

# ANSBACH-CIBOLA ZEITUNG

(News in Character)

## **INTERVENTION IN ALEXANDRIA**

*A Dispatch From Geneva, the Empire of the Alexandrians*

On Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 a special detachment of the Royal Army led by the Ansbach Garrison Commander, Brevet Brigadier Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh O'Neill, crossed the frontier with Alexandria spearheading a mission of mercy to rescue Gotzborger and other foreign nationals trapped in Geneva by the Catholic uprising against the royal dictatorship of Emperor Edgard.



In the absence of any organised resistance 'O'NEILLFORCE' arrived on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July at the outskirts of Geneva completely unopposed and ready to conduct its humanitarian mission, protecting those making their way to the harbour for evacuation by the ships of the Royal Gotzborg Navy Ansbach Squadron.

Unfortunately the situation had been complicated by a air strike on the Alexandrian Parliament, the Palace of the Tuileries, carried out by a bomber deployed by Babkhans in the service of the Emperor.

Tensions in the city, which was under the effective control of a broadly neutral force of veterans returned from the Circum-Raynor War in the Woodstanic Republics, quickly translated into the sudden flare up of ethnic tensions between the Catholic youth of the city and a minority community of Babkhan exiles who bore the brunt of the inevitable retaliation and characteristically responded by forming an illegal paramilitary militia. The suspected role of a diplomat from the Kingdom of Lovely in developing this scenario as it played out has not been confirmed.

The Babkhan Quarter, famed for its curries, found itself under siege, surrounded by a mixed force of Catholic street gangs, local police and soldiers from the purportedly neutral force of returning veterans.

By ill-chance it was the Babkhan Quarter that the Royal Army had designated as the assembly point for foreign nationals, thus it was that Gotzborg inexorably found itself drawn into the tangled web of inter-ethnic conflict and in the unenviable position of defending the Babkhan community in Geneva from retaliation by those Alexandrians enraged by the inexplicable decision to bomb the Parliament.

In spite of these risks O'NEILLFORCE managed to take control of the situation and the evacuation has subsequently been underway since Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, directed by Admiral von Tsinger, who is said to be executing commands sent direct from His Royal Majesty in person. The majority of Gotzborger nationals are said to be embarked and the Ansbach Squadron is believed to be now ready to sail.

Yet the mission creep continues with reports that Royal Army soldiers have joined Imperial forces in rounding up Catholic Leaders and dissident parliamentarians.

Thanks to the sterling work of Governor de Montford Ansbach stands ready to receive an expected influx of between ten and twenty-five thousand evacuees and displaced persons. The Colony intends to provide support and shelter for the immediate duration of the emergency. Ultimately it is believed that the Royal Government will be asked to provide support for the post-conflict effort to repatriate or resettle the refugees.

While there is currently no prospect for a negotiated settlement between the opposing factions the Royal Army is to be congratulated for its efforts and the risks it has taken in averting a far larger humanitarian disaster.

The challenge in the coming weeks is to avoid drifting too far from the limited objectives set at the beginning of the intervention, which have now largely been met, and finding ourselves in a strategic conflict for which our forces are ill-equipped.

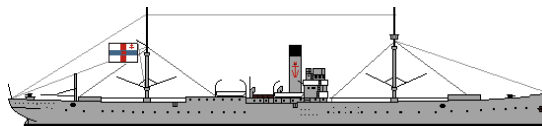
## **RPS Otter**

The Royal Paulovian Navy auxiliary ship Otter arrived in Gotzborg on the 20th of July 2006 informing the authorities that it had arrived to collect a cargo for Paulovia. What did not become clear until the vessel had departed for Port Opulenza, was that its cargo consisted of 400 volunteers for the Paulovian Foreign Legion.

In what was otherwise seemingly unrelated news the Home Office announced that prison crowding crisis has been solved.

RPS Otter arrived in Port Opulenza on the 27th of July 2006.

The volunteers are now subject to a selection process and training subsequent posting to either the 2nd or 3rd Battalion PFL.



