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# STAR BLAZERS

THE MAGAZINE OF SPACE BATTLESHIP YAMATO



**BE FOREVER  
YAMATO**

*Invasion: Earth!*



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THE MAGAZINE OF SPACE BATTLESHIP YAMATO

Based on *Space Battleship Yamato*  
created by Yoshinobu Nishizaki and Leiji Matsumoto

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## FROM THE CAPTAIN'S DESK

Welcome back, everyone!

This issue marks our second anniversary of publishing *The Magazine of Space Battleship Yamato*! Issue #0 of *Star Blazers* debuted March, 1995 and nine more issues followed steadily thereafter despite a seemingly unending string of turbulent trends in the comic book industry. The members of the Star Force have survived perilous journeys, and it is fitting that a publication recounting those journeys would prove itself a hardy survivor as well. But for survival there is often a price to be paid. For the characters in our stories, that price is the loss of loved ones along the way. For this publication, it is the loss of a few pages. To learn why this price had to be paid and how you can help it from being a permanent loss, please turn to the end of the issue.

But don't let that deter you for a moment from celebrating with us the long-awaited debut of *BE FOREVER YAMATO*! Even though the entire *Space Battleship Yamato* animated saga is equally exciting from beginning to end, we're a little "extra" excited to have reached this particular point in it. That's because in many ways *BE FOREVER* has a little "extra" of all the best things about the *Yamato* series.

What do we mean by this? For starters, the *BE FOREVER* feature film was loaded with "extras" when it premiered in 1980. The design and production of the animation was given more time and attention than audiences were used to, making it easily the most visually spectacular *Yamato* effort to date. The film also had an extra storytelling aspect to it, called "Warp Dimension," in which the actual physical size of the movie screen changed before the very eyes of the filmgoer. Another big "extra" was the commercial presentation surrounding the movie, which involved more publicity and higher quality merchandise than in all previous promotional campaigns. (How many of you would have liked to take a commemorative *BE FOREVER* cruise on a ship painted to look like the *Yamato*? A lot of lucky fans did in 1980!)

The best "extra" is, of course, the "extra" emotional impact of the story, which includes just enough similarity with previous *Yamato* adventures to make you feel at home—and just enough plot twists to make you wonder if things can ever be the same afterward.

Following this trend of delivering "extras," we've done the same thing in this comic book adaptation of *BE FOREVER*. Odds are, most of you already own a video copy of the film, and therefore don't necessarily need it to be played out scene by scene in these pages. Fine with us—as shown last issue, there are plenty of stories going on just under the "surface" of the film, and this is the only place you will find them! Last issue's prelude was the warm-up...and now it's time for the main event!

Best wishes,  
Barry Winston  
Publisher

25 DECEMBER, 2202 AD

-- PLUTO BASE! EARTH, DO YOU COPY? THE INTRUDER IS INBOUND, STILL DECELERATING! WE'RE BEING IRRADIATED -- DON'T KNOW WHAT --

-- STEERING TOWARDS TRITON, STILL UNDER POWER! IT'S -- IT'S EMITTING AGAIN! WE'RE --

-- MIRANDA BASE... WE'RE ALL DYING HERE, EARTH... WARN TITAN --

-- TO ALL COMMANDS: TITAN BASE NO LONGER RESPONDS. INTRUDER WILL PASS THIS WAY IN FOUR MINUTES --

"THIS IS REAR ADMIRAL ALEX WILDSTAR, EDC HEADQUARTERS, CALLING PATROL SHIP TEN. ADVANCE, PLEASE REPLY, OVER ..."

"READ YOU, EDC -- COMMANDER DEREK WILDSTAR HERE. MARS BASE IS INTACT, BUT THE CREW IS -- LIKE ALL THE OTHERS -- DEAD!"

"WE'RE GOING TO PURSUE THE INTRUDER. WE'LL BE IN FIRING RANGE IN A DOZEN HOURS OR SO."

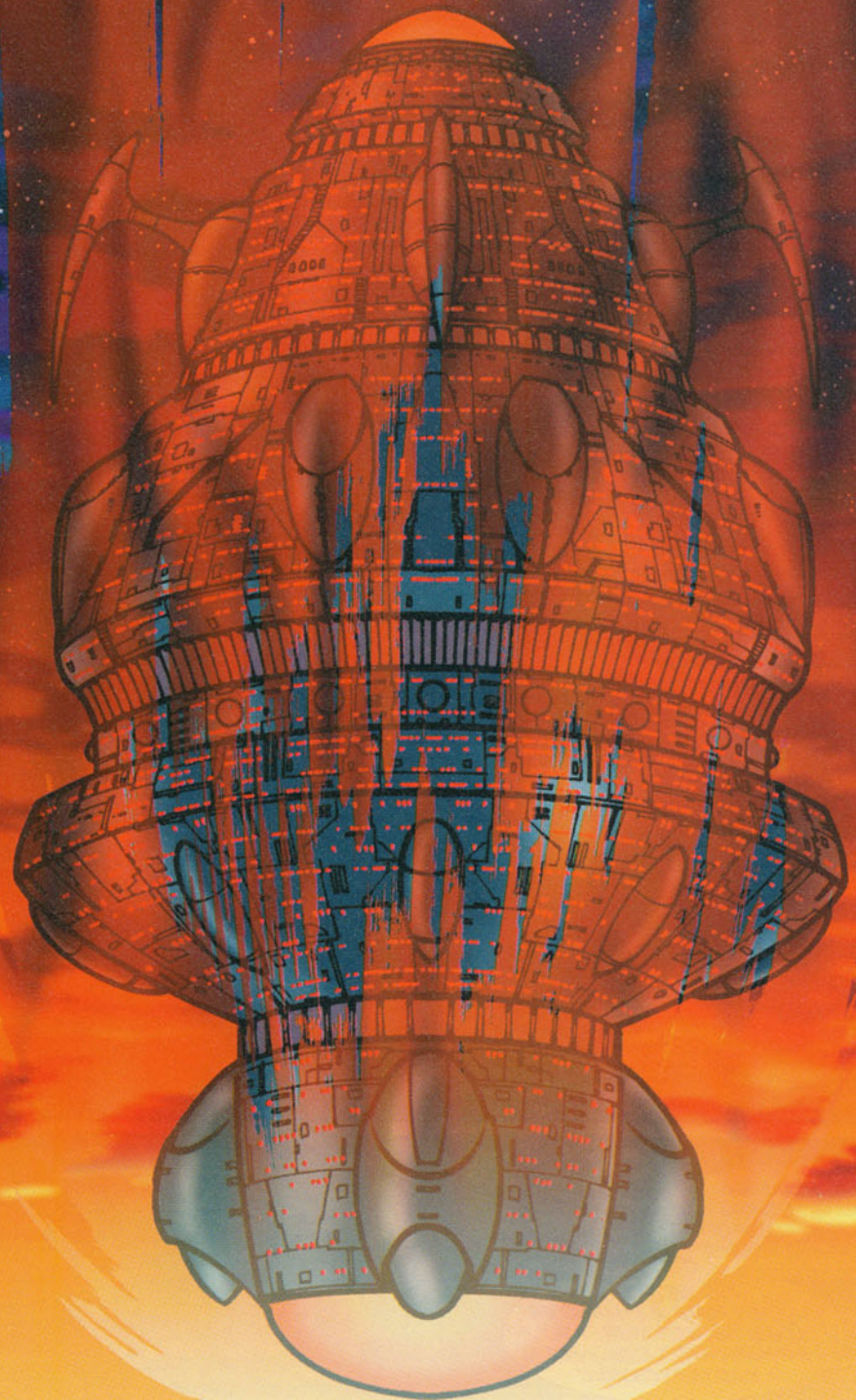
"BEST OF LUCK 'TILL WE GET THERE, BIG BROTHER. ADVANCE, OUT!"

ADMIRAL WILDSTAR! THE INTRUDER IS SLOWING INTO AN EARTH-APPROACH ORBIT! ETA IS TWELVE HOURS!

AND SIR, IT'S AT LEAST HALF A KILOMETER LONG. AGAINST THAT, THE ADVANCE WON'T EVEN MAKE A BAD IMPRESSION!

"BIG BROTHER" ... HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL HIM NOT TO CALL ME THAT IN PUBLIC?

# INVASION:



# EARTH!



UNIT ONE TO HQ... LAZARUS IS SECURE... WE'RE MOVING HIM TO THE VEHICLES NOW!

MOVE IT, PEOPLE! NINETY SECONDS, WITH OR WITHOUT YOU!

SIR, IT'S NOT SAFE HERE ANY LONGER. WE'RE TO TAKE YOU TO SHELTER. PLEASE COME WITH ME...



ADMIRAL, IF THERE WERE ANY OTHER WAY, BELIEVE ME...

NO TIME TO DISCUSS THIS, SIR. COME ALONG...

...IS DESCENDING IN THE VICINITY OF THE OLD UNDERGROUND CITY. THOSE SMALL FLASHES... ARE THEY MISSILES...?

...WAIT! MY... MY PICTURE!



THOSE SOUNDS YOU'RE HEARING ARE MINISTER AZIZ'S CRACK INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES CONVERGING ON THE AREA...

LATER SIR! IT'S YOUR LIFE WE'RE SAVING...

