

MSG 0080 - WAR IN THE POCKET OVA - SYNOPSIS

Introduction by Nick Davis, MSGBS Webmaster - The MSGBS Update 0080 Supplement is based on the event in MSG0080 - War in the Pocket OVA and it is only right we catalog the actual historic events of this conflict. The following Synopsis from the Gundam Project by Gundam Grur Mark Simmons. Rather than let it disappear once Mark had to shut his site down I saved this excellanetly written treatise, rather than let it disappear into cyber-space.

MSG0080 - War in the Pocket OVA: Story

In the last weeks of the One Year War, the Earth Federal Forces refined its mobile suit manufacturing processes and started to develop several variants of its standard RGM-79 GM. Alongside this process they began to redevelop the RX series and took a second look at the Gundam, to rebuild it around their greatest Ace Amuro Ray.

In December of UC 0079, the One Year War is almost over, and the defeat of the Principality of Zeon by the resurgent Earth Federation seems inevitable. The Reah Republic of Side 6, hitherto neutral, quietly begins negotiating a security treaty with the Federation and allows the Federal Forces to station defensive garrisons in its space colonies. Meanwhile, at a secret arctic base, the Federal Forces are developing an improved version of the mobile suit Gundam to hasten its imminent victory.

The North Pole

The Cyclops Team, an elite Zeon special forces unit, is dispatched to Earth to destroy a secret weapon being developed at the Federal Forces' arctic base. Captain Steiner and his men launch an amphibious assault and overrun the base's defenses, but the Federal Forces are able to package their weapon onto a camouflaged space shuttle and send it into space. Steiner's mission ends in failure, and one of his men is killed trying to stop the shuttle launch.

Libot

The space colony of Libot, located at the neutral Side 6, has thus far been spared the horrors of the war. To children like eleven-year-old Alfred "Al" Izuruha, the war is a remote and fascinating spectacle, and he and his friends spend their time doodling mobile suits and collecting military paraphernalia.

To settle a bet, Al sets out to obtain evidence that the Federation has its own mobile suits. Since his father works for a transport company, Al is able to wheedle his way into Libot's spaceport, but his video camera records only images of mysterious cargo boxes being unloaded from a space shuttle. On the way home he bumps into his former neighbor, Christina "Chris" MacKenzie. After joining the Federal Forces, Chris has spent the last few years on Earth, but has now returned to Libot.

The next day, a genuine mobile suit battle breaks out inside the colony, as Zeon invaders clash with the Federal Forces garrison. Al follows a damaged Zaku to its crash site and meets its pilot, novice pilot Bernard "Bernie" Wiseman. Bernie barter his rank badge for Al's video camera, and is then retrieved by the retreating Zeons.

Granada

The Zeon forces return to the lunar base of Granada. Here, the cargo boxes in Al's video footage are identified as being the same ones launched from the Federal Forces' arctic base. The scheming Colonel Killing assigns the Cyclops Team to infiltrate Libot and locate this secret weapon, which they speculate may be a Gundam designed for use by newtype pilots. In response to the Cyclops Team's request for a skilled pilot to replace their lost member, Killing instead assigns them the hapless Bernie. Steiner briefs Bernie on the mission plan and introduces him to his teammates, Mikhail "Misha" Kaminsky and Gabriel Ramirez Garcia.

Operation Rubicon

While the Zeons make a diversionary attack on Libot, Bernie pilots a transport ship containing the disassembled mobile suit Kaempfer into the colony. He is met by the disguised members of the Cyclops Team, who transfer the parts to a warehouse for reassembly. En route, they are spotted by Al; recognizing Bernie, the boy follows the Cyclops Team to their warehouse and demands to join them. After Al tells them where he saw the boxes, he is given a Cyclops Team insignia and made an honorary team member. But in fact, the insignia is bugged, and Bernie is assigned to spy on Al and make sure he doesn't tell anyone about their activities.

Seeing Bernie hanging around Al's house, neighbor Chris assumes he's a burglar and beans him with a baseball bat. Al explains that Bernie is his secret half-brother, and a repentant Chris invites them in to have tea with her parents. The next day, the Cyclops Team get rid of Bernie and Al by sending them out to find the hiding place of the Federal Forces' secret weapon, while Steiner obtains the same information from a local Zeon spy. Unexpectedly, Bernie and Al succeed, and return with pictures of the experimental Gundam. After being chewed out for his risky conduct, Bernie takes Al home and says goodbye to Chris.

Finally, the Cyclops Team complete their preparations. Though Steiner now realizes that Killing has set them up, and is only using them to confirm the presence of the Gundam, he goes ahead with the suicide mission. While Misha uses the reassembled Kaempfer to distract the colony's defense forces, Steiner, Bernie and Garcia infiltrate the secret base disguised as Federal Forces soldiers. Al sneaks into the Federal Forces base just in time to see the Cyclops Team's ruse degenerate into a bloody firefight, in which Steiner is mortally wounded and Garcia kills himself in a vain attempt to



To we who are about die.
From Top - Chris, Bernie, Al,
Stener, Misha & Garcia

destroy the Gundam. Arriving to duel the Gundam, Misha is likewise killed, while Steiner dies in Bernie's arms.