## **UNDERSTANDING THE ALEXANDRIAN CIVIL WAR**

The Alexandrian conflict, although it has progressed in fits and starts rather than in a steady escalation, is evolving beyond the narrow religious conflict between the Roman Catholic political establishment and the Hedgehog worshipping Emperor. To the outsider it might seem baffling but the root causes of the civil disturbance which has come to dominate public life in Alexandria can only be understood in the terms of a religious and dynastic struggle.

In the preceding months the Alexandrian Emperor Edgard II of Alexandria had been attending secret meetings of a new religious cult that is quickly rising in popularity, called the Church of the Militant Sonic. The cult believes in the divinity of Sonic the Hedgehog. Sonic the Hedgehog is widely acknowledged to be a fictional character featured in a form of entertainment found in some parts of the world known as a 'videogame'. Although we are ignorant of the exact nature of the 'videogame' it is believed by some in the scientific community to be a form of interactive cinematography, though most people dismiss the idea as being unduly fanciful. Nonetheless it has been established that 'Sonic' is a fictional being invented by men and therefore in no way shape or form bears any comparison with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for our sins. However this in no way deters the adherents of the cult who believe that Sonic is manifested through the trinity of Sonic, Tails and Knuckles, the latter two also being lesser characters from the 'videogame'. The equivalent of Satan in this rather implausible pantheon is Doctor Robotnik. The Emperor, being somewhat fickle, enjoyed the religion so much that he has decided to break with the Empire's Catholic heritage and became a member. More precisely he wanted to become 'the Pope' of the Church of the Militant Sonic.

The Dauphin, Enrique Portela, believing strongly in the universal truth of the Roman Catholic Church and offended beyond measure by the crude parody which the Emperor sought to supplant it with, has risen up to overthrow the Emperor and eliminate the Church of the Militant Sonic.

At the outset of the conflict it did appear that the odds were massively stacked in the favour of the Dauphin's faction and that the Emperor was very much in peril and likely to be overthrown unless he distanced himself from the ludicrous beliefs he had become entangled in with precipitous haste.

Yet it proved to be the Emperor's very weakness that saved him. Faced with even the implied threat that one of the emperors of Micras faced deposition his peers and allies from across the community, so recently united in arms in the Circum-Raynor War, rushed to intervene on Edgard's behalf. Stormark, the Grand Commonwealth, and the Woodstanc Republics, Alexandria's allies, made the plunge immediately on the Emperor's side. This rapid mobilisation of external forces caught the rebels off guard. Although they had seized control of the majority of the armed forces the Catholics were not mobilised in sufficient time to prevent the Imperial Navy of Stormark launching a vicious and coordinated naval strike against Alexandria's outlying naval stations at Rheims & Staronne on the Isle of Port Royale, Corcovado on Santa Gertrudis, and Narbonne on the Isle of Anquilas. Similarly Alexandrian air defences were unable to defend against a Babkhan intruder flight which successfully bombed the Alexandrian Parliament. From this point on the Catholic faction was on the back foot. The war having begun before the Catholic Rebellion was ready, before their forces were mobilised, before even their orders of battle were prepared, thus they were unable to effectively counter the attacks being made upon them and accordingly they lost the initiative, confidence and group cohesion. Many prominent rebel figures simply went inactive or else quietly slipped away. Among them was the Dauphin. The demoralised remnants of the rebellion's leadership retreated to their bolt hole, the Fortaleza Azul, in Asuncion on the island of San Martin. It was there however that the Emperor sealed the outcome of this stage

in Alexandria's war of religion by launching a massive and sustained bombardment from a previously unsuspected armada. This failure in intelligence, in every sense, resulted in the destruction of the Catholic command and control system, shambolic as it was, and more importantly the incapacitation of the rebellions last remaining competent and motivated commander, Augusto de Asunción y Benavides.

If at this moment the Catholic Revolt can be said to be a spent force it cannot be said that Alexandria has turned the corner. Indeed the actions of the Emperor have precipitated a rupture between sovereign and parliament, the latter being reported to have departed en masse under the leadership of Peter James to a undisclosed foreign country. Emperor Edgard's latest reported move has been to lay siege to Geneva, a move that will surely alienate the populace further.

### Lecture Cancelled

It is with great regret that the Ansbach Historical Society announces that the series of lectures prepared by Herr Strausman entitled *The First Cibolans: Germania and San Martin* have been cancelled due to lack of public interest.

