



"I love Trigan Empire!
It's absolutely epic."

DUNCAN JONES

THE RISE AND FALL OF

THE TRIGAN EMPIRE

VOLUME VII

KEN ROSCOE - GERRY WOOD

THE MOUNTAINOUS AND DESOLATE REGION IN WHICH THE CITY OF ZABRIZ WAS SITUATED LAY MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND LEAGUES FROM TRIGAN CITY, AND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF ELEKTON . . .

Break left and climb to twenty thousand . . .

THE PEOPLE OF ZABRIZ WERE SUBJECTS OF THE TRIGAN EMPIRE, AND WERE RULED BY A COLONIAL GOVERNOR APPOINTED BY TRIGO . . . HIS NAME WAS AVARAN.

Laudis has our pilots well trained . . . they would be a match for any on the planet Elekton . . .

Aye, sir, that they would . . .

THE COUNTRY WAS RICH IN METAL ORE, AND THE ZABRIZIANS WERE SKILLED MINERS.

BETWEEN THEM, GOVERNOR AVARAN AND HIS MILITARY COMMANDER, CAPTAIN LAUDIS, HAD CHANGED THE BACKWARD COUNTRY INTO A WELL ORGANISED COMMUNITY . . .

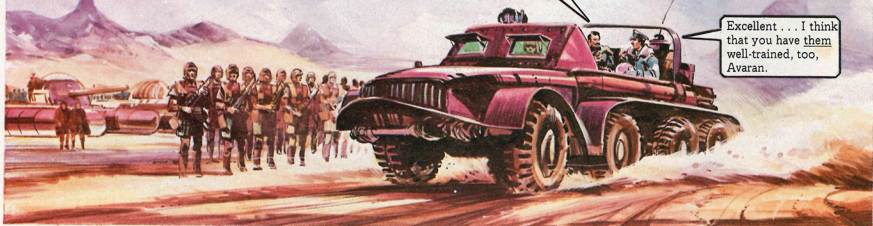
How went the training session today, Captain Laudis?

Well enough, Avaran . . . I think we are ready to discuss our plans for the future.

THEY HAD TRAINED A WELL-EQUIPPED, BUT SMALL ARMY AND AIR FORCE . . .

I will summon the Zabrizian council to a meeting within the hour . . .

Excellent . . . I think that you have them well-trained, too, Avaran.





THE ARROGANT YOUNG TRIGAN OFFICER WAS REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT THE ZABRIZIANS HAD NO LIKING FOR THE EMPEROR TRIGO ... THEY CONSIDERED HIM A COLONIALIST WHO HAD BEEN EXPLOITING THEM ...

And so, Councillors, we think it is time to arrange for a change in the leadership of the Trigan Empire.

Yes, the time is well past. For years we have been selling our metal ore to our Trigan masters for a price well below its true worth.



Well, you know that I and Captain Laudis are Trigans, but our loyalties are to the people of Zabriz whom we have come to love and respect. The Emperor Trigo by his meanness is denying you the riches you deserve.

AVARAN'S WORDS SERVED TO FAN THE FLAMES OF HATRED ALREADY BURNING IN THE HEARTS OF THE ZABRIZIANS - EVEN THOUGH THOSE WORDS MIGHT HAVE BEEN LIES.



Your words are true, Avaran. We are little more than slaves.

Yes ... down with our oppressors ...

Tell us your plan.



FOR THE NEXT 30 MINUTES THE TWO TRIGANS OUTLINED THEIR PLANS - OR AT LEAST, AS MUCH OF THEM AS THEY WANTED THE OTHERS TO KNOW ...

Remember, my friends, success depends on careful timing. With your help we cannot fail.

You have our full support, Captain.



LATER, WHEN THE TWO CONSPIRATORS WERE ALONE.

Brilliant, my friend! When Trigo receives that he cannot fail to respond.

And when he does, we shall have taken our first step to the throne of the Trigan Empire.

AVARAN, AND CAPTAIN LAUDIS, PERSONALLY SUPERVISED THE SENDING OF THE MESSAGE TO EMPEROR TRIGO.

TRIGO WAS ATTENDING THE EARLY MORNING SESSION OF HIS ELECTED COUNCIL WHEN THE MESSAGE FROM ZABRIZ REACHED HIM.

Trigan City is two hours behind us, so Trigo should receive our note early in the day.

Ah, here is something that will relieve the tedium . . . it is from our Colonial Governor in Zabriz . . . he sends his most loyal greetings and begs us to make a state visit to the country.

Zabriz? It is a truly remote part of the empire, brother.

Beside, Brag here is more than able to run our capital city until I return. What say you, Peric?

That may be so, Brag. All the more reason why it should receive a visit from the Emperor. The Zabrizians are loyal subjects, and it pleases me that they wish to see their Head of State. In any case, it is high time the Lady Ursa and I made a royal tour of the empire . . .

