

Fires in the Crypt (Level 1)

People have been going missing in the small town of Fallbrook. Of course, people are quick to point fingers at the imperial forces who have been occupying the city all year as part of their southward push to expand the empire.

Adventure rules and philosophy

By design, the adventures feature the same monsters across multiple encounters. This is to allow the players to learn how these monsters fight and develop effective tactics against them, as well as to highlight how they work differently in different scenarios: when terrain is arranged differently, when they have different allies fighting with them, and so on.

Long rests and random encounters

The party can take a long rest at any time. Choose any location that the party have been in since their last long rest.

There is a risk of a random encounter each time the party begins a long rest. Roll 1d6 for every encounter the party has had since their last long rest. If *any* die gives a result of 4 or higher, there is no random encounter. Otherwise, there is a random encounter. The Game Master should place the heroes and the enemies according to the fiction, for example what precautions the party has taken, where the enemies might reasonably be coming from, and so on.

Adjusting for different party compositions

Adventures are balanced for a party of four heroes of the adventure level. There are instructions for adjusting encounters by "steps". A step is one change in either level or number of heroes.

For example, if you have three heroes instead of four, adjust each encounter down by one step. If you have four heroes of level 2 completing a level 1 adventure, adjust each encounter up by one step. If you have three heroes of level 2 completing a level 1 adventure, you do not need to make any adjustment (the steps cancel each other out).

Representing creatures

Each enemy in an encounter is indicated by a chess piece. If you do not have miniatures, you can use a chess set to represent the enemies.

1A. Rumors (400 XP)

The heroes can explore Fallbrook, speaking with people and chasing up clues. These should point them towards the impromptu arena set up outside of town (1B).

Leaky Mug Tavern: Garrent is a brewer by trade, but he runs the tavern since no one else would serve his ales and meads with the same care.

He complains about the ruckus at night - not from his patrons, but from the woods outside of town. Shouts and the sounds of battle can be heard from a gladiatorial arena the imperial soldiers set up on the outskirts of town.

Diplomacy (DC 12): The arena is for soldiers to fight one another, not innocent townspeople. However, some of the soldiers have reported their colleagues going missing after losing a bout in the arena.

The Widow Bessie's house: A simple thatch cottage with honeysuckles on the walls and rose bushes out the back is being investigated by worried townsfolk. They explain that the Widow Bessie went missing. You can't miss her - she has a gigantic round head, with a warm smile that stretches from ear to ear.

Perception (DC 12): There are flower stalks in Bessie's vegetable patch, as if she was preparing a bouquet for some purpose.

The alley behind the tavern: The urchins are whispering about one of their own, Eustace. His head still bears the scars from a wyvern attack that claimed his parents and made him an orphan. He has lived on the streets ever since - until two days ago, when he was seized by a centurion in the dead of night and carried away into the woods.

Streetwise (DC 8): One of the orphans trusts you with an additional detail: the centurion has a prominent scar over one eye.

Imperial barracks: The party is not allowed inside the barracks, but there's no rule against hanging about outside with the soldiers while they smoke the foul-smelling weed they import in great bales from up north. One, a superstitious type, mentions that after the empire invaded, the townsfolk were barred from performing the annual festival at the temple of Thalander atop the hill overlooking town. One day later, the temple collapsed into the crypts built underneath it.

Religion (DC 12): The worship of Thalander is not forbidden by the empire! This fact prompts one of the imperial soldiers to slip that the administrators barred the festival not out of sectarianism but because one of the empire's soothsayers had commandeered the temple for his own purpose.

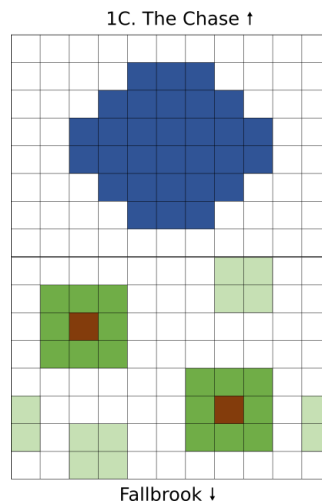
Gallows: From the gallows in the center of town hangs the recently deceased body of a drunkard who struck an imperial soldier who cheated at cards, killing him instantly.

History (DC 12): While it is illegal for civilians to kill imperial soldiers, the imperial administrators have no such compunctions. The administrators are ruthless at enforcing discipline, and will imprison or even execute those soldiers who are captured doing something wrong.

1B. The Arena (387 XP)

Through the trees, you can see soldiers gathered around a crudely-dug pit in the ground, cheering what sounds like pitched combat between man and beast in the pit.

