

BRITAIN'S GREATEST HYPER-POWERED
SECRET AGENT
RETURNS!



M.H.C.H.1

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

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M.A.C.H.1



CREATED BY PAT MILLS & ENIO

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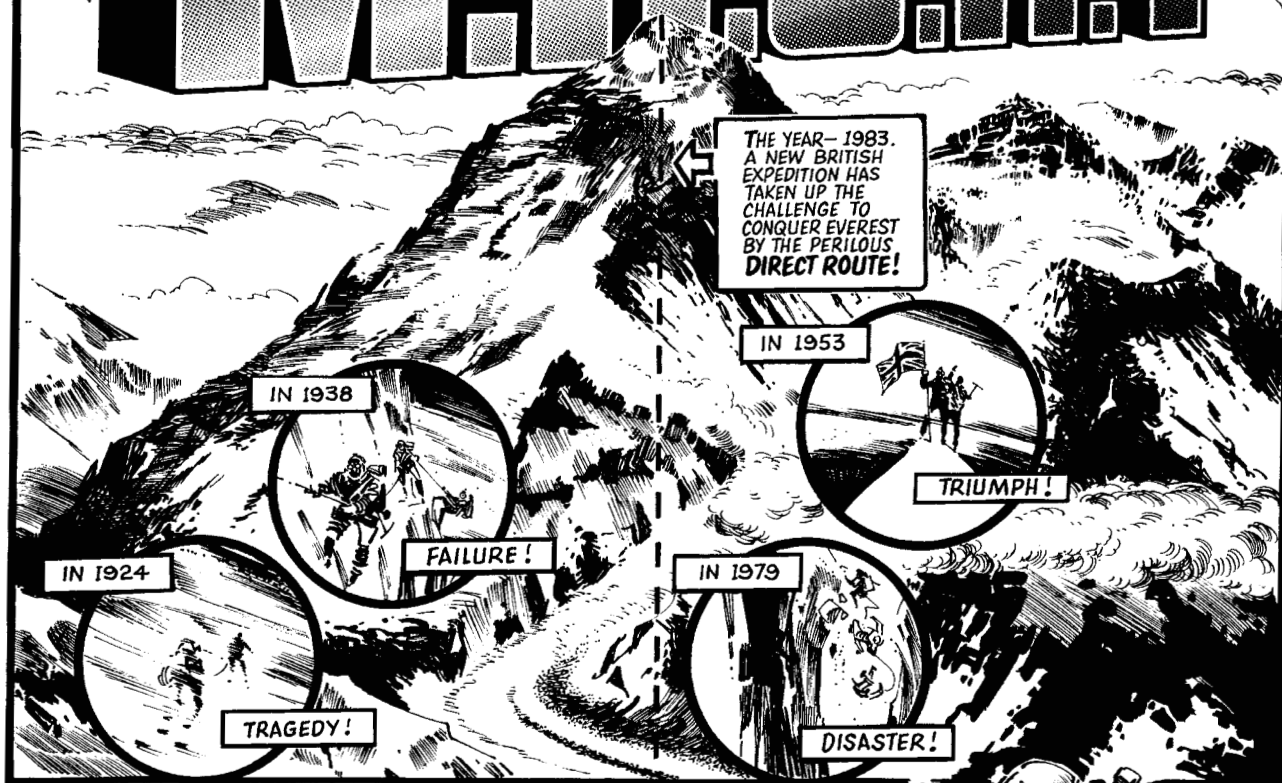
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MARCH 1





SIX MORE DEAD!
TEN AVALANCHES IN
TEN HOURS! THESE
AREN'T **ORDINARY**
CONDITIONS, HALLORAN!
WE MUST TURN
BACK!

SHUT
UP, MILES!
**IT'S THE
SUMMIT OR
NOTHING!**

**JOHN HALLORAN... LEADER
OF THE EXPEDITION!**

THIS **STINKIN'**
ROCK OWES ME A
LIFE! MY GRAND-
FATHER DIED HERE
IN 1924!

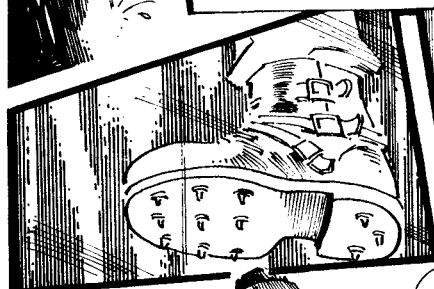
SUDDENLY...



GNUUGH!

NO—TH—THE
ICE WALL! IT'S
FALLING!...
MELTING!

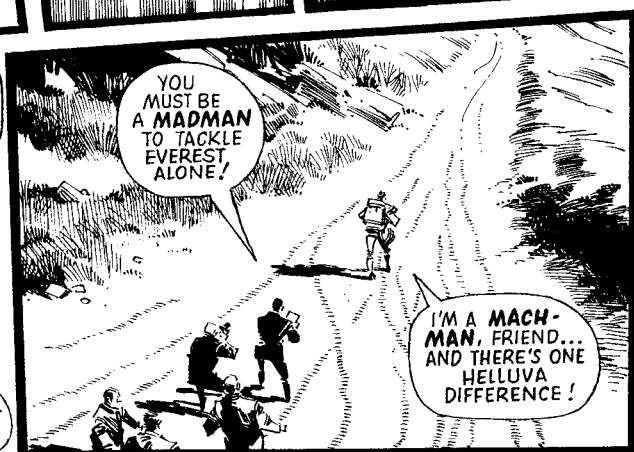
**YES, MELTING — TO REVEAL
A GRUESOME SECRET...**



**TWO DAYS
LATER,
JOHN PROBE,
(CODENAME
MACH 1),
ARRIVED IN
THE NEPALESE
VILLAGE OF
KHUMDE...**

SEVERE FLOODING HAS
BEEN REPORTED IN THE
KHUMBU VALLEY!
IS THAT WHERE
YOU'RE HEADED,
MISTER?

I'M GOING TO FIND OUT
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THAT
HALLORAN EXPEDITION!



YOU
MUST BE
A **MADMAN**
TO TACKLE
EVEREST
ALONE!

I'M A **MACH-
MAN**, FRIEND...
AND THERE'S ONE
HELLUVA
DIFFERENCE!



FULL HYPERPOWER
WILL GET ME FROM KHUMDE
TO THE FOOT OF EVEREST
IN ONE DAY
INSTEAD OF
EIGHT!

DANGER! NEGLECT OF HIGH
ALTITUDE CONDITIONS
MEANS GRAVE RISK OF
PULMONARY AND CEREBRAL
DAMAGE

YEAH— ANYTHING
ELSE I SHOULD KNOW,
COMPUTER?

ALTITUDE 19,000 FEET ----
FIRST SIGNS OF FROSTBITE--
ALL-WEATHER CLIMBING GEAR
AND SNOW GOGGLES NEEDED --



LATER, AFTER A LONG,
HARD CLIMB...

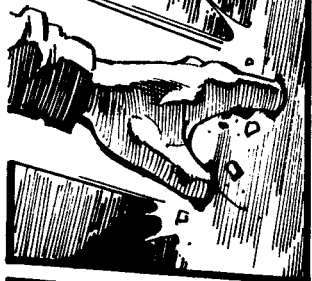
THREE CORPSES BELONGED
TO HALLORAN EXPEDITION--
OTHERS KILLED DURING 1924
ATTEMPT ON EVEREST ----

25,000 FEET...
AND THE SNOW'S TURNING
TO SLUSH! AND WHAT IN
HEAVEN'S NAME IS THAT
REVOLTING SMELL?

ATTRIBUTE SMELL TO HUMAN
BODIES IN ADVANCED STATE
OF DECOMPOSITION ----

THEY MUST'VE BEEN
WASHED OUT AS THE
GLACIERS MELTED--
SO **SOME OF HALLORAN'S
MEN MUST STILL BE
ALIVE!** I'VE GOT TO
GET AFTER THEM!

DISCARD PITONS-- USE
HYPER FINGER FORCE
TO CREATE HANDHOLDS...



ROCK PILLAR BARS
PROGRESS-- DESTROY!



HAAA...



LATER...

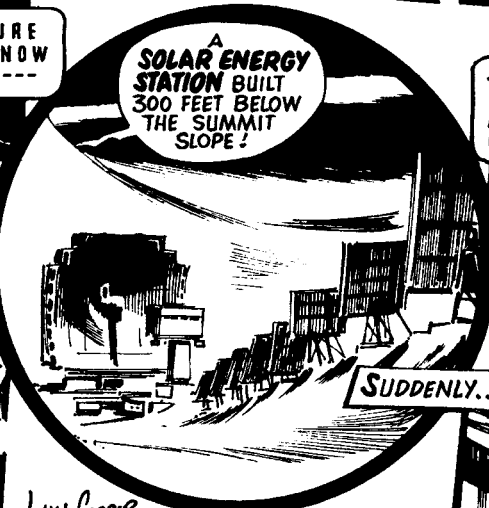
28,000 FEET-- TEMPERATURE
STILL RISING-- MELTING SNOW
CONDITIONS SUICIDAL -----

A
SOLAR ENERGY
STATION BUILT
300 FEET BELOW
THE SUMMIT
SLOPE!

246 HEAVY CALIBRE PYRON
BULLET-- YOU ARE UNDER
ATTACK-- SUGGEST
RETALIATION-----



WHITE-OUT
CONDITIONS BELOW
MAIN SUMMIT.
COMPUTER! GIMME
FULL HYPER-
VISION!



SUDDENLY...



PROBE SPUN ON HIS
ATTACKER...



RIGHT ON
THE BUTTON,
COMPUTER!
NOW LET'S
HAVE A CLOSER
LOOK-SEE!



WHO IS THIS
GUY? INFORMATION,
COMPUTER-- FAST!

But...

UGH!

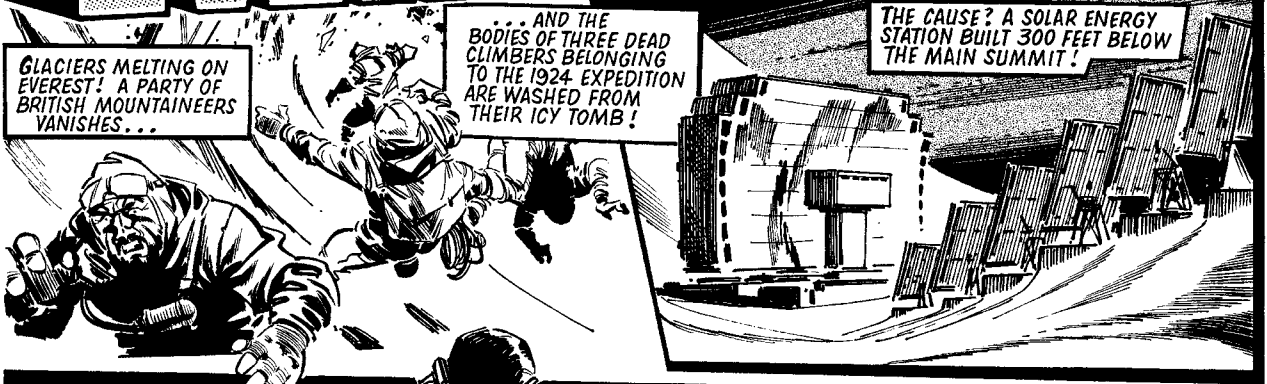
INFORMATION DENIED--
YOUR BRAIN CELLS CAN
NO LONGER FUNCTION--
REPEAT-- NO LONGER
FUNCTION-----



MACH ONE OUT COLD!
BUT THE HEAT IS ON IN
NEXT PROG'S THRILLING
INSTALMENT!

John Cooper

MACH 1



GLACIERS MELTING ON EVEREST! A PARTY OF BRITISH MOUNTAINEERS VANISHES...

... AND THE BODIES OF THREE DEAD CLIMBERS BELONGING TO THE 1924 EXPEDITION ARE WASHED FROM THEIR ICY TOMB!

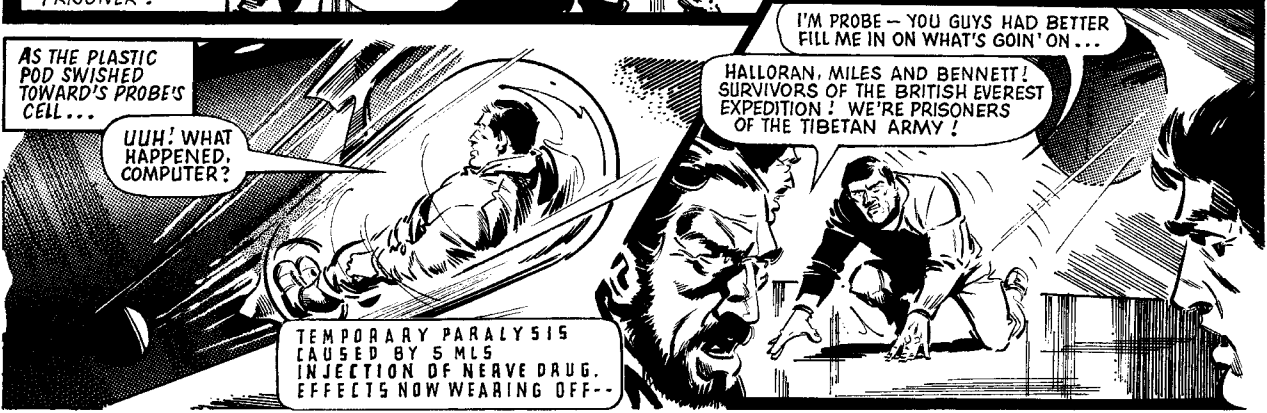
THE CAUSE? A SOLAR ENERGY STATION BUILT 300 FEET BELOW THE MAIN SUMMIT!



JOHN PROBE, CODENAME MACH 1, WAS SENT TO INVESTIGATE... BUT ENDS UP A PRISONER!

ANOTHER INTRUDER, EXCELLENCY! HE CAUSED MUCH TROUBLE!

NO MORE! POD HIM TO CELL SIX!



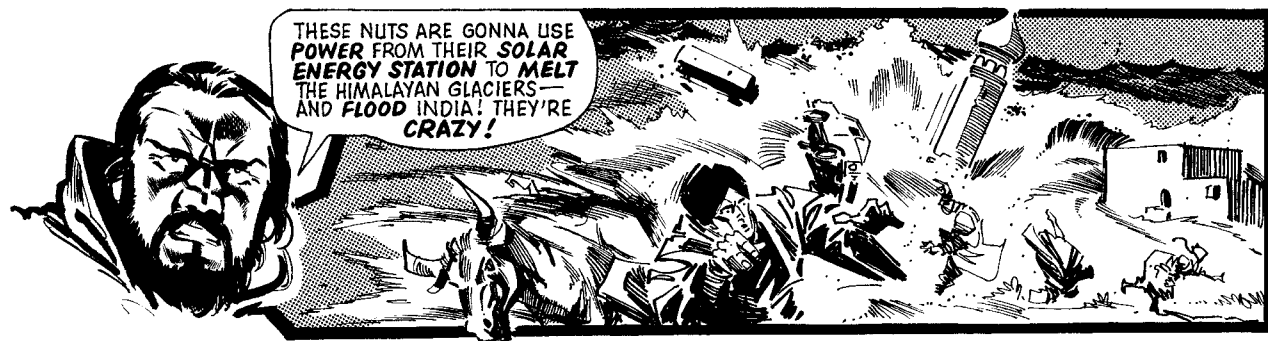
AS THE PLASTIC POD SWISHED TOWARD'S PROBE'S CELL...

UUH! WHAT HAPPENED, COMPUTER?

TEMPORARY PARALYSIS CAUSED BY 5 MLS INJECTION OF NERVE DRUG. EFFECTS NOW WEARING OFF--

I'M PROBE - YOU GUYS HAD BETTER FILL ME IN ON WHAT'S GOIN' ON...

HALLORAN, MILES AND BENNETT! SURVIVORS OF THE BRITISH EVEREST EXPEDITION! WE'RE PRISONERS OF THE TIBETAN ARMY!







UNTIL...

THEY'RE PULLING BACK!
THIS IS OUR CHANCE,
HALLORAN, LET'S GO!

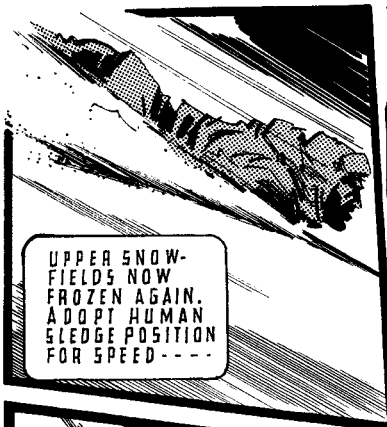
NO! I CAME HERE TO
CONQUER EVEREST— MY
GRANDFATHER DIED TRYING,
SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO—
IT'S A DEBT I OWE HIM!



YEAH— I'M COMING FOR YOU,
EVEREST! I'LL GET TO THE TOP!
TOP OF THE WORLD!

CRAZY FOOL,
YOU HAVEN'T
ENOUGH OXYGEN!
YOU'LL DIE
UP THERE!

HALLORAN'S OBSESSION
WITH MOUNTAIN IS IRRELEVANT.
YOU MUST COMMENCE DESCENT
IF OTHER TWO EXPEDITION
MEMBERS ARE TO SURVIVE---

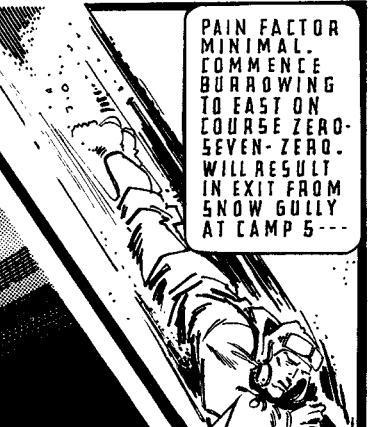


UPPER SNOW-
FIELDS NOW
FROZEN AGAIN.
ADOPT HUMAN
SLEDGE POSITION
FOR SPEED----



OVER PRECIPICE.
FREE-FALL POSITION
WILL STEADY
DESCENT AND
ABSORB IMPACT--

I HOPE YOU
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE DOING,
COMPUTER!
I'M ONLY
HUMAN!



PAIN FACTOR
MINIMAL.
COMMENCE
BURROWING
TO EAST ON
COURSE ZERO-
SEVEN- ZERO.
WILL RESULT
IN EXIT FROM
SNOW GULLY
AT CAMP 5---

UMFFF!



HALF AN HOUR
LATER...

PROBE! THANK
GOD YOU FOUND US!
MORE TROOPS
CONVERGING FROM THE
LOWER SLOPES—AND
WE HAVEN'T A
WEAPON BETWEEN
US!

YES WE
HAVE, MILES!
THAT FROZEN
CORPSE FROM
THE 1924
EXPEDITION!



THE HEROES RETURN NEXT PROG - IN INFERNO

MARCH 1

DEEP IN THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE, A VERY SPECIAL HOUSE IS BEING BURGLED...

2000AD
Credit Card:

SCRIPT ROBOT
ALAN HEDDEN
ART ROBOTS
LOZANO / CANOS
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER

COMPU-73E

DON'T SHOOT!
LET THE DOGS
GET HIM!

EXTREME DANGER



HIGH
VOLTAGE
ELECTRICITY

GOTTA...
THROW THE
PACKAGE
OUT!

HE'S HIT
THE FENCE—
ELECTROCUTED
HIMSELF!

AT THAT INSTANT
A MOTORCYCLE
ROARED BY—

THEY'VE GOT
THE PACKAGE!
SOMEBODY
BETTER TELL
SHARPE!



NOT FAR AWAY, SECRET AGENT JOHN PROBE, (CODENAME MACH 1) WAS HEADING TOWARDS THE HOUSE...

CONTROL TO MACH 1. THIS IS SHARPE! GOT AN EMERGENCY—THE HOUSE HAS BEEN ROBBED!



EASTERN AGENTS ON MOTORCYCLE HEADING ALONG B4157 IN YOUR DIRECTION—MUST BE STOPPED—THEY'VE GOT VIDEO-TAPE SHOWING COMPU-PUNCTURE PROCESS!

AS PROBE SWUNG HIS CAR TO BLOCK THE ROAD, HIS INBUILT COMPUTER FED DATA TO HIS BRAIN—

BLAST! THEY'VE TURNED UP THE CLIFF PATH!

WIDTH OF PATH 1 METRE. YOUR VEHICLE UNABLE TO FOLLOW!



DON'T NEED A CAR, COMPUTER—I'LL OVERTAKE 'EM ON FOOT!

AFFIRMATIVE. MOTORCYCLE MAX SPEED 120 MPH OVER ROUGH TERRAIN. INTERCEPTION POSSIBLE

SOON, AT THE TOP OF THE CLIFF PATH...



TH—THE DRIVER'S COMING STRAIGHT FOR ME—TIME FOR A BIT OF BATTING PRACTICE!



YEEAAARGH!

ONE DOWN... AND ONE TO GO!

BUT...

MOTORCYCLE SPEED 100 KPH. HYPERPOWER REQUIRED 8%



THE OTHER ONE'S GETTING AWAY OVER THE SEA—BY HANG GLIDER! GOT TO FOLLOW HIM!

GOIN' DOWN!

WELL, WE **TRIED**, COMPUTER — BUT SHARPE IS GONNA BE WILD THAT THE OTHER SIDE HAVE GOT THEIR HANDS ON THE PROCESS THAT TURNED ME INTO A SUPERHUMAN!

KERNIN CLASS NUCLEAR-POWERED HUNTER-KILLER OF THE EASTERN NAVY. TEARDROP HULL GIVES UNDERWATER SPEED IN EXCESS OF 70 KPH. PURSUIT IMPOSSIBLE!

ACCELERATING AT 33 FT PER SECOND PER SECOND ----

A FEW WEEKS LATER IN LONDON'S OXFORD STREET...

ALERT! ALERT! SOUND FROM ABOVE NOT CONSISTENT WITH NORMAL ACTIVITY DANGER! ---- TAKE EVASIVE ACTION ----

WHAT 'YA TALKIN' ABOUT, COMPUTER! IT'S A NICE, NORMAL SUMMER'S DAY AN' ALL...

IMPACT IN 0.08 SECS. TERMINAL VELOCITY: 130 KPH.

HECK! CHUNK OF FALLING MASONRY—GOTTA **SMASH IT TO DUST!**

HYPERPOWER REQUIRED 12%

IMPACT! WATER TEMPERATURE 2.1°C.

PROBE RACED INTO THE BUILDING...

HEY... WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

I RECKON THAT LUMP OF STONE DIDN'T FALL BY ACCIDENT!

SO IT'S **COLD** AN' IT'S A **LONG** WAY DOWN! TELL ME SOMETHING I **DON'T** KNOW, COMPUTER!

EDITOR'S NOTE.

ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD COPY A SUPERHUMAN LIKE MACH 1. READERS OF 2000 A.D. AREN'T IDIOTS, OF COURSE — BUT DON'T LET YOUR FANTASTIC PAPER FALL INTO THE HANDS OF A 'DUM-DUM'!



BUT ON THE ROOF...

SO! THE EASTERN BOYS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO USE THE INFORMATION THEY STOLE... AND IT LOOKS AS IF THEIR MACH MAN'S OUT TO GET ME!

DATA SCAN RESULT: PARAPET DISLODGED BY HUMANOID MEANS. CONCLUSION: HUMAN WITH HYPER STRENGTH RESPONSIBLE -----

PROBE WAS SOON BACK IN HIS CAR, BUT--

LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A 'TAIL' COMPUTER..

AFFIRMATIVE. REGISTRATION NUMBER BELONGS TO EASTERN EMBASSY.

THE EMBASSY CAR ROARED AWAY...

SO YOU WANNA CHASE, D'YOU, PAL? WE'LL I'LL BE WITH YOU ALL THE WAY! GOTTA STOP YOU BEFORE YOU KILL YOURSELF OR SOMEBODY ELSE!

WELL, THINK I'LL FOLLOW IT!

IT'S A SET UP!

BRAKING DISTANCE INSUFFICIENT. ABANDON VEHICLE!

PROBE ABANDONED THE CAR-- MACH 1 STYLE !



2000AD
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
ALAN HEBOEN
ART ROBOTS
LOZANO/CANOS
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER
COMPU-73E

MACH 1

AN EASTERN REPUBLIC HAS STOLEN THE COMPU-PUNCTURE SECRETS AND USED THEM TO GIVE ONE OF THEIR FEMALE AGENTS THE SAME SUPER-HUMAN POWERS AS BRITISH AGENT JOHN PROBE. (CODENAME MACH 1). SENT TO LONDON TO ASSASSINATE PROBE, SHE IS NOW ON THE RUN FROM HIM...

NOW, AS THE HYPER-CHASE LEADS INTO AN UNDERGROUND STATION...

RUN IF YOU WANT, HYPER-CHICK! ANYTHING YOU CAN DO—I CAN DO BETTER!

SECONDS LATER...

YEEAAARGH!

HECK, SHE'S PUSHED A BOY OFF THE PLATFORM!

HEADING FOR THE PLATFORM, EH, HONEY? WELL, I'M HOT ON YOUR TAIL!



EDITOR'S NOTE.

ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD COPY A SUPERHUMAN LIKE MACH 1. READERS OF 2000 A.D. AREN'T IDIOTS, OF COURSE - BUT DON'T LET YOUR FANTASTIC PAPER FALL INTO THE HANDS OF A 'DUM-DUM'!

TRAIN SPEED 40KPH.
BRAKING DISTANCE
INSUFFICIENT!



PROBE
LEAPT ON
TO THE
TRACKS
AND...

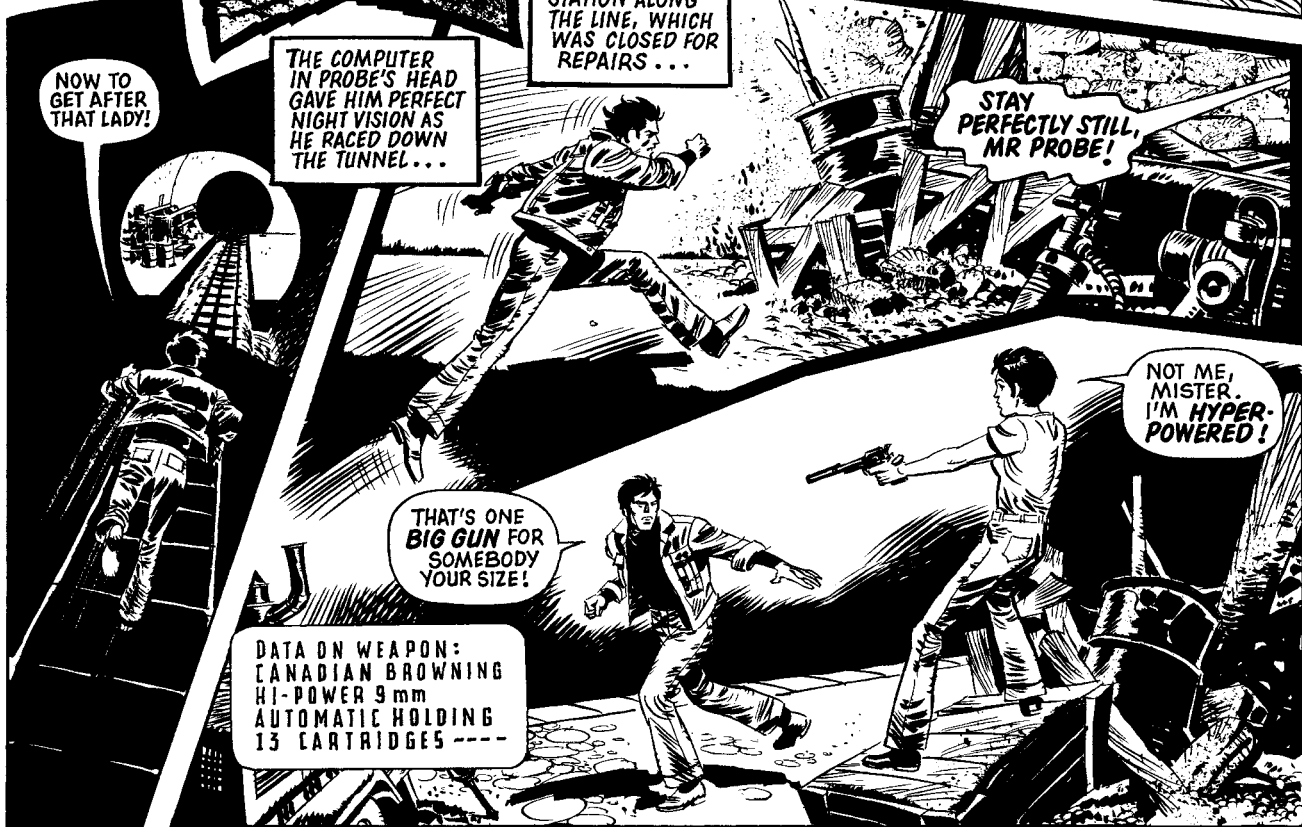
CRACK!

SCRRRIIICH!

GOTCHA,
KID!

TRAIN MOVING TOO
SLOW FOR DERAILMENT
TO CAUSE ANY INJURY
TO PASSENGERS ----

... TO THE NEXT
STATION ALONG
THE LINE, WHICH
WAS CLOSED FOR
REPAIRS ...



NOW TO
GET AFTER
THAT LADY!

THE COMPUTER
IN PROBE'S HEAD
GAVE HIM PERFECT
NIGHT VISION AS
HE RACED DOWN
THE TUNNEL...

STAY
PERFECTLY STILL,
MR PROBE!

NOT ME,
MISTER.
I'M HYPER-
POWERED!

THAT'S ONE
BIG GUN FOR
SOMEBODY
YOUR SIZE!

DATA ON WEAPON:
CANADIAN BROWNING
HI-POWER 9mm
AUTOMATIC HOLDING
13 CARTRIDGES ----



CATCH THIS, SWEETIE!

TOO SLOW, MACH 1!

CAUTION—OBJECTIVE IS TO CAPTURE—NOT KILL. AIM FOR PACKING CASE—



YOU'VE GOTTA MOVE LIKE A MACH 2 TO GET ME—

IT'S A PLEASURE, LADY!

HER... HER STRENGTH IS UNBELIEVABLE!



BUT EVERY FIGHT HAS ITS UPS AND DOWNS...

AAAAHH!





NO MORE GAMES... NOW YOU DIE!

SHE'S RIGHT... I'VE HAD IT!



OKAY, HONEY! YOU WANT TO SPREAD MY HEAD ALL OVER THE PLATFORM—GET ON WITH IT!

BUT SHE WASN'T AS RUTHLESS AS SHE SEEMED—DESPITE THE ORDERS SHE RECEIVED FROM HER BUILT-IN COMPUTER!



I'VE NEVER KILLED ANYONE IN COLD BLOOD...

IRRELEVANT. EXTERMINATE SUBJECT ★★



HE SAVED A BOY'S LIFE BACK THERE...

IRRELEVANT. YOUR MISSION TO DESTROY SUBJECT ★★★



HE COULD HAVE KILLED ME, BUT DIDN'T!

ELIMINATE MATH I ★★



NOOO! I CAN'T DO IT... I'M A HUMAN NOT A MACHINE!

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT? SOMEONE ELSE DOESN'T GET ON WITH THEIR COMPUTER!



CAN'T... CAN'T GO BACK AFTER THIS. THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS ASK FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM... IF YOUR COUNTRY WILL TAKE ME..

YOU WANT TO DEFECT? SHARPE'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HAVE YOU ON OUR SIDE! C'MON, LADY... LET'S GO PAY HIM A VISIT!



LATER, IN SHARPE'S OFFICE . . .

SHE'S **TANYA MASKI**—A MEMBER OF THEIR SECURITY SERVICE—BUT THIS WAS HER FIRST MISSION!

WE'VE PUT HER IN THE **PSYCHIC INTERROGATION UNIT**—THAT WAY WE'LL FIND OUT WHAT SORT OF JOB THE OPPOSITION DID WITH THE COMPU-PUNCTURE DATA THEY STOLE FROM US!

THE NEXT DAY, SHARPE, PROBE, AND A SCIENTIST WATCHED TANYA THROUGH A ONE-WAY MIRROR . . .

SHE CERTAINLY WANTS TO DEFECT, BUT **SPEAKING TECHNICALLY** . . . SHE'S A **RUSH JOB**!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HER **COMPUTER** ISN'T AS **ADVANCED** AS YOURS, MACH 1 . . . THAT'S WHY HER EMOTIONS OVERRODE IT AND SHE COULDN'T KILL YOU. BUT HER **HYPER POWERS** ARE PITCHED HIGHER THAN YOURS—MORE LIKELY TO **BURN OUT**!

HOPE SHE DOESN'T BURN OUT BEFORE SHE'S DESTROYED THE PLACE WHERE SHE WAS PUT TOGETHER!

IF YOU SEND HER BACK—THEY'LL **KILL HER**!

YOU'LL GO ALONG TO ENSURE THEY **DON'T**!



A FEW DAYS LATER, AN EXPRESS TRAIN CARRYING PROBE AND TANYA THUNDERED INTO EASTERN EUROPE . . .



DISGUISED, AND TRAVELLING AS MAN AND WIFE, THE MACH MAN AND WOMAN WERE SPEEDING INTO TERRIBLE DANGER . . .

THE ESTABLISHMENT IS IN PINE FOREST, NORTH OF THE CAPITAL. IT'S HEAVILY GUARDED . . .

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S GUARDED LIKE FORT KNOX! THE SOONER WE GET IN AND OUT THE BETTER!

SUDDENLY...

YOUR PAPERS!

HOPE THE
FORGERY BOYS'VE
DONE THEIR
JOB!

NOT TODAY,
SUNSHINE!
LET'S GET OUT
OF HERE,
TANYA!

HMM,
SOMETHING
IS WRONG HERE,
COMRADE—
ARREST
THEM!

AAAARGH!

WE'LL HAVE
TO MAKE OUR
OWN DOOR!

CRAASH!

COULDN'T
HAVE DONE IT
BETTER MYSELF!
LET'S GO!

NO! WE
CAN'T JUMP
HERE... WE'D
BE KILLED!

BUT—

AND WE'RE
DEAD IF WE
STAY ON THIS
TRAIN...

YOU'VE GOT THE CHOICE
BETWEEN A 200 FT. DROP
OR A POLICE BULLET,
MACH ONE— AND YOU'VE
GOT TILL PROB 38 TO
MAKE UP YOUR MIND!

2000AD
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
 ALAN HEBDEN
ART ROBOTS
 LOZANO/CANOS
LETTERING ROBOT
 JACK POTTER
COMPU-73e

MARCH 1

AN EASTERN REPUBLIC STOLE THE SECRETS OF THE COMPU-PUNCTURE METHOD AND GAVE THEIR AGENT, TANYA MASKI, THE TREATMENT. NOW SHE HAS DEFECTED TO JOIN BRITISH MACH MAN, JOHN PROBE IN TRYING TO RECOVER THEM...



BUT THE TRAIN CARRYING THEM INTO THE REPUBLIC IS SWARMING WITH ENEMY AGENTS—SO IT'S JUMP OR DIE!



BETTER TO BE SMASHED ON THE GROUND THAN CAPTURED UP THERE!



BELOW, AN UNSUSPECTING FAMILY WERE ABOUT TO START DINNER...

NYET! WAIT TILL MAMMA HAS SERVED DA BROTH!

SUDDENLY—



SORRY IF WE'VE SPOILT YOUR DINNER, FOLKS!

EEEEEEK!



WE'RE IN A BIT OF A STEW OURSELVES RIGHT NOW!

QUICK, PROBE, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



THAT NIGHT...

THIS FOOD'LL KEEP US GOING. AT THE RATE WE'VE BEEN BURNING ENERGY WE'VE GOTTA REPLACE IT BEFORE WE REACH THE TARGET...

WISH I COULD GET SOME SLEEP. I KNOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE... BUT I MISS MY DREAMS!



AFTER TRAVELLING OVER 100 MILES ON FOOT, PROBE AND TANYA FINALLY REACHED THEIR DESTINATION...

NOW TO GET A MOVE ON! WE'LL NEED ALL OUR HYPERPOWER TO MAKE OUR TARGET BEFORE NIGHTFALL!



YEAH, WE LOOK LIKE PEOPLE, BUT WITH OUR SUPERHUMAN POWERS WE PERFORM LIKE MACHINES... AND MACHINES DON'T EVER SLEEP OR DREAM!

DOESN'T MATTER IF THEY'RE DUSTED WITH GAMMA RAYS... WE'VE GOT TO GET IN AND BLOW THAT PLACE APART! WE WAIT TILL IT'S DARK— MEANTIMES, LET'S PULL UP A COUPLE OF TREES...

WHEN DARKNESS HAD FALLEN...

THAT'S IT! THAT'S WHERE MY GOVERNMENT ARE EXPERIMENTING WITH THE COMPU-PUNCTURE SECRETS. THE FENCES ARE ELECTRIFIED, OF COURSE!



WE'LL WAIT TILL THE GUARDS ARE A COUPLE OF HUNDRED FEET APART...



- AND USE OUR HOME-
MADE VAULTING POLES
TO GET US OVER!

HEIGHT 11 METRES ★★
APPROACH SPEED 60 KPH
★★★HYPER POWER
REQUIRED: 10% ★★

HEIGHT 11 METRES ---
APPROACH SPEED 60 KPH
---HYPER POWER
REQUIRED: 10% ----

THE COMPUTER TAPES
ARE IN THAT BUILDING...
ONLY THE GUARD INSIDE
KNOWS THE CODE TO
GET US IN THE VAULT
ROOM...

THE COMPUTERS IN
PROBE'S AND TANYA'S
BRAINS FED THEM
VITAL INFORMATION!

SO WE'VE GOT
TO DEAL WITH THE
GUARDS *OUTSIDE*.
FIRST... NOW,
LISTEN -

SECONDS
LATER...

WH-WHAT IS
SHE *DOING*...?

JUST PLAY-
ACTING, PAL...
I HOPE!

I'M OKAY.
AFTER JUMPING
FROM THAT TRAIN,
THIS WAS KIDS' STUFF!

SOON, IN THE DUTY
OFFICER'S ROOM...

COFFEE BREAK'S
OVER, CHUM...
YOU'RE GONNA OPEN
SOME DOORS
FOR US...





BUT PROBE WAS IN FOR A SHOCK!

IT'S A HYPER-HOUND!

ALERT! ALERT! DOG
APPROACHING AT
150 KPH. ANIMAL
HAS HYPERSPEED---
REPEAT-HYPERSPEED!

GRRRRR!

GOT IT'S
TEETH IN MY
ARM... IT.. IT'S
STRONGER
THAN I AM!

LET'S GIVE
THIS DOGGY
A HYPER-
KICK!

IT'S
TURNED
ON ME
NOW!

STEEL PIPING 10 cms
THICK. HYPER FORCE
REQUIRED: 7%

THIS'LL
STOP IT!

SORRY,
FIDO- IT'S
YOU OR ME
AND IT AIN'T
GONNA BE
ME!



NOT SO MUCH A SECRET AGENT...
MORE A SECRET WEAPON!

MACH1

MACH-1

SECRET AGENT, MACH-MAN, JOHN PROBE, AND MACH WOMAN, TANYA MASKI, HAVE BROKEN INTO AN EASTERN RESEARCH CENTRE TO DESTROY SECRET, STOLEN TAPES OF THE BRITISH COMPU-PUNCTURE METHOD. BUT SCIENTIST DR. HOROWITZ HAS USED THE PROCESS ON CHILDREN!

NO--! HYPER-POWERED CHILDREN! YOU MONSTER, HOROWITZ!

SEIZE THEM, KIDDIES!

KEEP OFF ME, BRATS!

GET BACK, KIDS—WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU—

BUT THE CHILDREN ATTACKED, AND —

CAN'T BELIEVE IT—THEY'RE STRONGER THAN US!

C-CLAWS.. LIKE STEEL AROUND MY NECK—

2000AD
Credit Card:

SCRIPT ROBOT
ALAN HEBDEN

ART ROBOT
LOZANO

LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER

COMPU-73E





PROBE FOUND THE KEY TO RELEASE
TANYA ON THE UNCONSCIOUS
OFFICER IN CHARGE...

YES, PROBE! I'D LIKED
TO HAVE EXAMINED YOU
PROPERLY— BUT YOUR
DESTRUCTION HAS
PRIORITY. GO ON, MY
ANGELS, TEAR YOUR
VICTIM APART!

NO TIME TO ARGUE—
YOU GET INTO THAT VAULT
AND DESTROY THE TAPES.
I'LL STAY HERE— GOT A
NASTY FEELING HOROWITZ
IS GOIN' TO SEND A FEW
ANGELS OUT AFTER US!

EMOTION IRRELEVANT.
THEY ARE INHUMAN.
DEADLY ROBOTS PRO-
GRAMMED TO KILL YOU.
TAKE EVASIVE ACTION!

NO... C-CAN'T
DO IT... THEY'RE
TOO MUCH LIKE
CHILDREN...
KIDS... THEY'RE
ONLY KIDS,
BLAST IT!

USING THE TITANIUM
CHAINS, MACH ONE
FOUGHT HIS HARDEST
BATTLE...

MUSTN'T LET THEM
TOUCH ME— IF THEY
GET ME TO THE
GROUND, I'M
DEAD!

MEANWHILE, INSIDE
THE ESTABLISHMENT'S
GREAT VAULT...

IT'S DONE! THE
STOLEN COMPU-
PUNCTURE TAPES
ARE **DESTROYED!**
I MUST TELL JOHN-

DATA ON TANK: MODEL
K-70. WEIGHT 70 METRIC
TONS. WARNING: MAX-
IMUM HYPER STRENGTH
REQUIRED! CONSEQUEN-
CES: POSSIBLY FATAL!
DESIST! DESIST! ★★

YOU NEVER WERE AS
CLEVER A COMPUTER AS
PROBE'S, AND YOU COULD
NEVER STOP ME DOING
WHAT I REALLY WANTED.
SO SHUT UP... AND GIVE
ME THE STRENGTH I NEED!

JUST GOT
TO CRASH IT
INTO CENTRAL
CONTROL
ROOM-

SPEED 30 KPH - AND
INCREASING. HYPER
FORCE: 100 PERCENT!
OVERLOAD! OVERLOAD!

TANYA MADE HER
WAY OUT...

JOHN-
I'LL HELP
YOU!

NO! IT'S ME
THEY'RE AFTER!
GET AWAY WHILE
YOU CAN!

I SHAN'T LEAVE
HIM TO DIE- THAT
TANK! IT MAY BE
AN OLD RELIC WITH
NO FUEL OR AMMO
- BUT I CAN USE
IT TO SAVE HIM!

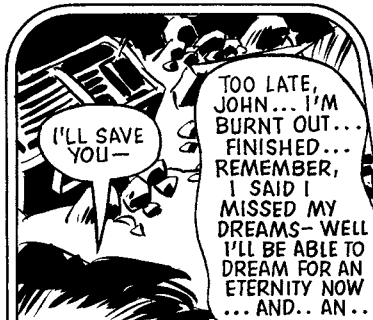
PROBE WAS
FIGHTING A
LOSING BATTLE.
THEN HE
NOTICED
TANYA...

YOU FOOL!
... YOU'LL KILL
YOURSELF!
STOP!

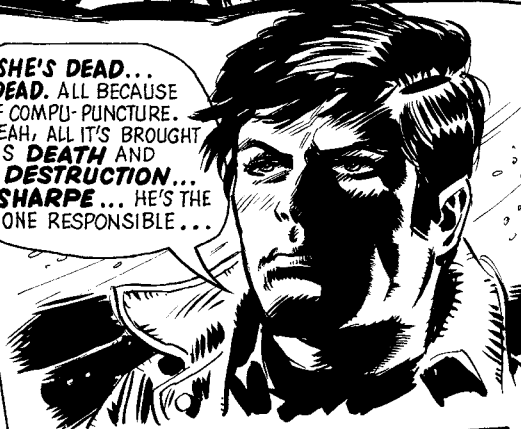
YOU'RE
DEAD IF I DON'T
TRY!

HERE COMES HELL,
HOROWITZ! DIE...
YOU DEMON!

NOOOO... AAAARGH!



SHE'S DEAD... DEAD. ALL BECAUSE OF COMPU- PUNCTURE. YEAH, ALL IT'S BROUGHT IS **DEATH** AND **DESTRUCTION...** **SHARPE...** HE'S THE ONE RESPONSIBLE...



UNNECESSARY FORCE USED TO CLOSE DOOR!

WEEKS LATER, HELPED BY THE BRITISH EMBASSY, PROBE RETURNED TO LONDON, AND TO SHARPE, HIS BOSS...

I'M NOT TOO EASY TO KILL, SHARPE— AN' I'M GONNA MAKE IT MY BUSINESS TO FIND OUT HOW **YOU** KNEW THE CODE TO THE ENEMY'S **TOP SECRET** VAULT! — THERE'S SOMETHING ROTTEN IN YOU, SHARPE — **REAL ROTTEN!**



HOW DARE YOU— I'M YOUR SUPERIOR!



*MAN ACTIVATED by COMPU-PUNCTURE HYPERPOWER

M.A.C.H.1

SUSPENDED SILENTLY IN ORBIT 1,000 MILES ABOVE EARTH, AN AMERICAN MILITARY SATELLITE WAS ABOUT TO BE...

DEATH RAY

PART 1

2000 A.D.
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
ALAN HEDDEN
ART ROBOTS
LOZANO/CANOS
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER
COMPU-73e

BLASTED OUT OF THE SKY!

THE WEAPON?
A MYSTERIOUS
SATELLITE...

THE EFFECTS
WERE FELT
FROM THE U.S.
7TH FLEET IN
THE PACIFIC...

... TO C.I.A. HEADQUARTERS
IN ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA ...

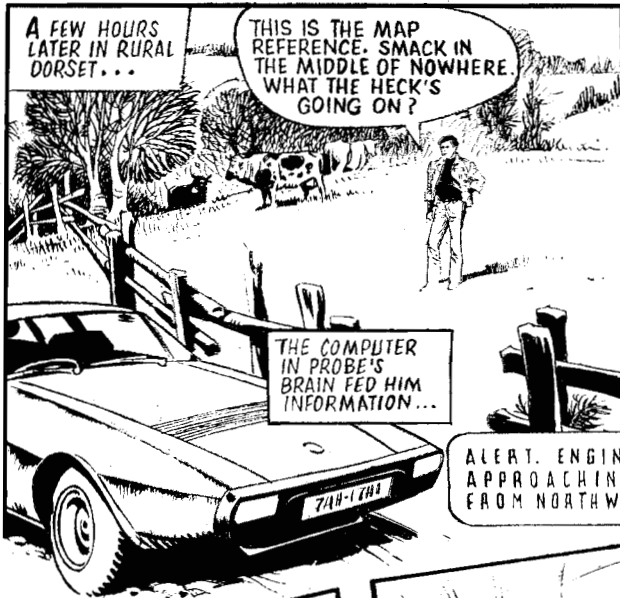
GENERAL LOGAN'S
GONNA WANT OUR HIDES
FOR THIS SATELLITE FAIL-
URE— BETTER KEEP IT
QUIET TILL WE KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED
UP THERE!

