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NO. 1148

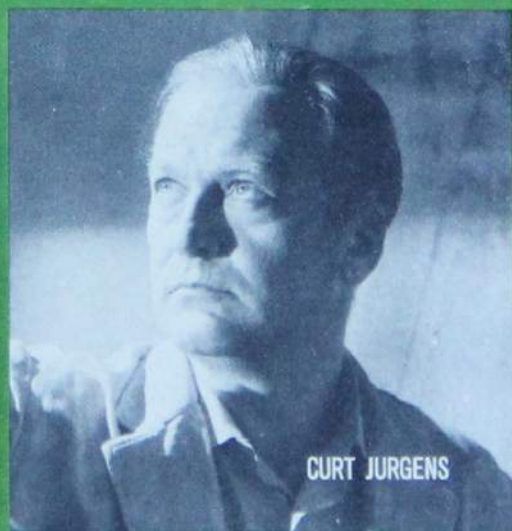
Still 10¢



I AIM AT THE STARS

The Wernher von Braun Story

The big-as-space drama of the satellite launchings . . . and how Wernher von Braun is turning science-fiction into reality!



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COLUMBIA PICTURES presents
CURT JURGENS • VICTORIA SHAW

in the CHARLES H. SCHNEER Production

I AIM AT THE STARS

The Wernher von Braun Story

also starring **GIA SCALA • HERBERT LOM**
and **JAMES DALY**

Screenplay by JAY DRATLER

Story by GEORGE FROESCHEL, U. WOLTER, H. W. JOHN

Directed by J. LEE THOMPSON

A MORNINGSIDES PRODUCTION



Dr. Wernher von Braun sees war turn his dream of space flight into a nightmare of destruction.



Then he becomes a war prisoner and fights back courageously against hatred and misunderstanding.



Later, his dream is reborn in a new land, where he is able to continue his experiments in space flights.



But there are those who fear rockets will again be used as a method of mass destruction.



Despite every obstacle he remains steadfast in his belief that some day mankind will reach the stars.

I AIM AT THE STARS

AT A BERLIN PLANETARIUM, ONE AFTERNOON IN 1925...

AND SOMEDAY MANKIND WILL REACH OUT TO THESE UNKNOWN PLANETS, STARS--THESE UNKNOWN WORLDS! FOR WHATEVER MAN DARES TO DREAM, HE WILL ACCOMPLISH!

AS THE PROGRAM ENDS, A BOY SITS SPELLBOUND IN HIS SEAT...

WERNHER, LET'S GO! YOU'LL CATCH A COLD WAY OUT THERE IN DEEP SPACE WITHOUT A SWEATER ON!

ALL RIGHT, MISCHKE, I-- I'M COMING!

YOU'LL SEE, MISCHKE, SOMEDAY MAN **WILL** GET TO THE STARS!

YOU AND YOUR STARS! IF YOU WANT TO GET THERE, YOU'D BETTER START GROWING TAIL-FEATHERS!

ROCKET POWER! THAT'S WHAT'S GOING TO GET MAN INTO SPACE! WE'RE GOING TO THOSE SPEED TRIALS TOMORROW!

WE REALLY SHOULD BE GOING TO SCHOOL! BUT-- ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO WITH YOU!

BERLIN'S AVUS SPEEDWAY
SPEED TRIAL OF FRITZ VON OPEL'S ROCKET-PROPELLED AUTOMOBILE

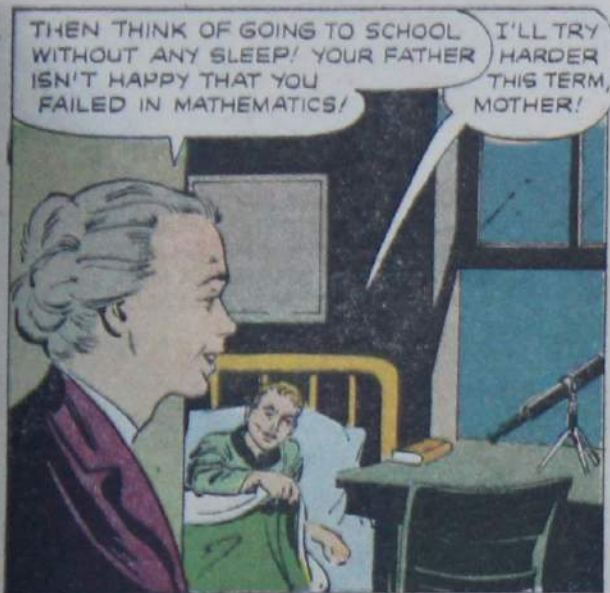
LATE THAT SAME NIGHT...

WERNHER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP AT **THIS** HOUR? I SHOULD NEVER HAVE BOUGHT YOU THAT TELESCOPE!

MOTHER, I-- I COULDN'T SLEEP! I WAS THINKING--

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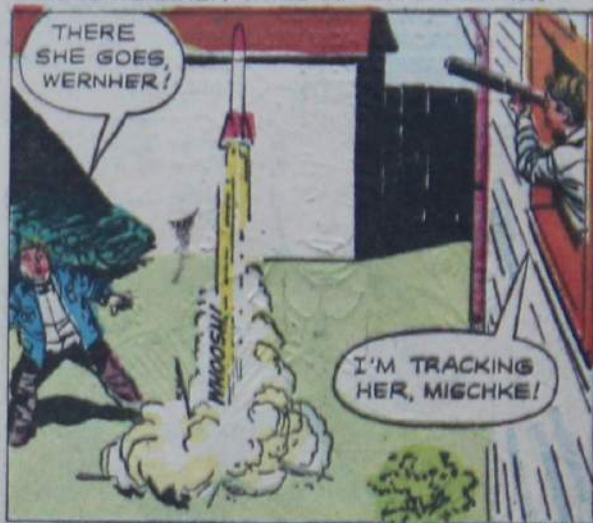


THE NEXT DAY AT THE SPEEDWAY...





