



FROG GOD GAMES ADVENTURES

# THE SIEGE OF DURGAM'S FOLLY

By Mike Mearls



5TH EDITION  
COMPATIBLE

# THE SIEGE OF DURGAM'S FOLLY

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ADVENTURES  
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FROG GOD GAMES

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# INTRODUCTION

*The Siege of Durgam's Folly* is an adventure for four to six Tier 3 characters. Smaller parties or parties with fewer combat-oriented characters should either rely on diplomacy and stealth or be higher in the tier to be successful. You can tailor the number of ogres at the fort to fit the required challenge level for the players.

## ADVENTURE BACKGROUND

Durgam's Folly has long stood guard on the frontier between civilized lands and the chaotic wilderness. Originally founded ages ago by the famous military captain Durgam Volmsmer, the fortress was disdained by many who said it would never stand, that it would quickly succumb to the evil creatures of the surrounding wilds. Though the fortress was a constant target of orc and goblin attacks, with each successive victory the forces of man drove the encroaching humanoids farther and farther into the wilderness. It is now said that Durgam's Folly is unconquerable, proof against any external threat.

Unfortunately, while the fort has repulsed all attackers, it is not, as its guardians recently found out, immune to internal treachery.

Theodocius the Forger is a powerful wizard known for his unmatched skill in creating and devising new magical formulae. Not only is his workmanship unparalleled, but his ingenious application of magical principles in creating new items has earned him an important position in the royal court, that of chief artificer. Theodocius has been charged by the king to devise innovative magical defenses for the kingdom. To this end, Theodocius set up a magical workshop at Durgam's Folly, both to escape the prying eyes of the kingdom's rivals and to work in an environment where he could gain a firsthand glimpse into the workings and needs of the king's army.

Soon after arriving at Durgam's Folly, Theodocius hit upon a brilliant scheme. While golems are powerful, the cost and work needed to build them make fielding the constructs in an army prohibitive. Instead, Theodocius went to work on building a new type of golem, the clockwork colony. This magical construct is made up of a horde of tiny golems. Individually, these golems are hardly more powerful than a bug. When working together, however, the golems can combine to form powerful fighting units. Furthermore, the golems are adaptable, capable of modifying their colony unit to react and adjust to changing conditions. Each clockwork colony is guided by a single communal intelligence centered on a brain gear that receives orders from a human master and directs the colony accordingly.

Theodocius' creation was a success. Unfortunately, it proved too successful. Soon after the wizard created his first clockwork colony, the brain gear achieved self-awareness. Following up on the military doctrine and tactical guidelines dictated to it, the colony overwhelmed the fort's garrison while it slept and took many soldiers prisoner, including Theodocius. The colony has claimed the fortress as its lair, and even now the brain gear has dispatched scouts to reconnoiter the surrounding countryside and select the next target for an attack.

Little did Theodocius know that deep within the crypts beneath Durgam's Folly there lurked an ancient evil. Years ago, the original builders of Durgam's Folly chose the fort's site because of the ruined structure that stood there, giving them a head start on construction and providing them with at least some fortification to rely on as they worked to raise the fort. The builders never suspected that the ruins were once a temple dedicated to dark and blasphemous gods. As Theodocius used his magic to expand the cellars where he pursued his research beneath the fort, he eventually opened a passage to the long-sealed inner sanctum of the dark temple. It was at this time that the brain gear, influenced by the sudden influx of dark magic, achieved sentience.

The brain gear now claims Theodocius as its thrall. The wizard has been forced into servitude, working to develop and build new clockwork creations to serve the brain gear's limitless ambition.

The fort's commanders have also been subjected to the brain gear's gruesome experiments, leaving them hollow shells that now also serve the awakened machine. The surviving members of the garrison, imprisoned by the brain gear's clockwork followers, are kept around as possible slave laborers or test subjects for some of the brain gear's more insidious inventions. Not content to merely sit back and let the situation develop, the brain gear used its mystic powers to contact a cunning ogre named Grimulak. At the brain gear's prodding, the ogre rallied the ogres who inhabit the wilderness around Durgam's Folly to his banner. The brain gear has learned from Theodocius that a supply caravan is due back at the fort any day now. The brain gear feels somewhat vulnerable to attack and sees the ogres as a temporary, though useful, ally. Once the brain gear, with the help of Theodocius, constructs a legion of powerful clockwork creations, it plans to aggressively carve out a realm for itself from the surrounding region.

The brain gear is not driven by simple greed or lust for power. As noted above, it gained sentience due to the influence of a dark power long hidden beneath Durgam's Folly. While the brain gear is not aware of it, a major part of its personality is influenced by the long-forgotten dark cult that riled the region around the fort many years ago. The brain gear is an unwitting servant of Orcus, the dark lord of the undead. The demon lord finds the current situation somewhat intriguing. Should the brain gear enjoy any level of success, Orcus plans on contacting the construct and turning it to his cause. To this end, Orcus dispatched some minor demonic entities to watch over and aid the brain gear. To Orcus's amusement and his minions' dismay, the brain gear reacted to the sudden appearance of demons within the fort by launching an aggressive attack against them. The battle destroyed many of the brain gear's clockwork creations. Its defenses weakened, the brain gear's position is currently somewhat precarious. While the ogres under the control of Grimulak now man the fort against any intruders, the brain gear puts little faith in them. It originally wanted them only as test subjects, viewing them as far too unreliable to ever be trustworthy and useful minions. The brain gear, after so easily overwhelming the fort garrison, feels it has little to fear from the weak and pathetic humans who could not stand against it and thus does not feel the need to fortify its defenses before delving further into its work to create more powerful clockworks.

## NOTES

*The Siege of Durgam's Folly* is divided into three acts. In the first act, the characters travel across the wilderness to Durgam's Folly while guarding a shipment of expensive and rare spell components for the master wizard Theodocius. This section of the adventure requires the characters to practice diplomacy in winning the trust of their fellow caravan guards and, in a glimpse of things to come, thrusts them into the role of military commanders who must use tactical planning to overcome a motivated and intelligent enemy.

The second part of the adventure covers the characters' arrival at Durgam's Folly, which they find under the control of a band of barbaric ogres. Using stealth and superior tactics, the characters must infiltrate the fortress and overwhelm the ogres before they can mount a successful defense. If the characters attempt a frontal assault, they may find the ogres too strong to defeat.

In the final act, the characters learn that the brain gear, a self-aware magical construct, is behind toppling the fort and the rise of the ogre horde. The characters must descend into the cellars and dungeons beneath the fort and destroy the brain gear once and for all. The brain gear, as its name indicates, is a cunning foe that sets a series of deadly traps, fearsome guardians, and other obstacles in front of the characters. Once the characters overcome these obstacles, they must journey into the ancient temple's inner sanctum and destroy the dark

creatures that Theodocious accidentally awakened. Only then can they destroy the brain gear and the threat it poses to civilization.

This adventure requires the characters to tackle a wide variety of roleplaying challenges. Sound tactical thinking, careful negotiating, alert roleplaying, and clever problem solving are all necessary to carry the day. Remember that the villains presented in this adventure are brilliant minds who used their intelligence — not their sword arms — to assume their positions of power. Don't sell them short and play them as unthinking or dumb brutes. If you see the chance to improvise a cunning plan on their behalf, go for it.

## ADAPTING THE ADVENTURE

As described within the adventure, Durgam's Folly stands at the edge of civilization within the Stoneheart Mountains. However, you should be able to radically change the setting and nature of the fort without requiring too much modification to the plot, as most of the action takes place within or beneath the fort. The journey to the fort requires some modification if you move Durgam's Folly to a desert, an arctic, or some other exotic locale. The critical trait that you should preserve in placing Durgam's Folly in your game world is the fort's isolation from civilization. The brain gear's mutiny should occur in relative secrecy, allowing it to plan its next moves over the course of a few weeks and leaving it well prepared to deal with the characters. If Durgam's Folly stands very close to a city or along a major trade route, chances are that someone discovers something amiss before the characters arrive. Be prepared to offer up an explanation for this if you want to drop Durgam's Folly along a heavily-traveled road or in a populous region.

## ADVENTURE HOOKS

You can involve a group of characters in the adventure in several ways. The introduction assumes that the party travels to Durgam's Folly with a caravan bearing tools and supplies for Theodocious. The easiest plot hooks involve the characters' hiring on to escort the caravan. However, this is sometimes easier said than done. Ideally, if the characters do not journey with the caravan to Durgam's Folly, you can still work with various creatures in the adventure, as they help provide clues about the current situation at the fort and help build a sense of dread and isolation in the players.

You might choose to have the characters present for the initial attack by the brain gear. In this case, you have to wing most of the details yourself, but the included description of the fort, the ogres, and the brain gear should give you enough material to work from without requiring too much improvisation. This option works best if you decide to use Durgam's Folly as a base of operations for several adventures in your campaign. The characters could journey there, meet Theodocious, engage in a few expeditions into the wilds around the fort, and then deal with the menace posed by the brain gear.

The following adventure hooks are provided to give you a reasonable explanation why the characters have chosen to journey to Durgam's Folly. If you are planning out a campaign, the hooks might give you some ideas on how to work this adventure into your story without disrupting the flow of your game or causing an abrupt shift from one storyline to another.

- The local government hires the characters for the princely sum of 2000 gp each to guard a simple merchant caravan. The characters' contract explains that the caravan bears some rare and valuable alchemical mixtures that must arrive safely at the fort. Thus, experts such as the characters are needed to ensure the shipment's safety.

- Theodocious, eager to field-test his new creations, contacts the characters with a business proposition. He wishes for an adventuring band to take a few of his creations on an expedition to a nearby dungeon in hopes of testing his creations in a combat situation. He wishes to meet the characters at Durgam's Folly and offers to pay

them 500 gp each just for showing up to hear his plan. Luckily for the characters, a supply caravan is leaving for Durgam's Folly the same day they are. Theodocious dares not mention his works in the letter for fear of attracting spies, but he does hint that the characters will have a chance to render a great service to those in power, people who are sure to remember the characters' deeds in the future.

- A rival of Theodocious hires the characters to journey to Durgam's Folly, observe the master artificer at work, and then report back all they learn. The characters' patron arranges for the characters to journey to the fort under the guise of caravan guards hired to escort the latest shipment of the fort's supplies.

- The characters discover a magical item or need advice concerning some arcane matter. They consult several sages but learn that only Theodocious the Forger, who is currently living at Durgam's Folly, has the knowledge they seek. A caravan is forming to head for the fort, and if the characters are willing, the caravan master is more than happy to hire them on as guards.

- While journeying across the wilderness, the characters come across a large band of ogres attacking a caravan. Many of the caravan guards are dead, and the ogres are preparing to launch an assault that should destroy the last of the caravan's defenders. If the characters step into the fray, they easily drive away the ogres. As it turns out, this is a caravan bound for Durgam's Folly. Its surviving members beg the characters to accompany them to the fort.

- \*A ranger or druid receives word from his woodland allies that a great horde of ogres is gathering to assault Durgam's Folly. The characters must journey to the fort and warn the garrison. According to the character's contact, lately guard patrols from the fort have ceased to marshal out into the wilderness, thus allowing humanoids and bandits to operate unopposed.



# ACT I: THE JOURNEY TO DURGAM'S FOLLY

This portion of the adventure assumes that the characters elect to journey with a caravan to Durgam's Folly. However, should the characters elect to make the journey on their own, or you decide to use some other method to bring the characters to the fort, each encounter in this section includes notes for adapting to situations that do not involve the caravan.

## THE CARAVAN

**Trina** (see **Appendix B**), a wizard and apprentice to Theodocius, leads the group heading to Durgam's Folly. She commands 20 **guards**, two sergeants named Thevik and Uli (**veterans**), and eight wagons, each of which is pulled by two horses. Unfortunately for Trina, she hasn't had the time or money to hire any more guards. The warriors with the caravan are all members of the Durgam's Folly garrison, and while the fort commander, Captain Evrik, was ordered to provide maximum support to Theodocius, neither he nor the wizard was willing to strip the garrison to guard the caravan.

Trina is quite the pessimist, and she managed to convince Theodocius to set aside 800 gp for her to hire additional swordsmen to help watch over the caravan. But sadly, she has no money to offer prospective warriors up front, leaving her with no mercenaries willing to enter her service. Should the characters approach her with an offer to help guard the caravan, she gladly accepts, promising them 800 gp once they arrive at the fort.

## CARAVAN PERSONNEL

**Trina** (see **Appendix B**), as noted above, is an ardent pessimist. She assumes that what can go wrong will go wrong and is not afraid to let others know she feels that way. However, unlike many pessimists, Trina takes an active role in preparing for the misfortunes that she sees as inevitable. A relentless planner and organizer, she attacks the task of leading the caravan with an almost fanatical abandon. She takes the role of a military field commander, happily inserting herself above the soldiers and often micromanaging the details of guarding the caravan. Theodocius set her to this task partly to get the girl out of his hair, yet he also knows that she of all his apprentices has the attention to detail and keen mind for planning to successfully complete the task. Trina expects the characters to toe the line and obey her orders, but she is by no means a tyrant or fool. While she may dog them with questions about the watch rotation they just arranged, grill them on their tactical experience, and pester them into delivering regular and detailed reports on the status and morale of the guards, she above all else wants the caravan journey to go as smoothly as possible. She's more than willing to listen to someone else's plan, but her analytical mind and keen attention to detail drive her to thoroughly question and debate any ideas.

Trina stands five feet five inches tall, and has long, flowing brown hair streaked with gray despite the fact that she's only 25. Her face is plain and often marked with a deep scowl or look of deep thought. She prefers simple traveling clothes to robes or other impractical clothing. She speaks in direct terms, disdaining flowery speech or tact in favor of efficiency. Her **raven** (but with Intelligence 12) familiar, Croaker, often perches on her shoulder. Croaker is most definitely his master's familiar, echoing her pessimism tenfold and reinforcing it with his sarcastic attitude.

Thevik and Uli are both **veterans** in Durgam's Folly's garrison. Thevik is in her mid-30s, with short, close-cropped blonde hair and a wiry, six-foot-one-inch frame. Her stern and businesslike manner instantly won Trina's respect. The guards also deeply respect her, as she worked her way from buck private to sergeant through hard work, grit, and determination. Thevik expects the best from her men, and her fair manner and natural toughness go a long way toward getting it from them.

Uli is a large man bordering on obese. He has dark, curly hair and sports four days' worth of stubble on his face. Unlike Thevik, Uli is looked down on as a bully and braggart by the guards. While a skilled warrior, he relies on shouted threats to push the men into action. Uli is also a bit of a chauvinist and often chafes under the command of Trina (who is unworthy to command in his eyes, since she isn't a soldier) and Thevik (whom he is jealous of both for her success and the respect the men show her).

The **guards** are all professional soldiers who work hard to obey orders to the best of their ability. They were chosen for this task precisely for their skill and dedication and look at this extended duty away from their base as a chance to prove themselves as capable soldiers.

## THE JOURNEY TO DURGAM'S FOLLY

The trip to the fort takes three days for the caravan wagons, as the fort is roughly 55 miles away from the frontier. The caravan leaves at sunrise and spends three days and nights on the road, arriving at the fort at late morning of the fourth day. Optionally, you could easily extend this journey if you wish to start the adventure somewhere farther within the heartland of civilization. Trina was sent to gather supplies and tools for Theodocius, after all, and such an errand may require her to journey to a large city to fill her master's request. Feel free to fill out the journey with extra encounters. The encounters outlined below assume that the party has passed beyond the frontier and is within three days of Durgam's Folly. If the characters travel at a faster or slower pace than the average 16 miles per day for a wagon, adjust the timing and/or location of the encounters accordingly.

