



The Brandel Bugle

Editor: Klaberjazz of Groff

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Peace talks end in chaos

The bastions may be on the brink of another war this month with the miserable failure of the peace mission to Adriarne.

The mission, including Lord Wrath and two representatives from Kar-Brandel was ruined by a combination of Shadowpact and Yama'shu agents, the latter having been invited to attend by Pirrishi Maskelyne, High Priest of Adriarne.

The mission was further ruined when one of our own representatives, no doubt chosen by Skryme Dragonsdope "accidentally" sacrificed the Adriarne General, Motors, in an act of uncontrolled priestly magic. The shrivelled husk, all that remained of the body, was then left lying in the mud as bloody murder of a more mundane sort was carried out by all and sundry.

The Bugle is not sure now where the greater danger lies; between the Shadowpact/Yama'shu alliance, if indeed it was more than temporary, or from a combined army of Adriarne and Nyronid troops marching from the east for revenge.

Our noble protector, Lord Wrath, was as much a dupe in this as all the others, but it is at the door of the Brandel emissary that all blame lies and hence ultimately at the door of Skryme, our 'noble' chancellor. As yet however there has been no summons from Lord Wrath for Skryme, but when it comes and Skryme is found guilty the Bugle hopes that a sentence of Boiling alive is not considered too harsh. Skryme is after all a great believer in this sentence as Kellassar priest of Rincewind, will testify.

The Bugle calls for general strike.

Winter is almost upon us and already the tax gatherers are here and in greater numbers than ever. This year it seems that farmers will not only have to give most of their hard earned crops to Kar Brandel, but the confederacy is to levy its own tax as well. Why? The Bugle can reveal that most of this produce is to go to Kar Wrath to feed those hairy, uncouth northern barbarians throughout the winter months.

What is given in return for this 'donation'? Very little as far as the

Bugle can tell. Brandel is now meant to be protected, but as every farmer knows, it is him that is out every night trying to fend off goblins as they loot his home again.

Well no more! The Bugle is asking all workers to support a Bastion wide strike on the first day of next month. Let the nobility feed and clothe themselves! Unless taxes are reduced immediately more action may need to be taken. Bezique may no longer be with us, but his spirit lives on! Support the strike for Bezique and justice.

Kathros treachery confirmed

Handwriting experts from the Kar-Brandel city watch confirm that the documents provided by this paper, giving details of troop numbers and their disposition to Talen Coldblood, were indeed in the handwriting of Kathros an intelligent young member of the adventuring classes in our city.

Although much of the information is now out of date, the potential for disaster cannot be underestimated. Had Talen obtained this information when it was current Kar-Brandel could now have suffered the fate of Kar Dernath, and all of the populace would be now either dead or enslaved under the harsh whips of orc taskmasters.

Talen has long had his eye on the destruction of Kar Brandel, because it has been Kar Brandel adventurers that have foiled his plans time after time, and this makes this latest development all the more worrying. If one adventurer is a spy, perhaps there are more. How much information is Talen party to? In this regard the confederation is a disaster, with important orders and missives passing backwards and forwards across pact held terrain with little and inadequate security. Kar Brandel citizens should have a right to more security, and it is to this end that the Bugle will be calling for more levies to be raised.

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Although this move may be unpopular with some, now is the right time to be thinking about what actions are necessary. Winter is coming and the harvest has almost been gathered. It men are to be trained then what better time than now, when we would otherwise be sitting in our huts waiting for the coming of spring.

As usual though Lord Ferlad the ineffectual has not yet taken any action himself. One must wonder what sort of advice he is getting, because Ferlad was once a great thinker.

Mage Guild left without leader after treachery of Darcovar.

Darcovar, possibly the most respected member of the Mages' Guild since Weswick the Wise, has finally shown his true colours in his defection to the Shadow Pact.

Darcovar was, of course, the head of the Mages' Guild in Kar Brandel, and was universally trusted and liked. This new development has left the Guild without a leader; for the meantime, the retired mage "Old Naws" has returned to active duty in order to quell the chaos caused. Pierre the Mystique was unavailable for comment: although he is one of the most senior mages in the Bastion, he has of late been preoccupied with the developments within his magical laboratory.

It therefore falls to the Guild to select a new head. There are two such candidates for the position, both experienced adventurers. Tasten of the Red is a young, enthusiastic mage whose arts extend to the more direct application in battle. Klaberjazz,

Marshal Lawe Murder - Top level coverup

The Bugle has recently learned from its sources in the city watch that the investigation into the murder of Marshal Lawe has been closed. Most Brandelers will remember that the official line was, and still is, that Marshal Lawe dragged himself off his deathbed, climbed several hundred stairs to the top of the temple of Valkryst unseen and unaided, climbed on the crenellations and then through himself off, plummeting to his death, unwitnessed, below. Which idiots came up with this story is not yet known, but the Bugle awards them 0 points for realism.