OBSESSED BY HIS DREAMS OF SPACE TRAVEL, YOUNG WERNHER TRIES AN EXPERIMENT...



THE NEXT DAY FINDS THE YOUNG ROCKETEER ON THE CARPET...

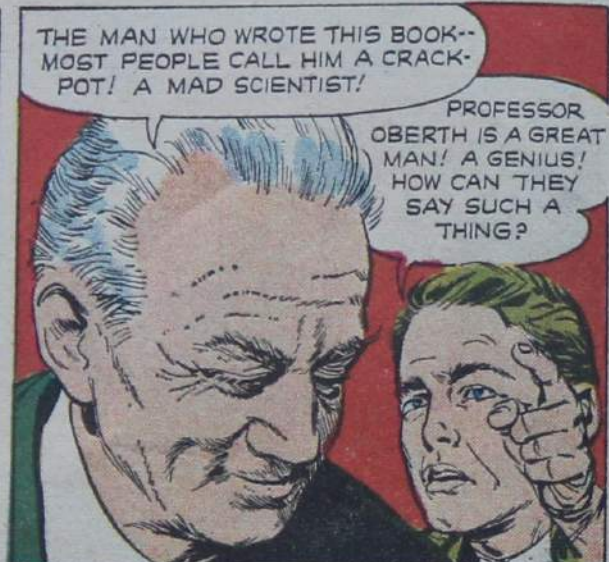


THEN, ONE DAY, ON THE SCHOOL STEPS...





BUT WHEN WERNHER VISITS THE NEW TEACHER...



IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOW, YOUNG WERNHER COMES OF AGE, TOGETHER WITH THE YOUNG SCIENCE OF ROCKETRY...



SOON THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD IS TAKING NOTICE OF YOUNG VON BRAUN...



Dr. Hermann Oberth and his assistant Dr. Wernher von Braun who will demonstrate a rocket motor at the state's Rocket Society tonight.

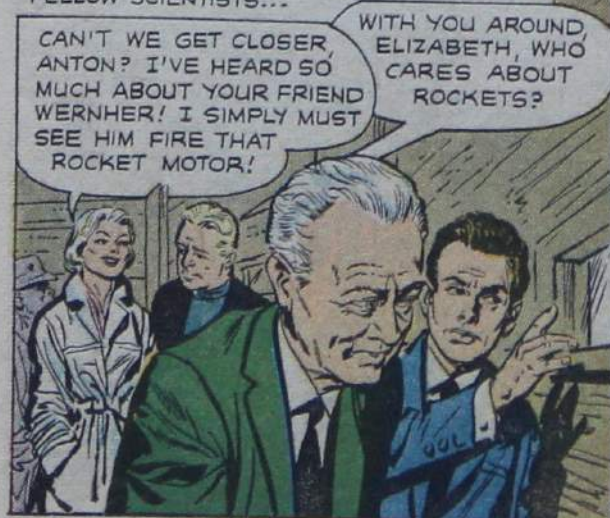
THAT EVENING, AS WERNHER PREPARES THE EXPERIMENT...



WERNHER, THIS IS MISCHKE! DR. OBERTH WISHES TO KNOW HOW LONG BEFORE YOU ARE READY!

IN A FEW MOMENTS, JUST AS SOON AS I'VE FINISHED PUMPING IN THIS LIQUID OXYGEN!

BEYOND THE SAFETY WALL, THE HALL IS CROWDED WITH WERNHER'S FRIENDS AND FELLOW SCIENTISTS...



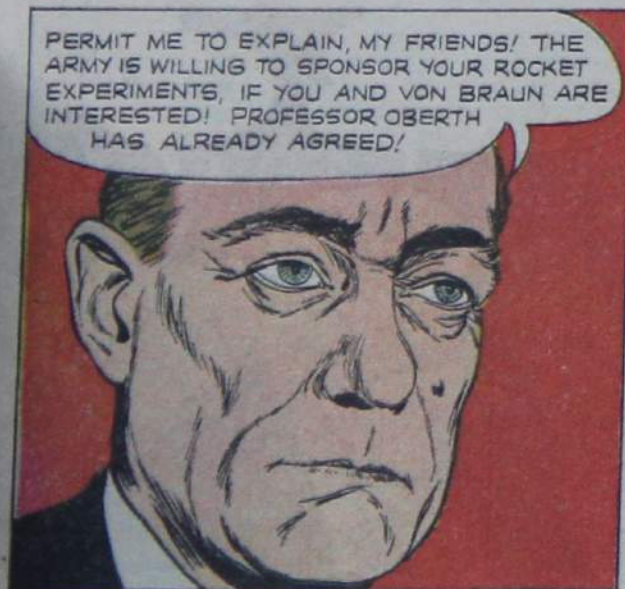
CAN'T WE GET CLOSER, ANTON? I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOUR FRIEND WERNHER! I SIMPLY MUST SEE HIM FIRE THAT ROCKET MOTOR!

WITH YOU AROUND, ELIZABETH, WHO CARES ABOUT ROCKETS?

OH, REGER, WILL YOU CHECK WITH MISCHKE AND MAKE SURE THE INTERCOM IS WORKING?

OF COURSE, PROFESSOR OBERTH!





YEARS PASS, AS THE YOUNG SCIENTIST CONTINUES HIS ROCKET EXPERIMENTS UNDER ARMY AUSPICES...



