

Sub Space Static – Year 212.



Sub Space Static - Delayed Electricity-Challenged New Year Edition

Pirates Strike

Hopes that the pirates might have taken time off for the new year have proved unfounded this week as a series of pirate boarding attempts have been made against a small Brotherhood battlegroup in the London system.

It is understood 3 100HH vessels and 2 75HH BHD ships were targeted by the pirates, who were luckily only successful in capturing the one battleship, and not the entire squadron.

The following day a major Confederate-Bloc intervention was made, to try and intercept the pirates and their stolen battleship, though at time of press it seems as if this scrambling of all available warships might not have been sufficient to stop the pirates from sneaking away.

And indeed the pirate known as Morgan appears to have boasted of his successful escape on periphery wide broadcast channels, taunting the 17,000 hulls worth of CNF-Bloc ships that failed to catch him.

Pirates Busy New Year

The attack against a Brotherhood squadron is only the tip of the iceberg with regards pirate attacks this year, with the following list all being reported stolen by the one pirate in the space of one week:

DOG SHIP THE RELUCTANT DRAGON (2357) - {50 XLight Hulls}

Hlq X-Light Trader Class Freighter {No Armour}

IMP SHIP ROCK WOLFER II (24855) - {75 Light Hulls}

Caravel Class Ore Freighter {No Armour}

IDC SHIP TF-06-50 BONUS FEATURES L (21080) - {50 XLight Hulls}

Hlq X-Light Trader Class Passenger Liner {No Armour}

IDC SHIP CDG OUTWARD BOUND 2260L (12552) - {50 Light Hulls}

Hql Light Trader Class Passenger Liner {No Armour}

DOG SHIP JOHNNY B GOODE (71331) - {50 Normal Hulls}

Survey Cruiser Class Explorer {Light Armour}

CIA SHIP SCUGDALE (74702) - {25 Heavy Hulls}

Patrol Ii Class Explorer {Heavy Ablative Armour}

We have also received reports that a moderately sized mining installation has been captured by pirates, and that it was mining a rare ore.

Busy Brotherhood

Our reporters understand that the BHD have put in a claim on behalf of the CNF for the previously unclaimed Victory system. Wherever that is. We're not too sure here at IGN headquarters.

Flagritz Raid

A squadron of FLZ raiders has been intercepted in the outer reaches of the Onwards system by Felini patrol forces.

Two FLZ gunboats were destroyed in the initial combat, with damage inflicted to three others:

FLZ GS Knights Way (41105) - Ship

FLZ GS Knights Right (78786) - Ship

FLZ GS Knights Pardon (52200) - Ship INTEGRITY BREAKDOWN - Ship reduced to debris

FLZ GS Knights table (64317) - Ship INTEGRITY BREAKDOWN - Ship reduced to debris

FLZ GS Knights Spur (45497) - Ship Retreated from battle

Reports indicate the Knights Way was destroyed when attempting to flee the battle location, making a total loss of 3 warships for the Flagritz.

From what we understand from our reporter stationed with the Felini, there was only light damage inflicted in return, although there were reports that a normal hulled Felini carrier equipped with Mk1 Fighters suffered an integrity breakdown during the battle, thus evening out the battle honours somewhat.

Brain Parasites

The Mohache computer network services appear to have been suffering from various failures this week. Rumours are persisting that the cause might be something to do with an unconfirmed Alien Brain Parasite infection breaking out at a number of MOH IT centres.

FET Press Release

Greetings all.

A fair number of years ago FET expended a vast amount of time, effort and resources to open up the stargate in the Tycoon system to allow ships to transit without the need of a key.

A large number of ships from several affs have enjoyed the fruits of FET labour since the gate was opened.

I now announce that from week 10 this year FET will be charging a toll to all affs using the gate.

It will be an annual fee payable in week 10 of every year.

The FET platforms in orbit of the gate will place all affs on their enemy lists so that non payers attempting to use the gate will be fired upon.

Those affs willing to pay the annual toll will be added to the platforms DNT and defend lists. A squadron of FET warships will also constantly patrol the orbit of the gate with subscribing affs on their defend and DNT lists to back up the platforms.

Would a representative from each aff contact me privately to discuss the toll. The amount payable will vary from aff to aff depending on their size and wealth so smaller affs will be able to afford the toll.

I know that there will be some objections to this toll, but all I can say to those objecting, if you don't want to pay find an alternative route.

I have given every aff plenty of warning by setting the deadline at week 10. The platform enemy lists will add all affs on day 1 of that week. If an aff not paying the toll attempts to transit the gate after this date will be fired upon.

Capitalist Pirates

The dread pirate Morgan has shocked the peripheries this week when he posted notice of his intent to sell off captured ship captains to the highest bidder. It remains to be seen if anybody bid on the lots, but our reporters understand that at least several lots attracted multiple bids.

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.3.5

It's War!

In a shock development this week the Dewiek have announced their declaration of war against the Felini Tyranny for their failure to control piracy in the Twinkle system.

The DEN Wolf Mother made this announcement, in which the conflict appears to have begun when the FEL refused a DEN demand to hand over control of the Twinkle system along with all of the substantial Twinkle Defence Platforms.

“Sentients,

The Twinkle system is the vital connection between the Dewiek Pocket and Dewiek Home Peripheries and now the Nation's territories in the Outer Capellan. It was a source of conflict between Felini Clans, the Dewiek Nation and Dominion before the might of the 3D Alliance imposed Neutrality for the system on the Clans. When the hated Clans were destroyed, the system fell into different hands until finally the Felini Tyranny held its claim by paying rents to the local Sapphire government.

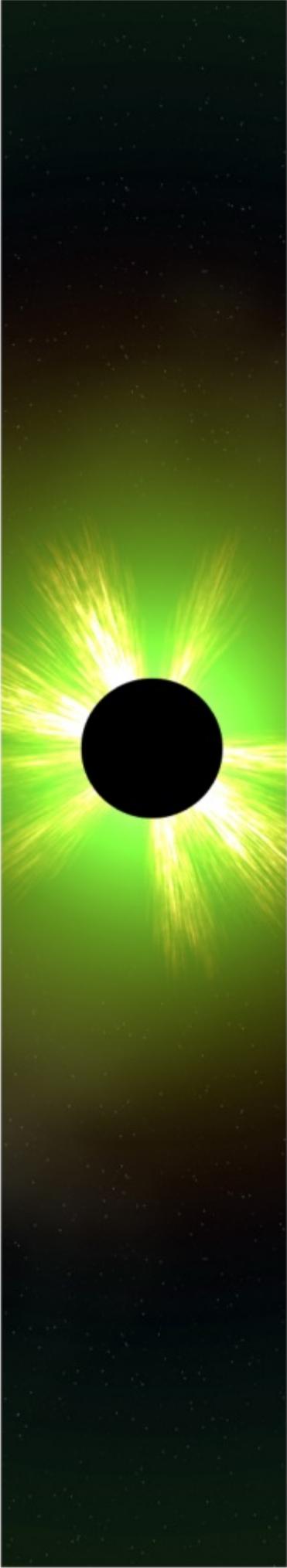
For many years the DEN have been content to allow the FEL to claim the system and work with the Sapphire government. However, for the past year we have witnessed increased piracy in the Cluster and the threat to DEN shipping passing through the stargate has increased. Additionally, relations with the FEL have soured over matters including a border dispute between DEN and FEL space and the destruction of two DEN diplomatic vessels that had been cleared by FEL authorities to enter FEL space beforehand. The final straw came when the FEL decided they could ban the FLZ from transit in the system and actively target them in response to FLZ attacks. Whilst the FLZ were in the wrong, this changes nothing when the FEL control the only route of access to the Home Periphery.

In an effort to bring a peaceful resolution, we made the offer for the FEL to change the claim for Twinkle to the DEN and we would ensure it would remain out of the hands of competing human powers and free passage would be assured to all, including Flagritz. We further do not have any qualms about the relationship between the Felini and the Sapphire government or their fortified position upon that world. All Felini rights would have been maintained.

However, this offer was rejected and there is no further dialogue to be had to resolve matters in peace. We do not contest the right of the Felini to continue to be guests of the Sapphire government nor the neutrality of the Twinkle system. But we no longer recognise their right to claim the whole system or control access to the stargate.

The Elder Nation formally declares war on the Felini Tyranny until such time as the claim for Twinkle is changed to the DEN and all FEL platforms in orbit of the stargate are handed over to us.

We will respect the neutrality of this system but FEL shipping and assets elsewhere will be hunted and destroyed in a time and manner of our choosing.”



Felini authorities labelled this a 'flimsy excuse to declare war', stating that they believed the DEN had been trying to pick a fight with them for some time now. While most other neutral parties don't really seem to care who claims Twinkle, so long as the system is kept open for passage.

Although this said, the Imperial Viceroy has stated he may take steps to ensure the conflict is resolved as quickly as possible, whilst underlining his friendship with the Dewiek, which some have read as an indication that the IMP may soon follow the DEN in declaring war against the soon to be very hard-pressed Felini.

Falconians Turn On Allies?

With the Falconian Republic having recently folded into the Dewiek Nation, the recent DEN declaration of war sees the FCN suddenly involved in a war against their long-time closest allies, the Felini.

How this will be resolved is unclear, though turning on close allies in such a way is hardly likely to win the Falconians any friends amongst their Felini counterparts given the many long years of partnership the two alien races have enjoyed.

This event has provoked much commentary amongst human xeno-relations experts, many of whom have taken the opportunity to point out that this clearly proves the word of an alien simply cannot be trusted, with some even going to far as to state on some Empire wide discussion broadcasts that the only good alien is a dead alien.

DTR Suffer Massive Loss

A 400 heavy hulled DTR/QNG warship, the Mother Queen, has been destroyed at the Solo Stargate this week following a successful boarding attack by pirates under the command of the dread pirate Morgan.

It is understood the pirates, having taken control of the 400 hulled vessel, were attempting to manoeuvre it away when anti-piracy patrol forces from multiple affiliations opened fire and destroyed the leviathan Mother Queen.

We have little data regarding the ship, but it is understood to have been extremely valuable, and its loss is a significant blow for the Detinus Republic.

The fate of the pirate boarder that carried out the successful attack is currently unknown, though it is believed to have taken damage during the operation. 'Not nearly enough damage', according to one Detinus Senator.

Freighter Destroyed

There are unconfirmed reports that a lone FLZ freighter was destroyed by Felini warships whilst attempting to trade at a public DEN market somewhere within Confederate space.

The freighter is understood to have been destroyed by Felini warships and platforms.

Black Wolf

It seems the pirate Morgan may be making good on his demand for protection money from the FET, as a number of Black Wolf vessels have begun attacking FET positions. (Which also suggests that the bounty being paid on DTR shipping may have expired, and the Black Wolf ships are now after somebody else.) We have yet to receive full details, but it seems that at least two FET freighters have been destroyed, and possibly more.

Pirate Spotted

The infamous pirate vessel Vasco De Gama has been spotted prowling the spacelanes of the Celt system. Travellers are warned to be on alert.

Pirate

A DTR vessel has been attacked by pirate boarders in the Venice system, as if the DTR weren't having a bad enough day.

Ships Repatriated

Consortium vessels long-stranded in the Twilight Periphery have finally been repatriated to the FCN, now DEN, following intervention by the DTR/QNG faction who brokered a deal to ensure the safe return of their crews.

It is understood the crews of these ships, stuck for so many years deep behind enemy lies, are more than a little happy to finally be home, and to pick up some of the hazard pay they're surely due.

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.4.5

War News

The conflict between the Dewiek and Felini appears to have hotted up this week, as a major DEN fleet is spotted entering the Twinkle system.

Around a hundred 150 heavy hulled DEN capital ships are understood to have stormed into the system, sweeping aside Felini defenders. Though our news-room has yet to receive any confirmed reports that a battle occurred.

The ultimate target of the DEN Fleet is unknown, and indeed their current location is unknown. Likewise the FEL response is unknown. However, we are pretty certain that something is happening somewhere.

War News

In a shock development this week, the Dewiek have announced a sudden and unforeseen alliance with the Flagritz Empire, as the two great alien powers unite to deal with the thunderstruck Felini.

There has been no comment from the Falconian representative regarding their sudden embrace of their long-time Flagritz foes, and likewise there has been no substantive comment from the Dewiek regarding their allying themselves with an alien empire long suspected of very large scale slavery – a move that appears to be in stark contrast with the previously loudly howled Dewiek assertion of a love of freedom for all sentients. (Something that many commentators have compared to the Dewiek volte-face with the House LiQuan, going from sworn enemies to close chums in a very short space of time.)

While this alliance is reportedly only for the purposes of dealing with the Felini, there is some suspicion that the grounds of the alliance go much deeper, and that this is the formation of a new alien power-bloc.

Tragedy Strikes Confederacy

+++ CNF Public Announcement +++

Star Date 212.4.3

Friends, it is my sad duty to report that Supreme Commander Thomas S Jackson of the Confederate Naval Forces collapsed late last night whilst attending a briefing by senior officials. Medics were rushed to the scene and were able to move the commander to a nearby medical bunker. Senior doctors were able to stabilise him but advised he has suffered a massive stroke and his condition remains critical. They have also warned that it is too early to determine the prognosis for the extent of any possible recovery. Emperor Lysander has been advised of the situation and remains in close contact with the command council for developments on any change.

The best wishes and prayers of all the Confederate Forces go to our commander for a speedy recovery at this difficult time. Supreme Commander Jackson would be the first to say that the business of government however goes on even in the face of casualties and as such Emperor Lysander has instructed that it falls to me to assume the role of Supreme Commander whilst Jackson is unable to resume his duties.

There are those who may know me already but for others I will offer a brief background. My father, the first duke, served under Admiral Secudus in 137 and was awarded his title for successfully leading Tatian royalists against the rebels in the war for Tate. Later I joined the fledgling Stellar Patrol before being promoted to lead the Imperial Terran Surveyors (ITS) by Emperor Paul. It was after the death of my father when I became Duke that the guidance of the Brotherhood helped me come to terms with the loss. I was therefore honoured to act as an advisor to the Emperor until his death in 153. Officially I retired soon after but was honoured with being instrumental in a plan to spirit the body of the late Emperor away to the peripheries such that the truth of the Imperial succession would one day be known. Years later when my secret installation on Carlton in Blowton was discovered I signalled the Confederacy to undertake an extraction and rescue of my ITS team as well as that of the body of the late Emperor Paul. The rest is fairly well known. I have served in the CNF ever since, first under Roswell and then under Jackson and always dedicated to the Empire and that of the line of the Emperor.

I trust you will join me in prayers to the True One for Jacksons recovery and in the meantime any official business may be directed towards my office.

Duke James West

Supreme Commander, Confederate Naval Forces

Duke (in Exile), House West

War News

The Twinkle Governors office has made the following statement to the press regarding the recent DEN invasion:

“Twinkle was a neutral system even during the DEN/ARC war, indeed the Aliens of Highstar even provided shelter for Dewiek attempting to avoid the plague. New populations settled the world, but even at the height of Clan expansionism it remained IND and neutral. Only the mental decline and failure of the Haynes family, appointed by the Natives as Governor of the star-base led to the flag changing from IND. The FEL took over from the GTT and there we have remained.

Under the Wolfmother the DEN have become a race of emotionally volatile bullies. They make peace with the HLQ who violated their space and blew up a planet, and have sought conflict with the FEL who worked mightily to help repair their homeworld. The DEN and FLZ both trying to mask territorial aggression under pointless verbiage and deceit, I had thought better of the DEN.

The Tyrants reply to the Wolfmothers insane demands were reasoned and civil, because politeness is a sign of honorable respect to a deserving rival or neutral. I would add to the Tyrants words, with my own personal message to the Wolf-mother "Go attempt procreation with a light photon gun you parasite ridden cyber husk, I shall kill your warriors and piss on their ashes'."

Piracy Report

Pirate forces have captured a FET mining outpost somewhere in Kastorian space. The outpost is understood to have been located on an asteroid, where it had been exploiting a Jacium deposit.

Pirate forces found absolutely no defences, and were able to abscond with over 17,000 mus of highly valuable Jacium, with an estimated street value of over \$500,000.

Despite a FET armed response, the pirate freighters escaped scot free.

Pirates Vs The FET

The FET freighter Legio Draconis V has been destroyed by pirates in the Monk system, along with the freighter Sea Slug in Ruin, as another week passes with the FET refusing to pay Pirate Morgan's protection payment demands.

Pirates Vs The BHD

Pirates have successfully captured another brotherhood 100 hulled battleship, the KV RETRIBUTION INTERCEPTOR, somewhere in the London system, despite heavy defensive fire from the Retributions escorts.

Pirates Vs The FET

The FET ship Grannys Grape Jelly has been destroyed by pirates, as yet more pressure builds on the FET. However the pirates did have a narrow escape this week as a FET patrol squadron narrowly missed out on destroying one of the pirate raiders in the Tycoon system.

Terrorist Attack

Detinus Republic news agencies are reporting two substantial terrorist attacks at DTR installations in the Straddle system. It is understood large civilian convoys attempted to enter DTR starbases, but were stopped by security forces who uncovered them to be suicide convoys, which then detonated, killing several security personnel.

There are understood to have been no survivors amongst the suicide bombers.

DTR Vs The Pirates

The pirate ship Bag of Gold 4 has been destroyed by DTR forces in the Straddle system. It is unknown, but suspected, that the Bag Of Gold may have had something to do with the terrorist attacks.

Pirates Vs The DTR

The pirate ship Royal Shield, part of the Pirate Morgan organisation, attacked a DTR freighter in the Hazzard system this week. The crew of the DTR Yubae Maru, which included a complement of veteran marines, were able to fight off the pirates and save their ship.

Mohache Overlords

Our news-room has received the following scan of a Mohache warship located... okay we have no idea where it was located. But yet more proof of the military might of the MOH overlords! We hysterically decry!

Scanned:

MOH SHIP FUDD LON CAARBOS (12415) - {130 Heavy Hulls}

Elm Class Interceptor {Light Ablative Armour}

Pirates

The IMP freighter KCF- Smooth Porcupine has been captured by pirates in the Wolf system.

War News

An unusually candid Flagritz press officer has met with one of our reporters this week to discuss the success of a FLZ offensive, which is now into its 3rd week.

The offensive is understood to be slowing down as it runs out of targets, though the FEL have reportedly taken losses over 4 systems, including ship to ship battles that have seen a number of FEL ships destroyed while FLZ losses stand at one ship.

The last count saw a high number of FEL outposts taken, destroyed or damaged.

Imperial forces have also taken on FEL platforms, once more only a single Imperial ship was destroyed in the fighting.

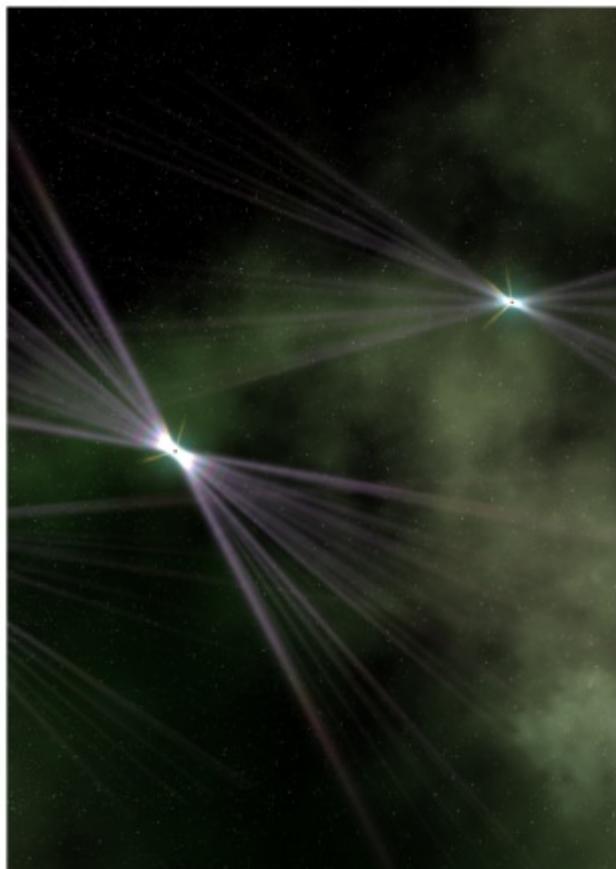
Subspace Static - Star Date 212.5.5

War News

The Falconian faction of the DEN has begun their fightback against the Felini forces at the battle for Magpie Nest, with the capture of two FEL outposts – the Amet facility and the Bounty Of Nature.

It is unknown what the battle for these outposts involved, or what losses might have been incurred on either side.

We do however have reports that the orbital bombardment of Magpie Nest continues.



War News

A Flagritz Imperial force this week used what they refer to as the 'pirate run' (Solo to Twinkle stargate link). The ships were set upon by FEL ships and platforms and after fighting a path out of the orbit then had to fight in every quad to the jump point to make their escape.

According to a FLZ news source: "The FEL were the paper bag but were backed up by Human ships of one sort or another. It has to be said they do all look the same to the Empire and we find it hard to tell them apart."

SSS reporters have learnt that the human ships involved in the action were SMS flagged, indicating that at least one of the Felini's old allies are sticking by them in this time of conflict.

We also understand this SMS support was involved in inflicting a heavy defeat on FLZ naval forces, as reportedly the SMS/FEL fleet destroyed a FLZ Baseship in Twinkle D8, and two more in D9, for an end result of the action of 6 FLZ Baseships destroyed for the loss of 10 FEL gunboats.

Promotions

GTT HQ has announced the following promotions this week:

The CEO of the GTT is pleased to announce the elevation of Koenig Kong and Antt Tilton to the Board of Directors.

Koenig Kong will be our new Security Director

Antt Tilton will be our New Trade Director and will assume the duties of our newly created position of Head Librarian.

New Technology For Sale

The following Mohache press release details the Anti-Matter Drive, a new piece of kit for sale at MOH bases:

Kourdda all!

This is a preliminary announcement that I am in negotiations with a supplier of antimatter fueled jump drives and all that is standing between that and the drives being offered at the Tentative Steps market is the price discussion. Hopefully we will come to an agreement sometime during week 6, at which point the engines will immediately be put on the market.

Initially I have a small number of AML jump drives: 200mu antimatter drives for light hulled ships, which will permit any sized LH ship to jump at 50tu at the cost of some AM fuel per jump.

My supplier is actively working on producing equivalent AMXL drives for extralight ships, and is still looking into the feasibility of AM drives for normal hulls. I will be offering such if and when the technological development completes.

I am working on securing a supply of AM fuel, this will be made available in the future. In the mean time, early adopters will be delighted to find that their AML drives will still jump without fuel but at 100tu!

Stay tuned.

Speaks in Tongues.

FET Embargo

The FET have posted that there are only 5 weeks to go until they activate enemy lists at the Tycoon Stargate to block access to all affiliations that have not agreed to pay their Transit Tax.

Several major shipping organisations have announced that they will simply cease to use the Tycoon Stargate, and seek out alternative routes instead, rather than pay the FET fee.

Celebrations

The DTR Starbase Python Base has been holding celebrations this week as they reached a developmental milestone. We're not sure where Python Base is, or what the milestone was, but we understand the party was quite something.

Pirate News

Five CIA gunships have engaged a Black Wolf class pirate vessel in the London system. The CIA vessels failed to finish the Black Wolf off, but reportedly succeeded at inflicting heavy damage.

Pirate News

The pirate ship Bag Of Gold 1 has been destroyed by DTR forces somewhere in the Venice system.

War News

Two DEN scouts have launched a suicide run into the orbit of the planet Fellowship, where FEL defence forces destroyed them in short order. Their debris is not expected to constitute a navigational hazard.

Pirate News

Strange rumours are circulating around the dodgier bars in Yank that a pirate has recently attempted to board another pirate, indicating that there is truly no honour amongst thieves.

We hope to have more details on this story soon.

Mohache Overlords

Our newsroom has received the following scans from somebody calling themselves 'Concerned Galactic Citizen':

MOH SHIP DON'T MAKE ME COME OVER THERE (44056) - {200 Heavy Hulls}

Sequoia Class Capital Ship {Light Ablative Armour}

MOH SHIP DANGER DAYS (64476) - {200 Heavy Hulls}

Sequoia Class Capital Ship {Light Ablative Armour}

Fear not Concerned Galactic Citizen, you are not alone!

Pirate News

Pirate raiders are understood to have escaped with over 13,000 mus of prime GTT Jacium, although we do understand that GTT security forces were successful at intercepting some of the pirates, where we believe they destroyed two PIR freighters. In related news, we also understand a second Pirate raid has captured 11,000 mus of Fibrillium, though another pirate ship was destroyed in that action as vengeful GTT security ships attempted to stop the robbers.

Pirate News

A pirate boarding attack has run into a significant defeat this week as it attempted to attack an IMP freighter that turned out to be carrying troops. We have not received precise details of the action, though we understand the IMP marines inflicted a significant defeat on the attacking pirates.

Wolf Mother

There are several stories circulating that the Dewiek Wolf Mother is dying, though the reasons why remain obscure. It may be something to do with her cybernetic implants, though truth be told we here at the SSS newsroom hadn't realised the Wolf Mother had cybernetic implants in the first place – we had been of the belief that cybernetic implants were seen as something of an abomination by the Dewiek packs.

Breaking News – Newsflash

We have just received a confused report that seems to indicate that at time of press the Imperial Forces may have launched an attack against DTR installations in the Straddle system. More news as we receive it.



Subspace Static - Star Date 212.6.5

War!

The fragile peace of humanity was shattered earlier this week when the Imperial-Bloc launched a massive series of military assaults against DTR positions in the Straddle and Adamski systems.

Achieving complete operational surprise, IMP forces attacked the space defence platforms in orbit of the planet Boomerang in Straddle, whilst simultaneously putting in a massive ground assault against the DTR Starbase of Hidden Abyss in Adamski.

The DTR have been quick to point out that all of the assets that are suddenly under attack were fully registered and compliant with IMP system laws, and that these attacks aren't even legal under IMP law, while the IMP, for their part, we should imagine don't give a damn.

The amount of information coming into the SSS/IGN newsroom at this time is quite extreme, so we shall do our best to summarise the three major engagements in the following news stories.

Adamski - Ground Offensive

A huge ground assault has been launched against the DTR Starbase Hidden Abyss by the Imperial battle group Jones Marauders.

While not quite the largest ground assault ever seen in the Peripheries, it's certainly well up there, constituting a quite significant investment in troops and stellars to carry off.

It seems as if the DTR defenders were taken completely by surprise, as despite heavy fighting and only having an 8% chance of losing the base, the IMP troopers succeeding in capturing the Starbase on day two of the battle, making for a really quite significant victory for the IMP.

Meanwhile in orbit the DTR defensive platform Himer Defence 1 initially scored some early success by bombarding an IMP base on the planet, but it fell quickly to a determined Imperial boarding party. A number of DTR freighters were also destroyed in orbit as the IMP secured the location.

Following the fall of Hidden Abyss, we have received a report that a DTR freighter captain, who had somehow not heard about the

attack, turned up at Hidden Abyss during a standard trade run, somehow ran the Imperial warship blockade, somehow didn't get destroyed by defensive platforms in orbit, then went on to survive an IMP boarding attempt.

It remains to be seen if the freighter will survive to escape, but so far it's about the luckiest ship we've ever heard of.

Meanwhile on the planet itself, the defeated DTR defence force was, we understand, in some significant disarray having unexpectedly been ejected from their fixed position. Some of the ground troops rallied around the Starbase governor and launched a brave if ultimately futile attempt to recapture the base, suffering what we understand to have been very heavy casualties in the process.

At time of press the battle continues.

Confederacy Swap Sides

Coming as a huge surprise to the Detinus Republic, it appears their long-time closest friends and allies the Confederate-Bloc have switched sides and joined in the general assault alongside Imperial forces.

With both CNF and CIA warships turning up to support and defend the IMP, this now means the DTR alone are facing the combined might of not just the IMP-Bloc, but the CNF and CIA as well, making for a total of 1 against (IMP, GTT, FET, HLQ, CIA, CNF) 6?

... is that right, or have we missed somebody out?

However, it should be noted that the BHD have remained neutral, and not cancelled their alliance with the DTR, a move that the DTR Foreign Minister has remarked upon as being 'Refreshingly honest and honourable', going on to praise the Brotherhood for their decency and humanity in the face of war.

The Foreign Minister went on to say that it didn't come as a huge surprise for the CIA to turn hostile, citing the recent suspected CIA activity in terrorist attacks on Straddle, but for the CNF battle fleet to turn out, came as a huge surprise, as detailed in this recently released dispatch from DTR Fleet Headquarters:

'Admiral, the Grand Fleet has made the transition to Straddle and we are fully engaged with the Imperial-Bloc aggressors.' The weapons specialist turned to make his report.

'Excellent. Contact the troopers on the ground for an update on what's happening in orbit.'

'Primus Inter Pares orbital defenses report they are still in the fight, and hitting those Imperial bombardment vessels hard.'

'Admiral!' The interruption broke across the bridge, 'Sensors report incoming battle fleet!'

'Who is it? More Imperials?' The Admiral turned and asked.

'No sir! It's our Confederate allies! They must have heard we were under attack and come to help us sooner than we expected!'

There was an outburst of cheering around the bridge, before normally steely DTR discipline kicked back in.

'Excellent.' The Admiral allowed himself a smile, 'Signal our Confederate brothers 'Welcome to the fight', and transmit targeting data on those big Imperial warships.'

'Yes sir!' The Comms specialist turned back to her console. 'Wait... Sir? Something is wrong, the Confed and CIA warships are turning into the Imperial battle line, sir! They're opening fire against us!'

'This must be some kind of mistake.' The Admiral turned to look at the display. Sure enough, the DTR allies were opening fire on confused DTR warships. The Admirals face turned cold, his lips compressed into a tight hard line. 'Signal fleet headquarters, the Confederacy has betrayed us. Issue orders not to return fire at this time though, in case this is all some sort of horrible mistake. I will not turn on our friends and allies on some whim. Detinus honour means something.'

'Aye aye sir.'

'And signal the reserve fleet. Tomorrow, we crush them all.'

Straddle – Deep Space Battle

The really big news this week regards the ongoing space battle in the Delta 7 Orbital Quadrant of the Straddle system, where the combined might of the IMP/GTT/FET/CNF/CIA/HLQ naval forces have clashed with the vengeful DTR Grand Fleet that was on its way to lift the blockade of Boomerang.

Initial reports on the size of the fleets put the combatants at around 1000 vessels on each side, making it by far and away the largest fleet engagement ever seen.

Despite being surprised by the appearance of around 400 CIA/CNF ships joining the battle alongside the IMP aggressors, the initial clash was characterised by a general DTR victory, with around 1.5 million damage being taken by DTR ships, for 2.5 million damage inflicted against Empire forces.

The first day of the space battle went to the DTR. The initial analyses being:

DTR: 32 destroyed.

CNF: 0 losses.

GTT: 49 losses.

HLQ: 3 losses.

IMP: 32 losses.

Total: DTR 32 ships destroyed, Empire 88.

The second day saw what appeared to be some elements of the Empire fleet withdrawing from battle, whilst other elements remained. This resulted in the FET and HLQ taking what one DTR source is describing as 'An absolute arse kicking'. Perhaps highlighting the tactical difficulties of maintaining cohesion amongst many affiliations, compared to the famed DTR efficiency.

Either way, casualties amongst the Empire forces were high on day two, with 46 ships reported destroyed:

CNF = 1

FET = 23

GTT = 5

HLQ = 11

IMP = 6

For the loss of 5 DTR warships, most of which were reported to be fragile normal hulled carriers.

Thus bringing the running total to:

DTR losses: 37.

Empire losses: 134.

Of course these numbers do not tell the whole story, with hundreds of warships on both sides now heavily damaged, and many totally gutted and on fire as damage control parties fight to save them. We don't have full numbers, but there are believed to be around at least 118 Empire warships that fall into this category. There is no word on DTR ships, though they are understood to be in a much better condition having taken less damage overall.

And at time of press the battle is entering the third day of battle. Initial reports are that the Empire forces may have repaired, re-armed, and thrown in some reserves, and that instead of dying down, the space battle might just be hotting up and turning into an even nastier slugfest.

Straddle – Orbital Battle

Co-inciding with the ground assault on Hidden Abyss, the IMP aggressors threw a large fleet into orbit of Boomerang to engage the Primus Inter Pares Starbase, along with a number of other starbases, outposts and defensive platforms with the intention of neutralising the platform and laying waste ground-based installations.

The IMP bombardment fleet faced stiffer than expected resistance from two very large and well equipped DTR platforms, which took out 4 IMP and 2 GTT warships on the first day of battle, and suffered only minor damage in return. This seems to have resulted in the FET and GTT disengaging from the orbital battle, leaving only the IMP to continue the bombardment, leading to a second day of battle that saw 24 IMP ships destroyed for no DTR losses.

The third day saw a further 17 IMP ships destroyed as the DTR cleared the orbit of all Empire assets. It is understood a small IMP firebase equipped with artillery on the planet will now be neutralised.

For those keeping count this takes the ongoing warship casualty rate to:

DTR losses: 37.

Empire losses: 181.

The worst damage during this battle has reportedly been suffered by the DTR outpost Far Horizon, which did not have Starbase shields, as it was primarily a facility designed to help the native population seek new lives on distant worlds. It is understood civilian casualties may have been extreme, as the Imperial bombardment crashed down without warning upon thousands of defenceless innocents.

IMP authorities are describing this engagement as a borderline success/failure.

Although overall the picture of who has won this opening series of battles will not be known until the big orbital quadrant battle has died down.

Skirmishes

The Imperial forces appear to have also launched a skirmish offensive against DTR freighter shipping, with the IMP reporting a substantial kill of around a dozen large and defenceless DTR freighters.

Curious Coincidence

Just to show that it's a strange old Periphery, in the midst of all this combat the DTR and IMP combined to destroy a number of Pirate vessels in the Solo system. The pirates were in the process of attempting to destroy a number of DTR freighters, when a large IMP platform intervened and assisted the DTR platform in smashing the pirates to space dust.

Pirates

Dread pirates have captured a 100 hulled GTT freighter in the Blaggard system, this ship was reportedly equipped with an extremely valuable Hyper Jump Drive.



More War News

Of course the human war is not the only war happening at the moment, and we have big news from the DEN/FLZ vs FEL conflict:

**** NEWS FROM THE NATION ***

On 212.6.1 in response to the FEL blockade of allied shipping passing through the Twinkle stargate, some 120 DEN warships plus a squadron of FLZ warships, specifically targetted and destroyed FEL Twinkle Watchtower (49549), a 1000+ hull platform that had been terrorizing FLZ shipping for some weeks.

The platform was destroyed in less than 4 rounds. The DEN suffered no damage with the FLZ taking some damage.

The following day 212.6.2 the FEL attempted a boarding of the damaged FLZ SHIP P Dark Knight (8302) which merited a defensive response from the DEN warships assigned to defend FLZ vessels passing through the gate. The FEL MS Flaghunter (80240) was destroyed and the boarding attempt foiled.

The Nation has issued orders to shoot all FEL shipping at the Twinkle stargate until the Tyrant acknowledges the right of all flagged vessels to pass unmolested through the gate and cease the acts of piracy against the Nation's allies.
More news as we have it.

Major Fleet Engagement

It appears as if the Felini have offered a major fleet engagement against Dewiek and Flagritz forces in Twinkle, our newsroom has seen reports of a major battle taking place in which a strong FEL fleet bravely engaged massively superior DEN/FLZ forces. There have reportedly been 17 large FEL warships destroyed, for a loss of no DEN/FLZ vessels. Though as mentioned, the FEL were heavily outnumbered and outgunned.

It is unclear at this time if the remnants of the FEL fleet would be able to withdraw without taking even heavier losses.

This is however clearly a very bad week for the Felini.

We have received no indication of SMS forces assisting the FEL anywhere, though rumours persist that they may still be on-side, despite no doubt being under heavy pressure to join the IMP/GTT/FET/CNF/CIA/HLQ in battering the DTR.

Straddle

Three small DTR sensor platforms in and around the Straddle system have been boarded or destroyed by IMP forces. These were reportedly 10 hull sensor platforms, whose primary purpose was to watch out for pirates.

Correction

Last edition we ran a story regarding two DEN scouts that made a suicide run against FEL bases. We have received the following correction from the Dewiek:

Editor,
I shall instruct you on the true version of events.
DEN does not run suicide missions.
Yes 2 small DEN scouts were destroyed, however these scouts were part of a larger squadron that has been in and out of Fellowship orbit for the last 2 weeks. My pack mates have breached orbit over a dozen times since the FEL orbital bombardment of the planet began. Flying through the bombardment to carry out missions on the surface we have been engaged by FEL Denderah each time we have entered orbit from the quad or the planets surface. Over two dozen engagements.
Analysis of what battle data we received indicates the FEL were simply lucky, if you fire enough munitions even a felini will eventually hit something, such are the fickle fortunes of war. We shall drink in honour of our dead while operations continue.

Traders and travellers are advised to avoid the Onwards system.

In The Grim Future Of Humanity – There Is Only War

With the combined IMP and Confed forces having apparently failed to deliver a knock-out blow to the DTR, and having re-ignited a war that ran for many long years, it now seems as if the briefly united forces of humanity are now engaged in a war that will now burn for years to come.

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.7.5

War!

After the massed fleet engagements of last week, this week has seen a general lull in the action, as both sides are presumably repairing and re-arming their main battle fleets.

However, that said, there has been a lot of action on the surface of Boomerang, where DTR forces have sallied forth from the main Starbase Primus Inter Pares to tackle Empire fixed installations which were bombarding several DTR bases on the planet.

It is understood that a series of sharp and decisive actions rolled in against two CIA outposts, a FET outpost, and an IMP outpost that was firing massed artillery.

With heavy orbital bombardment support, several DTR ground parties captured and destroyed all 4 outposts, and inflicted heavy damage on two CIA ground parties that were attempting to make a fast escape from the battlefield.

Precise details are unknown, but it is suspected that a significant victory has been won by the DTR on the surface of Boomerang.

The FET did however register a public complaint that their outpost had been fired upon, earning a derisive response from the DTR about how somebody who has just launched a sneak attack doesn't really get to cry foul when they are shot back at.

Meanwhile the IMP have complained about there being heavy civilian casualties on the planet, although DTR authorities have said they did everything in their power to warn the civilians what was going to happen, and further that there would have been zero civilian casualties if the IMP hadn't started the shooting in the first place.

We have received no independently verified report on the extent, or not, of civilian casualties, and frankly we suspect we probably won't.

More War

The DEN/FLZ offensive against the FEL has continued apace this week, with a series of actions being fought. The common factor in all of these battles has been the defeat of Felini forces, who appear to have been caught completely off-guard by the heavy DEN intervention.

In one battle alone in twinkle, FEL forces lost 11 ships, to zero losses amongst the DEN/FLZ fleet.

Meanwhile in Beglian, a Felini home world system, a DEN scout in force destroyed 4 FEL ships, for little loss to their own, sparking rumours that the FEL home systems might be wide open for attack.

Skirmish

There was one short space battle fought in Straddle this week, when a lone DTR Liberator class capitol ship appeared to get separated from the main fleet, and ran into 11 GTT and HLQ capitol ships.

Following a fierce exchange of fire the DTR Liberator had destroyed a GTT heavy cruiser, and chased off the rest of the Empire squadron, before returning to the main fleet.

A DTR source in the defence ministry commented to one of our reporters that 'Apparently even when it is 11 to 1, the DTR is fully capable of kicking the (a)RSE's arses.'

Skirmish

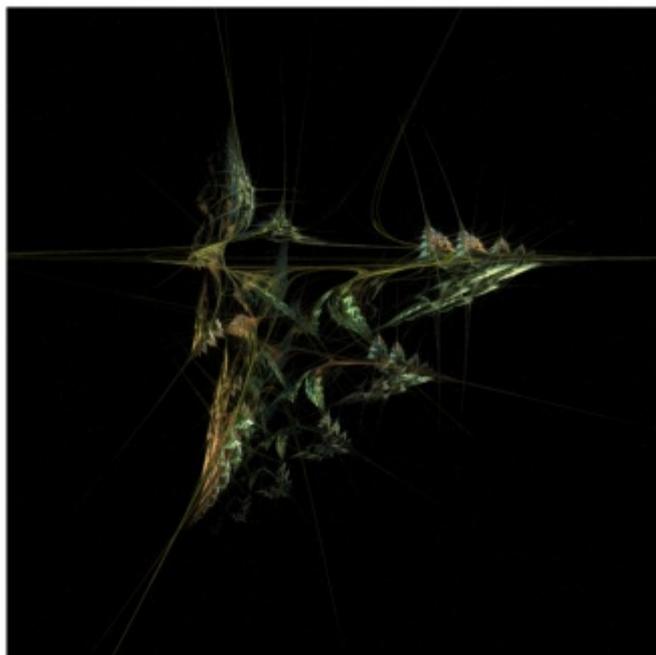
Elsewhere in Boomerang the IMP have captured another small 10 hulled DTR sensor platform in the outer reaches. And we understand several GTT scout ships have been destroyed on entering Boomerangs orbit.

Humanitarian Effort

DTR press sources have released details on their humanitarian mission in the Straddle system, where upwards of 6000 IMP-Bloc prisoners have been rescued from destroyed vessels in both the orbit and the orbital quadrant.

Sneaky Pirate Gits

Dastardly pirate scum have managed to sneak into orbit of GTT HQ and sell 7500 mus of stolen FET Jacium for something in the region of \$225,000, making for a rather expensive way of getting back stolen goods.



Seriously Changing Sides

The woes for the FEL continue this week as news has reached our newsroom that several significant portions of the Falconian navy have defected to join the Flagritz Empire:

The FLZ SHIP XO ACQUIESCE IN BLOOD (60639) - {200 Heavy Hulls}, was the FCN SHIP OSPREY OF RAGE (60639) - {200 Heavy Hulls}.

Quite how this came about, we do not know, nor do we know how many FCN/DEN warships might now be flying FLZ flags, but more news if we get it.

Pirate Ground Attacks

There has been a wave of pirate attacks against mining outposts this week, with multiple successful captures being reported to the IGN newsroom.

First up in, uhm, somewhere, the GTT outpost Teller Chi Mound was captured by pirates, where they are understood to have escaped with almost 10,000 mus of Collidium.

Meanwhile in Lucifer, IMP outpost Kreisworks was captured by pirates, who ran off with a substantial quantity of pulac.

In the Fortoon system, the GTT mine Fortoon Ast Pg1 was captured, and out of a stockpile of almost 50,000mu of precious gems, it is

understood over 25,000 have been ransacked by the pirates.

We have also received report that a DTR asteroid mining outpost has also been attacked and captured in the Yank system, though there was nothing there to be stolen.

Pirates!

Meanwhile in deep space, the IMP freighter Diamond Yank has been captured by pirates in the Straddle system, despite being defended by MkIV warbots and marines.

This marks an upsurge in pirate activity in the Straddle system, following the big fleet battle. Our reporters suspect the chaos and possibility of cheap booty, has drawn every pirate in jumping distance.

DTR sources have reported multiple pirate contacts, and one failed boarding attempt.

Also, a pirate Black Wolf destroyer has also reportedly destroyed a lone GTT Minute Man javelin class cruiser.

Pirates

It has not been all smooth sailing for pirates this week however, as the DEN have reported the interception of the elite pirate boarder The Eclectic Shark, in the Twinkle system.

The Eclectic Shark was apparently attempting to board a lone FLZ warship, the Jagged Claw, in the system, when the DEN patrol happened upon the scene and engaged the pirate vessel in a very one-sided battle.

It is understood, though not confirmed, that the pirate ship was destroyed.

And elsewhere GTT patrol forces have intercepted the pirate battleship Stand And Deliver, inflicting heavy damage before the pirate was able to flee.

We have also received a report from the GTT press office regarding another major GTT success against pirates:

At the first of this week, a GTT Task force of 3 Capital ships and several destroyers intercepted a PIR Squadron of 5 PIR capital ships and 1 PIR destroyer in the system of Teller. A furious firefight erupted. The 5 PIR capital ships fired their entire load of Torpedoes at the GTT squadron without a single torp hitting home.

In contrast, the GTT warships returned fire with deadly accuracy, damaging 5 of the 6 PIR vessels. The lone damaged GTT destroyer was struck by fire from the PIR destroyer.

The GTT TF Commander speculated after the battle that perhaps the PIR gunners had imbibed far too much grog prior to the engagement.

More Bad News For The FEL

DEN forces have reported the successful boarding and capture of a FEL sabretooth class capitol ship.

Even Worse News For The FEL

The Felini platform Sapphire Defence has been destroyed by FLZ/DEN forces in the Twinkle system, along with a single FEL destroyer.

Our newsroom understands this defensive platform was 310 hulls in size, and was part of the Highstar defence matrix.

We have had no word of what the DEN/FLZ might have lost in destroying it, but we understand they may not have lost anything, as the FEL platform was small and poorly equipped.

Its destruction does however suggest that the DEN/FLZ are knocking on the front door of Highstar.

Some Good News For The FEL

It's not quite all doom and gloom for the Felini, as they have commenced a bombardment of the DET Starbase Grendel on the planet Sapphire in Twinkle.

We have received a report from the ground that the FEL, working with the civilian authorities, gave orders for the urban sector around DEN Grendel to be evacuated before the orbital bombardment began, and that all due care was taken to avoid untoward casualties, despite the military risk taken by the FEL in holding off.

They also provided the following scan showing that Grendel was being used at a staging post for DEN ground forces that were mustering for an attack:

DEN Wolf-Force 5 (4684) - Ground party

Docked non-combatant

DEN Grendel Pack h (52626) - Ground party

Docked non-combatant

DEN Grendel Pack a (58166) - Ground party

Docked non-combatant

DEN Grendel Pack q (86035) - Ground party

Docked non-combatant and as such it is military target.

Light damage has been inflicted on the base, as one of our reporters stationed inside the Dewiek base working with the DEN authorities, was able to observe:

DEN Grendel (3994) - Starbase

Scints: 27.8 Shields: 173164(14.3)

Targeted by FEL Starcats Tears (16435) - 1390 [1900] Damage

Targeted by FEL Starcats Purr (32877) - 1225 [1900] Damage

Targeted by FEL Starcats Joy (85946) - 2164 [3800] Damage

Targeted by FEL Starcats Vengeance (51891) - 866 [1900] Damage

Targeted by FEL Starcats Folly (20943) - 2727 [3800] Damage
Targeted by FEL Limping Joe (1470) - 1283 [2740] Damage
Targeted by FEL Highstar (1971) - 41745 [55200] Damage
Targeted by FEL Starcats Strike (7000) - 3367 [4460] Damage
Targeted by FEL Starcats Claws (10993) - 2214 [3800] Damage
Targeted by FEL VNG Claws of the Starhunter (35161) - 991 [1280] Damage
Targeted by FEL VNG Claws of Leonis (35460) - 1240 [1600] Damage
Targeted by FEL Fort Sapphire (43652) - 0 [0] Damage
Targeted by FEL Starcats Growl (52592) - 2674 [3800] Damage
Targeted by FEL VNG Claws of Kyton (58200) - 1256 [1600] Damage
Destroyed FEL Starcats Revenge (58647) - 1669 [1900] Damage
Targeted by FEL Starcats Prowl (79067) - 1220 [1900] Damage

However, it did cost the FEL:

FEL Starcats Folly (20943) - Ship

Sabre Tooth Snarl Class Capital Ship {Heavy Armour}
Armour: 63.4 Scints: 9.2 Shields: 0(0.0)
Hull Damage: 83.4%
Attacking DEN Grendel (3994) - 1073 [1425] Damage
INTEGRITY BREAKDOWN - Ship reduced to debris
Retreated from battle

Although one Den ship has also been destroyed:

DEN Eye of the Wolf (10474) - Ship
Ranger N Class Explorer {No Armour}
Hull Damage: 100.0%
BLOWN UP!



Back To Bad News For The FEL

There has been another battle at the Twinkle Stargate, where the FEL base Waystation has been attacked by FLZ and DEN forces, the base took moderate damage, and a small squadron of FEL gunboats was destroyed.

Surprisingly non-War Related News

***** Garcia Enterprises Press Release *****
***** Star Date 212.6.3 *****

Garcia Enterprises is proud to announce the Merger of EEI Kimberly (39444) and associated shipping, into the family of Garcia Enterprises.

Over the last year Garcia Enterprises has had a starbase consultant working alongside the management team of Kimberly and in that time Kimberly has thrived and grown. At the end of the year a review was held and agreements were made to approach the Emperor and the representatives of the Imperials and Confederates with a view to merging EEI Kimberly into Garcia Enterprises. The Emperor has sanctioned the trading rights for a united Garcia Enterprises in the Inner Empire and the Imperial Viceroy and Supreme Commander have given their approval also.

The Governor of Kimberly is Mr Dominic Easterly. He says about the Merger "This is an incredible opportunity to expand our sphere of operations. To have the expertise, knowledge and care of Garcia Enterprises is a pleasure. We look forward to a profitable future." Fernando Garcia is the CEO of Garcia Enterprises. He is quoted as saying about the merger "This is a great opportunity to increase our markets and area of operations. The EEI holdings in the Inner Empire are substantial and the population of the Inner Empire means that our goods and services can be utilised to bring trade goods previously unavailable to a new market."

All relevant EEI bases and Ships will now be flying the GCE flag.

