

WHERE MAN ONCE STOOD SUPREME--NOW RULE THE APES!

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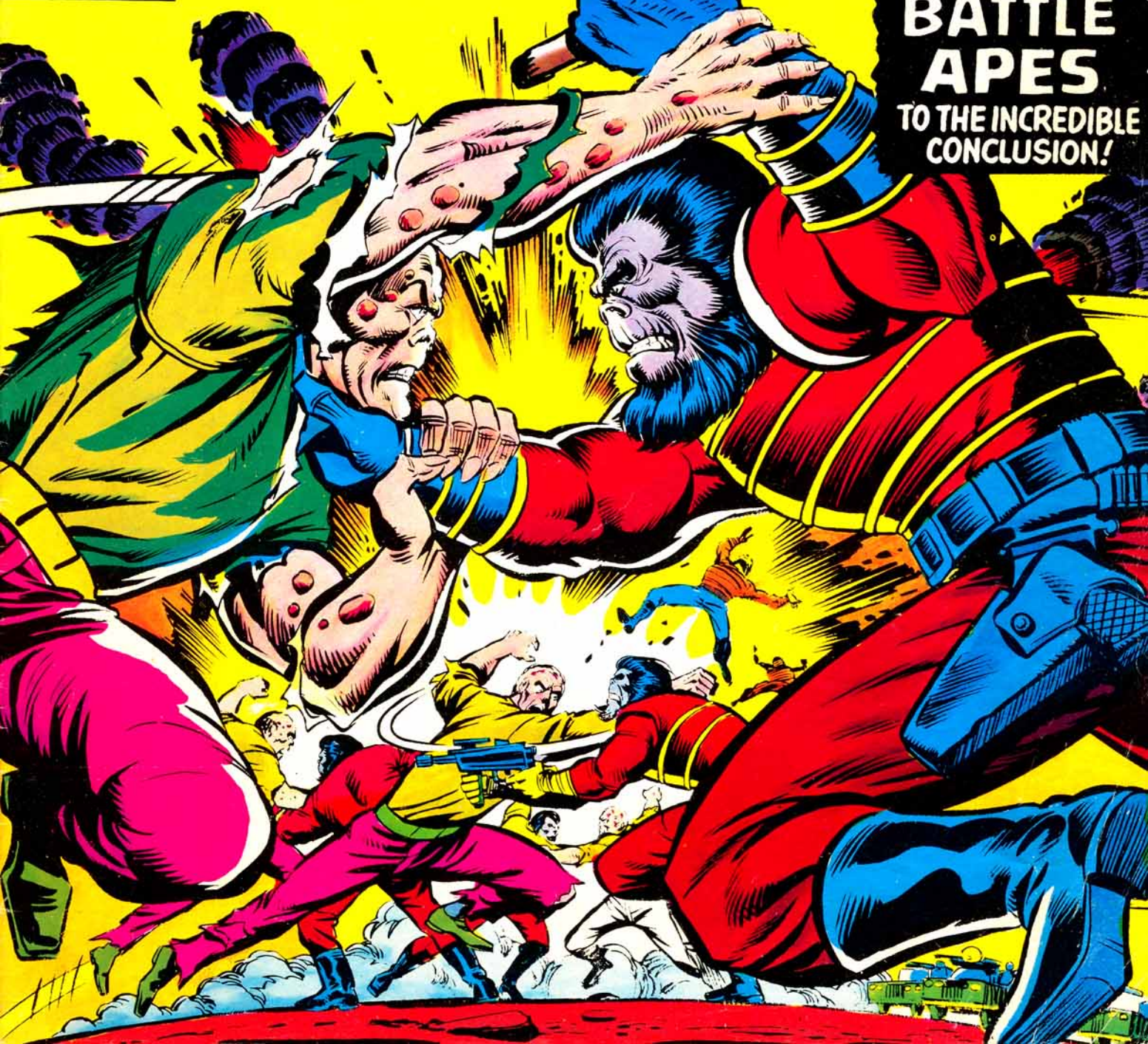
NO. 123  
WEEK ENDING  
FEB. 23, 1977

# PLANET OF THE APES

AND  
**DRACULA LIVES**

9P

**MUTANTS  
BATTLE  
APES  
TO THE INCREDIBLE  
CONCLUSION!**



Stan Lee PRESENTS:  
**PLANET OF  
THE APES!**<sup>TM</sup>

IT IS AN AWESOME  
SIGHT, THIS BATTLE,  
ITS REALITY FORGED  
IN THE HELLISH FIRES  
OF AN EARLIER  
HOLOCAUST...

