

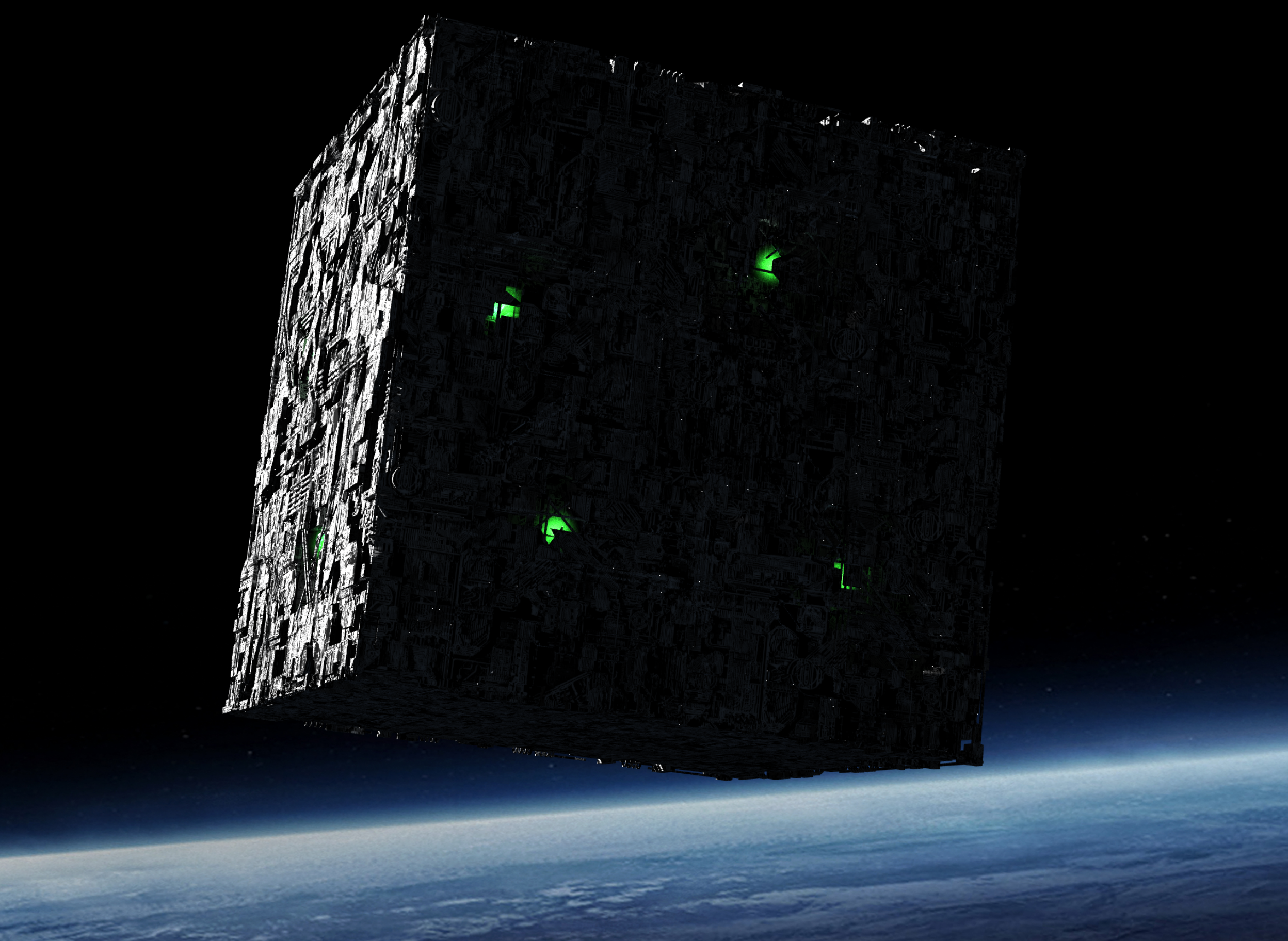
— WE HAVE —  
**ENGAGED**  
THE BORG

THE ORAL HISTORY OF  
THE BATTLE OF WOLF 359



ANDY POULASTIDES & ERIC V. MUIRHEAD





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THE BATTLE OF WOLF 359**



**ANDY POULASTIDES & ERIC V. MUIRHEAD**  
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# TIMELINE

Beginning with New Providence's founding  
until the 2396 decommissioning of *USS Hood*

## LINEAR COLOR KEY

Galactic Events

USS *Enterprise-D* Events

Borg Incursion

2123

New Providence Colony founded on Jouret IV

## PRELUDE

Historical context to Wolf 359

2293

*SS Lakul* destroyed by energy  
ribbon, Starfleet first made  
officially aware of 'Borg'

2311

Tomed Incident — Romulans  
retreat behind Neutral Zone

2332

Romulans first encounter "Borg"

