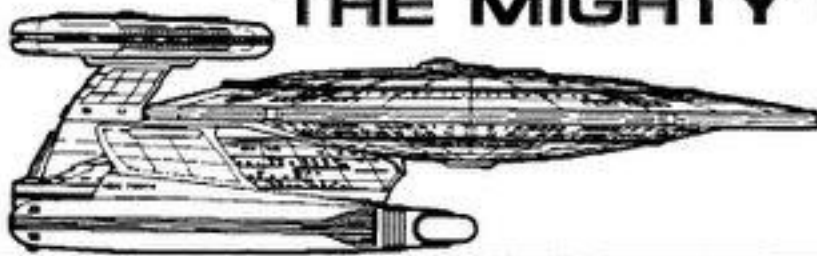


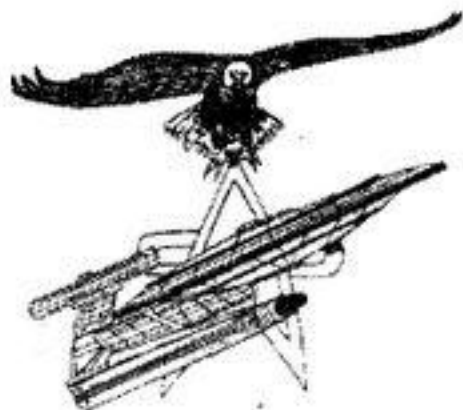
THE MIGHTY MAX



A Publication of the USS MAXIMILLIAN, NCC-72016

July / August 1996

The USS MAXIMILLIAN 4th year Anniversary!



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CAPTAINS LOG: CAPTAIN MATT MORRIS

Greetings and salutations to one and all from your fearless leader.

This month brings thee 4th anniversary of this fan club we call home. I hope to see all of you at the party being held at Damon's Continent. I would like to apologize for not having a news letter for last couple of months but things have been very busy, not to mention hectic lately. For instance there was the very successful MAX OLYMPICS which the Mighty Max took the blue ribbon, over taking the vallant effort of the USS COLUMBUS who took second place. I would also like to every one who participated it was a great time. I would also like to thank the USS KITTY HAWK for joining us in the fun. Next came an appearance at the Cleveland Ave. Branch Library to help out the USS SUNDANCE for the book trek. That brings us to July and the two recruiting drives at Northland Cinema, the first was for the special showing of Star Trek 2, The Wrath of Kahn, which was good to see the movie on the big screen once again, and it was helpful to the ship. Next came INDEPENDENCE DAY the movie totally awesome film by the way. This was a very successful drive we signed two new members and made some good money for the ship on the raffle which will be drawn at the dinner. I would like to thank Rany and the clan for helping out all weekend Brian hood and Sis, two of our crew members who can't always make it, and Commander Blobin driving up from Marion to make it for the fun. I also hope every one had a fun and safe 4th of July. Speaking of the dinner we will be announcing the crewmen of the year and Special promotion. Next up we have to prepare for the putt-putt tourney coming up fast. well enough babbling from me, once again HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to one and all on the Mighty Max. until next time may the wind always be at our backs.

END LOG

KLINGON THE GAME

I HAVE THE NEW COMPUTER GAME KLINGON THAT IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PC COMPARABLE COMPUTERS FROM SIMON AND SCHUSTER THAT RUNS THROUGH MS WINDOWS ON CD WITH FULL MOTION VIDEO.

STAR TREK KLINGON



DIRECTED BY JONATHAN FRANKS AND STARS ROBERT O'REILLY "GOWRON"

IN THE GAME YOU MUST UNDERGO HOLOGRAPHIC TRAINING, IN THE CULTURE AND WARFARE OF THE KLINGON TO MASTER THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR. IF YOU MESS UP YOU RETURN TO AN EMPTY HOLODECK WITH GOWRON.

YOU CAN HAVE FUN INTER ACTING IN THE KLINGON VIDEO. ALSO INCLUDED WITH THE GAME IS KLINGON LANGUAGE TRAINING.

