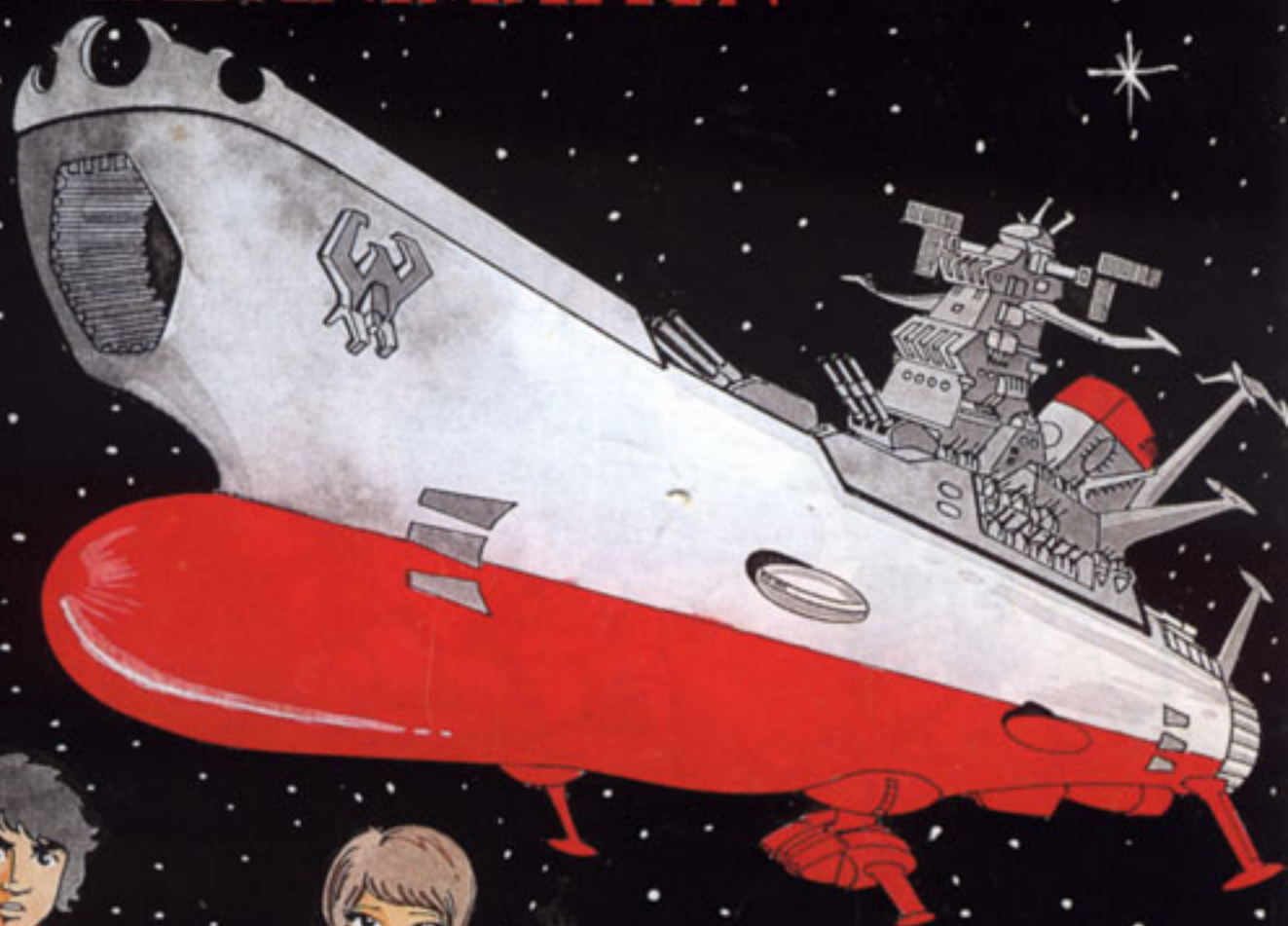


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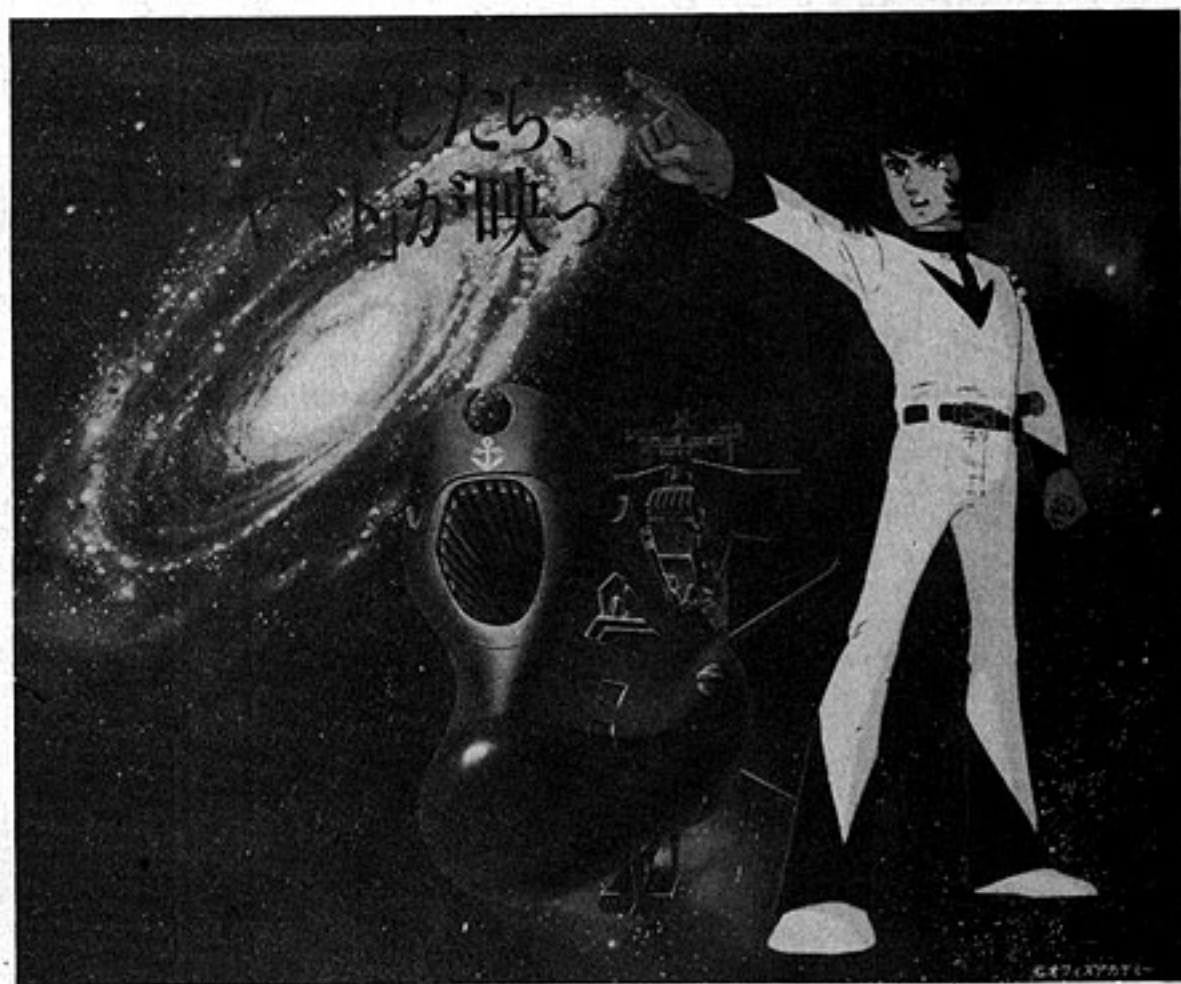
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STAR BLAZERS

THE LEGEND OF SPACE CRUISER YAMATO

by Allen Rowe



Editor's Note: If you are unfamiliar with the events chronicled in the original *Space Cruiser Yamato* or first season of *Starblazers*, I suggest you turn to the *Starblazers* episode guide prior to reading this article.--Joe.

In 1974, one of the most historic events in Japanese animation history took place, although it's normally receptive audience didn't really notice.

In a year dominated by giant robot and superhero cartoons (such as *Mazinger Z* and *Gatchaman*), a science fiction series premiered that was destined to become a classic of the genre, *Uchu Senkan Yamato*.

Created by Yoshinobu Nishizaki and Leiji Matsumoto, the crew of the Yamato were united in a desperate quest across intergalactic space to save a dying Earth from the threat of the evil Gamillas Empire with the aide of Queen Staasha

of the distant planet Iskandar. After 26 episodes of trial and tribulations, it's quest fulfilled, left the airwaves in 1975.

