**Iserlohn Captured!**

**Scene 1**

**NARRATOR**

[SLOW GRANDIOSE]

Iserlohn Fortress, a key Imperial stronghold, was said to be impregnable.

Charged with its capture, with a fleet only half the usual size, Yang's plan is underway.

**EXTRA IMPERIAL SOLDIER**

[WORRIED, SPEAKING LEVEL NORMAL, STRUCK]

This is awful.

So, is this how the war is progressing...

**SCHENKOPP**

[BATTLE TORN, GASPING, EXHAUSTED]

I'm Lt. Commander von Laken.

It's an emergency.

I need to see the fortress commander immediately.

[COLLAPSES FROM EXHAUSTION]

**KASPER**

[LOUD, WORRIED]

Lt. Commander! Please hang on!

**EIN**

[WORRIED BUT STILL DISCIPLINED WITH HIS DUTY]

I'm Ensign Ein of security.

What's going on?

**KASPER**

[SERIOUS, SLIGHTLY WORRIED BUT CALMER]

The Alliance fleet is closing in.

They've prepared a way to neutralize this fortress.  
And are likely planning to break through the corridor.

They're intent to do it in one swift stroke.

**EIN**

[SURPRISED]  
Impossible!

**KASPER**

[SERIOUS, CALM]

Only the Lt. Commander knows the details.

**SCHENKOPP**

[OUT OF BREATH, STRUGGLING TO TALK]

I have confidential information the commander must see.

If I can’t inform his excellency immediately...

[COUGHS UP BLOOD, INTERRUPTS SENTENCE]

**RAINER**

[LOUD, WORRIED]

Lt. Commander!

**SCHENKOPPµ**

[HOLDING HAND OVER MOUTH, OUT OF BREATH]

I'm already done for.

Get me to the commander, at once!

**KASPER**

[WORRIED, LOUD]

Lt. Commander!

[Speaking to Ein] Why are you still standing here?!

Go tell them, now!

**EIN**

[DISCIPLINED]

Yes, sir! / Sir!

**(3:04)**

**STOCKHAUSEN**

[IMPATIENT AND IRRITATED, AS IF CONSTIPATED]

What is the current situation?!

**EXTRA\_FORTRESS\_COMS\_GUY**

The communications jamming is increasing!

The enemy must be closing in!

**STOCKHAUSEN**

There must be someone we can reach!

Have we managed contact with the garrison fleet?

**EXTRA\_FORTRESS\_COMS\_GUY**

Still unable to make contact, sir!

**STOCKHAUSEN**

[IRRITATED, INDIGNANT]

Damn you, Seeckt. Where have you gone off to?!

Mm..  
Uhuh..

[CONNIVING]

Is that true?

I don't care, bring him to me at once!

**LAEMMLER**

Yes, sir!

**(3:30)**

**FREDERICA GREENHILL**

It does appear as though Captain Schenkopp has succeeded in infiltrating the fortress, no?

**WENLI YANG**

Yeah, it seems everything is going according to plan.

**MURAI**

If so, then soon the Imperial fleet should soon be noticing...

**(3:50)**

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

[SURPRISED IN INCOMPETENT]

Damn!

A decoy?!

**PAUL VON OBERSTEIN**

[INTERNAL MONOLOGUE]

As I thought...

**(4:00)**

**WENLI YANG**

Once the Imperial fleet realizes our ploy, we'll have about two hours before they return from that region.

**MURAI**

Since it will require an hour and a half for our fleet to enter the port, if the port isn't opened within the next thirty minutes, we'll be completely outflanked by the Empire.

**WENLI YANG**

Thirty minutes...

Well then, shall we get started?

**(4:25)**

**EXTRA\_FORTRESS\_COMS\_GUY**

Enemy ships detected!

**STOCKHAUSEN**

So, they were positioned there after all.

**EIN**

Sir! We have Lt. Commander Laken with us!

**LAEMMLER**

Wait!

Your identification before you proceed.

**KASPER**

[PANICKED]

There's no time for that!

If we lose even a second, all may be lost!

**LAEMMLER**

You can't just...

**EXTRA\_FORTRESS\_CUMS\_GUY**

Sir! We’re observing irregular enemy movement patterns!

**STOCKHAUSEN**

Clarify!

**EXTRA\_FORTRESS\_CUMS\_GUY**

They've deployed just beyond the range of our main cannon and are maneuvering back and forth.

