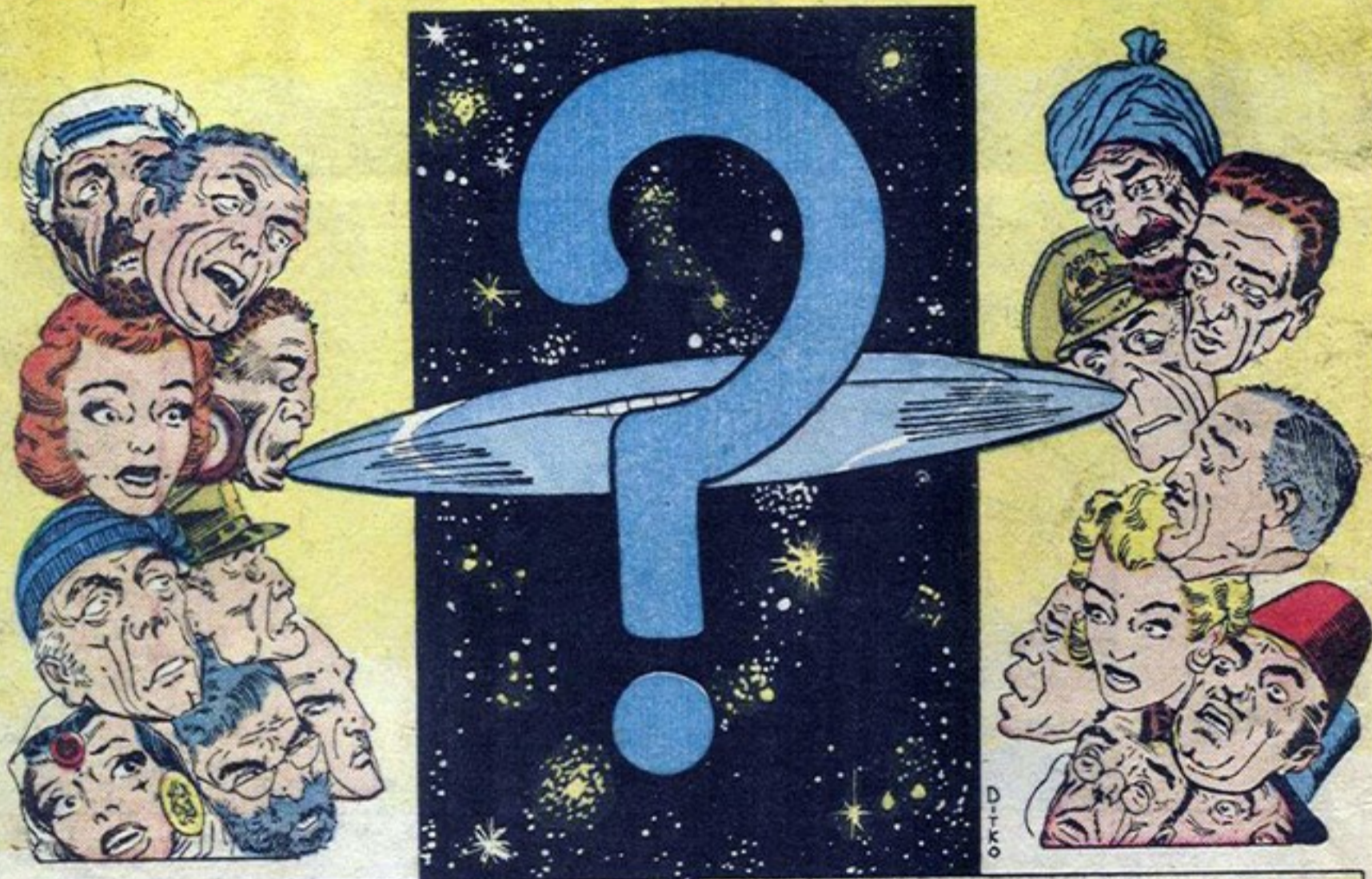


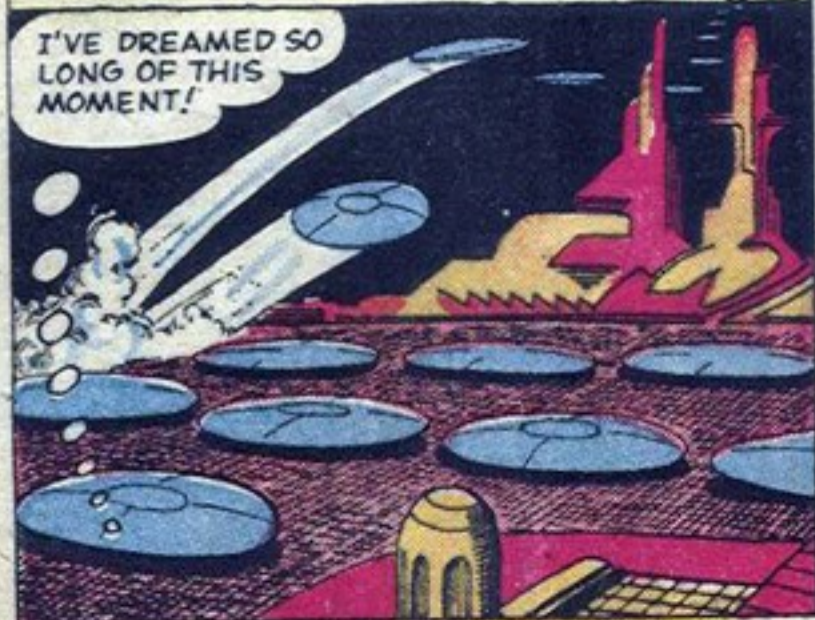
I KNOW THE SECRET OF THE **FLYING!** **SAUCER!**



I WAS THERE ON MARS WHEN THE FLYING SAUCERS WERE ROCKETED TO EARTH! I WAS THE LAST OF THE ONE-HUNDRED FIFTY FLIGHTS WAITING TO TAKE-OFF!

FINALLY MY TURN CAME, AND FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT, I WAS HURTLED AWAY FROM MY MOTHER PLANET TOWARD THE UNSUSPECTING PLANET... EARTH!

I'VE DREAMED SO LONG OF THIS MOMENT!



AT LAST!! AT LAST I'M ON MY WAY!!



LIKE THOSE AHEAD OF ME, I SPANNED THE DARK VOID OF SPACE WITHOUT MISHAP, ARRIVING WITHIN THE APPOINTED TIME!

I'VE MADE IT! THIS COMPLETES THE FIRST PHASE!



I TOOK MY PRE-ASSIGNED POSITION TWO-HUNDRED FIFTY MILES ABOVE THE SURFACE OF EARTH AND MADE CONTACT WITH SAUCER LEADER #1!

FLIGHT 150 TO LEADER 1! FLIGHT COMPLETED --- AWAITING FURTHER ORDERS!



IN A MATTER OF SECONDS THERE WAS A REPLY! NOT TO ME ALONE, BUT A GENERAL ORDER BEAMED TO ALL FLYING SAUCERS!

ATTENTION! ALL SAUCERS NOW IN "ATTACK" POSITION!

OUR EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IS COMPLETE! THE INVASION OF EARTH WILL BEGIN ACCORDING TO PLAN X!

