Biography

Early Life

Childhood

"Even when I had nothing, I had Bucky."

―Steve Rogers[src]

Steven Grant Rogers was born on July 4, 1918, to Sarah and Joseph Rogers in Brooklyn, New York City. Before Rogers was born, his father Joseph was confirmed to be killed in action in World War I. At a young age he met James "Bucky" Barnes, who would eventually become his best friend.[1]

As a sickly adolescent, Rogers was frequently attacked by bullies on the streets. However, Rogers' resilience, despite his small stature, inspired a young James Barnes to come to his aid and fight off the bullies, and the two became good friends.[4]

Rogers attended George Washington High School in Brooklyn, New York City from 1932 to 1936 and Auburndale Art School, also in Brooklyn, from 1937 to 1938.[5]

Mother's Death

"Thank you Buck, but I can get by on my own."

"The thing is, you don't have to. I'm with you 'til the end of the line, pal."

―Steve Rogers and Bucky Barnes after Sarah Rogers' funeral[src]

SkinnySteve-Flashback

Bucky Barnes tries to comfort Rogers

In 1936, Rogers, now eighteen, discovered his mother had died of tuberculosis.[5] She was later buried next to her husband. After the funeral, Rogers talked to Bucky Barnes, who offered to have Steve stay at his place and do errands to earn his keep, but Rogers declined, saying that he could get by on his own. Barnes told him he didn't have to and promised that he would be with him "'til the end of the line." Rogers held this statement close to heart for years.[2]

World War II

Training with Bucky

"Do you want to kill Nazis?"

"I don't want to kill anyone, but I don't like bullies; I don't care where they're from."

―Abraham Erskine and Steve Rogers[src]

Rogers and Barnes learned during an art class that the United States of America entered World War II. Rogers wanted to join the United States Army to fight in Europe against the Nazis, so Bucky trained him for two weeks at Goldie's Boxing Gym. Soon Bucky and Steve went to a US Recruiting and Induction Center in New York City where Steve was classified as 4F and rejected from service, but Bucky later enlisted in the Army.[6]

Rejected for Service

Steve Rogers&#039; Exam

Steve Rogers is rejected for military service

"Look, just give me a chance."

"You’ll be ineligible on your asthma alone."

"Is there anything I can do?"

"You’re doing it. I’m saving your life."

―Steve Rogers and 4F Doctor[src]

In New York City, December 1941, Steve Rogers continued to be rejected for service in the United States Armed Forces, despite making multiple attempts at different enlistment offices, due to his various health and physical issues. He remained determined to fight alongside his friends and other men in World War II and would attempt to convince the doctors to give him a chance, but to no avail.

Alley Beating

Rogers gets in a fight with a bully

Disappointed, he went to a local cinema. At the screening, an advert was played showing the different ways soldiers and civilians can help with the war effort. When a loud jerk in the cinema yelled at the screen and showed disrespect to the message of the film. Rogers was the only person to stand up to the bully, who later brought him outside and then proceeded to beat him up. Steve was later rescued by his friend Bucky Barnes, who chased off the bully.[1]

Meeting Abraham Erskine

Steve bucky new high res17

Rogers says goodbye to Bucky Barnes

"Do you want to kill Nazis?"

"Is this a test?"

"Yes."

"I don’t wanna kill anyone. I don’t like bullies."

―Abraham Erskine and Steve Rogers[src]

In an attempt to cheer up his best friend, Barnes convinced Rogers to attend an exhibition of future technologies with him and two girls as a "double date." As they explored the Expo, Rogers witnessed Howard Stark demonstrate his flying car prototype, which promptly crashed to the ground. When he saw an enlistment office adjacent, Rogers snuck away from Bucky and the girls and attempted to enlist again. Barnes noticed his absence and later found Rogers, attempting to convince him not to enlist again in case he was arrested for lying on his enlistment form again, but Rogers insisted that he needed to fight for his country.

