

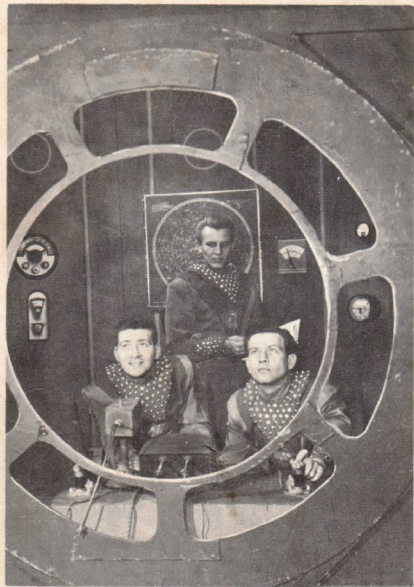
DELL
COMIC

TOM CORBETT

SEPT.-NOV.
10¢

SPACE CADET





SPACE ACADEMY

the
university
of the
planets

There is no letup in the training of the Cadets of Space Academy. Intense physical training develops the bodies of Space Cadets to stand up under the severe strain of space travel. Continuous classroom study trains their minds for the great problems that flight through the cold distances between the stars presents. Constant practice with complicated machinery and controls develops instinctive dexterity in handling the giant spaceships.

And finally a day comes when Space Cadets are trusted to take a space cruiser off the earth without the strict supervision of an officer of Space Academy!

Here, Tom, Astro and Roger are at the controls of the Polaris—as they blast spaceward, for the first time on their own!

TOM CORBETT

SPACE CADET

in THE FORBIDDEN FOREST

THE EAR-PIERCING SHRIEK OF A SPACESHIP OUT OF CONTROL SPATTERS USUAL ROUTINE AT THE SPACEPORT...

HE'S GOING TO CRASH!

GET EVERYONE OFF THE FIELD! FAST!

SOUND THE ALARM! WE'LL NEED EVERY MAN WE CAN GET FOR RESCUE WORK!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THAT PILOT? HAS HE GONE BLIND?

AS THE SCREAM OF THE EMERGENCY ALARM SWEEPS THROUGH THE GROUNDS, CLASSROOMS AND DORMITORIES OF SPACE ACADEMY...

IMPS OF SPACE! WHAT'S HAPPENED?

WE'LL SOON FIND OUT! LET'S BLAST OFF!

IT'S THE SPACEPORT EMERGENCY SIGNAL! HEAD FOR RESCUE STATIONS!

THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, ASTRO! A SPACESHIP JUST BLEW UP AT THE SPACEPORT!



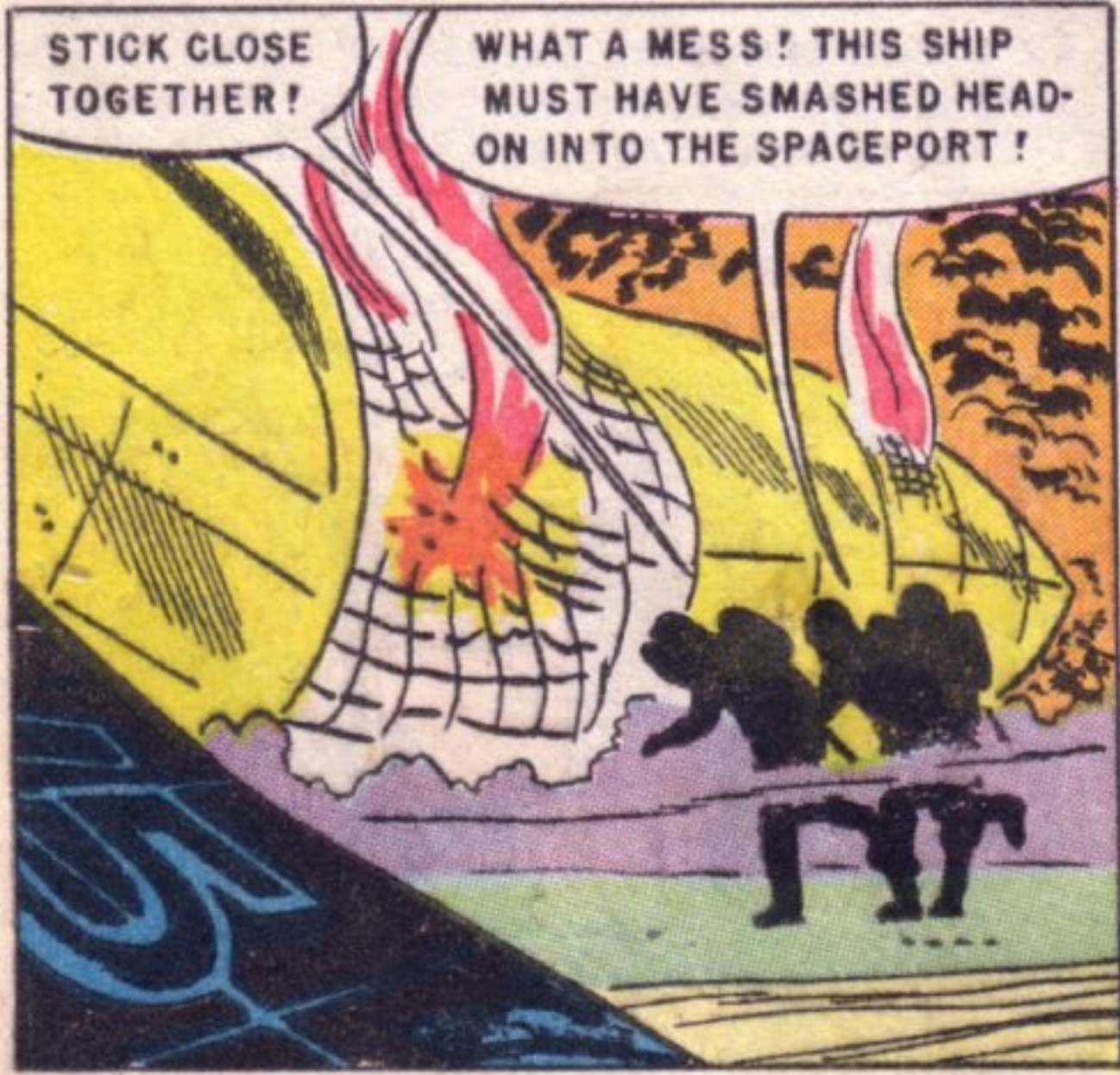
HURRY UP, YOU SPACE CRAWLERS! WE'VE GOT TO WALK INTO THAT MESS TO LOOK FOR SURVIVORS!

THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING ALIVE IN THERE BY THE TIME WE GET INTO ONE OF THOSE SHIPS!



TAKE THE THIRD SHIP, SPACE CADETS! THE OTHERS HAD NO PASSENGERS!

AYE, AYE, SIR!



STICK CLOSE TOGETHER!

WHAT A MESS! THIS SHIP MUST HAVE SMASHED HEAD-ON INTO THE SPACEPORT!



IN HERE! WE'LL CHECK THROUGH THIS SHIP!



TOM, GET THE SAFETY SHEET! THERE'S SOMEONE IN HERE!

CONTROL



HE'S KNOCKED COLD, BUT ALIVE! LET'S GET HIM OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE SMOKE SUFFOCATES HIM!

STOP BLOWING YOUR FUSES! I'M WORKING AS FAST AS I CAN!



I CHECKED THROUGH THE REST OF THE SHIP... HE WAS THE ONLY ONE ABOARD!

REPORT TO THE OFFICER IN CHARGE, ROGER... AND MEET US AT THE FIRST-AID STATION!



HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, SPACE CADETS! I'LL PUT HIM INTO A HEALING SLEEP ---AND HE'LL BE AS GOOD AS NEW WHEN HE WAKES UP!

BUT HE'LL SLEEP FOR DAYS, DOCTOR! IF HE'S THE PILOT--- COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT WILL WANT TO QUESTION HIM!



I CAN'T DELAY, SPACE CADET! IT MEANS SAVING HIS LIFE...

COMMANDER... ARKWRIGHT... TELL HIM... I'M SORRY... SPACEBLINDNESS GOT ME... COULDN'T SEE INSTRUMENTS... DIDN'T KNOW---



SPACEBLINDNESS! SO THAT'S WHAT CAUSED THE ACCIDENT!

WELL, I HOPE THAT INFORMATION HELPS COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT. HE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THIS MAN TO WAKE UP BEFORE FURTHER QUESTIONING.



I WISH I'D COME SOONER! NOW WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT TO FIND OUT WHAT CAUSED THE ACCIDENT!

HE TOLD ME BEFORE HE FELL ASLEEP, SIR!



