

The Seagate Times

31 December 1993

The Journal By Adventurers For Adventurers

Issue 6

Arch-Bishop of the Western Kingdom.

The Bishop of Mordeaux has been Invested as the first Arch Bishop of the Western Kingdom the day before yesterday, in Aquila.

Over forty of the great noble families of the Kingdom, and from abroad attended the investment held in the Cathedral in the Capital of the Western Kingdom. Present also at the Investment where all of the notable Bishops except the Bishop of Unriemer. The Bishops of Ostow, Aquila Helheim, Ranke, Ormond, Destiny and Midhiem were among the notable members attending the investment and the celebration dinner that followed.

The Bishop of Ranke was the first in the long line of Bishops to give their

Pirate Activity on the Increase

Pirate attacks between Seagate and Destiny are increasing, says Seagate harbourmaster, especially around Brandenburg and the Ffenargh Estuary. Large privateer fleets picking on Bowcourtian shipping are purported by Kingdom representatives to be based in the Ffenargh, while Lord Admiral Azure of Brandenburg says he is doing everything he can to remedy the pirate problem in that demesne.

undivided support to the new Arch Bishop.

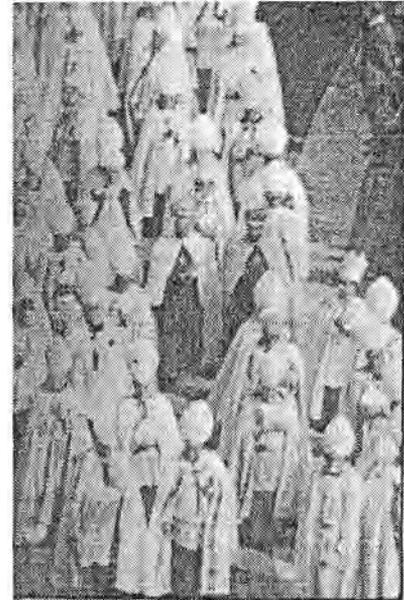
The Arch-Bishop's new Cee will be Novalar, the former capital city of Aladar. Which was taken by Aquilan forces in August.

The news of the granting of the city of Novalar to the Arch Bishop has led to riots in the streets, and general disorder in Novalar.

The new Commander of the City is Sir Matthew Kallinbree a Knight Commander in the Michealite sponsored fighting order, The Order of Divine Retribution. The Order is popular in most of the Western Kingdom and northern Ranke.

New Baron of Foxcourt

Matthew of Foxcourt, is the new Baron of the rich and noble lineage of Foxcourt, a region within Bowcourt, now part of the newly proclaimed Western Kingdom. He is 27 years of age, and succeeds Richard of Foxcourt, killed in the Battle of Drakenburg City last summer. Matthew is not known for his martial skills but has won acclaim as a successful diplomat and mage.



The Investiture of the Arch Bishop Mordeaux

Eclipse Good Omen

The recent eclipse on the 19th of September is a good omen for Seagate and its neighbours, says prominent astrologer Mr. Frederick Toadswart. He believes that it is a sign evil will be vanquished and good will triumph, at least in the near future.

Astrological authorities elsewhere, especially Sanctuary, are however sceptical.

Taxes now at 20%

The Guild Taxes are again being raised, The new tax rate is now set at 20%. This is still 5% lower than other guild taxes in Seagate. The Guild is pleased to be able to help the Duke in his time of need, and has also offered the services of an Adventuring Party. Once the current political crisis in the north is over the Guild expects that the Taxes will be lowered.

Get off to a good start!

As an introduction to the Guild, the Founders of Newhaven are happy to provide a free package to each beginning adventurer. The package contains: One Backpack, One suit of Leather armour, One Blanket, Flint and Steel, One Waterskin, Two Waters of Healing, One Silvered dagger. (not for resale)

This package may be picked up from the Newhaven Ambassador at Guild Lodgings.

BLAST MAGIC!

PROVEN ON THE
BATTLEFIELDS OF
DRAKENBERG

Contact Bleyze BEFORE your next big job!

Sanctuary Safe?

The City of Sanctuary is "safe" again for members to travel to. It is believed the two Assassins Rath and Moonsha have renounced their contract on Guild members and will no longer attempt to kill Guild members on sight. This contract had made Sanctuary an exceptionally hazardous place for Guild members to go. Guild members are however encouraged to be on their guard when travelling in this city.

