



NAME: MALCOLM MCPHERSON

FACTION: Highlanders DOB: 01/17/3108 REGIMENT: Republican Guards HAIR: Blond VEHICLE: Thumper Artillery EYES: Green

Malcom McPherson is one of the hundreds who volunteered to fight by Tara Campbell's side in the newly formed Republican Guards, in the name of upholding the ideals of Devlin Stone and the crumbling Republic. Malcolm came from a tropical farming family on Addicks, so he didn't have to travel far to apply for membership in the Highlanders, since they defended his world against assault by the suddenly aggressive Dragon's Fury. Malcolm's mathematical and mechanical skills led him to train as an artillery crewman, and he served for several months as a gunner with

VEHICLE: THUMPER ARTILLERY

Record No FE-108-02

Record No FE-108-01

Serial Number: FWB034-002/1L Movement Type:

Mass: 60 tons



Wheeled

Power Plant: Strand 220 Fusion Cruising Speed: 43 kph Maximum Speed: 65 kph Armor: Durallex Heavy Armament:

- 1 Thumper Artillery Piece
- 2 Hellion c-II ER Small Lasers
- 4 Voelkers 200 Machine Guns

Record No FE-108-01 a mobile-artillery detachment before given the opportunity to command a Thumper Artillery Vehicle of his own.

Despite the relative inexperience of his regiment, Malcolm has already gained a reputation as one of the Highlanders' best artillery gunners. He can fire salvos faster, more accurately, and at closer range than any other known Thumper gunner. This apparently limits his field of fire and lowers his ground speed, however, prompting some to suggest that Malcolm's legendary gunnery skill may actually be the result of a sophisticated targeting computer rather than natural ability.

Based on the Star League-era Thor artillery tank, the Thumper Artillery Vehicle's ability to lay down accurate artillery fire even while on the move has made it the most common mobile support platform used today. Just before the Jihad, however, a new line of these vehicles was introduced among the ranks of House Marik's armed forces. It used Star

League technology and design concepts that many accused the Free Worlds League of obtaining through the fanatical Word of Blake.

The Thumper vehicle commanded by Malcolm McPherson,

nicknamed "Athena's Bow" by his crew, is one of these advanced designs. Serial number FWB034-002/1L was originally flagged for sale to the Blakists, but it was diverted back to the League military when the Jihad began. After the war, this tank was included in the Marik equipment turned over to The Republic upon its formation in 3081.