

## Alternative realities in a nearby universe

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### Part 3

#### From Army Chief of Staff

**General:** Circular Message to ALL Alliance Members: The temporary ceasefire offered by GDI to the ID-ten-T alliance, as expected, disintegrated when the ID-ten-T founder attacked the GDI diplomatic outpost in Galaxy Six with hundreds of battleships, bombers and destroyers. There were no cargo ships in the ID-ten-T attack fleet, it was purely an illustration of strength and attempt to batter the Diplomat into submission.

That's me. I'm the Army Chief of Staff General and I'm also the Diplomat who was attacked, and, as I write this dispatch, I'm preparing for an unavoidable war, a war that's as unavoidable as moving a black pawn in response to an opening pawn move by white. And like chess, each move you make moves you closer to the

Peril Point, to that perilous point at which no matter which way you turn, it's into enemy fire. My rise through the ranks of the Galactic

Defense Initiative has been by a combination of attrition, good luck and I hope, my work ethic and respect of my fellow Galactic Defenders.

I am as prepared for war as its possible to be, after all, I've spent my entire time in the GDI doing nothing else but preparing for conflict, and war won't wait until you are ready for it and no matter how you wriggle and squirm, once war is on its way you have no option but to fight as hard as you can for survival. All these thoughts and more are in my mind as I strap my self into my beat up old LightFighter and blast off along the war path that leads straight to the front door of the ID-ten-T Founder, right behind me comes the newest addition to my fleet, a Destroyer!

Then comes 11 Bombers, 22 BattleShips, 111 Cruisers, 222 Heavy Weight Fighters and

1,111 Light Weight Fighters, there are also 111 Eprobes, 222 Small Cargos and 22 Large Cargos in the main armada for added firepower and plunder. An investment of well over 15 Million mixed metals, a large proportion of which was won on the field of battle, my mines are not that productive yet!

I think back to my last dispatch and of the myriad changes to my self and my fleet since that time. There I was, going off on my first major campaign with what I thought was a BIG Fleet, LOL, compared to the arsenal I now command I feel almost foolish,

but, I have the same 22 battleships I had back then, mostly because I have always taken lots of small Cargos into battle as



cannon fodder to trick the defence into concentrating their firepower onto the Probes, Small Cargos and Light Weight Fighters,

which allows my BIG ships the ability to unload all their ordinance.

I look again at the espionage report for the target ahead, it's a tough one, but carefully selected. The fleet stationed there is not well balanced, too many cheap cannons and none of those nasty plasma turrets that chew up SC and LF like you wouldn't believe, as always, the major concern is that the target doesn't come on line during the two and a half hours it takes me to fly there, see my attack heading his way and moves all the resources and ships to safety...

It should be a profitable score for the GDI, not only will I take home half of all "res" with my first attack, I will crash down 30% of the defenses and convert ALL of those fighting ship of the ID-ten-10 into the Debris Field where my recyclers will scoop them

(and my broken bits of cannon fodder) all up and bring the whole lot back to home world for reallocation into fighting ships for the GDI. Hmmn, quite a chunk of res to digest and the shipyard ought to be very happy when I place my next order.....

A small voices squeaks in my ear, "Dad. I'm hungry. Can you get me something to eat?"

### Real Life vs Game Life

The number of people who think computer gaming a waste of time is as large as ever, and the number of conversations in which I have pointed out the positives involved in "gaming" seem to out-number the number of attacks I have made in universe 17 <ogame.org>

In my real life world of 1,000 pieces of spam a day generated

by the more than 100 websites I maintain, most of which are clamoring for attention, I find the tranquility of my alternative reality in a nearby universe comforting in the interludes between wwwork. The decisions I make and the actions I take hurt no one in reality - sticks and stones can break your bones, but mouse clicks cannot harm you - also, the "what to build and what to do next" is sheer mental stimulation and has a positive flow-on into real life.

As I say over and over again, it's all about resource allocation and the spaceships only exist as a metaphor.... In the last few months I have met people from all over the world, people united in their love of fun and the esoteric rewards of successful strategic planning. New friendships have been forged and many many laughs have been had.

I have also found that in my role as GDI Diplomat I am able to practice many of the skills I require for Real Life Cannabis Law Reform, and the amount of typing practice I have been getting of late is doing me no end of good either, I can talk through my fingers even faster than ever!

## Hard-core Nimbin bushwalkers scale the festive heights

The weekend of 16th and 17th December, which was a little wet, saw ten members of the club camping up in the Border Ranges National Park at the Forest Tops rest area for Xmas celebrations and a couple of day walks. We suspect that the numbers were down because of the weather, though a variety of other excuses were offered. Just want to let people know what a great time we had!

