

Maximum Power. Ultimate Control.



OPERATIONS MANUAL

INCLUDES
DEFENDERS OF
THE HIGHTOWER
COMIC
BOOK






I REMEMBER
THIS STAR
SYSTEM.

I WAS HERE
EONS AGO TO
PLANT THE SEEDS
OF SURVIVAL.

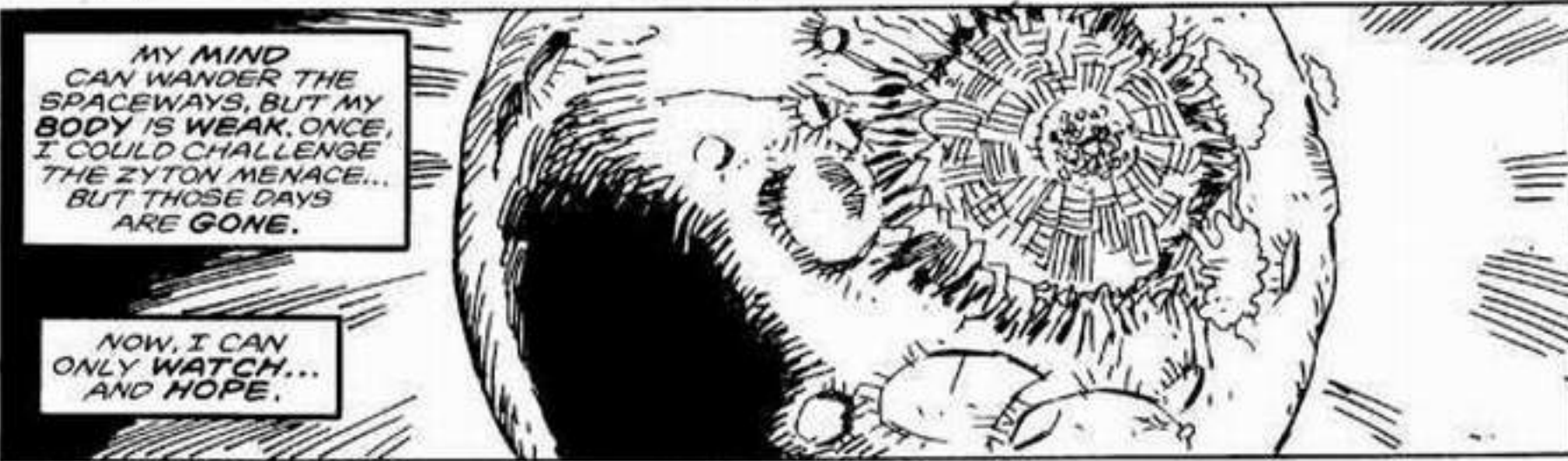
A PITY THAT ALONE
CAN NO LONGER
HELP THESE POOR,
SIMPLE PEOPLE.



NO... THE ZYTONS
HAVE FINALLY
LEARNED A WAY TO
OVERCOME MY
ROBOTIC DEFENSES.

SOON, THE ZYTONS
WILL ARRIVE...

SOON, THIS
PEACEFUL WORLD
WILL BE NO MORE.



MY MIND
CAN WANDER THE
SPACEWAYS, BUT MY
BODY IS WEAK. ONCE,
I COULD CHALLENGE
THE ZYTON MENACE...
BUT THOSE DAYS
ARE GONE.

NOW, I CAN
ONLY WATCH...
AND HOPE.

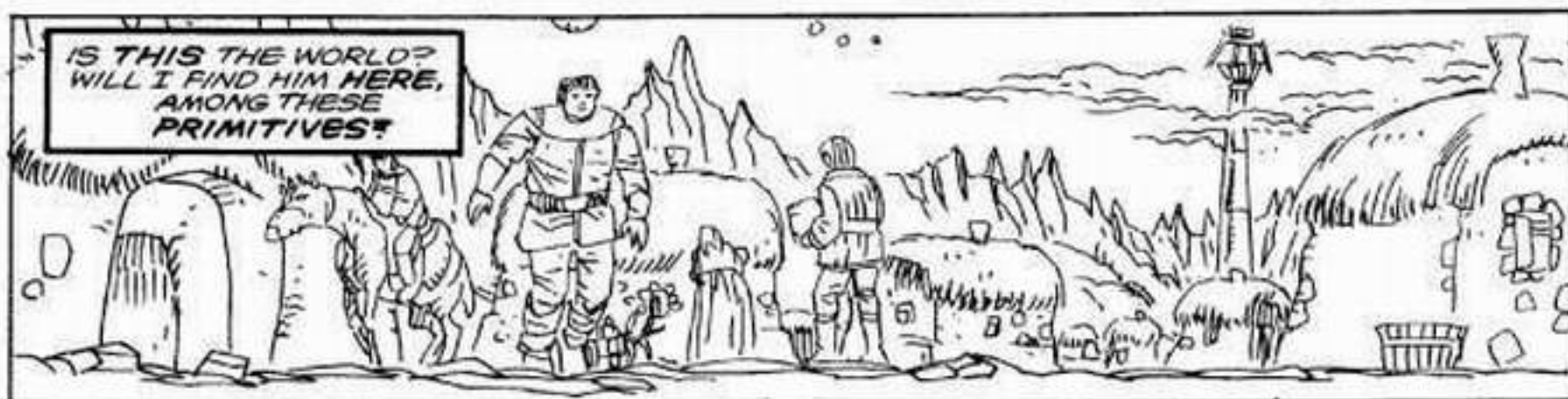


HOPE... FOR A SINGLE
HUMAN SPIRIT TO
RISE UP AND MEET THE
COMING CHALLENGE...

HOPE... FOR A MIND WITH
THE POWER TO MASTER THE
TECH FORCE WEAPONRY
I HAVE PLACED ACROSS
THE GALAXY TO PROTECT
INNOCENT LIVES...

HOPE... FOR THE--

DEFENDER OF THE HIGHTOWER



IS THIS THE WORLD?
WILL I FIND HIM HERE,
AMONG THESE
PRIMITIVES?



AHH... A PLACE OF
LEARNING... A SCHOOL.
PERHAPS ONE OF THE
STUDENTS...?

I SHALL WAIT...
AND HOPE.



-- SO YOU SEE, CLASS,
OUR WORLD SPINS LIKE
A TOP, AND THAT KEEPS
THE OUTER REGIONS
FROM CAVING IN
ON US!



IT'S SIMPLE, REALLY!
BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS,
THERE IS *NOTHING*. THE
PLANET TAPERS OFF FROM
THERE, AND THEN--

NO! THAT--
THAT
CAN'T BE!



THERE *HAS* TO BE
SOMETHING *MORE* OUT
THERE! THERE'S SO
MANY STARS! SO
MANY SUNS!

AND WHAT
ABOUT THE
HIGHTOWER?
NO ONE--



STOP, ALEX-7! I
WILL HEAR *NO MORE*
FROM YOU! I AM THE
TEACHER! YOU ARE
THE *STUDENT*! IF
YOU CONTINUE
WITH THESE--

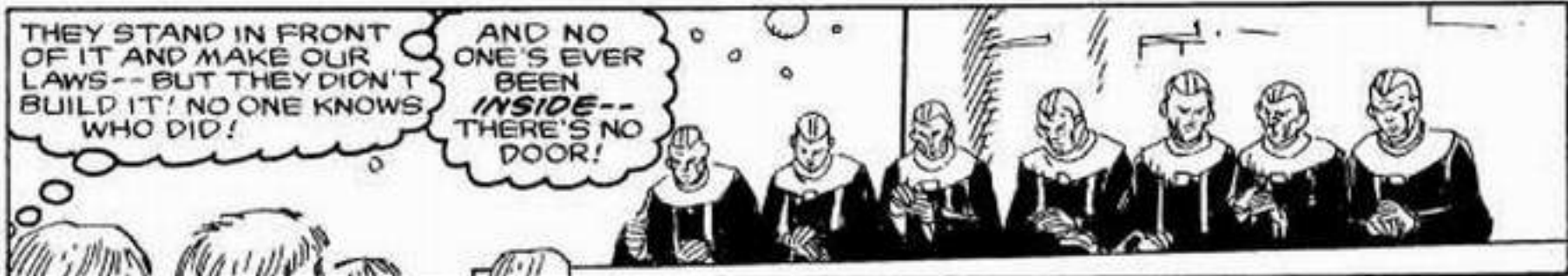
AHEM...
FIELD TIME,
STUDENTS
PICK UP YOUR
THINGS
NOW...