...MY LIFE...

...OH DEAR GOD! THOSE FLASHES ARE -- AIRBORNE TROOPS!



WHY ARE WE DOING THIS? WHY AM I DOING THIS?

ASSAULT FORCE ONE, LAND AND SPLIT INTO FOUR GROUPS. GROUP ONE, ATTACK AND NEUTRALIZE COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTERS...



I DON'T WANT TO KILL THESE PEOPLE... I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE...

...GROUP TWO, ESTABLISH A SECURE LZ FOR THE BOMB SHIP...

...ALL I EVER WANTED WAS TO WATCH THE STARS... WANDER THROUGH SPACE AND SEE WHAT LAY BEYOND THE HOLE IN THE SKY...



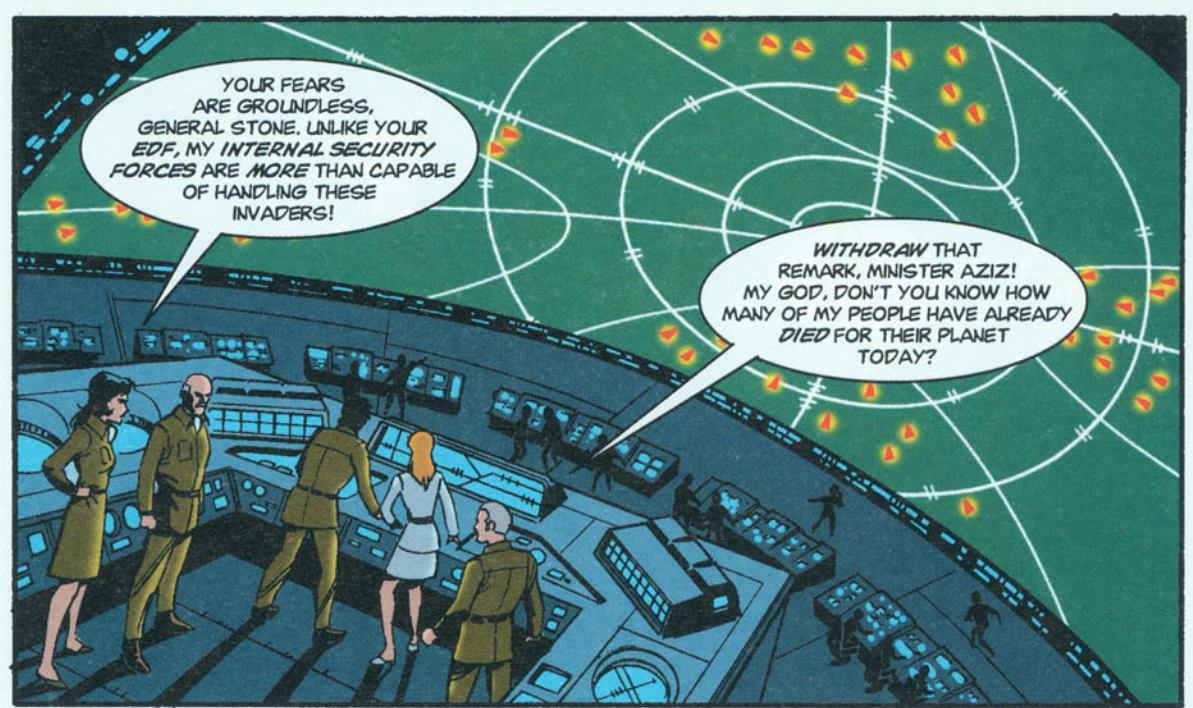
...GROUP THREE, ATTACK AND DESTROY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION AND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE. MAXIMIZE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES... LET'S PUT THE FEAR OF THE LADY BELOW INTO THESE SAVAGES!

COMMAND, THIS IS SECOND LIEUTENANT ALPHON KIHMAN, HEAD OF GROUP FOUR, MOVING OUT!

...TO TOUCH THE FACE OF ANOTHER WORLD...

...AND GROUP FOUR, ESTABLISH AN INTELLIGENCE POST AND START LOOKING FOR THE PRIME TARGET -- THE YAMATO!

...AND TO FALL IN LOVE!



YOUR FEARS ARE GROUNDLSS, GENERAL STONE. UNLIKE YOUR EDF, MY INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES ARE MORE THAN CAPABLE OF HANDLING THESE INVADERS!

WITHDRAW THAT REMARK, MINISTER AZIZ! MY GOD, DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MANY OF MY PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY DIED FOR THEIR PLANET TODAY?



THAT'S PRECISELY MY POINT! THE EDF ISN'T EQUIPPED TO HANDLE REAL COMBAT... BUTT-PUSHING COMPUTERIZED SPACE BATTLES, PERHAPS...

...BUT THE ISF IS A PROFESSIONAL GROUND-COMBAT FORCE! THEY'LL MAKE THE ENEMY DIE FOR THEIR PLANET, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND!

WHY, YOU DIRTY --!

MADAM MINISTER!



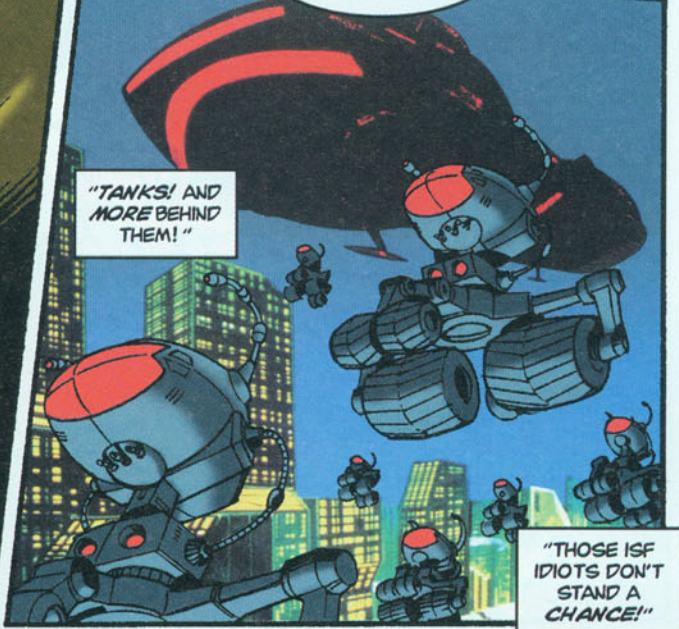
ALEX! THEIR AIRBORNE FORCES ARE LEAPFROGGING OUR DEFENSES... DRAWING OUR FORCES AWAY...

...AND THE CENTRAL CITY AND HEADQUARTERS ARE LEFT WITH NO DEFENSE -- EXCEPT FOR AZIZ'S ISF GOON SQUAD!

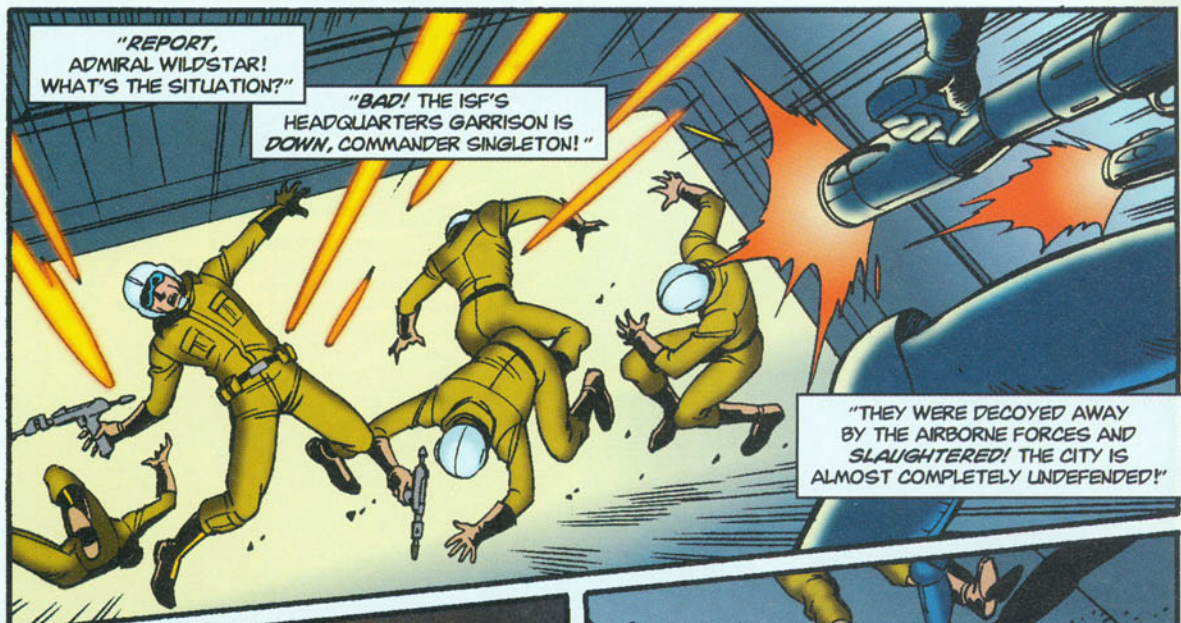
LOOK, ALEX... ARE THOSE --?



