

DELL
COMIC

TOM CORBETT

MAY-JULY

10¢

SPACE CADET



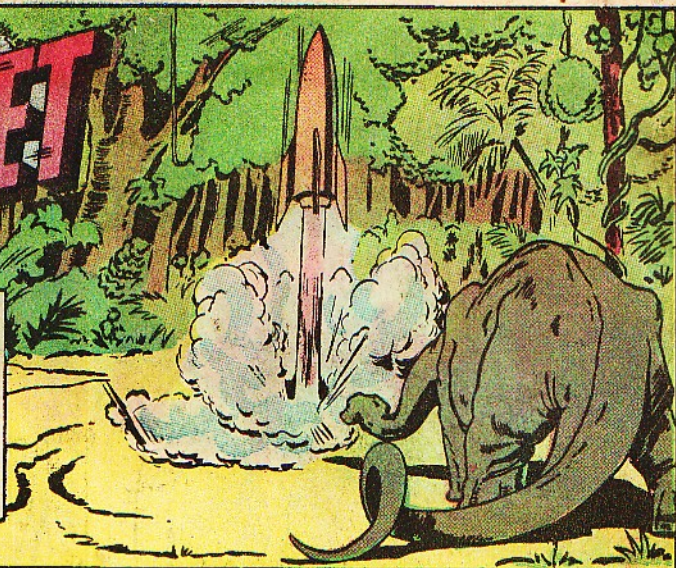


Full space equipment is used by cadets at training sessions. Here, Captain Strong is taking his cadet squadron—Tom Corbett, Astro and Roger Manning for an exploratory trip on the cold, barren surface of an asteroid. Space suits keep them warm and comfortable in the zero cold of space. Space helmets provide air for breathing and a communication system is built into the equipment.

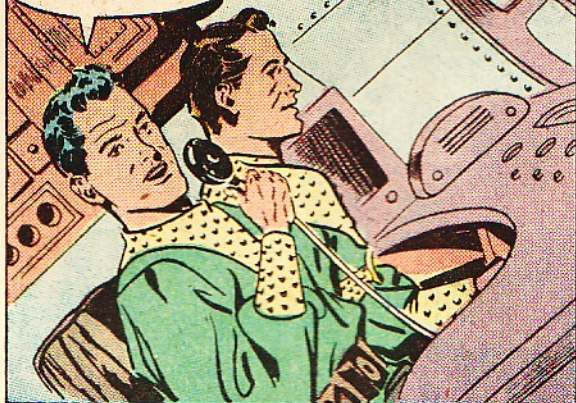
TOM CORBETT

SPACE CADET

BILLIONS OF MILES BEYOND THE FARTHEST PLANET OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM, IS THE SUN-STAR ALPHA CENTAURI... AND AROUND THIS SUN ARE SEVERAL PLANETS, ON ONE OF WHICH--TARA--THE POLARIS LANDS ITS CREW OF SPACE CADETS.

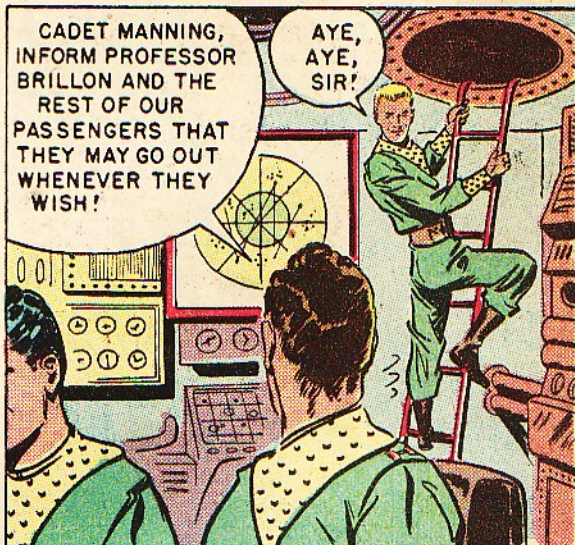


CONTROL DECK TO ASTRO! HOLD BRAKING ROCKETS STEADY! PREPARE FOR LANDING!



CADET MANNING, INFORM PROFESSOR BRILLON AND THE REST OF OUR PASSENGERS THAT THEY MAY GO OUT WHENEVER THEY WISH!

AYE, AYE, SIR!



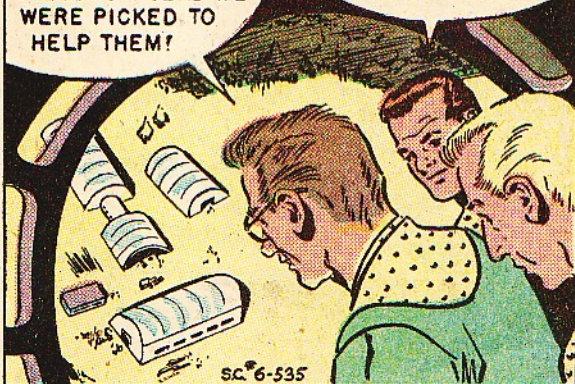
WHAT WILL WE BE DOING, CAPTAIN STRONG, WHILE PROFESSOR BRILLON'S EXPEDITION EXPLORES THIS PLANET?

WAIT FOR THEM TO FINISH THEIR WORK, TOM. AND--STAY OUT OF THEIR WAY.



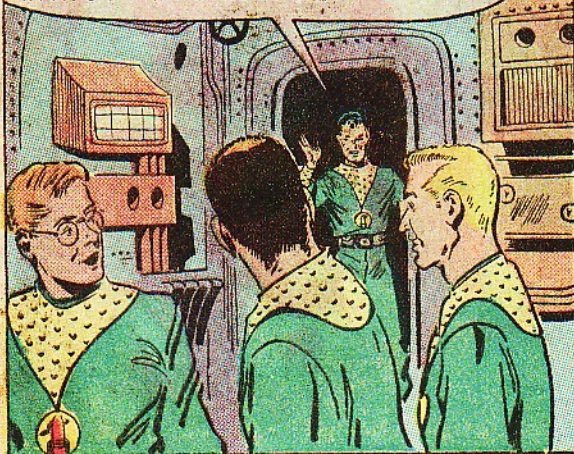
GOSH! WHAT A CHANCE THIS IS FOR US TO STUDY AN ACTUAL SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION IN THE FIELD! I'M GLAD WE WERE PICKED TO HELP THEM!

HOLD YOUR JETS, ALFIE. THESE SCIENTISTS ARE WORSE THAN MARTIAN MISERS! THEY WON'T LET US LEARN ANYTHING!



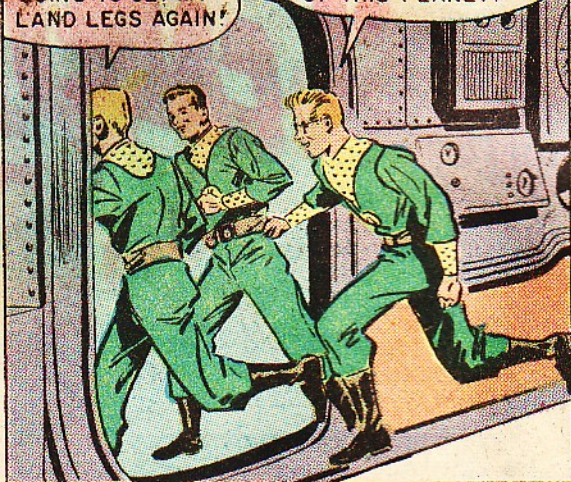
SC 6-535

DID I HEAR THE WORD **LEARN** ROCKETING ABOUT? I'VE JUST **LEARNED** WE'RE FREE TO GO LANDSIDE ANYTIME WE WISH... WITH CAPTAIN STRONG'S COMPLIMENTS!



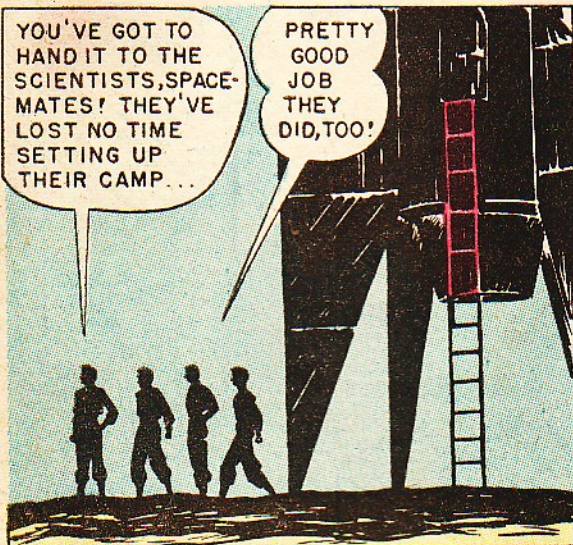
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? I'M GOING TO GET MY **LAND LEGS** AGAIN!

AND I DESIRE TO STUDY THE **FLORA AND FAUNA** OF THIS PLANET!



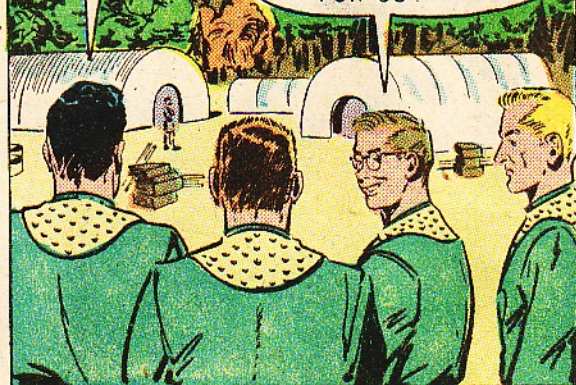
YOU'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO THE **SCIENTISTS, SPACE-MATES!** THEY'VE LOST NO TIME SETTING UP THEIR CAMP...

PRETTY GOOD JOB THEY DID, TOO!



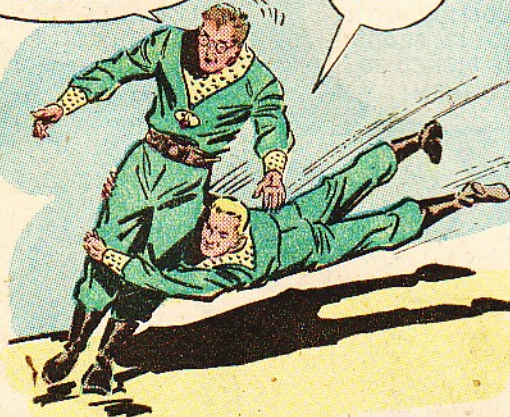
THEY'VE SURE MADE A HOME HERE IN THE **JUNGLE**...

THAT SUGGESTS AN IDEA, TOM WHY DON'T WE REQUEST CAPTAIN STRONG TO SET UP **REGULAR SPACE ACADEMY** COURSES HERE FOR US?



I BELIEVE I WILL GO FIND CAPTAIN STRONG AND ASK HIM----

NO, YOU DON'T!



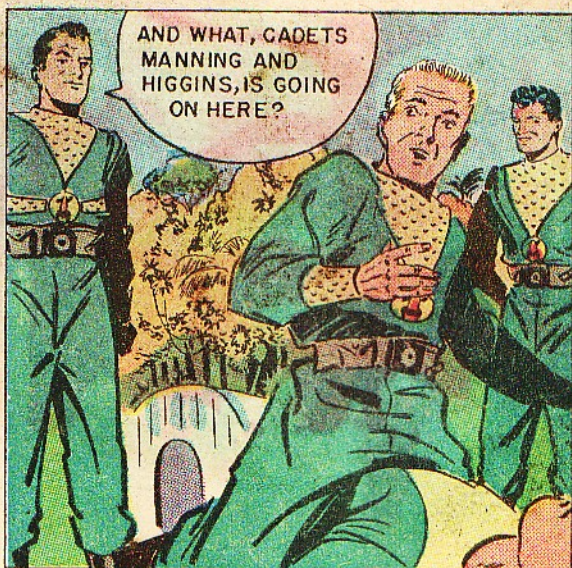
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL CAPTAIN STRONG ANYTHING! UNDERSTAND, YOU **SPACE WORM**?



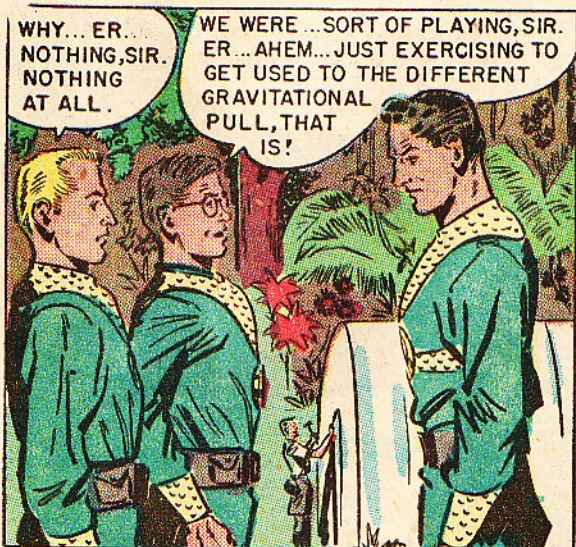


BUT, ROGER... THIS IS A
SPLENDID OPPORTUNITY
FOR US TO MASTER SOME
ADVANCE STUDIES IN
ASTROBIOLOGY!

LOOK, YOU
LITTLE SPACE
MONKEY-- WE
GET ENOUGH
STUDYING TO DO
AT SPACE ACADEMY!
HERE... WE'VE GOT A
CHANCE TO HAVE
SOME FUN!



