

REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE SESSION SUMMARY 10/03/2009

ATTENDANCE

Bruce (Ox) offers, “Check out the new player character sparks, complete with really complicated bases!”

Paul (Serpent) points out, “I don’t know if things that complicated are really necessary. Unless you’ve taken up meth usage in your spare time.”

Patrick (Wogan) suggests, “You did mention needing a new hobby.”

Chris (Sindawe) decides as usual to defuse the situation by mentioning, “You know, tweekers normally have a lot of hobbies. That’s one of the ways you can recognize them.”

Kevin offers, “Let’s not speculate too much about what that means for Martha Stewart. Okay, I admit it, I can’t resist.” The others shift a few inches away from him as he starts to... speculate.

<i>Player</i>	<i>Character</i>	<i>Class / Level</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Bruce	Melako “Ox” Chaalu	Barbarian 1	Enslaved ship crew from Rahadoun
Kevin	Tommy “Blacktoes” Burrowbank	Rogue 1	Riddleport halfling
Paul	“Serpent” Ref Jorenson	Druid 1	Northerner human with a southerner snake pet
Chris	Sindawe H’Kilata Narr	Monk 1	Mwangi-Bonuwat (human) monk
Patrick	Wogan	Cleric 1	Human priest of Gozreh

AGAIN, THE DERELICT

The characters stand on the rail of the *Albers* and watch the mysterious derelict sail towards them. They note that the mainmast has been replaced with a

very threatening totem pole, adorned with all manner of yawning maws and fanged mouths. Improvised rigging hangs limply from the totem pole.

Wogan peers through the fog and tells the others that the derelict is named the *Sea Bear*. Many of the crew (including some of the characters) recognize the vessel as a cog which has worked the coast for many years, apparently without any remarkable supernatural influence, under the command of *Captain Cray*. *Wogan* last saw it no more than six months ago.

The vessel is no more than fifty yards away when newly appointed *Captain Huxley* indicates that the *Albers* must render assistance. However he also opens up the ship's locker and has weapons issued to the crew. The *Sea Bear* is about 120 feet long and features a chaser-mounted gun. Both ships are still becalmed, so the characters drop one of the ship's boats and head over to the *Sea Bear* along with *Captain Huxley*, *Bull* and *Ellis*.

Sindawe clammers up to the deck of the *Sea Bear* and makes the boat fast. The others follow him up. The *Sea Bear* shows some storm damage, but not much for a ship that might have been drifting for six months. The deck is somewhat slippery (DC10 Acrobatics to run). *Blacktoes* reports that the totem pole looks like it was installed as a replacement mast.

The characters conclude that the *Sea Bear* must have lost a mast and used the totem pole as a repair. *Serpent* comments, "And none of them thought this was a bad idea?"

Ox opines, "Well, they may have been choosing between being lost forever at sea or haunted forever by spirits. It could be a hard choice to make."

Wogan examines the totem pole. He decides that it came from one of the tribes dwelling along the Sudden Coast, quite a distance south from where the *Albers* is currently located. The currents around the Eye are predominantly north-flowing, so the ship could have drifted from there. If the ship were crewed, it isn't clear why the crew didn't stop in a real port and have the improvised totem pole mast replaced.

THE STORY GETS DARKER

Blacktoes looks around and finds some old grappling hooks hanging from the decking. *Sindawe* pries one out and puts it in his belt. He notes that the grappling

hook and attached rope are in better shape than the rigging. He moves over to the wheelhouse to force access below decks. The second he puts hand upon the port something shifts and slams it open. A pile of stone cannonballs that had been piled against the door rolls over him and Ox.

Captain Huxley yells out, "Hey!" as one cannonball rolls over the edge of the deck and narrowly misses sinking the characters' ship's boat. Serpent runs around securing the remaining cannonballs as Wogan heals Blacktoes and Ox.

Blacktoes, Ox and Wogen head down through the forward hatch while Serpent, Sindawe and Bull go down through the aft hatch. It is dark below decks, so Wogen and Bull fetch lanterns from the ship's boat to light the way.

