The Khadoran invaders were not the only ones to profit from the fall of Llael. The chaos of the invasion and subsequent occupation was fruitful for many of Llael’s less ethical citizens, especially those who already operated in the shadows of organized crime.

Established over a decade ago as a loose collection of pickpockets and thieves, the Red Kings have survived brutal gang wars, the invasion, and the occupation, all without taking a side in the larger conflict. The Red Kings might not be the most powerful gang in Merywyn, but they have held their own against Llaelese rivals, resisted the influx of Khadoran bratyas, and evaded the authorities for years. They have done dirty work for employers on every side of the Llaelese conflict and possess a reputation for ruthless practicality.

The gang’s membership varies between ten and fifteen associates as individuals are arrested, killed, or flee the reach of the law, but its core members have been through thick and thin together for the past five years. The gang operates out of the basement of a tenement in an industrial neighborhood. The building is otherwise vacant and is in such poor shape that the Khadoran 1st Army has designated it unsuitable for the quartering of troops.
FYNNE DI VINIANI

Di Viniani grew up with the Red Kings and has led the gang as their undisputed boss since 603 AR, after stabbing the previous leader to death in the aftermath of a botched robbery resulting in the deaths of three gang members. A large man in his early thirties, di Viniani is given to few words and harbors a dislike of rash decisions.

Under his direction, the Red Kings have weathered years of turmoil and developed a reputation for patience and pragmatism among the often-foolhardy criminal gangs of Merywyn. Though di Viniani prefers for the Red Kings to focus on pickpocketing and extortion rackets, he is not above engaging in the occasional armed robbery. In a fight he relies on his trusted hand cannon and banded club.

MORNA PETORK

Morna Petork is the sole member of the Red Kings to evoke the Gift of Magic, which she wields as a powerful fire sorceress. Like di Viniani, Petork has been a member of the gang since her youth and has proven herself as both a clear thinker and a powerful asset in a fight. Di Viniani’s trusted second-in-command, Petork is treated with equal measures of fear and respect by the other gang members.

Petork is quick to anger—perhaps a feature of her Umbrean heritage—but she is also a quick thinker, traits that make her an excellent complement to di Viniani, with his preference for ponderous thought and preparation. She rarely takes part in the day-to-day muggings and purse cuttings of the gang’s rank-and-file members, since her responsibilities for making sure her compatriots pay their dues and stay in line take up the lion’s share of her time.

LUKA “LEFT FIST” ISTORI

A veteran of the Khadoran Winter Guard who chose to stay in Merywyn at the end of his service, Luka is a notorious bruiser for the Red Kings. His presence alone intimidates the gang’s rivals, and he has garroted over a dozen men and women in his few years as a member.

He first encountered the gang after murdering a former member who attempted to rob him at gunpoint in a dockside tavern during the first months of the Khadoran occupation. He cut the man’s throat and had calmly returned to drinking his beer when di Viniani and the other Red Kings returned to the tavern. Confronted by the gang, Istori asked, “Need a new recruit? Maybe one who’s less stupid and better armed?” di Viniani recruited him on the spot.

Since then the Khadoran has been the gang’s most brutal and competent enforcer. Luka employs the garrote when dealing with high-profile enemies of the Red Kings, and the lengths of braided red cord he uses for the task have become a calling card of sorts, letting the lowlifes of Merywyn know the consequence of crossing the gang.