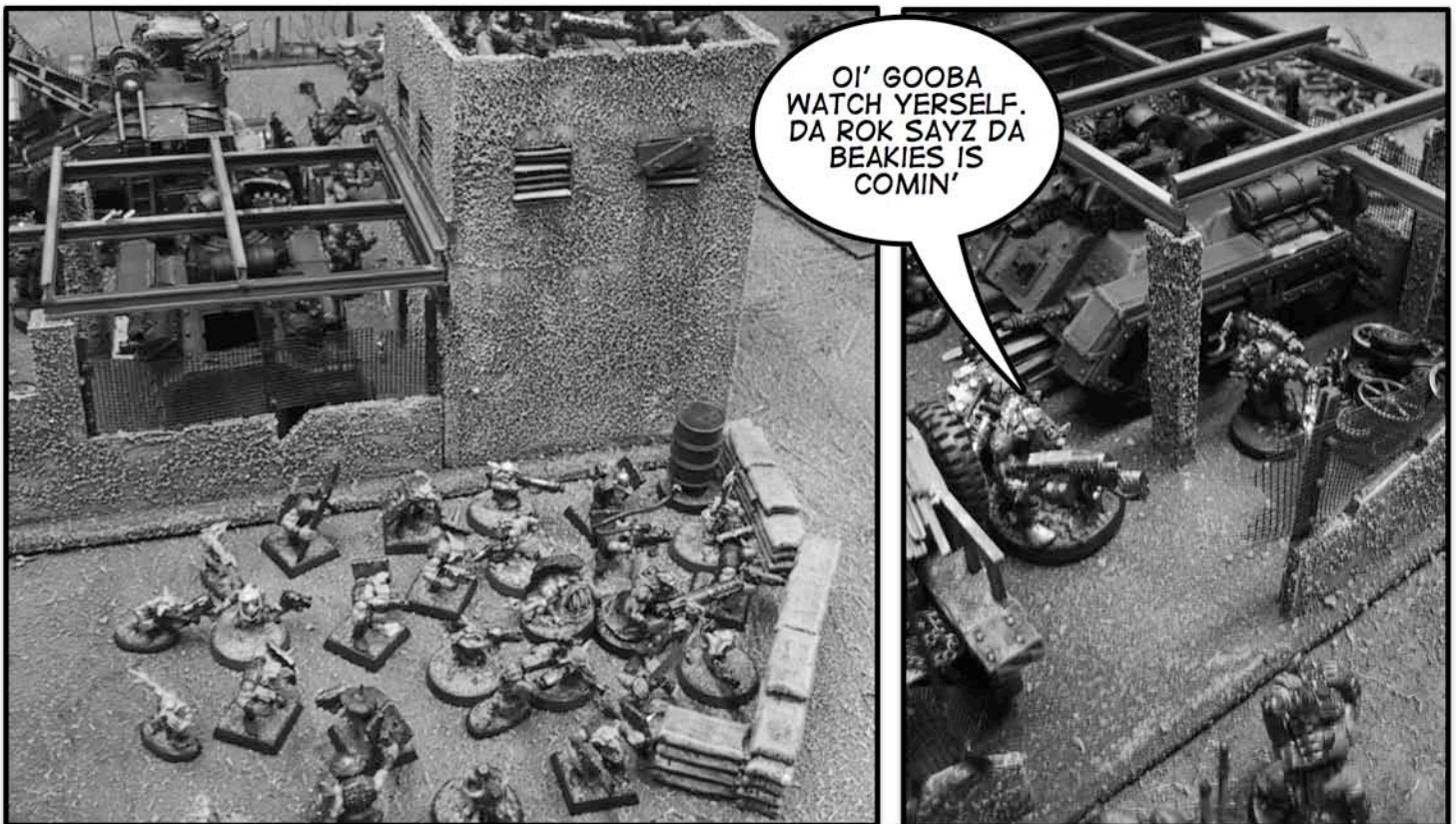


ON THE BRIDGE OF IMPERIAL BATTLE BARGE GULLIMAN'S LAMENT, IN HIGH ORBIT OVER THE PLANET CERBOLIS. ULTRAMARINE CAPTAIN AROMATIX SMASHED HIS FIST AGAINST THE VIEW SCREEN. "DAMN THOSE ORKS! THEY'VE NOT ONLY SHOT THE SHUTTLE ZERBERON, AND PROBABLY KILLED THE CREW, BUT NOW THEY REPELLED AND CRUSHED THE IMPERIAL GUARD RECON IN FORCE THAT WAS SENT OUT IN RESPONSE!"

