

CoR Historical Documentation



History Vaults : Exobiology
Topic : 'Thargoid' Alien Species
Access Level : Public
Timestamp : 18-Jun 3307

Preamble

The Thargoids are an intelligent, spacefaring race apparently millions of years old. As far as they can be categorised by Human standards, they seem to be insectoid in shape and presumably have evolved in an ammonia based ecosystem. Much of what we think we know today went through multiple layers of fact suppression and hush-hushs for political and societal reasons.

Quite likely, what we *do* know today can be attributed mostly to the commercial availability of frameshift drive technology, translight communication and a big deal of mistrust against “big government” of an increasingly decentralised NGO-like scientific community. The pressure put on the superpowers and their sanitised galactic media finally was too big to ignore so they released more and more information on that alien species in a piecemeal fashion.

One of the benefits of this ever growing stream of information, when correlated with other historic events, is a somewhat accurate timeline of events that stretches back for five hundred years.

Thargoid Timeline

- 2696 The Galactic Cooperative of Worlds (GalCop) is founded on the territory of the Old Worlds (i.e. the Lave cluster). GalCop soon becomes the dominant power in the cluster and brings a new era of technological breakthroughs.
- 2800s Starships start to disappear in the Pleiades region and also in GalCop territory. Pilots also report “strange encounters” and sudden unexplained hyperdrive or ship module failures. The Pleiades gain a “Bermuda Triangle” reputation among colonists.
- 2849 First footage of an encounter with an alien starship is leaked throughout Human space. Reports begin mentioning the “Thargoids” as an intelligent, spacefaring species. The name for them sticks.

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- 10/3111 Non-Human structures are found on a planet in the Musca Dark Region. A megaship, the Adamastor, is redirected by their owning company to investigate. The crew discovers a form of "barnacle"-like outcropping on the surface but the ship is lost and later declared MIA.
- 07/3113
- ◊Another megaship, the Hesperus, is sent on an investigation mission to the Barnard's Loop area. The crew leaves 17 relay beacons along its trail but they mysteriously fail and the ship also goes MIA, just like the Adamastor.
 - ◊Several of the Hesperus crew escape in an Anaconda-class vessel named Proteus. They land on a planet in the Trapezium sector, where they discover the site of an ancient battle between the Thargoids and the Guardians. The crew dies, however, in a radiation accident.
- 3125
- ◊Pilots are inexplicably pulled out of Witchspace in numerous locations in Human space by alien starships. The name "Thargoids" resurfaces and becomes widely used among space pilots.
 - ◊Reports emerge of an encounter between Human colonists of New Africa in the Veliaze system and the Thargoids. Due to poor judgement the colonists open fire on the aliens and hostilities ensue. Soon after, however, the Thargoids retreat from the colony.
 - ◊What follows are nearly 30 years of intense skirmishes. GalCop declares some 50 "warzones" around hotspots where Thargoid encounters are particularly common. Despite a lack of cohesion or aim in these skirmishes, the era later becomes known as the First Thargoid War.
 - ◊While GalCop transforms more and more into a military body, the Federation and Empire act on their own and work together by forming the Intergalactic

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Naval Research Arm (INRA). INRA is simply tasked with ending the Thargoid threat at all costs, although the organisation receives a more positive spin in the galactic media.

3151 ◇On a mission from the INRA, Commander John Jameson manages to intercept a Thargoid hiveship and infect it with a specially gene-tailored virus that supposedly disables Thargoid hyperdrive technology. However, Jameson learns the virus also infects the Thargoids themselves, presumably leading to a mass murder of gigantic proportions.

◇On his way home, Jameson finds his Cobra-class spaceship sabotaged and crashes into a planet in the HIP 12099 system. His eventual fate remains unknown but the INRA installs a cover story and makes him a hero.

3152 Thargoids retreat from Human space, ending the war abruptly.

3155 GalCop launches Project Equinox: The construction of a number of deep space listening posts and early reconnaissance sensors with the aim of a timely warning should the Thargoids return. Among them is the megaship GCS Sarasvati.

3172 Project Equinox finds evidence of Thargoid presence in the form of seeded barnacles on a number of undisclosed worlds, speculating on preparations for an eventual return. Sadly, Project Equinox is shut down by GalCop officials before the news break.

