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ATARI FORCE™



ATARI FORCE



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PART TWO

CHAPTER ONE:

BERSERK

COMMANDER
CHAMPION...
DOCTOR ORION...

...THANK YOU FOR MAKING
THE TRIP HERE FROM SOLAR
SATELLITE STATION ONE! *

WE KNOW YOU
WOULDN'T HAVE
CALLED US BACK TO
THE ATARI
INSTITUTE WITHOUT
GOOD REASON,
MR. DIRECTOR!



* SEE
ATARI
FORCE #1,
IN ATARI'S
"DEFENDER"
CARTRIDGE.
--EDITOR.

BUT WHY SUCH
TIGHT SECURITY?

WE HAVE WHAT WE
THINK ARE GOOD
REASONS, DOCTOR.

PROJECT:
MULTIVERSE IS
TOP SECRET--





AH, 'TIS A RUDE
AWAKENING YOU'RE
IN FOR, MR.
DIRECTOR!

SAD TO SAY, YOUR
DEAR SECURITY
ISN'T QUITE SO
TIGHT AS YOU
MIGHT THINK!

--AND FOR THE
SAKE OF OUR WAR-
WEARY WORLD, WHAT'S
REVEALED TO YOU
TODAY--MUST NEVER
LEAVE THIS ROOM!

THE YEAR:
2005 A.D.

THE PLACE:
THE NORTHCAL HEAD-
QUARTERS OF THE ATARI
TECHNOLOGY AND
RESEARCH INSTITUTE, IN
THAT PART OF NORTH
AMERICA THAT USED TO
BE KNOWN AS CALIFORNIA
BEFORE THE "BREAK-UP..."

THE SITUATION:
A WORLD IN CRISIS...

FOR ALL
YOUR FINE
TECHNOLOGY--

--ALL YOUR
RADAR AND HEAT-
SENSITIVE
SENSORS--

--A MERE SLIP OF
A GIRL HAS MANAGED
TO MAKE HER WAY INTO
THE VERY HEART OF
YOUR "WELL-GUARDED"
ATARI COMPLEX!



SURE,
AND IT'S
AS I
ALWAYS
SAY--

"ANY
SECURITY
SYSTEM CAN
BE BEATEN.

"ALL IT TAKES
IS TIME--

--AND A
LITTLE
INGENUITY."



TAKE THIS SOUND-
PROOF PLASTIGLAS
DOME, NOW.

IT'S SUPPOSED
TO KEEP AN EAVES-
DROPPER FROM
HEARIN' THE
SECRETS BEING
WHISPERED
BELOW.

BUT,
WITH A
PORTABLE
STETHA-
SCAN...

...YOUR VOICES
COME THROUGH
AS CLEAR AS
SUNRISE OVER
DUBLIN BAY!

--PROJECT: MULTIVERSE IS
THE CODE NAME FOR AN ATTEMPT
TO BREAK THE DIMENSIONAL
BARRIER THAT SEPARATES US
FROM AN INFINITY OF ALTERNATE
WORLDS!

"ALTERNATE"
WORLDS?

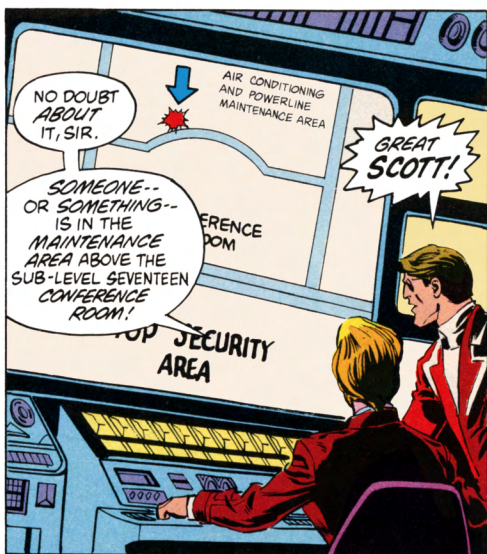
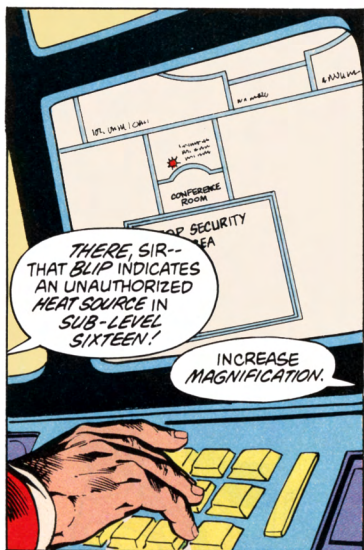
WORLDS WHOSE
HISTORY DIVERGES
FROM OUR OWN,
COMMANDER.

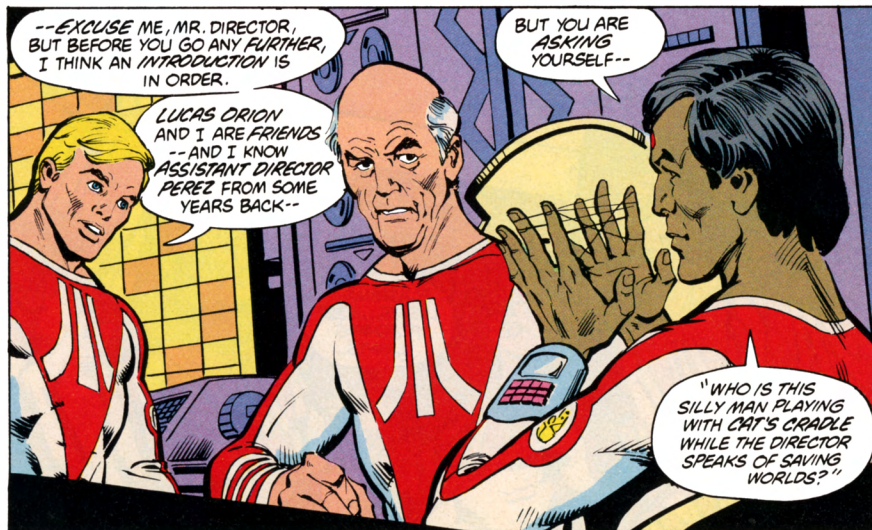
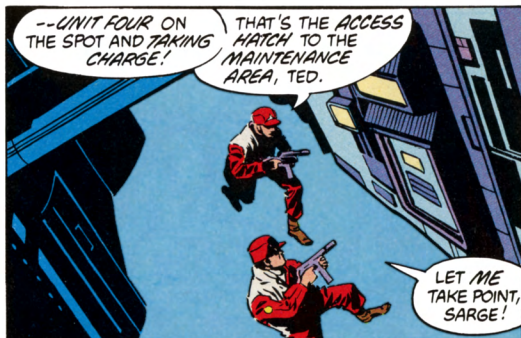
BUT ISN'T
THAT JUST A
FANTASY?