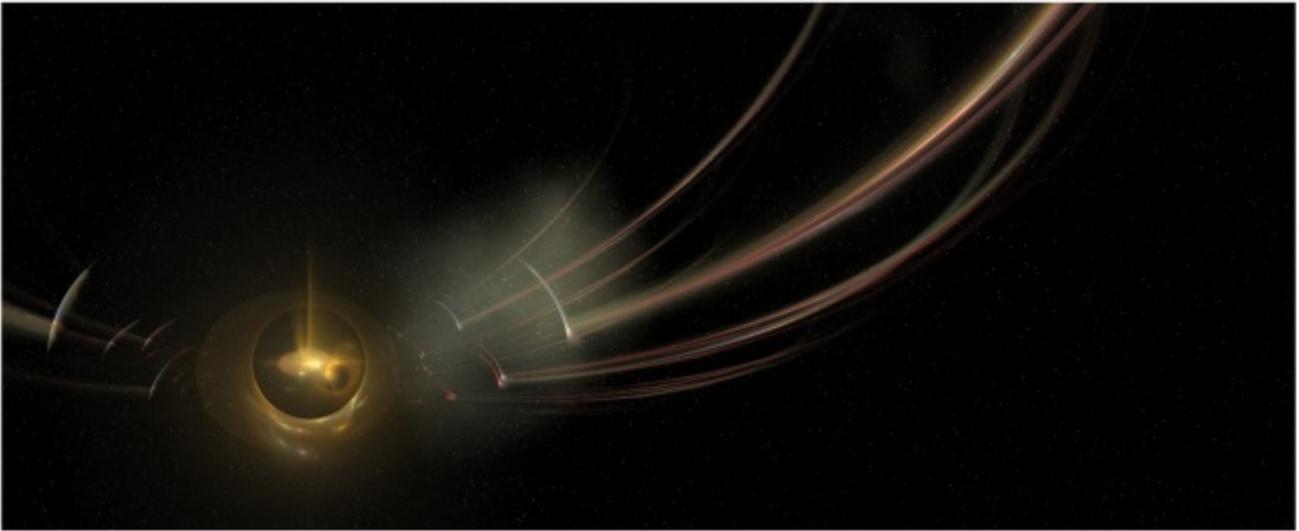
***** End Press Release *****

Bad News For The DTR

We have just received breaking news that the Brotherhood, the last of the Confed-bloc affiliations to have remained allied to the DTR, have apparently just broken their alliance. Presumably we will soon see BHD forces engaged in battle against the DTR too, despite DTR hopes that at least one of their erstwhile allies might not stab them in the back.

BROTHERHOOD THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Faith in the True One is its own reward.



Subspace Static - Star Date 212.8.5

Twinkle

A large fleet engagement has occurred in Gamma 3 of the Twinkle system today, our initial estimate is that around 100 DEN warships caught a much smaller fleet of FEL vessels, resulting in what appears to have been a very heavy defeat for the beleaguered FEL.

FEL Dead:

FEL Forever More (84127) - Ship
Generic Class Capital Ship {Medium Ablative Armour}
FEL Bravo Zulu (98913) - Ship
Sol Missile Ship Class Capital Ship {Heavy Armour}
FEL Bloodied Rage (97259) - Ship
Leopard Maul Class Capital Ship {Medium Ablative Armour}
FEL Priority One (29859) - Ship
Generic Class Capital Ship {Medium Ablative Armour}
FEL Tyranny Rising (31323) - Ship
Lion Pounce Class Capital Ship {Heavy Armour}
FEL Fallen Madonna (33226) - Ship
Generic Class Capital Ship {Medium Ablative Armour}
FEL Bearer of Fire and Fury (80096) - Ship
Tiger Strike Class Capital Ship {Medium Ablative Armour}

DEN Dead:

DEN WP1M Wildfang (47585) - Ship
Swiftclaw Class Carrier {Medium Ablative Armour}

Elsewhere in Twinkle, the bombardment of DEN Grendel is understood to be continuing.
And finally, popular new agencies confound alien expectations that their war never gets top billing.

Straddle

The DTR have completed cleaning up operations on the surface of Boomerang, and have announced the planet enemy-free, with the capture and dismantling of the last known a(RSE) facility on the planet.
Around 400kmus worth of Empire outposts have been dismantled during this operation, though the Imperial Viceroy Darth Githyanki has stated the loss was insignificant.

DTR Press Release

The Imperial Viceroy has drawn attention to his hollow victory in Adamski where he captured the DTR starbase of Hidden Abyss. The people and Senate of the Detinus Republic wish to address him directly.

'We were quite surprised that you weren't being more vocal about the glorious achievement you have made here. You have goaded us in to responding to your taunt, and so I ask you these questions;

- Did you not find it strange that Hidden Abyss had no factories and has not had factories for a long period of time now?
- Did you not find it strange that the 2 platforms over Hidden Abyss were reduced to one, and not to increase the size of the other platform?
- Did you not find it strange the there was nothing of major strategic value for you to plunder at Hidden Abyss? There were no major offensive weaponry caches there, no massive stash of valuable ores, no huge quantities of trade goods save from weekly demands and terraforming equipment.

Is this the same base that you believe is of strategic importance to the DTR that you have now reduced to rubble? We mourn the loss of all those innocents that died at Hidden Abyss, however don't mistake that for annoyance that you have taken something that we

wished to keep.

You clearly mistook the massive amount of recent freight activity to be a build up when in fact it was a reduction. We were getting Hidden Abyss in a position to be peacefully handed over to the indigenous population of the planet, in much the same way as the Aquaphids are running the IND Aqua Central base today.

I'm sure you yourself can provide proof from your generals on the ground that the majority of the employees of the base were in fact Aquaphid and Naplian members of the planet.

Did you ask us what our plans were for Hidden Abyss?

Did you try to diplomatically discuss anything about Adamski?

No and no, you did only what you are capable of, attack, attack, attack.

I'm sure you and your allies are most pleased at the innocent lives that you slaughtered to achieve something that was already in the pipeline and would have been achieved with no loss of life, the sad fact that you can carry to your Emperor is that the Detinus Republic was in the process of pulling out of the Adamski system anyway.

You ask about stellar value, Hidden Abyss was significantly lower in stellar value than it was at its heyday. But we don't count the cost of innocent lives in stellars, we have a higher price tag on life than you Viceroy.

You've pulled the trigger Viceroy, you started a war, now you can pay the consequences of that action.'

FET News

Rumours are circulating around the offices of the FET this week as the organisation appears to have outed itself as an organised crime syndicate.

The FET leader Norozov appears to have abandoned his title of CEO, and instead is now known as the Oyabun of Norozov holdings. Oyabun being the title of the head of a Triad gang family. Likewise the FET are no longer identifying as a corporation, and are now describing themselves as a 'syndicate'.

All of which appears to indicate that the FET are truly embracing their long-held somewhat-dodgy reputation.

One of our reporters went to the local FET office to ask for a comment, but has since mysteriously disappeared.

Straddle

DTR news sources are reporting a regular stream of GTT scout ships launching themselves into orbit of the planet Boomerang and being destroyed in short order.

Quite what the purpose of these suicide scouts is remains unclear, though they are suspected to be keeping tabs on DTR military installations on the planet, but with around one a day being destroyed the crews of small GTT scout ships must be getting slightly worried about their future employment prospects.

Straddle

Another small 10 hulled DTR spotter platform in the outer reaches of the Straddle system has been boarded and captured by IMP forces.

Arachnid

An unfortunate accident has occurred in the Arachnid system this week when an over-zealous DTR warship escort captain entered orbit and was spooked by the presence of a CIA outpost on the planet. A general firestorm then erupted, which took some time for calmer heads to bring an end to.

The DTR Foreign Minister has described the incident as a total FUBAR on his part, having issued incorrect orders to his patrol forces, and offered compensation and a full apology.

More War

Flagritz forces have begun a significant series of actions against the Obsidian Predator Swarm holdings in the Twilight Periphery. We understand a very large OPS base is currently under siege by ground forces, and that the OPS affiliation as a whole is threatened with imminent destruction as the FLZ continue with a large-scale smash and grab campaign against them.

The battle for the base continues at time of press, though we understand the OPS as an organisation stands on the verge of extinction, as they remain leaderless at this time of crisis.

Straddle

GTT commerce raiders have been busy in the Straddle system this week, attempting to intercept DTR freighter traffic.

We understand a very large fleet of DTR Butterfly class freighters was stopped for battle, and one vessel was destroyed, before the rest were able to flee for safety.

Faery

A small GTT scout ship has been destroyed by a DTR defensive platform in the Faery system.

War

We have heard a report that two Felini vessels, the Broadsword and the Crusader of Truth, have been captured by Dewiek boarding parties in the Avalon system.

Rotten Pirates

Vile pirates have this week captured a large Dewiek outpost somewhere in the Aranosis system, and we have received reports that the pirates made away with almost 30kmu of high value booty, including weapons, MKIV equipment, rare trade goods, and platform hulls.



We also understand that as DEN forces arrives to attempt to recapture the base, the pirates had established an ambush for them, that inflicted moderate to severe damage against a DEN warship.

DEN Bounties

The Dewiek nation has offered sizeable bounties for every FEL vessel destroyed, creating an open season on the Felini. It remains to be seen if anybody will be encouraged to go hunting kitties, but it indicates the DEN are clearly out to cause as much grief to the FEL as possible. A FEL spokes-cat did however speak to our reporters about this incident, and his anger was clear, "Further proof they are basically bullies and degenerates, when the FEL refused to back down, even when things look bleak, the DEN lash out like petulant children!"

Pirates

The pirate ground party 'Rogue' has attempted to capture a DTR mining outpost, but been beaten off with light casualties.

Storm

A small squadron of DTR warships has intercepted a similarly small squadron of GTT warships in the Storm system this week. Two GTT heavy cruisers were destroyed, for the loss of no DTR ships.

Venice

A small GTT scout ship has been destroyed whilst attempting to transit a DTR controlled zone in their home system of Venice, sparking fears amongst DTR citizens that the Empire forces might be preparing to strike into the very heart of the Detinus Republic.

High Star News

212.5

News hits the populace that tied into the system claim is control of Highstar. It seems fairly certain that one of the boons of holding the system claim was the ability to govern Highstar. It comes to light that the civilian government will remove the Felini from Highstar should they back down from policing the system.

212.6

Evacuation of civilians from around DEN Grendel has started.

Pirate Escape

GTT sources have reported that the pirate ship Stand And Deliver that they brought to battle last week, may have narrowly managed to evade their clutches due to the somewhat unfortunately bad timing of the intervention of a DTR patrol fleet that engaged the GTT pirate hunters in battle.

Piracy

The pirate ship Black Ketch has attacked the AFT freighter Sensory Prime in the twinkle system. Despite being massively outnumbered, the 15 crew of the Sensory Prime somehow managed to fight off 100 pirate marines that swarmed the airlocks.

Breaking News

Jon Tenor, the newly attached DTR religious affairs expert, has reportedly been killed when his ship unexpectedly blew up somewhere in the Halo Periphery.

Jon Tenor had been involved in a schism amongst the Brotherhood, and there is a suspicion that he may have been assassinated by person or persons unknown.

Though his death is yet to be absolutely confirmed.

Breaking News - Storm

Something has happened in the Storm system this week, we're not sure what yet, but it seems to have resulted in the Krell announcing their intent to claim the system for and on behalf of themselves.

More news hopefully next week.

***** **Special Report – The Fate Of The Dewiek Wolf Mother – Part 3** *****

As the Urd made final preparations to return to the End Game system, Adoqhina melded her mind with her operative Freyda, head of counter-espionage within the Wolf's Lair. The pack bonds reformed, Adoqhina was handed a slate containing holographic data packets profiling the activities of a new emergent pack within the Nation, the Asatru Ulfr Radienacca or AUR for short. The emergence of this new grouping had been tracked for some time but the new data obtained had been deemed important enough to warrant the Wolf Mother's personal attention. It seemed what had been a harmless diversion had spread to the higher echelons of the Nation's leadership with her own cubs, Osho the White One and Thorkell the Keeper of the Sacred Truth, being reported at some of their informal meetings. The spirit of the Dewiek worked in conflicting ways and the tension between the matriarchy of the Wolf Mother, the egalitarianism of the Council and the militarism of the Lords and High Lord would leave many points of contention across the Nation. Unification without resorting to barbarism and diversity without devolving into fragmented packs would require skillful leadership after Adoqhina died.

The presence of Osho within the AUR meetings gave Adoqhina a moment of pause. Osho was as far removed from the martial hierarchy as it was possible to be although she was far from defenseless. Her elite hunters, the Timber Wolves, were fearless and displayed complete loyalty to the White One. It was not in this area, however, that Osho had amassed her real power within the Nation. In a collectivist state of a predominantly warrior people, there had been until recently little in the way of mercantilism or trade. The Nation had prospered despite this due to the immense wealth of its territories but that such potential would need to be tapped was clear to Adoqhina very early on. It was a blessing indeed that Osho had been elevated to her position with her lust for organisation of what had become a vast merchant navy that plied the star systems and star gates bringing regular deliveries of goods from far off Peripheries to the large Dewiek populations ever hungry for the exotic and arcane. In so doing, Osho had amassed a personal fortune and as a true One Nation Dewiek, she made regular donations of vast sums to the local populations on Janth and elsewhere. After a drought of attention for many years, the Dewiek populations were feeling the benefits of an organised and effective National government. There was no questioning Osho's loyalty to her biological mother and this new path she walked was borne out of the same sense of obligations and duty she dedicated in Adoqhina's honour in every act.

As for Thorkell, he carried a heavy burden and was in the midst of great turbulence in his adolescence. Adoqhina remembered the moment he had seen her cub as the runt of her last litter, so pitiful and weak that as she had gathered her energies from her labour she already knew that the merciful act would be to end its suffering quickly before its eyes were lit up by the darkness of the world before him. Yet, as her paws had reached to terminate the unwanted life, he had reached out with terrifying accuracy into her mind and Adoqhina had been taken aback by this effective psychic assault on her consciousness. Sensing something of her own abilities in him, she spared him and put young nursemaids to care for him until he matured. It was a decision she never regretted and his ability to break down all mental barriers of even the strongest willed Elder made him a vital asset in her government. It was perhaps the events in the cloudy depths of Honeysuckle, where Adoqhina and her shuttle faced a hundred or more full-grown Makers unarmed, defying them despite the overwhelming power at their disposal, that most shook Thorkell to his core. Having been taught the falseness of idolising these ancient machines, Thorkell begun to see his mother as something of a god in of herself. The signs of worship within her presence had been there for some time, as Adoqhina considered the development of this new namesake church.

"Take me to where they are meeting," Adoqhina broke her reverie and turned to Freyda. "Now."

As her shuttle landed in the sector of Newstart where the AUR meeting was being conducted, she was taken to a ledge path which led to where the pack had gathered in a cave beneath an icy waterfall, Adoqhina snorted derisively at such symbolism. She was at heart a cool rationalist who only considered spiritual matters from the lens of historical imperative. Still there was something unusual about the cave and it took her a moment to understand its usefulness to the AUR's purposes. The water cleared the area of all smells and the crystalline formation of the cave made probing the mind of the pack within impossible, even for her. It was an ideal location for a meeting of a secret society. Adoqhina equipped the empathic disruption projector upon her wrist and walked silently across the ledge to the edge of the cave entrance behind Freyda who donned some of the AUR's sigil identifiers upon her person and stepped through. Her approach covered by her operative, Adoqhina stood out of the light and listened.

"The indications are the shipyards were capable of assembling twenty Direwolves a week given their size," a male voice she recognised as Thorkell was speaking.

"Incredible. And these are the shipyards with the artefact embedded within them you spoke of?" another male voice, Lucian, the twin of the one lost in Kalahari.

"Yes, the artefact is to all intents and purposes a nanite factory. The nanites we have recovered are not analogous to the constituent endocrines found in Maker physiology. In fact, they predate them by many hundreds of years. There is some speculation..." Thorkell seemed to hesitate at continuing the thought but the urging of his fellows seemed intent.

"That they may be precursors in fact. What we know is that the system is devoid of all signs of the Makers having ever visited it. It is after all far from any horizon points, artificial or otherwise, and was probably chosen for that very purpose although this may have just been a beneficial coincidence as the colonies we have recovered predate the Great War by hundreds of years."

"The nanites we have examined are integral to the ship building process and seemed to have the direct benefits of strengthening the armour plating and shield resonance of the ships our ancestors used as their primary hunting vessels. We have only managed to recover a fraction of the technological blueprints from within the primary yards but there is certainly enough there to produce two of

these archaic Direwolves a week."

"What is I think far more interesting from our perspective is the nanite factory gives credence to the school of thought that believes we are the Ancients and the Makers were our creations before they rebelled against us."

"Thiss hass been disscouted, brother." The unmistakable sweet hissing of the White One chimed in.

"Perhaps, sister, perhaps. But consider this: The technology here is clearly Dewiek in origins. The genetic algorithms used for the manufacturing of the control process are all written in proto-Janth Dewiek and the shield enhancements they provide utilise knowledge we have proven is beyond the understanding of any other species. Even the tri-sected ones we have tried to teach have failed to grasp the wave functions that any cub understands intuitly. There is simply no denying this is pure Dewiek technology and very ancient."

"The process clearly had limitations. We have found designs and technology for much larger vessels than the Direwolves and yet our ancestors did not produce any more than a handful of prototypes. It is clear the nanites based on metallic compounds were the limitation. The size of the matrix could not stretch to anything beyond the size of these ancient Wolflords or Direwolves."

"It is not much of a stretch to then consider that in their hunger for achieving singularity they sought more complex molecules, such as those found in abundance in the great cloud worlds, to form greater vessels. Have the otherwise primitive Mohache not achieved as much in a much shorter time? Our kind spread across the galaxy in harmony with the Makers for thousands of years. They would have us believe proven lies as to our origins. Perhaps they fear if we know the truth we will finish what we started when they first rebelled against us."

The pack within the cave fell silent as Thorkell finished. Adoqhina stepped out amongst them and turned off the emphatic disruptor. A final step towards them saw them all turn towards her and a few of the cubs gasped audibly at her presence.

"Then perhaps, my cub," Adoqhina spoke only to Thorkell, "It is time you took yourself to the Makers last great sanctuary and offered them one last chance of salvation and obedience."

Thorkell understood her will immediately and bent low with the rest of the pack, "As you will it, mother."



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Twinkle

Our newsroom has received reports from the DEN authorities that four more FEL warships have been destroyed in action in the Twinkle system.

There are not understood to have been any DEN ships destroyed, as the vastly superior Dewiek navy continues to press its advantage against the beleaguered FEL forces.

DTR Clobbered

A large fleet of DTR freighters has again been intercepted in the outer reaches of the Straddle system, this time by a fleet of around 40 GTT/IMP warships.

Several freighters are understood to have been destroyed, while the DTR point at the IMP-blocs clear intent to wage unrestricted warfare against them.

DTR Clobbered Again

We have received reports that a lone DTR 100 hulled freighter has been destroyed by IMP/GTT cruisers.

Pirate Destroyed

A small pirate ground party has suicided itself into the DTR defences at Sapphires Nest in the Faery system. The nature of the attack makes it highly likely that this was another IMP-bloc scouting attempt designed to test the defences of the Starbase.

Pirates

The FCN/DEN headache in Aranosis continues this week as they attempt to retake their outpost captured by pirates, it seems as if a sneaky pirate boarder has launched an audacious attack against one of the warships providing area security.

The pirate ship Black Bezpokoini approached the DEN 100 HH warship SCT Former Weight, and despite brisk defensive fire from a defending Dewiek squadron that inflicted heavy damage on the pirate boarder, approximately 200 pirates stormed the warship and captured it after heavy fighting.

Reports indicate that the pirate boarding vessel has been severely damaged in this operation, but given the pirates general level of success at fleeing combat zones, it seems likely to suggest that both pirate and boarded victim will make good their escapes.

Meanwhile on the planet, a DEN Special Forces unit has re-taken the outpost after a brisk firefight with what can only be described as suicidal pirate defenders.

CIA Vessel Destroyed

A CIA patrol vessel has been destroyed by a DTR platform whilst entering orbit of a DTR Starbase in the Arachnid system, indicating that the DTR remain very jumpy. The base commander has suggested to the press that they feared the CIA vessel was a scouting ship arriving in preparation for another major sneak attack, and felt he couldn't take any chances.

The CIA for their part maintain that the ships presence was entirely innocent, and that the DTR had no business firing upon them.

Pirates

A pirate ship has successfully boarded and captured the FET 100LH freighter Granny's Cheese Souffle in orbit of the planet Airburst, right from under the noses of the Starbases Convallis, Gethsemane, and Vostok Station, none of whom were able to intervene in time to stop the pirate escaping with its prey.

It is understood the FET ship had a Hyper Drive fitted, making it exceptionally valuable booty for the dread pirate scum.

More Pirates

A pirate ground force has captured the RVN outpost Ministry Of Silly Walks, somewhere in the Masters system.

The pirates then proceeded to make away with a large quantity of Korondite, precious metals, modules, and around 600 employees who all decided to volunteer to work for pirates instead.

Yet More Pirates

Pirate ships have captured the MOH freighters Kaal Blomros and Kaal Flagerin in the Storm system. It is not known if this was related to the GTT operation against a pirate base located in the outer reaches of the Storm system last week.

Pirate Failur

In amongst all of the pirate success stories this week, our newsroom has at least received one report of a failure. The pirate ship Vasco De Gama, a long-known and well-feared pirate boarder that has been active in the Peripheries for many a year, ran into a lone AFT Broadsword in the Hittite system.

The Broadsword inflicted moderate damage on the Vasco De Gama as it closed for boarding, and then the AFT marine compliment conducted a brisk defence that saw off the pirates, even though they were heavily supported by advanced military equipment.

Another Pirate Failure

We have learnt from the SMS that a pirate assault against the SMS outpost Home1 has failed after a small force of around 100 pirates ran into a co-ordinated defence force that threw them back having inflicted very heavy casualties indeed.

A second SMS outpost was also apparently briefly captured, then recaptured from pirates in the Skord system, but that nothing of note was stolen.

FET Caught Out?

Information has come to light this week that the FET might have been attempting to play both sides in the ongoing FEL / FLZ/DEN conflict, with information coming to light that they have been clandestinely providing support to both sides.

The FET for their part assert their innocence, and state that they remain open for business. Or should that be 'business'. We're not sure.

Tycoon Stargate

The closure of the Tycoon Stargate to all affiliations that have not yet paid the FET tax is imminent, all parties are warned to steer clear if they have not agreed to pay the FETs protection money, uh, toll fee. What do you mean there are some gentlemen in suits here to see us?

War News

They say no news is good news, but things seem fairly quiet on the war front this week, with no major incidents being reported by any of the warring parties.

Will this change next week? Only time will tell.

Of course it's entirely possible we've missed an important communication, in which case... oops?

Breaking News - More Pirates

Reports are just beginning to surface of an attempted pirate boarding against an AFT freighter in the Noctollis system.

What is unusual about this is until now the Noctollis system has seen no pirate activity at all, and is generally considered to be completely secure Dewiek space, with the DEN heavily controlling all of the access points.

Which raises the question – did this pirate somehow sneak in, or did they originate from somewhere inside Dewiek space?

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Straddle Claimed By DTR

Following the military operation designed to remove the DTR from the Straddle system, the DTR have given up trying to appease the Emperor Lysander, and have instead instituted a successful system claim of their own, overturning the previous IMP held claim.

The Straddle system is now under DTR control, and according to DTR authorities, is currently under DTR Martial Law, though they hope to be able to relax martial law as soon as possible.

In the meantime all travellers are instructed to avoid the orbit and orbital quadrant of the planet Boomerang.

Transit through the system for neutral parties is however still allowed, provided they do not attempt to enter orbit of Boomerang.

All Quiet On The Western Front

The big news this week is the ongoing state of no-news coming from the war between the RSE and the DTR. While there are some reports of skirmishes and raids that we shall report on later in this weeks edition, there does not seem to have been any major fleet actions.

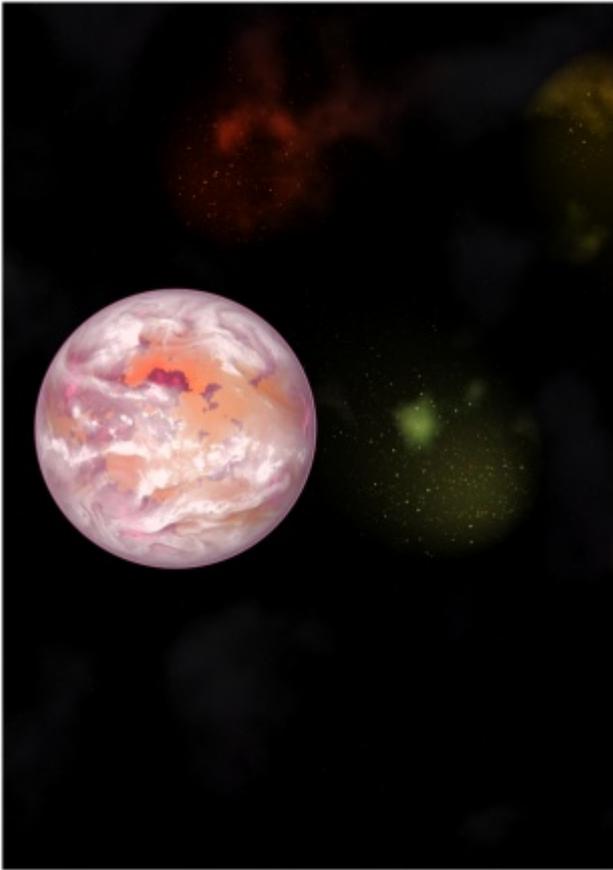
Could it simply be that both sides are still repairing their warships after the massed fleet battle in Straddle? Or is there something else big just about to happen?

Only time will tell.

Freighter Tickled

A lone HLQ freighter has been chased out of first the Venice system, and then the Arachnid system by DTR patrol forces, who failed to destroy it on both occasions.

The Prince LiQuan posted complaint that his freighter had been targeted, but DTR authorities pointed out to him that given his taking part in a massive sneak attack against the DTR a few weeks previously, that HLQ shipping was not welcome in DTR home systems.



Skirmish

A small squadron of DTR heavy cruisers has tangled with two large GTT capitol ships in the Aladdin system.

The smaller DTR warships came off slightly worse, and beat a hasty retreat in the face of superior firepower.

Skirmish

A lone IMP spy ship has been intercepted and destroyed by DTR patrol forces in the outer reaches of the Arachnid system. A small IMP ground party was caught up in the battle, apparently being transported by the spy ship on its way no doubt to cause trouble somewhere.

Pirates

The pirate vessel Royal Reign has boarded and captured an IMP ore freighter somewhere in the Misre system. The freighter Rock Wolfer XX's compliment of crew was no match for a hardened pirate boarding party who captured the ship after heavy fighting that saw most of them slaughtered. Though given the boarding party was reportedly made up of hive marines, it's possible those who died were the lucky ones.

Both ships are understood to have made good their escape from the scene of the crime. There was reportedly no cargo in the freighters holds for the pirates to escape with.

DEN Vs The Pirates

The ongoing Dewiek operation to recapture their outpost BB Ferocity Hub has hit a few snags this week, as the sneaky pirate gits somehow managed to evade incoming fire, resulting in the destruction of an empty transponder. It is however apparent that the DEN will recapture the outpost very soon indeed, though by this point it seems likely that the pirates have long since made off with everything of value.

More Pirates

The recent trend of pirate ground forces targeting poorly defended mining outposts continues this week, with the report of an attack against the GTT Rebellion Ast Mine T1, somewhere in the Rebellion system.

However, the pirates have not had it all their own way, as we have received information regarding what can only be described as a heroic last ditch defence of the installation by 4 human marines equipped with 2 light tanks, who managed to fight off 150 attacking pirates for a whole day, denying the pirates their expected easy success. Although the pirates did only lose 1 casualty, the 4 marines

held the line long enough for expected re-inforcements to arrive.

Yet More Pirates

Despite this one success for outpost defenders in Rebellion, other outposts have not been so lucky, with our newsroom receiving multiple reports from across the known Peripheries.

GTT Teller Chi Mound, GTT Teller Ast Mine F1, GTT Fortoon Ast Mine Pg1 and MOH Oloxx Aisstu have all fallen to pirate attackers, and boastful pirates have contacted the IGN newsroom to declare the capture of the following booty:

GTT Teller Chi Mound (24618)
10 Industrial Module (400)
5 Transport Module (415)
256 Collidium (31)
148928 Strion (24)

GTT Teller Ast Mine F1 (47235)
4080 Fibrillium (32)

GTT Fortoon Ast Mine Pg1 (50771)
354 Precious Gems (26) - 1 mus

MOH Oloxx Aisstu (59759)
100 Basic Module mkII (411)
50 Transport Module (415) - 40 mus

News From Earth

The continued social support being shown in Zealandia by the Confederacy has continues to hit the headlines. Political and public leaning towards the Confederacy as the Saviours of Humanity are becoming not only tolerated but accepted.

Daily Suicide Run

DTR authorities are reporting that the daily attack by small a(RSE) scout ships against the Boomerang Defensive Platforms has continued for another week, with another brace of IMP/GTT scout ships destroyed.

Pirate Failure

The pirate ship Royal Callers has suffered a heartening defeat having failed to capture the IMP ship Marco Polo in the Misre system. 600 pirate marines ran into a company of marine defenders, who were able to inflict heavy losses on the pirates before they withdrew, tails between their legs.

More Pirate Fail

The pirate ship Warlord has failed to capture the curiously named Flagritz warship YS MB-09 in the Solo System despite managing to capture well over 60% of the ship before being forced to withdraw.

Pirate Success

The Mohache freighter Oloxx Aisstu has been captured by pirates in the Sol system. The MOH ship reportedly was defended by only 5 crew members, making it an easy victory for the dread pirates.

Death Swarm

A representative of the Hexamon Empire has contacted our newsroom this week to assure the peripheries that we are not planning anything untoward.

The Death-Swarm is a harmless thought experiment, and is only concerned with whiskers on kittens, and brown paper packages wrapped up in string, and the like.

The representative then attempted to eat the head off one of our researchers and lay an egg down his stump, but quickly apologised for this frightful breach of etiquette.

Yet More Bloody Pirates

The pirate ship Royal Tentacle has successfully captured the DEN vessel Sane Winner, despite taking very heavy damage from the Sane Winner's missile launchers as it closed for boarding.

Special Report – Detinus Broadcast News

The Detinus Republic has asked us to remind viewers that the views and opinions expressed by any one Senator are not necessarily the views and opinions of the Republic as a whole.

... not necessarily ...

The newstudio was subtly lit. An informal interview was taking place. The space surrounding Senator Saric and Charlotte Blaze, the news anchorwoman, was filled with cameras feeding both the uni-web and standard television channels.

Charlotte leant forward," What are your comments concerning the CIA's recent demand to be contacted immediately concerning military action"

The Senator laughed," Demand what exactly. What are they going to do? Stab us in the back again? Send a strongly worded letter? I

find it worrying that there appears to be no intelligence in the Confederate Intelligence Agency. Maybe they need to change their name to the Central Intransigent Agency. It fits them far better."

Charlotte smiled as the cameras rolled over this latest soundbite. The Senator was always good for stirring up feelings.

"You would say then that you do not respect the CIA?"

"It is difficult to respect people quite so incompetent. Look at A-RSE they launch the biggest surprise attack in history which fails utterly and has now resulted in the loss of a large section of the Emperors territory. If the Emperor had any guts he would have the idiots, sorry that should be managers, I doubt we could call them leaders, of this operations heads. That's if he can find them as they appear to have lost them entirely."

"You must have something nice to say about them?"

"Naturally, if they could just carry on the way they are then that would be wonderful for the DTR war effort"

"Surely they have achieved some good. What about the HLQ"

"Prussian throw backs. Spend all their time designing new spiky helmets. It was only the unfortunate comment of a DTR envoy that stopped them putting the spikes on the insides of the helmets and thus inadvertently prevented the utter destruction of the entire affiliation."

"How about the Imperials?"

"What? are you seriously claiming the old Stellar Patrol have ever done any good at all? They also need a name change. I personally favour the Imperial tarnished patrol. Too better reflect what they have achieved."

"Galactic Trade and Transport?"

"Ah yes the shoot everyone, complete nothing crowd. How about the GIT Galactic Idiots and Tw*ts [Beeped]"

"What about the FET"

"What about them. They rank slightly above amoebas in my book and apparently have an IQ equivalent."

"Some people would say we should not anger the Imperial alliance"

"ARSE."

She blushed, " the erm ARSE."

"Githyankis the head of the ARSE."

"Erm yes."

"I have always thought so."

"Could we just move on?"

"If you must."

"Where was I, oh yes, that we should placate the erm arse. They do appear to be getting distressed that we have been attacking them"

"Oh really. They attack us without warning and when that attack fails and we start hitting back they start bleating about how unfair it all is. They seem to forget that they attacked us. THEY are the aggressors. THEY are the bullies. Once this action was taking all their threats and diplomatic blustering lost any power over us at all. The only way they will get us listening to their threats now is if they win the war. Please do not misunderstand that point as it is a serious point though it is amusing taking the p out of the opposition because it is so easy to do but it is still not certain that we will. After all we are outnumbered 6 to 1. Maybe they will sack Githyanki and appoint as military commander someone who is actually good at leading a military campaign or maybe they will get a lucky win. Who knows."

Charlotte smiled and turned to the lead camera, " So fighting talk from Senator Saric and in our next article we cover Githyanki's new book - "How to lose systems and influence". Erm where did that come from?"

"Sorry could not resist", Senator Saric interjected as pulled off the coversheet he had added to the prompt.

"Yes erm we actually cover - the woman who married a Dewiek - her tale of violence and claws. Apparently its a howl!"

The Senator laughed, "ha that's a better joke title than mine I needn't have bothered"

The lights dimmed over the sight of the news anchor attempting to throw the book at the Senator.

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All Quiet On The Western Front Part 2

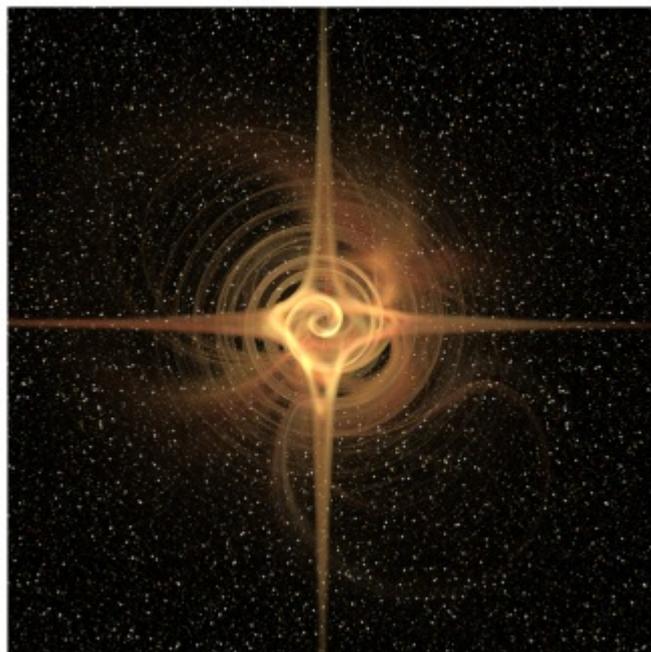
The continuing lack of major operations in the Empire Vs DTR war continues this week, baffling commentators as the situations has seemed to evolve into something of a cold war. However, our newsroom has learnt that a major fleet battle almost occurred this week as a large DTR fleet moved to intercept a large Empire fleet, just as the large Empire fleet apparently moved to intercept the large DTR fleet, and it seems both fleets of vessels managed to neatly avoid each other.

We should note that we don't know for sure that this is what happened, this is just our impression from the information we have received. However, if true, it marks the operation as one of the biggest non-events in recent history.

IMP Press Release

From the office of the patrol commissioner.....

Engagements in Straddle.....



Scouts it would appear from both sides this week located each others ships. Warships from the IMP and GTT went to engage some shipping, whilst in turn DTR warships were sent to engage IMP shipping. During this movement, battle sirens sounded as each force passed each other, and started firing anything it could muster. IMP ships reported some battery and cannon fire succeeding in hitting the enemy as they left. Whilst in turn the enemy were firing anything it could muster, including shot and lead.

2 DTR ships were destroyed in the engagements and 1 GTT ship is reported lost.

In separate engagements small groups of GTT warships have engaged DTR shipping, resulting in both sides ships taking heavy damage.....more details will follow.

The DTR fleet movement is as a whole group, rather than splitting its forces, and is being monitored, and has now left the orbit of their base in Straddle.

Again at this stage combat seems located in the main combat arena.....

Transmission ends.....

Noctollis

Pirates have been active in the Noctollis system, with the capture of the DEN ship Charon, a Condor class freighter.

It is understood from black market sources that the Charon was captured with full cargo holds, including military modules and a quantity of something called Osmotic Hydride.

Daily Suicide Run

The string of dead IMP-Bloc scout ships in orbit of Boomerang in Straddle has continued this week, with DTR authorities reporting another brace of destroyed vessels. There has also reportedly been an IMP ground party destroyed on the planet too.

Skirmish

An IMP boarding vessel has attempted to capture a DTR platform in Straddle, but met with stiffer than expected defensive fire. It is understood the IMP vessel, a specialised boarding class, was destroyed in the action.

Skirmish

A second IMP boarding vessel appears to have attempted to board the same platform, the IMP ship Camperdown is also believed to have been destroyed.

Pirate

The pirate ship Vigilant has been intercepted and destroyed by a large GTT patrol in the outer reaches of the Blagard system.

The Vigilant is understood to have been an Imp Sol Gunship Class Interceptor, a 100HH class, captured two years ago, making this a significant scalp for the brave GTT pirate hunters.

Skirmish

The IMP ship Stalag Luft III has attempted to board a DTR freighter in the outer reaches of the Straddle system, despite a brisk battle that saw heavy casualties amongst the defending DTR marines, the attacking party of almost 500 IMP marines was defeated.

Pirates

The pirate ship Agile Prater has made an unsuccessful attempt to board a DTR freighter in the Faery system.

Pirates

The infamous pirate vessel Vasco De Gama has struck again this week, this time against the DEN ore freighter Mother 1, in the Persian system.

The defending Dewiek crew and captain were slaughtered to a man in a brutally one-sided bloodbath, pictures of which have been deemed too disturbing to broadcast.

DEN/FCN News

Our news-room has received the following news compilation from the DEN/FCN faction, for which we give our thanks.

With fresh thoughts of the continuing bombardment of their base in Onwards and the actions of the Felini sympathiser Meowgan, the Magpie forces mobilise to strike back at military and economic targets.

11.2 In the Doctrine system simultaneous attacks happen. Two boarding vessels enter orbit of the moon Belief. Their targets are two Felini 150HH warships. Beam weapons from the ships gouge sections from the bold boarding broadswords but before long both ships have fallen to the fearless Falconian fighters.

On the moon Policy another two warships strafe and destroy a landed barge, a second smaller vessel hides to survive.

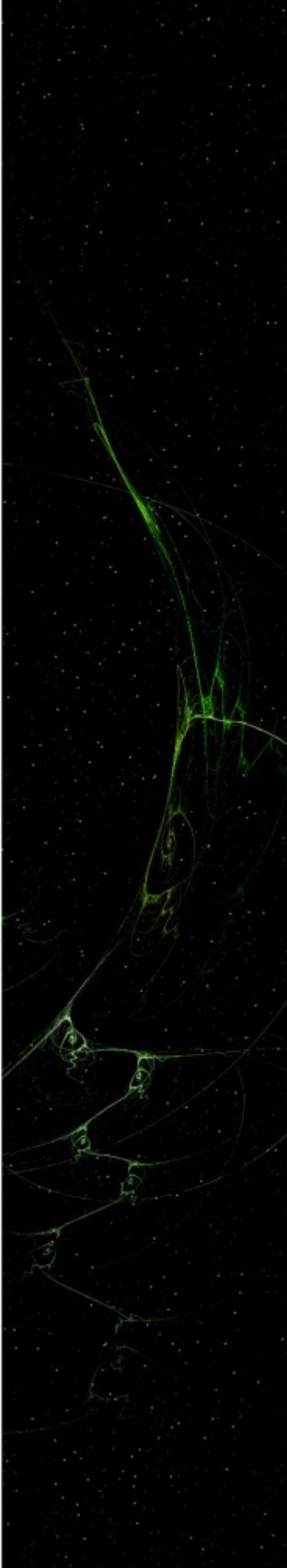
On the planet Dogma a freighter squadron is ambushed by beam vessels above the systems claiming base. A 150LH freighter is destroyed alongside six 25LH vessels and a tiny 2LH vessel.

11.3 A torpedo squadron descends upon a Felini warship squadron in the inner reaches of the Battlefield system. Two 50NH cruisers and 6 25NH destroyers are destroyed along with a couple of 25NH exploration vessels. The Felini squadron is totally destroyed.

11.4 A boarding vessel lands on the moon Policy and captures the vessel that escaped two days ago.

RSE Complaint

Our newsroom has received a complaint from the combined super-aff IMP/GTT/FET/HLQ/CNF/CIA/etc/etc/etc regarding our use of the term RSE to represent their faction, due to ongoing Republican naughtiness in constantly referring to them as the aRSE.



The Editor has reviewed this complaint, and considered the IMP Patrol Commissioners alternative suggestion of Forces Against Republican Control / Usurp (FARC U). It is the consideration of the Editor and his staff that FARC U doesn't quite make as much sense, with the word 'usurp', thus, with the input of an un-named Dewiek source, we have come instead to: 'Forces Against Republican Control Everywhere', and thus henceforth the news media shall refer to the combined IMP/GTT/FET/HLQ/CNF/CIA/etc/etc/etc as the FARCE.

The Editor suggests the usual complaints should be directed towards our newly recruited Krell customer complaints supervisor, who will be happy to take down your complaint before ripping off your arm and beating you to death while the rest of us sit about trying to think of something even worse to use than aRSE and FARCE.

Skirmish

DTR sources are reporting the destruction of two FARCE capitol ships in the Straddle system. Two GTT Hedgehog class 150HH vessels were intercepted by crushingly superior DTR naval forces, and destroyed in short order.

Pirates

Tea-sipping peaceniks the DTR have lost a ship to pirates this week. The PIR vessel Diluted Pupil successfully boarded and captured the Butterfly class freighter Periphery Express in the Venice system. Despite a vigorous response from DTR patrol forces, both pirate and captured freighter made good their escape.

More Pirates

The captain and crew of the BHD ship Irina had a close call this week when the pirate vessel Royal Galactica attempted to board them in the Kastor system. The Irina, a 100 LH Tempest Class ore freighter was lucky to survive as they fought off 250 attacking pirates, but the plucky small marine compliment dug in their heels, and threw the pirates back after a full day of heavy fighting.

DTR News

The Detinus Republics media have started to really ramp up the pressure on the FARCE this week, with blanket coverage across most DTR news and entertainment channels documenting everything from the latest interview by the increasingly famous and outspoken Detinus Senator Satric, to the darling of the entertainment world Treasure Winters and her latest single entitled 'The Emperor Ate My Babies'.

One of their most popular items has been the following broadcast allegedly intercepted by DTR agents located within the IMP communications networks, we should note that the authenticity of this communication has not been confirmed.

Emperor: "What news Viceroy?"

Viceroy: "There is both good and bad news, Emperor. The DTR has been ejected from the Adamski System. Straddle has not gone as well."

Emperor: "Please clarify 'Not As Well', Viceroy "

Viceroy: "Their fleet blooded our fleet and we were forced to retreat."

Emperor: "And the System Claim?"

Viceroy: "The DTR have claimed the system."

Emperor: "So before We gave you permission to eject the DTR from Imperial space, they were coexisting peacefully and We maintained 2 system claims. Now, one system has been removed from Imperial control and we are war. Please explain how my empire is better off?"

Viceroy: "Ummmmmmmmmm"

Emperor: "We are displeased."

Narrow Escape

A squadron of HLQ freighters has had a narrow escape this week when it bumped into a large DTR fleet. The HLQ freighters dumped cargo and sped away to a quick escape, whilst the bumbling DTR forces attempted to organise an intercept. It is understood all 10 HLQ freighters escaped without damage.

Raid

DTR forces have conducted a raid against the IMP platform Winebago Eye located in the Titan system. A number of the DTR raiders were lightly damaged by the platform, whilst heavy damage was inflicted against the target. The platform is however understood to have survived the battle, while the DTR raiders disengaged before IMP reinforcements could arrive.

Raid

A second DTR raid has been carried out, this time against the IMP outpost Nidavellir in the Dryad system. A small squadron of DTR raiders dropped into orbit and delivered an intensive bombardment against the lightly shielded base, inflicting heavy damage before withdrawing from orbit.

Skirmish

DTR Patrol forces have intercepted and destroyed a small IMP spy ship in the outer reaches of the Hazzard system.

Skirmish

Two GTT vessels, a St. Clair class scout and a Kriegsgunner Class Capital Ship have been destroyed by DTR forces in the Straddle system. Massively outgunned, the two GTT ships were unable to inflict much in the way of damage on their attackers.

Skirmish

Two DTR capitol ships were caught in the straddle system by a small patrol of GTT warships. Both ships were moderately damaged, but were able to make their escape having inflicted light damage on one of the attacking GTT heavy cruisers.

It's Science Bob!

DTR news sources are reporting a major archaeological discovery, unfortunately we don't have further details at this time.

Twinkle

Our newsroom has received a report of the destruction of three FEL ships in the Twinkle system by Dewiek forces. The Unbowed, the Quicksilver Poison and the Elements of Victory, all heavy cruisers, were destroyed in short order by superior DEN/FLZ forces.

Raid

DTR forces have carried out a raid against the IMP outpost Ecalpon in the Blowton system. Despite a heavy bombardment, the outposts shields held up to the task, and the DTR raiders were forced to retreat having failed to inflict any significant damage.

Pirates

The capture of the DEN outpost BB Ferocity Hub in the Fury system has come to an end this week as the DEN flattened the outpost from orbit. There were reportedly heavy casualties amongst the prisoners the Pirates left bound up in the middle of the outpost, although from what we hear, these prisoners were about the only thing the pirates left behind, having managed to successfully strip the outpost of a large quantity of booty.

Pirates

The pirate ship Big Black Wolf has launched a successful raid against a single GTT warship in the Straddle system. The GTT Minute Man 75-11 was able to inflict light damage against the Big Black Wolf before being destroyed by concentrated torpedo fire.

The reason for the attack is unclear.

Pirates

Yet more success for pirates, as the pirate ship Reaper Tag Li has just successfully boarded and captured the DTR freighter Papilio Duodeviginti in the outer reaches of the Skord system, making for a very bad week for the DTR on the old pirate front.

Correction To Last Weeks Edition

Editor,

In this weeks edition of the SSS it was stated that Straddle had been placed under Martial law, it has not. It is currently a public system under DTR law however some restricted areas have been declared. The restricted areas are stated in the system message and system charters being delta 7 OQ and the orbits of Boomerang and Midway, any none DTR positions found in these areas are liable to be targeted.

A number of affs aren't welcome in DTR systems and these are stated in the system charter.

I didn't want there to be any confusion from the article and the position of Straddle.

Justice Lorna Archer, DTR Magistrate

Correction To Last Weeks Edition Part 2

The IGN/SSS news HQ has received a complaint from the Dewiek regarding our incorrect reporting regarding a potential FEL victory, a story that we flagged up as 'Good News For The FEL'. An entirely sane and reasonable Dewiek spokes-sentient contact our offices to, oh jesus, they're back! Quickly, blockade the doors and windows! Christ, they're coming in through the cat flap! Run! Flee! WOMEN AND EDITORS FIRST!

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.12.5

Adamski

A major ground battle has been fought on the surface of T4 in the Adamski system, when GTT ground forces attacked a DTR outpost located on the surface of the planet with the intent of continuing their stated war goal of ejecting the DTR from the system.

At time of press we understand the GTT have successfully captured the outpost, but it took several days of heavy fighting, in which the main GTT Starbase Outcasts was brought in for fire support against stubborn DTR defenders.

It is understood the surviving DTR forces have successfully disengaged and withdrawn having inflicted what can only be described as very heavy casualties on the attacking GTT troops. However, the GTT are left in possession of the outpost, which is understood to

contain at the very least a very large number of shields.

Venice

Imperial raiders have struck at the heart of the Detinus Republic this week as they carried out an audacious raid against a small DTR asteroid mining facility. A squadron of railgun equipped warships delivered a short sharp orbital bombardment before withdrawing the next day.

The mining outpost was however shielded, and while some damage has been reported, it is understood to have been not as bad as might have been expected had the base not been shielded.

A brief exchange of fire was reported as the IMP ships withdrew and DTR warships arrived on scene, but no serious damage is understood to have occurred to either side.

Venice

A second major ground battle is also developing in the Venice system this week, as IMP forces launched a substantial ground assault against a small DTR mining outpost located on an asteroid in the outer reaches of the system.

However, rapid reinforcements and a stronger than expected defensive force, has resulted in a small battle developing into a large battle, as both sides appear to be pumping in more troops.

Initial reports suggest that the attacking IMP forces have lost more than 4000 troops, and inflicted only light damage against the DTR defenders, who report casualties in the low hundreds.

DTR Statement

With the IMP launching two major offensives straight in the DTR home system of Venice this week, the Detinus Senate has been called into emergency session. The DTR Foreign Minister has spoken at length to re-assure nervous DTR citizens that despite the IMP striking at their very heart, the DTR is fully prepared to resist what now appears to be a total war intended to annihilate the Detinus Republic itself.

Venice

Two small IMP spy ships have been destroyed in the Venice system by the main DTR fleet this week, as, one assumes, the IMP continue to try to keep an eye on where the main DTR fleet is located.

Dewiek Press Release

*** WE ARE THE VOICE OF THE PACK ***

The Elder Nation and its Flagritz Empire allies have taken the war to the Felini Core system of Onwards as promised. Finding a sizeable FEL fleet in orbit of New New York, forces under the command of the Arch

Lord and the Great Wolf of the Packs engaged and over the course of

several days reduced the Felini fleet to a handful of shell-shocked

survivors.

Out of ammo and out of luck, the Felini forces primarily under Avatar

Mirado have met their annihilation with honour, not fleeing from an

utterly superior force. Quite unlike that cowardly scum Pride Senior

Rasshan who talks big words to the press but runs like a baby kitten

at the sight of battle.

Whilst a full Howl to the Dead is yet to be published the casualty summary over the three days of battle are as follows:

DEN - 1 x 140NH

FLZ - 1 x 50LH

FEL - 4 x 150NH, 23 x 150HH, 1 x 75HH

Lord Hafnar

Field Commander

FEL News

The Felini news agencies have released an interesting Haiku style report on the ongoing war against the Dewiek.

Wild DEN attack,

Flagritz boast and claim credit,

Felini Endure.



Another DEN Press Release

***** WE ARE THE VOICE OF THE PACK *****

After a futile rallying effort by the Felini who piled everything they had in the region to defend their most important stronghold in the Cluster, the Feline survivors have withdrawn.

The orbit has been won and Felini installations on the ground given a beating for good measure.

The Nation and its Flagritz allies prove once again that the system usurping, pirate-loving, cowardly Felini have nowhere to hide. There is no safe place for those who squat on the Nation or the Empire's systems.

Today, New New York, tomorrow Fellowship and Pride.

