

STRATEGIC RETROSPECTIVE: THE MARTIAN INVASION OF 1898

An assessment of extra-terrestrial capabilities, military engagement,
and the collapse of the British Empire.

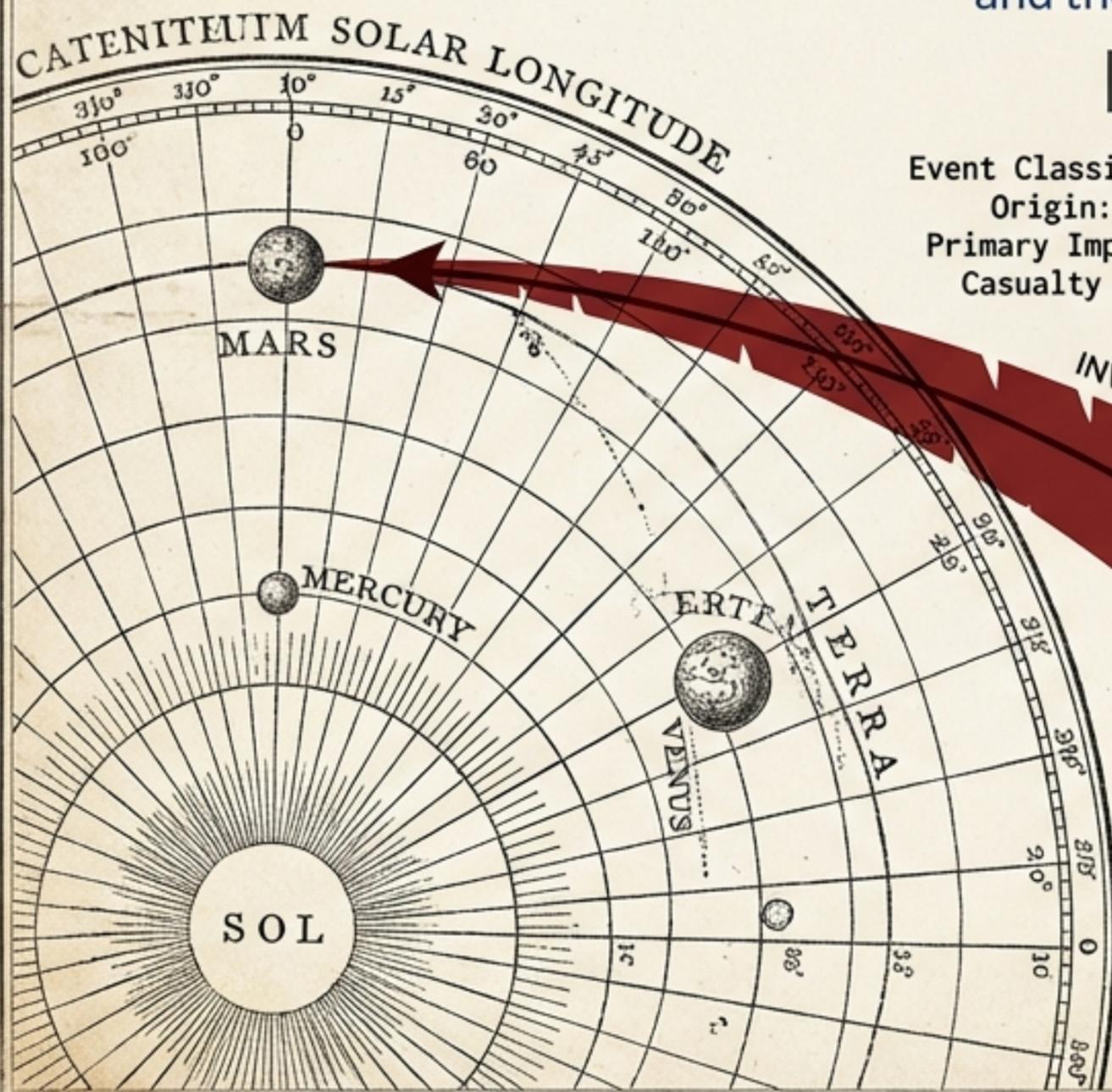
CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

Event Classification: Class 5 Extinction Level Event

Origin: Mars (Mean distance: 140,000,000 miles)

Primary Impact Zone: County of Surrey and Greater London

Casualty Estimate: Total collapse of regional government
and infrastructure within 72 hours.



