



*Original artwork by Pia Sama.*

*Race: Unicorn (horn removed)*

Phalanx was born in Vanhoover around the same time as the future General, Meteor Shower. Instead of being born to influential merchant parents, Phalanx was born to a single mother in the dockyard district. As soon as he was old enough, he began working for Meteor Shower's parents so he could support his mother, who was growing rather sick by the time he hit 18. Shortly thereafter she passed away after a bout with pneumonia. Falling into a depression, Phalanx would be dug out of his hole when his old acquaintance Meteor Shower first returned from training at the Royal Academy and convinced him to enlist. The stay in Vanhoover didn't

last long before Phalanx agreed and left with Meteor. He served as the young officer's second in command all the way through the Midlothian Incident.

It was the Midlothian Incident that robbed Phalanx of much of what he had; while fighting back to back with his superior and friend Meteor Shower Phalanx was struck in the side of the helmet with a club, being set upon in a flurry of warhammers and swords as he hit the ground. When Princess Celestia came to rescue one of her finest officers from the near-certain clutches of death, Phalanx was passed over in the chaos. Due to his wounds he was certain to die, yet that didn't come; De Witt's agents took him and a stallion in far worse shape (called Crossbow) to an unknown location in Griffany. Because Phalanx was of higher rank (and therefore more valuable), Crossbow's organs were harvested for transplant in Phalanx by De Witt's agents, and what was left of the donor disappeared to history. Once recovered, his horn was snapped off and years of torture under De Witt's direct supervision began. Interviews conducted after the Carniola Campaign by psychologists suggest that he may have been kept in some sort of stasis for years on end, between periods where De Witt may have become bored with his activities.

Approximately two years before his eventual ally Cosmo crossed through the mirror Stalemate first appeared in the city of Vanhoover, quickly taking over De Witt's operations within it's borders. Because of his activities, he quickly began clashing with Cosmo when the stallion began operating in Vanhoover four years later. The pair didn't do battle with each other until just after the Vanhoover Floods, in a confrontation that resulted in Phalanx being apprehended by the newly formed Northern Guard. It is while in Northern Guard custody that he was reintroduced to the Princess that originally assigned him to Meteor Shower's unit, and Celestia immediately managed to break through the mind control spells that De Witt's agents had pressed onto his mind. However putting the broken pieces of his mind back together took longer and left him exhausted.

Even while in a less-than-optimal state, he opted to fight. With the muscle of the Princess he was accepted into the ranks of the Northern Guard, just in time for the operation in Trottingham. Proving that he could handle himself Phalanx was relied on heavily during the ensuing Carniola Campaign, being credited with devising the stratagem that scattered De Witt's forces just prior to the Second Battle of Emona.

With the time in Carniola under his belt, Phalanx was awarded the Royal Cross for his service, a reward which he later hid away due to his own misgivings about receiving it. While his past was checkered, he became a well-liked and reliable member of the Northern Guard in its early years. In time he came to sit with the senior members of the organization, taking on the younger Pony-Griffon hybrid Storm Cloud as an apprentice. In that same time he trained with his old friend Meteor Shower to learn how to use his magical abilities effectively without a horn to channel the power.

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