Early Life

Childhood with Michael

"Margaret Elizabeth Carter! You'll be the death of me Peggy Carter! Oh where is my blasted handkerchief? Go on, have a laugh, but one of these days you're going to have to start behaving like a lady."

―Amanda Carter to Peggy Carter[src]

Margaret "Peggy" Carter was born to Harrison and Amanda Carter on Wednesday, April 9, 1921, in Hampstead, England. She received her education from St Martin-In-The-Fields High School for Girls.[2]

YoungPeggy-Playing

Peggy Carter plays with her older brother

Throughout her childhood, Carter almost always held a sense of adventure. She was particularly close to her older brother, Michael, whom she admired. Her mother often found Peggy's sense of adventure frightening and advised her to act more like a traditional lady.[3] Once, Carter was reprimanded by her school's headmaster for breaking into his home and attempting to steal his wife's underwear and his most expensive bottle of brandy. The incident made Carter a hero to her fellow students.[4]

World War II

The Codebreaker

Peggy 1940

Carter working at Bletchley Park

"Field work? But they don't send women into the field."

"Resistance networks all over Europe need people who won't draw attention walking down the street, they need women and they're recruiting you."

―Peggy Carter and Edwards[src]

By 1939, Carter was a member of the British Royal Military, engaging in more simplistic office work that was expected of women of that time. By 1940 she was working as a codebreaker in Bletchley Park. During this time, Carter became engaged to Fred Wells, a man who worked in her department. Her priorities were called into question when Mr. Edwards informed her that she had been recommended for the Special Operations Executive. Believing that a woman should not fight, Carter turned down the offer.

PeggyCarter-argues-with-MichaelCarter

Carter and her brother discuss Fred Wells

Carter introduced her fiancé to her brother Michael at their engagement party. To her disappointment, she discovered that Michael believed Wells was not good enough for her and that his sister had the potential for greater things. He revealed that he was the one who had recommended Peggy to be a field agent. The pair discussed if this wedding was truly what she wanted, with Michael telling her that as it was not yet her wedding day, she still had time to change her mind. In spite of his assurances that she was meant to be a fighter, Peggy refused to listen and stormed away.

PeggyCarter-learns-Michael-is-dead

Carter learns of her brother's death

Carter continued to focus on her upcoming wedding, having her mother help her try on her wedding dress. The preparations were tragically cut short when the family were informed that Michael had been killed fighting in World War II. His death greatly saddened Carter, who realized she had lost the only person who truly understood who she was. The loss prompted her to reverse her earlier decision and pursue the field agent position, but as a result, the marriage was called off.[3] Carter eventually joined the British counter-intelligence and security agency MI5.[5]

Joining the Strategic Scientific Reserve

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Peggy Carter during World War II

"Take your serum to the Allies, where it can be turned against HYDRA."

―Peggy Carter to Abraham Erskine[src]

As an MI5 operative, Carter was loaned to the American agency Strategic Scientific Reserve[5] where she became an advisor.[6] In November 1940, she infiltrated Castle Kaufmann, the headquarters of the SS general Johann Schmidt, leader of HYDRA, Adolf Hitler's top secret science division. Disguised as the maid Eva, she freed the captured scientist Abraham Erskine, the creator of the Super Soldier Serum, and escaped the castle.[7] Soon, Carter was assigned as a liaison from the British government to help the Americans combat the Nazis. Carter served under Colonel Chester Phillips in the Strategic Scientific Reserve.[8] In the winter of 1942, Carter spent time in the sewers of New York City.[9] Carter also spent time in the Soviet Union, learning local dialect which kept her from freezing to death.[10]

Project Rebirth

Peggy-Carter-Skinny-Steve-Driving

Carter and Steve Rogers during his training

"Faster, ladies! Come on! My grandmother has more life in her, God rest her soul. Move it!"