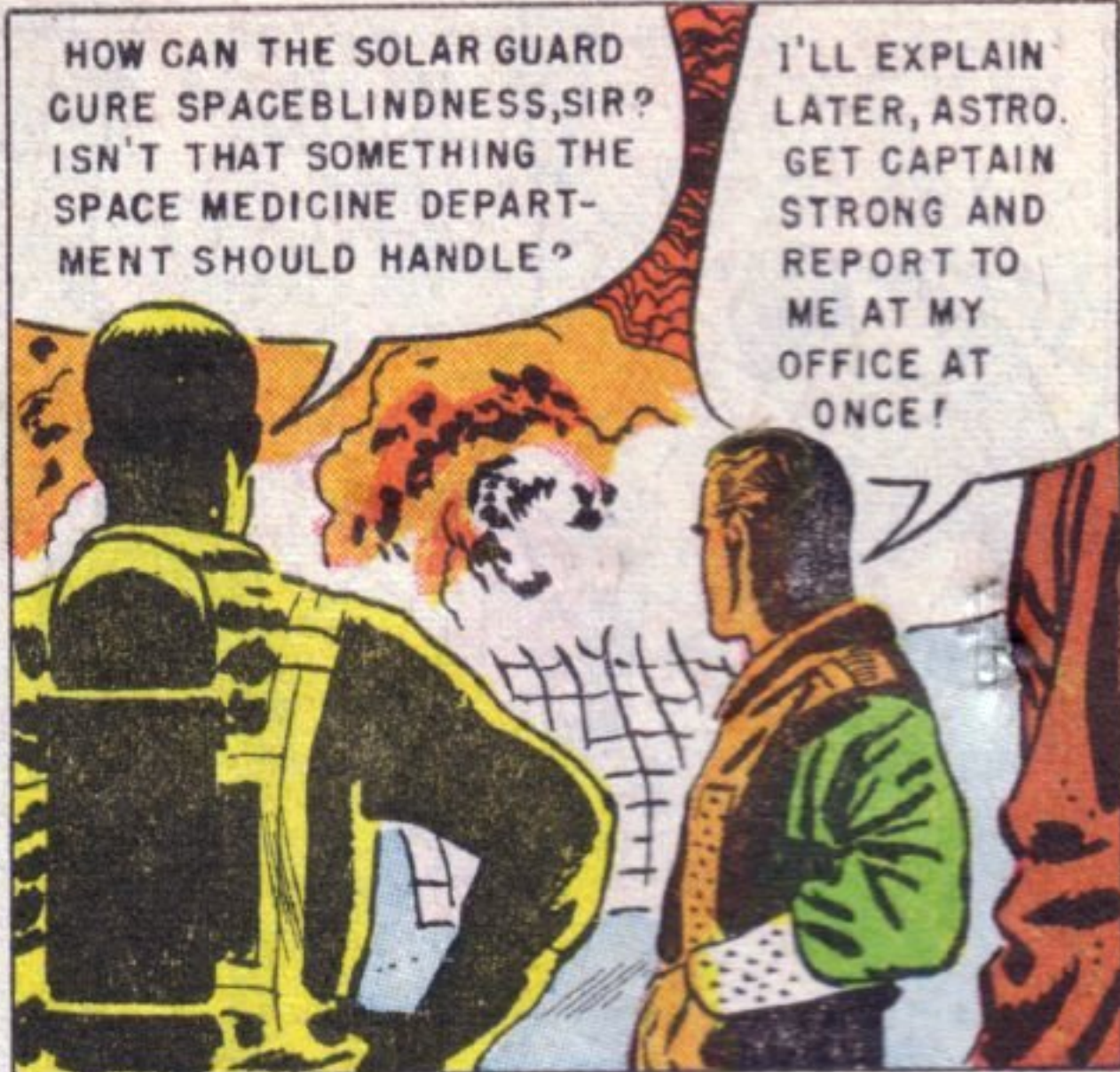
HE MENTIONED SPACEBLINDNESS, SIR!

SPACE-BLINDNESS! ANOTHER ONE!



DID YOU... DID YOU SAY ANOTHER ONE, SIR?

YES, I DID, CADET CORBETT! BY THE RINGS OF SATURN, THE SOLAR GUARD MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PUT A STOP TO THIS SITUATION!



HOW CAN THE SOLAR GUARD CURE SPACEBLINDNESS, SIR? ISN'T THAT SOMETHING THE SPACE MEDICINE DEPARTMENT SHOULD HANDLE?

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER, ASTRO. GET CAPTAIN STRONG AND REPORT TO ME AT MY OFFICE AT ONCE!



COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT LOOKED REAL MAD WHEN HE TALKED ABOUT SPACE-BLINDNESS. I WONDER WHAT'S UP?

WE'LL SOON KNOW, ASTRO! GET CAPTAIN STRONG AND MEET US AT THE ACADEMY. WE'LL STOW AWAY THE EQUIPMENT!



I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF IT, ROGER. THE COMMANDER MENTIONED OTHER CASES... AND I THOUGHT SPACEBLINDNESS WAS SOMETHING THE MEDICS LICKED A LONG TIME AGO!

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GETTING ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR SPACEMAN'S HUNCHES!

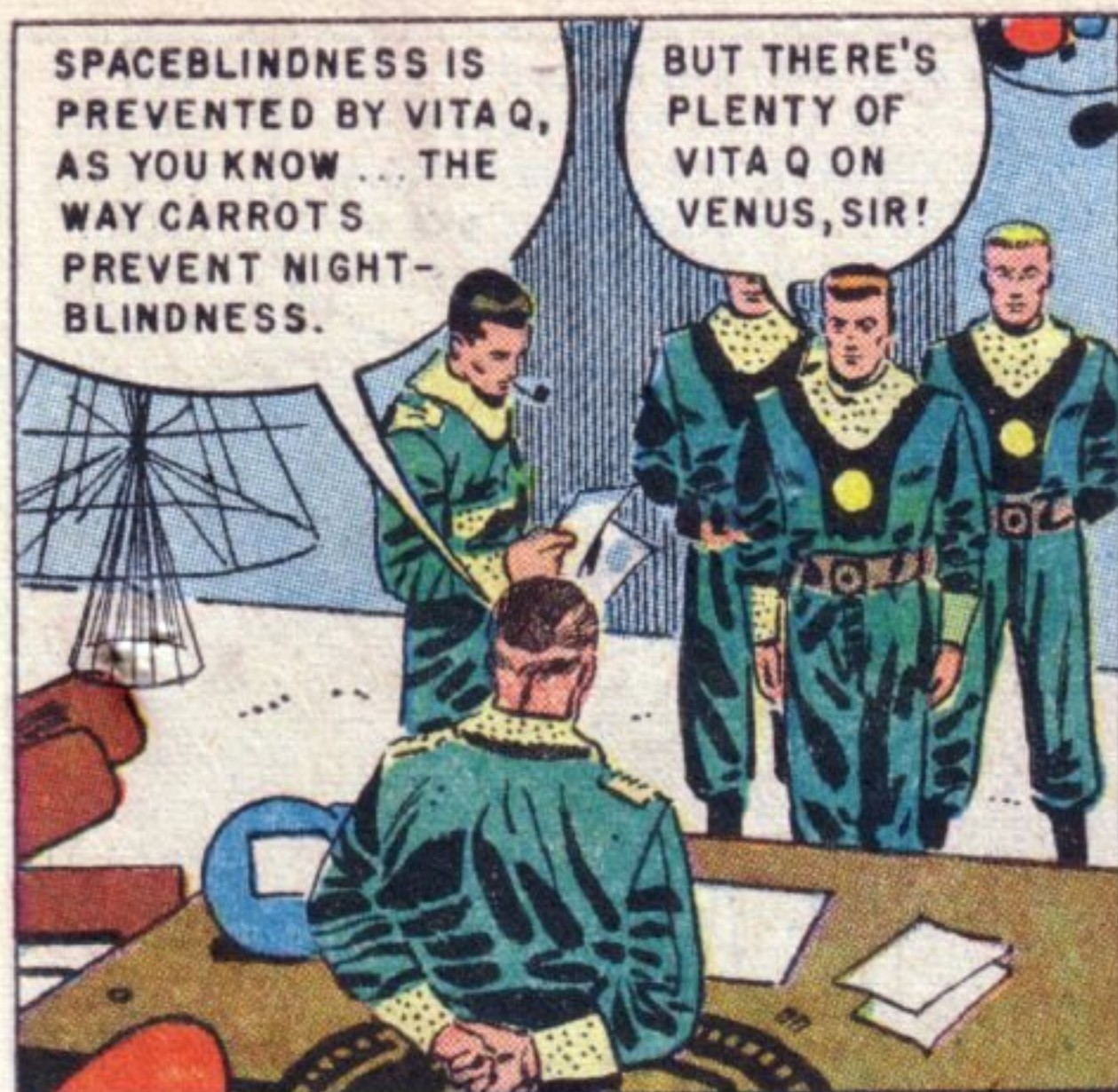


THAT WRECK ISN'T A HUNCH, ROGER! IT'S PRETTY REAL TOO REAL!

ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN! THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO START BLOWING SPACE BUBBLES!



I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID, ROGER. I'M AFRAID TOM IS RIGHT! WE'VE GOT TROUBLE... PLENTY OF IT! BUT I'LL LET COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT TELL YOU ABOUT IT!



