

A black-out at Zone X dims the chances of saving the world!

The CRIMSON COMET

ONLY a few days were left before the Crimson Comet, a runaway planet, would collide with the Earth! My name is John Jackson and I was working at Zone X, a remote region in Wales where scientists and astronomers were operating an electronic apparatus, known as Force 21, in a desperate attempt to pull the Earth out of its natural orbit and out of the path of the Comet. Many strange things had landed on Zone X, the latest being a squadron of weird space ships, whose occupants said they were men from the Moon!

Colonel Brownlow, the Zone commander, gave his orders.

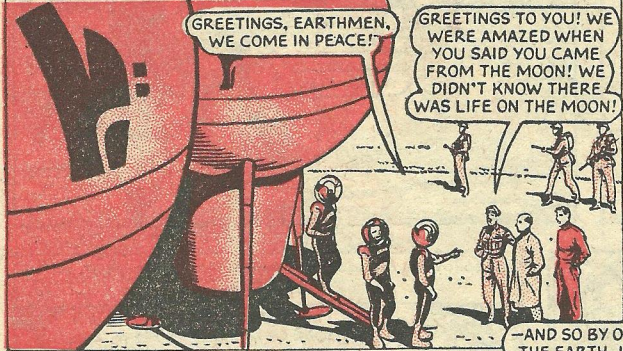


DO WE HAVE PERMISSION TO LAND, EARTHMEN?

RADIO THEM A REPLY, SOLDIER, TELL THEM TO LAND!

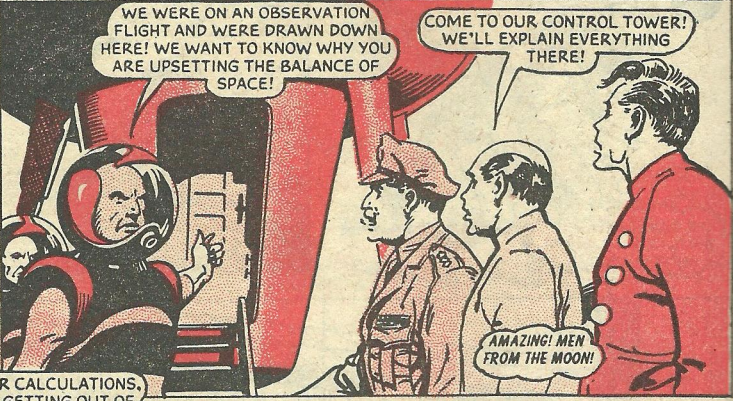
VERY GOOD, SIR!

I went with Brownlow and Hamilton, the head astronomer, to meet the space men.



GREETINGS, EARTHMEN. WE COME IN PEACE!

GREETINGS TO YOU! WE WERE AMAZED WHEN YOU SAID YOU CAME FROM THE MOON! WE DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS LIFE ON THE MOON!



WE WERE ON AN OBSERVATION FLIGHT AND WERE DRAWN DOWN HERE! WE WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU ARE UPSETTING THE BALANCE OF SPACE!

COME TO OUR CONTROL TOWER! WE'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING THERE!

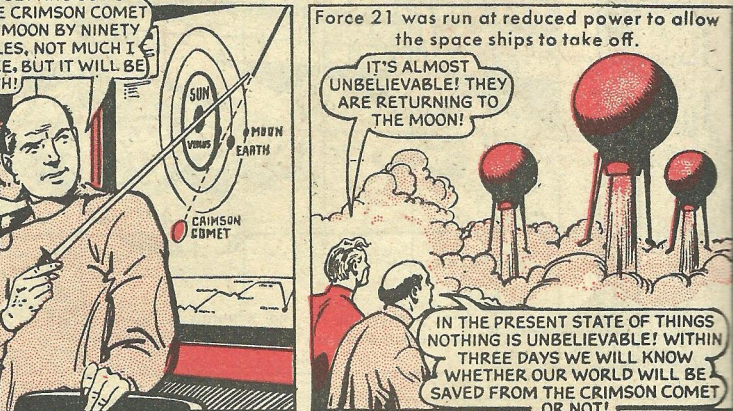
AMAZING! MEN FROM THE MOON!

In the control tower, Hamilton explained the workings of Force 21 to the Moon men.



—AND SO BY OUR CALCULATIONS, THE EARTH, IN GETTING OUT OF THE PATH OF THE CRIMSON COMET WILL MISS THE MOON BY NINETY THOUSAND MILES, NOT MUCH I ADMIT, IN SPACE, BUT IT WILL BE ENOUGH!

I HOPE THIS FEAT SUCCEEDS! WE DID NOT REALISE YOUR WORLD WAS IN SUCH DANGER! NOW, WE MUST REPORT TO OUR PEOPLE.



Force 21 was run at reduced power to allow the space ships to take off.

IT'S ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE! THEY ARE RETURNING TO THE MOON!

IN THE PRESENT STATE OF THINGS NOTHING IS UNBELIEVABLE! WITHIN THREE DAYS WE WILL KNOW WHETHER OUR WORLD WILL BE SAVED FROM THE CRIMSON COMET OR NOT!

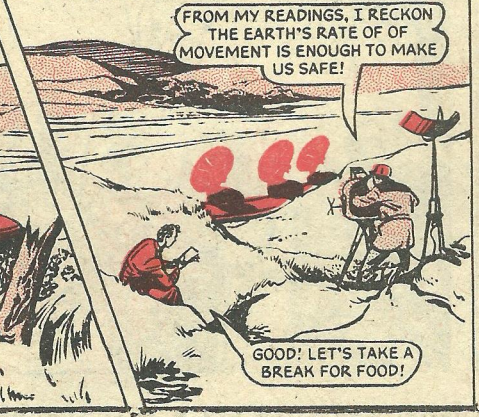
Next morning, Seton, an American scientist, and myself, were ordered to go on to the high ground above Zone X to take atmospheric readings.



YOU'VE GOT THE FOOD AND WATER BOTTLES? WE'LL BE AWAY ALL DAY.

YES, I'VE GOT THEM!

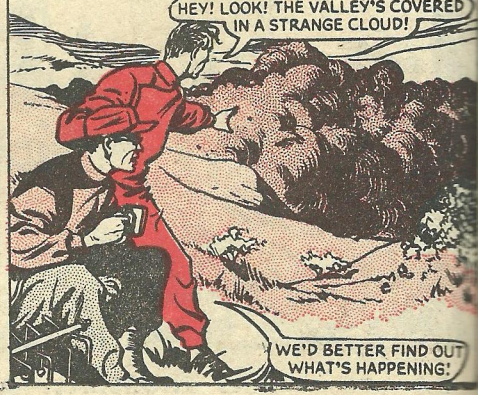
Later that forenoon.



FROM MY READINGS, I RECKON THE EARTH'S RATE OF MOVEMENT IS ENOUGH TO MAKE US SAFE!

GOOD! LET'S TAKE A BREAK FOR FOOD!

As we ate, a heavy cloud base came down over the Zone!



HEY! LOOK! THE VALLEY'S COVERED IN A STRANGE CLOUD!

WE'D BETTER FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING!