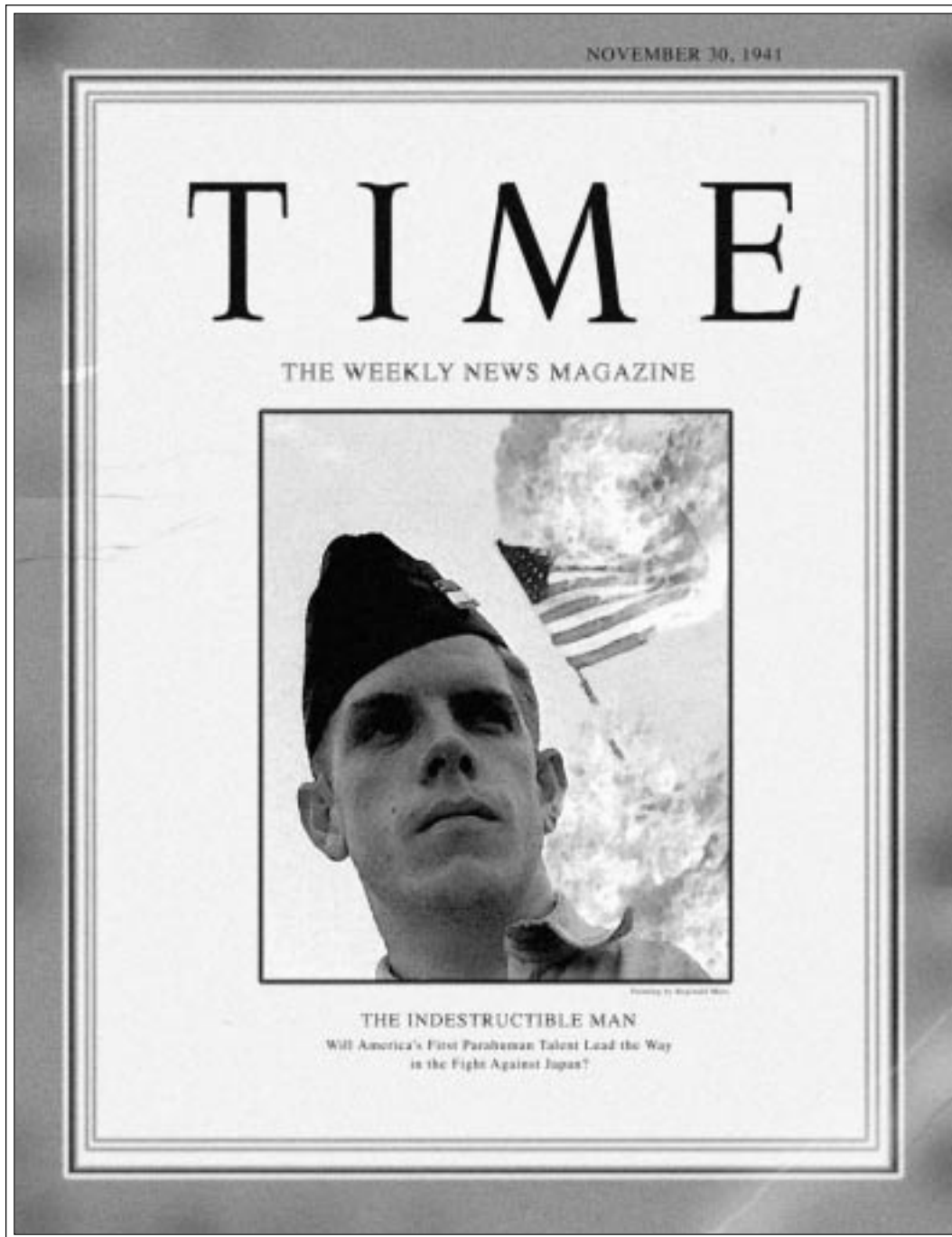




GODLIKE

SUPERHERO ROLEPLAYING IN A WORLD ON FIRE: 1936-1946



"Godlike in their abilities, let us hope this new breed of man will carry the burden of a suffering world to our ultimate and unwavering goal—freedom for all the people of the Earth."

