



presents

*A Wizard's guide to the second
Wizard War*

Part 3:

The Second Battle of Hogwarts



Introduction, or, What Came Before

Few, if any, of the battles during what is now called the Second Wizard War cannot trace their origins back to the first attack on Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry by the forces of He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named.

It is this battle - and the total withdrawal of the Death Eaters which sent massive waves through the magic community of the time. That a force, formed of students - children no less - aided by a handful of teachers were able to not only hold their own, but repel an army decades in the making, and led by the most feared Dark Wizard in history is nothing short of astounding.

While the exact events are, to this day, largely unconfirmed, some information is known about its own origin. After the death of Albus Dumbledore, and the appointment of Severus Snape as his successor, control of Hogwarts was largely regarded as being in the hands of the Death Eaters. This control lasted for a period of only eight months, before a small force, led by celebrated hero-child Harry Potter, were able to force Snape and his supporters from the castle.

As a result of losing control of the school, and therefore the valuable hostages inside, You-Know-Who's forces attacked Hogwarts. By all accounts, the battle initially went as should be expected. The forces of You-Know-Who attacked the castle, breaking through the few defences the students had been able to erect, and lay waste to those inside.

Reports claim that, on several occasions, former Death Eaters have claimed that their master showed mercy to the students, calling a truce in order to allow the defenders a chance to bury their dead, and to rethink their opposition. It is after this truce ended that the battle appears to break from all expectations.

The hatred You-Know-Who held for the boy-hero, Harry Potter, has never been in question. It is his apparent desperation to destroy the child that, this writer humbly suggests, led to his own downfall. On no fewer than six occasions during the First Battle of Hogwarts, Harry Potter was reported to have been captured by Death Eaters, only to have escaped immediately after. Had the Dark Lord not demanded that the boy be brought to him alive, what followed would have changed.

As the truce ended, Harry Potter, apparently giving into the belief which had been forced onto him from his birth - that he was the only one who could defeat You-Know-Who - challenged the dark wizard in a duel.



The duel between He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named and Harry Potter is, without a doubt, the defining moment of the First Battle. Against all logic, and probability, Potter was able to defend himself against the Dark Lord during the opening moments of the duel. At this point, this writer must defer to the words of Hermione Granger, who writes an account of the next moments in her memoir:

"Harry was brilliant. We had been fighting all night, yet he still stood and faced the man he had been fighting all his life. As we stood and watched, Death Eaters and students alike, Harry and [You-Know-Who] yelled at once, and cast their spells at each other. Magic crashed together, there was a blinding light that made us all shield our eyes until it passed, and when it did...they were gone."

A great deal of confusion surrounds this moment, experts in this field arguing that no spells exist that could achieve this effect, however the effect is agreed. Potter and the Dark Lord disappeared, entirely.



With their generals missing, confusion reigned for the barest of moments until the students were able to regroup. Having just witnessed the man whose wrath they feared above all else disappear before them, the Death Eater army broke and fled, leaving the students victorious.

For a period of several months, both sides largely ignored each other as they tried to come to terms with what had happened. Hogwarts School was a ruin, and the students mostly focused on rebuilding, and on their search for Potter. Led by Bellatrix Lestrange and Lucius Malfoy, the Death Eaters hunted desperately for their master, a task which grew harder with each defection.

In the end, believing that the key to their masters return lay in the place that he had disappeared, the Death Eaters again returned to Hogwarts, beginning with a rapid and successful strike to gain a foothold in the castle grounds - the common room and areas of Slytherin house.

Factions of Note

As with any conflict, the Second Battle of Hogwarts featured many different groups fighting with their own goals in mind. For the convenience of the reader, the major factions within this event have been outlined below.

NOTE: While the general descriptions of these factions may cause them to seem like cohesive units, the leadership of the larger groups differed significantly in their own approaches to these goals. *Fighting inside factions was often as fierce as the one against other groups.*

Students



While the idea of children in combat is abhorrent to many of us, in this conflict, it was the children who played the significant fighting role. Each student was encouraged to take a side in the combat, signing up with a general of either the Death Eaters or the Order of the Phoenix, and were reliant on their general for guidance and protection.

The students were responsible for many of the vital roles in combat and behind the scenes, providing supplies and services to vital locations, taking part in actual combat against all enemies - including their peers, and were instrumental in the hunt for the missing leaders.

Death Eaters

Anyone familiar with magical history, even in passing, will know the name Death Eater. For decades, their name was synonymous with fear, pain and hatred, and the worst of our kind flocked to their banner.