The only explanation can be a top level coverup. Certainly it seems that there are some in the ruling echelons who are determined that the killers are never found. The Bugle has further learned that the investigator who was examining the case disappeared three days ago and has not been seen since. His wife and 2 young daughters are already grieving but were able to issue this brief statement:

"Mo prepared us well for this the other candidate, has less credibility. Although a competent mage, he will have a hard time retaining the position in the face of other members of the council, in particular Lord Skryme Dragonfriend, who said that he would "rather eat his own mace than see that charlatan have any position of power on the council". Klaberjazz is still wanted by Lord Skryme for numerous acts of sedition and alleged attacks on the Lord's person.

Darcovar's treachery was discovered first by a group of Brandel adventurers, headed by Sgt Gallen of the Watch. The incident

moment, and we knew it would come eventually. He had been particularly worried about his work recently, although he wouldn't say why. He did ask however that all his papers be given to the Bugle, and his other possessions that we did not need are to be given to the city watch. As soon as matters here are completed my daughters and I will be travelling to Kar Bhelthor to join my mother."

Mrs Orse was in tears as she read her prepared statement, and has obviously been hit hard. The Bugle would like to ask any adventurers who are free to accompany Mrs Orse and the children on their journey to ensure that no further tragedy happens.

Due to the current warrants outstanding on the Bugle's editor and its staff we were unable to approach directly those responsible for making the decision to drop the case, but an agent, when she attempted to obtain a statement was escorted out of the justice hall by four armed guards.

also pointed towards Darcovar's involvement with a Shadow Pact infiltration of the cult of Rhiathale, causing the tension that has been evident in the last couple of months between the cults.

Whatever the case, there is a struggle ahead for the Guild of Magi; Darcovar was a role model to many, and his absence will be noticed by all.

[ed. There is another choice of course. Cepulia, who is maturing rapidly, is also of sufficient experience to take the reins of power. She gets my vote]

The Pact is back!

A huge Shadow Pact army has emerged from the God's Eyes Mountains, west of the Bastion of Winter, Kar Terevan. Already Terevan's armies have rallied to defend against the onslaught, but with little success. Two of the Terevanni legions have been destroyed utterly, and Lord Terevan's Snow Knights prepare themselves for worse to come in the siege.

Talen Coldblood, the evil Arch Mage, has issued this ultimatum, which was read out by General Accident (with some help from Sieur Halsby) to the citizens of Kar Brandel:

"People of Kar Brandel and the Marches, your time has come. The Shadow Pact are now more powerful than ever, and we are fully capable of destroying this tiny obstacle you call a Bastion as we sweep the Marches clean of all Humankind. However, we are prepared to be lenient. We demand the immediate surrender of Kar Chorovar, Kar Terevan, Kar Brandel and Kar Wrath, and homage from the peoples of these cities. If you do not comply, there will be a hail of fire and blood called down upon your precious Bastions which will utterly destroy you."

The Archmage and reclusive scholar, Whitewind, has announced to the bemused Mage's guild in Kar Brandel that the world is, in fact, square. "No other Geomantical pattern can quite account for the eddy patterns of residual flux," he announced excitedly. Members of the guild were less enthusiastic. "any idiot can produce overblown theories that they claim only they can understand. What matters is results." The general

General Accident, far from perturbed by this bold statement, turned the news to his advantage. His rousing speech, calling for new heroes to join the Army, Guilds and Priesthood was met with encouraging response.

"Yes, it will be bloody, dangerous, cold and grim; some of you might not make it back. But, never forget, that we are Brandelers. We have fought the Pact before, and won; we have beaten the Vorleshi and all others who tried to take the Jewel in the Crown of the Marches. Kar Brandel has survived before, and it will survive again, if only for one fact: Kar Brandel breeds Heroes, not afraid to face death in the morning, mow down a few orcs before lunch and still make it back in time for last orders at the Goblin's Armpit. Talen Coldblood has made such claims before, but evidently he didn't learn his lesson at Thorny Knoll. Well, we are here to teach him once more that we are far stronger than his puny armies and magics. Mow them down!"

Brave words from the General, which have in turn inspired a new crop of young heroes to join the ranks. We will not bow to you, Talen Coldblood! We remember the past! We beat you once before, and this time we will send you all the way back to Haemgrad with your tail between your legs!

consensus revolved around senility, derangement, and the firmly held notion that Whitewind could not find his own nose in the dark. Previous Whitewind discoveries include the observation that most magic is hexagonal, people are triangular, ducks are impervious to small water spirits, and the suggestion that elementals might be conjured from "the naturally occurring patterns of order found in large fields of cabbage..."

