Dead Letter

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This mini-campaign set in 1998 reintroduces Delta Green to its old nemesis, the Karotechia. In an ongoing campaign where the Karotechia's post-WWII existence is already known to Delta Green, this operation can be just one thread in a vast web of Karotechia plots. What sets it apart is that the Agents have a chance to go head-to-head against Reinhard Galt, one of the Karotechia's ruling triumvirate. "Dead Letter" calls for the Agents to recognize when to be cautious and when to be bold. Too-cautious Agents will end up eating Galt's dust. Overly bold Agents will end up with impressive funerals.

For the Agents, the operation begins with a package intercepted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, a package with some highly unusual contents. But the story begins long before the Agents enter the picture.

Background

The old saying is true: Old Nazis never die, they just go to South America. In an isolated and well-defended hacienda in Brazil, an organization steeped in blackest magic has taken upon themselves the holy mission of starting a Fourth Reich, a Reich grounded in the occult. This group, the Karotechia, networks with Aryan and white-supremacist organizations around the world. (For more information on the Karotechia, see *Delta Green: The Conspiracy.)*

One of the Karotechia's ruling triumvirate, Dr. Gunter Frank, is a technological necromancer of great skill. His experiments in reanimation and necromancy require exotic chemical compounds. Because his work is now being conducted on a massive scale, Dr. Frank's facilities in Estância in Brazil cannot produce enough of his reanimation compounds. He has therefore placed an order through Nuevas Fronteras, one of his South American shell companies, with the American pharmaceutical company Amalgamated Bio-Carb, Inc. (ABC). The production of the reanimation compound is a highly illegal operation. Numerous Occupational Safey and Health Administration (OSHA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards would be violated by the production, transportation, and export of a chemical compound whose application, for security reasons, ABC would not be permitted to know.

ABC was perfect for the job. It was small and new, utilized cutting-edge technology, was geographically and jurisdictionally isolated (on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, straddling the Montana/Alberta border), and so hungry for capital that its leadership asked no questions about the mysterious compound. Frank kept a close eye on its work.

But nothing is ever really perfect… and accidents do happen.

The "Accident"

Two months ago, a group of low-rent burglars broke into ABC's "Gemstone" Blackfeet Production Facility. Thomas Iron Shirt, Jacob Left Hand, and Charles Low Horn—all residents of the reservation—mistakenly believed that there were chemicals at ABC that could be used to make street drugs, like methamphetamines or MDMA. They were assisted in their break-in by Iron Shirt's girlfriend, Lynne Crystal Stone, who works at the plant as a janitor. She provided Thomas and the others with uniforms, stolen IDs, and a map of the facility. They went in during the July 4th holiday weekend.

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After the trio entered the facility, they tripped the alarms and were pursued by ABC security personnel into the Sapphire production unit. ("Sapphire" was the code name for the mysterious chemical compound ABC produced for Nuevas Fronteras.) The guards wisely chose not to go into the production unit to confront armed burglars, instead sending four guard dogs. Thomas Iron Shirt made the fatal error of firing his weapon and punctured one of the production vats. The vat's contents, under extremely high pressure, exploded, flooding the production unit with the gaseous Sapphire compound. As guards raced to seal the entrances, the burglars and the dogs died of toxic shock from direct exposure to Sapphire.

They didn't stay dead long.

Within a few minutes, the newly risen dead were howling and pounding on the sealed door as they tore each other to shreds. The first ABC personnel on the scene wanted to open the production unit and rescue the burglars, who they mistakenly thought had miraculously survived the chemical spill and were now being attacked by the guard dogs. Others argued that contamination would spread.

One of the zombified burglars, Jacob Left Hand, was literally torn limb from limb by the zombified guard dogs, whose addled minds continued to obey their last orders. Left Hand's severed appendages continued to flop around on the floor, unable to lose their newfound unlife. Charles Low Horn and Thomas Iron Shirt tore two of the dogs apart, but eventually Low Horn fell before the animals and was badly mauled, losing a hand and a foot. Iron Shirt, who still retained his original intelligence, hid himself in an equipment closet with his companion. The dogs occupied themselves mutilating Left Hand and eventually calmed down. Once things became quiet in the Sapphire production unit, the ABC cleanup team figured the burglars were dead and chose not to open the unit until they were sure the leak was contained.

