



kills, second only to Jetboy, but is not considered an ace since the number of planes shot down by black fighter pilots isn't officially recorded by the government. While stationed in Italy he has a passionate affair with the love of his life, a communist politically active cabaret singer named Orlena ("Lena") Goldoni.

After the war he's recruited by Archibold Holmes for the Exotics For Democracy. While in northern Italy looking for Nazi war criminal Martin Bormann, he renews his relationship with Goldoni. Among other EFD assignments, he saves Gandhi from an assassin's bullet, a service that the Indian government later honored him for.

### 1949

Sanderson consciously manipulates his image, molding himself into the perfect black hero, scholar, athlete, union leader, war hero, husband, ace. He's the first black man on the cover of *Time* and *Life* magazines. Things go well until he's called before HUAC, where, using information given unwillingly by Jack Braun, the issue of his relationship with Lena Goldoni, who was a communist and accused Soviet spy, and his own membership in the Communist Party, comes up again. Nothing can stop the explosion

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>NAME:</b> EARL SANDERSON, JR.    | <b>WC NAME:</b> BLACK EAGLE                            |
| <b>OCCUPATION:</b> GOVERNMENT AGENT | <b>WC STATUS:</b> ACE (CARD TURNED SEPTEMBER 15, 1946) |
| <b>ALIASES:</b> —                   | <b>ETHNICITY:</b> AFRICAN                              |
| <b>BIRTH:</b> 1913, HARLEM, NYC     | <b>DEATH:</b> 1979, PARIS, FRANCE                      |
| <b>HEIGHT:</b> 5 FT., 11 IN.        | <b>WEIGHT:</b> 170 LBS.                                |
| <b>EYES:</b> BROWN                  | <b>HAIR:</b> BLACK                                     |

### BLACK EAGLE POWER LEVEL 8

|           |     |           |     |        |     |
|-----------|-----|-----------|-----|--------|-----|
| STR       | DEX | CON       | INT | WIS    | CHA |
| +2        | +4  | +2        | +2  | +3     | +3  |
| 15        | 18  | 15        | 15  | 16     | 17  |
| TOUGHNESS |     | FORTITUDE |     | REFLEX |     |
| +9/+2*    |     | +6        |     | +8     |     |
|           |     |           |     | WILL   |     |
|           |     |           |     | +7     |     |

\*WITHOUT FORCE FIELD

#### SKILLS

Acrobatics 6 (+10), Knowledge (civics) 8 (+10), Knowledge (tactics) 4 (+6), Language 3 (French, Italian, Russian), Pilot 9 (+13), Profession (lawyer) 6 (+9)

#### FEATS

Fast Overrun, Favored Environment (aerial), Move-by Action

#### POWERS

Flight 6 (500 mph)  
 Force Field 7 (Impervious 5, Subtle)  
 Strike 8 (psychokinetic wedge, Subtle)

#### DRAWBACKS

Power Loss (Force Field and Strike, when not flying, -2 points)

#### COMBAT

Attack +7, Grapple +9, Damage +2 (unarmed), +8 (strike), Defense +7 (+4 flat-footed), Knockback -7 (-1 without force field), Initiative +4

Abilities 36 + Skills 9 (36 ranks) + Feats 3 + Powers 34 + Combat 28 + Saves 12 - Drawbacks 2 = Total 120

of bad publicity. The NAACP asks Sanderson to divorce himself from their cause. He flies to Europe and renounces his American citizenship and lives openly with Lena Goldoni in Paris.

### 1950S TO '70S

He remains in relative seclusion during the 1950s and 1960s, living quietly with Lena in Paris and Rome. There are whispers that he was seen in Africa during various wars of independence and that he fought in Algeria against the French, but he would never confirm any of this, always afraid he might damage a cause by associating himself with it.

Earl Sanderson dies suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1979. The Indian government erects a monument to him, where he receives worship as a sort of god.

## ABILITIES

Using projectile telekinesis Black Eagle can fly at speeds of up to 500 mph. Bullets bounce off him, but he is susceptible to damage from anything of higher caliber than a handgun. He can also project a wall of force, a kind of traveling shock wave, that can break down barriers and pick up man-sized objects and throw them up to a hundred feet.

