

GOLDEN AGE

THRILLING ACTION!



FEATURING:

\$1.00



VS.

DOC STRANGE

FACELESS PHANTOM



BY JOE BARDALES AND DAN HOUSER

GOLDEN AGE **THRILLING ACTION!**

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INTRODUCTION

Hello! And welcome to the first release of Golden Age Thrilling Action! by Stark City Press. This is a supplement for the ICONS Superpowered Roleplaying game by Adamant Entertainment, and is designed as both an introduction to classic heroes from the Golden Age of comics, and as an aid to GMs who'd like to add some Golden Age flavor to their campaigns or just play a quick one on one battle with a friend.

Within these pages, you're going to see a hero and a villain, along with their preferred battleground. In this issue, you've got Doc Strange and The Faceless Phantom, two men squaring off in the skies above New York City during the Fourth of July festivities!

This classic battle begins on the next page with a little background on the hero, Doctor Strange!



DOC STRANGE

Let's begin our roll call of Nedor superheroes from the Golden Age of Comic Books who are now in the public domain with the next member of the Golden Age Throwbacks: Doc Strange.

In many ways, Doc Strange is similar to the other heroes we have examined so far (i.e. his powers, beautiful girlfriend and male teenage sidekick) but with two notable differences:

First off, unlike most superheroes of the time and even many today, Dr. Hugo Strange does not have a secret identity and goes by his real name (although he prefers to be called by the nickname 'Doc'). In addition, the Doc Strange stories feature less of the "one-off" stereotyped (and expendable) Axis Powers villains we have previously seen but instead present themed, sometimes reoccurring nemeses with more fully developed personalities and motivations such as Electru, the Faceless Phantom and the Emperor.

ORIGIN STORY

Dr. Hugo 'Doc' Strange was a brilliant American scientist committed to finding a way to defeat crime, so he developed a powerful serum called Alosun by distilling atoms from the sun. By ingesting this Alosun distillate, Doc Strange was given the powers of super strength, invulnerability and the ability to leap great distances. After years of developing the Alosun distillate, he was finally able to field test his discovery when he crossed paths with the Faceless Phantom who was attempting to steal a powerful Delta Ray Gun capable of stopping battleships. Doc Strange was engaged to Virginia Thompson, the daughter of the Delta Ray Gun's inventor Professor Thompson, and became involved when her father was kidnapped by the Faceless Phantom. Behind the skull mask, the Faceless Phantom was the secret identity of Commissioner Baxter who had developed his own secret super strength formula, but it was not as powerful as Doc's Alosun distillate so Doc was able to defeat him and rescue Virginia's father. Afterwards, Virginia often accompanied Doc Strange on his adventures.

The Faceless Phantom later returned with an improved super strength formula to rival the Alosun serum that had previously defeated him, but Doc had also been busy improving his own distillate and now had improved super strength and the ability to fly! The Faceless Phantom did return with one new power however - the ability to disappear in a cloud of purple mist. Doc Strange was able to use his expertise in chemistry to determine that the Faceless Phantom was using an ancient Egyptian chemical called 'Kalodin' to cause him to vanish and developed a reagent to counter its effects from an ancient manuscript. Doc Strange was finally able to defeat his enemy in battle once and for all when the Faceless Phantom, unable to fly like his rival, fell from an airplane.

Later on in his adventuring career, Doc Strange met a young orphan named Mike Ellis who idolized him. Wanting to be just like his hero, Mike dressed exactly like Doc (although he added a green cape - his own heroic touch) and persistently followed him around. Doc Strange was reluctant to allow Mike to join him as his sidekick as he didn't have any super powers, but eventually relented. At first, Doc wouldn't allow Mike to drink the Alosun distillate as he felt he was too young, but eventually Doc Strange came to believe his ward could handle both the responsibility and physical demands, and Mike gained super strength and the ability to fly just like his mentor. Mike Ellis along with Virginia Thompson accompanied and assisted Doc Strange on his many adventures over the years.

In addition to battling threats from the Axis Powers during World War II, Doc Strange had several arch enemies. Electru was an eight-foot-tall gang leader who could shoot electrical bolts from his fingertips. The Emperor was a mad Asian genius bent on destroying the United States and World domination.