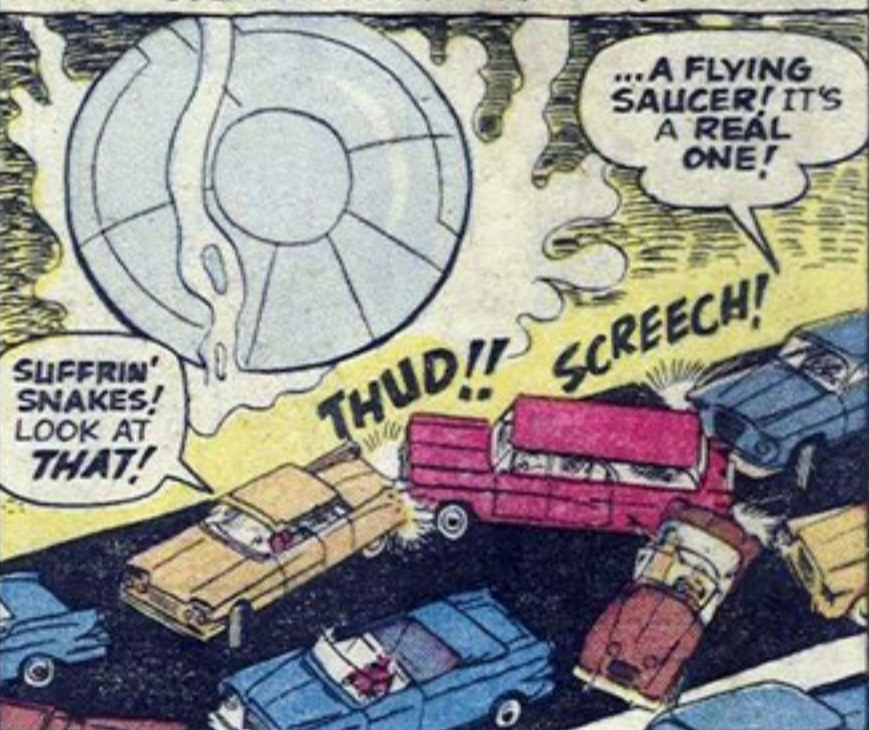


PLAN X, THE MARTIAN MASTER PLAN, THEN WENT INTO OPERATION, AS THE SAUCERS DIVED DOWN AT SPEEDS EARTHLINGS WOULD CONSIDER IMPOSSIBLE!

EARTH!! AT LAST!!



MY OWN PARTICULAR DESTINATION WAS A PART OF NASSAU COUNTY THIRTY-SIX MILES FROM NEW YORK! I LANDED EFFORTLESSLY IN FULL VIEW OF SCORES OF INCREDULOUS MOTORISTS ON THE SOUTHERN STATE PARKWAY!



...A FLYING SAUCER! IT'S A REAL ONE!

SUFFRIN' SNAKES! LOOK AT THAT!

THUD!! SCREECH!

I OBSERVED THE PITIFUL SPECTACLE OF THE TERRIFIED EARTHLINGS! THEIR PANIC EMPHASIZING HOW EASY THEY WOULD BE TO DECEIVE!

THEY'RE FROM ANOTHER PLANET!

... GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!

KEEP MOVING!!

BEEP BEEP

OUT OF THE WAY! HURRY!



HONK HONK

AFTER CENTURIES OF STUDYING THE EARTHLINGS, IT IS EASY TO PREDICT WHAT THEIR REACTIONS WILL BE TO THE LANDING OF THE SAUCERS! FIRST, THE NEWS WILL BE SPREAD...

I TELL YOU IT WAS A REAL FLYING SAUCER!

CALL OUT THE RESERVES! THE ARMY!!

HELLO, WORLD NEWS--LISTEN! THIS IS THE BIGGEST STORY OF ALL TIME!



... BUT THERE WILL BE MANY WHO WILL NOT BELIEVE...

YEAH, AND I SUPPOSE LITTLE GREEN MEN WITH A DOZEN ARMS CAME OUT OF IT!??

NO! NO ONE'S COME OUT YET! BUT YOU MUST BELIEVE ME... THEY HAVE LANDED!



FINALLY IT WILL BE RELUCTANTLY INVESTIGATED!

ROY, I'VE GOT A REPORTER'S DREAM FOR YOU TO CHECK UP ON!

OH, NO! NOT THAT TIRED SAUCER BIT!



LAST WEEK IT WAS AN UNDERTAKERS' CONVENTION AND A CHECKER TOURNAMENT! NOW, A PHONY SAUCER SCARE! I'LL BE RETIRED BEFORE I GET A GOOD STORY TO COVER!



