

Warships of the Latin Finger

Cruisers: Hercules Class

By [J.C. Mena](#)

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 *Hercules Class* is the first Latin American design to be fusion powered, the *Hercules* was designed to operate over more than 6 months.

Narrative

Beta Canum has fallen; the NEA Santa Maria and her squadron were the last Terran ships to left the BCV system. The long range sensor detected many Kafer ships cursing to DM+34 2342, 61 Ursae Majoris and QAS systems; Kimanjano has fallen too, the fleet on Beowulf might resist, but Joi is practically defenceless.

A few days ago, a pair of Human squadrons departed to 61 Ursae Majoris to support the Terran forces fighting in the surface of Joi. The Argentine squadron commander "Comandante de Espacio" Dario Franco choose to reinforce the Human squadrons there, and try to resist until the Terran fleet return to the BCV cluster.

The Argentine squadron was composed by the Santa Maria herself, an Hercules Class cruiser; the NEA Orcadas del Sur, an Antartida Class destroyer; two Espora Class frigates, NEA Intrepida and NEA Indomita. The squadron also included the Mexican freighter Kukulkan used as an auxiliary carrier with 8 fighters and 2 embarked defence boats.

-Sensor 2- "Sir, the Delta will arrive to the system in 1 minute." -Franco- "Remotes, keep your missiles on target. Order the Kukulkan to be ready to deploy their Jaguars, we will need those birds. Prepare to arrive to the system." -Sensor 1- "Missiles arrived to the target, the Delta is no more. Sir, just the HMS Montrose remains." -Franco- "Fire at will, kill the bugs"

December 26, 2307 – 4th Battle of Joi – 2nd Kafer War

Development History

In 2160, Argentina was the first nation to built a stutterwarp cruiser class, the *Santisima Trinidad*, such cruisers were successful during the Alpha Centauri War forcing the ESA nations to sign the Melbourne accords. But in 2207, the *Santisima Trinidads* failed in the 1st Rio de La Plata

War, and Brazil won the war.

By 2220, sharing a similar shape of its predecessor, but with a major technology upgrade, a new cruiser class raised, the *Libertador*, their first test arrived in 2235 during the 2nd Rio de La Plata War, a grey result without clarity about their performance. But from 2275 to 2279 during the 3rd Rio de La Plata War, Argentine and Mexican *Libertadors* were decisive to win the war.

The aftermath of the 3rd Rio de La Plata War showed the need of a new cruiser to replace the 60 years old design. An INAP's reverse-engineering project using the Mexican *Ypres* frigate provided the new cruisers with fusion power capability, screen technology and cloned targeting system, excluding the fusion, the other technologies are used in all their large ships.

The result was the *Hercules* class, a long ranged, strong armoured, and well armed missile cruiser, which in a first sight might be confused with a *Konstantine class* without pylons, 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 *Hercules* 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. A ground attack system, capable of orbital kinetic bombardment.
- Protection in the form of hull armour and screens developed for the *Ypres*.
- A commonly produced drive system utilising an Argentine *Meridional Electrico* designed 120MW fusion reactor and a purpose built *IES* stutterwarp drive.
- Elementary force projection capability with up to 64-72 troops embarked excluding the security personnel.
- A large Hangar bay, with capability to carry two assault landers.
- Four small Hangar bays, each with capability to carry one Interceptor fighter.
- Two magnetic slings, each carrying a JA-77M Sensor Drone

Hull design

- The hull is composed of three 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 large spin habitat, a hamster cage module is in middle of the ship. Living conditions in the *Hercules* are well in advance on anything that Argentina has gone before.
- The stern contains the fusion power plant and the stutterwarp drive. In addition the bulk of the engineering components and fuel is stored here. The Hangar bays are also enclosed here.

Overall dimensions:

- Length: 80 m.
- Tonnage: ~10000 tonnes

Armament:

- 2 x PBWS fixed cannons in the forward.

- 6 x LL-55 laser weapons mounted in masked turrets.
- 6 x LL-9 submunition dispensers.
- 2 x LLN-8 nuclear submunitions dispensers.
- 16 x EM-5D missiles carried in 4 packs located along the port/starboard (4 remote pilot stations).
- 16 x Huitzauhqui ground attack kinetic missiles carried in 2 packs located in the stern/bow (2 remote pilot stations).