IMPERIAL DEFENCE ARCHIVE - LONDON

OCT 23, 1898

INCURSION VECTORS AND LANDING SITES

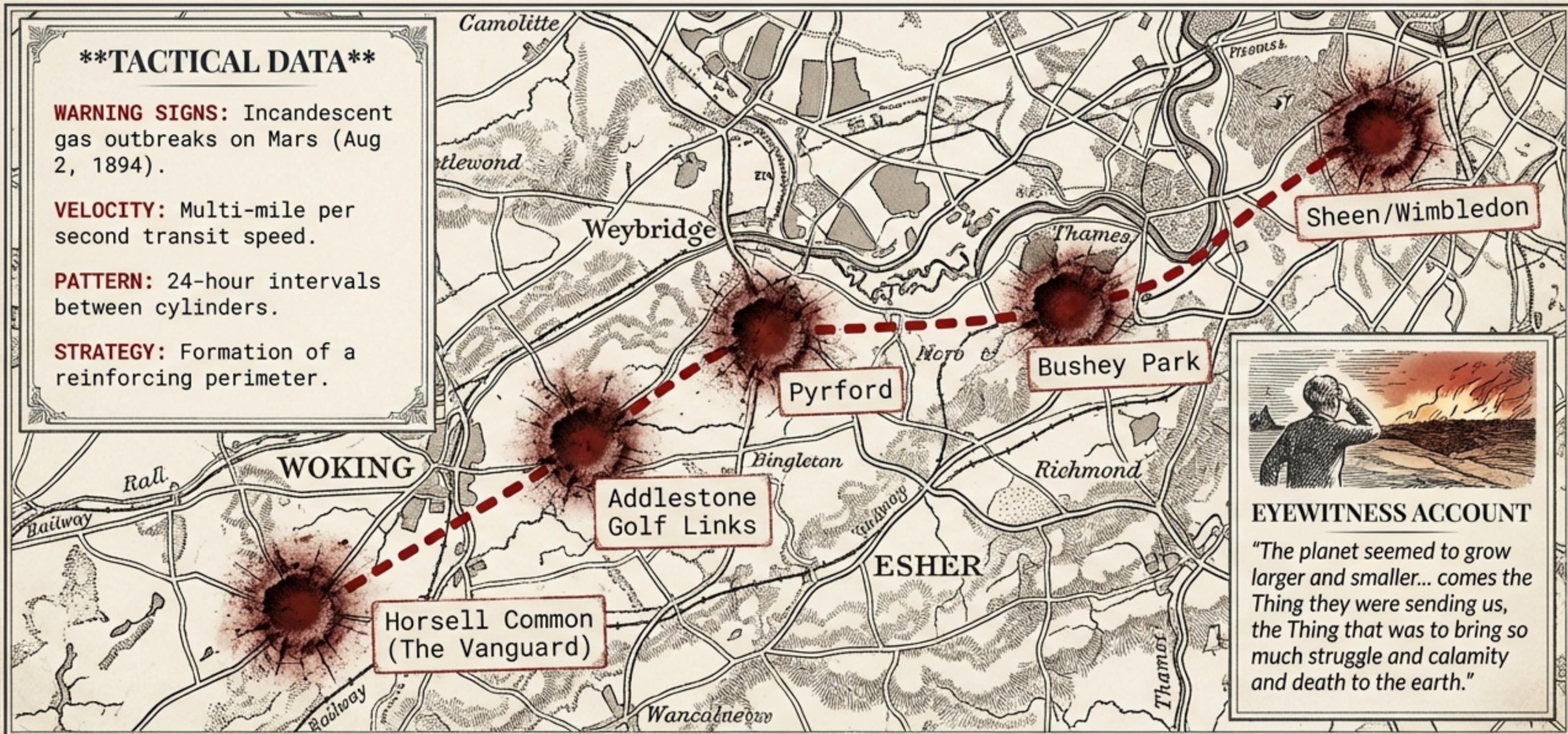
TACTICAL DATA

WARNING SIGNS: Incandescent gas outbreaks on Mars (Aug 2, 1894).

VELOCITY: Multi-mile per second transit speed.

PATTERN: 24-hour intervals between cylinders.

