

Scenario 1: Just After the Earth-Minbari War

In refusing to aid Earth in the Battle of the Line, knowing such aid would be ultimately futile anyway, Mars was, in what it thought were its last days, ‘giving Earth the finger,’ colloquially speaking. Earth replied by shooting Mars in the face. An act of symbolic defiance because the excuse for utter and unforgivable oppression. —Tessa Holland, A History of Martian Liberation, 2271

1 Recent History

On July 12, 2245, the Battle Group Demosthenes, consisting of two Hyperions (Amudsen and Hyperion) and the Nova-class Prometheus is on exploratory patrol beyond Vega. Captain Jankowski of the Prometheus misjudges the intentions of the Minbari and opens fire on the Grey Council ship, killing Dukhat, speaker of the Grey Council. Incensed, the Minbari, begin their genocide.

Bases at Regula and Jericho are wiped out. The defending fleet at Cyrus III is wiped out without firing a single accurate shot, although the thousands of miles of mining tunnels there allow defending colonists and group troops to hold out until the end of the war by waging a brutal tunnel war. Vega and Sinzar are next to fall, with the Minbari indiscriminately bombarding the civilian colony sites on Sinzar when EA troops take refuge there.

During a six month pause (during which the Minbari are calling up the core of the Warrior class fleets), EarthForce reinforces Orion, Proxima, and Beta7, but to little avail. By August 2247, Deneb is devastated, the fleet at Orion is lost, and every spinward Earth colony except Proxima is lost. While many colonies have ground troops dug in against the Minbari invaders, they are cut off and isolated. The trap that destroys the Black Star (laid out by Commander Sheridan) is the only bit of bright news in the period.

On August 19th, Proxima is overwhelmed; remaining fleet elements scatter, hoping to draw the Minbari away from Earth. The Minbari ignore them and concentrate for their attack on Earth.

In mid-2248, the Minbari fleet emerges around the now inactive jumpgate around Io. A small detachment of 30 Sharlins head for Io, while the rest set course for Earth. The Mars government broadcasts a declaration of neutrality, distancing itself from Earth. EarthGov is outraged, but is powerless to do anything at this time.

Earth President Levy addresses the remaining EarthForce personnel.

This is the President.

I’ve just been informed that our mid range military bases at Beta Durani and Proxima III have fallen to the Minbari advance. We’ve lost contact with our bases at Io and must conclude that they too have fallen to an advanced force.

Our military intelligence believes that the Minbari intend to bypass Mars and attack Earth directly, and the attack may come at any time. We continue

to broadcast our surrender and a plea for mercy. They have not responded. We can therefore only conclude that we stand at the twilight of the human race.

In order to buy more time for our evacuation transports to leave Earth, we ask for the support of every ship capable of fighting to take part in a last defense of our homeworld. We will not lie to you. We do not believe that survival is a possibility. We believe that anyone who joins this battle, will never come home. But, for every ten minutes, we can delay the military advance, several hundred more civilians may have a chance to escape to neutral territory. Though Earth may fall, the human race must have a chance to continue elsewhere.

No greater sacrifice has ever been asked of a people but I ask you now, to step forward one last time, one last battle to hold the line against the night.

May God go with you all.

While the exact number of ships present at the Battle of the Line is unknown, EarthForce records indicate that 12,655 EA vessels were present, ranging in size from the new Poseidon supercarrier to Aurora fighters. Countless numbers of Belt Alliance, corporate craft, and even private ships join the armada.

Eventual casualties exceed 90% among the Earth ships before the Minbari suddenly surrender. The rumor given most credence among rational observers is that Earth managed to put together a doomsday device at the last minute and threatened the Minbari with mutual destruction. Regardless, the fighting suddenly ceases and the Minbari withdraw.

On Earth, the mood is cautious and tentative. Much of Earth realizes how humanity came close to destruction and the brash optimism of the past decades is gone. EarthGov begins to pick up the pieces, starting a massive fleet rebuilding campaign. Barely able to field credible patrols, EarthForce is kept busy fending off pirates as well as opportunistic probes by other races.

Earth also is burdened with trying to restore the devastated colonies, many of which need significant or total rebuilding. Martians, still dependent on food from Earth, object when food shipments leave the solar system and the colonies object every time food is given to Mars. Tensions quickly build.

On Mars, the population remains generally defiant, but the sudden victory by Earth leaves them in an untenable position, morally and politically. Everyone knows the other shoe will drop soon. In November 2250, over the objections of President Levy, the Earth Senate votes to cut off food shipments entirely to Mars.

Immediately, people begin hoarding food. Non-essential activities are curtailed and traffic to Mars drops to a trickle. Black market activity is rampant and police are overwhelmed. Mars is on the brink of chaos. . . .

2 PC Details

It is now December 15, 2250. Having heard that food shipments have been cut off to Mars, Professor Farnsworth, head of Planet Express shipping company, has decided that he can

make a huge profit shipping cheap foodstuffs to Mars. The ship is loaded up and will soon be on its way.

Mike Great-nephew of Professor Farnsworth, he is the new cabin boy on board the Planet Express ship and this is his first voyage. His assignment is to handle the paperwork for this shipment.

LeaAnn Student of Professor Farnsworth at MIT, she has been told to expect a shipment of “experimental supplies” for his lab which she should store while his crew handles “unpacking and distribution.” Eon’s character is her friend.

Dave EarthForce marine stationed on Mars. Assigned to keep tabs on local agitators and others who might be conspiring against Earth. Has Jerry’s character has an informant and is a part of the official MarsGov security force.

Eon Mars native, he is plugged into the Mars resistance information net and general rumor mill. He is a friend of LeaAnn’s character.

Jerry An Earth loyalist, he is an informant for Dave. He has local information sources as well.

Jennifer ??