Within an hour, Special Operations Director Ray Turner arrived on the scene and began to get things organized. When ABC personnel in biohazard suits entered the production unit, the two intact zombified dogs forced their way out and attacked the ABC personnel. Several personnel received bite and claw wounds, and ABC security guards shot the berserk animals. The gunshot wounds, which could best be described as "non-survivable," failed to daunt the frenzied attacks. The dogs were eventually crippled by multiple shotgun blasts.

When the cleanup team entered the Sapphire production unit, they found the dismembered components of Jacob Left Hand and the two other dogs still flopping around on the floor. Thomas Iron Shirt's cries for help brought the cleanup team to the equipment closet and its ghastly occupants.

Ray Turner was the first to realize what they may have stumbled onto and ordered a cover-up. The break-in was not reported to the tribal police, the chemical leak was not reported to the EPA, and the ABC personnel who witnessed the event were first bribed and then dispersed to new and higher-paying positions with other ABC facilities. (Fortunately, there were few people to relocate, because the facility had been running on a skeleton crew for the holiday.)

Turner reported the break-in, the chemical spill, and the fatalities to his superiors at ABC, but he did not report the effect that Sapphire had on the burglars and dogs. Until he understood what Sapphire was and how it worked, Turner decided to keep all the information about the "zombies" to himself. Instead, he called in Dr. Enzili Metreaux, one of ABC's top biochemists. She had been working on new forms of artificial stimulants to revive coma patients. Turner couldn't have chosen a better person for the job.

Sample file

Timeline

JANUARY 2

* ABC receives its order from Nuevas Fronteras, a Uruguayan holding company. It begins production of Sapphire soon after, making regular shipments of the compound to South America.

JULY 4

* Blackfeet reservation resident Thomas Iron Shirt breaks into ABC and causes an accident in the Sapphire production unit. In the aftermath of the accident, Ray Turner launches a cover-up and has the resulting zombies isolated in Lab 6.

JULY 7 TO AUGUST 14

* Dr. Enzili Metreaux arrives on the scene. She examines the zombies and experiments with the Sapphire compound.

AUGUST 15

* Dr. Metreaux brings colleagues Dr. Arnold Crisp and Dr. Peter Zeis to the Gemstone facility.

AUGUST 22

* Dr. Crisp breaks into the closed section of Lab 6, discovering the true scope of the operation.

AUGUST 23-31

* Dr. Crisp plans a second break-in to steal some evidence of what is going on in Lab 6. He orders a copy of *The Ecotopian* to learn if Fiona Lin-Wei still works there.

SEPTEMBER 1

* The most recent copy of *The Ecotopian* arrives.

SEPTEMBER 4 (Friday)

* Dr. Crisp steals a reanimated dog's head and mails it next-day express to the offices of *The Ecotopian*

SEPTEMBER 5 (Saturday)

* Postal inspectors intercept the dog-head package.

SEPTEMBER 6 (Sunday)

* Delta Green agents arrive in Berkeley at noon (scenario begins).

SEPTEMBER 8 (Tuesday)

* The first day after the Labor Day weekend. Dr. Metreaux notices the missing lab specimen, and ABC launches an internal security probe.

SEPTEMBER 14 (Monday)

* Reinhard Galt arrives with his cleanup team.

SEPTEMBER 15 (Tuesday)

* Galt spends the day investigating ABC and auditing their books. He contacts Dr. Frank at 5 p.m. and receives orders to destroy the Gemstone facility.

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The New Reanimator

The process for creating Dr. Gunter Frank's reanimation compound is not new. It is a refinement of a technique devised decades ago by Dr. Herbert West, combined with parallel research performed by Dr. Javier Muñoz. Fifteen years ago, Dr. Metreaux, then a medical student at Miskatonic University, dug up West's dissertation and some of his notes. Metreaux, the granddaughter of a voodoo mambo, did not think West's research into the revivification of dead tissue sounded as ridiculous as West's contemporaries did. Intrigued, Metreaux continued her research on Dr. West and his work and eventually discovered a journal kept by West's assistant. She found records from the Sefton Asylum for the Criminally Insane that partly corroborated the journal's account of West's experiments. Metreaux also followed up several intriguing leads concerning West's work in Flanders as a member of the WWI Canadian Expeditionary Force. In her spare time, she tried to re-create West's experiments but never got so much as a twitch from any of the lab animals she tried to reanimate. Ultimately, she gave up pursuing West's experiments.

