

BLOOD ON THE WIND

Storyline Book Two (1935-1939)



PRELIMINARY UNCONTROLLED MIXING IS BECOMING A SERIOUS CONCERN. THEY THREATEN THE AGENDA. THE AGENDA MUST BE PRESERVED AT ALL COSTS. SECRECY IS ALSO ESSENTIAL, HOWEVER. AGREED. WE CAN USE THE SOCIOPOLITICAL CHAOS AS A SHIELD FOR DEALING WITH THE UNACCOUNTED-FOR HYBRIDIZATION. EXCELLENT. USE ONLY THIRD TIER MEMBERS TO ENSURE THIS OPERATION. THAT MAINTAINS OUR EYES ON THEM. UNDERSTOOD. BUT EXPOSURE IS TOO GREAT A THREAT. INTERNAL ACTION IS ALSO NECESSARY IF WE ARE TO PRESERVE A UNITY OF INTENTION. THE UNCONTROLLED EXPERIMENTS ARE THE RESULT OF UNAUTHORIZED ACTION FROM WITHIN. THE DISSIDENTS MUST BE ELIMINATED. CAN WE RISK THE EXPOSURE OF AN OPEN CONFLICT? NO. BUT PRECAUTIONS WILL BE TAKEN. BY MERGING AGENDA ITEMS WE CAN ELIMINATE ENEMIES WHILE DIRECTING THE MAIN AGENDA. EXCELLENT. ARE WE PREPARED FOR THE INCREASE IN CROSS-TAG COMMUNICATION? YES. IT IS EXPECTED AND NECESSARY. OUR AGENTS ARE IN PLACE. OUR PLAYS ARE FINALLY BEARING FRUIT AND WE MUST BE CAUTIOUS. PLAN FOR ALL POSSIBLE DISASTERS. WE HAVE SURVEILLED THE OPERATIONS BEFORE. AN UNBROKEN FOCUS REMAINS A SERIOUS CONCERN. ONLY IF WE LOSE TRACK OF THE MAIN AGENDA AND MISUSE OUR INSTRUMENTS

HEAVY GEAR

BLOOD ON THE WIND

Storyline Book Two (1935-1939)

1 Autumn 1935 - 2 Summer 1939

"When Hutchison died on live trideo, we all knew in our hearts that we were entering hard times. We knew that the last embers of the détente built during and after the War of the Alliance had finally burnt out. Soldiers adjusted their uniforms and arms merchants looked with glee toward a swelling bottom line. Some of us thought of the whole new graveyards this Interpolar War would create.

"We didn't know the half of it. The chaos of those years would strip us, once and for all, of our provincial innocence. Terra Nova was maturing at long last, but at a terrible cost."

— Nicosa Renault

Thor Hutchison, the leader of the Revisionist Church, has just been assassinated. Fifteen cycles of suspicion and tension finally come to a head as the planet of Terra Nova explodes into the Interpolar War. But no one anticipates just how costly this war will be. Mighty armies clash at the poles and throughout the Badlands, reducing peaceful desert communities to smoking ruins. A medical crisis grips the Humanist Alliance while diplomatic betrayal sends the North headlong into conflict. A few heroic individuals try to save what peace they can, fighting to keep parts of the Badlands free. But even their efforts may not be enough.

Blood on the Wind, the second Heavy Gear Storyline Book, is the sequel to the critically acclaimed Crisis of Faith. It traces the cataclysmic events on the world of Terra Nova, the setting of Heavy Gear, through a collection of journals, articles and conversations. Master spy Nicosa Renault searches through her mighty records in search of explanations for the world-shaking events, and the reader follows her inquiries. Blood on the Wind also features a useful appendix with a full time-line of events, advice for Heavy Gear players and profiles of important characters.

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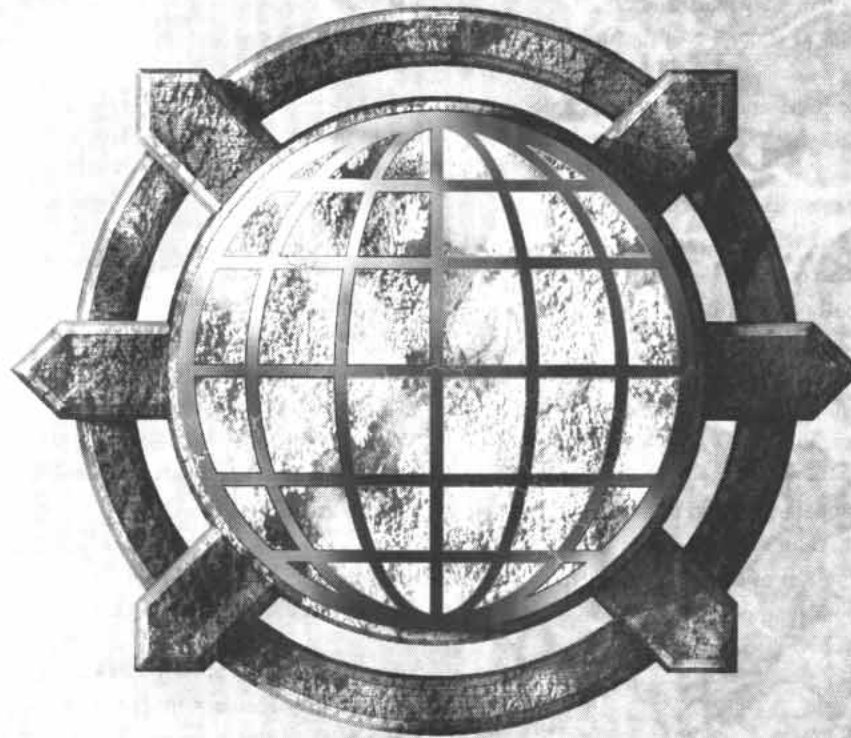
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HEAVY GEAR

Blood on the Wind



Heavy Gear Storyline Book 2

1 Autumn 1935 to 2 Summer 1939

City of Peace

From the Journals of Nicos Renault

(08 Spring 1939) — It has been five centuries since Earth left us to our own devices, abandoning all its colonies. We should have matured by now. If we had acted like adults and used the resources of our planet, we could have reclaimed the stars. What we actually did was pour every mark and dinar of capital, every drop of petroleum, every milligram of mineral wealth, into fighting each other. Neighbor slaughtered neighbor to build city-states; city fought city to build leagues; league fought league to build confederations. Of course, confederations then clashed, plunging us all into a bloody world war.

I have a reputation for being a pragmatist, but there are times when the teachings of the Sisters who raised me come back to the surface. Indeed, I look at our history and I can only assume that some force — the Gentle Spirit perhaps — has tried to warn us away from a path of destruction, or even to punish us for our folly.

The first clashes between North and South resulted in St. Vincent's Plague, a deadly scourge that killed off children. Did we step back from the abyss of total war? No, we plunged headlong into it. The next time that we were ready to destroy ourselves in global battle, the skies opened up and the forces of Earth suddenly appeared to reclaim Terra Nova. North, South and Badlands came together then to repel the enemy. We fought the War of the Alliance together and won. Terranovans learned the strength of cooperation and it seemed like a new era had begun. I, for one, allowed myself to hope.

What a fool I was.

(09 Spring 1939) — It didn't take long for detente to give way to mistrust. I had played the game of espionage and deal-making enough during the war and wanted out, so I had vanished to the relative safety of Peace River in the Badlands. I ended up powerless, watching the rise of dangerous forces at both poles.

In the South, a pair of bloody madmen rose to power. Louis Philippe deRouen, armed with a deadly combination of genius, ambition and utter ruthlessness,

became Prime Minister of the Southern Republic in the TN 1920s. His elevation came at the same time that Jacques Molay, a killer and power-monger with even fewer scruples, took the seat of Lord Protector of the AST. Their alliance was short lived and they have spent the cycles since trying to eliminate each other. The one matter they could agree upon, however, was conquest.

In the North, the swing toward war wasn't quite as obvious, but it was there nevertheless. One man, Second Follower Thor Hutchison, drove the hemisphere into a state of religious fury. He pointed south towards an "immoral land" and many people were ready to go to war on his say-so.

War became inevitable on 1 Autumn 1935, when Hutchison was assassinated on live trideo. It actually started after the Battle of Rahnguard Oasis, when a Northern Guard regiment and a Southern MILICIA regiment ended up fighting a battle on a Revisionist holy day. The religious North, looking for a reason to fight, jumped on that "sacrilege" and declared war. Even before the war broke out, however, the Humanist Alliance and Eastern Sun Emirates were spiraling into bloody carnage. In the UMF and Mekong Dominion, political backstabbing reached an all time high.

Some idiots thought that the war would be over quickly, that accounts would be settled in a matter of a few seasons. Try three cycles.

(35 Spring 1939) — I can barely believe it, but there is now room for optimism. For once in its existence, Peace River is going to earn its name. This massive oasis-city, the jewel of the Badlands desert, was built on arms manufacturing. Many of the rounds fired and the guns used in this bloody war bore the Paxton Arms logo and came into being right there in Peace River.

Times have changed though, and in the last season, Peace River has come to serve as the neutral ground where negotiators from both sides could meet. These negotiations started off being informal and basic, but eventually the idea of an armistice started to take hold.

City of Peace

Peace River, Badlands

Peace River, home of corporate giant Paxton Arms, in the Spring of 1939. The site of preliminary peace negotiations, it is a city of hope.

35 · SP · 39

City of Death

From the Journals of Nicosia Renault

(2 Summer 1939) — Was it a few weeks ago that I allowed myself to hope again? Stupid. I should have known better.

I had gotten a place at the negotiation table, and was with the team speeding toward Peace River on the alpha maglev link this morning. We were just over the horizon from the city when the flash lit up the sky. For just a second it looked like there was a second sun creeping over the dunes east of us.

I remember a few people trying to speak, but they quickly fell silent. You see, everyone on the maglev knew at some instinctual level what had just happened. When the huge column of smoke rose above the horizon a few minutes later, it was only confirmation of what we already knew: Peace River was gone.

The maglev powered down and coasted to a stop. It had nowhere left to go. When the dull thump of locking clamps attaching to the rails resonated through the train, it served as a reminder that sound existed. Suddenly conversation, questions, exclamations and even tears were bursting from every mouth on board. Seasoned ambassadors and military leaders were walking around, their faces blank with shock. Men able to stare death in the face laughed nervously.

We all know such devastation is possible. Weapons of mass destruction have been around for millennia, and have even been used before on Terra Nova. But this is Peace River. Who has an interest in destroying a Badlands city? Who's the real target?

(3 Summer 1939) — Recriminations have been surprisingly scarce and short lived, at least among those of us on that train. When the shock started to wear off, everyone glanced at their fellow passengers, looking for the one person who might not share the assembly's generalized shock. If this was an attack from a league, from one of the warring factions, someone aboard knew about it. No tell-tale looks, however. No guilt or satisfaction. Just surprise and demands for answers.

A few accusations flew back and forth, of course. I remember that my ally Claude Fauret, acting as chief Republican negotiator, shared his view that Westerners had used their anti-matter weapons to eliminate Peace River and reinvigorate the war effort. He should have been more careful with his words, and it took all my guile to keep Proconsul Hasegawa Ichiro's bodyguard from pulling the trigger. I've learned from Hasegawa that the young woman's husband had been stationed in Peace River when the bomb detonated. She was the first to mourn the dead. She won't be the last.

(5 Summer 1939) — I've shed all the tears I can for now. Yesterday I took a heart wrenching journey through one of the field hospitals set up outside the radiation zone. Victims unlucky enough to escape the blast but not the radiation lie in beds there, awaiting the hacking cough that will tap their final reserves and bring them to meet their maker.

I was one of the numerous visitors, looking desperately for friends and loved ones among the dying. I found none of the friends I had made when I lived in Peace River. I can only hope that they were consumed by the blast before they felt anything.

I did find Milani DuBeau-Slovenski, however. The so-called Black Queen of Peace River, the dreaded Head Executive Officer of Paxton Arms, had been aboard the maglev with us. She had escaped the destruction of her city. I didn't know how she would react. When I found her, she was sitting mutely by the bed of a radiation victim. The med monitors beeped and pulsed, the only signs of life coming from the burnt form in the bed. I glanced at the name plate: Helena Hitashi.

Hitashi had been the administrator of Peace River and once a worker activist. She also had been Milani's estranged lover. The specter of death seemed to have brought Milani around. Too late, of course. "Who did this?" I heard her ask the ether. That's a question I intend to answer.

City of Death

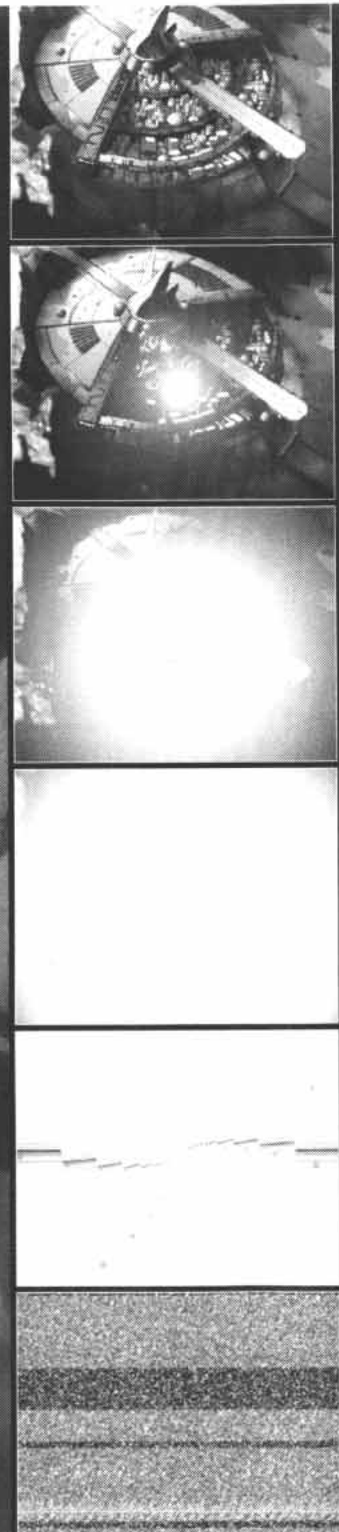
Peace River, Badlands

The ruins of Peace River, shortly after its destruction by an anti-matter weapon. Over 75% of the 300,000 residents are presumed dead.

PRDF video feed

An outlying surveillance tower catches the detonation on video.

02.SU.39





First Inquiry: The North

From the Journals of Nicos Renault

(06 Summer 1939) — I've always believed that history and information are the keys to understanding. Especially when playing the game of Terranovan politics, you have to know where people come from, what they want and how they plan on getting it if you are to act at all effectively. I've survived - even thrived - because of the information at my disposal. It's time to put that information to use. If I'm going to discover who was behind the destruction of Peace River, I'll need to review what I know, and find what I've missed. So while everyone else is making speeches and organizing manhunts, I'll be here looking through documents. We'll see who uncovers the truth first.

(07 Summer 1939) — My first suspect is the North or a Northern agent. It was the CNCS who declared war, and they may have decided that they wanted to end it in a hurry. They also may have decided Paxton had profited too much from the war and had to pay. Also, the Fort Henry Weapons Testing Range in the WFP has the biggest concentration of anti-matter weapons on Terra Nova. That gives the North means, at least, if not necessarily motive.

I suppose I can admit - at least to myself - that a part of me wants the culprits to be Northern, to prove once and for all that the "civilized" North is a land of hypocrisy and self-righteousness. I understand where my feelings come from, of course. My father was a Northerner and abandoned me because I was the product of an unacceptable and unrecognized liaison. Instead of accepting his own feelings, which he considered immoral, he sent me away to be raised by Revisionist nuns. These dear Daughters of Mamoud could never stop reminding me that I had to make up for being the unwanted daughter of a heathen woman and a weak father. I was the product of sin, after all.

Even sitting here, with everything that has happened, I get upset just thinking about it.

I wish the North would stop confirming my prejudices, though. This whole pointless war started because the Northerners had to find someone else to blame for the death of the father-figure, Second Follower Thor Hutchison. Cycles after his death, it's become fashionable for even his enemies to concede that he was a "great man." I don't believe that. Hutchison did good only for those who shared his faith, and saw nothing wrong with that. For him, you were either a Revisionist - and *his type* of Revisionist - or you were worthless. Those outside the faith were degenerates, enemies, or both.

I was dumbfounded and upset when he died, but mostly because I knew the North would go to war over it. That it was one of his faithful followers who blew his brains out was richly deserved, if you ask me.

Enough. Bitterness doesn't help analysis in the least.

Beyond the Revisionists, there are others who might have played a role in this affair. The UMF is once again firmly in the hands of Northco, and they have always seen Paxton as an enemy. They might know something of what this is all about. And then there's the West and its anti-matter weapons. Fort Henry came under attack, though. Could something have been stolen?

Enough questions. Time for some answers...

>end log<

>open file/North 1<

07.SU.39

Hutchison Investigation: Leads Are Scarce

Special to the Valeria Times

by Carmen Melfas

The holy cities of Sorrento and Massada are swarming with investigators, but very little new information about the brutal slaying of Second Follower Thor Hutchison has come to light. Hutchison was murdered on live trideo by Norlight Colonel Neel Garner Fulan, commander of the Blue Angels regiment protecting Massada. The Colonel was mortally wounded by Hutchison's bodyguards, but not before he could fire two shots at close range, hitting Hutchison in the chest and head. The second shot was instantly fatal, according to medical sources.

Officials in Valeria quickly established an inter-agency task force with a mandate to investigate every aspect of the killing, ranging from security concerns to uncovering the killer's motives. The task force includes members of the Norlight National Police, the Order of Dorothea (responsible for Church security), the Norlight Armed Forces' Office of Military Intelligence, the Northern Guard Intelligence Service, and the CNCS Confederate Police. A task force headquarters has been established in Sorrento to direct all inquiries, with field offices in Massada and Valeria.

So far, most of the task force's attention seems to be directed at uncovering the motive for the assassination. Many wonder why a decorated war hero like Colonel Garner Fulan would commit such an act. Indeed, Garner Fulan was not only about to receive a religious commendation for his valor defending Massada, but had already proved his courage at the infamous Battle of Church Pass during the War of the Alliance. Investigators are searching for any evidence that the Colonel may have been mentally unbalanced or come under foreign influence.

Confidential sources inside the investigation report, however, that the mobilization of so many agencies is more political than practical. Indeed, investigators are reportedly stepping on each other's toes and leads are being lost in a sea of red tape. Furthermore, these same sources claim each agency is most interested in protecting its own reputation, or that of its parent organization, be it the military, the current government or the Revisionist Church. Rumors are

already beginning to circulate that some investigators are withholding evidence.

The popular reaction to the assassination has unfortunately gone hand in hand with the burgeoning chaos of the official investigation. While most Northerners have reacted with quiet shock and grief, attested to by the practical cessation of business across the hemisphere this past week, outbreaks of rage and violence are becoming more and more frequent. Indeed, Jerusalemite authorities in Swanscombe report no less than six different incidents of assault perpetrated against local nuns (symbols of authority in that religious matriarchy) since the assassination. No doubt the worst incident of violence, however, occurred last night when the Overlook Commune in the Norlight city of Franklin Harbor was attacked by vandals armed with molotov cocktails. Three of the Jerusalemite residents are dead and many more injured after the fire-bombing (see related story).

Religious authorities in Sorrento and Massada are calling for calm, but apparently to no avail. It seems that, in the absence of any real answers as to why their spiritual leader was killed, many angry Revisionists are turning on whatever scapegoat they can find.



▲ Murder Scene #1



▼ Murder Scene #2

◀ Reverend Hutchison
(1842-1935)

Inquest

Norlight Intelligence and Security Agency

>phone log<

>connect NISA Director B. Kaine<

>connect Col. Henrietta Volks, Norlight Armed Forces Office of Military Intelligence<

NISA Director Brigman Kaine: *What's the situation in Massada?*

Col. Henrietta Volks: *We're making progress, but we'd be making more if we didn't have to keep dodging every other bloody law enforcement agency north of the equator. I mean, this is a NAF/OMI matter, for Mamoud's sake, why the hell is Northco Corporate Security snooping around?*

Kaine: *What have you got so far?*

Volks: *So far not that much on Garner Fulan himself. We've interviewed practically his whole regiment and all we have so far is salt-of-the-earth stuff. The Colonel was a great commander, a brave soldier, a caring leader and so on. The only criticism we have is that he kept his private life private. Even his adjutants never really knew him that well.*

Kaine: *That sounds promising. If he was compromised that's where it probably happened.*

Volks: *That's our thinking.*

Kaine: *What about his girlfriend? That Noble woman?*

Volks: *Yeah, Sister Melissa Noble. She and Garner Fulan grew up together; they were bond twins. It looks like she had some sort of crisis of faith in her twenties and ended up in Massada. The two didn't see each other much until Garner Fulan was stationed in the city in 1929. They've been lovers since 1933, at least.*

Kaine: *What do we know about her? Her friends? What about that "crisis?"*

Volks: *I've got people working that angle right now. We know she has had extensive contact with Southern pilgrims and at least one other affair with a Northern soldier, a pilot in Garner Fulan's regiment named Luther Klingmann. We're checking him out too.*

Kaine: *Have you talked to her yourself?*

Volks: *Yeah. She seems genuine enough. You know, tears for the tragedy, sympathy for the killer — what you'd expect given they were sharing a bed. She told me that Garner Fulan was upset by the suicide of a mentor of his named Delyah, back North. I'm trying to run that lead, but the Dorotheans are being really tightlipped about it, seems she was a monk or something.*

Kaine: *Okay, I'll try and get you more cooperation from the Order of Dorothea. In the meantime, keep at Noble and anyone else who got close to Garner Fulan. I want to know what made him pull that trigger.*

Suspected Accomplice
M. Noble ▼

>end connect<



▲ Murderer Col. N. Garner Fulan



The North Mourns

Sorrento, NLC

(Valeria Times) — Over one million mourners filled the streets of Sorrento today as Second Follower Thor Hutchison was laid to rest in the Crypt of the Faithful upon Gayras Rise. The ceremony, televised via trideo across Terra Nova, was filled with famous faces from the religious, political and social spheres. Every significant leader, politician and thinker was present to see Hutchison, assassinated last week under still-mysterious circumstances, interned in the sacred crypt just below the Church of the Third Miracle. The Crypt of the Faithful is reserved for recognized heroes of the Revisionist Church and contains the mortal remains of Nathani Reiss, companion to the Gentle Prophet and founder of the Sorrento Church; Liana Brëas, the first president of the Norlight Confederacy; and Lara Domion, the Second Follower who shepherded her faith from the chaos of St. Vincent's War.

Even more impressive than the famous in attendance was the massive outpouring of popular grief. Common people came from across the hemisphere to pay their last respects to the fallen religious leader, taking advantage of the national day of mourning declared in all three Northern leagues. The Norlight Armed Forces were pressed into service to establish emergency housing and facilities for the influx of mourners. An estimated 70 million people — 9 out of every 10 Northerners — watched on trideo.

Abbot Joh Ison, one of the Church's top thinkers and a close advisor to Reverend Hutchison, eulogized the Second Follower. Ison drew attention to Hutchison's work and energy for the faith and the challenges that now face those he has left behind:

"It was Reverend Hutchison who brought us out of the darkness of indecision and carried us through the night of the war with Earth. We all looked to him for his wisdom, his teachings and his guidance. Now, his enemies have conspired to silence his strong voice and we must deal with the terrible aftermath.

"We have two choices: We can give up on Reverend Hutchison's dream because he is no longer here to guide us, or we can be courageous and take our own destiny into our hands and lead the lives he would have wanted us to. I, for one, hope we choose the latter."

Some consolation came early today when Norlight National Police Commissioner Gabrielle Khaleed announced that the inter-departmental task force investigating Hutchison's assassination has made an arrest. Sister Melissa Noble, a Massadan church member, entered NorPol custody in Massada last night, reported Khaleed at a Valeria press conference. According to sources in Massada, Noble is a high-placed advisor to First Follower Dreven Capac, the leader of the Massadan branch of the Revisionist Church. Noble was also the bond-twin, and reportedly the lover, of Neel Garner Fulan, the assassin of Reverend Hutchison.

Because Garner Fulan was killed by bodyguards immediately after the assassination, his motives remain a mystery. Indeed, Garner Fulan was a decorated war hero and widely considered to be a faithful, even ardent, Revisionist. His murder of the most prominent member of his church has raised many questions, some Noble may be able to answer.