AND WHAT, CADETS
MANNING AND
HIGGINS, IS GOING
ON HERE?

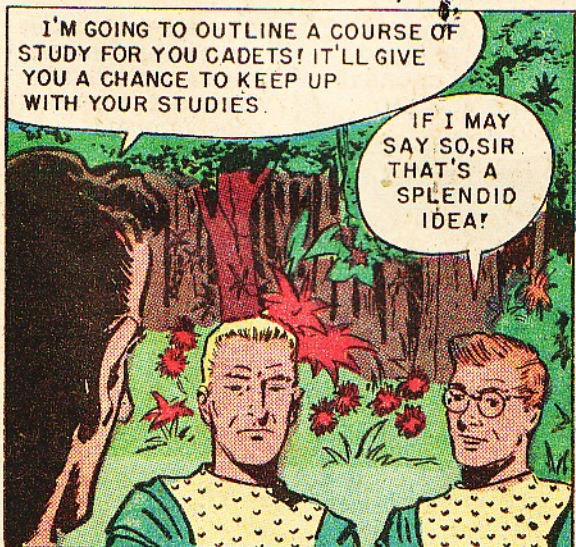


WHY... ER...
NOTHING, SIR.
NOTHING
AT ALL.

WE WERE... SORT OF PLAYING, SIR.
ER... AHEM... JUST EXERCISING TO
GET USED TO THE DIFFERENT
GRAVITATIONAL
PULL, THAT
IS!



I SEE. WELL, SPACE CADETS, I THINK YOU
NEED SOMETHING TO KEEP YOU BUSY...
OTHERWISE YOU MIGHT GET INTO MISCHIEF.

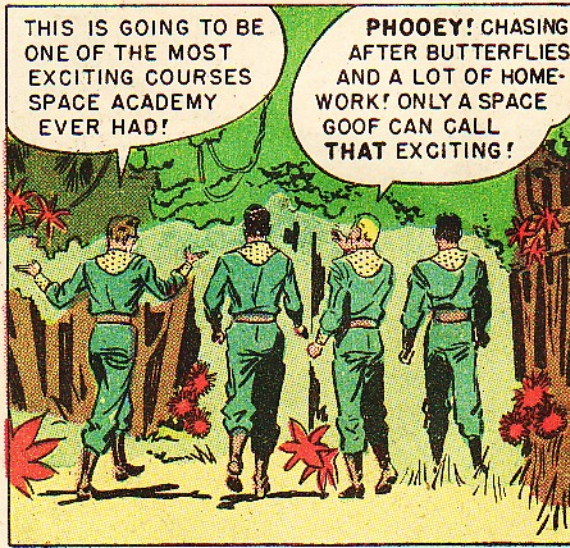
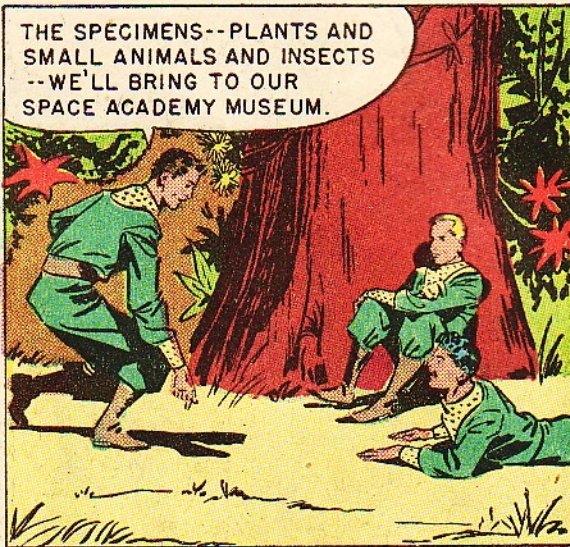


I'M GOING TO OUTLINE A COURSE OF
STUDY FOR YOU CADETS! IT'LL GIVE
YOU A CHANCE TO KEEP UP
WITH YOUR STUDIES.

IF I MAY
SAY SO, SIR
THAT'S A
SPLENDID
IDEA!

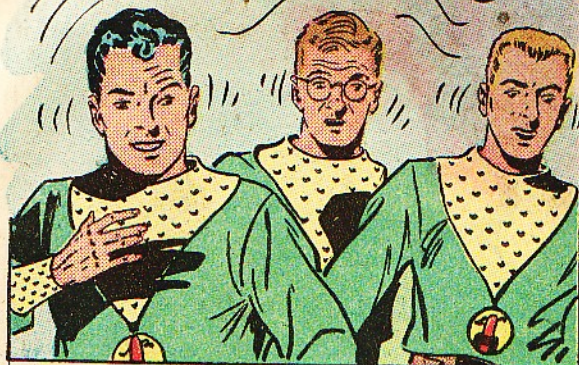


COME ALONG AND
WE'LL START
OUR STUDIES!

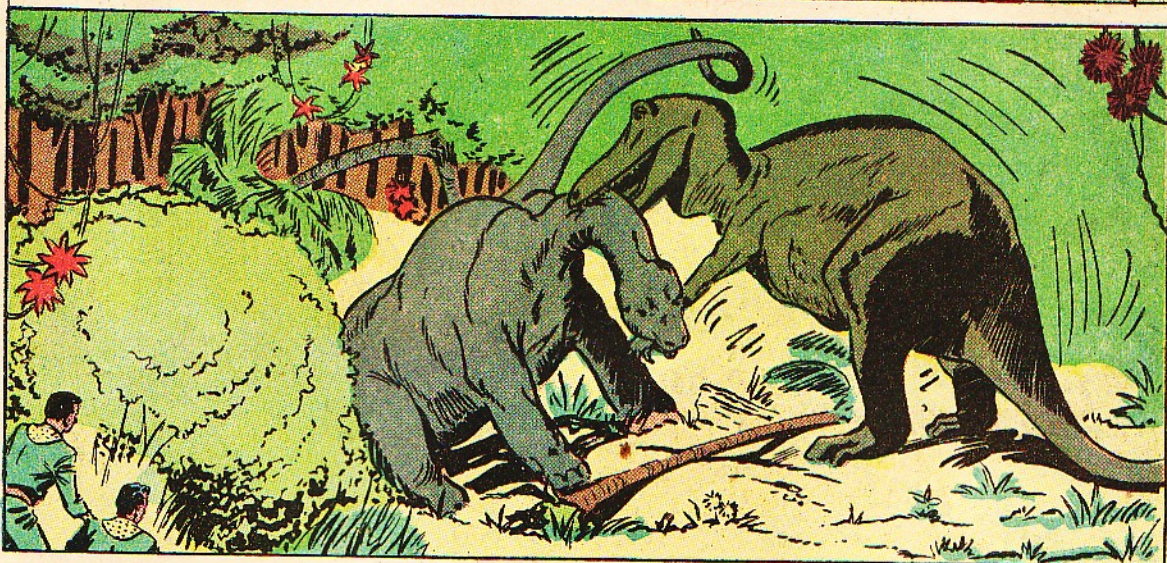
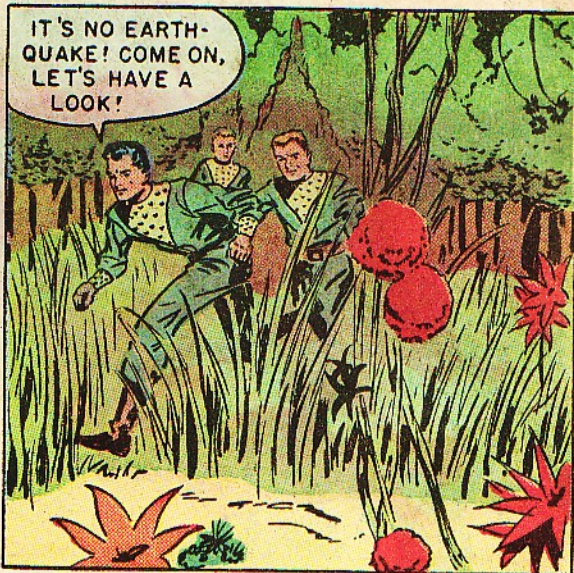


HEY! WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

FEELS LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE!

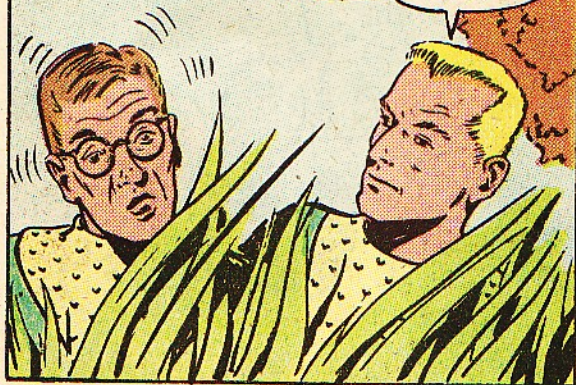


IT'S NO EARTH-
QUAKE! COME ON,
LET'S HAVE A
LOOK!

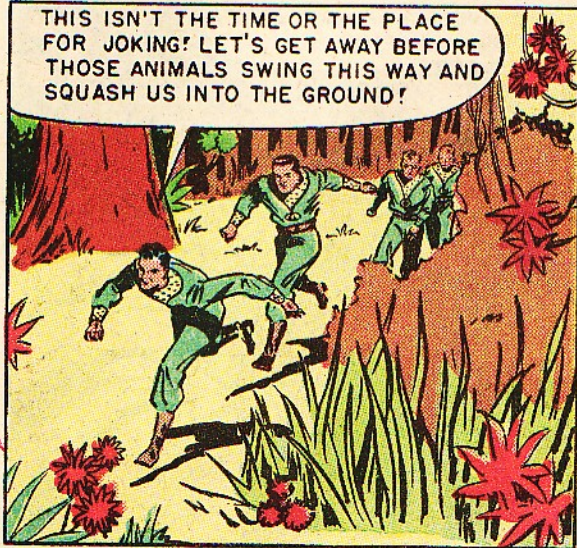


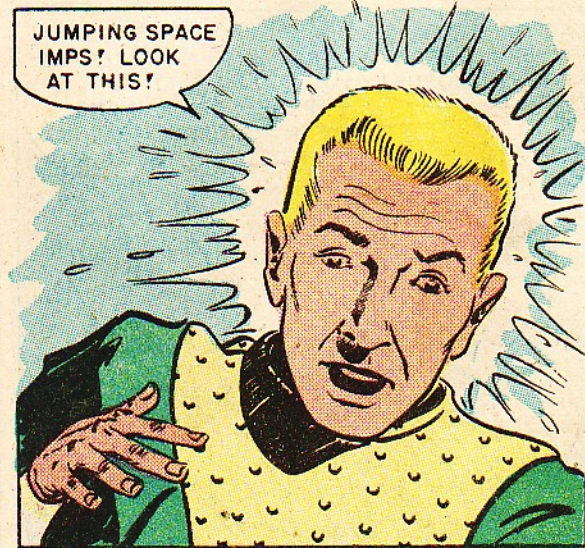
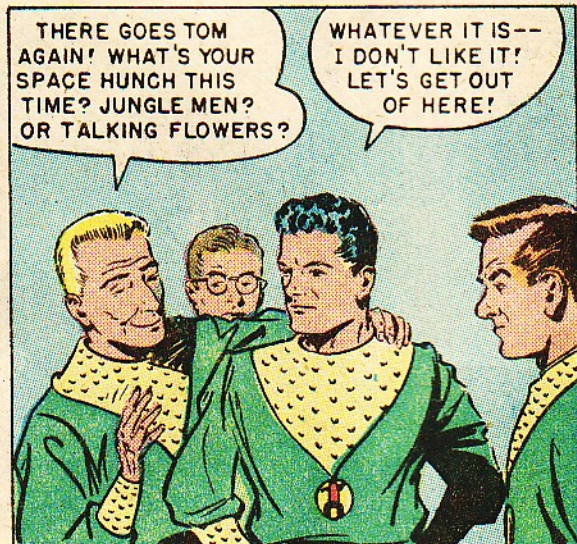
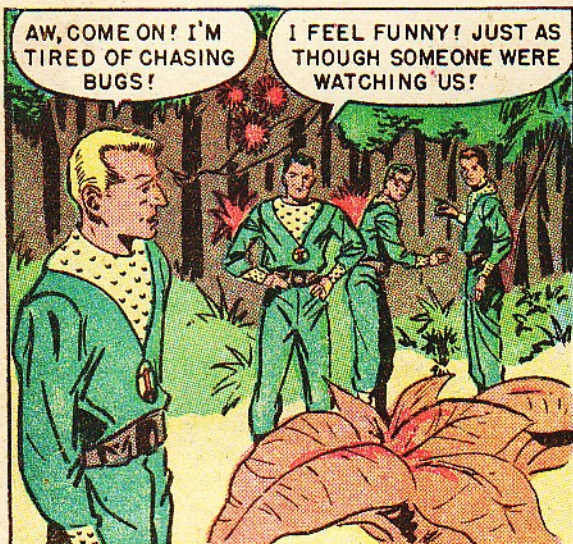
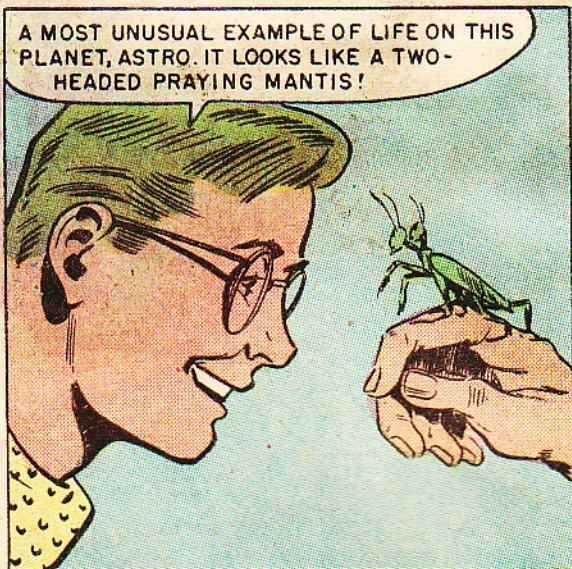
A TYRANNOSAURUS
— FIGHTING A
BRONTOSAURUS!

