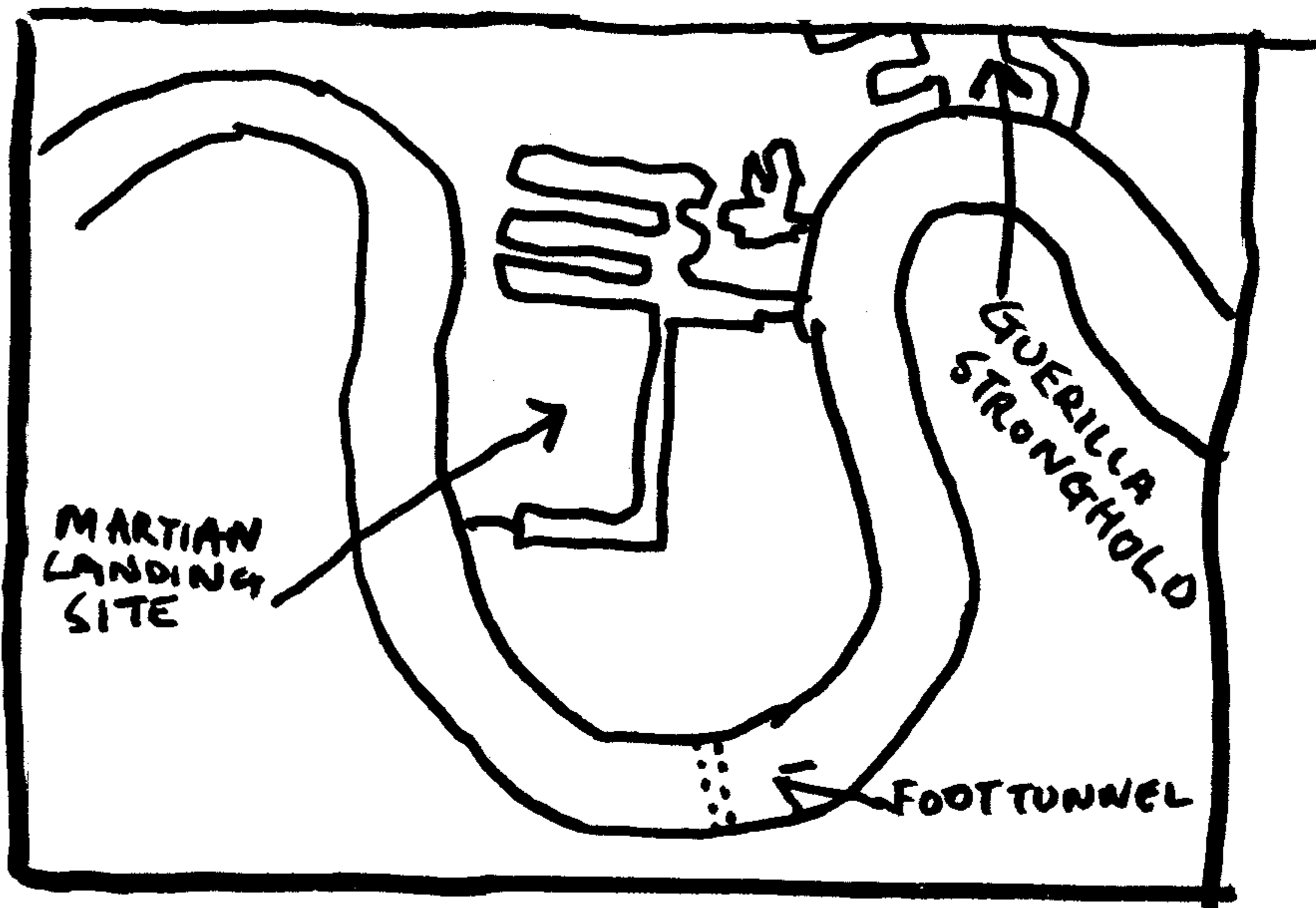


NEW RIVER BLUE



MARTIANS INVADE ISLE OF DOGS

Spacecraft from Mars have invaded the sleepy British colony of the Isle of Dogs. The 139 inhabitants, who make their living by cat-farming and the export of the rich phosphate deposits on the roof of the entrance to the Greenwich foot tunnel in the southern part of the colony, were taken by raft to a prison camp in Whiston Road, Hackney, near the Regent's Canal, where they are being held hostage.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher said today "This has come as a complete surprise. Although with hindsight we realise that the alien fleet set off from Mars three years ago, and in fact has been sending us threatening radio messages

(believed to be a reference to the mysterious "Tony Blackburn Show") we had no idea that they meant to invade. However, we are taking immediate action. A working party has been appointed to look into the possibility of turning over the Concord works at Bristol and the British Rail Advanced Train unit to building instant space vehicles with which to invade Mars, and we expect their report in time for the election in 1984."

Mr Peter Shore (Labour, Stepney & Poplar) said that if the Port of London had not been shamefully run down to its present level, it would have been possible to send down a flotilla of lighters

carrying his constituents, who were mostly Irish dockers and tough as they come, to deal with the Martians good and proper.

A well-known former East End resident, Mr Reginald Kray, speaking from his secret hideaway believed to be in the Isle of Wight, said instead of messing around with spacecraft, Mrs Thatcher should have asked for his help. "My loyal boys are the best in the country. We can sort out any Martian by nailing his heads to the floor in five minutes."

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THE REASON WHY

The Martian captain, Dr Erik von Daschund, explained why they had invaded. "We Martians are not originally from Mars. Millions of years ago Mars was colonised by super-intelligent beings from Sirius, who were my ancestors. The primitive Martian people could not have built all those canals, could they? Therefore, the Isle of Dogs is part of our heritage, stolen from Mars by Lord Elgin." The ruler of Mars, the Mekon, declined to comment.

The only sentient Earth beings on the island today are in a secret guerrilla hideout in Cotton Street. Their leader said to our reporter: "Go away. I have a fanzine to get out. This is all a flaming nuisance, and if you aren't in the lift on a count of ten, I'll set the cats on you." It is believed that the guerrillas are undergoing parachute training.