

BANDERWATCH

CHARACTER ◆ BOOK



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BARON HAMA

THE BARON IS NOT ACTUALLY AN ARISTOCRAT. HIS REAL NAME IS RICHARD RICHARDS AND HE IS AN INDUSTRIALIST WHO HAS RECENTLY MOVED INTO THE WORLD OF MINING COMPANIES. "BARON HAMA" IS HIS SELF-APPOINTED NICKNAME - IT IS APT BECAUSE HE RUNS HIS COMPANY LIKE A MEDIEVAL FIEFDOM. IN HIS FIELD HE IS AN ABSOLUTE DICTATOR WITH A STRANGE, MYSTERIOUS POWER OVER SUBORDINATES. HE USES FORCE WHEN HE "HAS TO" BUT HE IS QUITE CAPABLE OF GETTING HIS WAY WITHOUT IT.



HE HAS ACCUMULATED VAST SUMS OF MONEY BUT YOU HAVE THE FEELING THAT HE IS MORE INTERESTED IN THE POWER. HE IS FAT, UNTIDY AND LOOKS LIKE A COMPLETE SLOB, BUT DON'T LET THAT FOOL YOU - HE'S AS SHARP AS A RAZOR AND TWICE AS DEADLY!

TWENTY YEARS AGO HE WAS AN ASSISTANT MANAGER AT A CHEMICAL PLANT AND AT EVERY STAGE HE ACHIEVED AMAZINGLY FAST PROMOTION. THE FEELING IS THAT THE MEN WHO PROMOTED HIM SIMPLY WANTED TO GET HIM OUT OF THEIR HAIR.



THE GALACTIC EMPIRE ADMINISTRATORS BEGAN TO NOTICE HIM WHEN, AS BOSS, HE DOUBLED THE PRODUCTION OF A SERIES OF GOLDMINES



IT WAS ABOUT THIS TIME THAT KRYSTANTIUM WAS DISCOVERED ON THE MOON SOON TO BE CALLED KRYSTIUS

TOP REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SPACESHIP COMPANIES WHICH NEEDED THE CRYSTALS TO POWER THEIR SHIPS INVITED THE BARDON TO A BUSINESS LUNCH. THEY INTENDED ASKING HIM TO BE BOSS OF THEIR MINING COMPANY. THEY DECIDED AGAINST THIS WHEN CONFRONTED WITH HAMA'S DISGUSTING TABLE MANNERS (EATING FOOD WITH HIS FINGERS) AND INSULTING BEHAVIOUR



COME ON YOU MORONIC MAGGOTS! GIVE ME MORE FOOD!



