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In a world full of suspicion, treachery and hunters - we're the synths' only friends. We're the Railroad.

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The Railroad is an

underground movement with the primary aim of freeing sentient <u>synths</u> from their creators at <u>the Institute</u>.

: Contents

- 1. Background
 - 1.1. Origins
 - 1.2. Wyatt's efforts to rebuild
 - 1.3. Under the leadership of Pinky Thompson
 - 1.4. The Switchboard and P.A.M.
 - 1.5. Present day
- 2. Organization
 - 2.1. Ideology
- 3. Military
- 4. Technology
- 5. Interactions with the player character
 - 5.1. Fallout 3
 - 5.2. Fallout 4
 - 5.3. Safehouses
 - 5.4. Related quests
- 6. Appearances

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9. References

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Background

Origins

The Railroad has been in existence since at the least the time of the creation of the first successful Generation-3 synths by Institute scientists around the 2220s.[1] Following the public's discovery of the synths during the **Broken** Mask incident in Diamond City in 2229, the question if they deserve the same rights as natural humans became a major subject of debate, with frequent bickering between opposing sides. Many people believed that the Institute's synths were mere machines, just another model of advanced robot. Paranoia began to develop as local residents' loved ones vanished overnight and were replaced with artificial clones that eventually malfunctioned and went



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berserk, as with the case of Mr. Carter. Others, however, felt that synths deserved to he free having being treated

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ideals that the earliest possible incarnation of the Railroad would emerge.[2]

Wyatt's efforts to rebuild

It is in evidence that the Railroad has been beaten down and reborn many times over the years, however its clandestine nature has ensured the group's survival in the long run. The earliest known incarnation of the Railroad, led by Agamemnon, was shut down in November 2266, by an Institute raid on their headquarters. Wyatt took the responsibility of rebuilding the organization from the ground up, after many of the members left following the HQ massacre. A runner named John D. was the sole survivor. In order to keep the Railroad alive, Wyatt chose to keep the site for the new headquarters hidden upon its discovery. Learning from the mistakes of his predecessor, he had figured out that once the Institute had attacked a safehouse, it would've been easy for them to track down the HQ, as so many people knew about it.[3]



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revived Railroad, under the leadership of Wyatt, managed to get its first synth out of the Commonwealth. Under the motives of

maintaining what he called "operational security," John D. did not reveal the names of the new tourists he had found to help. Wyatt introduced multiple reforms to the Railroad's infrastructure. One of them was a clear hierarchy of gradually ascending power; a pyramid structure with independent tourists and

sympathizers on the bottom, safehouse operators and runners third, field agents second, and finally HQ members on top.[4] Furthermore, a dead drop

system was established to create a more robust and secure method of communication between agents, safehouses and HQ. <u>[5]</u>

Under the leadership of Pinky Thompson

In a period when the Railroad was once again experiencing dark times, Pinky Thompson succeeded Wyatt's role as



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survivors were able to make it out alive. After setting up shop at a new location, Pinky passed a new decree to tighten security at HQ, only giving heavies clearance to leave and ensuring that the organization moves to relay all packages out of the region as quick as possible. [6] He also recommended that all fugitive synths remain in custody of the Railroad until they are beyond the borders of the Commonwealth, following the assault on a homestead near Parsons State Insane Asylum by coursers, which resulted in the loss of a synth codenamed Lambda 8 and

When he received intel that a courser and a few other Institute operatives were on a mission taking them beyond the Commonwealth, Pinky assigned one of his agents, Victoria Watts, to shadow them on their trek south.[7] She later settled down in the Capital Wasteland and rented an apartment in Rivet City to lie low while protecting the

her spouse.[7]



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local security force to

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of being tracked down and reclaimed by the Synth Retention Bureau. The arrival of the bureau's head, Dr. Zimmer, and his synth escort Armitage, made the possibility of this threat more likely. It was then imperative that agent Watts was to remain in the area to serve as a bodyguard for Harkness.

