

CAPTAIN AMERICA

A Beginning

by

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Based on
the beloved character created by
Joe Simon and Jack Kirby

EXT. RAZED TOWN - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

SUPER: 1942

Mud. Grit. THUNDEROUS ARTILLERY.

Fierce fighting rages outside a crumbling town surrounded by acres of farm fields. Nazis fire out from a ridge line around the town at the Brits who fight from mounds of hay and shallow trenches in the fields.

EXT. BRITISH LINE

BOOM! Men are vaporized as artillery explodes a hole the British line.

EXT. EASTERN BRITISH LINE

The slippery SOUND OF SILK.

A young MASKED MAN in strange dark fatigues alights on the ground outside the British encampment. Unhooking shoulder clips, his black parachute falls behind him. He straightens a mailbag, sets his jaw and starts walking into camp.

EXT. BRITISH CAMP

A pair of soldiers stand guard at either side of the rough, muddy road. The masked man appears out of the darkness startling them. Before they can point their weapons, the dark figure holds out a cloth with the royal seal emblazoned on it.

MASKED MAN

Bring me to Brigadier Stewart.

He speaks with an American accent.

GUARD

At once, sir!

INT. COMMAND TENT - NIGHT (MOMENTS LATER)

A group of officers stand around a map draped over a table. BRIGADIER STEWART looks at the map deep in thought.

LIEUTENANT

Sir, we're losing ground. If the Panzers arrive on time--.

CONTINUED:

STEWART

I know.

Officer Cadet ANDERSON ducks into the tent and holds the flap for the masked man. The men all watch the strange, dark blue figure stepping into a command tent of her Majesty's infantry.

They stare at the cloth with the royal seal draped out of his breast pocket.

ANDERSON

Brigadier, sir.

Anderson salutes crisply, then hands Stewart a letter sealed in wax with the royal stamp. The Brigadier opens it.

The masked man pulls a pocket watch from under his vestment, checks the time and returns the watch. He steps forward.

MASKED MAN

Sir, you must concentrate your fire on the Eastern side. And I'll need a section of ready men.

Stewart finishes reading and looks at the man.

STEWART

This is the truth?

MASKED MAN

As sure as Eagles fly.

STEWART

Send your signal.

MASKED MAN

Thank you, sir.

STEWART

Lieutenant, get me three runners...

The masked man exits and Anderson follows.

EXT. MID GERMAN LINE

A massive Panzer tank slowly grinds its way towards the front of the line. A group of soldiers trudge through the mud on either side of the hulk.

EXT. BRITISH CAMP

The sound of a PLANE ENGINE HIGH IN THE SKY fades in.

The masked man digs under the folds of his coat and pulls out a brass Very flare pistol. Anderson looks on dumbfounded.

ANDERSON

What are you doing, sir?

The man steps up onto an uncovered land rover, looks back at Anderson and smiles.

MASKED MAN

Lighting the fuse.

The man aims the gilded gun at the sky and fires.

WHOOSH! A ball of light bursts from the gun and fizzes into the sky.

EXT. MID GERMAN LINE

High above the battlefield, a massive white flare ignites and out of the darkness appears a huge white five-pointed star backed by red and white lines-- a parachute! The flare's light projects through the parachute making the colors glow like the sun through stained glass.

The Nazi soldiers are captivated.

COMMANDER

(in German)

What are you waiting for? Shoot it out of the sky!

Soldiers begin to fire, but can't see the MAN beneath the chute.

EXT. SKY ABOVE BATTLEFIELD

Bullets whiz past the man. The flickering light reveals an arm with blue fatigues.

Heavy red boots.

Red and white bands down his midsection.

A red leather glove pulls at cords guiding his descent.

CONTINUED:

Blue helmet.

The corner of a blue mask covering the top half of his face.

A white star stretching across his broad chest.

He loosens belt straps that wrap around his shoulders and pulls a glossy metal object from his back.

EXT. GERMAN LINE

Below the man, the Panzer RUBBLES into position and takes aim at the British line. On the top, the machine GUNNER scans the field for targets.

The German commander fumes as soldiers continue to fire.

COMMANDER

(in German)

Shoot him down you idiots! It's
just a man!

The commander shoots a flare gun at the man lighting up...

A shield! The man holds the metal shield in front of him and like a beacon, a star on the shield gleams, surrounded in red and white rings.

Bullets deflect off the shield in bright sparks as the man streams down toward the Nazis.

The tank machine gunner sees the man descending toward him and does a double take.

GUNNER

Achtung! Achtung!

The gunner opens fire. Brilliant sparks spit from the shield as bullets hit it.

Rushing toward the Earth, the man unclamps his chute!

He spreads his arms like wings, then whips them downward and tucks himself into a ball. Spinning somersaults, sparks continue spraying off his shield.

The gunner struggles to hit the blur of red, white and blue.

The man suddenly pops out of his spin and lands feet-first in the mud into a kneeling position.

CONTINUED:

The soldiers peer over the ridge line.

Another flare from the British line makes the night as bright as day and CAPTAIN AMERICA stands.

The gunner hops up and down and slaps the turret. Cap is below his firing range.

GUNNER (CONT'D)
(in German)
Shoot! Shoot!

Awestruck, the soldiers stare at the giant of a man. Cap returns to a blur, jumping and flips toward the tank.

The Panzer begins to move and take aim.

The soldiers scream and shoot madly.

The SCRAPE OF METAL-ON-METAL sounds from inside the tank as they load the cannon.

Coming down in front of the huge Panzer barrel, Cap uses his momentum and springs again, thrusting his shield upward.

SHING! The shield RINGS and it shears a hole through the barrel and the Panzer fires!

The shell EXPLODES in the barrel as Cap somersaults over the fireball and behind the tank.

Landing, he rolls and dives into a group of soldiers.

Punching, kicking and bashing his way into the line, soldiers yell as Cap takes them down. He moves through them like a man possessed, working deeper and deeper into their line. So fast the soldiers can't even see what's attacking them.

GERMAN SOLDIER 1
Der böse Geist!

Nazis run towards the commotion only to be met by the blur of inhuman strength, agility and stamina.

GERMAN SOLDIER 2
Das Gespenst!

The tide turns as Nazis begin to break ranks.

EXT. EASTERN GERMAN LINE

The masked man and a group of British soldiers flanks the Eastern end of the German line.

LIEUTENANT
Give them Hell, lads!

The men yell as they attack the bewildered Germans.

BUCKY, the masked man, rushes in with the Brits shooting a short, sleek rifle with marked precision. In swift movements, he picks off Germans as they try to shoot at the wave of men.

Bucky catches the glint of metal in the near distance. Looking he sees a group of Nazis running and crowding together until suddenly Cap's shield appears above them. The group explodes outward as Cap bursts from under them.

EXT. MID GERMAN LINE

Cap reaches three full meters above the ground and Nazis fly in every direction.

Far outside the ring of falling men, the Nazi Commander rushes to organize a firing line of men. He pushes and yells at the five soldiers who all take shaky aim at the Star Spangled Avenger.

In one fluid motion, Cap pulls the shield off his arm and flings it. Curving like a boomerang, the shield swipes across the line, sending the group sprawling.

EXT. EASTERN GERMAN LINE - NIGHT (SAME)

In the distance, Bucky watches in awe as Cap runs, jumps, catches his shield and disappears again into the fray only to surface again in glimpses elsewhere.

Bucky smiles and shakes his head charging forward with a battle cry.