Naturally, players may assume that the missing people are being forced to fight in the pit, but this is not true. The imperial soldiers amuse themselves by fighting one another and strange beasts that they find. However, since this is not permitted by the military brass, the off-duty soldiers will deliver a beating to anyone who disturbs them to warn them to keep their mouths shut - including the heroes.



Pit: A 10-foot drop, so no risk of damage if you jump or fall in, but if you enter as a result of unwilling movement you may fall prone.

Tree: The centre square of the tree is an impassible tree trunk. The other green squares are the leafy canopy. They give cover from aerial attacks, but otherwise do not affect the battle.

Briars: These patches are difficult terrain.

Note to GM

This will be the first time the players enter combat. Let them know that they can knock a creature out instead of delivering a killing blow. When the soldiers first attack, let the party know that this is what the soldiers are doing.

Note that this is the one encounter where the enemies are attacking to knock out instead of to kill. However, since the empire will punish those who kill its soldiers, the party may choose to knock out all soldiers it fights.

Challenges

- Sticky-tongued toad (Level 2 Wrecker): 🐸 - chained to a bolt in the bottom of the pit - it cannot leave the pit
- Apefolk legionnaire (Level 1 Blocker): 🏹 🛡️
- Apefolk infantry (Level 2 Mook): 🗡️ 🗡️

Step down: Remove one apefolk legionnaire (🏹 🛡️), -100 XP. *Step up:* Add one sticky-tongued toad (🐸), +125 XP.

Apefolk Legionnaire

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Senses: Perception +2; low-light vision; **Initiative:** +4; **Speed** 6

AC: 19; **Fort:** 16, **Ref:** 13, **Will** 13



Short Sword (standard, at-will) • Weapon

+8 vs. AC; 1d6+5 damage.



Javelin (standard, at-will) • Weapon

Ranged 10/20; +6 vs. AC; 1d6+5 damage.



Cull the Weak (standard, encounter)

The legionnaire can make 2 short sword attacks against a staggered opponent.

Heart of the Legion

When adjacent to at least 2 apefolk allies, the legionnaire receives a +1 bonus to all defenses.

Apefolk Infantry

Senses: Perception +2; low-light vision; **Initiative:** +3; **Speed** 7

AC: 17; **Fort:** 16, **Ref:** 14, **Will** 13



Longspear (standard, at-will) • Weapon

Reach 2; +5 vs. AC; 5 damage.

Heart of the Legion

When adjacent to at least 2 apefolk allies, the apefolk infantry receives a +1 bonus to all defenses.

Sticky-Tongue Toad

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Senses: Perception +6; low-light vision; **Initiative:** +3; **Speed** 4, swim 4; see also *leap*

AC: 14; **Fort:** 16, **Ref:** 14, **Will** 12



Bite (standard, at-will)

+5 vs. AC; 1d8+4 damage, or 1d8+8 against a grappled target.



Tongue Lash (swift, at-will)

Ranged 3; +3 vs. Reflex; the target is grappled (until escape) and pulled adjacent to the giant frog.

Leap (move, at-will)

The giant frog shifts 4 squares.

Aftermath

The party spot a centurion who was hanging back in the shadows. Go to 1C. The Chase.

The soldiers defeated here know nothing of the disappearance of the townsfolk.

1C. The Chase (400 XP)

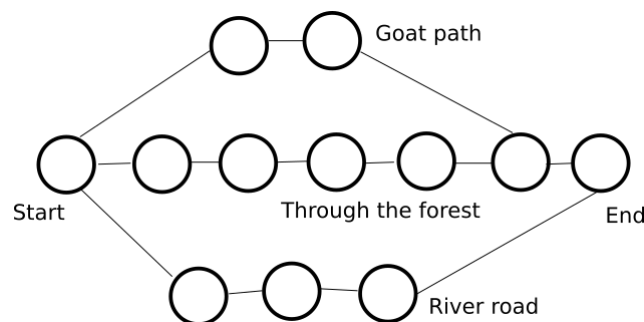
A soldier in the distinctive breastplate of a centurion had been watching the battle from under a tree. When it became clear you had carried the day, he slipped away between the trees.

If the party wants to pursue him:

The centurion is still in sight, ducking between the trees. He has about 120 feet of lead on you, and at his cracking pace you're unlikely to catch up. However, there is a goat path crossing the mountain ridge above you. If you were to climb over the ridge, you could cut him off. Alternatively, you could stay on the road, which is easier going.

Lay out the situation for the players:

- The players start on the first circle. The centurion starts on the third circle on the "through the forest" route.
- Heroes can trail the centurion through the forest, but he has the lead - they will not catch up to him.
- Heroes can take the difficult but short goat path.
- Heroes can take the easier river road.
- Heroes can split up across two or three routes. Once one or more heroes engage the centurion, they will buy time for others to catch up (this is why some heroes may go through the forest even though they have no chance of catching the centurion on their own).
- Heroes can get stuck on a path if they fail a skill check. Others who succeeded on the check can stick around and help, or move on.
- If the round ends with the centurion on the End space, and there are no heroes in that space, then the centurion gets away.



