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# Ashbury—News From The Front

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November 604

Volume 1, Issue 1

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## Recent Updates From The Front

### Hounds

During the last gathering held in Meadowbrook, the full force of Sessuar capabilities was seen. It has long been said that the greatest tool of the Sessuar is the nigh unstoppable hounds. Late Saturday afternoon, a small pack entered Meadowbrook. It is believed they were looking for someone or something, although specifically what is not known.

The townspeople of Meadowbrook valiantly fought them off for over an hour. Given the strength of their force, it is considered a victory for Evandarr. As swiftly as they came, they left, without any clarification of their mission or intent.

### Another Gathering Called For

In light of the coming winter and the current levels of Sessuar activity, another gather is called for November 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. The Nobles of Ashbury are asked to be in attendance to build plans for battle and fortification for the

Winter. Reinforcements are expected to help build the Winter lines. All are welcome to attend.

### The Butcher

On Friday evening of the last gathering, townsfolk gathered to kill the greater undead known as “The Butcher.” The entity known as The Butcher has been plaguing the Amani people over a long period of time. Although the Amani made a strong stand against The Butcher and were able to kill him on several occasions, due to the fact that his spirit was bottled they were not able to permanently kill him.

Details known about The Butcher are sketchy. Rumor has it that The Butcher was associated with another greater undead possibly known as The Builder. Further details are not known at this time.

A group of adventurers from Avendale were able to locate and destroy The Butcher’s spirit bottle. It is rumored that a Gypsy visiting the area made a large sacrifice to gain access to the bottle that was residing within a chaos pool. Upon retrieval of the bottle, it was destroyed through the casting of a destroy formal magic ritual. The adventurers who coordinated this are thanked on behalf of their efforts.

## **Attempt made on the life of Baron Justice McCoy**

Baron Justice McCoy, of the Barony of Trelheim, was in attendance at the last gathering held in the township of Meadowbrook. During the course of the gathering, an attempt was made on his life by an unknown assassin. Details are not known as to the identity of the assassin. The attempt failed, and it is believed that the assassin was executed.

## **Amani Relations Improve**

Relations between the Kingdom of Evandarr and the Amani elves have significantly improved in recent weeks. The Kingdom of Evandarr is extremely pleased to have the Amani as allies in the effort against the Sessuar. We trust these re-forged relations will see us through the dark times of the Sessuar.

## **Earth Elemental**

In an effort to share news regarding known resources being employed by the Sessuar, we would like to bring you word of a large Earth Elemental serving the Sessuar. Forces have encountered this creature in several fights. It is known to be very strong, with immense constitution. Adventurers are advised to use caution when they encounter this being.

## **Assaults Increasing**

The frequency of assaults led by Sessuar forces have been occurring with increasing frequency. Leading up to the last gathering, Sessuar forces pushing back Evandarrian forces. Evandarrians try to hold ground but Sessuar backed by hounds were nigh unstoppable.

On Friday night of the last gathering, the Evandarrian forces helped repel an assault on the Amani people.

Since the last gathering, bands of Sessuar fighters have been attacking bands of roving Evandarrian troops. Assaults are perceived to be at an all time high.

## **Assistance Needed!**

The Evandarrian army is once again sending out requests for volunteers to assist in the war effort against the Sessuar. Adventurers, trades-skilled persons, and soldiers are welcome. Individuals with the following skills are particularly needed: medical skills and healing; tracking and scouting abilities; ability to forge and repair weapons; those skilled in all weapons and magics; experienced soldiers with tactical knowledge. Those interested in assisting in the effort should find the nearest commander and report for duty. Compensation and board will be provided. Farmers with crops or livestock to sell are encouraged to see the supply masters of local army encampments, as supplies are needed for the winter. Fair prices paid.