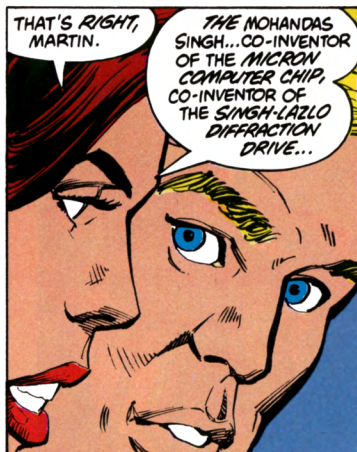
PURE SCIENCE
FICTION?

PLEASE,
DOCTOR...LET
THE DIRECTOR
EXPLAIN...

...WITHOUT
ANY MORE
INTERRUPTIONS!









EH? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO SINGH?

HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING INTO A TRANCE....

NOT A TRANCE,
BUT RATHER, A
REVERIE...

...AN UNWILLING FLASH-BACK OF MEMORY TO A TIME TWENTY YEARS BEFORE, IN THE CROWDED STREETS OF NEW DELHI, WHEN A MUCH YOUNGER MOHANDAS SINGH LIVED THE WILD LIFE OF AN URBAN ORPHAN IN THE WORLD'S MOST DESPERATE CITY...

HE WAS POOR--
HE WENT HUNGRY EVERY DAY, OR SO IT SEEMED--

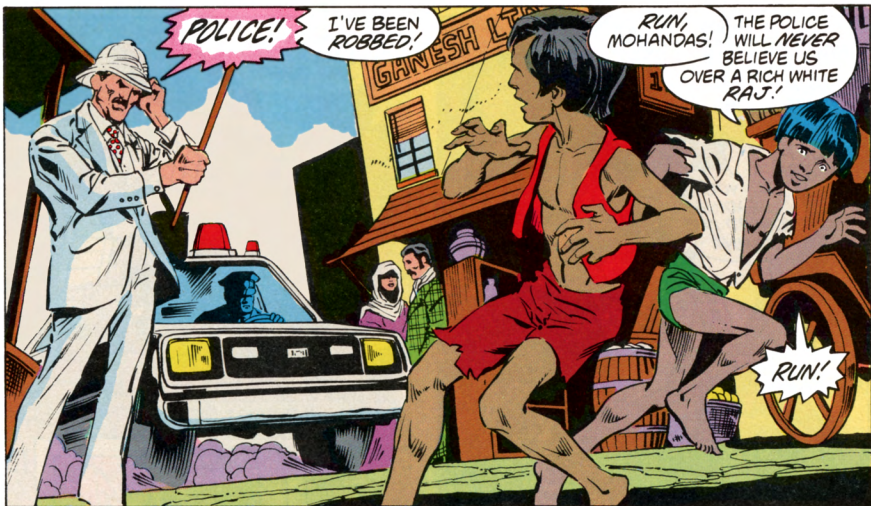
--BUT IN ONE AREA OF HIS LIFE, HE WAS RICH:

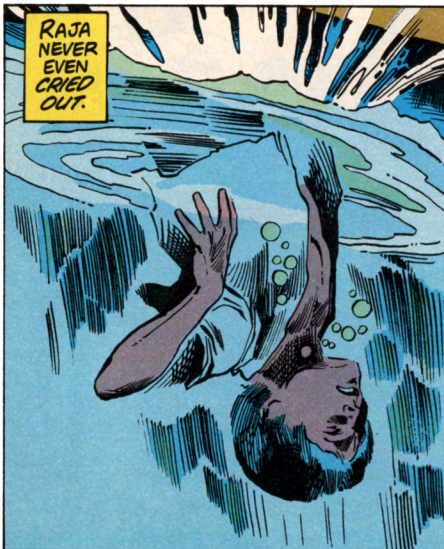
HE HAD A FRIEND...
A FELLOW URCHIN
WHO CALLED HIMSELF RAJA.

MOHANDAS--
WAKE UP--
A TOURIST!

A BRITISH RAT,
TOO--MAYBE WORTH
A FEW COINS, IF
YOU BEG RIGHT!









HE WILL NEVER FORGET.

THE LIGHTS, THE SOUNDS, SEARED INTO HIS BRAIN.

BREE

BREE

BREE

BREE

IN SPITE OF HIS POVERTY... IN SPITE OF DAILY HUNGER AND CONSTANT FEAR...

...UNTIL THAT MOMENT, HE HADN'T KNOWN WHAT IT MEANT TO BE POOR...

I'M SORRY... THIS WAS MY FAULT...



...I WAS THE *WORST* KIND OF FOOL, SEEING WHAT I EXPECTED TO SEE--NOT WHAT WAS.

MY NAME IS MILES--
PROFESSOR STANLEY MILES.

I'M HERE FOR A SYMPOSIUM-- THE WORLD GEOPHYSICAL YEAR, YOU KNOW.

AHH...BUT OF COURSE, YOU DON'T KNOW.

SEE HERE. I CAN'T BRING YOUR FRIEND BACK TO LIFE... BUT PERHAPS I CAN GIVE YOU A LIFE...

BUT SINGH WASN'T LISTENING. IN HIS MIND, HE STILL HEARD THAT TERRIBLE SIREN WAIL-- STILL SAW THOSE FLASHING LIGHTS--

-- AND EVEN NOW, TWENTY YEARS LATER, THEY THROW HIM INTO A KIND OF TRANCE, UNTIL--

-- SINGH... SINGH, SNAP OUT OF IT!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

Y-YES... YES, COMMANDER, VERY MUCH ALL RIGHT.

I WAS JUST-- EH?

PROFESSOR MILES PAID HIS DEBT IN FULL, BY SENDING MOHANDAS SINGH TO THE FINEST SCHOOLS ON THREE CONTINENTS, AND RECOGNIZING THE FINE MIND THAT HAD ALMOST BEEN SUFFOCATED BY OVERWHELMING POVERTY..

...A MIND THAT NOW
FOCUSSES WITH INSTANT
ALERTNESS ON NEW
INPUT, CAUSING MOHANDAS
SINGH TO CRY OUT:

COMMANDER,
DIRECTOR--**THERE**
IS THE CAUSE
OF THE **ALARM!**

**A
SPY!**

SO MUCH FOR SIX
YEARS OF TRAINING
IN THE MARINES--
I NEVER EVEN
LOOKED UP!

I THOUGHT
YOU TOLD US
PROJECT: MULTIVERSE
WAS TOP SECRET,
PEREZ!

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND,
MARTIN-- SECURITY
WAS SO TIGHT--!

DEAR LADY IF I
RAN MY MEDICAL
RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT
THE WAY SECURITY
APPARENTLY HAS
RUN THIS
OPERATION--



OKAY,
SISTER,
END OF
THE
ROAD!

WH-WHA--?