AROMATIX TURNED TO FACE A HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTION OF THE DISTANT PLANET. THE PROJECTION SHIMMERED SLIGHTLY IN FLUX WITH THE POWER, A DEFECT THAT THE TECHPRIESTS WERE UNABLE TO RESOLVE WITH THEIR CHANTS. THE IMAGE IN THE PROJECTION SHOWED A LARGE STRUCTURE, HALF RUINED, SURROUNDED BY A VARIETY OF ARMORED VEHICLES. ALL WERE IMPERIAL IN ORIGIN, AND MOST DISTURBINGLY, ALL WERE COVERED WITH WHAT HIS TRAINED EYE SAW TO BE THE SMALLER ORKOIDS, OR GRETCHIN.

AROMATIX STARED AT THE IMAGE FOR A MOMENT, AND THAN LOOKED ACROSS TO THE POWER ARMORED SOLDIERS STANDING IN FRONT OF HIM. "YOU, BROTHER-SERGEANT JEREMY, TAKE YOUR SQUAD DOWN TO CERBEROS AND DESTROY THIS WORKSHOP. MOST IMPORTANTLY THOUGH, DESTROY THOSE VEHICLES. WITH THE RIFE INCOMPETENCE OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD SO GLARINGLY OBVIOUS, IF THE ORKS GET THOSE TANKS RUNNING AGAIN, THEY WILL RUN OVER EVERYTHING ON THE PLANET. THAT CANNOT BE ALLOWED. LEAVE NO SURVIVORS."

"AS YOU COMMAND, BROTHER-CAPTAIN. FOR THE EMPEROR!" WITH A SALUTE, THE HULKING SERGEANT AND HIS SQUAD LEFT THE BRIDGE TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR BATTLE.



PLANETSIDE...

XENOS
FACILITY
CONFIRMED

COPY THAT.
SQUAD TAKE
POSITIONS AND
AWAIT SIGNAL

TARGET ACQUIRED

ALL UNITS
ENGAGE AT
WILL

SOUNDING MUCH LIKE A GIANT SIZED ZIPPER, THE STORM BOLTERS ON THE RHINO WERE THE FIRST TO FIRE, TEARING APART SANDBAGS ON THE SIDE OF THE MAIN BUILDING, AND JEREMY COULD SEE PARTS OF THE SMALLER ORKS THROWN INTO THE AIR. THE OTHER MARINES FIRED THEIR BOLTERS AS WELL, EACH SPITTING OUT FOUR SHOTS THAT TORE APART A MOB OF GREENSKINS OCCUPYING THE BUILDING TOP. WIELDING WHAT LOOKED FRIGHTENINGLY LIKE IMPERIAL AUTOCANNONS, THOSE ORKS WERE A HIGH TARGET PRIORITY. THEIR FAITH GUIDED THEIR AIM THOUGH, AND JEREMY COULD SEE MORE ORKS FALL FROM THEIR PERCH.

WITH TYPICAL ACCURACY, THE ORKS OPEN UP WITH THEIR BORROWED WEAPONRY...

LET'EM
HAVIT
BOYZ!

DAKKA
DAKKA
DAKKA

OI! YA
SHOOT DA
BEAKIES, YA
ZOGGER!



GET DEM RIGS
MOVIN' YA
ZOGGERS!

