



The Beluga Campaign

As recorded by scribe 5EE-73462-73
of the records division of the Holy Inquisition in the Mortis Maximus sub-sector

ROAD TO WAR

The suspicion of unwanted activity on the planet of Beluga 61, of the Mortis Maximus subsector, was first aroused with their failure to deliver upon their ordained Imperial Tithe on the appointed time.

The sector office of the Holy Inquisition tasked the Ordo Economicus to investigate the matter. The Ordo Economicus dispatched one of their top operatives, the Inquisitor Robellyn the Red, also known by his moniker; Flamehaired Bob the dread accountant of the Holy Inquisition.

Inquisitor Robellyn made all haste to planet Beluga 61. Upon entering into orbit planetary scans indicated that most if not all primary population areas on the planets surface was suffering from extensive damage. Attempts at communication with the surface were not successful.

Having no alternative besides making landfall, Inquisitor Robellyn descended to the surface of Beluga 61. Once descended into the atmosphere the Inquisitors landingcraft came under immediate fire, suffered damage and was forced to make an emergency landing.

From then on there is little information regarding the fate of Inquisitor Robellyn, but his final communication to his ship, the Inopinatum, revealed some of what had befallen Beluga 61, and the rest has been gathered from later reporting.

At the time the Inquisitor landed upon the planet, Beluga 61 was in the midst of a vicious three-way civil war. A civil war being fought between the xeno-backed Separatist Movement, the chaos corrupted Liberation Front and the Loyalist Regiments of Belugan Hussars.

Beluga 61 which once been an oasis of peace in the galaxy, that had not once been subject to large military operations since its inception into the Imperium of Man, was tearing itself apart in a bloody and protracted fratricidal civil war.

The war had started after the xenos race known as the Tau had begun infiltrating the governmental body and started swaying the leaders of Beluga away from the Imperium of Man. As the planetary leaders began speaking openly of seceding from the Imperium due to the xenos influence, the corruption spread in Belugan society. Soon the Imperial Faith waned and cults worshipping the Chaos gods began spreading their heretical messages on the planet. These two parties, the xenos and the forces of chaos, began, at first a covert war of influence, which soon erupted into overt battles in the street. The parties operated at this time mainly through the use of proxy human forces, namely the Xenos backed Separatist Movement and the Chaos corrupted Liberation Front.

Taken by surprise of the sudden eruption of violence on the planet, and due to the fact that the corruption had spread to their own ranks the Belugian planetary defence forces, known as the Belugan Hussar Regiments was unable to stop the uprising. This was the beginning of the Belugan Civil War.

The Ordo Economicus

The Ordo Economicus is an order within the holy inquisition. Under the credo; "there are two constants in the Universe, Death and Taxes" the Ordo is tasked with rooting out the most supremely foul of heresies, namely the failure to pay the Imperial Tithe.

Hearing news of the crisis on Beluga 61, the Sector Strategic Command (SSC) decided to act quickly and decisively to end the situation on Beluga 61 before it could spiral further out of control and possibly spill over into neighbouring systems.

The SSC gathered and organized a task force consisting of forces from the Imperial Guard and the Adeptes Astartes, which were gathered under the auspicious command the Lord General McDoofus. The force was ordained and consecrated in the Divine Light of his August Majesty the God-Emperor of Man, Blessed be His name, and quickly set off for Beluga 61.

The mission for the Imperial force, dubbed Operation Publicanus was to pacify the planet Beluga 61 and bring it back into the folds of the Imperium.

The Lord General McDoofus decided upon the course of action of an immediate and overwhelming show of force in order to destabilize, demoralize and crush any possible resistance to the righteous fury of the Empire. The force was therefore to be deployed as one in a massive and sudden attack, this left little to be had as a reserve force.

Unfortunately for the Imperial force, the sudden appearance of a large human force in the system tipped the hands of the xenos and chaos forces operating on Beluga 61. Seeing that they no longer could operate by proxy both forces prepared for an immediate counter attack to meet the coming imperial force. Not having foreseen the presence of large numbers of both xenos and chaos forces the deployment of Operation Publicanus was a disaster. Most of the landingcraft erupted under the combined effect of strange xenos weaponry and foul chaos witchcraft.

