

# **West Haven Inquirer**

## **ZOMBIE PLAINS CLEANSED!**

The heroes of West Haven and the Lost have won a tremendous victory over the power of Chaos! The area known to locals as the “Zombie Plains”, a broad gently sloping valley located a few kilometres west of town, has always been known as a place of darkness. At night, shambling undead would rise continuously from the ground, and wander aimlessly around the immediate area. At the back of the valley is a cave complex of moderate size, unremarkable except for the presence of a strange black door, sealed by unknown magic, set into a wall near the entrance.

It has been rumoured for some time that the Lost had discovered a way to open the door, and that cautious expeditions were being launched into the dark caves beneath. The door dates back to before the Great War and is connected in some way to the legendary lich Na'Traxxoth, who was one of the great generals of that war before his reported defeat at the hands of the elves.

Last month, these secretive efforts came to fruition. The Inquirer's sources have learned that a party consisting of Derry Baillie, the Wizard Altrice, Verdandi Ostara, the master alchemist Kali Banks, Vanna Zonky, the mighty warrior Merrick, Marcus Brightshield, and newcomer Nymeria, entered the door and defeated some unknown creature of Chaos. Although details of what they found are sketchy, the effects of their victory are unmistakable – the Zombie Plains have been purged! At night, the undead no longer rise. Although the Lost and Blades are keeping curious observers out of the cave, it appears that the black door is gone and the passage is now open.

### **WHO IS NA'TRAXXOTH?**

These events have spurred a new interest in Na'Traxxoth, a legendary figure from the time of the Great War and before. Na'Traxxoth was known and feared through the land as a lich of extraordinary power, believed to be the most powerful undead creature in existence. His age is unknown, but was certainly measured in centuries – if not millennia! Stories describe him as the original discoverer of Chaos magic, but this is likely a boastful rumour. At the height of his power, he commanded vast legions of undead and waged war on humans and monsters alike.

During the Great War, Na'Traxxoth allied his forces with the living monsters of the Dark Alliance. This caused great fear and confusion among the human kingdoms, as such an alliance seemed inconceivable – surely, neither side would ever tolerate it. And indeed, once the war had taken a seemingly decisive turn in favour of the Dark Alliance, Na'Traxxoth turned on his allies and attempted to win the war for the side of Chaos. There is little first-hand information on how that conflict played out – it is thought that the undead were too ambitious in their offensive and once the element of surprise had played out they were losing – but after the arrival of the Elves smashed the bulk of the Dark Alliance it became a moot point.

In the aftermath, the Elves seemed particularly determined to hunt down and wipe out the undead. No explanation was given, but of course the humans had made it clear how particularly dangerous the scourge of necromancy could be. It was reported by the Elves that Na'Traxxoth himself was hunted down and destroyed along with his phylactery. In the seven centuries since then no trace of him has been seen, so these reports are likely true.