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"Ordinarily, calling a lift is a Simple task, but in the heat of battle, it tends to be more difficult. The referee should roll this task for the character, with the time duration of the task representing the combat round in which the lift arrives at that level. Once the lift arrives, the door will open, and the characters may enter the lift during the next combat round. If no character enters the lift, after two combat rounds the doors close, and the lift goes to a different level."

– MegaTraveller RPG <u>Player's Manual</u> (1987)

Combat Resupply: Moviemakers love elevator fight scenes, e.g., Total Recall, Captain America, The Matrix, Die Hard. Log Ships are the only ships capable of, and the only means to, resupply ships in combat by transferring Fighters and/or Ship Missiles, or replacements for whatever else has been expended during the combat (i.e. other Expendable Enhancements).

- ✓ Log Ships that execute Combat Resupply must join the combat (Victuals & Vitals, 3 Combat, p. 975, *supra*). This should *not be confused* with supply on Regular Turns.
- ✓ During combat resupply, the target unit and the Log Ship may not do anything else for the Combat Round, including attempting a retreat. Usually, the target unit and the Log Ship are Combat Screened (see 3 Fighters & Carriers, *infra*); it is not required. The unit(s) performing the Combat Screen cannot be the target of the resupply.
- ✓ If the Log Ship or the target unit are successfully attacked (including Engaged results, see Engaged, 2 Carriers & Fighters, p. 1055, *infra*) during the Combat Round, the resupply aborts. The supplies are not lost (unless the Log Ship is destroyed), but the Log Ship is unable to resupply the target unit due to enemy interference. Combat resupply occurs after all attacks have been resolved in the round.
- ✓ A Log Ship may resupply any number of other units in a Combat Round, until its replacements are exhausted. A unit receiving a transfer from a Log Ship must be able to legally use or carry what is received or the transfer does not happen.

➢ <u>Great Hsi-Ku Arsenal</u>: Colonies may not resupply units *during Combat Rounds* (including Orbital and System Defense Bases), and units in combat may not transfer supplies and enhancements between themselves, excepting Fighters from a destroyed Carrier.

- ✓ On the Regular Turn, the Log Ship could be refilled with whatever it can carry in the midst of Combat – because Combat Rounds run independent of Regular Turns (see Relativity, 2 The Streams of Time, p. 85, *supra*) – from a supporting colony in the same system by activation of the Construction Power for the purpose of Ship Supply. Again, timing is the key, as the Log Ship can Combat Resupply other ships if necessary during the Combat Round before the Regular Turn is run, so it may have extra capacity during processing of the Construction Power Activation.

The rule regarding Combat Resupply from a colony is a gray area, on the assumption that either the colony is trying to resupply Defense Bases during an attack on the colony or that the colony is too far away to resupply ships involved in a wide-ranging system-space combat. That said, it is probably possible for colonies to resupply whatever they have to Ground Bases, their Fighter Complements, and Ground Units during Combat Rounds. Mainly, this resupply is accomplished by building new stuff on the Colony during the Regular Turn actions.

✓ "Unexpectedly they then happened upon the Great Xigu Arsenal, a hidden Qing munitions cache of which the Allied Powers had had no knowledge until then. They immediately captured and occupied it, discovering not only Krupp field guns, but rifles with millions of rounds of ammunition, along with millions of pounds of rice and ample medical supplies. There they dug in and awaited rescue. A Chinese servant was able to infiltrate through the Boxer and Qing lines, informing the Eight Powers of the Seymour troops' predicament. Surrounded and attacked nearly around the clock by Qing troops and Boxers, they were at the point of being overrun." – from Wikipedia article, "Boxer Rebellion," captured September 7, 2019.

➢ Blitzkrieg: People talk about the wrong thing when they talk about German Blitzkrieg. Blitzkrieg is at heart a new combat supply system addressing the shortcomings of WWI industrial warfare. In 1940 the French were still relying on WWI railhead supply and mobilization speed. During the campaign, the Germans also executed better than the French and had better command and control – but that goes hand in hand with the superior combat supply system called Blitzkrieg. Thus, it did not matter if the French tanks were equal in quality to German tanks; the Germans had more tanks and used them better because they had a better combat supply system and mindset. So, to blame the French Generals is to blame the entire French system for failure to innovate; for reliance on the systems of 20 years earlier.

