

Editor's Note: This story takes place during the events of the Star Trek: Deep Space Nine second season episode "The Jem'Hadar."

Space, the Final Frontier...

Star Trek: Sarek

"A Report" By PJK

Stardate 47989.6

Starfleet's GammaOne Communications Relay Post

145,000,000 kilometers from the Gamma Quadrant opening of the Bajoran Wormhole

Lt Commander Tonia Robbins was just completing her latest log entry for the week when Benzite Lt Malachite drew her attention.

"Commander, I'm receiving a garbled message from the colony on New Bajor."

"Directed at whom, Lieutenant?" the blonde haired Terran woman asked.

"No one in particular. Just for whoever can hear it," the blue-skinned Benzite answered cryptically.

"Can you put it on speakers?"

Malachite nodded, taking a breath from his chest-mounted atmospheric enhancer in the process. Soon, a panic-stricken voice with a Bajoran accent sounded from the speakers.

"...We're under attack! I repeat – this is the New Bajor colony. We are under attack by unidentified ships and are being slaught..."

The transmission suddenly cut off. Robbins looked at her subordinate and asked, "What happened?"

"Transmission cut off at the source," replied M'Renna, Malachite's wife, from her post across the operations center.

Robbins opened her mouth to give an order when suddenly the relay station's red alert klaxon sounded.

"Unidentified ships just dropped out of warp and are approaching," alerted Ensign Tom Winn from a station on the upper level. "Bearing 259 mark 8, on a direct intercept course toward our outpost."

"Malachite, contact the *Sarek*. They just returned to the Gamma Quadrant a couple of days ago. Captain Kale should still be in range. Winn, hail the lead incoming ship."

"The lead vessel is hailing us," Winn reported. Seconds later a voice was heard over the speakers.

"I am Third Talak'talan. The Dominion will no longer tolerate interference from the other side of the anomaly."

"This is the Federation Communications Relay Outpost *GammaOne...*," Robbins started to say until she was knocked to the deck as the strange beetle-shaped vessels opened fire on the relay station.

"What's happening?" M'Renna screamed.

"Shields have collapsed," Malachite reported over the noise of the enemy fire. "I can't contact the *Sarek*, the communications array is gone!"

"Can we return fire?" Robbins demanded to know.

"Phasers off-line," replied *GammaOne's* fifth and final crew member, the young Vulcan officer Sondak. "I do have one torpedo armed."

"Fire!"

The torpedo launched from the outpost's only torpedo tube, where normally the worm-torps started their journey toward the Alpha Quadrant. It raced out, striking the attacking warship, and having as much effect as a flyswatter against a shuttlecraft. Again and again, the relay post was knocked about by the heavy fire from the attacking ships.

"The bulkheads are buckling!" Malachite shouted.

Robbins pushed a control on her command console and shouted, "Abandon the post! All hands to the escape pods!"

Malachite and M'Renna fought their way toward the closest escape pod, helping Ensign Winn along the way. Sondak followed close behind.

"Commander! Hurry!" M'Renna shouted.

"I'm coming!"

Robbins tried to launch the outpost's log buoy toward the wormhole, to which she had just transferred eleven months of records, when another blast crumpled a support beam on top of the lithe Terran woman. The unmistakable sound of a hull breach could be heard throughout the post.

"Commander!" Winn shouted, trying to exit the pod to help his commanding officer. Three pairs of hands pulled him back inside the pod just as the door sealed shut.

"We cannot stay! She's already dead," Malachite said to the young ensign, hoping beyond hope he was right. The pod blasted away from the outpost and the four crewmembers watched sadly as the trio of warships continued to blast the *GammaOne* station to pieces. The last thing they saw was one of the ships turn away from the remnants of the outpost and open fire on the pod.

The Jem'Hadar had done their job. As two of the vessels turned back and headed deeper into the Gamma Quadrant, the lead ship turned toward the wormhole, to relay a warning to the crew of *Deep Space Nine* on the other side.

* * * *

TO: All ships and starbases;

Stardate: 47992

Due to the recent loss of the *GammaOne Relay Station*, all contact with Alpha Quadrant research and merchant vessels in the Gamma Quadrant, including the Federation starship *USS Sarek NCC-72075* have been lost until further notice.

The End

Author's Note: It was my original intention when the adventures of the Sarek began to have an ongoing flirtatious relationship occur between Sarek's commanding officer Kalin Kale and GammaOne's CO Tonia Robbins. In fact, some of the initial flirting scenes appeared in "Gamma Bound - Part 3." Unfortunately, Star Trek 'reality' got in the way of what could have been a beautiful relationship.

*In May of 1994, the DS9 episode "The Jem'Hadar" was broadcast. In the episode, the USS Odyssey, a Galaxy-class starship like our USS Sarek, journeyed into the Gamma Quadrant to rescue Commander Sisko from the Dominion. The vessel fell under attack by the Jem'Hadar and lasted two and a half minutes before being destroyed with all hands. **Two and a half minutes!***

Within sixty seconds of the end of that episode I had three of my crew call me up and ask, "What are we going to do?!?" We knew we were going to have to change some of the plans we outlined for future stories. Unfortunately, a number of those stories had already been written. This very short story was the first result of that DS9 episode, quickly written to cover what would be a change in the Sarek's mission. Unfortunately it also meant the end of the characters created to man the communications relay station and any chance of a relationship developing between Kale and Robbins.

Ce' la guerre.