In July of 1977, inspired by the overwhelming worldwide response to George Lucas's *Star Wars*, Nishizaki produced a condensed feature length film version of the television series also titled *Space Cruiser Yamato*. Yamato became a phenomenal success, seizing the imagination of the Japanese and permanently changing the course of animation in Japan.

After the hugely profitable release of Yamato, Nishizaki prepared an all new movie sequel to the first film that would detail the end of the mighty battleship. The second film, released in 1978, was called *Saraba Uchu Senkan Yamato* or *Arrivederci Yamato*. Arrivederci begins one year following Space Cruiser with the ominous threat of a great white comet on a collision course with Earth. A now decommissioned Yamato is stolen by

Kodai and the surviving crew members of the ship's maiden voyage and sent by Teresa, the spirit of universal love, on a desperate mission to defeat the White Comet Empire as they threaten to conquer the cosmos.

As the story unfolds a tragic confrontation between Kodai and Deslar of the Gamillas leaves Yuki Mori mortally wounded. Deslar commits suicide and the film climaxes with a massive space battle in which the White Comet Empire totally destroys Earth's new fleet of defenders. Only the battered Yamato remains with a mere 18 crew members left. But Kodai, with Yuki beside him, and the ghosts of Captain Okita and his many fallen comrades supporting him, sends the Yamato on a kamikaze-like course into the White Comet's space fortress saving not only his beloved Earth, but the entire galaxy from enslavement.

In October of 1978, *Space Cruiser Yamato 2* premiered on Japanese television and was basically a 25 episode adaptation of *Arrivederci* with some notable revisions in the storyline. For example: Teresa became a mortal woman and lost her heart to Daisuke Shima, Yamato's navigator. Also, Deslar and Yuki survive the finale of the television epic. Needless to say, this series lost Yamato some fans!

Yamato the New Voyage was an all-new 90 minute television movie, broadcast in July of 1979, and was very well received. Beginning immediately after the adventures chronicled in *Yamato 2*, New Voyage found the Yamato allied with Deslar defending the planet Iskandar and it's only inhabitants, Queen Staasha and Mamoru Kodai, Susumu's older brother, from an attack by warships from the Dark Nebula Empire. It takes the ultimate sacrifice of Staasha to destroy the Dark Nebula fleet. A grieving Mamoru survives, tricked by his wife into entering an escape pod with very precious cargo; Sasha, their infant daughter and last of the Iskandar race.

Yamato the New Voyage ends with the spirit of Queen Staasha consoling her beloved family and friends...Deslar and his fleet parting.

The next saga premiered in theatres in August of 1980. *Be Forever Yamato* opens in 2202, one year after the loss of Staasha and Iskandar. The Dark Nebula Empire mounts a sudden invasion of the Earth and plants a 10 story-high doomsday device



, threatening to destroy the planet if the Yamato and her crew are not turned over to their vengeful hands. Susumu Kodai, gathering as many of his fellow shipmates as he can, attempts to escape an occupied Earth. He plans to rendezvous with the Yamato, hidden by Chief Mechanic Shiro Sanada in the asteroid Icarus, beyond the orbit of Mars. In flight, however, Yuki is wounded and is left behind at the mercy of the Dark Nebula.

Meanwhile, Mamoru uses explosives concealed under his uniform to take his own life and the lives of a room full of Dark Nebula warriors, giving Todo, the commander of Earth Defense, the chance to escape. Once free, he sends a message to Icarus ordering the Yamato on a mission to take the conflict to the Dark Nebula homeworld.

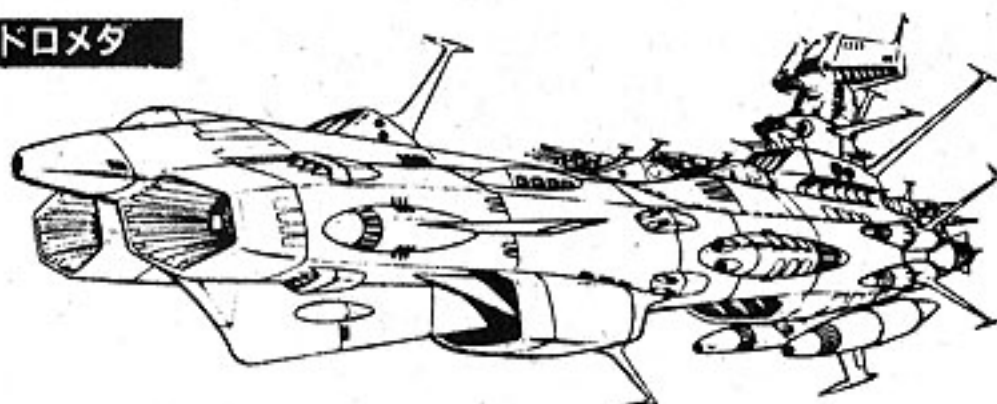
And so, a new quest begins for the Yamato, as the mighty starship and it's pilots fight through the stellar gauntlet of the Dark Nebula war machine. During the journey, Kodai is reintroduced to his niece Sasha who has grown from a baby (as seen in *Yamato the New Voyage*) to a beautiful, enchanting teenager in only one year's time; a natural trait of her Iskandarian bloodline. She becomes a comforting companion to her uncle, worried as he was about Yuki.

Back on Earth, Yuki's laser wound is tended to by Arufon, a second lieutenant of the Dark Nebula army. The dark eyed alien has become infatuated with the lovely human, but she rebuffs his advances, eventually getting away from him and participates in an assault on the mammoth bomb. The bomb is deactivated, but, during the raid, Yuki is confronted by Arufon, who is shot and dies; revealed to be a cyborg.

The Yamato reaches the Dark Nebula homeworld, which turns out to be a gigantic artificial space citadel. Battling to the heart of the fortress, Kodai fires the Wave Motion Gun and the base is consumed in an awesome conflagration. The enemy is destroyed: the Yamato and her crew have won, but they have lost too. Sadly, Sasha died in the blast of the space fortress. In the starry vastness of space, Sasha's smiling spirit appears before Kodai and the crew of the Yamato, joining her mother, Queen Staasha, in the



Producer Nishizaki



afterlife.

In the year 2205, the dynamic Deslar returns to become involved in the future of the Earth in *Space Cruiser Yamato III*, a 25 episode television storyline that debuted in October 1980. Since his last meeting with his one time foes four years ago, Deslar has rebuilt the Garuman-Gamilas Empire, but come into conflict with a rival starfaring power, The Bolar Commonwealth. In the midst of a space battle between the two fleets, a proton missile is fired into Earth's sun by accident, causing it to expand to many times its original size. The Earth is suddenly faced within a fiery end within one year's time. And so, the Yamato, along with starships from other 23rd century Earth nations, like the Arizona (United States), The Prince of Wales (Great Britain), and the Bismark (Germany), are sent spaceward in search to find a new world where humanity can relocate.

Soon the Yamato is caught up in the Gamilas/Bolar War. Captured after fighting a Gamilas fleet, the Yamato is turned over to Deslar for his enjoyment as a birthday present! However, learning of his former enemies' dire mission, he decides to help them, eventually aiding them in meeting the beautiful, mysterious Queen Luda of Shalbart. Once on her homeworld, Luda reveals herself to be the goddess Mother Shalbart in human form, and willing to help the crew of the Yamato save the Earth from solar devastation. She gives them the Hydro Cosmogen, a device that will restore the sun to it's normal state.

The television series climaxes with the ultimate battle between Deslar's forces and the Bolar Commonwealth, as the Yamato sets off to save Earth. The ending is a triumphant one, as, with the spiritual aide of Luda, Deslar defeats his enemies and Kodai, together with Yuki, fires the Hydro Cosmogen into the sun, healing the raging inferno and saving the Earth from a fiery fate.

With the ending of *Space Cruiser Yamato III* what next? Creators and fans of the saga began to realize that the series was losing steam and becoming too repetitive, it's original vitality fading. With other television series and movies growing more and more popular than Yamato (notably *Mobile Suit Gundam* in both incarnations), the time had come to bring Yamato to a definite conclusion.

The last tale in the saga premiered in Japan in March 1983.... *Space Cruiser Yamato: The Concluding Chapter*, also titled simply, *Final Yamato*. Taking place in 2203, directly after the story told in *Be Forever Yamato*, *Final* totally disregards the adventures chronicled in *Yamato III*, and establishes another alternate ending to the Yamato fable. As this film opens, the Milky Way Galaxy is in danger of being destroyed as another spiral galaxy has collided with it causing catastrophes on a galactic scale. On a survey mission to study the unprecedented phenomena, the Yamato discovers the Garuman-Gamilas homeworld a lifeless wasteland. Fearing their comrade Deslar is dead, Kodai and the crew conduct a memorial service for him, eventually





having to flee the planet before it is destroyed by the conflicting forces of the two galaxies.

