

= Captain Future ( magazine ) =

Captain Future was a science fiction pulp magazine launched in 1940 by Better Publications , and edited initially by Mort Weisinger . It featured the adventures of Captain Future , a super @-@ scientist whose real name was Curt Newton , in every issue . All but two of the novels in the magazine were written by Edmond Hamilton ; the other two were by Joseph Samachson . The magazine also published other stories that had nothing to do with the title character , including Fredric Brown 's first science fiction sale , " Not Yet the End " . Captain Future published unabashed space opera , and was , in the words of science fiction historian Mike Ashley , " perhaps the most juvenile " of the science fiction pulps to appear in the early years of World War II . Wartime paper shortages eventually led to the magazine 's cancellation : the last issue was dated Spring 1944 .

= = Publication history and contents = =

Although science fiction ( sf ) had been published before the 1920s , it did not begin to coalesce into a separately marketed genre until the appearance in 1926 of Amazing Stories , a pulp magazine published by Hugo Gernsback . By the end of the 1930s , the field was booming . Better Publications , a pulp magazine publisher which had acquired Thrilling Wonder Stories in 1936 , launched three new magazines as part of this boom . The first two were Startling Stories , which appeared in January 1939 , and Strange Stories , which began the following month ; both were edited by Mort Weisinger , who was also the editor of Thrilling Wonder Stories . Edmond Hamilton , an established science fiction writer , met with Leo Margulies , Better Publication 's editorial director , in early 1939 , and they subsequently planned the launch of a new magazine with the lead character of Curt Newton , a super @-@ scientist who lived on the moon and went by the name " Captain Future " . Margulies announced the new magazine at the first World Science Fiction Convention , held in New York in July 1939 , and the first issue , edited by Weisinger , appeared in January of the following year . Captain Future 's companions in the series included an enormously strong robot named Grag , an android named Otho , and the brain of Simon Wright , Newton 's mentor . Joan Randall , Newton 's girlfriend , was also a regular character . Better Publications followed up the magazine launch with a companion comic , Startling Comics , which appeared in May 1940 ; Captain Future was the protagonist of the lead story . Weisinger left in 1941 to edit comics following the adventures of Superman , and was replaced by Oscar J. Friend .

Captain Future was a hero pulp : these were pulps which were built around a central character , with every issue containing a lead story featuring that character . Every issue of Captain Future contained a novel about Curt Newton . Hamilton was willing to write the lead novel for every issue , but was concerned that he might be drafted , so Margulies made arrangements for other writers to contribute the lead stories . Hamilton escaped the draft , but Margulies had already made arrangements for other writers to work on the series , and so two of the seventeen lead novels in the magazine were written by Joseph Samachson , instead of by Hamilton . The house name " Brett Sterling " was invented to conceal the identity of the new writer ; it was used for both of Samachson 's contributions , as well as some of Hamilton 's . Hamilton also wrote regular features that provided background material on the stories : " Worlds of Tomorrow " provided information about the planets featured in the stories , and " The Futuremen " covered Newton 's companions . In addition to the novels about Curt Newton , Captain Future published both new and reprinted science fiction stories that were unconnected with the lead character . Fredric Brown 's first sf sale , " Not Yet the End " , appeared in the Winter 1941 issue ; and Weisinger reprinted David H. Keller 's The Human Termites and Laurence Manning 's The Man Who Awoke , both abridged , in the first few issues of the magazine ; these had originally appeared in 1929 and 1933 , respectively , and were from back issues of Wonder Stories , which Better Publications had acquired the rights to in 1936 . The magazine was unashamedly focused on straightforward space opera : a typical plot saw Captain Future and his friends save the solar system , or perhaps the entire universe , from a villain . Sf historian Mike Ashley describes the magazine as " perhaps the most juvenile " of the World War II crop of science fiction pulps . Wartime paper shortages killed the magazine in mid @-@ 1944 , but

more Captain Future novels saw print in Startling Stories , some over the next two years , with more following in 1950 and 1951 .

= = Bibliographic details = =

Captain Future was pulp format , 128 pages , and was priced at 15 cents ; the first seven issues were edited by Mort Weisinger , and the remaining ten by Oscar J. Friend . There were three issues to a volume . The schedule was quarterly , with one omission : there was no Fall 1943 issue . The publisher was Better Publications , with offices in Chicago and New York , for all issues . The magazine was subtitled " Wizard of Science " for the first four issues ; after that the subtitle was " Man of Tomorrow " , a name that had already been used by the Superman franchise for their hero .

Thirteen Captain Future novels were reprinted as paperbacks at the end of the 1960s , all by Popular Library . Ten of these , all printed in 1969 , were originally printed in Captain Future as follows :

= ?iroka Kula massacre =

The ?iroka Kula massacre was the killing of 41 civilians in the village of ?iroka Kula near Gospi? , Croatia during the Croatian War of Independence . The killings began on 13 October 1991 and continued until late October . They were perpetrated by the Croatian Serb SAO Krajina police and generally targeted ethnic Croat civilians in ?iroka Kula . Several victims were ethnic Serbs suspected by the police of collaboration with Croatian authorities . Most of the victims ' bodies were thrown into the Golubnja? a Pit , a nearby karst cave .

