

The Blackwoods and the Warrior Monks

By Michael O'Brien

Name/Type	Pluck	FV	SV	Spd.	Cost	Talents	Basic Equipment
Bethany Blackwood	4+	+1	+4		36 Plus Reliquary points	Leadership +2, Gunslinger	2 Pistols, Brigandine, Fighting Knife, Reliquary (holds one Mystic Power of up to 13 points)
Benjamin Blackwood	3+	+3	+3		32 Plus Reliquary points	Marksman	Teleforce Pistol (see below), Brigandine, Fighting Knife, Reliquary (holds one Mystic Power, of up to 9 points)
Barnabas Blackwood	3+	+3	+3		32 Plus Reliquary points	Marksman	Teleforce Pistol (see below), Brigandine, Fighting Knife, Reliquary (holds one Mystic Power of up to 9 points)
Tenzin norbu	3+	+4	+2	+2	52 Plus Reliquary points	Leadership +1, Intervention, Duelist (<i>Khadgaratha</i>)	Khadgaratha ("Precious Sword", see below), Thrown Axe, Lined Coat, Reliquary (holds one Mystic Power of up to 16 points)
<i>'phong skyen pa</i> ("Skilled Archer")	4+	+1	+3	+1	21		Crossbow, Lined Coat, Sword
<i>dmag rgod po</i> ("Skilled Soldier")	4+	+3	0	+1	21	Tough	Large Sword, Lined Coat

Khadgaratha ("Precious Sword"): Same stats as a *Large Sword* except has a Pluck Penalty of -3 (7 points).

Teleforce Pistol: Same stats as a *Carbine* (5 Points) except is *one-handed* (Invented by Nikola Tesla). May be used with **Lightning Draw**.

OPTIONS

One Archer or Soldier may add **Medic** (+5 points).

Any Archer or Soldier may add **Stealth** (+5 points) and/or **Fanatic** (+5 points).

Any Soldier may add **Duelist** [*'dpa dam*] (+5 points).

Any Archer may add **Marksman** [*gzhu gar ma*] (+5 points).

Any named character may add one additional Talent (5-10 points). Note: a talent bought for either Benjamin or Barnabas **must** also be purchased for the other.

Any figure may add a **Breath Preserver** (+2 points).

Reliquaries assigned above are *optional*.

Tibetan Weapons Terminology

To ease game play, weapons for the Tibetan warrior monks listed above are named for their statistical IHMN counterparts rather than given their actual Tibetan names. The actual Tibetan names are below:

Sword: **dgu zi**

Large Sword: **'dpa dam**

Crossbow: **gzhu gar ma** (translated "**strong bow**"): **not** a crossbow at all but rather a high-powered strung bow with equivalent effectiveness

Lined Coat: **bse khrab** (leather armor)

Thrown Axe: **'khor lo** (Tibetan), or **chakram** (Indian), a circular throwing ring, 6"-12" in diameter, with a razor-sharp edge, used effectively by Sikh armies (and Zena!).

The Blackwoods and the Warrior Monks

They first came to Tibet in 1864 and fell in love with the land, people, and culture. Then they met each other and immediately fell in love. Both in their late twenties, they were extremely promising academics: Benedict Blackwood, a top-notch geologist, soon to become one of the world's top experts on his beloved Himalayas, and Bernadette Blanford, a pioneer in the study of animal behavior, specializing in her beloved big cats of south-central Asia. They married that first summer, and after returning the next year, Bernadette gave birth to quadruplets, pairs of identical twin boys (Barnabas and Benjamin) and girls (Barbara and Bethany). The local Tibetans, who already loved the Blackwoods for their unpretentious and charitable ways, saw the birth as an omen of great import.

The Blackwood's close friends and guides were a well-to-do couple named Tenzin norbu and Tashi dawa, who were scientists in their own right. Together with their famous parents and wonderful Tibetan friends, the Blackwood children led a fairy-tale existence: summers in Tibet, the rest of the year home in Britain or travelling with their famous parents to the major cities of Europe and the United States.

On the quads' 21st birthday, Tenzin and Tashi gave them and their parents very special presents. Having been drawn more and more into the study of their Buddhist faith, they had learned the secret of creating reliquaries and gave one to each of the Blackwoods. Each reliquary contained a single mystic power that was specifically attuned to its owner. Unfortunately, word of these unusual gifts reached the wrong ears, with tragic results.

Four years later, the disaster struck. Fortunately, three of the quads and Tenzin were unexpectedly away from the Blackwood's summer home in Lhasa, helping a nearby village deal with a rogue Yeti. When they returned, they found Benedict, Bernadette, Barbara, and Tashi had been killed, the house ransacked, and the victims' reliquaries gone. There had been a struggle, but it was obvious that the four had finally succumbed to poison gas. That fact, plus debris at the scene, and eyewitness accounts of strange visitors, made it clear that the murders were a Totenkopf company from the Society of Thule, led by von Ströheim himself.

There on the spot of this most foul deed, the four made a pact, sealed in blood: for the next five years, they would dedicate themselves to learning the military arts; they would develop sources of intelligence on the dealings of the Society of Thule; and they would return here on this very day five years hence to begin a quest for justice and revenge unlike anything the world has ever seen.

The Blackwoods returned to England and joined the Army, eventually serving with great distinction in the elite Prince

of Wales Extraordinary Company. Using their famous parents' wealth and influence, they steadily developed an intelligence network, and reached out to their parents' many friends for any assistance possible. The great Nikola Tesla applied his research into Teleforce weaponry, creating Teleforce pistols for Barnabas and Benjamin. As time passed, Bethany emerged as the clear leader, showing a daunting single-mindedness of purpose and an expertise in containing and channeling the impulsiveness and impetuosity of the boys.

Meanwhile, Tenzin gathered a group of her closest and most-trusted friends and relatives and headed west to the Likir Monastery, where they immersed themselves in the arts of swordsmanship (*ral gri'i thabs*) and archery (*mda' tsha*) and in supplication to the guardian deity Mahakala (*mgon po*). In addition, Tenzin studied the art of the *'khor lo* (chakram), a throwing ring with a razor-sharp edge. She and her group displayed such profound dedication and sincere effort to their studies and worship that the amazed monks awarded Tenzin the gift of Khadgaratha, a sacred two-handed sword with a perpetually sharp edge. The monks believed she had achieved an extremely rare and sacred bond with Mahakala that would protect her during her struggles to come.

Meanwhile, von Ströheim's desire to make use of the stolen reliquaries resulted in abject failure. Dr. Kobalt, his chief engineer, despite his many accomplishments, had no understanding, or patience with, the mystical occult. Unable to penetrate the secrets of the reliquaries, he finally destroyed them in a manic fit of rage.

Now the five years have passed. The Blackwoods and Tenzin with her warrior monks have met again in Lhasa. With grim determination, they are about to set out to follow any clue and surmount any obstacle to harass and ultimately destroy the Society of Thule, and to bring Count Otto von Ströheim to justice.

Figures for *The Blackwoods and the Warrior Monks* The Blackwoods

Black 13th Gun Mage Strike Team, *Warmachine*, Privateer Press

Tenzin and the Warrior Monks

Cylena Raefyll & Nyss Hunters, *Warmachine*, Privateer Press

