

DELL
A DELL COMIC
NO. 378
10¢

TOM CORBETT

SPACE CADET



SPACE ACADEMY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PLANETS!



Located in the United States of America, a member nation of the Commonwealth of Earth, this is the most exciting school of the world of the future. On Earth, on Mars, on Venus—there was no prouder title than that of Space Academy Cadet!

Applicants to Space Academy came from every corner of the Earth, from the deserts of Mars, from the jungles of Venus, from the far-flung colonies in space.

But before a boy could be admitted to Space Academy, he had to pass some of the hardest tests ever invented: in character and intelligence, in knowledge of all the sciences and history, in physical stamina to withstand the rigors of space travel!

Only the finest are chosen to become Space Cadets . . .
and begin the intensive training for future duty as Solar Guards!

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TOM CORBETT SPACE CADET

IN THE YEAR 2351, COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT AND CAPTAIN STRONG STAND ON THE OBSERVATION PLATFORM OF THE SPACE ACADEMY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AS A ROCKET CRUISER JETS EARTHWARDS...

THERE'S THE X-70, RIGHT ON SCHEDULE, STRONG!

I WISH I WAS GUIDING IT IN AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED! BUT I GUESS LIEUTENANT THOMAS IS GETTING AS MUCH KICK OUT OF RIDING THE NEW GROUP OF CADETS IN AS I WOULD HAVE!



THOMAS IS COMING IN FAST... HE'D BETTER TURN TAIL OR HE WILL---

SPACEPORT CONTROL CALLING COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT! PLEASE REPORT AT ONCE, SIR! EMERGENCY!



THE X-70 IS OUT OF CONTROL! LIEUTENANT THOMAS CAN'T SEEM TO HANDLE IT!

WHAT'S WRONG?



THOMAS, SWING UP! SWING UP OR YOU'LL CRASH IN!

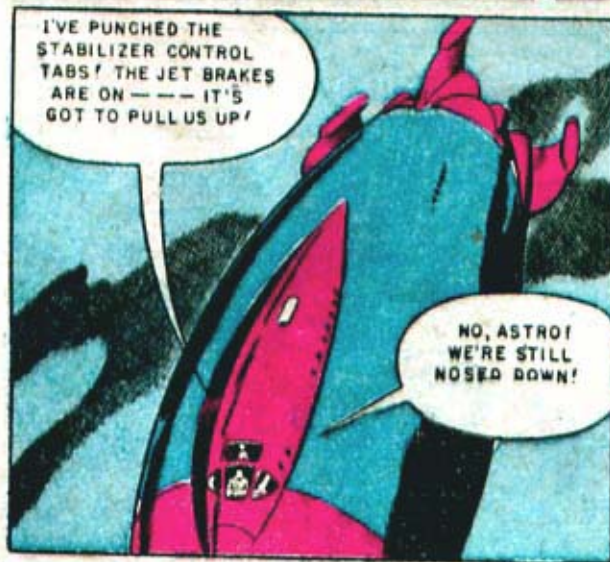
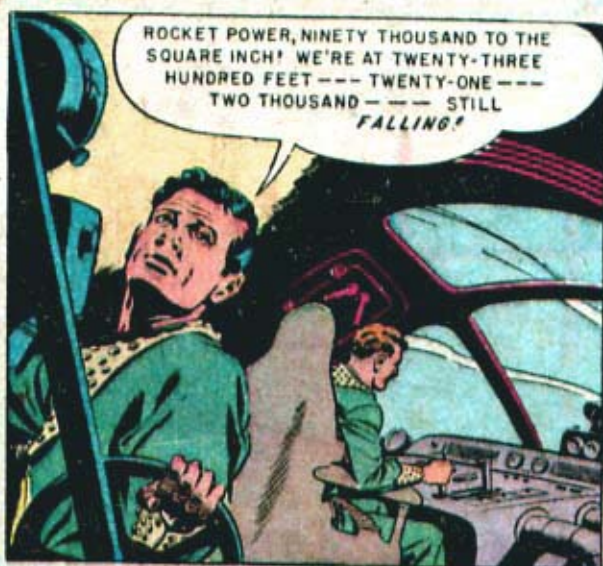
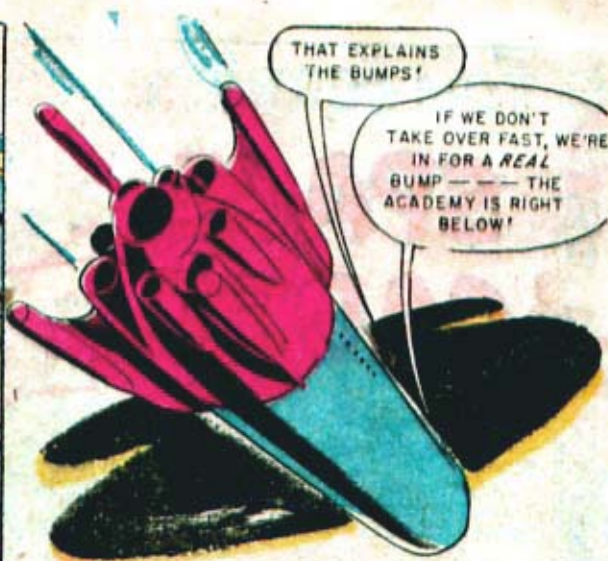
CAN'T---WEAK---NO WILL---NO STRENGTH---CAN'T HOLD ON---

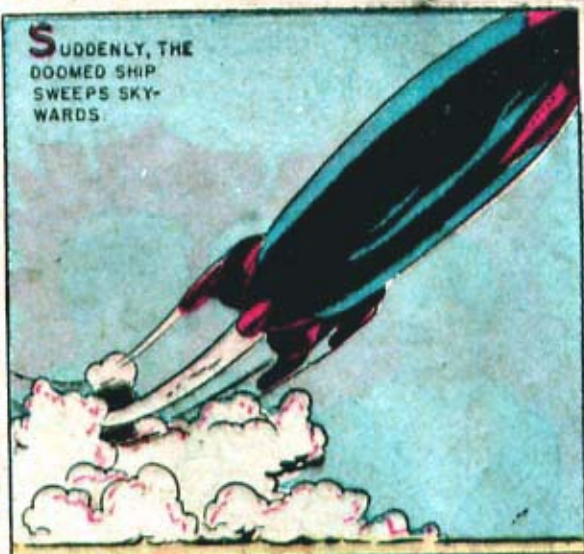


THOMAS RELEASED THE MANUAL CONTROLS AND IT'S TOO LATE FOR HIM TO SWITCH ON THE ROBOT CONTROL!

CALL THE CRASH CREW! FIFTY CADETS ARE GOING TO SPLASH IN AND WE CAN'T DO A THING TO SAVE THEM!







BY THE CRATERS OF LUNA, TOM, I DIDN'T COME ALL THE WAY FROM VENUS TO BE BURIED ON EARTH!



YOU TALKED
US IN! YOU MEAN
YOU JUST TALKED!

I WOULDN'T
WANT TO TAKE
FULL CREDIT,
SIR---

--- WHY
ANY CREDIT,
MANNING?

JUST A MINUTE! WE DON'T
TOLERATE FIGHTING AT THE
ACADEMY! WE EXPECT OUR
CADETS TO BE TRUTHFUL!
IF MANNING SAYS HE
SUPERVISED THE LANDING,
WELL DONE, CADET! NOW
MARCH THE GROUP OFF
TO THE ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING!

AYE,
AYE,
SIR!

AS THE CADETS MARCH OFF...

HE'S DEAD, STRONG! I CAN'T
UNDERSTAND IT! THOMAS
WAS IN THE PRIME OF
LIFE AND ABSOLUTELY
FIT!

IT'S HARD TO
BELIEVE,
COMMANDER!
WE'LL HAVE TO
WAIT FOR THE
TEST LAB'S
REPORT TO LEARN
THE CAUSE!

JOAN, THERE'S
NOTHING WE
CAN DO HERE
NOW, LET'S
GO BACK!