Electronics:

Active Sensors:

- Phased Active Sensor,
- Redundant Active Sensor,

Passive Sensors:

- Spherical Passive Sensor,
- Directional Passive Sensor,

Standard Navigation Sensors:

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

Minimal Survey Sensors:

- Extensive Cartographic Sensor,
- Extensive Life Sensor.

Engineering Systems:

- Power Plant: *Meridional Electrico* 120MW fusion reactor.
- Drive: *IES* 83MW old military stutterwarp drive.
- *Meridional Electrico* Fuel Processing Plant and purpose Solar Array.

Crew:

The Hercules has a total of 192 crew:

- 20 in bridge.
- 24 in TAC.
- 19 in engineering.
- 7 in medical bay.
- 10 in steward section.
- 18 in security section.
- 14 in hangar bay.
- 8 scientific.
- 72 troops (if embarked).

Embarked Crafts:

- 4 Pulqui Class Interceptor Fighters (on individual port/starboard Hangar bays).
- 2 Espectro Class Lander (on main Hangar bay at stern).
- 2 JA-77 Class Sensor Drones (on magnetic slings).

Service History

Argentina

The “FEA: Fuerza Espacial Argentina” (ASF: Argentine Space Force) ordered 8 *Hercules*, class named as the Argentine L-4 orbital habitat, followed by Argentine holdings. The class includes three of the most decorated ships in the recent Argentine war history. The *NEAs* of the class were: *Hercules*, *Argentina*, *Santa Maria*, *Sheol*, *Tierra de Hielo*, *Montaña*, *San Martin*, and *Gabriel*.

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*, to reinforce the Human forces. As part of the Terran Reserve Fleet, they fought against and defeat 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. Argentina remained with 4 squadrons in the Core and 3 more in the Chinese Arm.

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.

While the battles in the BCV cluster occurred, the *Santa Maria's* squadron, along with the *HMS Montrose* and a pair of fighter squadrons from Trilon, during 74 weeks they rejected the Kafer incursions over 61 Ursae Majoris, Xi Ursae Majoris and Henry's Star systems, no more landings were allowed on Joi, an advantage taken by the human resistance.

In 2311, the *Santa Maria* fall into a Kafer ambush at DM+35 2436, while the Hispanics won the battle, the cruiser was destroyed with most of her hands lost, the few escape pods were fiercely protected by the Mexican fighters of the “Escuadron 201”, the old *Jaguars* were just armed with submunitions, but had a strong armour, just 2 of them were lost in the whole war.

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 corvettes, freighter, fighters and voluntaries returned to the Mexican Space Navy.

With the advent of a new class of cruisers, *Independencia Class*, five of the seven remaining *Hercules* were sold to friendly nations, four of them were sold to Mexico (*Tierra de Hielo*, *Sheol*, *San Martin*, and *Gabriel*), one was sold to Heidelshemat (*Hercules*), while the ASF retains the last two (*Argentina* and *Montaña*).

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 two cruiser divisions were composed by four old *Libertador Class* cruisers, one based in the Core and the other based in the Latin Finger.

The wealth found in San Martin was translated into a necessity of new warships in the AEM inventory, as Argentina was upgrading her cruiser fleet with a new class, and as they had a cruiser surplus, 4 were sold to the AEM at a minimal cost, those ships were renamed as *NEM Mexico*, *NEM Calafias*, *NEM Azteca* and *NEM Chimborazo*. The AEM also bought 2 *Independencias*.

Heidelshemat

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, which is recent years the relationship between Heidelshemat and Texas became hostile, forcing to the Raumwaffe to buy one cruiser which became their flag ship, was renamed as *Rho Eridanus*.

General Statistics

Basics:

Design Date: 2275
First Example Laid Down: 2276
First Example Completed: 2279
Fleets in Service: Argentina, Mexico, Heidelshemat.
Number in Service: 7

Performance:

Warp Efficiency: 3.25 (3.13 combat travel, full loaded and full armed),
Power Plant: 120 MW fusion,
Fuel: 1000 tons (for landers and fighters),
Range: 7.7 light years,
Endurance: 26 weeks,
Mass: 9,970 tons (unloaded),
Cargo Capacity: 1,400 cubic meters,
Crew: 192 (20 Bridge, 24 TAC, 19 Engineering, 7 Medical, 10 Stewards, 18 Security, 14 Hangar, 8 Science, 72 Troops); Passengers: 0.
Comfort: 2,
Emergency Power: 10 days,
Life Support: 180 days (192 personnel),
Price: 177.17 Mlv.