--I'D SOON
HAVE NO
PATIENTS
LEFT ALIVE!

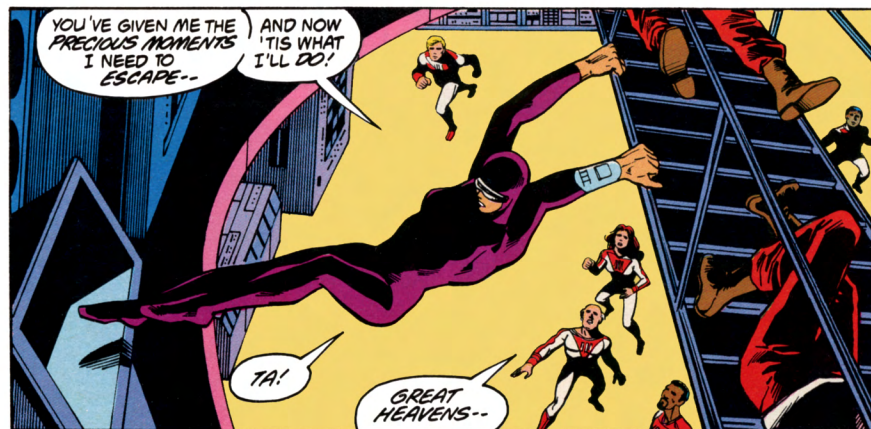


SARGE! SHE'S JUMPIN' AROUND LIKE SOME KIND OF KANGAROO!

TOO CLOSE TO USE MY WEAPONS-LASER WITHOUT HITTING YOU!

GOTTA GET SOME ROOM TO MANEUVER OR SHE'LL--







--SHE'S SLIPPED INTO THE VENTILATING DUCT THAT LEADS TO THE SCANNER ONE HANGAR!

SCANNER ONE IS THE VERY HEART OF PROJECT: MULTIVERSE!

EVEN SECURITY ISN'T ALLOWED ON THIS LEVEL!



HURRY-- WE HAVE TO STOP HER-- BEFORE SOMETHING DISASTROUS HAPPENS!

THE PROTECTIVE HATCH UNSEALS WITH A PNEUMATIC HISS, AND COMMANDER CHAMPION LEADS THE OTHERS THROUGH THE DOUBLE-LOCK...DRAWING UP SHORT ON THE FAR SIDE...

...HIS BREATH LITERALLY STOLEN BY THE SIGHT BEFORE HIM...



SO THAT'S THE BIG SECRET--



CHAPTER TWO:

UNMASKED



--SCANNER
ONE IS A
SPACESHIP!

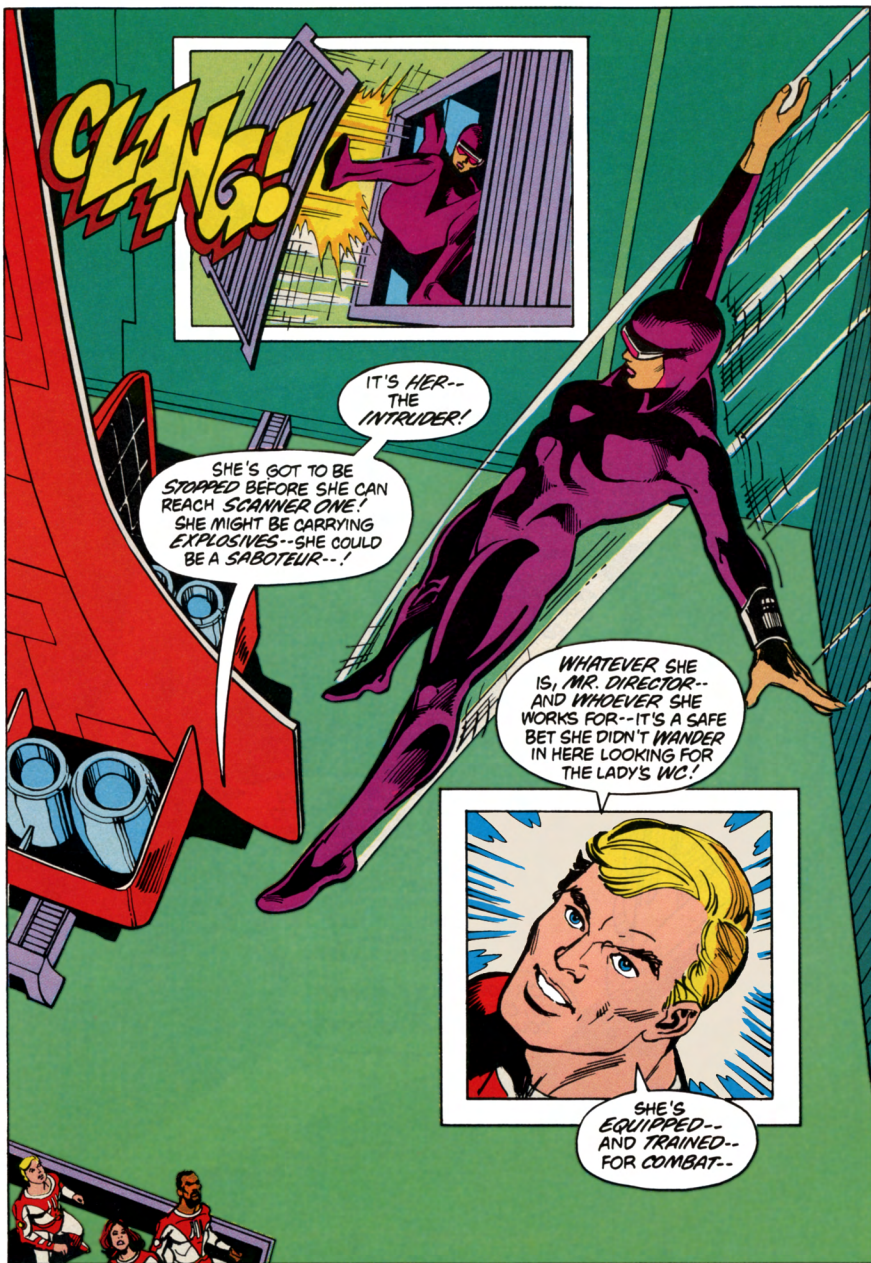
OH, MARTIN--
DON'T BE SUCH
A BLIND IDIOT!

HOW CAN A
SPACESHIP TAKE
OFF FROM INSIDE
A SEALED ROOM?

PEREZ, YOU
MUST LEARN TO
CURB THAT SHARP
TONGUE OF YOURS!

COMMANDER
CHAMPION CAN BE
FORGIVEN FOR
JUMPING TO
CONCLUSIONS.