After the apparent death of their leader, and the subsequent defeat at the hands of children, the Death Eaters spent many months trying to re-establish their dominance in the areas they once controlled. During this time, several key figures rose to prominence (see section 'Dramatis Personae'). Under these generals, the Death Eaters returned to Hogwarts, seeking revenge for their defeat.

Order of the Phoenix

Created by Albus Dumbledore during the First Wizard War, the Order of the Phoenix provided support and protection to the unaligned students of Hogwarts, and direction to those students who had joined their cause. Importantly, where the disappearance of their leader greatly weakened the Death Eaters, the Order of the Phoenix appeared to take strength from their hero's apparent sacrifice, casting out Death Eaters from positions of power within the Ministry, returning it to true neutrality.



Dementors



*Previously the guardians of Azkaban prison, later the servants of You-Know-Who, Dementors appear to have been controlled **only** by the presence of the Dark Lord himself. It would appear that the power controlling them vanished on his disappearance, allowing the vile creatures to begin a reign of terror across the country, attacking muggle and wizard alike.*

When the Death Eaters attacked Hogwarts to begin the Second Battle, the Dementors returned too, perhaps to claim a portion of the misery that would occur. During the battle, they attacked all parties, Death Eater or Order, Student or General, leaving alone only those who knew the Patronus Charm.

Important Figures

As has been previously noted, the lion's share of the actual fighting during the Second Battle of Hogwarts was done by the students themselves. That said, it is important to make it clear those students did not fight alone. Below are listed those adults whose contribution to the conflict came through their clear leadership positions amongst the various factions. Without these generals to provide guidance, protection, and support to their young followers, this writer feels the Second Battle of Hogwarts would have devolved into a chaotic, and devastating loss of young lives.

Minerva McGonagall

Former Deputy Headmistress under Albus Dumbledore and later Severus Snape, Minerva McGonagall was the guiding hand behind many of the victories for the Order of the Phoenix during the First Battle. During the second attack on Hogwarts, McGonagall again led the Order of the Phoenix and their allies against the Death Eaters, seeking to banish their evil from Hogwarts, and encouraged her followers to find and rescue Harry Potter.



Arthur Weasley

As a long-term member of the Order of the Phoenix and father of Bill, Charlie, Percy, Fred, George, Ron, and Ginny Weasley, Arthur Weasley had more to lose during the Second Wizard War than most. It came as no surprise then, that it was he and his wife Molly who led the Order's counter attack during the first Battle of Hogwarts, driving the leaderless Death Eaters from the school.

During the second Battle, Arthur would again prove his mettle, drawing to him all those who would act as protectors of the school. It should be noted as a curiosity, not as a suggestion of prejudice, that the students who fought with Weasley all seem to have been of muggle birth.



Bellatrix LeStrange

There are few names which carry fear and loathing in the manner of Bellatrix LeStrange. Widely regarded as the second-in-command of the Death Eaters, LeStrange was unable to control her forces in the confusion that followed the disappearance of their master. In the months that followed, LeStrange is said to have bound the remaining Death Eaters to her own will, and hunted those who resisted without mercy.

It was LeStrange who commanded that the Death Eaters return to Hogwarts, hoping that once she had control of the school, the many secrets hidden within might show her a way to find the Dark Lord.



Lucius Malfoy

While today, Lucius claims that he and his family were under the effects of the Imperius Curse for the duration of the Second Wizard War, it is curious that his actions carry the brutal cunning and political planning that are characteristic of the Malfoy name.

Lucius was uninvolved in the First Battle of Hogwarts, his presence during the Second Battle preceded by a declaration on behalf of the Board of Directors, stating:

"...we have concluded, therefore, that the only hands that can keep Hogwarts school safe are our own. In the best interests of the children, and our Future, we dispatch Lucius Malfoy to regain control of the school, and to lead it as Headmaster on his success."

To aid him, Lucius is recorded as having brought a brute squad, again curiously composed of entirely Death Eaters...



Peeves the Poltergeist

Former Students of Hogwarts will find it no surprise that the only figure who actively enjoyed the chaos of the First and Second Battles was the poltergeist Peeves. During the battle, Peeves is reported to have actively encouraged the chaos, giving challenges and tasks to students under the guise of 'helping' when in fact the opposite was more likely. Despite this, there have always been tales of students who actually worked with Peeves, treating the life or death conflict as some kind of game.

Death

As an academic, this writer refuses to acknowledge the validity of the plethora of folk tales which give a significant role in the conflict to the figure of Death.