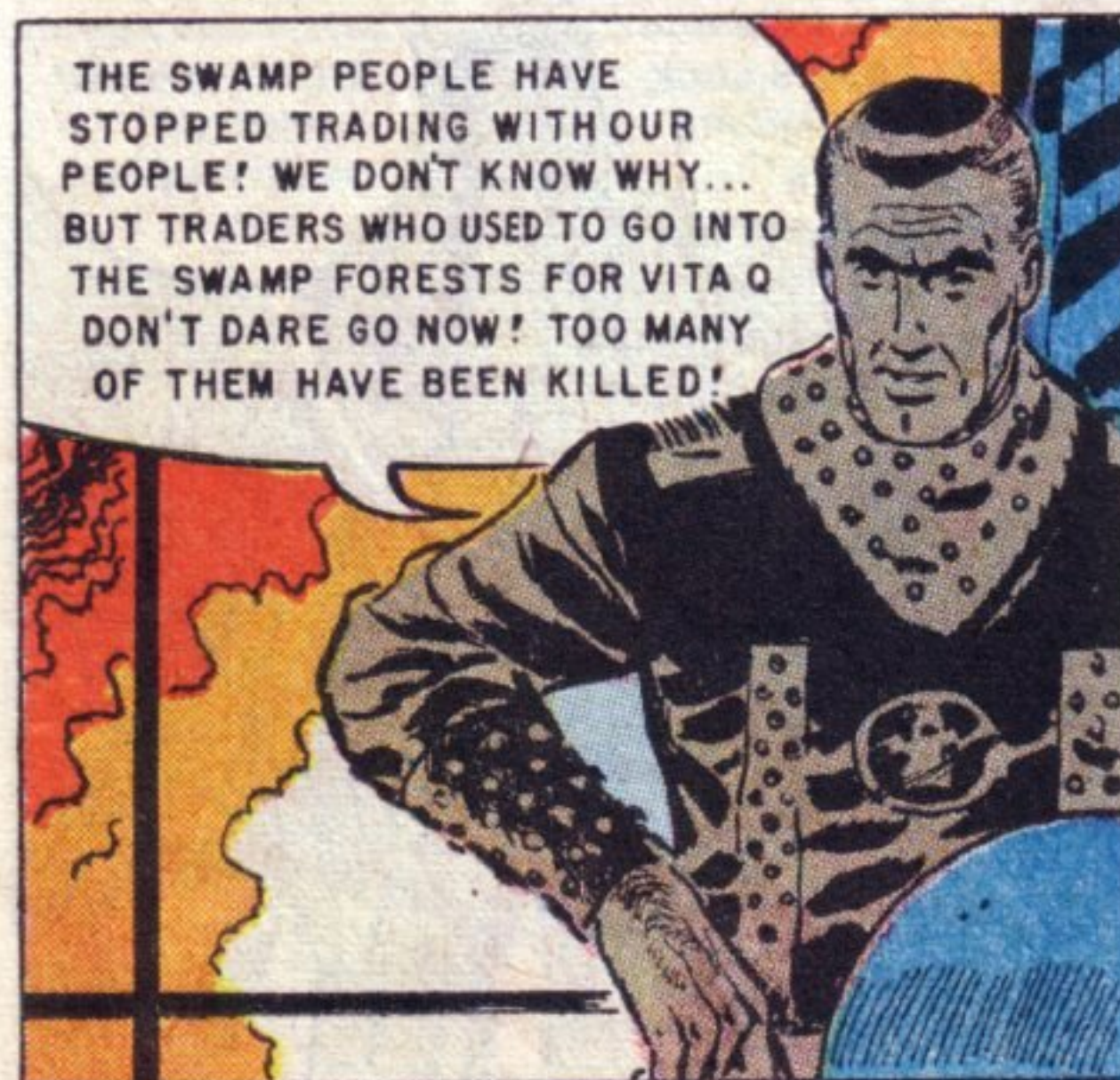
SPACEBLINDNESS IS PREVENTED BY VITA Q, AS YOU KNOW... THE WAY CARROT'S PREVENT NIGHT-BLINDNESS.

BUT THERE'S PLENTY OF VITA Q ON VENUS, SIR!



PLENTY ON VENUS, YES! BUT NONE HERE! OUR SUPPLIES FROM VENUS HAVE NOT BEEN COMING THROUGH!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! WHEN WE WERE THERE LAST TIME, THE SWAMP PEOPLE WERE VERY ANXIOUS TO TRADE WITH US!



THE SWAMP PEOPLE HAVE STOPPED TRADING WITH OUR PEOPLE! WE DON'T KNOW WHY... BUT TRADERS WHO USED TO GO INTO THE SWAMP FORESTS FOR VITA Q DON'T DARE GO NOW! TOO MANY OF THEM HAVE BEEN KILLED!



THERE MUST BE SOME GOOD REASON, SIR! I WAS BORN ON VENUS... I KNOW THE SWAMP PEOPLE! THEY BELIEVE IN JUSTICE AND FAIR PLAY!

MAYBE, ASTRO, MAYBE! ALL I KNOW IS THAT THEY'RE ON THE WARPATH--- AND WE'RE SUFFERING FROM SPACE-BLINDNESS AS A RESULT!

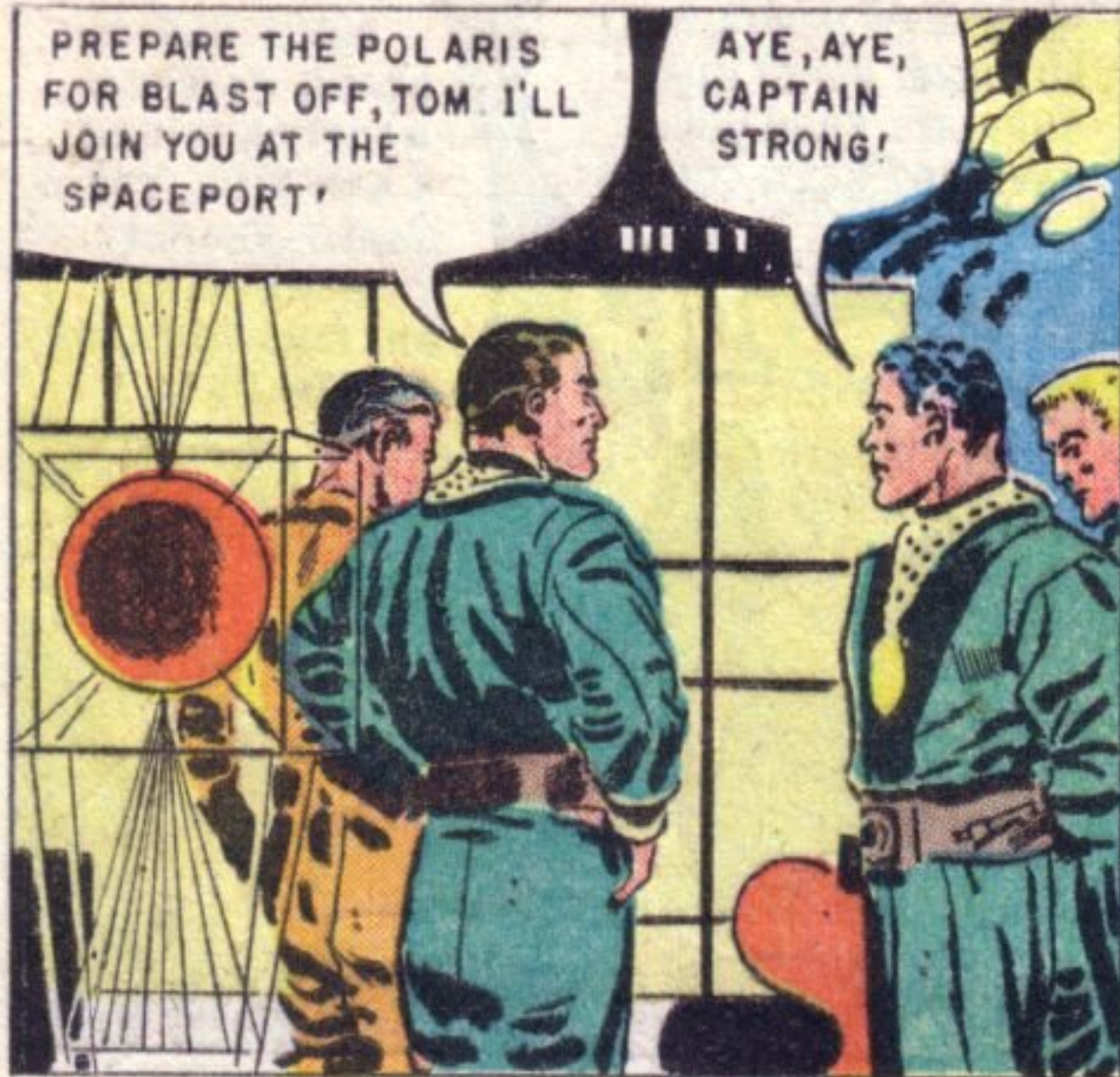


I AM ORDERING YOU AND YOUR SPACE CADET SQUADRON TO GO TO VENUS, CAPTAIN STRONG! I WANT YOU TO GO INTO THE SWAMPS...



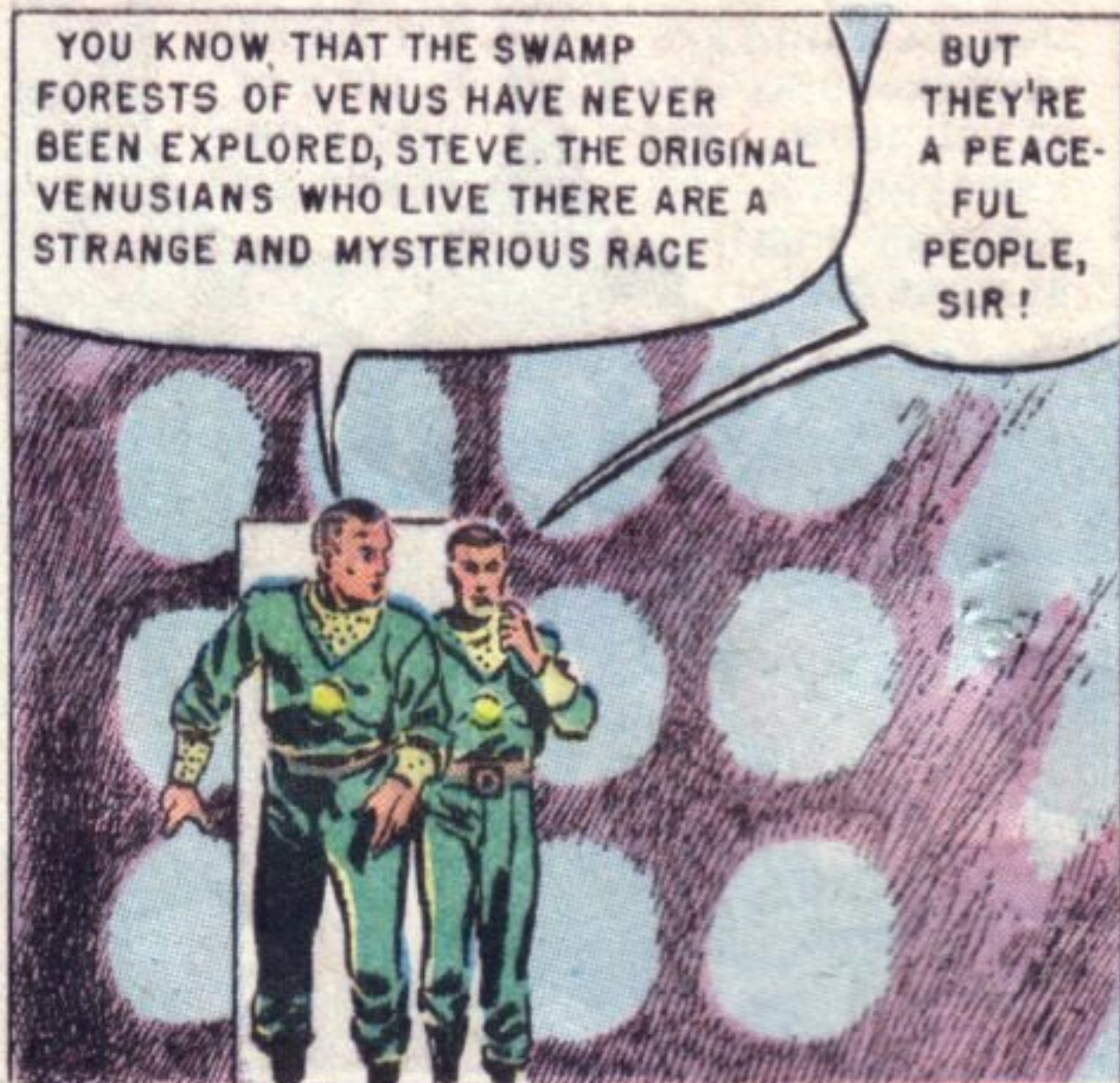
FIND OUT WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THIS WAR OF THE SWAMP PEOPLE AGAINST US... AND SETTLE THE TROUBLE! REMEMBER--- WE MUST HAVE VITA Q AT ALL COSTS!

