To develop expert spacemen, the Academy gives space cadets not only regular classroom work, but intense and thorough “on-the-job” training. The basis is laid in the classroom. From there, space cadets go to the laboratory where they learn the actual workings of a rocket space ship’s instrument panel on models. These models are exact duplicates of the machinery aboard the space ships. After space cadets have gained familiarity with the instrument panel, they are permitted to sit down at the controls of a space ship. This photograph shows Cadet Tom Corbett as he prepared for his first flight in space. Captain Steve Strong is instructing him in the complicated instrument panel, while Cadet Roger Manning stands behind them, waiting for his turn to sit in the spacepilot’s seat.
I'm sorry to report that we found no trace of Professor Thornton, Commander Norland! We searched over all of the great red desert!

Captain Steve Strong and his Space Cadet squad report the failure of their mission to the commander of the Solar Guard base on Mars!

I expected you to fail, Captain Strong! Did you think you and your crew of raw Space Cadets could succeed where my experienced patrols failed?

I could have told both Professor Thornton and Commander Arkwright that there are no facts to back up the myth of an ancient civilization on Mars! No such race as the Assorians ever existed!

But Professor Thornton was convinced...

Professor Thornton was a fool who gave his life searching for the ruins of Assoria! That is all, Captain Strong! You are dismissed!

Imps of Saturn! He sure was mad, sir!

Don't blame him, Tom! Commander Arkwright went over his head when he sent us to search for Professor Thornton!
YOU BOYS GET ABOARD THE POLARIS AND PREPARE TO BLAST OFF! I'LL JOIN YOU AS SOON AS I ARRANGE SPACEPORT CLEARANCE!

RIGHT, SIR!

THAT COMMANDER NORLAND SURE HAD HIS NERVE. HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO BLOW HIS JET'S FIRE AT US!

SOLAR SPACE

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT IS GOING TO SAY... HUH?

HERE'S A COUPLE OF COINS....

A WORD FOR YOU, SPACE CADET! A WORD AND A MESSAGE FROM THE GREAT RED DESERT WASTELAND — I AM ALO KOMIR...

ALMS... ALMS FOR THE SAKE OF SPACE-WRECKED SPACEMEN STRANDED ON MARS! ALMS, SPACE CADET... AN EARTH PENNY OR TWO.

THERE HE IS? THERE IS THE THIEF!

GET HIM! SEIZE THAT SPACE ROGUE?

NICE FRIENDS YOU'VE GOT, TOM!
THIS IS FOR THE
SPACEPORT POLICE,
TOM? KEEP OUT OF
IT?
LET ME GO? THAT
BEGGAR WAS TRYING
to give me a
MESSAGE!

WELL, WHY IN
JET- BLUE BLAZES
DIDN'T YOU SAY
SO? COME ON!

SPACEPORT
POLICE?
SCATTER?

THE RUINS... THE
RUINS... WHERE
THE OUTLAWS
OF BOR
BORITO... AAHH!

WE WERE TOO LATE TO
SAVE HIM! AND HIS
MESSAGE DOESN'T MAKE
SENSE! WHO ARE THE
OUTLAWS OF BOR
BORITO?

NEVER HEARD
OF THEM?
ANYWAY,
YOU'VE GOT
YOURSELF
A PET,
TOM?
LACKS LIKE THE LITTLE SPACE DEVIL HAS ADOPTED 'YOU, TOM!' HE'LL MAKE A CUTE MAS- COT, FELLOWS, FOR US! WE OUGHT TO HAVE A NAME FOR HIM... HOW ABOUT SCRAPS?

WE DON'T WANT ANY MAScot! Why don't you get rid of that thing... or animal... or whatever he is?

HE'LL BE MY RESPONSIBILITY, ROGER! COME ON, SCRAPS, WE'VE GOT TO GET THE POLARIS READY FOR BLAST-OFF!

WHAT ABOUT THE RUINS THE BEGGER MENTIONED BEFORE HE WAS KILLED, TOM? THINK IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH PROFESSOR THORNTON?

I DON'T THINK A BEGGER AT THE SPACEPORT WOULD KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THORNTON'S EXPEDITION, BUT I'LL MENTION IT TO CAPTAIN STRONG...

MENTION WHAT TO ME, TOM?

WE MET A BEGGER WHO MENTIONED RUINS... AND THE OUTLAWS OF BOR BORITO...

PROBABLY A STORY THE BEGGER MADE UP SO HE COULD BEG SOME MONEY. I WOULDN'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO IT!

SAY... SINCE WHEN DID WE GET THREE PILOT SEATS...

WHAT IN BLUE SPACES IS GOING ON HERE?
IS THIS SOME IDEA OF A JOKE YOU CADETS THOUGHT UP? ATTENTION!

BUT, SIR, THERE WAS A THIRD PILOT'S SEAT! I SAW IT, TOO!

