



The Black Ruins Massacre – part 4

Cygnar



So far...

The undead army of Bane Witch Agathia and the lightning-bearing knights of Major Maddox of Cygnar arrived inexplicably at the same time to the black ruins...a mysterious ruined temple jutting from the overgrown forest of an unexplored territory. Folk tales from the fishermen and shepherds spoke of powerful runes singing within the very masonry of the walls.

The temple was split into two equal halves by a massive stone door-less wall, making a riddle of the very architecture.

Before the full-on clash of the two opposing forces, two enormous and hideous statues appeared along the eastern wall, one on either side. As if encouraged to slaughter, the two armies slammed into one another.

Cryx's Bane Witch Agathia has lost most of her forces in the slaughter and is alone in the eastern courtyard. Three Raiders are within sight of Cygnar's Major Maddox; but engaged with her mighty Ironclad and unable to break away...

Major Beth Maddox



Bane Witch Agathia

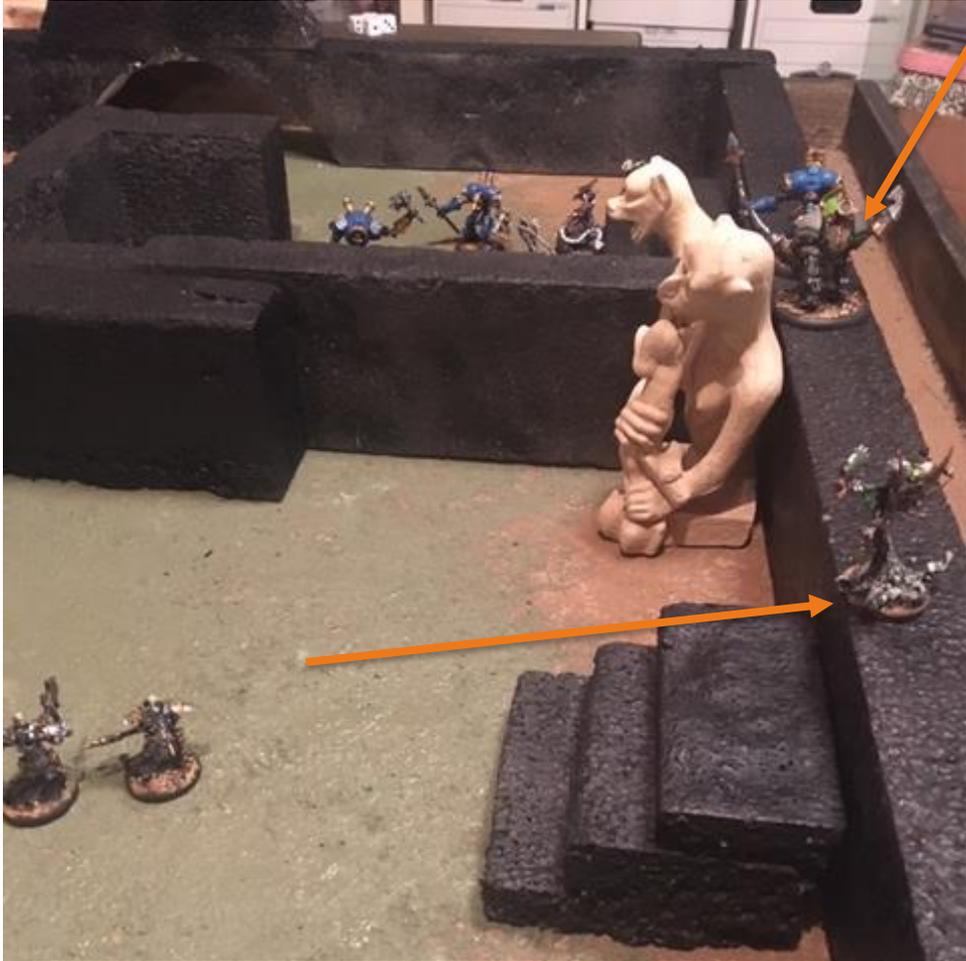


Cryx



☐☐☐ The Bane Witch moves into a defensive position...

