

1632 TEST PAGES

1632 © 2000 Eric Flint

The purpose of these pages is to see how the blending of the historical setting and the modern-day, turn of the century technology of trans-placed Grantville works in comics.

The book series centres on a modern US town from Virginia thrown back in time, “landing” in seventeenth century Europe. An alternate timeline where the Americans establish “the United States of Europe” – and the response to those efforts – is the basis for the long-running book series.

There is plenty of reference for the 1632 novel series online, starting at <http://1632.org>. The comic will be set in 1633, when there is more technology about.

Be wary of being too influenced by the series book covers unless supplied in scripts – some of the technology on the covers is far too advanced (1634, for example).

Page One

Frame One

Afternoon, 1633, Germany. It’s raining.

Two people, a man and a woman are being chased left to right of frame by men on horseback.

The two people are up-timer Grantville’s SHERIFF DAN FROST and GRETCHEN.

Gretchen is a “down-timer” working with Dan. (“Down-timers” are characters that originated in the 17th Century – up-timers are characters from Grantville in the future, transported to the 17th).

They are running along a tough track through woods. Locals in rustic garb scatter, dropping the wood they were carrying to get clear.

Eric describes Dan as somewhere in his forties, and looks like Ed Harris or Viggo Mortensen.

Here’s a description of Gretchen:

Gretchen was not exactly a beautiful woman, although she came close. She fell shy of standard notions of female beauty because her features were just that little bit too pronounced. Her nose was a bit too large and beaky, her jaw a bit too strong, her



brow a bit too heavy — although it certainly matched the eagle's gaze she so often exhibited. She has long yellow hair and fierce eyes.

Their garb suggests they have been traveling incognito and they are wearing cloaks that cover what they're wearing. (this is important as Dan will be revealed to be in 21st century dress on Page 2)

We can't see the pursuers in detail, but these are CROAT HORSEMEN and there's some hopefully suitable imagery here:

<https://crossfireamersfoort.wordpress.com/2012/07/02/unit-histories-the-isolani-isolano-croats>



BOX: GERMANY, XX 1633...

GRETCHEN: THEY FOUND US, DAN!

DAN: KEEP MOVING, GRETCHEN! NOT FAR NOW.

Frame Two

Close in on the woman and Dan. The horsemen in the background, between them.

GRETCHEN: I WARNED YOU THESE CROATS WERE DANGEROUS...

DAN: YOU DID. I UNDERESTIMATED HOW DANGEROUS...

DAN: I'VE BEEN DOING THAT TOO OFTEN, LATELY...

Frame Three

Medium shot, Gretchen looking urgently at Dan now. We can see behind them that the track heads over a rise. There seems to be more forest over the rise.

GRETCHEN: WE HAVE TO HURRY! IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THEY'RE IN...

Frame Four

Angle from the Croats POV. As the others race on one of them, his horse drawn up, has fired their matchlock at them.

GRETCHEN: RANGE!

LEAD CROAT: ZAUSTAVITI!

Page One CONTINUED

Frame Five

The Croats are bearing down on the party now, swords drawn. Dan turns to face them, starting to pull back his cloak as Gretchen protests. She's no shrinking violet and would happily fight

DAN: MAKE FOR GRANTVILLE – I'LL STALL 'EM!

GRETCHEN: THEY'LL CUT YOU TO PIECES!

DAN: YOU HAVE TO GET THE WARNING THROUGH!

Page Two

Frame One

Dan reveals his WEST VIRGINIA SHERIFF'S UNIFORM and BADGE under his cloak and raises his Smith and Wesson 4506 pistol at the approaching cavalry, the lead Croat raising his sword.

DAN: THAT'S FAR ENOUGH...

LEAD CROAT: MISLITE DA SE ZAUSTAVI NAS S TIM, BUDALO?

Translation: You think to stop us with that, you fool?

OFF SCREEN FX: ROOAAARRRR

Frame Two

Similar shot but Dan is looking off frame, grinning as shots fire over the now startled Croatians.

FX: BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA!

Frame Three

We cut to MIKE STEARNS atop an "APC", on the rise we saw on Page One, grinning as the Croats take off. The roof mounted gun is smoking. Gretchen is leaning on the APC, arms folded, grinning.

NB the term "APC" in the novels is actually a misnomer. These are *not* military vehicles. They're civilian coal hauling trucks which have been modified for combat. The cabs have been armored with steel sheet and firing slits have been cut in the sides of the trucks. See reference below.

Michael "Mike" Stearns was a former soldier, pugilist, and miner, who quickly became the most important political leader of Grantville after the Ring of Fire event sent the West Virginia town back to Germany during the Thirty Years' War.

Stearn's greatest strengths were his ability to read people-to determine at a glance their true motives, feelings and intentions-and to understand what was possible and what was not, even in diverse fields outside of his usual expertise. These skills took him from President of the Grantville local of the United Mine Workers to President of the New United States to Prime Minister of the United States of Europe in a few short years.

