

the Star Blazers Fandom Report®

Reporting on the who, what, where, when, why & how of Star Blazers

Number 4 of Volume 3, Issue 12

A Publication of the Star Blazers Fan Club

news -

Books Nippan is now distributing their all-English, full color adaption of the Yamato anime comics. Anime comics are photo-novels from the series. Books Nippan has also taken out an advertisement in the January 20 issue of Publishers Weekly. The ad contains the Star Blazers logo, with the word "Yamato" below it. In addition, there was the copy from Arrivederci Yamato, "This is the story of young astronaut soldiers struggling for love, peace and coexistence. They lived together, laughed together and fought together." They are advertising for those interested in distribution and a discount schedule. You can buy a copy through Books Nippan. For further information write - Books Nippan, Nippon Shuppan Hanbai USA Inc.,

Ask to contact Mr. Teji

Hiramatsu.

It seems that the Japanese companies that own Yamato are behind the comic, not the US distributor of Star Blazers, Westchester Films Inc. Should this anime comic work out, it might be the first step in bringing over Japanese science fiction animation on a national basis.

E.E. Smith's "Lensman", the classic American science fiction pulp series will be animated in Japan. Kodansha Ltd. is planning a 2-hour full length film, which will feature advanced techniques in animation. This will be followed by 39 half-hour episodes to be aired in Japan on NHK. The Japanese fan magazines seem to be giving it a bit of publicity, but not nearly as much as other series and movies like Orguss and Urashiman. While there are high hopes, the project can always become another Captain Future, another science fiction pulp adapted for animation.

In the Spring 1984 issue of Comics Collector there is an article called "Space Cruiser Yamato" by none other than Ardith Carlton. The article runs several pages, and deals with Yamato in Japan, and the comic books that deal with the series. The article goes into detail on the movies and series, and gives a good idea as to what is around with the comic books from the series. Ardith has been asked to write another article for the Summer 1984 issue. According to Ardith it will deal with everything from Mobile Suit Gundam to Perverst Green Frog. This could lead to a profession for Ardith, who got her start writing as a fan for the Star Blazers Fandom Report. The Summer '84 issue will go on sale April 17. If Comics Collector is not at your newsstand, you can write them at

Inside the Star Blazers Fan Club a few changes have been made in the way the club is being run. A staff or committee has been asked to run the club as a whole. Each member of this staff will have a specific job inside the club. This transition may be difficult at first, issues might come out a bit late and other things will need to be re-organized. However in the long run, this change will benefit the club. It will allow us to put out a better newsletter and improve the other aspects of this club, such as chapter and convention activity. The club is looking to give its members more benefits and more activities in which to get involved.

The February 1984 issue of "Science Fiction Chronicle" had a review of the Star Blazers Fandom Report. According to the Hugo award winning publication, the newsletter has "come quite a long way in little more than two years." The same issue also contains a review of the Japanese science fiction convention Daioov IV by Frederik Pohl. Write Science Fiction Chronicle,

The club's

newsletter was also mentioned in the December '83 issue of the newsletter ASFA, which stands for the Association of Science Fiction Artists.

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STAR BLAZERS - the anime comic

The Books Nippan Star Blazers animation comic has come out. This soft covered book runs 162 pages of full color comics. These books are being printed in Japan by the West Cape Corporation. For the first time in America there is merchandise connected with the series. This could be the first step in a long awaited merchandising campaign. This also means that from now on Japanese companies might take that chance, and bring other series over.

As with most Japanese publications, there is a high standard of printing. The actual size of the book runs something like 7 by 10 inches. With postage they will run you \$13.25 if you order them from Books Nippan. The book is based on the same format as the Japanese anime comic books which are their version of the photo-novel. For the panels of the comic, they use footage from the actual production. Short of having Star Blazers on video tape, this is the next best thing to having a share of the series.

In addition there are maps and designs from the series as well. Thus the comic book is also very much like the Japanese Roman Album. (Roman Albums are books in Japan that publish blueprints and photos from various series). Volume one features a map of the trip to Iscandar in full color, a blueprint of the Argo in full detail, a profile of the characters, drawings of the ships and other designs from the show.

The graphic style of the book is very advanced. The quality of the animation still holds up. The color is vivid, and the artwork is high quality. The comic maintains the things that make Star Blazers great.

Currently the book seems to be selling well. Forbidden Planet reports that copies are going fast. There was a half page ad in Locus for the book. You can buy a copy at most comic or science fiction stores. Or you can write the distributors, Books Nippan.

The book does have one or two drawbacks. There are several spelling errors, and unlike the Japanese anime the background of the word balloons are in color. However the book makes up for it's flaws in many ways. It will be a welcome addition to any science fiction or comic book fans collection, and for the Star Blazers fan it is a must.

There are two more volumes in the series due out. Should the first three volumes be a success, more volumes might

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Fan Activity

by Brian Cirulnick

At the risk of sounding repetitive, "active" is doing more than JUST watching Star Blazers. Sure, watching the show is good, but showing support for the show is even better. By showing support, more shows such as Star Blazers can be brought over and given good translations because TV stations will know that there is an audience.

