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# WARGAMES

LEADER OF THE  
RED SPIDER

BATTLE Czar

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# WARGAMES: BATTLE CZAR



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*"I regret to inform you, comrades, that the Glorious Revolution necessitates your deaths. Do not be alarmed for I shall make it quick and painless. Take comfort in the fact that you will die for a greater cause. Hmm. Unfortunate. I see you have chosen to resist."*

In the Soviet Bloc, Battle Czar is often remembered as one of the few good things that came out of the Stalin era: A champion and hero of the people who performed mighty deeds in the cause of good.

Battle Czar is still a major force in Soviet culture, although he has grown disillusioned with the diluted and corrupt communism practiced today in the Soviet Bloc. He has resigned his post on the Soviet super-soldier team and sworn to lead a "pure" revolution of justice and reason to resurrect Lenin's dream in the modern age. He's founded a private army, the Red Spider organization, with this goal.

Although he outwardly appears human, as a Mithran, Urielus alien physiology is far different. Although mortal, he is highly resistant to damage, can fly and has greatly enhanced strength. Additionally, Mithrans have the unique ability to absorb and channel the innate energy of the cosmos through their body – and Battle Czar uses this talent to unleash blasts of energy from his hands in combat.

## BACKGROUND

As a committed atheist from a young age, Urielus found himself uncomfortable with the deeply religious society on his homeworld of Mithran. Urielus dealt with these feelings of alienation by becoming part of the Mithran Interstellar Diplomatic Corps and visiting those societies that the Mithran Empire desired peaceful contact with.

Urielus was on a deep space mission, reconnoitering the planet Earth to ascertain if it was ready for contact, when his ship malfunctioned. Urielus crash-landed near the Tunguska River in Siberia in 1908.

Amnesiac from the crash, he was adopted by a family of Russian peasants. They were swiftly amazed by his tremendous physical prowess and encouraged him to go to Moscow. Sadly, Urielus missed the entirety of Russian involvement in World War 1 by the time he finally ventured out.

Urielus, whose full Mithran powers would not return completely for decades, found himself disgusted by the sights of the average Russian's life. Vowing to improve their lot in life, he joined with the Bolsheviks. Urielus' strange abilities were kept secret from most of the party with only Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky made fully aware of his powers. Urielus served as their secret weapon against Czarist forces in the 1917 Revolution.

However, Urielus' role in the civil war did not lead to a position in the subsequent communist government. Lenin, realizing such a figure as Urielus contradicted the very equality he was trying to enforce, came up with a novel solution. Rather than attempt to eliminate him, Lenin had spies deduce what the Mithran was looking for in a mate

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and then found such a woman. Urielus lived most of the ensuing decades in a remote farming community, exempt from the usual food taxes, with his lovely bride and adopted children.

The rise of Joseph Stalin changed Urielus' life forever. Pouring through Trotsky's old diaries in 1941, Stalin's agents discovered references to an invincible 'peasant super man.' Not so chained to revolutionary idealism as Lenin, Stalin sent a group of agents to fetch him. A few days later, Urielus arrived in the Kremlin, the agents' blood staining his clothes and looking for Stalin. (The agents had killed Urielus' wife in their attempt to assassinate him. The Mithran killed every one of them (after first finding out who sent them.)) Stalin put on a wonderful performance that convinced Urielus of his innocence and quickly concocted a cover story that the agents must have been sent by a counter-revolutionary conspiracy that was trying to topple the government.

Stalin tested Urielus' limits and swiftly disregarded any plans to dispose of him. Instead, he decided to create his own super soldier force. Stalin placed Urielus in a the battle suit recovered from the wreckage of his Mithran space ship (miraculously still functional) and created Battle Czar – Champion of the People. It was not a moment too soon, since Hitler's own Bio-Blitzkrieg and Eugenics Brigade forces were already on the move along the USSR's western border.

Although the war was both long and brutal, Battle Czar (along with the rest of the People's Revolution super-team) was a key factor in eventually halting Hitler's advance and pushing his forces back into Germany.

Urielus' naïve and trusting nature allowed Stalin to manipulate him for years. The Mithran spent most of his time after the war in isolated projects, single handedly erecting dams and building modern factories. However, Battle Czar was not as fully tamed as Stalin took him to be. He had heard whispers about the horrors suffered under Stalinism. He carefully and discreetly gathered evidence and investigated.

By March of 1953, he was convinced of the depth and breadth of Stalin's evil and corruption.

Seeing no other option, Urielus flew to Moscow, batted aside Stalin's personal guard, executed the dictator and presented his body to the Politburo with an earnest appeal that they select a man more suitable to lead the Revolution.

Had Battle Czar not been so humble, the Soviet Union might have fallen under his control then and there. A tempestuous power struggle ensued for the next five years – with Soviet super-humans being drawn in. At one point, two factions of the People's Revolution team even fought each other in the streets of Moscow. Eventually, the Supreme Commissar of the Red Directorate persuaded Czar to end the chaos and back Nikita Khrushchev. With Urielus' support, the power struggle ended and Khrushchev became the new leader of the Soviet Union. (The official story, of course, remains that Stalin died of natural causes and that there was an orderly transfer of power.)