Forest Tops rest area is a small glade nestling in tall rain-forest immediately beside the road - so that those with a camper van (like Janna and Gerard) or wanting to sleep in their vehicle (like Joy) are very close to those in tents and the excellent facilities, namely: wood pile (complete with snakes), composting loo, water tanks and, best of all, a generous shelter shed with double fire-place.

It was very, very cosy on two cold wet nights and we enjoyed two great evenings: great company, good food, sufficient drinky-poops to warm the cockles of the heart, tall tales of horses and molasses, amongst others, and serenaded by amplexing Red-eyed Green Tree Frogs. What more could one want of life.

On Saturday, in the rain, we walked the 10.5 km Booyong Walk - effectively down-hill all the way on a good track, via spectacular palm groves, to Sheepstation Creek Camping Area. The Rosewood Loop comes off this track and Judy Hales wanted to do it, but we decided to leave it for our next visit, hopefully in finer weather. It was an easy trip back up to Forest Tops - in our Landrover.

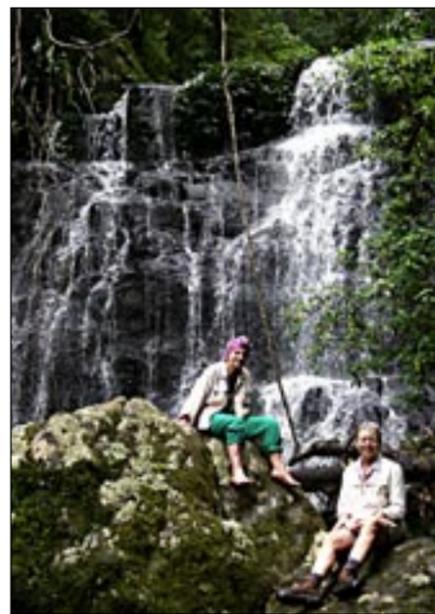
Next morning we packed up camp and set off from the bottom end of the Brindle Creek walk to Selva Falls and back - an easy walk on a good track with spectacular Antarctic Beech trees. There had been a violent storm with massive hail a few weeks beforehand and the canopy was shredded, as were the Torrent Lilies on the forest floor. Nonetheless it was a pleasant walking and

the falls were in very good shape - and there was plenty of material for the fungus photographers.

Just as we started back, Don Durrant appeared. He had been put off by the rain, then, wondering what he might have missed out on, decided to come up to see if anyone was

actually doing the walk! Much hilarity on our part. A few weeks previously the club had enjoyed a fabulous walk, in somewhat finer weather, around Don's 400 acres of dry rain forest (no lawyer vine) at Afterlee, west of Kyogle - and we will certainly go back in the new year.

Don is a great bush-walker and, on the way back, he showed us the start of a track to the Stinson Wreck and Don has offered to lead the club on this walk (an overnigher) next September - when the orchids are in bloom. By this time the cloud had descended thick and wet over this highest edge of the range, so we skipped The Pinnacle, briefly stopped at the Blackbutts Lookout and were rewarded with a faint view of Mount Warning. We then stopped for a final get together in the shelter shed at the Bar Mountain picnic area to discuss future plans - one suggestion being that if a walk is a longish drive away we should look out for possible camping areas in the vicinity



and offer the opportunity for a weekend camp - could be attractive for families with kids. Also planned for next August is a week camping and walking on Moreton Island.

In the immediate future the club will meet at Kay and Len's place sometime in January to settle the program for the next three months - actual time of meeting will be circulated to members and also placed on our web-page:- <http://www.geocities.com/nimbinbushwalkers>

We welcome suggestions for new walks and are always looking for people to lead walks.

### 2007 First Walk

There will be no walks in January. The first walk of 2007 will be on Sunday 4th February to Taloom Falls & Yabra Creek Falls, Grade 1. Leader Don Durrant (6633-3138, at night) - Len Martin, (at Nimbin, 6689-0254)

Further details of arrangements will be posted at <[www.geocities.com/nimbinbushwalkers](http://www.geocities.com/nimbinbushwalkers)>

### Nimbin Bowling Sport and Recreation Club

Sibley St Nimbin, Phone 6689-1250

Come and enjoy!

For information of members and guests.

### Social bowlers welcome

Air-conditioned lounge, bar and dining room

Asian Star Restaurant open 6 days

Lunch & Dinner

**Nimbin Gourmet**  
Beyond the Rainbow  
Nimbin's new place to eat.  
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