Sanderson speaks Russian before World War II and learns French and Italian during the war.

# BLACK SHADOW

CREATED BY WALTER JON WILLIAMS

*"He didn't feel anything any more. No compassion, no fear, no love. His own personality seemed very far away, buried somewhere, latent. None of that could help him survive."*

— BLACK SHADOW ABOUT TO GO ON THE KILL.  
WILLIAMS: "FEEDING FRENZY" (BOOK IV)

## DESCRIPTION

Black Shadow is an African-American man with so many guises he's not really sure himself who he is anymore.

He's a big jazz fan and a jazz soundtrack frequently plays through his head as he goes about his daily activities. He refers to himself as "Shad," and is the only one who uses that name.

Shad's apartment (1990) is located in the high-class region of Gramercy Park in a whitestone building. The door and frame to it are steel sheathed in wood. It is spacious and comfortably furnished with lots of books and jazz LPs and CDs. The floors are hardwood. The whole apartment is spotless.

## BACKGROUND

When Langford is 10 years old, he spends a weekend being raped and tortured by two sadistic psychopaths, Stan Barker and Bob Penn, who also kill his father, mother, and little sister. He is saved by police who break in just as Penn is garroting him, which leaves a scar around his neck.

## 1970S AND '80S

Langford is thrown out of Columbia around 1976 for not getting around to finishing his M.S. thesis. He became Black Shadow after listening to Senator Hartmann give a speech calling for action and justice and meets Hartmann early on in his career and becomes a puppet. Under Hartmann's influence his first few cases result in a burning rage he hadn't realized was in him, and he leaves his adversaries broken and hanging from lampposts. The uncontrollable rage eventually fades, but the lamppost thing becomes something of a trademark. He adopts a number of alternate identities:

- *Mr. Gravemold*: In this guise, Shad pretends to be a joker who exudes an overpoweringly bad smell, compounded of must and rotting flesh, and the chill of the grave. He wears a pork pie hat and a skull mask decorated with white and black feathers. He speaks in a theatrical baritone and uses melodramatic phrasing. As Mr. Gravemold, Shad uses his photon-stealing power to overcome the newbie ace the Reflector, and helps capture Typhoid Croyd (June 1987). He also appears at the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta (July 1988).
- *Wall Walker*: As Wall Walker, he's a fixture at Aces High, a 30-ish (late 1980s) black man whose wild card enables him to walk on walls and ceilings. He wears a black cloth domino mask that does little to conceal his appearance and speaks with a light West Indies accent.
- *Juve*: He speaks with a Spanish accent.
- *No Dice*: He dresses and talks like a pimp or drug dealer, the latter of which he sometimes actually is. He wears a black leather Pierre Cardin trench coat with a matching leather beret, a Perry Ellis sweater, a

couple of dozen gold chains, \$200 high-top sneakers, gold-rimmed shades, and a palm-sized green, black, and gold leather pendant in the shape of Africa. As No Dice, he saves Chalktalk from a pimp on the streets, and watches, somewhat bemused, as she escapes into one of her sidewalk drawings (February 1991).

- *Simon*: He masquerades as a nat.
- *Mr. Gregory Diamond*: He wears gold-rimmed glasses and lives atop a building in Jokertown owned by the Diamond Company, Ltd., which is a division of Diamond Transport, which is a company held by Diamante N.V. incorporated in Aruba.

## FEBRUARY 1990

Black Shadow takes on the Jumpers with the help of Croyd Crenson and manages to trace their activities to a brownstone warehouse in Jokertown. He observes several meetings, noting a number of well-known faces in attendance: Blaise, Latham, the curator of the Metropolitan Museum, the city comptroller, and a number of well-known businessmen. He realizes that all are jumpers who have supplanted the bodies' original owners. Black Shadow documents these meetings with reams of photographs, building a thick dossier on jumper activities.

He also follows Blaise and Tachyon around, and realizes that Tachyon, too, has been jumped. Eventually he discovers that the real Tachyon is on the Rox. When the time is right, he decides to take down the jumper enterprise. He frees a number of captives, among them Cody Haverro, but eventually is jumped himself. His assailant attacks the po-