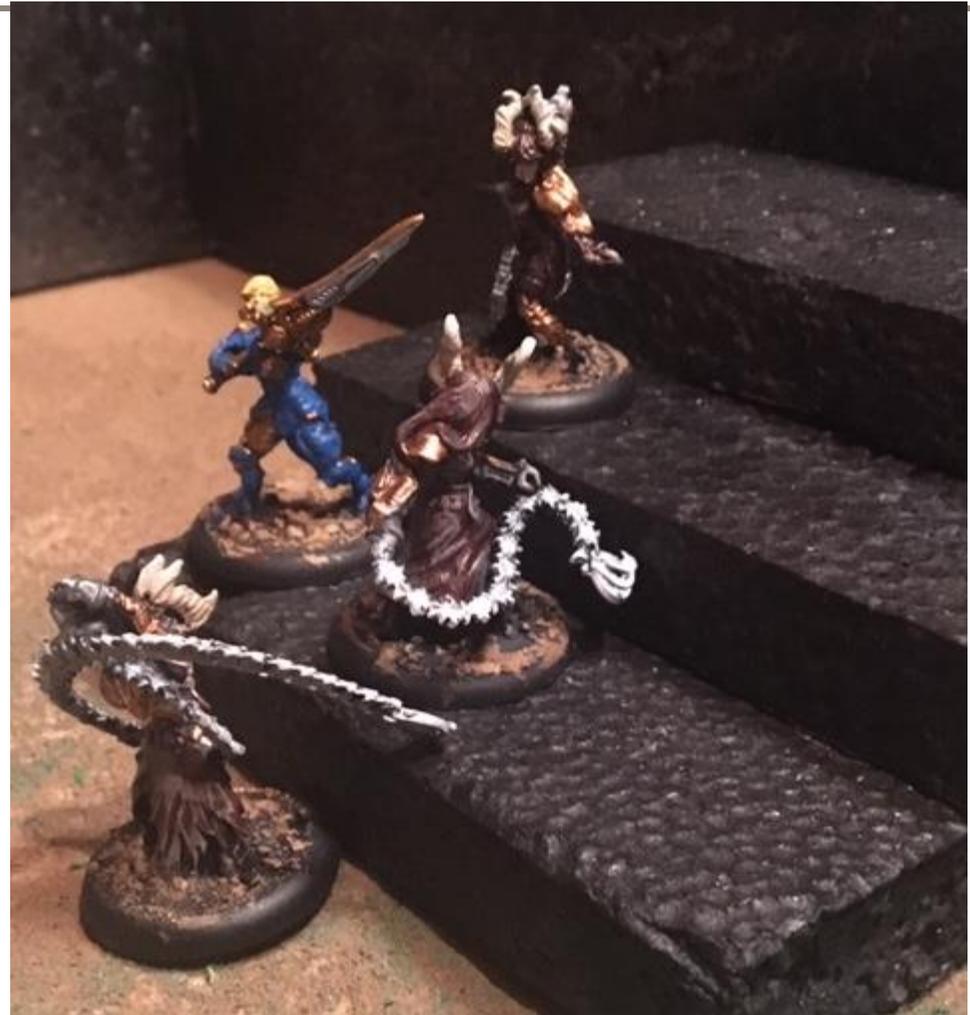
Agathia casts a protective spell on the Reaper to strengthen him as a buffer, magically assisting him to advance to the eastern wall. Reaper snags Lancer with his harpoon, hauling him in for a merciless beating. It isn't enough.



She both vanishes and runs up the stairs to perch on the eastern wall out of firing range of the advancing Gun Mages. If Reaper doesn't hold the line, she's practically defenseless and must rely on somehow splitting Cygnar's forces to take them out one by one while on the run.

...and makes a surprisingly bold, magical raid!

It seemed the Raiders couldn't break away from mighty Ironclad without him getting in a free shot, which would have meant certain death for them.

