

Warships of the Latin Finger

Destroyers: Antartida Class

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Introduction

The end of the 3rd Rio de La Plata War was proceed by new classes of Argentine ships, while Argentina was able to defeat the Brazilians in the space scenario, the need of newly ships was clear, the *Antartida Class* was once the most powerful fission powered Latin American design, the *Antartidas* were designed to operate over more than 4 months.

Narrative

For the last eight months, the Dunkelheim orbital base became the regular home of the NEA Santa Maria and her squadron until they were transferred from the DM+36 2393 system to the Vogelheim system to support the Adlerhorst defence forces there, the shortest path was passing thru the infamous Grosshidenhafen in the DM+35 2436 system.

-Sensor 2- "THREE INDIAS, THREE INDIAS." The Kafer ships were hidden behind Grosshidenhafen orbit, the Santa Maria was taken by surprise, while the Argentine cruiser was able to deploy the interceptors and missiles, a few Kafers missiles reached her starboard, however, the EM-5Ds disabled one of the Indias, while the 4 Pulquis were facing 6 Golfs.

The commanding officer of the NEA Orcadas del Sur, "Comandante de Navio" Federico Lagorio realized that with the Santa Maria down, his destroyer became in the leading ship of the Argentine squadron. In coordination with the frigates NEA Indomita and NEA Intrepida, Lagorio destroyed another India and forced the remaining destroyer to withdrawn and to leave the system.

Meanwhile 2 Pulquis from the Orcadas del Sur entered into the dogfight, sadly the armour of the Argentine fighters was lighter than the one used in the Golfs and the 6 Pulquis were destroyed. The last 4 Golfs in routed to smash the escape pods from the Santa Maria, however, 4 Jaguars from the NEM Kukulcan arrived, old but strongly armoured, the Mexican fighters were victorious.

July 11, 2311 – Ambush at Grosshidenhafen – 2nd Kafer War

Development History

In 2170, Argentina was one of the first nations to built a stutterwarp destroyer class, the

Almirante Brown, such destroyers were developed after the Alpha Centauri War. The *Almirante Browns* saw no action until the 1st Rio de La Plata War, they failed against the Brazilian missile frigates, the Argentines upgraded the destroyer, but was too late, Brazil won the war.

By 2220, sharing a similar shape of its predecessor, following a major technology upgrade, a new destroyer class raised, the *General Belgrano* (a.k.a. *Upgraded/ Refitted Almirante Brown*). In 2236 the destroyers led a famous raid during the 2nd Rio de La Plata War. From 2275 to 2279 during the 3rd Rio de La Plata War, Argentine and Mexican *General Belgranos* were decisive to win the war.

The aftermath of the 3rd Rio de La Plata War showed the need of a new destroyer to replace the 60 years old design. An INAP's reverse-engineering project using the Mexican *Ypres* frigate provided the new destroyers with screen technology and cloned targeting system, the use of fusion technology was reserved to bigger ships.

The result was the *Antartida* class, a strong armoured, and well armed missile destroyer, which in a first sight might be confused with a small *Merechal class* without ring habitat, such resemblance attracted a few hostile warships during the Central Asian War (2282 to 2287) and during the War of German Reunification (2292 to 2293), it usually was a deadly mistake.

Design Characteristics

There were a few key design characteristics for the *Antartida* design, many of which were shared with his generation little brothers. These were:

- Common hull design using standard composite materials.
- A pair of powerful PBWS cannons in the forward. A heavy missile armament to maximise long range firepower. A heavy laser armament allowing excellent point defence. The classic INAP submunition dispensers along the hull to provide the capability to close and overwhelm opponents at close range.
- Protection in the form of hull armour and screens developed for the *Ypres*.
- A commonly produced drive system utilising an Argentine *Meridional Electrico* designed 40MW fission reactor and a purpose built *IES* stutterwarp drive.
- A double hull to provide a spin habitat.
- A Hangar bay, with capability to carry one assault lander.
- Two magnetic slings carrying Interceptor Fighters for short durations

Hull design

- The hull is composed of two distinct parts all of which are armoured.
- The bow contains the bulk of the operational, non-engineering, systems of the ship. Including the bridge, computers, TAC, sensors, stores, life support and almost all of the weapons. It also contains much of the ship's recreation space.
- The stern contains the fission power plant and the stutterwarp drive. In addition the bulk of the engineering components and fuel is stored here. The Hangar bay is also enclosed here.