WHY DON'T YOU CATCH
THEM WITH A BUTTERFLY
NET, ALFIE? HO! HO!
PERFECT SPECIMENS
FOR THE SPACE ACADEMY
ZOO!

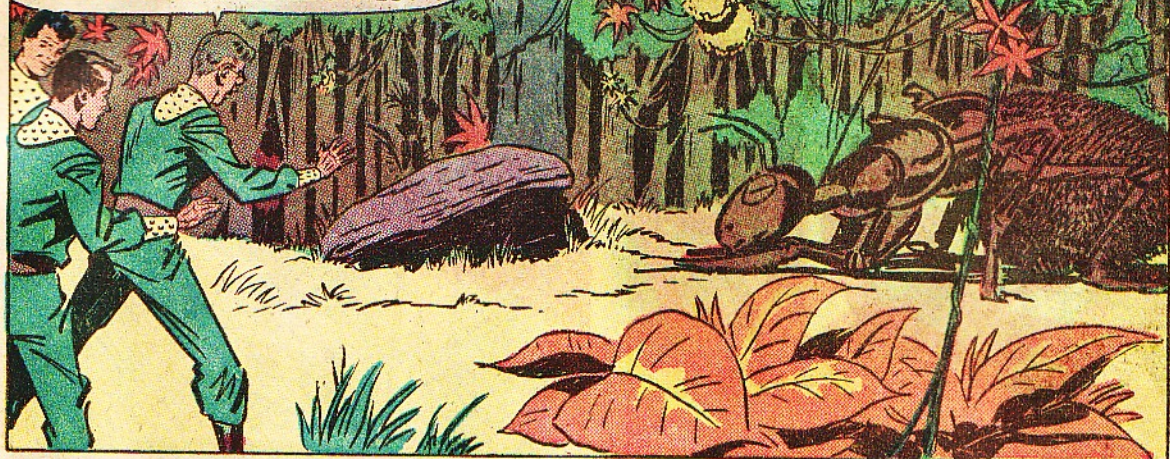


THIS ISN'T THE TIME OR THE PLACE
FOR JOKING! LET'S GET AWAY BEFORE
THOSE ANIMALS SWING THIS WAY AND
SQUASH US INTO THE GROUND!





SAY, WE DIDN'T COME ACROSS ANYTHING LIKE THIS ON OUR FIRST VISIT TO THIS PLANET! PROFESSOR BRILLON SHOULD BE INFORMED.



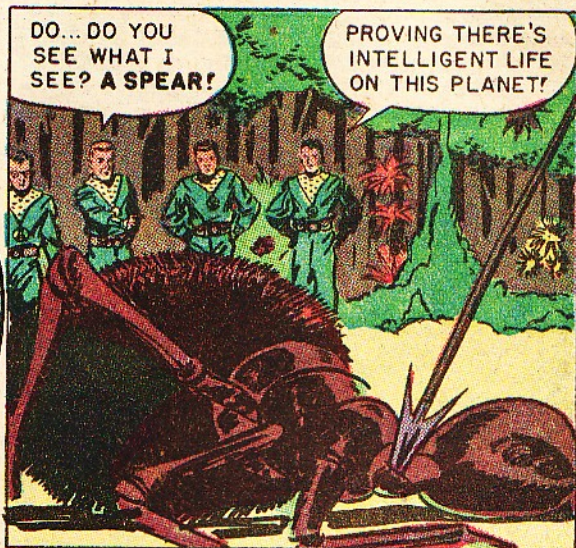
BUT, TOM, IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE TO APPROACH IT! THE INSECT MAY BE LARGE... BUT IT'S DEAD.

SURE--AND LOOK AT WHAT KILLED IT!

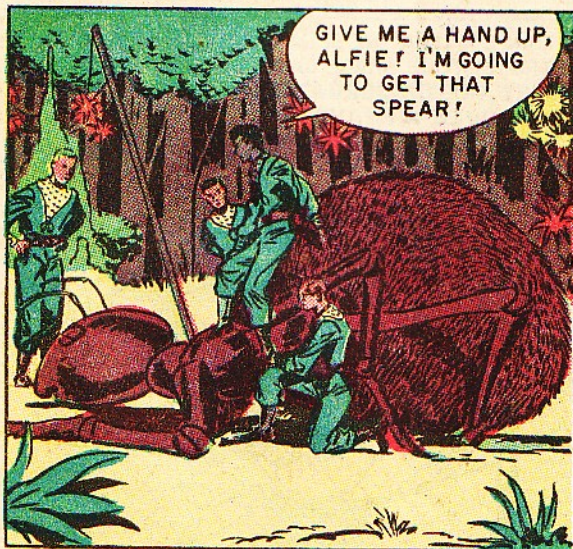


DO... DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE? A SPEAR!

PROVING THERE'S INTELLIGENT LIFE ON THIS PLANET!

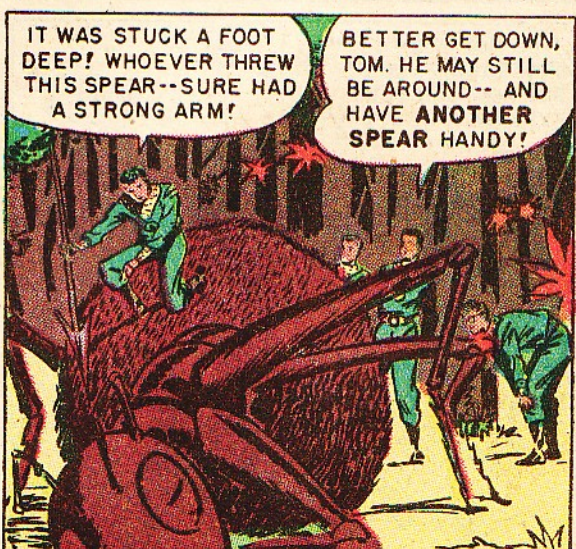


GIVE ME A HAND UP, ALFIE! I'M GOING TO GET THAT SPEAR!



IT WAS STUCK A FOOT DEEP! WHOEVER THREW THIS SPEAR--SURE HAD A STRONG ARM!

BETTER GET DOWN, TOM. HE MAY STILL BE AROUND-- AND HAVE ANOTHER SPEAR HANDY!



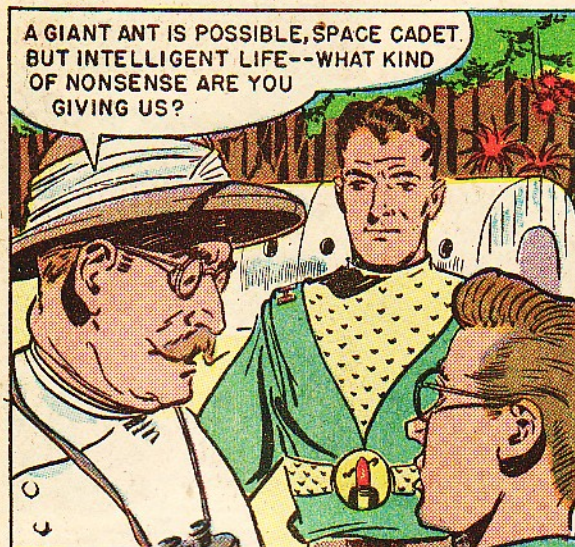


LOOKS LIKE YOUR SPACE CADETS DIDN'T TAKE YOUR INSTRUCTIONS TOO SERIOUSLY, CAPTAIN STRONG. THEY'RE BACK ALREADY.

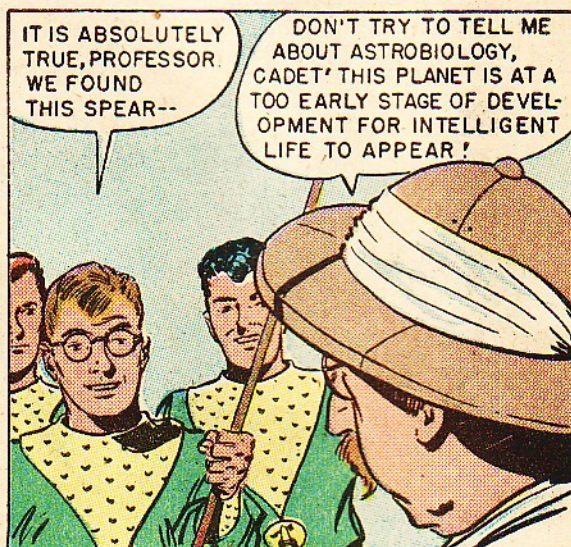
THEY PROBABLY HAVE A GOOD REASON, PROFESSOR BRILLON.



WE RETURNED, SIR, BECAUSE WE FOUND DEFINITE PROOF OF INTELLIGENT LIFE ON THIS PLANET. THIS SPEAR WAS USED TO KILL A GIANT ANT.

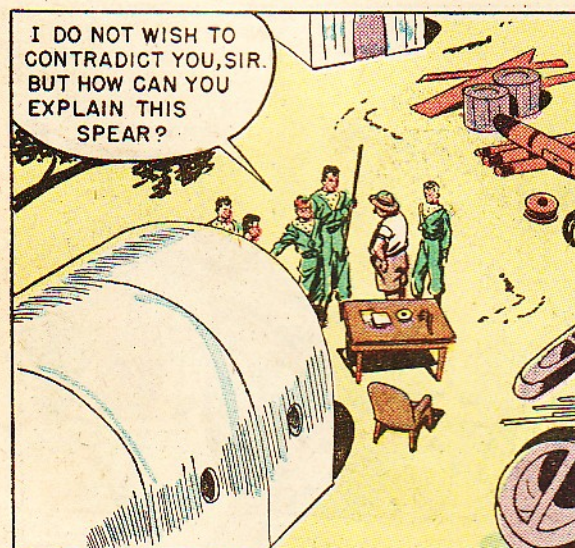


A GIANT ANT IS POSSIBLE, SPACE CADET. BUT INTELLIGENT LIFE--WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE ARE YOU GIVING US?



IT IS ABSOLUTELY TRUE, PROFESSOR. WE FOUND THIS SPEAR--

DON'T TRY TO TELL ME ABOUT ASTROBIOLOGY, CADET! THIS PLANET IS AT A TOO EARLY STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT FOR INTELLIGENT LIFE TO APPEAR!



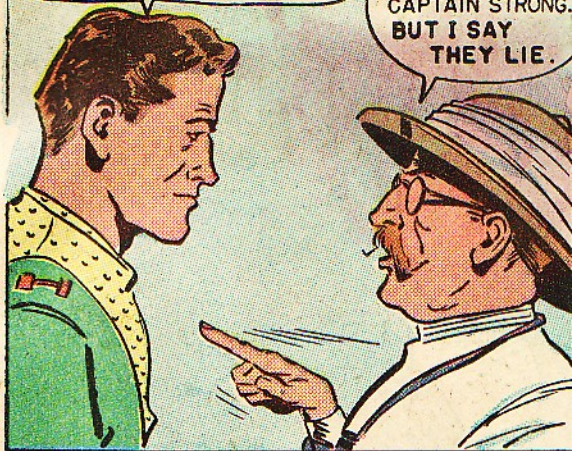
I DO NOT WISH TO CONTRADICT YOU, SIR. BUT HOW CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS SPEAR?



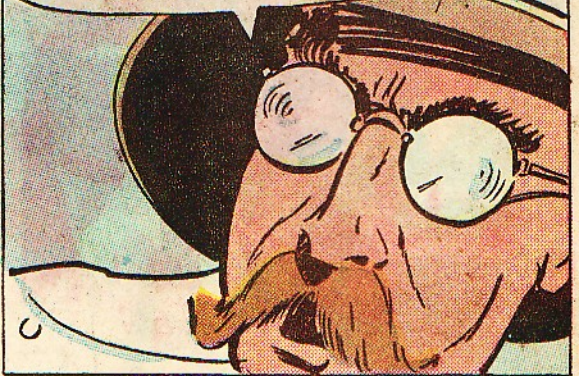
I CAN EXPLAIN THE SPEAR VERY SIMPLY, CAPTAIN STRONG! YOUR SPACE CADETS MADE THAT SPEAR! THEY ARE DELIBERATELY TRYING TO PUT OVER A FRAUD!

SPACE CADETS NEVER LIE, PROFESSOR BRILLON! IF THEY SAY THEY FOUND THE SPEAR-- THAT IS EXACTLY THE TRUTH!

YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THEM IS TOUCHING, CAPTAIN STRONG. BUT I SAY THEY LIE.