Each hero can move one space per round. However, there are obstacles on the goat path and the river road that can stop heroes from moving that round.

Through the forest: Each round, each hero can move forward or back one space.

Goat path: At the start of each round, each hero can move back one space. They can alternatively move forward a space provided that the challenge in the current space has been overcome.

First step: The path rises along a sheer cliff about 20 feet high.

The cliff is a challenge for each hero, which means a hero that has not climbed the cliff cannot move forward a space at the start of the next round.

Each round, each hero can attempt to climb the cliff once. If an ally is at the top of the cliff, or threw down a rope before they moved on, or otherwise made the task easier, the hero gains a +2 bonus on their check. Athletics (DC 8), Acrobatics or Perception (DC 12).

A hero can also aid another instead of climbing the cliff themselves.

Second step: The path is blocked by a belligerent goat.

Each round, each hero can attempt to influence the goat. If any hero succeeds, the goat leaves - no other hero needs to overcome the challenge. Nature (DC 12), Intimidate (DC 18).

A hero can aid another instead of attempting to influence the goat themselves.

A player can also use a power that pushes or shunts the goat. If they hit (AC 11, Fort 12, Ref 14, Will 8), the challenge is overcome.

River road: At the start of each round, each hero can move back one space. They can alternatively move forward a space provided that the challenge in the current space has been overcome.

First step: Two guards stationed on a toll road.

Convince the guards to let you pass. One hero must pass the test. Bluff (DC 12) or Diplomacy (DC 12)

Alternatively, heroes can bribe the guard. 10 gold pieces each, or anything that would help the guards pass the time.

Second step: The road is blocked by a parade.

Each hero must pass the test.

Acrobatics (DC 8), Endure (DC 8; takes two rounds) Intimidate (DC 12; all heroes who make a check afterwards get a +2 bonus), Stealth (DC 12), Streetsmarts (DC 8).

Third step: You need to spot the turnoff by noticing the last standing columns of the temple high on the hill.

One hero must pass the test. Perception (DC 8), Religion (DC 12), Nature (DC 18) or History (DC 12).

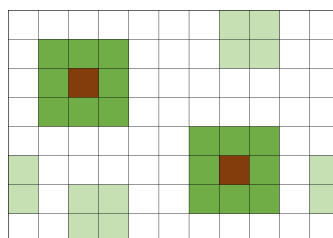
- *Side task:* Heal DC 18, instead of the normal success result, you gain one *healing potion*.

Modifications: *Step down:* -1 to all DCs, -100 XP. *Step up:* +1 to all DCs, +100 XP.

Aftermath

Success: If the heroes are in the same space as the centurion, they can fight the aepfolk centurion (👑) in the forest instead of at 1D. Temple Entrance. This saves them from having to fight him with his allies, giving them the benefit of an easier battle. See "Aftermath" in 1D for the kind of information he may give up if captured.

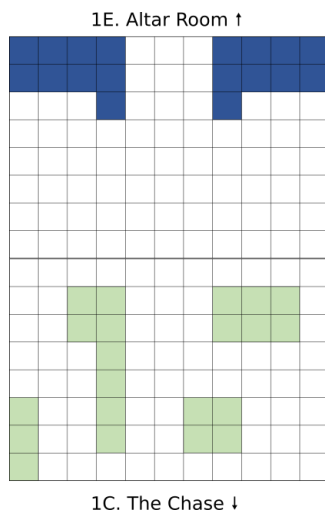
Heroes enter from the west (through the forest), north (mountain path) or south (river road). If the centurion was already in the space when the first hero arrived, place the centurion to their advantage. If the centurion enters after the first hero, they come from the east.



Failure: If the centurion gets away, he alerts the guards at 1D. Temple Entrance and stays to fight with them. However, the players still locate the Temple Entrance eventually.

1D. Temple Entrance (450 XP)

Once a temple of white marble stood here, atop a hill overlooking the town. When the temple collapsed into the crypt below, its grand opening remained above ground. The rest of the ground is broken and sunken. Beyond the broken ground, a staircase descends into the earth.



Blue: Solid marble, ten feet tall.

Green: Difficult terrain.

Challenges

- Apefolk centurion (Level 3 Soldier (Leader)): 🏰
- Apefolk legionnaires (Level 1 Soldier): 🏰 🏰 🏰

If the players succeeded on the 1C extended challenge, there is no centurion to fight here (they will have fought him already).

