



BLACK LEGION

THE SONS OF HORUS

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LEGION OF TRAITORS

The Black Legion has a long and vile history in the service of Chaos, responsible for ten thousand years of carnage and destruction. Under the dominion of Abaddon the Despoiler, the Legion has risen to great and terrible heights, earning their place as one of the Imperium's bitterest foes.

In the closing days of the Horus Heresy, the Traitor Legions retreated before the loyalists, their Warmaster dead and their dreams of conquest denied. Such was the appalling and lasting rift caused by Horus' betrayal that there was no question of redemption, no chance of mending old wounds and no return for those who had embraced the Dark Gods. With their former brothers in close pursuit, the traitors fled toward the corrupting embrace of Chaos and into the Eye of Terror. Among these traitors were the fragmented survivors of the Sons of Horus and their greatest surviving warlord: Ezekyle Abaddon.

While many of the Legions and their Primarchs became irrevocably twisted and warped by their exposure to the Chaos Gods, Abaddon resisted such temptations. When other traitor legionaries lost themselves in the madness and excess of the Warp, Abaddon never forgot the defeat of Horus and the debt of vengeance he owed the Emperor. It was this thirst for revenge that would sustain him over the long centuries and eventually motivate him to muster the Traitor Legions for war once more. In time, Abaddon would take the place of his fallen Primarch as Warmaster of the Chaos Legions.

For years uncounted, Abaddon wandered the tides of the Warp and the Daemon worlds of the Eye of Terror, time meaningless in that other realm. Embittered by the failure of Horus, he vowed not to repeat the Warmaster's mistakes and so sought out daemonic allies, gathered eldritch weapons and prepared to crush the Imperium utterly. Even in these early times, while the Imperium slowly recovered from the terrible wounds left by the Heresy and the other Traitor Legions struggled against each other for the worlds within the Eye, Abaddon planned his revenge. He forged unholy debts and infernal bargains, all in the cause of marshalling power for his war against the Imperium of Man.

From Abaddon's burning need for revenge, the Black Legion was born, Abaddon gathering together the surviving Sons of Horus to dominate countless cursed stars within the Eye. Unlike the other Legions, Abaddon did not bow to an individual god or Daemon Primarch, and he held no restricting notions of code or obligation. Abaddon's focus was always the destruction of the Imperium and finishing the terrible work that Horus had begun. To this end, he allowed any warrior to join the Legion, provided they were willing to swear allegiance to him and him alone.

The Black Legion he created were no longer merely the remnants of the Sons of Horus, and counted among their ranks many powerful warlords and traitor Space Marines. Dressed in distinctive black and brass armour, they committed vile deeds in the name of Abaddon, each one a strand in his bloody tapestry of death and destruction. In exchange for their

loyalty, these traitor warlords received the favour of Abaddon and the growing strength of the Legion at their backs. More importantly still, those who marched in the ranks of the Black Legion were granted a place in their crusades and a share of the bloody glory they would bring.

Abaddon's Black Crusades are a blight upon the Imperium, each one a deep wound across the stars where the Black Legion and its allies have wrought vast destruction. While the Black Legion has spilled out from the Eye of Terror countless times since they were formed, the Black Crusades are times when the forces of Chaos gather in strength, thousands of power-armoured traitors striking out deep into the sectors and systems of Mankind. It is why Abaddon created the Black Legion: to fight these battles in the Long War against the Emperor and his followers.

Each Black Crusade has been part of Abaddon's carefully laid plan; each furthering his goals in some significant way. The culmination of Abaddon's grand scheme is nothing less than the death of the Emperor and Humanity's enslavement at the hands of the entities of the Warp. Across ten millennia of strife, Abaddon has crafted his dark strategies; each attack, each world destroyed and each army vanquished is but a part of a much larger war. Always at his side is the Black Legion, on burning worlds and in shattered cities, their howling chainswords and barking bolter fire heralding the coming End Times.

Thus is the shadow of Humanity's downfall cast by Horus' lost sons. It is the gravest threat the Imperium faces and the very tolling of doom that echoes out from the Eye of Terror. Where the black-armoured warriors of the Legion tread, cities burn and Imperial worlds fall. Star systems are purged and vanish from the void, their citizens slaughtered and their histories wiped away. To swear eternal loyalty to Abaddon and become a traitor Space Marine in the Black Legion is to become a warrior of the End Times and stand triumphant over countless worlds turned to ash and blood.

**'WHO PLEDGED HIS LOYALTY? THE WARMASTER
WHOM DID WE SERVE IN FAITH? THE WARMASTER
FROM WHOM DID WE TAKE OUR NAME? THE WARMASTER
WHO WAS DENIED TO US? THE WARMASTER
BUT WHOM SHALL WE REMAKE? THE WARMASTER
AND WHO SHALL LEAD US TO VICTORY? THE WARMASTER'**

- CATECHISM OF THE BLACK LEGION

HORUS' LAST SON

It is impossible to tell the tale of the Black Legion without also telling the tale of Abaddon, the last and most gifted of Horus' generals. Greatest of the champions of Chaos and favoured of the Dark Gods, Abaddon would one day become the doom of the Imperium.

Ezekyle Abaddon's story began at the birth of the Imperium during the time of the Great Crusade, as the Emperor fought to reclaim the stars. It was a time of legendary warriors and epic deeds, when the Space Marine Legions earned glory vanquishing alien worlds and bringing the rule of the Emperor to a galaxy grown fragmented. During this vast endeavour, Abaddon stood at the side of the Primarch Horus Lupercal and his Luna Wolves. As Captain of the 1st Company, Abaddon followed Horus as they forged a path of enlightenment into the void. A talented warrior in his own right, Abaddon was one of the Primarch's favoured generals, privy to the secret councils of the Mournival: Horus' innermost circle.

Abaddon led countless charges for the Luna Wolves, his company always in the thick of the fighting, tearing apart aliens with chainblades, bolt rounds and even their bare hands. During the Ullanor Crusade against the Ork Warlord Urllak, Horus and Abaddon led a spearhit assault against the warlord himself. While Horus traded bone-shattering blows with the giant greenskin, Abaddon and the rest of the assault force were engulfed by Urllak's hulking bodyguards. When Horus finally slew Urllak, he returned to find Abaddon alone had survived, covered in gore, with only the dead for company. With this great victory, Horus was able to crush the Orks and scatter their tribes. In honour of the Warmaster's success during the Ullanor Crusade, the Emperor renamed the Luna Wolves the Sons of Horus, that they might always bear the glorious name of their Primarch.

Abaddon favoured his Primarch above all others, revering him as a beloved father. While the Emperor was a distant figure, Abaddon was ever at the side of Horus, the two warriors watching each others' backs as they strode across blood-spattered battlefields and into the flaming hulls of crippled warships. In the Captain's eyes, Horus could do no wrong and was the greatest of all the Space Marine Primarchs. When the Emperor named Horus Warmaster, it was a moment of extreme pride for Abaddon. To him, Horus' superiority was self-evident and, by extension, the Sons of Horus were superior to all the other Legions; rightful leaders of the Emperor's armies.

Tragically, such glories did not last. A short time later, Horus was mortally wounded on the remote, swamp-choked moon orbiting Davin. In a skirmish with an unknown foe, the Warmaster was pieced by a cursed blade, its baleful malediction taking root within his flesh. Abaddon keenly felt this blow, as if he, instead of his Primarch, had been wounded. Though he could not know, this was to be the point at which the Sons of Horus would forever be sundered from the Emperor's side. Desperate to save the Warmaster's life, the Sons of Horus and their allies took their master to one of Davin's warrior-lodges and its ancient priestly order. Unknown to Abaddon, these priests were servants of the Dark Gods. With Warp-magic and obscene rituals, the priests fed

the hatred in Horus' heart and the feeling that he had been betrayed and abandoned by the Emperor. Though his body was saved, his soul had been lost. Thus did Abaddon's efforts to save his Primarch damn Horus and his Legion forever and lay the foundation for not only the Great Betrayal, but also the countless dark days that have followed.

THE HORUS HERESY

Rejoicing in his Primarch's restoration, Abaddon did not question the dark moods and cruel temper that manifested within Horus. Only when the Warmaster began to speak of the Emperor's betrayal, and how he had abandoned the Legions, did Abaddon see the deep hate that festered in Horus' heart. These feelings found fertile ground within Abaddon, who had always harboured contempt for those from the other Legions, and he needed little excuse to see them as foes. When Horus finally turned on the Emperor in open rebellion, Abaddon eagerly swore to lead his forces to the gates of Terra itself.

While a handful of Space Marines within the Sons of Horus questioned the wisdom of turning against the Emperor, most followed their Primarch without question. This was not mere chance, but the hand of Horus himself, who had spent his years as Warmaster cementing his position within the Great Crusade and removing dissenting voices from his followers. Such was the Sons of Horus' devotion to their Primarch that the Ruinous Powers found willing servants within their ranks and many willingly accepted the vile influence of the Warp. During the Heresy that followed, Abaddon made a brutal name for himself as both a peerless warrior and ruthless general. In the name of the Warmaster, Abaddon sanctioned the murder of countless innocents and the burning of entire worlds.

On Istvan III, after Horus virus-bombed the loyalists from his own Legion along with those of the Emperor's Children, World Eaters and Death Guard, Abaddon and his company attacked the survivors. Across the scorched and rotting corpse of the planet, Space Marines waged a war of betrayal and retribution. Battle-brothers, who only days before had broken bread and sparred in training, smashed each other asunder. Abaddon took a savage joy in facing his former brothers in combat, ripping them apart and making bloody examples of them to the Dark Gods.

The Horus Heresy quickly became a terrible war of escalation and retaliation. The Legions struck desperate blows against each other across the length and breadth of the nascent Imperium. By the time Horus had carved a bloody path to Terra, the Sons of Horus stood at the head of a vast army of traitor Space Marines. In a battle the likes of which the Imperium has never since seen, Horus' armies fell upon the Emperor's Palace and Abaddon was granted the honour of leading them into battle. This was to be the zenith of the Sons

ICONS AND SYMBOLS OF THE LEGION



*Heresyera Eye of Horus,
symbol of the Sons of Horus*



Eye of Horus, symbol of the Black Legion



*Wolf's head and crescent moon, symbol
of the Luna Wolves*

of Horus' power. Never again would the Legion gather in such strength or grandeur on the field of battle. In the cauldron of war, Abaddon led the 1st Company and the hulking, black-armoured Terminators of the Justaerin into the Emperor's Palace, smashing through the loyalist defenders. Their chainfists and power swords dripped with gore, and any who stood against them were torn apart. Everywhere, the fires of the Heresy burned out of control; Titans traded blows over the ruined walls of the palace and great warships filled the sky with dazzling lance fire, raining bombardments upon friend and foe alike.

THE WARMASTER FALLS

Horus watched the battle unfolding below from the shrouded bridge of his flagship, the *Vengeful Spirit*. On flickering holocharts, the Warmaster saw his armies trapped against the inner walls of the Emperor's palace, loyalist reinforcements arriving with every passing hour. Through the vista panes of his bridge, he could see that the space battle was also turning against his fleet. Horus knew time was running out. In his arrogance and anger, the Warmaster made one last gambit, lowering his ship's void shields so the Emperor could face him personally. He was not to be disappointed. In an incandescent blast of light, the Emperor teleported onto the *Vengeful Spirit* seeking out his traitorous son. The battle between the Emperor and Horus echoed through the Immaterium, the two great warriors exchanging titanic ringing blows even as their psychic selves struggled in the Warp. For all his rage and anger, Horus could not win – though before the Emperor obliterated his son's soul, Horus delivered a mortal blow to his gene-father.

Abaddon was climbing over the heaped corpses of broken Imperial soldiers when he felt the psychic howl heralding the death of his Primarch. Every Son of Horus knew at once that their Warmaster had fallen, thousands of warriors pausing in battle to look up into the burning sky. The news spread like a contagion through the Traitor Legions, and the assault that had come so close to success, quickly began to collapse. Abaddon immediately teleported back onto the flagship and arrived at his master's side in time to secure Horus' body. With a cry of deepest pain and anguish, Abaddon vowed vengeance against his father's killer. Tearing free the lightning claw from Horus' arm, he fixed it to his own, symbolically taking up his Primarch's debt of blood against the Emperor. Realising the battle for Terra was lost, Abaddon moved to save his Legion from total annihilation. He fought his way through the remaining loyalists on the *Vengeful Spirit* and cleared the ancient vessel of resistance, the mortally wounded Emperor already borne back to Terra by Rogal Dorn. Laying claim to the *Vengeful Spirit*, Abaddon and the Sons of Horus broke orbit and fought their way free of the battle escaping into the void.

A time of reprisal and retribution known as the Scouring followed, and countless worlds were put to death by the loyalists for siding with Horus, their corpses left as warnings to others. Those traitor legionaries that remained in the Imperium were hunted mercilessly and hounded across the stars by pitiless loyalists. Abaddon and the remaining Sons of Horus took refuge in the Eye of Terror, choosing to plunge into the maelstrom of madness rather than face extinction at the hands of the Emperor's vengeful warriors.

RISE OF THE BLACK LEGION

When the Sons of Horus entered the Eye of Terror, they found a realm of madness, where the rules of the material galaxy no longer applied. Almost at once, the Traitor Legions fell upon each other in bitter conflicts and petty wars, as each Primarch and warlord struggled to carve out a piece of this deadly realm for themselves.

The Sons of Horus had reached the Eye of Terror with the bloodied survivors of the Scouring, but the once mighty Legion was reduced to a fraction of its former size. Led by only a few remaining captains, the Legion struggled with its loyalty to their fallen Primarch and the cold reality of their defeat at the hands of the Emperor and his lackeys. Around them, many of the Traitor Legions still clung to their ancient traditions and oaths, trying desperately to seek order despite the insanity of their existence in a galaxy that had turned against them. Other Legions embraced Chaos utterly, surrendering both their minds and bodies to its corrupting effects and forever abandoning everything that they had once been.

The Traitor Legions turned upon each other, and many even fragmented completely as captains became warlords and forged their own warbands from the disillusioned warriors around them. Hungry for power and blood, the traitors butchered their kin with Warp-sharpened blades and daemonic sorceries. In a sea of gore and greed, the glories of the Heresy were forgotten and a new chapter of carnage began. Meanwhile, the Dark Gods subverted and manipulated their new playthings, reshaping the Legions for their own ends and the never-ending war between the gods.

THE LUNA WOLVES

The Luna Wolves were the XVI Legion of the First Founding. They fought with the Emperor from his early wars to unify Terra to the Great Crusade that gave life to his Imperium. Once reunited with their Primarch, the Luna Wolves were recruited from the vicious gangs of Cthonia, a world of ancient subterranean cities and rampant lawlessness. They quickly earned a fearsome reputation amongst the Legiones Astartes.

While all Space Marines are bred for war and excel at battle, the Luna Wolves always strove to be better than their brother Legions, constantly pushing themselves toward perfection. If there was any chance at competition between the Emperor's armies, the Luna Wolves would try to come out on top, whether it was beating another force to the capture of an objective or killing more of the foe than their brethren. It is speculated that this competitive aspect in their nature was a shadow of the ancient gang rivalry on Cthonia, kept alive by the ritual traditions of the Legion. Whatever the reason, the Luna Wolves earned a reputation as the foremost Legion and the favoured warriors of the Emperor, and when they embarked upon the Great Crusade they defended this, earning a great tally of victories for the Imperium.

Though they would be renamed the Sons of Horus and then later the Black Legion, their inherent rivalry and quest for dominance over all others remains at the core of the Legion's heart to this day.

Abaddon abandoned the Legion; broken by the death of Horus and sick of war, he wandered alone into the Eye of Terror. Meanwhile, the Sons of Horus carried the body of their Primarch, preserved in stasis, into the Eye, ignoring the wars that raged around them. Even so, the siren song of Daemons and the whispers of their gods dogged their journey as they pressed on, seeking a resting place for their master. Filled with rage and humiliation at the destruction and decay that had been wrought upon them, scores of battle-brothers began to be changed by the corrupting touch of Chaos. Little by little, their souls eroded and their minds were poisoned by darkness.

THE TOMB OF HORUS

On Maelum, a graveyard world of steel and rust, the Sons of Horus raised a fortress. Surrounded by living darkness and the bones of dead Warp-dragons, it was fashioned from the wrecks of decaying vessels long lost to the Warp, with each spire and tower made from the jagged prow of an ancient ship. The Legion interred Horus' body within a great tomb, where many fell into worship of their fallen demigod. The Warmaster's body hung suspended in a spiralling chamber of bone-white stone, bathed in flickering golden light, his perfect form looking down upon his sons. Reaching up as far as the eye could see, the deeds of Horus were carved into the arching crypt walls, each one depicting a great battle or glorious victory. Each day, the worshippers would gather in the shadow of their Primarch and offer up their oaths anew, unable and unwilling to find a new leader. With their Primarch dead and their Legion on the verge of extinction, the Sons of Horus slowly stagnated.

Like many of the other Traitor Legions, the Sons of Horus suffered from incessant daemonic attacks during their early years within the Eye of Terror. There was a never-ending tide of Daemons to fight off, and many who were not slain fighting the creatures directly fell to the uncontrollable influence of Chaos, losing their minds and bodies to possession. They tried to master the art of possession, binding the Warp-entities to their flesh intentionally while maintaining control of their minds. Through bitter trial and error, the Legion's psykers were able to protect their warriors from the worst of the Immaterium's effects, preserving their psyches against the reckless insanity inherent in touching the Warp. Even so, many Space Marines were left as little more than ruined and gibbering meat by the attempt, and the capricious nature of Chaos saw many more slain outright.

Some within the Legion argued that the Sons of Horus should offer their allegiance to a single power rather than deal with Daemons of many gods. Most, however, warned that the Legion should never bow to an outside power again; they remembered too well the yoke that the Emperor had placed around the neck of the Legion, and were wary of letting another master hold

such power over them again. The martial pride of the XVI Legion also meant that they would never completely accept a master who did not come from their own ranks, be it the Emperor of Mankind or a God of Chaos.

As they settled on Maeleum and maintained a vigil over the corpse of Horus, the Legion continued to expand their fortress. Slaves and other resources were inconstant within the Eye of Terror, and few of the Legions possessed the strength to make major or sustained raids into the Imperium, so the Sons of Horus plundered what materials and labour they could from nearby Daemon worlds and those Imperial settlements close to the Eye. Under the boiling skies of Maeleum, awash with blood and the tears of damned souls, emaciated Imperial citizens toiled alongside twisted mutations in carving bone-white stone from the ground. As the towering traitor legionaries lashed their slaves into ever-greater exertions, the walls of the stronghold grew steadily higher.

Some captains suspected that it would be but a matter of time before they and their battle-brothers were drawn into the wars between the Legions, and so they pushed for the Sons of Horus to replace their losses by increasing the Legion's gene-seed stocks. These same captains knew that any fortress, no matter how grand, could not hope to hold back a determined Space Marine assault, and called for more warriors to be found. Unfortunately, the majority of surviving captains were convinced that the Warp would provide all the power they needed, if only they could master the methods of merging Daemon and Space Marine.

THE LEGION WAR

While the Sons of Horus raised their fortress ever higher and worshipped the corpse of their Primarch, the wars between the other Legions that had sided with Horus during the Heresy continued to rage. On hundreds of Daemon worlds, twisted Space Marine armies clawed at each other, their bodies mutating and changing under the ethereal light of cackling stars. The greed and avarice of the Emperor's Children, and their hunger for fresh slaves, saw them launch dozens of attacks against their fellow traitors, and every Legion struggled against the others for domination of territories within the Eye of Terror. The Sons of Horus had remained largely apart from these conflicts, but jealous eyes eventually turned their way. Traitorous forces gathered against them and conspired to rob them of the remains of Horus to further vile and selfish ambitions. The Primarch's body, with its potent genetic information and biological secrets, was a great prize indeed.

In a sudden assault, the Emperor's Children, at the head of an alliance of Traitor Legions, descended on Maeleum, striking hard and fast from the Warp. More numerous than the Sons of Horus, and with the element of surprise, they smashed their way through the defences and into the central chambers of the stronghold. The Sons of Horus accounted for the deaths of scores of the debased warriors, but the Emperor's Children had cemented their terrible pacts with Slaanesh and had grown vastly in power. Laughing and screaming in wicked joy, Fulgrim's sons were joined by packs of malicious Daemones that spilled into the fortress, snipping off limbs and slicing muscle from bone.



In desperation, many Sons of Horus made hasty daemonic pacts, surrendering themselves to possession and opening their minds and bodies to hungering Daemons. Scores were lost forever as they gave in to the power of the Warp, their flesh twisted and their souls extinguished in a single terrible moment. Daemon fought Daemon in an orgy of death and madness within the halls of the stronghold, as the struggle between the Dark Gods played out with the Legions as their pawns. Unfortunately for Horus' Legion, the foe was too numerous. Despite their desperate sacrifice, what began as a bitter defensive battle became a fight for survival as the Sons of Horus were forced into retreat.

The Legion barely survived the onslaught, though they cut down a seemingly endless tide of Daemons and mortal foes. They tore the pale twisted flesh of the Emperor's Children apart, their blades slick with vivid crimson blood, but were powerless to stop the Primarch's body from being stolen from the spiralling stasis vault. With the body of Horus secured, the Emperor's Children and their allies took their spoils and retreated. As their corrupted enemies faded and vanished into the Warp, the Sons of Horus could only count the cost in dead and damned, and gaze upon the ruins of the stronghold. However, worse was yet to come. The Emperor's Children had taken the remains of the Warmaster to create clones with the aid of Fabius Bile. This was doubtless a misguided attempt to restore the power of the Traitor Legions, and a host of duplicates were birthed from the decaying remains of the once great warrior, each one more of an abomination than the last.



