

It was my choice to flag my Ninth Fleet as Supreme Commander with my beloved *Rotarran*. I had no use for the immensity, the sheer sluggishness, the inertia, the lack of acceleration and the unneeded armor of the giant battle cruiser of the *Vor'cha*-class, and especially I did not want to assume command aboard the *Negh'var*. That was Gowron's favorite fighting ship and may Kahless bless him and her for that marriage of personality and weaponry. But that is not my spirit. The *Negh'var* reflects nothing about me or my approach to battle. My approach to ship-to-ship confrontation is best embodied in the versatility, the speed, the incredible acceleration and appropriate weaponry found aboard the *Rotarran*, for any engagement from a known or unknown enemy.

For the known enemy, our weaponry is superior to any and all military craft in the four quadrants. For the unknown attacker, the *Rotarran's* ability to instantly disappear into deep space to both the naked eye and all known and theoretical molecular scanning devices offers the most extraordinary strategic defense imaginable and has succeeded in saving my old skin on several occasions.

The *Vor'cha*-class may be capable of absorbing an attack by an entire fleet of warbirds and any known alien battle cruiser. My preference is to evade such an attack, not to absorb it, and return within nano-seconds from completely unexpected

coordinates to neutralize the attack with minimal damage to my Flagship and the fleet. The *Vor'cha*-class cruiser is incapable of such tactics, thereby allowing massive collateral damage while awaiting cessation of the alien attack before turning to neutralize the enemy ship.

The only warship in the Klingon fleet capable of executing the swiftness and elusiveness of my preferred tactics in ship-to-ship warfare is the *B'rel*-class Bird-of-Prey. And of course, the precise specifications of the *Rotarran* are not known to anyone beyond myself and my most executive officers.

I am compelled to allow posterity and the military historians to evaluate the success and failure of my approach to close combat as opposed to that of Chancellor Gowron. Perhaps my tactics are rooted in my understanding of a young life lived on the streets of the Ketha Lowlands rather than in the more comfortable manor houses of the rich valleys surrounding the central plateau of the First City, the homeland of Chancellor Gowron.

As to which tactics are more effective, all I can offer is the hard truth that I am here, the House of Martok stands today, but the ruined House of Gowron is gone from the face of Qo'noS and gone from the annals of military victories of the Klingon Empire.

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## GENERAL MARTOK

**SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE NINTH FLEET  
AND CHANCELLOR OF THE KLINGON EMPIRE**



**GENERAL MARTOK** PORTRAYED BY J.G. HERTZLER