BONG
BONG
BONG



"WE HAVE A BUSY DAY AHEAD OF US."

THE HIGHTOWER... YES... THAT'S THE KEY...



THEY STAND IN FRONT OF IT AND MAKE OUR LAWS-- BUT THEY DIDN'T BUILD IT! NO ONE KNOWS WHO DID!

AND NO ONE'S EVER BEEN INSIDE-- THERE'S NO DOOR!



IT'S SO HIGH-- IT ALMOST TOUCHES THE STARS! I KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING IN THERE THAT WILL TELL US THE TRUTH... TELL US THINGS WE NEVER DREAMED!



BUT NO ONE CARES-- NO ONE BUT ME! WHY DO I--

ALEX-7? HEY, ALEX-7! SNAP OUT OF IT! C'MON-- WE'RE FALLING BEHIND!



LISTEN, JASON-16! I HAVE THESE DREAMS! IN THEM, I'M IN A CART-- BUT IT HAS NO WHEELS! IT MOVES ON THE AIR-- LIKE A LEAF ON THE WIND! I FLY TO THE STARS AND MEET--



FOR THE LAST TIME! STOP YOUR INFERNAL DAYDREAMING!!



yes, sir...



WELL, ALEX-7, IF THERE ISN'T EMPTY SPACE BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS, THEN WHAT IS?

I'M NOT SURE...



... BUT MAYBE THERE'S OTHER GROUPS OF PEOPLE JUST LIKE US! MAYBE THEY THINK THE SAME WAY WE DO!

MAYBE THEY'RE JUST AS AFRAID TO EXPLORE THE WORLD AROUND THEM AS WE ARE!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT--



THAT'S IT, ALEX-7! YOU'RE FINISHED!!



AND SO...

... AND BECAUSE ALEX-7'S **TEACHER** SAYS THE CHILD IS A **BAD INFLUENCE** ON THE OTHER STUDENTS, I HEREBY **ORDER** HIM TO REMAIN IN HIS HOME UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!



LATE THAT NIGHT...

THEY JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND... BUT ONE DAY...

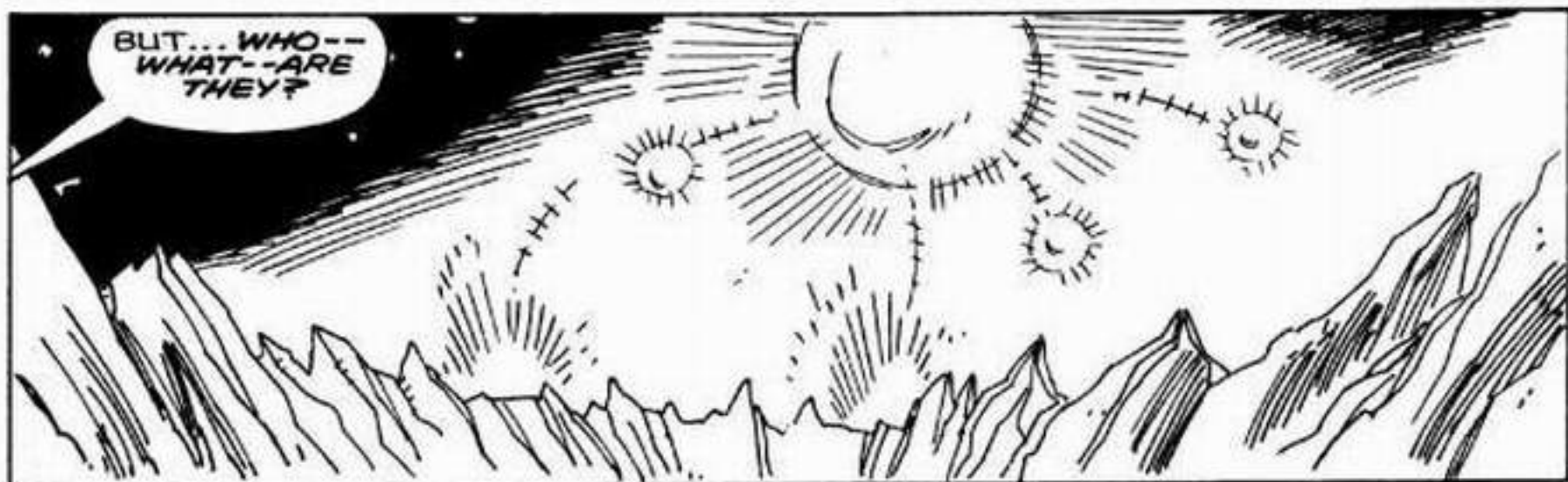


SHOOOOOMMM!

WHA--?!



IT'S HAPPENING! THEY'RE HERE!!



BUT... WHO--
WHAT--ARE
THEY?



I'VE GOTTA
SEE! I
GOTTA--

NO, ALEX-- YOU REMEMBER
THE COUNCIL'S *ORDERS!*
STAY *HERE*-- WE'LL LET
YOU KNOW WHAT ALL
THIS MEANS!



WHAT IS IT?!

IS IT
DANGEROUS?

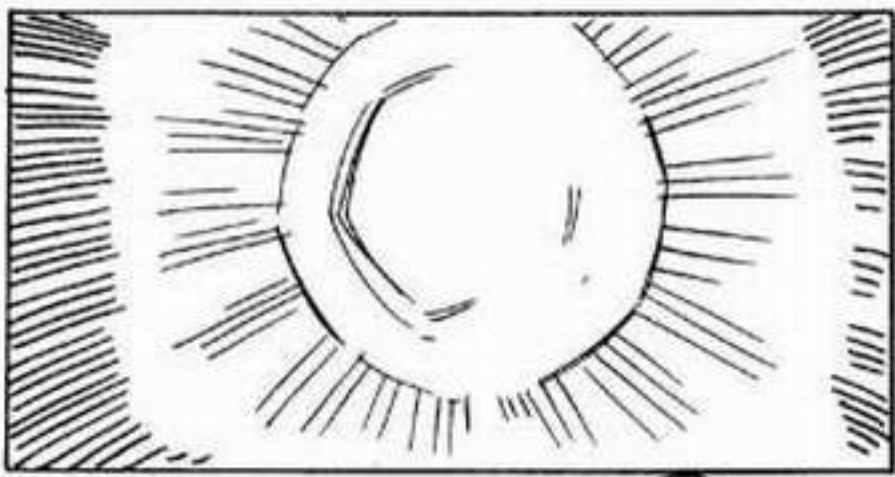
I-IF IT COMES ANY
CLOSER, IT COULD
BURN UP OUR
HOMES!

WHAT
DO WE
DO?!

PLEASE,
PLEASE! CALM
DOWN-- THERE'S
NOTHING
TO WORRY
ABOUT--!

THE
SITUATION
WILL SOON
BE UNDER
CONTROL...

oh my
goodness--
LOOK!!



SCREEEEEEEEEEEE



THE
HIGHTOWER!
IT-IT HIT THE
HIGHTOWER!!