In the aftermath of the botched landing the remaining Imperial forces hung Lord General McDoofus from a tree and prepared themselves for the coming fight. The scene was now set for the coming battles between Man, xenos and the corrupting forces of Chaos.

Presentation of the actors:

Separatist Movement

The Separatist nominal leadership is Ivan Iljitsh, who was a former aid to the now deceased planetary governor Lord Pjoltuir the Obese. Iljitsh already disgruntled with corruption within the planetary government was targeted by the xenos infiltration force and was easily swayed by the philosophy of the Greater Good. Even though the figure of Ivan Iljitsh is lauded as the leader of the Separatist Movement all real power lies with the Movements xenos sponsors.

The Separatist Movement sees the Empire as a hindrance for achieving the most happiness for the greater population. Its goal and endstate is therefore to secede from the Empire of Man and seek allegiance with the Tau. The current war is merely a momentary hindrance in achieving the long-term goal of the Greater Good.

Liberation Front

The Liberation front started as a philosophical discussion group within the intellectual and cultural elite of Beluga 61. Starting as a group discussing and developing theories and philosophies of personal growth, freedom and happiness, the group came to see the Imperial Faith as the major hindrance for their continued personal development.

The group then started going further and further underground as their philosophies became increasingly heretical. A turning point came for the group when they first came into contact with the ruinous powers, seeing this as the conduit for achieving perfection of mind and body and the ultimate pinnacles of personal freedom, the group wholeheartedly joined into the worship of Chaos Undivided.

Using a combination of violence, bribery and extortion the group came to be a major power in the unstable Belugan political scene. At the time the Separatist Movement started speaking openly of seceding from the Empire the Liberation front was already working towards the same goal albeit for a different reason.

The Liberation front has no clear leader, and no stated goal. Even though the original group is still alive, whether or not they are sane or even still recognizable as human is unclear.

Loyalist Belugian Hussar Regiments

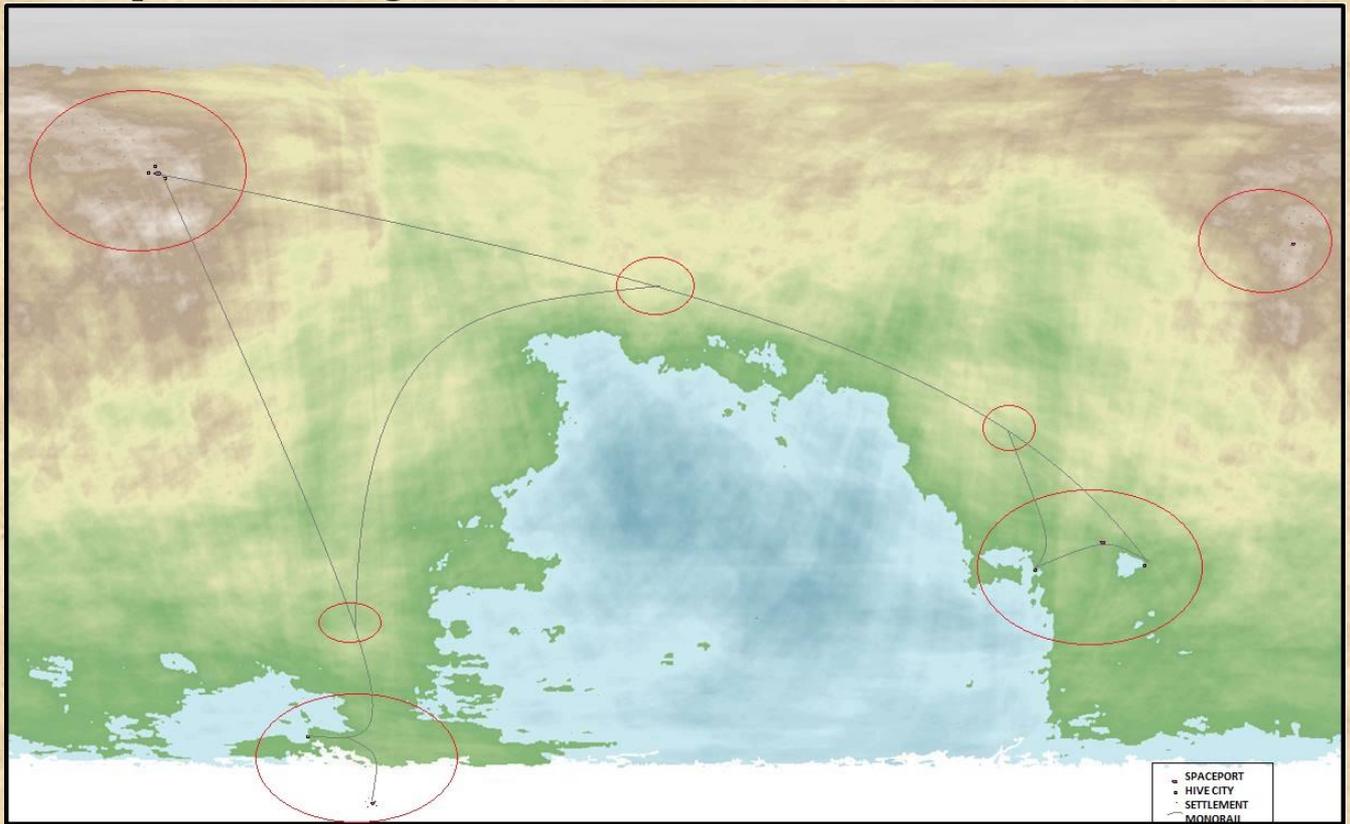
The planetary defence forces top leadership came under the sway of the Liberation front from the an early stage. The Liberation Fronts attempt at corrupting the Belugan forces from the top down was counteracted by the Separatist Movements recruitment of disgruntled mid-level officers. This situation led to a schism in the command structure which more or less paralyzed their ability to operate coherently.