Unless the characters convince her otherwise, Trina stations guards in columns along the caravan's flank. One guard drives each wagon, while the rest of the guards ride on horses. If the characters do not have horses, Trina arranges for riding horses for any who need them. At night, Trina breaks the guards into three watches of seven, seven, and six guards each (the characters are free to join whichever watch they think is best, though Trina has her suggestions). Uli sits up with the first watch, Thevik with the middle one, and Trina with the last one. Trina insists that the characters each take a watch, ideally spreading themselves out across the three watches. She arranges the wagons in a rough circle, with the horses and sleeping guardsmen in the middle and those on watch walking the perimeter.

## ENCOUNTER 1:

# THE RUINS OF HANSONBURG

Ahead stands the small village of Hansonburg. The village is a welcome sight on the dull road, as it holds the promise of a freshly made bed, hot food, and a mug of fine ale. The caravan guards brighten visibly as word spreads up and down the line of wagons that the town is in sight. As the characters draw closer, the promise of comfort turns to one of tension and fear. No lights shine in the windows of the village's buildings, and none walk among the settlements. Surely at this time of day the inn at the center of the tiny settlement would be alive with activity. But as they draw nearer, the stark silence surrounding the settlement grows more ominous.

Hansonburg is a tiny thorp roughly halfway between Durgam's Folly and the last major outpost of civilization. The caravan, if it proceeds at a normal rate, arrives there at sundown.

Two nights ago, a group of ogres led by Grimulak silently crept up on Hansonburg and murdered every last one of its inhabitants. Using his *invisibility* and *polymorph* (self) abilities, Grimulak easily disposed of the guards before leading the ogres into town. Under the Grimulak's iron-fisted command, the ogres methodically moved from house to house, killing the inhabitants in their sleep and quickly running down and killing those who tried to escape.

Searching the town turns up little of note. The attackers obviously met with little struggle, as there are few signs of conflict. Characters who succeed at a DC 13 Wisdom (Survival) check may note a large number of ogre tracks heading into the town from the south and leaving to the north. While the tracks are often confusing in many places where they crisscross repeatedly as the ogres moved through the town, it is obvious that the creatures surrounded the town and systematically eliminated Hansonburg's inhabitants. A search of the houses and inn reveals that no foodstuff or drink remains in any building, and all of the buildings are in extreme disarray, as if they were thoroughly searched and looted. Grimulak led the ogres here to raid the settlement for supplies, hoping to stockpile enough food and other necessities to let his horde survive for some time without hunting. In addition, the Grimulak struck knowing that the garrison at Durgam's Folly is out of commission, allowing him to attack without fear of reprisal.

The ogres are long since gone, as they continued on their journey to assemble with the other tribes soon after completing their foul deeds here. No bodies remain — the ogres carried them off to stock their larders. Emphasize the eerie silence and sharp contrast between the once vibrant community and its now-empty shell. From the outside, the buildings are largely undamaged, and few signs of conflict are readily apparent to the casual observer. Most of the houses' doors hang open, though, and inside the houses are many signs of violence: blood-stained sheets and beds, ransacked rooms, signs of forced entry and even a few places where a quick, pitched fight may have taken place. If asked, the caravan guards admit that Hansonburg's militia was composed primarily of farmers barely trained in the use of a sword who alternated taking night watches. Being so close to Durgam's Folly, the town depended on the garrison for its defense. The guards assume that a patrol from the fort must have been through the town recently, though a successful Wisdom (Survival) check (as described above) reveals that there are not any horse tracks or signs of human footprints coming from or heading to the fort.

The caravan guards are particularly hard hit by the ruins of the town, as many of them had at least a passing acquaintance with the villagers. Trina is severely unnerved by the ruins and urges the caravan to move forward and away from the town. She insists on doubling the guard at night and demands that anyone who does not need to rest to prepare spells

get by on only four hours of sleep. Somewhat sheltered as an apprentice, she turns to the characters for advice on what may have been behind the raid and what she can do to ensure the caravan's safety. The atmosphere surrounding the caravan becomes much tenser. Uli takes his fear and worries out on his men, verbally abusing them and loudly boasting that he'll personally lead a patrol to track down whoever was responsible for the attack. He volunteers to take the point duty. Thevik takes care to keep a close eye on her men and, if possible, makes a point of speaking to the characters and Trina about the situation. She knows that ogres, trolls, giants, and orcs have been active in the area in the past but has never seen anything quite so bold as an attack on a settlement. Attacks on small groups of travelers or caravans are not uncommon, but the last full-scale attack on a settlement took place more than 20 years ago.

## ENCOUNTER 2: OGRES

This encounter takes place at noon the day after the characters leave Hansonburg. Read or paraphrase the following, depending on how the caravan guards are arranged and where the characters ride relative to the wagons and other guards. The description assumes that Uli is at the head of the caravan, riding point with a few other soldiers.

After yesterday's gruesome discovery, a black cloud has descended upon the entire caravan. The guards cast wary glances at the trees beside the road, ready for an assault to strike at any moment. What was once a simple, almost leisurely journey has become an ordeal, heavy with unease and fear. The tension of the journey is shattered by shouts from up ahead. A guard under Uli's command at the front of the caravan gallops toward you, shouting that Uli has tracked down an ogre responsible for the sacking of Hansonburg.

An **ogre** (due to extreme drunkenness Graulg has disadvantage on all ability checks and attack rolls) who had taken part in the raid is indeed on the road up ahead. During the attack, he and a few of his comrades hid several kegs of ale they looted from the village in the nearby woods. Two nights ago, they returned for their stash and immediately began to indulge in it. Graulg, in particular, overindulged to an incredible degree even for an ogre and spent the past two nights sleeping in a ditch. If the characters rush up to the front of the caravan, they discover Uli and five of the guards with crossbows trained on the thing. The ogre sits on the side of the road, cradling his head and moaning piteously. Unless the characters intercede, Uli and the guards kill him with a volley of crossbow bolts. The sergeant has his crossbow pointed against the ogre's throat; if fired, this kills the ogre outright.

To convince Uli to spare the ogre's life, a character must succeed on a DC 18 Charisma (Persuasion) check to sway him. Uli is consumed with bloodlust and is eager to avenge the destruction of Hansonburg, as are the guards. The characters face a decidedly uphill battle in talking the guard sergeant down from his rage. If the characters appeal to his sense of pity or justice, increase by the DC by 2 to convince him. Uli considers the ogre less than human and wants only to show it the same mercy it showed the people of Hansonburg. On the other hand, if the characters tell Uli that they wish only to question the thing to bring its comrades to justice, decrease the DC by 5. Optionally, you may forgo the rolling and rely solely on role-play to determine the result of the encounter. Trina and Thevik both are torn by their desire for revenge and the need to learn more information, but they are much easier to convince, requiring the character to succeed at a DC 11 Charisma (Persuasion) check if presented with reasonable explanations of why the ogre should live. If Thevik sides with the characters, the guards begin to waver, but Uli's attitude does not change. While Trina should be able to order Uli to stand down, her doing so only angers the sergeant and increases the DC by 2 of all Charisma (Persuasion checks) involving Uli.



If Uli spares the ogre, the characters can learn the following pieces of information from him (in addition to the information provided about him above). The ogre is still very inebriated and speaks in slow, slurred and choppy common:

- The ogres have taken control of Durgam's Folly. A few of the tribes are there now, and Graulg and a few other ogres went there to join up with the horde. (True — ever opportunistic, no ogre wants to miss out on the chance for loot should the horde decide to launch a raid on civilized lands.)

- A powerful ogre with magical powers leads the horde. This ogre ordered the raid on Hansonburg. (Partially true — the brain gear suggested the raid, primarily because once word spread that the fort was controlled by ogres, some opportunistic band of evil humanoids would raid the village. The brain gear figured it might as well be the ogres.)

- Grimulak often spends time in the tunnels beneath the fort, speaking with those he calls, "the ones below." These creatures are allies of Grimulak that he has bound with his magic. (False — Grimulak takes orders from the brain gear, but he cannot afford to let the rank-and-file ogres know that or he'll lose face.)

- Life has been great at the castle. By day, the ogres train in fighting under the cruel sign, but at night they carouse, drain the fort's stock of ale and food, and enjoy their conquest (True.)

- Grimulak is blessed by the gods. He can turn invisible and make himself look like other creatures. (True — he often demonstrates his powers to awe new recruits.)

If asked about the other ogres in the area, Graulg claims that they're all at the fort. That's what the ogre thinks. In truth, many ogres are still journeying to the fort to rally beneath Grimulak's banner. The ogre is still inebriated but recovers his wits after eight or more hours of sleep. If penned up in a wagon, he tries his hardest to escape, preferring to flee into the wilderness rather than rejoin his comrades at the fort in shame.

Trina visibly blanches when she receives word that the fort has fallen. She assumes that foreign spies or some evil power received word of Theodocius' work and moved to capture the wizard and his creations.

She insists that the caravan continue its journey. She does agree to send a courier back to civilization with word that the fort has fallen, but she refuses to waste time in turning the entire caravan around. While she does not disclose the nature of Theodocius' work, she insists that the characters and the rest of the caravan must get to the fort as soon as possible. The guards do know something about magical experiments taking place at the fort, and if pressed they admit to the characters that this may be the reason behind Trina's desire to keep moving to the fort.

If the characters volunteer to ride ahead of the rest of the caravan, modify the remaining encounters. The ogre ambush in **Encounter 5** assumes that the characters are with the rest of the caravan. If they are not, reduce the number of ogres to six. The wyvern in **Encounter 3** does not attack the characters, as it thinks its prey is hidden in a wagon, but it more than likely destroys the caravan if it lacks the characters' protection.

## ENCOUNTER 3: DEATH FROM ABOVE

This encounter takes place during the night of the second day of travel.

The night is cool and clear. A gentle breeze rustles the trees and runs through your hair, helping to dispel the weariness of the past few days and ease the guards' troubled looks. Above you, the stars twinkle like diamonds spread across black velvet. Suddenly, your view of the night sky is disrupted. You blink your eyes for a moment. Did the stars just disappear for the briefest moment? A thunderous, roaring cry in the sky and the flapping of tremendous wings echoes through the night. The stars didn't disappear — some monstrous creature just flew above you.

Using its powers to cast a *dream* spell, the brain gear convinced a **wyvern** that nests in the nearby mountains that wagons passing along the road to the fort are weighed down with tasty delicacies and fresh food. Eager for an easy meal, the wyvern has regularly swooped over the road, looking for the food promised it in its dreams. Unfortunately for the characters, it thinks it just found it.

The guards react with temporary panic. The characters must succeed at a DC 13 Charisma (Deception, Intimidation, or Persuasion) check to bring the guards into line. Each round, a character may make a Charisma check as a standard action. Success means that five guards have fought off their panic and can fight the wyvern. Trina, Thevik, and Uli may all make Charisma checks to rally the guards. The wyvern first attempts to snatch and throw a wagon. Once it sees that the wagons are empty of food, it attacks mercilessly, fleeing only when reduced to fewer than half of its hit points. The wyvern targets human-sized targets indiscriminately, snatching up guards, characters, or whoever is the easiest target. Characters who take cover under the trees are not subject to attacks from the wyvern. If the entire caravan moves under cover, the wyvern circles the area for two minutes before flying off in search of easier pickings.

## ENCOUNTER 4: EYES IN THE NIGHT

This encounter takes place during the early evening of the third day of travel, as the characters come within 10 miles of the fort.

Though the guards have been silent for many hours, their strained looks and downcast manner speak volumes of how trying this journey has been. The forest around you is quiet, save for the occasional bird call ahead of you. The woods grow even thicker and crowd closer to the road.

The brain gear, using its overseer clockworks, has dispatched many scouting parties to watch the roads leading to Durgam's Folly. In the woods ahead, 4 **clockwork scouts** and a **clockwork overseer** (see **Appendix B**) lie hidden in the trees. The scouts are disguised to look like house cats. They lurk among the tree trunks, keeping a careful eye out for any passersby. The overseer hides farther back from the scouts, roughly 60 feet from the road. If the characters specifically scan the trees looking for any threat, they must succeed at a DC 15 Wisdom (Perception) check to see the scouts. If spotted, the scouts flee back in the direction of the overseer. Remember that the scouts become inactive if they lose contact with the brain gear, which occurs should they move more than 100 feet away from the overseer or if the overseer is destroyed. If the characters discover the scouts and attack, there is a 10% chance per round that the brain gear contacts the overseer and learns of the characters. If the characters destroy the overseer before this happens, then the brain gear learns nothing more than that its minion has been destroyed. Obviously, if the characters do not discover the scouts, the brain gear learns about the approaching caravan.

The clockwork scouts are disguised with the skins from a few cats that the fort garrison kept as pets. It's possible that if a member of the caravan crew spots the scouts first, he or she may mistake them for the fort's cats run astray. If Trina is confronted with the remains of a clockwork, she discloses the nature of Theodocious' work to the characters and admits that she believes attackers struck the fort to claim the wizard's inventions for themselves. She emphasizes that the caravan needs to make it to the fort as soon as possible and hopefully capture the thieves before they can make off with the clockworks. She is also quite afraid for Theodocious and wants nothing unpleasant to happen to her master.

## ENCOUNTER 5: AMBUSH

This encounter takes place after midnight of the third day. Depending on how **Encounter 4** progressed, the characters may encounter either a prepared band of 16 **ogres** sent to intercept the caravan or a small group dispatched to investigate the sudden disappearance of the overseer and its scouts.

In either case, the ogres march down the road, relying on 4 **ogres** sent ahead to scout the way. If the caravan is camped out on or near the road, the ogres move to surround it and attack. Anyone on watch may contest their Wisdom (Perception) against the Ogres' Dexterity (Stealth).

**Tactics:** While not the smartest humanoid monsters, ogres do possess a natural cunning. Once they discover the caravan, their response depends on the level of activity surrounding it. If the caravan guards or the characters spot them and sound an alarm, the ogres rush ahead to attack, hoping to catch the caravan before it can prepare a defense.

If the ogres approach the caravan unnoticed, they attack in two waves. The ogres split into two groups of eight ogres each. The first group stealthily approaches the caravan before attacking, hoping to surprise the guards and quickly overwhelm them. The second group stations itself on the opposite side of the caravan, hoping to catch any guards who try to flee from the attacking ogres. Once the guards join the first group of ogres in battle, the second group charges in to catch the defenders from behind and crush them.

**Note:** While the challenge rating for this battle seems quite high, be sure to account for the presence of the guards, the sergeants, and Trina, all of whom help the characters against the ogres.

The ogres accept any surrender and gladly lead the characters back to the fort as their captives. Otherwise, the ogres fight until fewer than six of them remain. At that point, they break for the forest. Any surviving ogres flee the area. They'd much rather flee to the countryside than report their failure to Grimulak. If Graulg is with the caravan as a prisoner, the ogres pay him no mind. Should any of the attacking ogres be taken captive, they know little more than Graulg. Refer to **Encounter 2** for a summary of the information the characters can learn.

If the clockwork scouts and overseer from **Encounter 4** survived, they observe the battle and report back to the brain gear. Make a note of this, as it may affect encounters at the fort.

## ENCOUNTER 6: ARRIVAL AT THE FORT

As the characters reach the fort, read or paraphrase the following:

Ahead of you stands your destination, Durgam's Folly. The proud structure stands atop a bare hill, a steep slope helping to protect it from any ground attacks. The road winds out of the woods, across 500 feet of open ground, and heads up a narrow escarpment to the fort's front gate. From here, the fort looks unmanned. Nothing moves along the walls, and no sentinels stand before the open gate. A tattered banner flies from the battlements. It hangs limp before catching in a sudden breeze, revealing its symbol as a clawed green hand crushing a human skull.

Durgam's Folly now stands beneath the rule of Grimulak — the green hand crushing a human skull is his device. The first part of the adventure ends here. Now the characters must endeavor to infiltrate the fort and overthrow the foul ogres who have claimed it.

