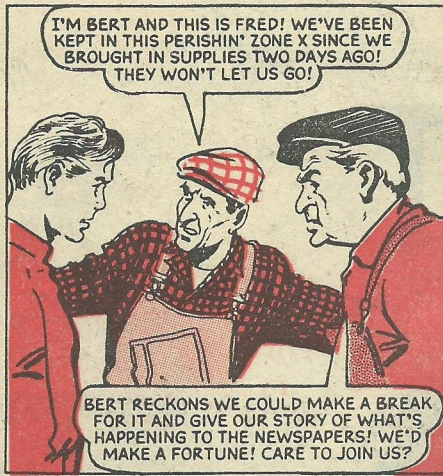


As I headed towards one of the main buildings a man called to me—

HOI, MATE! COME HERE A MINUTE!



I'M BERT AND THIS IS FRED! WE'VE BEEN KEPT IN THIS PERISHIN' ZONE X SINCE WE BROUGHT IN SUPPLIES TWO DAYS AGO! THEY WON'T LET US GO!

BERT RECKONS WE COULD MAKE A BREAK FOR IT AND GIVE OUR STORY OF WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE NEWSPAPERS! WE'D MAKE A FORTUNE! CARE TO JOIN US?

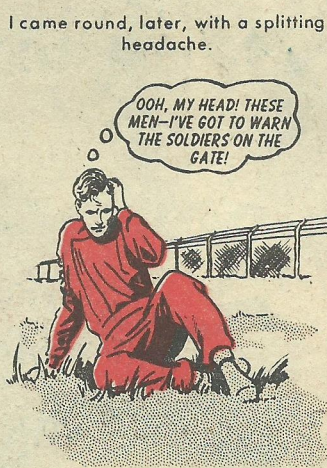


DON'T YOU REALISE THAT IF THE NEWS SPREADS IT WILL CAUSE WORLD-WIDE PANIC, RIOTS AND SUICIDES? YOU MUST STAY HERE!

OH, MUST WE—

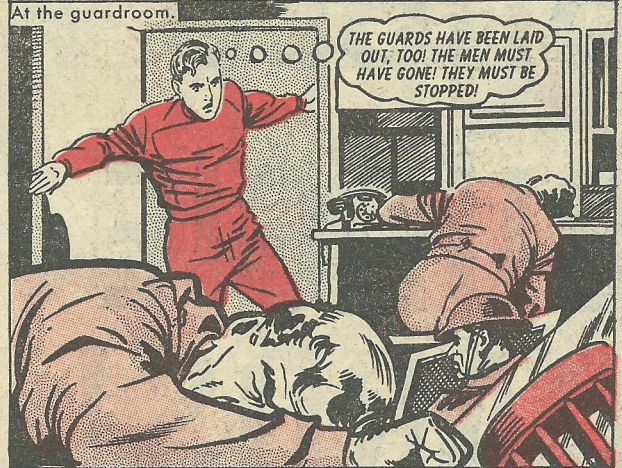


WELL DONE, FRED! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



I came round, later, with a splitting headache.

OOH, MY HEAD! THESE MEN—I'VE GOT TO WARN THE SOLDIERS ON THE GATE!



At the guardroom.

THE GUARDS HAVE BEEN LAID OUT, TOO! THE MEN MUST HAVE GONE! THEY MUST BE STOPPED!

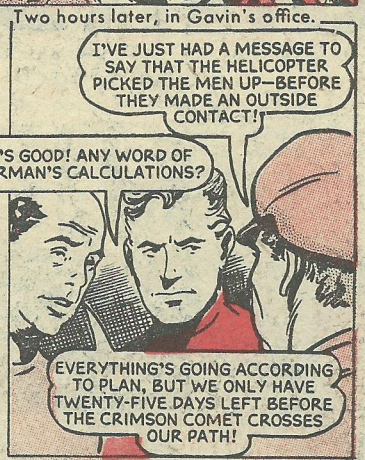


HELLO, COLONEL BROWNLOW! JACKSON HERE! THE TWO MEN WHO BROUGHT IN SUPPLIES HAVE BROKEN OUT! THEY K.O'D THE GUARDS!

THIS IS TERRIBLE! I'LL SEND A HELICOPTER RIGHT AWAY TO LOOK FOR THEM!



THEY MUST BE CAUGHT BEFORE THEY UNCOVER THE SECRET OF ZONE X'S WORK!

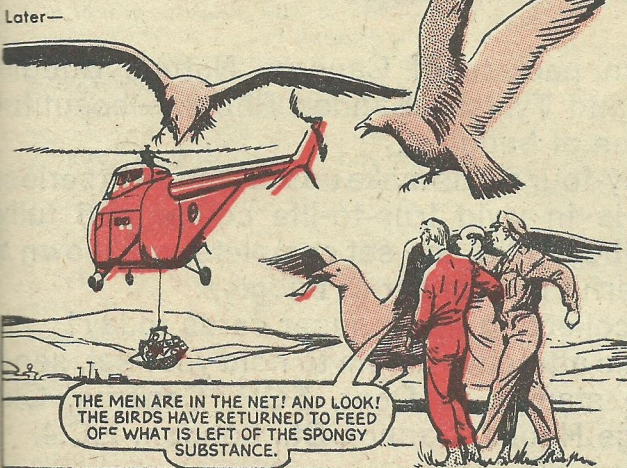


Two hours later, in Gavin's office.

I'VE JUST HAD A MESSAGE TO SAY THAT THE HELICOPTER PICKED THE MEN UP—BEFORE THEY MADE AN OUTSIDE CONTACT!

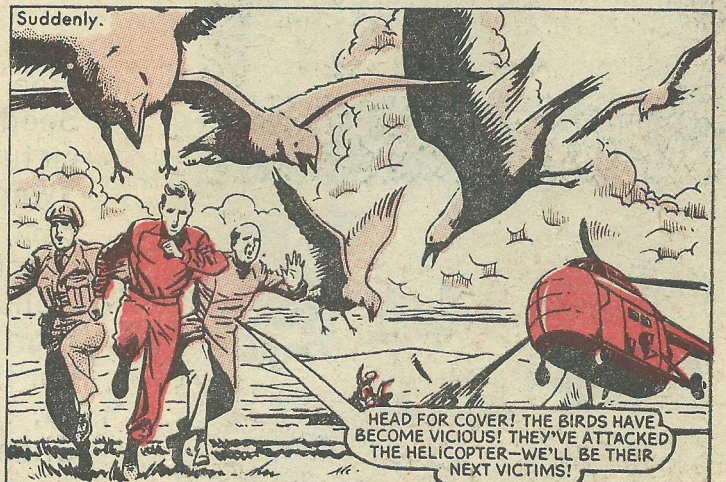
THAT'S GOOD! ANY WORD OF DR. JARMAN'S CALCULATIONS?

EVERYTHING'S GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN, BUT WE ONLY HAVE TWENTY-FIVE DAYS LEFT BEFORE THE CRIMSON COMET CROSSES OUR PATH!



Later—

THE MEN ARE IN THE NET! AND LOOK! THE BIRDS HAVE RETURNED TO FEED OFF WHAT IS LEFT OF THE SPONGY SUBSTANCE.



Suddenly.

HEAD FOR COVER! THE BIRDS HAVE BECOME VICIOUS! THEY'VE ATTACKED THE HELICOPTER—WE'LL BE THEIR NEXT VICTIMS!

NEXT WEEK—The fight for survival against the giant birds!