I support the visit, my lord, but you must take a security guard and have them under the orders of your nephew, Janno.

AND SO, PREPARATIONS FOR THE ROYAL VISIT WENT AHEAD, AND A DAY OR SO LATER . . .

Take good care of him, Janno . . . and of our Empress.

Fear not, old friend. Where we are going we shall be welcome.

BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE THE KIND OF WELCOME THAT EITHER JANNO OR TRIGO EXPECTED.

They will be on the ground in a few minutes... now, Zelda, you know what you have to do.

Of course... if there is trouble the Lokan woman will be no match for me.

THE FORMAL SPEECHES OF WELCOME OVER, TRIGO WAS INVITED TO INSPECT THE GUARD OF HONOUR...

I must compliment you on a well disciplined force, Captain Laudis.

Thank you, Emperor... I have trained them like Trigans.

AND THEN, UNKNOWN TO TRIGO, THE SPEEDING VEHICLE LEFT THE AIRPORT...

And now, Trigo, we can relax at the Governor's Palace, where the women will be waiting.

THE WOMAN, ZELDA, WAS THE WIFE OF AVARAN AND HERSELF A WOMAN OF ZABRIZ.

By the stars, Ursa, the Zabrizians have given us a truly royal reception.

Hail to the Emperor Trigo, and his lovely Empress.

Welcome to the loyal colony of Zabriz.

WHILE HE WAS DOING SO, ZELDA INVITED URSA TO ENTER THE CEREMONIAL HOVER CAR...

Let us go on ahead, my lady. Your husband will join you later. We women have no part in military parades.

We are your guests... and in your hands.

BUT, AS IT NEARED THE ENTRANCE TO THE MOUNTAINSIDE CITY... URSA HAD A SUDDEN PREMONITION OF DANGER...

Where are we going? Why are we not entering the city through the main gate?

Do not worry, Empress. We have prepared special quarters for you!

LEAVING AN UNSUSPECTING TRIGO TO COMPLETE THE ARRIVAL CEREMONY. URSA FOUND HERSELF BEING DRIVEN RAPIDLY AWAY FROM THE ENTRANCE TO THE MOUNTAINSIDE CITY OF ZABRIZ BY AVARAN'S WIFE, ZELDA...

TRIGO'S WIFE NOW REALISED THAT HER PREMONITION OF DANGER HAD BEEN WELL FOUNDED, BECAUSE BARELY THIRTY SECONDS LATER...

Stop this vehicle at once, Zelda... I demand that we wait for Trigo.

As I told you, Lady Ursa, there is no need for alarm... a reception has been arranged for you.

A reception, indeed! What treachery is this?

URSA WAS A WOMAN OF HERICON AND HAD ALL THE FIGHTING SPIRIT OF HER RACE...

A kidnapping eh? For what purpose I know not... well, the Empress of Trigan will not be taken easily.

Ouch...! guards, take her!

BUT SHE WAS FIGHTING AGAINST A MUCH SUPERIOR FORCE, AND WAS SOON OVERPOWERED.

You dare to lay hands on the Empress, you Zabranian wench... this is treason and when Trigo hears of it you will be severely punished.

We do not fear Trigo... we hate him for denying our people the money they deserve, and we are going to change all that.

And as for wanting your husband to hear what has happened to you, that has already been arranged, and he will like not what he hears.

AT THE AIRFIELD, TRIGO LOOKED
ROUND TO SEE WHAT HAD
HAPPENED TO URSA ...

I thought I saw
my wife leaving ahead
of us, Captain Laudis.
Is not the protocol that
the Emperor should
enter the city first?

I am afraid your
wife will not be
taking part in any
further ceremonies, Trigo,
and nor will you.

ANGERED BY THE MILITARY COMMANDANT'S INSOLENT
REPLY, TRIGO REACHED FOR HIS SWORD, THE ONLY WEAPON
HE CARRIED ON CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS.

And just what
do you mean
by that, you
insubordinate dog?

Exactly what I say.
Put down your weapon and
listen to what I have to tell you.

A SWORD WAS NO MATCH FOR HEAT-GUNS,
AND TRIGO WAS FORCED TO CONTAIN
HIS ANGER AND LISTEN HOW URSA HAD
BEEN TAKEN PRISONER, AND WHY.

... And so you see, Trigo,
Avaran and I have a fool-proof
plan to take over the
mighty Trigan Empire,
and we shall do it
with your help.

That I would
like to see
traitors like you
will meet an
untimely end.

If you fail to obey our orders, Trigo, your
wife will meet her end, and it will not be
pleasant one!

As you can see
for yourself, if you
cast your eyes
at the cliff
face above you.

By all the planets,
Laudis, you are truly
an evil fiend!

AND EVEN TRIGO'S STOUT HEART MISSED A BEAT AS
THE FULL HORROR OF URSA'S SITUATION BECAME
INCREASINGLY APPARENT AS THEY NEARED THE
ENTRANCE TO ZABRIZ.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK