

CORVUS BELLI
INFINITY

**INFINITY: A NARRATIVE
GUIDE OF EVENTS**

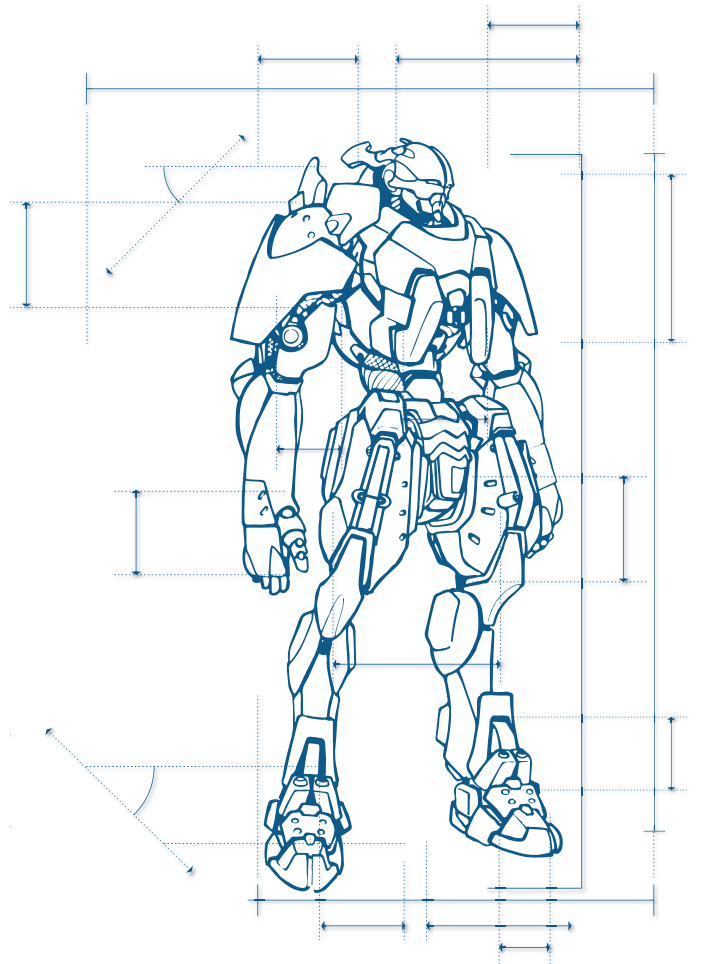
By Gutier Lusquiños

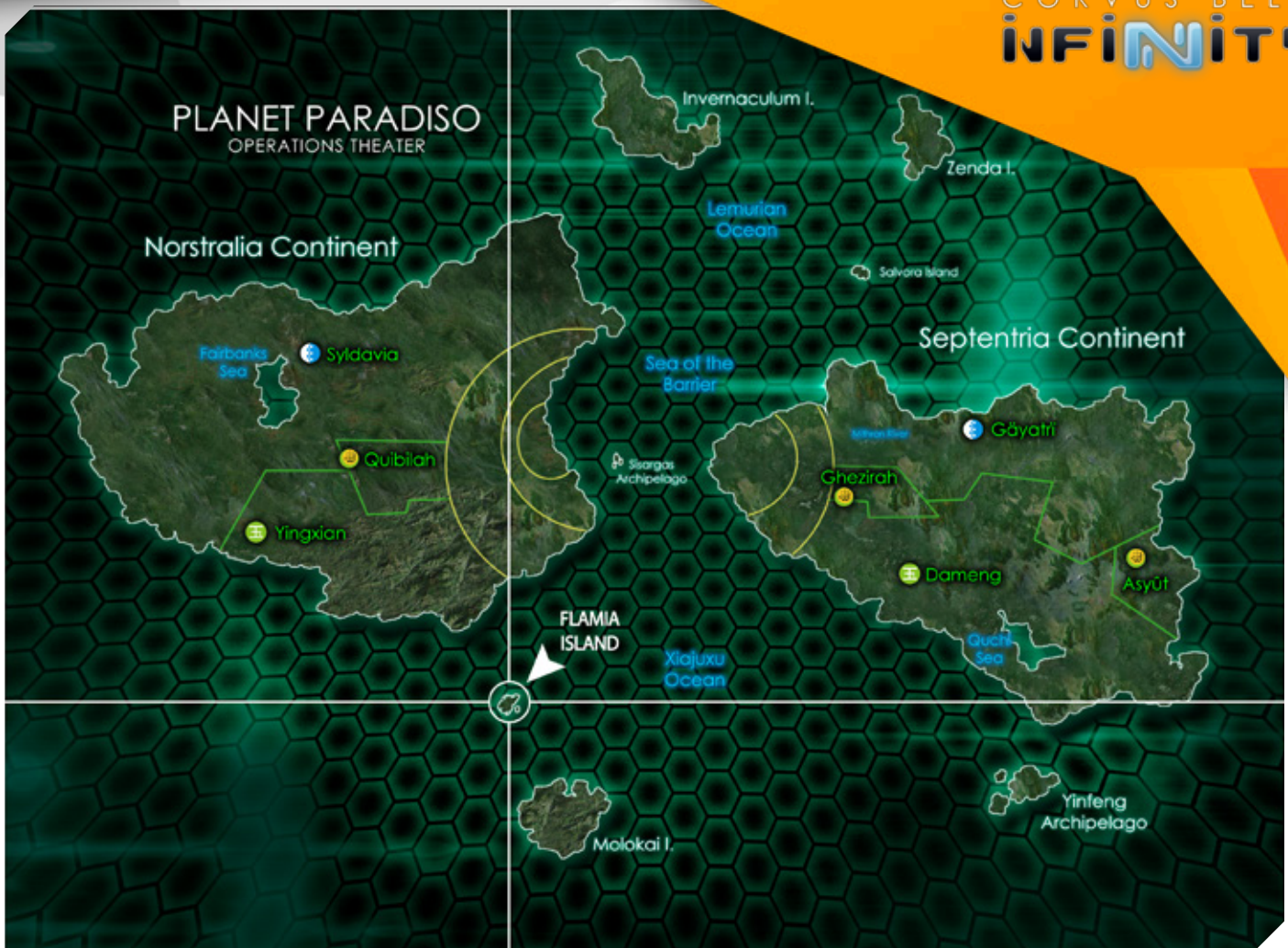
INFINITY: A NARRATIVE GUIDE OF EVENTS



During the death rattle of the so-called Paradiso Second Offensive, the Combined Army took the life of Toni Macayana, the heroine of the Hyperpower's TAG units, dealing a heavy blow to PanOceania's troop morale. The use of VoodooTech that allowed the killing of a pilot even if they operated their TAG remotely seemed to eliminate the major advantage of the PanOceania's offensive backbone. But far from backing down, the Hyperpower developed the **TAGLINE** program, which improved their units' ability to carry out missions and show the aliens that they had no fear. The other powers, viewing the success of this armored improvement program, tried to emulate it. As a result, despite lacking Remote Presence technology, they optimized their pilots' training to improve their tactical adaptability⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾Background of ITS Season 8: TAGLINE.





After the Second Offensive, the Paradiso military front seemed to stabilize. Excluding raids by the Combined Army and the factions of Paradiso Coordinated Command, a relative tranquility reigned over the planet, until one morning when the EI forces launched an attack on an island that until then remained safe from the aliens' main offensives. This is how the so-called **Operation: Flamestrike** started, and how Flamia Island first appeared on the Paradiso Conflict Map.