Soon after, the Yamato chances upon another disaster in the making as they find the planet Deingil being deluged by a huge, twisting column of water coming from a gigantic wandering waterworld called Aquarius. Sighting a small group of survivors, Kodai boards a Cosmohound and leads a rescue that ends tragically when the Yamato is struck by a massive wave. All are lost save Kodai and one little boy.

Deingilan warships launch a devastating surprise attack on the Yamato. She makes it back to Earth, but only by using her automatic guidance systems. Once home, doctors (among them Sado and Yuki) find that two-thirds of the ship's crew is dead! Meanwhile, the Deingilan Warlord Lugal plans to use his space fortress, Uruku, to transport the entire planet into Earth orbit to repeat the calamity that struck his homeworld, but this time wiping out all humanity. Afterwards, the Deingilans will claim the Earth for themselves.

A new war thus begins, with the Earth's stellar fleets proving no match for the Deingilan military. The Yamato is repaired and a new crew recruited, but a remorseful Kodai resigns his command, tortured with the guilt over losing so many of his fellow crewmen on that last tragic mission. And so, as the Yamato prepares to lift-off to defend the Earth from a new adversary, the mighty starship gets a 'new' captain: amazingly, it turns out to be Juzo Okita, the Yamato's original Captain, who, by some miracle, has come back to life after dying at the end of the Yamato's first voyage!

The final quest begins, taking the mighty Yamato to Aquarius where it's crew has a visitation with the Queen of Aquarius, then is plunged into the ultimate battle with the Deingilans on the surface of their asteroid edifice. Uruku is destroyed, but Daisuke Shima, Kodai's longtime friend, dies. Lugal, with the remainder of his forces, prepares to destroy the Yamato once and for all. Unexpectedly, Lugal and the last of the Deingilans are killed by Deslar and his Garuman-Gamilas starfleet, who make a surprise appearance that saves the Yamato in the nick of time.

The space battle won, the Yamato returns to a still endangered Earth. With the crew sadly observing from another spacecraft, Captain Okita pilots his ship into the Aquarian water column,

and, firing the Wave Motion Gun, blows up the Yamato. The resulting explosion shatters the water pillar and, for one last time, the Yamato saves the Earth. Susumu Kodai and Yuki Mori are finally married as the epic saga of *Space Cruiser Yamato* comes to a shining end.

Final Yamato marked an end to the Yamato epic in Japan. In 1979, *Space Cruiser Yamato* and *Yamato 2* were purchased and meticulously translated into English by Westchester Films, Inc. under the title *Starblazers*. Unlike most 'chopping houses', Westchester maintained the integrity of the original anime (the theme is even intact) and edited only the most risque acts and graphic violence. Recently, *Yamato III* has been added to Westchester's *Starblazers* package. Of all Yamato's theatrical animation, only the 1977 *Space Cruiser Yamato* film has been translated into English.

Although Yamato's Japanese producers, Office Academy (formerly Westcape), have turned to other projects (*Blue Noah*, *Odin*) rumors abound about a new Yamato feature film. Also, a series spotlighting the charismatic villain, Deslar has even been suggested. Presently, these remain rumors perpetuated by overzealous fans, but with such a lucrative property as *Uchu Senkan Yamato*, rest assured that Office Academy and Leiji Matsumoto still have inclinations about expanding on the Yamato mythos.

The epic ends, but the legend lives on. *





APPENDIX

Translation Tables

Starblazers The Star Force

Captain Avatar
Derek Wildstar
Mark Venture
Nova
Sandor
Dr. Sane
IQ9
Orion
Alex Wildstar
Homer
Eager
Dash
Conroy
Captain Gideon
Hardy

Space Cruiser Yamato

Admiral Jyuzo Okita
Susumu Kodai
Daisuke Shima
Yuki Mori
Shiro Sanada
Dr. Sado
Analyzer
Goemon Tokugawa
Mamoru Kodai
Giichi Aihara
Kenjiro Oota
Yasuo Nambu
Saburo Kato
Ryu Hijikata
Akira Yamamoto

The Gamilon Empire

Deslok
Lysis
Talan
Krypt
Volgar
Ganz
Bane

The Gamillas Empire

Deslar
Domeru
Talan
Hiss
Gern
Shultz
Ganz

White Comet Empire

Zordar
Invidia
Dire
Gorse
Scorch

Gatlantis Empire

Zordar
Sabera
Genitz
Razera
Zabibaru

Mechanics

Argo
Tiger
Superstar
New Black Tiger
Wave Motion Gun
Andromeda

Meka

Yamato
Black Tiger
Cosmo Zero
Cosmo Tiger
Hado Ho
Andromeda

Premiere Dates

October 6, 1974 - March 30, 1975: *Space Cruiser Yamato* (26 episodes).

July 1977: *Space Cruiser Yamato* (theatrical release).

August 1978: *Arrivederci Yamato* (theatrical release).

October 14, 1978 - April 7, 1979: *Space Cruiser Yamato 2* (26 episodes).

July 1979: *Yamato: The New Voyage* (television special).

August 1980: *Be Forever Yamato* (theatrical film).

October 11, 1980 - April 4, 1981: *Space Cruiser Yamato III* (25 episodes).

March 1983: *Space Cruiser Yamato: The Concluding Chapter or Final Yamato* (theatrical release).

Timeline

2199 - 2200: *Space Cruiser Yamato*

2201: *Arrivederci Yamato; Yamato 2; The New Voyage*

2202: *Be Forever Yamato*

2205: *Space Cruiser Yamato III*

2203: *Final Yamato* (An alternate ending to the saga).

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Roman Albums: no. 36, *Be Forever Yamato*
no. 53, *Perfect Manual I*
no. 54, *Perfect Manual 2*
no. 56, *Final Yamato*

This is Animation #2, *Space Cruiser Yamato*

This is Animation #4, *Final Yamato*

The World Encyclopedia of Cartoons edited by Maurice Horn, "Uchu Senkan Yamato" by Frederik Schodt.



STAR BLAZERS



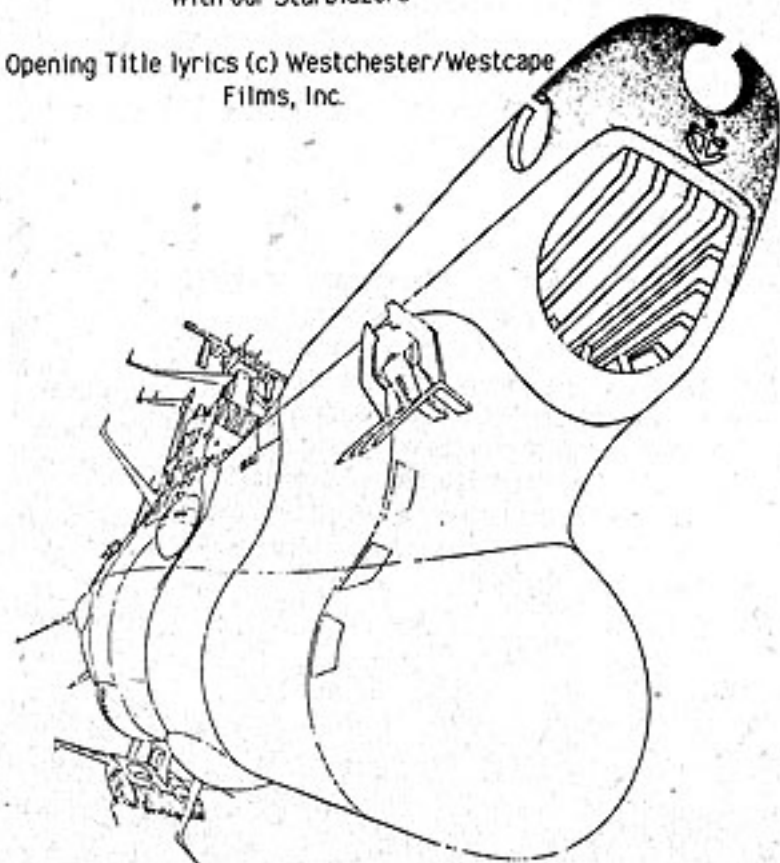
We're off to outer space
We're leaving Mother Earth
To save the human race
Our Starblazers

Searching for a distant star
Heading off to Iscandar
Leaving all we love behind
Who knows what danger we'll find?

We must be strong and brave
Our home we've got to save
If we don't in just one year
Mother Earth will disappear

Fighting with the Gamilons
We won't stop until we've won
Then we'll return and when we arrive
The Earth will survive
With our Starblazers

Opening Title lyrics (c) Westchester/Westcape
Films, Inc.



