

IT'S AN ADVENTURE IN SPACE!

SPACE ADVENTURE



ISSUE #1: THE AD SERIES



When I was about eight years old my parents brought home a computer. It was a really stunning machine – a brand-new 80286, which hummed along at a whopping 25 MHz and ran a neat operating system called MS-DOS. (This was before the days of Windows.) On that computer was a marvelous program called Dr. Halo, which allowed you to draw pictures on the computer. Drawing – on the computer! Can you believe it?

I was amazed. The program supported four different colors: white, black, cyan, and magenta. You could draw lines, make circles, type letters, and even color individual pixels one-at-a-time. Who could ask for more than that? The possibilities were endless! I decided I couldn't let this program go to waste, and started using it to draw pictures – pictures of spacemen, having adventures in space.

With my friend Daniel Routh (along with my brother Mike and my sister April), many happy hours were spent drawing hundreds and hundreds of pictures. We would create an entire series, then use a program that came with Dr. Halo to show them as a slideshow.

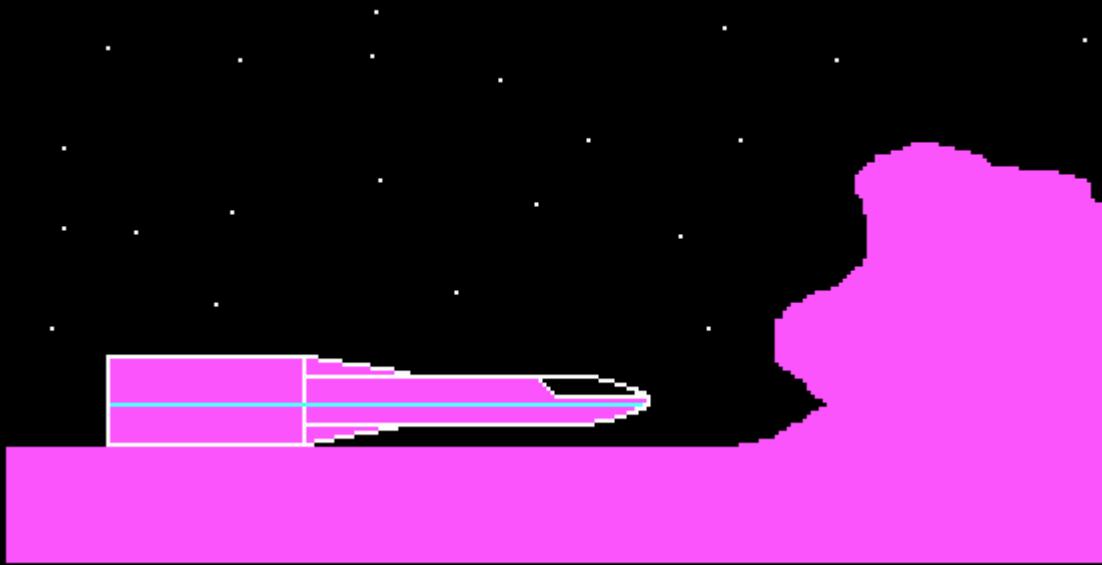
The program took a couple seconds to load each image (after all, the images were 2KB and 3KB apiece, and they were being read off of an ancient 5 1/4" floppy disk), and it took a moment for it to draw the entire picture. The end result was something that almost looked like an animation. Characters would move across the screen and planets would explode. It was awesome. So we would draw our pictures, queue them up, and then narrate what was happening on the screen. It was really a blast.

What I've done here is taken those old images and assembled them into a comic-book-type format. I've left the images untouched but have added narration to them (as best I can remember it), so you can understand the gripping action as it unfolds.

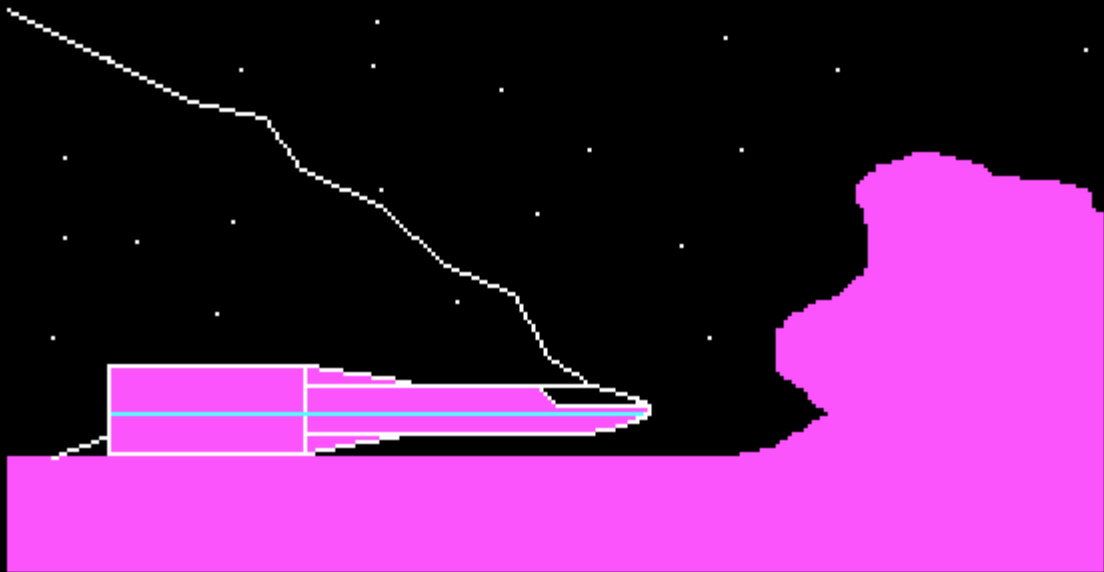
I hope you enjoy the result. This book has the AD series, which is the last one we ever did. By this point we had gotten pretty good at the artwork and had our system down pat. (Sadly, I have no idea what AD stands for. I suspect it never stood for anything and was chosen at random.)

Those, my friends, were the good old days. The days of space adventures!

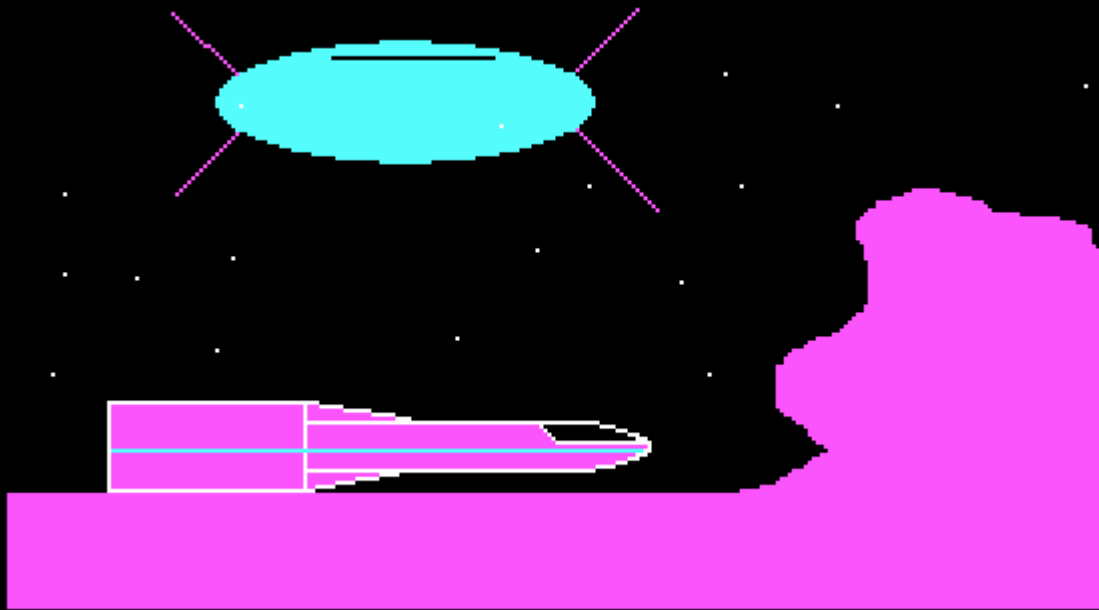
--Jonathan Cooper
November 24, 2011



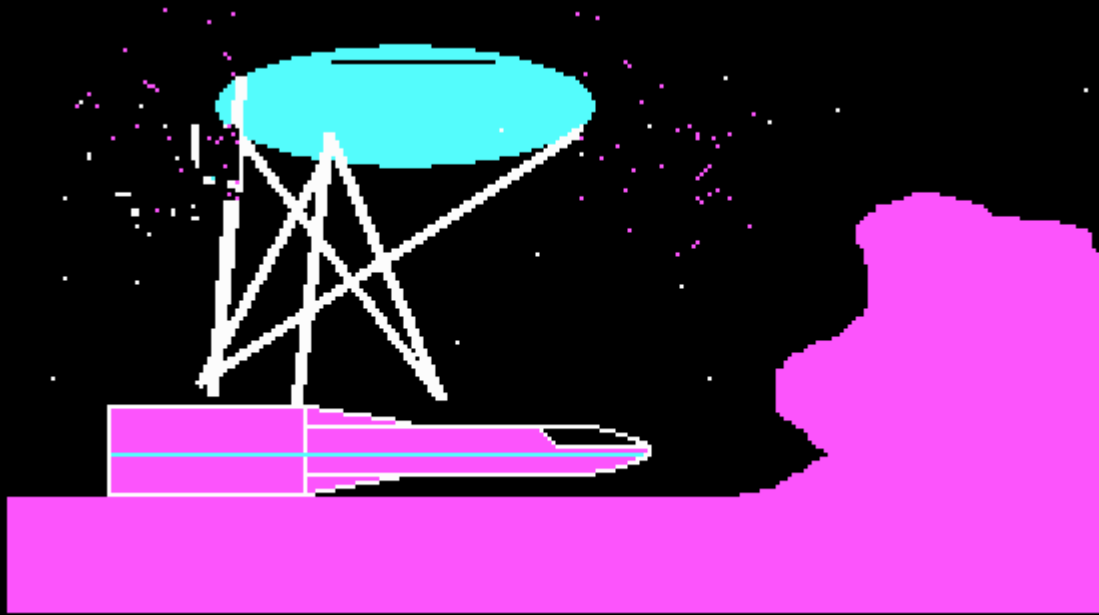
A SCOUT SHIP ARRIVES



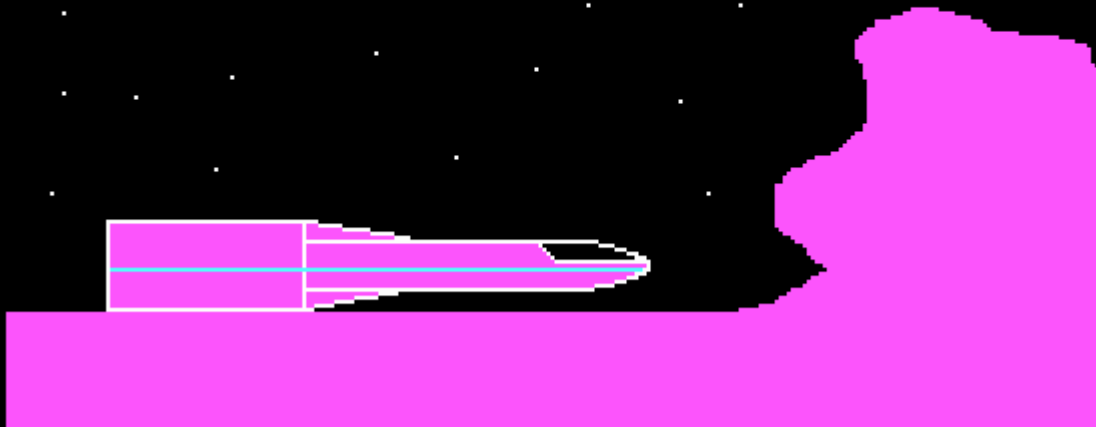
A MESSAGE IS SENT



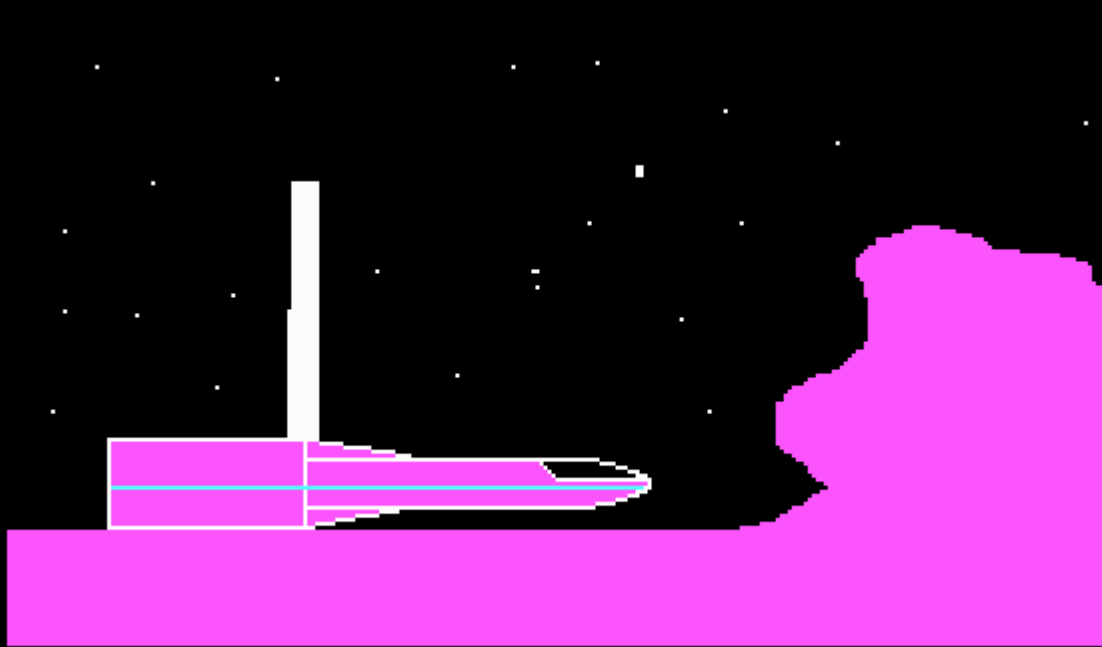
OH NO! THE EVIL VILLAINS HAVE
FOUND US! PANIC!!!!



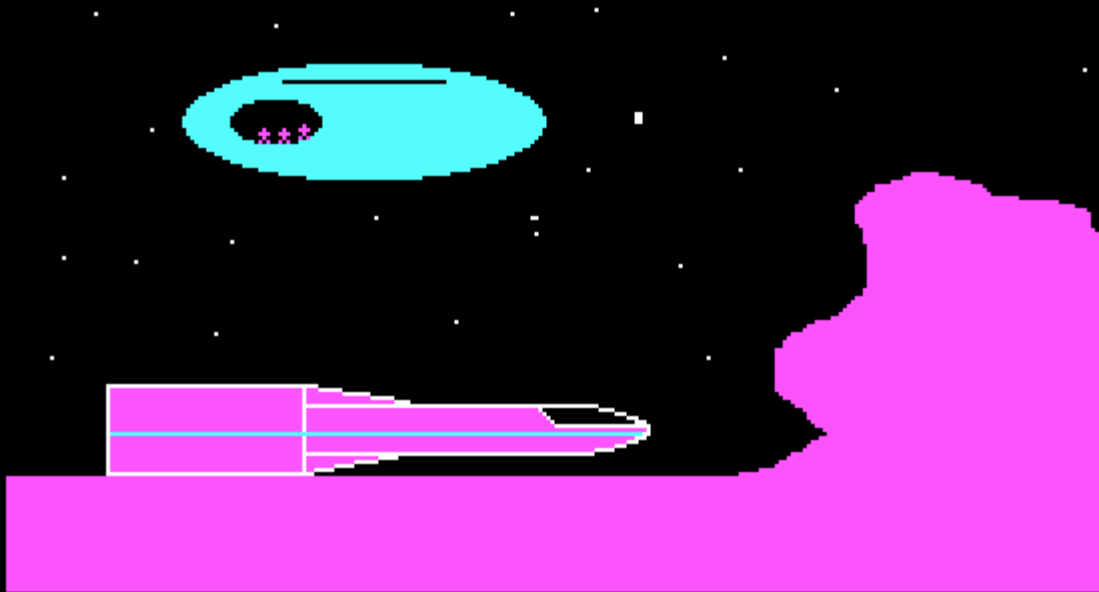
QUICK- SHOOT OFF THEIR
ANTENNAS! THAT WAY THEY CAN'T
CALL FOR BACKUP.



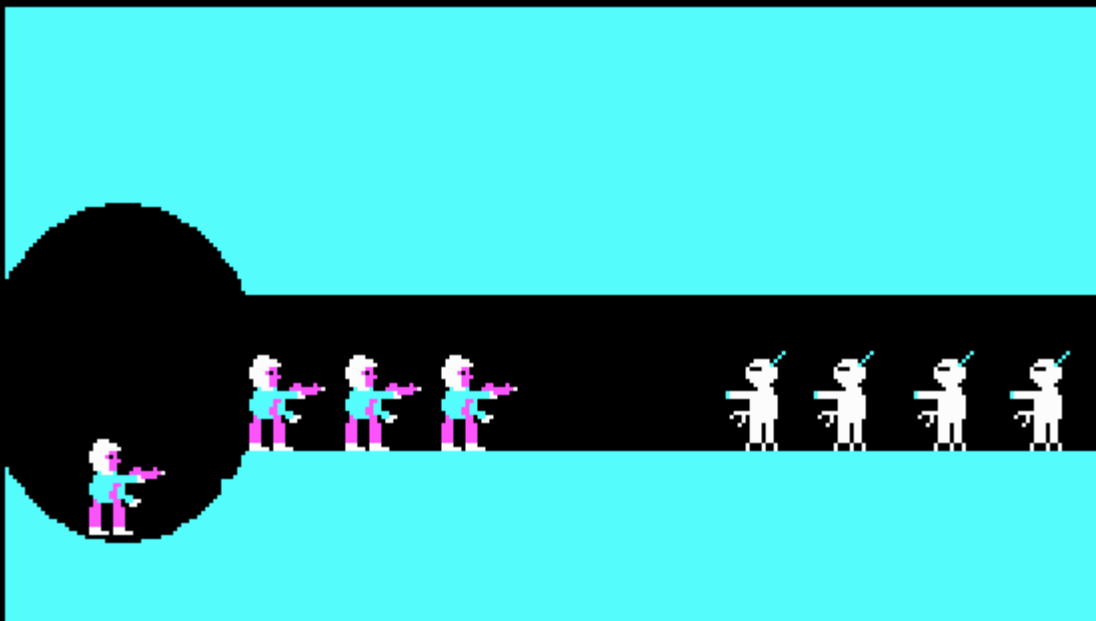
OH NO! THEY ENGAGED THEIR
CLOAKING DEVICE! WHAT DO WE DO
NOW???



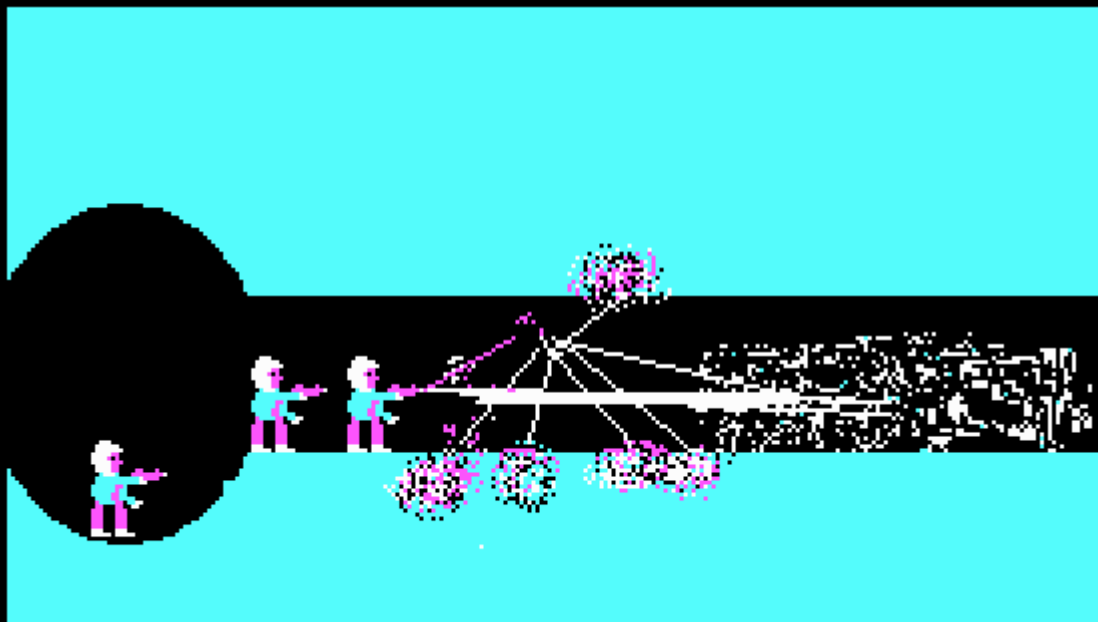
LET'S JUST FIRE AT RANDOM.
MAYBE WE'LL GET LUCKY AND HIT
THEM.



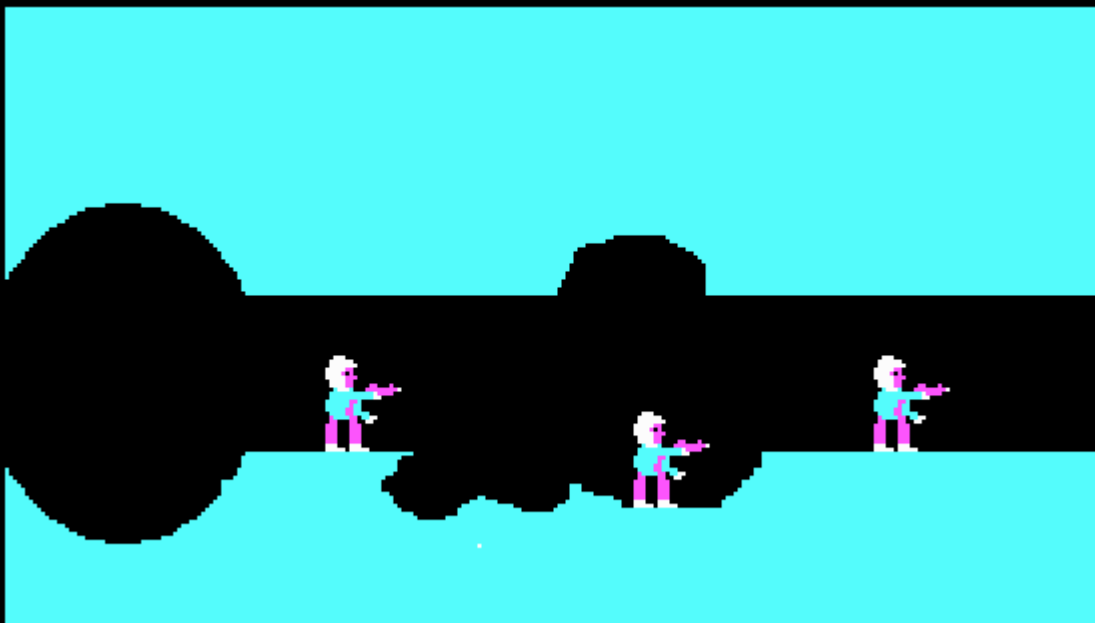
THAT SURE WORKED OUT WELL! NOW
LET'S SEND A BOARDING PARTY.



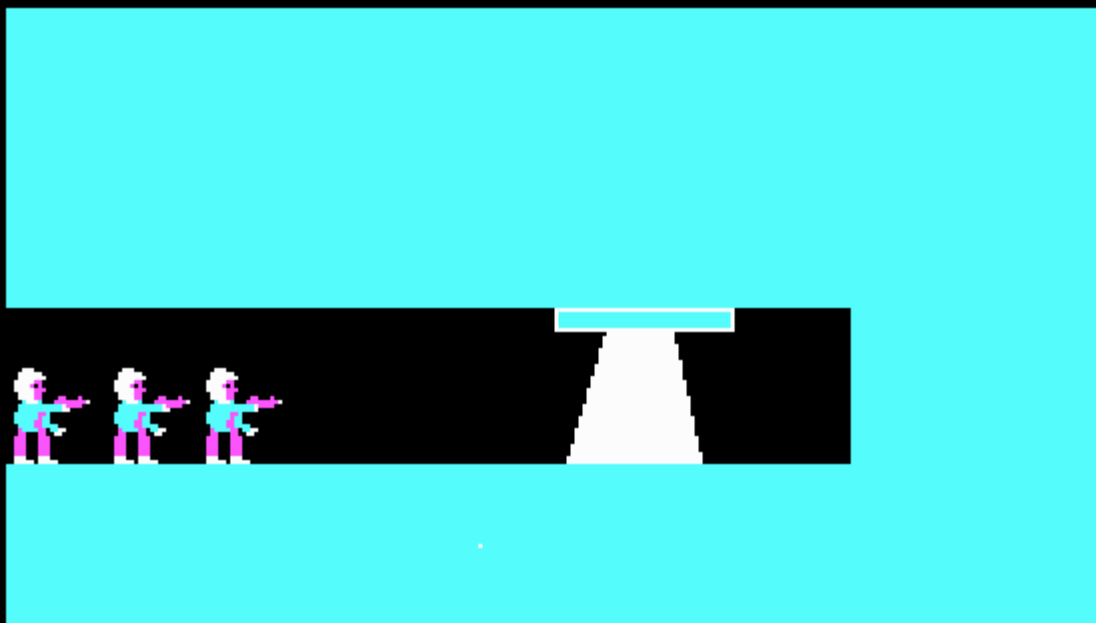
OH NO! THE SHIP IS FULL OF EVIL
ROBOTS!!!



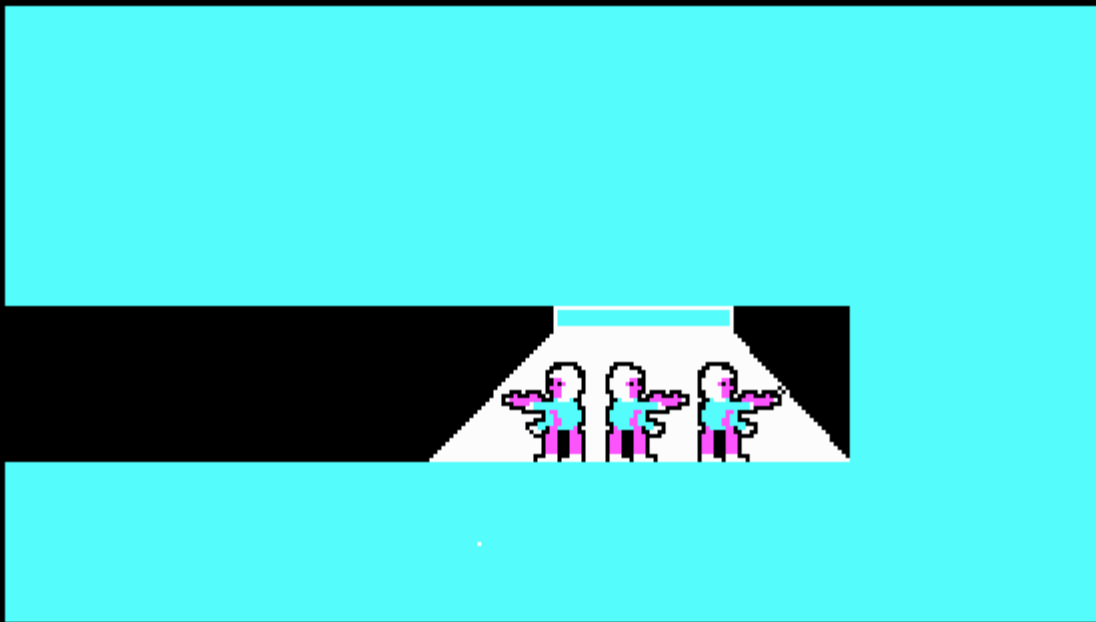
BANG! POW! ZAP!



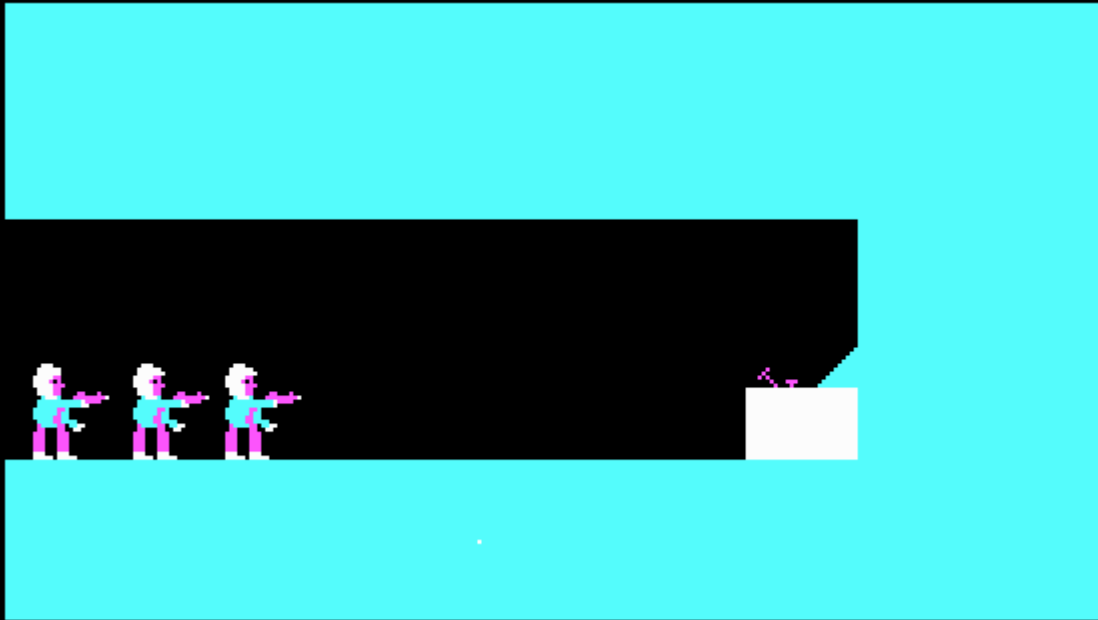
I HOPE THAT GUY LEADING THE WAY
HAD HIS LIFE INSURANCE PAID UP.