SATELLITE
COMMUNICATIONS
WITH WASHINGTON
SEVERED! SWITCH
TO EMERGENCY
GROUND STATION
RELAY!

CENTRAL
INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY

HOURS LATER, IN
LONDON, BRITISH
SECRET AGENT, JOHN
PROBE, RECEIVED
A TELEGRAM...

NO SENDER'S NAME..
LOOKS LIKE I'M IN FOR
A FEW SURPRISES!



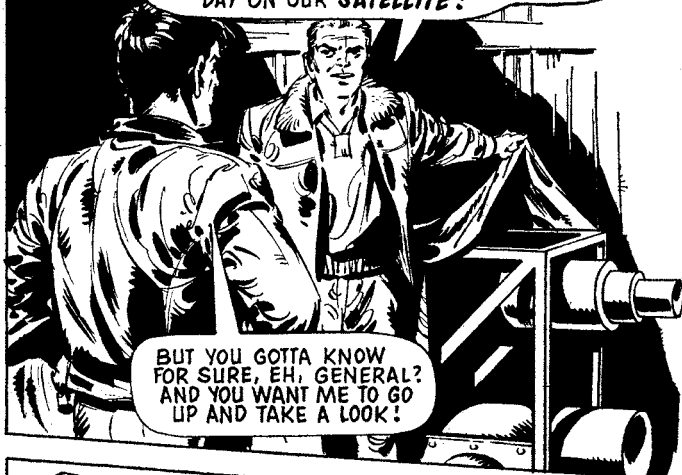
INSIDE THE HANGAR, PROBE WAS INTRODUCED TO GENERAL LOGAN OF THE AMERICAN AIR FORCE...



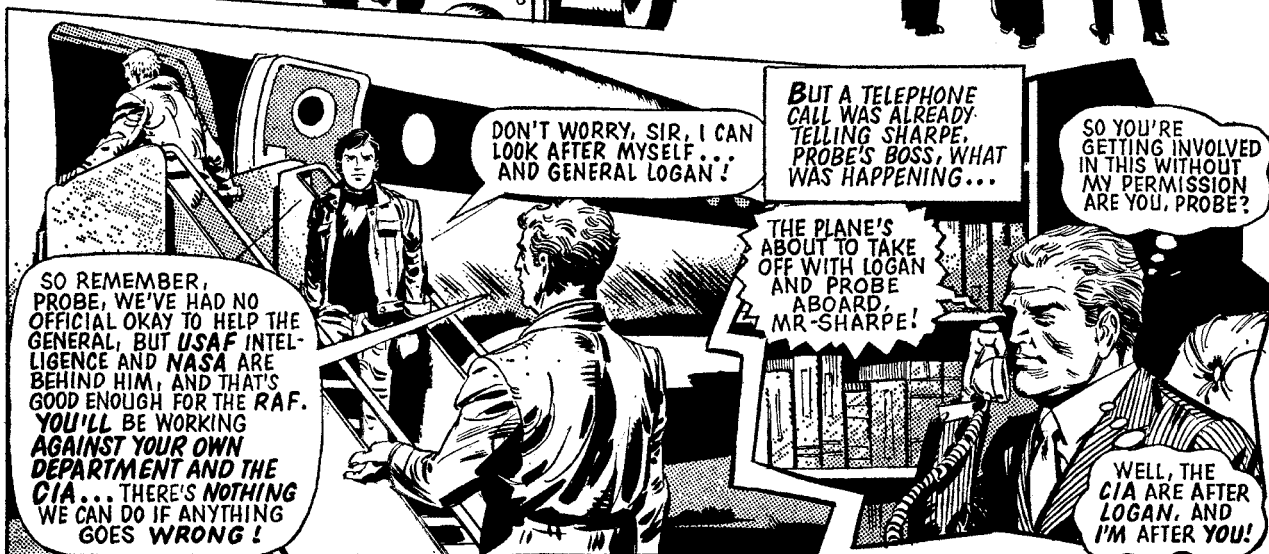
REAL PLEASD TO MEET YA, SON! I AIN'T TOO FOND OF CIVILIANS RIGHT NOW, BUT WE SURE NEED THEM SPECIAL TALENTS OF YOURS!

FEW YEARS BACK THE RUSKIES MADE A BREAKTHROUGH IN HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS. I RECKON THEY'VE DEVELOPED A LASER BEAM WEAPON — A REAL DEATH RAY — SOMETHIN' LIKE THIS — AN' THEY WERE TESTIN' IT YESTERDAY ON OUR SATELLITE!

C.I.A. AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC ADVISERS DON'T BELIEVE MY THEORY — WANT TA GET THEIR OWN ANSWERS, AND BRITAIN'S SECRET SERVICE HAS AGREED TO HELP THEM...



BUT YOU GOTTA KNOW FOR SURE, EH, GENERAL? AND YOU WANT ME TO GO UP AND TAKE A LOOK!



SO REMEMBER, PROBE, WE'VE HAD NO OFFICIAL OKAY TO HELP THE GENERAL, BUT USAF INTELLIGENCE AND NASA ARE BEHIND HIM, AND THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE RAF. YOU'LL BE WORKING AGAINST YOUR OWN DEPARTMENT AND THE CIA... THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG!

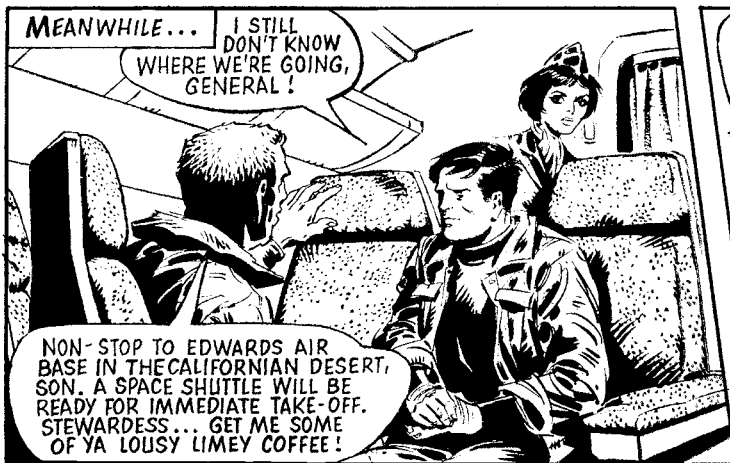
DON'T WORRY, SIR, I CAN LOOK AFTER MYSELF... AND GENERAL LOGAN!

BUT A TELEPHONE CALL WAS ALREADY TELLING SHARPE, PROBE'S BOSS, WHAT WAS HAPPENING...

SO YOU'RE GETTING INVOLVED IN THIS WITHOUT MY PERMISSION ARE YOU, PROBE?

THE PLANE'S ABOUT TO TAKE OFF WITH LOGAN AND PROBE ABOARD, MR-SHARPE!

WELL, THE CIA ARE AFTER LOGAN, AND I'M AFTER YOU!





... WE'D BE SUCKED OUT THROUGH THE WINDOW WHEN THE CABIN DECOMPRESSED!

HOLY MOSES!



OH NO, THE GUN!

THANK YOU, MAM! NOW TO GET THE PILOTS TO RESUME ORIGINAL COURSE!



HOURS LATER, THEY LANDED SAFELY AT EDWARDS AIR BASE —

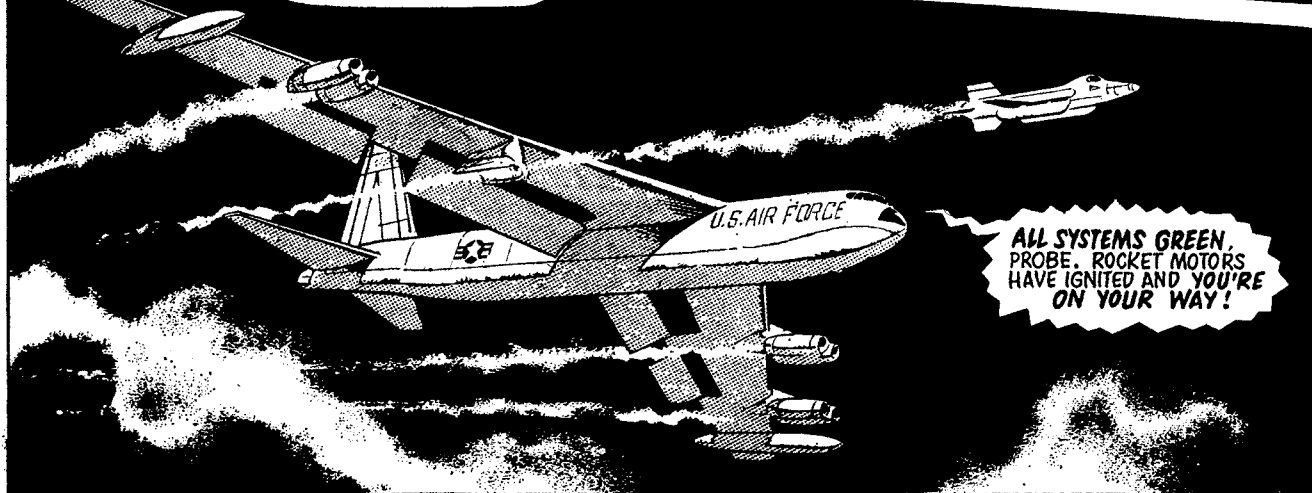
SHARPE'S CREW WILL BE LOOKED AFTER BY MY MEN. NOW WE GOTTA SORT OUT YOUR MISSION PROBE. I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T ARRANGE FOR YOU TO GO UP IN SHUTTLE—

YEAH— BENT THE LAST ONE A LITTLE TOO MUCH, HUH?



THE X15... A GOOD SHIP. PROBE. HIGH ALTITUDE RESEARCH VEHICLE WE USED IN THE SIXTIES! WITH THE EXTRA TANKS WE'VE MOUNTED SHE'LL JUST ABOUT REACH ORBIT!

LAUNCHED FROM UNDER THE WING OF A B52! OKAY, GENERAL, LET'S GET THE MISSION UNDER WAY..



ALL SYSTEMS GREEN. PROBE. ROCKET MOTORS HAVE IGNITED AND YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY!

SPEED MACH 6.70
AND RISING ----
ALTITUDE 100,000
FEET. TIME TO
STABILISED ORBIT
--3 MINS 15 SECS.

SOON, PROBE WAS
APPROACHING THE
WRECK OF THE
SATELLITE...

THERE IT IS...
CERTAINLY LOOKS
LIKE IT'S BEEN HIT
BY SOMETHING A
LOT **NASTIER** THAN
A METEORITE! I'LL
GET THE CAMERAS
RUNNING!

NO! I DON'T
BELIEVE IT!

IT'S A
**MANNED
VOSHKOD
CAPSULE!**

AND SOMETHING
THAT LOOKS VERY
LIKE GENERAL LOGAN'S **DEATH
BEAM WEAPON...** AND
IT'S AIMED DIRECTLY
AT ME!

BLAST OFF NEXT PROG WITH MACH 1 IN PART 2 OF THIS HYPERPOWERED STORY!

DEATH M.A.C.H.1

RAY

PART 2

BRITISH AGENT, JOHN PROBE, CODENAME **M.A.C.H.1**, IS INVESTIGATING THE DESTRUCTION OF AN AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE 1,000 MILES ABOVE THE EARTH WHEN HIS X-15 CRAFT IS BLASTED BY THE POWERFUL NEW SOVIET LASER BEAM WEAPON—

PROBE WAS THROWN FREE—

I'D BE ONE ORBITING CORPSE IF I WASN'T WEARING MY VAC SUIT— BUT HOW THE BLAZES DO I GET BACK TO EARTH WITH THE SHIP HALF-WRECKED?

THAT VOSHKOD CAPSULE— IT'S COMING STRAIGHT FOR ME!

2000AD
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SCRIPT ROBOT
ALAN HEBDEN
ART ROBOTS
LOZANO/CANOS
LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER
COMPU-73e

MEANWHILE, AT THE MISSION CONTROL IN CALIFORNIA—

WE LOST THE X-15 COMPLETELY A FEW MINUTES AGO, GENERAL, NONE OF OUR PICK-UP STATIONS CAN FIND IT. LOOKS LIKE PROBE'S HAD IT, SIR...

PITY, THAT LIMEY WAS OKAY...

STILL, THESE PHOTOS HE SENT BACK PROVE THE RUSKIES BLASTED OUR SATELLITE— YEAH, C.I.A. SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE— BUT NOW I KNOW THEY'VE GOT A DEATH RAY UP THERE!

BUT PROBE WAS ALIVE AND FIGHTING—FOR AT THAT MOMENT, A COSMONAUT WAS MAKING HIS WAY OUT OF THE VOSHKOD, AND HE DIDN'T LOOK FRIENDLY—

GUESS THEY DON'T INTEND LEAVING ANY WITNESSES—

LEAST NOW I'M A M-O-V-I-N-G TARGET!

HAVEN'T GOT A JET PACK, BUT A BLAST OF AIR FROM THE SPARE OXYGEN TANK OUGHT TO BLOW ME CLEAR...

BUT WITHOUT THAT CORD, HE ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE!

LIKE IF IT'S CUT...HE'S DEAD!

NOW TO GET IN THAT VOSHKOD BEFORE THEY BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES—

NIET, NIET...

CORD IS HIGH TENSILE STEEL IN FLEXIBLE SECTIONS. HYPERPOWER REQUIRED TO PART IT: 15%





NOW ARE YOU GOING TO CO-OPERATE—OR SHALL I PUT YOU INTO ORBIT WITH YOUR CHUMS—D'YA WANNA BE A FROZEN CORPSE?

NIET!
NIET!



NOW, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

THE GUIDANCE UNIT ON OUR BEAM WEAPON WAS MALFUNCTIONING. WE... WE WERE SENT UP TO PUT IT RIGHT WITH THE COMPUTER WE HAVE ON BOARD...



SOON, PROBE HAD STUDIED THE CONTROLS...

RECKON IT'S TIME WE PUT A DENT IN THAT DEATH-RAY. ANY SUGGESTIONS, COMPUTER?

ORBITAL WEAPON STABILISED AT 17 DEGREES. SUGGEST YOU DOUBLE THE ANGLE OF INCLINATION TO MAKE IT TOPPLE OUT OF ORBIT OVER THE SOUTH ATLANTIC...



THERE IT GOES—NOW, LET'S BRING THIS VOSHKOD BACK TO EARTH—



WHAT!

BU... BUT THIS CRAFT IS CONTROLLED COMPLETELY FROM THE GROUND!

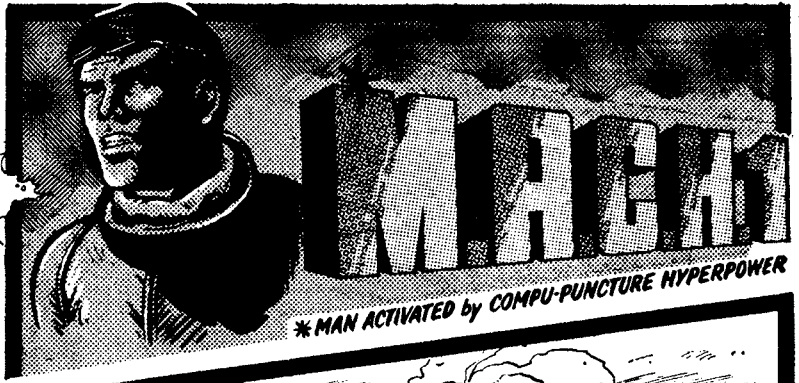
SUBJECT CORRECT. VOSHKOD CAPSULES HAVE LIMITED MANUAL CONTROL. PRE-DETERMINED RE-ENTRY ROUTE CANNOT REPEAT CANNOT BE ALTERED.

... SO I'M TRAPPED IN THIS TIN CAN TILL IT'S BROUGHT BACK TO EARTH... TO THE LAST POSSIBLE PLACE ON EARTH THAT I WANT TO BE!





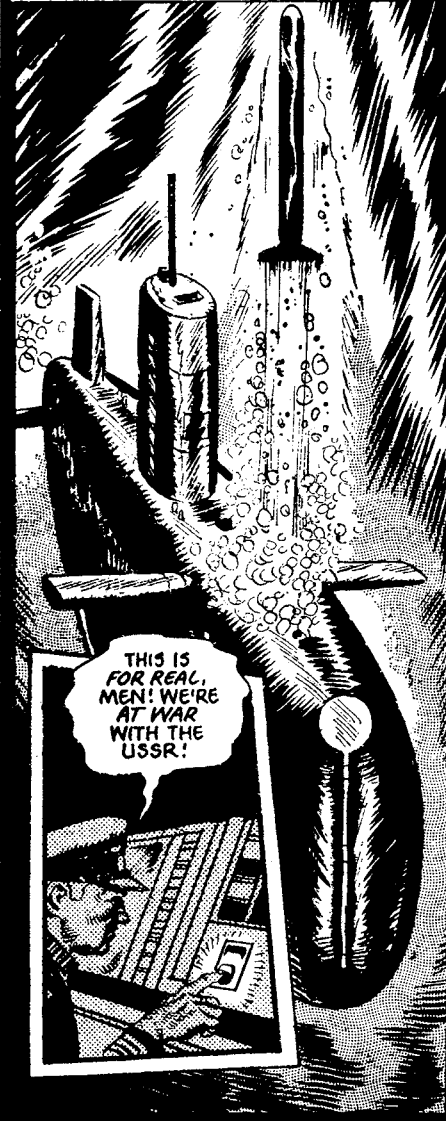
DEATH RAY CHAIN



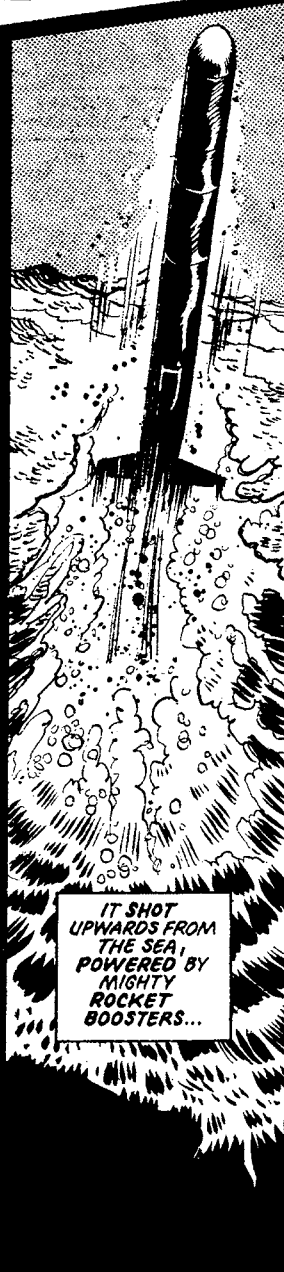
* MAN ACTIVATED by COMPU-PUNCTURE HYPERPOWER

PART 3

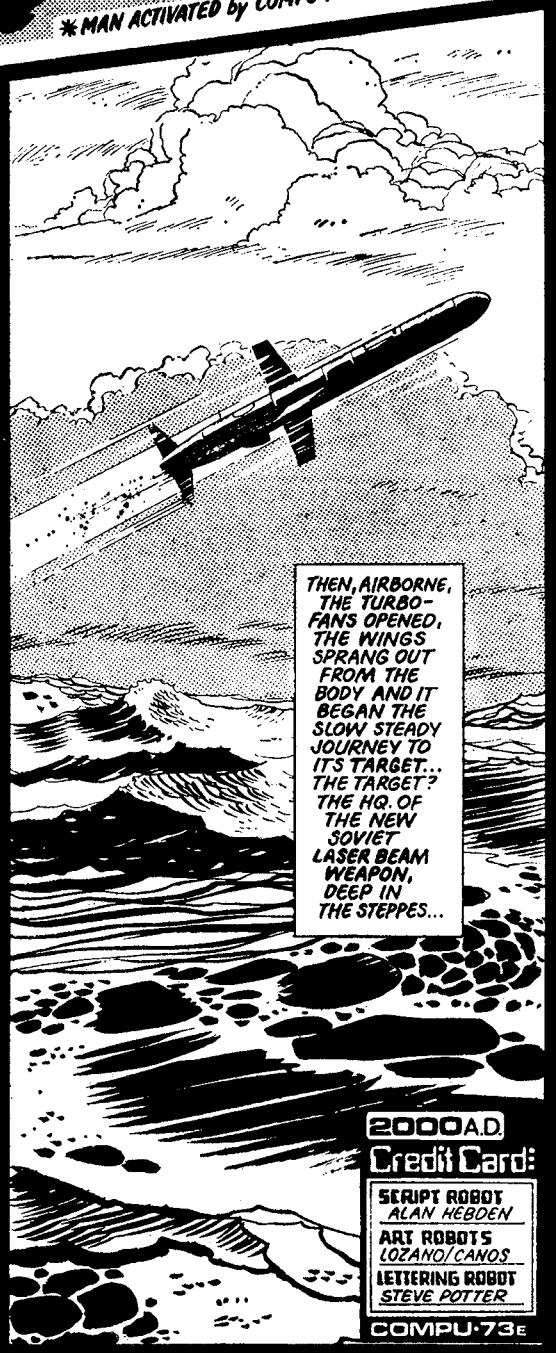
JUST ONE TINY BURNT OUT TRANSISTOR IN A COMPUTER SUB DID NOT RECEIVE A FAIL-SAFE TRANSMISSION... AND HAS LAUNCHED—A CRUISE MISSILE!



THIS IS FOR REAL, MEN! WE'RE AT WAR WITH THE USSR!



IT SHOT UPWARDS FROM THE SEA, POWERED BY MIGHTY ROCKET BOOSTERS...



THEN, AIRBORNE, THE TURBO-FANS OPENED, THE WINGS SPRANG OUT FROM THE BODY AND IT BEGAN THE SLOW STEADY JOURNEY TO ITS TARGET... THE TARGET? THE HQ. OF THE NEW SOVIET LASER BEAM WEAPON, DEEP IN THE STEPPES...

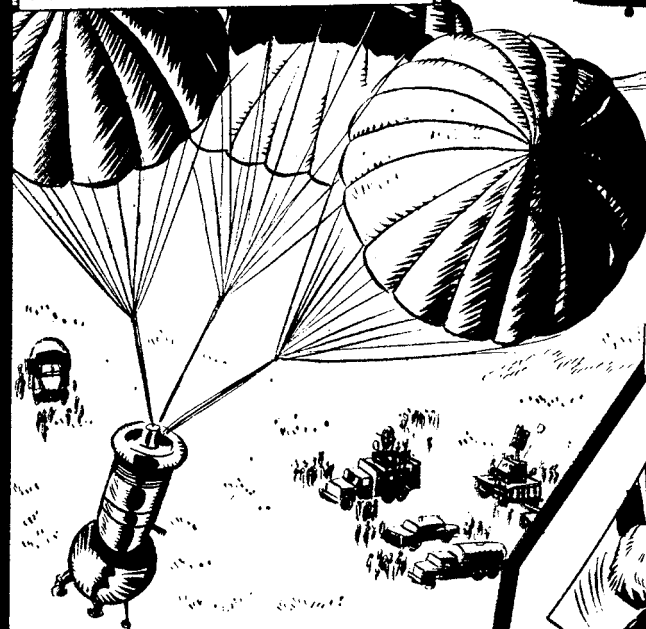
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STEVE POTTER

COMPU-73e

BUT AT THAT MOMENT, ONLY MILES FROM THE TARGET ITSELF, A VOSHKOD SPACE CAPSULE WAS DESCENDING FROM AN ORBITAL MISSION—WITH AN EXTRA PASSENGER, PICKED UP ON THE WAY!



ON BOARD, WAS SECRET AGENT JOHN PROBE, CODENAME M.A.C.H. 1., WHO HAD BEEN INVESTIGATING THE DESTRUCTION OF A U.S. SATELLITE BY THE RUSSIAN LASER BEAM WEAPON. PROBE HAD SUCCEEDED IN TOPPLING THE DEATH RAY OUT OF ITS ORBIT...

INSIDE THE VOSHKOD—



YOUR RUSKIE FRIENDS KNOW SOMETHING WENT WRONG WITH THE MISSION BUT THEY WON'T KNOW HOW WRONG TILL THEY FEEL THIS CAN OPEN—SO YOU JUST KEEP QUIET—SAVVY?

YE...YES, ENGLISH...

ON THE INSTANT OF TOUCHDOWN—



I CAN TELL YOU THAT...THE MISSION WAS A FLOP!

YEEEAARGH!

OOOF!

CAN'T STAY TO CHAT, FOLKS—AFTER BEING COOPED UP IN THAT CAPSULE I GOTTA LOT OF HYPERPOWER TO BURN UP!



STOP HIM!

AN HOUR LATER—



I OUGHT TO KEEP GOING BUT EVEN A MACH-MAN NEEDS A REST AFTER A HUNDRED MILE CROSS-COUNTRY RUN!

WHAT THE HECK'S THAT WEIRD SOUND?

SOUND ORIGINATING AT 095 DEGREES. SOURCE IDENTIFIED AS A DESCENDING INTER-CONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE.



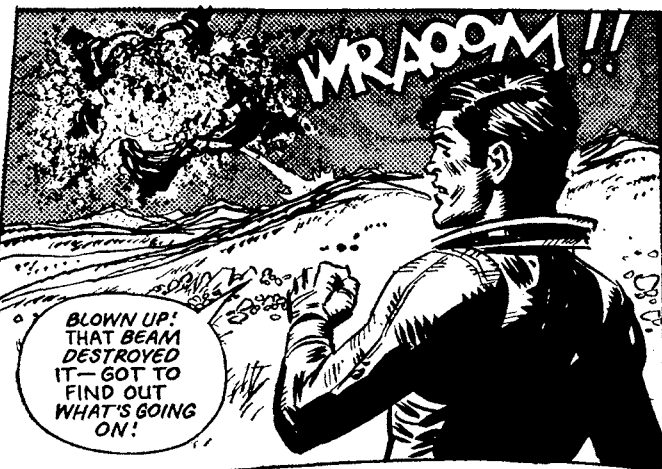
I DON'T KNOW IF HE WAS A MAN OR A MACHINE, BUT DESTROY HIM!

COMRADE COMMANDER—IT IS NOT POSSIBLE, HE IS MOVING TOO FAST FOR OUR SCANNERS TO TRACK!



HAVE I
WANDERED
INTO SOME
NUCLEAR
TESTING
SITE?

AFFIRMATIVE. PURPOSE CONFIRMED
AS EXPERIMENT TO TEST EFFICIENCY
OF RUSSIAN MISSILES AGAINST
INTERCEPTOR WEAPON.



BLOWN UP!
THAT BEAM
DESTROYED
IT— GOT TO
FIND OUT
WHAT'S GOING
ON!



AND ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE HILL—

ANOTHER
LASER BEAM
WEAPON... A
LAND BASED
ONE!

AFFIRMATIVE; CONCLUDE THIS
ESTABLISHMENT IS THE CENTRE
OF THE BEAM WEAPON PROJECT.
IMPERATIVE THAT YOU DESTROY.

SO FIRST I'M FLUNG
INTO SPACE TO DESTROY THE
DEATH RAY— AN' NOW I'VE GOT
TO RISK LIFE AND LIMB ON
EARTH— WELL I MAY BE ONLY
HALF A MAN— BUT I'M NOT
SHORT OF GUTS!



SO HERE
GOES! I'LL
SMUGGLE
MYSELF IN
ON THAT
CONVOY.



PASS
INSIDE!

THIS IS
JUST THE
EASY PART...
GETTING
IN!



THE BEAM-PROJECTOR'S EMBEDDED IN THE GROUND—RECKON THE INNARDS LIE UNDERGROUND. I'LL TRY CLIMBING DOWN ONE OF THOSE MINE SHAFTS.



AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SHAFT, IN A VAST UNDERGROUND CHAMBER—

THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE PREPARING FOR ANOTHER TEST. MUST TAKE THE CONTROL ROOM FAST WITHOUT DAMAGING IT. ANY SUGGESTIONS, COMPUTER?

SPLENDID IDEA, COMPUTER. COOL OFF FOR A WHILE, FRIENDS!

AAAAGH!

LIQUID HYDROGEN IN CYLINDER WOULD FREEZE ANY LIVING FLESH ATTEMPTING TO INTERFERE.



NOW, LET'S SEE IF WE CAN ALTER THE ANGLE OF THAT PROJECTOR.

MINUTES LATER, ABOVE GROUND, TWO GUARDS ON DUTY NOTICE THE BEAM OF THE PROJECTOR HAD CHANGED POSITION—



THAT IS ODD. I THINK PROJECTOR POINTS AT US...

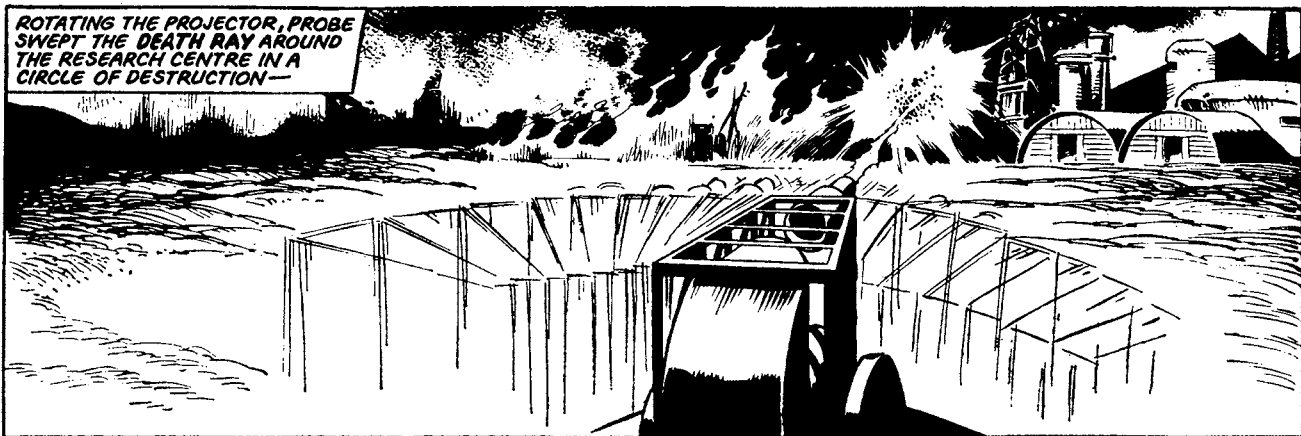
I...I... YOU ARE... RIGHT, STIVA...



PROBE HAD PRESSED THE FIRING BUTTON!

THE DEATH WAS LASER SHARP, QUICK, PAINLESS, CLEAN.

ROTATING THE PROJECTOR, PROBE
SWEEPED THE DEATH RAY AROUND
THE RESEARCH CENTRE IN A
CIRCLE OF DESTRUCTION—



BUT BELOW GROUND—

THAT'S THE ESTABLISH-
MENT TAKEN CARE OF, NOW...
GOOD GRIEF, WHAT'S HAPPENING
TO THE SPHERE?



WARNING... BEAM PROJECTOR OVER-
LOAD. INSTABILITY WILL RESULT IN
SMALL THERMO-NUCLEAR BLAST IN
100 SECONDS. ABANDON THIS
LOCATION IMMEDIATELY.

MACH 1 RACED BACK TO THE SURFACE.

90 SECONDS LEFT
BEFORE THE WEAPON GOES
UP LIKE A NUCLEAR BOMB.
TIME TO MAKE FOR
THE HILLS!



MACH ONE RACED AGAINST DEATH—

COUNTDOWN TO BLAST:
THREE... TWO... ONE...

AND DIVED FOR HIS LIFE!



BUT THE MISSILE LAUNCHED
FROM THE U.S. SUB WAS
ZOOMING TO ITS TARGET...

EH? WHAT'S A
CRUISE MISSILE
DOING HERE? IT MUST'VE
BEEN SENT TO MAKE SURE
THIS PLACE WAS WIPED
OFF THE MAP. WELL,
MISSILE, YOU'RE TOO
LATE FOR THAT...

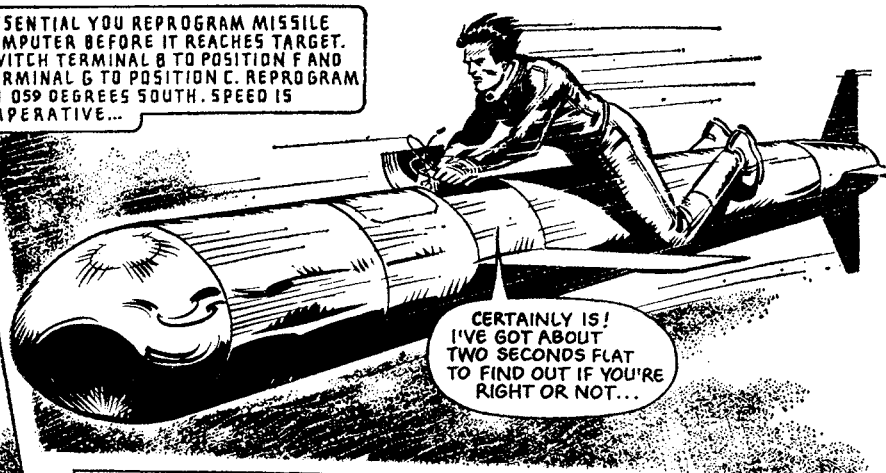




... BUT YOU MIGHT HELP ME GET OUT OF HERE!

CRUISE MISSILE VELOCITY: 450 KPH. HYPER STRENGTH REQUIRED TO BOARD 20%

ESSENTIAL YOU REPROGRAM MISSILE COMPUTER BEFORE IT REACHES TARGET. SWITCH TERMINAL B TO POSITION F AND TERMINAL G TO POSITION C. REPROGRAM TO 059 DEGREES SOUTH. SPEED IS IMPERATIVE...

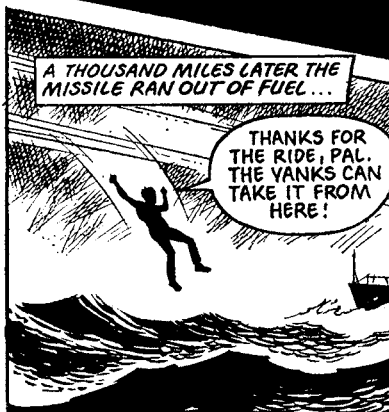


CERTAINLY IS! I'VE GOT ABOUT TWO SECONDS FLAT TO FIND OUT IF YOU'RE RIGHT OR NOT...

MACH ONE RODE THE MISSILE!



SHE'S TURNING! FOR ONCE, COMPUTER, I'M GRATEFUL!

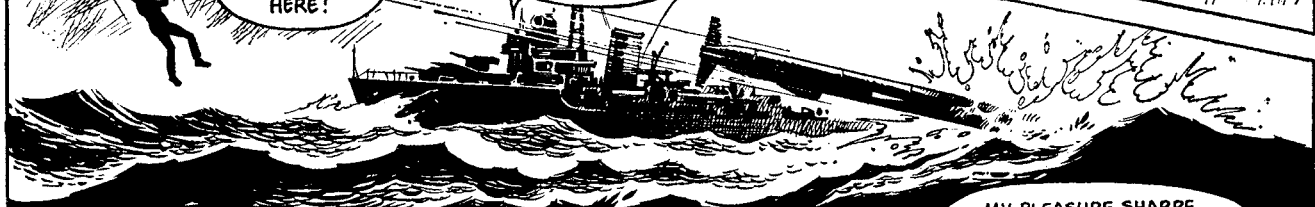


A THOUSAND MILES LATER THE MISSILE RAN OUT OF FUEL...

THANKS FOR THE RIDE, PAL. THE YANKS CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE!

CRIPES, EITHER I'M SEEN' THINGS, OR THAT WAS A GUY RIDIN' A CRUISE MISSILE!

GRATITUDE IS A HUMAN EMOTION AND THEREFORE IRRELEVANT. SUGGESTED COURSE OF ACTION WAS THE ONLY LOGICAL SOLUTION.



NEXT DAY PROBE CONFRONTED HIS BOSS, SHARPE, BACK IN LONDON—



YOU UNDERTOOK A MISSION FOR THE U.S. AIR FORCE WITHOUT PERMISSION. IF I HAD MY WAY I'D STEP ON YOU REAL HARD, PROBE.



THEN WHY DON'T YOU? YOU AND THE CIA WERE WRONG ABOUT THE BEAM WEAPON, AND LOGAN WAS RIGHT. SO GO AHEAD ... STEP!



THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS REQUESTED YOU RECEIVE THIS — HIS PERSONAL THANKS. TAKE IT, AND GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!

MY PLEASURE, SHARPE. ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU PROVED WRONG... ONE DAY YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE JUST ONE TOO MANY MISTAKES... AND I WANT TO BE AROUND TO SEE IT!



NEXT PROG: MACH ONE—MINUS ONE!

FRAMED IN A SNIPER'S SIGHTS, GUESTS AT A GARDEN PARTY
IN BUCKINGHAM PALACE ARE ONLY SECONDS AWAY FROM DEATH!
BUT, IN CHARGE OF SECURITY IS AGENT JOHN PROBE, CODENAMED...

M.A.C.H.1

SUBJECT'S
CODENAME:
MACH 1
MAN
ACTIVATED
BY
COMPU-
PUNCTURE
HYPER-
POWER

2000AD
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
STEVE MCMAHUS
ART ROBOT
RAMON SOLA
LETTERING ROBOT
TOM FRAME
COMPU-73E

SOMETHING'S WRONG.
SOMETHING TELLS ME
WE'RE ALL STARING
DEATH IN THE FACE!

WAIT— THAT WINDOW—
METAL GLINTING IN
THE SUNLIGHT !..

SNIPER IN THE HILTON
HOTEL ! GOT TO GET HIM
BEFORE THIS GARDEN
PARTY BECOMES A
BLOOD-BATH!

I SAY...!

GOOD LORD!



AS HE BURST INTO THE HILTON, THE COMPUTER CIRCUITS IN PROBE'S HEAD FED DATA INTO HIS BRAIN....

SUBJECT LOCATED IN ROOM 2010, TWENTIETH FLOOR. TIME TAKEN BY LIFT 20 SECONDS, CAN BE HALVED BY TAKING STAIRS AT MACH SPEED.

WITH THE MANAGER'S COMPLIMENTS!

WHA...?
UUURRGH!

PROBE'S KICK DEFLECTED THE SNIPER'S AIM — JUST!

EEK!

DON'T HURT ME!
I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING!

YOU'D BETTER, PAL!
LET'S START WITH HOW YOU GOT PAST OUR SECURITY CORDON...!

AFTER THE INTERROGATION, PROBE WENT STRAIGHT TO HIS BOSS, SHARPE.

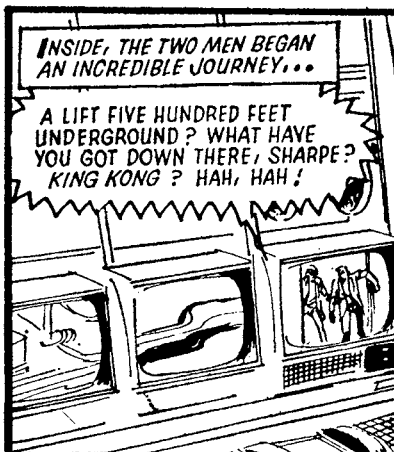
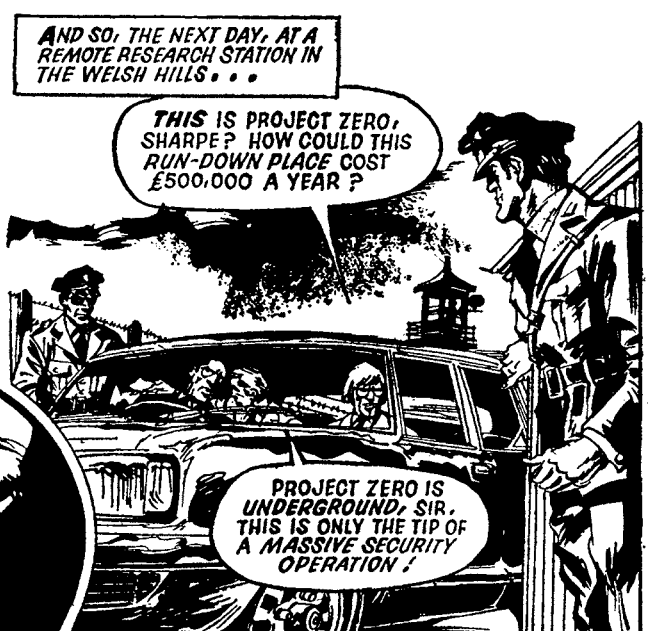
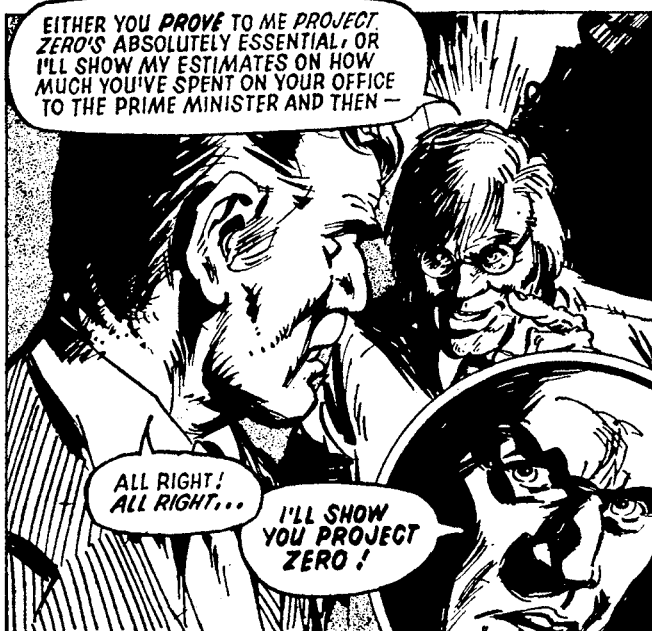
DO I HAVE TO DO EVERYONE'S WORK IN THIS DAMN DEPARTMENT? SECURITY AT THE HILTON IS THE JOB OF THAT LITTLE GREED BENSON...

HOW DARE YOU BURST IN HERE LIKE THIS, PROBE? OKAY, SO BENSON'S FOULED UP, BUT DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK!

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY MACH MAN, YOU KNOW!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHERE ARE THE OTHERS THEN?

ER...FORGET IT, PROBE, YOU HEAR? NOW GET OUT OF MY OFFICE! I'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT VISITOR!



ENTERING THE TOP SECURITY VAULT, VOICE PRINTS WERE CHECKED...





**WUUURGH!
SHARPE!
WUUURGH!**



NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO KEEP ZERO HERE, SIR?

AFTER THE TWO HAD LEFT, LIFE AT THE STATION RETURNED TO ITS USUAL QUIET PACE.

CERTAINLY NOT! IT'S INHUMAN TO KEEP THE POOR MAN CAGED UP! I'LL MAKE A REPORT ON THIS...

BUT DEEP BELOW, LIKE A VOLCANO, A SPARK HAD BEEN LIT IN THE DIM RECESSES OF ZERO'S MIND. HE STARTED TO REMEMBER.



WE REMEMBERED THE DAY SHARPE PUT HIM ON THE COMPU-PUNCTURE MACHINE.

HE WILLINGLY ENTERED INTO THE EXPERIMENTS. HE TRUSTED SHARPE.



AND TO BEGIN WITH THINGS WENT WELL...

HIS NEW STRENGTH MADE ALL MISSIONS SUCCESSFUL!

BUT THEN HIS STRENGTH OUTGREW HIM...

DAD! THE CAT! YOU'VE KILLED IT!

BUT I ONLY STROKED IT, TOMMY. I ONLY...

UNTIL THE DAY THEY TOOK HIM AWAY. HIS STRENGTH HAD RUN WILD AND SHARPE HAD ORDERED HIM LOCKED UP UNTIL A CURE COULD BE FOUND.

DAD! DAD!

I WON'T BE AWAY LONG, TOMMY! DON'T WORRY!

BUT IT HAD BEEN A TRICK, THERE WAS NO CURE..

AAARGH!

SUDDENLY, THREE YEARS OF HATE FOR SHARPE EXPLODED!

HE WOULD ESCAPE! ESCAPE AND SEE HIS SON! AND THEN HE WOULD DEAL WITH SHARPE!

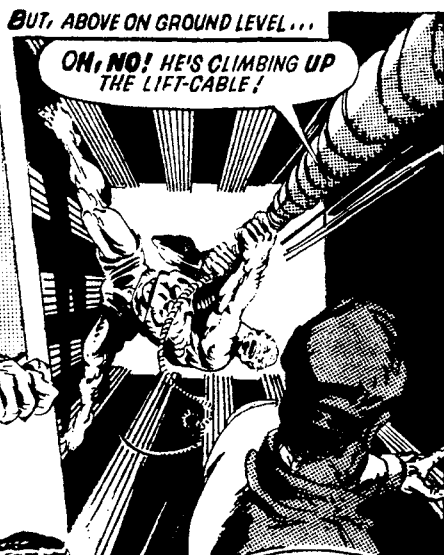
WHAT THE BLAZES...? NO, NO!

WUURGH!

GOTTA SEAL HIM IN!



HECK—HE'S TEARING HIS WAY THROUGH INTO THE LIFT. TURN OFF THE POWER—FAST!



BUT, ABOVE ON GROUND LEVEL...
OH, NO! HE'S CLIMBING UP THE LIFT-CABLE!



GOTTA CONTACT SHARPE! TELL 'IM THE IMPOSSIBLE'S HAPPENED! TELL 'IM MACH ZERO'S ESCAPED!

AARGH!



KILL SHARPE!

BUT PROBE HAD LEARNT ALL ABOUT MACH ZERO.

SO THERE WERE OTHER MACH MEN. IT'S ALL IN THIS FILE I "BORROWED" FROM SHARPE'S OFFICE.

ZERO ESCAPED? YOU FOOL! CALL OUT THE ARMY, TRACK HIM DOWN! BUT DON'T ALERT PROBE! I DON'T WANT HIM FINDING OUT HOW I'VE TREATED MACH ZERO!

