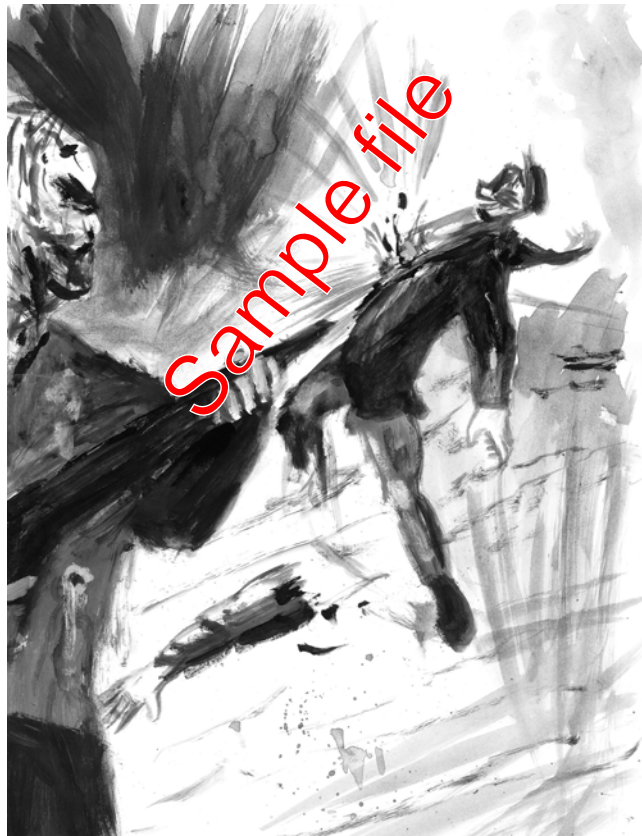


# ***Gunslingers and Gamblers***

## ***Silver Bullets #3 - Battleground***



***FJGaming***

## **Battleground**

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### **Introduction**

Battleground is an adventure setting for use in the *Gunslingers and Gamblers* role-playing game. This location is haunted by the undead Civil War soldiers who rise from their graves once a year in order to fight once more. Every year on Nov 3, the Battle of Black Ridge is fought once again by the soldiers who lost their lives there. Locked in a cycle of perpetual hate, many of these tortured souls are convinced that they are still alive and fighting the battle for the first time. Others have decided that the only way to gain eternal peace is by completing their final task in life, winning the battle.



*The Battle of Black Ridge*

### **The Battle of Black Ridge**

The Battle of Black Ridge took place about fifty miles east of the town of Black Ridge, New Mexico. The fighting began on Third November, 1863. Union and Confederate forces stumbled into each other in the rough mountain terrain. Both sides met in a cataclysmic charge that left massive casualties on both sides. The initial action ended in a stalemate and both sides hunkered down and began exchanging fire with their sharpshooters. Neither side had the use of artillery or cavalry due to the rugged topology of the volcanic mountains. When the Union regiment finally managed to bring a handful of small cannons to bear, they struck a Confederate supply wagon loaded with fresh powder. The explosion set off a series of small fires that filled the skies with smoke and burnt up all of the surrounding cover. Fleeing from the fires and enemy gun positions, the Confederates scattered into the night. The Southern fighters split up into small groups and attacked Union soldiers as they came across them. The chaos of the night was replaced by a new kind of madness just before dawn. Neither commander would retreat after the fighting had begun. The last few troops who had survived the fighting, the fires, and the cold night met each other in a final charge that ended in fierce hand to hand fighting.

To most people, the battle was merely a historical footnote. Black Ridge was considered to be an unimportant skirmish that involved a relatively small number of troops, fought far from the primary fronts. However, the fact is that very few of those who fought at Black Ridge survived the encounter. Two nearly complete regiments lie buried in their respective graveyards near the battle site. Every year on November Third, the Union and Confederate troops buried near the scene of the battle rise from their graves and clash with each other once more.

# *Gunslingers and Gamblers*

## **Undead Soldiers**

**Traits:** Fighting 3, Shooting 3, Grit 5/1, Reflexes 2, Notice 2, Nerve 2, Luck 1, Learning, Survival, Crafting 1.

**Quirks:** Select one; Abolitionist, Doomed, Loco, or Warrior.

**Belongings:** Muzzle loader rifle (+0/+2/+2, 1 shot, SS, 2h) plus spare ammo, Bayonet (+1/-1, +1 Defense, 2h).

### **G&G:SE**

**Traits:** Grit(toughness+10), Fighting, Will Shooting, Speed, Perception

**Drama:** 0

**Flaws:** Select one; Abolitionist, Doomed, Loco, or Warriors Code.

**Belongings:** Rifled Musket (M, 10/200, 1 shot, SS, 2h) plus spare ammo, Bayonet (H).

**Role-playing Hints:** Many of these soldiers seem to be unaware that they are dead, nor do they remember fighting the battle before. These soldiers are likely to behave exactly as they did in life. They follow orders, fight the enemy and scavenge the countryside for food and spoils. The ones who have retained their memories are more likely to be melancholy, surly or just plain crazy. Trapped between life and death, the unlucky few who recognize their condition long only for the peace of oblivion.

## **The Town of Black Ridge**

Black Ridge, NM was founded in the 1850's as a small cattleman's camp. Silver and copper were later discovered in the nearby hills, leading to a rapid population boom. Many skilled craftsmen and business owners flocked to the area in order to cater to the mining and cattle trades. The city is now nearly twenty years old and still growing in size. The current population is usually around 1800 people, including passers through and people in town on business. While the town has been growing for some time, the economy is not nearly as good as some would like. The silver mines are drying up and the cattle trade isn't nearly enough to sustain the city on its own. Black Ridge is a decent sized city for the west, but it isn't yet strong enough to survive on its own. If the silver runs out, the

city will likely shrink considerably, if it doesn't disappear altogether.

## **Key Places in Town**

**Hotels-**There are a good number of hotels in Black Ridge, ranging in quality from low dollar rat holes to expensive lodges. Two of the most notable are the Velvet Lady and the Burning Star. These competing establishments sit across from each other on the city's main thoroughfare. The managers of the rival hotels are constantly playing a game of upmanship with each other in matters of price, quality and attracting customers.

**Town Marshall's Office-**Jim Darby is the town marshal. His office is an impressive wood and stone building made from the finest materials available and it is decked out with expensive furnishings sent from back east. Jim Darby is an expert at shaking people down, preying generally on people he might otherwise put in jail. Every crook, gambler, opium peddler, pimp and hired gun in town pays a cut to Big Jim at the end of the month.

**General Store and Other Shops-**The bustling main street is home to a large general store as well as a number of other businesses. Blacksmiths, carpenters, watchmakers and gunsmiths can be found in abundance. Tailors, dress makers and similar merchants ply their trade all along main street.

**Courthouse and Law Buildings-**The county courthouse is a plain but sturdy building near the center of town. Surrounding the courthouse are a number of lawyers' offices, the local land office, assayers offices, etc. The city's banks and various other professionals are housed in this neighborhood as well.

**Livery-**There are two liveries in town, both of them located in the southern end of town, near the cattle yards and coaching station.

**China Town-**The city's small china town area is home to many small businesses, including cheap hotels and laundry services. Many people