

APPENDIX III: PLAYER HANDOUTS

PLAYER HANDOUT I: MARA PLANETARY DATAFAX

CLASSIFICATION: DARK OMEGA

+++Warning! If you are viewing this record without authorisation report immediately to your nearest Holy Ordos Officio for summary judgment+++

+++Hexagramtical Encryption Engaged+++

++File Record Begins+++

DATE/STAMP: 5945815.M41

SUBJECT: Mara

Population: None –Mara V (also simply known as Mara) is classified as a Dead World, and the whole system declared off-limits to legitimate Imperial traffic by Inquisitorial Edict.

Inquisitorial access available ONLY by special writ of Conclave (see ordnance lamda-extris-9)

Formerly: Arbites Penal Colony: 743.M41-768.M41: pop approx 32,000, 78% Casualties/planet abandoned

Formerly: Independent Mining Settlements Circa 980.M40-191.M41: population unknown, lost without trace.

Tithe Grade: None

Geography/Demography: Mara V is an ice-world not capable of sustaining Terran life forms without artificial assistance due to the extreme cold and this atmosphere. During the planet's day cycle, high levels of surface radiation owing to solar wind bombardment are likewise inimical to long-term survival on the planetary surface. The majority of the planet's surface is covered by permanent glaciations up to a depth of several kilometres in some areas. Ambient temperature seldom rises sufficiently to allow water to exist in a gaseous state other than by cryomagna irruption.

The only structures evident are those of the former penal colony; the primary installation (Station M-Alpha) was constructed atop an ice plateau in the planet's geologically stable equatorial zone and remains largely intact. The status of thirty-plus mining rigs and prospector bases located elsewhere on Mara's surface that were also abandoned during the world's desertion remains largely unknown.

Governmental Type: None, but the Mara system is still nominally held as a protectorate of the Calixis Sector Adeptus Arbites.

Planetary Governor: Lapsed/None Current. Title formerly held by the office of the First Keeper (the highest ranking penitentiary marshal).

Adept Presence: None

Military: Trade/Economy/Addendum: Former penal colony designated as Ice Station Mara has been abandoned for more than fifty years owing to {SEALED/DELETED}. During the period of its operation the station's inmates conducted mining and prospecting operations for valuable trace metallic elements and high-pressure formed crystal strata in direct tithe to the subsector government. Under direct Arbites oversight, deep core excavations based upon ancient tunnel systems and cave networks extant sub-surface.

Passage to the Mara system is forbidden. Due to the nature of the moral threat perceived to long-term residents in the system, no close blockade is maintained; a distance patrol piquet is maintained at regular intervals. No legitimate Imperial commerce or shipping takes place on or around Mara. Renegade or outlaw traffic to the system is rare but not unknown.

The Mara system is qualified as a Class Mu danger to shipping/navigation in the region.

Thought For The Day: Fates worse than death are the just reward of the curious.



Final Transmission from Prison Colony

Loyal Acolytes,

You are requested and required forthwith under the authority of the God-Emperor of Mankind to submit to this writ and order and serve the most Holy Ordo of His Inquisition, by my writ and the codicil of the most honoured Caidin, Lord Inquisitor-General of the Conclave Calixis.

Firstly I congratulate you. By the dint of your faith, ability and will to survive, you have brought unto our attention a most perfidious threat to the future safety of the Imperium of Man. The events of the Maarlock Legacy, of which you have been a part, I believe poses as grave a risk as the Holy Ordo has seen in the Calixis Sector in many years. It is only by your blood and skill that a greater tragedy has not come to pass.

Proceed now to Mara and finish this matter. The world is forbidden and perilous, but somewhere beneath the haunted corridors and chambers of the forsaken penitentiary mine you may find the Blind Tesseract (See Addendum), the ancient door by which it now seems certain Maarlock left and will soon return. Stop him, and prevent others from taking his secrets for their own.

You must go swiftly, and act with conviction. My agents inform me that others who seek the Legacy are now also aware of the truth and a strong possibility exists that the Holy Ordo's own numbers have been compromised over this matter, although from within or without remains yet to be seen.

Go in the Light of the Golden Throne, serve us honourably and return in victory from the darkness.

Inquisitor Silas Marr



+++ SEALED RECORD ADENDUM—GIMEL OBSIDIAN SUB CLUSTER ANNEX+++

CLASSIFICATION: EBON OMEGA

SUBJECT: Compiled report on the activity of Solomon Haarlock on planet designate Mara—Calyx Expanse

DATE OF ENTRY: 7646.734.M36

Initial reports from our agents hidden within the close circle of Rogue Trader Solomon Haarlock report that the fifth planet of the star system within the unexplored Calyx Expanse (see attached co-ordinates) indicates traces of structures constructed sub-surface of planetoid; constructions first believed to be natural by-products of (now extinct) volcanism, However, investigation and later discoveries proved this to be false. The origin of these constructions is unknown, but our agents relay the opinion of Haarlock's Savant Magister that they predate not only the Imperium, but in all likelihood organic life in this part of the galaxy. These structures, combined with the radiation from the system's violent and anomalous sun and very unusual crystalline mineral deposits, have a profound and unpredictable effect on the fabric of Realspace in the locale of the planet; not only creating fissures through which the energies of the Warp can seep unassisted, but also on localised space-time. A recent expedition into the largest discovered cave system deep below the surface of the planet has accessed the largest and most unusual structure to date. Haarlock himself is reported to have completed the last stage of this descent accompanied only by his trusted Navigator Hilar-Set Nostromo.

On his return, Haarlock seemed very shaken by his experiences (which, given his character, is an extremely noteworthy event) and the navigator Nostromo was violently distressed as if overcome by fear. Both talked to Haarlock's secret inner circle of seeing the threshold of a 'twisted labyrinth of possibility'; a 'Blind Tesseract' as it was put by Nostromo, although other details I have been unable to ascertain. Haarlock committed his observations, and those of Nostromo, to his personal ciphered journals in one of his encrypted 'Grey Psalters' and banned all talk of the structures beneath the planet before ordering an immediate full withdrawal from the system. As a final note, it is worth mentioning that the name Haarlock has given to the new system in his charts is 'Mara,' originating in this case from one of the ancient Terran root-tongues of which he is so fond, meaning I believe, 'hell' or 'daemon' or 'an evil dream'....

++**Note**++ Inquisitor Ark Ashtyn's analysis of incident reports from the Reality Incursion of 743.M41 links the epicentre of the disturbances to an area of new expansion in the station's genetoria complex sub-levels. The area of the plateau they occupy may well tally with Haarlock's discoveries millennia before++

+++END OF SEALED RECORD ADDENDUM+++