BWOOOM!

LOOK
OUT!!

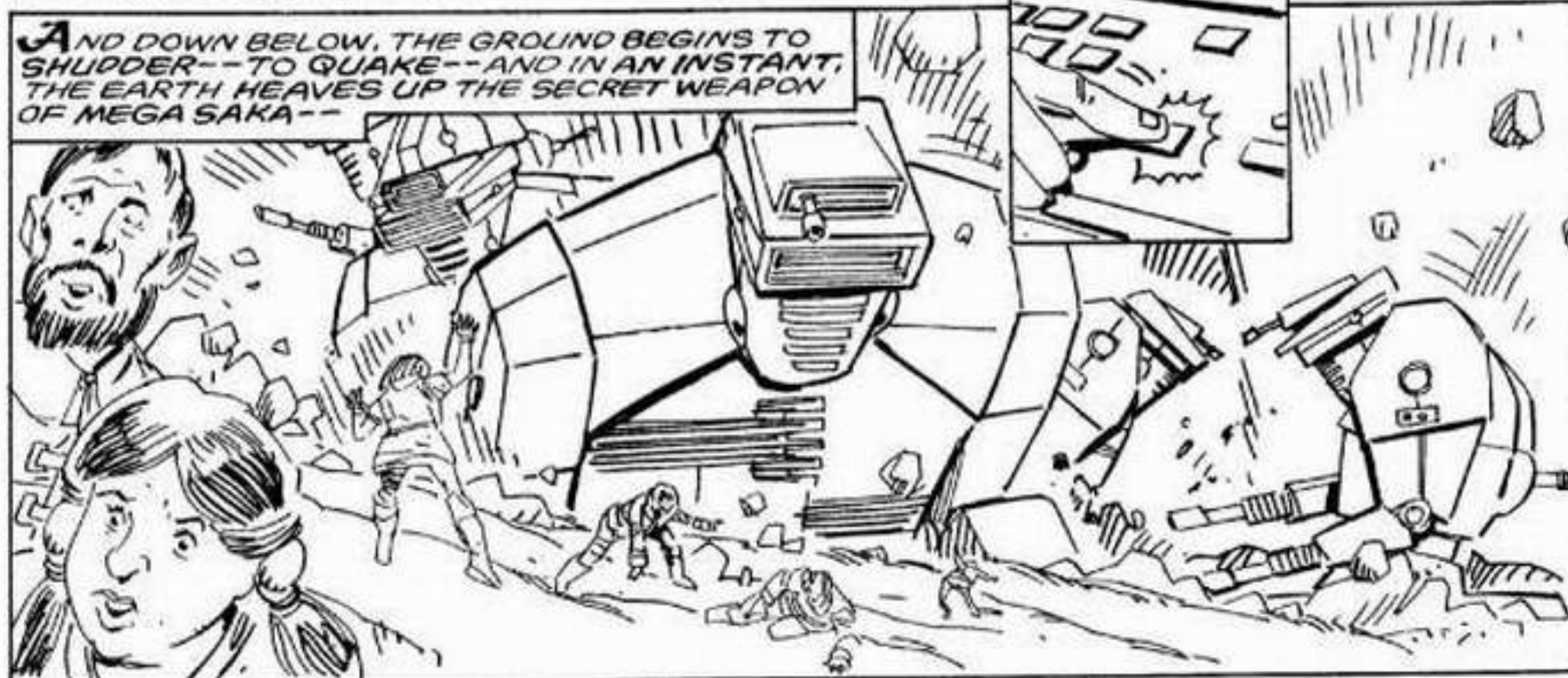
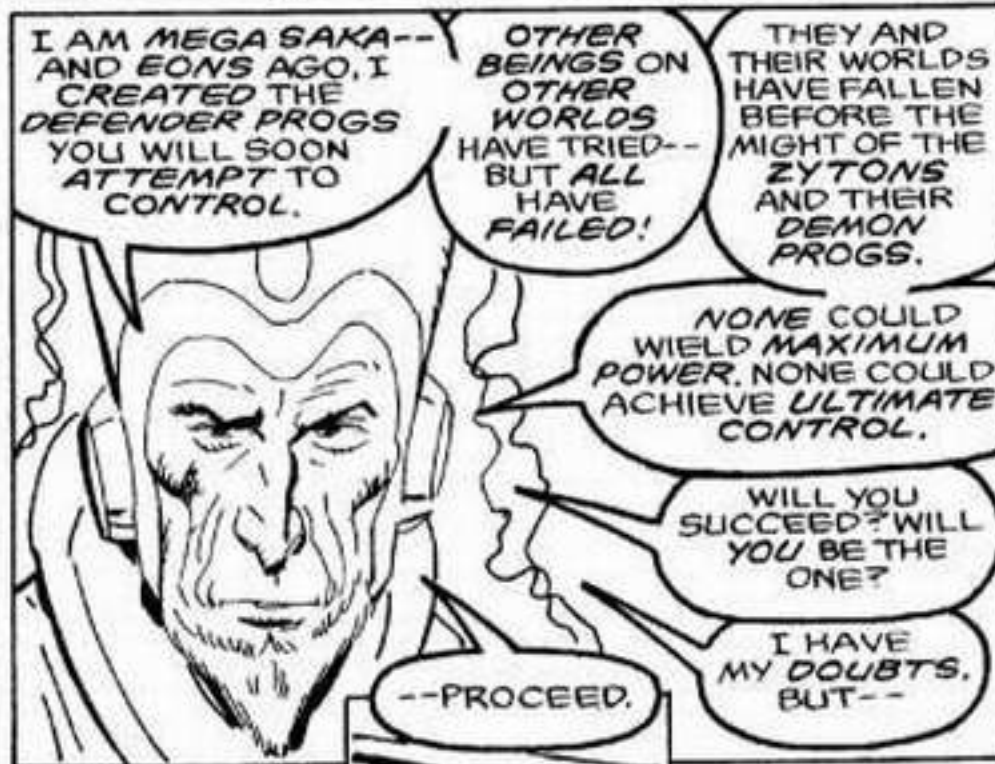
RUN!!

TAKE
COVER!!

NO!! HEAD
FOR THE
COUNTRY-
SIDE!
WE'LL BE
SAFE
THERE!







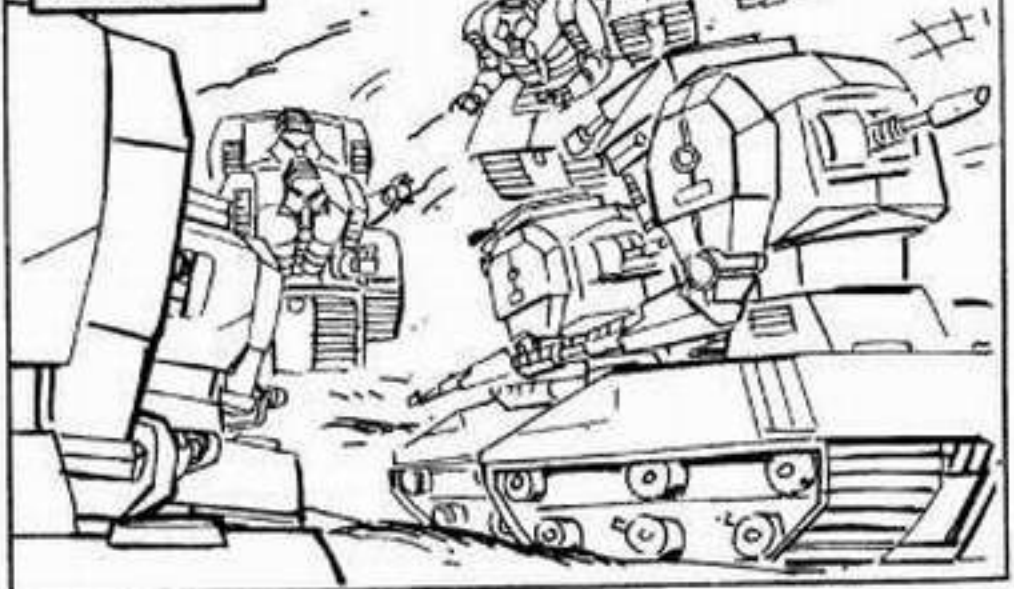
THIS IS AMAZING!
I CONTROL THEIR
EVERY MOVE! I CAN
USE THEM TO
DESTROY THOSE
DEMON PROGS--
AND SAVE MY
PEOPLE!