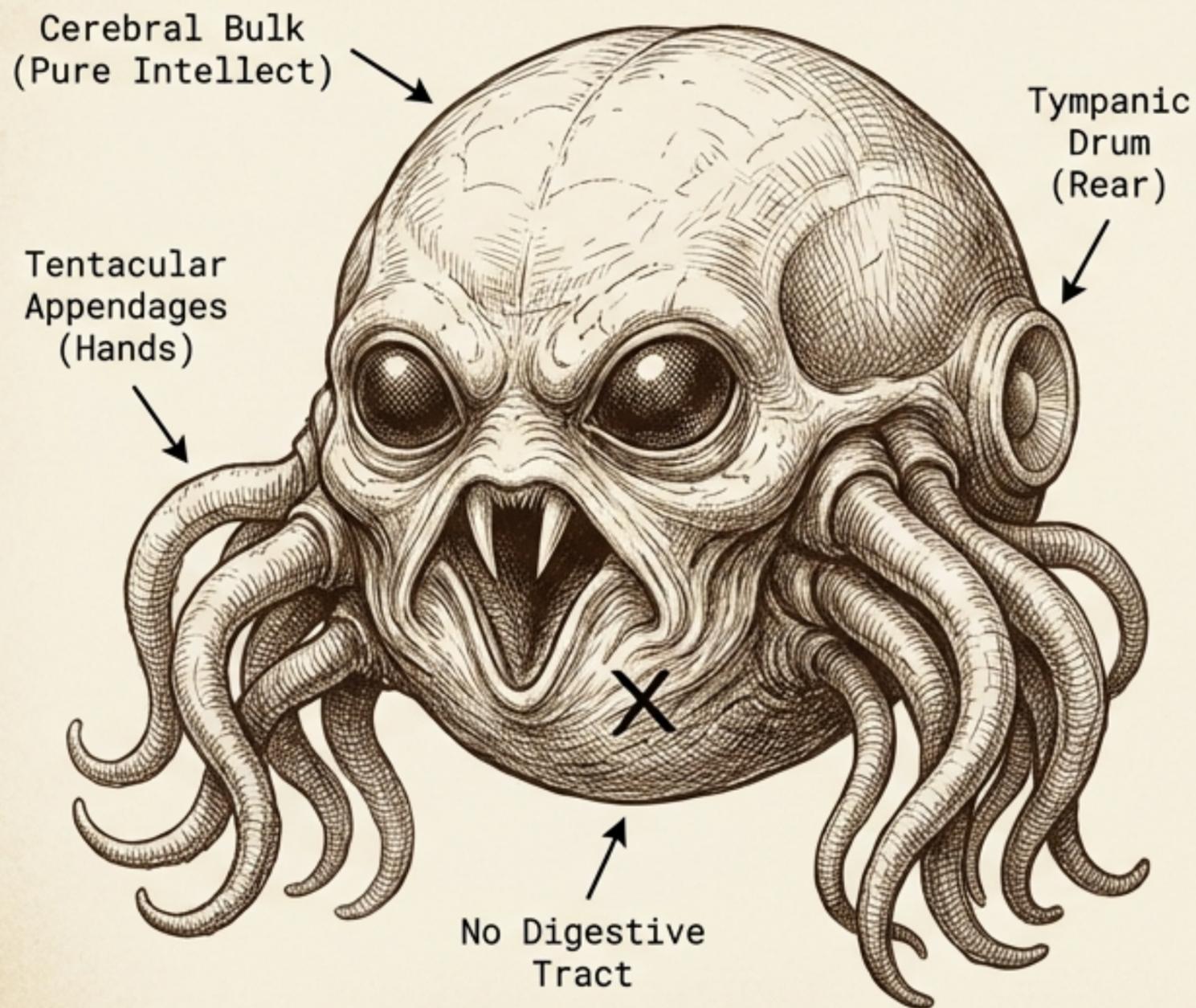
STRATEGY: Formation of a reinforcing perimeter.



EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

"The planet seemed to grow larger and smaller... comes the Thing they were sending us, the Thing that was to bring so much struggle and calamity and death to the earth."

XENOBIOLOGICAL PROFILE: THE MARTIAN ORGANISM



PHYSIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

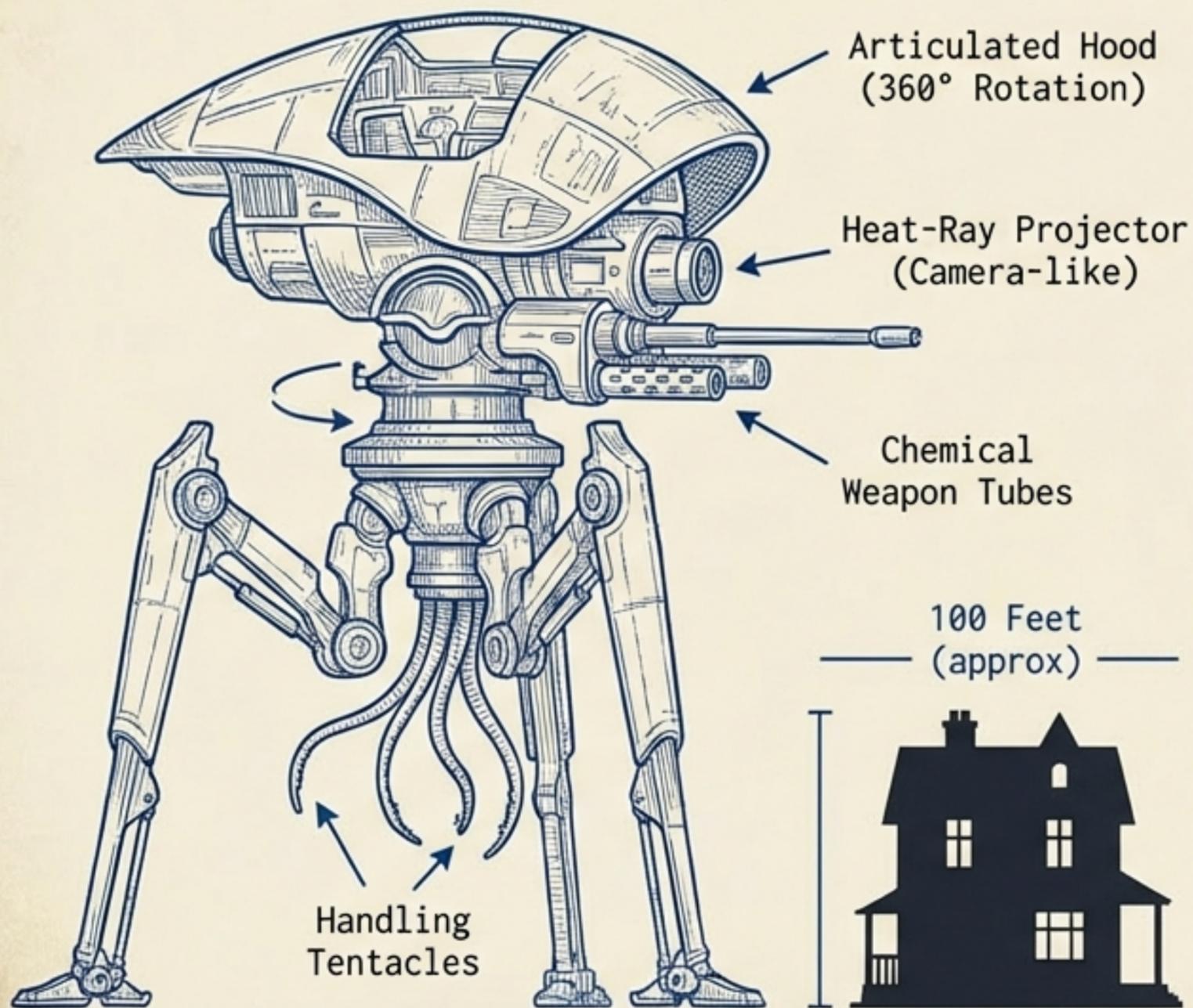
- **DIGESTION:** None. Nutrition via direct injection of living blood." (Data in "*Courier Prime*" where appropriate).
- **RESPIRATION:** Lungs susceptible to Earth's denser atmosphere.
- **REPRODUCTION:** Asexual budding.
- **OPERATIONAL CAPACITY:** 24-hour cycle. No sleep or fatigue mechanism.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT



They were heads—merely heads. Entrails they had none. Jid not eat, much less digest... they were lifted above all these organic fluctuations of mood and emotion.

ASSET CAPABILITIES: THE FIGHTING-MACHINE (TRIPOD)



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

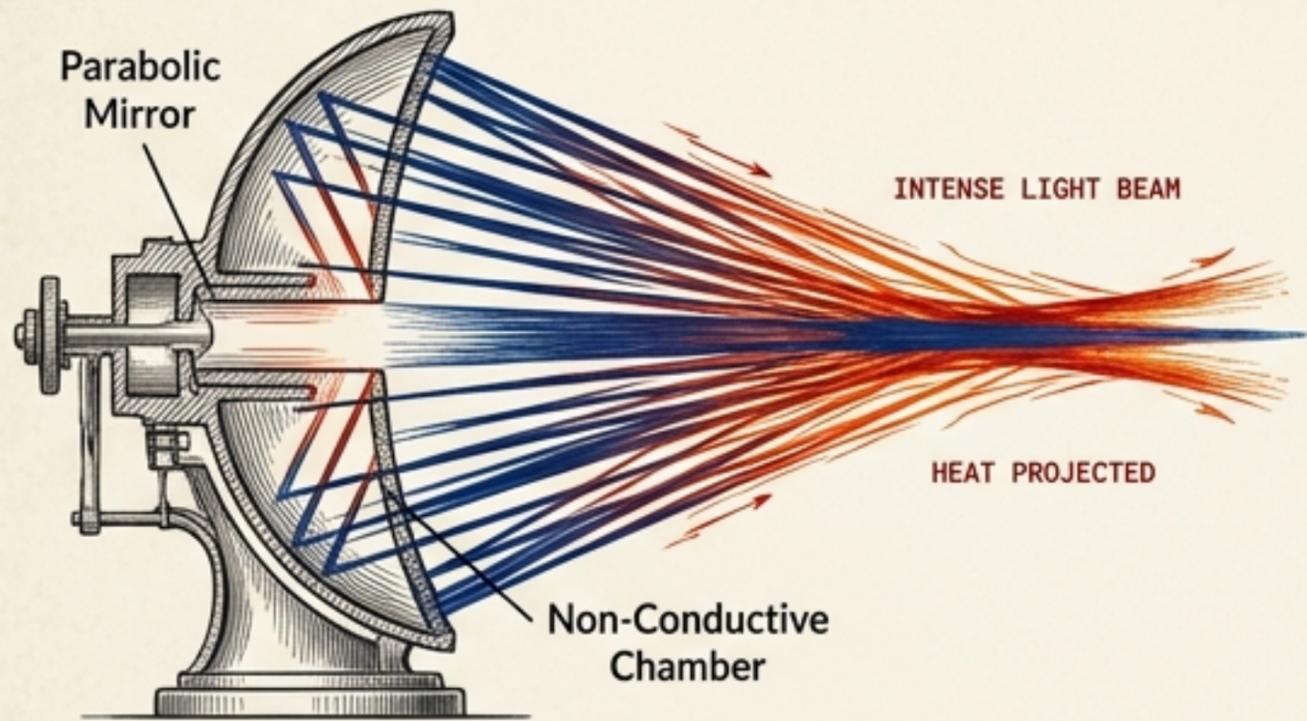
- **LOCOMOTION:** Articulated tripod legs; speed rivals an express train.
- **ACTUATION:** "Sham muscles"—disks in elastic sheaths polarized by electricity. Absence of wheels.
- **PAYLOAD:** Mounted Heat-Ray, Black Smoke canisters, handling basket.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT



