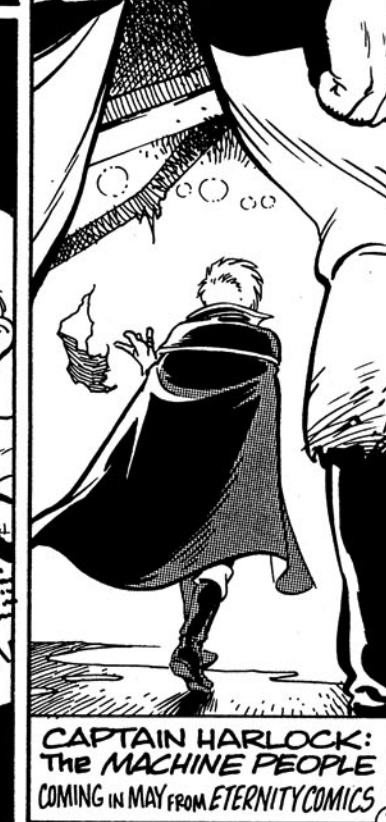
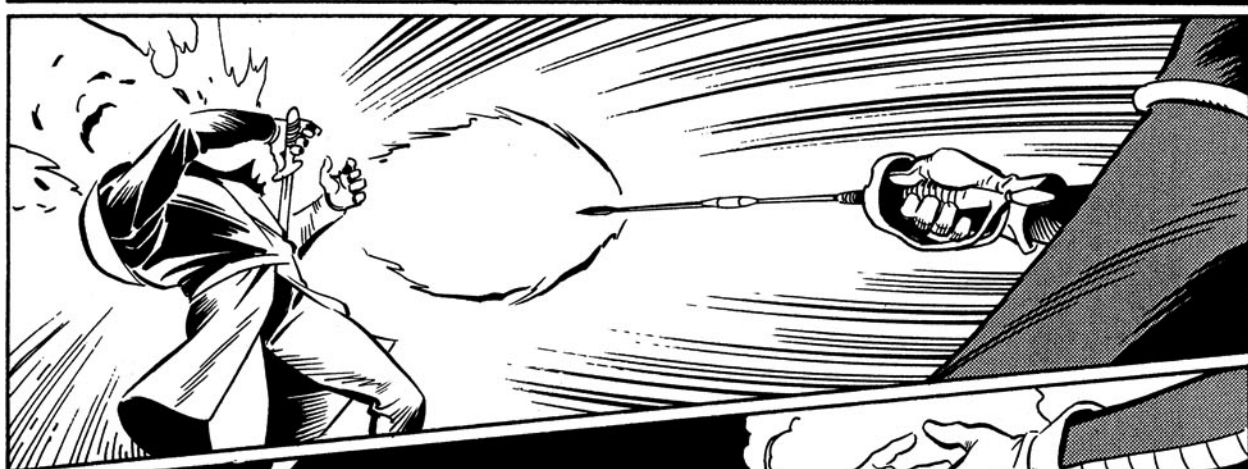
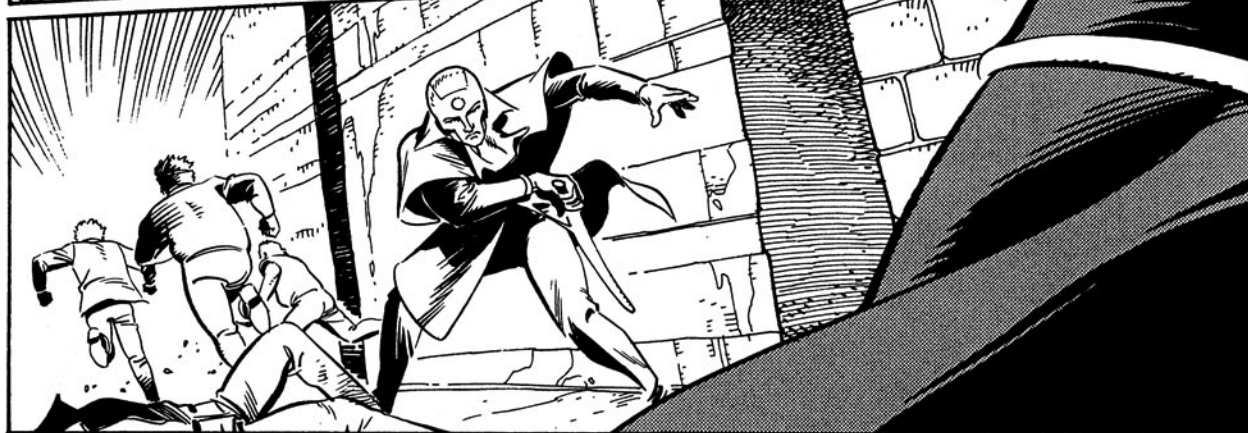


