

EXPEDITION **CONTROL**

BRIEFING REPORT

SCAVENGERS BRIEFING REPORT

Prepared by

Lau Expedition Control

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Scavengers of the Mutant World

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First Edition

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The old man rolled over in his ancient bed, a gift from a recent Scavenger team. Although tattered, such items were a luxury, though certainly deserved by one such as Andor'. After all, he is the Tribal Elder and the first Scavenger ever to return to the city of Lau with treasure from the ruined world above. Andor' arose and moved to the window to view a familiar scene - pale blue morning lights reflected against the dark steel roof of the shelter of Lau.

Andor' leaned on the windowsill and stroked his long white beard. Often he thought that his long life had been a curse. Due to a strange mutation contracted during his trek into the radioactive world above, he had now reached the age of 256 years of the red sun, outliving even his grandchildren.

But it is not a day to worry about that, he thought, today is special. It is the Day of Hope! Soon the sacred bells would summon the inhabitants of Lau to the field of Champions, where members of the tribe who had attained eighteen years of the red sun would compete in tests of strength and bravery. As Tribal Elder, Andor' would oversee the contests and decide who would journey into the world above as a Scavenger. This year, he hoped, the group would return with the machinery and equipment needed to escape this wretched existence.

Moving from the window, Andor' donned his ceremonial clothing, thinking about the day's event. Soon he would recite the tribal history to the Lauans as they gathered for the Day of Hope...

"In the early days of the Twentieth century, the Ancients, controlling weapons of terrible power, lived in constant fear of destruction. It was then that the First Ones, having a considerable source of wealth known as Government Funding, built this shelter. The First Ones foresaw the coming of the Great Destruction which would scorch the ground above, so they gathered their families and sealed themselves in the city that we now know as Lau.

"They listened to reports of the Destruction until there was only silence. Then, declaring the surface unsafe, they committed themselves to building a life in their sanctuary below the ground.

"As the First Ones grew old, they yearned for a better existence for their progeny. They evolved a great plan to send out Exploration Parties to scavenge in the rubble of the burnt world above. It was hoped that the equipment and materials brought back by these Parties would improve life in Lau and, someday, enable the Lauans to devise a machine that would allow them to escape to a better world.

"But the First Ones grew old and passed away, as did many generations after them, and their dream was never realized. Then Adam II, the first of our Tribal Elders, declared that the day had come to venture out from our shelter beneath the ground and begin to fulfill the First Ones' dream. And so the portal to the surface was opened and the rubble on it was tunneled away. Then he and his twelve counselors were able to exit Lau and survey the world above.

"And what a strange world it was! The surface soil was not like the rich brown dirt in the Agro-dome, but was tainted with a pale pinkish tint. The sky glowed with bright colors of purple, red, yellow, and orange which swirled overhead forming strange, unnerving patterns. In the distance stood the crumbled remains of what once must have been a great city. Behind the city, on the horizon, loomed an ominous red sun. Thus was decreed the first day of a new era – the Era of the Red Sun. And a day was set aside each year when all the inhabitants of Lau would come together, and our youth would compete for the honor of going out into the ruined cities above to seek those things needed to complete the plan of the First Ones.

"And in that First Year of the Red Sun, four Scavengers were chosen from the field of Champions, as they will be today..."

Contents of Scavengers Briefing Report

The following documents are included in this report, prepared by Lau Expedition Control from information provided by previous Exploration Parties. Please read all documents carefully. The success of your mission, as well as your lives, may depend on the information contained herein.

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PERSONAL

To: Members of the Scavengers Exploration Party
From: Andor', Tribal Elder of Lau

Fellow Lauans,

This year the Tribe of Lau has chosen you, our best youths, to leave the safety of the underground city of Lau and scavenge from the once great civilization that existed prior to The Great War. Although it is an honor to be selected as a Scavenger, it requires great courage, as you must travel over unknown terrain, battle mutant creatures, and experience fierce radiation storms in search of any useful materials that will allow all of us to escape from our pathetic existence.

As you must know, many of the Scavengers sent out do not return, and some of those that do have suffered radiation mutations and sickness. This is the risk you take, the sacrifice you are all willing to make for your people. Knowing the odds, you will bid your family and friends good-bye and venture into the land of your forefathers. Good luck to you all. The people of Lau will await your safe return.

Andor'
Tribal Elder and Scavenger

Briefing and Orders

Congratulations, fellow citizen. You, and other volunteers like you, have been selected for the next Exploration Party. You will shortly leave the protected environment of our underground city to explore the scarred surface of our planet and other ruined cities to scavenge for materials that may raise our standard of living. Who knows? You might even find the means for us to escape our dreary existence.

I cannot understate the importance of this mission. Should you fail, our civilization may be doomed to extinction. However, I also cannot understate the dangers involved. The surface of our planet is wracked by frequent and often violent radiation (RAD) storms. Scavengers who are caught outside of the protective shell of an underground ruin without a radiation suit are likely to suffer radiation sickness, mutations, or even death.

Even if you avoid the RAD storms, you must still learn to deal with the hostile creatures that have evolved on the surface. Most of the plants and animals that our ancestors knew as peaceful and docile have mutated into savage, murderous beasts that will attack without provocation.

The surface and the interiors of the ruins are dotted with occasional areas of high radiation, known as RAD zones. You are advised to avoid these zones, if at all possible, as they will contribute to your exposure to deadly radiation.

As you can see, ladies and gentlemen, this mission is not going to be any walk in the park. You might think that the odds make it impossible; that may indeed be true. But we, the citizens of Lau and the world, have faith that you will succeed. Study the rest of these briefing papers carefully, for they contain much useful information that will enhance your chances for survival out there.

Our hopes go with you.

Swahl, Chief of the Tribe of Lau

Party Formation and Scavenger Attributes

Twenty of you have been selected as potential members of the Exploration Party. Should any member of the Party be killed or suffer wounds or radiation damage which make him or her useless to the rest of the Party, one of the others may be called upon to replace that person. If the worst should happen, and the entire Party is killed, one of you will be selected to form a new Party in Lau to try again.

We insist that, for protection, you stick together while traveling on the planet's surface. However, Party members may be left in other ruins to study them while the remaining members go on. In fact, it may even be to your advantage to escort other Lauans to ruins that are more strategically located, so that they may join a Party whose ranks have been decimated in battle.

Someone, a very long time ago, said that "All Men Are Created Equal". We have learned throughout the years that this is not quite so. Each of you is endowed with the attributes of Strength, Intelligence, Wisdom, Dexterity, Charisma, and the power of Observation. Some of you are superior to others in these areas, making you more suitable to certain tasks. Examples are listed below.

- Strength:** Scavengers with exceptional strength inflict more damage when battling mutant creatures and can carry more and heavier things.
- Intelligence:** Scavengers with high intelligence excel in comprehending written and printed materials.
- Wisdom:** Scavengers with great wisdom are born leaders, capable of directing and coordinating other Party members.
- Dexterity:** Scavengers with unusual dexterity are adept at dodging attacks and performing construction tasks.
- Charisma:** Scavengers with extraordinary charisma have an affinity for animals, and may even be able to tame some of them.
- Observation:** Scavengers with abnormally high powers of observation are able to spot items of value among the rubble of the ruins.

Each of you has been tested and evaluated in these areas. These attributes may range from three (extremely poor) to twenty (exceptionally high), with an average of about eleven or twelve. Before leaving Lau, you should examine the attributes of the members of the Party as well as those of the Scavengers left behind. Perhaps you will want to replace Party members to obtain a more balanced set of attributes. The choice is yours.

Closely related to these attributes is your endurance or ability to withstand the crushing blows of battle. During your pre-expeditionary training, you were each rated in this area and assigned a number of “hit points” or “HP”. Each time you are struck in battle you may lose some endurance, and your HP rating will drop. While resting, you will slowly regain your stamina, and your hit points will return. Experience in battle will allow you to fight with greater skill later and will enhance your hit point rating.

Chief Swahl’s briefing mentions the dangers of radiation. Since radiation exposure is cumulative, you have all been equipped with radiation sensors which measure your ability to withstand this exposure, measured in RAD points, or “RP”. As with your other attributes, each of you has a different tolerance. When your radiation sensor reaches zero, you are likely to suffer sickness, mutations, or even death. Unlike hit points, however, you do not regain RAD points by resting. Instead, once your sensor is exhausted (and if you survive the effects of the radiation exposure), you will simply be issued a new sensor.

One more thing: Do keep track of the amount of weight you are carrying. Prior expeditions have reported losing overloaded Party members in swampy areas because they sank under their load.