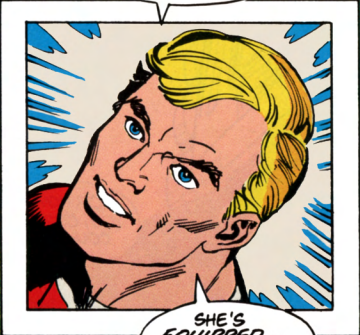
FOR NOW, LET ME ASSURE
YOU, COMMANDER--YOU
COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG!



IT'S HER--
THE
INTRUDER!

SHE'S GOT TO BE
STOPPED BEFORE SHE CAN
REACH *SCANNER ONE*.
SHE MIGHT BE CARRYING
EXPLOSIVES--SHE COULD
BE A SABOTEUR--!

WHATEVER SHE
IS, MR. DIRECTOR--
AND WHOEVER SHE
WORKS FOR--IT'S A SAFE
BET SHE DIDN'T WANDER
IN HERE LOOKING FOR
THE LADY'S WC.



SHE'S
EQUIPPED--
AND TRAINED--
FOR COMBAT--



--AND THAT
SUITS ME
FINE!



MY,
MY!

YOUR COMMANDER
CHAMPION IS MOST
AGGRESSIVE, IS
HE NOT?

MARTIN,
FOR
HEAVEN'S
SAKE--!

LET HIM
BE, DOCTOR.

I THINK I
RECOGNIZE THAT
WOMAN
THERE--

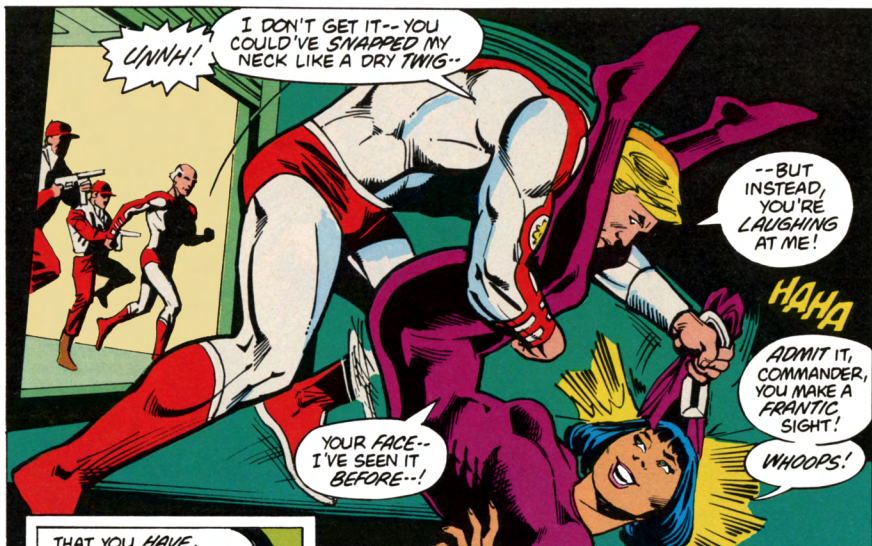
--AND IF MY GUESS
IS RIGHT, WE'RE IN
FOR QUITE A SHOW!



HI-YAAAH!







THAT YOU HAVE, COMMANDER, ON THE INSTITUTE REPORTS:

THE NAME'S O'ROURKE... LI SAN O'ROURKE...

...EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ATARI SECURITY!

IT'S A LITTLE FIELD TEST OF OUR SECURITY PERSONNEL THAT I'VE BEEN RUNNING-- AND A SORRIER LOT OF OVER-ARMED BUMPKINS I'VE NEVER SEEN!

YOU LADS DEPEND TOO HEAVILY ON YOUR FINE COMPUTERS AND SOPHISTICATED SENSORS.

SORRY IF I'VE DISRUPTED YOUR LITTLE PARTY, MR. DIRECTOR, BUT AS YOU KNOW, ATARI HAS ITS ENEMIES--AND VICIOUS THEY ARE, TOO, SINCE THE WAR.

WE HAVE TO PROTECT OURSELVES--AND THAT MEANS WE MUST BE CONSTANTLY ALERT!

YOU'LL HAVE NO ARGUMENT ON THAT FROM ME, O'ROURKE.

IN FACT, I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE...



...SINCE I WAS ABOUT TO SUMMON YOU, WHEN OUR "PARTY," AS YOU CALL IT, WAS SO RUDELY CRASHED!

O'ROURKE, YOU'RE THE FIFTH AND FINAL MEMBER OF A NEW TEAM WE'VE DESIGNATED THE **ATARI FORCE!**

OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, WHILE YOU WERE ATTENDING TO YOUR REGULAR DUTIES, EACH OF YOU RECEIVED EXTRA TRAINING IN THE OPERATION OF A NEW COMPUTER--


--THE **ATARI 8000**, THE MOST ADVANCED CYBERNETIC "BRAIN" EVER DESIGNED!

THE **ATARI 8000** IS THE GUIDANCE COMPUTER OF THIS VESSEL, **SCANNER ONE**.

THUS, WITHOUT KNOWING IT--FOR REASONS OF SECURITY--YOU'VE BEEN TRAINING FOR MONTHS FOR THIS, THE MOST IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT OF YOUR LIVES!

NOW, IF YOU'LL WATCH YOUR STEP--





"DURING THE FIRST HOURS OF THE WAR, AFTER THE ATTACK ON NASA'S LUNAR COLONY THAT STARTED THE WHOLE MESS, THE ENEMY OCCUPIED A MAJOR OIL FIELD IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA.

"OUR MISSION WAS TO FREE THE OIL FIELD-- WITHOUT GIVING THE ENEMY A CHANCE TO DESTROY IT.

"I WAS A LIEUTENANT-- IN CHARGE OF MY OWN SQUAD.

"SAINTS PRESERVE ME, BUT I THOUGHT I WAS GOD'S SPECIAL CHILD, AND THAT NOTHING COULD HARM ME."