STAR BLAZERS

CHARACTER GUIDE

by Allen Rowe and Lester Swint



Captain Avatar (Admiral Jyuzo Okita)

The most famous and experienced military commander in the Defense Force and the original captain of the Argo. Avatar was chosen by the Earth's government to lead the Star Force on their voyage to Iscandar. Captain Avatar, more than any other figure, is the spirit of the Star Force.

It is his great concern for the homeworld of humanity that drives him in his quest to defeat the Gamillons. And it is his brilliance as a military tactician that heartens and inspires the crew in their desperate mission, even bringing the Star Force the respect of the supreme commander of the Gamillons, Deslok.



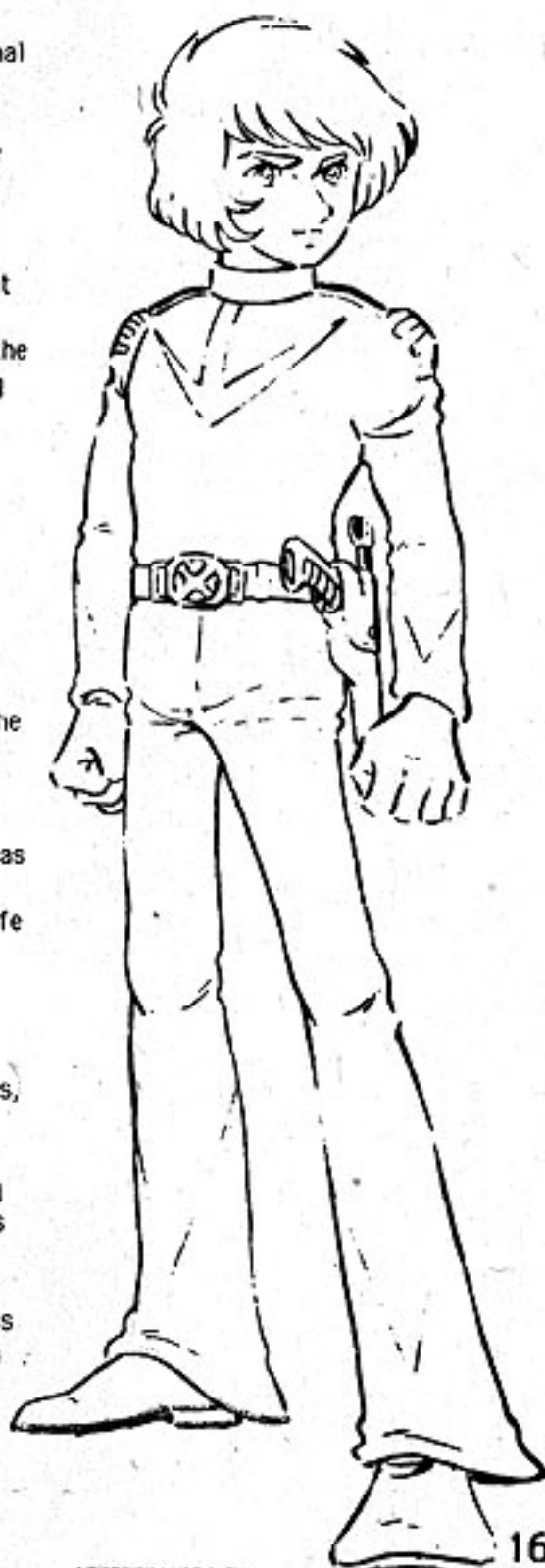
Derek Wildstar (Susumu Kodai)

Wildstar is the current captain of the Argo, having been appointed by Captain Avatar. When Derek first appeared, as the Argo's weapons officer, he was bitter and blamed Avatar for the misfortunes of his family: Wildstar's parents were killed by Gamillon bombs and his brother Alex was M.I.A., presumed dead.

He joined the Star Force to seek revenge, but as the trip progressed, Wildstar learned that vengeance was hollow and there was more to life than constant fighting.

Nova (Yuki Mori)

Nova is one of the Argo's original crewmembers, serving as radar operator, science officer, and nurse to the ship's doctor, Dr. Sane. Nova has a fragile, gentle beauty that contrasts her strong inner character. Her bravery has saved the lives of her fellow shipmates on more than one occasion and her subtle grace can be favorable compared to the larger than life characteristics of such other-worldly women as Queen Starsha and Teresa.



Mark Venture (Daisuke Shima)

Venture is the first and only pilot of the Argo. A stern, driven young man, Mark is a model soldier: loyal, obedient, and strong willed. Venture is best friends with Derek Wildstar. Perhaps because they have such different personalities, they are also friendly rivals. Venture is a hard man to know, but an easy man to respect and admire.



Sandor (Shiro Sanada)

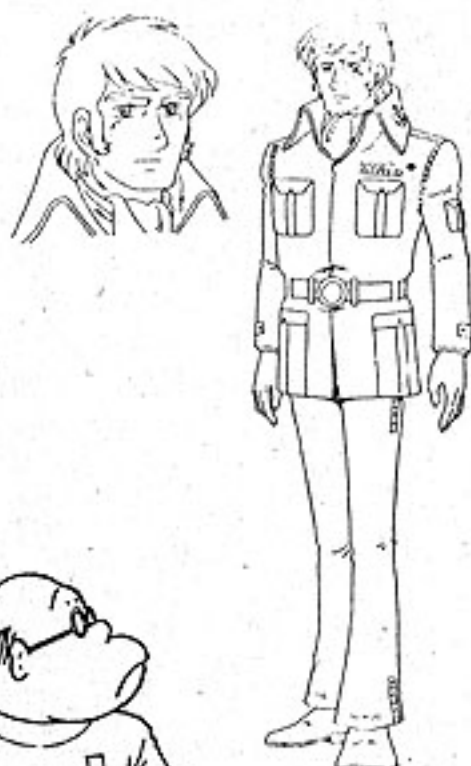
Sandor is the science officer aboard the Argo. His quick thinking and scientific prowess have saved the Star Force many times.

Sandor is a cyborg, the result of a childhood accident. This proves to be a blessing in disguise as he can do things no others can. Sandor is a fierce and loyal member of the Star Force, and one which they could not do without.



Alex Wildstar (Mamoru Kodai)

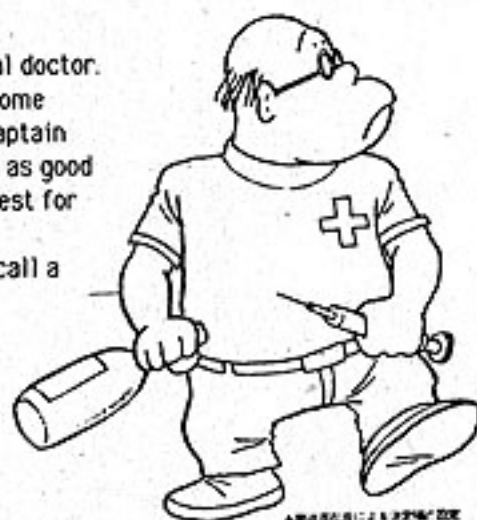
Alex Wildstar is the older brother of Derek Wildstar. A captain in the Defense Force, Alex is a brave, self-sacrificing soldier and an expert fighter pilot. It can be presumed that Alex inspired his little brother to enlist in the military and was a worthy role model for young Derek. At the start of the *Starblazers* saga, Alex is presumed lost in the Battle of Pluto.

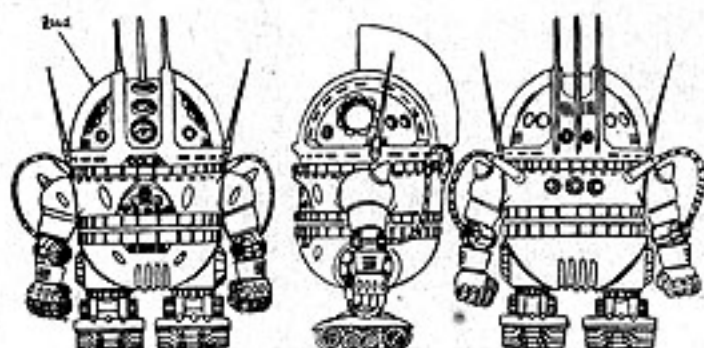


Doctor Sane (Doctor Sado)

Dr. Sane is the Argo's eccentric medical doctor. He is fond of pets and appears to have some curious drinking habits! Dr. Sane kept Captain Avatar and the rest of the Star Force in as good health as possible during the Argo's quest for Iscandar.

Dr. Sane is also very practical; he can call a spade a spade.





IQ9 (Analyzer)

IQ9 is a genius robot, or so he claims! He has multiple functions, extendable limbs, long range sensors, tools built into his fingers, and human emotions.