Lord Hafnar

Field Commander

Raid

DTR raiders have destroyed an IMP caravel class freighter in the Harlequin system.

Pirates

The pirate ship Spectre has failed to capture the AFT freighter '44' in the Acrux system this week, making for another failed pirate attack in DEN space.

Pirates

The pirate ship Black Imp has successfully boarded and captured the AFT Spice Of Life in the Avalon system. We do not know the class of the freighter, or what cargo it might have been carrying.

Pirates

The GTT are reporting the destruction of the boringly named pirate ship Support 12L in the Dryad system.

Raid

DTR raiders have launched a second attack against the small IMP outpost Nidavellir:

IMP Nidavellir (10444) - Outpost

Scints: 0.1 Shields: 83(3.3)

Targeted by DTR Naiad (32727) - 1894 [2200] Damage

Targeted by DTR Greyhound (99015) - 5791 [6990] Damage

Targeted by DTR Boadicea (41089) - 4334 [5345] Damage

Targeted by DTR Amphion (45355) - 3094 [3920] Damage

Targeted by DTR Guerriere (41125) - 4921 [5962] Damage

Targeted by DTR Euryalus (23674) - 2762 [3520] Damage

Targeted by DTR Shannon (89610) - 1476 [2200] Damage

Targeted by DTR Juno (84883) - 1810 [2200] Damage

Targeted by DTR Amazon (62738) - 5973 [7195] Damage

Pirates

The pirate ship Black Heart has successfully captured a CIA Scout Runner class Scout in the London system. It is understood the 10-man crew of the CIA vessel were slaughtered to a man by over 140 blood-mad Kastorian marines.

More Pirates

The pirate ship Diluted Pupil has successfully captured the BHD freighter Priest in the Kastor system. As with all pirate attacks these days, both pirate and victim successfully escaped the scene of the crime.

Venice

Another small IMP spy ship has been destroyed in the Venice system by DTR patrol forces.

Arachnid

DTR patrol forces have intercepted and destroyed 2 HLQ freighters and a small HLQ outpost in the Arachnid system.

T.Tauri

Another small IMP scout ship has been destroyed by a DTR platform, this time in the T.Tauri system.

Pirates Again

The pirate ship Black Istra has captured the AFT freighter Dagmar in the Acrux system. There was apparently no cargo.

Straddle

Relatively little news from the Straddle system this week, just a single report of a GTT scout ship being destroyed by a DTR platform, and a lone IMP freighter running foul of a major DTR fleet movement and getting destroyed.

Takeover

Unusual news this week, as we can report on the peaceful takeover of some assets:

Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that I announce the completion of the merger of the Tyburn Mining Corporation into the AFT.

The Tyburn Mining Corporation's (TMC) fixed assets are concentrated within the Solo system and, therefore, made an attractive addition to my existing holdings.

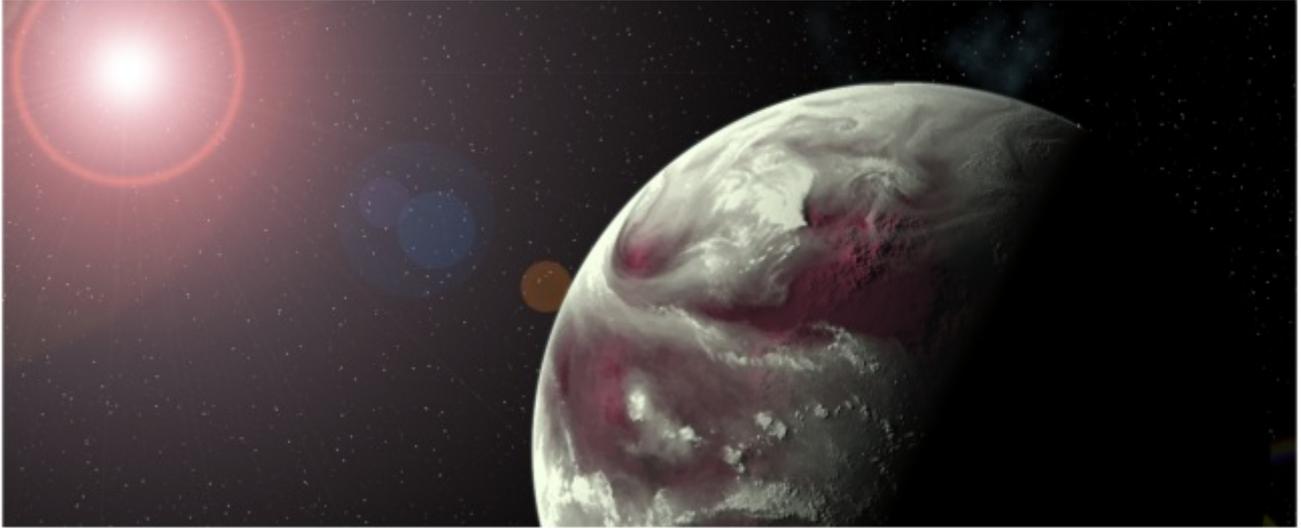
I would like to take this opportunity to thank General F G Iven for this expansion opportunity and I wish him well in his next endeavour.

As part of the transfer, all TMC assets (ships and bases) have been reflagged as AFT over the least week or so.

If anyone has any outstanding arrangements with TMC they should direct requests and questions to my office.

Thank you.

Mona Luvsitt.



Subspace Static - Star Date 212.13.5

In The Grim Future

War has swept the Peripheries.

There can be only one ruler of humanity and he is the Emperor. His loyal champions, Viceroy to the Imperial Forces, Confederate Commander and Prince LiQuan have colluded to remove the Republic's presence from territories captured during previous hostilities. While the Republic has been resolute in defence it is certain things are not over yet.

While humanity preys on itself, the Dewiek Nation, ancient and savage have left their dens to hunt - not in five hundred years have they demonstrated such outright brutality as they expand their territory into what has been traditionally Felini held space. The Felini, having been deserted by the human miners (Stellar Mining and Smelting) and outright betrayed by the Falconians find themselves beset on all sides as this new threat adds to their ongoing strife with the Flagritz.

Between these galaxy spanning conflicts the role of traders has never been so hard - while demand is high and markets are good, pirates, normally kept down by the vigilance of the mighty Republics and Empires have found themselves with a much freer hand to play.

Grendel

Our newsroom has received a report from Felini sources of a ground battle occurring at the DEN Starbase of Grendel on the planet Sapphire in the Twinkle system, where Felini forces have launched an assault following a preliminary orbital bombardment. We have also learnt that the ground assault was lead from the front by senior Felini political figure Rasshan.

The *crump* *BOOOOOM* of artillery impacts and the relentless grinding of over twenty thousand tanks all of which seemed to be firing at once, strained even the audio filters of his combat suit. The outpost, which had once been a starbase, had been ground down by weeks of relentless bombardment, the remainder of it was being ground down further under the relentless treads of the Incursion force. Soon only ashes would remain where once had stood a dagger pointed at the heart of the Sapphire system. Rasshan gave a snort of satisfaction; this was how enemies should be dealt with. The wrong enemies though, only a single Dewick sighted on the battlefield. He disliked killing Falconians, but that Mad creature Armand wasn't going to give him a choice since the Dewick had decided to let the Feathered ones do the dying for them.

"Pridesenior" the crackle of priority traffic disrupted his satisfied contemplation of the ruins. "Vanguard teams have taken the outpost core, remaining enemy forces are now outside the perimeter, we have control."

“Excellent, control pattern Blue Epsilon if you please, did the Governor’s office survive intact?”

“No Pridesenor, all core command and control facilities have been destroyed although.....”

“yes?”

“Apparently the Governor's Packlord did lodge some abusive messages for you with the data net and on graffiti over the base”

“Show me.....*hmp snort*.... what a whiner, if there just going to complain, why the start the war in the first place? Continue the offensive, Force commander....crush all resistance”

Our newsroom has deemed this graffiti too offensive to publish. Also, we have received conflicting reports of large-scale terror and propaganda ops having been run at the base, for unknown purposes.

It seems, at time of press, that Grendel is now firmly in Felini hands.

Doctrine

DEN Magpie forces continue actions in the Doctrine system with over a thousand marines participating in the capture of two orbital platforms. Two small freighters were also boarded and captured. The onwards system also saw action with the capture of a FEL 150LH Titan class freighter.

Venice

The ground assault reported in last weeks edition where IMP forces attacked a DTR outpost has ended this week with a crushing defeat for the Imperial troops. Many thousands of troops are reported dead, with a final group of some 1500 mercenaries committing virtual suicide by assaulting a massively well defended facility and being butchered in less than half a day fighting whilst the trained troops were safely evacuated.

IMP news sources have reported that heavy damage was inflicted on the mining facility during the battle, whilst DTR news sources report that only light damage was inflicted on the mining facility.

You pays your money you takes your choice on who to believe.

Straddle Suicide Squadron – Attack!

The DTR are reporting that the FARCE continue to throw suicide ships to their destruction in the Straddle system, with several more GTT St Clair class scout ships being destroyed by defensive platforms. Precise numbers are not clear, as the DTR have largely stopped reporting on every battle, but we understand there to have been something in the order of half a dozen suicide ships this week.

Pirate

DTR forces have destroyed the pirate ship Eyes Of Straddle in, you guessed it, the Straddle system.

Trans-Spiral News

Our newsroom has received reports of conflict breaking out in the Trans-Spiral periphery, as DTR forces clash with the IMP. The DTR have reported the destruction of the FARCE vessels Panther, a surveyor class explorer, and the Pesquisador, a 100HH sensor ship.

Midway

Detinus Republic ground forces have begun a series of actions aimed at capturing a number of IMP outposts on the planet Midway in the Straddle system, with a series of week long ground battles that have triggered orbital bombardments from the IMP platform in orbit.

Despite enduring the heavy artillery fire, DTR ground forces are reporting success as they capture several admittedly not well defended outposts. There are reported to be not very heavy casualties on either side, and it has the feeling of something more akin to a mopping up operation, despite the intervention of the large platform.

Oops

Something slightly unusual has occurred this week when an AFT freighter suddenly and totally unexpectedly started to fly DTR flags, local news agencies carried the following story:

Down in the ship command center, Murphy the technician is working on the IFF codes for an AFT ship. He dials through different combinations...IND, IMP, AFT, DTR....."hey!" Alarm claxons erupt, battle stations are sounded crew running everywhere. Murphy grabs his tools and runs for the escape pods. "Oops", Thinks Murphy. I guess I forgot to turn off the transmitter of the IFF flag indicator. Damn, I hate when that happens. As Murphy floats away in an escape pod, he looks back at the 7 IMP ships pounding the sole AFT ship (currently flagged DTR)

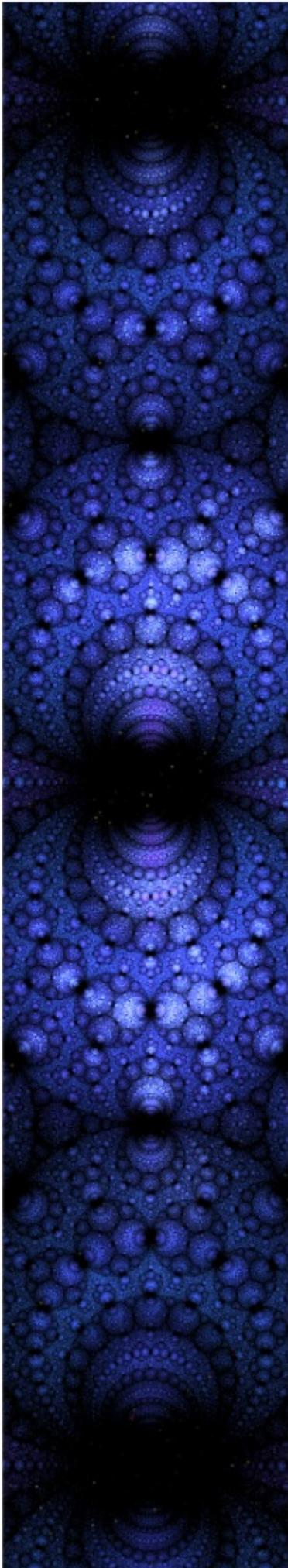
"I wonder if the AFT will still pay me for my work. They'll never know who changed the ship ID"

King Sized Trojans

A battle squadron of super-heavy HLQ warships consisting of Trojan, Hydra and Cerberus class vessels has been in action in the Arachnid system this week, destroying first a small 10 hulled DTR platform located in deep space, and a DTR freighter that happened to be passing through at the time.

The squadron then proceeded to destroy a second small DTR platform in a different location, after a brief brush with a DTR patrol squadron in which no fire was exchanged.

At time of press the HLQ battle squadron is suspected to still be in Arachnid looking for more targets, and is probably operating in retaliation for the recent destruction of HLQ assets in the same system.



Straddle

DTR forces are reporting the destruction of an IMP freighter at a classified location somewhere in the Straddle system. A terse DTR spokesman said little more on the subject other than 'Somebody appears to be up to something dodgy, we'll tell you more when we find out what.'

The IMP Viceroy has since gone public, citing a battle at a small IND outpost in the Straddle system, which he claims to have been a DTR Pirate support base, despite there being no sightings of pirates there, no evidence of any ship support assets, no evidence of shipyards or maintenance facilities, and no DTR positions.

The DTR for their part have stated that the presence of DTR warships was due to them spotting the IMP there, and going to destroy them. As they did. Adding the destruction of a small IMP scout vessel to their tally.

Dread Pirates Score Big

Pirate troopers have captured the strangely named GTT mining facility Blagard Ast Mine CFR1 in the Blagard system.

An SSS/IGN reporter stationed with the pirate organisation has confirmed the capture of the following booty from the outpost:

Collidium (31) 5840 mus

Fibrillium (32) 7089 mus

Rare Earth Elements (22) 23080 mus

All of which has been stolen by the pirates, and will no doubt be making its way to black markets near you soon, given it has a street value of approaching half a million stellars.

There has been one small crumb of comfort for the GTT however, as their responding fleet managed to destroy at least one pirate support vessel as it was attempting to flee with booty.

Straddle

GTT forces have destroyed a 170 hulled DTR defensive platform in the orbital quadrant of Boomerang in the Straddle system. There were understood to have been around 500 marines onboard the platform, making for a quite significant loss of life for the DTR.

Pirates

The pirate ship Spectre has successfully boarded and captured the IMP freighter Quo Vadis in the Dyson system.

Pirates

The pirate ship Black Cluster has made an attempt to board the GCE ship HQ 6 in the Avalon system. Despite capturing more than half the vessel, the desperate GCE crew defending the vessel managed to hold on just long enough to force the pirates to withdraw before reinforcements arrived.

Halo

A DTR freighter has been captured and destroyed by Pirates in the Halo periphery.

Adamski

Following on from the ground battle on T4 in Adamski, Imperial forces have confirmed that they captured approximately 12000 light tanks from the defeated DTR forces who were forced to leave their tanks behind when their troops retreated off-world. This capture of war materiel largely offsets the losses in tanks they suffered to capture them.

Tycoon

The IDC freighter Amber Addison has been destroyed by the FET for attempting to transit the Tycoon Stargate having not paid the FET protection money.

The Lost Fleet

All bar one of the twilight ships were now in his view. It was not a pretty sight, many ships would need months of maintainance before being battleworthy and the effects of years under DTR control would need careful monitoring. A transfer to the FLZ had eventually speeded up the arrival of the fleet, cutting through months of committees to decide the order to send the ships, appeal procedures and diversity monitoring.

The conference call to the ships captains confirmed his fears, responses were tardy and the crew had forgotten how to salute. Orders were met with discussion rather than action and impromptu votes taken among the crews.

In one ship there is no response. A security detachment investigate and find the old vulture captain slumped over the ships log. Entries gradually become less coherent. The last readable entry of the sodden book is mention of a mysterious tea trolley disaster.

As realisation of the fate of the impressionable falconians sinks in the admiral is heard to cry "The monsters"

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.15.1

Explosion.

A substantial nuclear explosion has been detected on Mobile Bay at the Starbase Big Whisky.

Battles.

Detinus Republic ground parties have captured some IMP outposts on a planet in Straddle.

Staff Change.

Political pressure has led to the resignation of the Editor of the SSS/IGN.

Battles.

Detinus Republic raiders have bombarded the IMP outpost Cosmonaut Keep.

Battles.

Detinus Republic forces have destroyed an IMP flea class scout in Straddle.

Pirates.

Pirates have captured a Confederate outpost and stolen 1kmu of modules.

Pirates.

Pirates have captured an Imperial Services outpost and stolen 1kmu of modules.

Pirates.

Pirates have captured a 50 XL hulled GCE freighter carrying a cargo of modules.

Battle.

IMP forces have attacked the DTR in Yank, destroying a DTR Broadsword and losing two warships themselves.

New Affiliation.

The BLG/Bolg Organisation have formed in the Peripheries.

Dewiek News.

Two FEL outposts fell to ground assault in the Doctrine system this week. A small mining outpost was taken unopposed while 200 gallant Felini marines fought to the death in a two day battle over the systems orbital maintenance and recreation depot. The FEL Tyrant fiddles while their systems burn.

In the cluster there are disturbing indications of FEL warships turning to piracy unnoticed by their leaders.

Recently FEL SHIP MS SHIELD OF TYRE (97773) - {150 Heavy Hulls} has become PIRATE SHIP Royal Shield (97773).

Given the FELs common tactic of bombarding their own territory, it must be dismaying to the Highstar sentients to realise that antimatter weaponry is being stockpiled at the base.

IDC News.

Following the recent destruction of the IDC ship Amber Addison the IDC made a formal complaint to the Imperial Viceroy citing that the destruction of a legal transient within Imperial controlled space by the FET was in contravention of Imperial Law. The IDC noted the lack of warning beacons surrounding the route into the stargate as a gross negligence on the part of the FET running such an indiscriminate policy.

The initial response from the Imperial Viceroy was to ask whether the IDC were aware of the toll being charged for transit rights through the Tycoon stargate.

In answer the IDC confirmed that they were unaware of the policy and reiterated the point that there was a complete lack of warning beacons in neighbouring areas of space transmitting warnings and details of such a toll being in existence.

The response from the Imperial Viceroy was that ignorance was no defence. By way of compensation the Viceroy offered to personally build two freighters to replace the Amber Addison.

Following the offer of replacement ships, IDC Director Maximillian Price stated that the IDC could not accept the offer of replacement shipping as the ship was of little consequence compared to the loss of the crew. He asked if any sanctions would be applied to the FET for breaking Imperial law and running such a dangerous policy in such an irresponsible manner.

The Viceroy responded by stating that Imperial Services fully support the FET in the matter, there are alternative routes if travellers wish to use them and that if the offer of shipping was declined the matter was closed.

Maximillian Price had this to say to waiting reporters, "The IDC are disappointed by the Viceroy's position on the matter. The fact remains that the current running of the Tycoon stargate fee policy by the FET is lax in the extreme and in our view constitutes gross

negligence. There is a very real risk that new travellers will be, as we were, unaware of the media exposure given to the policy prior to it coming into effect. The fact that there are no warnings in and about the surrounding regions of space make the Stargate exit and orbit a trap for the unwary. The IDC will be compensating the families of the crew for their loss".

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.15.5

Inter Galactic News - Fist Smash Special

Staff Changes

With the departure of the previous Editor, the long-suffering staff here at the IGN/SSS are happy to announce a new partnership with news media outlets across the Peripheries, bringing you, our glorious readers, a new guest Editor every week.

This week we have been happy to welcome a Mister Fist Smash to our offices, from one of the few Krell newspaper offices still standing on Inversion.

Well, when we say 'still standing', we mean he usually publishes a single sheet of news slash insults from a smoking crater round the back of the spaceport.

Butchering Monsters

GTT boardroom keep sending crews of Flea scout ships to death in Straddle? Ha! DTR toast more little spaceships, maybe GTT enjoy listening to screams of crewmembers send on suicide missions? This very Krell, we approve. SEND MORE SUICIDE SHIPS! Yes! Ha, maybe send them into hearts of sun? Ships go boom! MORE SHIPS GO BOOM?

What is with this stupid war anyway? Fist Smash not understand, you start war and then stop fighting for months and months? What are you all stupid peaceniks like stupid DTR? You all like sitting drinking tea and talking about shoes? Humans are pathetic, we Krell show you all how to fight real war! Simples, SEND SHIPS! KILL THINGS!

Fist Smash draw diagram for you later.

Overkill

Fist Smash like overkill, overkill make things go big boom. DTR patrol overkills IMP interceptor called Hawkeye in Straddle. Hawkeye not very hawk-eye-ey, it not see DTR patrol coming, DTR patrol run over it like Krell pickup truck run over legs of orphans, SPLINTERING BONES! Fist Smash enjoy sucking marrow from bones of screaming orphans. It teach them to be orphans. Fist Smash wonder if DTR like marrow. Fist Smash doubt it.

Brutality

DTR forces capture two more IMP outposts on planet called Midway? Where is this Midway anyway? Why they fight over it so much? Fist Smash do not care, Fist Smash enjoy pictures of stuff getting blown up though, Fist Smash heard that stuff getting blown up makes kittens happy. Fist Smash try blowing up kittens. Fist Smash happy. Kittens not so much.

FIST SMASH WANT TO KNOW WHY DTR NOT BLOW UP MORE KITTENS!

Fist Smash think DTR bunch of wussies.

Sneaky Base Get Captured

Ha, sneaky Confederates set up sneaky hidden asteroid research base in DTR Trans-Spiral periphery to do the one thing DTR not let people do in systems they give access to via treaty. Fist Smash think sneaky Confederates shove knife in DTR back, they get away with it too if somebody more sneaky hadn't tipped off DTR, DTR not happy, DTR capture base and eject Confederates from Trans-Spiral for breaking signed treaty.

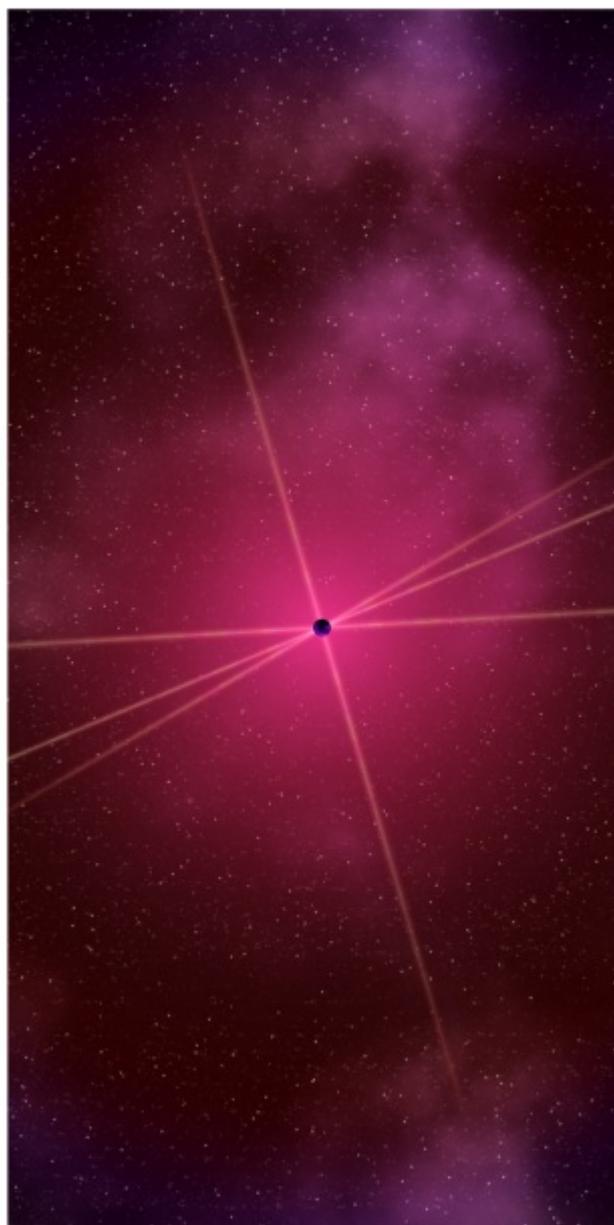
IMP Viceroy very unhappy, IMP Viceroy expecting Confederates to transfer knowledge of Trans-Spiral systems we bet. IMP Viceroy like to whinge and cry when he not get his way. Fist Smash not like all this sneaky stuff so much, Fist Smash get sick of WIMPey boys whinging about how unfair DTR are for having laws, MAN UP wimps, Krell do not hold much with this research thing. Krell not hold with all this crying.

Fist Smash very interested in why somebody tip off DTR as to CNF naughty-time though. Fist Smash think IMP protest a little too much...

FIST SMASH NOT APPROVE OF ALL THIS SNEAKY SKULLDUGGERY!

Somebody Else Have News

Falconian boys offer news to us on stuff they do since joining DEN,



Fist Smash not know about birds and dogs living together in perfect harmony, Fist Smash think this almost as unnatural as Wimbles. And Fist Smash think Wimbles VERY unnatural.

But quite tasty.

Fist Smash shut up and let Falconian boys have news now.

The bombardment of the Magpie Nest on the planet fellowship in Onwards entered another phase when a Felini ground party joined in the daily firing. Its trio of tanks have added minutely to the daily damage to the base facilities. Civilian and Military casualties have so far been low.

A docked 100LH freighter at the recently captured orbital in Doctrine was boarded and captured after a fierce fight with the soldiers defending the ship.

Increasingly FEL vessels are staying docked at their main bases rather than venture out to support their other assets.

Fist Smash enjoy watching bombardment of Magpie base. Almost as much as Fist Smash enjoy watching bodies hit floor.

Fist Smash not saying he get off on it though. FIST SMASH NOT SICK PUPPY LIKE PRINCE LIQUAN!

Solo

DEN have twitchy trigger fingers, DEN shoot up two innocent IND freighters in Solo.

Fist Smash not sure there is such a thing as innocent IND, but what Fist Smash know. Fist Smash like taste of TRN though.

FIST SMASH NOT SICK PUPPY LIKE PRINCE LIQUAN! FIST SMASH NOT EAT SENTIENTS!

Fist Smash know DEN shoot up IND ships though, naughty DEN, no shooting INDs in Solo, Kastorians not like that. Fist Smash like Kastorians, Fist Smash wishes he had System Weapon, then he kill you all.

Fist Smash think DEN probly have to pay compensation for this balls up. Fist Smash get sick of compensation, compensation for weak affiliations like DTR. Fist Smash have funny joke. Did you hear about the Krell lawyer? No. Because we killed him. FUNNY! YOU ALL LAUGH WITH FIST SMASH! LAUGH UNTIL FISTS BLEED!

Fist Smash get bored of news. Where all the big battles at?

CIA Montbello Market Announcements

This story so boring Fist Smash delete it.

BLG Offer Internals

Fist Smash not sure this be very popular.

Pirates Get Internalled

Pirates have very bad day, Fist Smash think every day as pirate must be good day, pirates fight, drink, kill, murder, murder, murder, red rum, red rum, red rum, red rum, red rum.

Red rum.

Fist Smash not know what come over him.

Fist Smash think you heard of him before, Fist Smash very common Krell name. Like 'Boring Tea Drinking Goody-Two-Shoes' is very common DTR name, or 'Githyanki' is very common bowel parasite name. Fist Smash have cousin who died from a nasty case of the Githyankis when his brain literally ran out of his arse. Fist Smash laugh very much that day.

Fist Smash forgotten what he was going to say.

Fist Smash have staff remind him. Fist Smash say staff better be careful because Fist Smash got flamethrower hidden under desk.

Famous pirate ship Royal Fortune get toasted whilst attempting to board entire GTT battlefleet, very optimistic, Krell approve, GTT smash ship into tiny bits, Krell also approve. Fist Smash congratulate both Pirate and GTT for excellent show of destruction. Gold stars all around.

Fist Smash also hear about IMPs destroying pirate ship Eyes Of Titan, and FLZ destroying pirate ship Eyes Of Persian.

Fist Smash have more jokes, what you call three dead pirate ships?

FUNNY!

Fist Smash not hear you laughing.

Don't make Fist Smash get out his system weapon.

FIST SMASH NOT SICK PUPPY LIKE PRINCE LIQUAN!

Burning Ring Of Fire

Fist Smash read in Mona Luvsitt's Diary that AFT factories have mysteriously stopped production, and Mona not know why.

Fist Smash heard rumour that nasty case of the Githyankis have affected workers.

Fist Smash feel pity for them. PITY LIKE MIGHTY RAGE OF VIOLENT DOOM!

Maybe they get BLG internal to block them up again?

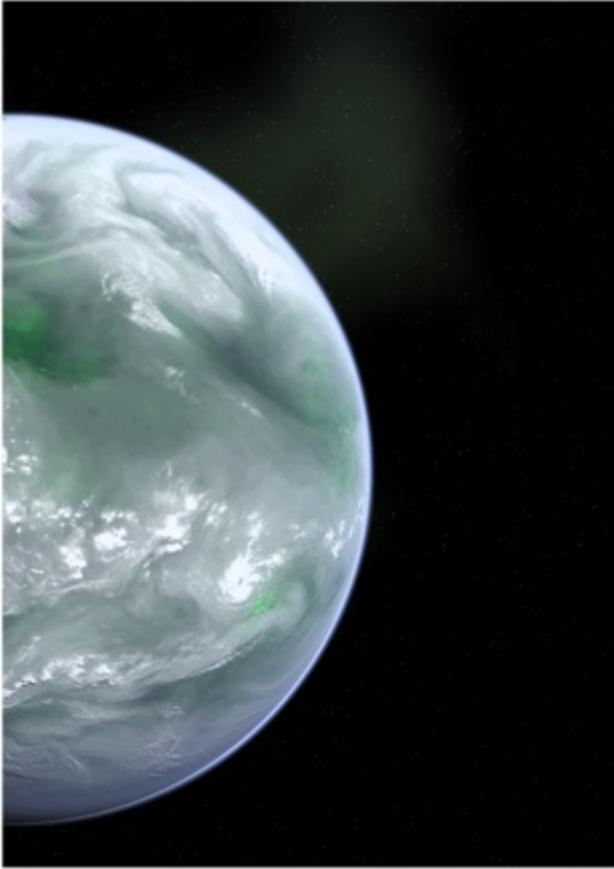
Fist Smash read rest of Mona's journal now. Maybe find naked pictures.

DTR Launch Raid

Why DTR raid somebodies lunch? Oh, launch. Fist Smash apologise, he not very good at this reading and writing thing. Oh, DTR smash up FET outpost from orbit? Then run away? WHAT WITH ALL THIS RUNNING AWAY! Why DTR not stand and fight?

DTR not have right shoes for standing? Fist Smash heard all about DTR shoes, Fist Smash hear Diaz turn shoes into explosives by stuffing grenades in heels, Fist Smash approve of explosive shoes, except when approval gets CIA sniffing about for talking about exploding shoes. That very bad scene. Result in probing that hurt worse than case of the Githyankis.

Fist Smash think DTR very good at running. DTR get stomped on by half peripheries, and keep running.



FET Beacons

FET now warning people not to use Tycoon Stargate or get blown up if not paid protection money. Why people want use Tycoon Stargate anyway? What problem with FET blowing ships up? BLOW UP MORE SHIPS! Remove warnings. LET ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVE! FIST SMASH HATE YOU ALL!

DTR Smash More Stuff

Ha, DTR been shooting up lots of pirates this week, three or four kills? More killing please!

PIRATES MURDER MORE INNOCENTS! YAY!

Fist Smash read report about GCE ship Deathly Hallows, it get attacked by pirate ship Black Cluster in Avalon system. Falconian pirates sneak onto Deathly Hallows and peck out brains of every crewmember onboard in particularly gruesome and bloody way. Deathly Hallows well named, everybody dead, ship stolen by pirates. Fist Smash aware some readers might think he approve of piracy, let Fist Smash clear this up – FIST SMASH LOVE PIRATES!
Fist Smash love anybody who murderdeathkills.

Special Report – Ulian News

Fist Smash not have anything to do with this. Fist Smash pick up broadcast from SSS. Fist Smash like Ulians, Fist Smash think he get on with them. Fist Smash like Xenophobic alien overlords. Fist Smash jealous of Ulian big guns. Fist Smash not like Flagritz so much though, Fist Smash think Tentacles are a bit weird, tentacle smashing not as fun as fist smashing.

[Opens with Heavy Metal music]

Welcome to a special Ulian Space Static

I am your host, Kajika Agamemnon.

We are here today at an almost packed event where we will see the three fishermen and their families executed live.

This is a message from our beloved government: to those of you wishing to commit crimes, we will find you and kill you and your families. So think first!

Now back to the festivities!

We have a fun packed day here for you today;

Morning

* Meet and greet with the fishermen and their loved ones

* Recap of the last execution, all the best bits which make you shudder with excitement

Lunch

A fully stocked banquet of all the types of fish which were found in the possession of the fishermen

Afternoon

* There will be a variety of businesses showing you their products for sale, anything from electronic whisks to toy guns!

* The new University will be offering places to new students, so get there quick!

* The fishing guilds will be showing you their latest equipment to catch all those lovely fish

Pre-Execution

* An important announcement on why fishing licences are required.

Remember the great hunger was the reason that over a billion people died!

Do not be selfish and feed your family illegally, pay for a proper license and help us conserve the resources!

Execution

* We have a treat for you today; the fishermen will be executed using the poison of one of the rare fish they captured.

This poison can take up to 5 hours to kill the victim (depending on their metabolism, so the children will be the first to go!), in this time they will experience tremendous pain and even the loss of skin/limbs.

Packup

* Once the show is done ALL civilians will pack up the area and leave it clean with the help of the Ulian military.

We hope you enjoy your day!

I am your host, Kajika Agamemnon.

[Closes with Heavy Metal music]

Death to the outsider!

Special Report – Honest Jim’s Column Of Honest News

Fist Smash not have anything to do with this either, Fist Smash offer thanks to contributor. Fist Smash think contributor enjoy Krell thanks. ENJOY LIKE HEAD BUTT! Fist Smash think Honest Jim work for DTR, this probably make this whole article some sort of vile DTR propaganda. FIST SMASH WARN YOU ALL TO LOOK OUT FOR EVIL DTR MIND CONTROL!

My name is James Q. Killick - Honest Jim to his friends - legendary trader and now your humble correspondent on the news of the Peripheries’ markets. Each week I’ll try to bring some enlightenment and entertainment to your drab little lives, giving you a glimpse of the rock-and-roll world of the trader.

Hot tip of the week is Leffinphants - a small domestic quadroped from Tycoon in the Outer Capellan. FET Chojahive are selling these at source for just 7 stellars, while the IMP are buying at 14.5 a short hop away in Madonna. If you fancy a longer trip, the Mohache in Yank are buying for 22 stellars, or the Felini for 20 Stellars in Onwards

The GTT’s markets this week have seen large new buy orders for Grass Vodka, Rylene Tequila and Holy Water, leading to speculation they have invented a fascinating new cocktail.

More trading news next week, along with an interview with one of the leading lights in peripheries trading (and somebody other than me too - haha! Just kidding folks). And remember, there is absolutely no evidence that Honest Jim has any lucrative corporate sponsorship deals. If any rich corporations did want to sponsor Honest Jim, they should absolutely not approach his office to arrange the details.

Message From The Editor

Fist Smash want to make it quite clear he hate you all, and happily fight anybody. Fist Smash apologise if missed anybody out on his run of insults. Fist Smash particularly hate SMS. And AFT. And CIA. And all other alien affs, particularly the KRL. The KRL make Krell so angry. Fist Smash also hate the MOH, WMB and BHD. Fist Smash want you all to die in fire.

SEE! FIST SMASH EXACTLY NOT LIKE PRINCE LIQUAN!

Fist. (Smash.) Signing off.



Subspace Static - Star Date 212.16.5

Inter Galactic News - Hive Mind Special

Staff Changes

It is our sad duty to report the death of last weeks guest editor Fist Smash of the Krell. There are unconfirmed reports that due to his unmasking his location on Inversion during the broadcast of last weeks edition, a Krell hunter-killer team was able to triangulate the position of his bunker and deliver a fatal overdose of screaming napalm death.

With great tragedy however comes great opportunity, and we have been scared shitless really really happy this week to welcome our new guest editor, Zz’kkxx from the insectoid Hive, bringing his her it’s unique take on this weeks news.

Straddle

Sentient fleshthings, the hivebrood mother sends greetings to newstalk of the Peripheries. Many brains soft and squishing think hard of future under chitinous horde. Straddle system home to many sentients, make very good brood home, GTT board agree, send more small scout ships to firey death. Sacrifice for the good of the many is proud duty.

Concept-of-unwillingness-to-sacrifice-life.

A concern of the short-lived mammals, abandon hope mammals, embrace the hard-iron-skin future of the Hive.

Be reborn in us.

DTR News

Detinus Republic hivemind.

Concept-of-many-thinking-as-one.

Hive like in their efficiency-responses. DTR have response to IMP complaint of DTR attacking their outpost in Detinus system.

Alarms sound throughout the scout ship

"Captain, We have scans coming in of an Imperial outpost"

"Cheeky bastards, daring to establish an outpost in Detinus. Ensign Pulver, Take us in, I want a closer look."

The ship lands near the Imperial outpost and a scout team move in for a closer look.

"Sir, it appears to be a false alarm. There's no one here. Its just an abandoned Outpost".

Captain Kruse mutters, "I don't like it. I smell a trap"

"No, sir, its abandoned, absolutely nothing else here. One complex."

"Very well Ensign, take possession of the outpost and we'll clean up the mess the Imperial have left behind".
The outpost is reflagged and the ship departs.

Later, The Imperials issue a press release "DTR spread conflict to the Inner Empire".

Captain Kruse chuckles in disbelief. "I knew it was a trap. The Imperials set up an illegal outpost in Detinus, a system sacred to the DTR. They don't even staff it and then when we clean up the mess they've left behind, they claim the DTR is spreading the conflict? Whatever they're smoking, it must have a hell of a trade value. Send the vid record of the outpost from detection to conversion to the local media outlets. Even the anti-DTR news rags should have a field day with this one. They're making themselves look like a bunch of clowns if they call this 'conflict'. Let everyone see how the Imperial propaganda machine operates."

He shakes his head again.

"What a bunch of Morons"

DTR News

The many-as-one of the Republic offer much news to Zz'kkxx, GTT warship Hypothetical Problem destroys DTR freighter in Venice system. War being brought again to very home system of DTR, threatened with annihilation, Zz'kkxx ponders with Hive Queen how DTR responds to being backed into corner.

Concept-of-great-violence-imminent.

IMP Press Release

From the office of the Patrol Commissioner.....

DTR Forces implicated in Non humanitarian activity

On top of their recent implications regarding setting their own laws in your own systems, further evidence is gathered at the De-humanising effect the DTR are having. Following on from the Titan battles, IMP and allied facilities picked up survivors and found that DTR naval captains are named after the registration number of the ship they controlled. The names were found to be tatoood on their person, and is another worrying step the DTR are taking in forcing their control on all of us.

1 98987 {DTR Prisoner}

1 48286 {DTR Prisoner}

Another Adamski Outpost destroyed.

Allied forces have located another DTR outpost in Adamski and the customary gift exchange occurred. The free artillery shell offer will continue for a few months whilst these small facilities are dug out.

Broadcast ends.....

HLQ

The House liQuan.

Many-rumours-of-meklan-group-mind.

Inferiority to Hive.

Shuddering-sense-of-recognition.

Expanded market at Persepolis in Halo Periphery.

True One Revealed

Brotherhood known to be in error, face of True One revealed now to Peripheries.

Hive-Queen-Embraces-You-All-In-Warm-Biomechanical-Embrace.

Be With Us.

Treaty Broken

The alliance between the DTR and CNF has been broken this week, many human years long this alliance stood.

Inconsequential-time-period-to-Hive.

Such close friends, now CNF betrayal breaks paper.

Brothers will slaughter brothers in great number.

Viceroy rejoices.

Pirates

Pirate raiders have attacked HLQ in Halo, bringing death to outpost from orbit. Pirates appear to be same group that tangled with DTR some time ago, implicating Gronk and the DOG.

Pirates-provide-many-hosts-for-Hexamon.

Sense-of-great-pleasure.

Titan

Conflict in Titan system as DTR launch raid in force against IMP and FET platforms.

Titan-home-to-Hive.

Brood-mothers-shift-as-skeins-of-fate-ripple.

IMP and FET platforms destroyed, but strong IMP/HLQ/CIA battlefleet corner and destroy DTR raiders.

Honours even at end of day.

Child

The HLQ have launched an attack against the DTR in the Child system, destroying two freighters and damaging third. Skirmish ensues, both sides escape.

DTR Raid

DTR raiders have bombarded and largely destroyed the FET outpost PSY 001:

FET PSY 001 (8050) - Outpost

Targeted by DTR Euryalus (23674) - 3520 [3520] Damage

Targeted by DTR Naiad (32727) - 2590 [2200] Damage

Targeted by DTR Shannon (89610) - 2200 [2200] Damage

Targeted by DTR Boadicea (41089) - 5139 [5139] Damage

Targeted by DTR Guerriere (41125) - 6168 [6168] Damage

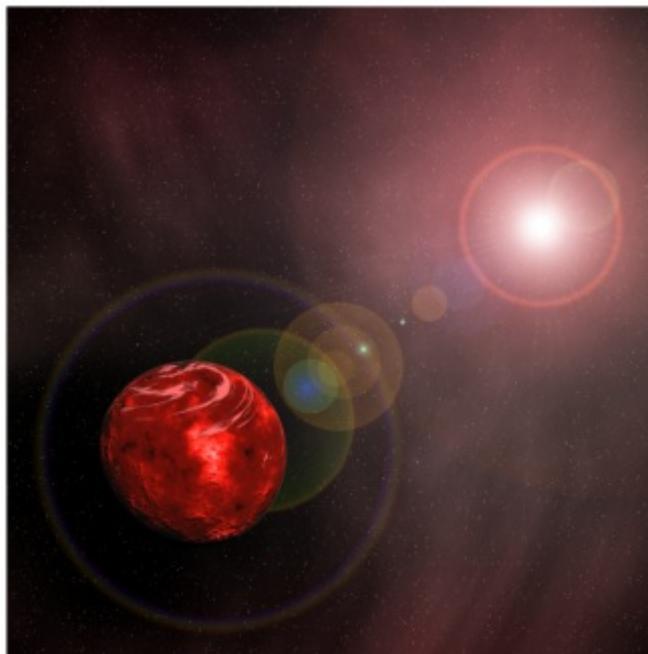
Targeted by DTR Amazon (62738) - 6256 [5962] Damage

Targeted by DTR Nympe (52153) - 5962 [5962] Damage

Targeted by DTR Greyhound (99015) - 7285 [6990] Damage

Targeted by DTR Juno (84883) - 2590 [2200] Damage

Targeted by DTR Amphion (45355) - 4330 [3920] Damage



FCN/DEN Press Release

As a decisive reaction to continuing Felini provocations against the House Magpie base on fellowship, where a tank column now adds to the daily bombardment, a fleet was sent to destroy the 580hull platform in the orbital quad.

A scouting ship gathered details of the platform and identified its lack of defensive weaponry. On 212.16.2 a squadron of missile cruisers attacked the platform. The platform was initially unresponsive and then targetted the 60NH Hawk class cruiser OM Juust which was destroyed with all hands.

On the second day a squadron sent to protect the flimsy cruisers were delayed to battle a gunship in a nearby quad while the cruisers continued to target the platform which was now a 400hull hulk. An assortment of FEL warships were sent into the quad to defend the platform. Fighters from the 150NH FEL carrier Shield of Mawet were able to target and destroy another 60NH Hawk class Cruiser OM Horatio Magpie. At the end of the day the platform had been destroyed as had a foolhardy gunboat:

FEL Insignificance incarnate (63851) - Platform

Armour: 1.3

BLOWN UP!

FEL T'Gii Couraz (88577) - Ship

Cheetah Defender Class Gun Boat {Heavy Armour}

Armour: 73.3

Hull Damage: 100.0%

BLOWN UP!

In another quad of the system a boarding vessel was able to capture another FEL platform.

The third day saw a large force of DEN warships deploy to the quad. Six FEL vessels were destroyed and another badly damaged. Operations in the area continue.

FET Press Release

Dateline 212.15.5 FET News Service, Cuzzin Luke reporting

DTR Run Away In Fortoon!

Thursday this week saw some action between the DTR and the dreaded FET warfleets. Seems a DTR warband of 9 Musket Class Cruisers was headed for the planet Dryfus, home of Granny's Country Kitchen, likely on an outpost raiding mission. However, they never made it to the desired orbit. Before they got there, the DTR fleet was confronted by a solo FET Scimitar Class Capital Ship. That warship, FET Grannys Jambalaya, tho badly outnumbered, stood its ground and defended a newly constructed platform located there.

3 of the DTR ships "bravely" unloaded 75 missiles each at the Jambalaya, barely scratching her fine paint job. Meanwhile the other 6 ships "bravely" abandoned their mates & retreated from the battle. After only one round, the DTR attacking vessals ceased fire, having apparently exhausted their short supply of missiles.

Meanwhile the Jambalaya dealt out 4 hefty rounds of photonic fire to the DTR CL 54 Tula, damaging 38% of her hulls. After which, both sides withdrew for further contemplation.

The next day, a squadron of the FET warships under the direction of the FET Kumicho arrived to "relieve" the Jambalaya and have at the DTR intruders. Sadly, the DTR fleet showed its true colors and vacated the quadrant (and the system) for safer space. However, the FET squadron and the Jambalaya did get off a few parting shots.

The Captain of the Jambalaya has been commended for his heroic actions. The captains of the FET relief squadron have also been commended for thier timely intervention. And, in retrospective, the DTR captains should also be commended for thinking of the safety of their crews by running away!

End of Transmission.

Message From The Editor

Zz'kkxx wishes to thank fleshy host-thing HR Giger for images.

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.18.1

Inter Galactic News Flagritz Special

Staff Changes

Overlord Schturm requires no staff announcement regarding his taking over as Editor this week! Overlord Schturm demands your obeisance, all lowly lifeforms must listen to the words of the mighty Flagritz! Listen, and you might be allowed to continue serving us as slaves, puny weak flesh things of the Peripheries! HERE IS THE NEWS!

GTT Clean Up Operation

Pathetic weaklings the GTT have continued clean up operations against mewling crybabies the DTR in the Adamski system this week, as they run around capturing small undefended outposts. Humans are pitiful, they disgust me. Why don't you all just kill yourselves already?

Pirate Activity

THERE ARE NO FLAGRITZ PIRATES! Do you know why? We are the only race in the Peripheries with any sense of honour. Flagritz honour is superior form of existence, something the rest of you pathetic fleshbags wouldn't understand. So it comes as no surprise to us that your pirates continue to prey upon you all.

The feeble flesh-sack known as Morgan has captured a brand new GTT 200 heavy hulled warship in the filthy and teeming overpopulated system of Yank this week. Apparently the pirate lost his boarding vessel in the attack as the Kastorian system weapon fired, but they get away with a 200 heavy hull warship, recently built for the GTT by the Confederacy.

You know what would improve the Yank system? A nice healthy Genocide.

More Pirates

A Dewiek 125LH freighter has been destroyed by pirates in the Hydrae system, no doubt as some sort of feeble human revenge scenario. Overlord Schturm has been directed by the Triumverate to say nice things about the Dewiek though. WE MAY ALLOW THE DEWIEK TO CONTINUE TO EXIST WHEN WE DOMINATE THE UNIVERSE!

PEACE THROUGH DOMINATION!

Pirates have also captured a 20 hulled DEN vessel in orbit of a DEN mining outpost. OVERLORD SCHTURM CARES NOT FOR THIS! FETCH ME MY VASSALS THAT I MIGHT TRAMPLE THEM!

Sol News

The pathetically irrelevant birthplace of humanity has seen the GCE organisation take over a major EEI Starbase in the continent known as 'Europe'. Overlord Schturm does not know how this came to pass, and nor does he care. He only knows that European slaves make the worst slaves, but that they are quite juicy. Overlord Schturm's favourite slaves however come from Falconia. They are very good at reaching high up out of reach places.

More Pirates

Pirates have captured an Imperial freighter in Noctollis.

Do you know what really gets under Overlord Schturms beautifully squamous pulsating skin? This habit the puny humans have of referring to themselves as 'The Imperials'. If ever the morbidly feeble humans ever got anything wrong it was in ever evolving in the first place, it was in calling themselves 'Imperials'. Do they not know that there is only one true Empire in the Peripheries? The Flagritz Empire is the ONE TRUE EMPIRE!

SMS

Overlord Schturm hates miners, they grub about in the dark, pretending to be free, doing the work of slaves. However, Overlord Schturm has heard some rumour that the SMS have destroyed a pirate ship.

THEY MIGHT THINK THIS WINS THEM MY GRUDGING RESPECT! THEY ARE WRONG!

Overlord Schturm is proud to be a xenophobic psychopath. ARE YOU!

Sol News

Confederate Supreme Commander Duke West has declared himself overlord of Sol this week, and booted out the DTR from Venus, as well as unilaterally declaring an exclusion zone where all non pathetic-human-empire vessels will be destroyed if they attempt to approach Venus.

Overlord Schturm grudgingly congratulates the Confederacy, Overlord Schturm admires dictatorial overlords.

BUT NOT THAT MUCH!

Overlord Schturm was also amused by Confederacy posting system laws for Sol, and declaring the DTR to be retroactively in violation of them.

OVERLORD SCHTURM THINKS DTR GET KICKED IN DANGLY BITS YET AGAIN BY THEIR EX BEST FRIENDS! THIS VERY AMUSING! KICK HARDER!

On Flagritz homeworld we have many gladiatorial arenas where brothers settle conflicts. Perhaps humans should explore this.

Overlord Schturm grows weary of this wretched human language.

Kekflorrguh rruh grack

Geshky kalk fiela ifie nk alalf.

Orufe ajeej ksle ahffeeel moulararck. Gesh, ok braskk, oro, Japanese Schoolgirl, ereek felts teentacleshkkk
OVERLORD SHTURM KFELL FIEKK SKREEEEEEEEL!!!

Sol News

Overlord Shturm conducts investigation into DTR Starbase on Venus upsetting GTT so much. You will all bow down and worship Shturm's mighty investigatorial skills! Overlord Shturm wonders why presence of DTR Starbase make GTT so angry they cry to Sol Overlord West to have wretched Republicans ejected...

GTT MAKE MORE THAN THIRTY MILLION STELLARS A YEAR FROM ONE STARBASE!!!

... Overlord Shturm thinks he needs a Starbase on this planet known as Venus too.