Special 3-page Prologue

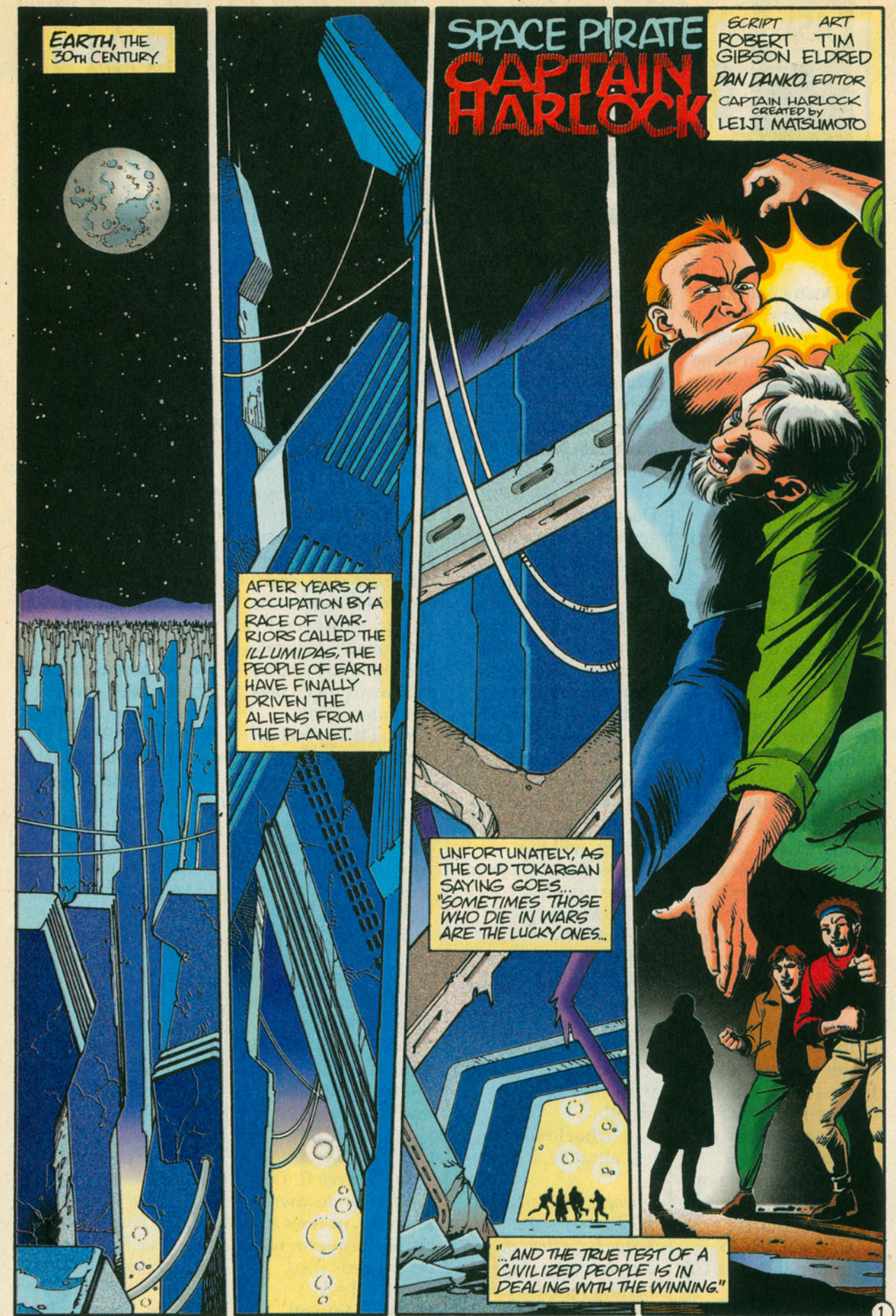
This black & white
version originally appeared
as a bonus feature in
Robotech: Return to Macross #1
(Eternity Comics, March 1993)

