

Dark Times

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Gangster's Bloodbath

Dark Times Staff Writers

On the 13th of January, just after midnight, a quiet area of Shawlands was rocked by an incident more in character for South Central Los Angeles. In a prolonged outburst of automatic gunfire, a black limousine containing 5 adult men was riddled with bullet holes in a multi-storey car park, killing all the occupants, including an infamous Russian gangster, Arcady Borovich.

Responding to reports, the police were wary of approaching the area without armed back-up, and it was around 30 minutes before they arrived on the scene. By that time, there was no sign of the attackers, while the attending paramedics declared each of the men dead at the scene. The men were examined by the coroner, who found that each of the

victims was covered in blood, but which had come from only 4 of the bodies. Police currently believe that the fifth, Mr Borovich, was killed earlier, and his body was being moved by the men found in the car with him. This has lead the police to attribute the incident to a revenge killing, by some of Mr Borovich's comrades.

Arcady Borovich, also known by the pseudonym "the Butcher of Krasnodar," was wanted by Russian authorities in connection with an extensive list of crimes including murder, corruption, organised crime and even potential war crimes dating back to the 1990s in Chechnya. Mr Borovich is believed to have moved his operation to the UK in recent months to evade their

attentions. It is expected that Russian authorities will ask for the return of his body from its current repose in Glasgow City Morgue.

Efforts are ongoing to ascertain the identities of the attackers. Although there are no witnesses, hundreds of bullet casings were recovered from the scene, and are currently being analysed by forensic firearms experts. Graham Meldrum, head of the Glasgow serious crime unit gave the following statement later on the 13th of January:

"This is a shocking and disturbing incident, and one which we are treating as a top priority. We will be devoting ourselves to identifying and incarcerating those individuals who would seek to turn Glasgow into a warzone and threaten its residents."



Notorious Elder destroyed?

Dark Times staff writers

The Dark Times has learned of another attack upon an Elder of the Camarilla, which occurred on the evening of the 25th of January, this incident involving the beleaguered Duchess Isabella Montague. The

In This Issue

- **Gangster's bloodbath**
- **Notorious Elder destroyed?**
- **Third Elder hit in two weeks**
- **Glasgow under siege**
- **Ama-gi opens in Dumfries**
- **Great Britain by Night**

Duchess had just arrived at the Royal Museum of Scotland, to attend a small gathering of Kindred, when her limousine was ambushed. Eye witnesses observed a black van draw alongside the Duchess' car, and opened fire on it with large caliber weapons, in a manner very similar to the attack upon Arcady Borovich.

Following the gunfire, an incendiary device was thrown into the car, which was engulfed in fire, and left a smouldering wreck by the time the fire brigade were able to extinguish the blaze. No sign of the Duchess was found, and none of the eye witnesses observed her escape the vehicle, although the veracity of their testimony may be questionable; prolonged gunfire is a very rare and terrifying occurrence to the residents of Edinburgh. Although Dark Times sources believe the Duchess to have perished, there is a possibility that she escaped, or even that the attack was staged to allow her to disappear.

Police efforts are ongoing to trace the black van, which sped from the scene, and was captured on numerous traffic cameras throughout the city. A spokesman for Lothian and Borders Police released a statement denying that there was any connection with the attack upon Borovich in Glasgow, claiming that there was no reason to think the incidents were linked.

In recent months, the Duchess has come under attack for her suspected part in the assassination attempt upon Viscount Aldworth, who was left torpored by the traitor Magnar Ulrichson. However, no matter the allegations regarding her conduct, she remains for the moment a Camarilla Elder, and it is most worrying that an attack was so brazenly launched against her.

Third Elder hit in two weeks

Dark Times staff writers

The Dark Times has come into possession of a letter this month from the childe of Loretta Ozymandias, which raises grave concerns for the fate of his Sire. Her childe tells of how his Sire,

while safely in their haven, suddenly and uncharacteristically left the room mid sentence, and promptly vanished before his eyes. He began to worry when searching the house returned no sign of her.

At that point, hearing a whispered voice in his mind, he was struck with an overwhelming and debilitating pain of loss, and the certain knowledge that his Sire had ceased to be. The evidence seems irrefutable, with Loretta's servants aging rapidly with the source of their regular Kindred blood removed.

It must be questioned how an Elder of the Camarilla could be so easily dispatched while in her haven, or who would wish her harm having so recently arrived in Glasgow. Perhaps this is the work of the same mysterious individual responsible for the theft of Kindred vitae in recent months. Whatever the explanation, it seems that another Elder has been neutralised, leaving behind her unreleased childe.

Glasgow under siege

Dark Times Staff Writer

What is going on in our fair city of Glasgow? We all had hoped for an end to the violence, and a re-establishment of stability and safety when Aldworth was replaced by Rothsilde. But we were wrong. This month has seen three attacks on three elders within 2 weeks. That is a rate of attrition that even during the worst Aldworth months we have never come close to.

Let us now look at the victims. First of all we have the Duchess Montague. Her involvement with the attack on Aldworth which left the city to Rothsilde is widely known. When Aldworth came to power he first removed all his co-conspirators so that no one involved in his rise to power could hold anything they learned or debts he incurred over him. Is this any different?