AND THEN, IN ONE DRAMATIC INSTANT, THE TRUTH WILL SINK IN AND BE FLASHED AROUND THE WORLD!

SO HELP ME, BOSS... IT'S TRUE!!!



STOP THE PRESSES!

KILL THE FRONT-PAGE STORY!

REWRITE, MAN! NEW LEAD!



EXTRA!! EXTRA!! FLYING SAUCERS HAVE LANDED IN EVERY COUNTRY ON EARTH AT THE SAME TIME!!

IT'S AN INVASION FROM SPACE!



THOSE WHO GUESS THE TRUTH WILL BE LAUGHED AT!!

AN INVASION! WITH A HUNDRED OR SO SAUCERS THEY'RE GONNA CONQUER EARTH?? HONEY, YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT WAR! TAKE IT FROM AN EX-ARMY MAN!



AND THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT WILL BE LISTENED TO AND BELIEVED!

IT'S PERFECTLY OBVIOUS THAT THE SAUCERS RAN OUT OF ENERGY AND HAD TO LAND TO RECHARGE THEIR GENERATORS! THEY ARE NOW UNDER MILITARY GUARD, AND CAN DO NO HARM!

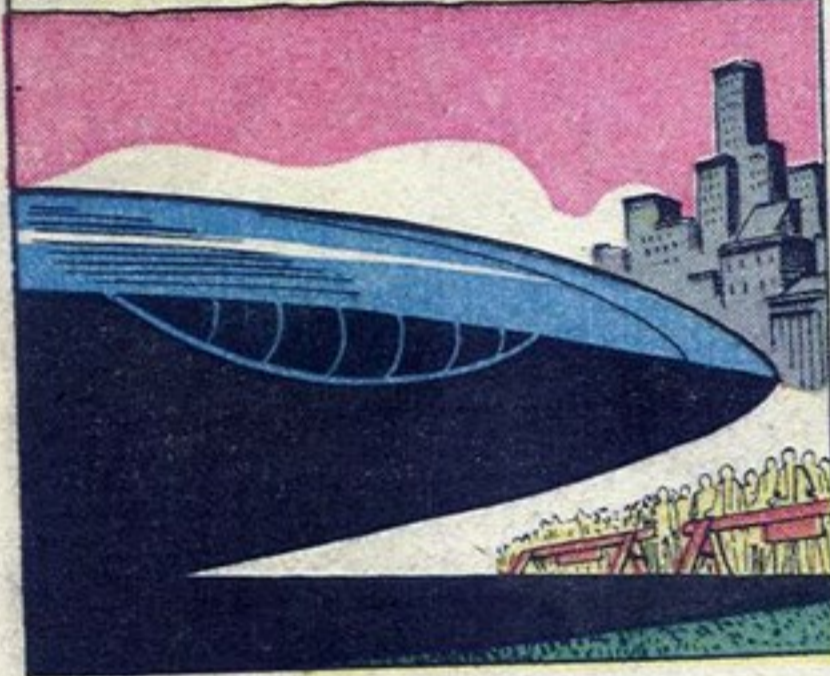


THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR ANY ALARM!

WHAT'D I TELL YOU! OKAY, LET'S GET BACK TO THE BALL GAME!



AND ALL THROUGH THE COMMOTION-- THE DISBELIEF-- THE PANIC-- THE FEAR-- THE CALMING DOWN AND THE FINAL BOREDOM-- I, AND MY FELLOW MARTIANS, REMAIN SILENT ON EARTH'S SOIL! WAITING FOR PHASE TWO TO BEGIN!



I KNOW THE GREATEST BRAINS IN THE COUNTRY ARE TRYING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH ME, BUT I WILL NOT ANSWER!!

WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING! RADIO BEAMS, ELECTRONIC PROBING, ATOMIC DETECTION-- WHO OR WHAT IS LURKING INSIDE DOESN'T RESPOND!

CAN IT BE THAT THEY'RE DEAD??

