

The Reputable Intrepid Adventurers Club



Operative's Handbook



The purpose of this book

This source book is for all players and gives an in depth outline of The Reputable Intrepid Adventurers Club or TRIAC. Every player in the game starts out as either a member or associate of this organisation and as such the information contained within is relevant to all regardless of which nation they may belong to.

The world of Age of Aether is made up of many distinctive and defining cultures and outlooks and TRIAC gathers them all together into a cohesive group that works towards the defeat of the Martian threat by completing tasks and missions that the armies of the world are unequipped for. TRIAC is the scalpel to the Armies Broadsword and effectively the Victorian equivalent of the intelligence services and Special Forces. We hope that after reading this document that you will have a better understanding of TRIACs place in the game and how your characters fit in to this remarkable and specialist organisation.

As with the nation Gazetteers, after this first section that explains the reason behind the documents the rest of the handbook is an in character (IC) document, written by a foremost scholar of the day and can be downloaded, printed and used as a prop and reminder to help with information in game.

We hope that this handbook will give you a lot more information upon which you can flesh out and expand your characters background and identity and we hope you find it useful.

Happy reading
Macifaria Games



THE REPUTABLE INTREPID ADVENTUERS CLUB

A HANDBOOK BY RENOWNED HISTORIAN
DR HERBERT MAITLAND

Hello to you reader and congratulations in gaining entry to this most exclusive of organisations. In the next few pages you will be provided with the information on TRIAC that you will need to continue your membership or association.

In short, there is a world of new experiences and adventure in front of you, but you must always remember that the ultimate goal is the safety and security of humanity and the eventual defeat of the Martian invaders. With this in mind remember that your nationality, whilst important to your morale and national pride, is secondary to the TRIAC objectives that await you. The club is resolute in its task to take up the mantle of intelligence and covert operations against the invader and to ensure the needs and requirements of all member nations be met. To that end it may be necessary for you as an operative to undergo missions that require you to work with agents of a national outlook that are at odds with your own. I urge you to attempt to put these grievances aside and work together for the betterment of humanity and the club in general.

In this handbook there are many entries that you may find useful as a starting point in your membership. We will discuss the structure and design of the club and what it can offer you as an agent. We will look at some brief biographies of some of the more notable agents and then go on to talk about Guidelines and rules as well as how TRIAC works and functions when in the field. Finally we will lay out what facilities and equipment will be available on missions to both members and associates, be that crafting equipment or other more general services.

TRIAC does not discriminate in any way other than to be somewhat wary of both the Reptid and Hyrcanian alien species. These relatively new arrivals to our planet are understandably looked upon with a level of distrust that comes with having fought for the Martians previously. These races can only achieve associate status and then only if a current member vouches for them. Once this happens, associates are able to interact and function as regular members but only at the behest of their sponsor who is ultimately responsible for their conduct and behaviour. It has yet to be the case that an alien

has been accepted into the club but this author believes that it is only a matter of time before the worth and integrity of one of these noble and dispossessed visitors makes it impossible for the leadership to refuse them entry.

So there you have it operative. This is your first and best opportunity to immerse yourself into the workings and general information that is TRIAC. This honourable and stalwart body of ladies and gentlemen that put themselves at risk daily to advance the efforts of our brave soldiers on the front lines of the war. The intelligence and covert action that is taken by these heroes of humanity will be the undoing of the Martian threat and, I believe the lynchpin in casting these invaders back into stars from whence they came.

I for one, am honoured and proud to be a part of this august organisation and I hope, after reading this primer, you will be as proud as I am to be a member of the most influential group of men and women on the face of the Earth today.

The TRIACS Role and Purpose

Since its inception in 1849, TRIAC has been a driving force for stability and peace between the world's nations. It also serves a vital purpose in providing an essential and expert global intelligence service. TRIAC has to date, been responsible for diplomatically averting conflicts between world nations and creating a stable platform upon which the world powers can strike back at the Martian threat.

The other more hands on job that TRIAC has is performing small unit covert missions, often behind enemy lines or in hostile territory. These two to three day long missions are organised to deal with a specific threat or intelligence mission and during this time many other missions are fielded from a variety of sources and nations.

Organisation and Structure

The TRIAC is a multi-national self-governing intelligence agency that is funded privately by unknown philanthropic backers and is now ratified by all nations on the planet as it stands currently.

The club is structured rigidly with a central command based out of offices in each of the four main nation's capitals and various smaller offices in other minor cities. This central command allocates resources and manpower to various places in the world that need them. These cells that then are brought together are comprised of TRIAC agents, and TRIAC officers and affiliates that run the cell and provide logistical support to the agents that make up the group.

