

HUNTERS IN GLASGOW

Kindred,

It is reported that the main stay of the Society of Leopold in the city has been removed. Though this seems good news, do not let this short-term success go to your heads as if it were that easy to deter and remove the Society's attention then we would have been rid of them many centuries ago! No, this action was to stop an immediate threat becoming so much worse pure and simple. It will take the next month or two to determine what threat remains.

Hunters active in a city may not be easy to hear in fact it should be worrying, nae terrifying, as hunters have always proven to be the greatest external Kindred threat we have faced and even more now in this golden age of technology. It is though important we acknowledge and accept the hunter threat as a new constant that has altered our unlife in the domain and that we must, and will, adapt accordingly.

As such the advice remains the same as in May after the fallout of the Sabbat attack that drew the Hunter activity here. This event has forever changed our way of unlife in the domain with the Masquerade being paramount as ever with us being ever more mindful of following, protecting and enforcing The First Tradition.

If any of you require assistance or guidance on the above, please report your Primogen or a Court Officer.

Pay heed to the Traditions, learn from the words of our Elders, follow your teachings and we will survive this threat.

Sheriff Douglas.

HUNTERS IN GLASGOW TARGETED

By Special Correspondent of the Dark Times

The perennial enemy of the Kindred is stalking the nights of Glasgow. But they are not the only hunters abroad - a series of strikes orchestrated by the Prince of Glasgow has targeted the Society of Leopold operating in the city. Reports currently suggest that up to six hunters have been neutralized by the Sheriff and his Deputies.

The rapidity of the response seems to come in the wake of rumours that Bach himself is en route to Glasgow to personally take control of the situation. This reporter cannot help but wonder if he'll take kindly to so many of his underlings being murdered right before he gets to town.

Those unfamiliar with recent history may need reminded that the hunter situation in Glasgow began several months ago when the Sabbat launched an all out attack on the city. It's not generally known why they did this, but fingers are being pointed to high-ups in the court angering them and even betraying the rights of Elysium. We at the dark times set no store by such rumours of course, but the Justicariate seem to, as several of their number have paid high profile visits to Glasgow since the attack took place.

What the court officers in Glasgow hope to do by so openly swatting at the hunter buzzing around the blood stained streets of Glasgow is beyond this reporter. Perhaps they hope to exhaust the society's supply of hunters one at a time? That seems unlikely to be effective. Perhaps it is simply a way of showing the flat to the justicars - nothing like a few dead hunters to show willing to the top brass!

Either way, things do not look like they will be cooling down in Glasgow any time soon.



THE PAIN IN SPAIN

By A. Cromwell



The ongoing Second War in Spain has been a source of much consternation for the Camarilla recently. Since the sudden attack in April the fighting has continued to rage throughout most of the peninsula. Several major cities have fallen to the Sabbat, several more have been the scene of protracted sieges that has seen nightly clashes and high casualties on both sides.

The Dark Times is given to understand that in some areas at least a cease fire has been negotiated by Camrilla representatives. But what is the situation on the ground? Over the last month I have taken it upon myself to travel around Spain to gain a better understanding of what is happening and where. I submit them here for your perusal so that, on the eve of what we all hope will be a historic peace deal between the Spanish Camarilla Princes and the Sabbat invaders, everyone knows where they stand and who's ground it is.

Central Spain

The attack of the Centre Flank began with a series of rapid decapitating attacks on princes along the Portuguese Border. The princes of Badajoz, Olivenza and Merida were struck down before their defences could react. This was followed by a general offensive against the provinces of Extremunda and Castile and Leon. Both regions saw assaults from Sabbat

forces that showed much more cohesion and tactical skill than in previous campaigns; strike teams occupied vital infrastructure and blocked travel between beleaguered domains. Gone were the suicide charges of shovelheads; the new sabbat attacked with precision and deadly skill.