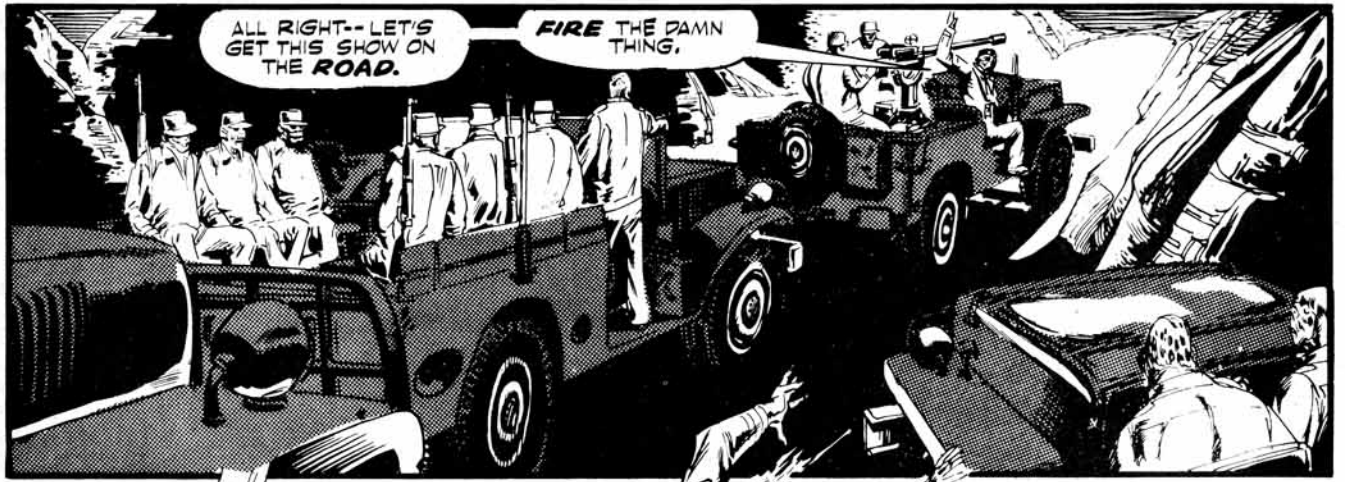
**HIDEOUS HUMAN MUTANTS,**  
THEIR MINDS WARPED BY  
INCREASING **INSANITY...**  
VERSUS **FIERCE GORILLAS,**  
THEIR MINDS GROWING IN THE  
LIGHT OF DAWNING  
**INTELLIGENCE.**

# PARADISE LOST!



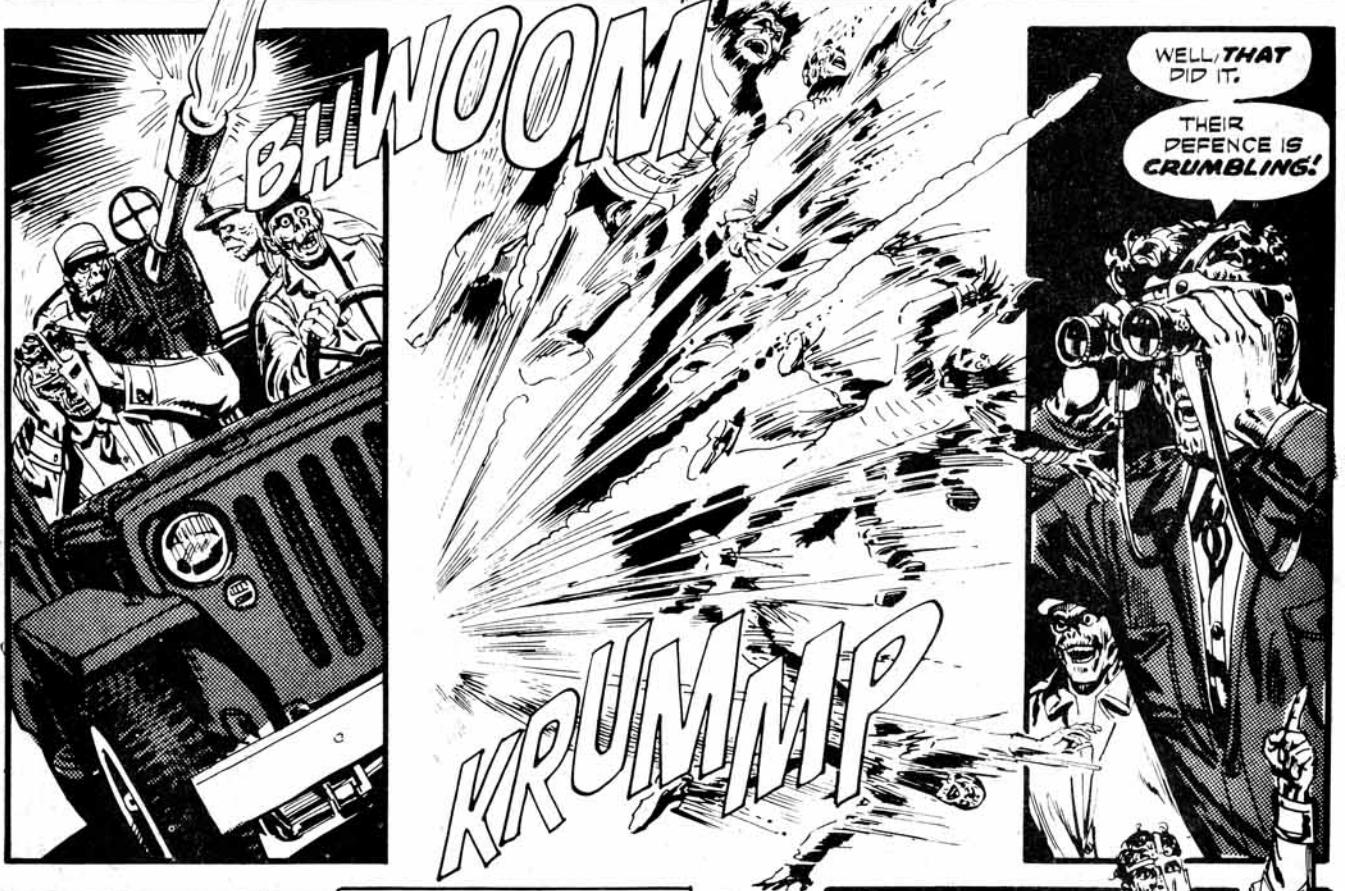
**BOTH FACTIONS  
ARE SAVAGE.  
AND WHY NOT? ARE  
BOTH NOT CHILDREN  
OF THE SAME BOMB?**