3174 After much internal strife and corruption, GalCop is officially disbanded. It's R&D on the Thargoids is presumably secured, either by the INRA or by some other entity that is later integrated into the Alliance.

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- 3230 ◇The Alliance of Independent Worlds is founded on Epsilon Ursae Majoris (Alioth). Two of its co-founders, Mic Turner and Meredith Argent, are the owners of Argent Aerodynamics Amalgamated Inc. (AAAI), a company heavily investing in starship prototyping.
- ◇It must be assumed that GalCop research on the Thargoids found its way into Alliance and AAAI hands, promoting a line of reverse engineered technology over the next decades.
- 3237 AAAI releases a number of new starship classes with a new generation of technology.
- 3250 AAAI begins work on the Turner-class exploration vessels. These are rumoured to have a new, superior type of hyperdrive.
- 3251 The luxury starship “Highliner Antares”, owned by the Sirius Corporation, goes missing during its maiden voyage. The ship allegedly had a new prototype hyperdrive developed by Sirius. Specifics on its capabilities are highly classified and not publicly known.
- 3252 ◇Mic Turner leaves Alioth in his experimental exploration ship named Turner’s Quest. He plans to travel to the Pleiades area and search for the elusive Thargoids. According to AAAI spokesmen Turner wants to make peaceful contact with the species but neither he nor his ship are ever to be seen again.
- ◇Allegations are later leaked that the INRA was involved in Mic Turner’s (and other prominent people’s) disappearance and in developing unethical massive scale “extinction technology” in the First Thargoid War.
- 3253 The INRA is officially disbanded after a number of internal scandals. Over time, the organisation fades into obscurity.

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- 3270s Alliance R&D manages to build the first working frameshift drive prototypes. They are at least in part reverse engineered from Thargoid technology. Through political scheming all prototypes are eventually handed over to the Sirius Corporation, which in turn monopolises its availability.
- 04/3270 Project "Dynasty" is set in motion: Three megaships clandestinely depart the Core Worlds. They travel to three separate regions of space and begin setting up sensor equipment near terraformable and earth-like worlds in the Formidine Rift, Hawkin's Gap and the Sagittarius Conflux. The wider goal is to prepare exodus locations for Humanity to evade to if the Bubble is overrun someday by aliens (i.e. the Thargoids).
- 3273 Rebecca Weston, an independent pilot, manages to find Project Dynasty's megaship "Zurara" deep in the Formidine Rift with all crew aboard killed. She prepares a number of easy-to-find log buoys for future investigators before leaving for the Core Worlds again. One of her final warnings is that "something big is coming".
- 3275 ◇Dr. Carl Linnaeus starts working on the "Pivot" in the Peregrina system. It's a programme meant to enhance Humans with Thargoid DNA. The short term aim is to provide the Thargoid caste called the "Oresrians" with so enhanced combat pilots for their struggle against their rival, warlike "Klaxians".
◇Linnaeus also claims to have been member of an Alliance delegation meeting the Thargoids with aims to establish diplomatic relationships, although his claims cannot be verified and are discarded by Alliance officials.

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- 3290s The Sirius Corporation announces a breakthrough in hyperdrive technology and introduces the “frameshift drive”. The FSD is secretly based on reverse engineered Thargoid technology and introduces a revolutionary faster-than-light travel. Sirius opens this technology to all governments and the private sector, thus avoiding a competitive race to secure this technology.
- 3300 The first independent civilian starships equipped with the new FSD technology reach and explore the Pleiades cluster.
- 03/3301 Military convoys of the Federation are first reported to transport an exotic cargo labelled an “Unknown Artifact” near the LHS 3006 system.
- 05/3301 Unknown Artifacts are discovered by independent space pilots in the Pleiades region. These artifacts are alien technology and seem to scan their surroundings while transmitting data to a singular point in space identified as the Merope system (Pleiades). Analysis shows they use audio bursts similar to morse code and relay the contours of ships they scan. Pilots begin to think of the artifacts as a reconnaissance drone. Though inconclusive, first parallels to Thargoid encounters in the Pleiades hundreds of years ago are drawn.
- 01/3302 Independent pilots discover xenobiological structures in the Merope system in the Pleiades region. They are dubbed barnacles. Expansive investigations of these structures begin. Some scientists immediately begin linking them to the Thargoids due to the “history” of encounters in the Pleiades and also because the Unknown Artifacts always align with Merope when scanning their surroundings.