Signs of Survivors

Serpent hears someone calling out a challenge from behind one of the doors in the aft. He opens the door. Sindawe moves through to find a naked man in a cell. He calls back, "Hey Snake! You're going to want to come see this!"

The naked captive asks, "Are ye human? The crew went crazy and locked me in here! If you let me free, I swear that I, Thalios Dondrel Son of Mordekai, will serve you faithfully. I swear that no man can work the helm of a ship better than I!"

Sindawe again calls back, "Snake! I think you're going to want to work with this man!" Serpent shows up and breaks down the cell door with main force.

Dondrel emerges, "Arr! Pardon me nakedness, captains!"

Signs of the Crazy

Sindawe heads up to the deck, where he gets into a confrontation with Bull, who he thinks has been acting strange since the *Albers* came upon the *Sea Bear*. Bull draws out his blade and charges. Sindawe screams, "There will be no licking!" and belts Bull clean in the chops.

Dondrel, hearing the sounds of fighting up above, screams, "Dammit! It's happening again!" and runs out to the deck.

Bull swings to the left, shouting, "Die! Ambusher!" Sindawe evades his swing and strikes back. Serpent moves in to interfere with Bull.

Bull flees forward into the hold, which turns out to be full of rotting bales of perishable goods sloshing in a putrid stew of bilgewater. Sindawe closes the door behind him. He tells Bull, "Come back on deck when you're ready!"

CAPTAIN CRAY'S CABIN

Meanwhile at the bow Ox finally manages to break his way through a cabin door. He and Blacktoes pass through into the Captain's cabin. A dead man in Captain's clothing sits rotted behind a desk. It looks like he has been there for quite a while. Ox keeps a close eye upon it with the boarding pike while Blacktoes and Wogan investigate. Wogan finds that the Captain has a wheellock pistol (fired) clutched in his hand. Closer investigation shows that the Captain probably shot himself. Blacktoes picks a logbook up off the desk in front of him.

Ox sees Blacktoes take a small golden item off the Captain's desk. He angrily accuses Blacktoes of stealing cursed treasure. Wogan leaps to Blacktoes' defense, which prompts Ox to point his boarding pike at him, accusing, "No man's going to point a loaded pistol at me!"

Seeking to somehow defuse the situation, Blacktoes calls out, "The Captain just moved!" Ox whirls and stabs the body with his pike. Blacktoes takes the opportunity to run up on deck, clutching the logbook. He finds Captain Huxley and Ellis trying to corral a screaming naked man.

Wogan tries to reason with Ox, who slashes the sea-priest's intestines out with his pike in response. Wogan staggers back into a defensive stance, screaming out, "The slave's revolting!"

Blacktoes cries back, "But isn't he always?" He draws his shortsword and confronts the naked Thalios Dondrel. Dondrel responds by shimmying down the rope to the ship's boat. Blacktoes yells, "He's stealing our boat! He's stealing our boat!"

This is enough to snap Captain Huxley and Ellis out of their reverie. They run after Dondrel. Around this time Wogan staggers on deck, trailing blood. He gasps, "What the heck is wrong with everyone!"

From the ship's boat comes a small voice, "Ship's cursed!" Blacktoes confronts Dondrel, who is busy casting the ship's boat off and not at all in a mood to be confronted by anyone.

Dondrel pushes the *Sea Bear* off. He growls out, "Yer friends have gone crazy! They're lost to you! Grab an oar!" Blacktoes kicks him in the jewels. "Arrrr!"

Sindawe wonders, "What was that cracking noise?"

Dondrel growls, "Aye! You've just kicked Thalios Dondrel son of Mordekai in the jewels!"

Blacktoes, Captain Huxley and Ellis grapple the boat back to the side of the *Sea Bear*. Wogen heals himself and clammers down to the boat.

OX AND BULL THROWN DOWN IN THE HOLD

Ox slams his way down the corridor, through a door and into the hold. He sees Bull rushing at him. Ox howls. Bull responds, "Sindawe's gone nuts! We've got to get out of here!"

Suddenly both Ox and Bull realize that there are rats all around them. As one their eyes glow red and they swarm all over Bull. Bull screams and flails, completely failing to dislodge any rats.