Within the month the Sabbat were in control of most of the border regions and their forces

were ranging steadily eastward. Salamanca fell after a bloody string of battles which saw the first large deployment of the Devourers - an elite group of powerful kindred, veterans of the First War. Though they fought well and exacted a heavy toll on the attackers, a retreat was called on the 25th of April. With nothing but a patchwork of rural domains standing between it and the advancing hordes the city

of Madrid braced for an attack. It came in mid May.

Advance forces, arriving in secret launched coordinated attacks on seats of Camarilla power across the Madrid metropolitan area, brutally culling any they found there. Several Elysia were seized in the first night. After that regular forces began to arrive from the surrounding countryside - driving in by the bus load and taking up residence in the outlying suburbs, displacing or exterminating the kindred they found there.

In the city proper however a concerted defence was mounted and several rapid counter-attacks saw Prince Heiku blunt the Sabbat assault on her court. After that the fighting began to degenerate into a nightly series of clashes over various important locations, many of which changed hands several times a night. Once again the Devourers were deployed and took a bloody toll on the attackers. By the end of May however the city was fully invested and it had drawn in a greater part of the Kindred of the region.

This meant that it was possible for secondary thrusts by the Sabbat to bypass the city and continue west and southward. One arm pressing Toledo and the other advancing up the Tagus. By the end of June the Sabbat controlled a sizeable salient, but the continued resistance of Toledo and Madrid made it risky to continue the offensive.

So the situation continued to stagnate with brutal clashes in both cities being unable to win a decisive victory. By the beginning of August the fighting had become sporadic as the invaders lost momentum and attrition on both sides saps offensive strength.

Southern Spain

The assault on the south of Spain, masterminded by the Elder Lasombra calling himself El Diablo - a veteran of many campaigns in America - lacked a lot of the tactical finesse of the Centre. Instead a stronger reliance was placed on Shovelheads and Tzimisce monstrosities; Diablo gambled the Domains would fold in the face of massive masquerade breaches.

The lost the gamble. The prince of Seville refused to fold - instead bringing to bear huge resources to cover up the masquerade and rally counter strokes. After the successfully shattering the waves of shovelheads, Prince Focalquier fortified his position and by the middle of June had successfully weathered nearly a dozen assaults by the Sabbat.

With his main thrust dashed against the rock of Seville, El Diablo foundered. Rumours abound that he has fallen foul of the internal politics of the Sabbat - his failure to capture the city has lead to underlings refusing to take orders from him. The result has been that the move east stalled not much beyond Seville. A determined push on Malaga was launched in early August but at time of writing has faltered a good way short of the city.

In the intervening time, El Diablo has not been idle. He send numerous coteries inland in secret to launch uprisings and mass sirings of shovelheads. This tactic led to several cities on the southern coast being over-run by the end of July, most notably Almerica which fell on the 19th. Further north however an attempt to overthrow the Prince of Cordoba failed and the Sabbat became bottled up in the towns of Castro Del Rio and Espejo.

Despite this the city of Mojacar, northeast of Almerica is now under siege and attacks probe towards Malaga from the east.

Northern Spain

The port city of La Coruna fell on the first night of the War. A series of teams had been inserted in the preceding month and struck the Camarilla hierarchy in the city, virtually wiping them out in a single move. The kindred of the city found themselves already under the dominion of the third leader of the Sabbat forces in Spain; a vicious and cunning Tzimisce called Vlademar.

From his new base Vlademar oversaw the linking up with forces that came from the Portuguese border and the subsequent advance west. With a combination of brute force, terror and tactical finesse Vlademar surrounded and then overran a series of cities in Galicia. By the end of April he controlled the region and was making moves to threaten Asturias.

His forces were able to force the surrender of Ovideo and Gijon by the use of massed flesh crafted horrors. Rather than face them and the possibility of an inquisition, the Twin Princes surrendered and were executed. Meanwhile Vlademar himself lead a series of attacks on Leon, and linked his followers with those of the centre, presenting at least a nominally united front against the Camarilla by mid July.