Best Harvest In Years

We have had our best harvest in twenty years say representatives from the Artzdorf Merchants Guild in Artzdorf. A period of clement weather has been felt all over the Northern Duchies from Destiny to Drakenburg. However, it seems, this has been reciprocated by worse weather further South, Cauldersfield and Aquila experiencing unusual torrential downpours. Most of the Artzdorf surplus is traded to Destiny or the Azurian Empire.

Workers Picket Rune Sticks

An unknown Rune mage has set up signposted runesticks bridging the Sweetwater for public use. However, this act has so angered local ferry workers and bridge builders, that they have not only destroyed all such runesticks, but stopped work to protest this threat to their livelihoods. Town officials say the strike could set back work on the bridge by up to three months.

Plague in Cauldersfield Spreads

Hehlers say the plague in Southern Cauldersfield has been successfully vanquished but sporadic outbreaks in Aladar, Brandenburg and Northern Cauldersfield suggest the plague is still very much at large.



Refugees fleeing plagued areas of Cauldersfield

Countess Isil Ith Invests Walontaun.

In a surprise occupation, the Daughter of the Grand Marshall of Elfheim, self proclaimed Countess Isil Ith has moved herself and a garrison of 10,000 seasoned troops into Southeastern Aladar with the intention of protecting the people and their harvest from marauding troops

The move comes after attempts at parley between the warring factions fell apart. Both Countess Isil Ith and representatives from Destiny have made recent attempts to secure peace between the Middle Duchies Confederation and the Western Kingdom, however key matters of fealty, religion and land ownership remain unresolved with little hope of reconciliation in the near future.

Magic Roundabout

- Looking for that elusive Invested Item or Magic Potion?
- Need a Rank 20 Protection From Magical Fire?
- Need a buyer for a Magic Item or Skill?
- Need a Loan?
- Or just looking for a Standard Rank 20 Shadow Form or another Celestial necessity?

If the answer to any of these Questions is YES then chances are that I can provide it for you! ALL currencies catered for! We will Barter or Trade! Any offers considered! Contact Morgan Laffayette at the Guild

Founder of Newhaven

New High Guard!

The Duke of Cazala's new High Guard was sworn in last month. They are sworn to protect the Duke and defend Seagate Castle.

Over the last three months the Castellan Borderers have been instructing the new recruits of The Cazala Foot Regiment, at the town of Slippery Rock. The standing Foot Regiment has been active helping guard merchant traders to and from Seagate.

Most of the threat to trade at this stage is seaborne, with the ship Black Magic amongst the latest disappearances. The Black Magic is owned by Seth, a Guild member.

Fraud unmasked

A peasant has just been hung for fraud. He was found guilty of selling 'magic stones' to Guild members. The stones had the remarkable property that when divined they had no aura. Any members wishing to recover their money can collect it by stepping forward at the meeting with their 'magic stone'.



Feeling Lucky?

You will with **Logan's
Greater Enchantments**

Rank 13 available now

Special Rates Available

**Don't leave home
without one**

Contact Logan at Guild Lodgings.
Founders of Newhaven.

Chef Arrested

Zarga Darkbland, orc chef from the notorious 'Fite and Fuk' tavern on the Seagate wharves, was arrested today after the mysterious disappearance of twelve hobbit children. Zarga confessed all, under compel obedience, and admitted spreading rumours about free cream buns and exotic pastries available to hobbit's at the back of his establishment. The bodies have not been found. Regular patrons will notice the absence of the 'Chef special' on the menu.

Astrologer Recovers

Fredrick Toadswart, the astrologer, has withdrawn his reward for information leading to trade with the 'Shrivers'. Mr. Toadswart said that reliable sources had informed him that the Shrivers practised 'Despicable, evil, soul draining and immoral acts of magical vampirism'. Mr. Toadswart is recovering at his private residence after some nightmares involving a demon who he would not name. Mr. Toadswart wishes to thank members of the Seagate Adventurers for service above and beyond the call of duty. 'They gave their all' he said 'and I am extremely grateful'.

Theatre Commissioned by Duke

The Duke of Czarsala has pledged his support to a plan to build a covered amphitheater in the East of the Town centre. The Duke has also appointed Hyron of Destiny to establish a theatrical collegium. Hyron of Destiny is an accomplished playwright and director whose works span from "The Man Who Would Be King" to "Whoops! Penjari".

