

THE WRECKER WAS THE TIGHTEST BATTLE OFFICER IN THE ENTIRE CORPS OF SPACE-MARINES! HE HAD FOUGHT HIS WAY ACROSS THE STARS IN THE LIVERY OF EARTH'S FINEST REGIMENTS! NOW HE WAS ORDERED TO THE STAR-SUN PROXYON--TO THROW BACK AN ALIEN INVASION OF EARTH'S GALACTIC EMPIRE! ONLY ONE WEAPON COULD DEFEAT THE INVADERS--BUT TO THE GENERAL'S DISMAY, HE COULDN'T FIRE IT!

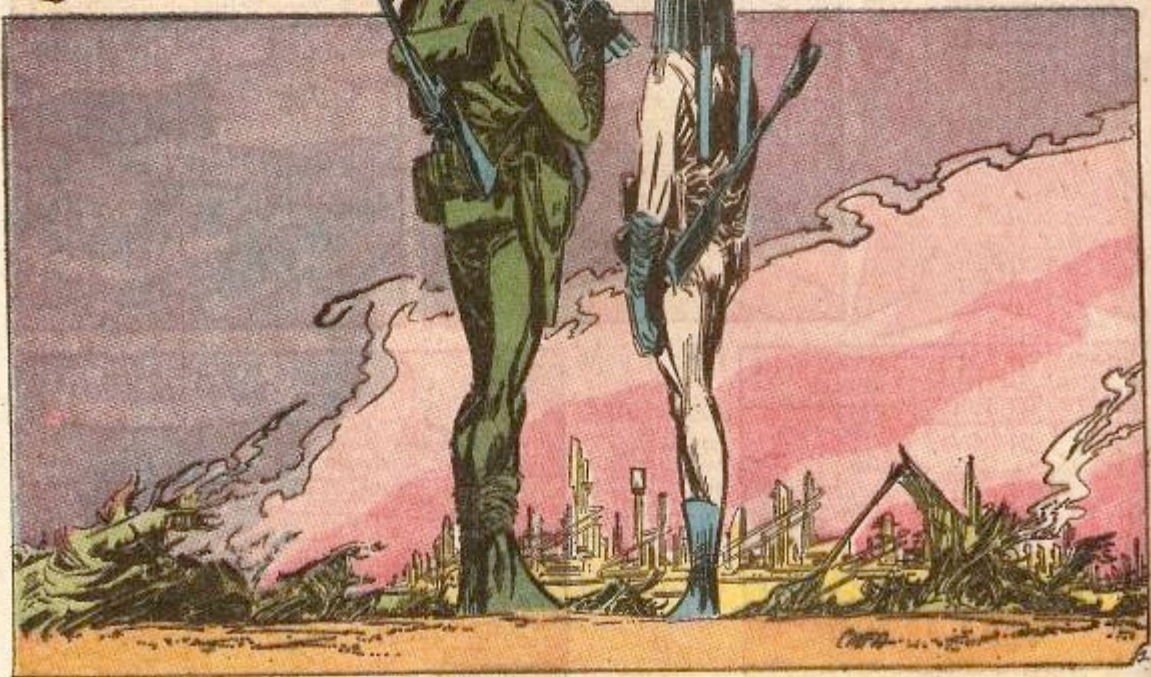
# EARTH VICTORY-- BY A HAIR!