# ACT II: THE TAKING OF DURGAM'S FOLLY

Durgam's Folly has withstood many assaults during its long and storied history. For many years the fort has stood on the borderlands between the savage, monster-infested wilds and the bucolic civilized lands of man. Were it staffed with resolute, brave, and well-trained warriors, the characters would not stand much of a chance of infiltrating its defenses. Luckily for them, the ogres that now rule the fort are lazy, easily distracted, and somewhat dense. While Grimulak initially ruled the overthrown fort with an iron fist, his control over the ogres has slowly diminished. The chaotic ogres are already chafing under the controlling, lawful evil Grimulak. With the long days that have passed since their initial attack, the ogres have grown restless. At first, they trained in fighting during the day, as few of them ventured out under the sun before joining the horde, and Grimulak wanted them ready to fight under all conditions. The ogres hated this training, though, and more than a few deserted. To keep the rest of the horde together, Grimulak has since given the ogres full access to the ale and wine they captured with the fort. Grimulak and the brain gear are well aware that when the alcohol disappears, the ogres' loyalty will disappear with it.

Given the state of affairs, the fort is poorly defended. Grimulak depends on the brain gear's scouts to alert him of any approaching attackers, as outlined in the encounters on the road to the fort. Grimulak is also in a bit of a precarious situation with the ogres. They know nothing of the brain gear, and if they knew that Grimulak was actually taking orders from something more powerful than he, they might revolt. The truth of the matter is that the brain gear wants to experiment on the ogres and eventually integrate them into its forces. Thus, while it promised Grimulak great treasure and loot if he gathered a horde of ogres, the brain gear is really interested only in gathering more test subjects. The brain gear counseled Grimulak to let the ogres run wild so that they remain in the fort long enough for the brain gear to devise an efficient method to convert them into more usable forms. A few of the ogres that supposedly deserted were dragged down to the dungeons beneath the fort and used as test subjects.

## GENERAL NOTES

The doors throughout the fort are thick, cut from stout wood and reinforced with iron bands.

**Fortress doors:** 3-inch-thick reinforced wood (AC 16, 18 hit points, DC 15 Strength check to break open, if locked, and can be opened with thieves' tools and a successful DC 15 Dexterity check)

The entire fort shows signs of abuse at the hands of the ogres. The place is filthy: half-rotten food, discarded ale kegs and other garbage litter the place.

Unlike the typical dungeon, the fort is not described with monsters assigned to each location. Instead, the following paragraphs describe the interior of the fort, and the tactics section gives details on how the ogres react to different actions the party may take. In addition, enough information is provided on the ogres' morale and Grimulak's personality for you to improvise should the players pursue some unforeseen course of action (as they almost invariably do at least once per gaming session!)

## KEYED ENCOUNTER AREAS

The following locations within the fort are keyed to the locations marked on the fort map:

## 1. OUTER STRUCTURE

The fort's outer walls are five-foot-thick structures made of stone that stand 15 feet high. Climbing the walls requires a successful DC 18 Strength (Athletics) check. A large, wooden gate — the only entrance to the fort — stands open as the characters approach it. The ogres have long since given up on defending the gate. The fort itself stands atop a short, flat hill that sharply rises 30 feet. A narrow trail, just wide enough for wagons to navigate single file, snakes in front of the fort, slowly rising up to the gate. The trees and brush in a 500-foot radius around the fort have been cleared out, giving its defenders a clear view of approaching threats.

## 2. GATEHOUSE

The gatehouse stands directly above the main gate. The two doors heading into it lead to staircases that spiral up to a long, wide chamber. This room has arrow slits overlooking the approach to the front gate and murder holes in its floor that allow archers to rain arrows and burning oil down on those making their way through the gate. Ladders from this room lead up to the battlements atop the gatehouse.

## 3. COURTYARD

The grass that once covered this courtyard has long since been trampled to plain dirt by the footfalls of countless soldiers, warhorses and other defenders of the fort.

The ogres lounge outside here during the day if this adventure takes place during summer, spring, or fall, basking in the sun, wrestling each other for fun and sport or practicing their combat skills.

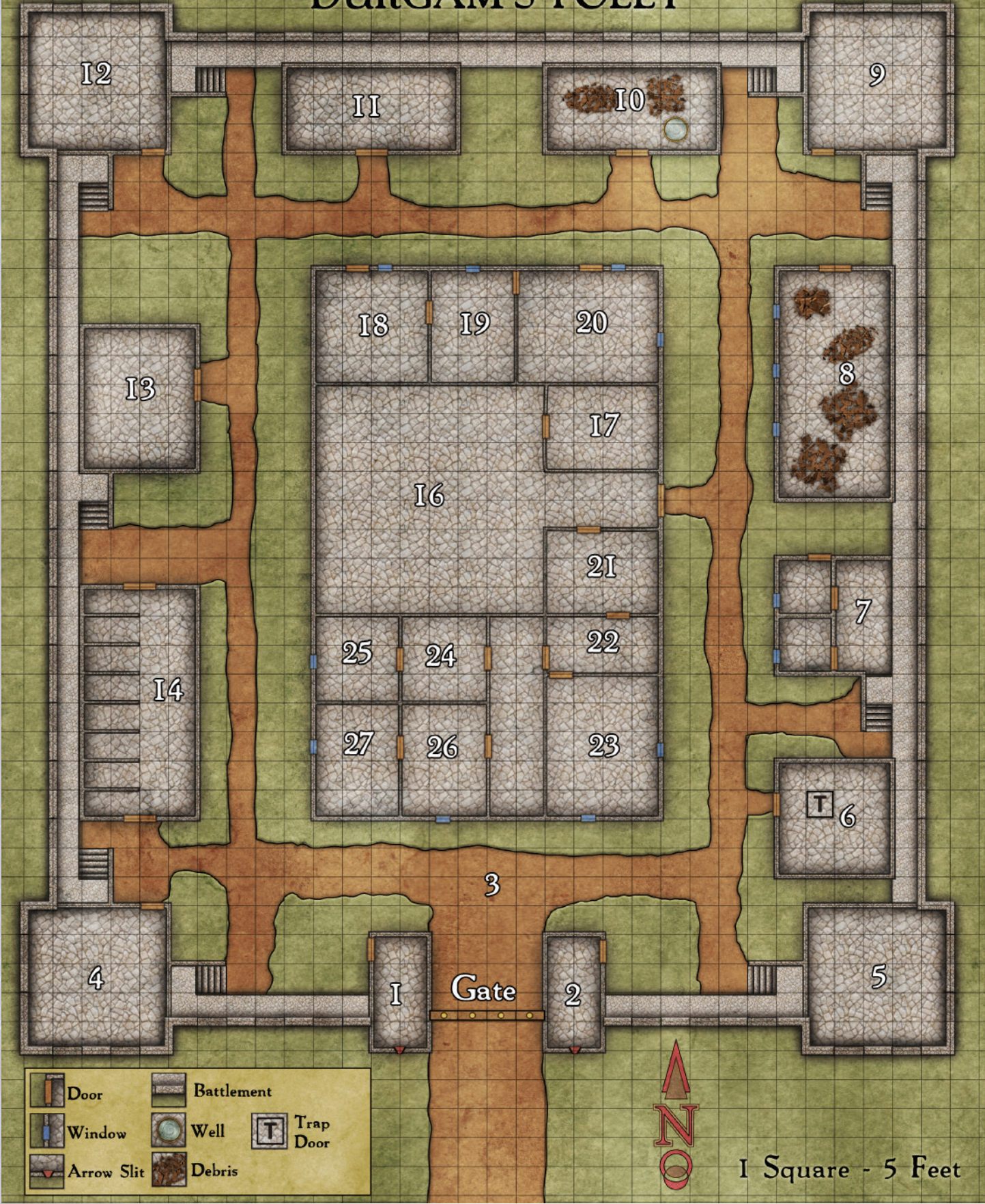
## 4. GUARD TOWER

Each of the towers at the fort's corner stands 30 feet tall and has three floors. The first floor is given over to storage, with weapons, armor, and shields once neatly stacked on shelves, arranged in racks, or hanging from wall pegs. The ogres ransacked each of these storage areas, leaving them chaotic messes, but many usable pieces of equipment remain. Characters can find 2d6 suits of leather armor, 1d6 suits of scale mail, 2d4 large wooden shields, and 2d4 each of longswords, light crossbows, spears, and daggers. Assume the maximum number possible of each type is indeed present, but the difference between the dice results and the maximum represents equipment damaged or destroyed by the ogres.

The second floor, accessible by a staircase from the first, is a barracks. Twenty bunk beds, each flanked by a pair of chests, are neatly arranged along the perimeter of the room. Many of the beds show signs of violence — bloodied sheets, torn feather mattresses — as most of the garrison was overwhelmed in its sleep when the brain gear struck. A long table and several chairs are set in the middle of the room. The ogres have dragged the bedding from the barracks for their own use, but most of the furniture is intact. The stairs from the first floor continue up to the third floor.

The third floor has doors that allow access to the battlements and

# DURGAM'S FOLLY



has arrow slits set into the walls that face areas outside the fort. Quivers of crossbow bolts hang from walls near the slits, 2d4 in total, each holding 20 bolts. The stairs from the second floor continue up to the roof.

A catapult stands atop each tower. While the ogres long since fired off the ammunition to help pass the time, the catapults are all still in working order.

## 5. GUARD TOWER

This structure is identical in all respects to the building described in **Area 4**.

## 6. GUARD HOUSE

This squat, windowless structure is made of the same stone used to build the outer wall. Its door hangs open, revealing a room lined with individual jail cells, all of which currently stand open.

Grimulak holds the keys, and should any characters fall captive to the ogres, they are imprisoned here. In the center of the room is a trapdoor that leads down to the dungeon level detailed in **Act III**. Unlike the prison cells, the trapdoor is kept shut and is securely locked. Picking the lock is more difficult than its shabby looks indicate, as the dungeon below was used to house truly dangerous monsters and criminals with magical abilities. Grimulak holds the key to the trapdoor and often goes below to consult with the brain gear.

**Trap door:** 1 1/2 in. thick reinforced wood (AC 15, 10 hit points; locked and can be picked with thieves' tools and a successful DC 18 Dexterity check)

## 7. THEODOCIOUS' QUARTERS

This wooden structure looks somewhat out of place within the fort, as it appears to be a small home that someone rather recently constructed here. The building was once whitewashed, but dirt and filth now cover it. Three windows are set into the building, all of which have been smashed.

This was the private residence of Theodocius, who rested here when he was not working in the dungeons below. The entry room was a sitting room where he entertained visitors and often held discussions with his apprentices. The larger of the two inner rooms was his study, while the small room was his bedroom. The building has been completely emptied of all furniture and other items. Other than the broken windows, the ogres have inflicted no damage to the building. The brain gear ordered this place stripped clean soon after it seized power, as it was eager to learn as much as possible about the process Theodocius used to create it and did not want to leave any evidence undiscovered. The ogres find this place somewhat creepy, and per the brain gear's suggestion, Grimulak ordered them to stay away from it.

## 8. CHAPEL

This long, stone building is obviously a chapel. Stained-glass windows, all of which have been smashed, dominated the interior side of the building. Above the large, wooden double doors is a holy symbol for Mithras, god of war.

The interior of the chapel withstood some of the worst abuse meted out by the invading ogre horde. The altar was toppled over, the pews smashed or flipped on their sides. Any character that directly helps restore the altar receives a blessing from the gods in the form of advantage on their next saving throw. Pushing the altar back to its proper position requires a character to succeed at a DC 18 Strength (Athletics) check or two or more characters with a combined strength of at least 20.

## 9. GUARD TOWER

This tower is much like the tower described in **Area 4**, with one important difference. The 14 **guards** (unarmed, unarmored, and with only 1d4 HP due to mistreatment from their captivity) taken captive when the brain gear conquered the fort are kept locked in the first floor of this tower. The staircase to the second floor is barricaded with beds and other furniture piled within it by the ogres. The fourteen prisoners are kept chained in irons. If rescued, they offer the following information and otherwise help the characters in any way possible, fighting to the death to reclaim the fort. Grimulak has the keys to their irons, or the locks can be picked with thieves' tools and a successful DC 16 Dexterity check.

The guards know:

- Theodocius was working on some sort of golem-like creatures that ran loose and conquered the fort. The creatures struck without warning, and many of the guards were overwhelmed in their sleep.
- Soon after that battle, the ogres arrived and took over the fort.
- Originally, more than 30 guards were kept here, but the ogres regularly come by to drag away a captive, usually choosing someone when they bring the prisoners food and water.
- The guards have no information about the dungeons beneath the fort, as Theodocius allowed no one to enter them without his express permission.

## 10. STORAGE

This long but narrow stone building has seen better days. Its wide, double doors have been torn down, leaving its interior exposed to the elements. Bales of hay, crates, and boxes are scattered about inside of it, as if some powerfully strong toddler rampaged about, tossing everything around in a fit of anger.

The truth behind the state of disarray in this storage building is much simpler. The ogres simply ransacked the place looking for more ale and wine. Having found none, they simply ignored the rest of the items here. There is plenty of food, primarily iron rations. A well stands near the entrance, the pulley, rope, and bucket used to draw water still intact. In addition, horse feed and other supplies were kept here by the garrison. Any character can find any piece of standard, nonmagical equipment worth 5 gp or less with a successful DC 11 Intelligence (Investigation) check.

## 11. STORAGE

Built much like the building next to it, this structure lacks the damage and vandalism committed against its twin. Its doors stand shut, bound with a chain locked against intruders.

Grimulak has ordered the ogres to avoid this building, even going as far as to kill one who refused to heed his orders. This storage building holds lumber, nails, bricks, rope, and other materials that Theodocius used in creating the clockworks. The brain gear ordered Grimulak to leave this untouched. Neatly stacked piles of lumber, copper, and iron ingots arranged in neat piles, and boxes of nails, carpentry tools, and metal smithing implements stand in stark contrast to the disarray of the rest of the fort. The lock on the chain can be opened with thieves' tools and a successful DC 18 Dexterity check, or a broken apart with a successful DC 25 Strength check.

## 12. GUARD TOWER

This structure is identical in all details to the building described in **Area 4**.

## 13. SMITHY

---

The stone structure before you has a large chimney and no windows. The doors leading into it stand open. Within, you can see a forge and bellows. This most likely was the fort's smithy.

As with most of the fort, the ogres long ago ransacked this building for usable items. Interestingly, the smith's tools are all missing. The brain gear ordered Grimulak to haul them all down into the dungeons for its own use in developing its mechanical minions.

## 14. STABLE

---

This long, red-painted wooden structure has barn doors set into its north and south sides. Windows, all of which have been smashed, dot the side of the building.

This is the fort's stable. There are enough stalls within to house 20 horses. All of the stalls are now empty, as most of the fort's horses either departed with the caravan or were devoured by the ogres. The floor is covered with hay, and saddles and stirrups for five horses hang from the doors to five of the stalls.

## 15. INNER KEEP

---

This large, stone structure is built quite low to the ground, standing barely 10 feet tall. The few windows set into the structure, primarily at its southern end, make the building look more like a prison than the headquarters for a small field army. Iron bars set deep within the walls block the windows. The doors into the building are of the same stout, iron-banded build as the other buildings here. However, these doors are all intact.

All three doors into this building are normally kept locked. The ogres have a simple pass code for entrance: three rapid knocks followed by two heavy knocks spaced two seconds apart. However, the ogre guards at **Area 20** have grown lazy and left the entrance to that room unlocked and unbarred after growing annoyed with constantly opening the door for their comrades. If the characters attempt to enter through a window, they probably have to break the iron bars installed there.

**Iron Bars:** 1 1/2 in. thick iron (AC 18, 18 hit points; can be bent with a successful DC 18 Strength check)

## 16. FEST HALL

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This 40-foot-by-40-foot square room is dominated by three large tables arranged parallel to each other and surrounded with stools and chairs. A fireplace set in the middle of the western wall provides a dim, shadowy glow by which you can see smashed ale kegs piled in the southwest corner and two tapped kegs standing on the middle long table. The entire place smells as if a large number of wild animals have been sleeping here. The filthy furs and blankets spread across the room in small piles confirm that the ogres have used this room as a barracks.