Eralc, Director of Personnel

Weapons, Armor, and Loot

Although your primary mission is to attempt to discover a means for us to escape from this wretched existence, your secondary goal is to bring back any items you find which may be of value to the tribe. Previous expeditions have brought back armor, weapons, food, and even pieces of what appear to be ancient vehicles. These are kept in the storerooms of Lau. When you return from a foray outside of Lau, you will be encouraged to put any unwanted articles in the storeroom, so that others may use them. You may, of course, use whatever you find for your own purposes, and you may draw on the supplies in the storeroom (if any) whenever you like. I heartily recommend storing unused objects here, since the storerooms are secure and the objects will be protected from roaming creatures and thieves.

As for protective armor and weapons, I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that we don't have any to give you. The good news is that such things may often be found in the rubble of ruins, and occasionally on the surface.

We are familiar with a few types of weapons (though the few we had left were lost with the last Exploration Party). You can fight with your hands, but we suggest you do so only as a last resort. Knives and swords are far more effective weapons than fists. In most cases, the larger the weapon, the more damage it can inflict. Some weapons, however, are more useful against certain creatures. Missile weapons (such as rocks and spears) are far more productive when fighting flying creatures, whereas heavy blunt weapons (such as chains and maces) are more efficient against armored beasts. Rocks are plentiful, of course, but not very effective without a sling. We once found one of our ancestors' "guns", but never located any ammunition for it.

To survive long outside of Lau, it is suggested that you procure armor as quickly as possible. Cloth armor is easily found, but does not offer much protection from attacking creatures. Other types of armor, such as leather or chain, offer increased protection. However, they are correspondingly heavier.

You are advised to grab these items whenever you can, trading in weaker weapons for stronger, more effective ones as you find them. Be sure, though, that you have projectiles for weapons which require them before going into battle. For example, a crossbow is useless without a good supply of crossbow bolts. Missile-firing weapons also have the disadvantage of expending the missiles you collect, often running out in the heat of battle. Give me a good short sword or knife for close combat any day! Don't discard unusable weapons or armor, however. Instead bring them back to the storerooms of Lau. We cannot afford to pay you for this, other than to promise you future rewards.

Food is scarce, which probably explains the savage attacks by the mutant beasts. Grab it whenever you can and share it amongst yourselves. Do not let any Party members starve. Each of you has been thoroughly trained in survival techniques. If the Party leader elects to station you in another ruin, do so with pride and with the knowledge that you are expected to forage for your own food while there.

Jannett Orr, Chief Custodian of Lau Storerooms

Map Reconnaissance

Since the Last War, the surface of our planet has changed so drastically that no one has yet produced an accurate map. You will be expected to explore the surface as well as any and all underground ruined cities you encounter, making maps so that future expeditions may navigate more freely.

Previous expeditions have not succeeded in this area, but brief scouting parties sent out last year have brought back the following information about the terrain:

- City Ruins:** Rumor has it that there are a considerable number of ruined cities in addition to Lau. You must explore all of these ruins to fulfill your mission.
- Walls:** Surprisingly, some of the cities' architecture was spared complete destruction during The War. In fact, the remaining walls serve as a support for the "roof" which shields them from radiation.
- Doors:** Some ruins contain buildings, or portions of them, with doors still intact. We have yet to find a door with an effective lock, so don't let closed doors stop you from exploring what lies beyond!
- Tunnels:** Each of the ruins, or so we are led to believe by scouting parties, has but a single tunnel to the surface, as does Lau. When you enter a ruin, mark its location well, as you must find your way back to that point to return to the surface.
- Rubble:** Alas, much of the cities lies in rubble. Climbing over the rubble can be slow going, but searching it for loot can be very rewarding! Rubble, however, may block your view of approaching monsters.
- Roads:** The remains of our once-extensive highway system can be found on the surface, and some of the more urban ruins are extensively paved. Although the roads sometimes have gaps caused by The War, they are the fastest way to travel from ruin to ruin.

- Land:** Grassy plains once again cover a substantial portion of our planet, proving that Mother Nature is stronger than the evils of Man.
- Sand:** Sandy areas, the result of the nuclear holocaust, may be found inland as well as on the coastline. They do not appear to be dangerous, but they can be slow going.
- Forests:** Forests filled with mutant trees are everywhere. They may hinder your progress somewhat, but they are otherwise harmless. It is impossible to see through forests, however, due to the density of the mutant leaves.
- Mountains:** Mountains and ridges may be encountered during your travels. These appear to be impassible, but there are rumors of hidden fortresses with great riches in the large mountains. Find a way to explore these, if you can.
- Swamps:** Swamps may also be found anywhere, even occasionally inside the underground ruins. Swamps can be dangerous to the unwary Scavenger, as it is easy to fall under your burden of loot and drown before your fellow Party members can reach you. Cross swamps with caution.
- Water:** A large portion of the planet is still covered with water, in the form of oceans, lakes, and rivers. You may assume that all water you find is polluted, so swimming in it or drinking it is ill-advised.
- RAD Zones:** Our scouts have identified at least three different types of RAD zones, ranging from bad to worse to worst. These can usually be identified by the tell-tale glow of residual radiation. You may be brave enough to enter these areas, but I caution you once again that the effects of radiation exposure are cumulative!

You will find that you can get just about anywhere on foot except across water or mountains. If you are lucky, you might be able to tame some of the creatures you encounter and use them as pack mounts. This will allow you to carry more loot farther and faster, provided the entire Party tames enough of the same kind of mount. I can give you no clue, however, as to how you can cross the water or climb the mountains. Be resourceful!

Beau Mont, Director of Terrain Recon

Biological Survey

It is known that one result of the Great War is the appearance of several strange breeds, mutants distantly related to the species that inhabited the planet before The War. We collect every scrap of information that we can, but so few Scavengers return to Lau that our report to you will be sketchy at best. The few types of creatures that can slip through Lau's strong outer gate are better known to us. We have categorized several different types of creatures.

Insects

These are the creatures that were best fitted to survive a nuclear holocaust. With most of the larger animals out of the way, the arthropods have adapted to take over most of the ecological niches previously occupied by other animals. An alarming increase in size was the first effect we noticed, but lately we have seen evidence of specialized methods of attack, and even of rudimentary intelligence.

With a hard external skeleton, unbelievable strength, and the ability to withstand many severe blows before dying, an insect as tall as a man's knees is more than a match for an unwary traveler.

In Lau, we have captured abnormally large red centipedes. Though they attack fearlessly, they are less than a cubit in length and are easily dispatched. We also have found large spiders the size of a man's head.

Scavengers have returned to us bringing stories of armored beetles the size of a small house, ants which eat oxen, stinging insects the size of a large dog, odd fire-breathing flies that can carry away a man, and strange wingless mosquitoes. However, our experts don't have so much as a skeleton, so we cannot be sure that these creatures exist.

Mammals

The mammal population has been drastically reduced, because these animals were not really fit to survive nuclear war. We have captured a few odd looking (and ferocious) rabbits, who attacked members of our tribe for their food.

We have heard that the big cats still survive, and that pack-hunting canines abound, but we have never seen any. If there are ants that can eat oxen, there must certainly be oxen, too.

Humanoids

Though not naturally equipped to survive disaster, the cunning of the human race assured its survival. Be assured that we are not the only tribe that had sufficient warning to hide underneath our city. As far as we know, the humans have divided into several distinct groups:

Tribesmen: These are the foraging (or lost) members of the tribes that have survived in other ruins throughout the world. Like us, they must forage outside the ruin to ensure survival. Most will be carrying valuable possessions.

Thieves: There are those who only found temporary shelter during The War, or who have lost possession of their city. They now survive by stealth, hiding and waylaying unwary travelers.

Mutants: For the vast majority of the planet's population, there was no shelter. And, while hundreds of millions died, a few thousand survived the radiation. But they are the mutants, the unfit. Some are rumored to be far more powerful than the average man, yet most should be weak.

Zombies: Bacteria also survived the Great War. The radiation changed them, and several previously unknown diseases swept the land. One such disease causes loss of flesh, but also changes the digestive system so that eating human flesh will replenish the body – for a short time. The disease also endows the body with above-average strength and the skeleton with remarkable hardness. Beware the ever-hungry, cannibalistic zombie!

We have heard that some humans may have escaped The War by hiding from the blasts in the country. Though disfigured by radiation, the Trolls are unparalleled foragers. They are also very strong; all but the strongest of begins thinks twice before trying to separate a Troll from his loot.

We have also heard rumors of strange creatures called “devils”, which possess superhuman powers. Our geneticists do not believe that such creatures could be of this planet, and remain skeptical.

Plants

We are indeed lucky that some plants survived. Without them, all life on our planet would perish. Plants, particularly the polyploids, are relatively tolerant of genetic disturbance.

This is not to say that plants did not change much due to The War. Even in Lau, we have found odd flesh-eating grasses, some of which have developed the ability to move.

