

FIFTH FRONTIER WAR

Battles for the Spinward Marches

Poised just beyond the frontier of the Imperium stand the war fleets of the Zhodani Consulate. Four times in the past five hundred years, they have attacked in campaigns to wrest control of the vital resources and rich worlds of the Spinward Marches from the Third Imperium. Now they strike again, and the Fifth Frontier War begins in earnest.

Fifth Frontier War is a **Traveller** campaign game portraying the progress of a far-reaching interstellar war and its effects on the many worlds that are its battlefield. The game is playable independently as a tense, fast-moving simulation of interstellar war. Rules cover starship squadrons and space battles, troop units and worlds at war, and the details of long-range interstellar planning. Special rules cover the operation of ship fleets, the use of naval bases, troop carriers, and advanced technological levels. Special charts cover every aspect of combat during the game.

Fifth Frontier War includes a large, four-color map of part of the Spinward Marches, complete with planetary surface boxes detailing the many planets within the area. Three sheets totaling 720 die-cut counters provide starship squadrons, troop units, fleet markers, admirals, and other details essential to the game. The rules booklet details how to play the game, while charts provide reference information. Two dice are included to help generate random numbers for combat.

Fifth Frontier War is playable by itself, but familiarity with the **Traveller** science-fiction role-playing system will aid in understanding the background history. The game may be played in 4 to 6 hours, and can usually be finished in an evening of play. It is designed for two players, but up to four may be involved if desired.

Sample file

Component Inventory

- Box (Base and Lid)
- Counter Sheet 1
- Counter Sheet 2
- Counter Sheet 3
- Game Map
- Game Rules
- Combat Charts

Production History

- 1981 GDW Edition 11384 copies
- 1987 Japanese Edition 2400 copies

Sample file

FIFTH FRONTIER WAR DESIGN CREDITS

- Design Marc W. Miller
- Supplemental Design John M. Astell and Frank Chadwick
- Rules Editing John M. Astell
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Selected items from the **Traveller News Service** of the last two years:

REGINA/REGINA (2314-A788899-A) 097-1105

Officials of the General Shipyards on Regina today announced that they have completed negotiations with Tukera Lines to manufacture locally L-Hyd drop tanks for use on high capacity commercial vessels. The first production examples are expected to be available within six months, at which time Tukera Lines will begin high capacity service from the interior. Component assembly will be carried out at General's more modern facilities on Pixie (2307-A100103-D).

L-Hyd drop tanks are not re-usable and thus increase the absolute cost per jump. However, experience has shown that the increase in cargo tonnage resulting from the elimination of internal J-fuel storage more than makes up for this, the press release explained.

The joint press release concluded by stating that local manufacture of L-Hyd drop tanks marked the dawn of a new era of commerce and prosperity in the Regina subsector. Following that announcement, common stock in Oberlindes Lines plummeted 27 points on the Regina exchange before trading was suspended. Officials of the Oberlindes Lines were not available for comment.

REGINA/REGINA (2314-A788899-A) 101-1105

Close on the heels of the joint announcement by General Shipyards and Tukera Lines that L-Hyd drop tanks would soon be manufactured in the Regina subsector came word by express boat from the Imperial core that a decision has been made to deploy Jump-6 L-Hyd drop tank express boats on all major express boat routes. Initial feasibility studies indicate that such a system could average jump-5.5 per week by executing maximum jumps where possible, leaving current xboat units to disseminate information between the major new relay points. The system is expected to cut communication time to the Imperial hub to under 25 weeks. The Initial System Deployment Schedule indicates that the Regina subsector can expect to be fully integrated into the network within a decade.

REGINA/REGINA (2314-A788899-A) 201-1105

Last night a series of explosions ripped through Vehicle Assembly Building No. 3 of the General Shipyards facility on Pixie. Both company and military investigators on the scene report that the damage was almost certainly the work of saboteurs.

General Shipyard's Vehicle Assembly Building No. 3 housed the main assembly line for the production of L-Hyd drop tanks. The L-Hyd drop tank project, undertaken in conjunction with Tukera Lines (of Vland/Vland), is expected to open up the Regina subsector to high capacity commercial access from the interior. A spokesperson for the company reported that the explosions probably set the project back by at least three months.

Imperial Navy Commander Lobeck hault-Donesev, the naval system liaison officer on the L-Hyd project, announced that Naval Counter-Intelligence was exploring the possibility that the sabotage was the work of Ine Givar terrorists. Ine Givar activity in the Regina subsector has thus far been limited to scattered and ineffective strikes on Efate and Feri, but this incident "definitely bore their signature," he explained.

