



FORBIDDEN
ZONE

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THE PLANET OF THE APES: FORBIDDEN ZONE™



Goodart
'90
TFP



Here's where I say thanks for keeping up with the mini-series. I hope you enjoyed all four issues and had hours of fun trying to figure just where in *Planet Of The Apes* continuity this story fits.

It's also where I shamelessly plug my other comics. By the time you read this you should have had an opportunity to pick up the *Eliminator* and *Alien Nation: Public Enemy* mini-series. If you missed them, go immediately to your local comics specialty shop and rectify your oversight.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to comment on my various comics. Special notice goes to Kym in Australia for being the most frequent, longest distance correspondent. Keep those cards and letters coming in!

Till next time...

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Cunningham



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PRIMACY DEFENSE FORCE
FIELD HEADQUARTERS:

PRIMACY
SECURITY

OFFICERS,
BEFORE I ISSUE
YOUR ORDERS, I WANT
TO QUICKLY BRIEF YOU ON
THE CIRCUMSTANCES
WHICH HAVE LEAD TO
OUR CURRENT
SITUATION.

"MENDEZ 10 ESCAPED THE **FORBIDDEN CITY** AND FLED HERE TO **PRIMACY**. HE HAS ASKED FOR ASYLUM, AND I HAVE **GRANTED** HIS REQUEST.

"UNFORTUNATELY, AN ARMY OF MUTANTS MANAGED TO **FOLLOW** MENDEZ ACROSS THE **FORBIDDEN ZONE** THEY DESTROYED OUR OUTPOST AND ARE CURRENTLY LAUNCHING AN ASSAULT AGAINST **SECTOR 17**.

"MEANWHILE, IN **SECTOR 12**, OUR SENTRIES CAPTURED **JULIUS**, WHO CLAIMS TO BE A **SCIENTIST** LEADING AN EXPEDITION FROM **APE CITY**.

"BUT SHORTLY AFTER **HIS** CAPTURE, **CUTPOST 12** WAS ATTACKED BY AN ENTIRE **BATTALION**, LED BY A **GORILLA** WE HAVE TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS **ARVO**."

"WE HAVE YET TO DETERMINE THE VALIDITY OF HIS STORY..."

WAR-ZONE

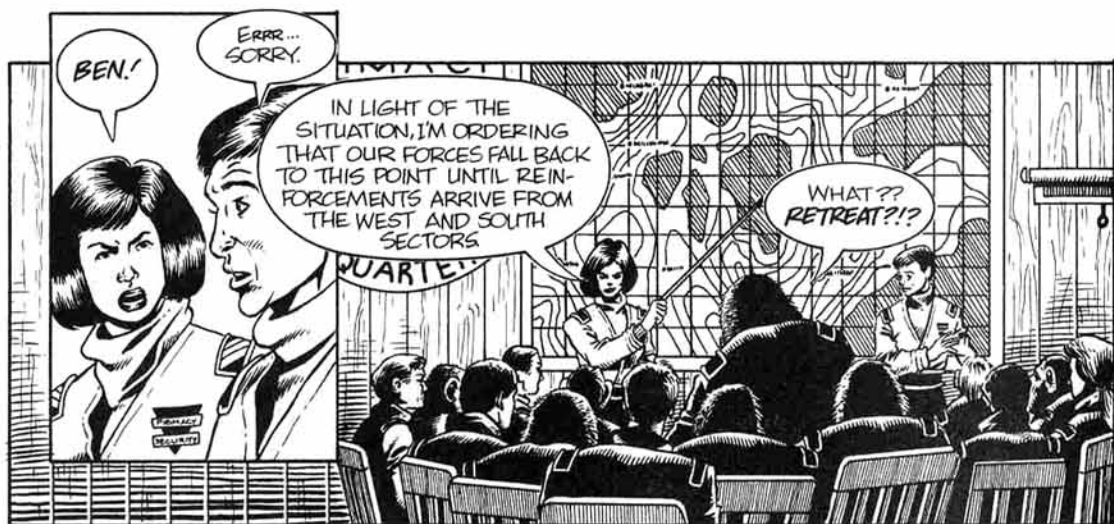


IN OTHER WORDS, FOLKS, WE'RE THE MEAT IN A MASSACRE SANDWICH.

AS A RESULT OF THIS, PRIMACY IS CURRENTLY UNDER FIRE ALONG TWO FRONTS.

EITHER FORCE ALONE WOULD BE A CHALLENGE TO OUR DEFENSES.