SO? YOU BOUGHT YOURSELF A MARTIAN PICPUP? THAT'S HOW YOU MADE ME THINK THERE WAS A SEAT WHERE THERE WASN'T ANY?

A PICPUP, SIR? YOU MEANSCRAPS? HOW... HOW COULD HE DO THAT?

DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT A MARTIAN PICPUP CAN DO!

IT BELONGED TO THE BEGGAR, SIR. SCRAPS SORT OF ADOPTED ME AFTER THE BEGGAR WAS KILLED. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT A MARTIAN PICPUP COULD DO!

WELL, A MARTIAN PICPUP CAN MAKE A NICE PET... AND PLENTY OF TROUBLE. YOU SEE, THESE ANIMALS ARE COMPLETELY HELPLESS IN FIGHTING THEIR NATURAL ENEMIES...

THE ONLY WAY A PICPUP CAN PROTECT HIMSELF IS BY A FORM OF CAMOUFLAGE. SOME ANIMALS ON EARTH... LIKE THE CHAMELEON... TAKE ON THE COLOR OF THEIR SURROUNDS.

THE MARTIAN PICPUP CHANGES HIS SURROUNDINGS BY CREATING AN ILLUSION AROUND HIM.

HE CAN CREATE ANYTHING HE EVER SAW. THE ILLUSION IS SO GOOD... WELL, YOU SAW HOW HE FooLED ME. THAT MEANS SCRAPS CAN CAUSE A LOT OF TROUBLE AT SPACE ACADEMY. YOU'LL HAVE TO GET RID OF HIM WHEN WE GET BACK TO EARTH, TOM?

GET RID OF HIM! PLEASE, SIR. WE'LL BE VERY CAREFUL...
THAT WAS AN ORDER, CADET CORBETT. GET RID OF THE PICUP AS SOON AS WE LAND ON EARTH! NOW, PREPARE FOR BLAST-OFF!

WITH BLAZING ROCKETS, THE POLARIS RUPE SPACEWARD? BELOW, TWO OF THE MEN WHO ATTACKED THE BEGGAR WATCH...

WELL, TALMIKAR... WE HAVE DONE OUR JOB WELL! THE SPACE CADETS HAVE GONE BACK TO EARTH AND GIVEN UP THE SEARCH FOR THORNTON?

YES, AND I HAVE KILLED THAT TRAITOR, ALO KOMIR!

I CAN'T HELP FEELING, SIR, THAT SCRAPS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH PROFESSOR THORNTON'S DISAPPEARANCE. PERHAPS IF HE COULD TELL OR SHOW US...

SCRAPS IS GOING TO THE SOLAR ZOO, TOM! THAT'S FINAL! YOUR WILD IDEAS WON'T CHANGE MY MIND!

PRESENTLY, BACK AT THE LANDING FIELD OF SPACE ACADEMY...

RESUME YOUR REGULAR ACADEMY WORK, BOYS. I'LL REPORT TO COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

BOY! IT SURE FEELS GOOD TO BE BACK! I'M GOING TO LIE DOWN AND SLEEP THE REST OF THE DAY...

I GOT NEWS FOR YOU, ROGER! WE'VE GOT CLASS-ROOM WORK TO CATCH UP WITH! LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT OUR PROGRAM...

YEPT! ASTRO-CHEMISTRY CLASS IS IN SESSION! COME ON, FELLOWS, SMOOTH OUT YOUR SPACE LEGS AND LET'S GO!

BAH! WHY DIDN'T WE THINK OF LAND-ING LATER IN THE DAY?

WHAT ABOUT SCRAPS? CAN'T LEAVE HIM ALONE HERE!
HIDE HIM UNDER YOUR SHIRT, TOM! WE'LL GET BY UNTIL AFTER CLASSES, THEN SEE WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT FINDING A NICE HOME FOR HIM AT THE ZOO.

YOU SPACE JOKERS ARE GOING TO GET INTO TROUBLE! DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.

WE'LL TAKE A CHANCE, ROGER, BUT IF WE GET INTO TROUBLE---WELL TELL THEM YOU HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

YOU BET YOUR SPACE BOOTS! LEAVE ME OUT OF IT!

CADET HIGGINS, WILL YOU REPLACE THIS EQUIPMENT IN THE CLOSET WHILE WE PREPARE FOR A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE CLASS.

AYE, AYE, MA'AM!

AW-AW! LOOKS LIKE WE WALKED RIGHT INTO A REVIEW... AND NEXT TO AN EXAM, THAT'S SOMETHING I DON'T LIKE MOST IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM!

JUMPING METEORS! TOM! LOOK WHAT THE PIRATE IS DOING!

OH! OH! I HOPE ALFIE CHOSES THE RIGHT CLOSET!
CADET HIGGINS: NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH CARELESSNESS! THIS IS THE LAST TIME I WILL TRUST YOU WITH LABORATORY EQUIPMENT!