I UNDERSTAND, SIR! WE SHALL BLAST OFF FOR VENUS AT ONCE!



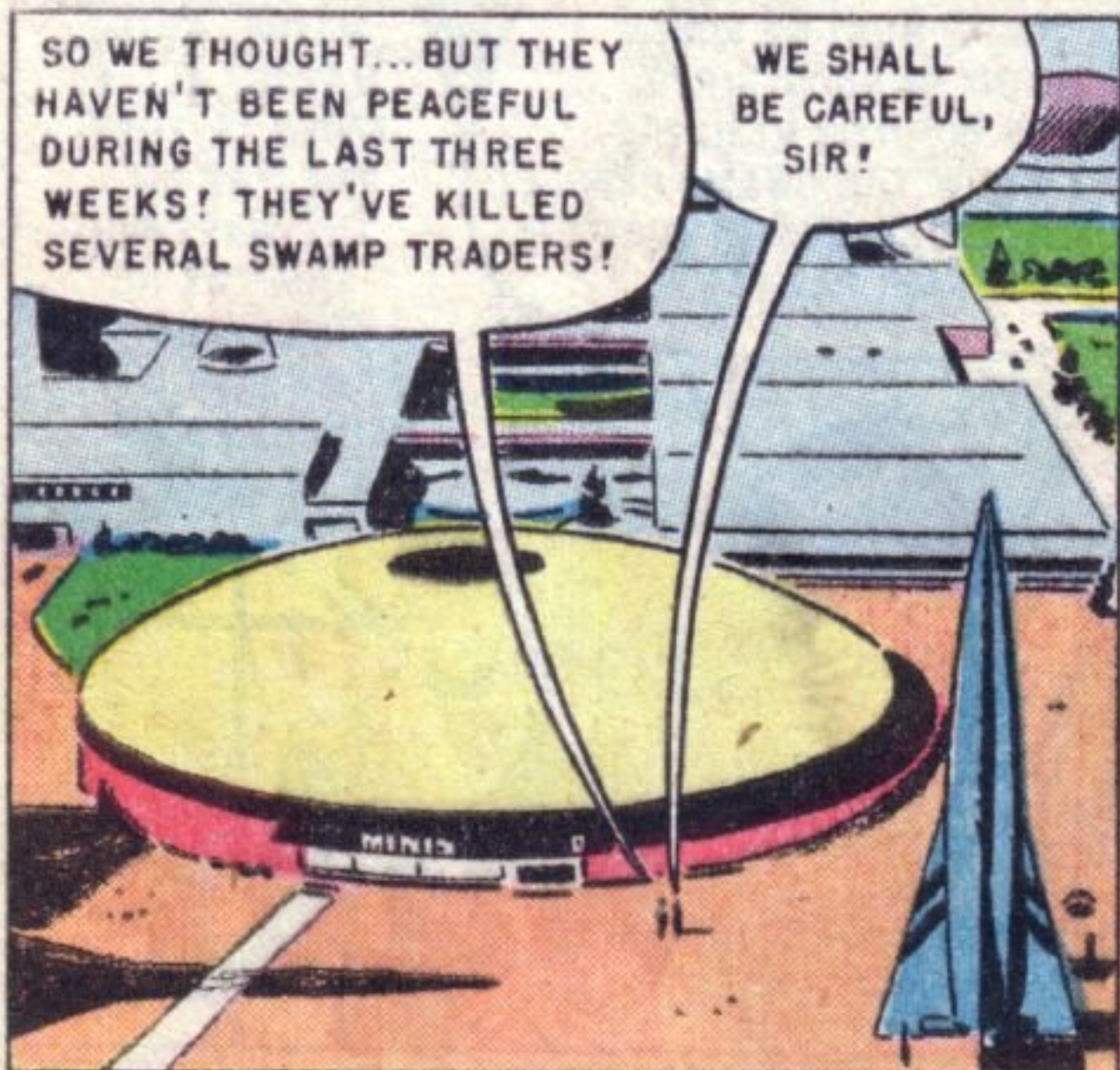
PREPARE THE POLARIS
FOR BLAST OFF, TOM. I'LL
JOIN YOU AT THE
SPACEPORT!

AYE, AYE,
CAPTAIN
STRONG!



YOU KNOW THAT THE SWAMP
FORESTS OF VENUS HAVE NEVER
BEEN EXPLORED, STEVE. THE ORIGINAL
VENUSIANS WHO LIVE THERE ARE A
STRANGE AND MYSTERIOUS RACE

BUT
THEY'RE
A PEACE-
FUL
PEOPLE,
SIR!



SO WE THOUGHT... BUT THEY
HAVEN'T BEEN PEACEFUL
DURING THE LAST THREE
WEEKS! THEY'VE KILLED
SEVERAL SWAMP TRADERS!

WE SHALL
BE CAREFUL,
SIR!



SPACEMAN'S LUCK
TO YOU, CAPTAIN
STRONG!

THANK YOU, SIR!
I HOPE WE
WON'T NEED
IT!



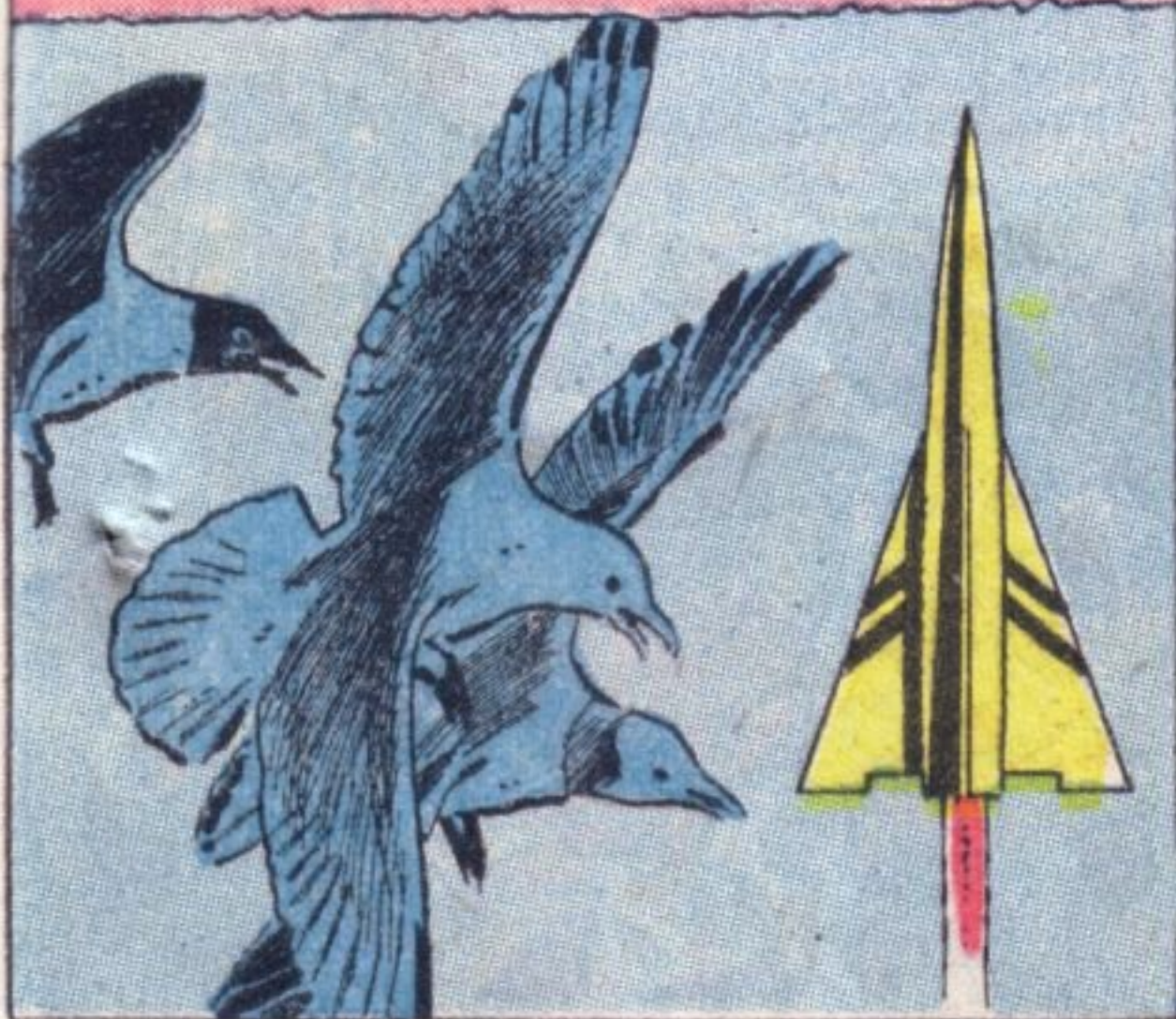
BLAST OFF WHEN
READY, CADET
CORBETT!