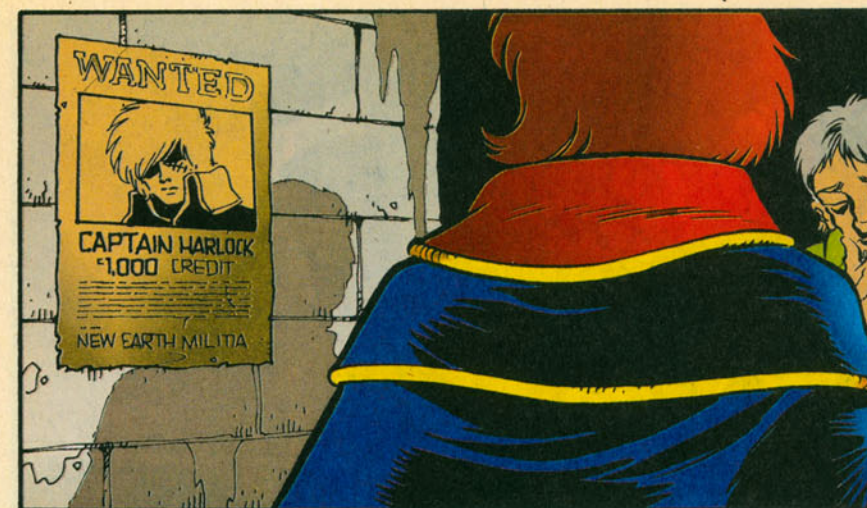
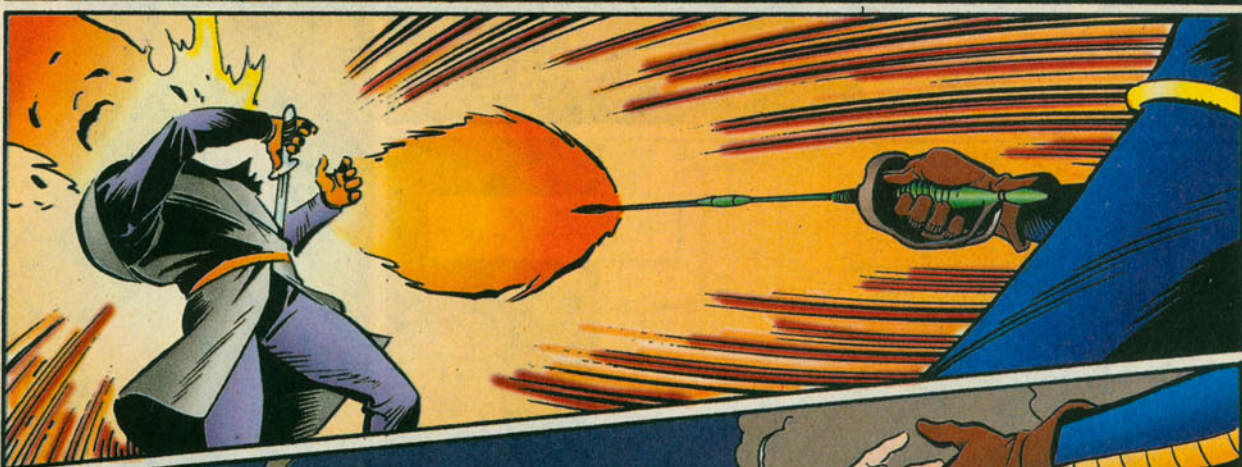
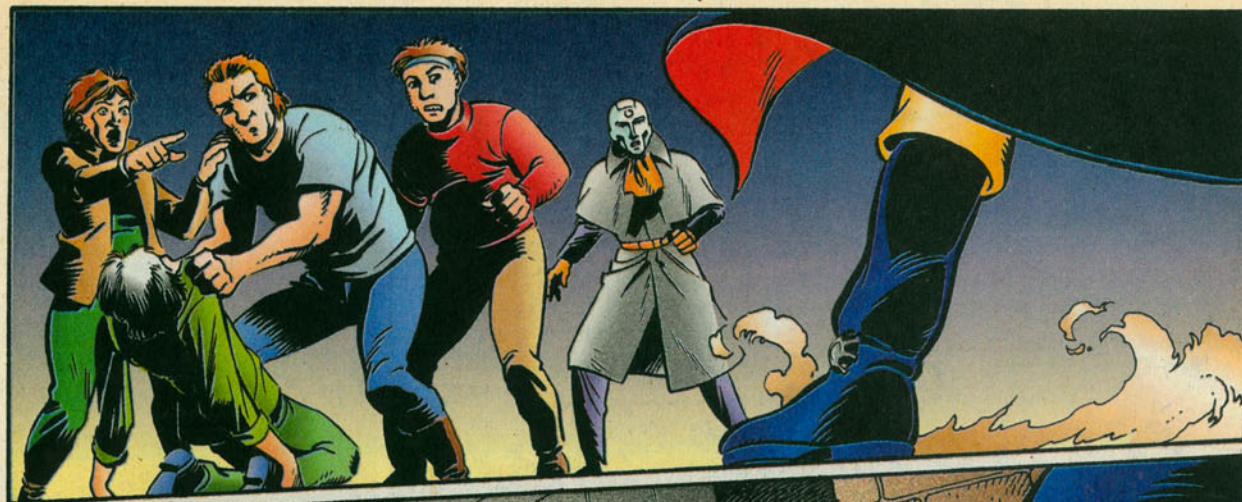




Special 3-page Prologue

This color version
originally appeared in
The Malibu Sun #25
(promotional pamphlet,
May 1993)





AND AS THE OLD EARTH SAYING GOES...



"...THE MORE THINGS CHANGE..."



CAPTAIN HARLOCK:
THE MACHINE PEOPLE
COMING IN MAY FROM ETERNITYCOMICS



ROBERT W. GIBSON TIM ELDRED

CAPTAIN HARLOCK™

Eternity

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#1 • \$2.50
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THE MACHINE PEOPLE™

SPECIAL FEATURE! BEGINNING IN THIS ISSUE:
THE ORIGIN of CAPTAIN HARLOCK



CAPTAIN HARLOCK

THE MACHINE PEOPLE™

ROBERT W. GIBSON &
TIM ELDRED

In the 30th century, Earth and its colonies lost a bitter war with the despotic Illumidas, who threatened to enslave mankind and crush the spark of humanity out of existence.

But a handful of renegades led by the pirate Captain Harlock, refused to be party to the occupation and left Earth in the spaceship Arcadia to live in unlimited freedom in the sea of stars...opposing cruel Illumidas and striking back where they may.

Now, at long last, the yoke has been lifted and the Illumidas mysteriously driven off...but by who?