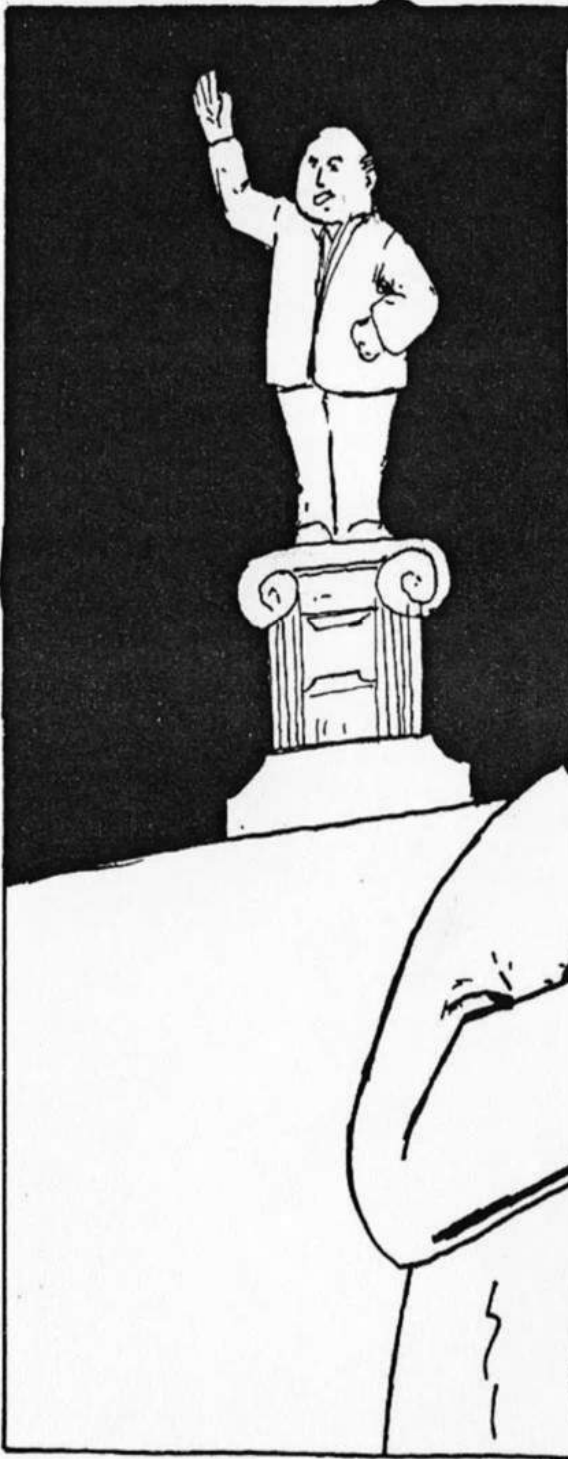
HOWEVER, OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES DECIDED HE WOULD BE SAFFIR ON KRYSTIUS - A MOON AT THE EDGE OF THE GALAXY, OR "NEXT TO NOWHERE" AS IT WAS DESCRIBED. FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS SAW HAMA ACTUALLY TAKING OVER THE MINING COMPANY FROM THE SPACESHIP CONGLOMERATES.



ON KRYSIUS THERE ARE NO RULES EXCEPT THOSE THE BARON MAKES. GALACTIC LAW IS IRRELEVANT. CONDITIONS ON THE MOON ARE SUPPOSED TO BE COOPERATIVE BUT IN REALITY THEY ARE COMPETITIVE AND CUT-THROAT. THE BARON ENCOURAGES THESE CONDITIONS AS THEY ENSURE THERE CAN BE NO COHESIVE THREAT TO HIS POWER.



EVERYONE ON THE MOON IS ANSWERABLE TO HIM; HE PAYS THE WAGES AND DRAWS UP THE CONTRACTS; CONTROLS THE POLICE FORCE AND SUPERVISES THE MINING. HE TOLERATES NO OPPOSITION OR CRITICISM. HIS ENEMIES TEND TO GO MISSING AND HE DOES NOT HAVE MANY FRIENDS.



IF YOU EVER VENTURE ON KRYSIUS YOU'D BETTER KEEP ON YOUR TOES; ONE FALSE MOVE AND YOU CAN BE SUMMONED TO THE BOSS'S PRESENCE, AND FORCED TO ENDURE HIS BAFFLING STARE AS HE PATS HIS ROLLS OF FLESH. A SECOND FALSE MOVE AND SILENT FOOTSTEPS FOLLOW YOU TO YOUR DOOM. SOME SAY THE BARON HAS MORE UP HIS SLEEVE, THAT HE WILL HARNESS THE CRYSTAL'S POWER FOR HIS OWN ENDS, THAT HE MIGHT EVEN TRY TO SET UP AN ALTERNATIVE EMPIRE. THEY SAY THESE THINGS VERY QUIETLY.....