Sanctuary Safe!

Captain Richmond of the merchant ship 'Bluster' has been praising the changes in Sanctuary. 'My crew and I felt as safe as boats' Richmond was heard to say. He went on to tell about the new street lighting, extra patrols and the arrest, hanging and trial of several thieves masters. 'The streets are safe to walk at night, why I even ventured into some back alley pubs and was never molested once'.

The Middle Duchies War : Escalation in Sight? Dragons Rumoured.

As the war becomes increasingly bitter and bloody, both sides may resort to ever more unchivalrous tactics. This includes rumours of mercenary dragons being recruited by Aquila, and of a super weapon being manufactured by Brandenburgian mechanics.

It is unclear where the dragons are being recruited from, however the Drakenberg (literally Dragon Mountain) Ranges are known to have dragons. While the dragons have never been known to form a cohesive force such a threat cannot be ruled out.

The Aquilians have also been reported using a Horn to destroy the castle walls at Drakenberg. This sound weapon caused minor earthquakes in the surrounding area, disrupting all rune portals in a 5 mile radius. It is thought that the Brandenburg mechanics are desperately looking into a way to combat this device before it can be used on other Aladarian defences or a device powerful enough to take out the Horn blower before they can cause too much damage.

Notices to Guild Members

Late News

Galoin Leaves

The Dwarf Galoin, an active Guild member for the last couple of years has left the Guild because of commitments to his clan. He will be missed.

The Bastard's back!

Damion the Black has returned to active adventuring after being released from jail. He would have been released earlier but was serving extra time for bad behaviour, fighting, bribing guards and GBH. His exploits in the past range from Murder in the Dark to extortion.

Amelia returns to active duty

Amelia 'the Axe', Hobbit Ranger has returned to active duty recently. Amelia is best remembered for her exploration of Mount Elfheim and for coining the phrase "Duck for low flying axe."

Shriver Warning!

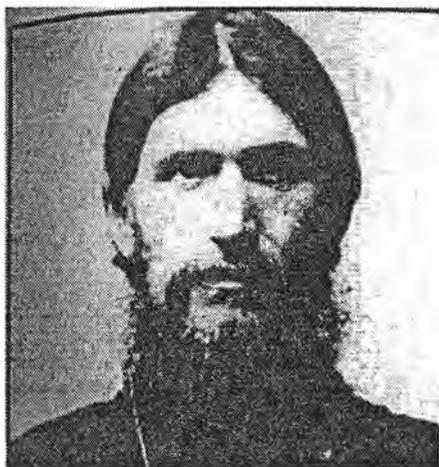
It has been reported by two Guild Parties over the last three months that a group known as Shrivens are dangerous and are to be handled with caution and extreme prejudice. They have been encountered approximately 6 days sail east up the Sweetwater beyond the rapids.

Shrivens are stealing skills, spells and talents from people permanently. The

Stoned Guild Members Rescued

Senior Guild Member Morgen Lafayette and other members rescued a party from certain doom just last week, after they returned to islands covered in basilisks searching for their lost equipment from their previous mission to the same islands.

Guild members are warned that apart from the deadly danger of the basilisks, Guild Security understands the area is a secret underground base for "the Dagger" a group of pirates, cutthroats and murderous magicians. Guild missions are advised to be careful passing these islands, some two hundred and fifty miles West of Artzdorf, about one thousand miles NW from Seagate. Past Guild missions have encountered animosity from "the Dagger", possibly because the islands are fabled to possess a buried treasure of an enormous magnitude.



Brian Strongbuck - Head Shriver

abilities are then put in potions, which are then sold. It is rumoured that the removing of skills and abilities is very painfully and may take from a few hours for weak individuals to several days for stronger individuals. There appears to be no resistance to their abilities and the effects are permanent.

Guild parties with their special talents are valuable to Shrivens and Guild parties are warned to be extremely wary when dealing with Shrivens.

The Silken Web

Well shiver me timbers! The Dread Pirate Roberts has been sprung at the Seagate Gentlewomen's Sewing Circle embroidering daisies on a fetching pair of pink pantaloons! Those long sea voyages obviously leave to much time free for idle hands. It's a good thing "Nimble Fingers" Morgen has been stranded following an embarrassing incident on the Sea of Grass or who knows what kind of sartorial disaster he'd come up with.