## **Stone Elf Conditioner**

A stone-elven woman known to Evandarrian forces as the Stone Elf Conditioner was captured during the last gathering. Little is known about this stone elf of extraordinary proportions; the information that is known is that she is being used to condition the captured citizens for being bonded. In addition, it is believed that she captured a group of Stone Elves and is currently employing them for the same purpose. During the last gathering, a group of adventurers captured the Stone Elf Conditioner and she is now being held by General Volstag for execution.

## **Public Notices**

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Missing: My dear husband and son volunteered to fight a recent raid of Sessuar. This was three weeks ago, and I have not seen them since. Their names are Thaddeus and Zimon Blanch. They were last seen on the outskirts of the village of Wickstaff. They are believed to have died. If you have any information on their whereabouts, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Any information can be brought to Lillia Blanch at the Wickstaff Tavern.

I post this notice in memoriam to the brave citizens who have died in the pursuit of freedom for Ashbury. Of my village alone, three people have taken their permanent deaths through battles and skirmishes with the Sessuar. Countless more have died and sacrificed loved ones, livelihoods, and time. For the value of freedom, your sacrifices are greatly appreciated. Crush the Imperium!

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## **Reports To The Citizens of Ashbury**

Citizens of Ashbury,

I write to you from the frontlines where the Evandarrian defense forces battle valiantly day-after-day against the Sessuar. I am imbedded with a small group of Evandarrian soldiers, more identifying details on which I cannot provide at this time. Suffice to say, that day after day, I am impressed with energy, courage, and passion with which these men and women fight against the Imperium.

During a recent encounter, we were asked to support the efforts of a small town militia in fending off the advances of Sessuar troops. The village, on first glance, consisted of nothing but a few cottages with gardens and barns filled with livestock. Yet, upon entry into the town with our commander, we learned that the twenty odd fighting age individuals in this town drilled for hours each morning in addition to their normal work responsibilities. When the Sessuar forces came, the town's militia, in addition to the soldiers from my unit, fought fearlessly and achieved great results. They persevered and overcame the obstacles in their way; one person took his final death. But the Sessuar were killed.

It is the effort of the average citizen, the fighting of men and women who prior to the invasion had never lifted a sword, that invigorates this effort. It is through their sacrifice and ongoing spirit, that we will win this war.

Last evening, as I sat around small campfires high in the hills, with a light rain that had been falling for hours, I was discussing the tides of the war with the commanding officer of my unit. Supplies were limited. Our dinner was nothing but bean stew and slightly stale bread. It is hard to maintain morale levels with limited access to good food and adequate shelter. Yet, the captain stood up, raised his mug and made a speech along the lines of the following: "Soldiers. Listen to me! This is the fight for Ashbury, this is the fight for freedom. The lives of the people of Ashbury hang in the balance, lie in your hands and the hands of your fellow men and women who go out to fight....so stay strong. Stay focused. And know we would prevail." Glasses were raised, and we toasted to those good words.

Before I leave you, I wanted to share the story of a young man that I met who I'll call Joshua.

Joshua grew up on one of the estates in Ashbury, and was there when it fell to the Sessuar. Joshua is now a scout for the Evandarrian army, having learned a great deal of skills "on the ground" during this war. Thanks to Joshua's efforts, we have avoided ambushes, survived attacks, and generally been kept aware of the enemy's movements. Not too long ago, we had an encounter I am certain that Joshua will never forget. We came upon a band of Sessuar, were slightly outnumbered, and had to fight brutally in order to maintain our position. We did, and in the process, all the Sessuar were killed. During the battle, Joshua recognized one of the young Sessuar females as his sister. But in the interest of preserving his comrades, there was nothing he could do but continue fighting. Again, these are the sacrifices that make all the difference.

I will do my best to bring you the news from the front lines of this war.

Until next time,

Brettony Salchrist

### **Information Wanted**

Information from the front, and coordinating communication between the disparate groups comprising the Evandarrian forces is a critical component to our success. In an effort to keep our allies informed, and share the latest news of efforts made by our forces. Any and all reports are welcome; gold paid for your efforts