Today, Dr. Metreaux works for Amalgamated Bio-Carb as one of its chief researchers, pursuing research on reviving coma patients and drugs which can mimic the work of nerves. Brought in by Ray Turner, she examined the Sapphire compound to determine exactly what ABC had been producing for the past six months, as well as figure out what Sapphire did to the burglars and the dogs who were exposed to it.

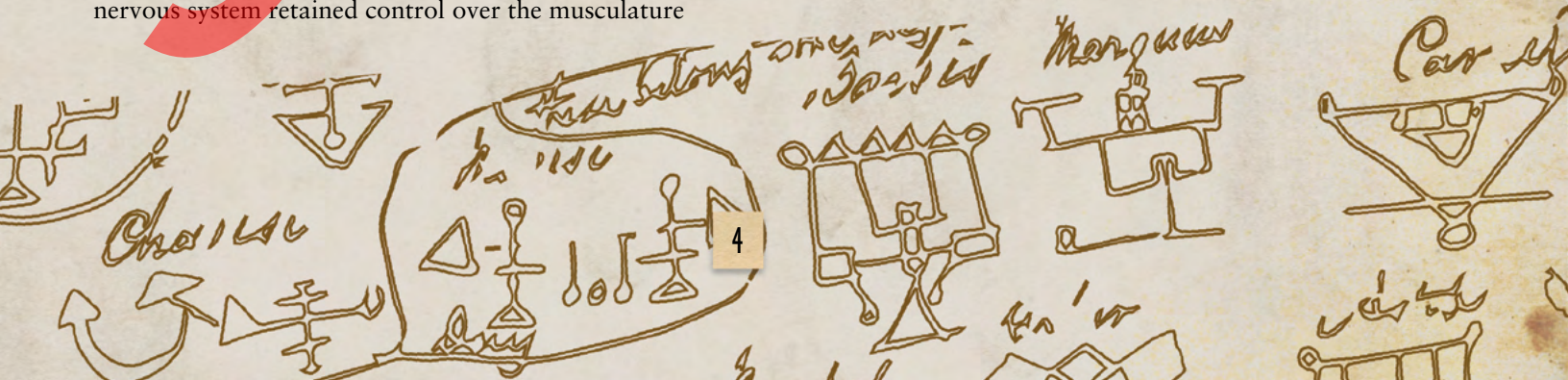
Set up in a restricted-access laboratory, Lab 6, Dr. Metreaux quickly recognized the similarity between the Sapphire compound and the formula for West's "Re-Animation Agent." When she began experimenting with the remains of the burglars and the dogs, she found that the organs remained inoperative and that they neither ate, slept, or respired, but that the central nervous system retained control over the musculature and that cognitive abilities continued at reduced levels. When she began applying the Sapphire compound to dead lab animals, such as mice, rats, and guinea pigs, it functioned almost exactly as described in West's assistant's journal. The dead animals functioned as if alive. Dr. Metreaux progressed to experiments on primates, dogs, and larger mammals.

As the scope of her research grew, Metreaux brought in two assistants with whom she had previously worked: Dr. Arnold Crisp and Dr. Peter Zeis. She worked with them in an "open" area of Lab 6 where all experimentation on the guard dogs and the new animals took place. The "closed" area of Lab 6, accessible only by Metreaux, Turner, and a few selected security personnel (and then only if escorted), was where Metreaux continued with her experiments on the three burglars.

Apprised of Metreaux's progress, Ray Turner, without ABC's knowledge, hired a patent-law firm to determine whether the Sapphire compound had, in fact, been patented—which it had not. Turner knew that if Metreaux could refine Sapphire for use on humans, the applications would be worth billions of dollars. Fatal wounds and terminal diseases would be a thing of the past, and perhaps even old age and death could be banished. Ray Turner would be the richest man in the world.