We have also been told of strange forms of fungus that will attack humans, and of trees that have serpent's heads on each branch.

Snakes

Few of the cold-blooded reptiles survived the temperature drop that followed the Great War. However, a few types of snakes have been caught near Lau.

A seagoing tribesman that we caught and interrogated told us of giant sea-faring snakes, so you should always be alert for a tell-tale hiss when traveling near water or marsh.

Other creatures

We suspect that some fish must have survived, because The War did not pollute the ocean depths with radiation. Similarly, bats, as they live in remote areas, probably did not perish. Although insects command the skies, there are surely some birds to be found. As you travel, one of your Party must watch the skies intently, for that is where your most dangerous foes will attack from.

Brad Jefferies, Lau Biotechnician

Mutation Memo

A common result of radiation damage is the development of a mutation. Though there are many different forms that a mutation may take, some that we have seen frequently are listed below.

Blindness: Radiation causes cataracts to form in the Party member's eyes, partially obscuring vision, and making battle more difficult.

Brilliance: Sometimes a chemical change in the brain can lead to greatly increased, if temporary, intelligence.

Coloration: This mutation gives the person an odd appearance, which may frighten away some of the more intelligent (and less hungry) creatures.

Crusted skin: With this mutation, one cannot move swiftly, but the skin cannot be easily pierced by the claws of an angry beast.

Doubled pain: This mutation causes a person to be much more sensitive to damage sustained in battle.

Doubled speed: A chemical change in the brain results in increased hand-eye coordination. A Scavenger may be able to strike more frequently in battle.

Growth: The person becomes a veritable giant. Though giants are easy to strike in battle, they are also very strong.

Hunger: This results in a great increase in metabolism, causing a Scavenger to consume food at several times the normal rate.

Illness: This mutation causes the affected person to heal more slowly than normal.

Laser vision: A person who has developed laser vision acquires the power to launch deadly rays from his or her eyes in battle.

Radar vision: This mutation increases the effective observation of the Scavenger, particularly in detecting oncoming radiation storms.

Radiation sensitivity: This mutation, a breakdown of the cell's damage recovery mechanism, causes the affected Scavenger to be much more vulnerable to radiation.

Repulsion: This mutation causes the person to change in appearance so that the other members of the Party cannot tolerate his or her presence.

Shrinkage: The person loses much of his or her body weight, and becomes dwarf-sized. Though weakened, the smaller Scavenger is more difficult to hit in battle.

Stupidity: As a result of radiation damage, a person may lose much of his or her mental faculties.

Telekinesis: A person who develops the telekinesis mutation may levitate large amounts of loot.

And, of course, there is always the “ultimate mutation” – death. Although our scientists have not yet found a sure-fire cure for most of radiation’s ill effects, some scouting party members have reported that re-exposure to radiation can, on rare occasions, reverse the effect of the initial exposure. We do not recommend this method of treatment, as it generally causes additional mutations to occur.

Kelvin Clyne, Radiation Expert

Scavenger Mission Objectives

At this time, you should have read carefully the enclosed Briefing Report, and should be preparing to assemble in the ruins of Lau with your fellow Scavengers. Before embarking on your journey, you will have to select the members of your Exploration Party. You will want to choose Scavengers with exceptional strength and dexterity, so that they may defeat marauding monsters. It is also a good idea to have at least one member with exceptional observation, so that objects may be spotted at greater distances. Since there is safety (and strength) in numbers, it is best to go scavenging with a full Party of four.

As you explore the ruins and outside world, you should be constantly looking for things that may be of value (as well as keeping an eye out for hazards such as monsters and RAD storms). The distance at which items may be spotted will depend on your observation rating. If a member of your Party has a high observation rating, you will be able to spot monsters and objects on the ground at greater distances. Although large terrain features such as mountains and forest will be visible at greater distances, they may also block your view of the terrain beyond.

Darkness will also limit your vision. Be cautious at night – you may not be able to see monsters until it is too late. Previous Exploration parties have also reported finding ruins which were as dark as night inside. Exercise extreme caution when exploring dark ruins, unless you have a lantern or other light source. Creatures are also roaming these ruins, and it is easy to become hopelessly lost as well.

Before leaving the ruins of Lau, you should spend some time searching the area. Previous Parties have reported finding useful items, even weapons, in the ruins. Since Expedition Control cannot provide any tools or weapons for your expedition, it is vital that you find equipment as quickly as possible. When you spot an object, you should examine it closely to **Identify** it. If the item is something useful – and remember, you can find a use for just about anything – **Grab** it. If you find several of the same type of object, **Grab All** of them. Since each Party member can carry only a certain amount of weight, you should try to maintain a balance among the members. If someone becomes overburdened, he or she may **Hand** things to other Scavengers to carry, or **Drop** less valuable items to lighten the load. While searching the ruins, you may also encounter your fellow Scavengers not currently in the party, who will **Identify** themselves by presenting their Lau Identity Cards. If your Party has less than four members, you may ask him/her to **Join** you.

After exploring the ruins of Lau, find the tunnel leading to the surface and **Go** out into the world above. Before leaving the ruins, take note of the **Date** and time. Remember that your visibility will be severely limited at night. You should also take an **Inventory** of each Party member's pack and check their **Attributes** to be sure that all members are healthy and properly equipped for the adventure.

You will discover a wide variety of objects in and around the city ruins. You may still be able to **Use** some of the tools you find, but be aware that these tools are very old and easily broken. To be on the safe side, you should **Don** armor and **Arm** yourself with weapons as soon as you find any. Remember that missile-firing weapons require ammunition to be useful.

You may come across parts of ancient equipment. Though not useful by themselves, you should hang onto them; if you acquire all the necessary parts, you may be able to **Build** a machine. However, because of their complex nature, you will need to find blueprints of these machines and have the most intelligent Party member **Read** them before attempting construction. You should **Take Apart** any machines you have made when not using them, or when entering ruins, as they are easier to transport when disassembled.

Uncontaminated food supplies can also be found in the outside world. **Grab All** the food you can – you never know where your next meal is coming from. You should always **Distribute Food** among all the Party members so that everyone gets their fair share.

If you are fortunate, you may be able to **Build** a vehicle or **Grab** a riding mount, which will allow you to travel faster than on foot. Vehicles will probably be large enough for the entire Party to **Board**. However, since only one person may **Mount** the riding animals encountered thus far, each member must have a mount in order for the entire party to accelerate its pace. Of course, you will have to **Dismount** before grabbing anything or entering a ruin.

While on the surface, you must watch out for frequent radiation storms, which can inflict severe damage. There are also areas of high residual radiation (RAD zones) which should be avoided. Examine all Party members for **Mutations** after exposure to radiation.

Scavengers must also be on guard against attack by marauding monsters, both in and out of ruins. When a creature is encountered, each Party member must decide what he or she will do, based on his or her individual abilities and weapons available.

If you choose to **Fight** a monster or monsters (they sometimes travel in packs), you must **Arm** yourself for battle. You should try to anticipate the enemy when selecting a weapon. Hand weapons, such as swords and knives, are effective in close combat, but projectile weapons (guns, slings, etc.) are useful from a distance, particularly against flying creatures. If you run out of ammunition for your weapon during battle, **Rearm** yourself immediately. At times, you may find it wiser to adopt a defensive stance and simply **Parry** your attacker's blows, especially if you are unarmed.

Most mutants are very tenacious, and will continue to fight to the death – theirs or yours. Destroy your attackers when possible; otherwise, they will no doubt come after you again. Also, some creatures have been known to carry loot, which you can confiscate once they are dead.

Party members may choose to flee from an attack, especially those who are severely wounded or unarmed. Your entire party may also stop fighting and flee from the attackers, but this tactic may or may not be successful, particularly in a confined area.

At some time, you may wish to **Leave** a wounded party member in a ruin to recuperate, or to establish an outpost there. You may also take a **Census** inside a ruin to locate any Scavengers who may be there. Scavengers in the ruin will give a secret cry to let their presence be known. If you have less than four members in your Party, one of these Scavengers may **Join** your team.

To keep the party's strength up, you may occasionally **Camp**, allowing members to rest and recover from any injuries. It is wise to make camp inside ruins, as you will be protected from radiation storms.

An important part of your assignment is to keep a **Map** of the territory you explore. (You may find city maps in some of the ruins, but these are too old and fragile to transport out of the ruins in which you find them.) Your territory map will serve as a guide for future exploration, as well as helping you in your journey. Remember, if no one from your Party returns to Lau, the map and all your loot will be lost! Be sure to return to Lau occasionally to report your latest map reconnaissance, as well as to store or retrieve equipment in our warehouses.

Good Luck and Good Scavenging!

