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No. 151 15¢

# WON by the SWORD

G.A. HENTY



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**I**N 1618, A FEARFUL STRUGGLE BEGAN AMONG THE NATIONS OF EUROPE. IT IS KNOWN AS THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR.

BY 1635, IT SEEMED THAT ALL OF GERMANY WOULD SOON FALL TO THE ARMIES OF AUSTRIA. AS THE ALLY OF SPAIN, AUSTRIA WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO DOMINATE FRANCE. TO PREVENT THIS, RICHELIEU, THE FRENCH MINISTER, BROUGHT FRANCE INTO THE WAR.

THEN BEGAN THE FINAL PHASE OF THE LONG AND BLOODY CONFLICT.

J. TARTAGLIONE



ONE DAY IN OCTOBER, 1639, A FRENCH OFFICER ON HIS WAY FROM PARIS TO ST. DENIS SAW A SIGHT THAT MADE HIM SMILE.



FORWARD! THE REGIMENT OF TURENNE ALWAYS WINS!



SO YOU ARE GENERAL TURENNE TODAY. WHO ARE YOU AT OTHER TIMES?

HECTOR CAMPBELL, SIR. MY FATHER DIED WITH A SCOTCH REGIMENT THAT FOUGHT FOR FRANCE. I LIVE WITH SERGEANT MACINTOSH, WHO WAS IN MY FATHER'S COMPANY.



WHY DO YOU PLAY AT BEING GENERAL TURENNE? HIS ADVANCE IS DUE TO FORTUNE RATHER THAN MERIT.

NOT SO, SIR! LOOK HOW HE DROVE THE AUSTRIANS BACK FROM MAUBEUGE AND HOW HE STORMED THE FORT AT BREISACH!



TURENNE HAS MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT THE ART OF WAR.

HE KNOWS MORE THAN ALL THE OTHERS. AND HIS SOLDIERS LOVE HIM, FOR HE NEVER TREATS THEM ILL.



WELL, YOUNG SIR, I SEE THAT YOU ARE TOO WELL ACQUAINTED WITH SIEGES AND BATTLES FOR ME TO ARGUE WITH YOU.





**T**HE NEXT DAY HECTOR'S GUARDIAN HAD A VISITOR.

A GENERAL OFFICER IS DISMOUNTING. WHAT CAN HE WANT HERE?



SIT DOWN, MEN. I AM HERE NOT TO DISTURB YOU, BUT TO TALK WITH SERGEANT MACINTOSH.



**M**ACINTOSH AND HECTOR LED THE OFFICER TO A PRIVATE ROOM.

DO YOU KNOW ME, SERGEANT MACINTOSH?

YES, GENERAL, YOU ARE VISCOUNT TURENNE.



TURENNE! AND I SPOKE SO FREELY TO HIM YESTERDAY!



THIS LAD SEEMS A CAREFUL STUDENT OF MILITARY HISTORY.

THAT HE IS, SIR. HE LOVES TO HEAR THE SOLDIERS TELL OF BATTLES. AND WHEN HE'S NOT READING BOOKS ABOUT WAR, HE'S WATCHING THE MEN DRILL.







**O**N THE APPOINTED DAY, HECTOR PRESENTED HIMSELF TO GENERAL TURENNE.

I HAVE OBTAINED YOUR COMMISSION AS A LIEUTENANT FROM CARDINAL RICHELIEU.

THANK YOU, SIR.



WE BEGIN OUR JOURNEY FOR ITALY TODAY. THE DUCHESS OF SAVOY HAS CALLED ON US TO FREE HER TERRITORY FROM THE SPANIARDS.



**H**ECTOR MET TURENNE'S OTHER AIDES.

GENTLEMEN, THIS IS LIEUTENANT CAMPBELL, SON OF A SCOTTISH OFFICER WHO DIED FOR FRANCE.



**I**N A FEW MINUTES THE PARTY RODE OUT TO JOIN TURENNE'S REGIMENT.







**T**URENNE'S REGIMENT  
CROSSED THE ALPS  
INTO ITALY. THEY  
MADE CAMP IN SUSA.  
ONE DAY

CAN ONE OF YOU  
RECOMMEND A  
SERVANT TO ME?

MY GROOM'S BROTHER, PAOLO, MIGHT SUIT  
YOU, CAMPBELL, BUT TO TELL THE TRUTH,  
THE LAD IS FULL OF MISCHIEF AND HAS  
LOST SEVERAL POSITIONS BECAUSE OF IT.



PAOLO IS NO DOUBT A  
PERFECT IMP, BUT HE IS  
SHARP AS A NEEDLE. IF  
HE CAN BE TAMED, HE'D  
MAKE A USEFUL LAD.

I SHOULD LIKE TO  
SEE HIM. BEING  
BUT A BOY MYSELF,  
I COULD PUT UP  
WITH HIS MISCHIEF.

**T**HE NEXT DAY, PAOLO WAS  
SUMMONED TO HECTOR'S  
QUARTERS.

I SEEK A SERVANT,  
AND I HEAR YOU ARE IN NEED OF A  
MASTER. BUT FIRST, A FEW QUESTIONS.



PAOLO, COULD YOU  
BE FAITHFUL?

I COULD, TO A  
MASTER I LOVED.

ARE YOU  
TRUTHFUL?

AS TRUTHFUL AS  
OTHER PEOPLE, SIR.







8  
**I**N THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, HECTOR SERVED AS TURENNE'S AIDE IN SEVERAL SKIRMISHES WITH THE SPANIARDS. ONE DAY

YOU HAVE BEHAVED WELL, AS I EXPECTED YOU WOULD, CAMPBELL. I WILL THEREFORE TELL YOU IN CONFIDENCE THAT I INTEND TO GET PROVISIONS TO OUR TROOPS IN THE CITADEL AT TURIN.