STORY: DOUG MOENCH  
ART: DINO CASTRILLO



ALL RIGHT-- LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.

FIRE THE DAMN THING.



BHWOOM

KIRUMMP

WELL, THAT DID IT.

THEIR DEFENCE IS CRUMBLING!



"WE GOT THE HAIRY BOZOS ON THE RUN, HEH HEH."



ALL RIGHT-- HERE WE GO-- ROLL 'EM OUT!

UP THE RIDGE, CHOP, CHOP!

"TIME TO JOIN OUR BOYS IN BLUE UP AT THE TOP."



URAK  
AK-AK  
AK-AK

"DID ANYONE REMEMBER TO BRING A FLAG--?"



VHWOOM



GORILLAS FROM  
OUTPOST--RUNNING  
THIS WAY--RUNNING  
AWAY FROM FIGHT!  
WHERE ALDO--?  
WE NEED ALDO!

NO WAIT FOR  
ALDO, HUMANS  
COME NOW--  
WE GO TO THEM  
--STOP THEM!..



NO--  
WE WAIT--!!  
WAIT FOR  
ALDO--!!

NO  
MORE  
WAIT--!!



WE  
CHARGE  
NOW!!

ALDO--  
ALDO HERE--  
WE FIGHT  
NOW-- WE  
WIN NOW!!

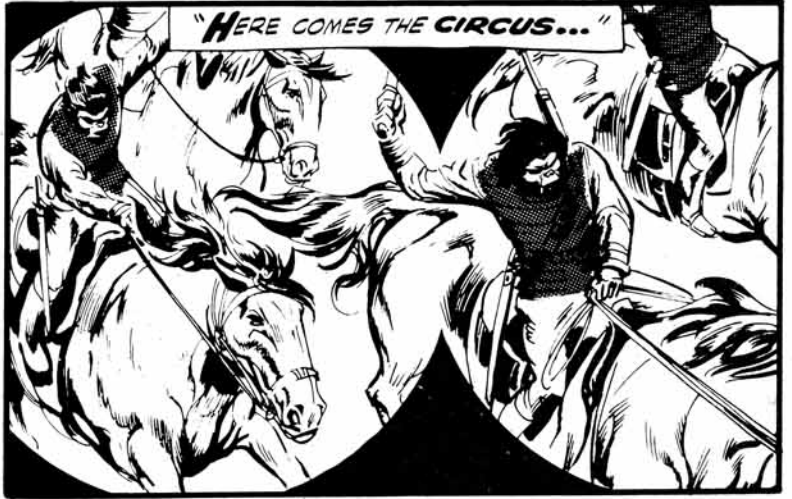


KILL!!

KILL ALL  
HUMANS!!