VANQUISHING THE PAST

Their fortress in ruins and their Legion decimated, the Sons of Horus stood on the brink of vanishing forever from the galaxy and fading into cursed memory. With their corpse idol missing, the survivors fought among themselves, giving in to dark despair or uncontrolled rage. The divisions between the Legion's captains turned into bitter bloodshed and murder as order completely collapsed. Abaddon had returned from his Dark Pilgrimage in time to watch the battle from afar, but none were glad to see him after the loss of Horus' body. It was in that moment that he saw, with cold clarity, that it was the Warmaster's failure that had led the Legion here, to them tearing each other apart in the blood-soaked ruins of Maelcum.



For days, Abaddon brooded in the tomb of Horus while his brothers fought, staring at the images depicting his Primarch's victories, each one now filling him only with hatred and contempt. Finally, sickened by how far the Legion had fallen, he stalked through the ruins hunting down his fellow captains, cooling his rage with their final screams. In the end, Abaddon alone remained of the Legion's leaders, demanding obedience from his brothers. Some saw Abaddon as Horus' successor and fell at his feet willingly, while others recognised his raw strength and bowed to his might. A few turned their backs on Abaddon, and were either cut down by their brothers or managed to escape into the Warp. With his Legion brought to heel, Abaddon turned his attention to the clones of Horus; he commanded his warriors to extinguish every trace of their former Primarch and free themselves from his shadow.

With confessions and rumours, squeezed from the tortured throats of Daemons or torn from the flesh of traitor Space Marines, Abaddon was able to find the trail left by Bile. On a twisted world of rusting bone, dripping flesh and boiling blood, the Sons of Horus found and destroyed the ghoulish reflections of their Primarch. With the death of each clone, the Legion stepped further away from the failures of the Heresy and recovered some of their tarnished pride. Abaddon understood that destroying the clones was more than just revenge for the Primarch's final betrayal, it was also part of the survivors' salvation. The Legion had begun to stagnate, even before the destruction of Maelcum and the theft of the Warmaster's remains, trapped by the death of their Primarch and lost without the Heresy to drive them. When Abaddon finally slew the prime clone of Horus and destroyed Fabius Bile's laboratories, he also destroyed what remained of his former master; his father. The Sons of Horus finally died, their past washed away by the blood of the vile abominations.

A NEW MASTER

The transition from Sons of Horus to Black Legion was not instantaneous. Abaddon gave the Legion this new name in the aftermath of purging the clones; however, it would be many years before they grew into a force worthy of his ambitions. Though the majority of the former Sons of Horus had accepted the dominion of Abaddon, the Black Legion was as yet untested.

Centuries of warfare against the other Traitor Space Marine Legions had transformed them almost beyond recognition, and the paradigms of power within the Eye of Terror had shifted. Gone forever was the single unified force that Horus had led against the Emperor, replaced with bickering warbands struggling over scraps or lost to hedonistic excess. Abaddon felt only contempt for the Space Marines he had once called brothers, disgusted by the wanton Emperor's Children, the moribund and sluggish Death Guard and the mindless, raging World Eaters. Just as the Traitor Legions had fallen from their former glory, so too had their Primarchs; most of them were completely consumed by the corrupting might of Chaos. Abandoning their Legions, many of the Primarchs had already ascended to Daemonhood, aligning themselves with one of the Ruinous Powers and accepting their dark promises. It was a path Abaddon could have walked himself, rising to be a god within the Warp, but one that would have limited his existence beyond the Eye of Terror and pushed ultimate vengeance beyond his grasp.

Abaddon started expanding the ranks of the Black Legion, consumed by his desire to launch an assault against the Imperium. Word spread across the Eye of Terror that any Space Marine who bowed before the Despoiler would be granted a place in his Black Legion and a part in his grand plan for revenge against the Emperor. Many of the other traitors mocked and derided Abaddon for his arrogance. However, the endless wars and corruption of the Warp had sown disillusion in the hearts of others and the promise of a place in a Legion led by a warlord determined to continue the war against the Imperium appealed to a great number. The insulting defeat at the hands of the loyal Space Marine Legions was still fresh in the minds of many and they hungered for a chance to spill the blood of their former brothers. Other legionaries didn't care whose blood they spilled, only that Abaddon could lead them to worlds where they could tear piteous screams from the dying and crush the corpses of their foes underfoot. The legend of Abaddon was spreading, and those traitor Space Marines that respected only strength and cruelty were drawn to the Despoiler, his aura of carnage and dark majesty already marking him out as a warlord to rule all others.

Abaddon soon earned an enduring reputation among the Legions for the terrifying vengeance he visited upon those who betrayed him. Some traitor legionaries and daemonic warlords attempted to use the Black Legion for their own ends, infiltrating its ranks with false promises of loyalty. The Word Bearers champion, Rynax the Unspoken, thought to use the Legion as hosts for his daemonic allies, infecting them with Daemon spoor and letting the Warp take root in their minds. Purgor the Putrescent, a favoured general of Nurgle, tried to turn Black Legionnaires into plague carriers, smearing their armour with the remains of his most vile experiments and

sending them into battle coughing bloody ribbons of mucus. The Slaaneshi Sorcerer Hexagalimere schemed to convert legionnaires to the Emperor's Children, whispering promises in the ears of those that had sworn fealty to the Black Legion and trying to turn them against the Despoiler. In the end, the heads of all these champions adorned Abaddon's trophy rack, their warbands flayed and their fortresses torn down stone by stone. Eventually, only the very foolish or terminally insane would break their oath to Abaddon the Despoiler.

Abaddon was a master of manipulation and knew just what combination of fear, greed and vanity would sway the minds of men. Warlords would come before Abaddon merely to verify this champion of Chaos and his Black Legion for themselves, but find themselves scorching their armour black and joining his cause. As the numbers of the Black Legion swelled, Abaddon ravaged the worlds of the Eye of Terror, claiming more warriors and slaves for his cause. This time, the Despoiler was careful not to create such an easy target for his foes, and the Black Legion remained a fleet-borne formation, slipping like shadows across the Warp. Aboard the *Vengeful Spirit* Abaddon led his war against the other Legions, their allies and their enemies, creating an army to rival any force in the galaxy.

Such is the nature of the Traitor Legions that no warlord could ever rule them all, but Abaddon hoped to unite them toward a single goal as Horus had once done. The Black Legion could only hope to destroy the Emperor and his Imperium with the help of the other traitors, combining to brush aside their enemies and launch a single massive assault on Terra. This was Abaddon's dark dream and the path that would shape his destiny for centuries to come.

ABADDON'S CHOSEN

Rather than a single force with a single leader, the Black Legion would become a mighty host of many warbands and warlords. Within this host, all would swear complete allegiance to Abaddon, and through an inner circle, he would lead them with absolute dominion. These became known as the Chosen of Abaddon. They would be his favoured generals, standing above all others and enacting his dark will; a warped shadow of the Mournival in which he had once served.

The Lord Ravager would lead his ground forces fearlessly and always be in the vanguard of the assault. The Lord Deceiver would guide his fleets with esoteric visions so that they might always find their prey, no matter where they hid. The Lord Corruptor would spread fear and corruption before the fleet, and also keep the lesser warlords in line through brutality and terror. The Lord Purgator would harvest worlds for slaves, and ensure that wherever the Black Legion set foot, the taint of the Dark Gods remained.

Abaddon also formed from the Black Legion's ranks a personal bodyguard, known as the Bringers of Despair, among other dark titles. Selected from the strongest and most vicious of his Terminator Space Marines, these fearsome warriors would become a terrifying sight, their arrival announcing the presence of the Despoiler himself.

DARK PACTS

While other warlords were content to make pacts with individual gods and Daemons, eagerly giving up control for a sliver of power, Abaddon was different. In the long decades of the Great Crusade and the bloody years of the Horus Heresy that followed, he had studied the way in which Horus had waged his wars and dominated his allies. What Abaddon observed was, first, the hand of the Emperor and then later the influence of the Dark Gods at work, limiting the greatness of his Primarch and ultimately leading to his demise. Abaddon would make no such mistake, and though he would court the Chaos Gods as allies, he vowed, foolishly perhaps, never to be completely within their thrall.

It is still unclear how Abaddon was able to use the will of the gods for his own ends while remaining unscathed by their power. Some cite that it is the blood he shares with Horus, fuelling old rumours that he was the Warmaster's one pure clone son. Others say that Abaddon was broken in some fundamental way by the death of his Primarch and the defeat on Terra, his mind consumed by hatred and rage until nothing of his humanity remained. Another tale maintains that Abaddon was never human at all and is instead a construct of the Dark Gods – an expression of their hatred for Humanity. Whatever the reason, the gods chose Abaddon to be their champion and gifted him with a freedom of will denied to so many of their servants, perhaps impressed by the audacity and grandeur of his quest for vengeance.

Regardless of how this favour was won, the period after the destruction of the clones and the renaming of the Sons of Horus was a time of war and domination for Abaddon and the Black Legion. As it grew in size and strength, it exerted its power over the other warbands within the Eye of Terror, crushing and absorbing countless lesser warlords, bending them to the will of the Legion and adding their strength to its growing ranks.

Meanwhile, Abaddon also sought other ways to both increase his personal power and to learn all he could about this new and dangerous realm in which the traitor legionaries found themselves. The Despoiler had already discovered much during his own Dark Pilgrimage, the journey he took in the lost years between the end of the Horus Heresy and his return to the ruins of Maelum. On his travels, he had learned that the power that Daemons represented could be harnessed and controlled, just as one man might control another. He also learned that the Eye of Terror was a place containing unnumbered arcane devices and forbidden weapons, the likes of which were unknown to much of the galaxy – and that many of them could be turned to his ends.

SECRETS OF THE WARP

Abaddon's rise to mastery of the legions of Chaos exists only as dark whispers and legend. What is known is that he left behind forever Ezekyle Abaddon, First Captain of the Sons of Horus, and became Abaddon the Despoiler, master of the Black Legion. Though mostly lost in the twisting tendrils of history, there remain grim stories of his triumph over Daemons and his defeat of jealous warlords.



Abaddon went to a world in the Warp where time flowed backwards, spinning out of sync with space around it. In the centre of the world, a Daemon Prince of Tzeentch sat coiled around its core, counting back from the end of days. Abaddon wanted this power for his own and plunged into the tides of time to confront the Daemon. Years slipped backwards as he clawed his way toward the Daemon Prince, finally arriving at its feet and demanding its obedience. Scornful of the upstart mortal, the Daemon asked why it shouldn't slay him where he stood. In response, Abaddon challenged it to an impossible game. If Abaddon could guess the Daemon's name, it would pledge its allegiance to him; if he failed, he would surrender the artefacts he carried, but the Daemon must tell him its name to prove it had not cheated. Unable to resist the challenge, the Daemon accepted the conditions of the game, mocking the mortal for his foolishness.

How could the Daemon have known that this was the second time Abaddon had stood before it? The first time, he had failed to win the contest but had learned the Daemon's name as proof. Surrendering his artefacts, Abaddon had then stepped back into the tides of time and returned to the Warp years before he landed on the world, leaving a message for himself in the future before he was extinguished by paradox. Thus he ensured events would be altered and the Daemon would be his. So it came to pass that Abaddon enslaved Xyn'Goran, the fractured Daemon of Time. With the future memories of the Daemon and the dark sorceries of his cabal, Abaddon could perceive the fates and shape his own destiny.

In another legend, it is said that Abaddon set an entire system ablaze so that it burned a secret upon the stars. Setting down on a series of Daemon worlds on the outer edge of the Eye of Terror, the master of the Black Legion turned the primitive inhabitants to his will, killing mighty mutant champions and laying waste to entire continents until the debased tribes and twisted Daemon thralls bowed to him. Then, in a single terrible night, Abaddon commanded his new servants to set their planets on fire, millions of souls torching twisted forests, feudal cities and vast crimson grasslands. As the flames grew higher, the primitives then threw themselves into the fires, adding their own bodies to further fuel the inferno. To the sound of cackling Daemons, each world of the cursed system glowed and flickered in the night, the Warp around them boiling in response to the orgy of death and destruction. From his vessel, Abaddon watched with pleasure as the tides of the Empyrean responded to the carnage and changed direction, opening a hidden gateway. Where the portal led, the legend does not say for sure, only that it was another realm created long ago by a lost race, allowing the Despoiler to travel between worlds, slipping past the Imperium's defences.



On worlds where the laws of nature had no meaning, the Black Legion crushed scores of rival warbands, turning their warlords to their cause or making violent, bloody examples of them. In the clockwork fortress of Hezlock Thrice-Blind, the Black Legion defeated the sorcerer's daemonic crystal wisps, and gave him the choice of service or life everlasting, his severed head impaled on a spike of living crystal. Wisely, Hezlock bowed to Abaddon. On a rancid planet of endless decay, the Black Legion waded through a turgid river of human filth to bring down the pestilent fortress of the Daemon Prince Anexthrok. After destroying the Daemon's army, Abaddon bound him with the power of the Warp and force-fed him the remains of his warriors until Anexthrok agreed to offer his allegiance. Each time the Black Legion would appear above a world, its warriors knew they had a choice: join with the Despoiler or become another example of the unchecked might of the Black Legion.

As the Black Legion brought one warband after another to heel, Abaddon studied the worlds of the Eye of Terror. The more Abaddon learned of the Eye, the more he understood the raw power it offered and how, lost in its limbo of timelessness, he might be able to wage war upon the Imperium not just for centuries, but for millennia. In his mind, the first inklings of a grand and dark war began to materialise; the nature of his revenge was finally taking shape. Abaddon worked endlessly to expand his army. Every world Abaddon discovered, and every foe he faced, he turned to his cause or crushed them mercilessly underfoot. So it was the Black Legion grew, its ranks populated not just with traitor Space Marines but a menagerie of cursed souls.

WARP-CRAFTED WEAPONS

During his wars within the Eye of Terror, Abaddon discovered many powerful artefacts of Chaos, objects that had been lost to the Warp or were fashioned by the Dark Gods themselves. Tales tell of the Crucible of Lies, the Last Memory of the Yuranthos and the Spineshiver Blade, items perilous but potent, all stolen by the Despoiler. Dozens of daemonic weapons were found by the Black Legion in the depths of ancient ruins on Warp-tainted worlds or the holds of broken ships, their rusting hulks drawn into the Eye of Terror by the tides of time and space. Each object was a deadly abomination against reality, hidden away or forgotten for good reason.

These devices and ancient weapons would become the tools with which Abaddon would craft his Black Crusades, tapping into their vile energies to further his own ambition. Abaddon used a cabal of Thousand Sons Sorcerers and the sorceries of the bound Daemon Xyn'Goran to follow the strands of time, ever mindful of the future and fate of the Black Legion. Sifting through centuries of possible futures, Abaddon's keen mind was able to discern the patterns in the Warp – and the telltale signs left by the dark artefacts he desired – that could turn the tides of the Long War in his favour.

Many of these forbidden relics were bartered for power or given as gifts to Abaddon's generals as tokens of favour. It became a mark of the Despoiler's warbands and warlords that they would often carry baroque daemonic weapons and devices of devastating power. The most maddening and majestic of these weapons were given to Abaddon's Chosen; these foul and twisted warriors were among the few strong enough to bend the weapons' rebellious and hungering spirits to their will. Those objects and esoteric artefacts deemed important to Abaddon's Long War, however, were locked away in hidden vaults or behind fortress gates, sealed from prying eyes and jealous ambitions lest they fall into the hands of his foes.

A MARK OF SHAME AND DEVOTION

When Abaddon took control of the Sons of Horus, he set about making a break with their previous history. Firstly, he cast off the name of their Primarch, rechristening the Sons of Horus as the Black Legion, so that they could move beyond the failures of the Heresy and repair their tarnished reputation. While he kept the image of the Eye of Horus as the sole reminder of their origins, he ordered his warriors to paint their armour black and strike all other symbols of their past allegiances. This was to serve as both a mark of their shame and their devotion. An ancient symbol of mourning, the black honoured their dead Primarch without speaking his name. Equally, it ensured that the former Sons of Horus would never forget that their Primarch had failed, and his failure must be drowned in the blood of his foes. More important than a mark of shame, the black of the Legion's armour was part of Abaddon's plan to unify the Traitor Legions for his great war against the Imperium. So potent a symbol has it become that few other warbands wear black armour. It was a clear message that told of a Space Marine's devotion to Abaddon and that he had forsaken all other oaths.

ABADDON RETURNS

Five centuries after his retreat from Terra, Abaddon came back to the Imperium at the head of a host of traitors and Daemons. It was the Imperium's first encounter with the newly founded Black Legion and the return of a brutal and bitter enemy many had thought lost to the graveyard of history.

Since the Scouring, Abaddon had remained within the Eye of Terror, rebuilding the Black Legion as a vengeful reflection of their former glory. At last, they returned, the first chapter in their long war against the Emperor ready to be written in the blood of Imperial worlds. Through alliances, threats and promises, Abaddon was able to muster the largest force of Traitor Legions seen since the Heresy and took the Imperium by surprise. Worlds close to the Eye of Terror fell into mayhem and chaos as Legions descended from the sky and Daemons tore their way into reality. Only Cadia, with its formidable defences, stood firm, its brave regiments fighting from the towering gates and bastions of their cities.

To counter the invasion, the Imperium was forced to divert many of the newly-formed Space Marine Chapters of the Second Founding from war zones across the Segmentum Obscurus. The Traitor Legions revelled in their return from the Eye of Terror, bathing in the blood of innocent worlds and filling the holds of their ships with slaves. On a dozen planets, the Black Legion proved worthy of their fallen Primarch and the martial prowess of the Luna Wolves. Abaddon had chosen his generals well, and each competed for glory as the Legion tore a bloody gouge across the stars.

Zagthean the Broken led his Black Legion warband in an orgy of violence and excess on the agri world of Valesia. For his own dark pleasure, the warlord constructed a vast maze of thorns from the world's blood-rose orchards, blinding his prisoners and losing them within its twisting tunnels, before hunting them down at his leisure. Countless inhabitants spent their final terrifying hours listening desperately for the sounds of pursuit, their flesh bleeding from dozens of thorn cuts and their lungs filled with the sickly sweet scent of the blood-rose.

Not to be outdone, Eralak and his company of Raptors brought a bloody nightmare to the floating hive cities of Melpia. Killing millions in their rampage, Eralak's warband sent dozens of cities falling from the sky as he tore out their complex suspensor arrays and vented their plasma reactors onto the farms and fields below. Fashioning giant floating gallows from the remaining, ruined cities, the warlord hanged millions of Imperial citizens, their swaying corpses forever doomed to drift across the skies of Melpia, a terrible reminder of the power of the Black Legion.

The Black Legion's greatest achievement was not only its brutal victories, but also the unity it had managed to forge among the traitors and their daemonic allies. Even though the traitor Space Marines, Daemons and heretics turned on each other once Imperial resistance had been crushed, in the presence of the Black Legion, they gave grudging respect. This was the Legion of fear and domination Abaddon had wrought, and it was to be an ominous sign of things to come for the Imperium.

THE TOWER OF SILENCE

As the bloodshed of the First Black Crusade reached its frenzied heights, cities burned and worlds were stripped of people to feed the dark desires of the Traitor Legions. Leaving his Black Legion to continue their brutal reprisals and raids against Imperial worlds, Abaddon pursued his own plans. Using the howling souls unleashed into the Warp by so much death and destruction, he made a secret daemonic bargain. In payment for the feast of despair, pain and anguish Abaddon had created with his Black Crusade, the Dark Gods gifted him with knowledge of the secret location of the Tower of Silence on Uralan.

Cloaked in the shadow of the Eye of Terror, Uralan was whispered of in daemonic lore as a place where the gods themselves locked away their secrets. Following the strands of fate unravelled by his cabal of Sorcerers, Abaddon had discovered a concealed path through the Warp, and across the shifting sea of worlds beyond, to reach Uralan without needing to breach the Cadian Gate. With a cadre of the Black Legion's elite warriors, each one a brutal veteran of a thousand battles, Abaddon set foot on Uralan and entered the Tower of Silence. Almost at once, the tower's guardians set upon them, ancient constructs of dark energy that shifted and flickered, their claws tearing at the ragged edges of his warriors' souls.

After a bitter battle, Abaddon climbed down into the mirrored heart of Uralan. There, the dank tower crypts gave way to ethereal light and wind. Gravity reversed, and where Abaddon had been descending into the earth, he now walked out into a reflected realm, the sky beneath his feet and the ground above. Following a floating path of twisted trees, he walked into a crumbling labyrinth of ancient stone that both decayed and was remade before his eyes. Filled with the ghosts and echoes of those that had come before, the maze was a maddening tangle of old and new, its walls turning in upon themselves at impossible angles. For what seemed an age, Abaddon wandered the haunted labyrinth, fighting off the spirits of the dead that threatened to add him to their ranks. Finally, close to exhaustion, the Despoiler prepared to make his final stand.

Then, from out of the madness of the maze, a towering figure appeared, its perfect form wreathed in golden light. Without a word, the figure beckoned for Abaddon to follow. Though the Despoiler tried to talk to the being and see its face, it remained hidden within a gauze of shimmering light, unresponsive and silent. The figure led Abaddon to the centre of the labyrinth where a shard of shifting darkness hung suspended in the air. Reaching out into the void, Abaddon felt the cold hilt of a blade meet his palm and he pulled it into reality; the Daemon sword Drach'nyen took terrible shape before his eyes. Raising the fearsome blade before him, Abaddon turned to demand the name of his golden guide, only to discover that the figure was gone.