"TANKS! AND MORE BEHIND THEM!"



"THOSE ISF IDIOTS DON'T STAND A CHANCE!"



"REPORT, ADMIRAL WILDSTAR! WHAT'S THE SITUATION?"

"BAD! THE ISF'S HEADQUARTERS GARRISON IS DOWN, COMMANDER SINGLETON!"

"THEY WERE DECEYED AWAY BY THE AIRBORNE FORCES AND SLAUGHTERED! THE CITY IS ALMOST COMPLETELY UNDEFENDED!"

"THE LARGE SPACECRAFT HAS LANDED AT GRID A-89. IT'S STILL EMITTING RADIATION, BUT AT A LOWER LEVEL. THERE'S ALSO A GRAVITATIONAL FORCE FIELD OF SUBSTANTIAL POWER SURROUNDING IT"

"ENEMY UNITS ARE ADVANCING TOWARD HEADQUARTERS-- MOSTLY LARGE WALKING MACHINES ACCOMPANIED BY SMALLER TRACKED ARMOR."



"SIR... THEY'RE ATTACKING THE BUILDING! HUNDREDS OF THEM! THEY'RE INSIDE THE PERIMETER AND MOVING FAST!"



SO THAT'S IT THEN!

YES SIR, WE DO! THE AUTOMATED FLEET IS STILL ACTIVE -- AND THEN THERE'S --

OPEN THE UNDERGROUND CITY TO THE PUBLIC! DO WE HAVE ANY FORCES LEFT AT ALL?



HOMER! GET COMMANDER VENTURE ON THE LINE!



"I -- I UNDERSTAND, ALEX. DAMN! ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP THEM?"

"NOTHING, MARK! THEY WENT THROUGH AZIZ'S CROSSING GUARDS LIKE THEY WEREN'T EVEN THERE. IT'S ALL UP TO YOU AND THE IQ'S NOW!"

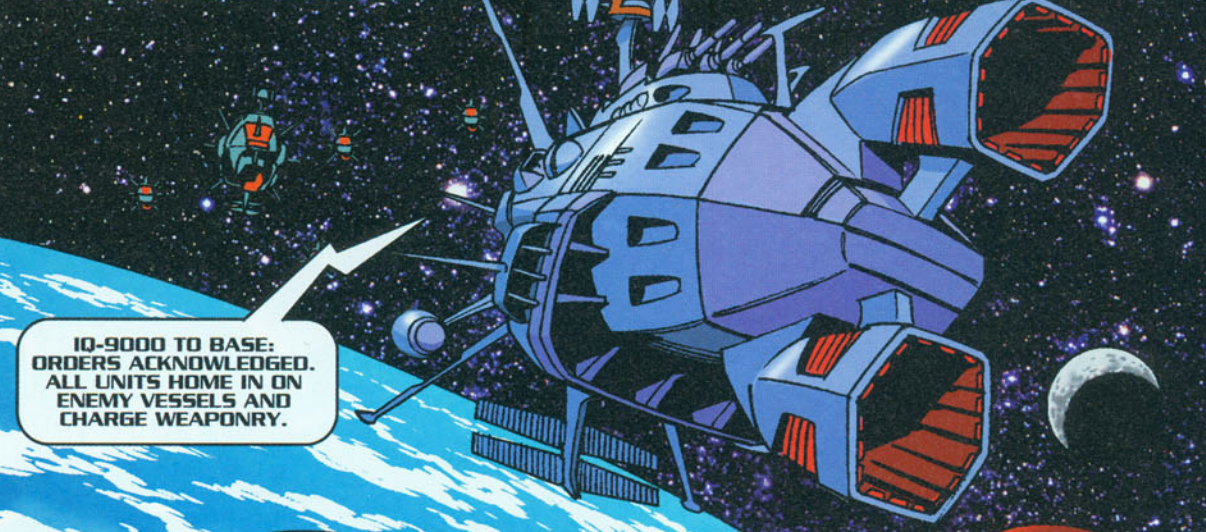


DO WHAT YOU CAN, THEN GET OUT AND FIND CAPTAIN YAMANAMI! THE EARTH IS COUNTING ON YOU... AND THE STAR FORCE!

GOOD LUCK, ALEX! WE WON'T LET YOU DOWN!

CONTACT ESTABLISHED ON SECURE CHANNEL 9. IQ-9000 IS ON LINE NOW!

"IQ-9000, THIS IS BASE! ACTIVATE 'CASE MIDNIGHT STRANGER!' INITIATE AUTONOMOUS COMBAT PROGRAM AND BEGIN ATTACK!"



IQ-9000 TO BASE: ORDERS ACKNOWLEDGED. ALL UNITS HOME IN ON ENEMY VESSELS AND CHARGE WEAPONRY.



AH... THERE THEY ARE, COMMANDER KAZAN. BASED ON THEIR MANEUVERING, IT MUST BE AN AUTOMATED FLEET.

NO NEED. THEY'LL CROSS OUR ORBIT SOON, AND THEY HAVE NO IDEA WE'RE HERE. REMAIN ON STANDBY UNTIL THEY'RE PAST...

...AND THEN WE'LL DESTROY THE ENTIRE FLEET WITH A SINGLE VOLLEY!

SHALL I ALERT OUR SURFACE FORCES?

IT'S SAD, REALLY, BRILLIANT MACHINES... BUT LIMITED. NEVER THOUGHT TO LOOK FOR UNPOWERED OPPONENTS DRIFTING IN FREE ORBIT.

A FATAL LACK OF CREATIVITY...



TO ALL AUTOMATED UNITS: ATTACK WILL COMMENCE WITH THREE WAVES

FIRST WAVE WILL LAUNCH LONG-RANGE MISSILES. WAVES TWO AND THREE -

MAINTAIN CONTINUOUS FIRE WITH SHOCK CANNON. THEN BEGIN WAVE-MOTION GUN CHARGING FOR SIMUL -

STAND BY -



ALERT! NEW TARGETS DETECTED! 180 BY 22. RANGE 5000! INITIATE EVASIVE PATTERN -

"LOCKED ON TARGETS. POWER UP HELIX GUNS AND PREPARE TO FIRE ON AUTOMATED SHIPS."



ALL GUNS...

FIRE!



"MARK! WHAT THE --?"

"NO! DAMMIT, NO --!"



IQ-9000 TO BASE ... ENEMY ATTACK ... UNEXPECTED ... AM ONLY SURVIVING UNIT ...

SEVERE DAMAGE ... WILL HOLD OFF NEW ENEMY ... COMING TO COURSE 180 BY 02 ...

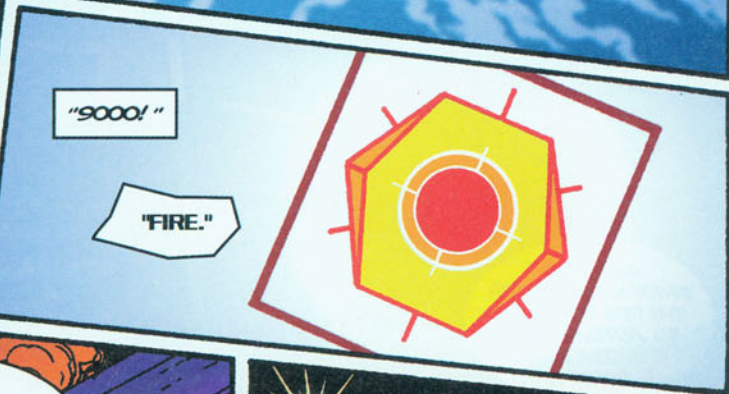


IQ-9000, DON'T! RETREAT UNTIL WE CAN REPAIR YOUR WAVE GUN! BREAK OFF!



NOT ... CEIVING YOU WELL, COMMAN ... COURSE LAID IN ... ZZZT ... NOW TARGETING LEAD ENEM ... ESSEL ... TEN SECONDS ...

... TELL IQ-9 ... ZZZZ ... THE 'TINWITS' ... WENT DOWN FIGHTING ... SPTTT ...



"9000!"

"FIRE."



CAN'T YOU GO ANY FASTER, IQ-9? THEY MIGHT SPOT US OUT HERE IN THE OPEN!

SORRY, DOCTOR ...



I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEONE CALL MY NAME ...



THEY GOT THE AUTOMATED FLEET! I KNEW THOSE THINGS WERE A WEAK SPOT!

TOO MANY OF THEM FOR US ... AND WE'LL BE IN RANGE IN SECONDS!

CAPTAIN, THE ENEMY FLEET IS TURNING TOWARDS US! THERE'S SO MANY, THE TARGETING SCOPE IS OVERLOADED!



ORDERS, SIR?

ABANDON SHIP! NANA, SWITCH THE FIRE CONTROLS TO AUTOMATIC... IT'LL COVER OUR ESCAPE.



