



# FOR WHAT REMAINS - OUT OF THE BASEMENT -



RULEBOOK

# FOR WHAT REMAINS

## - OUT OF THE BASEMENT -

A tactical skirmish game set in a post-apocalyptic near future

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45 - 60 minutes



ages: 12+



1-2 players

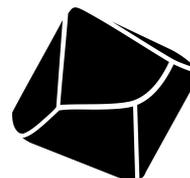
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**Battleground Art:** David Thompson with source art from the Dundjinni community.

**Additional Thanks:** The Huntsville, AL; Savannah, GA; Cambridge, UK; and Dayton, OH gaming communities and the Board Game Geek crowd. The original idea for the Netherscape was inspired by a thread on RPG.net titled “Voices From Below and the Long Stairs.”



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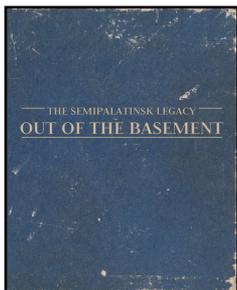
# INTRODUCTION

**For What Remains** is a tactical skirmish wargame set in a post-apocalyptic near future.

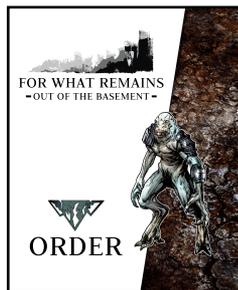
There are two ways to play **For What Remains**: skirmishes and campaigns. Skirmishes are standalone games played for a single victory, with no lasting repercussions. Campaigns are a series of skirmishes linked together to form a larger narrative. For campaign play, reference *The Semipalatinsk Legacy: Out of the Basement* campaign guide that came with this game. Special rules for solitaire play are found at the end of this rulebook.

You can combine this game with other **For What Remains** games, to include **Streets of Ruin** and **Blood on the Rails**. All components are compatible, so that factions in any of the games can do battle, and the battleground tiles can be combined. You can use factions from other **For What Remains** games for the **Out of the Basement** campaign, though small adjustments may be necessary.

# COMPONENTS



Campaign Guide



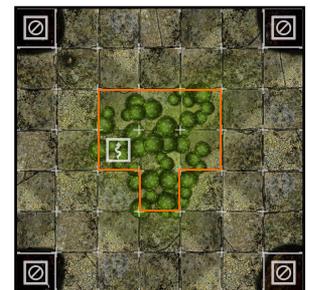
Faction Guides (2)



AI Reference Sheet (2)



Ability Reference Sheets (2)



Battleground Tiles (12)



Character Reference Cards (11)



AI Activation Cards (11)



Character Counters (66)



Action Tokens (60)



Faction Action Tokens (2)



Ability Tokens (14)



Alter Earth Markers (9)



Scavenge Tokens (6)



Ability Templates (1)

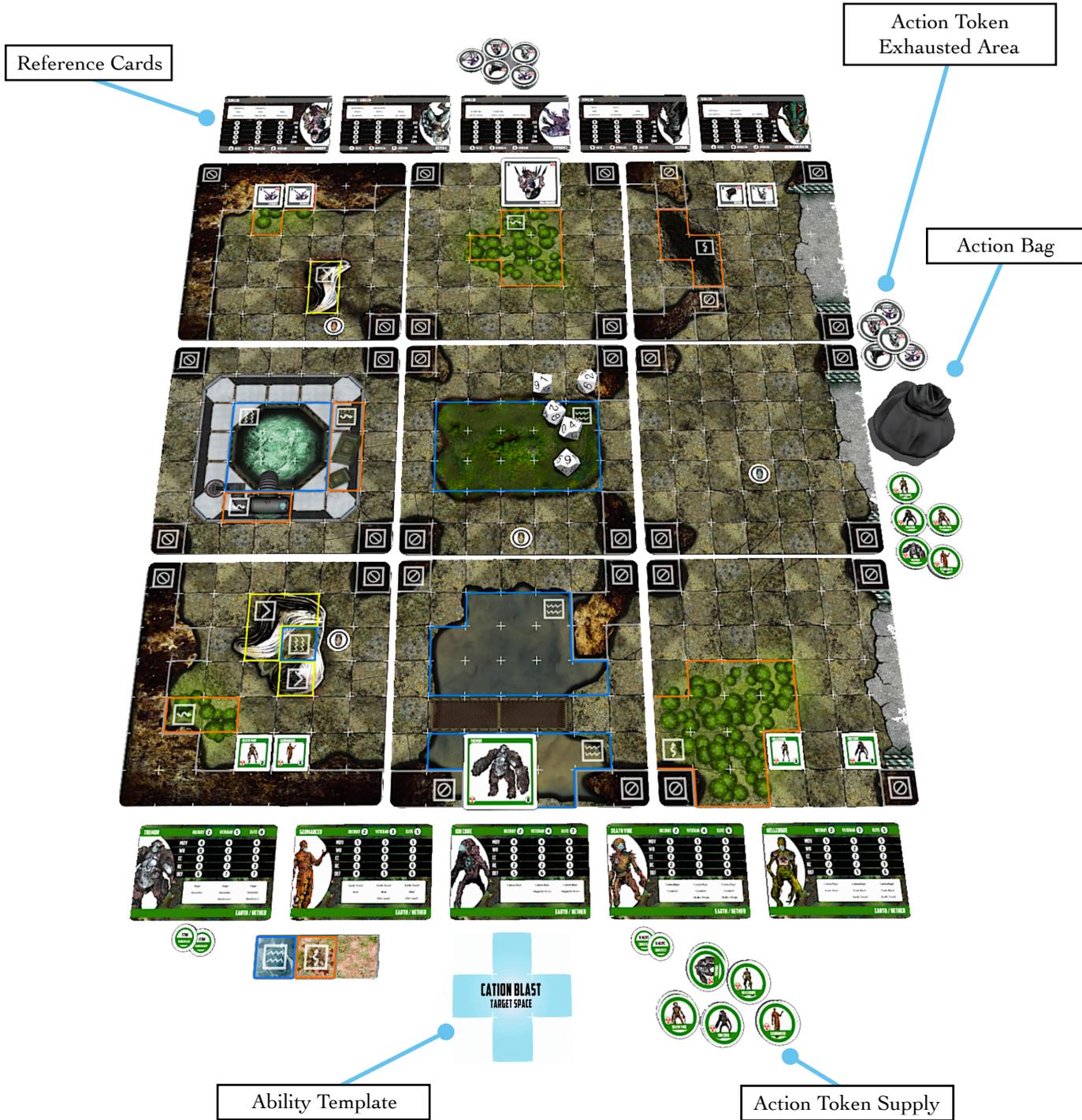


Dice (5)



Action Bag (1)

# GAME LAYOUT



# LIFE IN THE APOCALYPSE

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Hundreds of meters below the surface, an Erthen geomancer was manning a listening post in a former military base used by the World Alliance. Day after day he sat at the post, cycling through emergency broadcast channels, monitoring the radio waves. The job was excruciatingly boring. Over the last year he had heard precisely two transmissions. One was a broadcast between Combine military detachments that were operating in the nearby town of Kurchatov. The other was some kid toying around on their radio.

Suddenly the mind-numbing radio static was interrupted with a robotic recording. “This message is broadcasted in all frequencies...”

Static briefly returned, and then was followed by a garbled message of a man speaking in English. “I am Dr O’Hara, Director of the Advanced Instrumentation and Monitoring Lab 26. Our job is to monitor the container chamber and the force field that prevents the Order of the New Dawn from traveling from the Netherscape through the stable open portal. Today at 1406, a massive electromagnetic pulse was detected, destroying most of Lab 26’s electronic equipment. When we recovered, we were unable to restart the underground generators. At this point I can confirm that the portal is open and the force field is down. The access tunnel is located beneath Degelen Mountain in the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site. The tunnels connect to an Erthen biodome and an abandoned military base previously used by the World Alliance. A small group of Erthen still inhabit the biodome, but they will not be able to hold out for long against the Netherbeasts.”

“To any who can hear this message, I beg you: if you are smart, run far, far away from this area. To those of you who are brave enough, the only way to close the portal is to repair the generators and raise the force field.”

The human voice cut out and was replaced by the robotic recording. “Message end. Message will be broadcast again in 5 minutes.”



Geomancer | Erthen

The geomancer leapt up from his seat. He grabbed the radio and dialed in a frequency for the Erthen stationed within the biodome.

No reply.

He tried again.

Nothing.

The geomancer was frustrated, but not surprised. No one would be expecting a call from him. He considered his options. It would take him at least 20 minutes to navigate the tunnels from the military base to the biodome.

The geomancer closed his eyes and breathed deeply. He knew what he had to do. But he had never tried anything like this before.

Slowly his body began to fuse with the ground around him. Instinctively he guided himself through the earth, traveling to the main living chambers in the biodome. It was a distance of almost a kilometer. He had never earth-travelled more than 50 meters, and even that was in perfect conditions. Travel at such a distance was immensely challenging. He panicked each time he lost his way, but quickly calmed himself as he remembered his training.

**“The Order — they are coming!”**

As he closed in on the living chambers, the challenge shifted from mental to physical. His body was tiring. If he couldn't maintain his biokinetic control, his body would become permanently fused with the surrounding earth.

He pushed on. He could feel the earth around him vibrating with the steps and voices of Erthen nearby. He was close.

Suddenly he emerged in the living chambers, but exhaustion took over. He couldn't quite complete the transition from his integration with the earth. Part of his body fused with the rock. He screamed in agony.

The scene was horrifying. The geomancer thrashed in pain, as the Erthen rushed to his side. But there was nothing that could be done for him.

The geomancer knew his fate and accepted it. He grimaced through the pain. “The Order — they are coming!” he said, and then he passed on, forever part of the world around him.



# FACTIONS

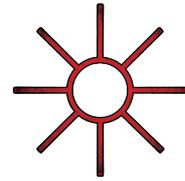
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There are six major factions that vie for control and survival. Each faction is formed from like-minded individuals that band together for a common cause.

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**Freemen Coalition:** The Freemen Coalition is a loose-knit band of human rebels who specialize in guerrilla warfare.

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**Combine:** The Combine is the government that rules over much of what is left of the world.

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**Echo:** Echo is a faction led by a secretive cabal of humans with psychic powers.

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**Soldiers of Light:** The Soldiers of Light are humans who believe the fall of mankind was brought about due to a dependence on technology.

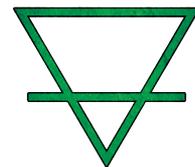
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**Erthen:** Erthen are a biologically developed race formed from a mixture of human, mineral, and organic matter.

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**Order of the New Dawn:** The Order of the New Dawn are creatures from the strange subterranean realm known as the Basement.

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# CHARACTERS

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**Character Reference Card:** Character cards are used to reference a character's critical information.

**Character Counter:** Character counters represent characters on the battleground.

**Action Tokens:** Action tokens are used to determine when a character can take an action during the game. [p. 12]

**Character Type:** A descriptor for the character.

**Level:** Each character has three levels: Recruit, Veteran, and Elite. In campaigns, all characters begin as Recruits and gain levels over time.

**Designator:** There are two copies of each character. The designators on the counters are used to differentiate the characters if both are used in the same skirmish.

**Value:** The point value of a character reflects their overall power and is used during the setup process to determine character selection.

**Health:** When a character is injured in combat, you flip their counter to the injured side. [p. 13]

**Move:** Move is the maximum number of spaces a character can move in a turn. [p. 18]

**Weapon Range:** Weapon Range is the maximum number of spaces that a character can make a Ranged Combat attack. [p. 14]

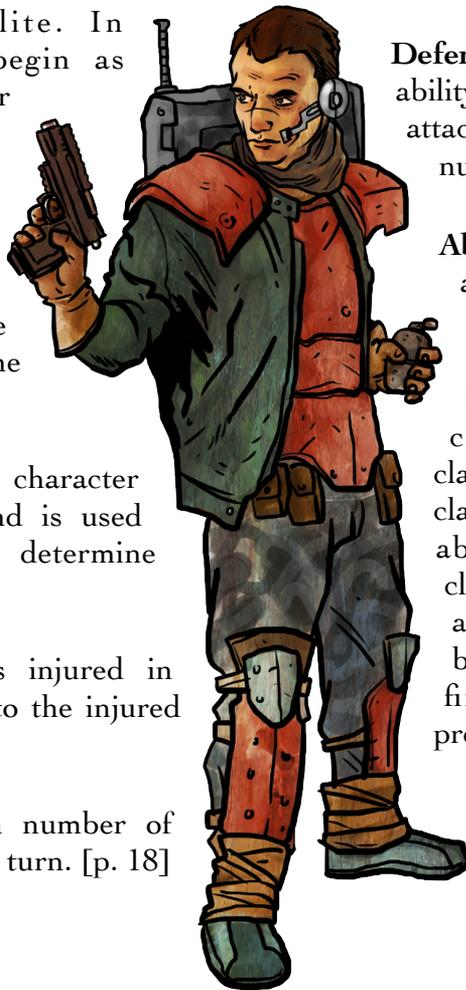
**Close Combat:** Close Combat is a character's skill in hand-to-hand combat. This is the number of dice rolled when the character makes an attack against an adjacent character. [p. 17]

**Ranged Combat:** Ranged Combat is a character's skill with ranged weapons and area attacks. This is the number of dice rolled when the character makes a ranged attack. [p. 14]

**Defense:** Defense represents a character's ability to defend itself against all types of attacks. Attackers have to roll above this number to deal damage. [p. 13]

**Abilities:** Each character has unique abilities. [p. 20]

**Classification:** A category that can influence the effects of abilities. Some characters have more than one classification. A character with multiple classifications can be effected by an ability that targets any of their classifications. If the effects of an ability on a character are in conflict because of multiple classifications, the first classification always takes precedence.



Rebel Leader | Freeman Coalition

# CHARACTER / COMPONENTS

Each character has a reference card, character counters, and action tokens. There are two copies of each character, which can be differentiated with their designator. For example, each copy of the Erthen faction's Death Vine has three counters (for Recruit, Veteran, and Elite level) and three action tokens. One Death Vine reference card is used for both Death Vines.

## Character Counters

Character Type

Level

Designator

Recruit level counter, healthy and injured sides shown.

Veteran and Elite counters, healthy counter side shown.

Alternate designator, recruit level counter.

## Action Tokens

Designator

Character Type

Action Tokens for each of the different Death Vines.

## Character Reference Card

Character Type

Level and Value

Character Type

Move

Weapon Range

Close Combat

Ranged Combat

Defense

Abilities

	RECRUIT 2	VETERAN 4	ELITE 6
MOV	5	5	5
WR	2	3	3
CC	2	3	4
RC	2	3	4
DEF	4	5	6

Camouflage

Constrict

Abilities

Camouflage

Constrict

Hydro Merge

Camouflage

Constrict

Hydro Merge

EARTH / NETHER

Classification

# SETUP

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Each skirmish begins with the setup process. The information presented here is generally used when playing the introductory scenario (Kill Them All, p. 11) or when players build their own scenarios. Instructions for scenarios found in the campaign book always takes precedence over rules provided here.

**1. Factions:** Decide which faction each player will control.

**2. Scenario:** Decide what scenario will be used for the skirmish or create a new scenario.

**3. Skirmish Points:** Decide how many skirmish points to use. Skirmish points are used during the character selection process for purchasing characters. Players can choose any skirmish point value, but recommendations are provided here.

Skirmish Points	Game
10	First play and low-level characters
15	Low-level characters
20	Mid-level characters
25	High-level characters
30	Epic game

**4. Battleground:** Battlegrounds are formed by combining nine battleground tiles. To construct a battleground, each player rolls one die. The player with the highest roll chooses a tile and places it on the play area. Players then alternate taking turns placing tiles. Each tile must be placed alongside a tile already in play. This continues until a battleground of 3x3 tiles has been assembled. All touching sides of the tiles must match.

**5. Scavenge Tokens:** Players often place one or more scavenge tokens on the battleground as instructed in the scenario. Each player rolls one die. The player with the highest roll places a scavenge token first and then players alternate placing scavenge tokens. Scavenge tokens cannot be placed within two spaces of the edge of the battleground.

**6. Starting Areas:** Each player rolls one die. The player with the highest roll picks their starting side of the battleground. The other player starts on the opposite side of the battleground. Characters can be placed anywhere along the edge of the battleground, within two spaces of the edge.

**7. Character Selection:** Players use their skirmish points to purchase characters. When a player purchases a character, they spend skirmish points equal to the level of the character they are purchasing. They take the character's matching counters up to the level they purchased and the three matching action tokens. Character selection is secret and has the following limitations:

- Must choose at least three characters;
- Cannot choose more than six characters.

**8. Character Placement:** The player that chose their starting side of the battleground places all of their characters in their starting area first. Then their opponent places their characters. Stack a character's counters so that the highest level counter is on top. For example, an Elite Death Vine would have their Elite counter on top, then their Veteran counter, and their Recruit counter on the bottom. Make sure that all the counters begin with their healthy side face up in the stack.

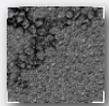
**9. Skirmish begins:** Begin the first round of gameplay.

# SETUP / EXAMPLE BATTLEGROUND



# SETUP / TERRAIN AND SCAVENGING

**Terrain:** Terrain types include: clear, blocking, difficult, elevated, and water. Each space on the battleground consists of only one type of terrain.



**Clear Terrain:** each space of Clear Terrain costs 1 Move to enter. Clear Terrain is free of obstructions and serves as the default elevation of the battleground. Clear Terrain spaces do not have borders.



**Elevated Terrain:** each space of Elevated Terrain costs 2 Move to enter or exit, except when moving from one Elevated Terrain space to another Elevated Terrain space, which costs 1 Move. The cost of leaving an Elevated Terrain space does not stack with other terrain costs, meaning it is never more than 2 Move to exit Elevated Terrain. If a character is on normal elevation and makes a Close Combat attack against a character on Elevated Terrain, the character on Elevated Terrain receives a +1 to Defense. Ranged Combat attacks can pass through Elevated Terrain only if both the attacker and target are on Elevated Terrain. Elevated Terrain has yellow borders and a “Up Arrow” symbol.



