

AMAZING
STORIES OF WAR

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AMAZING STORIES OF WORLD WAR II



FEATURING:

THE

CROWN GUARD!

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THE CROWN GUARD: HIS MAJESTY'S HEROES OF WWII

BY CHARLES RICE & MIKE LAFFERTY

During the dark, early days of WWII, the existence of the Crown Guard was a closely held secret. Germany's Eugenics Brigade was the first fully formed meta-human team in history and had the full backing of the German High Command. Hitler touted these meta-humans as proof Germany was the "master race", descended from the Aesir of Norse mythology. Supported by an elite troop of the SS and with the mysterious teleporter Götterdämmerung allowing them to appear anywhere in the world at will, the Eugenics Brigade conducted special operations throughout Europe, weakening fortified positions and attacking military and political leaders as a prelude to invasion. The German high command called this strategy "de-capitation" and used it with deadly effect in combination with the lightning-fast Blitzkrieg.

Indeed, it seemed no one had an answer for the Eugenics Brigade, one of many factors that gave German forces a seeming insurmountable psychological advantage. In 1940 however, Hitler ordered the Eugenics Brigade to eliminate the "warmonger": Winston Churchill. With the escape of the British military forces (along with almost

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150,000 French troops) from the Beaches of Dunkirk, Germany was faced with two options for dealing with the only nation in Europe still in a position to challenge Germany: leave Britain alone while Germany dealt with Russia or engage in a massive air battle and prepare for a cross-channel invasion. Neither option appealed to Hitler, so he turned to his Eugenics Brigade to provide a possible third option.

If Churchill were eliminated inside Britain, Hitler felt he could then threaten the Royal Family and force Britain to the negotiating table. This would eliminate Britain as well as remove the possibility of American involvement in the war. And so in June of 1940 the Eugenics Brigade acted on intelligence of Churchill's location in Britain and teleported into Britain to assassinate him.

When the Brigade returned an hour later, Hitler was astonished to learn they had been defeated by a pair of British heroes: Sword and Stone, wielding the mystic artifacts passed down from their father, the WWI hero Excalibur. Somehow these two young heroes had defeated the Brigade's six-member team. Though they had killed one of the British heroes, Churchill had only been wounded and the aura of invincibility around Germany's meta-human force was shattered. The Brigade tried several times to assassinate Churchill afterwards but their intelligence was never again so accurate. Each subsequent attack only managed to kill actors impersonating the great leader.

Cunning and bravery had accomplished what force would not have been able to do and soon the Brigade attacks stopped, as Germany turned their attention toward Russia. Britain used this time to strengthen the Crown Guard.

At its strongest the team would include: Big Ben, Excalibur, Esprit (an expatriate French hero), Grizzly (the lone member of the team from the Commonwealth of Canada), Illustrious, Ironclad, Repulse, Swordfish and Zbrojmistrz (an expatriate Polish hero). By the end of the war, with the

Allied heroes outnumbering the Eugenics Brigade by a wide margin, it was the German meta-humans who were on the defensive, attempting to help stem advances by Allied forces and protect Hitler from capture for trial after the war.

Despite their original protective purpose, Churchill turned this group on the offensive as soon as possible, counting on subterfuge and decoys to prevent the Eugenics Brigade from assassinating him or the Royal Family. Along with the Commandos, the Crown Guard was ordered to "set Europe ablaze" and inflicted enough damage on German and Italian forces in Europe and North Africa that Hitler was forced to recall the Eugenics Brigade from assisting on the Eastern Front.

THE CROWN GUARD

Big Ben a.k.a. Stanley Linwood (41 pts)

Prowess: 6
Strength: 4 (8 when using Growth)
Coordination: 3
Awareness: 4
Intellect: 6
Willpower: 5

Stamina 9 (13 when using Growth)
Determination 5

Specialties:

Law Expert
Martial Arts
Wrestling Expert

Powers

Growth 8 (30 ft) (Strength to 8, gives Invulnerability 8 and decreases Defense by 2)

Qualities:

Epithet: Giant Guardian of the British Isles
Motivation: Defending his country against the Axis Powers.
Motivation: Proving his value in the field.