ACT AND YOU HAVE DINNER, THINK AND YOU ARE DINNER !!!

WESLEY KINCAID OPS

HERS OR MINE ?

I like to collect Star Trek items and my wife just a few months ago started a Barbie and Ken collection, which is ok too. But hold on , what if Barbie and Ken would turn up in the Star Trek Universe ? who's collection would they go to hers or mine or could we share ?



In July of 1996 Lieutenant Barbie and Commander Ken will appear in the commemorative Star Trek 30 year anniversary edition they will be in the Star Trek Classic uniforms with Tricorder, Plier, and communicator accessories. Packaged in a "snazzy" Enterprise bridge backdrop. They will sell for about \$90.00 for the set.
Lt. Wesley Kincaid OPS

STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT

Synopsis

[Editorial Comment: Before you read the synopsis, I have something to say. Paramount and the Star Trek production staff are not pleased that the storyline for the next Star Trek movie has leaked out, yet again. I can fully understand the problem if the script gets posted, which I hope does not happen with this movie. But a synopsis is another matter, as it is a simple a brief description of the story.

Personally, I like reading scripts and complete synopses of TV shows and movies. It is just like reading the book before the movie hits the big screen. I like to see how the story is interpreted. How I envision the story and how it is actually envisioned by the producers, writers and director is always different (guess I'm not a visionary:-).

I do not consider the posting of a synopsis as being damaging to the movie. Hell, I want everyone to go see the movie. Reading the script, or the short synopsis, is not the same thing as experiencing the final work on the big screen.

So, read the synopsis, visualize how you think it will look and then go see the movie and see how it was meant to be seen. Come opening day, I know I will.]

[The synopsis will be getting an update shortly.]

The film opens with Picard's nightmarish memories of being assimilated by the Borg and made into Locutus. He awakes in his quarters, aboard the Enterprise-E, to an incoming hail from Starfleet Command. Picard is about to be told about a report of an incoming Borg ship from DS12, but Picard knows. He can feel it. He still maintains a slight connection with the Borg, a connection that frightens Starfleet enough to send the Enterprise to patrol the Neutral Zone, not take part in the massive fleet being assembled, and make sure no Romulan ship tries to take advantage of this invasion.

Picard follows his orders grimly, much to the dismay of his crew: Piker, Data, Beverly, Troi, and Geordi (sans VISOR). For the past six months, the new Enterprise-class cruiser has been on a shakedown cruise, testing her new systems. At the border, Picard and company listen on Starfleet channels as the battle wages on. One Borg ship, tetragonal in shape, attacks and breaks through to Earth. Picard decides to hell with orders; he sends the Enterprise to Earth, maximum warp.

At earth, dozens of Starfleet ships, led by the Defiant under Worr's command, try and hold the ship back, but to no avail. The Defiant is about to be destroyed as the Enterprise arrives, opening fire on the Borg and beaming the Defiant crew off before it explodes. Picard takes command of the fleet and using his knowledge of the Borg, has the entire fleet target a specific area of the ship. All weapons fire and the Borg ship explodes. The Federation has won.

Or, so they think. From the wreckage, a spherical ship shoots out, headed straight for Earth. Enterprise follows her in as the Borg sphere creates a temporal vortex and disappears. The Enterprise is caught in the backwash and spared the changes in the time-line. The fleet disappears. Earth changes into a Borg world, supporting 35 billion Borg drones. The Enterprise barely makes it into the collapsing vortex before five Borg cube ships can destroy her.

The Enterprise arrives in the mid 21st century, March 6th, 2063 to be exact. The day before the first warp flight and subsequent first contact with the Vulcans by Zephram Cochrane. The Borg sphere appears over Resurrection, Montana and attacks. The Enterprise is barely able to stop it with her phasers. With the Borg threat extinguished, Picard sends down officers to make sure history wasn't entirely screwed up.