In September 2276, Pinky's leadership started to come under pressure after the loss of another safehouse, Trinity. [8] He later resigned from office and was succeeded by Desdemona, who won against Dr. Carrington in the election. The doctor became Dez's right-hand man. [9]

The Switchboard and P.A.M.

Immediately after Desdemona took office, the Railroad began to take a big step forward. The new leadership put focus on the fundamentals; operational security, lookouts, compartmentalization, and counterintelligence, analyzing and making improvements where Pinky



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"Tinker Tom." Weatherby, a







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uesigneu new weapons and

other useful technologies for the Railroad as part of a complete rearmament program. Desdemona and her aides also made improvements to the dead drop network and introduced the railsign system to allow agents to covertly mark cache, safehouse, and dead drop locations, as well as the presence of allies and potential dangers. Simply put, it was like Christmas for the organization. No coursers were on the radar during the year.[10]

In <u>2280</u>, <u>Glory</u>, unit designation G7-81, a recently liberated synth, opted out of the memory wipe and joined the Railroad under the leadership of Desdemona. She was promoted to heavy the same year.[11]

The Railroad's current success streak ended in 2281, when the coursers discovered and razed another homestead to the ground. Yet, there were little casualties, and later that year, the faction's second heavy, **Tommy Whispers**,

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uncovered the Predictive



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Al that would become a vital asset to the Railroad for years to come.[12]

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Present day

In 2283, an Institute insider named Liam Binet, under the alias "PATRIOT," established contact with the outside world. Tinker Tom intercepted his messages and figured out his passphrase, which was "Mass Fusion." From then on, Patriot became the Railroad's main contact in the Institute, although he himself is totally unaware of this connection for security reasons.[13]

The good streak persisted into 2286, with Institute sightings completely ceasing for three months and just four synths rescued. However, this was once again the calm before the storm, as the Institute was gearing up to activate its reactor, while the Brotherhood decided it was time to intervene and stop its preying on the Commonwealth.[14]

Organization



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10 of 26

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stand runners and safehouse owners, then an even smaller group of field agents, and finally, the most secretive and heavily protected, the HQ members that have access to all the information and coordinates Railroad operations. All individuals answer to Desdemona. Field agents are given aliases in place of their real names in order to protect their identities and operate on a "need-to-know" basis to protect the Railroad.

While the Railroad's main concern is helping synths, they are also known to work with groups such as the Abolitionists to assist runaway slaves. The Railroad's methods for aiding in escape can be extreme, going so far as to find doctors such as Horace Pinkerton and Amari to perform full facial reconstruction and mind wipes on escapees. Their current command center is located in the Old North Church in downtown Boston, after their previous base was



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compromised following a raid

by the Institute Their

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also helped slaves escape and reach free areas.

Ideology

As far as the Institute is concerned, androids are mere machines with no free will of their own that exist only to serve their creators. [15][16] However, the Railroad stands by the doctrine that, even as machines, selfaware androids look, behave, think and feel as humans do, entitling them to the freedom intrinsically enjoyed by human beings as well as emancipation from their owners.[17] However, while the Railroad wishes to help Gen 3 synths, members are divided on Gen 1 and 2 synths, with some not wishing to aid the earlier models because they argue they are more robotic than sentient.[18]

The Railroad also occasionally assists human slaves when able, although they cite that there are many other abolitionist groups specifically focused on slaves, but no other group can aid with the unique



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alter the memories of the android to provide them with a clean slate, as well as the skills of a plastic surgeon to conceal the android's true identity.[20] A Railroad branch in the Capital Wasteland recently aided an android (designation A3-21),[21] but the operation was so risky that the branch had to temporarily shut down to keep its members safe until Commonwealth investigators abandoned the manhunt.[16] [22][23]

Military

Though the Railroad is a spy organization that prefers stealth and sabotage, it does maintain a small but wellequipped fighting force.

Railroad agents that specialize as frontline soldiers are known as "heavies." They are responsible for the defense of Railroad safehouses and escaped synths should they be attacked by enemy forces. They commonly make use of Gauss rifles or railway rifles

and wear armored coats.