Lau Expedition Control Staff

SCAVENGERS
OF THE MUTANT WORLD™

Interstel Corporation

presents

SCAVENGERS OF THE MUTANT WORLD™

Instruction Manual

**For the
IBM® PC and compatibles/
Tandy® version**

by
Richard Launius,
Bruce Beaumont,
and
Chris Stassen

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Scavengers of the Mutant World

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INTRODUCTION

SCAVENGERS OF THE MUTANT WORLD is a graphics adventure game set in a post-holocaust future. The world is comprised of a variety of terrain types, including a number of city ruins, in which are hidden all sorts of interesting objects and mutant monsters. Starting from your home base in the city of Lau, your team ventures out to explore the world and search for items which will be of use to the team during the journey or to the people of Lau.

SCAVENGERS is not a “real-time” game; it plays more like a board game than an arcade game. When it is your turn, nothing will happen until you enter a command. This may detract a small amount from the realism of the game, but it also brings some advantages. You can get up to answer the phone, get a drink, etc. and everything will be the same when you get back as it was when you left. If you are playing the game and you want to take a few minutes to plan your strategy, strange creatures will *not* run up and start beating on your characters while you are thinking.

After your turn, everyone else gets theirs. Some creatures may get more than one turn for every one of yours; some may get less, depending on how fast the creature is, and how time-consuming the action you took was. Creatures can attack you if they are next to you after your turn or theirs.

The commands don’t all take the same amount of game time. For example, it takes a lot longer to build something from a blueprint than it does to pick up a handful of rocks off the ground. Some commands, movement in particular, do not always take the same amount of time. It takes you longer to slog through a swamp than it does to trot along a paved road.

SCAVENGERS is intended to be more of a strategy game than a “hack and slash” game. While fighting monsters does increase the strength of the Party members, it doesn’t do much for the well-being of your Tribe. Some creatures frequently carry useful things, and are therefore good to attack. Some creatures are strong enough to wipe out the Party, and should be avoided.

Be sure to read the ***Scavengers Briefing Report*** provided in your game package. It contains a great deal of information needed to successfully accomplish your mission.

SCAVENGERS INSTALLATION AND USE

The Right Computer Hardware

SCAVENGERS requires an IBM® PC, XT, or AT or 100% compatible system with a minimum of 256K bytes of memory (192K must be available for user programs), an IBM CGA or compatible color graphics adapter and color display. Although only one double-sided floppy disk drive is required, a second floppy drive or hard disk will make playing the game easier.

Contents of the Distribution Disks

SCAVENGERS is distributed on two 5¼-inch diskettes, a “Game Disk” and a “World disk Template”, and one 3½-inch disk, which contains both Game Disk and World Disk Template files.

The Game Disk contains the **SCAVENGERS** programs. When you are ready to play the game, you will start it from this disk. The World Disk Template contains some data files that form the basis of a “World Disk”. Before you play the game, you must make a copy of the World Disk Template onto another blank floppy disk or a hard disk. If playing from a 3½-inch disk, each player will need his own copy of the disk. You can also play **SCAVENGERS** from a RAM disk, provided that it has at least 320K bytes of space, and 192K bytes of memory left over for user programs.

Backing Up the Distribution Disks

Before starting the game, you should make backup copies of your distribution disks.

BE SURE YOUR ORIGINAL DISKS ARE WRITE-PROTECTED!

First, boot DOS. Then make a backup of both the Game Disk and the World Disk using the DISKCOPY program. You can issue this command even if your system only has one floppy disk drive. When the DISKCOPY program asks for the source diskette, place the Game Disk in the current drive. when the program asks for the target diskette, place a blank floppy disk in the specified drive. If you have only one disk drive, you may be asked to replace the source and target diskettes several times.

Repeat the process to make a backup of the World Disk Template, using another blank floppy. Then store the original game diskettes in a safe place, and use the backup copies as your playing disks.

Installation on a Hard Disk

A program called **INSTALL.EXE** has been provided which will install **SCAVENGERS** onto a hard disk or another floppy disk. To use this program, place the Game Disk in any drive, type **INSTALL**, and press **[Return]**. The program will then give you on-screen directions for the installation of the Game Disk and World Disk Template files. Remember that if you wish to have more than one World Disk, you must install the World Disk Template files to separate subdirectories.

HOW TO START SCAVENGERS

Playing from a Floppy Disk

Insert your playing copy of the Game Disk in the current drive, then type the following command:

SCAVENGERS [options] (Invokes the game)

Playing from a Hard Disk

Make the directory containing the files from the Game Disk the current directory, then invoke the game:

CD SCAVENGE (Makes the game directory the current directory)

SCAVENGERS [options] (Invokes the game)

Game Options

You can specify one or both of the following game options:

- s Starts **SCAVENGERS** in “silent” mode. All sound will be turned off. You can turn the sound back on during game play from the Main Menu or via the *Options* command.
- path Allows you to specify a World Disk path other than the default disk drive. You can also specify the path from the Main Menu.

For example, the following command starts up **SCAVENGERS** with the World Disk on drive C, in subdirectory **SCAVENGE**, with the sound off:

SCAVENGERS -s C:\SCAVENGE

SCAVENGERS will first check your system for the minimum playing requirements. If, for example, you do not have a CGA adapter or there is insufficient memory, you will get an error message and the game will not run.

After starting the game, the **Interstel** logo and **SCAVENGERS** title screen will appear on your monitor. Press any key to stop the music during the screen. You will automatically be passed to the security system.

SCAVENGERS SECURITY SYSTEM

To protect your **SCAVENGERS** game against unauthorized use, a security system has been installed. This appears after the title and credit screens have been shown, and requires you to enter a certain word obtained from the **Scavengers Briefing Report** per the instructions given on your screen. The following rules apply when looking up the security words.

1. Page number is as printed at the bottom of the page (e.g., this is page 4).
2. A line is any row with typing on it, including titles (e.g., this is line 17). Lines in figures do not count, but lines in tables do count.
3. A word is any unbroken string of characters with a blank at either end: bexampleb, where b denotes a blank. Punctuation marks do not count.
4. The security words are taken from the **Scavengers Briefing Report**. Changes contained in any supplement or change sheets are not counted.

EXAMPLES: Find the first word from line 5 on page 7 – the correct word is “surface”.
Find the third word from line 7 on page 10 – the correct word is “ruin”.

If you pass the security test, the Main Menu will then be displayed.

THE MAIN MENU

The Main Menu is the hub of **SCAVENGERS** activity. From this menu you can create a new World Disk, play or resume the game, change player pictures, toggle the sound, change the World Disk path, or exit the game and return to DOS. Each of these functions is activated with a single letter key, shown in [brackets]. Below is a summary of the Main Menu commands:

[S]pecify the World Disk path: This command allows you to change the World Disk path.

[C]reate a new World Disk: This command allows you to build a new World Disk on your previously prepared diskette.

[M]odify a player's picture: If you want to be creative, you can modify the player pictures to ones of your own, or change a player's name.

[P]lay the game: Once you have created a World Disk, you can play or resume the game by entering this command.

[T]oggle sound: This command turns the sound off and on.

[E]xit to DOS: When you are done playing the game, you can use this command to return control to DOS.

When the Main Menu is ready to accept input, a short “beep” will sound (if sound is enabled).

SPECIFYING THE WORLD DISK PATH: [S]

To change the World Disk path, select **[S]** at the Main Menu. An underscore cursor () will appear at the end of the World Disk path shown in the box at the bottom of the screen. Use the backspace key to erase all or part of it, then type in the new path. For example, if the game was started with no World Disk path specified, the World Disk path might be shown as:

World Disk: A:

To use your World Disk on drive C in subdirectory “SCAVENGE”, enter **[S]** at the Main Menu, then backspace over the “A:” and type in the new path:

World disk path: c:\scavenge

To “confirm” the command, press **[Return]** when you are done. To cancel the command, press the **[Esc]** key.

SCAVENGERS will parse the new path to make sure that it is a valid DOS path name, then redraw the path in the box. You should check that your changes were accepted before proceeding.

NOTE: **SCAVENGERS** has an affinity for CAPITAL LETTERS, so don’t be surprised if it capitalizes all or part of what you typed in.

CREATING A NEW WORLD DISK: [C]

Before you can play the game or modify a player’s picture, you must create a new World Disk. You should first copy the files from the World Disk template onto another floppy disk or hard disk, following the instructions on pp. 2-3.

SCAVENGERS makes “random” World Disks each time you invoke this part of the game. Since there are over four million possible World Disks, you can play **SCAVENGERS** over and over again and not play the same game twice.

To create a new World Disk, enter **[C]** at the Main Menu. The game will read in some information from the Game Disk, then ask you to mount the World Disk on the drive you specified with the *Specify World Disk path* command. To “confirm” this command, place the diskette in the specified drive and press **[Return]**. To cancel the command, press the **[Esc]** key.