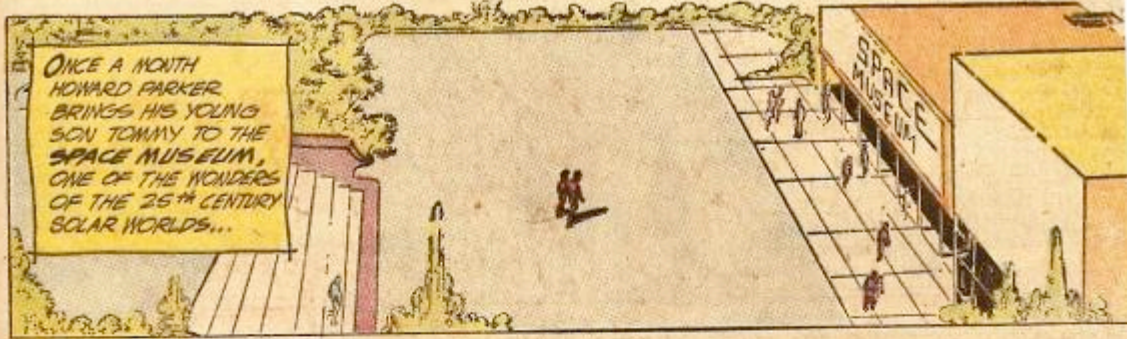
A SPACE MUSEUM STORY

LOOKS AS IF THE ALIENS HAVE US STOPPED, ADMIRAL! WE CAN'T BOMB THE CITY BECAUSE OF THE EARTH COLONISTS HELD PRISONER THERE--

--AND WE DAREN'T ATTACK IT IN A FRONTAL ASSAULT BECAUSE THE MIND-MACHINE HIDDEN SOMEWHERE INSIDE THE CITY WOULD ENSLAVE US ALL!

A Demand Classic





ONCE A MONTH HOWARD PARKER BRINGS HIS YOUNG SON TOMMY TO THE SPACE MUSEUM, ONE OF THE WONDERS OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY SOLAR WORLDS...

BEHIND EVERY OBJECT IN THE MUSEUM LIES A STORY OF GREAT HEROISM ON THE FAR-FLUNG FRONTIERS OF SPACE...

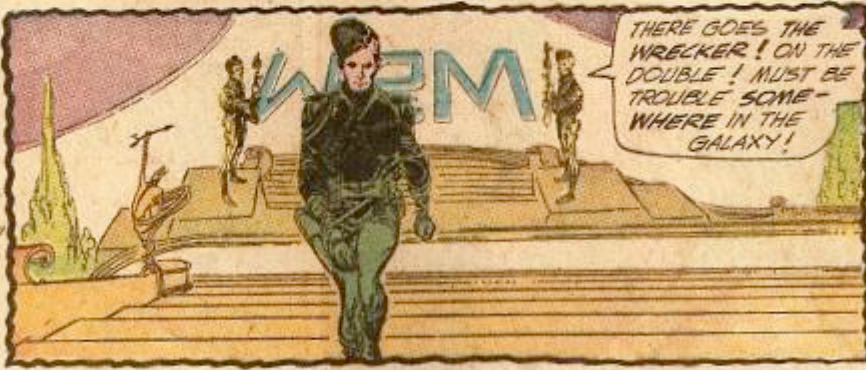
DAD, THAT LOOKS LIKE A HUMAN HAIR IN THIS CASE! I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY--



I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR YOU TO ASK ABOUT THAT STRAND OF HAIR, TOMMY! IT'S A MEMENTO OF ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING STORIES I HAVE TO TELL YOU! YOU SEE-- THAT BLONDE HAIR HELPED EARTH GAIN AN IMPORTANT VICTORY ON A DISTANT PLANET...

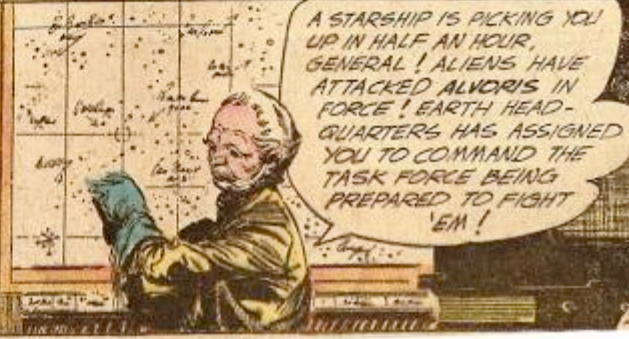


"THE STORY STARTS ABOUT FIFTEEN YEARS AGO ON A FAR-FLUNG PLANET, WHERE A TOUGH MAJOR-GENERAL OF THE SPACE-MARINES WAS NICK-NAMED THE WRECKER BY HIS BATTLE-HARDENED VETERANS..."