"The arrest of Melissa Noble is only one part of the on-going investigation," said Khaleed in her statement. "It came after agents on the scene uncovered inconsistencies in her statements to local authorities in the days following the assassination. We believe that Sister Noble has information that could shed light on Garner Fulan's motives."

When asked if Sister Noble would be charged with anything beyond the current charges of obstructing an investigation, Khaleed was evasive. "That will depend on what she has to say."

Evidence Points South

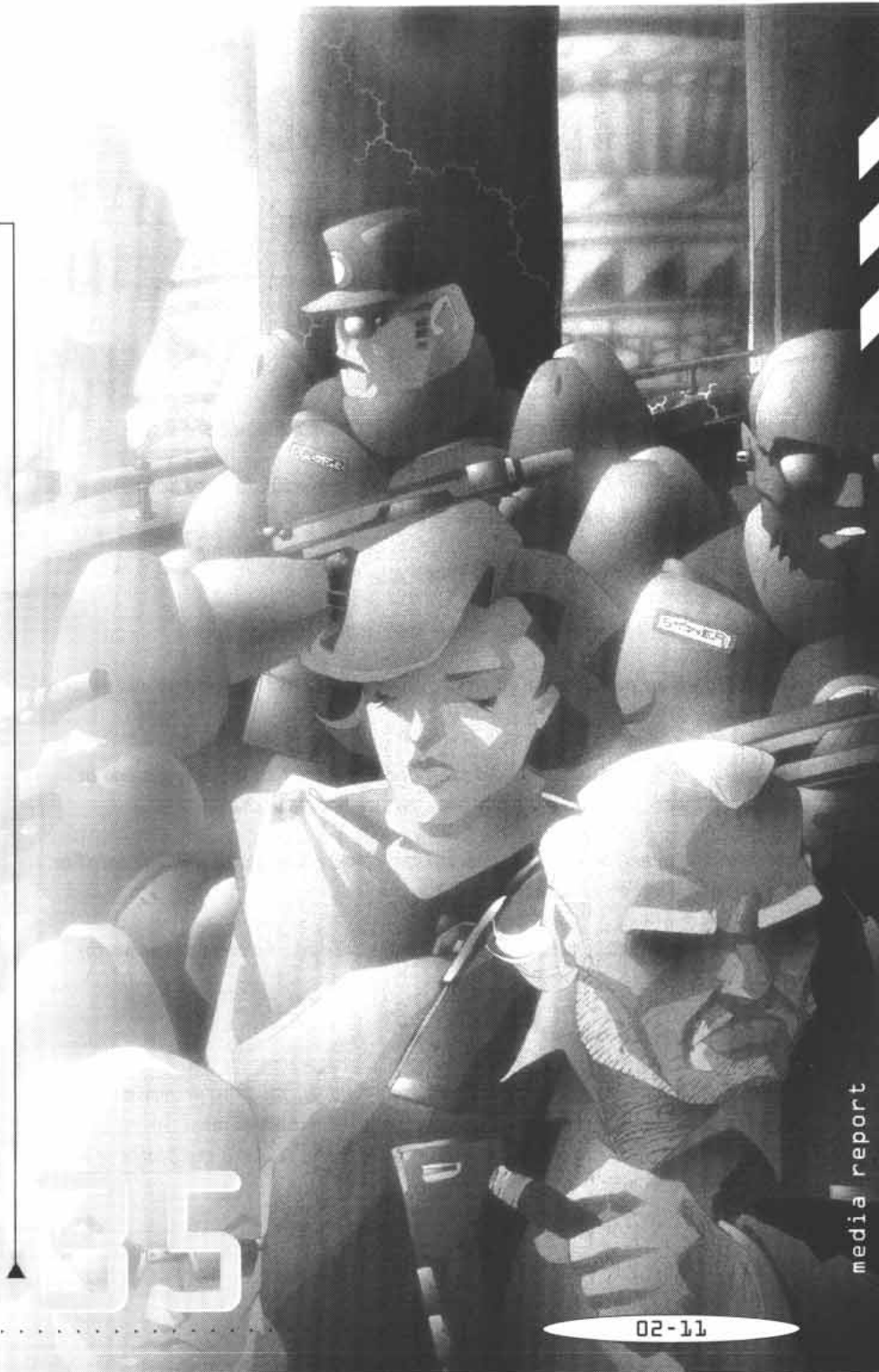
Special Report to the Federal News

The questioning of Sister Melissa Noble, confidant and lover to assassin Neel Garner Fulan, has revealed a strong Southern connection in the murder of Second Follower Thor Hutchison. According to sources within the investigation, Noble had a critical influence on Garner Fulan, a decorated war hero, during his time in Massada. It has now become clear that members of Southern intelligence may have been using Noble, and through her, Garner Fulan.

Detectives reportedly consider this a major breakthrough in the investigation. Indeed, it answers once and for all the question on everyone's lips this last season: why? Why would a faithful soldier and hero of the North like Colonel Garner Fulan gun down the leader of his church? Psychological programming by Southern agents now seems a real possibility.

"It is now utterly evident that Reverend Hutchison was the victim of a concerted effort to end his life and demoralize the whole northern hemisphere," commented Wilhelm Miehn, leader of the Norlight True North Party in a heated address to the Inner Council of the CNCS yesterday in Valeria. "His death was ordered from Port Oasis, planned by Southern operatives and carried out by a puppet they created through lies and other means. This attack goes beyond any norm of civilized behavior and we must respond. The illusion of peace we have been living under since the war with Earth has now been shattered, ladies and gentlemen. This is an act of war."

The Inner Council has refused to act as of yet, only promising further resources for the investigation into Hutchison's death and maintaining the state of alert under which all Northern armed forces are operating. The Northern public, however, seems ready to act. Already calls for action are coming from all corners of the hemisphere. An outraged public has already taken to the streets in front of Southern embassies in Lyonesse, Valeria and Fort William. Demands for government response — ranging from symbolic sanctions to all-out military strikes — are resounding throughout all the capitals.



A New Alliance

Fort Henry, WFP

>loctag: Lang residence, Maderas compound, Fort Henry<
>datetag: 41 Winter TN 1936<
>timetag: 23:44:07<
>transcript begins<

Proconsul Lang Regina: Thank you for coming, Colonel. Please take a seat.

>visitor id: Gervase Aschenbach, Western Frontier Protectorate Army Colonel.
Assigned to Western Military Academy — training and tactics.<

Colonel Gervase: Of course, ma'am. Thank you, ma'am.

Lang: Colonel, we have seen some rough times together, haven't we?

Gervase: That we have, Proconsul. That's a soldier's lot. We obey orders and do what must be done.

Lang: True enough. We certainly did what had to be done all those cycles ago at Baja, didn't we? That cost too many lives, but we had little choice.

Gervase: The alternative was to surrender the planet itself, Proconsul. The sacrifice was worth it, I think. More than worth it.

Lang: Let me ask you, Colonel, do you think the sacrifices to come are as worthwhile?

Gervase: Excuse me, ma'am?

Lang: No need to hide behind political caution, Colonel. You have permission to speak freely. I promise you that nothing you say will leave this room. We all know a war is coming with the South. My question is whether it is worth the deaths of more Western boys and girls.

Gervase: With all due respect, ma'am, that is not my decision to make. I'm a soldier and I follow orders. If sent into battle, I will do my utmost to accomplish my mission and bring my troops home safely.

Lang: Come Colonel, you know full well that soldiers not only follow but lead. A soldier — especially a Western soldier — mustn't just blindly obey orders. We must make sure we are serving the good of our league — and our planet. So tell me, do you think this war is for the common good?

Gervase: The Southern leagues are run by various forms of dictatorship, Proconsul. Millions live either in outright or disguised slavery. Others actively support governments with overt agendas of global domination. That constitutes a threat to the West and the North as a whole. A war is worthwhile if it eliminates that threat and if it liberates those in bondage.

Lang: I agree with you Colonel, but I'm afraid that the current war may do none of those things. Not unless we prepare the way for the aftermath.

Gervase: I would imagine so.

Lang: You requested your transfer to the Academy in order to "give something back" if I recall. In that spirit, I would like to invite you into a new endeavor, so we can prepare for the cycles after the war and to face the real enemy.

>pause of 00:01:33<

Lang: Are you interested, Colonel?

Gervase: Tell me more, Proconsul.

>end transcript<

41-WI-36

Last Good-Bye

Strathclyde, ESE

Regina,

This is, in all likelihood, the last letter I will be able to send you for quite some time. Our dire predictions are, I fear, on the verge of coming true at last. I look west from Strathclyde and I imagine I can hear the chaos of rebellion and the lamentation of pestilence. I look around me and I see the depravity of excess and the torture of slavery. I look and I despair.

Forgive my rambling, Regina, but I fear not only for our planet, but for our species. Are we really so different from the invaders we repelled cycles ago? We crush enemies with the same hatred and bloody efficiency. We sacrifice innocents for as futile a reason as the CEF ever did.

Enough, as you are so fond of reminding me; I should pontificate less and act more. The news you have sent about gathering allies is heartening. Assuming we can survive the storm to come, we may have a true alternative to the present Terra Nova. I have assembled some trusted aides on my side of the equator and we will be ready to move when the time comes.

I agree with you that a trigger event will be necessary if we are to act effectively. Once war fervor turns into battle fatigue, we will need to await a low point to move. Creating our own trigger event is an option, I agree, but it should be a last resort. We must be very careful not to give our enemies ammunition before we are ready to deal with them.

Regina, I hope we will speak again soon, but for now we should gather our forces and use intermediaries. See you on the other side.

Your friend,


Kenichi Tanaka

14-SP-36

02-13

Red Tape, Black Death

Yele Medical Center

Report to the Board of Directors

RE: *Mission to the Humanist Alliance in response to the Theban Blight emergency*

Date: 30 Spring 1936

Madame Chair & Members of the Board,

It is my sorry duty to report the near complete failure of our mission of international emergency aid in the Humanist Alliance city-state of Thebes. As you well know, a previously unknown disease has emerged in Thebes. This disease is to all appearances highly contagious and fatal in anywhere from 25% to 95% of cases. The global media, with its standard flair for the dramatic, has named this disease Theban Blight. The YMC assigned an emergency response team to Thebes after receiving a request from Humanist officials.

Our efforts once we arrived early last Winter, however, have been constantly hampered by Southern MILICIA forces on the ground and even by Southern medical officials. MILICIA forces were deployed to enforce a tight quarantine around Thebes, and refused to allow us access on all but three occasions. Southern medical officials similarly refused to share their findings and insisted on the presence of a "diplomatic observer" (a thin cover indeed for an Intelligence Directorate agent) when we undertook any field operations. Matters of clearance and security consistently - and constantly - got in the way of our work. Indeed, the fear of foreign espionage runs very high in the South.

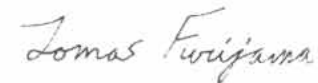
Things have only gotten worse with the spread of the Blight and the annexation of the Alliance by the Southern Republic. We have seen the Blight rage out of control through Perth, Gardena and most other Humanist cities. The number of dead is staggering, especially in Gardena. Republican officials, however, have not cleared us for travel and we have been forced to remain near Thebes and watch powerlessly as this nation succumbs to this Blight. We might well have been able to do something, had we been able to isolate and identify pathogens

when the problem was confined to Thebes. Now, we can only hope to find a way to fight the Blight before it spreads beyond the Alliance.

Because of these constraints, our findings as regard this unknown disease are tentative and incomplete at best. Based on what data we could gather, the Blight seems to be extremely contagious, but kills its host quickly. We found several instances of the whole population of a housing complex or workplace being wiped out, while neighbors were unaffected. The pattern of outbreaks is unclear. We suspect the pathogen to be a viral agent (either airborne or transmitted by touch) produced during the final stages of a more complex disease process. This would explain the isolated, deadly outbreaks, because carriers of the larger disease would spread the lesser illness through a healthy population and then produce the fatal plague only in the hour (or even less) just prior to their own deaths. Without further data we cannot build a model of this larger disease, however.

I recommend applying political pressure to get our team access to the bodies of the victims. Without this access, we cannot hope to uncover the origins of this disease or estimate the possible risks to other cities across the globe.

Respectfully,



Tomas Furijama, MD

Dangers and Opportunities

Northern Guard Intelligence Service

>full encode<

>sat trans complete<

>decoding - - - <

To: Col. Zucco Beatrice, NGIS Command

From: Captain Haanah Demers, NGIS, Free Emirates

Re: Status Report on Free Emirates

Colonel,

The situation in the Free Emirates — these regions of the Eastern Sun Emirates in open revolt against Patriarch Masao — is currently quite unstable. The chaos of the Theban Blight in the Humanist Alliance has had serious reverberations in the East. Notably, the Republican effort to annex the Humanist territories has brought new forces into play in the rebel territory bordering the Alliance. Forces from the Humanist Alliance Protection Force who refuse to submit to Republican authority have crossed into the Free Emirates, shattering the thin stability imposed by the Oxford Agreement. As rumor has it, they are led by Mykael Navar, the head of the Humanist Protection Force.

The Republic is still preoccupied with securing the Humanist Alliance and so has yet to send significant troops into the Free Emirates after the “dissident units,” but this delay is sure to be brief. Once that occurs, the Free Emirate forces will likely collapse before the onslaught unless they receive significant reinforcements from abroad. The influx of Paxton Arms weaponry over the last cycle has helped matters, but most of these resources are busy fighting Patriarchal units around Basal.

A growing leadership crisis within three Free Emirate compounds these problems. The Emir of Okavango is a youngster named Rafael Bhravo who has managed to create a nearly mystical aura around himself. Before his ascension (and rebellion) he led a march of children about the ESE and is considered by many to be a prophet of sorts. He has taken to acting very independently from Emir Nigel Shirow of Basal, who remains the most pragmatic rebel leader.

These problems do present us with an opportunity, however. Were we to finally become fully involved in the rebellion and provide more material, resources and even ground troops to Emir Shirow, he could both resist the coming Republican assault and retain his position as the leader of the Free Emirates. This would clearly indebt him to us, even to the point of making his regime dependent on our support. Creating a firmly controlled ally in the Southern hemisphere in this manner would be, I think, highly desirable.

I would also suggest that were Northern forces to become involved, that every effort be made to make them Norlight in origin and to use Revisionist imagery in associated propaganda. Many residents in the Free Emirates — most especially in the region of Bangweuleu — are Revisionist and would welcome some support from others of the same (or a similar) faith.



— Captain Hannah Demers.



◀ Emir N. Shirow



Emir R. Bhravo ▲



Patriarch O. Masao ▶

Proof Positive

Confederated Northern City-States

Ministry of Defense

Covert Operational Shift Among Mekong Forces

A Report to the Inner Council from Minister of Defense Lliam

Spencer

12 Summer 1936

Members of the Inner Council,

A recent breakthrough in Operation: Galley, the CNCS effort to monitor and decode operational communications among the Mekong Peacekeepers, provides critical intelligence about Mekong plans for wartime action. Our analysts have uncovered a coded order from Peacekeeper high command to several key field commanders that seems aimed at preparing for a conflict with Southern (rather than Northern) forces.

This order directs Peacekeeper units involved in the defense of a half-dozen strategic areas to prepare plans for rapid, decisive strikes against the MILICIA units stationed alongside them. This order points to a scenario of intra-Southern conflict that could be a serious opportunity for the CNCS.

It also seems to corroborate the reports we have received from within the Mekong Dominion that the league is not interested in fighting a war with the North. The meetings between Foreign Ministry officials and Taipan Arron Logan of the Mekong Development Corporation, of course, also point in this direction.

This is a critical opportunity. The Dominion's foreign policy is governed almost exclusively by a mercenary sense of self-interest. For the first time in centuries, alliance with the Republic has become a liability in the eyes of the taipans. If we can give them a way to break away from the AST, we will have reduced the Republic from a superpower to an isolated league. That will make her vulnerable to attack.

It is only a matter of time, however, before the Republic deals with this problem and secures its alliance. If we can attack while Port Oasis is weak, however, we can win. The East is in revolt, the Humanist Alliance is in ruins, and the Dominion is ready to break away. Never will the Republic be more vulnerable.

Indeed, I refer you to the recent reports from operatives of the Northern Guard Intelligence Service in the Free Emirates region of the ESE. They have outlined a series of opportunities for us to secure a long term ally in the South. The Eastern Patriarch is weak and we could be in a position to dictate who will ascend to his position.

Again, this chance is fleeting in the extreme. Unless we provide succor to the Free Emirates, they will be crushed and our enemies will be that much stronger.

In the interests of peace, our only choice is war.

MDC Taipan A. Logan ▶



We Interrupt This Broadcast

Special Report

SNS comes to you live from Valeria's St. Vincent's Square, the seat of power in the Confederated Northern City-States. The CNCS's Inner Council has just announced an end to the emergency session that began early today, and members of the Inner Council are emerging onto the dais before the council building. It looks like Grand Marshall Victoria Edden-Smythe will be addressing the crowd that has gathered here.

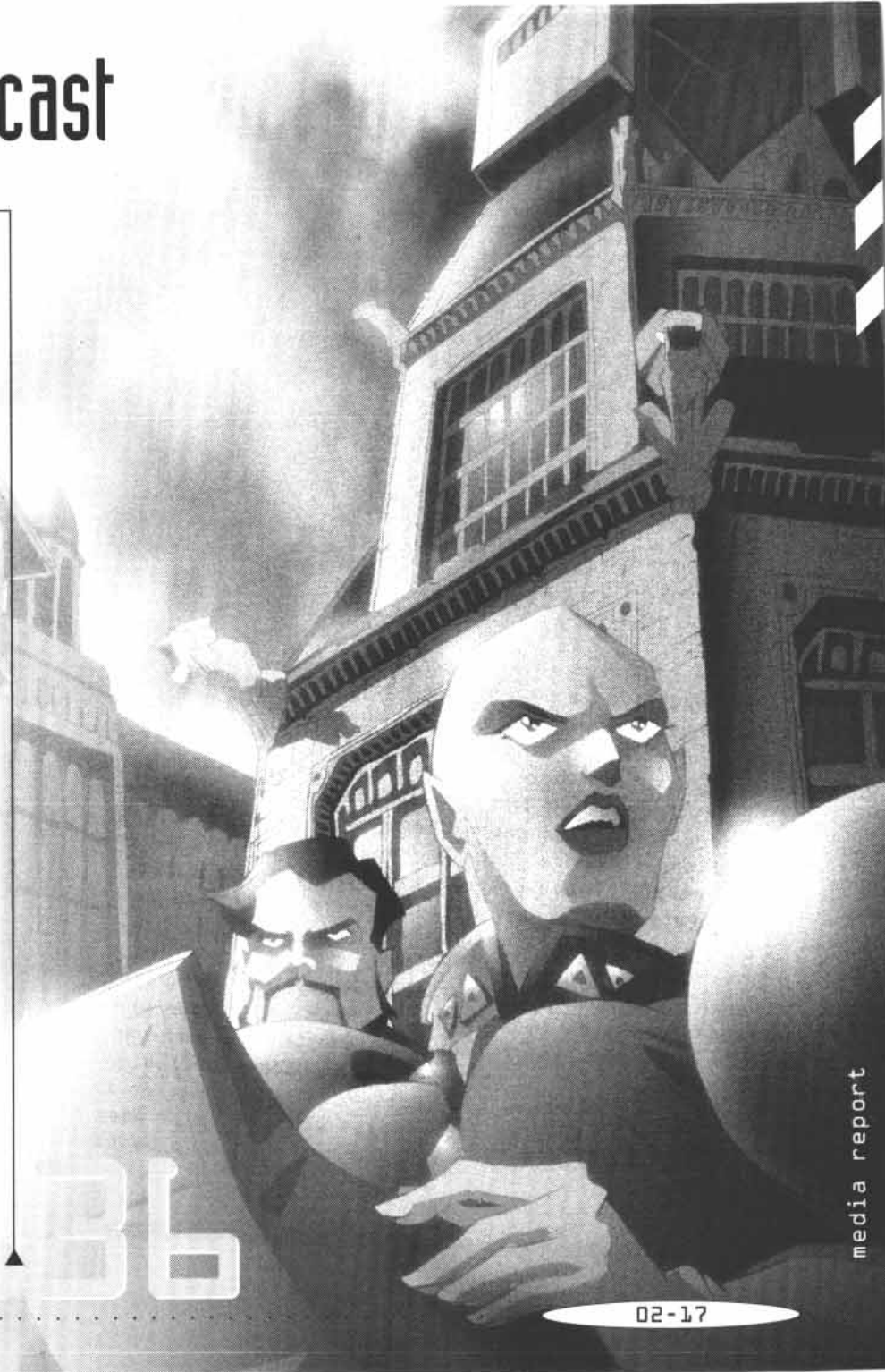
"Ladies and gentlemen, as of 13:45 this morning, the Confederated Northern City-States are at war. The Inner Council, acting in consort with the governments of all the member leagues, has passed a unanimous declaration of war on the Southern Republic.

"The reasons for this declaration should already be known to all Northerners, but let me make them clear. We are sending troops South in direct response to unchecked and escalating Southern aggression, both against Northern city-states and independent powers. The annexation of the Humanist Alliance is but the latest in a constant cycle of expansion and conquest that has characterized the Republic since its formation. Investigations by the Northern Guard Intelligence Service and other agencies has also positively tied the Republic to the assassination of Reverend Thor Hutchison. This is an outright act of aggression and we have no choice but to respond with force.

"Our objectives are clear. We will ensure the freedom of the Humanist Alliance, the Free Emirates and any other territories who wish to part from the Southern Republic. We will also force the Republic to abandon, once and for all, its imperialist doctrine. To wait any longer would be to invite invasion.

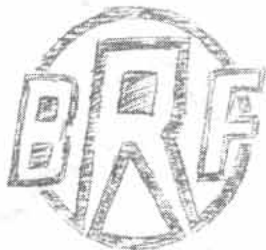
"In accordance with the articles of the CNCS Constitution, I am assuming the war-time power to govern the Confederation and suspending all national elections until the end of this conflict. Of course, the civilian leadership will continue to govern within the constraints of the war effort.

"Thank you, and Mamoud be with us all."



Slaughter of Two Towers

BRF Manifesto



Not Our War

The war between North and South is being fought for polar pride and power, and is being fought on the backs of Badlanders. This not acceptable and will never be tolerated. The Badlands Revolutionary Front has always stood for the freedom of average Badlanders, for our freedom from polar oppression, be it from occupying forces in Lance Point or from lackeys like Paxton Arms in Peace River. This war is dropping all pretense of polar restraint and is turning the desert into a killing ground.

Massive landships move through our towns and homesteads, flattening anything and anyone who dares show their face. The end of this war, as far as we are concerned, is a forgone conclusion: graveyards across the Badlands. Does it matter to us which brand of imperialism wins the day? Does it matter to the slave which brand of whip beats him?

Look, just look at the communities of Bianca and Katharina. These oasis towers in the Barrington Basin had the misfortune of getting in the way of one of the many pointless battles in this war. Two regiments faced each other and the civilians living nearby became targets. Bianca suffered the worst due to its decision to aid one side in the battle. Their supposed allies abandoned them in typical fashion as soon as they were targeted by the other side.

Artillery cracked the tower and shattered lives with ease and those who managed to escape were mowed down in the battle that raged outside. The Southern troops had traded with them, and the Northern soldiers wanted to liberate them, but neither hesitated to cut them down as they fled their burning home.

The Battle of Two Towers has shown the true colors of North and South. To them, Badlanders are resources to be used and destroyed. We must guarantee our own safety and our own independence.

Alliance with the superpowers has led us to the brink of extermination. It is time to choose freedom.

Ernesto Jaxon.

Slaughter of Two Towers

BRF Manifesto

27.SU.36

Welcome to the Jungle

Basal, Free Emirates

From His Highness Emir Nigel Shirow:

People of Basal, people of the East, today is a great day! We are, at long last, no longer alone!

Word has reached us that troops from the Northern Guard have arrived in the Free Emirates to lend support to our cause. The Patriarch and his masters in Port Oasis insist on making war on a global scale and this is the reward they have reaped. But for us, the war against these tyrants has been going for five long cycles. Now, at last, the North stands with us and our enemies must divide their forces.

Troops of the Northern Guard, along with our own men and our displaced allies from the Humanist Alliance, are busy insuring the security of our Free Emirates. Think about it, my friends: soon we will be able to move more freely between our homes. The long siege will be lifted.

These foreigners on our soil are welcome because they come in as friends and will leave with our enemies defeated. This is our battle and we will fight it, but we welcome the assistance of other free peoples in winning this battle.

Freedom for the East!