**T**URIN ITSELF IS HELD BY THE SPANIARDS. BUT OUR TROOPS STILL HOLD THE CITADEL AT THE EDGE OF THE CITY. THEY HAVE BEEN UNDER CLOSE SIEGE FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS. THEIR STORES MUST BE WELL NIGH EXHAUSTED.

MY ONLY FEAR IS THAT THE GARRISON WILL LOSE HOPE AND ABANDON ITS POSITION BEFORE WE CAN HELP THEM.

BUT COULD YOU NOT GET WORD TO THEM THAT HELP IS ON THE WAY?



WE HAVE TRIED. SOME OF OUR MESSENGERS NEVER RETURNED. DOUBTLESS THEY WERE KILLED. OTHERS CAME BACK REPORTING EVERY AVENUE TO THE CITADEL IS SO CLOSELY GUARDED BY THE ENEMY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THROUGH.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO MY MENTIONING THIS MATTER TO MY LACKEY, GENERAL?

YOU MAY IF YOU LIKE, CAMPBELL. BUT I DOUBT IF HE CAN SUGGEST ANY METHOD OF COMMUNICATION THAT HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN TRIED.







**T**WO HOURS LATER, HECTOR REPORTED TO TURENNE.

I HAVE TALKED OVER THE MATTER OF THE TURIN GARRISON WITH PAOLO. IF YOU WILL ENTRUST THE MISSION TO US, WE WILL TRY TO DELIVER A MESSAGE THAT HELP IS COMING.



WE THINK TWO BOYS WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO SLIP BY THE SPANIARDS THAN MEN.

THAT IDEA HAS ALSO OCCURRED TO ME, BUT I SHOULD NOT HAVE PROPOSED IT HAD YOU NOT SPOKEN FIRST.



I SHALL NOT EXPECT YOU TO SUCCEED. THE CHANCES ARE A HUNDRED TO ONE AGAINST IT. HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF YOUR PLANS?



PAOLO AND I WILL DRESS AS COUNTRY BOYS AND ENTER THE CITY FROM THE SIDE OPPOSITE THE CITADEL. AFTER THAT, WE MUST BE GUIDED BY CIRCUMSTANCES.



I WILL WRITE A MESSAGE FOR YOU TO DELIVER TO THE GARRISON. OF COURSE, YOU WILL TAKE NO ARMS.

NOTHING BUT A LONG KNIFE SUCH AS EVERY PEASANT CARRIES.



**T**URENNE WROTE THE MESSAGE AND GAVE IT TO HECTOR.

MAY FORTUNE ATTEND YOU. DO NOT BE TOO RASH. IF YOU ARE CAPTURED, YOU WILL MOST CERTAINLY BE HANGED.





**A FEW HOURS LATER...**

HERE ARE OUR DISGUISES. IT WILL BE GREAT FUN TO OUTWIT THE SPANIARDS!

WE MUST MIND THEY DON'T OUTWIT US, WHICH IS QUITE AS LIKELY.



I AM GLAD THE DOUBLETS ARE WARMLY LINED. WE WILL DOUBTLESS HAVE TO SLEEP MORE THAN ONCE IN THE OPEN AIR.

HERE ARE THE ROPE AND CORD AND THE IRON HOOK YOU WANTED.



AND HERE ARE THE BOW AND ARROWS YOU ORDERED. I TOLD THE MAN I WANTED THE BOW FOR A CHILD. IT IS SMALL ENOUGH TO CARRY UNDER MY DOUBLET.



**A SHORT TIME LATER, THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY TO TURIN. NEAR THE CITY, THEY MET A PEASANT.**

I WILL GIVE YOU A CROWN FOR YOUR FAGGOTS, FATHER. IT WILL SAVE YOU THE WEARY TRIP TO MARKET.

IT IS A BARGAIN, LAD.







THEY FOUND SENTRIES HAD BEEN PLACED AT EVERY STREET RUNNING DOWN TO THE WALL ADJACENT TO THE FORTRESS.

NOTE THAT THE HOUSES ARE DESERTED, PAOLO. I HAVE A PLAN, BUT WE MUST WAIT FOR NIGHTFALL.



THAT NIGHT, THE BOYS WENT TO THE STREETS LEADING TO THE CITADEL. THEY FORCED OPEN THE DOOR OF A DESERTED HOUSE AND ENTERED.



THEY MOUNTED THE STAIRCASE TO THE ROOF.

SOFTLY, PAOLO. IF THE SENTRIES HEAR US WE ARE UNDONE.



SLOWLY, CAREFULLY, THEY MADE THEIR WAY ACROSS THE ROOFS AND SEPARATING WALLS TO THE END OF THE STREET.

THIS SNOW IS BITTERLY COLD, BUT IT HELPS HIDE US FROM THE SENTRIES.







**U**SING THE ROPE AND HOOK THEY BROUGHT WITH THEM, THEY DESCENDED INTO A NARROW LANE BETWEEN THE LAST HOUSE AND THE CITY WALL.

**H**ECTOR HAD ATTACHED A LIGHT CORD TO THE END OF THE SCALING HOOK. WHEN THEY WERE SAFELY BELOW, A QUICK TUG ON THE CORD LOOSENED THE HOOK.



**I**T FELL SILENTLY IN THE SNOW. WE WILL NEED IT AGAIN FOR THE CITY WALL.



**C**AUTIOUSLY THEY FELT THEIR WAY UP STEPS LEADING UP THE WALL.

MASTER! I HEAR FOOTFALLS. SOMEONE IS COMING!

SHH! IT IS ONLY A SENTRY STAMPING HIS FEET TO KEEP THEM WARM.