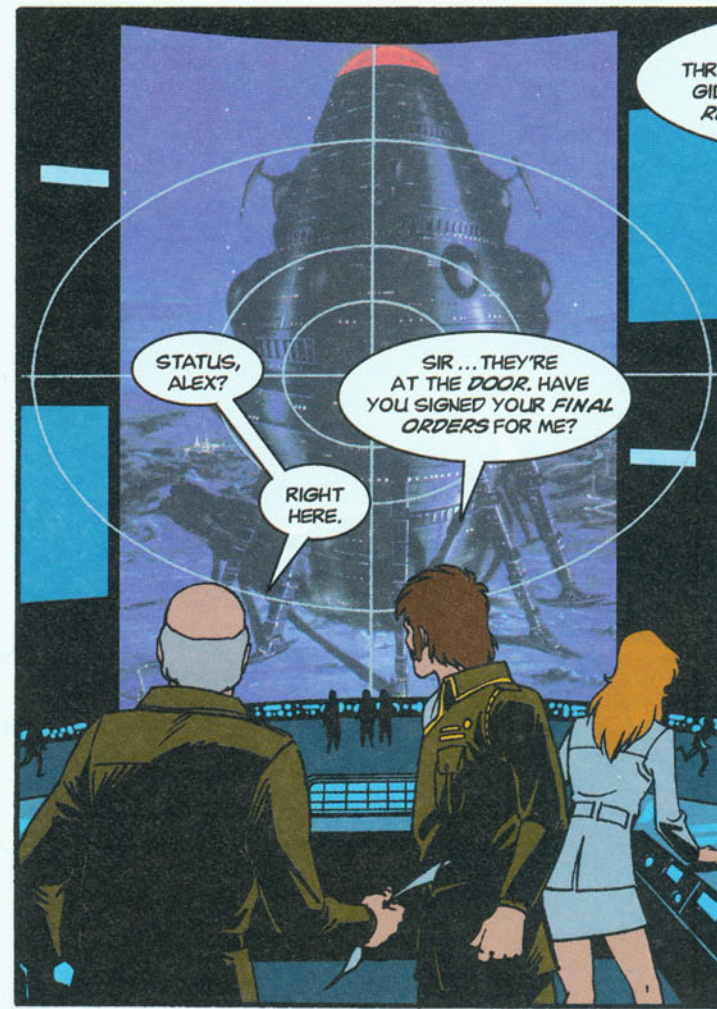
FIRE CONTROL ON AUTO, SIR! WE'RE TAKING DAMAGE NOW!

LIFEBOAT READY FOR LAUNCH, CAPTAIN!

OKAY, I'M IN! HATCH SECURE ... THREE, TWO, ONE ...



LAUNCH!



STATUS, ALEX?

SIR ... THEY'RE AT THE DOOR. HAVE YOU SIGNED YOUR FINAL ORDERS FOR ME?

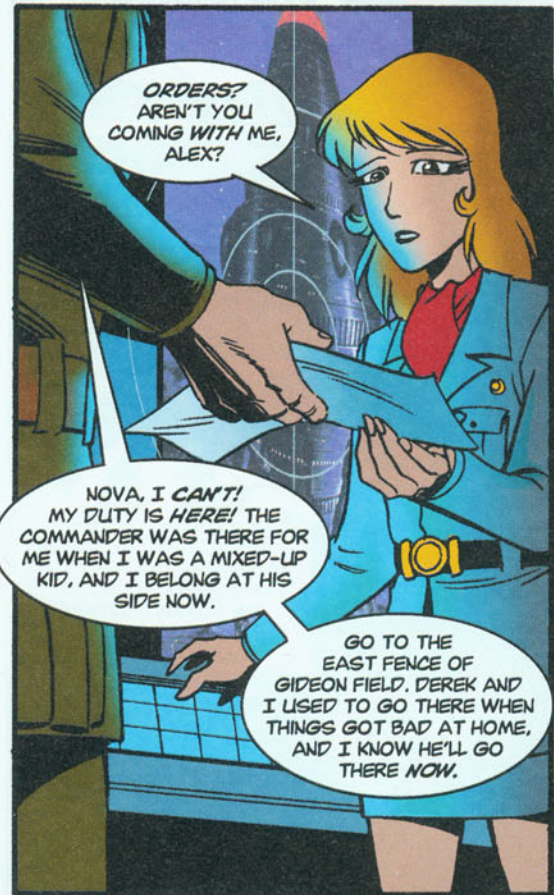
RIGHT HERE.



THANK YOU. I'VE ARRANGED FOR NOVA'S GETAWAY; THROUGH THE TUNNEL TO AN ALLEYWAY OFF GIDEON FIELD. MY BROTHER AND I HAVE A RENDEZVOUS POINT WE USED TO USE WHEN WE WERE KIDS.

HMM. I REMEMBER IT WELL. YOU TWO BOYS ... ALWAYS CRAZY FOR SPACE ...

AFTER YOU SEE THE LADY OFF, WOULD YOU PLEASE OPEN THE ARMORY AND ISSUE SIDEARMS AND AMMUNITION TO THE STAFF?



ORDERS? AREN'T YOU COMING WITH ME, ALEX?

NOVA, I CAN'T! MY DUTY IS HERE! THE COMMANDER WAS THERE FOR ME WHEN I WAS A MIXED-UP KID, AND I BELONG AT HIS SIDE NOW.

GO TO THE EAST FENCE OF GIDEON FIELD. DEREK AND I USED TO GO THERE WHEN THINGS GOT BAD AT HOME, AND I KNOW HE'LL GO THERE NOW.

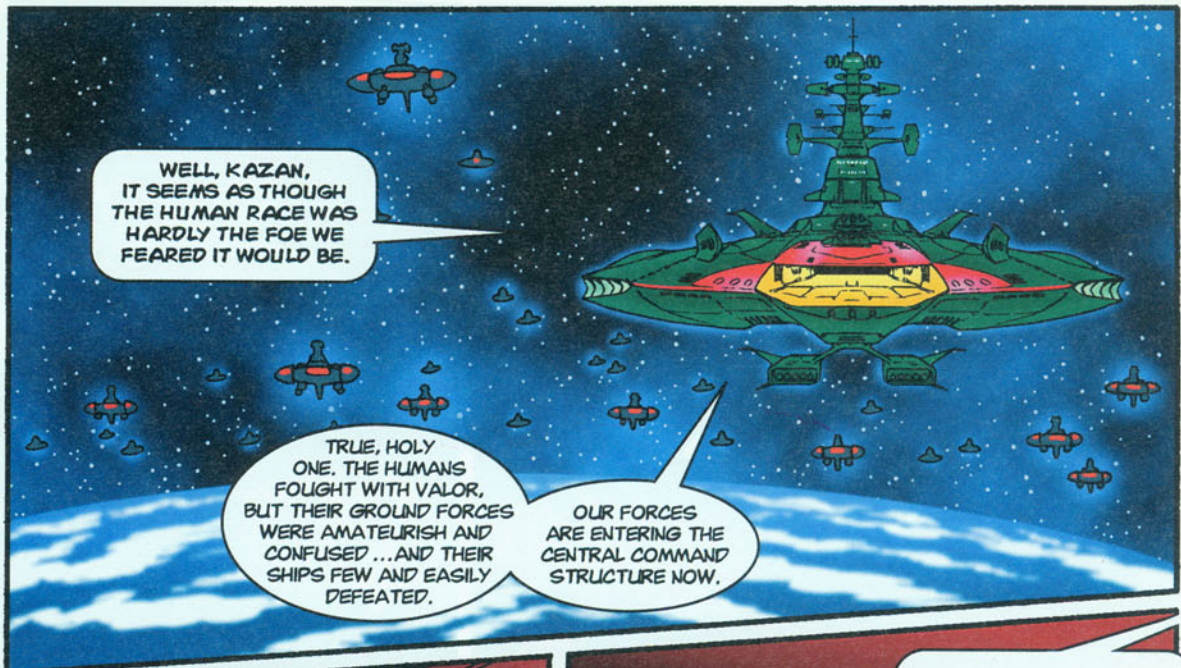


FIND HIM AND GIVE HIM THESE ORDERS ... AND TELL HIM I'M PROUD OF HIM!

ALEX ...!

YOU WERE A GOOD FRIEND, NOVA ... LIKE THE KID SISTER I NEVER HAD. I KNOW YOU AND DEREK WILL SEE THIS THING THROUGH.

GOODBYE ... AND TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES.



WELL, KAZAN, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE HUMAN RACE WAS HARDLY THE FOE WE FEARED IT WOULD BE.

TRUE, HOLY ONE. THE HUMANS FOUGHT WITH VALOR, BUT THEIR GROUND FORCES WERE AMATEURISH AND CONFUSED... AND THEIR SHIPS FEW AND EASILY DEFEATED.

OUR FORCES ARE ENTERING THE CENTRAL COMMAND STRUCTURE NOW.



AND WHAT OF THE ACCURSED YAMATO? LADY BELOW CALLS TO ME, WARNING ME OF THAT SHIP. HAVE YOU SUCCEEDED IN LOCATING IT?

HOLY ONE, I HAVE NOT!