IQ9 had a 'crush' on Nova, and, although she could not return his 'love', this did not affect his outlook on 'life'.

Orion (Goemon Tokugawa)

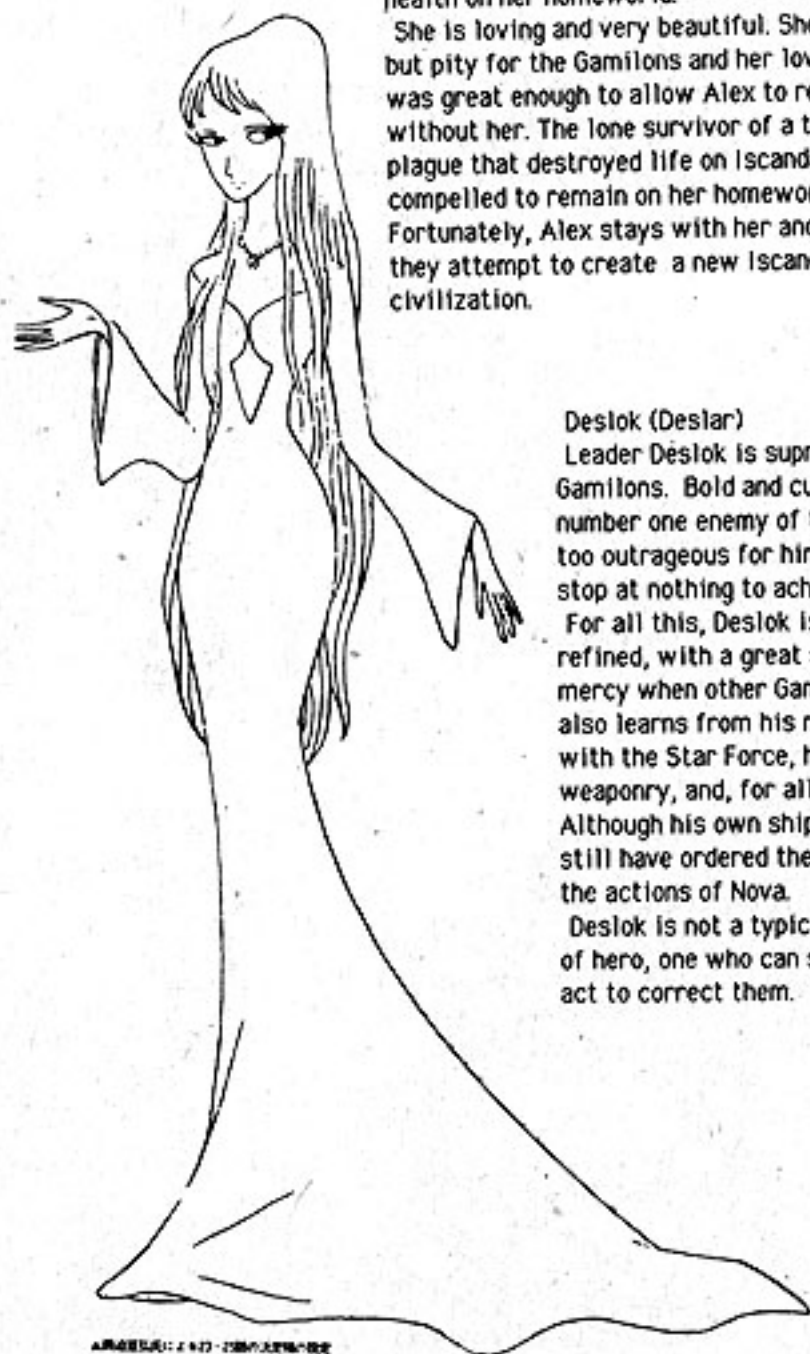
Orion is the chief engineer of the Argo. An old friend of Captain Avatar's, Orion sees to it that the Argo's Wave Motion Engine always delivers.



Queen Starsha (Staasha)

The Queen of Iscandar, Starsha offers the Cosmo DNA to Earth, and restores Alex Wildstar to health on her homeworld.

She is loving and very beautiful. She has nothing but pity for the Gamilons and her love for Alex was great enough to allow Alex to return to Earth without her. The lone survivor of a terrible plague that destroyed life on Iscandar, Starsha is compelled to remain on her homeworld. Fortunately, Alex stays with her and, together, they attempt to create a new Iscandarian civilization.



Deslok (Deslar)

Leader Deslok is supreme commander of the Gamilons. Bold and cunning, Deslok is easily the number one enemy of the Star Force. No plan is too outrageous for him to consider, and he will stop at nothing to achieve his goals.

For all this, Deslok is also quite cultured and refined, with a great sense of justice. He shows mercy when other Gamilons would not. Deslok also learns from his mistakes: in his last battle with the Star Force, he disabled all their weaponry, and, for all intents, defeated them! Although his own ship was damaged, Deslok could still have ordered the Argo's destruction, but for the actions of Nova.

Deslok is not a typical villain, but really a type of hero, one who can see his own mistakes and act to correct them. *



STAR BLAZERS

EPISODE GUIDE

Episode 1

In the year 2199, Earth was at war with the mysterious planet Gamilon. The Gamilons pummeled the Earth for twenty years and Earth was nearly defeated. The war with Gamilon had poisoned the Earth's surface with radioactive pollution and mankind was forced to retreat to underground shelters. This was a temporary measure at best, since the radiation was slowly seeping into the depths of the Earth. Finally the radiation had reached a critical point: within one year all life on Earth would be extinct.

In space, Captain Avatar led the remains of the Earth Defense Fleet against the Gamilon invaders at Pluto. Unfortunately, the fleet proves to be no match for the Gamilons and only through the sacrifice of Captain Alex Wildstar do any of the Earth ships escape. The battle at Pluto is unremarkable save for the appearance of an U.F.O. heading for Mars.

Cadets Mark Venture and Derek Wildstar intercept the mysterious craft and they find a beautiful girl clutching a capsule. Sadly, the alien is dead, but the cadets retrieve the capsule. Captain Avatar's ship, last survivor of the battle at Pluto, picks up Wildstar and Venture. Derek learns that his brother Alex is dead and meets Dr. Sane and Nova.

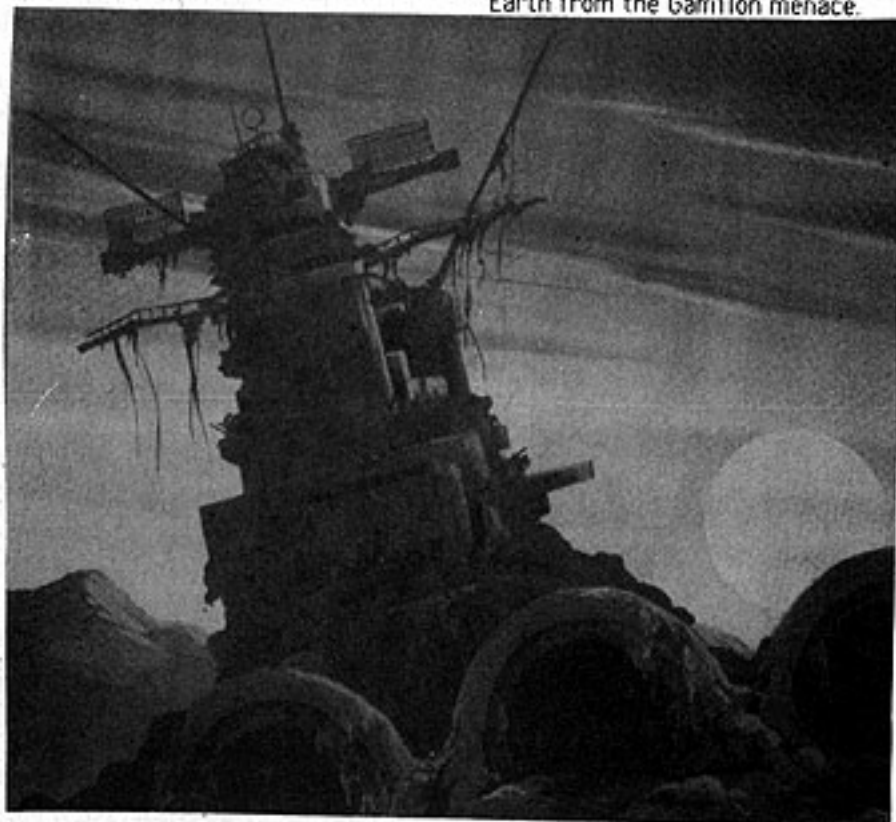
The capsule is examined and discovered to be a message from Queen Starsha of Iscandar. She offers the Earth a miracle machine, the Cosmo DNA. This DNA would destroy the deadly radiation threatening the Earth. The problem is that she cannot bring the machine to Earth. To this end, she supplies blueprints for a 'Wave Motion Engine': the only device that can enable a spacecraft to travel faster than light. This is important as Iscandar is 148,000 light years away!

