

Lions Faction Despatches

AUGUST 1107



Contents

Editorial, & Monsterring
From the Crowns of Lantia
From the Office of the High Healer
From the Viceroy to the Guilds
From the Captain of the Gate
Mentions of Merit
From the Master Incantor
Announcement: Census of Lions, 1107
From Sherrif Olfsbane
Report on the Disposition of Lions Forces
Have You Seen This Ship?
Wavesinger Trophy Contest
Songs From the Hearth

EDITORIAL

- LIONS PACK-UP AUGUST 2007 -

Well, whaddya know, it's that time of year again? You know, that one where we pack cars, check tents, realise that we forgot to bring spare loo rolls / torches / spare brains... Yes, it must be the Gathering coming round the corner! And to celebrate, here's the pack-up for you edification, enlightenment and entertainment.

See you all at the Gath!

Dave

- MONSTERING -

As you will have noticed the number of monsters at main events is steadily decreasing. This means that the number of encounters your plot team can throw at you is steadily decreasing. To counter that each faction has been asked to contribute 2 hours of its time over the course of the Gathering and go monsters.

Your plot team will ensure that there are no Lions encounters going out over this time.

The Lions have the slot from 11:00 to 13:00 on Saturday.

We would like to see as many people volunteering for this as possibly can.

Acknowledgements

Lions logo design by Bruce Myers. Layout by David Heaton. Actual content by the wonderful and inspired: Dessie McAllister, Russ Phillips, Alan Stroud, Nikki (?), Marianne Wells, Dorian Grey, Jay, Joe, Amanda Hill and Tim Packer.

FROM THE CROWNS OF LANTIA

16th Day, 8th Month 1107
Camelot

Lions

Another year passes and so we come round once more to the greatest assemblage in the Erdrejan Calendar: *the Gathering of Nations*. This year it is not a faction that is inviting us, but instead it is the guilds. The Armourers, Archers and Militia invite us to Igneous, the Great mountain at the Southern Tip of Erdreja.

In this unlikely place there live the Einarr; dwarves with a fantastic gift of weaponry and smithcraft. It is said that they alone in Erdreja now possess the skills to forge great weapons such as The Land Made Steel, or Gae Bolga.

This talent, however, has rendered them a target and they find themselves under attack by the followers of the Ancestor Vulcan. They have petitioned the militant guilds for aid, and the guilds themselves have petitioned each of the factions to send a legion of forces to aid the Einarr against their foes.

This we have done. Legio Borealis has been despatched as part of a multifactional force.

Some might wonder why we should become embroiled in another's battles. The answer is simply that it is strategically important to us. If our enemies gain influence amongst the Einarr then they can well have access to arms and armour beyond the ken of our own smithies; we cannot allow this to happen and so we must act.

There are issues closer to home that also need to be dealt with. On our north-western isles two armies mass, each waiting but a signal to fall upon each other, and upon our citizens. The bard Thrydwulf still evades capture. On Amnor something new rises from the ancient city to besiege its citizens. Gallanthrix, it seems, plays host to demons, and the ancestors alone know what else awaits us in the future.

Everywhere we look there is challenge, there is danger, and Death waits with a ready smile upon his face. It is to these challenges that we as a nation must rise.

So go now, sharpen your swords, practice your spells, dust off your armour so that when we meet on Igneous we shall face down Death and send him screaming for his mother.

First muster is at half past six on the Friday evening, until then may your ancestors watch over you and bless you.

Seraphim Darkendale
Prince of Lantia



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH HEALER:

The Gathering of Nations will soon be upon us. I am intending to organise another party for healers, this time just for the healers of the Lions and Bears factions. It is my belief that getting to know one another better will lead to improvements in the way we work together. Bandage users and channelers alike will be welcome. A time and place will be decided upon once we are at the Gathering, since any plans made now are likely to have to change.

It appears that the full effects of the cataclysm are not yet resolved. Some of our magical items appear to be in a state of flux. It is not yet known whether they will continue to work as they always have, or if they will be changed. Indeed, we do not yet know for sure that they will have any magical properties at all.