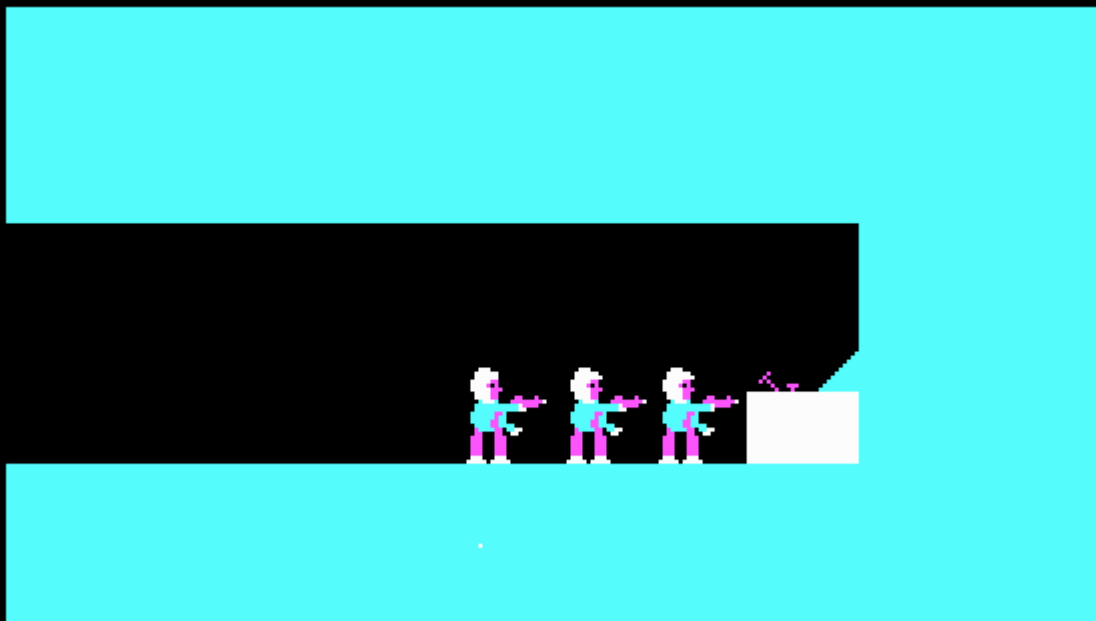
LOOK! A TRANSPORTER!



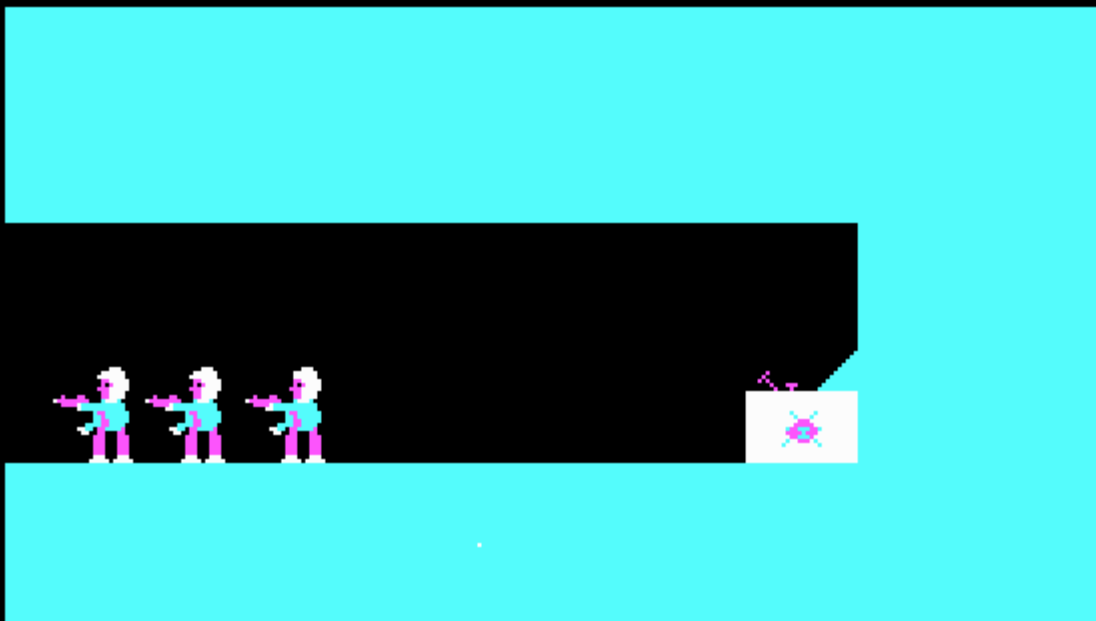
LET'S ALL GET INSIDE IT. I'M
SURE NOTHING BAD WILL HAPPEN.



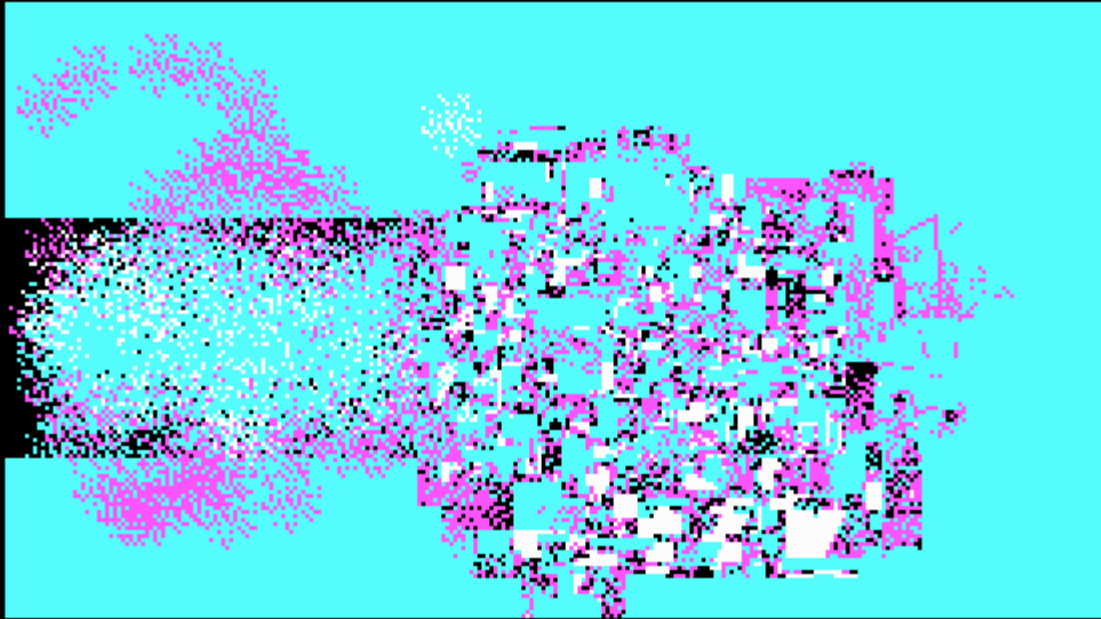
LOOK! IT LED TO THE SHIP'S
CONTROL ROOM! THAT SURE WAS
CONVENIENT!



I BET IF WE PLANTED A BOMB ON
THIS COMPUTER IT WOULD BLOW UP
THE WHOLE SHIP!



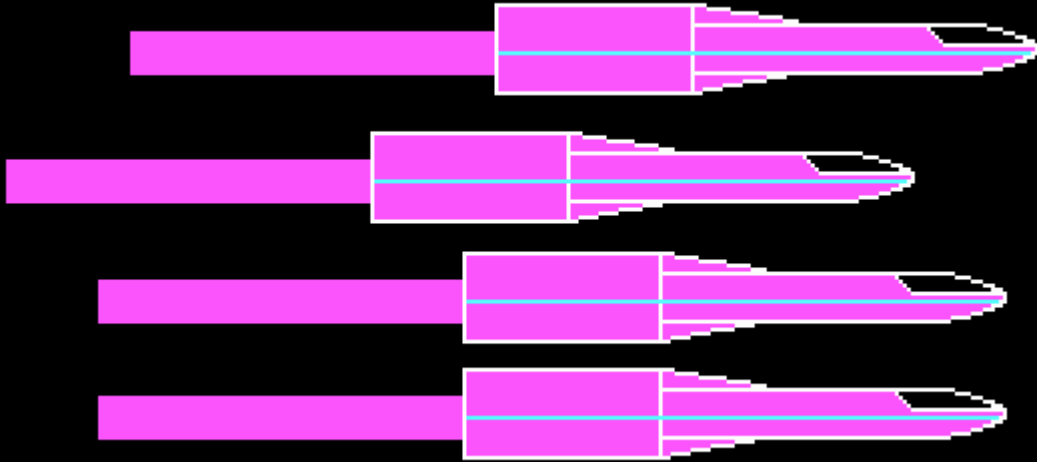
BOMB PLANTED! I'M SURE IT WILL
SOMEHOW CAUSE A CHAIN REACTION.
TIME TO GO!



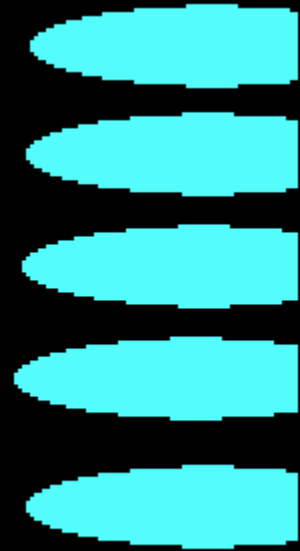
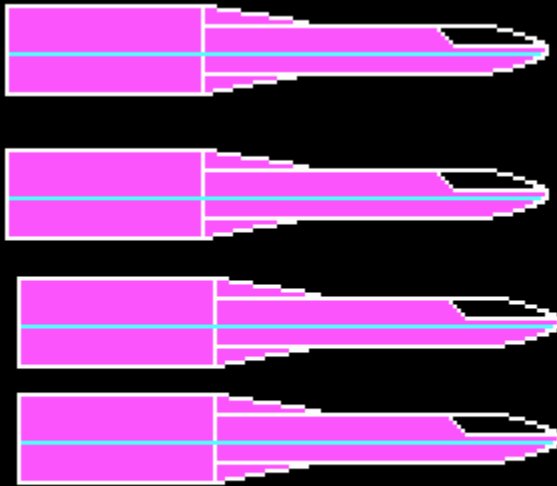
LOOK AT THAT! I KNEW IT WOULD
WORK!



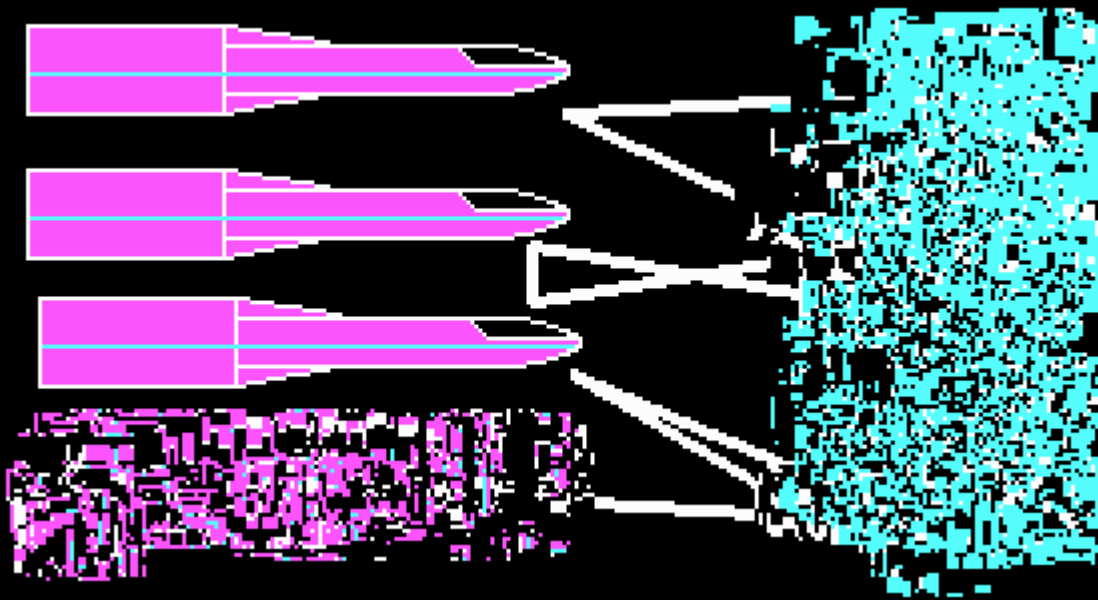
WE BLEW UP THE SHIP! YAY! BUT
WAIT - DID THEY SEND A MESSAGE?



NEVER FEAR - WE HAVE BACKUP ON
THE WAY!



UH-OH. LOOKS LIKE THE EVIL
ROBOTS HAD BACKUP ON THE WAY
TOO! PANIC!!!



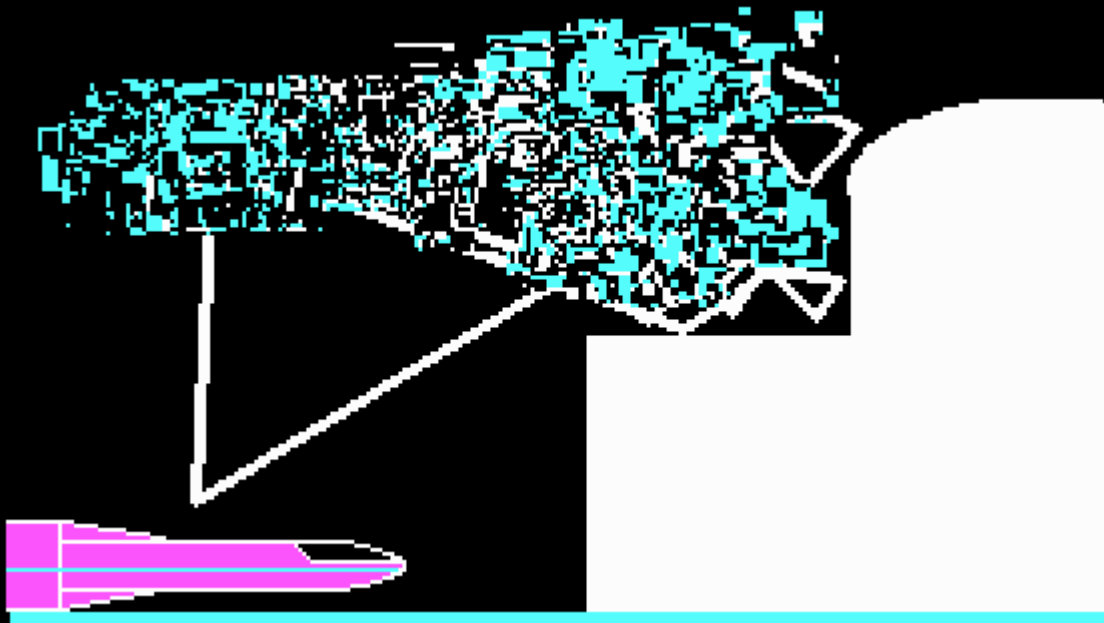
BANG! POW! ZAP! (IT'S A GOOD
THING THOSE ROBOTS ARE TERRIBLE
SHOTS!)



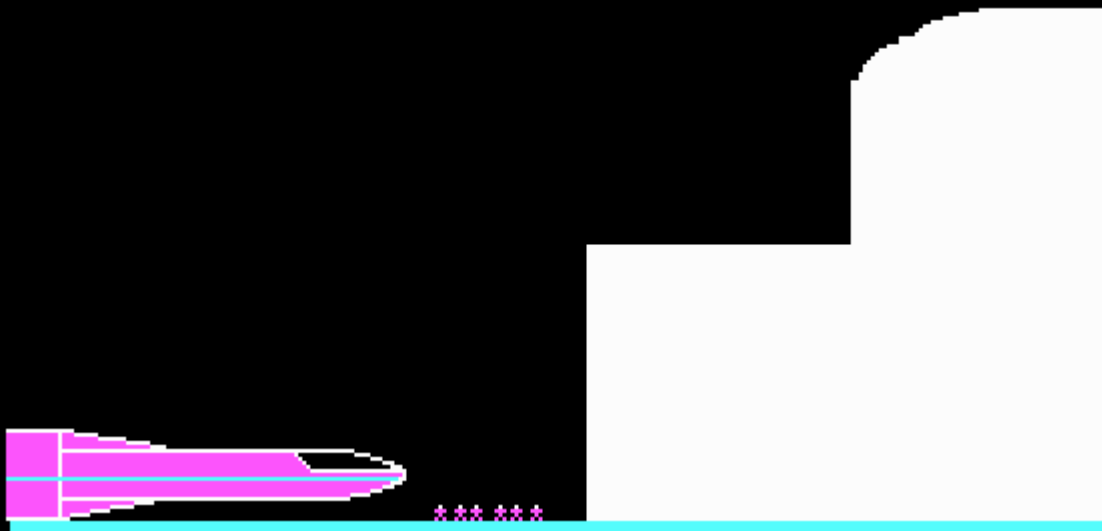
I THINK WE'VE FOUND THE ROBOT'S
HIDDEN PLANET!



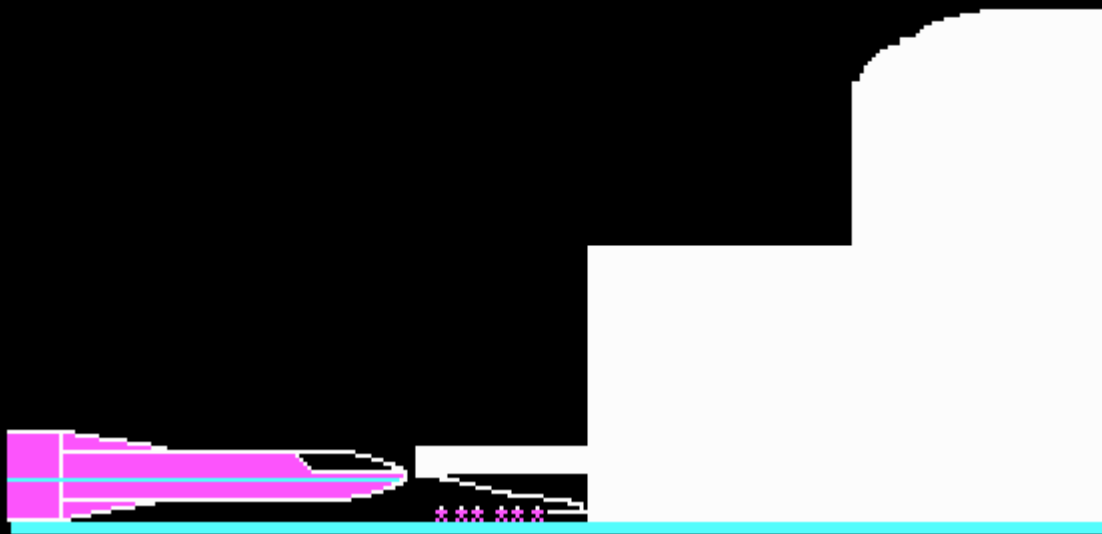
UH-OH. LOOKS LIKE THEY NOTICED
OUR ARRIVAL!



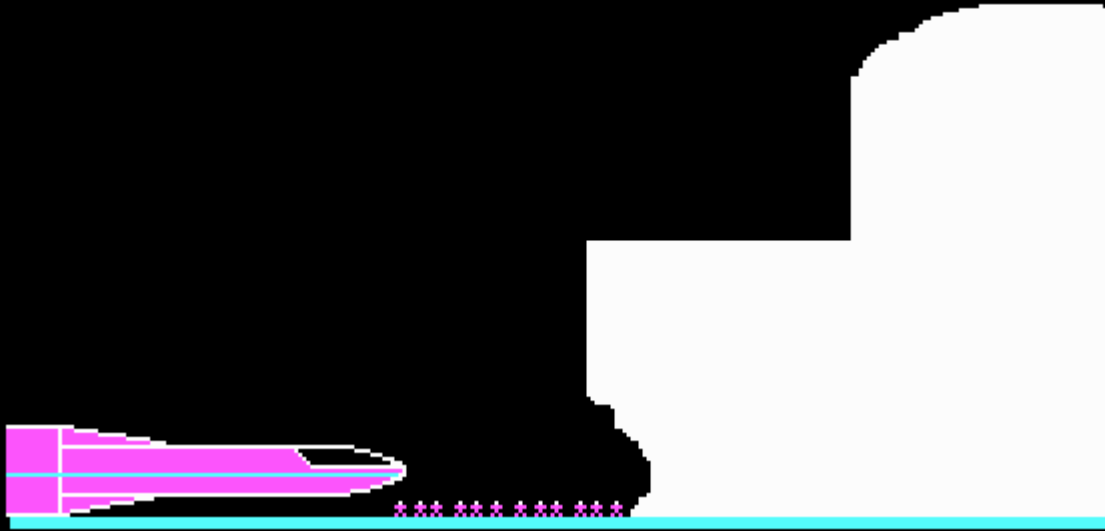
I' M SURE GLAD THE SHIPS
GUARDING THEIR BASE DIDN' T HAVE
WEAPONS!



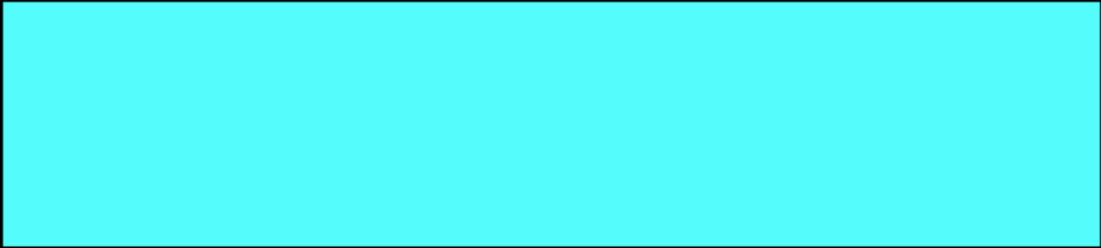
TIME TO SEND IN A TEAM. I'M
SURE SIX PEOPLE WILL BE PLENTY.



WE' LL JUST USE THE SHIP TO BLOW
OPEN THE DOOR. THEY WON' T
NOTICE.



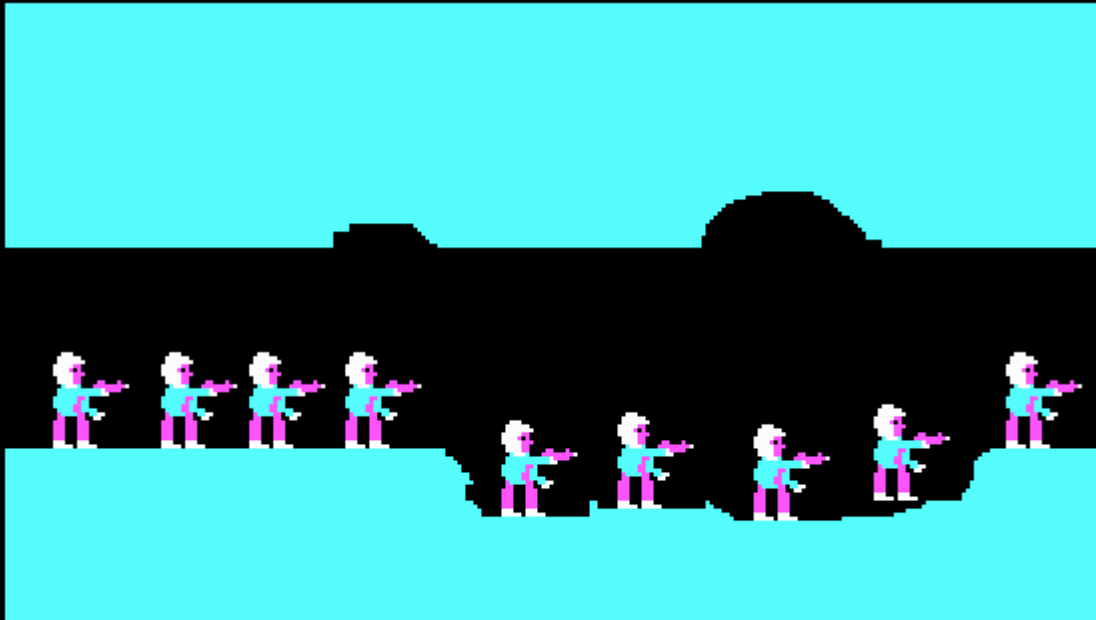
OH ALL RIGHT. I GUESS WE CAN
SEND IN MORE THAN SIX PEOPLE.



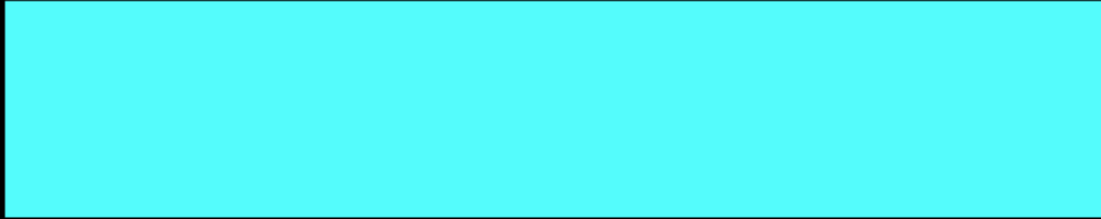
OOOPS. MAYBE THEY DID NOTICE
WHEN WE BLEW UP THEIR DOOR.



ZAP ZAP ZAP! (THAT' S WHY I
ALWAYS STAY AT THE END OF THE
LINE.)



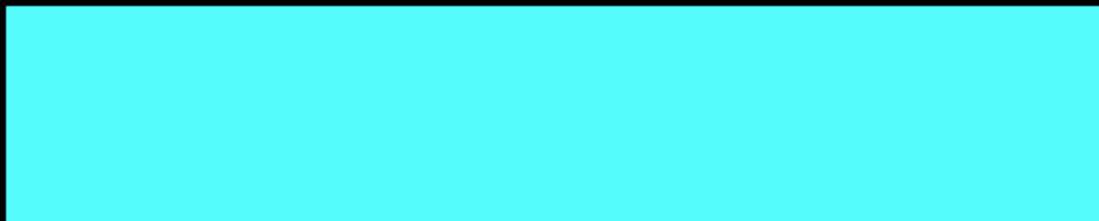
THEY' LL NEVER NOTICE THOSE NEW
HOLES IN THE FLOOR.



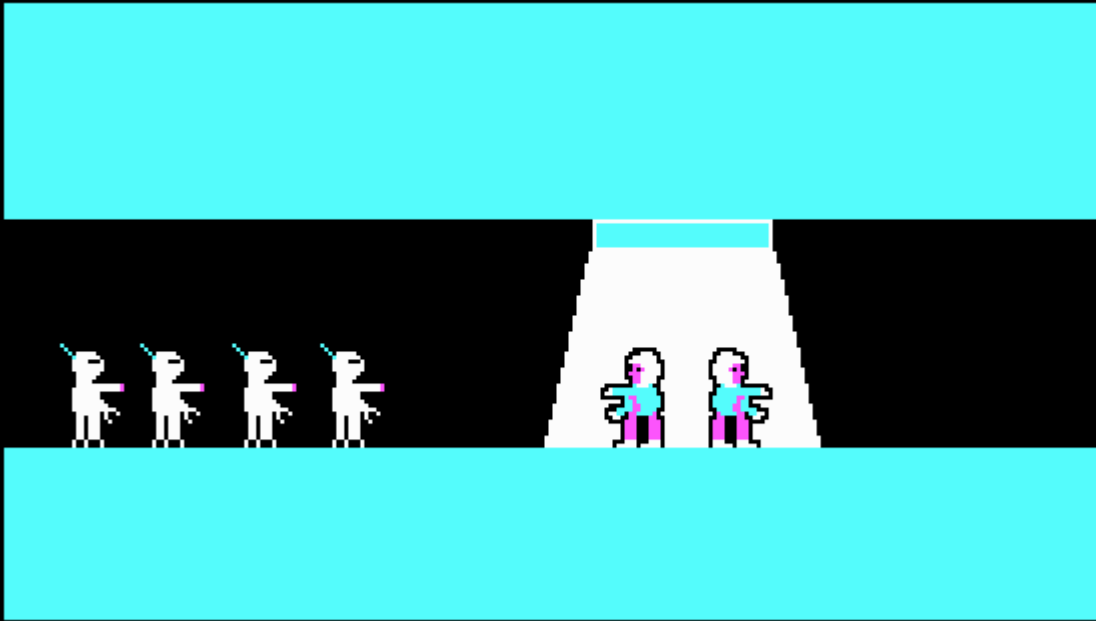
OH NO! MORE EVIL ROBOTS!



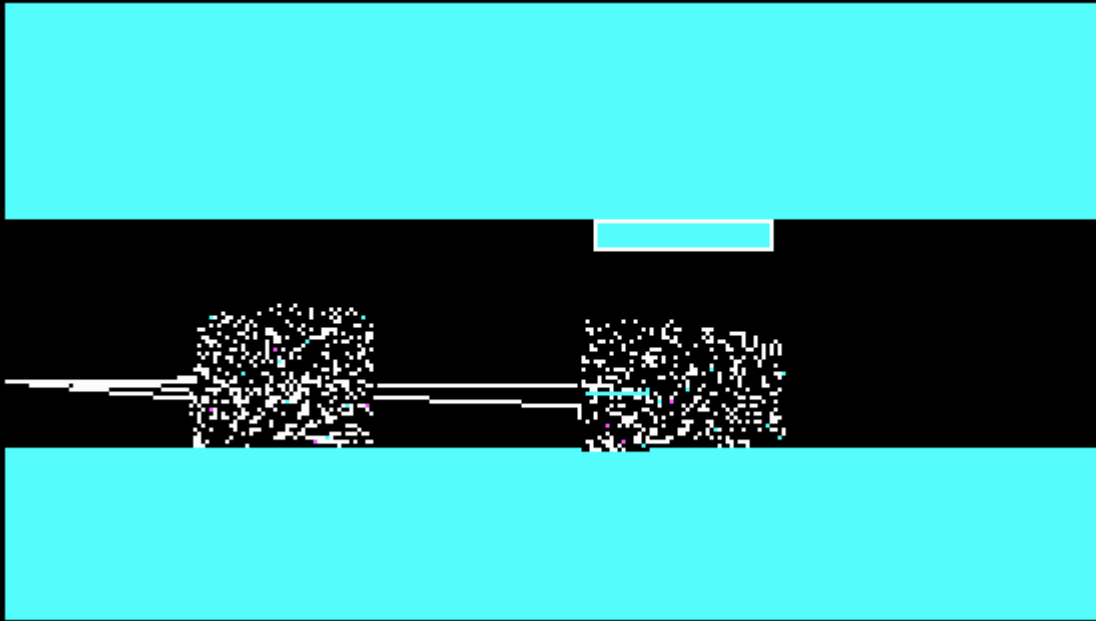
AND THEY'VE LEARNED HOW TO
SHOOT! QUICK - SURRENDER!



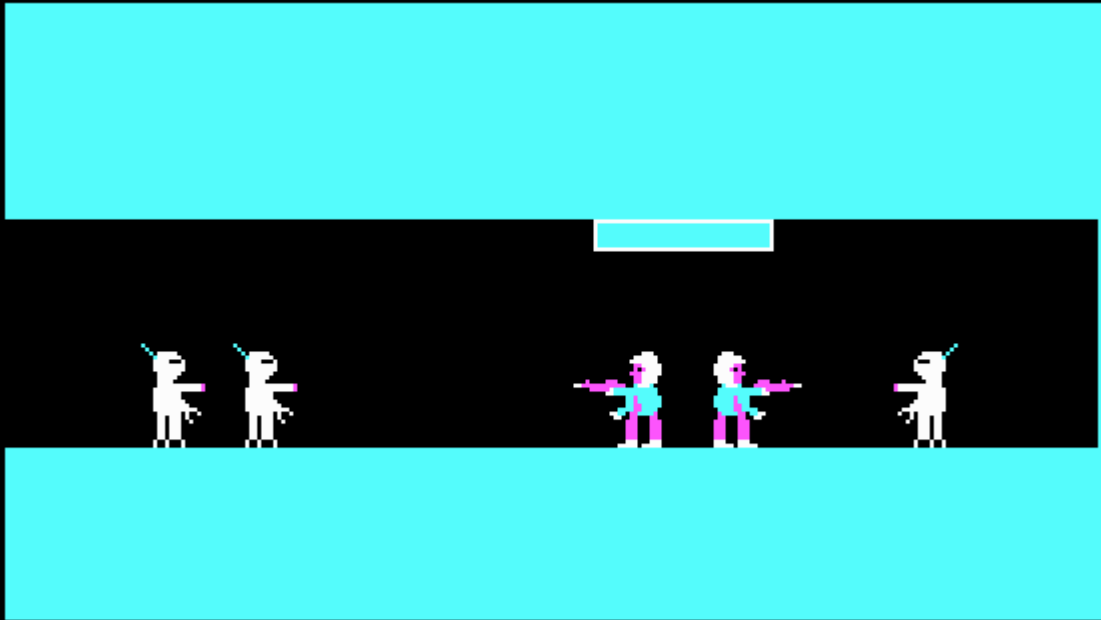
WE HAD BETTER CALL FOR HELP!