Step down: Remove one apefolk legionnaire (🏰), -100 XP. *Step up:* Add four apefolk infantry (🏰 🏰 🏰 🏰), +124 XP.

Apefolk Legionnaire

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Senses: Perception +2; low-light vision; **Initiative:** +4; **Speed** 6

AC: 19; **Fort:** 16, **Ref:** 13, **Will** 13

🏰 **Short Sword** (standard, at-will) • Weapon

+8 vs. AC; 1d6+5 damage.

🏰 **Javelin** (standard, at-will) • Weapon

Ranged 10/20; +6 vs. AC; 1d6+5 damage.

🏰 **Cull the Weak** (standard, encounter)

The legionnaire can make 2 short sword attacks against a staggered opponent.

Heart of the Legion

When adjacent to at least 2 apefolk allies, the legionnaire receives a +1 bonus to all defenses.

Apefolk Centurion

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Senses: Perception +4; low-light vision; **Initiative:** +5; **Speed** 6

AC: 20; **Fort:** 18, **Ref:** 14, **Will** 15



Longsword (standard, at-will) • Weapon

+10 vs. AC; 1d8+5 damage.

✂ **Cull the Weak** (standard, encounter)

The centurion can make 2 longsword attacks against a staggered opponent.

✦ **Rally Point** (standard, refresh 5, 6)

Near burst 5; allies in the burst shift 3 squares. Allies that end up adjacent to the centurion gain a +1 bonus to attack and damage rolls until the end of the centurion's next turn.

Heart of the Legion

When adjacent to at least 2 apefolk allies, the centurion receives a +1 bonus to all defenses.

Aftermath

The soldiers here can be interrogated. They explain that they serve a soothsayer who, while not strictly a member of the empire administration, has religious clout. They don't know exactly what he's doing in the crypts, but they sometimes smell cooked meat or hear haunting screams - usually at the same time.

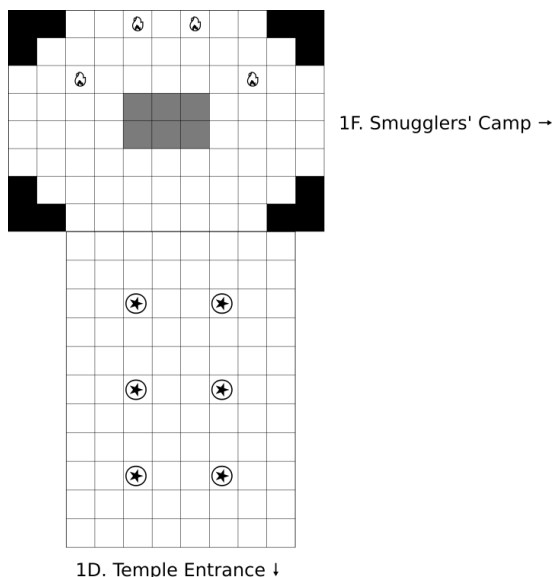
This could be a good time for the party to take a long rest.

What's next?

- The party can return to Fallbrook through the forest.
- A narrow staircase descends to 1E. Altar Room.

1E. Altar Room (380 XP)

You enter a long, narrow room flanked by sculptures of ancient warriors and princes, staring at each other across an aisle that leads to an altar. The improvised altar - a slab of marble laid across a sarcophagus - is lit by torches that burn an unnatural violet color.



Statues (star in a circle): The statues are impassible and give cover.

Torches (flame): Bright illumination. Creatures adjacent to these torches gain a +2 bonus on saving throws.

Altar: High ground. Undead creatures on the altar that are reduced to 0 HP are not destroyed. They come back with 1 HP at the beginning of their next turn, unless removed from the altar.

Challenges

- Smoldering skeleton (Level 2 Archer): (skeleton icon)
- Raven of doom (Level 1 Assassin): (raven icon)
- Apefolk infantry (Level 2 Mook): (apefolk icon) (apefolk icon) (apefolk icon) (apefolk icon)

Step down: Remove one raven of doom (raven icon), -100 XP. **Step up:** Add one raven of doom (raven icon), +100 XP.

Smoldering Skeleton

(skeleton icon): □□□□□ □□□□□ □□□□□ / □□□□□ □□□□□ □□□□□ □

Senses: Perception +9; low-light vision; **Initiative:** +7; **Speed** 6

AC: 14; **Fort:** 14, **Ref:** 15, **Will** 14

Immunity to: disease, poison, **Resistance to:** fire 10, necrotic 10, **Vulnerability to:** radiant 10

(claw icon) **Claw** (standard, at-will) • Fire

+7 vs. AC; 1d4+2 damage, persistent 2 fire damage (save ends).