Other changes wrought by the cataclysm mean that skills that used to require months of practice can now, in at least some cases, be taught in less than an hour. The Healer's guild organised training at the moots, and I imagine they will be doing the same at the Gathering. Preference is given to members of the guild, and in particular members that have done guild service, so I would encourage you all to join the guild. I myself joined earlier this year, and though many of you will have heard me speak ill of the guild in the past, I am pleased to say that the modern guild appears to have little of the incompetence that characterised the old guild.

If the Gathering will be the first time you have worked under the new, post-cataclysm ritual of peace, please ensure that you are fully aware of the changes as soon as possible. Either talk to the guild, or see myself or another healer that was present at the Fayre or a moot. The new ritual of peace is quite different to what we became accustomed to, so it is important that you know how it works.

Elrood Brond

High Healer of the Lions Faction
Grand Master, Order of Celestial

FROM THE VICEROY TO THE GUILDS

Greetings Lions,

For those that were not present at the Moots, I offer an introduction; I am Pericles of Hydra, newly appointed Viceroy of the Lions. My responsibility is to ensure cordial relations between us and the Guilds of the Heartlands as well as making the most of the opportunities that present themselves for Lions within each Guild.

After my appointment I immediately asked Master Incantor Fionnuala Ni Riain to become my second which she graciously accepted.

In the past the Lions have had good relations with some guilds and more difficult relations with others. It is my hope to pursue a more pro-active policy in recruiting members for each guild and obtaining more training opportunities for members of our faction.

Over the Moots I had a little time to speak to a few of the Faction Masters. I shall be devoting more time to this at the earliest opportunity at the Gathering. It is my hope that we can establish small groups of diligent guild members around each faction master, thereby making training access more assured and also maintaining a clear line of communication and keeping in touch with what is transpiring. Indeed, for some guilds this group approach is already well established in our faction, yet in others the situation is more tenuous and will require a little more work.

Where there is currently no Faction Master, I will be meeting with all guild members as a group to determine the best candidate. The aftermath of the cataclysm has seen much change and some of the Guilds have already altered their command structures to reflect how they will deal with the changes in their professions.

Many of our Faction departments benefit greatly from the abilities gained by Lions who are guild members and by the information they can get from doing their guild service. Similarly if you are given a test by one of the guilds, come back to the Faction and ask us, you will find many people who can help you. So if you

elect to join a guild for the first time at this Gathering, when you come back to the Faction, come and find me and I will put you in touch with the right people.

It is my responsibility to find for you the training opportunities that you require and I shall do my best to obtain these for you.

In Faith and Service,

Pericles of Hydra

From the Captain of the Gate

All Lions

Your help is required. At the Moot all that helped did a fantastic job on the gate and I would like to see more of this at the Gathering. Healers, Fighters, Diplomats whatever your speciality every person is welcome to come and help.

So when you have a spare few minutes or hours please remember
Your Gate Guard need you

Asteria

Captain of the Gate

Mentions of Merit

To Lions who showed particular courage and determination.

Joel Paltrow – For stepping up at the first moot to cover a necessary role.

Morbo – For consistent good work and a willingness to follow orders promptly, fully and without question.

Lanceman Harusfeld – For taking on any duty needing doing with skill and without complaint.

Mangee of the Mirror Shield – For courage and dedication, particularly in defending our camp.

FROM THE MASTER INCANTOR A NOTE REGARDING THE INCANTORS' GUILD AND TRAINING

SOME readers may remember the recent controversy regarding the Incantors' Guild and its decision to admit unliving as members. The Guild has found a novel way to attempt to resolve this controversy: unliving are now *not* allowed to become members of the Incantors' Guild – but nor are the living. The Guild has, in fact, no members.

However, people of faith are still welcome to visit Incantors' guildhouses or the Guild's tent at large gatherings, to seek information or training, to offer their skills to the Guild, or simply to socialise.

I would ask that those Lions who wish to seek training from the Guild come to see me as soon as possible at the Gathering of Nations; there is still a limit as to how many people can be trained in any one year, so a certain amount of prioritisation will have to be done, and the sooner I know what the faction's needs are, the sooner I can organise things.

Please be aware that the Incantors' Guild will require some recompense from you in return for training; it is not willing to give out "something for nothing". Such recompense might be money, work for the Guild, contribution to its library, or anything else that seems reasonable and useful. In certain cases I may be able to help provide this recompense, so if you wish for training from the Guild but think you have nothing to offer it in return, please come and talk to me.

