

Imperial Storm 3 - 2021 (29 ABY)

Battle #2: Bunduki the Last Bastion

Aboard the flagship ISD II Hammer, **Phoenix ‘nine fingers’ Berkana**, **Genie “the one who never sleeps”**, **Alejandro “Minerva” Araujo**, **Taygetta “boogeyman” Balet**, **Highlander “the one”** and **Garyth “fortune teller” Mantysa** were sitting around the table, playing cards. The table was littered with nuts, lots of Epsi-Cola, some Yama Beers, a shelf-full of Chalquilla and for some reason, Genie was treating himself to a Zekks-on-the-beach. Everyone was focused on the game, loud noise and yelling. Back and forth banter. Garyth threw a glance at the closed door

Moments later, a knock on the door.

“Come in”, Phoenix said.

CM Hearn Langin approached the desk.

“Excuse me LC Genie, you had asked that we notify you the moment we arrived at the Bunduki System.” Hearn continued, “Our fleet is about to drop out of hyperspace any moment now.”

“Deploy a rotation of patrol squadrons as we discussed. Move the ISDs in orbit around the planet and deploy the troops. Alert us at the first sign of any enemy vessels approaching”, replied Genie.

Taygetta leaned towards Phoenix, “Comeon Phoenix, tell us the location of those pesky Challenge and Warrior fleets! What would it take? Imperial Credits? Twilek Women? Losing another finger?”

“Oooohhhh”, everyone else at the table instantly reacted to that last remark.

Phoenix, despite being half-drunk, threw a left punch, only for Taygetta to duck. The fist landed right in the forehead of Alejandro, who immediately fell off his chair.

“Hhhheeeeyyy!”, bellowed Alejandro, as he tried to pick himself up.

Phoenix turned towards Taygetta. “Trying to get info out of me I can forgive; *hic* trying to bribe me, perhaps as well; but do not make any jokes about my fingers! *hic* ”

Garyth was looking at Genie. Genie smiled and said “I know what you are thinking, we are stirring the hornet’s nest”. Highlander, meanwhile gestured to Hearn, “you are dismissed commander”.

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Two days later, the radar began glowing red.

LCM Malin Resment leaned over the console.

“Lieutenant Barkey! Report!”

“A huge number of enemy vessels are coming out of hyperspace! Multiple Dreadnaughts, Carrack Cruisers and Corvettes! Sir! There is more! An ISD II has just come out of hyperspace! It is the **ISD II Warrior**! They are launching TIE Defenders and TIE Advanced fighters”. “Alert LC Genie immediately!!!” LCM Resment interrupted.

Malin rushed to the central office, barged into an on-going officer meeting.

“Sir, a huge fleet from the Warrior has just come out of hyperspace!”

Genie swiftly turned, signalled with his arms and commanded “Release the Sardaukar!... I mean, launch all TIE Fighter Squadrons immediately!”

“At onc....” LCM Malin paused. A cold sweat dripped from his forehead. “Sir?”

“Yes?”

“We don’t have any TIE Fighters.”

“Oh, what fighters do we have?”

“Missile Boats”.

“Launch all our elite Missile Boat Squadrons then!”

“At once, sir!”

Garyth was looking at Genie.

“What!?” Genie exclaimed.

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In the midst of battle (middle of day 2), the ISD Hood and the ISD Punisher accelerated towards the Warrior, as several squadrons of Missile Boats were flanking from the right side. Swarms of TIE Defenders attempted to thwart the Hammer’s Elite Squadrons, but it proved too much. “Torpedoes away”, shouted the Black Ranger. The Warrior’s forces scrambled to shoot down the impending blue doom that was hurling towards the ISD II Warrior. Around 200 torpedoes were valiantly shot down, but in a heroic attempt, Delta and Alpha Squadrons sped through and launched another barrage of torpedoes, making their mark on the Warrior.

The Warrior was in flames. VSD Harpax along with several Carrack Cruisers surged towards the ISD II Hammer. Genie immediately ordered for a swift maneuver by ISDs Warspite and Inflexible.

“Protect our flagship at all costs!”, Genie shouted through the comms. He turned towards CM Hearn Langin. “Begin evacuation of all non-essential personnel from our other ISDs immediately!”

Genie continued on the comms, “Ewok Tripod... Ewok Tripod, come in.... LCM Solohan”.

“Yes?” a low deep voice replied through the comms.

“Take your YT-1300 and pick up any surviving pilots that are still out there”.

“We only got LCM Gytheran and COL Gyssler.”

“Who is COL Gyssler?... Nevermind, pick them up, we need to dodge the remaining fire from the Warrior’s ships. Let the rest of their ships burn. We achieved what we came out here to do”.

“This was a victory, but not without its costs” Taygetta recognized.

“Indeed, it seems all three teams have formidable pilots, there’s no battle that will not end up being bloody”, Genie replied. “Right about now, I wish I had some Chalquilla with Epsi-Cola. Let’s get the fleet out of here!”