

# The Midwinter Herald

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## Family Murdered in Beaconsfield.

The peaceful heart of the Beaconsfield Estates was rocked last week by the murder of one of the cities most important men. Otto Heartstar and his extended family were found dead at the family estate on January 2<sup>nd</sup> by members of the Beaconsfield Guard. Commander Felix Waveheart spoke to the Herald last week. "We are not entirely sure what happened on the night of the 1<sup>st</sup>, but we believe that Zalian assassins are responsible for the attack."

"The attack occurred sometime during the night," he said, "The assailants murdered Lord Heartstar and his family in their beds. There is no sign of anything being stolen or of any damage. We called in the Academical Society Seekers and the Judges and they both agree with our initial findings. We are yet to establish why this family in particular was singled out."

The Heartstar family was quite small, considering it's influence and position on the Council of Lords. The family was famous for it's weaving activities and owned many shops, warehouses and mills throughout the Midwinter area. Pending the location of any surviving Heartstars, the estate and businesses have been placed under the control of Merchant's Guild.

## War at Sea Continues.

Skirmishes with Zale's navy have continued sporadically over the last two weeks as both fleets attempt to control the Gap. Diplomatic attempts to resolve the situation have failed, finally leading to the expulsion of Ambassador Donal Hawkwind two days ago.

The situation has begun to effect the supply of goods into Midwinter. A squadron of Zale ships have been operating in Dukeswater, attacking and sinking at least five merchant ships in the last two weeks. Admiral Hockenden informed the Herald that the situation was being dealt with and would be resolved soon.

Unrest in the city has continued to increase, forcing several prominent Zalian families to flee their holdings in the city.

## Fires Break Out Again is Shambles.

Over the last two weeks seven more fires have ravaged dockside warehouses and shops in the Docklands and Harbour Districts. Commander Blackridge blamed warring factions in Midwinter's underground for the continuing problems. Commander Blackridge has been recruiting temporary constables through the Freeblade's Guild in attempt to bolster their numbers and deal with the problem.

"With the army out of the way they seem to think they can get away with anything," he told the Herald, "But we are on top of the problem and the perpetrators will be in custody in the near future."

## **Births, Marriages and Deaths.**

Jenna Dawnstar and Huw Hawkwind were married on the 15<sup>th</sup> January at the Cathedral, joining the fortunes of two of the most powerful families in Midwinter.

In a surprise match, Gerard Moonweaver married Sara Goldring last week. Moonweavers controls Midwinter's largest fishing fleet, while the Sara Goldring brings no property or business to the match.

Dareth Orumbar, head of the Orumbar Shipping Company, died last week at the age of eighty three. Despite being married four times Orumbar remained childless. His estate and business have reverted to Guild ownership.

William Greyskull, youngest son of Lord Rodney Greyskull, was killed in action on the 19<sup>th</sup> January. William, an officer on the ship Whitecrest, was killed during an engagement with the Zalian fleet off Port Newland.

## **Pirate's Escape Attempt Foiled.**

During the evening of January 9<sup>th</sup>, an abortive attempt was made to free the Buccaneer 'Black' Winston from the prison on Garangar Island.

Captain Willis Buck, commandant of the prison, filed a report to Commander Blackridge stating that a force of thirty pirates attempted to break into the prison and free Winston.

"During it's three hundred year history no one has managed to escape from the Prison." he told the Herald, "This attempt was no exception. The pirates failed to break through even the weakest of our defences."

## **Mass Duel Stopped by Watch.**

Thirty four participants in a mass duel were arrested on the 24<sup>th</sup> by officers of the King's Road Watch. The duellists, young members of both Old and New families were caught in Beaconsfield Park late in the evening.

The duel was already in progress when the watch arrived. Four duellists were already dead and many more were suffering serious injuries.

"This is becoming a joke," Captain Greycloak told us, "This craze has got out of hand and the they will fight over the slightest thing."

## **Local Merchants Missing.**

Three Merchants disappeared last week during a routine trip to Ironoak. The merchants, who have not been named, were travelling from Highpine to Ironoak. The Ironoak Watch were alerted when they failed to arrive on time.

Investigations have failed to discover their whereabouts and as yet, no ransom demands have been received.