By simply writing letters to TV stations every once in a while is considered "being active", heck, writing letters to the SEFC is being active. If you can prove that you out there do indeed exist, then we can use the "power of the masses" and show a film distributor that it is worth the risk of bringing the show over.

For example, Books Nippan is currently bringing over a series of comic books based on Yamato. This fanzine reaches 400 fans. If each of those fans just wrote Books Nippan that they were interested in more information - then it would directly show the Japanese that it is worth it to bring more Star Blazers and other series to America. Think of it, for a mere 20¢ stamp you can tell Mishizaki himself that we want more. At the same time you can send a message to American TV to shape up.

Despite the tremendous popularity of Japanese animation, very few people actually do anything to promote it. When (if) Star Blazers was taken off the airwaves in your area (or any area), did you just say "Oh well, nothing I can do about that." or did you get on the phone and scream at the program director? Neither of these actions will help you very much. It takes calm, intelligent, and very persistent complaining due to the unusually thick skulls when encountering program directors.

Eventually they either flat out refuse the show or they accept it. The situation is always desperate, but never hopeless. Even stations that once said "NO" may say "Yes" if and only if enough people tell the station that they do indeed exist. You don't have to run a convention or put out a fanzine to be active - you just have to write a letter every so often, and not give up.

In the meantime how about some more letters from collectors? I got a few (Thanks folks) but I need a few more in order to compile an article. Coming up in the next issue - Star Blazers - Roll Your Own.

STAR BLAZERS- the anime comics

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be on the way. The first three volumes will only cover the first season of Star Blazers. Should the book be a hit, it could open new doors for the series itself. It could prove to television stations that the show has a following. It could also show the Japanese that it is worth their time to bring over more animation to the United States. It could also encourage the American animation industry to grow and raise it's standards. By buying a copy you can send a message to all of the above. As the copy of the last page reads, "Will this be the end of the Star Force? Don't miss volume 2 of STAR BLAZERS!"

- Michael Pinto

news -

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Here is a quick listing of conventions that will have Star Blazers or Japanese animation in their programming -

LUNACON '84 - March 16 - 18 - Sheraton Hasbrouck Hgts, Hasbrouck Hgts NJ - \$16 to 2/16 \$19 at the door. Write Lunacon '84,
- Star Blazers Video Room, Star Blazers Fan Club and Cartoon/Fantasy Organization New York plan activity.

NORVESCOT 7 - March 22 - 25 - Seattle Hyatt Hotel, SeaTac Intl Airport, WA - \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Write Norvescon 7,
- New chapter planning activity.

BALTICON 18 - April 20 - 22 - Hyatt Regency Baltimore, Maryland - \$25 at door - Write Balticon 18,
- Star Blazers Rockville plans activity.

EMPIRICON V - July 6 - 8 - Sheraton Inn at LaGuardia, New York City - \$17 till June 2 - \$20 at door - Write TESSFA,
- Star Blazers Video Room set aside.

Going from conventions to fanzines, Trelaina, the APA of the Star Blazers Fan Club keeps growing. Collation six of the APA had 83 reading pages and had fanzines that featured everything from translations of the manga "Cosmo Police Justy" to the latest in fan politics. Due to the current popularity of the APA the copy count will rise. The next deadline for getting in fanzines for the next Trelaina collation will be March 10th, postage is a \$1. Also if you contribute to the APA, you can get your copy at Lunacon '84. If you are interested in getting a copy or finding out just what an APA is, write - Trelaina, the SEFC-APA, c/o Brian Cirulnick,

The New York chapter of the Cartoon/Fantasy Organization has expanded their monthly bulletin. The new format not only contains the meeting notice, but information on new series from Japan, art work and other translations. The editor, Patricia Malone is looking for contributions, comments and ideas. If you are interested in helping out or getting a copy, send a self addressed stamped envelope to - C/FO-NY,

Other odds and ends of fanzine news includes the second printing of Space Fanzine Yamato. The first printing was in February of '83; this second printing was 100 copies. The Star Blazers Fan Club is planning to print up a fanzine that is made up of the songs from the Yamato movies. The fanzine should come out later this year. Tom Brevoort and Steve Circala have announced that they are working on a new fanzine, "Invidia". Contents will include articles on Yamato Harlock and Gundam. It will also feature part two of their Final Yamato comic. It should run up to 40 pages, and will be in black and white xerox. Copies will cost \$2, the deadline to reserve copies will be March 9th. Copies can be bought at Lunacon '84. Write Tom Brevoort,
Also send a self-addressed stamped envelope.



FROM THE STAR BLAZERS ANIMATION COMIC

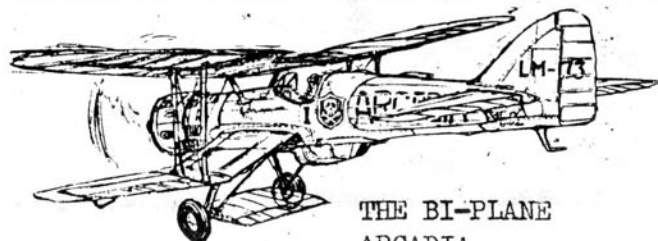
MY YOUTH IN ARCADIA

by Stephen Boyd

My Youth in Arcadia (Waga Seishun no Arcadia) Toei 1982

Story—Reiji Matsumoto Animation Director—Kazuo Komatsubara
Music—Masaki Hirao

Circa World War I period, Phantom F. Harlock is an aerial explorer who aspires to conquer the air with his bi-plane, "Arcadia". Harlock attempts to conquer the towering heights of the Owen Stanley Mountain Range. His first attempt to gain enough altitude fails. Defeated, he turns to fly away. The Witch of Stanley, which haunts the mountain range, laughs. Harlock attempts the flight again after he jettisons most of his fuel. The Witch of Stanley continues to laugh....