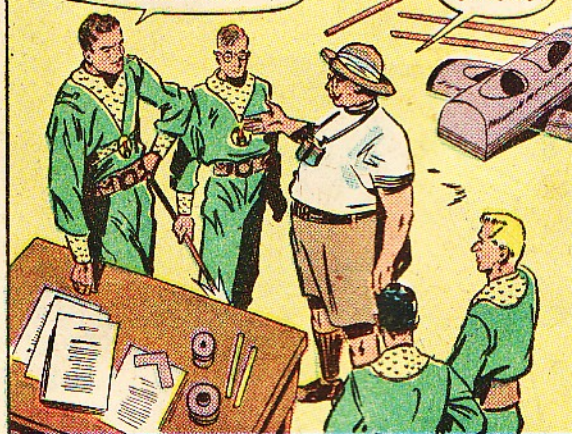


AND WHAT IS MORE, I BELIEVE YOU PUT THEM UP TO IT! THE SOLAR GUARDS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BECOME THE ADVANCE EXPLORATION UNIT FOR SOLAR ALLIANCE RESEARCH FOR MANY YEARS-- THIS IS NOTHING BUT A TRICK TO MAKE MY EXPEDITION LOOK FOOLISH!

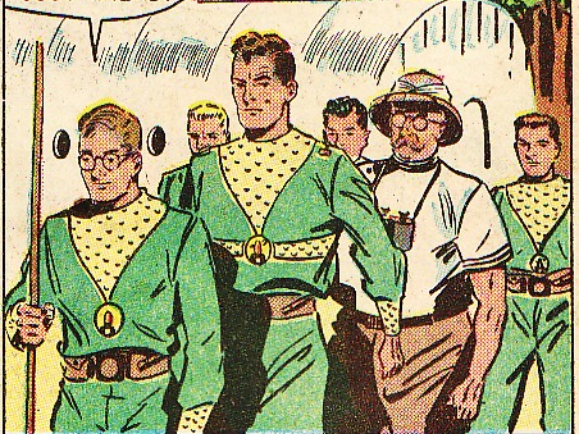


THERE'S A SIMPLE WAY OF FINDING OUT IF THEY TOLD THE TRUTH, PROFESSOR. LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THE GIANT ANT

VERY GOOD, CAPTAIN STRONG!

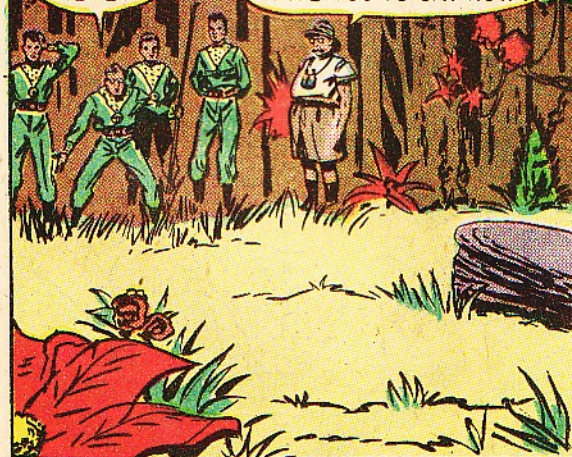


THIS WAY, SIR. WE FOUND IT IN THE CLEARING JUST AHEAD.



BUT...BUT IT WAS RIGHT HERE!

SO I SEE! WELL, CAPTAIN STRONG? WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY NOW?



I STILL BELIEVE IN MY SPACE CADETS, PROFESSOR!

I DON'T! I ORDER SPACE CADET HIGGINS UNDER CONFINEMENT UNTIL WE RETURN TO SPACE ACADEMY! HE IS GUILTY OF CONDUCT UNWORTHY OF OUR TRADITIONS!



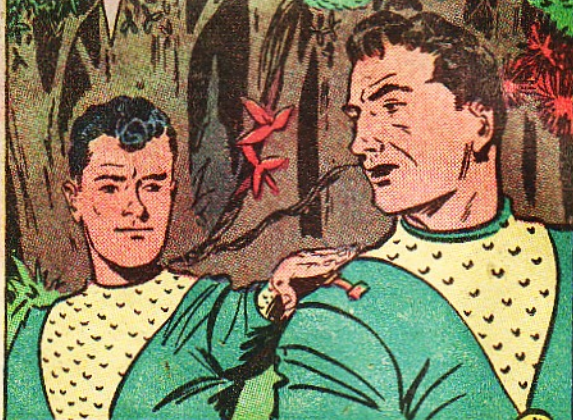
THIS IS AN INSULT TO EVERY CADET AT SPACE ACADEMY! I REFUSE TO PLACE HIM UNDER CONFINEMENT!

YOU FORGET WE'RE NOT IN SPACE NOW, CAPTAIN STRONG! HERE ON **TARA** I AM IN COMMAND! YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE EXCEPT TO PUT YOU ALL UNDER ARREST...



EXCUSE ME FOR INTERFERING, CAPTAIN STRONG! BUT PROFESSOR BRILLON IS RIGHT!

WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY?



WHY, SIR... CADET HIGGINS HAS PLACED THE HONOR OF THE ENTIRE SPACE CADET CORPS IN DOUBT. IT'S UP TO US TO CLEAR OUR NAMES, SIR. UNTIL WE DO, CADET HIGGINS SHOULD BE CONFINED TO QUARTERS.



I'M GLAD TO SEE AT LEAST ONE SPACE CADET WHO DOESN'T LIKE THE DECEIT OF THE SOLAR GUARDS! I'M GOING BACK TO CAMP NOW, CAPTAIN STRONG! SEE THAT THE GUILTY CADET IS LOCKED UP!



WELL, TOM! I HOPE YOU'VE GOT A GOOD EXPLANATION FOR YOUR ACTIONS!

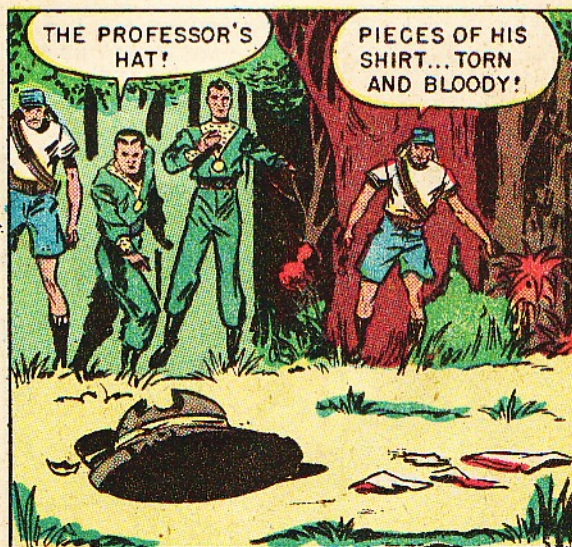
YEH... AND NO SPACE GAS FROM YOU! WE WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU TOOK HIS SIDE AGAINST YOUR FELLOW SPACE CADETS!

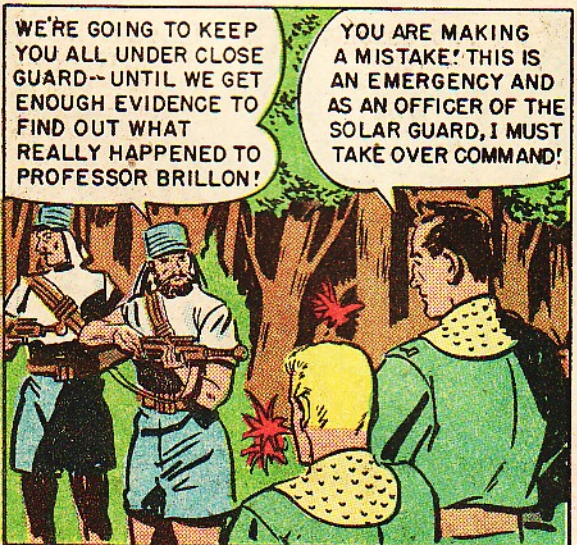
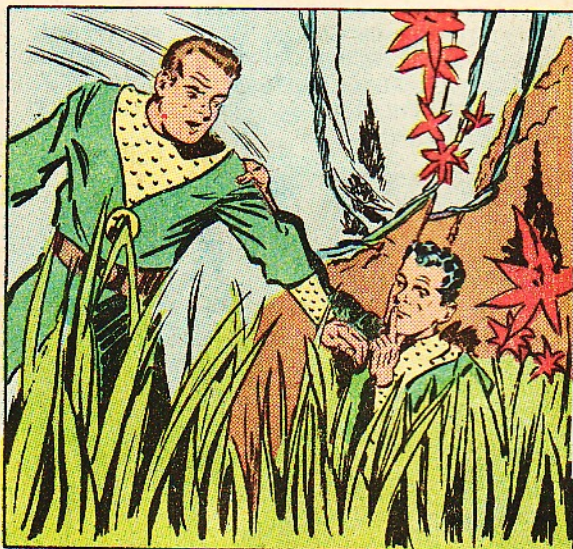


I SAW CAPTAIN STRONG WAS LOSING HIS TEMPER--AND SO WAS PROFESSOR BRILLON! IF WE ARE ALL LOCKED UP-- WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PROVE THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT SPEAR!

GOOD FOR YOU, TOM! I GUESS I WAS WRONG IN GETTING ANGRY!









THOSE SPACE-HAPPY SCIENTISTS
MESSED EVERYTHING UP, BUT
GOOD! WITHOUT CAPTAIN
STRONG, ROGER AND ALFIE
--- WE'LL NEVER FIND
PROFESSOR BRILLON!

WE'VE
GOT TO,
ASTRO!



IT'S UP TO US, ASTRO! WE'VE GOT TO
FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF PROFESSOR
BRILLON... AND PROVE CAPTAIN
STRONG HAD NOTHING TO DO
WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE.



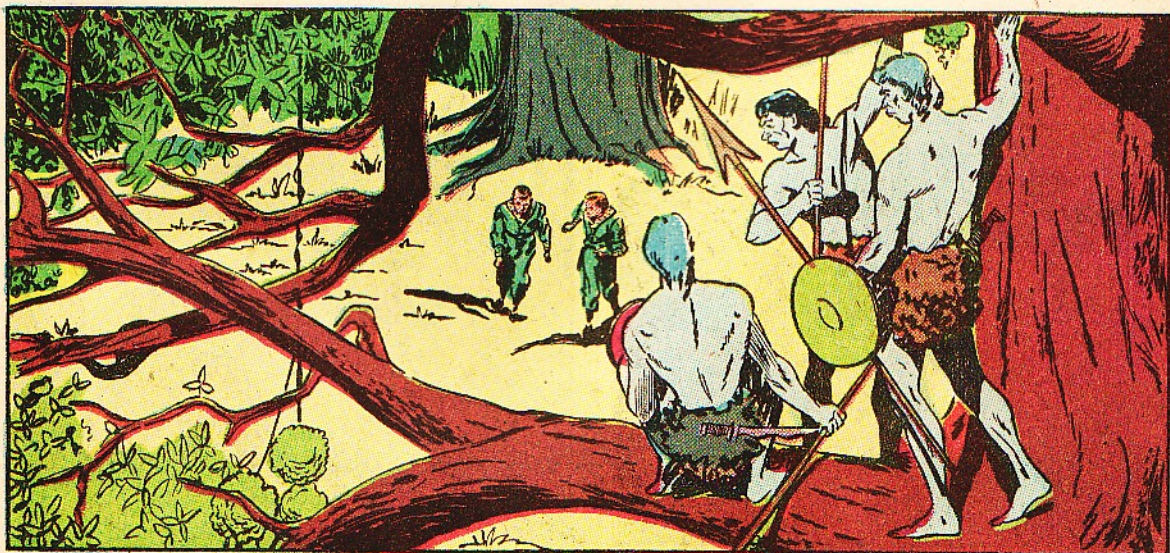
LET'S SEE WHAT
YOU REMEMBER OF
YOUR VENUSIAN
JUNGLE TRACKING,
ASTRO!

PROFESSOR BRILLON
WAS DRAGGED THIS
WAY... THEN SOME-
THING PICKED HIM UP...



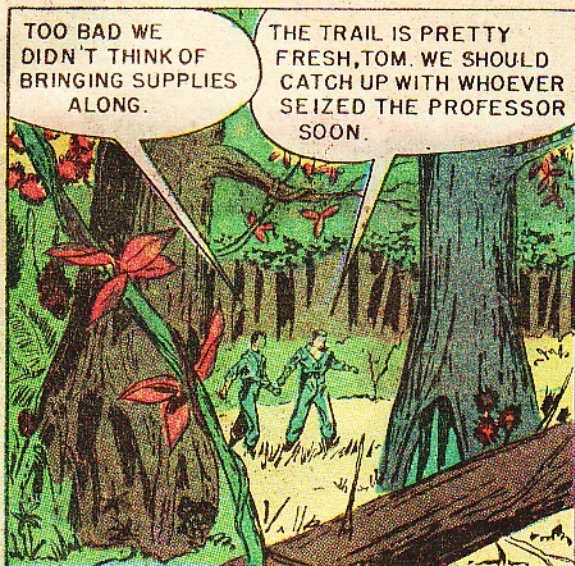
WE'RE GETTING
FURTHER INTO THE
JUNGLE! HOW FAR
WAS THE PROFESSOR
CARRIED?

WE'RE MILES
FROM OUR CAMP,
TOM. STILL NOT A
SIGN OF LIFE
AROUND HERE.



TOO BAD WE DIDN'T THINK OF BRINGING SUPPLIES ALONG.

THE TRAIL IS PRETTY FRESH, TOM. WE SHOULD CATCH UP WITH WHOEVER SEIZED THE PROFESSOR SOON.