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information network. Agents also serve a support role in establishing safe houses, stashing supplies, marking locations with railsigns and sabotaging enemy fortifications. They also have a network of non-members that assist them by providing safe harbor, money or manpower; they call these individuals "tourists."

Technology

The Railroad lacks the industrial base and refinement of the Institute, the firepower and armor of the Brotherhood of Steel, or the popular support of the Minutemen, forcing it to rely on what it can salvage or create on its own. For much of its known history, the Railroad was forced to get by with relatively low-tech weapons and gear merely adapted for their purposes. This situation changed completely with the introduction of **Tinker Tom** into headquarters. Best described as a suffering genius, Tom has revolutionized the Railroad's

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armor, and tools. The

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heavies finally boasted proper levels of protection, while custom weapons like the Deliverer ensured they had tools matching their skillset. For non-combat purposes, Tom has introduced the MILA, a complex surveillance device whose precise workings seem to be a mystery even to its inventory, but which ensures a steady stream of intel right into its headquarters. [10][24]

The other crucial asset, at least in 2287, is P.A.M., whose predictive capabilities and processing power were crucial to its survival.

Processing data provided to it by Railroad field operatives, P.A.M. provides the organization with locations of DIA caches, coursers to eliminate, and helps in planning operations so that they are as safe and effective as possible. [25]

Finally, through its associates, the Railroad has access to expert medical, electronic, and computer services. These allow for the



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Interactions with the player character

Fallout 3

In Fallout 3, the Railroad plays an important role in The Replicated Man, in which the Lone Wanderer becomes involved in their conflict. During the quest, an Institute scientist named Dr. Zimmer requests aid in capturing a runaway android, and Railroad agent Victoria Watts pleads with the Wanderer to take pity on the android and fake its death.

Dr. Zimmer, Ms. Watts, and the android give very logical and convincing arguments for their point of view, and the player character must make an ethical choice based on the limited information they gain from each of them. There are multiple "good Karma" solutions.

Fallout 4

In Fallout 4, it is possible for the Sole Survivor to learn



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the story. They can

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with **Doctor Amari** at the beginning of The Molecular Level who indicates that the Railroad would be helpful to their cause, or overhear people in the **Diamond City** market, the Dugout Inn or guards in Goodneighbor discussing the elusive Railroad. All of these will result in the Sole Survivor getting the quest Road to Freedom. Upon completion of this quest and subsequently Tradecraft, they will be presented with the opportunity to join the faction. Piper also makes comments about them when The Glowing Sea quest starts.

Membership in the Railroad may negatively affect relations with other main factions. The more quests the Sole Survivor does for the Railroad, the more the Institute and the

Brotherhood of Steel will disapprove of their actions. If the Sole Survivor sides with the Brotherhood of Steel or the Institute, they are eventually sent to exterminate the Railroad, as



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by joining the Railroad.

However, when completing the Minutemen version of

The Nuclear Option, the

optional mission must be

completed or the Railroad

(including <u>Deacon</u> if he is the

current companion) will

become hostile when the

player character next speaks

to <u>Desdemona</u>. One will still

be able to accept A Clean

Equation from P.A.M., Lost

Soul from Doctor Carrington

and even the To the

Mattresses missions from

Desdemona when notified by

Drummer Boy. Any extra

attempt to speak with her

outside accepting and

completing quests will cause

the Railroad to become

hostile. This appears to be a

bug as the Lost Soul

missions should not be

available if no survivors

remain at the Institute.

Safehouses

Railroad
 Griswold

HQ

safehouse

The

Herkimer

Switchboard

safehouse

(formerly)

(formerly)

Allen

Mercer



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• Dayton Salehouse

safehouse • Ticonderoga

Related quests

Road Option • Variableto (Railroad) Removal

Freedom Burning • To

• TradecraftCover the

• Undergrou**Bd**ston Mattresses

UndercoveAfter • Lost

• Operation Dark Soul

Ticonderod demory • The

Interrupte Replicated

Battle • Butcher's ^{Man}

of Bill • A

Bunker • Butcher's Clean

Hill Bill Equation

Precipice 2High

of Mercer Ground

War Cofebourge Tod

SafehouseEnd

• Rockets' • Jackpot of

Red the

Concierge
Glare
 Line

WeathervaneTheTactical

Nuclear • Randolph Thinking

Safehouse

Appearances

The Railroad appears in

Fallout 3, Fallout 4, its add-

on Far Harbor, and Fallout:

Wasteland Warfare.