THE BI-PLANE
ARCADIA

One thousand years later, Captain Harlock is commander of the Evacuation Transport, "Death Shadow". Earth has been invaded by the Irumidas. The Irumidas orders Harlock to land the Death Shadow or be destroyed. Harlock intercepts the Earth resistance radio transmission, "Free Arcadia", broadcasted by "the Rose", or Maya, the only woman Harlock ever loved.

After crash landing the Death Shadow in order to disable the ship, the Irumidas confederates rush on board, knocking down Reiji Matsumoto (who says, "Ouch, ouch; how terrible!"). Harlock is told to report to the Irumidas's Earth Occupation Headquarters after he is arrested by Zoll of the planet Tocarga, an earlier Irumidas conquest.

At the Occupation Headquarters, Harlock confronts Supreme Commander Zeda; his sidekick, Murgison and Prime Minister Tritter. Zeda orders Harlock deported as a dangerous and undesirable character. After taking food coupons from La Mime, he proceeds to a cafeteria in the complex.

At the cafeteria, Harlock notices Tochio Oyama eating across the room. As Tochio prepares to leave, he gives Harlock a bottle of sake, wishing him to take care. Tochio is accosted by Irumidas 'ruffians'. Harlock intercedes and a fracas ensues. Tochio and Harlock eventually get away and formally introduce themselves.

Harlock and Tochio are recaptured by the Irumidas to be informed that they both have memory genes based on a common experience. According to the "Memory Molecular Analysing Scanner", an earlier Harlock and Tochio meeting took place during World War II. Phantom F. Harlock II was an ace German fighter pilot; Tochio was a Japanese engineer designing a new precision sight, who also has hopes of working on a project to take man to the moon one day. Tochio realizes that Harlock's father wrote the epic, "My Youth in Arcadia." Harlock takes Tochio with him to his fighter's fuselage. After an air battle, Harlock proceeds to Switzerland. Harlock laments on returning to the land of his ancestors, Heiligenstadt his Arcadia (paradise/utopia). His fighter crashlands just short of the Swiss border. Harlock realizes why the fighter's handling was strange earlier - Tochio had tied the plane's severed stabilizing cables to his wrists, injuring them. Harlock carries Tochio across the border, and gives Tochio his prized gun sight and returns to his fighter to be captured by the Resistance Francaise. Phantom F. Harlock is never seen again....

After this flashback, Harlock is urged by Zeda and Tritter to transport troops to Tocarga in order to liquidate the planet. Harlock refuses. At that moment, the "Queen Emeraldus" flies overhead and lands. Emeraldus, a Free Space Trader, meets Tochio. Tochio questions Emeraldus on the condition of the "Queen Emeraldus". She tells Tochio of her failure to transverse the Fire River of Prominence, haunted by the Stanley Witch of Space. Tochio offers to fix her ship. In the meantime, La Mime tells Zoll of the Irumidas plot to dispose of Tocarga in order to extend their power in outer space.

Harlock tracks down Maya, the Rose of the underground. Harlock is ambushed by the Irumidas police. In the battle to protect Maya, Harlock's eye is shot out. Despite Maya's pleas, Harlock walks across the balcony into the Irumidas line of sight. A shot rings out.....

Harlock manages to find Emeraldus' campground under the Queen Emeraldus. Emeraldus and Tochio, who have been repairing the Queen Emeraldus, discovers that Harlock is injured as he blacks out.....

Harlock has reawakened, his injured eye bandaged. He wants to take the Queen Emeraldus and leave Earth when Zoll, La Mime and 50 aged Tocargan soldiers appear. Zoll wants to steal the Queen Emeraldus so the soldiers can return to Tocarga and die with their families. Tochio insists on using a new spaceship which he has secretly built. La Mime persuades Zoll to allow Harlock and Tochio to transport the soldiers to Tocarga.

As the Queen Emeraldus takes off, the Earth resistance attacks the Irumidas base while Tochio leads Harlock, La Mime and the Tocargan soldiers to the secret ship. Maya pleads with Zoll to take her to see the new ship take off. Zoll knowing the dangers tries to change Maya's mind, but she is intent on going.

Tochio, Harlock and comrades board the battleship, "Arcadia", a ship built with the technology inherited from Tochio's ancestors, the ship to fulfill their dream. The flag of freedom is unfolded. Harlock enters the bridge having donned a black jump-suit with his skull insignia and a patch over his damaged eye. The Arcadia casts off from its hidden berth - beneath the Irumidas Occupational Headquarters, much to the surprise of Zeda. Maya watches as the Arcadia roars by, passing the landing Queen Emeraldus. Zoll and Maya are captured by the Irumidas soldiers.