Commerce Raiding

GTT warships have destroyed a DTR freighter in the Venice system this week. Overlord Shturm thinks some dead humans is a good place to start.

DTR respond by catching two GTT warships and annihilating them.

TAKE A NOTE PUNY HUMANS! Overlord Shturm wants you all dead.



Special Report – Honest Jim's Blatant DTR Propaganda Column Of Market News

OVERLORD SHTURM THANKS NOBODY FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS! WORK HARDER SLAVES!

Keen market watchers will have seen Nemesis Hive - one of the few remaining Obsidian Predator Swarm public markets - reflagged in favour of the Hexamon late last week, before closing completely. Your humble correspondent will leave the political implications to others, but fully expects that this reflects a desire on the Hexamon's part to expand its trading interests, transforming itself into a peaceful nation that is not at all intent on transforming the universe into a nightmarish apocalypse.

Moving on from impending nightmarish apocalypses, GTT Centrepoint City (home of the famous Galactic Tentacle Tangler cocktail) seems set on establishing itself as an arms trading hub, with a variety of advanced weaponry including MkII Nova Cannon going on sale at the public markets.

The opening of a new public Dewiek market named "Satyr" has been announced on the Mohache home world of Tranquility. They are currently buying large quantities of a select few items including the ever-popular Leffinphant, but have made it known they encourage direct suggestions from traders with life good items suitable for selling to Mohache civilians.

At the same time, the DEN also announced several new trade items for sale at Dark Sun City in Acropolis - including Electric Scale Clothing, Forlorn Pine Resin and Rage Gannets. These appear to have sold out very quickly, and their restocking policy on these items remains to be seen. On your way to Acropolis, you could pick up the small batch of Danglebee Berry (a delicacy favoured among Wimbles) currently on sale at AFT Eclipse in Adamski, and sell for a profit to Dark Sun City.

You can currently pick up Kastorian Delicacies at 9 stellars per unit from DEN Minotaur and GCE Pyran in Yank. Just remember they're perishable, so wherever you take them get them there quickly!

Over in the cluster periphery, the FET now have Forest Gems for sale - just a short trip away from Solo or Yank for a good trade.

And, for traders not afraid of a little old-fashioned ore-hauling, Garcia Enterprise's Aquarium in Halo are buying up metals at a generous 0.9 stellars per unit. The same market is also buying modules at a reasonable price.

It's a long trip, but if you're heading from Starling (deep in the Inner Capellan) to Acrux in the Dewiek Home Periphery, you could make almost 20,000 stellars in a single trade carrying Heffer Meat from GTT Bannockburn to MOH Crop Circle.

If you have large holds and access to Felini systems, buy Mohache Carved Gems at 10 stellars from various MOH markets and sell them to Refuge, Restoration and New Cthol for up to hundreds of thousands of stellars in profit.

Message From The Overlord Editor

Overlord Schturm points out to feeble minded that Overlord Schturm is not official tri-partiate mouth-piece of FLZ affiliation. FLZ affiliation were not consulted, nor do they have any editorial control over what the mighty Overlord Schturm has to say about anything.

For the REALLY FEEBLE MINDED OF YOU OUT THERE! THIS EDITION OF THE SSS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS OFFICIAL FLZ VIEW ON ANYTHING!

Except for the part where you are all miserably pathetic worthless meat sacks.

Overlord Schturm, signing out

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.19.1

Inter Galactic Blessed News Of Spiritual Truth

New Editor

The bells of the Ecclesiarch ring out in joy this week, as the Brotherhood take over the reigns of the Galaxies Greatest News Organ.

We here at the SSS HQ are happy to welcome Bishop Damenblazt as this weeks guest editor.

As always, the Good Bishop wishes to point out that his views are not to be taken as the official views of the Brotherhood affiliation, as they have not been contacted over editorial contact. However, he was quick to point out that this did not mean his words were not also the Truth, as the True One speaks through His chosen servants, and to doubt the word of a Bishop is the most vile of heresies.

Public Service Announcement

BE PURE!

BE VIGILANT!

BEHAVE!

Aliens Revealed

The shining Word of the True One is revealed this week as his holiness the Pope has held a seminar on the perfidious nature of the alien that lurks amongst us.

Heathen are these creatures, and wicked their ways. They cannot be trusted in this Universe of Men. For does not the true book say?

Thou shalt not suffer an alien to live!

Vile Xenos News House Magpie News

A second courier at a supposedly hidden asteroid in Twinkle was captured by the audacious pirate Morgan who managed to avoid detection by interception forces.

Shootout at the OD Coral. A Felini outpost in Doctrine was captured by two House Magpie ground parties. Almost 200 Felini startroopers defending chose to fight to the death for the resource centre despite being greatly outnumbered and in unsuitable terrain.

A rail gun squadron has started orbital bombardment of another FEL outpost in the doctrine system. Damage has still to be assessed after two days action but is expected to be heavy.

A new falconian design of freighter has come into service. The 196XLH vessel is the pinnacle of house Magpie trading design and can carry approximately 12.5K cargo.

A small pirate scout vessel was destroyed by platforms in the orbit of Pralor in Acropolis.

In a secret ceremony and celebration attended by the ailing Wolf mother and the Dewiek High Priestess, Consul Armand of House Magpie has officially taken his place as an Elder of the Nation, the first non-Dewiek to hold such a position.

Public Service Announcement

Death is the Mercy of the True One.

Unbelievers shall bathe in Mercy.

Dewiek News

The war between the Dewiek and Felini continues, though on a lower intensity, the True One causes us to reflect upon the nature of conflict amongst these lesser species.

A wise man once asked me, 'Why do we not spread the word of the True One amongst the xenos filth?'

And I answered, 'But brother we do. Our truth is spread at the tip of our spears, our warships carry The Word amongst the sinners.

And in truth there are some xenos who have converted, upon their dying breaths, and found salvation in the embrace of the True One.'

The wise man did look at me and wonder, 'But how do so many of them yet live in this universe, defying the Truth of the True One with their very existence.'

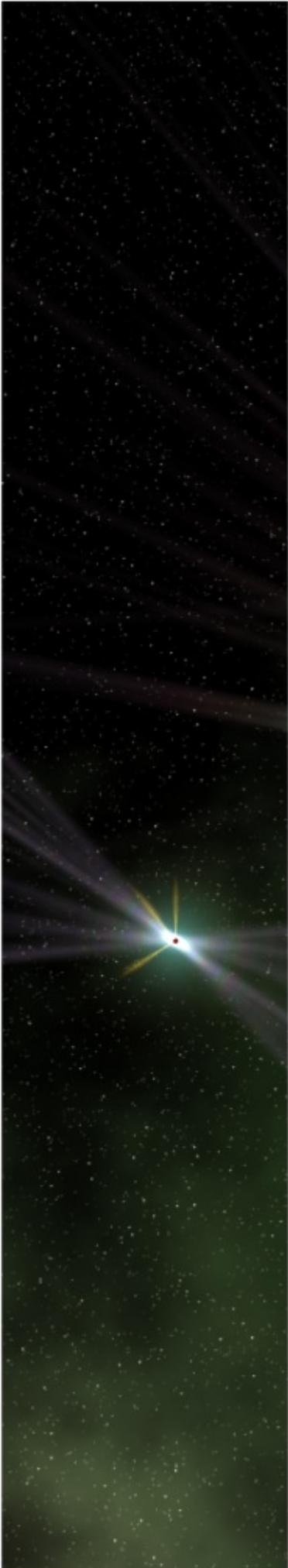
And I but smiled upon him, and said, 'All things in their time my son, all things in their time.'

Anyway, here is some news from the Dewiek, reflect upon the weakness of the alien as you read it my children:

***** WE ARE THE VOICE OF THE PACK *****

All hail and answer the call.

It is my sad regret to confirm that today the Nation sent 2 Dewiek Crew from a scout ship to board the Platform of Rylene in the Beglian Star System.



Both crew members have confirmed the boarding and taken control of the only orbital defence the kitties have, a sad day it appears no beer is stationed on this platform we request an urgent SOS delivery along with a couple of photon batteries to engage play with the outposts below us GTT board members and the game of twister are not recommended whilst drunk Dewiek are playing... whatever happened to SJ the girl that like both cats and dogs HOWLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL, more beer!

Office next to the office of the High Lord of the Nation

Boarding Action for the Control of FEL Under Construction (61096)

Round 1: Battle is dominated by Attacker

Defender lost 100% control [0%]

100% chance of losing control

FEL Under Construction (61096) has fallen to the attackers.

Public Service Announcement

The Only Good Alien Is A Dead Alien.

Piracy

A mayday transmission from the Mohache freighter Persii Lon Hycoomp (what sort of crazed Xenos name is that?) drew a significant response from brave Empire forces this week, as the noble House LiQuan and brave Imperial and GTT ships rushed to attempt to destroy the attacking pirate battleship.

The pirate was driven away, blessed by the True One, and the Mohache saved.

Of all the alien races, the office of his Holiness has decreed that the Mohache are the most likely to embrace the Word of the True One, and thus be saved. The presence of the Mohache on the cradle homeworld of man, Earth itself, is tolerated by both his Imperial Majesty Lysander, and the True One. We trust the Mohache will prove that they are above the rest of the Xenos in this Galaxy.

Public Service Announcement

Faith makes us strong.

Unity is purpose.

Education is the Enemy of God.

Beware the weakness of freedom.

Inquisition News

His Holiness the Pope and His blessed Inquisition have completed their investigation into the worthless morally degrading media output of the Detinus Republic this week, condemning them for their vile and morally degrading nature.

The Inquisition particularly disapproved of the Detinus singer, Treasure Winters, who promotes such heresies as 'tolerance of other faiths' and 'loving the alien'.

The Inquisition disapproves of any such thing.

Public Service Announcement

Prayer brings us close to the Divine.

Detinus News

Detinus republic news sources are reporting the destruction of alone Imperial freighter in the Arachnid system this week.

Public Service Announcement

There is no place for the weakwilled or hesitant. Only by firm action and resolute faith will mankind survive. No sacrifice is too great. No treachery too small.

Detinus News

DTR sources are reporting that the pirate Morgan warship Royal Fortune has successfully boarded and captured the DTR freighter 'Another Big DTR Fleet' in the outer reaches of the Venice system. Both pirate and victim are understood to have made a clean getaway.

Pirate News

Some evil reporter stationed with the godless heathen Morgan the pirate has continued sending in reports this week, demonstrating the moral laxitude of previous editors of this news outlet who have dared to even speak to pirates, let alone gather news from them.

This will no longer be tolerated! The True One abjures any who hold trust with sinners and fornicators! The True One shall cast ye out and blind ye that you might wander alone amongst the sewers!

The True One cares not for how many ships you might have captured Morgan, the True One

cares only that you turn yourself in immediately! The Inquisition shall work their salvation upon your flesh, they shalt open thee as the mind doth open to the words of truth, they shalt carve the words of salvation upon thine spleen Morgan, embrace us as we shall embrace you!

Public Service Announcement

The weak will always be led by the strong. Where the strong see purpose and act, the weak follow; where the strong cry out against fate, the weak bow their heads and succumb. There are many who are weak; and many are their temptations. Despise the weak for they shall flock to the call of the Renegades. Pity them not and scorn their cries of innocence - it is better that one hundred innocently fall before the wrath of the Emperor than one kneels before the Renegade.

Thought For The Week

And lo did the Pope speak unto the faithful, 'You ask why we must cleanse the xenos. I will tell you. The filth of the alien and the witch must be exterminated to preserve the purity of the Human race, lest we degenerate into abomination.'

Special Report – Honest Jim's Trading News

I know some among my loyal readers are shackled to starbases, unable to experience the freedom of making their living through buying and selling on the public markets. While your humble correspondent mainly

pities those poor unfortunates, it would be a shame to neglect their needs and so this week I will concentrate on good deals for those with an eye on local populations.

For those lucky enough to have access, top of the list is Vehren Crabs from House Vehrenberg's secretive starbase Vehrenberg-Stadt. This is only worth 0.1 stellars each at source, but a market price of 0.4 stellars, plentiful supplies, and an Inner Empire origin makes this an excellent proposition - for those who can find it.

Perhaps surprisingly for an organisation with such a shadowy reputation, FET markets have some very good deals, with most of their unique goods priced at six or seven times their value at source. Check out Culinary Seaweed Oil from Teller, Plantmesh from Yank, Leffinphants from Tycoon and Tufted Blue Leg from Pegasus (all originating in the Outer Capellan). Pink Opaque Juice from Misre, or Cedy Sharks from Forest (Inner Capellan and Cluster respectively). While the Mohache's prices may not look so competitive, they have a number of items much sought after by specific races. For those with Naplian populations to satisfy, Mohache Carved Gems should certainly

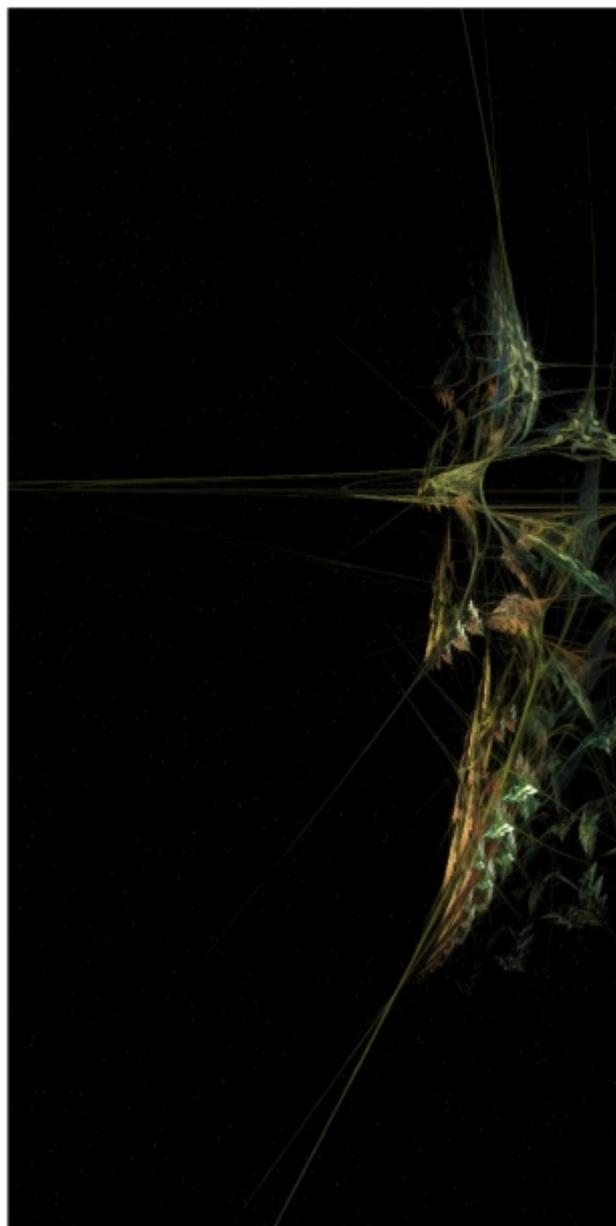
be on your shopping list - available from a variety of Mohache markets. If you're selling to Wimbles, you may prefer to look at Mohache Tales or Prize Cattle from Tranquility Gate. Native populations are fond of Mohache Folk Music, although these are a little pricier at twenty times their source value.

Top tip for those with Hive populations is... well, actually, it's always check your cryobay carefully for eggs. But also, take a look at Indarian Megs from House Liquan's market in Persian. Felini populations will enjoy Rage Gannets from DEN Dark Sun City in Acropolis, while the Dewieks themselves will prefer Newstart Art from DEN Dragon in Hydrae.

While we're sure the Mohache Beerstein is of great symbolic value, it may be less attractive to market traders, on sale at 666 times its source value. Some may wish to ponder the significance of this number

to religions of Old Earth and consider whether it hints at a darker face to the Mohache disguised by their public persona of peaceful traders.

As ever your humble correspondent,
James "Honest Jim" Killick



Special Report – From The Blog Of Brother Viktor

There was a hiss of gas as the interior pressure was matched to the exterior atmosphere. As the re-enforced doors began slowly parting, gusting wind and rain assailed the inside of the cargo lifter.

Mikael pulled his long coat tightly around his body and stepped out into the maelstrom that was engulfing the cargo port. His ear throbbled painfully and he silently cursed inefficient climate controls found in hi-port cargo lifts across the galaxy. He could have used the passenger lift, but then you only get to see what they want you to see; cold truth is rarely shown to tourists.

Ground crews wrapped in bad weather gear, glowing safety strips outlining their limbs and digits, began flowing into the lifter in preparation for unloading the AFT stamped transport crates – according the manifest there was nothing in the shipment more interesting than agricultural equipment and trinkets destined for the commerce sector. Mikael moved to one side so as not to be a hindrance to their monotonous labours.

Exit from the hi-port to the passenger terminal was on the other side of a vast wall on Mikael's left. There would be clean, enclosed and brightly coloured transport tubes for the passengers arriving that way, but from here Mikael could see things hidden from that area - at least he could if the driving rain was not obscuring the view as much. Along the top of the vast wall stood a series of squat turrets in two distinct designs; a spherical device sitting in an armoured collar with two prongs pointing skyward, and spherical devices again with jutting prongs, entrapped between a bottom and top hoop – automated anti-air and anti-personnel pods.

Drenched marines patrolled the area in twos, or accompanied by strange six-legged creatures on strong leashes. Two of these marines approached Mikael as he watched them, and they eyed him suspiciously before informing him that this area was off-limits to the general public. For a moment he contemplated ignoring them to see how they would react, what procedure they would follow, but Mikael was tired and hungry and, True One forgive him, he really could not be bothered with tests right now. So instead he carefully pulled aside his coat to reveal the badge of office hung about his neck, giving the two marines what he hopped was a kind smile. One of the men snapped instantly to attention and threw the most professional salute he could manage while the other stared uncomprehendingly at his companion. This amused Mikael immensely. He reassured both men that saluting was not required, but an escort to the offices of Governor Julie Penhold was. A little unsure of protocol in a situation like this, the marine still standing rigidly at attention hesitantly asked if he was expected.

Mikael burst into laughter at this enquiry, the misery of the gales and rain driven back by his mirth.

“My dear child, no one expects the Inquisition.”

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.19.5

Inter Galactic News - Dewiek Special

Message From The Editor

The IGN news-room having been spiritually purged to maximum effect earlier in the week, has had the scent of incense replaced with the scent of Dewiek, as we welcome the latest in our string of guest editors to the offices. So with no further ado we hand you over to Packmaster Fleshrip.

News

~~~ strange headache ~~~  
~~~ odd buzzing noise ~~~  
~~~ urge to go to bathroom ~~~  
~~~ popping of ears ~~~

BAH! WHAT IS THIS! PACKMASTER FLESHRIP HAS DISTRIBUTED THIS WEEKS NEWS VIA DEWIEK TELEPATHIC BURST!

ALL WORTHY SPECIES WILL HAVE UNDERSTOOD THIS!

ALL LESSER SPECIES ARE NOT WORTH COMMUNICATING WITH!

EVOLVE TO DEVELOP TELEPATHY IF YOU WANT THE NEWS THIS WEEK! YOU IGNORANT YOUNGER RACES!

Fleshrip has had enough of this, FIGHTING TIME!

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.21.5

Inter Galactic Peace Pipe News

New Editor

After some recent disruption to our service, we are pleased to report a fresh editor has been conscripted to join the ranks of the Galaxies finest news organ this week, transforming us into a gentler, kinder, more peaceful pastoral news outlet, under the editorial control of Young Master Sampson of the Mohache commune.

Aunt Bertrudes Finest

Well by gum, if our Aunt Bertrude hasn't released the finest batch of tender scummyfant pies this week, prompting a veritable gentle

meandering of traders to the nearest outlets at Starbases near you. In these times of strife dear gentle readers, we should remind you all of the benefits of a lovely scrummyfant pie, guaranteed to put a smile on your face, and inches on your waistline. Luverly jubberly.

Careless Blighters

Here, that's a mite silly of them, those Detinus chaps have only gone and flown another squadron of freshly built ships into that nasty nebula they went and created in Venice. Going too fast I reckon, these young folks, with their flashy go faster stripes. I don't hold with it you hear, kick back young 'uns, take it easy.

Brief Interlude

Elevesens! Everybody stop for tea and cakes.

'Orrible Sorts

Our lad Beacher just came on the old inter-stellar blower to tell us about these pesky pirate types capturing a Flagritz freighter in the Twilight Periphery.

I done heard Twilight was one of the safest places in the Universe, right enough, unless you were a Hive type that is, and the ol' Squiggles figured they wanted to give you a stompin'. An old style ho-down stompin' at that.

Anyways, by crikey eh, pirates in the Twilight, it weren't like this in the good old days, boy howdy no, why when I were a lad and all this were fields, we used to be able to see pirates coming from along way off, aye, in great big ships they had, all creaking and groaning like, and usually we just had to leave a nice baked pie out on the mantle and they'd be picking it up and heading on their way.

Not many people know that about pirates you know, give them a nice slice of steaming hot cake and a bit of cream on the side, and they're likely as not to just be a wandering off and leave you alone.

Ah you see, it has to be just the right sort of cream though, not many people know the delicate intricacies involved in matching up the right cream with the right cake. Fortunately the Mohache have just completed research into Bakery Mk IV, which is installing as we speak.

War Stuff

What be it with you folks and your running around blowing stuff up, it's all very unnecessary doncha know, just sit down with your enemies and light up the peace pipe and make them your friends. Simple.

Anyway, news is those DTR boys, all angry like since they got betrayed by their allies, been running around shooting up more GTT outposts, this time one in the Dorn system. Orbit of Blues so it was, nasty business, bunch of damage done. Heard tell some cake was destroyed in the process. Bloomin' tragedy I calls it. Tragedy.

Bad News Day

Ah, now here's a plain old chunk of bad news for the GCE and no mistake. Seems like a rotten pirate sort went and captured one of their freighters in orbit of a planet in the Capellan system no less, right in the heart of Imperial space. Pretty bad itself I think you'd all agree, but here now, if that GCE freighter wasn't only carrying a copy of Racial Design Advanced Human.

Well I reckon that qualifies as a great big stomping whoopsy-daisy and no mistake.

I hear them pirates got away Mohache-free too, both boarder, victim, and booty.

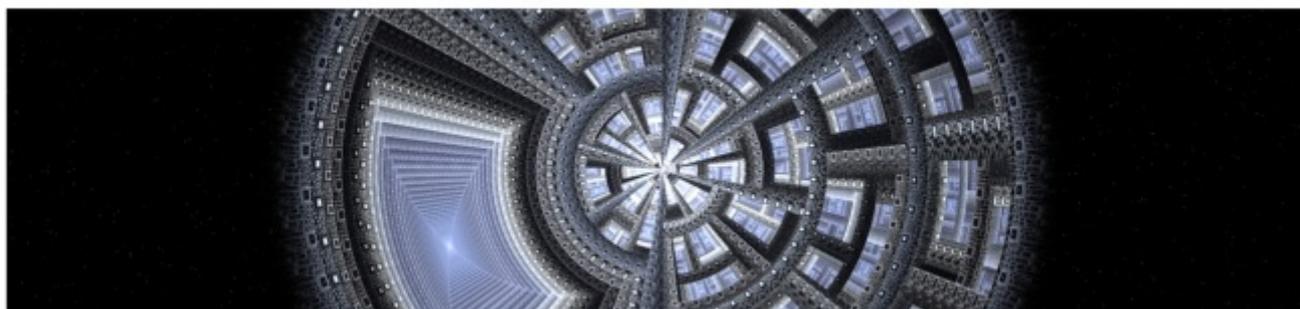
We also heard a DEN exploration ship were captured deep inside DEN space too. Ain't no stopping these pirate sorts.

Nasty Old Skirmish

Seems the IMP done went and shot up a small DTR mining outpost in the Arachnid system lately, and whilst attempting to intercept, DTR forces brought to battle a small squadron of 5 HLQ warships what were promptly blown up.

Seems those same HLQ warships had just recently been buzzing a small DTR platform in the system and just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, much like old Master Wellsonpiemaker who done got caught climbing out Bertie Fiddlecakesters wifes window that time, well crikey now, we all still have a good old chuckle about his landing on them railings right enough.

Where did I put my pipe eh? Let me just sit back and be telling you all about how this years harvest is coming along, you see we planted the top field with that new GTT Hyper Barley, but sure enough if it didn't go and uproot itself and start trying to take over Old Man Haversham's grain store.



Oh dear Oh dear Oh dear

Well I just don't know, here's more news of success for those nasty violent pirate types. A small IMP spy ship in the Boston system, and one of our very own Peech Class freighters, well that just ain't right, our nan's second cousin Percy were on that ship, and now he's in the clutches of nasty old pirates. Well by gum.

Brief Interlude

Oops, it's lunchtime, back in a bit chaps.

Far More Important News

The sun it be a shining, and the cows down the pasture are getting nice and fat. Ahhh. Satisfying.

Pirating Don't Always Pay

Here now young 'uns, this is more like it. A big day of misses to report for that pirate Morgan fella.

IMP 150XL/LH ..missed

GTT 150XL/LH .. missed

GTT 50HH .. missed

IMP 10NH .. missed

IMP 75HH .. missed

That be more like it. But here now here now hold on a mo', what's this? Pirates captured the MOH ship ORRSKYE and made off with 1358mus of our finest prize Fibrillium? Well blow me down, if that's just not right and proper.

Here now, a Flagritz outpost lost on the very same day? The DEN ship Coyote? The DEN ship Doghouse? All on the same day? Well blow me down with a pint of cider in my hand.

Did you know?

Did you hear, I've got a brand new combine harvester. And you know what? I might even let you have the key. Aye, I might at that.

Brief Interlude

Post lunch snack time, everybody to the pub!

DEN News

We done heard from them nice Falconian boys that joined up with the DEN, now, I don't hold with all that zipping about in the sky business, but I has to say I like how the FCN enjoy a nice bit of tasty nosh.

Anyways, we here tell that the main FEL base Bubastis in the Doctrine system has been under constant fire this week and is no longer able to support the FEL claim for the system. The system is no longer FEL controlled and the FEL have made no efforts to dispute this.

The brave infantry from the house magpie base Onward Magpie have concluded their controlled withdrawal from Fellowship after fighting their way out of the fallen base and across the surrounding waters. Approximately 5000 troops, including many veterans were able to be evacuated over the past few days ready for operations in other theatres.

More Lovely DEN News

Sparrow class survey ship (20HH) DEN X trapolate (81344) was lost to boarding by the vessel PIRATE SHIP Fortune (96655) on 212.20.4 while orbiting an asteroid in the Aranosis system. House Magpie sources expressed concern over the number of these difficult to detect systems that the pirates recently have knowledge of.

Brief Interlude

Well now, well now, well now, if that ain't the sun all shining and brought out there. Why, I think it's time we all broke up for the day and went and had a nice pint and some tasty snacks. Good day to you all, from your friends the Mohache. And remember, we are everybodies friends. Peace and love.

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.23.... something wonkified.

******* CIA Confederate Special News (CCSN) - War Edition*******

Now back in the Confederacy after joining a long diplomatic tour of DEN space and getting the Confederate Authorities to reconnect the electricity & other services, here are the latest reports:

Empire Strikes Again

A massive ground battle is currently raging in the Faery system, over a DTR starbase. The Imperial Service ground party, numbering above 150,000 troops & materiel, engaged the starbase who put up stiff resistance.

With the fighting ongoing we shall have to visit this story later...

The War Spreads

Fighting has broken out across Empire and Republican space with skirmishes breaking out in the Arachnid, Badlands, Faery & T.Tauri systems.

A mixture of damaged and destroyed ships from either side has been reported into the newsroom from various sources and the news team is on standby to bring further reports when they arrive...

Update: Military sources tell us that Republican Ship Captains have thrown their cargo of life forms out of the airlocks in an apparent ruse to enable them to escape. The same sources say this tactic failed, the fate of the jettison people is unknown and our military reporters tell us this may be a new desperate and worrying "kamikaze" tactic the Republicans may be deploying.

Empire Strikes Again - Update

Some more information has arrived into the CCSN newsroom regarding this story, It seems the Empire's assault of this Republican starbase in the Faery system is continuing and the base is currently 50% controlled by the Empire with the fighting now bogged down in vicious complex to complex fighting. Casualties are mounting up from both sides which means this could be one of the largest ground battle in recent history.

Further reports as they come in

Empire Strikes Again - Latest Update

Last minute update to the ongoing conflict between Empire and Republican Ground forces.

Reports have reached us that the control of the Republican starbase has fallen to Empire forces. We don't have any details other than the starbase has fallen.

Once more, we hope we can bring updates to these and other stories in the coming days,

This is Ainsley Moore, reporting for the CCSN, back to the studio.....

***** **End of Transmission** *****

*** **Imperial News Transmission** ***

From the office of the patrol commissioner.....

DTR Forces hit Rhea in Titan

A large group of DTR warships entered orbit of Rhea in Titan and engaged the HLQ platform sited there. During the exchange the platform took light to moderate damage. 2 DTR warships were destroyed, with a further 3 200HH warships taking heavy damage.

Major DTR Forces in Titan

Following from their attacks on the HLQ platform, and during the leave orbit phase, the DTR armada arrived in the quad, the IMP and Allied command had luckily decided it was an ideal opportunity for a trap, however a small grouping of GTT cruisers failed to be notified of this along with 1 lone IMP warship. When lined up against 993 DTR warships the battle was somewhat 1 sided. All GTT warships around 20 in total were wiped out.

DTR platform attacked in Straddle

A DTR platform located in Straddle was engaged for 2 consecutive days by GTT warships and HLQ warships. The platform took damage but is understood to still be effective. Allied forces successfully withdrew.

IMP and Allied forces launch major ground offensive

These are early reports, and are not in any way concluded, but following from the DTR showing their huge fleet in Titan, Commanders decided the go was to be given for the much awaited 2nd front. A Large ground offensive has started in the Faery system, consisting of hundreds of thousands on troops being deployed.

It is understood the target, which is of considerable size is currently 50% held by Imperial forces, after the DTR managed to drop more tanks and veteran troops into the battle on day 2.

As of press the battle is ongoing and fierce.....

Allied forces strike in Faery

Allied warhips, consisting of IMP, HLQ and CNF, hit shipping in the Faery system, on day one 3 freighters were destroyed and many held up managing to flee battle. On day two, 15 more freighters were destroyed, some troop transports with vital ground equipment for the DTR defenders. It is not known what the next 24-48 hours will bring.

PIR ship captured in Straddle

During patrols to monitor DTR traffic a small 9 hulled Pirate vessel, a gun boat was spotted, an Imperial boarder was sent and the vessel was captured. It has been hastily commissioned into IMP service against the DTR threats.

Transmission Ends.....



Definus Republic In Crisis

The DTR appears to be on the brink of defeat this week, following the shock announcement of the retirement of almost the entire central DTR command staff, along with almost every senior minister.

With a war still waging against half the Peripheries, it seems as if the Empire forces are on the verge of winning a stunning victory, knocking the DTR out in just a few short months.

Communications Leaked

Gleeful Imperial news agencies are trumpeting a major coup this week following the release of confidential communications between the DTR and DEN, with the Dewiek having managed to really stick it to the DTR, it seems likely that the already frosty relations between DTR and DEN are likely to get even colder.

Shipping

IMP authorities are trying to sub-contract hauliers, likely due to their needs to meet large shipping requests in and through DTR space to the ongoing battlefield in the Faery system.

DTR Travel Advisory

All sentients are advised that due to Empire attacks, the Faery and Badlands systems are now under DTR martial law.

All non DTR positions should apply for transit permissions along defined safe corridors. All other positions are liable to come under attack.

Battle Of Fellowship

Evac Station One, deep into enemy lines

As the battle raged High Lord returned to the evac centre with the remaining assault groups and his brothers from the 12th Marine Corp the mood was high with the marines however something was not right and Filtiarn was not in great spirits.

Captain, ensure the marines are looked after. Uplink comms with High Command, yes my Lord are you well? I'm living captain you have your orders, my Lord.

Comm link secure my Lord, comms and video links are ready in your private quarters..

Brother speak with me what is the current status?

You have done well brother, it appears that the orbit is reduced to debris over 4000 platform hull destroyed we are still collecting data on this and some 37 Felini ship destroyed well over 3200 hulls my Lord, also received reports that some 800 hulls of enemy ships have been boarded and taken.

What of the fleet brother, light damage 13 ships failed to make it back evac has collected the crew.

May we ask what happened in Heliopolis brother?

Felini reinforced the outpost daily, why Heliopolis it was another flea pit on the world marked for burning. Fear not brother that flea pit has been reduced to rubble, it appears Felini scouts picked up the banners of the 12th assaulting the base and hoped for a high profile kill. My Lord are you hurt? Deeply brother, deeply, I had hoped that flea carrier Rasshan would face me he failed to show again.

What was the full status report from the ground, comms from the assault groups appear to have taken all primary targets? Confirmed my Lord a total of 14 Starbases targeted have been assaulted and raided little is left for the kitties to play with now. Evac status? Under hourly review my Lord, some items of interest have been recovered.

What about my marine's brother, under hourly review my Lord. Hourly review? See to it that I don't review your status on the Council brother pull my marines off world I have my sights on a fresh Battlefield lets see if that Lion has his balls left or if he was doctored like his master was by the rednecks blades...

Brother before you leave, how is Mother? Happy my Lord, she watches fondle the video links of your assaults but has questioned your choice to assault a Platform loaded with jammers..because I could brother, because I could! Leave me I have plans to consider...

As the darkness fell, the High Lords mind drifted....Home, Janth, Dragon, Mother, Death! A voice spoke to him. My cub know that I have always loved you and your sister, Mother you should be at the stone circle, your heart is free yet weak. Change is coming my cub I know you have felt him do not fear his command and will. As the ice melts he grows in strength his fleet is far greater than my own do not fear the death that comes embrace his rage and join me for I foresee many great moons we shall spend together howling to the cubs we raised, the training you have done with the marines will be his prize your fur his coat, I shall leave your body to him your soul is mine come to me now...your time in the stars is no more howl with me as the moon lifts. Come my son...

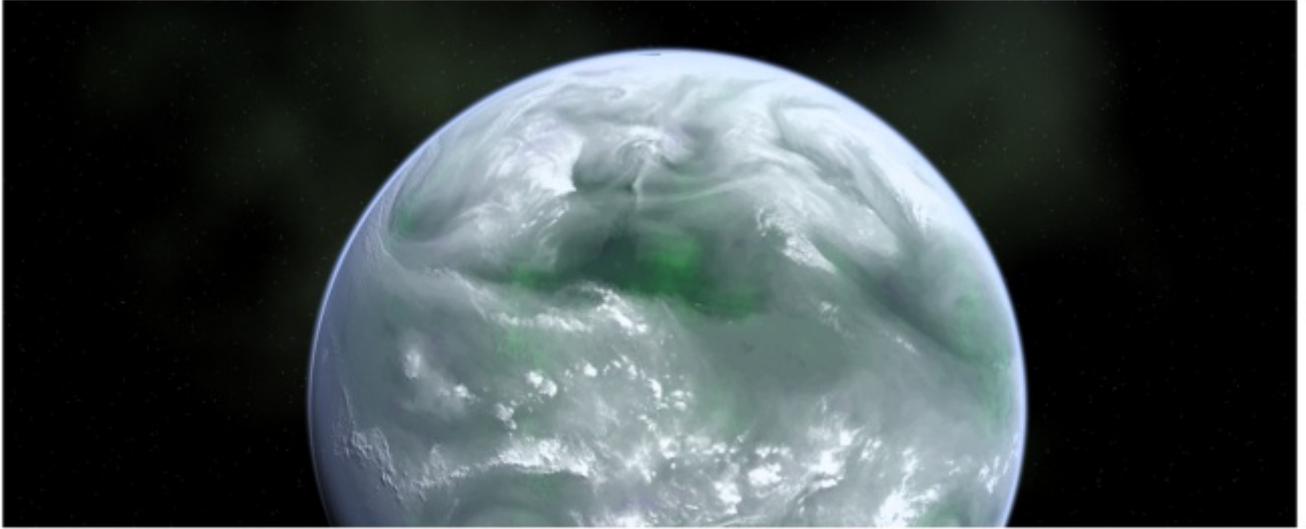
Commander. Hail the fleet I need a transport ship, yes my Lord.

Inter Galactic News - Newsflash

News has just reached the news-room that the deciding space conflict of our times is currently being fought, as the combined fleets of the Empire have brought the DTR Stellar Armada to battle in the Faery system.

Heavily outnumbered by Empire forces, the DTR are fighting for their very survival.

More news as we receive it.



Subspace Static - Star Date Oh God, what's happened to temporal physics?!!

Galaxy Torn Apart

Time and space across the Peripheries are reeling at time of press, as massive fluctuations are being reported across virtually all known systems.

The source of the temporal and spatial disruption appears to have been the Straddle system, which momentarily vanished from known space, before mysteriously re-appearing in the Cluster periphery.

Meanwhile two entirely new systems have appeared, Boltzman, in place of Straddle, and Hirathamo, just off Storm.

Quite what agency could be responsible for dislocating one system, and creating two new ones, is unknown, although our news-room has received reports that many affiliations are accusing the DTR of firing some sort of super weapon.

When contacted for a comment, the normally friendly DTR authorities told our reporters to leave at once, as the Detinus Republic appears to be under some sort of unrelated high security lock-down following some sort of 'incident' at their Senate building at the Capitol, New Tate.

Meanwhile, rumours are flying of dread UNKnown alien battlefleets that may have broken through into our reality via these two new systems, and travellers are warned to exercise extreme caution when visiting Boltzman and Hirathamo.

Further rumours are spreading that these same UNK aliens may be on the verge of launching a massive invasion fleet.

Battle Of Fellowship

Things continue to go from bad to, oh god we're being eaten alive by crazed Dewiek psychopaths, for the Felini as the battle for Fellowship continues.

According to reports all organised resistance on the planet has more or less ceased, with the Felini hunkering down in their few remaining defended positions listening to distant explosions as rampaging Dewiek forces set about blowing up everything they can find.

Furthermore, our newsroom has received the following troubling broadcast. Viewers of a sensitive nature may wish to look away now.

Special Action/Captured Felini Base/Hunt the Felini

Before indulging in a feast of prize cattle the dewiek enjoy hours of hunting released felini prisoners. They are released in small groups and though it is certain that many evade the hunters and flee the base, the majority are ripped limb from limb by the blood crazed pack.

This is a good day to be a dewiek.

Tales of the slaughter carried by escapees is substantiated by live

footage broadcast to the population at large.

It is only afterwards that it is confirmed that the Felini mercs have abandoned the base and the Felini employees have to be detained

The DEN authorities have posted notice that a shipping exclusion zone is in force, and all traders should check that they won't be brutally eviscerated if they turn up. The AFT have drawn particular criticism as two AFT freighters have been destroyed whilst attempting to leave orbit of the planet and flee the battle location.

The Dewiek have responded with customary Dewiek nature and issued a formal warning to the AFT.

Battle Of Faery

From the Office of the Patrol Commissioner.....

On behalf of Bratislav Zigic.....

212.22.2

A DTR strikeforce of 30 Capital ships, and 24 Destroyers attacks a HLQ platform in orbit of Rhea, Titan. This follows several similar raids by Detinus forces in the system which had prompted responses from Empire Cruiser Squadrons.

212.22.3

A GTT Destroyer squadron of 20 ships and a single IMP Cruiser are dispatched to Rhea to provide support to the HLQ platform. The crews of the ships are horrified to see the main DTR battle fleet of some 993 ships lying in wait in the Quad. All Allied ships are lost in short order in the trap.

The news though presents the Allied Command with an opportunity. A Ground Assault had already been meticulously planned to assault DTR Sapphires Nest on Elf in the Faery System – a starbase deep within Detinus space. Until now the Allies had mostly restricted themselves to conflict in space claimed by the Imperial Services, but had planned to open a new front. Upon hearing of the position of the DTR fleet, the Commander-in-chief of the ground forces stated his case to bring the ground assault forward to the Allied Command.

With the main Detinus fleet in Titan, and with the ground assault equipment in strike range of Faery, it was agreed that the Ground Assault should be brought forward five days in the knowledge that it would take between 3-5 days for a large proportion of the DTR Armada to reach the conflict zone. This was a was risky gambit though – the Allied fleets were split between a force moving from Imperial space and a force moving from Confederate space. The original plan had been for the Navies to combine to prior to staging the assault in order to provide cover for the ground forces. For the initial ground assault, there would be limited Naval support.

Another concern was that a DTR spy ship was blown up in orbit over IMP Tuzanor, the latest in a line of these spies. The DTR had shown a lot of interest in the system, and with the massed fleet, and several factions within the DTR with a Hive heritage and public claims of the system as their ancestral home, it raised the question: were the DTR about to stage a ground assault of their own?

After some deliberation the go was given, and Naval forces were instructed to make haste for Faery. Tuzanor was instructed to batten down the hatches and the message was sent out to Allied raiding parties to step up their harassing attacks.

212.22.4

D-Day.

Massed freighters ship thousands of troops from their staging point to Elf. Despite some losses in transit, Allied Ground Forces quickly formed up, establishing a beach head and then make good progress against the stunned defending forces. The Allied force is lead up by Jones Marauders, the unit that had wrestled Hidden Abyss from the DTR, in his first report from the frontlines the commander reports successfully establishing 24% control of the base.

In the Quad a squadron of 26 IMP ships, plus 6 supporting HLQ ships begin to attempt to disrupt DTR reinforcements to the base, blowing up 3 freighters. The next 24 Hours are a nervous affair for these intrepid Captains as it is uncertain whether the DTR have Naval forces in the vicinity. The crew are emboldened though at the progress being on the ground. A call to arms is sent to the Confederate Navy to provide support.

In Titan, HLQ scouts confirm that the DTR Armada have held their ground. It is five jumps between Titan and Faery, the race to Elf begins.

212.22.5

The DTR armada begins to move from Titan. Scans from IMP scouts suggest some of the fleet have passed through Acropolis, whilst other scouts suggest movement of other elements within Titan. It is unclear whether these ships - which includes the DTR's 200 hull Capital ships - have moved out of the system at this point. The exact disposition of these two forces is also unknown, and furthermore it is unclear as to whether the DTR Armada has split into just two or more fleets.

On Elf, more troops are poured into the conflict by both sides. Jones Marauders report that troop ships successfully evacuate the scene. A number of DTR veterans help slow down Empire progress - helping to wipe out a fresh arrival of 1800 light tanks - but Allied forces push on steadily clawing territory in tough complex to complex fighting and establishing more than 50% control of the base.

Meanwhile, Operatives in DTR Sapphires Nest close down hiport complexes in an attempt to hinder resupplying the base.

In the outer rings of Faery a further Confederate force engages DTR freighters, destroying two DTR troop transports. Whilst the news that more DTR troops have been prevented from reaching the battle on Elf is welcomed by the grunts on the deck, the DTR are now alerted to the CNF taking an active role in the mission.

A further 380 ships of the Confederate Navy arrive at D12 Faery. In Space no one can hear you scream, but a loud cheer is made by the IMP/HLQ advance screen stationed there.

212.23.1

Rapid response elements of the DTR fleet make it to Faery. Some 523 ships cross paths with a Confederate force of just 55 ships in D13, reducing 11 ships to debris and badly denting many more.

A further 78 DTR ships are spotted in D15 of Faery. Intelligence confirms that these two forces were part of the Detinus armada. There is grudging admiration for the DTR's ability to move so many ships that distance in such a short time.

In T.Tauri a GTT Heavy Cruiser raiding squadron of 11 ships run into DTR squadron of 32 ships suffering heavy casualties of 5 ships.

The presence of the remainder of the DTR Armada – which includes a number of 200 heavy hulled ships – remains a mystery until an Imperial Cruiser manages to report running into 488 ships in the Arachnid system before being vaporised. This news establishes that the Armada broke up into 2 fleets, a fast response force that is now in Faery and the main task force of Capital ships in Arachnid.

In Badlands a DTR freighter is intercepted and destroyed by CNF forces.

On Elf, the ground assault continues to lose momentum as DTR reinforcements continue to be squeezed through the blockade. Heavy casualties are reported and there are serious concerns that the gambit has failed. However, the thought of giving up the assault at this stage - at the cost of so many - is found abhorrent and the ground forces are told to press on, whilst as many reinforcements as can be gotten hold of are rushed to the front.

In the first 2-3 days of the conflict approximately 50 DTR Freighters have been destroyed as part of the blockade and whilst docked at Sapphires Nest.

In Wanderer, an Imperial Scout investigates a DTR outpost in G13. This appears to be a deep space recreation complex and is assumed to have been the staging point of the DTR Armada before setting the trap in Titan.

212.23.2

An Imperial Cruiser, part of a Cruiser Squadron attempting to track the DTR armada in Arachnid runs into a Detinus spotter platform at D13. The Captain decides to attack but in doing so alerts the Republic of his presence.

A second Imperial Cruiser jumps directly onto the DTR main fleet, and whilst quickly vaporized reveals that this fleet are still 3 jumps from Faery. Hopes are raised that pickets may be able to be put in place in T.Tauri to further slow down progress.

The bulk of the Imperial fleet arrives at D12 Faery linking up with the Confederate forces already in place. Jump Engines are allowed to cool off whilst DTR freighters continue to be attacked to prevent them re-supplying the base.

The two DTR forces in Faery form up at D15.

On Elf, the DTR rename Sapphires Nest as Helms Deep, but the move is in vain as Allied Ground Forces seize control of the base. Seeing how the tide has turned a number of Elf militia quickly swear allegiance to the Emperor and turn on DTR forces. Messages of congratulations are sent across the subspace to Jones Marauders.

Consideration is given to attempt to engage the DTR fleet at D15 the next day, but in the end the command council opt to continue to attempt to prevent DTR supplies from reaching Elf.

In Wanderer, the Imperial Scout docks with the DTR recreation complex spotted the previous days. Troops overwhelm the unprotected employees on board and have a spell of R&R like no other. The ship later undocks with 3275 guilders purloined from the facility, and having daubed Long Live the Empire at every opportunity. The 10 employees remain unharmed, albeit bound and gagged...the Captain of the Scout has a pang of concern that DTR forces will neglect to rescue them, but then decides that this way the employee's should be thankful that the option to just atomise the outpost was not taken.

212.23.3

The Cruiser at D13 Arachnid is attacked by a squad of 6 DTR light forces. Other members of the Cruiser Squadron make no observations of the main DTR fleet, though a couple of other ships are observed. Furthermore, pickets were just out of range to reach key locations - contact with the main DTR fleet has been lost.

In Faery the DTR fleet at D15 moves to D13. Questions are raised as to whether an opportunity to catch half of the DTR fleet may have been missed. The Allied fleet though have maintained a stranglehold on Elf.

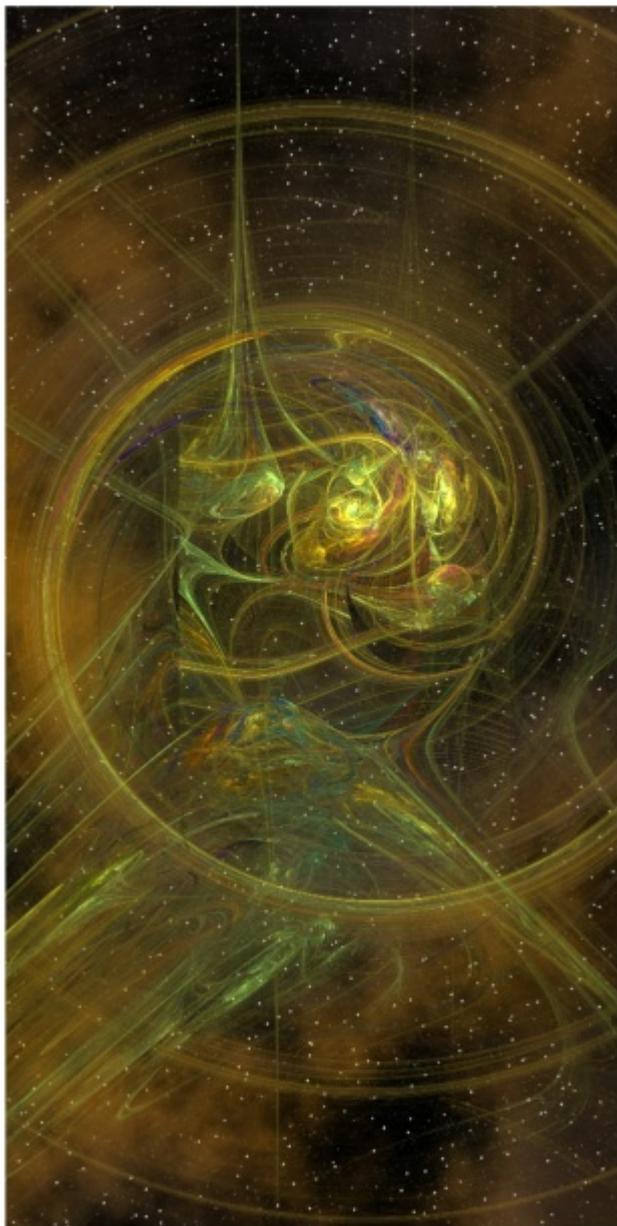
On the surface, Allied forces continue to improve control on the base. Attempts to board DTR freighters docked at the starport are made, though - with a couple of exceptions - mostly fail.

5 CNF and 28 GTT Raiders intercept and destroy 2 DTR freighters in D12 Badlands, one of which is a Troop transport

Meanwhile there are rumours of strange goings on in Straddle and the appearance of new Systems filtering through. For most though they remain rumours and the focus remains firmly on the job at hand.

As the Allied Command try to establish the location of the missing Detinus fleet, GTT Scouts report the sighting of several ships. Their location is Badlands G13.

The main DTR fleet are just one jump from Faery.



Crews are informed to prepare themselves for the battle of our times.

212.23.4

The DTR engage the Allied fleet at D12 of Faery.

In total the DTR field 1027 ships, though a large proportion of them are 50 hulled. The Allied presence is 985 ships (54 HLQ, 180 IMP, 195 GTT, 57 CIA, 79 FET and 420 CNF) though, whilst having fewer ships, the Empire forces command more Capital Ships and hold a 50% advantage in number of hulls. For most Imperial Servicemen, this is the first time they've been in a major fleet battle with the DTR where they enjoy local superiority. Many Confederate servicemen go into the battle fighting against those whom they once fought alongside. United under the same Emperor, it is time to make new blood oaths.