**W**ITH THE HELP OF THE HOOK, THEY DESCENDED THE WALL, AND MADE THEIR WAY TOWARD THE CITADEL.

THE MOAT IS HERE SOMEWHERE. CAN YOU SWIM, PAOLO?

NOT VERY WELL, MASTER.





**W**HEN THEY REACHED THE MOAT, HECTOR FASTENED THE ROPE UNDER PAOLO'S ARMS. FASTENING THE OTHER END ACROSS HIS OWN SHOULDERS, HE SLIPPED QUIETLY INTO THE ICY WATER.

WHEN I AM ACROSS, I WILL PULL YOU AFTER ME.

**S**OON PAOLO WAS ALSO CROSSING THE MOAT.

**I**N A FEW MINUTES, BOTH BOYS, SHIVERING BUT SAFE, WERE IN FRONT OF THE CITADEL'S WALLS.

NOW GIVE ME THE BOW AND ARROW.

**H**ECTOR ATTACHED TURENNE'S MESSAGE TO AN ARROW AND SHOT IT INTO THE FORTRESS.

**A** SOLDIER IN THE FORTRESS HEARD THE SOUND OF THE BOW.

WHO IS THERE? SPEAK OR I FIRE!







**WHEN HECTOR GOT BACK TO SUSA, HE REPORTED TO TURENNE.**

I AM HEARTILY GLAD TO SEE YOU BACK SAFE AND SOUND. OF COURSE, AS I EXPECTED, YOU FOUND YOUR TASK IMPOSSIBLE.

ON THE CONTRARY, GENERAL, YOUR DESPATCH IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE GARRISON OF THE CITADEL.



**HECTOR TOLD THE ASTONISHED TURENNE ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED.**

THE SERVICE YOU HAVE RENDERED IS A GREAT ONE AND WORTHY OF THE HIGHEST PRAISE. I SHALL AT ONCE MAKE OUT YOUR COMMISSION AS A CAPTAIN.



**WHEN HECTOR RETURNED TO HIS QUARTERS, HE TOLD PAOLO OF HIS NEW RANK.**

THAT IS GOOD NEWS, INDEED.

WELL, IT SEEMS ABSURD THAT I SHOULD BE SO SOON A CAPTAIN. AND HERE ARE TWENTY PISTOLES FOR YOU, A GIFT FROM THE GENERAL.



**TWO WEEKS LATER, TURENNE WAS READY TO PROVISION THE CITADEL. A FRENCH ARMY MARCHED ON TURIN AND BEGAN A CANNONADE AT A POINT FAR REMOVED FROM THE FORTRESS. WHEN THE SPANIARDS HURRIED TO REPULSE THE ATTACK, ANOTHER FRENCH FORCE SUDDENLY APPEARED AT THE CITADEL. IN A MOMENT, THE GATE WAS IN SPLINTERS.**







**H**ECTOR'S MEN KEPT THE SPANIARDS AT BAY UNTIL THEIR COMRADES WERE SAFELY BEYOND THE CITY WALLS.

WELL DONE, MEN! NOW GET READY TO FALL BACK IN GOOD ORDER!



**T**HEY WITHDREW AND QUICKLY JOINED THE MAIN BODY OF FRENCH TROOPS.

HURRY YOUR MEN ON, CAPTAIN. THE ENEMY WILL SOON BE ON THE RAMPARTS TO OPEN FIRE ON US!



THEIR GUNS ARE USELESS, SIR. I HAVE SPIKED THEM.



THEN YOU HAVE SAVED US FROM A HEAVY LOSS! THEY WOULD HAVE SURELY SWEEPED OUR RANKS AS WE WITHDREW.







**I**N THE CAMPAIGNS THAT FOLLOWED, HECTOR AGAIN CONDUCTED HIMSELF WELL. HE WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED AND SPENT MANY MONTHS RECOVERING. WHEN HE RETURNED TO TURENNE

OUR ENEMIES ARE PREPARING TO INVADE FRANCE. I MUST STAY HERE, BUT I AM SENDING YOU TO SERVE UNDER DUC D'ENGHIEN, WHO WILL COMMAND OUR ARMY ON THE RHINE.



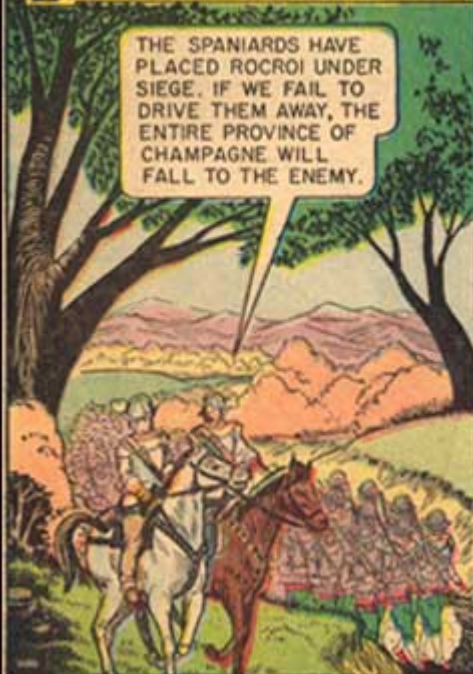
**T**HE NEXT DAY, HECTOR PRESENTED HIMSELF TO THE DUC D'ENGHIEN.

I AM HAPPY TO SEE YOU, CAPTAIN CAMPBELL, BOTH FOR YOUR OWN SAKE AND THAT OF TURENNE, WHOM I GREATLY ADMIRE.



**E**NGHIEN'S ARMY MARCHED FORWARD.

THE SPANIARDS HAVE PLACED ROCROI UNDER SIEGE. IF WE FAIL TO DRIVE THEM AWAY, THE ENTIRE PROVINCE OF CHAMPAGNE WILL FALL TO THE ENEMY.