"And the Rebellion exposed something that perhaps nothing else could have exposed: The Imperial social contract was dead. That contract was the contract of empire. Eleven thousand worlds collected into one group need a set of values that they all share to remain together... When enough nobles forgot that their positions were not guaranteed by invisible forces...the Imperium was doomed.... When the admirals of the Imperial Navy, nobles all, and entrusted with power enough to snuff out billions of lives committed their fleets to battle against other Imperial Fleets, they turned their backs on the proud service that gave meaning to their careers. They, better than any other humans, knew the appalling power of the Imperial fleets, knew the annihilation that would result if fleet were pitted against fleet. Only the Imperium, the Navy, and humanity would lose. But the admirals did not stand together and refuse to do battle against humanity itself. Noblesse n'oblige plus."

– Dave Nilsen, "When Empires Fall," Challenge Magazine, Issue 64, September 1992 [1]

Noblesse n'oblige plus: Merriam-Webster online dictionary reported that look-ups of the words "Godspeed," "scion," and "Nobless oblige," spiked in the days following the death of former President George H.W. Bush.

✓ "It is of course quite easy to lambast the WASP power elite, in their exclusivity and material wealth unshared. The sins of [sic] committed should not be overlooked and should be criticized roundly. Yet, this sells short the virtues of our bygone ruling class. Ross Douthat from the New York Times writes, 'Those virtues included a spirit of noblesse oblige and personal austerity and piety that went beyond the thank-you notes and boat shoes and prep school chapel-going – a spirit that trained the most privileged children for service, not just success, that sent men like Bush into combat alongside the sons of farmers and mechanics in the same way that it sent missionaries and diplomats abroad in the service of their churches and their country.' From Mark Zuckerberg to Cory Booker, to even Ted Cruz, our new power elite seems to have ignored this idea in their education. As the old adage goes, 'with great power, comes

great responsibility.' Governance is not easy." – Jack Beyrer, "George Bush, No-blesse Oblige, and the Death of American Leadership," The Wake Forest Review, December 6, 2018.

Conservationist arguments are largely *nobless oblige* arguments. So are arguments about global wealth disparity. And arguments against animal cruelty. Finding the audience largely deaf to classic *nobless oblige*, most arguments turn to the question of what we are bequeathing to our children? Assuming we care about what world our children will inherit, i.e. Generativity.

- ✓ Think about the concept of *nobless oblige* in the opposite: One can imagine a Dick-ens-like cartoonish 'bad guy' wealthy ruler saying "Pah! Nobless oblige is just an ex-cuse for the poor people to expect handouts from the government and the rich."

➢ Oblige: "Oblige" is a worldview of proper personal and societal relations that has faded; it is the personal obligation one has to those who provide for their safety, sustenance and wellbe-ing. It is inherent in humanity. The concept survives as artifacts in our language, e.g.:

- ✓ "Thanks to you I'm much obliged, For such a pleasant stay." – Led Zeppelin, "Ram-ble On" (1969).[2]

Oblige is reciprocal and the direct opposite of tyranny. It was also a wide-ranging conven-tion, and thus the concept developed that rulers were obliged to those whom they ruled and who supported their privileged lifestyles. One might (and probably should) feel obliged to their civilization when it provides infrastructure, distribution networks, social safety nets, law and order, protection, and medical or emergency assistance, to name a few.

- ✓ Generally, people have thought through the ages that we should be obliged to our par-ents for conceiving, birthing and raising us. But that issue has been debatable...

Oblige also formed the boundaries within which one moved socially, assuming and receiving obligations. However, obligations also usually prevented people from moving spatially (that is, travelling, relocating), for example, family obligations, employment or apprenticeship ob-ligations, supervisory obligations, even obligations to tend cattle and sheep, and that is I think one of the main reasons for the faded concept in a society currently obsessed with free-dom to travel (e.g., car culture, jet setting).

- ✓ In 2012, a man went hiking in the mountains of Colorado with his faithful dog. The dog's paws became bruised from the rocky terrain and she was unable to walk farther. The man put the dog in a sheltered place and returned to civilization. He did not go back and get the dog (or apparently intend to), but simply left her there. Somehow, it got out and the man was absolutely shamed by outrage on social media and in the news and received death threats; a group with a carry litter hiked into the mountains, found the dog still in the shelter, hungry and thirsty, and brought her back. The man was forced to give up the dog for adoption by one of the rescuers and pay the vet bill.

- ✓ *Nobless Oblige* was probably the reason for the Christian Rapture (and related similar beliefs): How could God end the world without responsibility (oblige) to his wor-shipers? Lacking oblige, the Abrahamic Judeo-Christian God is just another tyrant. Thus, the story was invented that at the end of the world, believers would be taken up and 'saved.' Notably, the story never says what will happen to the animals and the rest of creation; we are not concerned with anything but saving our own bacon.