Kirk '92



WE'LL DO BETTER TO FACE THE ENEMY ON OUR OWN TERMS. MY ORDERS STAND





GENERAL JAEKEL! THE ENEMY SEEMS TO BE RETREATING!

OF COURSE THEY ARE, CONRAD. GOD IS ON OUR SIDE! NOTHING CAN STAND BEFORE US!



I NEED A VOLUNTEER TO TAKE THE NEXT OBJECTIVE. YOU-- PRIVATE ERDHMAN, ISN'T IT?

ME, SIR??



CONRAD, THIS MISSION CALLS FOR MORE FIREPOWER. I ISSUE PRIVATE ERDHMAN OF THE MACHINE GUNS.

YES, SIR!



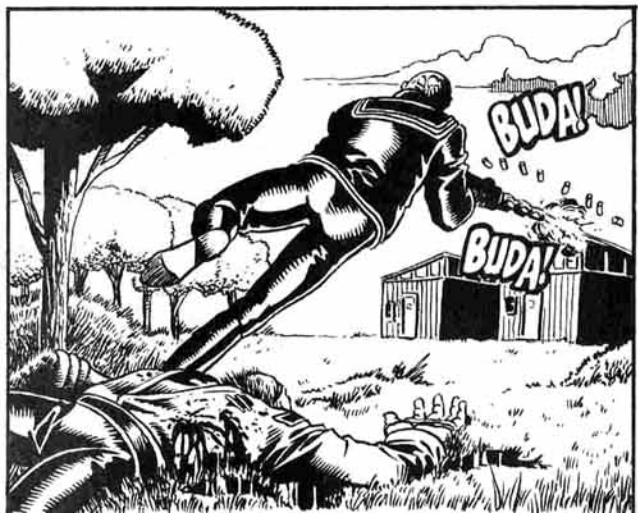
THIS IS AN IMPORTANT MISSION, PRIVATE. I EXPECT YOU TO ACQUIT YOURSELF WITH HONOR AND DIGNITY!

YES, GENERAL JAEKEL!



SIR, IS HE REALLY THE BEST MAN FOR THIS MISSION?

ERDHMAN? NO. HE'S FODDER.







ON THE EASTERN FRONT...



AREA
SECURE
SIR!

GOOD...
GOOD!



LOOK AT THE DEAD,
COLONEL HUMAN AND APE
TOGETHER... COULD IT BE THEY'VE
FOUND THE PEACE WHICH HAS
ALWAYS ELUDED US?

IF PEACE
MEANS LIVING
WITH HUMANS, WHO
WANTS IT,
BRAK?



LISTEN, ARVO!
I AGREED TO JOIN YOU
ONLY TO ASSURE THAT
THE HUMANS OF THIS TER-
RITORY AREN'T SEEKING
TO CONTROL OUR BRO-
THER SIMIANS!

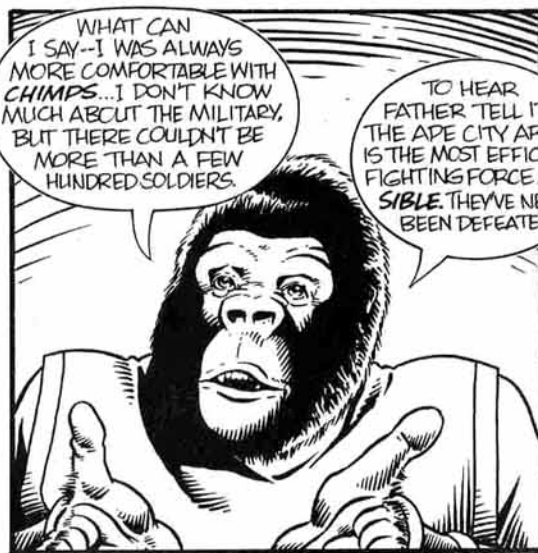
THESE SOL-
DIERS FOUGHT AS
EQUALS! WHY SHOULD
WE CONTINUE TO
RAISE ARMS AGAINST
THEM?



THEY ARE HEATHENS!
THEY FORSAKE THE
TEACHINGS OF THE
LAWGIVER!

WHAT
MORE
IS
THERE TO
KNOW???







I'VE BEEN DOING A LITTLE HISTORICAL RESEARCH, AND OUR RECORDS CONFIRM **EVERYTHING** YOU JUST SAID. IT SOUNDS LIKE VERY LITTLE HAS CHANGED IN YOUR CITIES FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS



BUT IT IS POSSIBLE TO **BEAT** THE "HOLY" ARMY--THE FACT THAT PRIMACY AND APE CITY STILL EXIST IS **PROOF** OF THAT.