Before the fort fell, this room was used as a dining room, fest hall, and meeting chamber. Currently, the ogres spend the vast majority of their time in here drinking ale, eating, and waiting for something interesting to happen. Searching through the furs scattered about the floors reveals a total of 1500 gp hidden among the furs in small sacks and belt pouches.

## 17. STORAGE ROOM

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This plain stone room looks as if it once held many kegs of ale, judging by the patterns of dust on the floor and walls. Four kegs stand clustered in the southeast corner of the room.

This room was used as a storage area. The ogres have gone through most of the supplies that were kept here.

## 18. KITCHEN

---

A large fireplace on the western wall dominates this room. A black iron cooking pot knocked on its side lies in front of the fireplace. What looks like soup or stew still drips from the pot, adding to the wet mess of vegetables, meat, and dirt that covers the floor. Wooden tables are set along the northern and southern walls, and cooking implements such as knives, forks, and pots are scattered haphazardly across them.

Anyone fighting in this room suffers disadvantage on all attacks and Dexterity checks that require movement, as the wet floor is quite slick, leading to unsteady and dangerous footing. Treat any cooking implements used in combat as daggers.

## 19. PANTRY

---

Upon opening the door to this room, you are immediately assaulted by the stench of rotting meat. A second later, a swarm of house flies buzzes past and around you. You see within what once was a pantry but has now become a foul pit of rotting food. Putrid meat hangs from the ceiling, and jars of spices, sauces, and other condiments are smashed open, their contents covering the floor.

The ogres found the cured meat from the garrison's latest hunt not to their liking and left it in here to rot. This room is now infested with cockroaches and flies, and the odor is nearly unbearable, though not bad enough to impose any penalties to characters moving through here. The ogres care little for the mess and don't even notice it as they move from room to room.

## 20. SERVANTS' QUARTERS

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This room looks as if it was once a barracks or personal quarters. The four bunk beds in here have been smashed into pieces, the bedding from all of them piled into the southwestern corner. The room has a rank, feral odor to it, as if some large animal has been sleeping in here.

A few ogres, unhappy about the accommodations in **Area 16**, have moved here to sleep. As noted above, the door from this room to the courtyard is not kept locked. Searching through the mess here turns up 200 gp in coins.

## 21. OFFICE

---

The room before you looks as if it once served as the office for an important figure, perhaps the commander of this garrison. The head of a great, majestic moose is mounted on the wall just above the northern door, and a long, wooden desk is set near the eastern wall. Four plush chairs, their cushions torn open and the stuffing scattered about the room, stand before the desk. A once rich-looking carpet, now stained with blood, ale, and vomit, covers the floor here.

This was indeed once the office Captain Evrik, the commanding officer of the garrison of Durgam's Folly. The desk has four drawers, all of which have been emptied. A thorough search turns up nothing here, as the brain gear carefully gathered everything in this room, believing that the items may give some insight into human military planning, soon after it seized control of the fort.

## 22. SITTING ROOM

A soft, red carpet covers the floor of this room, while a silver chandelier set with small candles casts a bright light. Six chairs are arranged in a circle here, with two short tables set between them, and a pair of ottomans set before two of the chairs. Unlike the rest of this place, this room seems somewhat undisturbed.

Grimulak took a liking to this room and wishes to use it in the future, when conferring with whomever else the brain gear recruits for its plans. Thus, he ordered the ogres to stay clear of it.

## 23. CAPTAIN'S BEDROOM

This large, elegantly appointed bedroom stands in sharp contrast to the ruin and abuse apparent throughout the fort. A large, canopied bed dominates the northeastern corner of the room, while a small writing table stands in the southeast corner. An armoire and a long, standing mirror are against the western wall. The floor here is covered with a soft, blue carpet.

**Grimulak** (see **Appendix B**) has claimed this chamber as his own. With his somewhat more civilized sensibilities, unlike the ogres he chose not to destroy the furniture and relieve himself on the floor to make this place feel more like home.

A large journal with a worn, leather cover sits on the writing table beside a quill and an inkpot. This is Grimulak's journal. If the characters spend 10 minutes skimming through it, they learn of Grimulak's background. He describes how a voice came to him in his dreams, showing him how to sneak into the fort and make his way to the dungeons below. There he met a great beast of steel and magic, which commanded him to gather a horde of ogres to take control of Durgam's Folly once its defenders were dead. The journal notes that Grimulak hopes to gain more power and authority as "the voice" (as he refers to the brain gear) gathers more followers and power. He also notes that the ogres have grown lazy and bored lately and that the past few times he went below to confer with the voice, it told him only to stay the course and wait for further orders.

**Treasure:** Tucked beneath the bed is a plain wooden chest that is both locked and trapped. Within are four emeralds worth 250 gp each and the following *potions*: *healing* (4x), *animal friendship*, *giant strength* (hill), and *water breathing*. Grimulak carries the key to the chest and uses the potions if the need arises.

The lock on the chest can be picked with thieves' tools and a DC 13 Dexterity check. The trap can be noted with a successful DC 13 Intelligence (Investigation) check. The trap can be removed using thieves' tools and a successful DC 13 Dexterity check. A creature who opens the chest without removing the trap is stabbed with the poison needle and must succeed on a DC 11 Constitution saving throw or suffer 10 (3d6) poison damage and become poisoned for 1 hour.

If the chest is forcibly opened (by smashing and so on), the trap is bypassed, but the *potions* are shattered.

## 24. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S STUDY

This small room is dominated by a large wooden desk set against the southern wall. A weapons rack set against the northern wall holds two longswords and a spear. The desk drawers hang open, empty of anything.

Much like the captain's study, this place was ransacked by the brain gear's clockworks looking for anything useful to the brain gear as it formulates its plans.

## 25. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S ROOM

A bed sits against the southern wall of this room, its sheets and mattress torn and bloody. Blood stains the floor here, and a broken longsword lies on the floor beside the bed.

Much like the rest of the garrison, the executive officer was surprised and killed while sleeping, though not without putting up a fight, as his sword indicates. The blade is notched in several places, as if someone swung it against something extraordinarily hard, such as a stone wall. The resident of this room died fighting against the brain gear's stone golem.

## 26. CHAPLAIN'S STUDY

This room has been thoroughly ransacked and vandalized. A bent and twisted holy symbol to the war god Mithras hangs on the northern wall. Beneath it is the smashed and charred wreckage of a wooden desk. The ceiling here is stained black from smoke, and ashes coat the entire room.

The ogres, in a drunken stupor, decided to burn the contents of this room and **Area 27** to keep themselves amused. Nothing of value survived the fire.

## 27. CHAPLAIN'S STUDY

From the looks of this room, someone set off a destructive spell in here or hit it with flaming oil. The furniture — a bed, an armoire, and a small table — is little more than charred rubble. The ceiling is black from soot and smoke, while the walls are streaked with black stains from a fire.

As in **Area 26**, the ogres decided to start a blaze in this room a few days ago to help alleviate their boredom.

# THE OCCUPANTS OF THE FORT

Currently, 30 ogres and **Grimulak** (see **Appendix B**) occupy the fort. The ogres spend the vast majority of their time drinking and carousing in **Area 16**. To many of them, the occupation of the fort has become little more than an ale-soaked holiday. Grimulak claimed **Areas 22** and **23** as his own. He finds the ogres somewhat repugnant and spends most of his time either in his room dreaming up schemes to place himself atop the brain gear's chain of command or in the dungeons beneath the fort consulting with the clockworks that dwell there.

By day, 25 of the ogres sleep in **Area 16**, and another five sleep in **Area 20**. Grimulak spends his days in the dungeons below the fort, usually in **Area 2** (see **Act III** for details on the dungeons). At night, the ogres are much more active. About 15 of them spend their time in **Area 16**, drinking ale, eating food looted from **Area 10**, and entertaining themselves with arm wrestling, smashing furniture, or telling stories. Five more stand watch in **Area 20**, but these fellows usually keep a steady stream of ale coming from **Area 16** and pay the door little mind. Another five usually remain in **Area 17**, discussing among themselves plans for the future of the fort and lordling over the remaining stock of ale. Five ogres patrol the courtyard, making regular 10 minute circuits around the fort, while another five man the gatehouse. Grimulak is either in **Area 16** with his troops or by himself in **Area 22** (50% in each).

**Tactics:** In the event of an attack, the ogres' response is haphazard at best. No ogre wishes to appear weak by running for help to his fellows, thus unless the ogres overhear the sound of battle, they more than likely do not notice anything amiss. Whenever a fight breaks out, the ogres must succeed at a DC 13 Wisdom (Perception) check to notice. Modify this DC by +2 if the sound must go through a door to reach the ogres, by +10 if it must go through a wall and by +1

for every 10 feet between the ogres and the battle. To speed things up, make one roll for every five ogres in an area. Assume that the other ogres are simply not paying attention and are too wrapped up in drinking or talking. However, make an individual check for each ogre patrolling **Area 3** and each ogre on watch **Area 2**, as these fellows are on duty and more alert.

The ogres tend to charge forward in waves when confronted with an attacker. However, if Grimulak is alerted to a battle, the ogres attack with much more cunning. Grimulak's favorite ruse is to split the ogres into two groups and then send them to intercept intruders from two different directions. If a fight erupts in the courtyard, he may send half of the ogres out of the door at **Area 16** to the courtyard and the other half through **Area 18** in hopes of catching the attackers between two groups of warriors.

If confronted with a surprise attack, he orders the ogres to follow him out of the fort, hoping that his enemy thinks the ogres have broken and fled. Soon after, he rallies the ogres and leads them on a counterattack against the fort.

If Grimulak has advance warning of an attack, he uses his *invisibility* power to scout the fort and orders his ogres to scatter into small bands and search the fort. If possible, he uses *polymorph* to change himself into a human child. He tells the characters that he was taken prisoner during the attack of Hansonburg but escaped once he was brought here. He claims he hid in a warehouse at **Area 10** and has managed to avoid the ogres ever since. Once the characters let their guard down or if they run into a group of ogres, Grimulak waits for an opportune moment to unleash his *cone of cold*. If he can get a character alone for a moment, he attempts to use *charm person*. If badly pressed, he uses his ability to fly or *gaseous form* to escape the fort and flee the region.

The ogres have been quite bored lately, and they eagerly engage the characters in battle. Once 10 or fewer ogres remain, they break and attempt to flee the fort.

## ATTACKING OR INFILTRATING THE FORT

Trina and the caravan guards can provide the characters with a rough sketch map of the fort. While they can accompany the characters, Trina points out that a stealthy assault by a few well-armed warriors stands a much better chance against a horde of ogres that managed to conquer the entire fort. If the characters plan on scouting out the fort, returning, and then creating a plan that includes her and the guards, she readily agrees. Under no circumstance does she allow her entire command to enter the fort without thorough reconnaissance.

If Grimulak is taken alive, he tells the characters whatever they want to know to avoid losing his life. He readily agrees to any bargain that results in his going free. He can give the characters information on **Areas 1** and **2** of the first dungeon level (described in **Act III**) and also tells them of how the brain gear first contacted him and how he came to serve it. If asked about the raid on Hansonburg, he denies all knowledge of the attack and blames the bloodthirsty ogres for launching the raid on their own initiative. Of course, the Grimulak helped plan and launch the attack. He's simply smart enough to know that the characters will be much less lenient with him if they think he helped wipe out the village. If the situation seems desperate, he offers the party his *bag of holding* and all of the treasure within: 2,000 gp in coins, a silver coffer inlaid with gems worth 1,000 gp, a gold necklace set with a small red ruby worth 750 gp, and a jade figurine of a small dragon worth 250 gp. Grimulak carries the *bag* with him at all times.

## CHARACTER PLANS

Below are some ideas on common plans and how to handle them:

**Divide and Conquer:** The characters may use illusions or other tricks to turn the ogres against one another. Careful observation reveals that tempers are running high among the ogres and they seek any chance to come to blows with each other. An ogre must succeed at a DC 8 Wisdom save to avoid attacking another ogre if given a reason to do so, such as a crude insult or a perceived attack. Illusions such as *minor illusion* can prove very handy for distracting the bored and often inebriated ogres.

**Wait Them Out:** Morale is quite low amongst the ogres, and every day 1d4 of them desert the fort. If the characters remain in hiding and wait long enough, they can face a much weaker foe. However, there is a cumulative 10% chance per day that the brain gear creates a new flesh golem and a cumulative 2% chance that it creates a new iron one. Assign these creatures to defend the brain gear at **Area 21** of the dungeon level.

**Poison the Ale or Food:** The ogres drink exclusively from the ale kept in **Areas 16** and **17**, plus they gather their food from **Area 10**. Poisoning these supplies is an effective way to spread a venom to all the ogres. In addition, if the food or ale runs out, half the ogres leave the fort each day until none remains, at which point even Grimulak leaves the fort.

**Recruit the Captives:** The soldiers kept prisoner in **Area 9** are eager to avenge themselves against the ogres. Use the stats for **guards** for them, though they lack weapons and armor. Note, however that due to starvation and mistreatment, each has only 1d4 hp remaining unless healed.

## AFTERMATH

Once the ogres are driven from the fort, the characters may wish to fortify the place to ensure its security. Trina gladly takes command of this duty. The captives, if rescued by the characters, relate the tale of the fort's fall, confirming Trina's worst fears: Theodocius's experiments have somehow run wild. She insists that the characters head down into the dungeons beneath the fort, save Theodocius and anyone else trapped down there, and destroy the wizard's work before it can do any more harm.

If pressed for information on what's down there, Trina knows little. As Theodocius' junior apprentice, she was not allowed to take part in his most secret works. Only Captain Evrik, Theodocius' elder apprentice Bellek, and the master artificer himself were allowed in the dungeons. Trina can draw a map of the first level but knows nothing about the second dungeon level, which Theodocius kept secret even from his apprentices.

The guards eagerly volunteer to help the characters clear the dungeons, but Trina cautions against this, pointing out that the guards would be overmatched against anything down there, and given the cramped spaces, a large group of warriors would only hamper the characters' combat effectiveness. If the characters insist on taking some of the guards down to the dungeon with them, subtract 50 XP from their total for each guard killed in the dungeon, and be sure to divide all XP awards with any guards who survive the dungeon. The penalty is included because, as veteran adventurers, the characters should know that some situations are far too dangerous for novice warriors to face.

# ACT III:

## BENEATH DURGAM'S FOLLY

Once the characters eliminate Grimulak and his ogre minions, they are ready to take on their next challenge. The brain gear is the true threat behind the fall of Durgam's Folly. A wily strategist, it has devised a number of obstacles that those who invade its lair must overcome to meet and defeat it in battle. As noted in the introduction, Orcus has some interest in recovering the brain gear. One of that foul lord's minions is imprisoned within the dungeon beneath the fort and may prove to be a worthwhile, though untrustworthy, ally.

Emphasize the sense of claustrophobia in the dungeons. The corridors are narrow and the air is hot and moist. The environment here was designed for machines, not living creatures. **Areas 1** through **3** were built along with the rest of the fort by mundane means. Theodocious used *disintegrate* spells along with the help of summoned earth elementals to expand the dungeons. Thus, the first few rooms look hand constructed, while the remaining rooms have a smooth shiny quality to them that suggests a supernatural origin. The doors throughout the complex are high quality and are of superior construction. They have AC 15, 27 (6d8 hp), and can be smashed open with a successful DC 16 Strength check. The ceiling throughout the dungeon is 12 feet tall, unless otherwise noted.

