

INTO SPACE WITH ACE BRAVE!

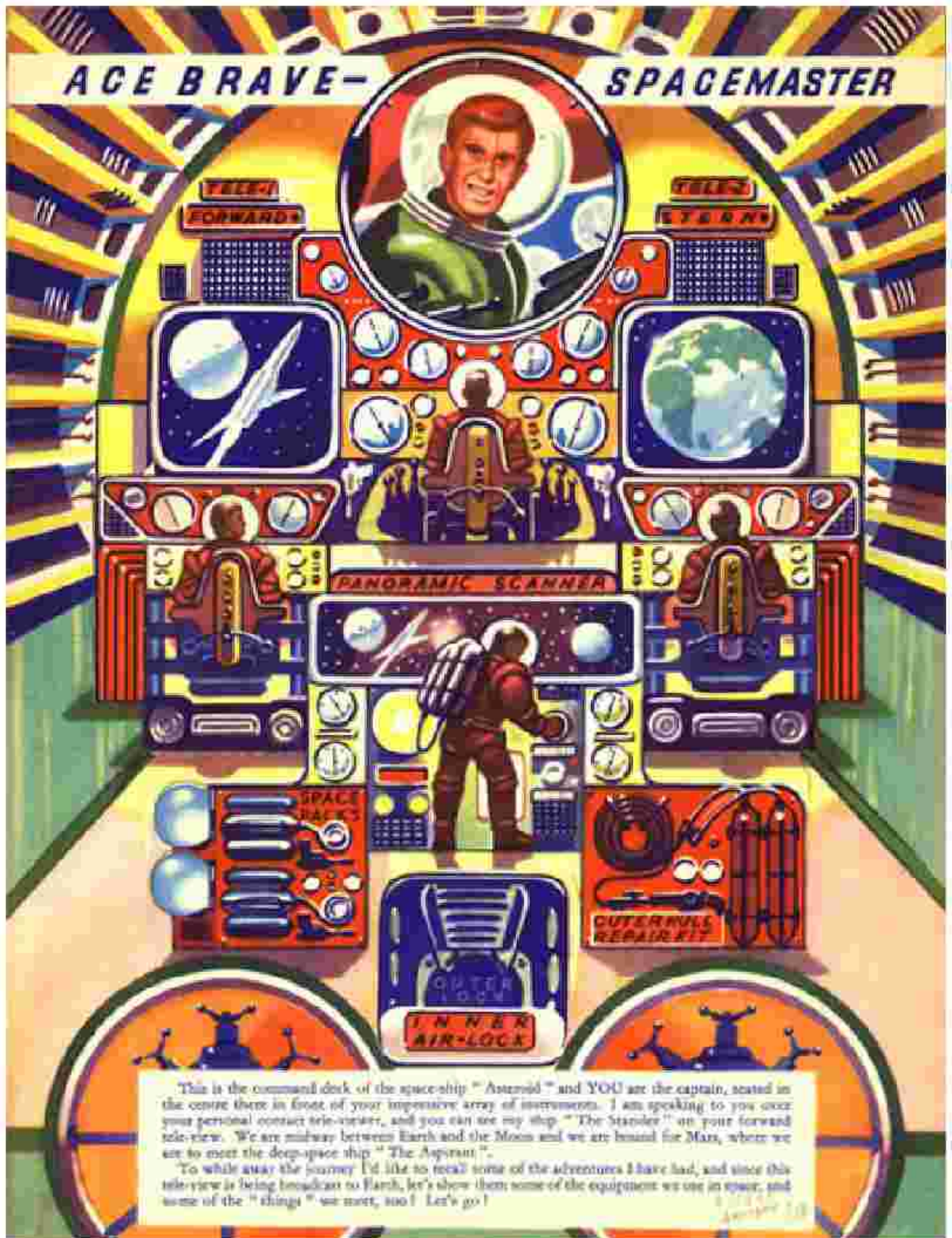
S P A C E - M A S T E R



WITH THREE DIMENSIONAL POP-UP PICTURES

ACE BRAVE-

SPACEMASTER



This is the command deck of the space ship "Asteroid" and YOU are the captain, seated in the centre there in front of your impressive array of instruments. I am speaking to you over your personal contact tele-viewer, and you can see my ship "The Starliner" on your forward tele-view. We are midway between Earth and the Moon and we are bound for Mars, where we are to meet the deep-space ship "The Asyrant".

