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The **LION**
of the
NORTH

G.A.HENTY



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IT WAS 1630, THE TWELFTH YEAR OF THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR. LATE ON A SPRING AFTERNOON, A SIXTEEN YEAR OLD LAD STOOD GAZING ACROSS THE SWOLLEN WATERS OF THE NITH RIVER IN THE SOUTH OF SCOTLAND. ALL ABOUT HIM THE HILL-TOPS WERE COVERED WITH MASSES OF CLOUDS, AND A FIERCE WIND SWEEPED THE DRIVING RAIN BEFORE IT.

AS THE LAD WATCHED THE TORRENT, TWO HORSEMEN RODE UP TO IT FROM THE OPPOSITE SIDE.



THESE MUST BE THE MEN MY UNCLE SAID WERE COMING TO SEE HIM.

YOU CANNOT CROSS HERE! YOU MUST GO HIGHER UP!



THE WIND SWEEPED HIS WORDS AWAY, BUT HIS GESTURES WERE UNDERSTOOD.



THE BOY IS TELLING US TO GO HIGHER UP.

SO HE IS, BUT IF WE WERE TO CROSS HIGHER UP WE MIGHT LOSE OUR WAY.

SEERING THAT THE RIDERS WERE HESITATING, THE LAD RAN UP THE RIVER BANK.



I WILL CROSS AND GUIDE THEM TO A SAFER PLACE.

HE DASHED INTO THE WATER AND BEGAN SWIMMING FOR THE OPPOSITE SHORE.



GO BACK!

THE CURRENT CAUGHT HIM, AND HE DISAPPEARED AMONG THE FOAMING WAVES.

THE BOY WILL BE DROWNED!

HOWEVER, HE WAS SOON IN CALMER WATER AND IN ANOTHER MINUTE, STOOD DRIPPING BEFORE THE MEN.

WHO ARE YOU, LAD?

MALCOLM GRAEME. I LIVE WITH MY UNCLE, NIGEL GRAEME.

THAT IS THE MAN WE SEEK.

IF YOU WILL FOLLOW ME, I WILL SHOW YOU A SAFER PLACE TO FORD THE RIVER. MY UNCLE'S HOUSE IS ONLY A FEW MILES ON THE OTHER SIDE.

MALCOLM LED THE HORSEMEN ACROSS THE RIVER, AND IN A LITTLE WHILE ALL THREE WERE AT NIGEL GRAEME'S DOOR.



WELCOME, HUME AND MUNRO. I DID NOT THINK YOU WOULD COME ON SUCH A NIGHT.

WE WOULD NOT BE HERE, GRAEME, EXCEPT FOR THIS BRAVE BOY WHO SWAM THE RIVER TO SHOW US THE BEST WAY TO CROSS. I CONSIDER WE OWE HIM OUR LIVES.

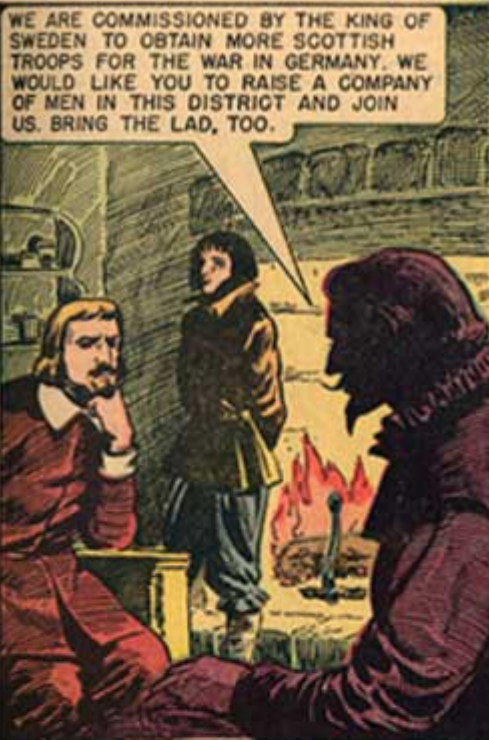


HE IS A GOOD LAD WHO HAS BEEN WITH ME SINCE HIS FATHER DIED. I INTEND TO SEND HIM TO SCHOOL AT ST. ANDREWS NEXT YEAR AND THEN PERHAPS TO THE COURT AT LONDON.



THAT IS NO CAREER FOR A LAD OF SPIRIT. WE CAN OFFER HIM A BETTER ONE.





NIGEL GRAEME HAD NO DIFFICULTY RAISING A COMPANY OF MEN. THEY BECAME PART OF THE GREEN BRIGADE.



WE ARE TO BE GARRISONED HERE IN NEW BRANDENBURG.

BUT WHY MUST WE BE SHUT UP HERE WHILE THE REST OF THE ARMY IS MARCHING AWAY TO WIN VICTORIES IN THE FIELD?



GUSTAVUS MUST BE AFRAID THAT TILLY WILL TRY TO RETAKE NEW BRANDENBURG SO AS TO THREATEN THE REAR OF OUR ARMY AS IT MARCHES FORWARD.



IS TILLY THE GREATEST OF THE IMPERIALIST COMMANDERS?

TILLY OR WALLENSTEIN. 'TIS A QUESTION WHICH IS THE GREATER. WALLENSTEIN IS IN RETIREMENT AT PRESENT, BUT YOU MAY BE SURE WE SHALL HEAR OF HIM AGAIN.