AYE, AYE,
SIR!



STAND BY FORE AND AFT!
BLAST OFF IN FIVE SECONDS!
FOUR... THREE... TWO...
ONE... ZERO!

WITH A FLAMING ROAR, SKYWARD AND SPACE-
WARD SHOT THE *POLARIS*!



WHILE TOM STANDS BY AT THE PILOT
CONTROLS, WE'RE GOING TO STUDY
EVERY BIT OF INFORMATION WE HAVE
ON THE SWAMPS OF VENUS.



SO THE LONG DAYS IN SPACE PASS ...

YOU'RE LUCKY, ASTRO! YOU
WON'T HAVE TO DO ANY
STUDYING AT ALL... SINCE
YOU'RE A VENUSIAN SWAMP
WORM TO BEGIN WITH...

NEVER MIND
THE SPACE-
JOKES, ROGER!
YOUR LIFE
WILL DEPEND
ON WHAT YOU
KNOW ABOUT
THE SWAMPS...



SO GET SOME INFORMATION
INTO YOUR HEAD!



WHY, YOU
BIG BAG
OF SPACE-
GAS!

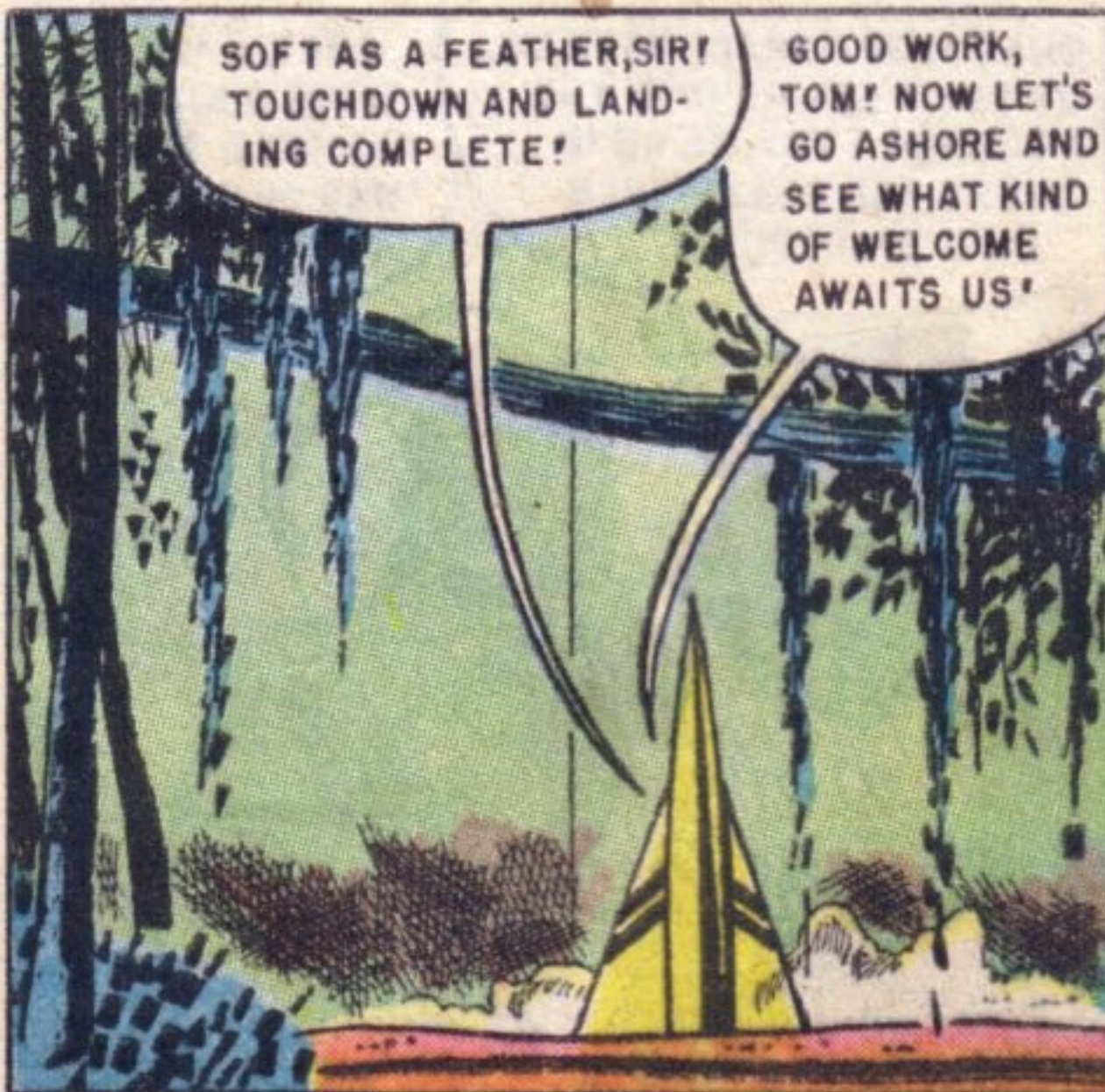
YOU VENUSIAN
MUD MONKEY!

STAND BY
YOUR STATIONS!
WE'RE LANDING
ON VENUS!



SOFT AS A FEATHER, SIR!
TOUCHDOWN AND LAND-
ING COMPLETE!

GOOD WORK,
TOM! NOW LET'S
GO ASHORE AND
SEE WHAT KIND
OF WELCOME
AWAITS US!





COME ON, SPACE CADETS! THE SUPPLIES WE SPACEGRAMMED FOR SHOULD BE READY FOR US!

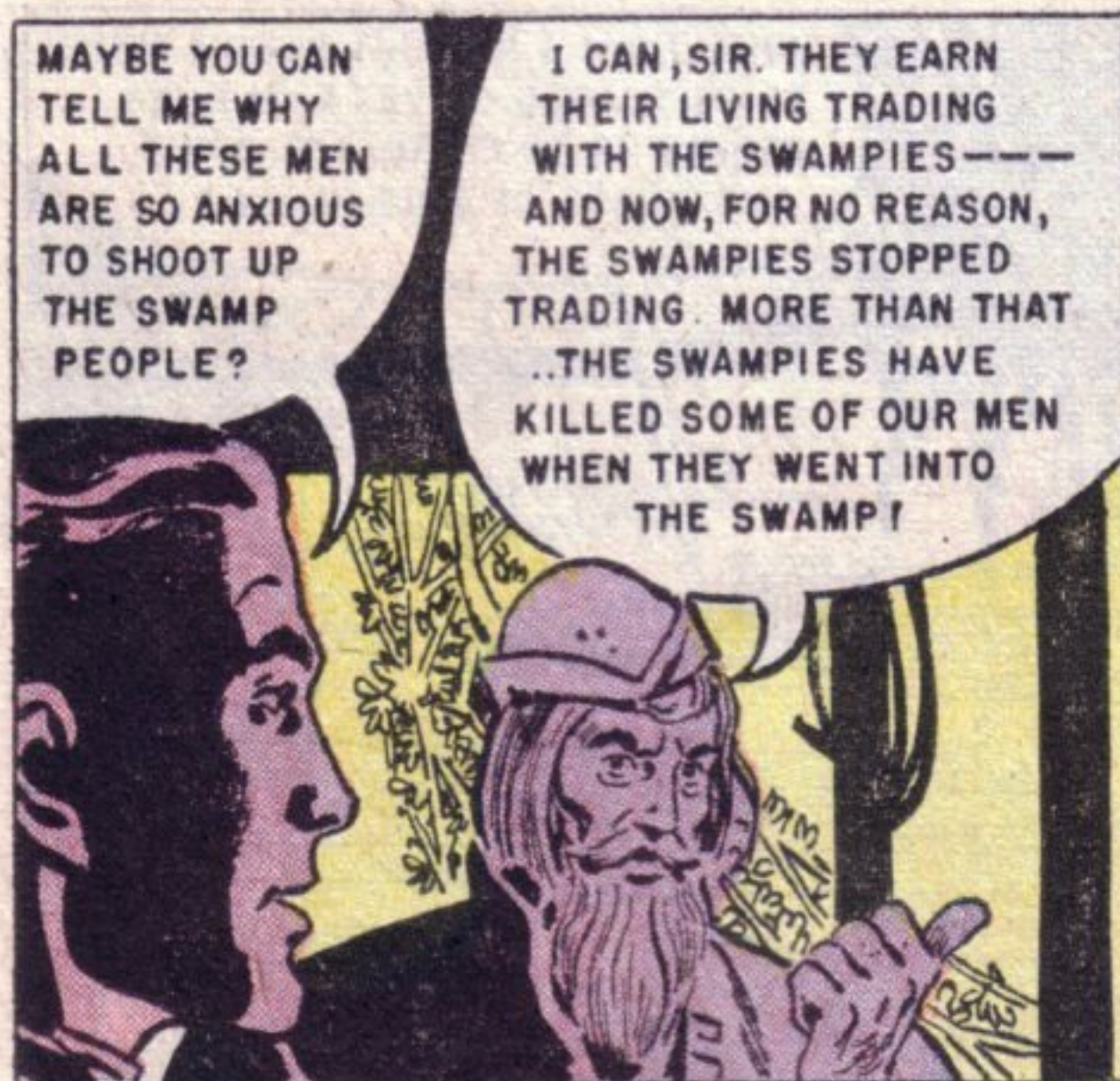


RECKON YOU'RE CAPTAIN STRONG! I'M SAM JERVIS, SIR. CHIEF TRADER AROUND THESE PARTS. I'VE GOT ALL THE SUPPLIES YOU ORDERED READY FOR YOU!



MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME WHY ALL THESE MEN ARE SO ANXIOUS TO SHOOT UP THE SWAMP PEOPLE?