2343

*Galaxy* class Development Project launched

2350

"Project Corvidae" authorized  
by Starfleet Intelligence

2363

USS *Enterprise-D* launched

2364

- First encounter with "Q"
- Romulans re-establish contact with  
Federation reporting missing colonies



2366

The destruction of New Providence  
and the acquisition of Locutus

- Taela Shanathi becomes CINC Starfleet
- Qo-Lan Amitra Sib'xau inaugurated as President

•42761.3

- Q flings 1701-D to J-25, first encounter with Borg
- Admiral Hanson recruits Lt. Cmdr. Shelby to Starfleet Tactical

2365

43997.05

- USS *Lalo* destroyed by Borg
- President briefed about Borg threat

- Crimson Tacit issued, Starfleet recalled to Sol System

- President addresses Federation, "We Must Negotiate" speech

- Hanson and Ross present plan to stop Borg at Wolf 359

- Force of 40 starships assembled and deployed to Wolf 359 system

43975.2

CONTACT LOST WITH NEW PROVIDENCE COLONY

43992.6

- *Enterprise* dispatched to investigate loss of contact with New Providence, Confirm presence of Borg
- USS *Zelensky* joins *Enterprise* over survey of Jouret IV
- *Enterprise* offloads non-essential personnel to Starbase 157

43997.2

- *Enterprise* engages Borg, Picard is hailed directly and ordered to surrender himself
- *Enterprise* flees into Paulson Nebula

43999.8

- *Enterprise* forced to leave Nebula, is engaged by Borg, Picard is taken

44001.4

- *Enterprise* engages Borg ship and attempts to rescue Picard, discovers he has been assimilated
- *Enterprise* fires modified deflector pulse at Borg to no effect, ship is crippled, Borg head towards Earth

44001.6

- USS *Ferrik* diverted to path of Borg cube with information suggesting secret base in Wolf 359, ship is assimilated
- Task force assembles in Wolf 359 System and deploys
- President Amitra and elected officials evacuated to Janus IV

## 44002.3 • 2367

### The Battle of Wolf 359 and Sector 001 Invasion

44002.3

#### BORG ARRIVE AT WOLF 359

44002.350

- 30 minutes after first contact, all Federation ships are destroyed

*Enterprise* arrives at Wolf 359 12 hours behind Borg cube

*USS Excalibur* engages Borg to delay ships arrival to Earth

*Enterprise* engages Borg for third time, is successful in seizing Locutus, Cube resume course for Earth

- Starfleet orders fleet to disperse into Oort cloud and awaits cube's arrival
- Sol Defense League activated
  - Borg ship arrives in Sector 001, destroys SDL Ships

*Enterprise* arrives in Sol System, attempts to access Borg collective via Locutus

#### BORG SHIP IS DESTROYED BY INTERNAL CASCADE FAILURE

44012.3

- *Enterprise* ordered to McKinley Station for repairs

2396

USS *Hood* formally decommissioned  
at Wolf 359 Memorial Station

2376

- Wolf 359 Memorial Station officially opened
- Remains of ships previously removed from system for evaluation (including *Ahwahee* and *Kaneda*) are returned

2373-75

## DOMINION WAR

50058.9

- Min Zife inaugurated as President

50893.5

- Second Borg Incursion

2371

Shanthi Returns as  
CINC of Starfleet

2370

- USS *Hood* formally returns to service following extensive reconstruction and testing

47538.5

- USS *Defiant* launched from Antares shipyards

48650.1

- USS *Enterprise* declared total loss following Veridian III mission

2369

## KLINGON CIVIL WAR

2368

- Starfleet authorizes deployment of *Straal*-class orbital facility to Wolf 359 to assist with salvage operations
- Shanthi Resigns as C-in-C
- Jaresh-Inyo inaugurated as President

44152.6

- J.L. Picard cleared to return to active service
- *Enterprise* leaves Sol System after six month refit

44038.1

Fleet arrives in Wolf 359 led by USS *Endeavour*

## POST-WOLF 359 &amp; ONWARD

Salvage, recovery, and Incursion-related aftermath

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• 740 287 001 001  
258 730 021 001

• 963 554 663 663  
7X3 0E0 5A2 A32

159 180 143 143  
• 147 987 170 010

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12122





**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE ON  
THE INVESTIGATION OF THE BORG INCURSION  
OF 2366 AND THE BATTLE OF WOLF 359**

CHAired BY ADMIRAL (RET) LANCELOT HOLLAND, PMV, CME, SC

**HOLLAND COMMISSION**

FROM: STARFLEET COMMAND  
COMMAND AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED



**AUTHORIZATION: GRANTED**

# PREFACE

*"On stardate 43975.2, Starbase 23 received a distress signal from the New Providence research colony on Jouret IV. The garbled transmission spoke of a large cube-like vessel that had entered the system and destroyed the small number of colony defense ships. The last transmission before all contact was lost showed a massive, black monolithic shape slowly descending over the colony.*

*"Although not widely known outside the upper echelons of Starfleet Command, this was the Borg: a powerful race of cybernetic life-forms, first encountered a year prior by the USS Enterprise (NCC-1701D, c. J-L Picard) over 7,000 light-years away.*

*"What was to follow over the following days would rock the Federation to its very core: the destruction of 39 starships at Wolf 359, the loss of over 11,000 sapients, and Earth – the seat of the UFP Government and home of Starfleet – threatened with total assimilation."*

I wrote those words almost 25 years ago as part of the introduction to the Holland Commission Report.