**SHOW WEAK CAESAR  
HOW STRONG GORILLAS  
FIGHT!!**



**"HERE COMES THE CIRCUS..."**



**... MONKEYS  
ON HORSEBACK.**

**NEVER  
SAW A  
MORE  
RIDICULOUS  
CIRCUS IN  
MY LIFE.**



**GET READY FOR  
THE PERFORMANCE.**



**HO HO  
HO.**

**HEE HEE  
HEE.**

**HO HO  
HO**



**ATTACK-- ATTACK!!**



**BUT AS ALDO CRESTS  
THE RIDGE...**

**NOOO...!**



OFF THE RIDGE-- GO BACK-- GO BACK!!

BUT THE CAVALRY ALREADY STREAMS UP OVER THE RIDGE ... AND THE WARNING COMES TOO LATE...



FAR TOO LATE.

POK POK POK

CHOOM

BLAM VRAK-AK AK-AK



COME! FOLLOW ME!

AND WHILE SOME OF THE GORILLAS DO FOLLOW ALDO'S DESPERATE LEAD...



... MOST ARE SIMPLY MASSACRED.

KRAK

BLAM

HO HO HO.

HO HO HO.

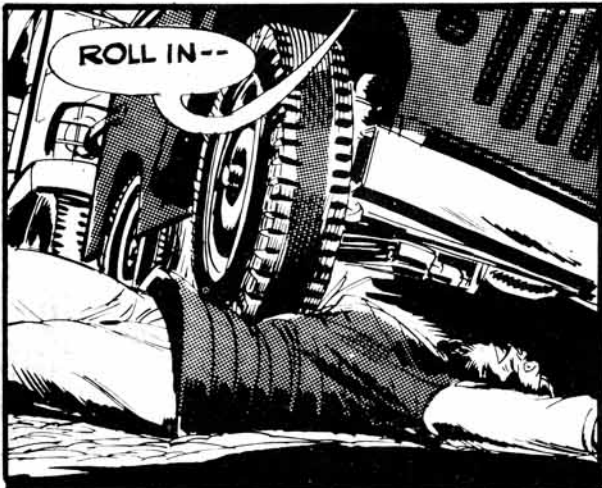
HEE HEE HEE.



VRAK-AK-AK-AK

BRAM

THERE IS NO ESCAPE...





NEXT ISSUE: PART VI: **CONQUEST OF BLOOD**





# JIM-DANDY JINGLES, JAM- PACKED WITH JAZZY, JUICY JESTS...

**ITEM!** We're going to paraphrase a rather well-known pop song by an ex-Beatle this week, to tip you off to the title of our latest and perhaps greatest Captain Britain epic ever, "While the World Gently Weeps!" That's right, the world is in mourning for our Captains two, in the pages of CAPTAIN BRITAIN #20!



And, in the fascinating feature known as the Fantastic Four, Ben Grimm and Johnny Storm take off for South America, in a snappy story called "Three Stood Together!" The big surprise guest-star this time is the bombastic Black Panther, Prince of Wakanda and a full-fledged king in his own right! You've never seen action

like this, fight fans! And, finally, still between the colourful covers of this same magnificent magazine, Nick Fury — Director of S.H.I.E.L.D. — strives mightily to avert Earthdeath in another Steranko story of surpassing imagination! Yes, all this and more awaits you in CAPTAIN BRITAIN #20 — miss it at your own risk!

**ITEM!** PLANET OF THE APES #123 is our really big news item this week, wondrous ones! It's the wrap-up of the malevolent mutants' so-called "Assault on Paradise," as well as of Conan's adventure in the city of mists — and it also features, in its entirety, the conclusion of BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES! Now, while that's easily news enough to take many a simian stalwart's breath away, it is not the real news at all! No, sirree! As it turns out, APES #123 is our very last issue — and with good reason, 'cause wait'll you hear what we've got in store for upcoming weeks! No, Smilin' Stan isn't getting his own book, but it's almost as exciting as that! To begin with, next week the Apes series will move to MIGHTY WORLD OF MARVEL!

guest-appearance in the Hulk's series in MIGHTY WORLD OF MARVEL #230, in a double-lengthed tale titled "And Man-Thing Makes Three!" It all happens in the floozy Florida Everglades, after jade-jaws falls from a spaceship — and if ya wanna know more than that, pal, ya gotta read the blamed story! Daredevil and Captain Marvel strive independently against forces of fear in fights for their very lives! It's a classic issue, and we did it all for you, the literate comics reader!