MALCOLM WAS QUARTERED WITH A FAMILY IN THE TOWN, ONE DAY.

TILLY IS APPROACHING WITH A LARGE ARMY! ALL MEN ARE ORDERED TO THE WALLS!



GOD GO WITH YOU, MALCOLM.

DO NOT LET TILLY TAKE OUR CITY, FOR HE AND HIS SOLDIERS WILL PILLAGE AND DESTROY IT IF THEY CAN.



SOON TILLY'S CANNON BEGAN A STEADY BOMBARDMENT.



AFTER SIX DAYS THE WALLS WERE BREACHED IN MANY PLACES, AND THE IMPERIALISTS ADVANCED TO THE ASSAULT.



THE SCOTS FOUGHT VALIANTLY AND AGAIN AND AGAIN THE ENEMY RECOILED.





MALCOLM, IN THE MIDST OF THE MELEE, FOUND HIMSELF FOR A MOMENT IN A DOORWAY.

A man in a green tunic and blue trousers is shown in a doorway, looking back over his shoulder. He is holding a sword and a shield. The scene is filled with the chaos of battle, with other figures and weapons visible in the background.

HE TURNED THE HANDLE AND SLIPPED INTO THE HOUSE.

The man is shown from a side profile, pushing a door handle. He is slipping and falling into the interior of a house. The floor is dark and appears to be made of stone or wood.

IT WAS NOT FAR FROM THE ONE IN WHICH HE HAD BEEN QUARTERED.

IF I CAN REACH MY HOST'S HOUSE, HE MAY HELP ME.

A close-up of the man's face, showing a determined and slightly anxious expression. He has dark hair and is looking towards the right. A thought bubble above him contains the text.

A FEW MINUTES LATER, MALCOLM DROPPED INTO THE COURTYARD.

CAN YOU SHELTER ME AWHILE? I BELIEVE THAT ALL MY COUNTRYMEN HAVE BEEN KILLED.

WE WILL DO OUR BEST, MY LAD. I'LL GET YOU THE CLOTHES OF ONE OF THE SERVANTS.

The man is running through a courtyard, looking back over his shoulder. He is being pursued by a man in a brown tunic and a hat. The man in brown is shouting and gesturing towards Malcolm.

WHEN IMPERIALIST SOLDIERS BURST IN, MALCOLM WAS ATTIRED AS A SERVING MAN.

GIVE US FOOD AND DRINK!

The man is shown from the back, wearing a red tunic and a white apron. He is standing behind a table with plates and a glass. He is looking towards a group of men in red tunics and armor who are demanding food and drink.

ALL NIGHT THE IMPERIALIST SOLDIERS DRANK AND PLUNDERED, SLAUGHTERED INNOCENT CITIZENS AND BURNED THEIR HOUSES. WHEN MORNING CAME THEY STAGGERED AWAY TO JOIN THE COLUMNS WHICH WERE MARCHING OUT OF THE RAVAGED CITY.



SOME OF THE INHABITANTS WERE FORCED TO ACCOMPANY THE TROOPS AS WAGON DRIVERS. AMONG THESE WAS MALCOLM.



IN THE CONVOY MALCOLM KEPT TO HIMSELF, AND NO ONE TOOK ANY SPECIAL NOTICE OF HIM.



SOON HE OVERHEARD SOME IMPORTANT NEWS.

WE'RE GOING TO ATTACK MAGDEBURG. WE'LL CAPTURE THE TOWN BEFORE GUSTAVUS CAN MARCH TO ITS ASSISTANCE.



I WILL HAVE TO GET AWAY AND INFORM THE KING OF THIS.





TRAVELING WITH GREAT CAUTION, HE MANAGED TO REACH GUSTAVUS' CAMP.

IS IT YOU, MALCOLM GRAEME? WE THOUGHT YOU HAD FALLEN AT NEW BRANDENBURG!



NO, BUT THAT IS A STORY I WILL TELL YOU LATER. FIRST I SHOULD LIKE TO SEE THE KING AS I HAVE SOME INFORMATION FOR HIM.



MALCOLM WAS QUICKLY BROUGHT BEFORE GUSTAVUS.

WHAT IS YOUR NEWS, SIR?



TILLY IS BESIEGING MAGDEBURG, SIRE, WITH HIS WHOLE STRENGTH.

THIS IS IMPORTANT, INDEED. TELL ME HOW YOU CAME TO KNOW THIS.



MALCOLM RELATED BRIEFLY ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM.

YOU HAVE SHOWN GREAT PRUDENCE AND FORETHOUGHT, NOT TO BE LOOKED FOR IN SO YOUNG A SOLDIER.



UNFORTUNATELY, POLITICAL REASONS FORCED GUSTAVUS TO DELAY HIS MARCH, AND TILLY TOOK MAGDEBURG. MEANWHILE, GUSTAVUS' TROOPS WERE QUARTERED IN AN UNHEALTHY, SWAMPY REGION.



THESE MEN WILL NEVER RECOVER IN THIS UNHEALTHY ATMOSPHERE. THEY MUST BE SENT AWAY.



I KNOW OF A PLACE IN THE HILLS, ABOUT THREE DAYS' MARCH FROM HERE. GET THEM READY TO MOVE OUT.



