



THE COMPLETE



**NEMESIS**  
**THE WARLOCK**

VOLUME 1

NEMESIS THE WARLOCK CREATED BY PAT MILLS AND KEVIN O'NEILL



THE COMPLETE

# NEMESIS

## THE WARLOCK

VOLUME 1

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## ◆ INTRODUCTION ◆

Nemesis was created as a response to censorship on another story Kevin O'Neill and I produced. We had previously dreamed up a science-fiction tube system in Ro-Busters which the Managing Editor objected to as too weird and complicated. Frustrated by his negativity and determined to prove him wrong, we devised the one-off story 'Terror Tube'. Like much of my early 2000 AD work, this story was influenced by the French magazine *Metal Hurlant*. I liked the way the French would come up with crazy 'throwaway' worlds and plots; it reminded me of some of the wilder rock videos and, hence, the musical references in the early Nemesis stories. With 'Terror Tube' and the tales that followed, Kevin and I were 'comic jamming' – writing and drawing the wildest stories we could think of, deliberately avoiding the traditional comic approach.

'Terror Tube' went down a storm, but many of the readers – used to conventional stories – just wanted more of the same. So when we sought to do something strange and different each time, rather than build on the initial success of 'Terror Tube', this did not find favour with them. Consequently our next tale, 'Killer Watt', which deliberately showed an even more insane travel system, was not so well received. Refusing to bow to convention, Kevin then drew the wildest idea of all: Nemesis visiting a steam punk fantasy world. He deserves all the credit for this – all I did was make sense of it story-wise, but I regard his Victorian imagery here as surpassing anything I have seen anywhere in science fiction art before or since. Steam-driven roller skates! Zeppelin propelled shoes! Flying hansom cabs! The fact that his pages of visual genius are rarely, if ever, mentioned in comicdom astounds me; especially as he has since produced the Victorian fantasy *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*.

I was blown away by those pages but I said to Kevin that Nemesis would implode under the weight of trying to combine crazy inventions with the conventional hero approach the readers were demanding. We had to revisit

some of our early ideas before we went any further and so our jamming days were over. As a result, Kevin's steam punk pages now comprise the opening sequence of what became *Nemesis: The Gothic Empire*. The fourth book in this volume.

Meanwhile, we continued to go as far as we dared on what became Book One. For example, we produced a rare non-action episode featuring the Warlock's Great Uncle Baal. Once again the negative reaction of readers confirmed that we had to stick to convention. However, they did highly rate Olric's Quest which appears at the end of this book. There, at least, they appreciated our Pythonesque story of the courageous Olric. And I personally relished its – er – homage to Michael Moorcock which I felt was long overdue, given his comments about 2000 AD in *The Guardian* when I launched the comic.

Despite my gripes on what might have been in Nemesis, the readers loved what was. Notably the character of Torquemada. Torquemada was based on a monk at my school who rejoiced in the dubious title 'Prefect of Discipline'. This same 'Brother' was also the inspiration for my version of Judge Dredd. Undoubtedly writing Torquemada was a catharsis for my schooldays where I once witnessed him in over-arm thrashing mode, his black robes flapping, taking a high-speed, spin-bowler run-up before literally hurling himself at a bent-over young boy whom he reduced to sobbing blubber. His religious zeal also inspired the Grand Master's catchphrase "Be Pure! Be Vigilant! Behave!" which became so well known it ended up as graffiti on the Berlin Wall. But it was the hypocrisy of this supposedly 'holy' individual which fascinated me the most as you will see in the tales of Torquemada that follows. With such a hypocritical villain, who else but a demon – Nemesis – could be the hero?

Pat Mills,  
August 2006



Sample file



## TERROR TUBE

Manuscript: Pat Mills  
Artwork: Kevin O'Neill  
Illumination: Steve Potter

Originally published in 2000 AD Progs 167

**TERMIGHT!** CAPITAL PLANET OF A CRUEL GALACTIC EMPIRE. ABOVE GROUND IT IS A STRANGE, DESOLATE WORLD... DEVASTATED BY NUCLEAR WARS - WHERE ONLY A FEW POOR OVERLANDERS GRUB A LIVING. BUT BENEATH THE SURFACE...