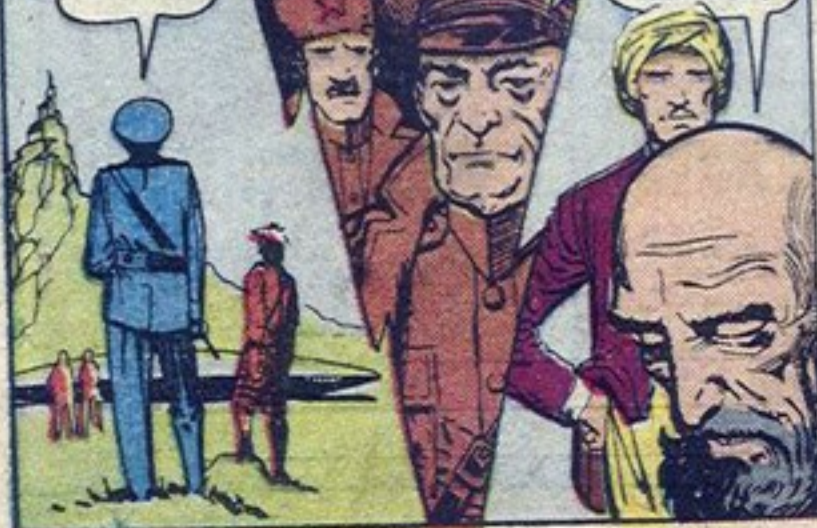


ALL OVER THE WORLD, THE SAME CONCLUSIONS ARE BEING REACHED!!

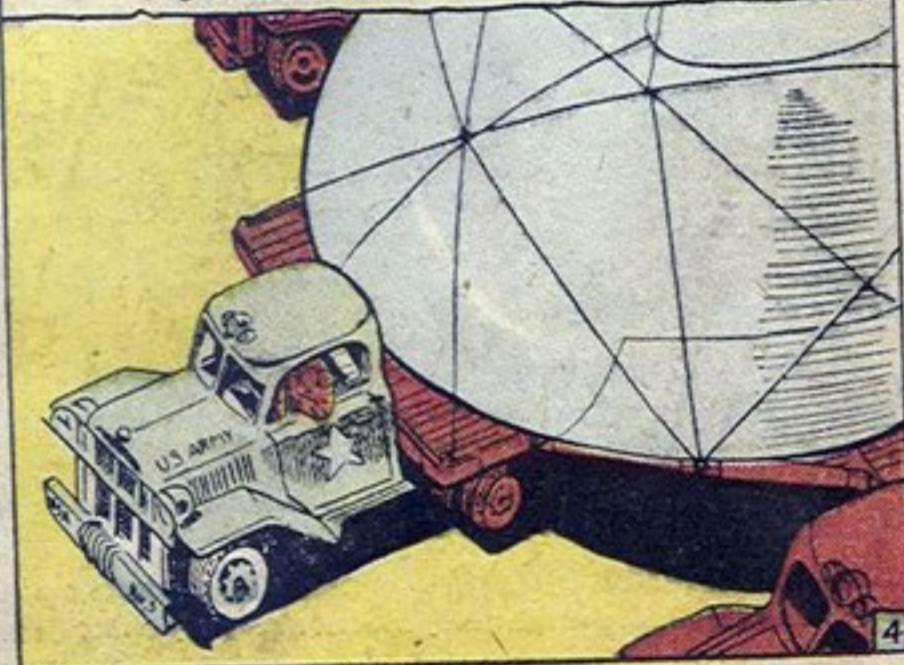
THEY CAN'T BE ALIVE-- THEY'D HAVE COMMUNICATED WITH US BY NOW!

WE'LL HAUL THE SAUCER OFF FOR DETAILED STUDY!

I CAN'T WAIT TO OPEN THE SAUCERS AND SEE WHAT SORT OF CREATURES WERE INSIDE!



OUR SCIENTISTS ON MARS WERE 100% ACCURATE IN THEIR PREDICTIONS, FOR EVERYTHING TAKES PLACE EXACTLY AS FORECAST! THE SAUCERS ARE HAULED AWAY TO A RESTRICTED AREA FOR STUDY BY TOP CIVILIAN AND MILITARY MEN!



