

Ignatio the Shield Grog

by Sheila Thomas

Characteristics: Int 0, Per +1, Pre -1, Com -1, Str +2, Sta +1, Dex +2, Qik +1

Size: 0

Age: 35 (35)

Decrepitude: 0

Warping Score: 0

Confidence Score: 0

Virtues and Flaws: Custos; Tough, Warrior; Poor memory (names), Social Handicap (aversion to gossip - he will turn and walk away if the conversation turns to gossip and actively objects to speaking ill of someone behind their back), Temperate

Personality Traits: Adventurous +2, Courageous +2, Loyal +2

Reputations: None.

Combat: *Brawling (fist):* Init -1, Attack +6, Defense +5, Damage +2

Bow (Short bow): Init -2, Attack +10, Defense +6, Damage +8

Short sword: Init +0, Attack +11, Defense +8, Damage +7

Short sword (mounted): Init +4, Attack +14, Defense +11, Damage +7

Short sword & round shield: Init +1, Attack +12, Defense +11, Damage +7

Short sword & round shield (mounted): Init +4, Attack +15, Defense +14, Damage +7

Soak: +4 unarmored; +11 in full metal scale armor

Fatigue levels: OK, 0, -1, -3, -5, Unconscious

Wound Penalties: -1 (1-5), -3 (6-10), -5 (11-15), Incapacitated (16-20)

Abilities: Area Lore: Zaragoza 3 (men at arms), Area Lore: current region 2 (paths), Area Lore: current covenant 3 (men at arms), Athletics 4 (jumping), Awareness 4 (body-guarding), Bows 4 (short bow), Brawl 4 (dodge), Carouse 2 (staying sober), Folk Ken 1 (magi), Latin 1 (receiving brief commands), Leadership 2 (silent orders), Ride 4 (battle), Single weapon 6 (short sword and round shield), Speak Aragonese Spanish 5 (soldiers' slang), Speak local language 3 (soldiers' talk), Stealth 3 (hide), Swim 2 (diving)

Equipment: steel scale mail, short sword, round shield, short bow

Encumbrance: 2 (4)

Appearance: Of average height and not well-built, in spite of his enthusiasm for keeping fit and maintaining his active skills – more wiry than beefy. He has a tanned complexion, dark brown eyes, and his hair and short beard are such a dark brown that they usually appear black. He is rather cleaner and tidier, as a rule, than one might expect for a soldier.

Ignatio was born in 1194 and brought up in Zaragoza, son of a couple who worked for an Aragonese nobleman, the Marqués de Almeria y Vargas. Ignatio was a lively, active child, fond of all forms of physical activity. He liked to mix with the men at arms who served the Marqués and had ambitions to join their number when he grew up. He was keen to travel - tales of the Crusade and the Reconquista excited him from an early age. As soon as he could convince the men that he was old enough, he was taught to handle weapons and ride a horse. In 1214 he was amongst the company that the Marqués sent to support King Alfonso in his campaign to drive the Moors further south. Ignatio came

through without serious hurt and with much valuable experience.

In 1217, a man approached him with an offer of alternative employment. Ignatio understood that mercenaries were wanted for body-guard duties and he liked the idea, thinking that the new life would be more settled. He accepted, and was surprised to find that his new employer had the influence to release him from any duty to the Marqués. His did for a while wonder if he had made a sound decision when he discovered the sort of people he had come to work for, as the magi scared him considerably at first. He settled in after a few months, and while not very popular amongst the other non-magical inhabitants, he was accepted by them. He is disinclined to chatter and gossip, even seeming taciturn and morose at times, though he can talk well enough if he chooses. Thus he is not

terribly popular with most others as a companion or in social circumstances, though not himself antisocial except when the conversation offends him - he is firmly of the belief that it is risky to speak ill of anyone and hence avoids gossip of all kinds. One consequence of this is that he has been a little slow to acquire the language spoken in his new home.

He has demonstrated on numerous occasions that he is an effective fighter with bow and sword. He has some skill in coordinating military action and is particularly good at conveying his instructions to other fighters on his side by means of gestures. He is a reliable and proficient shield grog and is valued by the magi as a silent guard and protector, one who will not talk to anyone about things better kept secret.