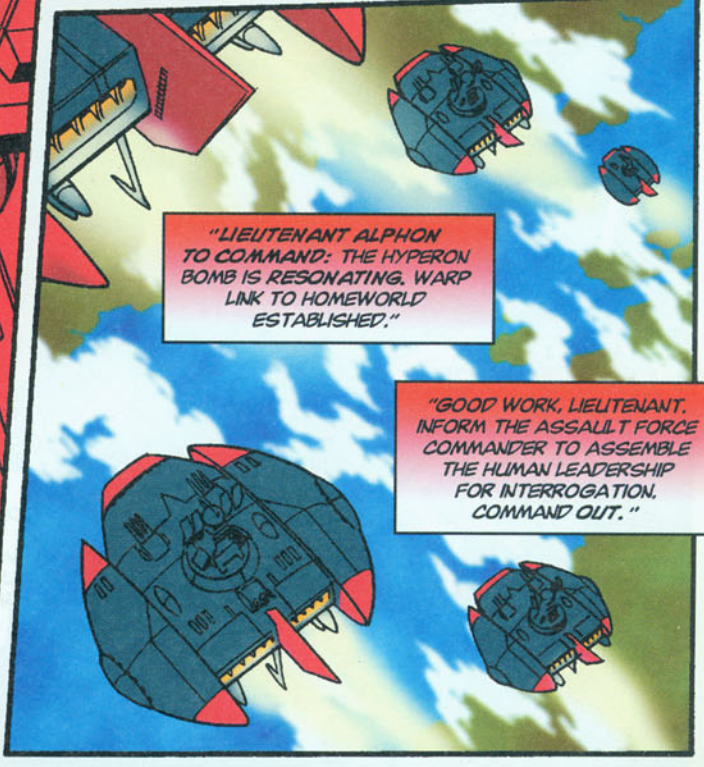
WE ARE ROUNDING UP THE HUMAN'S MILITARY LEADERS NOW, AND THE TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT UNDER SECOND LIEUTENANT ALPHON IS POWERING UP THE HYPERON BOMB.

ONCE YOU HAVE A LIVE WARP LINK TO THE DETONATOR, WE WILL PROCEED WITH INTERROGATING THE PRISONERS ABOUT YAMATO'S WEREABOUTS.



SEE THAT THIS IS DONE QUICKLY, KAZAN! LADY BELOW DOES NOT LIE! AND IF THAT SHIP LIVES, THE ANGEL OF DEATH WILL SURELY WRAP OUR WORLD IN FIRE!

HOLY ONE, I SWEAR ON ALL THE BODIES OF THOSE KILLED AT ISCANDAR -- YAMATO WILL BE DESTROYED!



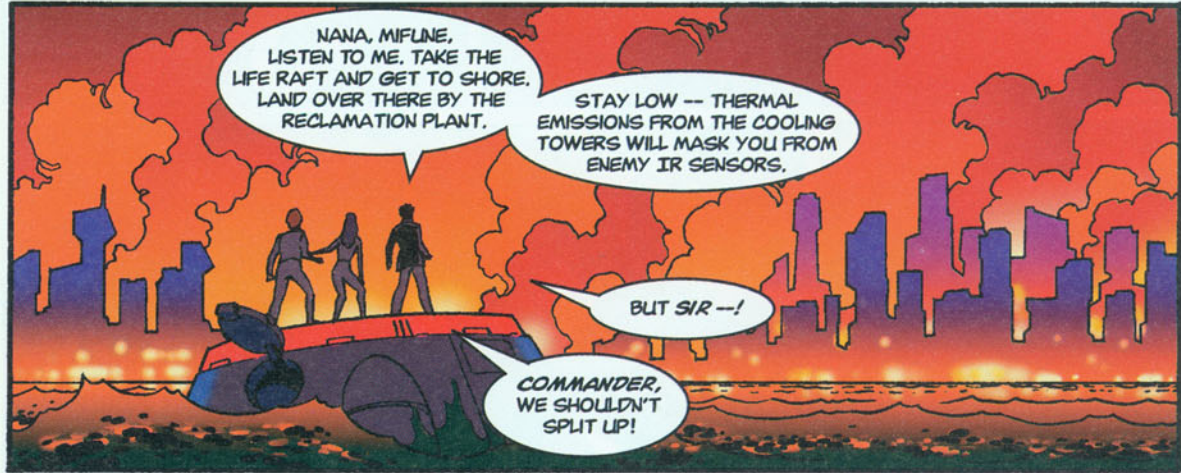
"LIEUTENANT ALPHON TO COMMAND: THE HYPERON BOMB IS RESONATING. WARP LINK TO HOMEWORLD ESTABLISHED."

"GOOD WORK, LIEUTENANT. INFORM THE ASSAULT FORCE COMMANDER TO ASSEMBLE THE HUMAN LEADERSHIP FOR INTERROGATION. COMMAND OUT."



DESTROYED... EVERYTHING DESTROYED!

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?



NANA, MIFUNE, LISTEN TO ME. TAKE THE LIFE RAFT AND GET TO SHORE. LAND OVER THERE BY THE RECLAMATION PLANT.

STAY LOW -- THERMAL EMISSIONS FROM THE COOLING TOWERS WILL MASK YOU FROM ENEMY IR SENSORS.

BUT SIR --!

COMMANDER, WE SHOULDN'T SPLIT UP!



DON'T ARGUE, LIEUTENANT.

COMMANDER SINGLETON HAS CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR THIS SORT OF THING, AND YOU'LL BE MORE USEFUL TO HIM!

THERE'S A SECRET ENTRANCE TO THE UNDERGROUND CITY AT SAVAGE AVENUE AND HARRISON STREET. YOU'LL REACH SINGLETON AND THE SURVIVORS THAT WAY.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, SIR?

NEVER MIND! WHERE I'M GOING, YOU CAN'T FOLLOW.





WELL, CAPT'N, HERE WE ARE AGAIN ... (HIC)... SEEMS LIKE POOR MOTHER EARTH ALWAYS ENDS UP IN A (HIC)... MESS!

NOTHIN' TO DO NOW BUT HAVE A (HIC) DRINK O' MINERAL WATER AN' WATCH THE CITY BURN.



HUH? WHO'S THERE --?

WHY, IT'S HOMER AN' THE OTHERS. THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!



GIDEON FIELD EDF AEROSPACE STATION GREAT ISLAND

ALEX HAS TO BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE!



YES! A PLANETARY GUARD FIGHTER! ONE OF OUR OLD BLACK TIGERS, IF I TAKE IT MAYBE I CAN --



NNGGHH!



DEREK!



NOVA?!?



OH, DEREK!



NOVA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHERE'S MY BROTHER --?

THERE'S NO TIME! I'VE GOT ORDERS FOR YOU!

BUT FIRST, TO HERO'S HILL?

WE'VE GOT TO ASSEMBLE THE SURVIVING STAR FORCE AND EVACUATE TO A HIDDEN BASE. SANDOR IS WAITING FOR US THERE.

YES, DARLING. THE REST OF THE CREW ARE GATHERING THERE.

LET'S GO!



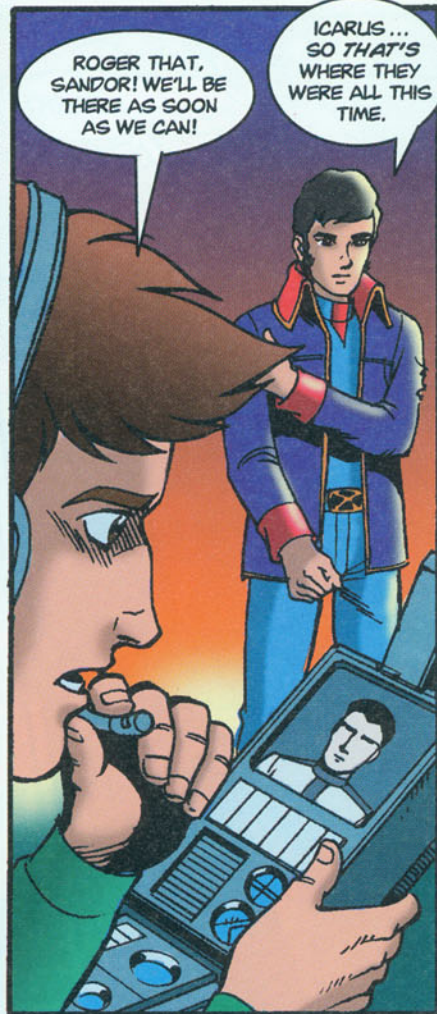
I AM DETECTING A WAVE-MOTION RADIO SIGNAL FROM DEEP SPACE.

--ORRY, HOMER! ENEMY JAMMING RADIO LINKS -- IMPORTANT TO TELL WILDSTAR --

OF COURSE YOU ARE, TINWIT! THIS PORTABLE COMM UNIT HAS AN ISCANDARIUM CRYSTAL SET ...IT CAN PICK UP SIGNALS FROM THE ASTEROID BELT!

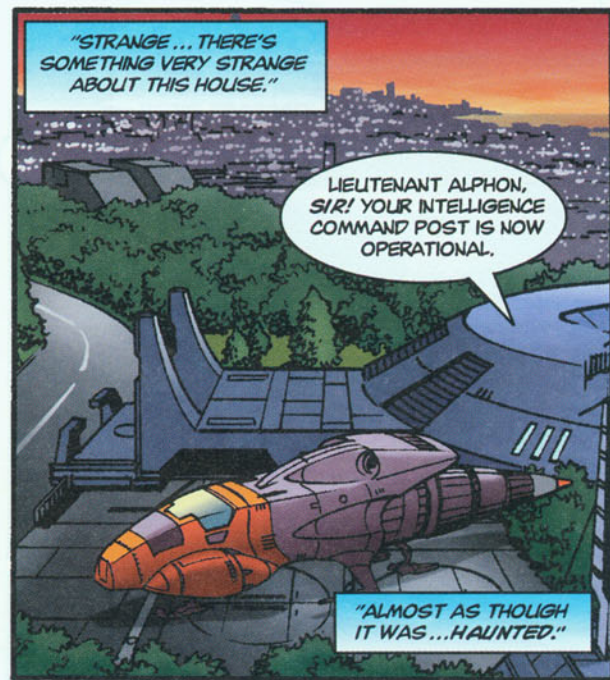
SANDOR, YOUR SIGNAL IS ERRATIC! BOOST POWER! OVER ...