DOCTOR
DALE!

I-I HEARD THE
NEWS! THANK
HEAVENS THE
CADETS LANDED
SAFELY! STEVE,
I KEEP THINKING
IT MIGHT HAVE
BEEN YOU!

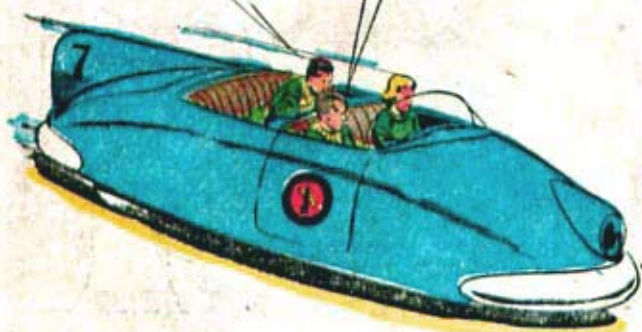
I ONLY WISH I
HAD FLOWN THE
CRUISER AS
SCHEDULED, THEN
THIS MIGHT NOT
HAVE HAPPENED!

YOU WERE ASSIGNED MORE IMPORTANT
WORK, STRONG, CHECKING EQUIPMENT
FOR YOUR EXPLORATION OF SATURN'S
SATELLITE, TITAN! NO ONE COULD
HAVE FORESEEN THE UNFORTUNATE
ACCIDENT--- AND THAT'S JUST
WHAT IT WAS!

SOON AFTER, IN COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT'S
OFFICE...

SIR, TEST LAB REPORTS LIEUTENANT
THOMAS DIED FROM OVER-EXPOSURE
TO RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL! THE
LETHAL SOURCE HAS BEEN LOCATED---
IT'S AN ALIEN ELEMENT OF THE
URANIUM GROUP AND WAS
RUBBED OVER HIS SHIP'S
CONTROLS!

WHAT!---
SABOTAGE!





THEN THE CADETS WHO BROUGHT THE SHIP IN WERE EXPOSED, TOO!

STRONG, CONTACT THEM AT ONCE! HAVE THEM REPORT FOR AN IMMEDIATE RADIATION COUNT! THEN WE'LL TRY TO TRACK DOWN THE SABOTEUR!



MEANWHILE, AT THE DORMITORY.

HERE'S OUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME, ASTRO!

THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! LOOK AT THIS CLOSET--- THE THREE CADETS ASSIGNED THIS ROOM MUST BE HERE ALREADY!



WE CAN PUSH THE UNIFORMS OVER TO ONE SIDE AND MAKE A LITTLE ROOM FOR OUR---

DON'T TOUCH THOSE OUTFITS, JUNIOR! YOU MIGHT RUIN THE CREASES!

MANNING!



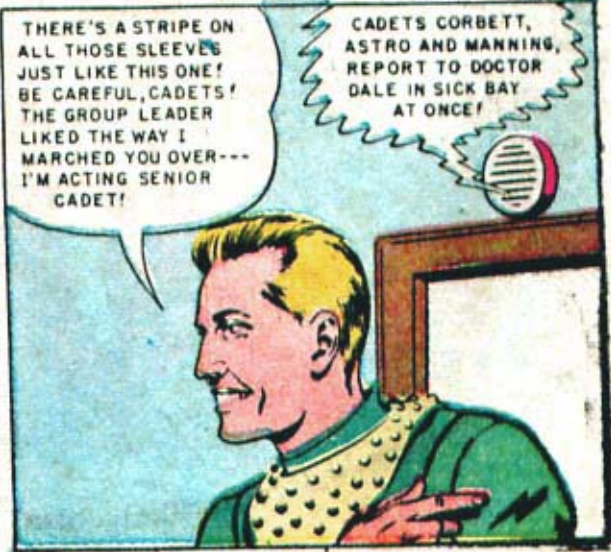
WELL, ISN'T THIS COZY! BUT IF THEY'VE BUNKED US TOGETHER, WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE PEACE!

AND A GOOD OPENING GESTURE WILL BE FOR MANNING TO CLEAR OUT OUR TWO-THIRDS OF THE CLOSET!



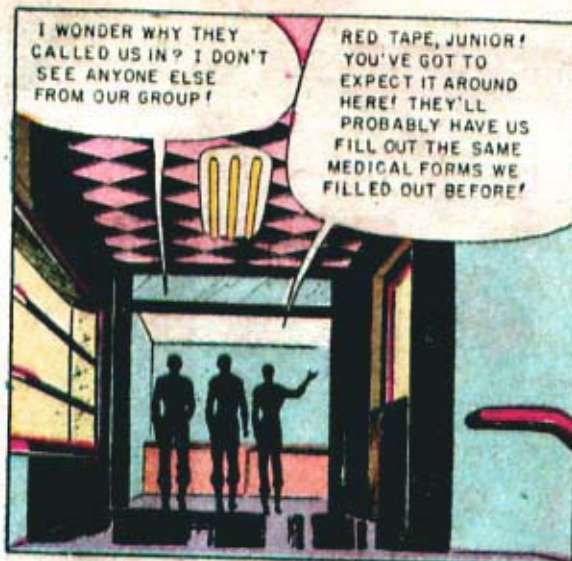
WHY HANG UP YOUR SUITS? YOU'LL FLUNK OUT OF THE ACADEMY BEFORE YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO WEAR THEM!

BY THE RINGS OF SATURN, IF YOU WON'T MAKE ROOM FOR US, I WILL!



THERE'S A STRIPE ON ALL THOSE SLEEVES JUST LIKE THIS ONE! BE CAREFUL, CADETS! THE GROUP LEADER LIKED THE WAY I MARCHED YOU OVER--- I'M ACTING SENIOR CADET!

CADETS CORBETT, ASTRO AND MANNING, REPORT TO DOCTOR DALE IN SICK BAY AT ONCE!

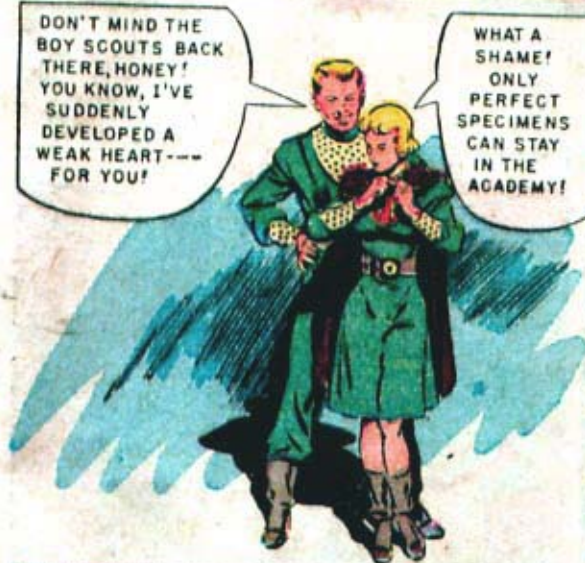


I WONDER WHY THEY CALLED US IN? I DON'T SEE ANYONE ELSE FROM OUR GROUP!

RED TAPE, JUNIOR! YOU'VE GOT TO EXPECT IT AROUND HERE! THEY'LL PROBABLY HAVE US FILL OUT THE SAME MEDICAL FORMS WE FILLED OUT BEFORE!

SPEAKING OF FORMS, ARE YOU THE NURSE? WHY DON'T WE BLOW UP SOME METEOR DUST TOGETHER SOME NIGHT, AND I'LL GIVE YOU MY CASE HISTORY!

LUCKY WE'RE IN SICK BAY, SHE MAY BE ABLE TO FIND RELIEF HERE FOR THAT PAIN!