IT'S LAUGHABLE THE WAY THEY TRIED TO BREAK THROUGH THE FORCE FIELD I THREW AROUND THE SAUCER, SO ELEMENTARY TO THE YOUNGEST MARTIAN, BUT CENTURIES AHEAD OF SUCH PRIMITIVE DEVICES USED BY THE EARTHLINGS!

FOOLS! HOW THEY WASTE THEIR TIME!

IT'S NO USE! WE CAN'T EVEN PENETRATE THE HULL!!



I WAS ABLE TO OBSERVE THEM AS THEY TRIED EVERY SCIENTIFIC WEAPON AND DEVICE IN THEIR VAIN EFFORT TO SOLVE THE SECRET OF THE FLYING SAUCERS!

WHATEVER THAT SAUCER IS MADE OF, IT'S STRONGER THAN ANY ELEMENT ON EARTH!

DANGER



IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! ALL OVER EARTH, THE BEST BRAINS ON THE PLANET HAVE BEEN WORKING DAY AND NIGHT TO LEARN WHAT'S WITHIN THE SAUCERS, AND WE KNOW NO MORE ABOUT THEM NOW THAN WE WOULD IF WE HAD NEVER SEEN THEM!



WHAT ARE THEY WAITING FOR? WHY HAVE THEY COME? WHAT IS BEHIND IT ALL?!

SOON YOU WILL KNOW, EARTHLING!!



WE MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP! THERE ISN'T A FORCE ON EARTH CAPABLE OF OPENING OR X-RAYING THIS SHIP TO LEARN WHAT'S INSIDE!



AT THAT MOMENT, A LONG AWAITED ORDER IS ISSUED...

ATTENTION ALL SAUCERS! FINAL OPERATIONAL PHASE!-- OPEN VENIPACS--



SLOWLY, DRAMATICALLY, MY VENIPACS GLIDE OPEN-- OPEN FAR ENOUGH FOR THE EARTHLINGS TO ENTER...

AT LAST! AT LAST WE'LL KNOW ITS SECRETS!



THE SCIENTISTS IN CHARGE, AND THE RANKING GENERALS VIE WITH EACH OTHER FOR THE HONOR OF BEING THE FIRST TO ENTER THE VENIPACS, AND LEARN OUR SECRET! **THE FOOLS!** IT WAS ALWAYS THERE...BEFORE THEIR EYES!!!

IT'LL TAKE A FEW SECONDS TO GROW ACCUSTOMED TO THE DIM LIGHT!



NOW, INSIDE THE ONE-HUNDRED FIFTY FLYING SAUCERS ARE THE BEST BRAINS OF THE PLANET EARTH!! AND AS THE VENIPACS CLOSE, THE GREATEST MINDS ON EARTH BECOME--MARTIAN PRISONERS!!

THE OPENING!
IT--IT'S CLOSING!!

WE'RE TRAPPED!



AND NONE ARE PREPARED FOR THE NEXT SHOCK THAT CONFRONTS THEM!

EMPTY! THE SAUCER IS COMPLETELY EMPTY!!

