

#3

NOBLESSE OBLIGE TERROR

Featuring interviews with:
Archgoat, Pete Helmkamp, Goreaphobia, Nunslaughter,
Necros Christos, Incantation, Mitches Hammer, Varathron,
Infinity, Goat Molestör, Morbosidad, Nihil Nocturne, Argrund,
Blood Vengeance, Abazagorath, Divine Eye, Charon, Manticore...

URGRUND

After a rather quiet time in the URGRUND camp a new 7" EP has suddenly popped up on Invictus Prod. and underlines that the Aussie War Black/Deathers are still a force to reckon with, you only have to be patient... Band leader Michael Bolthster answered my questions in Spring 2004.

Hailz, how you're doing? Is it fucking hot in Australia? What's the latest news on URGRUND, there's a new 7" EP on the way, right?

No...it's nice and mild here in Melbourne right now...yez... "Battle Skin" recorded Sept 2003 is out on Invictus Productions June 2004...first 50 copies have embroidered patches and first 100 mini poster also.... 3 trax of more war noise....

Will there be a full-length follow up to the great "The Graven Sign" album as well? It is about time...

It is about fucking time....slacking off and busy with other stuff kinda makes it hard to put a full time effort into things...however a new album will be recorded this year.... "Unchangeable Fate" there will be gigging this year (late) also...

Does your new material continue in the tradition of the debut album, i.e. a killer mix of typical Aussie War Metal and old BATHORY? Would you describe your sound that way yourself or am I totally wrong with my definition?

I guess there is some similarities to the last works...but there's more soloing and due to new blood in the band...there's obviously alot of growth...there is yes indeed an old Bathory presence hovering over the band...but to sound totally original today is impossible...And I am not really fond of great change...

What drags you to the topic "War" again and again? What makes it so interesting?

The focal point definitely is war torn history....kinda read up on a scenario or figure in the past and base my lyrics on it....Philosophy, Heathenism are still well expressed also...

Do you read a lot on history, the two world wars, military strategies/tactics and stuff like that? Have you ever read "Mein Kampf"? I'm thinking about reading it myself - I could copy it in the history section of my university - but I'm not sure if it is remunerating...I'm not a Nazi though, in Germany you always have to make sure, if you ask questions like that.

Hahaha yeah... I'm actually a German lad myself Nordrhein-Westfalen (it's shit house these days apart from the country sides)...Very touchy on that stuff there... "Mein Kampf" is a good read (teaches a person about another view about politics and development)...I'm no Nazi either but I can understand the need for such a revolt during the depression so long ago and the state it's in now...it was always foreseen that Germany would be overpopulated and racially aware for it...being so central in Europe.

You generally seem to have a soft spot for heathendom and the teutonic culture, is that correct? Your band name and the cover of "Battleskin" suggest that...

Yez...this has been a punch since the start...Oskorei and Berzerker themes...taking on the role of a wild bear or wolf for supreme bestiality in war...I love all that stuff...

Why did you choose the name URGRUND? Do you know what it means? Where did you find it?

Old Earth...essence of life and death...ancient lore...the forgotten term means so much....German philosopher Boehme came up with the mixture...

What other topics, philosophies are important to your life and art?

Well being. Primal instincts, heritage and bloodline, Asatru stuff like that...

Why did it take you so long to come up with new material? Have you been lazy fucks, more busy drinking than rehearsing or what? I saw on your website that you have to go through some line up changes and now feature Chris Volcano. Is he a permanent member of URGRUND now?

Let's say it is a combination of moving around...being lazy.... work and finding new drummer etc...Yeah we have been drinking a fair bit from the long holiday...yes Volcano is a permanent member now...Good songs take long to write haha.

Are you still happy with "The Graven Sign"? Which songs do you like best and why?



I despise the production on the release...too much booze was consumed during it's efforts and we had a that'll do attitude...the structure of the songs were good... "Scourge of God" and "Besieged Cities" being the better trax...one being different to the rest of the album, the other being a killer song to bombard live...

What do you think of the Australian Metal scene? What do you love, what do you hate about it? It always seems positively free of rumours and scandals...

It's good...even though it's not growing much these days...I don't hate anything about it...Although I'm not a great participant to the scene and gigs...I do my own thing and concentrate on my own music...Yeah no scandals and rumours...just maniacs and I dare say the crazy stories you hear are dead set true especially if it's mentioned about nutter, Slasher from Sydney...

Oz has loads of killer bands e.g. GRENADE,

DESTRUKTOR (R.I.P), ABOMINATOR, D666, GOSPEL, VOMITOR etc, do you agree? Do you like all these acts? Right now I'm totally into CAULDRON BLACK RAM, do you know them?

Yez...all these bands are great...haven't heard much from the Vomitor camp...but as far as I know of Grenade and Gospel they're still marching on with new material...

I think Aussie Metal has become something really unique and a trademark as typical and unmistakable as e.g. Swedish Black and Death Metal, German Thrash or Florida Death Metal, do you agree? Do you have an explanation for these musical parallels between Aussie bands?

Yeah I agree....there is some attraction now as we are at the other corner of the globe and we created that kind of war metal era...I think people look beyond USA and Europe now...The great thing about Australia all the bands are good...you can pick the shit from the great in other countries.

What do you think of Australia, people's mentality, way of life, your culture, nature and weather? Don't you miss snow sometimes? Do you like Coalas?

Folk here are easy going and have a sense of humour... Australia has no culture just peoples...although I like the idea it was raised on convicts and crims from Europe....There is snow here in the Victorian alps, snowy mountains and in Tasmania... *(I was always bad in geography-Stefan)* Oz is a vast land we have many climates here...Koalas stink and look ugly...Dingos and Tasmanian Devils are killer though...

In your biography you mention old German Death Metal as influential for URGRUND's sound, which bands do you mean? The only good German D/M bands I know are MORGOTH and maybe POISON although the latter are more Thrash...SODOM, DESTRUCTION, KREATOR are rather Thrash, too, but EVIL THRASH!!! What other bands influenced URGRUND?

Yeah Sodom, Protector, Kreator, Destruction stuff like that...always preferred the Swedish scene also...Bathory, Unanimated, Edge of Sanity, Unleashed etc...well I still listen to alot of AC/DC, old Metallica etc so that perhaps can be bled into it.

Will you ever make it to Europe to do some shows? Maybe one could do something like an Australia Attack tour with a couple of Oz Black and Death Metal acts?

Yeah I could see that happening...it will definitely be on the cards...either by ourselves or with other acts...

Are you experienced in playing Live? Do you enjoy it or is it a necessary evil?

We've played in most major centres...and yes I enjoy it...not only to sell but reunites with comrads and drink...although we haven't been onstage for sometime we'll attack again very soon.

What were your most memorable shows and why?

Nunslaughter Tour in Brisbane...and first time we played Sydney ...both excellent shows...good sound and managed to stay fairly sober.

Ok, that's it, I hope you enjoyed answering this bunch of questions, all the best for URGRUND and I hope to hear new stuff from you soon, HORNS UP!!!

Hail the ancient spirit. //Infos here: <http://urgrundheathens.tripod.com> (Interview: Stefan)

...I am beyond the boundaries of this world, the sharp gaze of the howling wolf...