

At the turn of the first millennium (1000 C.E.) the second and third crusades of the Knights Templar, the warriors of the Catholic Church, were short on men. The Church gave them a hefty purse to hire mercenaries, and so the Templars bought the services of many groups of such mercenaries throughout Europe and Asia. Amongst these mercenary groups were the Jomsvikings, one of the most renowned and elitist groups in Northern Europe and Asia.

In the Jomsvikings tradition, there were many sects known as units that would be deployed from their northland home in the city of Jomsburg. These units would report to the highest bidder for the services. On many occasions recorded in history, Catholic lords would be amongst these bidders as they sought the highly trained and skilled fighters of the Jomsvikings.

The particular group of Jomvikings that the Knights Templar bought had a somewhat long and arduous history. The unit was started only recently by a man named Dirk apBrawn who was known for his strength and stealth. During one raid in Southern Europe, apBrawn stumbled upon a young boy who hailed from Germany. The boy had survived the arrows and infantry combat that apBrawn had laid upon the boy's city, and the young lad had actually laid traps that killed several of apBrawn's own men.

ApBrawn saw potential in the boy and offered him a rare opportunity: If the boy could defeat him in a single combat duel, the lad could lead apBrawn's men and take over the unit.

The boy chose as his weapon a large axe that he could barely lift while apBrawn chose his own sword. The duel began with apBrawn swiftly attacking the boy who was able to deflect the blows with the handle of his axe, as he was not able to lift it all the way.

The fight progressed and the boy grew more tired until, in a spurt of energy and strength, he lifted his axe and swung with all his might. He caught apBrawn on the face and wounded the other man. This took all of the boy's energy, however, and he fell to the ground in defeat. ApBrawn put the point of his sword on the boy's throat, and then offered a hand to help the boy up.

ApBrawn allowed the boy to live and become a member of the Jomsvikings, training him specially. The boy progressed through the ranks of apBrawn's unit, gaining both strength and experience.

One day he challenged apBrawn to a duel, gathering the attention of the entirety of the unit. As all the men gathered in a circle among the fighters, the younger man slew apBrawn with a single stroke. True to the Viking way, the man took lead of the unit who was in the paid service of the Knights Templar, leading his men where the Templars commanded.