Writer: Robert W. Gibson
Artist/Letterer: Tim Eldred
Cover Artist: Wes Abbott
Cover Color Design: Jennel Cruz
Cover Colorist: Jennifer Schellinger

DAVE OLBRICH: Publisher; CHRIS ULM: Editor-In-Chief; DAN DANKO: Senior Editor; KIM SCHOLTER: Design Editor; TOM MASON: Creative Director.

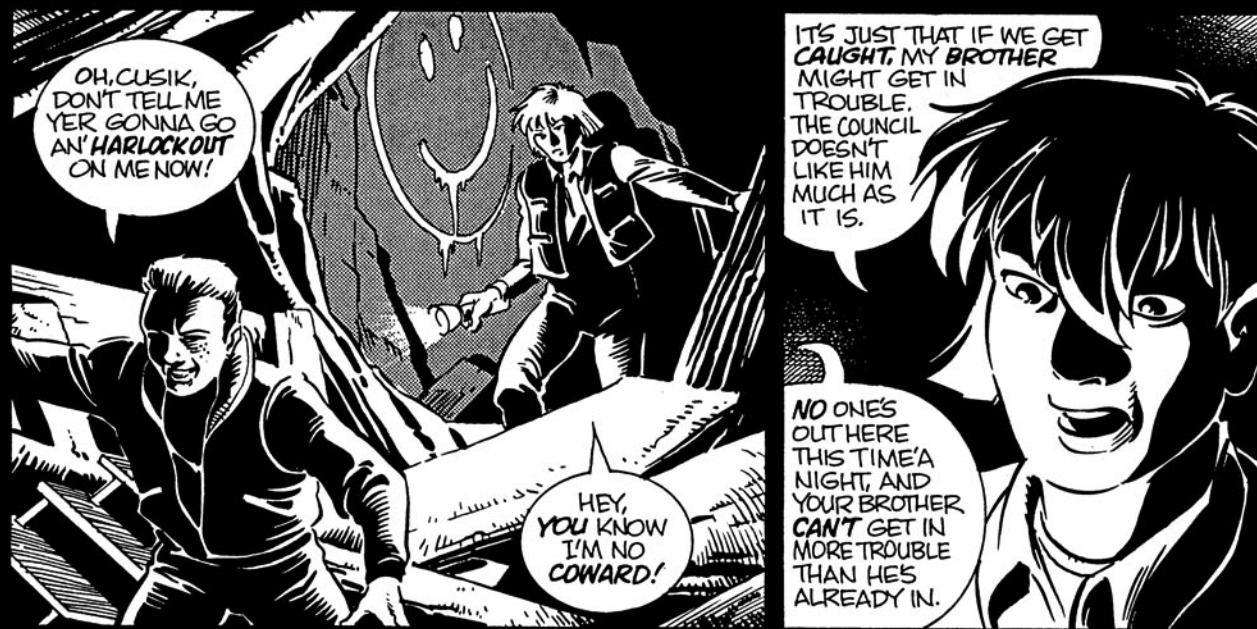
SCOTT ROSENBERG: Malibu Comics President; BOB JACOB: Malibu Interactive President

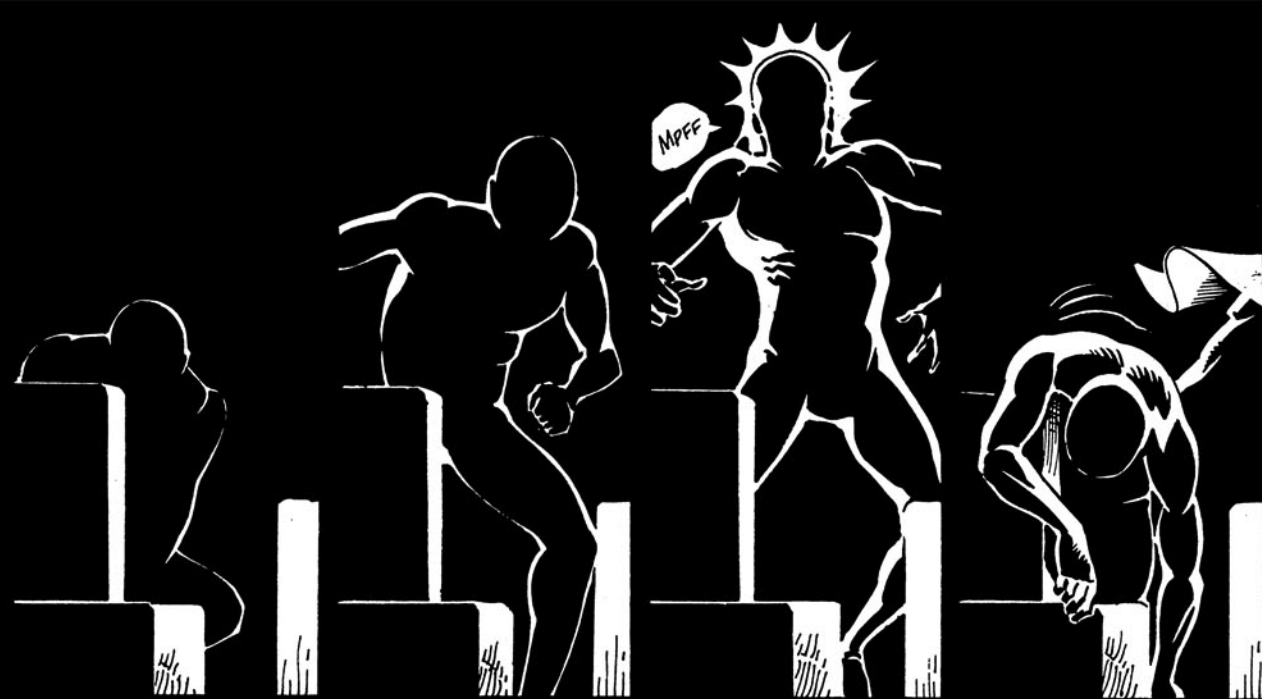
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CROSSROADS