Before that could happen, Dr. Metreaux would have to conduct further experiments on humans. Ray Turner knew that contracting with a medical supply company would create an unwanted paper trail. And Turner was not yet sure he wanted to share this discovery with ABC. So he tasked his personal fixer and head of security at Gemstone, Louis Deschiel, to find "alternate" means of acquiring the recently deceased. Were it not for the discovery of a security leak within the project, this would have led to smuggling corpses from city morgues around the country.

Sample file



The Security Leak

Unfortunately for Metreaux, one of her assistants, Dr. Arnold Crisp, began to suspect what she was working on in Lab 6's closed section. Curiosity and fear prompted Crisp to break in while Metreaux was meeting with Ray Turner. He was horrified by what he found: the undead Thomas Iron Shirt begged to be released from his plexiglass cell, the lively corpse of Charles Low Horn snarled from his cage like a rabid animal, and Jacob Left Hand's severed head rolled its eyes insanely as the EEG it was wired to chimed like a metronome. Crisp was forced to hide in the closed section while Metreaux gave Ray Turner an on-site update on her progress. Overhearing Metreaux and Turner talking, he learned of their plans for the Sapphire compound, as well as their plans to begin experimenting on fresh cadavers.

Crisp feared that if he reported the reanimation experiments to the U.S. government, the feds would drop a national security net over the whole affair and continue the experiments in secret. What Crisp wanted was for the experiments to be exposed to the public and stopped altogether, so he decided to steal a piece of incontrovertible proof and mail it to the press.

But Crisp's paranoia was running full tilt. He was terrified that if he mailed the proof to some giant corporate-controlled broadcast or print media, ABC might be able to buy them off with the promise of immortality. What Crisp needed were fanatics: people too dedicated, stupid, or crazy to be bought off or intimidated. That's when he remembered Fiona Lin-Wei, a classmate from the University of California, Berkeley.

Fiona Lin-Wei was a fanatical environmentalist and a member of both People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). She and several other students burglarized Crisp's graduate-school laboratory, freed the lab animals, and videotaped examples of what she considered to be cruelty to animals. Fiona used her trial on charges of burglary, theft, and criminal mischief as an opportunity to rail against animal experimentation. Crisp attended the trial and developed a crush on the



sample file

diminutive yet fiery Fiona, who took every opportunity to incriminate herself for the sake of her political views while her co-defendants kept fearfully quiet. This was definitely someone too dedicated, stupid, or crazy to be bought off or intimidated. When he asked her out, she laughed. The last thing Crisp had heard about Lin-Wei was that she was working as a reporter for an environmentalist magazine called *The Ecotopian*. So Crisp ordered a copy and discovered that Fiona was still on the staff—in fact, she was now the editor.

Fearing discovery if he dared to go inside the closed section again, Dr. Crisp had to satisfy himself with retrieving the frozen head of a reanimated dog from the open section of Lab 6. That night, he smuggled it off the premises of the ABC facility, drove to Great Falls, Montana, and mailed it by next-day express, with a note describing the source of the head and promising to get in touch soon with more information. As perhaps a combination of a clue and an ironic joke, when Dr. Crisp mailed the package, he listed Thomas Iron Shirt as the sender on the package and purchasing receipt.

The package never arrived. It was intercepted by the U.S. Postal Service, thanks to heightened security procedures in the aftermath of the Unabomber and a rash of anthrax-by-mail threats against abortion clinics.

Since mailing the sample to Fiona Lin-Wei, Crisp has been in a rising panic. He is convinced that someone will find out. He doesn't know what to do. Is Dr. Metreaux on to him? Is his life in danger? Should he run for it? If they don't know he stole the head, will making a break for it tip them off? As the scenario begins, he is paralyzed by fear and paranoia.

The Karotechia Cleans House

The July 4th accident caused ABC to shut down Sapphire for a couple of weeks, and as a result they missed one of their scheduled shipments to South America. Dr. Gunter Frank became suspicious of the delay and tasked a law firm from Montevideo, Uruguay, to inquire about the situation on behalf of his shell company, Nuevas Fronteras. ABC responded with nothing but stammering misdirection.