Overall dimensions:

- Length: 56 m.
- Tonnage: ~5500 tonnes

Armament:

- 1 x PBWS fixed cannon in the forward.
- 3 x LL-55 laser weapons mounted in masked turrets.

- 2 x LL-9 submunition dispensers.
- 2 x LLN-8 submunitions dispensers.
- 12 x EM-5D carried in 3 packs located along the port/starboard (3 remote pilot stations).

Electronics:

Active Sensors:

- Phased Active Sensor,

Passive Sensors:

- Spherical Passive Sensor,
- Directional Passive Sensor,

Standard Navigation Sensors:

- Navigation Radar,
- Gravitational Scanner,
- Deep System Scanner,

Minimal Survey Sensors:

- Cartographic Sensor,
- Life Sensor.

Engineering Systems:

- Power Plant: *Meridional Electrico* 40MW fission reactor.
- Drive: *IES* 24MW old military stutterwarp drive.

Crew:

The Antartida has a total of 96 crew:

- 18 in bridge.
- 13 in TAC.
- 31 in engineering.
- 4 in medical bay.
- 5 in steward section.
- 14 in security section.
- 7 in hangar bay.
- 4 scientific.

Embarked Crafts:

- 2 Pulqui Class Interceptor Fighters (on magnetic slings).
- 1 Espectro Class Lander (on Hangar bay at stern).

Service History

Argentina

The “FEA: Fuerza Espacial Argentina” (ASF: Argentine Space Force) ordered 10 *Antartidas*, class named as territories in southern Argentina. The *NEAs* of the class were: *Antartida*, *Tierra de Fuego*, *Isla de los Estados*, *Gran Malvina*, *Soledad*, *Sandwich del Sur*, *Georgias del Sur*, *Orcadas del Sur*, *Shetland del Sur*, *Clerke*, *Aurora*, and *Palmer*.

In late 2299, Argentina sent a couple of *Esporas* to the French Arm, those frigates were destroyed one year later. In 2301, Argentina formed an Expeditionary Fleet and sent a squadron led by *NEA Argentina*, the squadron included the *NEA Gran Malvina*, they fought against and defeated the *Triumphant Destiny*.

In 2305, the tensions with Brazil were too high, however, the return of the Kafer menace was a higher issue to the Argentine authorities. Argentina sent another squadron led by the *NEA*

Santa Maria to the Neubayern system as part of the Terran Reserve Fleet. The squadron included the *NEA Orcadas del Sur*.

In 2307, the Kafers invaded the BCV cluster and the *Santa Maria's* squadron disappeared. A squadron led by the *NEA Montaña* was transferred from the Alpha Centauri system to Neubayern. The *Montaña's* squadron was part of the human fleet in the battles over Neubayern, QAS, DM+34 2342 and BCV systems. The squadron included the *NEA Tierra de Fuego*.

While the battles in the BCV cluster occurred, during 74 weeks the *NEA Orcadas del Sur*, along with the *NEA Intrepida* and *NEA Indomita*, patrolled the path between Xi Ursae Majoris and Henry's Star system. While the *Santa Maria*, the *HMS Montrose*, and the NEM Kukulcan remained on the 61 Ursae Majoris, the defence force included a pair of fighter squadrons from Trilon colony.

In 2311, when the *Santa Maria* fall into a Kafer ambush at DM+35 2436, the *Orcadas del Sur*, in coordination with the *Intrepida* and the *Indomita* forced the last *India* to withdrawn the system. Meanwhile, her Pulquis joined to the cruiser's fighters, and began to combat 6 Golfs around the cruiser's escape pods, 4 Jaguars arrived late to help them, but not to late to save the escape pods.