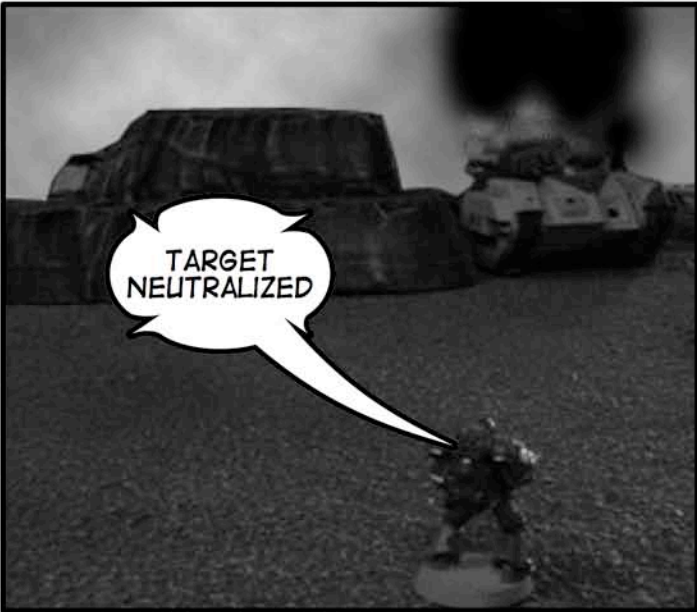


HERE COME
DA BEAKIE
BOYZ! FIRE!

DUNN DUNN DUNN



KABLAM!



TARGET
NEUTRALIZED

WITH THINGS LOOKING GRIM, IT WAS TIME FOR THE CHARGE OF THE GROT BRIGADE...

CHARGE'EM YA WEEDY ZOGGERS!



FASTA! GIT 'EM!



AYE EEEEE EEE!



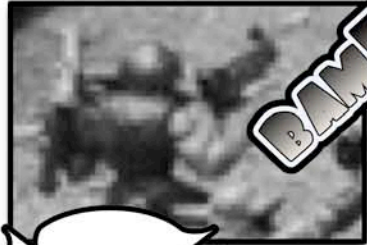
AYEEEE

GIT DA BEAKIE

COMMAND, WE MAY HAVE A PROBLEM..

HEZ MINE

BAM!

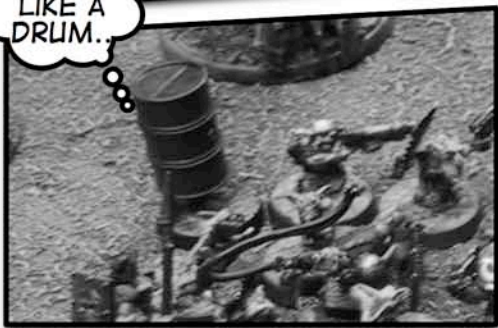


STAND FAST BROTHER. SUPPORTIS ENROUTE

WHOOSH BOOM - WHOOSH BOOM



MAYBE IF I JUST LOOK LIKE A DRUM..



I'M HERE BROTHER



FOR THE EMPEROR



WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS...

COMMAND
AREA
CLEAR

THA'S A
FUNNY
LOOKING OIL
BARREL...

THE MARINES CONTINUED THEIR ADVANCE BEHIND A WALL OF FIRE, TOTALLY CLEARING THE TOP OF THE BUILDING OF ORKS. AGAIN, THE SENSORS IN JEREMY'S HELMET WENT HAYWIRE, AS HE PICKED UP THE SIGNAL OF THREE OF THE ORK OBSCENE ATTEMPTS AT CREATING MINI DREADNOUGHTS.



THE WALKERS MOVED ONTO THE BATTLEFIELD, FIRING THEIR WEAPONS AT THE RHINO. ROKKIT AND SHOOTA FIRE RAKED THE VEHICLE, BUT WAS UNABLE TO GET PAST THE ARMOR AND THE EMPEROR'S BLESSING. THE WALKERS CHARGED FORWARD AND SLAMMED INTO THE SIDE OF THE TRANSPORT, ROCKING IT BUT THEIR CLIMSY WEAPONS UNABLE TO DAMAGE IT.

