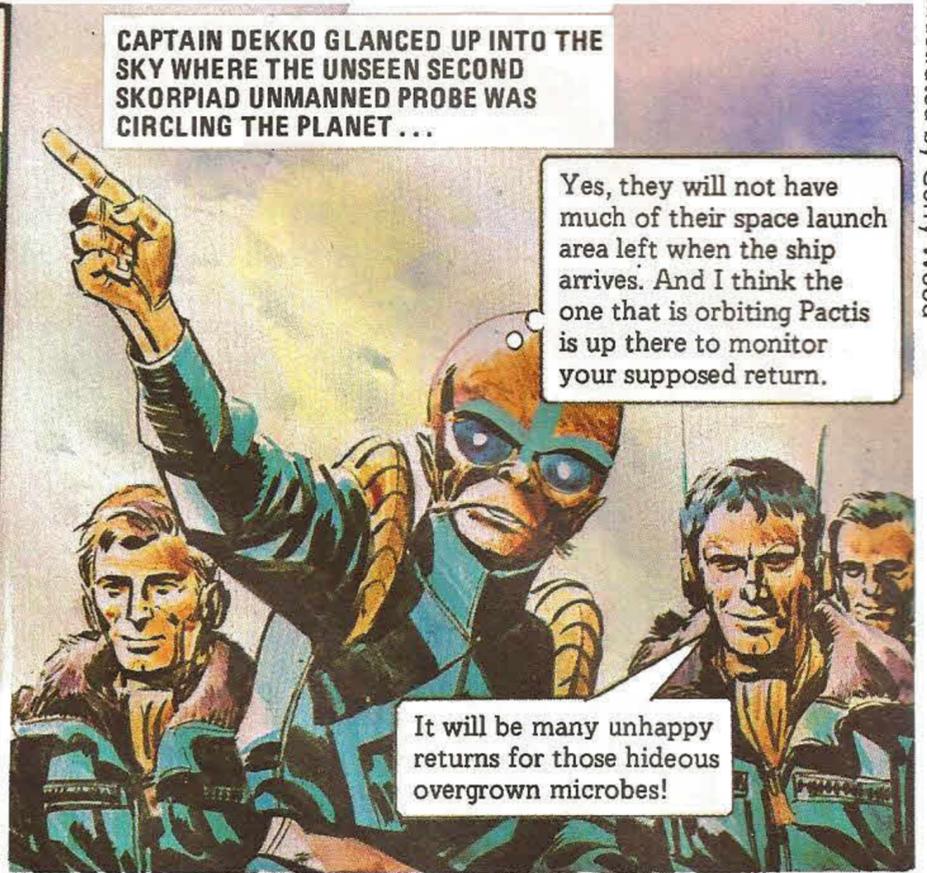
That would please all of us greatly.



THE AUTOMATED SPACESHIP WHICH HAD BROUGHT THE TRIGANS FROM SKORPIAD WAS BEING CAREFULLY REPROGRAMMED BY PACTIAN TECHNICIANS.

The Skorpiads will be expecting you to start the return flight in the auto-vessel they sent you in, but we shall send it back without you . . .

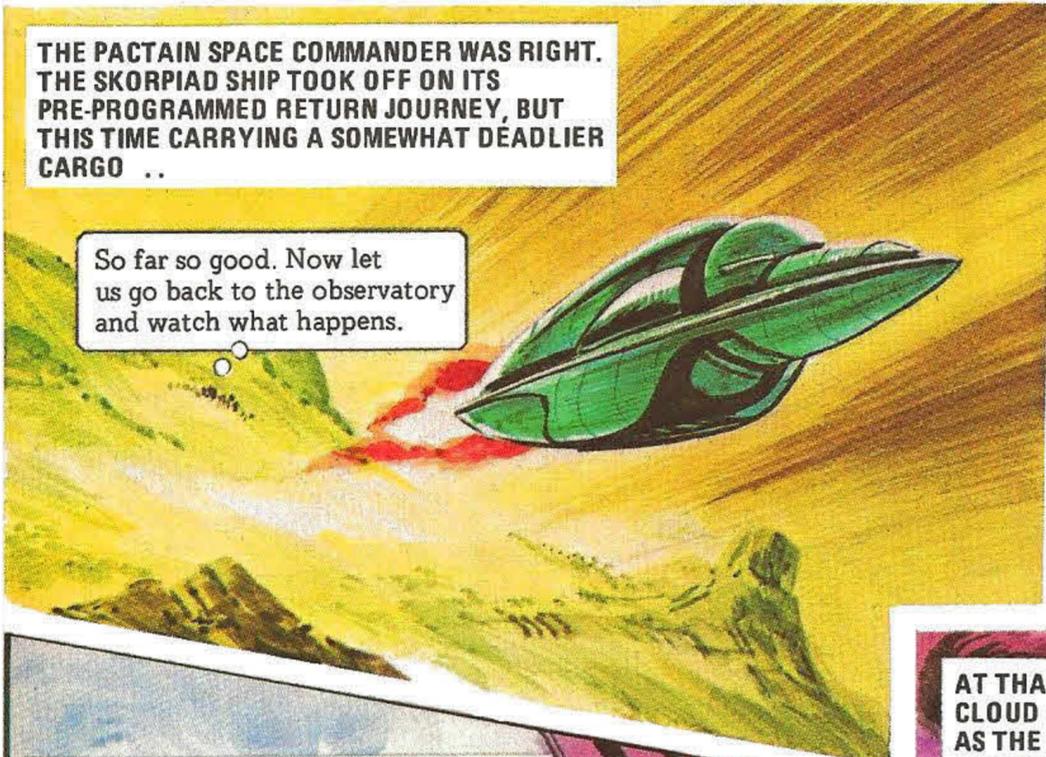
But plus a few extra surprises, eh?