Untitled18

Rogers is introduced to Abraham Erskine

Having overheard Rogers' conversation with Barnes about wanting to help in the war, Dr. Abraham Erskine approached Rogers in a secluded room. Erskine asked Rogers if he wished to go over seas and kill Nazis, to which Rogers replied that he did not wish to kill anyone; he simply "did not like bullies no matter where they were from." Impressed by this answer, Erskine decided to enlist Rogers as a candidate of Project Rebirth, a secret "super-soldier" experiment being conducted by the Strategic Scientific Reserve.[1]

Training Begins

1899560-the chris evans blog 090711 028

Rogers begins his training for WWII

"The serum amplifies everything inside; so good becomes great, bad becomes worse. That is why you were chosen."

―Abraham Erskine to Steve Rogers[src]

Rogers agreed and under the supervision of Dr. Erskine, Colonel Chester Phillips and Agent Peggy Carter, he travelled to Camp Lehigh to begin his training. Rogers trained hard but was often mocked and bullied by the other soldiers, including a particularly cruel bully named Gilmore Hodge. Yet his determination and quick thinking often made him stand out from the group. Colonel Phillips was unconvinced of Erskine's claims that Rogers was the right person for the procedure but relented after seeing Rogers commit an act of self-sacrificing bravery.

FB-FX-0082

Abraham Erskine and Steve Rogers

The night before the treatment, Erskine revealed to Rogers that his first test subject, the Nazi officer Johann Schmidt, underwent an imperfect version of the treatment; becoming super-human but suffering negative side-effects due to his inner ambition for power and obsession with becoming a "superior man". However, he reassured Rogers that he chose him because he was inherently a good man and one that because he had been weak his whole life, would not lose respect for the strength he would gain. They promised to share a drink after the treatment.[1]

Project Rebirth

Steve and Peggy in Car

Rogers speaks to Agent Peggy Carter

"How do you feel?"

"Taller."

"You look taller."

―Peggy Carter and Steve Rogers[src]

Schmidt, having discovered Erskine's location, dispatched an assassin to kill him. In America, Rogers was escorted to a secret facility by Peggy Carter. As they drove together, Rogers pointed out many of the locations where he had been beaten up in the past. He and Carter talked about how it felt to be picked on and ignored for something they could not change; Rogers for his height and Carter for her gender. Despite Rogers' awkwardness in speaking to her, Carter was charmed by Rogers' sincerity and good moral values.

Shot of Penicillin (Project Rebirth)

Rogers prepares for the experiment

Once there, Doctor Abraham Erskine greeted Rogers and Carter while Howard Stark prepped the machinery and Chester Phillips watched from a safe distance with various Generals and Senators. Once Rogers was strapped into the machine, Erskine gave a short speech to the people watching before subjecting Rogers to the super-soldier treatment, injecting him with a special serum and dosing him with Vita Radiation.

Cap and Peggy

Steve Rogers after Project Rebirth.

Although the treatment was extremely painful, causing Rogers to scream out in agony and almost force Erskine and Stark to shut off the reactor, Rogers demanded that the scientists to keep going. Eventually the experiment was complete and Rogers emerged from the experiment with a greatly enhanced physique. Rogers went from being 5'4" tall and weighing 94 pounds, to being 6'2" and weighing 220 lbs. Peggy Carter was the first to greet Rogers as he stepped out. When she asked how he felt, the awestruck Rogers could only comment that he felt taller. All the other scientists and generals then came down to congratulate the team.[1]

Assassination of Abraham Erskine

"Who the hell are you?"

"The first of many. Cut off one head, two more shall take its place. Hail HYDRA!"

―Steve Rogers and Heinz Kruger[src]

Shortly after the experiment, one of the attendees shot and killed Erskine, revealing himself as Johann Schmidt's assassin, Heinz Kruger. The assassin stole the last vial of Super Soldier Serum before escaping.

WhoTheHellAreYou

Rogers captures Abraham Erskine's assassin

Rogers ran to Erskine's aid but there was nothing he could do. Erskine pointed to Rogers' heart, reminding him of their earlier conversation, and died. Rogers pursued Kruger on foot, while Kruger drove away in a stolen taxi. Due to his enhanced physicality Rogers was able to catch up with Kruger and caused the taxi to crash. When Kruger tried to escape in a HYDRA submarine, Rogers dove into the water after him and captured Kruger, but the assassin smashed the Super Soldier Serum and committed suicide via cyanide pill before he could be interrogated.