CHIEF ENGINEER

THE CHIEF ENGINEER STANDS OUT ON KRYSTIUS SIMPLY BECAUSE HE IS NOT AS MEAN AND DESPERATE AS THE AVERAGE DOME DWELLER. A SCIENTIFIC, SCHOLARLY TYPE, HE IS OFTEN SEEN WITH A BEMUSED EXPRESSION AS IF HE WERE THINKING "WHAT HAVE I LET MYSELF IN FOR IN THIS PLACE?" THE BARON PERSONALLY CHOSE HIM TO BE CHIEF ENGINEER BECAUSE OF HIS WELL-EARNED REPUTATION AS BEING ONE OF THE BEST DESIGN ENGINEERS IN THE GALAXY. ANOTHER REASON FOR THE CHOICE SEEMS TO BE THAT THE CHIEF ENGINEER IS EASILY MANIPULATED; FALLING IN WITH THE BARON'S EVERY WHIM, REGARDLESS OF PROFESSIONAL OR PERSONAL ETHICS.



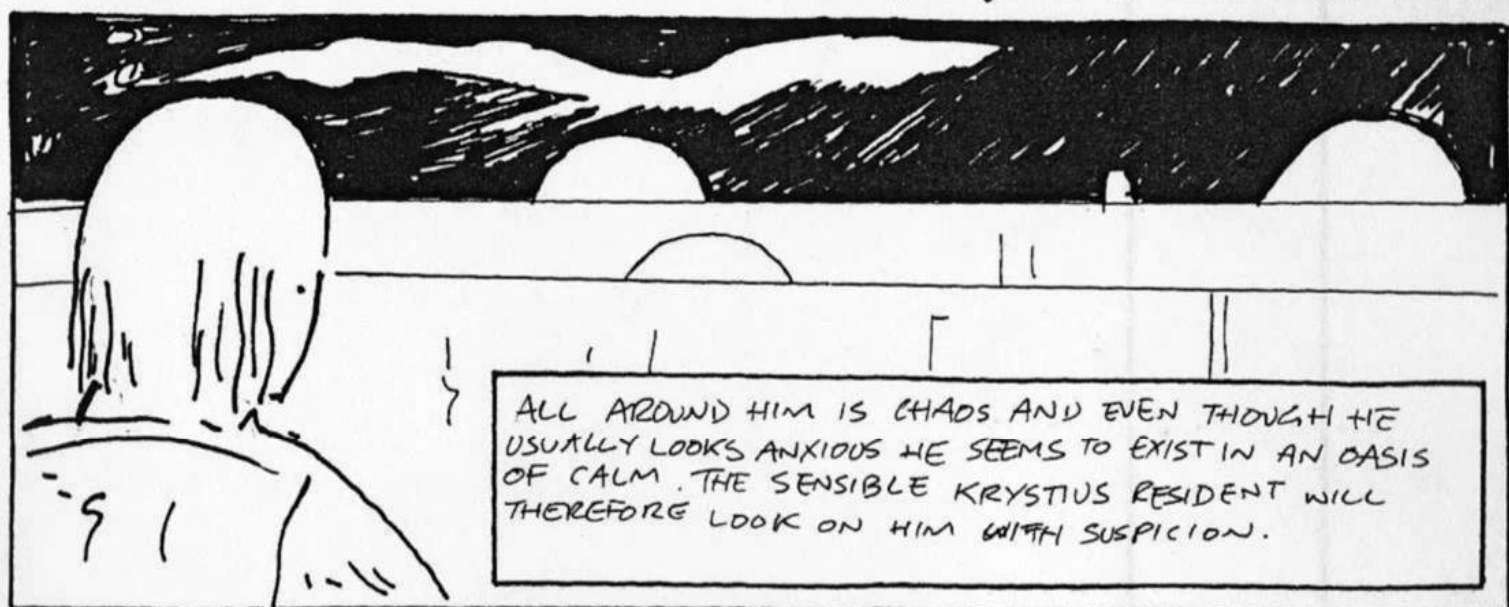
AT HIS ENGINEERING ACADEMY HE HAD THE REPUTATION OF BEING SCATTY, ABSENT-MINDED AND EASILY DUPED. HE CERTAINLY FULLY PLAYED UP TO HIS "ECCENTRIC SCIENTIST" IMAGE

HOWEVER SOME OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO VOICE THE OPINION THAT, ALTHOUGH WEAK IN CHARACTER, HE HAS A CONCEALED NATIVE CUNNING IN ADDITION TO HIS IMPRESSIVE GIFTS AS AN ENGINEER



IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE THAT HIS CAREER HAS PROGRESSED STEADILY, MAKING VERY FEW ENEMIES ALONG THE WAY AND YET ECLIPSING MOST OF HIS RIVALS. HE SPECIALISES IN INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND IS ALSO AN EXPERT IN THE FIELD OF MAINTENANCE

ONE OF HIS GREATEST SUCCESSES WAS A SELF DRIVEN ROBOTIC VACUUM CLEANER. THIS COULD NEGOTIATE CORNERS + CLEAN AN ENTIRE FLOOR WHILE LEAVING IMPORTANT WIRES UNSCATHED. HIS EXPERIENCE WITH MINING MACHINERY IS CONSIDERABLE: IN KRYSIUS MOST OF THE MACHINERY IS UNSHAPED + IMPERFECT SHAPE, ALTHOUGH...



ALL AROUND HIM IS CHAOS AND EVEN THOUGH HE USUALLY LOOKS ANXIOUS HE SEEMS TO EXIST IN AN OASIS OF CALM. THE SENSIBLE KRYSIUS RESIDENT WILL THEREFORE LOOK ON HIM WITH SUSPICION.

ASSASSIN



FIFTEEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN THE BOSS OF KRYSIVIUS, BARON HAMA, SHARD IS A COOL, LACONIC CHARACTER, WHO DRESSES SMARTLY IN A SUIT AND TIE, CUTTING QUITE A SNAVE FIGURE AT THE SIDE OF THE SHABBY, BLOATED BARON. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL DESCRIPTION HE IS THE BARON'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT AND HIS PRIMARY FUNCTION IS SUPPOSEDLY TO MONITOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GALACTIC POLICE FORCE, TO RECRUIT MEN INTO THE FORCE AND TO SUPERVISE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES. IN ACTUALITY HE IS A SELF TRAINED ASSASSIN, RUTHLESS IN HIS METHODS AND WORKING EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE BARON IN THIS CAPACITY AS KILLER.

SHARD WAS BORN ON THE PLANET DARON IN ANOTHER PART OF SECTOR 19. HE ARRIVED ON KRYSIVIUS WHERE HE BECAME CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER AT ONE OF THE LARGER KRYSIVIUS MINES. ON THE PLANET DARON SIX MONTHS PREVIOUSLY, SHARD'S BROTHER, HIS MOTHER'S FAVOURITE, DIED IN MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES. IT IS SAID THAT SHARD KILLED HIS BROTHER BECAUSE OF HIS PASSIONATE JEALOUSY IN THIS RESPECT. THE BODY WAS NEVER FOUND.

SHARD WAS RECRUITED INTO THE GALACTIC POLICE FORCE AT THE AGE OF 18 BECAUSE OF HIS EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY AS A MARKSMAN. HIS SUCCESS IN HIS CAREER WITH THE POLICE WAS SOMEWHAT SPORADIC, MARKED BY HIS OBSSIVE INSISTENCE ON ORDER - HALLMARKED BY THE FANATICAL FILING SYSTEMS HE WOULD COMPILE, COUPLED WITH PERIODS OF TIME WHEN HE WOULD DISAPPEAR FOR DAYS ON END AND NEVER BE SEEN BY ANYONE!



IT WAS DURING ONE OF THESE RECLUSIVE PERIODS THAT BARON HAMA ENLISTED SHARD INTO HIS SERVICE. HIS DIRECTIVE IS TO ELIMINATE ALL THE BARON'S ENEMIES AS SWIFTLY AND DISCREETLY AS POSSIBLE



SHARD'S ATTITUDE TO HIS WORK IS CHARACTERISED BY HIS DETACHMENT. HE HAS A COOLNESS, AN ABSENCE OF PITY AND A SELF-CONTROL THAT NEVER FAILS TO INTIMIDATE EVEN THE MOST RUTHLESS OF HAMA'S ENEMIES. LIKE THAT BARON, SHARD IS DRIVEN BY A SEEMINGLY UNDEFINABLE THIRST FOR POWER AND THE SINGULAR URGE TO CONTROL THE LIVES OF OTHERS



