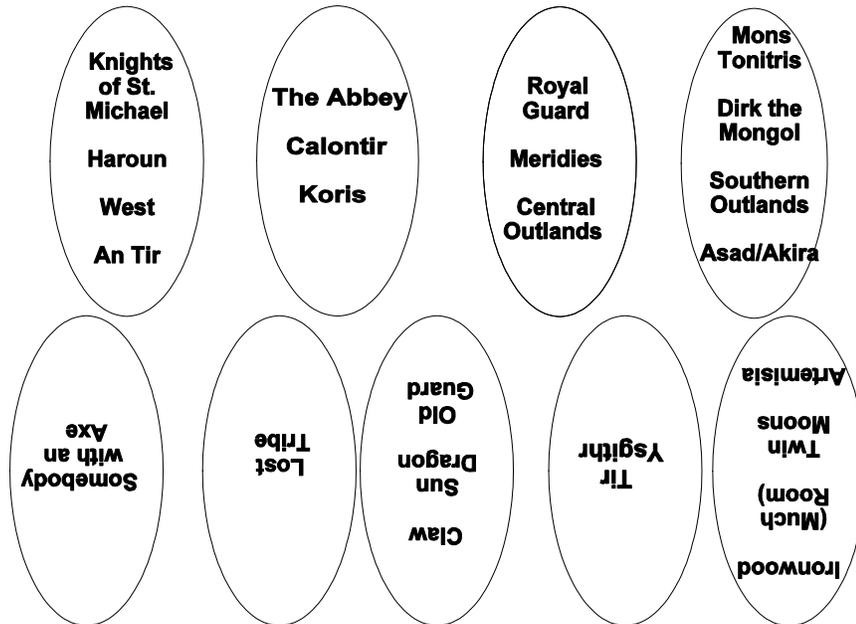


Notes on Battles

Estrella XIV

1. Boat Battle

(Outlands Coalition)
(Aten Coalition)



Previous to the battle, two young men in armor ran the distance from the edge of the boats to the end of the field to determine how long it took to get from one end to the other under optimal conditions. These young men were minors, and were therefore excluded from the actual battle.

Intent:

Exit the boats as rapidly as possible. Whole army shift in a Southeasterly direction in order to minimize the width of the engagement.

Boat 1:

An Tir and Haroun's troops should advance rapidly along the Southern end of the field and engage the leading elements of the Aten units to slow them down so that the rest of the Outlands army can form along the Southeastern edge of the field, anchored by the West Kingdom troops on the extreme Southern Edge.

Boat 2:

General of the Armies disembark and stay with the boat to facilitate the movement of the troops. Calontir disembark and move to the Southeast, forming on the Northwestern edge of the West Kingdom troops. The Abbey moves as reserves for Calontir.

Boat 3:

Central troops exit, move Southeast, form on the Northwestern corner of Calontir. Royal Guard move due South to form reserves behind troops from first three boats.

Boat 4:

Asad and Akira's troops move Easterly to engage the advance Aten units to retard their (Aten's) advance while Southern Outlands, Caid, and Mons Tonitris move Southeasterly. Form on Northwestern corner of Central Outlands.

Reality:

Any given 15-year-old runs faster than any given 35-year-old.

Boat 1:

Performed orders perfectly. Engaged the enemy and began to turn them.

Boat 2:

Moved Southeast. Formed on Northwest corner of West Kingdom. Continued to sweep the field.

Boat 3:

Central Outlands and Meridies formed on the Northwestern corner of Calontir. Engaged the enemy and continued the sweep.

Boat 4:

Asad and Akira advanced and began to skirmish and harass Ironwood Loch, allowing the rest of Boat 4 to form the Northwestern edge of the Outlands Coalition line.

