

"Die Mutant Alien Scum"

Not the most friendly of newspaper headlines you must agree, especially when it comes to promoting intergalactic relations, but then there has always been a so-called 'gutter element' to holo-journalism. (Not that anyone can remember what a gutter is, these days, but the general feeling is that it was something rather unpleasant, if vaguely useful.)

And it was that heading "Die Mutant Alien Scum" that caused all the bother when it appeared in a space-wide holo-edition of the SoonDay Spirit. After several centuries of reading "little green men turned me into a potato" stories invented by SoonDay Spirit journalists, alien throughout space were beginning to get just a little bit fed up with humanity. Naturally, human diplomats did their best to repair the damage, but your average little green man reading the SoonDay Spirit on the top of a Venusian omnibus wasn't swayed. As time went on, he got more and more fed up with being slandered and vilified in the holo-outpourings of a small and insignificant bipedal race that lived on a dirty little planet in the Sol system.

When the crazed SoonDay Spirit headline writer finally flipped his xenophobic lid and came up with DIE MUTANT ALIEN SCUM as a front-page lead story for the early edition one Tuesday, the clamour of outrage coming from the top of the omnibuses throughout the galaxy could be heard on Earth. Alien anger continued to mount, and by the middle of Wednesday morning political leaders on every civilised world in the galaxy realised there was only one course of action open to them if they wanted to get re-elected by their people: declare war on Earth.

So by lunchtime that Wednesday every civilised race in the galaxy had declared war on Earth, the human race, and in particular all journalists working for the SoonDay Spirit. Expecting an easy victory in the game 'Earth V The Rest Of God's Creations', alien hordes set out for the time-space adjacent to Earth and prepared to do battle with humanity's feeble space fleets. But they hadn't reckoned on the ingenuity of Earth's weapons scientists; they didn't realise that the Gemini Wing fighter project was already complete. And their spies had spent too much time on Earth chasing girlies and turning them into potatoes to report back on the development of awesome weapon systems such as the Windscreen Wiper of Death

What at first seemed to be an easy victory for alien forces turned into a bitterly-fought conflict, a space-war that is still raging in several dimensions. Which is about where you come in, as the pilot of a Gemini Wing fighter. Pausing only to shout the battle cry of the crack GW regiment you belong to - "Die Mutant Alien Scum"- you leap into the control seat of your craft, warp to a vertically-scrolling etherworld and start fighting the good fight

Killing Mutant Alien Scum

Simple really - as the Gemini Wing pilot training manual says, it's just like playing an arcade game. Press the fire button and deal out laser death.

But there's more. A strange paradox in the fabric of reality causes additional weapon systems in your fighter to materialise when you blast certain aliens. Small clawed creatures cause a single gunball to materialise when they turn up their claws and cough their last, while porky fat clawed aliens - known as 'Bringers' - can yield as many as eight gunballs in their death warps.

"Collect up gunballs whenever possible and then use them by pressing and holding fire to help you do the job of dealing death to the mutant alien scum" is what it says in the Gemini Wing pilot training manual, and the guy who wrote it got it right. (There is a third, undocumented method of acquiring gunballs that he doesn't mention, but that involves stealing them from a colleague on a two-man mission and is far too underhand to mention here.)

A Gumby's Guide to Gunballs

All you need now is a run-down on what those gunball jobbies do for you, and it's off into space for a spot of killing. So here's an extract from the Gemini Wing pilot training manual.



Three way fire ball



2.000 points



5.000 points



10.000 points



Alien seeking missiles



Fire wall



Speed-up



Spiraling circle of death



Windscreen wiper of death



Extra life

The above weapons (gunballs) are picked up in three ways: first is by shooting a small, relatively harmless, clawed alien. These carry one extra weapon and so should always be shot. These take only one hit to destroy. Second is by shooting what is known as a 'Bringer'. This is a larger clawed alien which usually carries approx. eight gunballs, and shooting it causes the gunballs to cycle through the different weapons. The third method of collecting gunballs causes the most interplayer hatred ever seen in arcade games. This is the ability to steal the other players gunball tail, thus depriving him of his extra weapons. Tail stealing can only take place if the victim has more than three gunballs.

LOADING

Put your machine into 48k mode. Type LOAD" " and press ENTER. Program will load and run. Load from 128k mode if you are using a 128k/+2 Spectrum.

CONTROLS: 1 player

JOYSTICK: press the fire button to shoot. Hold down the fire button to fire a gunball.

KEYBOARD: UP = Q LEFT = O RIGHT = P DOWN = ASpace Bar to shoot.
Hold down Space Bar to fire a gunball. G to abort game. H to pause game.

DEUTSCH

LADEN

Computer auf 48K einstellen. LOAD"" eintippen und auf ENTER drücken. Das Programm wird automatisch geladen un gestartet. Bei einem Spectrum +2/128K vom 128K-Modus laden.

STEUERUNG: 1 Spieler.

JOYSTICK: Zum Schießen den Feuerknopf drücken. Den Feuerknopf gedrückt halten, um einen Gunball abzuschießen.

TASTATUR: Hoch/Q
LINKS/O RECHTS/P
RUNTER/A

Zum Feuern die Leertaste drücken und dann gedrückt halten, um einen Gunball abzuschießen. H hält das Spiel an un G bricht es ab.

FRANCAIS

CHARGEMENT

Mettez votre machine en mode 48K. Tapez LOAD "" et appuyez sur ENTER. Le programme se chargera et se déroulera.

Chargez à partir du mode 128K si vous utilisez un SPECTRUM 128K/+2.

Commandes : 1 joueur

Manche à balai :

Appuyez sur le bouton FEU pour tirer. Maintenez le bouton FEU enfoncé pour lancer un 'gunball'.

Clavier :

	Haut/Q	
Gauche/O		Droite/P
	Bas/A	

Appuyez sur la barre d'espace pour tirer. Maintenez la barre d'espace enfoncée pour lancer un 'gunball'.

G : abandon du jeu. H : pause

ITALIANO

Metti il computer in modulo 48K. Batti LOAD"" e premi INVIO. Il programma si carica e gira da solo. Se utilizzi una SPECTRUM 128K/+2, carica da modulo 128K.

CONTROLLI: 1 giocatore

JOYSTICK: premi il bottone di Fuoco per sparare, e tienilo schiacciato per sparare una palla da cannone.

TASTIERA:

SU = Q, SINISTRA = O, DESTRA = P, GIU' = A

Per sparare, premi la Barra Spaziatrice. Tienila schiacciata per sparare una palla da cannone. G abortisce il gioco. H effettua la pausa.

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