**STOCKHAUSEN**

What on earth...

**KASPER**

[SLIGHTLY OVER-DRAMATIC WORRY]

Oh, no, they've begun!

**STOCKHAUSEN**

[WITH DISMISSIVE AUTHORITY]

It's all right, let them through.

Yes sir!**(5:08)**

**MURAI**

This is a splendid fleet exercise, but what is the purpose?

**WENLI YANG**

Well, there's no real purpose to it at all, but...

**MURAI**

Huh?

**(5:20)**

**STOCKHAUSEN**

I'm Commander Stockhausen.

Explain to me why their fleet has deployed in this manner?

How do they plan to neutralize our fortress?

**SCHENKOPP**

[Broken/Muttering] Well…

Listen...

You're about to see your excellency.

**KASPER**

No one move!

Disobey, and your commander dies!

**STOCKHAUSEN**

You bastard! A rebel conspirator?!

**SCHENKOPP**

[BEMUSED CONFIDENCE]

I'm Captain Schenkopp of the Rosen-Ritter.

I'd introduce myself properly, but my hands are too full to take off this get-up.

**LAEMMLER**

[CONFIDENT, SMUG, SOLDIER-LY]

Spare us your jokes!

You may have intended to take a hostage, but we won’t allow it!

The commander is a man who fears dishonor more than death itself.

He's not a shield to protect your life!

**SCHENKOPP**

Looks like I've overestimated the life of the commander, you on the other hand...

**LAEMMLER**

Die!

**STOCKHAUSEN**

[TERRIFIED]

Stop!

**LAEMMLER**

[BETRAYED]

Your Excellency...

**STOCKHAUSEN**

I surrender this vessel; you win.

**LAEMMERL**

[BEWILDERED, BLACKPILLED]

But...

Your Excellency!

**STOCKHAUSEN**

[PANTS-SHITTING AUTHORITY]

This is an order! Drop your weapons!

**SCHENKOPP**

[COMMANDING]

Alright, restrain them!

**Scene 2**

**(6:31)**

**MURAI**

It should be time soon.

**(6:40)**

**KASPER**

What have you done?!

**ALEXA**

[FEMBOT DECLARITIVE]

Alarm! Emergency lockdown in effect. Emergency lockdown in effect.

Computer operations locked. Iserlohn Fortress operations entering lockdow.!

Sealing all fortress bulkheads. Sealing all fortress bulkheads.

Movement and communications lockdown in all sectors.   
  
Dock, sealed. Cannons and turrets, locked down.   
  
All en route personnel seek the nearest shelter!

25 seconds to complete lockdown.

**EXTRA\_SOLDER\_1**

[DRUNK, ANNOYED]

What's goin on? Everywhere we go is closed off!

**EXTRA\_SOLDER\_2**

[DRUNK, ANNOYED]

First the garrison fleet went out, and now this?

What the hell's going on today, Damn it!

**EXTRA\_SOLDER\_1**

I bet it's a drill, it's gotta be.

**ALEXA**

10...

9...

8...

7...

6...

5...

4...

3...

2...

1...

**LAEMMLER**

[ARROGANT]

Well? What do you think of that?

All fortress operations are now in lockdown!

**SCHENKOPP**

[STILL BEMUSED, UNPHASED]

Well, it would seem as though we're in a stalemate.

But then again, your compatriots behind you can’t move, now can they...

**LAEMMLER**

Except your boarding party is isolated.   
And all this time the garrison fleet has been on its return.

Once they arrive, your plan is finished!

**SCHENKOPP**

We'll have the central computer operational before they do.

**KASPER**

Captain…

**SCHENKOPP**

Don't worry, their fortress security forces only number around fifty men.

**RAINER BLUMHART**

Only?

**(8:04)**

**MURAI**

This is taking too long.

**WENLI YANG**

We've gotten this close without retaliation...

So the operation and their efforts hasn't been in vain.

We can still afford to give them time.

**MURAI**

But the Imperial garrison fleet won't wait.

**WENLI YANG**

As long as the fortress is still quiet, we may still have a chance to pull this off. We just have to wait.

**MURAI**

Our positions are exposed so long as we stay put, sir.

It seems likely, at this point, Captain Schenkopp has failed or worse... We may be walking right into a trap.

**WENLI YANG**

I have faith in Schenkopp.

