Stardate: 2245.1
The 07 enters the war.
SHIELDS HOLDING AT 60%. IMPULSE ENGINES DAMAGED BUT STILL OPERATIONAL. WARP DRIVE IS FUNCTIONING FOR THE TIME BEING. HULL BREACH ON DECK 6, PORT SIDE AFT. PHASER BANKS 3 AND 4 DAMAGED.

CASUALTIES.....

SICKBAY, THIS IS THE BRIDGE. STATUS ON RAMIREZ!

HE'S...HE'S IN CRITICAL CONDITION, CAPTAIN.

WE'VE STABILIZED HIM, BUT WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS, NOW! I CAN'T OPERATE IF THE SHIP IS BLASTED APART!

IF THE SHIP GETS BLASTED APART, IT'S NOT GOING TO MATTER.

COMMS, GET ME THE ARTEMIS. NOW!

...SIR, ADMIRAL RAMIREZ HAS BEEN TAKEN TO SICKBAY!
WELL, GARTH, IT LOOKS LIKE KHARN'S FINALLY GOT HIS DTS LAUNCHED. WOULD YOU LOOK AT THE SIZE OF--

JAKANDE, RAMIREZ WAS HIT! HE'S IN SICKBAY, BUT HE NEEDS SURGERY IMMEDIATELY!

GET OUT OF HERE, GARTH... NOW! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS.

JUMP TO WARP WITH US. WITH LUCK, WE CAN BOTH MAKE IT BACK TO THE FLEET--

WON'T WORK. THOSE D'T'S ARE FASTER THAN WE ARE. WE'D NEVER OUTRUN THEM.

STARFLEET CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE BOTH OUR SHIPS PLUS RAMIREZ. YOU NEED TO GET THE OLD MAN TO SAFETY!

HELM, PREPARE TO COME ABOUT!

JAKANDE, DON'T! WE'LL BEAM RAMIREZ TO YOU! WE CAN OPEN UP VENTRAL SHIELDS LONG ENOUGH TO--

CAPTAIN GARTH, WE'VE JUST TAKEN HEAVY DAMAGE TO THE OVERRIDE POWER CONDUITS! TRANSPORTERS AND AUXILIARY CONTROL CIRCUITS ARE OFFLINE!

DAMN IT ALL.
JAKANDE! CAN YOU--

SORRY, GARTH, OUR TRANSPORTERS WERE KNOCKED OUT 5 MINUTES AGO!

WE'RE OUT OF TIME! GET THE ARES OUT OF HERE!

ENGINEERING, SLOW TO QUARTER IMPULSE AND START VENTING WARP PLASMA! I WANT IT TO SEEM LIKE WE'VE BEEN CRIPPLED!

YES, CAPTAIN!

... BE PREPARED TO SHUT DOWN ANTI-MATTER CONTAINMENT ... ON MY MARK.

AND... LIEUTENANT?

BUT THAT--

YES... YES, SIR.

CAPTAIN GARTH. IT'S BEEN AN HONOR SERVING WITH YOU.

THE HONOR IS OURS, ARTEMIS.

HELM, HARD ABOUT!

HELM, MAXIMUM WARP. NOW!
MARK.
ANTI-MATTER EXPLOSION DETECTED, CAPTAIN.

IT'S NO LONGER IN PURSUIT.

ARTEMIS IS GONE...

HELM. SET COURSE FOR EARTH. MAXIMUM WARP.

... YES, CAPTAIN.

FLEET CAPTAIN GARTH? DO YOU NEED A MOMENT BEFORE CONTINUING THE INTERVIEW?

NO... NO, WE CAN CONTINUE. WHERE WAS I?

THE ARTEMIS HAD BEEN DESTROYED, AND THE ARES WAS RETURNING TO EARTH WITH ADMIRAL RAMIREZ IN CRITICAL CONDITION.

YES, OF COURSE. THANKS TO THE ARTEMIS CREW'S SACRIFICE, WE MANAGED TO MAKE IT BACK TO STARBASE ONE, AND RAMIREZ SURVIVED. BUT HE SPENT THE REST OF THE WAR IN A HOSPITAL BED.

Fleet Captain Garth: U.S.S. Ares, Four Years War.
Despite the narrow escape of the USS ARES, in the ensuing weeks, the new D7 warships begin taking a toll on the Federation Fleet.

But as preparations commence for executing Garth’s plan at Axanar, word arrives at Earth that the Vulcan Council has reached a fateful decision.

Vulcan is withdrawing from the Federation.

To be continued in THE FOUR YEARS WAR, Part IV