The Cold War brought harsh lessons for Urielus. Certain he could defeat any of America's super humans; Battle Czar was overconfident and suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of the combined forces of the Freedom Alliance during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. This was the first time that Czar had been beaten in combat and he was obsessed with redeeming himself. Urielus spent several years seeking out conflict with Western supers whenever possible. He volunteered with covert missions with the Red Directorate to spy on or sabotage Western R+D facilities. For a time in the 1970s, he was one of the Supreme Commissar's favorite field operatives. He embarked on several unauthorized missions in Vietnam in order to have an opportunity to fight against the Freedom Alliance. He also volunteered for missions in East Germany whenever possible because of the chance for conflict with Western supers.

As the Cold War wore on, he started to lose his faith in the Soviet system. He had hoped that killing Stalin would have restored Lenin's original vision but he was saddened by the compromises he saw the Politburo making as they slowly sought rapprochement with the West instead of fighting to free the workers enslaved by the greed of the western corporations. The Sino-Soviet split dramatically reinforced these sentiments in Urielus.

By the mid 1980s when there was talk of (limited) free market reforms, perestroika and glasnost he had become fully disillusioned with the Soviet system. He resigned his position on the People's Revolution super-team.

Believing the Maoist branch of international communism to be uncorrupted, he attempted to immigrate to Communist China but was denied entry as an "undesirable foreign agitator". The entire membership of the Chinese super-team escorted him back across the border to make sure that he had no doubt about what was waiting for him if he returned.

During this time, Urielus had encountered other Mithrans who had found their way to Earth. (Mithran had long since been destroyed in a planetary catastrophe – but a few Mithrans had survived and were wondering the cosmos.) They were able to educate him about his native culture and use their advanced technology to restore his memory of his previous life as a Mithran ambassador.

Although he was devastated at the loss of his home-world, Urielus was heartened by the memories of the ideal communist utopia that Mithran had been. These memories steeled him for the difficult course ahead. Battle Czar felt he had one option left to him: he had to lead an uncorrupted communist revolution in Russia himself to restore Lenin's dream. He could think of only one man who could help him do that: his old enemy – Steel Commando who had since taken up the cause of overthrowing the US government and changed his codename to General Venom.

Urielus discreetly made contact with General Venom. While Jack Washington Junior's disgust and loathing for communism had not diminished in the time since he'd become General Venom. He was moved by Battle Czar's story of disillusionment that was in many ways similar to his own. Urielus gained the funding and scientific expertise necessary from Venom to start his own movement – dubbed the Red Spider Organization. (General Venom is sentimental but not foolish. Having Battle Czar and his private army in his debt is an advantage he fully intends to use when the time is right.)

Given his status as a national hero, the Soviet government (and specifically the Supreme Commissar of the Red Directorate) turns a blind eye to his activities while attempting to infiltrate his organization with double agents. The powers that be believe they can manipulate Czar through their operatives in his inner circle of advisors – and they may be correct. Although his rhetoric preaches that conflict with the government is inevitable, so far Battle Czar has restricted Red Spider activities to eliminating foreign, mafia and P.H.A.N.T.O.M targets. But Urielus is not a patient man and believes that Lenin's Glorious Revolution has been delayed far too long. Very soon, the Red Directorate agents in his organization might be unable to dissuade him from a course of action where he tries to seize control of the Eastern Bloc.

Battle Czar is compassionate, forgiving, helpful, kind, and patriotic. He truly believes himself to be the champion of the workers with a true vision of how communism could better their lot. His commitment to the idea of communism hasn't changed, but he believes, like many, that the Soviet system has failed and needs to be reformed – and he believes that he is the man to do the reforming. From his restored memories, Battle Czar knows that an ideal communist society is possible because it used to exist on Mithran and he longs to build that sort of society on his adopted homeworld.

One should not underestimate the appeal of Battle Czar to many in the Soviet Union. Even die-hard dissidents have a soft spot for the Mithran. His record of unselfish heroism is unquestioned by nearly everyone. If the PCs (no matter what side they're on) manage to trounce him then they may find themselves scorned by the citizens of the Eastern Bloc for attacking a beloved hero.

Still committed to his adopted homeland despite his tacit state of opposition to its government, he often runs missions to acquire state of the art technology that might benefit his people and he's not above stealing it for the greater good. On the same note, Battle Czar may attempt to covertly sabotage projects that could prove a future threat to Soviet power (such as Project: Icarus or the 'Star Wars' missile defense program).

## RED SPIDER

As the leader of the Red Spider organization, Battle Czar effectively has a force nearly identical to the House of Serpents in number and arms. The Red Spider is composed mainly of Soviet Army veterans with (at the GM's discretion) a smattering of former super-soldiers who have joined out of loyalty to Urielus. Using the logistical blueprint of the House of Serpents, the Red Spider has multiple bases hidden around the Soviet Bloc. Ever mindful of not setting off WW3, Battle Czar is cautious against using his private army abroad but has no hesitation to wield it as a hammer against internal threats and criminal factions.

