

ASSET: DAS POSEIDONRÄTSEL

"Underneath the darkened waves, in the gaping abyss, there slen the Unseen, those of innumerable eye. Hir forms defien man's understanding, twisting in the water's hold like nightmarish figures made flesh. Called they rise, by the forbidden lettrs etched upon clay borne of the land, thrown into the sea. Hir coming, a storm of churning waters and blood-soaked surf. Man's pleas to them sound as but whispers lost in the deep, hir answers, roars of the abyssal wind. Woe to he who recklessly calls upon the Deep Ones and shall not pay t' price."

Complex ritual. Study time: months; 1D10 SAN. Activation: A day; 6 WP, 1D4 SAN (or more).

"The Enigma of Poseidon" or "*Das Poseidonrätsel*" as a testament to the ambition of the Third Reich's occult division, the *Karotechia*. The Nazis retrieved this arcane ritual from the previously untouched *Cthäat Aquadingen*, or "The Book of the Black Water", a German manuscript penned in 400 A.D. This text had rested undisturbed in the Jagiellonian Library of Kraków for 500 years until the German invasion of Poland in 1939. Recognized from the *Karotechia*'s list of restricted texts, German intelligence swiftly secured and transported it back to Germany.

Oberscharführer Hermann Weber, a *Karotechia* specialist, succeeded in decoding a concealed cipher within the text during the summer of 1940 at Wewelsberg Castle. The deciphered content revealed a method for not only contacting the enigmatic Deep Ones but also for initiating negotiations with them...or so the hidden text claimed. By 1941, Weber and the *Karotechia* set their sights on an ambitious goal: to form an alliance with the Deep Ones, to disrupt the movement of Allied shipping across the seas, and consequently, to bring the war to an abrupt end.

This complex ritual hinges on the careful creation of a triangular clay tablet, or "token", a task demanding five rigorous hours and a successful Ancient Greek Skill roll. The token bears symbols and narratives suggestive of ancient Greek, but laced with unsettling hints of an even more ancient language thought to emanate from the deepest marine trenches. Agents familiar with the pictoglyphic language of the Deep Ones might discern numerous similarities between them.

Each invocation of the ritual requires a new token, representing a plea for the Deep Ones to surface and partake in a sinister communion that seeks to bind the two groups together. Yet, even minor errors in the inscriptions pose a grave risk, potentially calling forth other, more terrifying beings from the ocean's depths. The likelihood of such a disastrous outcome increases with a fumbled Ancient Greek skill roll (this might summon anything from a Shoggoth to a Spawn of Cthulhu).

Upon casting the token into an oceanic location frequented by Deep Ones, the ritual begins. The summoning may require hours, or even days, and typically the initial response involves a small group of Deep Ones surfacing to engage in discussion with the humans present. Such Deep Ones are often "local" and might have the language and mannerisms of the area. Later, as the call is sent out amongst their people, more and greater Deep Ones from further away, arrive.

Inevitably, the Deep Ones demand a horrifying sacrifice of living humans. The *Karotechia* met this demand by offering hundreds of political prisoners, for the creatures to slaughter at the shoreline on a night with no moon. This grisly spectacle imposes a significant SAN loss of 1D10 violence on each observer. This is a test of the summoners as much as it is a ritual — the Deep Ones can discern if their possible partners are willing to do what is required of them.

However, despite the steep psychic cost, the ritual does not assure an alliance with the Deep Ones. Persistence is key; the potential for a pact only materializes after numerous

summonings and sacrifices over time. As more Deep Ones respond to each uninterrupted ritual, the toll on the ritual performers escalates, severely testing their sanity and resolve. Only a few have the fortitude to endure enough enactments to reach the stage of real negotiation.

While alliances have clearly been forged in such a manner in the past (in Ponape and other places), it is unclear just how far the ritual must be taken to guarantee a positive result; or even if this is the proper way to go about such a thing.

This would-be alliance between the Third Reich and the Deep Ones eventually met its end by Delta Green's Operation LIFEGUARD in October 1942, resulting in the destruction of the *Karotechia's* base at Cap de La Hague, France. See ***Delta Green: Denied to the Enemy*** for more details.