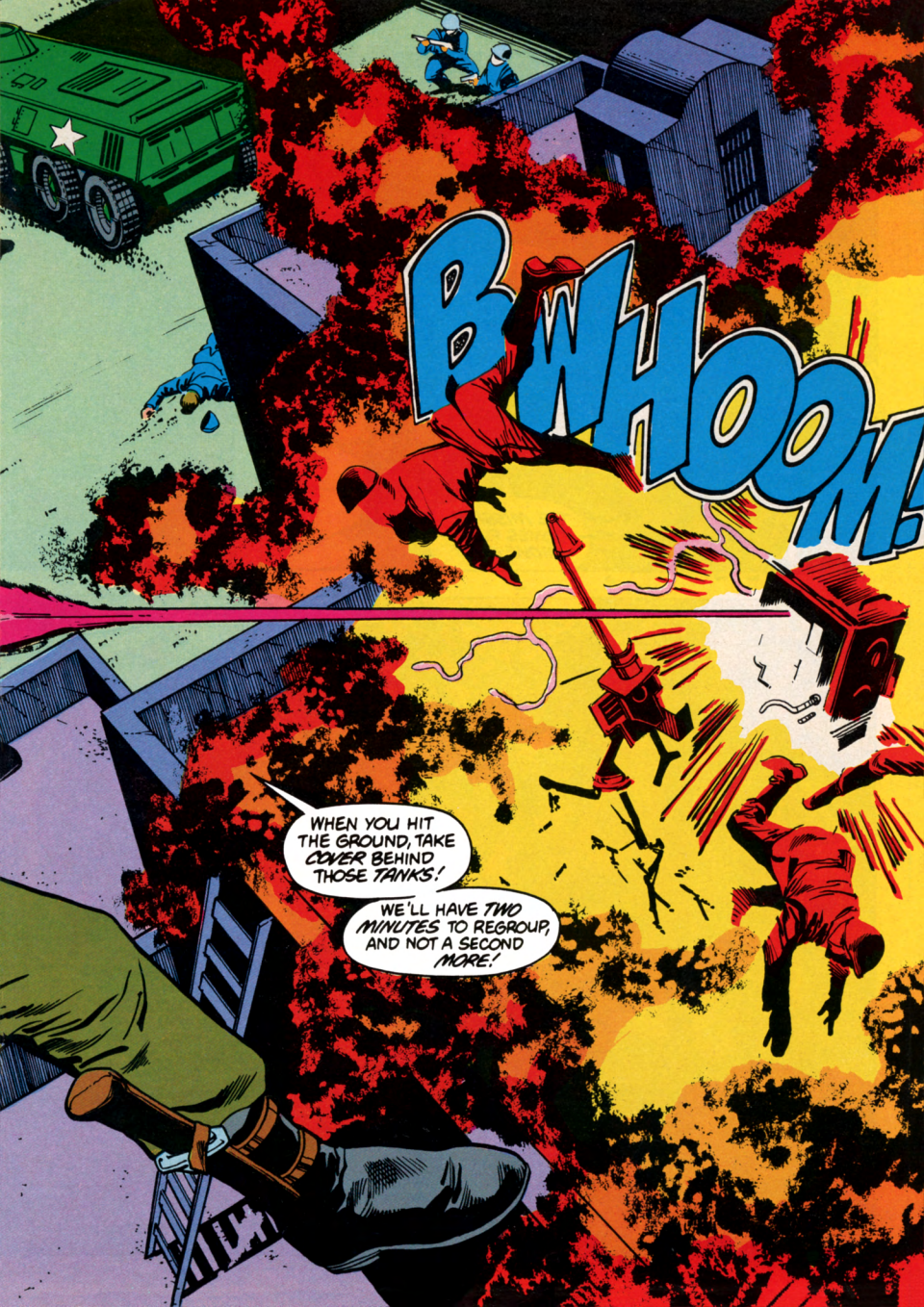
CHAPTER THREE:

SPOILS OF WAR

"I WAS ALMOST
RIGHT."

THAT'S *ONE LESS*
ANTI-AIRCRAFT LASER
TO BE BURNIN' OUR
LADS LIKE *TARGETS*
AT A *SKEET SHOOT*!