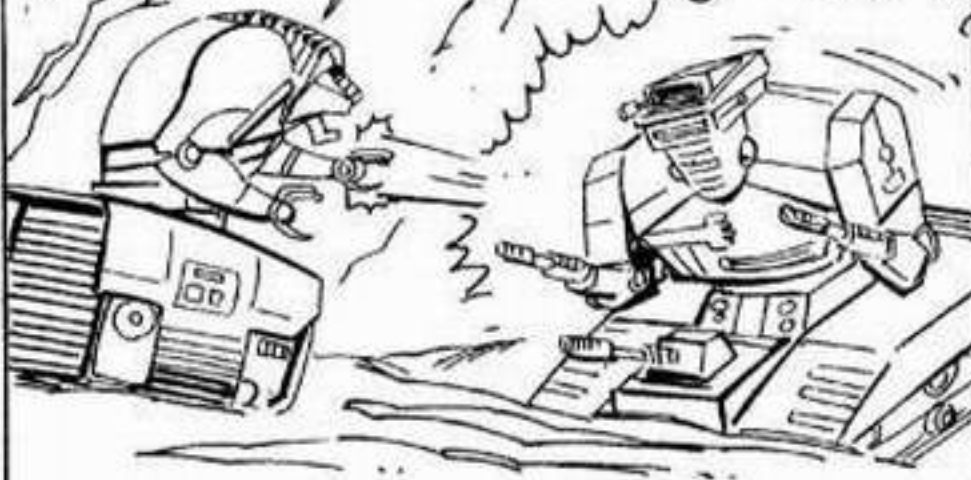
THIS CONSOLE--
IT IS MAXIMUM
POWER! IT DOES
GIVE ME
ULTIMATE
CONTROL-- BUT I
CAN HANDLE IT!!



"BEWARE THE INVAZER
BEAMS, ALEX-7! THEY
AFFORD GREAT FIRE-
POWER--"



"--BUT YOUR DEFENDER
PROGS CAN BE
IMMOBILIZED BY THEM,
TOO!"



HEY! IT'S NOT RESPONDING
TO MY COMMANDS!

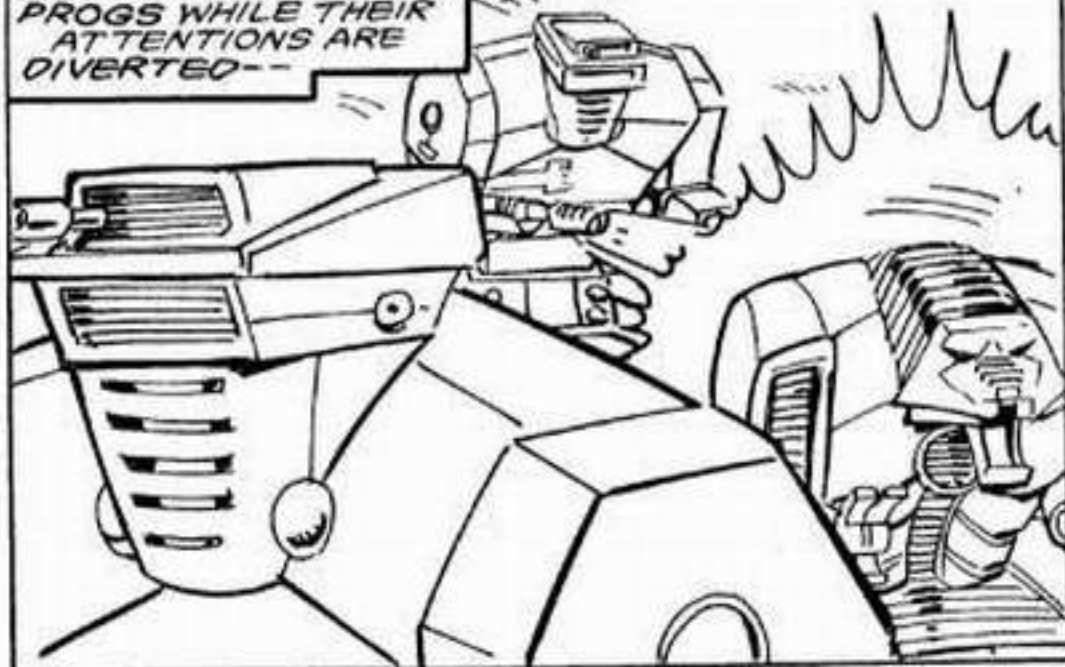
THE EFFECT
OF THE
INVAZER
BEAMS IS
ONLY
TEMPORARY.
THE
DEFENDER
PROG'S
POWER WILL
SOON
RETURN.

BUT IF
YOU CAN
IMMOBILIZE
THEM ALL,
VICTORY WILL
BE YOURS!

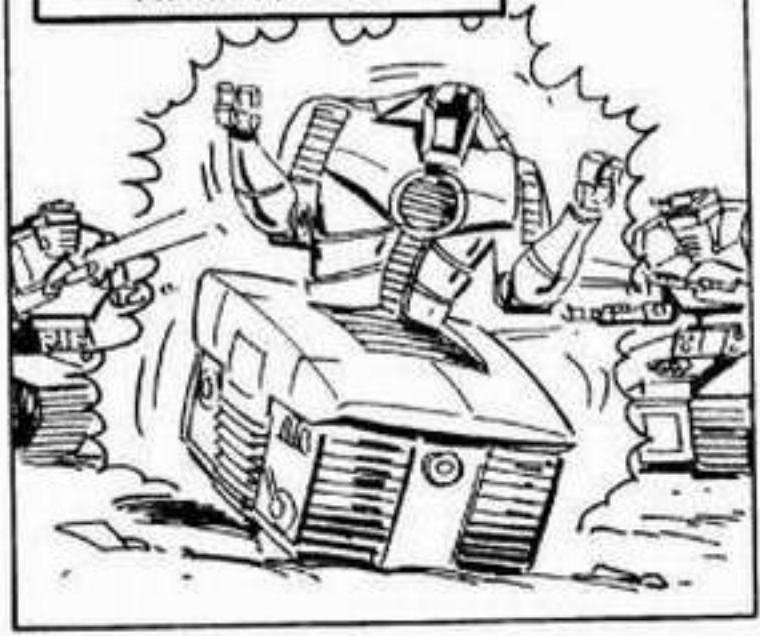
USE THAT
KNOWLEDGE
TO YOUR
ADVANTAGE!



"USE YOUR SKILL TO
ATTACK THE DEMON
PROGS WHILE THEIR
ATTENTIONS ARE
DIVERTED--"



"USE YOUR CUNNING
TO PRESS YOUR
ADVANTAGE!"

