
Western Wastes falls to Monster Horde!

At this time it is our solemn duty to report that the Western Wastes, an area of little strategic value and having no valuable resources, has fallen to a horde of rampaging monsters. Although little information is known about the exact size and composition of the horde, Sir Rufus, currently in charge of defending the borders of our lands has ensured us that the Keep of the Watchful Eye stands ready to repel the invaders should they attack. More importantly, he reports that no monsters have been seen in the vicinity of the Keep, as if they have wisely chosen to avoid the risk of conflict with the Kingdom. Our sources within the Nobility tell us that although these developments are unsettling, the lands are of such little value that an offensive is out of the question. They agree with Sir Rufus' assessment of the situation and are confident the Keep could easily repel any advance. As our readers are well aware, a small and noteworthy settlement existed in this area, known as "West Haven". As could be expected of any settlement outside the protection of the Kingdom, West Haven has fallen and its handful of inhabitants has been lost.

Mystery of the Tax Payments?

Each month, a heavily guarded ritual takes place at the Keep of the Watchful Eye as the payment made to the King from West Haven in lieu of regular taxation arrives and is counted and transferred to the officials under Sir Rufus. After the fall of the Western Wastes, it was assumed that these payments would cease. However, on the scheduled day at the scheduled time a heavily guarded caravan arrived at the Keep and the payment was delivered. Our sources at the Keep indicate that after some confusion, it was determined that the caravan had arrived from the north, instead of from the west as usual.

Army Reserves Moved to Relis Mar

As a precautionary measure, a large regiment of troops has been moved to Relis Mar as reserves. We would like to take this opportunity to remind the citizens of Relis Mar that this is a temporary move motivated solely by the desire to strengthen defence in the region. Any further acts of civil unrest will not be tolerated. Any "Others" that act in a threatening manner towards the loyal soldiers of the Kingdom will be dealt with appropriately and in a manner suitable to maintaining security in our current situation.

Desperation, Confusion as Enemies Approach

Although many citizens (including our brave and intrepid reporter) were successfully evacuated from West Haven under the protection of Sir Rufus and his soldiers, many remained. Their reasons ranged from sheer denial to a mystical belief that the local cult movements could somehow save them from impossible odds. Our reporter overheard some speculation, probably between individuals driven to near-madness by fear, that the "Song of One" would protect people from being "mind-controlled" by some all-powerful adversary. Sadly, this sort of confused behaviour is typical among those that did not evacuate. It is tragic that anyone could be so misguided as to reject the protective arm of the Kingdom.