NOTE: you may use this command to make a new World Disk on a previous World disk without recopying all the files from the World Disk template. Be sure you want to do this before confirming the command. Once this command is confirmed, the contents of the old World Disk are lost forever.

While the World Disk is being created, an “Under Construction” picture will be displayed, and a ticker bar will appear at the bottom of the screen, slowly turning from red to green as the world creation progresses. It takes approximately six minutes on a standard PC to create a new World Disk, so be patient. Do not be concerned if the ticker bar finishes before disk activity is done. However, if no disk accesses are occurring after the ticker bar finishes, the game is probably hung. In this case, please record the World Number displayed on the screen and report the problem to **Interstel**.

When the World Disk has been successfully created, the game will ask you to replace the Game Disk (if necessary), and the Main Menu will reappear.

MODIFYING A CHARACTER: [M]

SCAVENGERS comes with an initial set of 20 player pictures on the World Disk Template. You may use the pictures “as is”, rearrange them so that different characters have different pictures, modify the pictures, or draw your own. The picture file PLAYERS.PIC may be copied from one World Disk to another, so you can use your modified pictures in subsequent games.

To modify a character’s picture, you must have created a complete World Disk with the *Create* command. Then press **[M]** to modify a player. You will be prompted to insert the World Disk, if necessary.

Five of the 20 character pictures will be displayed, labeled with their names and attributes underneath. One of the players will be “selected”, indicated by a red box around the picture and attributes. To select a player for modification, use the right and left arrow keys to move the selection box over the player you want, then press **[Return]**. To see another group of five player pictures, use the up or down arrow keys. When you are done editing player pictures, press **[Esc]** to return to the Main Menu.

Editing a Character’s Picture

To edit a character’s picture, select the player and press **[Return]**. The editing screen will then appear, showing an enlarged version of the player picture in the editing area, and the picture as it will actually appear on the Map Display screen in the “proof” area. A brief description of the function key commands will appear at the bottom of the screen, and a blinking cursor will be positioned at the upper left corner of both the editing and proof areas.

The first six function keys (F1 through F6) control the overall operation of the program. These keys perform the following functions:

- [F1] Load a new character picture for editing.** If you have modified this picture currently being displayed, you will be asked to confirm this command, since the modified picture will not be saved. The display of player pictures will appear again for you to select a new player to edit.
- [F2] Fill the screen with a color.** If you decide to draw a picture from scratch, you can use this command to fill the screen with the background color (**[B]**lue, **[G]**reen, **[Y]**ellow, or **[R]**ed) of your choice. Since the current picture will be lost, you must confirm this command if you have changed the picture. Press **[Esc]** to cancel the command.

- [F3] **Name this character.** Use this command to change the character's name. You may enter up to ten characters (including spaces), then press [Return]. To cancel the command, press [Esc].
- [F4] **Swap pictures.** You may use this command to exchange two of the pictures from the current set. The display of player pictures will appear again for you to select the picture to swap with this one. To cancel the command, use the [Esc] key.
- [F5] **Save these changes.** This command makes your editing changes permanent, and cannot be canceled. It works very quickly; changes are not actually saved on disk until the end of the editing session.
- [F6] **Quit this editing session.** Use this command to end the session and return to the player selection screen. If you have not used the [F5] command to save your editing changes, you will be asked for confirmation.

To change a picture, position the cursor over the pixel you want to change, then use the letter keys to change its color. The keys listed in Table I can be used to move the cursor without changing the pixels under it, or to color in the pixels. In addition, the keypad arrow keys can also be used to move the cursor in any direction without changing the pixel color.

TABLE I
CHARACTER EDITING KEY COMMANDS

KEYSTROKE	KEYPAD KEY	COMMAND
[H] or [Backspace]*	(4)	Move the cursor left by one pixel
[J]*	(2)	Move the cursor down by one pixel
[K]*	(8)	Move the cursor up by one pixel
[L] or [Space]*	(6)	Move the cursor right by one pixel
[Home]	(7)	Move the cursor up and left
[End]	(1)	Move the cursor down and left
[PgUp]	(9)	Move the cursor up and right
[PgDn]	(3)	Move the cursor down and right
[Tab]	-	Move the cursor to the next tab stop
[Shift][Tab]	-	Move the cursor to the previous tab
[b]	-	Make pixel blue, move cursor right
[B]	-	Make pixel blue, move cursor left
[r]	-	Make pixel red, move cursor right
[R]	-	Make pixel red, move cursor left
[g]	-	Make pixel green, move cursor right
[G]	-	Make pixel green, move cursor left
[y]	-	Make pixel yellow, move cursor right
[Y]	-	Make pixel yellow, move cursor left
[Ins]	(0)	Make pixel the same color as last one
[Del]	(.)	Make pixel the inverse of last one

*On the Tandy, the cursor arrow keys are also active.

The [Ins] key works like a “paintbrush”. You “pick up paint” by pressing one of the letter keys to color a pixel. Thereafter, the “paint” stays on the [Ins] key until you change it by pressing another letter key. The [Del] key inverts colors. If the “paint is blue, pressing [Del] colors a pixel yellow (and vice-versa). Red and green are also opposites. These keys also remember the direction (left or right) that you were moving the cursor.

PLAYING THE GAME: [P]

After you have created a World Disk, you can start or resume the game by pressing **[P]** at the Main Menu. The World Disk specified by the current World Disk path will be read into memory; you will be prompted to change diskettes, if necessary. Once you have started playing the game, you must *not* remove the World Disk from its drive.

Selecting a Party

The first time you start a new game, you must select the members of your Exploration Party. At this time, you will be presented with a display of four of the 20 characters, along with their pictures and attributes. Use the up and down arrow keys to display the other four screens, each showing four other players. Examine all available players before forming your Party, keeping in mind each player's attributes and how they will enhance the team. (Refer to the *Party Formation and Scavenger Attributes* section of the **Scavengers Briefing Report** manual.)

One of the displayed characters will be selected, indicated by a red box around the player picture and attributes. Use the right and left arrow keys to move the selection box right and left. To add a player to the Party, move the selection box over that player and press **[Ins]**. If you later change your mind, you can remove a player from the Party by using the **[Del]** key.

You will also have to select members for a new party if all of the members die or leave the Party. All players added to the Party must, of course, be in the same ruin. (At the beginning of a new game, all 20 players are in the Lau ruin.) The ruin in which a player is located is indicated under his/her name, unless the player is already in the Party or dead. You may *not* add dead players to the Party. When more than one player joins a new Party, the members rendezvous at a central location within the ruin.

The Party may consist of one to four players; four are recommended for maximum safety. Note that the Party members move together as a unit and are represented on the playing screen by a single icon, except during combat.

When you have completed your Party selection, press **[Return]** to begin or resume your game.

The Map Display

When the game begins, the map Display screen will appear. A sample Map Display screen is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Sample Map Display Screen

This screen is divided into several areas, as follows:

1. Up to four players will be displayed at the four corners of the screen. These are the members of the current Exploration Party. Each player display is divided into

two areas, a player picture and an attribute area.

- a. There are twelve player attributes, but only six of them will be displayed for a player at a time. Use the *Attributes* command to toggle between the displays (see Table II).
- b. The player picture may be modified by using the *Modify* command from the Main Menu. The player's name will be displayed under the picture (also changeable via *Modify*), and the player's number (in the Party) will be displayed in the upper-left corner of the picture. You will need to use this number when issuing commands.

NOTE: SCAVENGERS uses a random-name algorithm to generate the players' names. Should you find any of these names objectionable, use the *Modify* command to change it.

2. A terrain map will appear in the top center portion of the screen. Only a small amount of the overall map can be displayed at a time. The Party is always in the center of this map, and the map will scroll as the Party moves. Some terrain features, such as walls and trees, may block the Party's view of portions of the map. These areas will appear dark blue on the terrain map.

3. The command input and message area will occupy the bottom center of the screen. When a command needs to be typed in, a prompt (>) will appear at the bottom left corner of this area. Messages also appear in this area. As you type in commands and messages appear, the area scrolls upwards.

NOTE: If the game types out more lines of messages than can fit in this area, it will pause, change the entire area to reverse video (blue on yellow), and beep (if sound is enabled) to allow you to read the messages before they scroll out of view. Press the **[Tab]** key to continue the game.

Entering Commands

SCAVENGERS recognizes a number of one-word commands as well as the function and numeric keypad keys. All commands can be entered as a sequence of two characters, which are capitalized in the command list below; **SCAVENGERS** will complete the command for you. For example, to use the **Arm** command, press **[A]** then **[R]**. If you type the command from the keyboard, you must “confirm” it before it will be executed by pressing the **[Space]** bar or **[Return]** key. You can backspace to fix a typing error before confirming a command, or press **[Esc]** to cancel it. If you use the function or keypad keys to enter a command, it will be executed immediately; no confirmation is required.