"There is a contract and a bargain made between the King and his people, and your oath is taken: and certainly, Sir, the bond is reciprocal; for as you are the liege lord, so they liege subjects ... This we know, the one tie, the one bond, is the bond of protection that is due from the sovereign; the other is the bond of subjection that is due from the subject."

– Judge Bradshaw in response to speech by Charles I before the Rump Parliament (1649) [3]

Noblesse Oblige: In an interstellar civilization setting, who holds the actual power? There are potentially two competing centers of power, the system and planetary governments who rule over the vast planet-based masses and industry, and the starship captains and crews, especially those with military power, who hold it all together. It is the natural tension of the setting.

- ✓ The Roman Empire (on which interstellar science-fiction settings are sometimes modeled or referenced) had a similar complex tension. The transition of the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire was a three-pronged affair: Rome was a large military state, the transition made military service a road to political power, and the Empire made Rome extremely wealthy, aggravating preexisting wealth disparity.

It is the job – the existential necessity – of the interstellar government to hold them together in a smooth functioning arrangement – for the interstellar government needs both in order to exist.

- ✓ That arrangement may require the application of force, with attendant consequences, if no other solution is available or if the government doesn't care about the consequences, is impatient, prejudiced, pressured, etc. The nail that sticks up the most gets hammered down the hardest. It's not pretty, but look at Hong Kong in 2019.

The balance of this power depends on many factors of various complexity, for example, external threats, whether ships have their own supply capabilities, fuel and maintenance requirements, whether planetary or system or some larger government controls access to the starship service, such as commissioning of officers, training and indoctrination of crew, control and programming of ship computer systems, political and cultural unity and trust, the operational qualities of Stardrive technology, the strength and loyalty of planetary defenses, politicization and factionalizing of the military, and perhaps, even the state of artificial intelligence in the civilization. Heady.

- ✓ "Member worlds of the Imperium agree to pay taxes and obey a few fundamental laws which the Imperium promulgates, known as the High Laws.... In return, the Imperium agrees to patrol the space between the worlds, to protect interstellar trade, to encourage travel and commerce, and to arbitrate diplomatic relations between worlds. Beyond this, individual worlds are left to their own devices so long as they acknowledge the power of the Imperium to rule the stars." – Traveller RPG Wiki, "Third Imperium," captured June 10, 2018.
  - ▪ This is part of the "imperial social contract" alluded to in the feature quote above; it is the arrangement of interstellar civilizations in space-opera fiction.

Space-opera or interstellar colonization/exploration science-fiction trope have addressed these issues and the implications sporadically, though rarely, directly. For example, what happens when starship officers and crew positions become hereditary? Should the starship captains and crew be members of the government or granted titles of nobility? In most cases, science-fiction (esp. television science-fiction) stories tend to portray starship captains and crew as modern United States or British naval officers and crew: uniformed, disciplined, nationalist, patriotic,

technically competent, career devoted, and recruited from the general population, trained and serving in a military that is subordinate to the democratically-elected civilian government.

✓ However, as Amy Schafer pointed out in "The Warrior Caste" (Slate Magazine, August 2, 2017), volunteer military service in modern democratic Western nations is borne by the same families generation after generation, an inherited family business of sorts, a sort of 'warrior caste' is developing (see full quote, 1 Colleges, EN 5, pp. 469-470, *infra*). Thus, it is becoming a myth that, other than in times of draft conscription, *levée en masse*, the military is recruited from the general population.

To the extent that this is realistic in the interstellar setting, there are warning signs along the road. For example, the number of captains and crews who turned to piracy (becoming *hostis humani generis*) in the 17th and 18th centuries, or the mutinies that occurred in the navies responsible for holding together far flung colonial empires. Or the "boomer" submarine (SSB/SSBN) captains (the Cold War nightmare subject of Tom Clancy's famous book, The Hunt for Red October) who hold frightening power at the turn of a couple of keys, and who are the closest approximation to the power of interstellar warship captains.

But participants in the game should not pre-assume any particular condition. What happens when the planetary or system government loses legitimacy with the local population and the population looks to the starship captains to save them? And when starship captains or crew revolt, who will be sent to take care of that problem? When an interstellar civilization loses a significant starships, loses control of the technology or ship routes, the Long Dark Night will follow.