BUT, DR. DALE... THE CLOSET WAS RIGHT THERE WHEN I PUT THE STUFF ON THE SHELVES!

YOU'LL STAY HERE, CADET HIGGINS, AND CLEAN UP THIS MESS! UNFORTUNATELY, I'LL HAVE TO POSTPONE THE REVIEW REPORTS.

CLASS IS DISMISSED!

JUMPING SPACE GREMLINS! HOW COULD THE CLOSET MOVE? THIS IS MOST MYSTERIOUS!

BOY! SCRAPPS SAVED ME FROM A REVIEW EXAM! YOU KNOW, YOU SPACE GOOFS MAY HAVE SOMETHING IN THAT PIC-PUP! I'M BEGINNING TO LIKE HIM!

Yeah? All I hope is that he behaves the rest of the day! We can get into trouble up to our necks!

CHEER UP, JUNIOR! ONE MORE CLASS AND WE'LL BE THROUGH FOR THE DAY! NOW, IF SCRAPPS WILL ONLY COOPERATE... MAYBE WE'LL GET OUT SOONER THAN WE EXPECT!

I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOUR IDEA OF COOPERATION, ROGER! LET'S HOPE SCRAPPS DOES NOT COOPERATE!

TODAY'S LESSON WILL COVER THE MODERN ARCHITECTURE OF MARS... ITS PERFECT CONSTRUCTION ACCORDING TO THE USES IT IS TO BE PUT TO!

Oh-oh! I'm afraid this class is made-to-order for Scrapps! Stand by for trouble, Astro!
Here we have a model of the latest hotel at Marsport. Notice how gracefully its steel towers rise!

But, sir, that's a view of an old ruin! So it is! Something must be wrong with my telecaster! I'll show you the latest spaceport control tower...

Imps of space? I've never known such ruins existed in the solar system! Are you cadets sure you see the same thing?

Er... ah... class dismissed!

Something tells me that little Piccupid and I are going to be great friends! Great friends?

Strange... my slides are in perfect condition! How... how did that image of the old ruins appear on the screen? I'd better report to Commander Arkwright!

We're going to get into a real mess with that Piccupid, Tom! Get him out of space academy before we're found out!

Relax, you Venusian swamp monkey! Scraps saved us from two classes! I can see a lot of possibilities in the Piccupid!
There are a couple of other possibilities you space jokers seemed to have missed. Scraps showed us pictures of ruins...ruins!

Maybe he wanted to show us what'll happen to our careers if we don't get rid of him!

Just the same... I'm going to try to make him show us some more pictures of the ruins.

Scraps is creating pictures of those ruins again, Tom?

Hey... and there's a couple of guys standing there!

There's the beggar...

Do you space monkeys see who he's talking to? It's Professor Thornton!

That's just space gas, Tom! Professor Thornton! You're seeing things!

You bet I'm seeing things... things that this pigeon saw and is now showing us!

Tom! Where are you going with that pige... pige? To Commander Arkwright! Come on, cadets! Full jets ahead!
Perhaps I've been working too hard, Commander Arkwright, but the fact is... all my cadets also saw those strange scenes... I can't explain it, sir.

I believe I can explain, Commander Arkwright. At least, I think I know what happened...

Commander Arkwright! I...

Looks like my explanation has arrived in person.

Cadet Corbett? Attention! Is this the way to enter my office?

I'm sorry, sir! I... I was too excited.

Is this how you teach discipline to your cadet squadron, Captain Strong?

Sorry, sir! I hope Cadet Corbett can explain his behavior. Not only in the way he came here, sir, but also on the strange happenings in Dr. Dale's class and in Captain Jones's classroom?

Yes, sir! I can explain the illusion of the closet in Dr. Dale's class... and... and the strange ruins in Captain Jones's class. It's scraps, sir. My Martian picpup...

You disobeyed my orders, Cadet Corbett! I ordered you to send that picpup to the solar zoo!
BUT, SIR... IF I HADN'T KEPT THE PICUP, I'D NEVER HAVE FOUND PROFESSOR THORNTON AND THE RUINS OF ASOORIA!

WHAT? YOU'VE FOUND...

THE RUINS MY PICUP SHOWED... I... WE... THAT IS, CADETS ASTRO AND MANNING ALSO SAW PROFESSOR THORNTON STANDING AT THE RUINS!

I'M GETTING A LITTLE SPACE-DIZZY! LET'S GET THIS STORY STRAIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING, CADET CORBETT!

THE BEGGAR WHO OWNED THIS PICUP TRIED TO GIVE ME A MESSAGE, BUT WAS KILLED BEFORE HE COULD. HIS PICUP, THOUGH, HAS SHOWN US WHAT THE BEGGAR TRIED TO TELL? LOOK AT THESE ILLUSIONS, SIR!

BY THE CRATERS OF LUNA! THERE AREN'T ANY SUCH RUINS IN THIS SOLAR SYSTEM!