AND THAT RAT SHARPE'S BEEN KEEPING MACH ZERO CAGED UP FOR THREE YEARS. MACH ZERO NEEDS HELP. HE AND I SHARE THE SAME UNIQUE BOND OF COMPU-PUNCTURE AND I'M GOING TO HELP HIM!

WATCH THRILL-POWERED CONTINUANCE + + + NEXT PROG

TAKE THE STRENGTH OF
FIFTY MEN—MIX IT WITH
ENOUGH HATE FOR A HUNDRED—
THAT'LL GIVE YOU THE MAN
CALLED—

**MACH
ZERO!**

UUUUURGH!
ZERO FREE!

MACH ZERO'S
ESCAPING...
AAAH!

OBJECT OF THE COMPU-PUNCTURE
PROCESS: TO TURN A TOP SECRET
AGENT INTO A SUPERHUMAN...
FOR MACH ZERO, THE EXPERIMENT
HAD GONE BADLY WRONG!

MACH

MAN ACTIVATED BY COMPU-PUNCTURE HYPERPOWER!

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SCRIPT ROBOT
STEVE MACMANUS
ART ROBOT
RAMON SOLA
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER

COMPU-73E

IN LONDON, A MAN READ
ZERO'S FILE...



SHARPE HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE TESTS WHICH HAD TURNED
A NORMAL MAN INTO MACH ZERO



AFTER ESCAPING FROM HIS
UNDERGROUND 'PRISON'
LOCATED IN THE WILDS OF
WALES, MACH ZERO HAS
ONLY TWO THOUGHTS. TO
SEE HIS SON TOMMY, AND
TO KILL SHARPE IN REVENGE!

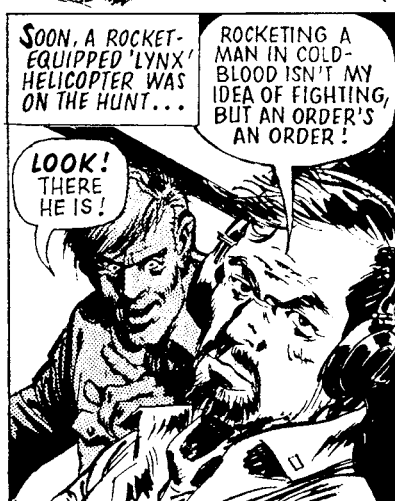
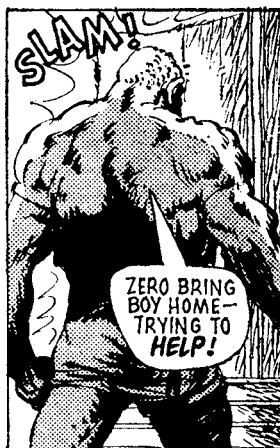
SUDDENLY...



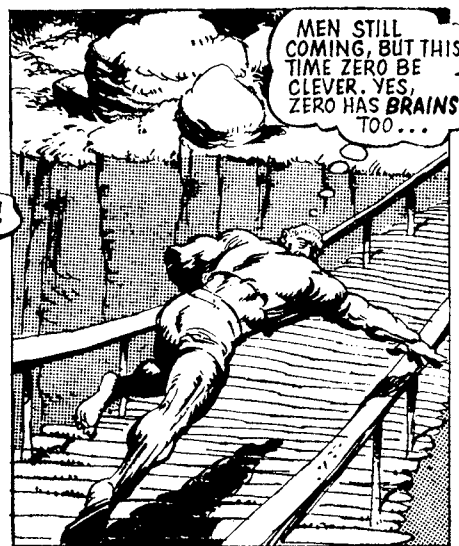
ZERO WAS CONFUSING THE BOY WITH HIS
OWN SON. THE SON HE HAD NOT SEEN FOR
THREE YEARS...

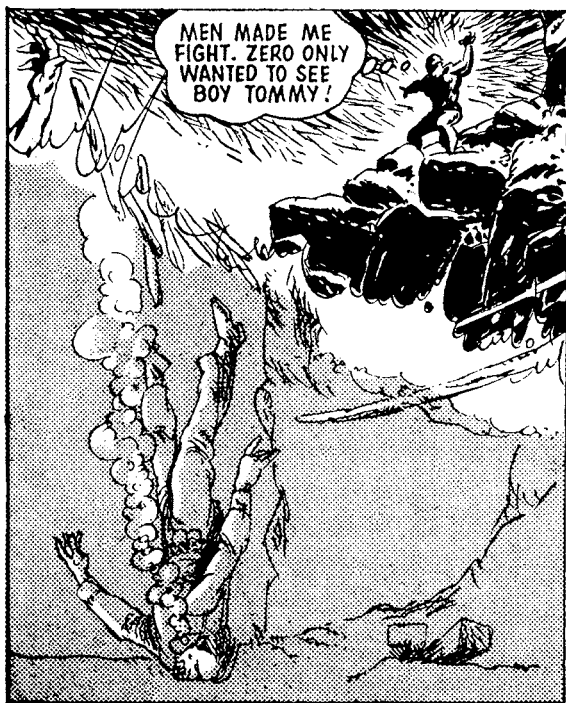
ER- THANKS FOR
SAVING ME,
MISTER!











SHARPE COULD NOT BELIEVE HIS EARS!

ESCAPED!

ZERO'S GOT A FATHER'S LOVE FOR HIS SON! HE'LL GO TO HIS OLD HOUSE ON THE COAST—



BUT, ELSEWHERE—ANOTHER MACH MAN HAD READ ZERO'S FILE AND TAKEN A DECISION...

THE MACH ZERO FILE IS **INCREDIBLE!** I ALWAYS TRUSTED SHARPE AND BELIEVED THAT THROUGH COMPU-PUNCTURE I WAS THE FIRST AND ONLY MACH MAN!

NO, MACH ZERO MUST **NOT** DIE! MACH ONE WILL SAVE HIM!



MAN ACTIVATED BY COMPU-PUNCTURE HYPERPOWER!

MACH ZERO'S HEADING FOR THE HOUSE HE USED TO LIVE IN— YOU MAKE SURE IT'S THE HOUSE HE DIES IN!

M.A.C.H. 1



THE HUNTER— DENIS SHARPE, THE MAN IN THE ARMoured VEHICLE, HEAD OF THE SECRET SERVICE AND RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMPU-PUNCTURE EXPERIMENTS WHICH TURNED A SECRET AGENT INTO MACH ZERO!

THE HUNTED— MACH ZERO. A MAN LEFT WITH AN INCREDIBLE, UNCONTROLLABLE STRENGTH, ALTHOUGH IMPRISONED BY SHARPE, ZERO HAS ESCAPED WITH TWO AMBITIONS IN HIS CONFUSED MIND... TO SEE HIS SON TOMMY... AND TO SEEK REVENGE ON SHARPE!

2000AD
Credit Card:

SCRIPT ROBOT
STEVE McMANUS
ART ROBOT
RAMON SOLA
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER

COMPU-73e

JOHN PROBE (CODE NAME MACH ONE)...
THE EXPERIMENT THAT HAD WORKED!

THIS IS AS FAR AS
YOU GO, SHARPE!
I KNOW ALL ABOUT
MACH ZERO NOW!

PROBE!

GET OUT OF THE
WAY, PROBE! ZERO'S
A MENACE TO SECURITY
AND I'VE GOT THE
AUTHORITY TO DEAL
WITH HIM HOW
I SEE FIT!



YOU HEARD, MISTER—
MOVE!

SURE!

PROBE MOVED AT
HYPER-SPEED...



AAAAHHHH!

YOU'VE **BLOWN**
HIS MIND, BUT YOU'LL
ONLY **BLOW** HIS HEAD **OVER**
MY DEAD BODY! WE'RE
GOING TO **HELP HIM**
NOT **KILL HIM!**

MEET MACH ZERO



ZERO'S
HEAD HURT
HURT LIKE
FIRE!

HE WANDERED NEARBY—
STILL SUFFERING THE PAIN
FROM THE FAILED EXPERIMENT—
PAIN CAUSED BY SHARPE—THE
MAN HE HAD TRUSTED!



UUUUH...
WATER!
WATER PUT
OUT FIRE...



A **DEMON!**
DEMON IN
WATER!

NO!



IT-IT ME!
... NOSE BENT...
MOUTH CRUEL!

ZERO—
ZERO
UGLY!



WHO DID THIS?



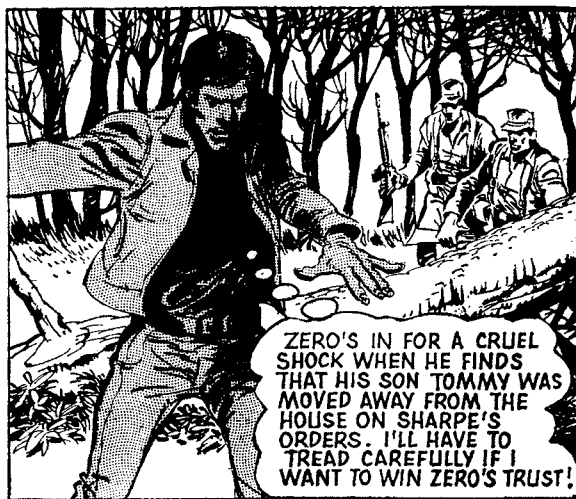
SHARPE!



ZERO RAN TO HIS HOUSE, UNAWARE OF THE FIGURES CONCEALED ALL AROUND...

TOMMY!
DADDY'S HOME!

THERE YOU ARE, PROBE. I'LL GIVE YOU FIFTEEN MINUTES TO MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR FRIEND!



ZERO'S IN FOR A CRUEL SHOCK WHEN HE FINDS THAT HIS SON TOMMY WAS MOVED AWAY FROM THE HOUSE ON SHARPE'S ORDERS. I'LL HAVE TO TREAD CAREFULLY IF I WANT TO WIN ZERO'S TRUST!



INSIDE...

GOOD GRIEF, I DON'T BELIEVE IT!



TOMMY'S GONE, FROG. EVERYONE'S BETRAYED ZERO...

DON'T BE SAD, ZERO. TRUST ME, I'M STILL YOUR FRIEND!

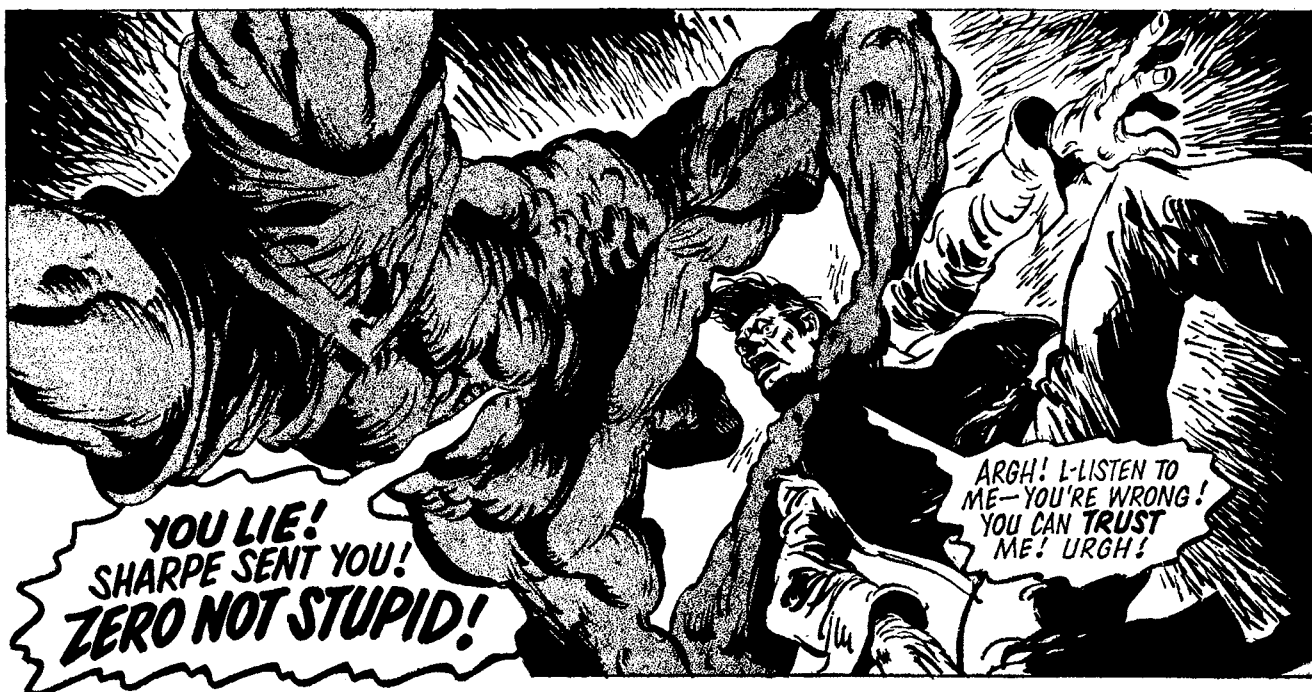


ZERO'S TALKING TO HIS T-SHIRT AND MIMICKING ITS VOICE! NOW, MORE THAN EVER HE NEEDS MY HELP!



I'M A FRIEND. I'VE COME TO HELP!

UHHHH?



YOU LIE!
SHARPE SENT YOU!
ZERO NOT STUPID!

ARGH! L-LISTEN TO ME—YOU'RE WRONG! YOU CAN TRUST ME! URGH!



1978 - A NEW YEAR/2000 A.D. A NEW-LOOK COMIC/ DON'T MISS NEXT PROG!

MACH 1

MACH ZERO

MACH I IS SUPPOSED TO BRING MACH ZERO OUT **PEACEFULLY**, YET THE HOUSE IS GETTING **KNOCKED TO PIECES!**

MOVE IN AND MAKE SURE THAT ZERO DOESN'T COME OUT ALIVE!

THE EXPERIMENTS OF SECRET SERVICE BOSS DENIS SHARPE HAD GIVEN TWO AGENTS INCREDIBLE **HYPER-POWERS**. FOR THE FIRST TIME THE TWO MEN HAD COME **FACE TO FACE!**

INSIDE THE HOUSE THE **BATTLE OF THE MACH MEN** WAS IN FULL SWING...

AAAGGH!

JOHN PROBE (CODENAME MACH I) COULD CONTROL HIS HYPERPOWER—MACH ZERO COULD NOT!

ZERO NOT TRUST YOU!

MUST GET ZERO TO TRUST ME, IF HE DOESN'T CALM DOWN, SHARPE WILL HAVE HIM DESTROYED!

2000AD
Credit Card

SCRIPT ROBOT
STEVE MACMANUS
ART ROBOT
RAMON SOLA
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER

COMPU-73e



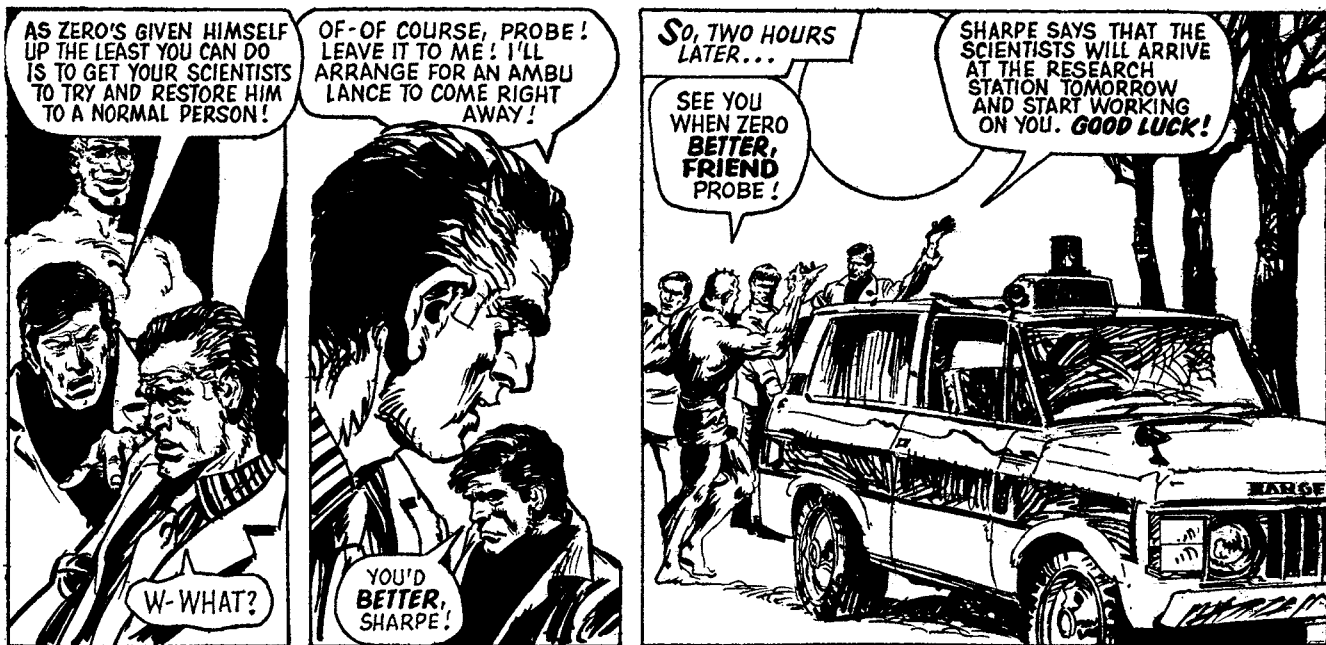


SHARPE GASPED
IN AMAZEMENT
AT THE SCENE IN
THE REMAINS OF
THE HOUSE!

ZERO FIND
A FRIEND.
ZERO CALM
NOW!

SURPRISED TO SEE US
BOTH ALIVE, EH SHARPE?
SORRY ABOUT YOUR TROOPS.
GUESS THEY SHOULD HAVE
HAD A LITTLE MORE PRACTICE
AT TRAINING SCHOOL!

ZERO!
PROBE!



AS ZERO'S GIVEN HIMSELF
UP THE LEAST YOU CAN DO
IS TO GET YOUR SCIENTISTS
TO TRY AND RESTORE HIM
TO A NORMAL PERSON!

OF-OF COURSE, PROBE!
LEAVE IT TO ME! I'LL
ARRANGE FOR AN AMBU
LANCE TO COME RIGHT
AWAY!

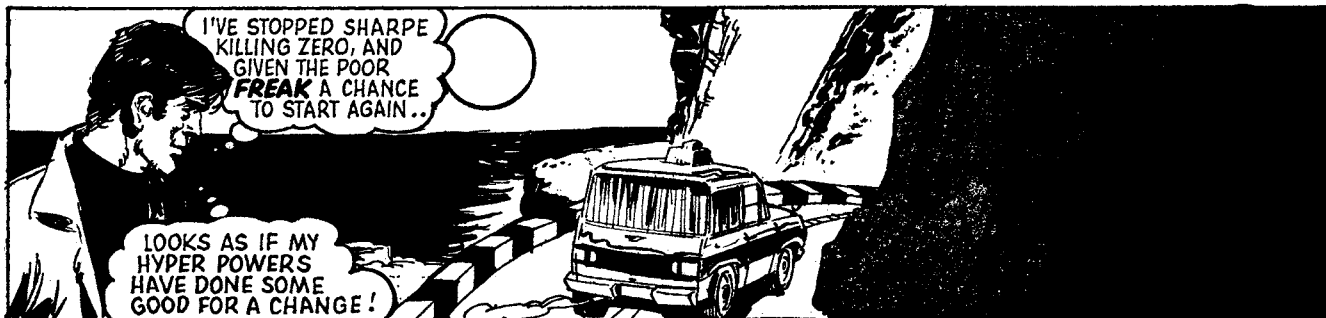
SO, TWO HOURS
LATER...

SEE YOU
WHEN ZERO
BETTER,
FRIEND
PROBE!

SHARPE SAYS THAT THE
SCIENTISTS WILL ARRIVE
AT THE RESEARCH
STATION TOMORROW
AND START WORKING
ON YOU. GOOD LUCK!

W-WHAT?

YOU'D
BETTER,
SHARPE!



I'VE STOPPED SHARPE
KILLING ZERO, AND
GIVEN THE POOR
FREAK A CHANCE
TO START AGAIN..

LOOKS AS IF MY
HYPER POWERS
HAVE DONE SOME
GOOD FOR A CHANGE!





IT'S A
BALL OF FIRE!
ZERO'S DEAD!
AND THIS WAS **NO**
ACCIDENT!



AT MACH-SPEED,
PROBE RAN BACK
TO SHARPE'S
MOBILE H.Q.—

SHARPE
LIED TO ME!

HE NEVER
MEANT ZERO
TO LIVE!

AND NOW
I'M THE ONE
WITH MURDER
IN HIS HEART—

YOU'RE
GONNA DIE
SHARPE!



WHERE
IS HE?
**WHERE'S
SHARPE?**

YOU JUST MISSED
HIM. PROBE, SAID HE
HAD TO LEAVE IN A HURRY
BUT HE LEFT A MESSAGE
FOR YOU ON THIS
VIDEO PLAYER—



I KNOW HOW ANGRY
YOU'LL BE, PROBE, BUT
IT HAD TO BE DONE!
THERE IS **NO WAY** THAT
THE PROCESS CAN BE
REVERSED, AND I WAS
ACTING IN THE **NATION'S**
INTEREST!

I'LL BE AWAY FOR A
FEW WEEKS ON HOLIDAY.
BY THE TIME I COME
BACK YOU'LL HAVE
COOLED DOWN AND
SEEN REASON!

MAYBE,
SHARPE.
MAYBE...



BUT RIGHT NOW I DON'T
HAVE TO **SEE** OR **HEAR** YOU
AT ALL! **YOU ASSASSIN!**



FIRST YOU
DOUBLE-CROSSED
MACH ZERO...

SECOND
YOU DOUBLE
CROSSED
ME...

MAYBE THERE'S
EVEN A **MACH TWO**
WAITING TO TAKE OVER
WHEN I BECOME AN-
OTHER MAN YOU CAN'T
AFFORD TO LEAVE
ALIVE!

**JOHN PROBE TAKES A BREAK
TO THINK THINGS OVER WHILE
SHARPE'S OUT OF THE COUNTRY
—LOOK OUT FOR A NEW STORY
NEXT PROG!**

IN A RUN DOWN NIGHT CLUB IN ONE OF THE
LESS DESIRABLE AREAS OF NEW YORK.

OVER THERE
AT THAT TABLE... **HE'S**
YOUR MAN! BUT **NO**
TROUBLE PLEASE!

JUST BE
THANKFUL THAT
YOU AIN'T THE
ONE I'M AFTER!

LET'S
SEE!

THIS IS
THE GUY THAT
SHARPE
WANTS...

**JOHN
PROBE!**

2000AD
Credit Card:

SCRIPT ROBOT
ROY PRESTON

ART ROBOT
MONTERO

LETTERING ROBOT
BILL NUTTALL

COMPU-73E

MARCH 1



AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS POWERS
JOHN PROBE WOULD HAVE
HAD THE STRENGTH OF
FIFTY MEN. EVEN IN HIS
WEAKENED STATE...



**TIRING FAST... HAVE TO
FINISH THIS FIGHT
QUICKLY!**



ALL SHARPE
HAS EVER
DONE...



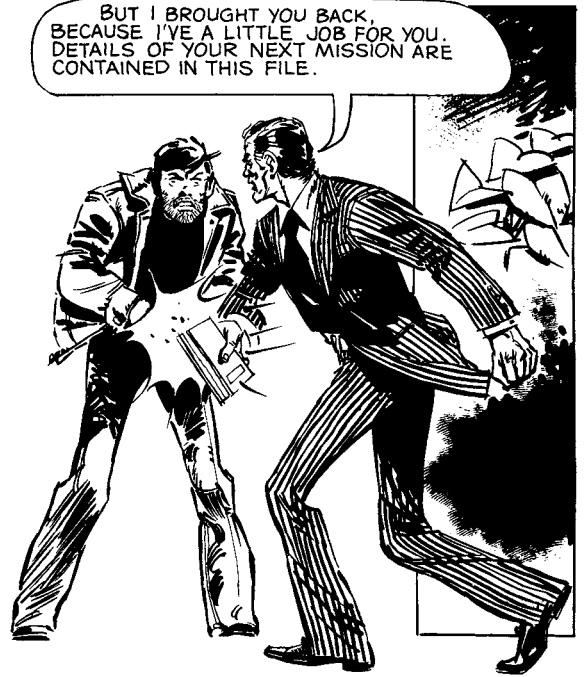
**...IS
DESTROYED
THINGS!**

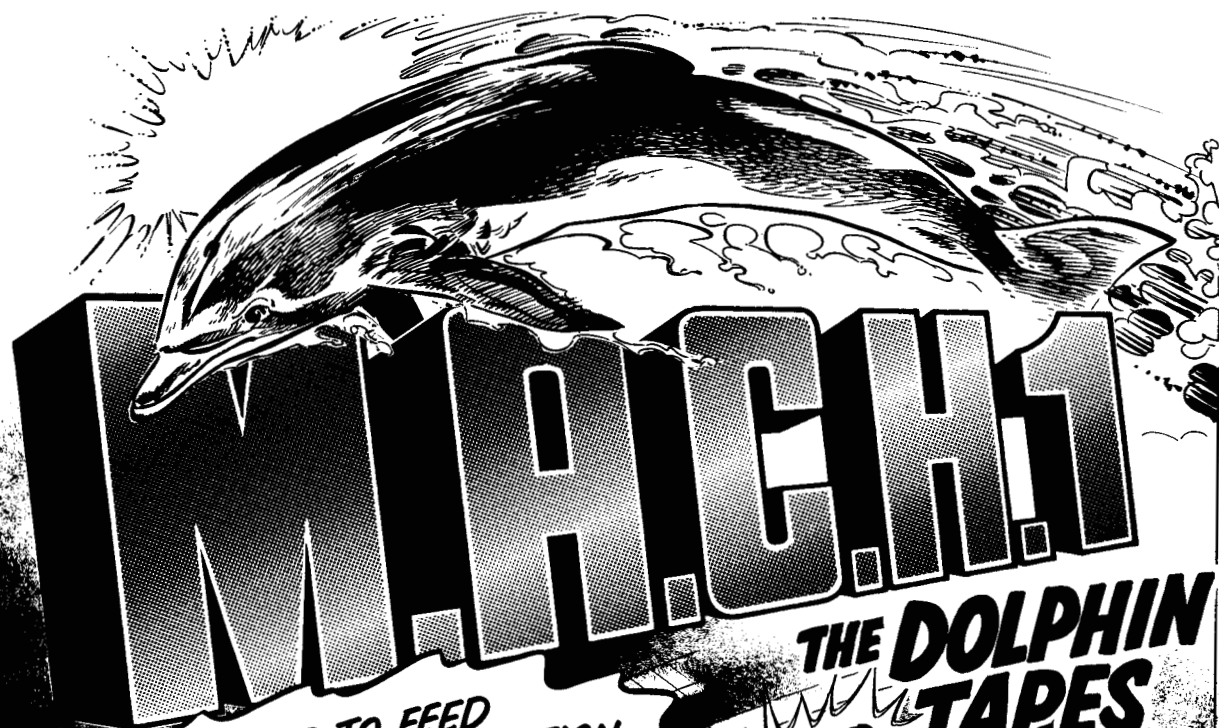


GOTTA
GET OUT OF
HERE!









THE DOLPHIN TAPES

TRYING TO FEED
TOO MUCH INFORMATION
INTO MY COMPUTERISED
BRAIN CIRCUITS!

IT'S GONNA
EXPLODE
MY HEAD!

2000AD
Credit Card:

SCRIPT ROBOT
STEVE McMANUS

ART ROBOT
REDDNOO

LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER

COMPU-73E

COMPU-PUNCTURE TREATMENT HAD GIVEN AGENT JOHN PROBE HYPER-POWERS WHICH COULD GENERATE IN HIM THE STRENGTH OF FIFTY MEN.

HOWEVER, WITHOUT FURTHER INJECTIONS HE WILL **BURN HIMSELF OUT COMPLETELY**, AND HIS BOSS, DENIS SHARPE, THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN GIVE THE LIFE-SAVING TREATMENT, IS NOW FORCING PROBE TO UNDERTAKE A MISSION AGAINST HIS WILL!

MISSION: TO VISIT A DOLPHIN RESEARCH AREA IN THE FLORIDA KEYS. USING THE COVER OF BEING A DELPHINOLOGIST, STEAL A TOP SECRET U.S.A. GOVERNMENT RESEARCH PROJECT CALLED THE DOLPHIN TAPES. ALSO, FIND WHAT HAPPENED TO AGENT ROBERT PEEL LAST LOCATED IN FLORIDA KEYS WHILE WORKING ON THE SAME MISSION--





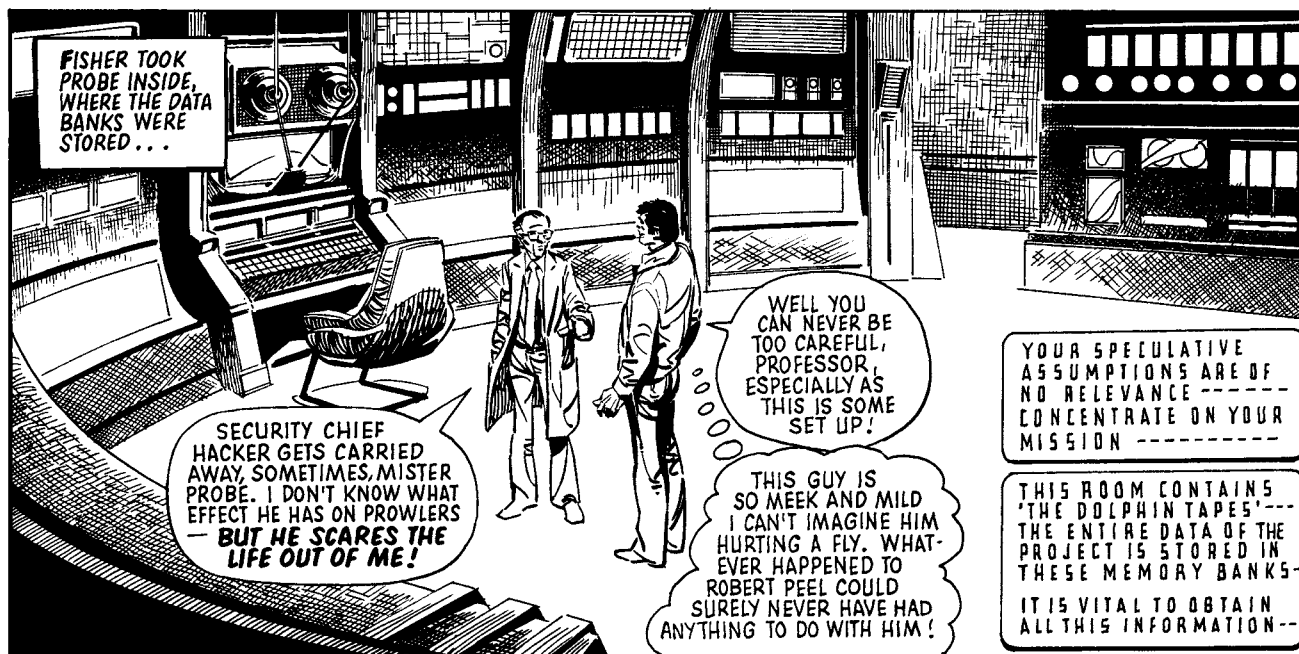
HUMPH! I'M MEANT TO BE **CHIEF SECURITY GUARD** AROUND HERE, FISHER.

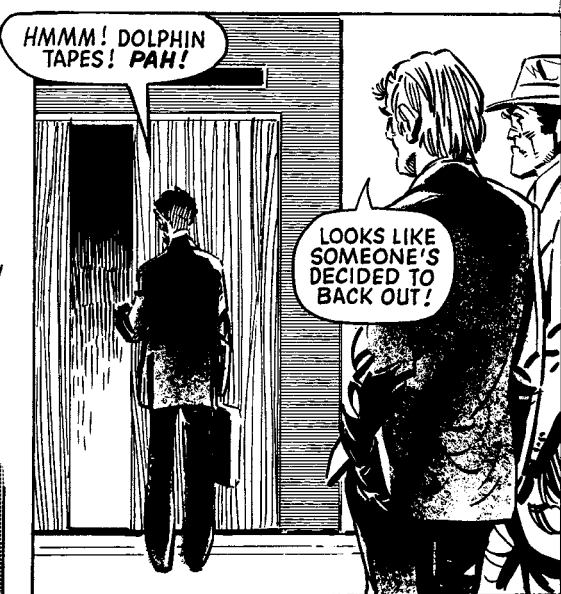
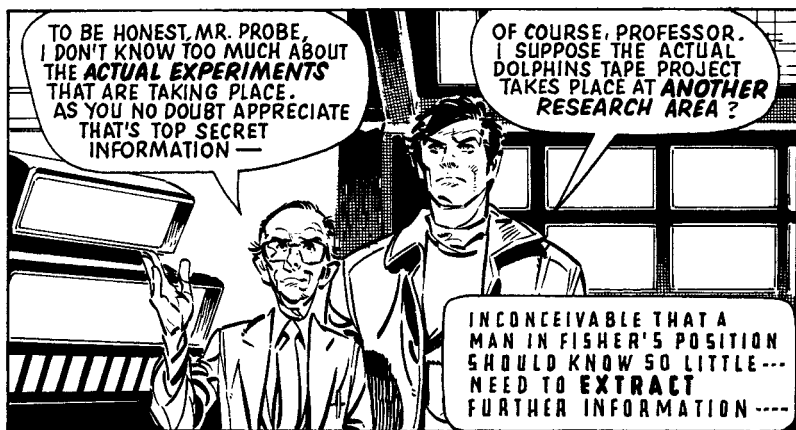
I'M PROFESSOR FISHER. S- SORRY ABOUT THAT, MISTER P-PROBE!

SO JUST LET ME KNOW WHEN YOUR CRONIES ARE COMING NEXT TIME!

THINK NOTHING OF IT, PROFESSOR FISHER!

...WE'LL PLAY ROUGH!









THAT EVENING...

HERE I AM SNEAKING AROUND LIKE A **CHEAP THIEF**, JUST TO STEAL SOME **CRUMMY** RESEARCH PROJECT FOR A RAT LIKE SHARPE...

YOU **SURE** YOU CAN HANDLE THIS, COMPUTER?

IF I WASN'T TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO **BOB PEEL**— I'D NOT GO THROUGH WITH THIS!

PUT THE HEAD-PHONES ON. ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE DATA BANKS ARE ABOUT TO BE FED **DIRECTLY** INTO YOUR BRAIN ———



PROCEED—

OKAY...

ARRGGH!

DANGER! OVERLOAD ON CIRCUITS!

MY BRAIN FEELS LIKE IT'S EXPLODING!

TOO GREAT INTENSITY OF DATA.
CONCLUSION:
DOLPHIN TAPES NOT TAKEN IN.
NEW COURSE OF ACTION:
TRY AGAIN---

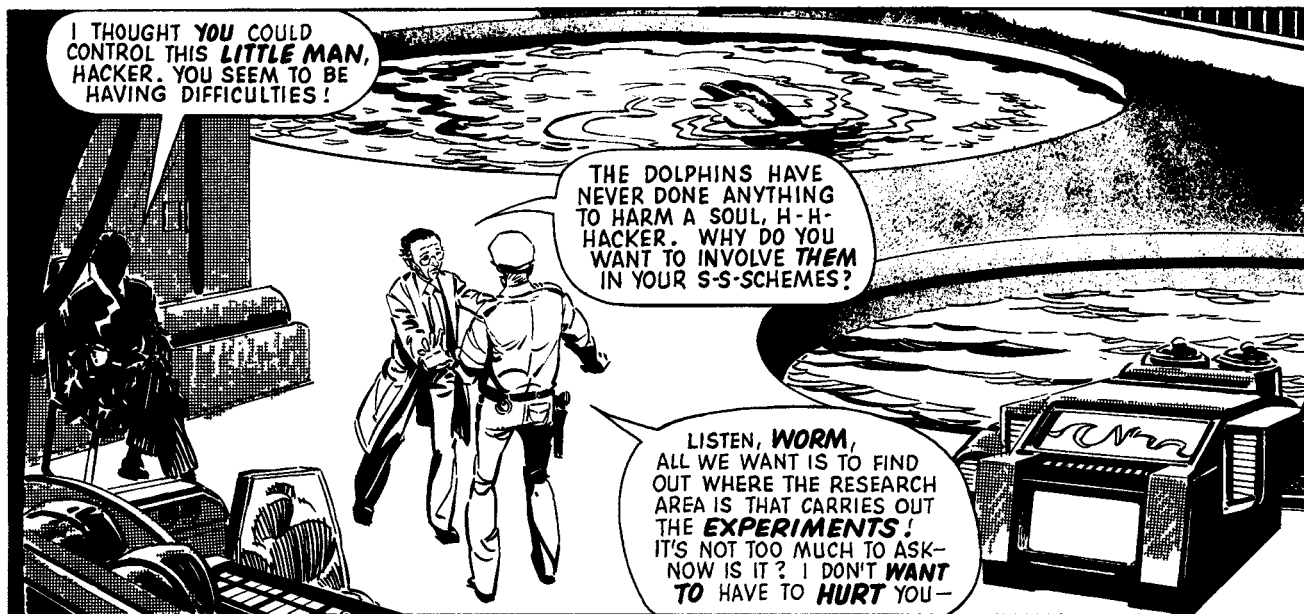
COMPUTER, YOU ALMOST **FRY MY SKULL** BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WORK YOUR SUMS OUT CORRECTLY, AND NOW YOU WANT ME TO TRY AGAIN. **I OUGHT TO...**



NOISE OUTSIDE ----
VOICE OF FISHER ---

HMMM!
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO CARRY ON THIS ARGUMENT LATER!

N-NO, HACKER!
I-F-FORBID IT!



MACH 1

THE DOLPHIN TAPES PART 2

U-U-UGGHHH!

Y-Y-YOU,
K-KILLED HIM,
H-HACKER!

HA!

2000 A.D.

Credit Card:

SCRIPT ROBOT
STEVE McMANUS
ART ROBOT
REDONDO
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER

COMPU-73E

LOCATION: FLORIDA KEYS. MISSION:
TO STEAL THE DOLPHIN TAPES ---

LOOK, FISHER, WE GOT
ENOUGH PROBLEMS IF WE
WANT TO STEAL THE DOLPHIN
TAPES - AND WE DON'T NEED
THIS LOUSY GUY
INTERFERING!

ARRGH!
HELP ME,
BOYS!

EVER FOUGHT
WITH A CORPSE
BEFORE,
HACKER?

SECRET AGENT JOHN PROBE
(CODENAME MACH 1) HAD
COMPUTERISED CIRCUITS
LINKED INTO HIS BRAIN,
WHICH ENABLED HIM TO
REACT AT HYPER-SPEED.
A MALFUNCTION OF HIS
CIRCUITS HAD SLOWED HIM
DOWN AS HE TRIED TO AVOID
A KNIFE THROWN TOWARDS HIM...

...BUT HE HAD STILL MANAGED TO JUST
GET HIS HANDS TO THE KNIFE, AND
PREVENT CERTAIN DEATH!

NOW HE WAS
FIGHTING BACK!

GET OUT OF HERE,
YOU RABBLE, BEFORE
SOMEONE GETS
HURT!

FROM EVIDENCE AVAILABLE
CHIEF-SECURITY OFFICER
HACKER IS PLANNING TO
STEAL THE SECRET OF THE
DOLPHIN TAPES RESEARCH
PROJECT

YEAH, AND I INTEND
TO FIND OUT JUST
WHAT'S GOING ON
ON THIS DAMN
ISLAND!

WE CAN'T
HOLD HIM,
MR SCAR-
LOTTI!

UNNNFF!

REALLY,
HACKER, YOU'RE
SUCH AN
AMATEUR!

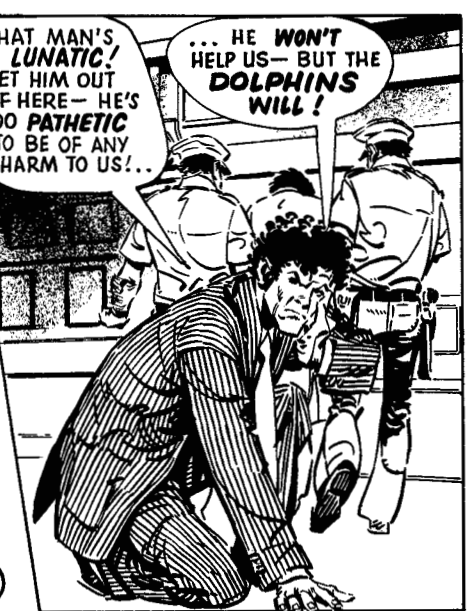
LUIGI SCARLOTTI WAS MASTER-
MINDING THE OPERATION ON
BEHALF OF A GIANT AMERICAN
BUSINESS COMBINE—

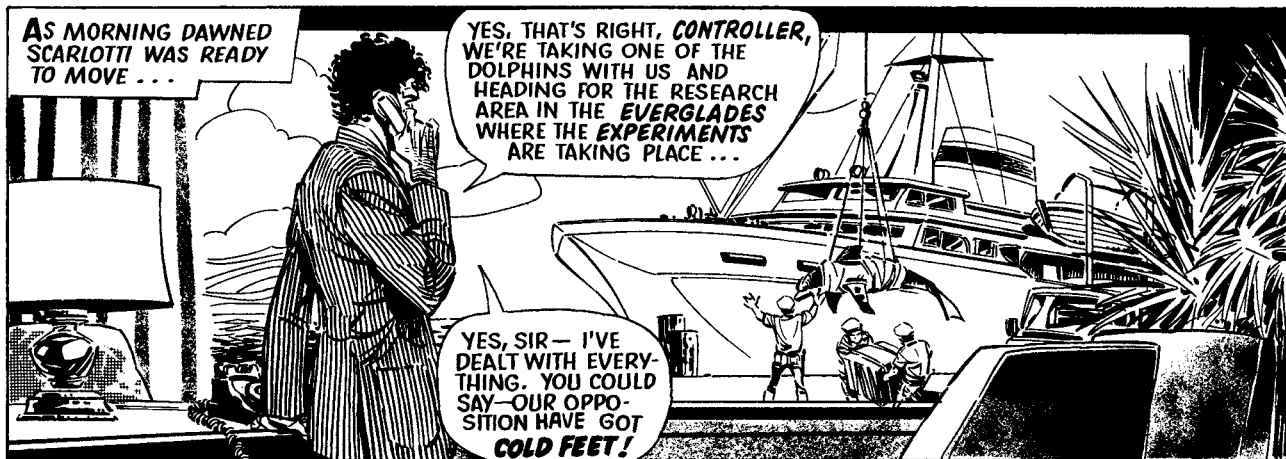
FORTUNATELY,
PROFESSOR
FISHER HAS
DESIGNED
EQUIPMENT
THAT WILL HELP
US GET RID OF
THIS FOOL!

WE LEAVE
PROBE IN
THE WATER...

..BUT WE CAN DROP THE
TEMPERATURE AT SUCH
SPEED, THAT THE WATER
FREEZES INSTANTLY—

"AND MR PROBE IS PUT ON ICE, PERMANENTLY!"





AS MORNING DAWNED SCARLOTTI WAS READY TO MOVE ...

YES, THAT'S RIGHT, **CONTROLLER**, WE'RE TAKING ONE OF THE DOLPHINS WITH US AND HEADING FOR THE RESEARCH AREA IN THE **EVERGLADES** WHERE THE **EXPERIMENTS** ARE TAKING PLACE ...

YES, SIR - I'VE DEALT WITH EVERYTHING. YOU COULD SAY - OUR OPPOSITION HAVE GOT **COLD FEET!**



BUT, AT THAT MOMENT!

METABOLIC RATE REDUCED TO MINIMUM - BUT DEATH IMMINENT UNLESS BLOOD TEMPERATURE RAISED EIGHT DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL TO ALLOW FOR MANOEUVRE--

SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

YOU WOULD BE LEFT WITH THE MENTAL AGE OF A 3-YEAR-OLD!

BUT IF I STAY HERE I'M A GONER - SO **DO IT!**

60 / 40 CHANCE IN FAVOUR OF SEVERE BRAIN DAMAGE AS A RESULT ---

TEMPERATURE RISING -- 37 DEGREES CELCIUS -- 38 -- 39 -- 40 DANGER! **DANGER!!!**

ICE IS MELTING SLIGHTLY, JUST ENOUGH FOR ME TO MOVE ME HANDS...

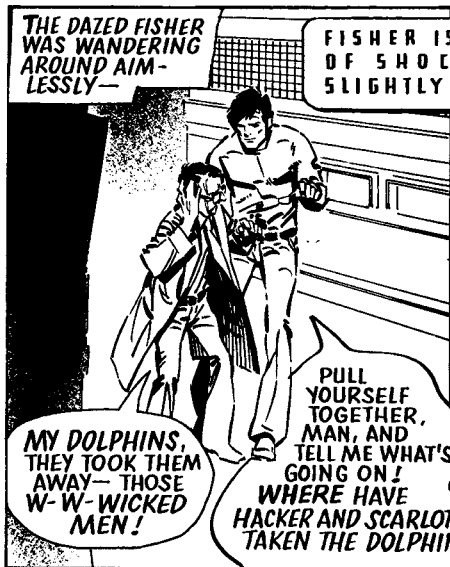


AND BREAK OUT!

HUUUUHHH!

OPERATION SUCCESSFUL

JACK FROST NEVER PACKED A PUNCH LIKE THIS!

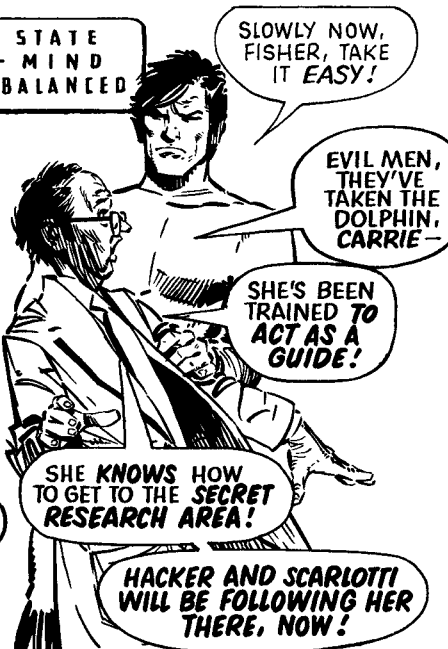


THE DAZED FISHER WAS WANDERING AROUND AIMLESSLY—

FISHER IS IN STATE OF SHOCK -- MIND SLIGHTLY UNBALANCED

MY DOLPHINS, THEY TOOK THEM AWAY— THOSE W-W-WICKED MEN!