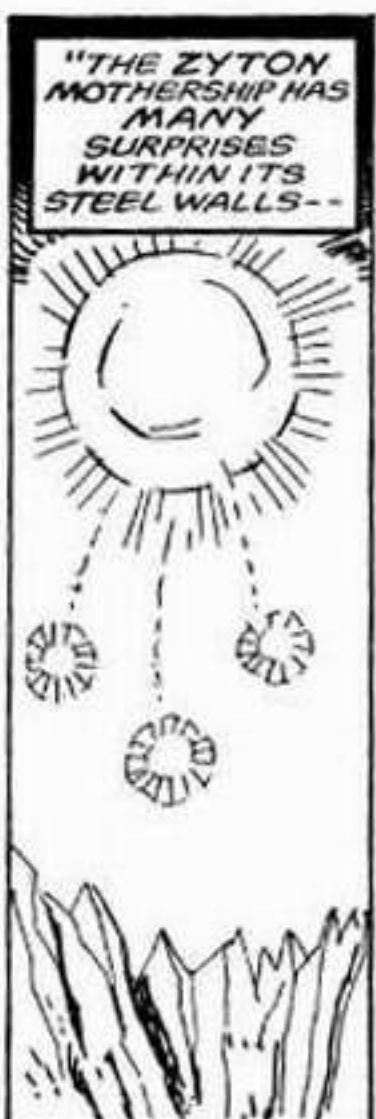




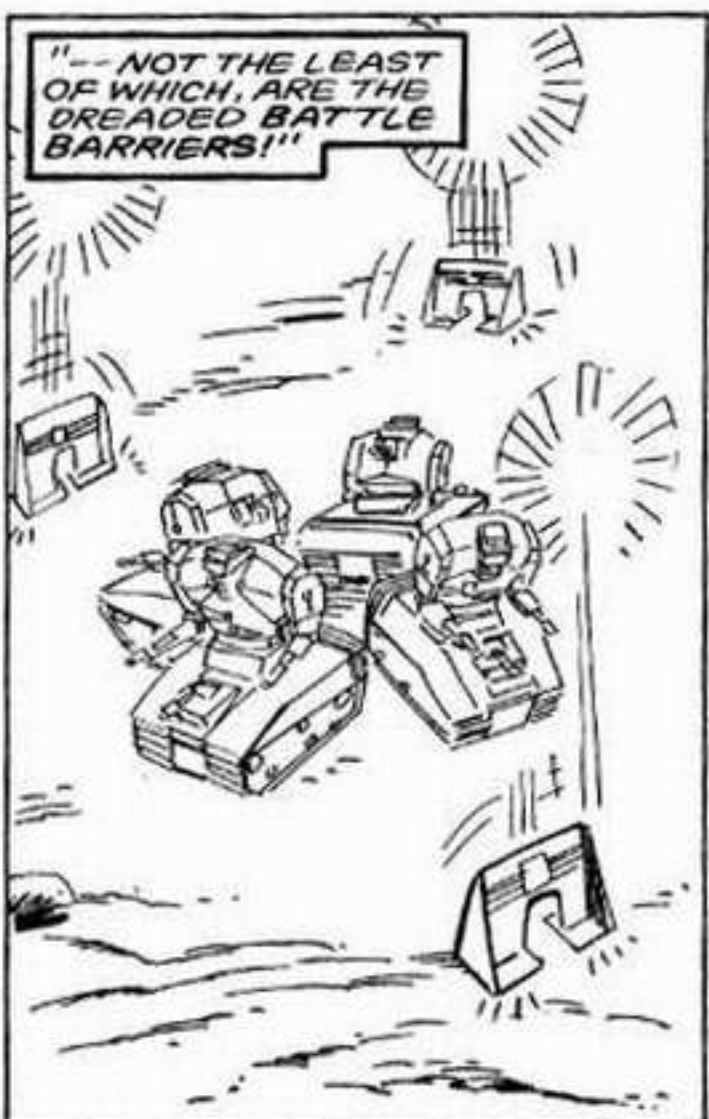
HEY! THIS IS EASY! IN A COUPLE OF MINUTES, THIS LITTLE WAR WILL BE OVER!

YOU PRESUME TOO MUCH, ALEX-7. THE BATTLE HAS JUST BEGUN!

FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE-- LOOK TO THE SKIES!



"THE ZYTON MOTHERSHIP HAS MANY SURPRISES WITHIN ITS STEEL WALLS--"



"-- NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH, ARE THE DREADED BATTLE BARRIERS!"



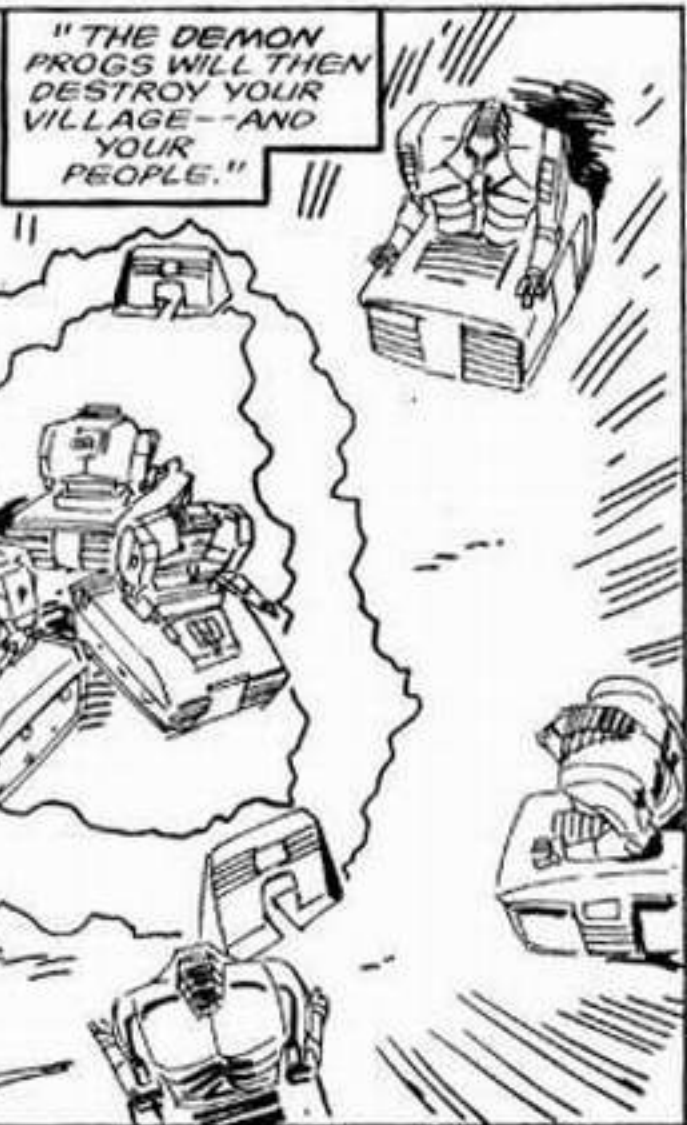
THE COMPUTER COMMAND CONSOLE-- IT'S NOT RESPONDING AT ALL!

CORRECT, ALEX-7. THE BATTLE BARRIERS SCRAMBLE ALL REMOTE COMPUTER FREQUENCIES WITHIN THEIR VIBRATION MATRIX.