Death it is claimed, roamed the battlefield during the Second Battle of Hogwarts, allegedly taking control of the minds of various generals in order to continue the cycle of war and death. It is said, by some small minded people, that Death was angry that the souls of Harry Potter and You-Know-Who did not come into his keeping on their disappearance, and that he roamed the grounds of Hogwarts waiting to claim them if they returned.

Ultimately, such stories are utter rubbish, as are those of the students who claim they were marked as his servants, aiding him in his endeavours.



Significant Locations

The Second Wizard War was fought across the grounds of Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry, and as such, it is fair to say that there is no place on the grounds where battle did not take place in some form or another. That said, however, there are several places around which the battle was either particularly fierce, or that was of strategic importance during the battles.

Hogwarts Castle

Hogwarts Castle was the single most important strategic position during the Battle of Hogwarts, given that control of the castle was both the end goal for each of the factions, and the fact that the Castle itself was the most defensible position within the grounds.

Having received warning that an attack was imminent, the teachers of Hogwarts set outside the stone walls a set of wards of exceptional complexity. Beyond what became known as the 'Safe Zone', powerful blasts of energy, stone projectiles, and the occasional house elf, bombarded those unfortunate enough to be caught within its range after the horn had sounded.

Confusingly, some teachers continued to allow access to their classrooms during the events, with students being able to attempt lessons in **Herbology**, **Astronomy**, and **Muggle Studies**. Always ready to feed someone, or to help if needed, the House Elf population continued to work in the **Kitchens** despite the danger, and the **Headmaster's Office** remained open to all.



Whomping Willow

Planted in the year 1971, the Hogwarts Whomping Willow is perhaps the most famous of its kind, anywhere in the world. Known for the violent way that it will attack anything that comes into its range, the Willow was perhaps the (il)logical place to test students wishing to join the Order of the Phoenix.

Hagrid's Hut

Hogwarts Groundskeeper and Care of Magical Creatures professor, Rubeus Hagrid, opened his door during the conflict to those students who needed rest during the fighting. Once rested, those students often found that he had various **chores** that needed doing in return for his hospitality.

Quidditch Pitch

When Gryffindor House complained loudly after hearing that the teachers were planning to teach students until the school was attacked, they were quickly reminded by their Head of House that "if you can play quidditch without worrying about Death Eaters, then you can study as well". Even during the conflict, students were observed to be **playing** and practicing their favourite sport.





Hogsmeade

Hogsmeade identified itself as neutral ground prior to the Second Battle of Hogwarts, a position that was, surprisingly, upheld by both sides of the conflict. Combatants from all sides found themselves able to restock and re-arm themselves through the many stores at Hogsmeade. Throughout the battle, drinking establishments like the *Three Broomsticks* and the *Hog's Head* offered a place to rest, *Ollivander's* continued to trade in wands, *Dogweed and Deathoap* sold potions and the ingredients to make them, and *Dervish and Banges* somehow managed to attract customers.

Great Lake

The Great Lake is one of the first parts of the Hogwarts grounds seen by new students, and was coincidentally the first place attacked by the Death Eaters during their opening attack. Making use of their knowledge that the Slytherin Common Room featured floor to ceiling windows facing into the Lake, the Death Eaters gained a foothold in the Castle itself, placing their own protective spells around the area, keeping out any who could not *pass their tests*.

On the surface of the lake, students fought *rowboat battles* across the lake, as both sides sought to prevent the other from receiving reinforcements.



Wands - Tristan's Note

I'm hoping that this guide gives you a taste of the game to come, there is more information on how to play the game hidden in my writing than you think...

There is one more thing that you will do before your patrol joins us, however. A wizard (or Witch) cannot be a Wizard (or Witch) without having a wand. Therefore, it is important that every Wizard (or Witch) brings a wand following the following rules:

1. A wand must not be larger than 12mm in diameter, or 300mm in length,
2. Wands are to be made from timber only (metal rods are for lightning, not magic),
3. Each wand must be named/marked with the maker's initials and Troop.

For those who have more crafty-type skills than I do, or have a tame Joey Leader lying around, I have included the following website as neat options:

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Make-an-awesome-Harry-Potter-wand-from-a-sheet-of/>

<http://www.instructables.com/id/REALISTIC-Harry-Potter-Magic-Wand-in-10-Minutes/>

<http://boxycolonial.com/diy-harry-potter-wands/>

I'll see you at the game,
Tristan