BUT WHILE WERNHER IS BUSY WITH HIS EXPERIMENTS, THE WORLD OUTSIDE IS PLUNGING RAPIDLY INTO CHAOS...



THEN, ONE DAY, THE INEVITABLE CONFLICT-- WORLD WAR II BEGINS...



IT CONTINUES ON ITS UGLY COURSE, WHEN ONE DAY IN THE OFFICE OF BRITISH INTELLIGENCE...



AT THAT VERY MOMENT AT PEENEMÜNDE,
EXPERIMENTAL ROCKETS ARE BEING LAUNCHED...

OH, DR. NEUMANN,
HAVE YOU SEEN
VON BRAUN?

I UNDERSTAND HE'S
OBSERVING THE LAUNCHING
FROM HIS PLANE, COLONEL
DORNBERGER! A MOST
RECKLESS PROCEDURE!



AT THAT MOMENT HIGH ABOVE THE LAUNCHING
SITE...

VON BRAUN,
THIS IS DORNBERGER!
HAVE YOU GONE MAD?
I SHOULD NEVER
HAVE ASSIGNED
THAT PLANE
TO YOU!

CALM YOURSELF,
COLONEL! I'VE
GOT A HIGH
SPEED CAMERA
HERE! I'M GOING
TO TRY TO FIND OUT
WHAT GOES WRONG
WITH OUR ROCKETS
AFTER THEY'RE
LAUNCHED!



TAKE COVER!
THERE SHE
GOES!



THE ROCKET'S
OFF COURSE!

IT'S HEADED
FOR VON
BRAUN'S
PLANE!

IT'S OUT
OF CONTROL!



BUT AS IF BY A MIRACLE, VON BRAUN'S PLANE
SURVIVES...

VON BRAUN,
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?

I'M FINE, COLONEL!
AND I'M COMING IN
WITH THE FILM!



THAT AFTERNOON, OUTSIDE OF VON BRAUN'S OFFICE...

ELIZABETH, EVER SINCE I GOT YOU THAT JOB AS WERNHER'S SECRETARY, YOU HAVE ALMOST NO TIME FOR ME AT ALL! MAY I SEE YOU TONIGHT?

YOU KNOW I'M JUST AS FOND OF YOU AS EVER, ANTON! BUT--WELL, I JUST CAN'T SEE YOU TONIGHT!



OH, REGER, IT'S TIME FOR THE MEETING! WE'RE GOING TO SHOW THE FILM OF THE LATEST ROCKET MODEL!

I-I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU, WERNHER!



AT THE MEETING AS THE FILM IS SHOWN...

THE VAPOR TRAIL SHOWS A STRUCTURAL FAILURE IN THE CONTROL VANES!... A FAILURE DUE TO THE POOR QUALITY OF STEEL IN THE VANE!

WE WOULDN'T HAVE SO MUCH DIFFICULTY GETTING THE PROPER MATERIALS IF WE HAD CLOSER CONTACT WITH THE S.S. AND THE HEADS OF THE PARTY!



LOOK, NEUMANN, I'M A **SCIENTIST**! I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT HITLER AND THAT PARTY STUFF!

IT'S YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PEOPLE IN POWER THAT KEEPS US FROM GETTING BETTER MATERIALS AND MORE MONEY, VON BRAUN!



AS THE MEETING BREAKS UP IN DISAGREEMENT...

WERNHER, THIS IS THE THIRD YEAR OF THE WAR! THE HIGH COMMAND ISN'T INTERESTED IN YOUR DREAMS OF SPACE FLIGHT! ALL THEY WANT IS A ROCKET THAT CAN REACH LONDON!

COLONEL DORNBERGER, A ROCKET THAT CAN REACH THE STARS CAN ALSO BE AIMED AT LONDON--IF THEY INSIST!



LET'S BUILD THAT ROCKET BEFORE HIMMLER AND THE S.S. MOVE IN ON US! THEY'VE ALREADY PLANTED NEUMANN HERE! HE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOUR JOB!

I KNOW! IF HE WASN'T SUCH A GOOD ENGINEER, I COULD REALLY DISLIKE HIM!



THAT WEEK END WERNHER RETURNS HOME FOR A FAMILY CELEBRATION...

WERNHER, I THOUGHT YOU CAME HERE FOR MY BIRTHDAY PARTY! YOU HAVEN'T TURNED YOUR EYES AWAY FROM MARIA ALL EVENING!

DOESN'T SHE LOOK LOVELY TONIGHT, MOTHER? EACH TIME I SEE HER SHE LOOKS LOVELIER THAN BEFORE!



WERNHER, I KNOW IT'S NOT MY BUSINESS--BUT I DON'T THINK A GIRL AS PRETTY AS THAT WOULD WAIT FOR YOU FOREVER!

DON'T WORRY, MOTHER, I INTEND TO PROPOSE TO HER TONIGHT!



BUT THE GAIETY OF THE PARTY IS SOON INTERRUPTED...

WE CIVILIANS DO OUR PART, TOO! WE CAN WEAR *THIS* SYMBOL WITH PRIDE! THE PARTY MAKES US ONE NATION, ONE PEOPLE--*UNCONQUERABLE!*

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE WERNHER, MAYOR WEBER, HE PROMISED TO TAKE ME FOR A WALK IN THE GARDEN!



THANKS, MARIA, FOR RESCUING ME FROM WEBER

THE POOR FELLOW DOESN'T REALIZE THE ONLY THINGS THAT INTEREST YOU ARE ROCKETS AND SPACE TRAVEL!

AND HIS PROPAGANDA!



IT'S TRUE! IT'S AN OBSESSION! I CAN'T GIVE UP THINKING ABOUT IT! BUT, PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP ME--BY MARRYING ME!

WERNHER, YOU KNOW MY ANSWER!



