

"Tonight on Fast Copy: Our Worlds At War"

Hello, I'm Wang Chungtonite, and welcome to Fast Copy. Tonight: a report on recent developments in the war between Imperix and the rest of creation.

Only two days ago the Earth was badly shaken by the commencement of an attack from an unknown alien force which sent down probes into various locations around the globe, corresponding more or less with the geographical centers of the seven continents. One of the probes was slightly off, and instead of landing somewhere in the middle of North Dakota, it landed instead in Topeka Kansas. We now go live to our on-the-scene correspondent, Hung Impressively. Hung?

"Thanks, Wang. I'm here in what's left of Topeka Kansas with Rich Fielder of the National Guard. Rich, what's the story?"

"Well, Hung, it's bad out here, as you can tell. We're still trying to clean things up and figure out what happened. Superman was here, trying to help us out. He wound up battling a huge robot looking thing, and he seemed pretty torqued about it. He did finally destroy the thing, but it blew up, making this huge crater that we're standing next to. Then Supergirl showed up and kind of helped us look for survivors. There weren't many. Superman flew off, towards Smallville it looked like. Said he had to check on some folks out there. Next thing I knew, there was this terrible noise, sounded like a million air raid sirens going off at once. Bobby over there said it was Superman, screaming about something, but my ears were too busy ringing to be sure."

"Thanks Rich. Wang?"

Thanks, Hung, for that report. In a related story, we have confirmed reports that the damage from the initial landing of the.....robot looking thing has extended nearly all around the state of Kansas, causing severe problems in many surrounding cities, including Smallville. The death toll is still coming in, but unconfirmed reports indicate that civilian casualties have approached one hundred per cent.....

The JLA were called into deep space to do battle with several more of the.....robot looking things, which this reporter learned were actually probes from the Imperix being. In a stellar space battle, the JLA was able to turn back and destroy a few of these machines, but one of them slipped through the defenses and landed in the heart of the Atlantean continent. The JLAer known as Aquaman, also publicly recognized as the reigning sovereign of that area, immediately went to do battle. Our correspondent, Fish Sandwich, has this report. Fish?

"Thanks, Wang. It's bad down here. The seas are in turmoil still, despite the fact that Aquaman was able to destroy the Imperiox probe."

Now Fish, we've had a report already that when Superman destroyed a probe in Kansas, it exploded. Did the probe in Atlantis also explode?

".....Yes, yes it did, Wang, and therein lies the tragedy. Arthur, er Aquaman, er the King was able to defeat the probe but apparently at the cost of his own life. The entire nation of Atlantis is torn between their gratitude for, well, still being alive, and their sorrow at the loss of their liege."

Thanks, Fish. It will be interesting to see the political ramifications, if any, that arise out of this tragedy.

Shortly after the initial tragedy in Kansas, and the subsequent loss in Atlantis, the Man of Steel was called to Washington DC to aid in what this reporter learned was termed "The Doomsday Project." Apparently President Luthor had sent a group of metahumans operating under the codename "Project: Suicide Squad" to the moon, to release the rampaging killing monster Doomsday, the only being in existence to have ever killed Superman. Aptly named, the members of Project Suicide Squad succeeded in their objective, but apparently at the cost of their own lives. One and all were killed, save their leader, one Manchester Black, who managed to psionically convince Doomsday to destroy Imperiox probes rather than the Last Son of Krypton.

Superman joined Doomsday in battling a seemingly endless stream of Imperiox probes, until the two faced the monstrously huge Imperiox Prime. Prime made short work of Doomsday, subjecting him to an energy blast and reducing him to a skeleton. This reporter has done his research, and knows that Doomsday was bioengineered to return to life after any death, with the added bonus of being unable to be killed the same way again; but even this reporter wonders if Doomsday will be able to come back from this. (And, as a side note, if he does, naturally he'll come back even more powerful; will even Superman be able to stop Doomsday a fourth time?)

Imperiox then turned his blasting powers against Superman, but Superman was saved in the proverbial nick by the opening of a boom tube which transported him to the planet Apokolips, now in close orbit over Earth.

We also have learned that, while this was going on, the JLA information maven known as "Oracle" was hopping through time with the hero known as Nightwing. The two were apparently being chased by some unknown

agent bent on destroying Oracle. Given Oracle's technical know-how and connections to the JLA, it isn't hard to see why this individual's life was in danger. She of all people in the world might be able to discover the connections between Imperix, President Luthor, and Brainiac 13.

Late breaking news in this hour, one member of Project Suicide Squad who was not originally on the roster but drafted at the last minute seems to have been Dr John Henry Irons, also known as Steel. Dr Iron's fate is unknown, as reports have it that he was spirited away by a mysterious force known as the Black Racer; but it seems unlikely that he could have survived.

We now go to Wall Paper, live on Apokolips, for a further report. Wall?

"Wang, if you were to ever plan a summer vacation for your absolute worst enemy in the world, I would highly recommend Apokolips. It's hotter than blazes here, everything smells funny, there's dirt and grease and grime everywhere."

Sounds delightful, Wall. How'd you end up drawing this assignment?

".....Well let me put it this way, Wang: Relationships with coworkers are a tricky business, especially if one of them happens to be the cute intern and another happens to be the boss' daughter."

chuckle So noted. Wall, what's the story down there?