A number of the DTR ships retreat as soon as contact is made, which further adds to the advantage the Allied forces hold – especially as many of the ships are the 200 hull Liberators.

There is no time to chase them though as there are still plenty of DTR ships in the battle.

At the end of the days battle, some 15 DTR ships have been blown up and a further 57 suffer an Integrity Breakdown. This comes at a cost of 8 Allied ships, 2 from each of the CNF, CIA, GTT and FET. Of particular note the Allies destroy 11 150 NH Annihilator Class Carriers which had provided mass Space Interceptor screens, though the DTR still have a further 29 active. The DTR also suffer heavy losses to their 50 hulled cruisers and destroyers and 5 100 heavy hulled ships.

Allied losses are seven 100, and one 150 heavy hulled ships which all took heavy damage after being singled out by missile wielding Liberators.

Unluckiest ship of the day is the DTR Corsair 9-6 (47554) which falls apart after a critical hit to the Engines at just 34.1% hull damage. Meanwhile the damage control crews work overtime on the DTR Carrier (81219) as the ship makes awful creaking noises at 73% hull damage.

On Elf, the Allied force tightens its grip on Helms Deep, wiping out the remaining Detinus defence force.

In G12 a lone CNF warship prevents a lone DTR warship from joining the conflict at D12, and the two go toe to toe. The DTR ship probably wins the round on points, but both vessels remain barely scratched.

In Arachnid, having lost contact with the main fleet, 4 ships move to

D13 to engage the DTR force there, however the DTR similarly increase their numbers to 10 – albeit some of the ships are of a support function. The original IMP cruiser breaks up as it is caught trying to evacuate.

212.23.5

Day 2 of the Naval battle sees a few Allied reinforcements filter through to increase the presence to 1000 ships. The DTR field 771 ships including 12 reinforcements.

The advantage remains with the Empire, but they suffer 22 losses whilst inflicting 53 losses on the Republic. It is noted though that a further 57 DTR ships are heavily damaged (30%+ hull integrity) and 39 moderately damaged (20-30%), whilst the numbers are 22 and 33 respectively for the Allied forces.

In the two battles at Faery D12 combined hull losses stand at
DTR 125 ships of which 5400HH, 3475 NH, 525LH
Allies 30 ships totalling 4000HH

Though it is suspected that several more DTR vessels may have suffered Integrity Breakdown when leaving combat with a number of Captain's reporting firing on ships leaving the scene.

Luckiest ship of the day is Musket S6 (77412), which manages to survive at 70% Hull damage, meanwhile the CIA Golem takes a critical hit at just 7.2% at the hands of the DTR Term 2...the Gunnery Control Officer is nicknamed "Sniper".

On Elf, Empire Ground Forces press their campaign and start to assault the second largest DTR base on the planet - Ruby's Nest. Initial reports are positive.

In Arachnid, the tide turns further against the Imperial Cruiser Squadron which - whilst reinforced by 7 more ships, sees a further 12 DTR ships join the skirmish. This includes 11 Liberators. Severely outgunned, another Cruiser is lost and a several ships are heavily damaged.

212.24.1

Jones Marauders joins up and take direct command of the ground assault forces on Ruby's Nest, which in turn starts an artillery barrage against Helms Deep. Further inroads are made, though it is evident that some DTR freight is still getting through.

In the Orbital Quad, the space battle rages for a third day. DTR ship numbers amount to 732 ships, whilst the Allied fleet is down to 953 ships as some vessels move out to replenish supplies. The DTR suffer 12 ships blown up outright and a further 75 ships suffer an Integrity Breakdown. However, the Empire losses are 5 blown up and 44 ships suffering Integrity Breakdown.

49 of the DTR losses are 50 hulled ships, so whilst the ship losses are approximately 2:1 in the Empire favour, the difference in hulls lost is not so great.

Unluckiest ship of the day is DTR Musket 10, which suffers an integrity breakdown at 24.7% hull damage after critical damage to the magazine. Luckiest ship is DTR Musket (59562) which the Captain manages to hold together with emergency supplies of gaffer tape at 73% hull damage.

In T.Tauri D13, an IMP fleet heading towards Faery runs across a light DTR squadron of 5 warships and 6 freighters. The DTR warships fight valiantly to give some of the freighters – including a troop transport – an opportunity to escape. All 5 DTR ships are blown up, and whilst three freighters manage to escape the other three are not so lucky.

In Arachnid, the IMP Cruiser squadron withdraws in the face of overwhelming odds though not before another ship breaks up

Battle Of Faery Update

Our news-room has learnt that a second large DTR Starbase on the planet Elf has been captured in very short order by Imperial ground forces, amidst wild rumours of a total collapse in the DTR defence forces.

Meanwhile the IMP have also captured one of the two 2000 hulled DTR platforms in orbit, with the second expected to fall within the day, leaving the IMP in uncontested control of the planet Elf, and no doubt about to take the system claim too.

And in the space quadrant, the massed fleet battle continues, with heavy loses on both sides.

Numbers released by the DTR seem to indicate that losses throughout the space battle have been roughly even, with Empire forces taking roughly the same loss in hulls as the DTR, though no doubt both sides will disagree on the precise details.

The difficulty of sorting out exactly what happens in such a large space battle is, as readers might understand, extreme.

Ulian Stellar Nation Press Release

While the attention of the Great Leader, may his magnificence never be diminished, is on matters of greater import; I, Krumong Mok, unworthy agent of his will, have been granted the unpleasant duty of dealing with external... elements while they persist in their nefarious activities, to whit: continuing to exist.

All such communication should be passed via private communication channel. These communications will probably be ignored. However, In exceptional circumstances, I may choose to bring the matter to the attention of the all-knowing great Leader, in the unlikely event that it proves a matter worthy of his concern.

The Glorious Nation also gives warning that the recent rearrangement to the 'navigational circumstances' in nearby areas of space known as the 'Outer Ulian Periphery' is due to our ongoing project, of greater power and significance than other puny races have yet undertaken, which goes under the title of 'Stellar Obfuscation - Ulian'. When this project reaches it's inevitable conclusion it will no longer be necessary to deal with inferior races at all, and we can inhabit a less contaminated environment.

Until this glorious day, the Glorious Nation would like to establish relations with like-minded races with a similar outlook and aspirations to ourselves. To this end, would representatives of the... 'Terran Colony Annihilators'... 'The Architects'... and... 'The Wimbles'... please contact me on a private communications channel.

That is all... except one final point. Be wary... do not attack us. We have NUCLEAR WEAPONS!. The thousands of years of our never-ending civilization (II) shows we are not afraid to use them. Even in close-quarter urban warfare.

***** ENDS *****

Strontium Dogs Taken Over

The shady mercenary company The Strontium Dogs appears to have been taken over by elements of the Terran Acquisition Group, as detailed in the following press release:

The TAG is back. Disregard the barking of the Strontium Dogs. We have put them back in their kennels. Look for a change in our advertising. Good deals at Casino Rlo. Dad sold off everything he could get his hands on, but I, Senior Illegitimate Offspring, Vil Krieger, kept some things for the day when Dad would go out in a blaze of Robotic Pleasure Sheep Glory. Come to Casino Rlo, see the frozen head of Rlo Krieger, currently displayed and visible for a mere 1 stellar pittance. We would show you his body as well, but we're still trying to separate all the parts, we can't always tell the Sheep from the man.

If you are targeting Strontium Dogs. Stop. We are peaceful traders. We come in peace. To trade.

Vil

Senior Illegitimate Offspring #1

Trade Acquisition Group.

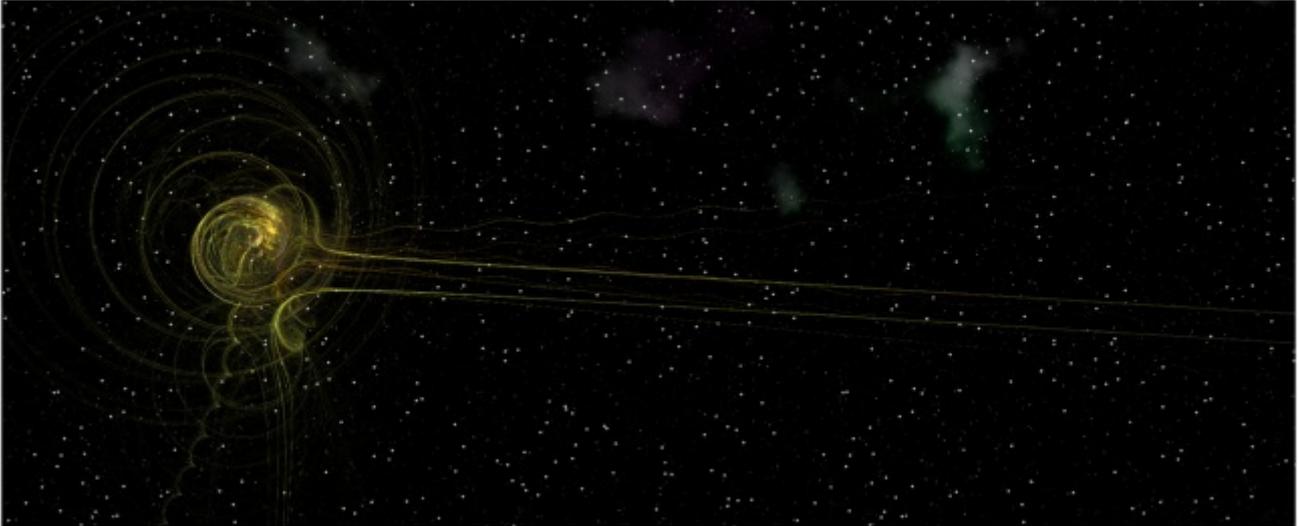
Pirate Destroyed

OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE FROM BROTHERHOOD FLEET COMMAND

On stardate 212.19.5 Battlegroup Hera intercepted a pirate support vessel in Delta 13, Francoise. The pirate vessel was engaged by the RVND Crucifixion M05 commanded by Brother Captain Greenfield. One attack run was sufficient to destroy the target.
ENDS

Pirates

It has been oddly quiet on the piracy front throughout the peripheries these last few weeks, prompting speculation that the dread pirate Morgan may have retired...



Subspace Static - Star Date 212.25.5 / 212.26.3 / 22011001101100011-SCREEEEEEEEEEEECH.

Galaxy Torn Apart

Space and time continue to operate strangely throughout the known Peripheries as travellers report further distortions in the ISR fields of systems surrounding the newly appeared systems of Boltzman and Hirathamo.

Theorists are speculating that some sort of 'ripple effect' may have resulted in the observed temporal disturbances, which continue to baffle sentients throughout the universe as Mondays report as Thursdays, and Tuesdays drop off into an event horizon.

Meanwhile local news agencies are reporting increased incidents of wide-spread hysteria and panic relating to an epidemic of what appear to be night-terrors.

Elsewhere, within the newly appeared systems, we have received reports of DTR and Empire forces skirmishing with each other, as many other affiliations send exploration ships into these two new mysterious systems.

Faery

Empire forces continue their mopping up operation in the Faery system, with reported ground assaults against the DTR outpost Gold Mine where a force of approximately 35,000 Empire troops are attacking DTR defenders that number no more than a thousand.

It is expected that Gold Mine will fall sooner rather than later.

Faery

The second of the two DTR platforms in orbit of Elf has fallen to Empire forces, leaving both platforms now in Empire hands.

Details of the conflict are unclear, and it appears the Empire sent in various waves of different ground assault parties, eventually capturing the platform, with moderate casualties.

The failure of the DTR to hold onto the planet Elf, the platforms, and indeed the entire system of Faery, marks the most significant single defeat for any affiliation in recent history. With the possible exception of the kicking the Felini have been receiving.

DTR News

As reported last week, security at the DTR capitol of New Tate has been under total lock down. This situation has continued this week, with absolutely no news coming in or out of the Detinus Senate.

The only Senator who has even been seen in public is the mercurial and beautiful Senator Sylvansight, who has made brief statements to the press seeking to recruit new bodies to the Detinus Senate.

We understand Senator Sylvansight herself recently survived what sources are describing as a serious incident, where the ship she was travelling on broke apart in deep space, and she had to be rescued from the wreckage by an emergency team.

There has been no comment as to what might have caused the destruction of her ship, but there are unconfirmed reports of a massive explosion, and rumours of sabotage.

All of which comes on the heels of the mysterious disappearance of Senator Garibaldi from the DTR, who vanished amidst a serious security concern. There has been extensive speculation linking these two events.

Dewiek News

The Dewiek Wolf Mother Adoqhina has reportedly died this week, opening up a power vacuum at the top of the Dewiek pack structure.

Early reports are that Magnus The Red, previously known as The Butcher Of Janth, has risen to primacy amongst the DEN, and now leads the affiliation.

What direction the DEN will take under new leadership is unclear, though we have received reports that they have cancelled a number of treaties with the DTR, and have made extensive demands of the Detinus Senate. Demands which given the apparent disappearance of the Detinus Senate, we can only assume have yet to be met.

Breaking News: We have received the following transmission from the heart of the Dewiek government detailing these events.

While the masons work on the construction of the Assembly Adoqhina along with the Falconian Elder Armand greet the human representative of the Empire - Githyanki (ignoring the questions as to why he is here rather than in the thick of the battle with the DTR).

Suffice to say, part of the ceremony opening the Assembly is to present to Githyanki two Empathic Projectors - one for himself and one for the Emperor (who is also not in the thick of the conflict with the DTR - sad little humans).

Following this they are escorted to a chamber where they can watch Adoqhina's final session.

After welcoming and calling the session to order Adoqhina directs the assembly to the images of the great assault on the Felini and the glorious battles and victories and the final routing of the cowards until no further glory and honour could be claimed.

Her final address consists of little more than:

'Hear my mind, my cubs. Never forget: We are one people and on the end of days, we will be triumphant. My own end and your future approaches.'

Shortly after Adoqhina completes her short speech on the war on the Felini Tyranny, Magnus strides across the floor. Heads turn and an empathic babble fills the halls though the only sound is his bare feet on the cool stone.

Stepping onto the dais in front of Adoqhina he stares down with contempt, a look she returns with resigned acceptance. His hand reaches out swiftly, ripping her head clean off her shoulders. Holding it aloft, he roars, 'I AM HIGHLORD OF THE NATION. WHO WOULD DARE OPPOSE ME?'

Leaping from the podium Magnus lands in the middle of the elders - those that given time would no doubt whine behind closed doors and seek to drag him down with their miseries need to die now. Filitairn, jaws slack, is ripped from groin to chest and his innards pulled out - let him bitch about that while he bleeds to death. Lucian has his throat ripped out while Skugga and Soranus eventually go down with many claw wounds.

Magnus himself does not come out unharmed and will always walk with a slight limp and missing one eye.

The assembly however applaud this return to the days of glory!

Following the rending of the elders, Magnus rounds on Githyanki - puny human, hiding from his war on the other side of the galaxy with his toy gun and pretty clothes. There would be no glory in ripping him limb from limb. If humans cannot fight, maybe they can drink?

Barrels are brought in and flagons the size of Githyanki's head are filled.

Maybe Githyanki has had some sort of cyber enhancement as for longer



than even Magnus would have thought possible he matches the huge dewiek swallow for swallow.

A day or so later Githyanki awakes in his bunk feeling pretty good actually - though this may be due to the various drips he has attached to him. He is told that his personal armour was able to detoxify quite a lot of the alcohol though even that was eventually overloaded.

Reporters here at the SSS Inter-Galactic News-room are jolly glad none of us were covering this story, as it sounds as if foreign news reporters might have gone the way of the Verulean Dodo had they been there.

Straddle

GTT scout ships have begun visiting the Boomerang defense platforms once again this week, with the DTR governor reporting the destruction of the GTT ship Flea.

However, broadcasts out of the Straddle system are currently very broken up and distorted with strange sub-space static, so for all we know the governor of the DTR Starbase on the planet might have been requesting more tea and biscuits.

Faery

Empire patrol forces have intercepted and destroyed a small group of stranded heavily damaged DTR warships in beta 2 of the Faery system.

Three Nebulon Defender class warships were destroyed as they were engaged with superior Empire forces, despite their captains and crew knowing that their vessels were on the verge of falling apart, they knowingly bought time with their sacrifice for a small collection of DTR freighters to scatter and make a run for it.

GTT

The GTT have appointed a new Trade Director, with the sentient known as Charles Cados taking over from... whoever held the post beforehand.

Honest Jim's Market News

The last few weeks have seen some major shockwaves in the trading world. Most importantly, obviously, the absence of your humble correspondent. The pressure on the SSS postal system has been so immense that not one of the doubtless thousands of letters begging for my return has got through to me yet.

Almost as significant, the rearrangement of space as we have known it. Straddle has been somehow relocated to the Cluster, leaving cries of anguish from inconvenienced traders in its wake. It is too early to predict the effect on commerce, even for an expert such as myself, but traders are advised that jump times in the vicinity may be extended.

The announced closure of DTR Retreat in Solo also sent shockwaves through the trading world, but has yet to fully take effect, and a number of profitable trades are still available at the time of going to press. In particular, there are a number of items currently for sale that can be sold for a profit at the Mohache's Arctic Light in Enigma - Climbing Plants, Dune Glider Eggs, Crystalline Ornaments, Eridani Lobster, Feather Scale Clothing and Moss Jasmine. As ever, please check the latest market update before travelling.

Felini markets at undisclosed locations continue to have a number of good deals - for example the Transpiral good Colmseranite being sold at famous Tentative Steps in the Halo periphery. If the Dewiek's mysterious new leader Magnus the Red turns out to be a peaceful trader he may be well-placed to make some stellars.

AFT Ariel in Solo is buying up a quantity of Jammers at a good price, and AFT Dark Angel in Yank is buying shields at a similarly competitive price. Anybody with some spare basic production nearby - or passing by MOH Jackson's Legacy in Ruin - may be able to make some easy stellars.

Finally, Honest Jim's favourite "technically profitable but least advisable" trade route of the week is Colmseran Whelks - a perishable trade good - from MOH Green Pastures in the Transpiral all the way to AFT Qalathar in the Inner Empire. Good luck!

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.27.5

Galaxy Torn Apart

The waves of temporal distortion that have been afflicting the Peripheries in recent weeks are beginning to recede, as scientists report that observed time and actual time are beginning to resemble each other once again following an odd lurch a few days ago where 48 hours seemed to condense into 24.

Despite weeks of feverish research and speculation, nobody is as yet any further forward on discovering exactly why the Straddle system mysteriously relocated itself to the Cluster Periphery, or why two new systems appeared in its place. Nor indeed is there an adequate answer as to how the two new systems, Boltzman and Hirathamo, were automatically seeded into the open nav routes channels carried by EEM carrier waves throughout known space practically inviting travellers to go calling.

Explorer reports from the Boltzman and Hirathamo systems have so far been sparse, despite a heavy presence in those systems from most affiliations, lending to speculation that whatever is being found in there is remaining highly classified. Though if any readers have heard of anything particularly interesting having been found in those systems, the Galaxies Greatest news-outlet would appreciate any rumours.

Strange Ships

The Inter-Galactic newsroom has been receiving reports of sightings of strange unmarked black ships deep out in the void. These ships do not appear to be hostile, as they are not engaging anybody in combat, they simply hover on the edge of sensor range, before flickering back into deep space.

Empire Smashes INDs

Empire forces have this week been heavily engaged with a large IND Starbase, as reported in the following press release:

“Stardate 212.24.5

GTT scouts searching for defunct DTR outposts discover large IND STARBASE AQUA CENTRAL (11496) - 2604 kMus on Wise'n Himer Adamski (150)

Somewhat surprised, that such a sizable illegal installation could be concealed in caves beneath the ocean of the planet, commanders seek authority up the chain to either seize or destroy the starbase.

Authority is granted by Viceroy Githyanki.

Stardate 212.26.1

A tricky landing is accomplished upon the high G world. Further troops and material are requisitioned from the nearby IMP Starbase Forbidden City.

Three days of fighting ensue, thereafter the enemy retreat the Starbase.

GTT-24,000 Mercenaries and Marines supported by 11,000 Tanks.

Defeat

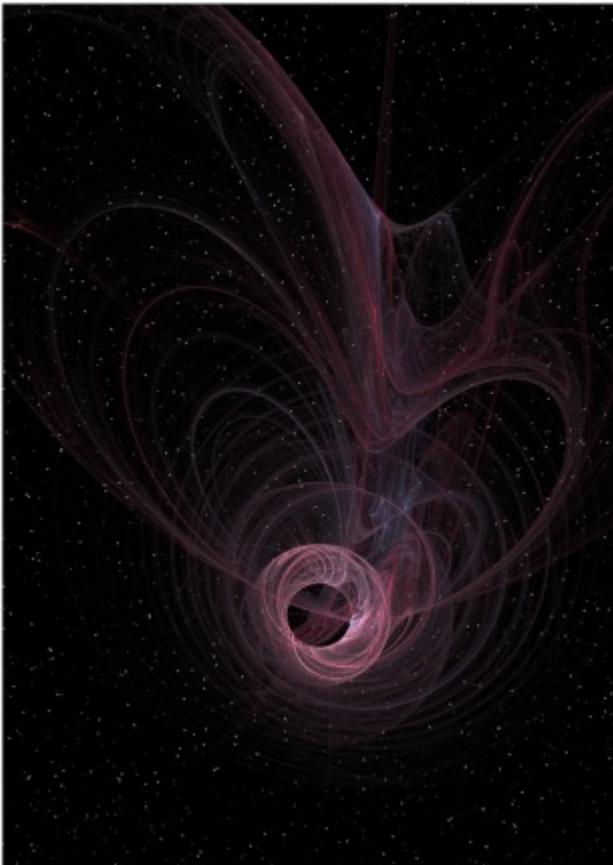
IND- 6,000 Aquaphid soldiers, 1,000 Battle Tanks and 3,000 RDB's.

212.26.2

Fleeing IND forces are destroyed in a combination of orbital bombardment and ground action.

Speculation mounts as to the purpose and identity of the owner of the once hidden Starbase. Perhaps it was a super secret research installation for an unknown criminal mastermind, maybe it was a luxury bolt hole for a member of the Detinus senate and a bevy of Aquaphid beauties, we may never know. Investigations shall continue. Computer records will be examined, employees questioned..... memo's exchanged and all receipts to be retained for future claim of expenses, no doubt.”

The IGN/SSS news-room has been in contact with the Aquaphibs on Wise 'n Himer, who have reported that the Starbase Aqua Central was one of the cities of the civilian Aquaphib authorities, the brutal destruction of which has caused panic amongst the civilian population of the planet, who are reportedly fleeing from Empire forces and retreating to the depths of the oceans before further atrocities are committed against them.



Battle Of Fellowship

On 212.21.1 A large force of the Nations warships entered the key felini orbit of Fellowship in the Onwards system. This was to remind the Tyrant and the Felini people of the continuing cost of their truculence over control of the Twinkle System. Warships targeted the two main platforms destroying one and severely damaging the second while taking limited damage themselves. Very few of the FEL warships in orbit chose to engage though a small cruiser squadron were able to score the FELs only victory that day.

The glorious Fallen

FEL MS Fellowship Defence I (83904) - 600 Hull Platform

FEL MS Shield of Bukhara (59869) - Jaguar Leap Mk Ii Class Carrier
{Medium Ablative Armour} 150NH

DEN OM Big Magpie (61952) - Murder Class Heavy Cruiser
{Medium Ablative Armour} 75NH

The Glorious Fourth

I'd like to acknowledge the GTT for sending their daily kamikaze spy ship in to orbit today aptly named "Happy July 4". We automatically responded in kind with photon guns as we can't exclude ships based on name with our targeting computers.

Richard Bachman, Governor DTR Primus Inter Pares

Johnny Alpha

The DTR Starbase Scuba Station has been the location of an act of widespread vandalism this week, as TAG vessels entered low orbit and air-painted the slogan 'Free Johnny Alpha' across the skies.

The DTR has posted notice that former DOG warships are not welcome in DTR space, and that if they continue to loiter they will be posted.

BLG

Sad news this week as the Bolg Organisation appears to have folded just a few short months after being formed. BLG assets are currently flagged as IND, though presumably the CIA will be wanting their starbases back sometime soon.

Scout Destroyed

A small IMP scout team has been destroyed whilst attempting to scout a DTR Starbase.

Topaz

The DTR outpost Topaz has fallen to Empire attackers in the Faery system this week after a hard fought battle where massively outnumbered DTR defenders managed to hold off massively superior forces for three days, inflicting heavy losses before withdrawing from combat. Proving that the DTR are at least going to fight hard before being totally ejected from Faery.

Pirate Apocalypse

DTR patrol forces are reporting the destruction of a dozen pirate warships in the Straddle system this week. The pirate vessels managed little in the way of return fire from their torpedo launchers, suggesting the vessels had run out of ammo and were unable to re-supply before being brought to battle and destroyed by DTR warships.

Bloodbath

The Detinus Republic suffered yet another setback in the Faery system this week as Empire forces continue to consolidate their hold. Empire scouts detected the DTR outpost Hidden Rebel Base on an asteroid in the outer reaches of the system

Empire forces instantly moved in to take the base on the ground during a two day period of total comms blackout, however the gambit backfired badly on Empire forces as the desperate DTR defenders of the Hidden Rebel base unleashed a hellish firestorm of defensive fire against Empire forces.

Over the course of the two day ground battle the DTR lost 135 troops and 66 tanks, whilst the Empire attackers were wiped out to a man, with a death toll of 12,562 troops and 361 tanks.

This by no means offsets DTR losses during the rest of the battle for Faery, but provides some small measure of cheer for the beleaguered Republic.

Having failed to capture the base via ground assault, Empire forces are understood to have moved an orbital bombardment squadron in to flatten the place from orbit. However, the DTR have unleashed a ground based ion cannon that managed to hold off the Empire assault long enough for an assortment of freighters that were at the base to make good their escape.

Hirathamo

A DTR patrol squadron has intercepted and destroyed a GTT sensor squadron in the Hirathamo system. 5 GTT vessels were destroyed, with a further 3 heavily damaged.

Elsewhere a single DTR sensor ship has been destroyed by GTT forces.

Skirmish

Felini forces have intercepted a small group of DEN railgun ships:

Skirmish

DTR patrol forces have intercepted and destroyed the lone GTT freighter Kreigerz4 in the Badlands system.

Special Report – News Roundup

Word has reached us that a lone Felini gave birth in the Yank system and was arrested for littering.

A leading Brotherhood priest was interviewed on live tri vid about the amount of money in the affiliation coffers. He answered that the Brotherhood was a non prophet organisation.

Meanwhile, a soldier from the IMP/DTR war that survived a mustard gas and pepper spray attack is said to be doing well now as a seasoned veteran.

In Halo today, a wimble criminal who claimed to be able to tell the future escaped from prison today. The HBO are looking for a small medium at large

In other news, the IMP have had some success with the manufacture of new bio-created citizens for the Empire.

The Viceroy is said to be looking forward to the first delivery of Mint Imperials.

Jubilee cheese cracker announced. The FlagRitz available from all good stockists soon

After a recent influx of prisoners, an Imperial Prison facility is attempting to break off from the Empire. They are believed to be calling themselves the Detain-Us Republic...

From The Diary Of Prince LiQuan

Looking out of the windows in his state room, Demetrius reflects over the past few months of taking over the House. The foundations built by his father are solid and just need expanding.

His manipulation of events over the past few months as lead to a great victory over the DTR. Turning the Imperials to our way of thinking. We were very close to war and destruction at one point. My father's skill however removed that threat at some cost to me but in hindsight was the right cause of action.

Getting recognition from the Emperor for our relentless work and reclaiming of the old noble systems. Most importantly of all removing the Commonwealth as a political voice was vital to getting the Emperor recognised thought out as the true leader of humanity.

Who would have thought his house could have been part of this historic event.

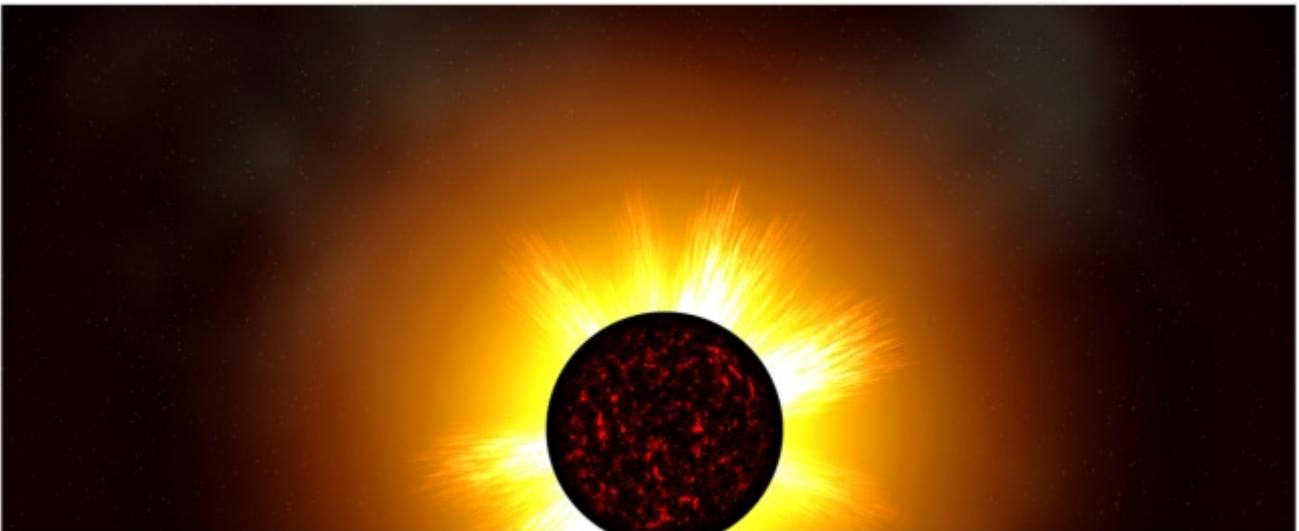
Our ships received from the Confederate naval forces performed well standing toe to toe with our allies and for the first time in living history gave the DTR the beating they needed. Their leadership is confused and unorganised. The Emperor forces have taken a complete well defended system of them. Will they recover almost certainly. Knowing the rebels they will come back stronger and probably take inspiration from this event.

Demetrius concentration gets broken by the two most import things in his life Christina and Susanne who come rushing in giving him a hug and a knowing look of while daddy is around everything will be ok. Can we go see the new ships, you promised we could name them.

Very well my loves lets go.

They made their way to see five gleaming ships not as large as the CNF one but very impressive.

State of the art systems, the best we can produce as gone into the designs. This is the future of the House LiQuan fleet. The children loved exploring the ships under the guidance of the ship company who gave them mementos of their visit.



Jul 12, 2012

Next week we are officially celebrating Beyond the Stellar Empire's 20th Anniversary.

To celebrate this impressive feat, we have devised a special medal for all active players.

While I joined the company and started running the game in 1995 (so won't qualify for my 20 years service medal for a few years), I know a couple of players who do.

It launched in July 1992 and during this time we have seen so many changes it boggles the mind.

The game started out as little more than an exploration game set in the Capellan Periphery. Humanity was spreading to the stars beyond the limits of the Empire, hence the name, Beyond the Stellar Empire. The affiliations represented factions that had purchased charters to explore and colonise as part of the Great Expansion. Watching over these were the Imperial Services. During these early days of the game it was dominated by the FET.

Ever expanding horizons included the discovery of space faring hostile aliens in the form of the Flagritz. The game then got steadily more political as the Detinus Republic betrayed humanity and fled to the Confederacy – a completely new Periphery with a faction of humans from pre-expansion period of humanity.

Since these days new Peripheries have been discovered – first there was the Cluster hosting another faction of humans (from lost prison ships), the Dewiek – the remnants of a nation of sentient canine analogues and the Clans – sentient feline analogues.

Conflicts occurred throughout these years as the Confederacy battled the Empire, everyone battled the Hive (in various guises) and the Flagritz and from this rose the 3D alliance – Detinus, Dominion and the Dewiek. For years they effectively dictated policy and stamped on upstarts.

During these years the birthplace of humanity was itself undergoing change as discoveries into the history of the Emperors combined with the rise of the Galactic Alliance eventually led to civil war and the breaking of the Stellar Empire.

The eventual sundering of the 3D led to peace amongst humanity as they had the common goal of stabilising the star systems of the

Stellar Empire. This uneasy peace prevailed for some years though Machiavellian plots were being hatched in the background. The once cavalier son of the Emperor, Lysander, supported by the Imperial Services and the Confederacy united the two factions and together their attention turned to the Detinus Republic – the greatest faction of humanity that did not recognize the Emperor as the legitimate ruler of all humanity. There could be only war...

What the future holds is still a mystery.

As well as major plot developments the game itself has evolved. Initially all orders has to be manually inputted and the results were printed out and posted. On a Thursday, colonies were printed and posted. This was upgraded so that instead of directly printing, the turn was saved to a file – this either contained printer codes or was stripped and formatted with spaces in order to email the turn. While other small changes were made such as increasing quantity of special complexes, two new sizes for bases and a few more ship designs, the only other significant change was a complete rewrite to the ground combat. This though was about as far as the game could go.

We took the decision to write a new game and import Beyond the Stellar Empire data into and since then the game has continually evolved. First an online order editor was created. To make control of lots of ships easier squadrons were added. Nexus was launched – initially custom forums and secret libraries. A completely new order editor was added along with online turns and now we have missions – the ongoing project required for developing characters.

We have a lot to do and look forward to developing the game for a further 20 years.

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.29.2



There is a story.

There is always a story, the Peripheries are a busy place. Humans, aliens, rich and poor. It is tempting to think that nothing really changes, but of course it does. And every now and then, something big changes.

There was the usual scuttlebutt, trawling around the bars that shelter in the shadow of the Imperial palace, this great testimony to the dream of the future of humanity, rooted hopelessly in the past, in the kow-towing and fighting over ducal scraps from the table. The new boss, he's just the same as the old boss. And woe betide anybody who steps out of line.

It's not a good place to be a journalist, there are rumours of those who have gotten too close to the truth behind the House LiQuan, reporters and photographers who have just vanished late one night, sometimes their bodies are found dumped in a trashcan round the back of that dodgy strip club down on the junction of Simms boulevard and Trinity place, most of the time they just vanish.

Politics plays hard and fast and dirty in this town, and the Imperial Court takes no prisoners. If only a tenth of the rumours you hear about this place are true, then it is hard to imagine a more villainous den of humanity outside that flea-pit Freedom City. Ah, Freedom City, I was trapped there once with a day-trip party from the Inter-Galactic News' reporting division, the new recruits, I'm still not sure how that horrible situation came about but I do know that only half of us got out of there with our sanity intact. But I digress.

You can see it all here in the shadow of the Emperor, glory and tragedy and stupidity, and every once in a while, honour.

It's a long walk from the Imperial Throne down into the streets and the gutters. A walk you don't see the gentry make all that often. Which is their loss, you can find all things in life down here. There's a procession of monks chanting the new credo of the Brotherhood, a flurry of activity as a nervous Felini merchant skips out of their way - it is perhaps not a good place to be an alien anymore, here in the cradle of the Empire of Humanity - but for every alien that fades into the background there are a dozen humans who press forward to listen. Religion, as they say, that old opiate.

Hard to imagine how far this place has come, just a few short years ago there was no vision of a united humanity, the Imperial Services were fighting tooth and claw against the Detinus Republic and the Confederacy over the Sol system, the birthplace of humanity, and the untold riches it contains. And then Lysander, like a thunderbolt, uniting IMP and CNF, creating the Empire-in-all-but-name. One man with absolute authority over dozens of star systems, hundreds of worlds, millions of sentient. It's hard to get your head around, particularly down here in the dirty stinking streets. A gang of street kids knock over a food vendors trolley and escape with steaming pastries, the security forces arrive in time to shoot one down with a taser. The child is oddly silent as he is dragged away. I stop a moment to help the old food vendor up, and pay him double for one of his wares.

And that's where I was when the news came over the flash, hard-wired into my brain so the headlines scrolled across my vision. Old

Stonewall Jackson had died. Hero of the Confederacy, the man who held the line alongside the Detinus Republic. No retreat, no surrender, old blood and guts Jackson.

Hard to imagine, some old warriors you think will be around forever. Or at least, longer than this.

And that's what you hear, down in the streets with the sound of the rain bouncing off old tin roofs in the shadows of mighty starships - It ain't fair, it ain't pretty, and it ain't right.

It never is.

There's other news. Other stories. But those can wait for now.

And in the meantime, the wheel turns. It always does. The vendor drags his cart back up and shelters in a canopy. The kids look for a fresh mark. The security guard holsters his taser. And life... goes on. But if you tilt your head, and look for the rainbow in a particular way, you can always remember.

Honour.

***** Message From The Editor *****

Farewell Ewan, our friend.

– Simon.



Subspace Static - Star Date 212.31.3

Confederate News

With the shock-waves of the unexpected death of the Confederate leadership still running raw, emergency protocols have come into effect which have resulted in the CIA merging into the CNF for the foreseeable future.

It is understood this action will help to preserve the Confederacy during these troubled times. And that while the CIA flag will be gone from the Peripheries, the CIA will continue to function, simply under CNF flags from now on.

It is uncertain what role CIA Laton will take under the new CNF regime, if he is becoming the new Supreme Commander, or if that role remains with General Carter.

Elsewhere the loss of Supreme Commander Jackson continues to be felt most keenly by all who knew him.

Ravenstone In Hot Water?

The noble House Ravenstone appear to have triggered some upset with the House LiQuan this week somewhere on Dolphinus, upset that could result in war, though we are at this time uncertain of what exactly the incident entails.

Endings

The one time GCS Starbase Endings, which was reflagged GTT, has now been taken over by the HLQ.

A HLQ press officer was kind enough to provide us with the following information regarding this historical Starbase:

HLQ brought Ending and the claim from the GTT for 3 million stellers. Around week 30 211. This is the ancestral home of House Schwartz so since we have absorb HSZ into HLQ we thought it quite important to get a hold onto the system.

House LiQuan as made vast improvements to populations lifestyles. Improving the infrastructure of the planet to try and bring the population up to date after years of neglect.

Special Action/Ceti 3i/HLQ Sponsored Urbanisation/211.33

4 urban sectors are constructed. These are built around the western sea close to the cultivated sectors. This comes as something of a surprise as the originally they were designated for improvement of existing urban sectors with a view to improving the living conditions for those currently in poor housing (generally Confederate supporters).

It seems though that this was not cost effective. It is assured however that relocation to the new urban developments will be on a merit basis.

Modifications to the planetary infrastructure have been made.

Special Action/Ceti 3i/Urban Development

1k structural modules are used to revitalise urban sectors. Along with other tech improvements these allow the world to take better advantage of innate wealth. The knock-on effect is to improve trade demand and life multiplier.

Investigation/Ceti 3i/Improving Trade Demand

The world has suffered from the lack of investment over the decades. Once a stepping stone to the Peripheries it was largely abandoned as the Empire looked inwards. Industry, transport, education and health are all out of date. Security is laughable and black markets (often run by the pro-Confederate population) are rampant.

Together this has the impact on the population resulting in a lack of stellars for off-world purchase. This is also exacerbated by a lack of focus on off-world goods. The latter could be improved by the exhaustive use of media tech.

Update

Media tech is burnt, improving the value of off-world products that cannot be gotten through illicit means.

Update

Health, Industry and Transport techs are burnt, improving the value of off-world products that cannot be gotten through illicit means.

Investigation/Ceti 3i/Improving Trade Demand/Security/212.29

Security tech is exhausted and along with this 1k soldiers and 1k marines are seconded to the government in order to oversee its rollout.

The primary purpose of this endeavour is to reduce crime within the urban sectors of the world, thereby improving trade on the world.

Improvements to merchandising have been made.

A weekly bill for the seconded troops of \$2k has been set. The troops can be recalled after a minimum period of 1 year if a reduction in the trade demand is not to be incurred.

Varitang Notice

The system charter for Varitang has now gone live and primary defences have been updated accordingly. This should cause neither alarm nor surprise to any party.

Representatives of The Association of Free Traders and Detinus Republic are asked to familiarise themselves with the content and comply with the elements directly relevant to their holdings.

All queries should be directed to the office of the Baron (via PM).

Commissar Holt

Co-alition For Oceanic Development

Kourda Gentlebeings,

This message is just to announce the formation of the Coalition for Oceanic Development. We are here to develop the oceans to improve the lives of the various aquaphid populations around the peripheries, though this is the long term plan. In the meantime we have a very small sphere of influence, and are currently trying to build up some stellars by trading.

As a new affiliation, we have no enemies and intend to trade in a peaceful and hopefully mutually beneficial way with every other affiliation out there.

I welcome any small to medium trade deals and, of course all donations to the "Help Our Aquaphids in Rural Domains" fund are gratefully accepted.

Blockade

The Dewiek blockade of the planet Fellowship in the Onwards system has been lifted for all affiliations other than the FEL and pirates, allowing traders access to the planet once again.

Quick Snack

There are reports that Brotherhood Purity Patrols have recently run amok at the AFT Starbase Quick Snack, where the infamous Jiggly Room appears to have been 'purified' by the Ordo Antifunsquad.

However, the Jiggly Room being made of stern stuff, is understood to have reopened its doors the following night, with a new ban been put on place on individuals dressed in robes and carrying incense.

A Jiggly Room spokesman has denied the BHD intervention had anything to do with their latest Nuns On The Room floor show.

Flagritz Press Release

For some weeks now, the Flagritz Empire has returned to the Battlefield system.

The system has been for some time under military occupation by the Felini marauder forces, which have been rather busy exterminating the Flagritz population, to a point where hardly any flagritz civilians remain.

The Flagritz military are however well represented and determined to save what few civilians remain. For this mission the Empire has attacked several Felini installations, having destroyed some and occupied several others.

Thus far the only "successful" "felony" military activity has been to bombard one of their former installations, which had been meanwhile attacked and captured by FLZ forces. As we've grown accustomed, this glorious, proud and honourable species has counter punched. That action has of course resulted in loss of life. That of the Felini workers of course, which, no doubt, lauded their leaders actions, for it is certainly better to be killed in an orbital bombardment rather than keep working at their previous job, for the same wages. A few extra felini to add to the long list of martyrs the Bast governments go out of their way to create.

What we've also grown accustomed to witnessing, is to detect pirate activity deep inside "felony" occupied territory. Though the FEL navy has been somewhat absent, their friends in "felony" have been busy attempting to board FLZ ships. It is indeed interesting to see how pirates seem to like the "felony", to a point where they line up to die for their proud bast pirates fellows.

Acropolis Apocalypse

An attempt was made yesterday to detonate nuclear devices in the inner quads of the Acropolis system near the falconian homeworld. It is speculated that freighter traffic of this trade hub was the likely target. The Pirate Broadsword was spotted and made an attempt to reach the jump quads however it was stopped by a small platform on the way. A battle was fought, with the pirate vessel unleashing 4 nuclear missiles against the platform and some beam weaponry. The platform took substantial damage to its sensor network and caused the broadsword slight damage but most importantly it prevented the pirates escape.

Today warships were mobilised and an attempt was made to strengthen the platform. A coaster brought supplies but was destroyed as it tried to deliver the items. While the pirate was preoccupied with this a squadron of warships entered the quad and destroyed the pirate with accurate missile and torpedo fire.

PIRATE Flying Dutchman (57400) - Broadsword Class Heavy Cruiser {Heavy Armour} BLOWN UP!

The ship design and tactics suggest this may be someones initial foray into the depths of piracy. Anyone been careless with their nukes?

Dateline Battlefield System

A Flagritz battle group attacked the FEL defenses at Wasteland. After a 2 day battle, FEL defenders - a FEL platform and a handful of ships, were destroyed.

Across the quadrant, a 3 ship Flagritz fleet was stopped and attacked by a SMS platform and ship. Two of the vessels escaped but the third was destroyed when the SMS reinforced the next day with a dozen ships.

At the space square of Wasteland, the SMS sent another fleet of approximately a dozen ships. These were engaged by a Flagritz Battle fleet which destroyed all but 3. The surviving SMS ships were able to disengage and retreat.

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.33.1

Flashpoint Twinkle

The Twinkle system continues to be the centre of conflict between the DEN and FEL this week, as reports start to surface of the Dewiek dropping in 90,000 troops with the intent of seizing the system claim away from the FEL, with an eye towards securing the support of the civilian government of High Star.

It remains to be seen how the civilian government will respond.

Dewiek Accused Of Genocide

Startling reports including footage of mass devastation have been received by the IGN newsroom this week that appear to implicate the Dewiek in acts of genocide on a planetary scale:

Date 26.4: DEN SHIP DEATH FROM ABOVE (15526) - {100 Heavy Hulls}

DEN SHIP DEATH FROM ABOVE (42162) - {100 Heavy Hulls}

DEN SHIP DEATH FROM ABOVE (59189) - {100 Heavy Hulls}

DEN SHIP DEATH FROM ABOVE (62638) - {100 Heavy Hulls}

DEN SHIP DEATH FROM ABOVE (64370) - {100 Heavy Hulls}

DEN SHIP DEATH FROM ABOVE (77441) - {100 Heavy Hulls}



Hulls}

DEN SHIP DEATH FROM ABOVE (86219) - {100 Heavy Hulls}

DEN SHIP DEATH FROM ABOVE (92055) - {100 Heavy Hulls}

Information

Date 26.4: Vine fields have been burnt to the ground. Atmosphere will no longer be breathable by 212.30.

A Felini spokes-person made the following statement to the press: "They claim to have defeated us, yet still haven't achieved the objective they set out for themselves.

For all there boasting and savagery, Highstar, is no nearer there control They want it? Come take it, because I certainly wont give it too them."

(Note From The Editor – The keen eyed amongst you will have spotted this report reached the news-room significantly longer ago than 'this week', the Editorial Team offer our apologies for this delay.)

(The Editorial Team would also like to pre-emptively apologise to the DEN and ask that they please not come around to our offices to rip our interns limb from limb, we do not control the news, we simply report it.)

(Note From The Editor: When we say 'we simply report it', this statement should not be taken as assurance that we also don't sometimes just make shit up on slow news days.)

(Note From The Legal Staff: The SSS/IGN is the Galaxies finest news outlet, and any rumours suggesting stories might be fabricated during slow news days is a scurrilous like, and likely the result of Alien Brain Parasite infection.)

ALIEN BRAIN PARASITES!!!

The entire empire of humanity is literally reeling today as popular tri-D magazine 'The Daily People Are Better Than Aliens!' is carrying the shocking story that the Emperor Lysander himself (praise be his name!) became infected with vile alien brain parasites during a visit to a newly opened hospital for the poor on Earth.

Sources close to the Emperor have remarked off the record that this clearly proves that poor people are almost worse than aliens, and clearly they are all filthy and diseased degenerates. A report has been sent to the House LiQuan for clarification on how best to deal with this whole sorry mess.

Also, on page three, Bouncy Princess Pam, 18th in line to the Imperial Throne, shows us all how happy she is to be modelling the newest line in Flagritz-hide bikini-ware.

Be pure! Be vigilant! And have you reported your illegal alien activity today?

Registrations Revoked

A number of legally registered DTR bases inside Confederate space are having their registration papers revoked at time of press, this will no doubt trigger a tit-for-tat style banning of assorted positions on both sides of the conflict, indicating a potential broadening of the DTR/CNF conflict into total war.

Meanwhile fear is continuing to spread throughout human populations across the Peripheries that the ongoing civil war between the human affiliations might result in large-scale devastation.

Funeral

News has reached the SSS/IGN newsroom that the funeral of Confederate Supreme Commander Jackson will be a State affair, further details will be forthcoming.

DTR Raiders

Small squadrons of DTR warships have conducted bombardment hit and run attacks against two GTT and one IMP outpost. The IMP outpost was shielded by a single warship and escaped heavy damage, while the two GTT outposts are understood to have suffered extensive damage.

Pirate Large?

Our newsroom has received a report from a trader who wishes to remain anonymous, that a number of Pirate Large spotter vessels have been detected prowling the space-lanes once again.

Further, that Large still appears to have access to the highest-tech:

>TU 210: Detailed Scan {28104}

Scanned:

PIRATE SHIP EYES OF LARGE (28104) - {10 Normal Hulls}

Carny Class Explorer {No Armour}

Aff: PIRATE

LifeForms: 5

Class: Carny

Hulls: 10 Normal Hulls (70)

Armour: None

Hull Damage: None

Max Boarders: 264

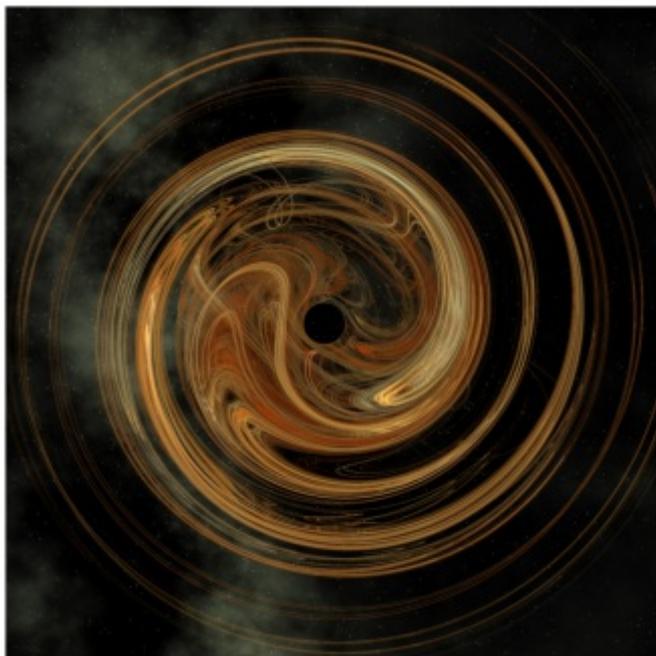
INSTALLED ITEMS

1 AI Navigator mkII (916)
1 Bunks (98)
6 Combat Engine mkIV (167)
1 ISR Type 2 Engines (145)
1 Jump Drive - Quantum (178)
23 Sensor mkIV (106)
2 Thrust Engine mkIV (163)

Does this mean Pirate Large is back in action and still has the backing of a major affiliation? Only time will tell.

IMP Scouts Destroyed

DTR sources are reporting the destruction of small IMP scout ships in T.Tauri and Badlands.



Skirmish

A small squadron of IMP commerce raiders has been intercepted and destroyed in the Arachnid system this week by a patrol of DTR warships.