(blazing orb icon) **Blazing Orb** (standard, at-will) • Fire

Ranged 10; +9 vs. Reflex; 1d8+3 fire damage, and persistent 2 fire damage (save ends).

Raven of Doom

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Senses: Perception +1; low-light vision; **Initiative:** +7; **Speed** 2, fly 6 (hover)

AC: 15; **Fort:** 13, **Ref:** 14, **Will** 12



Harrying Bite (standard, at-will)

+6 vs. AC; 1d4+1 damage, and the target receives a -2 penalty to all attacks until the end of its next turn.

Murder of Crows

When a raven of doom is killed, all other ravens of doom within 2 squares gain a +4 bonus on attacks rolls until the end of their next turn.

Apefolk Infantry

Senses: Perception +2; low-light vision; **Initiative:** +3; **Speed** 7

AC: 17; **Fort:** 16, **Ref:** 14, **Will** 13



Longspear (standard, at-will) • Weapon

Reach 2; +5 vs. AC; 5 damage.

Heart of the Legion

When adjacent to at least 2 apefolk allies, the apefolk infantry receives a +1 bonus to all defenses.

Aftermath

What are these things? The party can attempt a Religion check (DC 12) to identify the smouldering skeletons as the creation of priests of Vogg, a destructive fire deity. Rumors abound that there is a secret Vogg cult in the Empire.

Searching the room: When pushed aside, the stone topper on the altar reveals treasure:

- A statuette of the flame god of this temple, carved in ivory and bolted through with gold veins (200 gold pieces)
- A *potion of healing*

Step down OR *Step up:* Stone topper also contains +1 *elemental's ally wand* or +1 *leather armor of resistance* (whichever would be more useful to the party)

What's next?

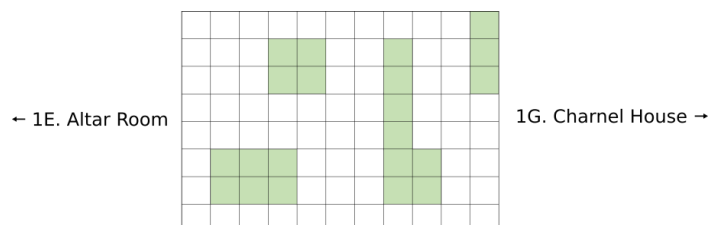
- A narrow passage leads back to 1D.
- A simple wooden door behind a curtain leads to a rough-hewn path that heads east to 1F.

1F. Smugglers' Camp (400 XP)

A light flickers up ahead, a campfire burning in a stone vase of elaborate workmanship. Men and women sit around it, whittling, drinking or arguing to pass the time.








The smugglers are awaiting their promised payment from the soothsayer. If the party listens quietly while the smugglers bicker, they will pick up that the soothsayer has refused to pay until he has tested the quality of the goods that they provided - something expected to happen within the next day, if not sooner.



If the party rushes in, they can also learn this by interrogating the smugglers after the battle.



Light green: Difficult terrain - all of the tents, chests, backpacks and other clutter the smugglers have left around.

Challenges

- Ill-equipped combatant (Level 1 Mook Striker):    
- Chain brawler (Level 1 Striker):  
- Bodyguard (Level 1 Blocker): 

Step down: Remove one chain brawler (), -100 XP. *Step up:* Add one bodyguard (), +100 XP.


Bodyguard

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Senses: Perception +1; **Initiative:** +4; **Speed** 6

AC: 17; **Fort:** 14, **Ref:** 13, **Will** 12

 **Spiked Chain** (standard, at-will) • Weapon

Reach 2; +8 vs. AC; 2d4+3 damage.

 **Tripping Strike** (standard, refresh 5, 6) • Weapon

+8 vs. AC; 2d4+3 damage, and the target is knocked prone.

Chain Brawler

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Senses: Perception +4; **Initiative:** +4; **Speed** 6

AC: 15; **Fort:** 13, **Ref:** 14, **Will** 13

 **Length of Chain** (standard, at-will) • Weapon

Reach 2; +6 vs. AC; 1d6+3 damage (1d6+6 vs. prone target). The chain brawler can choose to knock the target prone instead of inflicting damage.

III-Equipped Combatant

Senses: Perception +4; **Initiative:** +3; **Speed** 6

AC: 18; **Fort:** 15, **Ref:** 14, **Will** 14



Hatchet (standard, at-will) • Weapon

+6 vs. AC; 5 damage.



Bow (standard, at-will) • Weapon

Ranged 10/20; +5 vs. AC; 5 damage.

Aftermath

Scattered around the campfire are four crates filled with planks of yellow wood (each crate is worth 20 gold pieces and weighs 5 lbs). The smugglers, if questioned, don't know much more than that the strange soothsayer demands they bring in these crates from the imperial capital.

