

# THE ASHBURY TIMES

MONTH OF SERPENT 614



## STONEHOLLOW FALLS

LORD CAPTAIN FLINT BOULDERBACK

On the afternoon of the 25th day of the Month of the Hawk, 614, a decision was made. A decision which affects the lives of a city of Dwarves. The city is called Stonehollow.

My name is Lord Captain Flint Boulderback, and by the authority of His Grace, Sir Nevin Kendrick, I made a choice to remove something from that nation which doomed it to collapse beneath tons of rubble.

Stonehollow was a subterranean city. It was one of many in a vast network forged by a long gone race of Dwarves who possessed mastery over stone and metal unlike any I have ever laid eyes on, and I should know good craftsmanship. You see, dear reader, I, too, am a Dwarf. I once called Stonehollow my Home.

As a Commanding Officer in the Ducal army of Ashbury, I

heeded a call from Stonehollow's leadership to help quell a threat from an imposing force of Necromantic criminals. They hail from the Dwarven Nation of Dwarrenagor. They are called Fizzlebeaf, and they are of the Clan Whiterock. They beset our fair cavern halls in search of what most necromancers seek: power. Nobles, adventurers and heroes from near and far joined me to answer the call and eliminate those brigands from Stonehollow's great halls.

What we found was much more than we had bargained for. We were ready to fight, but we were not so prepared to find cavern after cavern of wondrous artifacts and history from a forgotten time. As we explored we uncovered information about a machine that was once used to manufacture glorious runestones that could be activated much in the way an item imbued with magical power might. The source of its

power was, in fact, the Landbond of Stone.

The Landbond, in its fractured state, creates an imbalance that threatens not only His Grace, Sir Nevin Kendrick, Duke of Ashbury, who is much beloved by his people, but, indeed, the entire realm of Tar'Navaria as well. Last year our mission was made perfectly clear by His Grace: The Landbond must be reassembled. Thanks to the assembled forces, we were able to send the Fizzlebeafs running. However, the matter of the Landbond still had to be dealt with.

Time was of the essence. Once we came upon the chamber where the Landbond-fueled machine lay dormant we discovered we only had one week before this particular cavern would collapse. There was no guarantee that we would be able to find an alternative to removing the Bond from the device. [Continued on Page 3]

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### FALKIRK IN PERIL

Officials in Cil Cilurion have expressed growing concern over the total absence of communication from contacts within the Duchy of Falkirk over the last three weeks.

Recent supply caravans from Blythedale and Nordenn have returned with reports of being turned around by blockades and attacks by members of the separatist clan of Ross. With the

roads to Stirling Keep similarly sabotaged, no one has been able to provide an accurate accounting of the status of Falkirk.

Returning scouts have brought evidence of ravens and pigeons shot down with arrows, suggesting the possibility that enemy clansmen are actively attempting to intercept any outward missives

BY NYARIEN SILVERTREE

from the Duchy.

According to representatives of the Ordo Aurum, multiple Whispering Wind rituals have been sent to Paladin Vacht Silverfang in Stirling Keep with no apparent reply.

His Grace, the Duke, has urged the adventuring populace to aid the death-plagued Duchy, but advises utmost caution.



## ADVENTURER COPING CULTURE

Adventurers are an important part of the lives of many Icenians, taking on the responsibilities and challenges they cannot. So, how do they cope?

When I was in Stonehollow to report on the military situation, I didn't need to ask. As I stepped onto the balcony, I found a full circle of people singing together and swaying, making the most of the lull in action.

A talented Romani woman stepped forward and danced at the behest of her friends, who played a drum for her to keep time to. The drum was passed from an Adarcroi to a Child of Autumn to another Romani throughout the performance. An equally talented Kiergani woman soon joined the Rom. They had not practiced, but fell into rhythm as if they had. It was almost like watching a mirror, but each had slight

BY LIARA GREENGLASS

differences in their style. The entire display was beautiful and left those watching and involved with a feeling of joy.