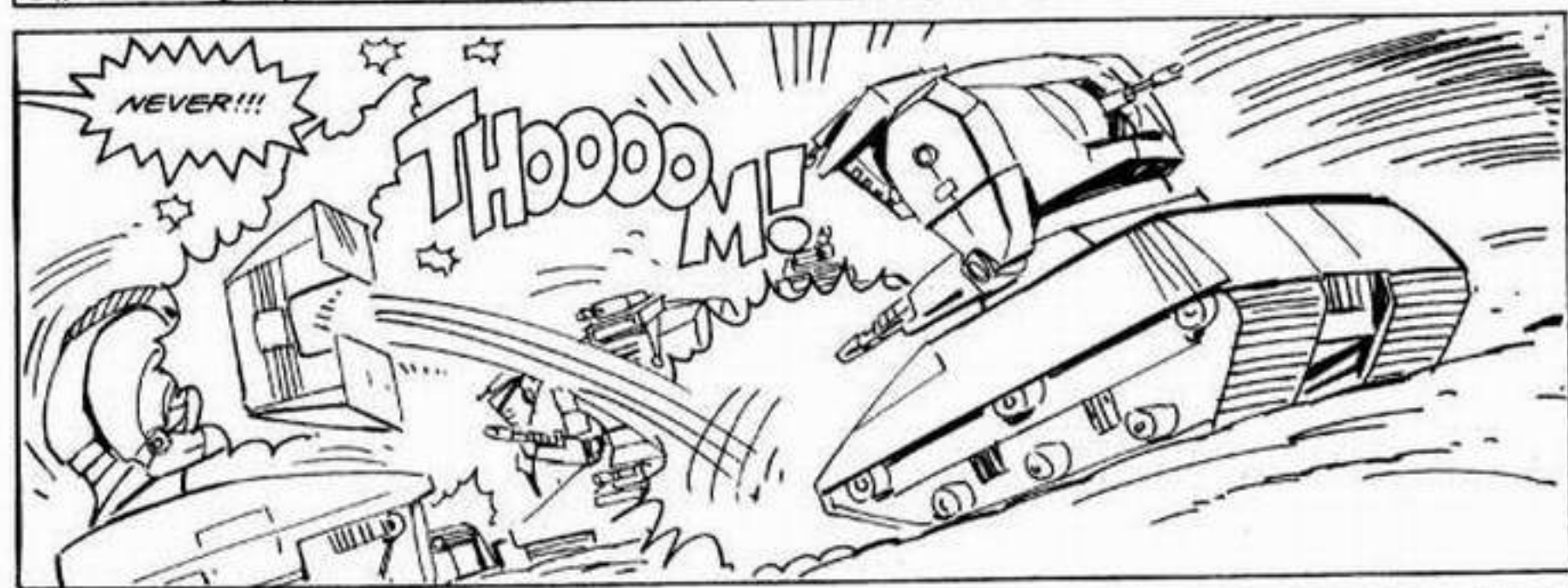
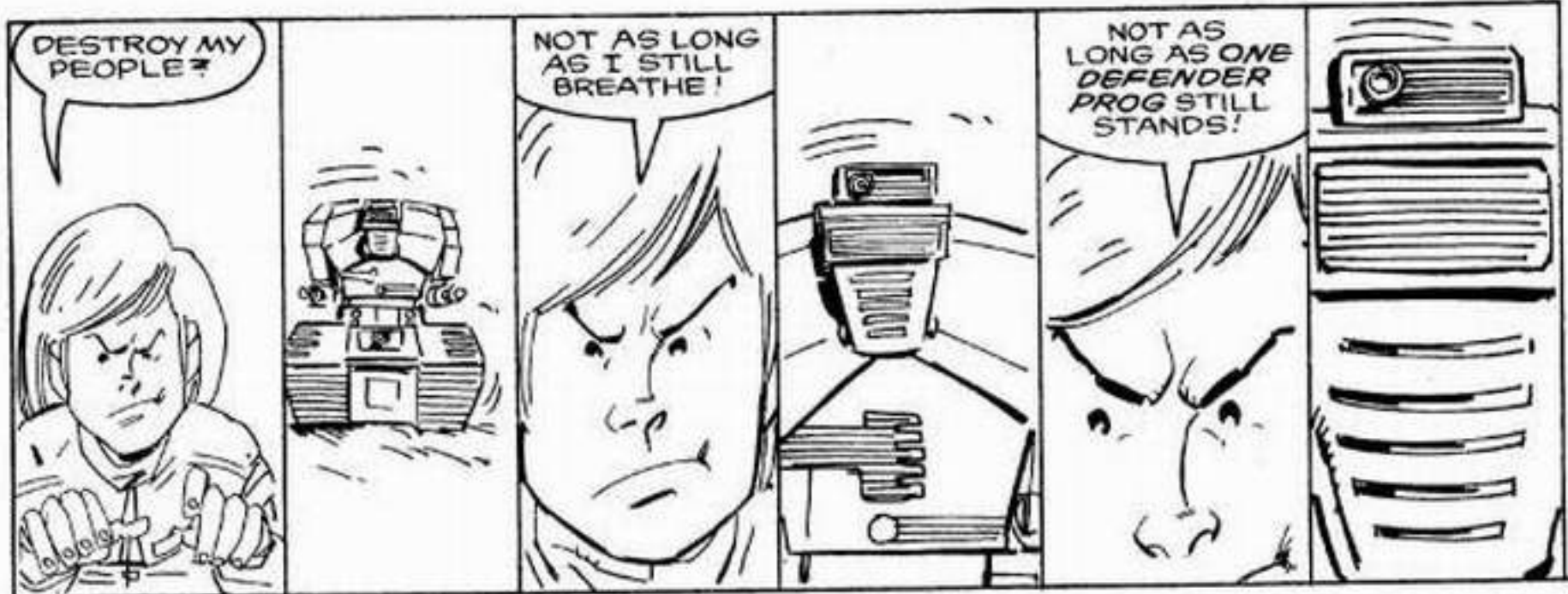
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT???



"IT IS SIMPLE AS LONG AS THE DEFENDER PROGS REMAIN INSIDE THE BATTLE BARRIER'S VIBRATIONAL FIELD, YOU CANNOT DIRECT THEM."



"THE DEMON PROGS WILL THEN DESTROY YOUR VILLAGE-- AND YOUR PEOPLE."





BUT IF THE DEFENDERS HAVE AN ENERGY CRYSTAL TO POWER THEM-- THEN THE DEMONS MUST HAVE ONE, TOO--

THE ONLY QUESTION IS: WHERE?

IT WOULD BE NEARBY--THE DEMON PROGS NEED IT TO PROVIDE A STEADY STREAM OF POWER--IT--



THERE! THAT GLOW! IT MUST BE THE DEMON PROG'S CRYSTAL!

YES, ALEX-7, NOW YOU MUST USE OUR PROGS TO DESTROY IT-- ONLY THAT WILL TERMINATE THE DEMON PROGS PERMANENTLY!



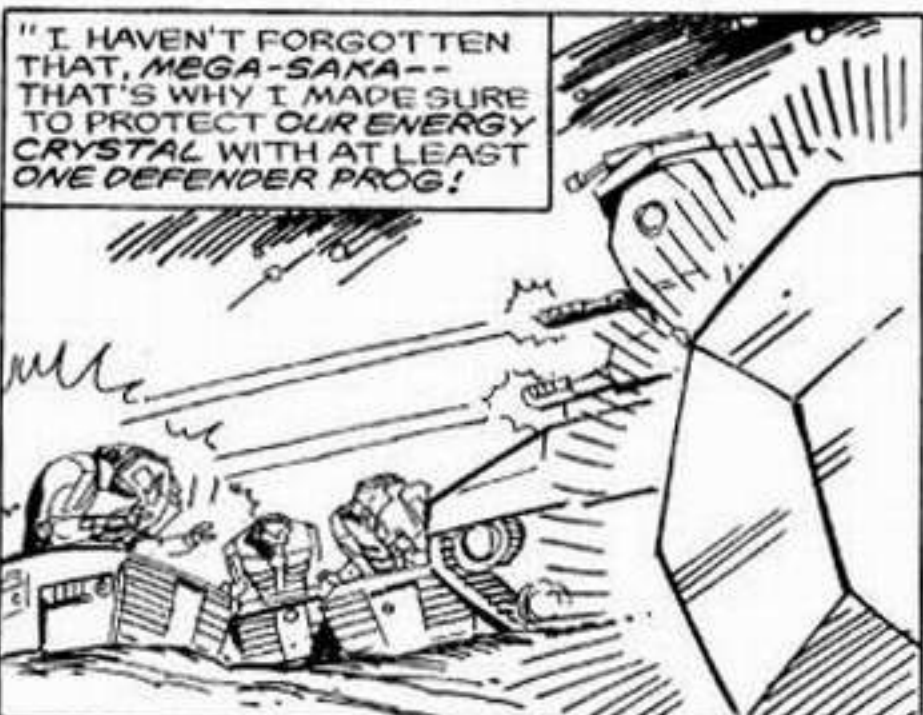
"AND YOU MUST DO IT-- BEFORE THEY DESTROY OUR ENERGY CRYSTAL!"