THE FOLLOWING MORNING, THEIR ARMS WERE PLACED IN A WAGON. THEN THE FEVER-STRIKEN BAND FORMED UP BEFORE IT.



THE WAGON SET OUT, AND IN THREE DAYS THE MEN REACHED THE HILL TOWN OF GLOGAU. THE SOLDIERS WERE WELL RECEIVED BY THE PEASANTS AND IN A MONTH HAD RECOVERED COMPLETELY.

WE MUST LEAVE SOON, LADS, TO REJOIN THE ARMY.



THE EVENING BEFORE THEY WERE TO MARCH AWAY, A MESSENGER RODE INTO THE VILLAGE.

A PARTY OF IMPERIALIST DRAGOONS IS RAIDING THE DISTRICT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HILLS. IT IS HEADED TOWARD MANSFELD.



THE COUNT OF MANSFELD IS A BRAVE NOBLEMAN, BUT THERE ARE SCARCELY TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY MEN IN THE TOWN CAPABLE OF BEARING ARMS.



HOW FAR IS IT FROM HERE?

TWENTY-FOUR MILES BY THE PATH ACROSS THE HILLS.



THEN WE WILL MARCH TO MANSFELD AT ONCE. I HAVE, OF COURSE, NO ORDERS FOR THIS, BUT THE KING CAN HARDLY BLAME ME FOR STRIKING A BLOW AGAINST THE IMPERIALISTS.



MALCOLM AND HIS MEN SET OFF AND ARRIVED AT THREE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING. THEY WERE MET BY THE COUNT OF MANSFELD.



JUST AS THE MEAL CAME TO AN END, THE ALARM BELLS BEGAN TO RING. MALCOLM AND THE COUNT HURRIED TO THE WALL.

THERE THEY ARE-- ABOUT THREE HUNDRED OF THEM, I SHOULD THINK.



THEY ARE GOING TO TRY TO BLOW OPEN THE GATES WITH PETARDS. WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I WILL PUT MY MUSKETEERS ON THE WALL TO HELP THE TOWNSFOLK THERE.



THE IMPERIALISTS OPENED FIRE AND CAME FORWARD AT A RUN.



THE SCOTS PICKED OFF THEIR MEN WITH STEADY AIM, BUT A FEW SUCCEEDED IN REACHING THE GATE.



ON THE WALL ABOVE THEM, MALCOLM SAW A PARAPET THAT WAS OLD AND ROTTEN.

COME, LADS, PUT YOUR STRENGTH TO THIS. SHOVE!



THE PARAPET TOTTERED, THEN FELL WITH A TREMENDOUS CRASH, BURYING THE IMPERIALIST SOLDIERS AND THE PETARD.



THE OTHER IMPERIALISTS WITHDREW, BUT SOON RETURNED WITH REINFORCEMENTS AND CANNON.



WE MIGHT REPULSE SEVERAL ATTACKS, BUT IN THE END THEY WILL SURELY BREAK IN, AS THE WALLS ARE OLD AND WEAK.



THEREFORE, LET US WITHDRAW TO THE CASTLE, WHICH I BELIEVE WE CAN DEFEND.





THEY CIROLED AROUND OUTSIDE THE WALLS AND, AT A SIGNAL, BURST INTO THE TOWN.



THE IMPERIALIST SOLDIERS WERE CAUGHT COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE.



HUNDREDS WERE CUT DOWN, OR FLED, IN HALF AN HOUR NOT ONE IMPERIALIST WAS LEFT ALIVE IN THE TOWN.



THE OVERJOYED PEOPLE FLOCKED BACK TO THEIR HOMES.



I AM DEEPLY IN YOUR DEBT, MY FRIEND, YOUR COURAGE AND GOOD COUNSEL HAVE SAVED OUR TOWN.

THE FOLLOWING DAY MALCOLM AND HIS PARTY MARCHED AWAY TO REJOIN THE SWEDISH ARMY.

WELCOME BACK, MALCOLM! THE CHANGE HAS DONE WONDERS FOR YOU.

I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN. IS THERE ANY NEWS?



NO NEWS OF IMPORTANCE, BUT THE KING IS RATHER PUZZLED. A PRISONER WAS TAKEN TODAY WHO SAYS AN IMPERIALIST FORCE WAS DEFEATED BY THE SWEDISH ARMY AT MANSFELD. BUT THERE ARE NO SWEDISH TROOPS ANYWHERE IN THAT DIRECTION.



I CAN EXPLAIN THE MATTER, COLONEL. IT WAS MY DETACHMENT THAT HAD THE HONOR OF REPRESENTING THE SWEDISH ARMY AT MANSFELD.

THE KING MUST HEAR OF THIS!



MALCOLM TOLD HIS STORY TO GUSTAVUS.

YOU WILL MAKE A GREAT LEADER SOMEDAY IF YOU DO NOT GET KILLED IN ONE OF THESE ADVENTURES, YOUNG SIR. YOU HAVE DONE GOOD SERVICE TO THE CAUSE, AND I THANK YOU.



THE SWEDISH ARMY WAS SOON ON THE MARCH, AND DEFEATED THE ENEMY IN SEVERAL BATTLES. THEN WORD CAME THAT WALLENSTEIN HAD AGAIN JOINED THE IMPERIALISTS AND WAS MARCHING TOWARD NUREMBERG. GUSTAVUS HURRIED TO THE CITY'S DEFENSE HE HAD SEVENTEEN THOUSAND MEN TO MEET SIXTY THOUSAND IMPERIALISTS.