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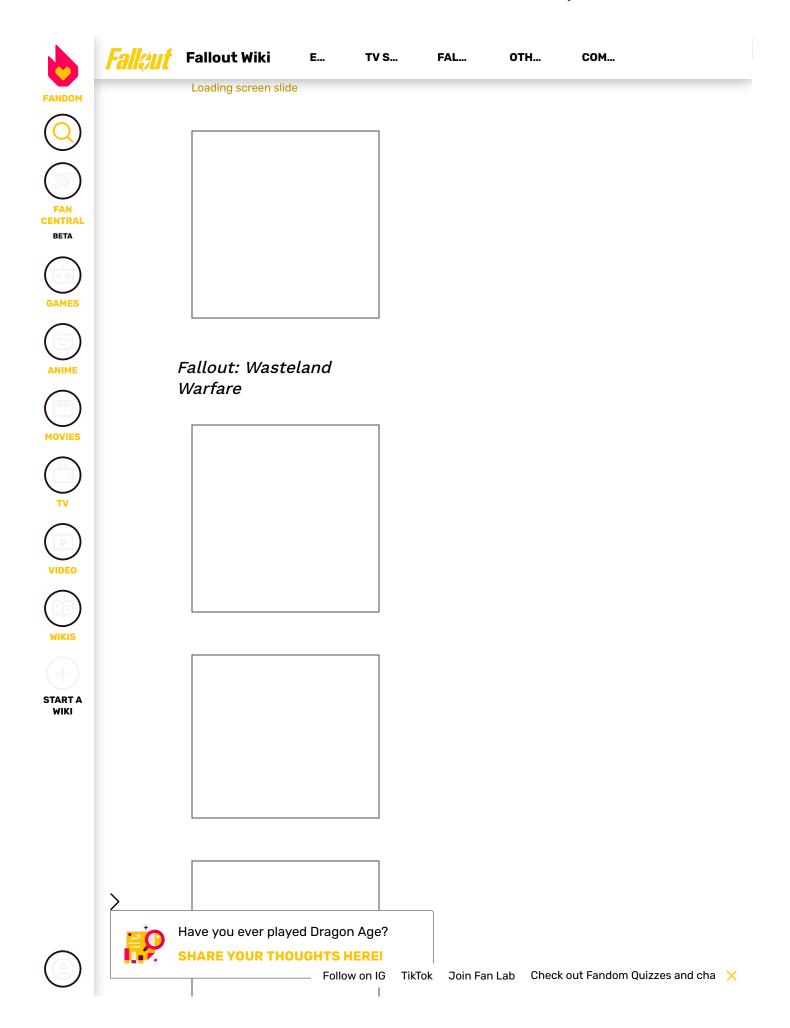
content relating to the Railroad. [Non-game 1]