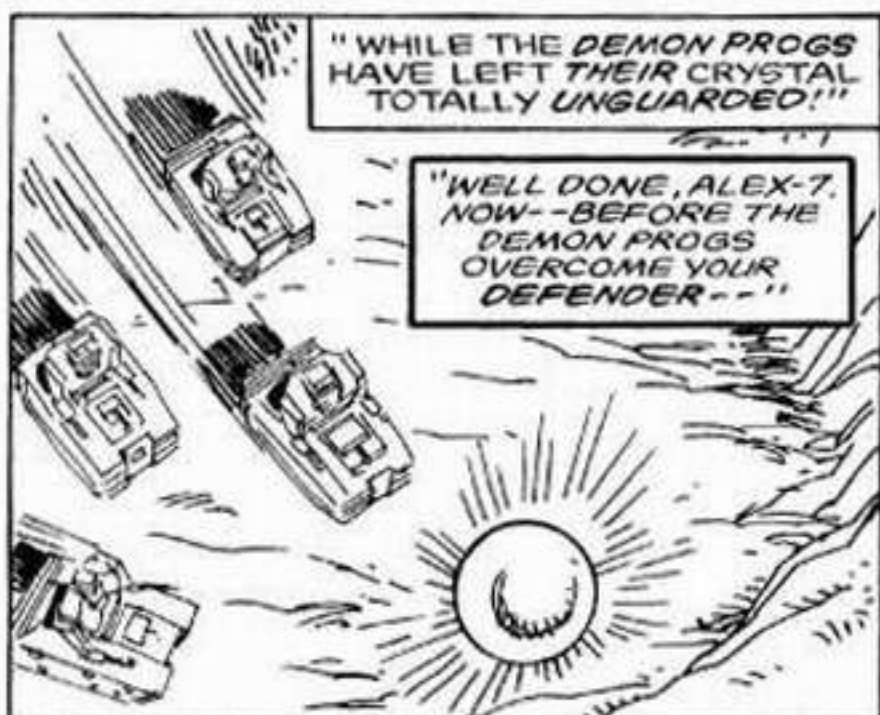
"LET NOTHING STOP YOU--LET NOTHING DISTRACT YOU FROM YOUR GOAL!"



"BUT ALWAYS REMEMBER TO MAINTAIN A STRATEGY, ALEX-7--IN THE END, THAT WILL ENSURE YOUR VICTORY!"



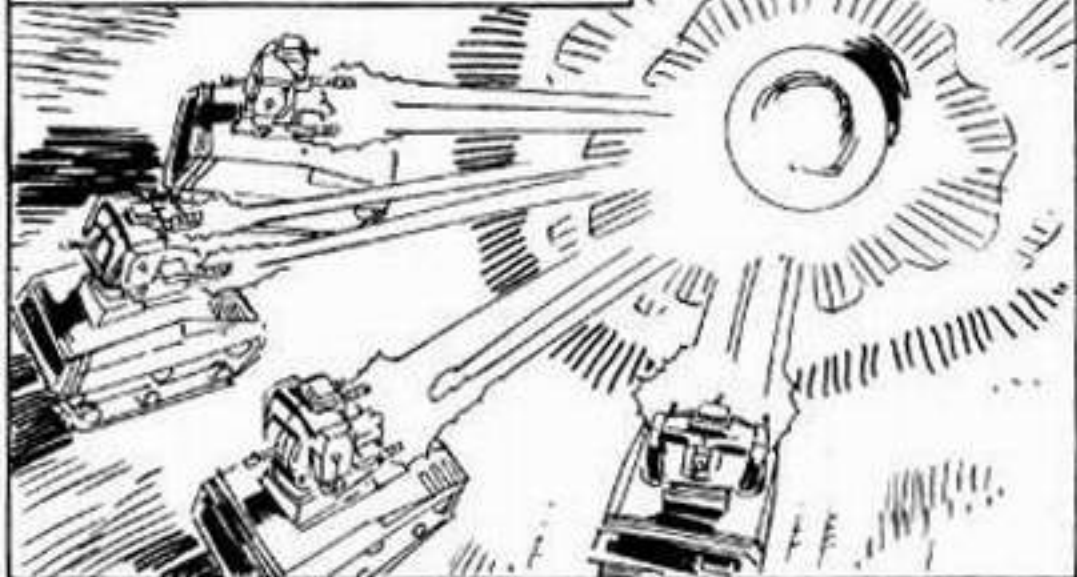
"I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT, MEGA-SAKA-- THAT'S WHY I MADE SURE TO PROTECT OUR ENERGY CRYSTAL WITH AT LEAST ONE DEFENDER PROG!"



"WHILE THE DEMON PROGS HAVE LEFT THEIR CRYSTAL TOTALLY UNGUARDED!"

"WELL DONE, ALEX-7, NOW--BEFORE THE DEMON PROGS OVERCOME YOUR DEFENDER--"