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, MAN, AND TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON! WHERE HAVE HACKER AND SCARLOTTI TAKEN THE DOLPHIN?



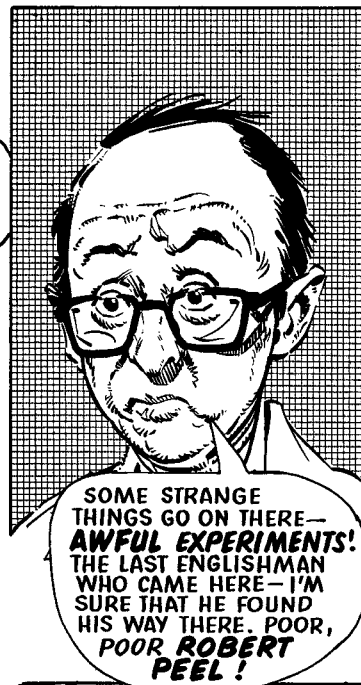
SLOWLY NOW, FISHER, TAKE IT EASY!

EVIL MEN, THEY'VE TAKEN THE DOLPHIN, CARRIE—

SHE'S BEEN TRAINED TO ACT AS A GUIDE!

SHE KNOWS HOW TO GET TO THE SECRET RESEARCH AREA!

HACKER AND SCARLOTTI WILL BE FOLLOWING HER THERE, NOW!



SOME STRANGE THINGS GO ON THERE— **AWFUL EXPERIMENTS!** THE LAST ENGLISHMAN WHO CAME HERE— I'M SURE THAT HE FOUND HIS WAY THERE. POOR, POOR ROBERT PEEL!

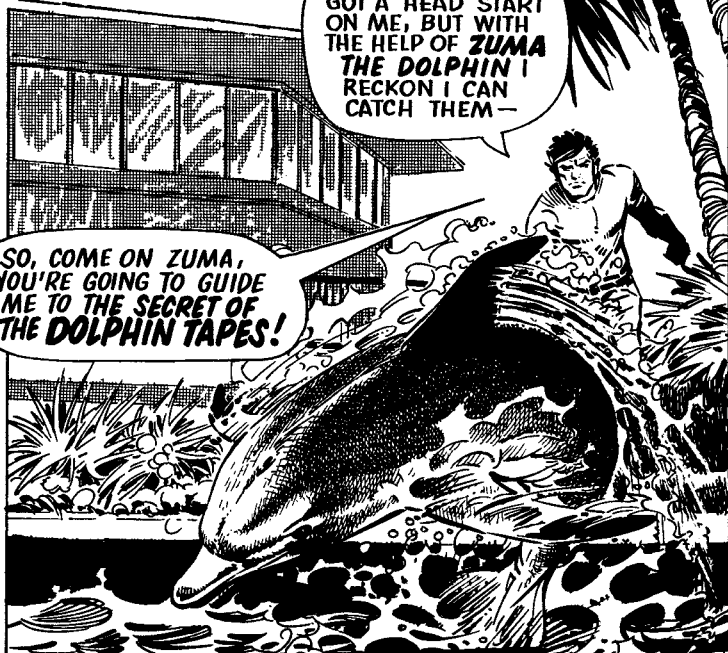


ROBERT PEEL! HE'S THE SECRET AGENT WHO WAS ORIGINALLY SENT TO STEAL THE DOLPHIN TAPES. IF ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED TO HIM I WANT TO FIND THE GUY RESPONSIBLE!

PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO THE EVERGLADES --- ZUMA THE DOLPHIN WILL ACT AS YOUR GUIDE. WHATEVER THIS MYSTERY IS YOU MUST BE THE FIRST TO FIND OUT!

HACKER AND SCARLOTTI HAVE GOT A HEAD START ON ME, BUT WITH THE HELP OF ZUMA THE DOLPHIN I RECKON I CAN CATCH THEM—

SO, COME ON ZUMA, YOU'RE GOING TO GUIDE ME TO THE SECRET OF THE DOLPHIN TAPES!



Next prog REVEALS THE HORRIBLE TRUTH OF THE EXPERIMENTS IN **AQUARIUM OF FEAR!**



THE PATH ISN'T VERY MUDDY, **MR SCARLOTTI!**

EXCELLENT, **HACKER!** I DON'T WANT TO GET MY SUIT DIRTY!

LUIGI SCARLOTTI AND **HACKER** ARE ON THEIR WAY TO STEAL A TOP SECRET RESEARCH PROJECT...

... SO, TOO, IS SECRET AGENT **JOHN PROBE** (CODENAME **M.A.C.H.I**)



C'MON, ZUMA, WE'VE GOT TO BE THE FIRST TO FIND THE **SECRET OF THE DOLPHIN TAPES!**

2000AD
Credit Card:

SCRIPT ROBOT
ONIANO
ART ROBOT
MONTERO
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER

COMPU-73e

M.A.C.H.I.1

DOLPHIN TAPES
Part 3



PROBE'S GUIDE WAS A DOLPHIN SPECIALLY TRAINED FOR THE MISSION...

... STILL I'LL TAKE NO CHANCES AND USE THE **TRADESMAN'S ENTRANCE!**

IS THIS THE PLACE ZUMA? IT DOESN'T **LOOK** LIKE THERE'S ANY SIGN OF LIFE...

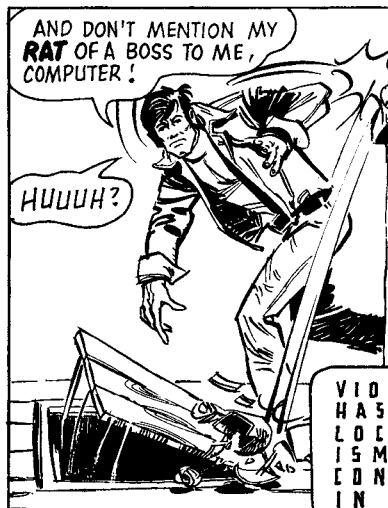
COMPLETE WASTE OF ENERGY BY FOOL-HARDY AND UNNECESSARY ACTION!





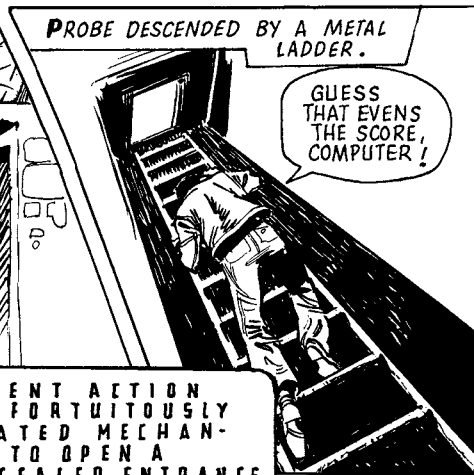
MR. SHARPE GAVE STRICT INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO WASTE POWER.

DESERTED! ALL RIGHT, COMPUTER— FIVE POINTS TO YOU THIS TIME!



AND DON'T MENTION MY **RAT** OF A BOSS TO ME, COMPUTER!

HUUUH?



PROBE DESCENDED BY A METAL LADDER.

GUESS THAT EVENS THE SCORE, COMPUTER!

VIOLENT ACTION HAS FORTUITOUSLY LOCATED MECHANISM TO OPEN A CONCEALED ENTRANCE IN THE FLOOR!



GOOD GRIEF— **LASER BEAMS!**

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

PLEASE SHOW YOUR IDENTITY CARD!

AS YOU ARE UNABLE TO PRODUCE ANY IDENTIFICATION YOU HAVE BEEN CLASSSED AS AN INTRUDER! YOU WILL BE DESTROYED!



ALTHOUGH HYPER-POWERS INCREASE SURVIVAL CHANCES MACH I MUST AVOID LASER BEAMS

AAA-AARGH!

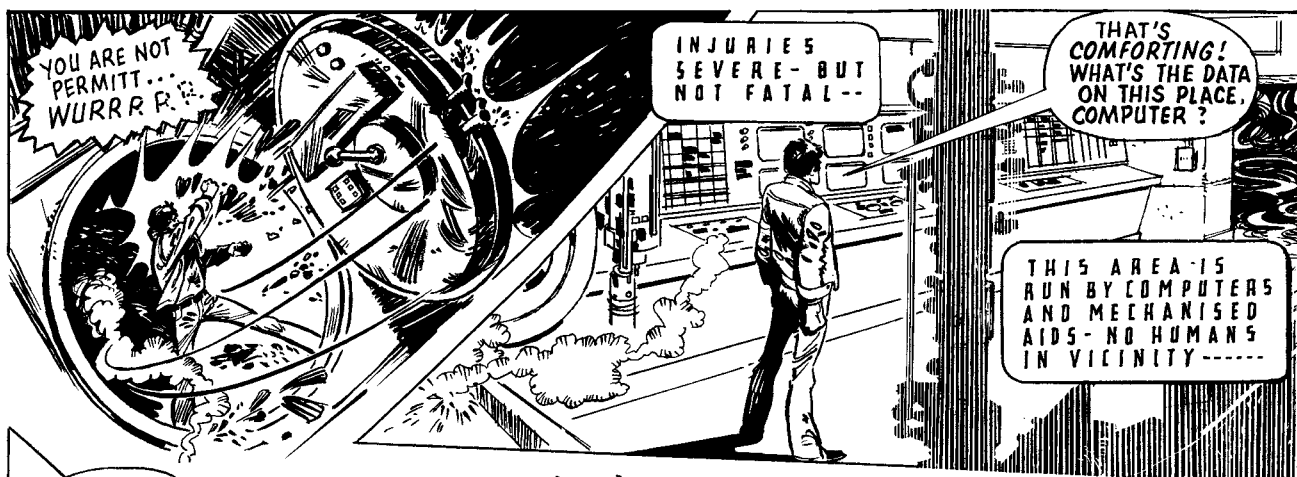
MOVE 4.8 CM5 TO LEFT-

TOO SLOW!



JUST GOTTA GO THROUGH THOSE BEAMS AND REACH THAT DOOR!

YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PASS THIS POINT WITHOUT AUTHORITY!





THAT
BIRTHMARK
ON THE NECK!

THIS THING
IT-IT'S-

ROBERT
PEEL!

SO GOOD OF
YOU TO SAVE US
THE TROUBLE OF
HAVING TO
BREAK IN!

NOW YOU KNOW
THE SECRET OF
THE EXPERIMENTS
- TO CREATE A
MAN-FISH
- A HUMAN CAPABLE
OF LIVING UNDER-
WATER! THEY SEEM
TO HAVE MADE A
MESS OF YOUR
FRIEND!

NEVER MIND...
**GO FINISH HIM,
HACKER!**

SEVERE SHOCK
EXPERIENCED
BY NERVOUS
SYSTEM -
SEVERE SHOCK
EXPERIENCED--

KEEP ON THIS FREQUENCY FOR MAXIMUM HYPER-POWER

2000 A.D.
Credit Card:
 SCRIPT ROBOT
 ONIANO
 ART ROBOT
 MONTERO
 LETTERING ROBOT
 JACK POTTER
COMPU-73e

The DOLPHIN TAPES Part 4

MARCH 1

SENT TO STEAL
 THE SECRET OF
 THE DOLPHIN
 TAPES, SECRET
 AGENT JOHN PROBE
 (CODENAME M.A.C.H. 1) FINDS HE
 HAS OPPOSITION . . .



MY COMPANION,
MR HACKER, SEEMS TO
 BEAR A SLIGHT GRUDGE
 AGAINST YOU, MR PROBE.
 I HOPE YOU CAN RESOLVE
 YOUR DIFFICULTIES,
ONCE AND FOR ALL!



HAVE TO SNAP
 OUT OF IT BEFORE
 THIS BUTCHER
 CARVES ME UP!

HAaaaaaHH!

UHHHHHHH!



OOOFFFF!

COMPU-PUNCTURE
 HAD GIVEN PROBE
 HYPER-POWERS, AND
 COMPUTERISED BRAIN
 CIRCUITS— BUT THESE
 WERE NOT FULLY
 OPERATIONAL AFTER
 EXPERIENCING
SEVERE SHOCK!

LUIGI SCARLOTTI CALMLY WATCHED THE FIGHT—



HACKER'S PART IN THE
 OPERATION WAS TO GET ME
 INTO THIS RESEARCH AREA,
 SO I COULD STEAL THE **SECRET**
TAPES . . . I DON'T THINK
 THAT HE'LL BE OF ANY
 MORE USE TO ME!

HE DECIDED IT WAS
 TIME TO TAKE OVER . . .





GETTING HOLD OF THE DOLPHIN TAPES WILL BE **EVIDENCE** ENOUGH TO BRING AGAINST THE PERSON WHO AUTHORIZED THIS SCHEME!



I'LL MAKE HIM **PAY** FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO **BOB PEEL**!



THE **TRICKLE** OF WATER FROM THE CRACKED CEILING GAVE WAY TO A **FLOOD**, WHICH CASCADED IN!

AAAHH!



BUT HACKER HAD MANAGED TO WITHSTAND THE IMPACT...

THIS IS IT, **PROBE!**



NOOOOOO!

HACKER HAD NOT NOTICED THAT **PEEL** WAS **FREE**!

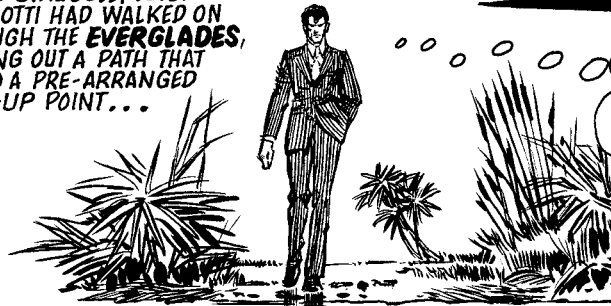


UHH! PEEL SAVED ME FROM HACKER, AND DIED IN DOING SO!

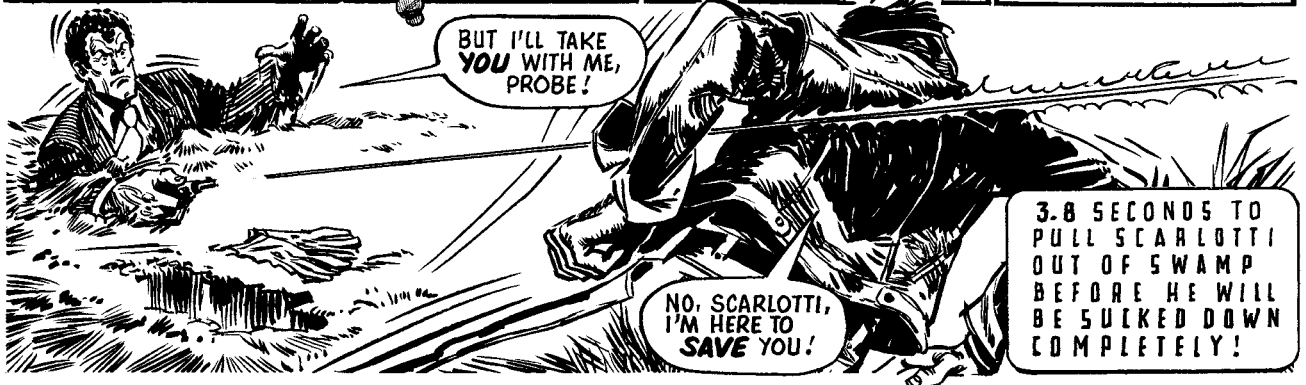
A NORMAL HUMAN WOULD HAVE **DIED**! MACH 1 ABLE TO HOLD BREATH UNDERWATER, AND ABLE TO WITHSTAND AMOUNT OF WATER ALREADY TAKEN INTO LUNGS! **IMMEDIATE ESCAPE REQUIRED IF LIFE TO BE MAINTAINED!**



UNAWARE OF THE OUTCOME OF THE STRUGGLE, LUIGI SCARLOTTI HAD WALKED ON THROUGH THE **EVERGLADES**, TAKING OUT A PATH THAT LED TO A PRE-ARRANGED PICK-UP POINT...



POOR HACKER! IF HE HADN'T BEEN SUCH A **SIMPLE BRUTE** HE WOULD HAVE REALISED THAT I COULD NEVER ALLOW HIM TO COME OUT OF THIS OPERATION **ALIVE!**





IF HE GOES **ALL** THE **WITNESSES**
GO— EXCEPT ME !



TOO LATE!

THE RESEARCH LABORATORY
IS **DESTROYED**... HACKER
AND PEEL HAVE **GONE**... EVEN
THE **DOLPHIN** WHO WAS
BROUGHT HERE HAS
ESCAPED !

AND NOW THE **LAST LINK**..
THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD
TESTIFY TO THE PROJECT
BEHIND THE **DOLPHIN TAPES**,
AND WHAT HAD HAPPENED
TO ROBERT PEEL! **CURSE**
YOU, SCARLOTTI!



BOB PEEL WAS A TRUE
FRIEND TO ME — **HE WAS**
ONE OF THE GOOD
GUYS!

BUT— **SO WHAT?**
HE'S NOW JUST
ANOTHER SECRET
AGENT TO BE CROSSED
OFF THE PAY ROLL OF
MY BOSS, DENIS
SHARPE !

IRRELEVANT!
YOUR MISSION
HAS FAILED!
MR SHARPE WILL
NOT BE PLEASED
YOU HAVE NOT
OBTAINED THE
TAPES!!!!!!!

ALERT STATUS RED + + + CRISIS POINT EXCEEDED + + +

SECRET AGENT, JOHN PROBE (CODENAME MACH1) NEVER WANTS TO RETURN TO ENGLAND FROM THE PEACE OF THE EVERGLADES, U.S.A...

WHERE CAN HE GO?

HE BELIEVES HIS BOSS, DENIS SHARPE, IS INVOLVED IN POWER SEEKING SCHEMES, BUT IS UNABLE TO PROVE ANYTHING.....

WHAT CAN HE DO?

WHAT IS THERE LEFT FOR MACH1?

JOHN PROBE'S LAST MISSION HAD ENDED UNSUCCESSFULLY, AS THE COMPUTERISED CIRCUITS IN HIS BRAIN WERE EAGER TO POINT OUT...

YOUR MISSION HAS PROVED TO BE A TOTAL FAILURE.

STOP YOU'VE GOTTA HELP ME, MISTER!

AM I DREAMING, COMPUTER?

MY BROTHER, DANNY, - HE'S IN D-DANGER!

OKAY, COMPUTER I BLEW IT, NOW FORGET IT, HUH?

HEY WAIT!

NEGATIVE. DATA CHECK REVEALS MACH1 FULLY AWAKE.

SHOW ME WHERE, LADY!

YOU HAVE NO ORDERS TO INTERVENE.

PROBE FOLLOWED THE HYSTERICAL GIRL.

DANNY!

I CAN'T JUST LEAVE THIS POOR KID TO DIE, COMPUTER. IT WOULDN'T BE HUMAN!

IRRELEVANT. NOT PART OF MISSION. MACH1 SHOULD BE RETURNING HOME.

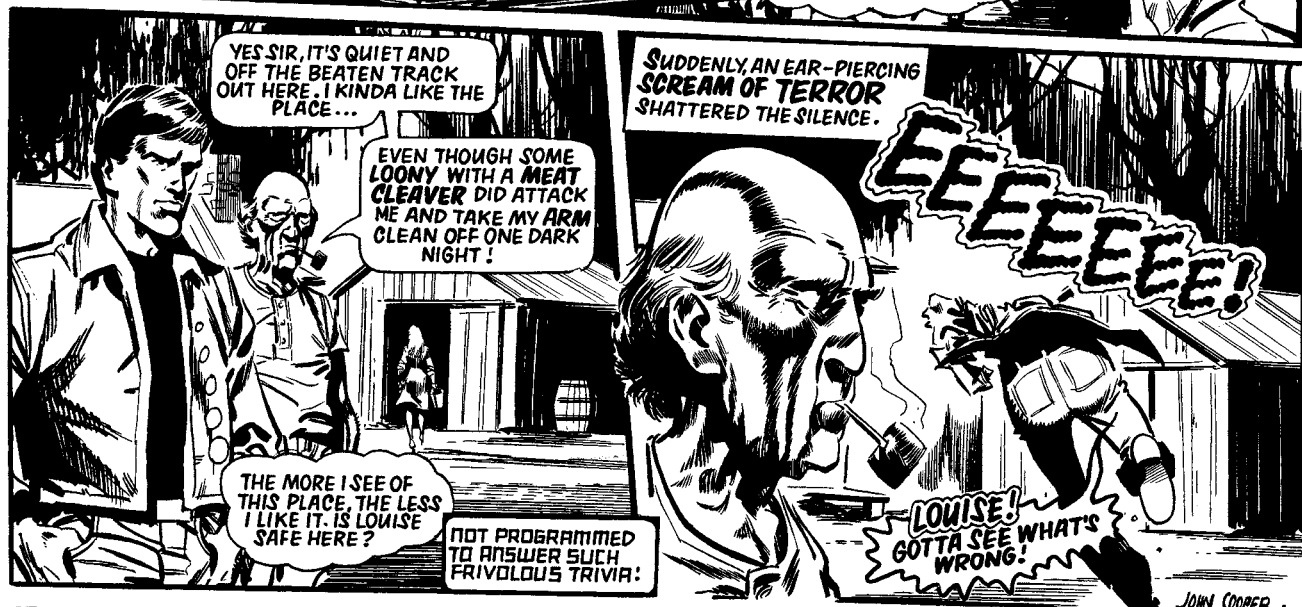
2000 A.D.

Credit Card:

SCRIPT ROBOT
ROY PRESTON
ART ROBOT
JOHN COOPER
LETTERING ROBOT
PETE KNIGHT

COMPU:73E







OH, JOHN!

IT'S ALL OVER NOW, LOUISE!

CAN'T LEAVE HER, I RECKON THESE CREEPS ARE DANGEROUS!

LATER, AS THE DAY DREW TO A CLOSE...

RECKON YOU BETTER STAY HERE FOR THE NIGHT, SON!

BUT MAKE SURE YOU LOCK YOUR DOOR - THERE'S SOME DANGEROUS CRITTERS AROUND!

THANKS!

NO PURPOSE IN STAYING.

MACH 1 HAD SO MUCH ENERGY THAT HE COULD NOT SLEEP.

REASON FOR STAYING IS PURELY EMOTIONAL.

YES, I KNOW, I KNOW!

MUST RETURN HOME FOR FURTHER ORDERS.

BUT THE BOY DANNY IS CRAZY! AND IKE, AND THE OLD COUPLE THEY MIGHT DO ANYTHING!

... ENDANGERING GOVERNMENT SECURITY BY BEING HERE...

BUT THE GIRL...

... MUST RETURN AT ONCE.

I MAY HAVE THE STRENGTH OF FIFTY MEN - BUT WHAT'S THE USE OF THAT WHEN I CAN'T THINK FOR MYSELF?

-THESE COMPUTERISED CIRCUITS IN MY BRAIN RULE MY LIFE!

PROBE HAD NOT HEARD THE SOUND OF A FIGURE ENTERING THE ROOM.

THE HOODED FIGURE BROUGHT THE DEADLY BLADE DOWN TOWARDS ITS TARGET.

UHHH!
MOVED
JUST IN
TIME!

NOW I'LL
FIND OUT
WHO
THIS JOKER
IS!

AAAAAAAA!

NO, IT'S
LOUISE!

MINUTES LATER
PROBE SET OFF
INTO THE NIGHT...

PROGRAMMED
ONLY TO OBSERVE
RATIONALLY, IN
INTERESTS OF
SPECIFIED ORDERS!

HOW WAS I TO
KNOW, COMPUTER?
OKAY, I FEEL FOR
HER, BUT I'M A
MAN NOT A
MACHINE!

YEAH! GUESS I'M
PROGRAMMED
TOO...

... I HAVE TO
FORGET ALL
HUMAN
FEELINGS...

...AND RETURN TO
THE GUY WHO DID
THIS TO ME, DENIS
SHARPE!

THE GIRL IS A HOMICIDAL PSYCOPATH
SHE LURED YOU HERE IN ORDER TO
MAKE YOU HER NEXT VICTIM.

KEEP ON THIS FREQUENCY FOR MAXIMUM HYPER-POWER

SECRET AGENT **JOHN PROBE** HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO **COMPU-PUNCTURE**, UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF HIS BOSS, **DENIS SHARPE**.

COMPU-PUNCTURE IS A COMPUTERISED FORM OF A **ACUPUNCTURE**. BY INSERTING SPECIAL **ELECTRO-NEEDLES** INTO **PROBE'S** BODY HIS **ENERGY** WILL INCREASE UNTIL HE HAS THE **STRENGTH OF FIFTY MEN!**

THE EXPERIMENTS WENT WELL...

...COMPUTERISED CIRCUITS WERE LINKED TO HIS BRAIN...

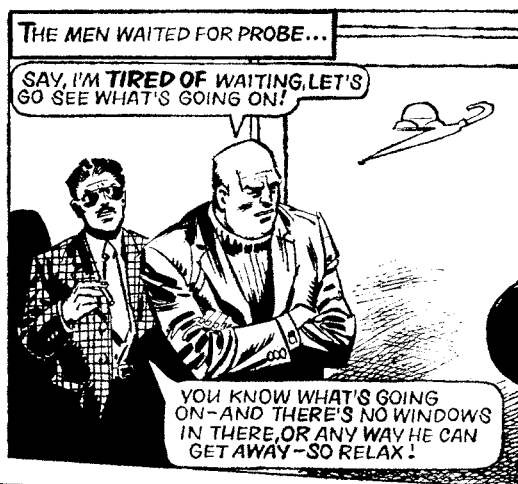
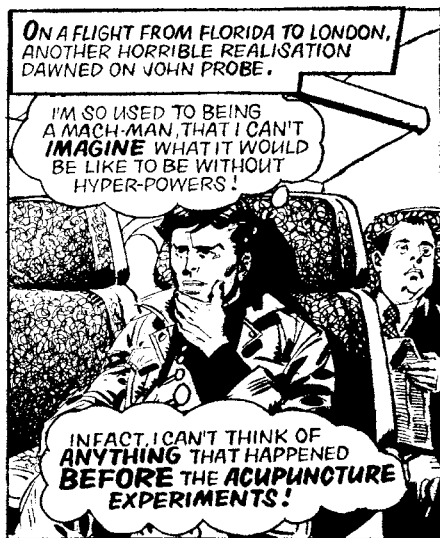
... A NEW **FIGHTING MACHINE** HAD BEEN DEVELOPED!

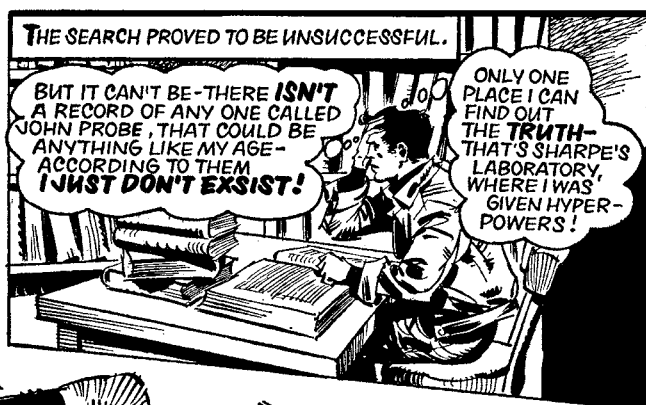
— BUT NO-ONE TOLD **PROBE** THAT WITHOUT FURTHER TREATMENT HIS **ENERGY** WOULD BURN HIM OUT— RESULTING IN **DEATH!**

TOO LATE, HE REALISED THAT HIS LIFE DEPENDED ON HIS **POWER-SEEKING BOSS, DENIS SHARPE!**

2000AD
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
LANDAU/PRESTON
ART ROBOT
LOTHANO
LETTERING ROBOT
PETE KNIGHT
COMPU-73e

M.A.C.H.!







INSIDE THE LAB.

THE EQUIPMENT THAT GIVES ME POWER, AND KEEPS ME ALIVE, IT'S ALL SMASHED I'VE GOT TO SEE SHARPE!

OH, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO, JOHN!



SHARPE! YOU MUST HAVE SOME DEATH WISH TURNING UP HERE ALONE!

NOW BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING HASTY, YOU OUGHT TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOUR REPLACEMENT—
MACH 2!



ARE YOU REALLY SUCH A FOOL AS TO THINK THAT I HADN'T TAKEN COPIES OF THE FORMULA! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THE WHOLE OPERATION WAS SET UP BY ME!

DON'T BLUFF, SHARPE, THE COMPU-PUNCTURE TREATMENT FORMULA WAS STOLEN BY THE RUSSIANS, AND TANYA DESTROYED IT! * SHE LOST HER LIFE IN CARRYING OUT THAT MISSION!

* THARG NOTE: TANYA MASKI WAS A MACH-WOMAN. SEE PROGS 37, 38, AND 39.

I ALLOWED THE SECRET TO BE STOLEN KNOWING THAT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO ENSURE IT WOULDN'T BE IN ENEMY HANDS FOR TOO LONG. IT WAS ALL A TRICK TO FOOL OUR COMPETITORS!



BUT THEN TANYA SACRIFICED HER LIFE FOR NOTHING!

TANYA WAS NO LONGER OF USE TO ME. SHE WAS ALWAYS NO MORE THAN A PAWN IN A GAME—JUST AS YOU ARE, PROBE!



AND AS YOU SEE I'VE DEVELOPED **MACH 2**, SO YOU ARE NO LONGER OF ANY USE TO ME!

MY GRIEF!



THE GIGANTIC FIGURE MOVED MENACINGLY FORWARD...

YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT, PROBE, THAT NO-ONE IS INDISPENSABLE!

Next Prog
MACH 1
v
MACH 2

ON RETURNING TO THE LABORATORY WHERE HE HAD UNDERGONE COMPU-PUNCTURE TREATMENT, JOHN PROBE DISCOVERED THAT HIS BOSS, DENIS SHARPE, HAD A LITTLE SURPRISE IN STORE...

SUBJECT:
SECRET AGENT
JOHN PROBE

PROCESS:
COMPU-PUNCTURE
HYPERPOWER

DATA:
COMPU-PUNCTURE IS A COMPUTERISED FORM OF ACUPUNCTURE. BY INSERTING SPECIAL ELECTRO NEEDLES INTO PROBE'S BODY, HIS ENERGY FLOW WILL INCREASE UNTIL HE HAS THE STRENGTH OF FIFTY MEN!

**SUBJECT'S
CODENAME:**
MACH 1

MAN
ACTIVATED
COMPU-
HYPERPOWER
BY
PUNCTURE

**MACH 2! HE'S
COMING STRAIGHT
FOR ME!**

**YOU CAN'T REMEMBER
ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED
BEFORE THE COMPU-
PUNCTURE EXPERIMENTS,
AND YOU CAME HERE TO
FIND THE TRUTH...**

**BUT, THE TRUTH IS THAT
MACH 2 IS STRONGER
THAN YOU, AND I'VE
ORDERED HIM TO
DESTROY YOU!**

MACH 1

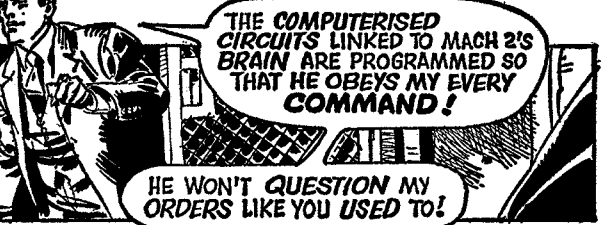
**NOTHING
PERSONAL,
BUT IF YOU'RE
A FRIEND OF
SHARPE...**

**...YOU'RE NO
FRIEND OF
MINE!**

**2000AD
Credit Card:**

**SCRIPT ROBOT
LANDAU / PRESTON
ART ROBOTS
LOTHANO
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER**

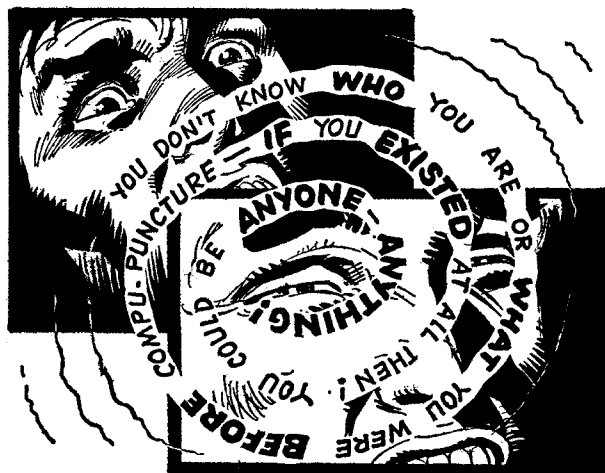
COMPU-73E



NOTHING CAN STOP HIM FROM HIS TASK OF DEALING WITH YOU!







M.A.C.H.1

THE FINAL ENCOUNTER

THINK OF THE WILDEST, MOST AMAZING MISSION OF ALL TIMES... AND YOU ARE ON THE RIGHT LINES... BUT CAST YOUR MIND BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF IMAGINATION AND YOU ARE READY FOR THIS!



TOP SECRET

DEATH REPORT
SECURITY FILE CLASSIFIED
NUMBER: 3652/A

NAME: ... PROBE
CHRISTIAN NAME: JOHN
AGE... 32
CODE NAME: ... MACH ONE
COLOUR OF HAIR: ...
BROWN
COLOUR OF EYES: ...
BLUE
DISTINGUISHING MARKS: ...
KNIFE SCAR ON ABDOMEN
CAUSE OF DEATH: ...
MULTIPLE BULLET WOUNDS
CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH:
TOP SECRET



A GRAVEYARD IN SOUTHERN ENGLAND...



WE THEREFORE
COMMEND THE
BODY OF JOHN
PROBE TO
THE GROUND...

DUST TO DUST...
ASHES TO ASHES...



2000AD
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
PAT MILLS
ART ROBOTS
MONTERO
LETTERING ROBOT
JOHN ALDRICH
COMPU-73E

78

TWO MEN SOLEMNLY TURNED AWAY FROM THE GRAVE; SIR MILES RATHBONE, HEAD OF THE SECRET SERVICE, AND DOCTOR MOXAN, CHIEF OFFICER.

WELL, WE BURIED MACH ONE, SIR MILES... BUT WE'VE STILL GOT TO DECIDE WHETHER HE DIED A **TRAITOR** TO HIS COUNTRY, OR A **HERO!**

THAT'S WHAT THE **ENQUIRY TOMORROW** MUST FIND OUT!

NEXT MORNING IN WHITEHALL... A MEETING OF THE **CHIEFS OF STAFF** PRESIDED OVER BY SIR MILES...

REALLY, SIR MILES— IS THIS ENQUIRY **NECESSARY**? IT'S **OBVIOUS** AGENT MACH ONE WAS A **TRAITOR!**

LOOK AT THE FACTS... HE WAS **RESPONSIBLE** FOR THE **DEATH** OF HIS OWN BOSS, **DENIS SHARPE!**

IF YOU ASK ME... MACH ONE **DESERVED** TO DIE!

THAT'S **ENOUGH!**

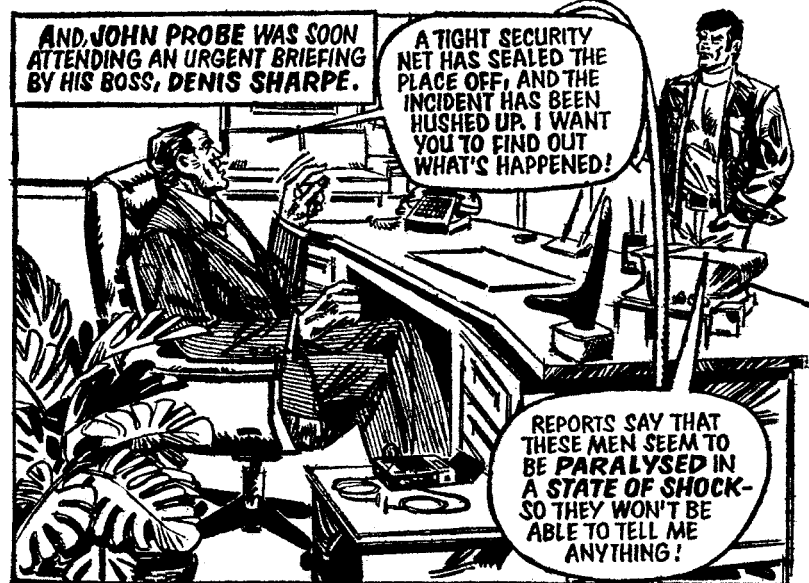
IT IS FOR THIS ENQUIRY TO DECIDE, **ONLY** AFTER HEARING ALL THE EVIDENCE, WHETHER MACH ONE WAS **INNOCENT...** OR **GUILTY!**

FIRST, LET US HEAR THE **FACTS!**

MACH ONE'S LAST ASSIGNMENT BEGAN WHEN A HELICOPTER FROM THE ARMY AIR CORPS FLEW INTO ARMY BASE ALDERSHOT, EARLY ONE SPRING MORNING...

BLIMEY! THE LADS MUST HAVE **OVER-SLEPT** THIS MORNING!

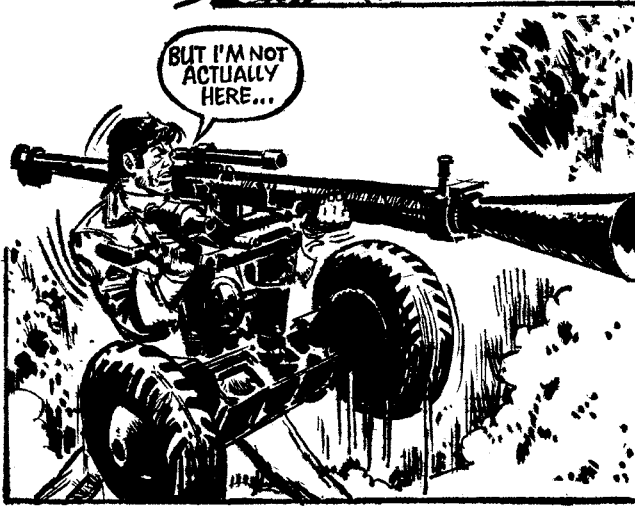
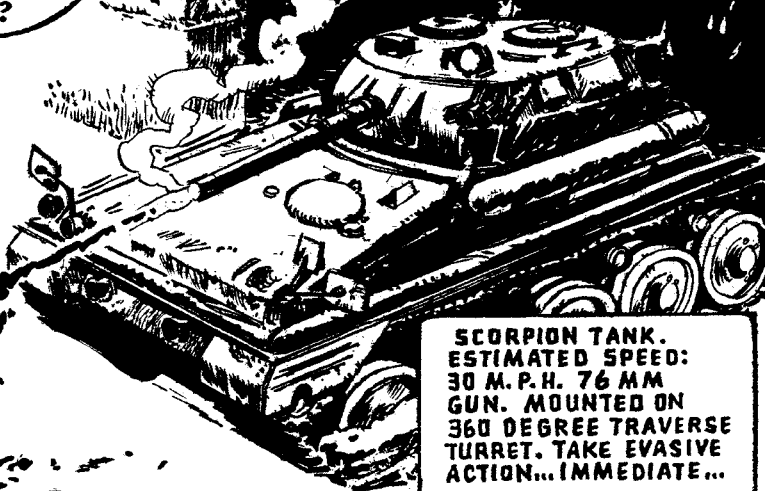
AS THE HELICOPTER APPROACHED THE BASE, THE CREW NOTICED EVERYTHING SEEMED... **STRANGELY QUIET...**







BUT BEFORE PROBE COULD FIND OUT ANY MORE INFORMATION...





MACH1 in THE FINAL ENCOUNTER

Part 2

SECRET AGENT JOHN PROBE (CODENAME M.A.C.H. 1) HAS BEEN SENT TO INVESTIGATE A SIGHTING OF A U.F.O. AT AN ARMY CAMP...

A CAMP FULL OF LIFE-LESS MEN—AND SOMEWHERE OUT THERE, IS A "THING" THAT WANTS ME OUT OF THE WAY, TOO... BUT I'VE GOT TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED...

2000 A.D.
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
PAT MILLS
ART ROBOT
MONTERO
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER
COMPU-73E



LET'S SEE IF THIS GUNNER CAN SHED ANY MORE LIGHT ON THE MYSTERY...

SLOWLY THE GUNNER BEGAN TO SHOW SIGNS OF LIFE...

...OH I SHOULD PUT THAT FAG OUT... 'ERE COMES SOME BRASSSSSGH...!

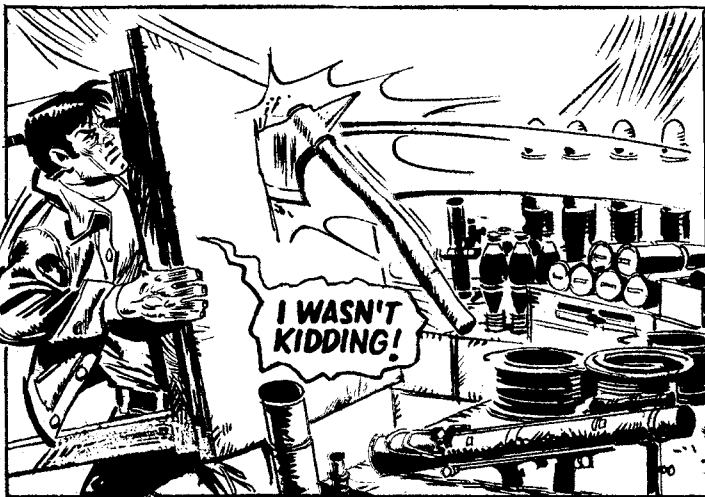
LOOK, SIR... THREE FLYING OBJECTS... BUT BUT MAYBE THEY DON'T MEAN US NO HARM... YES, SIR... ALL RIGHT...

YOU HEARD WHAT THE OFFICER SAID... FIRE!

WE GOT ONE... IT'S SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL... HECK... IT'S BLOWING UP... AAAAGH!

PROBE WAS CARRYING A GADGET, WHICH COULD GENERATE AN ELECTRIC CHARGE TO SHOCK THE MEN OUT OF THEIR PARALYSED STATE...









MACH 1 IN THE FINAL ENCOUNTER

Part 3

THE WORLD'S FIRST ALIEN IN CAPTIVITY—**FRED**—
SURROUNDED BY A TEAM OF SCIENTISTS EAGER TO LEARN HIS SECRETS...

MOST INTERESTING!

HIS POWERS OF LEVITATION AND TELEKINETIC MOVEMENT ARE FANTASTIC!

I CAN'T WAIT TO UNDERTAKE AN EXPLORATORY BRAIN EXAMINATION!

P-P-PLEASE, I HAVE HAD ENOUGH!

2000 A.D.
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
PAT MILLS
ART ROBOT
MONTERO
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER
COMPU-73E

SECRET AGENT, **JOHN PROBE** (CODENAME **MACH 1**), WHO DISCOVERED **FRED**, HAD OTHER IDEAS...

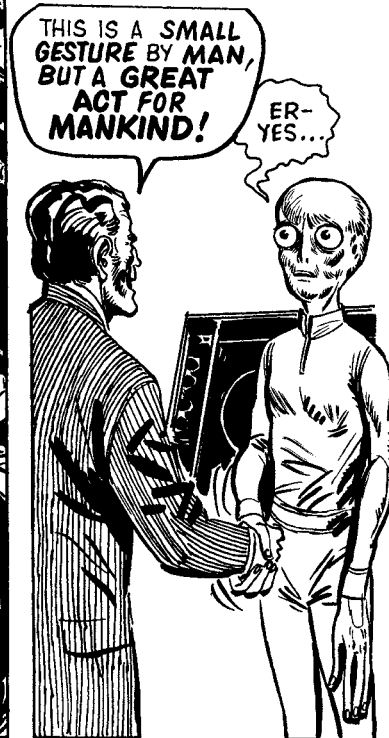
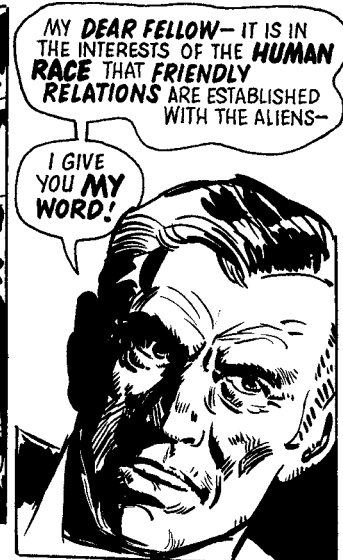
DIDN'T YOU GHOULS HEAR HIM?

HE'S HAD ENOUGH!

OH, MY EQUIPMENT!

EVERY DAY MY POWERS GROW WEAKER, JOHN PROBE. CAN YOU NOT MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND...? I MUST BE SET **FREE**!

I'LL TALK TO **SHARPE**, **FRED**







SHARPE'S
TAKING NO
CHANCES!

QUIT TALKING,
AND GET HIM **INSIDE**
THE SAFE **BEFORE**
HE COMES ROUND!

NO, HE WANTS
PROBE **OUT OF**
THE WAY, WHILE
HE **DEALS WITH**
THE ALIEN!



PROBE SLOWLY
REGAINED CONS-
CIOUSNESS ...

UHHHHH!...
WHERE AM I,
COMPUTER?

INSIDE MODEL 6B
COMBINATION SAFE.
MAXIMUM SECURITY.
THICKNESS OF WALLS:
60cm POSSIBILITY
OF FORCING WAY OUT:
NEGATIVE -----



SO I CAN'T **BREAK OUT...**
BUT I'VE GOT A **COMPUTER-**
ISED BRAIN AS WELL
AS **BRAWN**

MACH ONE'S COMPUTER
CIRCUITS ANALYSED THE
LOCK...

MAYBE THIS
COMBINATION
LOCK CAN BE
PICKED
FROM THE
INSIDE!

COMBINATION:
6 LEFT-4 RIGHT-
4 LEFT-----



I'M GLAD MACH ONE'S
BEHIND **SOLID STEEL**.
I **BREAK OUT** IN A
COLD SWEAT JUST
THINKING OF HIM
ON THE **LOOSE...**

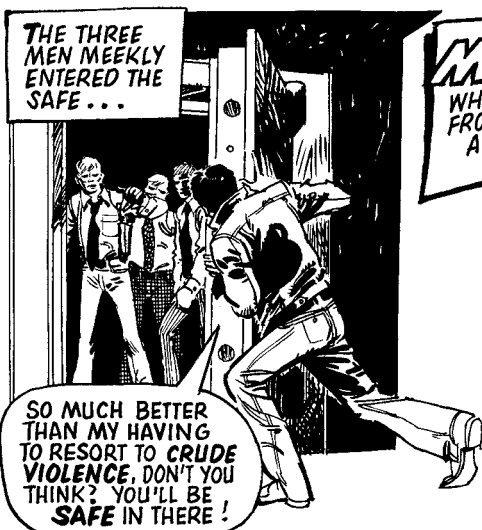
YEAH, SURE WOULDN'T
LIKE TO MEET HIM!