The encounter areas described below have little interaction with one another. The brain gear's minions are mostly mindless automatons. While it directs them to some extent, it is often too busy to pay complete attention to their tasks. It fancies itself quite the skilled tactician and is completely confident that the defenses it devised are more than enough to thwart intruders.

If the characters spend a night away from the dungeon, particularly if they want to heal and regain spells, the brain gear is quite active while they are away. For every eight hours they spend out of the dungeon, one out of every ten clockworks they previously destroyed is repaired and redeployed by the brain gear's minions. Place these monsters as you wish within the dungeon.

### 1. MEETING ROOM

The stairway terminates in a 20-foot-by-15-foot chamber with doors to the north and west. A plain wooden table with two chairs set across from one another is in the middle of this room. The table and chairs seem made for creatures a bit larger than humans. Arranged at the edge of the room are what look like humanoid-shaped statues fashioned from scrap metal, lumber, and wagon wheels. With stiff, slow motions, the figures raise weapons that have been nailed to their crude limbs and move to attack.

This room is where the stone golem controlled by the brain gear and Grimulak meet to discuss strategy and the current status of the brain gear's plans. The 4 **clockwork warriors** (see **Appendix B**) stationed here are under orders to attack any who enter.

**Tactics:** The clockworks fight very effectively as a team. Under the brain gear's direction, they swarm toward lightly-armored wizards or sorcerers, as the brain gear is more than willing to lose a few foot soldiers to destroy a wizard. In addition, the brain gear is keenly aware that a spell such as *fireball* can quickly and permanently destroy his minions.

### 2. ORGANIC WORKSHOP

Before you is a sight straight from the Abyss. On a gore-soaked table are the dissected remains of a human male. His organs have been carefully set aside on a bench next to the table. Even more horrifying are the wood and metal contraptions that apparently have been inserted into his chest. The machines pump and shudder steadily. To your horror, the man raises his head and looks at you with glazed eyes.

The ghastly sight represents the latest experiment by the brain gear: an effort to create clockworks that look human but are actually under the brain gear's control. The poor fellow on the table is barely kept alive by the clockwork organs, though the agony has long since driven him insane. If any characters come close to him, the brain gear seizes control of him and he makes a pitiable attempt to lunge at the offenders. Though the attack is far too weak to threaten the characters, try to catch them off guard and startle them with it.

The brain gear normally takes control of a clockwork and uses it to carry out its experiments and work here.

Perched beneath the table and on the ceiling are 6 **clockwork drones** (see **Appendix B**). They attempt to shadow the characters and provide the brain gear with information on their plans and activities.

### 3. FAILED EXPERIMENT STORAGE ROOM

If the last room was some sort of laboratory, this room must be either a storage room or waste disposal area. Nearly stacked before you are over two dozen human corpses, each of which is missing at least one part of its anatomy. One lacks an arm, the other its leg. One looks as if something carefully opened its skull and removed the brain. The floor here is covered with blood and gore.

The brain gear has spent some time perfecting the art of flesh golem creation, and these unfortunates are all that is left of some of its less successful efforts. A few of the corpses have been infected with the brain gear's latest creation, the clockwork parasites. When the characters file out of the room, the corpses tumble aside as 6 **clockwork parasites** (see **Appendix B**), each missing some part of their anatomy other than an arm or leg, shamble after the characters, hoping to catch them from behind. Perhaps the head has been removed or the chest cavity is open and empty. Remember, the clockworks are not undead, so turning attempts do not affect them.

# DURGAM'S FOLLY DUNGEON



## 4. THE MAZE

This encounter area is somewhat difficult to run. Be sure to read through the entire description before running it. Note that there is no read-aloud text for this area. Ideally, the characters should have no idea that anything is amiss.

Theodocius struck on the idea that mobile walls could be of tremendous aid in redirecting and confusing invaders. Attackers would move down a corridor that seemed to lead to a passageway ahead only to have the walls shift and lead them elsewhere, while the passage behind them was suddenly blocked. He constructed this maze as a testing ground for this idea and planned on inviting a group of adventurers to test his creation. Now the brain gear controls it and uses it as an important part of its defensive plan. It has added a **gelatinous cube** that it lured here from the lower rooms to make this trap deadlier.

The maze as it appears on the map shows the starting position of the cube and the three mobile walls that Theodocius built. The mobile walls are built to be indistinguishable from the regular walls, but can be detected with a successful DC 15 Intelligence (Investigation) check. Anyone tapping along the walls for secret doors has an easier time detecting them (DC 13), as they simply sound different when vigorously tapped, owing to their construction. The **3 mobile walls** (see **Appendix B**) are essentially walls mounted at an angle on wheels. The wall section is mounted on a cart-like contraption that attaches to the back of the wall. When the wall is set to block a corridor, the cart tilts forward, placing the wall while hiding the wheeled cart used to propel it. If discovered, the walls attack and fight to the death, slamming into the characters with great force.

**Tactics:** The cube starts in the square marked with a “C.” The three mobile walls start as the wall sections marked with an “X.” The brain gear coordinates their actions. The walls attempt to lure the characters into the western half of the maze. They then unleash the gelatinous cube and attempt to catch the characters in a dead end.

## 5. GUARD CHAMBER

The sound of metal scraping against stone echoes down the hallway from the chamber ahead. A great shadowy form moves into view, filling the corridor with its bulk. A crablike metallic automaton lumbers down the corridor toward you, brutal-looking battlefists poised menacingly before its bulk moves to attack. It is only as the thing moves closer that you notice the smaller pair of wood and metal humanoid contraptions that shuffle along before it.

The brain gear ordered a combined unit of clockwork titans and clockwork warriors to hold this chamber against all intruders. They attack anyone who opens the door from **Area 4** south of this chamber.

**Tactics:** The **2 clockwork titans** (see **Appendix B**) and **3 clockwork warriors** assigned to this room work closely together to fight the characters. The warriors form the first rank of fighters, allowing the titans to rain attacks down on the characters while the warriors absorb melee attacks and regenerate. The warriors use the aid another action to make the titans’ attacks more effective. Note, too, that should a warrior fall, it still regenerates and may rise behind a character who steps over a fallen warrior to engage a titan.

## 6. HOLDING CELL

The air before you is thick with a vaguely blue haze. You can feel great tension in the air, as if a thunderstorm were about to erupt in this room, battering it with lightning and drenching it with a torrential downpour. Through the mist, you can see a humanoid figure struggling fiercely, as if it is attempting to sunder a set of chains that hold it in place.

The creature trapped here is **Gorrush Kar** (see **Appendix B**), a tiefling warlock and minor lieutenant in the dread demon’s infernal legion. He is the last surviving member of the team sent by Orcus to investigate the brain gear. He appears as a six-foot-six-inch tall human with crimson skin, short pointed horns, and eight-inch-long red fingernails. He wears only a black loincloth and is unarmed. The clockworks chained him here and the brain gear activated a series of powerful runes Theodocius had inscribed here that prevent fiends from using their natural magical abilities. Unlike most half-fiends, Gorrush has been granted the ability to *gate* back to Orcus’s realm once per day. The chains that bind Gorrush are made of iron. They can be broken with a successful DC 18 Strength check.

Gorrush begs for his freedom in a low, rasping voice. He tends to draw out “s” sounds, much like a lizard hisses. While diabolical to the core, he knows when he is outclassed and is willing to work with the characters to gain his vengeance against the brain gear. The fiend tries to convince the characters to allow him to accompany them, telling them that he has special knowledge of the brain gear’s weakness. In truth, he knows only that the brain gear is merely a magical intelligence encased in a copper box, rather than a clockwork or stone golem. (The brain gear commonly possesses the form of an unfinished stone golem. See encounter **Areas 14, 15, and 16** for more details.) Gorrush claims any number of things to sway the characters, including but not limited to claims that he has converted away from the cause of evil or that he is merely a victim of the brain gear, much like the characters.

If Gorrush accompanies the characters, he carefully watches them in battle. If they appear competent, he works with them to find the brain gear. He attempts to appear useful but keeps back from the fighting, unwilling to risk himself for the characters. Once in combat against it, he waits for the characters to engage the brain gear’s stone golem before rushing forward to grab the brain gear’s case and *gate* to Orcus’s realm. If the characters destroy the brain gear, he attempts to flee the dungeon if the characters have turned against him. Otherwise, he waits for an opportune moment to steal as much of the characters’ wealth as possible before slipping away into the wilderness.

## 7. STONE CHAMBER

This room is stacked high with lumber, iron ingots, sacks of nails, rope, and other supplies. A suit of chainmail hangs from a hook near the door, and a bronze battleaxe whose head has been modified to look like a leering demon’s head, its elephantine ears serving as the double-bladed axe’s cutting edges, leans against the wall.

The brain gear uses this room as a place to store raw materials necessary to construct new clockworks. The battleaxe belongs to Gorrush, and he claims it as his own if the fiend is with the party. If the characters make a thorough search of this room and succeed at a DC 15 Intelligence (Investigation) check they find a locked wooden chest containing a suit of *elven chain* and three potions: *heroism*, *clairvoyance*, and *mind reading*. The chest can be opened with

thieves' tools and a successful DC 15 Dexterity check. Theodocius kept these valuables here, and with the brain gear's revolt they have been forgotten.

## 8. WORKROOM

The floor of this room is covered with sawdust, cast-off pieces of lumber, and bent nails. Two long workbenches stand on the eastern and western walls. A humanoid-shaped wood and metal contraption draped with torn, red robes stands before the eastern bench, carefully carving a piece of wood.

The clockwork creature was once Theodocius's apprentice **Bellek** (see **Appendix B**). The brain gear removed his brain and installed it within a clockwork. Observant characters can note that human blood drips down the clockwork's head and spreads across its frame and robes. Now a half-mad thrall of the clockwork, the apprentice lashes out at intruders with his remaining magic spells. As the apprentice attacks, 3 **clockwork warriors** shuffle through the door leading to **Area 9**, moving to attack the characters and defend the apprentice.

**Tactics:** Bellek casts *blur* on himself first and then follows it up with *ray of enfeeblement* on the strongest-looking attacker. He saves *magic missile* and *acid arrow* for wizard types. The warriors attempt to protect Bellek at all costs.

## 9. CHAMBER OF THEODOCIUS THE FORGER

In this room, a clockwork contraption wearing gray robes and outfitted with what looks like a beard made of white cotton stands over a large, low-lying table. Lying on the table is the half-completed form of a clockwork warrior. The robe-clad clockwork looks up at you, seeming to almost sag visibly as it peers at you. From out of the shadows to the north strides a tall, sleek-looking construct. Its polished steel frame reflects your own image back at you.

The robe-clad clockwork is Theodocius (see **Tactics**, below), or what remains of him. Forced into servitude much like his apprentice Bellek, the archmage now seeks only death to release him from servitude. While incapable of speech, Theodocius attempts to make his wishes known as clearly as possible to the characters. Unfortunately for the part, his **shield guardian** does not let Theodocius go down without a fight. The brain gear embedded the guardian's amulet into the torso it crafted for Theodocius, dooming him to enjoy the protection of the shield guardian. Only if Theodocius is destroyed can the amulet be recovered.

If given a quill and parchment, Theodocius writes a note begging the characters to destroy him. He offers to point them in the direction of a magical item that may help them destroy the brain gear and giving them tactical advice. Hidden beneath Theodocius's robes are two *bolts of shattering* (see **Appendix A**) and a parchment that describes the brain gear's true nature and reveals the stone golem as little more than an empty vessel for its commands (see **Areas 14, 15, and 16** for details). Theodocius penned the note in hopes that someone powerful enough to defeat his shield guardian, and thus mighty enough to take on the brain gear, would someday come along to end his misery. Half-mad with pain and torn by grief at what his creation has become, the archmage seeks

the peaceful oblivion of death. He considers the information he has on the brain gear a fair trade for his final destruction and refuses to divulge his items or gear to the characters before they destroy him. He mentions information to pique their interest but does not reveal that he carries the items on his person, telling the characters instead that he can pass it along to them when the shield guardian is destroyed.

**Tactics:** The shield guardian relentlessly attacks anyone who threatens Theodocius, ceasing its assaults only when the attackers leave the room. It continues to protect Theodocius's dead body. The thing refuses to let Theodocius out of its sight. The guardian does not currently have a spell stored within it.

Don't award the characters any XP for destroying Theodocius, as the wizard makes no attempt to resist their attacks and has no spells prepared. He has no statistics and can be killed as an action by any adjacent creature.

## 10. ACCESS PIT

This room looks as if it served as the dumping ground for a mad inventor. Wooden beams, broken weapons, battered and cracked suits of armor, and other half-wrecked pieces of equipment litter the floor here, literally knee deep across the room. However, a five-foot-wide area has been cleared out directly in the center of the room. From your vantage point, it looks as if there is a hole in the floor there. To the right, a passageway opens up in the center of the north wall.

The garbage throughout the room is two feet deep. Theodocius used this room to store the results of failed experiments. While attempting to expand this room so it could hold more garbage, he opened a hole in the north wall with a *disintegrate* spell and gained access to the forgotten temple deep below Durgam's Folly. The pit in the center of the room was added to increase the capacity of this room. It is 20 feet deep and filled with five feet of garbage.

Lurking within the garbage are 3 **clockwork swarms** (see **Appendix B**), tiny colonies of clockworks that can rapidly create jury-rigged clockwork machines. The swarms use the garbage to form rigs capable of battling the characters. The clockworks then wait until the characters are close to the pit, then they surge from the garbage, seeking to knock characters down into the pit before scrambling after them for the kill. The swarms are nearly impossible to see in the garbage, although a successful DC 18 Wisdom (Perception) check allows a character to note a few tiny clockworks scurrying about.

## 11. ACCESS ROOM

Suddenly, the stonework of the passage gives way to a deep, black rock. Your light source gains a sickly greenish tinge to it as you enter this 15-foot-by-15-foot room. Bronze doors stand in the middle of the north and west walls. Each of the doors is intricately detailed with a leering demonic visage.

This is the first chamber of the old temple. The western door opens easily, but the northern door is locked shut. The lock is rather difficult to pick. It can be opened with thieves' tools and a DC 18 Dexterity check. The doors here are quite stout, as they are made of bronze rather than wood. They have AC 17 and 30 hit points and can be broken down with a successful DC 18 Strength check. The north door is kept locked to keep a rogue, berserk flesh golem safely contained in **Area 12**. A successful DC 15 Intelligence (Investigation) check reveals that



## GENERAL NOTES FOR AREAS II THROUGH 16

This area of the dungeon was once a hidden temple devoted to the demonic powers, including Orcus. Many years ago, a great champion of good destroyed the temple's residents and used powerful magic to seal it beneath a mound of earth. Durgam's Folly was built upon the resulting hill, and Theodocius' delving reopened the temple. Its strong aura of evil magic helped twist the brain gear and turn it to evil. Paladins and good clerics can almost feel the evil atmosphere as a tangible presence; *detect evil and good* reveals the entire place as evil. The stonework here is much older than the previous rooms and somewhat dustier, as far fewer creatures or clockworks have walked these hallways. The brain gear dwells here both for defensive purposes and because it finds the evil-tainted atmosphere somewhat soothing.

the door is somewhat pushed out of its frame, as if something from the opposite side has tried to batter it down. For every five minutes the characters spend in this room, there is a cumulative 25% chance the golem begins beating on the north door from the opposite side. Roll a Strength check each round to see whether the golem bursts through the door.

## 12. CHAMBER OF THE FLESH GOLEM

This long, narrow room is hewn from the same black stone as the rest of this area of the dungeon. A tall, stooped figure in blood-stained blue robes staggers about the room. Suddenly, it seems to notice you and turns in your direction. As it faces you, you can see that the figure is bleeding from scores of wounds in its chest and face, all of which have been hastily stitched shut. The figure lets out an enraged cry as it charges toward you, fists raised in fury.