THERE GOES THE WRECKER! ON THE DOUBLE! MUST BE TROUBLE SOMEWHERE IN THE GALAXY!

"THE 'DEVILDOG' WAS RIGHT! THERE WAS TROUBLE--BIG TROUBLE--ON THE PLANET ALVORIS OF THE STAR-SUN PROXYON..."



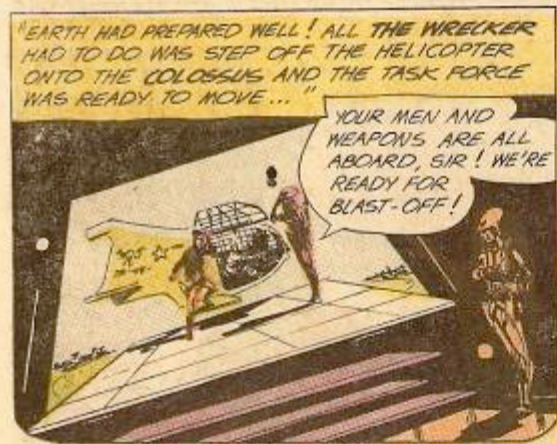
A STARSHIP IS PICKING YOU UP IN HALF AN HOUR, GENERAL! ALIENS HAVE ATTACKED ALVORIS IN FORCE! EARTH HEAD-QUARTERS HAS ASSIGNED YOU TO COMMAND THE TASK FORCE BEING PREPARED TO FIGHT 'EM!



"WITHIN THREE DAYS--TRAVELING BY HYPER-SPACE, OF COURSE--THE WRECKER WAS WALKING TOWARD THE LATEST BATTLE-WAGON OF THE GALACTIC FLEET..."

THE COLOSSUS IS THE FINEST STARSHIP WE'VE EVER BUILT, GENERAL! IT IS COMMANDED BY ADMIRAL "BLONDY" GORDON!

I'VE HEARD ABOUT "BLONDY"! HE'S GOT A GOOD REP! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET HIM--



"EARTH HAD PREPARED WELL! ALL THE WRECKER HAD TO DO WAS STEP OFF THE HELICOPTER ONTO THE COLOSSUS AND THE TASK FORCE WAS READY TO MOVE..."

YOUR MEN AND WEAPONS ARE ALL ABOARD, SIR! WE'RE READY FOR BLAST-OFF!



"THIS WAS FAST WORK, EVEN FOR THE WRECKER, SO HE WENT TO SEE THE ADMIRAL RESPONSIBLE FOR IT..."

AFTERNOON, YOUNG LADY! I'M HERE TO SEE ADMIRAL GORDON!

GOOD AFTERNOON, GENERAL!



I'M ADMIRAL GORDON! THEY CALL ME "BLONDY" FOR OBVIOUS REASONS! MY REAL NAME IS ANN!

WHAT'S THIS--AN ADMIRAL IN SKIRTS?! I MEAN--I NEVER KNEW--



WOMEN HAVE BEEN SERVING IN THE GALACTIC NAVY FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS, YOU KNOW!

YES, BUT--OH, THIS IS RIDICULOUS! A WOMAN--COMMANDING THE SHIP TAKING MY TASK FORCE TO PROCYON! I DON'T APPROVE OF SUCH--



WHETHER YOU APPROVE OR NOT, GENERAL, I WE BOTH HAVE OUR ORDERS! ENGINE ROOM--PREPARE FOR BLAST-OFF!

A WOMAN! BY ALL THE STARS IN ANDROMEDA--I'M SERVING WITH A WOMAN!

"THE WRECKER WAS TOO GOOD A SOLDIER TO DISOBEY ORDERS, BUT HE COULD GRUMBLE, AND GRUMBLE APLENTY HE DID..."

