

Excerpts from Chapter 18 of Deadly Secrets

Stepping forward, the latecomer began, “For those present that do not know me, I am Sloan de Fougères, the royal lieutenant of the Armoric army. While others were fighting the dragon, I was left in charge of the army here in Rennes.

“A few weeks after the royal entourage left Rennes for Vannes this last time, I received word that a group of Franks was moving on Fougères. That same day I dispatched a group of thirty horsemen to fortify the fortress. I instructed them to scout the countryside to find out as much as they could about the advancing Franks.

“Three days ago, one of the men returned and reported that they had defeated a band of Franks. He said it was a small group of thirty. The only problem is that a much larger group of Salian soldiers was en route even as we spoke.

“I have sent more reinforcement but the bulk of our regular guard remains here in Rennes. I hope it is not too late for my home but Rennes must be held at all cost.”