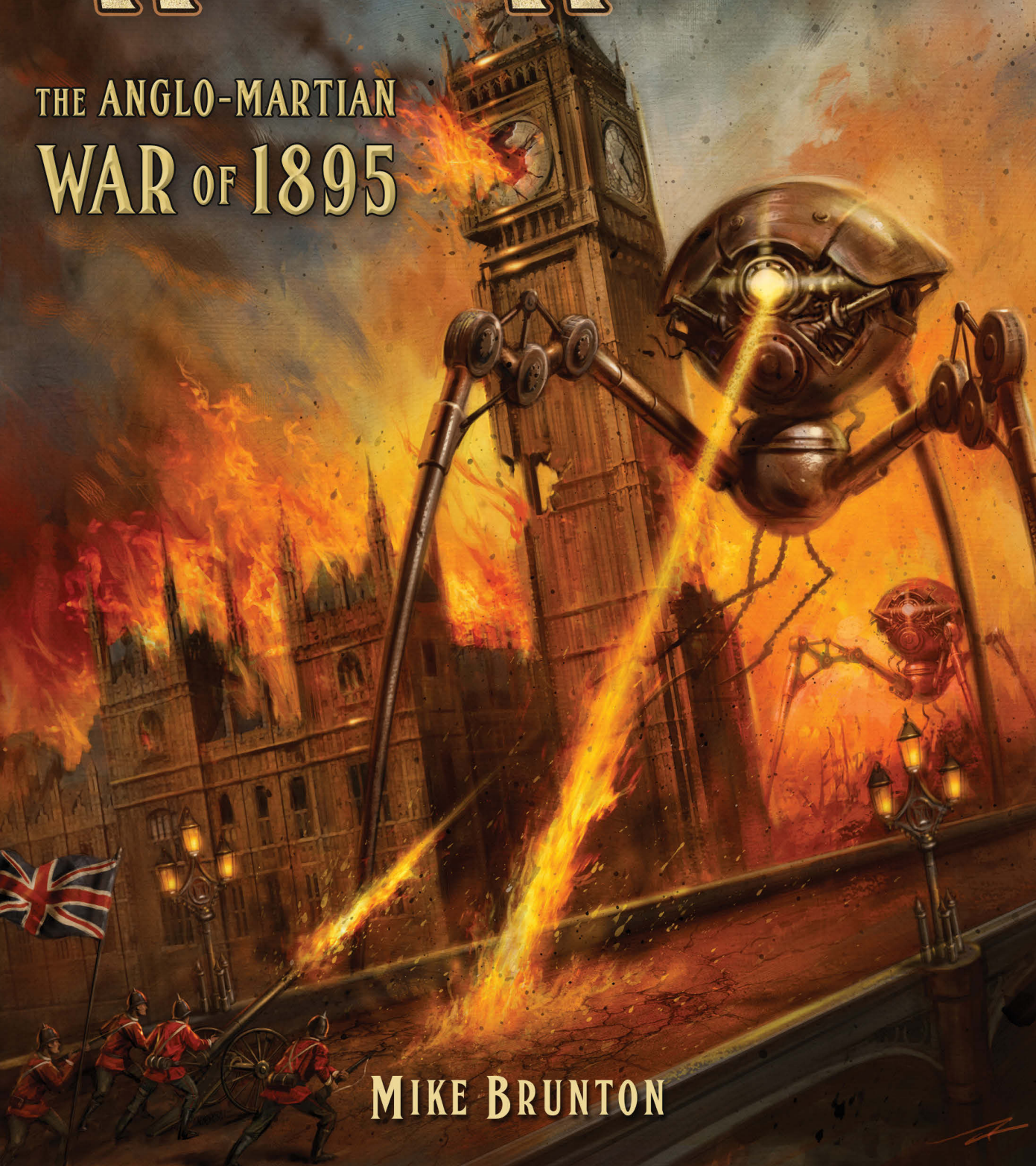


WAR OF THE WORLDS

THE ANGLO-MARTIAN
WAR OF 1895



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Mike Brunton was born in Yorkshire and has spent all his working life having far too much fun in the games industry. In that time he's worked on everything from miniatures wargames and boardgames to BAFTA award-winning computer games. Now a freelance writer and games designer, he lives in Sussex with his partner and two young sons.

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THE ANGLO-MARTIAN WAR, 1895

BY MIKE BRUNTON

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“For Alison, Thomas and Matt, who were kind enough to believe in Martians.”

–MB

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In 1895 the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was, as far as its ruling classes were concerned, experiencing a golden age of prosperity and peace. Lawn tennis, an afternoon of cricket on the village green, and the prospect of a peaceful, British century ahead were the only things that concerned people in August 1895. It was clear to everyone who mattered (and quite a few foreigners) that God was definitely an Englishman, and that was that. The business of running the world, and remaining a gentleman while doing so, was quite enough for Queen-Empress Victoria's loyal subjects.

Englishmen – using the term loosely, as the Victorians did, to mean 'Britons' and include Scots and Welshmen – had won life's lottery. Many felt they had a mission to bring the benefits of Christian order and civilization, which was to say British order and civilization, to all corners of the world. One-fifth of the world's population lived within the Empire; more would surely welcome the prospect. The Royal Navy furthered this aim by acting as the world's policeman, maintaining the Pax Britannica, a peace at once benign and in Britain's interests. The British Army served across the Empire to fight rebels and malcontents at the margins. Steady, stately progress towards a better tomorrow was guaranteed.



Herbert George Wells, 1866–1946, was the most evocative of the war correspondents but not the most accurate. The plight of the common man inspired his work, and he was later criticized as unpatriotic and even 'pro-Martian' for his view that the Martians were unbeatable.