PHANTOM F. HARLOCK II

MY YOUTH IN ARCADIA

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In an attempt to recapture Harlock, Zeda threatens to execute Queen Emeraldus and Maya if Harlock does not surrender. La Mue and Tochiro plead with Harlock not to sacrifice Emeraldus and Maya. Harlock remains silent.

Zeda wants to cancel the execution. He believes that the execution will only cause more revolt. Marison wants to make an example out of Emeraldus and Maya. Friter claims that if the execution is cancelled, the earthmen would be uncontrollable. Zeda ultimately agrees with them.

Dawn of the execution. The Arcadia's crew watches from Earth orbit as Emeraldus and Maya are beheaded by Margison. Tochiro begs Harlock to do something. Suddenly, Zoll and Tocargan soldiers attack the execution squad, followed by civilians. As Emeraldus and Maya are freed, Margison shoots Maya in the back and Emeraldus across the face when she goes to Maya's aid. Zoll is shot in the back by Friter when he confronts Margison. Harlock raises the Flag of Freedom and heads for Tocarga.

Maya expresses her guilt for the responsibility of Emeraldus's face being scarred and the death of so many. Emeraldus assures her otherwise. Meanwhile, reinforcements are sent to Earth. Zeda is preparing for Harlock's return.

When Harlock arrives on Tocarga with the small band of Tocargan soldiers, they find out that the planet has died out while waiting for Zoll's return. After a battle with Irumidas drones, Harlock abandons Tocarga with Mira, Zoll's sister; Tori san and the last surviving Tocargans when Tochiro warns them of an approaching Irumidas planet demolition bomb. The Arcadia escapes before Tocarga is destroyed.

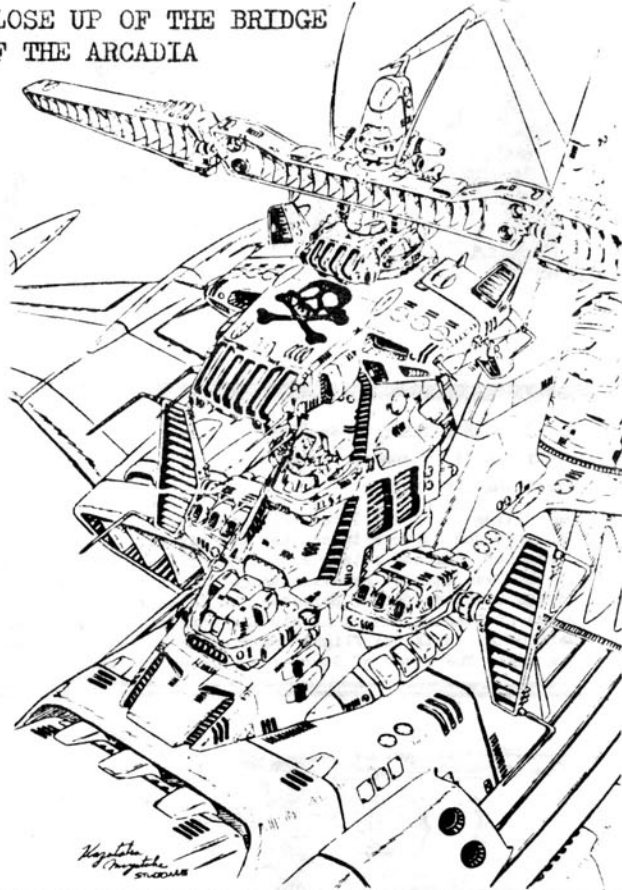
Harlock challenges the Stanley Witch of Space in the Fire River of Prominence. Mira, the last Tocargan woman, dies. The Arcadia is drawn into the flames. The Witch of Stanley laughs. The Arcadia is released after the last remaining Tocargans jump off the Arcadia into the flames of Prominence. As the Arcadia leaves, the Stanley Witch screams.....

Zeda is ready for Harlock's return to Earth. After Harlock lands, Zeda orders him to leave Earth. Harlock complies. Emeraldus carries the ailing Maya to the Arcadia, who eventually dies in Harlock's arms. Harlock prepares to leave when Margison, dissatisfied with Zeda's willingness to let Harlock go, pulls his gun on Harlock. Harlock promptly shoots him between the eyes. Arcadia and Emeraldus leave the Earth.

Zeda, in the battleship Starsatt, compliments Harlock and Tochiro on being true Earthmen. He challenges the Arcadia to a duel; samurai to samurai. The decisive battle between the Arcadia and the Starsatt begins.

During the course of the battle, the Arcadia's combat sight is destroyed. Tochiro uncovers the sight that Phantom F. Harlock II gave to his ancestor. The spare target sight saves the Arcadia from defeat. Zeda orders his remaining crew to abandon ship. The Arcadia rams the Starsatt, destroying the ship and Zeda. The Arcadia is victorious!

CLOSE UP OF THE BRIDGE
OF THE ARCADIA



Harlock takes on the Irumidas Fleet using the Arcadia flow shields to deflect the enemy fire. Harlock broadsides the Irumidas flagship and pierces its bridge with Arcadia's boarding tubes. Harlock shoots the commander. The Arcadia pulls out the tubes, decompressing the ship and causing it to explode, thereby destroying the rest of the fleet in a chain reaction of collisions.