Thirteen individuals were charged and tried in connection with the killings , four were convicted in absentia in Belgrade . The other eleven were tried and convicted in absentia in Gospi? . One of the those convicted by Gospi? County Court subsequently returned to Croatia , where he was granted a retrial and acquitted . A monument dedicated to the victims of the massacre was built in the village in 2003 .

= = Background = =

In August 1990 , an insurrection took place in Croatia centred on the predominantly Serb @-@ populated areas , including parts of Lika , around the city of Gospi? , with significant Serb populations . The areas were subsequently named SAO Krajina and , after declaring its intention to integrate with Serbia , the Government of Croatia declared it to be a rebellion . By March 1991 , the conflict escalated into the Croatian War of Independence . In June 1991 , Croatia declared its independence as Yugoslavia disintegrated . A three @-@ month moratorium followed , after which the decision came into effect on 8 October .

As the Yugoslav People 's Army ( JNA ) increasingly supported the SAO Krajina , the Croatian Police were unable to cope . Thus , the Croatian National Guard ( ZNG ) was formed in May 1991 . The development of the military of Croatia was hampered by a UN arms embargo introduced in September , while the military conflict in Croatia continued to escalate ? the Battle of Vukovar started on 26 August . By the end of August the fighting intensified in Lika as well , specifically as the Battle of Gospi? continued through much of September .

= = Killings = =

SAO Krajina forces occupied the village of ?iroka Kula in September 1991 . The village was located 11 kilometres ( 6 @.@ 8 miles ) northeast of Gospi? in Lika . It had an ethnically mixed prewar population of 536 consisting of Croats and Serbs , but most of the Croat population fled by the end of the month .

On 13 October , the chief of the SAO Krajina police in ?iroka Kula instructed the remaining Croats

in the village to move to two houses before they were evacuated . After the civilians complied with the request , SAO Krajina forces shot at the assembled villagers , while houses owned by Croats were looted and torched by a mob . The attack resulted in thirteen civilian deaths . The victims were killed using shotguns and their bodies thrown into burning houses . Some of the victims were burned to death . Most of those killed were elderly , and at least one of the victims was a child . In the following days , the killings continued . According to a 2013 news report , a total of 41 civilians were killed in the village that month , and most of the corpses thrown into the Golubnja?a Pit , 22 of which were retrieved from the karst cave as of 2011 . In November 1992 , Republic of Serbian Krajina ( RSK ) police estimated that the bodies of approximately forty Croat civilians were thrown into the pit .

In mid @-@ October , SAO Krajina police arrested four Serbian civilians in ?iroka Kula , Mane Raki? and his three children for allegedly collaborating with Croatian authorities . During the night of 20 / 21 October , the police searched Raki? 's home , and then killed his wife in another house in ?iroka Kula . Her body was doused with kerosene and torched . By the end of the month , Raki? and his children were also murdered and their remains thrown into the Golubnja?a Pit .

= = Aftermath = =

Five SAO Krajina police officers were prosecuted by Knin District Court in 1992 for the murder of the Raki? family . The investigation was spurred on by requests from relatives of the victims , who threatened the RSK authorities that they would notify the United Nations Protection Force ( UNPROFOR ) unless the RSK authorities continued searching , which led ?uro Kresovi? , president of Knin District Court to write to the Minister of the Interior of the RSK asking for instructions on how to proceed , stating that any attempt to retrieve the bodies of the Raki? family would uncover numerous other bodies in the Golubnja?a Pit . He requested instructions on how to proceed with the investigation and what to do if the UNPROFOR found out about the bodies in the pit . Even though the RSK investigation was completed , trial of those suspected of involvement in the murders did not begin before 2010 in Belgrade . The trial and the appeals process were concluded in 2013 , resulting in four convictions : ?edo Budisavljevi? was sentenced to thirteen years in prison , while Mirko Malinovi? , Milan Bogunovi? and Bogdan Grui?i? were sentenced to twelve , ten , and eight years in prison respectively .

In 1994 , the County Court in Gospi? tried and convicted in absentia a group of seven Croatian Serbs for their involvement in the killings of eight civilians ( members of the Nik?i? and Ore?kovi? families , but not the Raki? family ) in ?iroka Kula , handing out prison sentences . Nikola Zagorac , Miroslav Serdar and Dragan Vunjak were sentenced to 20 years in prison each , while Dane Serdar , Du?an Uzelac , Milorad Bara? and Dragan Uzelac each received sentences of 15 years in prison . In 1997 , the County Court in Gospi? also tried Vladimir Korica and Branko Banjeglav in absentia for taking part in the massacre . Both of them were convicted and sentenced to 12 years in prison . None of those convicted in absentia served any prison time . Dane Serdar voluntarily returned to Croatia in September 2003 and was granted a retrial as he had been convicted in absentia . Dane Serdar 's 1994 conviction was overturned and he was acquitted in September 2004 , after prosecution failed to present sufficient evidence against him .

A monument to the victims of the massacre , as well as 164 World War II victims from the area of ?iroka Kula , was built in 2003 . The monument , designed by Petar Doli? and named the Croatian History Portal ( Portal hrvatske povijesti ) , was unveiled by the relatives of those killed in the 1991 massacre on 13 October , marking the 12th anniversary of the killings .