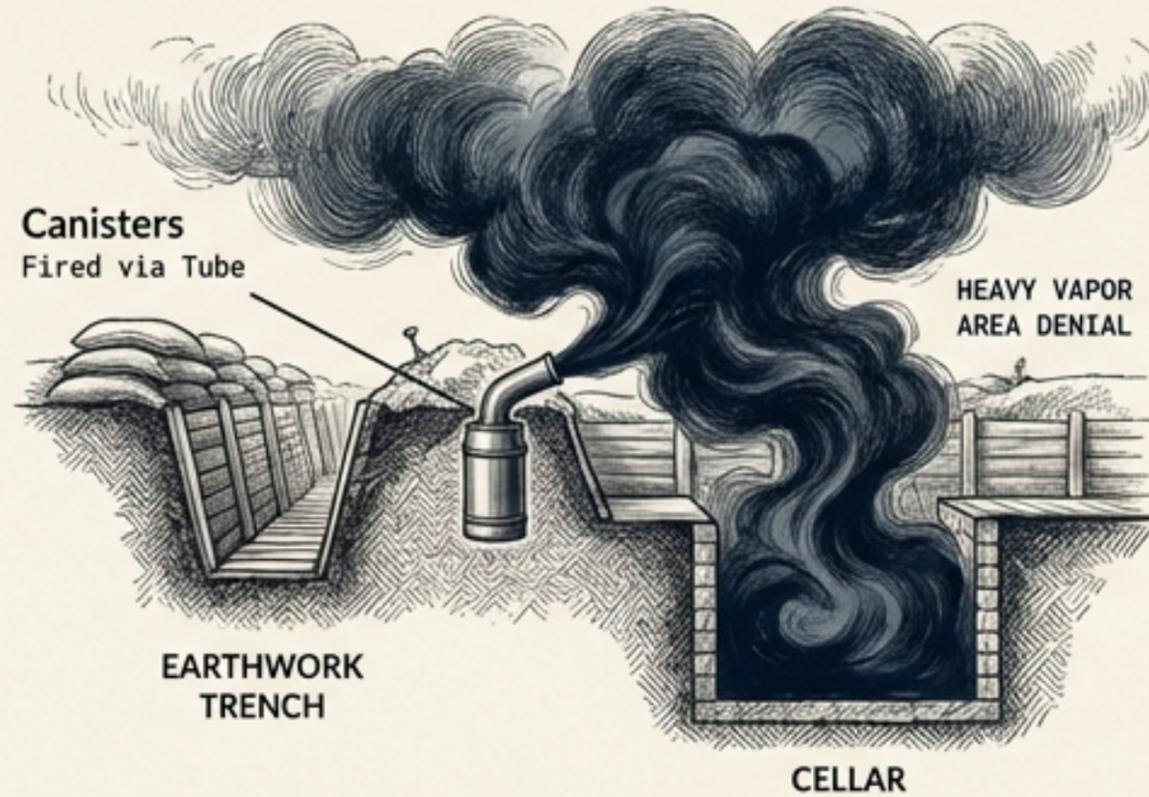
A monstrous tripod, higher than many houses, striding over the young pine trees, and smashing them aside in its career; a walking engine of glittering metal.

OFFENSIVE ARMAMENT ANALYSIS



THE HEAT-RAY

- **MECHANISM:** Intense heat generated in non-conductive chamber, projected via parabolic mirror.
- **EFFECT:** Silent, invisible light. Flashes combustibles into flame; melts iron; explodes water into steam.
- **RANGE:** Line-of-sight elimination.



THE BLACK SMOKE

- **MECHANISM:** Canisters fired via tube.
- **PROPERTIES:** Heavy, inky vapor; insoluble in water; sinks into trenches and cellars.
- **LETHALITY:** Deadly to all oxygen-breathers. Used for area denial.



EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

_It was sweeping round swiftly and steadily, this flaming death, this invisible, inevitable sword of heat.

INCIDENT REPORT: THE MASSACRE AT HORSELL COMMON



18:00

Crowd gathers around the cylinder pit.

Sunset

“Deputation” advances with white flag (Signal: Intelligence).

CONTACT

Martians discharge Heat-Ray.

Immediate Aftermath

Vaporization of Deputation; ignition of common land; panic-stricken rout.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT



It was as if some invisible jet impinged upon them and flashed into white flame. It was as if each man were suddenly and momentarily turned to fire.

ANALYSIS

Diplomatic Failure

Total incompatibility of human diplomatic norms with Martian doctrine.

Casualties

Complete elimination of first responders and observers.

ENGAGEMENT ANALYSIS: THE BATTLE OF WEYBRIDGE



TACTICAL NOTES

- **Martian Error:** Single Tripod advances without support into.
- **Human Counter-Strike:** Shell strikes the hood; machine Shepperton Church tower in collapse.
- **The Pivot:** Remaining 4 Martians adapt immediately. Tactics shift to long-range thermal bombardment.