OF COURSE, DARLING!

MARIA!



LATER THAT EVENING, AFTER THE GUESTS LEAVE...



IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, HIMMLER AND HIS S.S. INCREASE THEIR PRESSURE ON VON BRAUN...



THE NEXT DAY...



WON'T THOSE FOOLS EVER LEARN THAT YOU NEED **TIME** TO DEVELOP A ROCKET? NO AMOUNT OF PESTERING BY ALL THESE **LITTLE HITLERS** WILL EVER CHANGE THAT!

PLEASE, DR. VON BRAUN, PERMIT ME TO FINISH READING THE COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HIGH COMMAND!

... AND UNLESS THERE WILL BE A SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING WITHIN THIRTY DAYS, PEENEMUNDE WILL BE CLOSED!



THERE IT IS, GENTLEMEN! AN ULTIMATUM!

WELL, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT IN TIME?

THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER, COLONEL! WE WILL TRY!



IN THE HECTIC WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, VON BRAUN AND HIS STAFF WORK NIGHT AND DAY...



THEN ONE AFTERNOON...

THAT WAS COLONEL DORNBERGER ON THE PHONE, DR. VON BRAUN, HE WANTS YOU AND THE OTHERS IN HIS OFFICE FOR A MEETING!

THANK YOU! WE'RE GOING RIGHT IN, ELIZABETH!



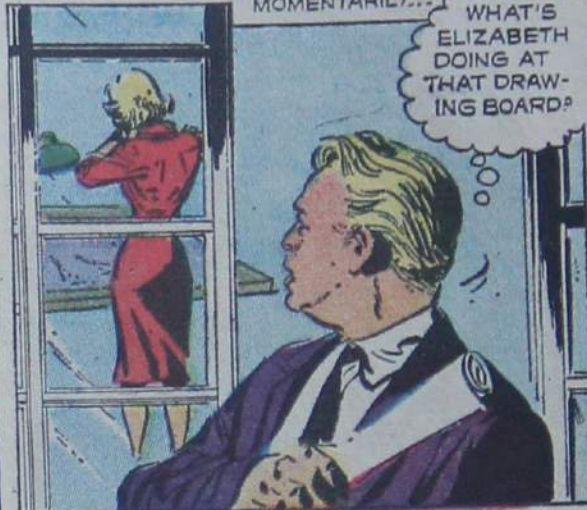
THEY'RE GONE! AND THEY'VE LEFT THESE NEW DESIGNS HERE ON THE DRAWING BOARD! THIS IS MY CHANCE!



A FLICK OF HER FINGERS AND THE LIPSTICK CASE BECOMES A MINIATURE CAMERA...



AN INSTANT LATER, REGER RETURNS MOMENTARILY...



OH, ELIZABETH, WERNHER WANTS THE BLUEPRINTS OF THAT NEW TAIL ASSEMBLY!

ER-- THEY'RE RIGHT HERE ON THIS TABLE, ANTON!



SAY, ISN'T THAT A NEW SHADE OF LIPSTICK YOU'RE USING?

OF COURSE NOT, ANTON! IT'S JUST THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE NOTICED!



WORK PROCEEDS SWIFTLY ON THE NEW ROCKET MODELS. THEN, ONE DAY...

SHE'S REACHED MAXIMUM ALTITUDE AND SHE'S STILL GOING!



IMPACT! DISTANCE TO POINT OF IMPACT 161 MILES! ALTITUDE 52 MILES!

GENERAL KULP, THAT ROCKET HIT WITH THE FORCE OF 50 LOCOMOTIVES AT FULL SPEED!





GENTLEMEN, CONGRATULATIONS! THE WAR WILL END THE DAY WE LAUNCH THESE WEAPONS AGAINST LONDON!

SOON AFTERWARD WERNHER IS SUMMONED TO HIMMLER'S OFFICE...

MY CONGRATULATIONS, VON BRAUN! YOU WILL WANT MASS-PRODUCTION FOR YOUR ROCKETS, NO DOUBT! FOR BEST RESULTS, I SUGGEST YOU JOIN MY **PERSONAL STAFF!**

I'D LIKE TO THINK ABOUT IT, REICH-FÜHRER HIMMLER!



HESITATING, VON BRAUN? UNDER THE S.S., YOU'D BE FREE OF ARMY STUPIDITY AND RED TAPE!

I ALREADY **AM!** COLONEL DORNBERGER IS AN EXCELLENT SUPERIOR! IT WAS **HIGH LEVEL** INDIFFERENCE THAT CAUSED OUR DIFFICULTIES!



BETTER THINK ABOUT IT, DOCTOR! THE S.S. RUNS GERMANY NOW--AND WHAT THE S.S. WANTS, THE S.S. GETS!

THE NEXT DAY VON BRAUN LEARNS THE PENALTY FOR DEFYING HIMMLER...

DAYS OF SAVAGE INTERROGATION FOLLOW...



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? LET ME THROUGH!

OUT OF THE CAR! YOU ARE UNDER ARREST, DR. VON BRAUN, FOR **TREASON TO THE STATE!**



YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN WORKING ON MILITARY WEAPONS--YET YOU WERE WASTING YOUR TIME PLANNING SPACE SHIPS LIKE THIS!

