

## Imperial Guard: Crinan IVth

Of all the regiments raised from the Crinan System – the Crinan IVth is the strangest regiment – and one of the most resilient in the face of enemies of the emperor. The Crinan IVth does not have a home planet, with the twelve planets of the Crinan System raising regiments of their own. Instead – its forces are raised from the many tiny settlements in the two asteroid belts: named Inner Spheres and Outer Spheres in official records, but known within the system as Planet 4, as they are situated after the third planet from the sun. When the idea is posited that an army could be raised from the scattered mining communities of the Crinan System, the tradition bound oligarchies and merchant cartels that ruled the system are at once dismissive and hostile: arming the miners seemed like the best way of promoting rebellion and anarchy. Although this hostility postponed the raising of the Crinan IVth for well over three centuries, legend has it that it is Lord Admiral Solar Macharius who ordered that the injunctions be dropped and the regiment raised and enrolled in his crusade.

Although this story is unconfirmed – the Crinan IVth is eventually raised and incorporated into the local system defences.

The asteroid belts are rich in precious minerals and

Of the twelve planets in the Crinan System, the industry of the hive worlds of Crinus Tertiary and Crinus Sextus rely almost entirely on the mining operations in the system's four great asteroid belts: known as Crinan Asteriodium.

While life in the hive worlds is often harsh and short – life in the mining communities is even shorter: with alien life forms, accidents, brutality, violence and criminality all contributing to the major social problems small isolated communities faced.

It is from the tens of thousands of scattered communities - that added together numbered the population of a small planet - that the Crinan IVth is raised. While other regiments rely on conscription and or on pressing penal slaves into combat: the dangerous and difficult life in the mining stations – where the skies are blotted out with dust and the clustered masses of asteroids – and where the only contact with the outside world is through the merchant cartel ships that collect their tithes – means that there has always been a ready supply of men ready to chance death.

Unlike the other regiments in the Crinan System: the IVth is not controlled by either the merchant cartels, who could see no possible profit in being involved in war,

nor the noble families that had interbred and inherited the governorships of the rest of the system's major planets.

In the hundred and fifty years that the regiment has been fighting across the Imperium, battle attrition have risen to such high levels that recruitment has expanded beyond the asteroids belts and into some of the hive undercities where men with a similar frontier mentality can be found.

That frontier mentality of the mining communities is still reflected in the character of the regiment: it remains highly religious, deep respect for firearms – even what other forces view as the lowly lasgun - intolerant of alien life forms and staunch in its defence of humankind. Hermits, holy men and preachers are commonly seen within its ranks and the Bishop of Crinan Asteriodium has also been seen to take the battle in more extreme circumstances. Perhaps one of the most noteworthy of the features of the army is the fact that they have had to improvise many items such as power swords – their crude improvisations no less effective when thrust into the breast of an enemy. As the imperial supplies are distributed by the merchant cartels that control transport to and from the systems – the Crinan IVth is generally last in line for imperial pickings. Their armour is often antiquated and more rarely used, and instead of relying on heavy armour – the Crinan IVth utilizes massed squadrons of sentinels: commonly used in the mining communities for lifting and loading.

This has often meant that Imperial Generals see the Crinan IVth as a scouting force: but battle experience has proved that they are as capable as holding a position against armoured attack as any of the Emperor's soldiers.