DRACH'NYEN, THE DAEMON SWORD

The origins of Drach'nyen are a mystery, unknown perhaps even to Abaddon himself. Daemons in his thrall speak of the blade in fear, calling it the 'Thorn in Reality' or the 'Shard of Madness'. It is a weapon that existed long before the rise of Mankind and doubtless will bear witness to its end. Alive with a dark intelligence, Drach'nyen has the power to sunder the material universe with its edge, cutting through matter as a mundane blade moves through smoke. Even the hardened skin of Daemons or armour sealed with the power of the Warp is little proof against its assault, as it drinks in the energy of the Immaterium like water, consuming it utterly.

It is said Drach'nyen can take many forms, and that it only appears as a great blade in the hands of Abaddon because that is how the Warmaster chooses it to be. In truth, the sword has no real shape or size, at least nothing that could be understood by the mind of any being from realspace. Why it chose to let Abaddon take it from its resting place beneath the Tower of Silence is also a mystery, though since that day, only Abaddon has been able to wield it. If another warrior were brave enough to try lifting Drach'nyen, it would fall from his hand as if made of air, though not before rending the thief, body and soul, with Warp energy. As to why Drach'nyen fights for Abaddon, none can say for sure, though such a pact can mean nothing but woe for the Emperor and his followers.



BLACK LEGION ASCENDANT

Infused with the might of Chaos, the Black Legion grew in power and glory during the First Black Crusade. Under the command of Abaddon, they seized ever more victories and triumphs. It was a glorious time for the Legion, as the bloodshed and death of the Crusade washed away some of the memories of the Horus Heresy and their great defeat before the gates of the Emperor's Palace.

However, despite the reckless carnage and terrible destruction it caused, eventually, the First Black Crusade ended. Responding to the deadly peril, the Imperium had gathered its newly founded Space Marine Chapters and Titan Legions and sent them against the traitors. Even so, scores of worlds had been silenced forever and millions of slaves were dragged screaming back into the Eye of Terror. Abaddon had tested the defences of his enemies and vastly increased his power with Drach'nyen. He also took to using the title of Warmaster, rising to claim all that Horus once had. None within the Black Legion argued Abaddon's right to the title, the first Black Crusade proof of his right to lead.

As for the Black Legion themselves, their first foray out of the Eye of Terror had done much to restore their position among the Traitor Legions, fostering a new grudging respect for the black-armoured warriors and their Warmaster. If nothing else, Abaddon had proven that the gods favoured him, something not even the Daemon Primarchs could ignore. Conflict still sputtered and flared between the Legions, but they now had a new purpose, something they had almost forgotten in the half millennium since the fall of Horus.

In the wake of the Crusade, a time of constant raiding began. From the timeless heart of the Eye of Terror, the Black Legion launched raids upon the worlds of the Segmentum Obscurus and beyond. Traitor legionnaires appeared suddenly from the Warp, sometimes numbering in their thousands, sometimes no more than a few dozen, to ravage Imperial settlements. Abaddon was content to give a warlord and his warband the chance to make names for themselves, allowing them the freedom to strike where and when they would. He fostered this independence on these conditions: the atrocities they committed must be done in the name of the Black Legion and at cost to the Emperor.

In what would become a festering thorn in side of the Imperium, the Traitor Legions, often led by a warlord of the Black Legion or even Abaddon himself, would spill out of the Eye of Terror to burn and pillage entire sectors. In the light of dying stars and flaming cities, the Black Legion would indulge their hatred of the Imperium, indiscriminately killing the servants of the false Emperor and tearing down anything they saw as a symbol of the corpse-god. During these crusades, whole systems would be destroyed in conflicts that would drag on for decades or centuries until, as suddenly as they had appeared, the Black Legion would retreat to the Eye of Terror, their holds filled with slaves and plunder. The Segmentum Obscurus suffered terribly in these endless wars against the fallen Space Marine Legions, but in truth, nowhere was safe from their treacherous reach. This was something the Black Legion proved time and again as it cemented its infamous reputation among the armies of the Imperium as a pitiless foe.

CRUSADES OF THE BLACK LEGION

Over the next nine thousand years, the Black Legion continued to escalate its attacks upon the Imperium, the Traitor Legion using the time twisting effects of the Warp to wage an eternal war. With every great battle or incursion, the Black Legion's power grew, their ranks swelled by fresh traitors and their reputation enhanced by their vile deeds. It was the dawn of a dark time for the Imperium, during which the Black Legion raged unchecked across the stars.

Each Black Crusade was a blight upon the Imperium, dooming hundreds of worlds to death and leaving lasting scars upon the Imperium. A single such crusade could span decades of bloodshed; desperate cries for help are sent by Planetary Governors and battlefleet commanders as the 'Traitor Legions' mighty fleets spill into realspace to rampage across star systems and sectors. The populations of entire planets are murdered before the Imperium can respond in force, each world's grandest edifices and staunchest bastions turned to rubble by the traitors' brutal attacks. Though the Imperium has eventually countered each assault, a world touched by a Black Crusade will often take centuries to recover, if it recovers at all; many systems are eternally cursed by the taint of Chaos.

Though many other forces of Chaos Space Marines have launched their own Black Crusades against the Imperium since the times of the Scouring, the Black Legion's incursions remain among the most devastating, each one leaving a sector-wide legacy of vile deeds in their wake.

THE CURSING OF CORONA

As part of the Second Black Crusade, Abaddon wove a terrible hex upon a number of worlds close to the Eye of Terror, seeding them with the taint of the Dark Gods. Leading a small band of his elite warriors, Abaddon breached the Imperial Navy base in Belis Corona. While his fleet launched a diversionary attack against the shipyards, Abaddon and his Bringers of Despair landed on one of the system's outermost moons. Slaughtering the garrison, the Warmaster crafted a complex ritual using their mangled remains and invoking a curse that would sink deep into the core of the moon. Only centuries later would the curse awaken, at the Despoiler's behest, to do its terrible work, unleashing a mutagenic plague upon the defenders stationed there. By the time the Imperial Fleet had mustered to repel the attack on the core worlds of Belis Corona, Abaddon had already departed, his mission complete.

Shortly after the assault on the shipyards of Belis Corona, an attack occurred on the Inquisitorial vaults of Nemesis Tessera. Hidden beneath layers of ice and snow, the Holy Ordos had constructed a watch station from which to monitor the Eye of Terror along with hexagrammatically warded cells to hold daemonic prisoners. It remains unknown as to whether this was the work of Abaddon, but in a swift and brutal assault, one of the cells deep beneath the station was opened and its daemonic inhabitant released. By the time Inquisitorial forces had secured the facility, the attackers were gone, leaving only a trail of smoking corpses and spent bolt shells to mark their passage.

THE DESECRATION OF GERSTAHL

The shrine world of Gerstahl had long been a place of peace in the Segmentum Obscurus, its faithful offering their prayers daily to the God-Emperor. The planet was named for Saint Gerstahl, who had fallen defending the Cadian Gate during the first centuries after the Heresy. Entombed under the world's alabaster capital, the saint was prophesied to rise again when the 'Eye of Darkness opened for the last time' and stem the tide of the treacherous.

During the Third Black Crusade, to distract the Imperium from his desecration of the saint's tomb, Abaddon launched an attack on Cadia. With whispered lies and promises, the Warmaster unleashed the Daemon Prince Tallomin, so-called 'Prince of Princes', against the Cadian Gate. Abaddon had convinced the creature that the blood of the loyal Adeptus Astartes could grant him unheard-of strength and the power to crush his rivals within the Eye. In a gore-soaked assault, Tallomin and his minions slew many millions of Imperial soldiers and lured a dozen Space Marine Chapters to battle. In the end, the ferocious warriors of the Space Wolves finally drove the Daemon Prince screaming into the Warp, but Abaddon had already achieved his aim, destroying the remains of Saint Gerstahl and forestalling any chance of the prophecy's fulfilment.

THE DEATH OF KROMARCH

The world of El'Phanor was a stronghold of the Cadian Gate and a key defence against raiders trying to slip out into the Segmentum Obscurus. Commanded by the Kromarch, it had repelled countless attacks in the centuries since the Horus Heresy. Central to the defences of El'Phanor was the Grand Citadel of the Kromarch, overlooking the vast fertile flood plains of Arabor. The Black Legion descended upon the world like a plague of darkness, half a dozen warbands of the other Legions slaving for blood in their wake. The Imperial Guard struck repeatedly at the attackers, their assaults supported by massed artillery from the citadel that remained long beyond the reach of the traitor legionaries.

During this Fourth Black Crusade, Abaddon personally led the charge against the citadel's adamantium gates through a storm of exploding shells. Only a fraction of the Bringers of Despair made it to the gates, the great obsidian road to the fortress littered with broken Black Legionnaires. Trapped before the gate, the traitors hammered against it even as the Guardsmen swept their ranks with fire from above. Raising Drach'nyen over his head, Abaddon struck the gate and the Daemon weapon split it like cordwood. With the gate sundered, Abaddon and his followers spilled into the fortress, butchering all before them.

Abaddon himself took the head of the Kromarch, tearing it from his shoulders in a bloody shower of gore before holding it aloft in triumph. Summoned by the nexus of death within the fortress and this final sacrifice, hungering Daemons ripped free of the Warp and added to the pandemonium. When the last Imperial soldier was hacked apart, the forces of Chaos fell upon themselves, lost in the joy of slaughter. Daemons and traitors feasted on the ravaged flesh of El'Phanor until it was a dead, wasted planet, and Cadia was left with a chink in its armour.

THE SCOURING OF ELYSIA

The Fifth Black Crusade included among its many atrocities the scouring of the Elysia Sector, culminating in the destruction of the ancient Imperial city of Kasyr Lutien. The Warmaster fomented invasions on a dozen worlds within the sector, entrusting the destruction of cities, shrines and temples to his warlords while using his fleet to keep the Imperial Navy engaged in deep void skirmishes. It was Abaddon's intention to create a sector-wide conflict that would provoke a massive response from the Imperium and draw in Chapters of the Adeptus Astartes. His plans set in motion, the Warmaster led the bulk of his Black Legion to the city of Kasyr Lutien on Tarinth, burning the great city to the ground and enslaving its people.

When Warhawks and Venerators Space Marines arrived on Tarinth in Chapter strength, they made an immediate assault upon Kasyr Lutien. At the same moment, Abaddon ordered the mass sacrifice of ten million citizens, their blood funnelled via the city's great canals into a vast lake of gore. Above the lake, the Warp opened up and Doombreed, greatest of all Khorne's Daemon Princes, stepped into reality and howled in triumph. Abaddon had made a dark pact with Doombreed, promising it the skulls of an entire Chapter of Space Marines in return for its service.

With thousands of Bloodletters pouring forth from the lake of blood, Doombreed waded into the ranks of the Warhawks and Venerators. The Black Legion then sprang their own trap, and from prepared positions across the city, they opened fire on the loyalists, blocking their retreat. Though they fought without fear or respite, both Chapters felt that day, their warriors mutilated by the daemonic host and their gene-seed forever lost to the Imperium.

DRECARTH'S FOLLY

When Abaddon ascended to command of the Sons of Horus, not every warrior of the Legion swore allegiance to him. Many of the traitors clung to their worship of Horus as a god, believing that he would one day return to lead them and punish those who had forsaken their oaths. Others considered the Heresy to be the end of their subservience to gods and masters; the Emperor and their Primarch were the last overlords they would ever bow down to and they saw no reason to make an exception for Abaddon. Most of these renegades were gradually lost to the Warp, disappearing into the Eye, though some would return to be a thorn in the side of the Warmaster.

One of these splinter warbands was the Sons of the Eye, led by Drecarth the Sightless. A former battle-brother of Abaddon's, Drecarth had been one of Horus' captains, escaping in the chaos after Maeleum fell. Abaddon had heard whispers of Drecarth's escape and treachery from his cabal of Sorcerers, who also claimed that an old ally would one day rise to subvert the Black Legion, twisting its loyalty with the memory of the dead Primarch. So, under the sign of truce, Abaddon made a pact with the Sons of the Eye and allied with them during the Sixth Black Crusade. The Warmaster wanted to make an example of the Sons of the Eye, a dire warning to any that would consider challenging his power, but he needed to set the stage for his vengeance just right so that none would ever doubt his resolve.

Abaddon besieged the forge world of Arkreath, offering Drecarth and his Sons of the Eye an equal share of plunder. For months, they fought side-by-side against the defences of the Adeptus Mechanicus, bombarding their great cities from space. Finally, the traitors stood triumphant in the smouldering ruins of the great manufactorums, dead littering the ground. As Drecarth extended his hand in greeting, Abaddon grasped it with his own, only to thrust his talon into the Space Marine's gut. Drecarth lived long enough to see the Sons of the Eye bow to Abaddon before the Warmaster tore out his skull and spine.

THE GHOST WAR

The Seventh Black Crusade began when the Black Legion fleet slipped out of the Eye of Terror undetected and fell covertly upon the worlds of the Imperium. Whole planets were lost before the Emperor's armies could muster the forces to repel the Traitor Legions. Abaddon proved himself a masterful tactician and a match for the combined Imperial Naval commanders of the Battlefleet Obscurus, repeatedly outmanoeuvring their scouts and confounding their attempts to bring him to battle.

While the Imperium tried to find and defeat Abaddon's fleet, his Black Legion laid waste to Imperial settlements and systems. In the volcanic depths of the Harnas Collective, the Traitor Legion broke the great steam seals and left millions to die screaming as scalding clouds engulfed their cities. On the storm-tossed oceans of Jyrrro, traitor Space Marine warbands sunk the silt-mining platforms and fed their workers to rift sharks. Black Legionnaires assaulted the Adeptus Mechanicus void stations of Niess, deep within the Magorium Nebula. The traitors ransacked the station's stores, taking ancient Eldar artefacts recovered by the Adeptus Mechanicus. When Imperial forces arrived, they discovered the Black Legion gone and the station decorated with corpses.

While the Ghost War would rage for many years before the Traitor Legions retreated to the Eye of Terror, a single engagement stands out among the long list of bloody deeds. On the world of Mackan, the Black Legion and its allies faced a company of Blood Angels. The Legion had ravaged the world, putting its dust-mill towns to the torch and tearing apart the grand Cathedral of Radiance raised to honour the might of the Emperor. Arriving in time to halt the escape of the traitors, the sons of Sanguinius set up defensive positions around the Black Legion landing zone in an attempt to cut them off from their fleet.

Abaddon personally led a warband of the Black Legion's Khorne Berzerkers in a charge against the Blood Angels Devastators' positions. While scores of Berzerkers were obliterated by lascannon and plasma cannon fire, the survivors fell upon the Blood Angels. In a sickening parody of Horus' slaying of Sanguinius, Abaddon engaged the Blood Angel's company commander, Acron, in single combat. In front of the remaining loyalists, the Despoiler tore Acron apart. Forcing the Space Marines into retreat before the fury of his warband, he claiming their dead as his own. Abaddon would later use the Blood Angels' precious gene-seed in a pact with Fabius Bile to create new traitor Space Marines, sprung from the remains of his foes.

THE SKULLGATHER

As the Eighth Black Crusade raged across the stars, the Black Legion struck out from the Eye of Terror in every direction. At first, the Imperium could only guess at the Traitor Legion's plans, as some raids accounted for entire settlements where others only seemed to cause limited carnage by the horrific standards of the Black Legion. On the moons of Teekus, eight of the twenty crater cities were peeled open to the void, their inhabitants freezing in place while the others remained untouched. The chartist pilgrim vessel *The Divine Path* was waylaid en route and nine-hundred and ninety-nine of its passengers were murdered in ascending order of the pilgrim tokens they carried. The rest were left to weep over the fallen.

In what later became known as the Skullgather, tens of thousands were killed across the Segmentum Obscurus in a variety of ways and in specific numbers, their corpses left in ritualistic patterns. It was part of a plot to appease the Changer of Ways, the numbers and patterns creating a mathematical equation of terrible and profane perfection. While Imperial forces pursued the Black Legion, trying to bring them to battle, the Inquisition attempted to break the cipher, driving hundreds of adepts insane in the process.

Finally, on the forge world of Rithcarn, the traitors instigated a massive uprising of the mutant workers, plunging the world into chaos and ruin. In the confusion, the Black Legion sacrificed the council of Tech-Magi in the gears of their own manufacturums. With their destruction, the complex sequence of death was complete, and the Master of Fates was greatly pleased.

THE STARVING OF CANCEPHALUS

The naval fortress of Cancephalus sits like a brooding sentinel on the edge of the Cadian Gate. For centuries, it served as a base for Imperial wolf packs hunting down traitor vessels as they tried to slip out of the Eye undetected. Heavily defended and well-garrisoned, direct attacks against the fortress repeatedly failed, with Imperial forces easily crushing raiding fleets and minor Chaos incursions. During the Ninth Black Crusade, with characteristic cunning, Abaddon gathered a sizeable force of Traitor Legions but did not attack Cancephalus directly.

Instead, he led his Black Legion against the heavily populated world of Antecanis and its principle city of Monarchive, the seat of its Imperial governor. Antecanis had long been a recruiting ground for the ships of Battlefleet Obscurus, with a proud tradition of supplying captains and officers to the Imperial Navy. By striking directly at the heart of the world and besieging its governor in Monarchive, Abaddon weakened the defences of Cancephalus as ships were diverted to Antecanis' defence.

In the first hours of the battle, the Black Legion carved a bloody trail into the rating barracks and tactical simulacrum, killing all in their path. Monarchive was primarily a centre for Imperial Naval training, and the governor was forced to form regiments of crewmen and deck officers to turn back the invaders. Men who had never held a lasgun or walked without a roof above their heads were herded into the great dome gardens to face the foe.

Only the use of naval macro-cannons, destined for the shipyards and hauled from the manufacturums, halted a breakthrough by the traitors before the entrance of Monarchive's inner chambers. The once-proud garden domes were transformed into trench networks and a mangled no man's land of splintered trees and shattered Imperial statues. However, it was a losing war for the inhabitants of Antecanis as their conscript crewmen were wasted in a war of attrition.

By the time the reinforcements from Cancephalus arrived, the entire world was engulfed in war, with both sides digging in for a protracted siege around the ruins of Monarchive. Though Abaddon had not breached the heart of the city, he had raised a huge army of heretics and mutants to wage his war. His Sorcerers had also weakened the walls of reality, freeing teeming hordes of Daemons to attack Antecanis. When Abaddon left orbit, uncontrolled mutation and traitorous citizens continued the conflict, aided by horrors from the Warp.



The ensuing war on Antecanis lasted for another seventeen years before the Imperium dislodged the attackers and finally drove them back into the Eye of Terror. During the bitter struggle, the population of Monarchive was gutted and a generation of Naval commanders and officers was lost forever. Cancephalus also paid a high price in ships and crewmen, its numbers depleted trying to blockade Antecanis from reinforcement by the traitors.

The protracted siege meant that patrols and fleets raised at Cancephalus were severely reduced, allowing the Black Legion free reign to raid the sector. During this time, several Chaos fleets were able to leave the Eye of Terror undetected, sailing off into the greater Imperium unopposed, their destinations unknown.

THE CONFLICT OF HELICA

In the Tenth Black Crusade, Abaddon forged a dark alliance between the Black Legion and the Iron Warriors, making a deal with their daemonic Primarch, Perturabo. In exchange for Abaddon agreeing to settle a debt of vengeance against the Iron Hands, Perturabo opened an ancient Warp route out of the Eye of Terror for the Despoiler's fleet. The passage, calculated over several agonising months by the tortured machine spirits of a chain of enslaved cogitators, allowed Abaddon's forces to steal past the layered defences of the Cadian Gate and into the Helica Sector, spinward of the Eye of Terror.



Once again, Abaddon employed a carefully planned feint, sending the Black Legion fleet against Thracian Primaris, the capital world of Helica, while he attacked elsewhere. The Despoiler also scattered his warlords across the sector and, on scores of planets, traitor vessels thundered down from the skies to kill and maim Imperial citizens.

While his warlords indulged themselves in the slaughter of Imperial worlds, Abaddon travelled with the Iron Warriors to the Medusa System, home world of the Iron Hands. From the *Vengeful Spirit* he watched as the Iron Warriors laid siege to the loyalist Chapter. In a protracted war of attrition, the Iron Warriors systematically burned the outer worlds of the Medusa System, tearing down the loyalist defences one by one. In the burning light of their ruined fortifications, the Iron Hands struggled to hold back the traitors, buying time for their support companies to arrive.

'HORUS WAS WEAK. HORUS WAS A FOOL. HE HAD THE WHOLE GALAXY WITHIN HIS GRASP, AND HE LET IT SLIP AWAY.'

Abaddon, Warmaster of Chaos

Before the bulk of the Iron Hands and their allies could arrive, Abaddon and the Iron Warriors retreated, leaving hundreds of dead loyalist Space Marines in their wake. Though Medusa still stood, Abaddon had learned much about its defences, and the Iron Hands themselves, both of which he would put to good use later.

THE DOOM OF RELORRIA

At the outset of the Eleventh Black Crusade, Abaddon bound a Daemon of Tzeentch within the oculus of his vessel, hoping to find a path through the tumultuous Warp storms around the Eye. Tormented with impossible riddles and twisting falsehoods, the Daemon was driven completely insane, leading Abaddon thousands of light years off course.