HE WAS ONCE OVERHEARD TO SAY IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE CHIEF ENGINEER:



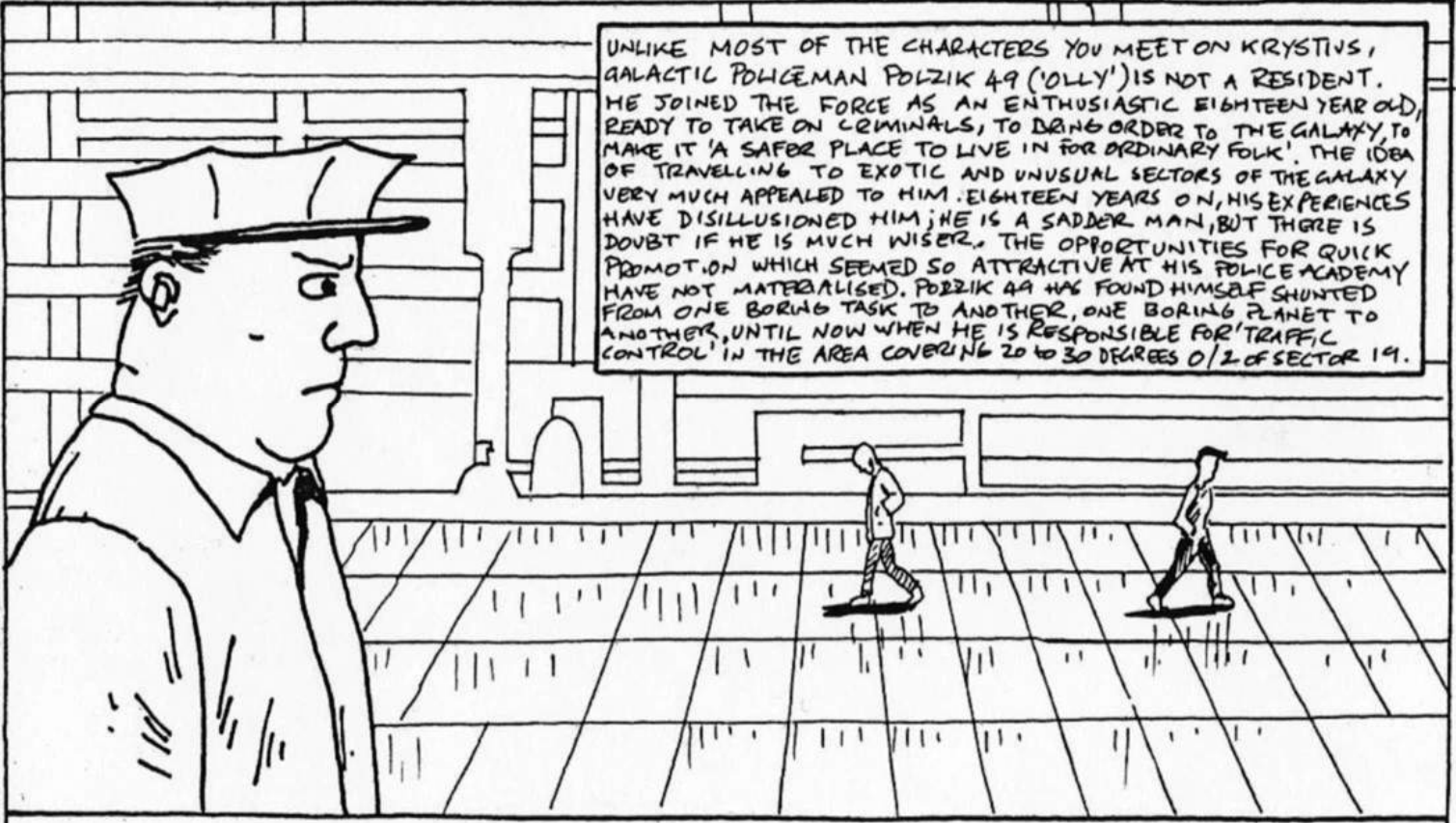
IT IS MY CONTEMPT FOR MEN THAT MAKES ME KILL THEM I DESPISE THEIR WEAKNESSES IT IS LITTLE MORE THAN A GAME FOR ME!