GUSTAVUS BUILT STRONG DEFENSE WORKS AROUND THE CITY. WHEN WALLENSTEIN ARRIVED HE SAW GUSTAVUS' POSITION WAS ALMOST UNASSAILABLE.

WE WILL SURROUND THE TOWN AND STARVE THEM OUT.



THE DAYS PASSED DREARILY IN THE BE-LEAGUERED CITY. MALCOLM, TO PASS THE TIME, GOT PERMISSION FROM ONE OF THE TOWN'S CLOCKMAKERS TO WORK IN HIS SHOP.



THREE MONTHS PASSED.

DO YOU THINK THE CITY CAN HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER, MALCOLM?



I DON'T KNOW. PROVISIONS ARE TERRIBLY SCARCE, AND THE WATER OF THE RIVER HAS BEEN TAINTED.



FINALLY, FACED WITH STARVATION, GUSTAVUS ORDERED HIS TROOPS TO MARCH OUT AND DRIVE WALLENSTEIN AWAY.



IT WAS A TERRIBLE POSITION WHICH THEY WERE ADVANCING TO STORM.



EVERY REGIMENT IN THE ARMY, EACH IN TURN, ATTEMPTED TO OVERCOME THE IMPERIALISTS, BUT THEY WERE ALL DRIVEN BACK WITH GREAT LOSSES.



GUSTAVUS DREW BACK TO A NEW POSITION. HE REMAINED THERE FOR FOURTEEN DAYS. THEN, HIS SUPPLIES EXHAUSTED, HE MARCHED AWAY FROM THE CITY.



SOME TIME LATER, GUSTAVUS AND WALLENGSTEIN MET AGAIN AT LUTZEN.



THE SWEDES FOUGHT HEROICALLY, BUT IN VAN. STEP BY STEP THEY WERE DRIVEN BACK.



GUSTAVUS GALLOPED AMONG HIS MEN, URGING THEM ON. SUDDENLY HE WAS STRUCK IN THE BACK. HE FELL FROM HIS SADDLE, MORTALLY WOUNDED.



THE NEWS SPREAD RAPIDLY THROUGH THE RANKS.



THE KING IS DEAD!
LET US AVENGE HIM!

BURNING WITH FURY, THE MEN SURGED FORWARD, MALCOLM AMONG THEM.



SUDDENLY A SHOT STRUCK HIM, AND HE FELL UNCONSCIOUS.



WHEN HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, ALL WAS STILL AROUND HIM.

HOW COLD IT IS! I FEEL AS IF I WERE FREEZING TO DEATH!



HE FOUND THAT HIS WOUNDED LEFT ARM WAS FROZEN TO THE GROUND.



HE MANAGED TO PULL LOOSE AND SIGNAL TO SOME SOLDIERS WHO WERE SEARCHING THE FIELD FOR THE WOUNDED.



THEY PUT HIM ON A STRETCHER AND CARRIED HIM AWAY TO CAMP.



MALCOLM'S WOUNDS WERE SERIOUS. HE LAY FOR THREE WEEKS BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH. FINALLY HE BEGAN TO RECOVER, AND ONE DAY WAS SURPRISED TO SEE THE COUNT OF MANSFELD STRIDE INTO HIS TENT.



AH, MY YOUNG FRIEND, I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

I HAVE BEEN AT LEIPZIG AND, UPON INQUIRING FOR YOU, HEARD THAT YOU WERE WOUNDED. SO I HAVE COME TO TAKE YOU BACK TO MANSFELD FOR REST AND CARE UNTIL YOU SHALL BE WELL ENOUGH TO FIGHT AGAIN.



I THANK YOU INDEED, BUT MY DUTY . . .

YOU NEED NOT BE AFRAID OF NEGLECTING YOUR DUTY, FOR THERE WILL BE NO FIGHTING UNTIL THE SPRING. EVERYONE IS NEGOTIATING AT PRESENT.



A LITTER WAS BROUGHT UP, MALCOLM WAS PLACED IN IT, AND THE PARTY SET OFF FOR MANSFELD.



NEVER HAD MALCOLM SPENT A MORE PLEASANT TIME THAN THE MONTHS WHICH HE PASSED AT MANSFELD.



EARLY IN 1633 HE REJOINED HIS REGIMENT. THE MONTHS PASSED UNEVENTFULLY. THEN ONE DAY IN DECEMBER...



CAN YOU DIRECT ME TO CAPTAIN GRAEME?

I AM CAPTAIN GRAEME. WHAT DO YOU WISH?

I AM THE BEARER OF THIS LETTER FROM THE COUNTESS OF MANSFELD.



MALCOLM READ THE LETTER AND HURRIED TO COLONEL MUNRO.

MAY I HAVE A LEAVE OF ABSENCE, SIR, TO GO TO THE AID OF SOME FRIENDS OF MINE?

WHAT HAS HAPPENED, MALCOLM?



THE COUNTESS OF MANSFELD HAS WRITTEN ME THAT SHE AND HER HUSBAND AND DAUGHTER ARE PRISONERS OF THE IMPERIALISTS AT PRAGUE.