ALL RIGHT, I'M STUCK WITH YOU, GIRL! BUT YOU STAY OUT OF MY HAIR, LINDER- STAND?

I'LL CERTAINLY TRY TO, GENERAL!



"A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER THE WRECKER SAW WHY ADMIRAL GORDON WAS IN COMMAND OF THE COLOSSUS, FOR AS THE HUGE BATTLEWAGON SLAMMED OUT OF HYPER-SPACE..."

A SPACE-DRAGON! THEY'RE A MYSTERIOUS, DANGEROUS KIND OF LIFE...



FIRE ALL FORWARD RAYS! ON THE DOUBLE THERE! HIT THAT WHITE GLOBE! IT'S THE DRAGON'S HEART!



"IMPATIENT, BLONDY GORDON HERSELF TOOK OVER THE TASK AND..."

YOU'VE GOT TO LEAD THE DRAGON BY JUST A FEW FEET AND...

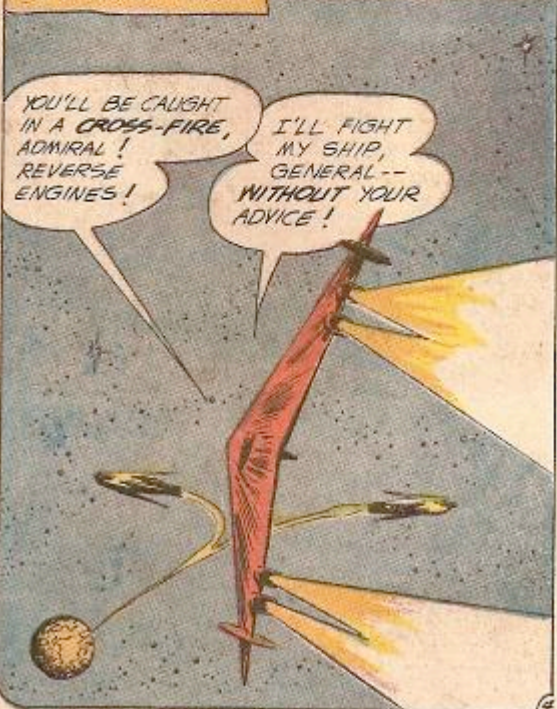
GREAT SHOT, ADMIRAL!



"THEN--AS THE COLOSSUS SPED ON TOWARD ALVORIS, TWIN ALIEN SPACESHIPS JETTED UP TO DESTROY IT..."

YOU'LL BE CAUGHT IN A CROSS-FIRE, ADMIRAL! REVERSE ENGINES!

I'LL FIGHT MY SHIP, GENERAL-- WITHOUT YOUR ADVICE!

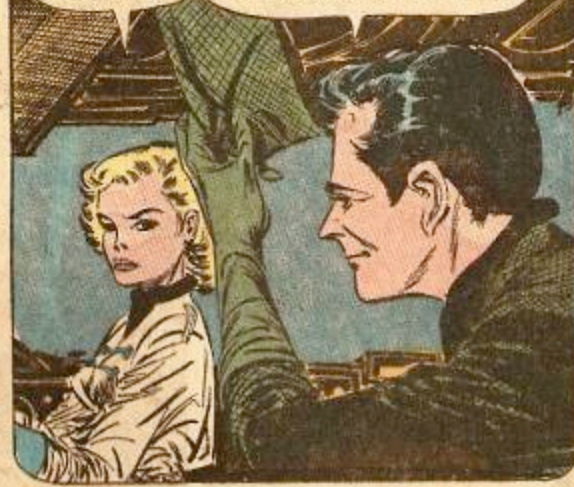


"FOR A FEW MOMENTS IT LOOKED AS IF ADMIRAL GORDON WERE HEADING FOR DOOM BY HER MANEUVER-- BUT JUST AS THE COLOSSUS SLID BETWEEN THE ALIEN VESSELS..."