The Bardic Cup

Results are now in for the Belthorian Bardic cup, recently held in Kar Brandel. This competition of song, poetry and performance has thrown up some promising new talent, Brandellers who had previously been put off by travel costs.

1st Ludvigi of Bhelthor

- On New Hallow's Eve

2nd Lisa of Chorovar

- When the night shines clear

3rd Valadran of Brandel

- Oh to live again!

4th Fabian of Brandel

- Dawn Devil

5th Capt. Lennox of Wrath

- Out of the wild heather

6th Peltre of Adrienne

- Domain of the Greathawk

7th Angus Of Wrath

- A moose loose in the house

8th Tobias of Terevan

- Steelheart

The original holder of 3rd place, Sir Pestus with "when the knights comes riding in" was disqualified after it was discovered to an adaptation of an older religious song. The places have been adjusted accordingly.

Your City Needs You!

**The Army and City
Watch need men and
women like you to help
prepare the city for the
threatened
Shadowpact invasion.**

**If you would like to be
trained and paid to
fight then join now!**

Klaberjazz Turnipson

It has come to my attention that certain arrogant, officious, moronic individuals in the Kar Brandel government recently thought that they could produce a news-sheet to rival the real Brandel Bugle. In their conceitedness they even called the rag 'The Brandel Bugle'. Apart from bad typography and spelling this piece of non-journalism can be condemned for many reasons. The worst of these is the blatant toadying to the nobility, and the lack of care expressed for you, the people of Kar Brandel, this once great city of ours. The propaganda printed on its single page was so stupefyingly dull that I'm surprised the watch didn't have to drag piles of dozing bodies away from the boards to which it was pinned. I certainly hope that none of the real Bugle's readers were misled by this useless tripe.

It seems that the Mage Guild will need a new leader, now the treachery of Darcovar has been revealed. However, I for one, shall not be too quick to judge the words of adventurers without any further proof. Such was the 'trial' available to Bezique, and his guilt of any crime is still yet to be proven. While all we have to go on is the word of a rather dubious bunch of adventurers, and the rash temper of Lord Skum Dragonsdupe, I shall wait before thinking of becoming head of the mages' guild. Also it seems, as I have already pointed out elsewhere, Cepulia has been completely forgotten by all. Do not forget that she is truly a powerful mage, almost in the fullness of her power. It would also be a great advantage for Kar Brandel's ruling council to have more women in its

ranks. Cepulia also has the added advantage of youth. The only drawback is that she will not be used to the crazed machinations of an unscrupulous old man, Skryme.

As many readers know I currently have a price on my head, which, I am reliably informed, has just been increased to 500 pieces of gold by our Lord Chief Justice. Therefore as I am forced to travel from one village to the next in disguise I am perfectly placed to witness the barbaric cruelties imposed upon the populace of Kar Brandel since the unification banquet. Many of you will not have had the chance to see the hardships of the peasants, but I assure you that there is no worse sight than to see the bumper harvest of a man taken from him to feed others whilst his own family will now starve. Why is the injustice allowed? I certainly do not know, but such is the feeling in the fields that almost all are preparing to support the strike called by the Bugle on 1st November. I add my personal appeal to that of all those who are now suffering, for the castle butlers, maids, cooks and cleaners and all the other workers in Kar Brandel to join the strike and let those who hold our well being in their care know the strength of feeling against the current situation.

Much has been made of my current dispute with Lord Skryme, and many are saying that it is a battle I cannot win. They are right. I alone cannot win, but many support my actions and it is we that will win in the end. We must not forget that Skryme has tried this trick once

before to get his own way. Many will remember the hideous scene in the main hall of Kellassar sitting in a bowl of oil resting over a fire. If memory serves me correctly it was our Lord Brandel's noble father's personal intervention that saved the day on that occasion and I call upon Lord Brandel to put Skryme in his place again.

Many of you will have noticed that winter is almost upon us, and the weather has once again turned cold. Now, with the harvest in, is the time for farmers to be looking towards preparing their stock for the long months ahead. Much has been made of animals diet in the past, but recent investigation has shown that it is as much the animals' environment as their food that affects their growth over this period. As animal stress levels increase, a problem to which pigs are particularly susceptible, simply giving them a wooden ball to play with is a great help. In fact any unusual object placed in the room with the animal reduces their stress.

Finally, I shall comment on the rumours of an alliance between the Shadowpact and the new Yamashu menace. Should such a thing come about their would indeed be a great deal of trouble on the horizon. In recent years adventurers have become overconfident and most have no experience of the fall of Kar Dernath and the destruction of Karan. Many have even attributed the destruction of an entire legion of Tirondel troops to their own ineptitude rather than the skill of the pact, but to these I say beware. Night is coming again!