-- TELL HIM "YAMATO IS HERE" -- ON ICARUS!



ROGER THAT, SANDOR! WE'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS WE CAN!

ICARUS ... SO THAT'S WHERE THEY WERE ALL THIS TIME.



"STRANGE ... THERE'S SOMETHING VERY STRANGE ABOUT THIS HOUSE."

LIEUTENANT ALPHON, SIR! YOUR INTELLIGENCE COMMAND POST IS NOW OPERATIONAL.

"ALMOST AS THOUGH IT WAS ... HAUNTED."



"THIS PICTURE ... STAINED WITH TEARS ... HOW ODD ..."

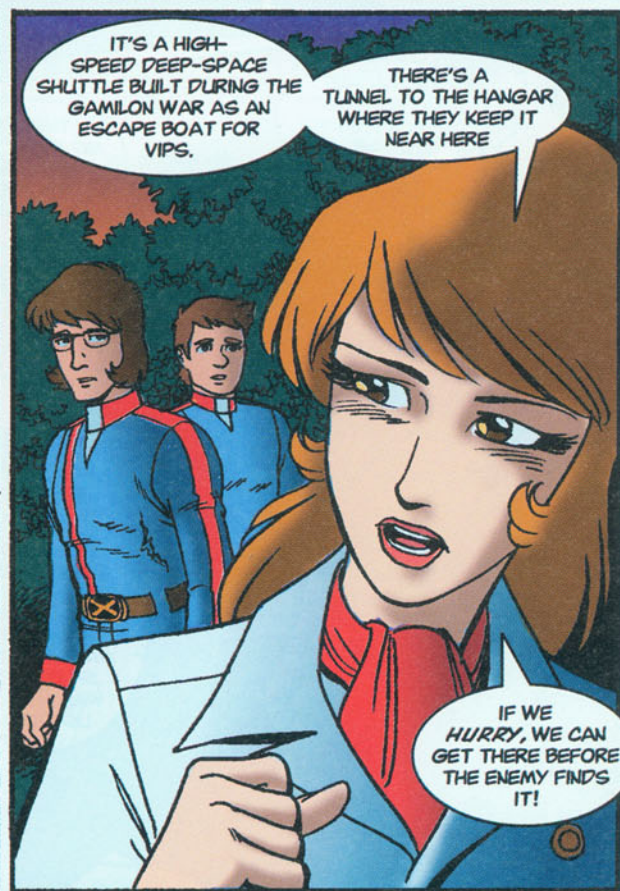
WE'RE GETTING A REPORT FROM ONE OF OUR FIELD OBSERVATION POSTS, SIR!



ICARUS? THE ASTEROID? HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET THERE? EVERY SHUTTLE AND FIGHTER HAS BEEN DESTROYED.

NOT EVERY SHUTTLE, DEREK. THERE'S STILL THE PRESIDENTIAL YACHT!

PRESIDENTIAL YACHT?



IT'S A HIGH-SPEED DEEP-SPACE SHUTTLE BUILT DURING THE GAMILON WAR AS AN ESCAPE BOAT FOR VIPs.

THERE'S A TUNNEL TO THE HANGAR WHERE THEY KEEP IT NEAR HERE

IF WE HURRY, WE CAN GET THERE BEFORE THE ENEMY FINDS IT!



A GROUP OF UNIFORMED HUMANS HAS ENTERED A TUNNEL NEAR THE GOVERNMENT CENTER. THEY'RE ARMED.

"HOW ODD THAT THE OWNER WOULD LEAVE IT BEHIND ..."

DEFINITELY NOT CIVILIANS! THEY JUST SHOT THEIR WAY THROUGH ONE OF OUR SQUADS. THEY'RE CARRYING COSMOGUNS AND THEY HAVE A ROBOT WITH THEM.



(SIGH) IT'S THE STAR FORCE. THEY'RE TRYING TO GET TO YAMATO.

SERGEANT, ASSEMBLE TWO HEAVY ASSAULT SQUADS AND PREPARE MY GROUND CAR. WE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!



AND HAVE ONE OF MY ORDERLIES CUT A PIECE OF GLASS AND FIX THIS PICTURE WHILE I'M GONE ...

...JUST IN CASE THE OWNER COMES LOOKING FOR IT SOMEDAY.



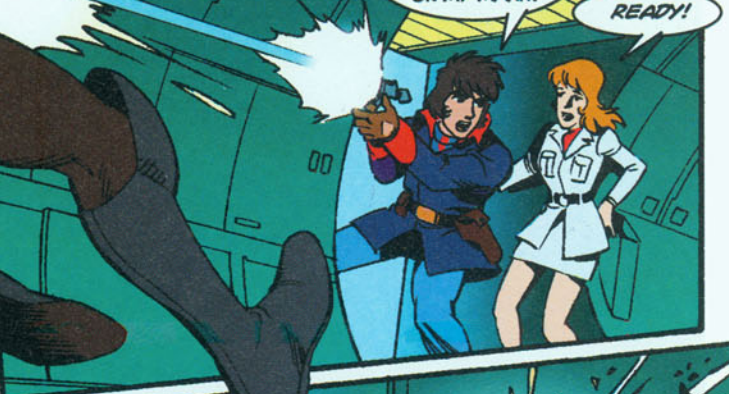
MOVE!  
MOVE! THEY'RE  
COMING DOWN  
THE TUNNEL!

HOW'D  
THEY FIND THIS  
PLACE SO FAST?

THIS WAY!  
JUST A FEW  
METERS MORE!



GO! GO!  
I CAN'T  
HOLD THEM  
OFF!



NOVA! HIT  
THE EMERGENCY  
CLOSE SWITCH  
ON MY MARK!

READY!

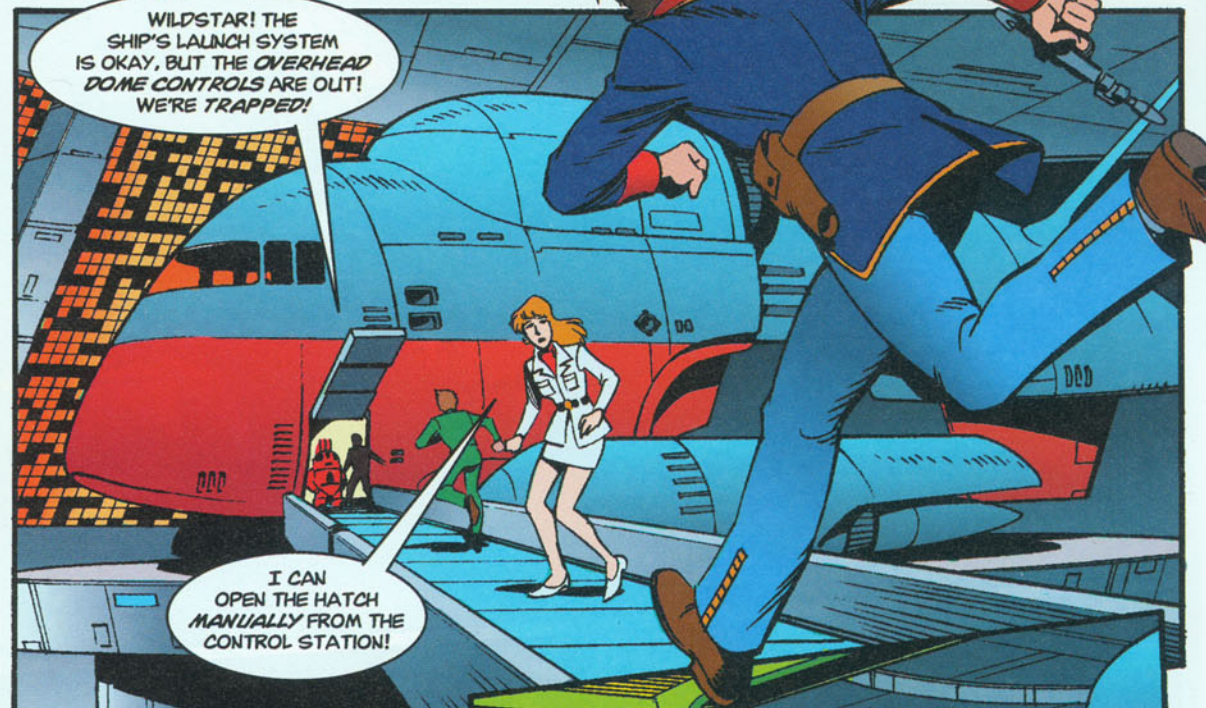


NOW!



MADE IT!