This sudden attack was focused on the island's main settlements. However, despite the element of surprise, humankind's forces managed to ward off the Combined Army after a series of bitter engagements, while taking advantage of the momentum and confusion of the conflict to carry out tentative operations in rival territories. While the alleged allies fought against one another, the Combined Army unleashed a second wave. Surprisingly enough, this was not to support their retreating forces on the ground, but instead to target new locations on the southern part of the island. Even so, once more the alien forces did not put up much of a resistance to the human counterattack. Instead, they fell back after a brief occupation in which they caused severe damage, especially to the Onza Governmental Headquarters, O-12's center on Flamia. This suggests that the Flamia offensive was more an operation to harass and destabilize humankind's forces than a real attempt by the Combined Army to occupy the territory.

One of the major consequences of Operation: Flamestrike was the Nomad occupation of the Zhurong Power Plant⁽²⁾, and their refusal to return it to its rightful owner, the StateEmpire. Zhurong is a vital source of energy for Yu Jing colonies in the island and for the coastal settlements this power has in the Yingxian region of Norstralia. The Nomad refusal led to increasingly aggressive and intense political activity on Concilium on the part of the StateEmpire, who considered this appropriation an insult to their authority and international preeminence⁽³⁾.

⁽²⁾ BoW Campaign, Operation: Flamestrike and conclusion.

⁽³⁾ As it can be read in the beginning of the background of the BoW Campaign Strikezone: Wotan.