EVIDENTLY THERE ARE SOMEWHERE! AND THAT IS PROFESSOR THORNTON I SEE... OR HIS EXACT LIKENESS!

NOW, TOM... I WANT THE EXACT WORDS OF THE BEGGAR. WHAT DID HE SAY?

HE SAID... A WORD AND A MESSAGE FROM THE GREAT RED DESERT WASTELAND. I AM ALO KOMIR... JUST THEN HE WAS ATTACKED, SIR!

CAPTAIN STRONG, PREPARE THE POLARIS FOR IMMEDIATE BLAST-OFF! RETURN TO MARS AND SEARCH EVERY INCH OF THE GREAT RED DESERT! DO NOT RETURN TO SPACE ACADEMY WITHOUT PROFESSOR THORNTON!

AYE, AYE, SIR!
GET CADETS ASTRO AND MANNING AND REPORT TO THE POLARIS! WE'LL BLAST OFF AT ONCE?

YES, SIR!

JUST THE SPACE JOCKEYS I WAS LOOKING FOR—OOPH!

COME ON, FELLOWS! WE'VE GOT...

STOW YOUR SPACE GAS, JUNIOR! WE HEARD?

SOME MINUTES LATER...

POWER DECK, PREPARE REACTORS!

REACTORS ACTIVATED! READY FOR BLAST-OFF ORDERS!

RADAR BRIDGE, STAND BY FOR CLEARANCE!

RADAR TO CONTROL! MARS VECTOR CLEAR! READY FOR BLAST-OFF!

RED DESERT OF MARS...HERE WE COME!
ANY MORE CLUES AS TO WHERE THE RUINS OF ASSORIA MAY BE, TOM?

SCRAM, IS SHOWING ME A SERIES OF RED SAND HILLS, SIR. THAT'S ABOUT ALL.

COULD BE THAT THE SAND HAS DRIFTED THROUGH THE AGES AND COVERED THE RUINS... MAKING SAND HILLS OUT OF THEM. CHECK IF ROGER IS GETTING ANYTHING ON THE RADARSCOPE, TOM.

AYE, AYE, SIR?

PLENTY OF HILLS AHEAD, TOM. SOME PRETTY HIGH, TOO. BUT WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? I THOUGHT WE WERE LOOKING FOR RUINS.

PREPARE FOR LANDING AT THE FOOT OF THOSE HILLS, TOM! WE'LL EXPLORE ON FOOT.

AYE, AYE, SIR?

'OUT IN BRAKING ROCKETS! WE'RE SETTING HER DOWN, ASTRO? FIVE SECONDS TO LANDING! CUSHION AND CUT REACTORS OUT... ONE... TWO... THREE... FOUR... FIVE... ZERO!

ON THE COUNT... POWER OUT!

WHAT NOW, CAPTAIN STRONG?

CHECK YOUR SIDEARMS! WE'RE GOING INTO THOSE HILLS... AND BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE MYSTERIOUS OUTLAWS OF BOR BORITO!
WE COULD HAVE LANDED CLOSER INSTEAD OF GIVING OURSELVES THIS HIKE THROUGH THE SAND! BESIDES, I DON'T SEE ANY RUINS?

STOP BLOWING YOUR JETS, ROGER! YOU NEED THE EXERCISE!

LOOK, SIR! UNDER THE SAND... THE RUINS ARE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE!

IF THE RUINS ARE HERE... THE OUTLAWS MUST BE NEAR, TOO!

AND PROFESSOR THORNTON, TOO, SIR!

YEAH... I DON'T LIKE TO THINK OF MEETING BOR BORITO'S SPACE RATS!

THEY AREN'T SPACE RATS, ROGER, ONLY MARTIAN DESERT RATS!

JUST THE SAME, THEY MAY BE VERY DANGEROUS! WE'RE GOING TO SPLIT UP INTO TWO GROUPS. ASTRO AND I WILL GO AHEAD... TOM AND ROGER, YOU FOLLOW ABOUT HALF A MILE BEHIND!

I'LL HANDLE ANY OUTLAWS WE RUN ACROSS, JUNIOR! YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY!

WHY, ROGER... YOU'RE TURNING INTO A SPACE HERO?

EVERYTHING IS SO QUIET AROUND HERE, SIR! I WONDER IF THERE'S ANY LIVING THING IN THESE HILLS BEHIND US!
Beneath this sand hill must lie a great palace. Astro, these are the Assorian ruins.

They can't be anything else, Sir? But what about Professor Thornton? Do you think he's somewhere about?

Not a sign of danger! Looks like you were scared of nothing, Junior!

I was scared... why, you space goof? You were the one...

Hold it, Roger! Somebody is following Captain Strong and Astro.

Captain Strong! Calling! Yes, Tom? This is Captain Strong. What is it?

Someone is about to jump you and Astro, Sir? Look out!
TOO LATE, TOM? THEY'RE ON TOP OF US...