A DC 12 Religion or Nature check reveals that this is sandalwood, often burned in sacrifices to the gods.

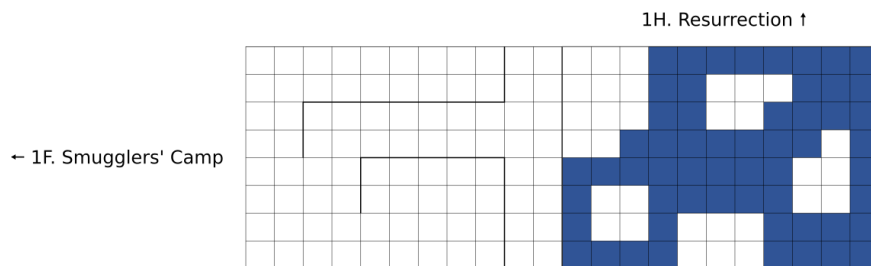
What's next?

- A roughhewn path leads back to 1F.
- A tunnel slopes into the earth towards 1G. The air is thick and loamy.

1G. Charnel House (375 XP)

You wade through knee-high water through this odd, low passage. The water is grey, with particles swirling around your feet with every step. When the ceiling finally opens up, you discover the source of the ash: several burned bodies half-sat in the water, slowly flaking away. Something half-seen scurries across the ceiling.

Steadily eating away at the bodies here are subterranean vermin.



Blue: Shallow water. Counts as difficult terrain except for creatures with the aquatic keyword or a swim speed.

Challenges

- Sticky-tongue toad (Level 2 Wrecker): 🐸 🗨
- Giant tarantula (Level 2 Wrecker): 🕷

Step down: Replace giant tarantula with raven of doom (🐼), -25 XP. *Step up:* Add raven of doom (🐼), +100 XP.

Giant Tarantula

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Senses: Perception +1; low-light vision; **Initiative:** +3; **Speed** 6, climb 3

AC: 15; **Fort:** 16, **Ref:** 14, **Will** 12

🗡 **Bite** (standard, at-will)

+6 vs. AC; 1d10+4 damage.

✳ **Bristle Burst** (standard, encounter)

Near burst 3; the giant tarantula fires a cloud of stinging hairs from its back +4 vs. Ref; 1d4+2 damage, and the target is blinded until the end of the giant tarantula's next turn.

Sticky-Tongue Toad

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Senses: Perception +6; low-light vision; **Initiative:** +3; **Speed** 4, swim 4; see also *leap*

AC: 14; **Fort:** 16, **Ref:** 14, **Will** 12

🗡 **Bite** (standard, at-will)

+5 vs. AC; 1d8+4 damage, or 1d8+8 against a grappled target.

🗡 **Tongue Lash** (swift, at-will)

Ranged 3; +3 vs. Reflex; the target is grappled (until escape) and pulled adjacent to the giant frog.

Leap (move, at-will)

The giant frog shifts 4 squares.

Raven of Doom

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Senses: Perception +1; low-light vision; **Initiative:** +7; **Speed** 2, fly 6 (hover)

AC: 15; **Fort:** 13, **Ref:** 14, **Will** 12



Harrying Bite (standard, at-will)

+6 vs. AC; 1d4+1 damage, and the target receives a -2 penalty to all attacks until the end of its next turn.

Murder of Crows

When a raven of doom is killed, all other ravens of doom within 2 squares gain a +4 bonus on attacks rolls until the end of their next turn.

Aftermath

There is a mix of townsfolk and soldiery among the dead.

Heal (DC 8): These bodies have been dead for some weeks - they must be the first that were experimented with.

Arcana (DC 12): These look like formerly undead bodies. It seems as though whatever necromantic ritual was performed on them didn't "stick" - perhaps another component was needed.

What's next?

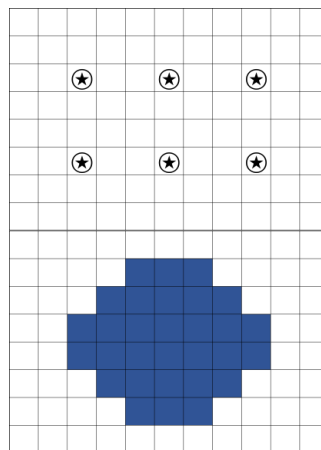
- A tunnel rises towards 1F. Smuggler's Camp.
- A path goes straight for a few yards, descends sharply, and then doubles back to the west. A *Perception DC 13* check reveals chanting.

1H. Resurrection (625 XP)

Waving a censor about his body is a centurion beneath a heavy woolen cloak. He stares at you with a frown made all the more horrible because one eye is topped by a deep and twisted scar. "This was not prophesied," he yells.