The Board of Directors have instead decided to invite interested parties to prepare lecture papers on the subject of Matbaic Orthodoxy.

The deadline for submissions shall be the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2006.

### Railway Delayed

Hopes of finding a contractor for the construction of a colonial railway system are fading as it appears that Gotzborg National Rail remains committed to completing the domestic railway network before committing to any ancillary projects in the colonies.

Previously Sideros, a steel manufacturer vested in Alostia, Anthelia, had expressed an interest in providing the steel for the construction of a line running from Schwabach to Port Augustus. However no further communications have been received from Sideros spokesman Mr. Koen Nevens.

The primary mode of land transportation in Ansbach therefore is likely to remain for the foreseeable future limited to the metalled road from Schwabach to Geneva and the donkey trail to Hananyo in Mabtaa.

### Comedy Praised


*The Archduchess of Litchenbad* a bawdy comedy opened today in Port Augustus to rave reviews from critics.

The plot revolves around a farce of mistaken identity when a Stormarker transvestite on holiday is wrongly believed to be the eponymous stern matriarch.

Critics rightly highlight the juxtaposed 'seduction/air raid' scene where the cross-dressing Archduchess in her boudoir and the Emperor of the Alexandrians both simultaneously drop their previously concealed bombshells with hilarity ensuing.

The comic geniuses behind this show are currently hard at work on their follow up projects, *The Emperor of Avaricum's Wedding* and *The Grand Czar of Landingberg's Coronation*.

### Schwabach

30°		High 28°
11:00 Sat	Partly Cloudy	Low 26°

### Port Augustus

30°		High 29°
11:00 Sat	Partly Cloudy	Low 26°

## **THE WIDER CIBOLA CRISIS : STRATEGIC OPTIONS**

*A Dispatch From Geneva, the Empire of the Alexandrians*

News that the Alexandrian parliament has escaped from the ravages of civil war to an as yet undisclosed foreign country should not surprise observers of the brewing conflict on our northern frontier. Historically conflicts on Micras have very seldom remained internal to a community or limited to the combatants originally engaged at the outbreak of hostilities. In part this owes a great deal to the interconnected relationships of the ruling classes of Micras, in countries like Woodstania, and now Alexandria it seems that there is no politician or ruler worth his salt who does not have contacts elsewhere who can arrange for a foreign army to come and help fight his corner. President Woodrow of the Woodstanic Republics was massively outgunned in the ill-conceived war against Matbaa and Riponia yet was able to call upon Alexandria, Stormark and the Grand Commonwealth to come to his defence, accordingly in spite of being very weak militarily he was able to stave off occupation at the hands of a vengeful coalition. Now the Emperor Edgard faced by serious domestic problems at home has been able to call upon almost exactly the same grand coalition to bail him out of trouble.

Where then does this leave Matbaa, far from pleased with the outcome of the Circum-Raynor War, and now presented with Alexandria in turmoil and her other enemies also now in striking distance as well, embroiled in the conflict on the continent of Cibola. Could this then escalate into a general war?

Not necessarily. The official Matbaic news agency, the excellent Dzez Matbaa reports that the Matbaic National Khanaushia voted by a 85% majority to adopt a position of official neutrality with regard to the conflict and it is hard to see how they could move from that position without there being a violation of their own good word. Matbaa has been a force for peace and good on Cibola and via Hananyo represents a potential market for Ansbach. It would seem therefore unlikely that they would choose to take advantage of their regional rival's misfortune.

However the Dzez Matbaa also informs us that Matbaic troops have been garrisoned in fortifications along the Matbaic-Alexandrian frontier. A wise defensive precaution one might assume but, considering the Alexandrian mobilisation for the civil war, which was slow, uncoordinated and chaotic, a move that none the less places the Matbaic armed forces at an immediate advantage should they choose to reverse their current position. Having assembled its forces along the common frontier Matbaa is in a uncommonly good position to take the initiative. Considering the border tensions that have accompanied both countries previous westward expansion Alexandria might be unwise to ease the guard at the border even at this time of civil strife and attendant distractions.