Then we have Borovich, loyal to London and its expansionist plans. Potentially the fledgling

prince's strongest opposition and now conveniently taken out by old associates. And then we have Loretta. An ancient Elder that first come to Britain in the time before the Camarilla. A force to be reckoned with, and now gone.

We already heard that the Laird has shied away from all public appearances since early December. A wise move when one by one all fellow elders of Glasgow are disappearing. Some might think it is only a matter of time before something unfortunate happens to him or Vega.

Where is he going after that. Will he target the ancillae of Glasgow that could grow into a threat to him? Will suddenly half a dozen "new" Tremere crawl out of the woodwork?

Of course there is another alternative explanation. Maybe Glasgow is simply out of control. There are plenty of reasons why one would want to remove the cornerstones of a city, weakening it to the point where it is easy pickings. We all know Glasgow's many recent run ins with the Sabbat and maybe the city near the edge of falling completely. In any case, Glasgow will again be watched.

Ama-gi opens in Dumfries

Dark Times Staff Writers

Perhaps the single most thrilling event to grace the town of Dumfries will take place on the 20th of February, with the opening of Ama-gi, Scotland's newest club. Located within a former warehouse, this innovative venue incorporates elements drawn from the styles of music it hopes to host: techno, rap rock, R&B, metal. Coupled with the vast outlays which have been spent on the club, the owners are looking to create a contemporary establishment, with impressive surroundings, rumoured world class resident DJs and a line-up of guest acts to rival any venue in the UK.

The unusual factor about this new club is clearly the location; this concept would be out of place in any city smaller than London, let alone the town

of Dumfries, with around 40,000 residents. Without the infrastructure, clientèle or additional attractions such as restaurants and retail, it must be questioned how Ama-gi can hope to draw enough custom to justify its expense. Even with the owners reputed to have purchased a local hotel for the use of clients, in the current economic climate, the market for weekend clubbers is greatly reduced.

The unnamed owners have pulled out all the stops though, in an effort to attract club aficionados. The guest act for the opening evening has been confirmed as Public Enemy, the highly popular New York hip-hop group, considered one of the best artists of all time. The group is considered a major coup for a newly opened club like Ama-gi, hinting at strong connections within the music world. The line-up will not end there with further rumours that also appearing will be Rage Against the Machine, the successful 90's rap metal band, reformed in 2007.

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Rumours have also circulated concerning the appointment of resident DJs for Ama-gi, with links being suggested to such prominent names as the Finn Darude and DJ Sasha. Whoever the mysterious owners of Ama-gi are, (and it seems no one individual could command such contacts and financing) despite their unorthodox choice of location, theirs is a detailed business strategy, and such individuals are unlikely to make rash moves. The Dark Times awaits with interest how the owners will recoup their expenditure and establish this new and exciting business.

Meanwhile, the Dark Times has come into possession of two tickets for the opening night, and would like to have a Kindred perspective on the evening for the March edition. The tickets will be available to the Kindred proving themselves most capable of providing an interesting and well formed summary of the night. To that end, the Dark Times is accepting submissions this month of articles, from the submitting Kindred's perspective on anything currently occurring in Britain, be it mortal or otherwise. Any entries are subject to a maximum of 500 words, with all quality entries being published and the best winning the tickets, and their name to the article on Ama-gi in March. Good luck!

Great Britain By Night

Margery Houndsworth-Stone, Clan Toreador, Ancilla, Harpy of London

Big things are afoot in Britain at the moment. Let me start with the obvious. The domains of Birmingham, York and Manchester & Liverpool have sworn allegiance to Queen Anne of London. It has also been noted that her primogen, Donald Bassingthwaite, has

travelled to Severn and will head to Scotland early in February. We might be looking at a unified Britain, the like we enjoyed until a few decades ago, sooner than many people could have wished for.

Elsewhere we should look at the rising star of York, David Stone. Reputedly the only Brujah in the city of the white rose. Until a few ago I would have called him an insignificant neonate, but I would only have proven my ignorance. He was just awarded domain over the prestigious University of York by the Duke and as such it will not be long before people will address him as an ancilla. Lastly he seems to have managed to make a deal which ended with Elder Vega of Glasgow owing him substantially. Hats off, I expect we will see much more of him in future.

Then I heard rumours about a series of attacks on the kindred of Glasgow. I haven't received many details but I hear that 3 elders were destroyed in the last month. I had hoped with Rothschild's ascension to the throne stability would spread, but maybe Glasgow is too unruly for the warlock.

Before I get to the official business I have come across a rumour that Jean-Marc d'Harfleur was seen in Hastings early in January and for now the reports of ghost sightings, slaughtered reports and the like seem to have stopped. Maybe all that happened in Edinburgh was for d'Harfleur to get permission to move against Crowley, or whoever was behind those flagrant Masquerade breaches.

Let it be known that Daniel Vega, of Glasgow, elder of the Camarilla is indebted substantially to David Stone, of York, ancilla of the Camarilla

Let it be known that Edward Williams, Harpy of Severn, Elder of the Camarilla is indebted to Dominik Wallace, Prince of Birmingham, Elder of the Camarilla.

**Dark Times is accepting submissions.
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