– President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "Godlike Address," November 10, 1941

The Dawn of the Super-Age

A short primer for the world of
GODLIKE
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June 8, 1936- Blue Radio Broadcast from the 1936 Olympics in Berlin

"...seem to be waiting for some sort of demonstration. The officials in the viewing box are looking expectantly to the sky, but there's no sign of any aerial display. Perhaps they're a little late getting & wait a moment, there's someth... I can't ...

Something in the air.
 It looks like ... My God! I apologize, ladies and gentlemen. I regret that outburst, but I am completely ... I don't know how to tell you what I'm seeing. It's unbelievable. I'm seeing it, but .. What I am watching ...what I think I'm seeing, is a FLYING MAN, ladies and gentlemen! A man who is flying, WITHOUT AN AIRPLANE! No airplane, no ropes, nothing to hold ... This man is flying under his own power! Am I seeing this?

This is the most amazing thing I've ever seen in my life. I, I truly wish you all could see this with me, because I know that I wouldn't have believed it. My God. The crowd here is going absolutely mad, watching this, this ...MIRACLE is the only word I can think of. The flying man is just ... flying around ... making a circle of the field holding the Olympic Torch. The German officials in the viewing box are standing and applauding, the entire stadium is on its feet. I'm sorry, the roar makes it hard to ...This is truly amazing. Now, the, the ...flyer is landing over by the Olympic torch, and he lights the torch!

The crowd is in a frenzy. The crowd is in a frenzy. I don't know about anyone else, but I think that this flying man act is

going to be a tough one for the Olympic athletes to follow. (Laughter).

I think I can say, without fear of contradiction, that I have just seen the whole world change ..."

June 8, 1936-London Times Special Edition Flying German Stuns Olympic Crowd

BERLIN – A flying man, dubbed "The Airman" by Chancellor Adolf Hitler amazed the spectators assembled for the opening of the Berlin Olympic Games, bringing, at least for the day, the pageantry of the games to a halt. The crowds watched, awe-struck, as "*Der Flieger*" flew into the stadium without aid of airplane or any apparatus to support him whatsoever. He circled the stadium three times, giving everyone present a chance to witness his miraculous feat, then landed to light the Olympic Torch. Once these duties had been dispensed with, the young man joined the Chancellor and his party *by floating up to the Chancellor's box as easy as a dandelion on the wind.*



During his speech, Chancellor Hitler proclaimed, "So it has come to pass. Germany has shown the world that only through purity of blood, strength of deed, and fortitude of spirit can man strive to become one with the Gods." He went on to claim that *Der Flieger* was the first of a new race of *Übermenschen*, or Super-men, that would secure Germany's might as a

growing world power

After this speech, *Der Flieger* embraced the Chancellor, snapped a stiff Nazi salute to the crowd, rose up to the apex of the stadium, and flew off at high speed in a clap of thunder. Expert witnesses in the stands estimated the speed of his departure at greater than 700 miles per hour, and theorized that the thunder may have been caused by *Der Flieger* exceeding the speed of sound.

October 14, 1938-New York Times Morning Edition Brits Have Secret Super-Man?



LONDON – For the past three days, agents of the press have laid siege to the office and staff of Prime Minister Chamberlain, hoping for some word on rumors that have been circulating about a second European Super-man. Although the reports are unsubstantiated, they are remarkably consistent, hinting that the British government is now in possession of a man with a power to rival *Der Flieger*, the famous Nazi flying man. Officials have been reluctant to speak on the topic, but the London press agencies are keeping a close watch on the situation, and the BBC has been making hourly radio updates from 10 Downing Street for more than a week.

These same unconfirmed reports allude to a connection between this mysterious Super-man and the recent German annexation of Czechoslovakia. If the rumors are true, it comes as a serious blow to the propaganda of *Der Flieger* and the Aryan cause ...

May 9, 1940- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Morning Edition Winoga Wonder Washed Up

WINOGA, WI – Mary Steiner, the 11-year-old “Winoga Wonder,” was revealed as a fraud in an impromptu announcement on the steps of the Winoga City Courthouse this morning. Claims that she could move objects with the power of her mind, causing tapping sounds, strange disturbances, and the breaking of objects have been revealed to be an elaborate deception, perpetrated by her parents to claim the \$25,000 reward offered by millionaire Howard Hughes for the first documented American Talent.

The American Psychical Research Society investigated the Steiner family claims that they had the first American Talent in their household. After the brief interview and some minor experiments, it was determined that Mary’s abilities were the product of fraud.

