

# Ley Line Assault

Chris grabbed up Bronson and Csryfed to head to the nexus. They reached it just shy of noon and prepared themselves for the rush of magic as the sun hit the top of its arc across the sky. As the moment neared the magic of the ley line began to move and swirl. When the sun reached its zenith the line boiled silently. They gathered as much of the excess magic as they could. They settled their control over it as it added to their own internal supplies. They gathered more energy from the nexus while they waited for the transport team to arrive. This nexus would serve as their staging ground.

The transport team arrived, phasing in on the line. They collected energy from the line into a blue sphere of light they created first. When they were ready they teleported Chris, Bronson, and Csryfed to another ley line near to where the attack would take place. A Death's Head Transport was coming to the area to deploy troops for a strike against Mendell a small enclave of Techno-wizards busy working on a secret project. The transport team returned to the nexus to await for the call to evacuate the firing team.

Chris, Bronson, and Csryfed were that firing team. Other offensives would be taking place on the other sides of Mendell. The transport team left the firing team three ensorcelled rugs. The rugs would take them to an

advantageous location when the Death's Head Transport came into sight.

The call came in over the radio from the recon members assigned to them that the Death's Head Transport was coming and what its current vector was. The firing team made a beeline for a spot not too far from where they were. They settled the rugs to the ground. Bronson cast a simple invisibility spell on himself and then Chris and Csryfed. Chris cast an armour spell on them all. Bronson cast a second invisibility spell on them. This one was stronger but would cease to work once they began their attack. Each of them wore an amulet that allowed them to see each other. The massive aircraft settled to the ground just under two miles away from the firing team's position on the ley line.

Two APCs disembarked from the Death's Head Transport followed by a Spider-Skull Walker and two Enforcers. After that a bunch of foot soldiers filed out of the back of the Death's Head Transport and down its loading ramp. The engines on the Death's Head Transport hummed. As it seemed the last of the soldiers was coming off of the ramp Csryfed cast an invulnerability spell on himself then Chris and Bronson. They separated a fair distance and began to cast their spell matrices. Each readied as many iterations of the spell they all knew as Ballistic Fire. Chris nodded and the attack commenced.

Csryfed missed the front end of the Death's Head

Transport with his first volley of ten fiery missiles. They moved almost as quick as the eye could follow. Bronson struck the back of the Death's Head Transport with his first volley of ten. Csryfed fired a doubled second volley hitting the bottom saucer of the Death's Head Transport rocking the ship just as Chris overshot the middle of the Death's Head Transport with his first volley of seven.

Seeing twenty fiery missiles hit the Death's Head Transport the troops ran for the APCs, which opened their hatches to let them in. The Spider-Skull Walker laid down cover fire with its railgun but was too far out of range to be of any real use. The Enforcer fired off a volley of two short-range plasma missiles that exploded nowhere near the fire team.

The railgun turret on the top of the Death's Head Transport roared to life. It ripped up the ground a fair distance ahead of the firing team. Csryfed made another devastating doubled blow to the saucer of the Death's Head Transport as it lifted into the air. Bronson followed by striking it in the middle.

Csryfed sent his next volley seconds before Chris', both of them impacting the Death's Head Transport in the centre. The Death's Head Transport's railguns fired again hitting away from them except in the other direction. The Spider-Skull Walker continued to fire its railguns at nothing while the troops scrambled toward the APCs. The Enforcer fired another two short-range missiles that fell way too short.

Csryfed and Bronson missed their marks. Undeterred Csryfed pounded the Death's Head Transport's saucer again in tandem with another miss from Chris. The saucer exploded and the Death's Head Transport stopped ascending.

Metal slugs tore into the ground to the extreme left of Csryfed. Swinging toward them the Death's Head Transport fired two missiles from its forehead. Both missiles flew past their position and exploded nowhere. The Spider-Skull Walker backed off and ceased firing. Some of the troops were loading into the APCs. The Enforcer fired its last short-range missile off to the left.

Csryfed blasted the middle of the Death's Head Transport. Bronson undershot the Death's Head Transport and Csryfed again hit, slamming it in the rear where Bronson should have. Chris stuck the rear of the Death's Head Transport not even making it shimmy.

The railgun targeted the earth between Bronson and Chris. The APCs were crowding up quickly with the original men of compliment still inside not having had time to disembark. The Spider-Skull Walker paced back and forth in side-steps. The Enforcer fired a larger missile. The blast radius barely touched Csryfed and it kicked up dirt into the air.