―Peggy Carter[src]

In June 1943, Carter was assigned to Colonel Chester Phillips' training base; she was the first to meet the candidates up for the Project Rebirth. When Private Gilmore Hodge mocked her English heritage and the fact that she was a woman, she promptly punched him across the jaw, much to Chester Phillips' approval. Carter oversaw potential candidates' training for Project Rebirth, including a skinny but determined Steve Rogers. She smiled each time Rogers would do something smarter or braver than the other candidates, such as dispatching a flagpole to retrieve a flag or diving on a grenade, not knowing it was a dud, to protect others.

Steve and Peggy in Car

Carter escorts Rogers to Project Rebirth

When Steve Rogers was selected as the candidate, she escorted him to the Strategic Scientific Reserve Brooklyn Facility under an antique shop. Along the drive, Carter and Rogers bonded over their shared struggles to gain respect in war time, Rogers due to his height and Carter due to her gender. Although Rogers was hopeless at speaking to a woman, Carter was charmed by his honesty and kindness.

Peggy-Carter-Super-Soldier

Carter looks at Rogers after his transformation

Carter witnessed how Rogers was injected with the Super Soldier Serum at Project Rebirth. During the procedure, Rogers began to scream in pain; Carter ordered Erskine to stop, but Rogers insisted he could finish the procedure. Rogers was successfully transformed, growing over a foot in height and gaining incredible muscles. Carter was one of the first to greet him after his transformation and provided him with a new shirt, not before touching his newly muscled figure.

CATFAPPKPeggy

Carter shooting at Heinz Kruger

As the celebrations continued, one of the guests, Heinz Kruger, detonated a bomb, destroying much of the lab. Kruger then shot and killed Abraham Erskine before making his escape. Carter was able to shoot him in the arm and gave chase. She followed the assassin into the streets of Brooklyn and fired several rounds into the car Kruger was using to escape. She managed to shoot the driver, but Kruger turned the car around and drove straight at her. She was saved by Rogers, who pushed her out the way, although Carter insisted she could have killed him. Rogers gave chase and successfully caught the assassin, but was unable to stop Kruger from killing himself.

Steve Peggy

Carter and Steve Rogers in Italy

Colonel Phillips was given a new assignment to take the S.S.R. to Europe to take the fight directly to HYDRA, and made Agent Carter and Howard Stark a part of his staff. In November 1943, Agent Carter met Steve Rogers again, though at this time he was employed by the US Government to perform as the Army's mascot Captain America. Carter spoke to him, telling him that Erskine meant him for more than performing; during their conversation Rogers learned that his friend Bucky Barnes had been captured by HYDRA and Phillips was not planning a rescue mission.

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Carter agrees to help Rogers

Carter and Howard Stark agreed to help Rogers get to his destination at the secret HYDRA base in Austria where Allied POWs were held. They took a plane and Stark flew them to the destination; along the way, Carter gave Rogers a radio to call her when he needed to be picked up. The plane was soon fired upon by enemy guns, so Rogers leaped from the plane while Stark flew Carter to safety. After a few days, Rogers did not return, leading Chester Phillips to announce him as killed in action, but before he could punish Carter for her part in Rogers' death, Rogers returned to the base with over 400 rescued soldiers. Carter berated him for arriving late, and Rogers showed her that his radio had been damaged in the firefight.[8]

Working with Captain America

2011 captain america 063

Carter speaks to Rogers and Bucky Barnes

"What do you think?"

"Yes, I think it works."

―Steve Rogers and Peggy Carter[src]

Peggy Carter was present at the meeting of the senior staff of Strategic Scientific Reserve in London, along with Colonel Phillips. They discussed the best way to take down HYDRA bases scattered across the Nazi-occupied Europe. She later met Rogers in a bar while he was putting together a new team for his next missions. Steve Rogers and Bucky Barnes found themselves in awe of Carter as she was wearing a beautiful red dress rather than her uniform. Although Barnes tried in vain to ask Carter for a dance, Carter would not look at him and told Rogers that once the war was over, she wanted to go dancing with the right partner. She told him that Phillips needed to see him in the morning and left.