ROBERT W. GIBSON WRITER TIM ELDRED ARTIST DAN DANKO EDITOR CAPTAIN HARLOCK CREATED BY LEIJI MATSUMOTO







THIS IS
NO BUSINESS
OF YOURS,
PIRATE!



WE ARE
FULLY SANC-
TIONED BY THE
NEW EARTH
GOVERNMENT!



YOU'RE
TRES-
PASSING
HERE!



SOMEHOW
I DOUBT
THAT.



WHAT
IS IT THIS
TIME??

COMMANDER,
WE... HAVE A
PROBLEM!
THE PIRATE
IS HERE!!



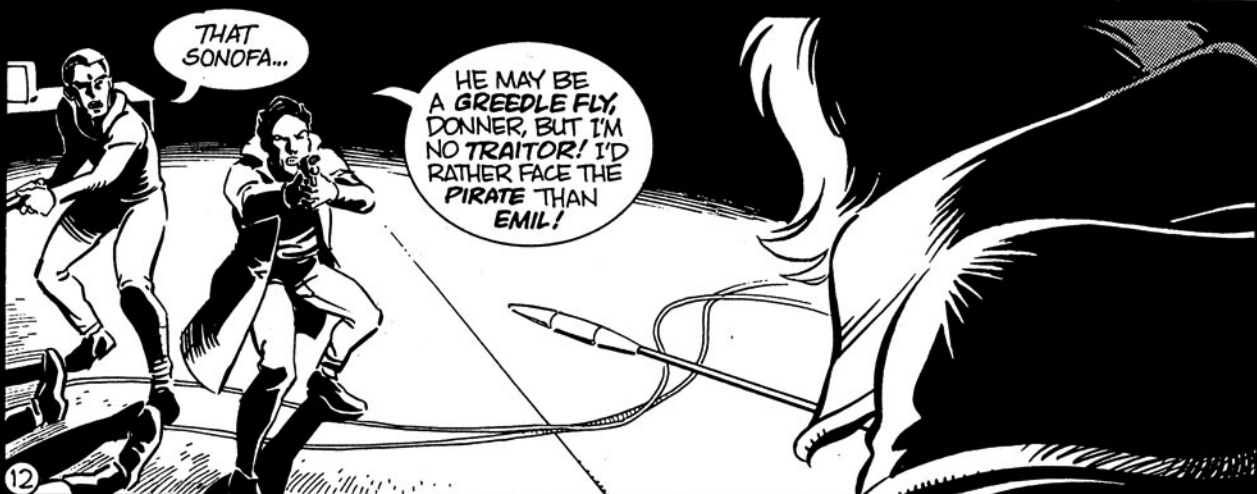
HE'S
DESTROYED
PERRIMAN,
AND--

REALLY?
PATCH IT
THROUGH THE
SECURITY
CAMERAS.

UH,
YES, SIR...



AH.





"...NEVILLE IS NO LESS A BIT
PLAYER IN ALL THIS THAN AM I."



DAMN.

ANOTHER
MINUTE OR TWO,
AND I WOULD HAVE
COMPLETED MY ANALYSIS.
HE SEEMED A FAIR
SWORDSMAN.



SPEAKING OF THE
PIRATE, SIR, HIS IN-
FORMATION DISCS
ARRIVED FROM
CARTER THIS
MORNING...



...ALONG WITH A REINFORCEMENT
OF THE REQUEST THAT YOU
DO NOT IN ANY WAY INTER-
FERE WITH THE PIRATES AFFAIRS.

I HAVE
REVIEWED
THE DISCS,
AND HE IS
INDEED AN EX-
CELLENT SWORDS-
MAN. 'TIS A PITY.

YES,
A PITY...



HE SEEMS
TO ALL BUT
MAKE UP FOR
WHAT THE
REST OF THESE
MISERABLE EARTH-
MEN LACK...

"HE, AT LEAST, SEEMS TO
HAVE A HEART FOR BATTLE."



VERY
FUNNY,
SIR.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE
I CAN GET FOR YOU,
SIR?



