

## The Whitechapel Vigilance Committee – A Company for In Her Majesty’s Name

### Introduction

Few areas of London have become as infamous as Whitechapel over the past few years. The series of grisly murders carried out by the so-called 'Jack the Ripper' held the populace of that district in a miasma of terror.

With the Police apparently powerless to do anything to stop the depredations of this merciless killer the local men and women decided to take it upon themselves to defend their families, friends and neighbours. Under the leadership of a former Methodist minister, 'Brimstone' Bill, they formed a Vigilance Committee and set patrols to scour the streets at night.

The people of Whitechapel believe that these patrols are what stopped Jack in his tracks. With the cover of night taken from him he had no choice but to leave their streets. Since that 'success' the Vigilance Committee has taken it upon themselves to meddle in other matters normally left to the Metropolitan Police. They've been clearing the streets of pickpockets, unaccompanied 'harlots', beggars, thieves and other ne'er-do-wells.

To do this they have begun paying men to carry out the patrols night and day and this has changed the nature of the whole enterprise. Before it was local men who came to your aid, now it is often ex-Soldiers led by hired thugs.

It is rumoured that they are funding their activities through 'donations' exacted from shopkeepers, pimps, brothel madams and tavern landlords. Floggings are occasionally meted out to any who refuse to 'contribute to their community'.

The local Inspector of Police, John Rush, has tried to limit their activities but he just doesn't have the manpower, and anyway some of his Constables seem to be in league with the Committee. He has arrested a few men who were witnessed stepping beyond the bounds of the law, but the Solicitors of *Humble, Humble, Hinge & Brackett* have always manage to get them off.

Figure	Pluck	FV	SV	Speed	Cost	Talents & Powers	Basic Equipment
Brimstone Bill	2+	+2	+1	+0	49	Leadership +2, Inspirational, Numb	Magneto-static Waistcoat, Club
The Mighty Sven	3+	+4	+2	+0	34	Berserker, Tough	Lined Coat, Mighty Fists <sup>1</sup>
Enforcer	4+	+2	+2	+0	22	Leadership +1, Tough	Lined Coat, Pistol, Bullwhip
Vigilance Man	5+	+1	+0	+0	5		Club
Citizens	6+	+0	+0	+0	1		Improvised Weapon (large)
Mystic Meg	5+	+0	+0	+1	11+	Up to 15 points of mystic powers, Fanatic	Knife
Mastiffs	4+	+3	+0	+1	16	Tough	Tough Hide (Lined Coat), Fangs (Knife)
Shadrach Humble	4+	+2	+2	+1	30	Erudite Wit, Duellist (Sword) Leadership +1	Magneto-static Waistcoat, Pistol, Swordstick (Rapier)

1. These are steel reinforced leather whaling gauntlets that give Sven FV+1 and Pluck -1. However he cannot use any other weapon while wearing them.

### Options

- Any Enforcer can exchange his Pistol for a Shotgun (+2 points) or Military Rifle (+6 points).
- Any Enforcer can take the Marksman Talent (+5 points).
- Any Vigilance Man can take the Fanatic Talent (+5 points), but only if Brimstone Bill is leading the patrol.
- Any Vigilance Man can also be armed with a Pistol (+3 points).
- Any Vigilance Man or Citizen can carry a Storm Lantern(+2 points).
- Any member of the Company can take a Bicycle (+3 points).

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### The Figures

**Brimstone Bill** was a Methodist Minister until they expelled him for his addiction to chewing the Peruvian coca leaf and his 'unconscionable zealotry'. He is a real Old Testament Hellfire Preacher who believes in bringing back the Mosaic Law to London or, as he puts it, "wielding the wrath of almighty God against the new Sodom!". He is also not averse to tithing the people of Whitechapel to further his 'holy crusade'.

**The Mighty Sven** was once a petty officer in the Swedish Navy. His inability to control his rage led to his court martial and dismissal. After that he worked as a whaler until one day he drunkenly staggered into one of Brimstone Bill's sermons. 'God found him and lifted him up' and now he is Bill's most loyal lieutenant. He is a huge man with hands like steam shovels who earned his moniker by acts of savage strength.

**The Enforcers** are the usual leaders of the patrols and those most likely to break heads and flog 'malcontents'. Generally ex-soldiers and sailors, they are the full-time paid members of the Vigilance Committees forces. They are tough, uncompromising and corrupt to the core. Most though are wise enough to appear to go along with Brimstone Bill's beliefs. They consider their real leader to be Shadrach Humble.

**Vigilance Men** are usually unemployed locals who get a three-pence bounty for each patrol they complete. The Enforcers pick them from the crowd that forms outside the offices of *Humble, Humble, Hinge & Brackett* every morning. They are not overly brave, but they desperately need the money.

**Citizens** sometimes come to the aid of Vigilance Committee patrols that get in trouble. Despite the Committee's more recent unsavoury methods the citizens still remember how it chased Jack away and cleared their streets of scum and villainry.

**Mystic Meg** is a former prostitute who had a close encounter with Jack the Ripper. This left her physically and mentally scarred, but she is another who found salvation through Brimstone Bill's preaching. He believes that God has blessed her with 'angelic' gifts as a result of this and he often takes her along on patrols to make use of them.

Most patrols take a pair of specially-bred **Mastiffs** with them. These huge, ferocious dogs are often all that is needed to intimidate and gain compliance by people who come up against the will of Committee.

**Shadrach Humble**, a miserly and grasping Whitechapel Solicitor, is believed by some to be the intelligence behind the Vigilance Committee. He is as sharp as a cutthroat razor and is the one who recruits and pays the Enforcers. He also administers the Committee's legal and financial affairs being both its Secretary and Treasurer. He has been seen leading the occasional patrol where this aligns with his many 'business' interests. He and Abel Caine are old enemies and each will do what they can to spite the other.

As a group, the men on Vigilance patrols wear ordinary clothes but can be recognised by the red armbands on their left arms. These feature a white disc with a black 'V' embroidered across it. Some Enforcers also wear red hatbands and waistcoats. The red is meant to symbolise the terror the Ripper put Whitechapel through and the white the innocence (?) of his victims. A few regular Vigilance Men have had the words 'Lest we forget' or 'God is with us' embroidered beneath the V.