No doubt many will be familiar with that work, commissioned after the Borg Incursion of 2366; it is a very clinical, succinct description of the events that took place almost 30 years ago. To speak of 39 starships and 11,000 lives in the wake of the losses sustained throughout the Dominion War, it's perhaps easy to become numb to such figures. With the cushioning effect of time, as we move further away from the raw immediacy, the horror slips first into memory and then into myth. We run the risk of forgetting that these are not just numbers – not just statistics, dates, and names, but living beings and members of Starfleet. They had lives and their stories deserve to be remembered and to be told.

I was serving in the JAG office on the Arcturus Orbital during the incursion. I remember when we received the Crimson Tacit signal from Starfleet Command; no one understood why we were receiving such a signal. We thought it had to be a test or a mistake. Maybe someone started a rumor? Perhaps as a prank started by some "lower deckers" to get a rise out of their senior officers? Initially, we thought the only investigation would be to find the offending culprit. But it soon became clear that this was no mistake – and that Earth itself, a core world of the Federation – was under imminent attack.

In the aftermath, President Amitra ordered an inquiry to investigate the attack. Admiral Holland was charged with leading the commission, and I found myself reassigned to aid in the monumental task of gathering data from across the Federation – to build a picture of what had happened over those 24 days.

Over the next four years, I conducted thousands of interviews across dozens of worlds. I have reviewed the flight recorders of the ships lost at Wolf 359, and relived their loss over and over. I have even come face to face with the Borg themselves through interviews with former drones (or xBs, as they have come to be known). The final report was over 17 yottabytes of data – including analysis from the Collegia Strategorum on Zakdorn – detailed and highly classified breakdowns of the ship classes lost at Wolf 359, psychological profiles of the Borg collective, and numerous logs from officers present throughout the events. There was even a report from the Ferengi Commerce Authority on the impact of the incident on latinum prices.

What was missing, however, were the stories of the beings directly affected by the events that took place. Although added to one of the numerous appendices, they were not front and center of the report – nor should they be. The monumental task placed on the commission was not only to determine the facts, but also to better prepare the Federation for future outside threats. In that regard, we succeeded. I would venture an opinion that without the findings of the report the outcome of the Dominion War could have been very different. But those stories are important – for they connect us to the moment in a way no holorecording or tactical analysis ever could.

As 2366 fades further into the past and eventually out of living memory, it is our duty to ensure that those perspectives survive for future generations: to carry the memory of those lost forward into the future. It is far too easy for the lessons of the past to drown in the depths of Memory Alpha. I now give my best attempt at a “personal history” of the “First Borg War.” It is my hope that the reader will connect to these events and more importantly to the individuals who lived them, witnessed them, and – in many cases – died as a result of them.

I would like to thank Jake Sisko who first approached me with the idea for this volume. While many may know Jake as the son of Benjamin Sisko, as a war correspondent, or for his novels, he is also a survivor of Wolf 359 and one of its victims. Over the years I have gotten to know him quite well through interviews and correspondence. He taught me the importance of not losing



sight of the personal story and the view from the ground, especially with events as monumental as these.

Also, El'rik Zh'uhead from the Starfleet Academy Department of History, whose insight and support has been vital to ensure this record is completed. He indulged me with many a late night subspace communique as we cross-referenced details with the archives with Memory Alpha and Starfleet's databases to build as complete a picture as we could.

I present this record to you and humbly ask that you remember that the galaxy of 2366 was very different from that in which we live in today. I have, as much as possible, tried to remain an invisible presence throughout and to allow the voices to speak for themselves.

It is my intention that when you have finished you will have some insight to what those of us who lived through the incursion experienced.

**THE AUTHOR**

— 2396



THE OFFICE OF STARFLEET INTELLIGENCE AND THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED FEDERATION OF PLANETS HAVE APPROVED THE PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION OF THE "HOLLAND REPORT ON THE BORG INCURSION OF 2366" AFTER 25 EARTH STANDARD YEARS IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOTH THE JONES-XERATHI ACT CONCERNING THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OF 2359 AND UNITED FEDERATION OF PLANETS EXECUTIVE ORDER 329784. CERTAIN SEGMENTS HAVE BEEN DEEMED STILL SENSITIVE TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND HAVE BEEN REDACTED AND CLASSIFIED UNDER STARFLEET ORDER 212019 AS PERTINENT TO ARTICLE 14, SECTION 31 OF THE FEDERATION CHARTER.

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