GOOD EVENING,
GENTLEMEN! IT SEEMS
THAT ALL YOUR **CARDS**
ARE ON THE **TABLE..**

TIME TO
PLAY MY
HAND!

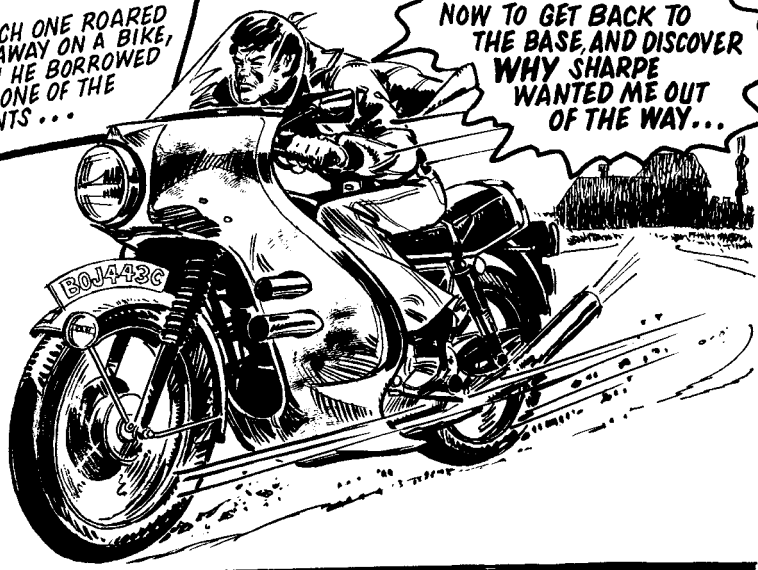
M-M-MACH ONE!



THE THREE
MEN MEEKLY
ENTERED THE
SAFE ...

SO MUCH BETTER
THAN MY HAVING
TO RESORT TO **CRUDE**
VIOLENCE. DON'T YOU
THINK? YOU'LL BE
SAFE IN THERE !

MACH ONE ROARED
AWAY ON A BIKE,
WHICH HE BORROWED
FROM ONE OF THE
AGENTS ...



NOW TO GET BACK TO
THE BASE, AND DISCOVER
WHY SHARPE
WANTED ME OUT
OF THE WAY...

AS NIGHT FELL AT THE BASE
WHERE 'FRED' WAS HELD ...

ALL SPECIAL COMBAT
SQUADS IN POSITION,
SIR !



GOOD! THEY KNOW
THEY **MUST** STAY IN
THEIR HIDING PLACES
UNTIL THEY RECEIVE
MY SIGNAL !

SHARPE WAS
PREPARING
A SURPRISE
WELCOME FOR
THE ALIENS .

JOHN PROBE HAD CREPT IN UNNOTICED

ATTENTION ALL COMBAT UNITS! WHEN THE U.F.O.'S LAND—**MOVE IN FAST!** WE MUST CAPTURE THEM INTACT, SO WE CAN DISCOVER THEIR SECRETS. IF THE ALIENS TRY AND STOP US... **SHOOT TO KILL!**

SO THAT'S WHY SHARPE HAD ME LOCKED UP... IN CASE I **BLEW A FUSE** WHEN I DISCOVERED HE WAS **DOUBLE-CROSSING 'FRED'!**



AYE, WE'LL **SHOOT TO KILL!** ALL RIGHT. WE OWE THEM ALIENS FOR WHAT THEY DID TO OUR LADS!

BUT **NO-ONE** WAS TO BLAME FOR THAT! THERE'S GOING TO BE A **BLOOD BATH** TONIGHT!

THE ALIENS ARE **THOUSANDS**—MAYBE **MILLIONS** OF YEARS MORE ADVANCED THAN WE ARE! **SHARPE'S PLAYING WITH FIRE!**

MEANWHILE, IN THE CONTROL ROOM...

THREE UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS SHOWING UP ON THE RADAR, SIR... **IT'S THEM!**

RIGHT ON TIME! STAND BY ALL COMBAT UNITS... THIS IS IT—

THE FINAL ENCOUNTER!

Nextprog

FINAL!

I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM AT ALL COSTS!

MAN MAKES CONTACT WITH **ALIENS** FROM THE STARS...
A MEETING IS ARRANGED THAT COULD BEGIN A **NEW**
ERA IN THE HISTORY OF THE EARTH... BUT SECRET
SERVICE BOSS, **DENIS SHARPE**, HAS TURNED IT INTO A **TRAP!**

SURROUNDING A TOP SECURITY
LANDING GROUND, ELITE SHOCK
TROOPS ARE READY FOR ACTION!



THE MINUTE THE
UFO'S LAND AND YOU
RECEIVE MY SIGNAL
MOVE IN — **FAST!**
IT'S **VITAL** WE TAKE
THEM **INTACT!**

W.A.C.H. IN THE FINAL ENCOUNTER

FINALE!

IN THE RADAR ROOM SHARPE
WAS CONTROLLING OPERATIONS...

THREE UNIDENTIFIED
FLYING OBJECTS ON THE
SCREEN, SIR. IT'S THE
ALIENS—THEY'RE COMING
IN TO LAND...

RIGHT
ON TIME!

2000 A.D.
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
PAT MILLS
ART ROBOT
MONTERO
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER
COMPU-73E

COMMANDER
SHARPE, DOES
WHITEHALL KNOW
EXACTLY WHAT'S
HAPPENING...?

I'M IN CHARGE HERE,
GENERAL! IF WE **CAPTURE**
THE UFO'S INTACT—THEIR
SECRETS WILL MAKE US THE
SUPREME POWER!



AND IN THE DARKNESS, SECRET AGENT
JOHN PROBE (CODENAME M.A.C.H.1)
CARRIES OUT A DESPERATE PLAN...

HE'S RISKING THE LIVES OF
EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET!
BUT IF MY PLAN WORKS THE
ALIENS WILL SEE THAT
THERE'S A TRAP!

THE STAR MEN COME IN PEACE
AND THAT POWER MAD MANIAC SHARPE
IS ENDANGERING **EVERYTHING**!



BUT MY PLAN
MIGHT JUST WORK...
AND NOW I'VE GOT
TO GET 'FRED' OUT
OF HIS CELL...



AGENT MACH ONE—I HAVE
AUTHORISATION TO SEE THE
PRISONER!

OF COURSE,
SIR—YOU KNOW
THE WAY—



GETTING INTO
THE PRISON IS
GOING TO BE A
WHOLE LOT EASIER
THAN GETTING
OUT...

MACH ONE WAS SHOWN
INTO THE CELL, WHERE THE
PRISONER—AN ALIEN NICK-
NAMED "**FRED**"— WAS
DYING OF AN EARTH
DISEASE... THE COMMON
COLD!

THERE'S NOT MUCH
TIME, FRED—SO LISTEN CARE-
FULLY. YOU'VE BEEN
BETRAYED, BUT THERE'S
STILL A CHANCE I CAN GET
YOU BACK TO YOUR OWN
PEOPLE, SO YOU CAN
BE CURED—



BUT
WE'VE GOT
TO MOVE
FAST!



THE GUARD DOG, WHO
HAD BECOME DEVOTED
TO 'FRED', FOLLOWED...

I'M SORRY, MACH ONE.
I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO
TAKE THE PRISONER OFF
THIS LEVEL. YOU MUST
HAVE THE RIGHT
CREDENTIALS!



ARE THESE
CREDENTIALS
GOOD ENOUGH?

WUWUWUWU!

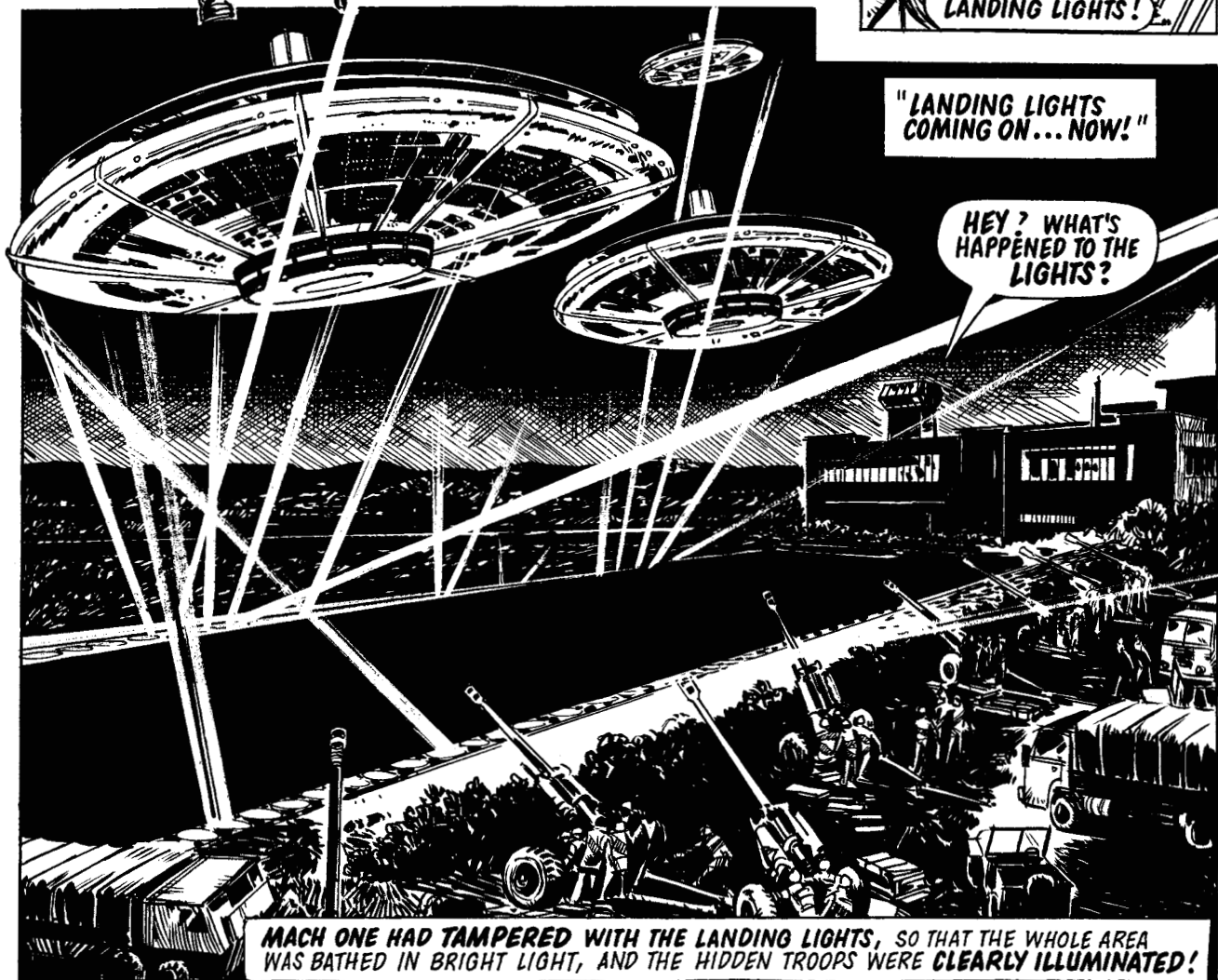


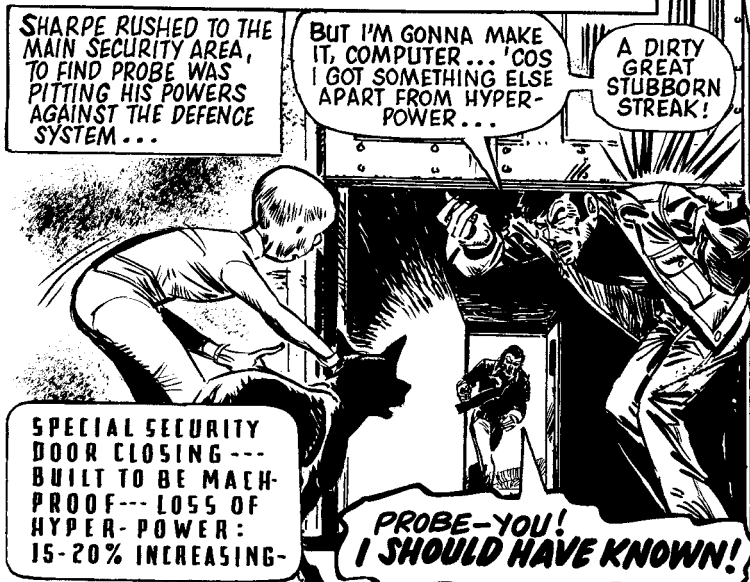
STOP!

YOU'RE
HURT!

UHH... I'LL BE
OKAY... GOT TO
MAKE IT UP TO
GROUND LEVEL!

SHOULDER WINGED.
LOSS OF HYPER-
POWER: 2% ----









AS THE STAR MAN AND HIS DOG
BEGAN TO DEMATERIALISE...

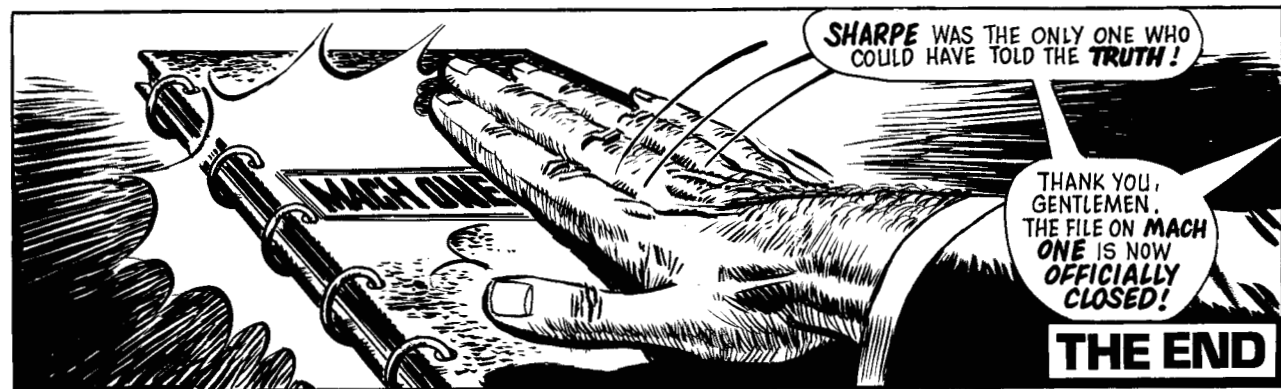
REPEAT:
SHOOT TO
KILL!

MARKSMAN!
AND HE'S GOT 'FRED'
COLD, UNLESS...

MY PEOPLE
WILL REMEMBER
THIS. FAREWELL,
JOHN PROBE!

FATAL
INJURIES
SUSTAINED!

78





M.A.C.H. ZERO



NEW THRILL · NEW THRILL · NEW THRILL

MACH ZERO

SUBJECT'S NAME:
TOP SECRET

EXPERIMENT:
**TO PRODUCE A MAN
ACTIVATED BY COMPU-
PUNCTURE HYPERPOWER**

DATA:
**COMPU-PUNCTURE
IS A COMPUTERISED
FORM OF ACUPUNCTURE.
BY INSERTING
THOUSANDS OF
ELECTRO-NEEDLES
INTO SUBJECT'S BODY
THE ENERGY FLOW
WILL INCREASE TO
GIVE SUBJECT
HYPER POWERS!**

THE LATE SECRET SERVICE BOSS
DENIS SHARPE WAS RESPONSIBLE
FOR **MACH ZERO**, A MAN WITH
TREMENDOUS **PHYSICAL** STRENGTH
BUT WITHOUT THE **MENTAL** POWER
TO CONTROL IT!

REALISING THAT ZERO
CONSTITUTED A **SECURITY RISK**,
SHARPE LAID A TRAP TO HAVE HIM
DESTROYED—THE VEHICLE
CARRYING HIM WAS BLASTED BY
A CHIEFTAIN TANK AND PLUM-
METTED INTO THE WATERY DEPTHS
OF A DEEP RIVER CHASM. NO MAN
COULD HAVE SURVIVED...
**BUT ZERO IS NO
ORDINARY MAN!**

THE EXPERIMENTS:

BEFORE THE
EXPERIMENTS:

AN ORDINARY
MAN WITH A SON
NAMED TOMMY,
OF WHOM HE WAS
VERY PROUD!

2000AD
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SCRIPT ROBOT
STEVE McMANUS
ART ROBOT
RAMON SOLA
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER

COMPU-73e

THE AIM WAS
TO PRODUCE A
SUPERMAN!

AFTER THE EXPERIMENTS:

A BEING WITH SEEMINGLY
**UNLIMITED, UNCONTROLLABLE
POWER** FLOWING THROUGH HIS BODY!

WURRGGGH!



A LOW-FLYING AIR BLIMP WAS NOT CAUSING TOO MUCH INTEREST IN LONDON'S TRAFALGAR SQUARE--



UNTIL...

THAT MAN!

HE'S FALLEN FROM THE BLIMP!



AAAGGH!



IN THE NICK OF TIME THE FALLING MAN OPENED A PARACHUTE...

WHY, THAT CRAZY FOOL COULD HAVE KILLED SOMEONE!

SAY, IT'S HIM!

"IT'S COUSIN GEORGE!"

YOU FOLKS ARE KIND ENOUGH TO CALL ME THE **WORLD'S GREATEST STUNT-MAN**, SO I FIGURED THAT I OUGHT TO MAKE A FITTING ENTRANCE!

BUT, THAT WON'T SEEM **NUTHIN'** TO THE SURPRISE THAT I'VE LINED UP FOR YOU TODAY!

YOU'RE ALL GOING TO SEE THE **STUNT OF THE CENTURY!**

LET ME TOUCH HIM!

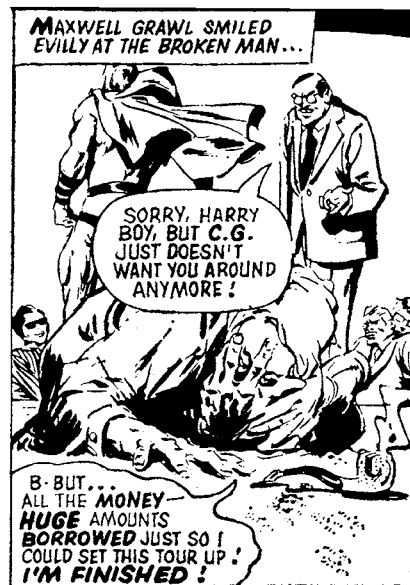
oooooooooooo!

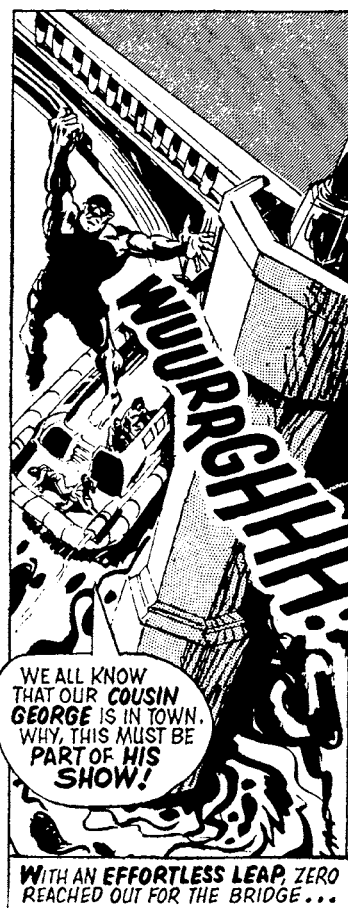
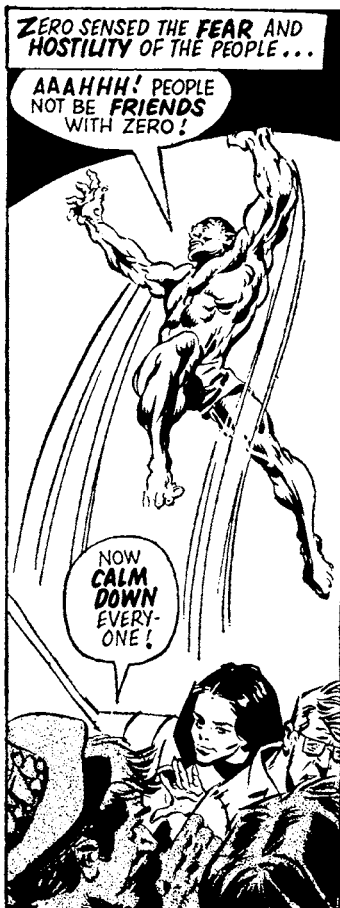
COUSIN GEORGE

C'MON, STAND ASIDE THERE-- I WANT TO SEE HIM CLEARLY!

THE SQUARE WAS SUDDENLY TRANSFORMED INTO A PULSATING, TEEMING MASS OF PEOPLE WHO WERE THRILLED BY THE DARING OF THE **ALL-AMERICAN SUPER-SHOWMAN!**

THE CAMERAS ROLLED, GIRLS SCREAMED, PRESS MEN PUSHED TO GET NEARER TO THE CENTRE OF ATTRACTION... JUST THE SORT OF RECEPTION THAT **COUSIN GEORGE** WAS USED TO... AND **LOVED!**





MEANWHILE, COUSIN GEORGE'S STUNT WAS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE A PACKED RIVERSIDE, AS THE WORDS OF A COMMENTATOR BLAZED OUT OF GIGANTIC SPEAKER SYSTEMS...

NOW COUSIN GEORGE, WHO WILL BE BOUND IN METAL CHAINS, WILL BE PLACED INSIDE A LEAD SAFE...

THE CRANES WILL THEN LIFT HIM TO A GREAT HEIGHT ABOVE THE THAMES, WHEN FLAMES WILL CUT THE SUPPORT ROPES...

THUS SENDING HIM TO THE WATERY DEPTHS FROM WHICH ONLY ONE MAN COULD ESCAPE...

COUSIN GEORGE!

THE GREATEST ESCAPE STUNT OF ALL TIME WAS UNDER WAY!

ZERO WATCHED THE SPECTACLE WITH WIDE-EYED AMAZEMENT!

IT—IT SOME KIND OF CIRCUS SHOW. ZERO LIKE CIRCUS SO DID SON TOMMY!

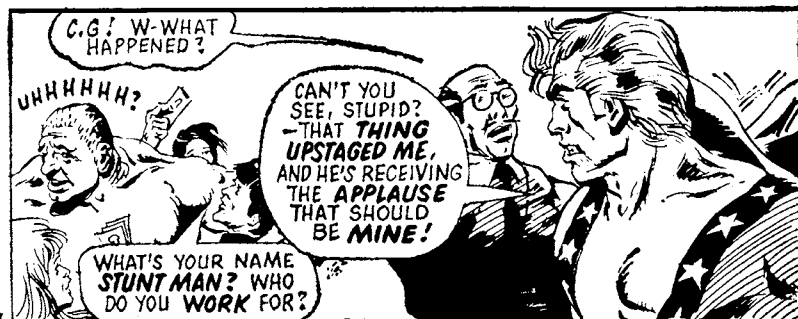
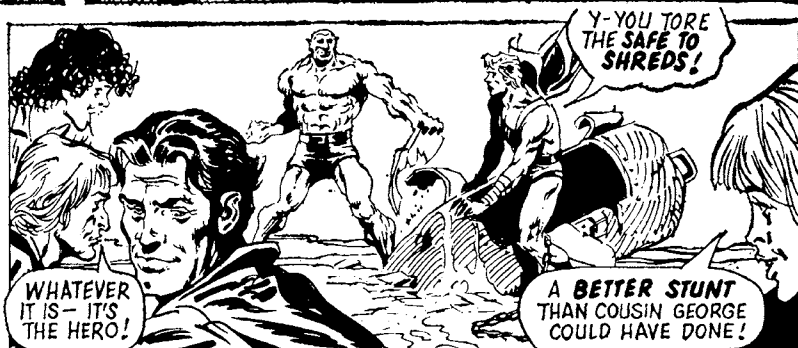
THE EMBERS OF A FORGOTTEN MEMORY HAD SPARKED IN ZERO'S MIND...

TOMMY? YES TOMMY! HE ZERO'S SON...

BUT—THAT—MAN TRAPPED, IN TROUBLE!

THERE SHE GOES!

ZERO SAVE HIM!



THE CROWD COULD NOT UNDERSTAND IT—WHO WAS THIS STRANGE MAN THAT HAD STOLEN THE SHOW?

ZERO COULD NOT UNDERSTAND IT—HE HAD ONLY TRIED TO SAVE A MAN FROM DANGER, AND ALL THIS COMMOTION TOOK PLACE!...

AND BELIEVE ME THERE AIN'T NO-ONE ALIVE WHO STEALS THE SHOW FROM COUSIN GEORGE!



THE HEART OF LONDON'S FOG-BOUND DOCK-
LAND, AT THE DEAD OF NIGHT.

NO-
HONEST,
I AIN'T
SEEN
'IM!

OKAY!
BUT MAKE
SURE YOU
KEEP
LOOKING.

HEY-WHAT'S
THAT STRANGE
WAILING
SOUND?

GET
OUTTA HERE,
SCUM!

THAT'S
HIM ALRIGHT!
THE BOSS
WILL BE
PLEASED.

MACH ZERO

MAN ACTIVATED BY COMPU-
PUNCTURE HYPERPOWER.
SUCCESS RATING: **ZERO.**

**ZERO LOST!
LOOSSSTT!**

COMPU-PUNCTURE,
A COMPUTERISED FORM
OF ACUPUNCTURE, WAS
MEANT TO TURN A MAN
INTO A SUPERIOR
BEING WITH COMPUTER-
ISED BRAIN CIRCUITS,
AND HYPER-POWER
THAT WOULD GENERATE
THE STRENGTH OF
FIFTY NORMAL MEN.

ALL IT CREATED WAS
MACH ZERO, A MAN
WITH TREMENDOUS
STRENGTH, BUT WITHOUT
THE MENTAL POWERS
TO CONTROL IT PROPERLY.

FRIENDLESS, LONELY, AND VERY
TIED HE TRUDGES THROUGH
THE EVENING FOG, WITH ONE
HOPE STILL ALIVE IN HIS
CONFUSED MIND... THAT HE
MIGHT FIND HIS LOST SON,
TOMMY!

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STEVE McMANUS
ART ROBOT
MIKE DOREY
LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER

COMPU-73e

VAST AREAS OF CRUMBLING, CONDEMNED BUILDINGS HAD BECOME THE HOME OF VAGRANTS AND TRAMPS, PEOPLE WHO HAD NO HOME WITHIN THE REST OF SOCIETY.

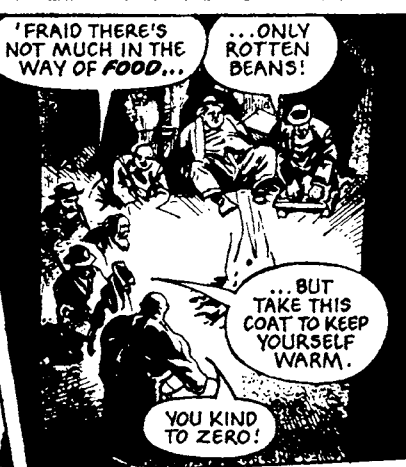


ZERO HEAR VOICES... SEE FIRE.



'FRAID THERE'S NOT MUCH IN THE WAY OF FOOD...

... ONLY ROTTEN BEANS!



... BUT TAKE THIS COAT TO KEEP YOURSELF WARM.

YOU KIND TO ZERO!

THE MAN RELATED HIS FINDINGS TO COUSIN GEORGE.

... GETTING DRESSED TO KILL!

CAREFUL YOU CLUMSY FOOLS, I SHOT TEN LEOPARDS TO MAKE THIS CLOAK.



I'VE FOUND HIM, C.G.

AN' HE'S HOLDING OUT WITH SOME OF THEM TRAMPS, NEAR THE RIVER SIDE.

SO ZERO IS LOOKING FOR HIS SON, TOMMY. WELL I RECKON THAT WE ALL SHOULD HELP HIM, YESSIR!



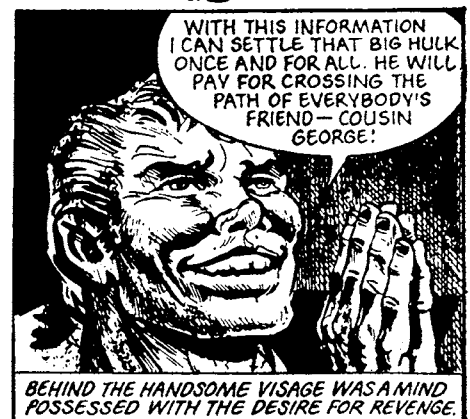
TONIGHT THE HUNT IS ON!

COUSIN GEORGE—THE ALL-AMERICAN STUNT MAN, WHO HAD SET OUT TO TRACK DOWN ZERO.

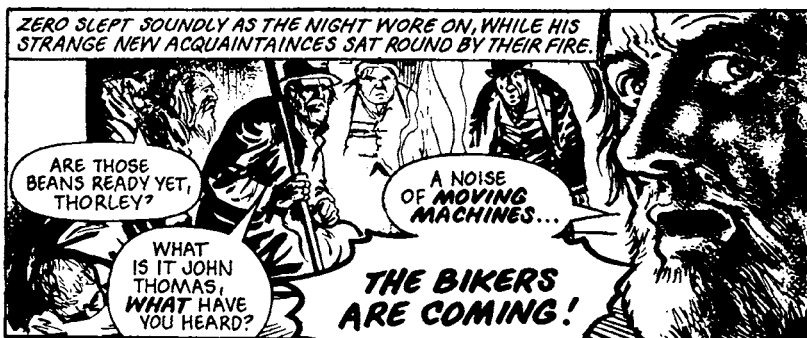


AS THE POWERFUL MAN PULLED ON THE TATTERED RAGS OF AN OLD OVERCOAT, NOT FAR AWAY SOMEONE ELSE WAS ALSO GETTING DRESSED...

WITH THIS INFORMATION I CAN SETTLE THAT BIG HULK ONCE AND FOR ALL. HE WILL PAY FOR CROSSING THE PATH OF EVERYBODY'S FRIEND—COUSIN GEORGE!



BEHIND THE HANDSOME VISAGE WAS A MIND POSSESSED WITH THE DESIRE FOR REVENGE.





GIMPY LED ZERO AWAY.

WHERE DID YOU MANAGE TO GET SUCH **STRENGTH** FROM?

ZERO CAN NOT REMEMBER!

SUDDENLY, THE MAN IN THE OVERCOAT, WHO HAD TRACKED ZERO DOWN, APPEARED FROM THE SHADOWS.

SAY, YOU GUYS THERE'S A YOUNG KID OVER THERE WHO'S LOST—SAYS HIS NAME'S **TOMMY!**

UHHHH? TOMMY!

MEMORIES OF THE COMPU-PUNCTURE TREATMENT COULD NOT BE RECALLED BY ZERO.

HANG ON, ZERO. IT MAY BE A **TRICK!**

TOMMYyyy!

ZERO DID NOT HEED GIMPY'S WARNING, BUT RUSHED DOWN THE DARK ALLEY...

WHAT? WHERE **NET** COMING FROM!

... INTO COUSIN GEORGE'S TRAP!

KEEP STRUGGLING ZERO, EVEN YOUR **GREAT STRENGTH** WON'T BE ENOUGH TO BREAK THAT NET. I'VE HUNTED FOR WILD ANIMALS ALL OVER THE EARTH, AND NOT EVEN THE MOST POWERFUL HAS MANAGED TO ESCAPE.

WURGGGHHH!

BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO HAVE **CAUGHT YOU!** I'M GOING TO **TAME** YOU, EVEN IF I HAVE TO **BREAK** YOU TO DO IT!

NEXT PROG:

The PRISON

MACH ZERO

MACH ZERO HAS BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT HIS SON, TOMMY, FOR WHOM HE IS SEARCHING, WAS NEARBY IN THE LONDON DOCKLAND AREAS... BUT HE HAS BEEN LED INTO A TRAP!

EXPERIMENTAL PROCESS:
MAN
ACTIVATED BY
COMPU-PUNCTURE
HYPERPOWER

SUCCESS RATING:
ZERO

PART 3:
THE PRISON.

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Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
STEVE McMANUS
ART ROBOT
RAMON SOLA
LETTERING ROBOT
JOHN ALDRICH
COMPU-73E

HIS PURSUER IS COUSIN GEORGE, THE WORLD FAMOUS AMERICAN STUNT-MAN, WHO ZERO INADVERTENTLY UPSTAGED BEFORE A HUGE CROWD OF ADMIRERS.

HE'S TRYING TO
GET OUT, BOSS!

STOP WHIMPERING! THE
NET IS JUST TO HOLD HIM,
SO THAT I CAN HAVE SOME
TARGET PRACTICE WITH
THESE DRUGGED DARTS!

NOW C.G. WANTS REVENGE!

I'VE USED THESE TO
CAPTURE THE MOST
FEROCIOUS WILD GAME
IN THE WORLD. NOTHING
ALIVE CAN WITHSTAND
THE KNOCKOUT DRUG.

SWEET DREAMS
ZERO!



YAWWRRGH!

YOU GOT HIM,
C.G.! YOU GOT
HIM!

THE DART WAS NOT POWERFUL
ENOUGH TO KNOCK ZERO OUT...



WURGGHHH!

HOW MUCH
STRENGTH HAS
THIS MAN?

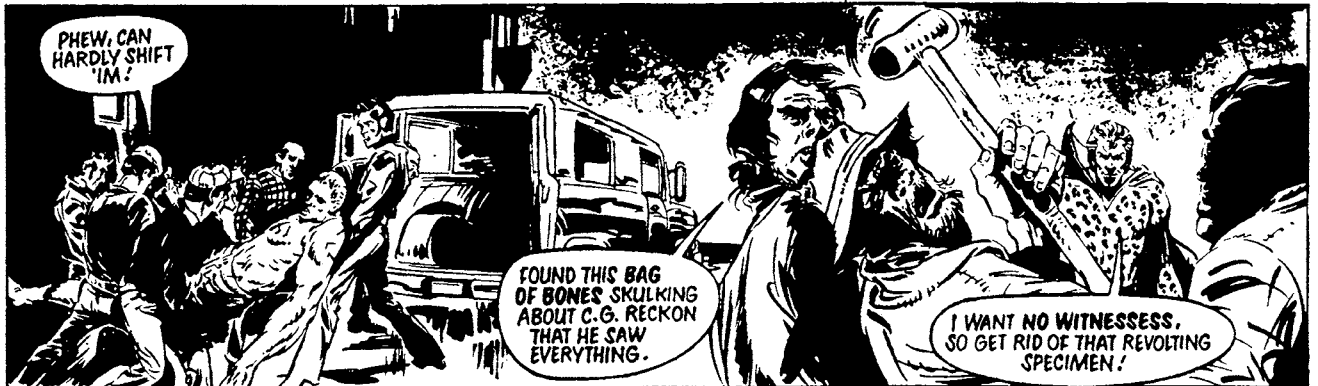
BUT DON'T JUST
STAND THERE, YOU
FOOLS... PROTECT
ME! START
FIRING!



ALTHOUGH ZERO
IS INCREDIBLY
STRONG...

...THE DRUGGED
DARTS ARE TOO MANY
AND TOO POWERFUL...

... AND EVEN A
COLOSSUS HAS TO
FALL.



PHEW, CAN
HARDLY SHIFT
'IM!

FOUND THIS BAG
OF BONES SKULKING
ABOUT C.G. RECKON
THAT HE SAW
EVERYTHING.

I WANT NO WITNESS,
SO GET RID OF THAT REVOLTING
SPECIMEN!



TAKE A BATH
FRIEND, YOU NEED
ONE!

RECKON THE POLLUTION
IN THE THAMES'LL FINISH
'IM IF HE DON'T DROWN
FIRST!

YAAHHH!

GIMPY WAS ONE OF THE MANY TRAMPS
AND VAGRANTS WHO LIVED IN THE
CRUMBLING WASTE LAND WHICH PARTS
OF LONDON HAD DETERIORATED INTO.
HE AND ZERO HAD STRUCK UP A
STRANGE FRIENDSHIP...



MOMENTS LATER, AS THE VAN DREW
AWAY, THE OLD MAN DRAGGED HIMSELF
FROM OUT OF THE WATER...

OH NO, YOU WON'T
GET RID OF GIMPY
THAT EASILY!

ZERO HELPED ME, SO
I RECKON THAT I OUGHT
TO HELP HIM AND I KNOW
JUST THE PEOPLE WHO WILL
BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH
COUSIN GEORGE!

HOURS LATER ZERO
BEGAN TO COME
ROUND...

...SLOWLY HIS EYES
OPENED...

...TO THE STARK REALITY
OF HIS SURROUNDINGS...

UUHHH!

NO!

ZERO CHAINED, ZERO
A PRISONER AGAIN...
BUT NOT FOR
LONG!

THE JAGGED METAL
RIPPED INTO ZERO'S FLESH.

UUUUHHH!

ZERO HAD NOT THE PATIENCE
TO ALLOW HIS GREAT STRENGTH
TO BREAK THE CHAINS, SO HE
LEFT THE CHAINS ON HIS ARM...

THE NOISE ATTRACTED SOME OF COUSIN
GEORGE'S HENCHMEN...

AAHHH, DOOR-
WAY TO
FREEDOM!

GULP!
HE'S ON
THE LOOSE!

ER! I'LL JUST
RUN AND
TELL C.G.

...AND PULLED THE
WALLS TO PIECES
INSTEAD...



YOU FIRED DARTS INTO ZERO, USED WEAPONS WITH ZERO DEFENCELESS!

THAT BENCH!

ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?

LEMME OUTA HERE!



BUT NOW ZERO TURNED TABLES!

AAGGHHH!!

ZERO CHARGED FROM HIS PRISON INTO THE PASSAGEWAY OUTSIDE!!!



you!

COUSIN GEORGE CALMLY STOOD BEFORE ZERO, A YOUNG BOY AT HIS SIDE...

AREN'T YOU GOING TO WELCOME THIS BOY?

DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU DON'T RECOGNISE HIM! HE'S THE REASON THAT YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING THROUGH THE STREETS OF LONDON!

UUUHHH?

C-CAN IT BE?

IT'S YOUR SON, TOMMY!

I HAVE TAKEN CERTAIN SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AGAINST YOUR ESCAPE! EVEN YOUR FREAK STRENGTH WON'T GET THROUGH THIS PLAXI-SHIELD!

BUT THEN YOU WON'T TRY TO ESCAPE, WILL YOU? FOR YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO TOMMY IF YOU DO!

ZERO STOOD ROOTED TO THE SPOT, UNSURE OF WHAT TO DO. IT WAS LONG SINCE HE HAD SEEN TOMMY, AND MUCH HAD HAPPENED; TOMMY HAD NOT BEEN QUITE SO TALL, HAD HE? AND WAS HIS HAIR ALWAYS THAT SHADE OF BROWN? BUT SURELY THIS MUST BE HIS SON!



NEXT: SEE NO EVIL, HEAR NO EVIL AND SPEAK NO EVIL.
PROG.

PART 4

HEAR NO EVIL SEE NO EVIL SPEAK NO EVIL

IN THE SOMBRE HALF-LIGHT OF A DESERTED, DILAPIDATED CHURCH, SITUATED IN LONDON'S FORGOTTEN WASTELAND OF CONDEMNED BUILDINGS, A MEETING IS TAKING PLACE...

FOR THESE THREE FIGURES ARE THE LEADERS OF THE TRAMPS AND VAGRANTS, WHO INHABIT THIS TWILIGHT WORLD. THEY ARE...
THE THREE

THEY ARE DEBATING A REQUEST FOR HELP, FROM ONE OF THEIR BRETHREN, A TRAMP NAMED GIMPY...

THEY SEEM TO BE TAKING THEIR TIME!

THE THREE HAVE MUCH TIME..

THEY WILL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT YOUR FRIEND ZERO NEEDS THEIR HELP- THEY WILL NOT BE RUSHED!

"BUT DO NOT WORRY, OUR KIND ARE EVERYWHERE! WE HAVE MANY EARS LISTENING..."

... MANY EYES SEEING ...

... AND MANY TONGUES TALKING !"

MINUTES LATER ...

2000AD
Credit Card:

SCRIPT ROBOT
STEVE McMANUS
ART ROBOT
MIKE DOREY
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER

COMPU-73e

THE THREE ARE WILLING TO START THE DAY OF WHISPERING. IF THE MAN CALLED ZERO IS STILL IN LONDON THEN THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE THREE SHALL LEARN OF HIM!

HA, COUSIN GEORGE, YOU MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D SEEN THE LAST OF OL' GIMPY, BUT WE'RE ON TO YOU!

THE SEARCH IS ON TO FIND

MACH ZERO

MAN ACTIVATED BY COMPU-PUNCTURE HYPERPOWER / SUCCESS RATING: ZERO

THE MAN WHO HAD CAPTURED MACH ZERO WAS **COUSIN GEORGE**, THE WORLD'S RICHEST AND MOST FAMOUS STUNT-MAN.

WHEREVER COUSIN GEORGE WENT, CROWDS WOULD FOLLOW, JUST TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE EXTROVERT, DAREDEVIL AMERICAN...

ISN'T HE HANDSOME!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HIS NEW SHOW!

NOW LET'S SEE THIS CROWD OF YOURS—

THERE'S A LARGE CROWD GATHERING OUTSIDE TO SEE YOUR SPECTACULAR NEW SHOW. MIND YOU, **EVERYTHING** COUSIN GEORGE DOES IS BOUND TO BE POPULAR!

KEEP TALKING, MAX. YOU'RE SAYING THE THINGS I LIKE TO HEAR!

BEFORE THE CROWDS COUSIN GEORGE WAS ALL SMILES AND GOOD NATURED CHARM...

BUT ONCE INSIDE THE ROOM, HIS **TRUE CHARACTER** WAS REVEALED!

I WANT **EVERYONE** TO SEE ME IN ACTION, AND TO WITNESS HOW I COMPLETELY HUMILIATE ZERO!

CALL THAT A CROWD? I EXPECT MORE PEOPLE TO TURN UP TO **WATCH ME EAT BREAKFAST!**

ZERO HAD UNWITTINGLY UPSTAGED GEORGE WHEN THE STUNT-MAN HAD AMASSED HUGE CROWDS ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER THAMES TO WITNESS A DAREDEVIL STUNT!

SEE Y'ALL TONIGHT AT MY LATEST, GREATEST, MOST SPECTACULAR THEATRE SHOW!

SO GET OUT AND GET TO WORK!

AND YOU CAN STOP FOLLOWING ME AROUND, LITTLE MAN, YOU IRRITATE ME!

AIN'T THERE **NO-ONE** ABLE OF DOIN' ANYTHIN' 'CEPT ME?

AND STOP WHIMPERING!

DOUBLE THE ADVERTISING, DRAG PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS—DO ANYTHING—BUT GET MORE PEOPLE HERE!

AARRRGH!

MY HAAANND!

THAT NIGHT, THE CROWDS FLOCKED TO COUSIN GEORGE'S SHOW...

THROUGH THE DAY OF WHISPERING. THE VAGRANTS HAD SOON DISCOVERED WHERE GEORGE WAS, AND GIMPY WITH HIS FRIEND LIGHTNIN' WERE READY TO INVESTIGATE FOR THEMSELVES...

I H-HAVEN'T GOT ANY P-P-P-PENNIES!

WELL, LIGHTNIN'! OLD MATE, THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE GEORGE IS, AN' YOU CAN BET YOUR LAST PENNY THAT THIS IS WHERE ZERO IS TOO!

NEVER YOU MIND, WE WON'T NEED TO PAY TO GET IN, THE BACK DOOR'LL SUIT US FINE!

AMONG THEM, TWO CHARACTERS NOT USED TO THE WEALTHY NIGHT LIFE OF LONDON

THE CONTACTS OF THE THREE WERE MANY AND VARIED...

ECK, THIS IS P-P-P-POSH!

HERE IS YOUR TABLE - GENTLEMEN!?

THE TWO MEN WERE LED INSIDE THE EXCLUSIVE THEATRE AND SHOWN THEIR WAY TO A TABLE!

LOR, BUT THESE FANCY TOGS ARE KILLING ME!

WELL, REALLY!

RECKON YOU CAN SQUEEZE IN TWO EXTRA SPECIAL GUESTS?

GIMPY! I'D HAVE GOT THE RED CARPET OUT IF I'D KNOWN YOU WAS COMING!

THE SHOW WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN, AND THE LIGHTS DIMMED...

SUDDENLY, A DARK SHAPE SWOOPED DOWN FROM THE BACK OF THE THEATRE...

HAAAAAAA!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WELCOME TO THE HOUSE OF HORRORS AND HERE IS YOUR HOST...

WHAT IS IT?

EEEEEEK!

A FREE FALL GLIDE FROM THE PARAPET OF THE BALCONY— ONLY **ONE MAN** WOULD DARE TO MAKE SUCH AN ENTRY...

IT'S **COUSIN GEORGE!**

WELCOME MY FRIENDS! I HOPE I DIDN'T **SCARE** Y'ALL!

TONIGHT THERE'S SOMETHING TO **THRILL** AND TO **CHILL**, TO **DELIGHT** AND TO **FRIGHT**!

COUSIN GEORGE SMILED, AN **EVIL, GLOATING SMILE** OF SELF SATISFACTION, FOR THIS WAS TO BE HIS MOMENT OF TRIUMPH!

AND FIRST OF ALL, I WANT YOU TO MEET THE **MOST AMAZING CREATURE** OF MODERN TIMES!...

MACH ZERO!

OH THAT **MONSTER!** IT'S SO **AWFUL!**

IS IT **HUMAN?**

THE STUNT MAN'S EYES NARROWED AS HE QUIETLY EXCHANGED WORDS WITH ZERO...

GO ALONG WITH THIS ACT, FREAK, IF YOU WANT TO SEE **YOUR SON**, TOMMY, EVER AGAIN!

ZERO HAS **NO CHOICE** BUT TO DO AS HE'S TOLD!

BELIEVING THAT COUSIN GEORGE HOLDS HIS SON AS A **HOSTAGE**, MACH ZERO IS FORCED TO PARADE HIS STRENGTH IN THE MANNER OF A **SIDE-SHOW-FREAK**...

WURRGHHH!

BREAK BARS EASILY, COULD **BREAK FREE**, BUT DARE NOT RISK **BAD MAN HURTING TOMMY!**

BUT THE AMERICAN HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF ZERO'S **LACK OF MEMORY** AND **CONFUSED STATE OF MIND** TO PASS AN **IMPOSTOR** OFF AS HIS SON!