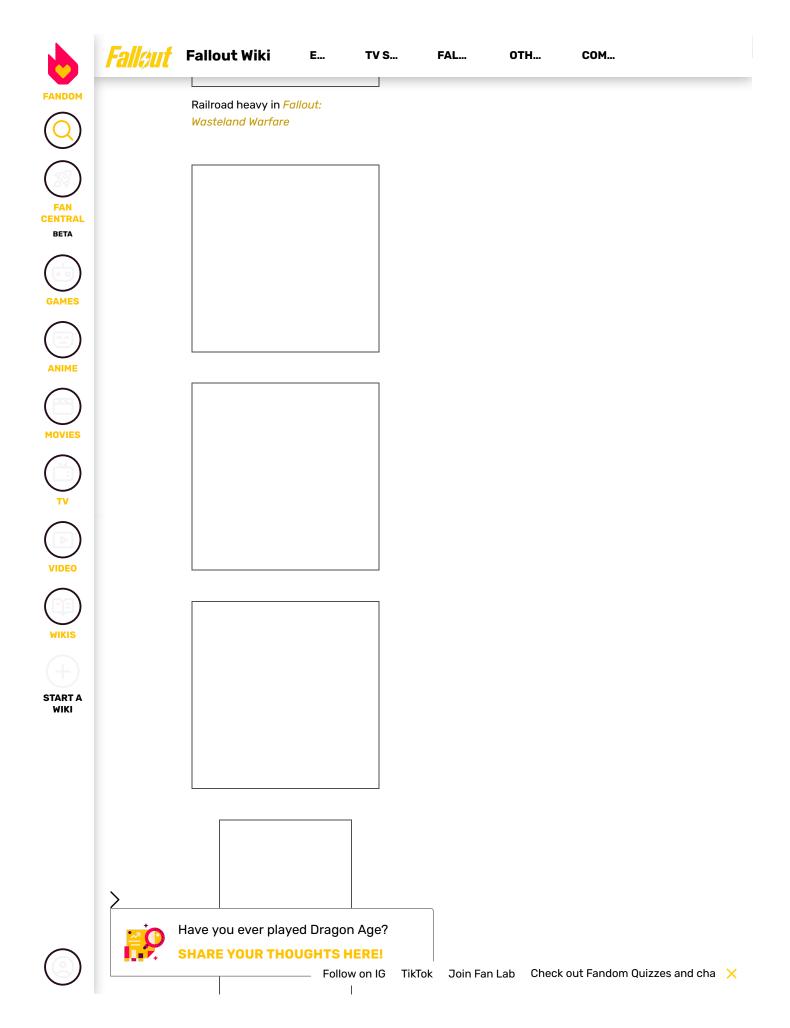
- The Railroad is modeled after the "Underground Railroad", an organization in nineteenth-century America dedicated to helping African-American slaves escape to northern free states and Canada through a network of secret routes and safehouses.
- The Railroad contains a number of similarities to the Thieves Guild from The Elder Scrolls
 V: Skyrim. Both feature an agent named Maven, the name 'Mercer', brick-walled underground home bases, the use of symbolic markings on walls around the Commonwealth, etc.