In the end, our operation success hinges on the competence of a very skilled man. There is no choice but to believe he will succeed.

**(8:46)**

**SCHENKOPP**

Looks like we'll need these after all.

Expect the best, prepare for the worst. Looks like we’re somewhere in the middle.

**KASPER**

I hope our luck is still holding up out there.

I'm not too wild about a scenario where we’ve managed to capture the fortress and yet end up surrounded by the Imperial fleet.

**SCHENKOPP**

There is no chance for an offensive to come from the fortress.

If the Imperial fleet arrives, we can expect to be outnumbered 2-to-1 but...  
Yang’s cunning will be enough to defeat them.

And Count Lohengramm isn’t here to stop us.

So, we’re going to do what we came here to do.

Men! Guard the prisoners and work on getting comms back online.

**IMPERIAL\_EXTRA 1 & 2**

Yes, sir!

**SCHENKOPP**

Let's go!

**(9:20)**

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

[NANI?!]

So, they're aware of our presence...

**EXTRA\_FLEET\_CUMS\_GUY**

Your Excellency, we've received a transmission from the Alliance.

**Scene 3**

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

[BUMBLING AGGRESSIVE]

Is that so?! Read it!

**EXTRA\_FLEET\_CUMS\_GUY**

[JUST READING]

Yes, sir. It reads:   
"Iserlohn Fortress has been captured.

Surrender quietly.

Failure to do so and you will personally experience

the destructive power of Thor's Hammer."

That is all.

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

[BUMBLING AGGRESSIVE]

Damn them...All ships, full stop!

**PAUL VON OBERSTEIN**

[ASSERTIVE, INTERJECTING]

Your Excellency. Despite our current predicament, we should still advance.

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

Are you mad?!

If we continue our advance we’ll be in range of the Hammer!

**PAUL VON OBERSTEIN**

[OBERSTEIN]

Correct. However, the enemy's maneuvers have betrayed them.

It suggests the fortress has not yet fallen into their hands.

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

If the fortress hasn’t fallen, why have they not engaged the Alliance?!

**PAUL VON OBERSTEIN**

I understand, however, if the Alliance had already taken the fortress, logically they'd conceal their advantage and draw us in, then use the Hammer to annihilate us in a single blow.  
  
**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

[Angry Grunt]  
Hrmmmmmm…

**PAUL VON OBERSTEIN**

Intelligence reports that the Alliance fleet is less than half the strength of our own.

If we attack swiftly before the conflict for control of the fortress concludes, we should manage victory fairly easily.

Moreover...

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

Madness!

We'll hold our current position outside the range of Thor’s Hammer and await further development.

**PAUL VON OBERSTEIN**

[FLABBERGASTED]

Admiral!

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

The Alliance fleet is indeed small.

But a fleet that size...

They must have already deployed a portion of their fleet to capture the fortress.

If that may be the case, we must assume that the fortress has already been captured.

**(10:50)**

**SCHENKOPP**

It's up there.

**(11:02)**

**MURAI**

Still no communication from the fortress?

**HAKUZI**

Nothing yet!

..

You know there’s an old saying for this,

"We’re stuck between a rock and a hard place."

**ED**

So not much of a chance, eh?

**SIMON**

No kidding. That bluff is all we have to stay alive.

**HAZUKI**

The bluff might not have worked but, what choice do we have?

**SIMON**

Yeah, you’re right, but once they figure it out, we’re done for.

**ED**

We’ll be lucky if we make it out of this one.

**HAZUKI**

Why did I bring it up… I guess luck is all we’ve got...

**(11:33)**

**EXTRA\_DUMB\_THOT1**

H... hi!

**RAINER**

Hi!

**EXTRA\_DUMB\_THOT2**

What's going on?

**EXTRA\_DUMB\_THOT1**

I have no idea.

**(12:06)**

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

We all know the power of Thor's Hammer!

**PAUL VON OBERSTEIN**

And the Alliance is counting on us to cower.

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

Cower?! Hardly! We’re biding time!

**(12:17)**

**EXTRA\_IMPERIAL\_SOLDIER1**

What do you suppose is going on?

**EXTRA\_\_IMPERIAL\_SOLDIER2**

It’s some sort of emergency that’s for sure.

**EXTRA\_IMPERIAL\_SOLDIER1**

Naw, I bet it’s just another drill.

**EXTRA\_IMPERIAL\_SOLDIER2**

Well, at any rate, we're safe if in the fortress.