THE COUNT IS ILL, AND THE COUNTESS WILL NOT LEAVE HIM. BUT THEY PRAY THAT I MIGHT SOMEHOW AID THEIR DAUGHTER, THEKLA, WHOM THE EMPEROR HAS THREATENED TO TAKE FROM THEM AND GIVE IN MARRIAGE TO ONE OF HIS MEN.



THIS IS A PERILOUS BUSINESS, MALCOLM, YET I WILL NOT STAY YOU IN YOUR ENTERPRISE.



YOU WILL HAVE TO PASS THROUGH WALLENSTEIN'S ARMY WHICH LIES INACTIVE, NEGOTIATING WITH BOTH SIDES. IF YOU CAN FIND OUT WHAT WALLENSTEIN'S PLANS ARE, YOU WILL DO GOOD SERVICE TO OUR CAUSE, HOWEVER LONG YOUR ABSENCE FROM CAMP MAY BE.



MALCOLM SET OUT DRESSED IN GARMENTS SUITABLE FOR A CRAFTSMAN, AND THREE WEEKS LATER ARRIVED IN PRAGUE.



THIS PROVED EASY, AS THE COUNT WAS WELL KNOWN.

THE COUNT AND HIS FAMILY ARE KEPT IN THAT HOUSE. THERE IS ALWAYS A SENTRY AT THE DOOR.



MALCOLM WATCHED THE DOOR CONSTANTLY, AND PRESENTLY A SERVANT CAME OUT.



HE FOLLOWED HER UNTIL SHE CAME TO A STREET WHERE THERE WERE FEW PEOPLE ABOUT.



I AM A FRIEND OF HERS AND THE COUNT'S AND I MUST GET IN TO SEE THEM. CAN YOU HELP ME FIND A WAY TO DO THIS ?



NO ONE IS ALLOWED IN UNLESS HE HAS SOME GOOD EXCUSE AND A PASS.



I HAVE AN EXCELLENT EXCUSE. LET US SAY THAT A CRAFTSMAN IS NEEDED TO FIX THE CLOCK IN THE COUNT'S CHAMBER. THAT IS A TRADE I KNOW. COULD YOU MANAGE TO GET ME A PASS ?



I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN DO. MEET ME HERE TOMORROW.



THE WOMAN HURRIED OFF, AND MALCOLM SET ABOUT BUYING TOOLS, A SUIT OF PEASANT'S CLOTHES FOR HIMSELF, SOME TRADESMAN'S CLOTHES FOR A YOUNG BOY, AND A GART AND OXEN.

KEEP THE GART HERE UNTIL I CALL FOR IT.



THE NEXT DAY HE AGAIN MET THE SERVANT, WHO GAVE HIM A PASS. HE PRESENTED IT TO THE SENTRY AND WAS ADMITTED TO THE COUNT'S APARTMENTS.



MY BRAVE FRIEND! WELCOME!

WHAT DANGERS YOU MUST HAVE ALREADY ENCOUNTERED FOR US! THE RISK IS TOO GREAT, YET I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU.



I WILL GO ABOUT FIXING THIS GLOCK, AS THAT IS THE EXCUSE WHICH GOT ME HERE, AND YOU CAN TELL ME HOW BEST I CAN AID YOU.

FOR OURSELVES, WE CARE LITTLE. OUR ANXIETY IS FOR THEKLA.



I HAVE THOUGHT OF A WAY TO GET HER AWAY FROM HERE. IF YOU WILL COMMIT HER TO MY CARE.



WE KNOW YOU TO BE FAITHFUL AND HONORABLE, MALCOLM. WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?



HERE IS A SUIT OF BOY'S GARMENTS WHICH I MUST PRAY THEKLA TO DON. THEN, AS MY APPRENTICE, SHE WILL GO OUT WITH ME. WE WILL WAIT UNTIL THE SENTRY HAS BEEN CHANGED SO THAT HE WILL NOT KNOW THAT TWO ARE LEAVING WHERE ONLY ONE PERSON ENTERED.



I WILL THEN HIDE HER IN A GART I HAVE BOUGHT AND TAKE HER TO NUREMBERG WHERE MY FRIEND, THE CLOCKMAKER, WILL WELCOME HER INTO HIS FAMILY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE WAR IS OVER AND YOU CAN REJOIN HER.



THE PLAN IS A GOOD ONE. WHAT SAY YOU, THEKLA? ARE YOU READY TO RUN THE RISK OF SUCH A JOURNEY UNDER THE PROTECTION ONLY OF THIS BRAVE SCOTTISH GENTLEMAN?



THEKLA CHANGED HER CLOTHES. THEN...

FAREWELL, MY CHILD. GOD KEEP YOU AND MALCOLM SAFE.



THEKLA FOLLOWED MALCOLM OUT OF THE HOUSE. THEY WERE STOPPED BY THE SENTRY.

THERE IS ONLY ONE PASS, AND THERE ARE TWO OF YOU.



POOH! YOU SEE FOR YOURSELF THE OTHER IS ONLY A YOUNG BOY, MY APPRENTICE.



WELL, GO ALONG THEN.



AFTER STOPPING AT HIS LODGINGS TO CHANGE TO HIS PEASANT'S CLOTHES, MALCOLM LED THEKLA TO THE PLACE WHERE THE GART AND OXEN WERE WAITING.