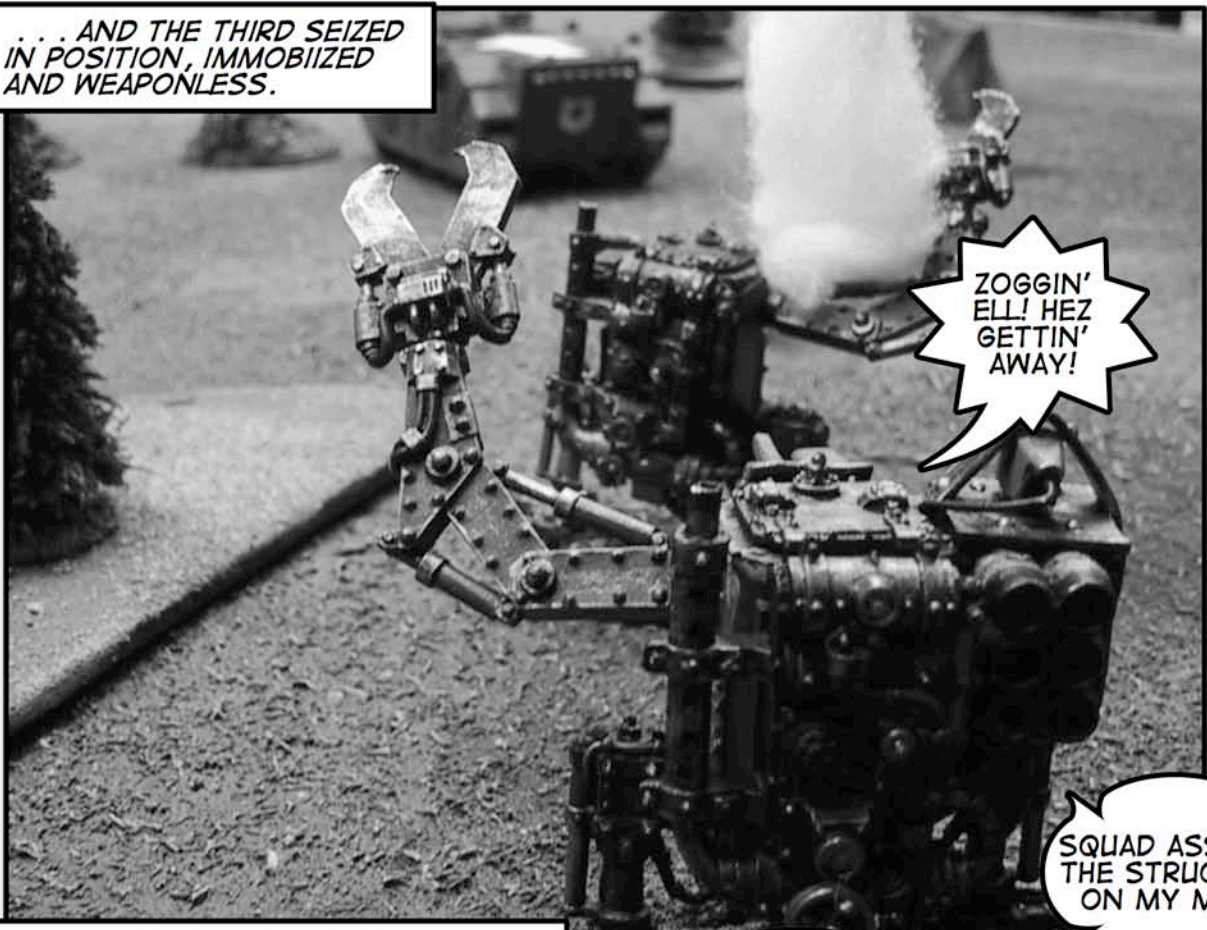
THE RHINO BACKED AWAY FROM THE MENACING ORK WALKERS, IT'S SINGLE STORM BOLTER LASHING OUT WITH A HAIL OF LEAD. TWO OF THEM EXPLODED IN BALLS OF FIRE...

WHOOSH - BOOM

WHOOSH - BOOM



... AND THE THIRD SEIZED
IN POSITION, IMMOBILIZED
AND WEAPONLESS.



ZOGGIN'
ELL! HEZ
GETTIN'
AWAY!