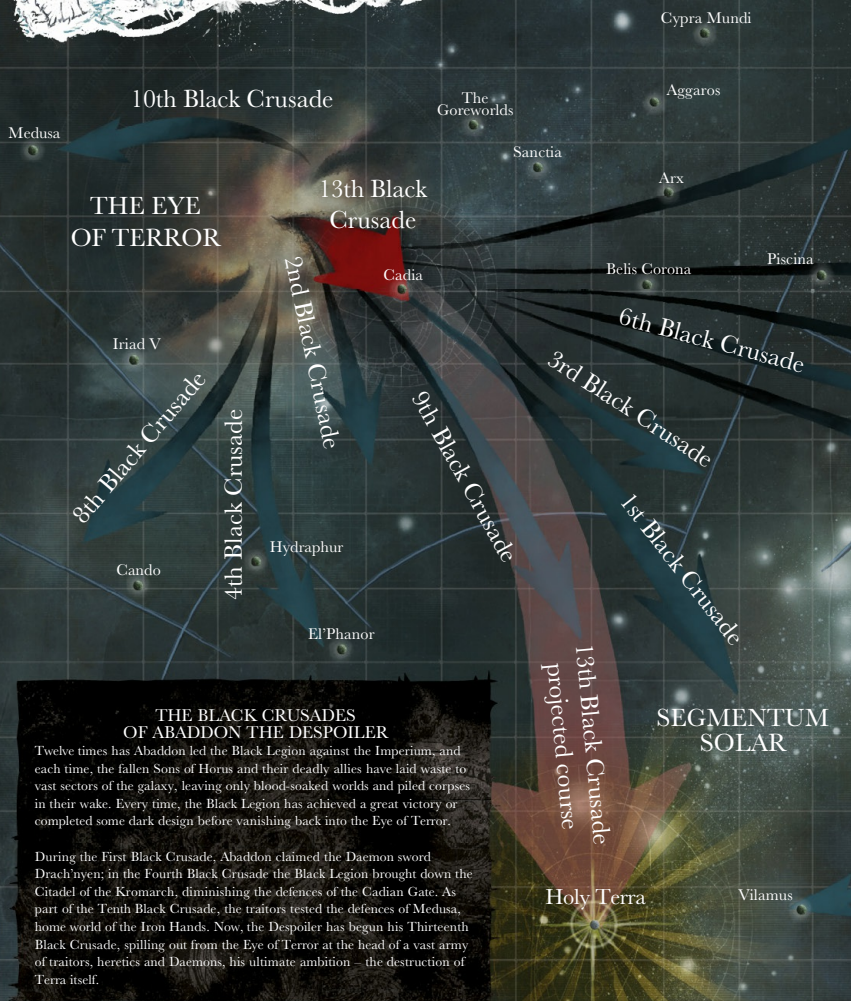
Writhing, the Daemon tore itself apart in a vortex of madness, bending time and space around the fleet. Abaddon's ships were scattered across the void of realspace. Undaunted by the failure of his daemonic navigator, the Warmaster loosed his Black Legion upon the nearest planet, the cardinal world of Relorria.

Descending on Relorria, the traitors encountered a rival for their prize – an Ork Waaagh! led by Murgor 'Undred Teef. In a vicious and chaotic three-sided war, Daemons and Orks ripped each other apart in the burning ruins of Relorria's vast Reflecting Towers.

Abaddon used this chance encounter with the Orks to conduct unspeakable experiments with Daemons and alien creatures, attempting to fuse the material and the immaterial together into some new manner of horror. Fascinated by the psychic link between the Orks, and their instinctive use of Warp energy, the Warmaster took thousands of the xenos back with him to the Eye of Terror to continue his research. The Black Legion eventually retreated from Relorria, leaving the battered survivors of Humanity to destruction at the hands of the Orks.

CHAOS RESURGENT

SEGMENTUM
OBSCURUS



THE BLACK CRUSADES OF ABADDON THE DESPOILER

Twelve times has Abaddon led the Black Legion against the Imperium, and each time, the fallen Sons of Horus and their deadly allies have laid waste to vast sectors of the galaxy, leaving only blood-soaked worlds and piled corpses in their wake. Every time, the Black Legion has achieved a great victory or completed some dark design before vanishing back into the Eye of Terror.

During the First Black Crusade, Abaddon claimed the Daemon sword Drach'nyen; in the Fourth Black Crusade the Black Legion brought down the Citadel of the Kromarch, diminishing the defences of the Cadian Gate. As part of the Tenth Black Crusade, the traitors tested the defences of Medusa, home world of the Iron Hands. Now, the Despoiler has begun his Thirteenth Black Crusade, spilling out from the Eye of Terror at the head of a vast army of traitors, heretics and Daemons, his ultimate ambition – the destruction of Terra itself.



MASTER OF THE MAELSTROM

The Eye of Terror is not the only wound in the galaxy to become the lair of the Traitor Legions. Raiders from the Maelstrom plague the void for light years in all directions, the worst of which are the Red Corsairs led by Huron Blackheart. In the Thirteenth Black Crusade, Huron is making his own simultaneous assault upon the Imperium.

THE GOTHIC SECTOR (The Gothic War)

12th Black Crusade

7th Black Crusade

11th Black Crusade

5th Black Crusade

ULTIMA SEGMENTUM

THE MAELSTROM

Mordian

Ghorstangrad

Valhalla

Fenris

Molov

Elysia

Armageddon

Magma Cordelian

Paranxes

Vaxhallia

The Storm of
Magnus

Quietos

Lastrati

Berillia

Prospero

Golgotha

Viridia

Misery

Ryza

Chogoris

Sessec

Badab

Catachan

Kaelas

THE GOTHIC WAR

As the 41st Millennium dawned, Abaddon's dark plan edged toward its zenith, and his assaults upon the Imperium escalated. In the Gothic Sector, the Warmaster led the Black Legion in a war of conquest, and hunted down and captured the ancient and powerful Blackstone Fortresses.

The Twelfth Black Crusade heralded the start of a millennium of blood for the Black Legion, and they appeared in greater numbers than ever before. In the Gothic Sector, Abaddon sparked a terrible war that raged for over thirty years and consumed millions of lives. It became the largest Black Crusade yet and drew in Imperial Guard regiments and Space Marine Chapters from worlds thousands of light years away. It also revealed for the first time the size and power of the Black Legion's fleet, leading to naval engagements that rivalled those of the Horus Heresy almost ten thousand years before.

However, the Gothic War was not merely about the sacking of worlds and the harvesting of slaves. Abaddon was after something far more terrible, something that would allow him at last to strike forth against Terra itself. Firstly, he needed a key. He turned once again to his cabal of Sorcerers, bidding them to delve into the future for him. Led by the enigmatic Sorcerer of Tzeentch, Zaraphiston, the cabal had been scouring the Warp for clues as to the locations of the artefacts that Abaddon coveted. At long last, Zaraphiston was able to bring the gibbering remains of a Daemon before his master, and the beast revealed the name of the one who held the secrets the Despoiler desired. Hidden deep within the howling caves of Vorsia Secundus, Abaddon met with the ancient blood-seer Moriana. When Abaddon emerged from the witch's cave, it was with new purpose and the names of two remote worlds – and the part they would play in his plan.

Zaraphiston could no longer see the tangled web of fates that stretched out before the Warmaster. Where before there had been certainty in following specific paths or clear indications of future events, now only darkness greeted the Tzeentchian cabal. Abaddon dismissed the concerns of his sorcerous advisors and even the council of his Chosen; he was about to embark upon the penultimate act of his revenge against the Imperium – that the fates were uncertain only further strengthened his conviction in his eventual victory. If his future was unknown, then so too was the future of the Imperium.

NIGHT AND DARKNESS

The first world to feel the wrath of the Warmaster was Purgatory, a bleak frontier planet of rugged mountains and dark, brooding forests. Using an advance force of infiltrating Night Lords to take out key strongholds, the Black Legion were able to smash their way into the world's ancient Skyguard Fortress. Brushing aside the ill-equipped Purgatorian planetary defence forces and their Cadian allies with brutal contempt, the Black Legion fought their way into the heart of the structure. In the Stygian Well, buried deep beneath the fortress, Abaddon took from its resting place the Hand of Darkness, an object of ancient and terrible power that had long been hidden away by the Inquisition.

The Hand of Darkness was the first part of a key that Abaddon would use to activate the ancient Blackstone Fortresses. Six of these unimaginably powerful space stations had been discovered in the Gothic Sector by the Imperium, relics from an age before the rise of Mankind. Though the Imperium had used them for centuries as orbital bases and void stations, they had no idea of the true scope of their power. It was a mistake that Abaddon planned to exploit in the most violent and terrible way.

Alone, the Hand of Darkness would not be enough for Abaddon to completely awaken the Blackstones. Leaving behind the ruins of Purgatory, he led the Black Legion to Ormsworld, a Ratling world that had so far been spared the worst of the Gothic War. This all changed in a single bloody night as the Black Legion descended upon the stockade-cities and maze-mines of the Ratlings, burning and killing any living thing they could find. By dawn, almost every settlement was ablaze and the smoke of millions of burning corpses choked the sky. Though they had fought desperately, the abhumans were no match for the Traitor Space Marines and most had died before they even had a chance to run.

In the centre of the great wooden citadel of the Ratlings, now reduced to smouldering timbers, stood a towering statue to an unknown god. From this statue, Abaddon plucked the Eye of Night, an inky black gemstone that had gazed down upon the diminutive Ratlings for centuries. With this potent object, the Warmaster once more set off into the void with his Black Legion in tow, ready at last to seize the first of the Blackstone Fortresses and bring ruin and death to the worlds of the Gothic Sector.

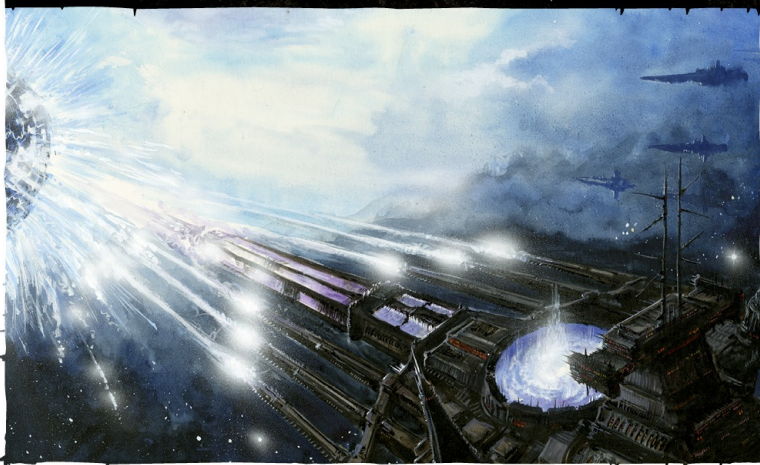
FORTRESS OF SPITE

The first fortress Abaddon moved against was designated Blackstone IV by the Imperium, and it guarded the Rebo System. Extensively adapted by the Adeptus Mechanicus, the fortress was a fearsome edifice of Imperial power and had never fallen in battle. With overwhelming force, the Black Legion fleet attacked the Rebo System, scattering the defenders and leaving a trail of burning hulks in their wake. As the Legion fleet closed with Blackstone IV, it suffered a sudden, massive power loss, its guns falling silent and its launch bays refusing to open. Already, Abaddon was proving his mastery over the fortresses and revealing the first hints of the secret knowledge he possessed.

Unable to halt the encroaching Chaos ships, the Imperial forces readied themselves to be boarded, creating hasty defences at the station's void-locks and hull doors. The nervous defenders did not have to wait long as the first Black Legion Space Marines blasted their way aboard through showers of smoke and debris, bolter rounds tearing bodies apart in sprays of blood and viscera. Falling back from one defensive position to another,

THE PLANET KILLER

Few vessels can match the immense size and firepower of Abaddon the Despoiler's Planet Killer. First sighted during the Gothic War, it became the doom of worlds, its Armageddon Cannon able to scour an entire planet of life in a single, deadly blast. At the start of the 13th Black Crusade, the vessel appeared again, leading the vast Traitor Legion fleet out of the Eye of Terror.



the Imperial soldiers fought a desperate rearguard action. The Black Legion were soon swarming throughout the station, and by the time Abaddon strode into its control chamber, only the Imperial commander remained alive. Stepping over the fallen bodies of Guardsmen, the Warmaster impaled the officer on the Talon of Horus, displaying his corpse to the Legion. The Blackstone Fortress was his.

Awakening the ancient fortress, the Black Legion fleet then travelled to an Adeptus Mechanicus weapons testing moon in the Lukitar System. This was to be the Imperium's first taste of the unimaginable firepower of the fortress. From a distance of several million miles, thought to be well beyond effective weapons range, the Blackstone Fortress unleashed a bolt of pure Warp-energy that carved through the Mechanicus moon. Those Imperial vessels in the system could only retreat before such a destructive weapon. In the nearby Brinaga System, Abaddon struck at a second fortress, designated Blackstone VI. Those ships that had witnessed the carnage at Lukitar arrived only hours before the Black Legion fleet and could do little as, once again, Abaddon robbed it of power and boarded it with his Traitor Legionaries.

The next blow was to come in the Fularis System, where Blackstone I orbited the second world as it circled a shimmering blue star. Even though the Imperial soldiers were prepared for the assault, the combined power of the two Blackstone Fortresses was more than any ship could stand

against, and vessel after vessel was torn asunder by the raw unleashed power of the Warp. Abaddon personally led the assault into Blackstone I, his Black Legion swiftly turning it into a tomb.

Armed with three of the six Blackstone Fortresses, Abaddon next moved on to the Tarantis System, a major Imperial marshalling station on the edge of the Tamahl Sector. Crushing all resistance with ease, he combined the eldritch energies of the Blackstone Fortresses to fire a massive Warp bolt into the heart of Tarantis' star. As quickly as they had appeared, the Black Legion fleet then vanished back into the Warp. The doomed Imperial worlds could only watch as their star boiled and writhed, wracked by vast arcs of dark fire. Within hours, the star had swelled to consume the innermost planets before finally collapsing in on itself and going supernova, wiping away the Tarantis System forever.

The final chapter of Abaddon's Twelfth Black Crusade was to be played out in the Schindlegeist System as he tried to capture Blackstone V. For once, the Warmaster was outflanked, and his fleet brought to battle between a vast Imperial armada and an agile Eldar warhost. It was clear to Abaddon that this engagement would not favour his armada, and using the ships of their allied Legions to cover their retreat, the Black Legion fell back toward the Eye of Terror. Nonetheless, they managed to take two of the deadly Blackstone Fortresses with them.

THE THIRTEENTH BLACK CRUSADE

In the greatest of the infamous Black Crusades, the Black Legion descend upon the Imperium in the vanguard of a vast army of Traitor Legions and Daemons, baying for the blood of Mankind. Abaddon the Despoiler leads them from the Eye of Terror, the time of his bloody vengeance against the Emperor finally at hand.

In the wake of the Gothic War, the Black Legion launched almost continuous raids against the Imperium. The systems and sectors around the Eye of Terror were plunged into near-constant war and fighting, engulfing countless worlds and drawing in reinforcements from across the galaxy.

Abaddon wanted to keep the Imperium spread thin across the Segmentum Obscurus and bleed it white in the process. As long as his foes remained on the defensive, trying to fortify their worlds and fend off his many attacks, the Black Legion would have time to gather its strength. Abaddon needed this time to rally the Traitor Legions together. The Despoiler hoped to stir up the ancient hatreds and memories of the Heresy within the Legions before unleashing them on Mankind.

Millennia of blasphemous deals and terrible pacts were finally coming to fruition for the Warmaster as the Chaos Gods bestowed their dark blessings upon him. The Black Legion had grown upon the strength of its oaths to Abaddon, countless traitors united in hatred of the Imperium and fuelled by their unquenchable bloodlust. Bestowed with the Mark of Chaos Ascendant, Abaddon alone held dominion over the gathering hordes, his will keeping the Legions in line and maintaining the turbulent alliance between men, Daemons and gods.

Abaddon used the final centuries of the 41st Millennium to continue his quest for artefacts. Following whispers in the Warp and the auguries of his sorcerer cabals, he uncovered the resting place of many powerful and forgotten weapons. One such twisted relic, the Skull of Ker'ngar, lay buried beneath the crystal glades of the maiden world, Ildanira. It had been hidden there aeons ago by a long-vanished alien race, and the Eldar had transformed the barren world, unaware of the skull's existence. With a small cadre of Black Legionnaires, the Warmaster landed on the world and enslaved its local population with cruel efficiency. Overseeing gangs of pale and ragged slaves, the Black Legion began excavating for the artefact.

Forewarned of the Warmaster's coming, a group of Alaitoc Rangers led a guerrilla war against the Black Legion. Ildanira's peaceful crystal forests reverberated to the sound of gunfire as the two forces engaged in protracted skirmishes. The Black Legion repeatedly tried to bring the Eldar to battle, though the xenos remained elusive. Finally, the Chaos Space Marines set the forests of Ildanira ablaze, lance fire from the *Vengeful Spirit* turning great swathes of the ancient crystal trees into a shifting sea of molten glass. Abaddon's victory over the Rangers was short-lived, however, as before he could deliver the deathblow, a fleet of Alaitoc's warships appeared in orbit. With his limited forces ill-prepared to face such a direct onslaught, Abaddon drove his minions to exhaustion and death, retrieving the skull with just enough time to get off the planet before its devastation.

GATES OF PANDORAX

In the Demeter Sector, Abaddon led an alliance of Traitor Legions in the invasion of the Imperial world of Pythos, the location of an ancient hidden gateway to the Warp. Another piece in his dark design, the Warmaster fell upon the world with a force of Daemon Engines and infernal war machines. In the space of a few bloody days, the major hives were overrun and the local defence forces crushed beneath the might of the Traitor Legions. Only a small contingent of Catachan Guardsmen managed to escape the destruction, trekking through the world's inhospitable jungle to the relative safety of the nearest mountain range.

Abaddon commenced the complex rituals that would open the Damnation Cache, a portal between reality and the Warp, breaking open seals that had remained untouched since the time of the Horus Heresy. Heeding the impassioned cries for salvation from Pythos, the Dark Angels Chapter, led by Azrael himself, came to the defenders' aid. Supporting the Space Marines were Grey Knights dispatched to deal with the escalating daemonic incursion and the dire peril that the Damnation Cache posed. Both Imperial forces smashed through the Traitor Legion blockade around Pythos in an epic space battle that pitted the finest ships of the Imperium, supported by the Rock, the Dark Angels fortress monastery, against the ancient vessels of the Traitor Legions. After the Chaos fleet was finally driven back into the void, the Space Marines were able to send their troops down to the surface, bringing war to its ruined hives and hostile jungles.

Failing to allow this distraction to draw him away from the awakening of the Damnation Cache, Abaddon sent an alliance of Legions to hold the loyalists at bay. Before either the Dark Angels or the Grey Knights could stop him, the Warmaster finally opened the portal to the Warp, Daemons spilling out across Pythos. The ensuing conflict devastated the world as reality bent and buckled under the raw power of the Warp. The unleashed energies created rampant psychic phenomena, and Space Marines fought under boiling skies of blood and in rolling clouds of keening spirits. All across the sector, latent psykers were awakened to full and terrible awareness, and rebellions sprung up like cancerous boils on dozens of Imperial worlds.

After a long and bitter struggle, a squad of Grey Knights managed to reach the Damnation Cache and close the Warp portal. Starved of their daemonic allies, the Traitor Legions were forced onto the defensive and finally into retreat. Abaddon's forces left Pythos, escaping the vengeance of the Imperium, but the world had been irrevocably tainted by the touch of the Warp, its once proud cities and vast wilds twisted into a nightmarish landscape. Before the portal was closed, however, Abaddon took with him a psyker, rumoured to be of prodigious strength and the bearer of a unique gift that would aid the Warmaster in his forthcoming Black Crusade.



ARMY OF THE DARK GODS

The Black Legion stands at its zenith, ten thousand years of warfare and bloodshed having tempered its long and cruel rise to power. Where the Sons of Horus were beholden to the will of the Emperor and their Primarch, the Black Legion answers only to Abaddon and his thirst for revenge. It has taken centuries of threats, lies, bargains and debts, but at last, Abaddon has managed to unite the dissenting and fractured Traitor Legions, assembling them around his Black Legion to create a force to rival any in the galaxy. Even the daemonic Primarchs, long lost to their dark dreams and the endless war between the gods, have stirred to lend their immortal strength to the Warmaster's cause.

During his centuries of exile, Abaddon has visited each of the six Daemon Primarchs in turn, seeking their aid in his quest to destroy the Imperium of Man.

From Angron, Primarch of the World Eaters, he gained the favour of Khorne. In the blood-soaked depths of the Goreswirl, the Despoiler fought the Primarch's daemonic champions, sending each one screaming back into the Warp in a terrifying spectacle of blood and death.

From Mortarion, Primarch of the Death Guard, he earned the putrescent embrace of Nurgle in exchange for the Hand of Darkness. The decaying Daemon lord promised to use the ancient artefact to craft a plague that would stir the rotting dead to life, provided the Warmaster would see it spread among the stars.

Though Magnus the Red, Primarch of the Thousand Sons, refused Abaddon's requests for audience, the Despoiler still gained the blessing of Tzeentch in exchange for the Eye of Night, the sightless remnant of the Stone God. He turned instead to Ahriman, greatest of the Legion's sorcerers, who alone could see the extent of Abaddon's plan and pledged his Rubricae in alliance.

