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The black company rpg pdf

Since 1984 readers around the world have followed the exploits of Glen Cook's Black Company. Croaker, Lady, Murgan, One-Eye, Goblin, and the cast of thousands lived and died as the savage mercenaries of the Black Society fought, deceived, and - if necessary - fled the mighty armies, powerful wizards, and twisted creatures of other worlds. The Black Society toppled nations and dynastic nations, fought the terrible Dominator and the Ten who were taken away, confronted by the insensitic Shadowmasters, and so on. All this, as it passed through the world, looking inexplicably for its place of origin: Khatovar, the mysterious birthplace of all free companies. For the first time, the world of the Black Society is yours to explore. The Black Company campaign is setting everything you need to follow in black company's footsteps, detailing the world, characters, threats, and all the d20 game mechanics needed to make it life! Edit Share by Robert J. Schwalb, Owen K.C. Stephens, and Scott Gearin's The Black Company is a licensed fantasy role-playing game and d20 system campaign setting based on The Black Company series of novels by Glen Cook. It was published by Green Ronin Publishing, one of the mythical Vistas series sourcebooks of the D20 system. The song was written by Robert J. Schwalb, Owen K.C. Stephens and Scott Gearin with the cover of Wayne Reynolds. Green Ronin published the hardced edition of The Black Company as one of several very expensive books despite the company's financial problems at the time. [1]:373 Links[edit | edit source] Shannon ^ Appelcline (2011). Designers & Dragons. Mongoose Publishing. ISBN 978-1-907702-58-7 External links[edit | edit source] Community content is available under CC-BY-SA, if otherwise. Top Reviews Latest Top Reviews Black Company Emblem by Green Ronin Publishing. Military UnitMercenariesFree Company CaptainLieutenantPhysicianSergeantAnnalistStandard Carrier 149 Dy (stands out from shadowgate) AnnalsBlack Company standardLance of PassionOfficer baton captain (earliest)LieutenantCroakerLadySleepySuvrin (current) One-EyeGoblinSilentMurganMoggenaba This article is for the organization. For the first novel in the series, see The Black Company. For an overview of the whole series, see Black Company series : There was almost no intimidation or brutality among men. Historically, you wouldn't have gotten in if you were a piece of shit who felt good about hurting the people around you. And if he had a chance, he wouldn't last long. The history and culture and fraternity stuff is laid out early and often, and if you survive long enough to give it a chance, you usually go for it. - Murgan, He is the Darkness of the Black Society was the last of twelve free companies in Khatovar and a group of highly trained mercenaries. Their contract and mandate over the known world and beyond into new worlds. The Black Society, a brotherhood of soldiers revered and feared by allies and enemies alike, shaped the history of both the northern and southern continents. His exploits were recorded by Annalists Croaker, Lady, Murgan and Sleepy in The Northern Books, Southern Books and The Shining Stone Books. Organization[edit | edit source] Ranks and managers[edit | edit source] The company was always led by a single captain, whose deputy was the lieutenant. Their orders were filtered down to the soldiers through sergeants and corporals. There were also three special departments, each 1 12-year-old doctor, annalista, and standard carrier. The captain was voted on by senior members and typically served for life. The captain chose me as his successor, although the actual selection was still a matter of voting. In general, the lieutenant was the first choice to replace the captain's role. On one occasion, the doctor and Annalist Croaker were chosen as captains, but in this

extraordinary case, the Society was reduced to just 10 people. Years later another Annalist, Sleepy, was chosen to take on the role. Company Annalist recorded the band's exploits and kept a list of the fallen. This historian is also responsible for the regular readings of the pastAnnals, an almost religious ceremony where the brothers of the current Society have contacted the traditions and struggles of the past. Military composition[edit | editing source] Black Company Wizards by TowJumpR The Black Society was primarily an infantry force. During the Forvalaka attack on the Paper Tower of the Black Society, Croaker described how it consists of halberdier/pikemen and crossbows, and supports swordsmen. [1] However, the company was known to use the cavalry as well as other means at its disposal. For example, in the Books of the South, the support of Prahbrindrah Drah