**Blocking Terrain:** blocks line of sight for Ranged Combat and prevents movement. Blocking Terrain has gray borders and a “Do Not Enter” symbol.



**Difficult Terrain:** each space of Difficult Terrain costs 2 Move to enter. Difficult Terrain grants characters a +1 to Defense when attacked by Ranged Combat. Difficult Terrain has orange borders and a “Curved Path” symbol.



**Water Terrain:** each space of Water Terrain costs 2 Move to enter. Water Terrain has blue borders and a “Wave” symbol.

**Scavenging:** The world is brutal and unforgiving. Weapons, fuel, food, and potable water are the keys to survival. Items that can be scavenged during skirmishes are represented by scavenge tokens. In addition, in **Out of the Basement**, scavenge tokens are used to represent pods that hold Erthen offspring.

Characters can pick up a scavenge token if they are standing on the space with the token. Characters must spend 1 point of movement during a Move action to pick up or drop the token. If two characters are adjacent, they can transfer the scavenge token between them by one of the characters spending 1 point of movement. If a character is defeated, the scavenge token is placed on the battleground in the space where the character died. A character can only carry one scavenge token at a time.



Players typically earn victory points for each scavenge token in their possession during a skirmish.

# SETUP / SCENARIO: KILL THEM ALL

This scenario, “Kill Them All,” serves as an introduction to **For What Remains**. After you become familiar with the rules of the game, you can use the scenarios found in the campaign guide.

**Overview:** This is a straight-forward, fight-to-the-death skirmish. The goal is to defeat as many opponent characters as possible, while also scavenging for limited gear.

**Battleground:** Use the default battleground creation rules.

**Scavenge Tokens:** Each player places one scavenge token on the battleground. Use the default scavenge token placement rules.

**Starting Areas:** Use the default starting area rules.

**Select and Place Characters:** Use the default character selection and placement rules.



## Victory

Either player wins by scoring 5 victory points or defeating all of their opponent's characters.

## Victory Points

**Characters:** Award 1 victory point for each defeated character.

**Scavenge Tokens:** Award 1 victory point for each scavenge token in a character's possession. If a character loses possession of the scavenge token, the victory point is lost until a character claims the scavenge token again.

# GAMEPLAY

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Once you have completed the scenario setup, you are ready to begin play. A skirmish is divided into rounds of play. Each round, players:

1. select the action tokens they want to use for the round and place them in the action bag,
2. draw the action tokens from the bag and discard them to activate their characters,
3. recover action tokens in the exhausted action token area (skip this step for the first round of a skirmish),
4. place the discarded action tokens in the exhausted area.

**Select Action Tokens:** At the beginning of the skirmish, players will have three action tokens for each of their characters in their action token supply. Players use these action tokens to determine which characters will take actions during the current round. Each player secretly selects a number of action tokens equal to the number of characters they have on the battleground and places them in the action bag. Players keep their remaining action tokens in their supply secret by placing them face down.

**Draw Action Tokens and Activate Characters:** Once the action tokens have been placed in the action bag, characters start taking actions. One player draws an action token from the action bag. The character matching the action token may take an action. Once that character's action is complete, one of the players draws another action token from the bag and the character matching the action token can take an action. This continues until all action tokens have been drawn from the bag. When action tokens are drawn from the bag, they are discarded face up near the bag.

**Recover Action Tokens (skip this step for the first round of a skirmish):** Action tokens in the exhausted action token area are moved to each player's action token supply.

**Exhaust Action Tokens:** Action tokens that were used during the round are now moved to the exhausted action token area. They will not be available during the next round.

## Round Example

Jack and Hope are controlling the Erthen and Order factions, respectively, in a 10 skirmish point match. Jack has selected four characters while Hope has selected five characters.

In the first round, Jack can select four action tokens to place in the action bag because he has four characters on the battleground. He has all twelve actions tokens associated with his characters in his action token supply to choose from. He selects three Death Vine action tokens and one Geomancer action token. He places all four action tokens in the action bag. Hope places five action tokens in the action bag because she has five characters on the battleground.

Hope draws from the action bag and pulls a Death Vine action token. Jack performs a Move action with the Death Vine. Hope then draws an action token that matches one of her characters and takes an action with the character. Hope then draws another Death Vine token, and Jack takes another action with his Death Vine.

This continues until all action tokens have been drawn. There are no action tokens in the exhausted action token area because it's the first round. Had there been, the players would have moved the action tokens to their supplies. The action tokens that were drawn from the action bag during the round are moved to the exhausted action token area.

The next round begins.

# GAMEPLAY / ACTIONS

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When a character is activated with an action token, they can take one action. Actions include:

- Close Combat
- Ranged Combat
- Move
- Ability
- Forfeit an Action

**Attack:** Characters make a Close or Ranged Combat attack roll against a target character's Defense. The attacking character rolls a number of dice equal to their Close or Ranged Combat attribute. If at least one die rolled is higher than the target's Defense, the target is injured. A target is only injured once, no matter how many successes are rolled.

**Defense:** Defense represents a character's ability to defend itself against Close and Ranged Combat attacks. Characters can receive Defense bonuses from abilities and a variety of battleground modifiers. [Terrain, p. 10]

**Health:** Each counter associated with a character's level has two states: healthy or injured. At the beginning of a skirmish, all characters begin with full health. For example, a Veteran Death Vine would have a Veteran counter stacked on top of their Recruit counter, and both would have their healthy side face up. When the Death Vine is injured, their Veteran counter is flipped over to their injured side. If the Death Vine is injured again, the Veteran counter would be removed. If they were injured again, the Recruit counter would be flipped to their injured side. And if the Death Vine was injured a fourth time, the Recruit counter would be removed and the Death Vine would be defeated.

Characters use their attributes and abilities based on their top counter on the battleground. For example, at the beginning of a skirmish, a Veteran Death Vine would use their Veteran-level attributes and abilities. However, if the Death Vine is injured twice and the Veteran counter is removed, the Death Vine would use their Recruit attributes and abilities.

**Defeat and Action Tokens:** When the recruit counter of a character is removed, the character has been defeated. Take action tokens matching the character from the exhausted action token area and the action token supply and remove them from the game. Any action tokens matching the character in the action bag have no effect when they are drawn, and are removed from the game. When a character is defeated, it means the player has one fewer character on the battleground and therefore will use one less action token per round.

## Faction Action Tokens

When a character is defeated, immediately take the Faction Action Token (the action token with the faction symbol on both sides) and place it in the action token supply for the player whose character was defeated. The player can use the action token as if it was one of their other action tokens, placing it in the action bag. When the Faction Action Token is drawn, the player can take an action with any of their characters. However, the Faction Action Token is not discarded as normal. Instead, it is removed from the game until another character is defeated. If another character is defeated, the Faction Action Token goes back into the supply. A player can only ever have one Faction Action Token, even if multiple characters are defeated in a round.



# GAMEPLAY / RANGED COMBAT

**Ranged Combat:** Ranged Combat is a character's skill with ranged weapons and area attacks.

**Weapon Range:** Characters can make Ranged Combat attacks at a distance equal to or less than their Weapon Range, but not against adjacent characters, unless the adjacent characters are on different elevations. Shooting up to Elevated Terrain and down from Elevated Terrain does not modify the Weapon Range.

**Line of Sight:** Line of sight is determined by drawing an imaginary line from the center of the attacking character's space to the center of the target character's space.

**Terrain Modifiers:** Ranged Combat attacks are subject to terrain modifiers. Any Ranged Combat attack that passes through any part of a space with Difficult Terrain adds a +1 to the target's Defense. This includes spaces the target is in, but not the attacker. These effects are not cumulative. However, terrain modifiers are added to character modifiers, if applicable. [Terrain, p. 10]

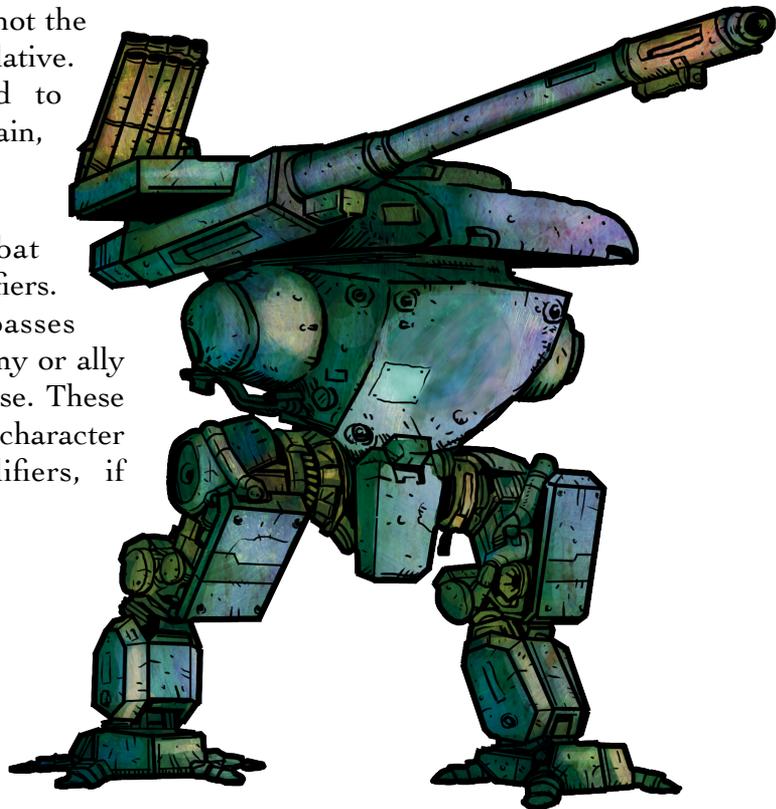
**Character Modifiers:** Ranged Combat attacks are subject to character modifiers. Any Ranged Combat attack that passes through any part of a space with an enemy or ally character adds a +1 to the target's Defense. These effects are not cumulative. However, character modifiers are added to terrain modifiers, if applicable.