On the surface, Picard, Data, T'Pol, and Crusher find the launch site of Cochrane's ship, the Phoenix. They beam up an injured woman, Lily Sloane, who is Zephram's assistant and mustn't die. The Phoenix took damage so Picard has Riker and Geordi beam down to repair it. Unfortunately, to get Zephram to cooperate, they must reveal themselves to him and they find such a revered historical figure can act quite differently (in a negative sense) than what their history books taught them.

Picard, Crusher, and Data return to the Enterprise with Sloane. Aberrations in the environmental system lead to the discovery of a new threat within the Enterprise. The Borg weren't killed in the sphere explosion. They beamed into the Enterprise's lower decks and are beginning the process of assimilating the Enterprise and her crew, from the inside out.

Everything below deck 22 is taken and power is shut down. Crusher and Sloane are trapped behind enemy lines and are feared to be assimilated. Crewmembers trapped down there are immediately assimilated, turned into drones who attack their former crewmates. Data is able to encrypt the computer system to prevent access by the Borg, but they are quickly gaining the upper hand. Picard leads a small attack force comprised of Data, Worf, and several security guards into the bowels of the ship, which now resembles more a Borg ship than the Enterprise. A battle in Engineering claims the lives of many of the security force and critically damages the warp core.

Data, seeing they cannot get home without the warp core, risks his life and is captured after he saves the ship by shutting down the warp core. Picard is trapped below decks. Only Worf and the rescued Beverly escape. Beverly is wounded in their run for the turbolift. Crusher is taken to sickbay and Worf calls for the Emergency Medical Holographic Program who provides much needed comic relief just before all hell breaks loose as the Enterprise begins to lose power.

Picard finds Sloane and has to work with her to get to the bridge. Data is strapped to an assimilation table and is worked on by Borg drones. It is here that Data comes face to face with the driving force behind the Borg, the Borg Queen. Data, who can now turn his emotion chip on and off, is able to fight back, but finds it difficult when the Borg Queen begins to make his dream of becoming human a reality.

While using a Dixon Hill holodeck program to escape the Borg, Picard and Lily begin to feel for each other. Just as Worf and Crusher learn that several Borg drones have left the ship and have begun to alter the deflector dish to send a message to the Borg of this time period, "Attack Earth," Picard leads another security force outside the Enterprise to destroy the deflector.

On Earth, overwhelmed by all that he has learned of his future life, Zephram escapes the crew and tries to commit suicide. Only Troi is able to talk him down using a very unorthodox method. (Remember the jumper and how Mel Gibson solved that in the first Lethal Weapon?) On the Enterprise, Worf and Picard are able to destroy the deflector after a zero-G firefight with the Borg. But, the Borg still pose a threat. The only solution is to evacuate the Enterprise and scuttle her.

Picard grudgingly accepts this and with Worf and Beverly, arms the self destruct system. The ship is evacuated, but Picard stays behind, intent on confronting the terror that has dominated his life for so long.

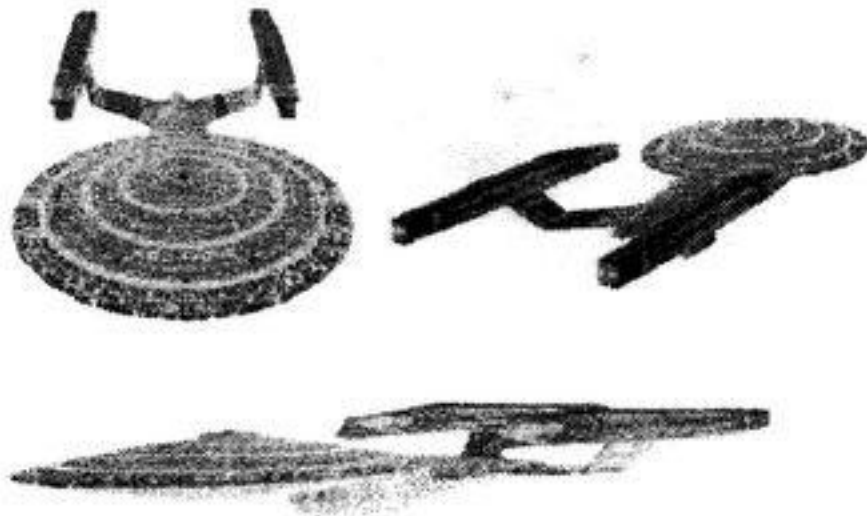
On Earth, Riker and Geordi assist Cochrane with the launch of the Phoenix. Upon seeing the stars in Earth orbit, Cochrane realizes his lofty and greedy goals of capitalizing on his warp engine are futile compared to the possibilities the engine could hold for reshaping Earth, just as Riker, Geordi, and Troi have said. Things are made a little difficult to accomplish this as the Enterprise starts looming closer and closer.

