

Heavy Weapons

Most civilians who hear the word ›military‹ instinctively think of aggressors. Heavily armored front soldiers with equally heavy weapons. For Carter and his comrades, too, dealing with this type of weapon was an issue. And who would be better suited for exotic weapons than the Salvani weapons engineer Kwax?

The weather had improved again after a long rainy period and the sun was their friendly companion this Wednesday morning as they walked to the firing range. In the past weeks, they had tried different mods and attachments for all types of weapons with Dunn. It went from accelerators over blade attachments for close combat, silencers, EMP extensions, special ammunition, recoil dampeners, and muzzle brakes up to sub barrel grenade launchers. There were also internal weapon improvements such as better cooling systems, more efficient pulsars for projectile acceleration or magazine enlargements. For each soldier, different adaptations were suitable and depending upon assignment one could adapt its weapon tactically. But on that day there were no mods or weapons available, Dunn had Kwax at her side once again. »Hey, guys! Are you ready to get your socks blown off? Because what we do today is so awesome that even I had to stuff my underpants for safety. So get ready to get wet, girls!«

Her look radiated pure joy. Kwax stood a little irritated next to her and scratched his head. The sound of his claw on the chitin shell of his head was unpleasant. »To get wet? It's not raining at all ...«, he said to himself.

It was his lack of understanding that made the whole statement really funny.

»You're probably wondering now why I almost wet myself with joy and why the beetle man stands next to me again uselessly. Well, I'll tell you why. Today we deal with heavy weapons. Different kinds of heavy weapons at that. This type of weapon is called that because it is fucking heavy in the truest sense of the word. For some of them, you need power upgrades or armor with servos. But this type of weapon is just as devastating as it is heavy. Only a few soldiers are allowed to use these guns. The main group that uses them in the field are the aggressors. This is the special unit for front operations, formerly called elite soldiers.«

Kwax stepped forward and pushed her aside a little. She didn't seem to take it so seriously and just smiled crookedly.

»To escape this babble of Dunn: Heavy weapons are characterized by either massive penetration, a particularly high fire rate, or an extremely large impact radius. More details depend on the type of projectile. There are countless special weapons that have been developed for specific purposes and then released for general use. Many of them were not developed by humans. We'll take a look at some of them today, but we can't fire them here without damaging the whole base. So we're just showing you videos of the weapons tests at Syntech to give you an idea of what these humps can do.«

Dunn just laughed full of anticipation. When Kwax nodded to her, she pulled out a retracted weapon and it unfolded. In the end, she had a rifle in her hand that was larger than any assault rifle. It was shorter than a sniper rifle but wider than a shotgun. A thick and wide magazine was attached in front of the trigger.

Dunn said: »This is an MG, abbreviation for machine gun. It's the biggest rifle there is. It doesn't fire faster than an assault rifle, but it has a much higher penetration power. This thing here can even damage vehicles. Very handy gun for aggressors in the field.«

Her look at the gun was almost loving. Since it was in principle just a rifle, no demonstration was necessary. Next followed a rather short rifle, but with a rather thick barrel. Folded it was not much smaller. Dunn spoke again: »We recently tested the sub-grenade launcher for the assault rifle. Well, this is its big bad brother. A full-grown, four-shot grenade launcher. It shoots out any form of grenade you put in. Whatever you want to blow up, it's child's play with this baby.«

Then followed a very thick tube that was three times as long when unfolded and had a thick, red visor. Carter knew from movies what that was.

Dunn raved: »This is the coronation of annihilation. A Scorpion rocket launcher. This bitch can shoot all kinds of missiles and with the right mods you can also use heat-seeking, energy-seeking or intelligent proton missiles. If your enemy gets one of these things out, they really don't like you. Then fuck off as fast as you can.«

A video clip showed a normal rocket tearing an entire building to pieces. But while Kwax was more objective and the recruits were even intimidated, Dunn had the fun of her life. She pulled out a bulky weapon, which first expanded downwards and then into a long round barrel with eight smaller barrels inside.