## Adjacent

Characters are adjacent if they are orthogonal (side by side) or diagonal (corner to corner) to each other.

**Blocking and Elevated Terrain:** Ranged Combat attacks may not pass through Blocking Terrain. Ranged Combat attacks can pass through Elevated Terrain only if both the attacker and target are on Elevated Terrain. Elevated Terrain allows characters to use Ranged Combat against enemy characters on normal elevations and ignore the modifier for Ranged Combat through characters and Difficult Terrain (the only exception is the terrain modifier still applies if the target is standing in a Difficult Terrain space). Characters on normal elevation receive the same benefits when attacking characters on Elevated Terrain. [Terrain, p. 10]

Hellfire | Combine



# GAMEPLAY / RANGED COMBAT

- If the Death Vine makes a Ranged Combat attack against the Nethermancer, the Nethermancer gets a terrain modifier bonus to Defense because the attack passes through Difficult Terrain.
- If the Death Vine makes a Ranged Combat attack against the Wraith, the Wraith gets terrain and character modifier bonuses to Defense because the attack passes through Difficult Terrain and a character.
- The Death Vine can make a Ranged Combat attack against the Fallen even though they are adjacent because they are on different elevations.
- The Death Vine cannot make a Ranged Combat attack against the Abomination because they are adjacent.
- The Death Vine cannot make a Ranged Combat attack against the Carnage because the attack passes through Elevated Terrain.



# GAMEPLAY / AREA ATTACKS

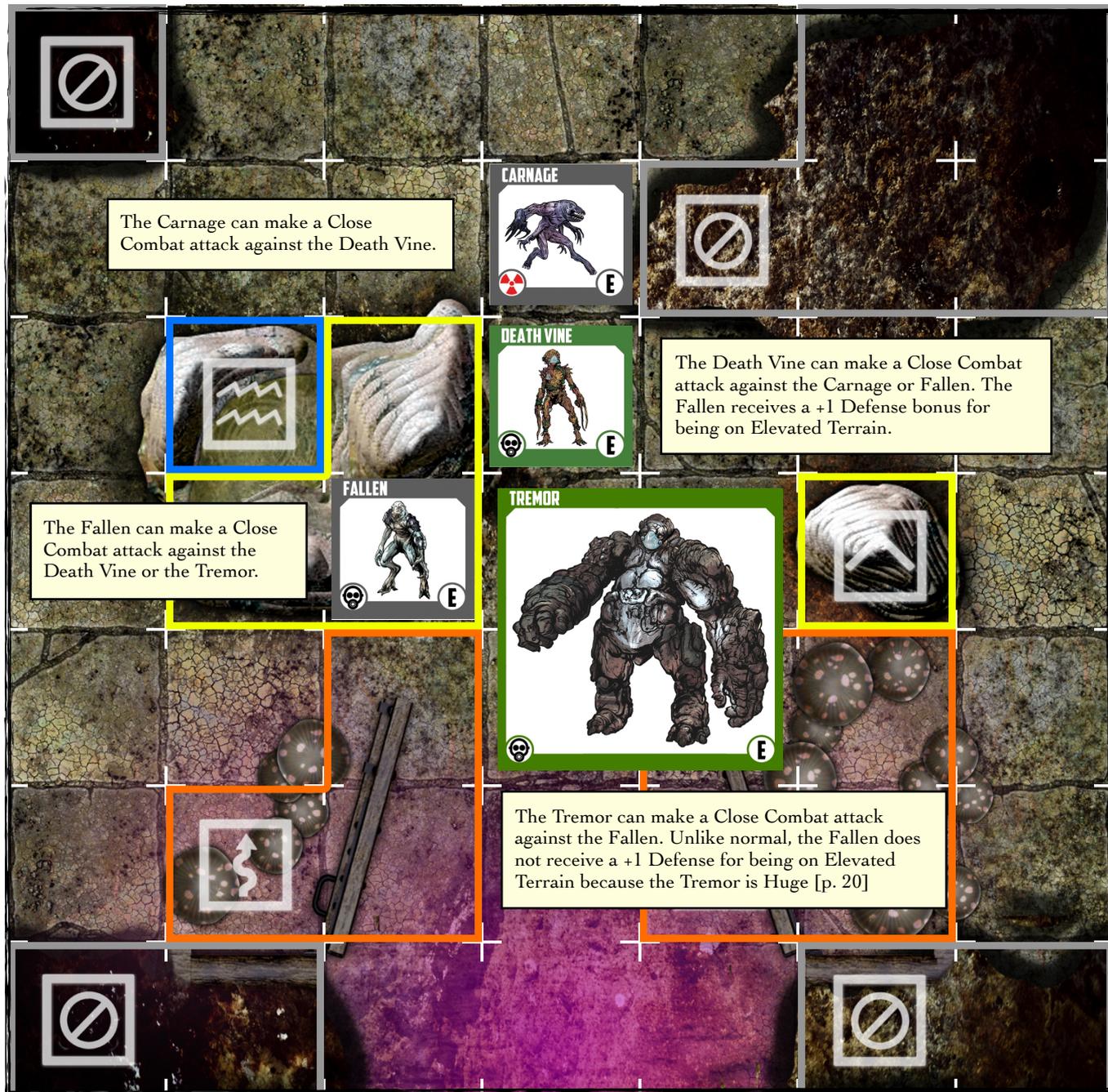
Area Attacks are a subset of Ranged Combat. When a character makes an Area Attack, the attack affects multiple spaces, as outlined by the ability description. After determining the affected area, the attacking player makes a separate Ranged Combat attack against each target in the area. Area Attacks ignore character and terrain penalties except when a character is in Difficult Terrain. Unlike normal Ranged Combat attacks, Area Attacks can affect targets adjacent to the attacker.

The area affected by the Tremor's Shockwave is outlined in blue.

- The Carnage, Wraith, and Nethermancer are all affected because they are on the same elevation level as the Tremor.
- The Nethermancer gets a terrain modifier bonus to Defense because he is in Difficult Terrain.
- The Fallen is unaffected because he is on Elevated Terrain.

# GAMEPLAY / CLOSE COMBAT

**Close Combat:** Close Combat is a character's skill in hand-to-hand combat. Characters are in Close Combat when they are adjacent to an enemy character. Close Combat attacks are not affected by Difficult Terrain. If a character is on normal elevation and makes a Close Combat attack against a character on Elevated Terrain, the character on Elevated Terrain receives a +1 to Defense.



# GAMEPLAY / MOVEMENT

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A character can move a number of spaces equal to or less than their Move attribute. Moving diagonally counts as one space.

**Movement and Allied Characters:** A character can move through a space with an ally character, but cannot end their movement on the same space as an ally.