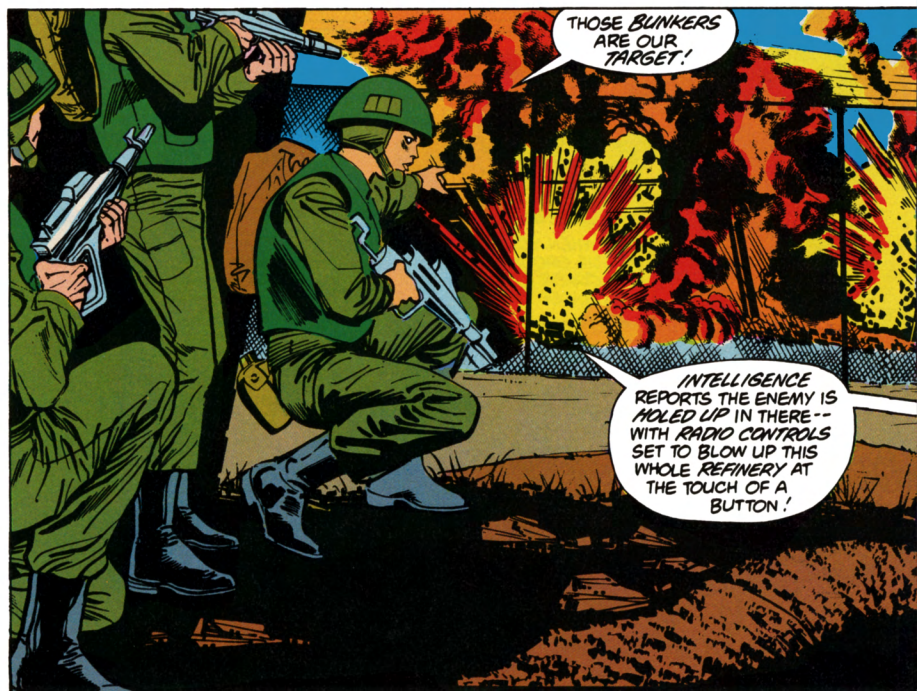


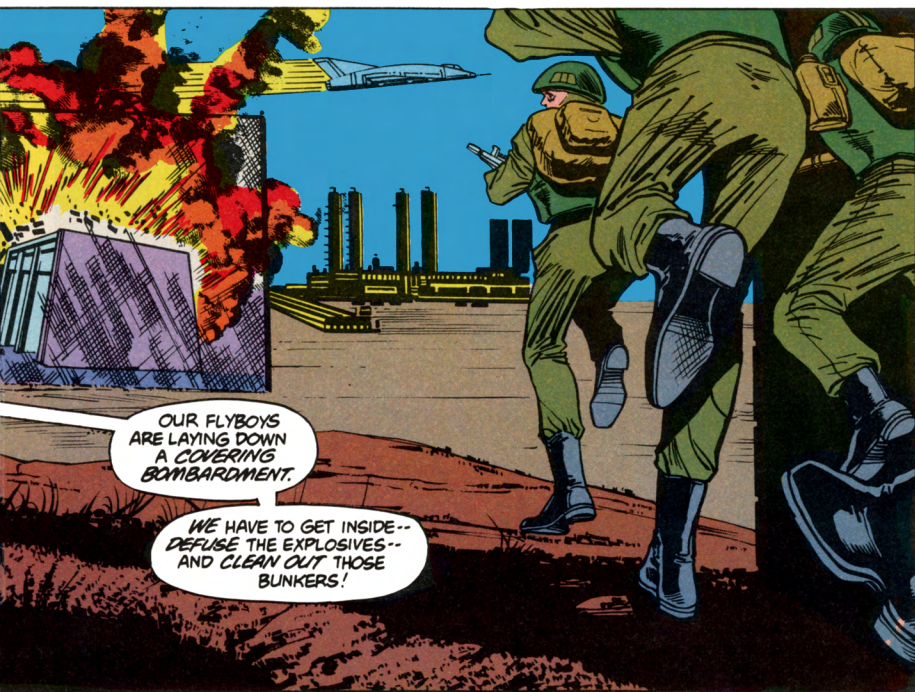


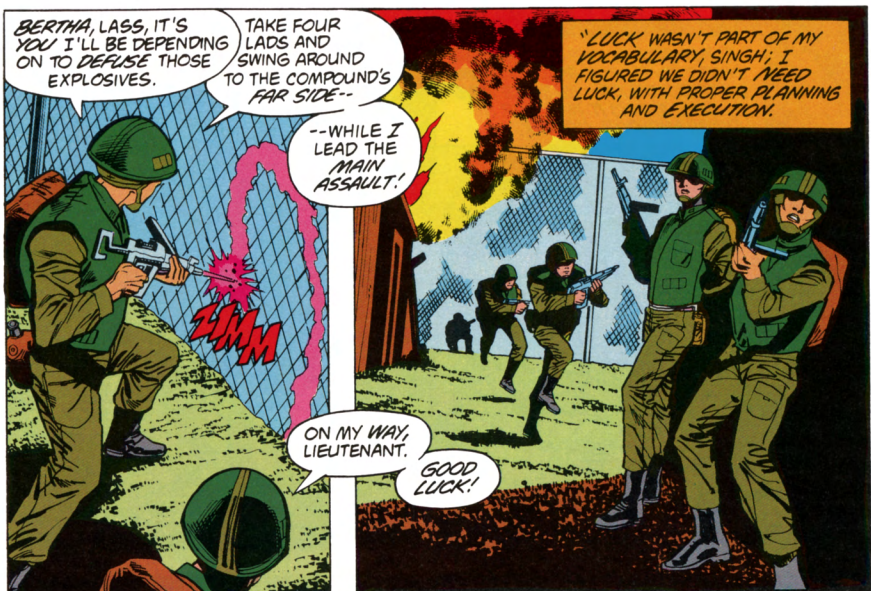
BWHOOOM!

WHEN YOU HIT
THE GROUND, TAKE
COVER BEHIND
THOSE TANKS!

WE'LL HAVE TWO
MINUTES TO REGROUP,
AND NOT A SECOND
MORE!







BERTHA, LASS, IT'S YOU I'LL BE DEPENDING ON TO DEFUSE THOSE EXPLOSIVES.

TAKE FOUR LADS AND SWING AROUND TO THE COMPOUND'S FAR SIDE--

--WHILE I LEAD THE MAIN ASSAULT!

"LUCK WASN'T PART OF MY VOCABULARY, SINGH; I FIGURED WE DIDN'T NEED LUCK, WITH PROPER PLANNING AND EXECUTION."

ON MY WAY, LIEUTENANT.

GOOD LUCK!



"BUT WE HAD LUCK, WE DID-- AND ALL OF IT WAS BAD!"

BLAST IT!

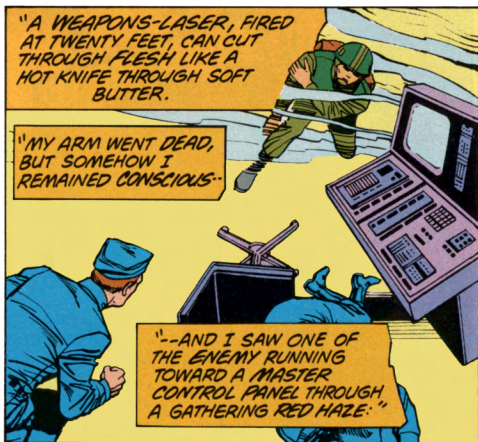
THE CONTROLS ON THESE EXPLOSIVE-PACKS ARE MORE COMPLICATED THAN WE EXPECTED!

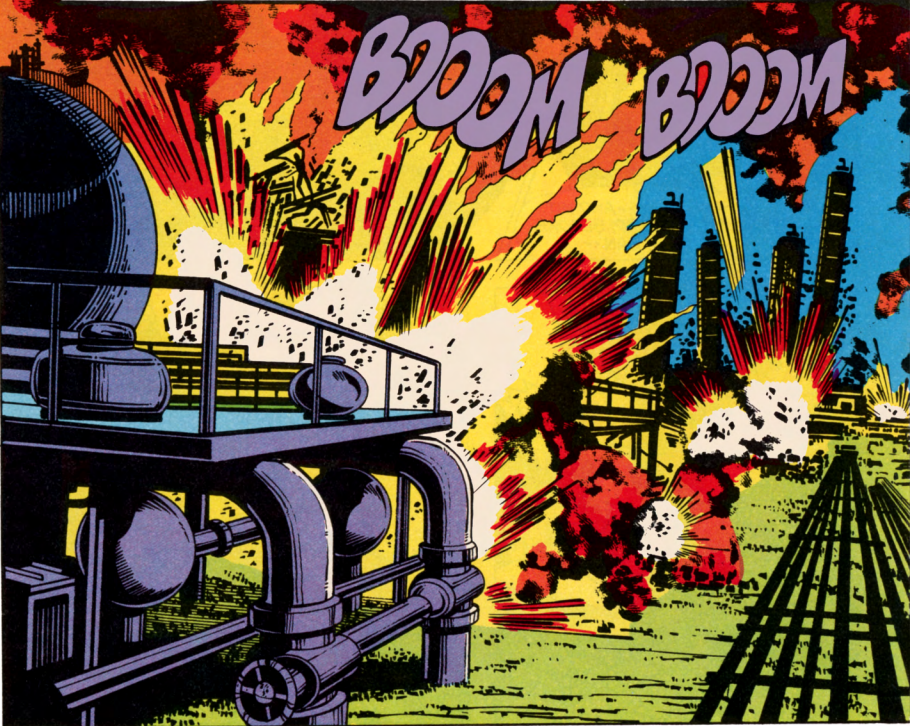
CAN YOU DEFUSE IT, SARGE?

HELL, YES--

--BUT IT'LL TAKE TIME!