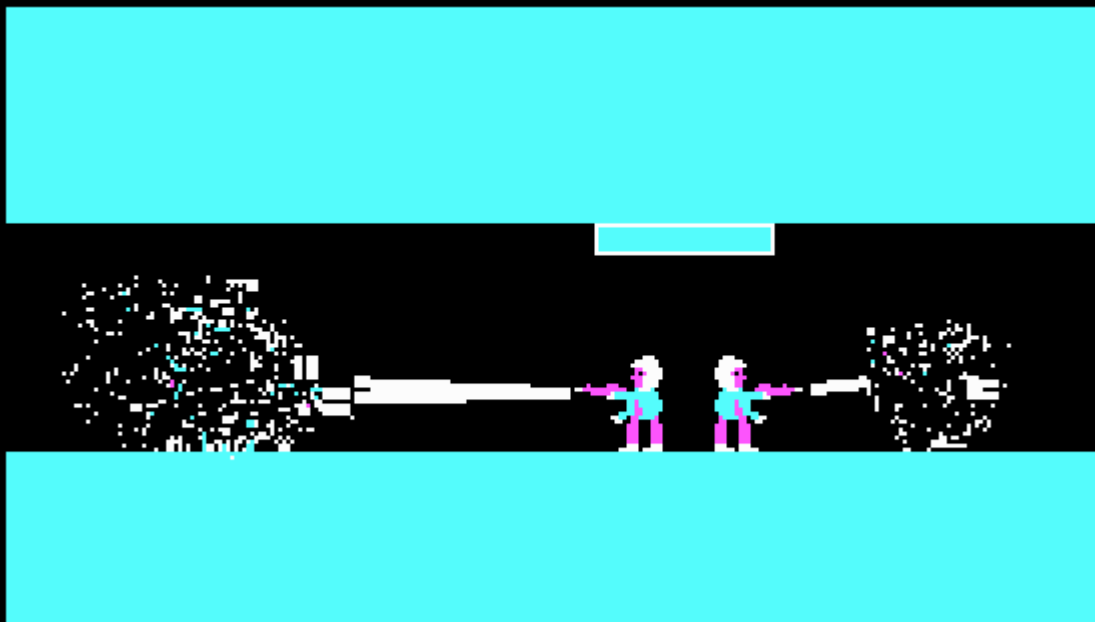
OH NO - THEY ARE BEAMING US
AWAY!



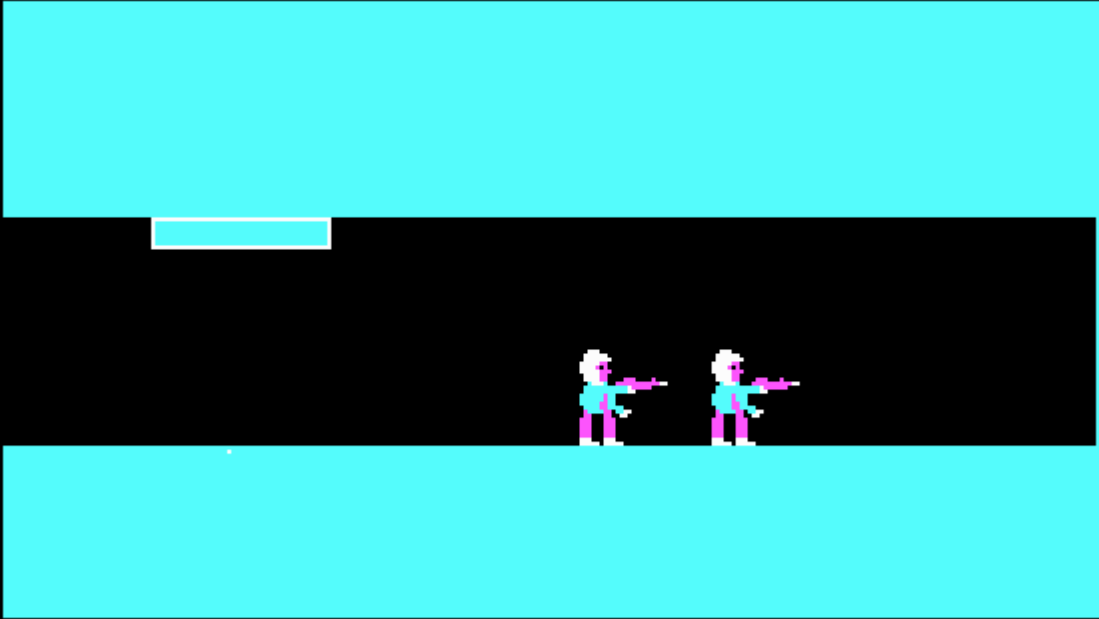
I'M SURE GLAD THE BACKUP TEAM
GOT HERE SO FAST! THOSE ROBOTS
NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT THEM.



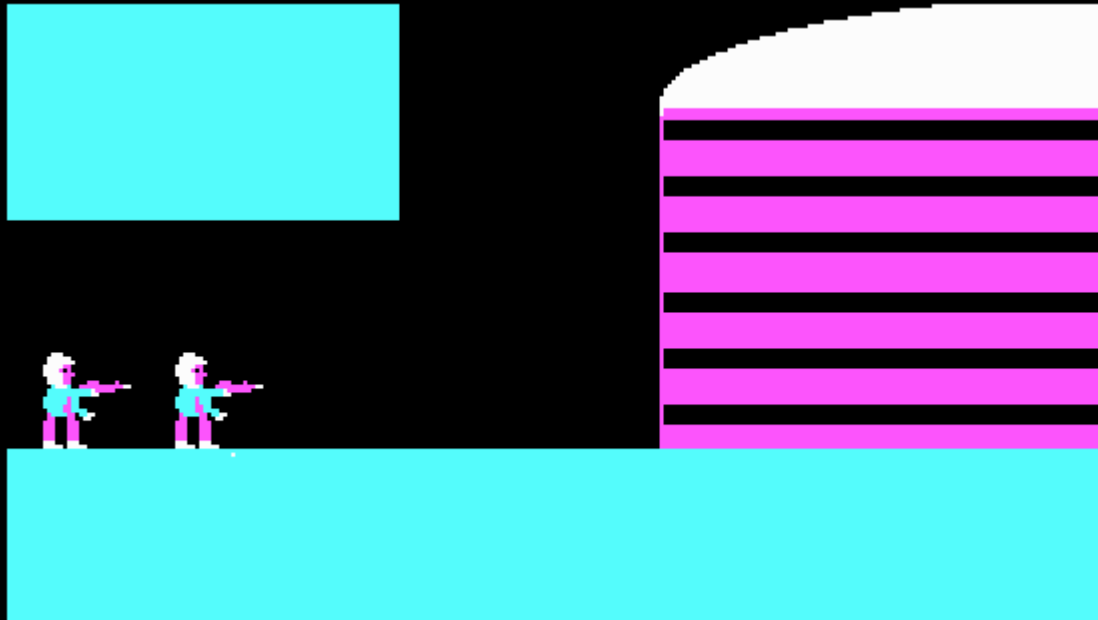
OH LOOK - THE TRANSPORTER
MAGICALLY GAVE US OUR GUNS
BACK! NICE!



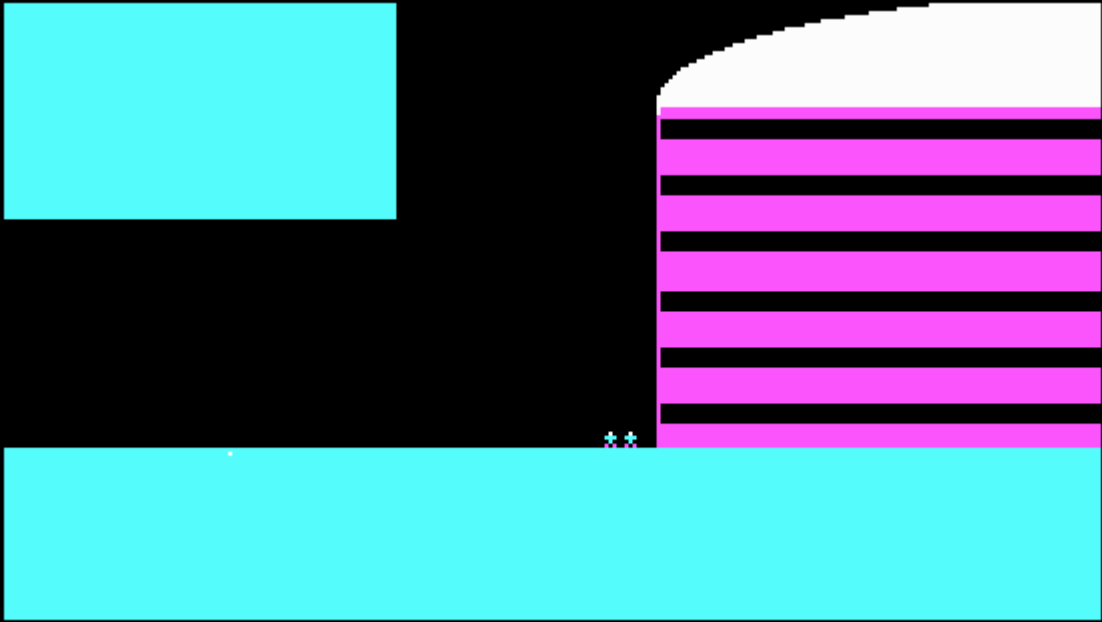
BANG! POW! ZAP!



NO INTERIOR DAMAGE THIS TIME!
WE ARE GETTING GOOD AT THIS.



OH LOOK - THEIR SECRET BASE HAS
A GIANT BUILDING INSIDE IT!
AMAZING!!!



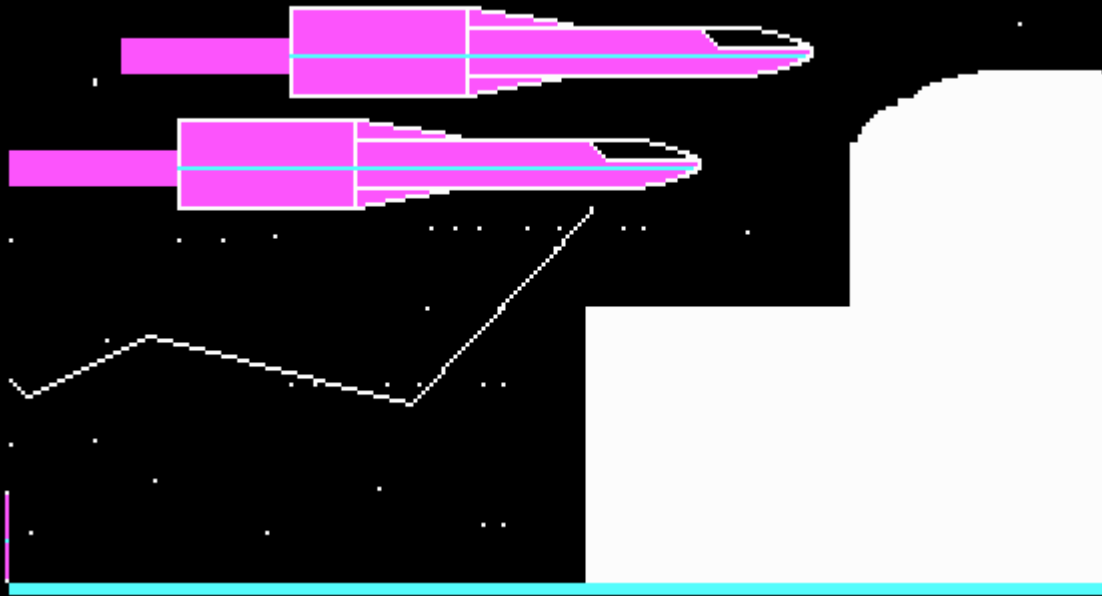
LET'S GO EXPLORE IT ALL BY
OURSELVES!



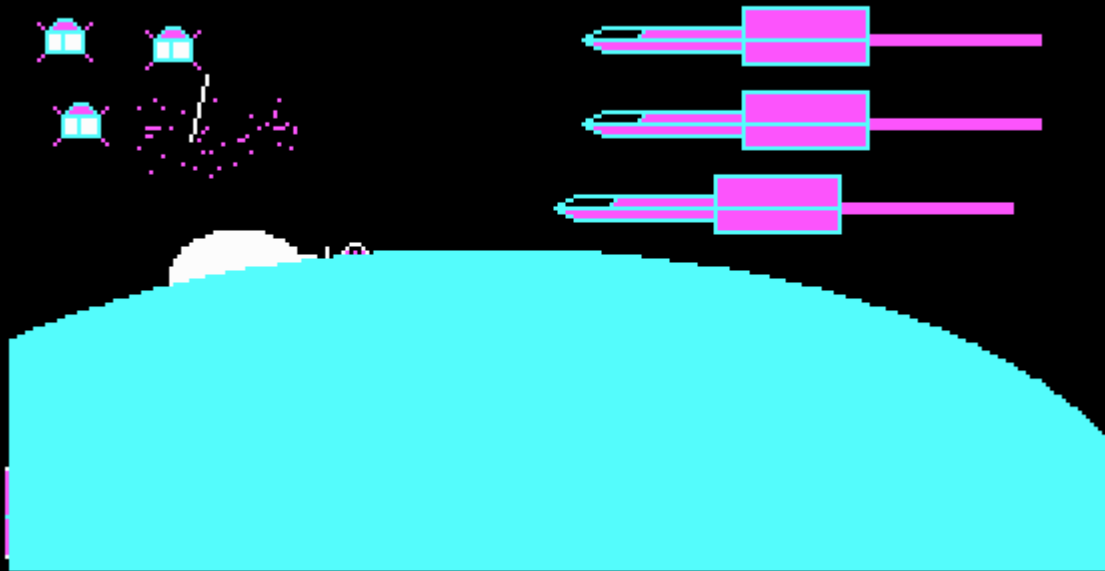
WHAT IS THAT THING ON THE
FLOOR? IS IT A CLUE???

!@#\$% *(&
!& @*@#& @
!(@*#^ !*@(!
+-)@92 1 @
@(#- @3 399

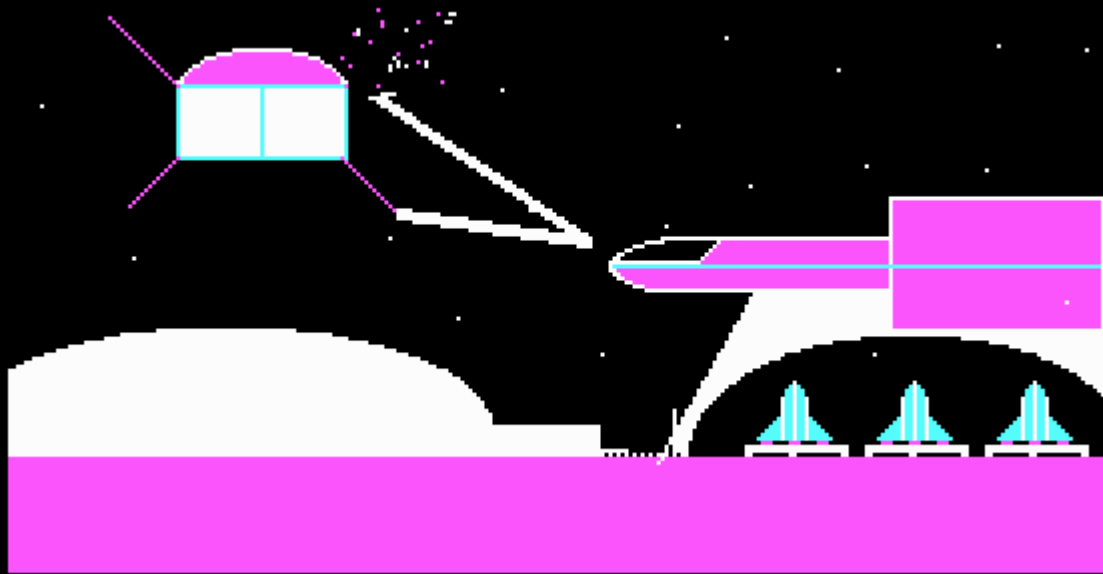
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF
CODE! THIS MUST BE IMPORTANT.



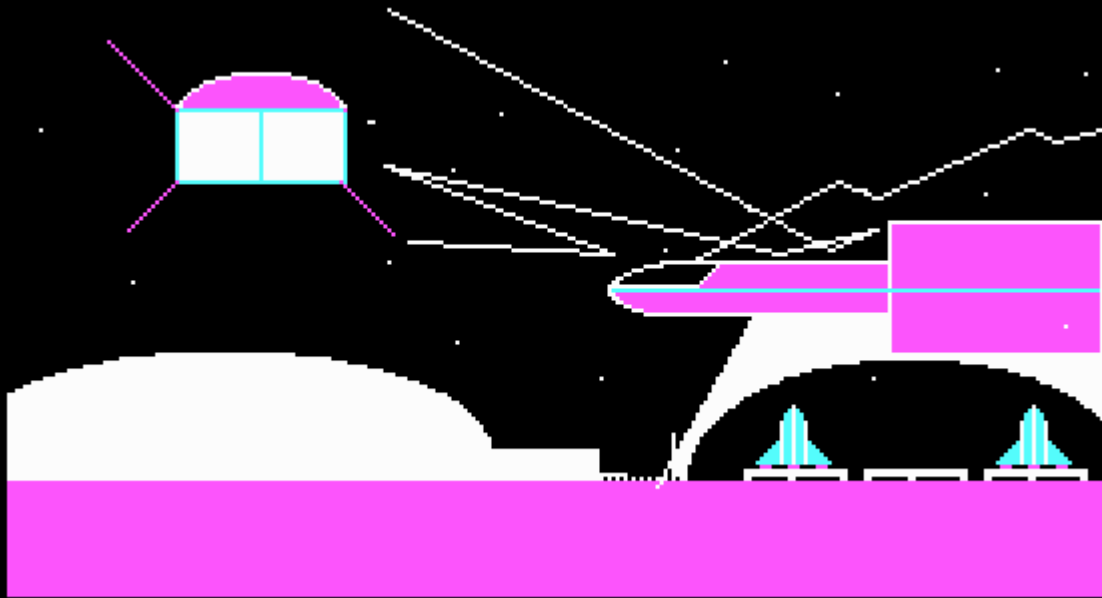
WELL, TIME TO GO. LET'S GET
BACK IN OUR SHIP AND RADIO OUR
FINDINGS BACK TO HEADQUARTERS.



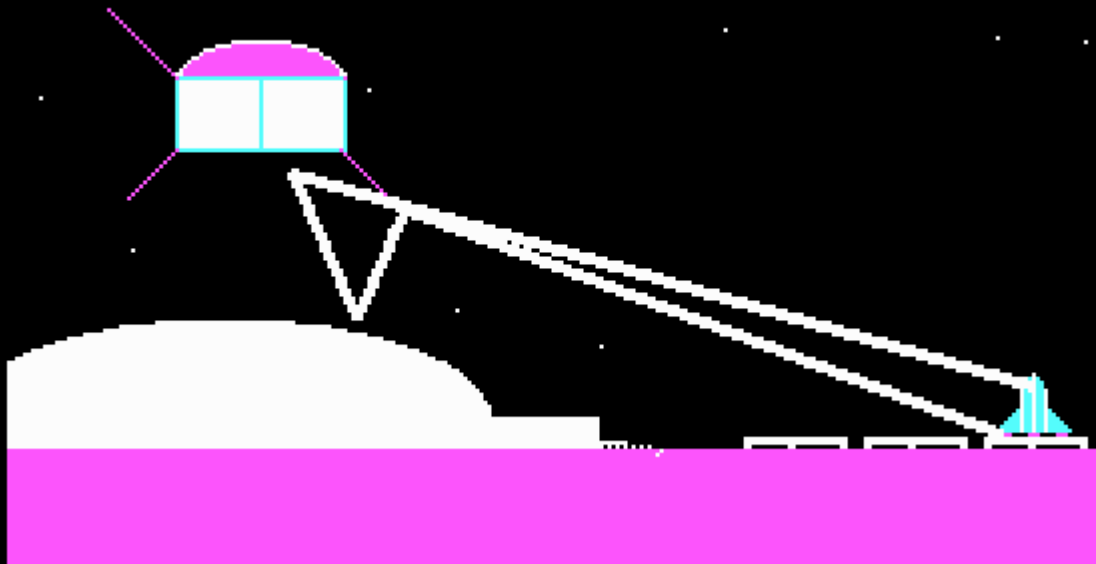
OH NO! THE BAD GUYS HAVE FOUND
OUR SECRET BASE!



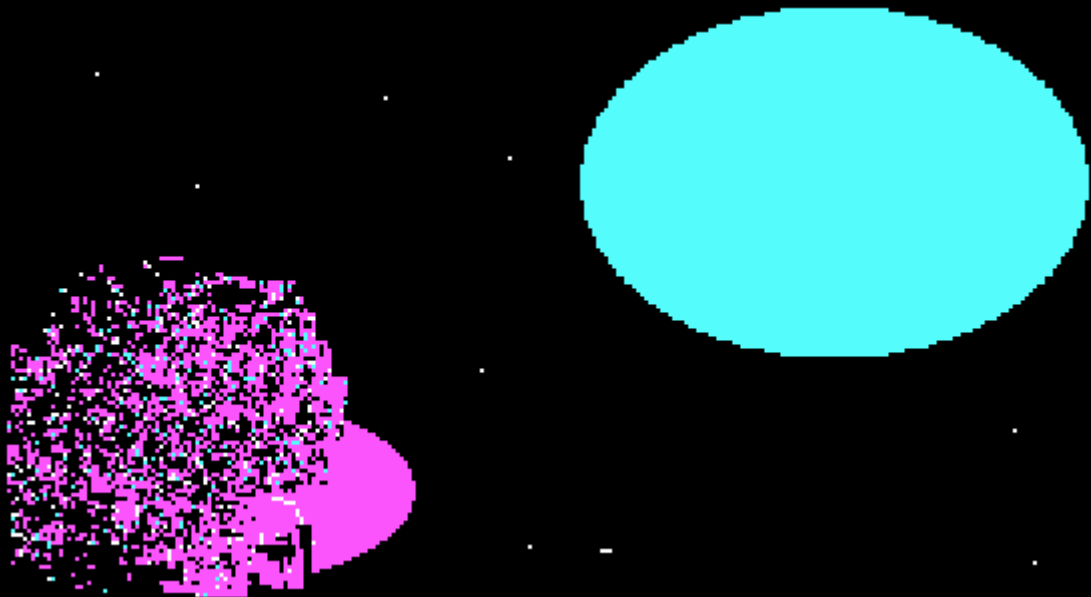
QUICK - LET'S TRY TO BEAM UP
OUR SHIPS. WE CAN USE OUR
SHIELDS TO PROTECT THEM.



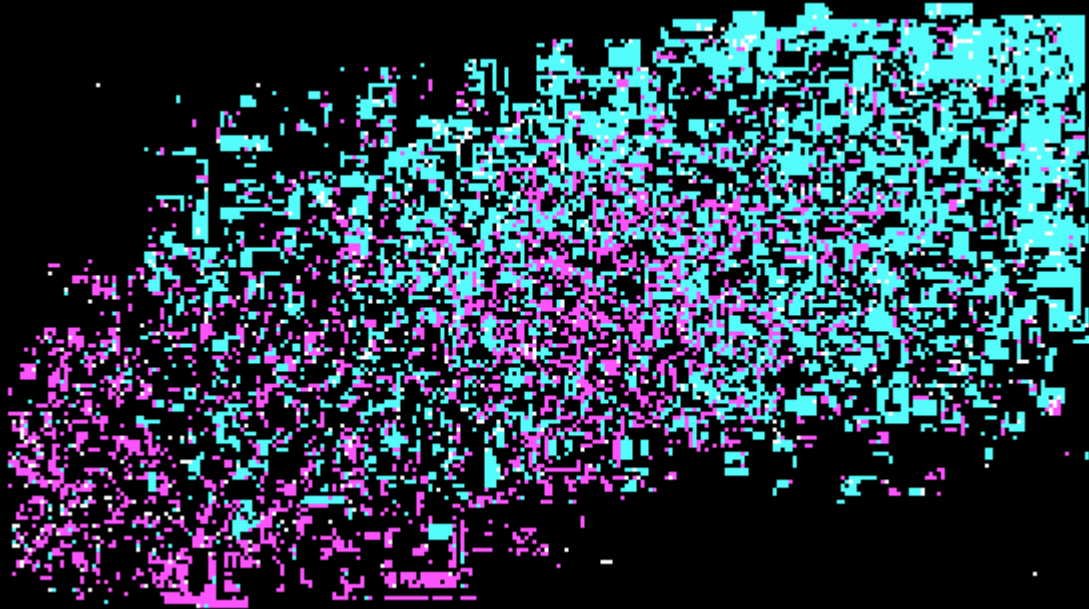
THIS IS TAKING TOO LONG! WE'D
BETTER CALL FOR HELP. WE CAN'T
LAST MUCH LONGER!



WE HAD TO LEAVE A SHIP BEHIND.
NOW OUR BASE IS UNGUARDED. THEY
ARE DESTROYING IT!

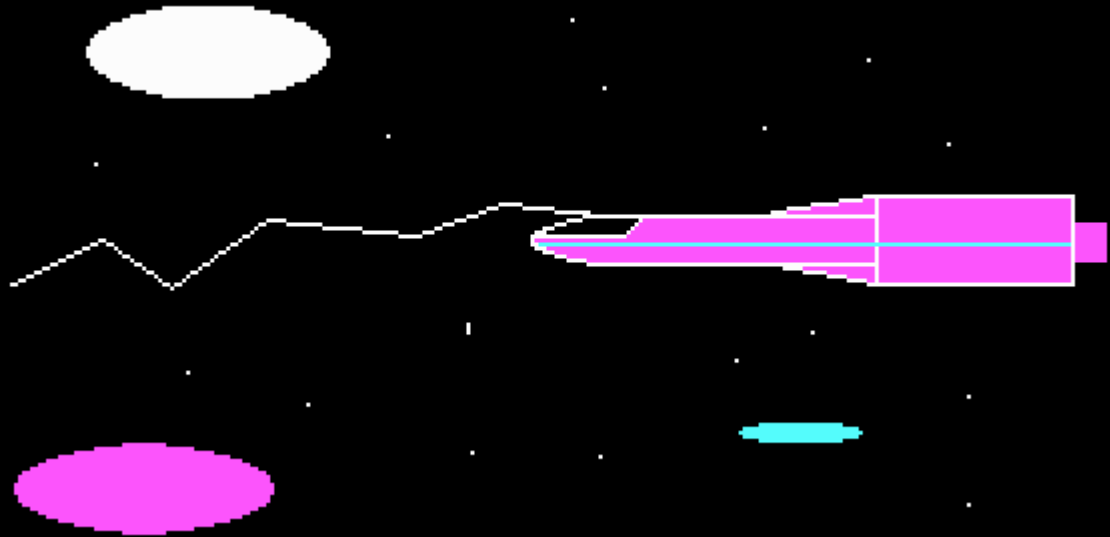


OH NO - THE CHAIN REACTION BLEW
UP OUR ENTIRE PLANET!

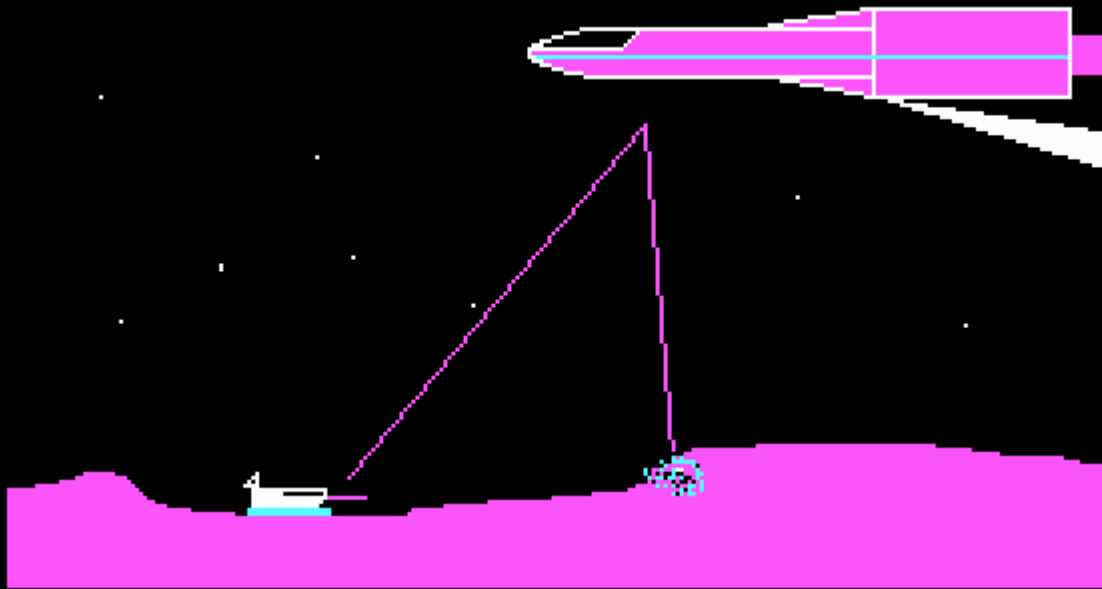


AT LEAST IT BLEW UP THEIR
PLANET TOO.

YEAH THAT DID NOT WORK OUT AS
WELL AS WE HAD HOPED.



AT LEAST WE ESCAPED BEFORE OUR
PLANET BLEW UP. TIME FOR
REVENGE!