I CAN, SIR. THEY EARN THEIR LIVING TRADING WITH THE SWAMPIES— AND NOW, FOR NO REASON, THE SWAMPIES STOPPED TRADING. MORE THAN THAT... THE SWAMPIES HAVE KILLED SOME OF OUR MEN WHEN THEY WENT INTO THE SWAMP!



THERE'S YOUR BOAT, SIR. THE FOOD AND THE SUPPLIES ARE PACKED ON BOARD!



MOSSBACK BILL AGREED TO BE YOUR GUIDE, CAPTAIN STRONG!

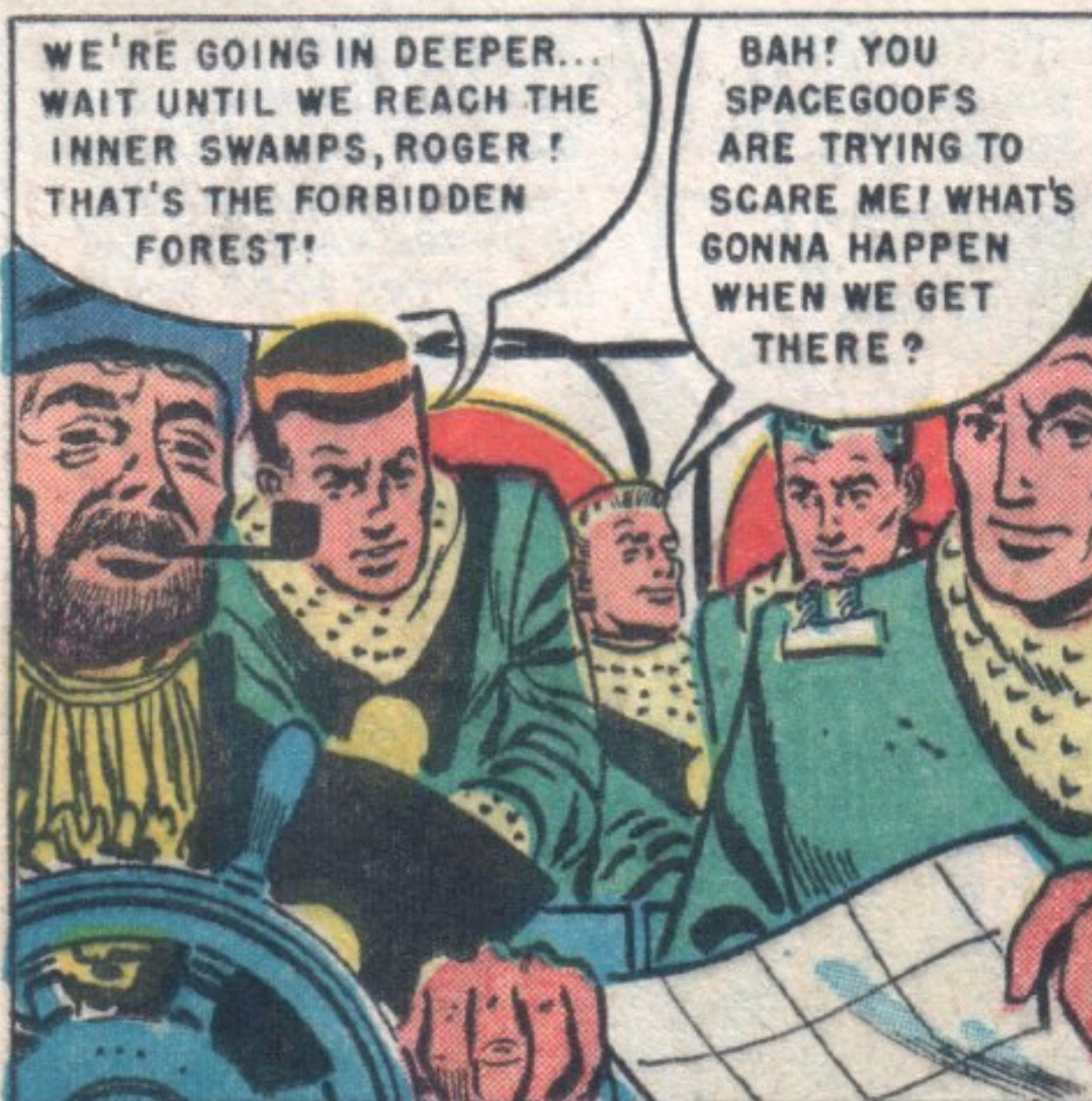
AGREED, NOTHING! THET SCOUNDREL JERVIS IS FORCING ME TO GUIDE YE! ON ACCOUNT OF I OWE HIM MONEY!



I'D THINK YOU WOULD BE GLAD TO GET THIS JOB...

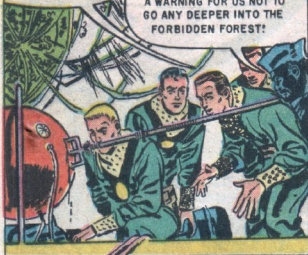
GLAD? I BEEN IN THESE SWAMPS FOR MANY YEARS, SON! ONE THING I LEARNED... WHEN THE SWAMPIES GO ON THE WARPATH, STAY OUT OF THE FORBIDDEN FOREST!





WHAT DOES THIS
MEAN, MOSSBACK?

RECKON THIS IS AS FAR AS
WE KIN GO! THAT SPEAR IS
A WARNING FOR US NOT TO
GO ANY DEEPER INTO THE
FORBIDDEN FOREST!



AND WHAT ARE THEY
GOING TO DO IF WE PAY
NO ATTENTION TO THE
WARNING?

NEXT SPEAR
ISN'T GOING
TO MISS YOU,
THAT'S WHAT!



WHY DON'T WE MAKE CAMP
HERE, SIR? PERHAPS THE
SWAMP PEOPLE WILL COME
TO SPEAK WITH US?

SOUNDS LIKE A
GOOD IDEA!
WHAT DO YOU
SAY, SPACE
CADETS?



I THINK THAT'S THE
BEST THING TO DO, SIR!
IT WILL SHOW THEM WE
ARE FRIENDLY AND
RESPECT THEIR
WARNING!

IT'LL MAKE
THEM THINK
WE'RE
AFRAID!



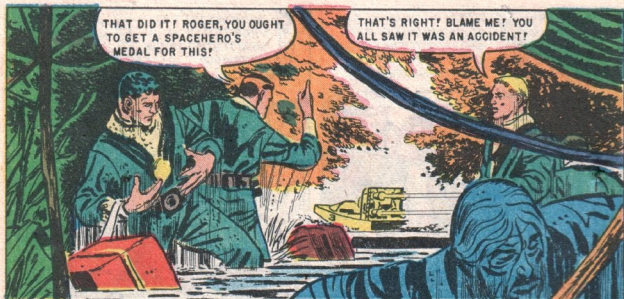
I SAY WE GO RIGHT
INTO THE SWAMP AND
SHOW THEM WE'RE
NOT AFRAID! GO
ON---OW!

LOOK OUT, ROGER!
YOU HIT THE
RELEASE BRAKE!



AS THE RELEASE BRAKE IS KNOCKED OUT OF POSITION,
THE SWAMP BOAT SPURTS FORWARD AT FULL SPEED.





THAT DID IT! ROGER, YOU OUGHT TO GET A SPACEHERO'S MEDAL FOR THIS!

THAT'S RIGHT! BLAME ME! YOU ALL SAW IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!



RECKON WE GOT NO CHOICE NOW? WE'VE GOT TO GO AFTER OUR SWAMP BOAT! WE'LL NEVER GET OUT ALIVE IF WE DON'T FIND IT!

IT CAN'T GO FAR! THE SWAMP TREES AND VINES WILL CATCH IT!



TOM'S RIGHT... BUT JUST THE SAME, EVERYBODY BETTER WATCH HIS STEP! THERE'S STRANGE THINGS IN THIS SWAMP!

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR THE BOAT! REMEMBER ALL OUR SUPPLIES ARE ON IT!



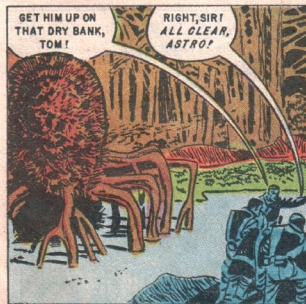
FUNNY... I THOUGHT FOR SURE THE SWAMP BOAT WOULD BE AROUND THIS BEND IN THE STREAM...

MAYBE A WATER CURRENT JUST HAPPENED TO TURN IT AWAY INTO THE CLEAR WATER...



WELL, THIS HERE IS A VERY SHARP TURN... THAT BOAT SHOULD BE HERE!

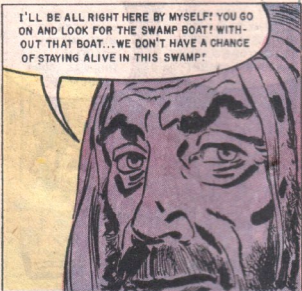
I'VE GOT A HUNCH... A HUNCH THAT IT WON'T BE AROUND THE CURVE AHEAD OF US!



THANKS FOR SAVING ME,
SPACE CADETS! THAT THERE
DART BUSH WOULD HAVE TURNED
ME INTO A MARTIAN PORCUPINE
IF YOU HADN'T DRAGGED
ME AWAY...



I'LL BE ALL RIGHT HERE BY MYSELF! YOU GO
ON AND LOOK FOR THE SWAMP BOAT! WITH-
OUT THAT BOAT... WE DON'T HAVE A CHANCE
OF STAYING ALIVE IN THIS SWAMP!



WE'LL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH
EACH OTHER BY SPACE-
PHONE, MOSSBACK!

RIGHTO!
THE BOAT
CAN'T BE
FAR FROM
HERE...



IF YOU NEED US...
CALL ON THE
SPACEPHONE!

I'M SAFE
ENOUGH HERE!
SPACEMAN'S
LUCK TO YE!





HURRY BEFORE OTHERS RETURN!
TO OUR CHIEF GURLI-VA WE SHALL
TAKE OUR PRISONER!