Fionnuala Ni Riain

Fionnuala Ni Riain

Master Incantor

Announcement: Lions Census 1107

To best determine our strengths and weaknesses as a Faction, I have decided to begin a census of faction members at the Gathering of Nations 1107. The census is voluntary but participation will provide us with an idea of what abilities we have as a Faction and who are the best people to contact in relation to specific issues that arise. We will also be able to identify Faction weaknesses and address these. Further the census will allow us to match up people with similar skills and training access so that they can assist each other in furthering their training and research.

The information we will be collecting is the following.

Name

Group

Profession

General skills – so as to ensure each Arcane in the faction is able to locate all of their associates (Mages, Alchemists, &c.). How powerful you are (in terms of magic) is also important.

Learned skills and training access.

Guild memberships.

Guild Interests (i.e. what guilds would you like to get involved with).

The census desk will be conducted in the command tent throughout the weekend. Please make time to come and speak to the person on duty whenever you can. Certain departments in the faction may be looking for additional information, so please check with the person on duty when you visit.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Pericles of Hydra

FROM Sheriff Olfsbayne

Deva, homestead of the Protectors of Lantia
Archon
Lantia

A report into suspicious and unidentified vessels spotted around eastern Lantia.

Since the Great Edrejan fayre of 1107, I have as a representative of the Sheriffs department been heading an investigation into several reports of unusual vessels travelling in and around Lantian waters; this vessel or indeed vessels if sighted is to be reported to myself or any sheriff immediately. If you spot any vessel acting suspiciously, or acting in a threatening manner towards other vessels take a description of the vessel, and pass it onto the Lantian Navy or the Sheriffs department. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Since just after the cataclysm strange vessels have appeared in the waters around Lantia. These vessels have been mostly sighted on the eastern side of the Lantian ring, with sightings around Emerix, Akumon and Helia. As of yet we have not received a clear eye witness account as to how many vessels we are dealing with or if in fact there have been multiple sightings of the same vessel however one eyewitness has provided us with this diagram.



This vessel seems to be of an unique design, which our witness reports aids the vessel in travelling at very high speeds, and it is with this information that we advise caution to all sea faring folk of the Lantian waters. We have had no confirmed reports of hostility from this vessel, except for one witness over hearing a statement which proclaimed that it (the ship) “dragged Monteith down”. Anyone with information as to the demise of Captain Montieth, the vessel he captained, the crew he led or the nature of his business could they please contact me immediately?

In regards to the statement by Commander Jermaine Hunter and the findings of the *HMS Minotaur*, which is as follows:

‘a small boat, crewed maybe by 50 men or so. Its sails were furled and no oars were out, so it was holding as close to a steady position as one can. The weird thing was there was no work being done on the boat, no

painting, no scrubbing, not even fishing. Infact the only thing that was going on was a man standing atop the fo'c'sle singing into the water.'

It would appear that someone in one of the sighted ships under investigation seems to have taken it upon themselves perhaps to talk to the Kraken. Hopefully the poor fool has not been eaten, as the Sheriffs department and I'm sure the new Wavesinger would like to have a nice chat with him and ask him some questions about his vessel, and what his interest is, in music loving sea creatures.

In the unlikely situation that the afore mentioned fool has managed to enlist the aid of the Kraken I would advise anyone sailing around Lantia to take extreme caution, and if you spot a vessel acting threateningly, or suspiciously to not engage, but to withdraw as quickly and as safely as possible, making sure to mark the boats position, estimated destination and to note any distinguishing marks, design or heraldry on the vessel itself, and pass the information onto the Sheriffs department or the Lantian Navy.

I would appreciate those living in and around the port lands of Lantia to remain extra vigilant, and to take note of any unusual ships at moorings, and if it does not put you in a dangerous position try and get a description of the vessels crew, especially the commanding officers. I do not advise taking the law into your own hands as the crew maybe hostile, any apprehension of suspects is of your own free will and your own doing; we can take no responsibility for your actions, just be careful. Remember, information is our greatest ally, don't risk your life trying to apprehend a vagabond for if you die, the information you gather may as well die with you, no Lion stands alone.

Any information you feel may benefit my investigation at this time would be greatly received, although digression and caution is advisable. I am contactable via private ley** or can be found in the Protectors homestead in north western Archon.