allowed them to complete their forces with war elephants. Siege engines are also used by several members that are profi ed engineers such as Lieutenant and Patience. In addition, the company has several wizards in its ranks throughout its long history. Notably, the brothers One-Eye and Tom-Tom have been sworn brothers decades before the events of Beryl at the start of The Black Company. By the time soldiers live, the company was Tobo, Lady, Shukrat, and Arkana. Recruitment[edit | editing source] The Black Company has attracted recruits from all areas of life and cultures, especially outcasts and even criminals. It gave the Free Society a ragtag, eclectic composition. Many members have used nicknames or monikers, and are tight-lipped about their past. Raven was an ostracized aristocrat who was left to die by his enemies shortly before joining. Big Bucket joined to get away with a custodial sentence after being falsely accused of joint theft. Other members were of more respectable origin. At Shadow Games, the Company confirmed its numbers with 32 members of Nar, the city's recognized warrior class, Gea-Xle. These were descendants of the Society when the band spent 56 years in that city, many generations earlier. At this point there are also a number of recruits from different backgrounds, such as the 4 Roi nomads, including Shadid and Patience; D'loc Alloc is a native Wheezer; and the warrior brothers Freak and Geek of K'Hlata. The company's varied makeup was especially evident in the Books of Glittering Stone, where the company is composed of almost every race, religion, and caste of Taglios. This included Riverwalker and Runmust Singh. In addition, a Vehdna Jaicuri, Sleepy, and a Shadowlander, Survin, come to hold the highest ranks. After thousands of young men from Hsien joined the Society, Croaker claims on Soldiers Live that the fraternity has never been so diverse in its entire existence. Entering the company has been influenced by a number of factors, such as current team strength, available resources and individuals in management. It does not include the entire army of non-Company Taglian soldiers controlled by the Society of Books of Sparkling Stone. It does not include Allied troops and camp followers, the most prominent of all, the Nyueng Bao De Duang bodyguards. Membership[edit | edit source] Black Company Characters by TheLivingShadow The earliest procedure laid down for the adoption of the company was demonstrated by The Black Company when Raven's candidacy was evaluated in the Gardens of Opal. It was a simple oral vote among the senior members, the captain had the decisive vote. In this case, his candidacy was rejected. Later, when Raven reappeared at the Elm, the captain accepted him with a simple verbal license. The new members finally made an allegiers. The text of the oath is never determined, and the oath is rarely included in the available Annals. At Shadow Games, when Croaker takes six imperials into the Company on the verge of Lady's Empire, he decides to make a public production of the oath. He couldn't remember doing anything particularly formal for anyone else, as it was just a show to assert his authority over the lady. Having the sponsorship of a current Company brother is a typical, but certainly not necessary, arrangement. For example, Croaker successfully supported his friend Elmo. Similarly, Raven can join the company, despite violent actions opal. However, his subsequent friendship with the captain mentioned by Croaker suggests that the captain was aware of Raven's previous status, and perhaps more importantly, his profi ness in minor spells. The blood brothers Cletus, And Longinus was supported by Murgen. Smiley was sponsored by his uncle Hagop. Departure[edit | editing source] Death was by far the most typical way to leave the company (whether for combat, illness, or natural causes) throughout most Annals. The members considered the company to be family, and desertions were rare. But at an atypical event, immediately after the Battle of Juniper, a significant number of newer Company brothers abandoned their vows and became imperial regulars. In another case, at the end of The White Rose, Silent and the three Torque brothers (Stur, Paddlefoot, and Brother Bear) were allowed to leave the company of their choice. A significant and very late exception to the foot-first rule was the thousands of corporate soldiers recruited and trained in Hsien between Water Sleeps and Soldiers Live. Croaker wrote that many of the Hsien soldiers only applied for a year in the field, indicating that the Company had made a significant change in the organization of membership. History[edit | editing source] Founder and early commissions[edit | editing source] Khatovar and shadowgate[edit | editing source] The