Top Secret

To: Grand-Marshal Victoria Edden-Smythe, CNCS
high command
From: Brigadier Folsom Venton, Mekong Task
Force Command
Re: The Mekong Campaign

Grand-Marshal,

The attached transcript is only one of hundreds of similar documents I can provide that speak to the fact that we have been betrayed. The Mekong Dominion and its Peacekeepers seem to have no desire whatsoever to cooperate with our war against the Southern Republic. The Task Force has been forced to retreat into the Barrington Basin and regroup, having faced substantial resistance at almost all our beachheads.

Resistance has come not only from Peacekeeper and MILICIA units, but from bandit groups, municipal police forces and many rapidly mobilized volunteer forces. We are seen not as liberators, but as invaders.

I am also convinced that several Peacekeeper units knew of our coming, and of our expectations, and drew us into traps. The Red Wing regiment was wiped out in just such an ambush. I have not been privy to the sources that provided the intelligence that the Mekong Dominion would side with us, but I if I may speak frankly to whoever fed us that line deserves his or her place in hell.

Last Call from Mekong

Battle Footage

31.SU.36

02-21

official report/transcript

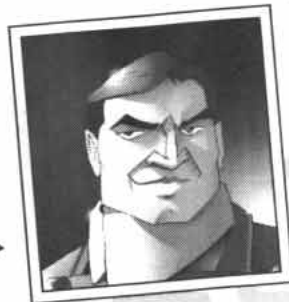
News from the Front

Raleigh In Northern Hands

NorGuard News Net — Elements of the Eastern Task Force have moved into and secured the city-state of Raleigh in the Humanist Alliance, as part of the campaign to secure and expand the Eastern and Humanist territories free from the domination of the Southern Republic. Raleigh, the easternmost city-state of the Humanist Alliance, had been occupied by Republican Army and Southern MILICIA troops just before the beginning of the war, after an outbreak of Theban Blight. Resistance action has been endemic since then, and our troops were welcomed with open arms by the locals.

The Southern occupiers did not hesitate to take out the frustration of a Northern victory on the locals and their city-state. The executions of freedom fighters and even peaceful demonstrators were numerous in the days before liberation, and even today locals are trying to uncover just how many of their sons and daughters have disappeared forever. In typical fashion, few of the Southern prisoners taken by the liberating forces were Republican. Mekong and Eastern conscripts from the MILICIA were left to ensure the final defense of the city while Republican Army troops and MILICIA commanders withdrew to the west. These prisoners are being debriefed and will be transported to POW facilities in the Free Emirates. NorGuard commanders report that several conscript units switched sides and helped our troops. This is further evidence of how fragile the Republican hegemony over the South has become.

Officials and troops from the Free Emirates, including expatriate Humanist Protectors, entered the city side by side with Guardsmen. Officials in Basal are already offering the liberated city-state membership in their free league.



Interim Treasurer S. Davi ▶

Banderas Dies in Southern Attack

NorGuard News Net — The body of Yves Banderas, Treasurer of the United Mercantile Federation, was found in the wreckage of his state aircraft late last night in the Downing mountains of his native league. Banderas, 75 cycles, was at the end of a morale boosting tour of the UMF when his aircraft was shot down, apparently by Southern aircraft. Forensic study of the wreckage is still underway, but initial reports point to a missile attack consistent with a stealth fighter — possibly the Ghost fighter wielded by Southern air forces.

Banderas' death creates a void in the civilian leadership of the UMF. With Grand Marshal Edden-Smythe's current emergency leadership of the CNCS, a national election is not in the making. Sources in the Mercantile capital of Lyonesse suggest that Minister of Defense Solomon Davi will take over leadership of the Caucus until the end of hostilities. This would be a first in Mercantile history, but is supported by the federal constitution.

Banderas' aircraft was shot down while en route to the city-state of Ashington, part of a whirlwind tour to raise national morale. The UMF has been plagued by religious and social unrest in several outlying city-states characterized by their alternative social structures. The Jerusalemite matriarchy of Swanscombe, the communist oligarchy of Zagreb and the aristocracy of Ashington have all been under pressure from popular movements pushing for increased support of the war effort. Banderas himself had been accused of sowing the seeds of these social problems in his pre-war administration and some hope that his death will leave room for a national reconciliation.



Treasurer Y. Banderas
(1861-1936) ▶

Chaos in the West

SNS Live Telecast

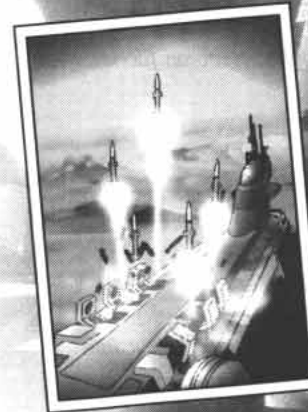
Welcome to our live broadcast from Fort Henry in the Western Frontier Protectorate, a city that today received a brutal reminder of the war raging in the Badlands and the Southern jungles. At roughly 0600 hours this morning, a Southern ground strike into the WFP knocked out the main air-defense grid protecting Fort Henry. Soon thereafter, Southern bombs and cruise missiles were slamming into the city in a heavy barrage. The full extent of the damage, thirty hours later, is a matter of guesswork.

In Fort Henry itself, the damage is quite severe. The Southern missiles, apparently Arbalète cruise missiles, hit several strategic targets, but civilian facilities seem also to have been hit. Rescue operations are ongoing, but have been hampered by the damage done to the Fort Henry Medical Center in the first moments of the attack. Local officials are reluctant to provide casualty figures, but unofficial sources are counting the wounded in the thousands.

As bad as the damage is in the city proper, things are worse in the military bases outside of the city walls. The Fort Henry Weapons Testing Range and its attached facilities seem to have been the real target of this attack. The Testing Range has its own air defense system that seemed to be functioning during the attack, but it may have been overloaded by the severity of the assault. Indeed, the orange glow of fires is still visible from the city.

News from the frontier of the WFP, countless kilometers of desert savannah open to the South, is not good either. In the wake of the Southern attack, many outlying military bases and attached communities are in ruins. Rover activity seems to be rising as well, with opportunistic bandits swooping in from the hinterland to raid these communities. Stories of bandits even entering Fort Henry itself are running wild in the streets.

For the citizens of this city at least, the Interpolar War is no longer a faraway matter. The war has come home.



◀ Khan-class landship launches cruise missiles



Fort Henry Proconsul Lang Regina ▲

Promotion to the Stars

coded audio log

>automatic record<

>datetag: 01 Spring TN 1937<

>timetag: 00:35:10<

>connect from — private phone, Lyonesse, UMF<

>routing: Lyonesse / Canterbury / Valeria / Ashington/ Fort James / Fort Henry<

>connect to — Lang Residence Coded Phone, Fort Henry<

Voice 1: Hello?

>Voice id: 100% Lang Regina, Fort Henry Proconsul, WFP, Maderan faction head<

Voice 2: Hello Proconsul. Cristobal Santiago here.

>Voice id: 91.7% General Cristobal Santiago, Northern Guard general officer, head of Cristobal clan, Fort Henry.<

Lang: Santiago. Wonderful to hear from you. This line is secure.

Cristobal: I just wanted to let you know that I have been asked to become commander of the Space Service.

Lang: Congratulations. I'm glad to see they're taking you seriously again.

Cristobal: Well, partially. The Space Service is pretty far out of favor with the Northern Guard's high command these days. Your wife — oh, excuse me, Grand Marshal Edden-Smythe — doesn't seem to think too highly of it.

Lang: Too occupied with the war, I'd venture to guess.

Cristobal: Exactly. Attention to off-planet affairs is marginal at best. I think, though, that we can use this to our advantage.

Lang: How so?

Cristobal: Well, part of what enticed me to join you on your endeavor Proconsul was our agreement that we must look beyond our planet. We both agree that Earth remains a threat to us, don't we?

Lang: Yes, go on.

Cristobal: Well, not surprisingly I suppose, the Space Service is full of Northern Guard personnel who feel the same. The troops, scientists and officers who have spent their careers in the various space stations and especially around the Tannhauser Gates that lead to Caprice, truly believe that someday the CEF is going to return. That we will have to fight the war of the Alliance all over again.

Lang: True enough.

Cristobal: Anyway, their enthusiasm for the war with the South is not that great and I think there are several people who would be interested in planning ahead to put internal conflicts aside and pay attention to our real enemies.

Lang: Interesting, but you must tread carefully. We do not want to tip our hands early.

Cristobal: Oh, I agree completely. But the Space Service is a good place to recruit for that reason as well. The space stations and colony outposts are just not considered terribly important right now, and don't attract a lot of attention. They could make perfect places to gather allies, supplies and resources.

Lang: You just might have something there.

Cristobal: If you permit I'd like to bring a scientist into our discussions. I've been talking with Gawaine Di Smit, an astrophysicist who's going to oversee a test cruise of the UMF's Lhaban Emuros Gateship. She believes that there could be other Gates between Terra Nova and other worlds, yet to be discovered.

Lang: Very interesting. Tell me more.

Vigilance

NGLS Vigilance

To: Northern Guard Fleet Command

From: Captain Victor Anshar, Landship Vigilance.

Re: Defeat of Southern Landship Draco

Be advised that the *Vigilance* is now making for port after a prolonged and costly battle with the Southern vessel *Draco*, Robert Murène commanding. The *Draco* stalked us since our participation in the attack on Aquitaine in the Southern Republic at the end of last Autumn. Our battle has been a series of fights across the desert, lasting over six weeks.

In that time we have dealt with many traumatic events, including the breakdown and death of Colonel Janus and the betrayal by Lieutenant Jennifer Brockton. Intelligence brought to us by our Duelist, Lieutenant Scott, has revealed that Brockton was in fact a Southern spy and directly responsible for the execution of Henry Janus, the Colonel's son in an earlier operation.

The Colonel was driven over the edge by his son's death and led the ship into dangerous territory, sacrificing men and equipment in the name of personal vengeance. He blamed Duelist Scott and tried to have him killed. Colonel Janus died in the attempt. Scott has agreed to surrender himself for review on this matter, but I would point out that his subsequent actions have both saved lives and revealed a well placed Southern spy.

Lieutenant Brockton, or whatever her real name was, is also dead, killed in single combat by Duelist Scott. Indeed, Brockton took on the role of the *Draco*'s Duelist in a combat to decide the fate of the two ships, when we were both driven to ground. With Scott's victory we were able to hold the *Draco* until the arrival of reinforcements to take her crew into custody. I am personally recommending Scott for a commendation for his actions to save fellow pilots and soldiers, and will stand by him in any inquiries.

Victor Anshar

Captain Victor Anshar, NGLS Vigilance

Duelist E. Scott ▶



Lt. J. Brockton ▲



Col. A. Janus ▶



Cmdr. R. Murène ▲





Second Inquiry: The South

From the Journals of Nicosia Renault

(10•SU•39) — And so we come to the South, the other center of raging power-mania on Terra Nova. There are a few fingers pointing in the right direction in the North, I think, but more answers are to be found in the Allied Southern Territories. If nothing else, the Southern Republic long ago proved that it was capable of acts such as the destruction of Peace River. Whether they actually were responsible, however, remains to be seen.

I'm still not sure that I understand the South, most especially the Republic, even after all these cycles. I can see how one nation can produce both honorable and despicable people, even leaders, but that a single person can be both still amazes me. Oh, I suppose in some ways it's no different than the killer who is good to his wife and children, or the paragon of virtue with a secret fetish for children. But cases like that - and Mamoud knows I've seen cases like that - are all about masks. Private, hidden parts of darkness or light hidden under a facade.

Republicans don't wear masks, they don't hide their dark sides behind a facade of civility. They don't even seem to understand the distinction between them - morality is replaced by an ill-defined concept called honor. I have very little patience for honor. Honor is what allows people to leave their loved ones to die because they are ordered to do so, honor is what prompts vendettas that outlive any memory of the original offense.

I used to think that the concept of honor in the Republic was just a veil to hide imperialism and megalomania. That's one analysis, but it doesn't explain people like Arland Longchamps, the Southern commander during the War of the Alliance. I knew him well and still remember him as a friend. He was a

moral man, who fought to defend Terra Nova. He often sat and talked long into the night about building a better society. At the same time, he loved and defended the Republic and its status as master of the southern hemisphere. He rose to prominence by unfailingly hunting down freedom fighters in the ESE and never came to regret those acts. For him, the Republic and his "better society" were one and the same. Bloodshed was a necessity, incurred in respect for his nation and to honor his ideals. He died at the end of the War of the Alliance still believing that.

There are people I respect in the South, including Miyako Sogabe (the head of the Mekong Dominion and International Consumer Products) and Kenichi Tanaka. They share that same dedication to honor I saw in Longchamps, however. They speak of bettering the world because it is their duty, because it is what they must do. They think of moral issues as battles, and battles are always bloody.

>end log<

>open file/South 1<

10 • SU • 39

Hemami Revealed

Classified Most Secret / PM's Eyes Only

To: Prime Minister deRouen
From: Director Justinian Salazar, SRID
Re: Operation Drawback

Prime Minister,

Attached find the detailed report on Operation: Drawback, the investigation into a suspected Humanist agent within our governmental hierarchy that was launched as per your directive of 42 Winter 1934. My own summary of our findings follows:

Drawback actually discovered several agents of the Humanist Insight and Regulatory Authority within the Republic and among Republicans living and working in the Humanist Alliance. Most of these agents are not terribly well placed and would never have had access to the Twin Falcon contingent or any other sensitive program of that nature. Their number, however, means that HIRA has at least developed an extensive database on Republican procedures and operations. My feeling is that these minor agents serve to pave the way for other operatives.

We have uncovered a handful of these valuable operatives, including some well-placed scientists and business people working on military projects. A summary of their names and functions appear on p. 27 of the report.

All this pales in comparison, however, with the fact that we have discovered the Humanist mole most directly responsible for their intelligence advantage: Lord Chancellor Farzahd Hemami himself. It seems that Hemami, the Republican official placed to rule over the Humanists, has been turned by them. I suspect his wife Lysia Masao is responsible for this in some fashion.

With Hemami feeding information to the Humanist intelligence, there is little they could not have had access to. As a Lord Chancellor, Hemami is privy to virtually all operations involving the Humanist Alliance. It is safe to assume, I feel, that the Illuminatus and his co-conspirators know details of all our major projects, to wit:

- The secret conversion of the Southern Gatefleet.
- The funding and training of Freewill Terrorists in Gropius.
- The specifics of our control over the Department of Administration and other key Humanist bureaucratic entities.
- The Twin Falcon biological warfare program.

In order to protect Hemami's position as a mole, the Humanists have had to limit their actions against us. The Twin Falcon plan is thus still viable for the time being. I have no doubt that they are hard at work on a way to counter the program, however. We are in a "use or lose" situation, Sir. I suggest we use.

Justinian Salazar

Justinian Salazar

Director of Intelligence



◀ F. Hemami & L. Masao

Family Matters

Port Oasis, SR

>Personal Recorder Log: deRouen, Louise.<
>Discussion with deRouen, Louis Philippe<
>Presidential Palace, Port Oasis, SR.<

Louis Philippe DeR: *You wish to debate my decision.*

Louise DeR: *Not debate, father, discuss. The Twin Falcon contingent strikes me as a rather extreme reaction. Wouldn't a more measured response have been possible?*

Louis Philippe DeR: *No. You know that the Twin Falcon program has been in place since the days before I rose to power, correct?*

Louise DeR: *Yes. It was first implemented during the Judas Syndrome, based on intelligence gathered in the Humanist Alliance itself and from agents at the Yele Medical Center in the North. The plan was to use a biological agent as a weapon of last resort in the case of a breakout in the Humanist Alliance.*

Louis Philippe DeR: *That was only part of the plan, my dear. The Alliance has always been highly resistant to any controls. The program can be used as a tool to shatter the social lines of defense inherent in Humanist culture.*

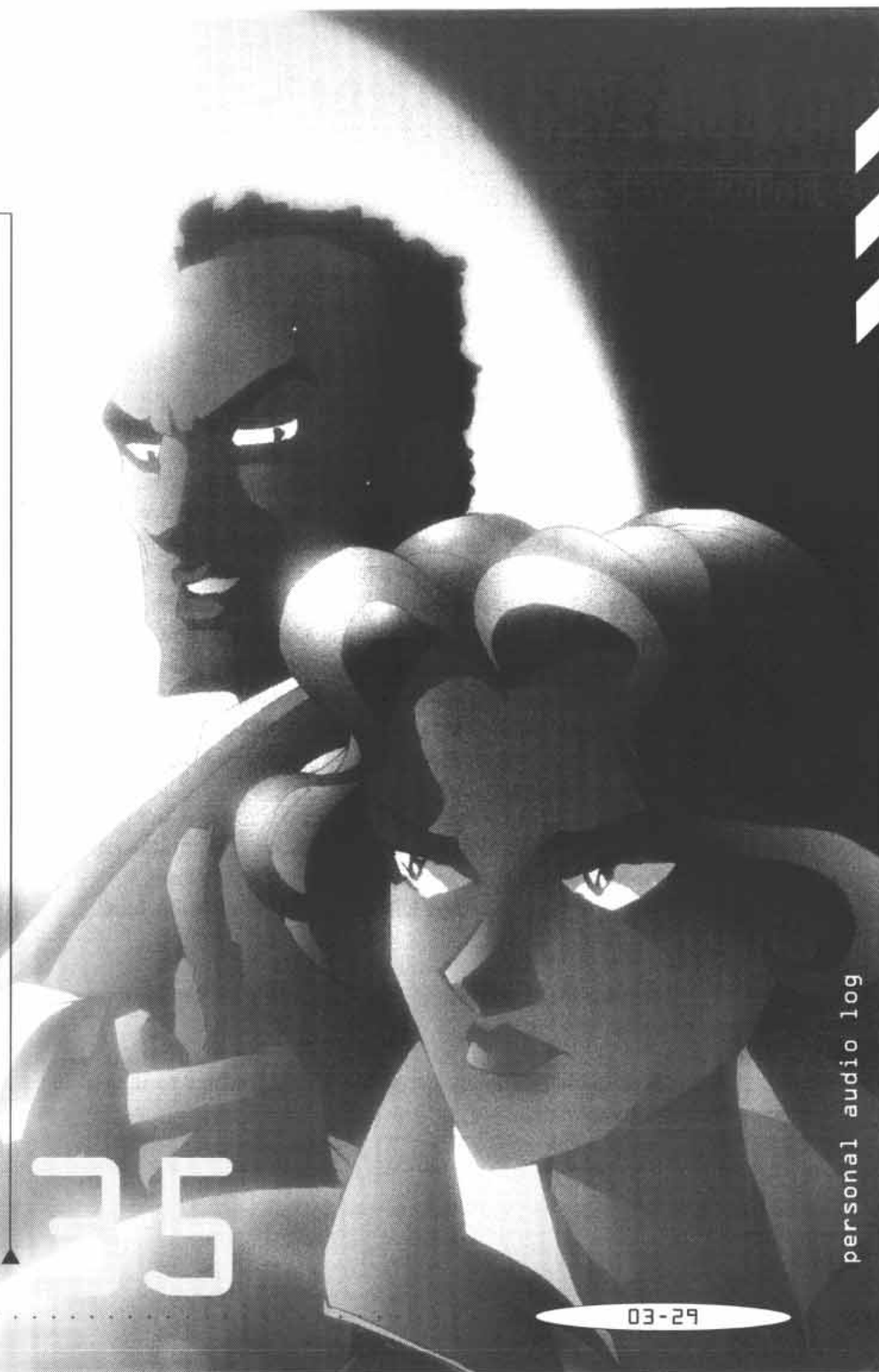
Louise DeR: *And that is why you are ready to activate it?*

Louis Philippe DeR: *I am ready to activate it because now is the time to do so. We will soon be at war with the North. If we cannot be sure of Humanist loyalty, we must act to preempt any revolt. Also, with recent revelations about Lord Chancellor Hemami, we must assume that the Humanists know this program is in place. If we are to use it at all it must be now.*

Louise DeR: *Yes, but—*

Louis Philippe DeR: *Enough! I have made my decision, Louise. It is final.*

>end log<



Yung An Shoot-Out

Mekong Peacekeepers Incident Report

Type of Incident: *Multiple Homicide, Attempted Homicide, Aggravated Assault w/ a Deadly Weapon, Reckless Endangerment*

Location: *Market Plaza, Yung An*

Filing Officer: *Det. Const. Emmet Lian*

Associated Officers: *Det. Const. Karmina Bol*

Description of the Incident:

Exchange of automated weapons fire between at least three different subjects, resulting in eight deaths and four injuries. Two suspects (currently unidentified) entered Melios Cafe on third floor of Yung An Market Plaza at approximately 21:34, drew out submachineguns and opened fire on diners. Fire was concentrated on tables 23 and 25 of the cafe, occupied by Eastern celebrity Monik Masao-Emburos and her entourage. Masao-Emburos was hit three times (twice in chest, once in head) and died on the scene. Three other diners (Kristine Fong, Gori Honoman, Emmet Xiang) were mortally wounded at the same time. Only K. Fong was part of M. Masao-Emburos's party. Lincoln Kross, a bodyguard of Masao-Emburos, returned fire with a semi-automatic 9 mm. pistol, wounding one suspect and killing G. Hernandez, a passerby.

As the unknown assailants retreated from the cafe into the Market Plaza, Kross pursued them and a running gun battle ensued. J. Kolman, R. Sandoval, N. Manamura, and F. Kizo were killed in the exchange before local Peacekeepers responded.

Kross surrendered himself to Peacekeeper custody, but the unknown perpetrators escaped into the city.

Video captures of the suspects have been distributed to all local policia and Peacekeeper units.

Preliminary Findings:

Kross and other witnesses have been questioned and have provided a preliminary identification of the unknown assailants as agents of a member of the Masao family, the royal line in the Eastern Sun Emirates. The members of this line are involved in a bloody feud over succession (known colloquially as the Mothers' Massacre). Monik Masao-Emburos has been subject to several attacks over the last two cycles and had come to the Dominion seeking refuge.

Investigation of the crime scene, interviews with witnesses, and review of video footage from Market Plaza security cameras has led the investigating constables to press charges against Kross for Homicide and Reckless Endangerment. Although responding to an assault, he paid no heed to passerby or other innocents and on one occasion fired through one victim (F. Kizo) to wound one of the attackers.

Kross has received legal counsel from members of the Eastern consulate in Yung An.

A manhunt is underway for the two escaped assailants.

All evidence (video footage, forensic evidence, bodies of the victims) are being held pending their capture.

Outbreak Begins

Medical Crisis

Southern Alliance News — The Humanist capital city of Perth is under full quarantine by order of the HA's own Department of Health and Morality. The DHM, responsible for medical and psychological issues within the Alliance's borders, imposed the quarantine early this morning in response to alarming reports of widespread illness within the city. Perth joins Thebes, located across Lake Hawkins, which was placed under a similar quarantine ten days ago after a dangerous outbreak of a thus-far unidentified disease.

"The situation is grave, but there is no reason for panic," said Preceptor Han Speaker, DHM director, speaking to media representatives from his departmental headquarters in Raleigh. "The appropriate national and regional authorities are responding to this crisis with the speed and efficiency that has always been their hallmark. The current quarantine is in place to insure both a rapid response to the current emergency and to prevent any possible proliferation." Speaker's mention of regional authorities seems to refer to the MILICIA troops deployed side-by-side Humanist protectors to enforce the quarantines.

Other observers are less optimistic, however. Indeed, Doctor Julian Kenzo, an infectious disease expert at the Mekong Academy of Science, feels there is ample reason for concern. "Assuming that this disease originated in Thebes, we now have evidence that it spread to Perth despite the rapid intervention of the DHM. I'm afraid this means that the pathogen or infection agent has likely spread beyond Perth as well. If, on the other hand, the disease did not originate in Thebes, but spread there from another location, then the original source is in all likelihood still spreading the disease. Either way, I expect to see further outbreaks in the days to come. I sincerely hope I am wrong."

Even if Dr. Kenzo gets his wish, the political ramifications of the current crisis are great. With the notable exception of the DHM itself, almost all the important government agencies within the Humanist Alliance have their headquarters in Perth. The current quarantine has temporarily decapitated the Humanist governmental system at a time of great regional and planetary tension.



Outbreak Begins

Eyes Only

To: Prime Minister deRouen

From: Sous-Prefect Nathaniel François, Bio-Warfare Corps

Re: Twin Falcon, Progress Report

Prime-Minister,

As per your orders, the Twin Falcon Contingent is now fully under way. We have introduced the B component of the two-component system through several designated agents within the Humanist Department of Administration. Other agents have compromised the screening process of the Department of Health and Morality. This will slow the identification process, creating a fatal delay in the treatment response of the Alliance as a whole.