The assaults on Leon have lasted for a month and a half, but despite Vlademar seemingly pouring his forces into the city it has yet to cave. This is in part due to the Devourers and assistance from various other factions in Spain, not least the Ravnos of Cuidad

Real. Another factor has been the recent combined push towards Valladolid which has drawn of an increasing part of Vlademar's forces.

Part of that campaign was a series of risings in Aragon, centred around Zaragoza, which fell to the Sabbat at the beginning of August. An attempt by the new Sabbat rulers to push west and link up their new territories with those in the west was doomed to failure. Their various forces fragmented over the weeks since and at the time of writing have become strung out and isolated in the area surrounding the city of Soria.

Also in the north, although unaffiliated with Vlademar has been a rising of Sabbat aligned Kindred in Navarre. A number of powerful coteries joined the Sabbat within weeks of the initial attack and sized control of San Sabastien. Their leader Don Carlos led a series of gruelling attacks south and west aimed at capturing Pamplona and Bilbao respectively. While the siege of Bilbao ended in victory in May, the push towards Pamplona took far longer; only reaching the city at the end of July and only succeeding in investing it in the last few weeks.

By all accounts this has been the result of disunity in the rebel forces who seem just as willing to fight each other as the enemy. The result has been that each victory has been followed by a minor civil war to decide control of the new conquest. Don Carlos and his clique seem to still be in control, but how long that will last is debatable, as is the amount of support his rebels are receiving from the Sabbat in general.

Eastern Spain

Being isolated from direct support from Portugal, the West of Spain has seen relatively little fighting. However, following the capture of Ibiza and Mallorca, several attempts to gain a foothold on the mainland were mustered. Attacks to the east and west of Barcelona led to a month long siege of the city, with Sabbat death squads actively hunting ranking Camarilla members. This siege was broken in late June by the arrival of reinforcements from Europe. The Sabbat remain in control of the surrounding domains, but the city itself has been stabilized and has remained in Camarilla possession ever since.

Further south a major string of landings along the coast between Alicante and Valencia resulted in a strip of coastal domains falling to the Sabbat. Alicante itself was captured on the 1st of July. A week later the invaders reached the outskirts of Valencia. Since then they have attempted to blockade the city after seizing control of the docks and airports. The siege of Valencia has also seen the extensive use of biological warfare tactics - with several minor epidemics being propagated through the population in an attempt to starve the defenders out. At time of writing this has not yet succeeded.

A secondary front was opened when a rising was staged around Albacete, however this was quickly shattered and retreated to the various satellite towns where they continue to threaten but not actually assault Prince Vega Brand.

Recent Developments

Over the last month, even as fighting has raged in cities across the peninsula, several elder Kindred have taken it upon themselves to bring an end to the war. So far it appears several princes, including those of Ciudad Real, Toledo, Barcelona, Madrid and Murica have agreed to attend peace talks to be held in a neutral domain. On the Sabbat side, the leader of the forces besieging Madrid - Cardinal Lorenzo Di Medici - has agreed to a ceasefire pending the outcome of the proposed talks. This has given respite to the kindred of Madrid and Toledo, though it is understood sporadic clashes are still occurring.

As far as it has been possible to discover, Vlademar and El Diablo have not agreed to any ceasefire or talks. The same is true for the various factions involved in the fighting in the East and North.

While we do continue to hope that this end to hostilities in the centre will be a turning point and peace can be restored soon (for a given value of peace that is), the situation remains precarious and it would take very little to reignite the conflict before talks can be undertaken. Almost inevitably, rumours have begun circulating that a contingent of Scandinavian Gangrel are preparing to march on Spain to join the fighting. The arrival of yet another Kindred faction at this time can hardly portend well. We must hope that their presence serves to reinforce the need for peace, lest another wave of bloodletting stain Iberia in the months to come.

