

SCANT AT A GLANCE

Scant (Large Town): Conventional; AL LE; 3,000 gp limit; Assets 750,000 gp; Population 5000 (?); Mixed (exact breakdown unknown).

Authority Figures: **Athania**, female human (powerful priest and “right-hand” of Telek); **Sister Kuranyie**, female human (leader of the Brotherhood in Onnwal); **Maranefel Toktot**, male human (powerful spellcaster and known as the Butcher of Scant); **Telek Senh**, male human (influential and charismatic priest); **Yabay Ren**, male human (influential priest, believed slain).

Important Figures: As it is a matter of pure speculation who is actually still alive within the war-racked walls of Scant this section is intentionally left undetailed.

Before the Wars Scant was the capital of Onnwal, and the safest deep-water port on the Gearnat Sea. Located strategically on the tip of the peninsula ships leaving the city criss-crossed both the Gearnat and Azure sea carrying Onnwalish trade goods to the many nations clustered around these deep waterways. Onnwalish vessels made landfall as far west as the Hold of the Sea Princes and as far east as Dullstrand.

The city was the military, mercantile, secular and religious heart of the country. Ewerd Destron, Szek of Onnwal, dwelt here with his family and most of the noble families of the realm maintained ostentatious townhouses within its walls.

Prior to its fall Scant had a reputation as being almost

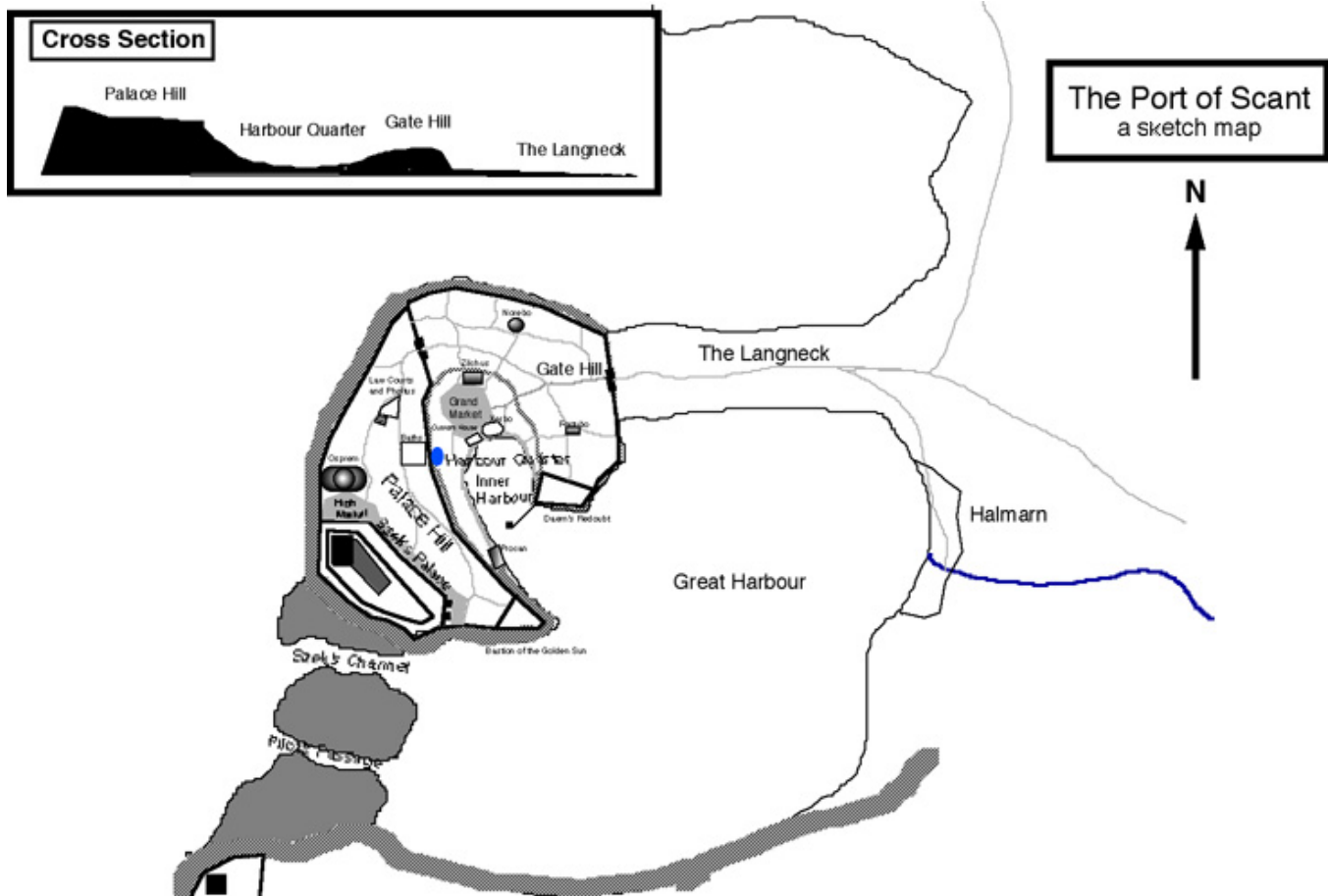
impregnable due to its formidable Aerdi-constructed defences and favourable location. To seaward coral reefs together with powerful unpredictable tides combined to limit approaching ships to one of only two avenues of entry to the Great Harbour. To landward cliffs and cunning constructed fortifications allowed a relative handful of men at arms to hold at bay a much larger attacking force. These defences however proved completely ineffective against the Brotherhood’s underhanded method of attack.