General Shipyard's press secretary Harcord Haveln, however, discounted any political motives for the sabotage.

"There are commercial concerns in the subsector that place their own self-interest above that of the population as a whole," he said. When pressed for an explanation, he refused to elaborate.

The public affairs officer of the Pixie office for Naval Counter-Intelligence refused an interview later in the day but issued a press release disavowing any responsibility for the remarks of Commander hault-Donesev and stating unequivocally that NCI had no evidence whatsoever of Ine Givar activity on Efate, Feri, or Forboldn.

REGINA/REGINA (2314-A788899-A) 274-1105

The Travellers' Aid Society regrets to announce the indefinite closing of its class A facility on the planet Efate (Regina 2109-A64930-D), gutted during a recent firefight in the administrative capital. There are no immediate plans to repair the facility until civil order has been restored on Efate.

In the event that travel to Efate is necessary, a Society travel agent remains on duty and can be reached through the offices of the Oberlindes Lines at Down-Franklin Starport. Travellers are advised, however, to avoid travel to this world if at all possible.

PIXIE/REGINA (2307-A100103-D) 241-1105

The joint investigative commission into the mysterious series of explosions that ripped through General Shipyard's Vehicle Assembly Building No. 3 three months ago today released their findings. The two page report concluded, contrary to initial statements, that there was no evidence of sabotage and that the explosions appeared to be due to equipment failure resulting in simultaneous discharge of liquid hydrogen and oxygen, which was detonated by sparks from a short circuit in a flux welding unit which had been inadvertently left on at the end of the evening work shift.

Public attention has been riveted on the investigation since it was revealed that the explosions had seriously set back the production of L-Hyd drop tanks, equipment necessary to the opening of high-capacity commercial service between the Regina sub sector and the interior.

An initial public statement by naval commander Lobeck hault-Donesev, the former project liaison officer, had suggested Ine Givar involvement in the incident and had mentioned Ine Givar activity on both Efate (Regina 2109) and Feri (Regina 2410). A subsequent Naval Counter-Intelligence press release had denied any Ine Givar activity on Efate, Feri, and Forboldn (Regina 2212).

When the Naval Counter-Intelligence representative on the joint commission, Lieutenant Artura Gramlyn, was questioned about the inclusion of the planet Forboldn in the denial statement, she replied, "Well, there isn't any Ine Givar activity anywhere in the subsector. We are familiar with all Ine Givar activity, and there isn't any."

REGINA/REGINA (2314-A788899-A) 004-1106

The Travellers' Aid Society has obtained an exclusive interview with Major Windan Lorimer, Imperial Marines (ret), recently returned from six months of duty as a captain of auxiliaries engaged in counter-insurgency actions on the planet Efate (Regina 2109-A64930-D).

In the interview, Major Lorimer revealed that four months ago his battalion became engaged in a firefight and subsequently captured twenty insurgents, two of who were officers. Subsequent medical examination revealed that one of

the two was actually a Zhodani officer serving as an advisor to the Ine Givar cadres.

In response to queries concerning Major Lorimer's claims, Rear Admiral Lord Santanocheev, CINCNINT/RS (Commander-in-Chief, Naval Intelligence, Regina Subsector) today held a press conference during which he claimed that Naval Intelligence was convinced that there was neither Zhodani nor Ine Givar involvement in the Efate disturbances.

"What we have on Efate is a local, very minor situation. We're handling it with local forces and few mercenary contingents. If it were serious, we could commit army or marine assets. We have some very potent assets in this subsector, but we haven't felt the need to commit them. This is not a serious situation," he reported.

When asked about the report of a Zhodani officer, Lord Santanocheev replied, "Naval Intelligence has this man in custody, and I can assure you that he is not a Zhodani officer, or a Zhodani anything. I fought the Zhodani twenty years ago in this subsector. I know the Zhodani, and this man is not a Zhodani."

When contacted afterwards, Major Lorimer refused to comment on the admiral's remarks, beyond insisting that his original reports had been accurate.