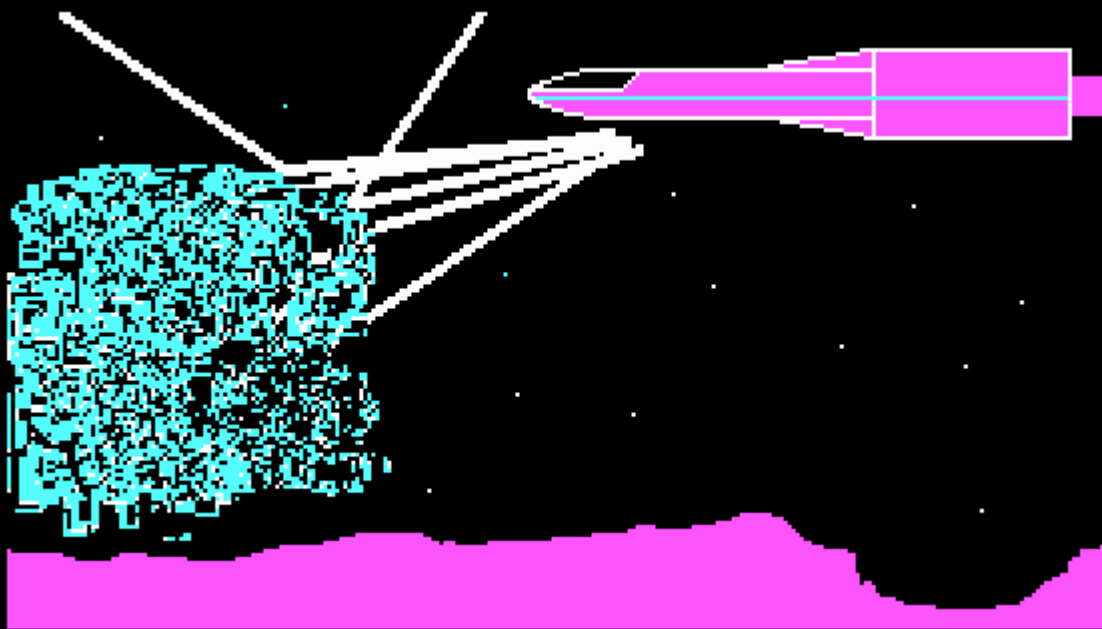
HA! OUR SHIELDS DEFLECTED YOUR
SHOT, YOU PIPSQUEAK!



TAKE THAT!



THERE YOU ARE, YOU EVIL ROBOTS
WHO BLEW UP OUR PLANET!



TAKE THAT! AND THAT! AND THAT!



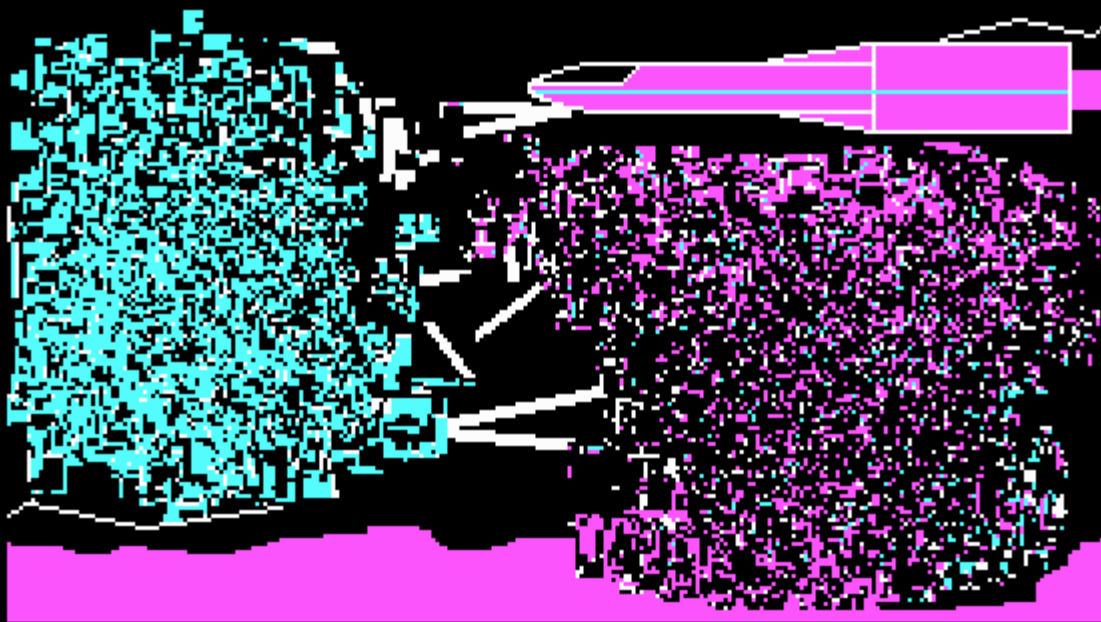
THAT'S RIGHT - THERE'S MORE
WHERE THAT CAME FROM! BOMBS
AWAY!



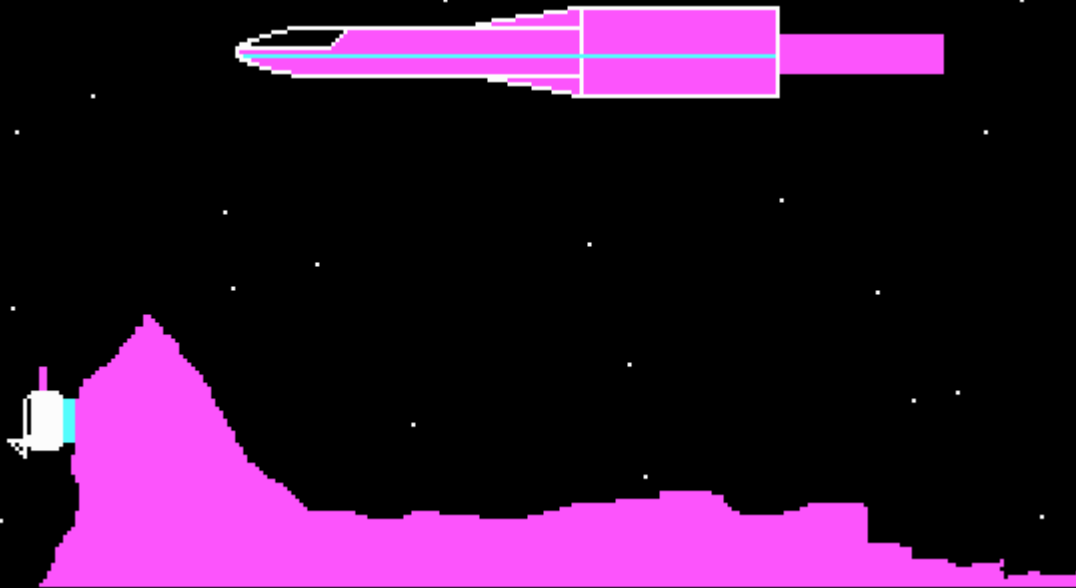
OH YEAH. YOU EVIL ROBOTS ARE
GOING DOWN, DOWN, DOWN!!



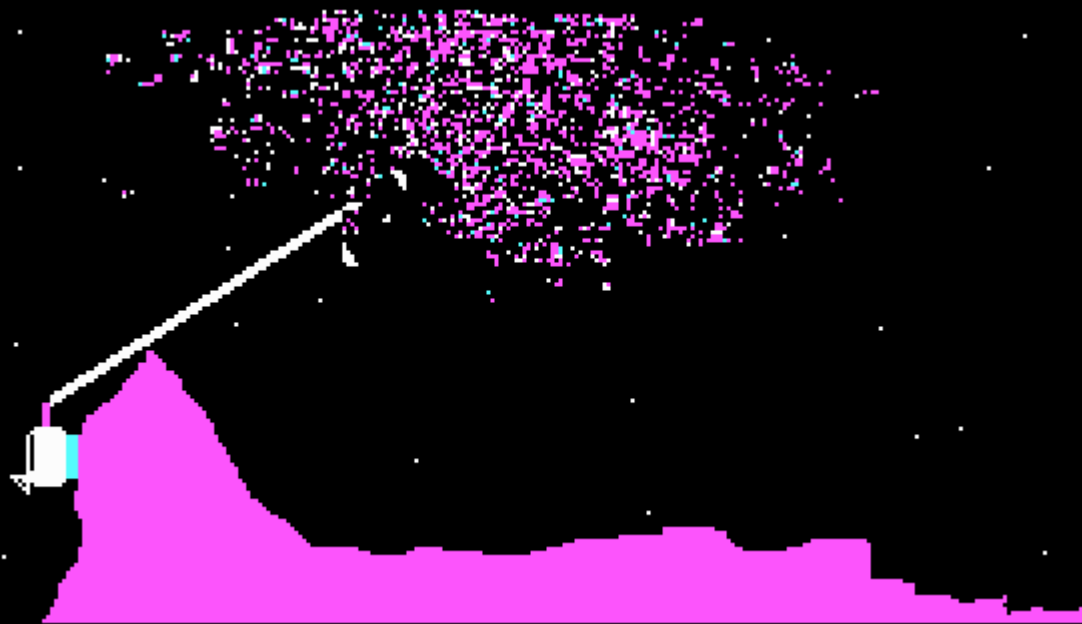
WE CAN KEEP DOING THIS ALL DAY.
BRING IT!



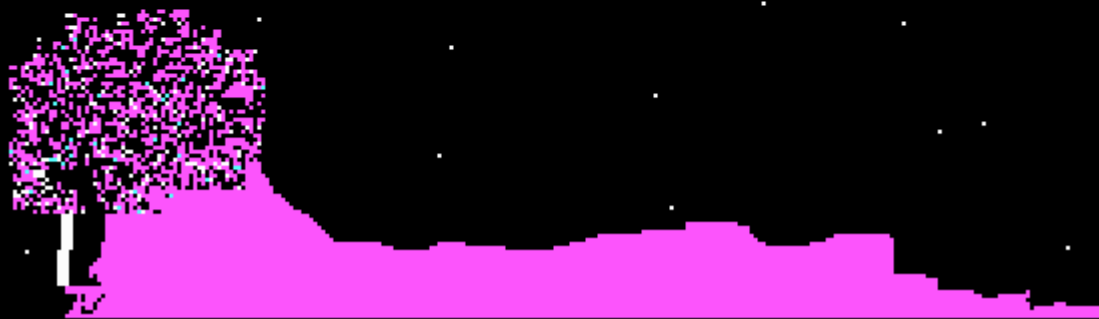
UH OH - THEY LEARNED HOW TO
FIRE THEIR WEAPONS. CALL FOR
HELP!



WELL, AT LEAST ONE OF US
SURVIVED. IT COULD HAVE BEEN
WORSE.



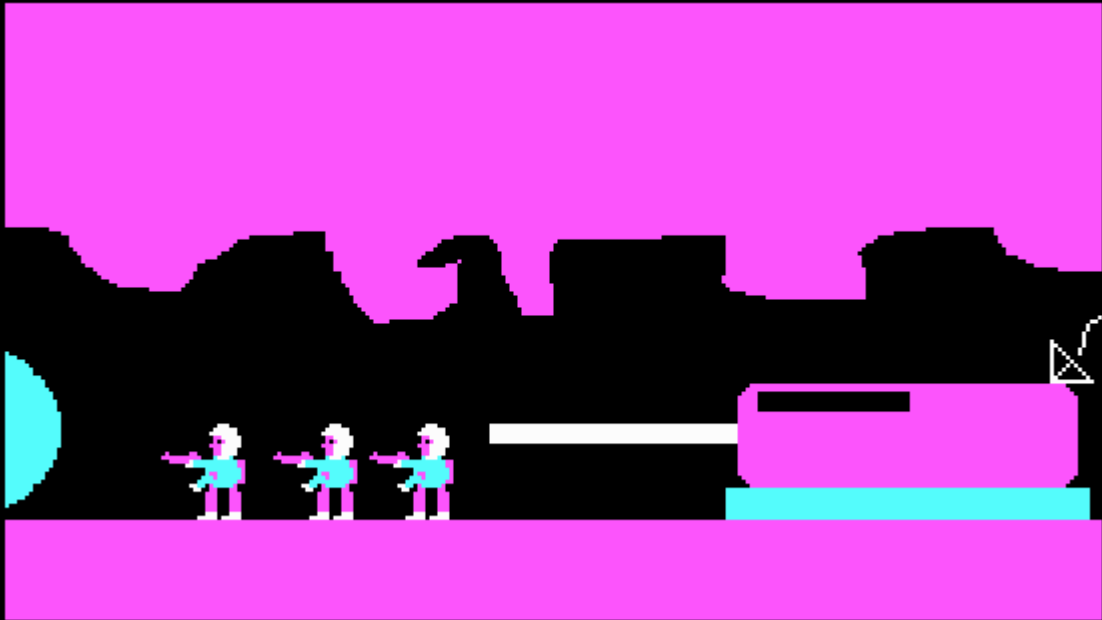
N0000000000000000!!!



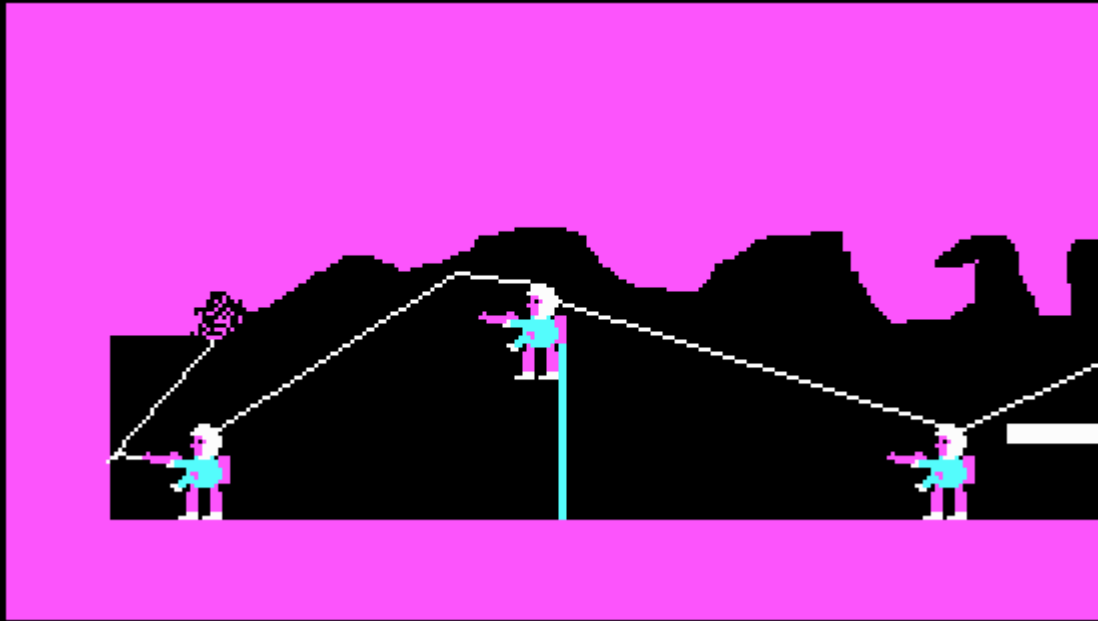
WELL, AT LEAST OUR ATTACKERS
WERE BLOWN UP BY A MYSTERIOUS
FORCE.



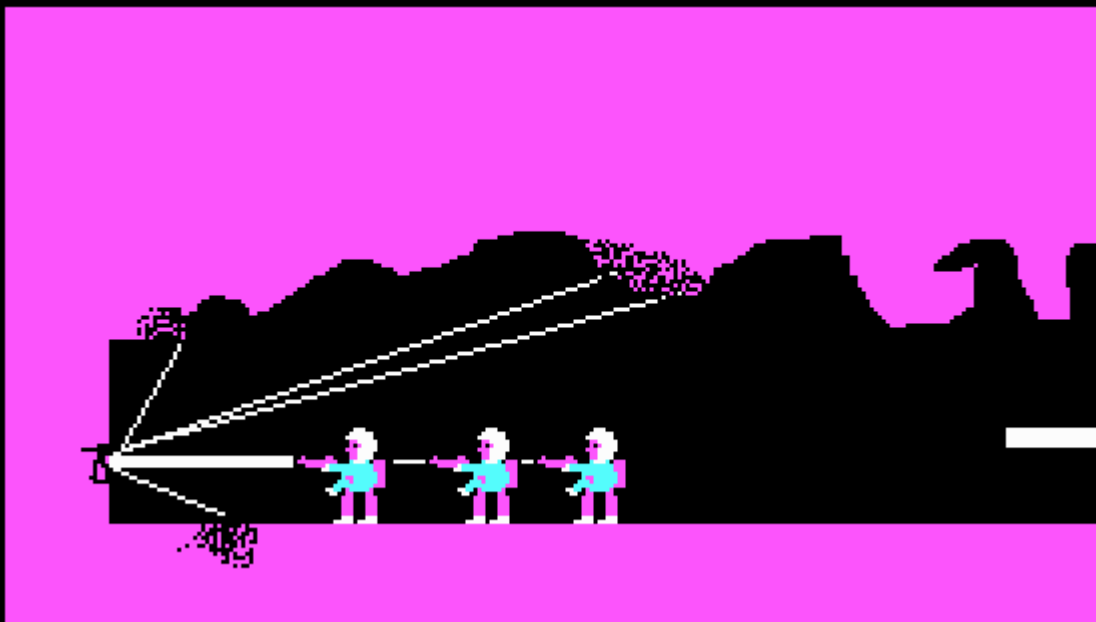
LOOK - IT'S ANOTHER SECRET
ENEMY BASE! IF ONLY ONE OF US
WERE STILL ALIVE...



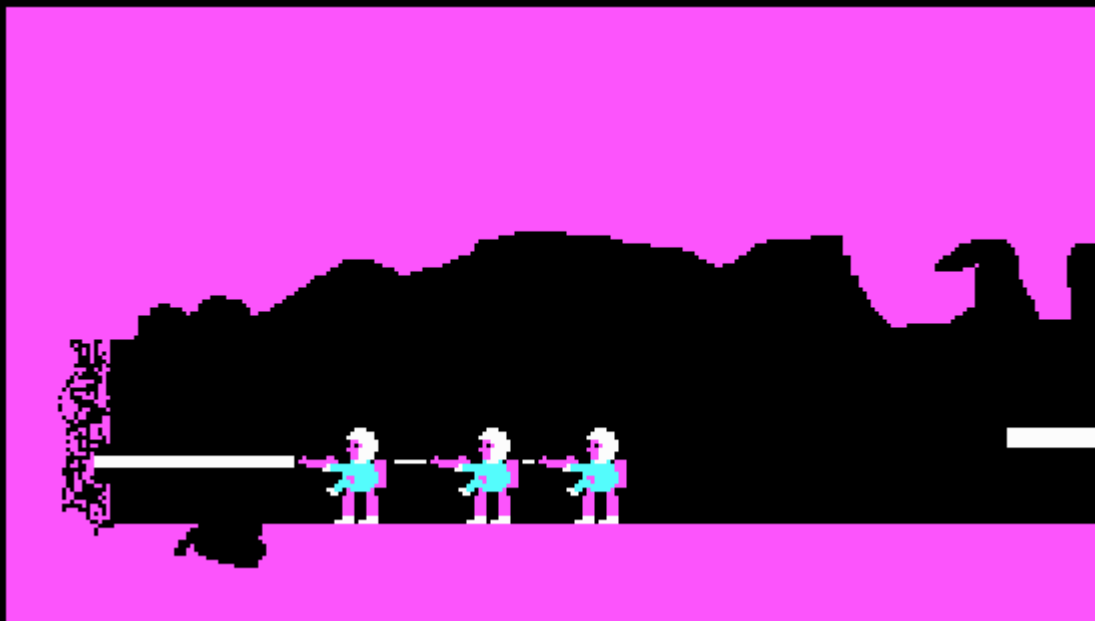
WHAT LUCK! I'M SURE GLAD WE
BEAMED A TEAM OFF THE SHIP
BEFORE IT WAS BLOWN UP.



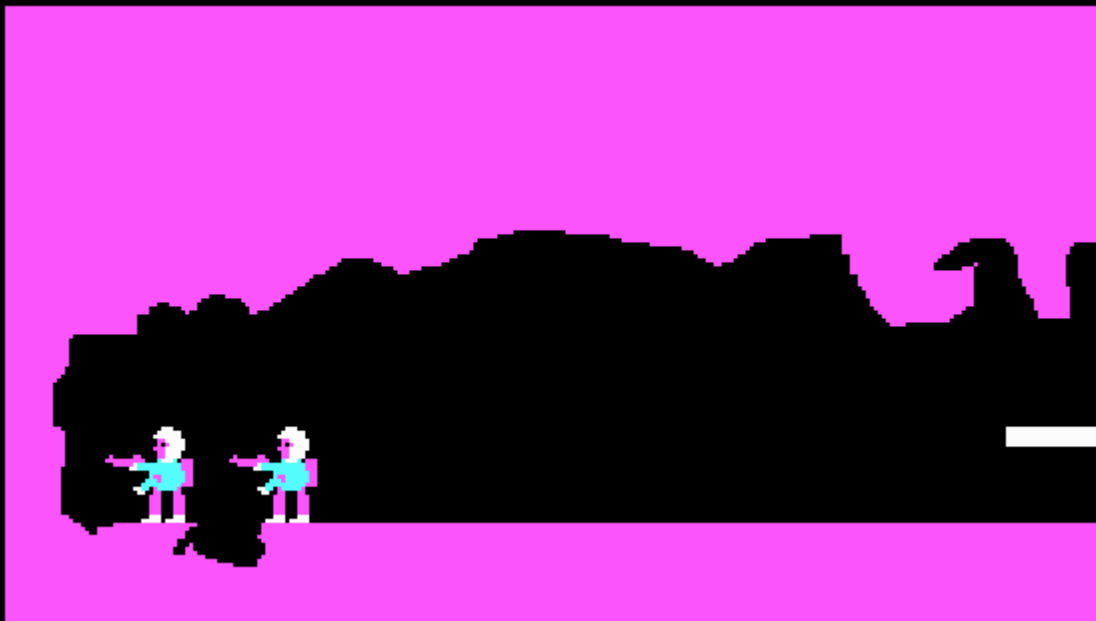
UH OH. OUR LASERS CAN'T
PENETRATE THEIR DEFENSES! LET'S
SEND OUT A RADIO MESSAGE.



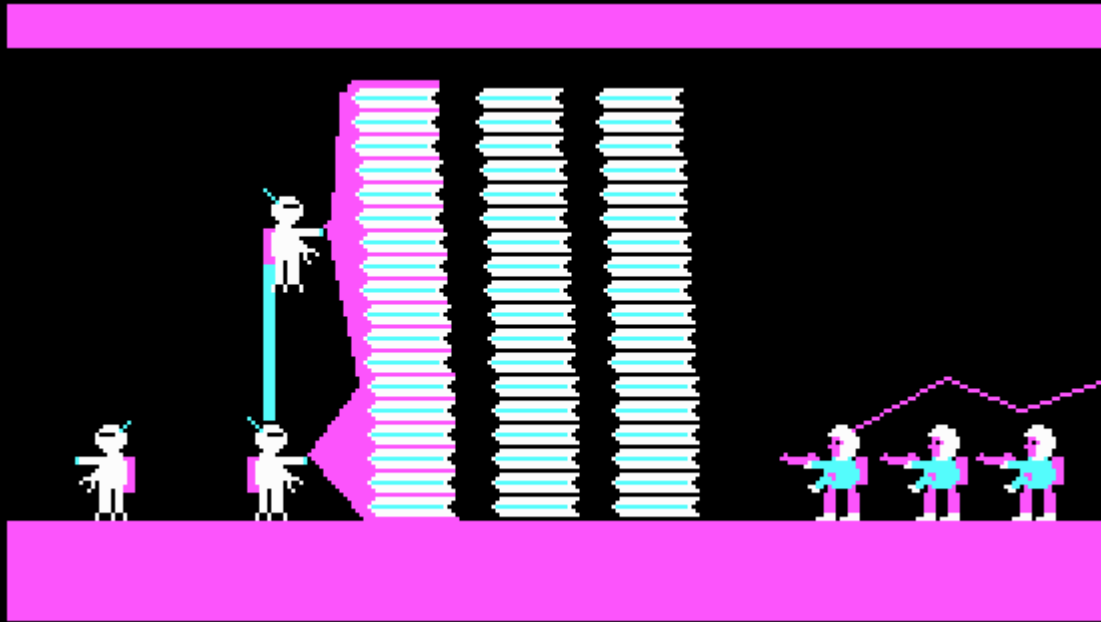
NEVER MIND. CHANGING OUR WEAPON
SETTING FROM LOW TO HIGH DID
THE TRICK!



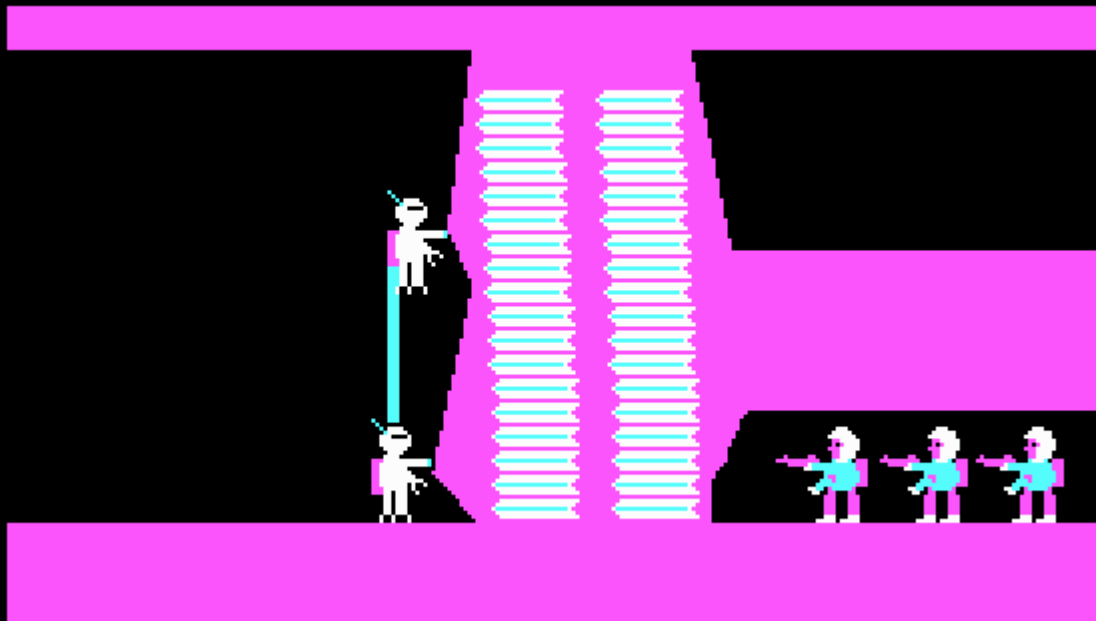
JUST KEEP FIRING MEN! WE' LL
BREAK THROUGH EVENTUALLY.



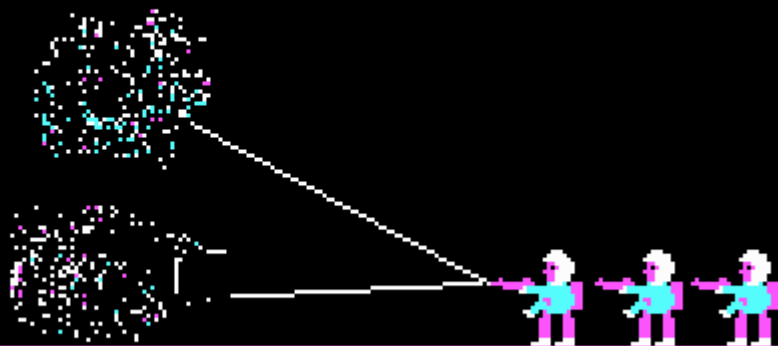
I KNEW THAT WOULD WORK! JUST
WATCH YOUR STEP.



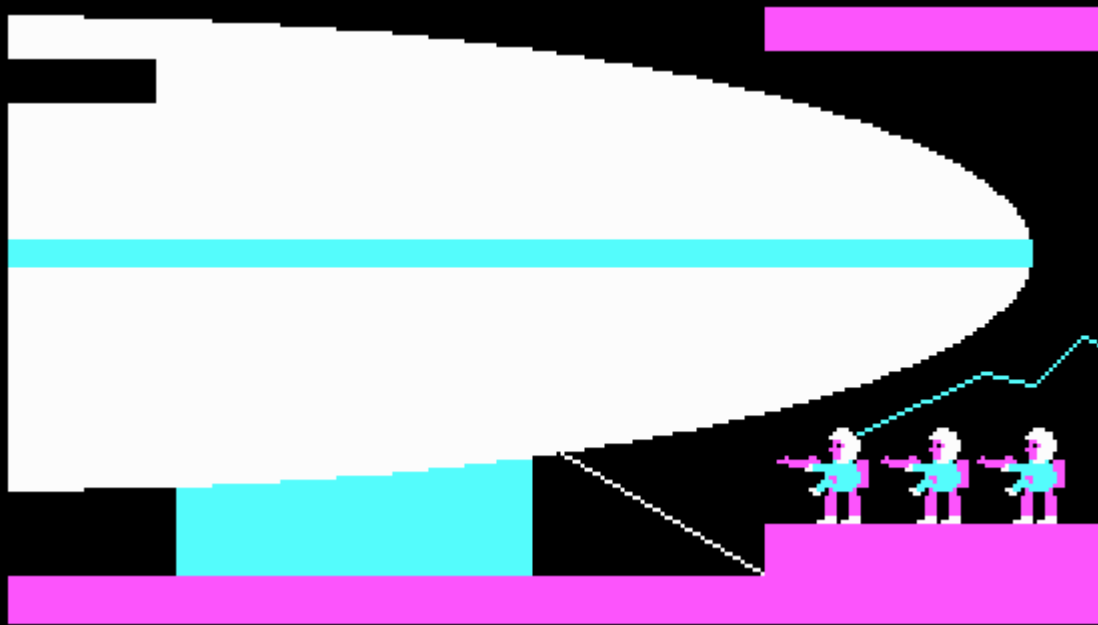
LOOK AT THAT! THIS MUST BE
WHERE THE EVIL ROBOTS STORE ALL
THEIR WEAPONS.



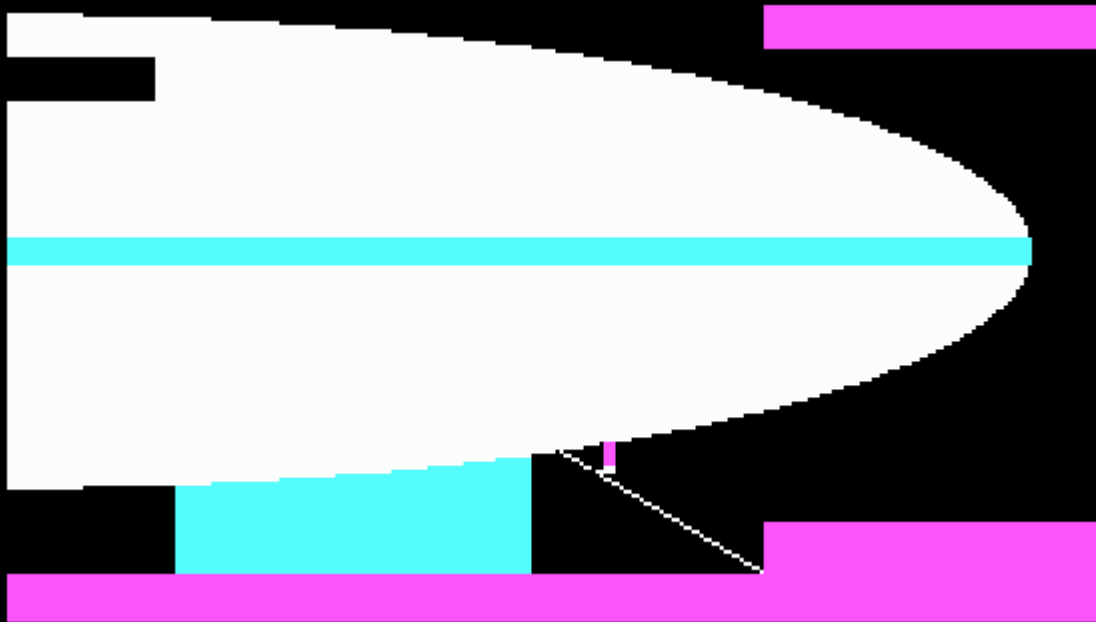
WE HAVE TO STOP THEM! WE'LL USE
OUR SHIP TO BEAM THEM AWAY. THE
ROBOTS WON'T MIND.