**L**ATE ONE AFTERNOON

GENTLEMEN, THE SPANIARDS, WITH 27,000 TROOPS TO OUR 22,000, ARE IN POSITION BEFORE ROCROI. WE ATTACK TOMORROW.







**T**HAT NIGHT, AS THE ARMIES RESTED FOR THE MORNING'S ENCOUNTER.

I INTEND TO RECONNOITRE THE AREA. THAT IS WHAT TURENNE WOULD DO IF HE WERE HERE.

I WILL GO WITH YOU.

**H**ECTOR AND PAOLO SLIPPED OUT OF CAMP AND INTO THE AREA BETWEEN THE TWO ARMIES.

MASTER! I HEAR A NOISE COMING FROM THAT HOLLOW.

I AM NOT SURPRISED. IT IS A PERFECT PLACE FROM WHICH TO LAUNCH AN AMBUSH.

**T**HEY CREPT CLOSER AND PEERED INTO THE DARK WOODS.

SPANIARDS! HUNDREDS OF THEM!

LISTEN TO THEM SNORE!

**H**ECTOR AND PAOLO HURRIED BACK TO THEIR LINES.

SO, THEY PLAN TO TAKE US BY SURPRISE AS WE ADVANCE AGAINST THEIR MAIN ARMY!



**A**T DAWN, HECTOR REPORTED WHAT HE HAD SEEN.

YOU HAVE RENDERED A VITAL SERVICE, CAPTAIN. NOW THAT WE ARE FOREWARNED, WE SHALL KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THE AMBUSH.



**W**HEN THE TRUMPET SOUNDED, THE FRENCH TROOPS BEGAN THEIR ADVANCE.



**E**NGHIEN LED HIS CAVALRY FORWARD, THEN TURNED SUDDENLY ON THE WOODED AREA WHERE THE ENEMY LAY IN AMBUSH. THE SURPRISED MUSKETEERS WERE CUT TO PIECES.

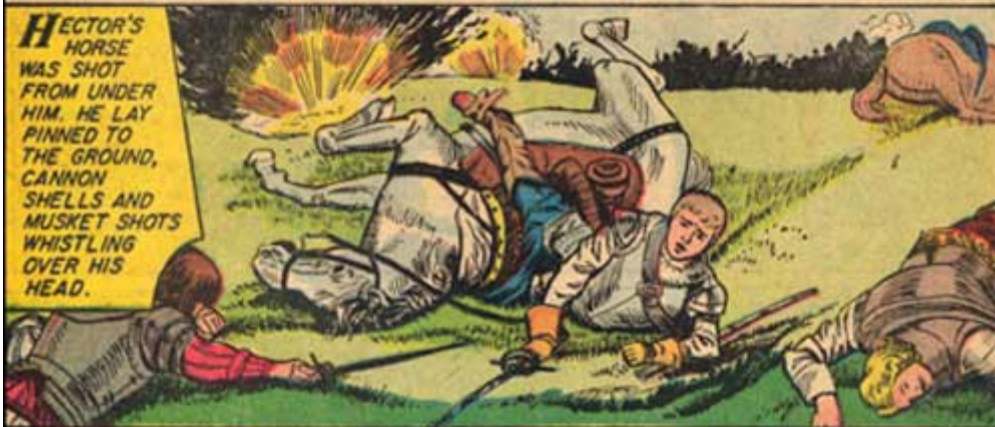




**T**HEN THE FRENCH CAVALRY FELL UPON THE SPANISH INFANTRY. HEAVY CANNON POURED DESTRUCTION INTO THE FRENCH RANKS.



**H**ECTOR'S HORSE WAS SHOT FROM UNDER HIM. HE LAY PINNED TO THE GROUND, CANNON SHELLS AND MUSKET SHOTS WHISTLING OVER HIS HEAD.



**E**NGHIEN AND HIS MEN WERE FORCED TO FALL BACK, BUT THEY SOON RETURNED TO THE ATTACK. AGAIN AND AGAIN THEY THREW THEMSELVES UPON THE ENEMY. AT LAST THE SPANIARDS BROKE. THE FRENCH WERE VICTORIOUS.









**I**N PARIS, HECTOR PRESENTED HIMSELF TO QUEEN ANNE AND HER MINISTER, CARDINAL MAZARIN.

WE HAVE ALREADY HEARD OF THE VICTORY AT ROCROI. NOW WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE THE PARTICULARS CONTAINED IN THESE DESPATCHES.



WE WILL PERUSE THESE AT OUR LEISURE. I SHALL, I HOPE, SEE YOU THIS EVENING.



**W**HEN HE LEFT THE QUEEN, HECTOR WENT TO SEE HIS FORMER GUARDIAN, SERGEANT MACINTOSH.

WELL DONE, MY LAD! YOU HAVE INDEED MADE YOUR WAY. FOUR YEARS IN THE ARMY AND ALREADY YOU ARE A COLONEL!



**T**HE OLD SERGEANT MADE HECTOR TELL HIM ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED.

SO ENGHEN CUT THE AMBUSH TO PIECES, DID HE? LUCKILY YOU HAD SPIED OUT THE GROUND. NOW TELL ME ABOUT TURENNE.

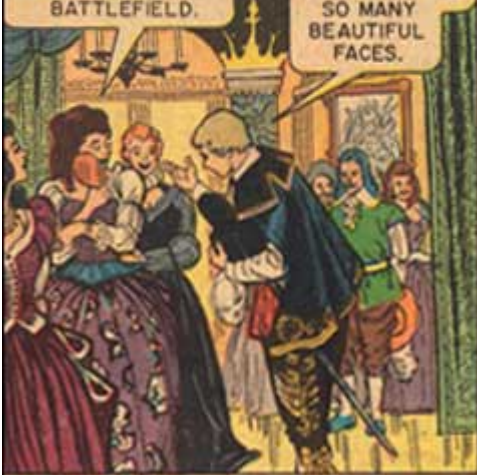




**T**HAT EVENING, HECTOR WENT TO A RECEPTION AT THE LOUVRE. HE WAS THE CENTER OF AN ADMIRING CROWD.

I HAD LOOKED TO SEE A FIERCE WARRIOR, MONSIEUR, AND BEHOLD I FIND A YOUTH WHO APPEARS BORN FOR COURT RATHER THAN THE BATTLEFIELD.