Challenges:

Enemy: Nazi super-soldiers

Background: *Evaluation by Sir Nigel Fischer:*
Subject Stanley Linwood

Subject is a mutant, powers manifested after a roof collapse in a bomb shelter. Near death experience has left residual psychological trauma but this is manageable. Subject possesses a high IQ and was employed as a lawyer. Subject applied for military service three times but was rejected due to severe asthma, which has disappeared since manifestation of mutant abilities.

Subject's bones are extremely dense, to support weight during size change, this has rendered subject effectively bulletproof even at normal stature. Subject possesses an extreme degree of patriotism and seems eager to place Queen and country before self. Subject is an ideal candidate for Crown Guard service.

Quote: "Now you've made me ruin my favorite tweed jacket. We'll have to have a talk about that later."

Espirit a.k.a. Renee Laroque (44 pts)

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

Stamina 7
Determination 1

Specialties:

Mental Resistance Master
Stealth Expert
Weapons (Guns)

Powers

Flight 1
Phasing 5

Team Attributes

ICONS provides rules for team play. This sidebar provides some suggested qualities and challenges for using the Crown Guard with those rules.

Team Qualities

British super soldier force
Catchphrase: For King and Country!
Motivation: Defending the British Isles and Liberating Europe

Team Challenges

Enemy: Axis super soldiers

Team Resources

Allied military transportation anywhere they need to go.
Secret HQ in a subterranean military bunker beneath London. Nicknamed the Concrete Villa.

Invisibility 5
Mind Control 4

Qualities:

Epithet: Deadliest agent in the French Resistance!
Motivation: Revenge against the Nazis for what they have done to his friends and family

Challenges:

Enemy: Nazi super-soldiers
Weakness: Thrillseeker. His need for adventure and excitement leads him to make unwise choices.

Background: *Evaluation by Sir Nigel Fischer:*
Renee Laroque

This quiet young man appears to have been a petty criminal before the German invasion. Whether he was aware of his mutant abilities before then we do not know. What we do know is that he helped our men several times

during commando raids into France, and was finally (reluctantly) convinced to accompany them back to aid in the war effort. Getting to know Renee is not easy and I doubt he will ever fit in, with the Crown Guard or even with his own people. He can be petty, vindictive and seems to enjoy keeping score and paying back perceived slights.

For now, he is convinced that he can do his people the most good aiding the Crown Guard and occasionally assisting the Marquis than he could assassinating collaborators and German officers. Not that he has forgone this revenge, merely postponed it.

Quote: I know who the collaborators are. As your Shakespeare would say, "I say little; but when time shall serve, there shall be smiles".

Excalibur a.k.a. Sir Richard Lathon (52 pts)

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

Stamina 7
Determination 2

Specialties:

Martial Arts
Weapons Expert (Blades)
Weapons Expert (Bows)

Powers

Blast 4 (Compound Bow)
Invulnerability 6 (Crusader's Armor)
Mind Shield 5 (Amulet of St. George)
Strike 7 (the sword Excalibur)

Qualities:

Epithet: Modern day wielder of the fabled sword of kings!
Motivation: Defending his country against the

Axis Powers.

Motivation: Avenging his brother's death.

Challenges:

Enemy: Nazi super-soldiers

Weakness: All powers are derived from mystical artifacts or devices

Background: *Report to His Majesty by Sir Nigel Fischer*

Sir Lathon has been thoroughly tested and evaluated following the death of his brother in battle defending the Prime Minister. He seems genuinely content with the honorable manner of his brother's death and determined to carry on his mission in defense of the Crown until his death. He removed the crusade-era armor and a simple, brass necklace from his brother's body then requested the rest be cremated.

Quote: "Face me, you cur!"

Grizzly a.k.a. William Canton (45 pts)

Prowess 7
Coordination 4
Strength 7
Intellect 3
Awareness 3
Willpower 4

Stamina 11
Determination 1

Specialties

Athletics
Stealth Expert
Wrestling Master

Powers

Invulnerability 4
Strike 5 (Claws)
Super-senses 2 (Enhanced Sight and Scents)

Qualities

National Hero of Canada
Possessed of the Might of the Grizzly

Challenges

Enemy: Nazi super-soldiers

Background: *Evaluation by Sir Nigel Fischer:*
Subject William Canton

The national hero of Canada, William Canton, code name "Grizzly" will make an excellent addition to our forces. Possessed of the tremendous power of his namesake, with even sharper senses and an unshakeable loyalty to the Commonwealth and His Majesty, Mr. Canton will fight bravely and well.