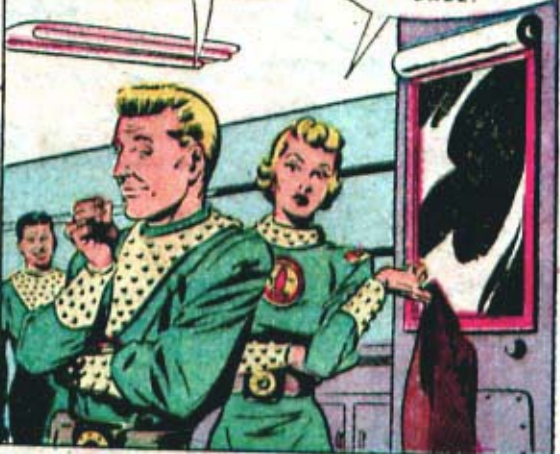


DON'T MIND THE BOY SCOUTS BACK THERE, HONEY! YOU KNOW, I'VE SUDDENLY DEVELOPED A WEAK HEART--- FOR YOU!

WHAT A SHAME! ONLY PERFECT SPECIMENS CAN STAY IN THE ACADEMY!

HONEY, ASK DOCTOR DALE IF THERE'S A MORE PERFECT SPECIMEN AROUND HERE!

I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU, CADET--- I AM DOCTOR DALE!



(ULP)---I--I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING--- SIR---ER--MA'AM--- MISS!

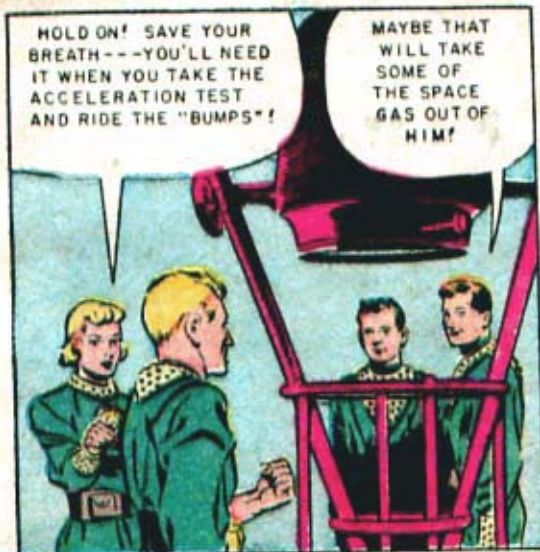
THE THREE OF YOU REPORTED HANDLING THE CRUISER'S CONTROLS! THEY WERE RUBBED WITH A RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL THAT CAUSED LIEUTENANT THOMAS'S DEATH! WE WANT TO TAKE A RADIATION COUNT ON YOU IMMEDIATELY!



CADETS CORBETT AND ASTRO SHOW A FEW ROENTGENS OF EXPOSURE --- NOTHING DANGEROUS! BUT, MANNING, YOU DON'T SHOW SIGNS OF ANY EXPOSURE! YOU WERE IN THE CONTROL ROOM?

YES, BUT HE ONLY TALKED US IN! CHECK HIS TONGUE FOR RADIATION! I'LL BET IT'S PRETTY HOT!

WHY, YOU SPACELUG!



HOLD ON! SAVE YOUR BREATH---YOU'LL NEED IT WHEN YOU TAKE THE ACCELERATION TEST AND RIDE THE "BUMPS"!

MAYBE THAT WILL TAKE SOME OF THE SPACE GAS OUT OF HIM!



LATER, IN COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT'S OFFICE...

THE CADETS' RADIATION COUNT IS NEGATIVE! THE SCANNER UNITS ARE OUT SEARCHING NOW--- WE SHOULD LOCATE THE SABOTEUR SOON! MEANWHILE, I'LL NEED YOUR HELP! WE'RE CONTINUING THE TRAINING SCHEDULE!

BUT I HAVE A PATROL SHIP READY FOR MY FLIGHT TO TITAN!



STRONG, YOU'LL PIONEER THE EXPLORATION OF TITAN, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS BEEN ABLE TO LAND ON THAT MOON DESPITE ITS STRANGE ATMOSPHERE! BUT RIGHT NOW, OUR JOB IS TO SHOW THAT SPY HE HASN'T STOPPED THE ACADEMY'S WORK! WE'RE STILL TRAINING THE CADETS!

VERY WELL, SIR! I'LL TAKE OVER THOMAS'S CLASS IN THE "BUMPS"!



AT THE "BUMPS" TEST SITE...

TOM, I'M BEGINNING TO WISH WE HADN'T COME OUT SO EARLY! THE LESS TIME I HAVE TO SEE THE ROLLER COASTER RIDE THEY'VE PLANNED FOR US, THE BETTER!

ASTRO! THERE'S SOMEONE BY THE TEST CAR--- AND HE *WASN'T* WEARING THE ACADEMY UNIFORM!



BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! SINCE THE ALERT'S BEEN ON, ALL VISITORS HAVE BEEN CLEARED FROM THE GROUNDS AND THE SCANNER PATROLS ARE CHECKING FOR THE SABOTEUR!

WHOEVER HE WAS, HE DUCKED BEHIND THE CAR! QUICK!



NO ONE'S HERE! YOU WERE JUST IMAGINING THINGS, TOM!

NO, ASTRO! I'M POSITIVE I SAW SOMEONE!

AT EASE, CADETS! I SEE YOU TWO ARRIVED BEFORE THE OTHERS! WE DON'T USUALLY FIND CADETS PUSHING TO BE FIRST IN THE CAR, IT FALLS AT TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILES PER HOUR--- THE PRESSURE BEGINS AT THREE TIMES YOUR WEIGHT, OR THREE G'S! WE GO UP TO SEVEN!

I'VE TAKEN SIX, SIR, BUT I'M GLAD I DIDN'T EAT MUCH LUNCH!

I'LL TAKE IT DOWN ON A TRIAL RUN!

WAIT, SIR! I'M CERTAIN I SAW SOMEONE TINKERING WITH THE CAR BEFORE! I KNOW IT SOUNDS FOOLISH, BUT WITH A SABOTEUR KNOWN TO BE LOOSE---



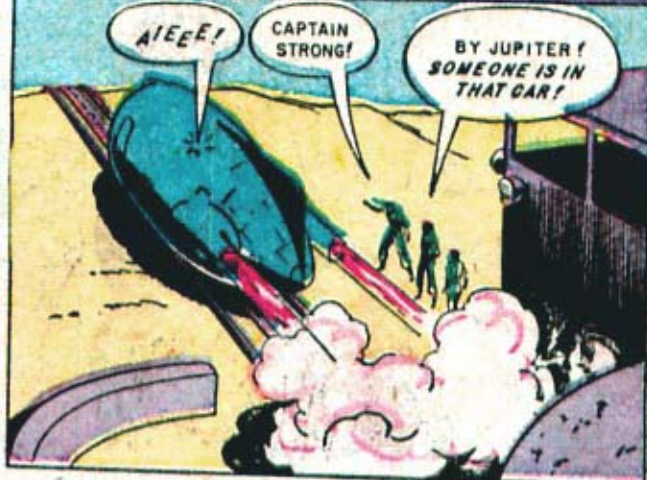
--- ALL RIGHT, CORBETT! YOU SHOULD TRY OUT FOR THE ACADEMY MAGAZINE, YOU HAVE A GOOD IMAGINATION! I'LL THROW ON THE ROBOT CONTROLS AND GIVE THE CAR A TEST RUN TO PROVE EVERYTHING IS SHIPSHAPE! *STAND CLEAR OF THE JETS!*

AS THE LEVER IS THROWN FORWARD, THE STERN JETS BLAST INTO LIFE, AND THE CAR MOVES FORWARD

AIEE!

CAPTAIN STRONG!

BY JUPITER! SOMEONE IS IN THAT CAR!