I WILL MAKE A BED FOR YOU IN THE STRAW. YOU MUST STAY HIDDEN IN CASE WE ARE PURSUED.



THEY SET OUT AND TRAVELED ALL NIGHT. THE NEXT DAY THEY WERE OVERTAKEN BY A PARTY OF CAVALRY.

HAVE YOU SEEN ANYTHING OF TWO YOUNG CRAFTSMEN JOURNEYING ALONG THE ROAD?

I HAVE SEEN NO ONE.



THE SOLDIERS RODE ON, AND MALCOLM CONTINUED HIS JOURNEY. ONE DAY HE WAS STOPPED BY A PARTY OF IMPERIALIST HORSEMEN.



WE HAVE ORDERS TO REQUISITION ALL CARTS TO CARRY PROVISIONS FOR WALLENSTEIN'S ARMY. YOU MUST COME WITH US.



MALCOLM KNEW IT WAS USELESS TO RESIST, SO HE WENT WITH THE SOLDIERS TO THE ARMY SUPPLY WAGONS AT THE CITY OF PILSEN.



WHEN HE WAS LEFT ALONE, MALCOLM WENT TO THE BACK OF THE WAGON TO SPEAK TO THEKLA.

WE MUST SLIP AWAY AND LOOK FOR A PLACE TO STAY IN PILSEN, WHICH IS WALLENSTEIN'S HEADQUARTERS. NO ONE WILL THINK OF LOOKING FOR US HERE.

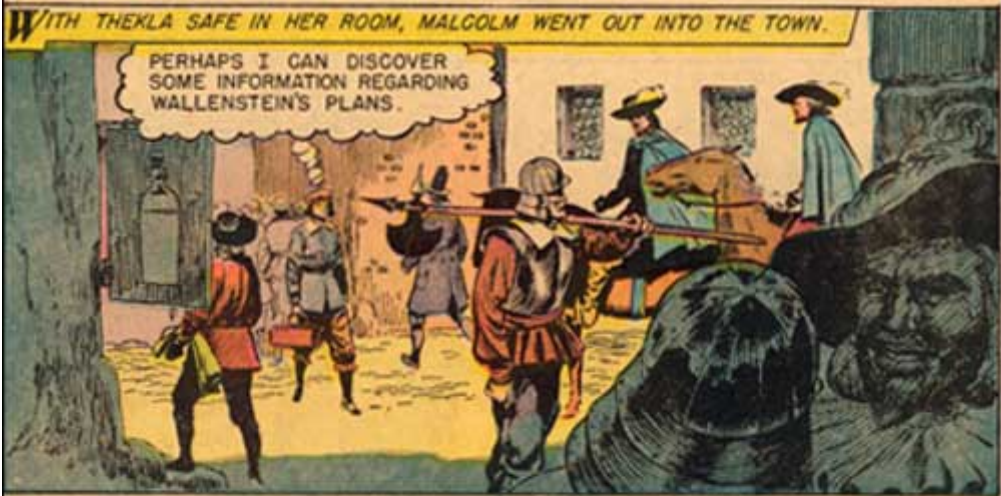


DRESSED IN HIS CRAFTSMAN'S CLOTHES, MALCOLM SOUGHT LODGINGS IN THE TOWN.

I MUST HAVE TWO ROOMS, AS MY YOUNG BROTHER IS ILL.

VERY WELL, SIR, I HAVE WHAT YOU WANT.





MALCOLM BECAME A MEMBER OF WALLENSTEIN'S HOUSEHOLD. MINGLING WITH THE SOLDIERS IN THE CASTLE, HE HEARD RUMORS THAT WALLENSTEIN WAS NEGOTIATING WITH THE SWEDISH CHANCELLOR, OXENSTIERN, TO GO OVER TO HIM, BUT THAT OXENSTIERN DOUBTED THE GENERAL'S SINCERITY.



IT IS INDEED DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT FERDINAND'S GREATEST GENERAL WOULD TURN AGAINST HIM.

THEN ONE DAY, THE CHIEF GENERALS OF THE IMPERIALIST ARMY BEGAN ARRIVING AT THE CASTLE.



WALLENSTEIN MUST HAVE CALLED THEM UPON SOME IMPORTANT MATTER.

A MEETING WAS TO BE HELD THAT NIGHT. MALCOLM STOLE INTO THE ROOM AND HID BEHIND A HANGING.



I MUST FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.

SOON THE ROOM WAS FILLED WITH GENERALS. ONE, A CONFIDANT OF WALLENSTEIN'S, ROSE AND SPOKE OF THE INJUSTICES WALLENSTEIN HAD SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF FERDINAND.



WALLENSTEIN HAS SERVED THE HOUSE OF AUSTRIA FOR TWENTY-TWO YEARS. NOW HE IS TO BE DISGRACEFULLY DISMISSED.

HOWEVER, BEFORE THIS HAPPENS, HE WILL RESIGN. THIS IS WHAT HE WANTS ME TO MAKE KNOWN TO YOU.



AN OUTCRY AROSE, AND THE GENERALS SENT A DELEGATION TO WALLENSTEIN URGING HIM NOT TO WITHDRAW FROM THEM SOON . . .



BUT YOU MUST EACH GIVE A WRITTEN PROMISE TO TRULY AND FIRMLY ADHERE TO HIM AND TO SHED YOUR LAST DROP OF BLOOD IN HIS DEFENSE.