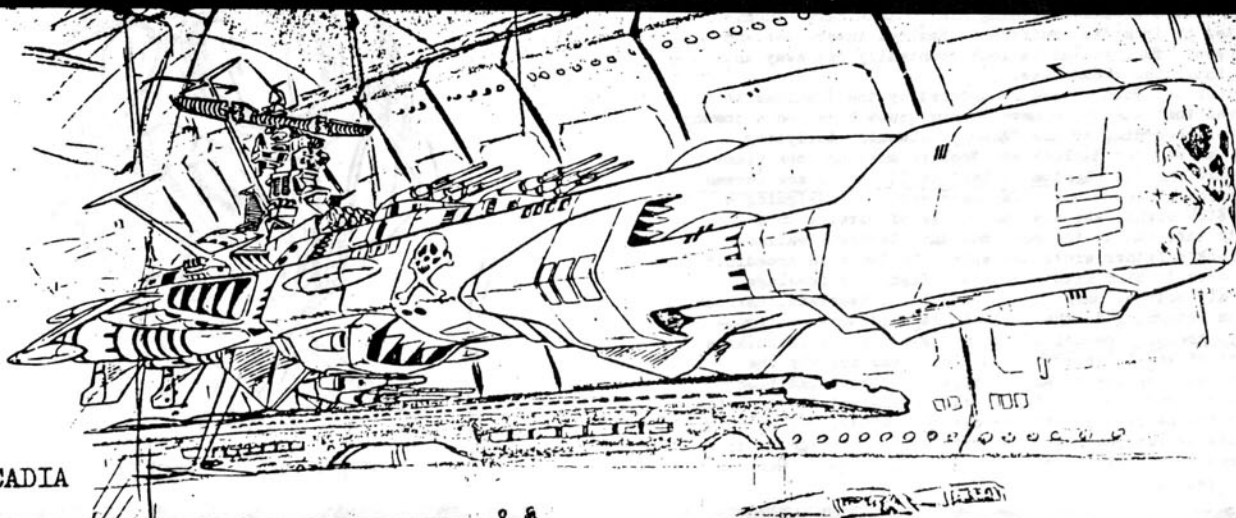
Harlock bids farewells to Zoll, Mira and Maya and releases them into the endless sea of stars, saluting them. Harlock condemns the weak earthman and then the Arcadia and Queen Emeraldus fly off into deep space.

Soundtracks

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| My Youth in Arcadia Suite Pt. I..... | CX-7058 |
| Suite Pt. II..... | CX-7063 |
| Digital Trip..... | CX-7071 |
| Drama..... | CB-7129-30 |

(Synthesizer)
(Japanese)

THE ARCADIA



THE FINAL YAMATO

by Ardith Carlton

The clouds of confusion have finally cleared, and the multitude of mysteries have melted away. Space Battleship Yamato--The Concluding Chapter, a.k.a. "Final Yamato," has brought in the yen in Japan and bowled over the fen here in the States. Last April VAP Video released the movie on commercial videotape in Japan (although the version differs slightly from the movie actually released to theaters), and a number of copies have made their way to North America, giving folks who just couldn't afford a jaunt to Japan a long-awaited chance to see the movie.

The film was made with all intention of ending the decade-old saga once and for all. But while the movie's visuals and music were spectacular, many Japanese fans felt cheated by the story and treatment of the characters. And now fans on this side of the ocean are seeing just why this movie dropped Yamato out of favor with the Japanese public.

The events leading up to the making of the movie help explain why "Final Yamato" is the way that it is. Way back in those carefree days of 1978, the movie Arrivederci Yamato was a huge hit, and as a sequel to the first Yamato series and the condensed movie version, Arrivederci gave the saga an emotional and satisfying ending. But three months after that movie's release, the Yamato 2 TV series began broadcast--not only rehashing the basic story of Arrivederci, but changing the ending so that Yamato and some of her crew survived and the epic could continue. While this move lost Yamato a lot of its following, just as many people were glad to have more Yamato and stuck with it. But the damage had been done--the storyline's continuity, as well as the emotions of all the fans who had shared Yamato's "last voyage" and had made Arrivederci one of the biggest animated SF hits of all time, had been tossed out the window for the sake of cashing in on Yamato's popularity. The credibility of Yamato was damaged in the sight of many fans, and Yamato never again attained the tremendous popularity it had enjoyed before Yamato 2.

1979's TV feature Yamato--The New Journey and 1980's theatrical hit Be Forever Yamato were very successful, and led to the 1980 TV series Yamato III. But the series ran into problems--first it had been planned for 52 episodes (which will be detailed in the next issue of the Pandora Report), but ended up being cut back to 25 episodes early in production. The series didn't do badly in the ratings, pulling an average of 15.4 percent of all viewers, but Yamato's popularity was on the decline.

Although production company Office Academy's disbanding and reformation as producer Yoshinobu Nishisaki's West Cape Corporation (nishi means "west," and saki means "cape"...) wasn't completed until the beginning of 1982, plans had been under

consideration since late 1980 for a move by West Cape Corporation to the United States. Thanks to Westchester Films' English Yamato version Star Blazers there is a growing market for Yamato movies and merchandise in North America, as compared to a shrinking market in Japan, and West Cape saw their chance. (In fact, the first of their merchandizing efforts, Vol. 1 of a set of English Star Blazers Anime Comics, was distributed in the States in February.) But that left an obligation to finish up the Yamato saga in Japan before moving on, and that's where Yamato--The Concluding Chapter comes in.