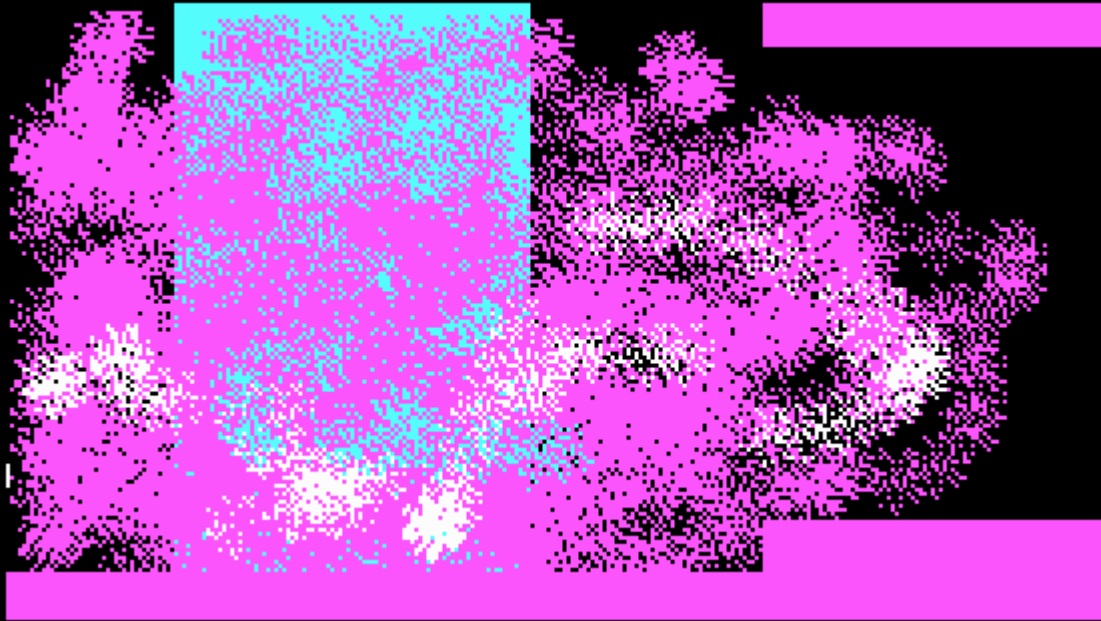
THAT WORKED OUT PRETTY WELL.



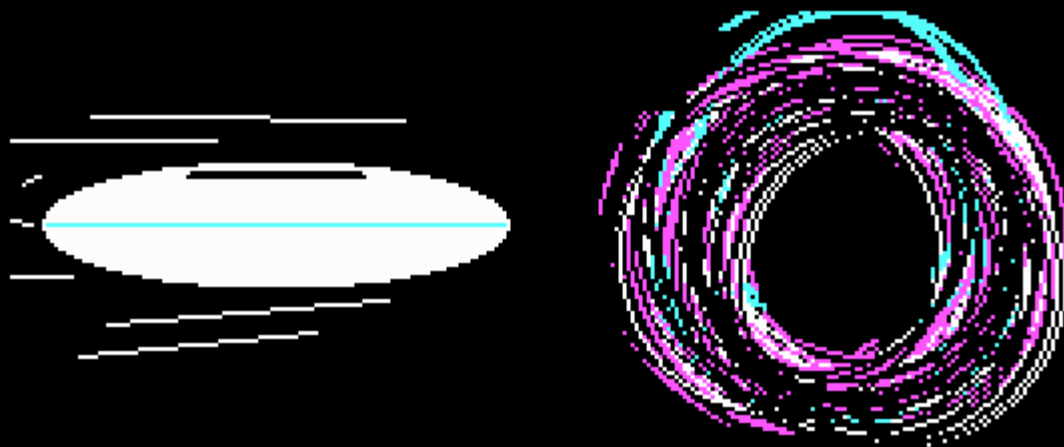
LOOK AT THAT - IT'S ONE OF
THEIR EVIL ROBOT SHIPS! AND
THEY LEFT THE DOOR OPEN!



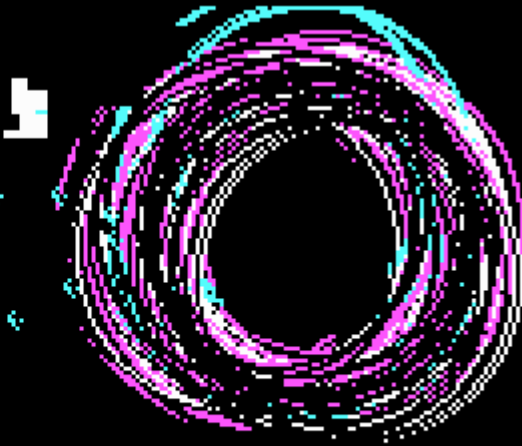
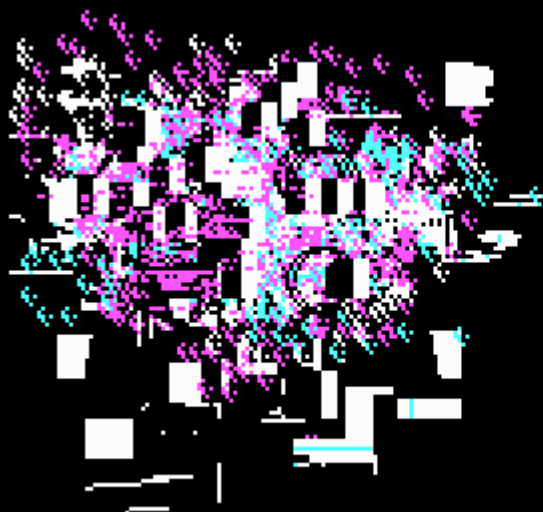
I' M SURE THEY WON' T MIND IF WE
GO INSIDE AND TAKE A LOOK
AROUND.



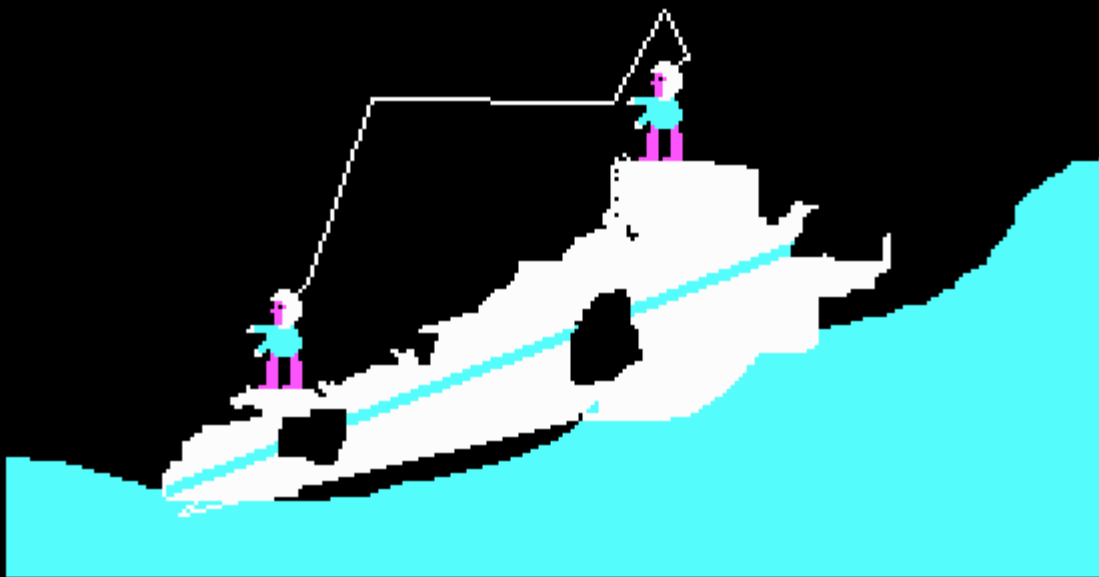
AND THEY DEFINITELY WON'T MIND
IF WE TAKE THEIR SHIP AND FLY
AWAY IN IT.



OH NO - IT'S A WORMHOLE! QUICK,
ENGAGE EVASIVE MANEUVERS!



IT'S TOO LATE. THE SHIP IS
BREAKING UP! PANIC!!!



WELL, AT LEAST SOME OF US MADE
IT THROUGH THE WORMHOLE AND
CRASHED ON THIS PLANET.



LOOKS LIKE SHRAPNEL FROM THE
SHIP IS RAINING DOWN FROM THE
SKY. OH NO - ROBOT ALERT!!!



ZAP ZAP ZAP!



NICE SHOOTING! WE HAD BETTER GO
EXPLORING THOUGH. THERE MAY BE
MORE...



WHOOPS. LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE A
LOT MORE. AND THESE ROBOTS CAN
FLY! PANIC!!!



WELL AT LEAST THESE ROBOTS
CAN'T HIT ANYTHING.



THIS FIREFIGHT IS GOING A LOT
BETTER THAN I EXPECTED.



YUP. THESE ROBOTS ARE
HOPELESSLY INCOMPETENT.



AND THAT IS THE END OF THAT.



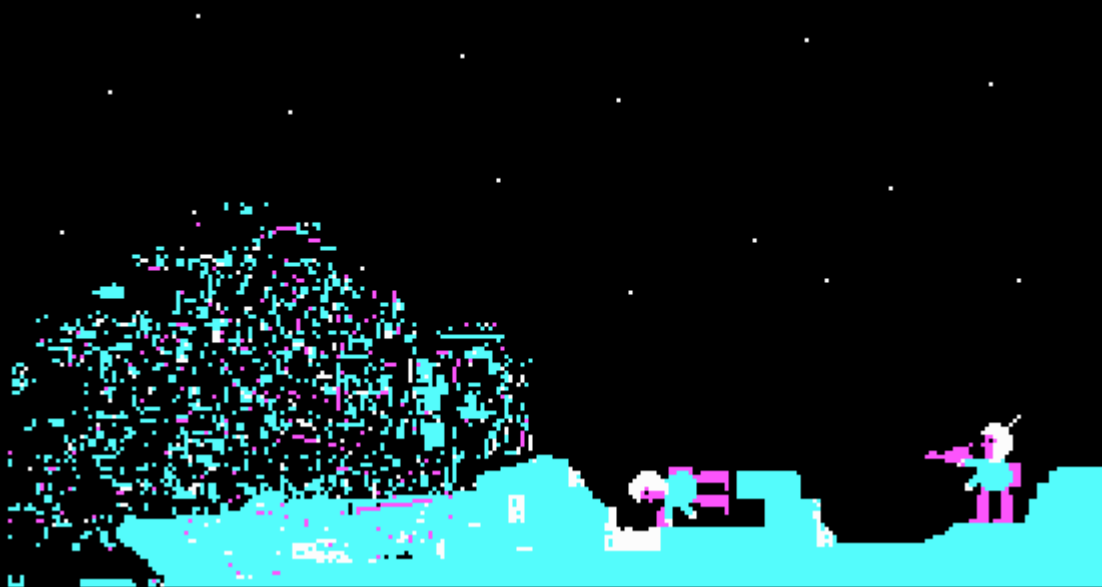
OH NO! IT'S THEIR GIANT EVIL
ROBOT OVERLORD!!!



WHAT LUCK! IT'S HOPELESSLY
INCOMPETENT TOO! THIS IS OUR
LUCKY DAY!



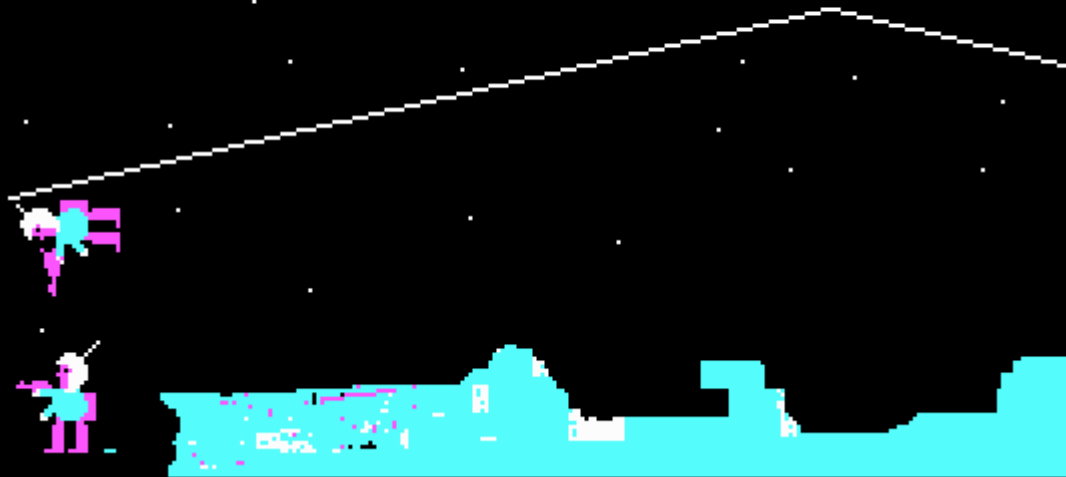
I' LL JUST SHOOT IT A BUNCH OF
TIMES WHILE IT' S NOT LOOKING.



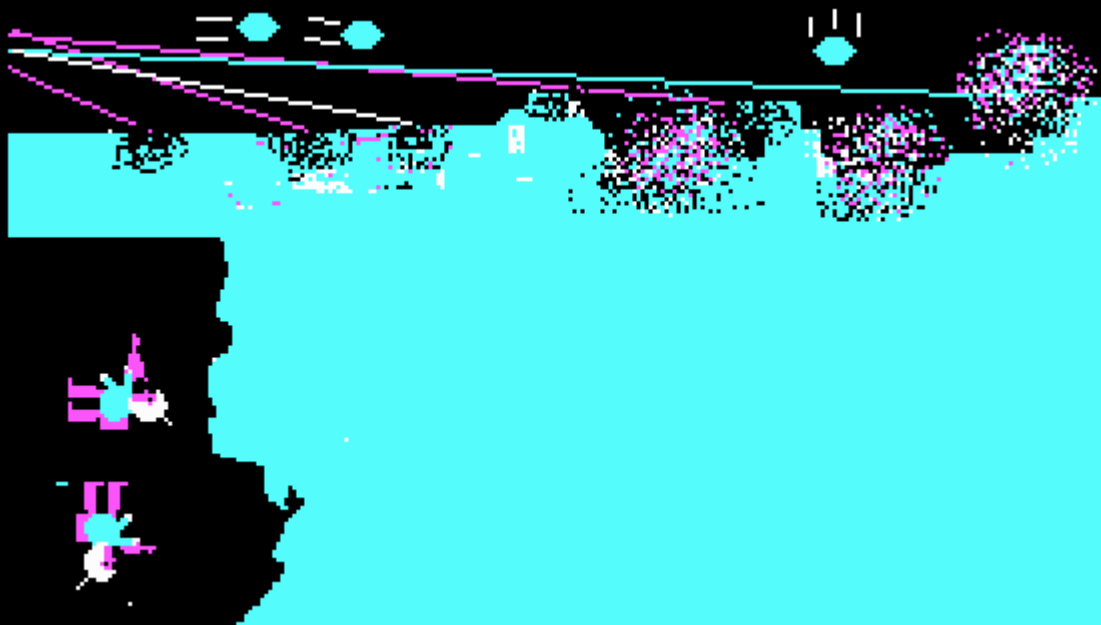
I KNEW THAT WOULD WORK!
SUCCESS!!!



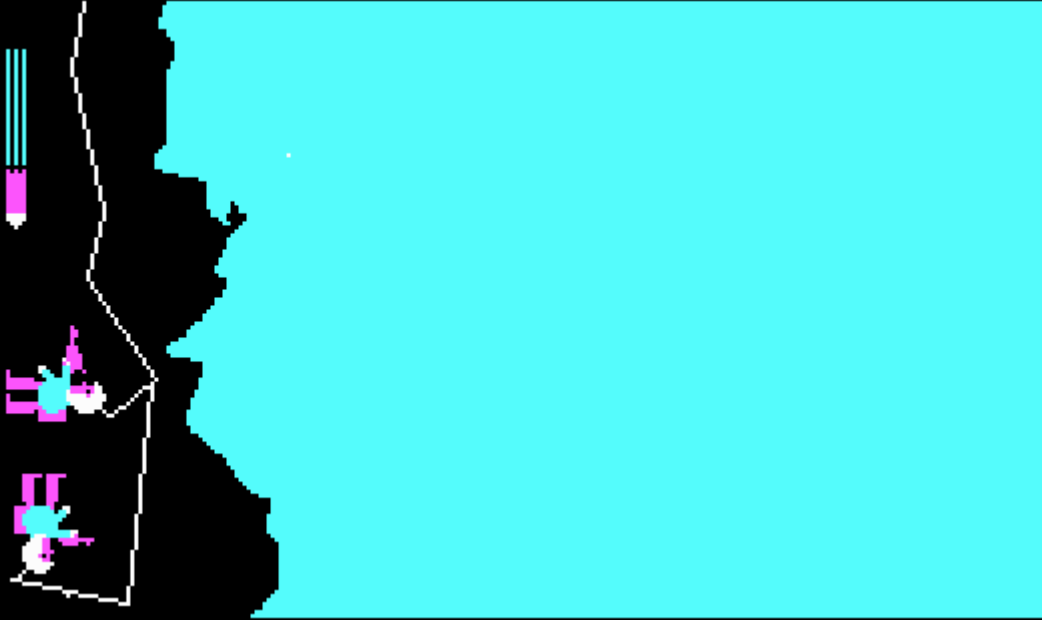
OH LOOK - WE CAN FLY TOO! WHO
KNEW???



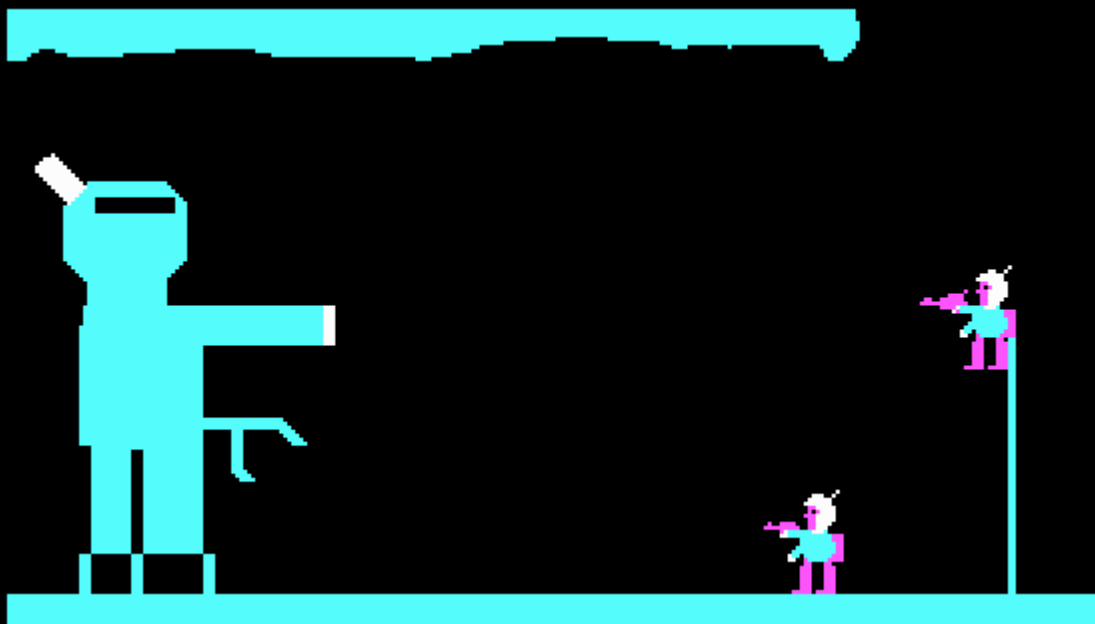
LET S GO EXPLORE THIS DARK,
BOTTOMLESS HOLE. I'M SURE
NOTHING WILL GO WRONG.



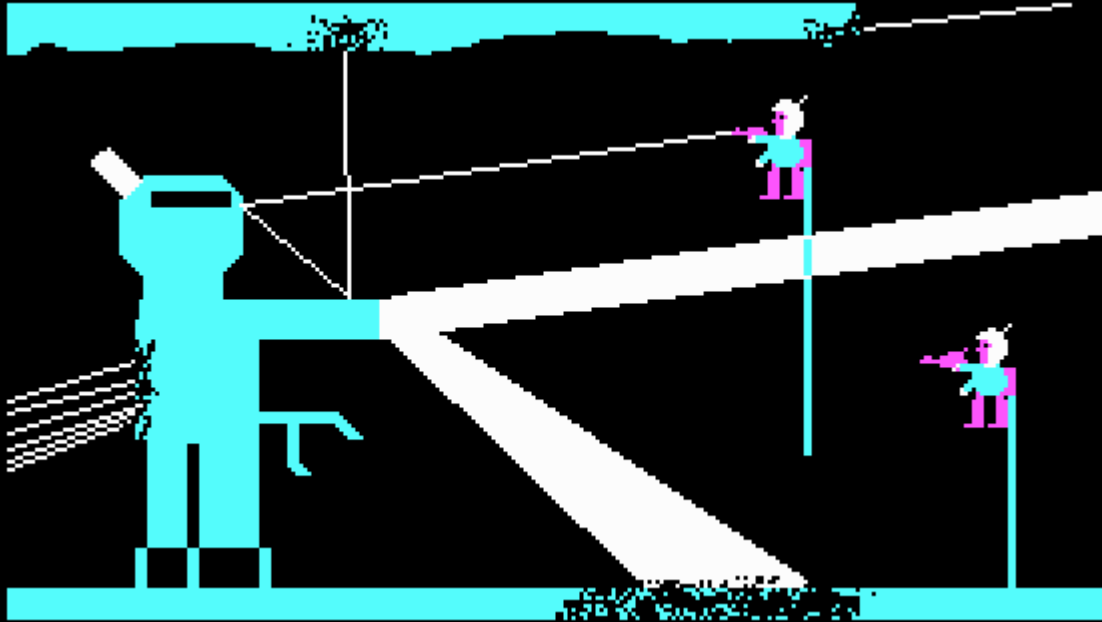
WE GOT OUT OF THERE JUST IN
TIME! LOOKS LIKE THEY FINALLY
FOUND ROBOTS THAT CAN SHOOT.



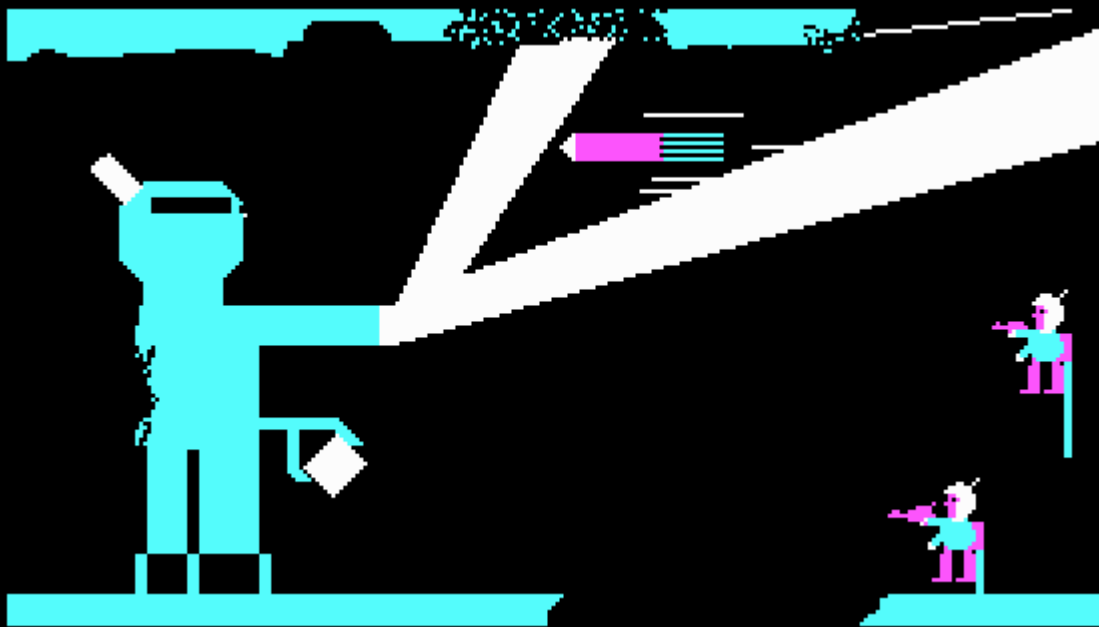
I'M REALLY HOPING THAT MISSILE
COMING TOWARDS US IS ON OUR
SIDE...



UH-OH. IT'S ANOTHER EVIL GIANT
ROBOT OVERLORD! I SURE HOPE
THIS ONE IS INCOMPETENT TOO.



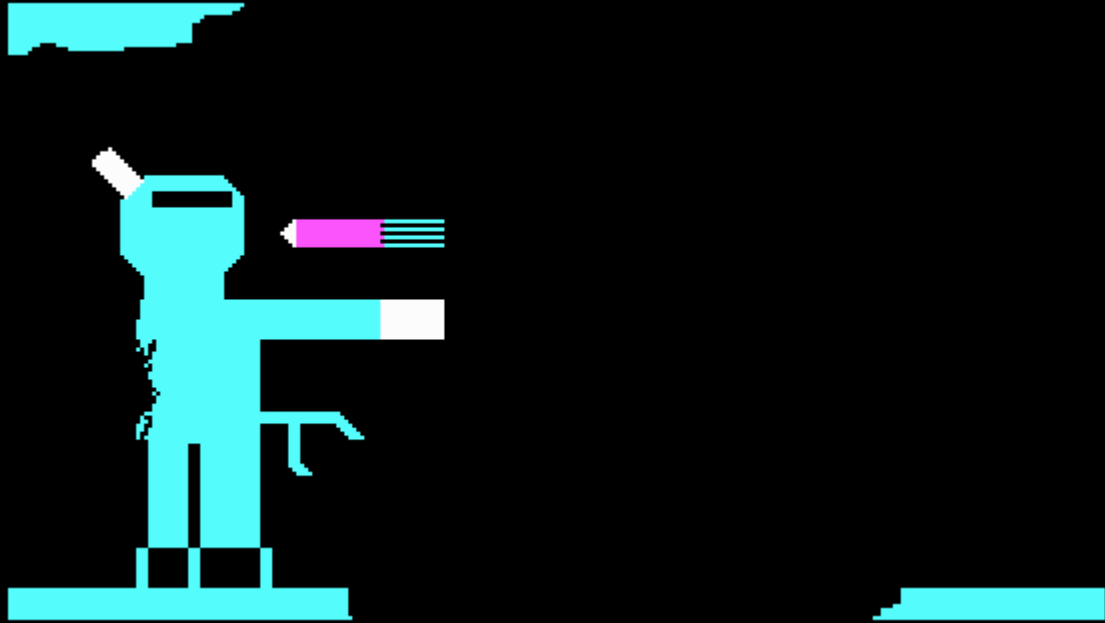
WE'RE IN LUCK! ITS LASERS ARE
SO SLOW WE CAN DODGE THEM. AND
OUR BACKUP HAS ARRIVED TOO!



OH LOOK - IT'S THAT MISSILE
FROM EARLIER. IT'S COME TO SAVE
US!



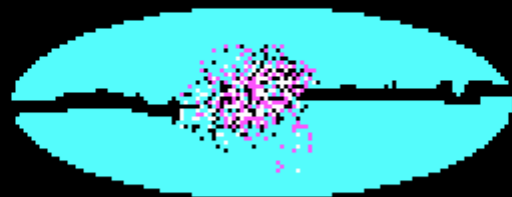
I DON'T KNOW WHY THE ROBOT
OVERLORD IS SHOOTING RANDOMLY.
BUT OUR MISSILE IS CLOSING IN!



I THINK WE'D BETTER LEAVE
BEFORE THAT MISSILE EXPLODES!



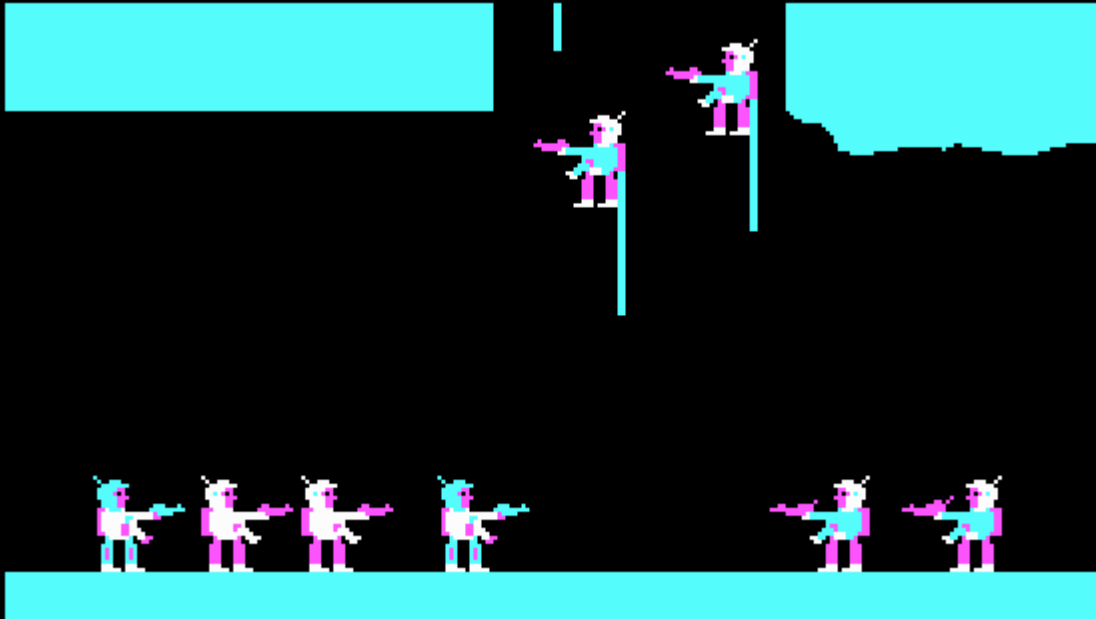
B000000000000M!