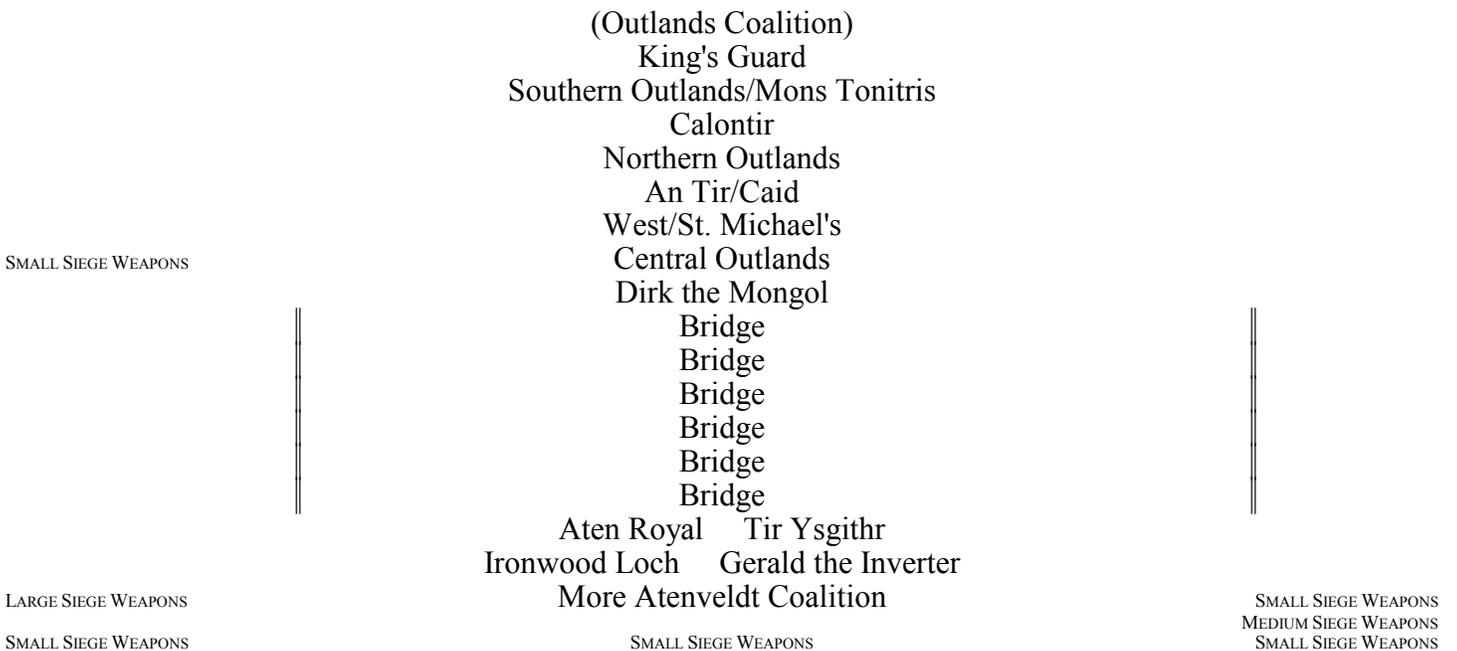
Atenveldt and Arthur retired to that line and the entire line, bolstered by the Royal Guard, impeded the progress of the Aten troops on the Northern side of the field as the units of Boats 1, 2, and 3 swept Southeast to Northwest rapidly. The sweep created a break in the line between Boats 1 through 3 and Boat 4, Calontir's Abbey troops were withdrawn from the sweep, turned, and moved in a Northwesterly direction to plug the hole. The Abbey succeeded magnificently. It has been said that this action, more than any other, caused the Outlands Coalition victory. This allowed elements of Boats 1, 2, and 3 to assault the rear of the remaining Aten troops.

Illustration:

(in progress)

2. Bridge Battle

Hay bales were 60' long x 30' wide. Ownership of 51% of the bridge after 30 minutes determined victory. Missiles were scattered on both sides.



Qualifier:

It was hard for me to observe this one well, so my comments are heavily dependent on my primary consultant. There are differing opinions regarding the mechanics of this battle, however.

Intent:

The Coalition was loosely divided into three sections: 1) Dirk the Mongol and the Central Outlands; 2) West/St. Michael's, An Tir/Caid, and the Northern Outlands; 3) Calontir, Southern Outlands/Mons Tonitris and the King's Guard. Dirk and the Central Outlands advance to 65% of the bridge, engage the Aten advance units and hold

them, followed by West/St. Michael's, An Tir/Caid, and the Northern Outlands. Calontir, Southern Outlands/Mons Tonitris and the King's Guard advance to 55% of the bridge and filter in as needed.

Reality:

The system for filtration of troops to the front line broke down. Better communication to and among the commanders was needed. As this was a timed battle, it was crucial to gain ground quickly and hold it firmly. The leading advance troops, Dirk the Mongol, achieved only 45% of the bridge. Had they continued their push, they would have taken casualties but would have penetrated the Aten line, allowing the Central Outlands, West, and St. Michael's to follow through and establish a line beyond the 55% mark. As it was, we were steadily pushed back beyond the 25% mark, and Dirk took heavy casualties in any case.