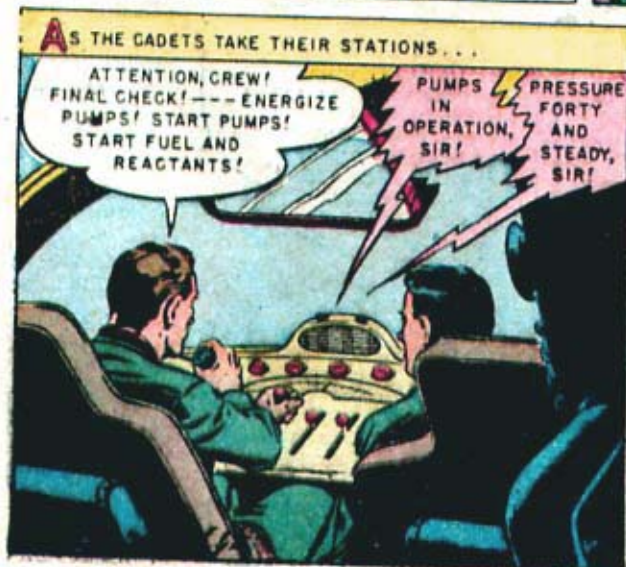
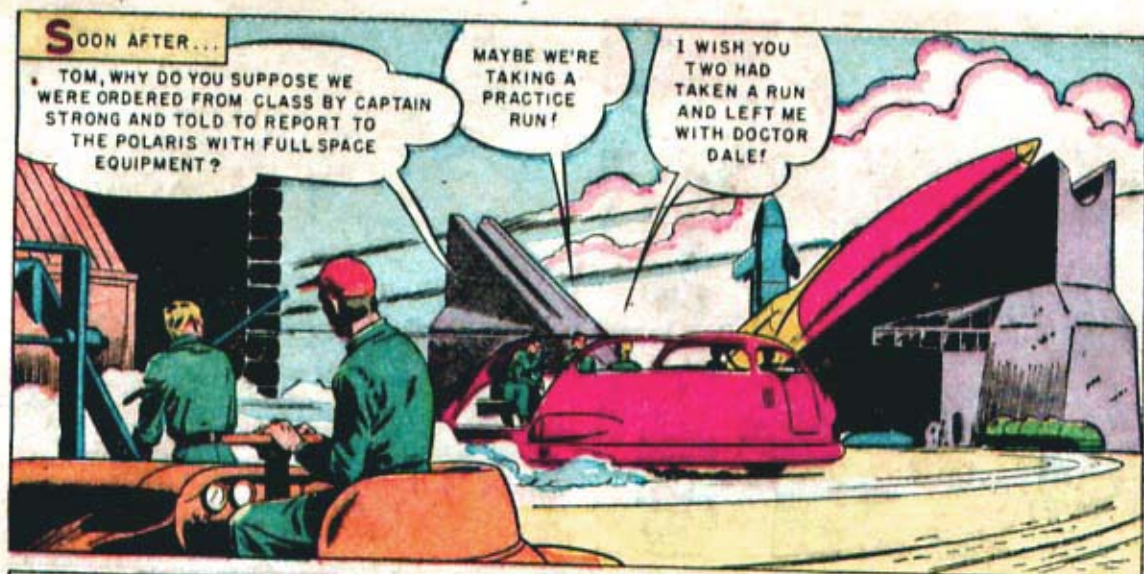


LOOK! IT JUMPED THE TRACKS!

THE RAIL SAFETY CLAMPS MUST HAVE BEEN LOOSENEED--- IT'S GOING TO CRASH!









THEY'RE OFF, JOAN! I HOPE THIS WILL CONVINCE THE TITANIANS OF OUR PEACEFUL INTENTIONS!

AND I HOPE THEIR INTENTIONS WILL BE PEACEFUL, TOO!



I TOLD HIM TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY! I'LL CALL HIM ON THE INTERCOM AGAIN!

THAT WAS A NICE CRACK, MANNING! TRYING TO GET ASTRO IN TROUBLE LIKE A REAL PAL?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, JUNIOR?



MEANWHILE, THE POLARIS ROCKETS ON...

SET ORBIT INCLINATIONS TITAN THREE DEGREES, TWENTY-EIGHT SECONDS --- ON COURSE, SIR!

NICE GOING, TOM! YOU HANDLED THAT COMPUTER LIKE A VETERAN!

CADET MANNING REPORTING IN, SIR!



ASTRO! WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

SORRY, SIR! I WAS HAVING TROUBLE READING THE TELE-TRANSMITTER --- SOME ELECTRICAL DISTURBANCE IN THE AREA!

SPACE GREMLINS, MAYBE?



WHERE'S ASTRO? I CALLED YOU BOTH!

I DON'T KNOW, SIR! MAYBE HE'S LOGGING SOME SACK TIME...



HOLD ON! THERE'S NO ROOM ON THIS SHIP FOR FIGHTING! YOU THREE ARE MAKING THIS TRIP WITH ME BECAUSE SOLAR COMMAND WANTS IT TO LOOK LIKE A ROUTINE TRAINING FLIGHT TO THE TITANIANS --- BUT BEFORE IT'S OVER, WE MAY BE IN FOR A LOT OF UNSCHEDULED TROUBLE!

LATER, AS THE TRANS-SONIC SHIP
ROCKETS TOWARDS SATURN'S
LARGEST MOON...

RADAR WARNINGS, SIR!
TWENTY TO THE MINUTE!

THAT MEANS
WE'RE
APPROACHING
TITAN! ---
ATTENTION
CREW! --- STRAP
IN TO LAND, THIS
MAY BE TRICKY!



FORWARD WATCH REPORTING, SIR!
SPECTROSCOPE BANDS INDICATE
HEAVY METHANE CLOUD LAYER
OVER TITAN --- CAN'T
SEE THROUGH IT!

TITAN HAS
AN ATMOS-
PHERE!
THAT MAKES
HER UNIQUE
AMONG SATURN'S
MOONS, BUT THE
MOST DANGEROUS
TO LAND ON! ---
SCAN FOR A SAFE SPOT
WITH RADAR!



NOTHING MUCH
TO GO BY, SIR! SNOW
SEEMS TO BLANKET
THE WHOLE SURFACE!

I'LL TAKE HER
DOWN VISUALLY
AS I DID ON MY
OTHER FLIGHT!
SWITCH THE
MAGNIFYING
SCREEN ON,
TOM!

AYE, AYE,
SIR!



RADAR WARNINGS
INCREASING! FIFTY
TO THE SECOND ---
WE'RE HEADING FOR
SOMETHING VERY
SOLID!

AND ALL I CAN
SEE ARE NICE,
SOFT-LOOKING
CLOUDS!



WE'VE GOT AN
OPENING! --- PREPARE
TO TURN TAIL AND
BRAKE OUR LANDING!
WE'RE NOSING
DOWN!



CAPTAIN STRONG!
THERE MUST BE
SOLID ROCK UNDER
THAT SNOW WE'RE
HEADING FOR!

THROW ON THE
JET BRAKES FAST,
OR WE'LL BE THE
FIRST EARTHMAN TO
LAND ON TITAN ---
FOR KEEPS!





BRAKES ON,
SIR! THE TAIL'S
GOING DOWN!

FINE! WE'LL TOUCHDOWN
IN FIVE SECONDS ---
STAND BY!

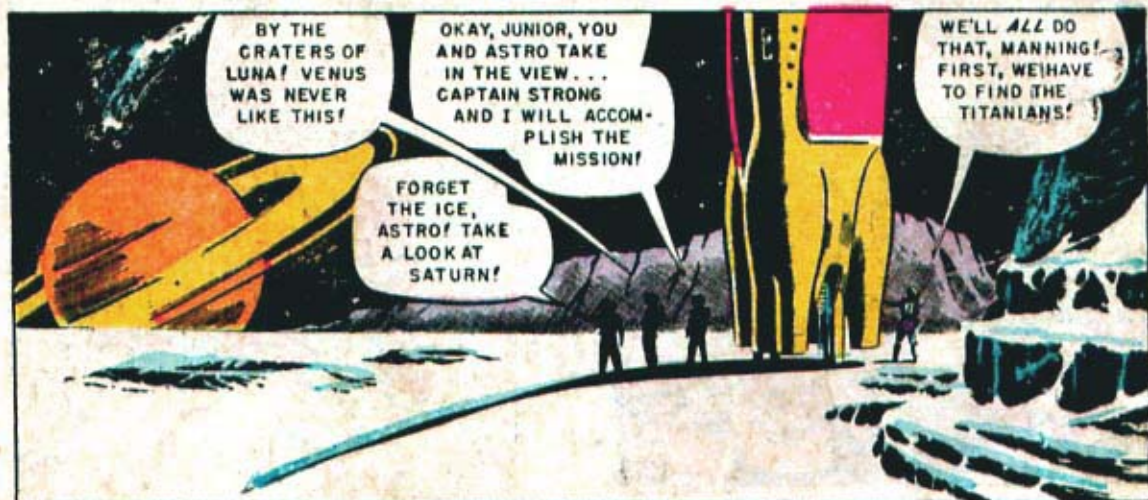


THE POLARIS COMES TO ROOST ON THE
UNEXPLORED SATELLITE.