THE GENERALS AGREED, AND WENT INTO THE NEXT ROOM FOR A BANQUET.



MALCOLM LEFT HIS HIDING PLACE.



I MUST TELL OXENSTIERN OF THIS. BUT I WILL NEED WALLENSTEIN'S HELP IN ORDER TO GET TO HIM SAFELY.



THE NEXT DAY MALCOLM SAW WALLENSTEIN ALONE.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY MAY ANGER YOU, BUT I IMPLORE YOU TO HEAR ME TO THE END.



I AM NO CLOCKMAKER, BUT A SCOTTISH OFFICER IN THE SERVICE OF SWEDEN. I KNOW THAT YOU WISH TO JOIN WITH OXENSTIERN, AND I KNOW THAT HE IS CAUTIOUS AND SUSPICIOUS.



BUT IF YOU WILL HELP ME GET TO HIM WITH THE NEWS OF YOUR INTENTIONS, I AM SURE HE WILL BE CONVINCED OF YOUR SINCERITY.



YOU ARE A BRAVE MAN TO SPEAK TO ME THUS. I WILL IMMEDIATELY ORDER A SQUADRON OF HORSE TO ESCORT YOU TO THE SWEDISH ARMY SO THAT YOU MAY INFORM OXENSTIERN OF AFFAIRS HERE.



MALCOLM HURRIED TO HIS LODGINGS FOR THEKLA AND RETURNED TO THE CASTLE, WHERE THE SQUADRON AWAITED THEM. WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE SWEDISH LINES, MALCOLM IMMEDIATELY SOUGHT OUT OXENSTIERN AND TOLD HIM ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED.



YOU HAVE DONE WELL.

THERE CAN NO LONGER BE THE SLIGHTEST DOUBT OF WALLENSTEIN'S INTENTION, THOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE SUCH MONSTROUS TREACHERY IS POSSIBLE. HE OWES EVERYTHING TO FERDINAND, YET HE IS PREPARING TO TURN AGAINST HIM.



HOWEVER, WALLENSTEIN IS NOW OUR ALLY. I WILL WRITE TO HIM PROMISING ACTIVE AID. WILL YOU UNDERTAKE TO CARRY MY DESPATCH?



WILLINGLY, SIR.

GOOD. AND STAY NEAR HIM FOR A TIME. YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SEND ME NEWS OF WHAT IS PASSING AROUND HIM.



AFTER SEEING THAT THEKLA WAS PLACED WITH SOME FRIENDS, MALCOLM RETURNED TO WALLENSTEIN.

HERE IS A DESPATCH FROM CHANCELLOR OXENSTIERN.



IT SAYS HE IS SENDING DUKE BERNHARD AND SWEDISH TROOPS TO MY ASSISTANCE. THAT IS WELL, FOR FERDINAND HAS FOUND OUT MY INTENTIONS AND HAS ORDERED MY ARREST.



I SHALL MARCH WITH MY MEN TO EGRA. THERE I SHALL EFFECT A JUNCTION WITH DUKE BERNHARD.



THAT SAME AFTERNOON THE MARCH TO EGRA BEGAN.

WALLENSTEIN APPEARS CONFIDENT, BUT THE OUTLOOK IS GLOOMY. MOST OF HIS MEN HAVE CHOSEN TO LEAVE HIM AND REMAIN LOYAL TO FERDINAND.



WALLENSTEIN ARRIVED AT EGRA BEFORE DUKE BERNHARD. ONE EVENING A BANQUET WAS GIVEN FOR WALLENSTEIN AND HIS OFFICERS, BUT WALLENSTEIN DID NOT ATTEND.



SUDDENLY ARMED MEN BURST INTO THE HALL.



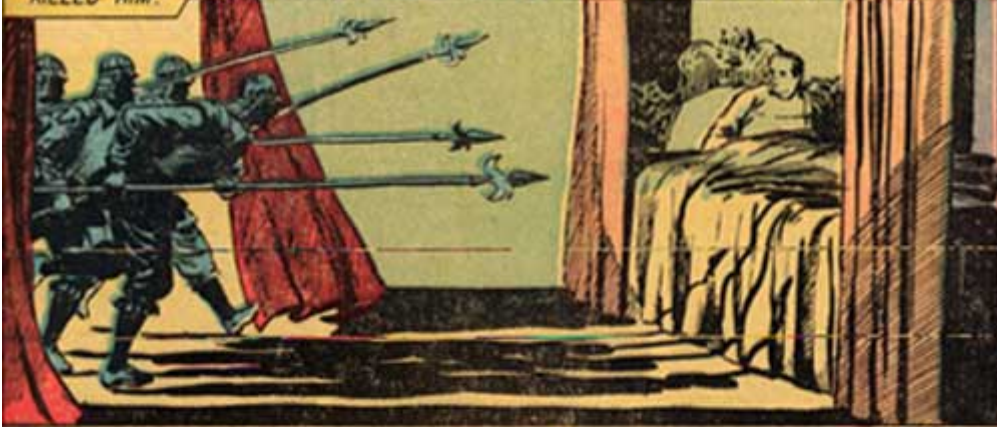
THEY FELL UPON WALLENSTEIN'S CHIEF OFFICERS AND SLEW THEM.