**ITEM!** SUPER SPIDER-MAN AND THE TITANS #211 features a nutty new villain named the Mirage, who pays an uninvited visit to the marriage of Betty Brant and Ned Leeds! But you know what they say: "On a Clear Day, You Can See . . . the Mirage!" Meanwhile, the Avengers take the "Measure of a Man," as the Vision strikes out against the Grim Reaper and the Space Phantom, but still manages to save the day! Captain America, Iron Man and the Invaders all prance through their pulsepounding paces, and in addition there's a scintillatin' centrespread of the Uncanny Inhumans by Dancin' Dave Menzel and Fluffy Duffy Vohland! So long, folks — and we'll see ya next week!



**ITEM!** the macabre Man-Thing makes a great big



### A CHANCE TO SWOP

Dear Marvel,

I have been frantically collecting back issues of British Marvel comics for ages, but for the first time since I began I find myself with no more resources. So here is my plea.

If anybody out there has any "Planet of the Apes", "Dracula Lives" or "Conan" issues I would like to swop with many assorted American comics, such as The Fantastic Four, Ghost Rider, Man-Wolf, Daredevil and others along those lines. For a list please write to 11 Anson Ave., Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 7EU. Enclose a list of comics up for offer and your terms for a deal.

Murray Baily,  
11 Anson Ave.,  
Lichfield, Staffs.

*We owe it to you, Murray, to let all who read this know that you penned TWO letters to us. One (the one above) for publication, and one for our eyes. And that second one we'd like to state showed a very deep understanding of what Marvel is about.*

### NO SHIVERS . . . ?

Dear Marvel, Stan and Co.,

No. No. No. How could you do this to me? I mean, putting Planet of the Apes in with Dracula Lives. I hardly seem to see a spine-chilling story any more. Why call it "Planet of the Apes and Dracula Lives" when there is no Dracula?

Karl Smith,  
2 Blandford Rd.,  
Reading, Berks.

*Don't hit us too hard, Karl. We're working on the problem. And as soon as we can resurrect the Count, then we shall!*

### SECOND TIME IS GOOD TIME

Dear Stan,

I think Captain Britain is one of your best comics, along with Planet of the Apes, which I also get every week. I like the idea of you showing your adaptation of the first Apes film again in the back, as it gives readers who missed it in the first issues an opportunity at last. But what are you going to do when you've finished "Battle

. . ."? People have suggested you doing the TV series in comic form, but will it ever happen?

Paul Norton,  
93 Fairfield Cres.,  
Edgware, Middx.

*The first Apes film was so widely popular that we had no hesitation in repeating it in our weekly mag. And letters such as yours go to prove that we weren't wrong in making that decision. What are we going to follow "Battle" with? We'll let you into a secret. At the time of tapping out this reply we just don't know. But we'll think of something.*

### IS THERE A 105 AND 106?

Dear Bullpen,

I have had POTA from No. 1 and enjoy the mag very much, it's FANTASTIC. This is mainly due to Mike Ploog's artwork. He could shade a little better at times, but otherwise he's great. The Ka-zar back-up stories are rubbish, but nobody's perfect.

The Apes should have more than 10-12 pages. I think half the mag would be better. The merger of POTA and DL was great, but a word of warning - don't let DL take over and dominate the mag. I have seen lots of mergers ruined due to over-domination by the "invader".

Would you please do something for me? I have POTA from ish 1 upwards except for Nos. 105 and 106. Please print this letter so people can see if they want to sell one or both of these issues. I will pay 9p each and pay for postage. If anybody would like to sell, please give me a ring on Woodhouse Eaves 890-250 Extension 1.

Steven Matchett,  
Roecliffe Manor,  
Woodhouse Eaves, L'boro.

*Over the months we've chewed a lot of fat*

*over the question of more pages for the Ape stories. But the facts, Steve, are still as they were . . . which means that we don't see how we can lengthen the Apes episodes. Sure, we know it's a disappointment, but maybe the edge of it will be taken off if someone, somewhere comes up with those missing issues you crave.*

### THIRD TIME LUCKY

Dear Stan and the Gang,

This is my third time of writing to you and I hope, this time, it is published. I want to give you my views on the mags.

**SPIDERMAN.** Fantastic. In my view this is the best mag yet. His fight with The Jackal and Tarantula was a classic. Can we see more of Tarantula?

**CAPTAIN BRITAIN.** This comic is going fine. I do like the idea of putting a fun page in it. Please don't change the comic in any way, especially the covers. It's not that I don't like the glossy covers, I just prefer the paper cover.

**PLANET OF THE APES.** This is another good comic. The only complaint I have is that the title reads "Planet of The Apes and Dracula Lives." Where is Dracula Lives?

**MARVEL.** Great. Can we see more pages for the Hulk, he is one of my favourite heroes.

Simon Smith RFO,  
69 Montrose Ave.,  
Welling, Kent.