Meanwhile Aldus has been arrested (again) for a variety of unspeakable crimes against humanity.

St. Amber the extremely virtuous is now being worshipped as a god by the lizard people of Sss-Argh.

Funeral directors all over the city have gone into deep mourning at news of the irresurrectable death of Kree. (Hadn't you heard? Apparently his make-up case fell on his head during a rough river crossing.)

Solene (the sly little strumpet) has been spending hot nights of illicit passion with anameless guildmember (tee hee)! She says "I didn't know he was a man" - what gave it away, sweetums? His aftershave?

Well, a short column this week, readers. I'm feeling a little tired after a hard nights work on the first day of Spring. (A most successful production, mind you.)

Bridge Saboteur Captured!

“Espionage, plain and simple.” Drob Newbie, Bridge Security Officer, was quoted as saying as he slammed charges against the Ferry worker . This is in light of the capture of a disgruntled Ferry worker who was responsible for months of sabotage of the bridge. Jim Morrison, until yesterday was a boathand on the Sweetwater ferry, pleaded innocent to charges of undermining The Bridges foundations in order to delay the completion. In response the Ferry Workers denounced his actions and disassociated themselves with his “shocking” actions.

The Bridge Project Manager was quoted as saying “the sabotage has put back the completion of the bridge another two months“, “we couldn’t think of advancing work on the bridge until we can ensure the safety of the bridge and capture this ruthless band of saboteurs.”

Other sources reported that the recent delays are not the results of “months of sabotage” but as a result of new inhabitants living under the bridge. “...we were hired to build a bridge,

not get ourselves killed like them stupid adventurer types...” our informant told us.

Regardless of the cause of the delays The Bridge will be completed in eight months time. And in anticipation of this the planning of the opening ceremonies have begun. Joshaphine Chapple, Lady in Waiting, was elected head of the planning committee and is promising a day that will not be forgotten as she is escorted by the Baron to be the first members of the Court to cross The Bridge. We as well as the rest of the citizens of Seagate will be looking forward to this event.

The Ferry services will however not be resuming normal services as expected this month in order to cater for The Bridge workers requirements. The Project Manager informed us that once the bridge is completed the use of the ferry will be phased out, “You have to move with the times, that ferries outmoded, bridges are what this city needs.” We are keenly awaiting for a response from the Ferry Operators.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I must question your actions on tainting your Guild with those inbred subhuman slugs, known as Orcs. In my day we had respect for humanoids and would only allow in gifted Aryans. Do something about it before I am forced to protect Cazala from this heinous threat.

Corporal A. Hitler (Retired)

Oi U,

I herd roomiz da tax iz gunna go upp uggin. We Imm not gunna pay enne more. Get a dog upya tax kolekta.

unsined

Oi herd da roomiz too an Imm nod gunna pay et eva.

unsined too.

*These letters are reprinted by **The Seagate Times** exactly as they are received. No alterations of any sort are made to the letters to protect the subtle nuances the authors may have included.*

We regret however that we are not able to reproduce the letters in the same manner as our correspondents as our printing presses are unable to print blood.

Dear Father Lawrence ...

(Advice for the lovelorn & mentally bewildered)

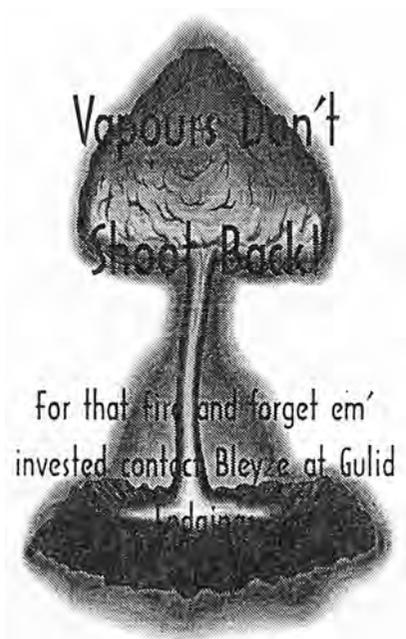
The editor would like to advise that Friar Lawrence is missing, presumed dead (yeah, right!). The following are previously unpublished draft versions of his private correspondence. The editor stresses that these purported replies in no way imply the existence of any original letter to the Friar, although they may explain his absence.