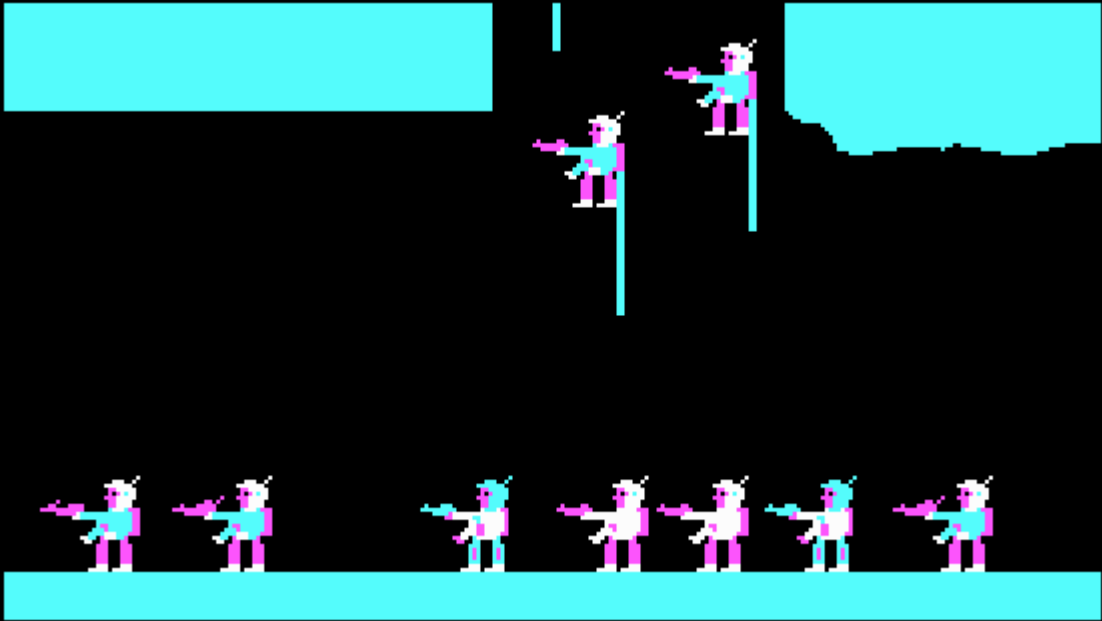
OH LOOK - THE EXPLOSION CRACKED
THE PLANET IN HALF! WE MEANT TO
DO THAT, RIGHT?



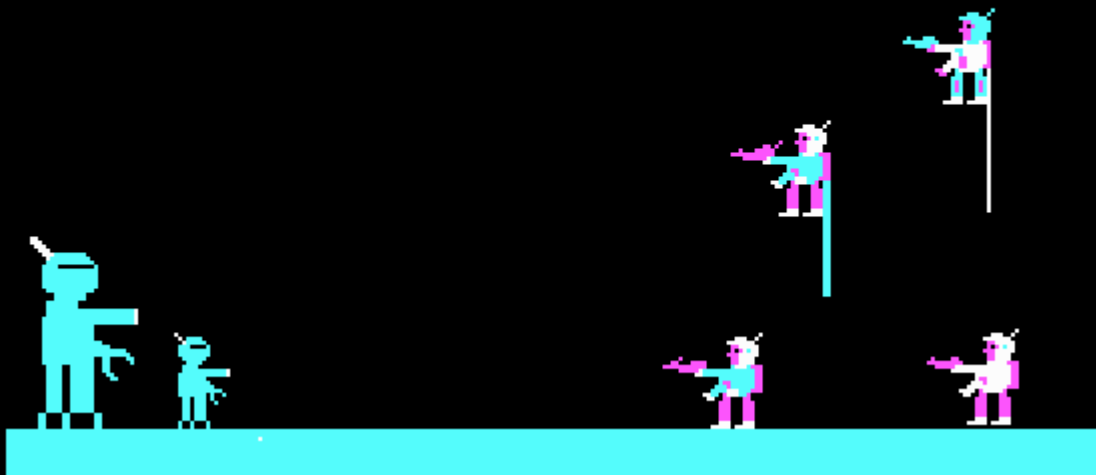
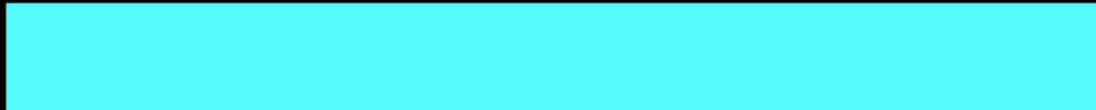
AND NOW THE TWO HALVES ARE
FLOATING AWAY. I'M SURE GLAD WE
ESCAPED THAT BLAST!



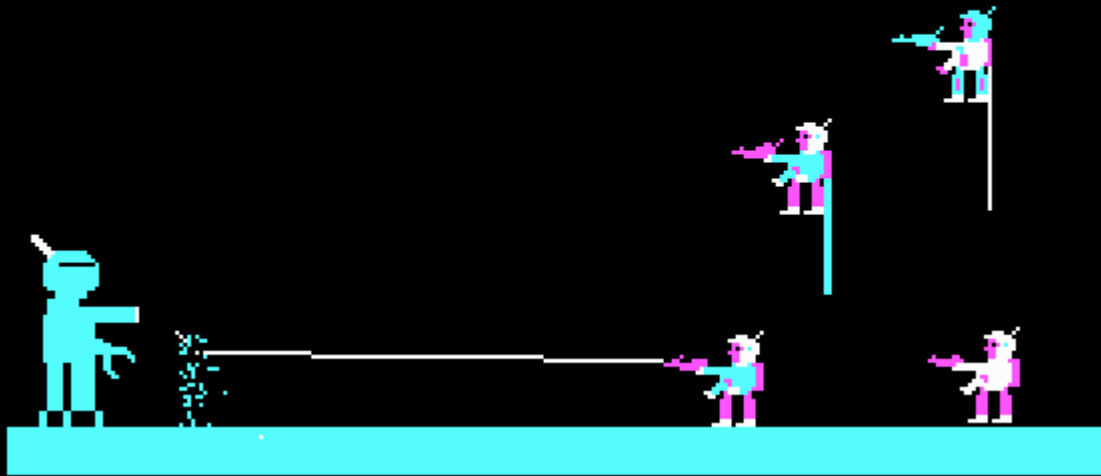
LET'S GET BACK TO EXPLORING
THAT BOTTOMLESS PIT. LOOK -
IT'S FRIENDS! AWESOME!!!



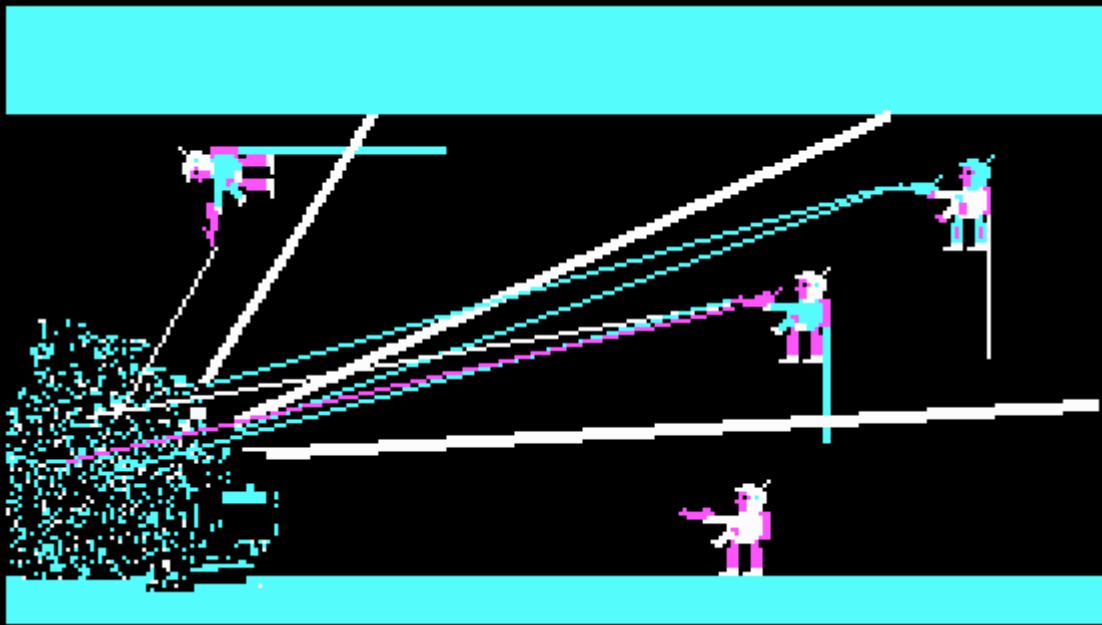
EVERYBODY TURN LEFT. WE'RE
GOING THAT WAY!



IT'S ANOTHER EVIL ROBOT
OVERLORD! HOW MANY OF THOSE
THINGS DO THESE GUYS HAVE???



DON' T WORRY - I' LL DESTROY THE
SMALL ONE. YOU CAN HANDLE THE
BIG GIANT EVIL ONE.



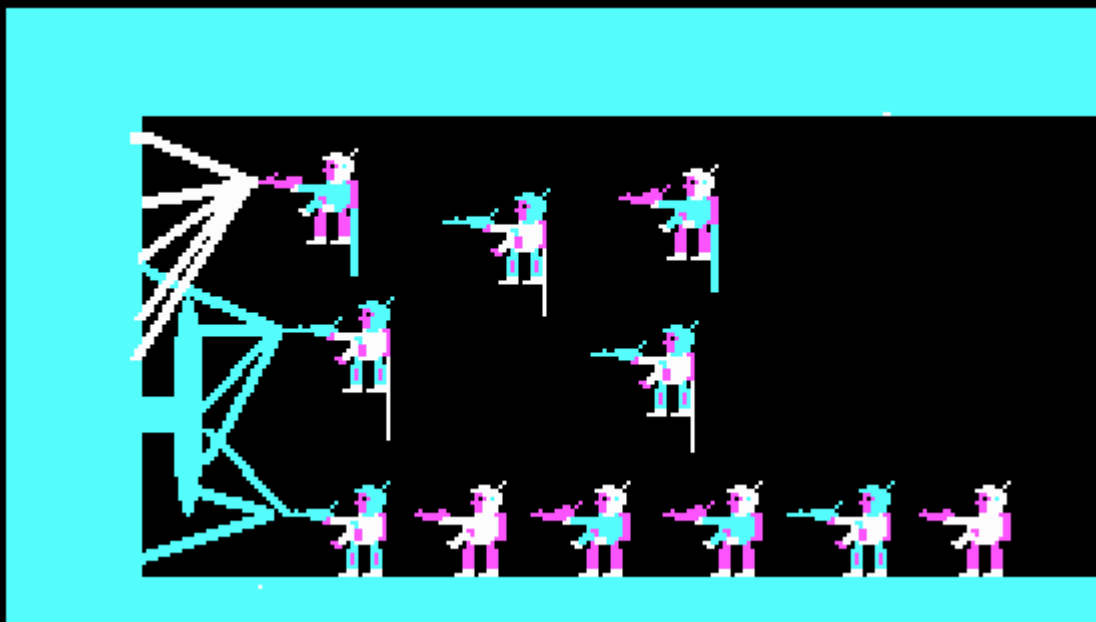
ZAP! ZAP! ZAP!



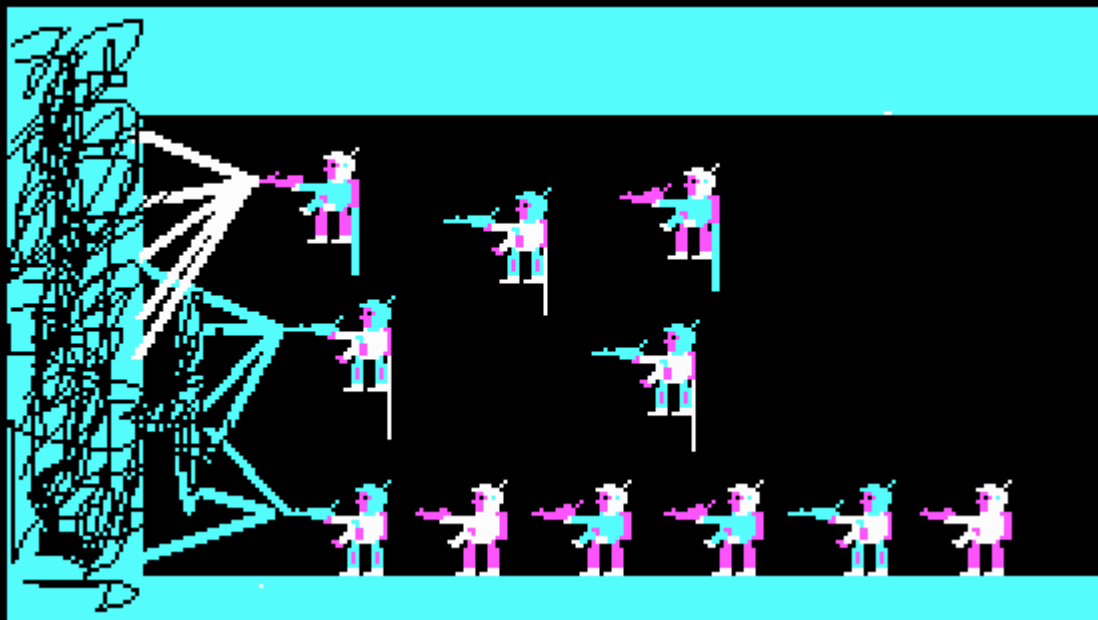
THESE GUYS NEED TO GET A REFUND
FOR THEIR ROBOT OVERLORDS. I'VE
SEEN TOUGHER BUNNY RABBITS.



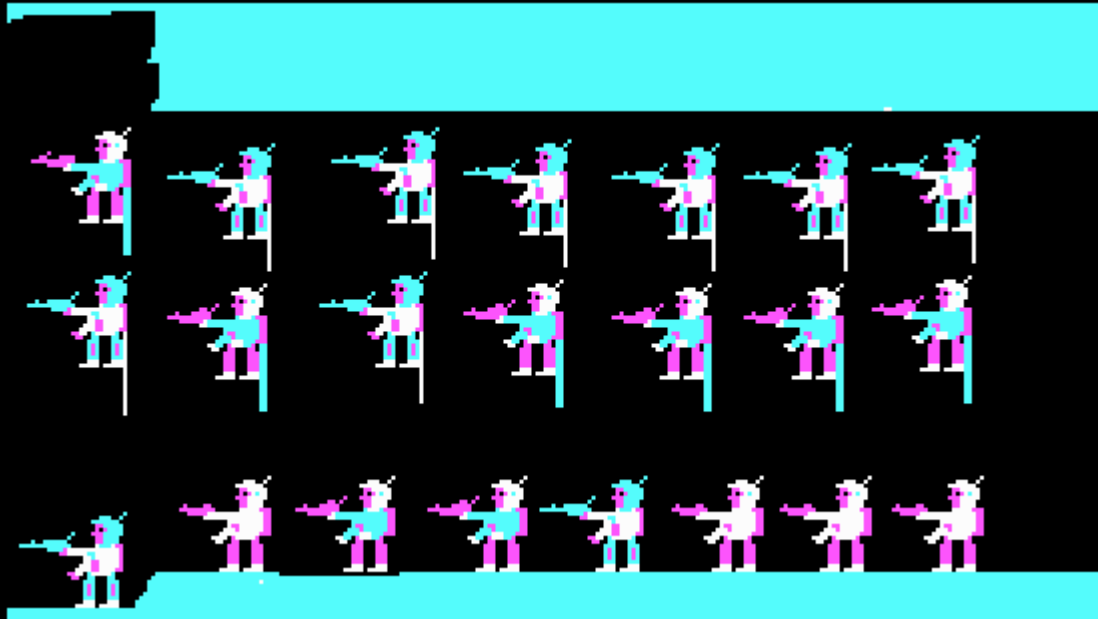
LOOK - A GIANT VAULT!



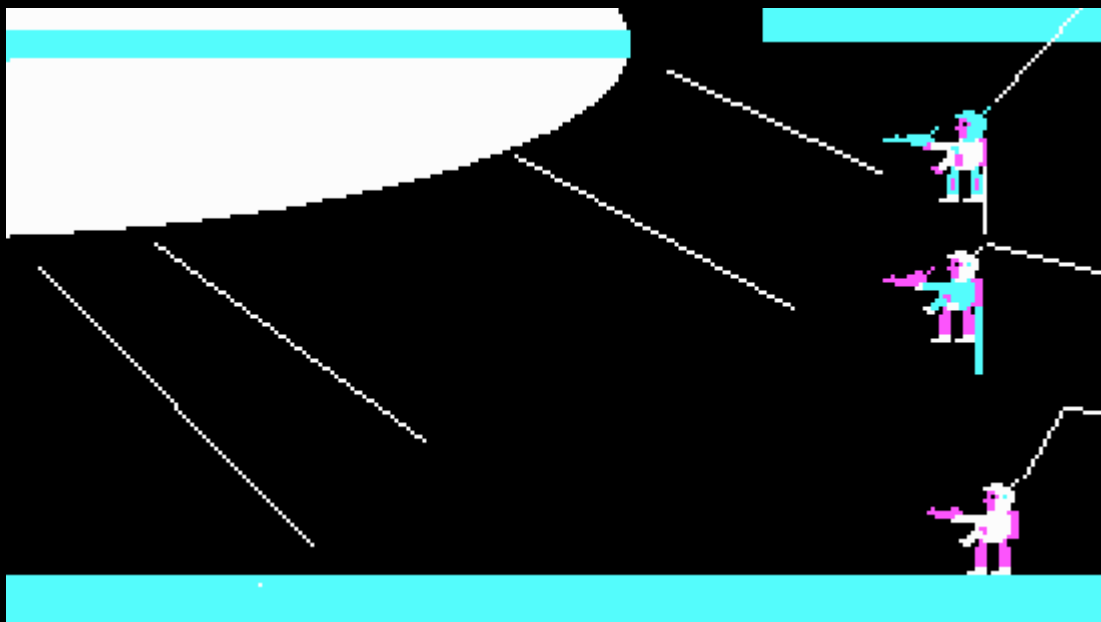
WE' LL JUST SHOOT IT OPEN. THAT
ALWAYS SEEMS TO WORK PRETTY
WELL.



IT'S WORKING!!!



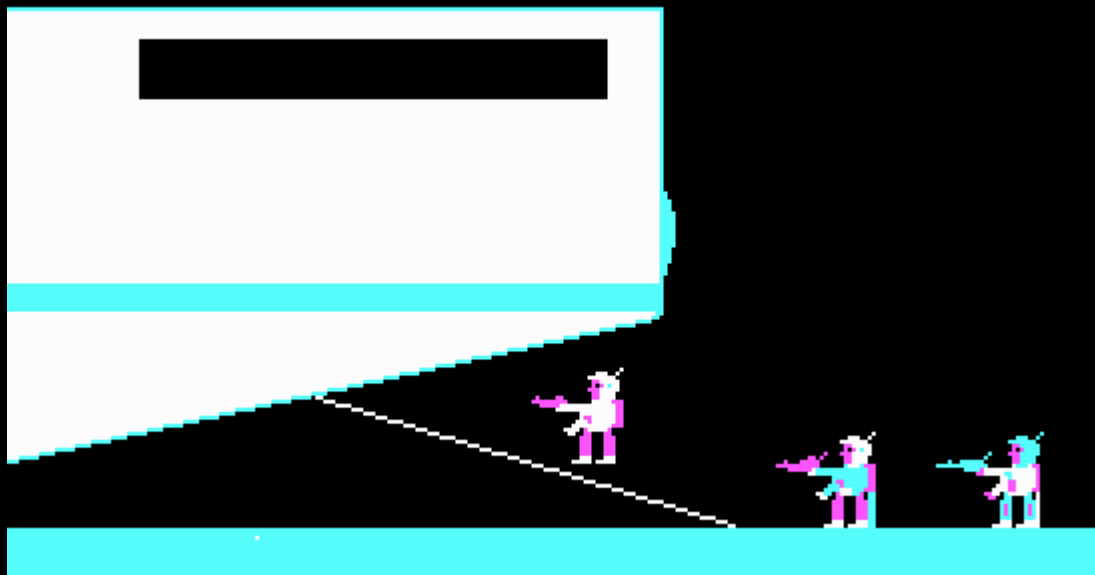
LET'S SEND IN THE
REINFORCEMENTS. TIME TO FIND
OUT WHAT THEY WERE HIDING!



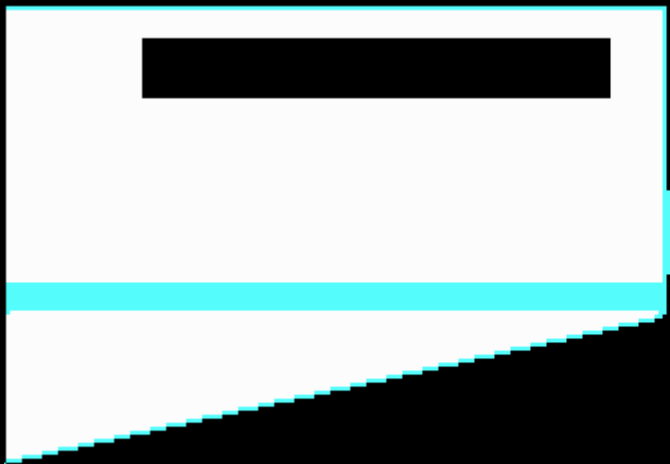
LOOK - IT'S A GIANT SHIP!



IT LOOKS SUPER ADVANCED. I'M
GLAD THEY LEFT THE DOOR OPEN
FOR US!



LET'S JUST GO INSIDE AND LOOK
AROUND. AFTER ALL, THAT WORKED
OUT REALLY WELL LAST TIME.



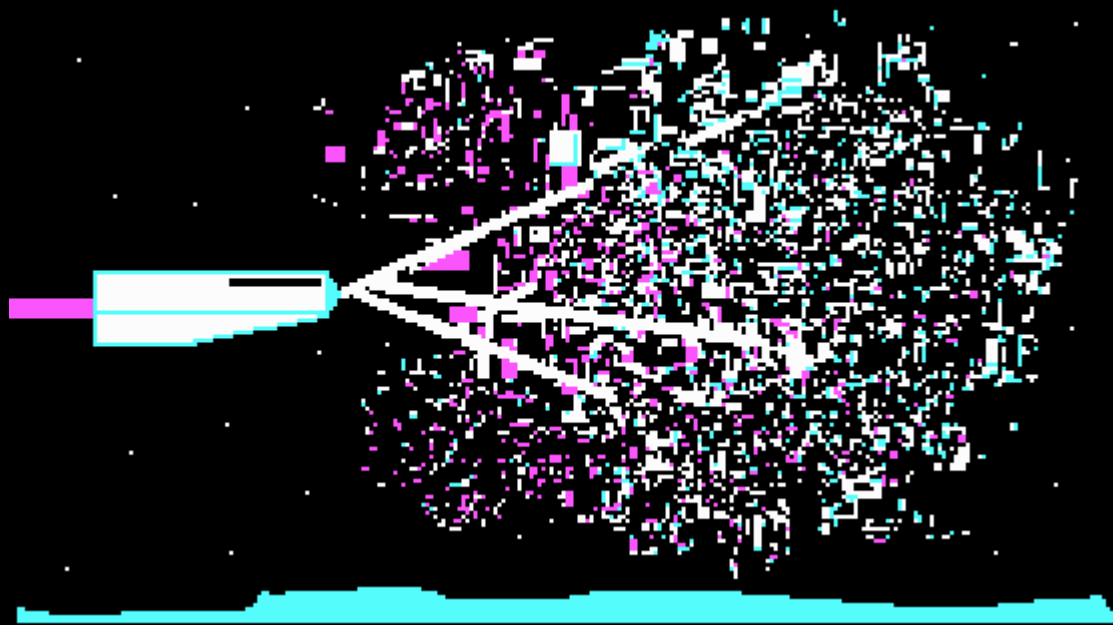
THIS REALLY IS AN ADVANCED
STARSHIP! LET'S KEEP IT.



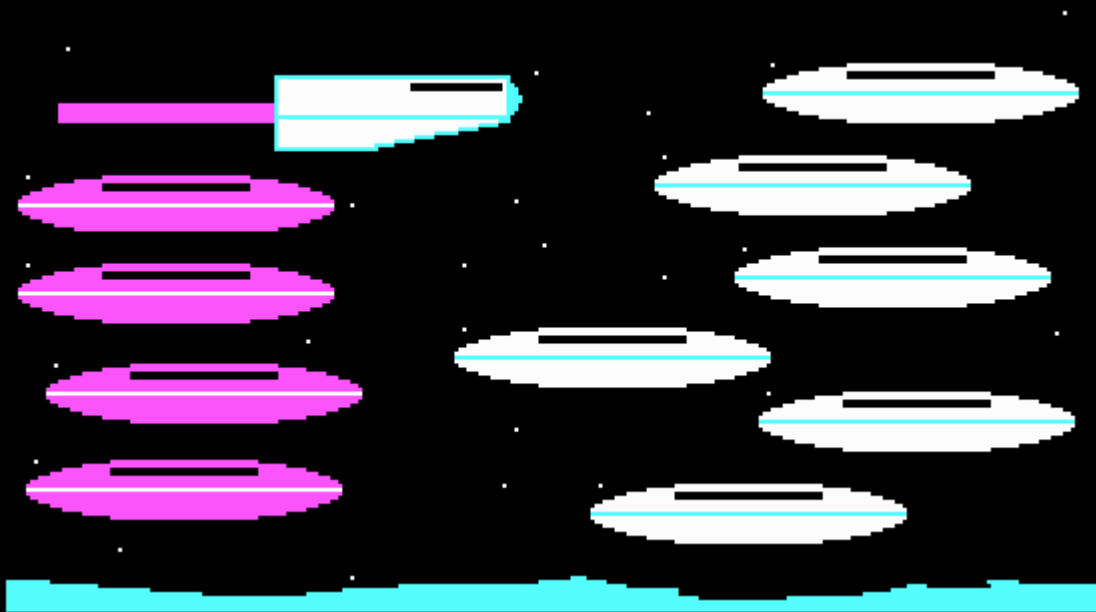
TIME TO GO!



LOOK - IT'S A BUNCH OF ENEMY
ROBOT SHIPS! I BET THEY THINK
WE'RE ONE OF THEM!



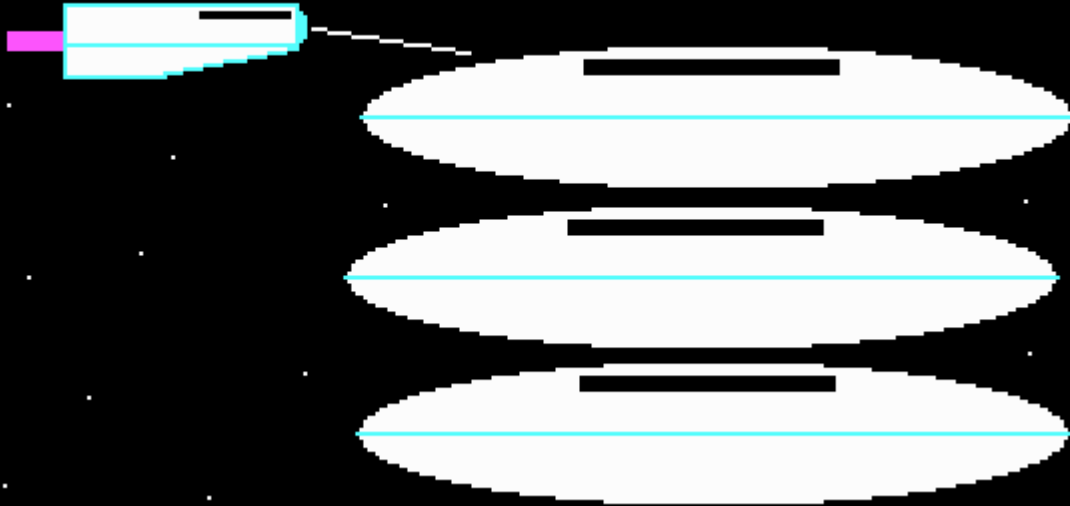
TAKE THAT, YOU EVIL ENEMY
ROBOTS!



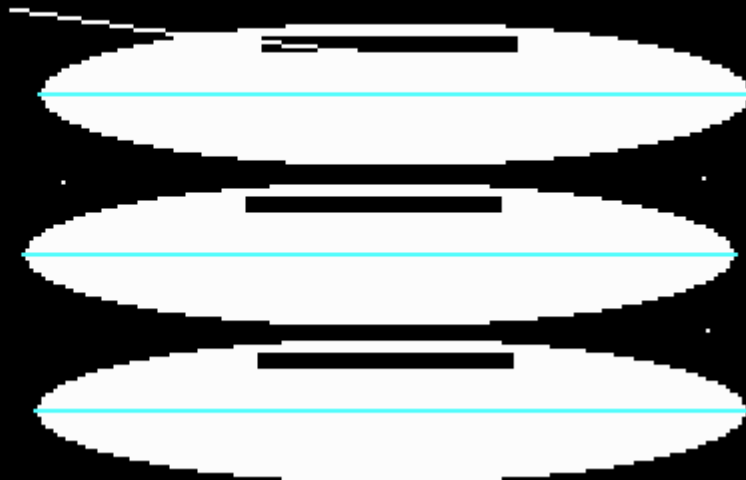
LOOK, THERE'S MORE! AND WE HAVE
REINFORCEMENTS THAT JUST
MAGICALLY ARRIVED! HOW NICE!



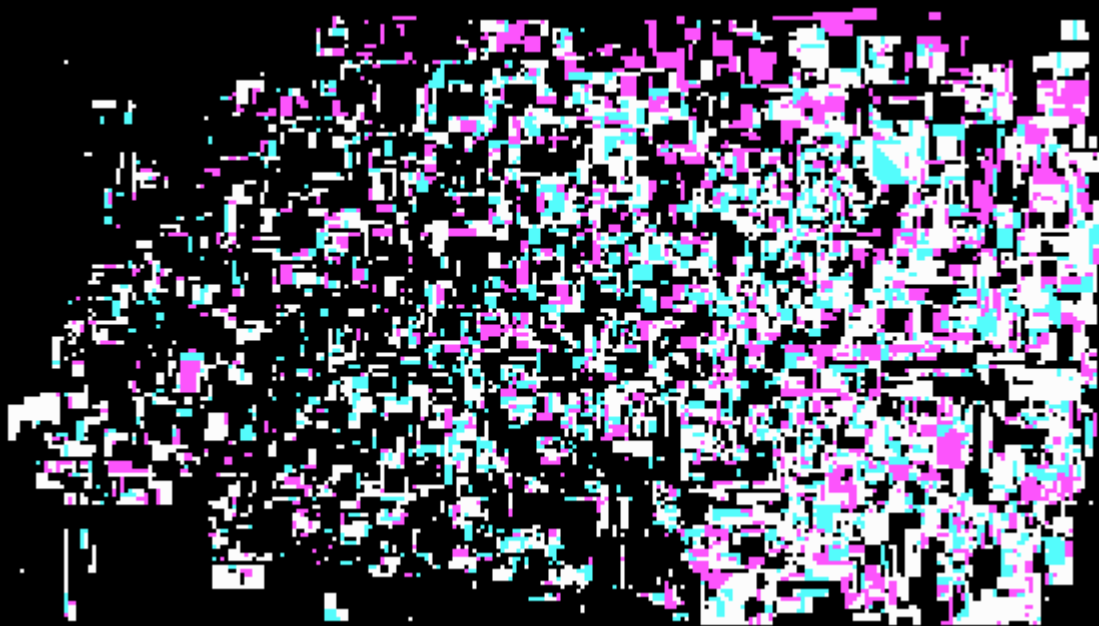
ZAP ZAP ZAP!



LET'S UPLOAD A VIRUS THAT WILL
BLOW UP THEIR SHIPS. WHAT'S THE
WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?