Phillips Carter Rogers

Chester Phillips, Carter and Steve Rogers

The next morning Carter became furious at Steve Rogers after she saw him being kissed by Colonel Phillips' secretary Lorraine. He accused her of having a relationship with Howard Stark, much to her frustration. When she came to collect Rogers later, she found him trying out the new shield Stark had provided for him; without warning Carter picked up a gun and shot at Rogers, claiming to be simply testing the shield. She left leaving Rogers and Stark shocked and impressed.

A few months into the war, Carter received word that Bucky Barnes had been killed on a mission to capture HYDRA scientist Arnim Zola. Knowing that Rogers would be devastated by the loss of his closest friend, she went to find him. She found him sitting alone in the ruins of a bar drinking. She tried to comfort him, reminding him that Barnes' death was not his fault and Barnes must have believed that their mission was worth his sacrifice.[8]

Losing Steve Rogers

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Carter during Attack on HYDRA Headquarters

"I'll-I'll get Howard on the line. He'll know what to do."

"There's not enough time. This thing's moving too fast and it's heading for New York. I gotta put her in the water."

"Please don't do this. W-we have time. We can work it out."

―Peggy Carter and Steve Rogers[src]

In May 1945, Rogers attacked HYDRA's last base of operations, he allowed himself to be captured, only to distract Johann Schmidt and allow the US Army time to attack the base. Carter was a member of a company of soldiers led by Colonel Chester Phillips to follow Rogers into the HYDRA base. Carter was able to save Rogers' life when he was pinned back by a HYDRA soldier using flame throwers; Carter shot the enemy soldier in the back causing his equipment to explode. Rogers jokingly told her she was late, reminding her of their earlier mission when she accused him of the same thing. Rogers gave chase to Schmidt while Carter continued to fight.

Untitled9

Carter watches Rogers fly away

Red Skull managed to get to his HYDRA plane and Captain America gave chase; seeing that he had no chance of catching up, Carter and Colonel Phillips stole Johann Schmidt's Coupe and gave Rogers a lift. Moments before he jumped aboard the Valkyrie, Carter kissed Rogers and told him to get Schmidt. Rogers managed to leap aboard the plane as Phillips was able to stop the car from plunging off a cliff edge. Carter watched as the plane flew away with Rogers on board.

After a brutal fight to the death on a HYDRA plane, Johann Schmidt was finally defeated, along with his soldiers. Knowing that the plane Rogers was on would cause a lot of trouble for America, he was left with one option; forcing the large plane to land on the waters of the Northern Atlantic Ocean.

Captainamerica14634

Carter after Rogers' assumed death.

Carter, knowing that this would result in his death, did not give up hope. She pressed on the matter, implying that there would be time for them to sort the situation out, even if Howard Stark had to be called. However, Rogers claimed that there was not enough time, and proceeded with the landing. As the plane made its final descent, Peggy and Steve set a date where she would teach him how to dance. All communications with the plane were then lost, and all Carter could do was cry.[8]

The Obelisk

Carteraos5

The Howling Commandos with Peggy Carter

"These assets are now under the protection of the Strategic Scientific Reserve. They'll be relocated and hidden out of sight, indefinitely, as will you."

"Cut off one head, two more shall grow in its place."

"Then I guess we'll keep cutting them off."

―Peggy Carter and Werner Reinhardt[src]

Later that year, Peggy Carter led a Strategic Scientific Reserve team that included Jim Morita and Dum Dum Dugan into the last HYDRA base, commanded by General Werner Reinhardt. After arresting him, she had everything in the base confiscated and labelled. The label 0-8-4 was placed on an alien artifact in Reinhardt's possession that was shaped like an Obelisk. Carter discussed with Dugan that, with the war ending, a peace time organization was needed to protect the innocent from dangerous technologies and to supervise people like Howard Stark. [11]

End of the War

Peggy-Carter-Steve-Rogers-File-Ending

Carter looks at Steve Rogers' file after the war

In May 1945, Nazi Germany surrendered. With the war now won, the London SSR base was packed away and Carter began to help with the filing. Chester Phillips came over to her while she was moving boxes and handed her a single file, Captain Steve Rogers' file. She opened it and saw a picture of the man she loved before his transformation, a skinny but determined man. She kept the photo with her for many years after the war to remind her of the man she loved and lost.[8]