

EXT. ANCOBON HIDE-OUT - AROUND THE GAPING PORTAL

as a wave of FIGHTER-SHIPS dives in strategic formation over defending LASER TURRETS, releasing a BARRAGE OF FIREPOWER.

EXPLOSIONS and debris scatter chaotically as

A DROP-SHIP

clumsily lands on the unstable earth. Gates hiss open on the ship and

A BATTALION OF SOLDIERS AND DROIDS

ominously storms off, heads for the gaping portal...

INT. ANCOBON HIDE-OUT - THE RAIL-TUNNEL

as the spherical tram speeds along...

INT. ANCOBON RAIL-TUNNEL - THE SPEEDING TRAM'S CABIN

as streaks of light and churned earth flash past the windows. Sarlo and Aldogott study their new weapons as Wilteq ARGUES with the ALIEN DRIVER...

WILTEQ

No -- the fourth tunnel. Trust me!

GEEVAEDA

They must've shot tracers onto the NewStar.

HAUER

They've got balls to be attacking the C.D. Dispatch.

WILTEQ

Officially, we're not here, remember? They know that.

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The tram comes to a GRINDING halt and Wilteq leads the group off the craft, into --

INT. ANCOBON HIDE-OUT - A SECLUDED HANGAR

where a lone starship sits prepped and ready to fly.

SARLO

I'll be damned.

GEEVAEDA

The "Cloud Merit" -- our escape
ship if we hurry.

As the tram hisses away, the group dashes toward the ramp of the Cloud Merit Isolinear Navigator.

An EXPLOSION rocks the hangar and a dizzying flash of light illuminates the rail-tunnel behind them. Debris falls from the ceiling...

FOUR ASSAULT DROIDS

shuffle into the hangar through the crumbling rail-tunnel, begin FIRING methodically away.

SARLO

Buckle down! Buckle down!

Geevaeda makes it into the Cloud Merit. The rest of the group dives for cover behind shipping crates and equipment -- and proceeds to FIRE BACK.

WILTEQ

Get in the ship!

INT. CLOUD MERIT - THE COCKPIT

as Geevaeda straps into the pilot's seat, sees the

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action outside. She quickly runs through a series of commands on the console and the ENGINES IGNITE.

RESUME - THE SECLUDED HANGAR

as the ENGINES' RUMBLE GROWS to a HIGH-PITCHED WHINE...

There is complete pandemonium: Wilteq, Hauer, Sarlo and Aldogott FIRE A SUCCESSION OF LASER BOLTS as they struggle to the ship's ramp. SHOTS ricochet throughout the hangar, flashes of light bounce off the walls, Droids ERUPT and SHATTER as they take DIRECT HITS.

Aldogott makes a swift and sudden run for

THE RAMP TO THE CLOUD MERIT

and makes it safely.

There's a short gap in the Droid's attack...

WILTEQ

Our turn! Let's go--!

Wilteq leads the remaining group through the chaos, but as he turns to fire a wall of cover, he takes TWO DIRECT HITS to the chest and neck.

INT. CLOUD MERIT - THE COCKPIT

Geevaeda sees this, frantically jumps out of her seat, but Aldogott holds her down...

GEEVAEDA

Wilteq! No! No!

RESUME - THE SECLUDED HANGAR

as Wilteq's lifeless body is SLAMMED against the hull of the ship with a THUNDERING CRASH.