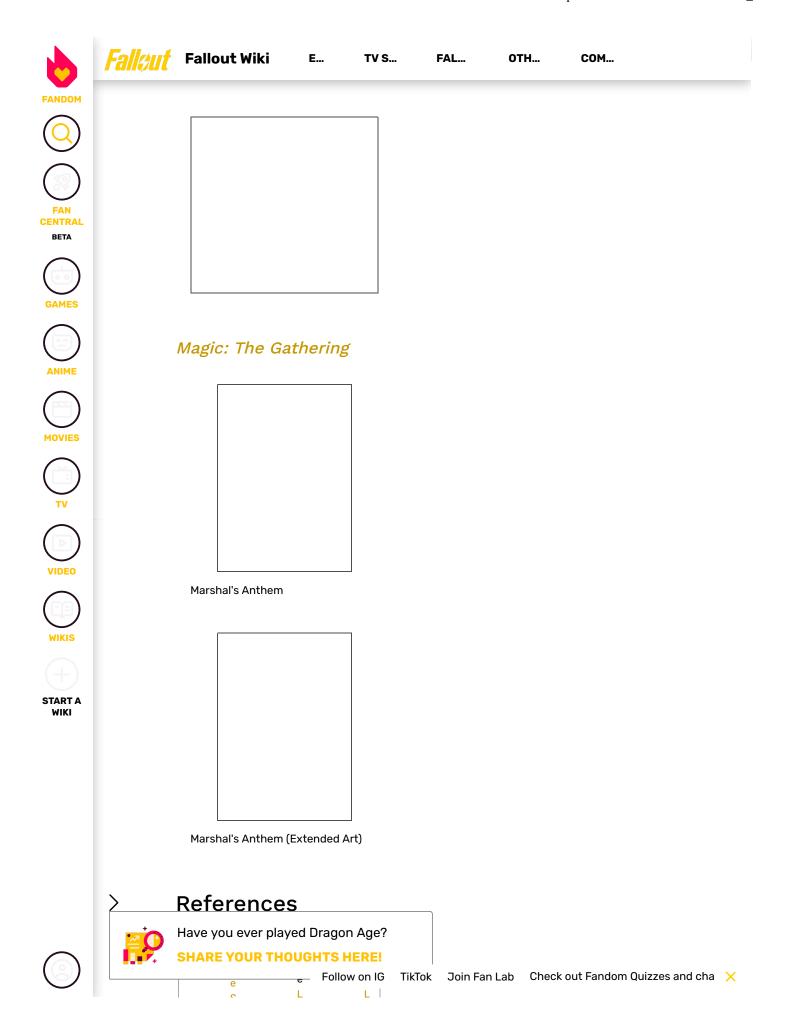
Gallery

Fallout 4

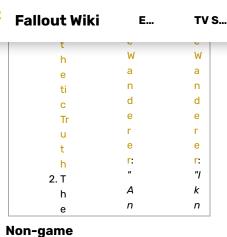












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1. Bethesda Fallout 76 Interview ~ QuakeCon At Home 2020 (https://youtu.b e/-vS0lrmXjo4?t=120):

Ferret Baudoin: "I was a designer on Fallout 4, I did the Railroad, I did Deacon, I did Curie, I did all sorts of fun quests there. And I was the lead quest designer at launch for all the content for Fallout 76, and then post-launch, I was lead designer."

Categories

Languages

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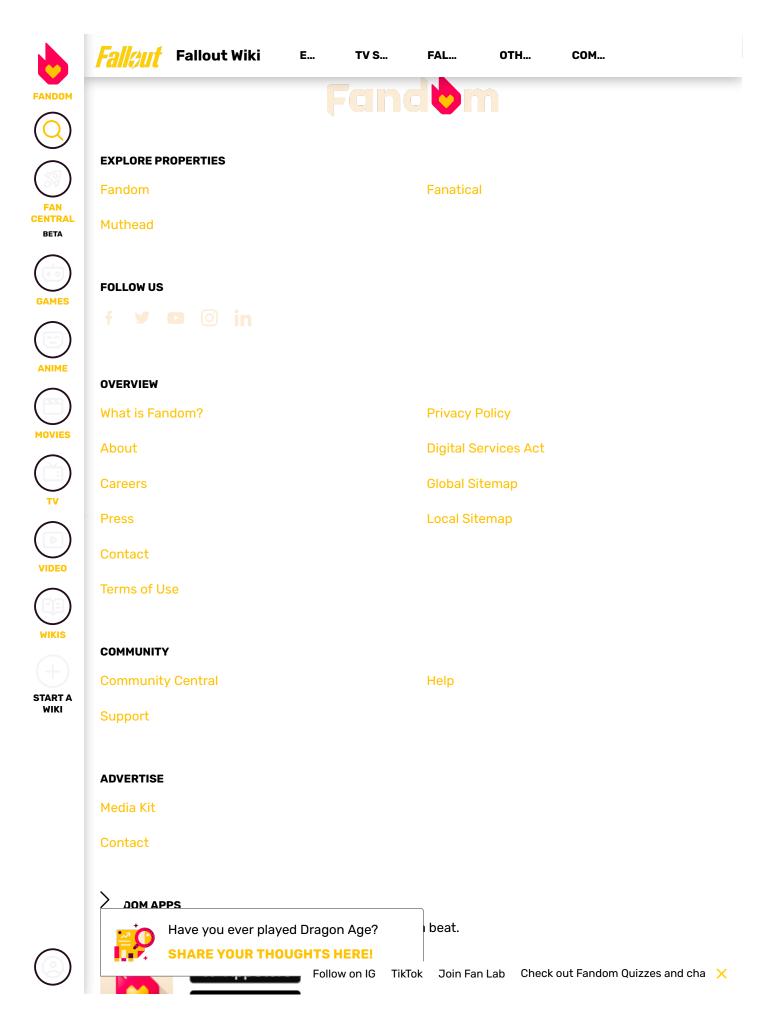
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