

Background

There was an experiment being run by the Ahnenerbe, specifically the institute of Kernphysik which explored a very different sort of nuclear weapon, In fact, they were working on a quantum level and had some initial success with a hand sized disintegrator. In 1944, pressed hard by the Russians in Poland and the Allies in France, Dr. Garrick Wächter and a small team worked on a project in the heart of Berlin.

Project Sigel was a project along side but looked down upon by the nuclear program (the Uranverein or Uranium Club). Dr. Wächter was not discouraged however, and continued his research under the direct funding of the Army Ordinance Office. They had begun in 1936 shortly after the Ahnenerbe had been founded and by 1944 had made great strides. They were ready to test what they believed would be an electrical power source that would be able to beam electrical energy to German troops any where, meeting the immense power demands of the new disintegration weaponry they had developed.

Unknown to the Doktor, Major James Gooding was leading a commando team to sabotage the German uranium efforts. Poor intelligence had lead the Allies to believe that the Germans were far closer than they actually were. In his ill fated raid on the Sigel labs, the Major and his team came in, guns blazing on the experiment. The reactor went critical, Dr. Wächter and his staff tried frantically to avert disaster. They were too late. The explosion was not as large as one would expect, a few city blocks amidst bombs dropping, was hardly noticed.

Only six people survived. The Doktor, his assistant Ulla Thalberg, Dr. Ulf Wolfe, Major James Gooding, Sergeant Jen Olfstan, and Corporal Thomas Ludding. When they awoke after the “accident” they all had perfect knowledge that the world, no, the Universe had ended. They understood that their existence was but an echo slowly fading into the future. Even time had little meaning to them. It would be Dr. Wächter that would coin the name they would be known by into the future, Eche Sechts, the Echo Six.

Immediately the six went their separate ways. Thomas Ludding left the world to wander what is left of the Universe and possibly pass beyond. Dr., Wolfe “passed within”. Gooding and Olfstan pledged to fix the damage they had done while Dr. Wächter became equally committed to making sure the humans of Earth ruled any world to come. Ulla went to live

among all the different people of the world and learn what she could of them.

As the years passed, the struggles of the four left on Earth often flared up as their various ideas on how to deal with the disaster conflicted. Olfstan and Gooding have had their differences but always align against Wächter. Ulla is most often neutral or vested in teaching those who do not yet realize the Echo is happening about how to control their environment. She has done this through a series of refuges, monasteries, schools, communes, cults, churches and any other means to gain access to minds and beliefs. Sometimes her methods are considered cruel or at best without compassion but Ulla would argue that everything she does revolves around compassion, a deep felt desire to save the world and all the inhabitants.

Wächter’s organization has been less grey in its morality. He has made it clear that he hopes to win the world for those of the human race that deserve it. His has been an army building effort with military and paramilitary throughout the world owing their allegiance to him, often in secret but some quite openly. He has bases anywhere he can hide. In modern times he is viewed as a successful businessman and some governments know of his private army and politely look the other way as long as he keeps the commerce flowing.

Gooding and Olfstan run an elite special forces unit that has been tasked with recovering the pieces of the Reactor. The US government does not believe Gooding’s story of the end of the universe but they cannot deny the abilities and powers that Gooding and Olfstan exhibit. The two men have outright refused to become involved in the conflicts that the IS military felt they would help on. They have focused on what they believe is the means to save the universe and that is to reassemble the reactor and use it to “jump start” the universe. Whether this will work is not clear to any of the Echo Six but it is a desperate hope of Gooding that this will set right what he set wrong so long ago.

Setting Assumptions

- *The Universe is “fading”. The means both that it has lost its “Prime” spot in the cosmic order but also that the energy is flowing from our Universe to other Universes.*
- *The Prime Universe is much desired as it is a position that defines other universes. From the Prime,*

the dreams, hopes, superstitions and belief of the sentients shape and form the other universes. They also change the other universes. This has created some resentment and in some cases, an entire universe of insane sentients.

- *Those things we believe to be superstitions are real in other universes, in fact, make up and form the reality and rules of other universes. Some will be nearly exact duplicates while others will be nightmarish worlds populated by vampires and demons.*
- *The barrier between the worlds is disintegrating. This has allowed the “Echo People” to pass to our world and hold form here. They retain much of their characteristics that we popularly hold. Vampires can be killed with a stake to the heart, fear garlic and are allergic to sunlight. They are even aware of their origin in most cases.*
- *The Echo People are here for some unknown reason. Some seem to want to help the Echo Six while others wish to stop or even kill them. One theory is that they know there is still a way to “reset” the Prime status of our Universe and they wish to stop any who might figure it out. Others believe they know a way to speed the end. Others still believe they have no agenda and wish only to wander new lands.*
- *In the explosion a series of artifacts were created. These items of power absorbed the energy of our Universe’s death and focused it to a purpose. For instance, a Pen that the Doktor had given to Ulla has the power to forge any documents. The trench coats that the Commandos wore will now deflect bullets. The most powerful are the parts of the Reactor.*
- *The “Echo Effect” is a means to manipulate the echo, or the world if you will, through focused concentration. It is a type of “magic”.*
- *The Echo Six are split into three groups. Die Wächters are gathering the artifacts created in the explosion in the hopes of using them to invade whatever universe becomes prime. The Commandos are trying to reassemble the Reactor. Ulla seeks to save the Universe through focusing the thoughts of all sentients.*
- *Your ability to manipulate the Echo Effect is directly related to how much you believe the world is Fading. It is one thing to say “I know” and it is*

another to truly believe. The former is the path to the later. The risk that is run is that if you believe too much, you may “Go Within”. This is when you essentially jump ahead in the fade and dissipate to nothing.

- *The Echo People take the forms of our dreams and nightmares. This is often divided into various universes. So, you could have a transylvania classic Vampires and Werewolves universe or a universe where Earth is overrun with undead. Some Echo People can purposefully move into our universe others “fall” into our universe.*
- *The overriding point: Everything and everyone does not exist. They simply were destroyed on that summer night in 1944. Everything and everyone are just echoes, impressions of what was. However, in the grand scheme of things, these echoes can still affect the multiverse and possibly, if they act before the echo fades, re-establish/reform their true existence.*