Three pyres rest at the end of the room, with a person tied to each one. The first pyre is black char, all burnt out. The second and third are as yet untouched by fire. The first victim - in the armor of a legionnaire - is unmistakably dead, but you recognise the prisoners chained to the last two pyres as fitting the descriptions of the Widow Bessie, with her unmistakable moonface, and there's the beggar-orphan Eustace with the distinctive hairless scar on the crown of his head.

The eyelids on the first victim suddenly open to reveal black flames. As they twitch, the Widow Bessie's pyre begins to burn ...



1G. Charnel House ↓

Blue: The blue is a 10-foot deep pit.

Statues ★: The statues are impassible and give cover.

Challenges

- Extended challenge: Free the prisoners
- Apefolk soothsayer (Level 2 Elite Spoiler (Leader)): 𐍚
- Smoldering skeleton (Level 2 Archer): 𐍚 - note, the smoldering skeleton is stunned for the first round.
- Prisoners: 𐍚 𐍚 - depending on how the skill challenge goes, these prisoners can turn into smoldering skeletons

Step down: Remove the first smoldering skeleton. *Step up:* Add one smoldering skeleton (𐍚).

Extended challenge: Free the prisoners

This extended challenge has three tracks:

Burning pyres: ☒☒☒ | ☐☐☐

- If the first three boxes of the burning pyres track are full, Bessie dies if she has not already been rescued. She turns into a smoldering skeleton. They act from the next round onwards, on the smoldering skeleton initiative.
- If the second three boxes of the burning pyres track are full, Eustace dies if he has not already been rescued. He turns into a smoldering skeleton. They act from the next round onwards, on the smoldering skeleton initiative.
- If either pyre is the target of an attack with the Fire keyword, tick one box on the track.

Rescue Bessie: ☐☐

Rescue Eustace: ☐☐

- If Bessie and/or Eustace are saved, they stick to the back of the room and do not participate in the combat.

At the end of each round:

- Check one box in the burning pyres track.

Skill checks: Unless otherwise mentioned, a skill check takes a standard action, requires the character to be adjacent to a pyre, and adds one check box to rescue Bessie/rescue Eustace (as appropriate).

Acrobatics (DC 8)

"I'll protect you" - Endure (DC 18): In addition to the normal success result, from now on, if this character is adjacent to one of the pyres, any time the burning pyres track would advance a step, this character can lose a recovery to stop the burning pyres track from advancing.

Stop undead transformation - Religion (DC 12): Instead of the normal success result, success on this check means that if Bessie and/or Eustace die, they will not turn into a smouldering skeleton. This can be done at range by using a divine power with the appropriate range.

Lighten the fuel load - Nature (DC 12): In addition to the normal success result, flip a coin. On a heads, the burning pyres track does not advance at the end of this turn.

Heavy effort - Athletics (DC 12): Instead of the normal success result, you can tick two boxes.

"Stop struggling!" - Diplomacy (DC 12): In addition to the normal success result, until the end of your next turn, all extended challenge checks get a +2 bonus. This can be done at range provided Bessie and Eustace can see you.

Other, if appropriate (DC 12)

Apefolk Soothsayer

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Senses: Perception +5; low-light vision, darkvision; **Initiative:** +3; **Speed** 6

AC: 17; Fort: 17, Ref: 17, Will 16

Immunity to: Poison, **Resistance to:** acid 5, cold 5, fire 5

Darkness Aura 6: Bright light within the aura is reduced to dim light.

 Signum Spear (standard, at-will) • Weapon

+7 vs. AC; 1d8+3 damage.

 **Wrath of the Legion** (standard, at-will) • Psychic

Ranged 10; +6 vs. Will; 2d4+4 psychic damage.

✦ **Sigil of Succor** (standard, encounter) • Healing

Near burst 5; all allies within the burst regain 5 hit points and all persistent effect upon the target end.

✦ **Sigil of Destruction** (standard, refresh 5, 6) • Force

Near burst 3; target enemies +5 vs. Ref; 2d8+4 force damage, and the target is knocked prone.

✱ **Sigil of Terror** (standard, refresh 6) • Psychic, Fear

Near burst 3; +5 vs. Will; the target is dazed and weakened (save ends both).

Heart of the Legion

When adjacent to at least 2 apefolk allies, the signifer receives a +1 bonus to all defenses.

Smite Good: Attacks against Good and Lawful Good aligned creatures do +2 damage.

✦ **Blasphemous Word** (standard, refresh 5, 6)

Near burst 5, enemies only; Level +6 vs Will; target dazed (save ends) or, if the target is Staggered, stunned (save ends).

