

Technical Specifications

Armor: 0

Hull: 4

Speed: K

Altitude: Very High

Tonnage: 320 tons

Price: 27,000

Crew:

Bridge: C,H,T,S,O

Deck: 1 + 4

Maneuver: 6

Gunners: 9

Marines: 2 + 18

Armament:

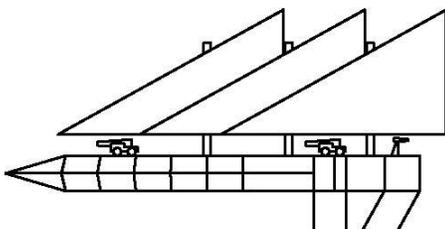
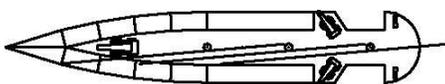
1 68-pdr smoothbore forward

2 24-pdr smoothbores in wing mounts

2 sweepers in broadside mounts

2 racks of spike droppers

2 Martian fire racks



Hanjali-Privateer Kite

By the 1880's the Caucasian nation of Georgia, an ancient Christian state long coveted by its neighbors, was groaning under the oppression of the Russian empire.

In the preceding century, far from removing the yoke of Turkish and Persian oppression, the Russians, once seen as liberators, had replaced it with their own depredations and enslavement of the Georgian people.

In repudiation of the "Treaty of Friendship" signed by the Georgian King Erekle, and by his cousin the King of Imereti Solomon II, the Russians had suppressed the Georgian language, crushed the ancient Georgian Orthodox Church, imprisoned the Royal family.

The freemen had been enslaved, and several attempts by Georgian patriots to rise up and throw off the Russian empire had failed, and Russian repressions and revenge attacks, especially on the highlanders in the mountains, had been incredibly brutal. Georgian freedom fighters, realizing that direct confrontation with the might of the Russian empire was impossible without the support of a major power, began looking at ways of hurting the Russians and forcing them to relinquish their control of Georgia through other means.

In a secret meeting of the leaders of "Tetri Giorgi" the great Illya Chavchavadze recommended that Russian possessions and commerce on mars were particularly vulnerable, and Georgian successes there would have a propaganda value out of all proportion to the effort expended.

James Chkheidze, a former Georgian officer in the Russian fleet volunteered to lead a crew of Georgians to Mars to conduct commerce raiding.

Having contacts in the Royal Navy, and arriving on mars in 1885 during a particularly strained period between the British and Russian governments,

Captain Chkheidze was able to receive covert support for the construction of the Hanjali from the naval dockyards at Parhoon, mostly in the form of 3 old naval smoothbores, and modern rifles for the marines.

The Hanjali was designed to be a living emodiment of Georgian warrior culture, in shape it is inspired by the Caucasian short sword of the same name.

For its size the Hanjali is very well armed, with a 68 pdr, 2 24 pdrs, spike droppers and the deadly Martian fire as well as the usual sweeps. In addition the 20 marines are more than enough to overwhelm most opponents.

Standard tactics for the Hanjali are to use the main guns and Martian fire to cripple any escort, reserving the spike droppers for a "demonstration of intent" against the targeted merchantman. The large number of marines carried is usually enough to convince even the most determined merchantman's crew to strike.

The Hanjali has become a major problem for Russian commerce on Mars, with repeated prizes taken, and attacks on military supplies severely restricting the expansion of the Russian enclave. Even worse Cpt. Chkheidze has become a hero in the Earth mass media, and an inspiration to his people. The situation resulted in the Czarina being used to hunt down the Hanjali, almost resulting in a major disaster for the Russian ship.

Contemptuous of the "barbarian Georgians" the Russian Captain closed the range, and quickly exposed himself to an attack of Martian fire from the Georgian kite. Disarmed and on fire, the Czarina was only saved by a sudden drop in the wind, enabling her to escape the Hanjali.

Needless to say, Cpt Chkheidze and the Hanjali continue to be a considerable drain on the Russian colony, and rumors are circulating of an even bigger ship being built.