# Comic Book

HOLD ON! WE'RE GOING UNDERGROUND!

Story suggested by THE JAM'S GOING UNDERGROUND

O'NEILL

# TRAVEL TUBE

TERMIGHT TEEMS WITH LIFE! THE PLANET HAS BEEN HOLLOWED OUT INTO AN AMAZING NETWORK OF TRAVEL TUBES AND UNDERGROUND CITIES!

HEY, YOU OVERLANDERS! SHIFT THAT CRATE! THIS IS THE "SUPER-JUGGERNAUT" LANE!

WEEKEND TRIPPERS! YA MEANT TO DRIVE ON THE CEILING!

SORREEE!

CAN'T WE GO BACK, MABELINE? I-I'M JUST A SIMPLE, OLD-FASHIONED OVERLANDER! I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS NEW-FANGLED TRAVEL TUBE!

DON'T SHOW YER IGNORANCE, ELMER! WE'RE GOING TO VISIT OUR DAUGHTER DOWN IN NECROPOLIS! TAKE HER SOME OF MA HOME-MADE SYNTHI-COOKIES!

WELCOME TO THE TRAVEL TUBE, FRIENDS! THE MOST ADVANCED ROAD SYSTEM IN THE GALAXY!

AND NOW, FRIENDS, IF YOU CAN HEAR ME ABOVE THE GENTLE THUNDER OF THE JUGGERNAUTS, IT'S TRAFFIC NEWS TIME!

ELMER! GET THE MAP OUT! HURRY!

Y-YES, MABELINE!

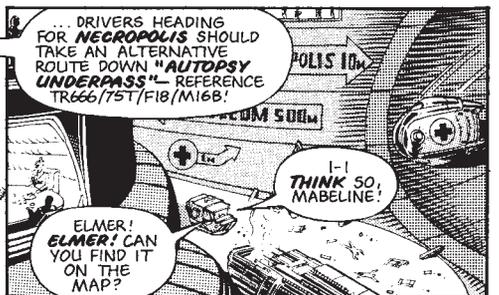
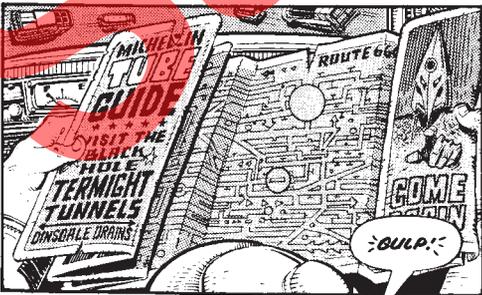
THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER MAJOR ROAD ACCIDENT NEAR THE JUNCTION OF "INQUEST ALLEY" WITH "RIGOR MORTIS ROUNDABOUT"...

... DRIVERS HEADING FOR NECROPOLIS SHOULD TAKE AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE DOWN "AUTOPSY UNDERPASS" - REFERENCE TR666/75T/F18/M16B!

I-I THINK SO, MABELINE!

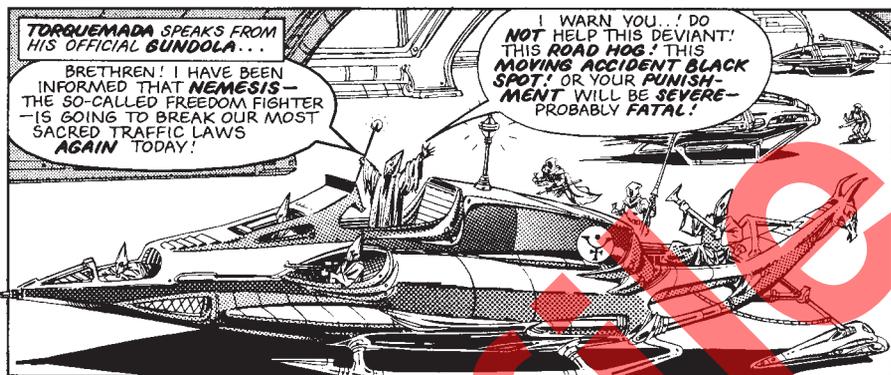
ELMER! ELMER! CAN YOU FIND IT ON THE MAP?