From Fulgrim, Primarch of the Emperor's Children, the Despoiler was gifted with the favour of Slaanesh in exchange for the Pythosian psyker, offered as an unblemished vessel to contain the avatar of Fulgrim's god. Ancient hatreds were set aside as the Emperor's Children aligned themselves with the Black Legion.

From Lorgar, Primarch of the Word Bearers, the Warmaster learned rare secrets of Daemon binding and the raising of vast Warp hosts from beyond the Eye. Presented with an opportunity to subvert and destroy the Church of the God-Emperor, the Word Bearers turned a blind eye to their feud with the Emperor's Children and focused their hatred on the Imperium of Man and its corpse-god.

From Perturabo, Primarch of the Iron Warriors, the Despoiler was given vast daemonic engines of battle fashioned deep within the Eye of Terror, each the match for armies of lesser foes. Eager to test their strength and ingenuity against the towering fortresses and formidable defences of Cadia, the Iron Warriors themselves also joined Abaddon's war effort.

Though their Primarchs were no more, Abaddon gathered together warbands of Night Lords and the Alpha Legion, promising them a place as equals among the traitors. Many within both Legions painted their armour black and joined the Despoiler completely. Most powerful of these was Dhar'leth, a Daemon Prince who had once fought at the side of Konrad Curze, Primarch of the Night Lords. Known as the Curse of Antecanis and Master of the Shadow War, Dhar'leth recalled Abaddon's ambition during the Great Crusade and accepted his leadership without dissent.

Other Daemon Princes sided with Abaddon, such as Doombreed the Skull Lord, draped in a cloak made from a thousand Space Marine skulls, and Glutgora Runnelsore, reborn in putrescent glory on a writhing bed of Nurglings. Even Be'lakor, the Dark Master, One Who Heralds the Conquerors, has been seen amongst Abaddon's warhost.

In the shadow of the Legions and their daemonic allies swarmed hordes of the lost and the damned. Mutants, outcasts and renegades of all stripes marched to war, blinded by the terrible majesty and glory of the Dark Gods – many even saw Abaddon as a messiah. The Black Oculus cult burned the image of a third eye into their skulls that they might see into the Warp, while the wretched cultists of the Twisted Talon severed their right hands and replaced them with crude metal claws, mimicking the Despoiler.

Vast armies of mutants marched out of the Eye, their rust-barges and ancient system-ships towed behind the fleet. Within the stinking holds, bestial herds and pale Warp-touched masses tore at each other in sprays of blood and vile ichor. Towering twist-bones kept the lesser mutants in line, their meaty, fused fists and toothy tentacles crushing any who did not bow to the Legion.

From the ranks of these powerful and vile traitor Space Marines the Warmaster chose his generals. Devram Korda, infamous for distilling the life essence of Hive Sarora into a potent Warp-draught to grant himself immortality. Ygethmor, Sorcerer Lord, the cursed seer of the Cyclopia Cabal, who are rumoured to have found a way to tear secrets from the souls of imprisoned Eldar. Skyrak Slaughterborn, warlord of the Bringers of Decay, leader of a horde of insane plague-ridden warriors who bear weapons dripping in virulent poisons and filth-encrusted armour. Urkanthos, the commander of the Black Fleet, a master of naval conflict and a peerless captain.

THE EYE OPENS

The start of the Thirteenth Black Crusade was foreshadowed across the Imperium by strange omens and disturbing portents. A great disquiet settled upon the worlds around the Eye of Terror as if the shadow of a great storm rolled across the galactic horizon. Psykers and Astropaths across Segmentum Obscurus were wracked with visions and fits as Warp eddies spread out from the Eye of Terror like ripples created by a passing deep-sea predator.

The Belis Corona, Agripinaa and Helican Sectors all reported baleful lights in the night skies and a dramatic increase in raids on remote worlds and shipping routes. On scores of planets,

proscribed cults shambled out of the darkness to spread disorder and chaos, while citizens wailed into the void for salvation from the coming doom. Through his herald, Typhus, Nurgle infected the sectors and systems around the Eye with a terrible Zombie Plague. A despicable contagion, it worked its way into rotting flesh, animating the dead and turning them against the living. World by world, the shadow of the Despoiler's invasion was felt, and the return of his Black Legion was foretold.

On Cadia, the Imperium strengthened its fortifications and dug in to wait for the inevitable assault. Space Marine Chapters and Imperial Guard regiments from other sectors raced to reach the Cadian Gate before the traitor fleet attacked. A whole army of Guardsmen turned traitor, the Volscani Cataphracts opening fire on their Cadian brothers in the Battle of Tyrok Fields. Across the segmentum, the Administratum struggled to respond to the attacks, the steady flick of auto-quills scratching out the progress of the disaster as it spread out from the Eye of Terror.

Abaddon's fleet tore into realspace with hundreds of capital ships, cruisers and lesser craft, many of which were relics of the Heresy. At the head of the fleet loomed the restored *Planet Killer*, Abaddon's flagship and the doom of worlds. At the fleet's centre were the two Blackstone Fortresses captured during the Gothic War, warped by centuries within the Eye of Terror. Battering its way past the Imperial battlefleets, the fleet dispersed around the Cadian Gate to sow havoc on a hundred worlds. In response to the arrival of the Black Crusade, renegades, traitors and heretics have risen up on scores of worlds and in dozens of systems, throwing off the pretence of subservience. Cursed cults, twisted demagogues and charismatic psychopaths all preach the coming of the Despoiler and the end of the Imperium. Amidst this chaos, Abaddon himself aimed right into the heart of the Gate, at Cadia itself.



A PATH OF CRIMSON

While the Imperial fleet tried valiantly to stem the tide of traitors spilling out from the Eye of Terror, Abaddon's fleet showed no signs of slowing or diminishing, leaving flaming hulks drifting across the void in its wake. With the inevitability and finality of death, the Black Legion appeared on the edge of the Cadia System. Breaking off into individual battle groups, each led by one of the Warmaster's generals, the Chaos fleet began their assault. From St. Josmane's Hope to Korolis, the skies darkened as bloated transport ships disgorged their ranks of traitor legionaries, the Chaos Space Marines storming into each world's defenders. Orbital defences tried to repel the attackers, filling the air with burning energy beams, explosive rounds and missiles. The Chaos fleet responded with a rain

of macro-cannon and lance fire, obliterating the batteries and their crews. In the space of a few desperate hours, the outer worlds of the Cadian System had fallen.

The Traitor Legions have since scoured Solar Mariatus of life and created a forward base from which to wage war upon the rest of the system. On Cadia, the Black Legion has landed in force, ranks of black-armoured warriors marching forwards in the shadow of towering Forgefiends and screaming Heldrakes. The Warmaster's interest in Cadia is far more than just the destruction of its defences: since before the time of Imperial settlement, the world has been dotted with ancient alien pylons of stygian stone. These are rumoured to be the means by which the Cadian Gate keeps the baleful energies of the Eye of Terror in check, and Abaddon is set upon destroying them once and for all.

Many among his warlords questioned the Despoiler's plan to attack the Cadian System – the single most well defended part of the Imperium after Terra itself. It seemed folly to expend the might of the Traitor Legions against its fortifications and defenders when it would have been possible to bypass it and make directly for the Segmentum Solar, and distant Terra. However, even after centuries of war, Abaddon knew that if the

Traitor Legions struck at Terra with martial might alone, they would fail, just as Horus had failed ten millennia before. If the Warmaster was to be triumphant, and cast the corpse-Emperor from his Golden Throne, he would need to free the energies of the Warp upon reality.

For every human the Traitor Legions hack apart with their chainswords, tear into bloody meat with their bolter rounds or crush under their talons and the treads of their war machines, another soul is sent howling into the Warp. The fighting around the Eye of Terror, and especially on Cadia itself, will see thousands upon thousands of warriors from both armies dying every hour, their deaths feeding the Warp and weakening the walls of reality. Through this failing membrane, Daemons are able to push their way out in ever greater numbers. With each battle and each death, the power of the Eye of Terror expands a little further into realspace.

Abaddon's dark ambition is to see the Eye of Terror so swollen and bloated that the very stuff of Chaos leaks out into the galaxy. Then, along a crimson path of war and murder, he will lead the Traitor Legions, their daemoniac Primarchs and endless hordes of Daemons to the very gates of the Emperor's Palace.

DAEMON IMPERIUM

Abaddon strode into the vast alien chamber, crushing the bones of its long dead builders underfoot. From the gloom ahead, Zaraphiston appeared, beckoning his master forward.

'Here, my Lord, under the bones.' The sorcerer indicated part of the chamber, his face unreadable under his changeling mask. Wordlessly, Abaddon moved to where the sorcerer was pointing, making out the shape of a massive concave stone disc.

'It is the Hollow Parallax, it will show you what I have foretold, the coming of the long night and the Daemon Imperium,' the sorcerer continued. Focusing on the artefact, Zaraphiston incanted softly under his breath, Warp energy coiling around his hands as he awoke the Hollow Parallax from its millennia of slumber.

Abaddon watched impassively as the ancient alien device stirred to life, the dust of centuries shaken from its surface as visions of future days were reflected from its depths. Stepping closer, the Despoiler looked deep into the swirling cloud of images, a shimmering galaxy of stars taking form and rising up to surround him. It took a moment before Abaddon realized that it was his own

galaxy that he looked upon, with the Eye of Terror pulsing like an open wound among the darkness. Suddenly, the vision shifted and, in a blur, swept in on a world covered in grand structures and ornate towers. Abaddon recognized Terra, though it had been ten thousand years since he walked upon its surface.

As he watched, the towers fell and the great palaces burned. Racing through the ruined cities, the vision came to rest in a gigantic, domed, subterranean chamber dominated by a great golden machine. Abaddon walked towards the machine, noting the twisted corpses of hundreds of Adeptus Custodes littering the ground with a sneer of contempt. Ascending the steps to the great machine, he could now see that its shell had been broken, and fragments of glass and metal were scattered around its base. Reaching the rent in the machine, Abaddon looked within and saw the Warp boiling naked before his eyes, Daemons clawing their way up from its kaleidoscopic depths.

Again the vision shifted, taking Abaddon back to the streets of Terra. All around him, Daemons feasted on the souls of men, and Humanity was reduced to eternal slavery and death. So close to the Golden

Throne, Abaddon could sense that the Astronomican had been extinguished and a million worlds had been plunged into eternal night. Across the galaxy, reality was crumbling, turning worlds into realms of madness and chaos.

Looking up from the carnage on the streets, Abaddon could see the Eye of Terror dominating the sky, a terrible red stain upon the stars that seemed to grow with every passing moment – it was now visible from every world in the Imperium. He knew then, without a doubt, that the age of Man had come to an end.

As quickly as it had come, the vision faded away, leaving Abaddon standing once more in the ancient alien ruins, Zaraphiston watching him in silence.

'Will it come to pass?' Abaddon growled, his dark eyes regarding the sorcerer intently.

'It is but one possible future, my Lord, but every day the fates favour it more.' Zaraphiston replied.

'Fate is made by men.' Abaddon said coldly, before turning and walking away into the darkness.

BLACK LEGION WARBANDS

The Black Legion is the largest of all the Traitor Legions to inhabit the Eye of Terror, vastly outnumbering even their closest rivals. As long as a warrior is willing to bow before Abaddon the Despoiler and take the oath of obedience, he can join the Black Legion. During the centuries of bloody warfare and bitter acts of vengeance since the Horus Heresy, Space Marines from dozens of other Legions and Chapters have joined with the Despoiler, and the Black Legion now boasts warlords and warbands from almost every permutation of Chaos worship, depraved doctrine and ruinous faith.

Usually, these warbands work in isolation, raiding planets and pillaging the Imperium in the name of their master, but largely pursuing their own agendas. However, when Abaddon calls, the warbands gather. Their oaths to the Warmaster force them to put aside their hatreds and feuds to fight alongside

the Legion united. Even so, there is no denying that the Black Legion remains an alliance of traitors; the warlords therein are constantly scheming against their rivals, vying for prominence and glory, and undermining their contenders' achievements, even when they are not openly battling amongst themselves. Only their collective fear of the Despoiler forces them to suffer cooperation – fear and the chilling memory of the fates of those who have crossed him.

**'BETTER TO SERVE AT THE SIDE OF THE WARMASTER
THAN COUNT YOURSELF AMONG HIS FOES.'**

Devram Korda, the Tyrant of Sarora



HOUNDS OF ABADDON

Within the ranks of the Black Legion there are thousands of devotees of Khorne. These Space Marines are always at the forefront of assaults, charging howling into the fray. The Hounds of Abaddon revel in close combat, where they can spill the greatest volume of blood for their god, using razor-toothed chainaxes, wicked lightning claws or even their own fangs. Though the Hounds are not a single unified warband within the Black Legion, they are led by Urkanthos, commander of the Black Fleet. Urkanthos claims all followers of Khorne within the Legion as his own and directs them according to the will of Abaddon.



CHILDREN OF TORMENT

Hundreds of followers of Slaanesh have sworn their oaths to Abaddon and joined the Black Legion. Under the guidance of such warlords as Devram Korda, the Tyrant of Sarora, and Zaghean the Broken, they make up countless warbands within the Legion, collectively called the Children of Torment. These traitors have sided with the Despoiler so they might wallow in the anguish he spreads and feed upon the gushing blood of his victims. Even though they embrace the excesses of Slaanesh, the Children of Torment are despised by the Emperor's Children, who see them as traitors to Fulgrim and puppets of Abaddon.

BLACK LEGION



SONS OF THE CYCLOPS

The Sons of the Cyclops are perhaps the smallest of the warbands devoted to a single Dark God. Consisting of the followers of Tzeentch, Sorcerers and their Rubricae, the Sons of the Cyclops hold a disproportionate amount of power within the Black Legion. This is because of the favour the Despoiler shows its warlords; psykers such as Zaraphiston and Ygethmor the Deceiver. Gifted seers and diviners, they make up the core of Abaddon's trusted advisers, peering into the future for him and guiding his Black Crusades.





THE TORMENTED

The Tormented merge their souls with Daemons, inviting Warp-entities into their flesh and drinking deep of their corrupted power. Since their origins on Maelum, the influence of the Tormented's Possessed Chaos Space Marines within the Black Legion has slowly grown in size and strength. Each warrior of the Tormented has a dark reflection in the Warp, the twinned sentence of the Daemon that shares his mind. These Daemons have their own agendas and will act upon them when opportunities arise, making the Tormented unpredictable but horrifically vicious in battle.



OATH-BROKEN

Those who betray the Despoiler seldom live long enough to regret their mistake, or if they do, it is in abject agony. The Oath-broken are not true traitors to the Warmaster, and so remain beneath his notice, but are those who have failed in battle or have been crippled by grievous wounds. Without the blessings of the Dark Gods to mend their limbs or knit their flesh with mutation, the Oath-broken fashion their own replacements; blades sutured to stumps, xenos appendages grafted into sockets and ragged armour patched with whatever materials the Eye deems fit to provide.





BRINGERS OF DECAY

The Plague God has a strong following within the Black Legion, his putrid touch evident throughout its warriors. Under the dominance of Skyrak Slaughterborn, the Nurglites have converted many to their cause. In battle, the Bringers of Decay are Abaddon's plague carriers and heralds of contagion, often appearing before other warbands to sow infection and sickness. This could also be why many other warbands will have little to do with the Bringers, repelled by the blessings of the Plague God they bear, and the pervasive stench that follows them.



THRICE-CURSED TRAITORS

In the long, dark decades after the death of their Primarch, the Sons of Horus fragmented. When Abaddon proclaimed himself master of the Legion in the ruins of Maelcum, there were those who turned their back on the Despoiler. These legionnaires either remained true to the memory of Horus or forsook all masters, before vanishing into the depths of the Eye of Terror. Most would disappear from history forever, but some returned to challenge the Black Legion, or in time join its ranks. They are known to the Black Legion as the Thrice-cursed Traitors.

SONS OF THE EYE

Led by the Drecarth the Sightless, the blind butcher of Irridous VII, the Sons of the Eye considered Abaddon a usurper.

Drecarth had fought with Abaddon during the Great Crusade and the Heresy that followed, and was always jealous of the Primarch's favour for the Despoiler. When Drecarth broke with Abaddon, he had his warriors make a cut across the eyes they wore on their armour, a symbol of the blindness of Horus that had led his Legion to destruction.

WOLVES OF HORUS

The death of Horus left many veteran legionnaires craving a return to the halcyon days of the Luna Wolves. The Wolves of Horus chose to relive those early times, and venerate their dead Primarch by bearing his name.

TRUE SONS

Even after Horus' death, his Legion worshipped him as a god, bowing down to his tomb and making daily oaths of loyalty. The True Sons never broke with these traditions, even after the destruction of the Primarch's body. Covering their armour in the symbol of the eye, the True Sons build effigies of Horus wherever they go, bowing down to them before symbolically burning them.





A LEGACY OF VENGEANCE

THE GREAT CRUSADE

The Emperor unites the warring tribes of Terra and sets out to restore Mankind's place among the stars. At his side, Horus and the Luna Wolves fight with honour and glory, laying waste to countless foes in his name and helping to create the Imperium of Man. In the aftermath of the Ullanor Campaign, the Luna Wolves are renamed the Sons of Horus in honour of the deeds of their Primarch.

THE LEGION WAR

The traitors fight among themselves in a war for resources and slaves within the Eye of Terror which further fractures the already broken Legions. In the culmination of the war, the Emperor's Children attack the Daemon world of Macleum and raze the Sons of Horus' fortress, stealing the body of their Primarch and vanishing into the Warp.

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THE HORUS HERESY

Tainted by the touch of the Dark Gods, the Warmaster Horus turns against the Emperor. Fully half of the Legiones Astartes join with him as he tries to bring down the Imperium and destroy the loyalist Space Marine Legions. In the final climatic battle for Terra, Horus falls to the Emperor in mortal combat aboard the *Vengeful Spirit*. Abaddon takes the Warmaster's body and flees with the Sons of Horus into the Eye of Terror.

KILLING THE CLONES

Ascending to dominion of the Sons of Horus, Abaddon embarks on a quest to slay the clones Fabius Bile has crafted from Horus' remains. Destroying the Primogenitor's hidden laboratories, and the loathsome abominations he created, Abaddon leaves behind no trace of his gene-father. With the final and utter destruction of Horus, Abaddon renames his Legion the Black Legion.

FIRST BLACK CRUSADE

Mustering a vast army of traitors and Daemons, Abaddon leads the Black Legion out of the Eye of Terror to lay waste to the Imperium. In a great battle around the worlds of Cadia, the traitors are turned back by newly raised Space Marine Chapters and the Legio Titanicus. During the fighting, Abaddon secretly travels to the world of Uralan and claims the ancient Daemon sword Drach'nyen.

THE TRAITOROUS EYE

Drecaeth the Sightless forms the Sons of the Eye out of those Sons of Horus who refused Abaddon's oath. In the Battle of the Keening Deep, the Sons defeat Voslok and his World Eaters warband, claiming their fortress and hurling their skulls into the world's soulfires. Drecaeth personally rips Voslok's Daemon axe from his grip during the battle, turning the treacherous weapon upon its former owner.

SECOND BLACK CRUSADE

Abaddon places a terrible curse upon the worlds of the Belis Corona sector, infusing them with the touch of the Warp. Meanwhile, his fleet attacks the sector's shipyards, destroying dozens of Imperial cruisers being constructed or repaired. Before the Imperium can muster its strength to fight back, the Despoiler retreats into the Eye of Terror, his dark works complete.

THE MAELSTROM OF TIME

A storm of temporal turmoil moves across the Eye of Terror, ripping ships and worlds out of time. A fleet of Eldar vessels from before the Fall suddenly appears, horror-stricken by the existence of the Eye of Terror and lamenting the loss of their kin. The Black Legion fall upon the confused aliens, butchering them in a series of bloody boarding actions and taking those they do not kill back to their ships as slaves.

THE TORMENTED MINE

Faenroc the Forgotten, a powerful Black Legion warlord, discovers a Daemon world formed from Warp-infused iron ore. Drilling deep into the world's core, he builds a vast mine to harvest its wealth for his Legion. Slaves prove too fragile to work the mine as the ore poisons and mutates them uncontrollably, while some passages secrete digestive fluids, melting the doomed workers into pools of rancid flesh. Faenroc remedies this problem by binding Daemons to his mining machines, their tormented screams echoing through the mine as they fight an endless war with the world for its iron bones.

ZARAPHISTON'S PENANCE

The Thousand Sons Sorcerer Zaraphiston travels deep into the heart of the Eye of Terror at the behest of the Architect of Fate. On a Daemon world of brass cogs and ticking chronometers, Tzeentch leaves portents and signs for the Sorcerer in fragments of time and fleeting moments. Gifted with a terrible understanding of the millennia to come, Zaraphiston joins the Black Legion and pledges his loyalty to Abaddon the Despoiler.

THIRD BLACK CRUSADE

The Despoiler sends the Daemon Prince Tallomin against the Cadian Gate in a reckless and bloody frontal assault. The daemonic horde that follows in Tallomin's wake accounts for millions of lives and draws in Imperial Guard regiments and Space Marine Chapters from across the Segmentum Obscurus. Eventually, warriors of the Space Wolves manage to send Tallomin howling back to the Warp. Under the cover of the attack, Abaddon leads a dedicated strike force to desecrate the shrine world of Gerstahl, breaking the ancient seals on the saint's tomb and utterly destroying his remains while the Imperium's attention is elsewhere.