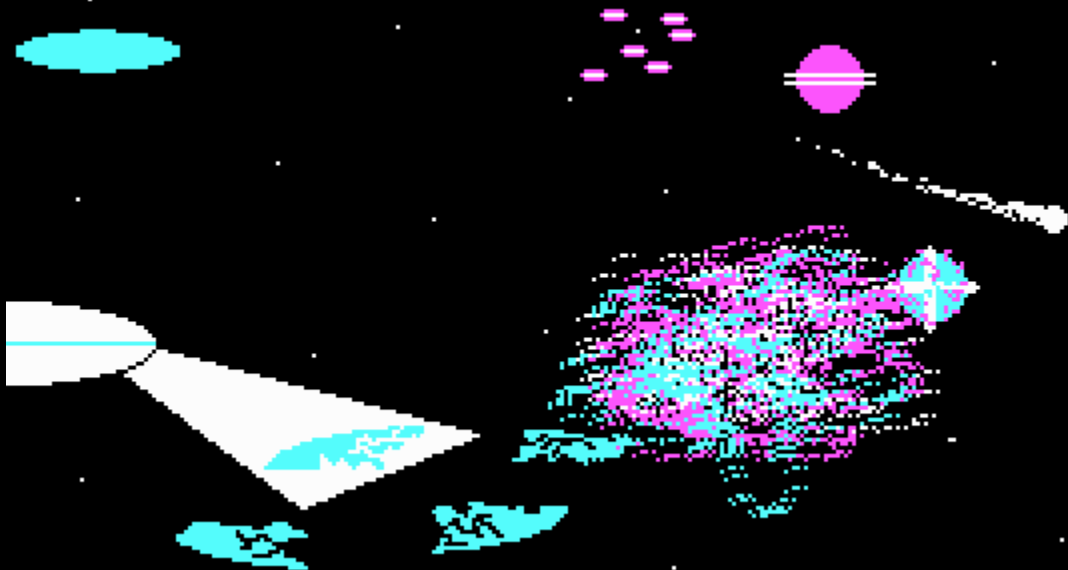
TIME TO RUN! WE DON'T WANT TO
GET CAUGHT IN THE BLAST.



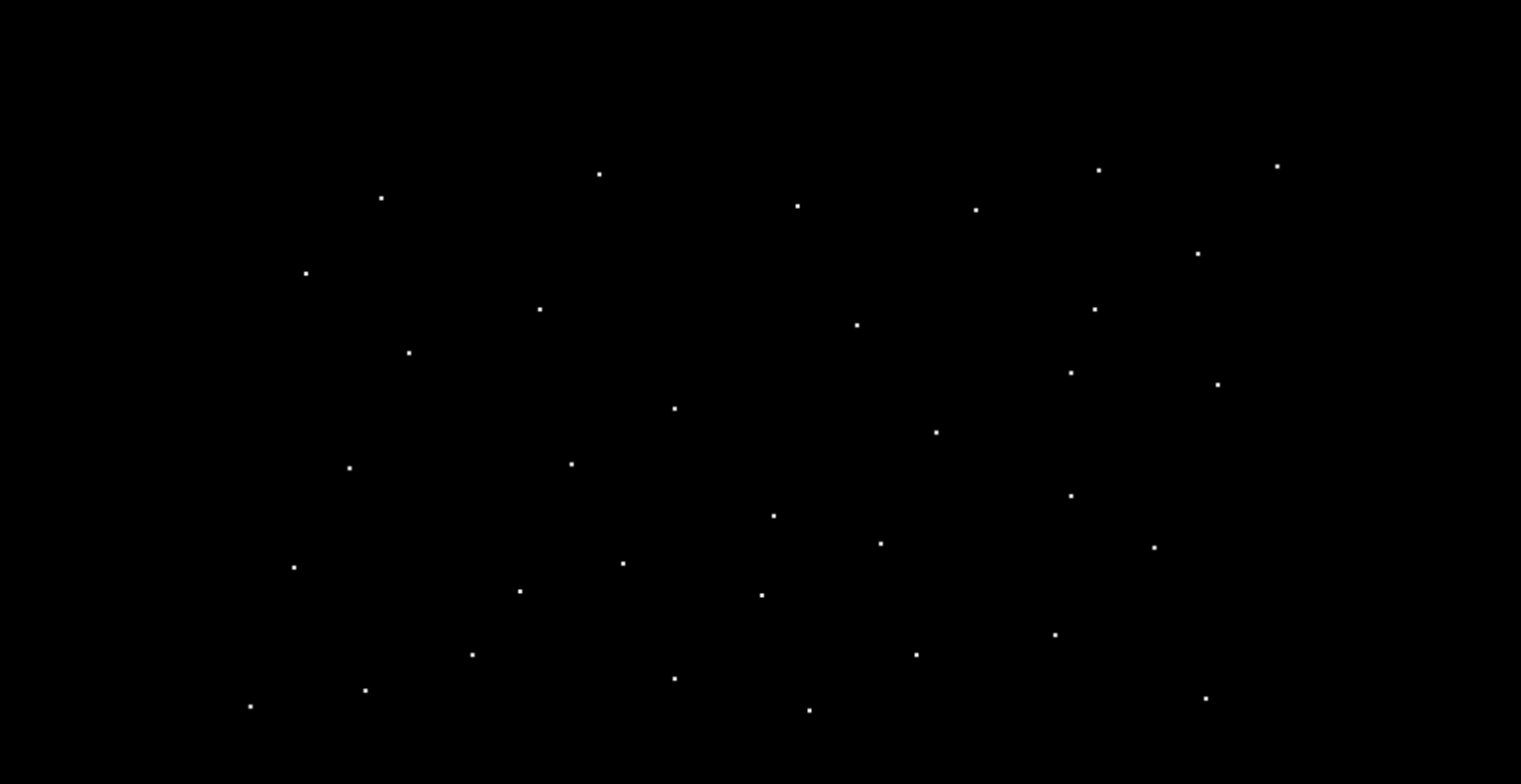
B0000000M!!!



B0000000000000000M!!!



B000000000000000000000000M!!



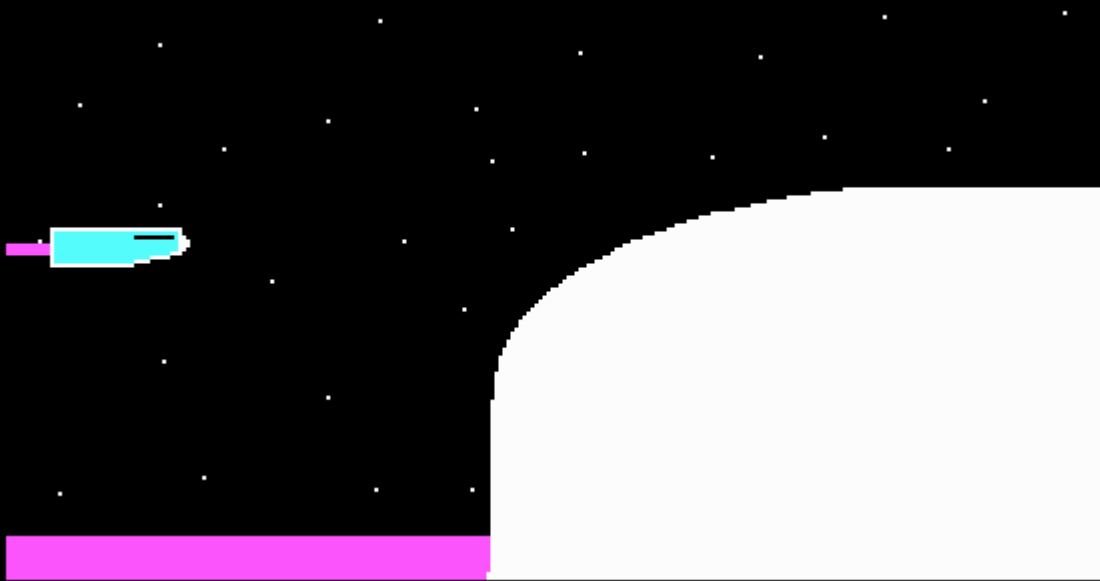
WOW, THAT WAS SOME VIRUS. WE
DID MEAN TO BLOW UP THE WHOLE
GALAXY, RIGHT?

End of Part one

THAT'S RIGHT, FOLKS. STAY TUNED
FOR PART 2!!!

Part two

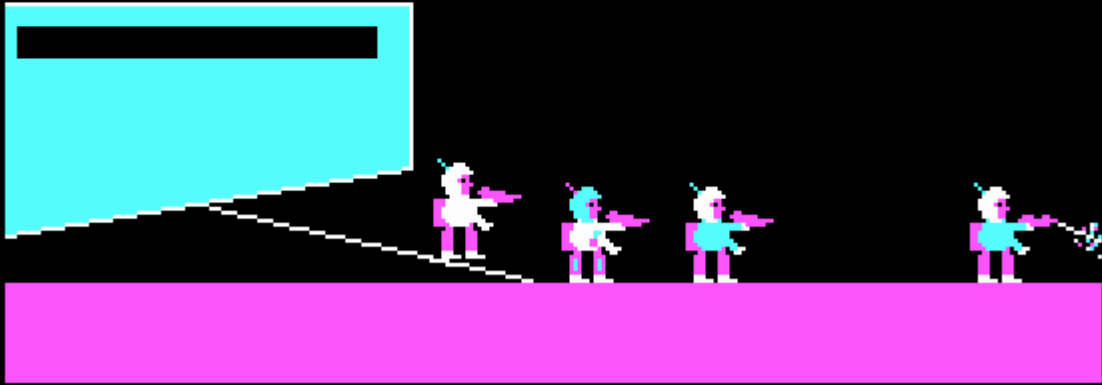
AND HERE IT IS!



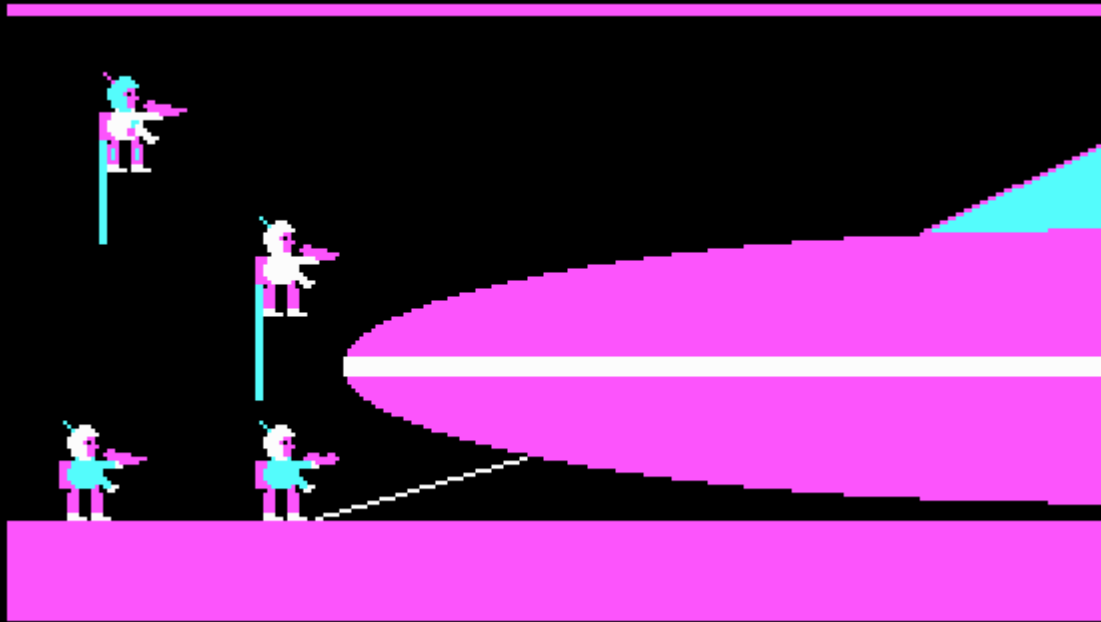
LOOK - ALLIES! I'M GLAD SOMEONE
SURVIVED THAT BIG EXPLOSION.



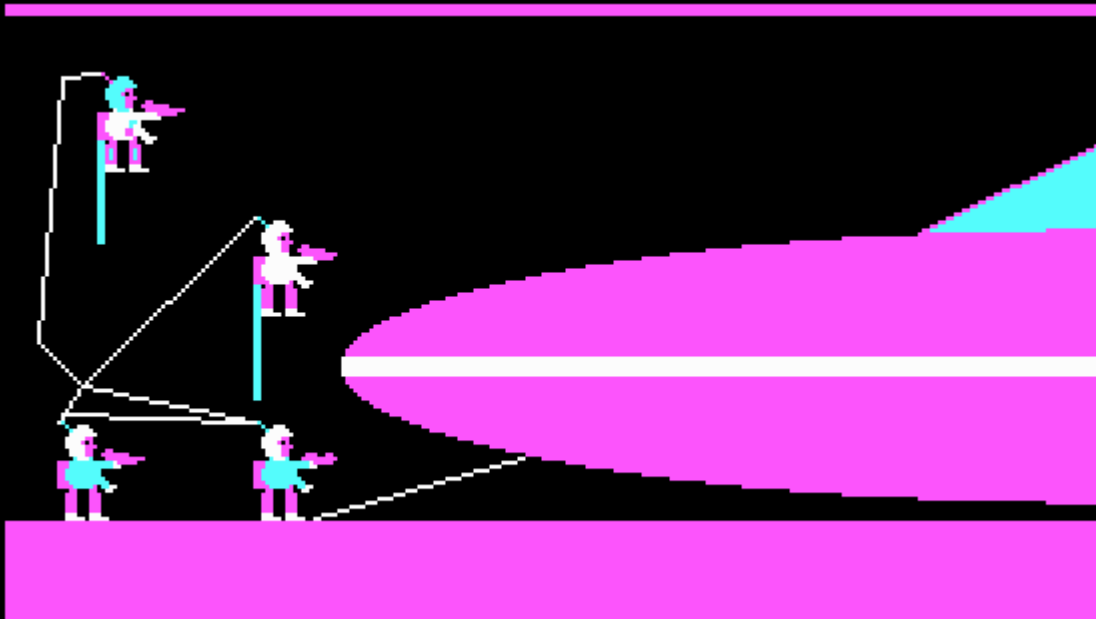
LET'S GO TALK TO THEM. MAYBE
THEY CAN HELP US OUT.



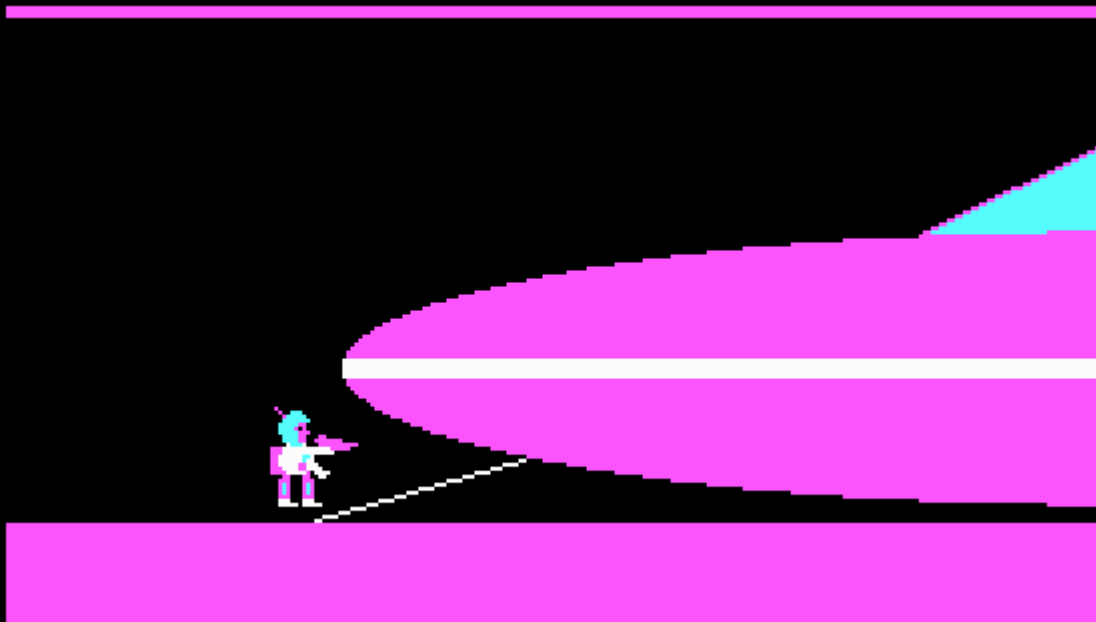
HI THERE! NO, ACTUALLY, WE'RE
NOT THE PIZZA DELIVERY GUY.



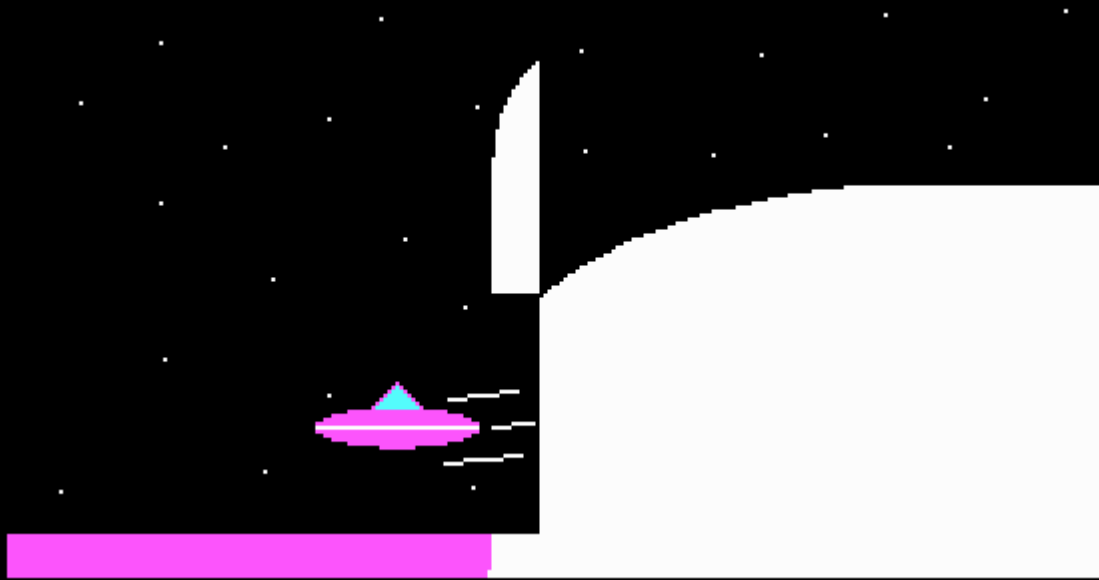
WOW - NICE SHIP! SURE, WE'LL
COME WITH YOU. WHERE ARE YOU
GOING?



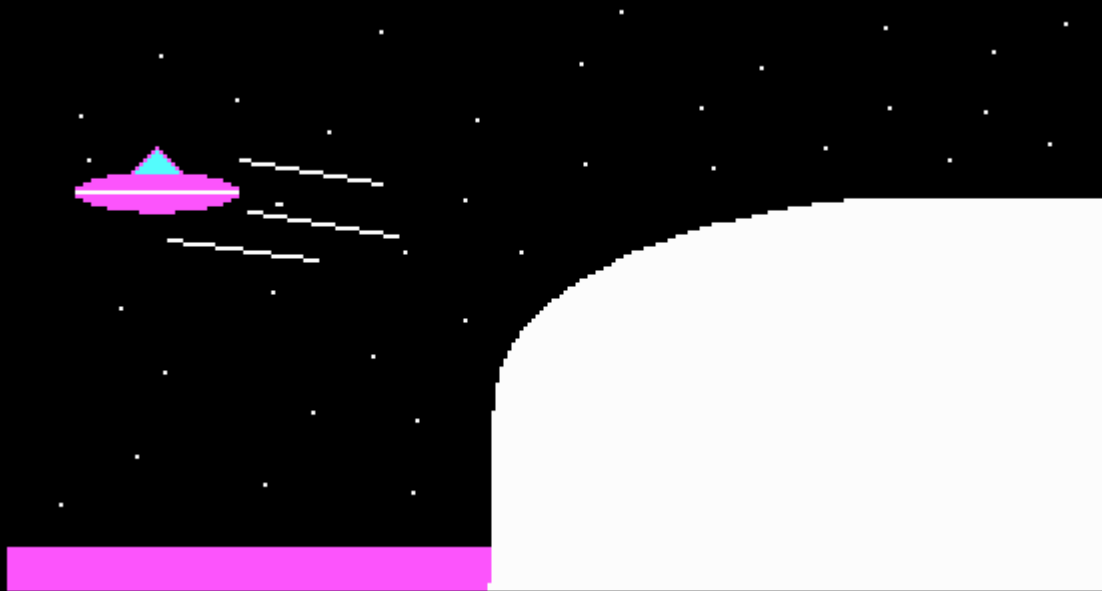
TO VISIT SOME FRIENDS? NICE! I
HAD NO IDEA ANY PLANETS HAD
SURVIVED THAT BLAST.



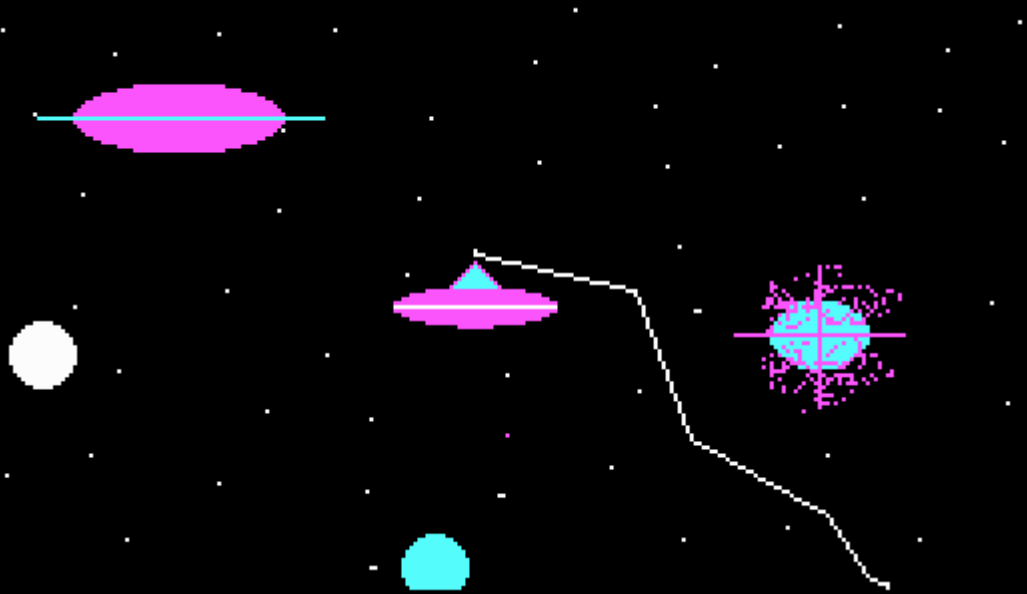
SO WHAT KIND OF MILEAGE DOES
THIS THING GET? DOES IT COME IN
ANY OTHER COLORS?



THIS SHIP EVEN HAS CUPHOLDERS!
I'VE GOT TO GET ME ONE OF
THESE.



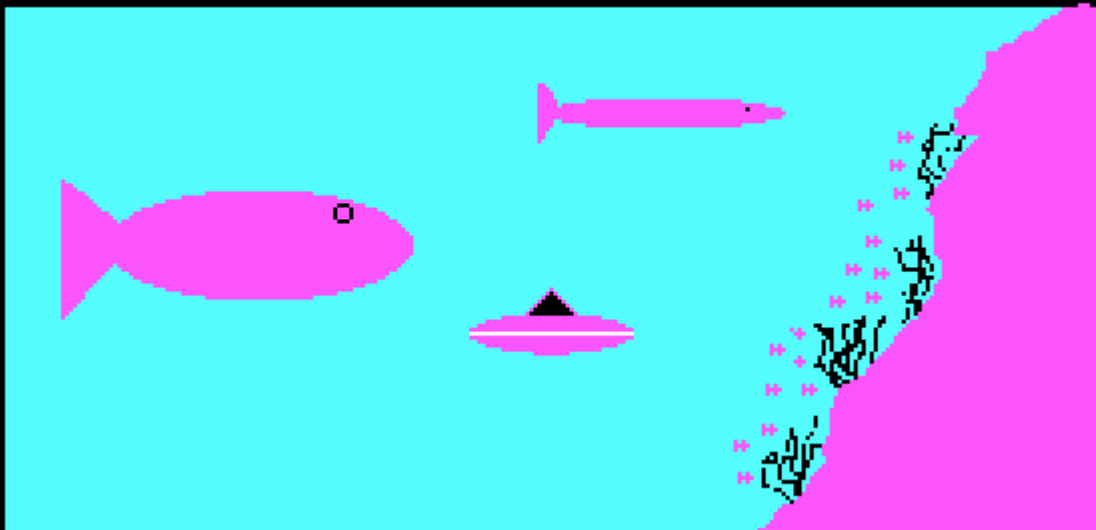
ARE WE THERE YET?



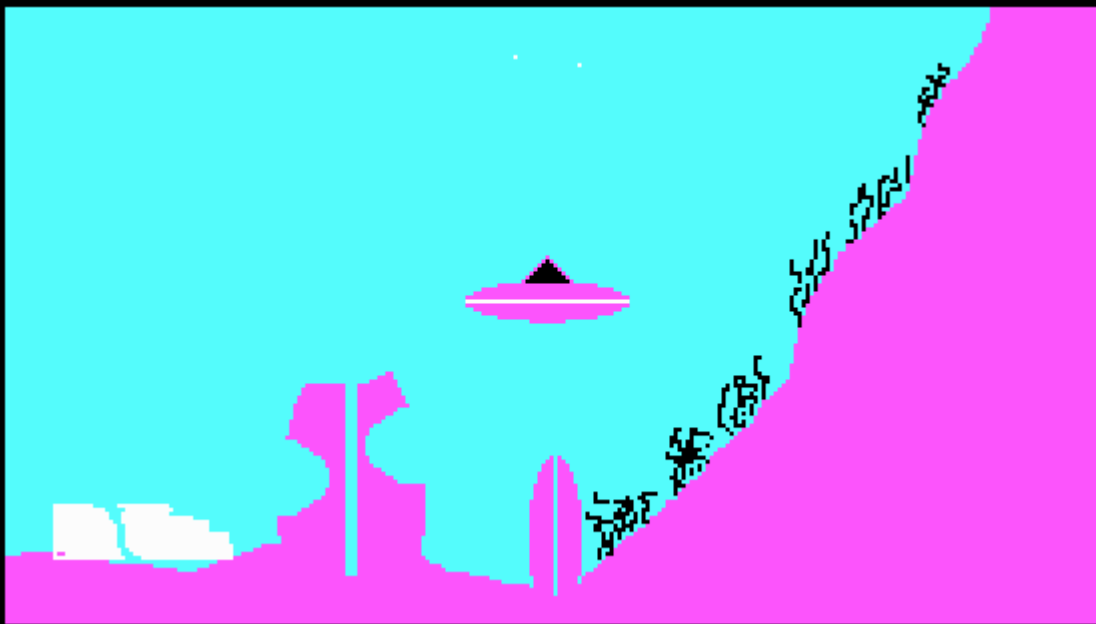
OH LOOK - THE GALAXY HAS
ALREADY BEEN REBUILT! I GUESS
THEY WERE FULLY INSURED.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOUR FRIENDS
LIVE UNDERWATER? THIS IS
SUPPOSED TO BE AN ADVENTURE IN
SPACE!



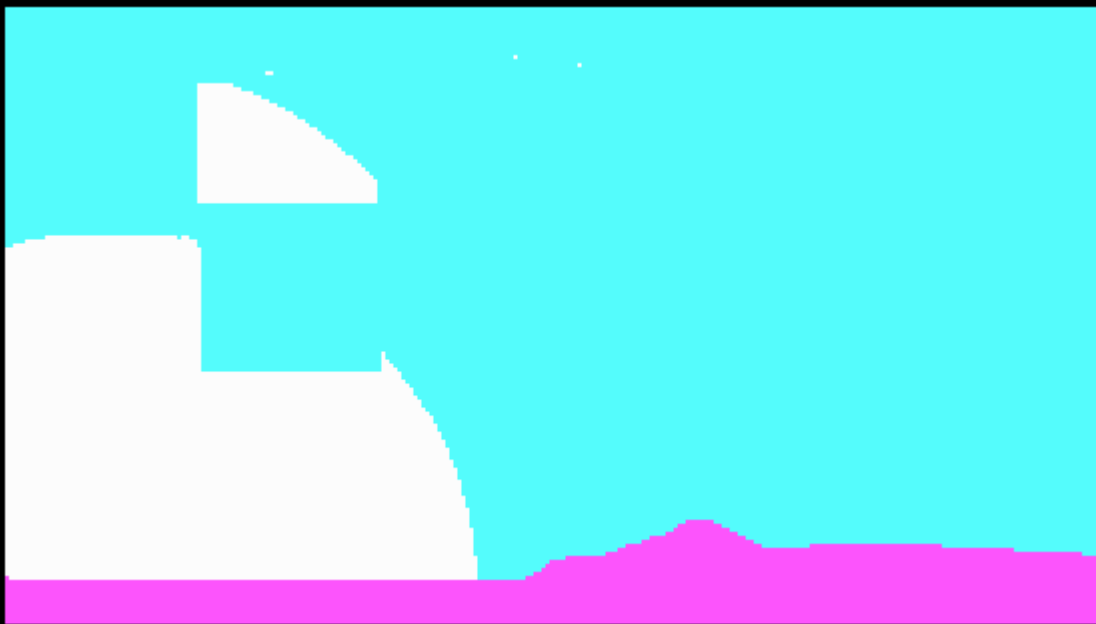
THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT OUTER
SPACE.



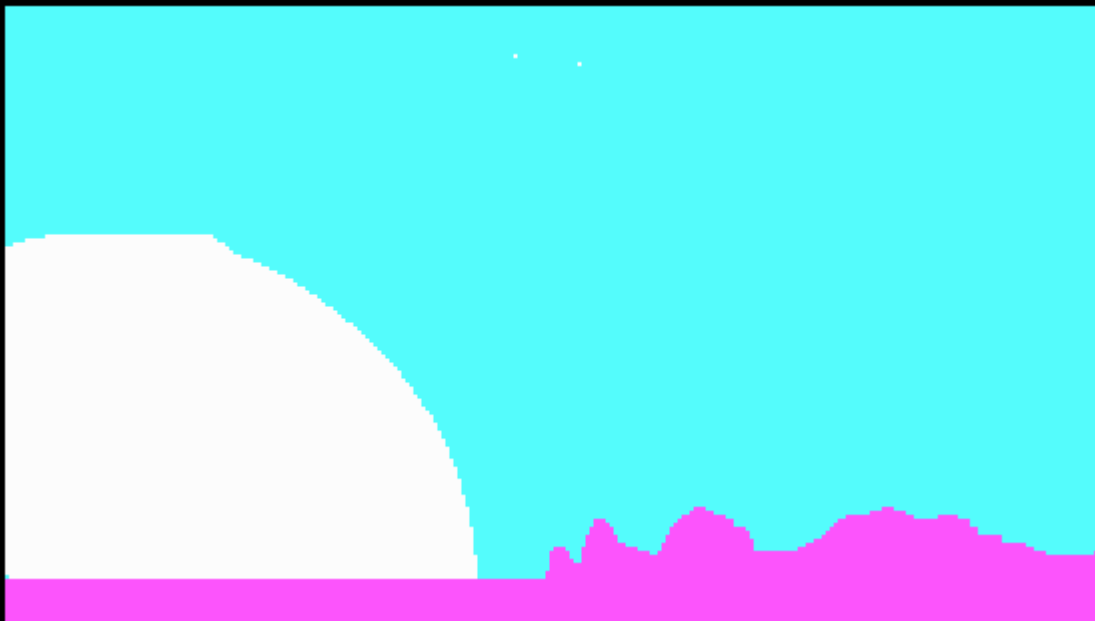
THAT LOOKS LIKE THE REMAINS OF
AN ANCIENT BATTLE! QUICK, TAKE
A PICTURE!



