

NEW YEAR'S EVE DURING THE TIME OF WAR TCS Tiger's

Claw

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Confed History

Peter Halcyon: "A hero in the shadows"

By 1st Lt. Tom "Hardcopy" Andrews

A little from the columnist.

In this month's D'sW issue the editor assigned me the great responsibility to write the new years eve column. I thought that a nice place to begin my research from was the confederation's history archives and dig up something interesting. A historic event, maybe, that happened on the eve of a new year during the days of war. Someone could guess that my choices were countless considering the thirty years of war history I had in my disposal. However, I can confirm that it was a real challenge and please kids don't try it a home.

During my research, I kept falling into the misery and coldness of the war but my mind was set to find something that could sent a positive message to our readers. Something that could warm up the hearts of those of us who work in this cold space, light years away from our beloved families.

After hours and hours searching into the CIC database and as I was about to give up with this crazy idea of mine, accidentally, I came up with the following recording.

The Recording

TCS Tiger's Claw ICIS

Commander Air Group personal Log / audio

2342 2654.364

Good Evening, Colonel Halcyon.

Please enter your security authorization and personal

code.

Sec. Auth. XXXXXXXXXXXX

Pers. Code. XXXXXXX

Colonel Halcyon, you have access to your private Log System. Do you wish to start a recording at this time?

"Yes"

"This is going to be a long night for the whole crew.

This morning at 0600 hours HQ sent us a direct order to execute an offensive jump directly into Kilrathi territory codenamed as "operation: Thor's Hammer". Hah... "Operation: Death's Scythe" should be, if you ask me. Later the morning, a new years eve, I had to brief the 88th that I am sending them to their deaths. But I didn't.



I personally took the full responsibility and convinced captain Thorn to delay this order for 14 hours. I know that time is not something we have in abundance but I strongly believe that every single person of the crew has earned the right to have a talk with his family or friends and celebrate the last day of this year or even maybe of his life with his squad mates.

Time is 2345 and its less than four hours until we make a jump to the unknown..."

A door chime was recorded in the background.

"Enter!"

"Hey laddy! How' bout coming for a drink with me at the bar for once?"

"Eeehhh... You know me James..."
...Recording interrupted.

Colonel Peter Halcyon during an official ceremony aboard the TCS Tiger's Claw. (Img. courtesy TCN Public Relations Office)

The Profile

Peter Halcyon, was born in Fort Berthold, North Dakota in 2600.364. He was an orphan and he was raised by his grandfather Len Halcyon. He believed in the idea that he was a genuine successor of the ancient native American tribe Arikara. He spent his childhood on his grandfather's ranch. At the age of 18, he entered the gates of TCSA (Terran Confederation Space Academy) and in short time he proved to be a pilot with fair skills but an excellent tactician. One of his instructors once said to his squad mates; "When you fly and Peter is on the lead, forget what you know just

follow his orders". He was fond of old classic music and history. It is said that his personal quarters used to be a living library of ancient LP's and history books. He never married and never had the chance to have family. He had a glorious career in the TCSF (Terran Confederation Space Force) with four tours of duty (Vega, op. Thor's Hammer, op Crusade, Enigma) and a Terran Confederation Medal of Honor in his arsenal. During the year 2656, TCS Tiger's Claw was deployed to the Enigma with the mission to destroy the Kilrathi Sector Command at K'tithrak Mang. It was then

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メガレド マグラス レドイマ 「FV OMCCRSRTP ぐくてマンぐすえメ (MT当会) EMSRYYVZ ぐてひ ぐみぐらくレドカ レらくひのレガクてくら) くてひ レクア当ド くぐメ くてむ エスタレドえら メスマメカレカンス メニらくレニド ちえメガメレくてレ ひのメらぐくら





that Peter Halcyon's life ended, on the line of duty, joining his crew and maybe the only family he ever had. Those who knew or had the chance to work with him always had something good to say about him.

"Peter, was a great loss for the confederation and us all. A man of great courage and strength. I had the honor to fly under his command during the great days of winning. Although, he wasn't much older than me, he always gave me the sense of wisdom as if he was my father."

Senator James Taggart.

"Just point me where to shoot, Colonel." Major Michael "Iceman" Casey.

In 2654.364, TCS Tiger's Claw disobeyed a direct order to jump to the Midgard system. The reason simple; Sense of humanity, what makes the difference between us and the Kilrathi. Although the later actions and sacrifices of Tiger's Claw's crew made "operation: Thor's Hammer" a success the disobedience didn't go unpunished. Colonel Peter Halcyon, court-martialed and found guilty for "negligence during time of duty". The decision of punishment was left to the hands of Captain



A wartime photo of the TCS Tiger's Claw and on of its F-36 Hornet Light Fighter of the 88th Wing under the command of Colonel Peter Halcyon (Img. courtesy TCN Cpt. Howard Day.)

"I remember the Old Man. Can you believe it? He got his call-sign, "old man", from me. He was the only man in the history of TCSF who didn't have a call-sign! I remember first calling him like this because he grounded me after ramming my ship during a strike mission against a Ralari, pointless to say that the mission was a success.

I can still remember him saying: "You are grounded because you are careless with your life and you put in jeopardy the life of others. You are dismissed. And Lieutenant. Before I forget, your kill will not be officially counted."

Smart man, he knew how to hurt you. But he truly cared."

Major Todd "Maniac" Marshall.

Thorn.

From that time and after, it was rumored between the crew of Tiger's Claw, that Peter Halcyon had been seen to spent his off duty time hanging around sector C5 of the ship; which, happened to be the famous Tiger's Claw bar.

Happy New Year!