Wogan and Serpent tell Captain Huxley separate stories of both Bull and Ox going crazy and attacking people, then rushing down to the hold.

Serpent notes, "It sounds like they've found each other! It sounds like Godzilla versus Rodan down there. We need to get out of here!"

Captain Huxley orders, "Nobody's going anywhere! You need to get those two back!" Everyone quickly gathers around the cargo grate to see the confrontation between Bull, Ox and the red-eyed rats.

Blacktoes sees Ox with his bloody pike and comments, "Oooh! Now it's about to get good!"

Sindawe opens up the cargo hold door a little to see what is happening. He sees Bull being overwhelmed by the rats. He yells, "Ox! Go back up top! I think Bull has things under control!" He slams the door again and runs for the deck.

Serpent persuades the Captain, Sindawe and Wogan to help him pull the cargo grate aside. They strain to no effect.

Blacktoes puts his attention to the captain's log while Dondrel tries to persuade Wogan that there's no sense in trying to rescue Bull and Ox. Serpent drops his pet snake down through the grate to kill rats.

Ellis runs down into the hold and right onto Ox's pike. He gurgles and sprays blood, then falls. Ox realizes what he's done and grabs for the body, dropping out of his berserk rage.

Blacktoes tries to convince Captain Huxley to abandon the rest of his crew. "Captain Crow knew it! The ship really is cursed!" Captain Huxley insists that he must save Bull and Ox and starts hacking down rigging so he can lower a rope down to them.

Serpent and Sindawe manage to pull the cargo grate aside. Serpent decides to wait on helping until he's convinced that Ox isn't still acting crazy. Ox holds Ellis' body up. Serpent grabs hold and hauls it to the deck. When he looks at Ellis he is convinced that the man is dead.

Sindawe calls down to Ox, "Serpent has looked at Ellis! He says he's going to be okay!"

Serpent whispers to Sindawe, "He's dead! There's nothing I can do for him!"

Sindawe whispers back, "For god's sake, don't tell the man with the big weapon that he's just killed someone!"

Down in the ship's boat, Blacktoes hears the screaming and makes an executive decision, "Row! Row now!" Wogan and Dondrel obey.

Dondrel tells Blacktoes, "Ye've made a good choice, Captain! I, Thalios Dondrel, am the best tiller-man you've ever seen!" They make excellent time.

Serpent drops down into the hold just as Bull falls under the mucky water. The rats turn to swarming across Ox. Serpent and his snake pick rats away from Ox.

Sindawe stabilizes Ellis (discovering that the man might actually survive) then leaps down and disperses the rat swarm.

Serpent is amazed, "Excellent job, Sindawe Rat-Killer! In my culture, we give people names to commemorate their greatest achievements!"

Sindawe picks through the liquid in the hold. He notes that there are gore-slicked skulls bobbing around in the brackish filth. There is also some evidence of

looting; some of the crates are broken open. Ox grabs up Bull, and is surprised to realize that the man might actually still be alive.

BACK ON DECK

Captain Huxley, Ox, Serpent and Sindawe all head back to the deck. It doesn't take them long to realize that the other characters (and Thalios Dondrel) have abandoned them on board the cursed zombie ship.

Ox asks Sindawe, "I need to go below to fetch my cigar box. Could you give me my boarding pike back?"

Sindawe replies, "Fuck off."

Serpent comments, "I'd like to send that thing back to Davy Jones. But first I need to go below to my room."

Sindawe is incredulous, "Listen, you don't have a cigar box and you don't have a room on board! You two need to stop screwing around and help me sacrifice one of these unconscious guys to the totem pole!"

Ox and Sindawe suddenly look and realize that Ellis has a noose around his neck and looks a lot deader than he had a moment ago. Sindawe investigates and finds that Ellis in fact does have a nicely braided noose around his neck. He has been strangled.

Sindawe rouses up Bull and suggests that he might be willing to give him the boarding pike, rather than returning it to the man who keeps on stabbing his friends with it.

