

News Dispatch #5

Concordia – The trap set up by Concordia’s defenders at the jump point between Concordia’s and Bay Jing’s star systems failed to stop the Devourers, who are on the move and approaching our planet.

Concordian Military Forces devoted significant amounts of resources to placing explosive mines next to the the jump point between Epsilon Eridani and Omicron 2 Eridani, in the hope of destroying or disabling as many Devourer ships as possible as soon as they made the jump. It is unknown if the aliens are affected by Jump Disorientation like humans.

Unfortunately, our correspondents report, the trap did not do any significant damage to the enemy.

“Their ships are built of a material that is beyond the toughness and radiation protection of anything we know,” reported a military expert with knowledge of the situation. “The levels of heat and energy absorption they can handle are beyond anything we have seen or conceived.”

Conditions in Melissant and other major Concordian cities are rapidly deteriorating, as supplies dwindle and authority disappears. Whole districts have descended into chaos.

The entire Concordian fleet, supported by the remains of Circle forces, is on its way to meet the enemy halfway between the jump point and the planet. The engagement should start within the day.

Dispatch #6

[Transcript of private video message sent by Epsilon Leader Trevor Antoine, Circle HQ, Concordia]

[VIDEO MESSAGE BEGINS]

[A haggard Trevor Antoine appears on the screen, standing in full Circle military uniform in his office. The skyline of Concordia, covered in dark smoke, is seen through the window behind him. Antoine looks at the camera]

"This time you will finally get rid of me" [Fleeting smile] "We all knew this, we just refused to accept it. We are as much a threat to the Devourers as a housefly is to us. Any of our modern soldiers can effortlessly disable an early-21st warrior, and that is with just a two-hundred-year head start. These aliens are tens of thousands of years or more beyond us. There is simply no contest."

"I will lead the Circle fleet to support Concordian efforts in the defense of Concordia. And conventional military forces will give their lives at Apollo and then at Earth, but I'll be frank. We will not stop them. We will not even slow them down. Unless something changes radically, we will go extinct."

"We have also tried to contact them in every way they can. We have broadcast our unconditional surrender a thousand times. We don't know if they get our messages or not, or if they understand them. It seems they have not bothered to reply."

[Antoine's face changes into an expression of disgust]

"We have begged the N'ahili to support us, intercede for us. But those bastards don't seem to care. The human species is about to die and we still don't understand what those blowfish are all about."

"But I'm rambling. In short, this will not be won by force, not unless conditions change. Which brings me to you. Your mission provides our best hope for our survival, slim a hope as it sounds."

"You may be asking yourselves, how do I know? Why do I have so much faith in you? Well..."

[Antoine pauses and takes a deep breath]

"Since the Circle was founded, we have believed it would prove its worth in a 'moment of truth,' a defining moment when our purpose would be perfectly clear. This belief comes down from our founder, William Donovan, himself. We have always thought our moment of truth had been our response to the comet crash on Earth in 2133...I now believe we were wrong. THIS is the Circle's real moment of truth. I therefore believe it is NOW when the Circle, through you, will prove its worth to humanity."

[Antoine sighs]

"I'm taking an S40 shuttle to my ship, and then to engage the enemy. We will not see each other again. I wish you the best."

"Humanity does not deserve oblivion. Hopefully you will make us avoid that fate."

[Antoine gives a final smile]

[VIDEO MESSAGE ENDS]

News Dispatch #7

Apollo – Concordia has been destroyed. Although escaping ships could not scan the planet's surface, it is believed that it was bombed as thoroughly as Nouvelle Vie and Bay Jing were. The chances of survivors are thus negligible.

The only significant remaining fleet in human space is the one that protects Earth. This means Apollo is practically undefended.

There is no word yet on when the Devourers will leave Epsilon Eridani and move towards our planet.

News Dispatch #8

Apollo – The Devourers are on the move again. They should be in the Epsilon Indi star system in days, two weeks at the most.

We cannot stop them. We cannot evacuate.

Someone, please help us.

News Dispatch #9

Apollo – They are here.

Handout #1

Brawl at Popular Drinking Spot Attributed to 'Ghost Ship' Tall Tale

Providence, Logan's End – Yesterday's larger-than-usual bar brawl at the well-known Providence bar "Fearless," which ended up with four injured and eight arrested, was sparked by a discussion about a 'ghost ship' story.

Melonia Ferrato, owner of Fearless Bar, explained that a merchant crew recently arrived from space caused the fracas by telling the story. "They looked shaken and scared, and were obviously drunk," Ms. Ferrato declared. "One of them then began shouting that in their last trip they had come across and destroyed a 'ghost ship,' a ship that came out of nowhere in the depths of space, from a place called 'Chrysalis.' Or something."

According to Ms. Ferrato the story of the 'ghost ship' from the place with the strange name caused hilarity in Fearless' customers, who promptly began teasing and laughing at the merchants, who responded first with insults and then with violence. Then fighting erupted.

Local police have arrested the most likely instigators of the violence, including the five members of the merchant crew who started the story. They have been identified as Kevin Windon, Hassan Leova, Gerardo Bevard, Doug O'Malley and Oliver Sarria. Their ship is known as the Aurora Borealis and indeed it has recently parked in one of the orbital spots of Logan's End.

Ms. Ferrato has stated that she will not press charges. It is unknown whether the police will charge the suspects or if they will be set free soon.