Dearest Kindred,

Continuing with my series of articles to assist the Neonates and Ancillae among you be better able to identify and counter the awful manipulations of Elders, I turn now to two very common behaviours you should be on the lookout for:

Changing the subject to evade accountability

This type of tactic is what I like to call the “What about me?” syndrome. It is a literal digression from the actual topic that works to redirect attention to a different issue altogether. Elders don’t want you to be on the topic of holding them accountable for anything, so they will reroute discussions to benefit them. Complaining about their neglectful mentoring? They’ll point out a mistake you committed seven years ago. This type of diversion has no limits in terms of time or subject content, and often begins with a sentence like “What about the time when...”

On a macrolevel, these diversions work to derail discussions that challenge the status quo. A discussion about the Anarch Movement, for example, may be derailed quickly by someone who brings in another Sect issue just to distract people from the main argument. Specificity is needed in order to resolve and address issues appropriately – that doesn’t mean that the issues that are being brought up don’t matter, it just means that the specific time and place may not be the best context to discuss them.

Don’t be derailed – if an Elder pulls a switcheroo on you, you can exercise what I call the “broken record” method and continue stating the facts without giving in to their distractions. Redirect their redirection by saying, “That’s not what I am talking about. Let’s stay focused on the current issue.” If they’re not interested, disengage and spend your energy on something more constructive – like not having a debate with someone who has the mental age and behaviours of a toddler.

Covert and Overt threats

Elders feel very threatened when their excessive sense of entitlement, false sense of superiority, and grandiose sense of self are challenged in any way. They are prone to making unreasonable demands on others – while punishing you for not living up to their impossible to reach expectations.

Rather than tackle disagreements or compromises maturely, they set out to divert you from your right to have your own identity and perspective by attempting to instil fear in you about the consequences of disagreeing or complying with their demands. To them, any challenge results in an ultimatum and “do this or I’ll do that” becomes their daily mantra.

If someone’s reaction to you setting boundaries or having a differing opinion from your own is to threaten you into submission, whether it’s a thinly veiled threat or an overt admission of what they plan to do, this is a red flag of someone who has a high degree of entitlement and has no plans of compromising... an Elder in other words. Take threats seriously and show the Elder you mean business; document threats and report them whenever possible and feasible to your Sheriff, Senechal, or Prince.

Mephistopheles the Thrice-Born,
The Pinnacle of Contempt.

Let it be known that the minor boon I hold over a Harpy of Barcelona has been passed to Robyn Davies of Clan Brujah, Primogen of Glasgow.

Let it also be known that the minor boon I hold over Prince Tius, has been passed to Elder Jack of Clan Brujah, Scourge of Glasgow and Elder Grey of Clan Nosferatu, Primogen of Glasgow.

Prince Esteban Korsgaard

People make Glasgow. That is what I am told and I do so hope it is true. A vibrant place. A chaotic trial by fire that will destroy you or forge you into a being both powerful and wise beyond your years.

I am also told that many of her residents wish to see Glasgow rise up and become a jewel among domains. A centre of art and culture. I say what are you waiting for? And so I challenge you all to show your quality. I will pay handsomely for works of art upon the theme of “overcoming adversity” that are of a quality suitable to display at Elysium.

Leonard Morris of the line of Artemis Orthia

I’ll spell this out since it seems that anything less direct is too difficult to digest.

Soteria keeps sending Kindred to Glasgow. Those Kindred have once again chosen to travel in paramilitary vehicles, this time taking an armoured car to Esteban’s party (a Paramount Marauder). Certainly an affront to the hospitality of their host, but also a serious security threat to the rest of us.

We know that Prince Legion’s PMC owns several helicopters, at least one armoured car and Sealand. So do the mortal intelligence agencies and Hunters. Each time they flaunt this hardware in civilian areas we are further endangered. The Kine are watching.

Can you stop?

Magnus

Prepare yourselves children.

Daylight diminishes from this world, yet you rejoice, calling yourselves the predators of the night.
Such folly that you alone live beneath the moonlit sky. Vile creatures yet stir, awoken in the times of all’s ending.
Your dark siblings, here to tear down your hubris.