NO SIGN OF LIFE!! **WHERE'S THE PILOT??**

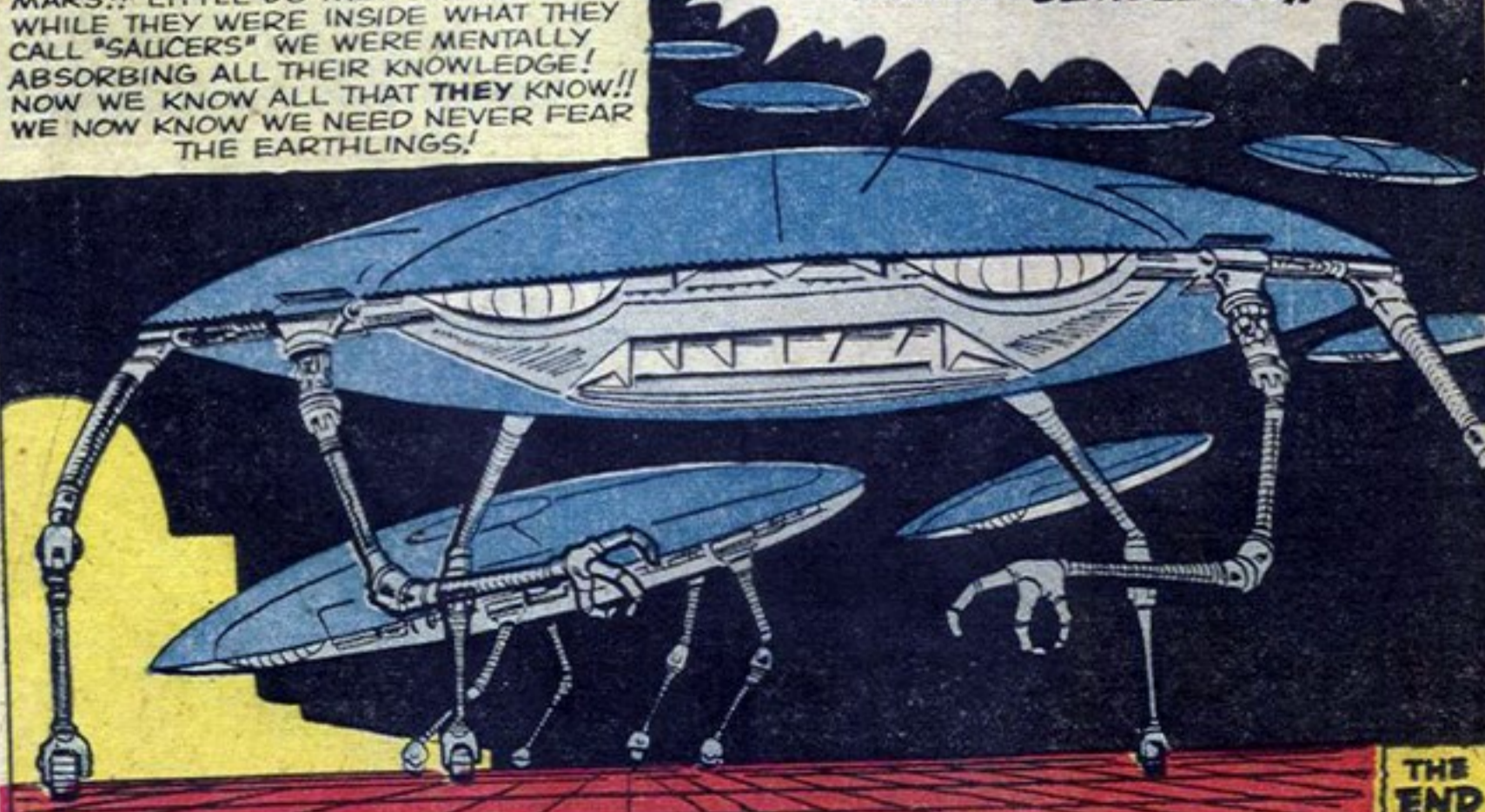
THERE'S NOT EVEN A CLUSTER OF INSTRUMENTS!! THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! INCONCEIVABLE! HOW IS THE SHIP GUIDED??

LOOK THE DOOR IS OPENING AGAIN! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



AND SO OUR MISSION IS COMPLETED!! AS SOON AS THE HUMANS DEPARTED, WE LEFT EARTH AND RETURNED TO MARS!! LITTLE DO THEY DREAM THAT WHILE THEY WERE INSIDE WHAT THEY CALL "SAUCERS" WE WERE MENTALLY ABSORBING ALL THEIR KNOWLEDGE! NOW WE KNOW ALL THAT **THEY KNOW!!** WE NOW KNOW WE NEED NEVER FEAR THE EARTHLINGS!

THE FOOLS! THEY NEVER DREAMT THAT **WE SAUCERS** ARE THE MARTIANS **OURSELVES!!**



THE END