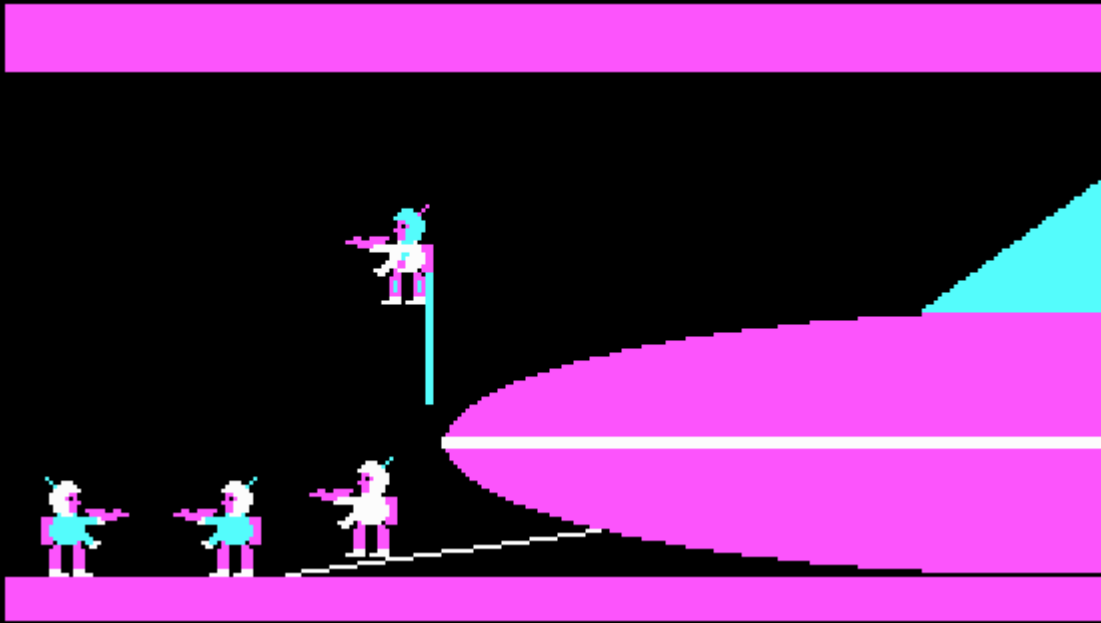
DO YOUR FRIENDS FIGHT SPACE
BATTLES UNDERWATER VERY OFTEN?



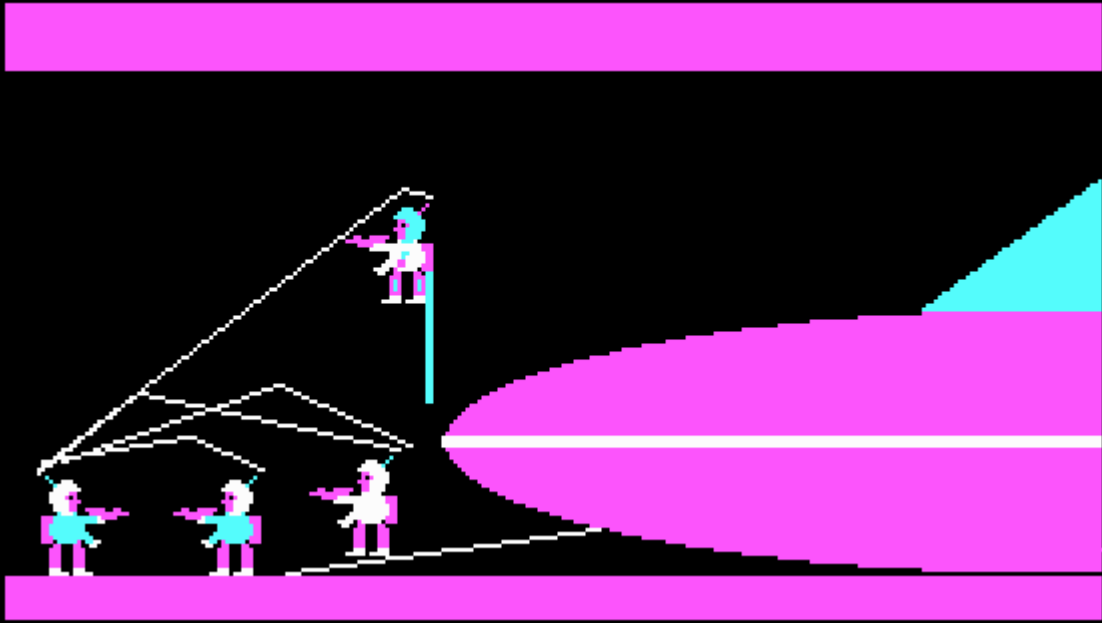
I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED THEY
UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF 'AN
ADVENTURE IN SPACE' .



AND THE DOOR HAS NOW CLOSED.
YES, THAT WAS VERY DRAMATIC.
BUT WE'RE STILL NOT IN SPACE.



HI THERE! YES, IT'S US. NO, WE
DIDN'T BRING PIZZA.



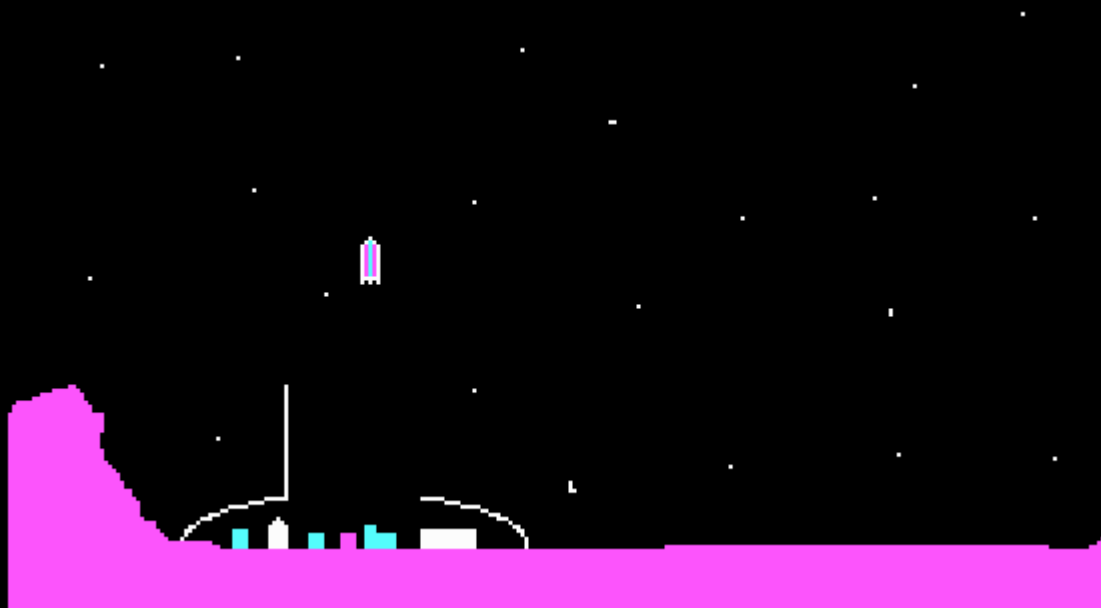
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOUR
UNDERWATER CITY USED TO BE IN
SPACE?



SO A LONG TIME AGO, YOUR DOMED
CITY WAS ON THE PLANET'S
SURFACE.



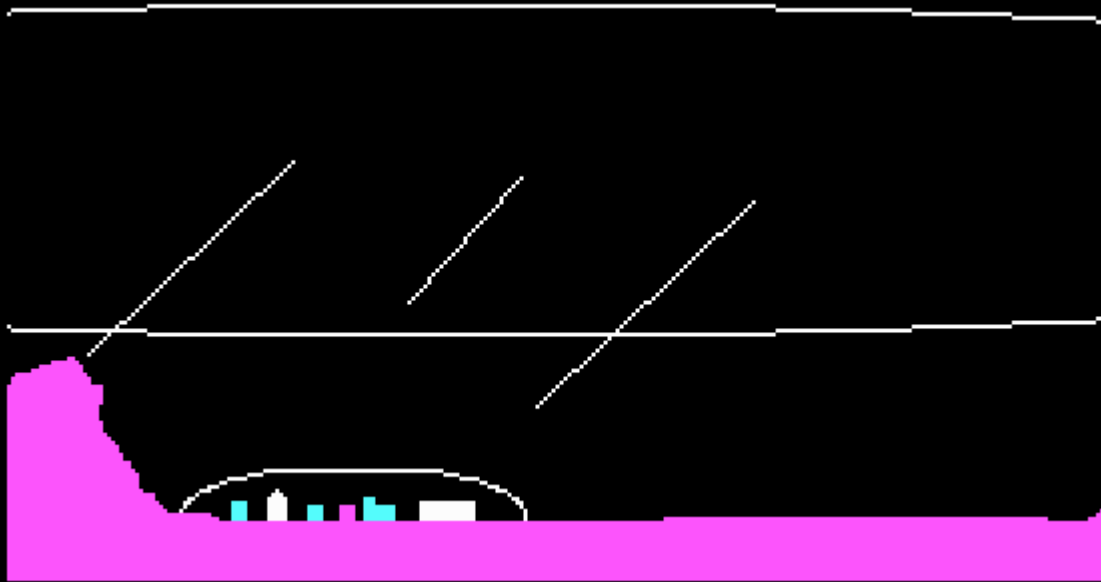
THEN YOU LAUNCHED A GIANT,
BUILDING-SIZED MISSILE INTO THE
SKY.



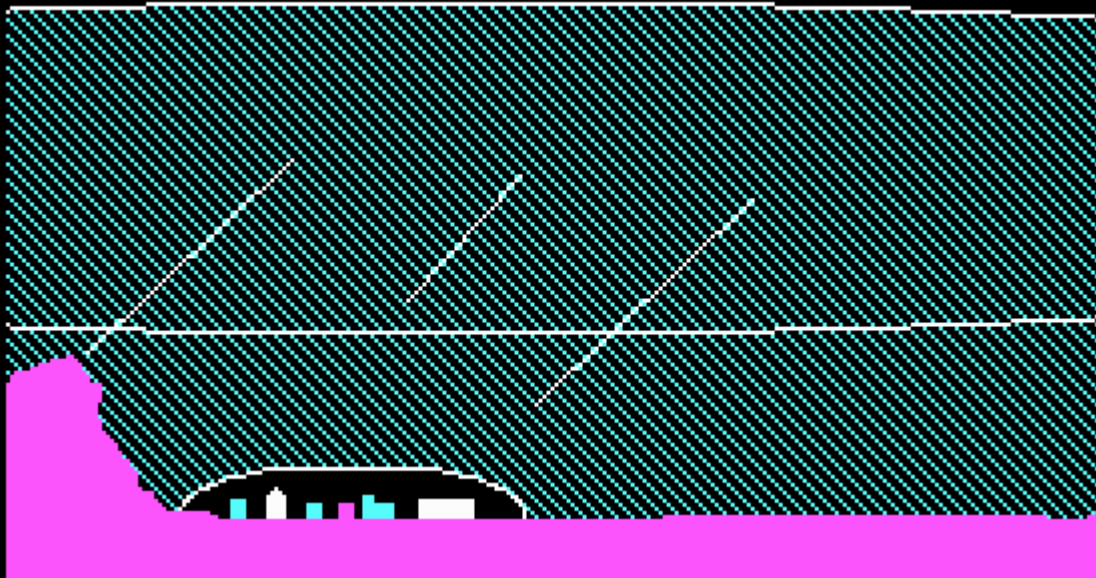
IT FLEW HIGH INTO THE SKY.



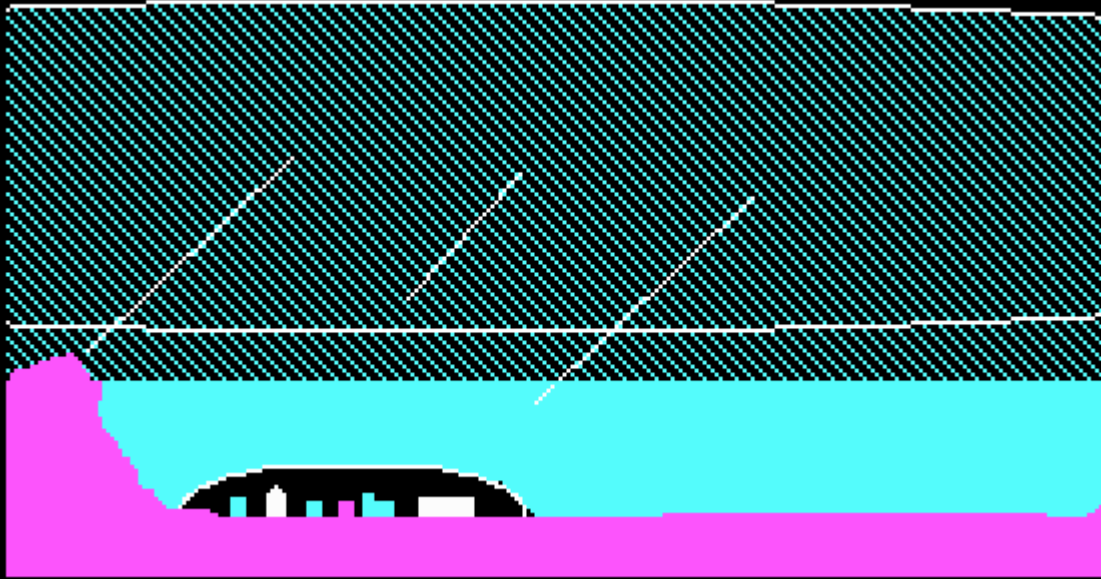
THEN IT FLEW EVEN HIGHER. YEAH,
WE'VE GOT THAT PART...



THEN A HUGE CLOUD FORMED AND IT
STARTED TO RAIN. WAIT - DID THE
MISSILE DO THAT?



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU DON'T
KNOW? HOW COULD YOU NOT KNOW?



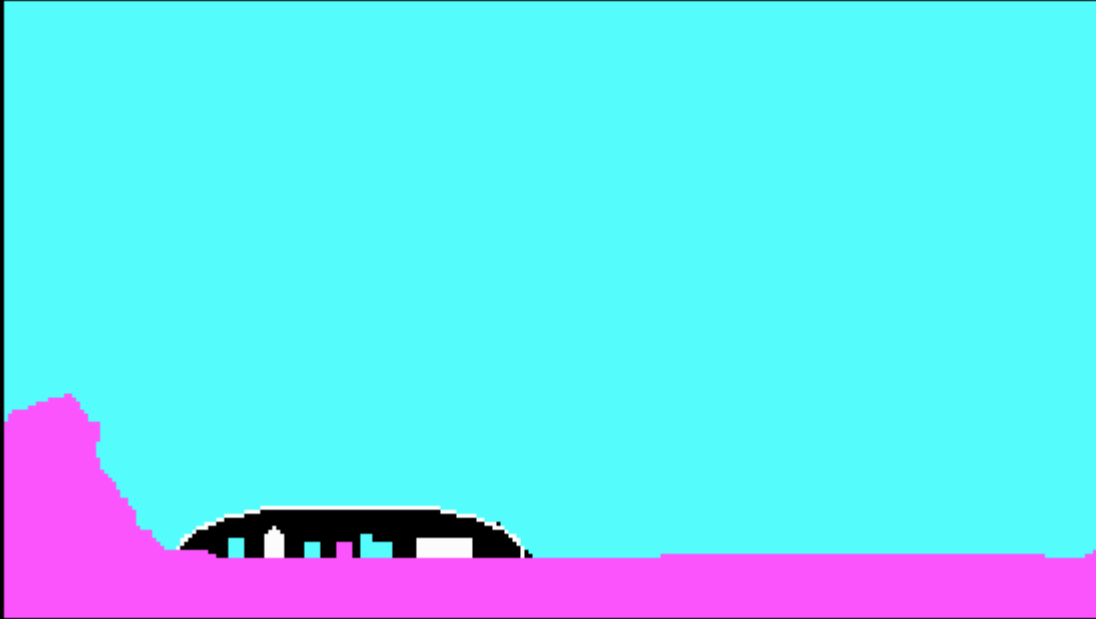
OH COME ON. WHY WOULD YOU EVEN
MENTION THE MISSILE IF IT WAS
TOTALLY UNRELATED?



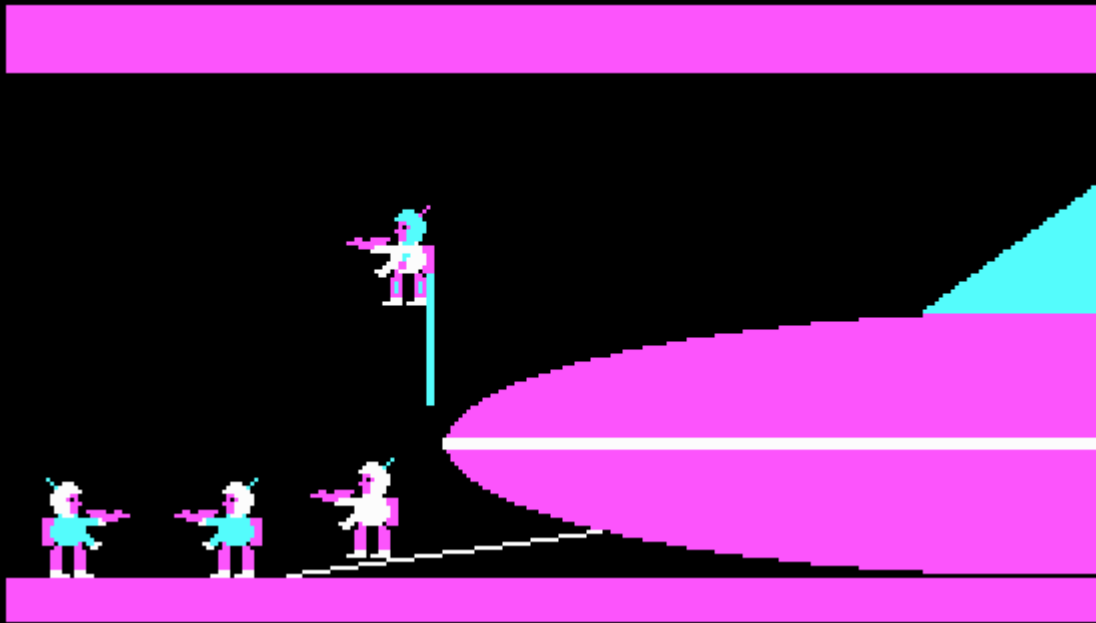
SO A MYSTERIOUS FORCE CAUSED IT
TO RAIN A LOT AND FLOOD YOUR
CITY.



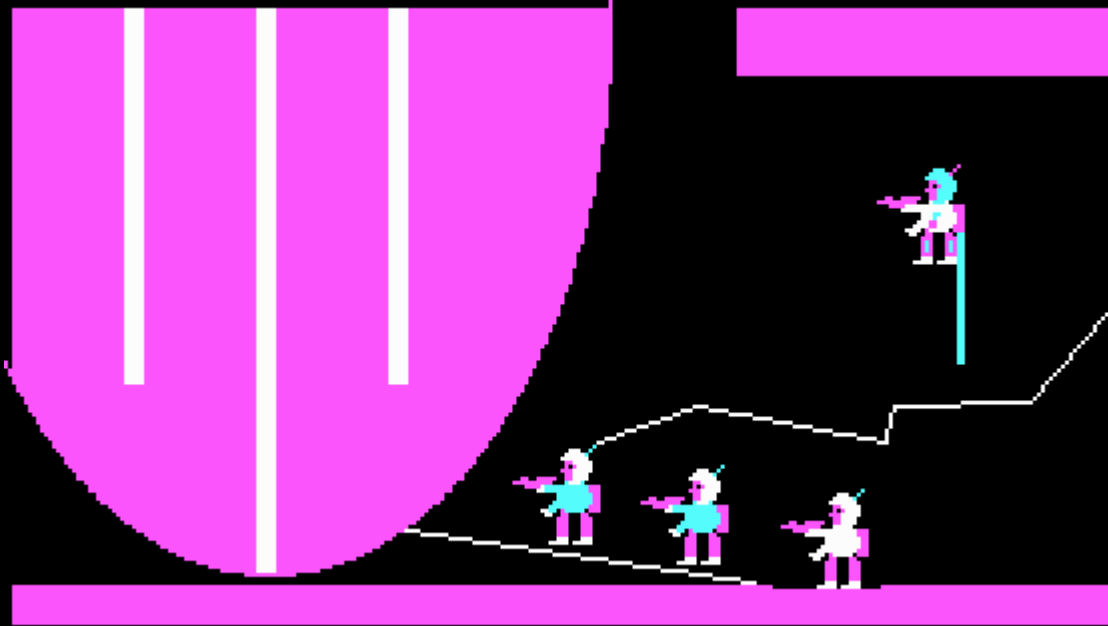
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THE WATER
KEPT RISING AFTER THE RAIN
STOPPED?



HOW IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
WHERE DID ALL THAT WATER COME
FROM?



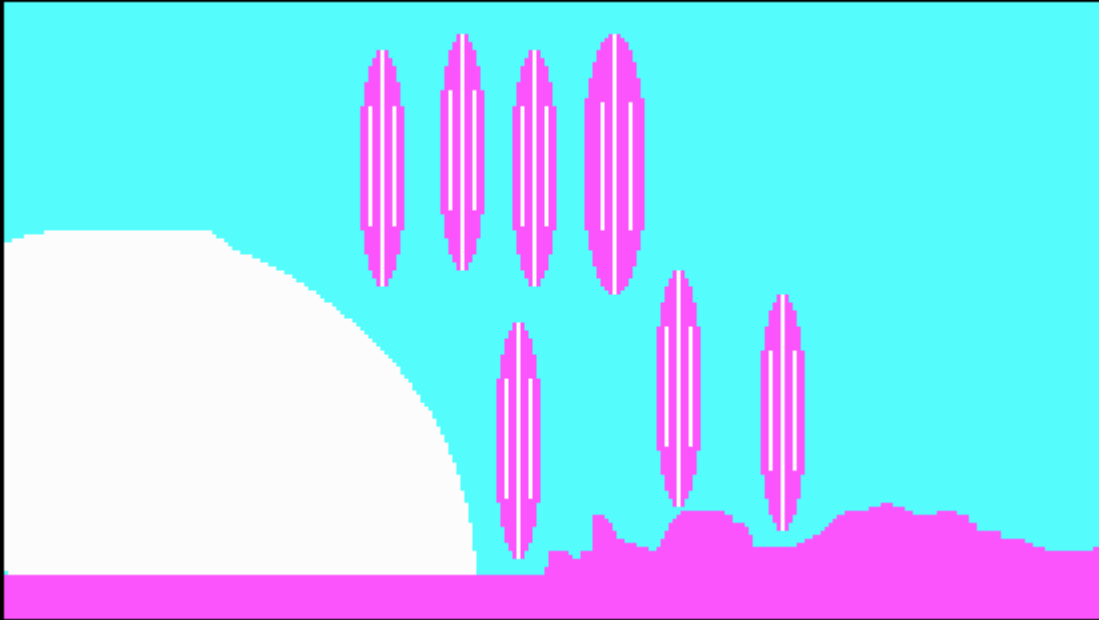
THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY? I'M
STILL CONFUSED.



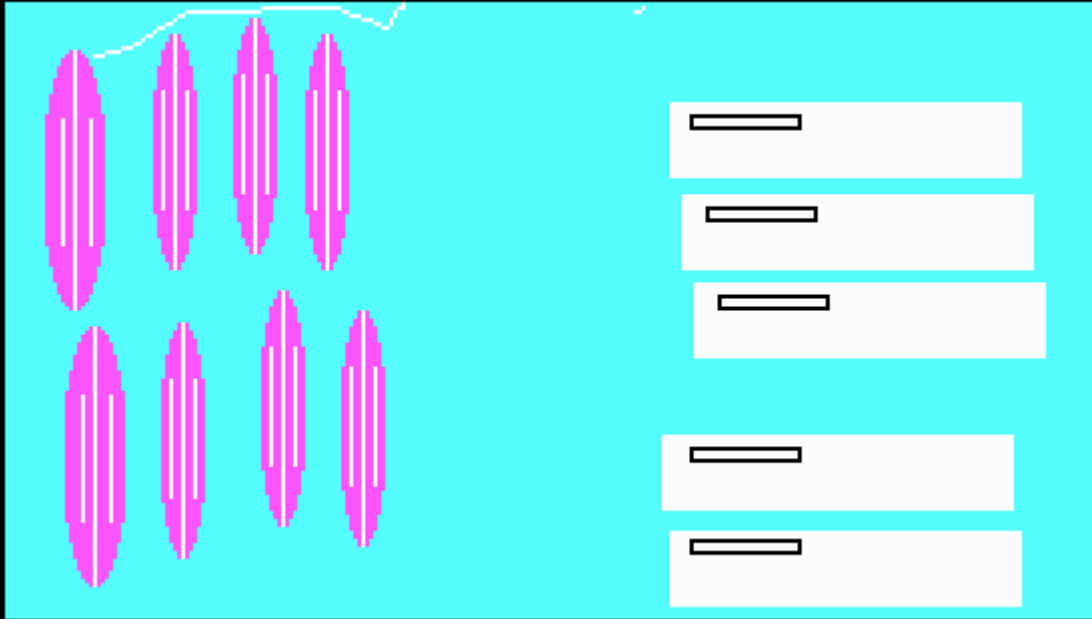
OH, WOW, NICE SHIP! ARE WE
GOING TO GO BLOW SOME THINGS
UP?



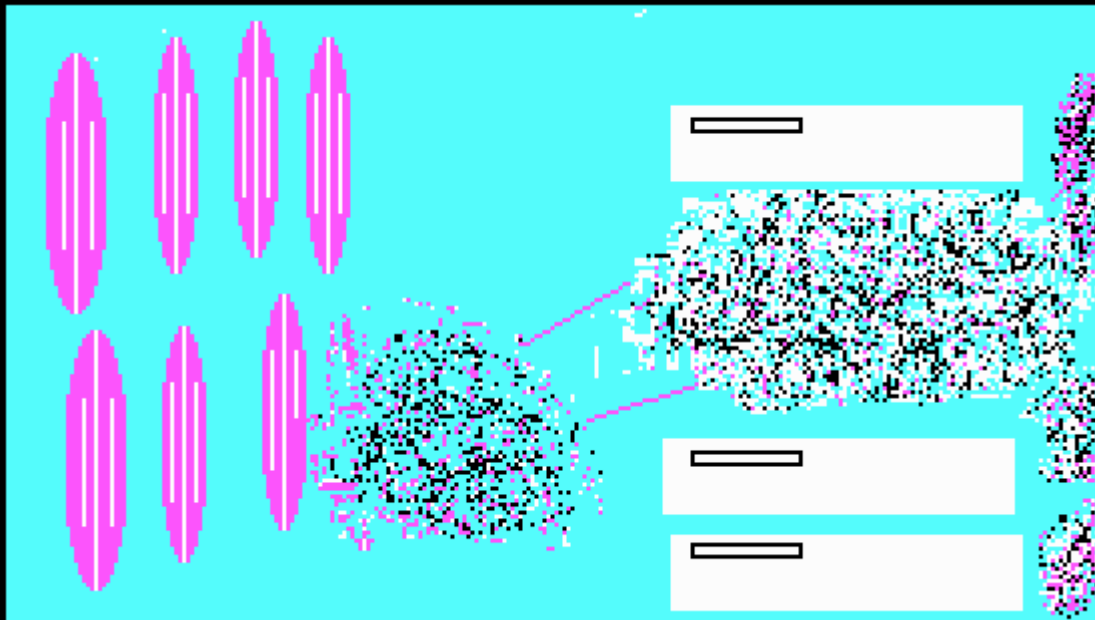
I JUST KNEW IT! I HAVE AN
INSTINCT ABOUT THESE THINGS.



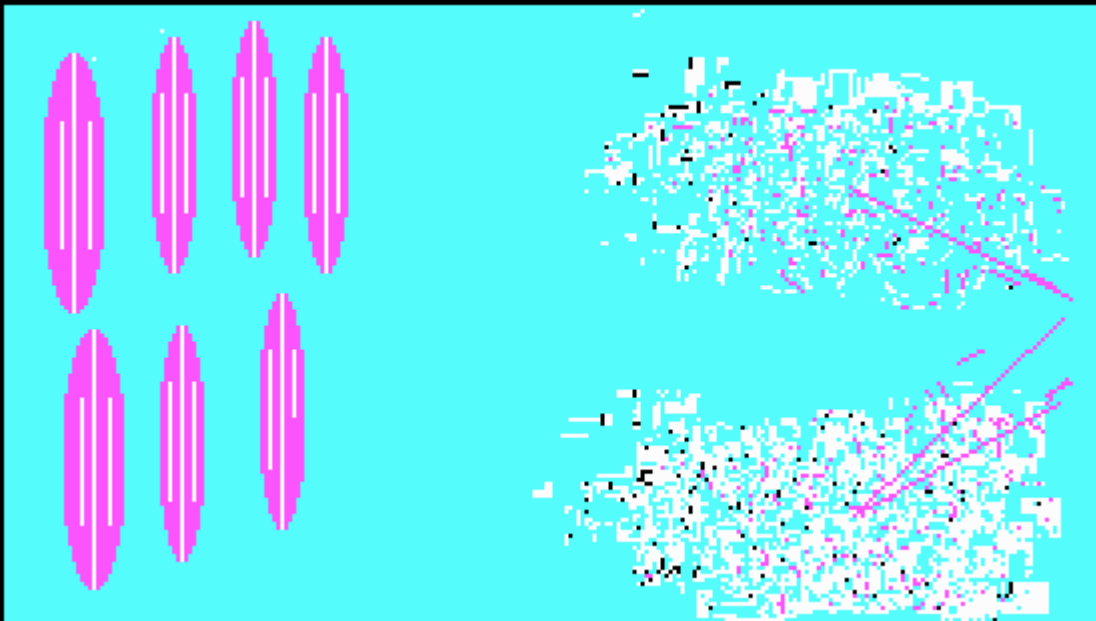
LOOK AT THAT! YOU'RE BRINGING
YOUR WHOLE FLEET. NICE!



OH NO! IT'S MORE EVIL ROBOT
SHIPS!!!



ZAP! ZAP! ZAP!



WE DID IT! YAY!!!

THE END

(SADLY, THE STORY WAS NEVER
CONTINUED. WE WILL NEVER KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT...)