WE **WON** THE BATTLE ONCE BEFORE, AND I THINK I KNOW **HOW** TO DO IT **AGAIN!**



MENDEZ, YOU CAUSED **FLAMES** TO APPEAR WHEN YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL--

THAT WAS MERELY **ILLUSION...**

I KNOW, BUT CAN YOU DO IT **AGAIN?**



I CAN, BUT WHAT--

AND COULD YOU **PROJECT** THAT IMAGE OVER A **DISTANCE?** SAY... FROM HERE TO THE FRONT LINES?

YES. NOT FOR LONG, BUT **YES**



I DON'T SEE WHAT **GOOD** THAT WILL DO, THOUGH. THE HOLY ARMY WILL **RECOGNIZE** IT AS AN **ILLUSION**, AND **IGNORE** IT.

FLAMES... **ILLUSIONS?**



MAYBE **THEY** WOULD...

LOOK AT THIS, BRAK! THERE'S HARDLY EVEN TOKEN RESISTANCE. YOU'D SETTLE FOR ONE PATHETIC, WRONG-THINKING APE WHEN YOU COULD CONQUER AN ENTIRE COUNTRY!

PERHAPS, COLONEL. PERHAPS.

BUT YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO QUICK TO JUDGE A SITUATION.

THE ENEMY'S RETREAT COULD BE COWARDICE OR WEAKNESS, BUT IT COULD ALSO BE A--



FIRE!

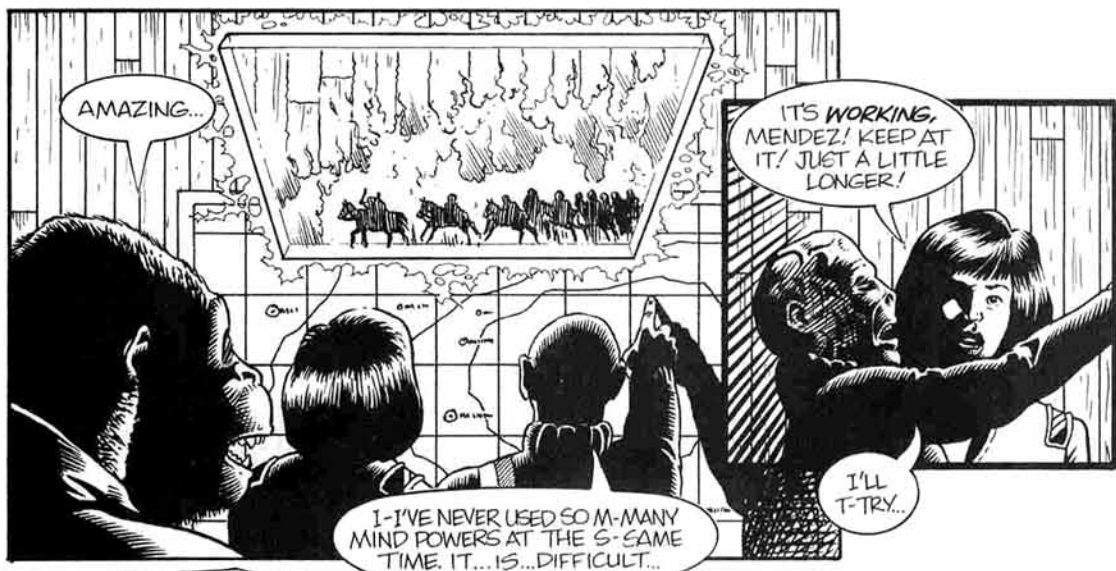
TRAP!



THIS WAY! QUICKLY!



MOVE! FASTER!







THE FINAL BATTLE BEGINS.

FIRST ONE DEATH...

THEN ANOTHER...

AND ANOTHER...

EEYAA!

BUURAAAT!

ARRH!


THUR!

CRACK!

BUDABUDA

...AND SOMETIMES A
DOZEN ALL AT ONCE!

BOOM!



LOOK AT THAT, GARTH. ARE YOU STILL UNHAPPY WITH MY STRATEGY, OR WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE OUR FORCES OUT THERE BEING SLAUGHTERED?

WAR IS NO SPECTATOR SPORT, COMMANDER PELL.

FINE. YOU WANT ACTION. SERGEANT, YOU'LL GET IT! I WANT YOU TO POSITION THE FORCES IN SECTOR 17 FOR A COUNTER-ASSAULT.

YES, COMMANDER.

AND YOU--DO THE SAME IN SECTOR 12. BEN AND I WILL LEAD OUR RESERVES UP THE CENTER.

THEN WHAT?

