

SERGEANT ROCK

THE COMBAT-HAPPY JOE

FIRST APPEARANCE OUR ARMY AT WAR #81 (April 1959)

STATUS Hero REAL NAME Frank Rock

OCCUPATION Former leader of Easy Company BASE Mobile

HEIGHT 6ft WEIGHT 183 lbs EYES Blue HAIR White (formerly red)

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Expert combatant, marksman, and battlefield leader; is skilled with almost every known firearm and can operate most varieties of tanks and other heavy equipment.

THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON earned much of America's attention during World War II with their brightly-colored costumes and their superhuman powers. Yet no one is considered a greater wartime hero than a simple, G.I.-uniformed Army sergeant named Frank Rock. Rock suffered unfathomable tragedies before he ever saw combat. His father died in World War I. His stepfather suffocated during a mine collapse. A father figure Rock looked up to while working at a Pittsburgh steel mill also lost his life. Many of his siblings similarly perished, but patriotic Rock enlisted in the army the day after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941 and received an immediate assignment to the European theater of war.



IN PRINT *Sergeant Rock* was immortalized by writer Kanigher and artist Kubert.

QUIET HERO *Rock never thought twice about advancing on an enemy machine-gun nest or charging into a firefight to rescue a pinned-down comrade. His men would follow him anywhere.*



THE GOOD SOLDIER

Private Rock didn't truly distinguish himself until the D-Day invasion in 1944. Soon after, at the Battle of Three Stripes Hill, he received a battlefield promotion to sergeant. Sergeant Rock's unit, Easy Company, quickly became one of the most distinguished fighting forces in Europe. Moving from North Africa to Italy to France to Germany, the "combat-happy Joes" included such stalwarts as Wildman, Little Sure Shot, Bulldozer, Farmer Boy, and the Ice Cream Soldier. Pulling off impossible missions, the company lived up to their motto, "Nothin's ever easy in Easy."

Sergeant Rock struck up a battlefield romance with French resistance fighter **MADMOISELLE MARIE** and served a brief tour in the Pacific theater. He refused promotions so often he received the nickname "the general of sergeants." According to legend, he died when struck by the last enemy bullet fired on the last day of the war.

Rock, however, survived. Performing postwar covert missions for the U.S. government, he battled his old foe the Iron Major and teamed up with Easy Company veteran Bulldozer on an assignment to Dinosaur Island.

Recently, U.S. President Lex Luthor (*see* **LUTHOR LEX**) named General Frank Rock—by then in his eighties—Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Rock died during the Imperiox War (*see* **Great Battles**, pp. 320–1) and was buried with full honors at Arlington National Cemetery. A short time later a similar Frank Rock appeared at the head of a reconstituted **SUICIDE SQUAD**. It is debatable whether this Rock was the original or merely an impostor. DW

OLD SOLDIER *Rock had never sought out promotions, but in the modern era he re-emerged as a general. Part of President Lex Luthor's cabinet, he distinguished himself from his shady commander-in-chief by leading the military effort to destroy Imperiox.*



DEFENSIVE *General Rock prevents Imperiox from invading Washington.*

KEY STORYLINES

- **OUR ARMY AT WAR #81 (APRIL 1959)**: Sgt. Rock (here called "Rocky") makes his debut. The series would be renamed for him in issue #302.
- **Sgt. ROCK: BETWEEN HELL AND A HARD PLACE (2004)**: This moody, recent graphic novel was illustrated by the legendary Joe Kubert.
- **SUPERMAN #166 (MARCH 2001)**: President Lex Luthor reintroduces Frank Rock into the DC universe's modern era.