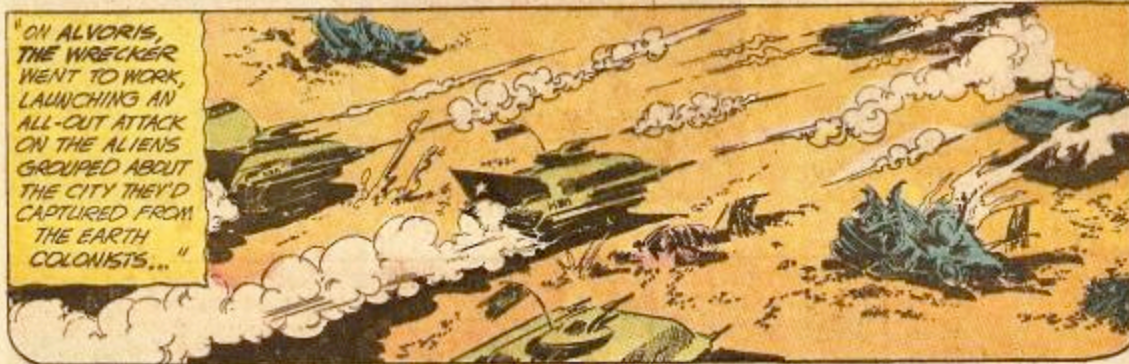


ANY COMPLAINTS, GENERAL?

NONE AT ALL, ADMIRAL! I DOFF MY CAP TO YOU!



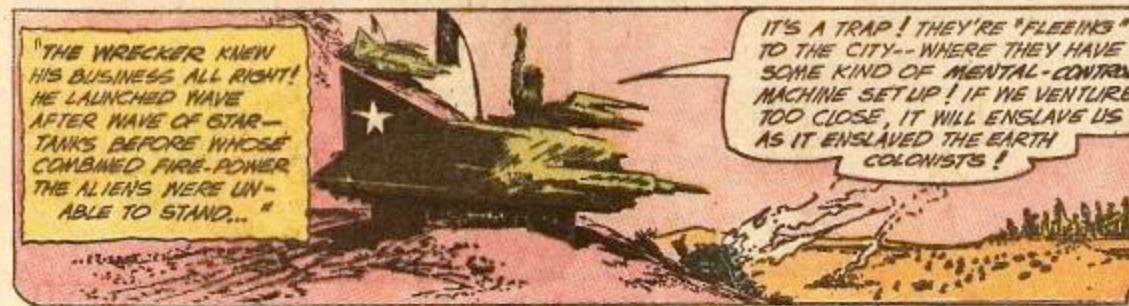
"ON ALVORIS, THE WRECKER WENT TO WORK, LAUNCHING AN ALL-OUT ATTACK ON THE ALIENS GROUPED ABOUT THE CITY THEY'D CAPTURED FROM THE EARTH COLONISTS..."



"FOR THREE HOURS THE FIGHTING WAS HARD AND BITTER..."



"THE WRECKER KNEW HIS BUSINESS ALL RIGHT! HE LAUNCHED WAVE AFTER WAVE OF STAR-TANKS BEFORE WHOSE COMBINED FIRE-POWER THE ALIENS WERE UNABLE TO STAND..."





NOR CAN WE BOMB THE CITY WITH ATOMIC CANNONS FOR FEAR OF DESTROYING OUR COLONISTS IMPRISONED THERE! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO DESTROY THAT MIND MACHINE!

HOW CAN YOU DO THAT WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE IT IS HIDDEN?

