

BUREAU OF UNDEAD AFFAIRS

Form 12-C — Occupant Classification & Household Standing

CONFIDENTIAL — RETAIN IN PERMANENT FILE

SUBJECT NAME: Valerius (surname withheld pending Drakenfeld designation review)

ALIASES OF RECORD: Valerius the Dread (historical, disused); Recipient, House of Blackthorn, or Current Occupant (per original correspondence, Form 1-A)

HOUSEHOLD OF RECORD: Blackthorn, Pittsburgh, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

YEARS IN CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: Just under six centuries; exact calculation disputed by two departments and the subject

EMPLOYEE BADGE STATUS: Issued. Worn. Not, in the Bureau's professional opinion, entirely understood by the wearer.

I. PRIOR OCCUPATION

RECORDED OCCUPATION: Wallachian warlord; commander of irregular forces; occasional negotiator when all preferable negotiators were dead

HISTORICAL EPITHET: Valerius the Dread

The epithet appears to have originated in a hostile herald's account and spread because it was shorter than the subject's formal title. Valerius objects less to the accusation of dreadfulness than to what he calls "the poverty of the phrasing."

Surviving mortal records describe a commander more interested in roads, grain, and winter stores than in speeches. He could estimate how long a garrison would hold by looking at its chimneys and determine whether cavalry had passed recently by the damage done to orchard roots. Several victories attributed to supernatural foresight occurred before he possessed any supernatural abilities at all.

A disputed account from a winter campaign records that he spared a captured miller after discovering that the man's flour ledger was perfectly balanced. The village was not spared. The Bureau does not regard this distinction as exculpatory.

Former subordinates remembered that he read casualty lists before proclamations. This has occasionally been offered as evidence of compassion. The Bureau finds the evidence insufficient; the subject has stated that dead soldiers are difficult to redeploy.

II. MORTAL HISTORY — PARTIALLY RECONSTRUCTED

Valerius was born in Wallachia in 1436, on a slope above Braşov. The Bureau has identified the probable household compound through tax fragments, military correspondence, and the subject's exact description of a spring that ran iron-red after heavy rain. He later carried sixteen ounces of earth from that slope for more than five centuries.

He was born into a martial household of sufficient standing to educate its sons and insufficient security to allow them softness. He learned Church Latin, court Romanian, battlefield Hungarian, estate arithmetic, winter provisioning, and the particular silence required when older men were making avoidable mistakes.

A household account records a twelve-year-old “V.” correcting the grain allowance for thirty-seven mounted men and refusing to alter the figure when challenged. The original steward recalculated it, discovered the boy was correct, and charged the replacement parchment to him.

He was not known for charm. He was known for arriving before expected, leaving after the work was finished, and remembering which noblemen had promised provisions they never sent.

The oldest surviving description of him mentions black hair, an unfashionably severe coat, and a gaze that caused a visiting envoy to forget the second half of a prepared insult. The envoy later claimed sorcery. The date predates the subject’s conversion by several years.

A single name connected to the subject’s last mortal campaign has been removed from this copy under Long-Term Adversarial Continuity Protocol. The sealed record indicates betrayal by a trusted associate, subsequent supernatural involvement, and an active pursuit extending across nearly six centuries.

SEE SEALED ATTACHMENT: FILE 1879/M — Sub-List Two, Wallachian Affiliates. Access denied.

III. DOCUMENTED MOVEMENT & IDENTITIES

BRAȘOV 1436–1462: Birth, education, first commands, betrothal, and the last secure mortal evidence. Subject received the Mihalovich letter there on 18 December 1462.

SOUTHERN CARPATHIANS 1463–1471: Appears in garrison complaints and intercepted correspondence under three abbreviated forms of his name. First records suggesting supernatural classification.

BUDA AND VIENNA 1472–1484: Used as an unofficial military adviser, route planner, and negotiator by parties who rarely admitted employing him. Two governments claimed he worked for the other.

ASCIANO 1485–1487: Lived for 749 evenings in a stone room above a Tuscan slope. Bianca Mariotti gave him the written cadence for bread that he still carries. A pinch of Tuscan earth was added to the Wallachian pouch here.

VENICE AND RAGUSA 1490S–1520S: Traded information, maps, and convoy protection under the name Valerio Drago. Surviving ledgers show he paid debts exactly and collected them without mercy.

PRAGUE AND KRAKÓW 1540S–1600S: Consulted on fortifications, dynastic security, and supernatural border incidents. Declined permanent court employment on six documented occasions.

BRITISH ISLES 1623–1670S: Connected to the 1623 fairy-sovereign matter. Received the first of 404 annual cards the following year. Declined a Druidic equinox dinner in 1671 and regretted it for at least 355 years.