[Now go see the movie when it comes out around Thanksgiving, to find out how the dilemma is solved.]

Fine Print

I do not know who wrote this synopsis, other than I am pretty sure that Paramount didn't. No copyright infringement of the script has taken place since the above synopsis is a rewrite of the storyline. One cannot copyright an idea. One can only copyright the "work" containing the idea.

The Star Trek name and characters are registered to Paramount. No profit is being realized from the posting of the synopsis containing these characters.



Enterprise NCC 1701 E Rough Design



George Takei, the helmsman Mr. Sulu in Star Trek, has set out on his first trip back to the World War II internment camp where he and his family were forced to live for three years when he was a boy. "I've always had that desire to go back, that curiosity," said the 59-year-old actor. Takei was among 275 Japanese-Americans who traveled by bus to the camp at Tule Lake, Calif. Takei said he harbors no anger about his forced relocation, although he does feel outrage about ruined lives. "You cannot live with anger," he said. "If you do, you pickle yourself."

(From the Columbus Dispatch)



Photos from Entertainment Tonight





"I BELIEVE ITS THE BOX THE BORG SHIP CAME IN SIR!"

Captain Matt Morris
6028 Darby Lane
Columbus, Oh 43229

Rush Dated Material



FIRST OFFICER REPORT **CMDR. ELAINE JACKSON**

Greeting to everyone ! Happy 4th Anniversary. USS MAXIMILLIAN. Elizabeth went on her first mission (by her self). Matt beware, she may want your Captains seat.(even thou she has 5 years to go.) maybe I can get her to write about it for our next newsletter. We had a lot of fun at the Max Olympic's on June 15th. Out of 3 Ships, the Mighty Max came out on top. 1) USS MAXIMILLIAN, 2) USS COLUMBUS, and 3) USS KITTY HAWK. Afterwards we had a picnic with everyone, with plenty of hamburgers and hot dogs. We do need everyone to show up for ship functions. Even for an hour or so. Remember when you are drinking from a can to save them. After a while turn them in for cash & so you can help your ship. Because every little bit helps. Thanks goes out to everyone that at Northland at the membership drive.



INTELLIGENCE REPORT: **CMDR. GREG "BLOBBIN"**

Hi ! I'm Greg the new Intelligence Officer. I would like to tell everyone how proud I am to be in the department and to write these reports. Joy !!!

I will try to make intelligence the best department it can be by being like intelligent.

for this first report I would like to tell you a little about myself, I am an OSU grad who is currently attend The Art Institute of Pittsburgh where I am studying Special FX. I am a founding member of this fine vessel and am happy to be apart of it again.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me via Matt Morris.

Long live the MAXIMILLIAN .



ENGINEERS LOG: LT. JOHN CHUBB

Upon reviewing what has happened with the crews of Enterprise and Deep Space 9. Big things are happening in the future which are nothing compared to what's happening now.

With the revelation of Gowron being a possible changeling threatening war. We need to find peace, or go into a war where the Dominion are the only winners.

We can only guess what's going on with Voyager. But the captain said "that idiot Janeway probably has her ship captured by a Cardassian Spy and aliens where every day is a bad hair day. Oh well, the drifters always hoped Janeway and that Maquis Chokotay would get together. Janeway and Chokotay sitting in a tree **K-I-S-S-I-N-G**.