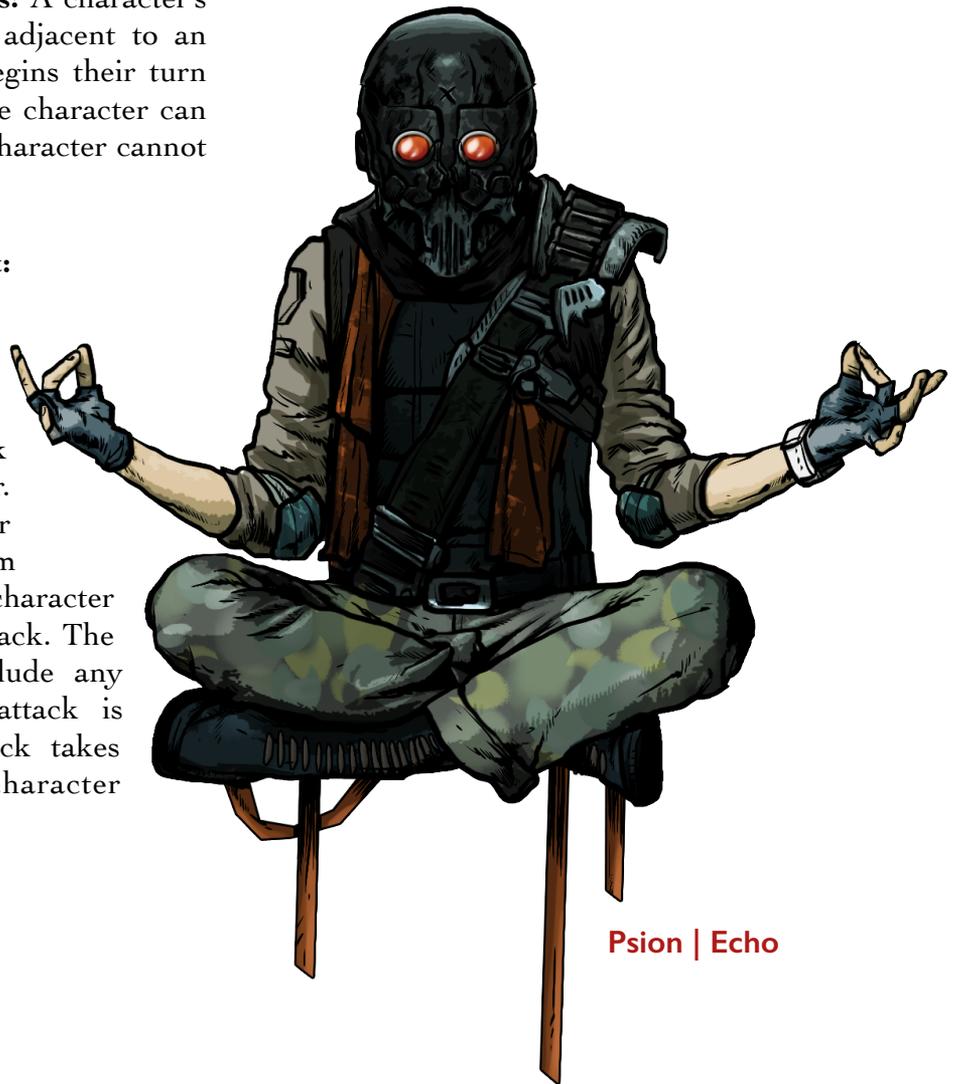
**Movement and Enemy Characters:** A character's move ends if they enter a space adjacent to an enemy character. If a character begins their turn adjacent to an enemy character, the character can move freely around the enemy. A character cannot move through an enemy character.

## Withdrawing from Close Combat:

When a character moves away from and is no longer adjacent to an enemy character, the enemy character can make a free, immediate Close Combat attack against the withdrawing character. If more than one enemy character would be granted a free attack from the withdrawing character, each character makes their own Close Combat attack. The Close Combat attack cannot include any abilities. If the Close Combat attack is successful, the result of the attack takes place after the withdrawing character completes their action.

**Movement and Terrain:** Movement is modified based on terrain type as follows [Terrain, p. 10]:

- 2 Move to enter a Difficult Terrain space;
- 2 Move to enter a Water Terrain space;
- 2 Move to enter or exit Elevated Terrain;
- Cannot occupy Blocking Terrain.



# GAMEPLAY / MOVEMENT

The Fallen spends 4 Move:

- 2 to enter a Water Terrain space;
- 2 to climb up an Elevated Terrain space;
- The Fallen must stop when he moves adjacent to an enemy character.

The Carnage spends 4 Move:

- 1 enter a Clear Terrain space;
- 2 to climb up an Elevated Terrain space;
- 1 to move from one Elevated Terrain space to another Elevated Terrain space.
- The Carnage must stop when he moves adjacent to an enemy character.

The Nethermancer spends 2 Move:

- 2 to enter a Difficult Terrain space.

When the Nethermancer moves away from the Death Vine, the Death Vine gets a free, immediate Close Combat attack.

Character cards shown: FALLEN (Elevated, Water), CARNAGE (Elevated, Clear), NETHERMANCER (Elevated, Difficult), DEATH VINE (Elevated, Difficult).

# GAMEPLAY / ABILITIES

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Each character has unique abilities. Rules for abilities are described in detail in Faction Guides. **For What Remains** is an exception based game. That means that special rules for abilities always overrule the general rules presented in this rulebook. If the effects of two abilities are ever in conflict, the ability that benefits the defender trumps the ability that benefits the attacker.

Each ability consists of three components: the ability name, type, and description. The ability type provides a guide as to the key attribute used for the ability. For example, the Earth Travel ability is a Move ability. This means that to use the ability, the character must take a Move action.

Some abilities combine two types of actions. For example, the Charge ability is a Move - Close Combat action. Characters can use these types of abilities with a single action. Some abilities, such as Heal, are classified as Special abilities. These abilities still require an action to be used, but they are not associated with attributes. Characters can only use one ability at a time.

**Passive Abilities:** Some ability types include the Passive classification, such as Stoneskin. Passive abilities are always in effect. Characters do not have to take actions to benefit from these abilities.

Ability Name	Ability Type	Description
Charge	Move - Close Combat	The Fallen can Move and then make Close Combat attack. The Fallen cannot Move and make a Close Combat attack against a character it started its turn adjacent to.
Earth Travel	Move	The Geomancer can Move through Difficult, Elevated, and Water Terrain with no increase to Move cost.
Heal	Special	The Geomancer can flip an allied <b>Earth</b> character's counter (including its own counter) from injured to healthy if the target is within Weapon Range and line of sight.
Stoneskin	Special (Passive)	If the Tremor is injured by an attack, roll one die. If the result is 8 - 10, ignore the injury.

Sample Abilities from the Erthen and Order Factions

# GAMEPLAY / HUGE CHARACTERS

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“Huge” is an ability shared by multiple characters. The Huge ability is associated with the size of a character. Huge characters occupy 4 spaces and have special rules as outlined below.

**Movement:** When moving a huge character, choose one space as the point of origin for the movement and use it to count how many spaces the character moves. A huge character must end their move with all four of their spaces on the same elevation level. Huge characters can move through Difficult and Water Terrain and climb up and down Elevated Terrain with no movement penalties, unlike normal characters.

**Enemy Characters on Elevated Terrain:** If a Huge character is on normal elevation and makes a Close Combat attack against an enemy character on Elevated Terrain, the target of the attack does not receive the typical +1 Defense bonus unless the target is also a Huge character.

**Ranged Combat Attacks:** Any space of a huge character’s token can be the point of origin for a Ranged Combat attack. Any space of the huge character’s token can be the target of an attack.

Ranged Combat attacks against huge characters are not subject to terrain modifiers. Ranged Combat attacks from a huge character are subject to terrain modifiers only if a target is normal size and standing in a Difficult Terrain space. Ranged Combat attacks from and against huge characters are subject to character modifiers only if the attack passes through another huge character.

**Scavenge Tokens:** If a Huge character is carrying a scavenge token and is defeated, the player controlling the Huge character decides which of the character’s spaces the scavenge token should be placed in.

**Starting Areas:** If Huge characters are unable to start within two spaces of the edge of the battleground, place them as close to the edge as possible.



Tremor | Erthen

# GAMEPLAY / HUGE CHARACTERS

**ABOMINATION**

The Abomination spends 4 Move:

- 1 to enter a Difficult Terrain space;
- 1 to enter a Clear Terrain space.
- 1 to climb up an Elevated Terrain space;
- 1 to move from one Elevated Terrain space to another Elevated Terrain space.

The Abomination can move freely over the Difficult and Elevated Terrain spaces; do not add extra Move.

The Abomination cannot move to this position and end its turn on two different elevations.

# CAMPAIGNS

Campaigns are a series of scenarios connected by a common theme. Included with this game is the *Out of the Basement* campaign. It is the third and final part in the larger *Semipalatinisk Legacy* storyline that takes place across all of the **For What Remains** games.

## Force Roster

A Force Roster is a list of characters available to a player for the campaign. Players name their characters and track their progress through the campaign on the Force Roster. At the beginning of the campaign, all characters begin at Recruit level. Only two characters of the same type may be on a Force Roster at any time. For example, a player controlling the Erthen could have one Elite Death Vine and one Veteran Death Vine in their Force. You can download blank Force Rosters at [www.skirmishtactics.com](http://www.skirmishtactics.com).

## Advancing Characters

After completing a scenario, players earn experience points equal to the number of skirmish points used in the scenario. A player can advance any character on their Force Roster by spending an amount of experience points equal to the character's next level. For example, a player could advance a Recruit Death Vine to their Veteran level by spending four experience points. A character can only advance one level after a scenario (they cannot advance from Recruit to Elite).

### Character Advancement Example

The players have completed a 10 skirmish point scenario. Each player is given 10 experience points at the end of the scenario to advance their characters. The player controlling the Erthen decides to spend 4 of the experience points to advance the Death Vine to Veteran level. The player updates their Force Roster to reflect the advancement. The player still has 6 more experience points to spend on advancing other characters on their Force Roster.

DEATH VINE	RECRUIT 2	VETERAN 4	ELITE 6
MOV	5	5	5
WR	2	3	3
CC	2	3	4
RC	2	3	4
DEF	4	5	6
	Camouflage	Camouflage	Camouflage
	Constrict	Constrict	Constrict
		Hydro Merge	Hydro Merge
<b>EARTH / NETHER</b>			

# CAMPAIGNS

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## **Injured Characters**

Characters are healed between scenarios. They always begin scenarios at full health for their level.

