

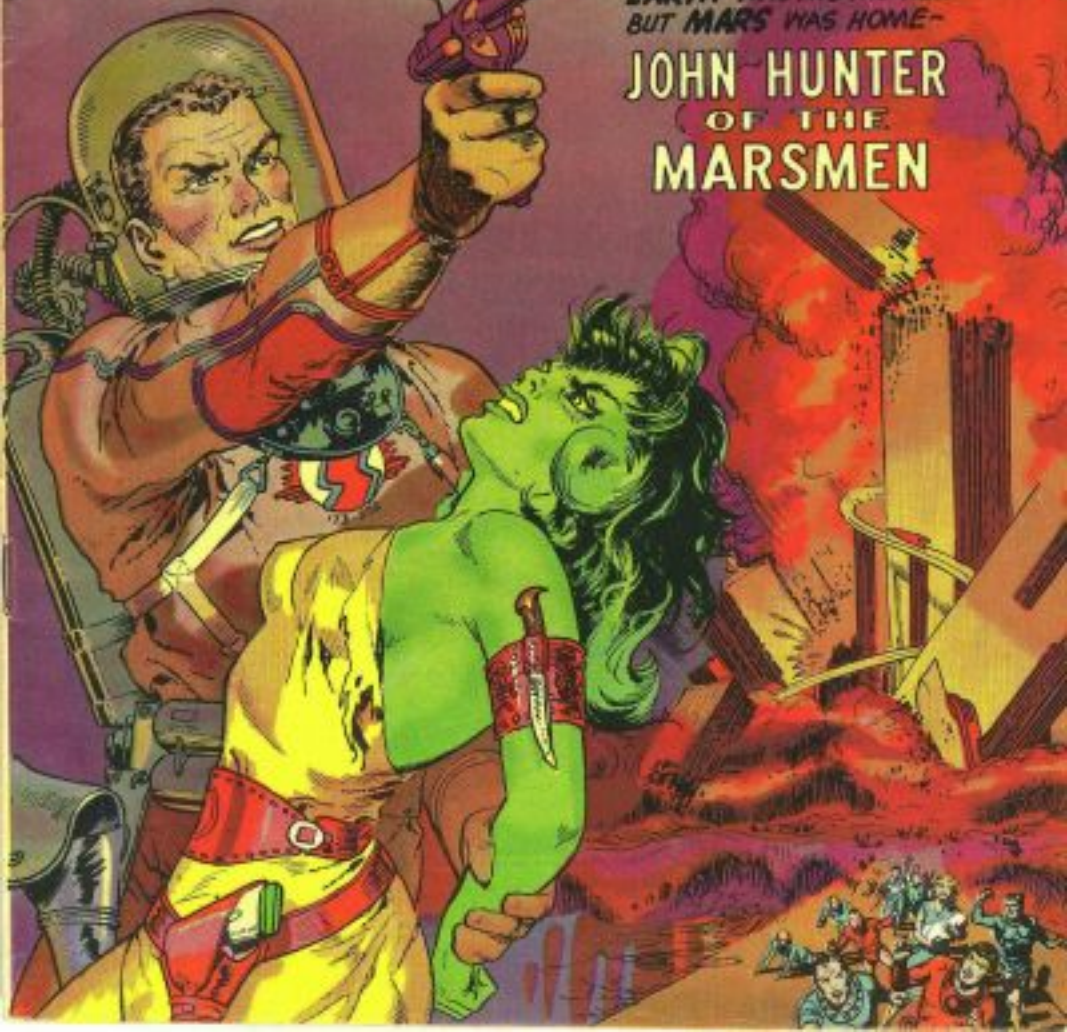
MANO' MARS

10c



EARTH WAS HIS MOTHER
BUT MARS WAS HOME-

JOHN HUNTER
OF THE
MARSMEN



MAN O' MARS

A TOP
QUALITY
COMIC



No 1

10c



MAN O' MARS

HIS NAME WAS JOHN HUNTER... HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD ON MARCH 13, IN THE 36TH YEAR OF THE 21ST CENTURY-- THE DAY THAT A GREAT MARTIAN SPACE-FLEET LAUNCHED WAR UPON EARTH FOR THE SECOND TIME--

LOOK-- ON THE VISA-SCREEN! ONE OF OUR SATELLITE OUTPOSTS IS BEING BLASTED!