To while away the journey I'd like to recall some of the adventures I have had, and since this tele-view is being broadcast to Earth, let's show them some of the equipment we use in space, and some of the "things" we meet, too! Let's go!

1954
April 1954



THE SPACE SUIT

First things first, and the first thing you need in space is a space suit. Apart from its necessity for working on space projects (building space stations, etc.) it is absolutely vital for examining the outside of your ship in case of damage from meteorites, etc. It may even be necessary to abandon ship, in extreme cases, and in this event your very existence depends upon its efficiency. You see me here in a self-contained, total-vacuum, mark-seven suit. Below you will find listed some of its most important features:

- (1) Radio mast of ultra short-wave radio.
- (2) Compressed air cylinder of closed-circuit air supply.
- (3) Jet on universal mounting and chemical-fuel container.
- (4) All joints reinforced. A punctured space suit means death!
- (5) Reinforced plastic boots with electro-magnetic soles.
- (6) Large universal-vision, anti-cosmic "Plastilight" helmet.
- (7) Sealing ring to visor, metal with rubber "hose" lining, inflated from air supply.
- (8) Miniature tele-view tray (referred to as the "T" tray).
- (9) Control stick to jet (3). Twist grip rotates jet for maneuvering in space.
- (10) Hydro-ammonal container and feed line to flame gun.

THE WEAPONS OF SPACE

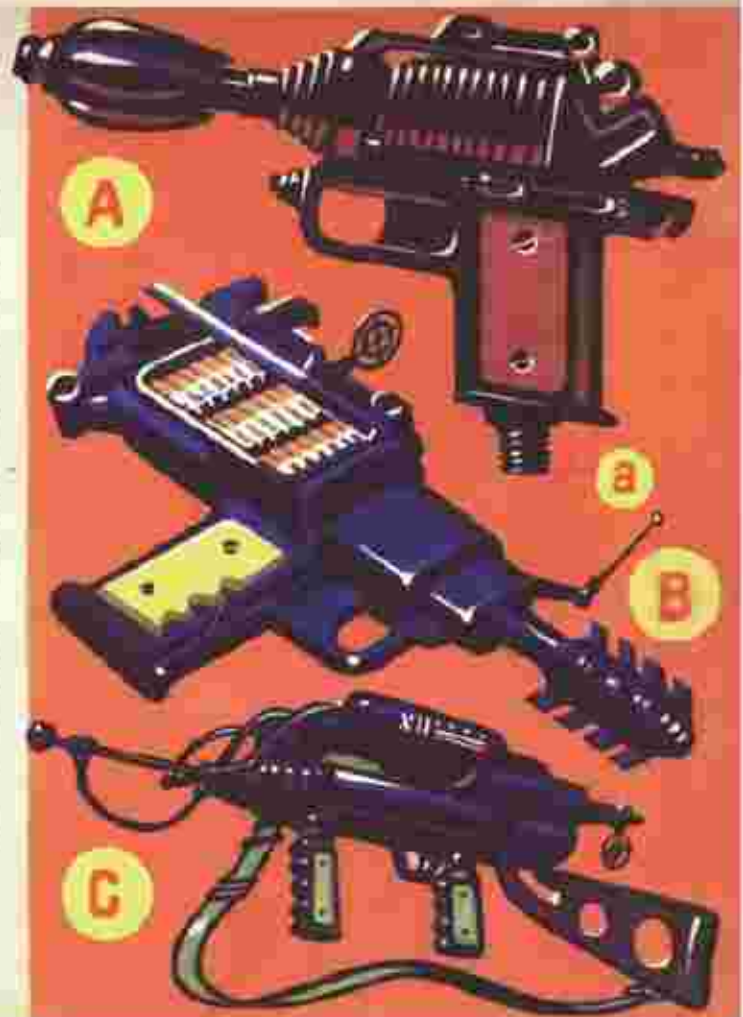
A. This is the Hydramatic Mark 4 Flame Gun, which you see me toting with the space suit above. It was developed by Professor Maklin Devonport of The Interplanetary Research Institute in 1991. The Hydramatic takes its name from the fact that it operates on a liquid hydro-ammonal compound, which is contained in a cylinder and fed to the gun via a feed line, which couples onto the gun at (8). Its lethal range in space is 2,000 yards - a useful weapon.