10 IMP heavy cruisers were brought to battle by superior forces, and after a short sharp battle 5 were destroyed, with the remainder taking heavy damage before both sides withdrew. There were no reported DTR casualties.

Survivors have been rescued by the DTR, and it is hoped the captives will be available for a prisoner exchange soon.

Tragedy On Boomerang

Massive forest fires have finally been brought under control by DTR emergency services on the surface of Boomerang in the Straddle system following a large scale loss of life.

The fires caused panic amongst the civilians on Boomerang who used to suffer massive casualties during regular forest fires – planet wide emergencies that were finally brought to an end several years ago by the large-scale intervention of DTR planetary engineers.

However, the shocking truth has been uncovered that these fires, that broke out very close to the major DTR Starbase on the planet, may well have been deliberately started:

Special Action/Boomerang/Forest/Fires {12,11}/212.29

The fires are brought under control with help from the civilian sector - though their predisposition to flee does not help the operation at all.

Medical supplies are used to patch up some on the scene and the rest are handed over the hospital facilities.

The team meet a civilian ambassador from the area. Gink IV states that he believes this may have been caused by the saboteurs and thanks the team for their intervention.

Further investigations are ongoing as to who may have started the fires and the identity of these ‘saboteurs’, with the obvious finger of suspicion being pointed towards Empire forces as a spate of agent activity at the DTR Starbase of Primus Inter Pares on the surface of Boomerang co-incided with the outbreak of the forest fires.

The DTR Foreign Ministry has named the now defunct CIA as the most likely culprits.

Indus

The Indus system has been claimed by the Dewiek Elder Nation, a move that is likely not to have gone over terribly well with the DTR.

Hirathamo

A DTR scout ship has narrowly escaped attack by EMP forces in the Hirathamo system.

Hazzard

A large EMP fleet has bombarded and destroyed a DTR installation on the planet Wasted.

Battle In Sol

The unsteady peace of the Sol system has been shattered recently when the Empire vessel IMP Deutschland, a Great Axe Class Carrier, entered orbit of Earth and opened fire on a DTR Earth Defence platform.

The Deutschland was destroyed in short order, and thankfully a greater conflagration was not triggered, though the event is understood to have left civilians on Earth feeling decidedly nervous as to what might happen next.

Dawn Treader

Sources inside DTR Fleet Headquarters have confirmed the destruction of the DTR warship Dawn Treader in the recent large-scale battle in the Faery System.

The Dawn Treader was one of the oldest serving vessels in the entire DTR Stellar Armada, understood to have been the first vessel owned by the then young and idealistic senator Michelle Diaz.

The loss of the Dawn Treader is felt most keenly by all DTR military personell.

Raiders

DTR raiders have struck again, this time against the IMP outpost Pegasus Kappa XXXV. Substantial damage is understood to have been inflicted:

-----Battle Summary-----

IMP Pegasus Kappa XXXV (73526) - Outpost

Targeted by DTR CL 54 TULA (48338) - 23392 [27330] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 54 RASEINIAI (47314) - 5000 [5440] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 54 DNEPR (73538) - 20929 [24411] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 54 MINSK (49119) - 4952 [5440] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 54 BRODY (14766) - 21126 [24362] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 54 SMOLENSK (17110) - 5128 [5440] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 54 UMAN (84474) - 21181 [24652] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 54 KIEV (50397) - 5042 [5440] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 54 RZHEV (93605) - 20467 [23588] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 54 YELNYA (94269) - 20070 [24126] Damage

Flagritz Pound DTR

Surprising news this week* as it appears the Flagritz empire has moved against the DTR/QNG faction in the Twilight periphery. Substantial damage has been inflicted via orbital bombardment against the DTR/QNG base Evening Hive.

* (Note From The Editor – Not really this week, this happened yonks ago too.)

Our reporters understand the conflict has since been smoothed over, but it does rather point towards a worsening relation between the DTR and FLZ.

Faery

Empire mopping up in the Faery system continues, with railgun vessels moving to bombard a DTR ground party on the planet Ogre. The ground party consisted of a few troops and combat shuttles, and was no match at all for the massive battery of railgun fire that was unleashed against it.

Jasmine

A lone EMP vessel, the IMP G-Cargo-F, has been destroyed by DTR patrol forces in the Jasmine system.

Empire Raiders

A sizeable patrol of Empire commerce raiders, consisting of HLQ/IMP and GTT heavy cruisers, is operating in the newly-relocated straddle system, as a number of DTR freighters have reported narrow escapes.

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.34.1

Guest Editor

Greetings puny flesh things, it is I, the bountiful Overlord Schturm here once again to bring you never-ending subjugation at the tentacles of the superior Flagritz Empire, as well as the NEWS!

Prepare your meat organs for NEWS INJECTION!

Meatbags Get Kicking, Flagritz Happy

Worthless mining wretches the SMS have felt the GLORY of the mighty Flagritz scourge across their backs this week, as invincible elements of the FLZ fleet have chosen to annihilate their presence within the Battlefield system.

Imperial ships clashed for a three day space battle with the forces of the SMS. The SMS ships supported by a platform seeking to hold the important quad and keep the route open to the wormhole.

Day 1 Saw the Empire target the platform allowing the feeble meatsacks of the SMS to have a free day of shooting at the vessels that were soon to be their TERRIBLE SCREAMING DOOM!



Day 2 Saw the glorious tentacled Empire get the upper hand as the second wave moved in and most pathetic earthling ships took damage or were destroyed.

Day 3 The SMS platform was destroyed and while a few snivelling wretches managed to flee, MOST DID NOT!

Overlord Schturm finds this destruction of our enemies most pleasing, and looks forward to heating his scourge that he might inflict pain upon the captured.

SCHTURM APPROVES OF TORTURE!

Surrender is shame and death.

Piracy

Overlord Schturm is surprised at how quiet the pirates are lately, Overlord Schturm is suspicious. Overlord Schturm has received the following news report from a meaningless fleshy meatbag:

The 50HH ship IND Khan (67466) today attempted to board two GCE Barge's in orbit of An Aurum Concurus.

The brave crews successfully repelled the boarders, despite being heavily outnumbered, for the loss of 5 crew on Proud Valley Boy and 2 crew on Dolphins Make Me Cry. 3 Wimble marines from the attacking forces were killed.

WIMBLE MARINES!

WIMBLE MARINES?!

Overlord Schturm needs a quiet sit down at this news.

Obituary

Human meatbags are so fragile, Overlord Schturm has received reports that the meatbag known as Granny Goodness has died. Overlord Schturm sincerely hopes she died slowly and in agony, AS BEFITS ENEMIES OF THE TRUE OVERLORDS OF THE COSMOS!

Overlord Schturm does not get invited to many funerals.

BUT HE CAUSES THERE TO BE MANY!

SEND MORE INTERNS THAT I MIGHT FLAY THEIR SCREAMING BODIES OF EVERY INCH OF SKIN!

Overlord Schturm offers no condolences. ONLY PAIN!

More Pirates

It has come to our attention that the ghastly humanoids who masquerade under the flag of 'GCE', what sort of title is GCE? You want a proper title, like FLZ! FLZ is where it is at, not GCE. Bah, worthless humans. What do you mean get to the point of the news story? OVERLORD SCHTURM IS THE NEWS!

Oh yes, the GCE have captured the pirate bases Cold Box and Ice Knight this week, HA! TAKE THAT PIRATES! Hopefully there were many victims to be crushed beneath the tracks of the attacking tanks. What do you mean there was hardly a shot fired? WHAT SORT OF FEEBLE INVASION IS THIS!? WHY WERE THERE NO ORBITAL BOMBARDMENTS? WHERE WAS THE BRILLIANT SHINE OF A DISTANT NUCLEAR BLAST UPON THE HORIZON? What is wrong with you meatbags. You all disgust me.

HLQ Destroyed

A report has been presented to me here by a snivelling underling that a lone House LiQuan trading vessel has been accidentally destroyed by the Dewiek in the Noctollis system.

Overlord Schturm literally cannot express how bored he is by this pathetic excuse for news.

Public Address By [censored] Felini [censored]

OVERLORD SCHTURM IS NOT HAPPY TO REPORT ON THE WORDS OF THE ARCH MEATBAG MRRSHAN! But Overlord Schturm is reminded that the galaxies greatest news outlet must report on all stories, including stories by our old enemies the Felini. So let us all yawn and subjugate the weak while we listen to what that old [censored] Mrrshan has to say.

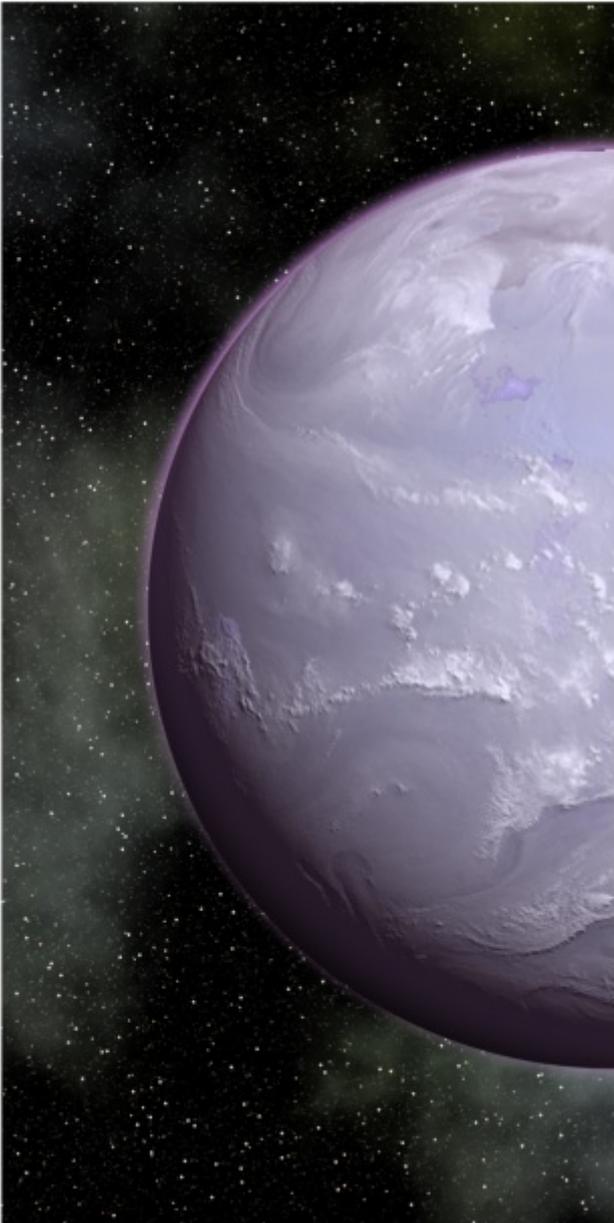
“People of Honour

Thanks to hard negotiations in recent days (compounded by some subspace communication difficulties between Leonis and Dewiek space) we have come to an accommodation with the DEN. Whilst we have fought with Honour against a technologically and numerically superior foe, effectively comprising of three affiliations it is now clear that we are unable to continue to hold claim to the system we all know as Twinkle.

As such a deal has been broadly agreed which will see an exchange of fixed assets in Onwards and the newly-named Valhalla system (with the notable exception of Highstar) and a cessation of hostilities between FEL and DEN. Once these have been completed we will formally support the DEN claim to the system. Other terms have also been agreed but are not directly relevant to the immediate situation.

Upholding pledges made in Honour often carries a price, as seen by those who experienced combat in Onwards and elsewhere. But it is always a price worth paying. We have done so and should not be ashamed of this, nor of the inevitable result. Now it is time to focus upon our true enemy, for the DEN are not that, despite a Human-inspired stereotype and past conflict between CLN and DEN.

May the Great Mother's Approbation be witnessed upon this day. No further public statement will be made regarding this matter.”



OVERLORD SCHTURM IS PLEASED!

More Felini for him to murder.

OVERLORD SCHTURM DID NOT LIKE DEWIEK STEALING HIS VICTIMS!

Overlord Schturm likes Felini, but could not eat a whole one.

What do you mean Overlord Schturm has made this joke before?

IT IS NO JOKE!

Twinkle No More

Dewiek forces have taken control of the Twinkle system, and renamed it 'Valhalla', bringing end to ongoing FEL/DEN war. The following system message has been broadcast:

Welcome to Valhalla, once and evermore the great drinking hall of the Elder Nation. Drink and rejoice! Fight and be glorified in death! Ragnorak approaches.'

The stargate and significant planetary bodies have also been renamed

Little Star (239) -> Heidrun

Sapphire (949) -> Glasir

Stargate (1600) -> Valgrind

Steel (325) -> Eikthyrni

Overlord Schturm has literally fallen asleep.

Brotherhood Prey

What do you mean that should read 'pray'? Overlord Schturm disagrees, the Brotherhood are nothing but fragile sacks of meat and bone, and juices, do not forget the juices, Overlord Schturm likes the juices, they remind him of happy days spent in the nursery pits of homeworld, where we would often have a helpless slave tossed into us, and we would fight over who was the strongest and had the right to feast upon the mewling lesser lifeform first. Overlord Schturm can still remember fondly the words of old Nanny Deathbringer Fleshrender, look after the little things, she would say as she passed the razor sharp tongs, and the big things will soon be falling into your mouth so you can DEVOUR THE FLESH OF YOUR ENEMIES!

Oh yes, something about the Brotherhood putting together some sort of giant ship. But really, who cares? Humans and their meaningless activities. FETCH ME MORE NEWS!

Kanji

The terrorist known as 'Kanji' has returned to spread his particular flavour of fear around the peripheries.

Overlord Schturm approves of fear.

Overlord Schturm looks forward to watching the video tapes of the coming victims dying in helpless agony.

House Porter

As off Stardate 212.33.2 House Porter (HPT) is once more an active affiliation within the peripheries.

The Baron Porter would publicly like to thank those from the CNF and the BHD whose co-operation made this resurgence possible.

Further announcements will be published regarding Trade opportunities and bases in due course.

Overlord Schturm is too tired to think of something insulting to say here about the House Porter. Overlord Schturm DEMANDS you make something up yourselves, and pretend like he said it.

MAKE SURE IT IS APPALLINGLY RUDE!

Or Overlord Schturm will come around your domicile and [censored] your [censored] with a red hot poker.

GCS Absorbed By HLQ

Ha, Overlord Schturm once absorbed something too. Something that screamed and writhed. Overlord Schturm suspects the GCS screamed and writhed when the HLQ came for them too. Overlord Schturm will watch this HLQ educational film announcement with interest:

"Demetrius looks across House LiQuan, this huge starbase nerve centre of the Family since the retreat from the homelands. So much as been done and accomplished here it beggars belief. Time I moved into the Imperial palace, looks like the Emperor wont be back permanently since he's now earth or around there, so easy to lose track.

The Girls have already picked there rooms, though room hardly describes the great expanse which they have picked. Fleet Admiral

Zladmir Tomeshenko enters quickly after a quite knock breaking Demetrius concentration. Good news the GCS have sold all there shares to you my Prince. That is great news and the scientist are certain the ISR field can be repaired. It looks that way but will take some time, time does not matter it will give us time to consolidate our position. This will need a lot of work, how can bases be run like this. Right scrap those complexes and sack those mercs, you know I hate untrained personnel. That's over 3000 complexes and 60,000 troops your highness. The complexes are no good to us and we don't need troops who wont follow HLQ to the death. Plans are being made and I have to make sure everyone puts the house first, Empire second.

Ivan K. Grigorovitch as accepted our offer of a commission in our armed forces, he comes with a wealth of experience which will serve the us well.

Good give him the Inner Empire squadron to play with, 20 200 heavy hullers should keep him happy.

Any news on what those secret research bases we got were doing, nothing of substance yet but we are still looking into it.

Has for the rest of the bases they will need some work but things are looking good. We still need to send those ships with the trade goods, this is an important part of the hearts and minds. I also want those ambassadors found and if anything as happened to them there will be trouble.

Any news of Ethan Mordred yet that man as a lot to answer for. None yet security teams are still searching but low key as you send so not to alarm the population. Good time is on our side there and getting the population back into the fold is a lot more important.

Have you seen to my personal guard yet, it will need to be expanded to guard the palace. Ceremonial uniforms of the highest quality and state of the art equipment. No expensive is to be spared for the safety of my family. The selection process is under way only the best will be considered.

Good keep me informed on progress.

Now the DEN have destroyed a fist of heavy cruisers in twinkle and a scout ship sent to there claiming base.

DEN again its always the DEN, though give them credit they do seem to be winning the war against the FEL.

We also seem to be allowed into some of there home systems, strange messages indeed but who can understand the them its way beyond me.

Send a couple of merchant ships in and see what happens, we want vines and they are selling them so seems like an ideal time.”

OVERLORD SHTURM IS DISAPPOINTED! WHERE ARE THE ATROCITIES!

Prince LiQuan, Overlord Shturm is personally very disappointed in you. He expected better.

THAT IS IT! YOU HAVE ALL HAD ENOUGH NEWS POURED INTO YOUR MEAT-BRAINS NOW! OVERLORD SHTURM DEMANDS THAT YOU ALL GO FORTH AND MURDER YOURSELVES FOR BEING LESSER LIFEFORMS!

Overlord Shturm, signing out.

...

Have you murdered yourselves yet?

...

**OVERLORD SHTURM KNEW YOU WEREN'T EVEN TRYING!
YOU ALL DISGUST ME!**



Subspace Static - Star Date Whatever Lysander Decrees It To Be, Peasants!

Inter Galactic Glory To The Emperor News

Guest Editor

The SSS/IGN team are pleased to welcome Grand Duke Phineas P Fortescue the 3rd, Viscount of The Martian Wastes and Lord Green Of Oxford, to the post of guest editor for the week.

Ruffians Given Sound Thrashing

Glorious Empire forces under the command of the noble House LiQuan and fully supported by both Imperial and GTT vessels, have given those filthy socialist rebels the Detinus Republic a right good seeing to in the Hazzard system this week, smashing up DTR OUTPOST Hazzard Pi LVII, leaving it a smoking ruin.

That'll teach the blighters eh?

Empire News

As of Monday the starbase know as HLQ Endings (26201) will become HLQ House Schwartz (26201).

Nothing but the name will change, it is still part of the House LiQuan Principality.

This is in preparation for return of Baron Schwartz to govern his ancestral home.

Long Live The Emperor!

False Empire Not Up To Scratch

I say, what's the Peripheries coming to eh, when a group of jumped up tentacled alien things can get together and start calling themselves an 'Empire'? There is only one true Empire in this universe, and it is the Empire Of Humanity, united under the leadership of Lysander the Great.

These bloody Flagritz monsters don't even play cricket, that's how barbaric they are.

Anyway, it seems as if Flagritz ground forces attempted a ground assault on the Felini Starbase 'Shipyards of Karnak' after three days of fighting the GP had taken heavy losses and achieved only 3.4% control. Fearing total annihilation they have called off the attack and fled.

The Starbase is still under space attack and it is likely a second attempt will be imminent. I wonder if those stupid aliens will ever get tired of killing each other, still, you know what they say, more dead aliens, less heresy, fewer jobs for the Brotherhood to take care of, what what.

We had a Flagritz fellow back at the old College for a while, some sort of silly harebrained foreign exchange student type thing, ghastly sort, kept leaking fluid everywhere, couldn't get the hang of polo, kept eating the bally horses. Ghastly. Just ghastly.

Imperial News

The glorious Emperor Lysander has spoken at court this week. It was jolly terrific stuff. All Hail Lysander!

Yank

Brave Empire captains have gotten a touch over-zealous this week, and run off a few potshots at those filthy socialist rebels the Detinus Republic in the Yank system, ho hum, cue tiresome whinges from filthy socialists to filthy alien Kastorians about how terribly unfair it was of us. Boo hoo. Reminds me of young Charlie Yellowshirt back at the Imperial War College, he was always complaining about things, until one day he stepped in front of a cannon. Boom. Nasty business, all over the picnic we were having. Ruined a perfectly good starched shirt that day, the servants just couldn't get the stains out, had the flog the lot of them.

Wait, what? Oh yes, one DTR warship was destroyed, some Nemesis class capital ship, I imagine it was crewed by filthy aliens. No great loss.

Tate

I say, the Detinus Republic have only gone and shot up a brave Empire vessel in orbit of Tate. I simply don't care if they told us the civilian government of Tate had demanded Empire forces leave orbit of their homeworld! This is simply unacceptable, bloody scoundrels.

Those Tatian rebels have long been asking for it, we nuked them once, we can jolly well nuke them again!

Outpost Falls

A totally undefended Empire outpost has fallen to Detinus rebels in the Arachnid system. Its loss is meaningless and the facility was of zero value.

Fashion

Her Imperial Majesty was looking smashing today. Just smashing.

Jasmine

Some bally alien system by the name of 'Jasmine' has been claimed by some bally aliens calling themselves 'Dewiek'. In other news, aliens do stuff, human Empire cares not one jot.

Raiders

Empire commerce raiders are attempting to strangle the life out of the Detinus rebels by launching commerce raids in key core rebel systems. The DTR ship COEUR D'ALENE had a narrow escape in T.Tauri this week.

Good Show

Garcia Enterprises are reporting a jolly good victory against a bally horde of stinking pirates this week:

Mr Garcia wishes to congratulate Officer Lindl Ust on single handedly repelling the vastly superior force of Pirates for two whole rounds and then single handedly navigating the ship to safe port and delivering his goods. This is all done with 2 months experience as a ships captain.

A private ceremony to congratulate him along with a memorial for the 24 lost crew will be held as soon as he has been debriefed and counselled.

Still, I'll say this for pirates, at least they're not Detinus rebels.

A Fine Upstanding Soul Passes Away

Press Release from Granny's Goodies, LLC (A FET Affiliate)

Stardate 212.30.1

It is with much sorrow that we must report the death of Granny Goodness, CEO & Head Baker of Granny's Goodies, LLC.

Granny passed away last Friday when she was unable to escape a kitchen grease fire at her Ranch Kitchen on Yaden.

Granny was born Gertrude Agnes Jane Doe many years ago to uncertain parentage in what is now CNF Cemetery Hill. (Granny steadfastly refused to divulge her exact date of birth or age.) She was immediately consigned to community creche; her mother having died in childbirth. As soon as she could fend for herself, she fled that establishment, living on the streets for some years. She was eventually taken in by a small time baker, Hiram T. Goodness. "Gertie" quickly learned the business, and when H.T. Goodness mysteriously died five years later, she took over the business. At that time, Gertie began to call herself Granny Goodness for reasons of good business, though at that time the name was of no reflection on her true age. Granny soon parlayed that simple bakery into today's giant food & trader goods conglomerate. (Any rumours, as to Granny actually making her startup money by appearing in multiple burlesque shows and soft porn films, have always been denied. Even though substantial documentation to the contrary exists.)

Granny was preceded in death by her four husbands, 3 life companions, and seventeen children; many of whom also passed away under mysterious circumstances.

Granny is survived by her four Eridani Mountain Huskies, her seven Sandkats, and her Cluster Monkey. She is also survived by a multitude of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cuzzins.

Oddly enuff, her Last Will and Testament leaves her entire estate -- bakeries, delis, warehouses, outposts, & ships -- to the FET Board of Directors, rather than her family. Legal actions in this regard are expected.

All personages with a legal claim against Granny's estate should contact the Law Firm of Ledbottom, Hedbanger, & Bongwater in CNF Cemetery Hill within ten days, in person!

Charitable donations in Granny's memory may be made to the FET Dead Traders Memorial Fund, in care of Zurovo Norozov, at FET Chojahive.

Granny will be missed by her friends, of which she had many, of many creeds and species, including even one Dewiek. She will also be missed by foodies throughout the Galaxy. Somewhere Granny is baking another tray of chocolate chip cookies.

Special Report

The noble Prince LiQuan has agreed to have a little sit down chat with me over their recent acquisition of GCS holdings in the Inner Empire, my thanks are extended to the HLQ for their open-ness during this chat, summarised below:

"Some time ago Myself and Supreme Commander Jackson came up with the idea of removing the last of the GCS from the Inner Empire.

Their damage and destruction of the Inner Empire was awful to behold and could left to go unpunished.

The supreme commander sent a exploration team to see if the ISR field in the star could be repaired to allow jumping out of the system as at the moment you are only allowed to jump in. This after time was found to be possible though will require a huge effort and is on target to be done around Christmas time this year.

Now plans were put in place to remove the GCS from power in Alpha Centauri and from their strong hold in Atlantis.

We discovered a large amounts of platforms scattered around the system and three in orbit which had to be taken care off.

We decided on Boarding with a Kraken class ship recently built by HLQ ship yards. This was armoured with MkIV Armour plate and state of the art defence systems. Manned by of 2000 elite House LiQuan marines for the bloody end.

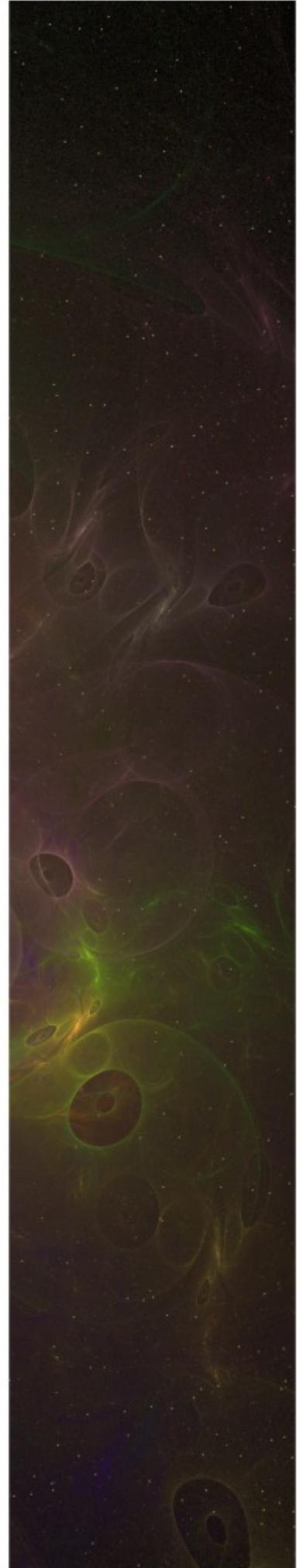
House LiQuan special forces infiltrated the main GCS base and using equipment provided by the CIA manage to reduce the efficiency of the platforms in orbit to acceptable levels for a boarding attempt. The platforms were boarded with heavy damage and casualties, but the first stage was completed.

In the mean time a blockade was enforced by HLQ warships whilst Confederate warships guarded the outpost doing the SC.

The confederacy then sent in Confederate Ambassadors which were promptly arrested and at this time fate is unknown.

I contacted the GCS board myself but was rebuffed.

After the platforms were sorted, I again contacted the board members pointing out the strength of the confederate position and the hopelessness of their situation after a number



of weeks of reflection the GCS board agreed to sell their shares to myself, and promptly I disbanded the hated organisation. Clean up and repairing is currently underway with the human population being our first concern of getting them back into the Empire with as small as disruption as possible.

In light of the recent death of Supreme Commander Jackson and the extreme effort he put into this cause we are renaming New Earth to Jackson's Rest in his memory."

Special Report – Aliens

Bah, the editorial team have just informed me that in the interests of 'fairness' and 'inclusion', we have to include more filthy alien news in this week's edition. So here's an extract from that dog chappies blog:

Magnus gave himself a good scratch as he examined the shiny machinery before him.

"It's a brave new world," he muttered as the cub tried in vain to explain net and gross, ROI and short-mean-path to profitability. After some hours of endless data screens, he was suitably impressed.

"And this means, I get to have more steak?" he asked tentatively.

"Yes, master. More steak. More time for hunting."

"Well, well, well..."

Things had changed a great deal in his absence. Magnus was ever adaptable. The days of glory would come but it was time for an era of peace and prosperity.

"So let it be: We shall be traders! Our homes are safe. There are many interesting squishy creatures with goods to sell and looking to buy. Let it be that we ply our vessels across the ocean of space."

The news rocked the Dewiek Nation and some called fowl play, looking at the Falconian influence on the High Lord. Yet, there was no denying it. War had proven to be short-lasting fun and the mood of openness had expanded the Dewiek's horizon. Trade presented a new challenge. The vast logistics of war turned to peaceful money making. With ever the threat of new markets being forcefully opened in the future perhaps? The hope of a Nation...

"Cry sale and let slip the dogs of peace!" Magnus chortled to himself. Then he took a nap. A long one.

Message From The Editor

Right, well, enough of this sorry old news stuff eh? Time to release the hounds and do a spot of alien hunting, what-what.

Now, where did I put my blaster...

UNLEASH THE PEASANTS!



Subspace Static - Whispers Of The Universe

Guest Editor

Salubrious salutations fellow sentients of the Peripheries, the blessings of the day be upon you. Come, sit down a while that I might whisper in your ear of happenings this week.

My name? My name is not important. Call me The Watcher if you will. My allegiances are also unimportant at this time, let us simply say I am a friend of some, and an enemy to others. I am at one with the hidden tides of this universe, and my backers? Well, one day soon you shall all become acquainted with my backers.

Broken Bones And Shattered Dust

The House LiQuan, a house with many secrets, not least how they have ended the presence of the Galactic Crest Securities corporation. An entire board resigned and shifted off into retirement perhaps? Or elsewhere. Long have been the rumours that the GCS were simply the puppet pawn of another, not the House LiQuan, but look you to the Meklan nanites, do you think these machines ever forget their masters?

The GCS are dead. Long live the GCS.

Jackson's Legacy

One wonders, does one not, at how many and rich the conspiracy theories are. Did Supreme Commander Jackson truly die of natural causes, or did he threaten to wake from coma and thus necessitate removal?

Dewiek Ships And Spies Exchanged

Have you not noticed all of the Dewiek ships now trading the spacelanes? A little bird, so friendly now to the dog that barks, whispers

in my ear that there is surely no clear truth in this. Trading? Perhaps, but really we should ask, what are the Dewiek searching for? So many ships set out into the void. So many starbases visited. So many questions asked. This race that think themselves so wise, an elder race they think, they have no clue what 'elder' truly means. There are beings in this universe who witness the flowering of the Dewiek race as a whole, and think it no more than a blip upon their consciousness.

What then I ask you of humanity?

Less than dust.

Stargates

Reports have surfaced of certain... malfunctions with the Noctollis Stargate. Reports have surfaced of captains... failing to find the gate. Reports have surfaced... like children playing with matches, the younger races rush to use the Stargates. Transport? You think the ancients built these simply for transport?

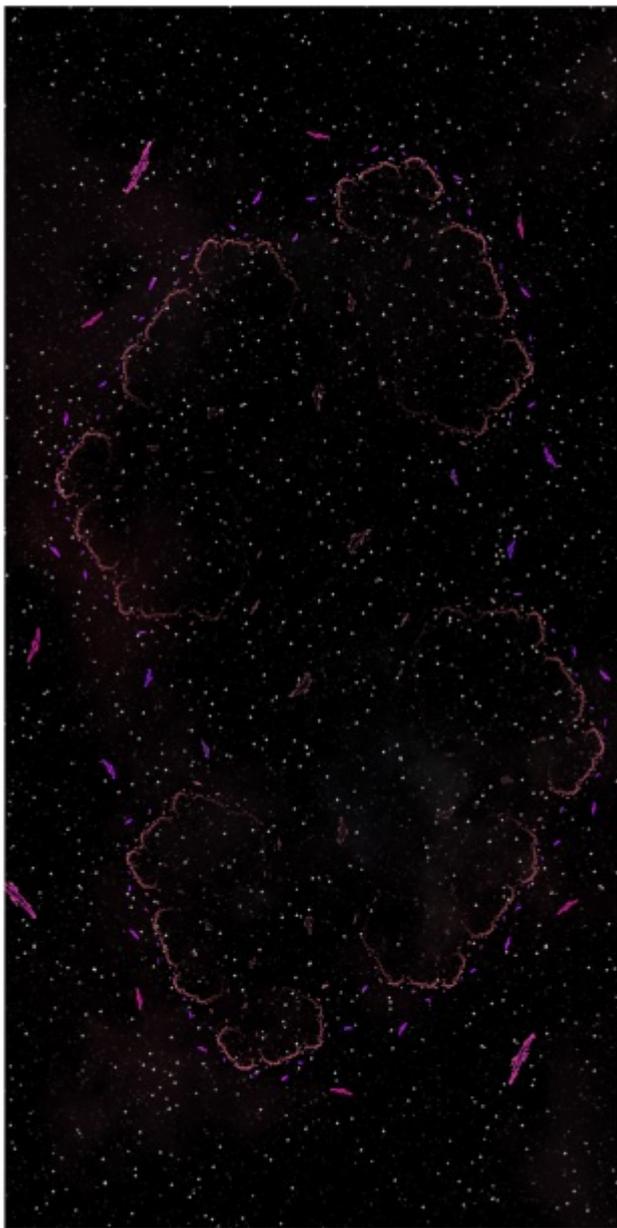
Starhunter Pride

An entire pride of Felini hunters have withdrawn to the steppes, on seclusion. Communion perhaps with their gods, such as the hunt of the wild ones are. Worn down by the Flagritz and Dewiek both.

Detinus Republic

In the business of cutting technology for any and all who wish to be customers, this mighty Republic have fallen. Betrayed by their closest friends, and with a hidden secret tragedy at the very core of their Senate, how much longer, I wonder, can the centre hold before mere anarchy is loosed upon their heads?

Ask yourself why they had to be removed, and why the grand coalition came together against them. Who benefits most? And what did they do that made this a necessity. What did they oppose.



Mohache Missing

Harmless farmers gone
Delving into deepest dark
Hunger swallows all.

Ulian Nation

Do you not think it odd, sweet listeners, how these Ulians existed so close by to you all, and yet none had seen them before but recent years. Have you heard the stories of ancient machines that exist upon the Ulian homeworld. A world they guard most closely. Why then I wonder did they visit Storm, with warships, and accidentally open fire upon a meaningless Dewiek outpost. An accident. It is always an accident.

Boltzman

A mad god dreams of greater things and the universe shifts in pattern.
Crystal spheres align.

Yank

Safe space, they say.
Nothing happens, they say.
Boring, they say.
Look for the colony that vanished. Roanoke? Perhaps. But a thousand voices screamed and were silent, and nothing but dust remains.
Dust and shadows. And there, when you listen hard to the subspace static, do you hear them? The voices?

Subspace Static - Catch Up Edition

All The News – All the Time

Confounding unpleasant rumours that this has been the slowest news week The Editor can remember*, this weeks edition of the Galaxies Finest News Organ** might or might not contain a number of stories culled from the less reliable news agencies throughout the Peripheries.

As such we cannot necessarily vouch for the usual high standard of news accuracy that our readers have come to love***.

There may also be some catch up news stories of things that dropped under the radar over the last few weeks****.

*The Editor's memory is admittedly not what it used to be.
** Don't believe what the Jiggly Room staff might tell you.
*** Value of 'love' may be variable.
**** Shtp! Old news is still news!

Empress Newsbombed

Scandal has rocked the Empire of humanity this week as a tabloid newspaper has gotten ahold of shocking topless photos of the Empress herself, sunbathing whilst on an alien-killing holiday with the Emperor Lysander, who was himself photographed whilst having some servant clean alien slime from his boots.

This news agency cannot possibly comment on why the Empress might have been topless whilst her husband killed aliens, but we're sure there is probably a very good reason for it.

Brotherhood News

Laxatives purchased.
Weakness purged.

Actual News

A small squadron of House LiQuan raiders has intercepted and mauled two DTR freighters in the Arachnid system this week. In retaliation, DTR Interceptors responded and brought the small squadron of HLQ warships to battle, where light damage was inflicted on both sides.

It is understood one DTR freighter was destroyed, with a second taking heavy damage.

More Actual News

The small Confederate outpost Tombstone in the Arachnid system has fallen to Detinus Republic assault forces after a short and largely bloodless battle.

It is understood Tombstone had been mothballed some time ago, and as such the operation appears to have been more of a mopping up operation rather than any sort of serious large scale heavily contested assault.

Crikey, Three Pieces Of News In A Row

A small Detinus Republic mining outpost has been located by EMP forces in the Faery system, and captured in short order. It is understood the facility was mining Fibrillium. There was no great loss of life reported.

Oops, That's My Ambassador

There are unconfirmed reports circulating that an as yet un-named affiliation may have accidentally eaten an ambassador dispatched to their capitol Starbase.

Raiders

A sizeable EMP raiding force continues to make a name for itself buzzing around the Straddle system, where they have destroyed another two DTR freighters.

Both DTR vessels were classified as troop transports, though DTR news sources are not reporting substantial loss of life, so they may have been empty when they were intercepted.

Ship Go Boom

A lone GTT scout ship has been toasted in orbit of DTR Aquime City in the increasingly lively Arachnid system.

Beachy Head Obliterated

Previously popular and attractive DTR holiday destination Beachy Head has been obliterated by Confederate Orbital Bombardment. It seems as if Confederate ground forces moved out from Serpent's Rest (accidentally causing the CNF system claim for the system to drop) in order to ground assault the DTR holiday resort, but trigger happy Confederate commanders in charge of the orbital defensive platforms and artillery batteries at Serpent's Rest became a little too enthusiastically involved when they opened fire with everything they had, annihilating Beachy Head and causing suspected splash damage to the attacking CNF ground troops.

It is understood the only thing left standing after the orbital bloodbath was a single bunker containing a few cowering DTR employees, and some beach bamboo.

The DTR released the following press release that was totally ignored by this very publication at the time. Oops.

"It is with great sadness that I have to announce the loss of more innocent DTR citizens at the hands of the CNF. Without warning or diplomatic negotiation the CNF attacked a small outpost which had peacefully been within the Beach system for many years. The attack was a combined ground assault, artillery fire and orbital bombardment and obliterated the outpost just leaving a single bunker and terrified DTR employees cowering within said bunker from this surprise attack.

Interesting that coinciding with this attack the CNF have dropped the claim to Beach and so now it is darkspace and lawless. Was this by accident or design, I do not know, but attacking the DTR within Darkfold

where peace has held for so long is setting a worrying precedent.

My thoughts are with the families of the slaughtered DTR citizens.
Long Live the Republic,
Justice Lorna Archer"

More Old But Important News That Got Overlooked

There have been more interesting goings-on in the Twinkle system, as the political conflict between the FEL and DEN for control of this critically important system continues. One of our reporters was able to record the following exchange:

Special Action/Glasir/Highstar/Fall of Government/212.33

The officer for the Dewiek Nation makes his proclamation. He states that the Nation is now victorious having in all ways taken control to the system. He now demands that the government turn over control of Highstar to the Nation to a faction that holds true to its promises. As a sweetener, the officer even agrees to pay rent on the base as per the agreement with the Felini.

It seems however that the government is in turmoil. The tall white and enigmatic aliens that once laid down the law have mysteriously disappeared. Their naplian underlings have tried to cover up for them but rumours have been leaking out for some time. The Felini no longer pay any rent and have assumed control of Highstar, no longer bound to any contract. Maybe this was why the Felini Tyranny moved in to commit genocide against the dewiek enclave?

This begs the question, who were the white aliens and why did they leave.

They were reputedly tech savvy and appeared at the end of the Nation-Architect war. Have they fled or is there something more to this? What can be said is that the kid gloves can now come off!

IMP Ship Go Boom

A small IMP spy ship has been destroyed by DTR forces in orbit of Zaro in Venice.

IMP GP Go Boom

A small IMP scouting party has been destroyed by DTR forces in the T.Tauri system.

Oops, More Catch-up News

Felini forces recaptured Onwards Magpie the day after it fell to the DEN.

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.40.1

Empire Implicated In Slavery!

Shocking news has reached the Inter-Galactic newsroom this week that appears to suggest that the House LiQuan's 'Indentured Worker' program has spread to systems beyond the core CNF systems.

The following ship scan was obtained in the Yank system and submitted to the SSS:

>Date 39.1: Detailed Scan {1308}

Scanned:

HLQ SHIP LIFE TEMPO (1308) - {150 Light Hulls}

Countess Class Passenger Liner {No Armour}

Aff: HLQ

LifeForms: 6023

Class: Countess

Hulls: 150 Light Hulls (60)

Armour: None

Hull Damage: None

Max Boarders: 1880

INSTALLED ITEMS

6 AI Navigator (915)

1 Bridge (100)

5 Bunks (98)

1 Cryo Pods (129)

92 Cryobay (187)

15 ISR Type 3 Engines (150)



1 Jump Drive (175)
1 Jump Drive - Hyper (177)
1 Luxury Cabin (374)
2 Sensor mkII (104)
1 Stargate Key - Plague (968)
1 Stargate Key - Solo (965)
20 Thrust Engine mkII (161)
1 Wormhole Navigator (359)
1 Wormhole Stabiliser (189)

CARGO

20 Human Crew (505)
6000 Naplian Indentured Worker (743)
3 Wimble Civilian (580)

It appears as if the Noble Houses of the Human Empire are imposing their laws regarding slavery upon alien races and Naplian culture in particular. Did these Naplians originate in Yank? Where are they being taken to? Is there any hope of any due process of their ultimate fate?

A Detinus Republic spokesman stated to the press that, 'It is a travesty of justice that so many thousands of Naplians are being rounded up and taken away to serve in House LiQuan mines, it is wrong that the economy of the Empire is based upon a system that is tantamount to slavery. The DTR stands for the right of all sentient beings to be free, to earn a decent wage for a days work. We oppose the alien-hating ways of the Empire, and stand for the freedom of all.'

Flashpoint Yank

Forgetting to clear active enemy lists has led to another sharp exchange of fire in the Yank system recently, as a FET battle squadron entered orbit of a DTR Starbase and promptly opened fire.

Following a sharp exchange of words, the FET made it clear that they had no intention of paying any reparations for the incident, leading to rumours that it may have been conducted on purpose in order to test the resolve of the ruling Kastorian Military Junta – an organisation that is becoming increasingly irrelevant as it fails to enforce any sort of order or rule of law inside their own space, despite their possession of the KAS System Weapon.

Is it only a matter of time until pitched battles erupt within Yank? Does the Empire intend to remove the DTR from this critical system? Will the KAS ever really give a damn about anything? Why is my tea cold? Where did the cat go? And who let the dogs out?

Meklan Spotted!

Panic has broken out throughout the Yank system as rumours have spread of a large-scale Meklan infestation having broken out somewhere in the system. Despite there only having been one reported sighting, onboard, of all things, an IMP vessel:

Date 39.4: Detailed Scan {6340}

>>

>> Scanned:

>> IMP SHIP TS ALPHA (6340) - {40 Light Hulls}

>> Carrack Class Troop Transport {No Armour}

>> Aff: IMP

>> LifeForms: 1200

>> Class: Carrack

>> Hulls: 40 Light Hulls (60)

>> Armour: None

>> Hull Damage: None

>> Max Boarders: 779

>>

>> INSTALLED ITEMS

>> 1 AI Navigator mkII (916)

>> 1 Battle Bridge (101)

>> 4 Battle Sensor (200)

>> 8 Bunks (98)

>> 8 Cargo Bay (134)

>> 1 Cloaking Device mkIII (352)

>> 34 Cryo Pods (129)

>> 10 Cryobay (187)

>> 4 ISR Type 3 Engines (150)

>> 1 Jump Drive - Quantum (178)

>> 20 Thrust Engine mkIII (162)

>>

>> CARGO

>> 16 Drop Pod (940)

>> 40 Human Crew (505)



>> 1159 Human Soldier (507)
>> 1 Meklan - Elite (717)

Our news-room unfortunately has no information on what an Elite Meklan is, or how it was created, nor indeed do we have any idea what it is doing onboard an IMP troop transport. However, with the Meklanisation process being generally regarded as an abomination, awkward questions remain for the IMP authorities.

GTT Strike At Heart Of DTR

Elite GTT captains maneuvered deep into DTR territory to strike fear throughout the republic.

With orders to target larger enemy freighters five Defiant cruisers ignored other smaller passing freighters to target 200 hulled armoured and shielded freighters travelling to and from Istria, located at Delta 1 Venice.

Beating off the first salvo's of torpedoes with withering point defence weaponry it looked like the Dragon Wing L-Class may escape with it's cargo. Fortunately the damage was mounting up on the doomed vessel, stripped of its vital defences she was damaged beyond all hope. Breaking up in the final minutes of the attack as torpedoes struck her without response from shawn defences.

So far into enemy territory it would take immense luck and skill to evade the inevitable response from the still potent DTR fleet. Forgoing the opportunity to pick up prisoners and cargo, orders were issued to evade patrols and leave the system without delay.

Skirmish

A small squadron of 3 GTT warships has tangled with a DTR raiding squadron in the Tycoon system this week. It is understood the GTT 100HH warships were passing through the Valhalla Stargate on their way to home base for recreation and maintenance when they ran into the DTR vessels.

Despite being outnumbered, the GTT inflicted moderate damage on two of the DTR ships, whilst taking heavy damage to their own number, ultimately losing two warships to the DTR's tally of zero losses.

The DTR ships then hightailed it out of dodge before EMPire reinforcements could arrive.

Skirmish

Running battles continue to flare up throughout the Boltzman system as DTR forces tangle with EMP vessels.

Two GTT freighters were ambushed by DTR patrol forces, resulting in the destruction of the GTT ship Falstaff, a super clipper class freighter.

Financial Mystery

It appears as if the DTR have been stuffing envelopes full of unmarked non-sequential stellar bills, and handing them off to the House LiQuan for reasons that are as of yet unclear.

Exactly why have the DTR been bankrolling what appears to be one of their most fervent enemies? What terrible secret lurks at the heart of this mystery? We can only imagine it must involve shoes in some way.

Extremism on the Rise?

For many years Abbess Teresa Tanelson has governed the Starbase BHD Mirabile (3572) on Chickamauga in the Yank System. She has been a dedicated, quiet and gentle soul who has regularly engaged with the local Kastorians and other species of the system in a fair and open manner. It would appear that in the past few months more extreme elements of the Brotherhood have been drifting towards the Starbase and violently enforcing their faith on others. Several months ago elements of the Brotherhood took it upon themselves to close the Jiggly Room at AFT Quick Snack. For years rumours of illicit recreational activity has smeared the reputation of this upstanding facility. According to a briefing from security officials the Brotherhood launched an initially undercover operation that resulted in the closure of the Jiggly Room. It would appear a number of BHD personnel attended the Jiggly Room pretending to be ordinary patrons.

Here is a report from one of our reports who happened to be at the Bar asking for directions when the Brotherhood arrived -

The smirks on the faces of the staff as they allow the monks through the doors of the recreation plaza turn to alarm as altercations break out throughout the Jiggly Room. The monks are eventually evicted and it is determined that they were in fact zealots for the Brotherhood.

Few are harmed though with the zealots still rampaging and verbally smiting would-be patrons the Jiggly Room remains closed for business.

A tense situation erupted and the Jiggly Room was closed for some time. The damage was limited and the conflict, thankfully, did not escalate.

Since this incident troubling footage has arrived at the CPT showing hundreds of individuals committing acts of self-flagellation in the Starport of Mirabile



Subspace Static - Star Date 212.41.1

Empire Denies Slavery Allegations

An Empire spokesman from the Noble House LiQuan has reacted angrily to recent allegations of slavery, denying that the Indentured Servitude program represents slavery, pointing out that:

“Slaves are innocents being forced against their will to work.

Indentured is being forced to pay for the debts or crimes with work.”

Going on to add:

“After the civil war in which the confederacy fled the inner empire and started to rebuild in the inner confederacy times were hard and charity virtually non-existent.

At this time in the confederacy there is no such thing as dole or government aid, if you couldn't afford your lifestyle, it was removed and you were forced to work until it was paid off - sometimes till death.

Convicts are treated the same. Their crime is given a stellar value and the convicts are put to work in secure conditions until their debt to society is paid. This saves the law abiding from providing detention facilities for these conflicts.

As for the naplians which were scanned they stopped on route in Yank.

House LiQuan has purchased their debt and if any readers would like to buy their debt get them to contact us. \$200 each will buy their debt.

Despite scare mongering House LiQuan only enforces indenturing in their systems as is our right and history.”

Human rights groups have responded angrily to this statement that appears to place the value of a human life at a mere 200 stellars, going on to question exactly how many of these ‘indentured servants’ are ever released from captivity.

Meanwhile, shadowy underworld sources have revealed to reporters that the current going rate for slaves is somewhat less than 200 stellars, and that they can neither confirm nor deny involvement in the procurement of sentients who are forcibly enrolled in the Indentured Servitude program.

Either way it seems likely the controversy over the use of unpaid employees will rumble on for the foreseeable future.

DTR Raiders Hit FET Outpost

Report from South Pacific Squadron

A small, insignificant FET OP in Pegasus became smaller and more insignificant. (Previously attacked in week 22 by the Russian Battle Squadron.)

FET WAV 001 (34603) - Outpost

Scints: 38.3

Targeted by DTR CL 28 LAE (39052) - 2574 [3680] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 28 VELLA LAVELLA (28210) - 12042 [13499] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 28 GUADALCANAL (25832) - 11037 [12599] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 28 RENDOVA (30229) - 10401 [12037] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 28 MILNE BAY (34640) - 2672 [3760] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 28 BUNA (36247) - 2649 [3840] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 28 NEW GEORGIA (50338) - 11658 [13274] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 28 NEW BRITAIN (48165) - 12851 [14399] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 28 SALAMAUA (36908) - 2659 [3760] Damage

Targeted by DTR CL 28 BOUGAINVILLE (48654) - 7493 [8662] Damage

FLZ Target CNF

The Confederate destroyer Tinkle has been destroyed by FLZ forces in the Battlefield system. The reason for the ships destruction is not yet known.

Skirmish in Arachnid

A squadron of Empire warships has tangled with a DTR patrol squadron in the Arachnid system this week.

It appears the Empire ships, consisting of a combined fleet of HLQ and GTT cruisers, were attempting to intercept freighter traffic, when they were engaged by a squadron of DTR heavy cruisers.

Light damage was inflicted on both sides, with the DTR losing a freighter, and the GTT losing a cruiser.

Ceremonial Greetings

News teams from the Detinus Republic have been covering a colourful exchange between the DTR and the civilian population of Boomerang, where lavish gifts have been given cementing the strong bonds between the people and the Republic.

Personally attending the ceremony was Defence Minister Lorna Archer, standing in for the recently retired Michelle Diaz. Ms Archer appeared delighted to accept the gift of the Finest Shoes In The Peripheries (32672), and a small diplomatic incident was avoided when the representative of the planetary population momentarily mistook Ms Archer for Ms Diaz.

