

I Was a General - Memoirs of a Rebel Veteran
by Joe Mignano



Thirty years after the Battle of Endor.

{Light music, narration is of a very old, hardened war veteran}

What a place the galaxy has become. Ravaged with war. I saw it coming. The Rebellion suffered one of its most terrible defeats under my leadership, or so many would have you believe. It wasn't a defeat; it was a tactical evacuation, and a darn well-executed one. Sure, we had casualties, lots of them. But that's to be expected in war.

I should know. I was a general once.

{Music change, reminiscent music, Echo Base sound effects}

Our victory at Yavin was short-lived. Not long after the first Death Star was destroyed, a large fleet of Star Destroyers arrived to eradicate our base on the fourth moon. Luckily, most of us were able to escape just prior to their arrival. Two years of running and hiding took us to a barren, ice-covered wilderness. We thought that perhaps, no one would find us there. But still, we prepared to start running again; we knew it would only be a matter of time before the Empire would show up once more. A good general always prepares for such things.

That probe they sent. They supposedly dispatched thousands of those things trying to find us. Now, we knew for sure they were coming, and I knew it was time to start our planned evacuation.

I suppose they could have obliterated us all from orbit, once our shield generator was down, but that would have put their own ground troops at risk. No, they stormed Echo Base. Appropriately named, those stormtroopers are. I was lucky to get out alive after the command center had been hit by heavy fire from the Imperial Walkers. Those stormies were all over the place; but we fought our way to our transports. A lot of us didn't make it, but I and some others did. The Rebellion survived because of our efforts that day.

I was a general of theirs, once.

{Music change, sound effects change to a more somber mood}

It was carnage back then, on both sides, just like it still is today. Look around. Almost every known planet in the galaxy has had something to do with this neverending war. In my day, we fought for our freedom. Now, I'm not sure what we're fighting for anymore - nobody is. The Empire is still out there. We pushed them pretty far back after Endor, but they're still fighting us, still trying to expand their borders. No system is safe anymore.

Decades of war have brought nothing but misery to the galaxy. I've always done what I felt was right. I served the Republic faithfully during the Clone Wars, and I joined the Alliance to Restore the Republic when the Empire took over. When they destroyed my homeworld of Alderaan, war was all I wanted to know. I wanted the Empire gone for good; everyone did back then, not just me.

I was a general once. But now, things are different.

People are tired of war. Destruction and misery on countless worlds. Our zeal for liberty is gone. All we want now is peace, but we fight because there seems to be no other way. The galaxy is tearing itself apart, with no end in sight. If we don't cease our hostilities soon, we may all end up annihilating each other.

One of Skywalker's students tells me that the galaxy won't let that happen. She says that there's been some kind of an "awakening." They've all felt it, and they're still trying to make sense of it. I guess I'll never really understand the Jedi, or this "Force" they keep talking about, but if it means that all of the bloodshed will stop someday, then I guess that's worth believing in. It's our last hope.

I should know. I was a general once. But now, things are different.