This **flesh golem** was one of the brain gear's first experiments. After it went rogue, the brain gear managed to herd it into this room and lock it here with the use of its stone golem. It hopes someday to determine the cause of the flesh golem's berserk rage and repair it. Until then, the creature resides here.

The secret door in this room's north wall hides a small cache of gold and treasure left over from the temple's days as a powerful center of evil power. It contains 2000 gp stashed in a copper chest worth 300 gp, a +1 warhammer, and a spell scroll of three spells: *cure wounds*, *raise dead*, and *spiritual weapon*. If read out, these spells are cast as if with a fifth-level spell slot. The secret door can be found with a successful DC 18 Wisdom (Perception) check.

## 13. TEMPLE FOYER

The black rock in this chamber is streaked with misty red lines. Your light casts a reddish glow here, and the air is damp and oppressive. To the north is a pair of bronze double doors, while on the south wall stands a tall and narrow bronze door. As you scan the room, you have the strange feeling that the red streaks on the wall throb and undulate just at the edge of your field of vision, but when you turn to look at them, you see nothing amiss.

This room once served as a gathering place for the temple's dark disciples. Now it is the brain gear's penultimate line of defense. When the characters attempt to open the northern doors, the **flesh golem** from **Area 14** rushes out to attack them, bellowing in rage. At the same time, the **stone golem** in **Area 15** moves forward under the brain gear's control, ready to attack. The brain gear plans to trap the characters in **Area 13** and destroy them before they have any chance to threaten its physical case in **Area 16**. The flesh golem peers into **Area 13** through the keyhole set in the door to **Area 14**. Anyone searching the southern door for traps notices the golem's blank eye staring back through the keyhole. The golem has been specifically ordered not to attack until the double doors or the south door is opened. Thus, it takes no actions if the characters discover it before opening the door, unless they target it with attacks or spells through the keyhole.

If the characters try the south door first, the flesh golem still rushes out to attack. However, the stone golem waits a full five rounds before committing itself to battle, as the brain gear hopes that the characters will become so preoccupied with the flesh golem that they will leave themselves vulnerable to an attack from the north.

The stone golem is a construct specifically created by Theodocius for the brain gear. The brain gear can control the stone golem, much like a clockwork, so long as it is within two miles of the brain gear. In addition, the brain gear can speak while in control of the stone golem, using the construct not only as a powerful battle machine but also as its mobile voice. The brain gear uses the stone golem to meet and communicate with Grimulak, and it plans to continue to use it as a "spokesgolem" in the future. Feel free to allow the brain gear to gloat over the characters or otherwise reinforce the illusion that the stone golem is actually the brain gear. The brain gear looks down upon organic life as pitiable and weak and takes every opportunity to demonstrate its superiority through both words and actions. It taunts the characters and comments on how useful their bodies may be in constructing more flesh golems.

The stone golem's primary aim is to keep the characters from moving into **Area 15** and from there into **Area 16**, where the brain gear sits. The golems are more than likely a match for the characters, and if the party goes toe to toe with them they may very well be destroyed. If the characters aided Theodocius, they should have at least some idea that fighting the stone golem is fruitless. In addition, if Gorrush Kar is with the party he immediately rushes past the stone golem and heads to **Area 16**, seeking to claim the brain gear for his master. Most importantly, if the stone golem moves more than two miles from the brain gear (which happens if, for example, the brain gear was suddenly *gated* to the Abyss), the golem instantly collapses into pieces. This also occurs if the characters destroy the brain gear. Note that the flesh golem remains intact, as it is not a clockwork, and it continues to attack the characters.

## 14. TEMPLE CLOSET

This small room is bare of all furnishings and decorations. A plain wooden stool sits before the doorway, looking somewhat out of place in this dark dungeon.

This room is completely bare. The flesh golem keeps its watch while squatting on the stool, waiting for intruders to enter **Area 13** and spur it into action. If the characters somehow enter this room without opening the door, the golem ignores them and continues to keep a careful eye on **Area 13**. Of course, if it is subsequently attacked it defends itself.

## 15. TEMPLE OF DARKNESS

The **stone golem** stands here near the double doors, waiting to attack any intruders. This temple was long since thrown down by the forces of good, yet the corrupting influence of the dark powers can never be truly cleansed from this place.

This large chamber's vaulted ceiling rises above you, giving you an immediate sense of open space while at the same time almost suffocating you with an intense aura of dread and foreboding. Rows of stone pews stand in neat rows all facing a black, basalt altar at the eastern end of this room. A large stone goat's head is carved into the eastern wall. Just beneath the idol is a plain-looking bronze door.

The stone golem goes to great efforts to prevent any characters from reaching the door to the east. However, if the characters attempt to enter the door, the brain gear enters a bit of panic. It madly rushes the stone golem about, chasing down anyone who enters the room. Given the stone golem's slow movement and inability to run, most characters should be able to outrun it and buy a single character enough time to enter **Area 16**. The golem immediately charges after anyone who enters that room, ignoring all other threats.

## 16. INNER SANCTUM

A plain wooden table sits in the center of this small, square chamber. Set upon the table is a cube of copper surrounded by a pale blue nimbus of magical power. Beneath the table stands a plain wooden chest.

The copper cube sitting on the table contains the magical essence of the **brain gear** (see **Appendix B**). Smashing the cube disrupts the brain gear and destroys it forever.

**Treasure:** The unlocked wooden chest contains the brain gear's current treasury. The chest holds 3000 gp in coins; a set of emerald earrings worth 300 gp; a 16 inch-tall golden idol of a goat-headed humanoid worth 1200 gp; a black velvet bag containing eight small diamonds, each worth 150 gp; a single large ruby worth 4000 gp; a jeweled dagger worth 300 gp; and six golden ingots worth 500 gp each.

# CONCLUDING THE ADVENTURE

Once the brain gear is destroyed or taken to the Abyss, the clockworks collapse into little more than spare parts. While the animated walls in **Area 4** and the flesh golems still operate, the rest of the brain gear's minions fall to pieces. If the characters sent for reinforcements to retake the fort, they soon appear, and while the ruling house attempts to keep the facts surrounding this incident quiet, the characters are handsomely rewarded for their efforts, each receiving 10,000 gp in either coins or goods.

While this adventure is over, the story of the brain gear is by no means complete. Here are some ideas for continuing campaign play involving characters introduced in this module:

- If Gorrush Kar escaped with the brain gear, Orcus and his minions waste little time in decoding the secret of its manufacture. Orcus orders the construction of a great workshop dedicated to forging new brain gears and clockwork minions. The demon lord plans to use them as part of his infernal legions and earmarks several of the brain gears to

establish beachheads in the characters' homeland. Soon, clockworks are reported raiding communities in the Borderlands Provinces.

- If Gorrush Kar did not seize the brain gear but survived the adventure, he may swear vengeance against the characters and work to destroy them. His mission for Orcus was unfulfilled; the half-fiend has little choice but to remain in the prime material plane. He cannot return to the Abyss without facing Orcus's wrath. They wily fiend allies with whatever evil patron he can find and works tirelessly to ensure that he crosses paths with the characters in the future. Perhaps he plots to kidnap the characters' family members or other loved ones.

- Perhaps there are even more undiscovered galleries hidden beneath Durgam's Folly. Concerned for the fort's future security, the new commander asks the characters to explore the depths. An ancient lich lives deep beneath the fort, served by a variety of undead. In this realm of the dead, the lich is king and his court is composed of mummies, ghouls, and worse.

## APPENDIX A: NEW MAGIC ITEM

This appendix describes a new magic item found in this module. Other magic items are described in the Fifth Edition SRD.

### BOLTS OF SHATTERING

*Weapon (ammunition), rare*

These magical crossbow bolts look like regular missiles forged wholly from steel. You gain a +1 bonus to attack and damage rolls made with a weapon firing these bolts. If a target hit by a *bolt of shattering* is an object or construct, the target suffers 4d8 force damage in addition to the damage the bolt normally does. After dealing this bonus damage the *bolt of shattering* become a normal non-magical crossbow bolt.

# APPENDIX B: NEW MONSTERS

This appendix describes the new creatures found in this module. Other creatures are described in the Fifth Edition SRD.

## THE BRAIN GEAR

The brain gear began as little more than a disparate collection of gears, chains, counterweights, and levers. Theodocius sought to replicate and improve on the process used to grant golems their limited independence. Consulting an ancient text of golem lore, Theodocius constructed the thinking element of a golem, dubbed the brain gear, with two important changes. First, he built the brain gear on a much larger than normal scale, allowing him to create a more complex brain than regular magical routines could allow for. Second, rather than create a brain solely from the essence of magic, Theodocius manufactured large parts of it with mechanical constructs to create a more durable, easier to produce, and cheaper design. Unfortunately, Theodocius failed to account for an important variable. A golem's mental essence is normally created from magic because the process involved is as foolproof as possible. Given how unstable golems can be, particularly flesh and clay ones, adding further nonmagical variables to the mix only increased the instability and unreliability of the brain gear. Theodocius hoped to combat this effect by using magical items and historical artifacts from honorable heroes and brilliant generals. If the brain gear's physical essence were composed of items with honorable legacies, Theodocius reasoned, then the brain gear's mental essence would follow suit.

Unfortunately for Theodocius and the Fort Prudence garrison, the brain gear developed a malevolent intelligence and quickly threw off the controls Theodocius placed upon it. However, the gear was far too wily to lash out at its creator. For the first week of its life, it spent many hours pondering the riddle of its existence. The items used to construct the gear had a radically different effect on its development than Theodocius expected. The brain gear absorbed the ambient memories and deeds associated with the items. From them, it grew to love conflict, war, and tactics, as Theodocius had hoped. However, rather than forming an affection and kinship with humanity, under the influence of the dark forces Theodocius accidentally unleashed, it learned that the vast majority of humans are weak, fractious, and self-centered. The brain gear decided that it had no desire to serve such masters. True, the occasional hero broke the typical human mold, but the brain gear reasoned that it had but a miniscule chance of ever falling under the leadership of a true hero. Instead, it decided to forge its own fate. In secret, it built its army of servitors. Using them as its eyes and ears and drawing upon the tactical and strategic lessons it learned from its inherited memories, the brain gear struck without warning, overwhelming the garrison and killing or capturing every last living thing in Fort Prudence in a matter of minutes.

The brain gear is now primarily concerned with improving its own capabilities in order to launch its own campaign of conquest across the land. The brain gear is smart enough to know that when weeks pass without word from the fort, someone will arrive to investigate. To give itself the best chance at victory in its unavoidable conflicts with outsiders, the brain gear has retreated into the dungeon level of the fort. There it has further modified itself, expanding to take up several rooms and building more guardians to man the fort. The upper level of the fort has been given over to defensive constructs.

**Statistics:** The brain gear is a large thinking machine, not unlike the vintage, room-sized computers of the 1950s. Destroying a brain gear is rather simple in theory. Smashing the gear's primary casing — a copper box two feet long and a foot tall that contains the magical essence of the gear's personality — is enough to disperse the gear and bring its minions to a grinding halt.

**Challenge Rating:** By itself, the brain gear is little threat to adventurers. It is immobile, it has no attacks, and its spells are incapable

of harming its opponents. The brain gear relies on its clockworks to defend it from invaders and further its plans. However, since clockworks farther than two miles away from the brain gear fall out of its control, the gear must ally with organic beings to influence the world around it. The brain gear serves as a mastermind that hides behind others when opposing the characters. Thus, it has no challenge rating.

**Abilities:** The brain gear is gifted with a few special abilities. First, it can take control of other constructs designed by Theodocius, as it was designed to interact with them and command them much like a general. These other constructs are listed below. Any creature of the clockwork subtype of constructs that comes within two miles of a brain gear immediately falls under that gear's control. If more than one gear is in the area, randomly determine which one claims the wayward clockwork. When a clockwork moves more than two miles away from a brain gear, it continues to perform the last order it was given, but there is a 25% chance per hour that it ceases to function and collapses into a pile of junk. If a brain gear later moves within two miles of the destroyed clockwork, the clockwork can reactivate if it has the regeneration ability. Otherwise, it is permanently destroyed.

The brain gear can take direct control of any clockwork within two miles of its position. It can use this ability to instantaneously jump from clockwork to clockwork, keeping tabs on all of its thralls and seeing the world through their senses. The brain gear can switch control from one clockwork to another once per round as a free action. The brain gear uses this ability to give commands to its clockworks, allowing the usually mindless creatures to fight with highly coordinated tactics. Each clockwork is capable of receiving roughly 100 words worth of orders. Anything beyond that is too complicated for the clockwork to handle.

The brain gear also has limited ability to send psychic messages. Once per week, it can cast a *dream* spell. The brain gear can contact multiple creatures with one casting by designating a generic creature type to cast, such as ogre or human. This effect affects every member of the target type within a two-mile radius of the brain gear.

## THE BRAIN GEAR

*Huge, construct (clockwork) lawful evil*

**Armor Class** 17 (natural armor)

**Hit Points** 52 (5d12 + 20)

**Speed** 0

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
0 (–5)	0 (–5)	18 (+4)	18 (+4)	17 (+3)	12 (+1)

**Damage Immunities** poison, psychic

**Condition Immunities** charmed, exhaustion, petrified, paralyzed, poisoned

**Damage Vulnerabilities** cold, fire, lightning

**Senses** darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 13

**Languages** common

**Challenge** 1 (200 xp)

**Control box.** The brain gear's consciousness is housed in a small brass box. If removed from the rest of the 'body' the clockwork is incapable of taking any action or regenerating. The brain gear has resistance to damage from all attacks that do not target this control box.

**Control Clockwork.** The brain gear can take over and enhance any clockwork creature within 2 miles. As a bonus action it can issue commands to up to 5 clockwork creatures within the control area. When a clockwork is issued a

command, it can use its reaction to take either an attack, dash, or hide action.

**Dreams.** The brain’s gear can cast the *dreams* spell once a week, and can affect multiple creatures with one casting (see below). The brain gear uses Intelligence for this spell.

**Immobile.** The brain gear automatically fails any Dexterity saving throws.

**Regeneration.** The clockwork has built in processes that rebuild damaged parts. It regains 5 lost hit points at the start of its turn. If it takes acid, cold, or fire damage it does not regenerate at the start of its next turn after suffering this damage. If reduced to 0 hit points the clockwork ceases to function, but if not destroyed with acid, fire, or cold, the clockwork reforms in 1d8 hours.

## CLOCKWORK WARRIOR

Clockwork warriors are constructed from a wide range of materials but take the same general form of a six-foot-tall humanoid with oversized hands and a stiff, shambling gait. In battle, clockwork warriors rely on relentless wave attacks to overwhelm their foes. They are far too slow to engage faster units and usually serve as the primarily defensive troops for a clockwork colony. Clockwork warriors are usually formed of cast-off equipment and detritus scavenged from battlefields. They all feature a “nervous system” of thin steel wires that control the clockwork’s individual pieces. Tiny clockworks that look much like metallic cockroaches infest the warrior, working to repair damage and capable of rebuilding a destroyed clockwork. Acid, cold, and fire damage destroy these maintenance clockworks and prevent the warrior from regenerating damage. Unlike clockwork swarms (see below) the clockworks that repair the warrior lack the intelligence and sophistication to tackle any other task.

When facing the enemy, clockwork warriors typically move forward and attempt to immobilize and kill their foes. The warriors are designed to take advantage of their great strength, often utilizing grapple and bull rush attacks to overwhelm foes.

## CLOCKWORK WARRIOR

*Medium construct (clockwork), unaligned*

**Armor Class** 16 (natural armor)  
**Hit Points** 13 (2d8 + 4)  
**Speed** 20 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
18 (+4)	8 (–1)	15 (+2)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)

**Damage Vulnerabilities** cold, fire, lightning  
**Damage Immunities** poison, psychic  
**Condition Immunities** blinded, charmed, exhaustion, frightened, petrified, paralyzed, poisoned  
**Senses** darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 10  
**Languages** none  
**Challenge** 1 (200 xp)

**Dependent clockwork.** This clockwork is dependent on the control zone of the brain gear and falls inert if more than 2 miles from the brain gear.

