

ANTIDAR WILLIAMS

LIEUTENANT, REPUBLIC JUDICIAL FORCES

History is replete with heroes. Some have the most recognizable of names, whether those names are Annikin Skywalker, Luke Skywalker, or Ussej Padric Bac. Some heroes, however, are the unsung heroes, those whose sacrifices enabled certain events to transpire or certain individuals to perform great deeds. One of these unsung heroes was the Human man Antidar Williams, whom we now consider to be one of the first casualties of what became the destructive Clone Wars. Little do most people know that his death was what set Obi-Wan Kenobi onto the path of becoming the greatest friend Annikin Skywalker ever had.



Antidar's story began on Barkesh, in the year 51 before the Battle of Yavin. Throughout his childhood, he heard stories of his father's adventures piloting transport vessels, shipping the Barkesh Insect Culture bug repellent throughout the Outer Rim Territories. Whether his father's stories involved uneventful flights or ones where he came head to head with pirate raiders, Antidar always knew that a pilot's life awaited him. He yearned for the adventure and excitement that came with such a profession, though he had no idea that it would one day take him all the way to the Republic, a place so far away from his Outer Rim home.

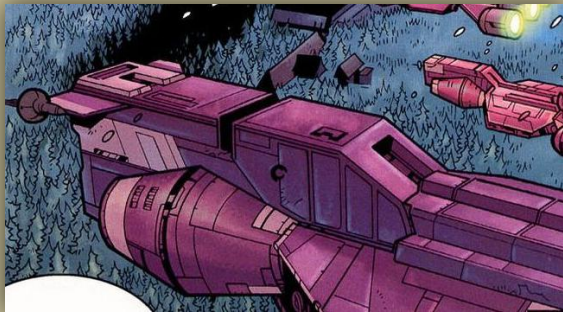
It was just after his sixteenth birthday when Antidar decided it was time to join his father's profession. By that time, his father was the captain of his own Barkesh Insect Culture transport vessel, so Antidar had no problems becoming a member of its crew. For seven years, Antidar gained both the piloting and tactical experience he would use later in his life, fending off minor raids while delivering the highest quality product to customers throughout the Outer Rim. He saw more worlds and more different peoples than he ever thought possible, and he wanted more.

Twenty-six years before the Battle of Yavin, just after Antidar turned twenty-five, the thrill-seeking young pilot participated in his first major battle against pirate raiders, a far cry from the small-time raids he had become accustomed to over the years. He relished in the thrill of the battle, successfully aiding his crew in fending off the raiders. It was then that he realized he had a calling greater than transporting insect repellent throughout the Outer Rim.

With his father's blessings, Antidar ventured to Coruscant and enlisted in the Republic Judicial Forces, offering his services as a pilot. During his four month long training, Antidar chose to specialize in piloting ambassadorial vessels, hoping to be part of the most important missions undertaken by the Republic. When

his training was over, he became a co-pilot on the *Knighthood*, serving aboard the vessel for a number of years. By the end of those years, though, he was beginning to think he made a mistake. Working with his father, he constantly had to be on alert for raiders. With the Republic, however, there were no conflicts, just transport jobs. It was a far cry from what he had expected.

That all changed in the year 23 before the Battle of Yavin. The Yinchorri Uprising had been raging for some time, finding the Republic and the Jedi Order caught up in the minor conflict against the Yinchorri High Command and the planet Yinchorr. After suffering a brutal loss on the planet, Jedi scouts located the secret war-time headquarters of the High Command on Uhanayih. The Jedi sent a small team to infiltrate the base and end the conflict, while Supreme Chancellor Valorum, then caught up in an emerging sex scandal, was able to convince the Galactic Senate to send a fleet of five cruisers to aid the infiltration.



One of the vessels was the *Acceptance*, the vessel's name having been changed from *Knighthood* after its assignment became one of attempting to accept new planets into the Republic. Antidar, having become the head pilot of the vessel, helped pilot the ship through the ensuing battle. The Republic fleet had blockaded the planet to prevent any Yinchorri from escaping, though a Yinchorri fleet fought back. It was,

nevertheless, destroyed, allowing the Jedi to move to the surface and infiltrate the base. Aiding in the infiltration was the Republic fleet, which made its way through the atmosphere to give the Jedi any necessary cover.

