

“Wow! Did that thing really exist dad? I’ve heard lots of stories about them but was never sure if they were true?”

“Believe me Jimmy, they were real enough. Back in the 2020’s, before you were born, these things were on the verge of taking over the world. At one point we thought they were going to wipe out the whole planet. For a while the Earth looked doomed.”

“Were you a soldier, dad? Did you fight these monsters?”

“We were all soldiers, son. We had no choice. Even your mum ended up fighting. There were days when we did nothing but fight, one bloody battle after another. Looking back, it’s a wonder we survived.”

“Where did they come from, dad? What did they want?”

“Nobody knows for sure. We just woke up one morning and the sky was black with spaceships. Their spaceships. It seems their planet was dying and they needed somewhere new to live. Maybe if they’d come to us peacefully we could’ve shared our world, but they didn’t understand the word ‘peace’. They wanted the whole place to themselves and they were quite happy to destroy us out to get it.”

“So what happened, dad? Where are they now?”

“Completely wiped out, son. Extinct. We fought for weeks. Hundreds of thousands died on both sides. We tried to get them to agree to a cease-fire and talk but they wouldn’t. All they knew about was fighting. So that’s what happened. The killing went on and on until they were all dead. Now all we’ve got are these models to remind us of those dark days.”

“What were they called, dad?”

“Do you know Jimmy, I’ve no idea. We never got the chance to talk and find out about one another. Of course we had lots of names for them, none of them very nice. But nobody ever knew what this race of strange creatures were actually called. All I do know son is, if we hadn’t won that war, we wouldn’t be standing here right now. Those creatures would be living on Earth and we, the great Pterodactyl race, would have been wiped out. We would have been reduced to nothing more than models in their museums.”

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