WHAM



WILDSTAR! THE  
SHIP'S LALNCH SYSTEM  
IS OKAY, BUT THE OVERHEAD  
DOME CONTROLS ARE OUT!  
WE'RE TRAPPED!

I CAN  
OPEN THE HATCH  
MANUALLY FROM THE  
CONTROL STATION!



NOVA —  
THEY'RE BURNING  
THROUGH THE  
DOOR!

AUTOLAUNCH  
IS RUNNING! SHE'LL  
HAVE TEN SECONDS  
TO GET ABOARD  
AFTER SHE BLOWS  
THAT DOME ...

NOVA!  
HURRY!



WHERE'S  
THAT MANUAL  
OVERRIDE ...?

NOVA! GET  
BACK UP HERE!



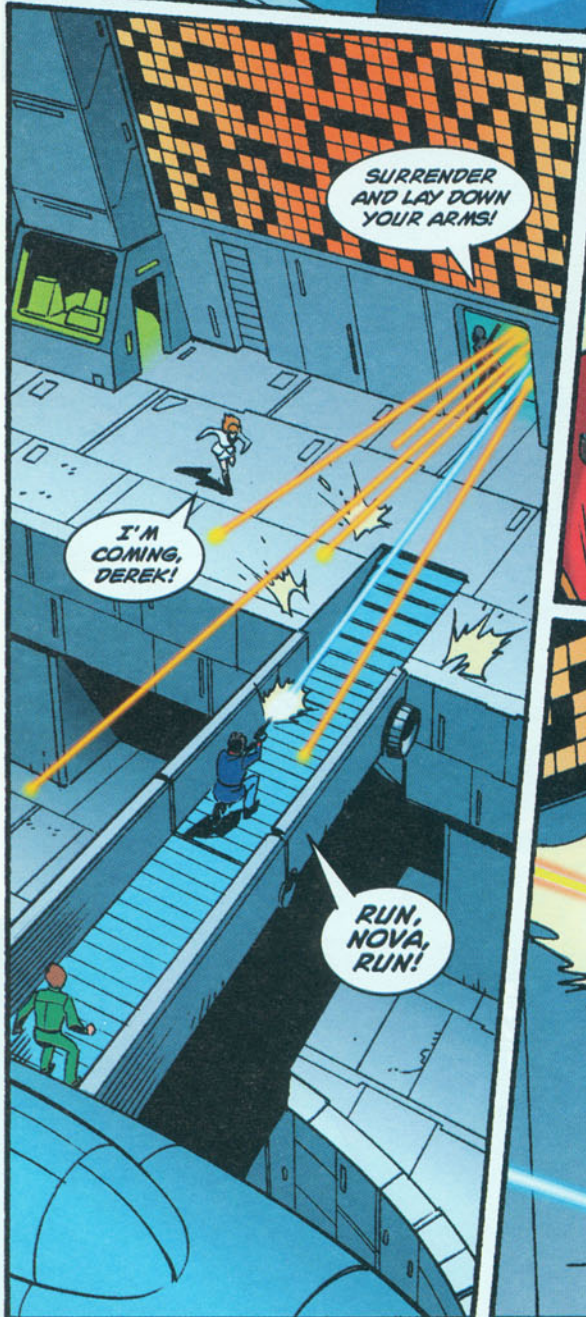
HERE IT  
IS! I'M OPENING  
THE DOME!  
... NOW!

NOOOOVA!



WILDSTAR!  
TEN SECONDS!  
GET ABOARD!

NOT ...  
WITHOUT ...  
HER!



SURRENDER  
AND LAY DOWN  
YOUR ARMS!

I'M  
COMING,  
DEREK!

RUN,  
NOVA,  
RUN!



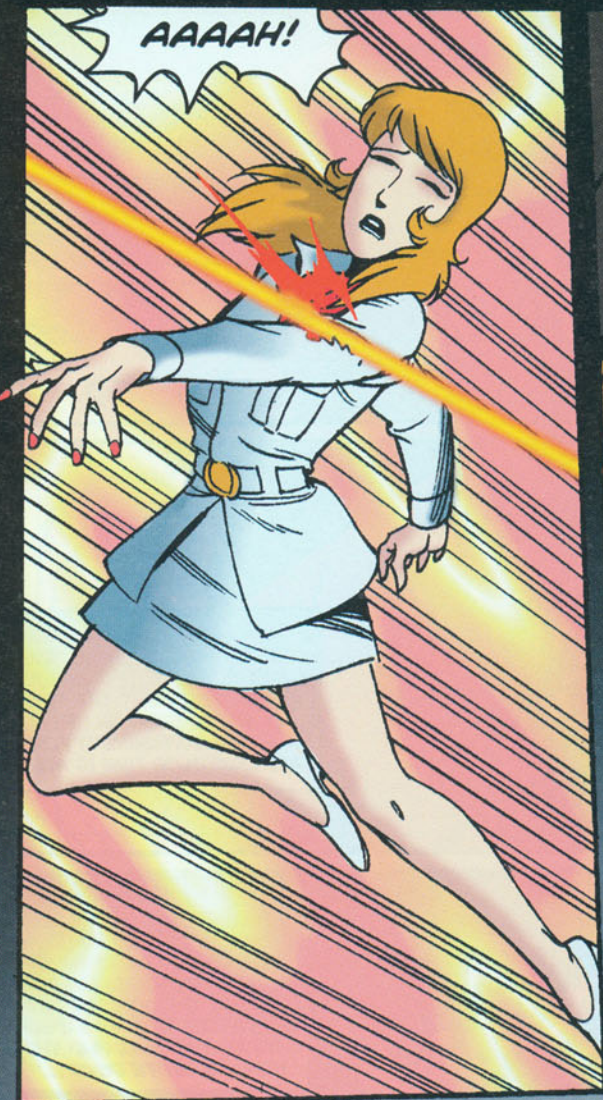
SEVEN...  
SIX... FIVE...  
FOUR...

I CAN'T  
SHUT IT OFF!  
HOMER! GET THOSE  
TWO INSIDE NOW!

SHE'S  
ALMOST  
HERE...



THAT  
WOMAN! SHE'S  
A RANKING OFFICER!  
DROP HER!



AAAAH!



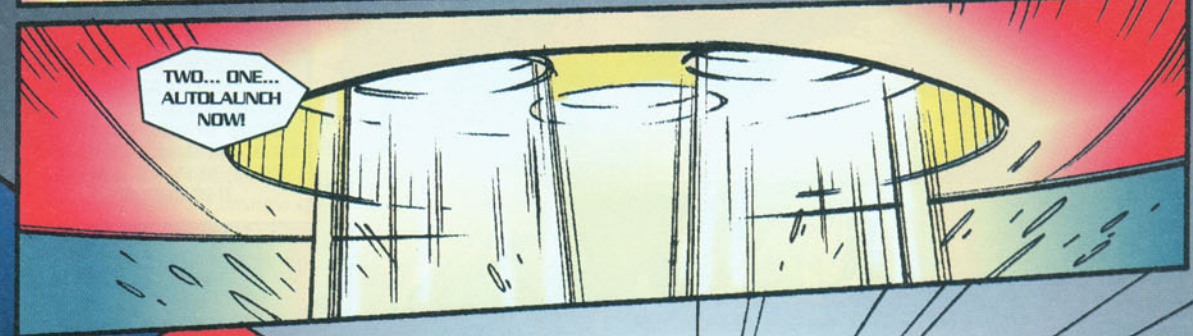
NOVA!  
GRAB MY  
HAND!



DEREK... I'M...

...FALLING...

HANG  
ON, NOVA!



TWO... ONE...  
AUTOLAUNCH  
NOW!



NOVA AAAAA!

"AS YOU CAN SEE, COMMANDER KAZAN, THE CAMERA SHOWS THE LEADER OF THE ENEMY UNIT ATTEMPTING TO JUMP FROM THE LAUNCHING SPACESHIP TO RESCUE THE FEMALE...AN ACT WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE MEANT HIS OWN DEATH."



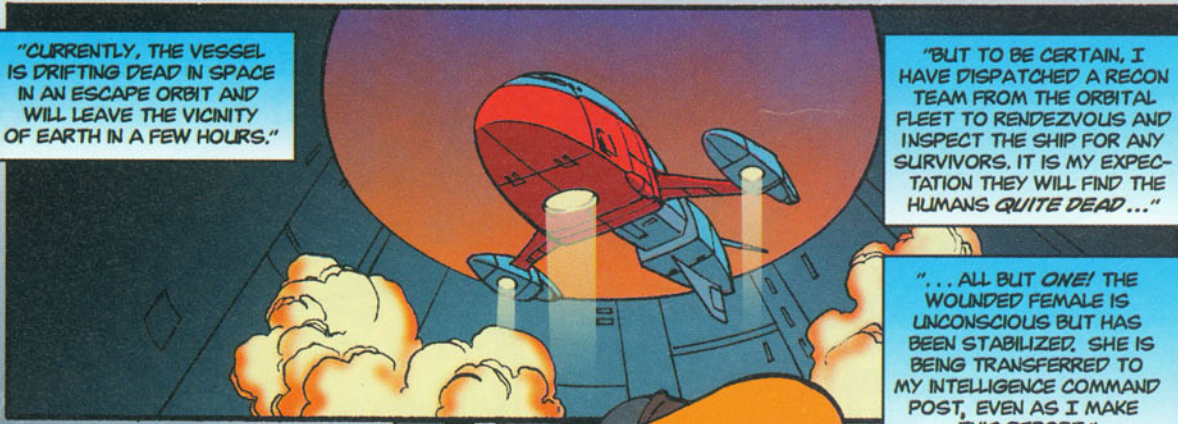
"ANOTHER OF THE HUMANS PHYSICALLY RESTRAINED HIM AND DRAGGED HIM ABOARD THE VESSEL AS IT LIFTED OFF."