THEN APPEARANCES GREATLY BELIE ME, MADAME. I WOULD RATHER FACE ENEMY CANNON THAN SO MANY BEAUTIFUL FACES.



**L**ATER IN THE EVENING, HECTOR WAS CALLED TO A PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH THE QUEEN AND MAZARIN.

TURENNE HAS REWARDED YOU FOR THE SERVICE YOU RENDERED HIM AT TURIN. THE DUC D'ENGHEN HAS REWARDED YOU FOR ROCROI. NOW IT IS OUR DUTY TO REWARD YOU FOR YOUR SERVICES TO FRANCE.



CARDINAL MAZARIN WILL HAND YOU, IN MY NAME, THE DEED TO THE ESTATE DE LA VILLAR IN POITOU, WHICH CARRIES WITH IT THE TITLE OF BARON DE LA VILLAR.



**H**ECTOR WAS OVERJOYED BY THIS UNEXPECTED REWARD.

SHOULD THERE BE NEED, MADAME, I WILL WILLINGLY LAY DOWN MY LIFE IN YOUR MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

WHICH MEANS ALSO IN THAT OF MY MINISTER, WHO MAY NEED FAITHFUL FRIENDS EVEN MORE THAN I.







**T**HE NEXT MORNING, HECTOR WENT TO THE CARDINAL'S HOUSE TO RECEIVE THE DEED TO HIS ESTATE AND HIS PATENT OF ROYALTY.

I ENVY YOU, SIR. YOU FIGHT OPENLY AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF FRANCE, WHILE I AM SURROUNDED BY SECRET ENEMIES.



THE GREAT NOBLES FIND ME AN OBSTACLE IN THEIR PATH, HER MAJESTY AND I HAVE NEED OF GOOD FRIENDS.

BE ASSURED, YOUR EMINENCE, THAT YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO THE VERY EXTENT OF MY LIFE.

**A**S HECTOR WAS LEAVING, THE CARDINAL'S CHAMBERLAIN GAVE HIM NEWS THAT PLEASED HIM MORE THAN ALL ELSE.

POSSIBLY THE CARDINAL DID NOT INFORM YOU THAT HE HAS APPOINTED YOU TO COMMAND A NEWLY RECRUITED REGIMENT.

PLEASE GIVE MY EARNEST THANKS TO HIS EXCELLENCY.



**L**ATER, HECTOR JOINED PAOLO.

YOU ARE NOT TIRED, I HOPE, PAOLO. WE ARE LEAVING SOON TO VISIT MY ESTATE.

ESTATE! I NEVER BEFORE HEARD YOU SPEAK OF ANY ESTATE.



BECAUSE, PAOLO, I DID NOT HAVE IT THEN.



**H**ECTOR TOLD PAOLO OF HIS GOOD FORTUNE.

I AM GLAD FOR YOU, MASTER. BUT NOW YOU ARE A NOBLE, YOU WILL NOT WANT A LAD LIKE ME BESIDE YOU.

INDEED I SHALL! HAVE YOU NOT SHARED IN ALL THE ADVENTURES THAT MADE ME A NOBLE? YOU WILL ALWAYS BE MY SERVANT AND MY COMPANION.

**T**HEN HECTOR TOLD SERGEANT MACINTOSH WHAT HAD BEFALLEN HIM.

I AM AS GLAD FOR YOU AS IF IT WERE A CHILD OF MY OWN THAT HAD YOUR GOOD FORTUNE!

OLD FRIEND, YOUR HOUSE WAS MINE WHEN I SORELY NEEDED IT. MINE SHALL NOW BE YOURS. YOU SHALL MOVE TO POITOU AS THE CAPTAIN OF MY HOUSEHOLD TROOPS.

AYE, I SHOULD LIKE TO BE IN YOUR SERVICE AND TO KNOW THAT I HAD A HOME IN MY OLD AGE.

**H**ECTOR CHOSE FOUR MEN TO BE HIS ORDERLIES. THEY MADE A SPLENDID SHOW WHEN THEY LEFT PARIS.

I HAVE PACKED SOME GOOD PARIS WINE. THE COUNTRY SHOPS KEEP BUT POOR STUFF.

AH! SO WE ARE GETTING LUXURIOUS ALL AT ONCE!

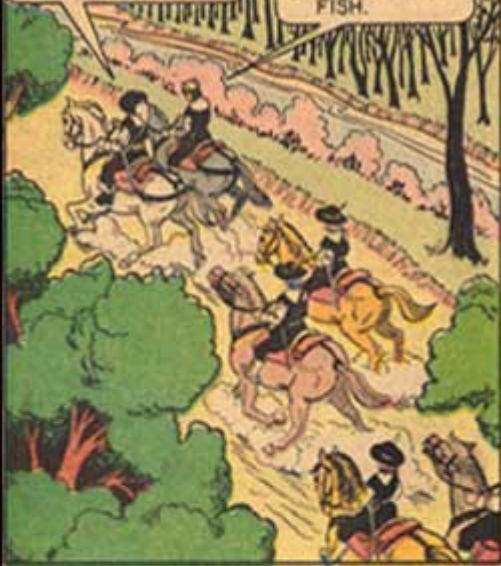




**B**EFORE LONG, HECTOR AND HIS PARTY WERE AT POITOU. THEY RODE THROUGH THE GROUNDS OF THE ESTATE

THERE MUST BE AN ABUNDANCE OF GAME IN THESE FORESTS.