**EXTRA\_IMPERIAL\_SOLDIER1**

What was that?

**EXTRA\_IMPERIAL\_SOLDIER2**

What's going on?

**EXTRA\_IMPERIAL\_SOLDIER1**

Look!

Shit!

**EXTRA\_IMPERIAL\_SOLDIER2**

Wait! Zephyr Partic...

**KASPER**

I’d say we just eliminated, what, fifteen people?

**RAINER**

Captain...

**SCHENKOPP**

Don't say it!

**EXTRA\_IMPERIAL\_SERGEANT**

Damn it what’s happened?! Be on alert!

This is...

Zephyr Particles!

Do not fire your rifles!

**SCHENKOPP**

Smart man.

**EXTRA\_IMPERIAL\_SERGEANT**

You! Surrender yourself at once!

**SCHENKOPP**

Ha! I don’t think so.

**EXTRA\_IMPERIAL\_SERGEANT**What?!

Men! Prepare for melee!

**SCHENKOPP**

You’re too late!

**EXTRA\_IMPERIAL\_SERGEANT**

Don't crowd! Find them and kill them!

Grrr…  
Out of the way!

**RAINER**

Listen up! We’ve seized the fortress!

**KASPER**

We're the Rosen-Ritter!

You've no chance against us!

**EXTRA\_IMPERIAL\_SOLDIER3**

Rosen-Ritter...

**SCHENKOPP**

Give up your arms and surrender at once!

**(14:23)**

**HAKUZI**

I see it!

The surface indicators are lighting up!

It's the port entry! We can dock!

**SIMON**

They actually did it!

**FREDERICA\_GREENHILL**

Congratulations, sir!

**WENLI YANG**

This isn’t a victory just yet.

**(14:40)**

**EXTRA\_FLEET\_CUMS\_GUY**

The surface port indicators are deploying.

**STOCKHAUSEN**

What?!

**EXTRA\_FLEET\_CUMS\_GUY**

Several Alliance ships are now attempting to dock!

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

It can’t be!

**PAUL VON OBERSTEIN**

[INTERNAL MONOLOGUE]

Our window of opportunity has shut.

**Scene 4**

**(14:55)**

**FREDERICA GREENHILL**

So this is Iserlohn Fortress.

**(15:23)**

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

They've dropped their guard!

This is our opportunity. All ships, full speed ahead!

**PAUL VON OBERSTEIN**

Sir.

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

What is it this time?

**PAUL VON OBERSTEIN**

The enemy is expecting this.

We mustn’t rush forth foolishly.

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

Nonsense! This is our chance!

**PAUL VON OBERSTEIN**

This is a trap and if we move in we’ll be destroyed.  
Don't you understand that?

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

I understand your insubordination!

If the fortress has fallen into Alliance hands, we’ll be completely disgraced!

We’ll not turn our backs and flee! This is war! Casualties are its nature! We’ll attack with all our strength!

**PAUL VON OBERSTEIN**

But, it's already-

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

Silence! I’ll hear no more of it! Get out of my sight!

**(16:14)**

**FREDERICA GREENHILL**

Sir, the Imperial fleet is on approach.

**MURAI**

One dangerous situation narrowly avoided only to deal with the next.

**WENLI YANG**

They’re reckless. Don’t they realize it’s too late.

**MURAI**

Let's unleash the hammer.

Our ships are still exposed after all.

**WENLI YANG**

They’re throwing their lives away, but I have no choice...

**ED**

Thor's Hammer is prepped and charged to fire!

**HAZUKI**

Target locked!

**WENLI YANG**

Fire!

**(17:00)**

**EXTRA\_FLEET\_CUMS\_GUY**

Thor’s Hammer!

We’ve just sustained incredible losses!

**(17:10)**

**ED**

A thousand ships... vaporized in an instant.

**HAZUKI**

With just one shot...

**SIMON**

What incredible destructive power.

**SCHENKOPP**

Admiral, this… this is not warfare.

This is an utter massacre.

**WENLI YANG**

You're entirely right.

We can’t be unmerciful to the people of the Imperial Forces.

Hail them. Instruct them again to surrender.

If their pride doesn’t permit them, instruct them to withdraw. We’ll not pursue.

**HAZUKI**

We’re allowing them to escape?!

**ED**

They’d never do the same for us!

**WENLI YANG**

Do I hear objections?