"It's an amazing scene. Superman had a battle with Apokolips' despot ruler, Darkseid, who up until now has been a seeming ally of the Earth's during this crisis. But the battle may have just been a misunderstanding, Wang. Apparently Darkseid had developed a kind of armor which his people thought would be able to slip past Imperix Prime's defenses and maybe give them access to his ship, and felt that Superman would be the best person to try it. But Superman got distracted by a call from Earth and flew off."

Thanks for that report, Wall. We now take you live to our correspondent, Huge Tractsoland. What's the story, Huge?

"Wang, I'm on board the JSA's starfighter. President Luthor recruited the Justice Society to form an All Star Squadron with several other heroes, and sent them on a mission to attack Imperix's ship. They learned that the ship was powering Imperix Prime and allowing him to create hundreds of probes."

Was the team successful?

"Yes! Under the leadership of the JSA's chariman, Sand, the All Star Squadron was able to accomplish their mission. In the process, incidentally, they freed the planet Daxam and its population, which were being used as a power source for the giant ship. Which means that Imperix Prime can no longer make any more probes."

What's the mood on the ship, Huge?

"Everyone here is very excited and happy, Wang. This is the first major break in the war, and for now, at least, all these people can breathe a little easier."

Huge, can you attribute the success of the mission to any one thing?

"Teamwork, Wang. Teamwork. The JSA is a team, and they were able to pull together and use and complement each others' strengths."

Thanks, Huge. For a counterpoint on the effectiveness of teamwork, we go live to Quo Tationmark in Gotham City. Quo?

"Wang, I'm standing here with Batman, the so-called Urban Legend, self-proclaimed protector of Gotham City. Now, Batman, several months ago you were kicked out of the JLA for apparently leaking information which almost led to the deaths of every member on that team. Would you say that this is a good example of teamwork? Batman? Bat--that's funny, he was just here....."

.....We'll be checking in with Quo later to see if she manages to tie the Dark Knight down for any comment.

Unfortunately, although Imperix Prime's plans to destroy Earth, and with it the rest of the universe, seem to have been stopped in their tracks, there are still several probes left on Earth, and they all seem to have set their sights on one of two targets: Washington DC and the Paradocs space ark, the huge floating M.A.S.H. unit where several other heroes, including the team known as Young Justice, are tending to the wounded. We have a report that one of the probes carved its way through Leesburg PA, Supergirl's hometown. She was unable to stop it, but reports have it that she's chasing the probe down on its way to DC.

Another probe is in Washington now, and we take you to our correspondent, Funny Moniker, for a live report. Funny, what's happening?

"My god, Wang, it's terrible! The probe just fought a pitched battle with Wonder Woman!"

Diana? But we'd had reports she was on the Paradocs, badly injured from when the JLA fought the probes in space.

"Not Diana, Wang. This Amazing Amazon, as it turns out, was actually Hippolyta, Diana's mother and, until recently, Queen of the Amazons. Unfortunately, battling the probe was too much for her, and Hippolyta fell."

My god, Funny.....is she dead?

"Looks that way, Wang. Both Superman and Wonder W--I mean Diana--arrived on the scene just moments ago. Hippolyta doesn't seem to be breathing, Wang. I think.....I think she's dead."

That's.....that's horrible. What about the probe?

"It's still moving on the Capitol, Wang. Tanks are going out to meet it. I've been informed that General Frank Rock, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is in one.....yes, I see him now."

Who's in the other tank, Funny?

"Two other cabinet members, Wang; Major Sam Lane, Secretary of Defense, and Secretary of Education Jefferson Pierce."

What's he doing there?

"Well he used to be the costumed hero Black Lightning. I guess the President told him to resume that identity."

What are they doing?

"It's.....Wang, it's amazing! Black Lightning has jumped out of the tank and is charging it up with his lightning. Major Lane has set the machine on a collision course! What is he, insane? That thing's got a nuclear reactor at its core!"

Funny, maybe you should get out of there.....

"No way, Wang! This is my big shot at a Pulitzer! I'm running now, right behind the tank. I'm not gonna miss a second of this! Oh my god, he's driving the tank right at the probe, right at the heart of the probe! He's going to do it! He's going to blow--"

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Funny? Funny! Get him back! Good god, can we raise him? What happened?

Ladies and gentlemen, it appears that our intrepid correspondent, Funny Moniker, has been.....is.....didn't.....didn't survive. We.....wait.....okay, good.....the probe is down. Major Lane destonated the reactor of the tank and felled the probe at the very steps of the Capitol.....I see.....we have a report that Major Lane is dead but that General Rock and Secretary Pierce-- I mean Black Lightning--survived. Superman and Supergirl arrived on the scene but were unable to stop--I mean help Major Lane.....we have word now that Superman has gone before President Luthor.....he's told the President, "Tell me what to do, Mister President. Whatever it takes to win this...I'm yours."

Ladies and gentlement, this is.....this is amazing. For once this reporter is at a loss for words. The Earth has won a great victory and staved off its own destruction, but at what horrible cost. Let's pause for a moment and remember those fallen in the battle.

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Now, after this commercial message, this week's Powerball numbers!