The Final Solution

Receiving word of the Cyclops Team's failure, Killing orders a more extreme solution to the Gundam problem. Assassinating his commanding officer and seizing control of the Granada base, he plans to make an example of Libot by attacking the colony with nuclear weapons. If the Gundam is not destroyed by Christmas day, the colony will pay for its dealings with the Federation with utter annihilation.

Learning of Killings's plan, Bernie at first decides to flee the colony. When Al urges him to stay and fight the Gundam, Bernie reveals the bugged insignia and the other deceptions to which the Cyclops Team subjected the boy. Al tries to warn the police, but they remember his earlier escapades and laugh him off. Fortunately, Bernie has a last-minute change of heart, resolving to take on the Gundam in order to save Libot and its inhabitants. He and Al repair Bernie's crashed Zaku and plan a battle strategy. On Christmas eve, Bernie gives Al a farewell video message, looks in wistfully on Chris and her family, then prepares himself for tomorrow's mission.

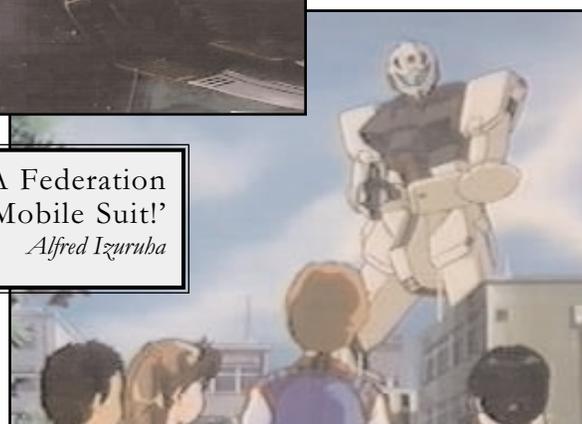
On Christmas day, Al and his mother meet his father at the spaceport. Al's father recounts how, while in transit, he witnessed a battle between Zeon and Federation fleets... a battle which ended with the surrender of a Zeon ship laden with nuclear weapons. Al realizes that the threat is resolved, but he doesn't reach Bernie in time to stop him setting off to fight the Gundam. A running battle ensues, in which Bernie lures the Gundam away from the colony's urban area and into the forest where he has set his traps. Al races onto the battlefield just in time to see Zaku and Gundam destroy each other. Bernie is killed, and, from the cockpit of the Gundam, Federation medics lift unconscious test pilot Chris MacKenzie.

Conclusion

A few weeks pass. The war ends, and the Reah Republic formalizes its security treaty with the victorious Federation. Al watches Bernie's farewell message, then says goodbye to Chris as she heads back to Earth, promising to give her regards to Bernie. Al's school, damaged by the Kaempfer's attack, re-opens, and the principal delivers a speech about the costs of war and their duty to strive for peace. As a grieving Al breaks down in tears, his confused friends try to console him, assuring him that a bigger, better war is sure to come along soon...



'A Federation Mobile Suit!'
Alfred Izuruba



MSG 0080 - WAR IN THE POCKET OVA - DESIGNER NOTES



Where to start? The MSGBS Update 0080 Supplement is step in the new direction of supplements for the Mobile Suit Gundam Battle System. This self-contained supplement has everything a MSGBS Pilot needs to fight conflicts within the year of 0080.

It is important to remember that even with cease fire that took place on January 14th UC0079, there were still a number of police actions that took place as Zeon units went to ground, surrendered or decided to go out in a blaze of glory. So, the conflict that took place in Libot

Colony was not the only incident of 0080. It is also important to remember that Zeon still had forces active on earth, the Afrika Korp, the Zeon navy to name just two were still battling against Federation forces.

This supplement is what you make of it, you could play through all the OVA based scenarios and then put it to one side, or you could use the newer Mobile Suit technology presented here to continue your conflicts into the year of 0080.

What marks this supplement different to the majority of other MSGBS handouts is its scenarios. Not only are they historical, but we have also included and playtested two missions that don't even use Mobile Suits of any description!!! I am sure most MSGBS Pilots

will find the change of pace very interesting, and actually using the WH40K gaming system at its actual 28mm scale. I can tell you we had great fun sneaking around the gaming table with Bernie and Al - and its perhaps the first ever mission were neither side ever fires a shot!!! This mission was perhaps the most challenging of the entire set, to play and to write and I hope it becomes the favorite of this supplement.

Another interesting mission is the Simulator, its more a video game scenario than actual MS combat. Just how long would you survive against increasing waves of Zeon suits? There is no real winner in this mission and its more score keeping scenario. I would strongly suggest that both the Federation and Zeon player takes turns with this scenario - if not just for bragging rights... Oh, incase anyone is wondering I was beaten by my wife by a score of 9 kills to my measly 5 kills and one damaged suit, I think she is just blessed as she uses Federation suits all the time.

But thats enough waffle from me, the MSGBS Update 0080 has been fun to playtest and produce. I hope you all enjoy using this supplement and like the new format, as we will be repeating this in 0083 and maybe we might sneak a peak at 0093 before we go to the bewildering array of Mobile Suits in Zeta and Double ZZ.

Good hunting and luck Pilots...

Nick Davis

MSGBS Webmaster - <http://www.gundambattlesystem.com>