Steve-Rogers-Recruited-by-Government

Rogers is recruited by Senator Brandt

With Dr. Abraham Erskine dead, the super-soldier formula was lost. Blood samples were taken in hopes to replicate the formula. Out of twelve, one was given to Howard Stark.[7] Rather than be confined to a lab while scientists attempted to rediscover Erskine's formula, Rogers tried to convince Chester Phillips to allow him to serve overseas, but Phillips refused, noting that he was not the army he had wanted. However, Senator Brandt approached Rogers and offered him the chance to serve his country on the "most important battlefield of the war".[1]

Captain America

Working for the USO

Captain America&#039;s USO Stage Show

Rogers tours America as Captain America

"He's got me doing this. Phillips would've had me stuck in a lab."

"And these are your only two options? A lab rat or a dancing monkey? You were meant for more than this, you know?"

―Steve Rogers and Peggy Carter[src]

Rather than serve overseas on the battlefield however, Brandt had Rogers tour the nation in a colorful costume as "Captain America". Rogers regretfully agreed, with his job being to promote war bonds for the Treasury Department and encourage American participation in the war. Rogers found performing difficult and awkward, still wishing to fight with his fellow soldiers.

Movie star

Rogers stars in a propaganda movie serial

With the help of a large show featuring music and dancers, even including a fake Adolf Hitler for Rogers to "knock out".

Rogers became an icon and living propaganda piece for the American people, even starring in his own comic book and movie serials in which he would battle and defeat the Nazis. He could continue to travel the country from state to state as his popularity continued to grow with the wives and children whose husbands and fathers were fighting overseas, and Rogers would often pose for pictures and sign autographs.

Liberation of Allied Prisoners of War

Steve Peggy

Rogers speaks to Peggy Carter while in Italy

"Get out fast and give ’em hell. I’ll meet you guys in the clearing with anybody else I find."

"Wait! You know what you’re doin’?"

"Yeah. I’ve knocked out Adolf Hitler over two hundred times."

―Captain America and Gabe Jones[src]

In 1943, while touring to active servicemen in Italy, Rogers learned the men of the military did not enjoy his act as much as the nine year-olds for whom he usually performed. Depressed at the job he had been given and wishing to be a soldier, he took a free moment to sketch himself as a performing monkey. Peggy Carter joined him and tried to persuade him that he was meant for more than what he was doing, reminding him of the reasons why Abraham Erskine had selected him.

Steve-Rogers-Captain-America-WWII-rain

Rogers prepares to rescue the P.O.W.

During their conversation Rogers learned that Bucky Barnes' unit was lost in battle against Johann Schmidt's forces. Although Colonel Chester Phillips seemingly confirmed Barnes as K.I.A., Rogers refused to believe that Bucky was dead and stole weapons and some equipment in an attempt to drive to the HYDRA base and find him. Peggy Carter convinced him to allow her to help him.

Chris evans blog

Rogers breaks into a HYDRA fortress

Peggy Carter and Howard Stark assisted him by flying him to Austria, thirty miles behind enemy lines. During the journey Rogers had an awkward conversation with Carter when he mistakenly thought she had began a relationship with Stark. Their plane was suddenly shot at by enemy guns, and Rogers ordered Carter to turn the plane around once he was clear. She tried to tell him that he could not give her orders, but he smiled and said he could because he was a Captain. Rogers then leapt from the plane and landed safely on the ground. Rogers snuck aboard a HYDRA truck, knocking out the guards and infiltrated the fortress belonging to Johann Schmidt's HYDRA division.

Captain America and Bucky

Rogers confronts Red Skull.

Once there, he found and stole a piece of Tesseract technology and freed the captured soldiers. The soldiers fought their HYDRA captors, allowing them to escape. Rogers went on looking for Barnes. On the way, he spotted Arnim Zola leaving a room. When Rogers entered the room, he found Bucky strapped to a table. Rogers freed him and they tried to escape. However, the entire facility began to explode so they tried to find another way out. Steve Rogers was then confronted by Johann Schmidt; they had a brief fight where Schmidt showed off his incredible strength. Zola separated the pair, and Schmidt revealed his face to be a mask, removing it to display the red-colored, skull-like face that earned him the nickname "The Red Skull".

Cap and Peggy 1

Rogers with the men he saved from a HYDRA base.