company was founded in Khatovar, a city in a completely different world, independent of the so-called homeworld. This, and the other free companies in Khatovar, was tasked by the priests of the cult of Kina to decide where the year the skulls will take place. They used the Spear of Passion as a shadowgate key to exit Khatovar, safely cross the glittering plains (which connect all 16 worlds) and enter the homeworld. Their entry was recorded by the ancient city librairicals of Kiaulune. The Black Society was the last of several free companies to enter the home world, but that's all there was. All other free companies that preceded them returned to Khatovar, and their exits were also recorded by librarians in Kiaulune. Over time, the company forgot its original mission and became a band of sale-swords, inevitably making its way north across the southern continent over a period of about 400 years. Undated commissions and events[edit | editing source] The following events from the history of the Black Company have no historical context: The Company served the Vault of the Bone during the Chiliarchs rebellion. The events described as the darkest hour in the company's history were recorded by Annalist Coral in set's book. (Mentioned by the Black Society.) The Society was defeated and nearly destroyed in the battle along Bake, a place called Norssele. Only 104 people survived. Woeg's book after the event captures the company's story. (Mentioned in Shadows Linger.) The Company ran a successful campaign against Chew, which was recorded in an unknown Annals book. (Mentioned in the section entitled White Rose). [2] The Company was at the service of Dai Syndarchs. These events were recorded in Cloete's book. (Mentioned in Dreams of Steel.) In the service of the pain god Cho'n Delor[edit | editing source] After leaving the ancient Taglios and heading north, the Black Society's path carried them up the river on the great river. The Society first went through several cities that no longer existed as croakers. They then entered the service of the pain god Cho'n Delor, a town on the east bank of the great river. In the second century, and the number6000 strong, they fought in the very bloody Pastel Wars against the triple cities. These events were recorded by four different annalists: Lees, Agrip, Holm and Straw. Annalist Straw recorded the fall of Cho'n Delor: despite the apparent power of Paingod and the military expertise of the Black Society, The Triple Cities prevailed. However, subsequent stories from survivors' descendants claim that the people of Trinity Cities sacrificed themselves to defeat the Paingod. In the service of Go[edit | edit source], after the fall of Paingod, the black society remained north again. They were then commissioned to serve the city of Goes. They deeply defeated the rival city of Thresh, which is located above the great river with third cataracts before heading north. Thresh's descendants remember the name of the Black Society many generations later, even if Goes itself ceased to exist for unspecified reasons. On duty at Gea-Xle[edit | editing source] He later settled in the gea-xle town of the Black Company, which is 860 miles north of the third cataract, where they remained for 56 years. During this time, the black society's membership went from father to son. This city was one of the rare places the Company walked away from, which means the Company didn't have to fight its way out. Even in Gea-Xle, they were betrayed by a prince. The Company slit his throat and installed a new, friendly, bereavement dynasty and didn't hang around a few years before the captain got a wild hair and decided to go treasure hunting. Instead of renewing the assignment with Gea-Xle, whoever the captain was at the time heard about a treasure mountain in the north where the silver nuggets were supposed to weigh a pound and take the whole group north. They left behind sons who maintained corporate traditions (including writing their own Annals and even worshipping Kina), who became known as the city's new military caste. Fall of Sham[edit | edit source] The Northbound Society did not find the legendary silver mountain, but encountered a lost white race in a town called Sham. Within three days of entering Sham, the place was besieged by a horde of K'Hlata warriors (ancestors of Geek and Freak) who were in religious madness. The people of Sham suffered. And it may have been wiped out. The Company lost most of its officers before it wiped out the attackers. The company's survivors then fled north to avoid the second horde, which approached from the south. After Sham, the officer's staffs were lost and not mentioned again in the Annals until the Company returned to generations of Gea-Xle later under Croaker's captivity. D'loc