Ship Status Sheet:

Move: 6(7),
Screens: 4,
Radiated signature: 6(7),
Radial Reflected: 10 (11),
Lateral Reflected: 12,
Targeting Computer: +2,
Radial Profile: 0,
Lateral Profile: 2,
Armour: 4,
Active: 5 and 10,
Passive: 5 and 10,
Manoeuvrability: ?,
Other: 2 Magnetic Slings.

Hits:

Bridge: Captain, Navigator, Helm, 2x Communications, 3x Computer, 2x Monitor Engineering.
TAC: 2x Active Sensors, 2x Passive Sensors, 8x Fire Control, 6x Remote Pilot, 6x Flight Control.
Hull Hits: 10/50/25
Power Plant Hits: 80/16
Damage Control: 3 teams (plus 4 parties from bridge)

Crew

Puente de Mando:

The command Bridge of the Hercules includes 10 stations, where the Con station is usually

under the command of a *Comandante de Espacio*. The XO is a *Comandante de Navio*. The senior Navigation Officer is a *Comandante de Fragata* while the senior Helm, Communications and Computer officers are *Tenientes de Navio*, in the second watch such station are operated by *Guardiamarinas*. There is a second Communications station, and second third Computer station which are operated by the enlisted personnel. An engineering section has been added to the bridge, 2 stations, which are operated by a *Teniente de Fragata*, *Guardiamarina*, and enlisted personnel.

Centro Táctico:

The Hercules's Tactical Center includes 24 stations, the TAC Officer is also the Long Ranged Active sensor operator, the Phased Active sensor operator and the two PBWS gunners are operated by *Tenientes de Fragata*, the six laser gunners are operated by enlisted personnel. The fighters Flight Controllers are *Tenientes de Corbeta*, while the landers controllers are *Guardiamarinas*. The four EM-5D missile Remote Pilots are *Tenientes de Corbeta*, the two JA-77 sensor drone Remote Pilots also are the pilots of the Huitzauhqui ground attack missiles.

Ingeniería:

The Hercules's Engineering Room includes 10 stations and 3 sections, the Drive section and whole engineering room is in charge of a *Comandante de Corbeta*. The Electrical and Mechanical sections are in charge of *Tenientes de Navio*, while the remaining stations and the second watch are in charge of high ranked enlisted personnel.

Enfermería:

The Hercules's Sick Bay includes 7 stations, one for the ship's doctor, a physician who has the rank of *Comandante de Corbeta*, the other stations are for other two physicians, one counselor and three nurses.

Servicio Administrativo:

The Hercules's Steward Service has 10 stations, and they are assigned to: the "Steward Officer", a *Guardiamarina*, which is also the supply officer, and nine to the kitchen, laundry and janitor stations, all operated by enlisted personnel.

Seguridad:

The Hercules's Security has 2 stations, and 18 crew members, the "Security Officer" is a *Teniente de Corbeta*, the other crew members are coming from the enlisted personnel.

Ala Espacial Embarcada:

The Hercules includes an Embarked Space Wing, with five Hangar bays, the main bay carries two Espectro Class landers, the landers crew members are: two "Pilot Officers", two "Load Master Officers", and two "Craft Maintenance Officers". The small bays are for four Pulqui Class Interceptor fighters, the fighters crew members are: four "Pilot Officers" (including the "Wing Officer", a *Comandante de Corbeta*), and four "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 Hercules includes a Science section, the common lab stations are: Astrophysics, Exobiology, Chemistry and Geology. With 8 stations for the senior scientist and assistant in each 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 braches.

Infanteria Espacial Embarcada:

The Hercules includes an Embarked Space Infantry, the “Platoon Officer” is a *Comandante de Corbeta*. Usually, the Hercules carried 72 troops, but since 2317, the platoon members varies, if the Hercules carries Pampas, the total troops are 68, but decrease to 64 if the carried fighters are Pucarás.

Acknowledgements

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

The Santísima Trinidad is mentioned in the GDW's “Star Cruiser”.

The Hercules (Santa Maria, Montaña, Argentina), Antartida (Orcadas del Sur) 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”.