Several of the main buildings within Scant were damaged in the fighting and many more have since been converted to better suit the Brotherhoods needs. All businesses not run by those of suel descent have been confiscated and all priests not of similar descent have been executed. Many of the temples have been rededicated to the worship of suel gods and many other buildings have been torn down so that their stone could be used to repair damaged fortifications.

LOCAL LORE

The first known inhabitants of the area that would become Scant were the suel who wrested control of the peninsula from the flan. Although they founded their capital elsewhere the ancient suel were intrigued by the hot springs that were to be found on the site of modern day Scant and expended considerable resources researching the phenomenon.

The suel were themselves in turn supplanted by the oeridians who subjugated the entire region during their early expansionist period. It was the Aerdi who founded



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Scant in 12 CY as a direct expression of their control over the Dragonshead. It was used by the Oeridians as a gateway for the colonisation of the peninsula and as a port through which the mineral wealth being mined from the Headlands could be shipped to Prymp and Chathold.

The official residence of the Szek of Onnwal, the new (and few surviving old) noble families of Onnwal quickly flocked to the new capital.

With the revolt of the south against the tyrannical rule of the Overking and the foundation of the Iron League, Scant entered a period of growth under the benevolent rule of the Destron family. The port was further fortified during 576/7 CY when the depravations of the Slavelords began to spread throughout the Gearnat. Used as a base for the Onnwalish navy, it was from here that the forces destined to defeat Blidg Fanger sailed in 578 CY.

In 578 CY, during the War of the Golden League, Scant itself came under attack. It was widely reported that something had entered the Great Harbour and was slaying sailors and townsfolk alike. A small band of heroes entered the sewers and destroyed the threat variously reported as a renegade band of Sea Devils, a huge crocodile, or an infestation of undead.

NIGHT OF THE SCARLET KNIVES.

Through means that are still unclear Rakehell Chert discovered the Brotherhoods plans just before they were put into effect. He evacuated his followers from Scant and reorganised them into the nucleus of what was to become the resistance. The rest of Scant was not so fortunate...

On the 18th of Wealsun 584 CY, the Followers of the Scarlet Sign and their allies unleashed a surprise attack on Scant. Details of the fateful night are confused. It seems however that previously docked vessels of the Lordship of the Isles disgorged hundreds of Brotherhood warriors onto the streets. This attack, aided by traitors and saboteurs, succeeded in seizing The Langneck Gate, The Palace Gate, Daern's Redoubt, the batteries overlooking the Szek's Channel and the Chapterhouse of the Loyal Company of Pilots. Tragically Ewerd Destron fell to treachery, slain on this fateful night in his own bedchamber by a trusted body servant.

The Knights of Azhardian were assailed in the Bastion of the Golden Sun and besieged within the Chapel of Heironeous while the temple of Procan was also attacked. The Temples of Osprem and Xerbo were undone from within by traitors while confused skirmishing broke out all over the city, as disorganised units of army regulars and marines aided by some spellcasters attempted to resist the Brotherhood's advances.

A few ships of refugees and marines managed to escape the Inner Harbour and evade the approaching Brotherhood attack fleet. At dawn the Brotherhood armada sailed unhindered under the silenced batteries of Scant and

entered the Great Harbour, landing troops in the Inner Harbour and at the nearby village of Halmarn.

After this final disaster resistance quickly collapsed in all but two locations - the Knight's Chapel and the Temple of Fortubo on Gate Hill. Tragically these last holdouts were finally overwhelmed through sheer weight of numbers. Their resistance and heroic sacrifice has however come to symbolise the determination of Onnwal to resist the invaders. In recent years "For the Martyrs of Gate Hill," or "Remember the Sixty" have become common rallying cries of the resistance.

OCCUPATION

The occupation in Scant was harsh. Squads of hochebi warriors well versed in terror-tactics and cruelty maintained order within the capital. The Kesh of Scant, Maranefel Toktot, has gained a well-deserved reputation for unrivalled brutality. The burning of 34 farmers in the Grand Market in the Richfest of 585 CY was just one of a string of brutality designed to break the Onnwalons will to resist. After this atrocity Chert encouraged the populace to co-operate with the Brotherhood until the time to strike arrived. From Scant the Brotherhood operated a virtual; blockade of the vital Gearnat Straits extract a hefty toll from all who would use it.

REBELLION

Accurate details of conditions within Scant have been hard to come by since the city has been under almost constant siege for the last 5 years. The few individuals to escape from Scant paint a uniformly bleak picture of conditions within the city. Brotherhood troops are resupplied via vessels sailing from their homeland and thrall-states but these supplies are not plentiful enough to allow the feeding of the native population as well. Thus, starvation is becoming widespread.

Although the rebellion was initially successful the rebels have always failed to make significant inroads into Scant due to manpower shortages and the strength of the city's fortifications. Constant skirmishing continues around the landward approaches to the city without significant gain for either side. The Brotherhoods naval superiority is also such that Free Onnwal can not yet risk any of its handful of ships in an all out offensive or blockade. Even the Wreckers (it is said) have had considerable problems placing agents here.

Since the rebellion Sister Kuranyie has not been seen in public and some whisper that she is dead. Whatever the truth of the matter though the Brotherhood troops still in the capital resist the encroaching rebel forces with almost fanatical zeal.

The hand of Reydrich Sharn penned this treatise in the year 591 CY. It is taken from a series of travelogues, based upon first and second hand observations of Onnwal, accumulated by the author during his travels throughout the Dragonshead.