

State of the Duchy

Summer, CY 596

Hello to all. This is a basic OOC report on the IC events that are currently going on in the Grand Duchy of Geoff. It is in fact long overdue and is something we want to start doing quarterly.

So without further commentary...

The Region as a Whole

Common Knowledge:

Despite many low intensity conflicts around the region, people are beginning to rebuild their lives. The Downlands cantrevi are flourishing with increased trade in building supplies and foodstuffs. Many of the returning refugees have chosen to start their lives over in the cities or very close to them.

Other cantrevi are getting many of their people back and some already have more folk than they did prior to the beginning of the war. Gradually, the flow of returning folk is reaching all of the cantrevi, even the more remote ones. Winter proved more difficult than expected, but the growing season has been blessed and there is more than enough food to go around. Hunting has also been plentiful in most of the country.

Many gnomes, dwarves, and elves have returned home. These kingdoms, once quiet theatres of a larger war, are now thriving hubs of activity. The elves especially are making inroads into their lost lands, both in the Dim and in the Hornwood. The elves of the Hornwood have a new king - Shiver. Already they have begun rebuilding their cities in the 'old' way. The Oytwood elves have recently ceded in perpetuity a parcel of land along the Javan river. This was given to Arglwyth Talvan the White and his descendants as part of the cantrev of Rhwng yr Coed. As such it is technically now part of Geoff. As part of this, a new Brehyr has been assigned to Preston and he is busy organizing the area.

Although relations with Geoff's neighbors are still good, there is still a great deal of friction and resentment over issues from the last war. Melwyn Greatarm, after having lost his bid for power, has gone into the wilderness with many of his followers. They prey on giants and humanoids and it is rumored that they have safe houses in some of Geoff's cities.

Most of the Giant tribes were shattered. Some good giants have retreated to secluded areas and make it known they can be traded with. The Stone Giants in particular have been very helpful in rebuilding projects around the Duchy though there is no known formal treaty in place. The Cloud Giants have retreated to their mountain homes and their floating cities. Some of the Giant groups have

gone south into Sterich. Others have fled beyond the mountains to the North and West. One group of Fire Giants however, has accepted Llwyress Rhian's invitation to become part of her personal army. This has caused a great stir among the court of Geoff.

Still parts of the region are held by remnants of the Giant army. Sections of Gorna are still unsafe for folk to travel or settle in. The Lea is rife with battered and shattered Orc tribes. Even the occasional Hextorite camp is still found and exterminated.

Rumors:

- Gregor, Brehyr of Preston, was a member of the Army before the war but his name never appears on any army roster.
- A High Elven Princess has caused a stir after the ascension of her brother to the throne. It is not known exactly where her loyalties lie.
- The Dwarven Three Hold Thane has woken but the dwarves are keeping this a tight secret.
- Gnomish experiments in war Golems are nearing a breakthrough.
- Duke Owen is formulating a diplomatic letter to the Court of the Land. The contents of the letter are being held in tight confidence.
- Beholders have been seen in Melgorn.

Focus on: The Dim Forest

Once a backwater of the Giant War and more recently an area of unrest among the Wood Elves, the Dim Forest has become a focal point for conflict. The Shadow Dragon has apparently unleashed an offensive against the elves of the Dim Forest and the Order of the Shining Beacons. Swarms of shadow creatures and fades have attacked several outposts and Enderyn is under siege. So far there has been no official Geoff response and neither Darlon nor Lachion has requested official help.

As usual however, volunteers from Geoff, the Grand March, Keoland, and even some more obscure areas have come to the aid of the Dim Forest communities. Through their bravery, the Battle of the Dim was a draw and both sides appear to be licking their wounds.