

In Her Majesty's Name

Diamond Annie's Forty Thieves

By Michael O'Brien

Name/Type	Pluck	FV	SV	Spd.	Cost	Talents	Basic Equipment
Alice "Annie" Diamond	2+	+3	+4	+1	66	Leadership +2, Intuitive, Inspirational, Marksman	Mauser C96 (Carbine), Diamond Rings*, Magneto-static Waistcoat
Maggie "Baby Face" Hill	3+	+3	+2	0	33	Leadership +1, Tough	Shotgun, Hatpin**, Magneto-static Waistcoat
Crazy Mary Carr	4+	+1	+2	+1	50	Feet of Lead, Clouding Mens' Minds, Numb	Pistol, Magneto-static Waistcoat, Hatpin**
Gert Scully	4+	+1	+3	0	23	Engineer	Arc Pistol, Magneto-static Waistcoat
Dorothy "Dollie" Hill	5+	+3	+1	+1	23	Medic	Mauser C96 (Carbine), Knife, Magneto-static Waistcoat
The Girls	5+	+1	+1	0	11		Pistol, Hatpin**, Lined Coat

*Diamond Rings and **Hatpin are Melee weapons with the same stats as a Combat Knife (+1 FV, 1 handed, -1 Pluck Modifier) and cost 3 points.

Gert Scully may carry up to three grenades of any type (@+6).

The company may acquire a Steam Carriage (+10).

Dollie Hill may Poison her Knife (+8).

Any of the Girls may substitute a Magneto-static Waistcoat for their Lined Coat (+1).

Any of the Girls may substitute a Shotgun or Carbine for their Pistol (+2).

Diamond Annie's Forty Thieves

At first just an adjunct to the sprawling Elephants and Castle Gang, the Forty Thieves (also called the Forty Elephants) were a highly successful all-female gang specializing in shoplifting, theft, and blackmail. The origins of the gang may date back to the late 1700s. At first operating in the Elephant and Castle district in London, they expanded throughout London and into neighboring cities.

After a young, ambitious woman named Alice Diamond took over as Queen of the Forty Thieves, the organization gained greatly in power and influence. Now, it is rumored, they have expanded into an exclusively female crime syndicate who will perform almost any task for the right money, including the procurement of items of value and even assassination.

Alice, AKA Diamond Annie, has created a tightly run, neatly organized collection of cells that is competitive with the world's top criminal outfits. She has so far baffled all attempts by the authorities to penetrate or shut down her operations. Making full use of prudish Victorian sensibilities toward women, and carrying weapons easily concealed in their fashionable apparel, the Thieves operate at times with impunity in their criminal endeavors. Annie has also learned to embrace the newest technology, such as the employment of Steam Carriages to make fast getaways.

Alice “Annie” Diamond

A shrewd, ruthless operator, Annie seized the title of Queen of the Thieves at the tender age of twenty. Gathering an inner circle of brilliant and equally cutthroat talent around her, she has moved well beyond mere shoplifting into international crime. She is convinced that she is the reincarnation of Hippolyta, great queen of the Amazons, and her ambitions have grown to match her royal forebearer. Her study of Amazonian culture has influenced her associates, many of whom, like the Hill sisters, have abandoned their husbands for the ideal of feminine purity.

An imposing woman of better than 5 feet 8 inches, her signature weapon is her diamond-ring studded fist, which has been known to take out an eye. She has exploited the supposed weakness of women to turn ordinary objects, like hatpins, into deadly weapons. Very early Annie learned that technology gave her an edge as well. She quickly saw the benefits of the Mauser C96: easily hidden in a lady's clothing, it provides superior firepower over the pistols that the local constabulary is likely to wield. Likewise, the magneto-static waistcoat provides excellent protection while doing little to conceal the Girls' shapely figures.

Maggie “Baby Face” Hill

Giving up her (ex) husband's name of Hughes, Maggie is Annie's right-hand woman, and carries out her duties with utter dedication and absolute ruthlessness. Despite her diminutive size and cherub-like demeanor, she is a deadly fighter, who thanks to the medical expertise of her sister Dollie, knows exactly how to employ her extra-sharp, extra-long hatpin (developed by Gert Scully) in deadly fashion. Maggie eschews the standard issue Mauser for the shotgun, to be more efficient at the close quarters combat that she favors.

Crazy Mary Carr

As an up-and-coming teen-age gang member, Mary had the misfortune to be struck by lightning. But the experience, far from harming her, led to the manifestation of mystic powers. Recognizing Mary's potential, Annie sent her to the Far East to study with mystics, who channeled her powers into “productive” areas. The results have been devastatingly successful for the Forty Thieves.

Gert Scully

Gert, possessed of a brilliant mathematical mind, was a victim of male prejudice against women. Her dream of a degree in engineering foundered on the shoals of male chauvinism. In her bitterness, she found ways to vent her rage. Working for Annie, she invented numerous specially tailored coats, cummerbunds, muffs, skirts, bloomers and hats sewn with hidden pockets which the Girls could fill with wares lifted from the richest shops in London. Quickly recognizing Gert's talents, Annie arranged for special tutoring in engineering. Rumor has it that a top assistant of the great Tesla himself was blackmailed—seduced by one of the Girls—into not only teaching young Gert, but in passing on information of the latest discoveries in technology.

Dorothy “Dollie” Hill

Dollie, Maggie’s sister, also dumped her husband to fully embrace the Amazonian ethic of Diamond Annie. Her tale is similar to Gert’s: a talented nurse, Dollie wanted to become a doctor but was kept from the profession because she was a woman. Annie saw that Dollie got the necessary medical instruction, and Dollie has paid her back

many times over. She has nursed injured Thieves back to health, but also has taught them the parts of the human body, especially the male human body, to which weapons might best be applied for maximum effect. In this case, not just to kill or maim, but to extract information from a reluctant foe.

NOTES

There really was an all-girl gang in London called the Forty Thieves, or the Forty Elephants. They were associated with the Elephant and Castle Gang, and operated as the biggest shoplifting ring ever seen in Britain from the 1870s to the 1950s. All the names above are those of actual gang members, as are the nicknames (except for “Crazy Mary”), although their stories are fiction. Three of the women were Queens: Annie Diamond in the 1920s, Maggie Hill Hughes in the 1930s, and Mary Carr during the Victorian era. Dorothy Hill Mayes was Maggie’s sister, and Gert Scully did indeed sew the specially-tailored clothing for the girls in the 1920s era.

Little is known about the operations of the gang until the 1920s. The Thieves by then had an elaborate system to unload stolen goods: hoisters quickly passed their stolen goods to boosters, who spirited them to cars which quickly got them to safety. The girls themselves made full use of fast automobiles for getaways. When working other towns, the girls deposited empty suitcases at railway stations, filling them with booty for the return trip.

For more, consult Brian McDonald’s *Gangs of London*.



Maggie Hill Hughes



Alice Diamond