I'LL BREAK OUT THE
SPACE SUITS! TITAN
LOOKS MIGHTY
COLD!

WHAT ABOUT WEAPONS,
SIR, IN CASE THEY GIVE
US A *WARM* RECEPTION?

MANNING, WE'LL
TAKE OUR PARALO-RAY
GUNS --- BUT ONLY FOR
DEFENSE!



BY THE
GRATERS OF
LUNA! VENUS
WAS NEVER
LIKE THIS!

OKAY, JUNIOR, YOU
AND ASTRO TAKE
IN THE VIEW...
CAPTAIN STRONG
AND I WILL ACCOM-
PLISH THE MISSION!

FORGET
THE ICE,
ASTRO! TAKE
A LOOK AT
SATURN!

WE'LL *ALL* DO
THAT, MANNING!
FIRST, WE HAVE
TO FIND THE
TITANIANS!



THEY MUST HIBERNATE
ON THIS DEEP FREEZE!
I DON'T SEE A SIGN
OF LIFE!

THAT ICE CLIFF
LOOKS LIKE A
MAIN LANDMARK!
WE'LL SPLIT UP
AND CIRCLE IT!
ASTRO, COME
WITH ME!



WELL, LOOK WHO
I GOT FOR A
PARTNER!

STOW IT, MANNING!
WE'VE GOT WORK TO
DO! COME ON!

WHO COULD LIVE HERE?
IF THE COLD DIDN'T
FREEZE THEM, THE METHANE
ATMOSPHERE WOULD POISON
THEM! THERE'S NO
LIFE HERE!

THEN WHO WAS
THE VISITOR
WHO TRIED
TO KILL
CAPTAIN
STRONG? A
SPACE GREMLIN?



A FEW MOMENTS LATER

HOPE YOU HAD
BETTER LUCK
THAN OURS!

NOT A SIGN OF LIFE ON
OUR SIDE! WE'LL RAISE
SHIP AND CIRCLE
SLOWLY, TILL WE FIND A
MORE LIKELY SPOT
AND LAND THERE!



AND AS THEY RETURN TO WHERE THEY LEFT THE SHIP...

CAPTAIN STRONG!
THE POLARIS ---
IT'S GONE!

BY JUPITER! IT CAN'T BE!
WE MUST BE IN THE
WRONG PLACE!



NO, SIR! I TOOK
A BEARING BEFORE
WE LEFT! TOM'S
AT THE EXACT SPOT
WHERE THE POLARIS
WAS!

ASTRO,
YOU'RE RIGHT!
LOOK!



THERE'S THE
POLARIS ---
AT THE BOTTOM
OF THIS ICE
SHAFT!

AND THERE'S LIFE
ON TITAN, ALL RIGHT!
THOSE CHARACTERS
MUST BELONG TO THE
POLAR BEAR CLUB---
THEY'RE DRESSED FOR
THE TROPICS!

THIS PROVES THERE
IS A WAY TO GET
BELOW TITAN'S
SURFACE--- WE'VE
GOT TO FIND IT
FAST OR THEY MAY
DAMAGE THE
POLARIS!





IF THEY THINK
THEY'VE TRAPPED
US—



— PUT UP YOUR GUN,
MANNING! YOU'D BETTER LEARN
NOW, SPACE CADETS DON'T START
HOSTILITIES, THEY TRY TO
PRESERVE PEACE! EARTH, MARS
AND VENUS ARE IN THE SOLAR
ALLIANCE, WE'LL OFFER TITAN
A CHANCE TO JOIN, TOO! BUT
A PARALO-RAY GUN DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE AN INVITATION!

LOOKS LIKE THE
NEXT MOVE IS UP
TO THEM! WE CAN'T
GO ANYWHERE
FROM HERE!

BY THE GAS PITS
OF VENUS, I
DON'T LIKE
WAITING!



HEY! WHO'S
BEING
FUNNY?

WHAT'S THE MATTER,
MANNING? CAN'T YOU
KEEP YOUR BALANCE?



SIR! MANNING MUST
BE ON SOME SORT OF A
TRANSMISSION BELT---
HE'S MOVING, BUT WE
AREN'T!

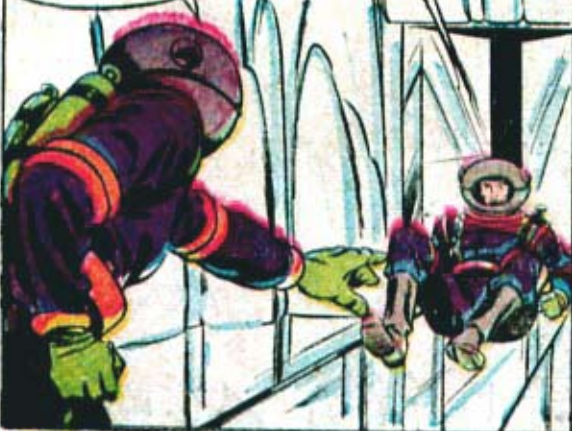
YOU'RE
RIGHT!

OWW!



BY THE RINGS
OF SATURN,
THAT WALL OF
ICE IS PARTING!

HEY! WHAT'S THE
IDEA OF LEAVING
ME?



WE'RE NOT LEAVING YOU,
MANNING, YOU'RE
MOVING AWAY FROM
US! BUT WE'LL JOIN
YOU! HOP ON, BOYS!

I'M ON FOR THE
RIDE! I DON'T
SEE ANY BRASS
RINGS! WONDER
WHAT THEY GIVE
FOR PRIZES ON
TITAN?





THERE'S A
CROSSWALK
HERE, SIR!

I'M CERTAIN THEY'RE NOT MOVING THIS BELT ALONG FOR OUR
CONVENIENCE! SOMEONE MUST BE FURTHER DOWN THE LINE
AND HEADING THIS WAY! CORBETT AND MANNING,
JUMP OFF HERE! ASTRO AND I WILL CONTINUE
HITCHING A RIDE!

BUT IF
SOMEONE IS
FOLLOWING---

--- YOU'LL SHOW
HIM YOUR GREAT
BIG SMILE,
MANNING!

KEEP ALERT AND MAINTAIN
CONTACT BY AUDIO-PHONE!
YOU'LL STAY HERE TILL WE
RETURN! THAT'S AN
ORDER, CORBETT!

THE BELT'S STOPPED!
THE ICE DOOR IS
CLOSING, BUT NO
ONE FOLLOWED
THEM THROUGH!

AND NOW
WE CAN'T
FOLLOW
THEM,
EITHER! I'D
BETTER PHONE
CAPTAIN STRONG
AND TELL HIM!



GADET CORBETT TO
CAPTAIN STRONG---
COME IN, SIR---
COME IN, CAPTAIN
STRONG!---FUNNY,
ALL I GET IS A
REGULAR BUZZING!

SOMEDAY YOU'LL LEARN
HOW TO WORK THESE
GADGETS, JUNIOR, AND
YOU WON'T HAVE ANY
TROUBLE! WATCH!

GADET MANNING, CALLING
CAPTAIN STRONG! COME
IN--- COME IN!---
JUST BUZZING!

MANNING, IT
SOUNDS TO
ME LIKE
ELECTRICAL
INTERFERENCE!
SOMEONE IS
DELIBERATELY TRYING
TO CUT US OFF FROM
THEM!