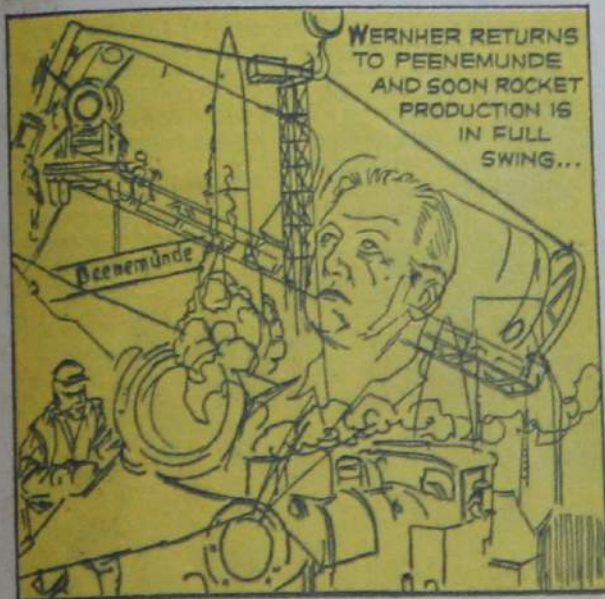
BUT SCIENTISTS **MUST** PLAN FOR THE FUTURE, GENERAL KULP! OR WE'D ALL STILL BE RIDING IN OXCARTS!



BUT MEANWHILE DORNBERGER HAS BEEN BUSY PULLING STRINGS...



THE REACTION COMES SWIFTLY! VON BRAUN IS RELEASED...



BUT OCCASIONALLY WERNHER SLIPS AWAY TO JOIN HIS BELOVED MARIA...





THIS ROCKET WEAPON OF YOURS, HOW CAN YOU BE SURE IT WOULDN'T HIT A CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL WHEN YOU FIRE IT?

MARIA, WE'RE FIGHTING A *WAR!* WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE BEING KILLED ON *BOTH SIDES!* WE *CAN'T* LET OURSELVES THINK ABOUT IT!

MEANWHILE REPORTS ON PEENEMUNDE ARE POURING INTO BRITISH INTELLIGENCE ...



THIS IS THE LAST PHOTOGRAPH TO COME THROUGH! OBVIOUSLY A NEW TAIL-ASSEMBLY DESIGN!

OUR CONTACT AT PEENEMUNDE IS DOING A FINE JOB! BUT IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GOT HER OUT OF THERE!

SUDDENLY A V-2 PLUNGES DOWN TO STRIKE HOME NEAR BY...



BARROOM!



THAT WAS CLOSE! THAT V-2 IS QUITE A FIRE-CRACKER! I'D LIKE TO LAY HANDS ON THE GUY WHO THOUGHT OF IT!

DON'T WORRY, TOFTOY! WE'RE PLANNING OUR OWN FIREWORKS FOR THOSE V-2 GENIUSES!

ONE EVENING, A WEEK LATER, AS ELIZABETH ANSWERS THE PHONE AT PEENEMUNDE...



FRAULEIN ELIZABETH SCHNABEL?

ER--NO! THIS IS ELIZABETH BEYER! YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG EXTENSION!

BUT THE CALL IS A CODE SIGNAL! ELIZABETH MUST CONTACT A SECRET BRITISH AGENT AT ONCE...



OH, ANTON, I MUST LEAVE IMMEDIATELY! I ALMOST FORGOT MY DENTIST APPOINTMENT!

OF COURSE, ELIZABETH! I'LL TELL WERNHER!

STRANGE! SHE DIDN'T REMEMBER THE APPOINTMENT UNTIL AFTER THAT PHONE CALL!

SUSPICIOUS, REGER CHECKS THE LOCAL DENTISTS...



THAT'S ODD! I CHECKED WITH ALL THE LOCAL DENTISTS! SHE HASN'T BEEN SEEN!

LOOK AT THOSE BRITISH BOMBERS HEADING FOR BERLIN! THEY SAY THE CITY IS A SHAMBLES!

BUT THIS TIME PEENEMÜNDE IS THE TARGET...



WE'RE IN FOR IT!

HEAD FOR COVER!

AND A MASSIVE BOMBING RAID SMASHES THE MIGHTY ROCKET BASE...



QUICKLY! INTO THE SHELTER!

I'M COMING, REGER! WE MUST SAVE EVERYONE WE CAN!

MEANWHILE, AT A CAFÉ AT THE EDGE OF TOWN...



ELIZABETH, DON'T BLAME YOURSELF! YOU ONLY DID YOUR DUTY, WHAT YOU BELIEVED IN!

NO! DON'T STOP ME! THEY'RE MY FRIENDS!

MINUTES LATER...



PLEASE! I MUST GET THROUGH! I'M ONE OF THE STAFF!

IT IS NO USE, FRÄULEIN! THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP NOW!

IN THE GRIM DAWN, WERNHER SURVEYS THE RUINS...



WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COFFEE, WERNHER?

THANK YOU, ELIZABETH! THAT WAS QUITE A NIGHT! MORE THAN SEVEN HUNDRED DEAD, BUT AT LEAST WE SAVED OUR BLUEPRINTS!



YOU CHOSE THE RIGHT TIME TO GO TO THE DENTIST, ELIZABETH! TELL ME THE TRUTH NOW, WHERE DID YOU GO DURING THAT RAID?

ANTON, I-I TRIED TO GET BACK, BUT THE GUARDS WOULDN'T LET ME THROUGH THE PERIMETER!

YOU'RE DODGING THE QUESTION! AND WHAT WERE YOU DOING WITH THOSE BLUEPRINTS THAT DAY? HERE, GIVE ME YOUR PURSE! I'M GOING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!



ANTON, WAIT!

THAT LIPSTICK--IT WAS A CAMERA! YOU WERE WORKING FOR THE ENEMY! WHY, ELIZABETH? WHY?

BECAUSE OF MY HUSBAND, ANTON! HE WAS SERIOUS, BRILLIANT--LIKE YOU! WE WERE BREAKFASTING

WHEN THE S.S. BROKE IN AND SHOT HIM!