COME ON, YOU SLOW-MOTION SPACE LUG! WE'VE GOT TO SAVE ASTRO AND CAPTAIN STRONG!

STAY UNDER COVER, ROGER!

WE WOULDN'T HAVE A CHANCE! THEY'VE GOT US OUTNUMBERED TEN TO ONE!

WE CAN'T LET THEM GET OUR SPACEMATES!

STAY UNDER COVER, TOM! I'LL KEEP MY COMMUNICATOR OPEN! USE IT AS A DIRECTION BEAM!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

WE TAKE YOU TO BOR BORITO!

WELL, HERE WE GO... INSIDE THE RUIN! IT'S UP TO TOM AND ROGER NOW! KEEP YOUR CHIN UP, ASTRO!
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'LL DO TO US NOW, SIR?

NO WAY OF TELLING, ASTRO? BUT THEY MAY LEAD US TO WHERE PROFESSOR THORNTON IS... IF HE'S STILL ALIVE?

WE'RE BEING LED RIGHT INTO THE CENTER OF THIS PLACE, CAPTAIN STRONG!

I HOPE TOM AND ROGER ARE KEEPING A TRACER ON US!

A LOT OF GOOD THAT'S GOING TO DO!

TOO MANY OF THE OUTLAWS AROUND THE ENTRANCE. WE'VE GOT TO WATCH FOR A CHANCE TO RESCUE CAPTAIN STRONG AND ASTRO!

WHERE ARE WE GOING NOW?

THERE JUST MIGHT BE ANOTHER ENTRANCE TO THAT RUIN! SUPPOSE WE CIRCLE THE PYRAMID AND SEE!

WE'VE GOT AS MUCH CHANCE OF DOING THAT AS A CANARY HAS FLYING IN SPACE!

THE WAY MY DIRECTION FINDER READS, THEY MUST BE ABOUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS SAND PILE?

AND NO OTHER OPENING IN SIGHT? WE'LL TRY A LITTLE MORE... THEN WE MIGHT HAVE TO GO BACK AND CRASH THE MAIN ENTRANCE!

SOLAR GUARDS! YOU SHALL BE PUNISHED FOR INVADING THE LAND OF BOR BORITO'S PEOPLE?
TAL MIKAR, YOU REPORTED THE SOLAR GUARDS HAD STOPPED THEIR SEARCH FOR PROFESSOR THORNTON! YET HERE THEY ARE!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, BOR BORITO? I MYSELF KILLED ALO KOMIR BEFORE HE COULD GIVE THE MESSAGE THORNTON SENT TO THE SOLAR GUARDS!

WE DID NOT COME TO INVADE YOUR LAND, BOR BORITO! WE SEEK OUR FRIEND, THORNTON! HE IS A SCIENTIST AND A GOOD MAN!

YOU LIE, SPACEMAN! FOR MANY YEARS... SINCE I WAS A LITTLE BOY... MY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HIDING HERE FROM THE SOLAR GUARD!

BUT WHY, BOR BORITO? WHY SHOULD THE SOLAR GUARD BE YOUR ENEMY?

YOU KNOW THAT OUR PARENTS WERE ESCAPED CONVICTS FROM THE PRISONS OF MARS? IF WE ARE CAUGHT, THE SOLAR GUARD WOULD PUT US BACK INTO PRISON!

YOUR PARENTS WERE THE CRIMINALS, NOT YOU! YOU WOULDN'T...

SILENCE! I WILL NOT LISTEN TO YOUR LIES! PUT THEM IN THE CELL WITH THE OTHER PRISONER... UNTIL IT IS TIME TO PUNISH THEM!

CAPTAIN STRONG! LOOKS LIKE WE FOUND YOU AT LAST... THOUGH IT MAY NOT DO ANY OF US MUCH GOOD!

DON'T FORGET TOM AND ROGER ARE STILL FREE, CAPTAIN STRONG! THEY'LL FIND A WAY TO SAVE US! THEY WON'T LET US DOWN!

WHAT DOES THAT VENUSIAN SPACE MONKEY THINK WE ARE... MAGICIANS? RESCUE THEM! WE CAN'T EVEN FIND A WAY TO GET INSIDE!
WE CAN'T JUST MOPE AROUND, ROGER? WE'VE GOT TO FIND SOME WAY IN!

WELL, HOW LONG CAN WE WALK AROUND? YOU HEARD WHAT BOR BORITO SAID! HE'S PLANNING TO KILL CAPTAIN STRONG, ASTRO AND PROFESSOR THORNTON! I'M FOR CRASHING THE MAIN ENTRANCE!

OUTLAWS COMING, ROGER? BACK?

BACK? WHERE? WE'RE CAUGHT IN THE OPEN HERE!

WELL, BURN ME FOR A COMET'S TAIL! THEY DIDN'T SEE US! WALKED RIGHT BY!

GOOD OLD SCRAPES? HE CREATED AN ILLUSION AROUND US!