SQUAD ASSAULT
THE STRUCTURE
ON MY MARK

WITH LEAD ELEMENTS DESTROYED,
THE BATTLE BROTHERS BEGAN TO TAKE
THE FIGHT TO THE ORKS IN EARNEST

NEW
TARGET
ACQUIRED

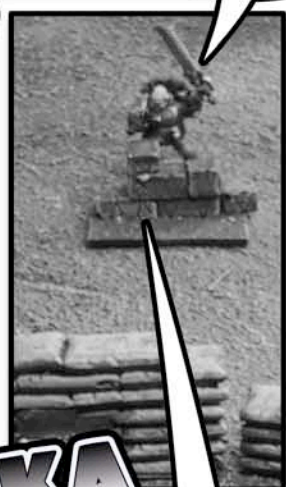


WROOSH-BOOM

OI! DAT
SMARTZ!



TARGET
NEUTRALIZED



'ERE
DEY
COME!

DAKKA DAKKA DAKKA
DAKKA DAKKA DAKKA

MARK





I WANT SOME FLAME ON THAT POSITION

WLOOOOOSH



NOW DATZ A BIT HOT!

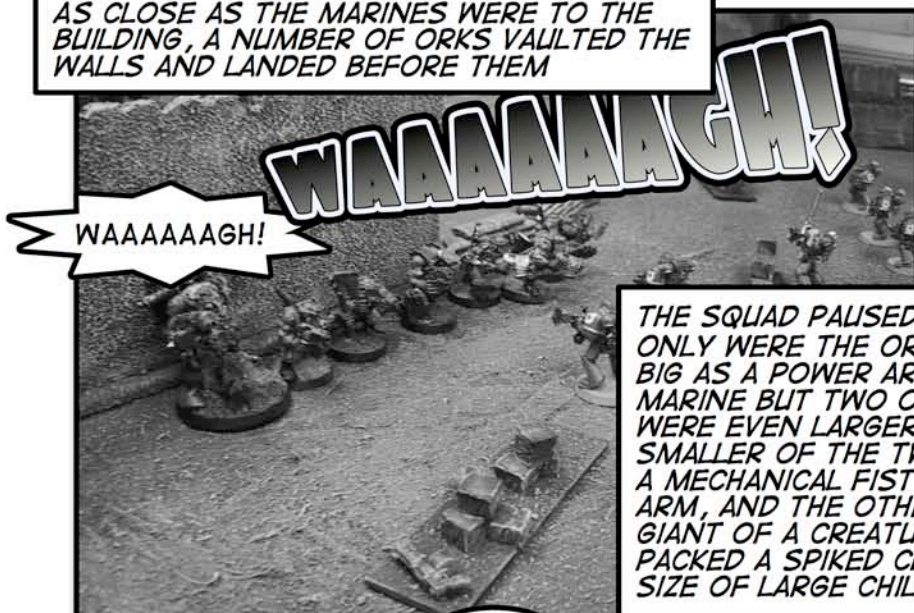
AYEEE

WLOOOOOSH

FOR THE EMPEROR!

BUT THE EMPEROR'S CLEANSING FLAME DOES LITTLE BUT RAISE THE GREENSKINS IRE

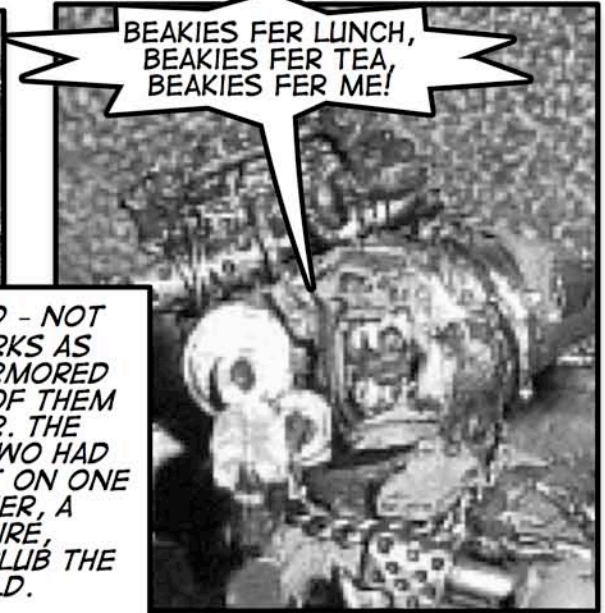
AS CLOSE AS THE MARINES WERE TO THE BUILDING, A NUMBER OF ORKS VAULTED THE WALLS AND LANDED BEFORE THEM



WAAAAAAGH!