Ms Archer was however delighted with the new shoes, and it is believed a representative sample have already been dispatched to wherever it is Michelle Diaz has mysteriously disappeared to.

Pirate

Rare pirate news this week, as a DTR freighter has been boarded in the Solo system.

Hazzard

DTR Freighter traffic has come under heavy Empire attack in the Hazzard system, with a strong force of combined HLQ/GTT/IMP warships striking at every DTR freighter they could find. It is understood nearly a dozen large DTR freighters were destroyed.

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.43.2

War Fever

Excitement has gripped the Inter-Galactic newsroom this week as we have a flurry of news to report on. The Empire has launched another massive series of attacks against the Detinus Republic, this time throughout the strategically important Arachnid system.

Empire On The March

Empire forces have launched a multi-pronged attack against DTR interests throughout the Arachnid system. There are reports of a desperate ground battle for the DTR outpost Silo Nine, as well as a 500 hulled DTR platform being captured by IMP special forces.

Furthermore there are sightings of what are said to be thousands of Empire warships flooding into the Arachnid system, interdicting everything that moves. Although at time of press we have had no indications of any space battles occurring.

Sabotage

There are reports of small scale sabotage occurring at the DTR Starbase Scuba Station, in Arachnid, with emergency services responding to several small explosions, along with other incidents that the authorities describe as 'small scale irregularities'.

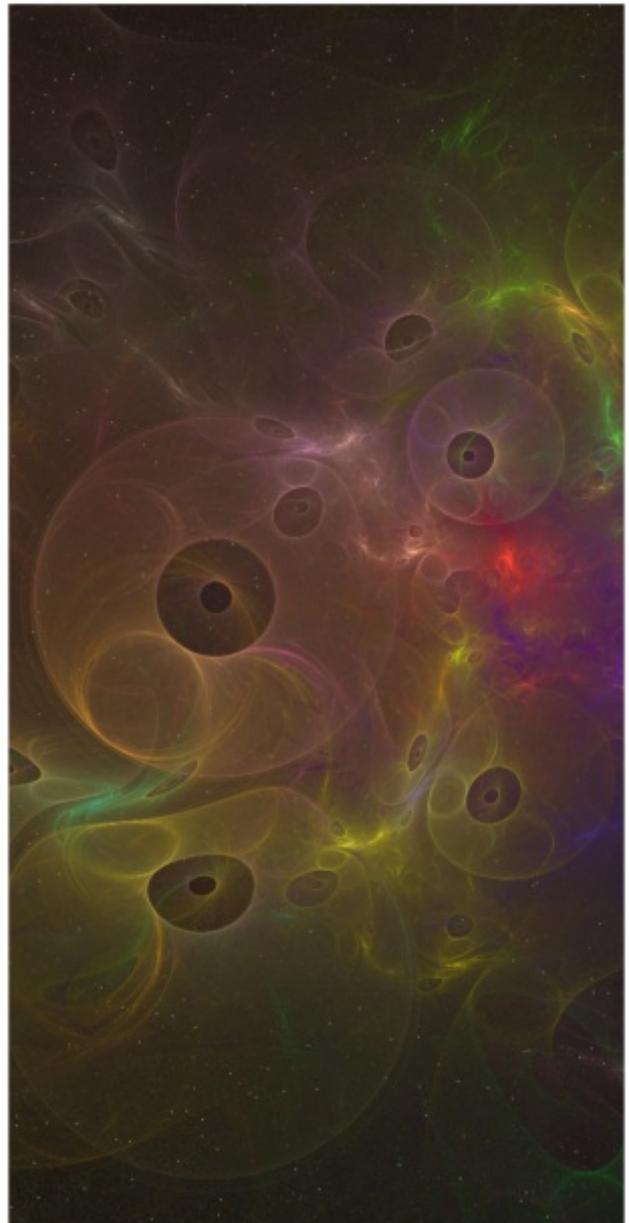
Empire Troops

Empire ground forces are understood to be closing on the DTR outpost Aquime City, which used to be a moderately sized Starbase before it was mothballed and closed down some months ago.

Independents Stab DTR In Back

The previously IND Starbase Halpingrad suddenly reflagged as CNF during the Empire assault on the Arachnid system, taking with it a 2000 hulled IND defensive platform that also reflagged as CNF. Furthermore, timed to co-incide with the Empire assault, CNF Halpingrad also suddenly unveiled a massive army of 100,000 troopers who marched out of hiding and planted a CNF flag, attempting to claim the system.

An angry DTR spokesperson stated that they had trusted the IND to be neutral in this affair, but now strongly suspect they have been played as part of a CIA lead Black-Op all along.



This is likely to result in a significant hardening of DTR attitudes towards INDs within their systems, with some suggesting a blanket ban could come into force.

The Halpingrad installations used to belong to the CIA, but splintered off and formed part of the Bolg Organisation, a neutral party who wanted no part of the Empire's feud with the Detinus Republic. However, the leader of the BLG went missing under suspicious circumstances some months ago, and their assets reflagged as IND, and were taken over by a new IND authority.

Empire Troops

Meanwhile over at DTR Silo Nine, initial Empire successes were overturned somewhat on the second day of battle despite the reflagged IND/CNF Halpingrad platforms opening fire and EMP reinforcements arriving in the form of special forces that had been tasked with capturing platforms.

Digging in their heels, DTR defenders forced back the attackers inflicting casualties in the order of 15,000 mercenaries, 500 marines, and 3500 tanks. DTR defence department sources are quoting DTR casualties of 900 soldiers and marines, and 1000 light tanks.

By the end of the day, Silo Nine was almost entirely back in DTR hands. Although it is entirely possible further EMP reinforcements are on their way.

Scout Destroyed

The lone good news for the DTR this week is that a squadron of DTR warships has intercepted and destroyed a 10 hull GTT scout in the Venice system.

Raid

A single DTR raider has launched a single-handed attack against a small IMP mining outpost on an asteroid in the London system. Moderate damage was inflicted before the vessel withdrew.

Pirate

Rare pirate news this week, as the pirate ship Errata Gel Pi has attempted to board a DTR vessel in the Hiratham system.

The boarding was unsuccessful, but the pirate was able to escape.

One DTR soldier was reported killed in the action.

Civilian Casualties

As reported last week regarding the Felini firing upon a CIV Starbase, we have received further reports of what are described as 'substantial' civilian casualties, though no hard data has yet graced our reporters.

COD In Hot Water

The COD have found themselves in hot water, and the butt of what can only be described as far too many fish jokes this week, as they attempted to pick up 1000 modules from the FET Starbase Free Coalition without permission.

You may thank the Peripheries Finest News Outlet for not inflicting any of them upon you, dear readers.

Acropolis

The Acropolis system message has been updated:

"The Falconians welcome all free peoples to their home system. Please restrict your travel to jump quads or to public markets unless prior approval is obtained from the Falconian Consul."

A travel advisory has also been issued that pirate Eyes of Large scout ships have been detected hunting for victims.

Breaking News

The situation in Arachnid is still unfolding, and reports are at times sketchy and incomplete. We expect to have more details in the next edition.



Subspace Static - Star Date 212.44.5

War Fever

It seems we here at the IGN news-room may have jumped the gun slightly in declaring open season in Arachnid, as after the initial Empire invasion things seem to have calmed down somewhat in the system. However, our diligent reporters have been working hard to scrape together what news we can.

Silo Nine

A battle for the DTR outpost Silo Nine has continued this week, with neither side really gaining much ground. Although rumours suggest the Empire may be on the verge of taking the facility, as the remaining DTR armour defending the location has finally been worn down.

Arachnid

A massive Empire battlefleet continues to hold station in the Arachnid station, with many hundreds of vessels having been sighted. The DTR Stellar Armada has thus far refused to offer battle, giving the Empire free reign to do as they will.

Arachnid

A small Empire scout has been destroyed by a small DTR platform making for a news item of small interest.

T. Tauri

An Empire patrol squadron consisting of a dozen or so heavy cruisers has intercepted and destroyed four DTR freighters in the T. Tauri system.

Pegasus

Detinus raiders have paid another visit to an Imperial mining facility, this time flattening an outpost in the Pegasus system.

Dorn

Another squadron of Empire warships has reported success, this time in the Dorn system. DTR authorities are indicating that three Butterfly class freighters have been destroyed.

Venice

DTR patrol forces have intercepted and destroyed another small Empire scout in the Venice system.

Dorn

In payback for the destruction of three freighters, DTR raiders launched an attack against the IMP facility Cosmonaut Keep. Light damage was inflicted, before the raiders withdrew.

London

The DTR Department Of Raiding Squadrons And Office Supplies has been busy this week, with another raid, this time against the IMP outpost Omikron in the London system.

Very heavy damage was inflicted, although precise casualty reports have yet to surface.

The Misery Of Eastwick

Those busy DTR raiders have struck again, this time against the IMP outpost Misre Eastwick I. Heavy damage was inflicted before the raiders withdrew.

The Misery Of Badlands

More bad news for the DTR, as a 2200 hulled defensive platform in the Badlands system has been captured by the GTT and renamed 'Empire Traffic Control'.

The DTR facility of Granite on the planet below promptly opened fire and after a sharp exchange, blew up the platform

Arachnid

The DTR authorities have placed the Arachnid system under Martial Law for the duration of the Empire invasion.

Where Are They Now?

Another Falconian competitor in the detinus games, Iron Eagle, made an impact this week. An impact into the side of an asteroid. There are rumours of bored falconian freighter captains playing 'chicken' through asteroid fields.

The nameless fixers always assumed to be behind many of the strange happenings at the games have also been busy as the small explosions around the games venue attest. The location is now restricted.

Pirate

Rare pirate news this week, as the infamous vessel Reaper Tag Li has been intercepted by the Falconian faction of the DEN in the Acropolis system, where severe damage was inflicted before the pirate was able to limp away.

The damage was so severe that the pirate will be out of action for weeks, and quite possibly permanently. Congratulations go out to the brave pirate hunters.

Felini Smash Up Starbase – Or Did They?

More news has come in regarding the recent report of the Felini opening fire on a civilian Starbase. The reports are confusing, but it seems as if no casualties were inflicted after all. More news as we get it.

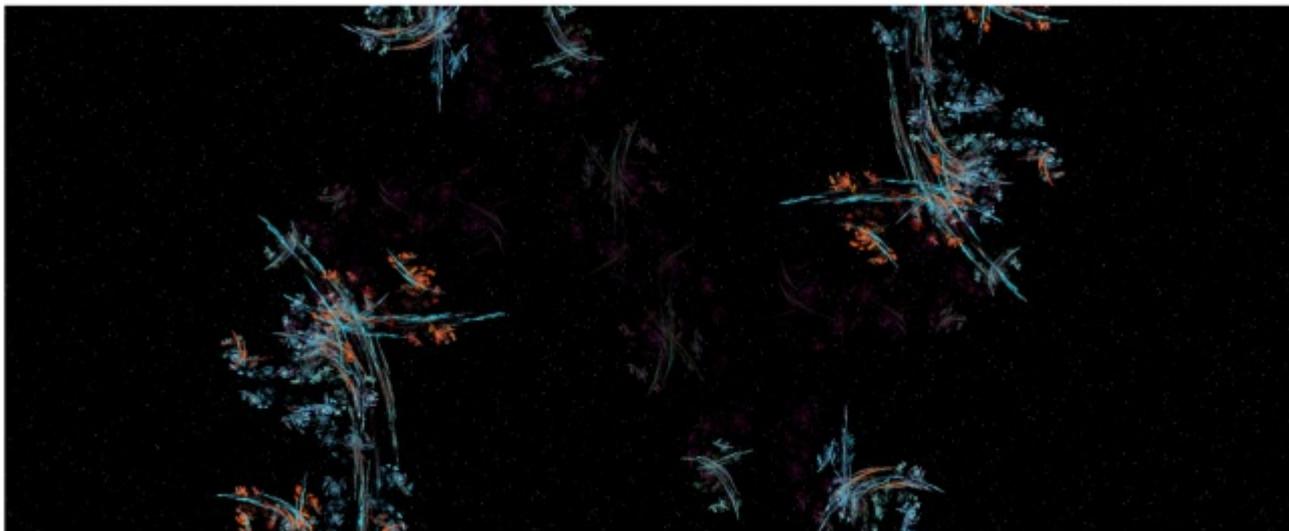
IND News

The IND Starbase Atlantis Freeport has welcomed traders this by offering some trade goods at very attractive prices, and by inadvertently blowing a DEN freighter out of the sky when it came to shop.

It all feels a bit like a game of roulette – get a great bargain, or be shot up.

We here at the IGN newsroom are amazed the RIP never thought of it first.

Whatever happened to the RIP anyway?



Subspace Static - Star Date 212.45.5

Inter Galactic News Brotherhood Special

Hellfire

Celebrate with glorious faith followers of the True One! A crack Brotherhood Religious Appropriations Strike Team has brutally invaded, make that mercilessly crushed, no lets go with, been politely invited into the Inter-Galactic News headquarters to bring truth and justice as this weeks Guest Editors.

Aliens Slaughtered

Squishy false-Empire minions of the Flagritz have inserted tentacles into meat-grinders this week, as we have received reports of a massive ground assault at the besieged Felini shipyards of Karnak, in the strategically important Battlefield system.

Felini news sources have carried the following report:

Eschewing strategy and guile as the preserve of weaker races the Flagritz commander ordered a full frontal assault on the base.

The Attacking force; which consisted of sepyo troops of various races; supporting a large core of Flagritz soldiers, tanks and warbots, ran into the ironclad determination of the Felini defenders and soon the plains of the aptly named world of 'wastelands' where smeared with the wreckage of once proud Flagritz armoured divisions.

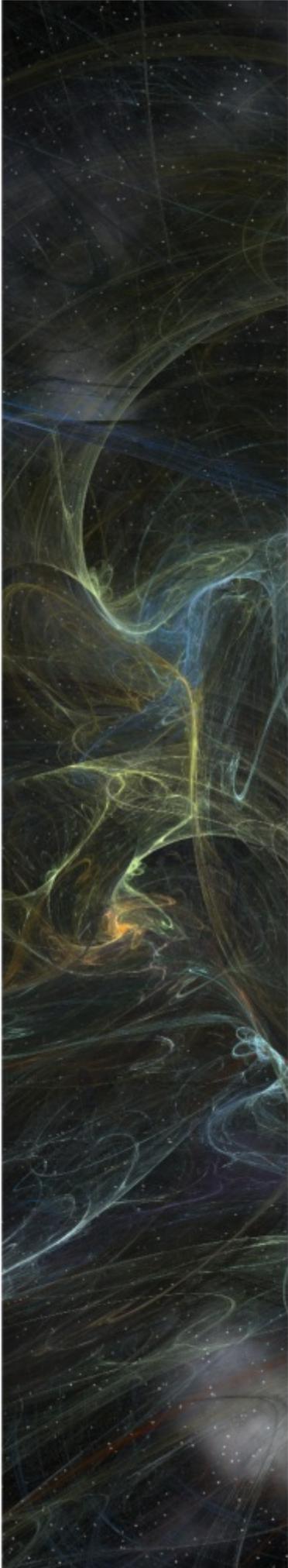
As of writing the attack force has managed a control of less than 4% with rapidly diminishing momentum, it remains to be seen if sheer weight of force will carry them through the Felini defence

Reports from the scene indicate that the Flagritz have suffered a crushing defeat, particularly in terms of massive losses amongst their light armoured divisions.

A further update has been received as we go to press:

Update at Shipyards of Karnak, the Flagritz continued there frontal assault, allow their non-FLZ troops to soak the damage before pouring in a reserve of Flagritz troopers. But with the loss of there armour it was a brave but desperate gambit and they were driven back.

The True One celebrates the loss of life amongst the alien hordes.



Purge The Unclean

A brief battle has occurred in the Faery system as a small DTR scout was intercepted in orbit of the planet Elf; location of the recent large-scale Empire ground invasion. The DTR scout was destroyed, as is right and proper for such godless liberal heathens.

Be Pure! Be Vigilant! Behave!

Xenos Filth

Elite Brotherhood inquisitorial teams have uncovered evidence amongst the computer records of the SSS/IGN that reporters here have been persuing vile and unclean contacts with alien races. The Brotherhood is not even sure that looking at an alien is an acceptable policy, let alone speaking to one.

However, in the interests of fairness, we include the following news burst supplied by the Flagritz:

It seems that FEL target computers are working well after every shell, missile and torpedo missed the urban centre they looked to wipe out .

Imperial forces step up the attack on the FEL starbase with a number of ships also targeting the Shipyards of Karnak (2511) as well as the ground forces.

Scientists of the Empire have been working for a few years to end the Ice Age on the planet Audentia within the Empire. At long last it does look like the planet is once more warming up.

Tensions rise between the Empire and the DTR over outposts. The DTR order the outposts removed, the Empire orders that all Outposts, starbases and ships be removed from twilight space. The QNG faction of the DTR start to withdraw from the Twilight systems.

Tensions appear between the Empire and the CNF. A lone ship of the CNF is destroyed within the Battlefield system, it appears that the FEL invite the CNF in but fail to change the system information that does list the CNF as an enemy. It also appears that the FEL fail to tell the CNF that they control almost no part of the system and are pinned to just two orbits.

The Empire informs everyone that the system is in Lock down and everyone who enters the system will run the risk of attack. A blockade of all orbits will be put in place within the next few days as the system claim of the FEL is broken and the Empire retakes the system from them.

More Purging Of The Unclean

Empire forces are proud to announce the repatriation of many thousands of filthy Detinus civilians from the Elf system, may they find true repentance for their ways by embracing their new lives as citizens of the Empire.

Inquire! Uncover! Cleanse With Fire!

Foulness

The heretical Church Of Detinus continues to spread it's abhorrent ways amongst the Peripheries, as this vile break-away sect refuses to bow to the will of the One True Voice of God in the Peripheries, the BHD Pope.

Xenos Scum

Happy news, as rumours abound that a viral infection has devastated the apparently harmless fluffy aliens known as Wimbles. This is the judgement of the True One upon these pathetic alien scum, who are, we sincerely hope, all burning in hell as we speak.

Praise! Obey! Conform!

Baron Retires

The Baron of the noble House LiQuan has announced his retirement this week, the Church has had occasional suspicions about the House LiQuan and the rumours about their involvement with heretical alien technology, but we trust the Baron LiQuan enjoys his retirement, and continues to pay his tithes to the church in a timely manner.

Arachnid

The system claim for the Arachnid system has been won back over by the Detinus Republic, following a fresh injection of troops, signifying these vile heathen liberals don't intend to give the system up without a political struggle.

More Xenos News

The Flagritz have issued another statement to the press:

Ships of the HEATEN ALIEN Empire have this week attacked Desolation (691) Orbit -

Quadrant Gamma 7 GODLESS BACKWATER Battlefield System (136)

Days of combat have seen the FEL platforms take a beating with one destroyed within the first day. THE TRUE ONE CELEBRATES WHEN ALIENS KILL EACH OTHER! IT SAVES THE FOLLOWERS OF THE TRUE ONE A BULLET! The FEL ships docked at the base on the planet have not been launched while death rains down on the outposts of the planet. MAY ALL SUCH UNBELIEVERS BURN IN HELL!

FOUL XENOS Imperial losses are reported as light. MUCH TO THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF ALL!

Dropzone (625) Orbit - Quadrant Alpha 11 - Battlefield System (136)

The ground combat did not go so well and the blame is being put on the commander using sub standard alien troops THIS WE CAN ALL AGREE ON! TRULY ALL ALIENS ARE SUB-STANDARD! for the job. Many, many weeks of orbital attack and still these sub standard troops still mess it up. PROVING THE TRUE ONE IS CORRECT WHEN HE COMMANDS WE MUST NOT SUFFER AN ALIEN TO LIVE!

The Brotherhood editorial team would like to make it quite clear they in no way edited this submission by the Flagritz. Believe Or Be Destroyed!

Venice

The One True Empire Of Humanity has launched a massive armed incursion into the Venice system this week, as the combined IMP/FET/GTT/CNF/HLQ battlefleets sortied into the home system of the Detinus Republic from their forward battle stations in Arachnid.

The cowardly Republicans refused to fight however, and the Empire forces returned to Arachnid.

IND Freeman

Godless Dewiek have announced their intent to hunt down and destroy the Independent known as Freeman, the same figure who is also in a lot of hot water with the DTR following the extensive reflagging of his IND operation in Arachnid as CNF.

The True One works in mysterious ways.

The Search for the Messiah

Praise the True One sinners and aliens alike! After some deep consultation the Brotherhood has decided to release the following article to the press. It was written some years ago by members of the Church and now feels like a fitting time to make its contents public. Embrace the One Truth and live forever! Deny us and born in fire.

The Revelation

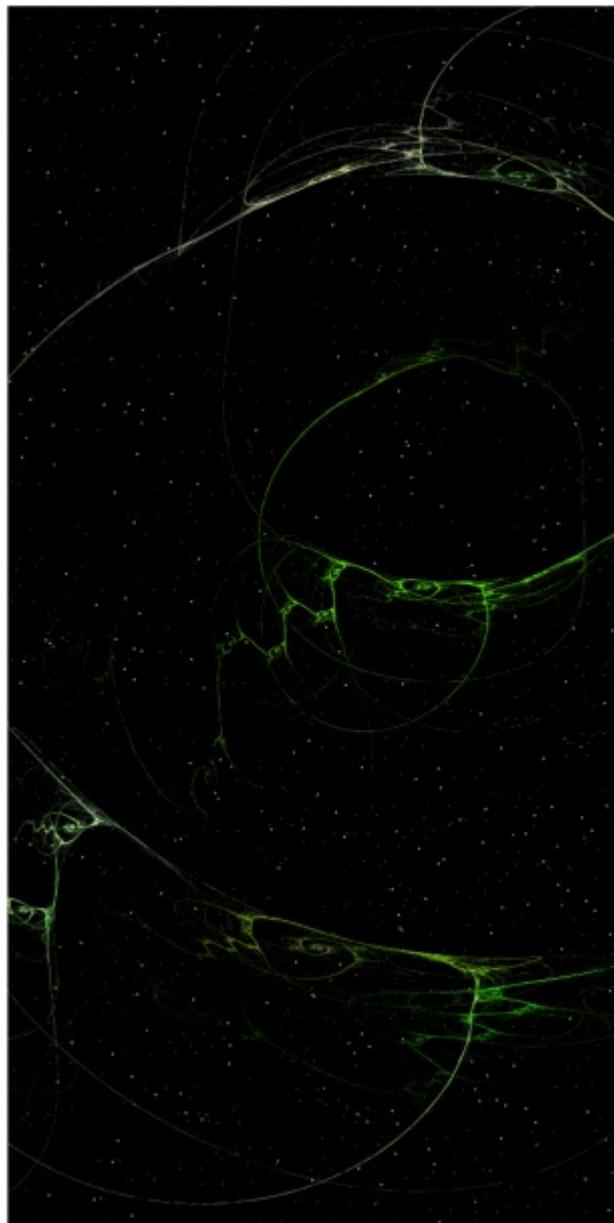
During preparations for the suppression of NHC Serenity in the year 195, a number of New Harmony Church monks were questioned by the Brotherhood Inquisition. One of them, held at Osgiliath, received a revelation from the True One. His prophecy was; "He will come and lead us from this dark age up into the light of the True One. Seek for the sign. Blessed will be the one who finds him, for he shall sit at the feet of the True One." The monk died, but the inquisitors realised the import of his words. So began the search for the Messiah.

The prophecy foretold that the heretics of the NHC and their perversion of the true faith would be wiped from the universe. It was a warning to repent but they did not realise the fate that was upon them. The BHD, the tool of the True One, helped them to their just reward when NHC Serenity was later destroyed.

The Search for further clues

The BHD then began what was to be a long search to discover more about the True One's will. The first target for the search were BHD holy texts and records, parts of which had remained untouched since the departure from the inner empire. The initial computer search brought up over a 100 million references to the Messiah alone. Careful contextual analysis allowed these to be distilled down to common threads. A clearly important theme was that of the One revealing information to those who are where the One has lead them. Saint Antonius the Devout, an early saint who clearly had the blessing of the True One, said: "... His mark will be upon the land, leading those who have the eyes to see as The One does..." This was taken as a clear instruction from the True One for the BHD to search the peripheries.

During the library search, details of early BHD history were uncovered. The current BHD hierarchy had known for some time that the fire in which the BHD had been formed and tested had



originated with the heretical actions of the Third Emperor. Unwilling, and unable by their faith, to stand by and watch the Great Sinner pervert the Truth of the One, the founding fathers of the BHD had left the Empire, figuratively shaking the dust of sinners off their feet. The fleet of the Faithful departed the known systems and travelled long distances. At one point the whole fleet was caught in a spatial anomaly and transported back in time.

Not all the BHD fled the Third Emperor. A few heretics stayed as the New Harmony Church, who followed the sway of the Emperor and whose doctrine did not stay true to the One. It is believed some who initially remained could soon no longer stomach the excesses of the Great Sinner fled afterwards and were also lost down wormholes, hence may be closer to the original tenets of the foundation. The location of these faithful remains a closely guarded secret.

Having found their feet in their new home, the BHD despatched sporadic missions to find new worlds. Most of these were lost. Some, it is now believed, disappeared after travelling through the worm hole that provides access to the Cluster periphery. The records also mention "Hairy Demons", a description tentatively linked to those creatures known as the Dewiek. There is clear evidence that all references to the locations and actions of some of these early offshoots had been eradicated from all records, so heinous were their crimes against the True One.

References and prophecies found during the library searches included:

"My face is upon the land, the life of the soil gives me life, those that see me will know that I am amongst the faithful."

"From the greatest of deaths I shall be born, the fire eternal shall be my crib."

"But father, how shall I know him, upon which hill does he dwell? Look long my son, seek that hill, and know the True One. For he will walk with the Beast and yet be unharmed. Thrice blessed be he and those that walk upon his hill. The monks are jubilant, for this must be the place."

The Search begins

Guided by the True One, Lt Commander Boxer Trewmall and the crew of the Lady Ghislaine, already skilled in survey work for the good of the BHD, approached the planet Unicorn, in the Ridley system in the week of 195.49. It was felt that the reference to "the Beast" in the prophecies might refer to that planet. A scan of the planetary orbit showed a gravitational anomaly, the result of a dense object. Investigation revealed a large bar of gold, which was brought aboard and examined. There was engraving on it that read: "We are forsaken, the beast that walks with one horn has claimed us for his own. Come not to this planet lest he take you also. This is the last marker of Brother Joshua, 108."

Records at Osgiliath determined that Brother Joshua had been a senior member of the Inquisition assigned to the BHD Redemption. His task had been to seek out the unfaithful and expose them no matter where they hid. His last mission was secret and all files concerning it had been purged. The mission had apparently been commanded by the True One. Joshua was known to have been heading for a wormhole, but was lost with no reports as to his final location. His crew were for the most part Zealots. Around the time of Brother Joshua's mission there had been a ripple of unrest within the BHD after the return of an exploration ship with tales of "Eden". The results were immediately purged. Where this "Eden" was was not known, only that it was beyond the "Pit".

The grip of the Beast

Buoyed by faith in the True One and disdaining the warning carried on the gold artefact, the Lady Ghislaine landed on Unicorn and discovered the crash site of the BHD Redemption. The ship had clearly been attacked in space and forced to land. These attackers have not yet been identified; revenge awaits. The crash site appeared to have been inhabited for some time, possibly a year. There was a cemetery with 45 graves and a sealed dome. There was also a skeleton of a man in monk's clothing by the entry to the dome, apparently the last survivor.

The landing party broke into the dome. The whole area had been destroyed in a ferocious attack. All that was religious had been desecrated. The slogan, "Thou has forsaken me and I reject thee," had been painted across the shrine to the True One. It was clear that the last survivors had rejected the True One while in the final stages of their testing. A rededication service was held, after which the sense of unease at the location was lifted.

The bodies in the graveyard were exhumed and returned to Osgiliath for interment in holy ground. One of the corpses had a handwritten journal. The author was a monk of low rank, still very young, and quite nervous on his first mission. His only concern was failing the mission in the eyes of the True One. Little was said about the mission apart from a fear of "The Pit" and the venture into Hell to terminate the unfaithful. According to the journal, they were attacked and forced to land as this was the only planet nearby. The frequent references to the Pit appeared to be related in some way to a worm-hole. Reference was also made to the system holding future gods in abundance. It seemed likely that this was a throw back to the naming of observable planets after religions and deities. The system might have had more than its fair share of gas giants.

Thanksgiving

Following the return of the bodies of the faithful to the Darkfold system, thanksgiving and dedication services were held at a number of colonies. The results at two colonies, Genizah and Mirabile, are relevant.

At Genizah, after long and detailed ceremonies, the Chief Priest entered a trance for many hours. This produced a vision of the True One so powerful that he required a long time to recover. He then related his vision, one of the face of the True One. The face watched His child across the gulfs of space and time. The Chief Priest was given the understanding that this face held the answer. The vision also suggested that the Messiah was a chalice to be filled with the passions of the BHD.

At around the same time, the colony of Mirabile held a colony-wide meditation on "the face of the True One". This produced a further prophecy: "It was said that in the beginning, the True One left his mark on Earth as tablets of stone. These were broken and the mark of the True One lost. Since then, the BHD have searched for another mark with which to praise the True One and show his hand at work. This mark will be a director to greater glory, now that His word is law."

The next step

It was clear that further searching was needed. Consultation of records produced intriguing facts about the Cluster system known as Hazzard. This had a main sequence star that had entered the Cepheid variable phase. It now emits hard radiation that has eradicated life in the system. Perhaps this was a pointer to one of the prophecies already revealed; "From the greatest of deaths I shall be born, the fire eternal shall be my crib." In addition, other writings appeared to suggest that earlier BHD colonisation teams had fallen from the Truth and been cleansed by the True One using the star in the system in some way. At about the same time, the light from the Hazzard system reaching Darkfold suddenly showed a sharp increase in intensity. This went unrecognised by the infidels but was a clear sign to the BHD.

An expedition left to search the Hazzard system. A BHD captain already in the Cluster systems approached the colony governor of IND High Star in the Twinkle system to attempt to discover more about the history of the Cluster systems. The governor did not welcome the emissaries of the True One, making reference to previous contact many years before that turned what had been a system of paradise into a wasteland. This referred to Hazzard, and appeared to tie in with previous references to Eden.

Hazzard reveals its secrets

BHD ships entered the Hazzard system in 196.14 and soon found indications that they were on the right track. The ships involved were the Redemption II, named for the wrecked ship found on Unicorn, and the Bringer of Joy. The Bringer of Joy also carried a survey team, the Sisters of Joy, many of whom were later to be martyred on the planet Mnesomyne in the Titan system. Both the planets Dead and Wasted had remains that suggested the existence in the past of human habitation. The change in the star had killed all occupants.

On Wasted, the discoveries were made in a desert area that analysis showed had once been a flat area by the banks of a river. A sensor sweep showed a vague shape of what was thought to have been a dam, across what was now a wadi. There were other signs of intelligent life; raised areas like a stockade on higher ground. Excavation turned up pieces of pottery. These showed monks with demons (presumably the Dewiek), twin suns that allowed extensive fertile gardens and finally the face of the True One super-imposed onto a planet. There was no modern equipment, unusual and against BHD doctrine. Analysis of the pottery shards brought the conclusion that the site was the remains of a splinter group of misguided unbelievers (may they burn in Hell), who had sought a way of life without the use of technology. It was, according to the pottery, the Demons that guided them to this.

On Dead, the discoveries contributed further to the story. Terracing was found in some areas, together with seeds dormant below the irradiated surface of the planet. A strange sensor blip was noted in the mountains. Investigation discovered artificial tunnels into the mountain.

The tunnels lead into the heart of the mountain, ending at an airlock. Beyond this were the remains of a small colony. A closer investigation revealed that everything was designed for humans. The original inhabitants appeared to have been pilgrims or something. This was shown in etchings on the structural members, carved using a thorlium knife by a skilled artist. These appeared to be representations of light shining on humans in worship. A peculiar series of scenes depicted a fertile garden being destroyed. Small amounts of writing were badly faded, but was possibly in an ancient BHD dialect. Translations made it obvious that the writings were ancient prayers, asking for forgiveness from the True One. These were originally intoned during the exodus of the BHD from the inner empire, when they fled the greatest challenge of all and extinction was a very real possibility. In this case though, the prayers appeared to be asking forgiveness for falling from grace and walking with demons.

After further study, the ship's planetologist agreed with the captain that the scene on the wall depicted the fall of the planet into a wasteland. If the scenes were accurate then this planet was probably the most blessed in the galaxy. The colony appeared to have been set up in haste. The lack of farms indicated that the colonists did not expect to be there long, or at least did not expect to live long. It seemed as if there had been more there at one stage, but it had been removed. Scanning the ground revealed tracks that could only have been made by the environmental suit of CLN crew, possibly only until a few months previously.

The True One revealed

The final discovery was made in orbit of the planet Dying. A planetary scan was projected, as normal, to show the topography. This revealed a feature made up of the flat areas on the planet. These melded to form a human face. This was oriented to the Galactic polar centre. The face was looking directly at the newly discovered Solo system. Some of the earlier clues fell into place.

"... His mark will be upon the land, leading those who have the eyes to see as The One does..."

"My face is upon the land, the life of the soil gives me life, those that see me will know that I am amongst the faithful."

"But father, how shall I know him, upon which hill does he dwell? Look long my son, seek that hill, and know the True One. For he will walk with the Beast and yet be unharmed. Thrice blessed be he and those that walk upon his hill. The monks are jubilant for this must be the place."

The first two clues clearly showed that this face was that of the True One, showing the way to the BHD. The third clue was now seen as a clear reference to the Solo system. The hills referred to represented the planets in the system, with the "thrice blessed" referring to the three stars in Solo. The clue even said where to look. In the Solo system is a moon named Avatar, in orbit of a planet called

Colossus. The prophecy referred to the True One walking with the Beast. There was much still to be surveyed in Hazzard but the True One led the travellers on. One day we will return to the Hazzard system and make it beautiful again.

A prophet found

The Lady Ghislaine was given the honour of entering the Solo system and orbiting Avatar and did so in 196.24. Until that time something had prevented many ships from entering the system. On the surface of the moon was an object that defied all reason; a large monolith reaching just over three kilometres into the air. The structure is rectangular and made up of a single metallic crystal. The surface is smooth down to the molecular level. All known scans revealed nothing unusual about it.

The captain of the Lady Ghislaine was inspired by the True One and came to a remarkable conclusion. It is now known that the molecular arrangement of the lattice structure of the metal serves a purpose in the same way that data crystals work. Without foreknowledge of this, the captain ordered a beam of energy directed at the metal object. The results were beyond the wildest expectations. A robed figure appeared, 3 km high. It stated; "Welcome Brothers. The time is not yet right. Return here when the rift is mended and the BHD is whole. Then and only then will the Messiah lead you back to the promised land." The spot was clearly holy.

The face in the projection was compared to all known records to determine who he may have been. One man was found whose records appeared to fit the details. He was neither prophet nor leader, only an acolyte reputed to have had a vision and to have left the inner empire 100 years before the BHD departed for the peripheries. There is no record of the vision he received. His name was Brother Galen.

Aware that the Messiah had been described as a chalice to be filled with the passions of the BHD, a ceremony was held to consecrate the monolith. All those present at the service were made aware that the time was right for BHD colonisation of the Solo system.

Establishment of BHD Redemption

A new colony, BHD Redemption, was established at the foot of the monolith, with the first work on the site commencing in 196.30. Despite the potential interest in the colony, it was decided that its purpose, that of protecting the monolith and searching deeper for the truths of the True One, needed to be kept secret for as long as possible to avoid the risk that other parties could try and interfere. A guard was set up to protect the monolith from trophy hunters and to restrict any visitors who happened by from interfering with the colony in any way.

Brother Galen had referred to a "rift" that had to be healed before the Messiah would return. Prayerful study by the BHD revealed that this could only refer to the split with the heretics of the NHC. Consequently, in 196.41, the Sect Leader issued an invitation to the leaders of the NHC:

"Cease your labours, brethren, and harken, for the time of understanding is upon us. We, the Brotherhood, implore you to join us. Join us, that the rift may be healed. We call upon you, members of the NHC, brothers of those denominations left in the Inner Empire when the core BHD departed, simple converts. Lay down your tools and make haste in whichever vessels will carry you. I personally assure you of a glorious welcome upon your homecoming, for it is only together that we may journey to the promised Land, which the True One has seen fit to prepare for us. Fear not for your safety. It is only as brothers that we shall discover the Promised Land."

A few weeks later, in 196.44, the EEM announced that they would be bringing 5000 monks from the Inner Empire to the Capellan system. Sadly, there they remained for some time. The imperial chartered affiliations would not assist the Monks in their desire to travel further into the peripheries and would also not permit the BHD to offer transport.

There were about a hundred monks already in the Darkfold system. These were collected and transported to Redemption, arriving in 196.47. The vision of Brother Galen was activated for them and they were suitably awed. However, it was clear that a greater number of monks needed to be present to prove a healing of the rift. Efforts to discover a means of bringing further members of the NHC to Redemption were stepped up. The difficulty of course was that it was impossible for the BHD to tell others what was truly happening, as the imperial affiliations would surely have attempted to stop anything that might assist the BHD.



In 197.22 it was discovered that there were 1000 monks at KAS Rubis. With the deteriorating relationship between the KAS and BHD as a backdrop, the pilgrims were brought to Redemption, eventually arriving by 197.22. Sadly there were still insufficient numbers of monks present to encourage any further reaction from the monolith.

A few weeks later news arrived that the AFT were bringing a further thousand monks from the Capellan system. These arrived at Redemption, after a transfer to BHD vessels in Solo, in 197.28. Their arrival was celebrated with a service of devotion around the monolith by the combined ranks of NHC monks and BHD colonists. The monolith reacted. Slow power emanations were detected in the core of the monument. These became stronger with time until a beam of pure, monochromatic photons were released in a burst lasting a few micro-seconds. This beam appeared to be targeted away from Avatar at a cloud of gases in the system. The cloud dissipated. The congregation was left in confusion. Joy at a clear reaction from the monolith was tempered by sadness that no message came from the monolith. Clearly there were still insufficient monks present for a complete revelation.

The BHD surveyor, Phoenix, then surveying other planets in the Solo system, was immediately despatched to the location of the target of the photon pulse.

The Messiah revealed

The young Lieutenant in command of the Phoenix kept the communication channel to BHD Redemption open as his ship approached the location to which he had been directed. Log recordings reveal the absolute amazement in his voice as the Phoenix closed on a sensor trace: "Praise the True One, it's beautiful." There, at the target of the monolith's pulse, was revealed a sleek vision of a ship. Obvious traces of human technology were there but mixed with something else, something divine. Sensor scans revealed the ship to be fully operational but devoid of life. It had clearly been placed there for a reason.

Other BHD shipping in the area was scrambled to provide an honour guard while a boarding party from the Phoenix opened the hatches on the surface of the new vessel. As they entered a strange feeling of belonging affected the party, as though the ship was a regular in the BHD fleet. This despite the fact that nothing remotely like it had been seen before.

Details on the very existence of the ship, named from records found in its navigation systems as the Deliverance - of Messiah class, have been kept secret until now. This is because of fears of what might happen were the RIP or other affiliations to here of it. The ship is like nothing ever seen in human hands before. Configured 33-90-32, the Deliverance is larger than a Battleship or Ship of the Line and has a maximum base speed of 1.7. There appear to be no restrictions on how the space on board can be used and the ship appears to have other benefits built into it. The ship has the advanced inertial damping of the Nebulon class and the life support facilities of a Tempest. It also appears to have an advanced medical lab and quarantine facilities, as well as enhanced control systems for pulse generators. The amalgamation of alien technology with human types is something that the BHD can still only dream of. The Deliverance is clearly a gift from the True One and has a purpose.

When discovered the Deliverance was fitted with a stargate key that appeared to be configured for the Solo system. As there was no known stargate in the Solo system this was unusual. However, rapid reconnaissance of the Solo system soon revealed the presence of a new stargate. The two new discoveries were clearly connected. The ship's logs include reference to a system called Eden. This is supposed to be linked to the Solo system through the stargate. The Solo system was referred to as the Pearly Gates because of the luminescence present in the system. Sadly the references to the Eden system were incomplete

The Deliverance was taken to the colony Redemption and landed at the foot of the monolith, arriving in 197.31. A service of celebration was held as the monks and colonists joined in wonder at this new sign of the True One's favour. The feeling of a return to Eden was almost tangible during the service. The monolith began to pulse as the service reached a climax but still remained silent. The worshippers were left feeling a sense of loss, as though the True One was not hearing all equally.

The search for Eden

Having discovered the existence of Eden, if not its definite location, preparations were rapidly put into action. The population of Redemption received a significant boost and research facilities were constructed to allow work to begin on the Solo stargate for future exploitation. Goods were brought to Redemption and transferred to the Deliverance that would allow the ship to carry the seeds of a new colony.

Fully configured, the Deliverance launched in 197.38 and travelled to the stargate location. There the stargate key was activated and the order for jump was given. Nothing happened. The crew quickly checked equipment settings and started the sequence afresh. Still nothing. The navigator checked the boards for one last time and turned sadly to the captain. "Sir, as far as I can tell the board says the target system is not connected to this one. Yet we know it is. I do not understand."

Crestfallen, the crew returned to Avatar and landed the Deliverance away from the starport, away from prying eyes.

A few weeks later, a new captain arrived at Redemption to take command of the Deliverance. Brother Isaiah had been a revered speaker in the halls of the Seekers of Truth for many years. A holy man, he had little experience of the world outside the cloister. In a vision, his superiors had seen him at the helm of a new ship so he had been sent to Redemption to take a new step in his walk with the True One. Newly created Ensign, he was transferred to the Deliverance and took his seat in the command chair.

After a few weeks getting to know the new ship and the colonisation team it carried, Ensign Isaiah had made his decision. The Deliverance returned to Redemption, landing again at the foot of the monolith. The scientific team aboard unload a number of cables and proceeded to try and connect the ships systems direct to the monolith. After a period of frustration a resonance coupling was

devised and a tenuous link established.

The link provided more detail on the Messiah, Deliverance, itself. It had not been built by humans. In fact it had been discovered, as was the monolith. The high priest at the time had bonded with it in some form and saw the work of the True One. The form of bonding appeared like a dream.

Isaiah ordered the link disconnected and made preparations for launch. The Deliverance returned to the site of the stargate. The navigator turned to her boards and began the jump sequence. Isaiah stood beside her and laid his hand on hers, gently moving it away from the controls. "No, sister. This time we try something different," He whispered.

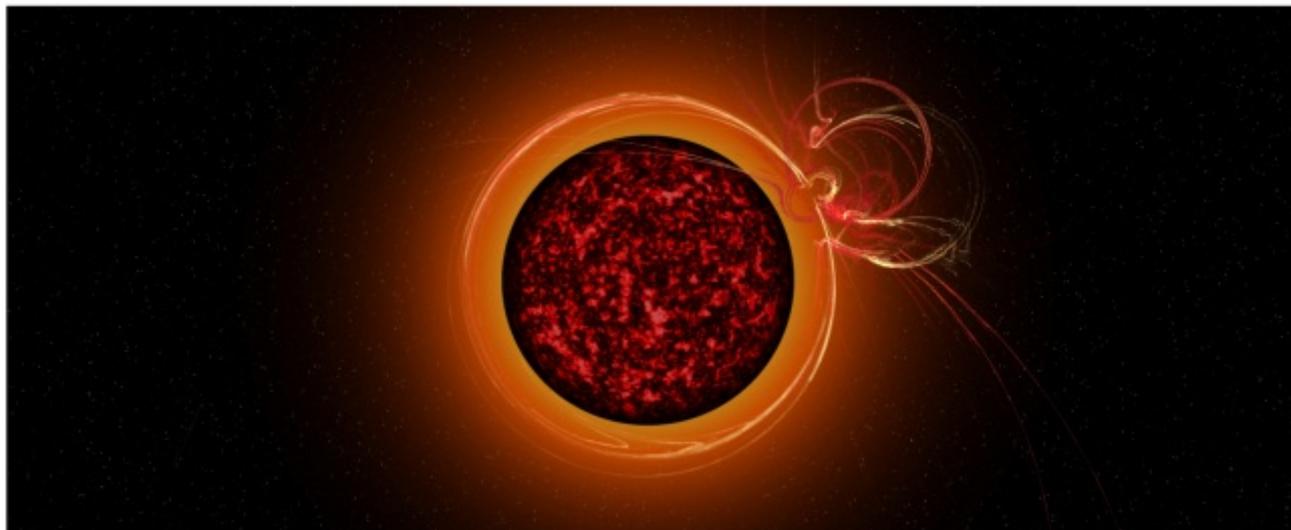
Isaiah took his position at the command desk of the ship. The remaining ship's crew maintained a respectful and worshipful silence at their boards, taking note of any changes and ready to react if necessary. After a prayer of praise to the True One, Isaiah entered a meditative trance and attempted to make mental contact with the ship. For many hours there was complete silence. Then vibrations were felt throughout the ship, along with a soft humming noise. The strain on Isaiah's face was incredible.

Isaiah took hold of his faith and gave himself over to the True One in an attempt to make mental contact with the Messiah. After hours of complete silence, the grimace on his face was slowly replaced by a serene calm. Suddenly, the instrument boards flickered. A rapid inspection of the view plates by the navigator brought forth a cry of joy from the young woman's lips. Somehow the ship had passed through the stargate and had left the Solo system behind. They were now in a new system. Quickly a probe was launched and the truth was revealed, the True One had opened the gates to Eden.

That which remains

News of the arrival in Eden was received in week 197.47. The Deliverance will now begin the exploration of Eden. At the colony of Redemption work will continue on keys for the Solo stargate and also on attempts to obtain more information from the monolith.

Was Isaiah right to do what he did? Would it have been better to wait until more information could be gained from the monolith? The Deliverance has travelled to Eden with the only copy of a stargate key for Solo, so no other ships can follow yet, even if a link could be established to Eden. His faith took him through, now Isaiah must continue with that faith, as must the Brotherhood as a whole. The True One will guide us. Praise the True One!



Subspace Static - Star Date 212.46.5

Independent Spanking Begins

Dewiek forces have unleashed a series of assaults against the holdings of the Independent organisation run by the mysterious and shadowy figure known only as Freeman.

Reports indicate a series of Dewiek ground assaults have gone in against IND facilities throughout the Arachnid system.

The extent to which this operation might have gotten the nod from the DTR is unknown, but with the DTR intent on the elimination of IND Freeman themselves, following the, shall we say, rather shadowy goings on where IND positions conveniently reflagged as CNF, it is not understood that the Detinus Republic will exactly be crying tears if all IND positions in Arachnid get wiped out.

With the Dewiek packs howling for blood and glory, it is however doubtful exactly how much glory there is to be won in unleashing the might of the Elder Nation against a small IND operation.

What will happen with the major IND Freeman Starbase of Halpingrad, that is currently flying CNF flags, is currently unknown.

Flagritz Battlefield News

According to FLZ sources, a sizeable Flagritz battlefleet has engaged the Felini platform Malevolence of the Great Mother in orbit of the planet Desolation.

The FEL Platform has reportedly just about held out despite suffering heavy damage, but the FLZ fleet is now in almost full control of the orbit. The FEL fleet remains docked under the shields of the Starbase while the workers of the FEL are suffering heavy casualties from orbital bombardment as the FLZ target multiple ground installation with orbital-based gun platforms.

As we go to press there are reports that Flagritz troops have hit the ground and attacked two outposts, slaughtering the defenders. And that a FLZ scout has entered the wormhole orbit to see a number of FEL ships standing by while the Empire burns and takes back the system.

Flagritz News

Reports are starting to circulate that the Flagritz Empire has begun pulling it's forces back towards its home systems, with reports of there being an unspecified 'internal problem'.

There are further reports from the surface of Desolation in the Battlefield system where Flagritz forces appear to be rounding up Felini civilians, there have been deaths reported.

Casualty reports also continue to come in as the orbital bombardment continues.

Over Generous Republic?

The DTR have played down claims that they've been attempting to kick-start inter-system trade this week following a series of unusually generous buy orders issued at the DTR Starbase Lalande.

Given there is currently no Trade Minister to approach for a comment, we instead approached Old Stinky Joe, the crazy hermit who lives in a box around the back of the Inter-Galactic Newsroom offices. And he said it was all the fault of them darn voices in his head.

Fleet Destroyed

DTR news sources are reporting the loss of a 20 ship freighter fleet in the Arachnid system, that had the misfortune to run into a sizeable Empire squadron.

Faery

Another small DTR scout ship has been destroyed in orbit of the planet Elf in Faery.

Freighter Destroyed

A lone DTR freighter has been destroyed by Empire forces in the Badlands system.

Weren't Me Guv'Nor

Press Release From The FET.

Greetings fellow citizens of the peripheries.

As you may know over the years I've tried to explain to people how the organisational structure of FET works, pointing out that the affiliation comprises of several individual organisations/clans/families each going about their own business but combined to share knowledge to maximize profit generation and that the action of one individual group within FET does not necessarily reflect the attitudes of the rest.

Of course the argument has always come back that other affs cannot distinguish between the various FET groups so therefore what one does can have consequences for all FET groups.

So to help eliminate that argument somewhat(although I suspect in some quarters it won't make a blind bit of difference as some cannot or will not understand that not all affs operate as a whole)the various FET groups have agreed to add ID tags to their assets to assist others to distinguish the different groups.

For example some of you may have already scanned Free Coalition on Mobile Bay and noticed that the name has a prefix(NH).This stands for Norozov Holdings which is my own organisation within FET.

Other FET assets will be similarly tagged over the coming weeks. So if anyone has reason to identify the owner of any FET assets they will know which group to contact.

But I will leave it up to the individual FET Oyabuns as to whether or not they wish to inform the peripheries here of the tag they will use.

If anyone isn't sure about which group they are inquiring about they can always contact me and I will let them know the name of the Oyabun in charge of the group.

As stated above the tag for my group is (NH).

Thank you for your time.

Acropolis

The DTR/Empire war has spilled over into the Acropolis system this week, with Empire forces attempting to engage DTR vessels. The DEN, caring very little about who kills what, have told them to just go for it, so long as trade is not interrupted.