Within an hour, the High Command's base had been successfully infiltrated, and its members taken into custody. The Jedi strike team was picked up by the cruiser *Radiant VII*. Under the command of Captain Maoi Madakor, the vessel was typically a diplomatic cruiser, though it was assigned by the Senate to serve during the Battle of Uhanayih. As the *Radiant VII* picked the Jedi team up, Antidar piloted the *Acceptance* back into orbit, where it and the two other vessels with it were confronted by a Yinchorri battle cruiser that had arrived to reinforce the now-defeated Yinchorri fleet.

A small skirmish ensued between the forces, and the Yinchorri vessel seemed to be outnumbered and outgunned. Nevertheless, the *Acceptance* took a hit directly to its engines, causing fatal damage to the vessel. Despite Antidar's best efforts, the *Acceptance* began a descent towards the planet, speeding towards the surface where it would undoubtedly crash. Knowing that there was no way to stop the descent, Antidar set the ship onto



an angle where it would safely, albeit roughly, crash land on the surface, sparing as many lives as possible. No sooner had the vessel landed, however, did the crew receive a distress call from the *Radiant VII* pilot, who said that a small Yinchorri strike force was holding some of the crew, including Madakor, hostage.

Taking his own men into the fray, Antidar was able to get a jump on the Yinchorri hostage takers, killing them and successfully freeing the *Radiant VII* crew members. Madakor was eternally grateful for Antidar's help, but more so she was impressed with his piloting abilities after learning the fate of the *Acceptance*. The *Radiant VII* transported the surviving *Acceptance* crew members to Coruscant, where Antidar was honored with the Chancellor's Service Medal, the highest honor that could be bestowed upon a member of the Judicial Forces, for his actions in the crash landing and the rescue of the *Radiant VII* hostages.

Following the battle's aftermath, Antidar was honorably discharged from the Judicial Forces. While he considered reenlisting, he instead decided to return home and take over his father's shipping business. His father had died a few months earlier, and the business was falling into shambles without a Williams to steer it. He was able to keep the company successful for the next year, at which time he received a communiqué from Maoi Madakor, requesting that he serve as her co-pilot during a top secret transport mission to Utapau. Antidar agreed, having gained a great deal of respect for Madakor during the Battle of Uhanayih, and told his crew members that he had be back as soon as possible, not realizing he would not be able to keep that promise.

Upon his return to Coruscant, Antidar was informed that the Trade Federation had blockaded Utapau a month earlier, leaving the planet helpless in the face of the Federation's massive droid army. All negotiations had failed, and Republic military sources believed that an invasion was imminent. Without the approval of the Galactic Senate, Chancellor Valorum commissioned two Jedi ambassadors, Jar Jar Dooku and Obi-Wan Kenobi, to travel to Utapau aboard the *Radiant VII* in order to negotiate a settlement. Madakor would continue to command the vessel while Williams piloted it.



The vessel reached Utapau nearly a day after it left Coruscant, and it was immediately granted access to the *Saak'ak*, the Federation command vessel in orbit of Utapau, by Federation Viceroy Nute Gunray. Once the two Jedi had left the vessel and were escorted elsewhere, the Federation turned its sights on the *Radiant VII*. The docking bay turrets fired upon the *Radiant VII*, destroying it. Williams and Madakor died instantly.

Despite the tragic outcome for the crew of the vessel, the two Jedi were able to successfully rescue Utapau's queen, Sabé Arcadia, from the Federation forces once they reached the surface. It was then that the Jedi

traveled to Tatooine, discovering Annikin Skywalker and beginning to unlock the mystery of his great destiny. For that reason, and the wonderful things that came from it, Antidar Williams, who always put the safety and well being of others before himself, would never have regretted joining Madakor on the mission.

It was that bravery that made me choose to chronicle Antidar for an entry in the Journal of the Whills.