*Welcome to the mail pages of mighty Marvel O persistent one. And thanks for giving us the benefit of your judgement on all that's currently going on. (Or, anyway, a large slice of what's currently going on.)*



# STAN LEE PRESENTS PLANET OF THE APES!™

THE AWESOME APE ARMY ON THE MARCH, A BIZARRE CARAVAN OF MOUNTED AND INFANTRY GORILLAS...RELENTLESSLY THREADING ITS WAY OVER THE RADIATION-MISTED TERRAIN OF THE FORBIDDEN ZONE...

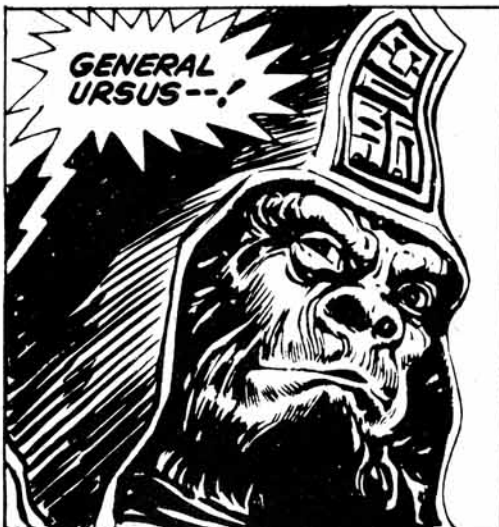
... AN ARMY SEEKING ALL-OUT WAR... WITH AN ENEMY WHICH REMAINS MYSTERIOUSLY UNKNOWN ...

## THE HELL OF HOLOCAUST



WRITER: DOLG MOENCH  
ARTIST: ALFREDO ALCALA

...AND A VAST AND SPRAWLING LEGION OF MARAUDERS LED BY--



GENERAL URSUS--!

... AND ONE OTHER: DR. ZAIUS, THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE...



LOOK HERE-- IN THE GROUND--!



SOME SORT OF HOLE, URSUS--! THERE ARE WAYS DOWN THERE--WAYS TO REACH YOUR ENEMIES!

... A VAST ARMY LED BY TWO OF ITS SOCIETY'S MOST CAPABLE PERSONAGES...



YOU KNOW THE RANGE OF THEIR CITY--?

... AND A VAST ARMY WHICH IS EVEN NOW TELEPATHICALLY OBSERVED BY THE RANKING HIERARCHY OF ITS STILL UNKNOWN ENEMY...

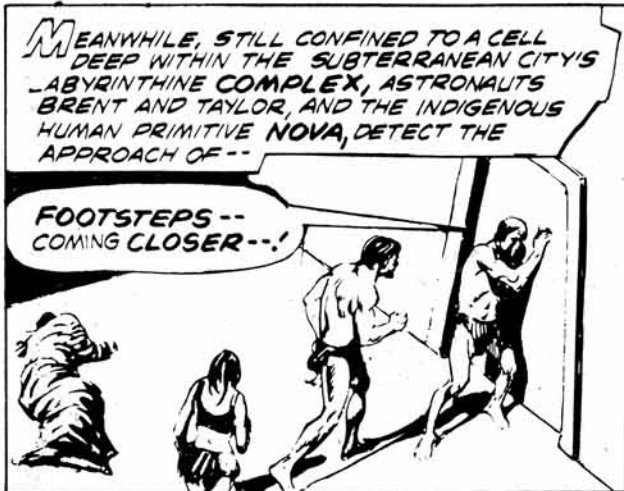
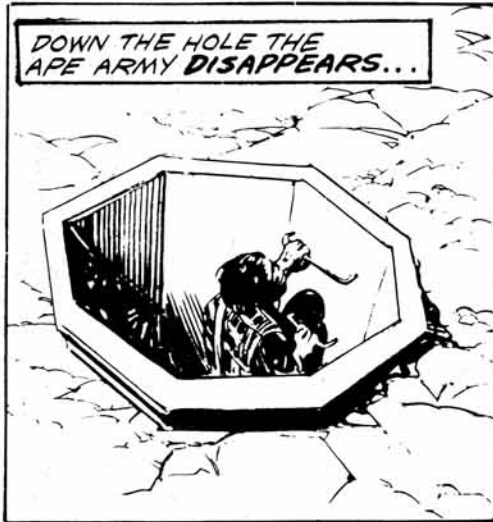


YES, MENDEZ. I KNOW THE RANGE.

...THE MUTANT INQUISITORS.



THEN PROGRAMME IT INTO THE MECHANISM AND STAND BY THE PRIME THE BOMB.