Alloc, temple, and beyond[edit | editing source] The company moved north and entered the vast swamps of D'loc Alloc. There, two important recruits were recruited: The Eye and Tom-Tom (brothers of minor wizards). Later, the Society stopped for a considerable time in the Temple of Travelers' Tranquility. In the temple, the Annalist deposited copies of the available Annals, including books by Choe, Te-Lare, Skete and at least six others. After the Unspecified Points, One-Eye and Tom-Tom joined, the Society: After leaving the temple, these following events in the company's history are known to have occurred in the following order: passed through the land of the nomadic tribes of the roi passed through, served, or fought in the following cities from the south to the north: Ha-jah, Viege, Teries, Boros, Neb and Nod, Slight, Raxle, Tire, Weeks, Grey, Fratter and Kale padorai entered service; Just before the end of the committee, Croaker (a literate doctor) was sponsored by Elmo and briefly enlisted in the city of Rebosa, where otto and hagop were hired after rebosa, the next known corporate commission being Beryl, culminating in the opening events of The Black Company. The Black Company[edit | editing source] The Service is syndic of Beryl[edit | editing source] Black Company Didier Graffet. The Black Society was in the service of The Red Konzidic, beryl's leader, the oldest jewelry town. The Society has spent at least two summers serving as bodyguards against political enemies called the Blues, and poorly trained but potentially rebellious local troops in urban cohorts. In the end, Syndic of Beryl was killed (presumably Sergeant Match) during the chaotic events of the Paper Tower. The Society then received a safe passage and a job from Soulcatcher, the legatus of the lady's sister. Soulcatcher's troops secured the city and planned its integration into Lady's Empire. In the service of Lady's Empire, the Company was then transported aboard Soulcatcher's flagship, The Dark Wings, from Beryl through the Sea of Torment to opal, on the southern edge of the northern continent. In the Gardens of Opal, high-ranking members entertained the idea of accepting the enlisting of a mysterious man named Raven. But during the interview, Raven killed three people who were in contact with the Limper, so they left. The captain later took Raven into the ranks. Opal, they started He marches to the northernmost province of Forsberg, which was battling a dangerous rebel leader named Raker. They passed Elm, then the Tower at Charm. The day after they passed the Tower, they flogged a corporal courier from the Limper army who was disrespectful. Eventually, they entered Forsberg. There, they witnessed the aftermath of the numerous atrocities committed by Limper and his troops against the local Forsberger population. By the Black Society sams Shank0453. The company's main force held the fort of Deal Forsberg, garrisoned elm for a week, and later captured Meystrikt the Salient. Meanwhile, advancing troops were involved in operations Oar and Roses. After Meystrikt, the Company retreated through the Cloud Forest and stumbled across Whisper's hidden base camp and occupied priceless documents there. The main force entered Lords only after retiring after a terrifying spell duel between Soulcatcher and Nightcrawler against Harden and other members of the Rebel Circle of Eighteen. They then fought their way through the windy country, cross the steps of the Tear and took part in the charm fight. Shadows Linger [edit | edit source] Six years after the Battle of Charm, the Black Society was tasked with eliminating the rebel in Tally, in the far east. Suddenly they were ordered to Barrowland, then the remote western city of Juniper, to help abolish the black castle. A group of company men flew Juniper on the flying mat while the main fraternity marched across the northern continent and the Wolander Mountains. Along with the new Taken and the Lady herself, they fought the battle of Juniper against Dominator castle creatures. The captain lost his life trying to protect senior members of the Company from a secret conspiracy made up by Whisper and Feather. The senior men left the freezing city by sea before the battle of Juniper ended. The Company turned down the Lady's assignment, and now they're fugitives. Outside the town of Meadenvil, the Croaker-led group (including Silent, Goblin, Pawnbroker and Kingpin) raided and smashed their pursuer, Limper, to pieces. In the Chimneys, and now the lieutenant as the leader to be reunited with Elmo and about 70 others who escaped Juniper. The White Rose[edit | edit source] At darling's service[edit | editing source] didier graffet's Black Company. After Juniper, Darling and the remains of the Squadron walked on the northern