## **Defeated Characters**

A character that is defeated during a scenario (removed from the battleground) remains on the Force Roster, and can be advanced as normal.

## **Victory Points**

Players typically score Victory Points during each scenario to determine the winner of the scenario. Some scenarios have special win conditions. Winning a scenario usually has implications on subsequent scenarios.

## **Campaigns with Experienced Characters**

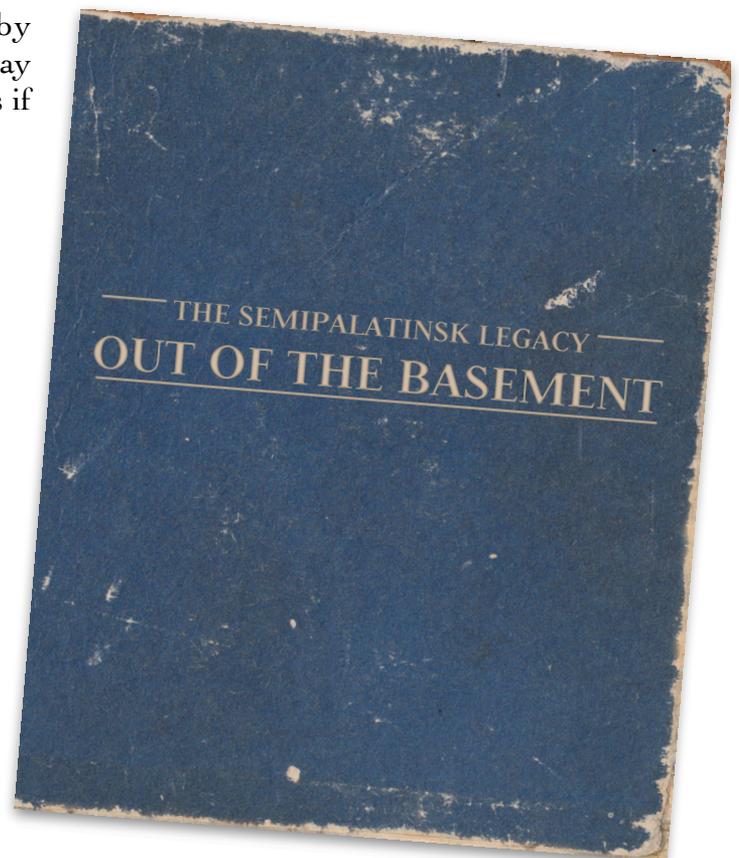
Campaigns are designed so that players start with Recruit characters and advance them by completing scenarios. However, you can play through campaigns using experienced characters if both players agree to this change.

## **Modifying Skirmish Points**

If you do play with characters that have already advanced in level, you will also want to increase the Skirmish Point values for the scenarios. You can use any value that both players agree to, but if you're using a Force Roster from a completed campaign, it is recommended that you use 30 Skirmish Points for the scenarios.

## **Scenarios as Skirmishes**

You can use the scenarios presented in campaigns as stand-alone skirmishes. When you play the scenarios in this manner, you are not limited to selecting characters from a Force Roster, and you can choose any Skirmish Point value the players agree to.



# SOLITAIRE PLAY

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To play **For What Remains** solitaire, use the instructions provided in this rulebook with the additions below.

When playing solitaire, there are two changes to the game:

- Action tokens for the solitaire AI, and
- The AI activation system.

**Action Tokens:** The player manages their action tokens as described on page 12 without any changes. However, the AI uses a modified system for choosing action tokens.

**Select Action Tokens:** The number of action tokens used by the AI per round is determined by difficulty level:

- **Easy:** Number of characters on the battleground +1
- **Moderate:** Number of characters on the battleground +2
- **Difficult:** Number of characters on the battleground +3

Shuffle all of the AI's actions tokens together and place a number of tokens equal to the difficulty level in the action bag.

**Exhaust Action Tokens:** The AI's action tokens are not exhausted. Instead, as they are drawn from the action bag they are immediately shuffled back into the AI's action token supply.

**Defeated Characters:** When an AI character is defeated, their action tokens are removed from the game.

**Faction Action Token:** Do not use the Faction Action Token for the AI. When one of the AI's characters is defeated, there are no special rules.

## Round Example

Paul is playing against the AI on Moderate difficulty. Paul is controlling the Erthen in a 10 skirmish point scenario in *The Semipalatinsk Legacy: Out of the Basement* campaign. The campaign guide instructs Paul on the AI's character selection and battleground configuration. Paul spends his 10 skirmish points to select four characters.

In the first round, Paul selects four action tokens to place in the action bag, because he has four characters on the battleground. He has all twelve actions tokens associated with his characters in his action token supply to choose from. He selects three Death Vine action tokens and one Geomancer action token. He places all four action tokens in the action bag. The scenario instructs Paul to play with five Order characters. Because Paul is playing on Moderate difficulty, he randomly selects seven action tokens from the Order action token supply and places them in the action bag (five for the characters on the battleground + 2 for Moderate difficulty).

Paul draws pulls a Death Vine action token from the action bag. He performs a Move action with the Death Vine. Paul then draws an action token that matches one of the Order characters. Paul uses the AI activation system to determine the Order character's actions, and then Paul immediately shuffles the Order action token back into the AI's action token supply.

This continues until all action tokens have been drawn. Paul has no action tokens in the exhausted action token area because it's the first round. Had there been, Paul would have moved the action tokens already in the exhausted action token area to his action token supply. Paul's action tokens that were drawn from the action bag during the round are moved to the exhausted action token area.

The next round begins.

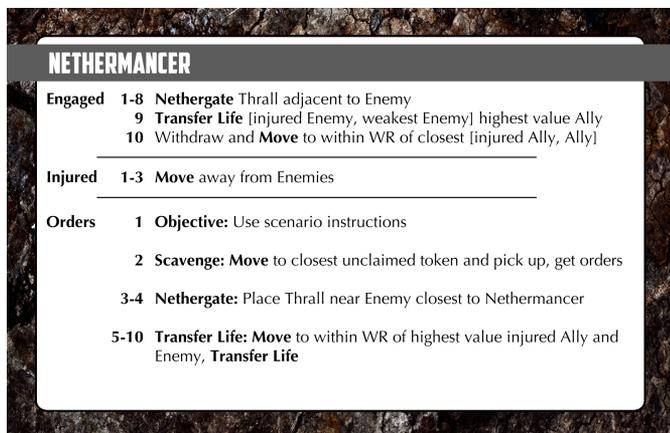
# SOLITAIRE PLAY / ACTIVATION SYSTEM

Each character in **For What Remains** has a unique AI activation card, which provides instructions for how to play the character when their action token is drawn. Each activation card is broken into three sections: Engaged, Injured, and Orders.

To determine what action a character will take, you start from the top of the activation card and work your way down, until the character takes an action. A detailed description of each action is provided on the AI reference sheet.

**Engaged:** First, check to see if the character is engaged. A character is engaged if they are adjacent to an enemy character. If they are engaged, roll one die and check the result.

**Injured:** If the character is not engaged, check to see if they are injured. A character is injured if their top counter is flipped to their injured side. If they are injured, roll one die and check the result. If the result is higher than the number range listed or if the character cannot perform the action, move on to orders.



**Orders:** If a character does not perform an engaged or injured action, they will perform an order. Roll one die and check the result. Orders last until the character completes the order, the character becomes engaged or injured, or when the character can no longer complete their orders. For example, if a character's order is "Scavenge: Move to the closest unclaimed token and pick up, get orders" the character will begin the order and will continue to follow this order over multiple activations until they have picked up a scavenge token. At that point, a roll is made to determine the character's new orders. When a die roll results in an order that is not applicable, skip the order and go to the next highest order. For example, if you were using a Nethermancer with the activation card below and rolled a 1 for their order, they would be directed to complete a scenario-specific objective. However, if the scenario didn't have a unique objective, or if the character could not complete the objective, they would shift to the next higher result. In this case, they would try to scavenge. If all scavenge tokens had been claimed, they would use Nethergate.

## The Solitaire Golden Rule

Although the AI system accounts for most situations, there will inevitably be times when you must make decisions for AI characters. When in doubt, make the decision that is most advantageous for the AI character based on your judgement.

Characters will always take advantage of Difficult Terrain whenever it does not slow down their orders. Characters without Ranged Combat attacks will move to deny line of sight to their enemies when it does not slow down their orders.

# SOLITAIRE PLAY / CAMPAIGNS

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## Common Key Terms Used in Orders

Many orders refer to closest characters, highest value characters, and weakest characters. Those concepts are defined below.

**Closest Character:** Characters often target the closest character. If two or more characters are equal distance away, target the highest value character if the targets are allies. Target the weakest character if the targets are enemies.