Where then would this leave Gotzborg and particularly Ansbach. Our antiquated military hardware leaves us ill suited to the demands of a wider war. While the Geneva Dash was a operation of short duration and limited objectives a larger war or more enduring campaign would expose our armed forces to a greater range of strategic and tactical threats than which they can necessarily counter. However that said the Gotzer Landser can operate well in an environment where the technological advantages of the enemy is negated by the presence of allied forces with access to similarly advanced weapon systems. Accordingly we cannot reasonably expect the Royal Army to conduct operations at the present time independently of a wider coalition. That said Gotzborg, by assisting the Imperials in suppressing Catholic and Parliamentary rebels in Geneva has already come down on the side of Emperor's Coalition. Accordingly while we can therefore expect not to be in the invidious position of fighting any potential modern adversary on our own we ought nonetheless to rebalance and increase our forces in the region.

Those who place cultural or ethical limitations, restrictions, or taboos upon their science, their governance, or their capacity to wage war put themselves at a very real disadvantage when the time comes that they are confronted by an adversary who does not share their scruples or constraints.

Every state, every government, should keep open to the fullest extent possible, the potential to utilise every available asset or technology at their disposal, regardless of how terrible the fruits of their endeavour may be. The parable of Pandora's Box has no meaning for us when someone else has already prised off the lid except that our armed forces are unprepared for the consequences. Through history the side with romantic notions about war making tends to loose.

While retaining the cultural and ceremonial conventions desired it is necessary for a paradigm shift to occur in tactics and equipment in order for the Royal Army to survive on a battlefield against more modern opponents

Working as far as possible within the restraints of the cultural limitations placed on technological and military development the royal army requires as a matter of urgency

The Geneva Dash being our first external combat experience can provide a number of instructive generalisations which the Royal Army would be wise to take on board. Firstly the good news, our infantry weapons are superb and perfectly suited to the high standards of marksmanship to which our soldiers are trained. The artillery is also adequate, though that said there is a need for armour piercing rounds for the rapid fire field guns.

However there is also the down side. Our Tropical/Colonial uniforms being essentially the old redcoats, that in other theatres including the mother country have been relegated to ceremonial usage only are too high visibility, replace with field uniforms or khaki. The panzers and armoured cars have proved to be too slow, too lightly armoured and too lightly armed for all but infantry support. A rapid upgrade is required. Future armoured vehicles ought to be capable of 30 mph cross terrain and 50-60 mph on roads.

The fighter aircraft provided for this campaign are hopelessly obsolete and have been relegated to army support role. Again for an effective air element capable of doing a full job in support of the Royal Army there should be a requirement for a monoplane aircraft capable of at least 300-400 mph and able to attain an altitude 25,000ft or higher.

We should also speed ahead with the phasing out horse cavalry for all but ceremonial/scouting roles. Mechanisation is the future not just for the cavalry but for all branches of the Royal Army. Armoured trucks for the transportation of infantry, such as are being showcased currently by Paulovia. We should also investigate the potential for providing artillery support as mobile as the new mechanised forces. For instance self propelled artillery pieces, or truck mounted Congreve rocket batteries are options that might be recommendable to the War Office.

While the Royal Army is acquitting itself well in the field presently if we do not take a more dynamic and adaptive approach to the procurement and utilisation of weapons systems we may well find that the next engagement we find ourselves in will not be to achieve some foreign policy objective but rather a fight for survival. In a colony so lacking in strategic depth as Ansbach such deficiencies as the Royal Army currently suffers might well prove positively fatal.

## **Ansbach Honoured**

For services to Gotzborg and to Ansbach Governor Charles de Montford and Garrison Commander Brevet Brigadier Hugh O'Neill have been honoured in the King's Birthday Honours at the Lonenberg Palace.

### **Knight of the Most Honourable Order of the Eagle**



Brevet Brigadier Hugh O'Neill

### **Officer of the Most Honourable Order of the Eagle**



Governor Charles de Montford

The rulers of Anthelia, Anthelia, Babkha, Hanover, Natopia and Paulovia were also honoured at the same ceremony as was His Grace the Duke of Montin amongst others.

By way of reply it seems His Royal Majesty Augustus Charles II has been honoured in Anthelia, Paulovia and Treithar. Truly the prestige of Gotzborg has never been higher in the community when the mark of so many a prince is the distinction conferred by the crown of Gotzborg.