STRIKEZONE: WOTAN



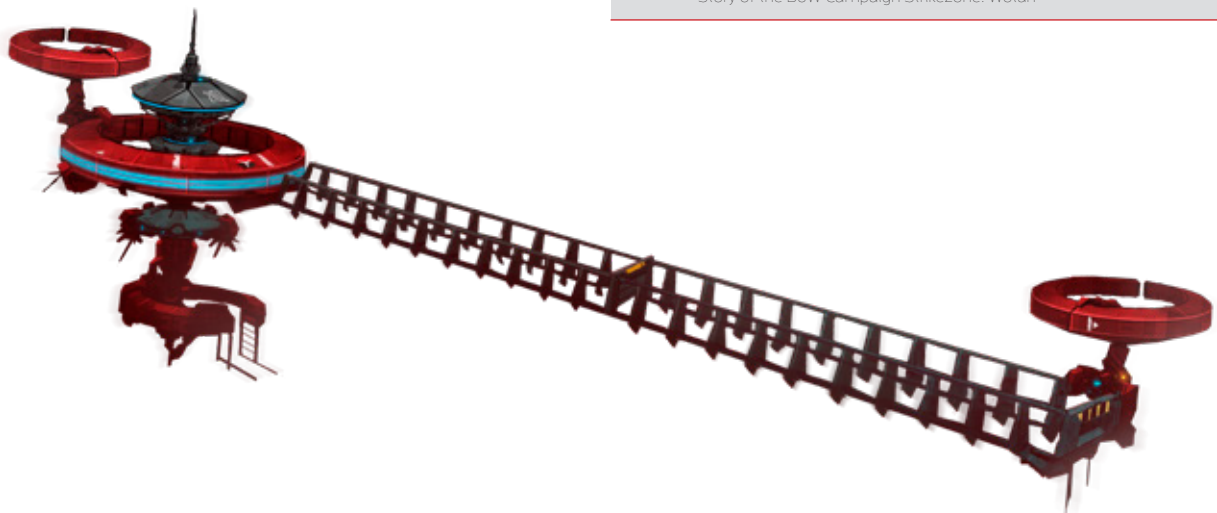
This tense situation would end up exploding with the capture of the Nomad freighter *Sandinista!*, which would expose an infiltration attempt by the Shasvastii who used a Nomad smuggling ring to cross the Wotan Blockade, the military operation responsible for protecting the Jump Gate that links Paradiso with Svalarheima. This is the first mention of the smuggler Aida Swanson, allegedly involved in the organization of this underground network⁽⁴⁾.

⁽⁴⁾As it can be read in the beginning of the background of the BoW Campaign Strikezone: Wotan.

This event would serve as a justification for the StateEmpire to pressure the Nomad Nation and to try to dismantle La Forja orbital shipyard, the Nomad's main facility near Wotan, denounced by Yu Jing as infested with Shasvastii operatives. This would be the perfect excuse the StateEmpire was looking for to unleash an offensive against Nomad outposts in retaliation for the Flamia events. The outbreak of hostilities between Yu Jing and the Nomad Nation would drag in the other Human Sphere's powers, interested in getting strategic positions or in eliminating their opponents in the game.

The conflict would escalate to such a degree that the Combined Army would take advantage of the confusion to launch an attack on Wotan in an attempt to break the blockade and reach Svalarheima with their Raxora Light Assault Carrier⁽⁵⁾.

⁽⁵⁾Story of the BoW Campaign Strikezone: Wotan





In the midst of this maelstrom, Bit, Switch, and Cypher, three hackers of the anti-establishment movement **ALIVE** that used Toni Macayana's image as a symbol of resistance, would infiltrate Wotan's communication facilities to send the B4ckd00r file to their liaison on Svalarheima. This file, stolen from the Paradiso Coordinated Command's database, had an encryption level too high for the abilities of these young hackers, who needed to ask for external aid to obtain the information hidden in B4ckd00r ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽⁶⁾These three hackers are the main characters in the background of ITS Season 8, and appear in the Narrative Mode of some Second Phase's missions of the BoW Campaign, Strikezone: Wotan.

The fall of the Raxora Light Assault Carrier into PanOceania hands would mark both the defeat of the Combined Army forces and the end of the Jump Gate conflict. Nevertheless, Wotan also claimed victims amongst the Human Sphere's powers. The Nomad Nation would lose their *Don Peyote* repurposed freighter at the hands of their hated enemy ALEPH. Meanwhile, the StateEmpire would see its light frigate *Shàn-qīāng* (Lightning Spear) end up nearly destroyed by a Tohaa attack. In addition, despite the tenacious resistance of the JSA garrison, who would not survive the conflict, the Bāijīng orbital consulate would fall to the raids and assaults of the Nomads and Haqqislam, who took over several sections of this orbital ⁽⁷⁾.