Perhaps it is as a result of their dangerous lifestyle that adventurers find the little pleasures in life, but it's a lesson we all should learn and take to heart in these dark times.

Sing a little, dance in the rain. There's no harm in making your day a little brighter.

## A LETTER FROM SIR GARATHON

SIR GARATHON VON STORM  
FIRST KNIGHT OF BLYTHEDALE

*"FALKIRK HAS  
HAD  
EXTREMELY  
HARD TIMES  
AND  
CONTINUES  
TO  
STRUGGLE"*

Attention Adventurers and Citizens of Ashbury,

Our next gathering will be hosted at Castle Sterling, in Falkirk. It is common knowledge that Falkirk has had extremely hard times and continues to struggle with clan warfare and monster attacks. For over a year the Barony of Blythedale has been working hand-in-hand with Paladin Silverfang and the citizens of Sterling to secure a safe path between Falkirk and my estate, Two Towers. The Blythedale military and soldiers of Sterling have set up checkpoints along the way where you may stop and resupply, as well as being protected overnight. All

those coming as friends of Falkirk are welcome to the hospitality of these checkpoints.

Further, Baron Ivan, Lord Captain Khorwyn and I will be leaving enforce from Two Towers with a large group of Blythedale soldiers. All are welcome to travel with us and receive the protection of our column as well as share in our traveling supplies as you may need. We will be bringing a large caravan of relief goods, and we welcome any and all who would contribute to the beleaguered citizens of Falkirk.

This will be one of one of the largest humanitarian

efforts in recent memory, and I implore any adventurer of means to come and support these people in anyway you can. Whether it be with your skill at arms, your ability to produce wares, or simply your coin. ALL are needed!

Thank you in advance for your generosity and we look forward to your presence in Sterling. Safe travels.



## ASHBAN MILITARY PROMOTIONS

My fellow Ashbans,

I am pleased to make several public announcements regarding the brave soldiers of the Ashbury Military! Firstly, the distribution of the new, official Soldier's Handbook is underway. If you are a serving member of the military and have yet to receive yours, see your commanding officer immediately or seek me directly to do so.

Second, it was with great

honor that I recently bestowed promotion upon two members of our military while they risked their lives in the defense of Stonehollow. Dominic Sternbeck of Blythedale has officially earned the rank of Man-at-Arms, and Simon Neville of the Ash Forest has earned the rank of Captain. It is also important to mention that Sergeant Ferra Ironbeard officially received the golden sash of her rank, completing her livery.

BY KHORWYN BREY

Now is the time for you, the brave men and women of our beloved Icenia, to take up arms and commit yourselves to serving and protecting the land! If you believe you have the strength it takes to face the foes of Icenia on the front lines of battle, enlist today!

Honor & Bravery,  
Lord Captain Khorwyn Brey



## STONEHOLLOW FALLS CONTINUED

However, if the Bond was removed, it would spell certain doom for the entire network of over a dozen 'Hollows' that stretch as far as Ashbury City itself. So, a choice needed to be made. When it fell on me to make it, I was overwhelmed with emotion. Removing the Landbond meant destroying a place my people made a home many centuries ago. Once the Landbond had been removed from the machine Sir Marcusagrim Anvilstrike gallantly and selflessly attempted to power the device himself using a magical golem. This resulted in the destruction of said golem. Thankfully, Sir Grim's spirit was unharmed as this golem was inhabited by his person; not just spirit.

The Dwarves of Stonehollow are a proud and peace-loving folk. We fled the oppressive nature of Clan Rule in Dwarrenagor. We only wanted to be left alone in a place where all Dwarves could live freely and prosperously no matter what color their beard. They found what they were looking for in the place they dubbed Stonehollow. There, a magical artifact known as 'The Luminary' provided light as real as that of the Sun! We grew crops, and erected homes. We soon had a real city. We lost that once, when Glantri's curse put a blight on Icenia. We were saved by the Nobles and

adventurers of Ashbury.

