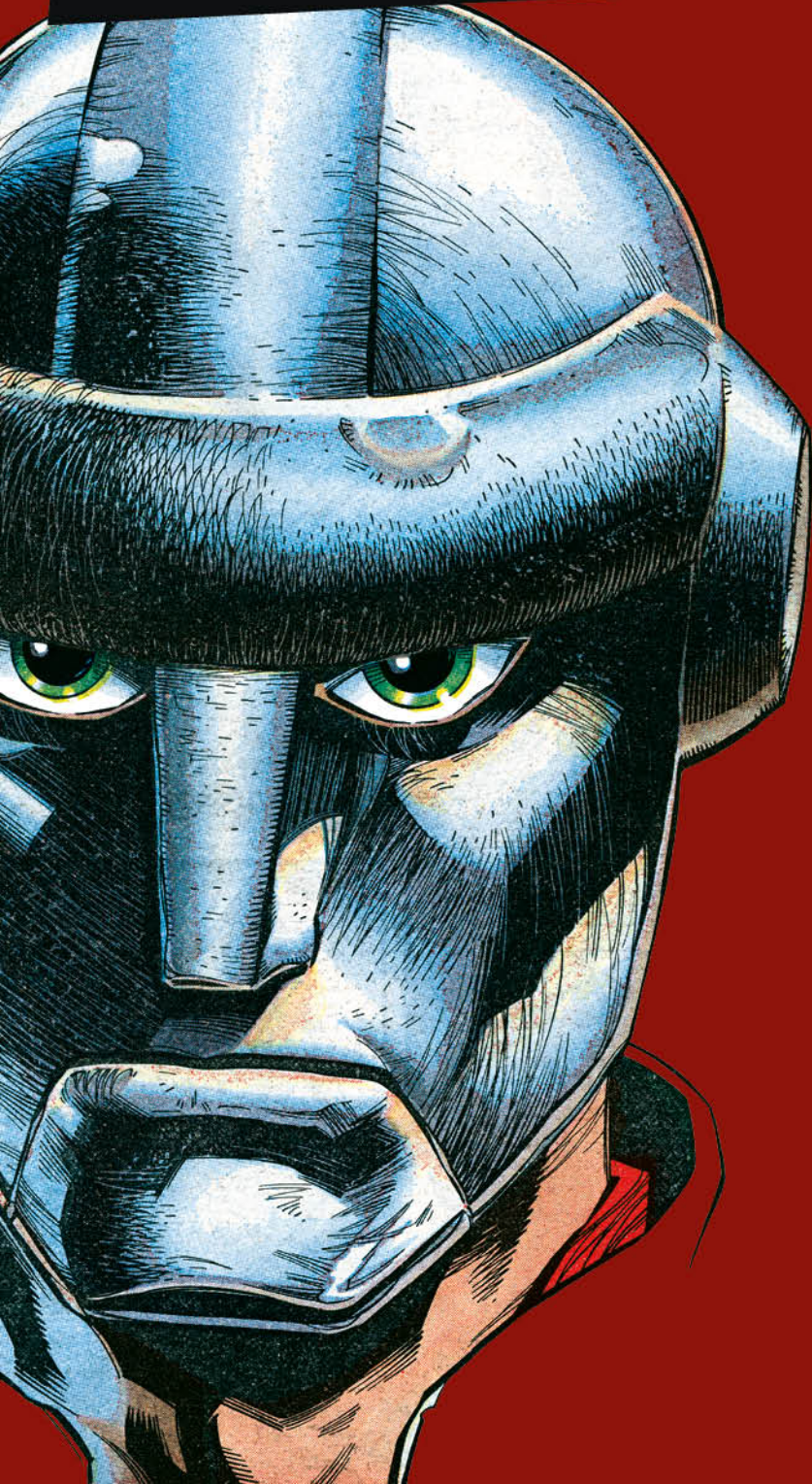