THEY'RE DOING A PRETTY GOOD JOB OF KILLING EACH OTHER. OUR JOB IS TO SEE THAT THE SURVIVORS LEAVE--BY WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY.

ON THE BATTLEFIELD...

RIGHT
FLANK, READY!
LEFT FLANK, READY!
PREPARE THE
COUNTER-ASSAULT!

GENERAL!!
LISTEN TO ME,
GENERAL! OUR ARMY
HAS BEEN DESTROYED!
WE ARE DEFEATED!

OUR
MEN...GONE?

YES,
SIR.

THEN
WHAT IS
LEFT FOR
US?

SURRENDER.

I...SEE.
VERY WELL,
WHAT ARE YOUR
TERMS?

I WILL
ACCEPT ONLY
COMPLETE
SURRENDER.

COMPLETE...
UNCONDITIONAL...
SURRENDER!

BUDABUDABUDABUDABUDA



COLONEL
ARVO!

WHAT-?!

I'M PELL SHEA, COM-
MANDER OF THE PRIMACY
DEFENSE FORCE!!

IT'S OVER, ARVO!
GIVE IT UP! LOOK AROUND-
YOU'RE SURROUNDED. YOU
CAME ALL THIS WAY, DID
ALL THIS FIGHTING
FOR NOTHING!



SURROUNDED...?!



I RECOMMEND
YOU GIVE UP. YOU'D
MUCH RATHER BE OUR
PRISONER THAN
OUR ENEMY.

I SEE.
VERY WELL,
TAKE MY
WEAPON.



GAAK!

BAH! I'VE
NEVER NEEDED MORE
THAN MY BARE HANDS
TO KILL A HUMAN!



PELL!





EPILOGUE ONE:

PEOPLE OF
PRIMACY, APES OF
EVERY SPECIES AND HUMANS
OF EVERY RACE, WE HAVE
SURVIVED A GREAT
TRIAL.

LET US
REMEMBER THOSE
WHO SACRIFICED
THEIR ALL FOR
US.

BUT LET US NOT
FORGET THOSE HEROES
WHO ARE YET WITH US: COM-
MANDER PELLISHEA AND THE
MEMBERS OF OUR
DEFENSE FORCE...

MENDEZ 10,
WHO RISKED HIS
LIFE TO FIND A HOME
WITH US, AND DR.
JULIUS, OUR NEWEST
CITIZEN.

LET US
WELCOME THESE
TWO, AND HOPE THAT
OUR HARD-WON PEACE
CONTINUES.



EPILOGUE TWO: EXCERPT FROM
GENERAL BRAK'S WAR JOURNAL:

I RETURNED TO APE CITY TO
BE HAILED AS A GREAT **HERO**
BY THE IGNORANT MASSES.

TO THEM, MY ARRIVAL
SIGNALLED A TREMENDOUS
VICTORY. THE DEATHS OF
MY TROOPS WERE MERELY
HUNDREDS OF **MINOR**
DEFEATS.

BEFORE I COULD EVEN WASH
THE TRAIL DUST FROM MY FEET,
I WAS RUSHED TO COUNCILLOR
ZOE'S PRIVATE CHAMBERS FOR
DEBRIEFING.

AFTER LISTENING TO MY STORY,
ZOE UNRAVELLED THE SERIES OF
EVENTS AND **REMOVED** THEM TO
SERVE HER OWN PURPOSES.
THROUGH EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE,
SHE TOOK **FICTION** AND TURNED
IT INTO **REALITY**.

MY LIFE HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO
PROTECTING AND PRESERVING
APE CITY. TO FIGHT **ZOE** WOULD
ACCOMPLISH **NEITHER**.

I ACCEPTED THE OFFICIAL VERSION
AND WAS GIVEN A MEDAL FOR MY
COMPLICITY. A CHIMPANZEE NAME
NERO WAS SIMILARLY REWARDED.

AS FOR MYSELF, I WAS
GIVEN THE SAME CHOICE
OF ALL SOLDIERS THROUGH-
OUT HISTORY: **DO OR DIE**.

MY DUTY HAS CARRIED ME THE
LENGTH AND BREADTH OF OUR
CHARTED TERRITORY, THROUGH
THE FORBIDDEN ZONE AND
BEYOND THE KNOWN WORLD.

BUT AS I WRITE THIS IT OCCURS
TO ME THAT IN MY TRAVELS I HAVE
DISCOVERED A FORBIDDEN ZONE
WHICH IS NOT ON **ANY** MAP.

**TRUTH IS THE ULTIMATE
FORBIDDEN ZONE**

EPILOGUE THREE:

