

Copy no. 5

To: Baron Strucker,
Commander
Northern Sector; Iron Society

REPORT 3

1]

In my guise as a ship's captain I have much opportunity to travel and listen to various stories and rumours about the area [Sector A1-23]. One that constantly recurred was about a large and dangerous swamp called Mulwahee and more specifically what was inside the old volcano crater that dominates the mainly flat area - the temple of Tonatuh.

This was said to be a centre for a strange religion but other information was vague.

2]

I thought this bore closer inspection so I headed southward toward the supposed location of the temple. [see map] About 150 km below Saffron I stopped at a previously unheard of [by me] village named Mulwahee. This turned out to be the namesake of the swamp which surrounded the town for a considerable distance.

3]

Until now I heard of the temple only as "The temple". Here I learned its name - the temple of Tonatuh. [the significance of the name is lost on me] I also learned some further information:

1) the temple was located on the floor of a very old (?) volcanic crater roughly 1 mile across named the Valley of mists - so-called because it was constantly shrouded in mists supposedly emitted from vents and holes in the area. This was located roughly in the centre of the swamp. The only way to get there [except by air] was by way of winding

Location: Mulwahee Swamp
[Sector A1-23]

Date: Jan. 11/2516

Agent: No. 23/

Workname: Cpt. Alphanor

Subject: Temple of Tonatuh
[in the Valley of mists]

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and torturous paths known only to the locals.

2) the swamp [and possibly the crater] was the home of a race of man-lizards. These were for the most part docile and harmless fishermen, however there was a caste of warriors who were vicious fighters and judged as insane by the people of Mulwahee. There were also numerous terrors of the swamp.

3) the influence of the temple was all-pervading throughout the swamp but the actual town of Mulwahee was left severely alone. The men-lizard worshipped something originating in the temple - unknown to the townspeople although rumours existed.

3] After spending several days in town - at a place called the 'Mud and Eels Inn' I decided to take as close a look as possible at the temple. Towards this end I hired 3 guides/bodyguards, armed myself as well as possible, made safeguards against treachery [took hostages from the guide's families and set timebombs ~~on~~ in their houses for 3 weeks. Needless to say these precautions were not recieved well but they had no choice as my crew were the largest group of armed mutants in the area.]

These men assured me they knew the way to the temple. Their names were Kwetzel, Jon, and Quirrie.

All were mutated but not powerfully so. They were armed with cutlasses and pistols. I also took ~~the~~ 5 crewmen with me.

4] After 3 days travel [roughly] we arrived at our first village. It was located on a small pond on barges and floating platforms. The inhabitants were 5 ft. tall roughly and human except for scales on parts of their bodies, green skin, a tail [not prehensile]

and amphibious powers.

Unfortunately the first inhabitants we met were 3 warriors [bigger and far more violent than the normal inhabitants] who were armed with 15 ft. long vines studded with thorns and coated with a corrosive substance.

These immediately started in on a random, shuffling dance which I instructed my men to imitate. As they were doing this, the lizards fell on them with great cries and killed 2 immediately. We were forced to use our machine guns to kill the Man-Lizards before entering the village.

5] Surprisingly, no one seemed to mind our actions so we went to the 'church' which was a long, low building stained black. Inside we met our first inhabitant who turned out to be the only priest. He took immediate interest in our guns and especially my electronic devices. Some of the latter were hidden but he found them without the slightest hesitation.

This and later events pointed to a marked talent for electronics. These people, especially the priests, can detect electronic devices and quickly divine their usage. The priest also told us that lord death was coming in about 2 hours. This surprised me greatly so we decided to wait and see what was going on.

6] About an hour and a half later, the priest blew 3 times on a huge horn hanging from the ceiling. Immediately all the people on the floats dropped what they were doing and entered the church to stand in a group in front of the door. We stood to one side with weapons ready but hidden.

After about 10 minutes waiting, the priest blew the horn once more and announced ~~in~~ that lord death was here.

7] Immediately, an unnatural chill ran down my spine and I suddenly felt very cramped and weak. By looking from side to side I could see all the others in the room felt the same. The priest was at the rear of the room and seemed unaffected.

Suddenly, without a sound, death was in the doorway. A tall [maybe 8 ft.] man-like figure was in the doorway. He was covered in black robes covering his hands and feet.