Preliminary reports from intel sources within Thebes speak of a 95% infection rate among preceptors and a 15% infection rate among protectors and commoners. These figures are within the Twin Falcon parameters, although the 15% figure for infection among those without the target genetic marker is at the high end of the spectrum.

We expect spread to other cities within the week.



Nathaniel François

Traitor's Reward

SRID surveillance log

>loctag: Perth refugee camp #17<

>ident: Joaquim Tomas, SRID covert agent<

>ident: Yanick Guzman, MILICIA Soldat, conscripted from Skavara, ESE<

TOMAS: So, we're clear on the plan?

GUZMAN: Yeah, its pretty simple. I just run up to the fat slob and open up. Nothing to it.

TOMAS: You don't just begin blasting, Soldat. You have to do this right. I'm paying you a lot of dinar for this, not to mention what I laid out to bribe the guards to let you through and out, so I want this done right.

GUZMAN: Right. I yell out... what was it?

TOMAS: "Death to the oppressor." It's "death to the oppressor" and make sure you get them both. The wife too.

GUZMAN: Why all the theatrics? You want someone dead, you stick 'em — that's all.

TOMAS: I'm paying you to act, not ask questions. But, if you must know, I want the world to know why they are dying. The Emirates have to be free of that mad Masao and his whole family. Hemami married into that family and so he has to die too.

GUZMAN: Whatever. I just want those million dinars. You've got the first half, right?

TOMAS: Right here.

GUZMAN: And the weapon?

TOMAS: And the weapon.

>end log<



Philosopher's Nightmare

Southern Infonet Live Feed

Marie Javine, reporting live from the steps of the Curia building in Port Oasis, where an extraordinary meeting of the AST legislature is just breaking up. The Republican Prime Minister called this special meeting to seek approval for further emergency action in the Humanist Alliance. You will recall that the Alliance has fallen victim to virulent plague, and that five city-states are under tight quarantine. We expect Prime Minister deRouen to address the press as soon as he emerges from the Curia building — wait, here he is, flanked by several other officials.

"Fellow Republicans, fellow Southerners. The last few weeks have been trying times for all of us, and most especially for the citizens of the Humanist Alliance. The scientific utopia created by Yuri Gropius has come crumbling down under the burden of something so simple, and so deadly, as disease. The so-called Theban Blight has raged through the Humanist cities despite the best efforts of health authorities to contain and treat it. As you must all know by now, this plague is especially deadly once it insinuates itself into closed shared environments, like the communal living spaces of Humanist preceptors.

"The gravity of the situation was made terrifyingly clear two days ago with the devastating outbreak in the closed city of Gardena. Preliminary investigation leads us to estimate the number of dead at more than 250,000, with an equal number currently in critical condition in MILICIA field hospitals. The flooding of the underground Bluewater District of the city by panicked residents at the height of the outbreak has surely claimed thousands more lives.

"The number of deaths in other cities is thankfully much lower, but the societal and political damage is terrible indeed. Only yesterday, the MILICIA medical corps uncovered the bodies of Illuminatus Salvador Anastapulos and several of his top advisors. Evidence of this tragedy came on the same day that Eastern terrorists assassinated Lord Chancellor Farzahn Hemami. As a result, the whole Humanist region has been plunged into political chaos.

"The Southern Republic cannot stand by and watch its neighbors suffer. I have sought, and I have received, the Curia's sanction to institute a special state of emergency in the Humanist region. The Curia has today designated the region as a special administrative zone of the AST, placed under Republican management. Republican army forces, supplemented by MILICIA units, will reestablish order and help set up an interim government. This body will be run by Lord Chancellor Merydith DeMer, newly confirmed in that position by the Curia.

"I thank you all for your support in these most trying of times."

Well, that seems to be it. The Prime Minister is heading off toward his waiting limousine. Merydith DeMer was indeed confirmed as Lord Chancellor of the Humanist Alliance at this meeting. DeMer has served in the Alliance as a diplomatic attaché for several decades now, something that must have played a strong role in her nomination.

Last Stand

Classified Top Secret

To: Lord Chancellor Merydith DeMer

From: Prefect Narasima Asano, Commander, Humanist Emergency Task Force

Re: Progress Report on Operations in the Eastern Tobian Plain

CC: Consul Victor deBourgogne, Republican Army Command; Consul Stéphane Terrier, MILICIA Command; Prime Minister Louis Philippe deRouen

Lord Chancellor,

It is my pleasure to report the successful capture of the city-state of White Rock, and hence the effective elimination of serious resistance from the Humanist Alliance Protection Force. The battle for White Rock was not a painless campaign, but the city's isolation from its own leadership structure facilitated matters greatly. The protectors were lacking in resources, suffering from a certain psychological shock and largely deprived of national leadership.

The psychological profiling provided by the Intelligence Directorate proved generally accurate: the protectors seemed to fall victim to a sort of fight-or-flight reaction. Many reacted to the elimination of their preceptor leadership with almost suicidal anger, lashing out at our forces. These troops were dangerous but poorly organized. Their only significant victory came against MILICIA conscripts. The other protector faction seems to have decided to flee our superior numbers. They performed a successful breakout maneuver on the 20th, fleeing White Rock into the Tobian Plain.

The SRID profiles identify this behavior as a sign of weakness, a final flight before their programmed minds accept new leadership. While we have indeed encountered Humanists of this ilk, who seem ready to accept any structure rather than chaos, I have my doubts about the accuracy of the profile. I fear the protectors who have survived the psychological shock of the plague and annexation are going underground to prepare some sort of armed response — in other words, reacting like the well-trained and patriotic soldiers we know them to be.

I already have reports of organized resistance around Raleigh and points east. Given the ongoing rebellion in the western Emirates, I fear these partisans may make allies with Emir Shirow's forces. Securing the border region should, I feel, become a top priority to prevent just such a possibility.

Respectfully,

Narasima Asano

Prefect Narasima Asano



▲ White Rock, Humanist Alliance



HA Protection Force facility ►

official report

Rapid City Emergency

SNS InfoNet

Twenty-three cases of Theban Blight have put Rapid City medical authorities on alert a mere day after the arrival of the first maglev train from Perth. Emergency teams from the Northern Guard Medical Corps and the Yele Medical Center have taken charge of the situation in order to contain this outbreak.

"We were lucky," says Roland Fuji, Director of Emergency Medicine at Rapid City's Baulk Hospital. "The outbreak was restricted to a single hotel near the maglev station and we contained the situation before any significant spread could occur. We also seem to be dealing with a mutated strain of the Blight, one that is thankfully less deadly."

Indeed, whereas whole neighborhoods succumbed in the Humanist Alliance, only three people died in Rapid City, with twenty others hospitalized with high fever and other symptoms. Many are still in critical condition, but Doctor Fuji is cautiously optimistic about their prognosis.

There is still room for concern, however, according to YMC contagious disease specialist Doctor Yvonne Delion. "That the Blight has escaped the confines of the Humanist Alliance underlines just how tenuous a hold Southern health authorities have on the situation. Mutation is also a serious concern. We are obviously thankful to be faced with a less deadly strain, but who is to say when a more deadly one will appear? More research and a concerted, international effort is necessary to deal with this problem before it becomes a truly global crisis."

It seems clear that the outbreak was a direct result of the reopening of maglev travel from the Humanist Alliance. Terranovan TransRail authorities in Rapid City quickly announced that they were suspending inter-hemispheric service on the gamma line once more. TNTR press liaison Cyrus Yonilakis expressed regret for the outbreak and assured the media that "TNTR reopened service in good faith based upon assurances from health authorities in Perth."

Covert Analysis

To: *Prefect Ange-Marie Trihn, Intelligence Branch*

From: *Sous-Prefect Nathaniel François, Bio-Warfare Corps*

Re: *Twin Falcon occurrence outside target populations*

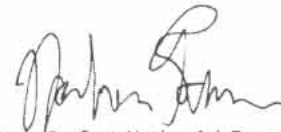
CLASSIFIED MOST SECRET

Prefect,

Recent media reports of outbreaks of "Theban Blight" in Rapid City and the Republican countryside near the Humanist border point to a disturbing trend. It seems that a greater than expected proportion of those exposed to the Twin Falcon A agent and who do not carry the preceptor marker gene are becoming carriers. When they become exposed to the B strain, they then contract the deadly C strain and cause outbreaks outside the target populations and geopolitical areas.

I am also concerned with the incidence of B- and C-strain mutation. Although manipulation of the B-strain to create a variety of C-strain types was intentional in order to slow down identification and treatment response, I am seeing a high incidence of further mutation. If this trend continues, our own precautions may not be enough to contain the Twin Falcon. Not only could we be dealing with deadly outbreaks among our own people, but outbreaks in the North greatly enhance the chances of our plan being discovered.

I recommend assigning additional resources to contain, track down and investigate these unexpected mutations.



— Sous-Prefect Nathaniel François

Sacrificial Lambs

Highest Security/Eyes Only

To: Speaker Miyako Sogabe

From: Francis Cranston, Grand Marshal and Chief Constable,
Peacekeepers

Re: Northern Agents within Mekong Development Corporation

Speaker Sogabe,

Please be advised that we have just come into critical intelligence regarding a large scale ring of foreign agents and sympathizers within the Mekong Development Corporation. This data was obtained through joint operations with MDC security and has successfully identified no less than fifty-six individual agents of Northern powers, operating in three separate espionage rings, within the MDC structure. The three rings are as follows:

1. The Ramona Ring: This group of 18 agents operates from within the structure of Ramonair, a minor corporation currently part of the MDC merchant empire. This ring appears to have been in place since before the alliance between Ramonair and MDC, and seems centered on gathering economic intelligence. It seems likely that Northern agents have had access to intimate details regarding daily business in Ramonair itself, MDC and even ICP. We have yet to establish with any certainty if Taipan Judyth Ramona is aware of the ring's existence, but she is under suspicion because of her travels to the United Mercantile Federation in the early 1930s.

2. The Kowlin Ring: Operating in the city-state of Yung An, this ring is directed by MDC foreman Jeremiah Kowlin. The agents are all mid-level employees in the MDC-run penal system. The ring is apparently aimed at gathering infrastructure intelligence and performing acts of sabotage in a time of war.

3. The Jungle Fox Ring: This is the most disturbing ring, because it includes Peacekeepers in the Jungle Fox regiment among its 11 members. This ring seems to be aimed at destabilization. It uses propaganda and other means in an attempt to create a rift between the regiment and the rest of the Peacekeepers, and between Peacekeepers and the MILICIA.

We currently have identified all agents associated with these rings and have them under surveillance. We hope to use them for disinformation and shut down the rings only after they have worked for us.

Loathe as I am to admit it, I must credit MDC Taipan Arron Logan with coming forward with this intelligence despite the potential of scandal.



— Francis Cranston.

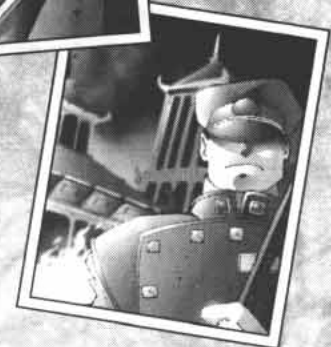
Jeremiah Kowlin ▶



Taipan J. Ramona ▼



Jungle Fox
Peacekeeper ▼



Patriarch's Delight

12 Address to the People of the East

From His Eminence Patriarch Oliver Masao

My dear subjects,

We live in a time of glory. It has been but an eyeblink in the annals of history since we stood bravely to repel the invaders from Earth. Now we stand together again against an enemy from our own world. The Northern aggressors think they can rip the heritage of Enri Masao apart. I am here to tell them they are wrong!

They look to the mad tyrants who have enslaved Basal, Bangweulu and Okavango, and see the Emirates of the Eastern Sun as a fruit ripe for the taking. Their stark and dull lives crave the richness of our land and they are making their bid for it now.

They are fools.

Do they think that we, the children of Masao, will be so weak as to surrender ourselves unto foreign masters? Do they not realize the sacred duty that burns in the hearts of all Easterners? This is the land created from the fall of the Concordat, the place where the greatness of Earth could take refuge from the madness that gripped that blue orb. We all know that we keep that spirit alive, awaiting the return when it can re-seed the spiritual desert the mother world has become.

I look out from my home and see before me a league ready to face its craven enemies. I see the glimmering armor of the Ethereal Guard standing ready before the onslaught. I see the cheering mass of humanity that is you, my subjects, and my heart soars.

Let the North come, this will be a great war.

First Contact

(SNS Infonet) — The Northern task force entering the Free Emirates met its first major resistance today, when a joint MILICIA/Patriarchal Guard task force assaulted their flank. Reports from the field are sketchy at best, but the battle seems to have been largely inconclusive, with the Northern advance slowing but not halting. Preliminary casualty figures are high, especially for the Patriarchal Guard forces who led the initial attacks. More details when they become available.

20.SU.36

Jungle Warfare

Top Secret

To: Lord Councilor Luce Olivera, AST Curia Oversight Committee

From: Commandant Maxim Huang, MILICIA Intelligence

RE: Olduvai Campaign Analysis

CC: Consul S. Terrier, MILICIA Command; Prefect A-M Trihn, Republican Military Intelligence

Lord Councilor,

The Northern Guard advance into the Mekong Dominion has been slowed to a complete standstill, with many of the attacking units pushed back. The enemy force is made up of Western and Mercantile forces centered around a landship battlegroup. Their objective was apparently to push into the eastern fringe of the Mekong Dominion near Olduvai.

It seems clear from the enemy's deployment and reaction during the early phases of their advance that they expected only piecemeal resistance from entrenched local forces. Intercepted transmissions indicate they may even have expected aid from local Peacekeepers. They got nothing of the sort.

Indeed, the successful defense of Olduvai and the border region between it and the Southern Republic is due to the tight coordination between MILICIA units and the local Peacekeepers. The Mekong police-soldiers' expertise on the ground provided a tactical edge and Peacekeeper command was effectively in charge of overall defensive tactics.

The leadership demonstrated by Peacekeeper officials is heartening, but could pose a threat to the chain of command. Indeed, the Dominion could well demand a bigger share of power within the AST.

Sincerely,



— Cmdt. S Huang

Jettisoned Cargo

coded transmission

SRGS ILLUSTRIOUS

To: Sous-Prefect Antonia Marz, Deep Space Exploration Corps,
Port Oasis

From: Commandant Rikar Maxwell, *SRGS Illustrious*

Re: Activity Report

Illustrious continues her long term mission outside the orbit of Poseidon. As directed in our last orders, we have avoided contact with other forces, either friend or foe, in order to protect the Gateship against any damage. We have begun a standard survey of sectors 18 through 27 in search of any new Northern or Arthurian installations.

We are also tracking the progress of a ship identified as *UMFGS Lhaban Emuros*, apparently on a return journey from Gate I. In accordance with current protocols, we have not attempted communication or other actions, but are continuing to track the vessel. If its current course holds, it will arrive in orbit around Ares in seven weeks.

On a more personal note, I regret to inform you of the death of a crew member. Lieutenant François Gautier perished when a malfunction in the life support systems in B-deck forced us to flush out the poisoned atmosphere of that area into the void. Lt. Gautier did not heed safety precautions and was caught without emergency evac equipment. He was sucked into the vacuum. Please relay our sympathies to his family and notification to his superiors in the Army Political Corps.

Technical Report Attached.

coded transmission

DSEC Command — Port Oasis

To: Commandant Rikar Maxwell, *SRGS Illustrious*

From: Sous-Prefect Antonia Marz, Deep Space Exploration Corps,
Port Oasis

Re: New Orders

Effective immediately, *Illustrious* is to maintain discreet contact with *UMFGS Lhaban Emuros*. Maintain distance while it is undergoing refitting at NGSS station in Ares orbit, but maintain solid tracking as it undergoes tests.

Any and all details of this mission are immediately classified
MOST SECRET/BAJA.

Report on a bi-weekly basis using top cryptography protocols.

Do not make for port under any but dire circumstances.

12.AU.36

Aquitaine Aflame

Interpolar War Hits Home

La Press Républicaine — The Interpolar War reached a new peak in violence yesterday when the Republican city-state of Aquitaine came under heavy attack from a Northern task force. The assault cost hundreds of civilian and military lives and has left over one thousand wounded and the city in ruins.

The assault began at 34:00 hours on the night of the 39th when the Northern landship detachment opened fire on Aquitaine with heavy artillery. Luckily evacuation had begun when the task force, headed by the Norlight landship *Vigilance*, entered Republican territory. The city was far from abandoned, however, and many were caught under the bombardment. When the shelling let up in the morning of the 40th, heavy street fighting occurred as Northern forces moved into the city proper. Sources report that Northern paratroopers dropped into the city to sabotage strategic locations in the pre-dawn hours.

The main assault, however, came yesterday afternoon when a corvette broke off from the Northern task force and entered the city proper. The attacking vessel, identified this morning as the *Stiletto*, plowed through many defending units and systematically destroyed key installations in the downtown area of Aquitaine.

The assault broke off early this morning with the arrival of the Republican landship *Draco*, Capitaine Robert Murène, commanding. The task force is fleeing toward the Badlands, but may be having trouble escaping the Republican counter-offensive. A release from the Ministry of Information this morning revealed that the *Stiletto* had been run to ground.

Back in Aquitaine the locals are struggling to recover from such a brutal attack. The two main local hospitals were severely damaged during the initial artillery barrage, so MILICIA field hospitals have been pressed into service across the ruined town. Structural damage has also been great. The great telecommunications tower known as the Needle suffered heavy damage to its support struts, and engineers on site say it may have to be toppled.



Falcon Flight

Port Oasis, SR

>Personal Recorder Log: deRouen, Louise.<

>Meeting of the Order of the Falcon<

>Attending: Louise deRouen, Maya Landling, Charles Raspin,
Oleg Karl<

Louise deRoeun: Our topic today is the war. Thoughts?

Karl: We've discussed this before. Warfare birthed and raised our league, and this is just a continuation of that. Our soldiers will beat back the enemy and cover the league in glory. This is a good thing.

Raspin: Just who will be covered in glory? The Prime Minister is behind this war and if the Republic emerges victorious, so does he. He'll be unstoppable. Allowing this to occur was a serious strategic error on our part.

deRouen: There was little we could do, what with some madman killing off that buffoon Hutchison. I do think, however, that you overestimate my father's chance for success in this military endeavor. Need I remind you that Northern troops just flattened Aquitaine? that the Eastern and Humanist zones are still in chaos?

Landling: Are you saying that the Republic is heading for defeat? Could this be an opportunity for us?

deRouen: That is a possibility, of course. If the nation were to suffer defeat we would surely be able to depose my father and rebuild the Republic in our image. That should only be our last recourse, however. The Republic has never been defeated, and I do not particularly wish to inherit a tarnished nation, do you?

Raspin: No, of course not, but what other options do we have?

Landling: I see where you are going. A military victory could be a defeat for deRouen himself, no?

deRouen: Yes. The Prime Minister is a very skilled politician, but he is not a military strategist. He ordered the release of the plague onto the Humanist Alliance, he never saw the manipulations bringing the North towards war and he let the Eastern situation get out of hand. The military's confidence in him is waning and that makes him vulnerable.

Karl: I thought he had the army in his pocket?

deRouen: Favors and personal loyalty only go so far. The Premier is issuing orders for political reasons that are getting soldiers killed and leaving our cities vulnerable. The more this occurs, the more likely we can break his support among the military. That done, we can ensure both an armed victory and an end to his self-centered rule.

Raspin: We would need some very well placed allies in the armed forces, however.

deRouen: Yes, indeed. That brings me to the next order of business. Ladies and gentlemen of the Order of the Falcon, allow me to introduce the latest addition to our august assembly: Consul Victor deBourgogne, commander-in-chief of the Southern Republic Army.

Swamp War

Satellite News Service

Live transmission from Okavango in the Free Emirates: public address by Emir Rafael Bhravo.

My friends, we have been sorely tested and we have emerged victorious.

It has been three weeks since Oliver Masao, the lackey of Port Oasis, called for our destruction. His words rang across the trideo nets and newswires of the globe: "Let Okavango burn! Death to Bhravo!"

Well, Oliver, I am still breathing and my people are still strong. Our city, this emirate, is still free of your tyranny and our destiny still beckons us. You and the Republicans who support you can only nip at our heels as we rise to the greatness you have abdicated. Okavango is free; Bangweuleu is free; Basal is free; Raleigh is free; how long before Strathclyde?

We have pushed the waves of fanatical Patriarchal killers back. We have repelled the MILICIA troopers. We have secured our freedom and we will carry it to other cities. The despots cannot stop us.

I know our enemies look at us and laugh. I am a teenager, they say, a boy leading a army of ragtag fools. But destiny is blind to age, my friends. We must have the strength and the will to bring forward history. Generations ago Captain Enri Masao had that will, and he created a new and rich society from the dregs left over on this colony world. His descendant Oliver is a twisted parody, an insult to the heritage of all Easterners.

History is being made here, today, in Okavango. Together with our allies from the other Emirates, from the Humanist Alliance, and from the North, we will bring our nation into the new age.

Together we will triumph!

Northern Guard Intelligence Service

>sat trans #1611937/1128:

prov: 32° 34' 12" S, 125° 02' 44" — Okavango<

>routing: sat uplink from Capt. Leo Jorian, NGIS Okavango to Col. Zucco Beatrice, NGIS Southern Command, Valeria<

>full encoding — top secret<

Colonel Zucco:

Combined ESE/MILICIA assault into Okavango Region has been repelled by local friendlies and elements from the Eastern Task Force. Okavango itself suffered under artillery barrage. Local population remains dedicated to the cause of freedom and friendly to Northern forces.

Attached find intelligence analysis of the operations. I draw your attention to sections 2.3.12 through 2.3.14, which outline the behavior of friendly forces during this action. Humanist expatriate forces played an important role in these actions, most specifically the use of hovertanks smuggled into the Free Emirates in the aftermath of the Theban Blight. Conversely, Basalite forces seemed to hold back during this campaign. Basal itself was under threat from Republican forces moving across the Eastern Plain, but the withholding of forces during so critical a time points to a growing rift between the various rebel Emirs.

Captain Jorian.

>trans ends<

The Fox and the Viper

Port Oasis, SR

>Southern Republic Intelligence Directorate<

>Covert Surveillance Log<

>CLASSIFIED MOST SECRET/A1 — DIRECTOR'S EYES ONLY<

>loctag: Lord Protector's Residence, Port Oasis<

Lord Protector Molay: *To what do I owe the pleasure of your presence, Mlle. deRouen?*

deRouen, Louise: *It is time for us to discuss the Prime Minister.*

Molay: *Your father, you mean.*

deRouen: *My father, yes. But blood ties have little to do with my presence here. After all, our greatest blood tie is to the Republic herself, n'est-ce pas?*

Molay: *If you wish to be poetic about it.*

deRouen: *Our Republic is suffering under the current leadership. You know it, I know it and many others do as well. I think the time is coming for a change.*

Molay: *Go on.*

deRouen: *We need to return the Republic to competent hands quickly, before the nation is forever tarnished. To do so in this time of war, however, will require the cooperation of many powerful elements within the capital.*

Molay: *Most assuredly.*

deRouen: *I can currently guarantee the participation of military, bureaucratic and business assets. There is only one major power center remaining—*

Molay: *Me.*

deRouen: *Yes, you. The cooperation of the Intelligence Directorate and the Curia will be essential.*

Molay: *But my dear, why would I want to eliminate your father? He provides me with certain freedoms, after all.*

deRouen: *Please, Monsieur Molay, let's not be coy, shall we? The Prime Minister provides you these freedoms only because of the crude mutual blackmail you both participate in. There are many people, who if they came to understand how you rose to power, would drive you both from office. You have been deadlocked for decades, each trying to eliminate the other. And as for your freedom, I think it is quite illusory. After all, the Prime Minister went ahead and negotiated with the Eastern rebels without your accord, didn't he? Nigel Shirow is living pretty these days —*

Molay: *That problem will be dealt with. Soon.*

deRouen: *I don't doubt it, Monsieur Molay, but will it be soon enough? Were the Prime Minister to be removed now, you could act for the interest of the whole South on this and other issues.*

Molay: *Is that so?*

deRouen: *Yes, the relationship between the Prime Minister and Lord protector need not be one of confrontation or slavery. There is enough power to go around, as long as the Republic remains strong. I hope you can see the advantage to be had here.*

Molay: *Tell me more of your plan.*

deRouen: *In good time, but first I must be sure I have your support and that of the Intelligence Directorate. I would like your blessing to meet with Director Salazar —*

Molay: *My dear, Justinian Salazar is a weapon. Deadly and efficient, he nevertheless acts only in accordance to his orders. Those orders come from me. You need not worry about him, lest you cross me.*

>end log<

Behind Enemy Lines?

satellite transmission

>full encode<

>scramble<

>ident recog: Lazarus, Aristide<

From: Agent Delphi

Re: Activities in Bangweuleu

I have arrived in the rebel city of Bangweuleu as part of the Okavangan contingent participating in the city's defense against a MILICIA offensive. The city is in a condition typical to rebel cities, bearing the scars of repeated assaults but maintaining a functional — although unreliable — infrastructure. Northern units are prominent, having established a base of operations near the city-state.