SHARD LIVES ALONE IN A REMOTE PART OF KRYSTIUS. HE HAS VIRTUALLY NO FRIENDS AND VERY LITTLE SOCIAL LIFE. HIS ONLY PASTIME IN THE SPARSE DARK MANSIONS IS A GAME OF CHESS THAT HE PLAYS AGAINST HIS COMPUTER. WHEN SHARD IS ON A MISSION HE USES A 465-0 LASER PISTOL; A WEAPON, THE ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY OF WHICH, HE HELPED TO PERFECT



THIS WEAPON IS DEADLY AND KILLS VICTIMS INSTANTLY. SHARD IS NOBODY'S FOOL. HE DOES WHATEVER HIS JOB REQUIRES OF HIM. HE IS A MAN FEARED BY EVERYONE ON KRYSTIUS; NOBODY CAN BE SURE WHEN OR WHERE HE WILL NEXT STRIKE.

GALACTIC POLICEMAN



UNLIKE MOST OF THE CHARACTERS YOU MEET ON KRYSTIV, GALACTIC POLICEMAN POLZIK 49 ('OLLY') IS NOT A RESIDENT. HE JOINED THE FORCE AS AN ENTHUSIASTIC EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD, READY TO TAKE ON CRIMINALS, TO BRING ORDER TO THE GALAXY, TO MAKE IT 'A SAFER PLACE TO LIVE IN FOR ORDINARY FOLK'. THE IDEA OF TRAVELLING TO EXOTIC AND UNUSUAL SECTORS OF THE GALAXY VERY MUCH APPEALED TO HIM. EIGHTEEN YEARS ON, HIS EXPERIENCES HAVE DISILLUSIONED HIM; HE IS A SADDER MAN, BUT THERE IS DOUBT IF HE IS MUCH WISER. THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR QUICK PROMOTION WHICH SEEMED SO ATTRACTIVE AT HIS POLICE ACADEMY HAVE NOT MATERIALISED. POLZIK 49 HAS FOUND HIMSELF SHUNTED FROM ONE BORING TASK TO ANOTHER, ONE BORING PLANET TO ANOTHER, UNTIL NOW WHEN HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 'TRAFFIC CONTROL' IN THE AREA COVERING 20 TO 30 DEGREES O/Z OF SECTOR 19.

ADMITTEDLY THE 'TRAFFIC' HE 'CONTROLS' TENDS MAINLY TO BE SPACE SHIPS AND OTHER INTERGALACTIC CRAFT, WHICH MIGHT SOUND A LITTLE MORE INTERESTING THAN DIRECTING LAND BASED VEHICLES DOWN A MAIN STREET. HOWEVER THE SPACE SHIP TERMINALS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE ATMOSPHERICALLY PURE, IN FACT THE FUMES PRODUCED BY THE ROCKET FUEL ARE SUFFICIENT TO REDUCE THE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF WORKERS IN THE VICINITY BY AN AVERAGE OF 5 GALACTIC SPACE YEARS. THE NOISE IS SO DEAFENING THAT HEARING AIDS ARE MANDATORY FOR EVERYONE WHO WORKS ON TRAFFIC CONTROL. IN SHORT POLZIK 49 IS NOT A HEALTHY MAN. HE HAS A CONSTANT COUGH, HE IS SOMEWHAT DEAF AND THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT HE IS NOT AS MENTALLY ALERT AS HE USED TO BE...