THE OTHERS, LATER
WE SHALL CAPTURE!



NOT A SIGN OF
OUR SWAMP BOAT!
I CAN'T UNDER-
STAND IT!

WE'VE BEEN WADING
THROUGH THIS MUD FOR
AN HOUR NOW... AND
MOSSBACK HASN'T
CALLED US!



I'LL CALL
HIM...



CALLING MOSSBACK BILL?
CADET ASTRO CALLING
MOSSBACK BILL? WHY
DON'T YOU ANSWER?

SOMETHING MUST
HAVE HAPPENED
TO HIM!





ON THE DOUBLE,
SPACE CADETS!



GONE! WHAT ARE WE
GOING TO DO WITH-
OUT OUR GUIDE?

LET'S LOOK
AROUND AND SEE
WHAT HAPPENED
TO HIM!



CAN YOU FIND
ANY TRAILS,
ASTRO?

WELL, SOMEONE CUT
VINES HERE...PROBABLY
TO MAKE A RAFT OF
SOME SORT!



TREES WERE
CHOPPED DOWN
HERE...

A RAFT... AND IT
WAS TO CARRY
MOSSBACK BILL!
I GUESS IT WASN'T
A WILD ANIMAL
THAT CARRIED
HIM AWAY!

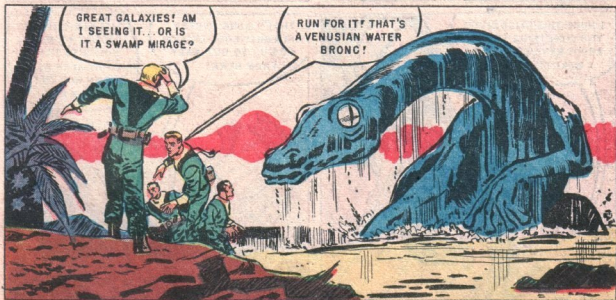


IT MAY BE WORSE THAN
ANIMALS, CADETS! LOOKS
LIKE THE SWAMP PEOPLE
CAPTURED MOSSBACK!

THEY WENT
THIS WAY, SIR!
SEE HOW THE
RUSHES WERE
BENT UNDER
THE RAFT?



AND THAT'S THE WAY WE'RE GOING,
TOO! ON GUARD EVERY SPACE SECOND
OF THE WAY! WE'VE GOT TO FIND AND
SAVE MOSSBACK BILL!





CAN'T MAKE IT!
IT'S GAINING ON
US!

GO ON, ROGER! I'LL
STAY BEHIND AND
TRY TO SHOOT IT
DOWN!

A BLASTER WON'T
STOP IT, SIR! NOT QUICKLY
ENOUGH TO SAVE US!



I THINK I KNOW HOW
TO STOP IT!



THIS BETTER WORK...
OR I'M A GONER!



I HOPE THIS STICK GIVES
YOU SOMETHING TO THINK
ABOUT BESIDES MAKING
A MEAL OF US!



THAT'S GOING TO KEEP
HIM BUSY LONG ENOUGH
FOR US TO GET AWAY
FROM HERE!

ALL RIGHT, SPACE
CADETS. WE'RE
GOING TO TRAVEL
BY A SAFER WAY
FROM NOW ON!
FOLLOW ME!



THESE TREES ARE BIG ENOUGH AND CLOSE ENOUGH TO EACH OTHER TO MAKE A ROAD!

I'LL BE GLAD TO GET OUT OF THE WATER, ANYWAY! I'M SOAKED THROUGH TO MY BONES!



THIS IS SAFER AND FASTER! MAYBE NOW WE CAN OVERTAKE THE RAFT WITH MOSSBACK BILL!



WAIT A MINUTE, TOM! I THINK I HEAR SOMETHING BELOW!

A SPLASHING IN THE WATER! MAYBE IT'S THE RAFT!



THIS WAY, CAPTAIN STRONG! THEY CAN'T BE FAR AHEAD!

ADVANCE IN SILENCE FROM NOW ON!



THERE'S THE RAFT! AND MOSSBACK BILL IS ON IT!



SHALL WE JUMP THEM, CAPTAIN STRONG?

NO! GET DOWN INTO THE WATER SLOWLY! IT'S OUR CHANCE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE SWAMP PEOPLE... AND WE DON'T WANT TO START A FIGHT!



IT'S DANGEROUS TO WADE
THROUGH THE SWAMP...
DANGEROUS TO GO
THROUGH THE TREES...

WHY DON'T WE DO
WHAT THE SWAMP
PEOPLE DO?
BUILD A RAFT!



PUSH AND
PUSH HARD,
SPACE
CADETS!

EVEN IF WE DON'T
CATCH UP TO THEM...
AT LEAST WE'RE ON
THE TRACK OF THE
SWAMP PEOPLE. WE
MIGHT DISCOVER
THEIR SWAMP CITY!



LEAVE IT TO TOM TO
THINK UP WAYS FOR
US TO WORK! WE
COULD HAVE CAUGHT
UP WITH THE SWAMPIES
BY THIS TIME!

SURE... OR
MAYBE ~~WE~~
COULD HAVE
BEEN CAUGHT
BY A SWAMP
LIZARD!

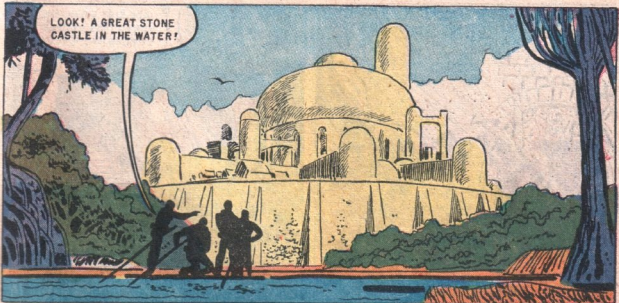


THERE IS A LEGEND HERE
ON VENUS ABOUT THE SWAMP
PEOPLE... THAT THEY HAVE A
GREAT CITY IN THE MIDDLE
OF THIS FORBIDDEN FOREST!
BUT NO ONE HAS EVER
SEEN IT!

WELL, THAT
MUST BE
JUST SPACE-
GAS! THERE'S
OPEN WATER
AHEAD...



LOOK! A GREAT STONE
CASTLE IN THE WATER!





SPINNING GALAXIES!
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE
FOUND THE MYSTERIOUS
CITY OF THE SWAMPIES!

NOW THAT WE'RE
HERE--- HOW DO
WE GO INSIDE?
I DON'T SEE ANY
DOORS... OR EVEN
OPENINGS!



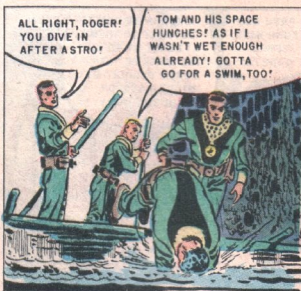
WE'VE ALMOST MADE A
COMPLETE CIRCLE
AROUND THIS CASTLE..
AND HAVEN'T FOUND
EVEN A CRACK IN
THE WALL!

BUT THERE
MUST BE
SOME WAY
INSIDE!



THE SWAMPIES ARE
WATER PEOPLE...
PERHAPS THE DOORS
THEY BUILD ARE
UNDER WATER!

IT'S WORTH
A TRY!



ALL RIGHT, ROGER!
YOU DIVE IN
AFTER ASTRO!

TOM AND HIS SPACE
HUNCHES! AS IF I
WASN'T WET ENOUGH
ALREADY! GOTTA
GO FOR A SWIM, TOO!

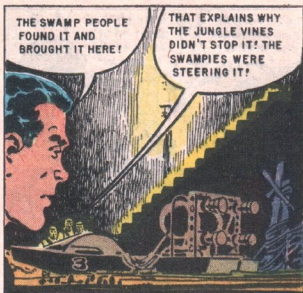


WE'RE IN, CADETS!
SWIM OVER TO THE
WALL... AND BE
CAREFUL!

AYE, SIR! WE'RE THE
VERY FIRST PEOPLE TO
COME INTO THE CITY
OF THE SWAMPIES!

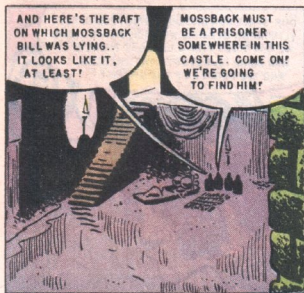


THE AEROSLED! NO WONDER WE COULDN'T FIND OUR SWAMP BOAT!



THE SWAMP PEOPLE FOUND IT AND BROUGHT IT HERE!

THAT EXPLAINS WHY THE JUNGLE VINES DIDN'T STOP IT! THE SWAMPIES WERE STEERING IT!



AND HERE'S THE RAFT ON WHICH MOSSBACK BILL WAS LYING... IT LOOKS LIKE IT, AT LEAST!

MOSSBACK MUST BE A PRISONER SOMEWHERE IN THIS CASTLE. COME ON! WE'RE GOING TO FIND HIM!



THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE SPACE-WILLIES! THE QUICKER WE GET OUT OF HERE, THE BETTER I'M GOING TO LIKE IT!

WE CAN'T EVEN THINK OF GETTING OUT UNTIL WE FIND MOSSBACK BILL!



I'M GOING TO SLIP UP ON HIM! TOM, COME WITH ME! THE REST STAY BACK AND KEEP QUIET!

RIGHT, SIR!



GRAB HIS SPEAR, TOM!





IT'S GETTING SCARIER
AND SCARIER! I
DON'T LIKE THIS!

YOU'LL HAVE TO
LIKE IT, ROGER...
IF YOU EVER WANT
TO WIN THE SPACE-
HERO MEDAL OF
HONOR! OR DON'T
YOU WANT TO BE A
HERO ANY MORE?