OUTCOME

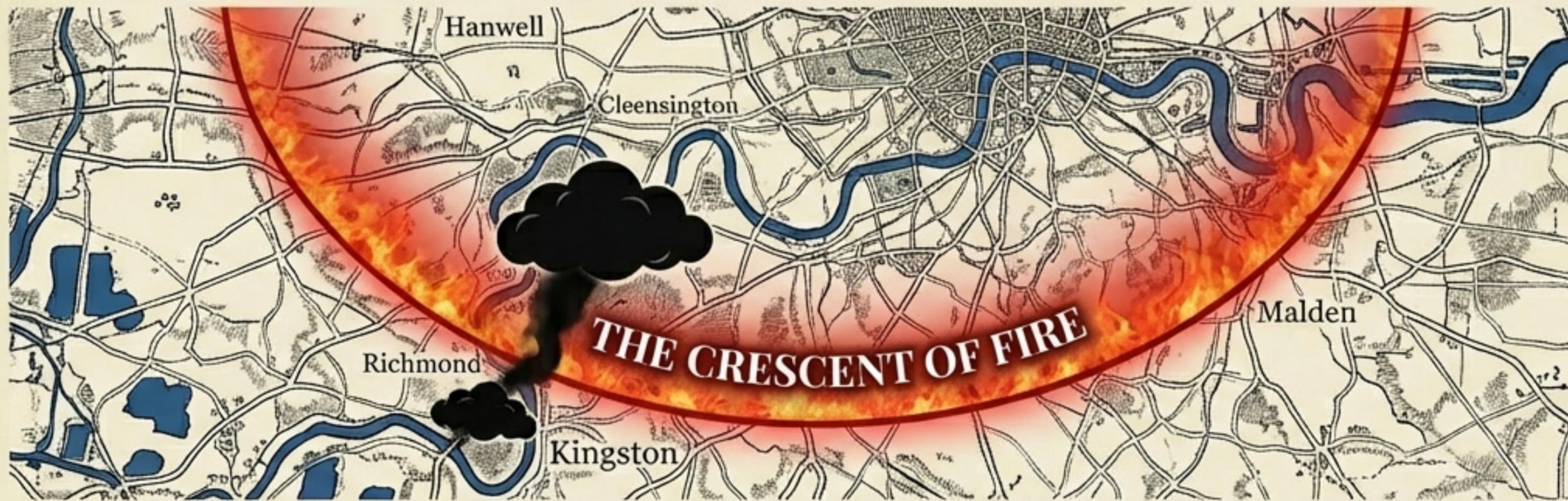
RESULT: PYRRHIC VICTORY.
First and only Martian machine destroyed by artillery fire.
(Data and labels in Courier Prime)

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT



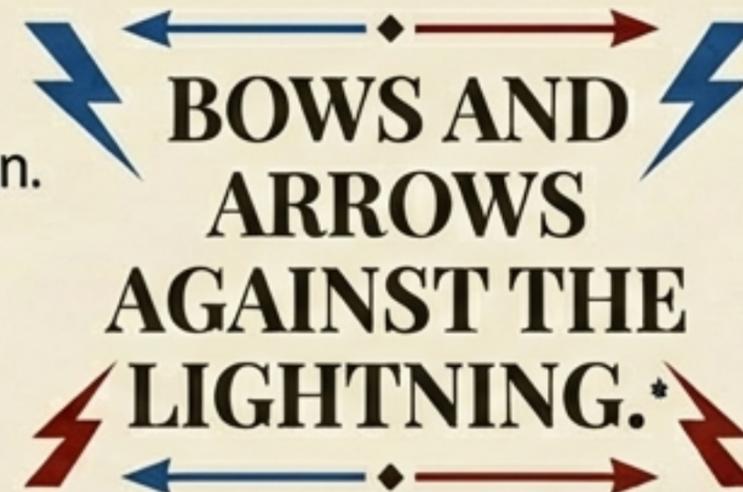
The shell burst clean in the face of the Thing. The hood bulged, flashed, was whirled off in a dozen tattered fragments of red flesh and glittering metal.

MARTIAN TACTICAL SHIFT: THE SIEGE OF LONDON



STRATEGY BREAKDOWN

- ➔ **FORMATION:** 12-mile wide semi-circle advance to herd population.
- ➔ **COUNTER-BATTERY FIRE:** Systematic use of Black Smoke canisters against hill-top batteries (Richmond, Kingston).
- ➔ **RESULT:** Suppression of organized resistance. South-Western batteries neutralized without firing a shot.