That's why I left Stonehollow to become a soldier. I desired nothing more than to serve the Duchy whose patrons and officials were responsible for our salvation. I was granted my wish by His Grace, Sir Frost himself! I have served proudly ever since with my sisters- and brothers-in-arms. Now, ironically, my duty would lead me to make the choice to destroy this amazing place.

I did so with the heaviest of hearts. I felt the risk to my Duke and the Realm was too great to bet on 'maybes' or 'what-ifs'. Decisive action needed be taken, and I took it. We are one step closer to reassembling the bond which holds Tar'Navarria together. Our Duke will be whole again.

But what of my kin? Fear not. The Dwarves of Stonehollow are strong. We are resolute. We are the Earth Children. Even now we are considering options for relocation. Luckily, when this decision was made, most of the populace had already been evacuated to Forestheart in Corrheim.

Thanks must be given to Ruis of Nordenn and my brother, Sergeant Tindler Boulderback for leading these efforts before reinforcements arrived. Thankfully our people are safe. An outpouring of support has been shown to us. I would mention the Vansir Skald known as Caoimhe as a

shining example of just one who has offered us a place to settle. The point is, we may have lost a treasured place, but Ashbury takes care of its own. We will find a way to prosper once more. If you are a Dwarf of Stonehollow, and you have questions or concerns...please, see me. I will be at the Ducal Military encampment in Forestheart for the next several weeks, assisting in the effort to stabilize our people.

Thank you to everybody who assisted in the evacuation. Thank you, Ranger Qualin, for your council. Thank you to the Vanguard, my brothers and sisters, for seeing me through this. Thank you to the members of Baronial Courts of the Ash Forest, Nordenn, and Blythedale for your aid. Thank you to those who traversed the Mist, whether intentionally or not for lending us your steel. Thank you, Castlebur Fizzlebeaf, for bravely defying your own blood, and selflessly sacrificing part of your very spirit to create the weapon that would end their treachery.

Thank you to my mother and father for supporting me no matter what. I would not be the Dwarf I am today if it was not for your love and discipline.

I have never been more proud to be a soldier, and belong to a vast community of heroic people that travel the Kingdom of Icenia and beyond. Through terror and tragedy we carry on.

Yours In Service,  
Lord Captain Boulderback

*“THROUGH  
TERROR  
AND  
TRAGEDY  
WE CARRY  
ON.”*



## IMLADAR REBUILDS

There has been a surge of positive news from the nation of Imladar in the past month— chief among it, that High Lord Valdorian Thantellin has, at last, made a full recovery after the Thessi attack on the Imladari flagship known as the Daralassia earlier this year.

Imladar has shown great

initiative in bouncing back from the brutal attack that caused the Daralassia to crash into Amisaria port in late winter. The Daralassia has been reported as being fully repaired and operational.

Along with the repairs to their property, Imladar has also been working with Amisaria to repair the damage done to the port by the

BY PROSERPINA GLAEDWINE

Daralassia, providing both labor and coin to speed the efforts.

While there have been no further skirmishes reported between Imladar and Thessi, Wablaznut pirates have been engaged. Whether the attacks are due to an alliance with Thessi or are mere attacks of opportunity remains to be seen .



## ELEMENTAL MAYHEM CONTINUES

BY PROSERPINA GLAEDWINE

The surge in hostile elemental activity has only increased, of late. The estate of Tower Hills Citadel in particular has reported an alarming increase in violent elementals rifting in seemingly at random.

Thankfully, due to strong military presence in the estate, threats are being

dispatched with regularity, though not without some difficulty.

There have been increasing concerns from the common folk, not just in Tower Hills Citadel but throughout the Duchy, that the seemingly unending stream of various kinds of elementals will end up being more than the military can handle.

There has been seemingly no pattern to when or where the elementals will strike— no strategies or logic seems to dictate their rifting.

As always, civilians are advised to travel with extreme caution and report any rogue elemental sightings to local military with all haste.