LOW COUNTRIES AND GERMAN STATES 1680S–1760S: Appears as V. Drachenfeld, Nicolae Dragan, and a silent principal identified only as “the Wallachian.” Invested in roads, canals, printers, and mortuary-trades firms.

VIENNA PRAGUE HAMBURG 1840S–1851: Prepared his permanent departure from Europe. Maintained correspondence with his cousin Iancu Drăgoșescu and arranged discreet provisioning through Heggemann & Söhne.

ATLANTIC CROSSING 1851: Travelled aboard the Baltic as Valerian Drache, age forty-five, allegedly recovering from an extended illness. Arrived New York 25 October and occupied rooms above a Brooklyn wine merchant before proceeding to Blackthorn.

BLACKTHORN FROM 1851: Recognized as head of household by mutual arrangement with Ambrose. Subsequent removals, relocations, and Bureau reclassifications have all failed.

IV. RECOVERED HISTORICAL INCIDENTS

Buda, 1476. Valerius determined that a fortress supply failure was not theft but arithmetic: each officer had rounded the daily ration upward before multiplying. He corrected the books, reduced the garrison's entitlement, and hanged the quartermaster anyway for concealing the error. The Bureau records both actions because the subject considers them separate questions.

Vienna, 1529. Three nights before an expected assault, he advised that a fashionable western gate was indefensible and ordered wagons dismantled inside it. The commander refused. Valerius purchased the wagons himself, dismantled them without permission, and presented the receipt after the gate held.

Venice, 1571. A merchant consortium hired him to identify which partner was selling convoy routes. Valerius requested no confessions. He altered three maps with three different false anchorages and waited to see which ship was attacked. The correct partner disappeared from the ledger and, shortly afterward, from Venice.

Prague, 1609. He recognized that a peace delegation's interpreter was changing conditions rather than translating them. Valerius completed the negotiation in the interpreter's native dialect, preserved the treaty, and required the man to remain at the table while every altered clause was read back.

Ireland, 1623. Valerius entered a rain-flooded orchard to settle a boundary dispute between a mortal estate and the court of an unnamed fairy queen. The quarrel concerned a pear tree planted on mortal ground whose roots had crossed into older territory. Three surveyors had failed because each measured the trunk. Valerius measured the shadow at moonrise, proved that both courts had taxed the same strip of land, and declared the tree a diplomatic mission rather than property. The queen accepted the fiction. The tree remained legally offended for eleven years.

The settlement required neither side to concede ownership. The mortal family retained the fruit that fell west; the queen's court retained the fruit that fell east; anything remaining in the branches at first frost belonged to the tree. Valerius refused land, gold, and safe passage as payment. He requested only that the queen put her acknowledgment in writing. The first card arrived the following year.

Amsterdam, 1692. He developed a maritime-risk table that distinguished storms, piracy, war, and supernatural interference. An insurer copied the method, removed the final category, and failed within fourteen months. Valerius acquired the remaining contracts for eleven percent of their value.

Paris, 1793. He removed one military archive, two family registers, and a set of road surveys from a condemned residence. He left the silver. Asked why, he replied that silver could be replaced and accurate roads could not.

Pittsburgh, 1863. He quietly reorganized a procurement network serving three foundries after identifying a single supplier who was delivering inferior iron under two company names. No court action followed. Neither company appears in city records after April.

V. POST-MORTAL MOVEMENT & HISTORICAL APPEARANCES

The subject's first two centuries of movement are reconstructed largely from complaints. These include abandoned fortifications, missing horses, a monastery guest register with one page carefully cut out, and thirteen separate reports describing a tall foreign gentleman who paid correctly but frightened the staff.

He has participated in, survived, or been adjacent to an unreasonable number of European conflicts. Adjacency is included because the subject habitually describes armed involvement as "being in the region."

In 1623, the subject was named in correspondence concerning an Irish fairy sovereign, a disputed boundary, and a pear tree that remained legally offended for eleven years. The settlement held. Beginning in 1624, the queen sent him one card each year—not on a fixed calendar date, but on the anniversary recognized by her court. Four hundred and four have been received. The cards have never repeated a greeting.

The dark military coat now classified as the Crimean Coat was already in his possession by 1851 and was subsequently altered during the Crimean period. He has maintained it beyond any reasonable textile life span. The coat is brushed, aired, and treated with a degree of patience not routinely extended to persons.

A Tuscan property record places him briefly in Italy under a title he denies using. The adjoining household reported no deaths, three broken engagements, and the disappearance of a marble saint from a garden wall. No causal relationship has been established.

VI. OBSERVED CAPABILITIES

STRATEGIC PLANNING: Exceptional. Subject instinctively identifies exits, choke points, unstable loyalties, and the person in the room most likely to become a problem.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE: Technically adequate when supervised. Subject signs on the correct line but considers this a personal defeat.