There is always an officer in charge of the cell who has a number of other officers that are responsible for specific areas during the mission. These can include:

- Officer in charge
- Communications Officer
- Officer in Charge of Resonant Relations
- Officer in Charge of Alien Relations
- Officer in Charge of Cell Defence
- Science Officer
- Quartermaster
- Administration Officer

There may be other officers on missions that do not have specific jobs but are there to lend support, lead missions out and aid with logistical issues.

Names and Personalities of Note

Dr Herbert Maitland (Commonwealth of Britannia)

Dr Maitland is a renowned social historian and anthropologist who joined TRIAC shortly after its inception. The Doctor has written a number of Gazetteers on the new nations of the world along with his works on new world geography and the state of the planet. Maitland is a fastidious man with an eye for detail and acts as an officer on TRIAC expeditions where his expertise on the nations and inhabitants of the planet comes in useful to operatives in the field. Herbert is somewhat of a hands on agent and is happier in the field than sitting behind a desk.

Dixie Valentine (Federated American Union)

Dixie is a communications officer for TRIAC and is expert at the operation of the Aethergraph. She is also an accomplished investigator, having worked for the Federated American Union intelligence agency before joining TRIAC. It is rumoured that Dixie was an active asset in the Imperial Eastern Union after the alleged theft of American technology some years ago but her past is a closed book and considered classified. Now she is a TRIAC agent, Dixie spends her time making sure that her expertise with communications ensures that the expeditions always stay up to date with current world affairs.

Dixie is also a latent resonant. She has never had the time to hone her skills and the thought of implants has always been a problem for her due to her job in intelligence requiring her to keep a low profile and implants being conspicuous to say the least. Dixie has however, been gifted with a strong will and this has served her well

in her time in all walks of her career.

Sir Digby C. Caesar (Royal Australian Protectorate)

Sir Digby is well travelled and is renowned for his experience with the Martian environment. He has been involved in many excursions into the Martian Red Zones, and gathered a lot of information about the unnatural environment that has set up root there. He speaks little of his personal experiences in the field. Some believe these experiences have affected his mental state, resulting in him living in a somewhat, distorted reality. That being said, his knowledge in Pharmacy and general survival skills makes him a valuable asset.

Lord William Henry Charles Grey (Commonwealth of Britannia)

Eldest surviving offspring of Lord Charles Grey (2nd Earl Grey) and a former Colonel in the Army. His parents, the then Lord and Lady Grey were killed when William was on a military exercise in North Wales. A Martian attack claimed them and 11 of William's siblings. Knowing that William would feel duty bound to protect and raise his 3 remaining sisters, his commanding officers recommended he be appointed as an ambassador to TRIAC. Where he has served since 1849. William rarely uses his title now and has risen to head of operations within the Club and is one of the highest ranking members of field command.

Aurora Crawford (Commonwealth of Britannia)

An Ex ladies-maid who claimed sanctuary with TRIAC when the royalist family she was retained by fled the country to the Australian Protectorate. She has trained hard as a TRIAC officer but is new to the field, hence her "admin" status.

Aurora is an indispensable if irregular member of TRIAC administration and is mostly encountered gathering all relevant information on the first night of an expedition and making sure that all missions and excursions are logged and categorized.

Kurt Knightspel (Prussian Hegemony)

Of all the military forces on the planet post invasion, none are more battle scarred and experienced than the grand army of the Prussian Hegemony. It was from this crucible of conflict that Kurt Knightspel emerged.

Born into a family of soldiers, it was always a good wager that he would enter the military and this he did at the age of 18. For ten years he fought in the infantry in red zones across Europe. In his 11th year of service he was awarded the Star of Prussia and the honour of wearing Prussian Black. Not long after he was chosen to be a part of the famous Jaeger battalions, the Prussian elite that wear the advanced Jaeger armour that allows prolonged action within

Martian territory. Kurt became a master in the use of this equipment and soon caught the eye of TRIAC.

In his fifth year in the Jaegers he was approached by a TRIAC recruiter and offered a position in the club. He accepted and over the next few years he fulfilled a number of roles before being chosen by Lord Grey to be head of field security and coordination in the new cell created in the wake of the new Martian assaults of 1872.

Dr Anne Curie (Prussian Hegemony)

Dr Curie started her career as a promising researcher in the Prussian Hegemony Aether Research Division. Whilst on a research mission in one of the European red zones, she was separated from her team and was considered lost in action after a search did not discover her and the nation mourned a talented mind lost to the war.

The good doctor was not lost, however, and was able to hide in a derelict building for days until a Jaeger team found her. She had survived by utilising emergency supplies to create a rudimentary radiation scrubber and respirator which had provided enough clean air for her to survive until rescued.

From that point, Dr Curie dedicated her life to the effects of both Earth and Alien radiation and the irradiation of existing elements with a view to providing technology to protect against the same. She is cited in a number of patents relating to respirator tech and anti-radiation drugs and has dedicated her life to this cause.

Unfortunately, the good doctor has, over the course of her life, absorbed a large amount of radiation and has had a special implant created using Arctic Concord Technology that allows her to regulate the amount of radiation in her body to stop it killing her.