*“IMLADAR  
HAS  
SHOWN  
GREAT  
INITIATIVE”*

## DO YOU SUPPORT A NATION OF SLAVERS, NECROMANCERS, AND TERRORISTS?

In the past 12 months, the Nation of Imladar has experienced a thousandfold increase in attacks by the affiliates of the Thessi, where the sole or primary motivating factor was the death or enslavement of Imladari Elves.

Openly hostile and violent

attacks against Imladari citizens is a clear message of warlike intent, and other nations should treat them as such.

The killing of innocent and peaceful civilians is against international law, and the Thessi must answer for their crimes

against the free people of Tar’Navaria.

Make a stand with Imladar against the Thessi, or watch your children and friends befall a most horrible end by a savage nation. The choice is yours.

- Eldandil



## ADVERTISEMENTS AND PERSONALS

The *Ashbury Times* is actively seeking contributors of news articles in exchange for two silver per article. For more information, contact us at our headquarters in Ashbury City.

To the Adventuring Community,  
I'll be selling raffle tickets at the upcoming gather. What's the prize you ask? Well as I have noticed my cooking is valued in town the winner of the raffle will get a special dinner made for them at the following month (or which ever month they will next be around for). Why is this special? Because even though I try to provide the best I can for the community, there are MANY fancy and special dishes which would not be practical to make for the whole town. So treat yourself to a chance to win a dinner of my finest ability. Rare cuts of beef, exotic dishes from far off lands, whatever you want is yours for dinner, but you have to win first.

Tickets will be one gold a piece, or two tickets for 10 silver. All proceeds go to the Brittington war effort. Support our fight against the evils of Thessi and get yourself a fantastic dinner in the process.

Sir Amaranthus Landcharmer  
Royal Knight to Her Majesty Queen Sonia Bouchard

Greetings, everyone. I am here to offer any and all alchemical solutions you might be requiring for the upcoming gather. Please contact me in person or in private dreams to discuss what I can do for you. My prices are fair and bulk purchases will grant you a discount. -Vox

### MISSING!

A mystic wood elf woman with long, dark hair by the name of Lalique Bloodclub and two young mystic wood elf or dwarfen children. If you have any information regarding their whereabouts, please contact Valím Bloodclub as soon as possible.

*Interested in advertising or posting a personal? Seek out your local Times representative or send a missive to our headquarters in Ashbury City!*

## TALK OF THE TAVERN

In our monthly installment of "Talk of the Tavern," we'll be sharing some of the most notable rumors and stories going around Ashbury's local taverns — to keep you, our readers, apprised of what the common folk are saying.

We've had a stir of rumors regarding the boys in blue—it would appear that Baron Ivan Drake has been expressing rather frequently how "tired" he is of late. Perhaps retirement is in his near future? Many have been heard wondering what would become of the court of Blythedale under Sir Garathon's leadership.

Man-at-Arms Dominic seems to have gained a small but quickly-growing fan club! Enthusiastic cheers of "Blythedale kid!" have been

heard following the young soldier wherever he goes.

Alto was seen giving some fine jewelry to Jinx of the Gilded Claw— perhaps there is something brewing between the two Elves?

It has been announced that this year's Ducal Tournament will occur in R'Kura at Flameheart Keep. It seems that Sir Amaranthus will have to challenge Lady Darksun for control of the local Tavern. We'll see what the Gilded Claw has to say about that.



Speaking of taverns, more and more are seeking out the protection of Earth Warder Glyphs. Apparently, the Glyph in Fairedale has gained some notoriety and tavernkeeps

across the Duchy are clamoring to "undead-proof" their own businesses.

Sir Anvilstrike can't seem to keep a golem in one piece. There are reports that he has destroyed two in as many months. Celestialists beware. On a related note, the *Ashbury Times* would like to thank Sir Anvilstrike for his continued service to the Duchy.

Citizens seem to be keeping a close eye on Biata across the Duchy as war with the Thessi has been declared by neighboring kingdoms.

That's all for this month's Talk of the Tavern! If you have a story or rumor you'd like to share with us, send your missive to our headquarters in Ashbury City.