**ED**

No sir, we just...

**SIMON**

We think it's an honor to serve under your leadership, Admiral!

A true honor...

**(17:52)**

**EXTRA\_FLEET\_CUMS\_GUY**

Admiral Seeckt!

A transmission from Iserlohn Fortress.

They’ve called for our unconditional surrender.

**STOCKHAUSEN**

Unconditional?!

**EXTRA\_FLEET\_CUMS\_GUY**

Yes, sir.

It reads: "Any further loss of life is pointless.”

“Surrender peacefully now or withdraw your forces.”

“There shall be no pursuit."

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

Damn them!

They wish to make a fool out of me!

They expect me to surrender to the likes of them; desert my post?!

This is a farce! They will open fire as soon as we begin to withdraw!

We have no choice but to attack Iserlohn Fortress!

**(18:21)**

**SIMON**

Sir! Reply from the Imperial Fleet command!

"You don't know the true soldier's heart.”

“One cannot bear a life lived in disgrace, there can only be death with one’s honor intact!”

“With his Majesty's grace, we shall fight and die as true soldiers."

**WENLI YANG**

[Mad as hell]

A "soldier's heart"?!

It's because of stubborn bastards like this that the war never ends!

**ED**

Sir! The Imperial fleet is advancing!

**WENLI YANG**

Locate the Imperial flagship.

**HAZUKI**

Yes sir.

**WENLI YANG**

Concentrate our fire on the flagship.

This will put an end to the madness!

**HAZUKI**

Target locked!

**WENLI YANG**

Fire!

**(19:11)**

**HANS DIETRICH VON SEECKT**

Long live the Empire!

**(19:17)**

**HAZUKI**

Sir, the Imperial flagship has been destroyed.

**(19:30)**

**PAUL VON OBERSTEIN**

Old fool.

Vengeance can only be carried out by the living.

**(19:40)**

**FREDERICA GREENHILL**

The imperial fleet has broken off its attack and now in full retreat.

**WENLI YANG**

What’s the point in throwing one's life away.

Lieutenant, contact Heinessen.

Inform them the operation was a success.

**(19:55)**

**NARRATOR**

Galactic cycle 796, May 14th.

The seventh attempt of the Free Planets Alliance to capture Iserlohn Fortress was met with success.

**(20:05)**

(Free Planets Alliance Theme)

The 13th Fleet was greeted by a hero’s welcome.

Admiral Yang was credited for his actions in not losing a single soldier or asset.

Public admiration proclaimed Yang as the "Miracle Man" and "Magician Strategist".

**SIDNEY SHITHOLE**

Your resignation? You're leaving us before the war is over?

**WENLI YANG**

Yes sir.

**SIDNEY SHITHOLE**

I think you’re making your life’s greatest mistake.

**WENLI YANG**

If the simpler life is a mistake sir, then yes.

I don’t think I ever possessed the heart of a true soldier.

**SIDNEY SHITHOLE**

Hrrm…  
Unfortunately, the military is in short supply of someone of your tactical prowess.

Understand something...

What do you think will happen to your 13th Fleet if you resign?

**WENLI YANG**

*My* 13th Fleet?

**SIDNEY SHITHOLE**

The 13th Fleet is infamously known as nothing more than a ragtag collection of undisciplined and defective veterans and rookies.

You think they have a future without the sort of leadership you’ve shown them?

**ED**

Admiral Yang!

**HAZUKI**

Sir, we’re honored to be serving under your command! We admire what you’ve done!

**SIMON**

Please, don't resign Admiral Yang!

**SCHENKOPP**

So, how'd it go?

What was Fleet Admiral Sithole’s reaction?

Just as I thought.

I have to say, I share the admiral's opinion.

Serving under you, I have a feeling I might survive this war.

**Scene 5 Conclusion and Preview**

**(21:58)**

**NARRATOR**

With the capture of Iserlohn Fortress, the balance of power now shifts between the Empire, Alliance, and Phezzan.

The reverberations are to be felt throughout the galaxy, consequences yet unknown.

[PREVIEW]

**NARRATOR**

Inside the Empire: Reinhard fortifies his political camp, and, with the arrival of Paul von Oberstein, new revelations come forth.

What is it that his eye will reveal?

Find out in the next episode of Legend of the Galactic Heroes,

Episode 8: "Cold Cybernetic Eyes"

Another page turns in the history of the galaxy.