AND THE RIVERS SEEM WELL SUPPLIED WITH FISH.



**T**HEY PASSED THE HUTS BELONGING TO THE TENANTS.

IT IS PLAIN THAT THE PEOPLE ARE HEAVILY TAXED TO SUPPORT THE ARMIES OF FRANCE.



**T**HEY INSPECTED THE CASTLE.

I AM WELL PLEASED WITH THE CONDITION OF THE ESTATE. I WILL RETAIN IN MY SERVICE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED ON IT SO WELL.



**B**EFORE RETURNING TO PARIS, HECTOR CALLED THE TENANTS TOGETHER.

I SEE YOU ARE ALREADY BURDENED WITH ROYAL TAXES. THEREFORE, YOU NEED GIVE ONLY HALF YOUR ANNUAL PAYMENTS TO THE CASTLE UNTIL BETTER TIMES COME.





WHEN HECTOR RETURNED TO PARIS, HE HEARD OF NEW COURT INTRIGUES. A DUCHESS INSULTED THE QUEEN AND WAS BANISHED BY MAZARIN. HER FRIEND, THE DUKE DE BEAUFORT, HAD VOWED REVENGE. HECTOR WAS SUMMONED TO THE CARDINAL'S HOUSE.

MONSIEUR, I SHOULD LIKE YOU TO HOLD YOURSELF IN READINESS TO BE OF SERVICE IF THE NEED ARISES.

CERTAINLY, YOUR EXCELLENCY. THOSE WHO SHOW THEMSELVES YOUR ENEMIES ARE ALSO MINE.



HECTOR TOLD HIS MEN TO SPY OUT A POSSIBLE PLOT AGAINST THE CARDINAL.

KEEP THE RESIDENCE OF THE DUKE DE BEAUFORT UNDER CONSTANT WATCH. MINGLE WITH THE GUARDS AND SERVANTS. FROM THEM YOU MAY LEARN IF ANYTHING UNUSUAL IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE.



PAOLO, DISGUISE YOURSELF IN ANY WAY YOU SEE FIT AND WATCH BEAUFORT CAREFULLY. GET SOME CHILDREN TO WATCH THE HOUSES OF BEAUFORT'S FRIENDS.

THIS IS A BUSINESS AFTER MY OWN HEART.



AND SO THE WATCH WAS TAKEN UP.





SEVERAL DAYS LATER, HECTOR RECEIVED A NOTE FROM MAZARIN SAYING THAT HE WAS GOING TO DINE WITH A FRIEND. SOON AFTERWARD HECTOR'S MEN REPORTED.



SIR, BEAUFORT AND A GROUP OF ARMED FRIENDS HAVE JUST RIDDEN FORTH!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER, PAOLO CAME WITH MORE NEWS.

BEAUFORT AND HIS MEN HAVE GONE TO THE RUE ST. HONORE.

THE CARDINAL MUST PASS THERE TO RETURN TO HIS RESIDENCE. THEY MEAN TO ATTACK HIM JUST AT THE END OF HIS JOURNEY. TO MOUNT, MEN!



HECTOR AND HIS MEN RODE SWIFTLY, UNTIL THEY MET THE CARDINAL'S CARRIAGE RETURNING TO THE CITY. THEY FELL IN BEHIND IT.



WHEN THEY REACHED THE RUE ST. HONORE, ALL WAS QUIET. SEEING HECTOR'S MEN, THE CARDINAL'S ENEMIES DECIDED TO DELAY THEIR ATTEMPT AGAINST HIS LIFE.





**WHEN MAZARIN WAS SAFELY HOME, HECTOR TOLD HIM OF THE PLOT.**



I THANK YOU MOST HEARTILY. BUT BEWARE! BEAUFORT WILL NOW SEEK REVENGE AGAINST YOU. NOW I MUST GO TO THE QUEEN TO ACQUAINT HER WITH HIS TREACHERY.

**WHEN BEAUFORT NEXT VISITED THE LOUVRE, THE QUEEN CALLED THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARDS.**



ARREST MONSIEUR DE BEAUFORT! OUR ENEMIES SHALL LEARN THAT THE QUEEN OF FRANCE WILL NOT TOLERATE BEING DEPRIVED OF HER FAITHFUL MINISTER.

**BEAUFORT'S FRIENDS WERE ALSO ARRESTED, OR FLED THE COUNTRY. MAZARIN SUMMONED HECTOR AND OFFERED HIM WHATEVER REWARD HE WISHED.**



YOU HAVE ALREADY REWARDED ME BEYOND MY DESIRES. BUT IF I MIGHT ASK A BOON, IT WOULD BE THAT MY REGIMENT BE SENT TO JOIN MARSHAL TURENNE.

THAT REQUEST IS EASILY GRANTED.

ONE MORE THING. SOMEDAY A PARTY HOSTILE TO ME MAY STRIP YOU OF YOUR ESTATE AND FORCE YOU FROM THIS COUNTRY. I HAVE TODAY SENT 50,000 CROWNS TO ENGLAND IN YOUR NAME. IT IS BUT A SMALL SUM FOR THE SAVING OF MY LIFE.





**H**ECTOR, THIS TIME AT THE HEAD OF HIS OWN REGIMENT, RETURNED TO THE RHINE. THERE THE ARMIES OF TURENNE AND ENGHEN PREPARED TO ATTACK THE BAVARIANS, WHO HAD BESIEGED THE TOWN OF FREIBURG.

I MUST HAVE A RESERVE UPON WHICH I CAN RELY. BROUGHT UP AT THE RIGHT MOMENT, IT MIGHT DECIDE THE FATE OF BATTLE.