The overall morale in the city is relatively high, given the continued hard conditions of the war. That the Interpolar War has become a sort of war of attrition fought on Free Emirate soil is almost heartening to the locals. They feel tied to this ground and immovable upon it.

Locals are concerned, however, about affairs between the two emirs of Bangweuleu. Emir Armann Boash is now an old man, and rumor has it that his health is failing. It was Boash who led Bangweuleu to rebellion, and he has been the driving force behind the city in the cycles since then. His increasingly noticeable absences have translated into a certain amount of doubt.

Dratha Etehne, the other emir, is apparently a weak man. He joined the rebellion out of loyalty to Boash and sympathy for Nigel, but is not a leader of the same caliber as they are. Ethene has taken on a mystical edge over the last cycle, becoming an avowed member of the Apostate Revisionist sect that originated in Bangweuleu several cycles ago. This mysticism has brought him close to Emir Bhravo of Okavango. Many people in the know seem to think Ethene is now little more than a mouth-piece for the Okavangan boy-king.

>end transmission<

covert report

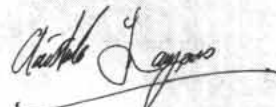
To: Lord Chancellor Kenichi Tanaka
From: Commandant Aristide Lazarus
CLASSIFIED MOST SECRET/EYES ONLY/

BAJA

Lord Chancellor,

The attached report from our agent within the Free Emirates causes me much concern. I need not remind you that our current plans depend on Emir Shirow remaining the leader of the rebellion. If Rafael Bhravo replaces him, we could suffer a grave setback.

I recommend we take action.


-Cmdt. A. Lazarus

covert report

Once and Future King

Raleigh

>personal recorder log<

>Shirow, Nigel<

>full encode<

>timetag: 12•AU•37 / 26:15:09<

Nigel Shirow: *It has been a long time, hasn't it?*

Unknown Voice #1: *Oxford wasn't all that long ago, Nigel.*

>voice ident routine ... running<

>success: Masao, Lysia 89.7% confirmed<

NS: *We've been through a great deal since 1934, Lysia.*

Lysia Masao: *You don't need to remind me of that. I've seen my adoptive country destroyed and my husband killed since then.*

NS: *All too true. And you are a marked woman.*

LM: *Again, you do not need to remind me of that, Nigel. What you do need to do is tell me why you have come to Raleigh. I'm not the only person the Republic is gunning for.*

NS: *I've come to offer you protection in Basal and the chance of a real future.*

LM: *Don't misunderstand me, Nigel. I certainly appreciate your generosity, but life in Basal doesn't strike me as any safer than life here. I have my allies among the Humanists, and they have provided for my security quite well thus far. They did get me out of Perth, after all.*

NS: *That they did.*

LM: *And I'll point out that thanks to the endorsement given to me by Archon Navar, the Humanist patriots have a great deal more respect for me than most people in Basal or elsewhere in the East. I'm afraid Oliver has done a very good job of smearing my family's name among our people. And there's still my cousins and second-cousins to think about. The Mothers' Massacre is still going on.*

NS: *I'm not just talking about your physical security, Lysia. I've been in rebellion against your darling brother for over six cycles now. I've survived by keeping my eyes open for threats and opportunities looming on the horizon.*

LM: *You mean other than the legions of troops bearing down on us?*

NS: *Yes, beyond the war, in fact. This little alliance we're calling the Free Emirates has the makings for a nice little bloodbath once we run out of external enemies.*

LM: *You noticed that too, did you? I have to say that Bhravo's little ravings about spilling Masao blood are less than heartening. It's that kind of talk that makes me happy to be here, rather than deep in the east.*

NS: *That's exactly what I'm talking about. Bhravo has a hold on the imagination of our people and thinks he deserves to lead us all.*

LM: *I'd say he thinks he's destined to lead us.*

NS: *Well put. You know as well as I do that his messiah complex will ultimately lead to disaster. A more rational alternative is necessary, and soon.*

LM: *And you are that more rational alternative, I suppose.*

NS: *Well, I did start this rebellion and I am the one with whom our allies deal. Ever since Bhravo joined the rebellion I've been trying to keep him in line. But, no I am not the solution - we are.*

LM: *Excuse me?*

Once and Future King

Raleigh

NS: *Think about it, Lysia. Thanks to your brother's decrees, you are his last surviving sibling, and you have few cousins left. You have a legitimate claim to the Ethereal Throne.*

LM: *But the people-*

NS: *No, the people won't accept rule by a Masao, certainly not Oliver's sister. Your brother, mother and grandfather shed too much blood for that. But the commoners still respect the Masao name. Your ancestors Enri and Erik are still figures of awe and respect. If you link your heritage to my own track record, we can not only recapture the heart of the people but create an alternative to your brother's despotism.*

LM: *You're talking of marriage, aren't you, Nigel? Don't you have someone close to you?*

NS: *Yes, I do. But that doesn't matter any more. We're talking about decisions that could make or break the East. I started this rebellion to try and bring us back to the right path, not to turn our country over to another maniac with a God-complex.*

LM: *Don't exaggerate, Nigel. Bhravo's young, he could be a real leader someday.*

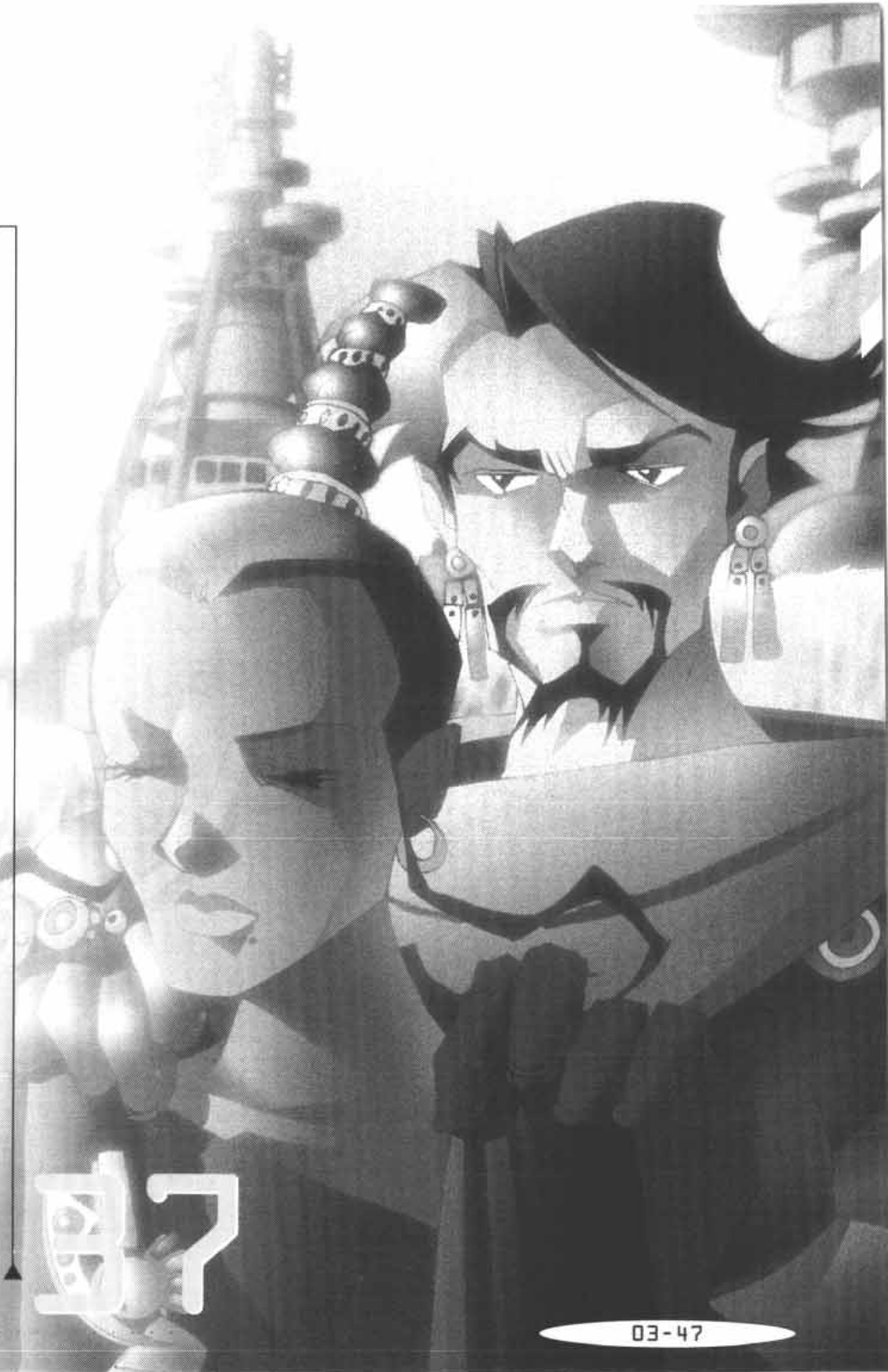
NS: *Are you ready to take that chance?*

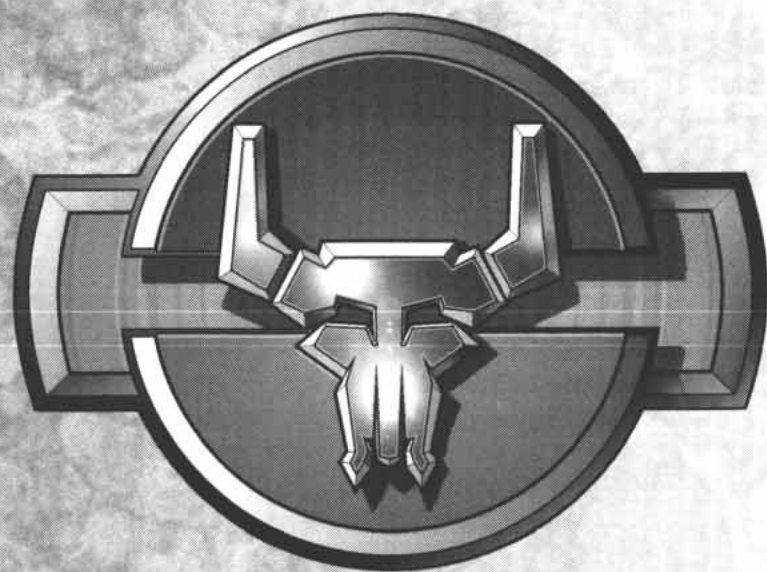
LM: *So, marriage.*

NS: *Marriage... and an heir.*

>end log<

12. AUG. 17





Third Inquiry: The Badlands

From the Journals of Nicos Renault

(12•SU•39) — And so, I'm left with the Badlands. Some evidence from North and South is promising, but the whole picture is missing. The other pieces in this deadly puzzle have to lie in the sands of the equatorial deserts.

If I had hoped that I would find Northern fingerprints on the corpse of Peace River, I now hope against hope that a Badlander is not behind such carnage. Oh, I'm far from being innocent enough to believe that a Badlander couldn't have sacrificed hundreds of thousands of lives. There have been enough slaughters by rovers, desert warlords and smugglers to teach me just the contrary. But if a Badlander really is behind it all, it will be a heavy blow for the region and for my own aspirations.

The Badlands is where I have acted most decisively in the last ten cycles. While I've gathered contacts and allies at the poles, it's in the Badlands that I have actually made a stand. I fed information to Milani DuBeau-Slovenski in Peace River, hoping that Paxton Arms could become a force of stability on Terra Nova. In Khayr ad-Din, I helped Katryne Sanz and the other Duelists build the Khayr ad-Din Army, which I hoped would be a symbol of independence and resistance against polar folly. If a Badlander is responsible for Peace River, all that work will be undone. In the popular imagination, the deserts will go back to being the home of barbaric killers instead of honorable warriors.

I've said I had no use for honor, but it has been useful in terms of image. In Khayr ad-Din I was able to find a group of people who valued honor over nation and were ready to make a stand against the warring confederations. That they were acting honorably in their own minds was important to them, and to me because it made them a powerful symbol. It allowed me to show that honor need not be synonymous with national conquest.

Despite my hopes, though, I can already see the possibilities of a Badlands connection. The Badlands Revolutionary Front has used terrorism against Paxton Arms before and this could be an escalation of such tactics - albeit a massive one. It makes no real sense - more workers died in the blast than any other class - but it takes only one madman to go too far. I've met BRF leader Ernesto Jaxon, and he is a desperate man. That he has made contacts with Arron Logan, the man most directly responsible for the Interpolar War, worries me greatly. That rovers or smugglers could have stolen anti-matter weaponry from the Fort Henry Weapons Testing Range in the wake of the Southern attack on the city worries me even more.

There are other players in the desert, of course. Valeria and Port Oasis seem to have largely ignored the 100,000 GREs and other Earthers still on Terra Nova. I don't know how good an idea that is. The Jan-class supersoldier Colonel Proust set up his New Human Republic in the Western Desert, and I've got data that he may have access to weapons of mass destruction. He's been fighting a war against many others in the region, so he could also be responsible, although I don't think he has a grudge against Paxton Arms.

Something deep inside me, though, says there has to be more going on here...

>end log<

>open file/Badlands 1<

12.SU.39

Wolf War

New Human Republic Record

Interrogation Transcript: *NHR Army (recovered)*

Prisoner: *Jade, member of Desert Wolves rover gang*

Interrogator: *Lieutenant Dolman (Jan/4567-A)*

Dolman: *Would you like to answer my questions now?*

Jade: *Eat me, vatfreak!*

<Dolman strikes Jade.>

Jade: *Ugh!*

Dolman: *I was being polite, throwback, but if you want to act tough than I will have to treat you accordingly. Do you recognize this item?*

Jade: *Looks to be around the right size to be your -*

<Dolman strikes Jade>

Dolman: *Very droll, primate. In fact this is a taser, much like those used by police officers around this backwater mudball. When these prongs are inserted into the skin, like so, they can deliver an electrical shock. Usually this is done to stun a criminal, but simple modifications allow me to vary the intensity. It is a wonderful tool.*

Jade: *Yaaarg!*

Dolman: *Very effective, don't you agree? Now, I would like to know where we can find the other pilots who raided our command post. I will find out, that is a given. The only variable here is how much pain you will have to endure before you answer me.*

Jade: *Pain? ... That felt more like a refreshing tingle to me. You sure you've got the setting right? I think you might -Aaarg!*

Dolman: *Primitive bravado. How quaint. I admire your loyalty, my dear. These people have abandoned you to my care and still you suffer for them. The loyalty of dumb animals is always astonishing.*

Jade: *If you believe that, you got another think coming. The Wolves look after their own.*

Dolman: *Yes and the future belongs to little humans like you. We all need our illusions. But really -- now why are you smiling?*

Unknown Voice: *I think that's because of me, GREL.*

Dolman: *What?*

Unknown Voice: *Those poor human guards you posted outside didn't stick around. Inferior humans, you know. You wanted to know who raided your command post? That would be me, Antoni Mor. You've hurt my family. I don't like that.*

Dolman: *Are you supposed to frighten me?*

<sound of gunfire>

Unknown Voice: *Nope, just get rid of you. Come on, Jade. Let's get you home.*

<end transcript>

A Matter of Loyalty

confidential / Mars clearance required

To: Colonel Charles Arthur III
From: Major Karl Mendez, Firebase Karat Command
Re: Conflict with New Human Republic

Colonel,

The establishment of Firebase Karat in the Western Desert is now complete. With the arrival of the latest transport, we are now a fully functional military base ready to carry Arthurian power into the fringe of the White Desert. The aid of the Humanist refugees in refurbishing the hovertank fleet has greatly helped this process. We now have 23 modified HT-68s and 7 modified HT-72s.

We have a serious problem with the GREL forces, however. Indeed, it is clear that our major enemy in this region will be the New Human Republic, the puppet state established by the traitor GREL Soldier Proust. He has sent forces into the region, apparently in some campaign to extend his power. The New Coalition is worried and as you have set our mandate as the support of that Terranovan alliance, I doubt we can stave off combat much longer.

Normally, the prospect of battle would not concern me, but Proust has managed to undermine our own GRELS. In a recent scouting operation, PAK units came into contact with NHR forces. Half the hovertanks broke for enemy lines and promptly defected. We lost two HT-68s and one HT-72. I have launched a probe to uncover who can be trusted and how Proust exercised his influence over our troops.

To do so, I will need added resources, however. An added SecBuro unit would be ideal.

Respectfully,



Major K. Mendez

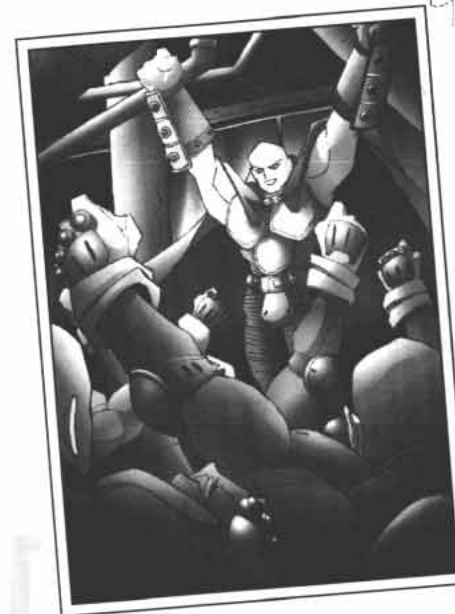
private encrypt

To: Major Eva Bukharin, Firebase Prairie
From: Major Karl Mendez, Firebase Karat

Major,

Find attached my report to Colonel Arthur, which I think is of interest to our Brotherhood. Proust's influence among the GRELS is an obvious — and growing — danger both to Port Arthur and to our cause. Proust's hatred for the New Earth Commonwealth, and by extension the Party, is legendary and I strongly urge his elimination for the sake of our future. The Yakut Brotherhood must prosper if Earth is to rule triumphant.

With respect,



▲ Colonel Proust (NHR Commander)



Major K. Mendez.

Duelist's Call

Khayr ad-Din, Badlands

From an address by Katryne Sanz:

We are all Duelists. Regardless of where we were born, under which flag we once served, of who trained us, we are, above all, servants of honor. We live under the traditions started generations ago by Commandant R.C. DeLyon. There are times I wonder if we aren't the only ones.

We have come here to Khayr ad-Din from across Terra Nova because the armies, cities and nations we once served have forgotten what honor is. Power, self-righteous faith, greed and madness rule both North and South. The presidents and generals are ready to send thousands off to die only to satisfy their egos. We fought hard for our planet's freedom against the invaders from Earth, and we won. But our leaders betrayed us by squandering the unity we built. Well, I for one, will not walk to the slaughter for them.

Only the Badlands still show the promise of a real future. Only here can we forget nationalism and work together to build something. To do so, though, we need a place to call home, we need a place from which to defend ourselves against the raging war that is about to begin. Khayr ad-Din is just such a place.

When the war starts, the maglevs will be cut and the Badlands will become a battleground. What I propose is that we keep the war out of our part of the desert. Right now the gamma maglev ties us not only to the poles, but to the New Coalition to the east. NuCoal, like us, wants nothing of this war.

I say we keep the maglev open between here and NuCoal. That link is ours and we fight for what is ours. Let them destroy themselves; we will stand firm for our honor. Silently accepting a war fought on our land is completely unacceptable.

In this crowd, I see former students — stand up, Danghen and Maena — and enemies — you too, Miranda — who have left their nations behind because they have been betrayed. I've done that as well, but I'm ready to build something new. If we don't stand up to the madmen at the poles, who will?

Wait, wait, wait.

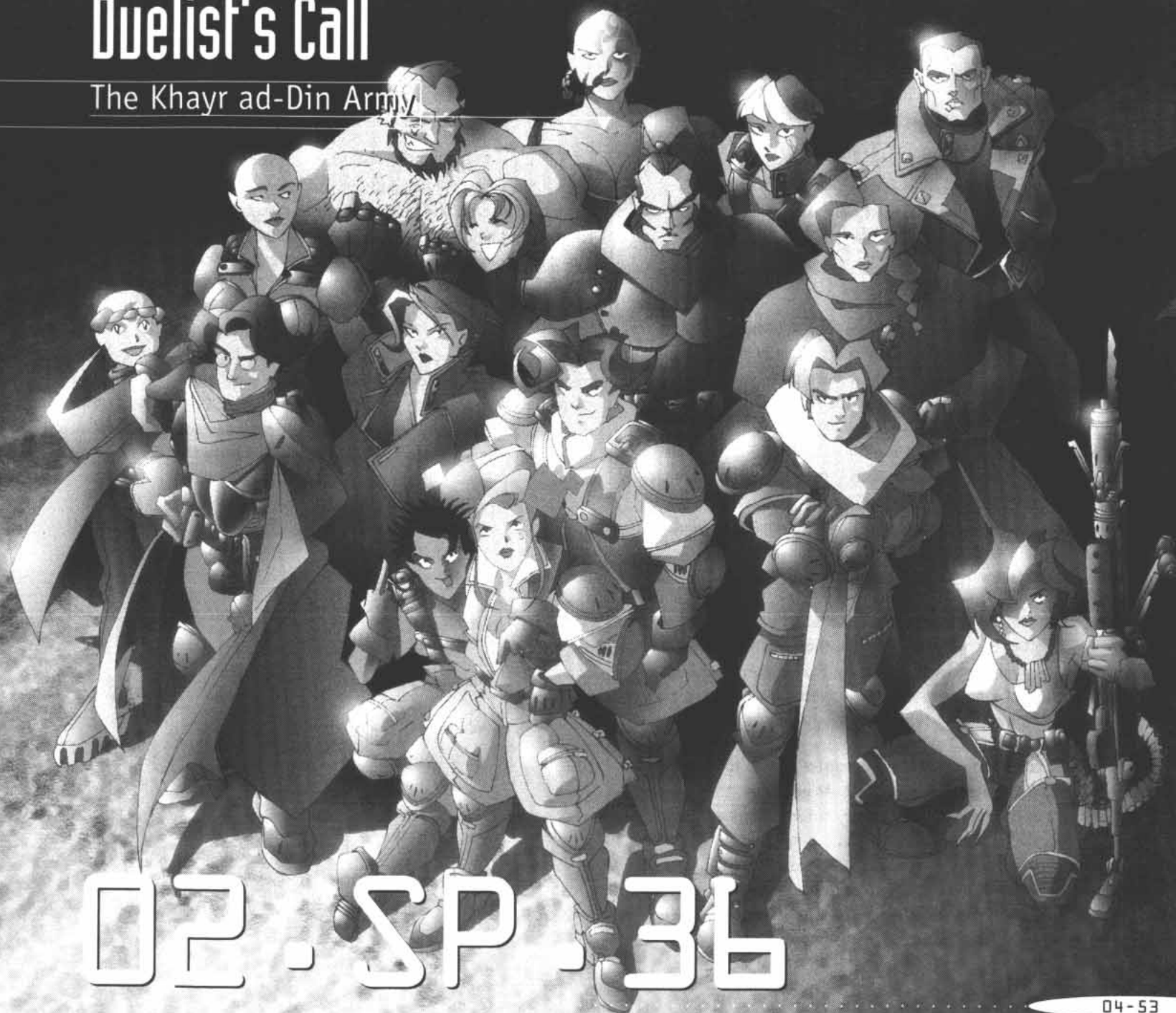
I hear you grumbling about NuCoal. Yes, they're allied with Port Arthur. Yes, Port Arthur is run by former Earthers, by some of the same people we fought against in the War of the Alliance. But that war is over and these people have made their decision. There are Terranovans, Badlanders like us, who live in Port Arthur and the whole community wants to stay out of the way of this coming war. They have decided to side with Terra Nova and build something new here. As far as I'm concerned, that makes them far more worthy of my support than my fellow Northerners, who threw me out because my faith didn't measure up.

The war is going to come to us one way or another. You know it. I am going to make a stand here and now and tell the world that I won't be pushed around anymore.

Will you join me?