B. This is the Atomic. It is rather bulkier than the "Hydra" but it has the great advantage of being self-contained. It fires .20-caliber atomic bullets; of course a .20 bullet in the old days would have been just about useless, but these, having atomic heads, produce spectacular results. I once saw a pirate ship (which was attacking transports on the Earth-Mars run) torn completely apart by a burst from one of these atom guns. The burst had penetrated the hull and hit the power plant; the pirates never knew what hit them!

C. Another type of atomic weapon, but working on the controlled-fission principle, the Radiumatic projects a concentrated radiation beam. Another "brain child" of our brilliant Professor Devonport, it is a much heavier weapon than the previous two, but proportionately more effective.

There is no recoil with this weapon or the flame gun and therefore great accuracy is obtainable.

The Radiumatic, when the front hand grip is removed and the tripod screwed into its place, is converted into an ideal weapon for ground use - in positions of defence, for instance.



PERIL!



On this occasion I had landed in the Venusian jungle with Lieutenant Rex Manley and Sergeant "Rocky" Craig, to search for Professor Devonport, who had got himself lost in the jungle.

We had split up to cover the ground better. Suddenly I heard, over my intercom, a call for help from Rex. Rocky had heard it, too. We dashed to his assistance, just in time! He had been pounced upon by a Terrathon, terror of the jungle. Rocky and I fired together and that Terrathon just disintegrated! Soon after that we found the professor, who protested that he was not lost and that we were disturbing his investigations!

LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS—MERCURY

I led an exploratory force of three inter-orbital ships to Mercury in the latter part of 1951. An atomic fire broke out in one of the ships, when we had covered half the fifty-seven million miles. I transferred the crew to my ship when the fire got beyond control. In spite of this I decided to press on.

We reached Mercury without further trouble and circled the planet at orbiting distance. We were carrying with us a small satellite ship which was to make the actual landing. I boarded this with Lieutenant Manley and Sergeant Crag and we began the descent.

We landed on the termination line, where the temperature is more or less bearable. Mercury always keeps one half of her surface facing the sun, which is only 36,000,000 miles away, and the temperature on this side is that of molten lead!

Imagine our feelings then when we saw, marching out of the blazing horizon, a group of seemingly human figures! Mercurians! As we now know, they are a friendly, cheerful race, and considering the conditions under which they live this is remarkable.

Manley, Crag and myself soon made friends with them although, at this stage, we were only able to converse in sign. Now, of course, nine years after that first meeting, the people of Earth and the iron men of Mercury are firm friends.

Iron men is very nearly literally true, for the outer skin of these strange chaps is a thick tissue with a metallic base, protection against the intense heat.

The canopy and cape worn by the Mercurian on the right are used by them when Mercury makes its nearest approach to the sun, when even they need some extra protection.

That's me, sweating in the background in an asbestos suit!



VENUS

We first visited Venus in 1981. This trip was made under the leadership of Professor Malkin Devonport. I was with the Air Force Rocket Research Section at the time and was assigned to the project. Sergeant Crag was on it, too. That's how I met him and we've stuck together ever since.

The outward journey took us eight weeks; at the end of that time we were circling down through the dense cloud layers which surround the planet. We orbited Venus ten times, employing the dense atmosphere as an air brake to reduce speed for landing.

Suddenly we were frozen into immobility by a voice, grating and metallic, on our intercom system: "Hello, men of Earth. Follow me and no harm will come to you. Do as I command!" Then we saw them, six hubble-like craft which suddenly surrounded us. The Professor decided to obey, wisely as it turned out afterwards, for the Venusians could have blasted us out of existence.