I have been very preoccupied this summer, so I have not been writing reports that much. But our next mission involves the Maximillian taking on a mad scientist infecting species with a nano tech virus. *ENDING LOG*



OPERATIONS REPORT: LT. WESLEY KINCADU

GREETINGS ! I am in charge of OPS and new to the USS MAXIMILLIAN. I have served at one point in time with the USS COLUMBUS, and the USS KITTYHAWK, but not as an officer.

I am (human by birth) but IMPERIAL KLINGON by choice. I belong also to the Klingon Imperial Diplomatic Corp. (K.I.D.C.). In my Human life I am a student at Columbus State studying computer graphics on a Macintosh Systems (ug). Mac's are O.K. but I prefer the faster PC's and to load my own programs not what the Mac's want me to run first. Also I work as a Supervisor in a Pre-Press department for a local Printing co.

I look forward to serving with everyone on the USS MAXIMILLIAN. One of the best ships in the Federation.

END REPORT



COMMUNICATIONS

LT. CYNTHIA AYERS

Dear Friends of Star Trek:

Hope that you are all having a good summer after the wettest spring on record! Feb. - April, 1996 was a great time for Star Trek and space in Ohio with the Star Trek: Federation Science in Cincinnati, the special effects exhibit at C.O.S.J. Robert Beltran in Cleveland, and the look at a bright, new comet! (I wrote on these for the April newsletter that didn't get published so will include them at the end of this article.) Of course, there are still a lot of wonderful Star Trek and space events going on this summer and in the fall! After all, this is the 30th anniversary year of Star Trek! Local activities: The Max Olympics at Whetstone Park in June was a lot of fun! I'm sure that Matt will be writing about most of the Max activities, but I wanted to let you know about the plans to go to Perkins Observatory on August 15, at 9:00 p. m. to see the program, "Globular Cluster M13". I have tickets for those people who gave me their money. If you want to go, contact Perkins for tickets. (614-363-1257 or Perkins Observe, P.O. Box 449, Delaware, OH 43015.

Convention news: The nearest Creation Con is in the Detroit area (Novi Center, Novi, MI) . August 17-18. It is entitled 30th Anniv. ST Convention and the guests are Kate Mulgrew, Terry Farrell, and Robert Picardo. See me for info. (267-9135). I certainly would love to go to FantastiCon in L.A., August 2-4. Just about every Star Trek actor is going to be there, plus Astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

Other news: We are all looking forward to the new ST:TNG movie entitled Star Trek: First Contact. I'm excited about the fact that James Cromwell who starred in the movie, Bebe, will be in the movie. It is due to be released late November. God bless the actors and crew as they labor on the movie, esp. with Jonathan Frakes who is directing!

Getes McFadden was on a USO tour in Bosnia and visited with and signed autographs for many of our soldiers stationed there. A wonderful thing for a Star Trek actor to do!

Here is a great quote from the latest Starlog Magazine (August 1996 #229) Ethan Phillips in an article in the magazine said: "We all went to the Screen Actors Guild Awards recently and the whole Voyager cast was up on the stage. Star Trek received an award for 30 years of diversity in casting. [Members of] all 4 casts were on stage at the same time and the entire audience, which was almost all actors, stood up and applauded. It was great to get that kind of recognition from our peers. I feel like ST, ST:TNG, DS9, and Voyager are all parts of one big show, one big book of entertainment. I'm just thrilled to be in a fraternity of people that can provide that."

NASA news: The Space Shuttle Columbia blasted off from Kennedy Space Center on June 20, 1996. It could become the longest shuttle mission in history!

The 7 member crew of U.S., French, and Canadian astronauts will conduct 41 major experiments during the mission. The orbit the earth every 90 minutes at an altitude of 176 statute miles!