Schmidt escaped and Rogers managed to get himself and Barnes to safety. He reunited with the escaped P.O.W.s and returned to base along with the freed soldiers. Rogers then asked Colonel Chester Phillips to reprimand him for his actions but the latter denied it, knowing that he did a good job in saving the lives of over 400 captured soldiers. Peggy Carter asked him why he arrived late and Rogers explained that he could not call his ride as the radio she gave him had been broken. Bucky Barnes called for all the people to acknowledge that Captain America was a hero and every soldier cheered and applauded.

Captain-america-marvel09

Rogers recruits the Howling Commandos

Rogers debriefed Phillips on everything he had learned during his raid on the HYDRA base, including the locations of many other HYDRA bases across Europe. When it was suggested that Rogers would need a team if he was to go back onto the front lines, Rogers explained he was putting together a team himself. He recruited Bucky Barnes, Dum Dum Dugan, Gabe Jones, Jim Morita, James Montgomery Falsworth, and Jacques Dernier into his team, nicknamed the Howling Commandos, to attack the other known bases belonging to HYDRA. When Barnes asked if he was planning on keeping the outfit, Rogers said it was growing on him. Carter later arrived to tell Rogers about his next meeting; they suggested that once the war was over, the pair should go dancing together.

Howard Stark and Steve Rogers

Howard Stark provides Rogers with his new shield, weapons and uniform

Rogers returned to the base where he was unexpectedly approached by Private Lorraine, who decided to reward his war efforts with a passionate kiss. Carter caught them and berated him about being just like any other soldier. Rogers later spoke to Howard Stark for advice on the matter. During their talk, Stark provided Rogers with a new outfit and a new circular shield made of Vibranium capable of negating large amounts of damage. This was quickly proven when Carter shot at him multiple times as revenge for kissing another woman. As Rogers and Stark watched the satisfied Carter leave the room, Rogers presented Stark with his own designs for his new uniform.[1]

Howling Commandos

Cap comandos

Rogers with the Howling Commandos

"You ready to follow Captain America into the jaws of death?"

"Hell, no! The little guy from Brooklyn who was too dumb not to run away from a fight. I’m following him."

―Steve Rogers and Bucky Barnes[src]

In command of his own personal team of soldiers, the Howling Commandos, which included his best friend Bucky Barnes, Rogers embarked on a quest to sabotage and destroy HYDRA's bases across Europe. He led the team still using the name Captain America, now with an new uniform with a similar design, but more practical for use in the war.[1]

Barnes planning

Rogers and Barnes during WWII

In April 1944, Rogers infiltrated a HYDRA castle on an island in the Nazi occupied Danish Straits. He managed to destroy one of Arnim Zola's exo-skeleton suits and an armored vehicle. Johann Schmidt attempted to destroy him by using a Viking Runestone, but Captain America slowed the relic from exploding, allowing the Howling Commandos to escape.[8] In winter of 1944, Rogers single-handedly stopped a Nazi blockade and saved over 600 men, including the man who would eventually become Peggy Carter's Husband. Rogers commanded his unit with skill and confidence. During the filming of one of his mission briefings, the camera picked up that he carried a picture of Peggy Carter in his compass.[2]

Eisenhower Rogers The Avengers

General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Captain America planning the next operation

In London, Rogers followed HYDRA soldiers who stole information from the Strategic Scientific Reserve and was targeted repeatedly. After throwing his shield at their car's tires, the HYDRA soldiers crashed near an air raid shelter. Rogers encouraged the citizens inside to save themselves after making a speech about heroism and strength in numbers.[9] His continued experience in dealing with HYDRA allowed Rogers to become a leading authority in their movements, even advising General Dwight D. Eisenhower on the best ways to defeat their enemy.

Cap-WWII-town

Captain America in WWII

On a mission to a HYDRA base in 1944 with the Howling Commandos, minus Bucky, Rogers stowed away on a small merchant boat, when, as he predicted, it was attacked by a HYDRA submarine, the Leviathan, as it was a perfect test target. While they were distracted, Rogers swam to the sub and proceeded to enter and attack the crew, winning it for himself and the Commandos, who anxiously waited in a raft. After finding out where the base was via map, they quietly docked in the base and, on Rogers' count, stormed out to find it completely deserted. The team decided to split up in groups of two, except for Rogers who had already moved to investigate, leaving Dugan alone.