Being the former second in command of the People's Revolution, Battle Czar still has informal ties to most of Russia's super heroes. While they are still fiercely loyal to the Soviet leadership, most would gladly lay down their lives for the Soviet icon.

Battle Czar is considering forming a new People's Revolution team with explicit loyalty to the Red Spider organization and himself.

## Battle Czar

Prowess 5

Awareness 4

Coordination 5

Willpower 4

Strength 9

**Stamina 13**

Intellect 3

## Specialties

Leadership

## Powers

Blast 7 (Cosmic Energy blast)

Flight 6

Invulnerability 6

## Qualities

**Catchphrase:** "Power to the Proletariat!"

**Connections:** Hugely popular in the Eastern Bloc

**Epithet:** Determined Diehard Defender of the Revolution





## BATTLE CZAR

**Motivation:** Fighting for Justice for the Workers of the World

**Motivation:** “I will redeem Lenin’s dream.”

### Challenges

**Enemy:** American super soldiers

**Weakness:** Idealistic to a fault.

### ADVENTURE HOOK 1

The US Department of Defense is close to developing a new ultra-stealth technology that will render SDI, “Star Wars”, missile defense satellites invisible to radar and even most meta-human senses. Even though he no longer works for the People’s Revolution, Battle Czar realizes that he can’t allow the US to be the only nation that possesses this technology. The secondary military applications of this ultra-stealth device (such as effectively invisible jet fighters, bombers, aircraft carriers and battle-suits) would give the West an overwhelming military advantage. An MI6 double-agent in the Red Spider Organization alerts the Western Powers of the Russian hero’s intentions and the date of his planned raid on the DOD research facility in Virginia where the ultra-stealth devices is being developed. It appears that they have a few days lead time and the PCs are tasked with providing meta-human security for the evacuation effort: securing the research facility in the short term and then guarding the military convoy that’s relocating the ultra-stealth technology lab to a secret and more secure location. Unfortunately, their information was slightly faulty and Battle Czar is sighted flying towards the lab just a few minutes after the PCs arrive.

### ADVENTURE HOOK 2

In May of 1989, Hungary turned off the electricity on the automated alarms along its border with Austria. Guard-posts would no longer be alerted whenever someone tried to cross. A flood of East German citizens flow through Hungary to Austria. This was the first chink in the Iron Curtain, and Battle Czar realizes that this will only lead to more nations relaxing their borders and the eventual collapse of the Warsaw Pact as a military alliance and perhaps worse. In October of 1989, the unthinkable happens and Hungary becomes a republic. Battle Czar realizes he must act. With the support of a Red Spider task

force he seizes Budapest and announces that he will rule Hungary as a temporary military governor until “the anti-revolutionary fervor passes.” The Hungarian government in exile in Vienna asks for any help from any willing meta-humans to dislodge Battle Czar so that a democratic government can be restored.

### ADVENTURE HOOK 3

In August of 1991, the old guard from the Kremlin panics regarding Gorbachev’s negotiation of a new treaty that will give unprecedented autonomy to satellite states. Fearing this will lead to the break-up of the Soviet Bloc, they hold Gorbachev prisoner at his dacha in Crimea and stage a coup. Russian President Boris Yeltsin barricades himself in the Russian legislature in Moscow and declares the old guard’s actions unconstitutional. A crowd of thousands of civilians gather around the Russian legislature (called the White House) to protect it against the Interior Ministry tanks, helicopters and troops that are closing in around it. A tense stand-off ensues.

Spetsnaz units are called in to storm the White House and kill Yeltsin. All members of these units unanimously refuse their orders. It looks as though the old guard’s coup will fail and the reformers will carry the day.

The PCs receive word from a contact in an intelligence agency (of either side). In desperation, the old guard is planning to employ Plan: Iron Wolf which they have devised for such contingencies. Using a psychic (perhaps even Supreme Commissar from the Red Directorate), they will mind control Battle Czar to leave his current HQ in Siberia and fly to Moscow. When he arrives they plan on using him to massacre the civilian crowd and then terminate Yeltsin and his allies. The old guard believes this will effectively end all opposition to the coup.

The PCs must intercept Battle Czar and break the hold that the psychic has over him.

### Optional Variation

The PCs arrive too late. The mind-controlled Battle Czar has stormed the White House and captured or killed the opposition. Now, still under control of a psychic, Battle Czar has declared himself the ruler of the USSR and has announced that he will begin taking steps to preserve the Soviet Union and ensure the

continuation of the Communist Revolution. As riots break out across the Warsaw Pact, Battle Czar, accompanied by cordons of Red Army tanks, travels to the various hot spots, brutally putting down dissent and rebellion. The PCs are asked by remnants of the reformer's factions (or possibly segments of the Red Spider who realize that something is amiss) to stop Battle Czar's rampage.





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