AN OPENING! COME ON, ROGER! WE'LL FIND A WAY TO CAPTAIN STRONG YET!

SURE! NOW ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS GET TO THE CENTER OF THIS HALF-BURIED OLD PALACE!

WELL, JUNIOR, WE'RE INSIDE... BUT WHICH WAY DO WE GO FROM HERE?
WE'RE GOING STRAIGHT AHEAD... AS LONG AS THIS PASSAGE LEADS TOWARD THE CENTER OF THIS PLACE!

I'VE BEEN HELD PRISONER SINCE THEY CAPTURED ME. ONE OF THESE OUTLAWS WAS FRIENDLY AND PROMISED TO GET A MESSAGE THROUGH FOR HELP...

HE DID, PROFESSOR... AND WAS KILLED FOR IT?

THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ALL OF US, ASTRO!

PERHAPS, PROFESSOR? AS LONG AS TOM AND ROGER ARE STILL FREE... THERE'S HOPE! I'VE GOT A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE IN MY SPACE CADETS!

I'M GLAD CAPTAIN STRONG HAS SO MUCH CONFIDENCE IN US! THAT'S A SPACE BAG MORE THAN I HAVE RIGHT NOW!

WE'LL TAKE ONE OF THE OTHER DOORWAYS, ROGER!

GO ON, JUNIOR! PICK ONE! WE'RE SURE TO BE WRONG!

WRONG OR NOT, ROGER, STOP GRIPING AND COME ON! WE CAN'T GIVE UP!

BLOCKED! WE'VE GOT TO TRY ANOTHER WAY?

I'LL BET THIS WAS THE RIGHT WAY, TOO!
COME! THE TIME HAS COME
TO FACE THE JUDGEMENT
OF BOR BORITO!

LOOKS LIKE SPACE-
MAN'S LUCK HAS RUN
OUT ON US?

IT IS TIME NOW
TO PUNISH YOU
SPACEMEN? I
HAVE DECIDED
THAT ALL OF
YOU MUST DIE!

OPEN THE
PIT OF THE
DOOMED!

BY THE RINGS OF
SATURN! WE DON'T HAVE
A CHANCE! WE'LL BE
SMASHED TO PIECES!

GAIN TIME? AH! THEN YOU DID NOT
COME ALONE! YOU EXPECT MORE
SOLAR GUARDS TO COME AND
RESCUE YOU? WELL, WE
SHALL TAKE CARE
OF THEM, TOO?

WE'VE GOT TO GAIN TIME...
SOMEHOW?
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO ARGUE, ROGER! THERE MUST BE A WAY!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! THESE BARS... THEY LOOK MODERN!

WHAT IF THEY ARE MODERN? THEY STOP US, DON'T THEY?

YES... BUT THESE BARS LOOK JUST LIKE THE KIND THEY HAVE AT THE SPACEPORT TO KEEP THE PEOPLE AWAY FROM DANGEROUS AREAS....

YOU AND YOUR IDEAS OF FINDING ANOTHER ENTRANCE? WE SHOULD HAVE BLASTED OUR WAY RIGHT THROUGH THE OTHER ENTRANCE!

THESE BARS AREN'T REAL, ROGER? SCRAPES IS CREATING THEM TO STOP US FROM GOING DOWN THIS WAY!

HUH? THE BARS AREN'T REAL? WHAT'S THE IDEA?

SCRAPES HERE IS TRYING TO TELL US THAT EITHER THERE'S DANGER THIS WAY... OR IT ISN'T THE RIGHT WAY? WE'D BETTER FOLLOW HIS ADVICE?

MAYBE SCRAPES JUST DOESN'T WANT TO GO INSIDE, TOM? WHAT IF HE BLOCKS ALL THE OPENINGS?

WE'LL TAKE THAT CHANCE! BUT I'VE GOT A SPACEMAN'S HUNCH THAT SCRAPES IS A LOT SMARTER THAN WE GAVE HIM CREDIT FOR!
WHAT'S THE USE, TOM! THAT MARTIAN Mutt IS GOING TO BLOCK US OFF IN THIS PASSAGE, TOO!

HE HASN'T SO FAR? COME ON!

I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN THAT PET OF YOURS HAD IT IN FOR ME! JUST BECAUSE I SAID HE'D BLOCK US ... HE DOESN'T?

IT ONLY PROVES HOW RIGHT YOU ALWAYS ARE, ROGER! BUT DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU!

MEANWHILE...

WAIT, BOR BORITO! I WANT YOU TO BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT THE SOLAR GUARD IS NOT LOOKING FOR YOU OR YOUR PEOPLE! WE DO NOT HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRIMES OF YOUR FATHERS.

DEATH TO OUR ENEMIES! DEATH TO THOSE WHO PERSECUTE US AND GIVE US NO PEACE!

IT ISN'T TRUE, BOR BORITO! GIVE US A CHANCE TO PROVE IT!

