

## **Shadow Squadron: A History**

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(To be added to wiki on approval of WARD and IO after RtF)

Shadow Squadron has a long and storied history of honourable service, starting during the Clone Wars and continuing to this day. This article intends to chronicle that history so that future generations may learn about the exploits of this distinguished squadron.

### Early Days – The Clone Wars

The original Shadow Squadron were an elite collection of Clone pilot and gunners personally assembled and trained by famed Jedi Knight and Hero of the Republic, Anakin Skywalker. Originally flying V-19 Torrent Starfighters, Shadow Squadron fought with distinction at Kadavo, attacking the slave processing facility there and liberating thousands of people. Later, having converted to advanced BTL-B Y-Wing fighter-bombers, Shadow Squadron led the attack on the Separatist Dreadnought *Malevolence*, commanded by Droid General Grievous, disabling it despite suffering heavy losses in the process.

Later in the Clone Wars, Shadow Squadron fought bravely at the Battle of Kamino, where they fought off the Separatist Blockade. Though several large pieces of debris landed on the planet, facilitating the Droid attack on the Cloning Facilities, Shadow Squadron were decorated for their part in the battle.

### Rise of the Galactic Empire

During the Rise of the Empire, Shadow Squadron's surviving veterans were replaced with Clones who had become sadistic and ruthless over the course of the Clone Wars, simultaneously trading their Y-Wings for V-Wings and ARC-170s which they painted a two tone light and dark grey scheme to better reflect their position as enforcers of Imperial rule and hunters of those who clung to the old ways of The Old Republic.

Shadow Squadron would later exchange their Clone Wars vintage craft, and many of the surviving Clone pilots for volunteers flying modified TIE Bombers that boasted greater firepower, speed and agility. These craft were famously tasked by Darth Vader to attack the fleet led by the Rebel Frigate *Salvation* outside the Itani Nebula. This was a diversion, however, as the main goal was for Bounty Hunter Boba Fett to capture *Salvation's* Captain, former Imperial Ace Juno Eclipse.

Shadow Squadron destroyed many Rebel craft that day, for minimal losses, and Fett returned to Vader with the captive Eclipse.

### Galactic Civil War

Following the Battle of Yavin, Shadow Squadron continued to field test experimental craft. Several pilots were dispatched to a remote facility where the TIE Phantom was being tested, while others tested experimental TIE Defenders under the command of Grand Admiral Zaarin and defended the Bretie Facility and Obsidian Station. Unfortunately, their intervention in both occurrences proved

fruitless and the Rebel forces were victorious. This marked the beginning of Shadow Squadron's decline into obscurity, as no information is known after this date.

### The New Republic

Though not part of the direct lineage as far as Imperial historians are concerned, it should be noted that there was a Shadow Squadron active in the New Republic fleet circa 8ABY. This squadron was notable for participating in General Han Solo's hunt for Warlord Zsinj, flying X-Wing starfighters at the Battle of Selaggis in which Shadow 12 was lost. Its fate after this time is currently unknown.

### Emperor's Hammer

Shadow Squadron was reactivated in Imperial hands circa 10ABY aboard the Frigate *Insidious*, where it served initially as an X-Wing squadron in the space superiority role before transferring to the heavy support role and exchanging their venerable T-65s for experimental Shadow Class Y-Wings. This change also saw a transfer to the Calamari Cruiser *Fear*, from which Shadow Squadron operated for over a decade.

Following a restructuring that saw the Infiltrator Wing cease to exist as an independent part of the Emperor's Hammer, Shadow Squadron was transferred to the jurisdiction of the TIE Corps aboard the Calamari Cruiser *Redemption* alongside Red, Green, and Blue Squadrons. It continued to serve with distinction in a support role, never quite achieving the fame that the other squadrons secured for themselves.

However, despite lacking the plaudits of their comrades, Shadow Squadron continues to be a vital asset to the TIE Corps and will do for many years to come.

### Shadow Class Y-Wing

The Shadow Class Y-Wing is a modification of the original Koensayr BTL-S3 Y-Wing Starfighter; chosen for its ruggedness and versatility. The S3 variant was chosen over the more numerous A4 because of its expanded crew compartment and more powerful engines would be vital for the role of a long-range reconnaissance and strike fighter. This is similar to the use of stripped down S3s to create the "Longprobe" variant Y-Wing in the Rebel Alliance/New Republic.

When constructing the prototype, Infiltrator Wing engineers stripped down the larger two-seat Y-Wing and removed any unnecessary equipment, including the mechanisms to rotate the dorsal Ion Cannon turret. With this saved space, ordnance capacity was expanded to roughly double the normal amount and additional laser cannons were mounted in the nose.

In addition to the increase in firepower, the Shadow Class Y-Wing has reinforced sensor-deflecting armour and is coated in paint that absorbs part of the visible spectrum, which reduces visibility and sensor profile.

Finally, the both Sublight and Hyperdrive Engines have been upgraded to allow the Shadow Class Y-Wing to go further and faster than its predecessors. Though not as agile as some of its Infiltrator Wing contemporaries such as the X-Wing, its unique blend of speed and ruggedness make it a perfect choice for long-range strike missions against hardened targets with or without escorting starfighters.

In all, the Shadow Class Y-Wing is the perfect strike craft for missions behind enemy lines, regardless who the enemy is. With a skilled pilot at the controls, a Shadow can sneak through enemy patrols, destroy its target, and escape without ever being detected. If it **is** detected, however, a Shadow is more than capable of fighting its way out of any situation.