DENTUS/REGINA (2605-C979500-A S) 361-1105

Word was received today that two weeks ago the Imperial Battle Cruiser *Adamdun* mistakenly engaged and destroyed the merchant craft *Bloodwell* of the Oberlindes Lines. The *Bloodwell*, according to the crew of the battle cruiser, was not showing its ID transponder signal and would not answer broad-beam hails. The ship was under full acceleration and, after it refused to change vector in response to laser warning fire, was engaged by high-G missile fire and destroyed. A subsequent (and unsuccessful) search for survivors resulted in the identification of the ship.

Oberlindes Lines officials called the story "an obvious cover-up of a tragic display of incompetence" and claimed that the *Bloodwell's* ID transponder had just undergone its annual maintenance check and could not have failed to function. As in all commercial vessels, the ID transponder was supposedly tamper-proof and could not have been turned off by the crew. Legal action is expected.

REGINA/REGINA (2314-A788899-A) 186-1106

A spokesman for Tukera Lines today announced indefinite suspension of high capacity commercial service to the Regina subsector pending outcome of the official investigation of the *Trimkhana-Brilliance* tragedy.

Less than a month ago, the 800-ton liner *Trimkhana-Brilliance* was lost with 217 lives due to a jump capacitor discharge immediately prior to jump. While all four survivors of the disaster are still under intensive medical care, interviews with the one surviving crew member indicate that the capacitor discharge may have been due to a delay in jump after full charging due to a failure of the port inboard L-Hyd drop tank to separate completely.

A Tukera Lines official press release stated that a team of company engineers would be "taking a long hard look at General Shipyard's quality control standards."

In the wake of the announcement of high-capacity service suspension, General shipyards common stock fell 34 points on the Regina exchange before exchange officials suspended trade. Oberlindes Lines stock closed up 5 ¾.

EFATE/REGINA (2109-A64930-D) 148-1106

Reliable sources in the defense establishment have admitted in private that the Imperial Army's 1197th Separate Light Infantry Brigade has been engaged in counter-insurgency operation in the Vandere district of Komoran (Efate's northern continent) for the last eight months. When asked to comment on Rear Admiral Lord Santanocheev's recent claim that no Imperial army or marine units had been committed, they declined. One official did explain, however, that the brigade was only employed in mopping-up operations and had been inserted only to allow rotation of the local units in the Vandere have had a spell in the rear, the 1197th will be pulled out," he said.

RUIE/REGINA (2213-C776977-7) 003-1107

Military officials in the Jingarlu army on this non-Imperial frontier world are apparently encountering difficulty in hiring mercenary striker units for use along the Jingarlu-Nebelthorn border. For over a year, border tensions between the two nations have been increasing, and numerous incidents have caused the normally stormy relations between the two governments to break down altogether.

Jingarlu has often hired mercenary units from the Spinward Marches of the Imperium to beef up its border constabulary in times of tension, but such units are largely unavailable at the moment. Jingarlu authorities speculate that large scale Imperial Army hirings in the Regina subsector for use on Efate may be the cause of the shortage, but reliable Imperial sources deny that the hirings have been higher than normal.

EFATE/REGINA (2109-A646930-D) 078-1107

The small brushfire war that has sputtered off and on for several years on this frontier world has, within the last week, suddenly come alive. New ships are arriving in orbit daily, and Down Franklin Starport, for many months near empty, is now choked with a steady flow of marines and army troopers disgorged from busy fleet shuttles.

Yesterday Colonel Eitan Rahbaan, public relations officer for the newly formed Third (Provisional) Frontier Army explained in a press conference the reason for the sudden build-up and the general plan of action. The continuing protracted nature of the insurgency action on Efate had been a mounting drain on manpower resources and had begun to sap the morale of indigenous troops. As a result, the decision was made to concentrate maximum effort to end the conflict in the shortest possible time.

Maximum effort is the only way to describe the amazing build-up that has taken place literally overnight. Already official circulars list eleven brigade-sized Imperial formations deployed on-planet, in addition to the four brigades that apparently were here previously. Even now, large transports are off-loading the heavy vehicles of the well-equipped and hard-hitting 317th Air-Mechanized Brigade, and rumor has it that the build-up is still not complete.

This reporter admits to being overwhelmed by this truly impressive show of force. One can only wonder how long the stubborn but indifferently equipped insurgents on this world can hold out against the ultramodern juggernaut army that Vice-Marshal Lord Calavan, commander of the 43rd Army, is preparing to unleash on it. Days? Hours?

REGINA/REGINA (2314-A788899-A) 054-1107

Reports over the course of the last several weeks of a marked increase in piracy in the coreward reaches of the subsector have been substantiated by Navy officials in a routine press release. In today's weekly press briefing, a naval spokesman confirmed that an unusually large amount of shipping had failed to make scheduled planet-fall and that no communications from the Kinorb Cluster had been received for over two months.