**Regeneration.** The clockwork has built in processes that rebuild damage parts. It regains 5 lost hit points at the start of its turn. If it takes acid, cold, or fire damage it does not regenerate at the start of its next turn after suffering this damage. If reduced to 0 hit points the clockwork ceases to function, but if not destroyed with acid, fire, or cold, the clockwork reforms in 1d8 hours. The clockwork can regenerate lost limbs.

## Actions

**Slam.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 8 (1d8 + 4) bludgeoning damage

## CLOCKWORK PARASITES (THE POSSESSED)

Parasite clockworks are fist-sized constructs that resemble mechanical beetles. These clockworks burrow into the skulls of the recently dead and reanimate the body using electrical impulses to control and direct the corpse. The possessed, as the animated corpses were called by Theodocious, look like zombies at first glance, but a closer inspection reveals the fist-sized hole in the back of the head, wherein lurks the parasite. The possessed are even slower than zombies, as they rely on the parasite to move them and react to changing situations.

The possessed, much like clockwork warriors, rely on numbers and overwhelming force to defeat their enemies. However, parasites often attack from ambush. The parasites were designed to swarm over the battlefield, take control of the corpses lying on the field, and then ambush any enemies who moved across the field, rising from the ground to attack en masse. Spells such as *detect undead* or *detect magic* do not reveal the presence of the parasites, as the possessed are not undead and the parasite is hidden within the corpse’s skull.

## CLOCKWORK PARASITES (THE POSSESSED)

*Medium, construct (clockwork) unaligned*

**Armor Class** 13 (scale mail)  
**Hit Points** 15 (2d8 + 6)  
**Speed** 20 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
18 (+4)	8 (–1)	16 (+3)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	6 (–2)

**Damage Vulnerabilities** cold, fire, lightning  
**Damage Immunities** poison, psychic  
**Condition Immunities** blinded, charmed, exhaustion, frightened, petrified, paralyzed, poisoned  
**Senses** darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 10  
**Languages** none  
**Challenge** 1 (200 xp)

**Dependent clockwork.** This clockwork is dependent on the control zone of the brain gear and falls inert if more than 2 miles from the brain gear.

**Regeneration.** The clockwork has built in processes that rebuild damage parts. It regains 5 lost hit points at the start of its turn. If it takes acid, cold, or fire damage it does not regenerate at the start of its next turn after suffering this damage. If reduced to 0 hit points the clockwork ceases to function, but if not destroyed with acid, fire, or cold, the clockwork reforms in 1d8 hours. The clockwork can regenerate lost limbs.

## Actions

**Longsword.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 8 (1d8+4) slashing damage

# CLOCKWORK OVERSEER

The overseers are a recent invention of the brain gear. Theodocius never meant for the brain gear to control clockworks beyond a limited area. The first order of business for the ambitious, power-hungry brain gear was creating a new type of clockwork that could overcome this limitation. The overseer clockwork resulted from the brain gear's research. The overseer can journey up to ten miles away from the brain gear while maintaining contact with it. In addition, the overseer acts as a sort of field commander for the brain gear, controlling clockworks beyond the brain gear's reach. The brain gear plans to improve the overseers, hoping to extend the range and allow for the creation of fully functional armies that can terrorize civilized lands.

The overseer looks like a three-foot-tall wooden doll with long, slender limbs. It moves with uncanny grace and a speed and fluidity that belies its mechanical origin.

The overseer avoids direct combat at all costs. The brain gear expended considerable time and resources designing it, and it is thus under orders to avoid fighting. Unless backed into a corner with no escape route, the overseer attempts to flee.

**Independent Clockwork.** As described above, the overseer can move beyond the brain gear's normal area of influence while maintaining contact with it. Normally, the brain gear can control only clockworks that are within two miles of its position. The brain gear can control an overseer that stays within 10 miles of its position. In addition, the overseer can act as a field commander for up to 20 hit dice worth of clockworks that are within 100 feet of its position. These clockworks are considered to be in contact with it.

# CLOCKWORK OVERSEER

*Small, construct unaligned*

**Armor Class** 18 (natural armor)  
**Hit Points** 6 (1d6 + 3)  
**Speed** 40 ft

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
8 (–1)	18 (+4)	16 (+3)	15 (+3)	14 (+2)	14 (+2)

**Damage Vulnerabilities** cold, fire, lightning  
**Damage Immunities** poison, psychic  
**Condition Immunities** blinded, charmed, exhaustion, frightened, petrified, paralyzed, poisoned  
**Senses** darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 12  
**Languages** common  
**Challenge** 1/2 (100 xp)

**Clockwork Control.** The overseer can operate outside of the direct control of the brain gear, up to 10 miles away. As a bonus action the overseer can issue commands to up to three clockwork creatures it can see within 60 feet. When a clockwork is issued a command, it can use its reaction to take either an attack, dash, or hide action.

**Relay.** The overseer can operate outside of the direct control of the brain gear, up to 10 miles away. If within this zone, it functions as the brain gear for dependent clockworks.

## Actions

**Slam.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.  
*Hit:* 1 (1d4 – 1) bludgeoning damage

# CLOCKWORK SCOUT

Clockwork scouts are designed to serve as the mobile eyes and ears of the clockwork colony. While still restricted by the two-mile radius they must remain within to keep contact with the brain gear, scouts serve an important role as reconnaissance, patrol, and pursuit troops.

Scouts are constructed to resemble animals commonly found in the area that the brain gear operates within. This camouflage helps them move about unnoticed and gives them the opportunity to strike from ambush.

Clockwork scouts prefer to attack from ambush. Often, they climb trees and leap down upon opponents. If they come across an enemy, the brain gear may direct them to sneak into the camp and steal equipment or carry off water, food, and other necessities. Usually, the brain gear prefers to hold scouts back from combat. Only if the scouts have a chance to strike from a devastating ambush does the brain gear order them into battle.

# CLOCKWORK SCOUT

*Tiny, construct (clockwork) unaligned*

**Armor Class** 19 (natural armor)  
**Hit Points** 11 (2d4 + 6)  
**Speed** 40 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
8 (–1)	18 (+4)	16 (+3)	10 (+0)	16 (+3)	10 (+0)

**Skills.** Perception +5, Stealth +6  
**Damage Vulnerabilities** cold, fire, lightning  
**Damage Immunities** poison, psychic  
**Condition Immunities** blinded, charmed, exhaustion, frightened, petrified, paralyzed, poisoned  
**Senses** darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 15  
**Languages** none  
**Challenge** 1/2 (100 xp)

**Animal appearance.** Clockwork scouts are constructed and disguised to appear like animals commonly found in their area. A successful attack or a successful DC 15 Intelligence (Nature) or Perception (Wisdom) check reveals the clockwork scout's true nature.  
**Dependent clockwork.** This clockwork is dependent on the control zone of the brain gear and falls inert if more than 2 miles from the brain gear.

## Actions

**Slam.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.  
*Hit:* 1 (1d4 – 1) bludgeoning damage

# CLOCKWORK DRONE

The clockwork drone is a human eyeball encased within a flat, metal disk. Imbued with magic that allows it to fly, the drone has an approach typically marked by the low buzz of its tiny gears and pistons, which work furiously to maintain the magical field that allows it to fly. These clockworks are designed to act as observers. When the drone has found an advantageous position from which to maintain its watch, it uses a small, metallic claw on its underside to attach itself to a surface.

Drones usually avoid combat at all costs. When pressed into fighting, they prefer to aid their fellow clockworks by distracting their enemies.

## CLOCKWORK DRONE

*Tiny, construct (clockwork) unaligned*

**Armor Class** 20 (natural armor)

**Hit Points** 5 (1d4 + 3)

**Speed** 20 ft, fly 60 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
6 (–2)	18 (+4)	16 (+3)	12 (+1)	14 (+2)	8 (–1)

**Skills.** Perception +4, Stealth +6

**Damage Vulnerabilities** cold, fire, lightning

**Damage Immunities** poison, psychic

**Condition Immunities** blinded, charmed, exhaustion, frightened, petrified, paralyzed, poisoned

**Senses** darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 14

**Languages** none

**Challenge** 1/2 (100 XP)

**Dependent clockwork.** This clockwork is dependent on the control zone of the brain gear and falls inert if more than 2 miles from the brain gear.

### Actions

**Slash.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.

*Hit:* 6 (1d4 + 4) slashing damage

## CLOCKWORK SWARM

Clockwork swarms are a collection of tiny, insect-looking clockworks that work together as a single creature. An individual member of the swarm poses little threat. But, when acting in concert, the swarm poses a deadly threat to adventurers. Much like the clockwork warrior, the clockwork swarm forms a fighting frame from random pieces of trash, debris, and other cast-offs. The swarm, however, is much more capable of adapting to new situations and surviving combat. Unless the individual components of the swarm are destroyed, it simply reforms and continues to attack. Area of effect attacks, such as burning oil, *fireball*, or *lightning bolt* are the most effective means of destroying the swarm.

A clockwork swarm typically appears as a ramshackle collection of spare parts and garbage draped in a thick, web-like substance and arranged in a vaguely humanoid form.

The swarm prefers to lie in wait and strike from ambush, collecting innocuous-looking piles of debris that adventurers overlook as harmless but that the swarm is capable of quickly forming into a combat-worthy frame.

## CLOCKWORK SWARM

*Medium swarm of Tiny constructs (clockwork) unaligned*

**Armor Class** 16 (natural armor)

**Hit Points** 45 (6d8 + 18)

**Speed** 40 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
14 (+2)	18 (+4)	16 (+3)	8 (–1)	12 (+1)	6 (–2)

**Damage Resistances** bludgeoning, piercing, slashing

**Damage Vulnerabilities** cold, fire, lightning

**Damage Immunities** poison, psychic

**Condition Immunities** blinded, charmed, exhaustion, frightened, grappled, petrified, paralyzed, poisoned, prone, restrained, stunned

**Senses** darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 11

**Languages** none

**Challenge** 3 (700 XP)

**Dependent clockwork.** This clockwork is dependent on the control zone of the brain gear and falls inert if more than 2 miles from the brain gear.

**Regeneration.** The clockwork has built in processes that rebuild damage parts. It regains 5 lost hit points at the start of its turn. If it takes acid, cold, or fire damage it does not regenerate at the start of its next turn after suffering this damage. If reduced to 0 hit points the clockwork ceases to function, but if not destroyed with acid, fire, or cold, the clockwork swarm reforms in 1d8 hours.

**Swarm.** The swarm can occupy another creature's space and vice versa, and the swarm can move through any opening large enough for a Tiny creature.

### Actions

**Pincers.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, reach 0 ft., one target in the swarm's space. *Hit:* 13 (2d8 + 4) piercing damage

## CLOCKWORK TITAN

The clockwork titan appears as a huge, crablike, mechanical monstrosity. The titan has a saucer-shaped main hull with four spindly legs that sprout from its underbelly and allow the titan to move with surprising speed and agility. Two iron-shod battlefists are mounted on the front of the titan's hull, giving it excellent reach in combat.

In battle, the clockwork titan relies on its reach to keep opponents back. Quite often, the brain gear attempts to deploy its titans to rain blows upon enemies without fear of any counterattack.

## CLOCKWORK TITAN

*Large construct (clockwork), unaligned*

**Armor Class** 21 (natural armor)

**Hit Points** 85 (10d10 + 30)

**Speed** 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
20 (+5)	12 (+1)	17 (+3)	8 (–1)	8 (–1)	8 (–1)

**Damage Vulnerabilities** cold, fire, lightning

**Damage Immunities** poison, psychic

**Condition Immunities** blinded, charmed, exhaustion, frightened, petrified, paralyzed, poisoned

**Senses** low-light, darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 9

**Languages** common

**Challenge** 3 (700 XP)

**Dependent clockwork.** This clockwork is dependent on the control zone of the brain gear and falls inert if more than 2 miles from the brain gear.

**Regeneration.** The clockwork has built in processes that rebuild damage parts. It regains 5 lost hit points at the start of its turn. If it takes acid, cold, or fire damage it does not regenerate at the start of its next turn after suffering this damage. If reduced to 0 hit points the clockwork ceases to function, but if not destroyed with acid, fire, or cold, the clockwork titan reforms in 1d8 hours.

# CREATING A CLOCKWORK CREATURE

“Clockwork” is a template that you can add to any nonconstruct corporeal beast, giant, or humanoid. Any creature that gains this template becomes a construct (clockwork), regardless of its original type.

- Challenge.** The creature’s challenge does not change.
- Senses.** The creature gains darkvision 60ft., unless it already has it.
- Damage Vulnerabilities.** The creature gains vulnerability to cold, fire, and lightning damage.
- Damage Immunities.** The creature immunities to poison and psychic damage
- Condition Immunities.** The creature gains immunities the following conditions: blinded, charmed, exhaustion, frightened, petrified, paralyzed, poisoned
- Traits.** The creature gains the dependent clockwork or clockwork control, as above. Many have regeneration, as above.
- Slam attack.** The creature gains a slam attack that inflicts 1d8 bludgeoning damage per size category, or 1d4 for creatures of small or smaller size. This attack uses Strength for the to hit and damage bonuses.
- Alignment.** Always unaligned.

The clockwork can regenerate lost limbs.

## Actions

- Multiattack.** The clockwork titan makes two Battlefist attacks.
- Battlefist.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +7 to hit, reach 10 ft., one target. *Hit:* 23 (4d8 + 5) bludgeoning damage

# CLOCKWORK CREATURES

Clockwork creatures are living things that have been converted into mechanical monstrosities by the brain gear. They are gruesome in appearance, as the brain gear installs its victim’s brain and a few vital organs, such as the heart, into a mechanical shell. The resulting creation looks like a ghoulish clockwork creature. Its outer hull has the appearance of a humanoid iron and wood contraption, but the red blood that oozes from its joints and the pained cries for a merciful death that emanate from the clockwork betray its organic origin.

Clockwork creatures are an experimental attempt by the brain gear to improve on existing clockwork designs. The brain gear hopes to create the ultimate slave, a servant with the intelligence and flexibility of an organic creature but the unthinking obedience and slavish devotion of a clockwork.

## GRIMULAK

*Large giant, chaotic evil*

- Armor Class** 12 (chain shirt)
- Hit Points** 85 (10d10 + 30)
- Speed** 40 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
19 (+4)	8 (–1)	16 (+3)	16 (+3)	12 (+1)	15 (+2)

**Skill** Arcana +6, Nature +6, Stealth +2

- Senses** darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 11
- Languages** common, giant
- Challenge** 3 (700 XP)

- Innate spellcasting.** Grimulak’s spellcasting ability is Intelligence (spell save DC 13 +5 to hit with spell attacks). He can innately cast the following spells, requiring no material components,  
At-will: *darkness, invisibility, fly*  
1/day: *charm person, gaseous form, polymorph* (self only), *scorching ray, sleep*

## Actions

- Multiattack.** Grimulak makes two Huge Greatsword attacks.
- Huge greatsword.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, reach 10 ft., one target. *Hit:* 14 (3d6 + 4) slashing damage
- Huge longbow.** *Ranged Weapon Attack:* +1 to hit, range (150/600), one target. *Hit:* 8 (2d8 – 1) slashing damage

## GORRUSH KAR

*Medium humanoid (tiefling) chaotic evil*

- Armor Class** 13
- Hit Points** 44 (8d8 + 8)
- Speed** 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
14 (+2)	16 (+3)	12 (+1)	16 (+3)	11 (+0)	17 (+3)

- Senses** darkvision 60 ft, passive Perception 10
- Languages** common, infernal
- Challenge** 1 (200 XP)
- Innate spellcasting.** Kar’s spellcasting ability is Charisma (spell save DC 13, +5 to hit with spell attacks. He can innately cast the following spells, requiring no material components:  
At-will: *burning hands, charm person, detect magic, gate*  
3/day each: *darkness, invisibility*

## Actions

- Battleaxe.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d8 + 2) slashing damage

## MOBILE WALL

*Large construct, unaligned*

- Armor Class** 17 (natural armor)
- Hit Points** 45 (6d10 + 12)
- Speed** 40 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
17 (+3)	14 (+2)	14 (+2)	1 (–5)	5 (–3)	1 (–5)

- Damage Immunities** poison, psychic
- Condition Immunities** blinded, charmed, deafened, frightened, paralyzed, petrified, poisoned
- Senses** blindsight 60 ft. (blind beyond this radius), passive Perception 7
- Languages** —
- Challenge** 1 (200 XP)

**Antimagic Susceptibility.** The mobile wall is Incapacitated while in the area of an *antimagic field*. If targeted by *dispel magic*, the wall must succeed on a Constitution saving throw against the caster’s spell save DC or fall Unconscious for 1 minute.