AAAAA!

KEEP CALM— FOR **I KNOW HOW TO CONTROL HIM!**

WHAT ZERO FELT, WAS NOT THE **PHYSICAL PAIN** INFLICTED BY THE WHIP, BUT THE **PAINFUL KNOWLEDGE** THAT HE HAD TO BEHAVE JUST AS GEORGE WANTED HIM TO!

GIMPY WAS UNABLE TO CONTAIN HIS ANGER ANY LONGER!

THAT **CHEAP COWARD**, HE'S TRYING TO HUMILIATE **ZERO!**

Q- QUITE, G-G- GIMPY!

BRAVO!

HOW DID THESE GUYS GET IN HERE?

I'LL GET YOU, COUSIN GEORGE, FOR THIS!

GET 'EM OUTSIDE, QUICK!

GIMPY AND **LIGHTNIN'** WERE MARCHED OUT INTO THE DARK BACK ALLEY...

'ERE, IT'S THE TRAMP WHO SNOOPED ON US BEFORE!

SO WE DIDN'T **FINISH YOU** LAST TIME, BUT THERE'LL BE NO **MISTAKE** THIS TIME!

NEXT PROG: THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

MACE H E R O

IN ONE OF LONDON'S DARK BACK ALLEYS, TWO TRAMPS, NAMED **GIMPY** AND **LIGHTNIN'**, HAVE MET WITH A SPOT OF TROUBLE...

YOU'VE BEEN A BIT OF A NUISANCE TRAMP, AND I THINK MY BOSS, **COUSIN GEORGE**, WILL BE REALLY GLAD TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR **UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT!**

Part 6



THE ALLEY HAD SEEMED TO BE DESERTED, BUT FROM OUT OF THE **DARK SHADOWS** AND **LONDON FOG**, **HUMAN SHAPES** BEGAN TO APPEAR AND MOVE **MENACINGLY FORWARD**.

MORE TRAMPS!
WHAT THE...? BOYS,
WE BEEN **SET UP!**



2000AD
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
G. MILLER
ART ROBOT
R. SOLA
LETTERING ROBOT
S. POTTER
COMPU-73E

THE STREETS OF LONDON FORMED THE ONLY SHELTER FOR THE **HOMELESS TRAMPS** AND **VAGRANTS**...



HA! YOU DONE US **PROUD LADS**, I KNEW WE COULD RELY ON OUR **BRETHREN!**

WORD GOT ROUND THAT YOU WAS IN TROUBLE!

... AND DESPITE BEING REJECTED BY THE REST OF SOCIETY, THERE WAS ALWAYS HELP NEARBY, FOR ANY MEMBER OF THIS GROUP OF **OUTCASTS**.





THE ANGER WHICH ZERO HAD BEEN FORCED TO STIFLE FOR SO LONG HAD BUILT UP TO A PITCH THAT HE NO LONGER COULD CONTROL.

AS A VOLCANO SPRINGS TO LIFE, AFTER SEEMINGLY LYING DORMANT, ZERO SUDDENLY **ERUPTED** INTO ACTION!







SMILE, PLEASE!

THE TRAMP WHO WAS THERE WHEN WE PICKED UP ZERO - CAME ROUND TONIGHT WITH A GROUP OF HIS PALS THEY SEEM TO BE ALMOST ORGANISED. TROUBLE WAS HE-ER-ESCAPED!



RELAX MAX, NO NEED TO WORRY.

SAY THAT'S GREAT, FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE SORT OF ANGRY!

IT WAS SUCH A SMALL THING...



...BUT REMEMBER NOT TO COLLECT ANY SALARY FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS!

GULP!



COUSIN GEORGE THOUGHTFULLY WATCHED AS ZERO'S BULKY FRAME SLUNK AWAY...

SO PERHAPS ZERO HAS SOME FRIENDS SOMEWHERE WHO ARE GOING TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR ME.

IT'S POSSIBLE, FOR I KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT THE FREAK! I BETTER MAKE SURE THAT I'M READY FOR ANYTHING!



BUT WOULD COUSIN GEORGE HAVE PREPARED FOR THE STRANGE GATHERING THAT WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE HEART OF THE DERELICT WASTE LANDS OF LONDON?

THE TRAMPS AND VAGRANTS WHO COMPRISE THE 'BROTHERHOOD OF THE THREE' ARE HAVING A SPECIAL MEETING...

THIS MAN HAS OPENLY AND DEFIANTLY HARMED MY FRIEND, THE ONE CALLED ZERO, AND I DEMAND THAT JUSTICE BE DONE...

...I DECLARE THAT THE BROTHERHOOD IS AT WAR, WITH THIS EVIL MAN, COUSIN GEORGE!

BETTER WATCH OUT, COUSIN GEORGE, YOU ARE NOT GOING TO LIKE WHAT IS HEADING YOUR WAY!

NEXT PROG: THE MARCH OF THE VAGRANT ARMY!

MAN ACTIVATED COMPU PUNCTURE HYPER POWER. SUCCESS RATING: ZERO

MACH ZERO

AS THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS AND DESTITUTE PEOPLE HAS RISEN IN LONDON, THE FEELING OF 'BROTHERHOOD' BETWEEN THESE UNFORTUNATE HAS ALSO INCREASED, AND ORGANISATIONS HAVE SPRUNG UP TO PROTECT THEIR COMMON INTERESTS.

A FULL SCALE COUNCIL OF WAR MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED BY GIMPY.

I TELL YOU, MY BROTHERS, THAT THE TIME FOR TALK IS PAST! OUR FRIEND HELPED US. NOW WE MUST HELP HIM, BY DECLARING WAR ON THE COMMON ENEMY...

THE MAN CALLED COUSIN GEORGE!

2000AD
Credit Card:

SCRIPT ROBOT
GEOFFREY MILLER
ART ROBOT
MIKE DOREY
LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER

COMPU-73e

AFTER HELPING A NUMBER OF THE TRAMPS, MACH ZERO WAS CAPTURED BY THE AMERICAN STUNT MAN COUSIN GEORGE, WHO IS NOW USING ZERO'S GREAT STRENGTH FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES!

THE THREE WERE THE LEADERS OF THE TRAMPS...

HE-HERE HERE!

FINE WORDS, GIMPY, BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?

WE MUST GO TO THE THREE AND ASK IF IT IS TIME...

I'LL TELL YOU, SOUR FACE, IF YOU CLOSE THAT CHASM OF A MOUTH, AND LISTEN FOR A SECOND!

...FOR THE VAGRANT ARMY TO MARCH!

THEY MADE ALL DECISIONS AFFECTING THEIR BRETHREN.





SNEAKER HAD OTHER PLANS...

MUST RUN FOR THE THEATRE, RUN LIKE THE DEVIL!



HELP WAS AT HAND, AS COUSIN GEORGE'S MEN CAME TO SNEAKER'S AID.

WE GOT ORDERS TO DRAG YOU IN, SCUM.



NOW IF PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO REWARD THE INFORMATION, KNOW WHAT I MEAN, EH?



REWARD? YOU THINK THAT I WOULD REWARD YOU, GUTTER-LOUT! I'LL THROW YOU BACK FROM WHERE YOU CAME!

UHH! NO, S-SIR!





MEANWHILE, THE **VAGRANT ARMY** WAS STARTING TO MOVE IN ITS OWN **UNIQUE** WAY.

ONE GROUP WAS MOVING THROUGH THE **SEWERS**, LED BY **BLIND BARTY**.

FORWARD, BROTHERS! **BLIND BARTY** NEEDS NO EYES, HE KNOWS EVERY INCH OF THESE **SEWERS**!

ANOTHER, LED BY **LIGHTNIN'**, MADE ITS WAY ACROSS THE **ROOFTOPS**.

WAIT FOR ME!

C-C-C-COME ON! WE MUST M-MAKE SPEED.

A THIRD GROUP OF TRAMPS, LED BY **GIMPY**, MOVED UNOBSERVED ALONG THE **EMPTY TUNNELS**, WHICH HAD ONCE BEEN USED AS PART OF THE **LONDON UNDERGROUND'S CIRCLE LINE**.*

NO-ONE WILL HAVE HEARD US, SEEN US, OR SPOKEN OF OUR MOVEMENTS.

* **THARG** NOTE: THE **CIRCLE LINE** HAD CLOSED DOWN WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE **HOVER-RAIL** OPERATING ABOVE GROUND.

**NEXT
PROG:**

**FIGHTERS OF
THE THREE**



FORWARD,
MY BROTHERS, FOR
TONIGHT **ZERO** WILL
BE FREED!

IS THIS A GATHERING OF PHANTOMS
FROM AN AWFUL NIGHTMARE —
SHADES OF THE SPIRITS OF THE
DARK HOURS THAT DISAPPEAR WITH
THE DAWN?

NO! THESE MEN ARE FLESH AND BLOOD;
A COLLECTION OF TRAMPS AND VAGRANTS
WHO HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO FORM
THE VAGRANT ARMY, LED BY GIMPY!

THE ARMY IS ON THE MARCH!

2000AD
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
GEOFFREY MILLER
ART ROBOT
MIKE DOREY
LETTERING ROBOT
BILL NUTTALL

COMPU-73e

MAN ACTIVATED BY COMPU-PUNCTURE HYPERPOWER. SUCCESS RATING: **ZERO**

MACH ZERO

MACH ZERO IS BEING HELD PRISONER, INSIDE AN OLD THEATRE IN LONDON, BY COUSIN GEORGE, THE WORLD-FAMOUS AMERICAN STUNT-MAN, WHO HAS BEEN PARADING ZERO'S GREAT STRENGTH TO SHOW OFF TO THE PUBLIC IN A CIRCUS-LIKE FREAK SHOW...



THE THEATRE DOOR
SHALL NOT STOP US!

NONE CAN STOP
THE **ARMY** WHEN
IT MARCHES!

**ZERO HAD SHOWN KINDNESS TO THE TRAMPS.
THEY WERE IN TURN GOING TO HELP HIM!**

AS THE ARMY
MOVED INSIDE
THE THEATRE...

'DARN,
BUT THE PLACE IS
EMPTY!

DE DOORS!
CLOSING
'DEMSELVES!

AS THE DOORS SLAMMED TOGETHER
WITH AN OMINOUS, RESOUNDING
CRASH, THE CURTAINS OF THE
STAGE SWUNG OPEN TO REVEAL...

WELL, WELL.
NICE TO SEE
Y'ALL...

...COUSIN
GEORGE!

I CAN PROMISE
YOU GOOD PEOPLE REAL
ENTERTAINMENT - A FINE
SPORTING, FAIR FIGHT...

...CEPT THAT
WE GOT WEAPONS,
AND YOU AINT!

BUT SUDDENLY...

AIEEEE!

BE STRONG,
MY BRETHREN,
FOR HELP IS
AT HAND!

BLIND BARTY HAD ARRIVED.

WHERE DID
THIS BAG OF BONES
COME FROM?

WITH THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE
AREA, OTHER GROUPS OF TRAMPS
HAD FORCED ENTRY INTO THE
THEATRE - FROM THE ROOFTOPS
AND UP FROM THE SEWERS.

On this the Day
of Brotherhood, True
Warriors sent by the
THREE....

THREE
LONG TALONED
TOMS...

...TWO TOAD-LIKE
TRAMPS...

ALTHOUGH HE WAS BLIND, BARTY'S
ACUTE SENSE OF HEARING WAS ENOUGH
TO PICTURE IN HIS MIND THE POSITIONS
OF THE GROUPS OF MEN... AND NOW HE
WAS ORGANISING THE ATTACK, TO THE
ACCOMPANIMENT OF A STRANGE CHANT.



COUSIN GEORGE HAD
ESCAPED JUST IN TIME...

ZERO FREED
BY GIMPY, AND TOLD OF
LIES OF EVIL MAN
GEORGE...

GULP!

RECKON
THIS IS IT!

RAGGGHHH!

WE
FIGHT TO THE
DEATH!

ZERO STAGGERED BACK, RECOILING
FROM THE PAIN OF THE BULLETS!

HIS VAST RESERVES OF ENERGY,
GENERATED BY THE COMPU-PUNCTURE
EXPERIMENTS, HAD NOT BEEN CALLED
UPON FOR SOME TIME, AND ALL THE
HATE INSIDE HIM WELLED UP AT
THE THOUGHT OF HOW COUSIN GEORGE
HAD TRICKED HIM...

... ANYTHING COULD
HAPPEN NEXT!

UHHH! ZERO
BEEN CHEATED, AND
ILL-TREATED! TO BAD
MEN WHO CARE NOT
FOR LIVES OF
OTHERS...

LET
DEATH COME
TO THEM!

NEXT PROG:
THE RAT
IN THE TRAP!

MACH ZERO

TO SATISFY HIS OWN LUST FOR GLORY AND ATTENTION, COUSIN GEORGE, THE WORLD-FAMOUS AMERICAN STUNT-MAN, HAD TRICKED MACH ZERO INTO PARADING HIS STRENGTH IN THE MANNER OF A SIDE SHOW FREAK...

... BUT TONIGHT IS DIFFERENT, FOR ZERO IS STEALING THE SHOW — IN FACT HE IS ABOUT TO BRING THE HOUSE DOWN!

MAN
ACTIVATED BY
COMPUPUNCTURE
HYPER POWER
SUCCESS RATING:
ZERO.

HE'S PUSHING THE COLUMNS
APART! DESTROYING THE
PLACE WITH HIS OWN HANDS!

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G MILLER
ART ROBOT
MIKE DOREY
LETTERING ROBOT
TOM FRAME
COMPU-73E

THE MAN CALLED MACH IS **WILD**.
RUN MY BROTHERS, OUTSIDE THE
THEATRE!

COMPU-PUNCTURE, A
COMPUTERISED FORM OF ACUPUNCTURE, HAD
LEFT ZERO WITH **SUPERHUMAN** STRENGTH,
WHICH HE HAD NOT USED AGAINST COUSIN
GEORGE BEFORE, AS HE BELIEVED THAT THE
AMERICAN HELD HIS SON, TOMMY AS A
CAPTIVE... NOW ZERO HAS BEEN TOLD OF THE
DECEPTION. HE CAN LET OFF HIS **EXCESS**
ENERGY!



THE TRAMPS AND VAGRANTS, ALL MEMBERS OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE THREE, FLED FROM THE THEATRE.

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

SECONDS LATER, AS THE CLOUDS OF DUST BEGAN TO SETTLE ON THE FALLEN MASONRY...

YET, INCREDIBLY...

WUHHHHH!

YOU GOOD, KIND MEN!

YOU FIND ZERO AND HELP HIM BREAK FREE FROM EVIL ONE - GEORGE!

YOU HELPED US BEFORE, WITH YOUR STRENGTH, AND NOW OUR STRENGTH OF NUMBERS HAS HELPED YOU, IT IS JUST!

BUT COUSIN GEORGE, WHAT OF HIM?

I CAN TELL YOU OF HIM!

MACH, HE HAS GONE!

AYE! WE OF THE THREE FREED HIM ONLY TO BRING ABOUT HIS DEATH!

ZERO!

MACH IS BACK... MACH'S BACK!

BLIND BARTY, OUR WISE BELOVED BROTHER, WHO GIVES US PROPHET-LIKE WISDOM. WE THOUGHT WE HAD LOST YOU, AND WHAT A TRAGEDY THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN!

I AM A PROPHET, AND WOULD HAVE BEEN NO LOSS!



BUT THE EVIL ONE IS FREE! HE RAN PAST ME, AND THOUGH MY EYES NEVER SAW HIM, MY EARS FOLLOWED HIS STEPS. HE WENT DOWN THE ONLY POSSIBLE ESCAPE ROUTE...

...THE DISUSED UNDERGROUND TUNNEL!

THEN WE MUST GO AFTER HIM, WE CANNOT LET HIM GET AWAY!

NO! ZERO WILL GO ON OWN! HE SETTLE SCORE WITH EVIL MAN. YOU HAVE RISKED LIVES ENOUGH!



SOMEHOW I FEEL IN MY OLD BONES THAT WE WON'T BE SEEING YOU AGAIN, MACH!

WHAT YOU SAY TO A FEAST OF BEANS, THORLEY?

YAHHH! I HATE BEANS!

REJOICE FOR THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE THREE HAS TRIUMPHED IN ITS APPOINTED TASK!





AS THE SECONDS PASSED, THE WATER LEVEL GREW STEADILY HIGHER. . .

I'M TRAPPED... BUT THIS CAN'T HAPPEN TO ME! I'M THE GREATEST STUNT MAN IN THE WORLD.

I CAN ESCAPE FROM ANYWHERE.

I'M EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE, COUSIN GEORGE!

THROUGHOUT HIS MIS-SPENT LIFE COUSIN GEORGE HAD SOUGHT ADULATION AND WORSHIP FROM THE CROWDS, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST TO OTHERS. YET HE WAS TO SPEND HIS LAST MINUTES TRAPPED IN **TERRIBLE ISOLATION**.

THE FINAL SOUND IN HIS EARS WAS NOT THE THUNDER OF APPLAUSE, BUT THE THUNDER OF **ROARING WATER**!

MEANWHILE, ZERO HAD ARRIVED AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL AND BURST HIS WAY THROUGH THE BARRIERS WHICH SEALED OFF THE UNDERGROUND. . .

WURGHNN!
NO SIGN OF EVIL MAN, HE HAS ESCAPED FROM ZERO!

CANNOT GO BACK TO GIMPY AND FRIENDS, IF EVIL MAN ALIVE - HE WOULD ILL-TREAT THEM.

ZERO ON OWN AGAIN, MUST SEARCH FOR BOY, TOMMY. . .

BUT WHERE ZERO GO, AND WHO HELP ZERO?

AND SO MACH ZERO, UNAWARE THAT HIS ENEMY WAS DEAD, SET OFF. . .

...INTO THE WET, COLD, UNFRIENDLY NIGHT!

NIGHT TIME IN THE DEPTHS OF THE
HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE...

MACH ZERO TRUDGES ONWARDS,
UNSURE OF WHERE HE IS GOING.
NOW FRIENDLESS AND LONELY, HE
IS SUSPICIOUS OF DISCOVERY BY
NORMAL HUMANS.

UUHH!
LIGHTS...
ZERO
HIDE!

INSIDE THE CAR, BUSINESSMAN AND FINANCIER, SIR
CHARLES HILLIERS, SPEEDS DOWN THE ROAD IN HIS
CHAUFFEUR-DRIVEN CAR...

GOOD GRIEF, HOSKINS,
WHAT'S THAT **THING**
CAUGHT IN THE
HEADLIGHTS?

AN ANIMAL... COULD HAVE
BEEN A DEER! SUPPOSE,
SIR!

ALTHOUGH THEIR
PATHS HAVE JUST CROSSED,
MACH ZERO AND SIR
CHARLES ARE NOT YET
DESTINED TO MEET!

MACH

MAN ACTIVATED BY
COMPU- PUNCTURE
HYPER POWER
SUCCESS RATING: ZERO

SIR CHARLES' CAR STOPPED
OUTSIDE THE GATES OF HIS
COUNTRY MANSION,
PEMBERTON LODGE...

ZERO

The SUIT: Part 1

I WANT MAXIMUM
SECURITY IN OPERATION
TONIGHT. NO-ONE MUST
DISTURB ME, AS I'LL
BE IN WITH THE
PROFESSOR!

VERY
GOOD, SIR
CHARLES!

2000AD
Credit Card:

SCRIPT ROBOT
GEOFFREY MILLER
ART ROBOT
MONTERO
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER

COMPU-73e

ZERO SEE LARGE
GARDEN— GOOD PLACE
TO SLEEP FOR NIGHT!



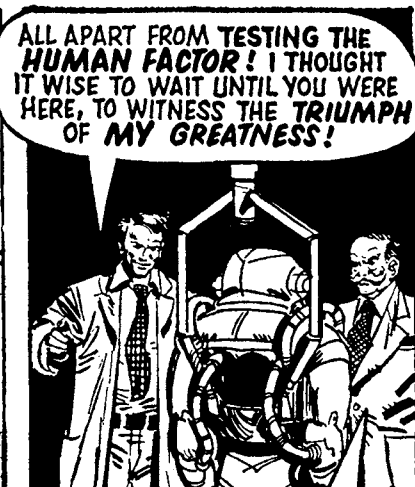
INSIDE THE LABORATORY, SIR CHARLES SAW THE PROFESSOR, AND THE PROJECT HE WAS WORKING ON — **THE SUIT!**

WELL, SIR CHARLES? **THERE IT IS!** AN INVENTION WHICH — EVEN THOUGH I **MODESTLY SAY SO MYSELF — IS ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE!**

A WORK OF GENIUS OF THE HIGHEST ORDER... A REAL...

QUITE SO, PROFESSOR!

AND THE TESTS? HAVE THEY ALL BEEN CARRIED OUT?



ALL APART FROM TESTING THE **HUMAN FACTOR!** I THOUGHT IT WISE TO WAIT UNTIL YOU WERE HERE, TO WITNESS THE **TRIUMPH OF MY GREATNESS!**

VERY-ER- CONSIDERATE OF YOU, PROFESSOR. NOW WHERE'S THE MAN TO TRY THIS OUT?

OVER THERE!

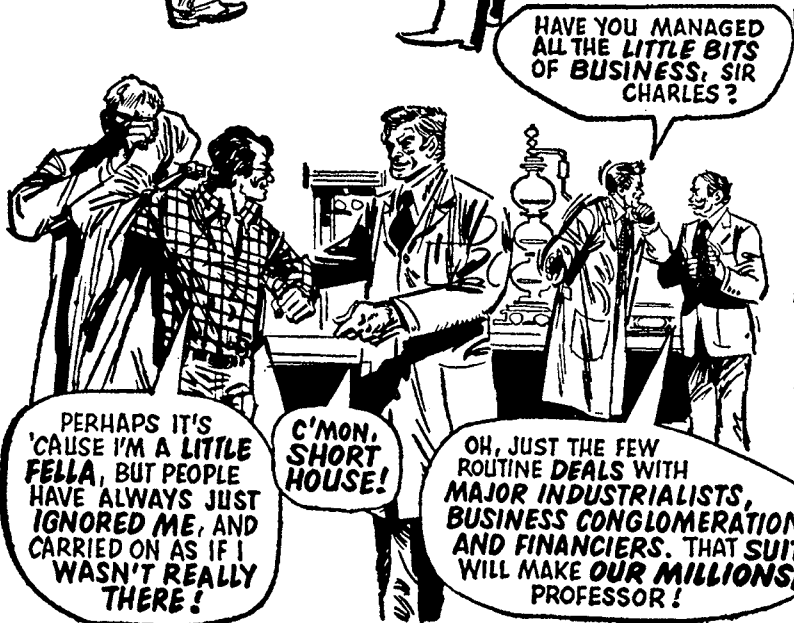


HOW PLEASANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, ER-ER?

HARRY WINTHROP, SIR!

OF COURSE! NOW, HARRY, I'M PLEASED TO HEAR THAT YOU ARE READY TO UNDERGO THE FINAL TESTING!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO SOMETHING TO MAKE ME FAMOUS!



HAVE YOU MANAGED ALL THE LITTLE BITS OF BUSINESS, SIR CHARLES?

PERHAPS IT'S 'CAUSE I'M A LITTLE FELLA, BUT PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS JUST IGNORED ME, AND CARRIED ON AS IF I WASN'T REALLY THERE!

C'MON, SHORT HOUSE!

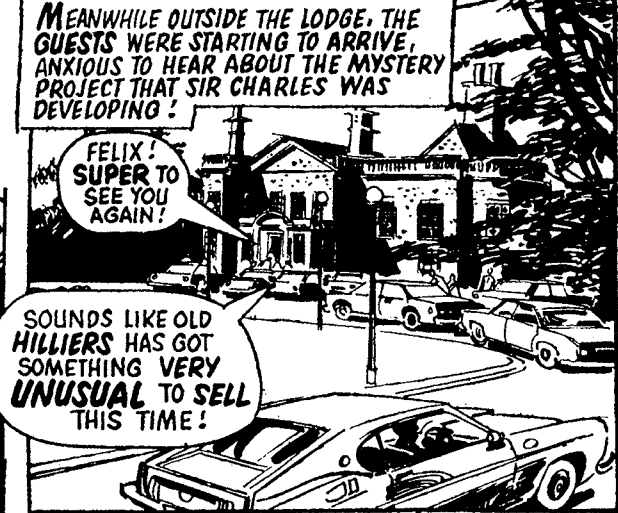
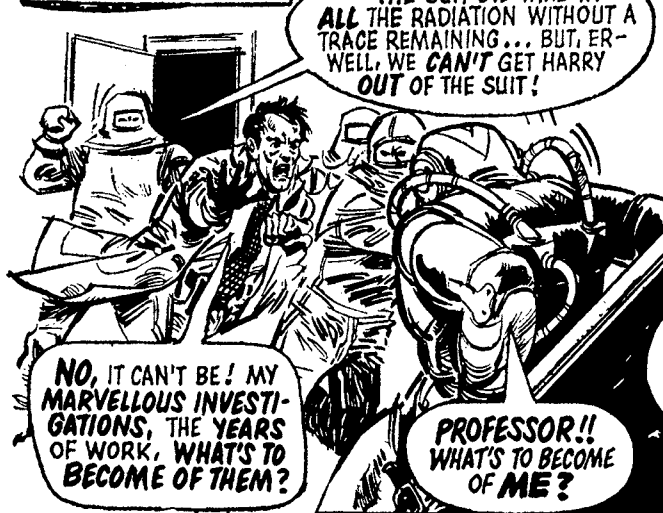
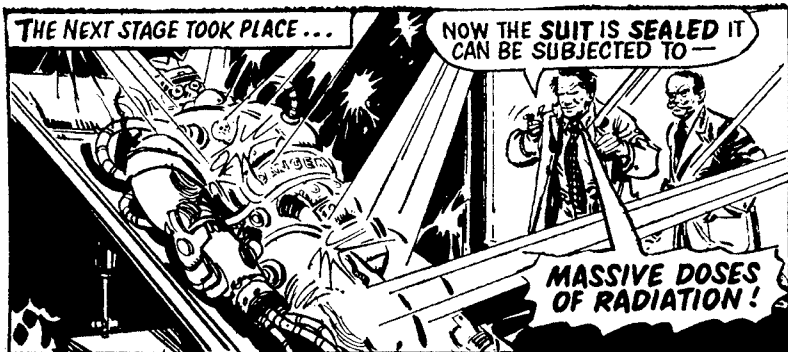
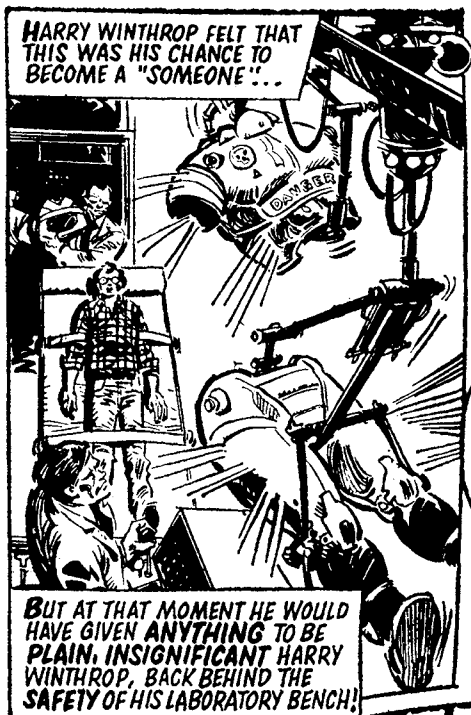
OH, JUST THE FEW ROUTINE DEALS WITH MAJOR INDUSTRIALISTS, BUSINESS CONGLOMERATIONS AND FINANCIERS. THAT SUIT WILL MAKE **OUR MILLIONS**, PROFESSOR!



SOON, HARRY WAS READY FOR THE EXPERIMENT TO BEGIN...

GOOD LUCK HARRY, THIS'LL MAKE A MAN OUT OF YOU!

ER I HOPE SO!



SIR CHARLES HAD INVITED A WEALTHY AND INFLUENTIAL GATHERING TO WITNESS THE UNVEILING OF THE SUIT...

EVERYTHING IS GOING SMOOTHLY... I CAN ALMOST HEAR THE MONEY ROLLING INTO THE COFFERS. PEOPLE WILL BE OUTBIDDING EACH OTHER IN AN EFFORT TO BUY THAT SUIT!



THEY'RE CUTTING ME, GOING RIGHT THROUGH MY SKIN!

BACK IN THE LABORATORY...

NOW IT WON'T HURT A BIT!

GOOD GRIEF! THE SUIT HAS BECOME LIKE AN EXTRA LAYER OF SKIN! IT'S WELDED TO HARRY'S BODY!



NOW, HARRY. IT APPEARS THAT FOR SOME REASON THE SUIT IS BEING A BIT AWKWARD TO REMOVE... BUT SLATER AND WALKER WILL SOON HAVE IT OFF YOU!

THE PROFESSOR QUIETLY BROKE THE NEWS TO SIR CHARLES...

TRAPPED IN THE SUIT! IS THERE NOTHING THAT WE CAN DO TO GET HIM OUT?

WELL IF WE CAN'T FREE HIM, OR KEEP HIM QUIET, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT... WE MUST DISPOSE OF HIM!

GET ME SECURITY!

THE PROFESSOR RETURNED TO THE LABORATORY...

ALL LAB. TECHNICIANS, I WANT YOU OUT OF THE WAY AT ONCE! SIR CHARLES HAS ARRANGED FOR-ER-SOME OF HIS SPECIAL SECURITY MEN TO-ER-TAKE CARE OF HARRY!

PROF! WHEN ARE YOU GETTING ME OUT OF THIS THING?

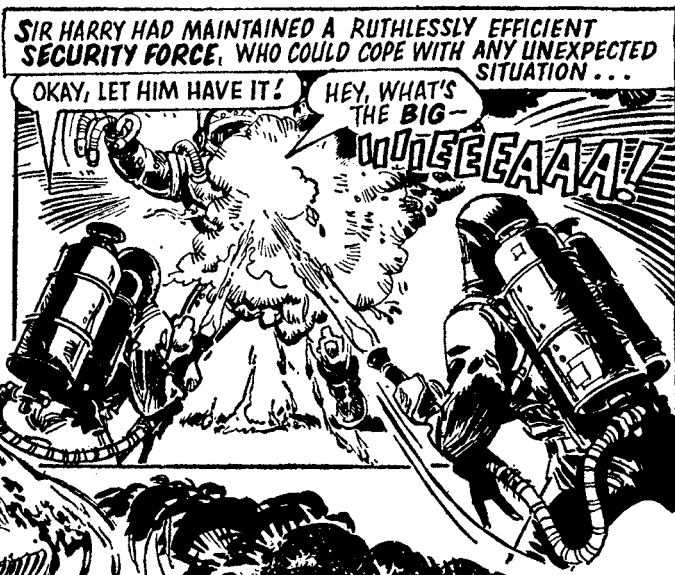
NOTHING! AND HE'S IN SOME PAIN NOW, SO WE CAN'T REALLY KEEP HIM QUIET!





OH IT WILL **SOON BE OVER, HARRY!**

THAT'S GOOD! THIS SUIT FEELS TIGHT AND IT IRRITATES ME, LIKE IT'S MY OWN SKIN!



SIR HARRY HAD MAINTAINED A RUTHLESSLY EFFICIENT SECURITY FORCE, WHO COULD COPE WITH ANY UNEXPECTED SITUATION...

OKAY, LET HIM HAVE IT!

HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG—

WHEEEAAA!



I'M ON FIRE—
MY WHOLE BODY—
I'M BEING BURNT
ALIVE!

NEXT PROG: THE HEAT IS ON!

MAN ACTIVATED BY COMPU-PUNCTURE HYPER POWER! SUCCESS RATING: ZERO!

ZERO HAS ENTERED THE GARDENS OF PEMBERTON LODGE—OWNED BY WEALTHY FINANCIER SIR CHARLES HILLIERS—TO FIND A PLACE TO REST IN PEACE AND QUIET...

INSIDE THE HOUSE, LABORATORY ASSISTANT **HARRY WINTHROP** IS TESTING OUT A NEW PROJECT FINANCED BY SIR CHARLES—A SUIT WHICH CAN **ABSORB RADIATION**—AND NOW FINDS THAT THE SUIT IS **WELDED TO HIS BODY!**

THE SITUATION HAS STARTED TO GET SOME WHAT HEATED...

THOSE FLAMES... THEY SHOULD BE BURNING ME UP, YET I DON'T FEEL ANY PAIN!

KEEP **BLASTING** HIM. SIR CHARLES WANTS ALL EVIDENCE OF THE EXPERIMENT'S FAILURE TO BE **DESTROYED!**

**MACH
ZERO**

2000AD
Credit Card:

SCRIPT ROBOT
GEOFFREY MILLER
ART ROBOT
MONTERO
LETTERING ROBOT
JACK POTTER

COMPU-73E

YET, INCREDIBLY, THE SUIT WAS NOT DESTROYED!

THE WALL'S MELTING
FROM THE **HEAT** OF THE
SUIT!

AND THE
GUY IS **STILL**
ALIVE!

HEYYYY!
WHAT'S
HAPPENING...
THAT WALL?
AM I DOING
THIS?

YIPEEE! THE SUIT HAS
PROTECTED ME FROM THE
FLAMES. SO I'M NO LONGER
WEAK AND **HELPLESS...**
I'M **POWERFUL!**

YARGGGHHH!

THOUGHT YOU WOULD PICK
ON **LITTLE OLD HARRY**,
DID YOU? BUT THEN **WHO**
WAS **EVER** **FRIGHTENED**
OF HARRY— HE WOULDN'T
HURT A FLY! **HA-HA!**

**OUTSIDE IN THE GROUNDS THE PROFESSOR
WAS WAITING WITH ANOTHER GROUP OF
GUARDS...**

PROFESSOR,
YOU GAVE ME THIS **NEW**
POWER, LET ME GIVE YOU
A SHOW OF MY
APPRECIATION!

I KNEW IT!
I AM NEVER WRONG
ABOUT MY OWN
**INGENIOUS IN-
VENTIONS!**

THE SUIT
WAS ABLE
TO **ABSORB**
THE **HEAT**,
JUST AS IT DID

THE **RADIATION**.
I HAVE CREATED A **MARVEL**,
A **MASTERPIECE OF**
MODERN METHODOLOGY,
A...

STOW IT, PROF!
HOW DO WE
DESTROY HIM!

LET'S SEE WHAT
A **BULLET** DOES!

AAAAGGHH!

THE SUIT DID NOT
STOP THE BULLET!

BEFORE MORE BULLETS COULD BE FIRED, **MACH ZERO** APPEARED...

YOU WICKED PEOPLE!

USING NOISY GUNS TO HURT POOR MAN!

M-M-M-MY GRIEF!

IS THIS ANOTHER OF THE PROF'S CRAZY EXPERIMENTS?

AS THE GUARDS FLED, HARRY INTRODUCED HIMSELF TO ZERO...

I'M LITTLE OLD HARRY. JUST A QUIET NO-ONE!

ME, ZERO!

THE PROFESSOR GAVE ME POWER, HE MUST HAVE DONE THE SAME FOR YOU!

ZERO TRIED TO RECALL INCIDENTS FROM THE JUMBLED MAZE OF HIS MIND...

UHH! PROFESSOR? ZERO REMEMBERS THE EXPERIMENTS...

BRIGHT LIGHTS AND SHARP NEEDLES...

NOT CLEAR, BUT THEY WICKED, EVIL MEN. THEY UNKIND TO ZERO!

THE SECRET SERVICE HAD CARRIED OUT THE EXPERIMENTS, BUT FROM THE HALF-DRAWN IMAGES WHICH ZERO REMEMBERED, IT SEEMED THAT HARRY'S WORDS MADE SENSE. YES, THE PROFESSOR MUST HAVE DONE THIS TO HIM!

WURRGHH! YOU NOT FIT TO HAVE SUCH DANGEROUS TOYS TO PLAY WITH!

I'VE GOT TO RUN... BUT WAIT, THE OLD HARRY WOULD HAVE RUN! BUT NOW HARRY CAN HANDLE THINGS FOR HIMSELF!

THIS GUY MUST BE ANOTHER OF THE PROFESSOR'S CREATIONS, AND I CAN PERHAPS USE HIM TO HELP ME!

ZERO WANT REVENGE FOR THIS—YES, MEN MUST PAY!

HOORAY, WE'LL SHOW 'EM, ZERO! THEY'VE KICKED US AROUND LONG ENOUGH...

YES, WE FIGHT BACK NOW!

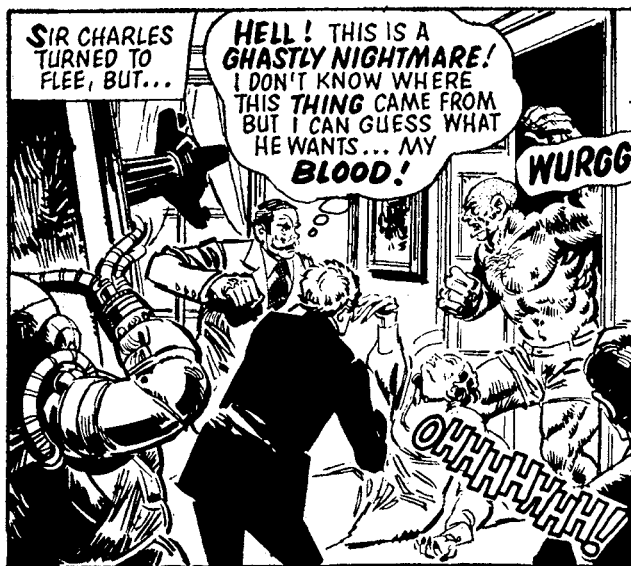
INSIDE THE LODGE, SIR CHARLES' UNSUSPECTING GUESTS EAGERLY AWAITED THE FIRST VIEWING OF THE SUIT!

CAN'T YOU GIVE US SOME IDEA OF THE NATURE OF THIS EXPERIMENT, SIR CHARLES?

NO COMMENT, EXCEPT THAT YOU'LL BE SURPRISED WHEN YOU SEE IT!

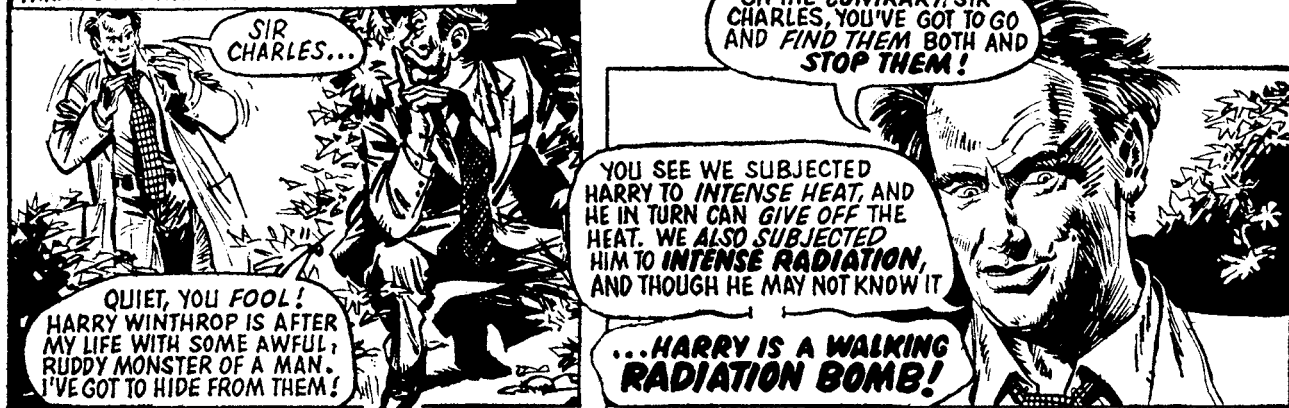
REGGIE, WHAT'S THAT STRANGE SMELL? NOT YOUR CIGARETTE IS IT?

GOOD HEAVENS, NO M'DEAR!





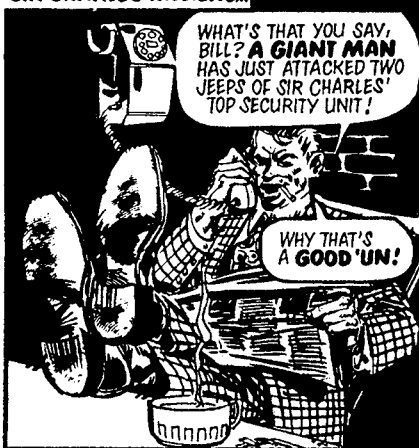
THE PROFESSOR, HAVING RECOVERED FROM ZERO'S ATTACK, WAS MAKING HIS WAY BACK TO THE HOUSE, WHEN...



NOT SO MUCH A SECRET AGENT...
MORE A SECRET WEAPON!

M.A.C.H.1

INSIDE THE GATE HOUSE OF **PEMBERTON LODGE**, THE COUNTRY HOUSE OWNED BY BUSINESS TYCOON, **SIR CHARLES HILLIERS**...



MACH ZERO

LITTLE HARRY WAS A TIMID LABORATORY ASSISTANT, UNTIL HE BECAME A GUINEA PIG FOR AN EXPERIMENT WHICH HAS TURNED HIM INTO A **RAMPAGING KILLER!**

2000 A.D.
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GEOFFREY MILLER
ART ROBOT
MONTERO
LETTERING ROBOT
JOHN ALDRICH
COMPU-73e

ALTHOUGH THE SUIT SUCCESSFULLY PROTECTED HARRY FROM RADIATION RAYS, IT HAS NOW BECOME WELDED TO HIS BODY, LIKE AN EXTRA-OUTER SKIN, AND HARRY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE FINDS THAT HE HAS POWER!



YOU KNOW ME - LITTLE HARRY! HARRY THE NO-ONE. BUT NOW HARRY'S A BIG BOY, HARRY'S A SOMEONE!



P- PLEASE, PUT ME DOWN!



PUT MAN DOWN, NO NEED TO HURT HIM, ONLY WANT REVENGE ON BAD MAN WHO DID THE WICKED EXPERIMENTS...!



RAAGGHHH! LEMME GO!

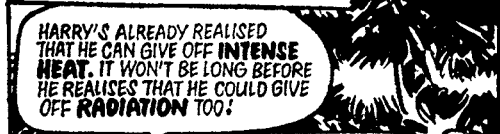


ZERO SEAL OFF ENTRANCE... UUUHHH!



OKAY, LET'S GO AND FIND SIR CHARLES!

AT THAT MOMENT, SIR CHARLES AND THE PROFESSOR WERE IN HIDING...



HARRY'S ALREADY REALISED THAT HE CAN GIVE OFF INTENSE HEAT. IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE HE REALISES THAT HE COULD GIVE OFF RADIATION TOO!



WHAAAT? SO YOU MEAN THAT HE'S A WALKING RADIATION STORE HOUSE WHICH CAN BE TRIGGERED OFF WHENEVER HE CHOOSES! WELL...

STILL PEOPLE TRYING TO PUSH HARRY ROUND! HAVE TO GET RID OF YOU ZERO, BUT FIRST YOU CAN HELP ME!



THE PROF RETURNED TO THE GATHERING WHO HAD COME TO WITNESS THE FIRST SHOWING OF THE SUIT...

NOW, LISTEN EVERYONE, I WANT YOU ALL TO KEEP CALM, THERE'S NO NEED TO PANIC, BUT THE GENTLEMAN IN THE SUIT HAS THE POWER TO SET OFF A RADIATION FALL-OUT WHICH COULD AFFECT ALL ENGLAND!



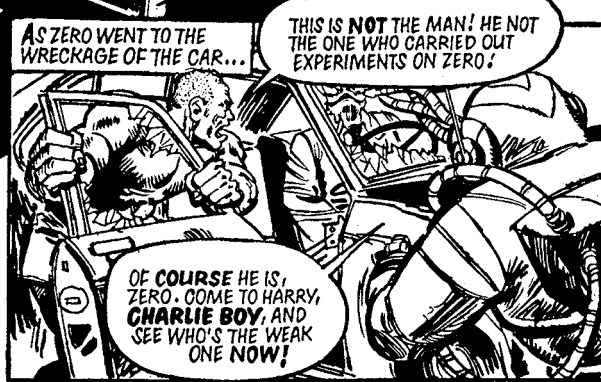
OHHHHHH!

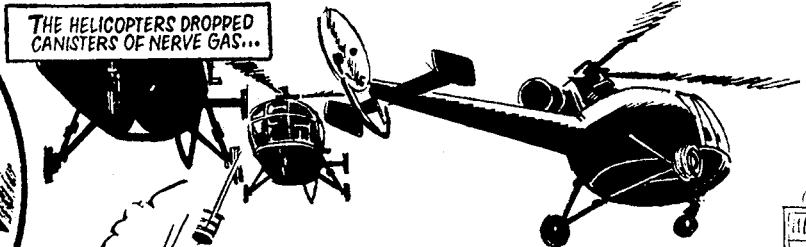
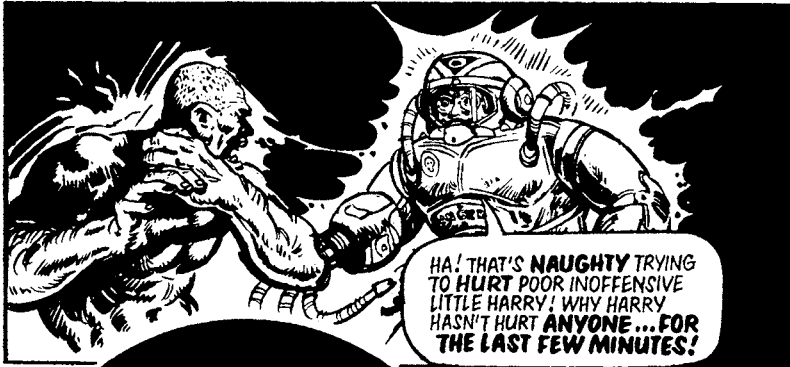


WHATEVER'S GOING ON IT'S TIME TO GET HELP!



THE ACU-PUNCTURE TREATMENT ENABLED HYPER POWER TO BE GENERATED THROUGHOUT ZERO'S BODY—TO LIMITS WHICH COULD PROVE TO BE **SHATTERING!**





EVEN ZERO WAS RENDERED HELPLESS BY THE GAS, BUT HARRY WAS PROTECTED BY THE SUIT...

HARRY STANDS SUPREME! THEY COULDN'T DEAL WITH HARRY... BUT NOW HARRY, IT'S YOUR TURN TO GET YOUR OWN BACK... TIME TO UNLEASH ALL THE RADIATION WHICH HAS BEEN ABSORBED BY MY SUIT...