BOOP!





AND NOW, FRIENDS— AN URGENT POLICE MESSAGE! FROM THE MAN WHO HAS MADE TERMIGHT WHAT IT IS TODAY! YOUR FRIENDLY GUARDIAN OF LAW AND ORDER! CHIEF OF THE TUBE POLICE! COME IN... **TORQUEMADA!**



**TORQUEMADA SPEAKS FROM HIS OFFICIAL GUNDOLA...**

BRETHREN! I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT **NEMESIS**— THE SO-CALLED FREEDOM FIGHTER— IS GOING TO BREAK OUR MOST SACRED TRAFFIC LAWS AGAIN TODAY!

I WARN YOU... DO NOT HELP THIS DEVIANT! THIS ROAD HOG! THIS MOVING ACCIDENT BLACK SPOT! OR YOUR PUNISHMENT WILL BE SEVERELY PROBABLY FATAL!



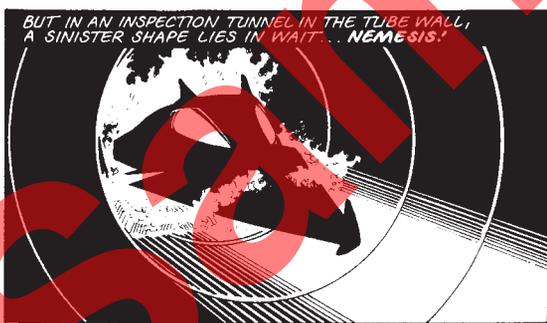
MY OUTRIDERS— THE TERMINATORS— ARE WATCHING AT ALL TIMES! SO... BE PURE! BE VIGILANT! BEHAVE!



A TUBE-TUMBRIL, WITH A CARGO OF CONDEMNED PRISONERS, HEADS TOWARDS THE VAPOURISATION-VATS...

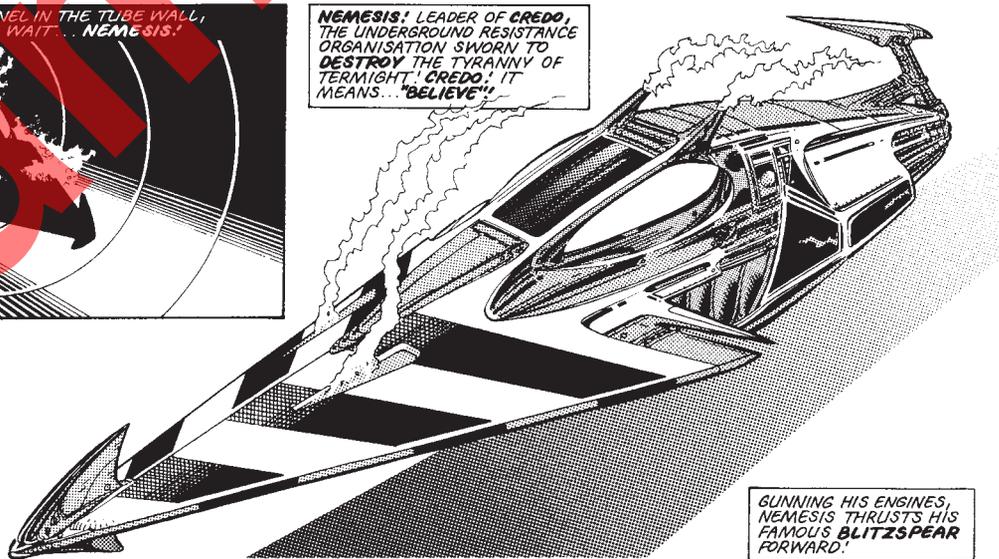
!KOFF!:

NO SIGN OF NEMESIS! WE SHOULD GET THESE PRISONERS TO THE VATS OKAY!