Quote: "I hate being cooped up in these cities of yours. Let's get this war over with so I can get back to some real wide open spaces."

Illustrious a.k.a. John Smith (45 pts)

Prowess 3
Coordination 4
Strength 3
Intellect 4
Awareness 6
Willpower 7

Stamina 10
Determination 1

Specialties

Sleight of Hand Expert
Mental Resistance Expert

Powers

ESP 6
Mind Control 5
Precognition 5
Probability Control (Good and Bad Luck) 6

Qualities

Epithet: Silver Tongued Superhuman
Commando

Challenges

Enemy : Nazi super-soldiers
Personal : Compulsive liar

Background: *Evaluation by Sir Nigel Fischer:*
Subject "John Smith"

Subject "John Smith" is extremely evasive, skirting or lying in response to every question, giving different ages, places of birth, even ancestry, at times claiming to be English, at other times Welsh or Irish. In combat situations, subject has a preternatural ability to avoid danger, despite being an average physical specimen.

Our best estimates are that this is a combination of extra-sensory perception, combined with a preternatural likeability that causes opponents to try not to attack him.

Recommended that subject serve as an advance scout for the Crown Guard, penetrating areas prior to an attack to gather intelligence. Subject could also be used for assassinations of non-metahuman targets.

Quote: "Look if I'm interrupting I can just go."

Ironclad a.k.a. Adam Sorenson (59 pts)

Prowess 6
Coordination 6
Strength 7
Intellect 4
Awareness 3
Willpower 3

Stamina 10
Determination 1

Specialities

Aerial Combat
Martial Arts

Powers

Flight 4
Blast 6 (Maxim gun incorporated into robotic body)
Life Support 4 (Breathing, Heat, Cold, Pressure)
Invulnerable 5

Qualities

Epithet: Mechanical soldier with the heart of a hero!
Motivation: To serve his creator and His Majesty

Challenges

Enemy: Nazi super-soldiers

Social: Inhuman. Trouble relating to organic life forms.

Background: *Evaluation by Sir Nigel Fischer: Subject "Ironclad"*

Terrifying. I feel guilty saying that. Clearly this machine is alive. It has feelings. And yet, it also has built-in directives, almost akin to instincts, to obey its creator and His Majesty, in that order. It also has a built-in directive to protect all humanity but this is secondary to its directives to obey. In other words, at the word of its creator, it can be ordered to kill anyone and it will do so without compunction. Except, so we're told, His Majesty. How much power should one man have?

Apparently Dr. Sorenson feels quite comfortable granting himself the power of life and death.

Of course, in my interview with him (attached), Dr. Sorenson was quick to point out that he is a very old man, and that his machine will likely outlast us all. Meaning at some point, in the far future, it will benignly serve humanity alone. I can only guess I am supposed to be comforted by that but I cannot overcome my almost instinctive revulsion at this creature that is so close to being human.

Quote: "Warning! By authorization of Dr. Sorenson and His Majesty the laws of robotics are temporarily suspended for all Axis military personnel!"

Repulse a.k.a. James O'Sullivan (45 pts)

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

Stamina 7
Determination 3

Specialties
Aerial Combat

Military
Pilot

Powers

Elemental Control (Magnetic) 6
Flight
Blast
Force Field

Qualities

Epithet: Avenging RAF Master of Magnetism!

Challenges

Enemy: Nazi super-soldiers
Social: Obsessed with revenge against the Luftwaffe

Background: *Transcript of After-Action Report, Fred Williamson, 1940*

It was all on the line. We couldn't officially participate but since we don't officially exist, we figured what the hell. Chris and I went and helped in the air over Britain. The Jerries were determined to clear the air of British aircraft so they could invade.

We saw the pilot's plane get hit. Saw him bail out. By the time Chris realized his 'chute wasn't going to open it was way too late. And then the pilot just lit up like a star. It was like nothing I've ever seen before.

Don't look at me that way. I've seen a lot of things, but I never saw anything like this. Spontaneous mutant emergence from a near-death experience. I've seen that before. But I never saw anyone enjoy it so much, or have so much control so quickly. He was crumpling German aircraft into baseballs, the pilots still inside. Or disassembling them with a thought. Sometimes the pilots got their 'chutes open, sometimes they didn't. Should you recruit him? Are you insane? Hell, we'll take him home with us if you don't want him.