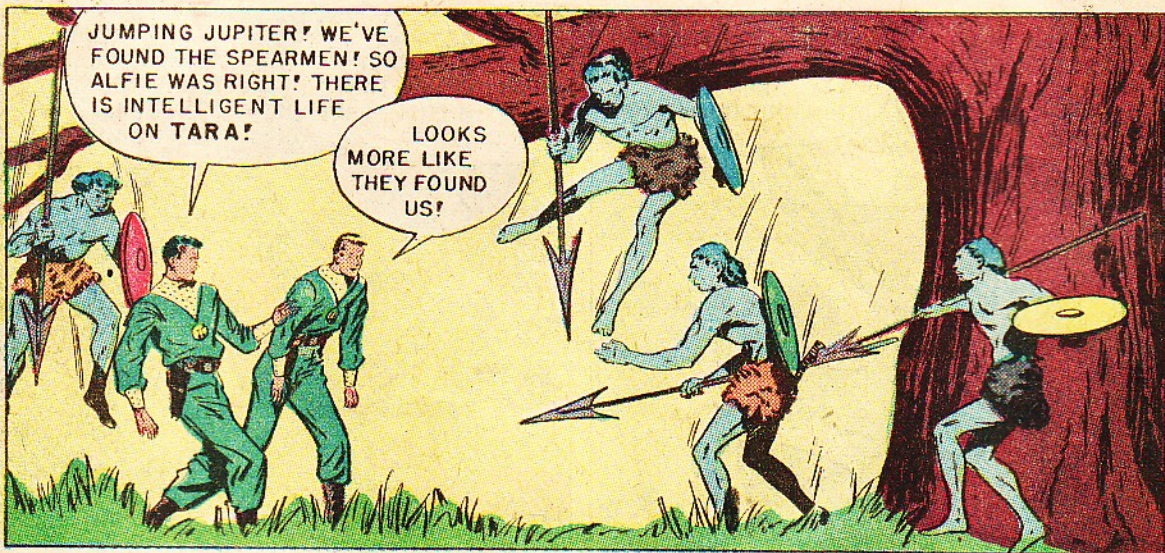
THE TRAIL LEADS STRAIGHT TOWARD THOSE... HILLS... OR MOUNDS, TOM.

LOOKS LIKE THEY ARE INHABITED! WELL--- WE'VE GOT TO GO ON AND INVESTIGATE!



JUMPING JUPITER! WE'VE FOUND THE SPEARMEN! SO ALFIE WAS RIGHT! THERE IS INTELLIGENT LIFE ON TARA!

LOOKS MORE LIKE THEY FOUND US!



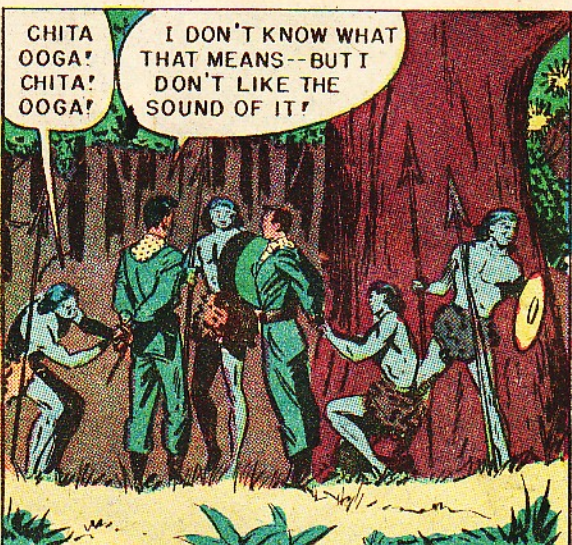
THEY WANT USTO GET BACK INTO THE FOREST, ASTRO. BETTER DO WHAT THEY WANT.

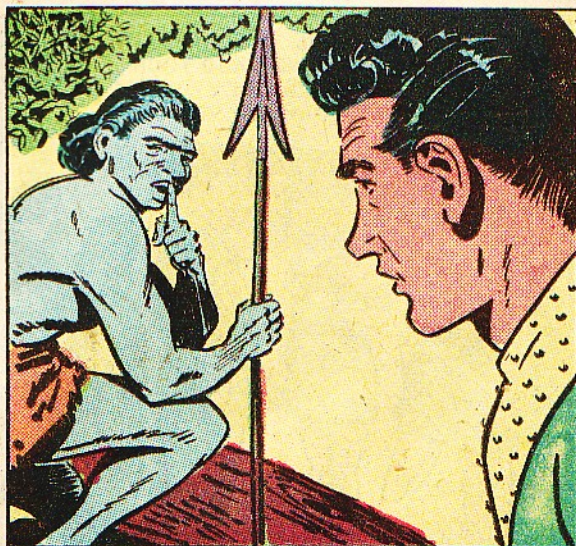
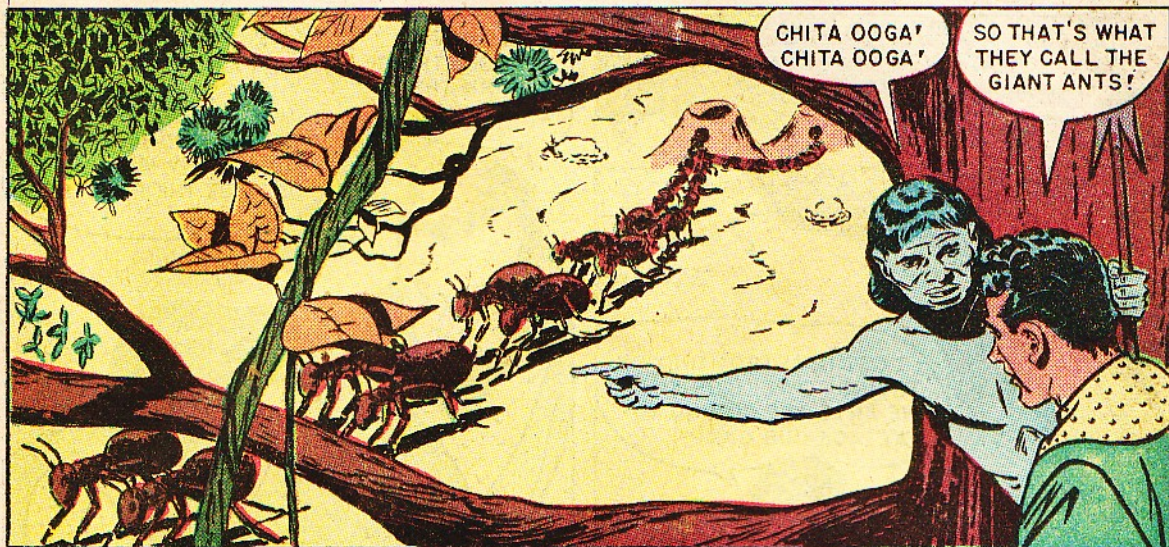
THAT SPEAR'S MIGHTY SHARP. I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR ARGUING!



CHITA OOGA! CHITA! OOGA!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS-- BUT I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF IT!







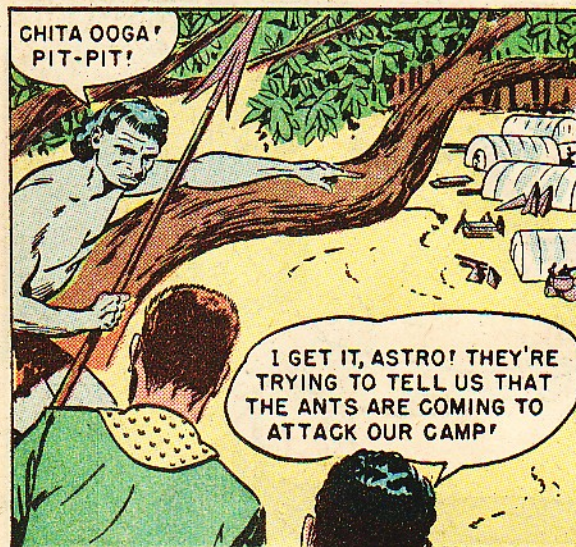
CHITA OOGA!
PIT-PIT!

I THINK HE'S TRYING TO TELL
US THOSE ANTS ARE ON THE
WARPATH, ASTRO!



WE SEEM TO BE HEADING
BACK TOWARD OUR CAMP,
ASTRO. WHAT DO YOU
MAKE OF IT?

I CAN'T FIGURE IT
OUT. MAYBE THEY
PLAN TO ATTACK
OUR CAMP.



CHITA OOGA!
PIT-PIT!

I GET IT, ASTRO! THEY'RE
TRYING TO TELL US THAT
THE ANTS ARE COMING TO
ATTACK OUR CAMP!



WE'VE GOT TO
DO SOMETHING!
WARN THE
EXPEDITION!

WAIT! IT MIGHT BE
BETTER TO TRUST
THESE SPEARMEN!
THEY'RE AFRAID OF THE
ANTS--- AND I'VE GOT A
HUNCH THEY MAY WANT
US TO BE THEIR FRIENDS!



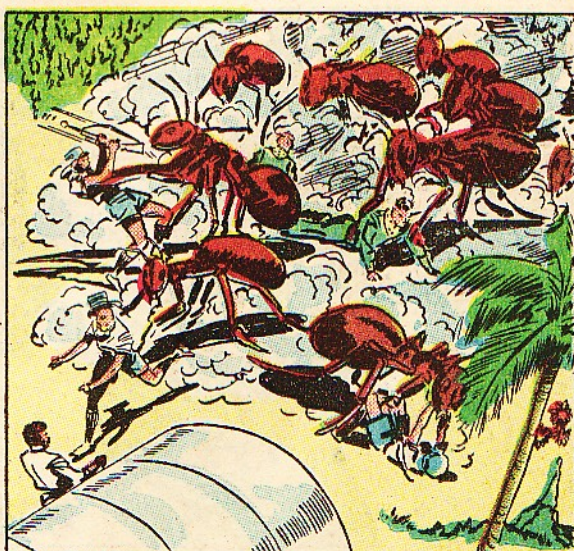
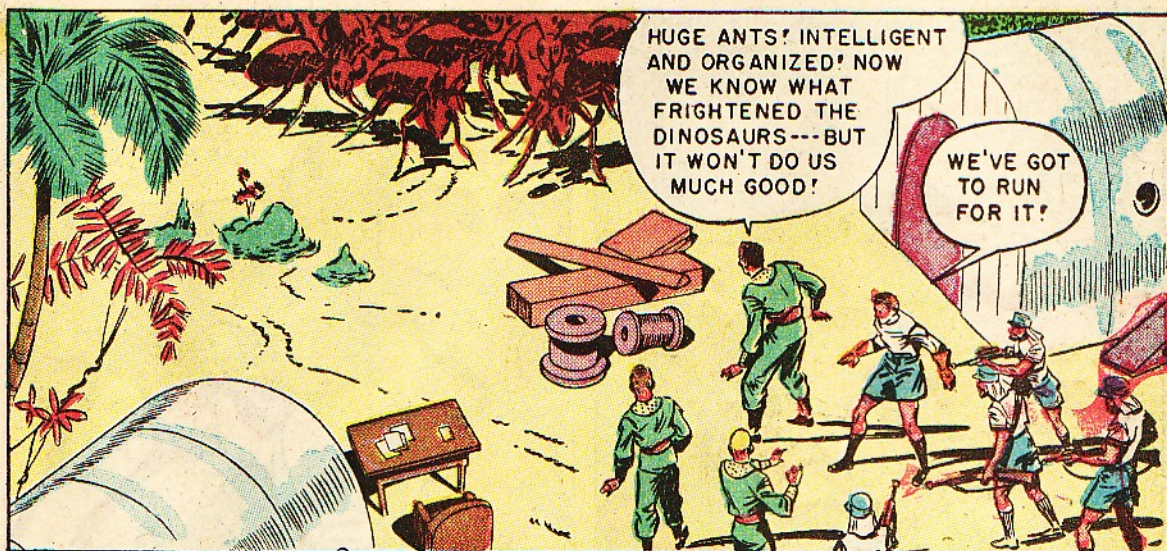
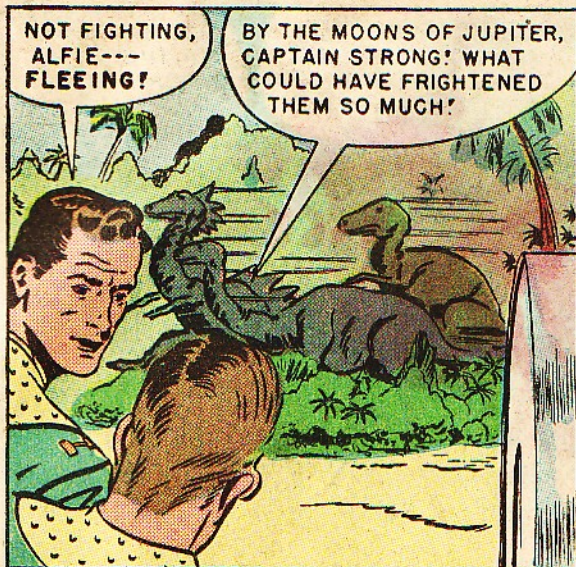
MUCH AS I HATE DOING THIS, CAPTAIN
STRONG, I MUST KEEP YOU AND YOUR
CADETS UNDER GUARD! THE EVIDENCE
POINTS VERY SUSPICIOUSLY TO YOU.