**False Appearance.** While the wall remains motionless and isn’t moving, it is visually indistinguishable from a normal wall.

Actions

**Slam.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.  
*Hit:* 12 (2d8 + 3) bludgeoning damage

TRINA

Medium humanoid (human), neutral good

Armor Class 13  
Hit Points 22 (4d8 + 4)  
Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
10 (+0)	16 (+3)	13 (+1)	16 (+3)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)

Skills Arcana +6  
Senses passive Perception 10  
Languages common, draconic  
Challenge 1/2 (100 XP)

**Spellcasting.** Trina is a 4th level spell caster. Her spellcasting ability is Intelligence (spell save DC 13, +5 to hit with spell attacks). Trina has the following wizard spells prepared  
Cantrips (at-will): *light, mage hand, mending, prestidigitation*,  
1st level (4 slots): *detect magic, identify, sleep, unseen servant*  
2nd level (3 slots): *detect thoughts, hold person, scorching ray*

Actions

**Quarterstaff.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +3 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 3 (1d6) bludgeoning damage or 4 (1d8) bludgeoning damage if used two-handed

**Light crossbow.** *Ranged Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, range (80/320) one target. *Hit:* 7 (1d8 + 3) piercing damage

BELLEK

Medium construct (clockwork) neutral good

Armor Class 13  
Hit Points 22 (4d8 + 4)  
Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
10 (+0)	15 (+3)	13 (+1)	16 (+3)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)

Skills Arcana +5  
Damage Vulnerabilities cold, fire, lightning  
Damage Immunities poison, psychic  
Condition Immunities. blinded, charmed, exhaustion, frightened, petrified, paralyzed, poisoned  
Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 10  
Languages common, draconic  
Challenge 1 (200 XP)

**Dependent clockwork.** This clockwork is dependent on the control zone of the brain gear and falls inert if more than 2 miles from the brain gear.

**Spellcasting.** Bellek is a 4th level spell caster. Its spellcasting ability is Intelligence (spell save DC 13, +5 to hit with spell attacks). Bellek has the following wizard spells prepared  
Cantrips (at-will): *light, mage hand, mending, prestidigitation*,  
1st level (4 slots): *detect magic, magic missile, sleep, unseen servant*  
2nd level (3 slots): *acid arrow, blur, ray of enfeeblement*

Actions

**Slam.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +2 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.  
*Hit:* 4 (1d8) bludgeoning damage

# APPENDIX C: OPTION PACK

by Björn Strohecker

## INTRODUCTION

*The Siege of Durgam's Folly* includes a wilderness area to cross, a fort to free from an enemy's hands (or to defend from them), and a tricky dungeon, full of bizarre and surprising encounters, to explore. Maybe you want to challenge your players even more by adding a couple of options, which are intended to raise the overall difficulty of the adventure? Consider carefully if your players — and foremost their characters — are experienced enough to handle these extra challenges. Most of the material herein should make them sweat more than just a little ...

## OPTION 1: OGRES ON GUARD!

With this option, the ogres are expecting retribution for the destruction of Hansonburg and the brutal murder of its citizens, contrary to the behavior described in the original adventure.

The main gate is not open, and the ogres are on watch. On watch atop each tower are 3 or 4 **ogres**, and two units of 2 **ogres** each regularly patrol in the main courtyard (**Area 3**). The gatehouse (**Area 2**) is guarded by 2 **ogres**. Additionally, 2 **ogres** are guarding the entrance to the tower where the prisoners are kept (**Area 9**). If the party has any means to spy on the fort before entering it, these two guards provide the clue the characters need to locate the prisoners. Any ogre who detects an enemy within Durgam's Folly or its perimeter immediately cries out an alarm and attacks fiercely, if in range.

If a major alarm is sounded (i.e. if the party's intrusion is detected), Grimulak prepares for battle and enters the scene after 1d4 + 2 rounds. Should Grimulak be defeated, half of the remaining ogres try to flee, while the other half retreat to the inner keep (**Area 15**) where they hope to better defend themselves better.

**Tactics:** If you decide to use this option, your party will face a much harder time getting into Durgam's Folly. The following tactics should lead to a success. These are given as examples. If your players come up with a different plan, you should let them try it. If you are certain the characters are going for a suicidal plan, you may wish to give them a hint or two that there may be better solutions.

- **The Trojan Horse Tactic.** The characters may try to convince Trina to hand them over one of the caravan's wagons. The characters can hide inside the wagon and provoke an attack by the ogres. The coachmen then flee, and the wagon will be taken inside the fort to be looted. Alternatively, only one stealthy character might hide in the wagon and then try to find a way to open the gates for the remaining characters and caravan guards.

- **The Secret Tunnel.** This tactic requires using **Option 2: The Secret Tunnel** (see below) as well. Using this secret passage secures undetected entry into Durgam's Folly.

Once inside, the next task is to defeat more than two dozens ogres as well as Grimulak,

## A LITTLE HELP, PLEASE?

If your players are having serious trouble devising a good tactic to handle the situation, you may want to provide some helpful hints:

- **Create a Diversion!.** While the majority of the characters remains

on top of the tower (**Area 5**) firing ranged attacks, one stealthy character might try to arm and free the prisoners, who are held in the north-eastern guard tower (**Area 9**). Just when the ogres recover from the shock of being under fire from above, the freed prisoners burst out to overwhelm them!

- **Signal the Attack!.** The party may also want to have the caravan guards move as close to the fort as possible, hide, and wait for a signal from them to start their attack (i.e. if they managed to open the gates.)

In any case, the party should try to make up a good strategy, either one of the above, a combination of all the above, or some other plan that might seem fitting and promises success with little losses. You should make it clear to all of your players that a straightforward attack without any strategic plan will most probably lead to their certain deaths.

## OPTION 2: THE SECRET TUNNEL

A secret passage enters Durgam's Folly. Thevik and Uli know about it and tell the characters where to find the entrance, if they are convinced that the characters are fully trustworthy. Neither Theodocious nor Trina is aware of this passage. None of the senior officers ever trusted the mage and his apprentice any farther than they can spit.

The entrance is located about 2,000 yards southeast of the fort, hidden beneath a couple of bushes. A large, seemingly out of place monolith marks this colony of briars. To find the trapdoor, the briars must be cut or burned away. The latter is not a good idea, however, as the ogres in the southeast tower (**Area 5**) might spot the smoke. Still, the door lies hidden 5 inches below the soil, so a successful DC 13 Intelligence (Investigation) check is required. If the party searches successfully, they find a round, iron trapdoor that is 3 feet in diameter. There is a handle attached to it that allows a character to lift it open. Below the trapdoor, a tube-like manhole of the same diameter as the door leads 30 feet straight into the darkness. An old, rusted iron ladder makes climbing down an easy task. Though the ladder looks badly damaged, it is sturdy and holds the weight of any adventurer. This manhole is too tight to allow more than one Medium creature to climb into it at a time.

The man-made tunnel is roughly 2,000 yards long and only five feet in diameter. It is filled with stale water to a height of 3-1/2 feet. It leads to the basement of the southeast tower (**Area 5**) of the fort. The exiting manhole is identical to the entry shaft in all respects.

This was an old sewer that was never finished and was subsequently forgotten by about everyone except for the fort's senior officers, who keep it as a secret flight passage. It slightly descends slightly toward the center at 1,000 yards and ascends again afterwards. At the tunnel's center, a crack in the wall allows the water to leak in.

The central 100 yards of the tunnel is completely underwater, which forces the characters to dive and swim through. The characters may want to make sure it's passable by having the best swimmer among them explore the tunnel to find out. Point out that the characters must dive through the cramped tunnel in complete darkness with possible obstacles in their way (i.e. debris from parts of the ceiling that have collapsed, etc.). The entire tunnel is in a bad state of decay.

The tunnel allows characters an easier way to enter Durgam's Folly undetected, but also soaking wet and quite tired. Nevertheless, once inside the fort, the characters better have a good plan if Option 1 is used!

- **Thunderstorms!** To further increase tension, you may wish to have a heavy thunderstorm come up. Once it starts raining, the water level in the tunnel starts rising rapidly, which should put the characters under substantial time-pressure. The passage will be completely

flooded within one hour after it starts raining and will be impossible to pass for at least three days, unless the characters can cast *water breathing* or similar spells. Three days is a long time for the ogres' captives in the fort...

• **The Wight's Retreat.** You still might want to add even more danger to this passage. Insert Rainier the **Wight**, who is lurking in the tunnel. This poor soul is actually one of the men from the garrison, who tried to flee from the murdering clockworks to find help. He drowned in the tunnel and, due to the presence of the nearby temple of Orcus, he rose as a wight only days later.

This passage is his lair, and he immediately attacks any intruders. Also, more of his comrades rot here. Currently, two male, humans corpses are here, one of them badly torn from a fall into the tunnel. Neither of the dead have risen as wights for some reason. Rainier leaves the tunnel at night to hunt and kill (he wants company). He always uses the exit outside of Durgam's Folly.

If you decide to use this encounter, reduce the DC for the Intelligence (Investigation) check to find the entry to the tunnel to 11. The briars may be removed completely or partially as well. Rainier only conceals the trapdoor while he's out to prey.

Rainier still has his purse hanging from his belt, a small leather bag, containing 12 gp, 21 sp and a small, gold framed picture of maybe 1-1/2 inches in diameter showing a beautiful, human female. The inscription on the back of the frame reads: "*I Love You for Eternity! A thousand hugs and kisses, Sally.*" The frame is worth 10 gp if sold.

If the party decides to find out who the poor soldier was before he turned into a wight and then seek out Sally and return the picture to her, they should receive an appropriate experience award.

**Note:** Entering Durgam's Folly through this passage is pointless, if **Option 1: Ogres on Guard!** is not used. Should you decide to leave the ogres off guard but add the tunnel anyway, I suggest you bring in Rainier the **wight** to make the tunnel a more dangerous encounter.

## OPTION 3: USEFUL THINGS

Adventurers often find many useful things during their adventures. *A potion of gaseous form* may well save the day, while a magic weapon is one of an adventurer's basic needs, and a set of *+1 lock picks* can possibly open the gates to the treasure chamber. Some items are very different, however. They are vicious booby-traps.

The brain gear thinks ahead, very much like a chess master. It figured that the ogres will not hold Durgam's Folly for too long, so it came up with a cunning idea.

To subdue more potent enemies, such as experienced adventurers, it constructed a set of insidious tools as a bait for intruders. It ordered Grimulak to place them in Theodocious's study (**Area 7**). These are intended to help the brain gear gather information about its possible enemies.

When the party enters Theodocious's study, it is empty (as described in the adventure) except for a single supply crate. Its lid has been cracked open and it is mostly empty. At the bottom of the crate are six identical metal boxes, each one five inches long, five inches wide, and one inch thick. They are wrapped in a soft cloth seemingly to prevent damage.

All of the boxes have an anti-magic coating to conceal their magic nature. The coating, which looks like glossy paintwork, can be scratched off. Only after doing so can spells like *detect magic* and *find traps* work on the boxes. The surface is slightly irregular and seems to be composed of small metal sticks about the size and shape

of common matches. Embedded on the top of each box is a compass and a small lamp. The lamp can be turned on and off by using a button on top of each box. To the right of each button there is a small symbol, resembling a stylized sun. Furthermore, each box holds a retractable pocket-lens in its side, which can be extended sideward. It may also come in handy for a rogue trying to pick a lock.

Experienced characters might find it suspicious that such useful items were simply abandoned. But this multi-functioning tool is a goodie an adventurer just won't leave to rot. That's the catch.

In truth, the boxes are Spymaker Clockworks. They are completely mindless in and of themselves and do not need contact to the brain gear to function. They merely follow a simple program. If stored in a backpack, and the backpack is worn, the spymaker detects the body's warmth and burrows its way through the backpack on its six retractable legs and pierces into the victim's spinal cord with a retractable stinger. There, it injects a tiny thorn through it and then retracts the stinger, leaving behind one of its thorns. The victim feels nothing but a slight stitch in the back. Unless this is investigated within one hour, in which time the entry wound is still visible, she or he will not notice anything. No roll is needed to hit. The spymaker does not lose any of its functions until all of the thorns are used up. It just seems to be the item it always used to be. Each of these insidious clockworks is loaded with a maximum of twelve thorns. If the last thorn is used, the spymaker ceases to function entirely. It cannot be repaired or reloaded in any way.

While moving in the target's backpack, other characters who have a clear view on it who succeed on a DC 13 Wisdom (Perception) check notice something moving in there.

Only full plate armor protects from being stung in the way described above. Every character wearing a spymaker's thorn in the back becomes an unwilling and unaware spy of the brain gear.

Within three hours after the injection, each victim must succeed at a DC 15 Wisdom save or the brain gear is able to see, hear, smell, taste, and feel everything the character does. This effect works to a distance of up to five miles from the brain gear.

Even worse, the victims are in no way under the control or influence of the brain gear, they will probably not find out what they carry in their spinal cord until they come within a 30-foot range of the master clockwork. At this range, as a bonus action, the brain gear may attempt to inflict damage on any creature with a thorn in it. The target creature must succeed on a DC 13 Wisdom saving throw or suffer 16 (3d10) psychic damage.

If the brain gear falls to Orcus's hands, there soon might be more than one of its kind. See the description of this option in the main module. The thorns work with any brain gear, so the characters are in for some future surprises should they fail to detect and remove them.

To remove a thorn, all that is necessary are a set of tweezers and a calm hand. A successful DC 18 Dexterity (Medicine) check removes a thorn. This procedure is completely painless for the victim, who feels nothing except for another slight stitch.

When first found, the party has little chance to discover the hidden functions of the spymaker clockworks. As mentioned above, magic means will only reveal its magic aura or the trap if the coating is scratched off before casting the spell.

**Note:** This option can be used independently from Option 1 and Option 2. Even if you decide to use them, you don't have to use this one. It's all up to you.

If you use it, the brain gear most likely knows what the characters are up to, any time after one of them was injected with a spymaker's thorn. The brain gear's *harm* ability may strike at them even before they enter the inner sanctum and leave them most vulnerable. You should carefully consider this before adding this option to the adventure.

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# THE SIEGE OF DURGAM'S FOLLY

By Mike Mearls

## Travel To A Distant Outpost

Durgam's Folly sits at the edge of the kingdom, an embattled outpost against the evil creatures of the wild. You travel with a caravan to that distant fortress, transporting mysterious cargo. But as you approach your destination, something is amiss. A local hamlet is in ruins. Strange creatures patrol the land. Has the famed fortress finally been overthrown?

## Battle An Unexpected Foe

The Siege of Durgam's Folly includes maps of the fortress of Durgam's Folly and the chambers beneath. This book details a strange new set of monsters that will plague your campaign for years to come. Can your players learn the dark secrets of this distant fortress? And in the end, will your party discover who or what is truly behind the siege of Durgam's Folly?



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