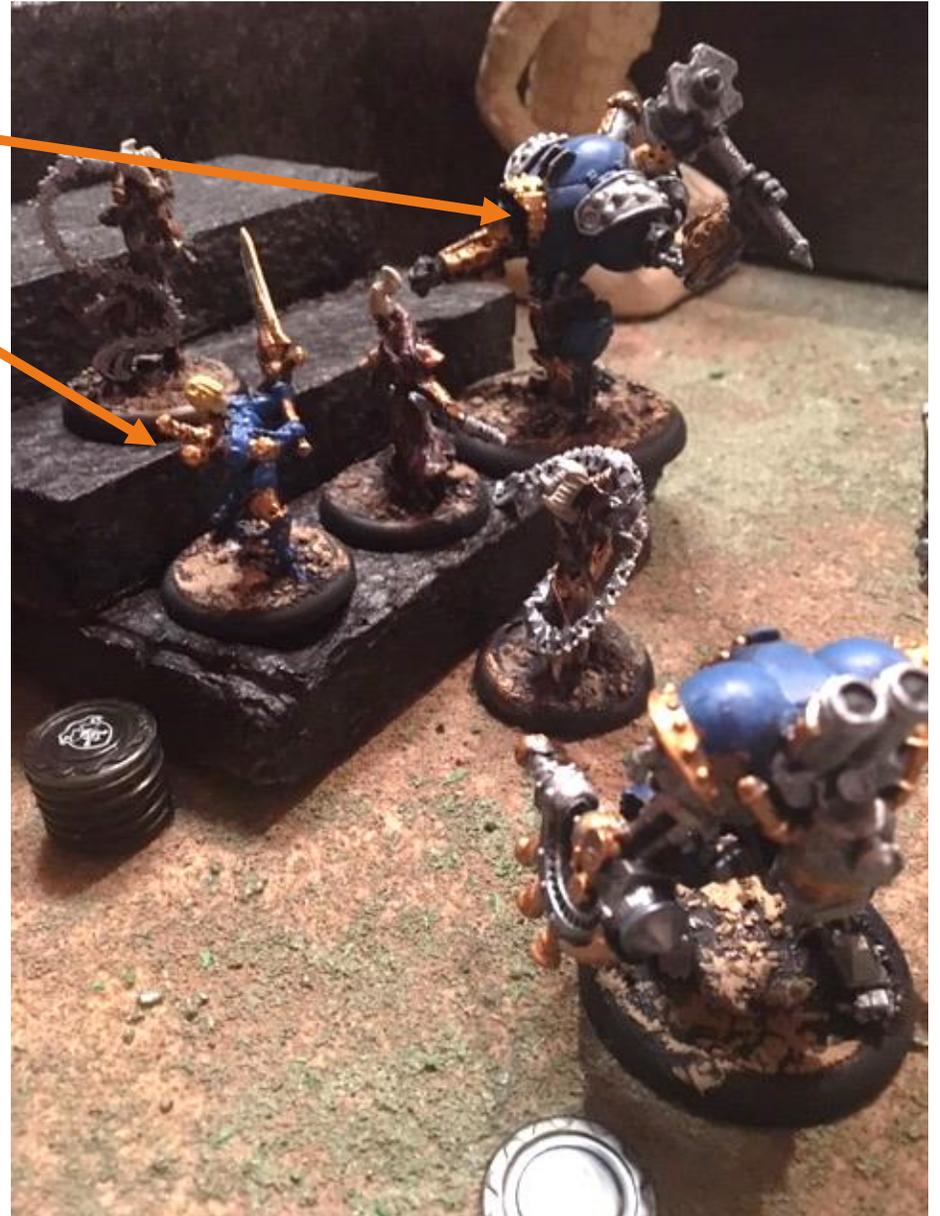
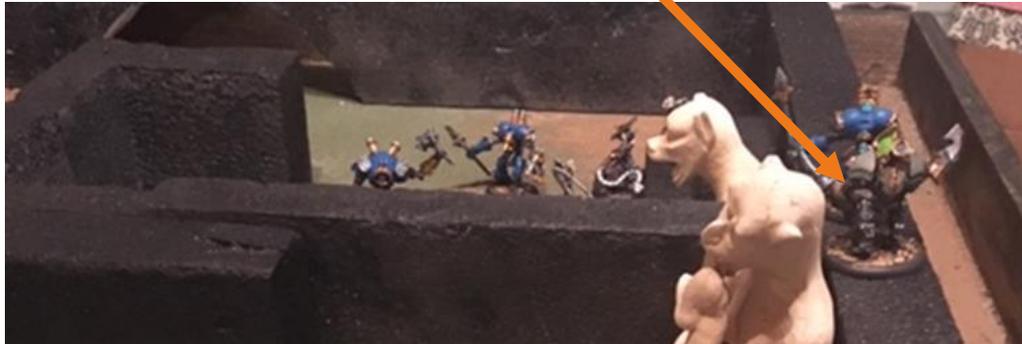


But Agathia's sorcerous Shadowfall spell makes them spirits, enough to free them for a charge directly into Major Maddox, inflicting terrible damage to her!