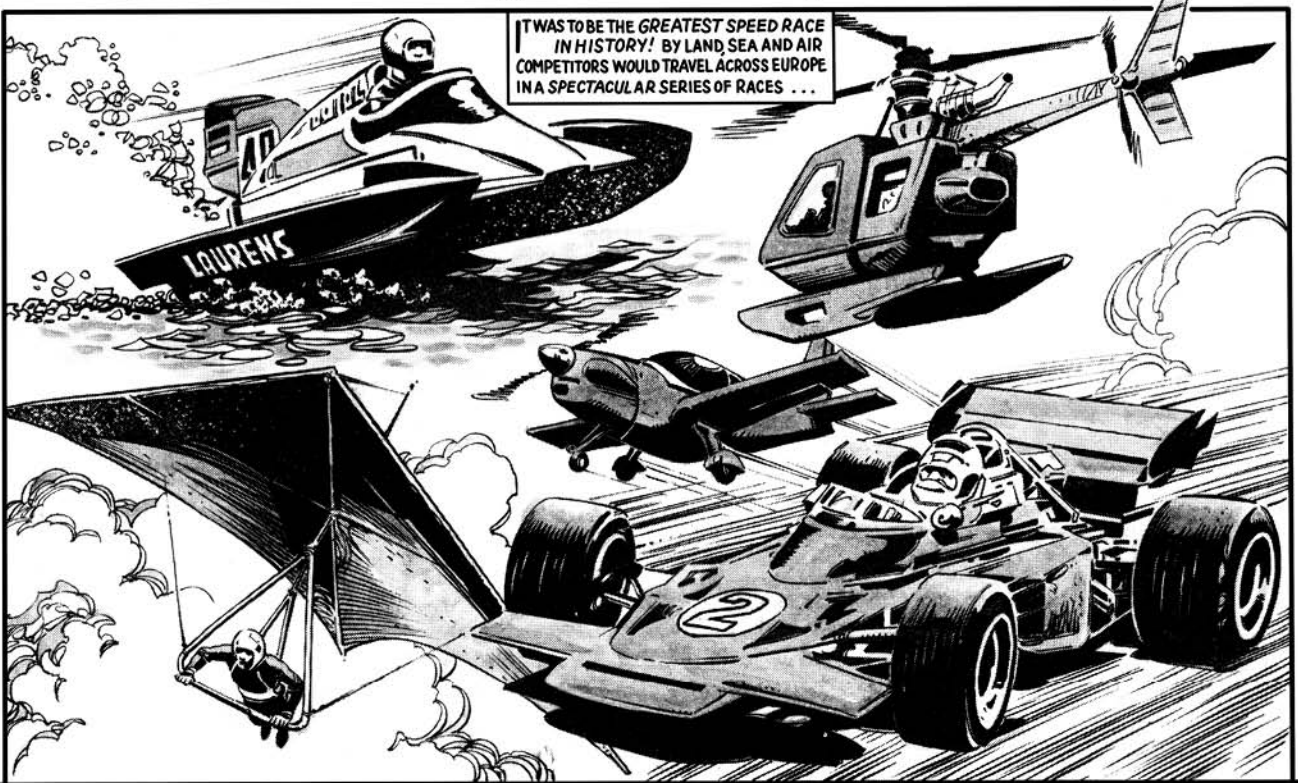


