

The Barrowmaze

Session 77 18-09-25 The Battle of Broken Spire Keep - Part 1

Next Session 25-09-25 19.00

Thursday the 23rd day of Vadrius 20:00, The Caverns beneath Broken Spire Keep

With the evil necromantic Priest, Ranchefus taunting them from the far side of the cavern the Hammers and their Bandit allies manoeuvre to attack.

Ranchefus turns and gestures towards the stone altar behind him, beginning a baleful chant, his voice rising into a keening wail as a dismal, purple light begins to slowly pulse out over the cavern like a pool of slick luminescent oil. Ranchefus gazes towards them smirking in similarly oily glee as his Skeletons and Zombies begin to march.

Leo moves forwards on the right flank, accompanied by a group of bandits led by Della, the bandit sergeant and accompanied by the two bandit archers one of whom looses an arrow, instantly killing a Cultist across the cavern.

Fenella groups with Phineas and Morgaine on the cavern's eastern wall, all three of them trying to keep clear lines-of-sight for crossbows and spells. The second Archer Bandit shoots at another Cultist, hitting and wounding the wild-eyed armoured figure, which continues to advance, grinning madly and seemingly unaware of his bleeding wound.

Leo advances, bringing the right flank up to close the distance to the enemy as Phineas gets a sightline and raises his crossbow to shoot at a Cultist, unfortunately missing.

Leading his group closer to the advancing undead Gerald raises his holy symbol high and calling down the divine power of St Ygg he Turns the undead before him. St Ygg as always, is with his Paladin and a group of three Skeletons and two of the stronger Zombies immediately turn and flee from the shining beacon of Lawful Goodness that is Gerald.

Morgaine tries to line up a shot but there are too many friendlies in the way. Swearing beneath her breath she concentrates on guarding Fenella.

Keeping good awareness around them, The Hammers notice that the dark light is spreading further through the cavern and where it lights the many littered piles of bones they shake and shudder and haul themselves up, producing additional Skeletons that march relentlessly towards them.

One of Leo's Archer Bandits shoots at the nearest Cultist, hitting and instantly dropping him as a ragged cheer goes up from the Bandits. Ranchefus sneers and chuckles, "this is only the beginning." Gerald notices another Cultist standing over one of his fallen comrades, gesturing above the body, which suddenly stands awkwardly up, reanimated as a Zombie.

The nearest Acolyte fixes Leo with a contemptuous sneer as she casts the Light spell on Leo's eyes but this time Leo resists the spell as the Acolyte spits in fury and begins to manoeuvre towards him with a look of murder in her eye. Leo, as ever the chivalrous Knight, politely returns exactly the same look back to her.

The second Archer Bandit shoots at another Cultist slamming into him for another goodly wound.

Over on the left, Gerald attacks, slicing the black iron shortsword into his opponent and showering bones around himself. Gerald's Bandits attack with him, some missing but a couple of good short sword thrusts and Gerald's opponent drops to the floor, "well done lads," Gerald says encouragingly, unable to believe he is now leading a mob of criminal Bandits.

Hakhan takes a swipe with his rapier and dismantles a few bones from the Skeleton in front of him. Guided by his leader a Farmer Bandit piles in on the same target wrecking it completely.

Luna creeps around the back, northern wall, heading carefully through the shadows to the east. She notices a stealthy form also creeping but considerably less expertly than herself through the shadows towards Gerald's group. Waiting patiently, her eyes locked onto her target, Luna lurks in the darkness, her new magical dagger at the ready.

Gerald leads his Bandits forward as another Skeleton is fiercely smashed to the ground. On Leo's team the group move up to where the archer is now fighting multiple Skeletons with her shortsword.

The melee continues on both flanks, the main groups of Bandits fighting and holding their lines in good order with Hakhan in the middle and Gerald on the left. Over on the right flank, slashing with the mighty sword of Sir Chyde and causing a shower of bone from his still standing enemy, Sir Leo grumbles in disgust at the strength of some of these undead.

Luna now makes out that the creeping figure is one of Acolytes, raising her hands as if she intends to start casting a spell on Gerald but it is clear to Luna that she herself is unobserved by the evil Priest. As one with the shadows, Luna approaches like a wraith and bursting from the darkness, plunges the Stoutblade Dagger deep into the Acolyte's back. Gerald hears a terrible scream behind him as Luna tries to slice and finish the struggling Priest from behind.

Ranchefus strolls idly over to the Turned undead. Muttering a few words, he makes an idle gesture and an evil magical miasma passes over the five undead, releasing them from the influence of St Ygg's Paladin. The undead turn about and begin to shamble back to the fight.

A couple of the tougher Bandits take wounds as they force some of the Skeletons back. Leo and Gerald both realise these Bandits are out for revenge for their zombified friends and therefore in a fierce fighting mood, "it's just a scratch mate, nuffink! Naow come 'ere!"

Gerald sees Luna backstabbing the Acolyte and swings the cruel Black Iron Shortsword to finish the evil Priest as she folds cursing to the floor in a pool of blood while Phineas raises his crossbow and shoots and wounds the nearest Zombie.

Leo and the Acolyte who failed to blind him stare each other out, the priest raging as she tries to make her way towards him while Leo practices swordplay with his Skeleton opponents.

Meanwhile Hakhan disappointingly misses his fancy blade stroke with the rapier as Gerald helpfully adds, "can't beat a nice shortsword, you know." Again, the Farmer Bandits get lucky as the skeletons attack; their, as yet uninjured, thug bravado rising in the heat of battle as Gerald is embarrassingly wounded by a mere Skeleton.

The undead begin to dangerously outflank our heroes on the left with a Skeleton attacking the now visible Luna who fortunately dodges the blow. Also, in the centre between Leo and Gerald's groups, Skeletons and Zombies advance towards Morgaine, Phineas and Fenella as Hakhan tries to close the gap. Morgaine quickly runs forward to attack a Zombie a few feet to the south.

The archers defend themselves with swords and daggers in melee and one is quite badly wounded, heroically standing her ground as Gerald gallantly holds the left flank alongside Luna.

One of Leo's thugs brutally finishes a Skeleton, "'ave that my son," he growls as Gerald's scoundrels on the other side chisel more pieces of bone off their attackers.

Luna again ducks below another Skeleton attack as Ranchefus, goading from the other side of the cavern smiles and hisses cajolingly, "just give up now, lay down your weapons and die peacefully... today is your day to die."

Thursday the 23rd day of Vadrius 20:10, The Caverns beneath Broken Spire Keep