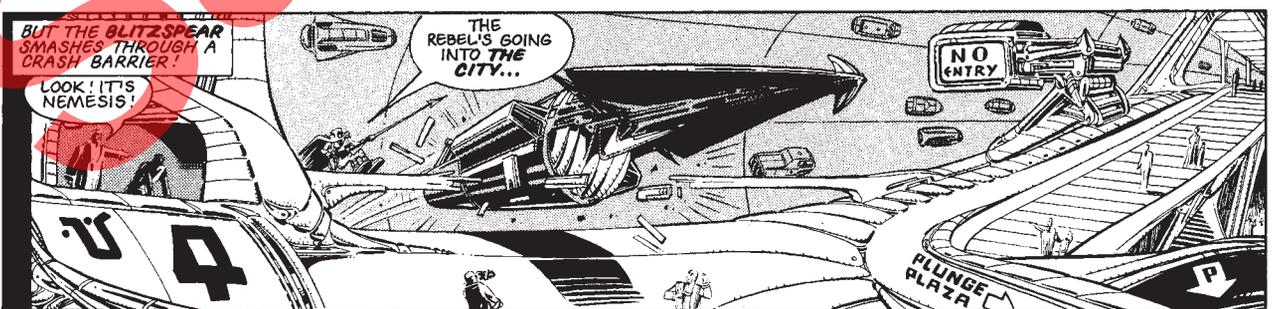
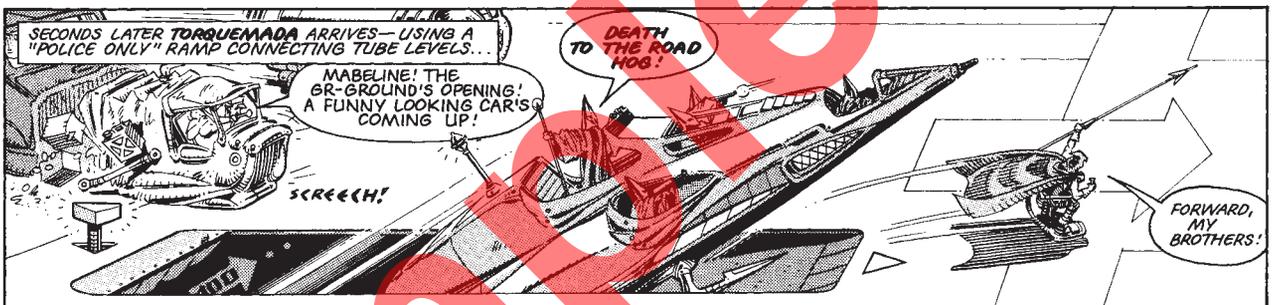
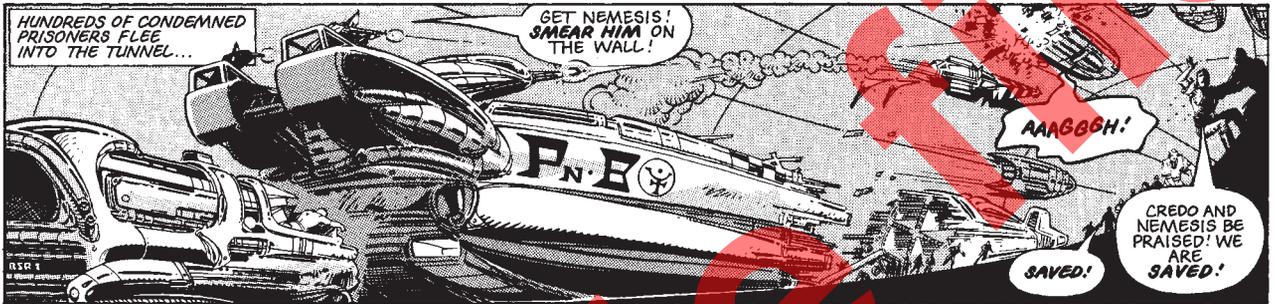
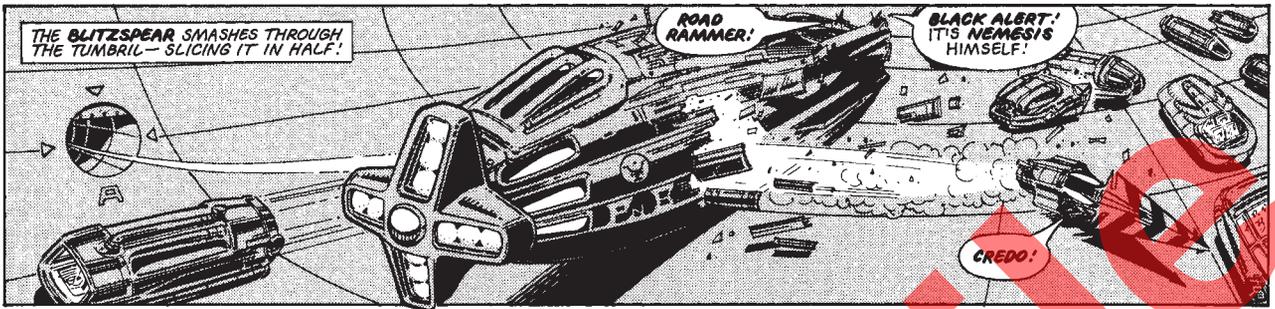
BUT IN AN INSPECTION TUNNEL IN THE TUBE WALL, A SINISTER SHAPE LIES IN WAIT... NEMESIS!