Due to the problems within the command-structure the planetary forces was woefully unprepared and paralyzed when the open fighting between Liberation front and the Separatist started. The overall command of the BHR was taken in more or less coup like situation by an aspiring colonel by the name of Semyon Budyonny. Col. Budyonny conducted a hasty purge of the traitorous elements within the force including killing more or less all officers in within the General Staff.

After taking heavy losses in the initial stages of the fighting, and losing fair portions of their strength to the two warring factions, the loyalist regiments were beginning to reorganize by the time the Imperial Task Force arrived and commenced Operation Publicanus.

The Loyalist Regiments is led by Colonel Semyon Budyonny, and their goal is the purge and eradication of all xenos and chaos forces and their heretical accomplices.

Description of Beluga 61



Physics

Type	Large iron/silicate
Radius	8279.01 km (1.30 x earth)
Surface Area	8.61×10^8 km ²
Land Area	6.03×10^8 km ² (4.05 x earth)
Mass	1.29×10^{25} kg (2.16 x earth)
Density	5.43 g/cm ³ (0.98 x earth)
Composition	39.3% iron, 25.0% oxygen, 17.8% silicon, 10.7% magnesium, 5.8% calcium, 0.6% other metals, 0.8% other elements

Gravimetry

Gravity	12.51 m/s ² (1.28 x earth)
Escape Velocity	14.39 km/s

Rotation

Period	12.24 hours
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	Axis Tilt	1.12 °
Hydrosphere	Water	31 %
	Ice	15 %
Atmosphere	Type	Dense reducing
	Pressure	157.71 kPa (1.56 x earth)
	Composition	55.7% oxygen, 23.6% nitrogen, 20.7% methane, trace other gases
Climate	Type	Cool
	Min Temp	-20 °C
	Avg Temp	19 °C
	Max Temp	88 °C
Biosphere	Chemistry	Nitrogen-phosphorous
	Lifeforms	Microbes, fungi, arthropods
Civilization	Type	Imperial planet
	Population	38 bill aproximate
	Tech Level	Spacefaring (orbital spacecraft, cybernetics, laser weapons)
Special	Features	Planetary rings

Political:

The planetary government of Beluga 61 has on previous occasions undergone Inquisitorial inspection, see file XV-55-9423/72, due to its inherent near heretical nature. No reason to intervene was the conclusion at the time.

Beluga 61 follows the arcane principles of what is known as “democracy”. A ruling form mostly abandoned long prior to the Great Crusade due to its inefficacy. The principle is based on the fallacious assumption that the ruler of the people, receive his mandate to

rule by the will of the people rather than the natural order, id est that all power derives from the God-Emperor, blessed be His name.