**W**HEN THE BATTLE BEGAN, HECTOR'S REGIMENT WAS PLACED IN RESERVE. AFTER FOUR HOURS, TURENNE CALLED IT FORWARD.

WE HAVE HAD TO FIGHT EVERY FOOT OF THE WAY AND WE HAVE LOST HALF OUR STRENGTH.



**H**ECTOR'S MEN PUSHED TO THE FRONT. THEY POURED A TERRIBLE VOLLEY INTO THE ENEMY RANKS.

ONE AND TWO RANKS FIRE!  
THREE AND FOUR RANKS,  
HOLD YOUR SHOT!





**F**OR THE NEXT THREE HOURS THEY BORE THE WHOLE BRUNT OF THE BATTLE. AS LONG AS THEY FACED ONLY INFANTRY, THE SECOND TWO RANKS HELD THEIR FIRE. BUT WHEN THE ENEMY MUSKETS DREW ASIDE AND THE CAVALRY THUNDERED DOWN, THE FIRST TWO RANKS FELL BACK AND THE SECOND TWO RECEIVED THE CAVALRY WITH EVERY MUSKET READY.



**T**HE BAVARIANS, BELIEVING THAT MOST OF THE FRENCH WOULD BE RELOADING THEIR MUSKETS, WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE IN THE WITHERING VOLLEY. THEY BROKE AND FLED.



**T**URENNE NOW RODE UP TO HECTOR.

SPLENDIDLY DONE! HOLDING YOUR SECOND RANKS TO MEET THE CAVALRY CHARGE WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS!



**T**HAT NIGHT, TURENNE TOLD ENGHEN OF HECTOR'S STRATEGY.

A GOOD DEVICE INDEED! IS THAT ONE OF THE LESSONS YOU TAUGHT HIM?

NO, INDEED! COLONEL CAMPBELL TODAY HAS GIVEN ME A LESSON.





**F**OR MANY MONTHS BATTLES RAGED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE. ONE NIGHT HECTOR, WITH PAOLO AT HIS SIDE, WAS MAKING HIS WAY BACK TO HIS MEN THROUGH AN AREA INFESTED WITH ENEMY TROOPS WHEN . . .

SEIZE HIM!  
HE IS OUR PRISONER!



**H**ECTOR WAS CONFINED BY THE BAVARIANS IN THE CASTLE OF INGOLDSTADT. HE WAS ALLOWED TO KEEP PAOLO WITH HIM.

COLONEL CAMPBELL, IF YOU GIVE YOUR PAROLE NOT TO ESCAPE, YOU WILL BE ALLOWED TO LIVE MORE COMFORTABLY IN TOWN.

IF I WERE ON MY PAROLE, I WOULD LOSE MY SOLE AMUSEMENT-- PLANNING WAYS TO ESCAPE. BUT I MUST CONFESS, I AM STILL WITHOUT A GOOD ONE.



I SHOULD LIKE, THOUGH, FOR MY LACKEY TO BE FREE TO GO INTO THE TOWN. I MAY WANT SOME LITTLE THING WHICH I CANNOT GET HERE.

SUCH AS A FILE, A ROPE OR A DISGUISE?



I AM NOT THINKING OF THAT AT PRESENT, COLONEL.

I WILL TELL YOU WHAT I WILL DO. I WILL LET HIM PASS IN AND OUT IF I HAVE YOUR WORD HE WILL NOT BRING BACK ANYTHING TO AID YOUR ESCAPE.





**D**AY AFTER DAY HECTOR AND PAOLO TRIED TO PLAN AN ESCAPE.

IT STRUCK ME TODAY THAT IF I AM TO GET OUT, IT MUST BE IN SOME VEHICLE THAT COMES IN WITH SUPPLIES.



I HAVE IT! SOMETIMES THE SUPPLY WAGONS REMAIN IN THE YARD OVERNIGHT AFTER THEY ARE UNLOADED. YOU COULD SLIP INTO A WAITING WAGON, COVER YOURSELF WITH EMPTY SACKS AND RIDE SAFELY OUT IN THE MORNING.

CAPITAL, PAOLO!



I WILL GET SOME COUNTRYMEN'S CLOTHES AND HIDE THEM OUTSIDE THE GATES. THEY WILL DISGUISE YOU ONCE WE ARE AWAY.



**O**NE NIGHT, SOME WEEKS LATER, A SHADY FIGURE SLIPPED THROUGH THE CASTLE YARD AND INTO AN EMPTY WAGON.













**T**WO OF THE THIEVES FELL DEAD, A SHOT FROM HECTOR'S SECOND PISTOL KILLED THE LANDLORD. THE OTHER ASSASSINS RUSHED AT THEIR VICTIMS, WHO MET THE ATTACK WITH THEIR AXES.



**T**HE WARNING CAME TOO LATE. PAOLO'S AX STRUCK A BEAM AND FLEW FROM HIS HAND. HIS ASSAILANT SPRANG UPON HIM.



**H**ECTOR'S AX KILLED ANOTHER MAN BUT THE OTHER TWO CLOSED IN ON HIM. PAOLO ROLLED HIMSELF AND HIS OPPONENT AGAINST THE LEGS OF ONE OF THE ASSAILANTS. THE MAN LOST HIS BALANCE AND WAS QUICKLY FELLED.



**T**HE OTHER VILLAIN TRIED TO ESCAPE, BUT HECTOR'S KNIFE FOUND ITS WAY TO HIS HEART. MEANWHILE, PAOLO HAD KILLED HIS FIERCE FOE.