Unable to rise any higher the Death's Head Transport pilot understood how quickly his thrusters could be disabled and accelerated on a diagonal that would pass the firing team as quickly as possible. Csryfed missed

and then scored a hammering hit after Bronson missed again. Chris missed as well.

The Death's Head Transport's railgun turret fired nearly hitting Csryfed. Troops were still squeezing into the APCs. As if nervous the Spider-Skull Walker fired another burst of railgun rounds. The Enforcer fired another large missile, overshooting the fire team.

Csryfed missed the accelerating Death's Head Transport twice. Bronson hit his own devastating doubled volley blow, which shuddered through the craft. Again Csryfed nailed the Death's Head Transport with an enlarged volley. Bronson missed the rear of the still accelerating Death's Head Transport. Chris' volley smashed into the middle penetrating it.

The Death's Head Transport had closed into range to use its laser turrets along the one side. One turret fired uselessly over their heads. The pilot made a quick jerky swerve to fire off another pair of missiles. They both hit a few feet apart from each other, but between Bronson and Csryfed. The plasma missiles exploded catching them in the blast radii.

The missiles' energy was wasted against the invulnerability spells. The railgun fired and hit wide of them. The troops were nearly inside of the cramped APCs. The Spider-Skull Walker began to retreat. The Enforcer turned and ran. They swore later that over two hundred fiery missiles had flown out of the ley line from no where. They were not terribly incorrect.

Csryfed and Bronson missed, flinching from the bright light of the missile explosions and the patter of earth against their magical armour. Chris just hit the front end of the Death's Head Transport behind the skull face making it shake. A different laser turret on the same side fired hitting nothing. The railgun was likewise unsuccessful again. One of the APCs started to move. The Spider-Skull Walker turned and ran.

Csryfed hit the Death's Head Transport as he used the last spell in his matrix. Bronson almost missed and Chris did miss. As if it would be luckier the third and last laser turret fired a shot between Csryfed and Bronson while the railgun chewed up a tree to the right of Chris. The second APC began to leave.

Bronson just barely hit the Death's Head Transport again and Chris scored another pounding hit. Another miss came from the middle laser turret as the Death's Head Transport passed its accurate range. The railguns fired a shot over their heads. With missiles only in the front there were to be no more explosions.

Chris' volley missed the Death's Head Transport. The railguns fired a burst that flew right past Chris' ear so close he could feel the wind from them. Another doubled volley from Bronson nailed the Transport.

The Death's Head Transport exploded in mid air. The remains of the ship crashed to earth in three places. The reinforced frame of the pilot area was exposed to the fire team's line of sight.

Using a talisman to draw more power Csryfed began casting the spell once more. Bronson fired on the crew container and missed. Chris hit it exhausting his matrix of spells. Taking example from Csryfed Bronson began to use one of his own talismans to recast the spell. Bronson fired off his last volley striking the container. The container was badly damaged. Csryfed finished the spell and it missed. Bronson completed his spell and a volley of twice the normal number of fiery missiles struck the container decimating it.

Chris got on the radio and relayed their location to the extraction team. Bronson prepped two spells for the team when they arrived. Forty seconds later the two-man team appeared. Bronson used the spells on them and they disappeared from sight. The team immediately began their spell to return to the staging ground. In thirty seconds they were done and all five of them teleported to the staging ground. Bronson cancelled the simple invisibility from them with just a want to do so.

Chris said to the others, "That was an excellent mission. We totally fragged that Death's Head Transport. Those drop-offs it left behind were so terrified I'd bet that they're half way back to their homes!"

Bronson said, "I get the impression that those missed shots convinced them they were under fire too. Csryfed, when you shocked that saucer on the bottom in the, what eight or tenth shot--sixth!--well I just about pissed myself.

Chris added, "You're a whiz at casting, Csryfed. You

cast twice as fast as either of us."

Csryfed shrugged his bony shoulders and said softly in his high pitched voice, "Well, you know, it's just well..."

"You're the MVB [Most Valuable Being] in this battle." Chris began, "You certain that you wouldn't like to come over to the first string?"

"Yes, sir. I should be there for my recon team. I must be their back up, as well as their leader." Csryfed replied.

Chris said, "I can understand that Csryfed."

"What are we going to do to celebrate our victory?" Bronson asked.

Chris took down his gas mask to show them his wide grin. He asked, "What are we going to do to celebrate the two of you making Sergeant Major?"

Bronson laughed and clapped Chris on the back. Csryfed was smiling underneath of his trunk like nose. He seemed pleased with himself. Bronson suggested, "Let's get drek-faced drunk."

"Yes, food and drink." said Csryfed.

Chris nodded in agreement.