continent for four years until they reached the Plains of Fear. The new Taken chased them and suffered a devastating military defeat at the Battle of Queen's Bridge by elite imperial troops from the Night Hunting Brigade. The entire half of the Society - 100 brothers - was killed there. After they arrived in the Great Plains, they put their headquarters away. A stinking cave, the Hole, and Taken stopped chasing. The Company became the backbone of Darling's new white rose rebellion at Lady's Empire. It took an uneventful two years until the arrival of Tracker and Vahadcsomódog at the beginning of the White Rose. After the Battle of Barrowland, the Black Society was reduced to 10: Croaker, One-Eye, Goblin, Silent, Otto, Hagop, and 4 people who enlisted after the original crew first arrived in Opal: Murgen, the standard carrier, and the three Torque brothers (Stubby, Paddlefoot and Brother Bear). At Blue Willy, they voted for a deputy commander. He voted for Otto Croaker, and without resistance, Croaker became captain. His first act was to decide whether the next step would be to return to the Society of Annals Khatovar, the legendary origins of the group. Silent and the three Torque brothers have lice, freed from the Company to travel east with Darling. Raven stayed with her boyfriend, an Eternal Guard soldier named Case. Lady, now mortal and without magic, and realizing that she cares deeply about Croaker, has expressed her desire to join the Society after setting up the affairs of the empire in order. Shadow Games[edit | edit source] Departure from the northern continent[edit | editing source] The Black Company has been reduced to 6 people: Croaker, One Eye, Goblin, Otto, Hagop and Murgen. They escorted the lady back to charm tower. Along the way, they captured bandits who attacked the Rail Falcon and handed them over to the Imperial Garrison in Vest. After an uneasy 2-week stop at the Tower, the company left, headed toward the legendary origins of Khatovar. Lady Opali joined them: He would never return to his realm. The team accepted Big Bucket, Red Rudy, Candles and Sparkle into their line-up. They then boarded the Dark Wings and sailed to Beryl in the Sea of Anguish. The service of merchants gea-xle: the great river [edit | editing source] The great river Didier Graffet We are not really the Black Society anymore, just rootless people from scratch headed in the same direction. After passing through Berylen, three brothers (Cletus, Loftus and Longinus) who left the city cohorts, they joined the Society with Murgen's sponsorship. After lying in the Temple of Travelers' Tranquility, they continued their southern journey. And their line continued to swell: they took wheezer in d'loc alloc; Geek and Freak are the savannas of K'Hlata; and Mogaba and 31 other Nar soldiers in the city of Gea-Xle. Croaker accepted an assignment from the Gea-Xle merchants, and the Company overcame the blockade of swamp pirates in the needle-tooth-infested part of the great river. At the end of the battle, their ally Shapeshifter ousted Howler, the pirate king. The service of Prahbrindrah Drah [edit source] The city of the great river, the company captured a group of 4 strange travelers: Willow Swan, Blade, Cordy Mather, and a mysterious woman who turned out to be redisha drah. This group was sent by Prahbrindrah Drah, who was the Duke of Taglios, a sprawling town at the bottom of croaker's best maps. Croaker reluctantly accepted the Prahbrindrah committee to militarize Taglios and push back the Shadowlanders, a group of Southern invaders controlled by four wizards, the Shadow Masters. Croaker was appointed warlord, or Liberator, by Taglios. Led by Lady and Mogaba, the Society trained legions of Taglians in warfare and marched south. To join shadowmaster wars[edit | editing source] Now that the Shadow Master's wars have been overrun, they have triumphed over the enemy at the Battle of Ghoja Ford. Compressed, they reached a large Shadowlander town called Stormgard (formerly Dejagore). On the first night of the two-day battle in Dejagore, the Company and their Taglian legions occupied the city. The shape-shifter neutralized Stormbringer, one of the Shadow Masters, and the Company killed them both. The next day, another Shadowmaster, Moonshadow, was paralyzed during a sharp battle by a pack. But despite the victories, the Squadron and taglians were eventually led by overwhelming numbers, and their survivors retreated behind the walls. Croaker was shot with an arrow from his black stallion. He's presumed dead, actually abducted by Soulcatcher. The infamous siege of Dejagore has just begun. Siege of Dejagore (Dreams of Steel & Bleak Seasons)[edit | edit source] Trapped inside Dejagore, Murgen of Annalist reported only 69 sworn brothers still remain