Captain Huxley points out, "Those others have left us, we need to investigate below decks. You! Ox! Take me to the Captain's cabin." Ox complies. Sindawe accompanies him. Captain Huxley ignores the abused body of the unfortunate Captain Finn (now leaking black ooze from its boarding pike wound) and proceeds straight to a small box from which he pulls a pipe and some tobacco. He promptly fills the pipe and starts smoking.

Serpent heads off on his own. He goes directly to a small, cluttered cabin. He understands that his pet is inside a (cheap) locked strongbox. He breaks the lock off to find a severed head. Most of the face has been chewed away, leaving behind only blood-caked skull. He kicks the chest and a big centipede crawls out of the eye of the skull. Serpent picks up the centipede and cuddles it. It tries to inject him with

lethal venom. He gently tells it “No!” It tries to eat his finger. He reacts with delight: it’s so playful and mischievous!

Captain Huxley Pays the Price

Captain Huxley puffs contentedly upon his pipe. Sindawe asks, “Why did you hang Ellis? You were the only one up there. Did you sacrifice him to the totem pole?” The Captain offers some denials. Sindawe is not convinced.

Sindawe turns to Ox, “Where do you want to go?” Ox explains that he wants to find his cigar case. Sindawe gives Ox his boarding pike back and sends him on his way. Then he closes the door of the Captain’s cabin and suggests, “I think he’s planning mutiny.” The Captain agrees, whereupon Sindawe attacks the Captain.

Sindawe takes a cutlass slash from Captain Huxley before slamming the man’s head against the bulkhead and knocking him out. Then he drags the body up to the deck for the sacrifice.

Ox finds himself back in the same cabin as Serpent. He rummages around through another strongbox, finds a silver cigar case with mother-of-pearl inlays, pulls a cigar out and starts smoking.

Meanwhile, Serpent is trying to say hi to his pet centipede. It is feeling feisty: it snaps at his hand. He disciplines it.

Serpent explains to Ox, “The great thing about giant poisonous centipedes is that they’re so friendly! And if food runs low you can always eat them!” His heart is warmed by the fact that she’s had some babies: there are several smaller centipedes inside the skull.

Ox and Serpent decide to head out to the deck. On the way they find Sindawe dragging Captain Huxley to the deck. Serpent is cheerful, “Sindawe! I see you have the Captain! I’ve found my pet, let’s leave the ship!”

Sindawe is a bit circumspect, “Yes. I have found the Captain... May I borrow your boarding pike?”

Ox hands over the pike, “May I have it back when you’re done with it?”

Sindawe agrees, then stabs the Captain several times. He makes sure that the totem pole is well-painted with his blood. Then he gives the boarding pike back to Ox.

Serpent offers, "Congratulations, Sindawe! I think you'll make a fine Captain!" As he speaks, the Captain's blood swiftly disappears into the deck planking. Suddenly he starts to feel like there's something wrong going on. There is a grinding noise and the totem pole rotates. It's leering faces smile down upon Sindawe.

Sindawe is casual, "See ya later! Getting into my longboat now, heading back to my ship." He doesn't seem to care much that there is no longboat any more. Sindawe jumps overboard. Serpent and Ox follow. Nobody knows what has happened to Bull.

It's the Only Way to be Sure

Meanwhile over on the *Albers*, Blacktoes and Wogan are doing their level best to persuade the surviving crew that the *Sea Bear* needs to be burnt to the waterline. Thalios Dondrel speaks in favor of simply sailing off. He takes the wheel and asks the others for some pantaloons. Selene locks herself in her cabin.

Blacktoes and Wogan collect several barrels of oil and load them onto the ship's boat. They intend to set the *Sea Bear* afire. As they paddle back to the cursed ship, Wogan notices several figures swimming towards them from the *Sea Bear*. Wogan calls out, "You're still alive! Why didn't you eat each other?"

Sindawe responds, "That honestly didn't occur to us."

Serpent explains, "It is the custom among our people to wait until the food has been gone for at least a week."

Wogan blesses Sindawe and Ox, then the three of them climb up the rail of the *Sea Bear* to set the ship aflame. They bring their heads up only to see Bull swiveling the cannon around to bear on them.

