

HISTORY OF THE MARTIAN WARS

The threat posed by the Martians is by far the most significant threat to its very existence humanity has ever faced. Despite appearances, the Martians have come not for the complete destruction and murder of the human race; rather, their intentions are to throw the world's armies into disarray, to cause the collapse of civilization, and to cause humans to live like scared animals, cowering before the awe-inspiring might.

Then they will herd us, capture us, fatten us up like cattle. The Martian diet is a vampiric one, and humanity is merely a food source. Mars is a dying world, also – it has entered the minds of some thinkers that the invaders aim to make the Earth more hospitable to themselves, and transfer their population here.

THE WAR OF TEN DAYS (1902)

The tail end of the nineteenth century saw the first signs of the terror that was to come to Earth from Mars. In *Nature* (August 2, 1894), a number of brilliant lights seen on the face of Mars during the opposition of the two planets were reported. In 1896, the astronomer Lavelle wrote of enormous eruptions or explosions seen on the face of the red planet. At first, these were supposed to be volcanic explosions, but they were later proved to be the firing of immense guns, the lights of two years previous having been the casting of said weapons of war.

The first of the Martian cylinders fell in summer of 1902. The greenish streak at first appeared to be nothing more than a meteorite and fell on Horsell Common, near London. From the cylinder came a repulsive Martian with a Heat-Ray, which decimated the crowd gathered to gawk at the “fallen star”. In relative security, the Horsell Martians assembled their vast war tripods and advanced steadily eastward, towards London.

Along the way, the Martians destroyed everything in their path. The cities of Woking, Weybridge, Shepperton, and many others were razed. Throughout the entire conflict of 10 days, only one of the Martian war machines was destroyed, by a direct hit from the H.M.S. *Thunder Child*. The *Thunder Child*, also, was destroyed in the collision. The Martians invaded and destroyed London, with the mouth of the Thames held fully by the invaders. A sizable encampment was built in northwest London, near Regent's Park and Primrose Hill.

Eventually, the Martians were defeated – but

not through the actions of man. Harmless bacteria, to which man himself was long immune, claimed the lives of the alien invaders. Their tripods and handling-machines, and the beginnings of the first flying machine, stood empty. The long work of rebuilding London began.

AMERICA HUMBLER (1938-1945)

In October of 1938, a falling star of recognizable shape fell to Earth. It was the beginning of the second wave of Martian attack. That the first invasion was merely a prelude was a long-held fear of the British writer H.G. Wells, who had survived the attack and summarized it in his book *The War of the Worlds*. The star fell near the small town of Grover's Mill, in New Jersey. This had a peculiar complication that the original did not, for the most part: the media.

The media was quick to show up on the scene and begin reporting the events that unfolded. After the first Martians emerged from the fallen star, the New Jersey militia (warned by the Army, who knew full well of the earlier attacks) declared a wide area of the state under martial law. The media was silenced.

But the Martians had learned after the scouting force was decimated by disease – they made improvements to their war tripods to insulate the fragile pilots. The tripods fanned out from Grover's Mill with a resolve strengthened by their earlier defeat. Dozens more of the Martian cylinders landed in New Jersey, New York, and eastern Pennsylvania. These tripods joined their fellows in mercilessly laying waste to the countryside with their Heat-Rays and Black Smoke.

Within only three days, the entire state of New Jersey and sections of New York and Pennsylvania were under Martian control. The city of New York was totally decimated. London, once again, was occupied as Martians conquered much of south-eastern England. Of course, then, the two nations were unprepared for what followed.

By 1940, while the United States and Britain were engaged in a war against the Martians which cost them dearly in troops, equipment, and supplies, Adolf Hitler had seized control of Germany and began a campaign of expansion not unlike the Martians' in its ruthlessness, some cynical wits noted. It is rumored, though not proven, that Hitler was, at least at first, receiving aid from the Martians.

Britain ceased to exist as a coherent nation,

and between Martians and invading Germans, was reduced to a land of refugees. Many fled to America, or even continental Europe, in an effort to escape the Martians. America soon faced another trial, as President Roosevelt, who had led the valiant fight against the Martians, passed away. He was succeeded by Harry Truman, and in 1945 Truman did the unthinkable and ordered that the newly-developed atom bomb be dropped on the occupied areas of America and Britain. He followed this by another thing unheard of – he accepted the aid of the German army, supplemented by Martian technology, in clearing the remaining invaders out.

In February of 1945, however, Hitler paid for his treachery against the Martians. Cylinders had fallen all over Europe (mainly in France, Germany, Russia and Italy) and Japan throughout 1944 and 1945, and on the night of February 13, the Martians launched an assault against Hitler's holdings in Europe. They decimated the city of Dresden, and other tripods destroyed Paris, Rome, Venice, Milan, Berlin, Moscow, and all ports in Europe; as well as Tokyo, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Beijing, and other Asian cities. Soon Hitler's Europe was in shambles, and the unstable German dictator committed suicide. Japan was next to fall.

THE FINAL INVASIONS (1945-1953)

The death of Hitler sounded what may be the death knells of the rest of the world. With the German army leaderless, only the Americans – and scant remnants of the British military – stood even a chance against the Martians, as they had captured tripods, Heat-Rays, Black Smoke, and other weaponry. In the latter years of the 1940s, still more cylinders slammed into Canada and Australia. Then, in the dawning years of the 1950s, the final stars fell over southern California. The cylinders opened to reveal new war machines – the flying machine first partially developed in 1902 had been perfected.

The flying machines were even more effective against humanity, and resistant to the atom bomb. Soon most of the Southwest was under Martian control, and a vanguard of only two or three machines succeeded in destroying most of the city of Los Angeles. In a long battle in the streets of Los Angeles, aided by the Heat-Ray, these Martian ships were disabled.

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