Here is a recap of April's news:

What a great couple of months for Star Trek in Ohio! My son, Ben, and I breezed down to Cincy on a Monday that Ben had off from school and helped out at the Star Trek exhibit. We had a wonderful time! Just watching the faces of kids when they were in the transporter was a special experience. Ben and I had fun being in our uniforms and answering people's questions. One of the special moments of the day for me was when a 3 or 4 year old little girl looked up at me and said, "Are you from space?"

The exhibits at the Cincy Museum were very educational, esp. the computer stations with problems in space to solve. There was also an interesting computer game on matter and antimatter.

Ben and I also saw the Hollywood: Special Effects exhibit at C.O.S.I. There were some wonderful masks there from Star Trek : TNG. That was really all there was at the exhibit that was Star Trek, but it was very enjoyable and worth seeing.

As if we hadn't had enough Star Trek, Ben and I went to the Vulkan 96 Convention in Cleveland! It was great seeing Robert Beltran! He did a great job fielding questions, even the weird ones, and was very gracious with everyone. He said that he felt a great sense of tradition and history when he first stepped onto the bridge for the first time. He has been in 12 movies, including, Eating Raoul, Forbidden Sun, and Lone Wolf Mc Quade (sp?). He said that the cast doesn't play practical jokes on one another, but they do enjoy imitating one another and goofing around. Finally, he said that Voyager needs help with its ratings.

Speaking of Star Trek on television, I'm sure you've noticed that ST:TNG has practically been taken off the air on Fox! It's only being shown on Sat. night now. So, let's all write letters to the station urging them to keep ST:TNG on the air. Their address is : Fox 28, 6130 Sunbury Rd. P.O. Box 280, Columbus, OH 43216-0280.

Attn.: Oran D. Gough, Director of Operations and programming.

Hope you have gotten out of the city at night and have seen the new bright comet that is visiting us! We drove up to polaris one clear night and got a good look at it with binoculars. It was really amazing!

Star Trek is great fun and a real blessing to me and I thank God for everyone involved with it!

Love long and rejoice always,
Cynthia Ayer;

614-267-9135

MIghty MAX ADVENTURE

Captain's Log: Stardate 48975.6

The Max has faced some rough battles in the past, but now, as I tour my ship, I feel they may have taken their toll on her.

Captain Matt Morris had strolled through the halls of his ship usually with a sense of pride that his ship could take so much yet ask for so little. But now with all that she has been through, the wear and tear of the Maximilian was beginning to show.

The life support was repaired but it was a fragile repair job that could go at any time. Transporters were labeled as "travel at your own risk" since the diagnosis was that if you beamed down it would take more power than it could take to hold the beam together. The superstructure was fractured so that if the ship was taken even to Warp 4, it would fly apart in thirty minutes. He was woefully understaffed in key areas, operating with no more than a skeleton crew (and half of them collapsed from disease or exhaustion).

The Maximilian was limping back to Starbase 457, yet the Captain was not happy. For his ship was taken down to number 17 on a thirty-five ship repair list. And from the look of things, that number was continuing to drop.

"It's all these new developments Starfleet is focusing on," thought the Captain furiously. "Blessed Admirals are so focused on building newer ships that they're forgetting about mine."

Feeling as weary as the rest of the crew, yet doing what duty had demanded of him as always, he made his way to the bridge. "I can grab some winks in the ready room", he thought.

The Captain exited the turbo lift. Crew members were still at the necessary posts: helm, ops and tactical. Repair crews, consisting of two crewmen, around the other stations, little more than handymen than anything else.

Captain Morris was saddened. His ship was dying and he wasn't sure what he could do to save her. Then Commander Dennis' voice broke through his melancholy.

"Captain, sensors are picking up an approaching vessel . . . running configuration through the computer." After five minutes, Commander Dennis announced, "It is a DX-2600 cruiser native to smugglers of Excelsior 9 Station."

"Do we have communications?" asked the Captain. "Aye, sir," said Chief Ayers. "On screen," said the Captain.

On the screen was a grungy looking human. Mid 20's, brown haired, blue eyes and, from the image on the view screen, his ship needed more work than the Max did.