THEY WERE LOOKING FOR ANOTHER MAN NAMED **BAYER**, NOT MY HUSBAND AT ALL! THEY CALLED IT A REGRET-TABLE MISTAKE! NOW YOU KNOW WHY!

SURELY YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT STORY?



I'LL HAVE TO REPORT YOU TO THE S.S.! THEY KNOW HOW TO HANDLE SPIES!

YOU DARE TO JUDGE ME? ARE YOU BLIND TO ALL THE MISERY YOU HAVE CAUSED? I'M GLAD I HELPED TO STOP YOU!





OH, ANTON, I **DO** LOVE YOU! I WANTED TO MARRY YOU! I WAS AS HONEST AS I COULD HAVE BEEN!

NO, I-- I CAN'T TURN YOU OVER TO THE S.S.! I CAN'T DO IT--NOT TO YOU, ELIZABETH!

AT THE U.S. ARMY HEADQUARTERS, AS GERMANY BEGINS TO CRUMBLE...

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, COLONEL TOFTOY, PEENE-MUNDE HAS BEEN FLATTENED! THAT SHOULD SLOW UP THEIR V-2 PRODUCTION!



MAJOR TAGGART, WHAT'S BEEN ARRANGED ABOUT TAKING OVER PEENE-MUNDE WHEN THE TIME COMES?

I'VE GOT A SPECIAL FORCE TRAINED TO MOVE IN AND GRAB ALL THE EQUIPMENT BEFORE OUR RUSSIAN ALLIES GET IT!



AS FOR THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR BUILDING THE V-2--THEY'LL PAY FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE!

I--I WOULDN'T BE TOO SURE ABOUT THAT, TAGGART! WE MAY HAVE OTHER PLANS FOR THEM!



THEY'RE **WAR CRIMINALS**, AREN'T THEY? THERE ISN'T A COURT ON EARTH THAT WOULDN'T FIND THEM **GUILTY!**

WITH THE GERMAN ARMIES COLLAPSING, VON BRAUN CALLS A MEETING OF THE PEENEMUNDE STAFF...



HEAD WEST! STAY AND FIGHT! WE HAVE A DOZEN CONFLICTING ORDERS!

IF WE REMAIN HERE, WE'LL BE GRABBED BY THE RUSSIANS! IF WE HEAD SOUTH, THE AMERICANS WILL CAPTURE US!



SOON...



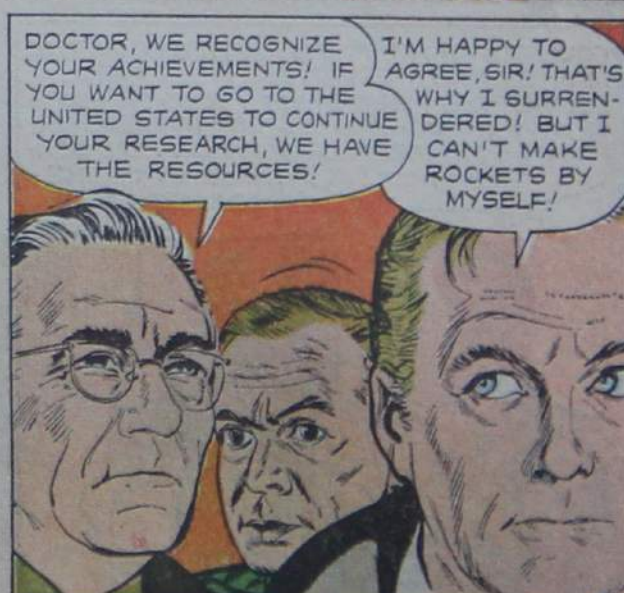
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, WERNHER'S CONVOY PUSHES SOUTHWARD...



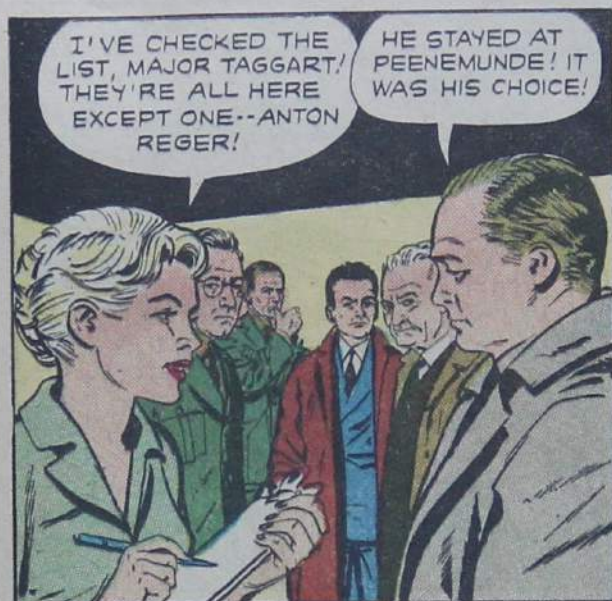
AT LAST THE CONVOY ARRIVES AT AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS...



BUT WERNHER AND HIS GROUP GET A COLD WELCOME...







AS THE PRISONERS ARE LED AWAY...



SOON THE PEENEMUNDE SCIENTISTS ARE WING-ING WESTWARD...



A FEW DAYS LATER, WERNHER AND HIS PARTY ARRIVE AT WHITE SANDS...