THIS IS IT, THE MOMENT WHEN THE WORLD WILL TAKE NOTE OF HARRY WINTHROP... THE MOMENT!

BUT THE MOMENT WAS NOT TO BE!

ARRGGHHHH!

AS MOXAN, WITH THE REVIVED PROFESSOR, RACED OUT TO WITNESS AN UNCANNY SIGHT...

MY GOD! THE SUIT IS BURNING ITSELF UP!

THE GAS HAS EFFECTIVELY SPEEDED UP THE PROCESS... AN OVERLOAD, YOU MIGHT SAY!

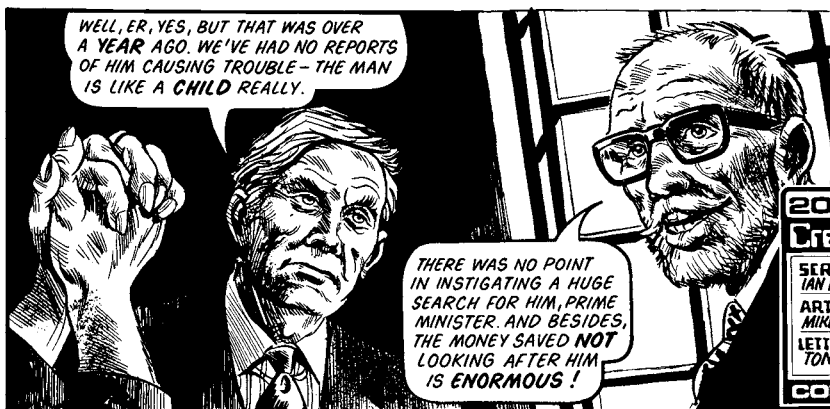
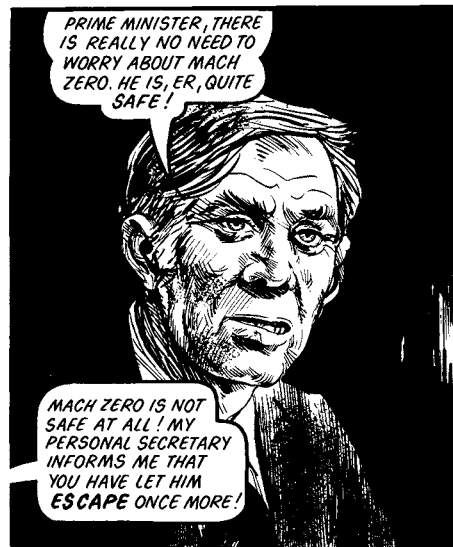
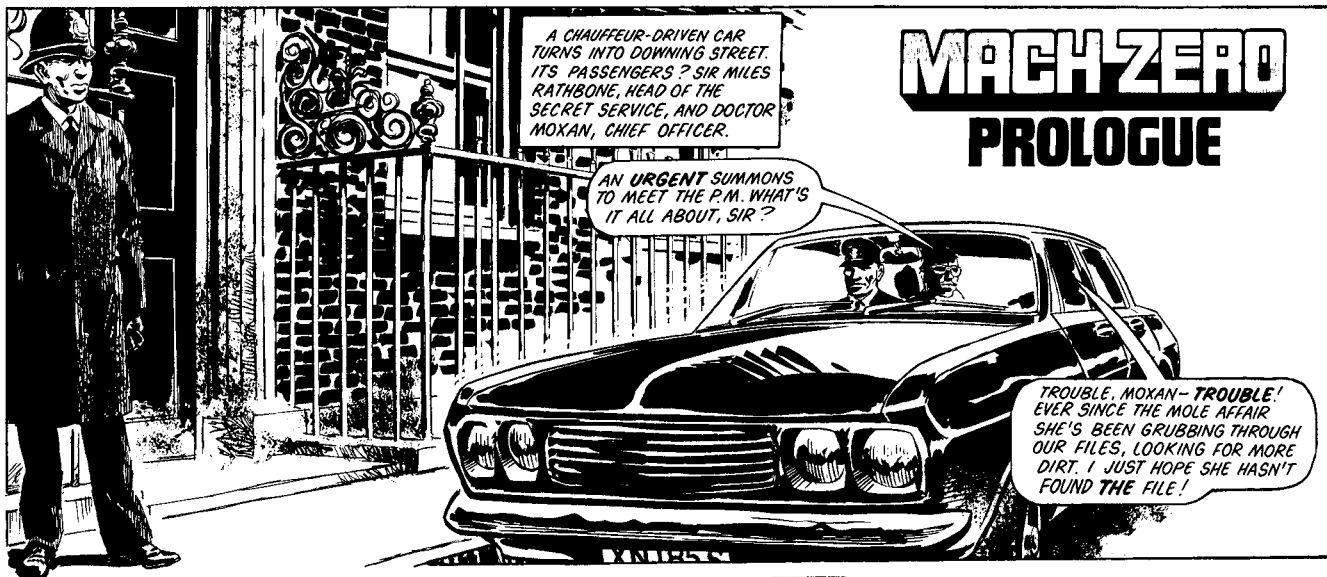
BUT LOOK, HARRY'S OKAY!

... WHICH IS MORE THAN COULD BE SAID FOR MACH ZERO, WHO WAS RETURNED TO HIS OLD CELL WHERE HE AWAITED THE FINAL DECISION ON HIS FATE!

THE END

MACH ZERO

PROLOGUE



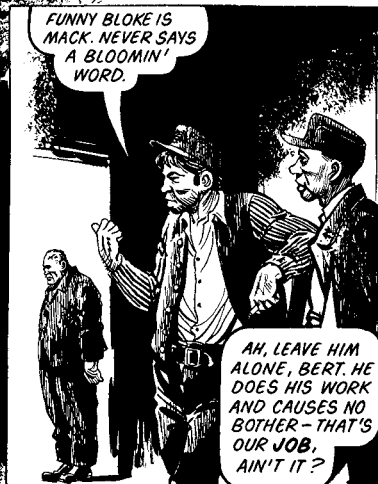
A MENACE TO SOCIETY? THE PRIME MINISTER'S WORDS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

MACK ZERO

THE FINAL DAYS



FUNNY BLOKE IS MACK. NEVER SAYS A BLOOMIN' WORD.



AH, LEAVE HIM ALONE, BERT. HE DOES HIS WORK AND CAUSES NO BOTHER - THAT'S OUR JOB, AIN'T IT?

YES, ZERO IS A GOOD PORTER. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE COMPU-PUNCTURE HYPERPOWER EXPERIMENTS HE IS HAPPY.



WUUURGH!

BUT THE PROLONGED EFFECTS OF COMPU-PUNCTURE HYPERPOWER ARE BEGINNING TO TAKE THEIR TOLL.



THERE IS NO PAIN, BUT ZERO KNOWS HE WILL SOON BE DEAD...

HE ACCEPTS THIS. HE HAS SHUT OUT THE TORMENT OF THE PAST FEW YEARS, THOUGHTS OF HATE FOR THOSE WHO MADE HIM A MONSTER, LONGING FOR HIS BOY TOMMY.



ALL HE WANTS IS TO BE LEFT ALONE TO DIE IN PEACE.

BUT THE NIGHTMARE WILL NOT LEAVE HIM ALONE...



THE RECURRING DREAM THAT SOMEHOW HIS PAST WILL RETURN, THAT HE WILL AGAIN BE FORCED TO USE THE STRENGTH THAT CAN LITERALLY TEAR TANKS APART!



BUT MACH ZERO NEVER APPEARED IN A SCENE LIKE THIS. SURELY IT IS JUST A DREAM?

SURELY PEACE IS NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR?





THE FACE BURNS THROUGH THE PROTECTIVE LAYERS HE HAS THROWN UP AROUND HIS MEMORY...

SCORCHES DEEP INTO HIS UNCONSCIOUS... HE FEELS A STRANGE CHILL IN HIS BODY.



BUT AS FAST AS THE FACE BURROWS, HE PUSHES IT OUT. IT IS A TRICK, A TRICK TO HURT HIM.

PEACE IS WHAT HE WANTS... NOTHING MORE.



TWO DAYS PASS. AND THEN, ON THE THIRD NIGHT, MACH ZERO HAS VISITORS...

THIS IS WHERE HE LIVES. NOW REMEMBER, JUST DRUG HIM AND GET HIM INTO THE AMBULANCE.

RIGHT! THE STATION MASTER SAYS HE'S DOCTILE ENOUGH.



MACH ZERO HAS BEEN FOUND. BUT—

HE'S FLOWN!

CONTACT SIR MILES IMMEDIATELY. LORD KNOWS WHERE HE IS— BUT WE MUST FIND HIM!



MACH ZERO WON'T BE RETURNING TO THE CARAVAN. DESPITE HIS RESOLUTION TO IGNORE THE PAST HE KNOWS BEYOND ALL DOUBT THAT IT WAS HIS SON TOMMY...

... THAT HE WAS UNHAPPY AND ZERO MUST HELP HIM!

NEXT PROG: HERE COMES THE NIGHT!

MACH ZERO

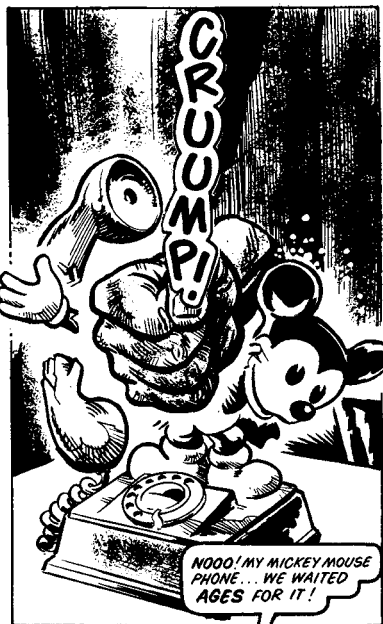
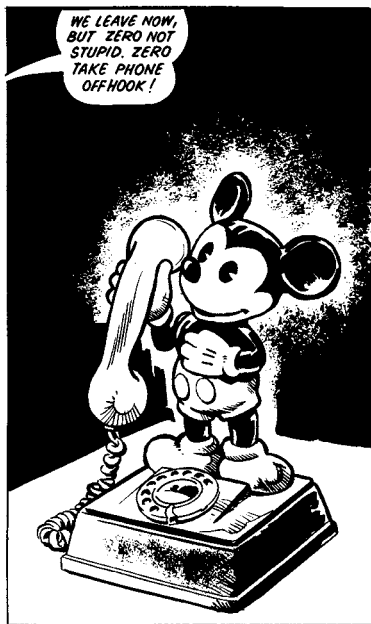
WHEN MACH ZERO, LAST OF THE MEN ACTIVATED BY COMPU-PUNCTURE HYPERPOWER, ESCAPED FROM HIS UNDERGROUND PRISON HE TRIED TO LIVE OUT HIS FINAL DAYS IN PEACE. BUT A GLIMPSE OF HIS SON TOMMY ON A PASSING TRAIN AWOKED OLD MEMORIES, AND HE SET OUT IN SEARCH OF THE BOY. NOW, OUTSIDE A LONELY HOUSE ON DARTMOOR...

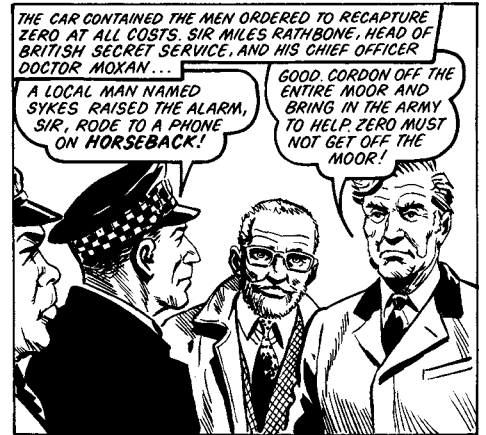


2000AD
Credit Card:
 SCRIPT ROBOT
 IAN ROGAN
 ART ROBOT
 MIKE DOREY
 LETTERING ROBOT
 TONY JACOB
COMPU-73E









MACH ZERO





ZERO'S FUDDLED BRAIN DOES NOT REMEMBER HIS HORRENDOUS PAST.

MAYBE WE SHOULD GO SEE SOLDIERS, TOMMY.

NO! TRUST ME, DAD - I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.

BUT THE TROOPS ARE CLOSING IN. NOT FAR AWAY IS ANOTHER SCOUTING PARTY -

I-I DON'T LIKE THIS, SARGE. I'VE HEARD RUMOURS ABOUT ZERO AND WHAT HE CAN D-DO.

SHUT UP, JONES, AND STOP WAVING YOUR RIFLE AROUND - I DON'T WANT A TRANG DART UP MY BACKSIDE.

HOLD IT! CAN HEAR SOMETHING COMING OVER THE RIDGE, SARGE!

EASY, JONES!

WUURGH!

NO, IT'S HIM!

GET ON TO THE MAIN COLUMN BY RADIO, FRANKS - NOW!

DO NOT FEAR US, SOLDIERS. WE WANT ONLY TO PASS.

O-O-KAY, FELLER. WE WON'T HARM YOU.

O-DEAD RIGHT - I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

BUT AS JONES TURNS TO RUN - HE TRIPS!

AAAGH!

ZIT!

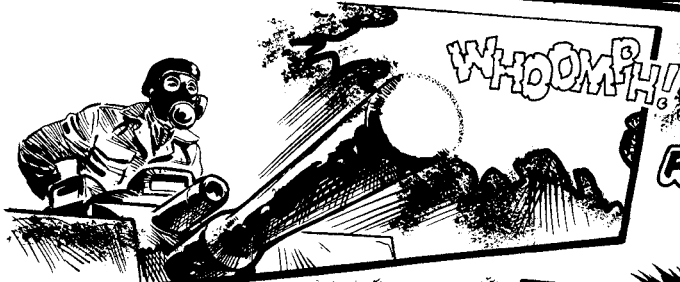
UUUNGH!

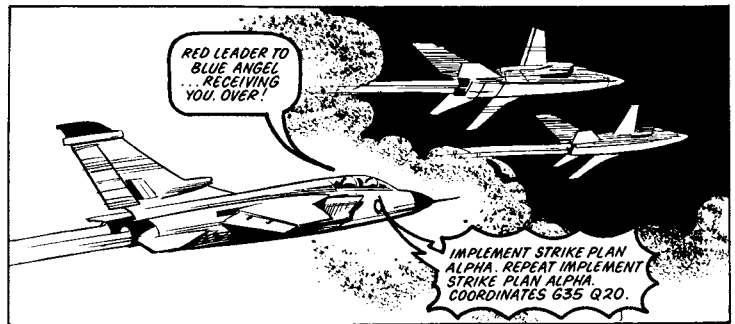
BOY HIT-



MACH ZERO



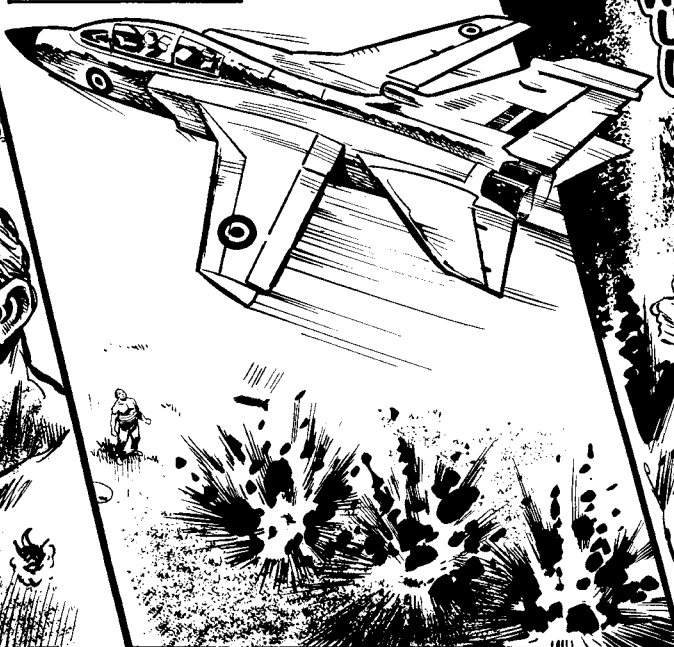




ZERO STOPS AS HE HEARS THE APPROACHING SOUND AND SEES THE THREE BLACK DOTS COMING LOW OVER THE HORIZON...

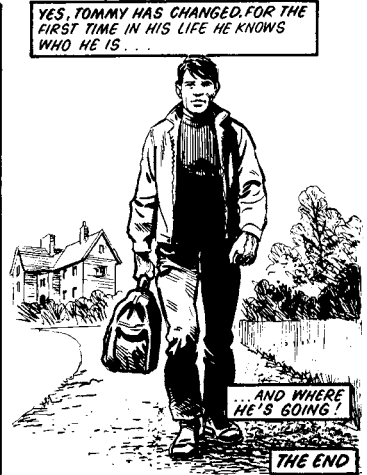


SECONDS LATER THE BOMBS FALL. ZERO STANDS AS IF FASCINATED BY THE PRECISION WITH WHICH THE TORNADO PILOT HAS LAID THEM...



AND A SPLIT SECOND LATER IS ENGULFED IN A HOLOCAUST OF FLAME!







ANNUAL STORIES

THE TIME: 8.00 AM
JULY 10th 1988

UHH... GOOD TO
GET AWAY FROM
PEOPLE. NEED TO BE
ALONE... TO
THINK...



THE PLACE: KENT
COUNTRY SIDE.

BUT WHAT ZERO
THINK ABOUT...?



THE MAN: **MACHZERO**

UNSUCCESSFUL MACH MAN
PROTOTYPE. A MAN LITERALLY
BURSTING WITH ENERGY. A
MAN FEARED AND HATED
BECAUSE OF HIS SIZE
AND STRENGTH!



AHH... ZERO NOT THINK!
ZERO TALK INSTEAD.
PLANTS AND ANIMALS
NOT FRIGHTENED OF
ZERO!

2000AD

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HENRY MILLER
ART ROBOT
KEVIN O'NEILL
LETTERING ROBOT
PETE KNIGHT

COMPU-73e

MACH ZERO in: CYBORG EXPRESS

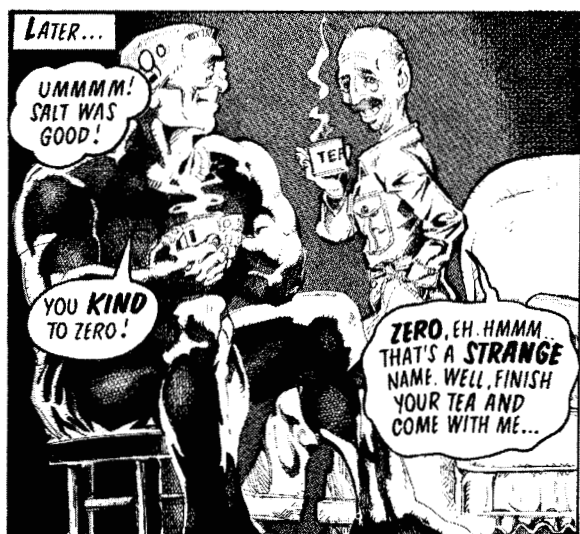
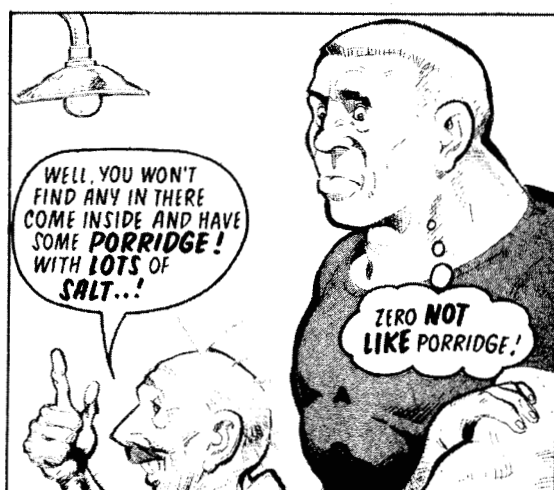
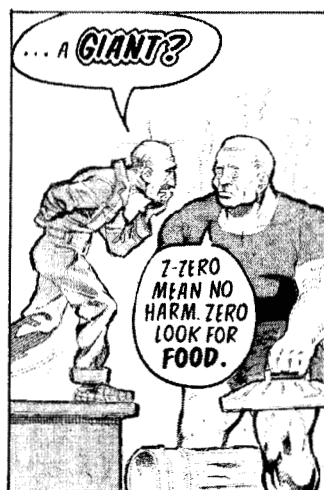
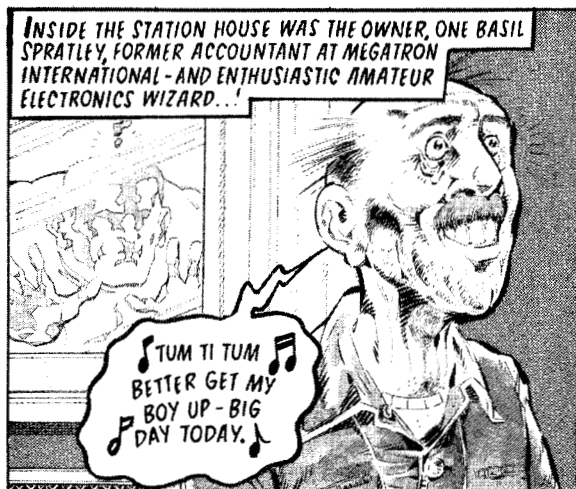
45 MINUTES LATER...

... OR MAYBE ZERO EAT...
NOT SURE... MAYBE FIND FOOD
IN CHUFF-CHUFF HOUSE!

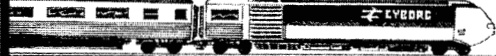


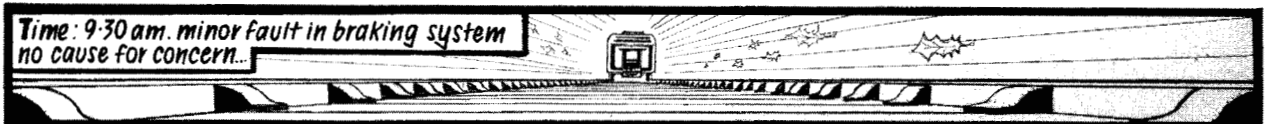
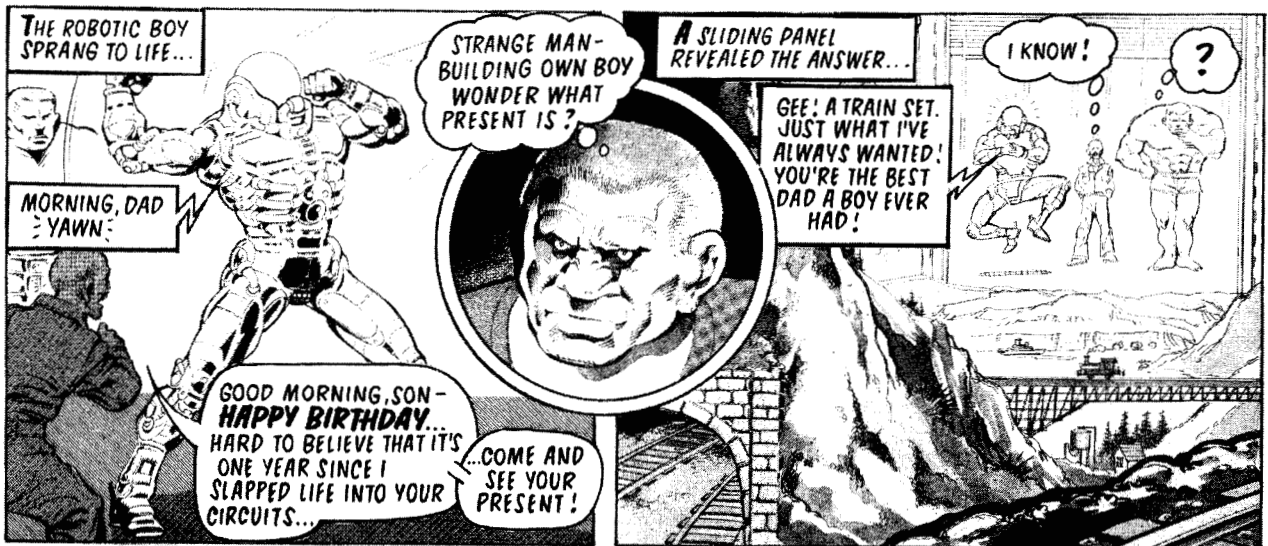
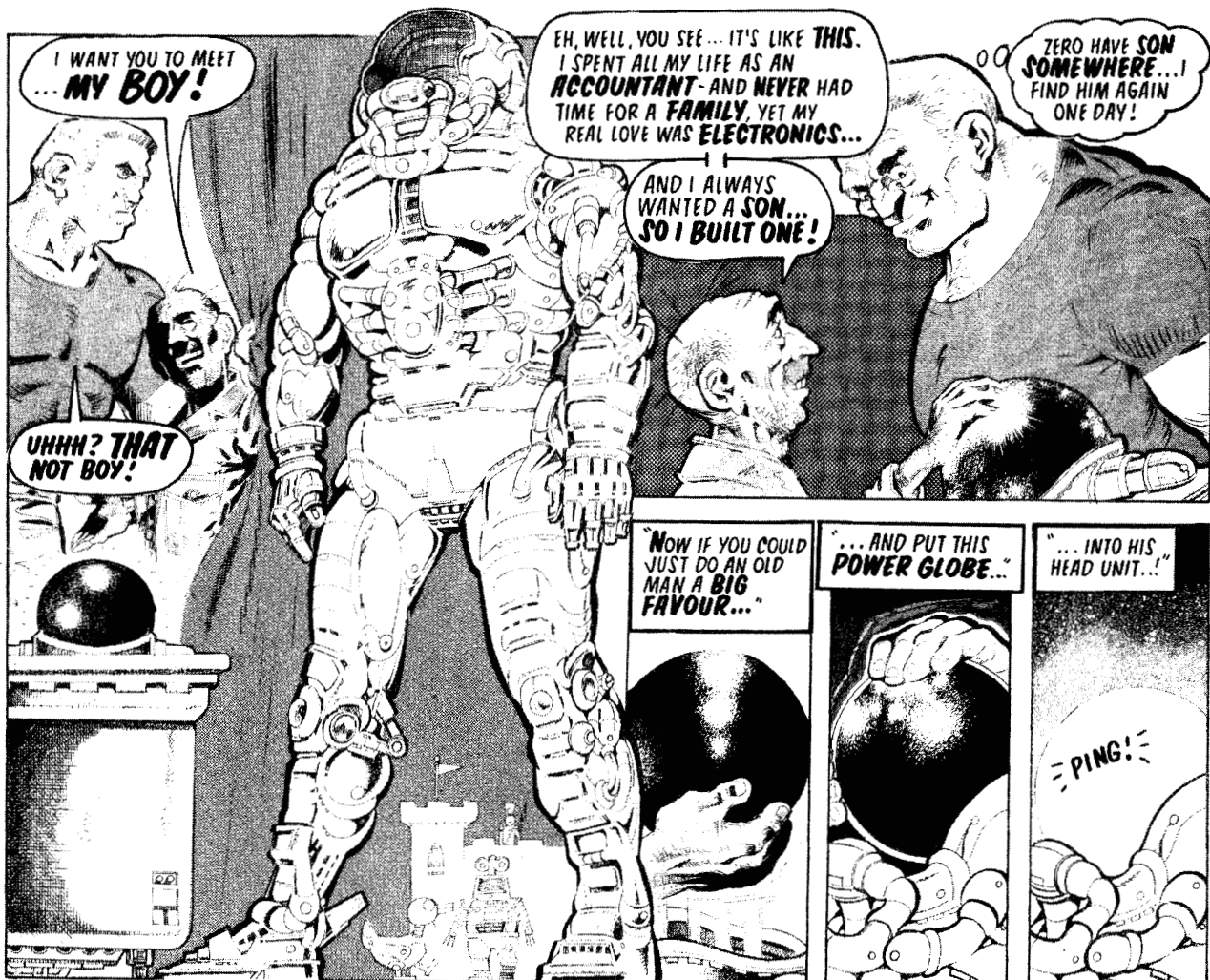
ZERO HAD ARRIVED AT WOOD ROT EAST, A ONCE
PROUD "BRITISH RAIL" SUBURBAN LINE STATION.
NOW PRIVATELY OWNED...

Time: 8.45 British Rail prototype train "CYBORG EXPRESS" now on trial run. Train
un-manned guided by computer. Top speed: 300 M.P.H.



Time: 9.15 am. Cyborg compu reaut: All systems A-OK. predict all existing rail speed records will be broken in 45 minutes.



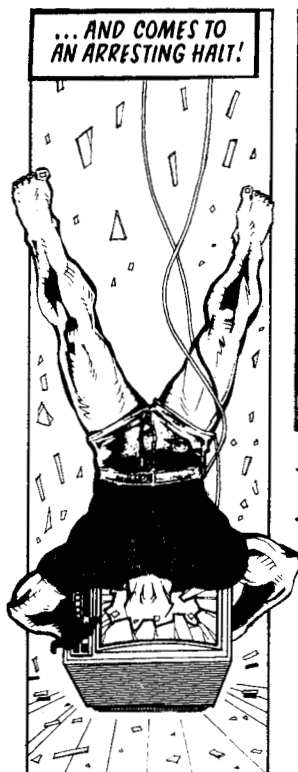




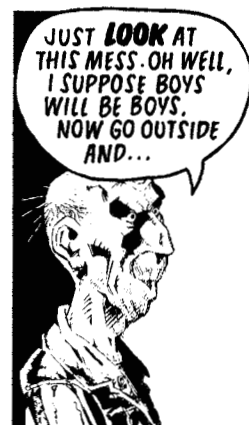


PLASTI-STEEL TENDONS AND PNEUMATIC MUSCLES WHIPLASH AN IRON FIST INTO ACTION...

ZERO SOARS ACROSS THE ROOM - 250 LBS OF RAW MUSCLE AND BONE ON A FLIGHT PATH OF DESTRUCTION.



IF I'VE TOLD YOU ONCE, I'VE TOLD YOU A THOUSAND TIMES. **DON'T PLAY ROUGH GAMES INDOORS!**



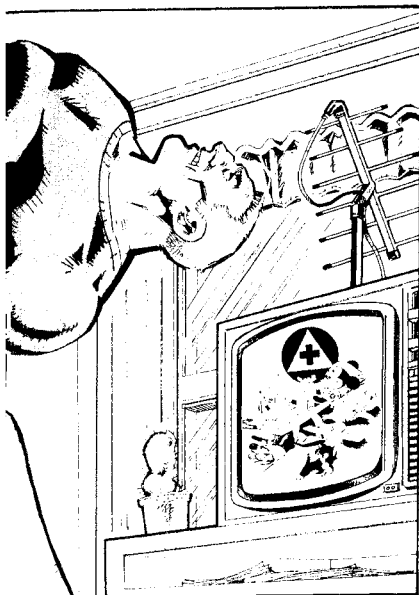
SQUEEE

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY BOY?
SPEAK TO ME, SON!

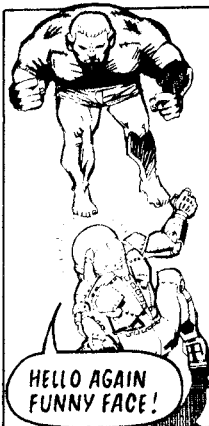
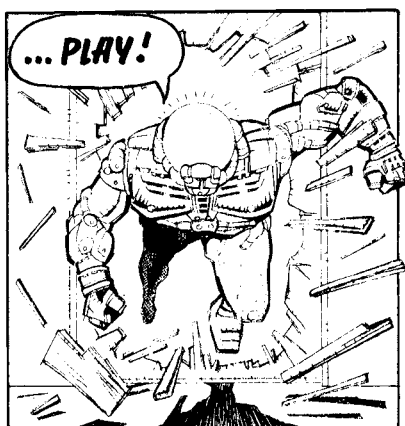
BASIL HEARS THE HIGH PITCHED METALLIC SCREAM. AND RUNS OUTSIDE!



Time : 10:11 a.m. **SCREEEE**

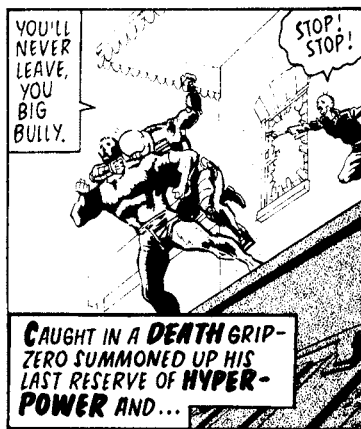
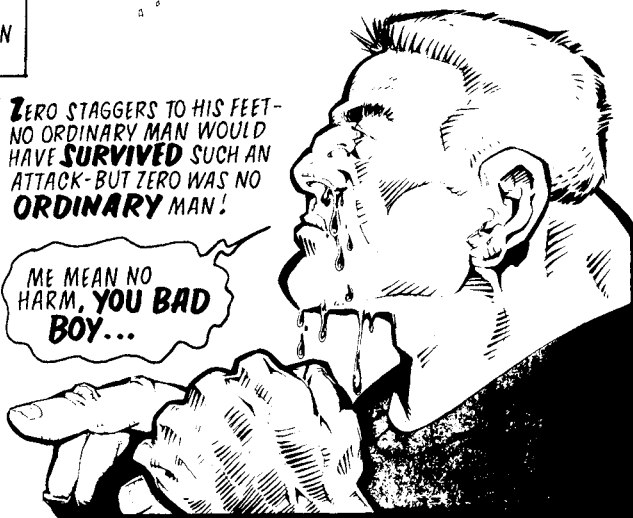


LIKE A HUMAN
DEMOLITION BALL
HE EXPLODES
INTO THE STATION
PLATFORM...

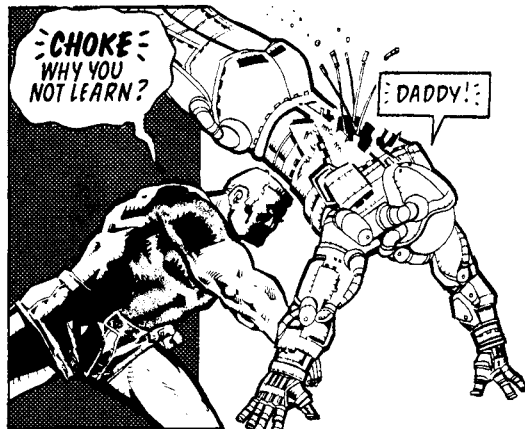


ZERO STAGGERS TO HIS FEET-
NO ORDINARY MAN WOULD
HAVE **SURVIVED** SUCH AN
ATTACK- BUT ZERO WAS NO
ORDINARY MAN!

ME MEAN NO
HARM, YOU **BAD**
BOY...



CAUGHT IN A DEATH GRIP-
ZERO SUMMONED UP HIS
LAST RESERVE OF **HYPER-**
POWER AND...



WITH AN EARSPLITTING SCREECH, THE CYBORG EXPRESS PLOUGHED THROUGH ITS ROBOTIC OBSTACLE!

THE ROBOT WAS REDUCED TO THE PILE OF SPARE PARTS AND SCRAP IT ORIGINATED FROM. ONLY ITS POWER GLOBE WAS THROWN CLEAR...

CYBORG COMPU-READ-OUT.
OBSTRUCTION: HUMAN EFFIGY. **MAKE UP**: PLASTI-STEEL. **DANGER RATING**: ZERO. CONCLUSION: DAMAGE TO CAB MINIMAL. MINOR FAULT IN BRAKES RESPONSIBLE. FAULT NOW CLEARED.

WHOOPS!

WAROOOOOM!

CRACK!

GRIND!

SNAP!

CRASH

THE ROAR OF THE EXPRESS STILL ECHOED THROUGH THE OLD MAN'S HEAD AS HE JUMPED ONTO THE RAILS, AND....

SPEAK TO ME SON: SNIFF... TELL YOUR DAD YOU'RE **OKAY!**

I-I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD- SO GOOD- SO GOOD SO GOOD...

M-MY HEAD... HURTS... HURTS...

BEEP!

ZERO AMBLED AWAY LOST IN HIS OWN TORMENTED WORLD...

WHY ME HERE?

... BY THE TIME HE REACHED LONDON HE'D ONLY VAGUE MEMORIES OF THAT MORNING...

ME HUNGRY!

PERHAPS IT WAS JUST AS WELL!

THE END

324792-MACH-0

324793-MACH-1

THE MACH-MAN FILE



**SUBJECT: JOHN PROBE
ALIAS MACH-1 (NOW DECEASED)**

**INFORMATION: MAN ACTIVATED BY COMPU-PUNCTURE HYPER
POWER.**

**MISSION: TO INVESTIGATE THE DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO
SCIENTISTS FROM MOON BASE "ENTERPRISE."**

THE MOON: 1991: MARE IMBRIUM CRATER. TWO SCIENTISTS FROM MOON-BASE ENTERPRISE ARE INVESTIGATING A STRANGE SOURCE OF RADIO-ACTIVITY, DETECTED IN THE HEART OF THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS...

I THINK WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO THE SOURCE, JACQUES. THE GEIGER'S GOING CRAZY!

THE MOON: 1991: MARE IMBRIUM CRATER. TWO SCIENTISTS FROM MOON-BASE ENTERPRISE ARE INVESTIGATING A STRANGE SOURCE OF RADIO-ACTIVITY, DETECTED IN THE HEART OF THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS...

**I THINK WE'RE GETTING
CLOSE TO THE SOURCE,
JACQUES. THE GEIGER'S
GOING CRAZY!**

**IT'S REGISTERING 150 ROENTGENS,
AND RISING!**

**IMPOSSIBLE, MON AMI. . .
NON. . . THIS CANNOT BE
TRUE. . . NOT EVEN A
HIGH CONCENTRATION
OF URANIUM-235
WOULD GIVE THESE READINGS!**

THEN...PERHAPS
MY THEORY OF..

...LIFE ON THE MOON...?
SURELY NOT...YOU
MUST BE JOKING...!

BUT SUDDENLY...

BZZZZZZZZZZZZZ!

ZZZZZZ!

2000 A.D.
Credit Card:

SCRIPT ROBOT <i>MIKE LAKE</i>
ART ROBOT <i>TREV GORING</i>
LETTERING ROBOT <i>TONY JACOB</i>

COMPU-73E

**BUT IT WAS
NO JOKE!**

TWO DAYS LATER, AT MOON-BASE ENTERPRISE, JOHN PROBE IS GREETED BY JERRY COYLE, THE BASE COMMANDER...

GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US, JOHN—BUT WE HAVEN'T GOT A MOMENT TO LOSE—OUR TECHNICIANS HAVE BEEN WORKING ROUND THE CLOCK TO GET YOU FIXED UP WITH TRANSPORT...

AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S AN ADAPTED HOVER-BIKE... IT'S AN ATOMIC-POWERED HARLEY-DAVIDSON... HAS UNLIMITED RANGE... CARRIES IT'S OWN 20 HOUR OXYGEN SUPPLY... AND...

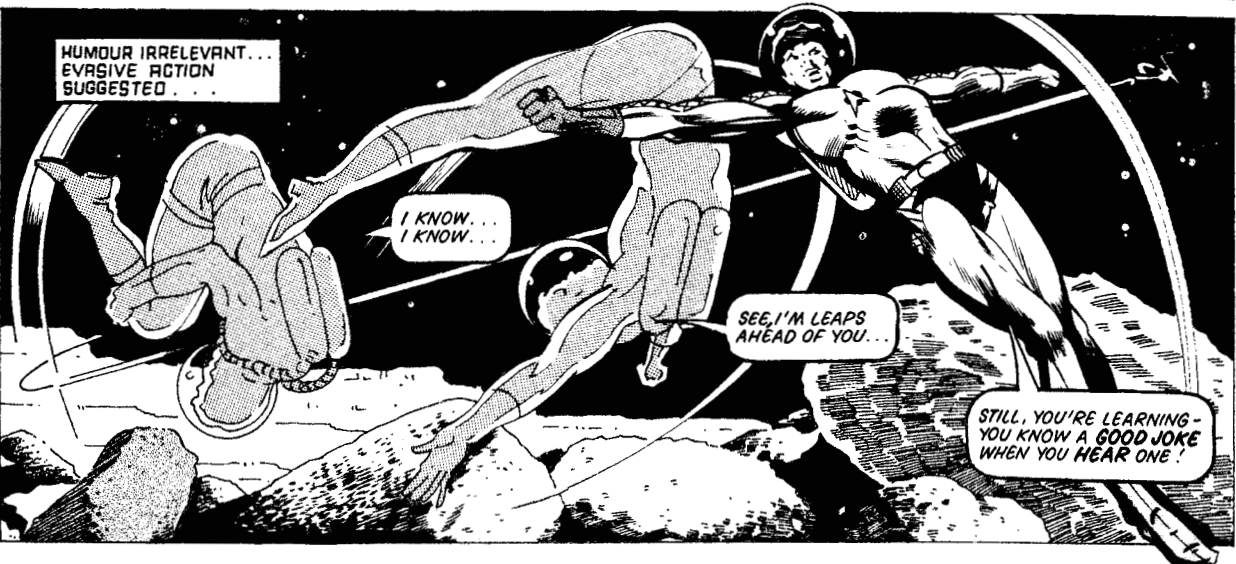
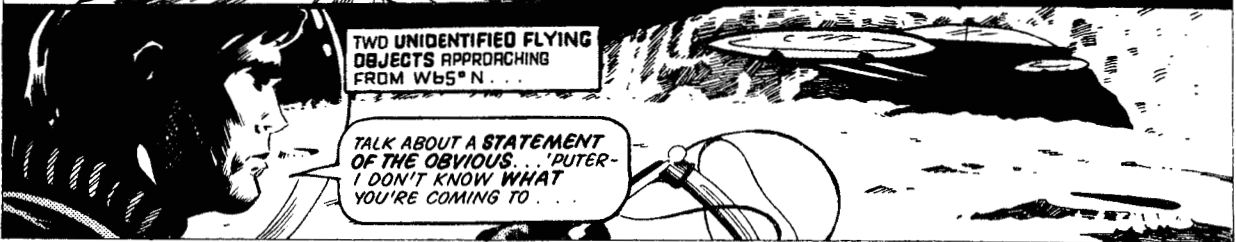
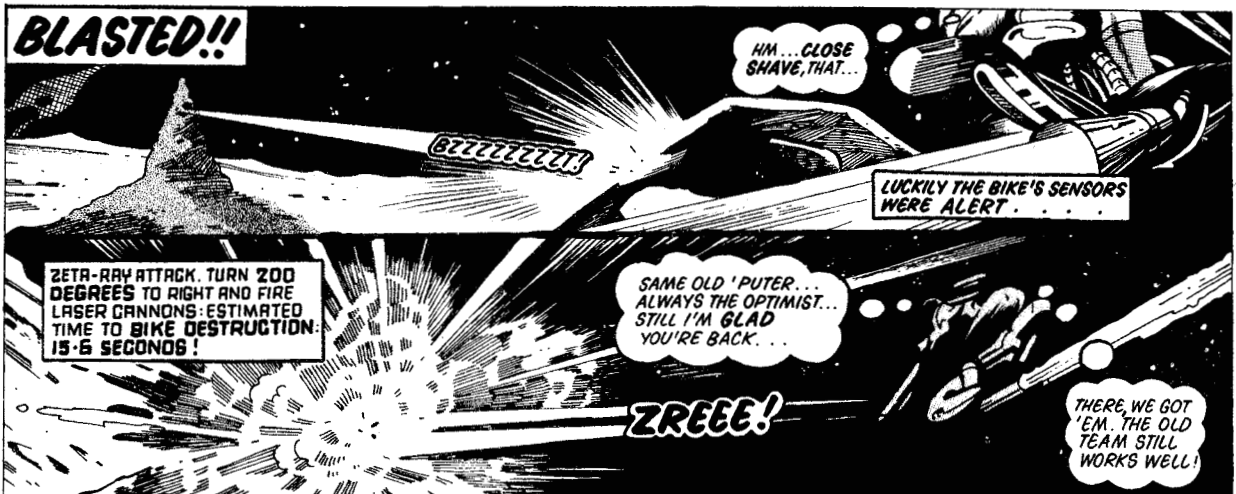
...BUT WHAT DOES IT DO TO THE GALLON...?

...AND HARUMPH!—REMOTE CONTROL IS POSSIBLE BY RADIO-LINK TO YOUR COMPUTER, WHICH WILL ALSO LEAD YOU, AUTOMATICALLY, TO THE MOON BUGGY... AND JOHN...

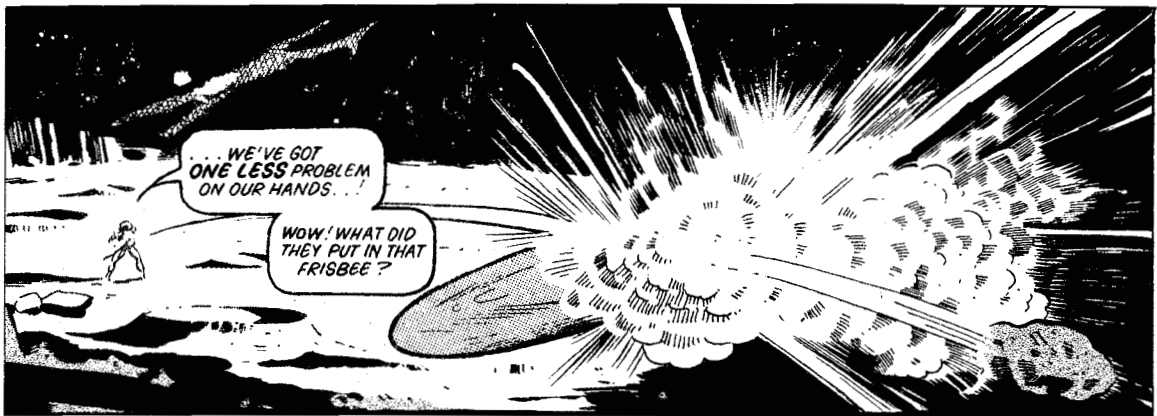
YES...?

TRY AND BRING THE BIKE IN ONE PIECE...!