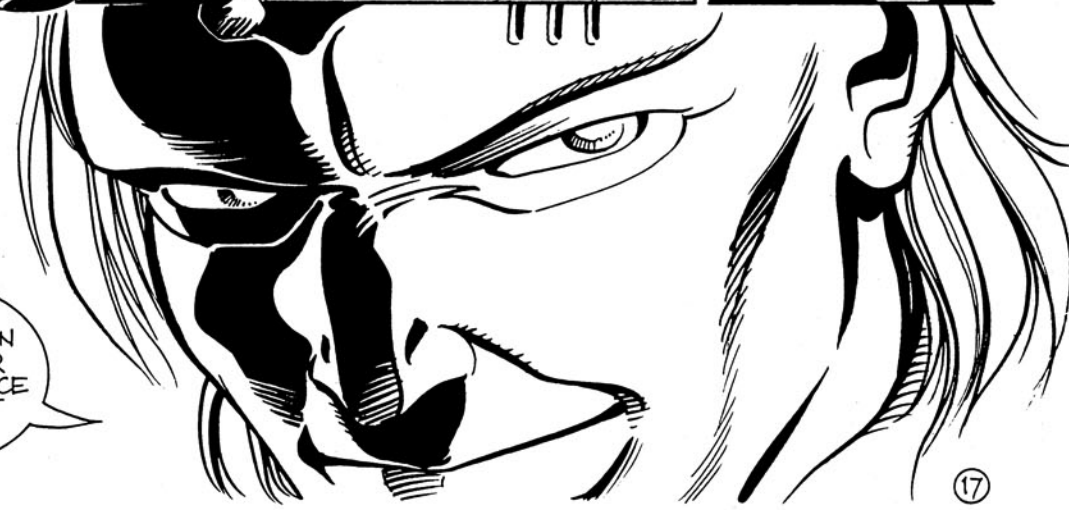
I GUESS IT WOULD
BE TOO MUCH TO ASK
YOU TO FIND A MORE
WORTHY ADVERSARY.

ON THIS PLANET,
SIR?



NO, I
SUPPOSE
NOT. THEY DO
SEEM TO BE
A FAIRLY
WEAK
PEOPLE.

STILL, THERE
MUST BE A REASON
THAT MY FATHER
CHOSE THIS PLACE
FOR MY FIRST
SOVEREIGNTY.





YES?



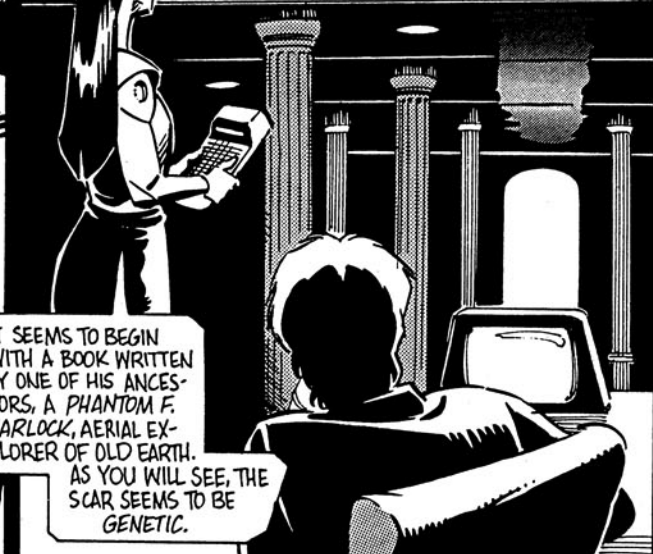
THE INFORMATION DISCS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED AS ORDERED, SIR.



THE REPORT IS A COMPILATION OF CAPTURED ILLUMIDAS RECORDS AND INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE NEW EARTH GOVERNMENT.



GOOD. BEGIN PLAYBACK IMMEDIATELY.



IT SEEMS TO BEGIN WITH A BOOK WRITTEN BY ONE OF HIS ANCESTORS, A PHANTOM F. HARLOCK, AERIAL EXPLORER OF OLD EARTH. AS YOU WILL SEE, THE SCAR SEEMS TO BE GENETIC.



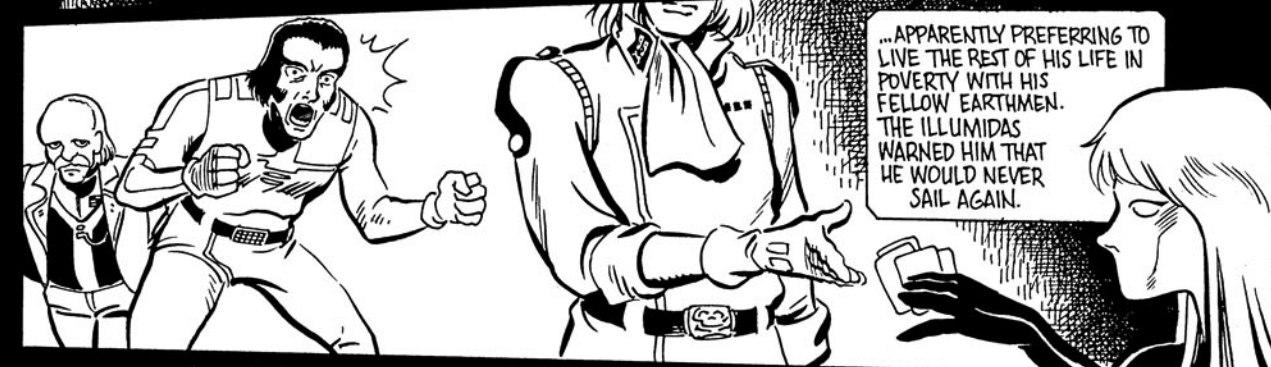
THE BOOK SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN HANDED DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS. FOR THE CURRENT HARLOCK, THEN A TOP OFFICER IN THE OLD SOLAR FEDERATION, HAD IT IN HIS POSSESSION WHEN HE RETURNED TO EARTH AFTER THE PLANET FELL TO THE ILLUMIDAS.