Major Maddox's forces decimate the Raiders

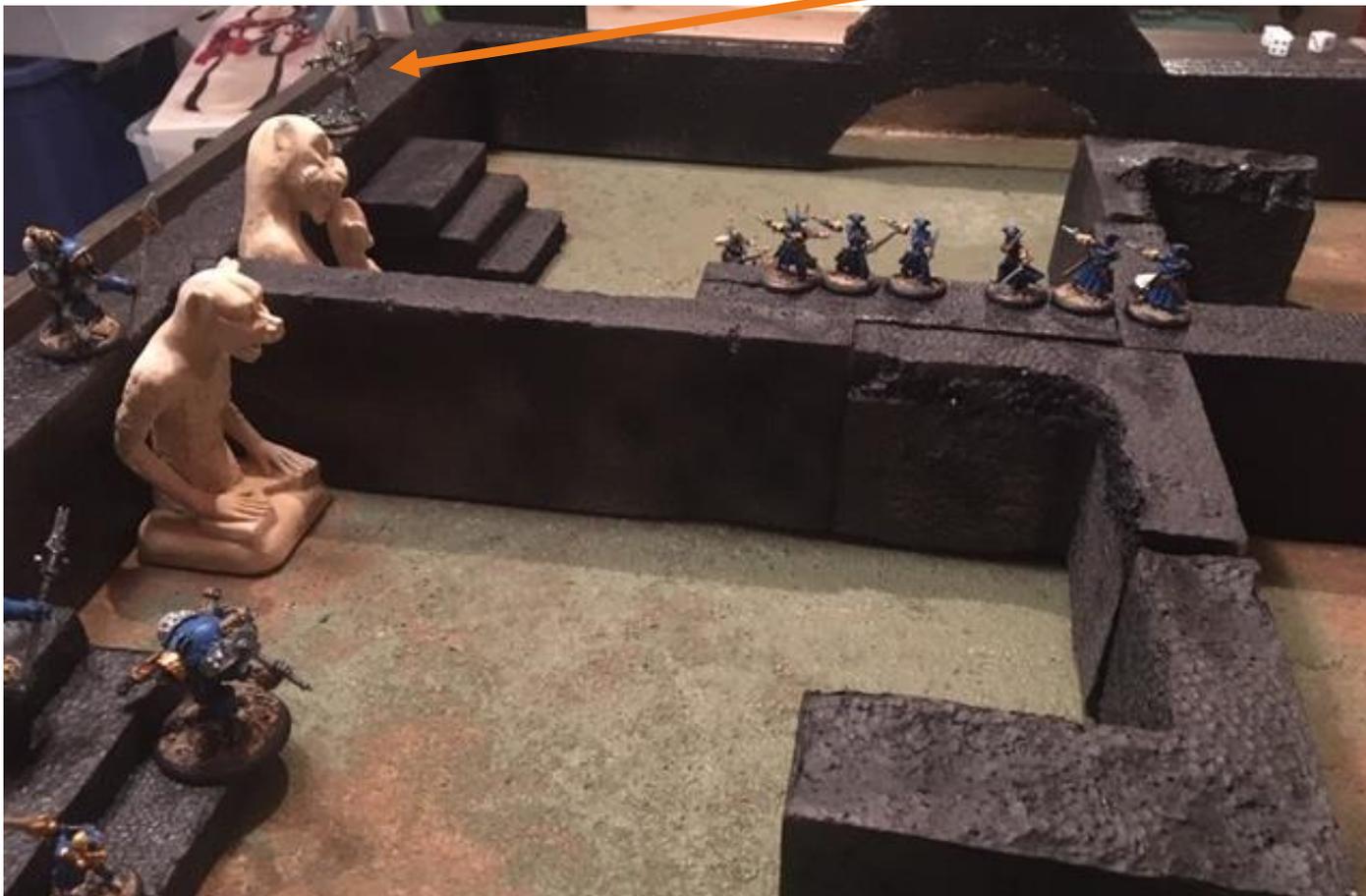
The Raiders knew their assault on Major Maddox was a suicide run; and it was. Mighty Ironclad joins the Major on the stairs and smashes the heads of two Raiders. Major Maddox slices the third Raider in two with her Tempest sword.

The Major channels two electrical blasts through Lancer on the wall, inflicting terrible damage on Reaper



- Major Maddox's retribution leaves Agathia almost entirely alone, her own forces largely intact and racing into position for the kill shots.

Lancer finishes Reaper, clearing the path to Agathia on the wall.