FOURTH BLACK CRUSADE

During the EFPhanor War, the Black Legion besieges the great Citadel of Kromarch. Abaddon personally leads the charge against the adamantium gates of the fortress, only a handful of his men making it past the withering hail of fire from the defenders. With a single horrific blow of Drach'nyen, the Warmaster sunders the towering doors of the fortress. In an orgy of violence, the Black Legion and their daemonic allies fall upon Kromarch and his kin, extinguishing their ancient line forever.

THE TOURNAMENT OF BLOOD

Displeased with his Chosen, Abaddon the Despoiler pits them against each other in a brutal tournament of blood. For eight days, the Chosen tear at each other in the gore-spattered holds of the *Vengeful Spirit*, until at last, a single Black Legionnaire stands triumphant. Impaling the victor on his talon, Abaddon seals a dark pact with Khorne, gaining a powerful daemonic ally in the form of the Bloodthirster, Hakk'an'graah.

THE RAGGED KING

In a bitter space battle above the feral world of Skyrro, Imperial cruisers destroy the traitor vessel *Talon of Rage*. A single Black Legionnaire escapes the destruction and makes his way down to the surface of the world. Worshipped there as a god, the nameless Chaos Space Marine rises to become a powerful and mighty warlord known as the Ragged King. It takes the Imperial Guard more than a decade to destroy the Ragged King's armies and reclaim the world.

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THE NIGHTMARE WELL

Zagthean the Broken pillages the thrice-blessed world of Helosian in the Agripinaa sector. Taking the Convent of Alabaster Maidens prisoner, he exposes them to the raw energies of the Warp, tainting their souls and triggering their latent psychic gifts. Zagthean then uses dark science to fuse the horrified maidens together into a single mewling mass of flesh, before employing the resultant abomination as a living Warp portal to unleash a daemonic nightmare upon Helosian.

SIXTH BLACK CRUSADE

The Warmaster visits his wrath upon Drecarth the Sightless and his treacherous Sons of the Eye. Abaddon aids the warband in an assault on the forge world of Arkreath, fighting side-by-side until the defenders are finally crushed. The triumphant Abaddon then slowly kills Drecarth, even as he makes him watch every member of the Sons of the Eye bow before their new master.

FIFTH BLACK CRUSADE

Abaddon scours the Elysia Sector, raiding hundreds of worlds and causing untold death and destruction. On Tarinth, the Despoiler lures the Warhawks and Venerators Chapters into the ruins of Kasyr Lutien where he traps them between the daemonic hordes of Khorne and the Black Legion. In a bitter last stand, both loyalist Chapters are utterly destroyed, their skulls taken by the Daemon Prince Doombreed to be mounted upon the mighty throne of Khorne.

SEVENTH BLACK CRUSADE

During the course of the Ghost War, the Blood Angels join battle against Abaddon's horde upon the world of Mackan. The Despoiler mercilessly singles out the Sons of Sanguinius, personally leading a band of Khorne Berzerkers in a reckless assault against the Blood Angels' lines. The traitors that survive the fire of the loyalists' guns reap a bloody toll. The rest of the Blood Angels company are unable to reclaim the bodies of their fallen brothers from the Despoiler's frenzied warband.

EIGHTH BLACK CRUSADE

The Despoiler completes a complex ritual of death in the name of the Changer of Ways. On worlds throughout the Segmentum Obscurus, Imperial citizens are slaughtered in precise numbers and esoteric rituals. Only when the Inquisition finally breaks the codes of damnation is the Imperium able to bring an end to the Black Legion's rampage, but not before countless worlds have been saturated in death.

THE FORGOTTEN COMPANY

Almost eight millennia after it was sent, an astropathic cry for help reaches the Black Legion's Sorcerers from a lost company of Luna Wolves. Abaddon travels to the coordinates in the message to find his ancient brothers have become a twisted parody of the Legion, perverting their gene-seed with primitive rituals and dwelling with the native inhabitants. Expecting no mercy from the Legions Astartes, the debased Luna Wolves are surprised when Abaddon welcomes them into his Black Legion.

THE ARK OF DAMNATION

Flesh Tearer's Terminators board the space hulk *Soul of Damnation* as it drifts dangerously close to the core worlds of the Scelus Sub-sector. In the depths of the hulk, they uncover a stasis chamber containing a single casket. Held within is an ancient Luna Wolves Space Marine. When the Space Marine is awakened and told of the fate of his Legion, he becomes filled with rage, taking one of the Flesh Tearer's craft before disappearing into the void.

TENTH BLACK CRUSADE

Abaddon and Perturabo's Iron Warriors strike against the Helica Sector. While the Black Legion attacks the capital, Thracian Primaris, the Iron Warriors focus their attack against the Iron Hands to fulfil an old blood debt. In a series of bitter sieges, the Iron Warriors burn the Medusa System's worlds and push the Iron Hands to the brink of destruction. Only when the loyalist Chapter receives heavy reinforcement do Abaddon and the Iron Warriors retreat, taking with them valuable information about Medusa's defences.

THE FEAST OF DAEMONS

The Black Legion ravages the desert world of Sanisor, turning its great dune oceans red with blood. In the Warpwind Canyons, the traitors erect a towering device of skin and steel, akin to a gore-soaked ship's sail. Daemons are drawn to the world to feed, their toothy maws suckling from the souls caught in the great skin sail. When the Cadian 232nd Expeditionary Force land on Sanisor, they find it crawling with Daemons like flies on a rotting corpse.

THE PRISON OF MADNESS

Abaddon conducts experiments on captured loyalist Space Marines, trying to corrupt their souls and break their will. In the depths of the Warp, he fashions a prison of lies and darkness where the loyalists are forced to face twisted echoes of reality and see their beloved Imperium fall to Chaos again and again. Those who do not take their own lives, or are not allowed to, abandon all hope and swear allegiance to the Despoiler.

NINTH BLACK CRUSADE

Intending to bring about the demise of the naval fortress, Cancephalus, Abaddon leads his Ninth Black Crusade against the heaving population of nearby Antecanis. Monarchive, the seat of Antecanis' Imperial Commander, is besieged by Abaddon's vanguard. The Black Legionnaires burn and butcher their way through the lower levels, whilst Abaddon himself storms its inner sanctums. The hives' populations are slowly drained dry. By the time Imperial Guard from Cancephalus reinforce the desperate survivors, Abaddon and his favoured legionaries have already left orbit, dropping a dozen cyclonic warheads onto the ruins of Monarchive as a last gesture of contempt. The seventeen-year war that ensues robs both Antecanis and Cancephalus of their most precious resource – manpower. Without the fleets of Cancephalus to stop him, Abaddon is able to ravage the sector at will.

THE DAEMONIC SHIPYARD

Deep within the Eye of Terror, Abaddon discovers an ancient shipyard drifting aimlessly through the Warp. Within its rusting gantries and decaying manufactorum towers, the Warmaster finds a half-constructed vessel, vast and terrible in design. His Warpsmiths examine the ship, marvelling at its dark majesty, and promise that, when complete, it will be the doom of worlds.

FALL OF THE SAVAGE SWORDS

The Chapter Master of the Savage Swords is led down a path of retribution and blood when he mistakenly believes the Imperial Governor of Hyboras has stolen the Chapter's ancient relic blade. His Chapter commits a series of atrocities on the feral world, but only when the Chapter Master sits on the Governor's gore-stained throne does he realise the extent of his folly, though by then, it is too late. When the Black Legion arrive, the Savage Swords have already fallen to the worship of Khorne and join Abaddon eagerly.

THE TAPESTRY OF DARKNESS

Abaddon follows Zaraphiston to a desolate crone world, scoured by a ghost wind that blows endlessly through its crumbling Eldar ruins. In the heart of an ancient alien city, the Warmaster passes through pleasure chambers and blood arenas, their floors littered with Eldar skeletons. The sorcerer of T'zentech leads Abaddon to a flaying room where the skin of a thousand slaves still hangs limply on the walls. Upon the skin, the Warmaster reads the Penumbra Prophecy and learns the secrets of the six ancient weapons.

THE IRON LABYRINTH

A Chaos fleet, spearheaded by the Black Legion, cuts a path into the worlds of the Cadian Gate. The defenders of Cadia manage to slow the attack before pushing it back with a combined force of Imperial Guard and Imperial Fists Space Marines. In the battle of the Iron Labyrinth, the renegades are finally broken, retreating back into the Eye of Terror.

ELEVENTH BLACK CRUSADE

The Despoiler's fleet becomes lost in the Warp, finally returning to realspace in the path of Waaagh! Murgor. In the ruins of Relorria, the Black Legion bring the Orks to battle, bolter rounds and chainblades tearing into the xenos. After months of bloody warfare, Abaddon decides to leave Relorria to its fate and the Black Legion returns to the Eye of Terror – but not before the Warmaster fills the holds of his fleet with captured Ork specimens.

THE SKULL OF KER'NGAR

Abaddon the Despoiler raids the maiden world of Ildanira, seeking the Skull of Ker'ngar. Confounded by parties of Alaitoc Rangers, he bombards the planet's surface from orbit. Although the Warmaster completes his quest, Eldar reinforcements arrive and drive him back into the Warp.

THE HUNGERING PRINCE

The Daemon Prince of Nurgle, Glutgora, invades the verdant agri world of Pileptos with a massive force of Black Legionnaires. While the traitors crush every vestige of Imperial resistance, Glutgora feasts on the world's vast weave-worm farms, gorging itself on their succulent white flesh. Unable to be sated, the Daemon Prince consumes all in its path, becoming swollen and bloated with the meat of worm and man. Eventually, Glutgora bursts in a gory shower of fluids, and a million Nurglings crawl out from the corpse.

THE GOTHIC WAR

Abaddon leads his great fleet into the Gothic Sector, capturing three of the prehistoric star-forts known as the Blackstone Fortresses. Under Abaddon's control, the might of the Blackstone Fortresses is used to destroy entire worlds and ravage the fleets sent against the Black Legion. Eventually, the Despoiler's fleet is driven back at great cost in lives, though Abaddon escapes into the Eye of Terror, taking two of the Blackstone Fortresses with him. The vast engines of destruction will emerge once more into the material universe during Abaddon's Thirteenth Black Crusade.

m40 m41

THE PILGRIMAGE OF DARK LAMENT

Gifted with a dark vision of the Despoiler, millions of pilgrims abandon their worship of the God-Emperor and turn their ships toward the Eye of Terror. After a long and perilous journey in which thousands perish, the pilgrims finally reach worlds held by the Black Legion, where they are immediately enslaved. Even as they wail and moan under the whips of their masters, the pilgrims give thanks to the Despoiler.

THE DAMNATION CACHE

The Despoiler invades the Pandorax System with an alliance of Traitor Legions. Sweeping aside Imperial resistance, Abaddon breaks into vaults below the world and opens the Damnation Cache, an ancient portal to the Warp. A combined force of Dark Angels and Grey Knights come to Pandorax's aid in a valiant attempt to stop the daemonic tide from engulfing the entire sector. After countless bitter battles, a squad of Grey Knights reach the Damnation Cache and close it. Unknown to the Imperium, the Despoiler has already left Pandorax, taking with him a rogue psyker of prodigious strength.

THE PROMETHEAN WAR

The Salamanders fight an urban war against the Black Legion on Heletine. The Order of the Ebon Chalice arrives to reinforce the Space Marines, and together they push forward, but their advance is halted by the Daemon Prince, Lord Gralastyx, and his Chaos Space Marines. Saint Celestine appears suddenly and storms through the hordes, slaying Gralastyx and turning the tide of the battle. She disappears again just as suddenly.

THE THIRTEENTH BLACK CRUSADE

The armies of Chaos invade Cadia and its many surrounding worlds. The forces of the Chaos Gods read like a roll call from epic battles of the ages. Always in the vanguard are the Black Legion, followed by the Death Guard, World Eaters, Alpha Legion, Thousand Sons, Night Lords and others from the annals of the blackest days. Legions and renegade Chapters of Space Marines long-thought extinct renew their assaults on the Imperium of Man. Before them run infected, plague-ridden cultists, deranged mutants and traitorous scum in numbers too great to count. Behind them tower Daemon Princes, hosts of Daemons and other Warp creatures eager for slaughter. Astropaths everywhere fear to open their minds to receive messages, for the Warp rings with mind-splitting peals, possibly the sound of the myriad tears ripping open in the barrier between the material universe and the Warp, or perhaps it is the laughter of Dark Gods...







LEGION OF THE DARK GODS



Abaddon the Despoiler, Warmaster of Chaos



*Black Legion Chaos Lord in Terminator armour
wielding a combi-bolter and power axe*



*Black Legion Chaos Lord with plasma pistol
and power sword*





Black Legion Forgefiend, armed with hades autocannons and ectoplasma cannons





These Black Legion Possessed Chaos Space Marines display a horrific variety of mutations.





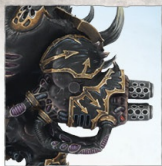
The Black Legion's Raptors strike from above to bring death to Abaddon's foes.



Black Legion Chaos Space Marines, including one with an icon of Chaos and two Aspiring Champions



The Black Legion marches to war while Heldrakes scour the sky for foes.



Black Legion Helbrute with power fist and multi-melta

Black Legion Mutilators form weapons from their flesh.



A Daemon Prince is a powerful lord favoured by the Dark Gods.



Abaddon the Despoiler surrounded by his Terminator bodyguard, the Bringers of Despair



Black Legion Terminators armed with combi-weapons and a reaper autocannon





FORCES OF THE BLACK LEGION

On these pages you will find special rules and Formations unique to armies from the Black Legion that reflect their tactics on the battlefield. You will also find Warlord Traits, wargear, missions and Tactical Objectives that you can use when fielding your Black Legion army in games of Warhammer 40,000.

BLACK LEGION SPECIAL RULES

The armies of the Black Legion have no equal among other Chaos Space Marines, as each warrior is a veteran of ten millennia of bloodshed. If you wish, you can say that any Chaos Space Marines Detachment or Formation is also a Black Legion Detachment or Formation.

Detachments drawn from the Black Legion may use the Warlord Traits and Tactical Objectives from these pages in addition to those in *Codex: Chaos Space Marines*. Black Legion Detachments and Formations also have the special rules shown below.

FIRST AMONGST TRAITORS

In a Black Legion Detachment or Formation, Chosen are Troops choices instead of Elites choices.

TEN MILLENNIA OF HATE

Units in a Black Legion Detachment or Formation that have the option to take the Veterans of the Long War special rule must do so.



CHAOS ARTEFACTS

Any character in a Black Legion Detachment or Formation that can select Chaos Artefacts may choose from the Chaos Artefacts of the Black Legion (opposite), at the points costs shown, in addition to the Chaos Artefacts from *Codex: Chaos Space Marines*.

WARLORD TRAITS

When generating his Warlord Traits, a Warlord from a Black Legion Detachment or Formation may roll on the Warlord Traits tables in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*, the one in *Codex: Chaos Space Marines* or the table on the right.

DESIGNER'S NOTE

Some rules in this book provide Preferred Enemy or Hatred (Space Marines). This refers to any units with the Space Marines, Blood Angels, Dark Angels, Grey Knights or Space Wolves Faction.



WARLORD TRAITS TABLE

D6 WARLORD TRAIT

- 1 **Black Crusader:** *This Warlord has sworn never to rest in his eternal vendetta against his loyalist foes.*

The Warlord and all friendly units within 12" of the Warlord have the Preferred Enemy (Space Marines) special rule.

- 2 **Eye of the Gods:** *This Warlord bears the favour of the Dark Gods, who watch his actions and will reward him if he is deemed worthy.*

Each time the Warlord rolls on the Chaos Boon Table (including for the Gift of Mutation Chaos Reward), you may choose to re-roll the result. You must accept the result of the re-roll, even if it is worse.

- 3 **Gift of Balefire:** *The Chaos Gods have granted the Warlord the ability to speak forth goutts of searing Warp-flame at will.*

The Warlord may make a shooting attack, using the following profile:

Range	S	AP	Type
Template	4	5	Assault 1, Soul Blaze, One Use Only

- 4 **Unholy Fortitude:** *Many claim to have slain this Warlord over the millennia, yet unholy life burns within him still.*

The Warlord has the It Will Not Die special rule.

- 5 **Soul Eater:** *This Warlord is capable of tearing the very soul from his victims as an offering to the Dark Gods of Chaos.*

If this model is attacking with a Melee weapon, any To Wound roll of a 6 has the Instant Death special rule.

- 6 **Chosen of Abaddon:** *Abaddon has granted this Warlord absolute authority in his absence, and none would dare defy his vassal.*

The Warlord and all friendly units within 12" of the Warlord have the Stubborn special rule.



CHAOS ARTEFACTS OF THE BLACK LEGION

The Chaos Artefacts of the Black Legion are relics of incredible power that Abaddon has spent millennia seeking out to serve in his eternal war of vengeance against the Imperium. Only one of each of the following artefacts can be chosen per army – there is only one of each these items in the entire galaxy!

THE CRUCIBLE OF LIES25 POINTS

It is impossible to describe the Crucible of Lies, for its image is unique to the beholder. One gifted with the witch-sight may perceive it as a rippling cloak saturated with Warp energy; a warrior may see it as an archaic amulet wreathed in baleful psychic flame. Regardless of its appearance, the Crucible of Lies defies natural law to distort the blows of the wearer's enemies, but such power does not come without a price...

The bearer of the Crucible of Lies has -1 Toughness, but may re-roll invulnerable save rolls of a 1.

THE EYE OF NIGHT75 POINTS

One of the artefacts used by Abaddon to take command of the dreaded Blackstone Fortresses, the Eye of Night is a multifaceted obsidian crystal of unknown origin. The slightest caress of the ebon beam it can unleash causes machines to suffer massive power failure or catastrophic internal damage. Not even the thickest armour can resist its malignant touch.

Once per game, instead of firing his weapon, the bearer of the Eye of Night can choose to make a shooting attack that uses the profile below:

Range	S	AP	Type
Infinite	5	4	Heavy 1, Large Blast, Haywire Maelstrom, Ignores Cover, One Use Only

Haywire Maelstrom: Instead of making armour penetration rolls, any vehicles, buildings or fortifications that are buildings that are fully or partially beneath the marker suffer D3 automatic penetrating hits.

THE HAND OF DARKNESS50 POINTS

An ancient device infused with the atrophying power of the Warp, the Hand of Darkness decays all and everything that its wielder touches. Flesh sloughs from bones and armour is reduced to little more than pools of liquid slag. It was with this fabled artefact that Abaddon finally gained access to the inner workings of the Blackstone Fortresses, before later surrendering it to the Daemon-Primarch Mortarion to secure the allegiance of the Death Guard for his Thirteenth Black Crusade.

When making his close combat attacks, the bearer of the Hand of Darkness can instead choose to make a single special attack that uses the profile below:

Range	S	AP	Type
	x2	1	Melee, Armourbane, Fleshbane, Instant Death

LAST MEMORY OF THE YURANTHOS ...30 POINTS

Mk'll was a psyker who was responsible for the annihilation of his species, the Yuranthos. The psyker's power was so great that he was torn apart by the Warp energies he wielded, even as his planet's populace was immolated by the resultant firestorm. Unwilling to waste the power of such a talented student, Tzeentch bound the essence of the dying race into a small crystal. One who carries this azure gem can access a fragment of Mk'll's power and unleash it upon his foes, though not without risk.

Psyker only. The bearer increases his Mastery Level by 1. Do not generate an additional psychic power for this bonus Mastery Level. Instead, the Psyker knows the **Sunburst** psychic power from the **Pyromancy** Discipline (see *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*) in addition to any other powers he knows. The Psyker can choose to manifest **Sunburst** with an increased range, though this will have an increased Warp Charge cost. If you wish to increase its range to 12", **Sunburst** has a Warp Charge cost of 2; if you wish to increase its range to 18", **Sunburst** has a Warp Charge cost of 3 – declare the range of the power you are attempting to manifest before rolling. If the Psyker suffers Perils of the Warp when attempting to manifest this power with an increased range, he is removed from play as a casualty – do not roll on the Perils of the Warp table.

THE SKULL OF KER'NGAR.....40 POINTS

Ker'ngar was a mighty champion of the Dark Gods long before the Horus Heresy and the rise of the Chaos Space Marines. So masterful was this ancient warrior that he once boasted he could not be killed in battle. Sadly for Ker'ngar, his claim was proven false when Khorne sent forth Skulltaker to challenge the haughty warrior and take his skull. It adorned Skulltaker's cloak for centuries before being replaced. It is said that, despite his defeat, Ker'ngar's indomitable spirit is still bound within the skull and it protects the one who carries it from harm, be it physical or arcane.

The bearer of the Skull of Ker'ngar has the Eternal Warrior and Adamantium Will special rules.

THE SPINESHIVER BLADE.....30 POINTS

Believed to have been forged from the spinal column of the mighty Keeper of Secrets, K'alth the Prurient, the Spineshard Blade reverberates with the quivering essence of the Daemon's final, lascivious death throes.

Range	S	AP	Type
	User	3	Melee, Daemon Weapon*, Quicksilver

Quicksilver: The bearer of the Spineshard Blade has +1 Initiative in close combat.

*See Codex: Chaos Space Marines.

