

Campaign: Rhylanor Express, Traveller, #3

Date: June 19, 2012

Episode Three: The Tornado is Formed

Campaign Dates: 011-020, year 1111

Tim's Tornado Mercenary Unit

Command Section

Baron Timothy Church, Unit Captain, (retired Navy captain, 6 terms)

Burke Griswald, Sergeant, (retired marine, 5 terms)

Cinders Druck, Sergeant (retired Navy commander, 5 terms)

Medical Section

Doctor Hakamoro Wuntu, 2nd Lieutenant (retired doctor, 8 terms)

Squad

Chance Redford, private (1-term ex-army)

Steve Hird, private (1-term ex-army)

Bud Manstrong, private (1-term ex-army)

Kirok, private (1-term barbarian)

Gorak, private (1-term barbarian)

Scrappy Lester, private (1-term scout)

Reese Witherspoon, private (1-term pirate)

GM: Dave Nelson

LOG

The Attack on Condor's Asteroid

011-018 1111: Skull, Dome 14

Verdon and Screaming Jack had reported to Auditor Tilden about the location of Condor Industry's secret asteroid base, taken their 50,000cr bonus, and departed for Equus. Their two companions, however, Baron Timothy Church and Sergeant Burke Griswald were of a mind to try to gather form their own mercenary unit and attempt the assault on the asteroid base themselves for the remaining 150,000cr in bonus money. Baron Church put up 80,000cr and Griswald put up 40,000cr to stake the unit, with the Baron gaining 2/3 ownership and Griswald 1/3 ownership as a result. They decide to name the unit Tim's Tornado. For the time being, it is officially the Baron's armed retinue, until a proper license is acquired.

They spent a week recruiting troopers for the unit, picking only those who could use a Vacc Suit in some fashion, figuring that only vacc-capable troops would be of use. They hired one former Navy Officer Cinders Druck to aid with technical and command functions, and a skilled doctor, Hakamora Wentu to handle battle wounds. They added a scout, pirate, 2 army troopers, 1 flyer and 2 barbarians (with J-o-T to use vacc suits) to make up the assault squad.

For equipment, they received 2 accelerator rifles, which Verdon and Jack had left behind. They used 100,000cr of their stake money to buy a vacc suit for everyone in the unit except Dr. Wentu. They gave the 2 rifles to the two army troopers, and issued a cutlass to each of the other members of the unit. They purchased a vehicle medical scanner, a medical kit, surgical instruments and some medical and medical slow drugs for the doctor.

They checked out the Ship's Boat from Delgado Trading to make the assault. They set Dr. Wentu up in the hold of the ship with his medical equipment to deal with the wounded and set off for deep space.

019-1111 Deep Space, Skull System

As they approached the asteroid, the unit has Dr. Wentu man the boat's scanners and he manages to detect the asteroid base long before it can detect the approaching boat. Having achieved surprise, Captain Church manages to land the ship's boat on the surface of the asteroid. They leave Dr. Wentu and Cinders Druck on the boat, while the rest leap to the surface of the asteroid and walk to the main docking port.

Once in position, Captain Church uses Forward Observer techniques to call in a missile attack from the ship's boat against the docking port. With the captain's excellent observer skill and Cinder's superior gunnery skill, the missile lands right on target, blowing the front door of the base wide open. Almost immediately afterward, they call in a second missile, which blows down the inner door opening the main cargo deck of the base to space. This second missile also cracks open the window that allows the security room to observe the now destroyed cargo air/lock system. This kills one of the guards inside, who does not get his helmet on in time, the other 3 guards safely helmet up. The rest of the base starts to depressurize as well.

Privates Steve and Chance, with their accelerator rifles, rush into the ruined cargo lock area and fire their guns through the broken window, missing the guards inside. Gorak and Kirok follow them, but stop at the access airlock nearby and yank open the manual hatch. The Condor guards spend the next seconds donning or sealing up their vacc suits and grabbing their guns.

Next Gorak and Kirok enter the access lock and yank open the inner hatch, to access the Vacc Suit Storage room. Steve and Chance move up to the window and fire at the guards inside the security station, but only manage to lightly wound one of the three guards (accelerator rifles have poor penetration at close range). The three guards fire back using laser carbines, but miss due to the narrowness of the window opening. Meanwhile, a crowd of a dozen guards line up to rush the main cargo handling deck, where Church, Griswald, Lester, Bud and Reese have moved.

Steve and Chance are forced to reload their rifles, while Gorak and Kirok yank open the hatch to the security room where the three guards are firing. Since the iris valves out of the cargo deck are not functioning, Lester, Church, Griswald, Bud and Reese run back to follow the barbarians into the Vacc storage room.

The three surrounded guards in the security room fire a barrage of laser bolts at Gorak, putting him down with a mortal and a serious wound. The rest of the guards swarm onto the main cargo deck and fire at Steve and Chance, who were evading while reloading their guns. Nevertheless they hit Steve for a mortal wound.

Chance grabs Steve and hauls him into the access airlock and slams the hatch behind him. Kirok charges over Gorak into the security room, followed closely by Lester, Bud, Reese and Griswald. The three guards inside shoot down Bud with a mortal wound and Kirok with a serious wound. Griswald and Reese reach the guards and each hack one down with their cutlasses, serious wounds. Captain Church, meanwhile, radios Cinders to get the ship's boat to the entrance hole as soon as possible.

The last guard in the security room shoots at Scrappy Lester, and misses him, but the throng of other guards have reached the ruins of the docking port and one fires through the shattered window, wounding Lester moderately.

The unit is now cut off from escape, badly outnumbered and severely outgunned. Except that all the enemies are crowded into the entrance cargo lock and just at that

moment Cinder arrives with the ship's boat. He fires off a Sand Caster canister into the passageway instantly shredding all dozen of the guards horribly. The last guard in the security room surrenders immediately, as do the remaining handful of guards and technicians throughout the base.

Captain Church and his men search the base thoroughly and discover that the boss of the operation, a man named Condor Sangupta, had fled the system a few days earlier. He apparently was part of some larger organization, but there is no trace of it now. The unit manages to salvage 10 laser carbines and 2 useable vacc suits from the base before they leave.

Bud Manstrong, Gorak and Steve Hird are all suffering from mortal wounds, while Kurok's is 'merely' serious. Luckily, Dr. Wintu is in the bay of the ship's boat with his medical equipment. All the wounded are operated on, one at a time, as quickly as possible, and the skillful doctor manages to save them all.

020-1111 Skull, Dome 14

After treatment by Medical Slow drug, the wounded have all recovered. The unit returns to Skull and returns the ship's boat to Delgado. Auditor Tilden pays out 150,000cr to the unit and gives his thanks.

The Payout:
Of the 150,000cr:

4200cr are paid out as a month's salary to each of the unit's members (Captain 1400, Doctor 1000, 2x sergeants 550 each, 7x privates 300 each).

The remaining 145,800cr is divided in half: 1 half goes into the company treasury (72,900) and the other half is divided into shares:

Captain: 7 shares: 18,900cr
Doctor: 5 shares: 13,500cr
Sergeants: 4 shares each: 10,800cr each
Privates: 1 share each---2700cr each

Although there now 76,400cr in the company treasury, Captain Church and Sergeant Griswald decide against taking any of it in dividends, since they are likely to need it for expenses.