A Gamilon patrol ship is sighted over the remains of the Japanese World War II battleship Yamato. Leaping into a plane, Wildstar pursues the Gamilon only to be forced down by engine failure. He approaches the remains perplexed by the Gamilon's interest in an old rusting relic.

Episode 2

It is revealed that the wreck of the Yamato is more than it appears. All of the Earth's nations are pouring what remains of their technology into the construction of a ship that could save the Earth.

The Yamato is rebuilt with the latest Iscandarian technology into the most powerful battleship in history. To prove her mettle, the ship rises from the Earth to destroy a Gamilon aircraft carrier. Wildstar, Venture, Dr. Sane, and Nova join the Star Force, ready to rescue the Earth from the Gamilon menace.



Episode 3

Upon receiving news of the destruction of his aircraft carrier, Colonel Ganz, the Gamilon commander, orders an 'Ultra Menace Missile' to be launched at the Yamato.

Captain Avatar announces to his young crew their mission: travel to Iscandar to gain the Cosmo DNA and return to Earth within one year. Because the mythical hero, Jason, had to recover a golden fleece to save his kingdom, Captain Avatar renames the Yamato the Argo, noting the similarities.

And so the Argo prepared to launch, only to be nearly destroyed by the 'Ultra Menace Missile'. Only the quick action of the Star Force averts disaster when the guns of the Argo prematurely detonate the Gamilon missile.

The Argo begins her long journey to Iscandar.

Episode 4

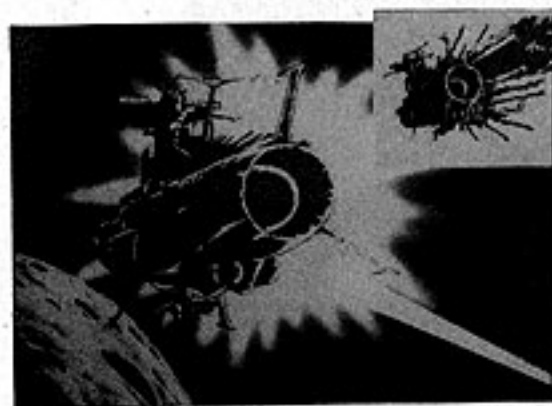
After leaving Earth, the Star Force runs into a Gamilon carrier force. In the ensuing melee, Wildstar and his Black Tiger Squadron distinguish themselves and the Argo escapes intact.

The Wave Motion Gun is fired for the first time and the Argo surpasses the speed of light reaching Mars. The engine is a success.

Episode 5

Eluding the Gamilon patrols, the Argo passes within the orbit of Jupiter. There, Wildstar and IQ9 locate a floating continent in the methane atmosphere. Unfortunately, the continent also has a Gamilon garrison stationed there. Captain Avatar orders the Wave Motion Gun, a by-product of the Iscandarian technology, to be used on the Gamilon base.

The gun is fired with devastating results. The base was the target, but the beam destroyed the entire continent and the ensuing fireball nearly destroys the Argo! The Wave Motion Gun would be used sparingly from then on.



Episode 6

After a space warp, the Argo is damaged and is forced to land on Saturn's moon of Titan for titanite; a mineral vital to the operation of the ship. Wildstar and Nova are sent to the surface to probe for the precious ore, only to be spotted by a Gamilon troop carrier.

A Gamilon tank nearly captures them, but is buried under an avalanche precipitated by Wildstar. Afterwards, Wildstar finds the frozen remains of his brother Alex's starship.

Episode 7

To counter the threat of the Argo's Wave Motion Gun, the Gamilons on Pluto construct the Reflex Gun, an energy cannon using satellites to deflect its beam and thus hit its target no matter where it is.

Enroute to Pluto, the Star Force discovers the source of the Gamilon planet bombs that are poisoning Earth and prepares to destroy the Pluto base that is launching them. As they approach Pluto, they fall within the range of the Gamilon Reflex Gun which promptly shoots them out of the sky. The Argo crashes into the frozen seas of Pluto.

Episode 8

Miraculously, the Argo survives the burst from the Reflex Gun. Wildstar organizes a covert strike force to invade the Gamilon fortress and destroy the Reflex Gun.

After braving many deadly traps, Wildstar and what's left of his company, sabotage the Reflex Gun. In the confusion that follows, the Gamilon base is destroyed, but not before the Gamilon Pluto fleet escapes.

The Argo departs Pluto and no more would the planet bombs ravage Earth.

Episode 9

The Gamilons and the Argo begin a deadly game of cat and mouse. The Argo, hiding in an asteroid field, is using the time to repair itself from the damage sustained by the Reflex Gun, while the Gamilons search for them.

Sandor develops a magnetic field system that draws asteroids to the Argo's hull, thus concealing it as a rather large asteroid.

Eventually, the Gamilons discover the Argo and a furious battle begins. Sandor's magnetic field is used to arrange asteroids in patterns that would deflect Gamilon missiles. Reversing the polarity sent the asteroids crashing into the Gamilon fleet causing incredible damage.

Ganz, leader of the Pluto garrison, orders his flagship to ram the Argo. He doesn't count of the Argo's rocket anchors, however, and, once they penetrate his hull, the Argo swings him into an asteroid. Scratch Colonel Ganz and the Pluto garrison.

Episode 10

The Argo is about to leave Earth's solar system, but before she departs a few goodby's are in order. Nearly everyone was upset about leaving their loved ones with the exception of Derek Wildstar. It seems that with the death of his brother, Alex, Wildstar had no one left on Earth (his mother and father had perished in a planet bombing years earlier).

At the same time, Captain Avatar also has no one to speak to, as his only son has died also. Together, Wildstar and the Captain commiserate and become more determined than ever to save the Earth.

Episode 11

On the Gamilon home world, the leader Deslok took a personal interest in the affairs of the Star Force. His generals developed a space mine field, certain to destroy the Argo.

The plan almost succeeded but for Sandor and IQ's quick thinking. Deslok was amused and sent congratulations to the Star Force.

Episode 12

Deslok develops a bizarre exo gas that absorbs matter and energy. It is part of a scheme to make the Star Force destroy itself. The exo gas, produced in enormous quantities, would either absorb the Argo or force it into the path of the Red Star.

To make matters worse, Captain Avatar is taken ill and it is up to Wildstar to save the ship. The exo gas nearly forces the Argo into the Sea of Fire, but for the Wave Motion Gun blasting a path through the solar flares of the Sea of Fire. The exo gas is then itself consumed by the Red Star. The Star Force escapes again, much to Deslok's chagrin.

Episode 13

Deslok appoints General Lysis, his top field commander, to the task of destroying the Star Force.

In the skirmish with Gamilon fighter planes, the Star Force takes a prisoner. It turns out that no one has ever seen a Gamilon before and the crew is surprised to find, contrary to their beliefs, that the Gamilons are not monsters but merely humans with blue skin! Wildstar, seeing the Gamilon prisoner, is mad with grief. The Gamilon



planet bombs killed his family, but Wildstar, realizing that this Gamilon is practically a boy, has a change of heart and spares his life.

Wildstar gives him lunch and sets him free, realizing that vengeance is hollow.

Episode 14

The Argo is caught in an Octopus Starstorm. Pilot Mark Venture is at a loss as to how to escape without losing precious time. The crew is becoming edgy, and fights are breaking out. Plus, the food supply is getting low.

A ray of hope is seen, however, as a Gamilon ship is sighted and the Argo follows its course. The ship is in normal space again and can resume their quest for Iscandar.

Episode 15

General Lysis takes command of the planet Balan from Volgar, acting commander. They mount a huge task force to seek out the Argo and attempt to track it in a sort of 'Sargasso Sea' of doomed starships.

The Argo is nearly destroyed, but for a message from Queen Starsha. She gives the Star Force vital information to escape Lysis's fleet. Their escape impresses Lysis and he considers them worthy foes.

Episode 16

IQ9 has developed a crush on Nova, generally following her around and pestering her.

The Argo passes Beemera, a planet that is on the way to Balan, the halfway point to Iscandar. IQ9 and Nova are sent to scout the planet and look for potential food sources. They soon find more than they bargain for when they are captured by the Bee People.

The Bee People are a race conquered by the Gamilons and there is a faction amongst their people who want to revolt. The leader of the revolt considers IQ9 and Nova to be Gamilons and are holding them hostage.

The queen of the Bee People is a puppet of the Gamilons and will do nothing. The Black Tigers attempt a rescue mission and eventually the Star Force and the Bee People reach an understanding. Nova rejects IQ's advances but IQ still wishes to 'love' her.

