

## **The navy of Tinydot**

Once there was a very big country called Largia. Off the coast of Largia, there was a tiny island called Tinydot. Tinydot was independent from Largia, but they were allies. Tinydot was so small it had no navy, and it was guarded by the Largian navy. But one day, the people of Tinydot decided that they had enough. They wanted their own navy, and they wanted to prove they were strong enough to cope without the Largians protecting them. With the Largian navy there came a tax. The people of Tinydot had to pay a lot to be protected, so having their own navy would save them a lot of money as well. They started to gather materials, and then they started to build.

A few months later, the navy was complete. They selected captains for all the ships, an admiral to command the fleet from the flagship and an advisor who was very old and wise who the admiral could refer to in times of need. The navy wasn't very big, and it only had frigates, destroyers and light cruisers. The navy of Largia had lots of battleships, and it was much bigger. After the navy was set up, they organised a celebration. The navy would sail past Tinydot and then to a small city nearby on the Largian coast. However, when the day came for the celebration, there was a storm. They decided to go ahead anyway. When they passed Tinydot, the whole population of the island came to the beach to cheer them on. But when they reached the Largian city, nobody was watching them sail by, and certainly nobody was cheering.

“Where is the Largian audience?” Asked the admiral.

“It seems that nobody has come,” said the advisor, “but the thunder will be your audience, because the thunder can clap.”

To prove his point, there was a rumble of thunder from nearby.

“I would have liked an audience of humans better though,” said the admiral, very disappointed.

“Do not worry. We will get fans from Largia in time, but meanwhile you must not give up. Even then, there will be some people who still hate us. You must ignore them.”

For a long time, there was nothing for the new navy to do. One day the advisor died, and the admiral was very sad. But then a strange country from far away declared war on Largia and Tinydot. It was time for the new navy to set out and defend their country.

One day, they got a call from a cargo ship near the Largian coast. It was under attack! They set off along the coast immediately. At the Largian city of Hugebeast, they met the Largian navy. Their flagship was a battleship three times as big as the Tinydot flagship.

“Who are you?” Asked the admiral of the Largian navy.

“I am the admiral of the navy of Tinydot,” replied the admiral of the Tinydot navy.

“And a very admirable admiral you are!” Sneered the admiral of the Largian navy nastily. Immediately, all the captains in his navy started laughing. But the admiral of the Tinydot navy remembered what his advisor had said. *You must ignore them.* And he did. Then the people of Hugebeast threw rocks at the flagship, but the admiral ignored that too.

Finally, it was time to set out. The people of Hugebeast cheered when the Largian navy set out, but they said nothing as the navy of Tinydot steamed out of the harbour.

“You're not going to defeat the enemy on frigates, you know! The enemy have battleships too!” Laughed the admiral of the Largian navy before they went into battle. Just then, an enemy battleship fired, and the bullet hit the Largian flagship. It started to sink!

One by one, the Largian ships started to sink, and they hadn't even gotten close to the cargo ship yet. The cargo ship was already being boarded! The enemy crew were stealing the cargo and loading it into their own ships. But none of the ships in the Tinydot navy were sunk. They were too fast!

“Help!” Yelled the Largian admiral. He had jumped off the side of his sinking flagship and was splashing around in the water. “I can't swim!”

“An admiral who can't swim? That's ridiculous!” Exclaimed one of the Tinydot ship captains as his crew pulled him out

of the water. Just then, one of the light cruisers got a really good hit on an enemy battleship, which sunk at once! The fight went on for a long time, and a few more enemy battleships got sunk, but both the enemy and the Largians realised that not a single Tinydot ship had been sunk, and not a single person on a Tinydot ship had died.

“We surrender!” Said the enemy admiral. “We don't know where you got those ships from, but they're faster than anything I've ever seen!”

Eventually, the fighting stopped. The Tinydot admiral sailed back to Hugebeast and then to Tinydot with news of their victory. The Largians finally started cheering as the Tinydot navy went by, but this time they threw rocks at the Largian admiral, who fell overboard and had to be pulled back up again.

These days, both navies are treated with the same respect. The Largian admiral has even decided to start using the design of the Tinydot ships, because they are so effective! Tinydot doesn't need protection anymore, and in fact sometimes it is the Largians who need help. As for the enemies, they have stopped fighting and they are now allies as well.

**The End.**