When asked to comment on the situation, Mr. Hughes expressed disappointment. “I’m saddened by the greed that could involve a child in a reprehensible plot to play upon the hopes and fears of this country simply for money,” he said before boarding an aircraft for his whirlwind tour of England.

Mr. Hughes decided to not withdraw his offer of reward, however, citing his faith in the American people to do the right thing. The search for the first American Talent continues.

June 6, 1940-London Times Special Edition- BRITISH SUPER-MAN



DOVER – Captain Jonathan Lear of His Majesty’s Army secured his place in history as the Dominion’s first Super-man yesterday, by covering nearly 29 miles in a single leap. A group of men gathered on the Dover beach to view the Dunkirk evacuation were nearly killed by the arrival of England’s first native Talent. Thankfully, no one was injured when Lear dropped from the sky like an artillery shell, leaving a twelve-foot crater in the sand. After several confused minutes, he was dug free, and gave onlookers his story: he had jumped across the Channel from Dunkirk.

“Jumping Johnny,” was rushed to London to join the growing number of Talents assembled to fight the German menace. Together with Czechoslovakia’s *Pevnost*, Poland’s *Cien*, Denmark’s *Vogel*, and Norway’s *Aesgir*, England’s own

Jumping Johnny will soon take the war to Europe, and the gates of Berlin itself ...

August 30, 1940-The olkischer Beobachters reprinting of Der Führer’s Speech

“This month, we have seen the fruits of our labors, and the destiny that awaits us. This month alone, more than a score of Super-Men have joined *Der Flieger*, *Feuerzauber*, and *Der Auge*, standing proudly to defend the Fatherland.

This is the fulfillment of the promise of racial purity, the reward for the strength of will and purpose that fuels our drive to unify Europe. This is but the first wave of the reborn Aryan race! This is the future of Germany, of a united Europe under one flag! Under one people! Under one race!

In honor of these brave warriors of the Reich, I proclaim today to be a holiday. Today, we celebrate the Day of the Super-Man!”

March , 1941-London Times Evening Edition - ber-Ace in Libya

LIBYA – English pilots scored the first kill of the war against one of Germany’s prized Super-men. Two Hawker Hurricanes blew the unknown Flying-man from the sky over the endless expanse of the Libyan Desert Thursday morning, as he attempted to make his escape after photographing British positions near Wadi Akara.

After an hour of aerobatics, Flight Lieutenant Jeffrey Rotman managed to down the enemy Talent with a burst from his deadly 30 mm cannons. The airplane guns and the hard landing rendered the Super-man’s remains unrecoverable. It remains unclear if the enemy-Talent was *Der Flieger* or some other unknown German *Übermensch*. When asked if he

believed his victim was the legendary *Der Flieger*, Rotman replied, "I bloody well hope so!"

Upon hearing of the unprecedented feat, Prime Minister Churchill declared Rotman the first Über-Ace of the war.

June 16, 1941-New York Eagle Morning Edition President Welcomes Touring British Talents

WASHINGTON, DC – President Roosevelt was on hand to greet the four visiting British Talents in Washington yesterday. Promoting the Lend-Lease law, the Talents paused in the middle of their tour of the eastern seaboard to give the President a glimpse at the wondrous abilities that have left America speechless.

The four gentlemen were introduced to the assembled press on the White House lawn, and each provided a short demonstration of his abilities for the amusement of the President.

Arthur Smith lit a number of cigarettes for members of the press with his finger, demonstrating his control over heat. Templeton Ruperlia, better known as "Bolt", made a circuit around the spectators at high speed twenty feet off the ground.

Grant "Pop" Kearney inflated balloons that had been tied shut, filling several until they burst. Lloyd Feit ("Bulldog" to his friends) then prepared his demonstration by exiting the stage. Smiling shyly, the 99-pound man proceeded to lift the stage, President, Talents, staff and all, into the air.

The four Talents will be touring major cities, speaking to the public about the Lend-Lease act, the progress of the War in Europe, and what it's like to be gifted with these incredible Talents.

June 2 , 1941-MI-6 Intercepted Soviet Radio Message From Minsk 04 2

"...3009 is free. Say again, 3009 is free. I can see it, just over by the barracks. It's got ... Oh, no. No. No. It's just using them like clubs. The bullets are just bouncing off and ... There go the fuel tanks! The gasoline storage silos have exploded, everything is on fire. I can no longer see 3009. The fire may have done for it. We must fall back. The compound is no longer defensible, we must fall back. Recommend air-bombardment to cleanse the ... Wait. I can see something moving in the fire. It's the house! The House on legs!"