Dear M— of B,—

These territorial yearnings are just the sublimation of your natural maternal instincts. It is not too late. I suggest that you settle down with some suitable fellow and maybe have a baby or two.

Dear Lady M,—

This D— sounds like a hypocritical bastard (to use a clerical technicality). I suggest you invite him over to your place for a few drinks, and pretend that he is dead (a surfeit of something, perhaps). With luck, people will then recognise your husband’s superior claims. I must insist that merely PRETEND that D— is dead, I don’t want you to dirty your hands with any actual killings.



War Grinds to Wintery Halt

by Antonious Rullen, Mittlemach Correspondent

Warfare along the Drosky river in Aladar and north of Einsburg in Aquila continues spasmodically, but deserting militia and the onset of bad weather has forced both sides halt open warfare.

As winter approaches both the kingdom and confederation armies rest in uneasy peace, as their generals and leaders plan for the next campaign. It is uncertain at this point in time whether either side has the resources or the compunction to attack again before spring, but it seems that the coalition led by Duke Baltmund of Aladar, and combining the forces of his own Duchy as well as Brandenburg, Drakenburg, Eltrandor and Dumas, may now have the advantage in men and materiel.

After the shock assassination of Duke Novar IV in May, Kingdom forces moved into Western Aladar to uphold law and order for Count Grobbelar, whom Aquilan representatives touted as the next Duke. The then Count Baltmund resisted, and called for

Aladarians loyal to his flag to defend their homeland from what he and most Aladarians saw as an invasion. With astute and quick negotiations, he obtained treaties from his allies, and formed the Middle Duchies Confederation, whose purpose was to uphold the dominion of their lands for King Sigismund, who disappeared in legend over four hundred years ago but is still believed to be the true King by Count Baltmunds followers.

Duke Frederick of Aquila, acting as Regent for his son King Ulric Wulf, has explained in statements to his court that although some of his men may have acted a little rashly, he saw the Aladarian position as being quite incorrect about matters of fact, and he was prepared to continue the war to its unfortunate conclusion, if that is the intention of the Count of Zumalar and his allies. It is however known that Maquisa Dulciena of Bowcourt is fully supportive of the war against the confederation.

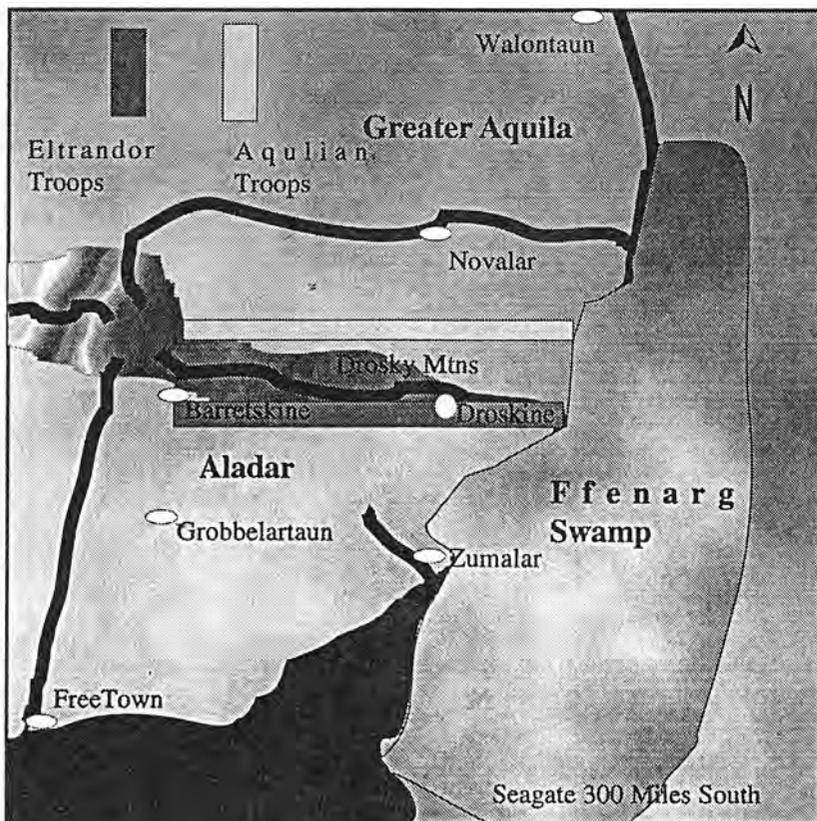


An Typical Aladarian Horse Solder

After rapid successes in May, Aquila suffered its first setback at Novalar, then the Capital of Aladar. The defenders of Novalar were able to force the Aquilan armies into a drawn out siege. At the same time forty thousand Drakenberg troops invaded Aquila's northern steppes.