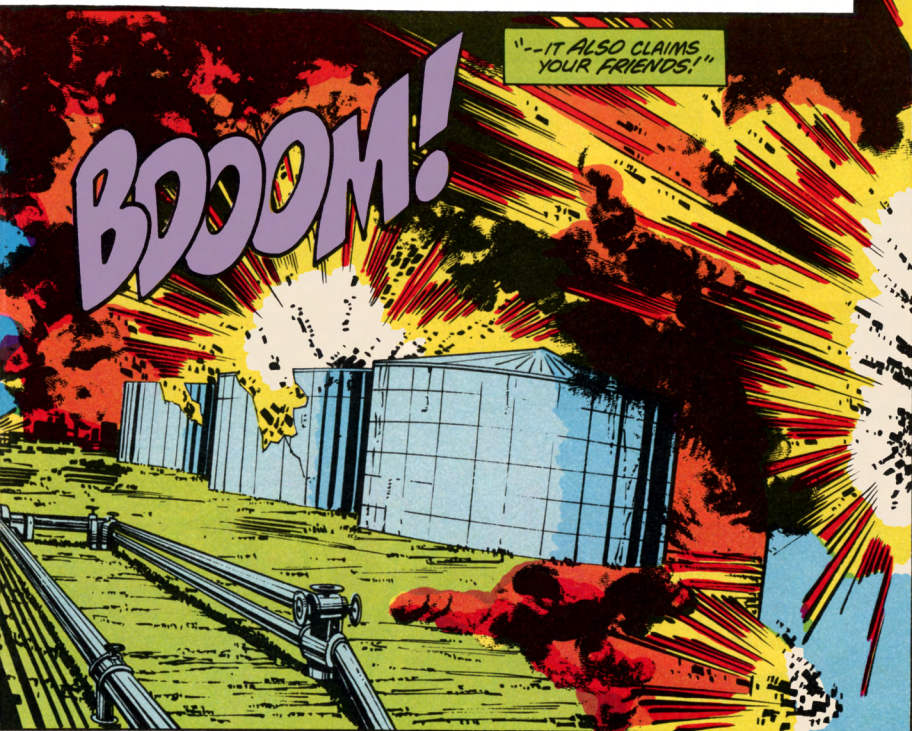
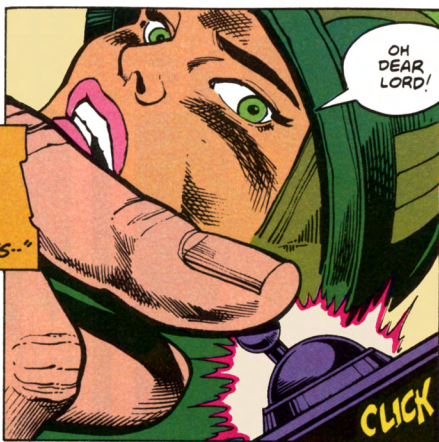
TIME...!







"NOT ONLY DOES WAR CLAIM YOUR ENEMIES--"



"THE EXPLOSIONS ECHOED
LIKE NEAR THUNDER-- BUT
I DIDN'T HEAR THEM.



"I'D GONE CRAZY--
STRIKING THAT
ENEMY SOLDIER
AGAIN AND
AGAIN, SOB-
BING WITH
GRIEF--

--UNTIL, FINALLY,
MY MEN HAD TO
DRAG ME AWAY.



"YOU SEE, SINGH, I
THOUGHT GOD WAS
ON MY SIDE... THAT
I COULDN'T BE
HURT.



"BUT I'D FORGOTTEN
THAT SOME OF WAR'S
WORST WOUNDS...
ARE THE WOUNDS YOU
NEVER SEE."

FORGIVE ME, LI SAN, BUT UNDER
THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I AM SURPRISED
YOU'RE NOT A PACIFIST.

BUT I
AM,
SINGH.

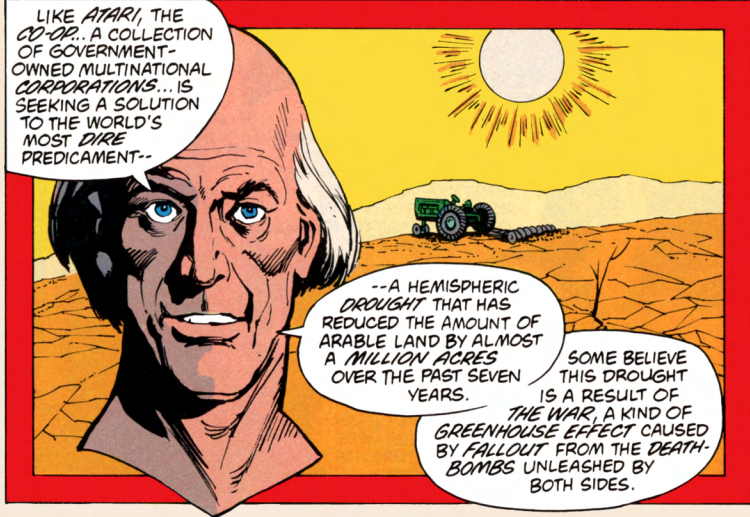
AFTER THE WAR,
I QUIT THE ARMY--
AND JOINED ATARI.

BEING WILLING
TO DEFEND YOURSELF
--AND BEING A
PACIFIST--ARE NOT
MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE!

IF YOU
SAY SO,
LI SAN.

I FEAR
DOCTOR
ORION MIGHT
NOT AGREE!





FORTUNATELY, ONLY *TWO* DEATH-BOMBS WERE EXPLODED IN THOSE LAST HOURS BEFORE OUR ENEMY'S GOVERNMENT COLLAPSED--

--OTHERWISE, WE WOULD NOT BE STANDING HERE TODAY.

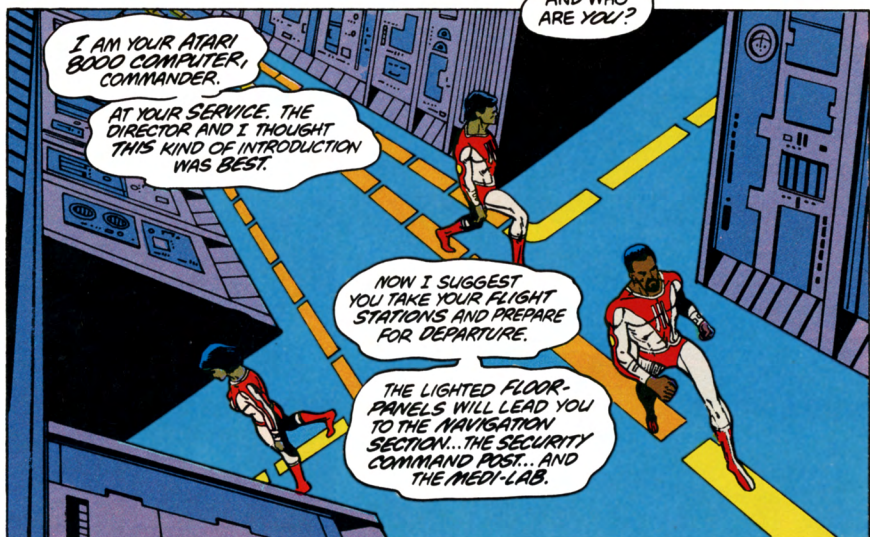
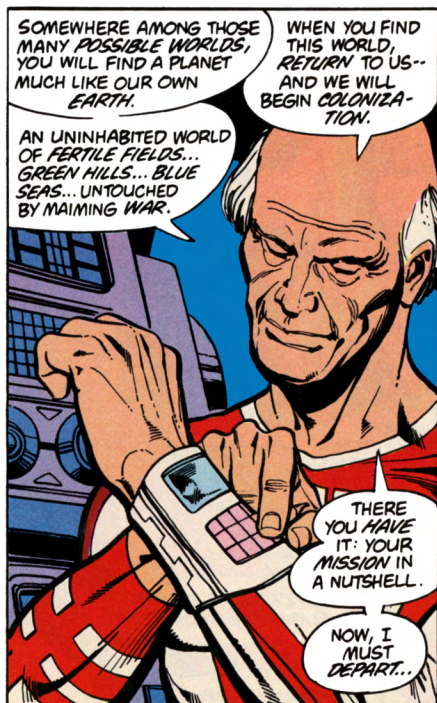
IN ANY CASE, EVEN THOUGH GREATLY REDUCED-- THE WORLD'S POPULATION IS IN DANGER OF IMMINENT STARVATION!