We landed with the Venusians on the perimeter of a vast domed transparent structure, within which lay a city, Metharon, principal city of Venus and seat of Government.

Here we were interviewed by the Emperor, elected overlord of Venus. He gave us to understand that the Venusians knew all about Earth, had in fact visited it in the past, and now monitored our radio broadcasts. "Go back to Earth," said the Emperor, "and tell them that whenever men come in peace we shall welcome them but, at the first sign of hostility they will be destroyed, utterly!"

Since then we have treated the Venusians with the respect they merit and we have never regretted it.



CRASH LANDING!



This happened a couple of years ago, when I was taking off from Mars. The fuel pumps packed up when we were half a mile off the ground. I managed to get the ship over on her nose rockets, which were still working, and ease the "landing"—it was pretty bad!

A rescue team dashed from take-off area and rushed me away to "dock" in a pressurized hospital tank; I survived!

Now, would you believe it! That chap in front on the right, helping to carry the tank, is Sergeant Craig; he was with me in the ship; that man's not human!

MARS

We visited Mars in 1982 for the first time. The expedition was made by three ships of the Space Fleet and I was placed in command as Space-master.

On this trip we had to face the peril of the planetoids. These planetoids are the scattered fragments of what was once Gylon, another planet having an orbit between Earth and Mars.

Countless ages ago this planet was blown up, scattering its debris in space just outside the Earth's orbit. The fragments vary in diameter from a few feet to, in the case of Ceres, 480 miles. When you are moving at anything up to 150 miles per second these obstacles in space can prove disastrous. One of our ships, the "Pallantine", struck a small planetoid and vaporized before our horrified gaze. A hazard of space!

I decided to push on with two ships, and two weeks later we landed on Mars. The only sign of life was a thin scrub of vegetation which mottled the red sand. Then, in the distance, we saw a mushroom-like creature on stilted legs, with tentacle arms and a three-lensed eye—a Martian!

He raised a tentacle to his gun, then lowered it again and just stood staring while more of his fellows appeared.

The Martians surrounded our ships and for three days remained there, silent and unmoving; the tension was horrible! At the end of the third day the leading Martian thought: "Now we know you, Earthmen, welcome to Alkimenos." This was telepathy; although he hadn't spoken we all knew what he had thought. The Martians had been studying our minds and it seemed we had passed the test. The Martians are good friends, but they would be formidable enemies!





WHAT LIES BEYOND ?

Well, here we are at last ! There is Mars and there is the deep-space ship "The Aspirant". As we draw near we see that she is surrounded by space-suited men ; two transport ships are bringing in last-minute supplies.

I am joining "The Aspirant" as commander. I know her well, for I have watched her being built here in space on the Mars orbit. I have just returned from a last-minute council meeting on Earth ; now we are all set to go on "Operation Deep Space", the exploration of the outer planets—Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto.

Much of the credit for the design of "The Aspirant" must go to the Martians and Venusians. Neither of these races had space ships when we first visited them. Oh, they knew how, but they no longer had a use for them ! You see, it was the Venusians and the Martians who blew up Gylon. The Gylons had ideas about conquering the Solar system but they didn't get very far. The Venusians and Martian space fleets struck ; five thousand Sondo bombs rained down on Gylon and the planet disintegrated.

To the victors, space ships were now no longer necessary ; no other planet was even remotely far enough advanced to threaten their security and they stopped building them. They looked upon our aspirations with amused tolerance, but they supplied designs for certain components for "The Aspirant"—and what a ship she is !

Well, the cargo you brought from Earth in your ship "The Asteroid" has been loaded into "The Aspirant" and you are about to return to Earth. In twenty-four hours "The Aspirant" blasts into deep space. One day I'll be back to tell you—what lies beyond !

SPACE PATROL



You are on your way back to Earth. As you approach the moon you see a shimmer shape streaking towards you—a space pirate! You radio moon-based Space Patrol. Furious activity and, almost at once, the ships are blasting off the launching ramps. I watch you on my tele-view with bated breath—can you hold the pirate off long enough? Yes, here comes the Space Patrol!