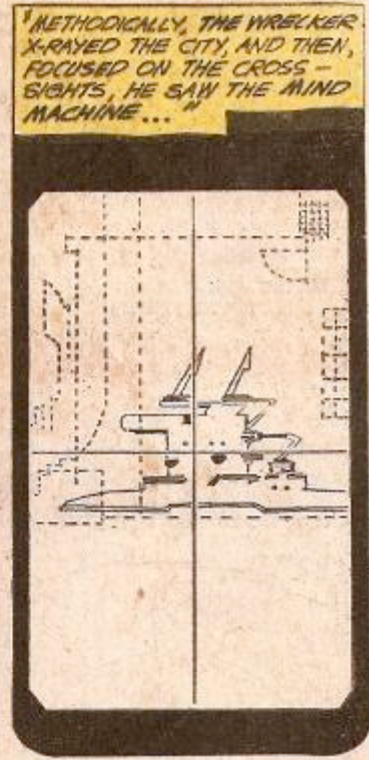


THIS RAY-GUN IS EQUIPPED WITH AN X-RAY SNOOPER-SCOPE! IT CAN LOOK RIGHT THROUGH SOLID MATTER! HERE, TAKE A LOOK--

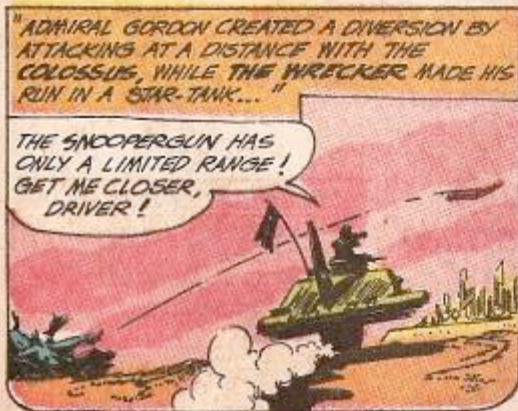


OH! YES! I CAN SEE THROUGH THE BUILDING WALLS--RIGHT THROUGH THE CITY!

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS LOCATE THE MIND MACHINE WITH IT--GET IT IN THOSE CROSS-HAIRS--AND BLAMMO! IT'S GONE!



METHODICALLY, THE WRECKER X-RAYED THE CITY, AND THEN, FOCUSED ON THE CROSS-SIGHTS, HE SAW THE MIND MACHINE...



ADMIRAL GORDON CREATED A DIVERSION BY ATTACKING AT A DISTANCE WITH THE COLOSSUS, WHILE THE WRECKER MADE HIS RUN IN A STAR-TANK...

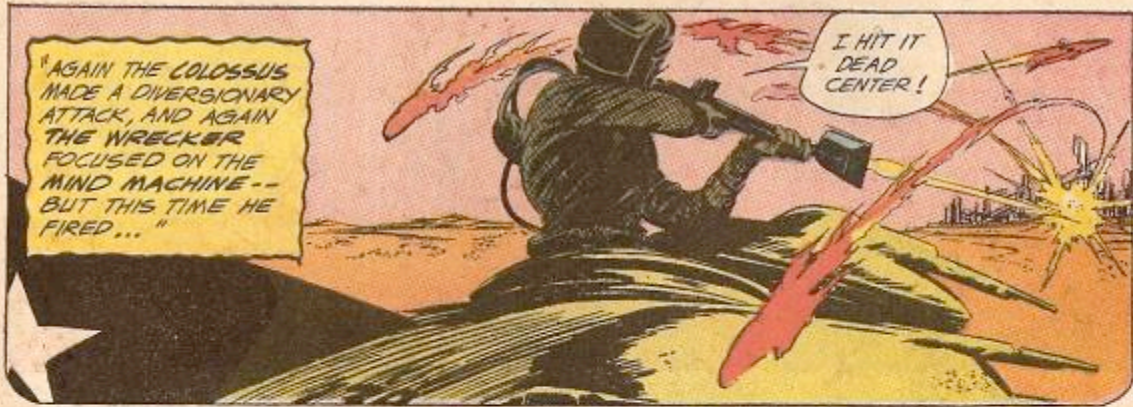
THE SNOOPERGUN HAS ONLY A LIMITED RANGE! GET ME CLOSER, DRIVER!