Sindawe calls out, "I don't think it's loaded!"

Bull cries out, "You're here to kill me!"

Sindawe explains, "No, I'm here to kill you. The others are here to set the boat on fire." Blacktoes punctuates this by hitting Bull in the head with a sling bullet.

Bull puts a match to the cannon. Sindawe rushes him. Bull dodges, straight into Ox's boarding pike. Bull croaks out, "Aaah! Curse you all!" and dies with a pike through his guts.

“BLAM!” The cannon goes off, blasting a hole clean through the deck.

Sindawe comments, “I’m amazed that he had the skills to load that thing up.” This is Serpent’s cue to simply leap into the water and swim back for the *Albers*.

Everyone hears unholy shrieks coming from the hold below. Blacktoes spills oil all over the deck and prepares to set it alight. Ox sees the first of an array of filth-covered skeletons clambering out of the hold. He shouts an alert to the others, sets the oil on fire, then leaps for the water. Sindawe and Blacktoes follow him.

Down in the longboat, Wogan sees everyone jumping into the water. Then he sees a skeleton leering down at him. He channels positive energy and disintegrates it. Everyone else clambers onto the longboat. The characters row for the *Albers*.

Wogen and Blacktoes look back to the *Sea Bear*. They see that the flames are dying out, extinguished by the torrents of blood flowing from the deck.

THE ALBERS - A VERY LIMITED REFUGE OF SAFETY

Serpent reaches the *Albers*. He yells up, “Throw me a rope! I have escaped from the ship with my sanity intact!” From the sounds of argument above he can tell that Petronicus believes this but Dondrel does not. He and his snake climb up anyway, shocking both crew into silence. Serpent tells Petronicus, “Thank you for speaking in my favor. I will not forget this in the cold winter.”

Moments later the other characters row out of the fog, with the blood-ship *Sea Bear* in close pursuit. Serpent orders the remaining crew into a defense. Up in the crow’s nest, *Old Pete* is panicking. The characters gather weapons and prepare to defend against onrushing skeletons.

The Skeleton Rush

Dondrel calls out, “Brace fer impact!” The *Albers* pitches under the impact. Crazy blood-covered skeletons leap across the gap and charge at the characters. Three of them slash at Thalios Dondrel. Petronicus stumbles as the deck heaves and takes a vicious stab to the meaty part of his arm. Serpent leaps to Petronicus’ defense. Vincenz launches a pair of energy bursts into the skeleton menacing Dondrel, shattering it.

A skeleton bubbles blood at Ox as it slashes him with its cutlass. Blacktoes’ sling bullets take down one from the back rows. Dondrel breaks ribs on another. Wogan unleashes a healing burst, ensuring that none of his allies succumb and join the

skeleton forces right away. Sindawe breaks a skeleton in half with his bare hands. Ox crushes the skull of another.

The characters hear a thin, girlish scream from below decks. Sindawe comments, "Aha! The ones who went below decks are killing Tomas!"

Skeletons clamber into the rigging as Thalios Dondrel cuts one down. Another one comes straight at Blacktoes as he peppers it with sling bullets.

Ox runs down to Tomas' cabin. He finds Tomas' body suspended from the lantern hooks. One skeleton is smearing bloody entrails across its skull. Ox destroys it as Sindawe shows up on the scene.

Serpent destroys the last skeleton up on deck. The sound of drums starts from the ghost ship and the skeletons stand back up. All of the characters wail in unison.

Blacktoes grabs a line and swings across to the deck of the *Sea Bear*. He resolves to load the cannon and destroy the totem pole. He hears a noise from behind and sees the water-soaked body of Captain Finn emerge from the wheel house. He understands that the situation has just effortlessly slipped from grim to grotesque. The others aren't totally certain what the difference is.

Sindawe shatters the spine of the skeleton in Tomas' cabin, then grabs the corpse and flings it over the side. He sees that all the skeletons are back up and calls out a warning. Blacktoes yells back, "We know!" Ox follows the sound of Durt's cries to the ship's stern. He finds two skeletons trying to break into the galley and destroys one of them.