Club Guidelines and Rules

TRIAC has a set of rules that it asks its members and associates to adhere to so as to allow the club to run in a steady and streamlined manner. The Rules are in place to allow members to work together with transparency with the understanding that all members, regardless of national identity will work towards a common goal, putting aside any squabbles or animosities whilst on TRIAC business.

There are three main rules that the club expects members and Associates to work under. They are:

1. When engaged on TRIAC business members and associates must

not engage in violent or unseemly behaviour and within reasonable parameters remain polite and courteous at all times. Manners maketh the member...

2. TRIAC officers have the final say during an expedition. Please listen to their directions and suggestions. You will be able to identify these officers by their black suits or dress and insignia.
3. TRIAC members and associates are required to carry their identity cards and licences at all times. This security measure is for your own safety and for those around you. Any TRIAC officer at any time has authorisation to ask you for your papers to perform on the spot checks. We are fighting a war and security is paramount. Your credentials are your own responsibility and should be with you at all times.

The TRIAC out in the World

As discussed earlier, TRIAC works in two distinct ways in its fight against the Martians. Firstly it acts as a mediator and neutral party to settle disputes between member nations. Secondly they perform intelligence and covert missions in hostile territory on behalf of member nations and at the behest of TRIAC command.

In general, the TRIAC will usually structure its missions in one of two ways;

The first is the insertion of a mobile command base via aether ship into a specific predetermined location, relating to the primary mission goal. During these missions a temporary aether gate is placed that has limited power and can only be used for a small amount of missions.

The second is by use of a static TRIAC base in friendly territory that has a prepositioned aether gate that allows transport to other mission locations. This type of mission generally requires prolonged use of the aether gate technology.

A TRIAC expedition is always called with an over arcing mission in mind. This tends to be the reason for the cell being formed and will be sponsored either by TRIAC Command or a member nation. There are however, always other issues and motives that need to be addressed in the political climate of a world at war. Due to this, the Friday of a mission is an opportunity for sanctioned TRIAC ambassadors from the various nations of the Earth to attend and post missions of their own that will serve their own nations goals or in some instances other purposes. Ambassadors are under the

protection of the TRIAC and while attending they have diplomatic immunity and the complete protection of the organisation. This is also a chance for agents to speak to ambassadors of their nation to try to curry favour or engage in extra activities to earn additional war bonds or gain influence.

Saturday is usually scheduled for additional missions and the majority of the sponsored content is dealt with here. During this time, TRIAC will attempt to complete its primary objective if at all possible while dealing with any threats that may arise along the way.

Sunday again continues with missions if any are still left open and the club will finally, if they have not already, tie up their primary mission. There are many things to close off and agree to for the agents, whether that be training with TRIAC or deals for crafted items between agents. Whatever the case, the mission will end and the cell will disperse. The payments for the mission will be paid to agents and any other details are handled by TRIAC officers at this time.

Mission Structure

When a mission is provided by an ambassador or TRIAC, the agents involved in the completion of the mission will most often be accompanied by a TRIAC officer. They may not become involved on the mission itself as neutrality between nations is essential for the organisation.

The officer will also be responsible for logging the details of the agents on the mission and any other details that may be relevant and is responsible for paying the agents at completion.

A Note on TRIAC Technology and Available Services

The below services are always available from a cell when it is active regardless of the type of mission.

Aethergraph Communication Station

There is always an Aethergraph station at a mission that allows contact with the rest of the world for agents so long as they can pay for the privilege with war bonds. Aethergrams are charged by the word.

Aetheric Compiler

This ingenious crafting machine allows boffins to create items from blueprints and resources found or bought on mission.

Infirmary

There is always an infirmary available to the cell which allows

practitioners to best care for agents wounded in battle. There is also a pharmacy station in the infirmary which allows the creation of various chemicals and concoctions.

Command and Control

The command and control room of the base is where all missions are posted and allows a place for the TRIAC officers to coordinate the cell and best complete their objectives whilst providing information on the state of the war.

Quartermaster

The quartermaster will always be present to provide ammunition and other valuable services for the correct price. The QM also has access to contacts of a less upstanding nature from outside of TRIAC organisational structure for those agents who need more exotic or unobtainable items...

Aether Gate Transportation

The use of this type of transport is one of the reasons TRIAC is so effective in its role. As the only organisation to date to seemingly have even limited access to Aether gate technology, TRIAC are able to make their presence felt all across the world and complete missions and operations that would otherwise be impossible. The amount of access that is available to this technology is relative to the style of primary mission and how many missions are necessary for the gates to be used.

Politics

TRIAC prides itself in taking a neutral stance to all nations and it is imperative to its future that it continues to be resolute in this. As a result the club urges all officers, members and associates to keep an open mind and put aside all grievances and national differences while on expedition.