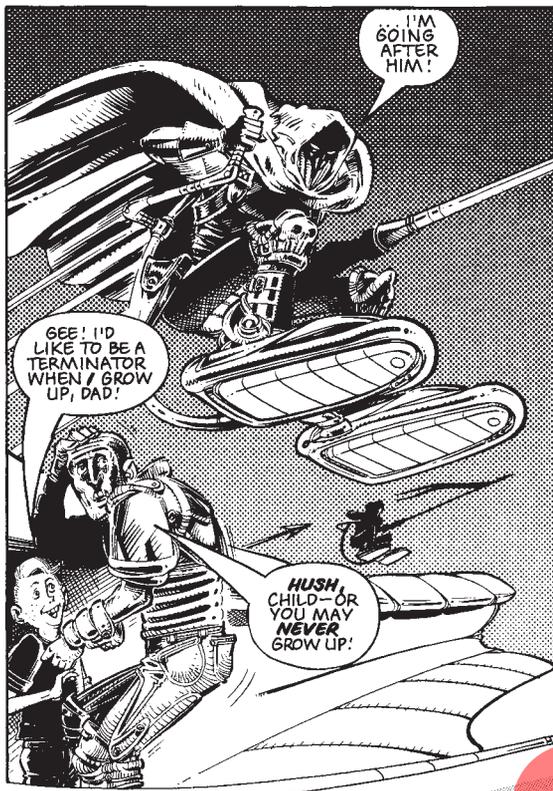
**NEMESIS!** LEADER OF CREDO, THE UNDERGROUND RESISTANCE ORGANISATION SWORN TO DESTROY THE TYRANNY OF TERMIGHT! CREDO! IT MEANS... "BELIEVE!"



GUNNING HIS ENGINES, NEMESIS THRUSTS HIS FAMOUS BLITZSPEAR FORWARD!

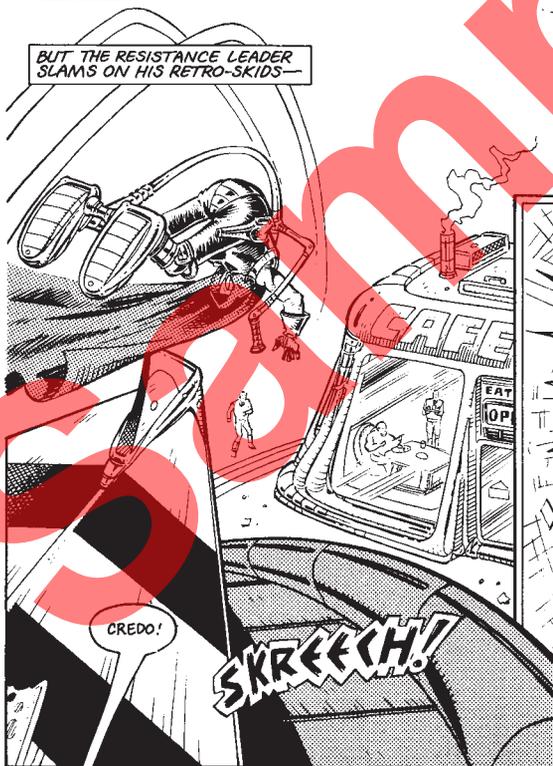
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Credit Card:  
SCRIPT ROBOT  
P. MILLS  
ART ROBOT  
K. O'NEILL  
LETTERING ROBOT  
STEVE POTTER  
COMPU-73e