Cap-WWII-D-Day

Captain America storms a beach with other American soldiers

After searching, Rogers found a deserted lab that looks like a war had torn through it. Searching through the notes, he discovered that they were working on creating a literal Hydra beast, just as he received a call for help from Falsworth and Morita, who the creature has in its grip. Trying to save them, he threw his shield to cut through a "head" which, like the mythical beast, resulted in two more growing back. The creature then dragged the two under water. Rushing to inform the rest, Jones informed Rogers that all records indicated the experiments were only on people. The remaining team decided to set charges to blow up the base while Rogers went to try and rescue the others.

Upon finding the creature's lair in a caved in area, Rogers noticed several German names scrawled into the wall, and was then told by Jones that more notes reveal that the HYDRA scientist thought that the "Hydra serum" got in their water supply, when suddenly Rogers came across the beast, still with Falsworth and Morita, and a fight ensued. The two Commandos escaped as Rogers stayed and fought, when suddenly the beast scrawled "Help Me" in German on the wall. Rogers then realized the beast was the scientists, and with ten seconds until the charges detonated protected it with his shield. He then decided to take the beast to Howard Stark, who could figure out how to separate it back into individual people.[10]

Bucky - Cap

Rogers and Barnes prepare for their final mission together

Rogers and his Howling Commandos progressively managed to destroy most major HYDRA operations, slowing HYDRA's efforts in building an army for global conquest. Along with their assaults on HYDRA, the Commandos also stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day[2] and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, pushing the Nazi occupiers of Europe back into Germany. A fictionalized version of Rogers' participation in the Battle of the Bulge would be presented on The Captain America Adventure Program after the war.[11]

In one particular mission against HYDRA, after receiving information on the location of one of HYDRA's top scientist Arnim Zola, Rogers, Bucky Barnes and Gabe Jones led a stealth attack and boarded Zola's armored train. While Jones stayed on top of the train, Rogers and Barnes went inside and were quickly ambushed.

Byebucky2

Rogers after seeing Bucky fall to his presumed demise

In the ensuing battle with the HYDRA soldiers, Bucky Barnes was thrown from the train. Despite his best efforts to save his friend, Rogers watched as Bucky fell down into the rocky mountain to his presumed death, devastated that he was unable to save him. Luckily, Zola was captured by Gabe Jones and handed over to Allied forces and interrogated by Chester Phillips. The mission proved to be worthwhile as Zola provided the Allies with information needed to defeat HYDRA.

Steve-Rogers-Mourns-Bucky-Barnes-WWII

Rogers mourns Bucky Barnes' death

After the loss of his dearest friend, Rogers went to a bombed out town and had a drink alone in a pub to mourn his friend's death, only to learn that because of the serum, he was unable to get drunk. He was joined by Peggy Carter, who tried to assure him that Barnes' death was not his fault. She told him that Barnes knew that their mission was worth dying for.

Cap prisoners

Captain America with captured German soldiers

Knowing that HYDRA was planning a massive attack on the world and wanting to decisively strike at HYDRA to end the conflict and avenge Bucky, Rogers, Stark, the remaining members of the Howling Commandos, Phillips, and Carter discussed their strategy to defeat their enemy for good. Thanks to the information provided by Zola, Rogers crafted a plan to ride into the base alone and then have the army follow him once he broke through the initial defenses.[1]

Attack on HYDRA Headquarters

Steve-HYDRA

Rogers, surrounded by HYDRA soldiers

"Arrogance may not be a uniquely American trait, but I must say you do it better than anyone. But there are limits to what even you can do, Captain, or did Erskine tell you otherwise?"

"He told me you were insane."

―Red Skull and Steve Rogers[src]

The Strategic Scientific Reserve put Rogers' plan into action. He rode into the base alone on his motorcycle. Multiple HYDRA soldiers on motorcycles rode behind him planning to kill him, but Rogers defeated them with weapon systems built into his motorcycle. Rogers dodged the attacks of a tank that was set up in front of the base and then rode over the wall that protected the base. He defeated many soldiers in the outer area of the base, and hopped off his motorcycle, which exploded on a metal door. Rogers continued to fight the soldiers, but was eventually subdued when they arrived with flamethrowers and many others arrived with guns.