WE HAVE COME
IN PEACE! TAKE
US TO YOUR
RULER!

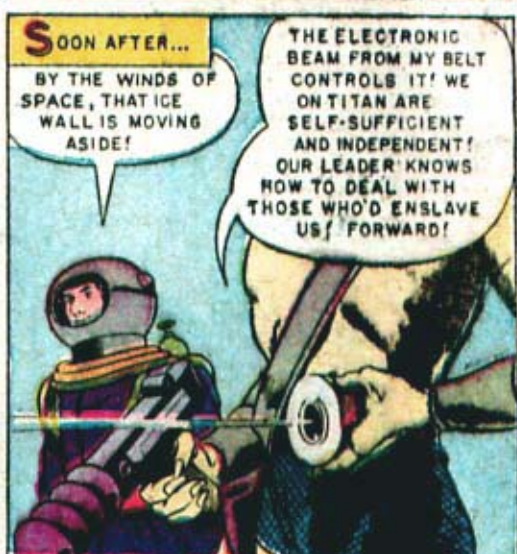
YOU'LL BE TAKEN
TO HIM--- IN
CHAINS!



MY GUN'S
READY, SIR!

HOLD FIRE, ASTRO!
LEAD US, BUT DON'T
TRY TO TAKE US
PRISONERS!

CALL YOUR-
SELF WHAT
YOU WILL!
YOU WILL BE
DISARMED---
THEN FOLLOW!



SOON AFTER...

BY THE WINDS OF
SPACE, THAT ICE
WALL IS MOVING
ASIDE!

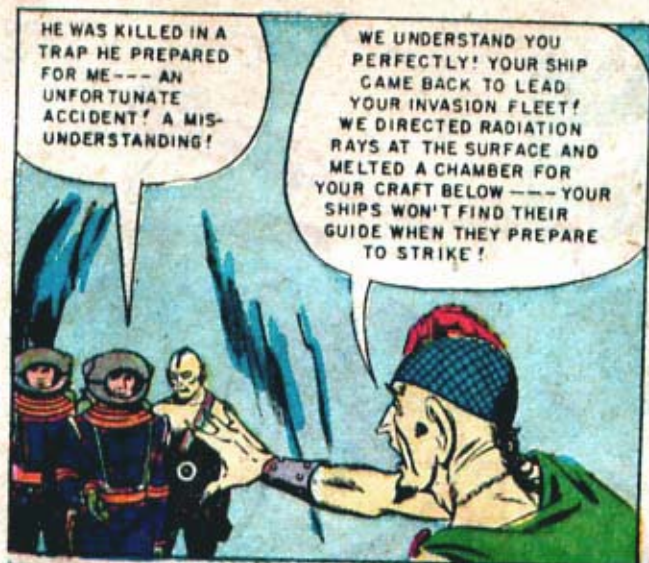
THE ELECTRONIC
BEAM FROM MY BELT
CONTROLS IT! WE
ON TITAN ARE
SELF-SUFFICIENT
AND INDEPENDENT!
OUR LEADER KNOWS
HOW TO DEAL WITH
THOSE WHO'D ENSLAVE
US! FORWARD!



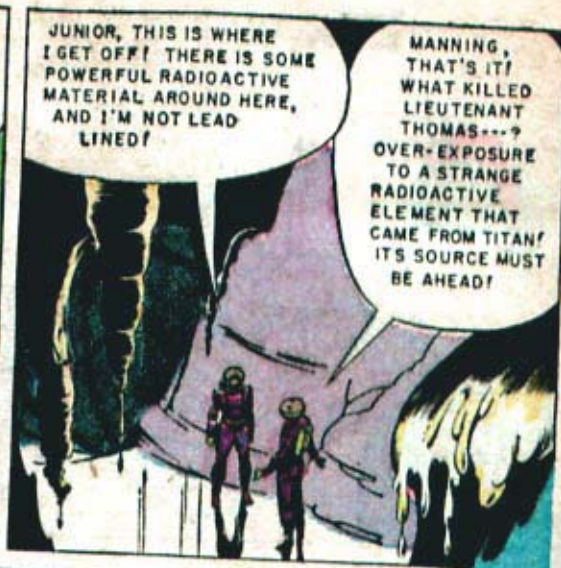
HERE ARE TWO
EARTHMEN! THE
OTHER INVADERS
WILL BE TAKEN
QUICKLY, LEADER!

WE ARE *NOT* INVADERS!
I AM CAPTAIN STRONG OF
THE SOLAR GUARDS!
OUR ORGANIZATION IS
DEDICATED TO PEACE!

CAPTAIN STRONG!
THE EARTHLING WHO
FIRST PIERCED OUR
CLOUD SCREEN AND
SPIED UPON US. THERA,
WHO FOLLOWED YOU TO
EARTH, TOLD US YOUR
NAME --- AND NOW HE
IS DEAD! IS THAT YOUR
EVIDENCE OF PEACE?









LOOK! THAT
STONE CORE IS A
SOLID RADIO-
ACTIVE ELEMENT!

NO WONDER THEY CAN
KEEP LIFE WARM ON TITANI
THE ENERGY FROM THAT
COULD HEAT AND POWER
THIS WHOLE SUBTERRANEAN
ICE CITY!



OUR SUITS DON'T
PROVIDE ENOUGH
INSULATION! I'D LIKE
TO GET SOMETHING
BETWEEN ME AND THAT
RADIOACTIVE ROCK,
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY
YOU!

THAT LEAD SHIELD
WILL PROTECT US,
ROGER... LET'S
GRAB THE
OPERATOR!



OH-OH!
HE'S SEEN
US!

HIT HIM HIGH,
MANNING!
I'LL TACKLE
HIM LOW!



TOM, HE'S PUSHING ME
BEYOND THE SHIELD---
MY EYES CAN'T TAKE
IT! I'M GETTING
FLARE BURN!

THIS BLASTED
SPACE SUIT'S
SLOWING ME UP!
HANG ON, MANNING!
I'LL TRY TO GET
RID OF HIM!



ABOUT TIME! IF I WASN'T PINNED DOWN, I'D HAVE FINISHED HIM OFF MYSELF WITHOUT WAITING FOR YOU TO PLAY AROUND WHILE I WAS EXPOSED TO THAT RADIANT LIGHT!

DON'T BLOW YOUR JETS! TIE HIM UP WITH HIS BELT, WHILE I TRY TO FIGURE OUT THIS CONTROL PANEL!



HE REFUSES TO THINK WHERE HE LEFT HIS TWO CADETS! HE KEEPS WONDERING WHY HIS EXPOSED HAND ISN'T FROZEN! TAKE THEM AWAY, AND DISPOSE OF THEM!

DID YOU HEAR THAT, MANNING? I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT HOW TO SHUT OFF THAT HEAT SOURCE--- THEN I CAN PUT THE TITANIANS IN THE DEEP FREEZE TILL WE RESCUE ASTRO AND CAPTAIN STRONG!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, JUNIOR? WRAP UP THAT RADIOACTIVE STONE IN INSULATING PAPER? I'LL STAY RIGHT HERE WHILE YOU TIE UP THAT PACKAGE!

THERE MUST BE A WAY TO LOWER AND RAISE THE TEMPERATURE BELOW TITAN'S SURFACE! NO, THIS LEVER DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD!