When questioned further, public relations officer Lieutenant Commander Vanderheydt hault-Josephson pointed out that fewer than ten ships had been scheduled to make the little-used Kinorb-Pixie run in that period, and difficulties at Riesling Down Starport on Kinorb could easily explain the situation. However, hault-Josephson added that the Navy had not ruled out the possibility that piracy from a source or sources unknown: could be responsible.

In response to the situation, hault-Josephson announced that the battle cruiser *Agidda*, until yesterday under orders to join the squadron at Efate, was instead being routed to join her sister ship *Adamdun* in the Kinorb Cluster and report back on the situation. The dispatch of the *Agidda* was further described as "purely precautionary."

REGINA/REGINA (2314-A788899-A) 186-1107

The Admiralty was today electrified by the report of the appearance of a substantial Zhodani battle fleet at Ruie (Regina 2213-C776977-7), scarcely a parsec from the subsector capital. The report was carried by the detached scout-courier *Wayward Dream*. The crew of the *Wayward Dream* was quickly cloistered by Imperial Naval Intelligence and the ship placed under heavy guard in a sealed hangar bay at Luck Gibson starport. Ground crews at the starport, however, reported that the vessel showed some evidence of battle damage.

While all naval personnel at Regina Naval Base were put on full readiness, all ten heavy system defense boats were launched and are rumored to be vectored toward Prometheus, the large gas giant which would be a first priority target of a hostile fleet.

Representatives of the diplomatic ministry have pressured the Zhodani embassy for an explanation of this action, but thus far Ambassador Shterbifriashav has been unavailable for comment. Although Ruie is not an Imperial world, a Zhodani fleet would almost certainly have had to have violated the demilitarized zone, established after the Fourth Frontier War, to have arrived there. Grave diplomatic repercussions are expected.

FLASH FLASH FLASH FLASH FLASH FLASH FLASH

REGINA/REGINA (2314-A788899-A) 187-1107

The duke of Regina, speaking through his seneschal, announced in an emergency press conference that as of 12:01 AM this date a formal state of war has existed between the Imperium and the Zhodani Consulate. The seneschal explained that the declaration of war was handed to him by ambassador Shterbifriashav late last night. The seneschal declined to answer questions, stating that no further information was available at that time.

RHYLANOR/RHYLANOR (3120-A434934-F) 201-1107

Word has today been received by fleet courier of the invasion of Regina, the capital of the Spinward Marches. Naval spokesmen of the 212th Fleet declined to comment publicly, but in private one naval officer expressed the opinion that prolonged resistance on the world was unlikely in the event of a serious Zhodani assault.

Coming only days after the receipt of the news of the outbreak of the war, news of Regina's invasion is a heavy blow to hopes of an early victory over the Zhodani. The fall of Regina could sever the main communications artery to the Jewell subsector and seriously hinder communications with fleet elements presumed to be fighting there.

RHYLANOR/RHYLANOR (3120-A434934-F) 204-1107

Army vice-marshal Adam Lord Bryor today announced that a presumed state of war now exists between the Imperium and the Sword Worlds, following receipt of word that Lanth (Lanth 2123-A879533-B) was under attack by fleet and ground elements of that state. Characterizing the Sword Worlds' action as "a perfidious betrayal", Bryor dismissed and suggested that Rhylanor was vulnerable to a Sword Worlds attack.

"In addition to the Imperial Marines on-planet, Rhylanor has twenty-five active divisions equipped to Imperial standards", Bryor explained. "Even if a Sword Worlds squadron could fight its way through Rhylanor's boats, there's no conceivable way a Sword Worlds army could gain a foothold on-planet. Since Rhylanor is one of the foci for naval reinforcements from the Deneb sector, a Sword Worlds fleet would be courting disaster to strike here."

When questioned as to possible plans to retake Lanth, 212th Fleet spokesmen suggested that no such operation was likely to be undertaken in the near future, as most naval assets would probably be concentrated for an attempt to relieve the 43rd Provisional Army along with its supporting naval squadron, at Efate (Regina 2109-A646930-D).

RHYLANOR/RHYLANOR (3120-A434934-F) 204-1107

The Travellers' Aid Society today issued a traveler's advisory, declaring the entire Spinward Marches an amber travel zone until further notice.