✓ The key factors enabling world war – whether or not you consider the Seven Years War the first world war – were reliable oceangoing ships and navigation, and at least two powers with sufficient industry and population to carry global power projection. The same must be said of starships as the indispensable agents of power in an interstellar war. Even in the Stargate SG-1 Universe, starships of all sizes and uses still had an important role – though almost all of the ships featured in the universe were warships or troop transports (presumably, most cargo trade and tourism travelled via Stargate, as did nearly all of the exploration in the series).

➤ <u>Boomer & Bang-Bang</u>: A "boomer" is a *ballistic missile submarine (SSB)* armed with nuclear missiles which are also usually nuclear powered (e.g., SSBNs – Trident, Poseidon, Typhoon, Delta II class submarines).[4] Both NATO and the Warsaw Pact had boomers in the Cold War; they served is the vital third leg of the mutually assured destruction (MAD).

✓ [Interview] "... and then when the Soviets tested their first bomb we already understood that we had an answer to that, if you believe that there's such a thing as deterrence and certainly at some level, the fact that a country that's your enemy has nuclear weapons would certainly deter you from deciding to attack them without a good deal of thought at least, and of course there never was a war between the United States and the Soviet Union probably for exactly that reason. Nevertheless, there was a great hurrying and scurrying in Washington among the politicians about 'What are we going to do? What are we going to do?' [making hand-wringing motions] and the calm answer from people like Schrib and Robert Oppenheimer and others was look, we've got a lot more atomic bombs than they do ... and we are turning them out at a good rate now..." – Richard Rhodes (author of The Making of the Atomic Bomb (1986)), The Half-Life of Genius: Physicist Raemer Schreiber (2018).

That is, even if a first strike destroyed all of the land (ICBMs) and air-based nuclear weapon delivery systems, the submarines – operating independently deep underwater – would survive and deliver the counterstrike (subject of the movie, Crimson Tide (1995), called the 'last Cold War movie'). Very likely, enough nuclear weapons would survive the first strike that the counterstrike would destroy the original aggressor. The likely end result would be the end of human civilization and possibly the end of life on Earth (by way of nuclear winter).

- ✓ The Soviet ballistic missile sub in Hunt for Red October (1984) was a Typhoon. The understanding came about in the late Cold War as depicted in popular books and movies (military men knew it) that upon the carefully picked and groomed boomer captains had settled the ultimate weight of *nobless oblige* of human civilization.

- ✓ In 1942, the German navy began experimenting with mounting missiles on U-boats; they successfully mounted some small mortar-like warheads on an external rack and launched them both from the surface and underwater. They were unguided projectiles and never used in combat. Later, desperate fantasy turned to the idea of mounting the V-1 on U-boats and attacking New York City. This was quite challenging and that late in the war, didn't make much progress; later, they had another plan to launch V-2s which were even more technically difficult, from tubes towed underwater behind a U-boat. They may have completed building one V-2 tube; in the meantime, the U.S. intelligence received several reports which they took seriously. As late as the final months of 1944, German U-boats were able to land agents in Maine. In April-May 1945, Operation Teardrop was conducted to protect New York City from possible U-boat missile attacks. Although five of eleven U-boats were sunk, none of them had missiles mounted or towed. However, by February 1947, the U.S. Navy had adapted a V-1 missile design and successfully launched it from two submarines.

"Nothing travels faster than light, with the possible exception of bad news, which obeys its own laws." – Douglas Adams

Speed of Bad News: Bad news must be the reason for Quantum Entanglement. Given what is actually transmitted in Quantum Entanglement – something happened to your matey – it is not inconceivable. Eh? How fast is quantum entanglement? No one really knows. Most articles on the internet cite 10,000 times the speed of light, but:

- ✓ "When most people describe this interesting process, they'll describe the information transfer as 'instantaneous' or 'near-instantaneous.' Several research teams have attempted to measure the actual speed seen in the transfer of information in entangled systems, but have failed in one way or another, usually resulting from flawed methodology dealing in quantum nonlocality. ... So what were their results? The team came back and said that quantum entanglement transfers information at around 3-trillion meters per second – or four orders of magnitude faster than light. This is a lower speed limit, meaning as we collect more precise data, you can expect that number to get larger. At the moment, our technology and methodologies aren't sensitive enough to measure speeds at this scale." – Joshua Filmer, "Chinese Physicists Measure Speed of Quantum Entanglement," Futurism.com, March 21, 2013.