No Lion stands alone.



Bjornolf V. Olfsbayne

Shield General of the Protectors of Lantia

Knight Captain of the Lions military

Sheriff of the Law, and militia officer

Written on Behalf of and under request of Bjornolf Vadim Olfsbayne by Oldav master scribe of Danenhough .

**rannak@larpbanana.co.uk

REPORT on the Disposition of Lions Forces

As requested I have costed the current military spend of the faction, which has already been provided to you. I now hold this against what I currently believe to be the disposition of Lions forces. You will note that I include both the Trident and Fleet Secundus; these are to act as aides memoire such that there appears to be surplus in military spending which would previously have been used by these forces; or in other words, we have not yet spent the money on new forces that would normally have been spent on those now assumed to be lost.

Your Servant

Lewis St John Smythe II,
Royal Bookkeeper

Fleet Primus

Mission: Search and Board

Location: Variable – Rysarius / Pardulon / Sammerix

Fleet Secundus

Mission: None

Location: Presumed destroyed in incident surrounding Sunset Shipyards

Royal Fleet

Mission: Standby

Location: Tamarus

Shadow Fleet I

Mission: Patrol

Location: Confidential

Shadow Fleet II

Mission: Patrol

Location: Confidential

The Trident

Mission: None

Location: Presumed destroyed in incident surrounding Sunset Shipyards

Legio Borealis

Mission: Defence of Einnar

Location: Blood mountain Region - Igneous

Legio Orientale

Mission: Assist indigenous Armengarian military versus unknown threat.

Location: Amnor plateau

Legio Australis (The Veterans)

Mission: Standby

Location: Fort Hatfield

Marines

Mission: Search and Board

Location: Fleet Primus

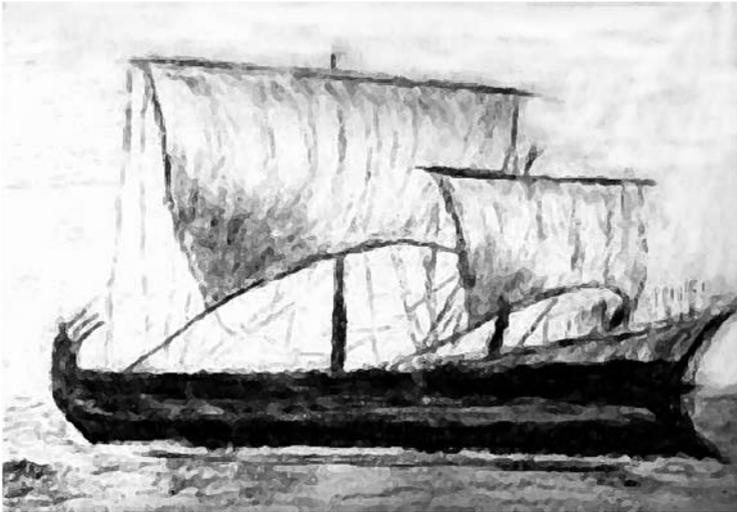
Expeditionary Forces

Mission: Observation of Yfos and Fotia forces

Location: Western Andulus

INFORMATION NEEDED

— *Have you seen this ship?* —



Lions. Have you seen this ship? Last sighted in the area around Helia, Archon (Azurlon) and Akumon north. If you know the whereabouts of this vessel, its crew or details as to its reason for being in Lantian waters can you please contact a representative of the Sheriff's department and mark any documents for the attention of *Bjornolf Olfsbayne*.

My thanks in advance.

Wavesinger Trophy

To further advance the bardic traditions of the Lions,
Josef Lambsen, Wavesinger of Lantia, invites entries
for the first Annual Wavesinger Trophy.

To be held the Saturday evening of the Gathering of Nations, 1107.

Open to all entrants permitted under Lions's hospitality. Entries not limited to songs, all performances welcome. It is also not necessary to be a member of the Bards' Guild to enter – indeed, everyone is both welcome and encouraged.

Please note: this is a contest *held by* the Wavesinger, not an audition *to become* the Wavesinger. Also note: the judges' decision will be final.

Songs FROM the HEARTH

For poems of greatness, songs of despair, and all the chords in between.