"This is Captain Matt Morris of the Federation Starship Maximilian. Do you require assistance?"

"Not as much as you do, sir" said the grungy stranger. That statement angered the Captain, but he held his fury back.

"I apologize, sir," said the stranger. "When you travel the way I do, wisecracks are commonplace."

Captain Morris nodded at the stranger excusing his remark. But not by much, he thought.

"Actually I could use a rest on your ship. I've been busy with repairs on my ship, but I'm a long way from a place where I can stretch my legs."

"Let me cross reference your file with the Federation database," said the captain. "Do you have a name?" "Chubb," replied the stranger. "John Chubb."

Two hours later the senior staff met in the conference lounge discussing Mr. Chubb. "Apparently Mr. Chubb" replied Commander Dennis "or Lt. Chubb was a member of the High Plains Drifter clan of Cestus III."

"High Plains Drifter?" said Lt. Randall.

"I've heard of them" said Engineer Randall. "They originated from Cestus III after the attack by the Gorn 100 years ago. The survivors fled the colony to the High Plains mountain region. But even though the colony was rebuilt, the survivors refused to return, deciding to travel from planet to planet doing different odd jobs - some of them illegal."

"How does Lt. Chubb fit into this?" asked Lt. Kinzer.

"He was born into the clan but joined Starfleet at age 16 hoping to establish his own destiny. But his grades at the academy were not considered good enough for some captains. He became dissatisfied at the menial odd jobs Starfleet gave him so he resigned and resumed his wanderings."

"Any illegal activity in his record?" asked the Captain.

"He's more of a scavenger and rebuild of second hand technology. He may know of activity but he's not involved in it." After thinking for a moment, the captain replied "Bring him aboard."

Upon docking the Captain watched as the ship set down on the docking platform. When it settle, former Lt. Chubb walked down the docking platform. The Captain extended his hand in greeting. "Welcome aboard."

"Thank you, sir" said Mr. Chubb. "I appreciate you giving me time to stretch my legs. My ship does it's job getting me where I need, but there's not much room for a walk."

"I can understand that" said Captain Morris. "But I'd like to make a little proposition to you. I'd like for you to reinstate your commission."

"Excuse me?" said Mr. Chubb.

"I've read your record. You have a knack for rebuilding second hand equipment. However, Starfleet had always assigned you to petty assignments. I need someone like you on the Maximillion."

"Why?"

"Starfleet has decided to leave us pretty much to our own devices. We still get service.

"No one knows who built Dark Range platform and above all no one cared" - William Shatner

Those words echoed throughout all the minds of the Maximillion crew as they approached the mysterious and ancient Dark Range Platform. No one knew who originally built it, and to this day no one claimed it either. It was located at the border of the Federation/Klingon frontier and became a last chance stop for those who sought their destinies in the stars.

But it was also a haven for smugglers, cutthroats and thieves hoping to take the destinies of those pioneers for themselves. Upon this thought Captain Matt Morris wondered why he was taking his ship to this god-forsaken place. But as he saw his ship falling apart he then remembered his ready room meeting with Lt. Chubb.

"Based on Dark Range Platform is Tobias Vaughn. Best illegal ship builder in the quadrant yet he manages to be of use to all the right people so he's not in too much trouble with the Federation. He has helped drifter clans with their ships and he has the resources to bring the Maximillion to full potential, maybe even more if you want, sir."

"I'll just settle for getting my ship running again" said Captain Morris. "Can we trust him?" "He takes the confidentiality of his clients seriously. However, I don't think we should bring the Maximillion in to Dark Range space. There are a lot of people who would panic if a Federation ship suddenly appeared. Even one in the Maximillion's shape."

The prospect of entering a hostile territory did not appeal very much to Captain Morris, even if it was for repairs. But Starfleet wasn't ready to give the much needed upgrade the Maximillion needed. It would have been a few repairs, then good-bye. Needless to say, Dark Range and Tobias Vaughn were the Max's only chance to be mighty again.