Heed our warning children, prepare yourselves or autumn will end and winter shall reign eternal.



Have you lost your neonate?

We have found some, they are safe.

Proof of ownership required.

Please contact Primogen Grey through Glasgow Elysium.

Please allow me to wish a most good evening to all,

It has come to my attention that some of you may have heard rumours about a new publication courtesy of the fine people at the Dark Times. It is my joy to announce that such rumours are true. The Hive shall be launching shortly, a magazine focusing on the best and most creative voices our world has to offer. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful new venture, then I beg of you to send your submissions, whether they be poetry, short stories or informative articles to

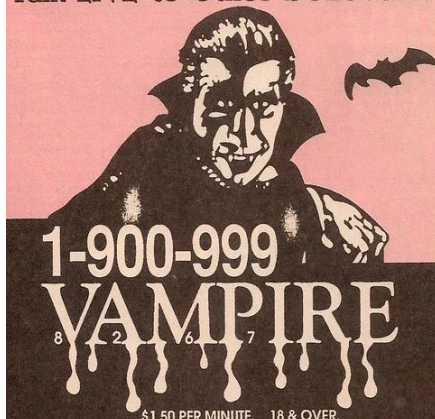
thehivegv@gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
Mab



Talk LIVE to other believers.



THE CRAZY WORLD OF DR. ROULET

PROBLEMS SOLVED
OBSTACLES REMOVED
ITEMS RECOVERED
STRUGGLES OVERCOME
DARKNESS LIFTED

No. TWELVE,
HILLFOOT STREET,
GALLOWGATE,
GLASGOW.

SPIRITS CONTACTED
RITUALS PERFORMED
CURSES CAST
HOUSES PURIFIED
LIGHT EXTINGUISHED

Harpy Quotes



Edinburgh – Farr – *So a bunch of hunters got offed this month. I bet that'll solve the problem. NOT!*

Aberdeen – Dougal Douglas – *Who had 'Bach, 19th August'?*

Inverness – David Griene – *Gotta take my hat off to Glasgow. Opting to take all the heat, so we don't have to.*

London – Duke Benedict – *Seriously. This is not a game of whack-a-mole.*

Severn – Benedict & Algernon – *I hear the Dead War is about to turn Cold.
Anyone know what that even means?*

Manchester – Lucrezia Reflection – *So who's going to throw the Peace Pipe-Bomb in Spain I wonder?*

Norfolk – Carl – *And here was me thinking it was the harpy's job to be petty and snikey.
You Wizards trying to muscle in on our action?*

Birmingham – Bethany Trimble – *Oh well, it was a Glorious Revolution while it lasted.*

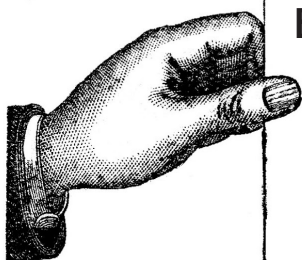
York – Anne Jacques – *So nobody wants to go visiting? Shame that. You all need to be more open minded!*

Carlisle – Samuel McAlpine – *On the plus side, when peace breaks out it's easier to prepare for the next war.*

Derry – Hilda Bern – *I'm going to stop writing these soon. Nobody seems to remember we're here.*

Paris – Viola DuBois – *We ready to get all chatty with the Bad Guys? Oops was I not supposed to say that?*

Soteria – Wrath – *Aww, you made a funny.*



BE THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE!

Join us in the war against lies,
defend the right of kindred to
know the real truth!

Submit your stories so you might
be heard! Have a voice!

VOX POPULI - VOX DEI

Dark Times
Chambre Dix, Hotel Britannique a Paris
75001 PARIS
FRANCE
Phone: +33 (1) 47 77 12 34
Fax: +33 (1) 47 77 98 76
E-mail: darktimes@gvlarp.com