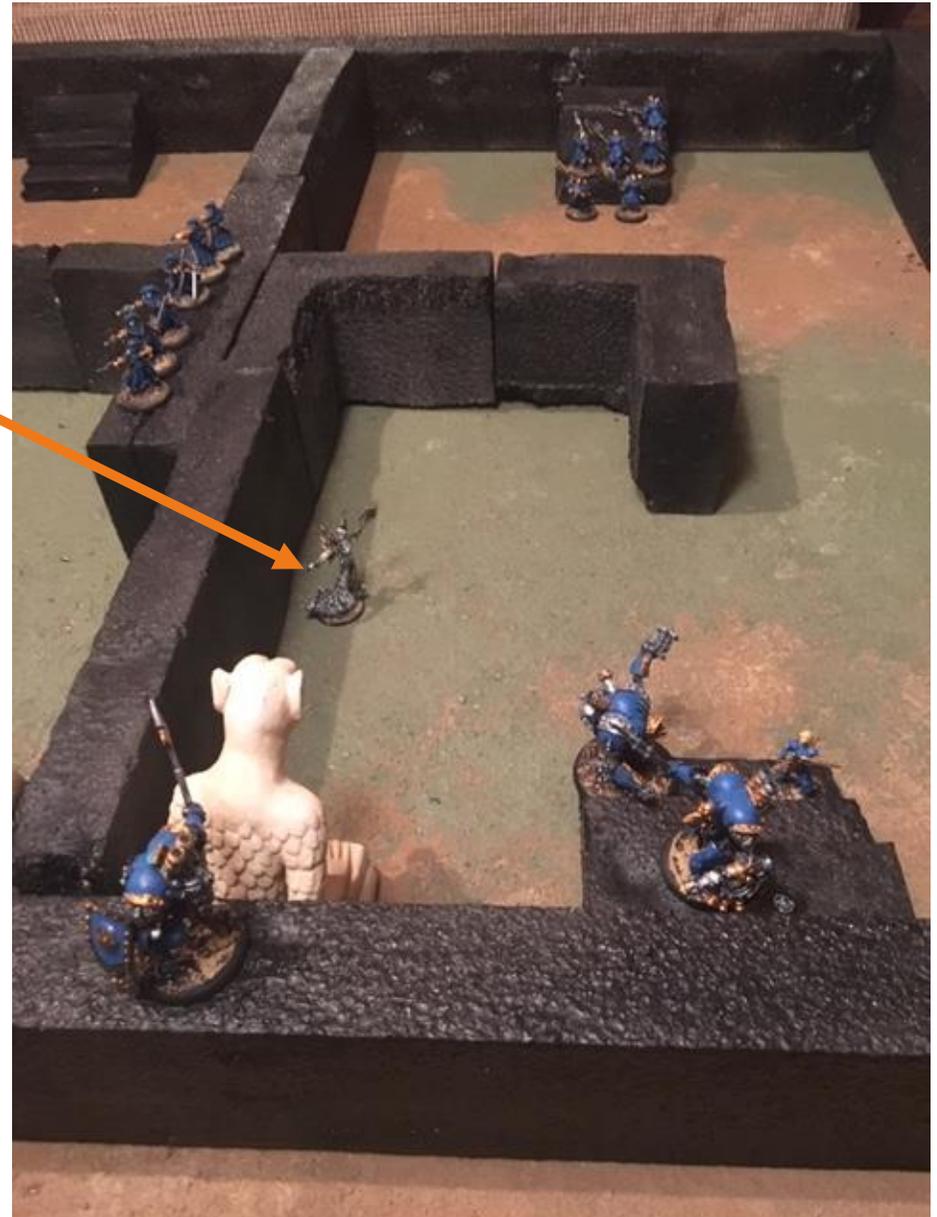
Stormguard races up the western stairs in a flanking run behind Agathia, while the Gun Mages advance into devastating position on the central wall. Agathia is alone but for two Bane Knights who are uselessly out of range in the eastern courtyard.

— The Bane Witch bets it all on another suicide run!

Agathia decides on an insane rush through the central wall directly into the far eastern courtyard in the middle of Maddox's strongest forces. If she doesn't finish the Major, there will be no escape for her.

She only has enough sorcerous reserves for two Hellfire spell attacks; and the first one misses.

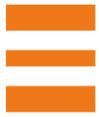
She grits her wolf teeth, inhales deeply, and takes a final shot with crackling green energy bolting from her fingertips.



And sorcery wins the slaughter in the black ruins!

Agathia's second attack overwhelms the Major,, choking the life from her within arm's reach of the Major's warjacks. As the Major takes her last breath, her warjacks wander off; and the Gun Mages and Stormguard retreat into the night.





The mystery of the black ruins...



A stone mausoleum fades into existence, crystalizing from the very shadows just like the mysterious statues had done before the slaughter. Tombstones arise from the rocks and dirt . A blue glow shines from inside, beckoning.

A murky voice speaks, “The split-temple was to separate the flesh from the bone. The one studied the sorcery of the mightiest skin and sinew, how to construct a true and powerful guardian for the ages. The other studied the skull and bones. For two hundred years we crafted alchemical experiments unseen by one another. The howls and the moans proved we weren’t ready. Then the earthquake cut our time short.”

Agathia bites her lip, curious. She can smell the power. There’s an unearthly howl in the distance, possibly attracted by the familiar light.

“Rebuild our temple. It’s the only way to deal with what’s coming! Rebuild!”

Agathia grins wickedly and licks her bloody lips...