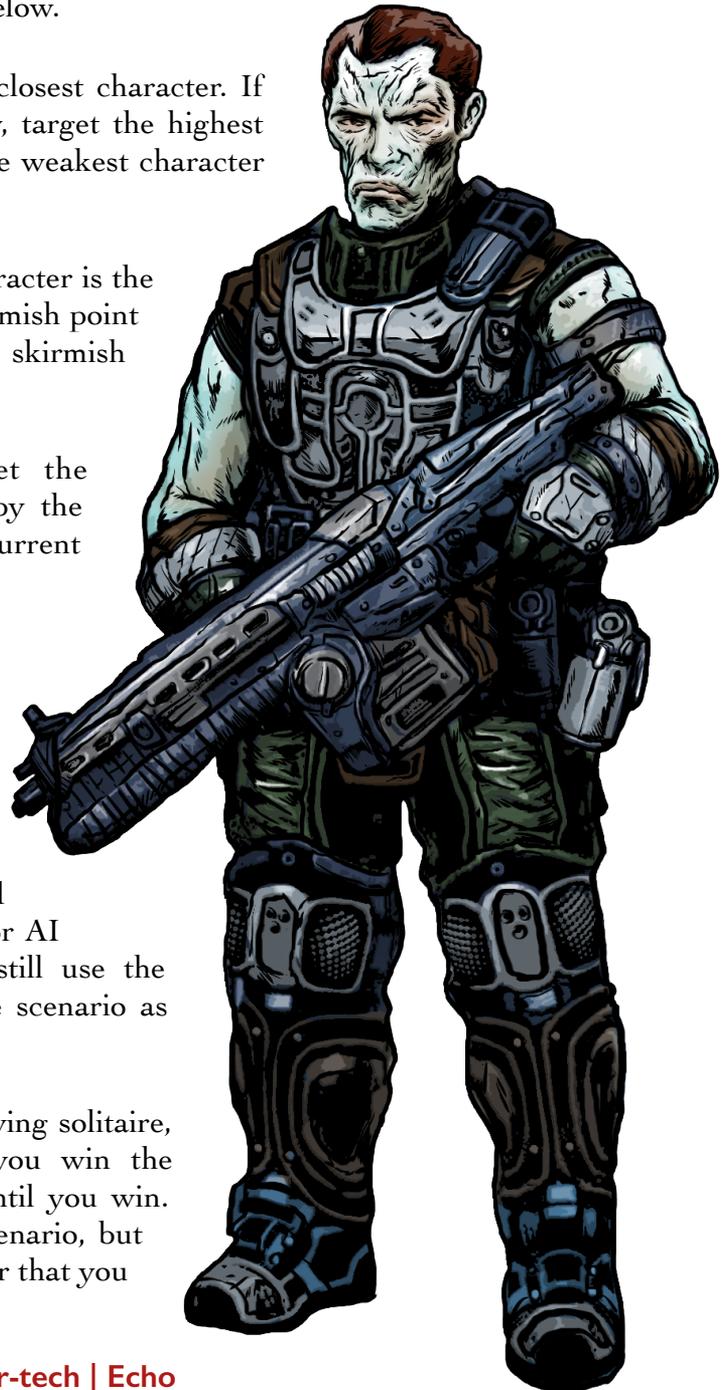
**Highest Value Character:** The highest value character is the character whose current level has the highest skirmish point value. If two or more characters have an equal skirmish point value, determine the character randomly.

**Weakest Character:** Characters often target the weakest enemy. Weakest character is defined by the following criteria, in this order: injured, lowest current level, lowest Defense.

## Solitaire Campaigns

You can play through campaigns in solitaire mode, using either faction in the campaign guide. Each scenario is followed by information for solitaire play, including the battleground configuration, the AI characters that are used, the starting areas for the player and AI characters, and the special objective orders for AI activation cards. When playing solitaire, you still use the skirmish point value and win conditions for the scenario as normal.

**Progressing Through the Campaign:** When playing solitaire, you only progress through the campaign if you win the scenario. If you lose the scenario, play again until you win. Alternatively, you can skip ahead to the next scenario, but must treat the result as if you had won. Remember that you can adjust the difficulty in solitaire play.



Nether-tech | Echo

# HOW THINGS CAME TO BE

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On 19 September 1957, a nuclear weapon called Plumbbob Rainier was detonated 275 meters below ground at the Nevada Test Site in the United States. This was the first nuclear test conducted by the US where the explosion was entirely contained underground, producing no fallout. It was also the first nuclear detonation to open a gateway to the Netherscape, an alternate dimension more commonly referred to as the Basement.

The US sent in teams of investigators and military special forces to determine the nature of the Basement. The teams learned that the Basement was not of this world or reality. The nuclear detonation had torn a hole through a fragile veil that separated the two dimensions. Later research revealed that brief alignments between the dimensions had allowed beings to cross between the two dimensions in the past, but only for short periods. This led to creatures of the Basement being mistaken for demons, ghosts, and monsters throughout Earth's history.



Dust raised by *Plumbbob Rainier*

**19 September 1957**  
US creates first gate to the Basement.  
Begins investigations.

**February 1958**  
The first US team is sent into the Basement to begin mapping.

**1959 - 1963**  
Major nuclear powers learn about the Basement and begin creating their own gates.

**1961**  
First chimera identified.

**5 August 1963**  
Limited Test Ban Treaty signed.

**1960s - 1980s**  
Nuclear powers race to gain access to the Basement and secure resources.

**June 1990**  
First contact with a Nethermancer. Most of the investigation team is killed in the encounter.

**10 September 1996**  
Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Signed.

**September 1998**  
A heavily armed expedition team captures a Nethermancer, though half the team is killed and the other half eventually becomes chimeras. A young but brilliant biokineticist, Bruno Pontecorvo, proposes a project to fuse the Nethermancer's genetics with humans. The proposal is denied.

# HOW THINGS CAME TO BE

Efforts to explore and map the Basement proved difficult and deadly. The physical features of the Basement changed unpredictably with each new expedition, and scientists deduced the dimension was psycho-reactive. Metals and minerals unique to the Basement were found, leading to increased interest. Additional nuclear tests were conducted. Some were for routine testing of nuclear weapons, but most were attempts to duplicate the conditions for creating a gateway to the Basement.

During expeditions in the Basement, many different creatures were discovered. These monsters were avoided whenever possible, but if any were engaged in combat and captured they were brought back to the surface for examination. Scientists realized the physiology of these Nether-beasts would not allow them to live on the Earth's surface for extended periods.



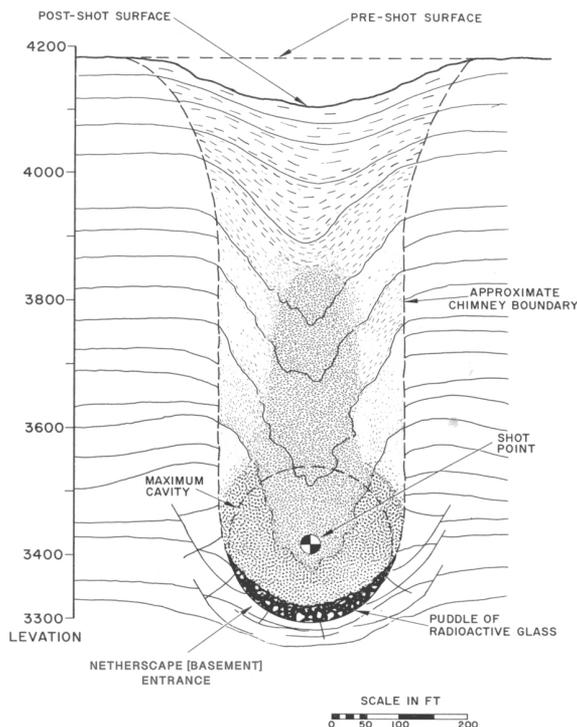
Carnage | Order of the New Dawn

- 9 October 2006**  
North Korea conducts its first underground nuclear test.
- 25 May 2009**  
North Korea conducts second underground nuclear test.
- 12 February 2013**  
North Korea conducts third underground nuclear detonation. Creates a gate to the Basement.
- January 2014**  
North Korean exploration team - accompanied by a diplomatic delegation - makes contact with a Nethermancer cabal.
- September 2021**  
Final plans are made for the alliance between North Korea, Algeria, Pakistan, Iran, and the Nethermancers.
- January 2022**  
Nether-beasts emerge en masse on Earth's surface. Truth of the Basement becomes public knowledge.
- April 2022**  
United States, Canada, Australia, most of Europe, and China form the World Alliance. A secretive agency called Department B initiates PROJECT CAPRICORN. Bruno Pontecorvo becomes director of Department B's research and development group.
- August 2022**  
The World Alliance issues an order to identify and imprison all chimera. Bands of vigilante "clean people" begin roaming the streets, hunting the "impure."

# HOW THINGS CAME TO BE

Eventually the secret leaked out and other nuclear powers discovered the truth of the Basement. Nuclear testing increased worldwide. Atmospheric, exoatmospheric, and underwater tests were all conducted with the intention of trying to open a gate to the Basement; all met with failure. Only contained, underground tests were successful.