A week after the scenario begins, Frank dispatches Reinhard Galt, another member of the Karotechia's ruling triumvirate, to ABC to "correct" the problem. Dr. Frank would not trust this assignment to lesser members of the Karotechia because he doesn't want word of this getting back to Olaf Bitterich, the most powerful member of the triumvirate—his eyes and ears are everywhere. Galt is the only person Dr. Frank can rely on for discreet tasks that won't get back to Bitterich. So Galt assembles a few hand-picked Ritter—dangerous veterans—and takes a helicopter out of the jungle, a sleek Lear jet to Missoula, Montana, and thence to the Blackfeet reservation by helicopter again. There, he announces himself and his associates as representatives of Nuevas Fronteras. They want answers and an audit of the project. When Galt eventually discovers the truth, he and his associates destroy Gemstone and kill everyone present.

Getting Started

Of course, none of this takes place in a vacuum. Delta Green reacts to the discovery of the zombified dog's head. Their task force, in the form of the Agents, may make life difficult for the villains of this piece. Here is a list of possible agencies from which Delta Green might draw personnel for this mission. This is only a suggested list; feel free to add Agents from any agency they feel will make the scenario more interesting and enjoyable.

- Central Intelligence Agency
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- U.S. Postal Inspection Service
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Disease
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Blackfeet tribal police

Sample file

Briefing

The Agents are brought in on this op by a Delta Green agent who calls himself John Drake. He acts as the team coordinator. His job is to gather assets, human and otherwise, and communicate with other cells as needed. Drake was contacted by a Delta Green Friendly in the U.S. Postal Inspection Service named Johann Baldwin, and after conferring with A-Cell, he assembles the Agents.

On September 5, the Agents are contacted by a variety of methods: encrypted email, "wrong-number" phone calls with code words slipped in, dead drops, a random street encounter, whatever the Handler feels is appropriate for the individual Agent. All the Agents get invitations to "a night at the opera," directing them to San Francisco and then to the University District post office in Berkeley, across the Bay, along with the instructions found in **MISSION BRIEFING** on page 8. The Agents are to arrive at noon on Sunday, September 6, when the post office is closed. Be sure to emphasize how this ruins their Labor Day weekend plans.

They are met at the rear loading docks by Inspector Baldwin, described on page 45. He takes them through the letter-sorting area to a break room with tables and a refrigerator. John Drake, described on page 45, is there. He thanks them for answering his summons so quickly. Drake leaves the initial briefing to Baldwin. It is short and to the point.

Baldwin explains that a postal worker intercepted a suspicious package that was leaking an oily fluid with a chemical smell. Postmaster Jim Hardwick called in the local sheriff's bomb squad. The bomb-sniffing dogs went crazy at the package's smell but did not alight on the package to indicate the presence of explosives.

Baldwin and his partner Richard Rafferty brought in a portable X-ray machine and looked inside the package. The still image they got was of a dog's head wrapped in cold-packs. The bomb-squad packed it in. Baldwin and Rafferty opened the package to see if they could figure out what was up.

That's when they discovered the dog head wasn't dead. It was moving. It had worked loose from tight wrappings. It bit Rafferty on the hand and wouldn't release him until Rafferty shot six rounds into it from his service pistol. Baldwin believes the only reason it let go was that Rafferty shot the thing's jawbone out of its hinge.

Sample file

Overt, Covert, Clandestine

There are three basic approaches the Agents can take while pursuing this mission: overt, covert, and clandestine. At any point during the scenario, the Agents may employ any of these methods. Be prepared to react accordingly.

The overt approach, referred to by some playtesters as "The *X-Files* method," is where the Agents just walk up and flash their IDs and start asking questions, not necessarily explaining what they're investigating. It's quick but loud.

With the covert approach, the Agents show up with a cover story and ask their questions. The trick here is making sure the questions asked don't arouse the subject's suspicion that the Agents are really something other than they appear.

Agents taking the clandestine approach never reveal their presence while searching for answers. In this method, phones are tapped, rooms bugged, suspects followed and photographed, and homes and offices secretly searched.