

THE HIDDEN CIRCLE GAZETTE

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BUILDS

The War of the Worlds

BY CURT ROSEWOOD — 2024-08-07



The War of the Worlds

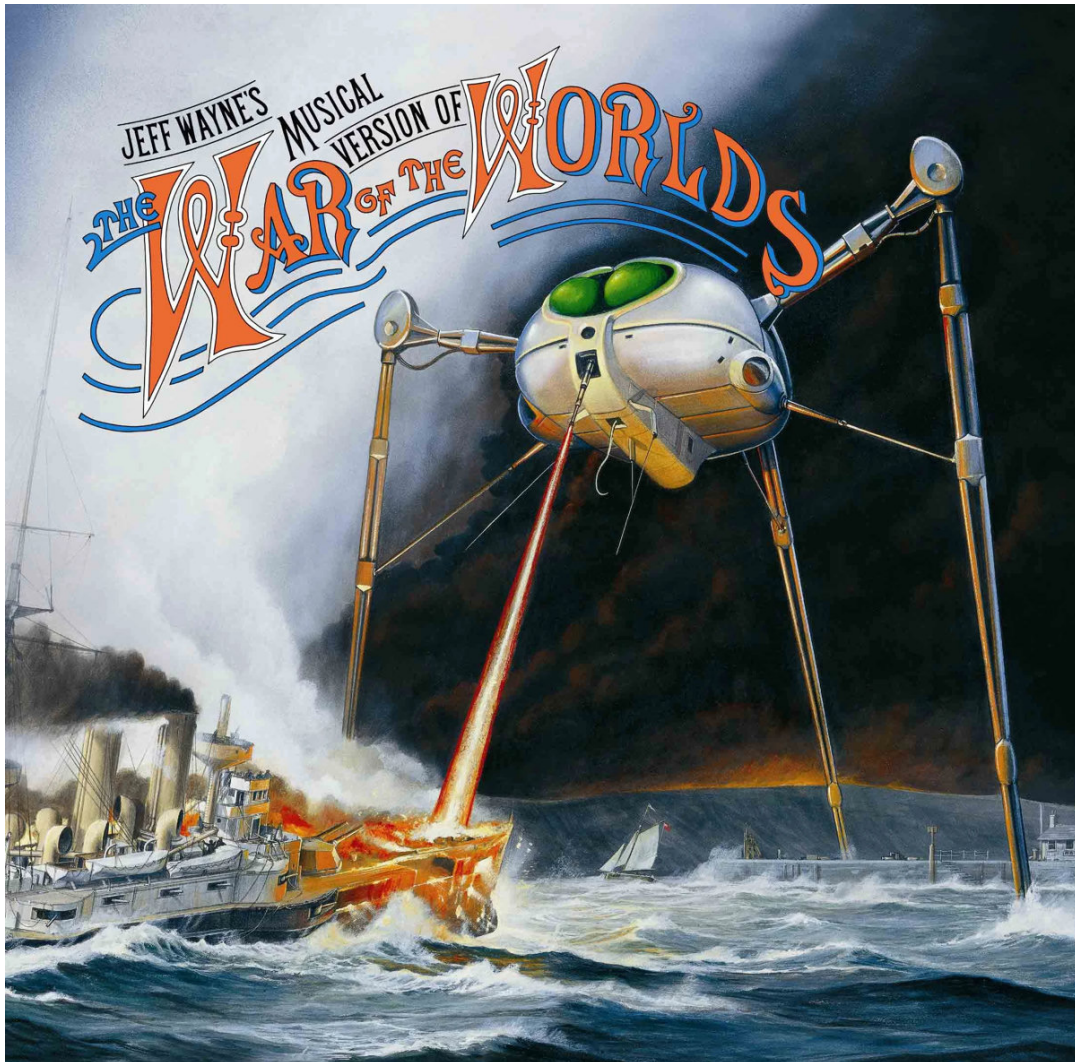
The War of the Worlds¹ is a novel written by English author H.G. Wells² in between 1895 and 1897. As one of the earliest stories to recount a conflict between humankind and an extraterrestrial civilisation, it is widely regarded as one of the founding works of modern science fiction. The novel is the first-person narrative of an unnamed protagonist who escapes as London and southern England are invaded by Martians. This classic story has stood the test of time and in fact has never been out of print.

No one would have believed in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man's and yet as mortal as his own; that as men busied themselves about their various concerns they were scrutinised and studied, perhaps almost as narrowly as a man with a microscope might scrutinise the transient creatures that swarm and multiply in a drop of water H.G. Wells

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_War_of_the_Worlds

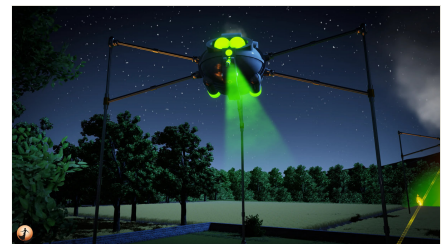
²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H._G._Wells

The novel spawned numerous feature films, radio dramas, comic books and television series. One of the most notable adaptations was [Jeff Wayne's musical version](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeff_Wayne%27s_Musical_Version_of_The_War_of_the_Worlds)³, a studio double album released in 1978 by CBS Records. The album became a commercial success and has sold an estimated 15 million copies worldwide. The iconic cover of this record, depicting a Martian tripod striking down [HMS Thunder Child](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Thunder_Child)⁴, was created by British artist [Mike Trim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Trim)⁵.



Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqDJilWhpPM>

Builders **LindyLou** and **Talidine** of *Fox Force Five* created a wonderful 3DX rendition of a seminal *War of the Worlds* scene in the style of *Mike Trim's* artwork. It is the perfect place to immerse yourself in *Jeff Wayne's* spectacle and get carried away by the music and the stunning visuals.



³https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeff_Wayne%27s_Musical_Version_of_The_War_of_the_Worlds

⁴https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Thunder_Child

⁵https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Trim



In the distance we can see the [Horsell Common](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horsell_Common)¹² with the crashed Martian ship from which alien war machines emerge. Carried on tall tripod legs they advance unrelentingly towards the unfortunate artillerymen, desperately trying to put up a defence. Shells explode all around the Marians, but nothing seems to harm them and nothing can withstand their devastating heat rays.

"This isn't a war", said the artilleryman. "It never was a war, any more than there's war between man and ants."
H.G. Wells



¹²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horsell_Common



Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_Wpi2TWCVA

Noted for his mellifluous baritone voice, Welsh actor Richard Burton¹² gave an unforgettable performance as the narrator in Jeff Wayne's musical epic. He became such a necessary part of the concept album that a hologram was used to narrate the live stage show. In 2011, however, Liam Neeson was cast in the part for a *New Generation* re-recording.

Two singles from *Jeff Wayne's* album were released; the disco-inspired opening track, *The Eve of the War* and the hauntingly beautiful *Forever Autumn*, with Justin Hayward¹² of Moody Blues¹² fame on lead vocals. A new version of this song was released in late 2012, sung by Gary Barlow¹².

Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5oSYIUol2M

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8Qc5bUqLlI>

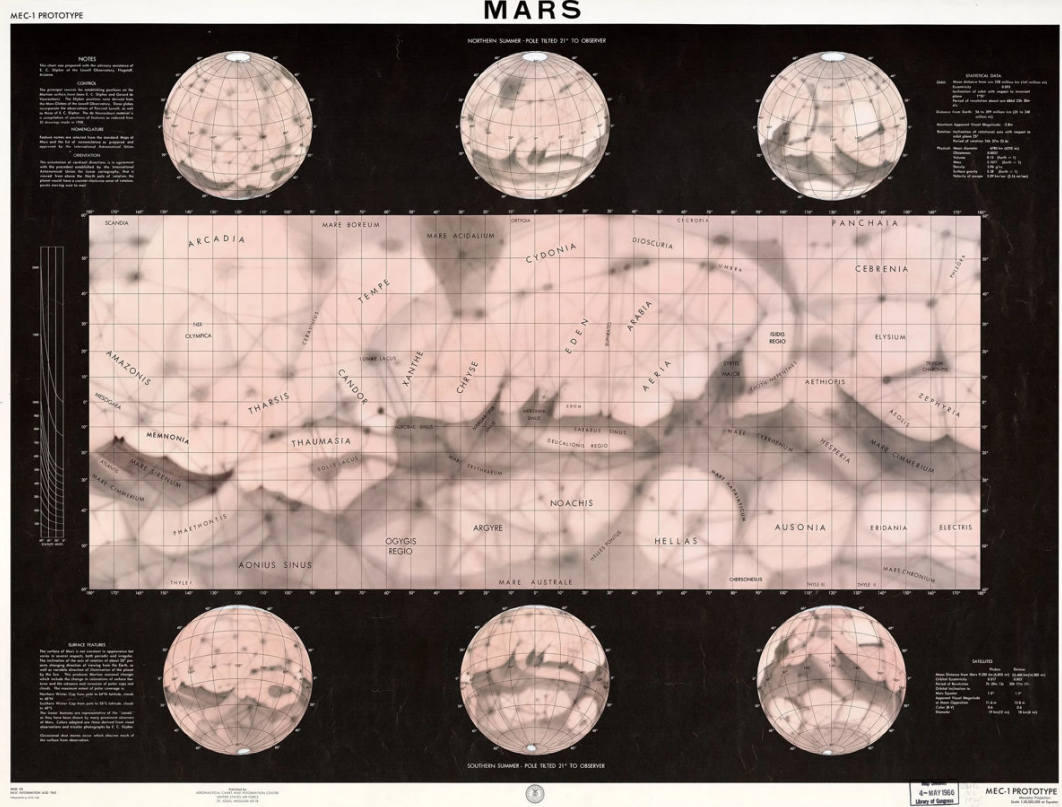
“The chances of anything coming from mars are a million to one”, he said – but still they come! Jeff Wayne

¹²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Burton

¹²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin_Hayward

¹²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Moody_Blues

¹²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary_Barlow



To our modern ears the idea of Martians may seem preposterous, but for a long time it was believed by many Mars was inhabited by an advanced civilisation.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it was erroneously thought that there were *canals* on the planet. They were first described by the Italian astronomer Giovanni Schiaparelli¹².

It was speculated by American astronomer Percival Lowell¹² and others that they were engineering works, irrigation canals constructed by intelligent aliens indigenous to Mars. Today it is understood these canals were optical illusions due to imperfections in the telescopes of the day.

Special thanks to DeliaNDN

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¹²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni_Schiaparelli

¹²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Percival_Lowell