

The Midwinter Herald

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Midwinter Wins Naval Battle.

On January 7th the fleets of Midwinter and Zale met in the Dukeswater Gap for the first of a series of engagements lasting three days. Admiral Hockenden's fleets have dispersed those of his rival Moztof and once again Port Newland is safe from Zale's deprivations. Hockenden's ships have control of the Gap and are stationed near Zale's major ports.

The High Council met in an emergency session on January 6th to discuss what extended action is to be taken against Zale. A spokesman for the Council said that Donal Hawkwind would travel to Zale to discuss a diplomatic resolution to the current problems.

Meanwhile, land forces under the control of Commander Kentwick have been ferried to Port Newland, Risley, Dimmarsh and Longvale. "We are prepared for any eventuality," she told a Mage's Guild representative, "If Zale decides to take the action a step further, so will we."

New Year Games Report.

This year's Sunsword Games were a great success despite the tensions between Midwinter and Zale that many thought would blight them. Record crowds flocked to the Stadium and the race track for each of the three days.

The blue-riband Joust event was won by Gerald Hornglass, winner of the recent Tournament of Erryn. The Tournament is often seen as an indicator of the Sunsword result and this year was no exception. Second place went to Kay Hangard, a Freeblade from Orla, the first woman to gain a ranking place in the Joust's history. Third place went to Thaeril Elessian an unknown Elf from Tanglewood.

The Melee result saw an overturn of the Erryn result, seeing the recent champion Albert Crompton defeated in the final by bookies favourite Danesh Fairwind. Third place was shared by the dwarves Durag Kargan and Thorag 'Bonesplitter' Gargin. The dwarves match lasted a record three and a half hours. Time was finally called by the match referee and the prize was shared.

The minor events all passed without serious upset except for the horse racing, where the honours in all the races were shared by the three Jabari horse breeders Saar Hamla, Naim Masoor and Ashfir Barija.

Lives Lost as Mine Collapses.

More lives were lost in the village of Wormit last week as another landslide has sealed the entrance to the local iron-ore mine.

Mages from the Guild went to the locals immediate help but only three of the missing thirty two miners was found alive.

Peacemakers Fail to Halt Games.

Members of the Peacemaker Cult again tried to halt the Sunsword Games this year by chaining themselves to the gates of the Stadium.

At the request of the head of the Merchant's Guild, Captain Naylor of the Bell End Watch House took the demonstrators into custody for the duration of the games.

Sky Rocks Destroy Homes.

A shower of rocks fell from the sky last week impacting upon several homes in the Docklands district and collapsing the ramshackle buildings.

Members of the Mages Guild visited the area to find the rocks but only three were found. "These rocks are a natural occurrence," said guild Creator Anroth Eaglesinger, "We would very much like to examine them and will pay a reward for any that are returned to the Guild."

Drunken Dwarves Drink Taverns Dry.

Following their success in the Games, two dwarves Durag Kargan and Thorag Gargin, went on a drinking binge in the Outlands.

Together with several friends, the two dwarves managed to spend the entire 1000 Crown prize money they had won in the games in only three days. Completely drinking four taverns dry in the process.

The mammoth three day drinking spree started on the 2nd January and lasted until the local tavern owners contacted the Elfame Watch to stop them.

Captain Amberfield detained the dwarves in the Watch House cells until they had sobered up. They were released on the 7th January.

Grieving Runewind Attempts Suicide.

Gemma Runewind, sole survivor of the Runewind family, made an attempt on her own life during Maellar. She was found in a room at the Green Man tavern by the landlady Lelene Zenost, who immediately contacted the King's Road Watch.

Captain Greycloak refused to comment on the attempted suicide but other residents of the inn said that Gemma was found with a bottle of Whitecrown reeds and several Silverleaf leaves. She is currently recovering at the Peacemaker's Hospital in the Shambles.

City Weaponsmiths Step Up a Gear.

The city's weapon and armour makers have stepped up their manufacturing process to supply weapons and armour to the armed forces heading south.

The Guild of Mercenaries and Freeblades has signed up over five thousand new swords to the city's companies in the last two weeks and all will need equipping before they can head south.

Frightened Zalians Flee City.

Hordes of frightened Zalians have been fleeing the city since the troubles began a month ago. Many of them are fleeing for their lives after they have suffered insults and beating from enraged Midwinter citizens.

Watch Searches For Smuggler

Commander Jeremy Blackridge issued a city-wide request for information on notorious smuggler Bryon Vantarn last week. "We are offering a reward for any information regarding the man's whereabouts," he told the Herald, "He was seen entering the city during Maellar and we do not know his current location. We ask all upstanding citizens to be on the lookout for this man."

Vantarn has a price on his head in many of the New Kingdoms, including Midwinter and Zale. He has been linked with the illegal importing of narcotics and poisons from Al-Jabar, the Hamatic states and the Black Kingdoms for over twenty years. He is considered armed and dangerous and citizens should not attempt to tackle him on their own.