

Bird man

Madrawt's

“The Madrawt advance was as locusts over the land. General Ce-Ra had done his job well of building up his armada. Hundreds of fighters took to the purple skies of Planet Maponos as huge space battle wagons crossed galaxies five times the speed of light.

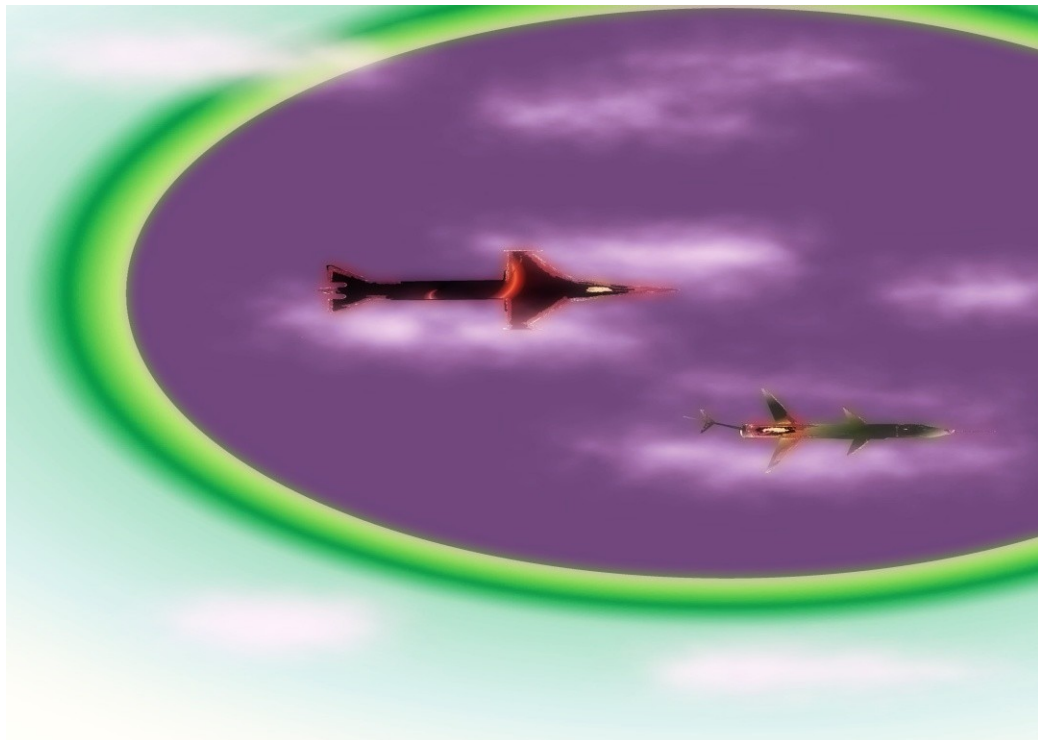


Illustration 37: Madrawt fighters

Twenty thousand artillery pieces thundered shells into the imperialist positions on Maponos.

So the purple sky became red from their flames, then black with their smoke.

A million Madrawt soldiers went foreword seeking the death of their enemies.

And cared not if they died themselves for their god Huitzilopitchli would reward them in paradise.

As soldiers of their god.

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The warrior Huitzilopitchli.

Air raid sirens sounded in imperial cities, towns and villages. Neutron bombs went off leaving empty buildings. Those unlucky enough not to have shelters vaporised into nothingness. The Star Dust Corporation had made a fortune selling shelters for just such a war. Those in authority were not alone these days buying shelters to survive.

The masses wanted too survive too.

Unfortunately many were just poor colonists, human/aliens who owed many imperial dollars to the corporation in air fares perished.

It was an expensive business travelling space.

They had no shelters.

Weren't any room in those built?

No public shelters existed.

Atomic warheads by the dozen sought the anchored imperial ships in dark space above seeking to destroy Emperor Caesar Alexander Vortigern.

And killed many but him.

He was born lucky and *was not his time to die*.

Laser canon and laser Gatling canon left white traces in the sky making night day.

Shells landed cracking releasing deadly germs into the air to contaminate and kill, some quick others nice and slow.

Millions of land mines planted.

And only each side knew where.

The top brass that is, not the troops or citizens.

Roads signs taken down.

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Nuclear storms began.

And General Ce-Ra liked mustard gas for it was cruel and like his nature, perverted and dark.

Behold, the land became barren of life.

And the Legion Hippogriff perished and Madrawt's raced across the barren lands.

Only hastily forwarded Bird men warriors stopped the advance and King Mingo Drum Vercingetorix ordered the evacuation of the Flaming City of Crystals.

And while the emperor fled Tzu Strath fought back and held the advance in deep space for now very little of Planet Maponos remained in human hands.

The capital New Alexander was void of life above the surface. But below Tzu Strath's men wearing chemical suits waited for the order to counter attack.

And Tzu would counter attack as soon as the Madrawt's lost the momentum of advancing.

And on that third of the planet ruled by Mingo Drum, the ants were marshalling."

Vern Lukas.