WAAAAAAGH!

THE SQUAD PAUSED - NOT ONLY WERE THE ORKS AS BIG AS A POWER ARMORED MARINE BUT TWO OF THEM WERE EVEN LARGER. THE SMALLER OF THE TWO HAD A MECHANICAL FIST ON ONE ARM, AND THE OTHER, A GIANT OF A CREATURE, PACKED A SPIKED CLUB THE SIZE OF LARGE CHILD.



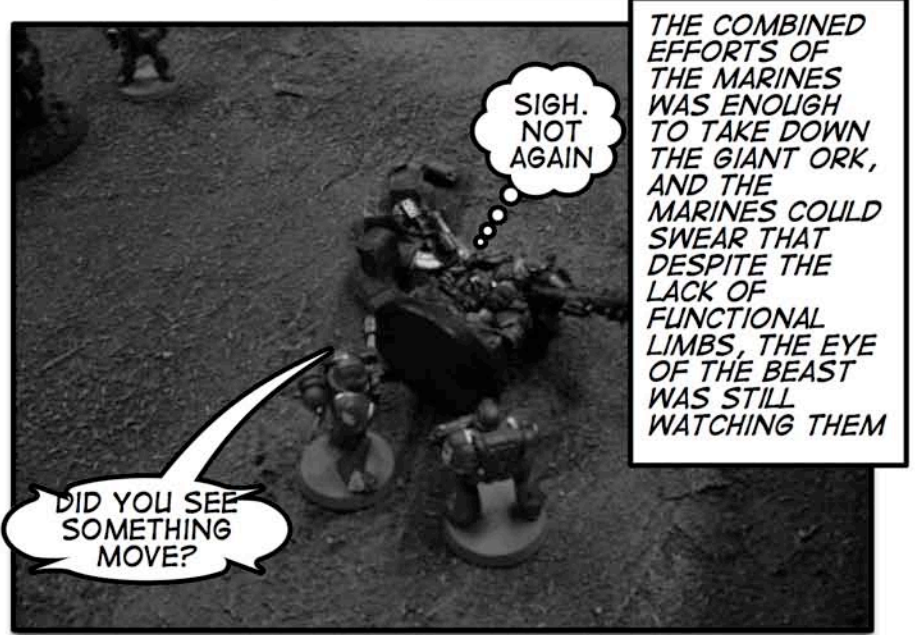
BEAKIES FER LUNCH, BEAKIES FER TEA, BEAKIES FER ME!



LIGHTZ OUT FER YOU!

BROTHER CLEFUS IS DOWN

BROTHER CLEFTUS FELL TO THE GIANT ORK, ITS MASSIVE CLUB COMPLETELY CRUSHING HIS HEAD THROUGH HIS HELMET.



SIGH. NOT AGAIN

THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE MARINES WAS ENOUGH TO TAKE DOWN THE GIANT ORK, AND THE MARINES COULD SWEAR THAT DESPITE THE LACK OF FUNCTIONAL LIMBS, THE EYE OF THE BEAST WAS STILL WATCHING THEM

DID YOU SEE SOMETHING MOVE?

QUICKLY THE MARINES
WORKED TO FINISH
THE JOB

I WANT THOSE
CHARGES
PLANTED NOW!

FALL
BACK!
FALL
BACK!

MISSION
SUCCESS!
PRAISE BE TO
THE EMPEROR!

CASULTIES RECOVERED,
THE MARINES DEPART

IS
BROTHER
CLEFTUS
ABORD?

YES SIR

BUT THEY'RE NOT THE
ONLY ONES TO LEAVE
THE FIELD - ALIVE

KABOOM!

I GOTZ
SUM WERK
AHEAD OF
ME, I DO

CLEAR!

WHIR - CLICK - WHIRRR - CLICK