YOU WILL NOT BE HERE WHEN HELP ARRIVES FOR YOU, SPACE MEN! YOU GO INTO THE PIT NOW!

THERE THEY ARE, ROGER! WE'RE IN TIME?

YEH, JUNIOR! WE GOT A COUPLE OF SECONDS BEFORE THEY THROW THEM INTO THE PIT! WHAT DO YOU THINK WE CAN DO AGAINST THAT MOB OF OUTLAWS? NOTHING... EXCEPT LOSE OUR LIVES, TOO!
IF MY HUNCH ABOUT THE PICUP IS RIGHT, WE MIGHT PULL A NEAT TRICK.... YOU MEAN THAT HE'S SMARTER THAN YOU THINK? WHAT CAN HE DO?

LET'S SEE WHAT HE DOES!

LOOK? SCRAPS HAS CREATED ILLUSIONS OF YOU AND ME!

I KNEW SCRAPS HAD BRAINS? AND HE'S GOT US ARMED, TOO?

BOR BORITO! YOU AND YOUR MEN ARE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED! RELEASE THE PRISONERS!

BOY! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU, TOM! I'M EVEN GLAD TO SEE ROGER!

WHY...YOU VENUSIAN SWAMP MONKEY! WHERE'D YOU BE IF I DIDN'T SAVE YOU IN TIME?

CUT YOUR JETS, BOTH OF YOU? WE'RE STILL IN PLENTY OF TROUBLE!
CAPTAIN STRONG WAS TELLING YOU THE TRUTH, BOR BORITO! YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE ARE NOT GUILTY OF ANY CRIMES! YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE OUTLAWS!

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME SUCH LIES? THERE IS NO NEED... WE ARE BEATEN!

IT IS THE TRUTH, BOR BORITO! YOUR PARENTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN ESCAPED CONVICTS... BUT YOU ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM. YOU ARE FREE CITIZENS OF THE SOLAR ALLIANCE!

DO YOU HEAR, MY PEOPLE?

I WILL TRUST THE SPACEMEN? WE SHALL LAY DOWN OUR WEAPONS... AND NOT HIDE LIKE OUTLAWS ANY MORE!

YOU WILL BE TRIED FOR YOUR CRIME AND PUNISHED, TAL MIKAR?

NEVER! I WILL NOT SURRENDER! I LIKE THIS LIFE OF A DESERT OUTLAW!

BUT WHAT ABOUT ME? I HAVE KILLED ALO KOMIR! I AM A CRIMINAL IN THE EYES OF THE SOLAR GUARD?

YOU SHALL OBEY YOUR CHIEF! I, BOR BORITO, ORDER YOU TO SURRENDER TO THE SOLAR GUARD!

YOU ARE MY CHIEF NO LONGER! I WILL FIGHT YOU FOR THE COMMAND OF THE PEOPLE!

SO BE IT, TAL MIKAR! WE SHALL FIGHT IN THE CUSTOM OF OUR PEOPLE! MAY HE WHO REMAINS ALIVE BE A GOOD LEADER TO THE PEOPLE!
Such duels to the death are primitive and have been forbidden by the laws of the Solar Alliance!

I will not permit this duel, Bor Borito! You are not outlaws any more! You must decide your differences by peaceful means... under the laws of your government!

You tricked us, Solar Guardsman! We are not surrounded! It was your pickup that created the images to fool us! You have no power to command!

Tricked or not, these spacemen spoke the truth and I believe them! We are outlaws no more!

So you are afraid to face me in a trial of strength?

I do not fear you, Tal Mikar! We shall fight!

Good! Bor Borito and I shall fight! Seize them and put them into a cell! I shall deal with them after I have killed Bor Borito!
FEAR NOT! I SHALL DEAL WITH THIS TARTAR MIKAR... AND THEN MY PEOPLE SHALL KNOW THE PEACE WE HAVE NOT KNOWN SINCE CHILDHOOD!

IT SHALL NOT BE LONG BEFORE YOU ARE FREE AGAIN!

NO, IT SHALL NOT BE LONG!

I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN THAT ONE WHO WANTS TO BE AN OUTLAW WOULD FIGHT LIKE A COWARD?

LOOK! BOR BORITO IS FIGHTING WITH ONLY A BROKEN SWORD?

WHEN THIS DOOR IS OPENED AGAIN, YOU SHALL KNOW IF YOU ARE TO LIVE... OR DIE? IT DEPENDS ON WHO WINS THE FIGHT?

WE'RE NOT WAITING FOR THE END OF THAT FIGHT! SCRAPES HAS TAKEN A HAND IN THIS... AND CREATED AN IMAGE OF THE DOOR WHICH OUR GUARDS THOUGHT THEY HAD LOCKED!

SOME CHANCE WE'VE GOT? BOR BORITO HAS ONLY A PIECE OF A SWORD...
WE'RE FREE TO LEAVE THIS ROOM?