The movie opens with a quiet view of the starry seas of space, deceptively peaceful. A deep voice intones: "The glittering stars...In this infinitely-expanding cosmos, many forms of life are taking their first breath. They were brought to life by the universe's great mystery, the providence of Nature, and Earth is no exception. In a time separated from today by four billion years, when Earth was still lifeless, the water-planet Aquarius came from outside the galactic system and orbited past our planet. It is said that, at that time, gravity pulled water from Aquarius to Earth, and that water held the buds of life. Before long, the fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals evolved from the bacteria of those buds, and our human race was born. This is the myth that has been woven about space and the birth of life...and now, that myth of space will become a fact. In reality, water-planet Aquarius is now making a huge, elliptical orbit toward Earth. Earth doesn't know this fact yet. The time is the year 2203 A.D.

"In a far corner of our galactic system, an enormous disaster is taking place. Another galactic system nebula emerged from a different dimension, and intersected with our galaxy. Due to this crossing, in the center of the galactic system, many of the stars in the vicinity of the Nucleus Fixed Star System collided. And within the Nucleus Fixed Star System, both Leader Desslar's Garuman-Gamilas Empire and the Bolar Commonwealth face the crisis of severe destruction."

Enter the space battleship Yamato under Captain Susumu Kodai (Derek Wildstar), struggling through turbulent space in search of Desslar's mechanical Garuman-Gamilas planet. They find it, but the place has been thoroughly trashed, and there are apparently no survivors. Kodai tosses a bouquet of flowers into the wreckage of Desslar's Palace in tribute to his friend and arch rival, but the ceremony is interrupted as twin planet Starsha collides with the Garuman-Gamilas world. To escape, Yamato has no choice but to warp into the unknown.

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Some snazzy special effects spit Yamato out by planet Deingil as it is being drenched by huge columns of water from the passing water-planet Aquarius. Ever-noble Kodai takes one look at the tidal waves and drowning people, and decides to go down with the Cosmo Hound shuttle and a rescue crew to look for survivors in the soup. As Yamato waits in the stormy skies above, the Hound's crew saves some Deingilans. But when they try to get them aboard Yamato, a giant wave swats the space battleship, dumping the Hound, the rescue crew, and the Deingilans back down into the seas of the planet's surface. However, thanks to a quickness of grab gained from long years of being the show's star, Kodai manages to hold onto both the edge of Yamato's docking ramp and a cute little Deingil kid, and reboards Yamato.

Back on the main bridge, Kodai yells at Daisuke Shima (Mark Venture) for not sending out the lifeboats to try to save the Hound's crew. But Shima insists that Kodai give the order to leave—the ship can barely stay aloft under the torrents of water coming down—and Kodai finally gives in. As Yamato leaves planet Deingil, Kodai goes down to visit the Deingilan boy he saved (who is known as, conveniently enough, Deingil Boy), furious at himself for spending so many of his crew's lives to save just one Deingilan. Then Shiro Sanada (Sandor the Secret Cyborg) reports that, except for the bluish color of Deingil Boy's skin, his body is exactly like a human's! As Kodai mulls this mildly mind-boggling revelation, he and Analyzer (IQ-9) send a report to Earth Defense Force Headquarters about planet Deingil and the huge planet of water they watched drown it. But since the water-planet is traveling toward our solar system at about one-half the speed of light, Earth should be safe for at least the next 6000 years.

Unfortunately, Yamato herself is safe for only about the next 60 seconds—abruptly, the ship is attacked by a mysterious battle fleet whose Hyper Radioactive Missiles slice right through Yamato's armor plating. As the explosions and radiation steadily cut down the crew, Sanada has Kodai order everyone into their spacesuits for protection. But then the main bridge takes a direct hit by a Hyper Radioactive Missile—before Kodai can put his helmet on.

Aboard one of the enemy ships, curly-topped nasty Lugar Do Zahl watches Yamato plummet toward a moon, then heads home to the Uruku—a vast city-satellite that vaguely resembles an ancient Egyptian city and Mount Fuji crossed with a flying football field, and houses all the fighting forces of the Deingilans. Once there, Lugar Do Zahl tells his father, Great Priest-President Lugar, how all life on their home planet has now been drowned... including the rest of their family.

"In this world, only the strong thrive...it's only right that the feeble old people, women and children die out," Lugar replies, to show the audience what a sweetheart he is. He then launches into an explanation of his nefarious plot to do rude things to a certain planet, as his son and generals listen with characteristically-evil gleams in their beady eyes: "Gentlemen, we can impose on the water-planet Aquarius the destiny of a wanderer of space. But the energy of this city-satellite Uruku has limitations. Fortunately, within the waters of Aquarius is tritium to replenish our mobile fleet's energy, and an energy absorption plant has been constructed there. Our greatest concern now is the migration ahead, to a planet group called a solar system, 3000 light-years away from here...I have decided to migrate to Earth! Fortunately, Aquarius is proceeding toward Earth. We will make Aquarius warp with our super thermonuclear energy, and in a short time Earth will be drowned and its humans exterminated. After that, we can draw off the water and migrate there."