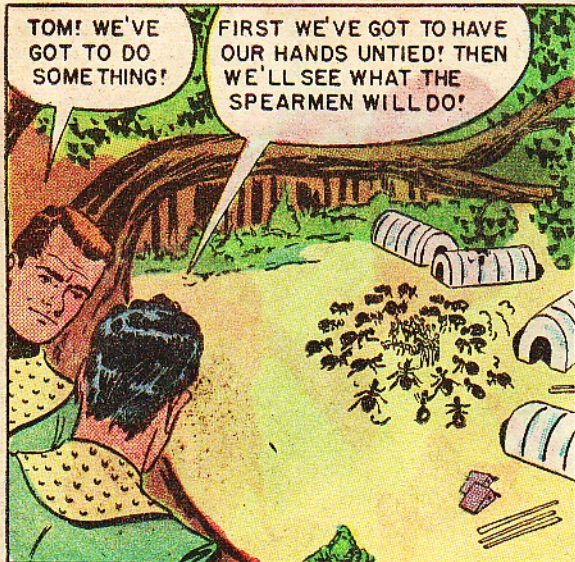


LISTEN! SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING!

SOUNDS LIKE
THUNDER OR
AN EARTHQUAKE!

POSSIBLY
DINOSAURS
FIGHTING,
SIR!





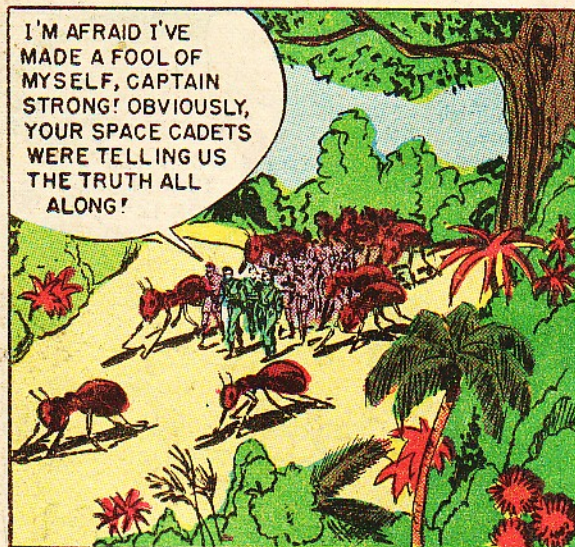
TOM! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

FIRST WE'VE GOT TO HAVE OUR HANDS UNTIED! THEN WE'LL SEE WHAT THE SPEARMEN WILL DO!



AT LEAST NONE OF US ARE HURT! EVIDENTLY THESE ANTS WANTED TO CAPTURE US ALIVE AND UNDAMAGED!

IT IS MY BELIEF, SIR, THAT THEY PROBABLY CAPTURED PROFESSOR BRILLON.



I'M AFRAID I'VE MADE A FOOL OF MYSELF, CAPTAIN STRONG! OBVIOUSLY, YOUR SPACE CADETS WERE TELLING US THE TRUTH ALL ALONG!



UNFORTUNATELY, I'VE LEARNED TO BELIEVE SPACE CADETS A LITTLE TOO LATE TO DO US ANY GOOD!

NOT YET, SIR. YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THAT CADETS CORBETT AND ASTRO ARE FREE! I'M SURE THEY WILL DO THEIR BEST FOR US!

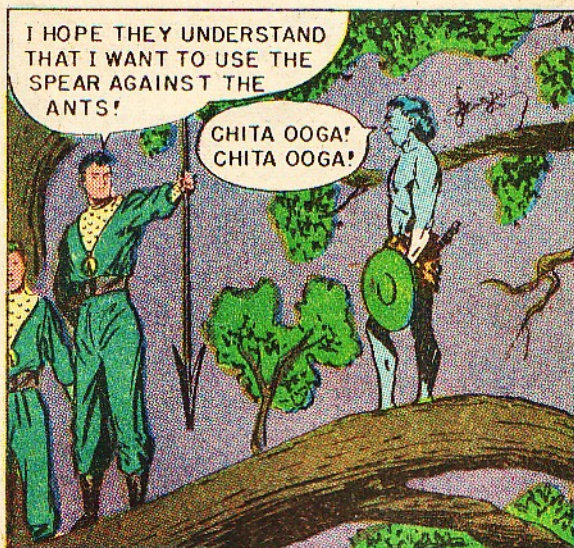
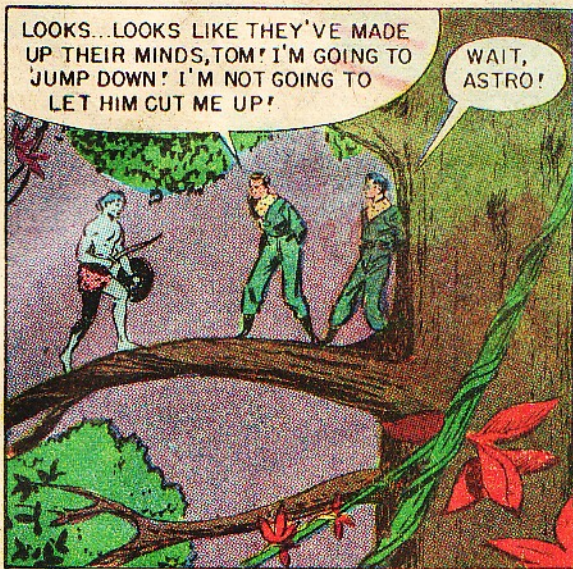


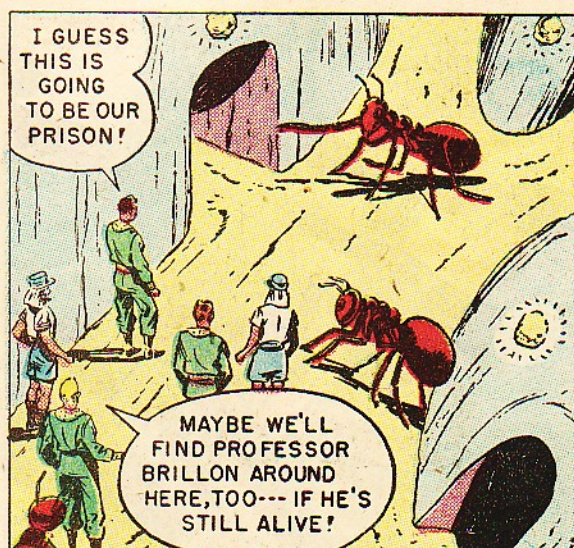
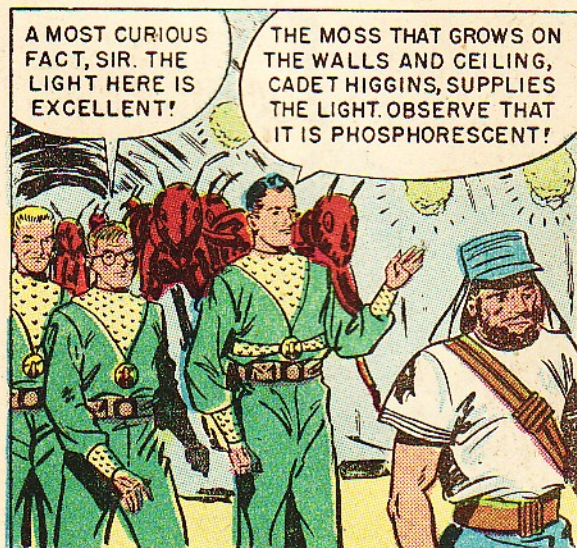
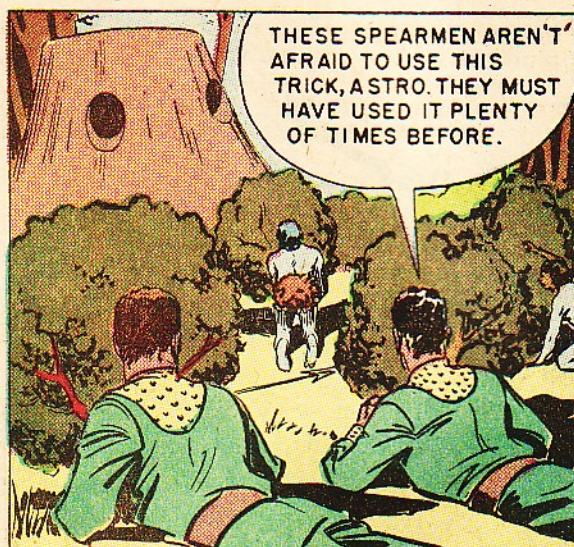
WELL, THEY'VE GONE AWAY BUT WE'RE STILL TIED UP AND HELPLESS!

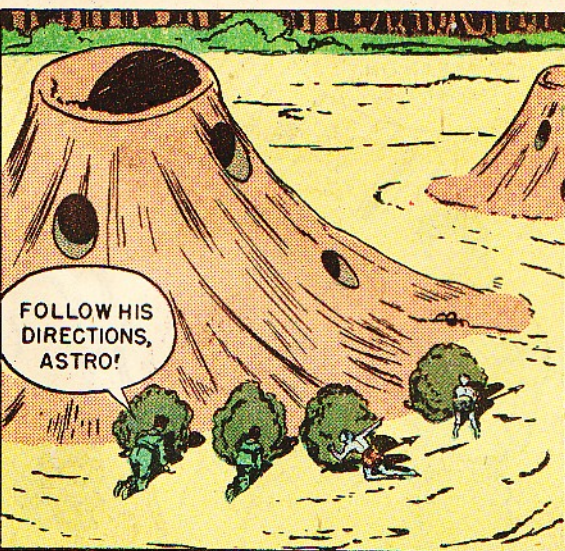
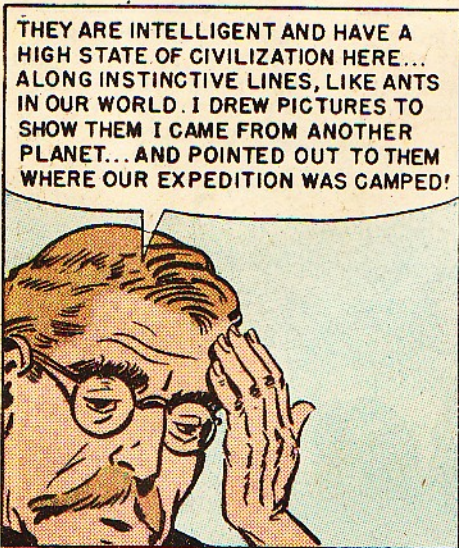
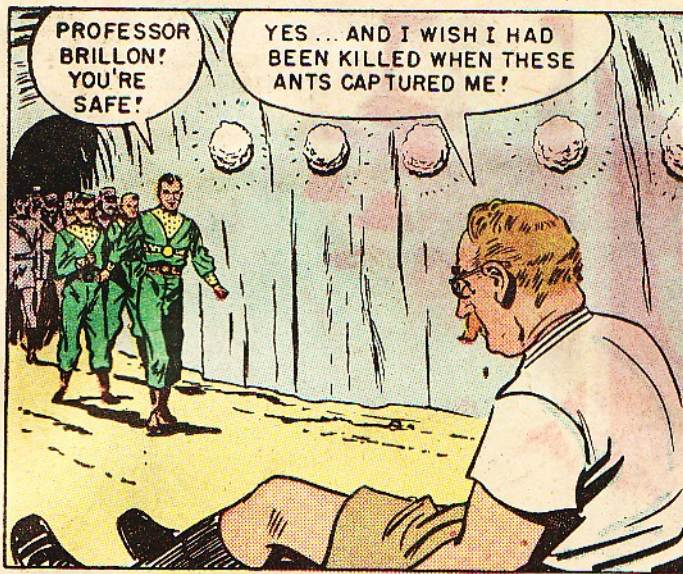
WAIT! GIVE THE SPEARMEN A CHANCE

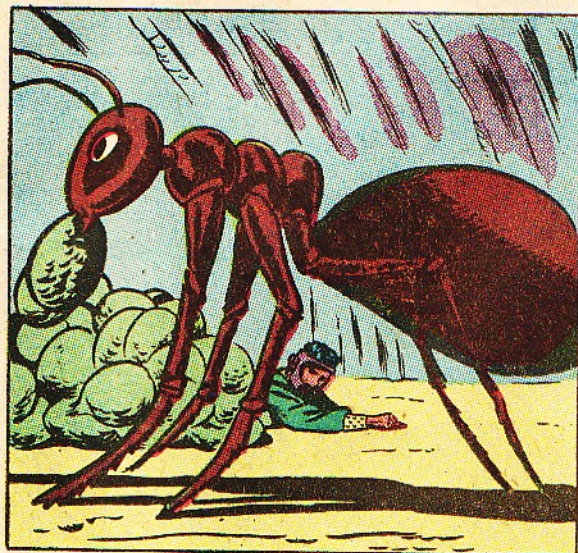


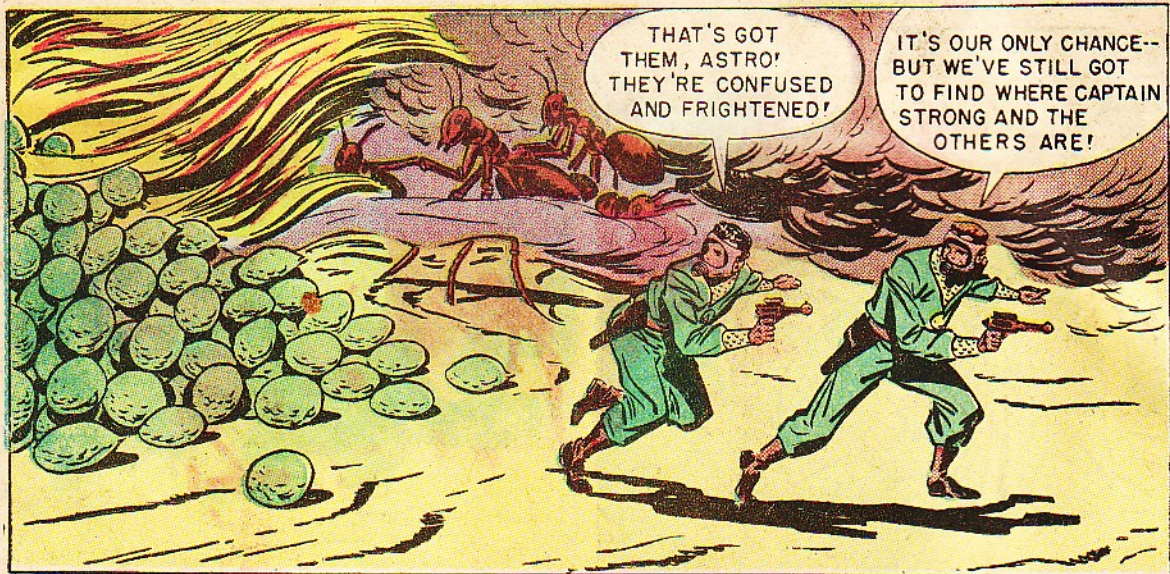
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THEIR WORDS, ASTRO BUT I'LL BET YOU A SATURN SODA THEY'RE TRYING TO MAKE UP THEIR MINDS ON WHETHER WE'RE TO BE FRIENDS OR ENEMIES!