Episode 17

The Gamilon commander, Volgar, has discovered a new power on his planet Balan. The mass of life forms on Balan can be combined to form a huge monster. Against the orders of his superior, General Lysis, Volgar creates a 'Balanosaurus', a monster designed to crush the Star Force.

Unfortunately for Volgar, the Balanosaurus proves no match for the Wave Motion Gun and the Argo continues to journey to Iscandar.

Episode 18

In deep space, the Star Force encounters a new threat: the Gamilon Magnatron Space Fortress. This construct has a magnetic field strong enough to rip apart starships. Captain Avatar orders Wildstar and Sandor to investigate the fortress, using a ship made of non magnetic alloy.

Boarding the alien ship, Sandor and Wildstar encounter a Gamilon robot which they speedily dispatch. As they explore the interior of the fortress, Sandor reveals to Wildstar his relationship to his brother Alex. It seemed Sandor and Alex were good friends. Alex went in for more physical pursuits, while Sandor was more at home in the lab. In spite of these differences, Sandor and Alex remained friends until the war with Gamilon caused them to go their separate ways.

Sandor's story is interrupted by the Gamilon's defense mechanisms. Sandor is captured but not before he reveals to Derek an amazing secret. Sandor is bionic, the result of an accident of the moon. Sandor has Wildstar remove his bionic arms and legs, which also conceal high explosives. Wildstar rescues what's left of Sandor and leaves his explosive limbs behind to destroy the fortress.

With the detonation of Sandor's limbs, the Gamilon fortress is destroyed.



Kenji Aoki



Episode 19

Communications Officer Holmer is homesick to the point of near insanity. This is because of a new Gamilon scheme; a deep space relay satellite.

The satellite beams bad news from Earth with the intent of demoralizing the Star Force. But the crew of the Argo is made of sterner stuff and the Gamilon plan fails.

Episode 20

The Argo has reached the shadowy world of Balan, which, unknown to them, is a Gamilon outpost. Upon discovery, Captain Avatar opts to destroy the base but without using the Wave Motion Gun, fearing that the gun would destroy the planet.

General Lysis counted on this reaction and forces the Star Force to come to the Gamilon base where he can destroy them with an artificial sun in orbit around the planet. Lysis' plan nearly succeeds but for Volgar. Volgar, fearing for the safety of the Gamilon base, calls in Deslok. Deslok orders Lysis to stop his plan at a critical moment.

Lysis' scheme is thwarted by politics, the Gamilon base is annihilated by its own son, and the Argo escapes.

Episode 21

On Gamilon, Lysis is on trial for his life. The loss of the base on Balan is a sore blow to the Gamilons. Lysis expects to be executed, but is pardoned by Deslok, who commissions him to destroy the Argo once and for all.

This time Lysis is taking no chances. He summons the greatest commanders in the Gamilon fleet, and takes advantage of the latest weapons. Among these is a drill missile designed to penetrate the Wave Motion Engine and Space Matter Instant Transmitter Equipment (S.M.I.T.E.), a transmitter capable of warping entire fleets. Lysis challenges the Star Force to battle his forces at the Rainbow Galaxy. Captain Avatat accepts the challenge, wishing to put an end to Gamilon attacks once and for all.

The Argo is put on full alert and her greatest battle of all time is about to begin.

Episode 22

At the Rainbow Galaxy, the duel between the Argo and the Gamilons begins. The battle is unequal, with the Gamilons easily outgunning the Star Force. The S.M.I.T.E. machine proves to be too much of a match for the Argo. The Argo, while fighting fiercely, is seemingly doomed. Finally the Gamilons launch their drill missile, which penetrates the Argo's hull and begins working inwards towards the Wave Motion Engine. Again, the quick thinking of Sandor and IQ9 saves the Star Force. They manage to reverse the drill missile, launching it back at the Gamilon fleet where it causes a chain reaction destroying the entire fleet.

Lysis, with only his ship remaining, continues the battle by planting a bomb on the underside of the Argo. Lysis regrets his action, during his battles with the Star Force he has come to respect the crew of the Argo. But duty to Gamilon comes first and the bomb is detonated. The explosion is terrific, yet the Star Force lives on.

After a brief funeral service honoring those who died in the battle with Lysis, the Argo proceeds on.

Episode 23

The Argo picks up a message from Starsha. At last, the Star Force is nearing Iscandar! As they approach, they find that there are two planets sharing the same orbit. One of them may be Iscandar, but radio interference prevents the Argo from communicating openly.

It is revealed that the other planet is Gamilon as Leader Deslok unveils his master plan. The planet Gamilon is doomed; due to volcanic action the planet's biosphere has become incredibly corrosive, making life nearly impossible. The answer to Gamilon's problem is a mass migration to Earth, and their only obstruction is the Star Force.

Using magnetic tracking beams, the Argo is pulled to Gamilon and deposited in one of her inner seas. The sea, indeed all water on Gamilon, has become pure sulphuric acid, and the Argo will eventually dissolve. To insure the Argo's

destruction, the Gamilons launch violent rocket assaults.

Things look bad for the Argo; in less than ten minutes the ship will be destroyed.

Episode 24

With the ship in imminent danger, Derek Wildstar goes to the captain. Captain Avatar advises that the ship submerge and detonate one of the largest undersea volcanoes with the Wave Motion Gun. The result is a chain reaction that destroys the Gamilon cities with new volcanoes and earthquakes.

The sight of such destruction sends Deslok mad. He orders a counter attack and the battle rages throughout Gamilon. Finally, the Gamilon headquarters is shattered and the Gamilons are no more. The explosions continue until silence. Wildstar revives from the wreck of the Argo's bridge. The final battle with the Gamilons has nearly destroyed the Argo. Venturing outside, he finds Nova sobbing at the ruins of Gamilon.

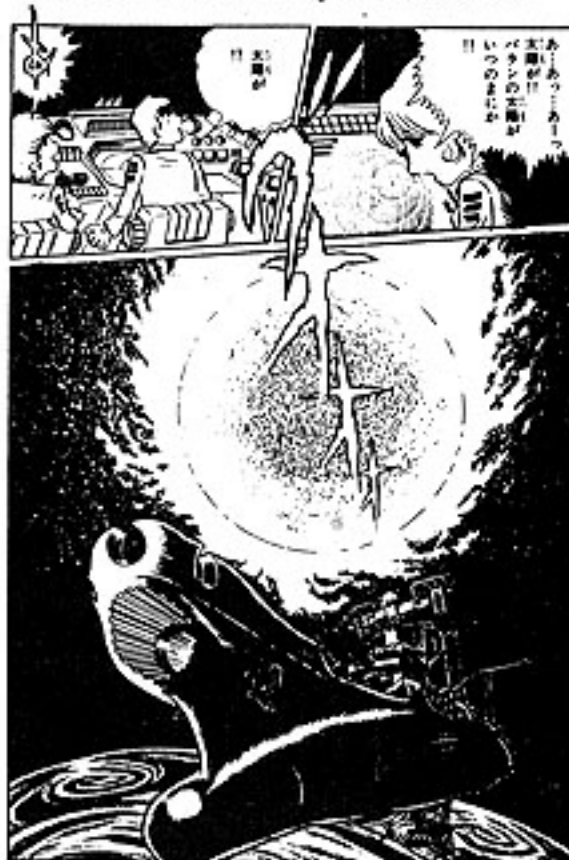
Nothing can stop the Star Force from reaching Iscandar and rescuing the Earth now.

Episode 25

The Star Force has reached Iscandar! They meet Queen Starsha, who is the last survivor of Iscandar. Iscandar was a thriving world until a terrible plague struck its populace. Iscandar begged Gamilon, its sister world, for help but the Gamilons were only concerned about fighting their wars.

When the Gamilons learned of the fate of their home world, they were too proud to ask for aid and feared encountering superior races which would in turn subjugate them. So the Gamilons fought the other planets which might have been able to help them. Finally Starsha could bear no more and sent aid to the imperiled Earth.

As the Cosmo DNA is being loaded aboard the





Kevin Acklin

Argo, Starsha allows the crew to tour Iscandar and informs them of another human who they must take back with them. The man is none other than Alex Wildstar, Derek's brother! Alex had crashed on Titan and was captured by the Gamilons. Enroute to Gamilon, a spacestorm occurred and Alex crashed on Iscandar. He survived and Starsha nursed him back to health. Meanwhile, some of the crew of the Argo, fearing the ship will not return in time to save Earth, wish to colonize Iscandar. They jump ship and kidnap Nova. They felt that they, with Nova, could create a human population on Iscandar. Unfortunately for these idealists, the land they chose to settle on was unstable and, except for Nova, all are killed in a quake.