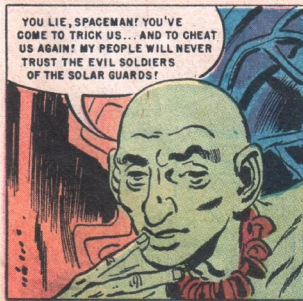


HERO NOTHING!
YOU CAN BE
THE HERO,
ASTRO!

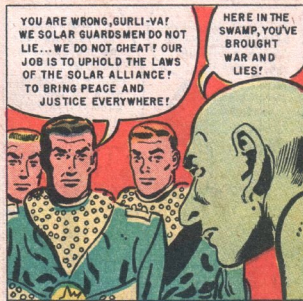
WELL, WE'LL SOON
KNOW WHETHER
WE'RE GOING TO
BE SPACEHEROES...
OR SPACEDUST!
HERE'S THE CHIEF
OF THE SWAMP!



WE HAVE COME IN PEACE, GJRLI-VA! WE WISH
TO BE FRIENDS AGAIN AS YOUR PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN FRIENDS WITH US FOR MANY
YEARS IN THE PAST!



YOU LIE, SPACEMAN! YOU'VE
COME TO TRICK US... AND TO CHEAT
US AGAIN! MY PEOPLE WILL NEVER
TRUST THE EVIL SOLDIERS
OF THE SOLAR GUARDS!



YOU ARE WRONG, GJRLI-VA!
WE SOLAR GUARDSMEN DO NOT
LIE... WE DO NOT CHEAT! OUR
JOB IS TO UPHOLD THE LAWS
OF THE SOLAR ALLIANCE!
TO BRING PEACE AND
JUSTICE EVERYWHERE!

HERE IN THE
SWAMP, YOU'VE
BROUGHT
WAR AND
LIES!

I WAS BORN HERE ON VENUS,
SIR! I KNOW THE SWAMP PEOPLE
EVER SINCE I'VE BEEN A LITTLE
BOY! THEY NEVER LIE!



WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, YOU SWAMP CRAWLER!
THE SOLAR GUARD HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF
LYING — — — AND WE DON'T TAKE THAT
FROM ANYONE!



BUT SOMEONE COULD HAVE
DRESSED IN A SOLAR GUARD
UNIFORM! I THINK GURLI-VA
IS TELLING THE TRUTH!



TOM'S RIGHT! I THINK WE CAN GET
AN EXPLANATION FROM MOSSBACK ...

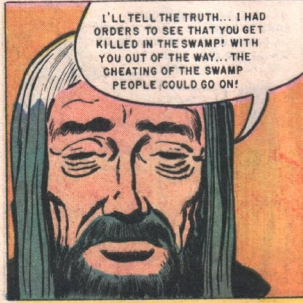


ALL RIGHT, MOSSBACK,
START EXPLAINING! IF
YOU KNOW ANYTHING,
LET'S HAVE IT!

I KNOW PLENTY,
CAPTAIN STRONG!
THE SPACE CADETS
SAVED MY LIFE
BACK IN THE SWAMP
WHEN THE DART
BUSH ATTACK ME!
I'M ON YOUR
SIDE NOW!



I'LL TELL THE TRUTH... I HAD
ORDERS TO SEE THAT YOU GET
KILLED IN THE SWAMP! WITH
YOU OUT OF THE WAY... THE
CHEATING OF THE SWAMP
PEOPLE COULD GO ON!





WHO GAVE YOU
THE ORDERS
TO KILL US?

JERVIS, THE TRADER!
HE'S BEHIND THE
WHOLE TROUBLE!
HE DRESSED IN A
SOLAR GUARD
UNIFORM AND
ROBBED THE
SWAMP PEOPLE!



YOU ARE RIGHT, GURLI-VA!
I AM SORRY I DID NOT BELIEVE
YOU! NOW WE SHALL CATCH
AND PUNISH THE EVIL MAN
WHO CHEATED YOU!

BUT HOW CAN
WE DO THAT,
CAPTAIN
STRONG? WE
WILL NEED
PROOF AGAINST
JERVIS!



JERVIS IS TOO
SMART TO TRY
HIS TRICK WITH
US AROUND!

YOU'RE RIGHT,
ROGER! BUT THERE
MUST BE SOME WAY.



THERE IS A WAY, SIR!
WHAT IF JERVIS
BELIEVES WE
DIED IN THE GREAT
SWAMP?

BUT WE
DIDN'T,
TOM!



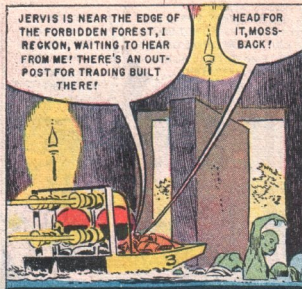
MOSSBACK BILL CAN
GO BACK AND TELL
JERVIS THAT HE
CARRIED OUT HIS
ORDERS!

BY THE RINGS
O' SATURN,
I'LL DO IT!



TRUST US AND HELP US,
GURLI-VA! I PROMISE
THAT YOUR PEOPLE
WILL HAVE JUSTICE!

SO BE IT, SPACE-
MAN! I WILL
TRUST YOU..
AND DO WHAT-
EVER YOU ASK!



JERVIS IS NEAR THE EDGE OF THE FORBIDDEN FOREST, I RECKON, WAITING TO HEAR FROM ME! THERE'S AN OUT-POST FOR TRADING BUILT THERE!

HEAD FOR IT, MOSS-BACK!



GO THERE AND TELL JERVIS THE JOB WAS DONE AND WE'RE DEAD! LEAVE THE REST TO US!

AYE, I'LL DO THAT!



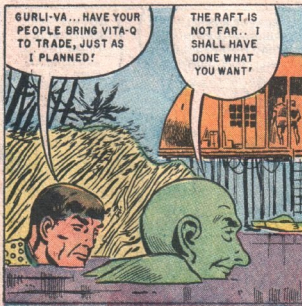
WHEN THEY GO INSIDE, SWIM FOR THE HOUSE AND GET UNDER IT!

AYE, AYE, SIR!



IT'S DONE, JERVIS! THEY WALKED INTO AN OCTOPUS TREE AND WERE KILLED... JUST LIKE YOU WANTED!

GOOD WORK, MOSSBACK! NOW I CAN GET INTO THE SOLAR GUARD UNIFORM AND GET BUSY AGAIN!



GURLI-VA... HAVE YOUR PEOPLE BRING VITA-Q TO TRADE, JUST AS I PLANNED!

THE RAFT IS NOT FAR... I SHALL HAVE DONE WHAT YOU WANT!



GRAB ON TO SOMETHING AND WAIT!

I JOIN SPACE ACADEMY TO BECOME A SPACEMAN --- AND THEY TURN ME INTO A VENUSIAN WATER RAT!



YES, I'M ALIVE, JERVIS!
AND I'VE GOT YOU WITH
ALL THE PROOF I'LL
NEED IN COURT!

YOU'LL HAVE TO
GET ME INTO A
COURT FIRST,
SPACEMAN!



PUT UP YOUR
HANDS, SPACE-
HEROS!

BETTER DO
WHAT YOU'RE
TOLD--- OR
YOU'LL BE
BLASTED INTO
ATOMIG DUST!

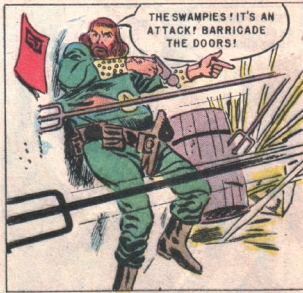


GET OVER WITH THEM,
MOSSBACK! YOU ALWAYS
WERE TOO HONEST A
TRADER TO SUIT ME!
THIS IS THE LAST TIME
YOU'LL DOUBLE-CROSS ME!

RECKON I
PREFER BEING
ON THE SIDE O'
THE SPACE
CADETS, JERVIS...
EVEN IF I GOT TO
DIE FOR IT!



THE SWAMPIES! IT'S AN
ATTACK! BARRICADE
THE DOORS!



THEY'RE ALL TOO
BUSY TO WATCH US...

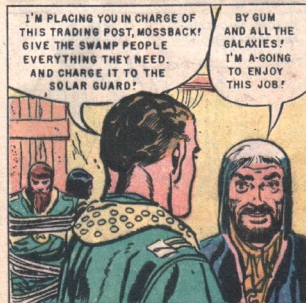
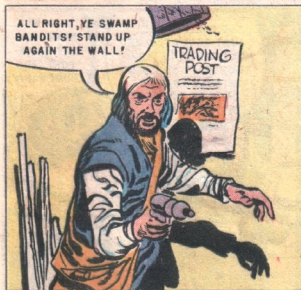
WHAT ARE WE
WAITING
FOR THEN?



HEY! WATCH
THEM!

TOO LATE,
JERVIS!







FOR ALL THE CHEATING THE
EVIL MEN DID, THIS WILL
MAKE UP!

WE SUCCEEDED ONLY BECAUSE YOU STILL
TRUSTED THE SOLAR GUARD, CHIEF. NOW
THERE SHALL BE PEACE... AND TRADE...
HERE IN THE LAND OF WATER PEOPLE!



WE ARE SORRY TO SEE YOU
AND YOUR SPACE CADETS GO,
CAPTAIN STRONG. AGAIN YOU
WILL COME, I HOPE!

SOMEDAY, GURLI-VA...
BUT I HOPE
IT WON'T BE
BECAUSE
THERE'S
TROUBLE HERE!



THE SHELVES ARE
JUST ABOUT CLEANED
OUT, CAPTAIN STRONG!
MOSSBACK BILL WILL
BE ABLE TO TAKE
CARE OF THE REST
OF THE TRADE!

THEN WE'LL
START FOR
THE SPACE-
PORT...AND
HOMEWARD!



SO LONG, SPACE CADETS...
AND SPACEMAN'S LUCK
GO WITH YE!



WE SHALL SOON BE
OUT OF THE SWAMP,
GURLI-VA!

I WILL LEAVE YOU
AT THE EDGE OF THE
SWAMP! TELL THE
TRADERS TO COME...
FOR THEY SHALL
ONCE MORE BE
WELCOME HERE!