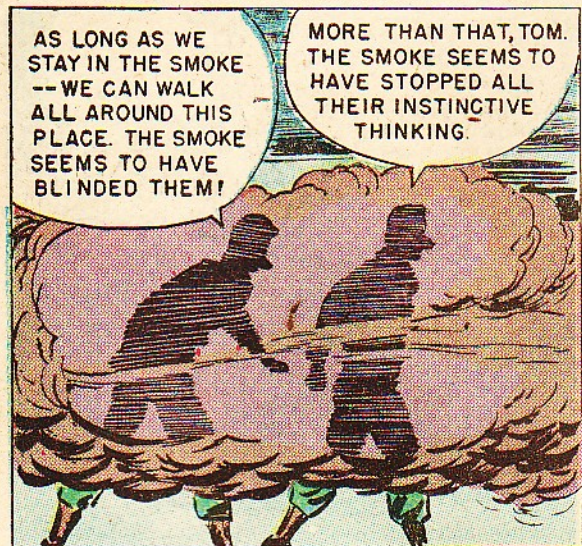






THAT'S GOT THEM, ASTRO! THEY'RE CONFUSED AND FRIGHTENED!

IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE-- BUT WE'VE STILL GOT TO FIND WHERE CAPTAIN STRONG AND THE OTHERS ARE!



AS LONG AS WE STAY IN THE SMOKE -- WE CAN WALK ALL AROUND THIS PLACE. THE SMOKE SEEMS TO HAVE BLINDED THEM!

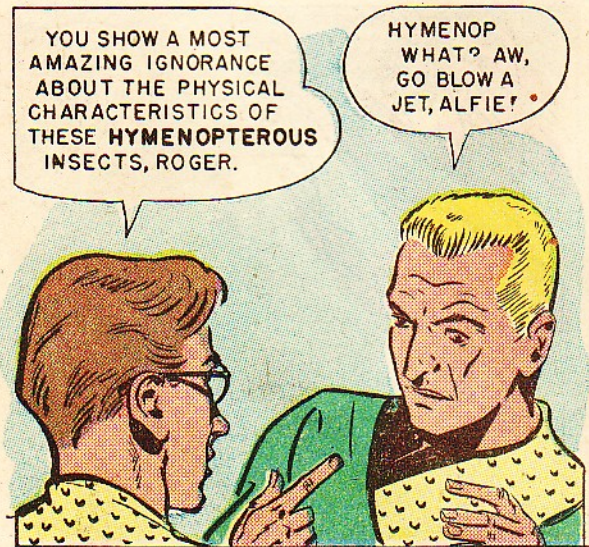
MORE THAN THAT, TOM. THE SMOKE SEEMS TO HAVE STOPPED ALL THEIR INSTINCTIVE THINKING.



MEANWHILE, IN ONE OF THE THOUSANDS OF CELL-LIKE ROOMS

SMELL THE AIR! I THINK IT'S SMOKE!

SO WHAT, SIR? THE OVERGROWN ANTS ARE PROBABLY PREPARING TO COOK US FOR DINNER!

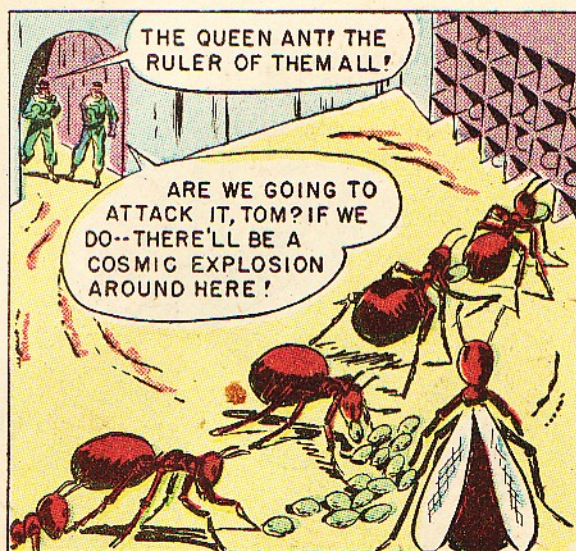
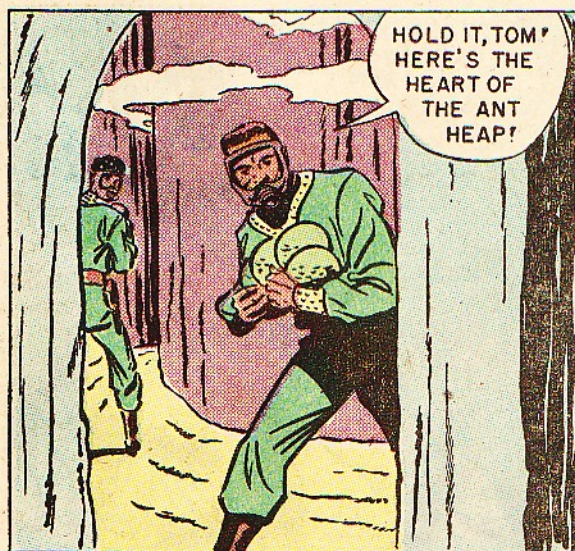


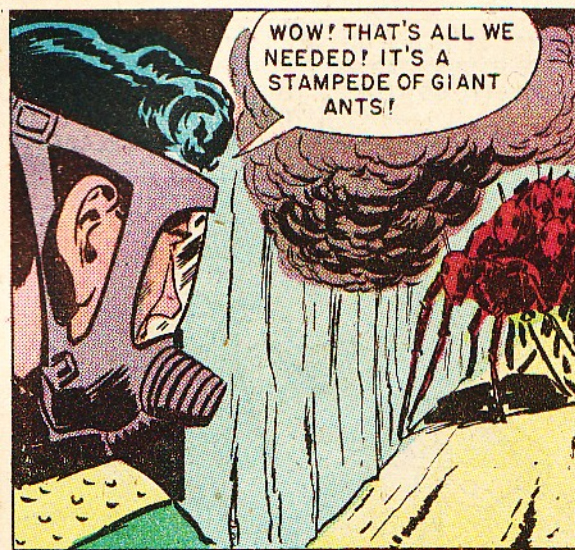
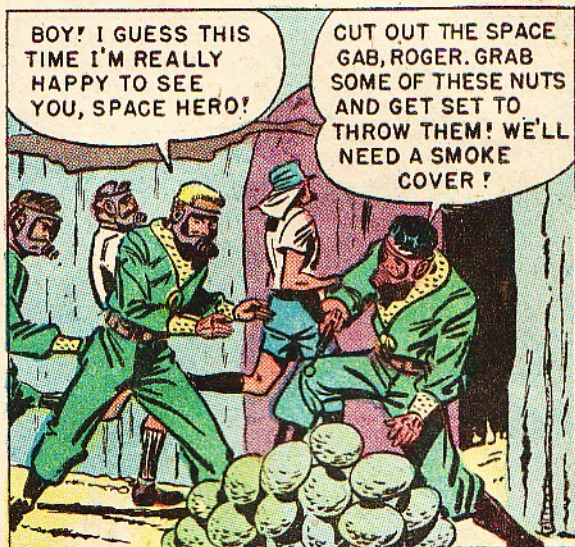
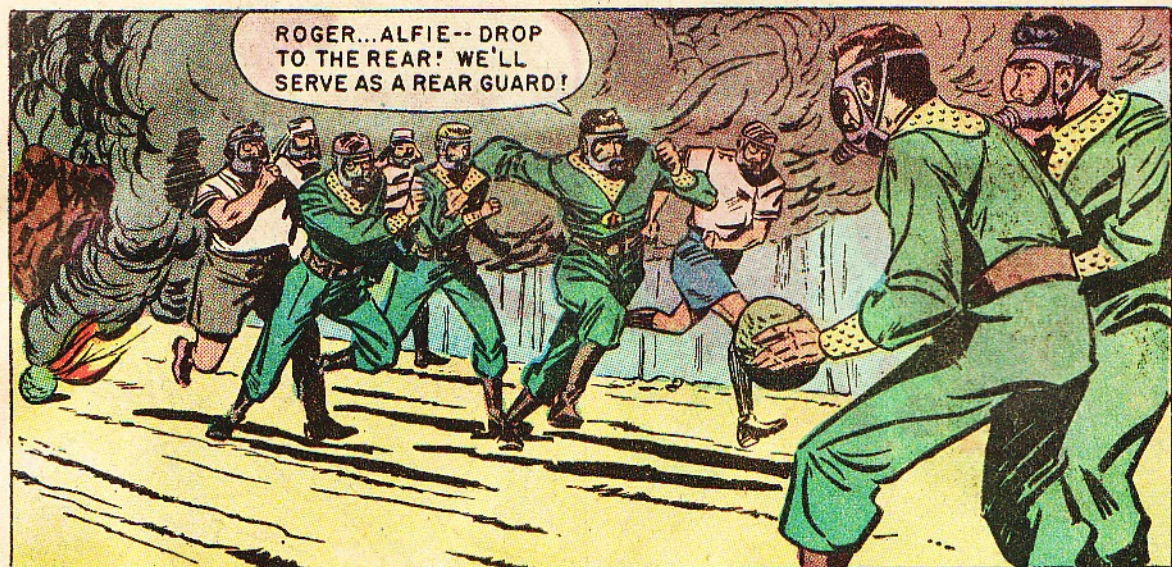
YOU SHOW A MOST AMAZING IGNORANCE ABOUT THE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE HYMENOPTEROUS INSECTS, ROGER.

HYMENOP WHAT? AW, GO BLOW A JET, ALFIE!



PUT ON YOUR EMERGENCY MASKS! WHERE THERE'S SMOKE-- THERE'S TOM CORBETT AND ASTRO! WE'RE MAKING A BREAK!





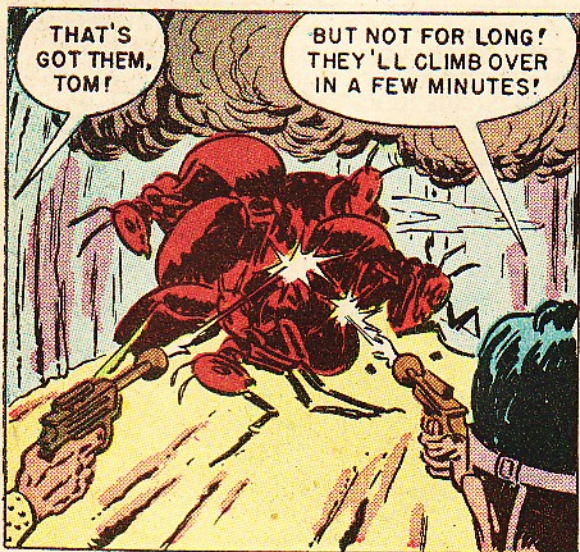


TOM--YOU AND ASTRO COVER OUR REAR! WE'RE GOING TO TAKE ONE OF THESE TUNNELS LEADING UPWARD!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

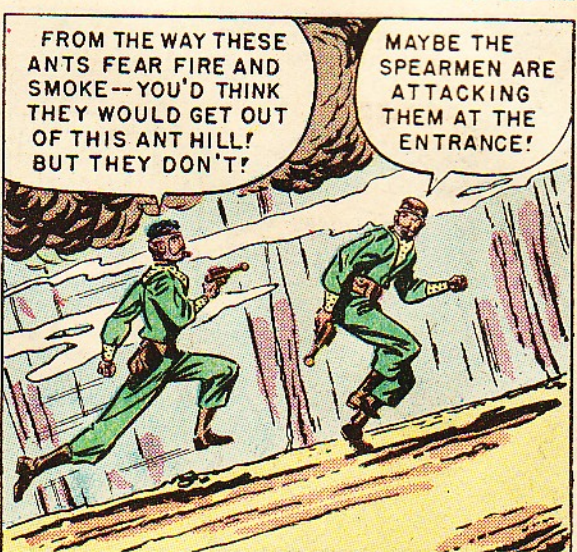


BLAST AWAY, ASTRO! IN THIS NARROW PASSAGEWAY--WE CAN BLOCK UP THE WAY!



THAT'S GOT THEM, TOM!

BUT NOT FOR LONG! THEY'LL CLIMB OVER IN A FEW MINUTES!



FROM THE WAY THESE ANTS FEAR FIRE AND SMOKE--YOU'D THINK THEY WOULD GET OUT OF THIS ANT HILL! BUT THEY DON'T!