Duelist's Call

The Khayr ad-Din Army



02.SP-36

The Devil's Dance

Eyes Only

>decode successful<

>jasmin clearance acknowledged<

>provenance: Yang, Kitani - transmit from Peace River<

>time/date: 34:41:12/27 Spring 1936<

Honored Taipan,

I must say that I am stunned by the peace and beauty we have found here in Peace River. In the midst of a global crisis, literally sitting atop the biggest weapon manufacturer on the planet, we have been performing amidst beautiful surroundings and are utterly isolated from the terrors of the raging conflict. Of course, to my trained eyes, the signs of strain are there. I notice that my dance troupe has never been allowed to leave the executive terraces of the city, and we occasionally hear the sirens of the Peace Officer Corps responding to emergencies, which I have discovered are often incidents of civil unrest. Security officers are also omnipresent, although they do their best to remain discreet. The executives of Paxton Arms take great pride in appearing immune to the chaos gripping Terra Nova, but they are very much on edge.

PaxSec's protocols have made the acquisition of valuable information somewhat more difficult than I expected. Indeed, their electronic and computer safeguards are beyond reproach. Fortunately, Paxton Arms seems far from immune to the problem of executives and officers with loose lips, and several of my dancers have extracted interesting tidbits from key admirers.

The gravest concern among Paxton executives seems to be the continued power of the Badlands Revolutionary Front. As you know, the BRF was born from a labor dispute in the savannah community of Lance Point and has spread in influence across the Badlands. In Peace River, it has become a violently anti-Paxton movement popular among disenfranchised workers. Late last cycle, it seemed that the local BRF infrastructure had been destroyed with the death of their leader, a woman named Sundra Gabriel. Since then, however, new leaders have emerged and the "worker threat" remains a grave concern.

I have also learned that Paxton is secretly shipping large quantities of weapons to the Free Emirate rebels led by Emir Nigel Shirow of Basal. I have yet to uncover where these rebels got the resources to pay for such weapons, but this entire sale is shrouded in a great deal of secrecy. Apparently, Shirow's ambassador was saved from several assassination attempts by Peace Officers, although the details are sketchy.

The most interesting reference I have uncovered, however, is the fact that Paxton believes the BRF may be benefiting from foreign aid, specifically from the Mekong Dominion. This ties in with some other evidence I had uncovered back home that points to the Mekong Development Corporation and its Taipan, Arron Logan. If Taipan Logan is supporting such dangerous revolutionaries, I can only assume he wishes to steal Paxton's market away from it.

This could bode ill for us.

Your servant,

Kitani Yang
Kitani Yang

>message ends<

>delete<



E. Jaxon (BRF Commander) ▶

Victims & Allegiances

Report from Landship Vigilance

To: General Colin Montrose, 3rd NorGuard Brigade Commander

From: Colonel Arthur Janus, 67th Regiment Commander

Re: Conflict in the Western Desert

CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET

General,

It is my sad duty to report on the events of the last several weeks. In our effort to secure attack lines South toward the AST, as outlined in order #NG-11-3478, we have come into conflict with a desert warlord going by the name of Colonel Proust. According to intelligence briefs, this Proust is a rogue Jan-class Genetically Recombined Experimental Legionnaire (GREL). Having parted allegiance both with the Earth invaders who brought him to Terra Nova and with the powers in Port Arthur, this Proust has established a small fiefdom he egotistically calls the New Human Republic (NHR). The NHR seems to have several units of GREL infantry and some Gears, making them a serious threat.

We also have reason to believe that the NHR is receiving some form of support from our Southern enemies or even from a traitor in our own ranks. Indeed, although these are "super"-soldiers, we should not have had much trouble with them, had they not been provided with critical intelligence. This allowed them to shoot down one of our Orca transports and capture one squadron of Gear pilots.

Although we were finally able to triumph, it came at a very high cost, both for the regiment and for me personally. The GREL killers executed several of their prisoners, including my son Henry. I had put Henry, a rookie pilot who wished to serve his country, in the hands of Edward Scott, our regimental Duelist. This is a mistake for which I will never forgive myself.

Instead of protecting my son, the soldier in his care, Scott proved himself to be a coward and watched as my son was executed. Ranger Reeves

Ethan, a young pilot of Western extraction, later managed to save Scott, but he was too late to save my son.

This act of cowardice has, in my mind, disqualified Scott to represent this regiment's honor and he will be stripped of the position of Duelist. I intend to nominate Reeves in his place. I am currently investigating the leak that led to the Orca being brought down, but I have a sinking feeling that it will lead me back to Scott himself.

We are making for our next scheduled position now and I will have more to report soon.

With respect,



Col. Arthur Janus



▲ SRng. E. Scott



▲ Rng. Reeves E.



◀ H. Janus
(1905-1936)



◀ Col. A. Janus

official report

Power to the GRELS

NGIS Confidential Report

TOP SECRET

To: Brigadier Helmut Goss, NorGuard High Command

From: Col. Sonya Gerti, NGIS Badlands

Brigadier,

Concerns about the growing power of the so-called New Human Republic in the Western Desert are, I fear, quite warranted. The NHR, led by a rogue Jan-class GREL named Proust, has been engaging in strikes against a variety of parties in the western and northern fringes of the Great White Desert — areas that could be of strategic importance to us in a war against the Republic.

Proust fancies himself a GREL nationalist and has been able to recruit a large number of the disenchanted supersoldiers to his cause. He speaks in terms of conquest of and vengeance upon humanity. As it stands, he is only a local threat, but as the number of GRELS loyal to him increases, he could become a global problem.

Remember that our sources indicate that Colonel Arthur's hold on the GRELS in Port Arthur is tenuous at best. Proust is making serious inroads there and could conceivably end up with tens of thousands of recruits. I've attached some of the NHR propaganda that regularly pops up in Port Arthur's GREL quarters.

Sonya Gerti

Col. S. Gerti.

~~Freedom Awaits!~~



The New Human Republic was born of the fire that burns in all GREL hearts - the need to break free from the bondage of inferior masters and claim our own destiny. The leash-masters of Port Arthur and the emasculated farmers of Jan Mayen said we would fail, that we could not lead ourselves. They were wrong. The NHR is here and we are prosperous.

We are strong because we are unafraid. Warfare and conquest is a GREL's destiny, and I will not hide from it. The humans cower because they know their time as evolutionary masters is up. Millennia ago they saw what was to be with the Prime Knights. They heralded a new age, and we will see it born.

Join me and your future is assured!

Praise to the Children

From "The Perfect Form"

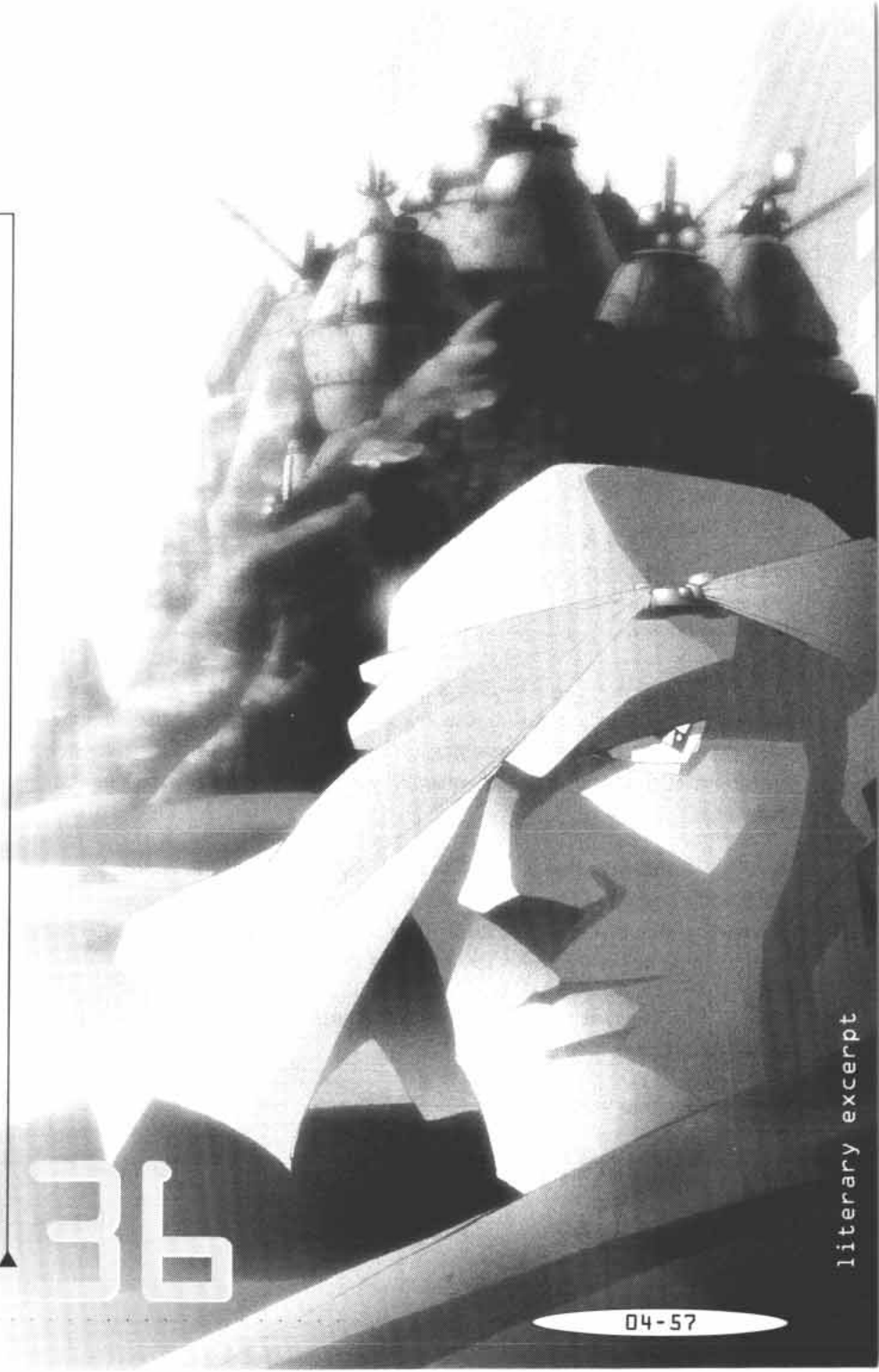
In the Spring of that cycle, the nineteenth since our abandonment, Brother Sebastopol made his first visit to Jan Mayen. These were the days before the war, when the mesa city was still whole. Brother Sebastopol had previously kept his distance from the utopic place, afraid that the programmed anger he tried so hard to control would somehow corrupt this holy spot. Here, Naturals and GRELS lived side-by-side in brotherhood.

He finally decided to travel to this enclave of hope because he saw madness growing across the land. Deep in his heart, he knew that Jan Mayen's days were numbered. He had to learn what he could of greatness before it was snuffed out.

He was welcomed by the Mayen himself and the other community leaders. In long discussions, Brother Sebastopol and the Mayen talked about the future of GRELS. It was at this time that the foundations of the Second Book of the Perfect Form were lain.

Brother Sebastopol, before his departure, also met the twins Tara and Derek. Half-Natural, half-GREL, they were rays of hope and heralds of that which was to come.

Sebastopol left filled with hope and knew he would be back. He did not know how grave the situation would be when he returned.



42-SP-36

Heralds of War

Rahnguard Oasis, Eastern Desert

31st Northern Guard Gear Regiment, Desert Sharks

Status: *Approved for Release*

To: *Maria Yalez*

3245 Ordun Way

Smolensk, 112 FGW

Northern Lights Confederacy

Dear Maria,

This is it, I think we're really going to war this time. I know we've talked about this a lot, and I know you think there has to be another way, but the snakes have gone too far now. Just too far. I mean, they attacked us on the Miracle of the Waters, while we were at prayer. Don't they have *any* respect?

We have come here to ensure our own security, just to make sure they couldn't attack us, and they respond by desecrating our faith. These Southern bastards wouldn't know the Gentle Word if it bit them on the ass. I don't see how we can maintain peace with them, when they seem determined to attack us at every turn.

We hear that it looks like the snakes were behind Reverend Hutchison's death and I can't say that I'm surprised. They seem determined to destroy anything that makes us strong. I think it's time they learned they can only push us so far before we push back, and push back hard.

I'm sorry to flood you with such harsh words, Maria. I miss you terribly. But I can't hide how I feel.

Your husband,


Terrence.

Confidential Report

TOP SECRET

To: *Southern MILICIA Political Command*

From: *Sous-Commandant Etienne Gadbois, Azure Devils Political Officer*

Re: *Rahnguard Oasis Conflict*

Please find attached details of our regiment's recent clash with the Desert Sharks regiment of the Northern Guard. It has been a bloody conflict but it has stopped, at least for now, the Northern advance into the Southern controlled territories of the Eastern Desert.

The regiment held up well against the Northern aggression and was able to inflict serious damages upon the enemy. The North's religious fervor seems to have become mere propaganda, at least on the front. Despite it being a holy time in the Revisionist faith, the Desert Sharks never hesitated to advance on our positions. They paused only to conduct various ceremonies, at which time we had no choice but to counter-attack.

The morale on our side is now low, however, because our victory has been hard won. Indeed, we too are retreating from the area to lick our wounds.

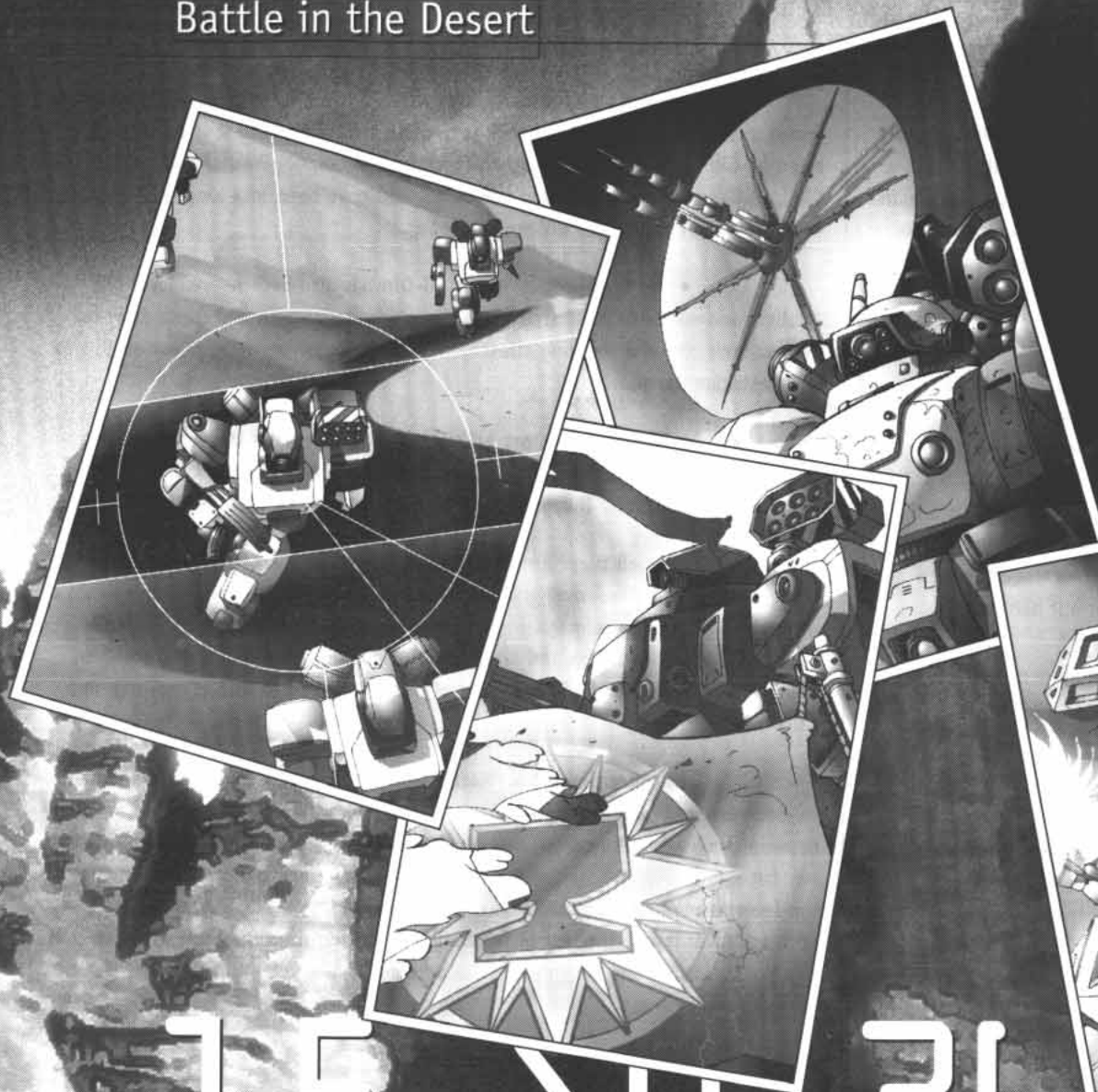
I fear this is not the last conflict we will have with this regiment.



SC E. Gadbois.

Remember Rahnguard

Battle in the Desert



15-20-36

04-59

The White War

SNS Special Report

Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to the Satellite News Service's special report on the White War, a pocket conflict gripping the Great White Desert area of the Badlands. Stretching east of the Westridge Range, the White Desert is perhaps the most inhospitable place on Terra Nova. It consists of countless square kilometers of dunes laced with acidic white sand — few living creatures and no technology can survive here for long. And yet, a staggering number of factions are fighting tooth and nail over this area. Locals have named this conflict — on-going amidst a global war — the White War.

The reasons for this conflict go back to the White Desert itself. Indeed, the same volcanism responsible for the corrosive white sands has also created a great number of natural wells in the region. The fringe of the White Desert is, ironically, among the most fertile areas in the Badlands. Because of this, homesteads dot the region and communities in the Westridge area have grown wealthy. The gamma maglev line also passes along the southern fringe, linking the desert to Khayr ad-Din to the east. This relative prosperity has made the area desirable to warlords and entrepreneurs of all sorts. The current panoply of combatants is staggering.

- Both **North** and **South** are present in the region. With the cutting of the trans-equatorial maglev lines, the Westridge rail line is now the major North-South transport axis. Both superpowers are anxious to control it. Entire divisions and landship groups also move through the region.

- The **Desert Wolves** are a band of desert rovers who have become latter-day Robin Hoods to the locals. They have become a makeshift militia defending the desert communities on the western fringe of the White Desert. They have been very reluctant to seek allies and have stood firm against the New Human Republic (see below).

- The **New Human Republic** (NHR) is a micro-league on the eastern fringe of the White Desert. The NHR is notable mostly because it is quite clearly ruled by GREL supersoldiers under the guidance of Colonel Proust, a Jan-class GREL. NHR troops moved around the desert and have been in a long term conflict with the Desert Wolves for unknown reasons.

- The trash-city of **Khayr ad-Din** has also become involved. The Duelists and mercenaries of that city-state have organized a makeshift army to defend their city and the long stretch of the gamma maglev from Khayr ad-Din to the Westridge Range.

- The forces of **Port Arthur**, under the aegis of the New Coalition of city-states in the Westridge Range, have also been sent to secure the maglev. Despite a few conflicts, they have largely cooperated with the Khayr ad-Din Army.

With all these armed parties, the White Desert fringe has seen a endless steam of battles over the last several seasons. So far, the vague alliance of those trying to keep the maglev open has been successful and trade continues between the New Coalition and Khayr ad-Din. Among the homesteads, however, small battles are endemic. The number of homes reduced to ruin is growing on a daily basis.

In other times, the Peace River Defense Force might have been able to intervene and help the locals preserve their independence and way of life. Any hope for such an intervention, though, has been shattered by Paxton's isolationist war-time policy. Gerald Simosa, president of the arms giant, announced on the day the Interpolar War began that his corporation could now only guarantee the safety of Peace River itself. The rest of the Badlands was on its own. Analysts agree that this policy was chiefly designed not to antagonize the polar superpowers who are Paxton's chief clients.

The White War

SNS Special Report

In the season since then, that policy has seen Paxton profits soar as its weapons feed the war effort. On the other hand, internal unrest has also plagued Peace River and the rest of the Badlands has exploded with a chorus of derision. To those living outside Peace River, Paxton has shirked its responsibilities in favor of its coffers.

Those inside Peace River are more supportive of Paxton's isolationism. The seasons before the outbreak of the Interpolar War saw the city-state plagued by internal revolts headed by the Badlands Revolutionary Front and its Peace River leader Sundra Gabriel. In the Autumn of 1935, the city was under heavy curfew and an evacuation was almost necessary when, according to sources inside the Paxton Security Service, the BRF attempted to cause a catastrophic meltdown in Peace River's main generators. In the aftermath of this crisis, most Paxton executives and managers became very conservative and insisted that the conglomerate divert resources away from protecting the Badlands and into internal security.

Although Sundra Gabriel was killed during the height of that crisis, the Revolutionary Front remains a power in Peace River. Many new cells have appeared and some say that Peace River is no safer now than it was last cycle.

In the White Desert, these concerns all sound like excuses. The locals see polar forces rolling over their communities on treads manufactured by Paxton Arms. Understandably, they have few tears to shed for those making a profit on their misery.



▲ D. Mor (Desert Wolf leader)



▲ Khayr ad-Din



A. Jarison (KADA Commander)



▲ Y. Townz (KADA Duelist)



Arthurian Korps hovertanks ▼



Col. Charles Arthur III ▲

Red Crescent

From the letters of Naed Stamens

My Darling Lyssara,

Even I think it's foolish of me to keep writing you these letters I can't send, especially after what I have seen today. You vanished in the desert five cycles ago and everyone except me thinks you're dead and gone, killed by a rover or some wild dawg. Today, for the first time, a small part of me hopes they're right.

I'm in Marigold, my darling. This is where we met, remember? In the great commune, under the sweet sapa trees grown with such care by Sister Shara. I had just had my head shaved, just had the blue tattoo of the order placed on my head, when I saw you there, reading from the Kolos' *Purity and Light*. You were so beautiful, my heart soared and I knew... I just knew. It meant so much to me that we were wed under that very tree.

I've been back here many times since you vanished, of course. You left from here after your period of retreat; it was from here that you were returning to me. The last time I came was just before the war. I spoke with Shara, who told me to remember the principles of peace in the face of warfare. I was going to be called back to the army, and I knew I would have to put my search on hold. I almost looked forward to it, after so much disappointment and so many "favors" granted to Major Ceritto and the Intelligence Service to pay for their aid.

I've now come back. The regiment transferred to the Emirates and Ceritto got me a leave before we went to the front. I had heard things were bad at Marigold and I came to see. It's worse than I ever imagined.

Theban Blight hit the city last cycle, and the local miners imposed a strict quarantine. The Commune closed its doors as well and they have remained sealed. I made my way in through the underground entrance — you know, the one Terranz showed us — and sneaked in.

I found bodies. Dead for seasons, reduced to skeletons and mummies. At first I thought the Blight had raged through here, and maybe some of the deaths were due to disease. But then I found the syringes. Next to most of the bodies were empty vials of what I can only assume was poison, apparently self-administered. The members of the Great Commune, the heart of the Blue Crescent Order, killed themselves. I found the same story everywhere, even in Sister Shara's home. I couldn't bring myself to look into the chambers of Kolos the Teacher himself, but I assume the Commune's founder went the same route as his followers.

I'm left to ask — if they found no hope in a world gone mad, how can I? I won't be going back to the regiment. Concepts of nation and duty have become bitter to me. Maybe I will go to Khayr ad-Din and join Danghen and Maena.

Your beloved,



Naed Stamens

Naed.

◀ Naed Stamens

The Monk and the Conqueror

From "The Perfect Form"

In the Spring of the twentieth cycle since our abandonment, Brother Sebastopol made his second journey to Jan Mayen. When last he had been there, it was a utopia. Now, it was a battleground.

The armies of North and South, in one of many mad battles occurring those days, decided that the utopia could not stand. They were not even enlightened enough to see this paradise of GREL and Natural coexistence as a threat. Instead, they saw it as a prize, a supply point to be claimed. Soon, both armies were battling across its mesa to claim its ruins. The locals, GREL and Natural alike, were slaughtered in the crossfire.

Brother Sebastopol came to the city to salvage what he could of the great experiment. Most of all, he wished to save the hybrid twins Derek and Tara, for he knew they were hope for a future for all GRELS. Unfortunately, he was not the only to know this. When he arrived at the childrens' home, he found Proust the Warlord there, determined to claim the same prize.