DOC STRANGE

DOC STRANGE

Origin: Transformed
Real Name: Dr. Hugo Strange
First Appearance: Thrilling Comics #1
(Nedor Comics February 1940)

ABILITIES

Prowess 4
Coordination 3
Strength 4
Intellect 5
Awareness 3
Willpower 4

Stamina 8
Determination 3

SPECIALTIES

Aerial Combat Expert
Criminology
Martial Arts Expert
Science Master (Chemistry)

POWERS

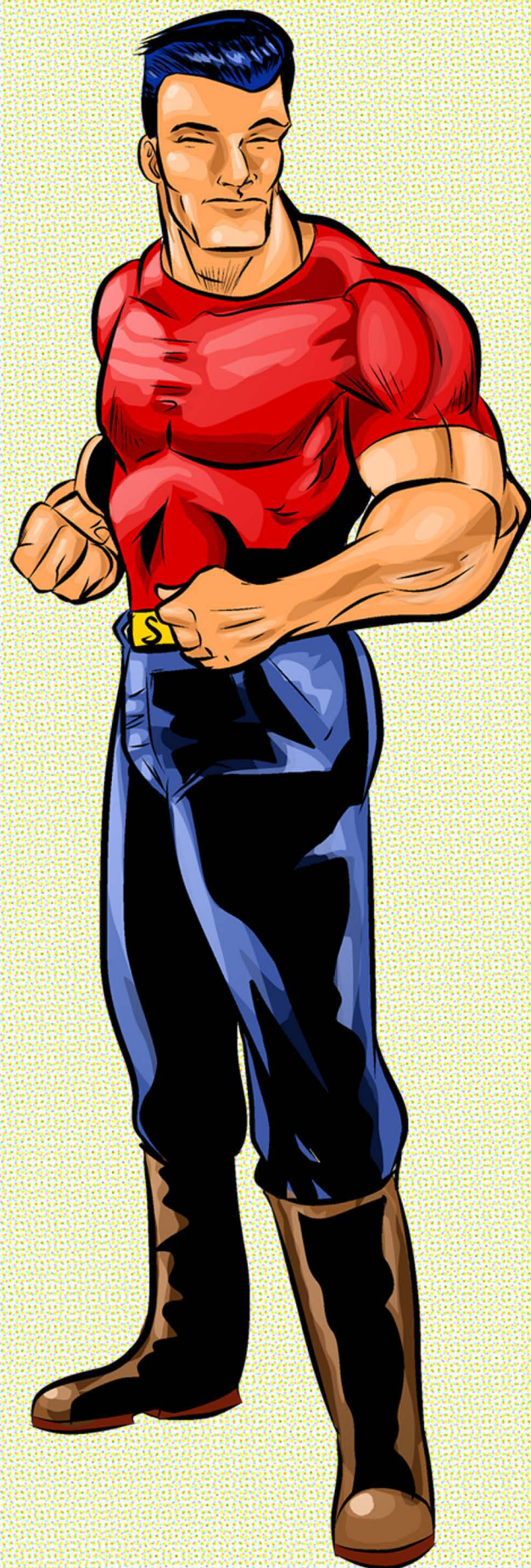
Ability Boost Device 8 (Strength)
Alosun Distillate
Flight Device 7
Alosun Distillate
Invulnerability Device 4
Alosun Distillate

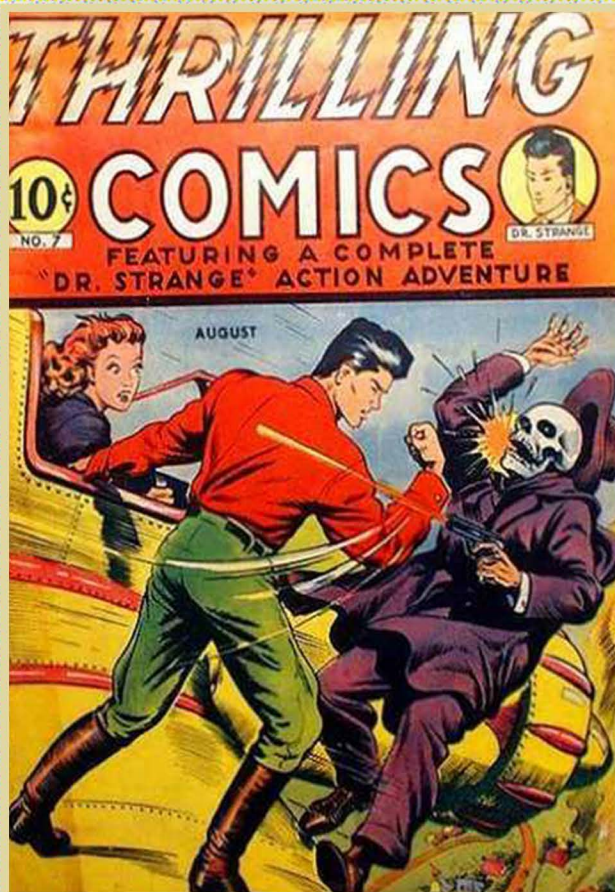
QUALITIES

Connections: Virginia Thompson
(Fiancée)
Sidekick: Mike Ellis
Epithet: America's Champion
Motivation: Dedicated to crushing and
defeating crime
Identity: Brilliant Scientist

CHALLENGES

Enemy: Axis Powers
Enemy: The Faceless Phantom





FACELESS PHANTOM

Now we've come to one of Doc Strange's biggest foes, The Faceless Phantom!