MAYBE THE SPEARMEN ARE ATTACKING THEM AT THE ENTRANCE!



THAT'LL BLOCK UP THE PASSAGE AGAIN! AND GIVE US TIME!

I GUESS YOU GOT THE ANSWER, ASTRO! THE SPEARMEN! BUT THAT ALSO BLOCKS US UP INSIDE THIS PLACE!



WHAT'S THE MATTER, ROGER?

WHAT'S THE MATTER? JUST YOU AND YOUR IDEAS. WE'RE IN A DEAD-END TUNNEL! NOTHING BUT A SOLID BLANK WALL AHEAD!



STAY HERE AND HOLD THEM OFF AS LONG AS YOU CAN! I'M GOING AHEAD!

RIGHT!



WE'RE AT THE TOP OF THIS ANT PYRAMID, TOM! NO WAY OUT!



I HAVE BEEN GIVING THIS MATTER CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT IN THE PAST FEW MINUTES, SIR! THERE IS A WAY OUT!

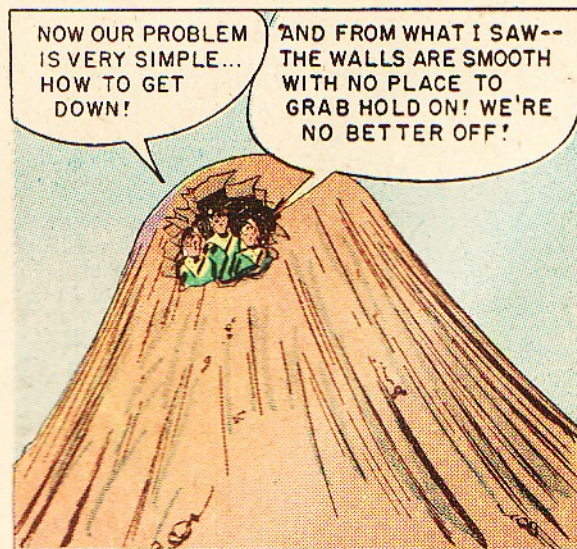


A PARALORAY GUN, WHEN SET ON LOW INTENSITY GIVES A GREAT DEAL OF HEAT... AND THIS HEAT, WHEN APPLIED TO INORGANIC MATTER, WILL DISINTEGRATE THE OBJECT!



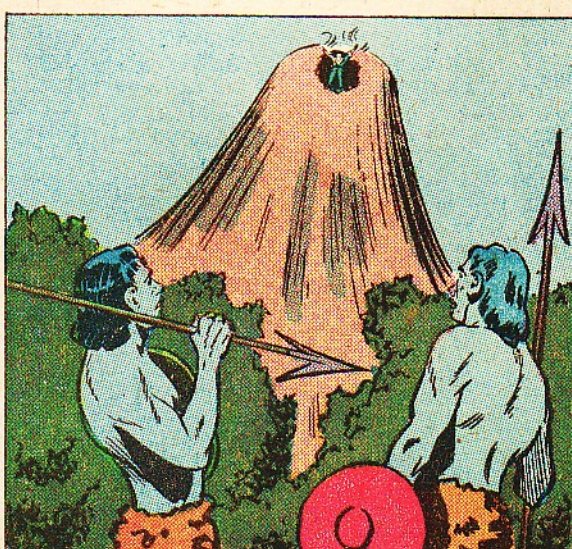
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY THAT WE CAN BLAST AN OPENING, ALFIE!

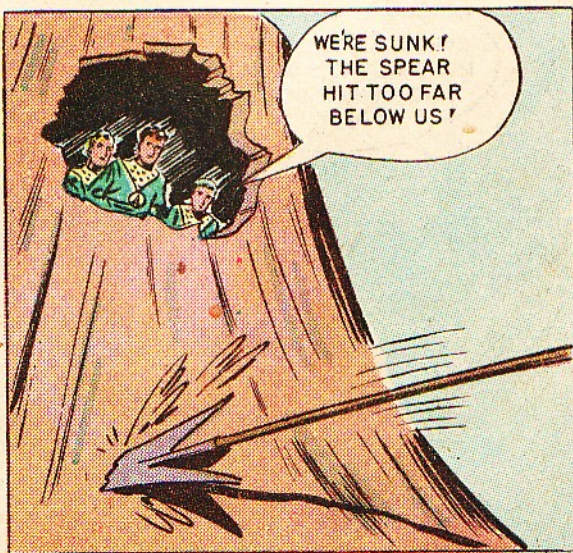
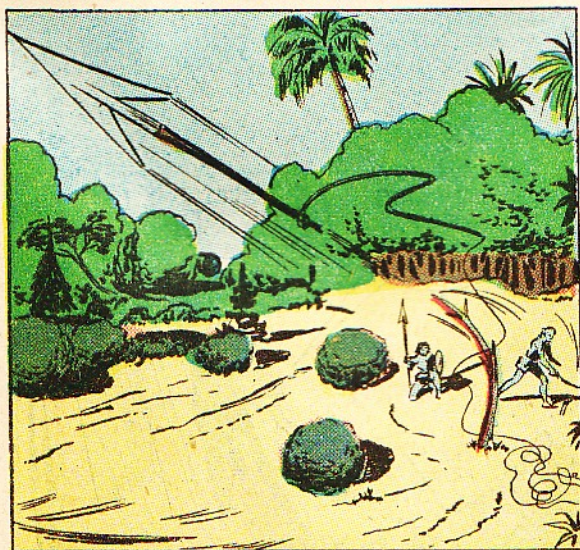
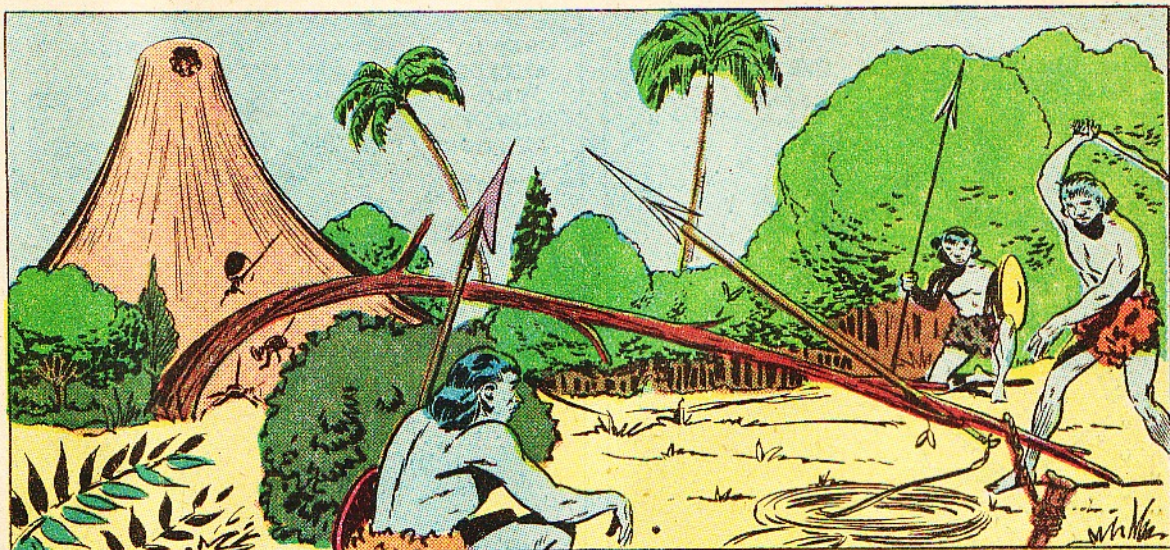
QUITE TRUE, TOM! BUT IT WOULD NOT CONVEY THE SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION!

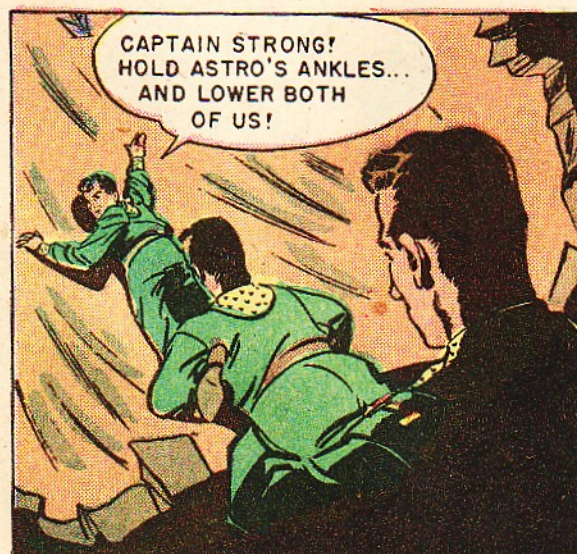


NOW OUR PROBLEM IS VERY SIMPLE... HOW TO GET DOWN!

AND FROM WHAT I SAW-- THE WALLS ARE SMOOTH WITH NO PLACE TO GRAB HOLD ON! WE'RE NO BETTER OFF!







JAM THE S
INTO THE F
ASTRO, GIVE
YOUR BLAS



ALFIE NEXT...THEN
ROGER... THEN
ASTRO?... HURRY!



THEY'RE
COMING
THROUGH,
SIR!

BLAST AWAY AT
FULL POWER...
THEN GET
GOING! I'LL
FOLLOW!



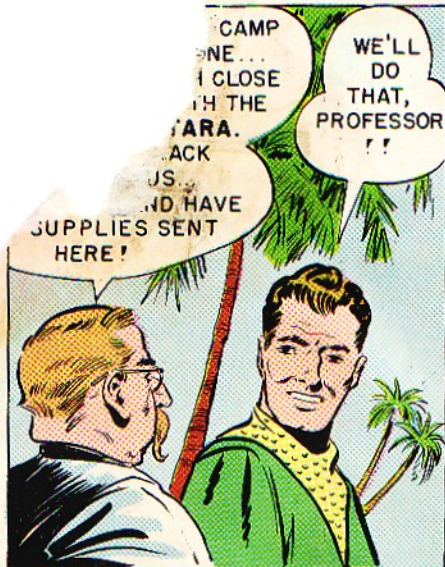
WE'VE ONLY
GOT A MINUTE,
SIR! THEY'LL
BITE THROUGH
THE VINE...

A MINUTE WILL BE
ENOUGH! SAVE
YOUR BREATH
AND MOVE!



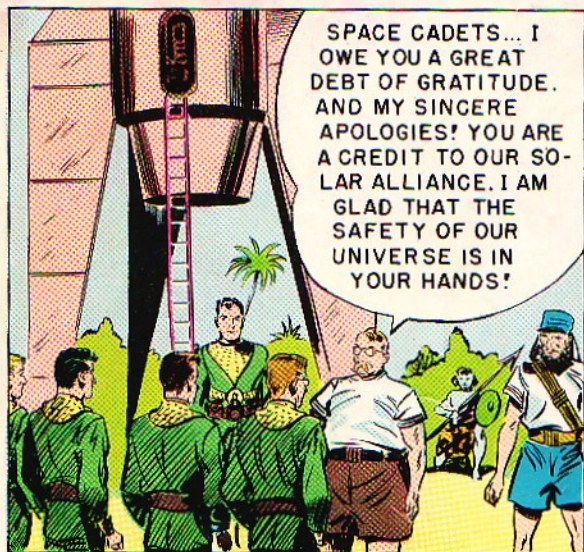
JUST IN TIME!
TOM... THAT WAS
QUICK THINKING
ON YOUR
PART!





CAMP
ONE...
CLOSE
THE
ARA.
ACK
US.
AND HAVE
SUPPLIES SENT
HERE!

WE'LL
DO
THAT,
PROFESSOR
!!

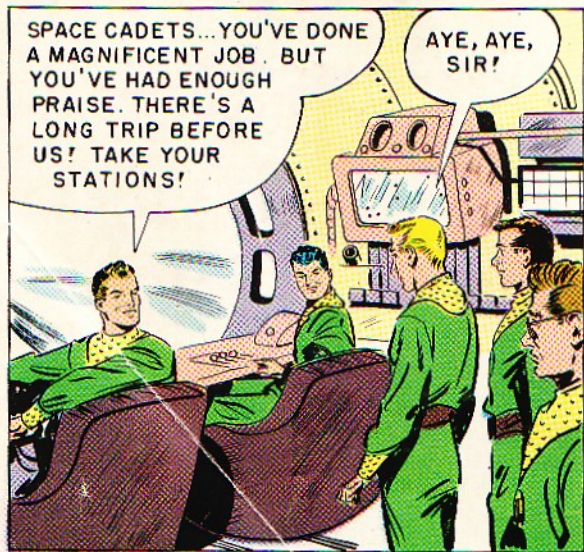


SPACE CADETS... I
OWE YOU A GREAT
DEBT OF GRATITUDE.
AND MY SINCERE
APOLOGIES! YOU ARE
A CREDIT TO OUR SO-
LAR ALLIANCE. I AM
GLAD THAT THE
SAFETY OF OUR
UNIVERSE IS IN
YOUR HANDS!



WE DON'T KNOW
HOW TO SAY GOOD-
BYE IN YOUR
LANGUAGE... BUT
SOMEDAY WE'LL
LEARN!

ITI-
PATO!



SPACE CADETS... YOU'VE DONE
A MAGNIFICENT JOB. BUT
YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH
PRAISE. THERE'S A
LONG TRIP BEFORE
US! TAKE YOUR
STATIONS!

AYE, AYE,
SIR!



A GREAT BUNCH OF
BOYS, EH? WISH I
WERE YOUNG ENOUGH
TO BECOME A
SPACE CADET!