Look:

Possibly model to look like Nathan Fillion for this one panel appearance.

Past careers include longshoreman, truck driver, and professional light heavyweight boxer, so he's not a big man but he's strong.

STEARNS: I DON'T THINK YOU WERE TAKING OUR SHERIFF, SERIOUSLY, BOYS!

Frame Four

As the Croats race off, we see Dan standing beside the APC looking up at Mike, pistol still in hand.

STEARNS: LOOKS WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME...

DAN: YEAH – BUT YOU AREN'T GOING TO LIKE THE NEWS WE BROUGHT FROM MADEBURG, MIKE...

Frame Five

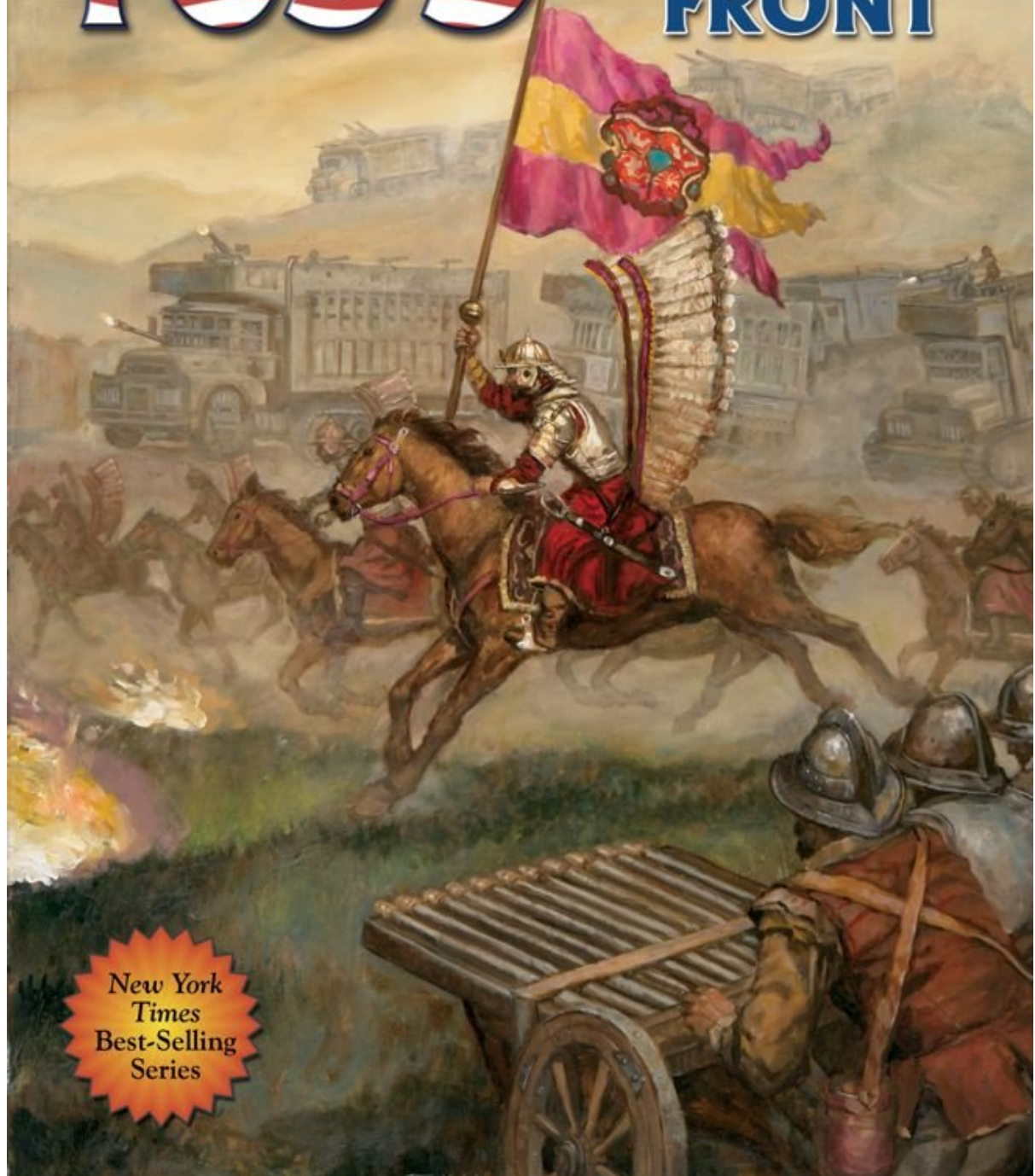
The APC heads into Grantville. A wide angle shot of the town.

Grantville is based on Mannington, West Virginia (<http://www.manningtonmainstreet.org/>) which has been pretty well Google Mapped. For the purposes of this test use a general shot

DAN (FROM APC): “GRANTVILLE COULD BE IN BIG TROUBLE – AND IT’S GOING TO TAKE SOME CLEVER THINKING TO GET US OUT OF IT!

ERIC FLINT

THE 1635: EASTERN FRONT



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