Petronicus sees Captain Finn and loses his composure completely. He falls to the deck, crying and screaming. The Captain has acquired claws from somewhere. He rushes at Blacktoes, who does his best to flee, then turns to dodge between Finn's legs.

Vincenz launches *Burning Hands* at Captain Finn, bathing the creature in flames but failing to stop it. Captain Finn lashes out and bites Blacktoes, paralyzing him. Then Serpent's snake lashes around Captain Finn and crushes him to the deck. Seeing an opening, Vincenz launches another *Burning Hands* upon the totem pole. It doesn't like it at all: all the faces scowl at him.

Skeletons Reloaded, Again

Ox manages to crush the second skeleton threatening Durt and the cook when he hears the drums. He thinks, “Oh, for the love of...”

On the deck of the *Sea Bear* the rigging forms itself into a noose and drops towards Vincenz. He dodges to the side by the barest of margins.

Petronicus freaks out and leaps into to the sea.

Thalios Dondrel sees a second noose descending to throttle Blacktoes. He leaps over to the *Sea Bear* and cuts the noose away.

Vincenz launches a third *Burning Hands* against the totem pole. It shudders and the upper two faces vanish into the flames. Ox grabs the two skeletons he destroyed, carries them to the deck and flings them overboard just in time to see them reanimated by the sound of the drums. He sees them swim over to the luckless Petronicus. Poor, poor Petronicus.

Over on the *Sea Bear* a boom comes free and drops Thalios Dondrel. Vincenz remembers something important below decks – he runs down into the *Sea Bear*'s cabin.

Serpent flings himself over to the deck of the *Sea Bear*, drops his belaying pin and draws his scimitar in one clean motion, then chops into the totem pole.

Vincenz emerges from below the decks of the *Sea Bear* with a keg of gunpowder. Serpent grabs the cask from him and drags it to the totem pole as Vincenz stabs it with his dagger to start laying a trail of powder as a fuse.

Ox, Wogen and Sindawe smash their way through the reanimated skeletons, flinging them overboard as they do.

Wogan sees what Serpent and Vincenz are doing. He grabs a nearby lantern and flings it... straight into the water. Ox announces, “I have flint and steel!” He leaps onto the *Sea Bear* and ignites the gunpowder, narrowly avoiding getting throttled by another noose from the rigging.

A wave of newly reanimated skeletons clambers up from the ocean and claws away at the characters. Wogan falls under a skeleton's rusted blade. Serpent and his pet manage to fell two skeletons. Sindawe focuses his chi and slams a skeleton halfway across the *Albers*.

Then the gunpowder explodes, completely destroying the totem pole. Bits and flinders fall everywhere. All of the skeletons collapse into piles of blood and gore.

Serpent slaps Vincenz on the back, "If I have anything to say about it there's no way you're going to be delivered to your captors in Riddleport."

Vincenz replies, "Much obliged. Much obliged"

As the characters watch a strange vortex appears and starts to swallow the *Sea Bear*. The characters work hard to cut away the ship's prow and get the *Albers* as far from the derelict as possible. The *Sea Bear* vanishes into oblivion to the lamentations of tortured souls.

The only remaining original crewmembers on board the *Albers* include Durt, Selene, Wendt and Old Pete. The biggest problem is that the navigator Tomas was killed, so the characters have to improvise their way back to port.

THALIOS DONDREL'S STORY

Thalios Dondrel turns out to be a real pirate, a member of the crew of the *Kingfisher*. He and his mates showed up a few days before the characters did. While he proved immune to the curse his shipmates did not and were driven mad. They locked him up and then over time killed each other.

He is personally very interested in going pirate with the rest of the characters, though the other surviving crew are not half so eager.

THE JOURNEY TO RIDDLEPORT

The first day of sailing is quite good, with moderate temperatures, clear sky, varying winds. Things get much worse on the second day as a storm blows across the *Albers*. Visibility is halved. The characters manage to keep the ship from broaching, but they do suffer a fair amount of sail and rigging damage, 30% of it to be exact.