In 2313, the *Montaña's* squadron, which now included the survivor ships from the *Santa Marias*, were at Gamma Serpentis systems but none of them used their weapons. As the war apparently ended, the remaining seven Argentine ships returned to the Argentine Space Force, and the Mexican freighter, her fighters and voluntaries returned to the Mexican Space Navy.

With the advent of a new class of destroyers, the *Revolucion Class*, 8 of the 12 *Antartidas* were sold, 6 of them were sold to Mexico (*Aurora*, *Clerke*, *Sandwich del Sur*, *Georgias del Sur*, *Shetland del Sur*, and *Orcadas del Sur*), 1 to the Inca Republic (*Antartida*), and 1 to Heidelshemat (*Palmer*). The ASF retained the last 4 (*Tierra de Fuego*, *Isla de los Estados*, *Gran Malvina*, and *Soledad*).

Mexico

The “AEM: Armada Espacial Mexicana” (MSN: Mexican Space Navy) was the only military force that remained outside the 3rd Civil War and protected the Mexican holdings on Tirane, Sheol, Kwantung and Montaña. Their three destroyers brigades were composed by six old *General Belgranos Class* destroyers, based in Sol, Tau Ceti and 40 Eridani systems.

The wealth found in San Martin was translated into a necessity of new warships in the AEM inventory, some *Revolucion Class*, but most were *Antartidas* from an Argentine surplus, and were bought with a minimal cost, those ships were renamed as *NEM Reforma*, *NEM Benito Juarez*, *NEM Gonzalez Ortega*, *NEM Melchor Ocampo*, *NEM Santos Degollado*, and *NEM Ignacio Zaragoza*.

Heidelsheimat

Is unusual to sold an INAP ship to a non-Hispanic nation, specially to a ex-Bavarian one, however, the Heidelshematians share a common rival with INAP, the Texans. The hostilities forced the Raumwaffe to bought new warships, 1 of the 4 vessels purchased from Argentina was an *Antartida*, and was renamed as *Neue Bayern*.

Inca Republic

Is common to see INAP ships in the “AEI: Armada Espacial Inca” (ISN: Incan Space Navy) inventory, they bought a second hand *Antartida*, it was renamed as the famous mountain chain, *NEI Andes*, and usually it is based in the Sol system, but in 2320 was sent to the DM-3 1123 system to provide assistance to the Sechura colony in Austin's World.

General Statistics

Basics:

Design Date: 2277
First Example Laid Down: 2278
First Example Completed: 2280
Fleets in Service: Argentina, Mexico, Heidelshemat.
Number in Service: 7

Performance:

Warp Efficiency: 2.62,
Power Plant: 40 MW fission,
Fuel: 500 tons (for shuttle and fighters),
Range: 7.7 light years,
Endurance: 16 weeks,
Mass: 5,505 tons,
Cargo Capacity: none,
Crew: 96 (18 Bridge, 13 TAC, 31 Engineering, 4 Medical, 5 Stewards, 14 Security, 7 Hangar, 4 Science); Passengers: 0.
Comfort: 2,
Emergency Power: 10 days,
Life Support: 128 days (96 personnel),
Price: 81.84 Mlv.

Ship Status Sheet:

Move: 5,
Screens: 3,
Radiated signature: 5(6),
Radial Reflected: 7,
Lateral Reflected: 8 (9),
Targeting Computer: +1,
Radial Profile: -1,
Lateral Profile: 1,
Armour: 3,
Active: 5,
Passive: 5 and 10,
Manoeuvrability: ?,
Other: 2 Magnetic Slings.