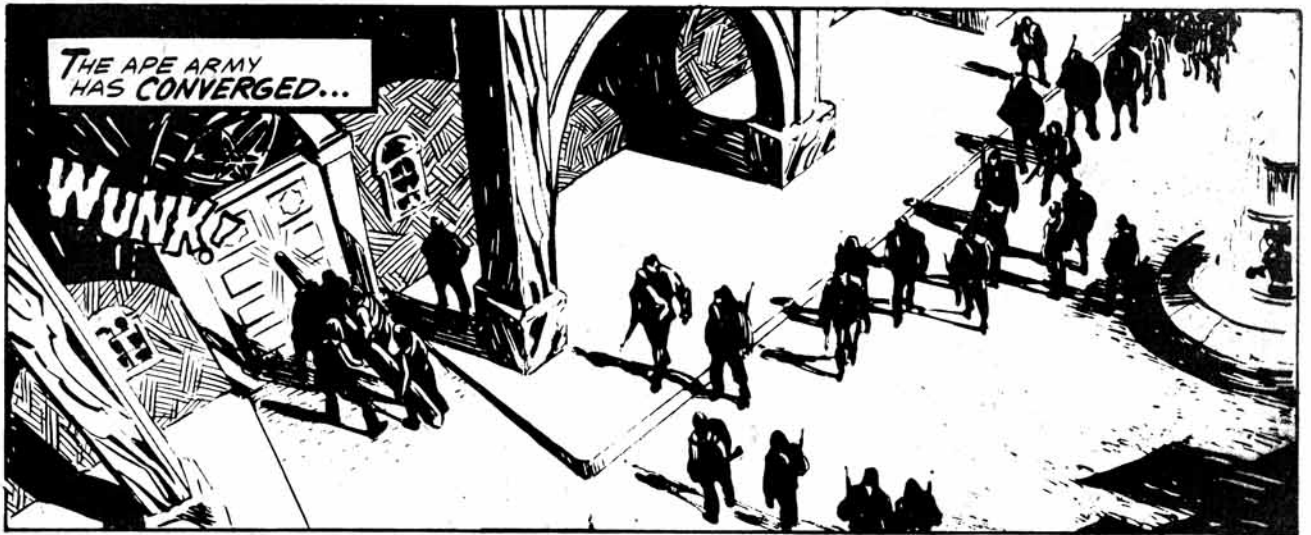




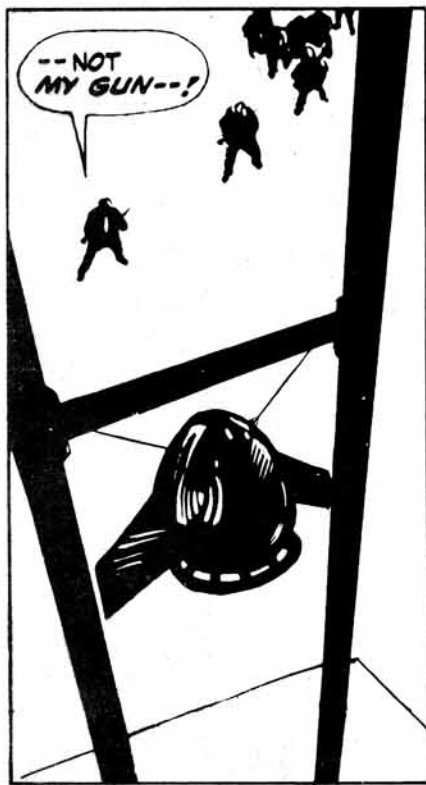














IF WE CAN'T SHOOT IT DOWN, WE'LL HAUL IT DOWN.

GET THE ROPE AND TACKLE!

URSUS, YOU'RE MAD. WE CAN'T FIGHT THAT WEAPON! WE MUST LEAVE THIS --



SILENCE, ZAIUS! ANOTHER WORD AND I'LL PLACE YOU UNDER MILITARY ARREST!



I'LL TAKE THE LEFT AISLE, TAYLOR. YOU TRY TO MAKE IT UP THE RIGHT...



THAT'S IT-- PULL! HARDER--!



JUST WATCH US, ZAIUS! PULL, GORILLAS ... PULL!



EVEN HARDER-- BRING IT DOWN!









ONE TINY **BUTTON**, ZAIUS -- THAT'S ALL IT TAKES. ALL I DO IS **PRESS IT**, AND IT'S **OVER-- FOR GOOD!**

WHY **SHOULD I?**

SO FOR **GOD'S SAKE**, HELP ME, ZAIUS! HELP ME **STOP** ALL THIS--!



YOU **DAMNED DIRTY ANIMAL--!**



DON'T **TOUCH THE BUTTON**, TAYLOR--!!