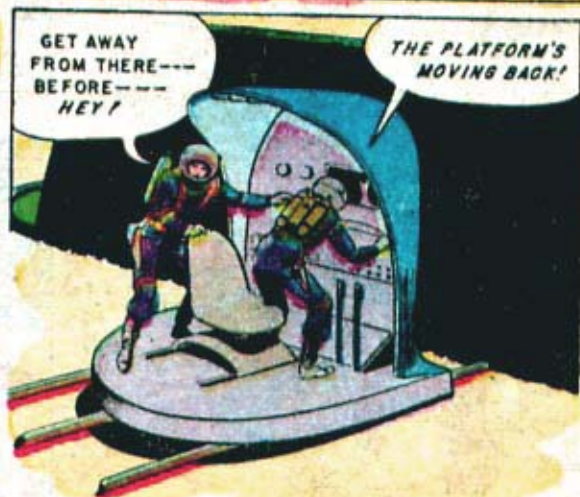


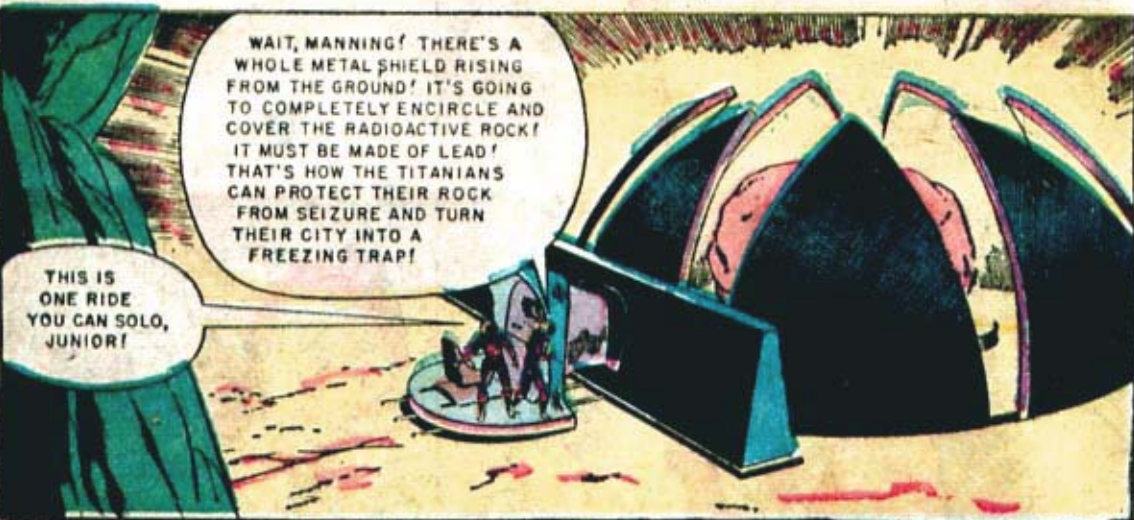
LET'S USE THIS JOKER FOR A SHIELD, GET BACK TO THE POLARIS AND CONTACT A SOLAR ALLIANCE SQUADRON TO START SHOOTING UP THE PLACE!

WE'LL TRY A PEACEFUL WAY FIRST! LET'S SEE WHAT THESE TWO SWITCHES DO!

GET AWAY FROM THERE--- BEFORE--- HEY!


THE PLATFORM'S MOVING BACK!






WAIT, MANNING! THERE'S A WHOLE METAL SHIELD RISING FROM THE GROUND! IT'S GOING TO COMPLETELY ENCIrcLE AND COVER THE RADIOACTIVE ROCK! IT MUST BE MADE OF LEAD! THAT'S HOW THE TITANIANS CAN PROTECT THEIR ROCK FROM SEIZURE AND TURN THEIR CITY INTO A FREEZING TRAP!

THIS IS ONE RIDE YOU CAN SOLO, JUNIOR!




THE GEIGER COUNTER HARDLY REGISTERS--- THAT SHIELD REALLY WORKS!


AND ANYONE *NOT* IN AN INSULATED SUIT IS GOING TO GET MIGHTY COLD VERY FAST!



THEN WE CAN PASS RIGHT BY THE GUARDS, THEY'LL BE FROZEN STIFF, AND GET STRONG AND ASTRO! THEY'RE WEARING SPACE SUITS!




THIS PORTABLE HOUSING MUST BE A ROBOT CONTROL BOX! LET'S GO!



CADET MANNING TO CAPTAIN STRONG! TALK US IN, SIR! I THINK I'VE DOPED OUT A WAY TO BEAT THE TITANIANS!

MANNING! THIS IS CAPTAIN STRONG! WHAT'S GOING ON? MY HAND SUDDENLY FEELS COLD--- I'M DONNING MY SPACE GLOVE AND THE TITANIANS HERE ARE MOVING LIKE LEAD FIGURES!



JUST A LITTLE TRICK I DEvised TO PUT THEM ON ICE, SIR! WE'VE CUT OFF OFF THEIR HEAT! KEEP CONTACT OPEN, WE'LL COME IN ON YOUR BEAM!

FOLLOW ME, MANNING, BUT KEEP BEHIND ME! WE DON'T WANT THE "BRAINS" OF THE EXPEDITION EXPOSED TO ANY SUDDEN DANGER!





AYE, AYE, SIR!

I DON'T THINK THEY'RE TOO FAR GONE YET! THEY MUST HAVE SOME NATURAL IMMUNITY TO THE EXTREME COLD HERE!



HE'S MOVING, SIR!

Y-YOU HAVE LOWERED THE LEAD SHIELD! YOUR INTENTIONS ARE PEACEFUL!



BUT THAT FLEET OF STRANGE ROCKETS HEADING HERE DIDN'T LOOK FRIENDLY TO ME! CALL YOUR CREWS TO RAISE SHIPS AND PREPARE TO MEET THEM!

I CAN'T! ALL OF TITAN'S ARMED FLEET FLIES TO EARTH! THEY CANNOT RETURN IN TIME!



THERE SHOULD BE A SOLAR ALLIANCE SQUADRON PATROL NEAR JUPITER! CAN I CONTACT THEM?

YES! THERE'S A FREQUENCY-SELECTOR DIAL! ADJUST IT! --- BUT EVEN THEY ARE TOO FAR AWAY!



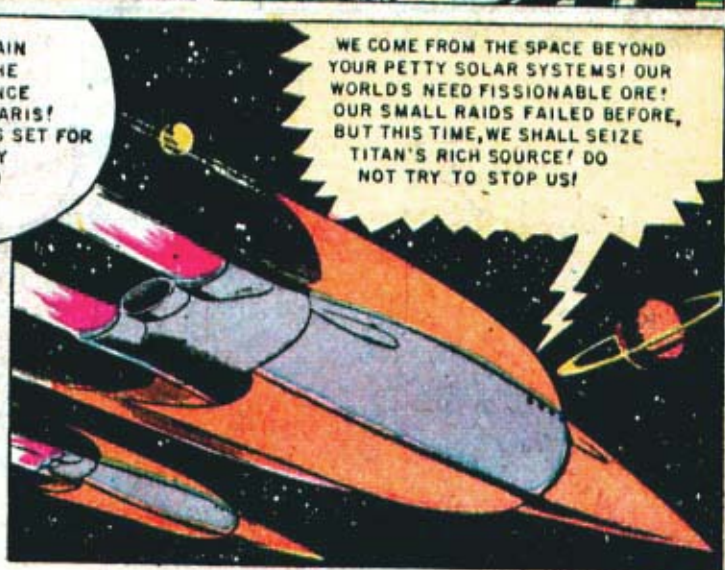
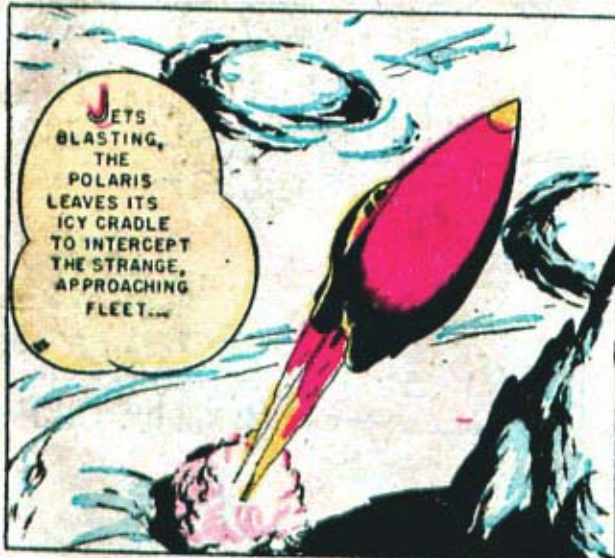
SOLAR ALLIANCE CRUISER FROM CAPTAIN STRONG! I AM ON TITAN! WE NEED ARMED SHIPS TO RESIST A POTENTIAL ATTACK! COME IN!