NOTE: In general, most commands and activities can be cancelled by pressing the **[Esc]** key.

Alphabetical Command List

The following is an alphabetical list of the game play commands, each with its two-character keystroke abbreviation capitalized. The corresponding function key or numeric keypad key for each command is also given.

Table II lists the function keys and corresponding commands, shown with their two-character keystroke abbreviations capitalized. Figure 2 shows the numeric keypad commands.

ARm: Arm a player [F1]

You will be prompted for the number of the player to be armed. You will then be shown a list of that player's available weapons and asked to enter a selection (by number). Note that it is possible to arm a player with a weapon for which he or she has no ammunition.

ATtributes: Display a player's attributes [Shift][F9]

There are two attribute displays. One shows the player's remaining Hit Points (HP), RAD points (RP), armor being worn, weapon in hand, remaining carrying capacity (Wt.), and mount being ridden, if any. The other display shows the player's strength, wisdom, intelligence, charisma, observation, and dexterity ratings. This command toggles between the two displays for the player you specify (1-4), or for the entire Party if you enter 0.

BOard: Board a vehicle [Ctrl][F1]

The entire Party will board the vehicle that is in the same map square as they are. If there is more than one vehicle in that space, you will be prompted to select which vehicle (by number). See also *Dismount*.

BUild: Build a vehicle [Shift][F3]

When you have accumulated all of the parts and a blueprint for a vehicle you may attempt to build it. The game will prompt for the number of the player who will attempt the actual construction, and for the number of the player who will supervise the construction. See also *Take-Apart*.

CAMP: Camp for awhile [F10]

This command allows players to rest up from a particularly nasty battle to regain hit points. Food will be consumed, and monsters will still roam about, however. You will be prompted for the duration of the rest period, in minutes.

CEnsus: Take a census of a ruin [Shift][F8]

To find out which players are in a ruin, enter the ruin and issue this command. The leader of the Party will make a secret rallying cry, and all Lau natives nearby will let their presence be known.

DAtE: Display game date and time [Ctrl][F3]

Displays the game date and time, in military time. Note that it does get dark at night, limiting the Party's visibility.

Distribute-Food: Divide the Party's food [F8]

All the food carried by the Party will be pooled, then each Party member will draw his or her fair share.

Dismount: Dismount a vehicle or mount [F4]

If the entire party is riding in a vehicle, they will all dismount the vehicle. Otherwise, you will be prompted for the number of the Party member who will dismount his or her mount. See also *Mount* and *Board*.

DOn: Don armor [F2]

You will be prompted for the number of the player who will don armor. If the player has only one type of armor, it will be automatically selected. Otherwise, you will be shown a list of the available armor and asked to enter a selection (by number).

DRop: Drop an object [Del]

You will be prompted for the number of the player who will drop something. A list of the player's possessions will be displayed, and you will be prompted to make a selection (by number). If the player has more than one of the selected object, you will be prompted for the quantity to be dropped. See also *Grab*.

EAsT: Move East (6 on numeric keypad)

The entire Party will move East one map square, if possible.

GO-in/GO-out: Enter or exit a ruin [F9] (or 5 on numeric keypad)

To enter a ruin, move the Party to the ruin on the map and issue this command. To exit a ruin, move the Party to the tunnel opening in the ruin and issue the command. When the party enters Lau, the Guard at Lau's storeroom will stop the Party and ask if anyone wants to visit the storerooms.

GR**ab: Grab an object [F5]**

You will be prompted for the number of the player who will do the grabbing. If there is more than one object on the ground, you will be prompted to select which object is to be grabbed (by number). If there are multiple objects of the same type, such as food, you will be prompted for the amount to be grabbed. See also *Grab-All* and *Drop*.

Gr**ab-All: Grab all of the objects of one type [Ins]**

This command performs the same function as *Grab*, except that you will not be prompted for the amount to grab. See also *Drop*.

HA**nd: Hand an object from one player to another [F6]**

You will be prompted for the number of the player doing the handing and the number of the player the object is to be handed to. You will then be presented with a list of the first player's objects and asked to make a selection (by number). If the first player has more than one of the selected object, you will be prompted for the quantity to be handed.

ID**entify: Identify an object on the ground or a player [Shift][F7]**

The most observant and wise Party member will examine an object on the ground underneath the Party and attempt to determine its identity. If the object is a Lauan who is not in the Party, that player's identity card will be displayed.

IN**ventory: Take inventory of a player's possessions [Shift][F5]**

You will be prompted for the number of the player who will take inventory.

JO**in: Invite a player to join the Party [Shift][F1]**

If the Party has less than four members, you may invite other players that you encounter to join. If there is more than one player at this location who could join the Party, you will be prompted with a list of the player names and asked to make a selection (by number). See also *Leave*.

KEymap: Display a map of the function keys [Ctrl][F8]

This command will replace the screen display with a map of the commands available, organized by function keys, as shown in Table II. Press **[Return]** to return to the game display.

LEave: A player leaves the Party [Shift][F2]

You will be prompted for the number of the player who will leave. You may not abandon players on the Main Map, as they will not have the protection (and food) offered in a ruin. If all the players leave the Party, you will be prompted to form a new Party. See also *Join*.

LOgging: Turn hard-copy logging on or off [Ctrl][F9]

If logging is on, it will be turned off, and vice-versa. The log will be printed on the standard print device, usually LPT1. Virtually all commands and responses will be printed. Caution: Do not use this command if your system is not equipped with a printer!

MAp: Display a map of explored territory [Ctrl][F2]

While on the surface, the Party continually makes a detailed map which will be taken back to Lau to aid future expeditions. This map can be consulted whenever the Party is not in a ruin. If all of the Party members die before returning the map to Lau, the knowledge they have gained is lost. Once the Party returns to Lau, however, copies of the map are made and can be used by future Parties.

MOunt: Mount a riding mount [F3]

You will be prompted for the number of the player who will mount. Note that players must catch their mounts (using *Grab*) before they can mount them. If the selected player has more than one mount, you will be prompted with a list to make a selection. See also *Dismount*.

MUtations: Display the mutations suffered by a player [Shift][F10]

You will be prompted for the number of the player to display.

NOrth: Move North (8 on numeric keypad)

The entire party will move one map square North, if possible.

NorthEast: Move Northeast (9 on numeric keypad)

The entire Party will move one map square Northeast, if possible.

NorthWest: Move Northwest (7 on numeric keypad)

The entire Party will move one map square Northwest, if possible.

OPtions: Select or change game options [Ctrl][F7]

Allows you to select or change the following game options:

- [S] Sound.** Toggles the sound on and off. Normally, the sound is on unless you have used the “-s” option to start the game or turned it off from the Main Menu.
- [J] Jump Scroll.** The game begins in “smooth scroll” mode, meaning that the terrain will scroll smoothly under the Party as it moves around. This makes it easier for kibitzers to follow your movements, but slows the game a little. Jump scroll moves a complete terrain square instantly.
- [B] Battle Modes.** Toggles between “direct” and “relative” battle modes, described on p. 20. “Direct” mode is the default.

Both the scroll and battle mode options are remembered between game sessions.

QUit: Quit the game [Ctrl][F10]

Saves the current status of the Party and returns you to the Main Menu.

REad: Read a blueprint [Shift][F6]

You will be prompted for the number of the player who will attempt to read the blueprint. If that player has more than one blueprint, you will be prompted to select which one (by number).

SOutH: Move South (2 on numeric keypad)

The entire Party will move one map square South, if possible.

SouthEast: Move Southeast (3 on numeric keypad)

The entire Party will move one map square Southeast, if possible.

SouthWest: Move Southwest (1 on numeric keypad)

The entire Party will move one map square Southwest, if possible.

Take-Apart: Dismantle a vehicle [Shift][F4]

The vehicle over which the Party is standing will be cannibalized for parts, which may be used to build other vehicles. See also *Build*.

USe: Use a tool [F7]

You will be prompted for the number of the player who will use the tool and, if that player has more than one tool, to select a tool to use (by number).

WEst: Move West (4 on numeric keypad)

The entire Party will move one map square West, if possible.