FORMATION DATASHEETS

This section details background and rules for seven Formations that allow you to field legendary Black Legion fighting groups on the tabletop. Each Formation grants the units within it powerful bonuses. You may include these in your army as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

Each datasheet contains the following information:

- 1 Faction:** The unit's Faction is shown here by a symbol. The Formations in this book have the Chaos Space Marines Faction.
- 2 Formation Symbol:** Formation datasheets are identified by this symbol.
- 3 Formation Name:** Here you will find the name of the Formation.
- 4 Formation Description:** This section provides a background description of the Formation, detailing its particular strengths along with the tactics and methods it employs to wage war in the grim darkness of the 41st Millennium.
- 5 Formation Composition:** This section shows the number and type of units that make up the Formation.
- 6 Formation Restrictions:** This section details specific unit sizes, equipment, transport options and any further restrictions that you may be required to adhere to in order to include the Formation in your army.
- Formation Special Rules:** Every Formation includes one or more special rules associated with the units that make up that Formation. The special rules for a Formation only apply to the units that make it up (even if there are other units of the same type in your army). Special rules that are unique to the Formation are described in full here, whilst others may be detailed in the Special Rules section of *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.





THE BRINGERS OF DESPAIR



The Bringers of Despair march across the battlefield like a walking fortress of spike-studded adamantium. They advance relentlessly through hails of enemy firepower and rolling blasts of psychic fury, their foes' panic growing with every fusillade the Chaos Terminators shrug off. In return, the Bringers of Despair lay down a withering hail of non-stop gunfire, their potent firearms and lethal marksmanship ensuring that those who fall within their gun sights swiftly meet a messy end. Abaddon's elite bodyguard are utterly devoted to their master, body and soul. They would give their lives for him in a heartbeat, while the excesses of violence and cruelty they have wrought in the Despoiler's name have ensured that the Bringers of Despair are feared to the furthest corners of the Imperium.

FORMATION:

- Abaddon the Despoiler
- 1 unit of Chaos Terminators



RESTRICTIONS:

This is a Black Legion Formation
(see pg 50).

SPECIAL RULES:

Without Equal: Chaos Terminators that are part of this Formation (including the Terminator Champion) have a Weapon Skill and Ballistic Skill of 5 rather than 4.

The Despoiler's Guard: While Abaddon the Despoiler is joined to the unit of Chaos Terminators from this Formation, you can re-roll one Look Out, Sir roll for him in each phase.



THE CHOSEN OF ABADDON



To be counted amongst the Chosen of Abaddon is a dark honour without equal. Amongst the ranks of this elite band stand some of the greatest Chaos Champions in the galaxy, murderers and monsters singled out for greatness by the Dark Gods themselves. It speaks volumes for the might of Abaddon that he commands the loyalty of such warriors, and that he can compel them to fight alongside one another rather than be at each other's throats. Feared and loathed across the Imperium and beyond, such genocidal despots as Devaron Korda, the Tyrant of Savara, and Krassus Fals, author of the Perdigus Atrocity, are lords of Chaos in their own right. Each brings with them the cream of their warriors, and each vies to outdo the others in displays of violence and cruelty, that they might rise highest in the Despoiler's favour.

FORMATION:

- 1-4 Chaos Lords or Sorcerers (in any combination)
- 1 unit of Chosen or Chaos Terminators (in any combination) for each Chaos Lord or Sorcerer

RESTRICTIONS:

This is a Black Legion Formation
(see pg 50).

SPECIAL RULES:

Exalted Champions: During deployment, each Chaos Lord and Sorcerer from this Formation must join one of the units of Chosen or Chaos Terminators. Only one character can join each unit in this way, and they cannot leave these units during the course of the battle. As long as the character is on the battlefield, his unit has the Fearless special rule.

Blessed by the Chaos Gods: Before deployment, roll on the Chaos Boon table in *Codex: Chaos Space Marines* for each Chaos Lord and Sorcerer in this Formation, re-rolling any results of Spawnhood or Dark Apotheosis. The result lasts for the entire game.



THE HOUNDS OF ABADDON



As subtle as a chain axe to the face, and every bit as bloody, the psychotic assault of the Hounds of Abaddon is all but unstoppable. Less deployed than set loose, this warband of ferocious Khorne worshippers surges across the battlefield with screams of insatiable bloodlust. The Hounds of Abaddon give no thought to their own survival, longing only to rend their enemies limb from limb and claim their skulls in the Blood God's name. They care nothing for their own casualties, nor for their place in the grand strategies of the Black Legion. The Hounds of Abaddon live only to shed the blood of their foes and – as they slam screaming into the enemy battle line amidst the fire and thunder of war – they spill that lifeblood in rivers.



FORMATION:

- 1 Chaos Lord
- 1-3 units of Khorne Berzerkers
- 1-3 units of Chaos Space Marines
- 1-3 units of Raptors, Warp Talons or Chaos Bikers (in any combination)



RESTRICTIONS:

This is a Black Legion Formation (see pg 50). Any unit that has the option to take a Mark of Khorne must do so, but at no additional points cost.

SPECIAL RULES:

Let Slip the Hounds: Once per game, at the start of any of your turns after the first, you can declare a massed assault. For the duration of that turn, units from this Formation can charge in the Assault phase even if they made a Run move in the same turn.

Khorne's Favour: If a unit from this Formation makes a successful charge and the total rolled for its charge range is 8 or more (before modifiers), add 1 to the Strength of its models until the end of the Assault phase.



DAEMON ENGINE PACK



Like monstrous hunting beasts, the ironclad abominations of the Daemon Engine Pack lope across the battlefield to tear apart their master's prey. Whether lash-tentacled Maulerfiends or lumbering, gun-mawed Forgefiends, these prized pets of the Warpsmith obey his every command with instant ferocity. Such daemonic war engines are not cast into battle lightly, for they are valuable assets. Most commonly a Warpsmith will send his bestial servants to seize some vital artefact whose power he desires, or to annihilate a foe or rival whose continued existence can no longer be tolerated. Given the soulscent of their luckless victim, the Daemon Engines prove out across the battlefield with single-minded determination, not stopping in their hunt until their victim is strewn in bloody tatters across the field of war.



FORMATION:

- 1 Warpsmith
- 2 Forgefiends or Maulerfiends (in any combination)



RESTRICTIONS:

This is a Black Legion Formation
(see pg 50).

SPECIAL RULES:

Hunting Pack: After deployment, but before the first turn, you can nominate one character in the enemy army. All Forgefiends and Maulerfiends from this Formation have the Preferred Enemy special rule against that character. If the nominated character is slain by a vehicle from this Formation, that model regains a Hull Point lost earlier in the battle.

Prized Possessions: At the start of each Shooting and Assault phase, you can nominate a Forgefiend or Maulerfiend from this Formation that is within 12" of the Formation's Warpsmith. Until the end of the phase, that model uses the Warpsmith's Weapon Skill or Ballistic Skill instead of its own.



CYCLOPIA CABAL



Sometimes, subtlety and cunning are far more potent weapons than even the largest blade or gun. The twisted Sorcerers of Abaddon's Cyclopius Cabal embody this doctrine, employing their devious Warpcraft to cloud the minds of the enemy and sow confusion and despair amongst the foe's ranks. It is said that these covens of Sorcerers are created only for very specific, secret tasks, and that Abaddon's personal Sorcerers fight amongst their number from time to time. Few enemies have gotten close enough to discover the truth of such an assertion, however. Most find their perceptions clouded, their thoughts and emotions churning in paranoia and fear as the Sorcerers unleash their curse. Soon enough the enemies of the Black Legion tear themselves apart, their minds destroyed by the Cyclopius Cabal.



FORMATION:

- 3-5 Sorcerers



RESTRICTIONS:

This is a Black Legion Formation
(see pg 50).

SPECIAL RULES:

Shroud of Deceit: At the start of each of your Psychic phases, select one model from the Cyclopius Cabal to lead it in a dark ritual. That model can attempt to manifest the *Shroud of Deceit* psychic power, below. For each other Sorcerer from this Formation that is within 12", add one dice to the Psychic Test – these dice do not cost any Warp Charge points.

SHROUD OF DECEITWARP CHARGE 3

Arcane fire twisting around them as their incantations build to a crescendo, the Cyclopius Cabal cloud the minds of the enemy, blurring the line between friend and foe.

Shroud of Deceit is a psychic power that targets a single non-vehicle enemy unit within 30". The target unit cannot be locked in combat. You can immediately make a shooting attack with that unit as though it were part of your army.



THE TORMENTED



To court the infernal power of Chaos is to invite disaster and mutation. Yet even in damnation, the servants of the Dark Gods are deadly foes, often more so than ever. Led by a looming Daemon Prince – a hellish war god whose path to glory has led him to the very pinnacles of unclean power – the Tormented surge into battle in a screaming, gibbering tide. These deranged warriors were once normal Black Legionnaires, yet their bodies have been twisted into malleable weapons of flesh and bone by the Daemons that lurk parasitically within. Explosive mutation wracks the tainted flesh of the Tormented as they charge into battle, but even as they become ever more hideous and insane they also become stronger and more ferocious. Few can stand before the hellish horror of such beings and live.

FORMATION:

- 1 Daemon Prince
- 2-5 units of Possessed



RESTRICTIONS:

This is a Black Legion Formation
(see pg 50).

SPECIAL RULES:

Advanced Possession: Units of Possessed from The Tormented have Weapon Skill and Initiative 5, and the Rending special rule. However, any unit of Possessed from the Tormented that is not locked in combat at the start of its turn must take a Leadership test. If it fails, the unit can only move D6" in the Movement Phase as it is wracked with mutative spasms. Units that are within 18" of the Formation's Daemon Prince pass this test automatically.



BLACK LEGION WARBAND



The Black Legion advance into battle with a focus and efficiency both rare and frightening in the worshippers of Chaos. These tainted traitors are the living embodiments of the Despoiler's will, cruel destroyers of light and civilisation whose singular purpose is the annihilation of the Emperor's Realm. Veterans of a war that has raged for millennia, the Black Legionnaires fight with efficiency and cunning to match the most strategically gifted loyalist Space Marines. They are driven on by an endless hunger to prove themselves to their Warmaster, and to earn the boons of power that both he and the Dark Gods may grant. This combination of martial excellence and boundless, infernal ambition is potent indeed, and has seen many worlds left burning in Abaddon's wake.

FORMATION:

- 1 Chaos Lord
- 0-1 Sorcerer
- 2-6 units of Chaos Space Marines or Chosen (in any combination)
- 1-3 units of Chaos Terminators or Possessed (in any combination)
- 1-3 units of Raptors,
- Warp Talons or Bikers (in any combination)
- 1-3 units of Havocs or Helbrutes (in any combination)

RESTRICTIONS:

This is a Black Legion Formation (see pg 50).

SPECIAL RULES:

Favoured of the Warmaster: When a model from a Black Legion Warband earns a roll on the Chaos Boon table as a result of the Champion of Chaos special rule, roll twice on the table and choose either one or both of the results.

Thirst for Glory: If an enemy unit is completely destroyed by a unit from a Black Legion Warband, all other units from the same Black Legion Warband can re-roll To Hit and To Wound rolls of 1 until the end of the phase.



MISSIONS: BLACK LEGION

This book includes eight missions which are themed around the Black Legion and the way they fight. This gives you a chance to discover more about the strategies used by the favoured warriors of the Dark Gods, and then to enact them on the tabletop with your own army. It also means that the composition of the army you command can affect the types of battle you are likely to fight. This is highly appropriate – after all, you would expect to fight a very different sort of battle as a Black Legion warlord than you would as any other commander.

The missions in this book are split into two sections: Altar of War missions and Echoes of War missions.

ALTAR OF WAR MISSIONS

The three Altar of War missions (pg 62 to 67) illustrate the different sorts of strategies used by the Black Legion and provide new tests of your tactical ability as a commander.

It is very straightforward to use an Altar of War mission – these can be selected at The Mission step described in Preparing for Battle in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*. Like the missions presented there, Altar of War missions are ‘pick up and play’ missions – it is not necessary to know which of these missions you will be playing before selecting an army, only the agreed points value of the two armies.

If you (or your opponent) have a Warlord with the Chaos Space Marines Faction that is from a Black Legion Detachment or Formation, as described on page 50, you can select one of these missions just as you would any other, as explained in the Preparing for Battle section in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

HOW TO USE ALTAR OF WAR MISSIONS

If either you or your opponent wish to use an Altar of War mission, make a roll-off at the start of The Mission step of Preparing for Battle in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

The winner of the roll-off can choose either to roll on the Eternal War or Maelstrom of War mission tables, or instead roll on the Altar of War mission table for their army. Other supplements also have new types of mission tables, and the winner of the dice roll-off could choose to roll on one of those, if they prefer and are allowed to do so. These rolls will determine which mission is used for the battle. Note that each set of Altar of War missions is linked to a specific Faction; in order to use Altar of War missions, your army's Warlord must have the appropriate Faction. In the case of *Altar of War: Black Legion*, the player rolling on the mission table must choose a Warlord with the Chaos Space Marines Faction, drawn from the Black Legion.

THE ENEMY

The player that won the roll-off and rolled on the Altar of War mission table is known as ‘the Black Legion player’ in the rules and missions that follow; their opponent is known as ‘the enemy player’. Note that the player that loses the roll-off counts as ‘the enemy player’, even if they have a Black Legion army too.

ALTAR OF WAR: BLACK LEGION MISSION TABLE D3 MISSION

- 1 Speartip Strike
- 2 Kill Them All!
- 3 Capture the Artefact

SELECTED BATTLE MISSIONS

As an alternative to rolling on a mission table, the players can agree to choose the mission they wish to fight. Picking missions is a great way to try out a particular mission you haven't fought before or to hone your skills at missions you have fought previously.



ECHOES OF WAR MISSIONS

After the Altar of War missions, you will find a selection of Echoes of War missions (pg 68 to 77) inspired by the battles fought by the Black Legion. The Armies section of each of these missions provides guidance on the forces present so that you can replay the pivotal events using the armies and characters described in this book. Many of the Echoes of War missions include a map that depicts the battlefield on which the conflicts were fought. For those with a mind to historical accuracy, you'll notice certain restrictions and rules that we use to replicate the conditions of the battle in question. However, whilst the Echoes of War missions have been inspired by specific events, with a little imagination they can easily be repurposed to recreate battles of your own invention. If you choose to go down this route, you can modify these missions so that they can be fought using any combination of forces and terrain in your collection.

ALTAR OF WAR: SPEARTIP STRIKE

The Sons of Horus were ever the masters of the speartip strike – a tactic first conceived of by the Warmaster Horus, designed to launch a direct blow against enemy forces by slaying their commander. Key to this strategy was a precision teleport assault by the Legion's elite Justaerin Terminators on the target's position, whilst the other companies of Sons of Horus kept the enemy ground forces occupied. Horus would often lead these strikes personally to ensure victory, for no foe could hope to withstand his titanic might.

Since the fall of the Sons of Horus and the meteoric rise of the Black Legion, Abaddon never forgot how effective a speartip strike could be, for Horus had on occasion sent his First Captain to lead the attack in his stead. To witness Abaddon lead such an assault at the head of his mighty Black Legion Terminators is to stare death in the face. Countless Imperial commanders have fallen to Abaddon's brutally effective tactics, and many more shall follow until the Imperium drowns in blood and the Despoiler finally has his vengeance.

THE ARMIES

Choose armies as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*. The Black Legion player must choose a Black Legion Detachment or Formation to be their Primary Detachment.

THE BATTLEFIELD

Use the deployment map included in this mission. Set up terrain as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.



DEPLOYMENT

Players should first roll for Warlord Traits and then deploy their armies as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

FIRST TURN

The player that deployed first has the first turn unless their opponent can Seize the Initiative as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

GAME LENGTH

The mission uses Variable Game Length as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

VICTORY CONDITIONS

At the end of the game, the player who has scored the most Victory Points wins the game. If players have the same number of Victory Points, the game is a draw.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

At the end of the game, each player receives 1 Victory Point for each enemy unit that has been completely destroyed, or 2 Victory Points if it was an HQ or Elites unit. Units that are falling back at the end of the game, and units that are not on the board at the end of the game, count as destroyed for the purposes of this mission. Remember that Independent Characters and Dedicated Transports are individual units and award Victory Points if they are destroyed.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

First Blood, Linebreaker, Slay the Warlord*.

* In this mission, the Slay the Warlord Secondary Objective is worth 5 Victory Points. Note that this includes the Victory Points earned as part of this mission's Primary Objective.

MISSION SPECIAL RULES

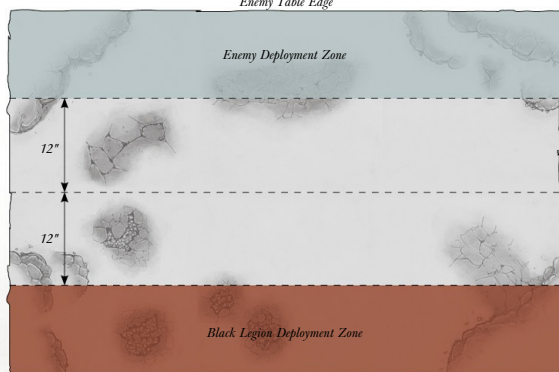
Night Fighting, Reserves.

Speartip Assault: Black Legion units composed entirely of models that have the Deep Strike special rule can choose to make a Speartip Assault. Immediately after determining Warlord Traits, tell your opponent which units are making a Speartip Assault, and make a secret note of whether it takes place during your first or second turn. All units making the Speartip Assault automatically arrive via Deep Strike at the start of the chosen turn – there is no need to roll for reserves.

Protect the Commander: Any unit joined by the enemy Warlord has the Zealot special rule for as long as he remains with them.



Enemy Table Edge



Black Legion Table Edge

ALTAR OF WAR: KILL THEM ALL!

When Abaddon gathers his forces to launch a Black Crusade, one thing is certain: countless millions will die in blood and fire, and entire planets will be left in ruins, or worse. On Holy Terra, the annals of the Administratum are littered with the names of Imperial Guard regiments, Space Marine Chapters and even mighty Titan Legions that have been completely destroyed whilst attempting to stem the tide of these terrible onslaughts.

Such are the overwhelming forces at the disposal of the Despoiler that, should he seek the annihilation of a specific target or enemy host, only the most tenacious and heroic of them will be able to withstand the relentless onslaught of his Black Legion. One thing is certain – if Abaddon seeks the death of a certain foe, he is rarely disappointed.

THE ARMIES

Choose armies as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*. The Black Legion player must choose a Black Legion Detachment or Formation to be their Primary Detachment.

THE BATTLEFIELD

Use the deployment map included in this mission. Set up terrain as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

DEPLOYMENT

Players should first roll for Warlord Traits and then deploy their armies as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

FIRST TURN

The player that deployed first has the first turn unless their opponent can Seize the Initiative as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

GAME LENGTH

The mission uses Variable Game Length as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

VICTORY CONDITIONS

At the end of the game, the Black Legion player wins if they have completely destroyed the enemy force. If there are any enemy models remaining, including any units that are falling back, their opponent wins. Enemy units that are not on the board at the end of the game count as destroyed for the purposes of this mission.

MISSION SPECIAL RULES

Night Fighting, Reserves.

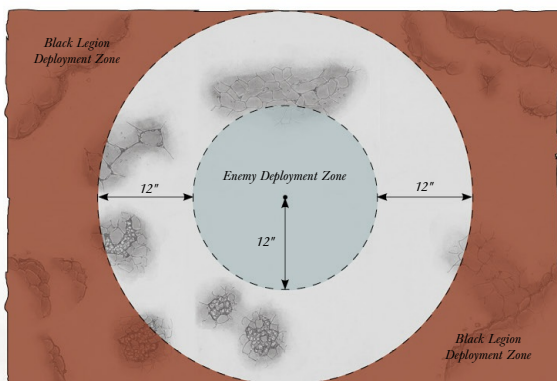
The Claw Tightens: The Black Legion player may choose to bring on units held in Reserve/Ongoing Reserves from any point on any table edge.

Fight to the Last Man: Every non-vehicle unit in the enemy army has the Stubborn special rule.

Lines of Retreat: Any Black Legion units that fall back do so towards the nearest table edge. Any enemy units that fall back must do so towards the centre of the board, where they will remain until they regroup.

Unleash the Legion: Each time a Black Legion unit is completely destroyed, remove it from play and place it into Ongoing Reserves. Unique models may not return to battle in this manner.





ALTAR OF WAR: CAPTURE THE ARTEFACT

Many times over the last ten millennia, Abaddon has sought Chaos artefacts of great and terrible power. Each of these timeless relics would serve a purpose in his endless war with the Imperium, and his enemies would rue the day that he added each fabled item to his collection.

Depending on the significance of each artefact, Abaddon would sometimes lead the raid to secure it; at other times he would send one of his Chosen or a trusted lieutenant instead. Should the Despoiler deem the securing of a relic worthy of his personal attention, the outcome of such a quest may one day determine the fate of the galaxy itself.

THE ARMIES

Choose armies as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*. The Black Legion player must choose a Black Legion Detachment or Formation to be their Primary Detachment.

THE BATTLEFIELD

Use the deployment map included in this mission. Set up terrain as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

OBJECTIVE MARKER

After setting up terrain, the enemy player places a single Objective Marker anywhere in their deployment zone.

DEPLOYMENT

Players should first roll for Warlord Traits and then deploy their armies as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

FIRST TURN

The player that deployed first has the first turn unless their opponent can Seize the Initiative as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

GAME LENGTH

The mission uses Variable Game Length as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

VICTORY CONDITIONS

At the end of the game, the player who has scored the most Victory Points wins the game. If players have the same number of Victory Points, the game is a draw.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

At the end of the game, the Objective Marker is worth 3 Victory Points to the player that controls it.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

Slay the Warlord, First Blood, Linebreaker.