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- 07/3302 A new type of alien device is found in a destroyed Federal convoy. The device is nearly similar in appearance to the Unknown Artifacts but when scanned sends out a strong EMP pulse, briefly shutting starship systems down. The device also aligns towards Merope in the Pleiades region and emits audio bursts. Spectroscopic analysis of these bursts shows an intricate graphical pattern of bodies, symbols and coordinates. The device becomes colloquially known as the "Unknown Probe".
- 08/3302 ♦More Unknown Probes are discovered near ammonia worlds in the Pleiades region. Again links to the Thargoids are made, because they are believed to have originated on a world with an ammonia based ecosphere. Full analysis of the probes' audio bursts show they beam planetary data to a single location. Triangulations of the data show it's a star system lying in the permit-locked Collinder 70 sector.
- ♦Galnet releases [a public article](#) on the Thargoids including speculation by some historians on why they so abruptly disappeared in 3150: The article mentions a custom engineered bio weapon - dubbed the Mycoid Virus - by a clandestine organisation named INRA (see entry year 3252). It's delivery resulted in immense casualties on the Thargoid side, which eventually lead the aliens to withdraw. Some historians have since accused the superpowers of orchestrating a genocide on an intelligent alien species, no matter the warlike circumstances.
- ♦A crashed starship of alien origin is discovered in the Pleiades region. It's shape and structure point towards the "octagonal ships" from reports hundreds of years ago. Again, due to their overall semi-organic design, a strong connection

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with the Thargoids and the alien artifacts, probes and barnacles is made. Galnet releases [an article on the wreckage](#) and the circumstances of its discovery.

01/3303 A Commander of the Pilots Federation is pulled out of Witchspace by unknown forces. His ship is thrown back to it's jump-off system and disabled. Soon an unidentified vessel of alien design appears and apparently scans the pilot's ship. The alien vessel then leaves by opening up some sort of portal and disappearing in it. It's widely believed in Pilot Federation circles that it's indeed the Thargoids who are showing up again.

04/3303 ◇Federal Navy patrols are attacked in the Pleiades region by the same alien ships that keep "hyperdicting" independent pilots. There are rumours of first fire on the Federation side but these are discarded by public statements.
◇In the Formidine Rift the "Zurara", one of the megaships of Project Dynasty (see entry year 04/3270), is rediscovered and her logs are analysed by independent Commanders. They allude to a giant conspiracy in Humanity's shadow and the original plan of the project: Having three viable targets for a Human exodus if the Bubble is ever overrun by aliens (i.e. Thargoids).
◇The puzzle pieces of the conspiracy are put together in a number of transmissions and are made public to the galactic community in the Teorge system.

05/3303 Independent pilots discover the medical research base MIR-14 in the Collinder 285 sector. Station logs show experiments with a serum on humans with the aim of creating a type of "super soldier" or "super pilot". Similarities to the failed "Pivot" project from 3273 (see entry year) come to mind. Scientific NGOs intensify investigations and uncover numerous covert facilities over the next

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weeks that seem to support the “super pilot” hypothesis. Independent media and scientists accuse the superpowers of yet another unethical experiment to gain an edge against the aliens.

- 06/3303
- ◊All three galactic superpowers [issue statements](#) addressing the the increasing alien encounters in the Pleiades region and concede it's indeed the species known as “Thargoids” who seem to be returning to a region they seemingly abandoned 150 years ago. Apparently, the superpowers had already expected as much and had begun preparations to counter the threat right from its start.
 - ◊The first documented interaction between a Thargoid ship and a surface barnacle happens in the Pleiades region: The ship maintains a beam on the barnacle and seems to absorb some unknown material, presumably meta-alloys. This gives rise to speculations that the barnacles are indeed some kind of “refuel station” for Thargoid ships. Scientists also find their theory reinforced that the presence of barnacles marks “Thargoid territory”.
 - ◊Independent pilots manage to decode a heavily encrypted message of a listening post in the Electra system. The message leads them to the HIP 19026 system where they find a huge surface structure roughly octagonal and semi-organic in shape, resembling a gigantic Thargoid ship. Analysis and triangulation of similar messages from various listening posts result in ever more (229 to date) surface structures to be found. Some of these structures prove to be active and hold an unknown machinery. Activation results in a projection of a twin spiral not unlike the structure of a galaxy. However, the purpose of this machinery remains unknown.