TABLE II
FUNCTION KEY COMMANDS

FUNCTION KEY	COMMAND		
		[Shift]	[Ctrl]
[F1]	ARm	JOin	BOard
[F2]	DOn	LEave	MAP
[F3]	MOunt	BUild	DAte
[F4]	DIsmount	Take-Apart	
[F5]	GRab	INventory	
[F6]	HAnd	REad	
[F7]	USe	IDentify	OPtions
[F8]	Distribute-Food	CEnsus	KEymap
[F9]	GO-in/out	ATtributes	LOGging
[F10]	CAmp	MUtations	QUit

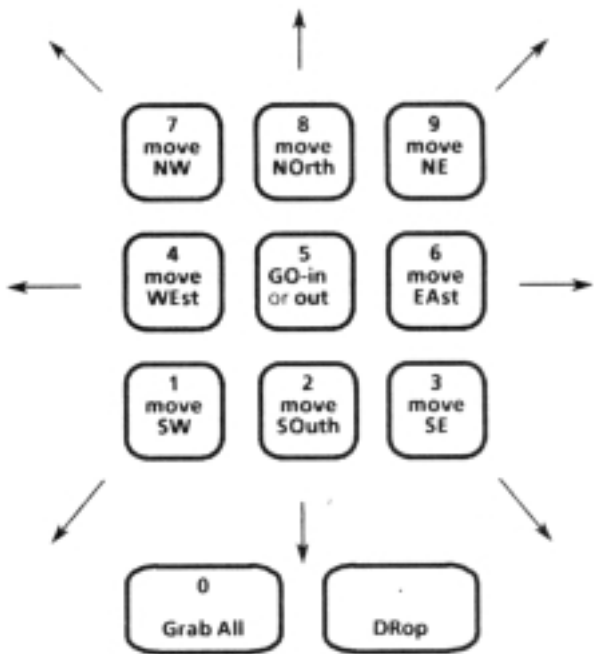


Figure 2. Numeric Keypad Commands

Battle Mode

From time to time the Party will be attacked by wandering monsters. When a monster is encountered, you will be shown a picture of the type of creature attacking. Then the display will zoom in on the Party so that the individual player(s) and monster(s) can be seen. Each Party member will appear facing in the direction the Party was moving. To make identification of individual members easier, the player number (1-4) will appear on the player's helmet.

During battle mode, the monsters and players move or fight in sequence, but not always in the same sequence, depending on their abilities. When it is a Party member's turn to do something, the number on his or her helmet will be highlighted and the player's name will appear in the message area.

Party members always fight in the direction they are facing. To fight a monster, a player armed with a hand weapon (sword, knife, etc.) must be on the map square adjacent to the monster. If the player has a missile-firing weapon (.45 pistol, sling, etc.), the monster only needs to be in a direct line of fire. If the player runs out of ammunition during the battle, he or she must use the *Re-arm* command to select a new weapon.

Players may choose to defend themselves from a monster's attack, using the *Parry* command. Individual players or the entire party may also attempt to flee from the attack by moving out of the battle zone. Once a player has moved out of the battle area, he/she cannot return. If the entire Party leaves the area, combat is terminated, and the Party attempts to flee from the attackers. This may or may not be successful. When the Party is in a confined area, such as on board a ship, it may not be possible to move out of the battle area.

Command entry during battle mode is quite different. Single keys on the keyboard or keypad control the Party members' actions, depending on the currently selected battle mode. There are two battle modes, direct and relative, which may be selected using the *Options* command.

Direct Battle Mode. The default mode is “direct” battle. In this mode the Party members move or turn directly according to the keypad keys used. For example, if a Party member is facing West and you press the up arrow (North), that member will turn to face North. If the Party member is already facing in that direction, the member will move forward one square, if possible. If you press the key opposite to the direction the player is facing, the player will step back one square, if possible. For example, if the player is facing East and you press the left arrow key (4), the player will step backward to the West. Figure 3 shows the keyboard and keypad configurations, and each key’s corresponding direct battle mode command.

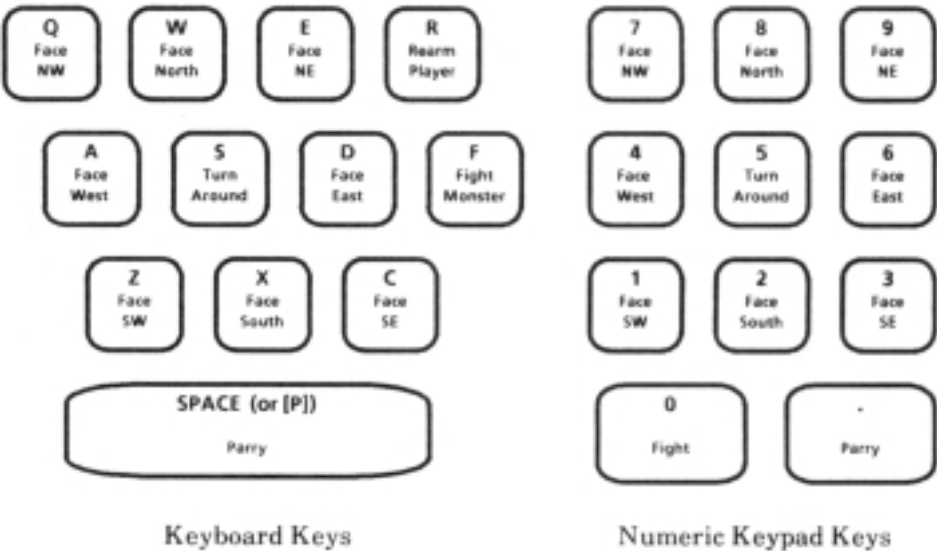


Figure 3. Direct Battle Mode Key Commands

Relative Battle Mode. In “relative battle mode, the keypad keys turn the Party members in relation to the direction they are currently facing. For example, if a player is facing West and the *Turn Right 90°* command is given, the player will turn to face North. Similarly, the *Move Forward* command will move the Party member in the direction he/she is facing. Figure 4 shows the keyboard and keypad command keys active in relative battle mode.

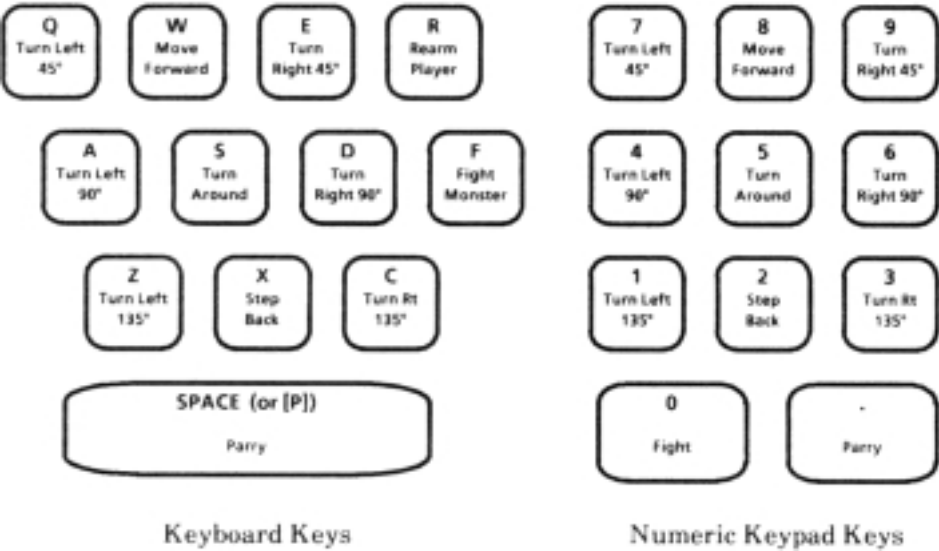


Figure 4. Relative Battle Mode Key Commands

Visiting Lau’s Storerooms

Whenever the Party enters Lau, the guard at the tunnel entrance will ask if the Party members want to visit Lau’s storeroom, either to leave scavenged articles or to retrieve articles left there by previous expeditions. For security reasons, only one Party member at a time may enter the storeroom.

When a Party member enters the storeroom, a visual display of the player’s pack contents and the current contents of the storeroom will appear on the screen, side by side. Under each item will be the quantity available. One of the quantity values will be highlighted (blue on yellow) to indicate that it is currently selected. Use the keypad or keyboard keys, shown in Figure 5, to perform the transaction.

The left, right up, and down movement keys “wrap” at the edges of the display, so you can easily move from the “pack” side to the “storeroom” side to select items from either area. As you move the highlighted area to different items, the item’s description will be printed along the bottom of the display.