**T**HEY LEFT THE ROBBER'S DEN AND SOON MADE THEIR WAY TO HECTOR'S REGIMENT.





WHEN THE CAMPAIGN OF 1645 WAS OVER, HECTOR RETURNED TO PARIS. THERE HE LEARNED THAT BEAUFORT HAD BEEN PARDONED AND WAS BACK IN THE CITY. ONE EVENING, A LADY OF THE COURT BECKONED TO HIM.



IT IS SPLENDID TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MONSIEUR LE BARON. BUT PERHAPS THE PARIS AIR IS NOT AS GOOD FOR YOU AS THAT OF THE ARMY.

SHE MEANS TO WARN ME THAT BEAUFORT IS PLOTTING AGAINST ME.

WHEN HECTOR SAW CARDINAL MAZARIN, HE TOLD HIM OF THE WARNING.



BEAUFORT WILL NEVER FORGET AN INJURY. BE ON GUARD. I SUSPECT HE WILL TRY TO KILL YOU BY HAVING ONE OF HIS SWORDSMEN ENGAGE YOU IN A DUEL.

I SHALL TRUST TO MY SWORD TO FOIL THAT PLOT.

THAT DAY, HECTOR PASSED MONSIEUR DE BEAUVAIS, A GOOD FRIEND OF BEAUFORT.



THERE IS THE SCOTCHMAN WHOM THE CARDINAL EMPLOYS TO DO HIS DIRTY BUSINESS.

IN ANY CASE, I AM NOT EMPLOYED AS AN ASSASSIN.

WE SHALL MEET BEHIND THE LUXEMBOURG IN AN HOUR'S TIME, MONSIEUR DE VILLAR.



I SHALL BE THERE.





**A**N HOUR LATER, HECTOR MET DE BEAUVAIS ON THE FIELD OF HONOR.

THIS SHALL BE A DUEL TO THE DEATH, MONSIEUR.

YOU SHALL FIND IT MORE DIFFICULT TO KILL A QUEEN'S COLONEL THAN TO STAB A CHURCHMAN.



**D**E BEAUVAIS FELL FURIOUSLY UPON HECTOR, WHO, WITH A WRIST OF IRON, PUT ASIDE ALL HIS THRUSTS AND KILLED HIM.



**T**HEN ONE OF DE BEAUVAIS' SECONDS DEMANDED SATISFACTION. HECTOR RAN HIM THROUGH THE SHOULDER.



**T**HE OTHER SECOND STEPPED FORWARD. HECTOR SENT HIS SWORD FLYING.



YOU MAY MENTION TO THE PERSON WHO SENT YOU THAT I SHALL BE HAPPY TO ACCOMODATE AS MANY OF THE GENTLEMEN OF HIS FOLLOWING AS CHOOSE TO TAKE UP THE MATTER.



**T**HAT NIGHT AT THE PALACE, HECTOR AGAIN RECEIVED A WARNING.

REMEMBER, MONSIEUR, A STORM IS NOT PAST BECAUSE THE FIRST LIGHTNING DOES NOT STRIKE.



**L**ATER, AS HECTOR, HIS FOUR ORDERLIES AND PAOLO, WERE ABOUT TO ENTER HIS LODGINGS



**H**ECTOR'S ORDERLIES DREW THEIR SWORDS. THE ASSASSINS HESITATED.



**T**HE ATTACKERS RUSHED FORWARD.









**H**ECTOR HURRIED TO MAZARIN AND TOLD HIM WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

IT COULD NOT BE WORSE. YOU WILL HAVE ALL THE NOBLE ADHERENTS OF BEAUFORT BANDED AGAINST YOU. FRANCE IS NO LONGER THE PLACE FOR YOU. NEITHER THE QUEEN NOR I CAN HELP YOU NOW.



I WILL SELL YOUR ESTATE AND SEND YOU THE PRICE IN ENGLAND. YOU MUST FLEE TONIGHT-- TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE.



**H**ECTOR RETURNED TO HIS LODGINGS.

WE MUST LEAVE AT ONCE. WE GO TO NANTES TO BOARD A SHIP FOR ENGLAND.



**T**HEY WERE SOON ON THEIR WAY.



**T**HE NEXT MORNING, A PARTY OF THE DUKE'S MEN RODE OFF IN PURSUIT.









**W**HEN HECTOR ARRIVED IN ENGLAND, HE WENT TO THE CARDINAL'S BANKER.

YOU HAVE CERTAIN MONEYS OF MINE IN YOUR HANDS, DO YOU NOT?

I HAVE MONEY SENT FROM FRANCE THREE YEARS AGO. AND I HAVE THE PURCHASE PRICE OF YOUR ESTATE AT POITOU.

**W**ITH THE MONEY, HECTOR PURCHASED AN ESTATE IN BERKSHIRE.

MY NEW HOME, PAOLO. YOU ARE TO BE IN CHARGE OF ITS CARE.

**B**EFORE LONG, SERGEANT MACINTOSH CAME TO ENGLAND. HE AND HECTOR'S ORDERLIES MOVED INTO A HOUSE ON HECTOR'S LAND.

SEEING MY OLD FRIENDS TOGETHER REMINDS ME ONCE AGAIN OF FRANCE.

**O**NE DAY, LATE IN 1648, THERE WAS NEWS.

THE POST HAS JUST ARRIVED FROM FRANCE. HOSTILITIES HAVE ENDED. THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR IS OVER.

TELL ME, MASTER, DO YOU EVER REGRET THE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT BROUGHT US HERE FROM THE FIELDS OF BATTLE?

NEVER, PAOLO. I AM WELL CONTENT TO LIVE OUT MY DAYS IN PEACE IN ENGLAND.

THE END

NOW THAT YOU HAVE READ THE CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED EDITION, DON'T MISS THE ADDED ENJOYMENT OF READING THE ORIGINAL. OBTAINABLE AT YOUR SCHOOL OR PUBLIC LIBRARY.