Quote: "Oh! Sorry about that! Those planes are so unreliable! Take it up with Herr Messerschmitt. You might want to open that 'chute first though!"



Swordfish a.k.a. King Kamnar III (49 pts)

Prowess 6
Coordination 5
Strength 7
Intellect 4
Awareness 4
Willpower 3

Stamina 10
Determination 1

Specialties
Underwater Combat Expert

Powers
Aquatic 5
Blast 5 (Device Oceanic War Gauntlet)
Flight 3 (Unique mutation specific to Oceanic Nobility)
Strike 5 (Device Oceanic War Gauntlet)

Qualities
Epithet: King of Oceania and Defender of the Seaways
Staunch ally of Great Britain

Challenges
Enemy: Axis super-soldiers
Enemy: Nazi U-boats
Enemy: Disdains the American hero Sea Bee as a "contemptible half-breed"
Enemy: The Soviet super-soldier Kasatka is a sworn enemy of Swordfish who attempted a coup in Oceania.

Background: *Official Message from Oceanic Ambassador to His Majesty:*
German U-boats are operating in our waters, sinking ships crossing the Atlantic. Per our mutual defense treaty, Oceania hereby declares war on Germany. End transmission.

Quote: "The sea lanes are under my protection."

Zbrojmistrz "Armorer" a.k.a. Dobry Kowalczyk (56 pts)

Prowess 4
Coordination 6

Strength 3
Intellect 8
Awareness 4
Willpower 4

Stamina 7
Determination: 3

Specialties
Electronics Master
Mechanics Master
Science Master (Physics)

Powers
Wizardry (Gadgets) 6
Invulnerability (Body Armor)
Blast (Masterwork Rifle)
Leaping (Body Armor)

Qualities
Epithet: Smartest Man in Europe.
Motivation: To liberate Poland and punish the Nazis for invading
Connections: Kowalczyk has many family and friends all still in Poland. He gets occasional intel and updates on their well-being from British spies.

Challenges
Enemy: Nazi super-soldiers

Background: *Memo from Stanley Linwood to Crown Guard HQ*

I've caught wind of a plan to attempt to detain Dobry after the war, some rubbish about preventing his skills from being used by the Soviets. Anyone tries to force a man who has saved my life a dozen times over to be some lab monkey is going to have to go through me. If you're so worried about him returning to a Russian-controlled Poland, send us in. Otherwise, let the man make his own decision.

Quote: "I fear there's no happy ending for me my friend. All my ability, as a fighter and a weapons designer, couldn't stop the Nazis from conquering my home. I fear they will do as little good against the Red Army."

John Bull (51 pts)

Prowess 7
Coordination 4
Strength 7
Intellect 4
Awareness 4
Willpower 3

Stamina 10

Determination: 1

Specialties

Military
Pilot
Weapons Expert (Mace)

Powers

Invulnerability 5
Blast (Device: Electro-Mace) 6
Strike (Device: Electro-Mace) 5
Leaping 2

Qualities

Motivation: To defend Great Britain, to avenge his squadron mates
Epithet: Patriotic Minotaur Defender of the British Isles

Challenges

Social: Hideous Appearance
Personal: Barely contained rage
Enemy: Nazi super-soldiers

Background:

During the Battle of Britain, Maxwell Hastings was an English pilot who lost 2/3rds of his RAF squadron in one day to an attack from a Nazi super-soldier. When he heard the British government was looking for volunteers for their own super-powers program, he was the first to sign up.

The British scientists running the super-powers program were working from half-legible notes stolen from a Nazi scientist. Their success at duplicating the Third Reich's super-soldier

formula (aka the Ubermensch formula) was abysmal. Almost all of the volunteers died and the project was abandoned in favor of other research avenues.

However, there was one success from the British experiments with the Ubermensch formula. Maxwell Hastings was the only test subject in his nation to survive the process.

Unfortunately for Maxwell, while the process greatly increased his physical abilities, the transformation also mutated his DNA, radically changing his appearance into the very image of the mythical minotaur.

The British Government gave him the coy code-name John Bull and equipped with him a super-weapon they'd captured from a Nazi super-soldier: an electrically charged battle mace.

He was assigned to the Crown Guard, the British military's super-group. Hasting was at the forefront of the war with the Axis super-troops, meting out revenge for all the friends he'd lost during the war.



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