

War At Sea Grinds To A Halt.

Despite early victories against Zale, the war at sea has reached a stalemate. Winter storms and pirate raids have stopped the Midwinter Fleet from pressing it's earlier advantage. Admiral Hockenden ordered the fleet back to Port Newland in early February for refitting and repairs.

Raids on outlying communities along the south coast began ten days ago. Eye-witness reports said that the ships flew no colours during the raids. Admrial Hockenden has sent a number of his fastest ships to the area to patrol the sea lanes.

Admiral Hockenden told the Herald "Pirates from the Misty Isles are getting greedy. They are normally quiet this time of year, but the unrest with Zale has wet their appetite for plunder. The locals need not worry for long, my boys will clear the area out soon enough."

Break In At Palace – Crown Jewels Stolen.

During the early hours of February 9^h, Rosa Merryweather, Captain of the Norn Hill Watch was called to the Hammerwind Palace following a suspected break in. Six Palace guards were found dead both inside and outside the building.

After a thorough investigation of the Palace, it was discovered that the only items stolen were the crown and sceptre made for Uncel Hammerwind in 317_{TA} when he was crowned King of Midwinter. The items, along with other personal effects, have remained in the Palace vaults since the Hammerwinds were deposed 513_{TA}.

While valuable items, the crown and sceptre will be almost impossible to sell as they are. The Watch believe the items will be passed on to a private collector in one of the east coast cities.

Zale Bolsters Port Defences.

Scouts have reported a threefold increase in Zale's defences in their coastal towns. Free Companies from Pendaran and the New Kingdoms have been arriving in a steady stream over the last month.

Jenna Kentwick, Commander of the Auxilliaris, told the Herald: "They are right to be frightened of Midwinter. We are a proud country and will not be bullied by our neighbours." When asked if there was to be a land invasion of Zale, she replied "No Comment."

Merchants are being warned to steer clear of Zale's towns for fear of reprisals.

Reclusive Writer Pens New Play.

The acclaimed playwright Merrick Becksworth has completed his first new work for seven years. The play, which has yet to be named, will be appearing at the Blacksea Theatre in the summer.

Becksworth has been living as a virtual recluse in Ironbridge for the last ten years. His last play, 'Wine and Roses', was completed in 995 and proved to be one of the most popular he has written.

Ruined City Discovered.

Merchants returned to Midwinter from a year-long expedition into the Wyrmsdown last week. Karya Windfast, the expedition leader, spoke to the Herald yesterday. "The expedition was a great success," She said, "Not only have we discovered several new sources of Ironwood, Mithril and other precious ores, we have found the ruins of an ancient Annan city."

Karya is currently studying in the Academical Society Libraries, trying to gain more information about the city. The location of the city and any details of what they found have yet to be released.



The Royal Staff.

Midwinter's Premier Inn

Come taste the finest food and ale available in the city.

All at reasonable prices.
Proprietor: Roazer Igniyara.



More Earthquakes in Stonelands.

Homes in Twin Peaks and Ironbridge were rocked by another series of earthquakes earlier this week.

The quakes originated in the Stonelands, well known for its volcanic activity.

More Shooting Stars Seen in February.

Over several nights this month, a rain of shooting stars have been seen in the night sky over Midwinter. The Academical Society would like to assure the members of the public that there is nothing to worry about and that the phenomenon is natural.

Bandits Captured in Ironbridge.

A notorious outlaw, Sirius Blackwell, and his gang have been captured in Ironbridge. Blackwell has been raiding caravans and shipping for many years, but has always managed to escape the law.

On January 30th, Blackwell and his gang attacked a caravan a day out of Ironbridge. Unknown to Blackwell, the caravan was a cover for members of the White Sword, a Free Company recently arrived in Midwinter. Blackwell will be tried in Midwinter next week.