Cap 22

Rogers is interrogated by Red Skull

Rogers was then taken prisoner and taken to Johann Schmidt in his quarters, who asked him why Abraham Erskine chose him to take the Super Soldier Serum. Rogers responded by saying he was "just a kid from Brooklyn". This angered Schmidt and he punched Rogers until he became calm again. Rogers told Schmidt that he would not give up. Schmidt then tried to shoot him in the head, but the Howling Commandos broke into the room. Thanks to the information given by Zola, they knew where Schmidt's quarters were and were able to burst through the window to begin their assault and to rescue Rogers. Schmidt ran from the chaos while his soldiers fought the Commandos; Rogers ran after him. When he eventually caught up to Schmidt, he threw his shield at him, but it got stuck in a doorway. He tried to get it out, but a HYDRA soldier with a flamethrower tried to attack him, so Rogers hid to protect himself.

Peggy Cap kiss

Rogers and Peggy Carter share a kiss

Peggy Carter ran up behind the soldier and shot and killed him. Rogers got his shield and continued to run after Schmidt, who was boarding a ship known as the Valkyrie, along with many soldiers. A large battle erupted between the HYDRA soldiers and the SSR soldiers. Rogers ran through the battle to get to the Valkyrie and stop Schmidt. He failed to catch up, but Chester Phillips and Peggy Carter arrived in Johann Schmidt's Coupe. He got in and they raced after the plane. Before jumping aboard the ship, Rogers and Carter shared their first and last kiss.[1]

Battle in the Valkyrie

Captain-america-the-first-avenger-hi-res-02

Captain America hijacks the Valkyrie

"Right now I'm in the middle of nowhere. If I wait any longer a lot of people are gonna die. Peggy... this is my choice. Peggy..."

"I'm here."

"I'm gonna need a rain check on that dance."

―Steve Rogers and Peggy Carter[src]

While on the Valkyrie, Rogers noticed that the bombs were actually aircrafts that were going to be deployed over major American cities. Rogers stayed unseen for a few minutes, then began attacking the soldiers that were getting ready to board the aircrafts.

Steve-Rogers-Flies-Bomb

Rogers pilots a HYDRA bomb ship

Eventually one of the soldiers got into a parasit, which Rogers tried to stop from leaving the plane. Unfortunately it did, but Rogers and a soldier were on the top. The other soldier fell into the turbine and died. Rogers tried to pull out the soldier who was piloting the parasit, but he pulled the ejecting button, and Steve took control of the parasit. Rogers tried to fly back to the Valkyrie, but Schmidt attacked Rogers with the ship's weapons. Rogers dodged these attacks and flew back into the ship.

Steve-Rogers-Red-Skull-First-Avenger

Rogers is attacked by Red Skull

He found Schmidt and they fought, but Rogers knocked Schmidt into the controls, making the ship free fall. Schmidt managed to get the ship back into a normal flight path. Schmidt shot at Rogers, but Rogers threw his shield at Schmidt and he flew into the containment unit harnessing the Tesseract's power. Schmidt picked up the Tesseract which had been disconnected from the containment unit due to impact and a portal through space opened, transporting him across the universe. The Tesseract then melted a small hole in the plane and fell into the ocean.

Cap Valkyrie

Rogers about to crash-land into the ice

After witnessing Schmidt's apparent death, Rogers began to pilot the plane and tried to fly it from its current path to destroy New York City but realized that the plane was going at such a fast speed. With no means of escaping the plane and with it traveling at a very fast speed to destroy New York, Rogers used the ship's intercom to call the HYDRA Headquarters, which was now controlled by the Strategic Scientific Reserve. Peggy Carter used the base's intercom and talked to Rogers. He told her that the plane was heading to New York to destroy it and it was going too fast for him to think of a plan of stop it. He then told her that the only way to save New York was to crash land the ship into the Arctic. He descended the ship down. As he did, Rogers and Carter spoke to each other as if Rogers was not going to crash. When the ship finally crashed, it left him preserved in the ice for nearly 70 years.[1]