

Attached you find the original Interview before the translation from english to german between Frank for Soundmagnet.eu and Aron and Robin from Commando SWE:

How are you in these days of the release of your EP *Rites of Damnation* and of Covid19?

**Aron and Robin are answering these questions:**

*We're doing good in spite of the circumstances and we feel very lucky to at least get to release a record in these times. Some gigs have been cancelled so at least we have the EP. We, as every band probably does, miss the stage and we're eagerly awaiting to play "Metal Fest" in Jönköping in November, together with Tygers of Pan Tang and Mindless Sinner etc. Covid hasn't affected us personally, it sucks but we are hanging in there.*

*We've had the idea of recording a music video for a long time and when the virus struck we also thought it would be a good idea to record a live video at the same time. It was recorded at "Ritz" in Arvika by David Björklund and Eddie Sarenhag and David Gustafsson did the lights*

Your EP really inspired me and left deep impact. I like your influences of classic and extreme metal. I would be interested to know which musical influences you have in general? Any concrete bands?

*There's probably around 50 bands we could name, but most important to the band as a whole has probably been Mercyful Fate, Vampire, In Solitude, Enforcer, Insane, Antichrist. As for the individual members of the band we like music spanning from Rush to Repulsion, Bob Dylan to Death, Mac Demarco to Morbid Angel, Rocky Erickson to Misfits, Cortex to Leonard Cohen etc.*

*Then we of course are inspired by the same bands every band, to a degree, are. People can probably figure those out themselves.*

Sweden is well known for the fact that there is a huge amount of popular metal bands. When did you start playing an instrument and has metal always been your favourite direction or did you start with classic?

**Robin:** *I started playing guitar at around seven years old, all because of heavy metal. I have always played guitar with the mindset of playing in a band. I had guitar lessons but my teacher was letting me play whatever I wanted, meaning I played songs by Sepultura, Iron Maiden, Slayer, Yngwie Malmsteen at music school haha.*

***Aron:** I started playing drums and listening to metal when I was about 14 years old, Robin asked me if I wanted to play drums in a band with him and I didn't even think I just said yes and he sent me "For whom the bell tolls", "Princess of the Night" and "Heaven and Hell" and I've been stuck ever since. I started by WD being self taught, I took some lessons but I thought it was boring, I just wanted to play songs not practice different patterns and learn how to play from sheet and shit. It was first later on in school I started taking lessons for real, my teacher let me do whatever I wanted so it was more fun. Me and Robin have pretty much been in the same band since I started playing.*

**Rites of Damnation contains mostly occult lyrics. Who of you is responsible for the lyrics and do you personally deal with occultism?**

*Robin and Eric write the lyrics. Some lyrics are collaborative and some are written by one of us.  
The only lyric that's somewhat personal is "Sinners Soul", the rest are more stories or deals with something from history. The lyrics on the next record will probably be more personal and thought through.*

**Your debut is out now since May 22nd. There were a lot of brilliant reviews online; like mine! ;-) Are you satisfied with the reactions so far? And how do you deal with criticism with your young years?**

*The reviews have mostly been over our expectations. It's boring to read a review where everything is sort of "middle ground" and doesn't have anything to offer. We'd rather read a review where we are being thoroughly criticized but actually gaining something, rather than a generic one that's just there for the sake of it. The criticism we've gotten has for the most part been constructive and we can tell when the writer has actually listened to the record and not just heard it.*

**To get a record deal as a young band right after the demo is a rarity. How did the contact with High Roller Records come about?**

*We just sent Steffen a raw mix of the record and wanted to sign us immediately. It was a surreal feeling for all of us, as HRR has released many of our favorite records through the years. It's a label with credibility and seriousness. Steffen and HRR gave us a good deal and have exceeded our expectations by a long run. They're super helpful in every aspect.*

### **Are you probably already writing songs for a full length album?**

*Yes we are. This time we're writing a record and not single songs. We want this album to actually sound like a full length record and not just a collection of songs through the years. The idea is to have a coherent feeling throughout the record.*

*We are aiming to have the same vibe like on the EP, but pushing our limits and boundaries even further.*

### **How much are you looking forward to playing live? Have you already gained some experience?**

*With gigs like Metal Fest coming up we're really looking forward to playing live. We haven't had that many gigs yet but the ones we have played have been somewhat "big" for us. Playing at Muskelrock was a big deal for us and we gained many new fans from that one. Last year we played with Insane at their 10 year anniversary gig and with Deathhammer and Enter Obscurity in Oslo. We also went on a mini-tour with Enter Obscurity playing in Berlin, Copenhagen and Gothenburg. All shows have been fun and important to us, we've learned a lot about how our music should be played live and what works and doesn't work.*

### **I saw your online live streaming concert and it felt like you are very routinely.**

*We've played together for four years now and the songs have been with us for about three years, so we know them in and out.*

*It gives us more freedom to focus more on the stage show and making that interesting too. We didn't rehearse the "show", we just played and acted like any other liveshow.*

### **Apart from music, do you have any other hobbies?**

*We all hang out and do ordinary dumb stuff, like playing video games, drinking, but most of our lives has to do with music, not just Commando, we have other projects/bands too. All of us work/study so the free time we have mostly goes into music.*

*Eric does graphic design as Saturn Design and Robin is behind Sentinel Fanzine.*

**Final question, if someone has never heard Commando before, how would you make your music appealing to that person, how would you describe it?**

*This is always the toughest question, because we don't know how to describe it ourselves. Other people do that and we've heard thrash metal, heavy metal, speed metal, black metal influences etc. We see a pattern of people comparing us to Exodus, Mercyful Fate, In Solitude and early Metallica and Iron Maiden.*

*You described us well with "raw, melodic riffs, distinctive vocals, as well as the occult touch with classic metal elements. Wild and untamed."*