⁽⁷⁾Conclusions and outcome of the BoW Campaign Strikezone: Wotan.



ALIVE



Meanwhile, the activities of the Paradiso group ALIVE had not gone unnoticed by the PanOceanian authorities, who managed to capture them after an intense manhunt. However, the convoy they were traveling in during a prisoner transfer operation was assaulted by the Combined Army, **which saw Bit captured** and Switch and Cypher killed. Several months later, Bit and her pet Remote KISS!, after being sepsitorized—or maybe just simply brainwashed—reappeared fighting alongside the Combined Army⁽⁸⁾.

⁽⁸⁾Conclusions and outcome of ITS Season 8, at the choice of Logan, international winner of that season.

The two hackers' death and Bit's disappearance would be the beginning of the end of the ALIVE movement on Paradiso, since pressure from the authorities would cause its members to disband and go into hiding to escape their pursuers. Even so, Victor Messer, the hackers' liaison on Svalarheima, would decrypt the B4ckd00r file and revealed its contents to the Human Sphere: a list of those suspected of collaborating with the Combined Army. The so-called B4ckd00r issue would spark paranoia among all the major powers, leading to a race to see who could be the first to obtain all portions of this file in order to quell the wave of accusations of **treason** that spread across the Sphere. Special agents, called DataTrackers, would take care of tracking both the file portions and Messer himself, now considered a high value target⁽⁹⁾.

⁽⁹⁾Story of ITS Season 9: Treason.



The rescue operation of Candy Double, a Maya celebrity, from the Ariadna Exclusion Zone would reveal that the Combined Army infiltration in planet Dawn was far more extensive than expected. A beachhead seemed to have been established on Novvy Cimmeria, a macro-island located in the subarctic area of the Planet Dawn, not by isolated Shasvastii commandos, but by a squadron of the Onyx Contact Force. This group planned to infiltrate through an underground network set up by the smuggler Aida Swanson across the Daybreak Jump Gate that connects Paradiso with Dawn⁽¹⁾. This prompted suspicions that the discovery of the Wotan network, and the later conflict, was no more than a smokescreen to divert attention from Dawn, the real goal of the EI.

⁽¹⁾As described in the background of the Dire Foes Mission 7: Candy Cloud that can be read in Infinity Uprising.

One of the names that appeared in the B4ckd00r list was that of General Aoi Tanemura, an officer responsible for the JSA forces on Paradiso, unfairly removed from her post after the mass jailbreak from the Düzüi-1 (Hammer-1) Invisible Prison in Satori⁽¹⁾. However, the arbitrary decision of removing this capable general from office would win her sympathies, causing people to consider her name being on the list a part of Yu Jing High Command's plan to discredit her.

⁽¹⁾As described in the background of the Dire Foes Mission I: Train Rescue that can be read in Infinity Uprising.

DIRE FOES



The revelation of the freelance stringer Bianca Chen ⁽¹²⁾, reporting that the JSA troops who protected the civilians in the evacuation of the Bāijīng orbital consulate had died from friendly fire, would be the trigger that sparked the Japanese Uprising. The urge from Yu Jing High Command to bomb the Nomad torpedo ship *Silence, please*, moored at the consulate, and their disregard for the lives of the JSA troops, was too much for Japanese public opinion. Encouraged by the Kuge industrial aristocracy, the Japanese people would rise up in arms against the oppressive StateEmpire. General Tanemura was to become one of the greatest figures of the Japanese Uprising, leading the defense of the Japanese archipelago on Earth, and later dying while trying to collaborate in the safeguarding of the Japanese colonies on Paradiso ⁽¹³⁾.

⁽¹²⁾Civilian of Dire Foes Mission 6: Defiant Truth.

⁽¹³⁾As explained in Infinity Uprising.

While the Post-Uprising could be considered a calmer situation, the search for Victor Messer and the B4ckd00r file's fragments is still ongoing. Furthermore, recent findings of Teseum and Nessium veins in Kurage territory, the Japanese area of Novvy Cimmeria, predict growing tensions in this remote region of Dawn.

Extract from the report of Carlos Hornoy, technician-analyst of Midnight Sun, Black Hand's department of intelligence analysis.



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