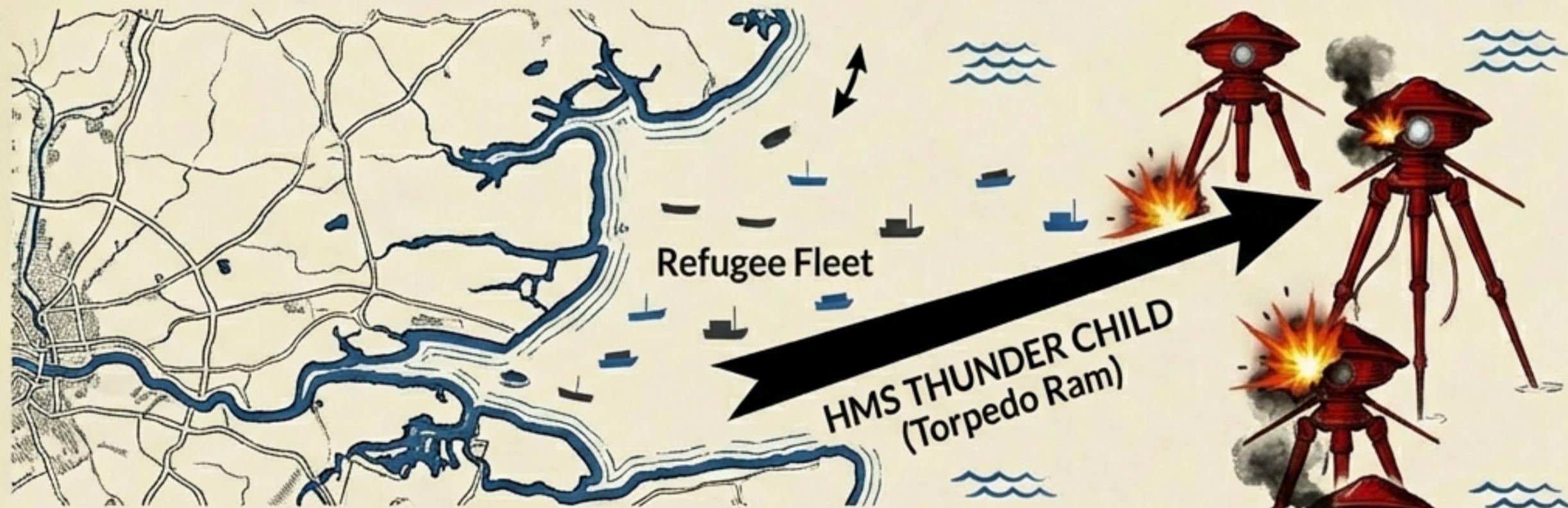


EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT



Setting about it as methodically as men might smoke out a wasps' nest, the Martians spread this strange stifling vapour over the Londonward country.

NAVAL ENGAGEMENT: THE CHARGE OF THE THUNDER CHILD



BATTLE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

- **MARTIAN LOSSES:** 2 Tripods destroyed (Impact/Explosion).
- **ROYAL NAVY LOSSES:** HMS Thunder Child (Total loss with all hands).
- **STRATEGIC OUTCOME:** Successful evacuation of civilian transports. Enemy advance temporarily halted at coastline.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT



A vast iron bulk like the blade of a plough tearing through the water... twin funnels projected and spat a smoking blast shot with fire.

TERRAFORMING: THE SPREAD OF THE RED WEED



ECOLOGICAL DATA

- **ORIGIN:** Extraterrestrial spores transported in cylinders.
- **GROWTH VECTOR:** Explosive luxuriance in aquatic environments.
- **CHARACTERISTICS:** Cactus-like branches, vivid carmine tint, brittle structure.
- **IMPACT:** Choking of waterways; displacement of terrestrial flora; secondary sanitary hazards via rapid decay.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

The vegetable kingdom in Mars, instead of having green for a dominant colour, is of a vivid blood-red tint.
Lato

Courier
Prime

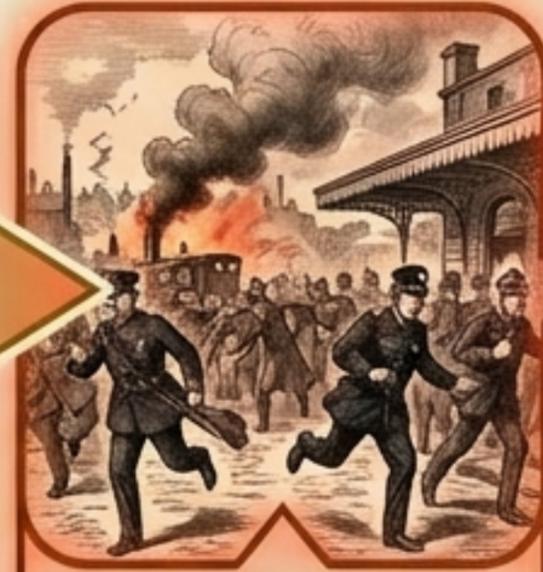
SOCIAL LIQUEFACTION: THE GREAT PANIC.



Sunday Night:
Disbelief /
Indifference.



Monday Morning:
Newspaper Reports.



Trigger:
"Black Smoke!" /
Officials Flee.



Monday Noon: Total
Social Liquefaction.

KEY FACTORS

- **Information Lag***: Failure of press to convey scale of threat.
Courier Prime
- **Authority Collapse***: Police and railway officials abandon posts.
Courier Prime
- **Scale***: 6 million people in uncontrolled flight.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT



The stream of flight rising swiftly to a torrent, lashing in a foaming tumult... the beginning of the rout of civilisation.

LOGISTICS OF COLLAPSE: THE EXODUS



CONDITIONS REPORT

- **DENSITY:** Solid mass of humanity; fatalities due to crushing and exhaustion.
Courier Prime
- **RESOURCES:** Zero provision for food/water; immediate famine conditions.
- **PSYCHOLOGY:** 'The crowd roared like a fire.' Blind panic overrides empathy.
- **INCIDENT:** Breakdown of class structure; looting; violence.
Courier Prime

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

A stampede gigantic and terrible—without order and without a goal, six million people unarmed and unprovisioned, driving headlong.

Courier Prime_

PSYCHOLOGY OF CONFINEMENT: THE RUINED HOUSE



EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

He was one of those weak creatures... who face neither God nor man, who face not even themselves.