The Kraken Awakes

by Jøsef Lambsen, Wavesinger

Sail Away,
From waves that can threaten
A darkening sky.

Sail Away,
From ebony waters
Where Demi-Gods lie.

We call for the old one who lies there asleep,
The undying power that rules all the deep.
We beg you to hear us, we ask you to heed,
To punish our enemies - break and to bleed.

Turn and fly, lest you fear not to die
Or the Kraken will soon drag you down.
Turn and fly, lest you fear not to die
Or the Kraken will soon drag you down.

Sail Away,
From that whom the knowing
Respectfully fear.

Sail Away,
Or stay and prepare to lose
All you hold dear.

The Kraken awakes and your vessel is gone.
No prayer will save you, no ancestral song.
Your lives are now forfeit upon the dark waves.
Beneath the wine oceans, your watery graves.

Turn and fly, lest you fear not to die
Or the Kraken will soon drag you down.
Turn and fly, lest you fear not to die
Or the Kraken will soon drag you down.
(repeat to end)

Wavesinger

by *Nazareth Sparkel*

So it was with savage rage
Violence in a stormy sea
A crash of land to herald change
The seafloor rose around me

Anger so long always known
Smash all that gets in the way
No cause to cease this shattered bone
Til a voice drift o'er the waves

Chorus:

Wavesinger, Wavesinger, what is this you play?
Mortal small, mortal weak, why do I stay?
Why do I listen, why do I yearn?
For peace I never can learn.

In an instant your song a scream
All of you gone there's just me
Crawl the depths of darkest dream
To this I could condemn thee

Words are nought, you have no power
My world now for all of time
I raise one eye and you will cower
You've nothing to hold the line

Chorus

Voice to cool an anger glow
Birds that fear me fly to you
What is this? How did you know?
Joy and pain in notes so few

Hear me rage at ocean's quell
Saltwater spray that harms none
Voice and drum your flute and bell
Terror of the sea undone

Chorus

Peace you say on crystal blue
Live, let live, protect what's ours
Share we must this world anew
Peace be still 'neath sun and stars

Almost belief for your song
Warmth and colour swim beside
Till you speak of those done you wrong
No more do we gentle glide

Chorus

So crash! Say you! Smash! Destroy!
Touch back to hatred raw!
Enemy cursed and enemy toy
Now slave to rhythm's law

Temper renewed, enemy shattered
Nature restored through melody battered
What you unleash with pounding drum
Know you the parts of the sum?

Chorus

Trouble gone so peace you call
Calm the hate, soften the tone
See you now, each lie your gall
You sing, I listen alone

So sing, little Wavesinger, sing
Cry soothe now you savage beast
Peace a tempt you cannot bring
And I Kraken you know least

Wavesinger, Wavesinger, what is this you play?
Mortal small, mortal weak, why do I stay?
Why do I listen, why do I yearn?
For peace you never did earn.

Sing To The Waves
by Talinuriel of the Beltano

Once these seas surrounded a nation
And emperors ruled over the land.
And the people watched on as a terrible song
Was weaved at the emperor's hand.
Then the seas rose up to meet it
And its castles sank down 'neath the waves.
In chambers some slept, while in boats others wept
Over countless Lantian graves.

Chorus

Sing to the waves,
Sing your songs of glory and valour.
Sing of a people who will not bow down to the world.
Let the waves with music ring,
Oh people of Lantia sing
Of a nation which stands with its banner of glory unfurled.

Five hundred years these islands rested
'Neath the seas that once lapped at their shores.
Lost from man's mind, the world left them behind
As Erdreja was shattered by wars.
Then a people came seeking a nation,
Through the void they came needing a home.
Their old land was gone and their journey so long
For rest, and a land of their own.

Chorus

So the land rose up to meet them,
And the islands were whole once again.
There a new nation stands, welcomes all to its lands
Where once ruled the empire of men.
So if people come seeking for Lantia,
Tell them Lantia stands here once more
And a new banner flies against clear sapphire skies,
And a new people stands at the shore.

Chorus

Let the waves with music ring,
Oh people of Lantia sing
Of a nation which stands with its banner of glory unfurled.

Chords:

Verse: D A Bm F#m G D G A (x2)

Chorus: D A Em G D A Bm G D A Bm F#m G A D D