»This is the ›Big Berta‹, as we like to call her. The modern interpretation of an old Gatling cannon, or Minigun, if you like. A massive rapid fire cannon, which can hail a minute-long continuous fire on the enemy

by its rotating main fire pipe. The handle and body are fucking bulky, but this is due to the high demand for hattokinetic energy for all the projectiles. The thing has a cadence of up to eight thousand shots per minute, but offers more precision than a Scorpion. Mighty fun, that thing! I've always liked to use this one.«

They saw such a weapon mow down whole groups of enemies as if they were bowling pins. Carter gradually had a hunch why Dunn was made a trainer. The woman was potentially homicidal. They were correspondingly relieved that Kwax now took over and showed the next weapon. It was a slender weapon with a long barrel and a long and thick cartridge, which looked like a gas bottle, hung from its underside.

»A fire cannon, you humans call it a flamethrower. As far as I know, you do have those, but this model was improved by the Krodaa. On Sandabar Neh they have much more effective methods of ignition than simple gas. In this cartridge tank is liquid Cibona, a very easily inflammable stuff. It is only possible to extinguish it with special cooling technology, so it is almost impossible to stop it. You have to let it burn down. The weapon either fires a jet of the Cibona, or it ignites the jet directly and fires flames. In any case, you don't want to be the target. This weapon is one of the hardest to get weapons because it is morally objectionable. But since Lorgans have a problem with heat, it has been approved for war purposes.«

Since the results of a successful attack with a fire cannon were not a pretty sight, there was no video in this case either. Kwax reached behind him and unfolded a strange weapon. It looked like a giant pistol with several light blue wires attached to its barrel.

»Here you see the counterpart to the fire cannon, the cryo cannon. It

shoots a super-cooling agent that freezes immediately when it hits the ground. These are so-called subatomic cold particles. Changing ammunition is difficult, so they are usually used only once per mission. The consequences of a hit are burns or frostbite or a complete freezing of the enemy. Originally designed for fire-fighting missions, but then converted to a weapon.«

The group didn't like this type of weapon very much because it was imprecise and caused a lot of unnecessary damage to the environment. Kwax then showed them a laser cannon that fired a continuous laser. It was a weapons-grade mine laser, which could penetrate almost anything with enough time and energy, like a weaker form of the main guns of a warship. They also looked at an EMP cannon that could use an electromagnetic pulse to paralyze all electrically powered devices and fire lightning. They looked at a mortar and a portable version of a ship's cannon. There was also a special grenade launcher for adhesive bombs, which got stuck on each surface with a special adhesive. The variants of these special weapons were very versatile and suitable for a wide range of applications. But then Dunn brought out something special. It was a thick orange weapon, similar to the cryocannon. But on the side was the infamous nuclear symbol to be seen. Dunn became serious.

»This is probably the meanest weapon ever developed by humans. It is called the Mini-Nuke. It shoots small atomic bombs with strongly limited explosion and effect radius. Nevertheless the damage is devastating and in the target area there is also a fallout. As far as I know, this weapon was fired only once and never considered as an option again. But I'll be damned if I don't use that thing sometime!«, she laughed.

Kwax didn't laugh, but went over it and continued quickly. »I brought

another weapon with me. It was developed by the Vindurans. It's as wide as the cryo cannon or the Mini-Nuke, but much more interesting. It is a so-called black launcher. It fires a sphere of dark matter that creates a singularity that sucks everything from the environment to its core. Nothing can resist it. It is, simply put, a black hole in miniature form.«

He showed them the video in which such a sphere tore a hole in the hull of a battleship. Kwax did not want to elaborate on what the thing did to people, which was clear enough. He slowly walked up and down in front of them, grinding his jaws all the time.

»We show you these weapons so that you become aware of the power that such a weapon gives to its bearer. Never should one of these cannons be fired lightly. For this reason, they are only given to the best soldiers and otherwise always kept under lock and key. You should hope that you will never be given such a weapon, for then the situation would be very serious.«

Dunn didn't seem to like it that much, because she was never allowed to shoot with it. She told them it went on after the break and sent them to lunch. The recruits talked excitedly about the weapons they had seen.

Carter thought he'd be happy if he never had to use a murder weapon like that.