

Rewriting History

Endor Orbit

Endor System

3 ABY

The Rebel attack force entered the system lasers blazing. The massive Mon Calamari cruisers and other ships of the line formed up for an attack run on the Death Star, hoping that the forces on the forest moon had been successful in their clandestine mission. Only time would tell. Time, and the massive enemy battle station poised to knock them out of the sky.

Mauro Wynter was at the helm of the *Hegemon*, an old relic even at this time and place. The Gozanti-cruiser was slow and cumbersome, not a good blockade runner by any means. But, she was an Imperial design and she could launch a small squad of Tie/Ins to support the beleaguered Rebels on the ground. It was not much, but perhaps it could be enough.

In the aftermath of the battle much was made about why the Imperial forces did not enjoy air superiority that day in the vicinity of their shield generator. Such a prized target should have been defended by all available means. To be sure, much has been speculated that the generator was left poorly guarded to entice young Luke Skywalker to Lord Vader's side, and that was true enough.

However, another aspect far less known is the part Mauro Wynter and a decade's old work-horse had played that day. When the Rebels had attacked and been nearly surrounded by the Imperial garrison the Ewok ambush had taken the Empire truly by surprise. The few Tie/Ins assembled on the nearby landing pad were hastily scrambled to supply close air support.

When they arrived on station they were greeted by the familiar sight of another detachment of Imperial craft. The rouse lasted for a split second until the four Rebel piloted craft opened fire, rapidly knocking the Imperials out of the sky. Their cover blown, the *Hegemon* hastily landed, concealing itself in the dense and dark underbrush of Endor.

The pilots flew on, however, and waiting to harass any incoming hostiles. When the battle above rang out, the Empire spared few craft to come to Endor's defense. However, many an intrepid pilot peeled off to try to knock off the pesky Rebel fighters. None succeeded. They provided close air support but were never seen by the Rebel forces. These unsung heroes, their tale was never told.

As the day wore on, and the shield generator came down Wynter piloted the *Hegemon* back into orbit, and retrieved his Tie/Ins. The skies were still littered with hundreds of enemy craft, and he dared not identify the ship as Rebel against a tide of Imperial fighters. Slipping through the lines, Wynter was able to enter into a convoy of craft rapidly returning to the Death Star for repairs. He launched his escort fighters who again played havoc once the Rebels made their attack run at the core.

When the battle was over he received no fanfare, no trumpets, no praise. He simply had done his job. He simply had survived to tell his tale. For the Rebels had overcome.