

LASTChancePUBLICATIONS

# Warhammer 40,000

written

by

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Warhammer 40,000:

The Four



Episode 14

In Episode 13...

"Chance, the kids gone off to attack the base....."

Headwire goes rogue...

Headwire ran through the teleport bracing himself, half expecting to get blown up by a mine as he materialised. It didn't happen and he appeared in the upper bay of the blue base. This was the windowed room that the blue sniper, Crying, had occupied and from the view Headwire could see out across one half of the battlefield and even see the top of his team's base.

There were two more teleports in this room, one ahead of him, leading back outside he knew and one to his left leading into the ground floor of the base. Without hesitation he ran through that one materialising again to the fear of an exploding mine that was not there. In front of him was a half destroyed force-Wall, Headwire was right, the defenders had not had time to replace the defences Dante and Knight had taken down.

The two bases the teams used were built to exactly the same specifications and as such Headwire recognised the room he was in immediately as the front spawn room, identical to the one he had spawned in when the battle started. To his left was a Deploy-point, hopefully he was correct with his assumption that the enemy were using the two outfield deploys. Ahead of him was an open archway, which stood opposite a wall, the path splitting to a ninety degree left and right as it went through the arch. Above this archway was a suspended walkway with some destroyed turrets on it and at either end of this were teleports.

Headwire knew the way and he proceeded through the archway, slowly and quietly, listening for any defenders. His heart was beating hard in his chest, he felt like death was waiting round every corner and worse than that, failure. He chose the left path knowing they both led around the outside of the Artifact Node room, which had three archway entrances, one in each of the three walls. As he reached the right hand turn he stopped and crouched. He could feel sweat run down his neck despite his suits cooling system. He leaned his head around the bend then snapped it back immediately. There was an auto turret at the end of the corridor. He'd pulled his head back before it detected him, he was sure there would have been an audible beep if it had picked him up. He swapped his rifle for his shock lance; his heart was beating so hard in his chest he thought it might explode out.

"This is it Head" he said to himself, "When you go there's no stopping". His heart thudded against his chest again and his head began to ache. He could feel the blood flowing in his veins.

"Kuso, I need to....calm down." He said between breaths "Or I'm.....gonna....lose it here"

Just then something came over Headwire, the hairs on the back of his neck stood up and the air around him seemed to grow with static energy. His head began to ache even more and he closed his eyes. He allowed this strange feeling to envelop him; he could feel a current of energy flowing around him and through the air. As he concentrated his mind on the feeling he began to see shapes of turrets and trip-mines appear in his mind and he could faintly tell their positions around him. He opened his eyes.

"I can feel the defences!" he said in realisation.

He stood up and levelled his Shock lance straight ahead, took a deep breath and dodged out into the path of the turret.

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The beeping of the right side turret's tracking system alerted the blue team's two defenders in the Artifact node room to an attacker's presence. The next noise they heard was that of a Shock Lance's secondary fire being released followed very quickly by the turrets explosion as electro magnetic energy overloaded it.

"One in, right side!" The blue Tech called as he proceeded out of the Artifact room and into the corridor.

The turret on the left side beeped now, and then exploded in a similar way as the one on the right had.

"He's moving round" called the Gunner from the node room bringing the Tech running back in. Then a grenade flew in through the open hatchway, it bounced off the wall behind the gunner and landed at the Tech's feet.

"Grenade!" shouted the Gunner.

Then in a flash the room was filled with dense smoke and Headwire began his attack.

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Headwire couldn't see through the smoke but he didn't need to, somehow and he had no idea how he could sense the defensive turrets, force-walls and mines set up in the node room.

The turrets didn't need to see in the smoke either and the six auto and two rocket turrets in the room went into a frenzy of beeping and firing as Headwire jumped through. His Shock Lance fired out two EM blasts and two turrets exploded, he drew one rocket turret's fire into an auto turret, then he landed, rolled and was outside the smoke filled room once again.

The defenders were helpless in the smoke, the Gunner resorting to flaming randomly at the node in case of a grab and the Tech shooting off blasts of shotgun incendiary in the opposite direction. The Gunner stumbled blindly onto one of his land mines and blew up in spectacular fashion.

"I'm down" he cried.

"Kuso, mienai!" was the Techs only response, indicating his unhappiness at the blinding smoke.

Sprinting round the node room Head fired in a Shock Lance blast as he past each archway, he wasn't even looking into the room but he could hear the turrets exploding, confirming that his aim was exact. Then as the smoke began to dissipate he made his dash for an Artifact. Sprinting into the room he headed straight for the Node, which had two force walls across it barring entry. He launched himself into a dive over them and through the Node; an Artifact attached itself to him immediately. He landed his dive with a roll and was off and running before the smoke had even cleared.

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Outside the red base the rest of The Four, along with the remaining red force, were fighting an intense defensive battle against almost all of the blue force, as they constantly re-spawned from the newly acquired front deploy-point. At this point The Four received an incoming call.

"Kaio, Kaio come in" came Headwire's voice over the Comms. "Chance, anyone?" he continued.

"What's up Headwire?" Kaio said as he sniped another blue Ranger entering his base.

"I've got one" Head said somewhat exasperated "I've got an Artifact!"

"What!" said Chance "You got an Arti?"

"Yep, but I got a little problem"

"What's that?" asked Chance

"There's a live Juggernaut here!" Headwire exclaimed

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Chance surveyed the current state of the battle. As far as he could see the situation wasn't great; they were fighting a losing battle outside their base against an enemy that outnumbered them. The enemy had taken a third Generator, leaving them with only one and because of this energy was getting dangerously low for everything, but most importantly the defences. On top of this Headwire was now trapped in the enemy base with an Artifact. His orders were that everyone must defend the base, but Chance couldn't just let Headwire get taken out after his efforts to get an Artifact and if they could get it out and register it then they would be in a stronger position than they were now.

"Damn it Headwire" he said to himself, angry at Headwire for putting him in this position, if he had followed orders they would have two extra troops now and would certainly have a chance of turning this defence around. He considered his options and made a decision, he didn't take disobeying orders lightly but he wasn't going to abandon one of his team of four in the enemy's base with an Artifact, especially not the young Headwire.

"You better go and bring him back Kaio" he called over the comms.

"Roger that Captain" Kaio said and he immediately disengaged from the enemy and set off towards the blue base.

*"So the Kid got one out of there huh?"* Kaio thought to himself with a smile as he bounded up the mountain *"Impressive"*

## **IN EPISODE 15 of 8 WAYS TO LOSE...**

*"Headwire, its Kaio, what's your location?"*

Kaio comes to Headwire's aid and discovers some interesting truths about his Second..

*"I could feel where the defenses were Kaio. I didn't need to see them, I..I don't know how...."*