As with most villains' plots, there is one small drawback—the Uruku can only warp Aquarius for 150 light-years at a time, and it takes so much

energy and time to replenish it, only one warp every 24 hours can be done. So, to make sure no one escapes from Earth in the 20 days it will take Aquarius to get there, Lugar puts his son in charge of keeping everyone trapped on the planet.

Meanwhile, back at that obscure little moon from a few paragraphs ago, the helpless Yamato crashes against a mountain ridge. As luck would have it, the auto-pilot switch is jolted into operation (golly!), and with her whole crew either dead or unconscious, Yamato begins to limp back to Earth under her own guidance.

Four days later, things are really jumping at the Earth Defense Force Headquarters. The report from Yamato hadn't mentioned anything about warping water-planets, and experts are predicting that it will reach Earth in only 16 days. But even more worrisome, at least to the Commander's aide and Kodai's fiancée Yuki Mori (Nova), is Yamato's rather unsettling silence since making the report. However, everyone is distracted from their miseries when Dr. Sakezo Sado (Dr. Sane) wanders into the Commander's office with a relic he borrowed from the Museum of History: part of a Babylonian clay tablet that shows a planet of water called Aquarius orbiting past Earth four billion years ago, and dropping a few trillion tons of water in the process. And Dr. Sado is certain that the water-planet heading for Earth is really the legendary Aquarius.

Just then a report comes in from Earth's Pluto outpost—Yamato has been sighted on her way back home, but isn't answering any tries at communication. Fearing the worst, a group of Earth Defense officers, Dr. Sado, Yuki, and a whole mess of medics are on hand to meet Yamato when the battleship finally docks...and their fears are confirmed when they go aboard. Debris and crewmen have been flung everywhere, but Dr. Sado gives Yuki a shred of hope—crew members who were able to get into their spacesuits in time are just in a temporary state of asphyxiation, and should be able to be saved. Yuki hurries on to the main bridge, but then that shred of hope is shattered—Kodai lies sprawled on the floor before her, helmet at his side. "You can't be dead!" Yuki shrieks, but her now-former fiancée isn't listening—he's gone, and Yuki prepares to join him in the only way she can...she unholsters his Cosmo Gun and puts its muzzle to her throat. But her earlier shrieks had reached the ears of Sanada (who survived the radiation with his helmet's faceplate up—maybe he's a Super-Secret Cyborg...?!), and he knocks the gun from her hands before she can pull the trigger.

With disaster looming only two weeks away, the Government organizes an evacuation fleet to try to get everyone to space colonies and temporary settlements throughout the solar system. People of 2203 being not so different from those of 1983, panicky masses begin cramming into the ships.

Not far from the stampedes at the space port, in Megalopolis' Central Hospital, Kodai is recovering from a mysterious operation that somehow brought him back to life. After a nifty dream sequence where Yuki saves him from falling into a never-ending hell—written in the shooting script as Scene 96, cut from the finished product, but always entertaining to speculate on and take up article space with—Kodai breaks through into consciousness to find Yuki keeping a bedside vigil. He immediately tries to piece together what happened to Yamato and the crew, and even in his dazed condition, he can pick up the terrible truth from Yuki's half-answers and subject-changings...one-third of the entire crew was lost. The weight of so many deaths on his conscience sends Kodai into a deep depression, and he decides to resign his captaincy.

While Kodai is feeling small, Lugar Do Zahl is having a ball. After charging into the Saturn zone with his Solar System Control Fleet, ambushing and blasting Earth's evacuation fleet, he adds the back-up Earth Defense fleet and remaining Earth bases on other planets to his collection of conquests.

the Art File

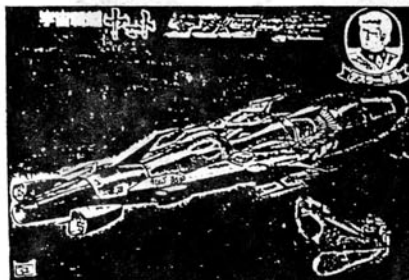
Fan artists are welcomed to submit artwork to the Art File. We are looking for art that uses Star Blazers or other Japanese animation as it's subject in a serious or humorous style. Please ink all work. For shading please use cross hatching or zip-a-tone. No Roman Album tracings, please. We are also interested in seeing paintings and sculpture. Please make sure all photos are in black and white. Write - Star Blazers Fan Club,



by Frank Strom



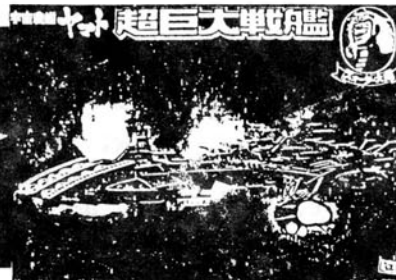
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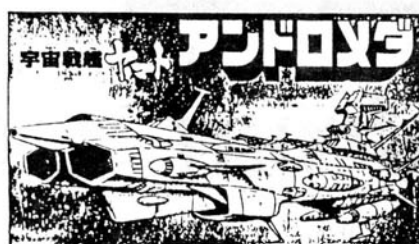
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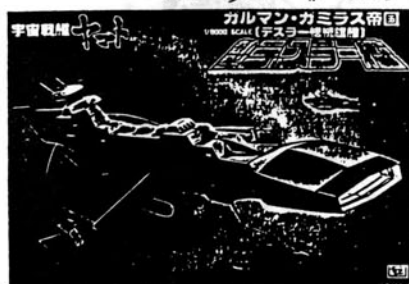
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communications

