

Rogue Submarine Newsletter  
Volume 6  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2016

Rogue Readers,

Welcome to the sixth Rogue Submarine Newsletter! I appreciate your interest in the stories I write for you, and I hope to keep you entertained for many years.

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**1. Audio Books Update**

Since publishing *Rogue Betrayer* as an audio book a few months ago, I've seen enough positive movement in sales to signal that I should continue with the series. I'm hoping I'm witnessing logical behavior—people being more apt to invest time and money into an audio book if the complete series shows promise of being read. Makes sense. So let's see what happens.

[Paul Christy](#) has finished his narration of *Rogue Crusader*, which I expect to be ready for sale on Audible, iTunes, and Amazon within a couple weeks.

**2. Done – *Wrath of the Angel*.**

My first book of the Archangels' Wrath series, *Wrath of the Angel*, is published. I expect many Rogue Readers will view this as welcomed news—a distraction overcome—since it will allow me to return to the more important matters of the Rogue Submarine series.

**3. New imprint – Braveship Ventures.**

I'm impressed with the teamwork my network's grand poobah, Jeff Edwards, has achieved with his imprint, Stealth Books. I didn't know what an imprint was until he invited me to his. What it has meant is teamwork with a small group of authors—I read their books and they read mine. Then we sometimes give each other positive reviews, sometimes we give private critical feedback, and we sometimes place each other's teasers in our books. Sometimes we just give encouragement, and sometimes we do nothing for each other. What's it add up to?

Better writing and better sales. From the feedback, we improve. Knowing that authors we respect are going to read our books, we keep their scrutinizing eyes in mind as we draft the manuscripts. Finally, readers who enjoy our books get firsthand recommendations to books they may like from our end-matter teasers. That leads to sales to informed readers, which leads to happy readers, which inspires happy writers to write more for their happy readers.

Jeff is moving most of his crew's work to a new company called Braveship Books, which is one arm of a multi-media startup company called [Braveship Ventures](#). I normally yawn at the concept of a startup since committed financial suicide trying one of my own with a business model that was untenable in retrospect. In contrast to my folly, Braveship is coming out of Cal Tech, Stanford, and UPenn brains, and I suspect these smart people will get funded by smart money to do smart things. They've unlocked keys to predicting successful movie ventures, calling themselves "the *Moneyball* guys for film". They also want to explore synergies between gaming, movies, and books.

Imagine if you could take the place of Jake Slate or Terry Cahill and command the *Specter* or the *Goliath* against the Black Sea Fleet in a video game. I think that would be fun. A movie? Well, geez, doesn't every adventure author dream of that. Heck, maybe they'll sell Andrei and Mikhail dolphin action figures? I can dream, right?

#### **4. Naval technology update**

I thought I'd catch up on the state of railguns. I found an interesting article since I finished my last novel. It's great insight into limits on these gems. Luckily, everything I've hoped would be possible with the guns in *Rogue Fortress* and on the *Goliath* remain possible, but Pierre Renard's gang will have to replace the barrels "off screen" between missions. Apparently, the gun "eats" itself, scraping metal and turning it into a plasma that burns in that plume behind the projectile that looks like rocket exhaust but isn't. There's a cool picture in the article.

#### **[The Future of the Navy's Electromagnetic Railgun Could Be a Big Step Backwards](#)**

Railguns also require herculean power that only a *Burke* class destroyer can deliver in reality, for the present tested design. Um, please, nobody call my bluff on the *Goliath*! I've been intentionally wiggly about the size and mass of the rounds its railguns shoot. But I'll leave it to any geek who wishes to take three *Scorpène*-class submarine MESMA systems, one LM2500 Gas Turbine engine (it's an oldie but a goodie), and determine how much power they together could charge into one capacitor every five seconds for each shot.

Well, I guess I could just look it up myself. Here goes. The latest generation of the LM2500, which is a good proxy for the turbine in the *Goliath* (and would be its turbine, if I were ever forced to declare it) puts out 35.3 megawatts. That's 35.3 megajoules per second, which is plenty for the railgun. The monsters on the *Burke*, which are bigger than those of the *Goliath*, use 32 megajoules per shot. So, in theory, that's more than enough energy to shoot a round per second. I've got the railguns on the *Goliath* limited to one round every five seconds. I got lucky

that a gas turbine provides enough power since I don't know how much power each MESMA system provides other than "3 weeks of patrol time" for a *Scorpène*-class submarine.

### **5. *Scorpène*-class compromised**

I'm not sure what to make of this yet, but I found it interesting that supposed security secrets relating to the Indian *Scorpènes* (and therefore every *Scorpène*?) was hacked.

#### [Scorpène Submarines Data Leak](#)

They're calling it a "massive breach."

### **6. *Adventure Writer's Competition***

I'm happy to say that *Rogue Fortress* is a 2016 Clive Cussler Collector Society Adventure Writer's Competition Finalist. It made the top three out of many novels that were submitted. I'm heading to Denver in early October to find out if I will win the coveted award.

I'm not sure how prestigious being a finalist is, but I'm going to brag about it to anyone who will listen. Two great authors I enjoy reading have won the award—[Jeff Edwards](#) and [Jan Kharitonov](#)—and I hope to join their ranks. Whether I do or not, I'm heading to the Clive Cussler Collector Society for the networking with other authors and fans of adventure fiction.

### **7. *Rogue Invader***

I'm about 25% through the manuscript of Book #9, *Rogue Invader*, and I'm getting a warm fuzzy feeling about it the more I dive into it. I'm targeting early 2017 for publication.

As a reminder, I'm sending the gang to Greece to disrupt that nation's commerce. The premise is that powerbrokers in Europe have had enough. They're hiring the Rogue Submarine gang to pressure a fictional (?) corruptly-led and failed economy out of the European Union.

And for fans of our newest mammalian heroes, Andrei and Mikhail, you can breathe a sigh of relief. The dolphins are working for Pierre Renard now and will see action in *Rogue Invader*.

### **8. *Reviews Support***

If you feel compelled to say something nice on Amazon, B&N, or any other source where you find my books, please do so. It helps other readers find my books and fuels the sales that keep me writing. Many of you have contributed, and I encourage you to keep doing so if you have or to start if you have not. It's rewarding when you receive a note that your review helped someone else in their search for books.

That's enough for one newsletter. Thank you for reading!

John