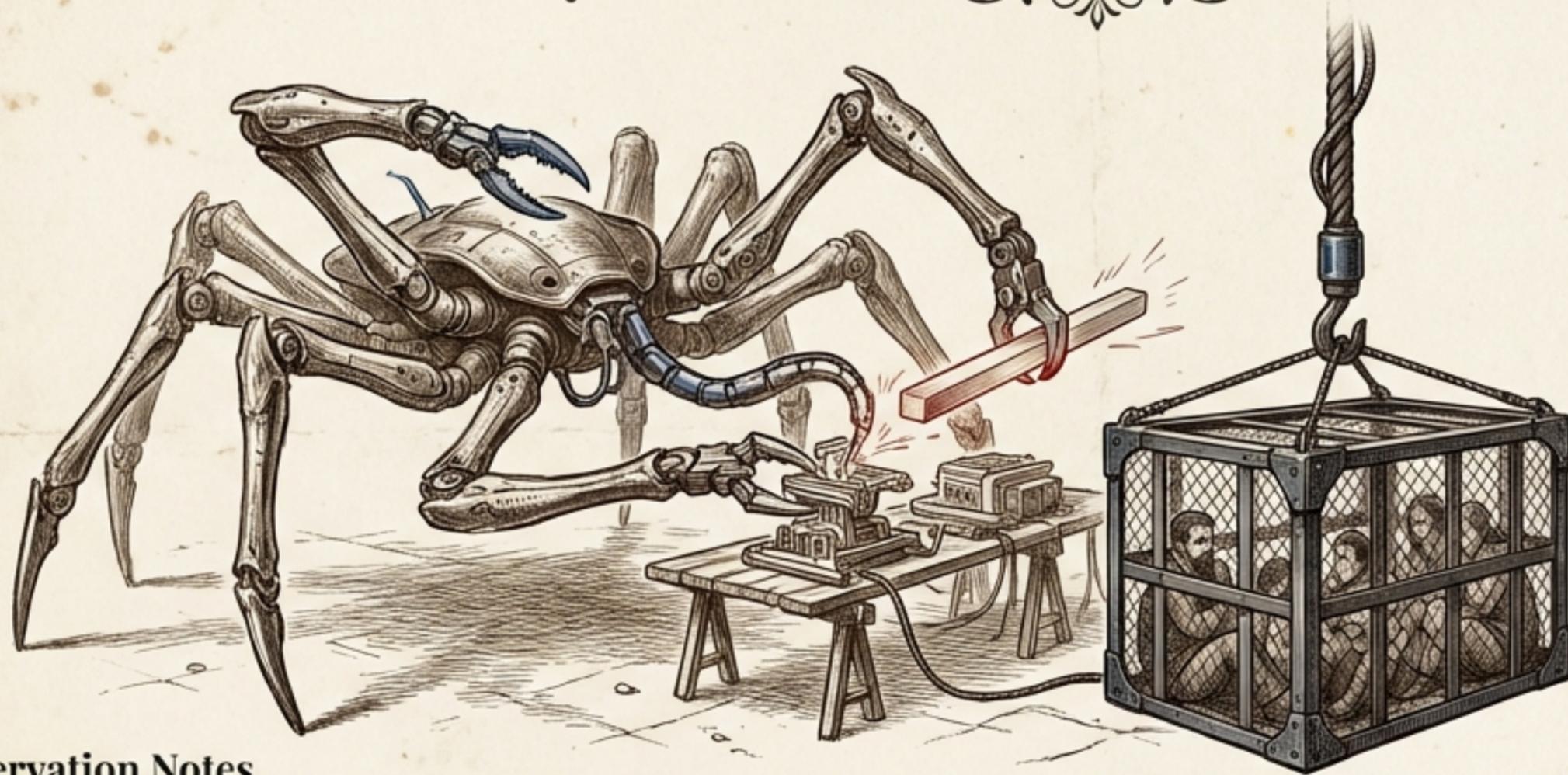
• SUBJECT A: THE NARRATOR

- Pragmatic
- Observant of enemy tactics
- Rations food
- Willing to use violence for survival

• SUBJECT B: THE CURATE

- Hysterical / Fatalistic
- 'Why are these things permitted?'
- Gluttonous
- Compromises security

INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE & HUMAN HARVESTING



EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

The handling-machine... seemed infinitely more alive than the actual Martians.

Observation Notes

Lato	Courier Prime
THE HANDLING-MACHINE : Multi-limbed, dexterous, acting as an extension of the Martian will. Manufacturing aluminum bars and assembling machines without wheels.	
THE CAGE : Carrier basket attached to Tripods.	
PURPOSE : Collection of living humans for blood harvesting (nutrition).	

STATUS SUMMARY: THE NEW ORDER



SITUATION REPORT

- ****LONDON****: Occupied and desolate. Silence reigns.
- ****RESISTANCE****: Ceased.
- ****STATUS****: Humanity reduced to lower-tier animal in the food chain ('Infusoria under the microscope').
- ****EMERGING THREAT****: Aerial warfare capability confirmed.

Survival now depends not on conquest, but on remaining unnoticed.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

_Are we or they Lords
of the World? ... And
how are all things
made for man?_