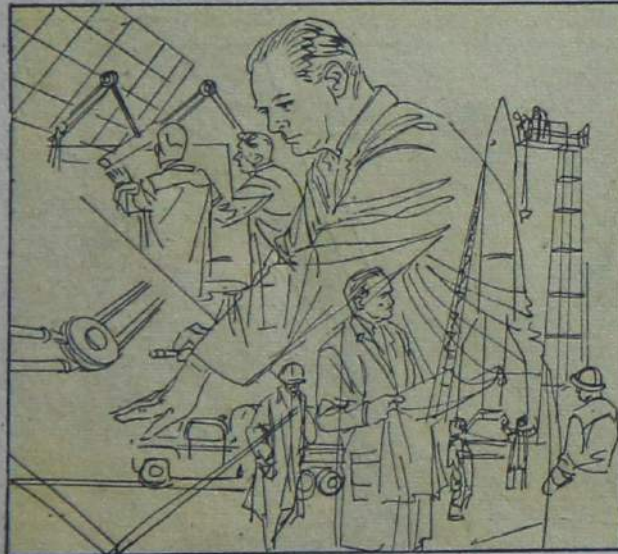
THE NEXT DAY AS THE CAPTIVES RESUME THEIR ROCKET RESEARCH...





AND SO, FOR VON BRAUN WORK BEGINS AGAIN...

MONTH AFTER MONTH SUCCESS SEEMS NEARER...



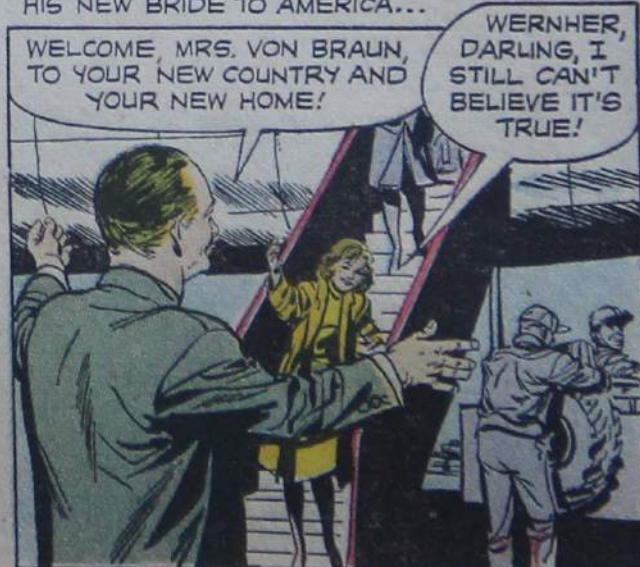
BUT THOUGH WERNHER AND HIS FRIENDS WORK HARD, TAGGART CANNOT FORGET HIS HATRED...





BUT WITH THE PASSING MONTHS, WERNHER AND HIS FRIENDS BEGIN TO EARN ACCEPTANCE...

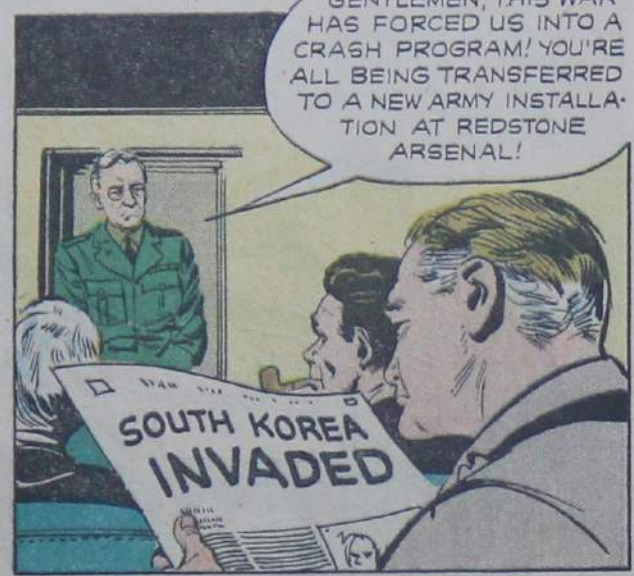
AND WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, WERNHER BRINGS HIS NEW BRIDE TO AMERICA...



THE YEARS MOVE SWIFTLY, BUT VON BRAUN DOES NOT FORGET HIS VISIONS OF THE FUTURE...



THEN IN JUNE, 1950...



THAT NIGHT TAGGART VISITS THE VON BRAUN HOME...



THE LONG MONTHS AT WORK AT REDSTONE ARSENAL BEGIN TO SHOW RESULTS...



CONGRESS AND THE PENTAGON ARE PROUD OF THE WORK YOU'VE DONE IN DESIGNING THE REDSTONE MISSILE!

BUT ACROSS THE COUNTRY, VOICES ARE BEING RAISED AGAINST THE MISSILE PROGRAM. AMONG THEM IS TAGGART'S...



TAXPAYERS MUST DEMAND THAT THEIR HARD-EARNED DOLLARS BE SPENT FOR MORE HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS AND HIGHER SALARIES FOR TEACHERS, RATHER THAN ON A WASTEFUL ROCKET PROGRAM!

BUT THE END OF THE KOREAN CONFLICT BRINGS A CUT IN THE ROCKET PROGRAM...



NOW THAT THE WAR IS OVER, CONGRESS JUST WON'T GIVE US THE MONEY FOR SPACE RESEARCH!

THERE MAY STILL BE A CHANCE, DR. OBERTH! THEY'RE ASKING ME TO GO ON TELEVISION TO EXPLAIN OUR SPACE PROGRAM TO THE PEOPLE!

A SPLENDID IDEA, WERNHER!

DO IT! IF ANYONE CAN CONVINCE AMERICA, YOU CAN! TELL THEM THE TRUTH AND ANSWER TAGGART THAT WAY!



IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, A NATION LISTENS TO THE FIERCE DEBATE...

ROCKET EXPERIMENTS MEAN WAR! WE MUST SOLVE HUMAN PROBLEMS BEFORE WE THINK OF CONQUERING SPACE!