ACCORDING TO ILLUMIDAS RECORDS, HE PURPOSEFULLY CRASHED HIS SHIP, THE DEATHSHADOW, UPON HIS RETURN SO THAT THEY COULD NOT USE IT TO FURTHER THEIR GOALS.



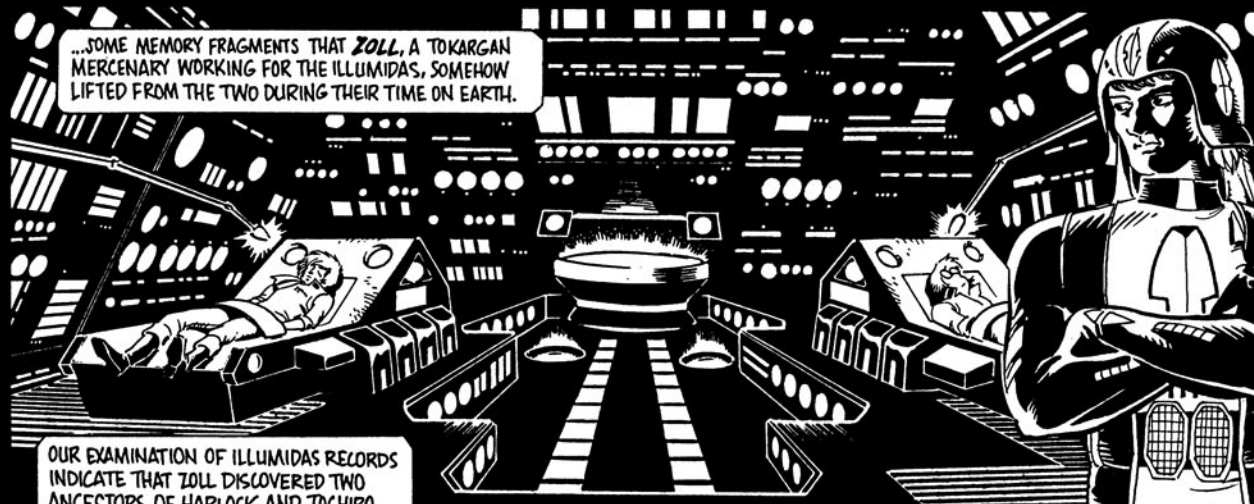
BECAUSE OF HIS SKILLS, THE ILLUMIDAS OCCUPATION FORCE SUPREME COMMANDER, ZEDA, OFFERED HIM A POSITION IN THE OCCUPATION, BUT HE TURNED IT DOWN...



...APPARENTLY PREFERRING TO LIVE THE REST OF HIS LIFE IN POVERTY WITH HIS FELLOW EARTHMEN. THE ILLUMIDAS WARNED HIM THAT HE WOULD NEVER SAIL AGAIN.



SHORTLY AFTER THIS, HE APPARENTLY MET AND BEFRIENDED ANOTHER EARTHMAN BY THE NAME OF OYAMA TOCHIRO. TOCHIRO IS A BIT OF AN ENIGMA TO US, AS THERE SEEMS TO BE NO RECORD OF HIM ANYWHERE, EXCEPT...



...SOME MEMORY FRAGMENTS THAT **ZOLL**, A TOKARGAN MERCENARY WORKING FOR THE ILLUMIDAS, SOMEHOW LIFTED FROM THE TWO DURING THEIR TIME ON EARTH.

OUR EXAMINATION OF ILLUMIDAS RECORDS INDICATE THAT **ZOLL** DISCOVERED TWO ANCESTORS OF **HARLOCK** AND **TOCHIRO** FIRST MET DURING ONE OF THE MANY WARS ON TWENTIETH-CENTURY EARTH.



IT WAS **ZOLL**'S OPINION THAT, DUE TO THE EVENTS OF THAT MEETING LONG AGO, THE GENETIC LINEAGE OF THE TWO MEN WERE LINKED. RECENT EVENTS HAVE SEEMED TO PROVE HIM CORRECT.



ONCE AGAIN, THE ILLUMIDAS APPROACHED **HARLOCK** WITH EMPLOYMENT, THIS TIME TO RECRUIT HIM TO TRANSPORT ILLUMIDAS SOLDIERS TO **TOKARGA** IN ORDER TO ANNIHILATE THE POPULATION.



HARLOCK AGAIN REFUSED.

ZEEEP

HMM?



HOLD FOR A MOMENT. I SUPPOSE I SHOULD TAKE THIS.



QUINT, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? I AM VERY BUSY...

NO, IT WAS MINE. THIS **HARLOCK** IS A GOOD INDICATION OF THE TYPE OF OPPOSITION WE WILL ENCOUNTER IN THE ASSIMILATION OF THAT SECTOR.