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- 08/3303 Alliance, Federation and Empire officials [proclaim the founding of Aegis](#), a concerted research initiative to counter the Thargoid threat. Comprised of three divisions, Aegis becomes instrumental in developing anti-xeno (AX) weaponry and later in reverse engineering Guardian technology for use against the Thargoids. Independent historical and science outlets point to the obvious similarities to the INRA - and their suspected unethical and unscrupulous methods. These claims are widely discarded by media spin, however.
- 09/3303 ♦After another attack on a Federal Navy detachment and the destruction of a Farragut-class battlecruiser the Federation [announces](#) that the Thargoids are from now on considered war targets. Mobilisation begins. Thargoid attack ships are classified as Interceptors and are named after a mythical monster from Earth: The Cyclops.
- ♦Thargoid Interceptors are first seen capturing human survivors from ships they destroy. It's also discovered that they gather other typed of "human cargo" like slaves and prisoners. Speculations why they do so run wild in the Pilots Federation.
- ♦A new type of alien shipwreck is found on a planet surface in the Pleiades region. The semi-organic, octagonal shape is strangely similar to Thargoid ships used against Humanity in the First Thargoid War and even before that. Because of their smaller size these ships are dubbed "Scouts" by independent pilots. The wreck shows heavy signs of corrosion or another form of hull degeneration.
- 10/3303 ♦After decrypting a number of unusual distress calls, a clandestine research facility operated by the Janus Corp. is discovered in the HIP 106288 system. The facility is linked to Janus Incorporated of the Pleiades region, which is

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cooperating with Aegis Research. Again station logs mention experiments on humans with a serum. Links to the "Pivot" project are made again public and after outcries Commanders of the Pilots Federation band together and attack Janus Inc. holdings in the Pleiades, thereby severely disrupting its facilities and research.

◊Pilots uncover a number of secret INRA bases from the 3150 era all across the Bubble. The bases finally reveal what many already suspected: Despite its former altruistic appearance the INRA was an unscrupulous organisation bent on eliminating the Thargoid threat and also those who came too close to their secrets.

11/3303 ◊Aegis launches Operation Andronicus, a coordinated large scale initiative of independent pilots in their often highly customised ships. The aim is to counter mounting Thargoid aggression by unorthodox combat techniques. The operation is deemed a success and with it the Pilots Federation becomes instrumental in fighting the Thargoids. The "Anti-Xeno Initiative" (AXI) is born.

◊Military forces confirm a variant of the Thargoid Interceptor, codenamed Basilisk. The variant is stronger than the Cyclops and able to adapt to conventional battle tactics, making it hard to counter at first.

◊Independent pilots discover the wreckage of an old Cobra-class spaceship on HIP 12099 1b. The wreck is identified as the ship of a Commander John Jameson who disappeared in 3151 (see entry year). Audio logs reveal and corroborate again that the INRA had indeed developed a mycoid weapon with the intention of eradicating the Thargoids as a threat once and for all. By all accounts, Jameson seems to have triggered the weapon, unwittingly or not.

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- 12/3303 ◇In [a joint statement](#) Empress Lavigny-Duval and Alliance Prime Minister Mahon clearly distance themselves from the dubious practices of the INRA and also state that the recently created Aegis organisation will not follow INRA's footsteps.
- ◇First sightings of another new variant of Thargoid Interceptors, the Medusa. Also for the first time, the Thargoids are directly attacking starport stations in the Pleiades, resulting in thousands of civilian casualties. Attacks on stations increase during December and well into January.
- 01/3304 More "Scout" wrecks are found in the Pleiades region. All show the same hull degeneration effects as the first wreck found in September 3303.
- 02/3304 ◇Thargoid attacks reach the periphery of the Bubble with attacks on starports in the 49 Arietis and 69 Arietis systems. The appearance of swarms of "Thargoid Scouts" (which had been discovered as shipwrecks before) shows a new phase in the conflict. Because these ships are instantaneously hostile towards Human ships and attack relentlessly, the Pilots Federation officially classifies them as "Marauders" and not "Scouts". The appearance of Marauders leads to the belief the Thargoids are now out on a full scale war against Humanity.
- ◇The Federation launches Operation Bulwark, an initiative to develop autonomous military combat devices effective against the Thargoids. Scientists and the independent media are quick to point to law and articles forbidding the development of artificial intelligence (and also allude to the fate of the Guardians), but these concerns are discarded by Shadow President Felicia Winters in a [public statement](#).