MISSION SPECIAL RULES

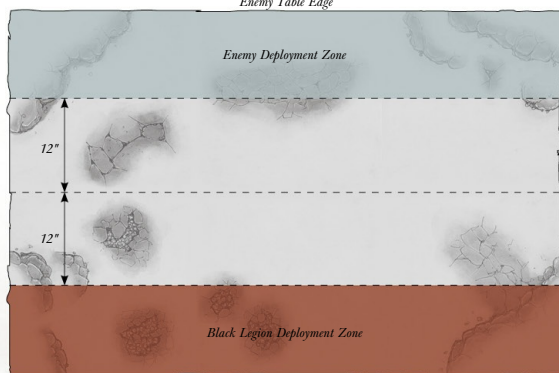
Mysterious Objectives, Night Fighting, Reserves.

Fear of Failure: Every non-vehicle unit in the Black Legion army has the Zealot special rule.





Enemy Table Edge



Black Legion Table Edge

ECHOES OF WAR: SLAUGHTER AT KASYR LUTEIN

Kasyr Lutein has fallen to the Black Legion. Just as Abaddon planned, the Imperium responded to the threat in great force, deploying two full Chapters of Space Marines to counter the Chaos invaders. To the Imperium's embattled survivors, redemption seemed to be at hand, as the Warhawks and Venerators Chapters made planetfall and immediately took the fight to the Black Legion. Abaddon, however, had already set plans in motion to prepare a suitable welcome for the new arrivals.

Bursting from the Warp, Doombreed arrived to lead the slaughter of the loyalist Space Marines. With Khorne's mighty Daemon Prince at their head, the Black Legion are infused with the Blood God's fury and set about their hated foes with terrible ferocity.

THE ARMIES

Choose armies as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*. The Black Legion player must choose a Black Legion Detachment or Formation to be their Primary Detachment. To represent Doombreed, the Black Legion player must include a Daemon Prince with the Mark of Khorne as the Warlord of their army. Otherwise, the Black Legion player's force must consist entirely of units with the Chaos Space Marines Faction, or of units with the Chaos Daemons Faction that have the Daemon of Khorne special rule. The enemy player must choose a Primary Detachment with the Space Marines Faction.

THE BATTLEFIELD

Use the deployment map included in this mission. Set up terrain as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

DEPLOYMENT

Players should first roll for Warlord Traits and then deploy their armies as follows:

The enemy player deploys first, placing all of their units within their deployment zone on the map. The Black Legion player then deploys up to three of their units (excluding Doombreed) in the southern Black Legion deployment zone. The remaining units are all placed in the northern Black Legion deployment zone. If the Black Legion army includes any Chaos Daemons units, they must all be deployed in the northern Black Legion deployment zone.

FIRST TURN

The Black Legion player has the first turn unless their opponent can Seize the Initiative, as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

GAME LENGTH

This mission uses Variable Game Length as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

VICTORY CONDITIONS

The Black Legion player wins if, at the end of the game, they have completely destroyed at least as many enemy units as there were turns in the game. (For example, if the game lasted six turns, they would need to have completely destroyed six enemy units.) If not, the enemy wins instead. Remember that Independent Characters and Dedicated Transports are individual units.

MISSION SPECIAL RULES

Night Fighting, Reserves.

The Fury of Khorne: Doombreed, and all friendly units within 12" of him, have the Furious Charge special rule. Furthermore, any friendly units with the Mark of Khorne or the Daemon of Khorne special rule can re-roll failed charge rolls if they are within 12" of Doombreed.

Into the Jaws of Death: Any Space Marine units that fall back must do so towards the southern table edge.





Black Legion Table Edge



ECHOES OF WAR: SPILLING THE BLOOD OF ANGELS

Since the day that Horus slew their Primarch, Sanguinius, the Blood Angels have held a burning hatred for Abaddon – he who wears the very claw that once throttled the life from their gene-sire. Over the millennia, Abaddon has taken great delight in nurturing this hatred, revelling in each Blood Angel life taken with the infamous Talon of Horus. The annals of the Blood Angels are littered with the names of those slain by Abaddon's fell weapon, but even amongst these extensive records, the Battle of Mackan is held in righteous abhorrence for the sheer number of their battle-brothers slain by the Despoiler.

As the Blood Angels fortify their positions in an attempt to prevent the Black Legion ground forces from returning to their landing zones and rejoining their fleet, Abaddon personally leads the charge in an attempt to force a path through. If, in the process, he has the opportunity to vent his fury on the Sons of Sanguinius, then so much the better.

THE ARMIES

Choose armies as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*. The Black Legion player must choose a Black Legion Detachment or Formation to be their Primary Detachment. The Black Legion player must include Abaddon the Despoiler as their Warlord. The enemy player must choose a Primary Detachment with the Blood Angels Faction, and must include at least two Fortifications as part of their army.

THE BATTLEFIELD

Use the deployment map included in this mission. Set up terrain as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

DEPLOYMENT

Players should first roll for Warlord Traits and then deploy their armies as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

Do not roll off to decide who will deploy first; this is automatically the enemy player. The Black Legion player may not keep any units in Reserve apart from Flyers.

FIRST TURN

The Black Legion player has the first turn unless the enemy player can Seize the Initiative, as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.



GAME LENGTH

This mission uses Variable Game Length as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

VICTORY CONDITIONS

At the end of the game, the player who has scored the most Victory Points wins the game. If players have the same number of Victory Points, the game is a draw.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

Each time Abaddon, or a unit he has joined, completely destroys an enemy unit, the Black Legion player earns 1 Victory Point.

Each time a non-Flyer Black Legion unit moves off the enemy table edge using the Breakthrough special rule (see below), the Black Legion player earns 1 Victory Point. If Abaddon himself leaves play in this manner, the Black Legion player instead earns 3 Victory Points.

Each time the enemy player completely destroys a Black Legion unit, they score 1 Victory Point. Black Legion units that are falling back at the end of the game count as destroyed for the purposes of this mission.

Remember that Independent Characters and Dedicated Transports are individual units for the purposes of awarding Victory Points.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

Slay the Warlord, First Blood, Linebreaker.

MISSION SPECIAL RULES

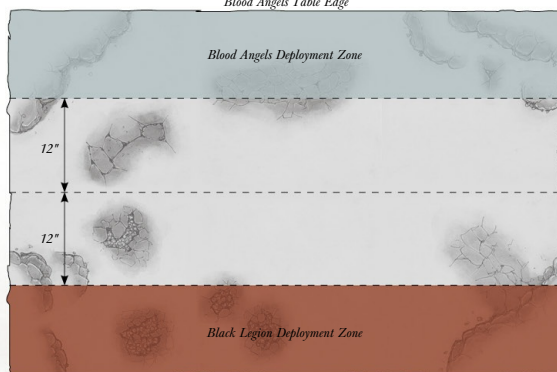
Night Fighting, Reserves.

Breakthrough: Black Legion units can voluntarily leave play via the enemy player's table edge – as soon as one of the unit's models moves off the board in this manner, the whole unit is removed.

Wrath of the Despoiler: Abaddon has the Rage special rule. He, and any unit he joins, can re-roll failed charge rolls.



Blood Angels Table Edge



Black Legion Table Edge

ECHOES OF WAR: DEATH COMES TO RELORRIA

Inadvertently driven to the unprotected world of Relorria by the chaotic Warp-tide unleashed in the wake of his Daemon-pilot's destruction, Abaddon was forced to settle for the destruction of this backward system. As his scattered fleet reformed and prepared to launch a brutal invasion, it soon became evident that another power also had its eye on the vulnerable world. Waaagh! Murgor arrived within hours of the first Black Legionnaires setting foot on the planet, leading to a series of furious battles between the rival invading forces.

Ever the pragmatist, Abaddon used the conflict to further his experiments on daemonic possession, capturing groups of Orks wherever possible in an attempt to splice the barbaric creatures with Warp entities to create a form of super-hybrid. With this in mind, the Despoiler planned to acquire as many greenskins as he could before escaping with his haul and leaving Relorria to fall before the Waaagh!

THE ARMIES

Choose armies as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*. The Black Legion player must choose a Black Legion Detachment or Formation to be their Primary Detachment. The enemy player must choose a Primary Detachment with the Orks Faction.

THE BATTLEFIELD

Use the deployment map included in this mission. Set up terrain as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

DEPLOYMENT

Players should first roll for Warlord Traits and then deploy their armies as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*. Do not roll off to decide who will deploy first; this is automatically the enemy player.

FIRST TURN

The Black Legion player has the first turn unless the enemy player can Seize the Initiative, as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

GAME LENGTH

This mission uses Variable Game Length as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

VICTORY CONDITIONS

The Black Legion player wins if, at the end of the game, they have captured at least 5 units of Orks. (See the *Infernal Schemes* special rule, below). **If not, the enemy player wins instead.**

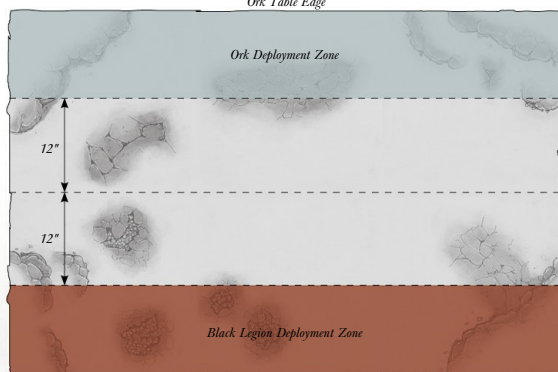
MISSION SPECIAL RULES

Night Fighting, Reserves.

Infernal Schemes: If an Ork unit is completely destroyed by a Black Legion unit in the Assault phase, it is captured. Units wiped out by overrun moves count towards this.



Ork Table Edge



Black Legion Table Edge

ECHOES OF WAR: DEFIANCE ON ILDANIRA

Unbeknownst to the Eldar that had dwelled in peace on the maiden world of Ildanira for countless millennia, a dark secret lay buried beneath their feet. The Skull of Ker'ngar, a Chaos artefact of terrible power, was abandoned there long ago by an ancient race now long extinct. When Abaddon's cabal of Sorcerers finally scried its resting place, a brutal invasion soon followed. After many long weeks of searching, Abaddon's forces finally claimed his prize, though his murderous actions on Ildanira did not go unnoticed. The Eldar of Craftworld Alaitoc were drawn to the conflict, and were determined that the Despoiler not possess the fell artefact for long. Amid the paradisiacal maiden world's glades of mirrored crystal, the Rangers of Alaitoc struck at the Black Legion, seemingly from every angle, in an attempt to prevent the bearer of the skull from escaping, and to then destroy its evil forever.

THE ARMIES

Choose armies as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*. The Black Legion player must choose a Black Legion Detachment or Formation to be their Primary Detachment. The Black Legion player's Warlord must bear the Skull of Ker'ngar (page 51). The enemy player must choose a Primary Detachment with the Eldar Faction, and must include Illic Nightspear as its Warlord, along with at least one unit of Rangers.

THE BATTLEFIELD

Use the deployment map included in this mission. Set up terrain as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

DEPLOYMENT

Players should first roll for Warlord Traits and then deploy their armies as follows:

The Black Legion player must place their Warlord in the centre of the table, then deploys their remaining units in their deployment zone. The enemy player then deploys their units in their deployment zone.

FIRST TURN

The enemy player has the first turn unless the Black Legion player can Seize the Initiative, as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

GAME LENGTH

This mission uses Variable Game Length as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.



VICTORY CONDITIONS

At the end of the game, the player who has scored the most Victory Points wins the game. If players have the same number of Victory Points, the game is a draw.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

If the Black Legion Warlord is still alive at the end of the game, the Black Legion player receives 3 Victory Points. If the Black Legion Warlord is slain during the battle, replace him with an Objective Marker. This Objective Marker is worth 3 Victory Points to the player that controls it at the end of the game.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

Slay the Warlord, First Blood.

Hunt the Hunters: The Black Legion player receives 1 Victory Point for every unit of Rangers that they completely destroy.

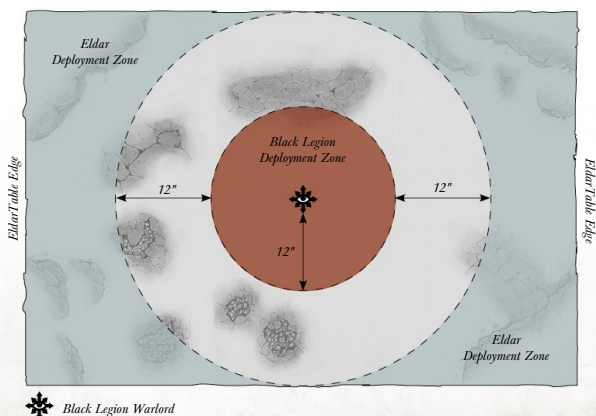


MISSION SPECIAL RULES

Night Fighting, Reserves.

Crystal Glades: Any Twisted Copses on the battlefield are Crystal Glades and have the following additional rule. Each time a unit targets an enemy unit that is situated entirely within the boundaries of a Crystal Glade, it must first pass a Leadership test or be reduced to Ballistic Skill 1 for the duration of that Shooting phase.

Smoke and Mirrors: At the beginning of each of their turns, the Eldar player may choose to remove any units of Rangers from the table, as long as they have at least one model remaining and are not engaged in combat (even if they are falling back). Any unit removed in this manner is restored to its original size and placed into Ongoing Reserves. When they re-enter play, they must do so via Deep Strike, but only scatter D6" and do not count as having moved for the purposes of shooting. Furthermore, if it suffers a Deep Strike Mishap, the unit automatically suffers a Delayed result on the Deep Strike Mishap table – there is no need to roll.



ECHOES OF WAR: THE BLOOD-TRIAL OF KHORNE

Abaddon travelled to the gladiatorial Daemon world of Goreswirl in the Eye of Terror. There, he sought to win the favour of the Daemon-Primarch Angron, and to secure the patronage of the World Eaters Legion in preparation for launching his 13th and greatest Black Crusade against the hated Imperium of Man.

Where the other Daemon-Primarchs were won over to Abaddon's cause with fell bargains or artefacts of terrible power, the immortal lord of the World Eaters values only strength in battle. So Abaddon led his chosen few into Goreswirl's grand colosseum to prove his worth by defeating Khorne's daemonic champions in combat. Only victory in the arena would earn the blessing of Khorne and the approval of Angron.

THE ARMIES

Choose armies as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*. The Black Legion player's Warlord must be Abaddon the Despoiler, and their Primary Detachment must be a Black Legion Detachment or Formation. The enemy player must choose a Primary Detachment with the Chaos Daemons Faction. The enemy Warlord, and at least two other units in their army, must have the Daemon of Khorne special rule.

THE BATTLEFIELD

Use the deployment map included in this mission. Set up terrain as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

Designer's note: *When setting up the terrain, bear in mind that this battle is being fought in a vast, gladiatorial arena, so we suggest keeping the terrain fairly sparse.*

DEPLOYMENT

Players should first roll for Warlord Traits and then deploy their armies as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*. Do not roll off to decide who will deploy first; this is automatically the enemy player. Any unit that cannot be deployed on the table (for either side) starts the game in Reserve.

FIRST TURN

The Black Legion player has the first turn unless the enemy player can Seize the Initiative, as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

GAME LENGTH

This scenario uses Variable Game Length as described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules*.

VICTORY CONDITIONS

At the end of the game, the player who has scored the most Victory Points wins the game. If players have the same number of Victory Points, the game is a draw.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

Each time your Warlord slays an enemy model in close combat, you score 1 Victory Point, or D3 Victory points if it was during a Challenge.

If your Warlord slays the enemy Warlord in a Challenge, you instead score D3+3 Victory Points.

If the enemy Warlord is slain in the Assault phase in any other way, you score D3+1 Victory Points.

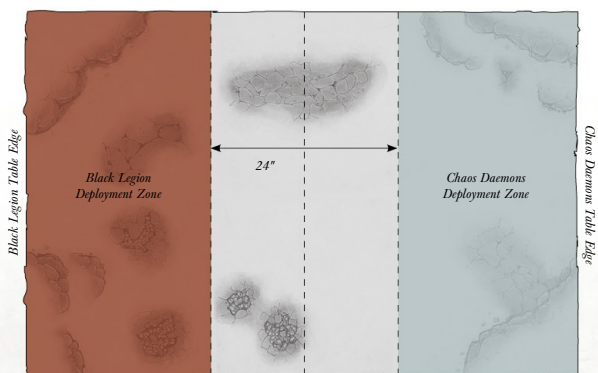
If the enemy Warlord is slain in any other phase, you lose D6 Victory Points.

MISSION SPECIAL RULES

Night Fighting, Reserves.

The Favour of Khorne: All characters on both sides have the Champion of Chaos special rule (see *Codex: Chaos Space Marines*).









BLACK LEGION TACTICAL OBJECTIVES

Presented below are six Tactical Objectives to use in your games of Warhammer 40,000, which are exclusive to Black Legion players and reflect the relentless tyranny of the Despoiler's followers.

TACTICAL OBJECTIVES

If your Warlord is from a Black Legion Detachment or Formation, you may replace the Capture & Control Tactical Objectives (numbers 11-16) described in *Warhammer 40,000: The Rules* with the Tactical Objectives on this page. If a Warhammer 40,000 mission has the Tactical Objectives special rule, players use the normal rules for using Tactical Objectives with the following exception: when a Black Legion player using these Tactical Objectives generates a Capture & Control objective (numbers 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 or 16), they instead generate the corresponding Black Legion Tactical Objective, as shown in the table to the right. Other Tactical Objectives (numbers 21-66) are generated normally.

D66 RESULT

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 11 | Death and Destruction |
| 12 | Fear the Legion |
| 13 | For the Unworthy, Only Death |
| 14 | Lead by Example |
| 15 | The Long War Continues |
| 16 | Warp-spawned Terror |

11 DEATH AND DESTRUCTION

TYPE: BLACK LEGION

Bring death to any who stand before you. Let them know how hopeless their defiance is, and crush them utterly.

Score 1 Victory Point at the end of your turn if an enemy unit was completely destroyed during your turn.

12 FEAR THE LEGION

TYPE: BLACK LEGION

Stride forth, the might of your Legion scattering the foe before you. Reap death, but first sow terror.

Score 1 Victory Point at the end of your turn if at least one enemy unit failed a Morale, Pinning or Fear test during your turn.

13 FOR THE UNWORTHY, ONLY DEATH

TYPE: BLACK LEGION

Prove your contempt for the cowards and weaklings that oppose you by eradicating their leaders as they stand helpless.

Score D3 Victory Points at the end of your turn if every one of your opponent's models with the Independent Character special rule has been removed as a casualty.

14 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

TYPE: BLACK LEGION

The warriors of the Black Legion only accept strong, capable leaders. Prove your worth to those who follow you.

Roll a D6 when this Tactical Objective is generated. Score 1 Victory Point at the end of your turn if your Warlord controls the Objective Marker whose number corresponds to the D6 result.

15 THE LONG WAR CONTINUES

TYPE: BLACK LEGION

The warriors of the Black Legion have been slaughtering their enemies for millennia. This battle is but one of many.

Score 1 Victory Point at the end of your turn if at least one enemy unit was completely destroyed during your turn. If any enemy units were destroyed by a unit with the Veterans of the Long War special rule, score D3 Victory Points instead.

16 WARP-SPAWNED TERROR

TYPE: BLACK LEGION

The warp is your ally. Make use of its eldritch powers.

Score 1 Victory Point at the end of your turn if you successfully manifested one or more psychic powers during your turn. If you manifested any conjuration powers, score D3 Victory Points instead, or D3+3 Victory Points if you summoned a Bloodthirster, Lord of Change, Great Unclean One or Keeper of Secrets.

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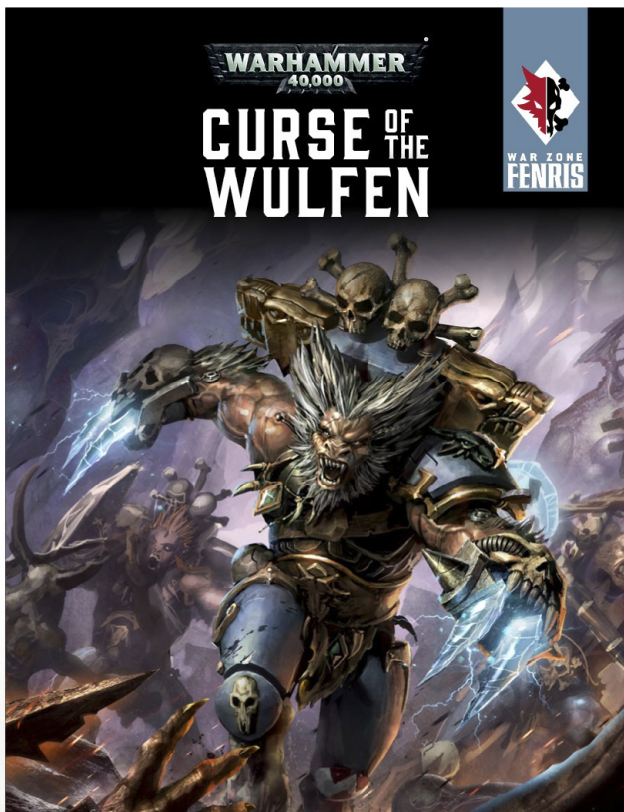


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