WHO ARE **THE** IRREPRESSIBLE! UNSTOPPABLE!
VIGILANT?

DEATH WISH | Speed 1980 | Script: BARRY TOMLINSON | Art: VANYO



Blake Edmonds was a king of speed . . . a superstar of British sport!



IT WAS TO BE THE GREATEST SPEED RACE IN HISTORY! BY LAND, SEA AND AIR COMPETITORS WOULD TRAVEL ACROSS EUROPE IN A SPECTACULAR SERIES OF RACES . . .

DEATH WISH



THE MOST EAGER OF THE COMPETITORS WAS BLAKE EDMONDS, A FORMER WORLD MOTOR RACING CHAMPION—STILL A KING OF SPEED AND ONE OF THE GREAT SUPERSTARS OF BRITISH SPORT . . .

LOOK! IT'S BLAKE EDMONDS!

I MUST GET HIS AUTOGRAPH!



WHEREVER HE WENT, CROWDS GATHERED . . .

OKAY, FOLKS! ONE AT A TIME! I'LL SIGN FOR EVERYBODY...



THE RACE WAS TO START IN A SENSATIONAL FASHION . . .

... AND THE COMPETITORS ARE MAKING LAST-MINUTE ADJUSTMENTS, PREPARING FOR THE MOMENT WHEN THEY'LL JUMP OFF THIS ENORMOUS SKYSCRAPER BLOCK AND HANG-GLIDE TO THE GROUND . . .



HOW DO YOU FEEL, BLAKE?

... AT ALL NERVOUS?

NOT NERVOUS... BUT I'M REALLY KEYED-UP FOR THE START! THIS IS GOING TO BE SOME RACE!

THE START!



BLAKE EDMONDS WAS ENJOYING HIMSELF!



THIS IS FUN!
PITY IT'S SUCH A SHORT TRIP!

THE SUPERSTAR WAS THE FIRST TO LAND!



ALREADY EDMONDS IS IN THE LEAD! THAT GUY DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A LOSER!

IDENTICAL RACING CARS WERE WAITING ...



... AND THEN A NO-SPEED-LIMIT DASH ACROSS LONDON ...



NOW THE FORMER MOTOR RACING CHAMPION IS SHOWING HE'S LOST NONE OF HIS OLD DRIVING SKILL!
JUST LOOK AT HIM GO!

SIX MILES LATER, AT A HELICOPTER PORT ...



AND THERE'S NO OTHER COMPETITOR IN SIGHT...

... AS BLAKE RACES ACROSS TO THE NEAREST HELICOPTER, FOR THE NEXT STAGE OF THE RACE!

SOON LONDON WAS BEING LEFT BEHIND...

EDMONDS IS STILL IN THE LEAD... BUT NOW WE CAN SEE THE SECOND MAN... IT'S THE GERMAN FLYING ACE, WALTER HILDEBRANDT!

THEN IT WAS TIME FOR THE NEXT CHANGE ...

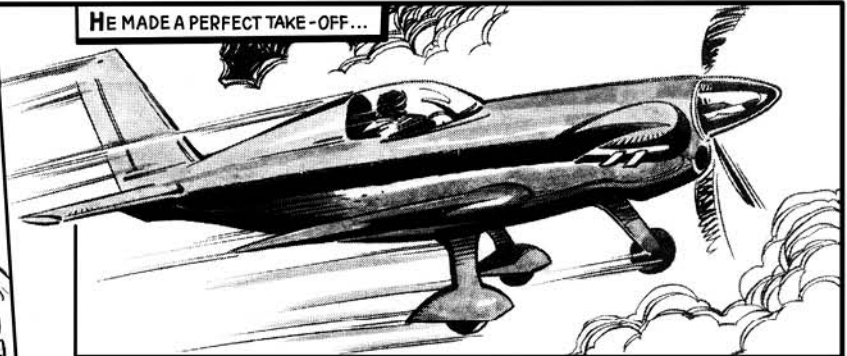


HOW'S IT GOING, BLAKE?

IT'S GOING FINE! BUT... MOTOR RACING WAS EASIER THAN THIS!



HE MADE A PERFECT TAKE-OFF...



BUT THINGS WERE STARTING TO GO WRONG!



NEXT MOMENT...



Surprising developments in next week's great free gift issue!

Blake Edmonds got a shock — and made a deadly vow!

IT WAS TO HAVE BEEN THE GREATEST SPEED RACE IN HISTORY, BY LAND, SEA AND AIR, COMPETITORS WOULD TRAVEL ACROSS EUROPE IN A SPECTACULAR SERIES OF RACES. BUT ON THE FLYING STAGE, DISASTER STRUCK!