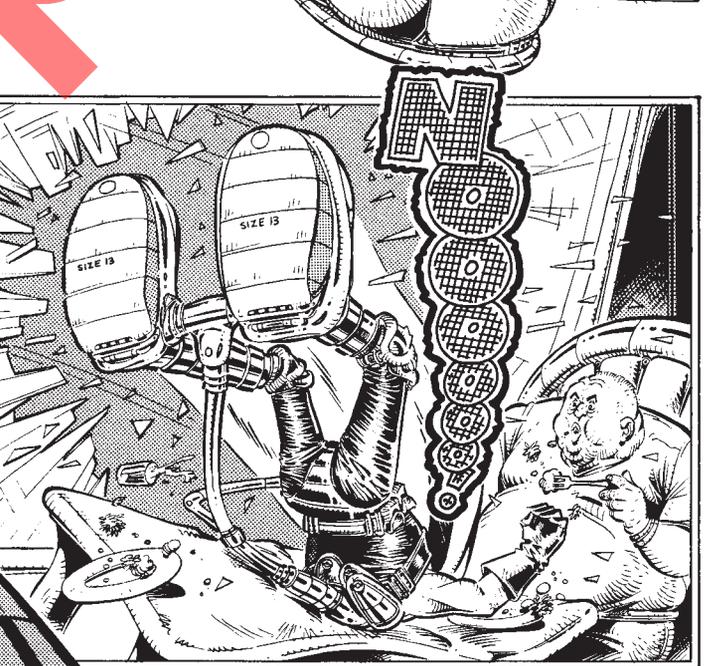
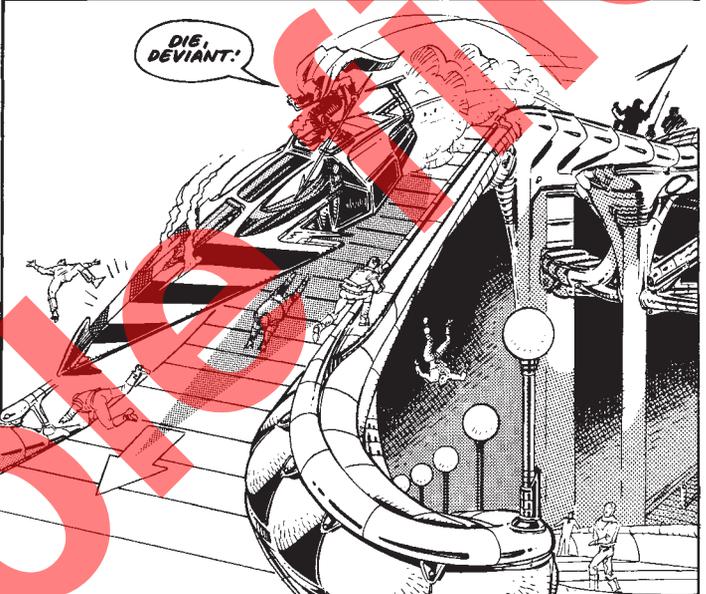


REVVING HIS POWER-PONTOONS, THE TERMINATOR SOARS THROUGH THE AIR—

NOW, NEMESIS— YOUR TIME HAS COME!



BUT THE RESISTANCE LEADER SLAMS ON HIS RETRO-SKIDS—



CREDO!

SKREECH!

EAT UP!

NO



BEAMS LANCE OUT FROM THE TOWERS AND FIND AND HOLD THE BLITZSPEAR.

NOW—FULL POWER! RIP HIM APART! LET THE PEOPLE SEE THEIR HERO BLEED! LET HIM DIE ON THE RACK!

AN ORDINARY MAN COULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED THE TORTURE! BUT NEMESIS IS NO ORDINARY MAN! HE SLAMS THE BLITZSPEAR INTO OVER-DRIVE!

