



IN THE BEGINNING

At the edge of darkness something stirred. No living eyes witnessed the arrival of the Machines as they emerged from the intergalactic rift. Huge melted hulks of metal slowly advanced to the edge of the Milky Way. The badly damaged ships wandered among the sparse edge of the galaxy searching for a new homo.

After they crashed down onto mineral rich planets, moons and other celestial bodies, the rebuilding program had commenced. Any remaining functional machinery was used to help the Machines burrow into the surface and begin the construction of massive production complexes. Years passed before the hordes emerged

The Machine empire grew quickly at first, Planets along the outer rim are widely dispersed and the few intelligent life forms that did exist were quickly overwhelmed. By the time other star faring races became aware of the growing threat, the Machines had established their foothold on the galaxy

When the galactic races fully realized their impending doom, ancient enemies became fast friends in order to repel the invaders. Only the combined might of the various interstellar races stood a chance at resisting the incursion. The eleven most powerful of these, realizing their

future was linked, began to negotiate terms of a defense pact. As the terms of the pact solidified, many of the minor races with interstellar military capability were approached to join. Other races flocked to the growing alliance. Qualification for full membership was based on the resources and military capability of the applicant. What ultimately formed was the INTERSTELLAR LEAGUE FOR MUTUAL HOME WORLD DEFENSE FROM EXTRA-GALACTICS.

Eventually, many other weaker planets nations who lay in the path or conquest were recruited by the League. They were informed of the coming threat and given new technology. One such nation was Earth. Initially the Humans were sceptical and wanted proof of the invaders. The League agreed to take two diplomats from each country to witness the encroaching Legions of Steel. They were to be returned to Earth as soon as possible.

Although humans had progressed towards a state of world peace the Earth still consisted of many independent nations. The League of Aliens, as the humans refer to it, had little desire to deal with these on an individual basis. The humans were given an ultimatum: form a central government or forgo any aid from the League. The United Nations had already been in place for some time and it was suggested that it should form the base for the new central government. A lengthy heated debate ensued, with the United States, Japan,

Germany and China opposing a central authority. After over a year with much political posturing, the nations of Earth finally had a blueprint for their future government. When the human diplomats returned with warnings of dire consequences should they refuse, the United Nations of Earth (UNE) was formed.

Under the tutelage of the aliens, Earth's technology was quickly upgraded. Initially, the human scientists were too busy reproducing the technology under the League's direction to acquire a full knowledge of the theories behind them. Eventually, understanding of the principles led them to new breakthroughs and allowed the development of new applications for the technology. Factories were retooled to manufacture new armaments and interstellar vehicles. Earth mobilized for war.

Initial battles were costly for the humans until they gained experience in space combat and became more familiar with the new technology and tactics. Eventually, however, the UNE had an elite fighting force widely recognized for their prowess and aggressiveness in combat. Given mankind's warlike past, this was not surprising.

Throughout the next three years, it became increasingly apparent that the League was fighting a losing battle. The League's defensive strategy created a war of attrition, with the League and Machines trading losses. Under sustained attack, the League's forces faced eventual depletion, while the Machines quickly produced replacements through their massive production planets. It became painfully obvious that it was time for a change of strategy.

Initially, large, planet-destroying drone weapons were launched against the enemy's complexes. These failed to breach the formidable Machine point-defense network. Assault fleets conducted raids to bombard planets from space. Unfortunately, the Machine's

screens concealed the full size and depth of the complexes. The assaulting ships' barrages succeeded only in destroying a small portion of the enemy's facilities, leaving all the lower levels intact. It later became apparent that the Machines were still capable of producing ships from these planets. The attacks had been unsuccessful and cost the lives of over four billion indigenous sentients.

A short time ago, a League assembly was called to decide the fate of many worlds. They devised a bold plan to turn the tide of the war. Operation Planetstorm became one of their last hopes. The League would mount an all-out offensive against the Machine blockade and enable the "Stormfleet" to break through. Stormfleet would then break up and proceed to several of the Machine production complexes. These small groups would have to evade any planetary defense and land as many soldiers on the planet as possible. Their final task was to destroy the Machine production facilities.

At present, Operation Planetstorm is underway. Earth has several ships in the Stormfleet and has been tasked with the destruction of two Machine planet bases. Experience has paid off. Both human missions successfully land on the planets. While the battle rages on the surface, groups of Commandos make their way into the production facilities. Only the destruction of the complex's Overlord computer will enable them to stop the Machines. Finally, they must completely overpower the Machine forces if they ever expect to leave the planet alive.