3. Open Field:

Northern Outlands al-Barran	Calontir	An Tir/West	Asad Southern Outlands Mons Tonitris Corvus
Gerald the Inverter	Sun Dragon/Mix	a Black Claw a Yellow Claw	Twin Moons Tir Ysgithr
			Iron Loch

Qualifier:

My notes on this battle were sketchy, and my consultant was not available. My perceptions could be very off on this one.

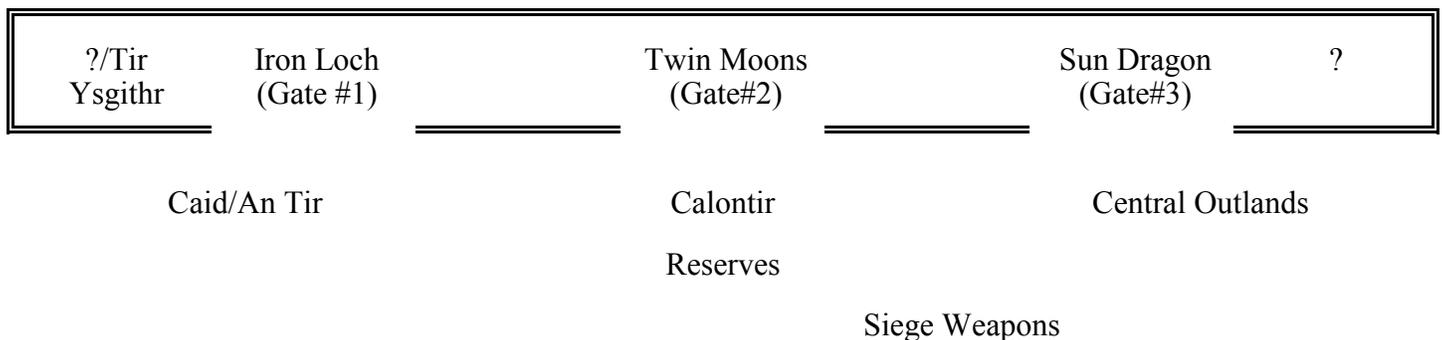
Intent:

This formation didn't exactly match the original plans. The Open Field battle was to be fought the same as the Boat battle (unless the Boat battle proved disastrous, which it did not). We were to take a position on the back right corner of the field and use units to skirmish until we engaged.

Reality:

The Northern Outlands and al-Barran moved more or less directly forward, pushing Gerald and Sun Dragon; the rest of the army took up positions in the center of the field, drawing the Aten forces around them into a great wheel.

4. Gate (or Castle?):



Qualifier:

Again, this battle was difficult for me to observe, and I am not certain which one of these I observed. These observations are based on interviews.

Intent:

Again, the formation did not quite follow the original plan. With the understanding that one of the walls was presumed breached, we planned to exploit the breach and attack to the inside and left. That is, one of the allies

was to push open the breach, allowing Calontir to form in the breach. Calontir would then wheel to the left and An Tir would push through the opening, followed by al-Barran and then the West. Once established, they would wheel right, allowing the rest of the army to enter. Basically, as I understood the plan, we were going to move in and establish lines in opposing corners if possible—the closer left corner if that was not possible—cutting off the corners and preventing flanking by the Aten troops. Hopefully, we could establish an anvil on the left and a hammer on the right, space permitting.

Reality:

There were three openings rather than one. We could not penetrate Gate #1. Two attempts to penetrate Gate #2 were thrown back. The second attempt to penetrate Gate #3 was successful, and allowed a perimeter to be established inside by Gate #3. Resistance slackened on Gate #2 after Gate #3's penetration, as Atenveldt moved reserve troops from Gate #2 to Gate #3 to assist. Gate #1 continued to be untenable. At Gate #2, because of the commitment of Aten reserves to Gate #3, two or three Outlands Heroes won through. The gate was opened and a perimeter established inside. The commitment of the rest of the Outlands reserves to Gate #3 allowed additional penetration and a linkup with our line at Gate #2, establishing an interior perimeter occupying approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of the overall interior. This allowed the Outlands final reserves to penetrate and sweep to the rear of the enemy, affecting the relief of Gate #1.