In 1963, all nuclear powers signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty, pledging to refrain from testing nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, underwater, and in outer space. Ostensibly this was for safety reasons. However, the truth was the nuclear powers were focusing their efforts on accessing the Basement and its apparent riches. Explorers also discovered they could enter gateways to the Basement on one part of Earth and exit through a gateway elsewhere on Earth. This led nations to seek secret access points into other countries. While most of the world watched the Space Race from the late 1950s through the 1970s, the real war for supremacy was being waged by the world's foremost superpowers to discover the truths of the Basement.



Netherscape entrance schematic

## November 2022

Department B's experimental quick reaction force, Tactical Response Unit (TRU) Echo, leads the first major successful campaign into the Netherscape.

## 12 December 2022

A strategic nuclear weapon is used by Russia against a horde of Nether-beasts massing along the Russia-Kazakhstan border. First use of nuclear weapons during the war.

## May 2023

Bruno Pontecorvo presents Report 696, mocked by his detractors as Report 666, in which he posits that mankind cannot counter the Nether-beasts with a conventional response. Pontecorvo proposes the development of a new race of creatures specifically designed to operate in the Basement.

## August 2023

Department B operatives infiltrate the highest levels of the World Alliance government and authorizes Project 696. Pontecorvo works with genetic engineers to develop a race of humanoids made from human, mineral, and organic matter fused with genetic makeup of Nether-beasts. These creatures are called *Ertben* and are sent to the front line battles in the Netherscape.

## 2024

The first Armored Robotic Manned Systems (ARMS) are developed by the Combined Forces of the World Alliance. Cybernetic enhancements are also developed.

# HOW THINGS CAME TO BE

The ties between the two dimensions were strengthened with each new gateway created. This gave Nether-beasts the ability to live for longer periods of time on the Earth's surface.

Many of the specialized teams sent into the Basement began experiencing strange illnesses. Eventually it was discovered the Basement could lead to permanent mutation, with humans taking on Nether-beast characteristics. These people were dubbed chimera. Some humans were able to deal with their mutations, while others succumbed to the Basement's derangements.

Intelligent humanoids (called Nethermancers) were discovered - first by the Chinese, but eventually by most of the nuclear powers.

Nethermancers possessed the ability to communicate telepathically with humans, but it was clear their intentions were hostile. Some early attempts were made to reason and negotiate with the Nethermancers, but all these attempts came to disastrous ends.



Nethermancer | Order of the New Dawn

2025

Major monotheistic religions announce that the End of Times has begun. A religious movement forms across the world, denouncing mankind's reliance on technology and lack of faith in God. This movement evolves overtime and eventually a militant splinter group becomes the *Soldiers of Light*.

July 2026

Bruno Pontecorvo takes over as Director of Department B. TRU Echo creates secret laboratories on the highest levels of the Basement and begins work on a project called ETERNAL LIGHT, which is focused on the development of psychic and psionic abilities.

2026

The World Alliance and Department B launch Operation ODIN'S HAMMER. In a single day, thousands of Erthen march into the Basement. The operation continues for six months, with Erthen seeking out and destroying Nether-beasts. For the World Alliance, the operation is a massive success. For the Erthen, it is a massacre.

2027

After years of being used as fodder, the Erthen revolt against the World Alliance and establish biospheres under the Earth's surface. They also destroy most of TRU Echo's secret laboratories.

2028

Algeria and Pakistan become failed states. Iran re-aligns itself with the World Alliance. North Korea and the Nethermancers escalate warfare and gain the upper-hand in most theaters of the war.

# HOW THINGS CAME TO BE

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By the 1990s, most of the nuclear powers realized the dangers of the Basement outweighed the potential gains. The Comprehensive Test Ban was signed by most of the nuclear powers in 1996. Only North Korea continued to conduct underground nuclear tests into the 2000s. In 2013, North Korea made contact with a powerful cabal of Nethermancers who ruled over large swaths of the Basement. For the first time, humans successfully negotiated with Nethermancers.

A deal was struck, whereby the North Koreans worked with their allies - which included radicals from Algeria, Pakistan, and Iran - to create more gates. Thousands of Nether-beasts crossed through the gates and worked in concert with their human allies.

Nations across the world came together to battle the threat. The US, Canada, Australia, much of Europe, and China formed the World Alliance. During the early years of what came to be called the Final War, the World Alliance initiated a series of programs under the umbrella term PROJECT CAPRICORN. Some of these programs dated back to early research on the Basement, while others were advanced military weapon systems.

In the end, the World Alliance resorted to nuclear weapons in order to defeat the Nether-beasts. While almost all the gates to the Basement were closed, most of Earth and mankind was destroyed.

The year is 2035. The world lies in ruin. The remnants of humanity fight amongst themselves as well as against the surviving Nether-beasts and the creations that emerged from PROJECT CAPRICORN, struggling to emerge as the victors in a desperate fight for survival.

2030

On the verge of a catastrophic loss, the World Alliance resorts to widespread use of nuclear weapons. Most gates to the Netherscape are destroyed. The main threat is defeated, but little of humanity remains.

2031

Remnants of the World Alliance establish a loose knit federation of citadels. They are ruled under martial law by the *Combine*.

2031

The Combine discovers Bruno Pontecorvo's secrets and begins hunting him and remaining TRU Echo personnel as outlaws.

2032

Surviving members of TRU Echo go into hiding and refer to themselves as *Echo*. Bruno Pontecorvo is mortally wounded, but his consciousness lives on through the secrets of Project ETERNAL LIGHT. He continues to lead Echo.

2033

Large scale revolts erupt against the Combine. Although scattered and possessing little command and control capability, these groups establish a viable rebellion. They are collectively called the *Freemen Coalition*.

2035

After years in hiding following the World Alliance's nuclear assault, Nether-beasts begin to reemerge from the few remaining gates to the Basement. They join forces with the remaining elements of the Nethermancers who had allied with the North Koreans. Their goal is to eradicate humanity so they can establish a new home. They call themselves the *Order of the New Dawn*.

# FINAL THOUGHTS

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For What Remains is the realization of over ten years of design and development. It started in 2008 as a design called Project Capricorn: Apocalypse. It was the first game I ever created, and I began the process before I was really familiar with the modern board game hobby. Its inspirations include a wide range of games that had an impact on my early life — Dungeons & Dragons, Blood Bowl, Mage Knight (the clix game, not the board game!), and tactical RPG computer games like Ogre Battle and Final Fantasy Tactics.

From 2008 to 2012, I continued to work on the design, and it was renamed to Skirmish Tactics Apocalypse. During this time I met frequently with my close friend Walter “Lex” Avellaneda, who served as my primary playtester, and as my sounding board for game design concepts. It was also during this period that I was introduced to the board gaming hobby. This introduction came through a podcast called The Secret Cabal, which I had been listening to because of their tabletop RPG content. The podcast led me to Board Game Geek (BGG), where I shared Skirmish Tactics on the game design forums.

One of the first people to respond to the thread on BGG was Ricardo Tomas. Ricardo became the biggest supporter of Skirmish Tactics, and his help was critical in building the foundation of the game. In 2013, the design team expanded to include a group of gamers in Singapore. This group — Paul Low, Clarence Lee, Chia Zhi Yi, and Joshua Yong — emerged as the critical core development group for testing balance, degenerate strategies, and the like.

The period of 2014 - 2018 was one of relative quiet for Skirmish Tactics. It was during this time that I was discovering more about the board game hobby, designing other games, and honestly I was becoming a little disillusioned about the game. Not because I didn't love it, but because it was always envisioned as a skirmish combat board game. When I first conceived of the idea, there were few of those — and those that did exist I didn't know about. By the time I had really come into the hobby and could potentially pitch the game to publishers, there were dozens of skirmish combat miniatures board games on Kickstarter each day (I'm exaggerating of course, but only by a bit).

Then something interesting happened in late 2018. I was interviewed by A Wargamers Needful Things about my game Pavlov's House. In the interview, Mike Wall asked about the status of Skirmish Tactics Apocalypse getting published, and I replied that I really didn't know what the future would hold for the design. Sarah Eandi — who is in charge of customer service at DVG (she's the BEST in the biz, by the way, and it's not close) — read the interview and suggested I present the game to Dan Verssen (the owner of DVG). Dan signed the game. But that's not the end of the story.

I needed to improve the design. I wanted the game to be as good as possible, so I developed a new chit pull activation system and a “step loss” system that integrates level advancement and injury. Lastly, I set to work on a solitaire AI system designed to feel as much like the 2-player competitive experience as possible. The final result is something I'm proud of, and I think it will provide an opponent that feels organic and genuinely reflects the sensibilities of each faction and character.

Over the last year, I have worked with Paul Low (of the Singapore group) and Ricardo Tomas to transform Skirmish Tactics Apocalypse into For What Remains. Paul led the development, testing, and balancing of characters across the six factions, while Ricardo served as a creative lead on the campaign's story. I've worked on a lot of games, with a lot of designers and developers, but I've never been part of a more amazing team than the one Paul, Ricardo, and I have formed during this last stretch of development for For What Remains.

I hope you enjoy playing this game as much as we enjoyed making it.

—David Thompson



# FOR WHAT REMAINS - OUT OF THE BASEMENT -