THE INFORMATION DISC JUST ARRIVED, THOUGH I DON'T SEE HOW AN **EARTH PIRATE** IS ANY CONCERN OF MINE. WAS THIS **FATHER'S** IDEA?

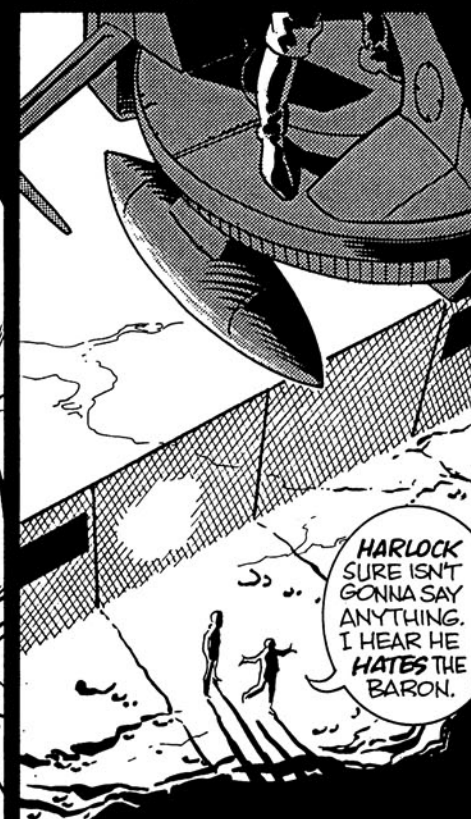
WHATEVER. IT'S STILL **NEVILLE'S** PROBLEM. I DO NOT SEE WHY I--

NO, QUINT, IT IS THE CORPORATION'S PROBLEM!

YOU WILL REVIEW THE DISC AND HAVE A STANDARD ASSESSMENT REVIEW ON MY DESK IN TWO DAYS.

CARTER OUT.

YES, SIR.







SKULL &

Been a long time, eh?

This is the first text piece in a CAPTAIN HARLOCK issue since the first issue of the DEATHSHADOW RISING mini-series over two years ago. A lot has happened since then, so Tim Eldred and I decided we owed it to the readers who have stuck with us for the past five years (as well as those of you hopped aboard somewhere along the way) to update things a bit.

Foremost among recent developments, Tim has relocated to California and taken a position on the art staff at Malibu Graphics (publisher of the Eternity Comics line). In fact, he IS the art staff at Malibu Graphics. Between fixing art, lettering, designing logos and generally spilling ink all over the offices, he's still drawing CAPTAIN HARLOCK and his own ARMORED ROAD POLICE strip for the new ETERNITY TRIPLE ACTION. He keeps all four arms busy, believe me.

And with the upcoming ULTRAlith that is the Malibu ULTRAVERSE (the first issues of which will be arriving this June to a comic shop near you), our illustrious editor and man-of-too-many-duties, Dan Danko, has been summoned hither and yon by the powers that be, so that he can peer over Chris Ulm's shoulders on the ULTRAVERSE books. Which means that we here at Eternity have a new editor and soon to be man-of-many-duties.

Our new masochist...er, editor is Hank Kanalz, currently the writer on Malibu's EX-MUTANTS title. Since I've never actually MET Hank, I guess I shouldn't say anything nasty about him. And he DID find us room for the page you're now reading. Which makes him a nice guy. I take back the masochist reference. At least until he starts pulling his hair out.

As longtime readers will notice, we started a new plotline with the FALL OF THE EMPIRE series. Getting rid of the Illumidas was something that had to happen in order so that we could move along the bumpy timeline that Mr. Matsumoto has established in his var-

ious Harlock projects. The plan from the very first issue of our version of CAPTAIN HARLOCK was to tell original stories which were pretty consistent with established continuity per the original SPACE PIRATE CAPTAIN HARLOCK and MY YOUTH IN ARCADIA projects. As fans know, the events in SPACE PIRATE take place a good time after the events in MYIA. Getting from one point to the other was our plan. This mini-series marks the middle of that journey.

Whether that journey continues on this side of the Pacific is dependent on several things. Some, we have control over; others we don't. If you like what we're doing, please write the folks at Eternity and let them know. Letters are particularly needed. We've received marvelous words of praise and encouragement from just about everyone who I have sent sample issues to, but, due primarily to current market conditions, that positive feedback has not resulted in increased sales. We're in the same boat as many non-super-hero titles not published by the Big Two. Customers don't tell retailers that the WILL buy the books, therefore the retailers don't order any more than the bare minimum. So when a potential new reader enters the shops, there are precious few non-super-hero books for them to sample. It's no one's fault. It's just the nature of the market at present. But that doesn't mean it has to be this way forever.

So, by all means, if you find a book that you really like, be it space-opera, super-hero, horror or whatever, be sure to inform your retailer that you WILL buy it if they order it. Tell your friends about it. Have your friends tell the retailer that THEY will buy it if he/she orders more. It's got to start from the ground up!

Like Harlock and his crew, maybe a few people CAN make a difference...

Robert W. Gibson
Somewhere in Texas

CROSSNOTES