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- 03/3304 ◇Aegis introduces the “Eagle Eye” initiative, a system of six space installations used to predict Thargoid attack patterns and possible future targets. The system proves useful for defence and somewhat eases the strain on resources deployed along the frontlines.
- ◇Aegis also begins construction on a number of megaships with explicit anti-Thargoid capabilities, the Acropolis and the Vanguard.
- 09/3304 The Canonn Interstellar Research Group’s megaship Gnosis makes a hyperjump into the Cone sector, which is screened off by a number of permit-locked sectors. However, the megaship is hyperdicted en route by Thargoids and ejected to N-space in a nearby system. It is subsequently waylaid by a new and extremely aggressive type of Thargoid Interceptor codenamed “Hydra”. The expedition ends in disaster with many exploration vessels lost to either the Thargoids or to friendly fire by the Gnosis’ completely overwhelmed automated fire control system. In a warning statement, Galnet [releases an article](#) on this new threat.
- 12/3304 Aegis begins deployment of its megaship fleet of Incursion Response Vessels. The IRV are meant as mobile forward support bases for forces fighting off Thargoid incursions.
- 04/3305 After a large scale survey of various sectors of space, Thargoid barnacles are discovered in the Witch Head nebula. All three superpowers mount well funded expeditions to secure them as a new source for meta-alloys. Galnet [announces the success](#) of the initiative. Exploration of the area results in the formation of “The Enclave” in August 3305, the first multi-laterally governed interstellar territory.

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- 07/3305 Thargoid incursions into the Pleiades and Witch Head areas abruptly cease. In the following weeks Eagle Eye is unable to pinpoint any major Thargoid activity. Random hyperdictions continue but large scale conflict ceases almost entirely.
- 08/3305 Independent pilots identify a new, fifth type of Thargoid Interceptor, dubbed the Orthrus, at the abandoned research base of Professor Palin in the Maia system. No combat ensues as the Orthrus ships quickly disengage and enter witchspace.
- 10/3306 Rediscovery of the megaship Adamastor (see entry year 10/3111) as it drifted into the Chukchan system. The story of the tragic events leading to her disappearance unfolds, making it evident that corporate elements of the Federation were aware of alien surface structures in the Coalsack nebula as early as 3111, twenty-four years before the First Thargoid War.
- 04/3307 The Adamastor's sister ship Hesperus is rediscovered (see entry year 07/3113) in the Perseus Dark Region. Much like the Adamastor, the Hesperus was ordered on a search for an alien presence, this time in the Barnard's Loop area. Also like the Adamastor, the Hesperus went MIA after a tragic chain of events.
- 06/3307 ♦The Aegis megaship Alexandria goes missing after making a hyperspace jump to escape a hot Thargoid pursuit. Theories about the circumstances point to its heavy payload of Guardian artifacts gathered during an excavation initiative.
♦After a concerted search for the Hesperus' comms beacons, independent pilots discover it's wrecked ship's launch, the Proteus, in the Trapezium sector near Barnard's Loop. They also discover what must have been an ancient battle site: Multiple Thargoid wrecks are scattered around an extensive Guardian ruin, another proof that the two species went to war in the distant past.

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Remarks

1. Some historical references, especially the early ones, are from the Elite Encounters RPG. Since it's an official product ('writers pledge'), most people consider the background information canon, as long as it doesn't contradict otherwise official lore.
2. Early encounters with the Thargoids mention the Veliaze system. The system is present in Frontier: First Encounters but was apparently omitted in Elite: Dangerous. Veliaze had a planet named 'New Africa' and there are two such planets in E:D. They are in the Zelada and Epsilon Indi system.
3. The Mycoid Virus mission arc was an important part of Elite: First Encounters but it took place in the 3250s. At the end of the game, the pilot had the option to either deliver the virus or a vaccine for it to the Thargoids with two possible dramatic endings to the story. Frontier Executive Producer Michael Brookes chose to retcon this for the sake of the E:D storyline. Here, the Mycoid Virus was delivered by an unsuspecting CMDR Jameson and it all took place in the 3150s (where the story of the original Elite game took place) instead of the 3250s.