Special Feature; From The Mind Of Stinky Joe

Ahrhhh, well blazes, what? Eh? Ah ha, yes! Them alien brain parasites, ha-har, Old Joe heard some rumours from Edna The Teapot lately that the leader of the House, no, Cardboard Box, no, House, no, where's my stellars? New leader! Yes! House LiQuan! Old Joe used to be an indentured servant, yessirree-bob, but Old Joe din't like it much, all that work and the whippings and the gruel, it did for old Joe's mind din't it just, and if'n ye din't behave ye got dragged off and turn't into one of them cyborg drones the LiQuans use.

Ha! Next week? SPORTS!

Joe likes cake.

From The Blog Of Armand

And now it is time to rejoin the narrative of our miniature magpie. When we saw him last he had survived Magnus's red council and was sending word out from the council communication complex.

By Dawn an exhausted magpie watched blearily as his personal squadron flew low across the capital, lead position vacant while others showed signs of recent battle. The falconian was missing no chances to emphasise the contribution his species was making.

Magnus was still roistering inside the council chambers but this had not stopped a steady stream of telepathically communicated commands to be sent through the communication complex. Armand was busy rephrasing these in a way that gained the desired outcome without provoking further conflicts. It was several days before he had leisure to leave the complex. He took leave of the council chambers gladly and headed for the docks. His squadron waited in readiness to depart. Alongside them was a gift from Magnus, its 200 crystalline hulls sparkling in the sun. Armand recognised the ship and also the cleverness of the gift. It was the Urd, flagship and personal transport of Adoqhina. Repay a friend and remove a symbol of the old regime.

He departed with the fleet for maintenance and repairs while the new more direct tactics against the Felini drew the conflict to an end. Meanwhile his uneasiness grew about this ship. The crew were obviously from the wolf mother's personal retinue - they would not fare well outside this ship. The wolf mother, even in death, pervaded the ship. Flickers of movement at the edges of his vision, crew would inexplicably pause as if hearing her thoughts. Armand gradually plotted the encounters and located the epicentre. A cryochamber deep inside the ship. Curiously he realised he had never visited this area. Religious zealot Osho had tended the wolf mother here. Now it was a shrine. The empty chamber was festooned with what Armand took to be battle trophies, rags of skin, fur and other items. It was not just the cryogenics that made the falconian shiver. What sort of presence could influence the normally athiestic Deweik to such a degree? He did not want to find out. For good or ill? That would depend, he would have to isolate and study this phenomenon. At a distance.

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.47.5

Catastrophe In Badlands

A major Imperial attack by Jones' Marauders has occurred this week, against the DTR outpost Granite in the Badlands system.

A force of almost 200,000 Imperial troops assaulted the DTR base, which they may have assumed to be a poorly defended mothballed facility.

However, the extensive DTR defences were well-manned, and the DTR fought back with blistering ferocity, inflicting casualties in the order of 92,690 for the loss of approximately 1000 of their own, brutally throwing back the invading Empire ground party.

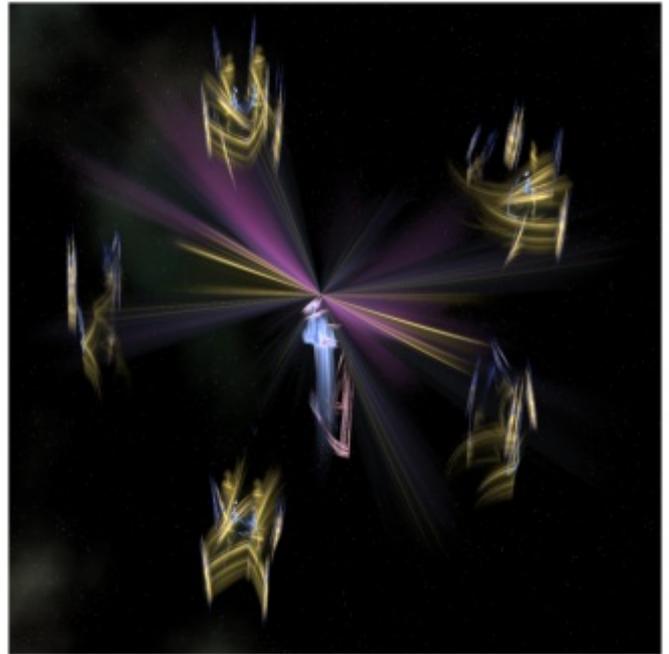
All was not as it seemed however, as an emergency communication from the DTR brought the conflict to a sudden and unexpected end. Our reporters have been able to uncover that the reason for the Empire suddenly abandoning the assault and withdrawing, is because the facility was being used by the DTR as a holding facility for a large number of Meklan that they had recently rescued from a TCA facility.

With neither offensive nor defensive capability, the DTR have been holding the Meklan in a state of inactivity while fierce debate raged in the Detinus Senate as to what to do with them. Some factions believe they should be humanely euthanized, whilst other factions argue that progress should be made on the de-meklanisation process, so that these poor lost souls may somehow be reclaimed from their mechanised nightmares.

Both factions are however agreed that being held in storage is surely a better fate for the Meklan than whatever monstrosities the TCA had planned for them.

However, with the ground battle raging very close to where the Meklan were being stored, the DTR made an urgent appeal to the IMP to cease their assault.

Meanwhile, the DTR have appealed that if anybody knows of some way to de-meklanise a sentient once they have been assimilated, please make contact.



Arachnid

Empire authorities have apparently announced an exclusion zone in the Arachnid system, despite not being the system owners.

Empire spokesmen have spoken out for the legitimacy of their claim on the system by stating the DTR are not contesting it, despite the DTR contesting and currently holding the system claim.

No doubt the next move in this gambit will be for the Imperial Viceroy to declare Venice an IMP system, and all DTR holdings therein to be illegal.

From there, it is a short hop to the Flagritz declaring every known system to be FLZ space, and all non-Flagritz sentients are now slaves.

Meanwhile, a spokesman purporting to be for Mad Max has just claimed Earth, declaring everything to be made of sausages.

Kastorian Transmission

#####STATIC#####

#####INCOMING MESSAGE FROM KASTOR#####

With immediate effect the market at Drougal is closed. Traders should seek deals at Archipelago (4515) on Mkttl, Gamma 12 within the jump rings. Good prices offered.

#####MESSAGE ENDS#####

#####STATIC#####

Kanji

Kuddly Karnivore Kanji is reported to have been active in the Peripheries once more, with news surfacing from various sources that everybodys least favourite terrorist has been striking at, well, anyone and everyone really.

The Wimble, rumoured to have fallen prey to some foul disease, have felt Kanjis wrath, as he has captured several of their ships and destroyed another. Furthermore, Kanji has made the following broadcast:

“Kourrda Gentle and Not-So-Gentle Beings...

Recently I have seen a number of you weaklings attempt contact with or wonder where the Wimble Grandfather has gotten too...

I began to investigate and have found WMB facilities in various states of disrepair and decay, wimbles living in their own excrement, grubbing through their own filth looking for a meal, fur and hair matted in their own and their kinfolk's bodily excretions...

So seemingly business as usual...

However being the civic and public spirited soul that I am I decided to try to wake up the wimbles in my own special way...

If this doesn't wake them then it may well be that these pathetic primitives have regressed back to living in mud huts and smoking bird sh*te...

If it does wake them then no thanks are needed, it was my pleasure...

One must wonder why these primitives were ever allowed to take to the stars in the first place...”

Thus fuelling rumours that the Wimbles have indeed fallen foul of some great calamity.

Empire Extends Conflict

Empire forces have engaged the DTR in the Halo Periphery this week, as the CNF have destroyed two DTR vessels for the loss of none of their own.

With the Empire continuing to expand the scope of their war against the DTR, it remains to be seen if anywhere will be spared the sound of the guns.

IND Annihilation Continues

The Dewiek have continued their war against the holdings of IND Freeman, with the outpost Bedlam Sales on Loxosceles being targeted by railgun ships from orbit.

Freeman himself remains silent, with no apparent action being taken in response to Dewiek movements, quite possibly because IND Freeman has completed the task for which he was hired by effectively screwing over the DTR, and that his remaining holdings are being written off.

Aquarius

A DTR ore freighter has had a narrow escape from a GTT cruiser squadron in the Aquarius system.

The captain and crew of the DTR vessel have been awarded an extra ration of tea and biscuits for their quick thinking and successful evasion.

Raiders Intercepted

One of the DTR raiding squadrons, that has been busily engaged attacking Empire mining facilities, has run into trouble this week as a large Empire fleet brought it to battle and inflicted heavy damage.

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.48.5

Freeman Reflags

As reported last week, the independent known as Freeman has continued to face the ferocity of the enraged Dewiek nation, however, Freeman appears to have largely avoided his fate by reflagging his assets as Confederate. Thus apparently confirming what has long been suspected that the IND Freeman operation was a CNF black-op.

However, Empire sources continue to deny this, citing it as being a co-incidence that IND Freeman's bases had a tendency to reflag as CNF when most appropriate.

The DEN, deprived of their prey, are understood to still be searching for the individual known as Freeman. Although rumours indicate that he may never actually have existed at all, despite an announcement by the ex head of the CIA that Freeman had been 'arrested' and 'taken into protective custody' along with all of his holdings. However, this has not stopped large furry operatives prowling around Mobile Bay chasing down rumours that Freeman may still be at large.

There has been a perhaps not unrelated large scale disappearance of people named 'Gordon' from freeports around the Yank system.

Raiders Raided

A squadron of Detinus Republic raiders has met an unpleasant end in the Pegasus system this week, as they ran into massively superior Empire forces. The large IMP/FET fleet both outnumbered and outgunned the smaller lighter DTR cruisers, and were able to inflict large damage as desperate Detinus captains sought to dis-engage.

Venice

A squadron of Empire warships has intercepted a small convoy of DTR freighters in the Venice system today. The IMP/GTT warships forced the freighters to dump their cargos and flee. It is understood the freighters were carrying a small number of modules.

Fetlock

A lone DTR cruiser has been destroyed in Gamma-13 of the Fetlock system by Empire forces.

Skirmish

A squadron of DTR warships has engaged 10 IMP Javelin class scouts in the Hazzard system, chasing them off with light damage inflicted.

Raiders

A 10 ship DTR patrol has destroyed a lone GTT freighter in the Dorn system, however a large IMP battlegroup appears to have been waiting in ambush, as the DTR raiders were engaged as they attempted to leave the battle location, losing four of their number in the process.

Careless Spy

A small DTR scout vessel has been boarded by Empire forces in the Arachnid system. Which isn't something one sees very often, so hats off to the EMP for first of all spotting it, and managing to board it.

Battlefield

Shrugging off reports of trouble in the Home Systems, the Flagritz have put troops onto the surface of the planet Desolation, and launched attacks against two Felini outposts, killing the defenders. Meanwhile the orbital bombardment continues.

EEM Investigate Theft

Disturbing reports are surfacing that a Christmas tree destined to be delivered to the EEM Headquarters, has been stolen by some nefarious down and out. Fortunately, the tree was fitted with a tracking device, and EEM warships have obliterated the residence of this criminal mastermind with a heavy orbital bombardment.

Pirate Destroyed

DEN/FCN forces are reporting the destruction of the pirate ship Eyes Of Large in Acropolis. The IGN/SSS newsroom has yet to receive any confirmation that the Large organisation might be active again, although the lack of any successful pirate boardings in months appears to indicate not.

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.49.5

Coreward Arm

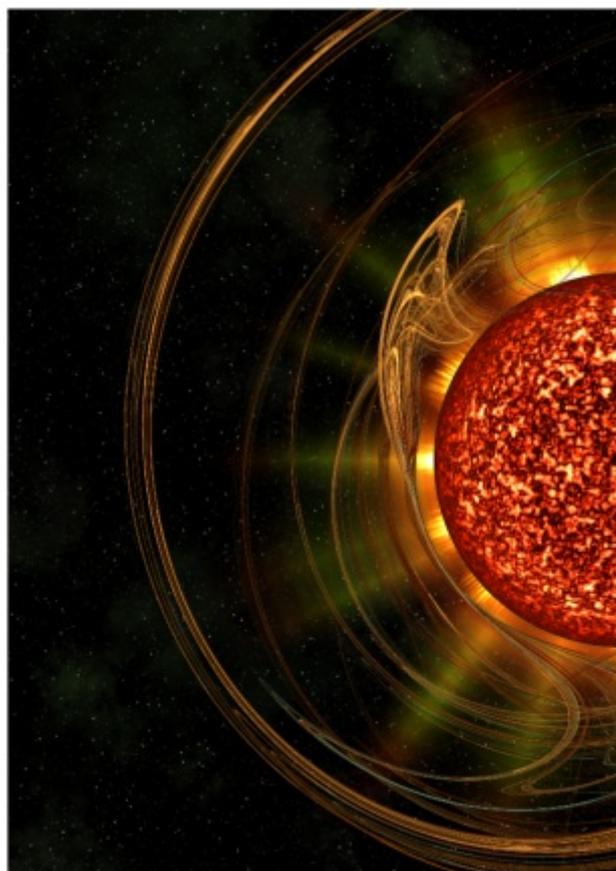
The vast region of space known as the Coreward Arm has recently opened to explorers throughout the Peripheries, with jump maps having somehow been propagated to the public comms channels. Intrigued explorers and traders are understood to already be making their way into this complex maze of systems, and hopefully some of them may share some of their initial explorations with the press so that we can bring some news relating to this new region...
Hint hint.

Venice

Empire forces have launched what appears to be a major incursion into the home system of the DTR today, with a large IMP/GTT fleet striking a small squadron of DTR warships and freighters. Massively outgunned, the DTR contingent has suffered heavy losses, with 21 warships reported destroyed whilst fighting a desperate rear-guard action to cover the retreat of a large number of freighters that successfully fled the battlefield. It is not known at time of press if this action is the first stage of a major invasion, or an opportunistic raid.

Arachnid

Two small DTR scout ships have been destroyed whilst attempting to sneak into orbit of the planet Theridiidae in Arachnid. The planet is known to be the location from which Empire forces launched their effort to seize the Arachnid system, also the location of the one-time IND Starbase Halpingrad, belonging to IND Freeman, which reflagged as CNF on the same day as their assault. Which, sources speculate, probably makes Theridiidae the home-base of Empire forces in Arachnid.



Raiders

After several weeks of bad news, the somewhat reduced Detinus Republic raiding squadrons have a success to report on, having flattened the IMP mining facility Misre Bime I in, you guessed it, the Misre system.

Hazard

A lone Confederate scout ship has been destroyed by DTR platforms in orbit of Parrot in the Hazard system.

Venice

Two small IMP spy ships have been destroyed by DTR patrols in the Venice system.

Retirement

Supreme Commander of the Confederacy, General Sir Alexander J. Carter, today ended weeks of speculation by announcing his retirement from the Confederate Forces in a press conference called this morning. The General, who cited family reasons for his decision to retire, brings to an end a 41 year career that began in the year 171 when he joined the Confederate Marine Corps as a junior officer.

Though no official statement was made to the effect, it is believed that Advocate General Laton, formally Director General of the CIA, will take over as Supreme Commander.

General Carter has stated he will remain in the service of the Confederacy, accepting a position offered to him on the Confederate Policy Advisory Board. Most of his time however, will be devoted to House Carter and his father, who has been ill for some time.

RCF

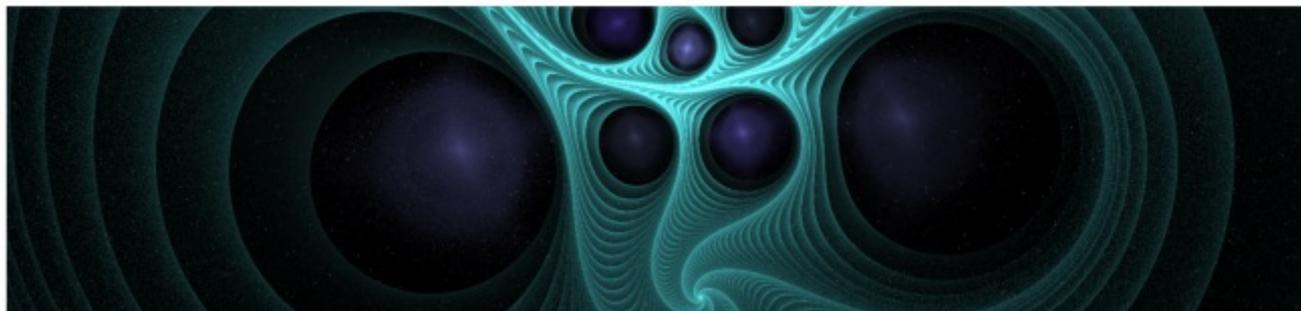
Rumours of the demise of the RIP may be unfounded, as it appears the remnants of the RCF (Real Confederacy – the splinter group of hard-line Anti-IMP-bloc Confederates who could never stomach the IMP and CNF cozying up as best friends) have joined the RIP en-masse.

Pirates

The Kastorian Junta are reporting the capture of a largely deserted pirate base, prompting speculation about where exactly all of the pirates have gone anyway...

Kanji

Karnivorous Kanji, your Kuddly Pal Who Is Not That Much Fun To Be With, has reported the loss of one of his vessels to IMP boarders in the Arachnid system.



Subspace Static - Star Date 212.50.5

Fleet Engagement

The Venice system has played host to the latest conflict between the Empire affiliations and the DTR this week.

Initial reports suggest that Empire forces detected a small squadron of DTR warships escorting a large number of freighters, and they decided to launch a strike in force utilising their combined navies stationed out of their forward operating base in Arachnid.

The initial EMP strike met with great success, destroying around 15 DTR cruisers and forcing the freighter fleet to scatter.

However, with the Empire striking boldly into the very heart of the Detinus Republic's home system, and perhaps stung by criticisms that the DTR was doing little to resist being trampled by the Empire, the DTR appear to have struck back, and 1300 ships moved in the darkness to engage each other.

It could not have been an easy decision for the DTR to commit their fleet, given the defeat they suffered in Faery at the hands of the combined Empire affiliations, but DTR warships battened their hatches and set out to face the Imperial invaders. Rare footage of the Speaker of the Detinus Senate on the eve of the battle appears to confirm the nature of this decision:

Head bowed, Sylvansight humbly enters The Chamber of Tate via a small side door, walks over to a wooden bench in the north west corner and sits down to quietly mediate.

The Chamber of Tate was constructed with the last remaining pieces from the original Senate of Detinus and is the Republic's most sacred sanctuary. It is in this very room where the Speaker bestows the highest decorations upon the heroes of the Republic.

This late in the eve the massive rectangular vault is dark save for the northern wall - made entirely of marble and softly illuminated by

thousands of tiny candles. From her bench, the lighting allows Sylvansight to read some of the fine carvings in the marble closest to her.

Lt Cdr Daphne Romanov – DTR Masque - KIA liberating slaves at Opportunity; Hammer, Solo 23.199
Lieutenant Vlad Romanov – DTR Quicksilver - KIA after being attacked by FET Lair; Joe, Madonna 46.199
Commander Claude Bloodraven – DTR Vengeance - KIA liberating Retreat from BHD; Haven, Solo 19.200

As her eyes adjust to the light she can make out additional names. These are names she's read before – all of them. And their number is legion.

This wall contains the names of each and every victim of the Tate Massacre, as well as all those who've made the ultimate sacrifice for Detinus since. Remembering the Republic's dead by etching their names in the wall is considered the highest form of posthumous honour.

Looking into the distance, Sylvansight can just make out the centre of the wall - where the intricately carved names give way to a larger, golden script. It can't be read from this vantage point, but she knows it word for word. It's taught to every Detinus child at school - everyone of which can recite these words in their sleep. It reads:

To the victims of the Imperial dictatorship: We will never forgive, never forget.
As long as a single citizen of the Republic lives, your hopes and dreams will live on.

FIAT IUSTITIA ET PEREAT MUNDUS !

Editors Note: "Let there be justice, though the world perish!"

The Imperial commanders for their part may have initially celebrated finally having lured the Detinus fleet into battle, seeking to finish the job they started in Faery. However, as the opening salvos were fired, it quickly became apparent that this engagement was going to follow a different story, as vengeful Detinus warships fought tooth and nail to eject the invaders from their home system.

Perhaps following that old adage of being careful not to threaten an enemy with annihilation and back him into a corner with no hope for retreat, the DTR deployed their latest in bleeding edge weaponry – fearsome anti-matter warheads – packed with more punch than even the most advanced plasma torpedo. And soon the core of the IMP and GTT fleets, their elite 200 HH vessels, were left burning wrecks.

After just one day of battle, 89 IMP/GTT warships were destroyed for the loss of just 4 DTR vessels.

The following numbers have been released by the DTR Defence Ministry giving more details:

Of the 89 ships they lost, 73 were 200HH, and 16 were 200NH.

Those 73HH are all elite Empire ships.

25x Bastion Class

17x Defender Class

9x Sd(A)-B Class

7x Stalwart Class

The rest were a mixture of classes - but included a single Challenger B Class Capital Ship <-- this is a 250HH ship which was armed with five photon battery mk IV.

Our newsroom has also received a head count for the total number of vessels involved in the battle, for which we are very grateful:

DTR = 619 ships

CNF = 386 ships

GTT = 116 ships

IMP = 196 ships

(EMP total = 698)

Perhaps surprisingly the battle appears to have ended after just one day, and while there are rumours of further ship losses that occurred while the fleets were dis-engaging, they do not seem to have been significant in terms of warships.

Although, it appears as if the Confederate contingent fell upon a force of 21 DTR freighters, and slaughtered them, while a lone GTT freighter was destroyed whilst attempting to interact with a warship already under fire.

Empire Forces Condemn Use Of Anti-Matter

Angry Empire sources have loudly condemned the DTRs deployment of Anti-matter weaponry, citing it to be tantamount to deploying weapons of mass destruction.

Much depends of course on how one defines WoMDs. No civilians were harmed or even threatened by the deployment of Anti-matter warheads in deep space, and indeed such declarations sound somewhat hollow in some circles given the IMP are one of the few affiliations who have stated that they are prepared to deploy weapons of mass destruction against planetary populations.

However, this debate is sure to run on. Either way, we are sure to see more Anti-Matter warheads being fired in combat.

Ulians On The March

The Ulian Stellar Nation has been in action this week against the Krell in the Storm system.

A sizable squadron of heavy Ulian warships engaged and destroyed the Krell platform London Battery, as the Ulians have made a surprising assault into Krell space. Although there are strange reports that some sort of unknown temporal weapon may have been deployed, as conflicting reports have arisen from Krell news sources that the London Battery platform survived the battle.

Meanwhile an Ulian expeditionary force has engaged the major Krell base (and system claiming Starbase) Nub on the ground.

Further, USN sources have reported that in conjunction with the attack on the platform, two ill-advised boarding attempts were made on KRL merchant vessels. The attacking Solo-class vessels, the USN command having apparently assumed that the KRL defending platform and bases would be otherwise engaged by the "simultaneous" naval attack, were destroyed for no loss, in one case apparently with no survivors or salvageable wreckage.

USN vessels have now retired from orbit of Inversion. Inversion and Hurricane now blockaded to KRL-flagged vessels while the ground assault continues

Flagritz News

The Flagritz Empire gave the natives of Breeze autonomy within the Empire a few years ago. However, the situation on Breeze appears to have gone off the proverbial cliff, with reports that the Flagritz have been seeking to enslave parts of the population resulting in a massive populist uprising amongst the people of Breeze.

The Flagritz authorities have reacted with the traditional mailed tentacle:

Special Action/Breeze/Enforce Imperial Will/212.49

The troops in the GP put on a fearsome display to raucous cheers from the Flagritz civilians. The action is however immediately condemned by the autonomous government. There are riots in the streets and trading is suspended though almost as quickly opened again by the Flagritz civilians.

Information indicates that the autonomous government is mustering its forces in {10,16}.

We have also received reports that the commander of the Flagritz platform has been put to death for not following the order to Nuke sites on the surface of the Planet.

A few days of fighting without the aid of the Platform resulted in:

Special Action/Breeze/Government Deposed/212.50.

Quite possibly the shortest global uprising in the history of the Flagritz. The government forces have been smashed. While there is now widespread chaos the general population are being sorted by the newly energised Flagritz civilians.

Order is being restored in the sectors around the base and another force is on route to do the same to the Central urban belt, as the inhabitants of Breeze appear to have learnt the folly of trying to resist the might of the Flagritz.

Message From The Editor

The Editor would like to thank both the Flagritz and Ulians for allowing SSS/IGN reporters to be embedded within their operations. They might be genocidal alien thugs, but they're genocidal alien thugs who speak to the press, so they're alright by us.

Senior Political Figure Killed

The GTT have held a press briefing where they had the following to announce:

"It is with regret that I report the death of Koenig Kong. Killed upon the bridge of the GTT Vengeful Wife, in Venice System, by massive DTR nuclear attack.

Often to be seen diligently performing the duties of a respected and loved member of the Board, he was sometimes known to make it out of the executive lounge and see to the day to day matters of GTT security.

A dedicated enthusiast of naked twister and celebrated inventor of 'Falconian Variant Rules', time weighed heavily on his hands. The GTT infrastructure had been in rude health, of course small problems here and there, nothing his subordinates could not cope with.

Commissioning and taking command of a small fleet of highly advanced warships, and under the tutelage of General Krieger, he joined the Empire war against the DTR. His first lesson had been hard and brutal in the battles of Straddle. Though a pyrrhic victory for the DTr, Empire objectives had been met by the expulsion of those rebels from Adamski.

The smashing of the rebel fleet in Faery was the pinnacle of Kong's time with the GTT, he often regaled the girls at the typing pool with tales of Nova Beams, Defective Shields and Imploding Liberators. It all sounded most exciting and invigorating, this was the last time that we were able to enjoy his company.

The last holo vid sent to his staff was that of the doldrums encountered in Arachnid, where the rebel fleet had ceded all but moral authority over that system. Disappointment was etched into his face, there was a glint in the eye yet, he was confident about what was to come..... who was to know what dastardly deeds he and his shipmates would fall victim too.

There is a modest estate to be claimed, though no known living dependents. Mention was made of an elder half brother, a prospector and sometimes hired gun who is said to be traversing through the Detinus Systems. If anyone should have word of a Mr. Salvadore Kong would they please contact me at this office.

Miss Tanya Hyde

Executor to the Estate of Koenig Kong."

Coreward News

The FET exploration corp have released some initial findings regarding ores in the Coreward Periphery:

FET Exploration Press Release

Our Coreward teams are looking at some interesting mineral discoveries, but nothing to crap your pants about.

Pirates

Rumours are circulating that as speculated for a few months now, Pirate Large has indeed returned to prey upon the spacelanes.

From the office of Patrol Commissioner.....

Last Post.....

It is with a heavy heart, due to over work, that the Patrol Commissioner for the IMP forces, and overall force commander of Allied forces is to step down with IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

I have informed all those parties involved of this decision, and wish my replacement all the best in the work to remove the republican threat to the peripheries in this new nuclear age.

Signing out

Jack Jones



Special Report – Nuclear Weapons

Nuclear Weapons

Weapons with nuclear capability will deliver orders of magnitude more damage when the target they hit is not surrounded by an ISR field.

Generally speaking a world will have an ISR field providing that it

has a base that has active command complexes or appropriate civilian

technology. The ISR field will take four weeks to stabilise or decay

though it is immediately capable of dampening nuclear damage even if

unstable.

As a world with an ISR field and without an advanced population will

indicate that there is at least one base on its surface, it is possible to turn of the base's contribution to the world ISR field.

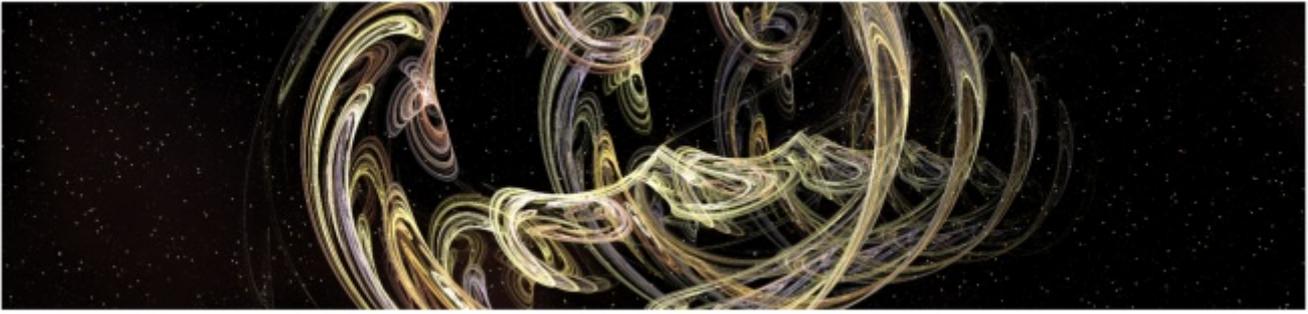
The use of nuclear weapons against targets on populated worlds will

have a negative effect on the population. Depending on the circumstances, expect GM Moderated implemented

ramifications beyond

the conflict zone including though not limited to the immediate closure of merchandising complexes belonging to the faction responsible and their allies due to intense civilian displeasure and fear of retaliation.

The nuclear wars that killed hundreds of millions in the Stellar Empire's civil wars are still fresh in memories of the survivors (as centenarians are not uncommon). The Tau-Ceti Agreement banning their use on civilized worlds still holds, at least nobody has yet torn up the agreement.



Special OOC Report – From The Blog Of The GM

It should have been our year – 10 years of Phoenix, 20 of Beyond the Stellar Empire. We entered it with shining eyes. We had our agenda at the start and things were expected to be ticked off promptly for the big push in the summer along with celebrations.

Then in January personal tragedies struck both our families and the lingering effects crippled us for months. Plans were put on hold and we did little more than tread water. It was a tough and testing time. Ground started to be made up come the summer and we even started to get a little confident when fate once again intervened. The rolling out of bunting was not going to happen in the aftermath of the sad loss of Ewan and the reorganisation of many players in the game. I was still far behind in developing Corewards and Darak was doing a fair impression of Boxer (Animal Farm). The glue factory loomed for him.

Our resolve and mettle tested by heavy workloads and no small amount of in-game controversy we have arrived at the end of the year having finally passed the last major milestone. I of course refer to the relations and flags of convenience. Even though we still have characters and notifications to do, we now have a dynamic game with room for all players within the game structure – not everyone wants to run massive warfleets and control vast empires.

It would not however be complete without my own modest contribution. I do not refer to Corewards but the underlying principles and code by which it has been generated.

The Corewards Arm has been built using code I have developed. When seeding worlds they are evaluated on their type such as active, dust, rock, water and terrestrial (there are a few others). There are mechanics for which minerals are present, the nature of the atmosphere, tectonic activity and hazards faced by bases on the world (yeah, I want to expand this further).

Then came building the populations in which I used Development Stages – from first colonisation up to indigenous population. The worlds have technology some of which may be present at different stages. The technology in turn has modified trade, merchandising and even set lists for imports and exports (which will form a basis for missions). These development stages will also form the foundation for colonising planets in the game (essentially refining what has been achieved to date using special actions).

What this means is that I can now generate a system in less than an hour, rejecting inappropriate worlds after a quick perusal whereas before it would take days fitted around normal running. The prospect for expanding all open space (not just Corewards) is now on the table. With the opening of frontiers we give plenty of options for players to explore far from civilised space.

Finally we are developing the AI for NPC's, some of which has already been done. This will give NPC freighters for player pirates, mercs and privateers to attack (and in turn they will be prey for player pirate hunters). I will write a bit more about NPC trade, pirates and alien threats in my next blog.

We are going to fill all areas of space with things to get involved in – if players choose to. So, with all this under our belt we are looking pretty optimistic (and as we have not all been wiped out by the Mayan Apocalypse) we would like to think that 2013 is going to be our lucky year.

Subspace Static - Star Date 212.52.1 - Christmas!

Christmas

It was the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by a chimney with care, in the hope that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

'Stockings?'
'Yes ma'am.'

'No shoes then?'

'No ma'am, stockings.'

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads. And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.

'Napping? That doesn't sound very efficient.'

'No ma'am.'

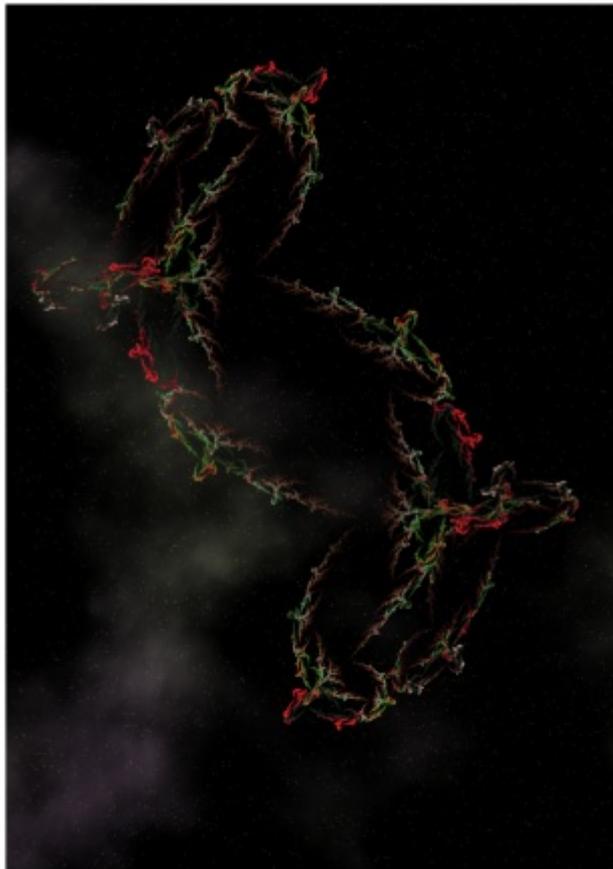
'Better get everybody up, hold a committee meeting. There is work to be done.'

You'd better watch out, you'd better not cry,
You'd better not pout, I'm telling you why,
Santa Diaz is coming to town!

She's making a list and checking it twice,
Gonna find out who's naughty and nice,
Santa Diaz is coming to town!

She sees you when you're sleeping,
She knows when you're awake,
She knows if you've been bad or good,
So be good for goodness' sake!

Oh! You'd better watch out, you'd better not cry,
You'd better not pout, I'm telling you why,
Santa Diaz is coming to town!



Festive Guest Editor

The Galaxies' finest news outlet is happy to report that retired Detinus Republic Speaker Of The House, the Iron Lady herself, Michelle Diaz is taking over the reigns for our special Christmas episode.

This has however required a certain amount of re-organisation here at the SSS/IGN news offices, as any visit from the Detinus Republic tends to include a retinue of several hundred support staff, not to mention the dozens of committee members, special investigators, security personnel, the entire festivity regulatory board, and shoe merchants who trail in the wake of DTR visitations.

We have however noticed a decided upwards trend in the quality of the biscuits on offer.

If there is one thing the Detinus Republic knows, it is a good chocolate biscuit.

Christmas Spirit

The Imperial authorities (who are, for point of record, firmly on the naughty list this year) have proposed a festive ceasefire for the duration of the holidays.

Speaker Sylvansight, already making a reputation for herself as the new Iron Lady of the Detinus Republic, perhaps The Thorlium Lady, has accepted the ceasefire with the proviso that the Republic will continue to aggressively patrol their space, but any major actions will be held off until the new year.

It remains to be seen if the ceasefire will hold with tensions still running high between the warring parties.

Christmas Parcels

Vile terror merchant Kanji has launched a campaign of Christmas fear this week, with multiple reports of nerve gas attacks being conducted against both Wimble and Confederate installations:

Kourrda Gentle and Not-So-Gentle Beings...

some small time ago I suggested to Jean Parisot something suitably mean spirited in response to one inane rambling or another...

It gives me some pleasure to announce that in celebration of Mrs Parisot's elevation from tea-lady to Advocate-General I have made good on that suggestion...

I have perpetrated 2 chemical attacks in CNF space with a total of 800 casualties and made good my escape...

I must expound my glee at personally watching those 550 wimbles die a truly horrific death, vid footage of the 250 confederate humans suffering in similar manner has kept me entertained whilst I made my escape...

Now to business...

The CNF will release the individual known as Freeman into my custody in a neutral location at a time of my choosing...

Privately I have offered \$100,000 for his release and shall stand by this...
\$100,000 for the release of Freeman or attacks of similar vein will be visited upon you in the coming weeks...
Freedom for Freeman or chemical and nuclear death to confederates.<edit>..and those in Confederate claimed space.

The nature of Kanji's interest in Freeman remains a mystery, but it does suggest there is perhaps more to Freeman than simply being a Confederate Intelligence Agency shill.

No Christmas Cheer For Scout Pilots

Detinus Republic forces have destroyed a lone GTT scout ship in the Aquarius system.

Scout Gets Surprise Present

A lone DTR scout has been destroyed whilst attempting to transit the London wormhole, however the last report from the vessel appears to indicate the captain went out fighting and managed to take a Confederate vessel with it.

More Scouts Destroyed

The orbits of the Venice system remain inviolable this week as the Venice Defence platforms destroy another Empire scout, this time belonging to the Confederacy.

Blockade Of Freighters Carrying Christmas Presents

Empire forces appear to be instigating a fresh blockade of DTR freighter traffic with a squadron of IMP warships destroying 5 DTR vessels in the Caribbean system – a hitherto neutral system under the control of the House Ravenstone.

DTR Magistrate Lorna Archer posted the following message:

“Can a member from House Ravenstone please get in contact about an IMP attack on DTR civilian vessels within the Carribean system earlier this week.

Yet again the IMP escalate their war and look to drag others in as they attack within a system claimed by RVN. The DTR currently have legal transit rights to pass freely and without hinderance within Caribbean and as we are not on the system enemy we expect this to still be the case. Therefore yet again the IMP chose to violate another nations space.

Long Live the Republic,

Justice Lorna Archer, DTR Magistrate”

There has been no comment from the House Ravenstone regarding this action, with the Empire remaining typically bullish, even resulting in death threats levelled against DTR Senators by the new leader of the House LiQuan, leading some to suggest the HLQ may be seeking another barbaric duel much like the one that ended the life of a Dewiek Eldar some years ago.

That Christmas Present From The Creepy Old Uncle That Nobody Likes

Eager to boast of his successes now he has returned, Pirate Large has announced the capture of the following ships:

FLZ YS CVL-03 (71074)
AFT The Mass Transit (79272)
AFT AE Darkened Angel XIII (66004)
SMS EI-TF Clipper 1 (28655)
MOH Occ Ran Cadosk (13930)
MOH Occ Ran Cagrib (27785)
GTT Diamond Shark II (45420)
USN UT Transport 3 (68002)
SMS EI-S Tenacious (23237)
GTT Diamond Shark III (10245)

Somebody else on the naughty list.

Extent Of The Empire

The combined Empire now claims an area of 70+ systems, news of which surely brings a smile to the Dictator Lysander's face this holiday season.

Mercs Spotted

Warships flying 'MRC' flags have been spotted in the Hirathamo system. What they are doing there is anybodies guess.

Ulians

Retired Speaker Diaz managed to arrange a sit-down with the Ulian ambassador in Yank this week in order to ask about their campaign in Krell space. And by 'arrange', we mean she abducted the ambassador and took him to a quiet restaurant to ask some pertinent questions.

The following information was uncovered:

“Conquest and assimilation. They are the only aliens who qualify as 'people' and we admire their primitive barbarian bravery, strength and vigour. Under our guidance they can rise to be a feared force in the galaxy. We intend to establish the system as a protectorate, where the independent Krell tribes may grow under our shield, and shall take only minerals in compensation. The income from our stewardship of the system will be used to pay the wages of the Ulian troops defending it. Conquer it we shall, unless others intervene, and better to die gloriously in battle than hide in fear of your own shadow.”

Krell Resist

The battle for the Krell claiming Starbase has continued this week as stubborn Krell resistance frustrated Ulian assault forces who had to bring in reinforcements to decide the battle, finally capturing the base and expelling the defenders who will, no doubt, decide to fight on until the last breath in typical Krellian fashion.

Speaking of Krellian fashion, their shoes leave much to be desired.

Meanwhile in space USN warships have softened up the Krell defenders, destroying one warship and one scout vessel.

Pirates Gain Early Present

The Brotherhood platform at the Crossley wormhole exit has apparently been stolen somehow by pirates:

Scanned:

BHD SHIP BBS WING 01 (350) - {100 Heavy Hulls}

Battleship Class Carrier {Heavy Armour}

IMP SHIP FOXY LADY (504) - {100 Heavy Hulls}

Vixen Class Capital Ship {No Armour}

CNF SHIP DARK START (25350) - {55 Normal Hulls}

Hlq Troop Carrier Class Troop Transport {No Armour}

IMP SHIP SOLITARY (26032) - {75 Heavy Hulls}

Warhammer Class Heavy Cruiser {Heavy Armour}

HLQ SHIP HRHS KNIFE SPEED (27618) - {50 Heavy Hulls}

Hlq Gunship Class Heavy Cruiser {Medium Ablative Armour}

HLQ SHIP HRHS KNIFE BLEED (39288) - {50 Heavy Hulls}

Hlq Gunship Class Heavy Cruiser {Medium Ablative Armour}

BHD SHIP BLS INFIDEL 09 (39352) - {75 Heavy Hulls}

Lance Class Heavy Cruiser {Heavy Ablative Armour}

CNF SHIP FF-602-T (51649) - {100 Light Hulls}

Tempest Class Freighter {No Armour}

PIR PLATFORM UNDER CONSTRUCTION (53827) - 1000 Hulls

Slightly strangely there does not appear to have been a battle reported on yet, but perhaps the Empire have clamped down on that news as the capture of a 1000 hulled platform from right under their noses might be considered by some to be a touch embarrassing.

Special Report – The Flagritz Homeworld

Our thanks to the Flagritz authorities for this informant burst on their homeworld.

What happened to the Homeworld

hundreds of baseships were destroyed. Worse still, the collapse of the wormhole produced a short lived naked singularity that smashed into the homeworld of the Flagritz bombing it back into the stone age. So also went the vast ordnance of the empire as well.

Investigation/Fornfell/Food Shortages

During the expansion of the Empire Fornfell became every more dependent on civilian importers of food to supply the burgeoning population. Since the disaster imports from outside the system have ceased (loss of stellar cartography never made common for risk of uprisings) while at the same time the few cultivated regions in the northern part of the continent were completely destroyed.

As the infrastructure collapsed food production has become something of a problem. The widespread culling of slaves/Workers over the last few years has solved much of this although planetary resources are stretched quite thinly.

Steps are now being taken to feed all the Flagritz on the Homeworld. A nearby Planet is shipping food every week which will be given out and shipping is moving stocks that will be used to build new Cultivated sectors. At last count another 25 sectors are needed.

Special Action/Fornfell/Cultivation Situation/209.8

The governor requests the presence of various civilian ministers responsible for the distribution of food. To these he announces a bold plan to reclaim sectors lost to the disaster that ended the last Empire.

As cattle and grain is very thin on the ground, the idea of using 10k per sector for a long-term boon while having merit will lead to significant short-term issues, probably deaths by starvation. The use of 10 Cultivation techs (8649) would significantly improve the planetary situation.

Movement of civilians to the new designated sectors will not be problem.

Update 209.29

1st Agriculture tech exhausted (no infrastructure modification, but reduced inertia to future modifications) [/COLOUR]

Update 209.41

2nd Agriculture tech exhausted (slight infrastructure modification, further reduced inertia to future modifications)

Update 210.18

3rd and 4th Agriculture tech exhausted (slight infrastructure modification, further reduced inertia to future modifications)

Update 210.18

5th Agriculture tech exhausted (slight infrastructure modification, further reduced inertia to future modifications)

Update 210.35

6th Agriculture tech exhausted (slight infrastructure modification, further reduced inertia to future modifications)

Update 210.47

7th Agriculture tech exhausted (slight infrastructure modification, further reduced inertia to future modifications)

Update 211.5

8th Agriculture tech exhausted (slight infrastructure modification, further reduced inertia to future modifications)

Update 211.22

9th and 10th Agriculture tech exhausted (slight infrastructure modification, further reduced inertia to future modifications)

Some urban sectors have been turned over to agriculture as a result of the shifting requirements and technological improvements.

Cultivated sectors can be established as per the standard requirements though the exhaustive use of the techs has reduced the need from 10k life down to 7k.

Note: 7 cultivated sectors created

Investigation/Fornell/Planetary Restoration - Nuclear

For a breathable planet suffering nuclear damage, the exhaustive use of the tech will reduce the radiation rating by 5 points in this case.

The effect will also marginally increase the life price as more areas become habitable. It will also reduce the cost of improving sectors such as establishing grasslands or new urban and cultivated sectors.

Update 208.44

Tooled tech exhausted in order to improve the planetary environment. one step on the path to returning the planet to its former status of jewel in the crown.

The penalty of an extra 50 structural modules per sector has been reduced to 25

Update 209.28

Tooled tech exhausted in order to improve the planetary environment. The planet is now effectively back to being radiation free, much to the appreciation of the populace.

The penalty of an extra 50 structural modules per sector has been removed.

Special Report – Flagritz Vs OPS

Problems with the Hive had been on and off since Lord Pessum Ire took control of the Twilight systems. First off the OPS were in systems that they were not allowed in. Talks had broken down and bases and outposts taken via fighting.

Once the Dark Queen rise things had got better for a while but once she was replaced things went downhill fast.

It all came to a head when FEL ships were scanned docked at the main OPS base within the Twilight system on the moon of B7.

Ground forces were ordered to form into attack units while warships were ordered to take the orbit from the OPS (and FEL) warships.

Ship to ship battles were one sided as the FLZ ships destroyed ship after ship of the OPS, at the same time ground forces took the OPS outposts on the surface to be used as a staging post.

With the orbit under FLZ control they start to target the starbase as well as the Planet range weapons on the ground forces. It is known that the base has over 30,000 defenders. The Empire gives the base this single chance to stand down and turn over control to the Empire. This single chance is turned down.

Imperial ground forces march on the base, outnumbered the Empire is unable to make headway into the base but step by step they start to make headway

mean while the ships and long range weapons start to target the urban sector.

once it starts it falls fast to the forces of the Empire

Once the base is under full Imperial control and the ring leaders of the uprising but to death the order to take full control of the planet is issued and forces enter combat in the urban sector

but the defenders are no match for the FLZ troops

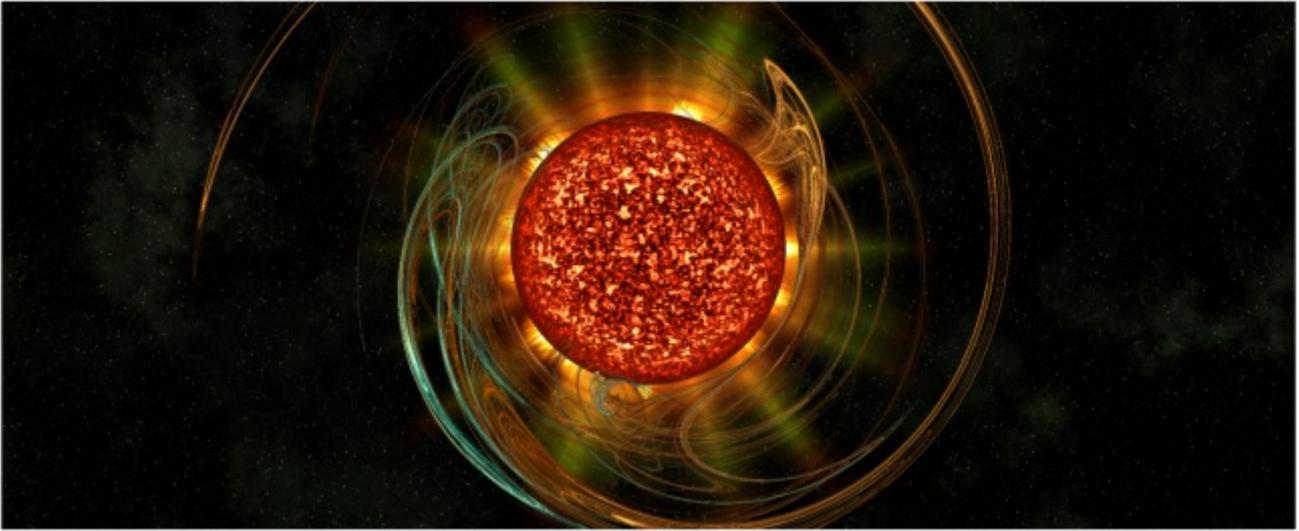
and the moon B7 is returned to the Empire

Special Action/B-7/Enslave what to do with the Population/211.14

Since the successful conquering of the civilian population, they can now be enslaved put to work. This requires dragging and vetting them from their dark holes in the urban sector - which is now little more than a prison. Resistance for the moment has been broken.

The processing of potential slaves workers could be increased but will require the permanent assignment of troops to deal with them.

For every 1,000 troops assigned, the 10% drop can be increased by 10.



From The Blog Of The GM

As mentioned in my last blog, along with seeding colonies on terrestrial worlds in Corewards, I also seeded lists of imports and exports appropriate to the worlds. This week I have been furiously updating Halo to the same level.

I have completed the first stage in interaction - writing the order to determine world imports and exports. This is different to having a starbase and is about ships landing in civilised sectors and approaching the civilians in order to determine what they want to import and export items. If you want the stuff you can buy or if you have the stuff you can sell.

Not so fast scrapping those starbase... these are local people, they deal in local currency when it comes to buying things. Yup, they pay in Guilders. They will however accept Stellars if you want to buy what they are exporting.

And as most of these places sell uniques and quite a few sell modules amongst other things they are quite worth the visit.

You can generally get a hundred or so unique luxuries for a few hundred stellars - a nice little earner when sold beyond Corewards.

Here's the thing - I don't want somebody dropping a hundred ships and stripping the exports before anyone else gets a chance. By the same token I don't want somebody dropping a hundred ships and all doing the same deal. The purpose of this is to get lots of ships visiting lots of places - giving much greater scope for piracy.

My current thought is therefore to flag accounts on the worlds after a successful transaction and only allow 1 buy and 1 sell per player account per week per world.

This means that there is trade throughout the colonised space though the end products are goods, either for construction or sale through merchandising. This means that new and small players without starbases can produce this relatively labour intensive trading and ultimately sell them to starbases. It also means that players can generally get their hands on modules even if nobody is selling them. The prices however can easily be undercut by player run markets.

As you may have guessed this is all part of the campaign for generating in-game stuff for small and new players as we prepare our recruitment drive.

Message From The Editor

Merry Christmas everybody.

The Editor.