after a grim defeat outside the walls. He tally also has both factions in the deeply divided Society: the Old Crew and the Nar. He didn't know Croaker and Lady were still alive, so the real thing was 71. As the siege continued, the Society suffered further deaths, including open violence between the two factions that claimed the lives of Geek and Endibo. Murgen and his longtime crew organized the escape of at least 600 Nyueng Bao De Duang pilgrims when they eventually fled Dejagore. Meanwhile, Nar was reduced to 17 men by the end of the siege, and 4 of them left the Squadron permanently (including Mobaba and Khucho). After the siege, the Society fills its ranks with new recruits, primarily from Taglios and Dejagore. Another significant development was the new presence of dozens of Nyueng Bao swordsmen in Path of the Sword. Out of honor, these people decided to become bodyguards for Murgen and the other old crews who helped save their men. Although nyueng bao bodyguards never took the company's oath, they had a significant presence in the Company for years. His darkness[edit | editing source] After meticulous preparations, Croaker used his authority liberator to march large armies south to the Shadowmaster wars further into the Shadowlands themselves. Its chief generals were lady and prahbrindrah drah, who commanded their own armies. The vast city of Tragevec was freed without resistance. Then the Society and their Taglian legions survived a harrowing attack by the shadows at Lake Tanji, using Lady's brilliant fireball projectors. They then triumphed over Longshadow's traditional armies at the Battle of Charandaprash, inflicting an embarrassing defeat on the treacherous Mobaba. Eventually, they pushed through Kiaulune and won the fiery siege of Overlook, occupying Howler, Longshadow and its formidable fortress. Furthermore, Croaker foreses the unfortunate betrayal of the Prahbrindrah and neutralized the prince's attack. Croaker arrested the Duke of Taglios with the help of the Shaded Road commando group, which was sent for this particular purpose. However, this series of striking victories overshadowed the tragedy when Soulcatcher burst into a trap of fort without a name. There, in the midst of the deadly glamour, he carried out a beheading against the Black Society. Croaker, Lady, Murgen and many others were imprisoned in the caves of the anones and returned to the homeworld to establish their own domination. Kiaulune wars[edit | edit source] Main article: Kiaulune wars After the closure of She Is the Darkness, after the beheading of the leadership, the Black Society became an ally with their former enemies, different groups of Shadowlanders. Together, they fought Taglios in the Kiaulune wars to resist Soulcatcher's attempt to consolidate the Shadowlands into taglian satellite. These wars lasted 5 years and ended with the defeat of the Society and the devastation of Kiaulune and surrounding areas (which still have not recovered from the giant earthquakes that occurred at the end of Bleak Seasons). Soulcatcher has now ruled a new sprawling Taglian empire called the Protectorate, which included the Shadowlands. A few years after the Kiaulune wars, the Black Society hid in overlook's witchcraft-hardened fortress. In response, Soulcatcher spent 2 years under the spells, which reduced the structure to rubble. The Company somehow escaped, and most were scattered in the capital. Water Sleeps[edit | edit source] Fifteen years after She Is the Darkness, the Black Society reduced it to an underground movement of just over 200 singles. Two-thirds lived in Taglios, and the rest were scattered in other, less populated places. Sleepy and seeded lived in the warehouse of old Nyueng Bao De Duang merchant Banh Do Trang. After more risky The Privy Council members and Radisha Drah herself, the Company left the city, received the golden pickax, and headed south toward Shadowgate. They crossed the prehistoric barrier, even though Soulcatcher himself arrived and walked anonymously through the glittering plains to the fort. Extremely carefully, they avoided being victimied by millions of shadows flooding the plains. The Squadron straightened shivetya's toppled throne, saved the survivors of the captured, and moved on to the strange new world of Hsien. List of members[edit | edit source] References[edit source] Trivia[edit | editing source] The Black Company may have been inspired by the free companies/mercenary bands that existed and operated during the 14th/16th century Europe. A true Black Society existed in medieval Germany, although they were primarily made up of peasants and knights. In the 1520s, during the Protestant Reformation, they fought alongside the peasants. Reformation.

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