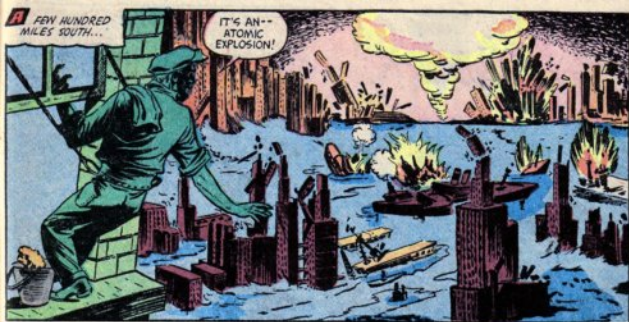
THE MARTIANS ARE ATTACKING AGAIN!



IN THE HUGE SCREEN APPEARED VIOLENCE, HATE AND CUNNING--THE FACE OF THE ENEMY!

I AM GURTIL, COMMANDER OF THE MARTIAN WAR FLEET... IN THREE SECONDS, I SHALL **DESTROY** ONE OF YOUR COASTAL CITIES...PREPARE YOURSELVES!







FIFTEEN YEARS AGO-- MARS WAS DYING... EARTH, WITH ITS RIVERS AND GREEN FORESTS, BECKONED...

"DURING THE 20TH CENTURY, OUR RECONA-SANCE SHIPS PROVED WE COULD INVADE EARTH! AS COMMANDER OF THE GREEN MEN, I SAY LET US ATTACK **NOW!**"



"YOU, TARKAN, AND YOUR SCIENTIFIC WEAKLINGS PREVENTED WAR WITH EARTH IN 1952! YOU HAVE INTERFERED IN MARTIAN GOVERNMENT LONG ENOUGH-- I HEREBY ORDER YOU TO GROTTO COUNTRY!"

BUT WE AZURIANS **BUILT** THE GREAT GLASS CITIES OF MARS! DO WE DESERVE EXILE BECAUSE WE LOVE PEACE?"



"**BUT** CENTURIES OF DUAL RULE HAD SEEN THE GREEN MEN GROW STRONG... NOW WAS THEIR CHANCE TO GET RID OF THE HATED AZURIANS, SCIENTISTS OF MARS..."

WITHOUT SPACE HELMETS, THEY'LL NEVER REACH THE GROTTO COUNTRY--

EVEN IF THEY DO, THEY'LL DIE... THE AIR OUTSIDE THE CITIES IS TOO THIN TO SUPPORT LIFE--



THUS, WITH THE AZURIANS GONE, GURTIL AND HIS GREEN MEN EMBARKED UPON THE FIRST WAR AGAINST EARTH--

FLYING SAUCERS AGAIN-- AND THIS TIME THEY'RE **REAL!**

QUICK! NOTIFY THE WORLD COUNCIL!



IN THAT EPIC BATTLE, THE MARTIANS HAD NO LONG-RANGE WEAPONS--THEY WERE FORCED TO DESCEND INTO EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE--

GENERAL--OUR ATOMIC **GUIDED MISSILES** HAVE DESTROYED MOST OF THEIR FLEET! THE MARTIANS ARE RETREATING!



"MEANWHILE--THE AZURIAN SURVIVORS HAD REACHED THE DREADED GROTTO COUNTRY...THERE, FAR UNDERGROUND--"

LOOK--NATURAL WATER--AND REAL AIR! BUT, HOW--?

AH--THE WATER IS PROBABLY CARRIED UNDERGROUND FROM THE MELTING POLES--EVAPORATION FORMS A LIVABLE **ATMOSPHERE** THAT IS TRAPPED IN THESE VAST CAVERNS! AZURIANS--WE HAVE FOUND A **NEW HOME!**

"WITH MATERIALS SMUGGLED FROM THE GLASS CITIES, THE SCIENTISTS BEGAN A NEW SECRET CIVILIZATION--"

TARKAN--GURTIL'S FLEET HAS RETURNED TO MARS IN DEFEAT!

GOOD--BUT HE WILL TRY AGAIN! I MUST WARN EARTH!

"...AND SO ON A HISTORIC DAY IN 2022, TARKAN, THE AZURIAN LANDED ON EARTH--"

IN A FEW YEARS THE GREEN MEN WILL STRIKE AGAIN--WITH SUPERIOR WEAPONS! WE AZURIANS ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP THEM--BUT A HUNDRED EARTH BOYS, TRAINED IN MARTIAN WAYS AND WEAPONS, COULD!

HE TALKS SENSE--LET'S TAKE THE CHANCE!

"WHEN TARKAN RETURNED TO MARS, HE CARRIED A PRECIOUS CARGO--THE CREAM OF EARTH'S YOUTH--AND ONE OF THEM WAS JOHN HUNTER--"

RENEE--WHAT ARE **YOU** DOING HERE? GIRLS AREN'T ALLOWED!

I CUT MY HAIR...SNEAKED ABOARD.. I **HAD** TO BE WITH YOU, JOHN!