THE RACK BEAMS SWING CRAZILY TOWARDS EACH OTHER AND NOW IT IS THE WATCH-TOWERS THAT ARE TORN APART!

NO! IT-IT'S IMPOSSIBLE... AAAGGGGGH!

HAVE A GOOD DROP

WE'VE CAUGHT HIM AT LAST!

NEMESIS DRIVES DOWN THE BYPASS FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT AND EMERGES AMONGST THE STARS! FOR THIS IS AN ARTIFICIAL BLACK HOLE—MAN'S SHORT-CUT TO THE GALAXY FROM IT TERMIGHT MIGHTY TERRA HAS CONTROLLED A THOUSAND PLANETS

CREDO!

Er... I think I've taken a wrong turning, Mabeline!

NEMESIS MAKES GOOD HIS ESCAPE BUT HE WILL RETURN TO STRIKE ANOTHER BLOW AGAINST THE FORCES OF TERRA

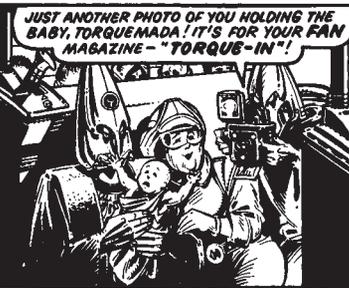
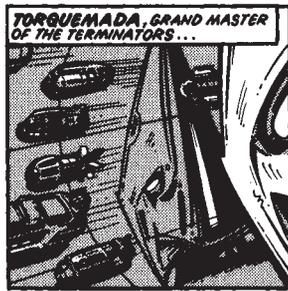
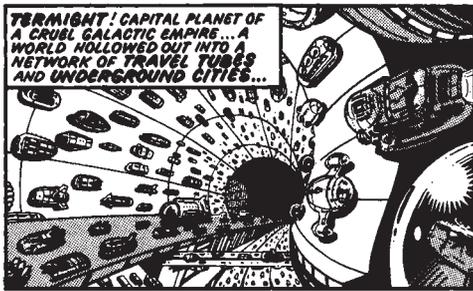
THE END.