Letters to the editor are welcomed from all members, and for that matter non-members of the club. The Communications page is your chance to express your feelings on the Star Blazers Fandom Report, Japanese Animation, or any related topics. Next issue I would like to get some feedback on the Star Blazers animation comic from anyone who has read it. Write all letters to - the Star Blazers Fan Club, Communications,

The following is a section of a letter printed in the Spring '84 issue of Science Fiction Review. If you are interested in ordering a copy send a SASE to Science Fiction Review,

The letter was commenting on an article on ConStellation, the World SF Con, which was by Charles Platt. I think you will see why it caught my eye -

...I'd like to add a couple of things he left out of his convention report: the spontaneous applause that broke out in the back of the hall when Chalker got to the Best Novel Hugo and remarked that he hadn't won that one either, and the fact that the premiere showing of the final Yamato cartoon was better attended than the program for The Right Stuff - - evidently there's a larger fan interest in the mock-heroics of a bunch of militaristic Asiatics than there is in real-world courage.....

Richard McEnroe

The first thing that caught my eye was the fact that Final Yamato wasn't shown at Worldcon, it was Arrivederci Yamato. It seems this person didn't even stop by and view the movie - and yet goes on to give opinions on what he didn't even see. There were several other things that bugged me about his comments, but what really got me was his term "militaristic Asiatics" which struck me as being bigoted. What made it worse was that the editor, Dick Geis, let this comment go by without a remark.

...Finally, if there are any Star Blazers fans with in broadcast range of CPTV channel 49, I'd like to hear from them. Recently the Dr. Who groups locally have brought financial incentives to bear and succeeded in winning that show a regular place in late prime-time, with regular special three-hour full-length showings every couple of months. If we can do the same, we may be able to get showings of Yamato and other Japanese films, without commercial interruption, at least once a month, or every other month. Anyone game to try?...

Elizabeth Cerritelli

-The Dr. Who idea is a good one, but there is one catch. Dr. Who and other British SF series are owned by the BBC, which for one reason or another only deals with American Public TV. On the other hand Westchester Films isn't interested in Public TV, but commercial stations. However it seems that the Japanese corporations are starting to invest in America. The Star Blazers animation comic seems to be proof that they are looking to push the series.

...How do you people feel about the resurrection of Admiral Okita? I did not know of it till recently I received the Final Yamato pamphlet (Which I enjoyed very much. I especially cherish the description of Dr. Sane, the Yamato's "boozy but capable" Chief Surgeon). Anyways, I was very disappointed to hear of his return. The only constructive thing Okita did was die! Cap'n Potato-Head (as he is known around here) did nothing but give redundant orders, frequently collapse at the helm, and chastise Kodai (Wildstar) for pulling Yamato's cookies out of the oven on several occasions. We all know he was only a figure-head anyway! What gave him the right to rag on Kodai when he (Kodai) had basically assumed control of the ship around episode #6?!

Trish Ledoux

-You aren't the only one who seemed upset with the plot (or lack thereof) in Final Yamato. While the animation of the movie was fantastic, the plot was too much of a re-hash. What got me was not only did they bring Okita back, but they brought him back only to knock him off in the end!



ADS & MORE

Ads in this section are free to members of the Star Blazers Fan Club. Please send all ads to - the Star Blazers Fan Club, Ads and More, P.O. Box 1047, Bellmore, New York 11710. We reserve the right to reject ads on an editorial basis.

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For sale or trade (for Yamato/Japanimation) X-Men 94-180 (all in good to mint), assorted Cinefantastique, Savage Sword of Conan. For list write to - R. Morganbesser, Suite E-38 444 Hudson Street, NY, NY 10014

Wanted - Looking for any Yamato movies on VHS format, from Space Cruiser Yamato to Final Yamato. Write to Howard Bilger at 3922 Terrace Street, Philadelphia, PA 19128

Wanted - Videotapes of Yamato 3rd season. Frank Young, 22100 Burbank Blvd., 350 F, Woodland Hills, California 91367

Wanted - Those Obnoxious Aliens, Dr. Slump, any other Japanese comic animation on VHS. Also looking for VHS owner with cable. Have access to Star Blazers and Force Five on Boston TV. Steve Burstein, 264 Cleon Street, Lynn MA 01902

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Staff - Michael Pinto (Editor & Graphic Design), Brian Cirulnick, Ardith Carlton, Katleen Morrison, Stephen Boyd, Randy Chua and Frank Strom

Club Chapters

***STAR BLAZERS ROCKVILLE (MARYLAND)**
Chris Bond, 711 Grandin Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

***STAR BLAZERS WEST MICHIGAN**
Steve Harrison, 1355 Cornell S.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49508

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Caren Perlmutter, 22 Third Street
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If you want to start a chapter or you aren't listed here contact the club address, c/o Brian Cirulnick