"THE ESCAPE SHIP WAS HEAVILY DAMAGED BY OUR FIRE PRIOR TO AND AFTER LIFTOFF."



"AND ALTHOUGH IT EVADED OUR ANTI-AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS AND ESCAPED TO ORBIT, I REMAIN CONFIDENT THAT ITS ABILITY TO SUSTAIN LIFE IN A SPACE ENVIRONMENT FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME IS NIL."

"CURRENTLY, THE VESSEL IS DRIFTING DEAD IN SPACE IN AN ESCAPE ORBIT AND WILL LEAVE THE VICINITY OF EARTH IN A FEW HOURS."



"BUT TO BE CERTAIN, I HAVE DISPATCHED A RECON TEAM FROM THE ORBITAL FLEET TO RENDEZVOUS AND INSPECT THE SHIP FOR ANY SURVIVORS. IT IS MY EXPECTATION THEY WILL FIND THE HUMANS QUITE DEAD..."

"... ALL BUT ONE! THE WOUNDED FEMALE IS UNCONSCIOUS BUT HAS BEEN STABILIZED. SHE IS BEING TRANSFERRED TO MY INTELLIGENCE COMMAND POST, EVEN AS I MAKE THIS REPORT."

"WHEN SHE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS, I WILL INTERROGATE HER --"



"-- AND IN SO DOING, I'LL DISCOVER THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE SPACE BATTLESHIP YAMATO!"

NEXT: TRIAL BY FIRE

# COSMO NOTES



"What happened to ANALYZER?" We'll hazard the guess that many of you asked that question when you first glanced through this issue of STAR BLAZERS looking for the text pages that, until now, graced this part of the comic. As stated in the beginning of this issue, we've had to pay a price for survival in the current comic book marketplace. You all deserve an explanation, so here it is...

It has always been difficult for new comic books to find a steady readership in the fiercely-competitive comic market. Even though STAR BLAZERS is known to millions, we never expected it to be an instant hit. It takes time, patience, and tenacity to build a successful comic book series—even in a time when the marketplace is stable and supportive. Unfortunately, conditions like that haven't existed for the last two years. Only a short time after we published Issue #0, the comic market underwent some radical changes in the areas of distribution and retail...changes which continue to have an effect to this day.

We won't bore you with details, but we're sure you can understand that when even a big mainstream company like Marvel Comics has to file for bankruptcy protection, things aren't exactly normal in the comic book industry. Numerous smaller publishers like us are even more vulnerable. When it gets tough to sell enough copies of a comic book for it to support itself, you've got to make tough choices about what to do with it. In our case, we had to find some way to make this a less expensive comic book to produce so that we could continue to publish it under increasingly difficult conditions.

It came down to this: we had to make it a little bit smaller. And that meant part of the book had to be eliminated—ANALYZER. We know you've enjoyed reading this section, and we definitely enjoyed producing it. We feel it made STAR

BLAZERS a better publication, and it helped to fill the vacuum of information that has existed ever since STAR BLAZERS first appeared on television in 1980. What's more, if not for ANALYZER's in-depth coverage on the *Space Battleship Yamato* saga, we never would have learned some things ourselves, such as the stories told by Director Noboru Ishiguro, or voice actors Peter Fernandez and Corrine Orr.

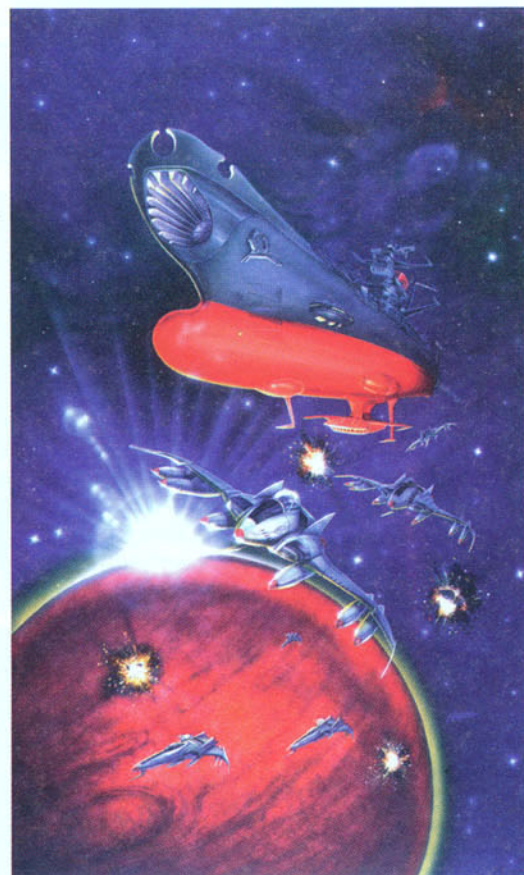
We realize how valuable the features in ANALYZER have been, and it is with no little reluctance that we have decided to discontinue them for the time being...but perhaps not forever. Things being what they are in the comic book industry, changes could occur tomorrow that will lead to better days for all of us, and allow us to expand this publication back to its original format. You could actually be the one to bring that change about. Here's how:

First and foremost, share your enjoyment of the STAR BLAZERS/YAMATO saga with your friends, and encourage them to become regular readers of this publication. Second (though no less important), communicate with the owner of your local comic book store and let them know of your interest. Such stores are currently the ONLY place you can find the STAR BLAZERS comics, which makes them a vital lifeline between you and us. In many cases, a store owner won't order copies of STAR BLAZERS from us at all if they don't know someone like you who wants them. Sometimes, the only way you are guaranteed to find a copy is by placing an order for it. Any respectable comic book shop will be glad to help you do this. (And if they aren't, you should go to another one!)

A comic book series is always dependant on the involvement of its readers to keep it going; now more so than ever! Please make the effort to keep STAR BLAZERS alive—we'll reward that effort with the best comic books we know how to make!

## STAR BLAZERS FLEET BATTLE SYSTEM UPDATE

Progress on the first official STAR BLAZERS game continues as we rocket toward the 1997 release date (still to be announced). Mass production arrangements have been made for the metal miniatures, and artwork has been produced for the packaging and book covers. Shown here is the art for the backing board of the spaceship miniatures, produced for Musashi Enterprises by Mark Nagata. Watch this space as we approach the official release of the Fleet Battle System!



## STAR BLAZERS BACK ISSUES

All of our back issues are still available by mail for those who missed them when originally published! Each back issue costs \$2.95. For postage and handling, please add \$2.50 for the first issue you order, plus .50 for each additional issue. **Send check or money order only** to: Voyager Entertainment, Inc., 456 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632.

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Issue #3 "The New Voyage" (Part 2)	Issue #8 "Icarus" (Part 3)
Issue #4 "The New Voyage" (Part 3)	Issue #9 "Be Forever Yamato" (Prelude)

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## NEXT ISSUE



As Earth's resistance groups struggle to organize against the brutal occupation forces of the Dark Nebula Empire, the Star Force launches the Yamato on a desperate race against time to strike their enemy where it will hurt the most--at the very heart of their own galaxy!

**ON SALE MAY, 1997**

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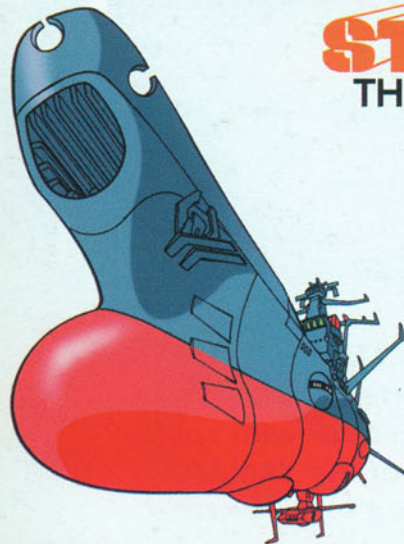
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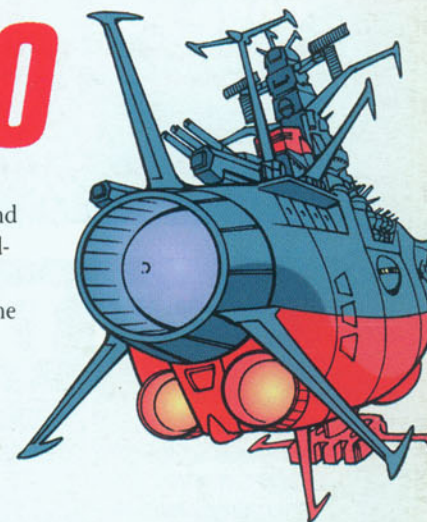
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\*"Farewell to Yamato" is also available as a dubbed version.