However, the really strange thing was the fact that he had no face [if this was indeed a man]. Where his face ~~was~~ should have been, there were wisps of smoke or steam ~~obscuring~~ rising from beneath the cloak. The only features to be seen were 2 blazing red eyes showing from within the smoke.

The figure stood in the doorway stood for perhaps 15 seconds looking slowly about. By this time most people were kneeling or lying down from the weakness and cramps.

Then he raised his arm [still obscured by his robes] and pointed at one of the man-lizards. This one immediately gave a scream as his throat ~~seemingly~~ exploded and flopped to the ground dead. This sequence was repeated 5 times before 'Death' pointed at one of the guides and nothing happened.

'Death' seemed to hesitate at this and machine-like beeping could be heard seemingly from beneath the cowl. He then raised his hand again and a ruby beam flashed out from where

his hand would be, burning the guides face off.

The other 2 guides and one of my men then opened fire on 'Death' but hit a previously un~~known~~ force field which glowed yellow at the contact.

Since we were committed I ordered full fire, switched on my personal force field, and opened fire with my hand Laser.

This combination of fire power was enough to overcome the force field but not before a second guide and one of my men were killed by 'Death's' lasers [in either hand].

As our bullets hit, the robes were partially torn away revealing a smooth black metal exterior.

The bullets did little, but my laser hit the left arm which was obviously damaged.

At this, 'Death' seemed to grow angry for suddenly he was covered in flames and a huge lick of flame engulfed us, coming from 'Death's' torso. My companions were mortally wounded but my force field protected me so that I could get out a grenade and blow the floor out from under 'Death'-who promptly disappeared into the water.

I grabbed one of the remaining lizards, knocked him unconscious and ran through the doorway of the now-burning building onto the shore. Here I watched as 'Death' came rocketing up through the float, destroying the church utterly. He seemed to be propelled by a pack on/in his back.

'Death' then totally ^{ruined} ~~destroyed~~ the float using Lasers, grenades, flame thrower and brute force.

The survivors fled to shore to hide among the foilage.

After the destruction, 'Death' flew off in the direction of the temple [as pointed out to me by the guide].

8] I then ~~and~~ took the unconscious Mam-lizard and gave him a deep tranquilizer shot. After this I slit open his throat and found there a small electronic device attached to some explosives.

At this point, the priest found and attacked me, but as my force field was still up I took no damage and kicked him into the pond where he thrashed feebly and then sank into the water.

After this I put on a breathing mask and descended to the bottom of the pond and searched through the wreckage amid the mud. I recovered the weapons of my comrades and wrecked their faces in the proper fashion. I also saw that there were underground tunnels leading off in various directions, probably leading to other ponds.

9] As soon as I surfaced amid the floating wreckage I could see that something was going on. At one end of the pond was some sort of hovercraft. There were men around who were dressed in browns and greens and carried scimitars and sub-machine guns. These looked like a cross between men and mam-lizard with very light green skins and no tails.

There were also 2 men [pure-strain] dressed totally in black robes carrying some sort of blast- or laser- rifles. They were questioning some survivors who were pointing to the surface where I had dived.

As I surfaced, one of the men in brown and green spotted me and called out to one of those

in black.

He immediately raised his rifle and fired at me, yelling at the others to do the same. He hit me in the shoulder and I dived as the others opened fire. I floated some smoke-grenades and made off to the other end of the pond.

Here I surfaced and fired at them as I drew myself ashore. I was hit twice more by bullets in the leg.

10 I then made my way back to Molwahee, constantly followed and harried by those in brown and green.

I never saw any more of those in black but there were at least 30 of those others after me.

When I got back I defused the bombs and released the hostages and got back to my ship where I and my men could make a stand.

However as soon as I entered Molwahee, there was no more sign of my trackers.

After that I returned to Saffron and made this report and now await a chance to return in greater force.

END

Conclusions: 'Death' was either a man in battle armour, or [more likely] a sophisticated robot.

From the equipment I found at the bottom of the pond, the priests must put a explosive device at birth in the throat of every individual, with the possible exception of the warrior caste.

The temple is probably a concealed base of some sort with it's soldiers masquerading as priests.

They seem to place great emphasis on secrecy,

as shown by the massive manhunt to get me.

For the same reason they must stay away from Mulwahee.

I would say that some while ago, a group of humans came to [or built] the temple, aided the simple locals with technology, interbred to form the half-race and now rule,

