

**Session/Game:** RotT Gatavia 1

**Date:** June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## **EPISODE 1: Troll Killers**

**Campaign Date:** April 1-6, AFC

### **Characters:**

Casticun, westerling, warrior-1, (Chris Crimmons)

Casticun's Spear Squad-1, level-0 warriors x10

Aulus Vipsanius Agricola, Ardean, adventurer-1, (Chuck Fleurie)

**GM:** Dave Nelson

### **Character Profiles:**

**Casticun:** A pagan Westerling warrior from the Caturiges tribe in the Imperial Province of Gatavia. He is a distant cousin of the Champion of the Prince of the Caturiges and his father owns a hold and is among the warrior aristocracy of the tribe. There are 20 armed kinsmen of his in region All of the province. He had a lifelong desire to become a druid, but grim fate forced him into the warrior's path. Casticun has recently inherited a small keel from his uncle, and has attracted a band of 10 local spearmen as his followers. He can be described as religious, patriotic and hedonistic.

**Aulus Vipsanius Agricola:** an orthodox, Ardean adventurer from Portus Nardo. He learned the glyphic rune magic from a sorcerer named Publius Maronius, who is also an imperial tax collector in region CIII. His old friend Lucius is an escaped slave who is now a junior member of a criminal gang in the city of Aurelius. Aulus recently won a small judgment in a lawsuit, which was sufficient grubstake to start an adventuring career. He can be described as hedonistic and vain-glorious.

**Casticun's Spear Squad 1:** a group of 10 shepherds and farmers who want to get into the role of professional henchmen. They are level 0 warriors, and were equipped with clothes, large wicker shields, poor quality broad-head spears, regular knives, a sack and a water skin.

*Portus Nardo, April 1—8:00am*

In the forum of Portus Nardo the crowd was stunned and amazed in the early morning hours when the Tower of the Imperial Augur burst into flames and swiftly fell over. Panic gripped the town until the town Prefect, Publius Servilius, stepped onto the rostrum in front of the basilica and announced that this was the work of the infamous rebel *Bacaudae* (peasant revolutionaries/pig thieves) leader Maglowyr. Furthermore, he offered a bounty of 100gp for the head of the traitor.

Casticun and his men, who were in town delivering a flock of sheep for the prince, were keen to win the bounty, but did not have enough cash to buy biscuit for a week's hunting in the forest. Luckily, Aulus Vipsanius overheard their discussion and offered to join Casticun and front him the biscuit money.

They all immediately set off to the southwest toward the forest where Maglowyr was said to be hiding. Aulus was avoiding all food, hoping to regain spell power through fasting.

*Gatavia, CI, 10:00am-April 1*

Casticun spotted a patrol of Ardeans coming down the cattle path. He sent 2 men to flank them and then waited in the road. The patrol turned out to be *bucellarii* (private goons) from the estate of Appius Valentius, an important landowner. Aulus convinced them that they were not Bacaudae, and that the westerling warriors were Aulus's own personal bodyguard. The patrol gave way and allowed the party to pass.

*Gatavia, CI, 2pm—April 1*

The expedition spots two midgets sitting around a campfire roasting large nasty brown lumps on sticks over a fire. The midgets claimed to be gnomes of the forest, who had taught the druids long ago, preparing powerful magic. Casticun and Aulus remained unconvinced and passed by without incident.

*The Forest 8p—April 1*

The smells of the camp enraged a bull aurochs that was lurking in the forest nearby. An aurochs is a huge wild ox that approaches the size of a small elephant. The beast rushed the camp and swept away two of the spearmen, but the rest of the party rushed the cow from all sides and soon killed it. Fortunately neither of the wounded men was critically or fatally wounded, so they were able to continue to keep up with the expedition. Casticun and Aulus took the horns and hide for trophies and they roasted the aurochs in celebration. When the rest of the men feasted on beef, Aulus had to suffer in hunger to regain his spell power.

*The Forest, April—2, 10:00am*

In the morning the party managed to foil and attempt by a dozen Bacaudae to ambush them along the trail. A stand-up fight broke out. An initial volley of cheap javelins by the Bacaudae wounded almost half of the spearmen. The Bacaudae enchanter charmed Aulus into surrendering (misjudging him for the leader of the spearmen), and Casticun's bow broke in half on his second volley, after he luckily slew the enchanter. The charge of the spearmen and Casticun soon turned the tide and the bacaudae were all but wiped out, the last one standing surrendering.

From their questioning, they discovered that Maglowyr hadn't been to Portus Nardo for months and that he was in a camp nearby with about 15 men. The party decided to spend a night at rest with a cold camp and attack the rebel in the morning. Out of the spearmen, 1 had been killed, 1 critically injured (saved from death by Aulus's efforts) and three were walking wounded.

*The Forest, April 2—7pm*

Right after nightfall, a forest troll entered the camp by surprise. It demanded the critically wounded spearman as tribute for letting the rest live. The spearmen were at first stunned that they were seeing a real troll, the likes of which had not been seen in the imperial borders for centuries. But, Aulus and Casticun were decisive. Aulus

activated a spear rune on his spear and then cast a second onto one of the poor-quality spears that were in the camp and gave it to Casticun. The two men challenged the troll, who slightly wounded one spearman getting through to the heroes. The 2 heroes quickly jabbed the troll full of holes. In fact, the poor spear scored a critical hit and became permanently enchanted as a result. The spearmen went wild for the great deed of their leader.

Aulus decided they should skin the troll, and use its hide as a disguise to enter and intimidate the bacaudae. So, they skinned the monster and had a dinner of biscuit and cold beef and waited to morning.

The Forest, April 3—10am

Casticun, draped in troll hide entered the Bacaudae camp, gargling a warning that they should all leave his forest or die. The bacaudae panicked and fled in all directions, except for Maglowyr, their leader. He charged up to Casticun and attempted to fight him. Then, when the rebels had fled, Aulus and the spearmen rushed in and they all made short work of Maglowyr and chopped off his head. They drove off the rebel's stolen herds of 9 pigs, 2 goats, 3 cows and 7 sheep and headed out of the forest.

Noviodunum, April 4<sup>th</sup>

Aulus sold off the herds in the marketplace of the provincial capital. He and Casticun tried to meet with the provincial Rector, but were turned away by the chamberlain. When Aulus claimed to have slain a troll, the chamberlain laughed, quoting the ancient proverb "Jupiter doth guarantee while your empire stands, no troll will you see." It turned out that the city was in turmoil, because not only had the Augur's tower in Portus Nardo been destroyed, but also the one in Noviodunum, the one at the fortress of Castra Pullo and the one at the city of Aurelius had all been destroyed simultaneously. There was a full scale provincial crisis going on.

Aulus and Casticun decided to take a river boat back to Portus Nardo and claim their bounty.

The River, April 5<sup>th</sup>

Aulus, Casticun and the squad travel by riverboat to Portus Nardo.

Portus Nardo, April 6<sup>th</sup>

Aulus and Casticun return the head of Maglowyr to Prefect Servilius and show him the hide of the troll as well. They could tell he was very unhappy at the idea of paying the bounty, since he now knew he didn't need to use Maglowyr as a scapegoat for the destruction of the Augur's tower, but he was deeply fearful of angering 2 troll killers, so he paid the 100gp to our heroes. They gave 1/3 to the spearmen, and split the remaining between themselves. The spear squad advanced to level 1 warriors.