AND DO WHAT? THOSE OUTLAWS WILL CUT US DOWN!

WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A HAND IN BOR BORITO'S DUEL WITH TAL MIKAR! AS LONG AS WE'VE BEEN GIVEN A CHANCE BY SCRAPS, WE'RE GOING TO USE IT!

ROGER, YOU AND PROFESSOR THORNTON GET OUT OF HERE AND GO TO THE POLARIS! CONTACT COMMANDER NORLAND AT THE SOLAR GUARD BASE AND ASK FOR HELP!

WHY Send me, Captain Strong? I can be useful in a fight? Send Astro...

THAT'S AN ORDER, CADET MANNING? NOW JET OFF AND SEE TO IT THAT YOU DON'T STOP FOR A FIGHT!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

WE'LL GO BACK TO THE MAIN PALACE ROOM AND SEE HOW BOR BORITO IS MAKING OUT!

GUARDS AHEAD, SIR, THEY'RE TAKING NO CHANCES OF ANYONE INTERRUPTING THE FIGHT!

WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM, THEN!
Move fast, space cadets! We're only getting one chance to catch them by surprise!

Here we come, rockets blazing, sir!

Now slip into the room without making any noise! Hide behind one of the columns!

Aye, aye, sir?

Bor Borito is still in the fight? He's as tough a man as I've seen on any planet!

But he can't hold out long, Astro! He is being forced back and will step into the pit.

He lost his sword because we distracted him from the fight... Now I'm going to give him a chance to gain back the advantage tal Mikar got!
Tal Mikar! The Solar Guards are here... and we're going to take you under arrest!

Treachery! I will not kill you as you deserve, Tal Mikar! But now, know you are defeated!

I spare you, Tal Mikar, that you may face the justice of the Solar Guards! Know that we shall plead for you... and trust in their fairness!

I shall never trust them!

You are free again, for I am still the chief of my people! Tell me what you wish done, for we are yours to command!

They may command you, but I shall fight to the last!

Stop him! No! Don't shoot! He will deserve death for hitting our chief!
He cannot get far! We shall capture him later!

Suddenly...

Help! The pit of the doomed ones? I am falling!

The pickup created the illusion of the floor over the opening of the pit! Tal Mikar killed the pickup's master... against my orders... and even though he need not have killed Ado Komir!

It is only just? Tal Mikar killed the pickup's master... against my orders... and even though he need not have killed Ado Komir!

Cadet Corbett to Polaris! Cadet Corbett to Polaris! Come in, Roger?

Relax, Junior! Everything is all right! Commander Norland is sending help!

No need for them, Roger! Ask Professor Thornton to return here. You remain and prepare the Polaris for our trip home!

We're all set to blast-off! How long do I have to sit here and work while you space heroes play around?

Don't strain yourself, Roger! We'll be aboard as soon as Captain Strong gives us our orders!
IS PROFESSOR THORNTON COMING, TOM? SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE, SIR! ROGER HAS THE POLARIS READY FOR BLAST-OFF? WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS, SIR?

I'LL TELL YOU AFTER I TALK WITH PROFESSOR THORNTON!

FOOD AND HELP WILL BE SENT HERE JUST AS SOON AS I MAKE MY REPORT, BOR BORITO!

YOU WILL HELP US TO STAY HERE AND BUILD HOMES FOR OURSELVES?

I WILL STAY HERE WITH YOU, BOR BORITO! AND I SHALL HAVE PLENTY OF WORK FOR YOUR PEOPLE! WE WILL EXCAVATE ALL THESE RUINS SO THAT THE WORLD MAY SEE WHAT THE OLD CIVILIZATION OF ASSOORIA WAS LIKE?

I GUESS YOU DON'T NEED ME AND THE SPACE CADETS ANY MORE?

WITH BOR BORITO AND HIS PEOPLE TO HELP ME...I GUESS I CAN GO ON WITH MY RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION! BUT IT'S GOOD KNOWING THAT THE SOLAR GUARD AND THE SPACE CADETS ARE READY IN CASE WE NEED HELP!

WELL, ANOTHER MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

I WONDER HOW ROGER IS GOING TO TWIST THIS STORY TO MAKE HIMSELF OUT THE BIG HERO?
What took you spacejokers so long? I fixed everything for you before I left to make sure the Polaris was safe!

You fixed everything!

Sure! Didn’t I leave scraps here with you? If not for me and scraps, where would you spacegoofs have been? Why, I told scraps what to do! He and I understand each other!

Well, I better take my station! Take good care of scraps!

Why, you big bag of spacegas! I’m gonna puncture you——

Easy, astro! Captain Strong is here!

Remember, scraps is a special friend of mine——Ooooff!

Why that little martian menace? I’ll make a hot dog out of him! I’ll put him in a room with mirrors and teach him to fool me with an image!

Tut! Tut! Remember, Roger! You and scraps have an understanding!