The weather breaks on the third day, but the characters have no idea how far off course they are. By the fourth day Selene is chatting up Thalios Dondrel, son of Mordekai. Wogan is nominated to chat her up instead, to head off potential problems. She tells him, "If you get me safely to Riddleport I'll make sure you are richly rewarded by the Consortium."

Wogan replies, "Well, at least I can make sure you don't get molested, at least while you're on the ship."

On the fifth day Old Pete cries out, "Land ho!" It's getting cold as some very black clouds fill the horizon. As the characters approach they see islands similar to those bordering the southern edges of the Gulf of Varisia appear over the horizon. Captain Sindawe elects to take the ship out to sea to ride out the storm. This is a fairly successful decision: the *Albers* is pushed further off course, but suffers only minimal rigging damage.

The second storm breaks on the sixth day, giving way to clear weather and smooth sailing back towards shore. The characters deduce that the winds drove them far to the North. Again they see islands and a giant eagle. Serpent assures the others, "That is a giant eagle! It is a good omen, they treat those who are good of heart well. We should avoid it."

The characters find a pleasant island cove, anchor and set to repairing the rigging.

Nocturnal Visitors

Serpent is on watch later that night. He notices that his pet snake is getting agitated. He looks around again and hears whispers coming from over the side of the ship. There is a canoe there, with six goblin faces staring at him. As he sees them, they see him. All of them open their misshapen gullets and squeal. "Gaaaaa!" One of them throws a dogslicer by Serpent's head, then they arrange a goblin pyramid to scale the side of the ship.

The goblin shrieking and Serpent's scream wake the rest of the crew. Sindawe announces, "Take one of them alive! They're clever enough to build a canoe!"

Sindawe staggers out of his cabin in time to see the second gang of goblins swarming over the aft quarter. They appear to be lighting torches. He yells, "Serpent! You are the worst sentry ever!" As he yells, Serpent's snake wraps itself around a goblin and squeezes the creature to death.

Wogen surrounds one goblin's head with wind and storm, panicking the creature. It runs past Serpent, who guts it with his scimitar.

A goblin scampers up behind Ox and gooses him with a torch. Ox whirls around, stabs the goblin through with his boarding pike, then runs for the goblin about to drop a torch into the cargo hold.

The sound of Vincenz *Magic Missiling* a goblin to death drifts from below decks. Serpent's snake grabs hold of a second goblin who screams wildly, for a little while. A third goblin comes too close and it too succumbs to the snake.

Sindawe rushes into the Captain's cabin after a goblin. He finds that the creature has clambered underneath the bunk with a torch. The mattress is starting to smolder. Sindawe leaps on top of the bed and crushes it on top of the goblin. Then he pulls the mattress out to the deck and pitches it overboard. He's not going to have any uncontrolled fires shipboard on his watch.

Ox finds himself face to face with a goblin. He stabs at the creature with his pike but misses. The goblin drops its dogslicer and attempts to bite his leg. Ox pins the creature to the deck with his boarding pike. The goblin gives up on biting. Forever.

A terrified goblin clammers up towards Old Pete in his crow's nest, triggering a new wave of screams from above. Ox climbs up after the goblin, who appears to be howling something and flailing around with a dogslicer. Old Pete flings a full chamber pot at the goblin, hitting Ox instead. Ox howls in rage and cuts the goblin's leg off with his cutlass. The creature falls onto Ox's discarded boarding pike, blunt end first. Then Ox leaps into the water to get cleaned up.

Serpent cuts another goblin down. Wogan helps out by shooting an icy icicle at the surviving goblin in the canoe. The goblin flings a severed goblin head back at him then paddles away as fast as his little arms can take him. Serpent tells his snake, "Go! Leap!" The snake swims to the canoe, upends it, and ends the goblin.

Sindawe heads down to the hold, where he proceeds to beat out the flames with a goblin corpse.

Once the goblins are all gone, Sindawe arranges to examine the two goblin canoes. He concludes that neither of them contains anything of value, except for a shiny pebble collection that he keeps to sew onto his pants.

THE END OF THE SESSION

The session ends with the still-damaged *Albers* at anchor near a goblin-infested island. It is almost dawn and the characters have been trying to reach Riddleport for seven days.