LANGUAGES: Multiple historical and modern languages; will deny fluency if asked to translate something he considers stupid.

MODERN TECHNOLOGY: Capable of using a smartphone, online banking, and satellite navigation. Prefers to behave as though each is an insult directed at him personally.

DOMESTIC MAINTENANCE: Can sharpen blades, repair old leather, identify structural weakness, and make coffee strong enough to constitute a workplace incident.

MEMORY: Unusually durable for threats, routes, debts, faces, and insults. Selectively defective regarding requested appointments.

VII. DOMESTIC STANDING: BLACKTHORN

LEGAL RELATIONSHIP TO PREMISES: Unresolved. “Owner,” “occupant,” “dependent,” and “long-term tolerated infestation” have each appeared in internal drafts.

The subject does not control Blackthorn. Blackthorn does not obey the subject. Their arrangement is best understood as a centuries-long military stalemate involving doors, temperatures, misplaced possessions, and shrubbery.

He speaks to the House rarely and formally. The House answers through architecture. During one observation period, a corridor lengthened by approximately nine feet after the subject called a repair “adequate.”

The subject has never admitted affection for the premises. He has, however, returned to defend them repeatedly, memorized every change in the floor plan, and once stood outside in freezing rain for forty-three minutes because the House had locked him out and neither party would yield.

HOUSEHOLD RISK NOTE: Removal of subject from Blackthorn is not recommended without structural consultation. The House has previously interpreted separation attempts as siege conditions.

VIII. ASSOCIATED PERSONS

ZACH: Foundling; household member; frequent translator of modern idiom. Subject claims no paternal status and demonstrates it with suspicious regularity.

AMBROSE: Scholar; elder companion; possessor of an overfull memory and a regrettable willingness to explain things. Subject trusts his scholarship more than his timing.

AMELIA HARKER: External professional whose competence the subject initially mistook for temporary insolence. Current file indicates continued exposure has not corrected either party.

SENIOR BUREAU INTEREST: Identity restricted. Connection predates subject’s current classification. Betrayal in mortal life is substantiated; motive remains disputed; pursuit remains active.

IX. HABITS, PREFERENCES & RECURRING IRREGULARITIES

Keeps maps long after borders have changed, but annotates the changes in the margins. He has never thrown away a useful map and has destroyed several inaccurate ones with visible satisfaction.

Distrusts food described as “deconstructed,” contracts described as “streamlined,” and people who announce that they are “just being honest.”

Knows the Pittsburgh bus system better than he admits. Refuses to run for a bus on the grounds that public urgency diminishes authority.

Organizes takeout menus by reliability rather than cuisine. Menus from restaurants that alter their opening hours without notice are placed on probation.

Will stand rather than take the last chair. This has been interpreted as courtesy. Historical evidence suggests he prefers to remain able to leave or attack without first moving furniture.

Has never learned to whistle. Has implied more than once that this is voluntary.

Does not enjoy music performed at an incorrect tempo and has ended two household gatherings by looking steadily at the speaker until someone turned it off.

Uses the phrase “I am aware” to mean, depending on context: yes; no; stop speaking; I warned you; I have survived empires and cannot believe this is my afternoon.

X. DISCIPLINARY & COMPLIANCE NOTES

The subject’s recent absence of unauthorized killing must not be described as rehabilitation. It represents compliance under active administrative constraint.

Restraint should not be confused with gentleness. Valerius remains capable of considerable violence and is most cooperative when the rules are specific, the consequences are credible, and the person explaining them does not waste his time.

He has challenged the Bureau’s authority, wording, filing practices, chain of command, stationery quality, and use of the phrase “stakeholder engagement.” The challenge to stationery quality was upheld.

The subject has been instructed that an employee badge does not confer immunity, rank, pension eligibility, or permission to interrogate delivery drivers. He continues to wear it.

XI. CURRENT THREAT ASSESSMENT

CLASSIFICATION: High capability / conditional cooperation / grievance accumulation ongoing

LIKELIHOOD OF FLIGHT: Low while Blackthorn or household members remain threatened; moderate if subjected to mandatory team-building exercises

LIKELIHOOD OF VIOLENCE: Context-dependent. Do not mistake stillness for de-escalation.

PRIMARY STABILIZERS: Blackthorn; household obligations; credible enemies; tasks with clear objectives; the opportunity to prove an institution wrong

PRIMARY AGGRAVATORS: Condescension; euphemism; administrative delay; inaccurate history; being called “Val” by persons not already under his protection

Final reviewing note: The subject is not harmless. He is contained by loyalty, habit, architecture, and an expanding body of regulations. Of these, the regulations are the least reliable.

REVIEW STATUS: OPEN — DO NOT ARCHIVE