At the same time Aquilan troops reached the Drosky ranges in central Aladar and overran the Aladarian forces there, although they failed to break through the pass at Barrestkine, largely due to the Elven mercenaries fighting for the confederation. Count Grobbelar could possibly have turned the tide of that battle, but his main force was bottled up in Grobbelartaun by Count Aldred of Karracksbridge, who had force marched South in the vanguard of the Brandenburgian troops coming to aid Baltmund's beleaguered troops.

The city of Novalar fell after four assaults by the Aquilan High Guard on August 20th, however the siege of the Castle of Drakenberg in Novalar was raised at the end of September due to the intervention of Eltradorian forces complemented by Aladarian rangers and magicians, and led by Count Karrinski of Solport and Baron Blitzkrieg of Sturmwald. Kingdom forces realigned themselves to cover the new threats of attack from the North, but still attempted another killing blow at the Aladarian Army guarding the Drosky Ranges to their west.

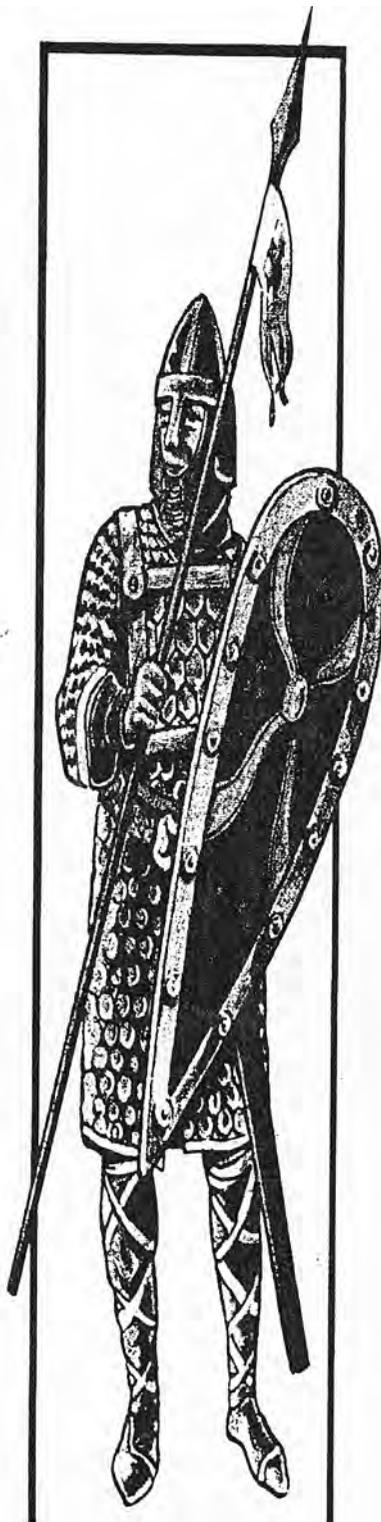


On September the 28th, the Kingdom troops advanced on Droskine, Baltmund's main command centre and third city of Aladar. After initial successes, the Aquilan troops were stopped only a mile from the town, after a terrible magical exchange between the Aladarian magical corps led by Captain Mad and Aquilan magi commandoes. Reports tell that the land killed men like a living creature, and the sky turned to fire. The Aladarians took temble casualties, but the Aquilans withdrew to save the remnants of their own battered magicians. The battle, so far the biggest of the war, and the bloodiest, was a draw. Estimates range from ten to eighteen thousand killed and wounded.

During October, unseasonal rain bogged down the fighting in Aladar, but Eltradorian troops pushing through Unsreimer were turned back north of Einsburg by rapidly deployed Aladarian troops. As Unsreimer has turned neutral at the decision of the Magraf there, fighting is sporadic and furious, as small groups of cavalry protect supply lines in a mobile plains country war. No one has gained the upper hand, but fighting continues even now, although it is rumored-Eltradorian troops may pull out soon, as the positions they are holding are untenable to supply. Aquilan commandoes, it seems, have successfully stopped Eltradorian rune portal supply to a great extent, due to their use of a top secret noise device.