THEN **HELP ME**. LET BRENT GO. **CONVINCE** URSUS TO LET ME **DISMANTLE** THE **BOMB-- PERMANENTLY**. HELP ME, ZAIUS-- YOU MUST.



YOU ASK ME TO **HELP YOU**. BUT **MAN IS EVIL--** CAPABLE OF NOTHING BUT **DESTRUCTION**. SHOULD I, THEN, HELP YOU TO **DESTROY?**



YOU... **STINKING... SANCTIMONIOUS... BEAST--!!**



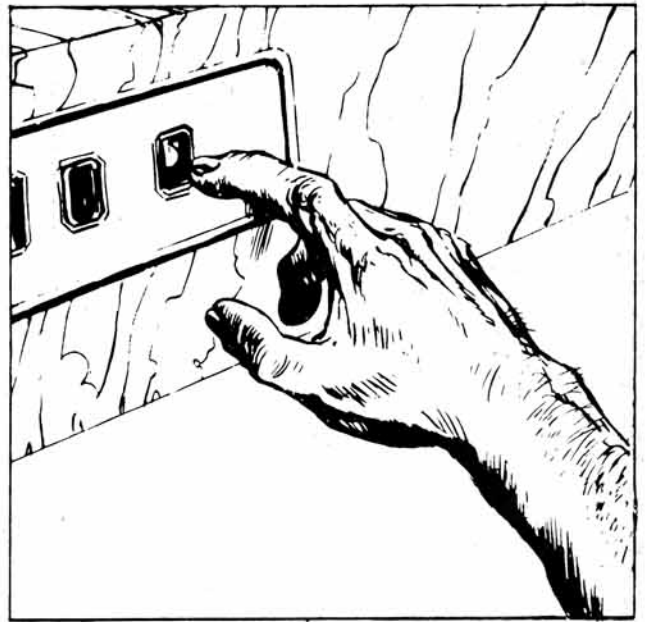
NO, TAYLOR-- YOU ARE THE **BEAST**. YOU ARE THE **DESTROYER**.

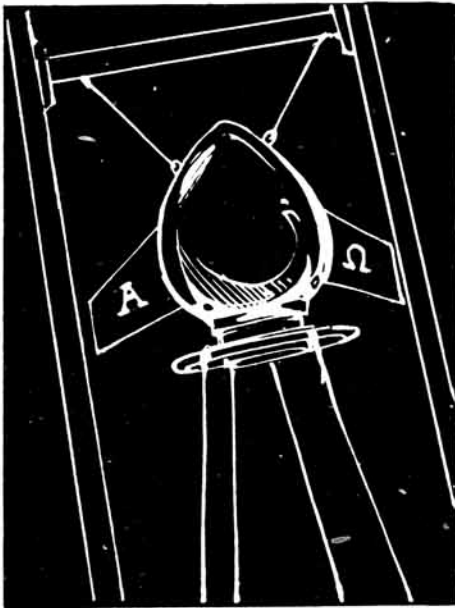
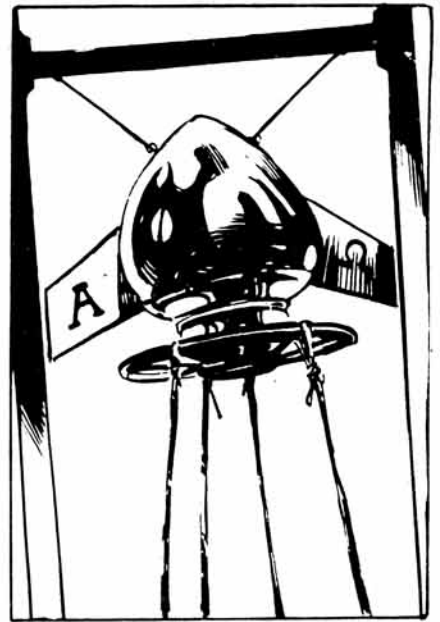
BUT THE **DESTROYER HIMSELF** MUST INEVITABLY BE **DESTROYED**.



SO **HELP ME**, ZAIUS-- I'LL DO IT. THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME-- I **WANT** TO DO IT. SO YOU'D BETTER **STOP ME**, ZAIUS-- YOU'D DAMN WELL BETTER **STOP ME!**







*WE MUST NOW RECORD THE FINAL EVENT OF THIS SOMBER HISTORY. THE UNIVERSE AT PRESENT CONTAINS BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS OF SPIRAL GALAXIES. IN ONE OF THEM, ONE-THIRD FROM ITS EDGE, IS A MEDIUM-SIZED STAR.*

*AND ONE OF ITS SATELLITES, A GREEN AND INSIGNIFICANT PLANET--*

*-- IS NOW DEAD.*

*END*