## KILLER WATT

Manuscript: Pat Mills  
Artwork: Kevin O'Neill  
Illumination: Tony Jacob

Originally published in *2000 AD* Progs 178-179

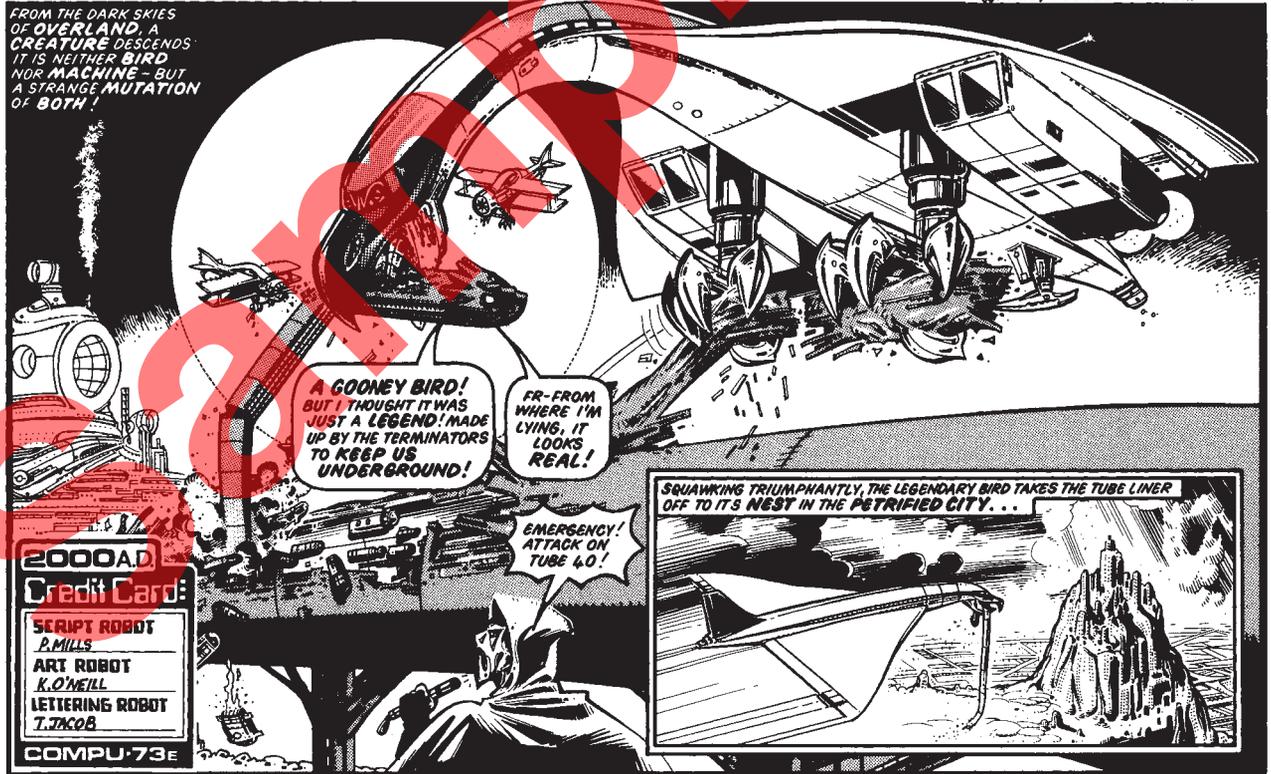


Comic  
ROCK  
PRESENTS...

# Killer Watt

suggested by the album "Killer Watts"

FROM THE DARK SKIES OF OVERLAND, A CREATURE DESCENDS! IT IS NEITHER BIRD NOR MACHINE - BUT A STRANGE MUTATION OF BOTH!



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P. MILLS  
ART ROBOT  
K. O'NEILL  
LETTERING ROBOT  
T. JACOB  
COMPU-73e

WHETHER THE BIRD IS A SINISTER INVENTION OF THE TERMINATORS THAT WENT WRONG OR THE RESULT OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF MACHINE EVOLUTION IS PROBABLY NOT IMPORTANT TO THE PASSENGERS OF THE LINER.

THERE ARE MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS -



IT'S GOING TO FEED US TO ITS YOUNG!

SAVE US, TORQUEMADA!

TORQUEMADA FILLS THE AIR WITH INCENSE AND UTTERS STRANGE INCANTATIONS TO WARD OFF EVIL, WITH NO EFFECT...

OMEGA AVIS REQUIEM!



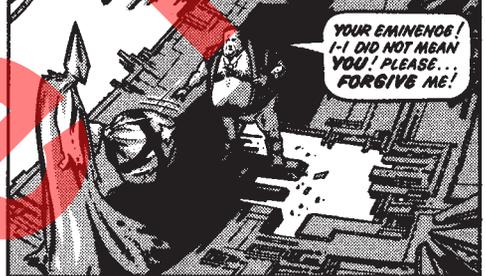
GARK!

AAAAGGH!

THIS IS THE ONLY LIFE-BAG! DON'T ANYONE TRY TO STOP ME GETTING AWAY - OR THEY'LL GET A SNUCK IN THE FACE!

GIVE THAT TO ME!

THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT TORQUEMADA'S GAZE THAT COMMANDS INSTANT OBEDIENCE...



YOUR EMINENCES! I-I DID NOT MEAN YOU! PLEASE... FORGIVE ME!



YOU GOT THAT LIFE-BAG FOR ME AND MY BABY! OH, YOU GOOD, KIND MAN, I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH!

ALL THOSE WICKED STORIES ABOUT YOU AREN'T TRUE AFTER ALL!

PA DA!



BUT-

I REGRET, MY LIFE IS MORE IMPORTANT! THERE IS STILL MUCH GOOD WORK FOR ME TO DO!

NO!



COME BACK, TORQUEMADA! DON'T LEAVE US TO THE GOONEY BIRDS!



I WILL MEDITATE UPON THEIR DEATHS - SOMETIME!



TELEPORT WIRES! I SHALL FOLLOW THEM TO A TRANSMITTER STATION - WHERE I CAN BE BEAMED THE REST OF THE WAY TO NEGROPOLIS!



TERMINAL 11