Brother Sebastopol had no choice but to forgo the path of nonviolence and engage the Warlord. The battle was fantastic. Both born of the Jan GREL program, the two were evenly matched. Proust had learned the ways of arms and command, a true and vicious fighter. Sebastopol had learned the ways of the Perfect Form, including the art of close combat. Study was balanced by experience.

In the end, the only possible conclusion occurred. After hours of debilitating fighting, the two were separated by the arrival of the warring forces. Faced with the choice of losing the children to hate-filled Normals or ending their fight, the two fled, each with one child.

Proust took Tara, who would grow into the Conqueror, and Sebastopol took Derek, who would become the Monk.

Siblings born, at that point the twins became enemies sworn.



Vendettas

PaxSec Confidential Report

To: Paxton HEO Milani DuBeau-Slovenski

From: Colonel Reichter Lenaris, Paxton Security Service

CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET

Well, it looks like our predictions are coming true.

The war may be good for the bottom line, but it's leading to a hell of a lot of chaos around the globe. The North and South have been fighting it out for coming up on two cycles now, and the tactical situation hasn't changed much since the Autumn of '36. The North is still firmly entrenched in the East and the eastern part of the Humanist Alliance thanks to local support, but can't make any real inroads into the Dominion or the Republic itself. Meanwhile the South hasn't been able to make any real breaks North, although it has done serious damage to several cities including Fort Henry, Kossuth, Timmins and Petropolis.

The inevitable battle fatigue is setting in, and several of the key players at the poles are seeing their support eroding. I hear rumors that the Republican Army is backing away from deRouen, and there's still stories of the "Dark Fox" bouncing around. You'll recall that the Fox is a semi-mythical secret rival of Prime-Minister deRouen. Other leading figures are also in trouble. Eastern Lord Chancellor Kenichi Tanaka recently barely escaped being killed by a commando team that penetrated his residence in Strathclyde. They were made out to be Eastern rebels, but I've seen some internal reports that point to evidence that they were Légion Noire trained. I think Tanaka's rivalry with Légion boss Anastasia Orsat just got deadly.

Another assassination attempt occurred a few weeks ago in Mekong — a Northern team tried to take out Arron Logan. The North has had a real hard on for Logan since the war broke out — my sources say he may have fed them bad intel about Mekong facilities that led to a lot of Northern troops getting killed. Anyway a Northern team — from NGIS or NISA — tried to eliminate Logan, but managed only to wound him. The team was captured and is rotting in a Mekong jail somewhere.

The assassinations haven't started North of the equator just yet, but they can't be far off. The religious fervor that started the war is wearing off and people are looking for someone to blame. The fact that the Revisionist Church hasn't been able to agree on a new Second Follower certainly doesn't help.

All this means, I think, that Simosa's idea of peace talks might actually not be entirely stupid. We have to think about the end of the war sometime. Enough people are looking for people to blame that it's just possible North and South will decide we make good scapegoats. We have made a barnaby-sized load of cash off this little war, after all. But if we can become the people behind peace talks, that will immunize us from blame for the war and make sure we have a place of importance after an eventual armistice.

If only in the interests of staying on top, negotiation is probably the way to go.

Respectfully,



▲ Taipan A. Logan

Col. R. Lenaris



▲ Lord Chancellor K. Tanaka

Call From the Wild

Western Desert

My dearest Jana,

Has it really been three cycles since I last saw you? In many ways Khayr ad-Din and my life at Solitaire seem only distant memories, almost irrelevant to my life with the Desert Wolves. At night, though, I think of the times we shared. I realize now how much you meant - how much you still mean - to me. In those days when I was caught up in being the lone wolf, the cold warrior with no home, you brought life and hope back into my life.

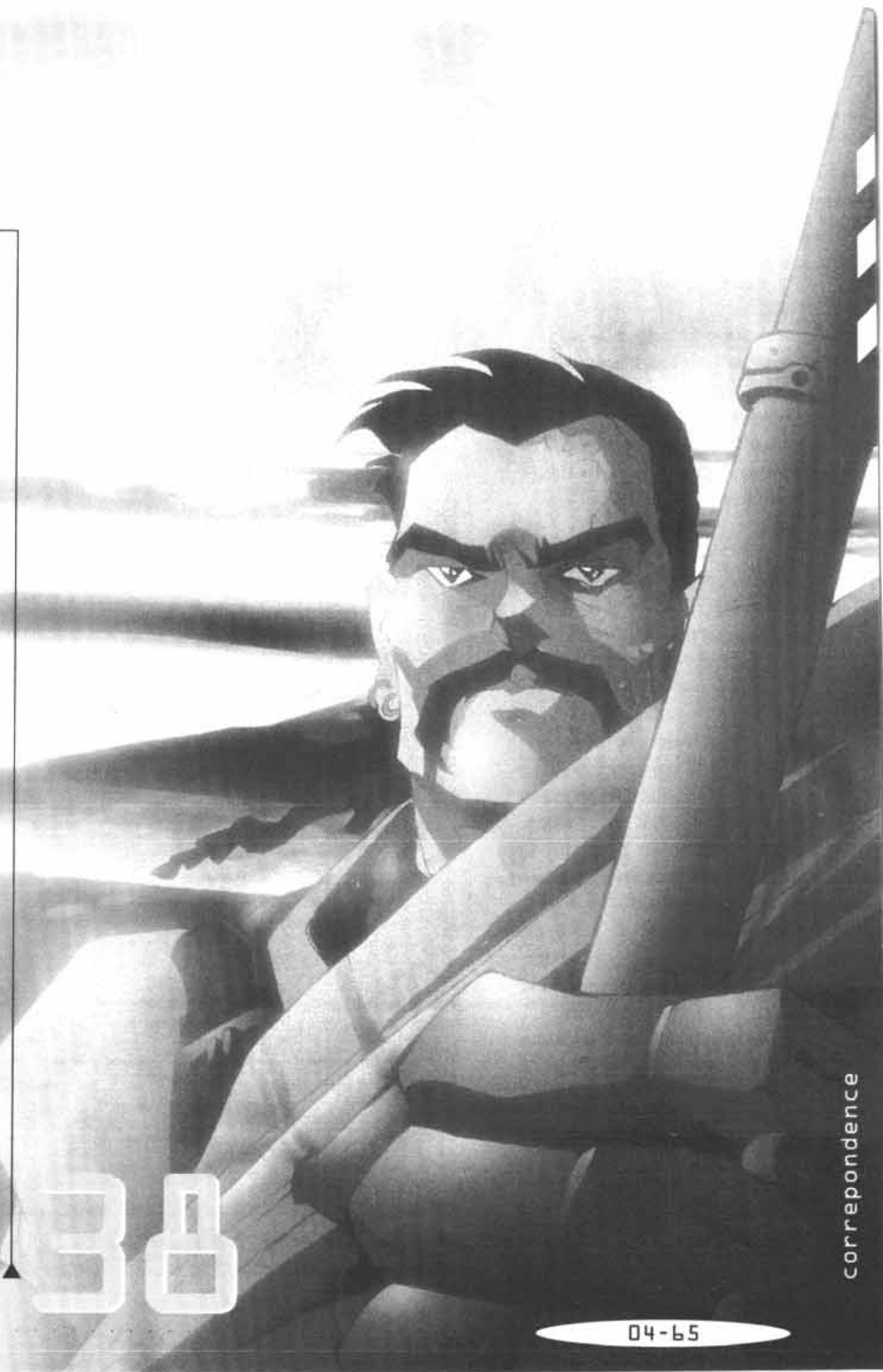
I remember the long conversations we had when you got back from Marigold. You talked about destiny and the importance of family. In the past cycles I've come to realize just how right you were. I am home now, a member of my clan once more. I used to hate my brother, now I see him as the gifted leader he has always been.

But, I'm not solely writing to reminisce. I actually have news of a victory of sorts. The forces of that GREL madman Proust have finally retreated around the Great White Desert. He must be giving up on his quest to find Roskiman, the supersoldier who betrayed him. The struggle to get Proust out of our territory has been long and bloody, but in some ways his own bloody tactics have been good for the wolves. He was so clear a threat that we were able to group many local marshals and homesteaders, and even members of the Prince Gable militia, under the Wolves' banner. The clan has lost many members, but is now stronger than ever.

I have volunteered to go in search of Roskiman and his lover Zaya to tell them that their hunter has finally retreated. They had taken refuge with us before fleeing deep into the Great White Desert. My trip will be hard indeed, but I'm convinced I have to bring them word. You used to tell me about destiny, and I think this is mine

Antoni Moss

Antoni.



Soaring High

From the Journal of Gawaïne Di Smit:

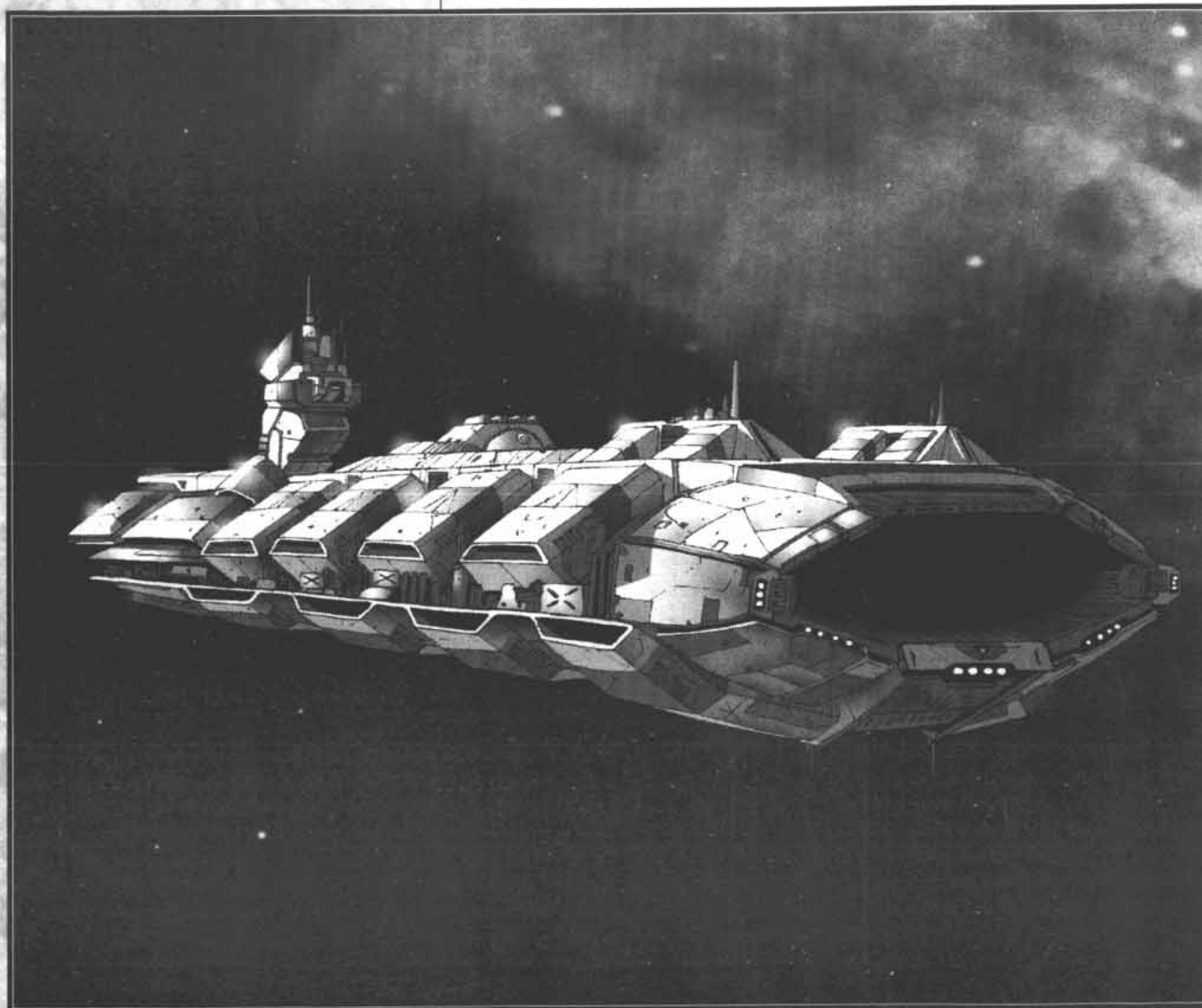
23 Autumn TN 1937:

Laban Emuros is finally off and our test run of my micro-gate detection system is up and running. I've been a little impatient, but now that we are leaving Ares orbit and beginning the experiment proper, it dawns on me just how quickly this has come to pass.

Thanks to General Cristobal's support, my plan to search for the energy anomalies that could indicate Tannhauser anomalies of a very small nature — what I call micro-gates — is underway. In the middle of a crazy and pointless war, someone at least is thinking ahead. I shouldn't be too surprised; Cristobal worked under Lang Regina, after all. Lang knows what's what.

We began the first test firing today and came up empty — no anomalies. That's no real surprise, though. I never expected to find anything this close to Ares or any other major planet. The probability chart I worked out with Professor Vovelle notes an axis where micro-gates are much more likely. In a few weeks, we'll be in the middle of that area and then the real work can begin. I'm glad to see that systems are working, though.

Off we go.



Arrival

Lhaban Emuros External Cameras

Vid-capture 1:

Scanners are picking up an energy spike at coordinates 275 by 91 by 48. No catalogued anomaly located there. Levels reaching 01% threshold and rising. Readjusting scanners.



Vid-capture 2:

Levels are now at 11% of threshold rate. Energy is definitely being applied from the other side of a previously uncatalogued Tannhauser anomaly. Expansion rate is rising — we should reach 100% threshold within 1 hour.



Vid-capture 3:

Whoa! We are at 21% of threshold but readings indicate a concurrency. Area of foldspace is less than 200 meters in diameter, but stable. I believe we are looking at one of Ms. Di Smit's micro-gates.



Vid-capture 4:

Scanners focusing on the area of foldspace. Energy interference is heavy, but we seem to have an object. Much too small to be a Gateship. Some sort of asteroid or small craft.



Vid-capture 5:

Holy! The object is through and moving on trajectory... relative 19 by 180 by 200... get me an image.



Vid-capture 6

Got it. It's definitely a ship — no known class or design. High relative velocity. She's hurt, though, looks like laser impact scars. She's trailing debris.



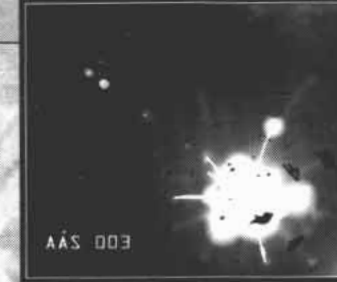
Vid-capture 7

Energy levels spiking. This is not good. Wait — she's ejected something. Engage secondary tracking...



Vid-capture 8

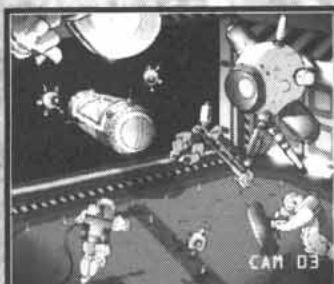
Sweet Prophet! Scanners indicate a capsule was ejected. Move in, let's see if we can bring it in.



confidential footage

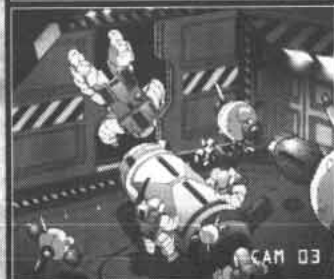
The Visitor

Lhaban Emuros Hold #8 Cameras



Vid-capture 1:

You're sure the drones read no explosives, command? I don't want my crew vaporized by some Earther trap. Okay, but we're going to proceed with caution.



Vid-capture 2:

We're moving in. Looks like a heat shield on one end and hatches on the other. We've also got a main hatch. We'll look at the small hatches first.



Vid-capture 3:

Parachutes! Command, this is a reentry capsule. And whatever's inside can't take a ballistic impact. This just got very interesting, ladies and gentlemen. We're moving to the main hatch.



Vid-capture 4:

Okay, we're looking at the main hatch. It's sealed tight, all right. Let's see... looks like a service panel. Let's be careful. It's open. Switching to head-cam.



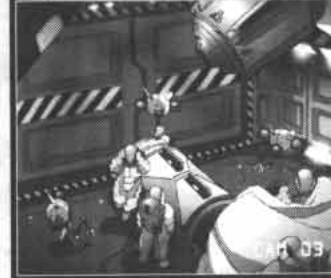
Vid-capture 5:

Here we go. Readouts in Anglic, folks. We've got readouts for an internal atmosphere and something alive in here. Something human, I think. We need atmosphere, people.



Vid-capture 6:

And we have 1 Atmosphere. Collins, keep that helmet on! If that's a bio-weapon in there, I don't want you bleeding all over me. Let's open her up.



Vid-capture 7:

The torch has it open. Careful, there! Everything reading okay.



Vid-capture 8:

Here we go, folks. We have a visitor.

The Change Has Come

From the Journal of Gawaïne Di Smit:



20 Winter TN 1938

I've just come from a trideo-conference that could easily get me executed for treason, but it was well worth it. Captain Milgas and I introduced our visitor to Proconsul Lang and her Southern ally Kenichi Tanaka. The lag time to Terra Nova made it a slow conversation, but a productive one.

Our visitor's name is Helene Del Pulciano. According to her, she is a Liberati — a member of the resistance movement on Caprice fighting against the Earth occupation. She told Lang and Tanaka that she had come to Terra Nova for two reasons: first, to warn us that Earth was smuggling spies onto our world through micro-gates, and second, to ask for our help liberating Caprice.

Given that we're fighting a war of our own, I don't really see how we can help liberate another planet. Proconsul Lang, however, said that something could be arranged. For some reason, I find that assurance ominous.

We are now making for Terra Nova. I suppose we will see what the Proconsul was talking about then.

Appendix

References for Readers of *Blood on the Wind*

Blood on the Wind is the second Heavy Gear Storyline Book and like its predecessor, **Crisis of Faith** (DP9-033), it reveals the critical events unfolding in the Heavy Gear universe through the thoughts, conversations and journals of the characters involved. Like **Crisis of Faith**, this book eschews the traditional roleplaying game book format, all associated game statistics and omniscient narration to create a more immersing reading experience. This can be a little disconcerting, however, for those not intimately familiar with the details of the Heavy Gear universe. This appendix is here to help keep everything straight. The *Who's Who on Terra Nova* section (pages 71-75) gives brief profiles on 30 of the most important people appearing in **Blood on the Wind** along with indications of where to find more information about them (see abbreviation guide, below). The *Timeline of Events* places all the events in this book in strict chronological order, along with page references. They appear organized by region in the main text. Following are a few other elements to help in the reading experience.

What Has Gone Before: Terra Nova was once a rich colony of Earth, but was abandoned by an isolationist government centuries ago. Faster than light travel being very expensive, trips occurred every few years at best, and the colony found itself alone. Unique cultures grew and warred, ultimately forming two major confederations: one in the North and the other in the South. Twenty cycles (local years) ago, Earth returned and tried to invade. North and South patched together an alliance and repelled the invading Colonial Expeditionary Force after four cycles of bloody warfare. Détente was the order of the day after the war, but old tensions soon started to erode any goodwill. In the South, chaos began to take hold when Basal, one of the member cities of the feudal Eastern Sun Emirates, rebelled against the Eastern despot.

In **Crisis of Faith** the last hopes of peace died out. The rebellion in the ESE spread to two more cities (Bangweulu and Okavango), creating a whole region called the Free Emirates. The Free Emirates negotiated a deal with the powerful Southern Republic to ensure their non-intervention, but everyone knew that could not last. The North, meanwhile, became more and more fervent in its Revisionist faith and came to identify the South as an immoral and even heathen enemy.

Northern leaders also received information that the economically powerful Mekong Dominion would break with the Southern confederation (and side with the North) in case of a war. The Southern Republic then became aware of a serious espionage threat coming from the Humanist Alliance, a league it considered its vassal. In the Badlands, Colonel Proust (an Earth-made supersoldier abandoned on Terra Nova) established a desert league of his own and recruited many other GREL supersoldiers to his cause. One of his former allies, Soldier Roskiman, fled into the Western desert with his human lover Zaya, and Proust called for their capture. This growing chaos reached new heights when Thor Hutchison, the charismatic leader of the Northern faith, was assassinated on live trideo.

Advice for Gamers: This book is not intended as a gaming aid in the traditional sense. It is much more like a novel or comic book. **Heavy Gear** is a roleplaying and tactical game, however, and many of the events in this book are designed to be fodder for game ideas. Many of the key battles of the Interpolar War are portrayed in various tactical supplements, including the Battle of Rahnguard Oasis (see **Heavy Gear Tactical Boxed Set**, DP9-043) and the Battle of Two Towers (see **Battle of Two Towers**, DP9-050). From a roleplaying perspective, many events could become the center of a campaign. The White War raging in the Western Desert, the rise of the Khayr ad-Din Army, the Eastern Rebellions and the Theban Blight are all events that could feature heavily in a campaign. This book provides only overviews of these and other events (the capture of Raleigh is recounted on page 22, for example) but the actual events leading to this could create an excellent campaign.

Useful Abbreviations: All page references in this appendix are to this book, except when noted. To save space in the character profiles, we have used abbreviations for our main books. They are as follows: **CC1:** Character Compendium 1 (DP9-021); **DH:** Duelist's Handbook (DP9-005); **HALB:** Humanist Alliance Leaguebook (DP9-032); **HG2:** Second Edition Heavy Gear Rulebook (DP9-101); **ITB:** Into the Badlands (DP9-018); **MDLB:** Mekong Dominion Leaguebook (DP9-036); **SRLB:** Southern Republic Leaguebook (DP9-030); **TN2:** Second Edition Life on Terra Nova (DP9-102).

Who's Who on Terra Nova

Characters of Note

Salvador Anastapulos ♟

The Illuminatus of the Humanist Alliance, Salvador Anastapulos spent his life trying to keep faith with the philosophies of Humanist founder Yuri Gropius. Guiding efforts to resist the cultural and political domination of the Southern Republic, the Illuminatus watched as his plans came to naught. He dies with many of his fellows when the Theban Blight strikes the Alliance, which is then quickly annexed by the Republic. See **TN2**, p. 99.



Charles Arthur III ♟

The exiled Earth officer who built Port Arthur, Charles Arthur is living through very difficult times. His alliances with the Humanist Alliance have been undone by the effective death of that league, while his enemies are growing in strength, and Colonel Proust recruits more GREs with every season. Only his alliance with the desert communities of the New Coalition, and through them the Khayr ad-Din Army, has proven fortuitous. See **TN2**, p. 123.



Yves Banderas ♟

Treasurer of the United Mercantile Federation, Banderas was once a movie star. He dreamed of uniting the UMF and the Mekong Dominion into a financial super-alliance that would lead Terra Nova. This made him an easy dupe for Arron Logan's deceptions (see p. 73), which led to global war. Banderas died when his personal jet was shot down, many assume by Southern stealth fighters. See **CC1**, p. 14.



Rafael Bhervo ♟

The child-Emir of Okavango, Rafael Bhervo is an almost religious figure among Easterners. Only 17 cycles of age, he seems enlightened and wise beyond his years. He has joined Emir Nigel Shirow's rebellion against Strathclyde, but is less willing to make political compromises and is becoming a serious rival for overall leadership of the Free Emirates.



Eva Bukharin ♟

A military officer in Port Arthur, Eva Bukharin is also the leader of the secretive Yakut Brotherhood. This shadowy order of expatriate Earthers maintains loyalty to the New Earth Commonwealth and its ruling party. They fully expect to aid in a second attempt to conquer Terra Nova. Bukharin thinks of Charles Arthur as a traitor, and maintains contacts with loyalists across the globe. See **TN2**, p. 129.



Solomon Davi ♟

Secretary of Defense of the United Mercantile Federation, Solomon Davi assumes the position of interim Treasurer when Yves Banderas dies. Davi is a consummate soldier and an ally of the conglomerate Northco. He is rumored to dislike Grand-Marshal Victoria Edden-Smythe (see p. 72), the overall Northern commander. He supports the war effort for the time being, however.



Who's Who on Terra Nova

Characters of Note

Derek and Tara

The product of the GREL fertility program in Jan Mayen, these twin GREL-human hybrids are perhaps the only chance for a future for the displaced supersoldiers. Indeed, their design stripped them of the ability to reproduce. When Jan Mayen was destroyed during a North-South battle, Derek was rescued by Soldier Sebastopol (see p. 75) and Tara by Colonel Proust (see p. 74). See **TN2**, p. 113.