Meanwhile, the Aquilans in the East have gained the last victory for the year on November 13th at Helheim, where ten thousand Drakenbergian horsemen, the last cohesive force of their invasion, assaulted four thousand Aquilan troops and militia in prepared positions across a river. The Drakenbergians were decimated for the loss of barely five hundred men. Aquilan estimates Drakenbergian dead at over six thousand. The commander of the Drakenbergians, Chief Eshnarl, was said to have committed the troops in his belief that the gods would make his horses fly.

As December nears its end, no major troop movements are expected for at least three more months until the snows thaw at the start of March. However reports of assassination attempts increase, and diplomatic efforts to ally further forces and supplies by each side are likely, especially Ranke, Destiny, Seagate and Nova Dom. The war continues in the Middle Duchies, and looks like doing so for some time to come.



Prominent Adventurer Marries Orc Princess

The Seagate Times would like to take this opportunity to offer our felicitations to Bartholomew Toadswart, the littleknown explorer.

It appears that he has achieved conjugal status, a condition this observer believed might never be attained by the aesthetically challenged Mr. Toadswart Jr.

We understand that this news has been somewhat soured by the death of the aged doyenne of the family, Mrs. Ermintrude Toadswart, whose death followed within minutes of receiving news of young Bart's return from a mission of direst jeopardy.

This observer notes that Mr. Toadswart Jr. has married the Serenissima Gosimyr, may her mass increase, a foreign orc beauty of generous charms. Mr. Toadswart Jr. has been ennobled by this marriage and is to be accorded the title of Serenissimaculus.

Much of Seagate was awed by the procession of the Serenissima's retinue, and all stood and gazed in wonderment at the presentation of wedding gifts. This reporter would like to know just what use a ceremonial executioner and attendant hippopotamus are expected to be put.

When asked how he felt about his son's social rise and the opportunity of Seagate's upper crust to mix with dignitaries from distant shores, Mr. Frederic Toadswart, the noted Astrologer, merely smiled. I think it was a smile. It could have been a tic. We don't believe there to be any connection with Mr. Toadswart's recent illness. I have it on fairly good authority that was caused by a demon.

After a whirlwind visit to all the local hot spots, the Serenissimaculus has taken his ample bride back to the jungle fastnesses from which she came, to review his new holdings. We wish him the best and vow Seagate will never be the same.

The Castellan
Borderers

Weapon training
Skill Training
Good Pay
Good Food

Join the Castellans today!

Guild Lodgings

The following characters may be contacted in the Guild Lodgings by phoning the player of the characters at the number given below. (Please don't ring too late!)

Character:	Player:	Phone:
Seth'	Daniel	378 0343
Sowleen	Brent	630 1569
Gar Og Zeekat	William	419 2160
Silken	Fiona	849 5343
Bleyze.	Craig	630 7537
Toledo Steele	Craig	630 7537
Logan	Neil	528 5378
Morgan Laffayette	Mike	520 3101
Newhaven Ambassador	Craig	630 7537

New Haven Wall Completed

The settlement of Newhaven to the southeast of the Guild and Seagate have recently finished their town wall, an event that was celebrated with a large feast by all of the townsfolk and commoners. The construction of about nine hundred homes over the last quarter has also been without its problems.

Guide Required

30 Knights wishing to remain impartial observers in the war require a guide to the baronies.

A good working knowledge of the Baronies is required along with the ability to give detailed descriptions of the leaders and armies involved and the special abilities of both sides. A nose for trouble and the ability to find and stay out of the biggest fights are desirable traits.

They are offering specialist training in weapon skills as payment.

Donations of cash, goods or services required for the upkeep of occupants of Seagate orphanage.

Contact Hazmo at guild lodgings.

The Editor of *The Seagate Times* is Bleyze played by Craig Harper.

The Chief Reporter is Engalton played by Jono Bean

Contributions can be mailed (on **disk** preferably) to:

Craig Harper 8a Eldon Rd, Balmoral
or
Jono Bean

C/o Circle Games, PO Box 105-320,
Auckland. Phone 3020 477

or faxed to:

Craig Harper, C/o Renaissance Software
(09)525 2383.

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