

Hezla Fort Ruins

General Comments:

The general area consists of a high hill to the west, separated from the plain below by a 50 metre high rugged and rather steep cliff, from which issues the Galios Stream, which in turn flows into Lake Arexia to the east.. The area is lightly wooded.

[DM Note: there is a bear trap on the path to the ruined castle, with poisoned metal spikes at its base – obviously not for just bears!]

Features:

A: Fort Hezla (ruins) – the ruins of a castle initially erected by the Themisian Kings to keep the hostile Grim (orcs) and other monstrous beings in check. After 2 successful purges of the region, and the Themisian Civil War, the castle was abandoned and has since fallen into ruins over the last 200 years.

B: Herinos Village (ruins) – the village that grew up about the castle has also been abandoned, though about 50 years after the castle was vacated. The last hardy soul died just under 200 years ago, and the weather has taken its toll (though strangely, not as much as one would have thought)

C: Galios Falls – these issue from the cliff face originating from an underground river which reaches the outer world from a cave hallway up the cliff.

D: Fallen Statue – An ancient statue thought to have been erected by the original Hellenes who came to settle here, over 1000 years ago – again abandonment and weather, not acts of deliberate destruction, resulted in its present ruined state.

E: Stone Circle – Erected by a tribe of grim (orcs) who settled here about 500 years ago, and were eventually wiped out by the Themisians from Fort Hezla. Their ghosts are still said to wail around the stones, where they were all herded up and massacred, down to the last woman and child. (let's hear it for the orcs, now).

F: Depression – an oddly regular and round depression about 10 metres deep. No-one has really investigated this.

[DM Note: The original site of the Portal Gate below was initially open to the sky, but later roofed in by magical forces. The 'roof' has sunk somewhat since.]