Louis Philippe deRouen

The ruthless Prime Minister of the Southern Republic, Louis Philippe deRouen does not hesitate to eliminate his enemies. Indeed, with the revelation that the Humanist Alliance has been plotting against the Republic, he orders the use of the "Twin Falcon Contingent," a deadly biological weapon that results in the Theban Blight. The Republic quickly annexes the devastated Alliance. DeRouen is unaware his own daughter is plotting against him. See **TN2**, p. 74.



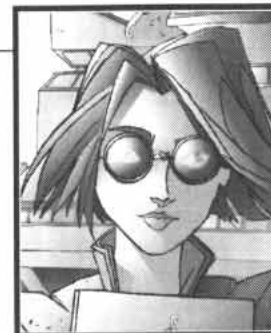
Louise deRouen

The only child of Prime Minister deRouen, Louise is his heir and confident. She is also his most dangerous enemy. Unsatisfied with waiting to inherit leadership, she has used the ancient and secretive Order of the Falcon (and the cover identity of the "Dark Fox") to act against her father. She believes he is leading the Republic to ruin and she has made deals with army head Victor deBourgogne and AST Lord Protector Molay (see p. 74). See **SRLB**, p. 29.



Gawaïne Di Smit

A renowned Northern astrophysicist, Gawaïne Di Smit discovered the possibility of micro-gates: very small Tannhauser anomalies that could link Terra Nova to new worlds. An admirer and ally of Proconsul Lang Regina (see p. 75), she has overseen tests aboard the Gateship *Lhaban Emuros* to detect these micro-gates. During one such test, witnesses saw one of these gates opening and helped to rescue the Caprician rebel Helene del Pulciano. See **TN2**, p. 44.



Milani DuBeau-Slovenski

The Head Executive Officer of Paxton Arms, Milani has a reputation for utter ruthlessness. An important power behind the throne in Peace River, Milani's main concern is to keep her corporation and city safe and profitable during the war. With the Interpol War dragging on, Milani has backed Paxton President Simosa's plan to sponsor peace negotiations. See **HG2**, p. 41.



Victoria Edden-Smythe

The Grand Marshal of the CNCS, Victoria Edden-Smythe has led the North to war against the South. A devout Revisionist, she sees the South as responsible for the death of Second Follower Hutchison. She opted for war when it seemed the Mekong Dominion would side with the North, and now must deal with a bloody conflict. Married to Proconsul Lang Regina (see p. 75), the two women have separated due to personal, religious and political differences. See **TN2**, p. 39.



Who's Who on Terra Nova

Characters of Note

Farzahd Hemami ♟

The Lord Chancellor of the Humanist Alliance, Hemami was supposed to watch over the Alliance for the Republic. Instead, he became a Humanist spy within the Republican power structure. Turned by hypnotherapy paired with some natural inclinations, he kept Illuminatus Anastapulos (see p. 71) abreast of Republican plans. When his treachery was revealed, the Republic unleashed the Theban Blight. Hemami himself was assassinated by a SRID agent. See **TN2**, p. 73.



Thor Hutchison ♟

The fiery leader of the Northern Revisionist Church, Hutchison was assassinated on live trideo by Northern Colonel Neel Garner Fulan. Most Northerners believed that this apparently senseless crime had to have been directed by their Southern enemies; when circumstantial evidence began to point this way, their fears seemed confirmed. For many Northerners, the Interpolar War exists to avenge Hutchison. See **CC1**, p. 22.



Ernesto Jaxon ♟

The charismatic leader of the Badlands Revolutionary Front, Jaxon wishes to see the Badlands free of Northern and Southern domination (and of the corporations who serve as their proxies). He leads an ongoing rebellion in Lance Point and serves as figurehead of a loose coalition of revolutionaries stretching across the Badlands, including Peace River. He has, of late, made some secret accords with Arron Logan. See **ITB**, p. 57.



Arron Logan ♟

The Taipan of the Mekong Development Corporation, Logan is utterly ruthless and is most directly responsible for the Interpolar War. Indeed, he led the North to believe that the Mekong Dominion would side with them in the case of a war, something that was far from true. The motives behind this grand deception are unclear but surely profit Logan, even though Northern assassins are now hunting him. See **MDLB**, p. 22.



Lysia Masao ♟

The sister of ESE Patriarch Oliver Masao, Lysia was also the wife of Farzahd Hemami. She was unaware of his espionage activities until it was too late, and watched in horror as the Humanist Alliance crumbled, narrowly escaping assassination in the same strike that killed Farzahd. She took refuge with Humanists in Raleigh and eventually saw that city allied with the Free Emirates. Emir Shirow (see p. 75) has offered her his protection in exchange for her hand and an heir. See **HALB**, p. 35.



Oliver Masao ♟

The mad Patriarch of the Eastern Sun Emirates, Masao is enchanted with bloodshed and has offered up his throne to his last living relative. This prompted massive slaughter among the Eastern aristocracy and led several Emirates to outright rebellion. He delights in the chaos of war, and seems unaware of the terrible price paid by his subjects and allies for his follies. See **TN2**, p. 92.



Who's Who on Terra Nova

Characters of Note

Jacques Molay

The Lord Protector of the AST, Molay was once head of the dreaded Southern Republic Intelligence Directorate, and still holds sway there. An enemy of Prime Minister deRouen, he has entered into an agreement with his daughter Louise to eliminate him (see p. 72). Molay and deRouen helped each other rise to power and could ruin each other, so Louise deRouen may finally break the stalemate between them. See **TN2**, p. 73.



Antoni "Solitaire" Mor

Once a Duelist in Khayr ad-Din, Antoni Mor has returned to his family, the Desert Wolf rovers. They have fought a long brush war against the GREL Colonel Proust, who was seeking the fugitives Roskiman and Zaya, whom the Wolves had sworn to protect. Proust was ultimately driven back with the help of allies from Khayr ad-Din and elsewhere, and Antoni has left to find Zaya and Roskiman in the Great White Desert. See **DH**, p. 80.



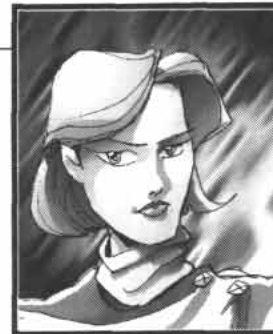
Mykael Navar

Once the chief protector of the Humanist Alliance, Mykael Navar has seen his beloved league trampled by the Southern Republic. Taking what forces he could and fleeing east, he has found shelter among the Free Emirates and joined their cause on the condition they help free Humanist cities when they could. With Northern assistance they have already freed Raleigh. A small victory, but one he takes pride in. See **HALB**, p. 20.



Melissa Noble

A close advisor to Massadan Revisionist leader Dreven Capac, Sister Melissa Noble was also the bond-twin and lover of Neel Garner Fulan, the Norlight soldier who killed Second Follower Thor Hutchison (see p. 73). Noble has become the center of the investigation into Garner Fulan's motivations, and she surrendered to Norlight authorities because of allegations that she was under Southern influence. She remains under house arrest. See **ITB**, p. 65.



Miranda Petite

Once a member of the South's elite Special Intervention Unit and a Humanist expatriate, the usually smiling Petite has fled to the Badlands in the wake of the annexation of her league. Unable to accept the destruction of the Alliance by the very people she serves, Miranda and her friend Alia Muna-Habib have joined the Khayr ad-Din Army, a group of mercenaries and expatriate Duelists committed to keeping the gamma maglev open. See **HALB**, p. 105.



Colonel Proust

One of 100,000 of GREL supersoldiers abandoned by Earth after its abortive attempt to invade Terra Nova, Proust has become convinced that the GRELS must make their own destiny, as befits superior beings. Gathering other GRELS around himself, he has founded the New Human Republic and embarked on a campaign in the Western Desert in pursuit of his former squad-mate Soldier Roskiman. He has also acquired Tara, one of the GREL-Human hybrid children (see p. 72). See **CC1**, p. 46.



Who's Who on Terra Nova

Characters of Note

Lang Regina ♁

A hero of the War of the Alliance and the Proconsul of Fort Henry in the WFP, Lang Regina is not at all convinced that the Interpolar War is in the best interests of the North or Terra Nova. In cooperation with her Southern ally Kenichi Tanaka, she has been gathering allies to prepare for the days after the war, all the while keeping her eyes trained on the skies, where the threat of Earth still looms. See **CC1**, p. 18.



Nicosa Renault ♁

A legendary spy of the Judas Syndrome and War of the Alliance, Nicosa spent much of the last ten cycles trying to balance intrigues in order to prevent a war. When Hutchison was assassinated she struggled instead to ensure that the Badlands was not devastated and helped organize the Khayr ad-Din Army. All the while she has been trying to understand the complex agendas leading Terra Nova into war after war. See **ITB**, p. 11.



Katryne Sanz ♁

A famous Northern Gear trainer and one-time Duelist, Sanz was exiled from the North for her lack of faith. Traveling to Khayr ad-Din, she helped organize the motley Khayr ad-Din Army out of a collection of the best Gear pilots on Terra Nova. Together they have made a stand for Badlands independence, fighting to keep the gamma maglev open between Khayr ad-Din and the New Coalition.



Soldier Sebastopol ♁

Another GREL stranded by Earth, Sebastopol has spent the cycles since then struggling against the violent instincts programmed into him. The father of the Perfect Form movement that teaches GRELS a path to peace through meditation and martial arts, Sebastopol is the opposite number of Col. Proust (see p. 74). They fought over the GREL twins in Jan Mayen, and Sebastopol managed to save Derek (see p. 72). See **TN2**, p.131.



Nigel Shirow ♁

The Emir of Basal, Nigel Shirow has led a rebellion against the crazed Patriarch Oliver Masao (see p. 73) since TN 1931. Okavango and Bangweuleu have joined him, forming the so-called Free Emirates. Shirow has welcomed support from Humanist expatriates and the North during the war, but a rivalry has grown between Shirow and Emir Bhravo of Okavango (see p. 72). He has offered protection to Lysia Masao (p. 73) if she becomes his consort and produces an heir. See **CC1**, p. 38.



Kenichi Tanaka ♁

The Lord Chancellor of the ESE and a hero of the War of the Alliance, Tanaka shares his ally Lang Regina's doubts about the Interpolar War. He believes in the honorable tradition of the South, but sees it being drowned out by power-mongers like deRouen and Molay. Like Lang, Tanaka is gathering allies, including Aristide Lazarus, the head of the elite Special Intervention Unit. See **TN2**, p. 73.



Timeline of Events

01•AU•35 to 02•SP•36

1 Autumn 1935: Second Follower Thor Hutchison is assassinated by Norlight Colonel Neel Garner Fulan. Garner Fulan is killed by Hutchison's bodyguards, but too late to save the Second Follower. (See **Crisis of Faith**, p. 111)

1-42 Autumn 1935: In the wake of the Hutchison assassination, incidents of violence against non-Revisionists grow to worrisome proportions. (see p. 8)

The forces of the New Human Republic, sent by their leader Colonel Proust, continue their pursuit of the fugitives Roskiman and Zaya, and enter into conflict with the Desert Wolf rovers in the Western Desert. (see p. 50)

2 Autumn 1935: Northern officials establish an inter-agency task force to investigate the assassination of Thor Hutchison. The task force includes most CNCS and Norlight law enforcement and intelligence agencies. (see pp. 8-9)

7 Autumn 1935: Antoni "Solitaire" More returns to the Desert Wolves to help them struggle against the New Human Republic. (see p. 4)

16 Autumn 1935: Over a million Northerners attend the funeral of Thor Hutchison in Sorrento, while 70 million more watch on trideo. (see p. 10)

17 Autumn 1935: Sister Melissa Noble, Neel Garner Fulan's lover, is arrested for her role in the assassination of Thor Hutchison. She undergoes long questioning which reveals a possible Southern role. (see pp. 10-11)

27 Autumn 1935: Operation Drawback, a SRID program to uncover Humanist spies within the Southern Republic, discovers that Farzahd Hemami, Lord Chancellor of the Alliance, is in fact a spy for the very league he should be overseeing, passing Southern secrets to the Alliance. SRID Director Justinian Salazar reports immediately to Republican Prime-Minister deRouen, emphasizing that Hemami could expose the Twin Falcon biological weapons program. (see p. 28)

29 Autumn 1935: Enraged by the revelation of Hemami's treachery and aware that the Twin Falcon program is in a "use or lose" situation, Republican Prime-

Minister deRouen decides to unleash the bio-weapon on the Alliance. The program should create a lethal disease among the preceptor leadership of the Alliance and subdue the league once and for all. Republican agents in the Humanist Department of Administration and the Department of Health and Morality ensure that locals cannot react in time. (see pp. 29 and 32)

37 Autumn 1935: The Humanist city-state of Thebes is quarantined after the first outbreak of "Theban Blight," the effect of the Twin Falcon bio-weapon. (see p. 31)

03 Winter 1936: The "Mothers' Massacre" started by ESE Patriarch Oliver Masao among his family over his succession continues to spread, as several of his cousins shoot it out in Yung An. (see p. 30)

05 Winter 1936: The Humanist capital of Perth joins Thebes under quarantine, and fears of a plague that can't be contained begin to spread among the Terranovan medical community. (see p. 31)

06 Winter 1936: The Republican Bio-Warfare Corps gathers intelligence that Theban Blight might be spreading beyond the preceptor caste. (see p. 32)

12 Winter 1936: SRID engineers the assassination of Farzahd Hemami, using a MILICIA dupe who masquerades as an ESE terrorist. Hemami is killed, although his wife Lysia Masao escapes with the help of Humanist patriots. (see p. 33)

35 Winter 1936: The Arthurian Korps completes Firebase Karat, a base in NuCoal territory designed to support locals against the incursions of the New Human Republic and others. The "White War" begins in earnest. (see pp. 51 and 60-61)

41 Winter 1936: WFP Colonel Gervase Aschenbach agrees to join Proconsul Lang Regina's secret efforts to prepare for the postwar period. (see p. 12)

02 Spring 1936: Katryne Sanz organizes the Khayr ad-Din Army among disenfranchised Duelists and mercenaries. The Army dedicates itself to keeping the gamma maglev open between Khayr ad-Din and the New Coalition. Her army includes,

Timeline of Events

14•SP•36 to 18•SU•36

among others, Miranda Petite, Yang Jownz, and Danghen and Maena Jarak. (see pp. 52 and 60-61)

14 Spring 1936: Lang Regina and Kenichi Tanaka cease all direct correspondence as prewar tensions move toward the boiling point. (see p. 13)

17 Spring 1936: Theban Blight reaches its peak with a devastating outbreak in the enclosed Humanist city-state of Gardena. The dead number 250,000 after the deep Bluewater District is flooded. (see p. 34)

19 Spring 1936: The Southern Republic officially annexes the Humanist Alliance under the pretense of restoring order and dealing with the Theban Blight. Meredyth DeMer, former SRID chief in the Alliance, is named Lord Chancellor and oversees the annexation. (see p. 34)

27 Spring 1936: Kitani Yang, a personal spy of Mekong Speaker Miyako Sogabe, uncovers evidence that Arron Logan has established ties with the Badlands Revolutionary Front (see p. 54)

30 Spring 1936: Northern epidemiology experts from the Yele Medical Center attempt to assist in the Theban Blight crisis in the Humanist Alliance. Their efforts are blocked by red tape and mistrust from the South. (see p. 14)

33 Spring 1936: The Republican Army captures White Rock, the last bastion of the Humanist Alliance Protection Force, although HAPF Archon Navar and many protectors escape. (see p. 35)

Late Spring 1936: The Northern Guard landship *Vigilance* becomes involved in combat against New Human Republic. The NHR benefits from covert intelligence and captures or kills several NorGuard pilots. (see p. 55)

Colonel Proust continues to convert increasing numbers of Arthurian GRELs over to his New Human Republic. (see p. 56)

GREL pacifist Soldier Sebastopol visits Jan Mayen and marvels at the ability of GRELs and humans to live in harmony. He meets Tara and Derek, the twin GREL-human hybrid babies. (see p. 57)

Early Summer 1936: In the wake of the Theban Blight and the Republican annexation of the Humanist Alliance, protectors led by HAPF Archon Mykael Navar flee to the Free Emirates and ally themselves with the rebel Emirs. (see p. 15)

Rafael Bhravo, the child Emir of Okavango, begins to usurp Nigel Shirow's position as leader of the Free Emirates. (see p. 15)

05 Summer 1936: The Perth quarantine is lifted by Republican authorities and maglev service is reestablished. (see p. 36)

07 Summer 1936: A small outbreak of Theban Blight causes mild panic in Rapid City in the NLC, although it is rapidly contained. The Republican Bio-Warfare Corps becomes concerned about the number of mutant strains of the Blight. (see p. 36)

11 Summer 1936: Operation: Galley, a CNCS surveillance program, uncovers proof that the Mekong Dominion is preparing to break with the Republic. (see p. 16)

15 Summer 1936: NorGuard and MILICIA forces fight a battle around the Eastern Desert oasis tower of Rahnguard. A Southern attack during the Northern holy day of the Miracle of the Waters becomes a *casus belli* in Valeria. (see p. 58)

16 Summer 1936: Taipan Arron Logan provides the Mekong Peacekeepers with intelligence about Northern spies in the Dominion. Among others, he fingers Judyth Ramona, the executive who helped him meet with UMF Treasurer Banderas. This helps deflect Southern suspicion away from him. (see p. 37)

18 Summer 1936: The CNCS declares war against the Southern Republic. Grand-Marshal Edden-Smythe assumes her wartime powers of direct government and confirms all current civilian authorities in their post for the duration. Troops begin moving South almost immediately. (see p. 17)

Timeline of Events

19•SU•36 to 17•WI•37

19 Summer 1936: All three maglev lines are cut by the Northern and Southern powers alike. The “White War” along the western fringe of the Great White Desert hits full force as the Desert Wolves, New Human Republic, Arthurian Korps and Khayr ad-Din Army all become involved in the region. (see pp. 60-61)

20 Summer 1936: In the wake of the declaration of war, ESE Patriarch Masao addresses his population and speaks of the glorious conflict to come. (see p. 38)

22 Summer 1936: During the NorGuard drive South, the 77th Regiment (Screaming Banshees) engages in the Battle of Two Towers with the MILICIA's 121st Regiment (Fortunate Ones). During the day-long conflict in the Barrington Basin, the oasis tower of Bianca is destroyed and many locals killed. (see p. 18)

Late Summer 1936: The NorGuard drive South is a two-pronged affair involving an Eastern and a Mekong Task Force. The Eastern Task Force enters and establishes supply lines in the Free Emirates. Supported by the local rebel Emirs, they prepare to move west toward the Southern Republic. (see p. 20)

At the same time, the Mekong Task Force faces heavy opposition in the Dominion. Peacekeeper units whom the Northerners expected to be allies are revealed as dogged enemies. After several days of heavy fighting and serious losses, the Task Force must withdraw to the desert fringe. The promises made by Arron Logan that the Dominion would welcome the North prove to be completely false. (see pp. 20-21, 39).

30 Summer 1936: Nigel Shirow officially welcomes the Northern troops to the Free Emirates and regains the initiative as leader among the rebels. (see p. 20)

12 Autumn 1936: The Republican Gateship *Illustrious*, after the death of its political officer, receives orders to shadow the UMF Gateship *Lhaban Emuros*, heading into orbit around Ares. (see p. 40)

22 Autumn 1936: UMF Treasurer Yves Banderas' personal jet drops off radar during a good-will tour of the league. (see p. 22)

27 Autumn 1936: After a full season of slow advances, the Northern Guard's Eastern Task Force captures the Humanist city-state of Raleigh and the surrounding territory. The city-state welcomes the Northerners and negotiates an alliance with the Free Emirates. (see p. 22)

28 Autumn 1936: UMF officials recover the body of Yves Banderas and uncover evidence that his jet was shot down by Southern stealth fighters. UMF Army chief Solomon Davi becomes interim Treasurer. (see p. 22)

37 Autumn 1936: ESE Patriarch Oliver Masao orders his forces into an assault on Okavango and calls for the death of Emir Rafael Bhavro. (see p. 43)

40 Autumn 1936: The Northern landship *Vigilance* leads a devastating attack against Aquitaine in the Southern Republic, which strikes an important blow against Republican morale. (see p. 41)

Autumn 1936: The members of the Grand Commune of the Blue Crescent in Marigold commit mass suicide during the time that Theban Blight causes a quarantine of the city. (see p. 62)

10 Winter 1937: Consul Victor deBourgogne, commander-in-chief of the Republican Army and a long-time ally of Prime-Minister deRouen, agrees to join Louise deRouen's Order of the Falcon and work against the Prime-Minister. (see p. 42)

16 Winter 1937: Emir Rafael Bhavro and his followers repel the combined Patriarchal/MILICIA assault on Okavango after three weeks of heavy battle. They are aided by Northern forces and Humanist expatriates. Bhavro regains the leadership initiative among the Free Emirates. (see p. 43)

17 Winter 1937: Fort Henry and the local weapon testing range suffer under heavy cruise missile attack. Casualties are numerous, and raids by opportunistic rovers quickly become a problem in the city and along the frontier. (see p. 23)

Timeline of Events

01•SP•37 to 02•SU•39

Winter to Early Spring 1937: In the wake of its attack on Aquitaine, the NorGuard landship *Vigilance* wages a long and bloody battle with the Republican landship *Draco*. The *Vigilance* is victorious, but loses her Colonel and many of her crew. (see p. 25)

02 Spring 1937: General Cristobal Santiago accepts a promotion to the head of the Northern Guard Space Service. An ally of Lang Regina, Cristobal goes on to make sure the Space Service includes many officers sympathetic to Lang's cause of a postwar alliance. (see p. 24)

05 Spring 1937: Astrophysicist Gawaïne Di Smit joins Lang Regina's circle of allies after an introduction by the Northern Guard Space Service chief, General Cristobal Santiago. Lang and Cristobal become committed to Di Smit's search for undiscovered Tannhauser micro-gates. (see p. 24)

11 Spring 1937: Naed Stamens, a Northern Guard Duelist and Blue Crescent member, uncovers the suicide in Marigold. He promptly goes AWOL and joins the Khayr ad-Din Army. (see p. 62)

33 Spring 1937: North and South fight a battle around and in Jan Mayen, destroying the community. Col. Proust and Sebastopol arrive to rescue Derek and Tara, the hybrid children. After a battle, each leaves with one twin. (see p. 63)

20 Summer 1937: Louise deRouen meets with Jacques Molay and tries to convince him to assist her in eliminating her father. (see p. 44)

37 Summer 1937: Agent Delphi, a covert agent within the Free Emirates, reports to Special Intervention Unit commander Aristide Lazarus about the situation in Bangweuleu and the rising power of Rafael Bhervo. Lazarus reports to his ally Kenichi Tanaka, suggesting that Emir Shirow be supported somehow. (see p. 45)

12 Autumn 1937: Nigel Shirow offers Lysia Masao protection in exchange for her hand in marriage and the production of an heir. (see pp. 46-47)

10 Autumn 1937: Kenichi Tanaka escapes an assassination attempt organized by the Légion Noire. (see p. 64)

21 Autumn 1937: Norlight Intelligence and Security Agency commandos attempt to assassinate Arron Logan (see p. 64)

22 Autumn 1937: UMF Gateship *Lhaban Emuros* leaves Ares orbit to begin tests of the micro-gate detection system designed by Gawaïne Di Smit. (see p. 66)

Late Autumn 1937: Paxton Arms CEO Gerald Simosa proposes sponsoring peace talks. Other Paxton executives slowly begin to back the idea. (see p. 64)

The forces of the New Human Republic finally withdraw from the western edge of the Great White Desert. (see p. 65)

05 Winter 1938: Antoni Mor travels into the Great White Desert to tell Roskiman and Zaya that they are safe at last. (see p. 65)

12 Winter 1938: During tests of the micro-gate detection system, the crew of UMF Gateship *Lhaban Emuros* witnesses the opening of one such gate and the arrival of a "Gate-coffin" ship carrying Helene Del Pulciano, a member of the Liberati resistance on Caprice. (see pp. 67-68)

20 Winter 1938: Lang Regina and Kenichi Tanaka hold a trideo conference with Helene Del Pulciano, still aboard the *Lhaban Emuros*. Del Pulciano warns them that Earth is smuggling spies onto Terra Nova through "Gate-coffins" and she requests help in freeing Caprice. *Lhaban Emuros* makes for Terra Nova. (see p. 69)

02 Summer 1939: Peace River is destroyed by an anti-matter weapon planted by an unknown party. Nicos Renault begins an investigation into the past few cycles to uncover the culprit. (see pp. 2-5)



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Dedication

To the Heavy Gear II team and Activision.

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