ONCE YOU START GETTING THE BAD JOBS, THEY DON'T STOP. POLZIK 49 DOES NOT ENJOY HIS WORK AND IT IS BEGINNING TO SHOW. HE RECEIVES A CALL ON HIS INTER-COM, STARES AT IT FOR A MOMENT, WANDERS OVER TO THE ANNOYING INTERCOM AND SNAPS.

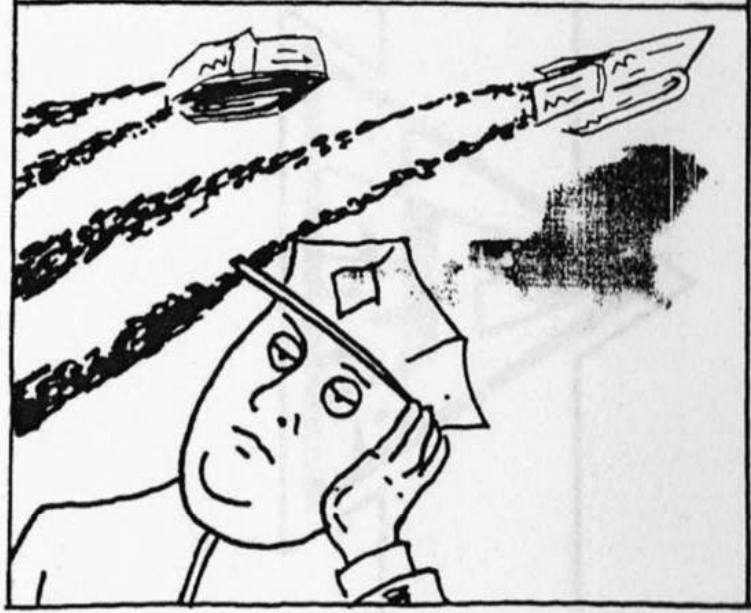
AND LISTENS TO ANOTHER SET OF ORDERS GIVING HIM ANOTHER UNPLEASANT ASSIGNMENT.

HIS ATTITUDE TO HIS JOB HAS BECOME MORE LACKADAMICAL; THE RULEBOOK HAS BEEN MORE OR LESS DISCARDED, AND HE HAS NO SENSE OF EFFICIENCY OR RESPONSIBILITY.

ALL THIS HAS LED TO HIM GETTING A REPUTATION AS A BIT OF A BUNGLER AND HIS SUPERIOR OFFICERS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY RELUCTANT TO GIVE HIM IMPORTANT TASKS. GALACTIC POLICEMEN TEND TO COMPETE FOR SOME JOBS AND SHY AWAY FROM OTHER; STATION OFFICERS DISPENSE WORK OFTEN ON A BASIS OF PERSONAL PREFERENCE.....



.... POLZIK 49 ALWAYS SEEMS TO HAVE THE SHORT STRAW



THERE IS A TEAM OF OTHER OFFICERS AT THE TRAFFIC CONTROL UNIT WHO 'HELP' POLZIK 49 ON HIS LARGER ASSIGNMENTS. THEIR COLLECTIVE Demeanour REMIND THE HISTORICALLY-MINDED OF THE LEGENDARY KEYSTONE COPS. ON CERTAIN JOBS IT IS POSSIBLE TO HEAR THE PLAINTIVE CRY

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW, OLLY?



THE USUALLY SNARLING REPLY IS NOT OFTEN NOTABLE FOR ITS COHERENCE

AT THE MOMENT POLZIK 49 AND HIS COHORTS ARE ON A MANHUNT TO BE SITUATED ON THE NOTORIOUS MINING MOON OF KRYSTIUS. THE MAN THEY ARE LOOKING FOR ALSO USED TO BE A GALACTIC POLICEMAN - WORKING AS A CRIMINAL CONTROL AGENT (SPECIAL). THE LOCALE OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND THE CHARACTER OF THE QUARRY MEANS POLZIK 49 IS IN A DISTINCTLY UNENVIABLE POSITION. HE IS ACUTELY AWARE OF THIS AND ALREADY BEARS A GRUDGE AGAINST THE RENEGADE..

WATCH OUT FOR SPARKS!

