

## Victory In The East

### Goblin Raiders Defeated.

Marshall Windstar returned from a successful campaign in the eastern marches last week. A spokesperson for the High Council stated that the Goblin forces had been driven back and the border villages were now safely back in the hands of the military.

The Marshall also reported the death of Morton Fallstar, the Commander of the Auxilliaris who led the first expeditionary force against the Goblins. "He died as a warrior," Marshall Windstar reported, "With a sword in his hand, fighting the enemy." Citizens who are concerned over the welfare of family and friends in the area are requested to visit the Cathedral of Phaedra, where a list of the dead and missing has been posted.

### Trial of The Year Ends In Disappointment.

The trial of pirate 'Black' Winston took place at the Palace two weeks ago. The public court was packed out as the citizens of Midwinter waited to discover the fate of the notorious buccaneer.

Throughout the three day trial, Winston was unrepentant, firmly stating that his actions were legal and in accordance with his countries laws. Representatives of his native Kusumu were at the trial defending him.

The crowds, who firmly expected the pirate to receive a death sentence, were to be disappointed as Judge Gardinier found Winston guilty and sentenced him to life imprisonment in Garangar Prison.

The embassy from Kusumu left the following day, stating that unless their loyal citizen was released, they would go to war. Admiral Hockenden was unmoved by their blustering and refused to rise to their bating. "We have nothing to fear from them," he told the Herald, "Our navies are the finest in the New Kingdoms, more than a match for these upstarts."

### Zale Talks Resume.

The Zalian ambassador, Lukbert Kalovic, returned to Midwinter last weeks to reopen talks with the High Council. Recent talks had stalled over the disputed fishing grounds in Dukeswater.

"Hopefully this time we can come to an agreement," he said, "Neither of our Nations want the messy business of a war over a few fish." The High Council refused to comment.

### Sailors Warn of Fierce Winter Ahead.

Sailors returning to Midwinter over the last few weeks have brought warnings of fierce snow storms in the eastern plains.

Experts believe that if the sightings are correct the snows will arrive in early January.

## **Monastery Raider Defeated.**

Rangers returning from the North have brought tales of huge Wyverns raiding down from the mountains.

"They are the biggest I have ever seen," one said, "Easily big enough to take a full grown man or cow."

Harsh weather in the mountains is thought to be the problem, making their normal prey scarce and hard to find.

## **Ghostly Goings On.**

Tenants of Needle Street fled their homes last week following a month of ghostly apparitions.

Thirty two residents have reported the sighting of an old woman wandering the streets and alleys, gazing through windows and trying doors.

Keeper Gerard Weeks of the Church of Orloth warned residents not to interfere with the apparition. "These spawn are dangerous and only trained members of my Order should undertake their disposal," he told the Herald.

A squad of Paladins have been sent to the area to investigate the problem.

## **Grain Shortages Confirmed.**

Grain shortages following the troubles in the east have been confirmed by the Baker's Guild. Prices are due to rise by as much as a penny per loaf.

## **Bandit Raids on the Increase.**

Reports from border guards in Ironoak and Highpine have reported an increase in border raids over the last month. Raiders from the wilds have been attacking outlying farms and villages every two to three days, stealing livestock and other produce.

Rewards for bandit scalps have been increased by the Mercenaries Guild in a hope to draw companies to the area for the winter months.

## **Mausoleum Reopens.**

Preceptor Damlor Longwolf held officiated at the reconsecration ceremony this week, reopening the Orlothian Mausoleum to the public.

The Mausoleum had been damaged by the earth tremors in November and closed to the public for safety reasons. Dwarven artisans were brought in from Redstone to reinforce the stone tunnels.

## **Betting Hots Up.**

Betting on the coming New Year Sunsword games has been fast and furious this month following the announcements that Gerald Hornglass and Albert Crompton, winners at this year's Festival of Erryn, will be competing in the Joust and Melee competitions respectively.

"This year's games will be the largest ever," said Amos Cressmar, head of the Merchant's Guild, "We already have over one hundred applicants for the joust and nearly two hundred for the melee and more are flocking to the city." The Guildmaster hopes that the crowds will bring much needed trade into the city over the lean winter months.

In a related story, the docks have been busy with the arrival of three eastern horse breeders from Al Jabar who are competing in the races. Saar Hamla, Naim Masoor and Ashfir Barija have been winning races in their homelands for many years and have this year decided to risk their luck in Midwinter.