CAPTAIN DEKKO GLANCED UP INTO THE SKY WHERE THE UNSEEN SECOND SKORPIAD UNMANNED PROBE WAS CIRCLING THE PLANET . . .

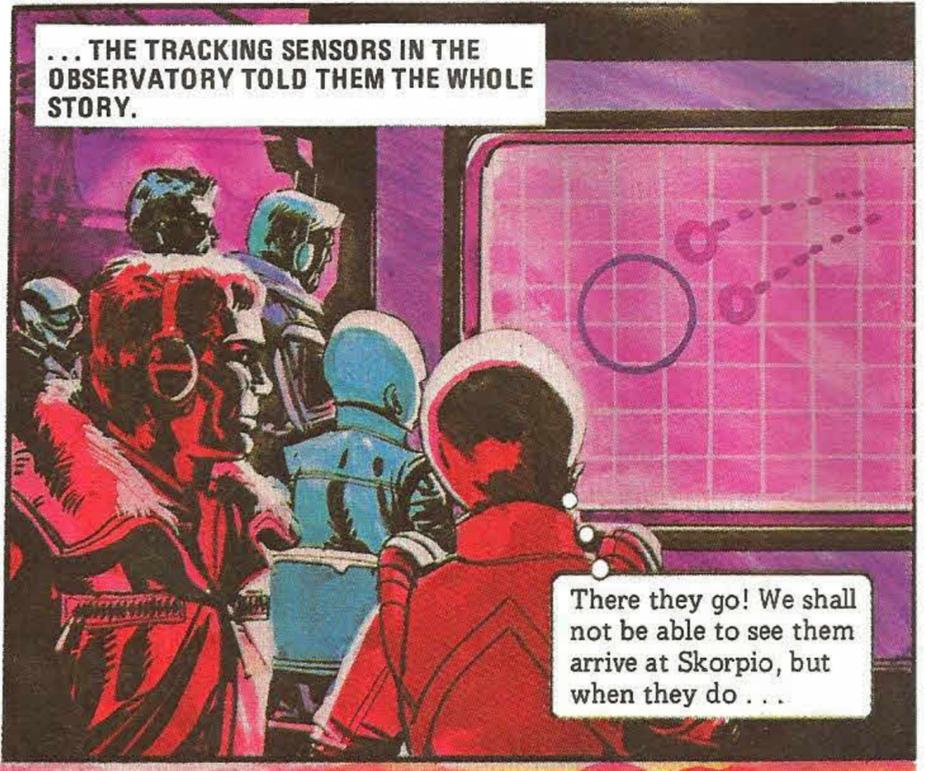
Yes, they will not have much of their space launch area left when the ship arrives. And I think the one that is orbiting Pactis is up there to monitor your supposed return.

It will be many unhappy returns for those hideous overgrown microbes!



THE PACTAIN SPACE COMMANDER WAS RIGHT. THE SKORPIAD SHIP TOOK OFF ON ITS PRE-PROGRAMMED RETURN JOURNEY, BUT THIS TIME CARRYING A SOMEWHAT DEADLIER CARGO . .

So far so good. Now let us go back to the observatory and watch what happens.



... THE TRACKING SENSORS IN THE OBSERVATORY TOLD THEM THE WHOLE STORY.

There they go! We shall not be able to see them arrive at Skorpio, but when they do . . .



IN FACT, THE RETURNING SPACECRAFT ARRIVED AT THE SKORPIAD SPACEDROME JUST AS JANNO AND HIS COMPANIONS WERE DELIVERED TO THE TRIGAN AIR FORCE BASE ON ELEKTON.

We have much to tell you, Uncle.

The stars be praised you are all safe.



AT THAT EXACT INSTANT, A VAST MUSHROOM CLOUD ROSE OVER THE SKORPIAD SPACE DROME AS THE RETURNED AUTO-VESSEL DISINTEGRATED IN A GIANT BALL OF HEAT . . .

... AND THE EVIL SKORPIADS LEARNED THAT REVENGE CAN SOMETIMES BE MUCH MORE PAINFUL TO THOSE WHO SEEK IT . . .