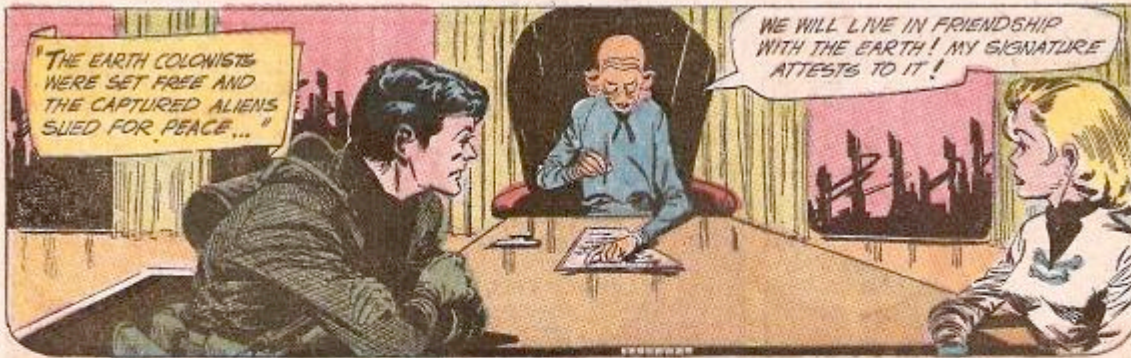


AS THE TANK TRUNDLED FORWARD A LUCKY SHOT FROM THE CITY RIPPED THE RAY-GUN FROM THE WRECKER'S HANDS--SHATTERING THE SNOOPER-SCOPE SIGHT!

OH!!

CONTINUED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING.





"THE EARTH COLONISTS WERE SET FREE AND THE CAPTURED ALIENS SUELED FOR PEACE..."

WE WILL LIVE IN FRIENDSHIP WITH THE EARTH! MY SIGNATURE ATTESTS TO IT!

"AND THEN--PROBABLY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY-- A GENERAL GAVE AN ADMIRAL A GREAT BIG HUG AND A KISS!..."

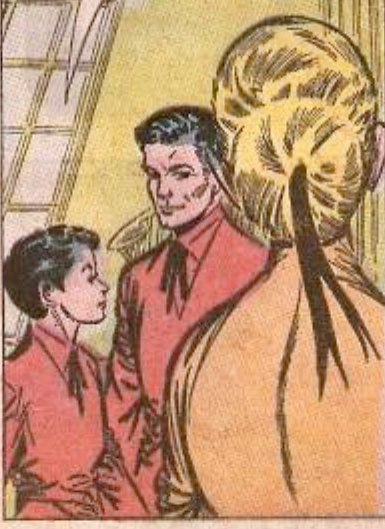
AFTER HOWARD PARKER AND HIS SON TOMMY LEAVE THE SPACE MUSEUM AND RETURN HOME ... "

PARKER?! WHY, THAT'S MY NAME! AND, MOM--YOUR MAIDEN NAME WAS ANN GORDON, WASN'T IT? WHY? GULP! YOU HAVE BLONDE HAIR, TOO! THAT MUST MEAN--



THAT SURE WAS A SWELL STORY, DAD--BUT YOU NEVER DID MENTION THE WRECKER'S LAST NAME...

OH, I CAN TELL YOU THAT, SON! HIS NAME WAS PARKER...



MOM WAS THE ADMIRAL! AND DAD-- THE GENERAL!

THAT'S RIGHT, TOMMY! THE STORY ENDS AS ALL GOOD STORIES SHOULD END... "AND SO THEY WERE HAPPILY MARRIED!"

GOLLYWOBLES! I WONDER IF ANY OTHER KID EVER HAD A GENERAL FOR A FATHER-- AND AN ADMIRAL FOR A MOTHER? NOW!



IF YOU'D LIKE TO READ OTHER CLASSICS FROM THE SPACE MUSEUM SERIES, DROP US A LINE AND WATCH FUTURE ISSUES OF...

**STRANGE ADVENTURES!**