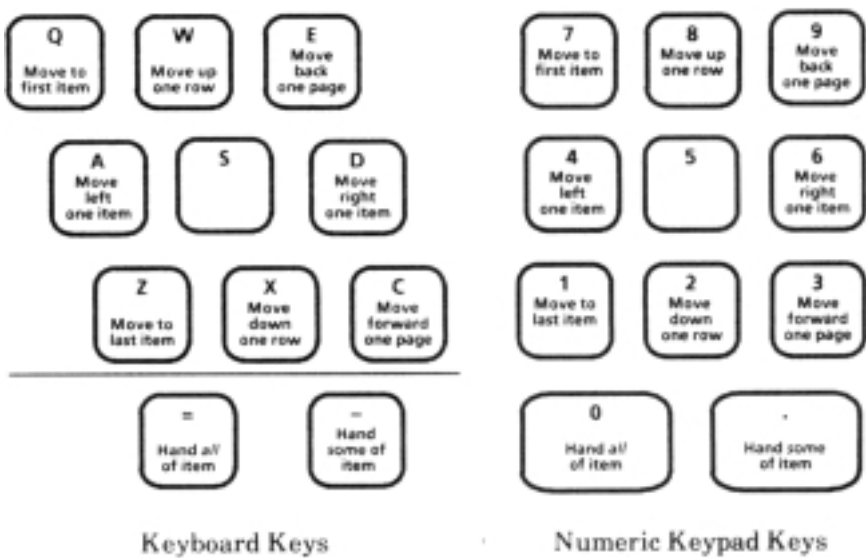


Figure 5. Storeroom Management Key Commands

To transfer items from the player's pack to the storeroom, or vice-versa, select the item to be moved using the movement keys, then use one of the "hand" keys to hand it from the Party member to the guard or from guard to Party member. If there is only one of the selected item (i.e., one knife), it makes no difference whether the "some" or "all" key is used. If there is more than one (food units, for example), using the "hand all" key will transfer the entire quantity to the other side. To transfer only some of the items, use the "hand some" key and enter the number to be handed.

If the player is wearing armor or wielding a weapon, those items will be highlighted in red in the player's pack to caution you against giving away all of that type of item. For example, giving away all of the player's knives when that player was armed with a knife will disarm that player.

There may be multiple "pages" of items, especially in the storeroom. To see other pages, move the selection cursor to the desired side, then use the "move back one page" or "move forward one page" keys. Paging only affects the side of the display (pack or storeroom) where the selection cursor is located.

While browsing in the storeroom, all selections are tentative (you will note that the player's attributes display does not change). However, the player cannot grab more items than he/she could normally carry.

When you are through moving items around, press **[Return]** to confirm the transaction or **[Esc]** to cancel it.

If there is more than one player in the Party, the players may enter the storeroom in any order (or not at all), or may enter several times. When all transactions have been completed, the Party will emerge from the tunnel into Lau.

BACKING UP THE WORLD

You may want to make a backup of your progress in the game from time to time to guard against accidental destruction due to power failure or severe monster attacks. To do this, you must quit the game and exit to DOS. **SCAVENGERS** keeps all of the game information in a single file, **SCAVENGE.DAT**, on the World Disk. To make a backup, all you need to do is make a copy of this file.

Backing Up a Floppy Disk Game

If you are playing **SCAVENGERS** from a floppy disk, insert the World Disk in drive A, a diskette with at least 100K bytes of free space in drive B, and issue the following command:

COPY A:SCAVENGE.DAT B:SCAVENGE.SAV

If you only have one disk drive, you can still issue the command. Just follow the instructions displayed on the screen by the COPY command.

Backing Up a Hard Disk Game

If you are playing **SCAVENGERS** from a hard disk, simply copy SCAVENGE.DAT to a file with another name:

COPY SCAVENGE.DAT SCAVENGE.SAV

Restoring a Game from a Backup

To restore a game from a backup, just copy the backup file over the SCAVENGE.DAT file and resume playing:

COPY SCAVENGE.SAV SCAVENGE.DAT

Saving and Restoring Player Pictures

Player pictures are stored in a file named PLAYERS.PIC on the World Disk. If you modify the player pictures, you may want to save a copy of the picture file so you can use it in subsequent games. Follow the instructions outlined above, substituting the file name PLAYERS.PIC for SCAVENGE.DAT in the commands (using a different name for the backup file). Note: Players' names and other attributes are not contained in the PLAYERS.PIC file.

TANDY KEYPAD SUPPORT

The Tandy® computer keyboards have a separate cursor array and numeric keypad. In "normal" mode, the numeric keypad keys generate the special characters backslash [\], tilde [~], vertical bar [|], and back quote [`] instead of cursor-positioning codes. **SCAVENGERS** has been designed to interpret these codes so that the keypad appears identical to the IBM version. In addition, the keypad [0] and [.] keys are interpreted as [Ins] and [Del].

FINAL WORD

Interstel has gone to great strides to ensure the software product you purchased is as error free as possible. However, due to the extreme diversity and complexity of the game, it is not possible to test every conceivable situation. If a bona-fide error is found, **Interstel** is not under obligation to notify any persons or organization; nor is **Interstel** required to release an updated version of this program, but may choose to do so. If you think you have found a program error, we ask that you write and tell us about it. Give as much information as possible, i.e., what happened, what computer you are using, the command you were executing, what you were trying to do, etc. If the game hangs while creating a world, please record the World Number shown at the bottom of the screen. Send us a printout of the screen if possible **DO NOT SEND US YOUR DISK(S)**. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. After receiving your letter we will look at the problem and send a reply.

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AUTHORS' NOTES

SCAVENGERS is based on an as-yet unpublished board game of the same name by Richard Launius. Work on the computer game began in the summer of 1986 when Chris and Bruce agreed to convert the game for computer play. Adapting the game to the computer necessitated many changes, and the game has evolved significantly over the last two years. However, the challenge, spirit of adventure, and excitement of the original board game have been kept.

The game is written mostly in Microsoft C (33,000 lines), with some assembly language code (10,000 lines) in areas where speed is of the essence. A home-grown overlay manager sequences the game through its six overlays, a total of 470K of code and data. We figure we spent somewhere between 1,500 and 2,000 hours coding and testing.

The most time-consuming part of the game's development was digitizing the art work. The game contains four full-screen pictures, twenty player pictures, more than 30 monster pictures, and over 100 icons representing terrain features and other objects. Each of the nearly 600,000 pixels was laboriously colored by hand (well, by mouse, anyway).

While Bruce labored over the graphics and sound effects, Chris wrote most of the game-playing code in brief flurries of concentrated effort. Steve Wahl, a professional animator, provided us with original artwork for the monsters, and Chris' ex-wife Clare helped with some of the digitization. Chris composed the original music. Special thanks go to Harold Price, our first-line-of-offense playtester, who has always managed to break our bullet-proof code in less than 30 seconds.

The game development process wasn't always a complete drudge. We introduced some interesting bugs from time to time, and learned something about the operating system as we went. For example, at one point food rations wouldn't sit still and often chased the Party across the screen. Later on, the game took a cannibalistic turn when idle players became grabable objects and turned into food when picked up by a Party member. We also discovered it isn't a good idea to play interrupt-driven music during disk I/O – it messes up the in-memory FAT tables, trashing the disk.

Would we do it again? Sure! Well ... maybe.

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AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHIES

Richard Launius was born in the Midwest and raised in South Carolina. As a teen, he befriended Trevor Sorensen, now President of Interstel. Together they spent most of their time playing board games, and gaming became Richard's favorite hobby. After high school, he attended Graceland College, where he played varsity hockey and earned a degree in Fine Arts. Upon graduation, he began a career in Yellow Page publication, managing art departments and administering a regional division. He will soon assume responsibility for all computer graphics within his company.



Richard and his wife Carolyn have three children which take a lot of their spare time, but Richard still finds time to do what he does best – design. He has published several role-playing and board games, as well as providing artwork and creative writing for Interstel products. His original concept of **Scavengers** was as an adventure boardgame, which is the type of game Richard likes best. That, combined with the wizardry of Bruce and Chris, produced a computer version that brought the adventure to life and remained true to the original design.



Bruce Beaumont was born in Virginia sometime before 1950, and he began working in data processing back in the days of plugboards, punched cards, and coal-fired computers. After a successful college career at Indiana University (the one in Pennsylvania) and Pitt, he took a short vacation from computers in Viet Nam. A veteran of 38 moves (the curse of being an Army brat), Bruce now lives in Redondo Beach and works in the aerospace industry.

He wrote the map generator and most of the graphics and sound, fine tuned the game, and is one of the few people on the planet who can make sense of Chris' code. In his spare time, Bruce bowls, plays board games, and tries to keep Chris working on **Scavengers**.

Chris Stassen claims to have been born in Canada some time in 1962, after which he promptly moved to Ohio. His friends know better. He was actually hatched on some alien world, because he thrives on a diet of beef jerky, frozen peppermint patties, and jelly beans, and he is the luckiest humanoid life-form alive. He also has prehensile toes. After graduating from CalTech in 1984, Chris moved to Redondo Beach where he is presently working for what's left of the aerospace industry.



Chris provided just about all of **Scavengers'** game logic. In his spare time, he goes for the three B's: Bowling, Bridge, and Ice Hockey (which begins with a "B" in his native tongue), and plays piano and bass guitar.

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