Several rifle shots follow, transmission ceases.

August , 1941-

London Times Evening Edition

Prague Riots, Courtesy of Pevnost

PRAGUE – A well-timed assault on Prague yesterday, led by the Czechoslovakian Talent *Pevnost*, wrested control of the city away from the Nazi puppet regime. Using his abilities to coordinate the attack, and to move hundreds of British Commandos and Czech Partisans into key locations within Prague *Gestapo* and *SS* headquarters the Talent brought the

Nazi regime there to its knees in a matter of hours. The surprise attack caught the Nazis completely unawares, bringing the city back in the hands of Czechoslovakians once again.

Trials within Prague have been conducted for ten high-ranking Nazi and Czech Nazi officials, including the acting President, Father Josef Tiso, and *SS Reichsprotektor* Reinhard Heydrich, a favorite of Hitler. The Partisan courts have returned a death sentence, and the executions are



scheduled for tomorrow morning.

Partisan and BBC radio are providing hourly reports on the status of the Free Czech troops.

The Nazis have yet to make any official comment on what has become known as the August Uprising, although the *Prince Eugen SS Panzer* division has been mobilized and may be on its way to the city.

The prayers of the British people are with the valiant *Pevnost* and his compatriots.

November 10, 1941-

Washington Post Evening Edition

Indestructible

WASHINGTON, DC – President Roosevelt brought mixed news to the nation in his radio address today, first reporting the loss of the American Destroyer *Reuben James*, torpedoed by a German submarine while on convoy duty, followed by the startling news of the discovery of America's first Talent. The unknown American, a sailor on the *James*, is apparently immune to all attacks leveled against him. Already British and



American radio are referring to him as the Indestructible Man. Americans have met the announcement with anger for the loss of the *James* and elation, at the discovery of America's first Super-man.

The President concluded his remarks with the following statement:

"Now we have our own Talent. A son of these United States, who is invulnerable to all weapons turned against him. Never before has the power of creation been so directly placed within the hands of humanity. Godlike in their abilities, let us hope this new breed of man will carry the burden of a suffering world to our ultimate and unwavering goal – freedom for all the people of the Earth."

President Roosevelt declined to answer any questions on America's new Talent, saying only that more information would be made available at a later date, and that Howard Hughes had a check to write.

January 1, 1942- Washington Post

The Shade Dies Defending Prime Minister, President

WASHINGTON, DC – An unidentified Talent in disguise attempted to gain access to the White House early this morning, but was stopped by British Talents Bulldog and the Shade. When confronted, the intruder activated a large bomb in an attempt to destroy the White House, the President, the visiting Prime Minister and nearby security personnel.

The Shade struck the assassin from behind, and used his Talent ability to render the Talent and bomb immaterial. Because of his sacrifice, the explosion killed only the intruder and the Shade, but there was no damage to the surrounding people or property.

Refusing to be frightened by the dastardly attack, the Prime Minister and President held a moment of silence for the Shade, and began their conference.

The Shade was part of a group of thirty-seven Allied Talents detailed to provide security for this historic meeting. In a brief interview, Lloyd "Bulldog" Feit, sporting a black armband, explained the precaution.

"To you, we Talents look normal. But we can spot another Talent as soon as they start using any of their abilities. We can spot our own."

January 1 , 1942-

National Poster Campaign

Got a strange feeling about someone?

Is there a stranger on your block? Have unexplained things started happening around them? Do they speak with an accent? Do they come and go at odd hours, or make telephone calls at unusual times? Have they asked you strange questions? Have you seen them do something impossible?

They could be an Enemy Talent!

June 14, 1942- From Lieutenant Colonel Charles aughan's Commencement Address to TOG 1

"I direct your attention to the patch that you have earned in your twelve weeks here. It has a simple motto: We Go First.

"For you, that motto must have special significance. You are the first graduates of this facility, the first of a new type of Commando. You are the shining hope of the Allies in this conflict. God has given you your Talents, and we have given you the skills to use them.

"Others will follow, but You Go First. Remember that, and be proud."

