

I checked the bodies of the two men who had run up the road towards us. Both were dead. One had seven wounds and the other had just two but had bled out from one of the wounds. Igrid checked the body close to him and that man was alive but unconscious. Morkoth checked out the three bodies up the mountain above the position of the burnt out tent. He thought one of the three was alive and tried to stabilise the man but was not certain if he had succeeded.

Of the two bodies on the road one had leather armour and the other had chain mail. The one with the leather armour had a short sword and long bow plus arrows. The other had a long sword and long bow plus arrows. The man in leather armour had 36 copper and 2 silver. Not exactly rich. The man in chain had 3 gold, 5 silver and 18 copper. Now that is more like it! Both had winter furs and red tunics. One of the bodies that Morkoth searched had a chain mail shirt as well as the red cloak and winter furs.

Dawn approached showing the smouldering remains in the half light. Igrid ran back to the mine to get Gotrik and the donkeys to carry all of the bodies back to the mines. Igrid cut the ears off the dead bodies and then having stripped them of anything valuable tossed the bodies down the mine shaft. Igrid managed to revive the man in the chain shirt that Morkoth had stabilised on the mountain side. This man, called Robert, claimed that there were a score of the irregulars plus a couple of dozen recruits. He claimed that some of the recruits were from the "Flea pit up north, Bellamy" and some were from Williams Town. Still more came with them up the Great North Road. All the irregulars have the red cloaks. We have four men in red cloaks one of which is dead the other three are alive. The first two we encountered plus the one in the chain shirt that Morkoth and Igrid managed to save. The rest are or rather were recruits.

According to Cpl Robert there are 8 men in each of the four bunk houses and some in the barn. After some discussion about what to do with the men Igrid knocked out the corporal and I dropped him down the mine. We just could not leave him here to talk to his colleagues and we could not let him go. He would already be dead if we had not stabilised him and his colleagues. We disposed of everything that we were not taking with us down the mine shaft trying to leave as little trace as we could at the mine and on the track leading to the mine.

We set off cross country towards mine shaft 2 in an attempt to bypass the camp. Looking down into the camp I could just make out about 20 armed figures leaving and heading towards the tent where they had had their observation post. They were all on foot with a couple of dogs up front probably to help track us when they pick up our trail. We are all on horse back and should be able to out pace them even with the ponies. It takes us about an hour to get to shaft 2. By this time the group from the camp is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  the way up the track to shaft 1. From here we head cross country again to get towards shaft 4. All the time looking for the best ground that will leave the least in the way of trail behind us. We headed off west towards Green Top mountain. It is 4 miles from shaft 2 to shaft 4. Looking back the party from the camp had turned off the trail to shaft 1 and have turned north then a little later they turn north east. Clearly they were attempting to cut us off but we were ahead of them and travelling faster. Looking at the terrain and the map it was clear that our map was not very accurate. The distances appear to be wrong. We made it up the slope of Green Top mountain to the tree line then headed north following the contour round the mountain. Our plan was to cut across the bottom of mirror valley towards the lost peak then turn SE towards Grishak's Caldera for the rendezvous. The going was getting tough. The Pony that Morkoth was leading stumbled but Morkoth managed to tie the lead line to the pommel of his saddle and lead the pony on.

The ridge is now only about 5 minutes travel away. The chasing group were last seen entering the woods on the path to the loggers camp. That is about 4 miles away from us so at best we are holding the distance between us. The chasing party had picked up speed by jogging part of the time and walking the rest.