MALGOLM SPRANG TO HIS FEET, BUT HE WAS PUSHED BACK.



WALLENSTEIN KNEW NOTHING OF WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE AT THE BANQUET. HE HAD JUST RETIRED TO BED WHEN A BAND OF SOLDIERS BURST INTO HIS APARTMENT AND KILLED HIM.



MEANWHILE, MALCOLM HAD BEEN MADE PRISONER AND CONDUCTED TO A DUNGEON.

IN THEIR HASTE, THEY FORGOT TO TAKE MY SWORD AND DAGGER. I WILL CONCEAL THEM IN THE STRAW.



A SOLDIER BROUGHT HIM HIS FOOD.

WELL, THE TRAITOR WALLENGSTEIN IS DEAD. DUKE BERNHARD WILL BE HERE TOMORROW, SUSPECTING NO DANGER. WE WILL SET A RARE TRAP FOR HIM.



THAT NIGHT MALCOLM TOSSED RESTLESSLY ON THE STRAW.

IF DUKE BERNHARD IS CAPTURED, IT WILL BE A HEAVY BLOW TO OUR CAUSE. HOW CAN I GET AWAY TO WARN HIM?



SUDDENLY HE HEARD HIS DOOR BEING OPENED. HE GRASPED HIS SWORD AND SPRANG TO HIS FEET.



IT WAS WALLENSTEIN'S STEWARD.

I WILL HAVE VENGEANCE ON THOSE WHO MURDERED MY MASTER, AND FOIL THEIR PLOT.



WHAT ARE THE TRAITORS DOING?

THEY FEASTED AND DRANK UNTIL THEY FELL INTO A DRUNKEN SLUMBER, AND I WAS ABLE TO GET THE KEY TO YOUR DUNGEON.



HERE IS YOUR HELMET. I WILL LEAD YOU TO THE STABLE, WHERE I HAVE SADDLED THE BEST AND FASTEST OF MY MASTER'S HORSES.



WHEN THE GATES ARE OPEN IN THE MORNING, RIDE TO MEET DUKE BERNHARD. TELL HIM MY MASTER HAS BEEN MURDERED AND EGRA IS IN THE HANDS OF THE IMPERIALISTS.



BID HIM MARCH ON THIS PLACE WITH HIS FORCE, TAKE IT BY ASSAULT, AND LEAVE NOT ONE OF THE ASSASSINS LIVING WITHIN ITS WALLS.





HE RODE AHEAD AT FULL SPEED AND IN HALF AN HOUR REACHED THE SWEDISH LINES. DUKE BERNHARD WAS AT THE POINT OF MOUNTING HIS HORSE.



WHAT IS THIS?
WHO ARE YOU?
SIR?

I AM CAPTAIN GRAEME AND I HAVE RIDDEN TO WARN YOUR EXCELLENCY OF TREACHERY. WALLENSTEIN HAS BEEN MURDERED AND YOU ARE MARCHING INTO A TRAP.



WALLENSTEIN MURDERED? HOW?



MALCOLM GAVE HIM THE FULL DETAILS OF ALL THAT HAD TRANSPIRED.



THIS UPSETS OUR SCHEMES, INDEED.

MUCH AS I WOULD LIKE TO FIGHT THESE TRAITORS, I MUST FIRST COMMUNICATE THIS NEWS TO CHANCELLOR OXENSTIERN.



THE SWEDISH FORCE FELL BACK, AND MALCOLM RODE OFF TO REJOIN HIS REGIMENT.

NOW I MUST ASK PERMISSION TO LEAVE AGAIN. I MUST TAKE THEKLA TO NUREMBERG, AS I PROMISED.

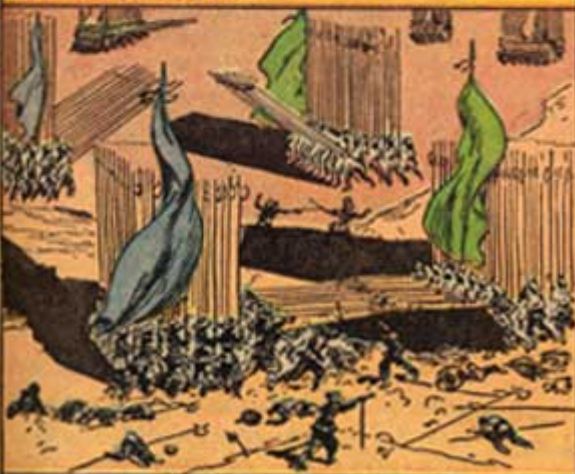
VERY WELL. I WILL GIVE YOU AN ESCORT TO GET YOU THERE SAFELY.



WHEN MALCOLM RETURNED, HE FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF NORDLINGEN. IT WAS A TERRIBLE DEFEAT FOR THE SWEDISH ARMY.



AFTER THIS, THE SWEDISH ARMY PLAYED ONLY A SECONDARY PART, AS FRANCE TOOK THE FIELD IN EARNEST.*



* The story of the rest of the Thirty Years War is told in G. A. Henty's **WON BY THE SWORD**.

MALCOLM, WEARY OF WAR, RESIGNED HIS COMMISSION. HE MARRIED THEKLA AND SETTLED IN SCOTLAND, WHERE THEY LIVED QUIETLY AND HAPPILY.



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