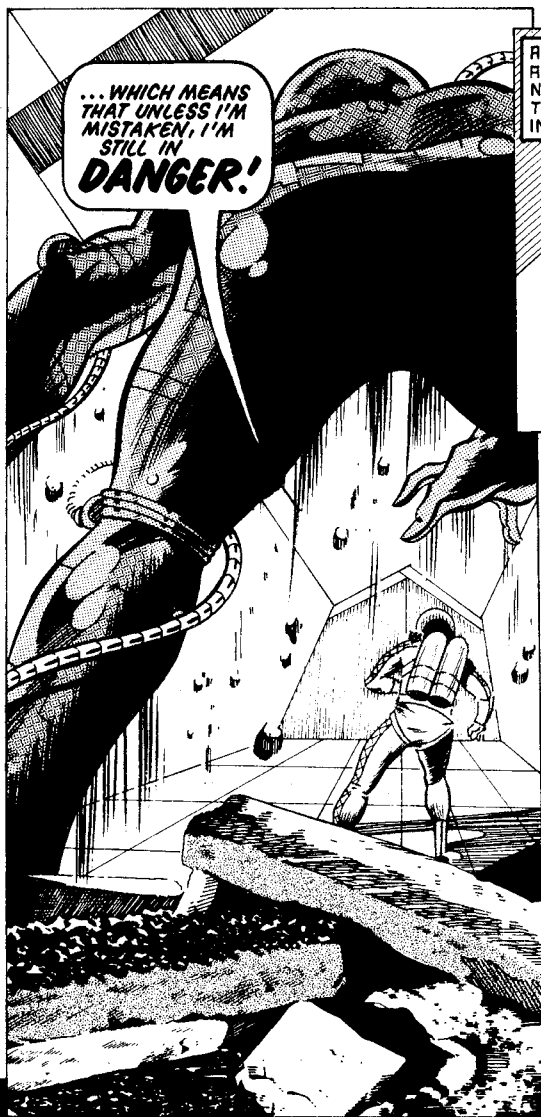
SOME HOPE!



ONE SAUCER FOLLOWED THE
BIKE, WHICH WAS STILL
UNDER MACH-1'S
COMPUTER CONTROL.







...WHICH MEANS
THAT UNLESS I'M
MISTAKEN, I'M
STILL IN
DANGER!

ASSUMPTION CORRECT.
AUTOMATIC MECHANISMS
NOW TRIGGERED IN
THIS BASE. ATTACK
IMMINENT.



THANKS FOR THE
INFO, COMPUTER
... BUT YOUR
TIMING IS LOUSY...



AND AS FOR, TIN-HEAD,
**YOU'RE JUST
BEGINNING
TO GET ME
ANGRY!**



ATTACKED BY FLYING SAUCERS,
ALMOST MANGLED BY A
ROBOT... SHEESH- WHAT
A DAY... I KNEW I SHOULD
HAVE STAYED IN BED!

PROBE VENTURED FURTHER
INTO THE ALIEN BASE...
ON A FLICKERING SCREEN
BEFORE HIM A BIZARRE
FACE APPEARED...

GREETINGS, STRANGER.
WELCOME TO EARTH
OBSERVATION OUTPOST
No. 3. WE ARE PLEASED
YOU HAVE REACHED THIS
FAR... IT SHOWS A
COURAGE AND STRENGTH
WE THOUGHT HUMANS
LACKED...

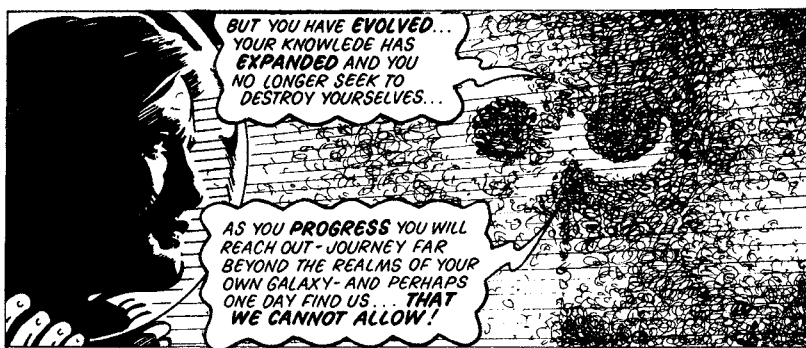
YOU WILL INDEED
PROVIDE US WITH
A CHALLENGE
WORTHY OF OUR
SUPERIOR
ABILITIES!





WE HAVE BEEN OBSERVING YOUR CIVILISATION FOR MANY **THOUSANDS OF YEARS** - WATCHING YOU COMMIT COUNTLESS **ATROCITIES** AGAINST MEMBERS OF YOUR OWN SPECIES...

... HOPING THAT YOUR WARLIKE NATURE WOULD LEAD TO THE **ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION OF MANKIND!**



BUT YOU HAVE **EVOLVED...** YOUR KNOWLEDGE HAS **EXPANDED** AND YOU NO LONGER SEEK TO **DESTROY YOURSELVES...**

AS YOU **PROGRESS** YOU WILL REACH OUT - JOURNEY FAR BEYOND THE REALMS OF YOUR OWN GALAXY - AND PERHAPS ONE DAY FIND US... **THAT WE CANNOT ALLOW!**



BUT BEFORE THAT CAN HAPPEN WE WILL **ACTIVATE OUR BASES** AND CAUSE THE **DESTRUCTION OF EARTH...**

IN THE MEANTIME **PREPARE TO DIE!**

OH NO... NOT **MORE ROBOTS...**

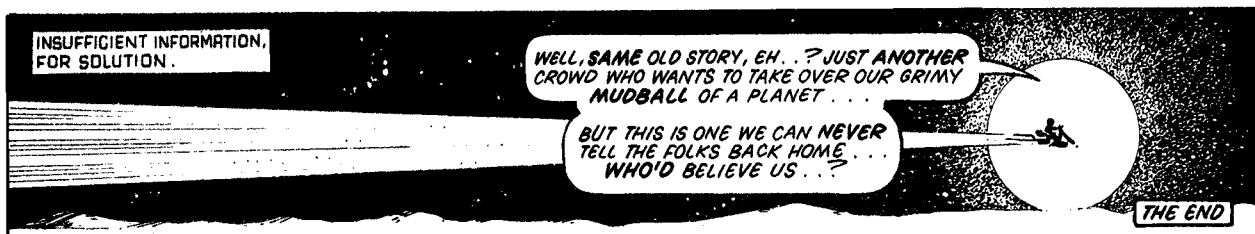
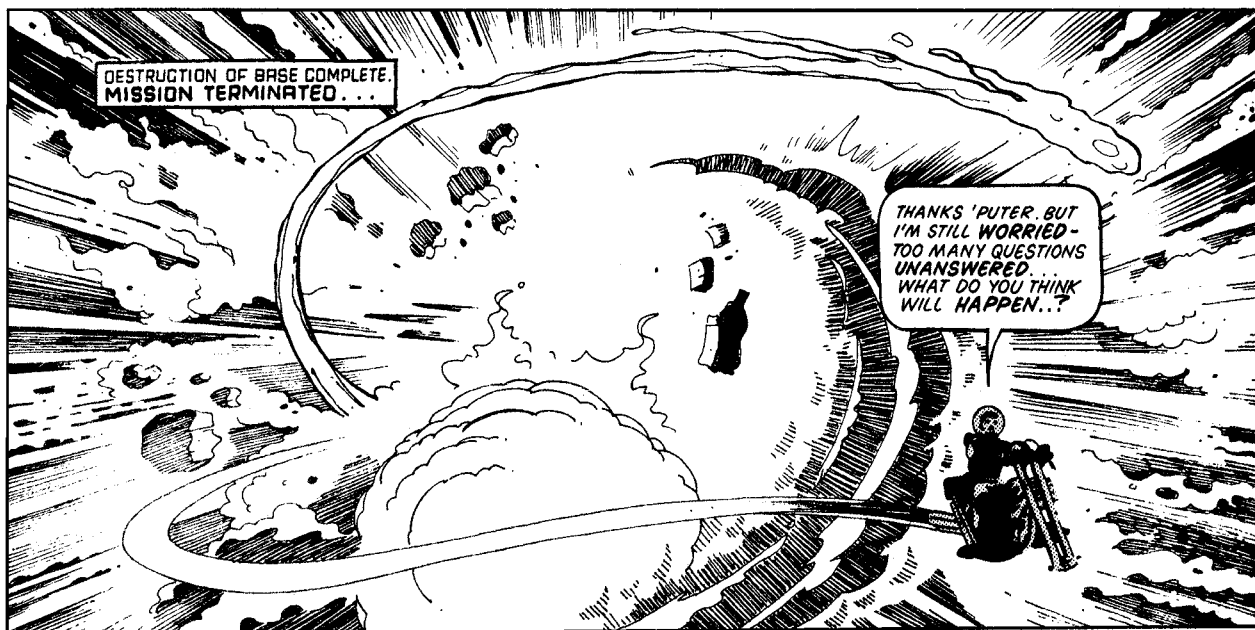
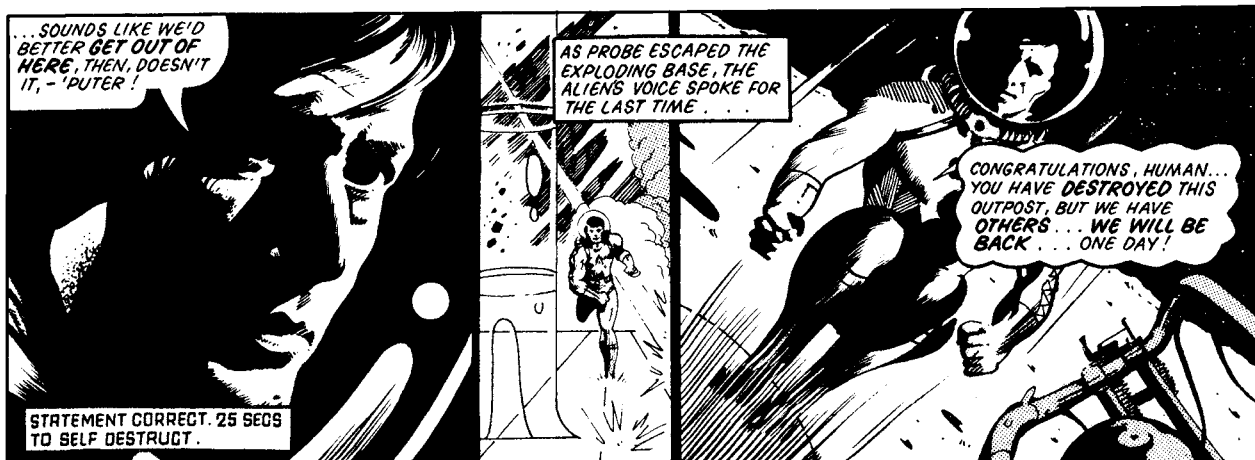
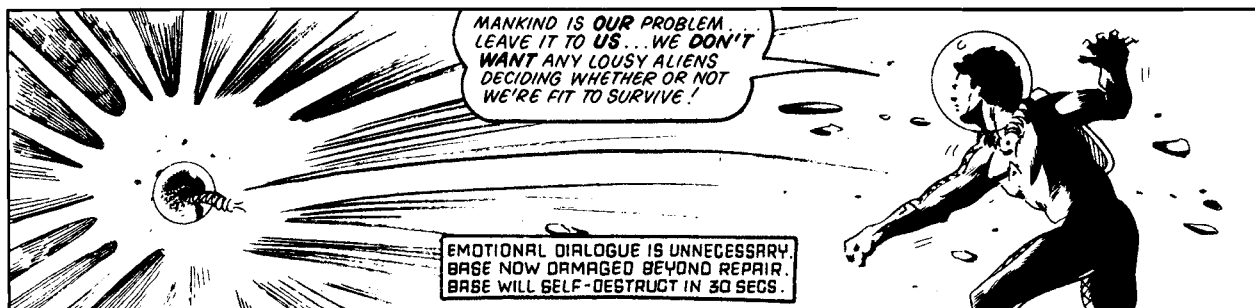


NOW YOU'VE DONE IT... YOU'VE GOT ME **REALLY MAD!**

FIRST YOU **KILL TWO MEN...** TWO FINE MEN WHO **ACCIDENTALLY STUMBLED** UPON YOU - AND WHOSE ONLY AIM WAS THE **ADVANCEMENT OF MANKIND...**

AND NOW YOU WANT TO **KILL OFF OUR ENTIRE PLANET...**

THAT... WILL... NOT... HAPPEN!



M.A.C.H.1

not so much a secret agent...
more a secret weapon!



SUBJECT:
SECRET AGENT
JOHN PROBE

PROCESS:
COMPU-PUNCTURE
HYPERPOWER

DATA:
COMPU-PUNCTURE
IS A COMPUTERISED
FORM OF ACUPUNCTURE.
BY INSERTING SPECIAL
ELECTRO NEEDLES INTO
PROBE'S BODY, HIS
ENERGY FLOW WILL
INCREASE UNTIL HE
HAS THE STRENGTH OF
FIFTY MEN!

**SUBJECT'S
CODENAME:**
MACH 1

MAN
ACTIVATED
BY
COMPU-
PUNCTURE
HYPERPOWER

MONTREAL - CANADA. THE TOURING RUSSIAN ICE-HOCKEY TEAM PLAY THEIR LAST MATCH AGAINST THE CANADIANS. THE BROTHER OF VOLSHA, THE RUSSIAN GOALMINDER, IS A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST WHO HAS JUST DEFECTED TO THE WEST...

I HAVE TOLD YOU ALREADY, UNLESS YOU HELP MY BROTHER TO DEFECT ALSO, I SHALL NEVER REVEAL THE SECRETS OF THE NEW BOMB MY PEOPLE HAVE DEVELOPED.



OKAY, OKAY! BUT YOUR BROTHER, LIKE ALL HIS TEAM - MATES, IS UNDER CONSTANT WATCH. WE'VE GOT TO TREAD WARILY.

ONE OF OUR AGENTS HAS BEEN PLACED IN THE CANADIAN TEAM. IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN GET CLOSE TO YOUR BROTHER. THE AGENT WILL GET THE MESSAGE YOU'VE WRITTEN AND YOUR PERSONAL RING TO YOUR BROTHER DURING THE MATCH...



... THEN THEY'LL ARRANGE HIS GETAWAY.

AH, A MAN HAS BEEN INJURED! THE SUBSTITUTE PLAYER COMING ON IS A VERY SPECIAL, SPECIAL AGENT!



WATCHING PROBE THROUGH NARROWED EYES, THE RUSSIAN TEAM LEADER - TROSKA, A SAVAGE MONGOLIAN K.G.B. SPY.



HERE GOES, I'VE GOT THE RING AND THE WRITTEN MESSAGE. SOMEHOW I'VE GOT TO GET THEM TO VOLSHA DURING THE MATCH.



TROSKA, RUSSIAN TEAM LEADER AND K.G.B. SPY AHEAD. KNOWN TO HAVE KILLED 123 MEN IN SEPARATE SECRET OPERATIONS IN THE WEST.

THAT'S JUST FINE, COMPUTER! MY FIRST ICE-HOCKEY MATCH AND THEY'VE GOT 'CUDDLES' TROSKA ON THEIR SIDE!



EASILY STOPPED!
NO-ONE PASSES ME,
SCUM!

BLOW TO KIDNEYS
INDICATES SIX TIMES
NORMAL MAN'S STRENGTH.

HERE'S MY CHANCE TO CAUSE
A BIT OF CONFUSION. THIS SHOULD
START AN ALMIGHTY FIGHT.

THESE GUYS
PLAY TO WIN! EVEN
I FELT THAT! WAIT
THOUGH—

AAAAH!

TEMPERS FLARED ON
BOTH SIDES AND SOON
THE ICE WAS A FRENZY
OF TANGLED BODIES.

I BRING NEWS FROM YOUR
BROTHER. THAT'S HIS RING AND
NOTE IN HIS HANDWRITING. I CAN
HELP YOU DEFECT. TRUST ME.
AFTER THE BREAK, TELL ME
YOUR DECISION.

NOW
TO GET THAT
MESSAGE TO
VOLSHA. GOOD
JOB I HAD THAT
CRASH COURSE
IN SPEED
SKATING.



WATCH, TROSKA APPROACHES!



HE'S SPOTTED US GOT TO STOP ANY SUSPICION. SMASH ME WITH YOUR STICK!

B-BUT... IT COULD KILL YOU!

YEAH, BUT ONLY A LITTLE BIT! C'MON—HIT ME, MAN—HARD!

AAAAH!

IMPACT SUFFICIENT TO IMMOBILISE NORMAL HUMAN — M.A.C.H.I. DAMAGE SUPERFICIAL BRUISING. EXCLAMATION UNNECESSARY.



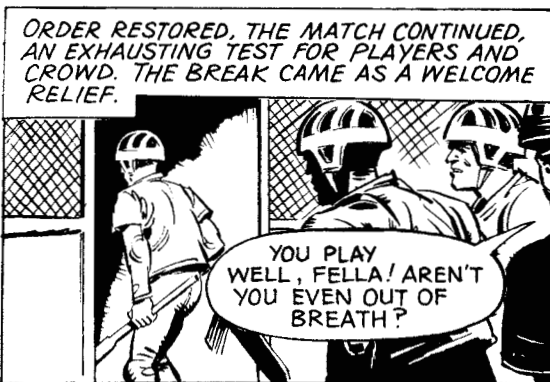
YEAH, BUT IT SOUNDS EFFECTIVE!



HE WAS ABOUT TO ATTACK ME. I HAD TO.

OKAY. LET'S GET THIS SHOW BACK ON TO THE ROAD!

VERY WELL, VOLSHA. I SHALL SEE YOU LATER.



ORDER RESTORED. THE MATCH CONTINUED, AN EXHAUSTING TEST FOR PLAYERS AND CROWD. THE BREAK CAME AS A WELCOME RELIEF.

YOU PLAY WELL, FELLA! AREN'T YOU EVEN OUT OF BREATH?



THANKS. I—UH... TRAIN HARD.

HOPE VOLSHA GETS A CHANCE TO READ THAT NOTE. WE'VE GOT TO ARRANGE AN ESCAPE PLAN DURING THE MATCH.





ALL RIGHT, MATE. IT'S ME, REMEMBER? YOUR FRIENDLY ICE-HOCKEY PLAYER!

SORRY. I AM READY TO GO. NO-ONE SAW ME LEAVE.

THE TWO WERE HALFWAY ACROSS THE ICE, WHEN—

AS I THOUGHT. OUR FRIEND FROM THE MATCH. VOLSHA, DID YOU THINK I WAS SO STUPID AS NOT TO SUSPECT SOME MOVE TO JOIN YOUR TRAITOROUS BROTHER? YOUR FUTURE AS A PLAYER WAS BRIGHT, NOW YOU FACE A LABOUR CAMP.

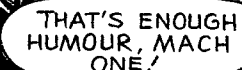
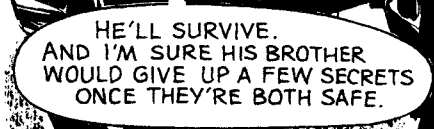
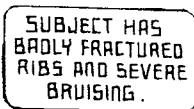
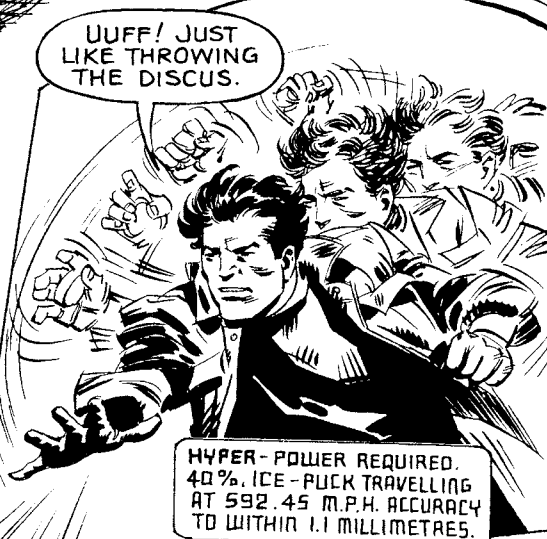
WE'LL SEE, FRIEND.

AAAH! SHARPENED SKATES!

SKATES MADE FROM TUNGSTEN STEEL—HONED TO RAZOR EDGE.

WANNA PLAY IT ROUGH, LADS?





The End

THE "TAXACO VENTURE", AN OFF-SHORE OIL RIG SITTING ON ONE OF THE BIGGEST OIL FIELDS IN THE NORTH SEA. WITH AN OUTPUT OF ONE MILLION BARRELS A DAY IT IS MORE THAN JUST AN EXAMPLE OF MAN'S INGENUITY—IT IS A NATIONAL 'GOLDMINE' WORTH BILLIONS OF POUNDS TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. IT IS ALSO...



...A PRIME TARGET FOR TERRORIST ATTACK!



SURPRISE IS WITH US! STORM THE RIG!

THE ATTACK WAS FAST...



UUURGH!

A FUSILLADE OF BULLETS SHATTERED THE GLASS — AND THE 100 POUNDS PER SQUARE INCH PRESSURE INSIDE THE CHAMBER RUSHED TO EQUALISE WITH THE LOWER PRESSURE OUTSIDE. THE EFFECT ON THE DIVERS WAS IMMEDIATE — AND FATAL!

...AND DEADLY EFFICIENT!



KURT! DIVERS IN THE DECOMPRESSION CHAMBER!

IN FIVE MINUTES THE TERRORISTS HAD TAKEN CONTROL OF THE RIG, AND ISSUED THEIR DEMANDS TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.



BUT THEY HADN'T RECKONED WITH THE INTERVENTION OF A MAN CALLED...

2000AD
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
G. RICE
ART ROBOTS
G. LEACH
LETTERING ROBOT
S. RICHARDSON
COMPU-73E

M.A.C.H.1

*MAN ACTIVATED
by
COMPU-PUNCTURE
HYPERPOWER

THIS STORY IS TAKEN FROM THE FILE OF MACH 7, ALIAS JOHN PROBE, A BRITISH AGENT NOW DECEASED. BUT AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK JOHN PROBE WAS ALIVE — IF ONLY JUST!



LASER BEAM HIDDEN IN THE CEILING! THANKS FOR WARNING ME, COMPUTER!

EMOTIONS IRRELEVANT. LASER WIDE OF TARGET BY 1.01 INCHES PRECISELY. PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

THE COMPUTER CIRCUITS IMPLANTED IN PROBE'S HEAD FED DATA DIRECTLY TO HIS BRAIN!

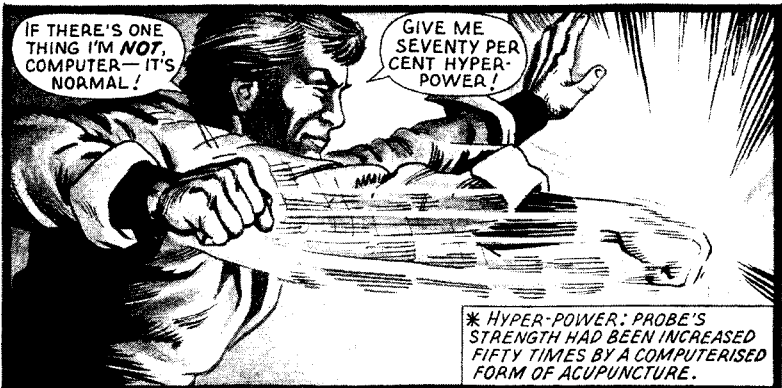
THE MICROFILM'S IN A SAFE AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR. I'VE AVOIDED HIDDEN MACHINE GUNS, A SONIC BEAM AND THE LASER—WHAT ELSE WILL THEY THROW AT ME?



AS IF IN ANSWER —

SLIDING PANEL SEALING OFF MY PATH! AND THE CEILING'S DESCENDING!

COMPOSITION OF WALLS AND CEILING: TITANIUM. IMPOSSIBLE FOR A NORMAL BEING TO RUPTURE.



IF THERE'S ONE THING I'M NOT, COMPUTER—IT'S NORMAL!

GIVE ME SEVENTY PER CENT HYPER-POWER!

* HYPER-POWER: PROBE'S STRENGTH HAD BEEN INCREASED FIFTY TIMES BY A COMPUTERISED FORM OF ACUPUNCTURE.



MADE IT! AND NOW THERE'S ONLY TEN FEET TO GO. SO LET'S FINISH WITH A...



BANG!

AH, PROBE. GLAD TO SEE YOU'VE PASSED YOUR ANNUAL EVALUATION TEST. NOW I HAVE A REAL MISSION FOR YOU!



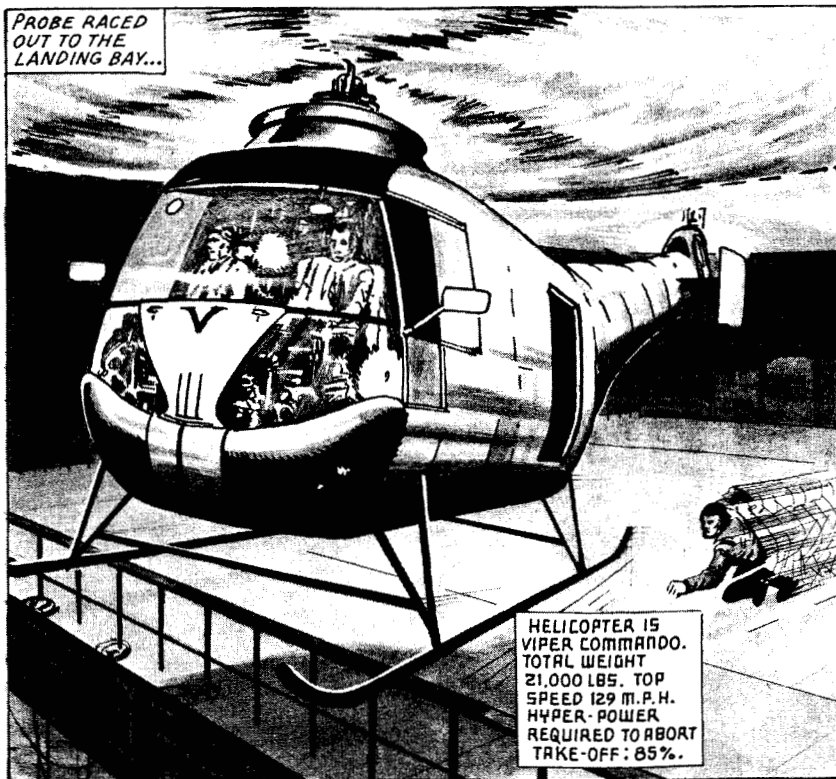
SHARPE, MY BOSS! YOU MEAN THIS WAS ALL A SET-UP?

YES. OUR PLANE TO SCOTLAND LEAVES IN ONE HOUR. I'LL FILL YOU IN ON THE WAY.





PROBE RACED
OUT TO THE
LANDING BAY...



HELICOPTER IS
VIPER COMMANDO.
TOTAL WEIGHT
21,000 LBS. TOP
SPEED 129 M.P.H.
HYPER-POWER
REQUIRED TO ABORT
TAKE-OFF: 85%.



YOU MEAN...



...ANCHOR MYSELF TO
THIS RAILING—AND USE
ITS OWN MOMENTUM TO
PROPEL IT—UNH!—INTO...



THE SEA!
RIGHT ON TOP
OF THE
SUB!

AAAARGH!



TERRORISTS
DESTROYED, BUT
SCAN REVEALS
CHARGE WILL
DETONATE IN TEN
SECONDS' TIME.
CONCLUSION: YOU
WILL FAIL TO
REACH IT IN TIME.

SAVE THE
FIGURES,
COMPUTER!
IF I SAY I'M
GOING TO
SAVE THIS
HUNK OF
METAL—



— THEN
THAT'S WHAT
I'M GOING
TO DO!

NINE
SECONDS...



EIGHT SECONDS...

QUIT THE SPEAKING CLOCK ACT, COMPUTER! I'VE FOUND THE BOMB—

DANGER!! DANGER!! DIAMOND-TIPPED DRILLING PIPE FALLING AT 200 FEET PER SECOND! IMPACT IMMINENT!



IN A SINGLE, FLOWING MOVEMENT, PROBE TWISTED, LOOKED UP— AND CAUGHT!

UUUUNH!

GOTTA BE ONE TERRORIST LEFT ABOVE ME. WELL, HE CAN HAVE THIS TOOTHPICK...



BACK!

AAARGH!

TWO SECONDS...



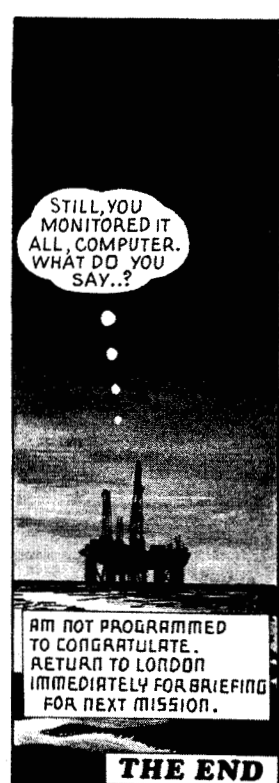
ZERO!

THROWN THE BOMB OUT TO SEA WHERE IT EXPLODED HARMLESSLY!



AS PROBE TURNED TO RADIO SHARPE 'MISSION ACCOMPLISHED'...

H'MM, LOOK AT ME. A MAN WHO'S SAVED BRITAIN FROM DISASTER, AND NO-ONE TO CLAP ME ON THE BACK...



STILL, YOU MONITORED IT ALL, COMPUTER. WHAT DO YOU SAY...?

AM NOT PROGRAMMED TO CONGRATULATE. RETURN TO LONDON IMMEDIATELY FOR BRIEFING FOR NEXT MISSION.

THE END



GALLERY

2000

A.D.

9p

EARTH
MONEY
IN ORBIT
EVERY
MONDAY

Prog 60
15 APR 78

M.A.C.H. 1, MEET
YOUR REPLACEMENT...
M.A.C.H. 2!



Prog 65

A.D.

20 MAY 78

South Africa 30c
New Zealand 30c
Malaysia \$1.00
Australia 39c
Mercury 17g
Venus 10g
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Asteroid Belt 20g
Saturn 84g
Neptune 87g
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9p
**EARTH
MONEY**

**IN
ORBIT
EVERY
MONDAY**



Prog 67

3 JUNE 78



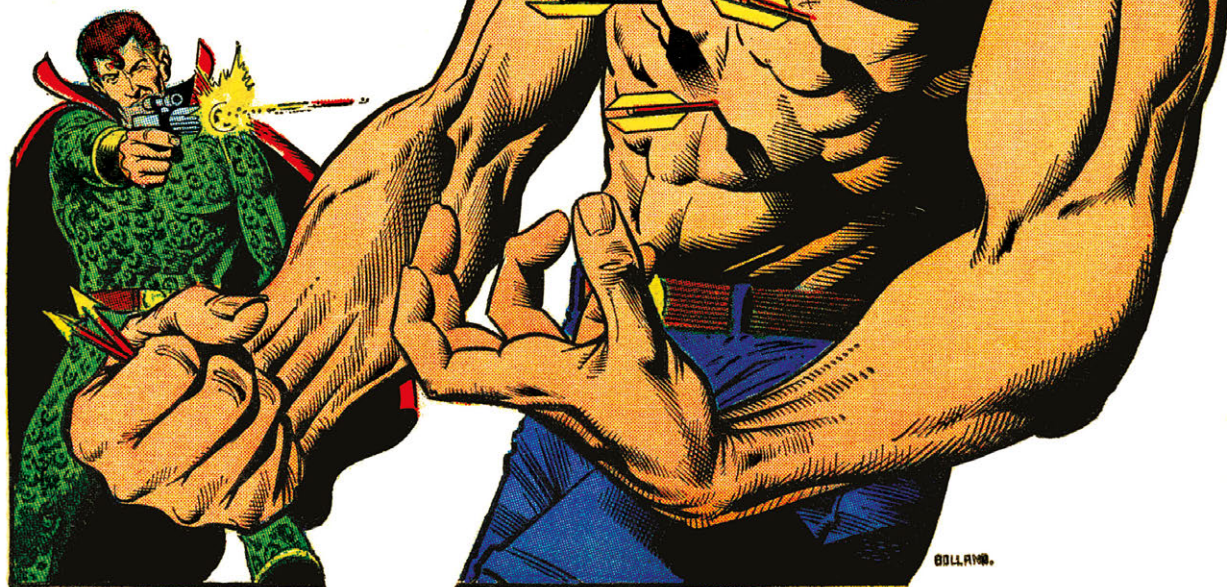
IN
ORBIT
EVERY
MONDAY

**MACH
ZERO** in...
**DARTS OF
DEATH!**

9p

**EARTH
MONEY**

South Africa 30c.
New Zealand 30c.
Malaysia 1.00.
Australia 30c.
Mercury 17c.
Venus 10c.
Mars 15c.
Asteroid Belt 20c.
Saturn 84c.
Neptune 97c.
Pluto 93c.



Brian Bolland

Prog 73

2000 A.D.

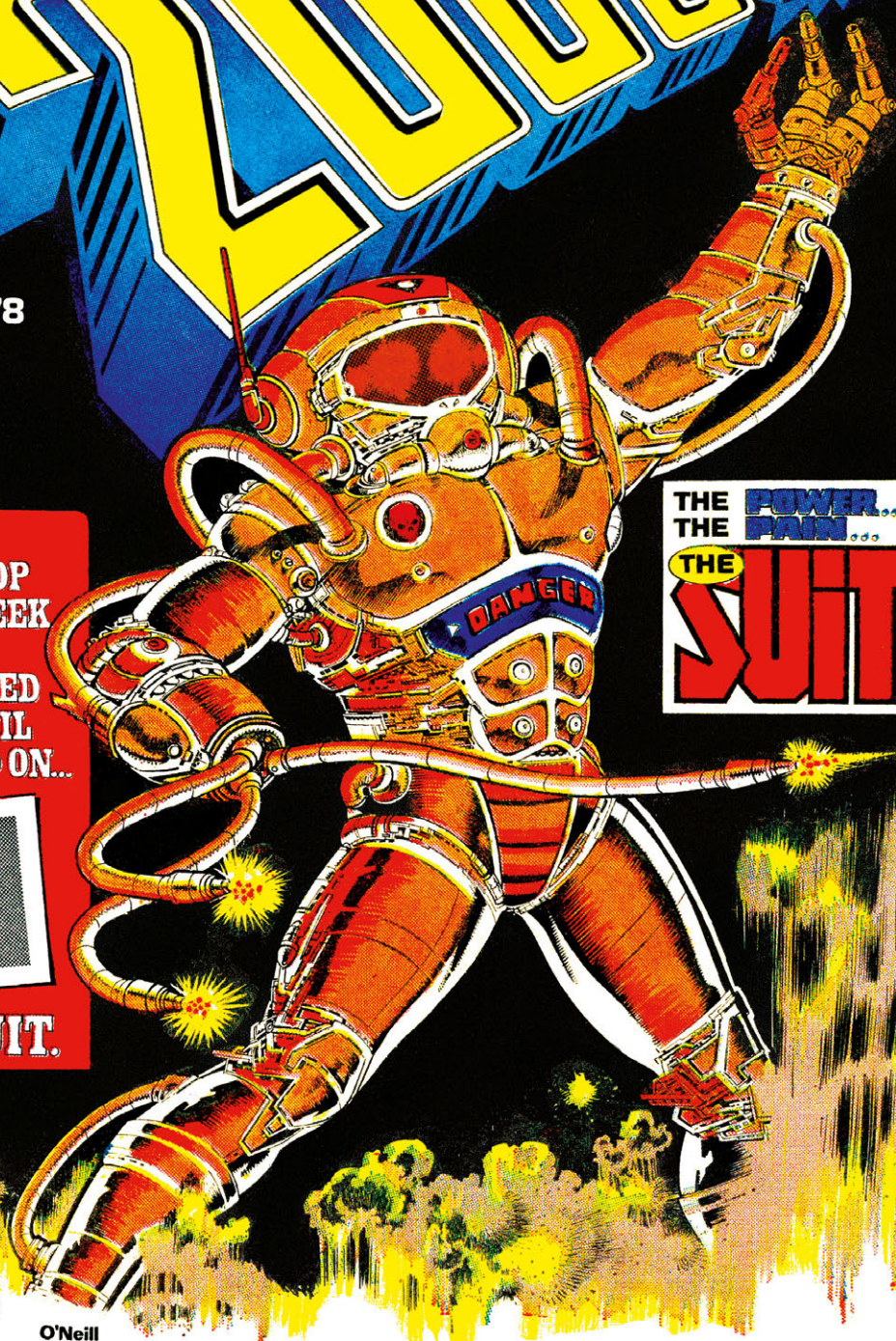
15 JULY 78

**HARRY
WINTHROP
WAS A MEEK
MILD
MANNERED
MAN UNTIL
HE TRIED ON...**



THE SUIT.

THE **POWER...**
THE **PAIN...**
THE **SUIT!**



South Africa 30c.
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Mercury 17g.
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9p
**EARTH
MONEY**

O'Neill

IN ORBIT EVERY MONDAY

Kevin O'Neill

FREAK-POWER PEAKS THIS PROG!

Malaysia \$1.00
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12p
EARTH
MONEY

PROG 165
14 JUNE 80

IN
ORBIT
EVERY
MONDAY

WUUURGH!

**A NIGHTMARE
COMES TO LIFE!
See MACH ZERO**

STAR WARS 2
ZARJAZ PHOTO FEATURE INSIDE!

THE BEST OF THE GALAXY'S GREATEST COMIC - COMPLETE AND UNCUT!

14 JUNE 2005



X 09 £2.99

EXTREME

E D I T I O N



YOU ONLY DIE
ONCE!

E.T. SPELLS R.I.P. FOR M.A.C.H. 1?

Jim Murray '05

WRITERS

SCOTT GOODALL

Scott Goodall joined IPC in the 1960's and ended up writing some of the most popular strips, including *Captain Hurricane*, *Kelly's Eye*, *Cursitor Doom* and *The Steel Claw* in **Valiant**, and *Thunderbirds*, *Lady Penelope* and *Captain Scarlet* strips in *TV Century 21*. His other notable strips include *Kid Chameleon*, *Fishboy* and *Marney the Fox* which he co-created with John Stokes for **Buster**, as well as Goodall's favourite, *Rat Trap* in **Cor!** In 2005 he was awarded an MBE.

ALAN HEBDEN

Alan Hebden scripted a number of comics in the late 1970's and early 1980's, including *Major Eazy* for **Battle**, *Mind Wars* for **Starlord** and *Return of the Mean Team* for **2000 AD**. Alan is still working in the industry today, writing various stories for **DC Thomson's Commando**.

STEVE MACMANUS

Steve MacManus was the editor of **2000 AD** during its 1980s heyday, shepherding it through its 'Golden Age' as he commissioned numerous hit series such as *The Ballad of Halo Jones*, *Sláine*, *Rogue Trooper*, *Nemesis the Warlock* and more. For many, he remains the definitive editor of the multi-award-winning SF anthology.

ROY PRESTON

Roy Preston is a veteran writer of British comics. For **2000 AD** he wrote several strips including *M.A.C.H. 1*, *Dan Dare* and a number of *Tharg's Future Shocks* and *Time Twisters*. He also wrote *The Collector* and *The Amstor Computer* for the **Eagle** and several strips for popular UK girl's comics such as **Tammy** and **Jinty**.

NICK LANDAU

Before landing a job as chief sub-editor for **Action**, Nick Landau had long been involved in the British comics industry, having been the co-editor of the Comic Media fanzine and the organiser of several comic marts. Working with editor Kelvin Gosnell at IPC, both Landau and Roy Preston provided a great deal of support to **2000 AD**, while Gosnell focused on launching **Starlord**. After establishing Titan Distributors in the late Seventies, Landau now runs the Titan Entertainment Group.

PAT MILLS

Pat Mills' writing and editorial career started in Dundee, working for **D.C. Thomson** on the teenage romance magazine **Romeo**. Later Pat went freelance and started a long relationship with **IPC Magazines**, initially writing for girl's titles like **Tammy**, **Pink** and **Sandy**. He was an assistant editor on **Tammy**, the publication which began the comic revolution. Then, with Malcolm Shaw, he did some preliminary work devising **Jinty** before moving over to rejuvenate boy's comics. He created **Battle** (with John Wagner), **Action**, **Misty** and **2000 AD**.

GEOFFREY MILLER

Geoffrey Miller scripted *M.A.C.H. Zero* and the second book of *Flesh* for **2000 AD**.

ARTISTS

JOHN COOPER

Johnny Red penciller John Cooper was already a fan-favourite at **Battle** comic before he made the move to **Starlord**, where he illustrated *Time Quake*. Later he came to **2000 AD**, after it was merged with **Starlord**, where he illustrated several *Future Shocks* as well as *Judge Dredd* and *M.A.C.H. 1*. Throughout the eighties and nineties he worked on various titles for Marvel UK, **Eagle**, **Warlord** and **Roy of the Rovers**, returning to **2000 AD** in 2008 to draw *Armitage*. He passed away in 2015.

LOZANO

Lozano drew for **IPC** in the seventies and eighties, his credits including **2000 AD**'s *Ant Wars* and *M.A.C.H. 1*, and *Wagner's Walk* for **Tornado**.

MARZAL CANOS

Known for his work in French comics, Jaime Marzal Canos has worked on a *Future Shock* and *M.A.C.H. 1* for **2000 AD**.

RAMON SOLA

Ramon Sola provided the art for *Black Hawk*, *Flesh*, several *Future Shocks* and episodes of *M.A.C.H. 0* for **2000 AD**. Sola also worked with Pat Mills on a strip called *Hook Jaw* which ran in the highly influential British comic, **Action**.

MONTERO

Montero lent his artistic talents to **2000 AD** way back in the seventies, working mainly on *M.A.C.H. 1* and *M.A.C.H. 0*.

MIKE DOREY

Mike Dorey joined **2000 AD** following its merger with rival action comic **Tornado**, where he pencilled *Victor Drago*. Following his move to greener pastures, he pencilled several *Future Shocks* and a *Time Twister*, as well as *M.A.C.H. 0*, *M.A.C.H. 1*, *Ro-Busters*, *Invasion!*, *Rogue Trooper* and *Tharg the Mighty*.

KEVIN O'NEILL

Kevin O'Neill is a **2000 AD** legend. From working as an art assistant on the very first prog, he quickly became involved in the creative side of the comic, co-creating classics like *A.B.C. Warriors*, *Bonjo From Beyond The Stars*, *Metalzoic* and *Nemesis the Warlock*. O'Neill has also written for the comic on strips including *Dash Decent*, *Future Shocks*, *One-Offs*, *Tharg the Mighty*, and has illustrated *Future Shocks*, *Judge Dredd*, *M.A.C.H. 0*, *One-Offs*, *Ro-Busters*, *Ro-Jaws' Robo-Tales*, *Tharg the Mighty* and *Torquemada*.

TREVOR GORING

As well as working on *Rogue Trooper* for **2000 AD**, Trevor Goring has illustrated episodes of *Dan Dare* and *Tharg's Future Shocks*.

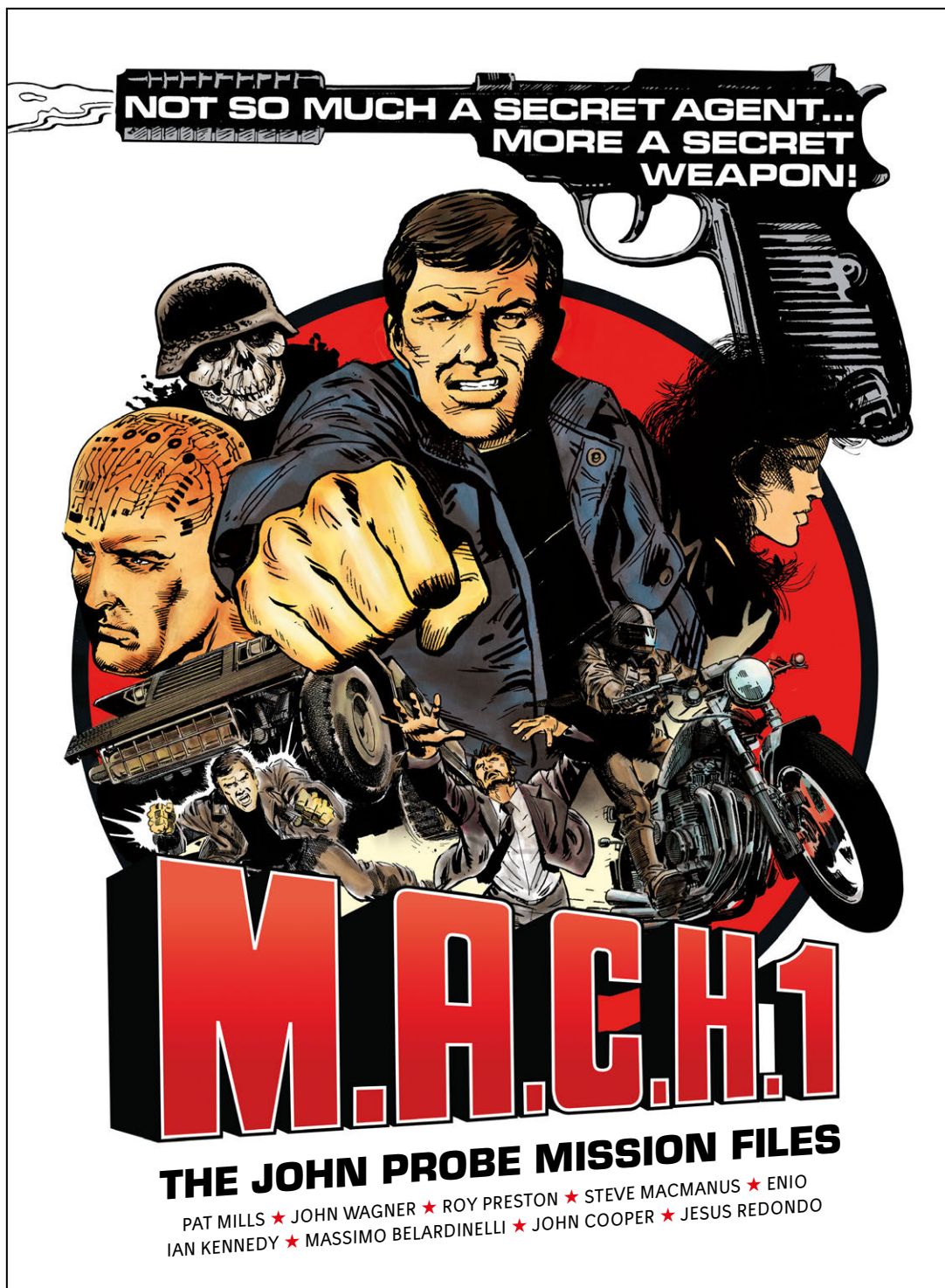
GARY LEACH

Garry Leach is a highly-respected artist who has pencilled *Dan Dare*, *Judge Dredd*, *Tharg's Future Shocks* and *The V.C.'s*. His career beyond **2000 AD** is highly notable for his work on the legendary *Miracleman*, which he effectively co-created with Alan Moore.





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