"I'll ready your own ship, but if Dark Range is as dangerous as you say, I'm going to have someone accompany you. I want my ship in one piece, but I want her crew in one piece too."

Lt. Chubb smiled and said, "Captain, that's sound advice anywhere."

The DX-2600 flew away from the Maximillion and towards Dark Range Platform. Lt. Chubb's ship was beat up and some of her systems were outdated and close to breaking down but she always got him where he wanted to go.

Accompanying him was Randy Jackson of Starfleet Security and Lt. Doug Kinzer of Starfleet Marines. Regulations said that a security officer should always be on hand in a hostile area, but Captain Morris also believed having a marine would help with 'added protection'. The journey was silent until Jackson broke the silence.

"So what can we expect from Mr. Vaughn?"

"A good man who's hard to find and difficult to reach. He's so much in demand that pirates from the Ferengi to the Breen have been hunting him for "Free Services". But there is a code used among some drifters that he'll recognize."

"All we need to do is find his feelers" said Lt. Kinzer.

"Exactly."

The three officers docked their ship, dressed in civilian garb, and entered the hostile world at Dark Range Platform. The reception wasn't a pleasant one. Three gangs tried to take their wallets. Ten pickpockets tried for their phasers which held the gangs at bay, and they lost count of how many salesmen

tried to sell them items from black market drugs to ocean view condominiums on the Klingon homeworld.

They entered a bar called *The Alien Fantasy* where upon first sight Jackson knew he would not be taking his kids here. When they belted up to the bar, an Andorian barmaid asked for their order.

"Aldeboron Whiskey" said Jackson.

"Romulan Ale" said Lt. Kinzer.

"Tuleberry Dechery" said Lt. Chubb. Then he gave the coded hand signal as he did in the last two bars he was in. (An inverted version of the Vulcan salute and his flat hand in the air.)

"What is that thing you do?" asked Lt. Kinzer.

"Three gestures. One is the Vulcan salute - "Live long and prosper". The second is a joke salute saying "Die soon in poverty" and the third just said "Promise". The two other officers just looked at each other and said "Funny".

After the officers finished their drinks, the barmaid returned. "Your host sends his regards and would like to convey his respects. Right this way." She guided them to a remote corner of the bar where a corridor stretched down and made a right turn. They finally made it to Tobias Vaughn's office.

"When you said he was hard to find you weren't kidding" said Jackson. They opened the door and sitting at a desk surrounded by ship parts, models and diagrams was a middle-aged man of about 50, average build. This was Tobias Vaughn.

"John, it's so good to see you again" said Tobias. "But who are these gentlemen?"

Before Lt. Chubb could answer a transport shimmer appeared revealing a mixture of aliens and humans. "Tobias Vaughn, the Maquis need your services and won't take no for an answer." The three officers drew out their phasers and started to fire. Those that didn't fall rushed the three officers and fought hand to hand. Unfortunately, they were overwhelmed and grabbed Vaughn. The Maquis were ready to transport out when no signal came. The Maquis leader got nervous when a second shimmer appeared. It was Captain Morris and a squad of both security guards and Marines.

"You are all under arrest" said the captain.

Lt. Chubb went over to Vaughn. "I believe we have business to discuss."

When the officers returned to the Maximillion, Captain Morris explained everything. "While we took cover in a nearby asteroid, we saw the Maquis ship pass by. We followed discreetly with a shuttle and boarded her with a team. Later, we made use of the transporter they had and beamed over to arrest the rest of the bunch."

"Who was the leader?" asked Lt. Kinzer.

Jackson spoke next. "Their leader was Captain David Grey of the *Bucepholeus* until he resigned and joined the Maquis. Apparently he felt peace wasn't as important as Cardassian genocide."

The Captain then made a positive note. "But repairs on the Maximillion are proceeding well on schedule. Lt. Chubb, send my personal thanks to Mr. Vaughn."

"Yes, sir" said Lt. Chubb.

After the meeting, Captain Morris then walked among the corridors of his ship. This time with a sense of pride in his ship and his crew.

The Max was mighty again.