OUR FUTURE LIES IN SPACE! THE COUNTRY WITH THE FIRST SATELLITE WILL CAPTURE THE WORLD'S IMAGINATION!

VON BRAUN TALKS OF PURE SCIENCE, BUT HE IS THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOMBING OF LONDON!



MAN MUST LEARN TO LIVE WITH ATOMIC POWER AND ROCKETS, OR HE WILL PERISH!



THEN, ONE DAY THE ARMY MISSILE PROGRAM GETS A NEW CHIEF, GENERAL MEDARIS...

I AGREE WITH DR. VON BRAUN! WE MUST BACK UP THE PRINCIPLE OF THE FREEDOM OF OUTER SPACE WITH ADEQUATE RESEARCHING OR WE'LL END UP IN THE DUST OF HISTORY!



THEN ONE DAY AT REDSTONE...

WERNHER, THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO COOPERATE IN AN INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR! THEY'LL WANT TO CHECK THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE, IONIZATION LAYERS, COSMIC RAYS-- THE WORKS!



THEY'LL NEED A SATELLITE TO GET THAT INFORMATION! WE'VE GOT PROJECT STARLIGHT ALL PLANNED!

WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE PENTAGON O.K.! BUT WITH OUR RECORD I'M SURE WE'LL GET THE JOB!



BUT THAT NIGHT COMES THE DISAPPOINTING NEWS...

I'M SORRY, MEN! THE WORD JUST CAME THROUGH! THE NAVY GOT THE ASSIGNMENT!

WELL, ALL WE CAN DO IS WISH THEM LUCK!



LATER THAT NIGHT...

BILL TAGGART, YOU'RE IN THE WRONG PLACE! IT'S THE NAVY DEPARTMENT THAT HAS THE BIG NEWS TONIGHT!

I KNOW, ELIZABETH, BUT VON BRAUN HAPPENS TO BE **HERE!** IF I DIDN'T HATE HIM SO MUCH, I'D FEEL SORRY FOR HIM!





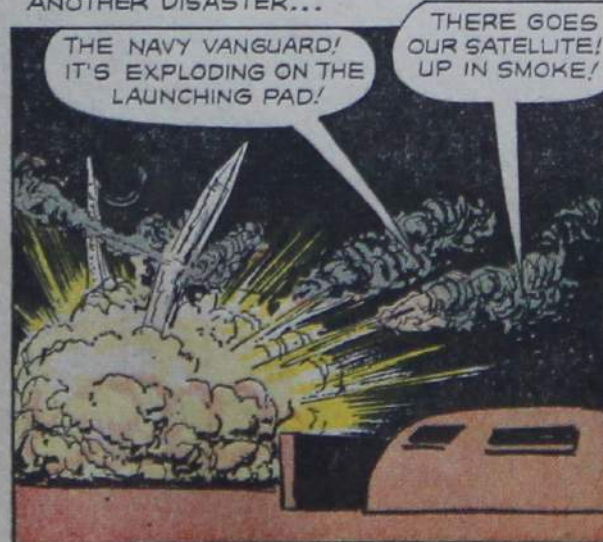
BUT AS THEY OPEN THE DOOR TO VON BRAUN'S OFFICE...



THEN, IN OCTOBER, 1957 COMES A BITTER BLOW...



THEN, ON THE 6TH OF DECEMBER, 1957, ANOTHER DISASTER...



A TOP SECRET MEETING IS CALLED IN WASHINGTON...



AT REDSTONE, WERNHER AND HIS CREW WORK ON A NEW SATELLITE-CARRYING ROCKET, THE MIGHTY JUPITER-C...



THEN, ON THE NIGHT OF THE 31ST OF JANUARY 1958...



ONLY A FEW MINUTES LEFT, DR. VON BRAUN! THEY'RE ALL WAITING FOR YOU IN THE BLOCK-HOUSE!

WELL, SHE'S ON HER OWN NOW!

WELL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, ZERO HOUR IS ALMOST AT HAND!



AS THE FIRING CHIEF CHECKS FINAL DETAILS...

LOADING COMPLETED! FUEL TANK BEING PRESSURED!

RUDDER DRIVE ON!

VOLTAGE IS OKAY!



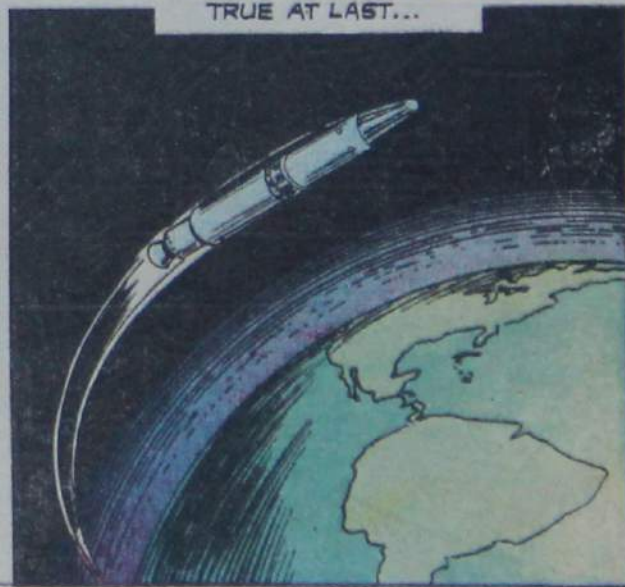
THEN AS THE COUNT-DOWN ENDS, THE MIGHTY
ROCKET THUNDERS UPWARD...



AS THE MINUTES DRAG BY THE TRACKING
STATIONS BEGIN TO REPORT IN...



AND SO WERNHER VON BRAUN'S DREAM CAME
TRUE AT LAST...





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