Smoldering Skeleton

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Senses: Perception +9; low-light vision; **Initiative:** +7; **Speed** 6

AC: 14; **Fort:** 14, **Ref:** 15, **Will** 14

Immunity to: disease, poison, **Resistance to:** fire 10, necrotic 10, **Vulnerability to:** radiant 10



Claw (standard, at-will) • Fire

+7 vs. AC; 1d4+2 damage, persistent 2 fire damage (save ends).

🔥 **Blazing Orb** (standard, at-will) • Fire

Ranged 10; +9 vs. Reflex; 1d8+3 fire damage, and persistent 2 fire damage (save ends).

Aftermath

If the party asks, the Widow Bessie explains that her husband was interred in the crypts many years ago. On the anniversary of his death, she decided to drop off flowers - not realizing the body trade she was walking into.

If kept alive, the soothsayer reveals little - simply exulting Vogg and saying that "the Burning Over" will come regardless of this set back.

The soothsayer is equipped with a +1 *longspear of venom*, or another weapon that the party could make use of. *Step down:* No magic item.

He also carries 230 gold pieces. *Step down:* 86 gold pieces. *Step up:* 374 gold pieces.

Wrapping up (up to 500 XP)

To thank the party for their service, the townsfolk bestow on the party a +1 *cloak of the bat*. The cloak was once worn by the town's legendary founder - a ranger who patrolled the Underdeep.

If each hero has 1,000 XP or more, they increase to level 2.

Rescue mission

If the party saved both Bessie and Eustace, they receive 400 XP between them. If they rescue one but not the other, they receive 200 XP between them.

Turn them in

If the party did not kill any apefolk, they receive 100 XP between them. They can still knock them unconscious or otherwise incapacitate them. If the party reports the rogue soldiers to the empire's administrators, they will be taken care of.

Random encounters

If you roll a random encounter, roll 1d2 and compare it to the table below.

Once you have had a random encounter, strike it out. If you roll that encounter, reroll until you get an encounter you have not had before.

1. **The Emperor's Finest:** One of the empire's crack squads is caught up in this unfortunate business.
2. **Scavengers:** At night, bandits use their pet to sniff out anyone foolish enough to wander into the crypts.

The Emperor's Finest

- Apefolk signifier (Level 2 Spoiler (Leader)): 🏰
- Apefolk legionnaire x2 🏹 🏹
- Apefolk infantry x2 🏹 🏹

Step down: Remove one apefolk legionnaire (🏹). *Step up:* Add three apefolk infantry (🏹 🏹 🏹).

Apefolk Infantry

Senses: Perception +2; low-light vision; **Initiative:** +3; **Speed** 7

AC: 17; **Fort:** 16, **Ref:** 14, **Will** 13



Longspear (standard, at-will) • Weapon

Reach 2; +5 vs. AC; 5 damage.

Heart of the Legion

When adjacent to at least 2 apefolk allies, the apefolk infantry receives a +1 bonus to all defenses.

Apefolk Legionnaire



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Senses: Perception +2; low-light vision; **Initiative:** +4; **Speed** 6

AC: 19; **Fort:** 16, **Ref:** 13, **Will** 13



Short Sword (standard, at-will) • Weapon

+8 vs. AC; 1d6+5 damage.



Javelin (standard, at-will) • Weapon

Ranged 10/20; +6 vs. AC; 1d6+5 damage.



Cull the Weak (standard, encounter)

The legionnaire can make 2 short sword attacks against a staggered opponent.

Heart of the Legion

When adjacent to at least 2 apefolk allies, the legionnaire receives a +1 bonus to all defenses.

Apefolk Signifier

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Senses: Perception +5; low-light vision; **Initiative:** +3; **Speed** 6

AC: 17; **Fort:** 15, **Ref:** 14, **Will** 16



Signum Spear (standard, at-will) • Weapon

+7 vs. AC; 1d8+3 damage.



Wrath of the Legion (standard, at-will) • Psychic

Ranged 10; +6 vs. Will; 2d4+4 psychic damage.

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Near burst 5; all allies within the burst regain 5 hit points and all persistent effect upon the target end.

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Near burst 3; target enemies +5 vs. Ref; 2d8+4 force damage, and the target is knocked prone.







✦ **Sigil of Terror** (standard, refresh 6) • Psychic, Fear


Near burst 3; +5 vs. Will; the target is dazed and weakened (save ends both).

Heart of the Legion


When adjacent to at least 2 apefolk allies, the signifer receives a +1 bonus to all defenses.

Scavengers (400 XP)

- Chain brawler (Level 1 Striker):  
- Ill-equipped combatant (Level 1 Mook Striker):   
- Giant tarantula (Level 2 Wrecker): 

Step down: Replace giant tarantula with ill-equipped combatant (), -94 XP. *Step up:* Add chain brawler, +100 XP.

Chain Brawler

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