Hits:

Bridge: Captain, Navigator, Helm, 3x Communications, 3x Computer.
TAC: 1x Active Sensors, 2x Passive Sensors, 4x Fire Control, 3x Remote Pilot, 3x Flight Control.
Hull Hits: 63/32/16
Power Plant Hits: 54/11
Damage Control: 5 teams (plus 6 parties from bridge)

Crew

Puente de Mando:

The command Bridge of the Antartida includes 9 stations, where the Con station is usually

under the command of a *Comandante de Navio*. The XO is a *Comandante de Fragata*. The senior Navigation Officer is a *Comandante de Corbeta* while the senior Helm is a *Teniente de Fragata*, and the Communications and Computer senior officers are *Tenientes de Corbeta*, in the second watch such stations are operated by high ranked enlisted personnel. There are a second and a third stations for each, Communications and Computer station which are operated by the enlisted personnel.

Centro Táctico:

The Antartida's Tactical Center includes 13 stations, the TAC Officer is also the Phased Active sensor operator, while the Spherical Passive sensor operator, the three Remote Pilots, and the PBWS Gunner are operated by *Guardiamarinas*, The Directional Passive sensor operator and the three laser gunners are operated by *Cabos Segundos*. The three Flight Controllers are a Cabo and two *Cabos Primeros*.

Ingeniería:

The Antartida's Engineering Room includes 16 stations and 3 sections, the Drive section and whole engineering room is in charge of a *Teniente de Navio*. The Electrical and Mechanical sections are in charge of *Tenientes de Fragata*, while the remaining stations and the second watch are in charge of high ranked enlisted personnel.

Enfermería:

The Antartida's Sick Bay includes 4 stations, one for the ship's doctor, a physician who has the rank of *Comandante de Corbeta*, the other stations are for other physicians, and two nurses.

Servicio Administrativo:

The Antartida's Steward Service has 5 stations, and they are assigned to: the "Steward Officer", a *Suboficial Segundo*, which is also the supply officer, and four to the kitchen, land janitor stations, all operated by enlisted personnel.

Seguridad:

The Antartida's Security has 2 stations, and usually 14 crew members, the "Security Officer" is a *Teniente de Navio*, the other crew members are coming from the enlisted personnel. Since 2317, the security members varies, if the Antartida carries Pampas, the total security guards are 12, but decrease to 10 if the carried fighters are Pucaras.

Ala Espacial Embarcada:

The Antartida includes an Embarked Space Wing, with one Hangar bay, which carries one Espectro Class lander, the landers crew members are: a "Pilot Officer", a "Load Master Officer", and a "Craft Maintenance Officer". The Antartida also carries two Pulqui Class Interceptor fighters, the fighters crew members are: two "Pilot Officers" (including the "Wing Officer", a *Teniente de Navio*), and two "Craft Maintenance Officers", the Pulquis did not require a "Weapons System Officers". Since 2317, the Pulquis were replaced by Pucara Class fighters or by Pampa Class fighters (Argentine version of the Jaguar-C Class fighter). Each Pampa require one "Weapons System Officer", while each Pucara require two "Weapons System Officers".

Ciencias:

The Antartida includes a Science section, the common lab stations are: Astrophysics, Exobiology, Chemistry and Geology. With 4 stations for the scientists, each per one of the aforementioned sciences. The "Science Officer" usually is a *Teniente de Fragata*, and can be the senior scientist of any of the mentioned science branches.

Acknowledgements

The [Nelson \(Montrose\)](#) and the [Marechal](#) are mentioned in articles found in the [etranger](#) site.

The Almirante Brown and General Belgrano (Upgraded/ Reffited Almirante Brown) are mentioned in the GDW's "Star Cruiser".

The Hercules (Santa Maria, Montaña, Argentina), Antartida (Orcadas del Sur, Tierra de Fuego, Gran Malvina) and Espora (Indomita and Intrepida) are based on Matt Scull's work "Argentine Space Forces".

Pulqui is based on Demetrios Rammos's work "Fuerza Espacial Argentina 2003".

The Serie-4000 (Kukulcan), Espectro, and Jaguar are concepts from Gregory Hunter's work s "Argentine-Mexican Starship Design" and "Ships of the Chinese Arm".