I COME IN PEACE! TAKE ME BEFORE THE WORLD COUNCIL!



"IN THE GROTTOES OF MARS--THE START OF A NEW LIFE--"



SO--ONE OF OUR BOYS IS A **GIRL**. EH? WELL, SUCH BRAVE DEVOTION TO YOUR SWEETHEART PROVES YOU WILL MAKE A GOOD **SOLDIER!**

"IT WAS A HARD LIFE, WITH SMALL REWARD--"



FASTER, YOU "MARSMEN"-- WILL YOU LET A MERE GIRL BEAT YOU AT EVERYTHING?

NICE GOING, RENEE--

"IN THE NEWLY DESIGNED SPACE SHIPS, THEY BROUGHT THE ART OF WAR TO A NEW PEAK OF PERFECTION--"



THE GREEN MEN! HAVE NO PATROLS OUT TONIGHT-- **BLAST OFF!**

"THEN--AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS OF PREPARATION, THE DAY OF THEIR DESTINY ARRIVED!"



MARSMEN--OUR SPIES REPORT GURTIL'S WARSHIPS ON THEIR WAY TO ATTACK EARTH! COMMANDER HUNTER--PREPARE YOUR FLEET FOR BATTLE!

"THUS, AFTER DAYS OF FRENZIED PURSUIT, GURTIL'S CLUMSY SPACE WAGONS WERE BLASTED BY JOHN HUNTER'S SLEEK LITTLE DESTROYERS--"



THE REPORTS ARE IN, JOHN--FIVE OF OUR TWENTY SHIPS ARE KNOCKED OUT--BUT WE DESTROYED HALF OF GURTIL'S FLEET!

GOOD SHOOTING, JERRY--BUT WE WERE LUCKY--WE TOOK THEM BY SURPRISE!



FROM NOW ON, WE'VE GOT A **FIGHT** ON OUR HANDS! GET SET TO ATTACK!



....AT THAT POINT, THE CHRONICLE ENDS...HOW WILL IT CONTINUE? HERE ON MARS, WE CAN ONLY WAIT--AND HOPE--

IN A SURPRISE MOVE, GURTIL FLED TO A Distant PLANETOID, THERE TO REGROUP HIS BATTERED FORCES--

THEY WON'T DARE ATTACK US HERE--IT'S ONE OF THE ARSENALS WE CAPTURED IN THE LAST WAR--

THIS JOHN HUNTER HAS WRECKED MY PLANS! UNLESS EARTH SURRENDERS QUICKLY, HE'LL PICK OFF OUR SHIPS ONE BY ONE!

GURTIL, DARLING-- SURELY **YOU** CAN THINK OF A WAY TO DEFEAT THIS MERE BOY!

HA! I **DO** HAVE A PLAN-- AND YOU, YLLA, JUST GAVE IT TO ME!

WE MUST KILL OR CAPTURE JOHN HUNTER HIMSELF! LISTEN--

NOT LONG AFTERWARD--A TINY SPACE BOAT BLASTED AWAY FROM THE ENEMY BASE, PURSUED BY A HAIL OF FIRE--

LOOK, JOHN-- HEADED OUR WAY!

GET YOUR GUNS ON IT-- MAY BE A TRICK!

HOLY COW! GET A LOOK AT THE PILOT!

HOLD YOUR FIRE, MEN--SHE'S ALONE!

TURN ON THE MAGNETIZER, RENEE-- WE HAVE A VISITOR!



A MOMENT
LATER--

SHE'S IN CONTACT--
OPEN THE AIRLOCK,
JERRY!



HELLO--



I WAS GURTIL'S RECON
OFFICER--HE BLAMED **ME**
FOR HIS MISTAKE! I
BARELY ESCAPED WITH
MY LIFE-- YOU **MUST**
HELP ME!

WHY,
ER...



MOMENTARILY
DAZZLED BY
THE TURN OF
EVENTS--AND BY
YLLA'S BEAUTY--
THE MARSMEN
HESITATED TOO
LONG.

ALL RIGHT, FOOLS!
HEAD THIS SHIP TOWARD
THE ARSENAL PLANETOID
--AND NO TRICKS!



OKAY! YOU'VE
GOT US! GURTIL'S
SMARTER THAN I
THOUGHT!

THAT'S RIGHT--
HE SAID ONLY A
BEAUTIFUL
WOMAN COULD
DO IT!



DESPERATELY, JOHN
STALLED FOR TIME--

ER--I'M CURIOUS ABOUT
THIS **SECRET WEAPON** OF GURTIL'S...
WE KNOW IT'S ATOMIC, BUT IT'S
NEVER BEEN TESTED ON MARS!
HOW COME?



YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW...
IT'S A **HYDRO-GUN**--
WORKS ON THE HYDROGEN
ATOMS IN WATER--BUT ONLY
THE **NATURAL WATER** OF
EARTH!

WHEN A PROJECTILE LANDS IN THE SEAS OR RIVERS OF EARTH, AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION OCCURS... THE ARTIFICIAL WATER OF OUR GLASS CITIES ON MARS HAS LESS HYDROGEN--THUS THE GUN DOESN'T WORK THERE! IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, REALLY--



RIGHT, SWEETHEART-- AND SO ARE YOU! UP SPACE HOODS!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STOP!



JERRY! RENEE! DUCK!

WITH THE MAGNETIC POWER OFF, YLLA'S SPACE BOAT DRIFTED AWAY FROM THE SHIP--AND THE AIR RUSHED FROM THE OPEN AIR-LOCK--



NO SPACE HOOD--CAN'T--BREATHE!



MILES AWAY, GURTEL WATCHED THE AWESOME SIGHT ON HIS VISA-SCREEN--



YLLA--SHE DID IT! JOHN HUNTER IS DEAD! NOTIFY EARTH AND DEMAND THEIR SURRENDER!

SADLY, THE MARSMEN RETRIEVED THE FOUR BODIES. WITHOUT JOHN'S LEADERSHIP, THEY WERE LOST...



BUT--WITH NO AIR PRESSURE TO CAUSE CONCUSSION, JOHN AND HIS CREW FOUND THEMSELVES MIRACULOUSLY ALIVE!

THE WOMAN, YLLA, IS DEAD--SUFFOCATED!

TOO BAD--SHE GAVE ME THE KEY TO VICTORY! QUICK! BRING ANOTHER SHIP ALONGSIDE!



CONTACT MADE! AIRLOCK SEALED!

GOOD--NOW FLOOD NUMBER SIX--BUST THE WATER TANKS--HURRY! NO TIME TO EXPLAIN--



BUT, JOHN--WHAT--?

THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE TO WIN--AND THIS IS IT--IF IT WORKS! SO LONG, RENEE--

HMM--NOW I KNOW WHAT HE'S UP TO!



SUDDENLY--JERRY LEAPED INTO ACTION!

SORRY, JOHN--YOU'RE TOO VALUABLE TO US--AND TO EARTH! I'LL HANDLE THIS LITTLE CHORE!



...AND WHILE THE OTHERS STOOD STUNNED, HE CLIMBED INTO THE FLOODED SHIP--

CLOSE THE AIRLOCK--I'M BLASTING OFF! AND DON'T WAIT UP FOR ME!

COME BACK, YOU FOOL!



THEN--

JOHN--EARTH HAS SURRENDERED TO GURTIL! HE'S GETTING READY TO INVADE!



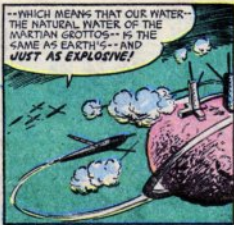
NON --
EARTH'S FATE
LAY IN
THE LONE
SPACE SHIP
THAT
STREAKED
TOWARD
IT'S
DESTINED
RENDEZVOUS--



JERRY MUST HAVE SEEN
YLLA'S BULLET HIT THAT
EMPTY WATER CUP-- THERE
WAS JUST ENOUGH
MOISTURE IN IT TO CAUSE
A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION--



--WHICH MEANS THAT OUR WATER--
THE NATURAL WATER OF THE
MARTIAN GROTTOS-- IS THE
SAME AS EARTH'S-- AND
JUST AS EXPLOSIVE!

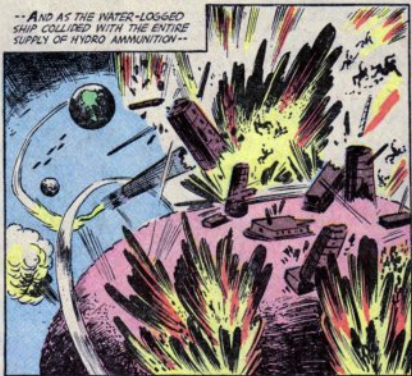


IT WAS THEN THAT GURTEL RECOG-
NIZED THE FACE OF DEATH!



LOOK OUT!
THE FOOL'S
GOING TO
CRASH INTO
THE FORT!

--AND AS THE WATER-LOGGED
SHIP COLLIDED WITH THE ENTIRE
SUPPLY OF HYDRO AMMUNITION--



THE MARTIAN THREAT WAS ENDED--FOR ALL
TIME!



WHAT NOW,
JOHN?

WE'RE GOING
HOME AGAIN --
TO EARTH!



THE
END