PROJECT MULTIVERSE IS AN ATTEMPT TO ALLEVIATE POTENTIAL FAMINE --BY LOCATING INHABITABLE WORLDS AMONG THE INFINITY OF ALTERNATE REALITIES EXISTING IN OTHER DIMENSIONS PARALLEL TO OUR OWN!

SUCH WORLDS MAY BE PRIMITIVE JUNGLES--

--FUTURISTIC PARADISES--

--OR UNDERWATER WONDERLANDS! EACH WILL BE UNIQUE, WITH ITS OWN CULTURE, ITS OWN HISTORY!



WE'LL BEGIN WITH A
SHORT TRIP--JUST A
FEW DIMENSIONS--AS
A WARM-UP, YOU
UNDERSTAND.

IS EVERYONE
COMFORTABLE?

SECURITY
OFFICER
O'ROURKE?

'TIS ALL HAPPENING
SO FAST, MY HEAD'S
BEEN SENT TO
SPINNING!



BUT TO ANSWER
YOUR QUESTION, LADDIE--
AYE, I'M AS COMFORTABLE
AS A LEPRECHAUN WITH
HIS OWN POT OF GOLD!

EXCELLENT. AND YOU,
FLIGHT ENGINEER SINGH?

I AM BREATHLESS AND
AWED, BUT SUCH, AFTER ALL,
IS THE NATURAL CONDITION
OF MAN.

OTHER
THAN
THAT--



--I TOO
AM QUITE
COMFORTABLE.

NO NEED TO ASK
HOW *I'M* DOING,
COMPUTER.

MY GREATEST *DESIRE*
IS TO HELP HUMANITY
RECOVER FROM THE
MADNESS OF *THE*
WAR.

THIS IS LIKE
A *DREAM* COME
TRUE.



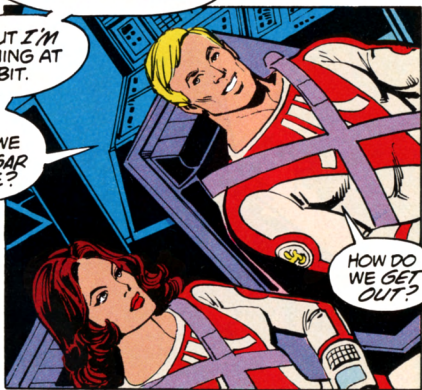
I TAKE THAT AS
AN AFFIRMATIVE,
DOCTOR. COMMANDER
CHAMPION... MISSION
PILOT PEREZ...

...ARE YOU
READY?

I CAN'T SPEAK
FOR MY EXECUTIVE
OFFICER, COMPUTER--

--BUT I'M
STRAINING AT
THE BIT.

ONE POINT,
THOUGH--DON'T WE
NEED SOME HANGAR
DOORS UP THERE?



HOW DO
WE GET
OUT?



WE DON'T NEED
HANGAR DOORS,
COMMANDER--

--BECAUSE WE ARE
NOT TRAVELING
THROUGH SPACE, NOR
EVEN THROUGH
TIME!

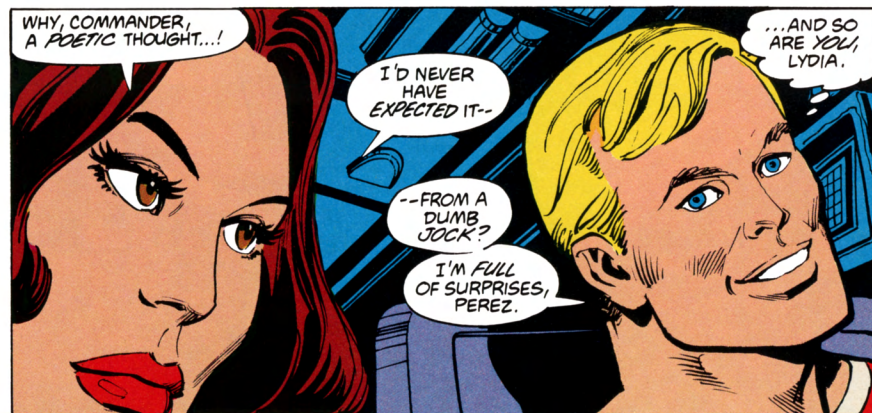



OUR
VOYAGE IS
THROUGH
MULTIPLE
DIMENSIONS!

LIKE THE
CHESHIRE CAT IN
"ALICE IN WONDER-
LAND," WE SHALL BE
HERE ONE MOMENT,
AND IN THE NEXT
MOMENT, WE SHALL
BE--

MMM*

GONE!





BEFORE THIS TRIP
IS OVER, I'M GOING TO
FIND OUT WHAT'S
BUGGING YOU,
PEREZ.

I THOUGHT WE
WERE FRIENDS--BUT
YOU'VE BEEN CRITICAL
OF ME EVER SINCE
WE GOT BACK
TOGETHER!

THE MYSTERIES OF
THE MULTIVERSE AREN'T
THE ONLY MYSTERIES
WE'RE GOING TO UNRAVEL
ON THIS VOYAGE.

THAT'S A
PROMISE!

FOR NOW--THE END!

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES-- READ
THE NEXT EXCITING CHAPTER IN THE
SAGA OF THE ATARI FORCE,
IN: **STAR RAIDERS**™
AVAILABLE SOON!



THEIR MISSION:
SAVE THE UNIVERSE!

ATARI FORCE

DON'T MISS
THE FURTHER
EPIC ADVENTURES
OF THE CREW OF

SCANNER ONE

IN FREE BONUS COMICS
AVAILABLE ONLY IN
SPECIALLY-MARKED
CARTRIDGES FOR

ATARI'S VIDEO COMPUTER SYSTEM!

ATARI FORCE 3 IN
STAR RAIDERS

ATARI FORCE 4 IN
PHOENIX

**BOTH AVAILABLE
SOON!**



—VIDEO GAME ACTION AT ITS BEST—AND MORE!



C018257