Four orders of magnitude faster than light is... you guessed it. Quantum entanglement would reach Pluto in .0005 hours (1.8 seconds) whereas light from the sun takes 5 hours.

"It is impossible to travel faster than light, and certainly not desirable, as one's hat keeps blowing off."

– Woody Allen, "The UFO Menace," The New Yorker, June 13, 1977

Endnotes.

[1] <u>Citation & Commentary</u>: "The simple man, whose best self, his noble self, is nearly all the time puzzled, dumb and helpless, has still the power to recognise the man in whom the noble self is powerful and articulate. To this man he must pledge himself. That is the only way. To act according to the spark of nobility we have in us, not according to our greediness and our cowardice, our hard selves. The hereditary aristocratic class has fallen into disuse. And democracy means the electing of tools to serve the fears and the material desires of the masses. *Noblesse n'oblige plus*. This is really the worst that can happen to mankind, when *Noblesse n'oblige plus*. Goodness and badness there is bound to be. But a spark of nobility redeems everything. This is our job, then, our uncommon sense: to recognise the spark of nobleness inside us, and let it make us. To recognise the spark of noblesse in one another, and add our sparks together, to a flame. And to recognise the men who have stars, not mere specks of nobility in their souls, and to choose these for leaders. We can choose for *noblesse* and we can choose for *basesse*. Nations are slowly strangling one another in 'competition.' The cancer of finance spreads throughout the body of mankind. Individuals are diseased with the same disease. To get money, and to spend money, nothing else remains. And with it goes all the strangling, and the bullying, and the degradation, the sense of humiliation and worthlessness of life, which is bitterest of all. There is nothing to be done, *en masse*. But every youth, every girl can make the great historical change inside himself and herself, to care supremely for nothing but the spark of noblesse that is in him and in her, and to follow only the leader who is a star of the new, natural Noblesse." – D.H. Lawrence, <u>Movements in European History</u> (1921).

- ✓ D.H. Lawrence was and is a controversial, anti-democratic figure (it is amazing to think now that <u>Movements in European History</u> was a British junior school text book); this somewhat Platonic quote is offered at face value. Every man is a dichotomy, and D.H. Lawrence is Exhibit A.
- ✓ It is more important in this case to put him into historical context, D.H. Lawrence, T.E. Lawrence and Adolf Hitler were the same generation; Bertrand Russel, whom he corresponded with, who called him a proto-Fascist, was the prior generation, and Albert Camus and John Sartre were the generation after.
- ✓ WWII and the Cold War made D.H. Lawrence's political arguments *unpalatable* (when de-cartelization of German industry and the spread of democracy acted as a bulwark against Communism), while his befuddled common man seems to foreshadow Camus' absurdism, but the preceding quote is still an interesting entry in the subject of how best to govern humanity.

[2] <u>Citation</u>: "But how tomato and 'ta-mato' came to be pronounced differently is an interesting historical question because history, surprisingly, affects language. And in the history of language, a change that would have changed the pronunciation of 'ta-mato' to the word 'tomato' and virtually the whole English language stands out as a shining ex-ample of the intimate connection between historical events and the words that describe them." – The History Guy, "The Great Vowel Shift," YouTube, January 27, 2020.

[3] <u>Citation</u>: See full speech and response, Luther & Charles Excerpt, Government Titles, *supra*.

[4] <u>Commentary & Citation</u>: Curiously, when the term "boomer definition" is Googled, there is no reference to the name for a ballistic missile submarine. In fact, the Merriam-Webster online dictionary definition of "boomer" is rather absurd in this regard; it refers only to the term for Baby Boomers (who, coincidentally, were the generation most concerned with the "boomer" submarines). Instead, a search for "boomer submarine" brings up the Wikipedia article on ballistic missile submarines. I have known "boomer" as the name for a ballistic missile submarine since I was young, 35 years ago. It seems as though there is some *unconscious millennial effort to bury or erase Cold War terms and the Cold War zeitgeist*. Other terms have been changed by events; for example, "ground zero" does not mean to the current generation what it meant when Weird Al Yankovic sang "Christmas at Ground Zero" in 1986.

- ✓ In 1986 in Okinawa, Japan, a couple of Marines in my unit had t-shirts that read, "24 empty missile silos, 24 mushroom clouds. It's Miller time." The shirt had a picture of a boomer on the surface of the ocean and a mushroom cloud in the distant background. A formation was called and the Battery Commander addressed us about diplomatic sensitivity and ordered that those shirts not be worn ever again while in Japan.