Featured in the very first issue of Thrilling Comics, The Phantom was a classic villain of that era. Unlike many of the villains in the comics of the day, he wasn't a simple saboteur or criminal, he in fact had powers, and wasn't killed by the main hero in his first appearance! We live in a time with recurring villains, however, and I like to think Faceless Phantom was the case used to keep villains like Marvel Comic's Kang the Conqueror around after their ignominious defeat in the comics.

From the history of Faceless Phantom on the Public Domain Heroes Wiki:

The Faceless Phantom, was the first opponent of the heroic Doc Strange. Like Strange, the Phantom created a formula that gave him super strength & durability, but not as much as Doc Strange. He coveted the Delta Ray Gun, a powerful weapon that could destroy anything its red ray touched it could even stop tanks and battleships. So he kidnapped its inventor Professor Thompson, father of Virginia Thompson who was Doc's fiance. The Phantom wore a skull mask and was seemingly defeated at the end of his first battle with Doc Strange.

FACELESS PHANTOM

ORIGIN STORY

The Faceless Phantom was a case where the supervillain predated the arrival of the superhero. Phantom's attempts to procure the Delta Ray included kidnapping the father of Doctor Hugo Strange's girlfriend, Professor Thompson.

This prompted Hugo Strange to create his Alosun serum that gave him amazing physical capabilities, and he brought the fight to the Phantom and his cronies, rescuing Professor Thompson, and making sure the Faceless Phantom didn't get his hands on the Delta Ray.

However, this short-lived victory led to a pitched battle between Strange and the Phantom. During this conflict, the Phantom would invent serums to create diversions, and Strange would create antidotes or anti-serums to fight off the villain's attempts to gain the upper hand.

Their last conflict in the comics took place in a thrilling mid-air battle. After the Phantom had finally acquired the Delta Ray Gun the two men met in a rough fistfight on the wing of a plane. Strange managed to unmask the villain, revealing him to be Commissioner Baxter, the city's Police Commissioner.

Phantom's schemes sometimes involved the criminal element, but occasionally involved saboteurs from enemy countries, and with his connections in both the city's government, overseas interests, and the criminal underworld, his villainy hinted at a much larger conspiracy surrounding Doc Strange.

The final battle between Doc Strange and the Faceless Phantom was inconclusive, as Phantom, once unmasked, flung himself from the wing of the plane. He was presumed killed, but with his ability to ape the abilities of Doc Strange, one can easily imagine that Phantom was able to recreate the flight power of Doctor Hugo Strange.



Origin: Transformed

Real Name: Police Commissioner
Alexander Baxter

First Appearance: Thrilling Comics #1
(Nedor Comics February 1940)

ABILITIES

Prowess 5

Coordination 5

Strength 4

Intellect 6

Awareness 3

Willpower 4

Stamina 8

Determination * - Villain

SPECIALTIES

Law Master

Criminology

Science Master (Chemistry)

Occult Master

POWERS

Invisibility Device 6

Kalodin Distillate

Ability Boost Device 8 (Strength)

Alosun Serum Derivative

Flight Device 7

Alosun Serum Derivative

Invulnerability Device 4

Alosun Serum Derivative

Energy Blast Device 10

Delta Ray Gun

QUALITIES

Connections: Police (as
Commissioner Baxter)

Connections: Axis Powers

Connections: The city's Criminal
Underground

CHALLENGES

Enemy: Professor Thompson

Enemy: Doctor Hugo Strange



**FACELESS
PHANTOM**

BATTLEGROUND:

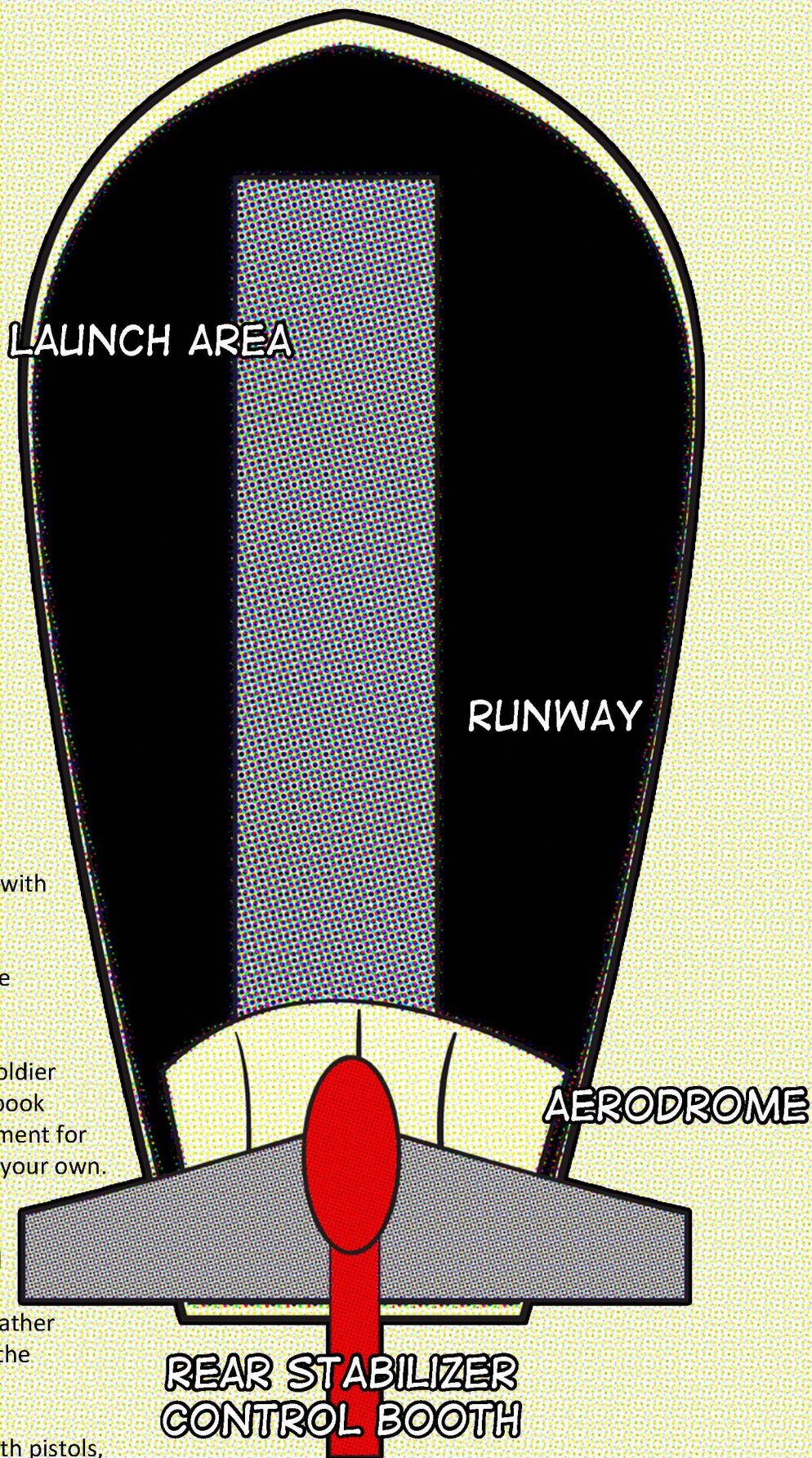


PHANTOM'S FLYING FORTRESS

It's the Fourth of July, and the skies over Central Park explode with celebratory fireworks. A grim shadow bleeds over the park and the drone of fighter planes can be heard as an attack is launched! Hugo and his girlfriend Virginia Thompson were enjoying the patriotic festival, but now is a time for action!

Professor Thompson has a prototype gyrocopter that can get Doc Strange up there fast, but from there he will be on his own!

UPPER LEVEL: AIRSTRIP



LAUNCH AREA

RUNWAY

AERODROME

REAR STABILIZER
CONTROL BOOTH

The airstrip is bustling with activity, and there are several goons working for the Phantom on the runway.

Use the stats for the Soldier from the main ICONS book by Adamant Entertainment for their stats or make up your own.

They're not exactly prime soldiers, drafted from the ranks of the criminal underworld, rather than true believers of the Fuhrer.

The men are armed with pistols, and fire on anything not dressed in a Luftwaffe uniform!

BATTLEGROUND

BATTLEGROUND

The aerodrome has a total of 20 fighter planes, which launch once a page and are armed with machine guns and high explosives.

There are both mechanics and pilots on this level, but the soldiers here are armed with machine guns.

At the foredeck of the aerodrome, there's a Delta Ray Gun emplacement. There are two soldiers manning the Delta Gun emplacement, and their target is any Hero foolhardy enough to try for the Bridge.

Once on the Bridge, The Faceless Phantom takes the fight to a running board outside of the zeppelin!

BRIDGE AND OBSERVATION DECK ACCESS

AIRCRAFT STORAGE

AIRCRAFT STORAGE

AERODROME

**MID-LEVEL AND LOWER LEVEL:
AERODROME**