SOLAR ALLIANCE SQUADRON SEVEN TO CAPTAIN STRONG--- WHEN CONTACT COULD NOT BE MADE WITH THE POLARIS, WE WERE INSTRUCTED TO INVESTIGATE! WE ARE NOW NEARING SATURN AND WILL PROCEED READY FOR ATTACK!



WE'RE IN LUCK! THOSE CRUISERS WILL BE HERE IN TIME! OUR SHIP IS UNARMED, BUT, I'D LIKE TO SCOUT FOR THEM! CAN WE RAISE THE POLARIS FROM ITS ICE CHAMBER?

QUITE EASILY! YOU CAN BLAST OFF FROM THE CHAMBER! COME!



TITAN NEEDS ITS ORE
TO SUSTAIN LIFE THERE!
LAND PEACEFULLY AND
WE WILL TRY TO
NEGOTIATE A TRADE
ALLIANCE!

WHAT WE
NEED---
WE
TAKE!

IT'S NO-USE--- THEY
WANT *WAR*! OUR HELP
HASN'T ARRIVED YET---
WE'VE GOT TO DELAY
THE ENEMY SHIPS!
PREPARE FOR AN
EVASIVE ACTION!

AYE, AYE, SIR!
THAT'S ABOUT ALL
WE CAN DO---
WE'RE---
UNARMED!

AS THE WARRING
FLEET LAUNCHES
THE ATTACK, THE
POLARIS STREAKS
BRAZENLY ACROSS
ITS PATH...

GIVE ME EMERGENCY
POWER, ASTRO! WE'RE
PLAYING TAG AND
I DON'T WANT
TO BE IT!

HERE THEY
COME, SIR!

SUDDENLY, THE POLARIS IS STAGGERED BY A
SLEDGEHAMMER BLOW--- SOMEWHERE
ASTERN...

TH-THAT!
GOT US,
SIR!

ALL STATIONS CHECK IN!
ASTRO, DID THAT HIT OUR
TUBES?---
COME IN!

YOU'VE DIVERTED THEM
FROM TITAN, SIR, BUT
THEY'VE GOT THE RAY
GUNS BLASTING AT US!

WE HAVE TO KEEP JUST
OUT OF RANGE TILL
OUR CRUISERS CAN
TAKE OVER. I'LL THROW
ON THE PORT JETS, WE'RE
GOING TO QUARTER
FAST!

A BLANCING HIT ON
OUR PORT TUBE,
SIR, BUT IT WILL
STILL OPERATE!

FINE! THEY'VE FLOWN
INTO A TRAP! WE'RE
HEADING RIGHT FOR
THE SOLAR ALLIANCE
SQUADRON AND WHEN WE
ROUND SATURN, THEY'LL
GET A CHANCE TO
FIRE ON THE
WOLF PACK'S
FLANK!

THEY'RE
STILL TAILING
US, SIR!

AS THE POLARIS SWINGS AROUND SATURN,
THE SOLAR ALLIANCE CRUISERS SPOT
THEIR TARGETS...

STRONG TO SOLAR
ALLIANCE SEVEN! HERE
COME YOUR BABIES,
GOOD HUNTING!



SOLAR ALLIANCE LEADER
TO CAPTAIN STRONG,
THANKS FOR FLUSHING
THE SPACE VULTURES!
TALLY-NO!

LOOK! THEY GOT
ONE OF THE
ENEMY'S SHIPS,
SIR!

YES, BUT
OUR LEAD
SHIP'S IN
TROUBLE!
WE'RE GOING
TO ITS AID!

WHAT CAN
WE DO,
SIR?

WE'RE GOING TO
TAIL UP
SHARPLY BY
THAT ENEMY
SHIP AND SCORCH
IT WITH OUR
ROCKET BLAST!
THAT'LL MAKE IT
"HOT" FOR HIM!



SWERVING CLOSE TO THE ATTACKING SHIP, THE POLARIS TURNS TAIL AND THE EXHAUST OF RADIOACTIVE HEAT BLASTS THE ATTACKER...

THEY'RE TURNING, SIR! THEY'RE LIMPING OFF!

CAPTAIN STRONG TO SOLAR ALLIANCE SQUADRON, NICE WORK! YOU'VE SENT THEM BACK TO THE BUSH LEAGUES IN OUTER SPACE! STAND BY TO COVER US, WE'RE GOING TO TOUCHDOWN ON TITAN!

YOU HAVE MADE OUR ENEMY YOURS --- YOUR GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN!

THANKS! WHOEVER DESTROYS THE SOLAR PEACE IS OUR ENEMY! NOW I WANT TO CONTACT COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT AND REPORT IN!

CAPTAIN STRONG CALLING COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT! THE UNKNOWN ENEMY'S FLEET HAS BEEN DRIVEN OFF! TITAN IS CONVINCED OF OUR PEACEFUL INTENTIONS!

GOOD WORK, STRONG, BUT THE DANGER ISN'T OVER! WHILE SQUADRON SEVEN WAS PULLED OFF ITS PATROL, A STRANGE FLEET SLIPPED BY FROM THE REGION OF SATURN AND THEY'RE HEADING FOR EARTH RIGHT NOW!



WHAT? WHY THAT MUST BE THE *TITAN* FLEET!

QUICKLY! LET ME CONTACT THEM! I MUST TURN THEM BACK BEFORE HARM IS DONE!



SOON AFTER

SPACEPORT MARS REPORTS THE UNIDENTIFIED FLEET HAS SWUNG AROUND! THEY'RE HEADING BACK! THERE'S SOMEONE HERE WHO WANTS TO TALK TO YOU, STRONG! SHE'S RIGHT BESIDE ME!



HELLO, STEVE! ARE YOU AND THE CADETS ALL RIGHT?

YES, JOAN, BUT TELL COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT IF THIS IS HIS IDEA OF A *ROUTINE* TRAINING FLIGHT, THE ACADEMY WON'T BE ABLE TO RECRUIT MANY CADETS!



LATER, ON THE PLANET *TITAN*.

WE'RE RAISING SHIP! *TITAN* CAN JOIN THE SOLAR ALLIANCE AS SOON AS YOU CAN SEND A MISSION TO EARTH!

FAREWELL, CAPTAIN STRONG! YOU LANDED A SUSPECTED FOE, A MAN FROM EACH OF OUR WORLDS HAS DIED THROUGH UNFORTUNATE FEAR AND DISTRUST, BUT YOU HAVE SHOWN YOURSELF A FRIEND IN OUR MOMENT OF PERIL! *TITAN* STANDS WITH THE SOLAR ALLIANCE!



AS THE *POLARIS* RETURNS...

THE SOLAR ALLIANCE CRUISERS SHOULD HAVE BLASTED THOSE FOREIGN SHIPS FROM SPACE! WE'VE JUST LEFT OURSELVES WIDE OPEN FOR FUTURE ATTACKS FROM SOME UNKNOWN BASE!

THEY MAY HAVE LEARNED THEIR LESSON AND SUE FOR PEACE, MANNING! WE NEVER ATTACK!

DON'T MIND MANNING, HE LIKES BLOWING OFF SPACE GAS!



WHY, YOU SPACEWORM! IF IT WASN'T FOR ME YOU'D STILL BE ON *TITAN*!

FOR YOU, MANNING! I LIKE THAT---

STOW IT! IF YOU THREE WANT TO GRADUATE FROM THE ACADEMY, YOU'D BETTER STOP YOUR INTER-PLANETARY WAR! AND THE ACADEMY'S COMING UP FAST! TAKE STATIONS AND STAND BY TO LAND!

MARS

This photograph of Mars shows how closely it resembles earth. The north polar ice cap is exactly the same as the ice cap surrounding the North Pole on earth and there is, quite probably, a torrid zone just like ours on the middle belt of the planet, closest to the sun. When seen in the night sky, it is very easy to identify because of its red, reflected light.