The majority of the Belugan people have one vote to cast in “ballots” in which he selects his representative to the planetary senate. The Planetary Senate then elects the planetary Governor from amongst their numbers. The powers of the Governor are restricted by a document known as a “constitution”. This so-called constitution sets up rights to all citizens of Beluga. The findings from previous inquiries found no grounds to intervene as the Imperial institutions are exempted from attempted regulation.

The Planetary Senate has been rendered powerless by implemented martial law since the Belugan Civil War began. All power now formally rests in the hands of the Planetary Governor. As the former planetary governor aligned with the Libertarian Front a new governor is to be selected as soon as the situation allows.

Military

The forces of Beluga 61 is known as the Belugan Hussary Regiments (BHR), these forces were not numerous but were heavily mechanized and were considered to be a highly competent fighting force.

The BHR has in the recent century been deployed to numerous combat zones including the destruction of Waagh Bernstein and the quelling of the insurrection of Calligula V. The BHR has without exception served with honours in all campaigns.

The BHR took major losses in the initial stages of the civil war, both in that large portions of the force defected to the Separatist Movement and Liberation Front and in direct combat with the heretical parties. The BHR has now mostly reorganized and is considered combat ready.

Economic

The main export article of Beluga has been luxury items, primarily the export of the skins of the Belugan yak oxen. The skins of the yak oxen is known as one of the most durable organic materials known, while at the same time being light and flexible. Also the delicate physiology of the Belugan yak oxen makes it so that the animal is unable to survive spacetravel, this has created a monopoly situation for the trading houses of Beluga 61 which they have used to good effect.

Due to the quality and reduced availability of the skins, many an Imperial noblemans prized possessions are coats and boots made of Belugan leather,

Also, there is the caviar.

The large incomes from the trade in luxury goods combined with a relatively small population led to Beluga 61 having a per capita gross planetary produce roughly ten to fifteen times that of the estimated Imperial average.

The wealth of Beluga 61 led to a large tertiary industry, mainly comprising of artist, artisans, philosophers and scholars. It is within this group the Liberation Front first began.

The economy of Beluga 61 is now utterly and irrevocably destroyed mainly due to the fact that the Belugan yak oxen seem to have been rendered extinct. The yak oxens extinction was most likely brought about by a number of xenos entities that were being held for study and dissection at a, now destroyed, Inquisition Ordo Xenos research facility on the planet. The number of reporting's on these xenos indicate that they have multiplied exponentially since their escape.

Social

The population of Beluga 61 prior to the civil war was mainly engaged in the planets large tertiary industry. Having immense wealth and leisure, due to the non-labour intensive nature of its industry, Belugan society produced some of the most well-known holofilmstars, poets, artist and philosophers in the sector.

Most likely it is the combination of wealth and leisure that led to fertile grounds for heretical activity.

Belugan society is as of now only a hollow remnant of what was. All trade has ceased, and the tertiary industry is virtually non-existent. It is estimated that one quarter to one third of the planets population has been killed in the civil war. Also, famine is rampant and there has been reporting's of cannibalism, in particular in the areas controlled by the Liberation Front.

Infrastructure

Beluga 61 once prided itself on the quality of its architects and artisans. The cities of Beluga 61 soared towards the heavens in majestic spires while maintaining a balance with the ecological impact of its population on the planet. The cities were connected by ultra-high speed railsystems able to transport across the planet in a matter of hours due to the exceptional tectonic stability of the planet.

The towers are now burnt out ruins, and the railsystem, once the glory of Beluga 61, has been completely destroyed in a series of terrorist strikes and sabotage.

Astronomical

The Adeptus Astronimican has detected an asteroid which is on a collision course with Beluga 61. This asteroid, identicator N1F1H31-1000, was calculated to impact on the planet within the next 450 to 460 years. Due to this the Imperial Fleet has been tasked within the next Strategic Sector Planning Cycle with the destruction of this asteroid; i.e. within the next 30 years.

Recent observations have indicated that the asteroid has, for unknown reasons, greatly increased its velocity, and will now strike the planet within the next 20 years, unless the asteroids velocity increases further.