The time comes to say goodbye to Queen Starsha. Captain Avatar invites her to return to Earth but she declines. Alex Wildstar boards the Argo but at the last moment, seeing Starsha's terrible loneliness, returns to her embrace. Together, this new 'Adam and Eve' would create a new Iscandar.

The Star Force departs with the Cosmo DNA, but can they reach Earth in only 131 days?

Episode 26

The Argo is almost home. With no attacks from the Gamilons, the return voyage is much shorter and they will reach Earth in plenty of time.

Unknown to the Star Force, Deslok and the Gamilons were not destroyed, but have followed them back to Earth. Through an unforeseen accident, Deslok's ship collides with the Argo, and, taking advantage of the situation, Gamilon soldiers board her.

Their intent is to pump radioactive gas into the Argo, seize the bridge, and then autopilot the ship to crash into Earth Defense Headquarters. After, of course, destroying the Cosmo DNA.

Things looked bad, but for the heroism of Nova. She uses the Cosmo DNA to disperse the gas and force the Gamilons back to their own ship. This action isn't without cost: Nova is set into a dying coma.

Wildstar, finally realizing how much he cares for Nova, is grief stricken. She is not responding to medication and he feels empty. Imagine, to save Earth and lose the girl he loves?

Meanwhile, Deslok aims his latest weapon, the Deslok Gun, at the Argo and fires. At the last possible instant, Sandor erects his new Reflex Force Shield and the beam is reflected back at the Gamilons. At last, Deslok is destroyed, victim of his own weapon.

Captain Avatar, in his cabin, stares off into space holding a picture of his family. The voyage is nearly over and the Earth will be saved. One final look at Earth, then the photograph, and, tears in his eyes, Captain Avatar passes away. As the Captain's eyes close, Nova's open. From death comes new life. Nova has revived, much to the delight of Derek, and together they view the planet Earth.

On September 6, 2200, the Argo returns to Earth victorious. *



STAR BLAZERS



We're off in outer space
Protecting Mother Earth
To save the human race
Our Starblazers

Danger lurking everywhere
But we know we've got to dare
Evil men with evil schemes
They can't destroy all our dreams

We must be strong and brave
Our home we've got to save
We must make the fighting cease
So Mother Earth will be at peace

Through all the fire and the smoke
We will never give up hope
If we can win the Earth will survive
We'll keep peace alive
With our Starblazers

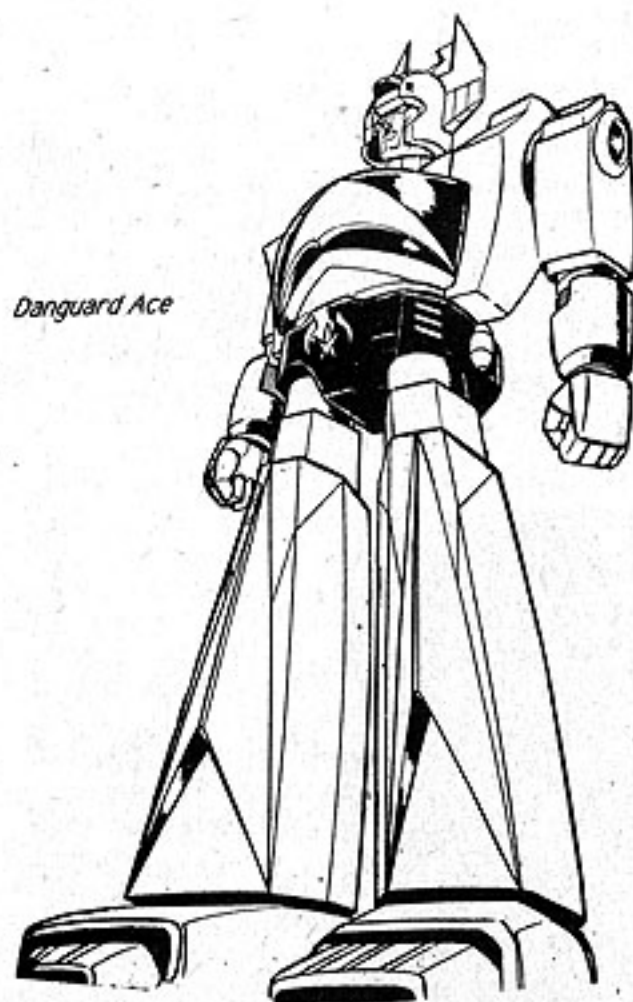
Ending Title lyrics (c) Westchester/Westcape
Films, Inc.



Profile:

LEJI MATSUMOTO

by Allen Rowe and Scot Carr



Danguard Ace

Leiji Matsumoto, the gifted Japanese Artist responsible in whole or part for *Space Cruiser Yamato*, *Captain Harlock*, *Queen Millennia*, and *Galaxy Express 999*, was born in 1938 to an Imperial Air Force family. Matsumoto started drawing at a very early age and created his first successful comic strip while still in high school. In 1953, his *Adventures of a Honeybee* won him an award and publication in Manga Shonen.

His first popular work was *Otoko Oldan* (I am a Man!) serialized in the boy's weekly Shonen Magazine in 1970. *Otoko Oldan* centered around a young student who didn't belong to any University. Prior to *Otoko*, Matsumoto had worked mainly on 'Senjo' or War Comics. Senjo were different from other manga because the stories were self-contained and possessed an almost tangible quality; one could almost feel what the character felt.

Matsumoto's first anime hit was the original *Space Cruiser Yamato* television series in which he handled the concept art and character design. Following *Yamato*, Matsumoto worked with Toei Productions on the giant robot series, *Planet Robot Danguard Ace*. In 1978 he created the legendary *Space Pirate Captain Harlock* for Toei and collaborated with Office Academy for a string of *Yamato* sequels.

After a brief period of inactivity, Matsumoto continued his *Galaxy Express* series which became one of the longest running animated series in Japan with hundreds of episodes and numerous films and television specials. In 1981, Matsumoto worked on *Queen of 1000 Years (Millenia)* and the Captain Harlock feature films, *My Youth in Arcadia* and *Eternal Voyage SSX*, both detailing the youth of Matsumoto's epic hero. In recent years, Matsumoto's anime output has diminished, but it's certain that new animation is forthcoming.

One of Matsumoto's common themes is the mating of history and science fiction. *Yamato*, *Galaxy Express*, and *Harlock* seem to best exemplify this quality.

The ancient Japanese battleship Yamato is converted into a spacecraft in *Space Cruiser Yamato*. By series end we feel that the Yamato is more than just a restored hulk. She symbolizes the courage of the fighting men of the past; their unconquerable will, their sacrifice at all costs. That is why the Yamato flies even after being bombarded by enemy onslaughts.

In *Captain Harlock*, Harlock's ship, the Arcadia, is designed like an old Earth pirate galleon (Granted galleons didn't have living computers or laser cannons). This design keeps alive the spirit of high adventure on the Seven Seas.



*Gun Frontier
 (Western)
 *Sono Na Ha Des
 (Romance)
 *Yuki No Hanabira
 (Romance)
 *Otoko Odoni
 (Fantasy)
 *Ginga Tetsudo 999
 (Galaxy Express 999)
 *Uchu Senkan Yamato
 (What else?!?)
 *Uchu Kaizoku Harlock
 (Space Pirate Captain Harlock)
 *Wakusei Robo Danguard Ace
 (Planet Robot Danguard Ace)
 *Queen Emeraldis
 (Science Fiction)
 *Sensuikan Supa 99
 (Supersub 99)
 *Yoru No Stuka
 (Senjo)
 *Orora No Kiba
 (Senjo)
 *Sareruya No Mori
 (Fantasy) *

The spacecraft in *Galaxy Express* looks like an old Steam Train, but visits new and exciting planets at every stop. It's unrelenting form moving ahead and never back tells us that we cannot change the past. We can only learn from it as we speed towards our destinies.

In America, Matsumoto would be considered a 'Good Girl' artist. His women, tall with miles of silky hair, have appeared in many Men's magazines. Leji is a collector of World War II hardware and his lovely wife, Miyako Maki, is also a famous cartoonist in the genre of Women's manga.

Leji Matsumoto's lyrical, almost poetic, storytelling has delighted Japanese, European, South American, and, only recently, American audiences. At 49 years old, Leji has done nearly every genre imaginable (a limited bibliography follows this text), and millions worldwide eagerly await the next creation from his fertile mind.

*Metsubachi No Boken
 (Adventures of a Honeybee)
 *Mushi No Sekai
 (World of Mushi)
 *Africa No Tetsu Shi
 (Senjo)
 *Denko Ozma
 (Science Fiction)
 *Sexaroid
 (Erotic SF)



Captain Harlock