

# THE STARKPOOL REPORT

Issue #4, April 11, YN 1025.

*"All the things that people are talking about"*

## ITEM #1: Desert Gnomes Defy Bandits

4/5

Gnombus, Archduke of the Desert Gnomes, responds to a request for parley from the Baron of Brant as follows:

*I believe that my terms were as clear as the summer sun. Pay me 4000gp and swear not to cross into my liege lord's lands west of the wood. If you do, I shall release your man. If you do not, I will entertain him at my court, until I grow tired of him and thereupon dump him in my cellar. There is no need for parley.*

## ITEM #2: Raiders Defeated by Lonely Nomads

4/5

Minions of Evil Jack Palance tried to raid the encampment known as Lonely Fields (E5), which is held by the noted Owlbear Punch brewers called the Lonely Nomads. Their leader, Chief Lonely Pants, at the head 200 tribal riders defeated the band of Gnolls and Hoborgs in a brisk battle on the plains, sending them packing back to Braxx.

## ITEM #3: Barbarian Raid on Grundor and Vengeance Taken by Captain Rathbone

4/5-6

A large band of barbarian raiders, led by Jarl Ingvar of Barlborg, attacked the village of Grundor (V30) drove off its garrison and plundered it on the 5th. This village has been a haven for half-orcs for several centuries and owes allegiance to Starkpool City.

The next day, however, Captain Rathbone, from the nearby Lake Tower (T20) caught up with the fleeing raiders. Leading a strong company of 100 medium horse, he inflicted great slaughter on the raiders and sent them crying back home, although taking many casualties in the process. Captain Rathbone reports that they shall fear to come near Starkpool again. The captain was awarded the Badge of Awesomeness by Captain-General Falworth, in the name of the Ruling Guild of Mystic Knowledge.

## ITEM #4: Fang Seizes Ravenwall and Hell-hole

4/7-10

Baron Fangola himself led an army of over 200 creatures on an assault on the Barl fortress of Ravenwall. He drove the garrison out, slaying half of them. He looted the tower, reorganized his forces and on the 9<sup>th</sup> assaulted and captured the cavernous Dwarf-lair called Hell-hole. The forces slaughtered all of the Dwarf militia and captured the Dwarfish civilian population of the cavers. He killed a good portion of the Barl garrison and drove the rest out into the mountains.

## ITEM #5: Holy Pilgrimage, Blessed Victory, and Foul Murder

4/8

Ronstudd Dragonslayer and Earl Rockhank of Dorgstyn, his forces mounted on adorable ponies, both arrived at the Holy Tomb of St. Gordon with their most trusted soldiers and aides. Baron Evil Jack Palance, Lord of Draxx, however, had arrived with his own best guards and dug in the ruins intending to thwart them. Clean living prevailed, however, and the Earls drove the dastardly Baron out of the ruins, with great slaughter.

The pilgrims then approached the tomb itself, where they were opposed by ghouls and gargoyles, led by Master Hell-Spike, a spectral being of deep evil. The ghouls and Hell-spike were blasted into the hell that awaited them by the Dragon-Slayer's holiness. The gargoyles were more difficult, causing great havoc amid the horsemen of Sinxth and even slaying McSmash, the bishop of the Dwarves.

It seems that Baron Palance's evil was not completed. After a first, failed attempt, the baron's hitman Sneaky Donald Pleasance managed to back-stab and kill Pastor Enzo, the Bishop of Sinxth, before escaping. It was a truly tragic day for the Church of Law.

Entering the Tomb and summoning the soul of St. Gordon with the ancient words "Gordon's Alive!" the two earls ask the saint to proclaim the truth that might end their quarrel. The saint told them that indeed a vassal of Earl Rockhank had stolen the sword "Kindness" from Sinxth, but it was done without the Earl's knowledge or approval. Mayor Marvelous of the Gnome village of Bridgeton (V29) had stolen the sword. He, however, discovered that the sword was not a Holy Sword, as many had believed, but was but an ordinary blade. Marvelous then chucked the sword into the river. The only Holy Sword in the Starkpool Reach was the sword Requitor, which lay in the Land Unknown.

The revelations caused Ronstudd and Rockhank to make amends and declare peace between them.