**DESTROY THE
CRYSTAL!!**



**THAT'S IT!! WE
BEAT THEM!! THE
DEMON PROGS
ARE FINISHED!!**

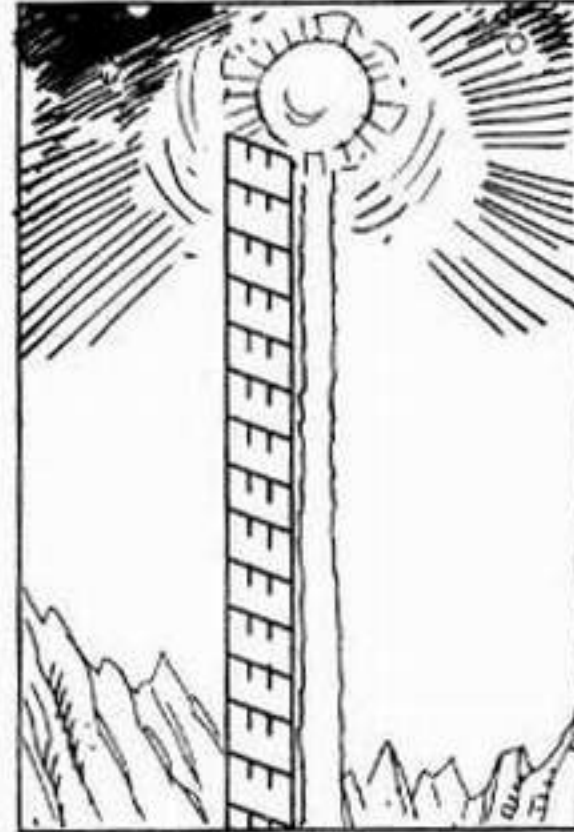
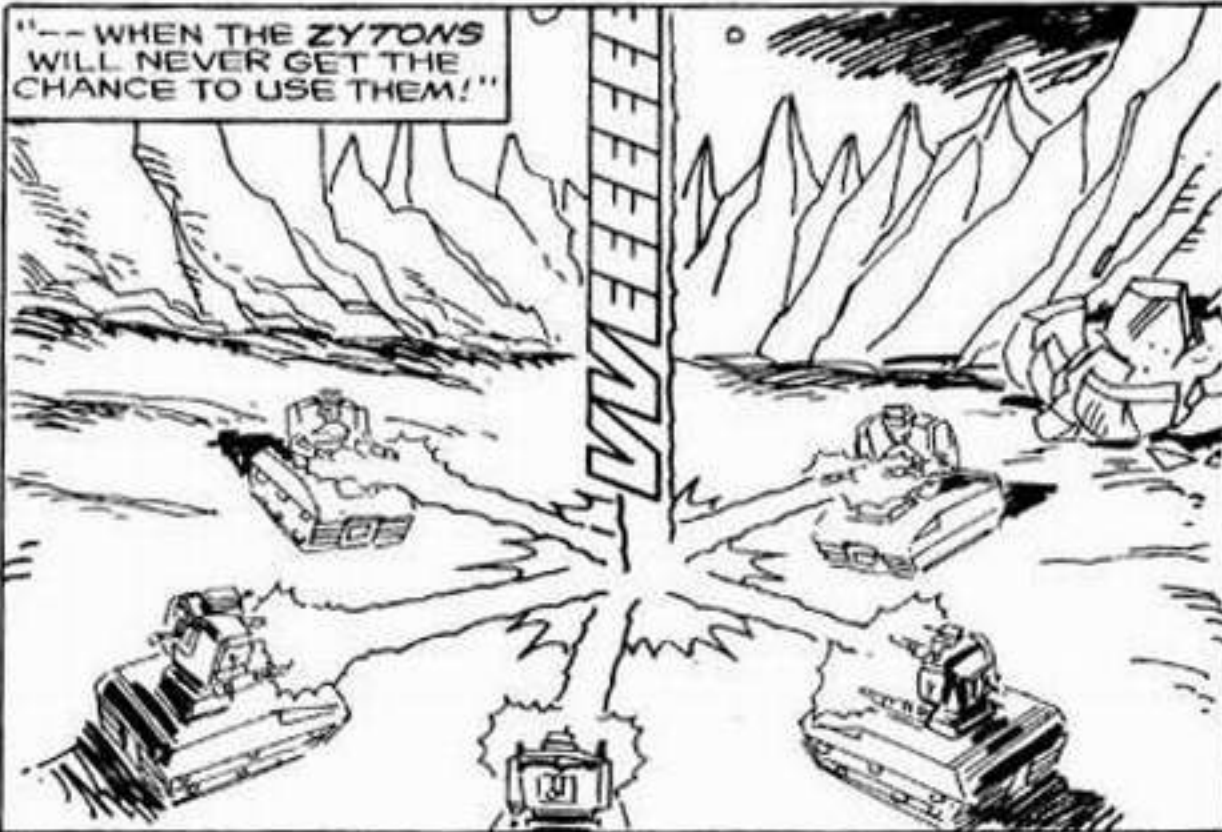


**BUT THERE ARE
MANY MORE PROGS
AND CRYSTALS
WITHIN THE
ZYTAN CRAFT.**



**MAYBE,
MEGA SAKA...
BUT WHAT
GOOD ARE
THEY--**

**"-- WHEN THE ZYTANS
WILL NEVER GET THE
CHANCE TO USE THEM!"**



IN THE SILENCE OF SPACE, THE ENEMY IS DESTROYED--

-- AND THE BATTLE-WEARY PEOPLE OF THIS LAND BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF.

THEY ARE ALIVE... THEY HAVE SURVIVED. BUT THEIR LIVES HAVE BEEN FOREVER CHANGED.

SOMEONE-- SOMETHING-- EXISTS WITHIN ITS COLD STEEL WALLS--

AND WHOEVER HE IS...

... HE IS THEIR HERO.

NO LONGER CAN THEY DENY THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER CIVILIZATIONS...

NO LONGER CAN THEY IGNORE THE PURPOSE OF THE HIGHTOWER.



TRULY, ALEX-7-- YOU ARE A SYMBOL OF HOPE.

YOU HAVE GIVEN ME THE WILL TO CONTINUE-- TO SEARCH FOR OTHERS WITH THE STRENGTH OF MIND TO HARNESS THE POWER OF THE DEFENDER PROGS.

I MUST GO NOW. THERE IS MUCH FOR ME TO DO.

YOUR PEOPLE WANT YOU, ALEX-7. JOIN THEM.

LOOK! IT'S ALEX-7!

HE'S THE ONE! HE SAVED US ALL!



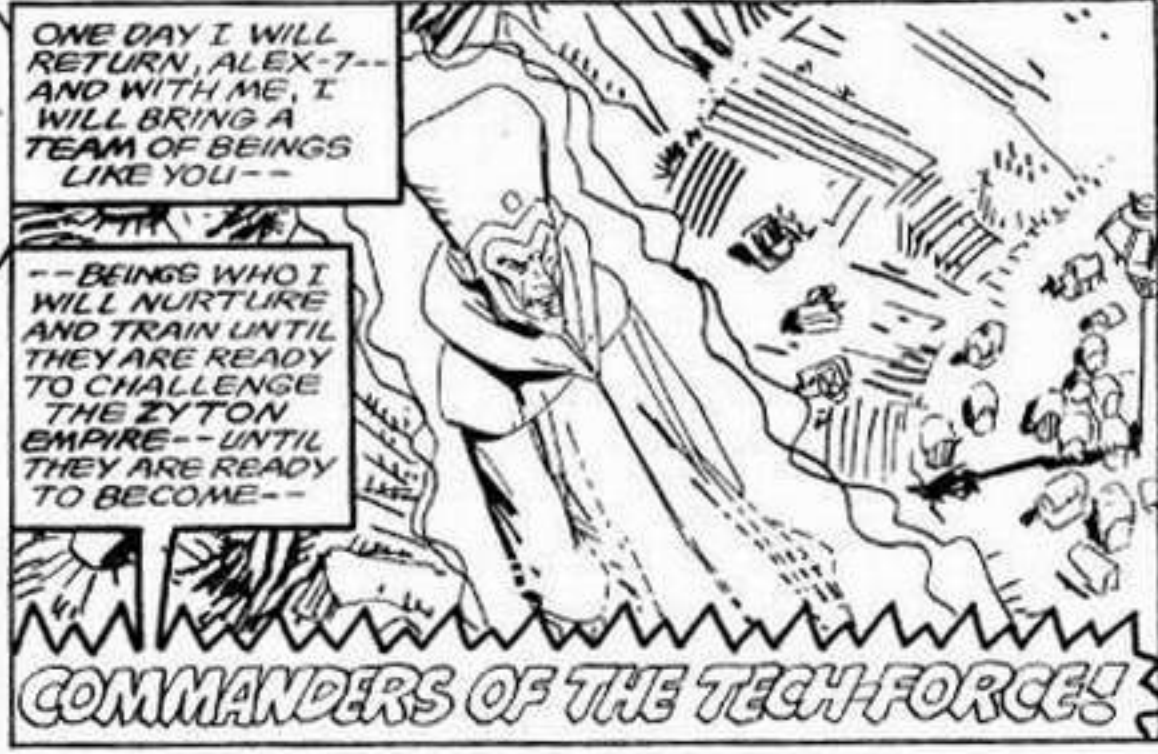
OH, SON-- WE WERE SO AFRAID YOU'D BEEN HURT!

BUT INSTEAD-- YOU SAVED OUR WORLD FROM DESTRUCTION!

I DIDN'T DO IT, ALONE FATHER-- I HAD HELP... FROM THE STARS.

ONE DAY I WILL RETURN, ALEX-7-- AND WITH ME, I WILL BRING A TEAM OF BEINGS LIKE YOU--

-- BEINGS WHO I WILL NURTURE AND TRAIN UNTIL THEY ARE READY TO CHALLENGE THE ZYTON EMPIRE-- UNTIL THEY ARE READY TO BECOME--



COMMANDERS OF THE TECH-FORCE!