

The goblins caught up with us as we were leaving the cave bringing our weapons with them. The cave was not straight but had a bend to the right as we exited. As we came round this turn to the right we could see a small camp fire just outside the entrance. Igred crept back to our guide to ask him if he knew of this camp fire. He replied that it was nothing to do with the goblins. We therefore assumed that it was a human camp outside and that they were now watching the entrances of all of the caves that they had found. Igred crept out of the cave entrance on the left side and Morkoth moved to the cave entrance on the right hand side. The ideal was that Morkoth would cause a distraction to the guard allowing Igred to attack from the back or side. However Igred spotted a second figure to the extreme right of the cave entrance who was covering the figure at the entrance. Igred continued out of the cave on the left hand side then circled round to the left with the intention of climbing up above the cave and working his way round to the figure on the extreme right. However it would seem that either he or Morkoth was spotted as the two figures reacted exchanging hand signals. The one by the fire drew a bag from a pocket and threw something onto the fire which made it flare up for a while. Igred charged the figure by the fire pushing him backwards and knocking him down into the fire. The figure rolled out of the fire but the blankets in which he was wrapped were now on fire. Igred called out "Morkoth, contact right" However Morkoth was attacked from behind by the second figure who he had not spotted. One blow scratched his armour the second was a near miss. At this point I shot the figure by the fire who was still draped in burning blankets. Igred then pummelled him to the ground. Morkoth turned on his attacker going bestial and attacking with two claw attacks and a bite but only made contact with one claw. I could head this fight going on so I crept towards the cave entrance looking for the figure. Morkoth attacked his opponent again this time hitting with both claws and a bite. At this point his opponent dropped the sword he was carrying and put out his arms calling yield. Thus the fight was over by the time I got out of the cave entrance. With no other figures in view near by I looked for the entrances of the other caves to see if they were being staked out. I could see three other caves all with fires outside. One below and slightly to the left of us. The second further below and more to the left. The third was off to the right about the same level as us. It was a little disorientating in the dark and not knowing where we had come out it took a while to sort out just where we were. The figure who had yielded to Morkoth was dressed in a red cloak just like the other figures. Below this he was wearing a chain shirt. Igred removed the red cloak and used it to beat the fire back down to its previous level of intensity. Apparently the flare up of the fire was a planned signal so we decided to truss up the captive and leave quickly before reinforcements came to investigate. We also gagged the captive so that he could not call out for help. After getting our bearings we headed up the hill and round to the ponies.

Gotrik had been watching the camp fires outside the caves flare up at regular intervals one after another. It seemed to be some sort of all is well signal between the camps. Gotrik then spotted a party with lanterns coming up the hill from the camp at the river below to one of the caves. There was a brief wailing sound then all was quiet again. Then one of the camp fires he was watching flared up for a couple of minutes before dying down again. It would seem that this was the camp fire outside the cave we were in. Gotrik did not spot our approach and was surprised by our arrival. I called to him quietly to alert him to the fact that it was us and not to chop our heads off by accident. Gotrik informed us of the party of men arriving at the nearest cave. So we decided to go back the way we had come taking the horses and ponies with us to unload the trade goods into the tunnel. We rode back round to the cave spotting a fire flare up for a couple of minutes at another cave entrance. We stopped about 100 yards from the cave entrance and Igred went forward on foot to scout the cave and see if reinforcements had arrived. He reported back that there were none. We led the horses and ponies into the cave. I waited at the entrance to watch for anybody approaching the cave. Gotrik went to the tunnel entrance and rolled the cover stone aside while Igred and Morkoth started to unload the ponies. Gotrik heard a dog barking from down the tunnel which he reported back to us. The they discovered that the tunnel was just big enough to take the ponies through. So they reloaded the ponies and led them through to the bred at the far end where they called for attention and unloaded the ponies. I was not certain that this is the top cave to which the

goblins had referred but they managed to attract the attention of the goblins and get help unloading the goods. After a brief discussion one of them went off to get Grash and the payment. Grash arrived with the payment a little later. At about this time there was a thunderous explosion inside the cavern. It would seem the militia were blasting their way into the goblin system with gunpowder. Grash passed the bag of gems to Igred and then offered more if we would stay and help. However Igred, Morkoth and Gotrik decided it was better for us to leave. If we were recognised by any of the surviving enemy we may not be safe going home again. We are still not aware of the legitimacy of the area clearance that these men were conducting.

The rest of the party rejoined me in the cave entrance and we planned our route home. We decided to head south until we were about 10 miles south of the drop and then turn due west towards the Great North Road finding a route through the intervening hills. We rode all through the night covering about 30 miles before resting up at dawn in a gulley that I had spotted. Igred carried the now unconscious body of the captive off to another gulley and buried him after stripping him of the chain mail shirt and the coins in his pocket. The winter clothes and canteen that he had been carrying were buried with him. At about 4pm we headed on west towards the road and kept going until about 7pm. During this trek Igred spotted a grey cloud hanging over the caldera. It would seem that there had been further blasting throwing up lots of dust and dirt. Making camp again we estimated from the map that we had about a day and a half of riding to reach the road. We set watches again and decided to break camp at the first sign of dawn and ride all day. I took first watch, Morkoth the second, Gotrik the third and Igred the last. After a long day of hard riding we reached a hut on the great north road at about 7pm. We set the same watch order and again decided to leave at the first sign of dawn. About an hour into my watch something flew over us. I estimated that it was about 300' above us. The creature was sort of humanoid with wings and a 6' long tail. It circled once then headed north along the road. To me it looked like a Cobold but I discussed this with Morkoth when I woke him for his watch. He could come up with no better suggestion from my description and the creature was long gone so I went to bed and left Morkoth on watch.

We decided to trot the orses as it was easy going on the road. There was not much traffic on the road. After about an hour we passed a south bound coal cart. At about noon we spotted a lone traveller heading south. This turned out to be Adriana again! We greeted her and spoke briefly exchanging pleasantries before continuing on north. In the afternoon we passed another cart going south with some people walking along behind it. That was all the traffic we saw on the road that day. We camped up again in one of the huts still not sure exactly where we were on the road as the huts themselves are not numbered. We used the same system of watches and the night passed uneventfully. In the morning we headed off again and crossed the White Water Melt which was marked on the map. From this point we knew where we were, just south of hut 14. We camped at hut 18, which was 3 huts south of Bellamy. Once again we used the same watch system. Igred woke us all just before dawn calling alarm. Apparently there was a burst of fire amongst the ponies. By the time we got to the door there had been two more bursts of fire from different directions. There were three Hell Hounds outside scattering the ponies and horses.