ABOARD THE CRASHED AIRCRAFT WAS BLAKE EDMONDS, ONE OF THE GREAT SUPERSTARS OF BRITISH SPORT ...



A FORMER WORLD MOTOR RACING CHAMPION, HIS GOOD LOOKS HAD EARNED HIM MILLIONS OF ADMIRERS ...

BUT NOW HE WAS FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE!



GOT... TO... GET ... OUT... OF... HERE...



ONLY WAY IS... THROUGH THE FLAMES!



AAARGH!

THAT WAS THE LAST THING BLAKE EDMONDS REMEMBERED... UNTIL HE WOKE UP IN A HOSPITAL BED...



YOU WERE IN AN ACCIDENT...

WH-WHERE AM I? WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED?

JUST TAKE IT EASY...



HOW... HOW AM I?

YOU COULD BE A LOT WORSE...

... YOU WERE LUCKY TO SURVIVE, BUT I'M AFRAID THAT THE BURNS YOU HAVE ARE VERY SERIOUS...

AND SO BLAKE EDMONDS' WORLD BECAME A NIGHTMARE ONE... AS OPERATION FOLLOWED OPERATION...



I... I'LL BE SCARRED?

FAR WORSE THAN THAT. AS SOON AS YOUR BURNS ARE HEALED, WE'LL HAVE TO START AGAIN TO... TO REBUILD YOUR FACE!

... YOU'LL NEED LOTS OF SKIN GRAFTS... PLASTIC SURGERY!



WHAT A MESS! SOME OF THE WORST DAMAGE I'VE EVER SEEN!

UNTIL, FINALLY, MANY MONTHS LATER...



WELL... THAT'S IT... I CAN DO NO MORE.

WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN. NOW HE'LL HAVE TO BRAVE THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

FINALLY...

DOC, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO LET ME SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO MY FACE? I'M READY FOR ANYTHING. I KNOW I'LL NEVER BE HANDSOME BLAKE EDMONDS AGAIN!

OKAY, BLAKE... IF YOU REALLY ARE READY, I'LL GET A MIRROR...



BE PREPARED FOR A SHOCK!

DON'T WORRY... I'VE HAD MONTHS TO PREPARE FOR THIS MOMENT!

BUT BLAKE WAS NOT PREPARED FOR WHAT HE SAW IN THE MIRROR!



I... I'M A MONSTER!



I CAN'T STAND IT! YUUUU-URGH!

STEADY... YOU'RE ALIVE, THAT'S WHAT MATTERS...

I'LL GIVE HIM A SEDATIVE...

IT TOOK ALMOST A WEEK BEFORE BLAKE COULD COMPOSE HIMSELF. AND THEN...



I'M THE CRAFTSMAN YOU WANTED TO SEE, MISTER EDMONDS... I SPECIALISE IN LEATHER WORK...

GOOD! I WANT YOU TO MAKE ME A MASK... A VERY SPECIAL MASK!

A MASK? BUT WHY WOULD YOU WANT A MASK, SIR?

WITHIN A FEW DAYS, A MASK HAD BEEN MADE...



BECAUSE OF THIS! THAT'S WHY!

EEERGGH!!



NOW MY HORROR IS HIDDEN FROM THE WORLD. A WORLD I DON'T WANT TO KNOW FOR MUCH LONGER...



I GOT MY INJURIES FROM SPEED... AND SPEED HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY LIFE! I WANT IT TO BE MY DEATH AS WELL! I'LL TRY STUNTS THAT NO-ONE HAS EVER DARED TO TRY BEFORE...

... IF I SUCCEED, IT WILL NOT MATTER. IF I FAIL, IT WILL BE A RELEASE FROM MY AGONIES!

Follow the adventures of Blake Edmonds in the next free-gift issue of Speed!

ENCOUNTER DEATHWISH

15th August 2018



THE **IRREPESSIBLE! UNSTOPPABLE!**
VIGILANT